



# Cinderford Brook Catchment

(Drybrook, Cinderford, Ruspidge & Soudley)

## Rapid Response Plan



Cinderford Brook (Google)



Boscastle 2004 (Google)

September 2020

## Record of Amendments

Amendment Number	Date	Amended By	Changes Made
1	24/8/2017	K.Rushworth	Engagement Section updated
2	07/09/2020	R. Gundy & K.Rushworth	Review layout – consistent with Lydney Plan. Contacts updated.
3			
4			
5			

## Plan Maintenance

This plan is maintained by Forest of Dean District Council in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council Civil Protection Team, and in consultation with the Environment Agency (Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire & Gloucestershire Area).

To ensure the integrity of this document, holders are requested to inform the Civil Protection Team of any amendments to the information. All amendments should be notified via email to: [civilprotectionteam@glosfire.gov.uk](mailto:civilprotectionteam@glosfire.gov.uk)

A full review of this plan will be conducted every 3 years in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

## Plan Distribution

- Drybrook Parish Council
- Cinderford Town Council
- Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council
- Published on Resilience Direct for LRF Partners

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## **List of Abbreviations**

<i>EA</i>	<i>Environment Agency</i>
<i>FFC</i>	<i>Flood Forecasting Centre</i>
<i>FGS</i>	<i>Flood Guidance Statement</i>
<i>Flood Zone 2</i>	<i>Areas which are likely to be affected by a major flood, with up to a 0.1% (1 in 1000) chance of occurring each year</i>
<i>FODDC</i>	<i>Forest of Dean District Council</i>
<i>LRF</i>	<i>Local Resilience Forum</i>
<i>MAFP</i>	<i>Multi-Agency Flood Plan</i>
<i>MIP</i>	<i>Major Incident Procedures Manual</i>
<i>NHS</i>	<i>National Health Service</i>
<i>RVP</i>	<i>Rendezvous Point</i>
<i>SCG</i>	<i>Strategic Coordinating Group</i>
<i>TCG</i>	<i>Tactical Coordinating Group</i>

# Introduction

The Environment Agency has identified Cinderford Brook catchment as an area which has the potential to have a rapid reaction to rainfall and in turn to cause flash flooding, which therefore poses a special threat to life within the surrounding communities.

If this extreme flooding does happen it is expected to be of great depth and speed with the ability to destroy buildings and bridges, lift and carry vehicles away and in most cases the force of the water would sweep people off their feet.

This flash flooding is only expected to occur after very extreme weather. Rivers and streams in these catchments have the ability to flood in any given year, but the chance of them flooding in such a severe way is exceptional. However these types of flood are likely to happen more often in the future as climate change alters weather patterns.

There is a high risk of loss of life within the identified catchment areas (Drybrook, Cinderford, Ruspidge & Soudley) during an extreme flood due to:

- the steep catchment area with a fast response to flood water;
- fast moving flood water;
- busy summer periods when there are visitors without knowledge of flood risk;
- debris, mobilised by flood waters, travelling at high velocities
- buildings that could be structurally damaged by flooding.

## 1.1 Aim

To raise awareness that Cinderford Brook Catchment area has been identified as communities that are at risk from flash flooding, and to outline the response to this type of flooding.

## 1.2 Objectives

- To provide information on the properties, infrastructure and vulnerable communities potentially at risk from a rapid flood incident.
- To provide an outline of the Community engagement/flood awareness measures undertaken/planned to raise awareness and enable the local community and relevant businesses to be more resilient to a rapid flood incident.

## 1.3 Scope

- This plan focuses on flash flooding within the Cinderford Brook Catchment area (affecting the communities of Drybrook, Cinderford, Ruspidge & Soudley) and the **specific** response arrangements to such a flooding incident.

