

## **LITTLE WAKERING – KIMBERLEY ROAD**

### **Report on flooding issues for the Flood Forum following a site visit on 12/5/2021.**

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#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

There are several issues reported in this area and a site visit was arranged with Rochford District Council and the Environment Agency to review and report back to the Flood Forum.

The numbers refer to the attached sketch.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

To take Agency Partners' views on the need for a trash screen on the culvert. If required, agree a specification, and look at options for funding and instal and maintain.

To advise residents of 344A that in the opinion of the Flood Forum, the maintenance of the ditch on the side of their drive is their responsibility.

To remove the item relating to the Pumping Station in recognition of the improvement works completed and observations in adverse weather.

#### **3 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY SLUICE GATE**

This marks the end of Little Wakering Creek (also referred to as Barling Creek in some reports), the limit of tidal activity, main river designation and Environment Agency responsibility. There is a culvert passing through the structure to allow water from a ditch to flow out into the creek. This is a Duck Bill flap, designed to allow the water from the ditch to flow easily, but to seal when submerged by tidal waters. The Duck Bill flap was installed following complaints that the previous flap was being jammed open allowing tidal waters to flood the ditch.

**4 DITCH**

The ditch runs from Little Wakering Road to the culvert under the Sluice Gate, a distance about 30 meters. Water enters from under the road and was observed to have a steady flow even though there had been no recent rain. The conclusion is that the source is not only related to run off from the road.



**5 DRIVEWAY BY THE DITCH**

The ditch has been narrowed to create a driveway to a newer property, 344A Wakering Road. The side of the ditch supporting the roadway is formed of railway sleepers and supported in places by scaffolding poles. In some areas this construction has collapsed into the ditch.



**6 ENTRANCE TO THE CULVERT**

This currently has no grill or other protection to prevent debris from building up in the culvert and potentially affecting the operation of the Duck Bill Flap. Provision of a grill has previously been discussed with Rochford District Council Officers, but this was not actioned. The installation of the grill is complicated by a turn in the ditch just before the entrance to the culvert and the presence of a drain flap to allow water from Kimberley Road to run into the ditch.

Given the relatively short run of the ditch there is limited capacity to generate debris, but a bottle was observed.



The track over the culvert leads to a field and stables. Ownership of the track was not shown in the land registry.

# Flood Advisory Group Little Wakering – Kimberley Road Report 4 7 PATH BY SIDE OF THE DITCH

1 November 2021

There is a footpath by the side of the ditch. The indications are that this an Essex County Council maintained path. A land search reveals that this is in the private ownership of the person who owns the field and stables.

## 8 PUMPING STATION

There is an Anglian Water pumping station in Kimberley Road. This collects foul water from the area and pumps it away for disposal. There is a history of this flooding and sewerage collecting in the surrounding low-lying areas, in particular an infill property built behind the pumping station. There are local reports of tankers on the site to pump out the building early every year.

The Maintenance Manager for the pumping station advises that the pumps there have been replaced with two brand new pumps. Their performance has been monitored in adverse weather and were able to cope with the incoming flow.

