

## 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 water runoff, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses.

SWMPs are led by a partnership of flood risk management authorities who have responsibilities for aspects of local flooding. The partnership can include the County Council, District Council, Environment Agency, Sewerage Undertaker, Internal Drainage Board and other relevant authorities.

East Sussex County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has led the production of Hailsham and Hellingly 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. It is proposed that the monitoring and reporting of 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.

Hailsham is a traditional market town in the south of the Wealden district which has undergone continued growth since the 1970's. Hellingly is a small village located 1.5 miles north of Hailsham. The approved local plan for Hailsham provides for 1,300 new homes to be built in the period leading up to 2027. Much of this growth is planned for the corridor between Hailsham and Hellingly.

The mixed impermeable geology of the Wealden Group, coupled with increasingly intense urbanisation and sometimes steep relief creates conditions for high surface water flood risk in Hailsham and Hellingly.

To better understand flood risk in Hailsham and Hellingly the SWMP has strived to collate all the available incident records of flooding along with any modelling of flood risk. This data has been supplied by the project partners.

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.

Priority areas have been identified where there are repeated flood incidents and/or multiple flood mechanisms along with areas of predicted flood risk. The priority areas identified are:

- Harebeating Stream catchment, which includes three sub areas of specific concern: Woodlands Close, Harebeating Crescent and Harold Avenue;
- Horse Eye Sewer catchment, which includes two sub areas of specific concern: Station Road and Butts Field; and
- Knockhatch Stream catchment, which includes the Diplocks housing estate and the Diplocks trading estate.

The flood history and risk data has been used to draw up three action plans to manage the local flood risk. Each of these action plans operate at a different scale, with the generic action plan relevant to all of Hailsham and Hellingly, the priority area action plan relevant to the identified priority areas and the incident specific action plan relating to individual flood incidents reported.

Prioritised actions in Hailsham and Hellingly include:

- commission a CCTV survey to understand the route and condition of the culverted streams in the Harebeating Stream priority area;
- address the fly tipping issue in Hailsham at Butts Field in the Horse Eye Sewer priority area and Danum Close in the Harebeating Stream priority area; and
- target highway gully maintenance on Station Road in the Horse Eye Sewer priority area.

As there is significant growth planned for Hailsham, much of it falling within the topographic catchment of Harebeating Stream; there is the potential for these developments to be at risk of flooding and/or

exacerbate the existing problem. Consequently, it is recommended that Wealden District Council incorporate the SWMP findings into their own local plans.