- To avoid duplication, this plan **does not** provide detailed information on the operational flood response by Forest of Dean District Council or the tactical/strategic multi-agency response to a flooding emergency, as this is covered by Multi-Agency Flood Plan.
- This plan is also supported by emergency response arrangements detailed in a number of other relevant LRF and individual agency's plans (see section 4). As such, this plan does not duplicate the arrangements/ procedures provided by such plans.
- The geographical scope of this plan is for flash flooding occurring within the Cinderford Brook Catchment area. The area identified as potentially at risk is shown in Appendix 1.

## **Background Information**

### **2.1 Catchment Description**

Cinderford Brook is the main watercourse through and around Cinderford, though it is fed by numerous drains. The Brook flows roughly in a southern direction from Nailbridge (SO 64626 16292) to Steam Mills (SO 64760 15665) where it bifurcates. The left branch continues as the Old Engine Brook for 0.4 kilometres. The right branch flows south east through a large pond, which is a result of quarrying, after which it turns south west to meet the Old Engine Brook at SO 64592 15273.

Cinderford Brook then flows in a southerly direction past its downstream extent at Crump Meadow STW (SO 64892 13732) to Upper Soudley where it then flows in an easterly direction to where it changes name to Soudley Brook downstream of Upper Soudley.

Soudley Brook then flows into Forge Brook and Bideford Brook where it finally discharges into the River Severn.

The main area of the town lies to the east and south east of Cinderford Brook and is surrounded by woodland.

The area drained by Cinderford Brook at the downstream extent of the catchment is approximately 12.66 km<sup>2</sup>.

For the purpose of this plan the communities identified as at risk in the event of a rapid reaction flood are Drybrook, Cinderford, Ruspidge and Soudley.

### **2.2 Flood Risk Management Assets**

There are no EA maintained assets on the Cinderford Brook catchment.

### **2.3 Vulnerable Population Groups / Infrastructure**

#### ***2.3.1 Vulnerable Properties/ Businesses/ Services***

Within the communities of Cinderford Brook as identified for this plan, there are **101 properties** that fall within the Flood Zone 2 Outline (0.1% chance of flooding in a year) and as such could potentially be at risk of flooding. However other properties could be affected by the flooding within this community in terms of access and transport and neighbouring properties etc

**A list of property addresses is found at Appendix 2**

### **2.3.2 Business Continuity**

The Emergency Services, NHS and other partner organisations have been made aware of the particular risk of flash flooding within the Cinderford Brook catchment area, and encouraged to consider their own arrangements and resilience to enable them to as far as possible to maintain their critical services and respond effectively. Each emergency responder will refer to their individual business continuity plans should the situation arise.

## **Flood and Weather Warning & Forecasting**

### **3.1 Flood Warning & Forecasting**

#### **3.1.1 Environment Agency Flood Warning Service**

The Environment Agency has a Flood Warning Service providing Flood Alerts for the Rivers in the Forest of Dean. This predominantly warns of flooding to low lying land etc. Flood warnings are issued at least two hours before the onset of flooding. Further information can be found in the Gloucestershire Multi Agency Flood Plan.

**Note:** There are currently no warning procedures in place for the Cinderford Brook. Therefore at present this service cannot be utilised for this particular area.

**Please be aware that for flash flooding the warning and forecasting methods normally used for flooding (particularly river flooding) may not be appropriate. This is due to the speed the area may react to extreme rainfall.**

From recent modelling carried out the time to peak throughout the Cinderford Brook catchment is **1.2 hours. (Approx 1 hour 12 minutes)**

The catchment has been classified as significant hazard. This is based upon the time to peak and maximum Hazard rating, which is based on potential depths, velocity and debris factor. **(Hazard rating 16.7 = Medium)**

As the Environment Agency Flood Warning Service is not available for this watercourse a community gauge has been installed to provide a community flood warning service via a series of alerts and warnings. If members of the public would like to sign up to receive these alerts and warnings they should email [floodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:floodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk) stating they would like to sign up to the Ruspidge gauge and confirming whether they would like an email, text or phone call alert.

### 3.1.2 Flood Guidance Statement

The Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) provides information for Category 1 and 2 responders to assist with tactical planning decisions. Statements are issued by the Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC). See generic part of LRF Multi-Agency Flood Plan for further information.

