

Cheswick Green Parish Council

Flooding in Cheswick Green

Background

Cheswick Green is situated at the confluence of the River Blythe and Mount Brook. There is an Environment Agency river level monitoring station on the River Blythe located in Cheswick Green (Site id: 2151).

The typical river level range for this location is between 0.19 metres and 0.55 metres; the highest level recorded was 1.65 metres on 20th July 2007. 2 properties and the Village Hall were flooded during this event. Cheswick Green Village Hall was flooded to a depth of about 3 to 4 inches (80 to 100 mm). This was the first time that the Village Hall had been flooded.

During the previous five years the water level came to within about 2 inches (40 mm) of the floor level of the Village Hall on at least three occasions. After making insurance damage claims for the Village Hall the Parish Council was required by the Insurers to install flood protection equipment to limit future damage.

On 20th July 2007 flood water entered a number of houses in Cheswick Green. The water level also affected other buildings along the length of the River Blythe within the Borough of Solihull and further afield. Insurance companies have increased the insurance premiums and excesses. Some have refused cover.

Future risk

The Parish Council have estimated that about 200 properties in Cheswick Green have ground floors at a height less than 3m above the normal river levels. This was estimated from published flood risk maps from the Environment Agency and Solihull Council and from local knowledge. Photographic evidence of the flooding on 20th July 2007 is included in this report.

The catchment area of the River Blythe, obtained from the Environment Agency on 20th December 2010, is attached. The Parish Council has serious concerns that development in this catchment area could increase the speed of 'run-off' which in turn could increase the risk of flooding in Cheswick Green.

Photographic evidence

Photographs of the flood were taken by a Cheswick Green Resident, Chris Noble, on 20th July 2007. The flood level had fallen below the maximum when the photographs were taken. The location of each photograph is shown on the map in Figure 1.

Other photographs of floods were taken by another Cheswick Green Resident, Margaret Gosling, in February 2007, after rapid snow melt, and in

April 1999 after heavy rain. These were all taken from the same location in Saxonwood Road. See Figure 2.

Other evidence

A flood risk report for Cheswick Green Village Hall was commissioned by Hockley Heath Parish Council in June 2008. This report by Opus Joynes Pike (ref. J-BK073_R1) is available for reference if required.

