

Cogges Link Road: Jacobs Observations on Extent of Flooding July 2007

Site visits were carried out on 25 July 2007 by two Jacobs personnel in connection with the CLR project. Their report included photographs, the locations of which are shown in Plan 1.

Evidence of flooding was noted as:

- Standing or flowing water outside of the river channels
- Waterlogged ground
- Tall grasses and other vegetation flattened
- Deposits of vegetation and other water borne detritus usually in combination with the above either as a 'tidemark' or generally

Observations by P Fasham

- Looking west from the water pumping station across the field to the east of the East Channel of the Windrush no obvious signs of flooding were seen although the ground was saturated.
- The track to the pumping station from Stanton Harcourt Road looked in places as if it had carried some water.

Visit was also made to the Country Park concentrated on the west bank (right bank) of the East Branch of the Windrush. The following observations were made:

- There was flooding on the road to the mill and there was evidence that the river had come to the top of the banks but had only gone out of river in two areas of the Country Park. See Photographs 001 to 004

Photograph 001 Flooding on the access road by the mill where the water seems to have come from the channel to the west of the mill.

Photograph 002 East bank of the East Channel of the Windrush. There was no evidence of the bank being overtopped or even that the waters of the Windrush had reached the top of the bank as they had done on the west bank.

Photograph 003 View from the south showing two areas of vegetation flattened by out of river flooding which are marked on the copy of the photograph in Appendix 2.

Photograph 004 A fairly typical view downstream of the water coming over the lower edge of the bank as outlined by the trees and shrubs but not overtopping the entire bank and flooding the country park.

Observations by J Mullins

Country Park Area

- The level of water at the south side of the culvert beneath the mill was at soffit level.
- The level of the water was noted at two further locations – see Photographs 008 and 014
- The areas seen to be flooded or where evidence was seen of recent flooding are marked approximately on Plan 1.

Photograph 005 – 007 Flooding was still in evidence where the East Channel of the Windrush had topped the bank at a bend in the river.

Photograph 008 At the derelict railway crossing of the East Channel. The water level was about 2.5 bricks below the concrete overhang.

Photograph 009 The standing water seen at the gates was continuous with the water level in the river.

Photograph 010 The central part of the field was waterlogged with standing water along the line of the footpath.

Photograph 011 The land either side of the footpath was waterlogged.

Photographs 012 -14 The banks had been overtopped on the east bank at the A40 overbridge of the West Channel. The dimension marked between the water level and the base of the rail on Photograph 14 is 350mm

Fields to east of East Channel of Windrush adjacent to Pumping Station

Limited inspection accessed from east – no standing water but ground conditions were noted to be very damp but without evidence of widespread flooding. Agricultural equipment was noted briefly in use on site.

Field to north of pumping station: Limited inspection from beaten footpath between pumping station and stream draining flood storage area for Cogges Estate – Ground conditions very wet and locally some very shallow standing water. No appreciable flow in stream from flood storage area for Cogges Estate.

Other Observations

Liaison by Jon Mullins with Janine Howells of Witney Town Council by telephone on 24 July 2007 yielded the following general comment.

- Peak flows through Witney were on Saturday 21 July 2007
- Langel Common was flooded and the cycleway across it was closed. (At the time of the telephone conversation the cycleway had been re-opened but the Common remained under water)
- Cogges Museum car park was flooded on Saturday and reached the school building
- Flooding occurred in the long narrow field immediately to the east [? west] of the Cogges Estate and at its peak extended up to the pumping station/minor north to south stream, and gardens were flooded in properties on Cogges Hill Road backing onto the field.
- The flooding of the fields to the east of the east branch of the Windrush is now receding
- The concrete holding pond immediately to the west of the Cogges Estate (near the pumping station) was full
- The WODC depot close to the west branch was evacuated on Saturday evening but is now back in use Cattle were moved off the country park and adjoining land

Jon Mullins,
Technical Director,
Jacobs

Jacobs Photographs

001



002



003



004



005



006



007



008



009



010



011



012



013



014



Photograph 003 marked to show approx extent of flooding evidence



Plan 1 showing locations of evidence of flooding and photographs

