

Suggestions to reduce the flood risk in Pages/Chequers and Cley Lane.

This note summarises ideas that came out of a walk-over of farmland that took place on 4 September 2020 at the invitation of Tim Goddard who farms the land, accompanied by Trevor Bunce and Derek Greenwood.

- Flash flooding in the village is becoming more frequent and usually disperses within a few days. The worst flooding occurs along Pages Lane, Chequers Lane and Clay Lane which receives water runoff from the high ground in three compass point directions. To the West is the high ground of Ashill Road (B1077) in the vicinity of the Bullockshed Lane fields which are over 10 metres higher than the culvert at the bottom of Pages Lane. During any deluge all the water from this area and the adjacent fields runs into the Ashill stream and also down Pages Lane and is joined by flooding from the Pound Hill area.
- To the North, we have a stream which sources in Ashill over 2 kilometres away at a height 35 metres above the level of the Hills Road/Pages Lane junction. The stream runs in a shallow valley receiving runoff from the higher ground on both sides all along its route through to the Hills Road culvert, and then on adjacent to Chequers Lane and into the bird sanctuary.
- To the North East we have the high ground of Hills Road which is some 20 metres above the bottom of Pages Lane. During torrential rain, some of the water from this area runs down the fields into the Ashill stream the remainder flows down in the vicinity of Ploughboy Lane.

The suggested remedy is twofold, firstly, hold the water back along its source and secondly ensure that it has a clear exit passage into the Watton Brook.

- The first part of the proposed solution is to reduce the build-up of water at the Pages Lane/Hills Road culvert by creating two attenuation basins further upstream along the course of the Ashill Stream. Two potential locations were identified: The first basin would be created by digging out some of an existing 2-acre woodland copse which edges the Ashill stream ½ kilometre to the East of the B1077 on the same latitude as Lodge Farm (see photo below). This copse is currently sparsely populated with some mature trees, self-set saplings, dead trees and brambles. The stream could be easily diverted into this newly dug-out basin and then released through a restrictive outlet back onto its existing course. See below for a photo of the area.

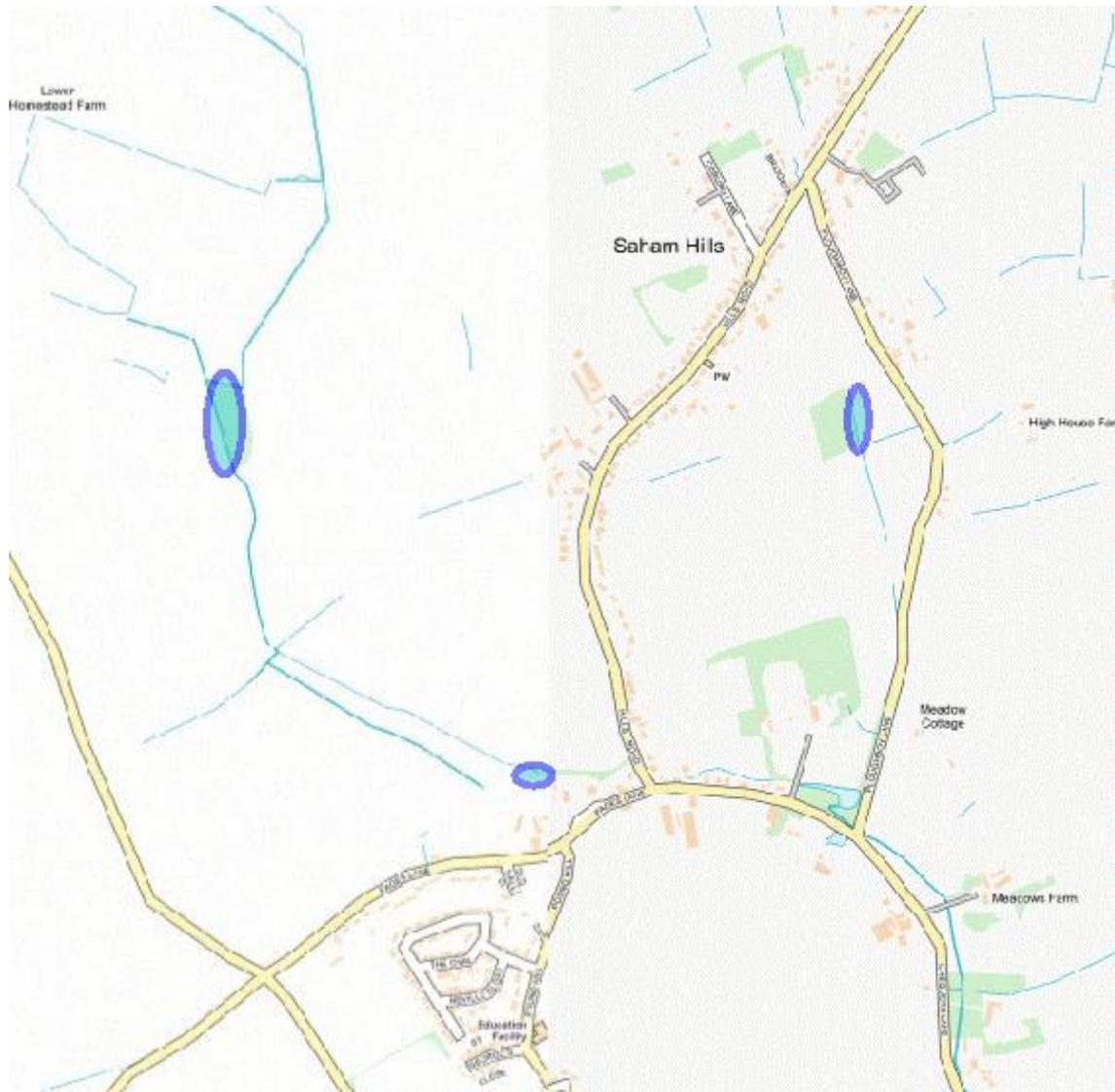


- The second basin could be created by widening the stream where it meanders through some undulating land adjacent to the back of the derelict barns just before it reaches Pages Place. The land in this area is not cultivated and could accommodate an attenuation basin of a considerable size, the exit back into the stream would then be restricted. Next to the stream some 50 yards from Hills Road there is a filled in pit which is in an uncultivated area, if this is reinstated it would also hold back some of the flow from the higher ground. See below for photos of the area.



- Additionally, in order to reduce the run of water from Hills Road high ground into the stream at the Ploughboy Lane/Chequers Lane junction an attenuation basin could be created in the Parish Council owned Clay Pit up to the North.

The three potential basin locations described above are indicated on the map below:



The second part of the proposed solution would require the roadside ditches along Pages Lane and Chequers Lane need to be cleared including the ditch from the bird sanctuary through the allotment and the golf course up to the Watton Brook. All the ditches are congested with established saplings and vegetation including Japanese knotweed in the allotment area, these restrictions are contributing to the flooding by holding back the flow.

The proposed remedies could be carried out at a reasonably low cost in a short time without much disruption. Obviously, the cooperation of the landowners concerned is required, they might even offer to assist with the excavation. No discussions with them

have taken place, that is a matter for the Parish Council should it choose to pursue these recommendations. The relevant landowners are listed below.

Land Owners

- The Copse (First basin) – Mr Kevin Bowes? (to be confirmed). Access track to the East – Sir David Ralli
- Second Basin - Mr Ralph Fickling
- Clay Pit and allotment – Parish Council (Fuel Trust)
- Ditch to Watton Brook around allotment - Parish Council (Fuel Trust) (to be confirmed)