Locations of photos of Cheswick Green Flood 20/7/2007

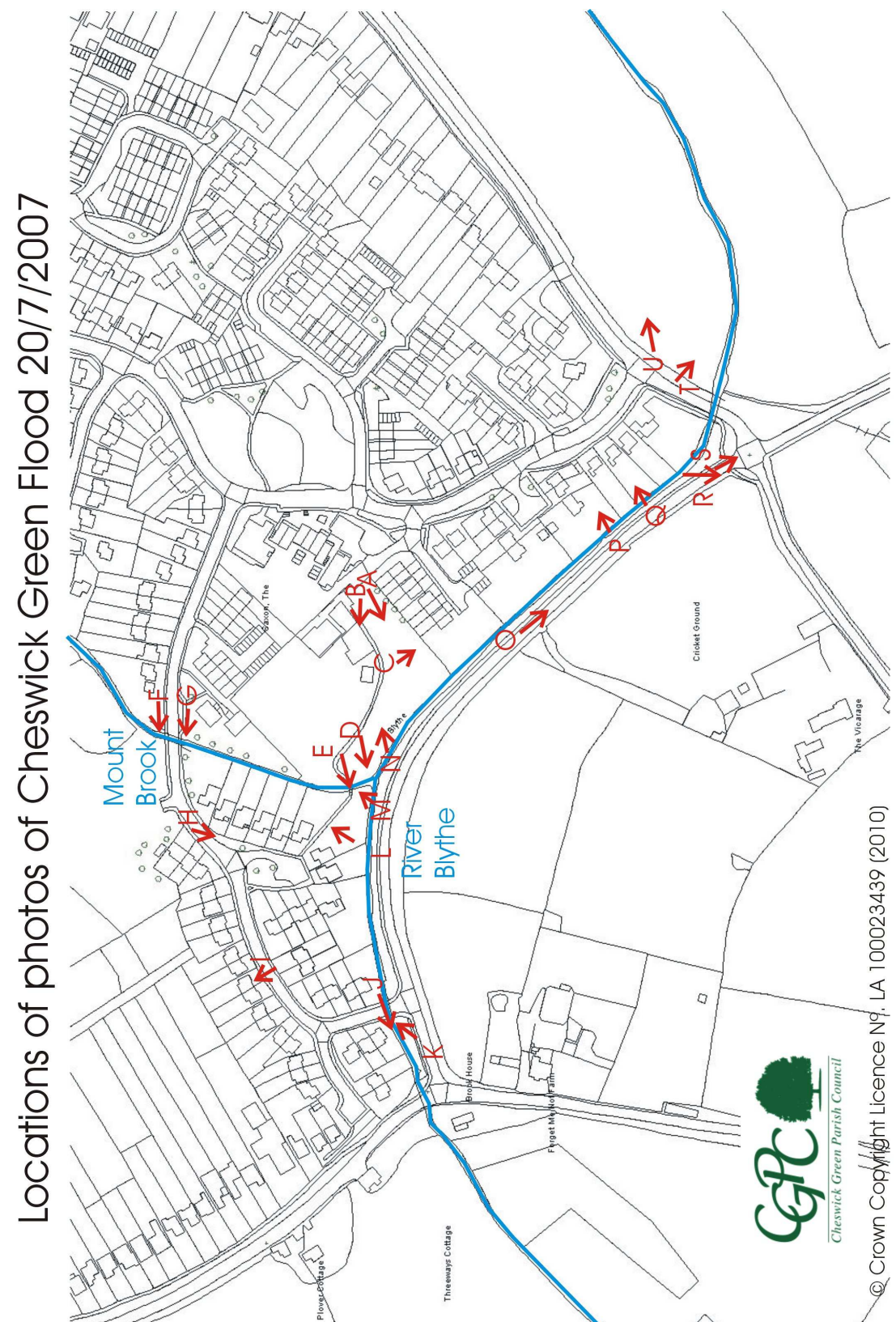


Figure 1

A Play Area



B Play Area and Village Hall which was flooded



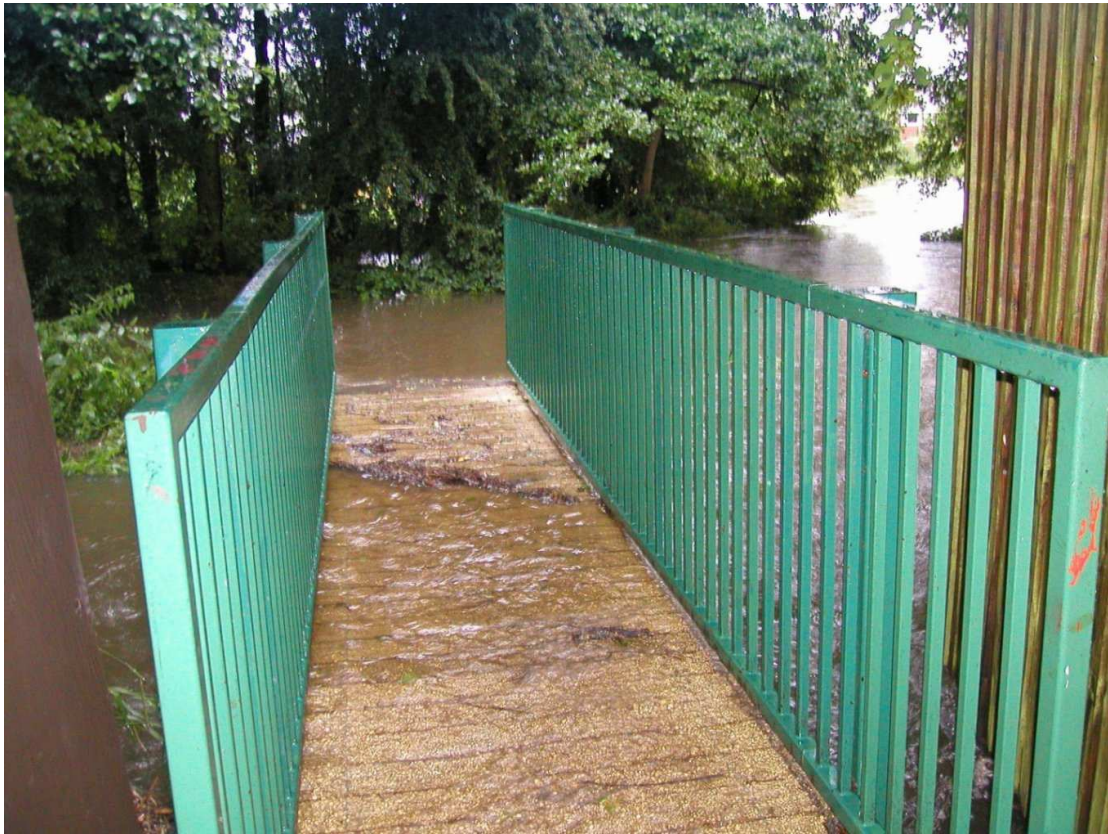
C Garden Fence



Blythe overflow



E Footbridge



F Coppice Walk Road Bridge North 1



F Coppice Walk Road Bridge North 2



H Coppice Walk looking towards Coppice Close



I Helpers assisting bale out of 81 Coppice Walk



J River Blythe between Tanworth Lane and Coppice Walk



K Coppice Walk Road Bridge South



L Flooded Gardens 1



