



HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

VOLUME 3 HIGHWAY DRAINAGE

**Neighbourhood Services,
Wokingham Borough Council,
PO Box 153,
Council Offices,
Shute End,
Wokingham, Berkshire.
RG40 1WL**

**Tel No. 0118 974 6000
Fax No. 0118 974 6313**

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HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Volume 1: Introduction & Overview

Volume 2: Highway Network Maintenance

Volume 3: Highway Drainage

Volume 4: Winter Service

Volume 5: Severe Weather and other Emergencies

Volume 6: Highway Structures

Volume 7: Traffic & Transport (incl Traffic Management & Road Safety)

Volume 8: Street Lighting and Illuminated Signs

Volume 9: Other Miscellaneous Functions

Including:

Sweeping and Street Cleansing

Weed Control

Verges and Open Spaces

Trees

Grass Cutting

Public Rights of Way

Volume 10: Highway Development Control

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VOLUME 3 - HIGHWAY DRAINAGE

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VOLUME 3 – HIGHWAY DRAINAGE

This volume of the HMMP provides policies guidance and standards for maintenance of the council's highway drainage infrastructure. This document should be read in conjunction with other volumes of the HMMP, in particular Volume 1 (Introduction and Overview) and Volume 2 (Highway Network).

1. HIGHWAY DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

1.1 Policy

It is the council's policy to maintain and improve the drainage network to enable water to be removed from the surface of the highway as quickly as possible to maintain safety and minimise flooding.

2. SERVICE INSPECTIONS & DEFECTS

2.1 Standards

- (i) Gullies will be cleansed annually and any found to be non-functioning will be recorded for more detailed attention. A list of known problem gullies will be maintained and these will be cleansed at six monthly intervals.
- (ii) A register of other council-owned drainage assets (see the following items iii to xiii) in areas susceptible to the risk of flooding from highway and land drainage factors will be held with and maintained by the Highway Drainage Manager. Inspections of these assets will be carried out during or immediately following periods of heavy rain as the opportunity allows.
- (iii) Culverts that have an internal diameter less than 950mm and all manholes will be inspected every 5 years and cleaned when required.
- (iv) Culverts that have an internal diameter greater than 950mm will be inspected by the council's structures team. See volume 6 of the HMMP.
- (v) Piped highway drainage, soakaways and associated systems will be inspected when required, but at not more than 10 year intervals and cleared when required. Where the serviceability of such piped drainage is critical to flood prevention or there is evidence that more regular attention is necessary then the frequency of inspection will be reviewed.
- (vi) Council-owned ditches will be inspected as part of the highway safety inspection cycle. Note of condition will be made and a more detailed inspection will be called for and remedy organised if necessary.
- (vii) An annual programme of grip cutting/clearing will commence after the last grass-cut and the programme completed if possible before the worst effects of winter.
- (viii) Pumping stations affecting highway surface water drainage systems will be inspected monthly and maintained accordingly.

- (ix) Grilles will be inspected and cleared on a regular basis. A schedule setting out maintenance frequencies will be held by the Highway Drainage Manager.
- (x) Headwalls will be inspected every 5 years and cleaned when required.
- (xi) Balancing ponds will be inspected annually and maintained as necessary.
- (xii) Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) adopted under the council's 'Proposed Mechanism for the Interim Adoption of Sustainable Drainage Systems' will be inspected annually and maintained as necessary.
- (xiii) Other ancillaries (flap valves etc) will be inspected annually and maintained as necessary.

Note: Wokingham Borough Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, are responsible for ordinary watercourse consent applications under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991. Guidance on the consent of Culverting of Ordinary Watercourses can be found on the council's web site at:

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/transport/streetcare/drains/>

3. LAND DRAINAGE

3.1 Introduction

- (a) A watercourse or ditch that is not classified as a main river is known as a non-main river watercourse. Responsibility for watercourses, including roadside ditches, rests with the 'riparian owner'. A riparian owner is a property or landowner with watercourses crossing or abutting their land. Where a watercourse is between property boundaries, each owner is jointly responsible.

Note: Main river locations and other information is available on the Environment Agency's web site:

<http://maps.environmentagency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?ep=maptopics&lang= e>

- (b) Those responsibilities include accepting natural flows from upstream and maintaining the system to allow water to pass on without obstruction.
- (c) The Council is not responsible for roadside ditch maintenance except when it is itself a riparian owner or has created a ditch (as Highway Authority) solely for draining the highway. A highway authority's responsibility under the Highways Act is to drain the highway and to prevent water flowing on to it. To this end it may discharge water into an adjacent watercourse.

3.2 Policy

Under Section 25 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 it is the responsibility of a riparian owner to ensure the ordinary watercourse remains clear. If a riparian owner fails to carry out necessary maintenance on a non-main river watercourse then the Council may use its permissive powers under the Land Drainage Act to serve notice requiring them to undertake the necessary works. Failure to comply

with such a notice may result in the Council undertaking the work and recharging the owner.

4. FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT

- (i) Under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010), the council became a 'Lead Local Flood Authority' and, as such, has legislative responsibilities for flood risk management.
- (ii) The council has produced a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) as well as a SuDS Strategy. Both documents are available on the Council's website.