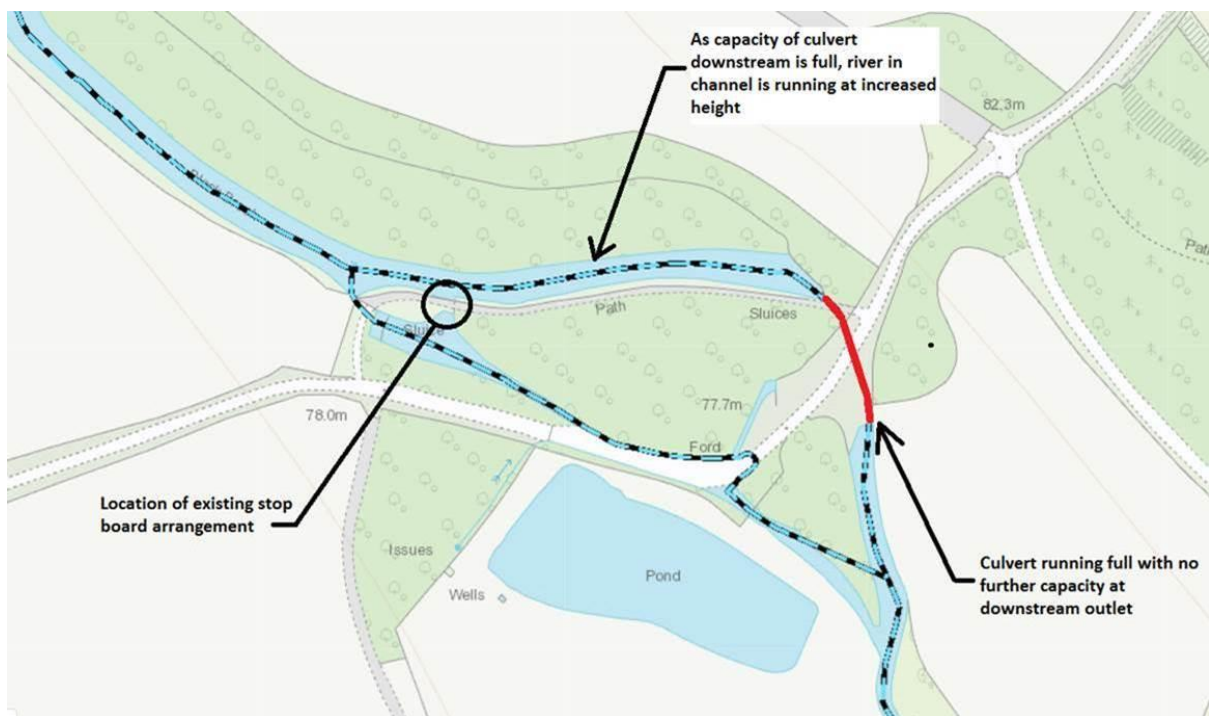


Thank you for your enquiry regarding the ford in Hints, we had been made aware of concerns in regards to the frequency of high water at the ford and the missing stop boards in December 2020. We subsequently investigated and had a site visit with members of the community in January 2021 to discuss the issue.

From this site walkover we identified that the capacity of the culvert downstream of the stop boards was running full, this was causing the water to back up and spill through to the ford over the remaining stop boards. If the missing stop board was replaced, it is unlikely to significantly reduce flows through the ford, as no more water could pass through the end of the culvert downstream and we would expect the water level in the channel to rise and spill over the stop boards at the same rate. Our site visit did not indicate that the culvert under Rookery Lane was blocked. During this visit we also considered the environmental impact of the installation of stop boards, during lower flows in the summer this could lead to the ford drying out which could be ecologically damaging. I have attached a plan below.

The diversion of increased flows away from the ford would likely require significant engineering works i.e. replacement and increase in size of the existing culvert under Rookery Lane. This work is unlikely to be cost-beneficial as it would not directly impact the risk of flooding to properties. We note from your enquiry that this system was designed and built in the 1920's, it is likely that the current arrangement wasn't intended to facilitate the more frequent crossings by modern vehicles.



The Environment Agency is the landowner for the area around the ford and a stretch of the Bourne Brook both upstream and downstream of this point, Staffordshire County Council is the local highway authority and responsible for the road. I had taken an action away to discuss whether SCC could install warning posts which indicate levels in the ford and to review the ford itself to see if changes could be made to the road, I will follow up on this and have a discussion with them to see if this could be considered. Once I have further information from SCC I will feedback to yourself.

Below is a plan showing EA landownership around the ford area (orange hatching) this map also incorporates the flood mapping.

