

# river chelt

Flood Risk Management Scheme

November 2008

## Update on improvements

### Gap culvert desilt

Work has been completed to remove silt from a 420-metre long culvert where the River Chelt flows underground through Cheltenham town centre. An inspection by underground CCTV revealed restrictions to the flow of the Chelt through the culvert which could increase flood risk. We used specialist contractors, and pumping equipment to remove the silt and gravel to ensure that the culvert will continue to be able to carry the amount of water that needs to flow through it during a flood.

### Glynbridge Gardens improvements

We have desilted upstream of Princess Elizabeth Way, removed the bund behind PC World to improve flows and protected the flood defence where it was being undermined. Further work is planned to remove part of an old bridge abutment which restricts flood flows.

### Debris Management

Our workforce continues to clear a huge amount of debris, both natural and man made, from the River Chelt. Debris caused numerous obstructions at debris screens and the Cox's Meadow flume during the summer 2007 floods which exacerbated the flooding. We will be encouraging owners of riverside land to undertake their riparian responsibilities. Riparian owners (landowners) :

- must maintain the bed and banks of the watercourse, and also the trees and shrubs growing on the banks.
- must also clear any debris, even if it did not originate from their land.
- must keep the bed and banks clear of any matter that could cause an obstruction, either on their land or downstream if it is washed away.



EA removing debris

For more information on the rights and responsibilities of owners of riverside land, see Living on the Edge at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

### Evening Walk and Talk – 3 September 2008

Twenty two councillors from affected wards and Martin Horwood MP attended a site visit and talk to discuss improvements on the scheme. The discussion about the improvements was very positive.

### Future Work

It is important for the safety of people in Cheltenham that their flood alleviation scheme works to the optimum standard. In conjunction with the construction work a computer hydraulic modelling study is also underway to help inform further decisions on the scheme.

### Flood Warning

We can't always stop rivers from flooding, but we can tell you when it's going to happen. Only three per cent of homes that can sign up to our Flood Watch service in Cheltenham have done so. If you would like to sign up, call us now on 0845 988 1188. Our free service provides flood warnings direct to you by telephone, mobile, email, SMS text message, fax or pager. As well as signing up for the Flood Watch service, you can get simple advice on what to do before, during and after a flood.

## Be prepared for flooding.

Call **0845 988 1188** or visit [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline)

### Your newsletter

We hope you have found this newsletter interesting. If for some reason you do not wish to receive a copy or know someone that may not be on our distribution list that would like a copy, please contact the Environment Agency using the details below.

### For more information please contact:

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### Work is progressing well to improve the standard of flood protection provided by the River Chelt Flood Risk Management Scheme following the summer 2007 floods.

#### Keynshambury Road Flood Wall

The main works have started in Cheltenham's Sandford Park to raise the height of the flood wall at Keynshambury Road. This will take about three months to complete and involves demolishing the old wall, strengthening the foundations and then building a reinforced concrete brick clad wall.

A new debris screen will be installed adjacent to College Road and manhole covers will be fixed down in Lower Sandford Park to prevent water flowing back out of the culvert.



Keynshambury Road 20th July 2007

#### The Plughole

We are carrying out improvements to the drain in the centre of Sandford Park known as the 'plughole'. We are increasing the size of the inlets to the plughole, improving its capacity and also slightly raising the embankment behind the plughole as this has settled over time. This will reduce flood risk in College Road and Bath Parade.



Sculpture of Lying man in Sandford Park

#### Dowdeswell Reservoir

In early 2009 we expect to install a very large butterfly valve in the tower in the middle of Dowdeswell reservoir. This will give us greater flexibility to regulate the flood flows from the reservoir which was not possible before. The main benefit of this work will be to reduce peak flows on the River Chelt, particularly in the Charlton Kings area.

customer service line

08708 506 506

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline)

incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

floodline

0845 988 1188

customer service line

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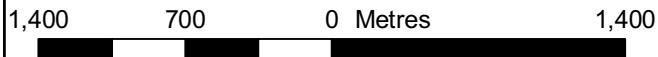
floodline

0845 988 1188



### Legend

-  Watercourse (Main Rivers)
-  Catchment boundary for River Chelt
-  Photograph location



7 Robotic breaker enlarging the "Plughole"



6 Keynshambury Road flood wall being raised and park railings replaced



5 Butterfly valve to be installed in drawoff tower

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