

SAFE WELL PROSPEROUS CONNECTED

Barrow upon Humber groundwater flooding community newsletter

What is groundwater flooding?

Flooding from groundwater can happen when the level of water within the rock or soil that makes up the land surface (known as the water table) rises. The level of the water table changes with the seasons due to variations in long term rainfall and water abstraction.

It has been an extremely wet October and November and the ground water levels in Barrow upon Humber and surrounding areas are very high.

When the water table rises and reaches ground level, water starts to emerge on the surface and flooding can happen.

There are some key features of flooding from groundwater:

- Flooding will usually occur days or even weeks after heavy or prolonged rainfall.
- Flooding may occur for a long time, often lasting several weeks.
- The water doesn't always appear where you would expect it to (i.e. valley bottoms). It may also emerge on hillsides.
- Water may rise up through floors rather than coming in through doors.

What is being done?

Over the past few days, ground water has been inundating Anglian Water's sewerage system, which has led to some residents not being able to use their facilities. Anglian Water has been carrying out constant tankering operations and made special arrangements with the Environment Agency to begin additional pumping to protect their system. This has had a positive impact and helped alleviate the situation.

Residents will be aware that some groundwater is being pumped into the beck, which has been authorised by the Environment Agency because of the emergency situation. Once the emergency is over and discharges have ceased, Anglian Water will carry out a clean-up of the affected watercourses and the Environment Agency will ensure the environmental impacts are minimised as far as possible.

North Lincolnshire Council has been checking on residents and providing sandbags and assistance where water is immediately threatening their home.

What will happen next?

Ground water is likely to remain high for some time. Responding organisations have operational teams ready to respond to any additional issues as they occur.

Residents are asked to be aware of the risk of flooding and follow flood preparation advice available at www.northlincs.gov.uk/live-flooding-updates-2/.

If residents have any further flooding issues they should call:

- North Lincolnshire Council on 01724 297000
- Anglian Water on 03457 145 145
- Environment Agency on 0845 988 1188 (floodline)

A copy of this newsletter, along with further flooding advice, is available at www.northlincs.gov.uk.