### 3.1.3 Flood Advisory Service

The Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) provides information for Category 1 and 2 responders to assist with tactical planning decisions. Statements are issued by the Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) to Category 1 and 2 responders, Government Departments, the EA and the Met Office.

The FGS presents an overview of the flood risk from all forms of flooding across England and Wales and identifies developing situations that could cause flooding and significant disruption.

The FGS presents an assessment of the probability and impact of flooding based on meteorological information and an understanding of the situation across river catchments and the coast, and colours each county according to risk:

Key	Very low risk	Low risk	Medium risk	High risk
<b>RIVER &amp; COASTAL FLOODING</b> Probability of one or more of the following impacts occurring from rivers or the sea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extreme danger to life</li> <li>• considerable numbers of people affected</li> <li>• significant impact on capacity of Cat 1 &amp; 2 responders or the public to effectively respond</li> <li>• approx &gt;100 properties will flood</li> <li>• severe impact on infrastructure</li> <li>• failure or overtopping of defences expected</li> </ul>	<20%	≥20% to <40%	≥40% to <60%	≥60%
<b>HEAVY RAINFALL</b> Probability that thresholds will be met, leading to possible surface water flooding.	<20%	≥20% to <39%	≥40% to <59%	≥60%
Suggested actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business as usual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider liaising with partner organisations</li> <li>• Be aware of the latest weather/flood warnings and alerts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider liaising with partner organisations</li> <li>• Consult surface water flood maps and local flood warning plan maps as appropriate</li> <li>• Consider activating emergency procedures</li> </ul>	

## 3.2 Weather Warnings and Forecasting

The Flood Forecasting Centre also issue heavy rainfall alerts, on a County basis, to category 1 and 2 responders to advise of the risk of surface water flooding from

extreme rainfall. Further details of this service are listed in the generic part of the LRF Multi-Agency Flood Plan.

## **Emergency Response**

### **4.1 Standby**

If flood and weather warnings indicate that the catchment area may be at risk of flooding a decision may be made not to activate the plan but to put appropriate personnel/resources on standby, so that a response can be implemented quickly if the situation worsens.

### **4.2 Plan Activation**

Alerts about flooding within the catchment area may come from a variety of sources e.g. calls from the public to Fire/Police control rooms, calls from the public to Forest of Dean District Council, or to the Town/ Parish Councils.

It is difficult to provide a definitive trigger for activating this plan, as there are a number of variables, and due to the nature of the catchment and the localism of the extreme rainfall, flooding could occur rapidly with little warning.

It is therefore vital that clear communication takes place between all responding partners, so that agreement can be reached regarding activation of the plan and the subsequent multi-agency response

Depending on the situation/timescale, the EA may convene a professional partner's teleconference or Operation Link (the cascade system to notify responder agencies) may be initiated. Discussions may also take place with the town council who will be able to advise on the local situation. The ultimate decision to activate the plan will be made by the EA and/or the Forest of Dean District Council.

**Contact details for various agencies can be found in Appendix 4**

### **4.3 Command and Control**

Full details of command and control arrangements for flooding and other major incidents are found in the **LRF MAFP** and **LRF MIP**. Arrangements will depend on whether flooding in the catchment area is a stand-alone incident or is one of a number of flooded locations across the county. If this is the case the EA Liaison Officer will advise the Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG) or Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) about the particular risk of flash flooding in the area, so that response can be prioritised as necessary.

### **4.4 Supporting Emergency Plans**

This plan is supported by a number of other LRF & individual agency's emergency plans:

- LRF Major Incident Procedure Manual (MIP)
- LRF Multi-Agency Flood Plan (MAFP)
- Publica Emergency Response Guide
- LRF Search and Rescue plan

- LRF Evacuation and Shelter Plan
- LRF Vulnerable People Plan
- LRF Resilient Telecommunications Plan
- LRF Warning & Informing Plan
- LRF Recovery Plan

## 4.5 Places of Safety and Rest Centres

'Places of Safety' may be used initially for evacuated people until Local Authorities could activate a Rest Centre.

