

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. The partnership can include the County Council, District Council, 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 Battle Stage 1 SWMP in partnership with Rother 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.

Battle is a small town in the Rother district in East Sussex. The town is situated on highland separating the three river catchments and is surrounded by the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

To better understand flood risk in Battle the SWMP has strived to collate all the available records of flood history and modelling of flood risk. This data has been collected from 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 Knights Meadow Brook catchment, which includes two sub areas of specific concern: Harrier Lane and Falconer Drive; and
- North Trade Road

In addition, Battle Wastewater Treatment works have been highlighted as a priority area. This is not a flood prone area as flooding has only been reported once but steps should be taken to reduce the risk as the impact of flooding here is water entering the sewage treatment process.

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 Battle, 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 include:

- Regular inspection and maintenance of the trash screen at Battle Wastewater Treatment Works;
- Prioritised maintenance of the curb inlet drainage along North Trade Road;
- Review of drainage design at the Emmanuel Centre and remedial works to replace broken drainage; and
- Continuing to monitor future flood incidents on Harrier Lane and Falconer Drive to better understand the flood mechanisms operating here.