

APPENDIX 1: 21/49 Environment Agency Report

If there is an emergency or immediate concern I would suggest you share the number below at the meeting with local residents, this number can be contacted 24/ 7, 365 days a year to report issues such as pollution or blockages on Main Rivers, we have incident duty officers on standby who will investigate these issues.

Incident hotline - Telephone: 0800 80 70 60 - [Report an environmental incident - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident)
(www.gov.uk)

- The Environment Agency owns the land shown in the attached plan below in Hints and along the Bourne Brook watercourse, generally watercourses are owned by the adjacent landowners up to the centre of the river.
- There are no operational assets in this area (such as flood banks, walls or pumping stations). I have visited the area around the ford on a couple of occasions.
- The wider area of land close to the ford is crossed by a permissive path (this is not a public right of way) we are planning to install an interpretation board at the entrance to this land detailing the local wildlife and potentially some history of the area. We have engaged the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to assist us and once we have a proposed design I would be happy to share it with the parish for comment.
- Our flood maps do not indicate any risk to residential properties as a result of flooding from the Bourne Brook in this area, the EA has removed fallen trees and blockages from the watercourse in the land we own around the ford but this work took place to ensure the health and safety of walkers or other users of the land. I have attached a map above showing the extent of flooding in a larger flood event.
- Although we own the land adjacent to the ford, the ford itself is part of the highway and is the responsibility of the local highway authority (Staffordshire County Council). Following recent concerns raised about the lack of signage at the ford to indicate depth and concerns about vehicles becoming stuck I contacted Staffordshire County Council via their enquiries portal. I will follow up and provide you with a further update.

