



- DITCHES - watercourses
- DITCHES uncertain - unknown - deduced
- DITCH - silted up
- PIPES
- PIPES uncertain - unknown - deduced
- FLOODING

Drainage Overview
Updated October 2023



- 4** - Study 2002
Route proved 2009
Drainage Summary 4
Drainage Report 4
Photos 4
- 4** - The situation at Coningsby Lane north was a problem for many years and we had been trying to correct it since 2001. We had some limited early success in having one-way valves installed in the road gullies to stop water from the full culverts being forced back up into the lane. In 2001 the alternative ditch route to the Fifield Road was surveyed and Biffa were requested to clean out the high point. The route proved to function well in 2009 when excess water needed to be cleared from north of The Mulberrys. Streetcare offered in 2001 to supply a culvert to take water from the southern ditch to the northern side of the Lane and connect to the now defunct ditch heading north if the residents cleared the ditch route and re-instated it. There was determined opposition from residents of the Mulberrys less than 50% of the 12 households that would benefit were prepared to contribute the £100 each that at that time would have achieved what was needed. We suggested an alternative solution to install an underground pipe and chambers following the footpath north to join the ditch running along the Biffa site boundary to Fifield Road. This was carried out in summer 2019 and has been functioning very effectively. A relatively small amount of water still backs up into Coningsby Lane via the gullies at the junction with Fifield Road. At the route's exit onto Fifield Road in the east it is not clear where all this water goes. Possibly into the underground surrounds of the water pipeline?
- 2a** - Once the western ditch was cleared opposite Longlea Care Home (see 2 below) it became obvious that the increase in flow northward was causing problems further north, here, at the NW corner of the Wayside Stables site. This brought to light damage to under-footway pipes heading north to the A308. Streetcare carried out repairs here in 2014. Since then it seems to have continued to function effectively.
- 2b** - 2a above highlighted the fact that a culvert was delivering a large volume of water from the large eastern ditch into the smaller western ditch. The WRONG direction. We requested that this culvert be disabled. Streetcare did this and it seems to have been effective.
- 2** - The ditch on the west side of Fifield Road had not been maintained for decades. When speed bumps were installed the one just south of Longlea Care Home became an efficient dam as there was no way for water to flow past it. OGAFCA Volunteers carried out small scale remedial work on 3 occasions. In 2013 Streetcare finally managed to obtain capital funding to re-instate the ditch to functioning condition in 2014. That seemed to improve the situation for a brief period but it is a repeating problem requiring annual maintenance and an upgrade of the route passing the speed bump to a robust concrete channel, or even a pipe, with escape routes off the road surface. Otherwise this requires constant road surface repairs.
- 2** - Drainage Summary 2
Drainage Report 2
Photos 2
Drainage Report 29 page 2
Drainage Report 30 page 3
- The whole stretch of water route from "Aven Brook" and "Willow Creek" on the west of Fifield Road to north of "Long Lea" care home is problematic and needs constant maintenance. Land owned by the Parish Council just south of the Manor Grove culvert might act as a useful sump if the level was lowered to be capable of holding back excess water.
- 8** - This is a major bottleneck heading north through the village. It is difficult to see what could be done to alleviate the problem. In times past the double culvert was a road bridge and the front garden of "Willow Creek" was a pond. The consequences of this also badly affect Aven Brook, the neighbour to the south. The most useful thing to do is probably to create seasonal sumps in a few places before the water reaches this spot.
- 8** - Drainage Summary 8
Drainage Report 8
Photos 8
Drainage Report 29 pages 7-8
Drainage Report 30 page 3
- 7A** - In the original drainage report this area was lumped in with the problem further south at the Fifield Inn. More recently it became obvious that residents further north were threatened and we requested that Streetcare prioritise a study of how this situation could be improved. They did this and in 2014 installed a new pipe in place of a useless roadside ditch. Frequent flooding has continued in this area - unsurprisingly, as it lies within the lowest contour line in the area. One particular property is constantly threatened and suffers and has had to install defensive measures. Detailed explanation in Drainage Summary 7 - use URL link on the right.
- 7A** - Drainage Summary 7A
Drainage Report 7A
Photos 7A
Drainage Report 29 page 4
Drainage Report 30 page 4-6
- 7B** - In the original drainage report this area was seen as the main problem as it was assumed that all flow was northwards through the village. Streetcare's study of "wet spot" 7 revealed that flows south of Stewart Close are both north and south and both exit eastwards towards the polo pitch - please see 7B above. Once again a seasonal sump south of the pub car park seems the only useful approach.
- 7B** - Drainage Summary 7B
Drainage Report 7B
Photos 7B
Drainage Report 29 page 5
Drainage Report 30 page 7
- 9** - Large amounts of water have to pass through here. Unless some of it can be diverted or held back more efficiently it is hard to see a complete solution short of major investment in storm drains under the major roads. Perhaps the Cardinal Clinic might consider diverting some of the incoming flow to a sump zone on their land on the corner of Oakley Green Road and Dedworth Road. We have not heard any reports of recent recurrence at either the pub or the Cardinal Clinic so maybe something has changed of which we are unaware. There are apparently plans to develop housing on the land to the north between the Clinic and the A308. If this comes to pass great care and attention will be needed to how the frequently saturated ground will be coped with.
- 9** - Drainage Summary 9
Drainage Report 9
Photos 9
- 6** - Simply improving the flow northward at this location would deliver even more water more quickly at "wet spot" 8 in the north at the bottleneck. Perhaps the most useful approach is to negotiate with the landowner to increase the holding capacity south of the road.
- 6** - Drainage Summary 6
Drainage Report 6
Photos 6
- 1** - In 2009 Streetcare inspected the manhole chamber in the south west corner of the Cricket Club site. A bucket that was blocking the outflow was removed. That seemed to improve things but more recently things have deteriorated again. Our suggestion is that the capacity of the culvert, chamber and pipe heading north along the western boundary be greatly increased as well as the holding capacity south of the road.
- 1** - Drainage Summary 1
Drainage Report 1
Photos 1
- A resident has suggested that there is considerable flooding down the south side of the road during wet weather. We have requested information via the Newsletter but so far none of the actual residents involved have come forward to describe what happens and why.
- 3** - In 2011 OGAFCA volunteers cleared the main ditch flowing down from the Drift Road to the manhole chamber as well as the roadside ditch flowing east along the Oakley Green Road to the major watercourse. Streetcare jettied the pipe under the verge. It seemed this had solved the problem but the Resident has informed us that flooding has occurred again occasionally so the site needs to be visited during wet weather to observe.
- 3** - Drainage Summary 3
Drainage Report 3
Photos 3
- 5** - In the past water would gush out of the gate entrance, flooding the road. We requested a grid the full width of the entrance feeding into the sub-footway pipe heading east. Streetcare instead added 2 extra gullies in the entrance, feeding into the pipe. This seems to improve the problem and it has not recurred for years.
- 5** - Drainage Summary 5
Drainage Report 5