

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY RESPONSE TO CONCERNS AT THE FORD 11TH JANUARY 2022

We have reviewed your concerns regarding the missing sluice stop boards, the potential blockage of the culvert under Rookery Lane and the blockages downstream of the ford.

In regards to the missing stop boards, it is our stance that although we feel that replacement of the boards is unlikely to improve the situation during times of rainfall, there may be benefits in their replacement during normal flows. As landowner we intend to re-install the stop boards on this occasion in a manner which is resilient to vandalism. We will also look to improve the arrangement from an environmental perspective by maintaining a base flow so the boards may be laid out differently to what was previously in place.

In parallel to this work we will undertake low level blockage removal downstream of the culvert outfall and ford to improve conveyance during low flows, the larger fallen trees sited above the channel will be left in place as there will be little benefit in their removal.

From site observations there is no evidence that the culvert is blocked, though it does appear to be running close to capacity during normal flows.

I am unable to give an accurate timescale at this time when these works will take place, the works to reinstall the stop boards is likely to require an environmental permit which can take up to 12 weeks to receive. I will endeavour to keep yourself and the Parish Council updated as to progress on the work.