The potential sites include:

<b>St. Johns Church</b>	St. John's Square, Cinderford, GL14 3EX
<b>St Whites School</b>	Sneydwood Road, Cinderford, GL14 3GD
<b>White Hart Inn</b>	85 St Whites Road, Cinderford, GL14 3ER

**None of the potential 'Places of Safety' sites are within the flood zone 2 outline (0.1% chance of flooding in a year). However, access to sites may be prohibitive if roads are flooded. As such a judgement will need to be made following a flooding incident as to which is the most suitable Place(s) of Safety to use.**

A 'Place of Safety' may have been activated initially but a risk assessment will need to be completed to decide whether evacuees remain there or are moved to a designated Rest Centre, or other temporary accommodation as appropriate.

If transport is required for evacuees, Forest of Dean District Council and Gloucestershire County Council may be able to arrange this. A suitable collection point(s) would need to be agreed with Police.

If a Rest Centre needs to be established to provide temporary accommodation for evacuated residents and/or motorists who may be stranded. The following sites have been identified as each accommodating up to 250 evacuees at each site:

- **Dene Magna School**
- **The Dean Academy**

The schools have agreed to be used as Rest Centres, and specific Rest Centre site plans are in place.

There is also a Rest Centre plan for Newent school if additional capacity was required to temporarily accommodate evacuees.

## 4.6 Road Closures

A number of roads within the catchment could potentially be flooded:

- **A4136 (Nailbridge)**
- **Steam Mills Road**
- **Broadmoor**
- **Forest Vale Road**

- **Valley Road**
- **St. Whites Road**
- **Ruspidge Road**

Gloucestershire Highways has been made aware of this and would put road closure signs in place if requested by the police. They would also provide partners, the local radio and relevant websites with regular updates.

#### **4.7 Emergency Services Rendezvous Points (RVPs)**

RVPs would be identified as necessary depending on local circumstances and guidance from Emergency Service personnel at the scene.

#### **4.8 Health and Safety and Responder Welfare**

All responding organisations, including voluntary agencies, should be aware of the risks of working in or near flood water and the particular risks associated with flash flooding i.e. fast flowing water and debris travelling at high speed.

As part of their response procedures, responding agencies should carry out a dynamic risk assessment, and ensure any responders are appropriately trained (e.g. in swift water rescue) and provided with appropriate kit and personal protective equipment as necessary.

The welfare of those responding in any capacity needs to be considered. Individual agencies should have their own arrangements in place to enable staff rotas/rest periods, provision of refreshments and other support as necessary.

## **Community Engagement & Communication**

### **5.1 Community Engagement and Awareness**

The EA and local authorities inform residents and businesses potentially at risk of flooding, and provide information on what steps they can take to be more resilient. **Details of flood awareness activity planned or already undertaken can be found at Appendix 5.**

## **Post Flooding**

### **6.1 Debrief & Lessons Learned**

Following a flooding incident in the area organisational and multi-agency debriefs should take place, depending on the scale of the incident.

Lessons learned from the response to an incident and from debrief feedback should be used to identify what worked well and what needs to be improved. Actions should then be taken by appropriate organisations to address any issues raised and this plan revised as necessary.

It is also important that the community is kept fully informed of any actions that are being taken following a flooding incident.