M Footbridge 2



N Recreation Ground



O Watery Lane



P Flooded Gardens 2



Q Flooded Gardens 3



R Vicarage Road



S Creynolds Lane



T Cattle sheltering



U Flood Plain



Location of additional photos of Cheswick Green Floods

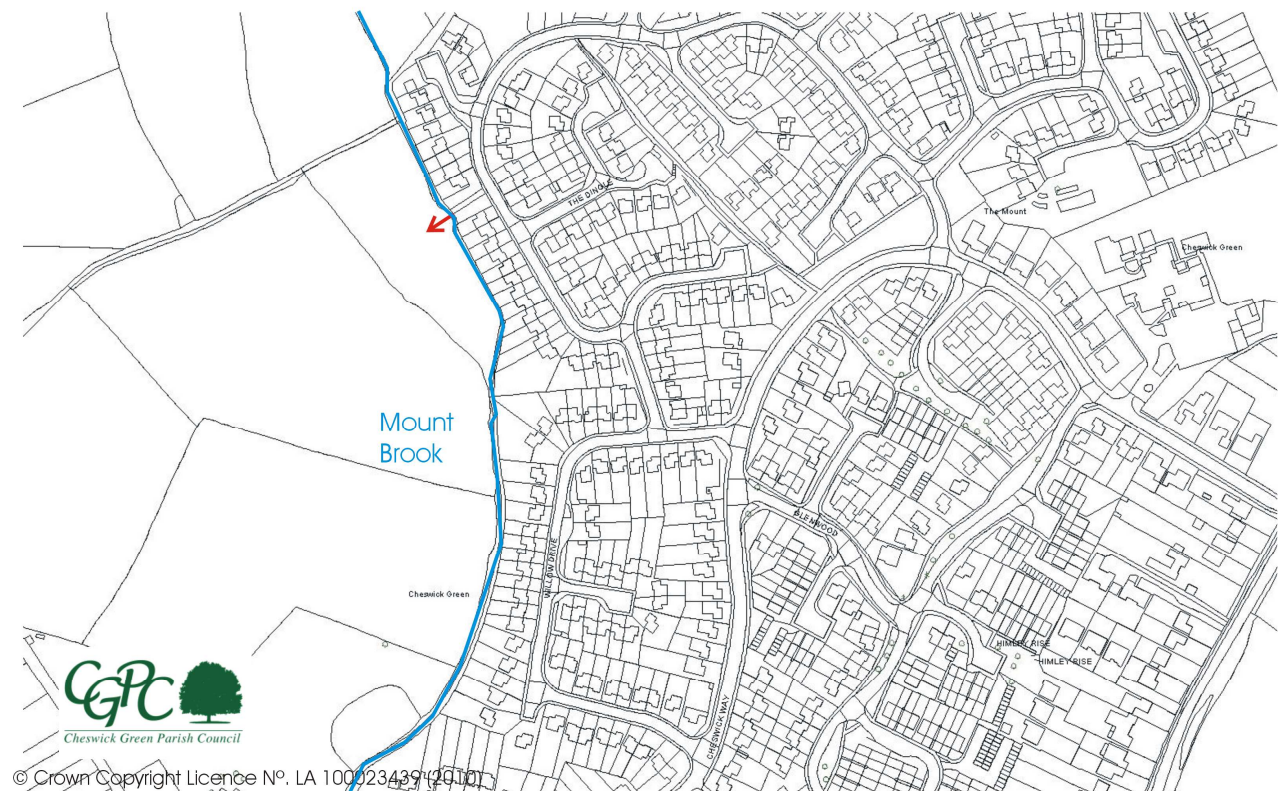


Figure 2

V Fields Adjacent to Saxonwood Road after rapid snow melt – Feb 2007



W Fields Adjacent to Saxonwood Road after rapid snow melt – Feb 2007



X Fields Adjacent to Saxonwood Road after heavy rain – Apr 2009



Y Fields Adjacent to Saxonwood Road after heavy rain – Apr 2009

