

A survey of parts of the drainage system within the south-east sector of Hilton Parish.

Sections covered:

1. Main Drain

Start. – End of Rogue's Lane (Elsworth turning off B1040)

Finish. – Bridge near chicken farm on Fenstanton road

2. Drain along the northern edge of High Street

3. Drain along The Grove, through Reeve Ditch to the Main Drain

Brief description of the area drained by the Main Drain.

Area drained. The main drain that passes through the South Eastern sector of Hilton Parish is fed by water from a very small area just behind Kisby's Hut, the area farmed on the west side of the hill up towards Elsworth and some of the fields behind The Green and The Wilderness.

Hilton PC Responsibility. The part of this Main Drain that is the responsibility of Hilton Parish Council is from a point approximately 200 metres up Rogue's Lane, along the B1040 to Hilton village, then through the village as far as bridge next to the chicken farm on the Fenstanton Road.

Fall along length. Along the ditch length within Hilton Parish, the drain falls from a height of 23 metres to about 8 metres. This represents a total drop of 15 metres – approximately 47 feet. This is generally a gradual drop with no area noticeably more steep than any other.

A roadway follows alongside the drain for most of its length but this does not have a gradual incline. For the most part it is approximately 1 to 1.5 metres above the water level in the drain but varies considerably and actually passes under the water at the ford. Just out of Hilton Parish towards Fenstanton the level of the water in the drain is some 2.5 metres below the road surface.

Aim of this report. This report has been written in order to identify any areas where maintenance should be carried out and attempts to prioritise such work. Where applicable, each photograph has a priority score given for the urgency of any remedial work on a 0-3 scale where 0 = no action and 3 = immediate action advised. In addition it also looks briefly at the 'health' of the Main Drain and makes suggestions as to how this can be maintained.

NOTE: Most of the photographs were taken just after a period of moderate rain when water levels were slightly higher than normal.



Potential blockage from discarded washing machine just east of B1040/Rogue's Lane junction.



Area of natural debris build-up just east of B1040/Rogue's Lane junction. Although relatively severe, this was not causing any significant blockage.

Urgency 1



Potential blockage from discarded man-made items (plastic bottles and sheeting), at the electricity sub-station on the B1040.



Build-up of natural debris + man-made items 200 metres north west of electricity sub-station entrance.

Urgency 0



Build-up of natural debris + man-made items 250 metres north west of electricity sub-station entrance. This is built up against a tree growing in the middle of the ditch.



Brambles and other hedge growth plus a fallen tree causing some build-up of debris approx. 200 metres north west of electricity sub-station entrance.

Urgency 1



Build-up of natural debris + man-made items at New Farm.



Weed growth over the ditch 75 metres north-west of New Farm.



Build-up of natural debris + man-made items 150 metres north west of New Farm.



Potential site of debris retention in periods of heavy rain 50 metres before entrance to field with chicken sheds.



Build-up of natural debris at the 'occasional ford' in Church End.



Site of the 'occasional ford' in Church End. There is a small build-up of debris which was not causing any backing up of the water. There is some weed growth just down from this area which, for aesthetic reasons only, warrants cutting back.

Urgency 1



Build-up of natural debris + man-made items at the bridge in Brand's Pit between High Street and Fenstanton Road. This was causing some backing up of water.



Build-up of natural debris + man-made items just east of the bridge at Brand's Pit.



Fallen tree across the ditch just outside Green End House. Although not causing any build-up of debris at the moment, this could do so in the future.



Build-up of natural debris at the culvert at Green End House. This was causing some backing up of the water.



Small build-up of natural debris opposite entrance to Hampden House. Although the debris is not of major concern, the small ash saplings should be removed before coming established.

Urgency 1



Build-up of natural debris + man-made items at the bridge to Hilton End Farm.



Standing water in the ditch at the North Western end of High Street.



Standing water unable to drain away at the entrance to the building site opposite Hilton Hall. The owner of Hilton Hall finds that when water remains in this ditch for a period of time without draining, then it causes damp in his 'cellar'.



Water build-up at the culvert under the entrance to Sunnybrook.



Dry pipes at the south-east end of the culvert in front of Sunnybrook. The ditch shown here needs digging out since it is then able to feed water into Reeve Ditch. This would need to be carried out in conjunction with the clearing of the culvert.

Urgency 2



North-west end of the culvert for the entrance to Trin's Close. This shows that the ditch needs digging out.



South east end of the culvert for the entrance to Trin's Close. This again shows that the ditch needs digging out.



Bottle

North-west end of the culvert for the entrance to Tarrant. This shows the depth of the water which is static. It should flow to the Main Drain from Reeve Ditch. This ditch needs to be dug out to allow water flow.



South-east end of the culvert for the entrance to Tarrant. Again this shows static water and again shows the need for the ditch to be dug out to allow water flow.



**Base
of
tree
stump**

Ditch next to Anglian Water pumping station showing ditch feeding Reeve Ditch from The Grove. This ditch warrants digging out to allow water flow after heavy rain events. A further complication is that the recent high winds have blown over a very large tree stump (highlighted). If this is allowed to remain it will rot and fill the ditch.

Urgency 2

The following 3 slides highlight aspects of the Main Drain that are indicative of its 'health'.

The first shows that over the years when HDC have cleared it on their regular contractual basis, they have dug too much from the base of the ditch. In doing so they have created a small 'waterfall' at the eastern end of the culvert under Fenstanton Road outside the chicken farm. As the water has come through the culvert it has eroded a 'sink'. This has occurred at several locations along its length.

Having last dug the ditches in 2002 they HDC will shortly be looking to repeat the task. Currently there is no need for such work. The only work needed in the immediate future will be clearance of some of the shrubbery within and at the sides of the ditch and the debris they have collected.

Both the second and third slides show how the ditch has established a 'gravel base'. This is a sign of good health which encourages biodiversity (fish will not lay eggs in silt but will in gravel.)



South-eastern end of the culvert where the Fentstanton Road crosses the Main Drain near the chicken farm. This has been dug out to too great a depth by HDC.



Ditch outside Elmsbrook. This shows the establishment of a gravel base which will encourage a more healthy environment for an increase in biodiversity.



Shot taken from the bridge next to the Lych Gate showing the gravel base which encourages a healthy environment.