# Training, Exercising and Plan Review

## 7.1 Training and Exercising

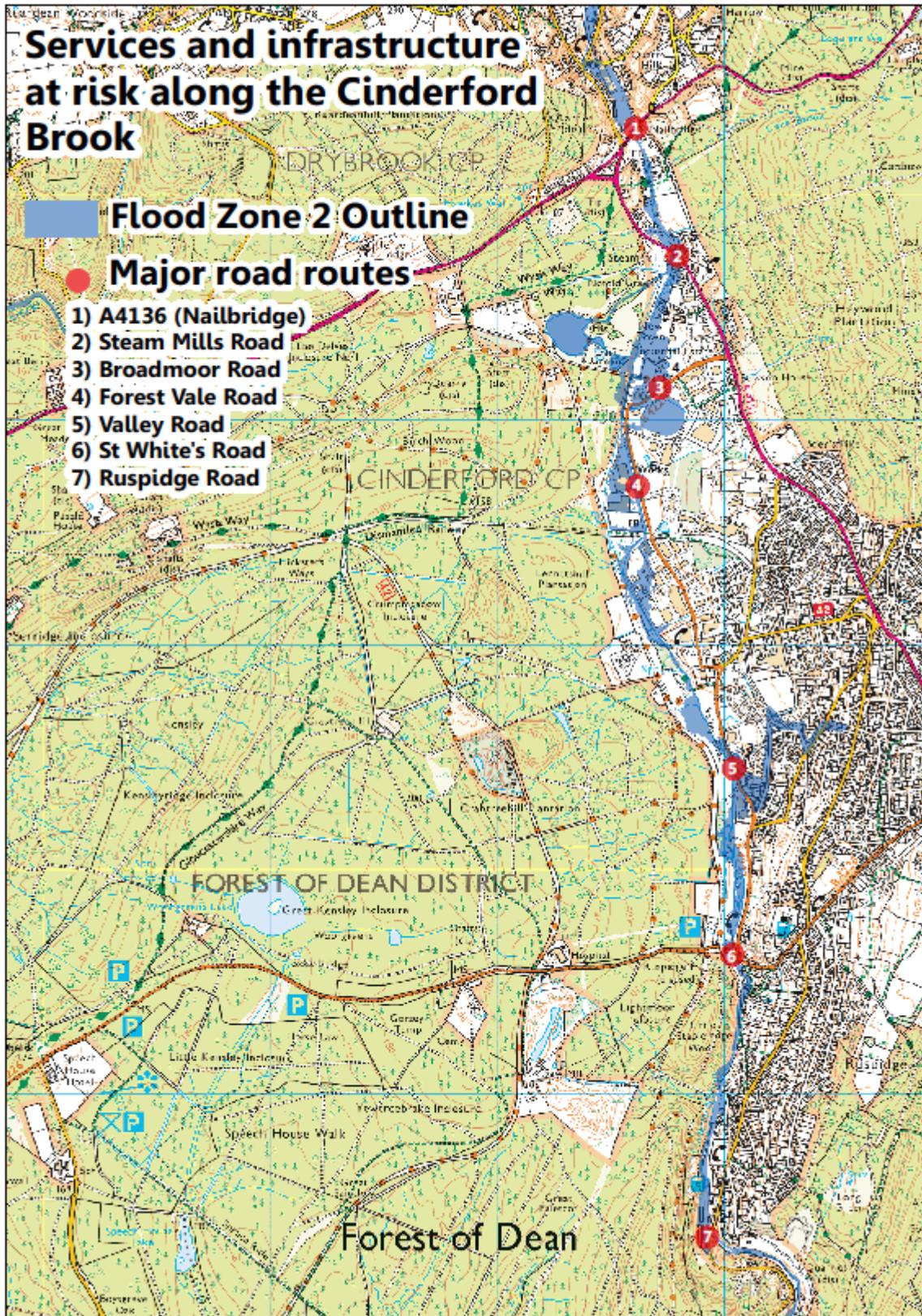
The following flood related training/exercises have taken place:

<b>Type of Training /Exercise</b>	<b>Facilitators</b>	<b>Audience</b>	<b>Date</b>
Table Top Discussion Exercise	LRF Training Group	Multi-agency	April 2012
Rapid Response Catchment Exercise	EA & Local Authority	Multi-agency	April 2016

## 7.2 Plan Review

This plan will be reviewed every 3 years, or amendments will be issued in the interim for any significant changes. To validate the plan and test procedures, a multi-agency discussion exercise will be held as resources allow.

