

SPR EA1N & EA2 PROJECTS – DEADLINE 12



SUBMISSION OF IAN & MARY SHIPMAN
of [REDACTED]

IP Nos: 20024363, 20024361, 20023179 and 20023176

Recent flooding in Friston

1. We wish to bring the attention of the Examining Authority to a further severe flooding event, which took place in Friston on Friday 18th June.
2. There had been heavy rain on Thursday 17th June, which was followed by torrential rain on the morning of Friday 18th June, resulting in over 2 inches of rain falling in 36 hours.
3. Our home is within a few feet of the Friston Watercourse near to the culvert under Grove Road at its junction with Church Path and we have been subject to flooding in our garden and inside our house on previous occasions, which has noticeably increased over the last 5 years. We have lived in the house since 1993, when the “flood alleviation scheme” involving the construction of the culvert, the ford in Church Road and the weir adjacent to the A1094 had just been completed by a predecessor of the Environment Agency.
4. The storm on 18th June was peaking at midday when the following photograph was taken from our 1st floor window. It was at this point that we noticed the water entering the front hall of our house. We will submit a video we took at ground level, which demonstrates the force and extent of the water, as a separate document at Deadline 12. We have also made a report of the internal flooding to SCC via their online portal.



Junction of Church Path/Grove Road – 18th June 2021

5. The water was approximately 225mm deep as can be appreciated by the photo below.



Flood in Church Path overtopping into Friston Watercourse – 18th June 2021

6. Water was being discharged off the fields surrounding the village, including the fields to the east of Grove Road (the proposed location of the haul road), where the Applicants are currently undertaking ground investigation works. This run-off contained silt and sand, which was left deposited on the public right of way outside our house and around the culvert.
7. Such was the force and depth of the water near our house on 18th June that it was unsafe to venture far. However, the following day 19th June, it was clear that flooding had also occurred from the substation site with the northern pit filled with water and a blockage of vegetation in the ditch adjacent to Footpath 17. Notably none of the workforce were on site that morning as would be expected.



Northern pit on substation site – 19th June 2021



Substation site – 19th June 2021



Blockage in watercourse adjacent to Footpath 17 and substation site - 19th June 21

8. On the evening of Monday 21st June a visitor, staying in one of the holiday cottages in Church Path, slipped on the mud and was taken to hospital, where she was operated on for two broken bones in her ankle.
9. The wet weather over the past week has caused further problems in relation to the Applicants' on-going ground investigations where the poor drainage of the clay soils has left the site, access, footpaths and parking arrangements a quagmire. In turn this has led to the workforce parking vehicles in Grove Road and causing a hazard to other drivers and pedestrians. Parked vehicles have also been left on the access track and PRow to Little Moor Farm. This can only bode ill for both the pre-construction and main construction works, where the

size of the workforce and the number of vehicles, plant and machinery will be much higher and space more limited.



*Site Investigations' northern works access off Grove Road – 18th June 2021
Site workers' vehicles parked on access track to Little Moor Farm*



Southern Grove Road access for site investigations – 21st June 2021. Mud can be seen on the road itself.



Archaeological trial trench on substation site – Saturday 19th June demonstrating poor drainage of flooding which occurred 24 hours earlier.

10. The ExA will appreciate that flooding in Friston is a serious matter and that residents are rightly concerned about the Applicants' stated intention to deploy an attenuation only and hybrid scheme for surface water disposal into the Friston Watercourse instead of utilising infiltration. The Applicants ought to have considered ground conditions and pluvial flooding within their site selection process, which they failed to do.



Footpath 6 on substation site – site de-vegetated and damaged by vehicles

11. We have serious doubts that a connection can effectively be made at the Church Road ford, due to on-going problems of silting and vegetation growth in this shallow channel. We do not believe that 'regular' maintenance by the Environment Agency or any other organisation will resolve this, as the silting can take place very quickly at any time due to weather conditions, when the overland flow down Footpath 17 adjacent to Woodside Farm deposits silt and gravel into the watercourse during heavy or prolonged rain.



Ford in Church Road – proposed shallow connection point to Friston Watercourse. Stones and silt are washed down farm track during heavy rain.



Ford as seen from Church Road – note silting, shallow depth and vegetation

12. We are also concerned that there is not a continuous flow-path of the Friston Watercourse, which is effectively dammed at the A1094. Any increased total flows will simply cause additional flooding to the field adjacent to the weir and bund. There is no regular discharge from the Friston Watercourse to the estuary of the River Alde unless in very abnormal circumstances, when the weir, which is approximately 900mm high would overtop. This feature was designed into the 1993 Flood Alleviation Scheme.



Bund adjacent to A1094



Weir and channel under A1094 to prevent flooding to properties further south



Watercourse south of A1094 towards Firs Farm, which was previously regularly flooded before creation of the dam and weir.

13. As can be seen Friston has complex flooding issues of which the Appellants did not apprise themselves before selecting the Grove Wood site. Nor did they carry out any site investigations with regard to infiltration before the planned end of the Examination on 6th April 2021. Instead, such works were planned to commence just two days *after* the proposed end of the Examination. Details of groundwater levels, which affect drainage from the site and potential issues in the village, are not proposed by the Applicant to be submitted to the Examination by 6th July 2021. This is despite boreholes already being in place and groundwater monitoring being currently carried out. The Applicants should be asked to submit their provisional findings by Deadline 13.
14. On a personal level we are extremely concerned about the proposed discharge into the Friston Watercourse. The Applicants have demonstrated no understanding of the features or function of this watercourse and are merely taking advantage of its existence on a map. Our property and others along Church Path and Low Road cannot accept the risk of any increase in flooding, which may cause damage to our homes and invalidate our insurance. We therefore request that the Examining Authority do not approve such discharge from the substation site into the Friston Watercourse to protect the homes and wellbeing of those who live here.

A VIDEO OF THE FLOODING ON 18TH JUNE 2021 IS SUBMITTED SEPARATELY.