

Highway flooding is a nuisance for everyone.

It is caused by a number of sources including:

- Overflow from watercourses such as rivers and streams
- Overgrown or blocked drainage ditches
- High tides and stormy conditions
- Prolonged heavy rain overwhelming the local drainage capacity

What are we doing?

Maintaining and cleansing drains and gullies

The Island's highway drainage systems have suffered from years of poor maintenance due to the lack of funding. Now the PFI funding is enabling more thorough maintenance work to be carried out by specialist drainage teams. This will make the network safer to use during wet weather, draining the water away from the surface, and preventing the deterioration of roads.

Island Roads teams are using the very latest equipment including a high volume vacator unit which exerts high pressured water out of a jetting hose to flush drainage systems and remove debris. This helps to establish the condition of the gully/drain, identify what feeds into the system, where this discharges and identifies any defects. If defects are found, a CCTV survey is carried out to investigate any issues further and the necessary repairs are carried out.

Major drainage schemes

Several major drainage schemes have been programmed by Island Roads in areas prone to flooding. These will take place ahead of any road surfacing treatments.

We are also working in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council to identify other drainage schemes where they are required.

In the event of excessive water due to bad weather, we work alongside the emergency services to try and drain surface water, where possible.

What must you do to help 'ditch' the problem?

Property owners

You are responsible for protecting your property from flooding. It is important that you identify any problems with water draining from your property and avoid surface water or water from down pipes discharging onto the highway, as this could pose a danger to the public. Keep guttering and surface drains on your property clear. Report any problems with water discharge on the highway to Island Roads on 01983 822440.

In the event of severe weather use sandbags (see our website for details of collection points) or other flood defences to protect your property.

Landowners

Landowners with land running adjacent to the highway must ensure ditches are kept clear and land adequately drained to prevent earth and vegetation from slipping onto the highway area. If it does fall or overhang onto the highway, it is the landowner's responsibility to clear this. If this work cannot be done quickly and satisfactorily, Island Roads may remove the debris to keep the highway safe and any costs will be passed to the landowner.



Riverside landowners

If you own land or property next to a river or other watercourse you have rights and responsibilities as a riverside or 'riparian' landowner. These rights and responsibilities are explained in a booklet produced by the Environment Agency called 'Living on the Edge'. You can download a copy from www.environment-agency.gov.uk This includes your responsibilities to maintain the bed and banks of the watercourse (including trees and shrubs), clearing obstructions, maintaining flood defences and protecting your property from seepage.

Working together to reduce flooding

There are a number of agencies working together to try and reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding on the Island:

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is responsible for regulating major industry and waste, the treatment of contaminated land, water quality and resources, fisheries, conservation and ecology. It is also responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea.

Island Roads

Island Roads is responsible for maintaining the drains and gullies adjacent to the highway to help prevent flooding. We have an extensive programme of schemes to prevent highways from flooding during wet weather; from drainage and gully cleansing and maintenance to major drainage schemes - where whole sections of the drainage alongside a highway area are reconstructed or replaced.

Isle of Wight Council

The council has a number of roles:

- Through its planning function it makes decisions about land use and development,
- It works to protect the environment through its licensing role, and
- Responds to emergency incidents, including flooding, through its fire service and emergency management functions.

The council is a Lead Local Flood Authority. Lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) are responsible for managing the risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses and lead on community recovery.

Southern Water

Southern Water is responsible for the supply of water and wastewater treatment services across the Isle of Wight. Some sewers are combined and deal with wastewater and surface water.

To report flooding from:

A main river or the sea, contact:

Environment Agency

- 0800 807 060

Environment Agency also provides help on flooding issues via

- Floodline 0345 988 1188
- www.environment-agency.gov.uk

A public drain, contact:

Southern Water

- 0330 303 0368
- www.southernwater.co.uk

A private drain, land drain or watercourse, contact:

The landowner

The highway, contact:

Island Roads

- 01983 822440
- www.islandroads.com
- info@islandroads.com

Severe weather service details

Isle of Wight Council

- iow.gov.uk

In an emergency

Where lives are at risk

- 999

Other useful contacts

Isle of Wight Council, Lead Local Flood Agency

For adverse weather and flooding guidance

- www.iwight.com

The Met Office

- 0370 900 0100
- www.metoffice.gov.uk

Working in partnership



for further information

01983 822440

www.islandroads.com



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to ditch highway
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