

**From:** Enquiries\_THM <[enquiries\\_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 20 March 2025 14:40

**Subject:** THM GE38603\_AK : 250109/IL04 EA Flooding Letter Witney TC

Dear Sharon,

**Our reference: THM GE38603**

Thank you for your letter dated 06 January 2025. Apologies for the significant delay in responding to you.

The Environment Agency has a responsibility through the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to manage flood risk from main rivers. In Witney town centre, the River Windrush, and the lower sections of the Hailey Road Drain and the Madley Brook are all classed as main rivers. Through our duties, we also work closely with partners and other risk management authorities, including Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council. This will include feeding into the Section 19 flood investigation report and fulfilling our role as statutory consultee on the new Local Plan.

In your letter, you ask for our assistance in future flood mitigation in Witney. You may already be aware that we are currently updating our flood risk model for the River Windrush through Witney which will include the Hailey Road Drain. Our contractors have recently been carrying out survey work in Witney, to acquire updated measurements for the river channel and key structures to input to the model. The survey work could not be completed due to high water levels and fast flows causing a safety risk for work in the river but we plan to return to complete the site element of the work in early May when river conditions should allow safe working.

The improved understanding from the modelling work will be key to future decisions regarding options to manage flood risk in Witney. Once the flood risk model has been updated, a high-level economic assessment will follow. This will indicate whether there is a viable flood alleviation scheme to reduce flood risk in Witney.

It is also worth noting that the Town Council are already represented on the West Oxfordshire Flood Risk Partners group/meetings, which are attended by the Environment Agency, West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council and others. Therefore, this would also be an appropriate route to raise and discuss flood management issues in Witney. The Town Council was represented by Mark Lewis at the last meeting.


Alternatively, if you have any further questions, the most appropriate contact is Evie Kingsmill, Partnerships and Strategic Overview Team Leader. Evie can be contacted at [evie.kingsmill@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:evie.kingsmill@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Customers & Engagement Team – Thames

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