Appendix 1: Map of properties, buildings & services at Flood Risk in the Cinderford Brook Catchment Area



**Appendix 2:**

**List of properties at risk of flooding within the Cinderford Brook Catchment area**

**Information redacted**

**Information redacted**

**Information redacted**

**Information redacted**

### Appendix 3: Key Services / Infrastructure at Direct Risk or potentially Indirectly Impacted by Flooding

#### Emergency Service Stations

- Cinderford Fire Station, Valley Road, Cinderford, Glos GL14 2PA
- Ambulance Station, Mousel Barn, Littledean Hill Road, Cinderford, Glos GL14 2TT

#### Hospital/ Doctor's Surgery/Pharmacies

- Dilke Memorial Hospital, Speech House Road, Cinderford, Glos, GL14 3HX
- Cinderford Health Centre, Valley Road, Cinderford, Glos GL14 2AN
- Boots chemist, 9-11 Market St, Cinderford , Glos GL14 2RT
- The Cooperative Pharmacy, Inside the Cooperative Food Store, Dockham Road, Cinderford Glos GL14 2AQ
- Drybrook Pharmacy, Drybrook Road, Drybrook, GL17 9JA
- Drybrook Surgery, Drybrook Road, Drybrook, GL17 9JG

#### Nursing/Care Homes

- Euroclydon, Hawthorns, Drybrook, GL17 9BQ
- Hanover Court, Bilson Close, Cinderford, GL14 2LQ

#### Schools/Nurseries

- Drybrook School, Drybrook Road, GL17 9JF
- Steam Mills Primary School, Steam Mills, Cinderford GL14 3DH
- St Whites Primary School, Sneydwood Road, Cinderford, GL14 3GD
- Bo Peeps Nursery, Forest Vale Road, Cinderford, GL14 2PH
- Soudley Primary School, Church Road, Soudley, GL14 2UA
- St Johns Play Group, St Johns Cricket Club, Forest Vale Industrial Estate, Cinderford, GL14 2PH

#### Infrastructure / Utilities

- Cinderford Bus Station, Dockham Road
- Sewage Treatment Works, Crump Meadow
- BT Telephone exchange, Cinderford, GL14 2JW

#### Supermarkets / Post Office

- Drybrook Post Office, High Street, Drybrook, GL17 9EA
- Cooperative Supermarket, Dockham Road, Cinderford, GL14 2AQ
- Cooperative Supermarket, 72, Valley Road, Cinderford, GL14 2PA
- Lidl, Parragate Road, Cinderford, GL14 2LY

#### Funeral Directors

- Collier & Brain, The Cross, Drybrook, GL17 9ED
- Cooperative, Lower High Street, Cinderford, GL14 2TD
- Gordon Blake, 4a, Dockham Road, Cinderford, GL14 2AQ

#### Leisure Facilities

- Drybrook Rugby Club, Mannings Ground, High Street, Drybrook, GL17 9EU
- Cinderford Rugby Club, Dockham Road, GL14 2AQ
- Cinderford Town Football Club, Edge Hills Road, GL14 2QH

- Cinderford St.John Cricket Club, Forest Vale Road, GL14 2PH
- Cinderford Bowling Club, Steam Mills, Cinderford, GL14 3JD
- Linear Park (Cinderford)
- Soudley Football Club, Soudley Recreation Ground ,Lower Road, Soudley, GL14 2TX

<b>Key streets at risk of flooding</b>		<b>Roads at risk of flooding</b>
The Branch	Steam Mills	A4136 (Nailbridge)
The Cross	Valley Road	A4151 (Steam Mills Road)
Drybrook Road	Glenmore Road	Broadmoor
Quabbs Road	Newtown Road	Forest Vale Road
Whitehill Lane	St. Whites Road	Valley Road
Hawthorns Road	Ruspidge road	St. Whites Road
Nailbridge	Railway Road	Ruspidge Road
Forest Vale Industrial Estate		

