

## 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, the Environment Agency, Sewerage Undertaker, Internal Drainage Boards and other relevant authorities.

East Sussex County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has led the production of the Rye Stage 1 SWMP in partnership with Rother District Council, the Environment Agency, Southern Water, Romney Marshes Area IDB and REACT. 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 will be undertaken locally and it is expected that partners will take forward actions independently, and convene as and when appropriate.

Rye is a town in the Rother district in East Sussex. Expansion of the town is constrained by the Walland Marshes to the east and the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the west. As a result, growth of the town has been restricted and the population has remained around 4,500 for the last 60 years.

Relatively impermeable geological formations coupled with a high soil saturation creates conditions for high surface water flood risk in Rye.

To better understand flood risk in Rye 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:

- The Strand;
- The Tilling Green Estate, which includes the sub area of Tilling Green School;
- North Salts; and
- The Grove.

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 Rye 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 Rye include

- commissioning a study to understand the flood mechanisms operating at the Strand;
- targeting highway gully maintenance on North Salts; and
- undertaking investigation works to understand the culvert condition under The Old Brickyard.

There is the potential for future developments to be at risk of flooding and/or exacerbate the existing problem. Consequently, it is recommended that Rother District Council incorporate the SWMP findings into its development plans.