

# LAMBOURN VALLEY FLOOD FORUM MINUTES

11th May 2026

## On-Line Conference

- **Attendees**

Vicky Rieunier – Lambourn – Chair of LVFF  
Howard Woollaston – WBC / Lambourn / Boxford  
Clive Hooker - WBC / Downlands  
Lee Dillon – MP for Newbury  
Carolyn Richardson – WBC Emergency Planning  
Paula Saunderson – Newbury Clay Hill  
Chris Harris – Lambourn  
Martyn Wright - East Garston / SAGLUV  
Nick Voysey - Great Shefford  
James Potter - Eastbury  
Natalie Ford – Environment Agency  
Linda Bowden – Great Shefford  
Rachel Carden – Upper Lambourn  
Belinda Boyd -  
WR  
Denise Kinsella – Thames Water  
Saffron Dzioban – Thames Water  
Tom Humphreys – Thames Water  
Fiona Brewer – Project Groundwater  
Sami Gabriel  
Glyn Thomas – Shaw + Donnington

**Apologies**

Paul Bacchus – WBC  
Richard Hancock – Environment Agency  
Hamish Riddoch  
James Potter - Eastbury

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Minutes from Previous meeting</b></p> <p>No comments</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lee Dillon, MP for Newbury, joined the meeting to offer support in holding agencies accountable and assisting with funding bids.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lambourn Parish Flood Group Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Lambourn Parish Flood Group update from Vicky Reunier, included challenges from high groundwater levels and a sewage discharge issue at Fulke Walwyn Way in Lambourn that lasted 53 days, with discussion of potential improvements to pumping systems and pipelining work completed by Thames Water.</li> <li>• Vicky discussed the need to proactively manage ATACs rather than waiting for system overload, and highlighted successful surface water management during the winter.</li> <li>• Saffron Dzioban explained that TW cant switch on ATACs without a risk to the environment. So TW can't switch them on proactively, but this would benefit from a discussion with EA.</li> <li>• Saffron and Denise Kinsella from Thames Water discussed ongoing issues with sewer infrastructure, particularly focusing on manhole 6201 in Fulke Walwyn Way where there are holes in the chamber walls allowing discharge. They explained that while the pumping station data showed consistent operation from February to April, they will conduct CCTV inspections of approximately 12 kilometres of sewer lining and perform necessary repairs within their AMP period by 2030. Saffron committed to following up with contractors about repairing the manhole and consulting with the Pumps Team to analyze pumping station data further.</li> <li>• The team discussed the performance of pump stations and ATAC units during recent flooding events. Saffron reported that while the pumps were functioning as designed, the ATAC units had limitations due to their flow rate of 20 litres per second. The team addressed security concerns after multiple incidents of unauthorized access to the pump site in Lambourn, with Saffron confirming they would share CCTV footage with police to identify perpetrators. Rachel raised questions about the diesel generator's automatic changeover functionality, which Saffron acknowledged needed review, promising to discuss with the team and potentially follow up with Rachel Carden via email. The discussion concluded with Saffron noting that discharging into the river when activating ATAC units presents environmental concerns that require further discussion with the Environment Agency.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group discussed ongoing issues with untreated discharge and potential solutions. Saffron agreed to have an offline conversation with the EA about scheduling discussions before November. They also discussed lining work in the Upper Lambourn area, with Saffron confirming that the 1.2 kilometres of lining included the main sewer down to Uplands Lane but excluded some tee-offs. Vicky inquired about improvements in lining quality, to which Saffron responded that further review would be needed. The group also touched on groundwater flooding classification updates and ongoing issues with re-reporting flows in the system, with Saffron committing to discuss potential improvements with contractors.</li> <li>• The meeting focused on infrastructure issues, particularly in the Upper Lambourn area. Saffron reported that 22 kilometres of network in the Valley needed lining, with 10 kilometres already completed and 12 more still required. Martyn suggested better cooperation between agencies on ATAC activation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>SAGLUV Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martyn provided an update on SAGLUV, highlighting continued cooperation with Thames Water, including plans to survey and line remaining pipelines, conduct a feasibility study on the rising main between Eastbury and East Garston, and implement a wetland reed bed filter at the East Shefford sewage works.</li> <li>• Martyn said that the East Garston ATAC started running at same time as last year, perhaps because the sewers could not cope with both the amount of rain &amp; groundwater.</li> <li>• Martyn explained that although he will be standing down from the Flood Forum, he will still remain involved in SAGLUV</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Issues in the Lower Lambourn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glyn Thomas provided an update on flooding issues in Shaw and Donnington, highlighting concerns about a widening breach in the River Lambourn and its impact on the Spout Ditch, which has caused flooding to the gardens of multiple properties. The Spout ditch first flooded in 2007 and had not flooded previously.</li> <li>• WBC has said that it would require £30k to deal with breach, but that would not be any guarantee that it would have long term effect.</li> <li>• Glyn said that all residents want the bank to be restored, and the breach has got worse. Glyn raised questions for the Environment Agency regarding their management strategy for this river section and potential impacts on the ditch's flow and stability.</li> <li>• Glyn raised concerns about West Berkshire's unwillingness to address the situation despite it worsening over time. Natalie from the Environment Agency explained the EA has no legal duty to maintain watercourses not on their land, though they can take emergency action when necessary. The group discussed potential natural flood management solutions, with Glyn mentioning a planned meeting with</li> </ul>