**For phone numbers please see Appendix 4**

## Appendix 4: Contacts

Service / Organisation	Contact		
<b>Op Link</b> Request activation of multi-agency cascade	Gloucestershire Police Control Room on <b>101 or Redacted*</b> <i>(*note this number is ex-directory and flags to the police control room as an urgent call. The number is not to be disseminated outside the facility provided by Operation Link)</i>		
<b>EA</b>	First point of contact for all areas	<b>Redacted (ex directory for professional partners)</b> 0345 988 1188 - Floodline and use local area information / reporting lines	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EA (West Midlands) Incident Communication Service</li> <li>• EA (West Midlands)</li> </ul>	West Area Incident Room	<b>01684 290761</b> (community information line)	
<b>GCC Civil Protection Team</b>	CPT Duty Officer	<b>CPT Duty Officer on Blackberry</b> <b>Redacted</b>	<b>GCC Civil Protection Team</b>
<b>Forest of Dean District Council</b>	The following staff should be telephoned in order until contact made.	<b>Redacted</b>	<b>Redacted</b>
<b>Drybrook Parish Council</b>	<b>Mrs D Smith 01594 543249</b>		
<b>Cinderford Town Council</b>	<b>Mrs L Thomas 01594 822599</b>		
<b>Ruspidge &amp; Soudley Parish Council</b>	<b>Mrs H Hook 01594 825343</b>		
<b>Care / Nursing Homes</b>	<b>Euroclydon (Nursing Home) 01594 543982</b> <b>Hanover Court (Extra Care Housing) 01594 826834</b>		
<b>Stagecoach West (Bus Company)</b>	<b>Emergency Planner Redacted</b>  <b>Traffic Manager Redacted</b>		
<b>Supermarkets</b>	<b>Cooperative Cinderford 01594 822131</b> <b>Valley Road 01594 822673</b> <b>Drybrook 01594 541547</b> <b>Lidl Cinderford 0800 977766</b>		
<b>Post Offices</b>	<b>Drybrook Post Office 01594 542231</b>		
<b>Funeral Directors</b>	<b>Collier &amp; Brain (Drybrook) 01594 542205</b> <b>Gordon Blake (Cinderford) 01594 823484</b> <b>Cooperative Funeral Services (Cinderford) 01594 822115</b>		
<b>Leisure Facilities</b>	<b>Drybrook Rugby Club 01594 542595</b> <b>Cinderford Rugby Football Club 01594 822673</b> <b>Cinderford Town AFC 07896 887162</b> <b>Cinderford St John Cricket Club 01594 826001</b> <b>Cinderford Bowling Club -</b> <b>Linear Park -</b> <b>Soudley Football Club -</b>		

Service / Organisation	Contact
<b>Schools/Nurseries</b>	<b>Drybrook School 01594 542448</b> <b>St Whites School 01594 822311</b> <b>Steam Mills School 01594 822567</b> <b>Bo Peeps Nursary 01594 822969</b> <b>Soudley School 01594 822004</b> <b>St Johns Plygroup 01594 826001</b>
<b>Places of Safety</b>	<b>St. Johns Church 01594 822286</b> <b>St Whites School 01594 822311</b> <b>White Hart Inn 01594 827792</b>
<b>Rest Centres</b>	<u><b>To be activated by the Local Authority</b></u>  Dene Magna - <b>01594 542370</b> <b>(Capacity for approximately 250 evacuees)</b>  Dean Academy - <b>01594 843202</b> <b>(Capacity for approximately 250 evacuees)</b>

## Appendix 5: Community Engagement/ Flood Awareness Programme

Flood Awareness Activity	Date Achieved	Planned Date	Details
Mailing	Dec 2014		Letters sent to Ruspidge and to the b15m comms buffer as agreed.
Residents / Business Door-Knocking by EA	March 2015		Raising Awareness to those at risk of a flash flooding event.
Follow up with interested residents in Drybrook	May 2015		Flood Forum met with residents keen to form a Flood Action Group / Write a Flood Plan
Cinderford Brook Catchment Area Rapid Response Plan community Awareness sessions.	June 2017		Drop in sessions held at Steam Mills school and St Johns Church, Cinderford
EA Information to be placed on town council website		October 2020	