

Downton landowners information

# Downton

## Flood Defence Scheme

The Downton flood defence scheme has been built to protect properties from flooding from the River Avon, the Newcourt Carrier, the Mill Race and the Bunny. This leaflet sets out the responsibilities of landowners who now have flood defence structures on their land.



# Background

After the severe flooding events of 2000 and 2001 the community gave strong support for the construction of a flood defence scheme.

The scheme that has been provided protects properties from river flooding to a level which will occur on average once in a 75 year period. The protection is provided by flood walls, flood banks, flapped drainage outfalls and a new pumping station.

The scheme also provides partial protection from the effects of groundwater and surface water flooding, by collecting water just below the surface of the Borough and pumping it over the flood defences when the River Avon is high.

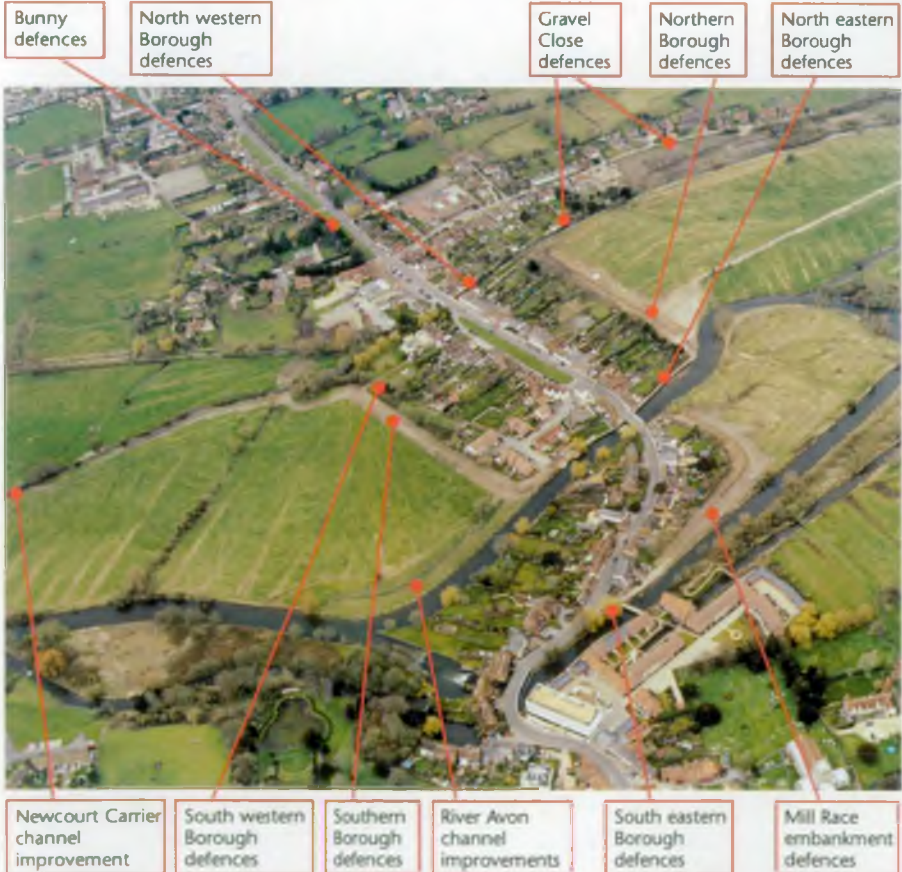
The provision of the scheme may have a beneficial effect on the insurance prospects of properties. Please contact our South Wessex area office for clarification of the flood risk category for your property.



▲ The Newcourt Carrier from The Borough



▲ The River Avon downstream of Downton



## Responsibilities of landowners

### Responsibilities of landowners with flood defence structures on their land

- Seek permission from the Environment Agency for works within 7m of the flood walls or flood banks.

Flood defence structures (e.g. walls and banks) are protected in law and the Environment Agency has permissive powers to ensure that the defences are not compromised in any way. For certain works (including planting trees or large shrubs) it may be necessary to obtain Land Drainage Consent. Our South Wessex area office can advise whether or not this consent is required.

- Take ownership of those parts of the new works which are not flood defence structures.

The aerial photograph opposite shows which parts of the new works are classed as flood defence structures. The Environment Agency will maintain the flood defence structures. All other works have been provided as compensatory measures and now belong to the landowner.

- Care for the new planting.

The new planting belongs to the landowner. During 2004 the Environment Agency will inspect the planting and will replace any items that are defective. During this first growing year it is expected that the landowner will take reasonable care of the planting.

- Allow access to the flood defences for Environment Agency inspections and maintenance.

Environment Agency staff will normally visit up to four times per year (twice a year for maintenance inspections and twice a year for asset inspections). There may also be a need for more extensive works on average once in 10 years. Please always check the identification of the inspectors.

A 'Deed of Grant' will be agreed between the Environment Agency and each landowner's solicitor. The deed will cover legal rights of way in respect of the flood defence structures. The Environment Agency will pay for each landowner's legal costs for these agreements.

### Groundwater flooding

Groundwater will affect many gardens, as the flood walls cannot prevent water travelling under the ground. If your garden floods, please keep an eye on the water level. Call the free Floodline service if it looks as though the water will enter your house. Floodline can also answer general flood enquiries and provide free leaflets.

There will still be some properties with low floor levels susceptible to groundwater flooding in Downton. Boreholes have been installed within the village to monitor groundwater levels, and it is hoped that at a later date the Environment Agency will be able to give warnings of rising groundwater to properties at risk.



## SOUTH WEST REGION ADDRESSES

### REGIONAL OFFICE

Environment Agency  
South West Region  
Manley House  
Kestrel Way  
Exeter EX2 7LQ  
Tel: 01392 444 000  
Fax: 01392 444 238

### SOUTH WESSEX AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency  
Rivers House  
Sunrise Business Park  
Higher Shaftesbury Road  
Blandford DT11 8ST  
Tel: 01258 456 080  
Fax: 01258 455 998

### DEVON AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency  
Exminster House  
Miller Way  
Exminster  
Devon EX6 8AS  
Tel: 01392 444 000  
Fax: 01392 316 016

### CORNWALL AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency  
Sir John Moore House  
Victoria Square  
Bodmin PL31 1EB  
Tel: 01208 78301  
Fax: 01208 78321

### NORTH WESSEX AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency  
Rivers House, East Quay  
Bridgwater TA6 4YS  
Tel: 01278 457 333  
Fax: 01278 452 985



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

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE

**0845 933 3111**

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
FLOODLINE

**0845 988 1188**

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
EMERGENCY HOTLINE

**0800 80 70 60**



**ENVIRONMENT  
AGENCY**