

## Witness Statement

My name is James Mawle. I own land affected by the Cogges Link Road. At the time of the July 2007 floods I was living in South Leigh, Witney. I am providing a statement of my recollection of the floods that occurred in Witney and Cogges after the severe rainfall of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

I was at home in South Leigh when the heavy rains came during the day. In the evening of the Friday I drove from South Leigh to the look at fields in our ownership south of Cogges to see if there was any flooding. Part of this site is affected by the propose CLR and part of the site is being promoted for residential development. I accessed our land along the concrete access track to the Thames water sewerage pumping station south of Cogges estate and inspected the Hardwick brook where it passes the pumping station and also viewed the adjacent fields. At the time there was no sign of flooding and the Hardwick Brook was surprisingly dry.

On the Saturday I received news that Witney was flooding and went again to Cogges to see. I arrived in Cogges Hill Road sometime around early afternoon. On my arrival in Cogges:

- houses were actively flooding,
- flood water had reached to the front entrance of Blake's Primary School,
- water was standing on the access road to the Cogges farm Museum car park,
- The car park was inundated, in the south west end of the car park water was 400-500mm deep and flowing strongly in a south east direction. I accessed the car park in a high suspension Landrover, I could not have done it in a normal car for at least half the car park I could not have got out and stayed dry in wellington boots. My recollection is that the front bumper(460mm) was touching the water whilst the drivers door cill (520mm remained dry). These vehicle measurements were taken 13/04/2011 so should only be used as a rough guide.
- Water was passing through the metal field gate into the grass field to the south east at more than 1 metre per second.
- I did not enter the grass field to the south east of the car park as impassable.

I then drove down Stanton Harcourt Road and drove down the concrete access track to the Thames Water sewerage pumping station. I observed:

- Water standing on the concrete access track for about half its length (more than shown in simulation 8A), slightly less than shown on the S.105 100yr flood extent.
- Standing floodwater was visible in the arable field to the south of the concrete track and north of the A40 although not to as far east as on the track. The field had recently been cultivated, water could be seen between the plough clods with something in the order of a 50/50 split water and soil. Level with the pumping station the water was probably deeper. The extent of flooding in this area was probably slightly less than shown as flood zone 2 on

the EA's undated flood maps February 2011 and was somewhere between the old county flood line (which ran along the north east edge of the pumping station bund) and the new EA Flood zone 1 & 2 boundary.

- At the access gate into the pumping station there was standing water on the concrete track. This extended into the grass field to the north and the arable field to the west. I do not recollect any significant flow. I walked into the grass field to the north for some 50 meters. There was around 100-200mm of standing water in this field. I walked a short distance into the arable field to the west. This was in 'setaside' and had been roughly cultivated the previous year and was covered in tall arable weeds such as redshank. There was standing water as far as I could see through the vegetation looking west towards the river. This water appeared to be standing although deep enough to mostly cover the tops of the weathered plough furrows.
- I did not walk further into the field as it was impassable due to the water, soft cultivated ground and weeds.

James Mawle

13 April 2011