

Executive Summary

A Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) is a study to understand the flood risk that arises from local flooding, which is defined by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as flooding from surface runoff, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses.

SWMPs are led by a partnership of flood risk management authorities who have responsibilities for aspects of local flooding, including the County Council, Local Authority, Sewerage Undertaker, Internal Drainage Boards and other relevant authorities.

East Sussex County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has led the production of Crowborough Stage 1 SWMP in partnership with Wealden District Council, the Environment Agency and Southern Water. This steering group was established as part of the SWMP process. However, it is proposed that the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the action plan will be undertaken locally and it is expected that partners will take forward actions independently, and convene as and when appropriate.

Crowborough is a town in the Wealden district and it is the largest inland town in East Sussex. Expansion of the town is limited by the surrounding High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). As a result, development is focused within the existing boundaries of the town.

A relatively impermeable geology coupled with increasingly intense urbanisation and steep relief creates conditions for high surface water flood risk in Crowborough.

In attempting to understand the flood risk, a Source-Pathway-Receptor model was applied. The application of such a model facilitates flood risk mitigation by potentially addressing the **source** (often very difficult), blocking or altering the **pathway** and even removing the **receptor** e.g. navigate development away.

Flood prone areas, referred to as hotspots, have been identified when there are repeated flood incidents and/or multiple flood mechanisms along with areas of predicted flood risk. Three hotspots were identified - High Street, Whitehill and Jarvis Brook.

The flood history and risk data has been used to draw up an action plan. To assist with affective delivery, the actions have been prioritised. The prioritisation process considered:

- the frequency of recorded flooding;
- the date of the last recorded incident; and
- the vulnerability of the receptors.

In addition, the action plan attributes specific project partners as owners of the action.

Prioritised actions include:

- commissioning a study focused on the solutions to managing flood risk on the Jarvis Brook/Crowborough Ghyll and surface water to inform options testing and scheme development;
- undertaking asset inspection of highway gullies and culverts before undertaking further maintenance; and

Again, the importance of partner engagement is crucial here so that agreed actions are followed through to completion.