	<p>ARC on Thursday to explore nature-based options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Howard said that he would take up the issue with local councillors.</li> <li>• Paula noted that the Newbury Flood Forum is now effectively defunct, and provided an update on Newbury's flood situation, noting ongoing challenges with groundwater and rainfall management, with quite a few incidents in the same places as in 2024 and discussed efforts to involve local parish councils in flood and drainage concerns.</li> <li>• Paula is hoping to get new warden to deal with the Donnington Heights development.</li> <li>• Paula explained that there will be further significant new housing development 'Blognon' expected to the north outside the Natural Landscape, but there is no overall flood management in place.</li> <li>• Paula reminded members that the Lambourn includes the 'infamous' Northbrook stream.</li> <li>• Paula asked that the three risk management authorities to get together, so that we can get joined up thinking on finding solutions.</li> <li>• The group discussed ongoing groundwater and flooding issues in the Lower Lambourn, including recent lining work and concerns about riverbank water ingress. Paula emphasized the need for a holistic approach to surface water management and suggested exploring potential Thames Water funding for a Surface Water Management Plan. Saffron agreed to have internal discussions with civil engineers about the ongoing issues and proposed organizing a future meeting with residents, including Denise and Tom, the new FOS for the area.</li> <li>• In relation to the Lower Lambourn, Natalie Ford from the Environment Agency provided updates on unpermitted works at Newport Road, maintenance of the Walton Way footbridge, and riparian ownership requirements, and would be happy to talk to riparian owners.</li> <li>• Paula confirmed that annual water scrutiny meetings are scheduled, including one on September 15th.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Remaining Parish Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The discussion covered weed clearance requirements, with Natalie offering to provide guidance on whether permits would be needed for specific maintenance work in Eastbury.</li> <li>• It was noted that while the agency doesn't waive permitting fees for community work, there are subsidized rates for environmental enhancement projects.</li> <li>• Natalie explained that funding limitations prevent the installation of a trash screen at the current flood alleviation scheme in Eastbury.</li> <li>• Natalie provided an update on the Great Shefford monitoring relating to the Flood Alleviation scheme, noting that data analysis was ongoing and findings would be shared at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Nick Voysey raised concerns about debris accumulation under the petrol station due to persistent elevated flow along the original watercourse despite the Flood Alleviation Scheme, which Linda also highlighted, raising again the issue of the need for a trash screen</li> </ul>

	installation at the petrol station .
•	<p><b>Thames Water Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included in above</li> </ul>
•	<p><b>EA Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included in above</li> </ul>
•	<p><b>WBC Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carolyn confirmed that all flood alerts, including groundwater alerts, had been lifted, though surface water flooding remains a risk. The group discussed updates to flood modelling, with new outputs expected by the end of June.</li> </ul>
•	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conversation ended with an invitation for feedback on the new question format and plans for future site visits.</li> </ul>
•	<p><b>Summary of Actions</b></p> <p><b>Thames Water (Denise Kinsella)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check with colleagues about the possibility of Thames Water funding for a Surface Water Management Plan for Lambourn.</li> <li>• Arrange a residents tour for Saffron, Tom, and herself with the local community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Environment Agency (Natalie Ford)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flag the issue of proactively switching on installed ATAC units with Environment Management colleagues and arrange a meeting with Thames Water and some members of the Forum.</li> <li>• Email Paula Saunderson with information about the maintenance of the waterway to the old railway bridge.</li> <li>• Check and provide advice to Howard (and Chris) regarding the permitting requirements for weed clearance in the river at Eastbury.</li> <li>• Raise the issue of debris accumulation under the petrol station in Shefford with Richard Hancock, Susan Servais, and the Flood Alleviation Scheme project team, and update Nick Voysey and Linda Bowden.</li> <li>• Update the Forum on the progress of the flood modelling for the Kennet and Lambourn areas once outputs are received (expected by end of June).</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Paula Saunderson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send a copy of the 'Ardent' Report to Natalie Ford and arrange a meeting to discuss the new survey, inviting Natalie to attend.</li> <li>• Email Paul Bacchus and Drummond Stanley to organise a meeting to discuss the new survey for the catchment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Thames Water (Saffron)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check with the project team for a closer time frame for the completion of the lining and CCTV work in the Lambourn catchment..</li> <li>• Speak with the Pumps Team to analyse the performance of the Oxford Street pumping station in Lambourn in more detail.</li> <li>• Wash-up with the ATAC team regarding the performance of the diesel generator at the Lambourn site and contact Rachel for further information.</li> <li>• Have a conversation with Lanes (contractors) about the process for reporting ongoing groundwater issues in Lambourn to avoid unnecessary call-outs.</li> <li>• Have an initial conversation with the senior civil engineer about the ongoing issues in the Lower Lambourn area (Walton Way, Newport Road) and then arrange a meeting with Paula Saunderson and other residents.</li> </ul>
	<p>Date, Time and location of next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2026</li> </ul> <p><b><u>By On-Line Conference</u></b></p>