

## FLOOD PLANS

### Flood Warning

Following the Easter 1998 floods the Environment Agency introduced new flood forecasting, warning and management structures and procedures, developed under their “Changing Needs in Flood Defence” project.

The Environment Agency carries out flood forecasting, warning and incident management for the area from its Sussex Area office. The following sources are used in this process:

- The hydrometric network.
- HYRAD rainfall radar.
- Weekly soil moisture information.
- Regular Meteorological Office weather forecasts and warnings.

The EA Flood Warning service provides information to the public and enables people at risk to be promptly warned, reducing the financial and personal cost of flooding from tidal and fluvial sources. The service currently relies on members of the public registering on to the system.

The flood warning service plays a significant role in flood risk management. However, its effectiveness is compromised in areas where the catchment responds rapidly to storm events. Additionally, the service is not set up to take full account of the complexities of groundwater flooding. There are uncertainties associated with flood warnings due to the various factors associated with flood prediction.

The Environment Agency issues flood warnings to the emergency services, local authorities, media, and the public. These are disseminated by a number of methods including:

- Floodline Warning Direct – simultaneously by telephone, mobile, pager and fax.(incorporating the Automatic Voice Messaging AVM system) E-mail and SMS facility to follow.
- Website ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodwarning](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodwarning)).
- Met Office weather forecasts.
- Local Radio.
- Television.
- Ceefax page 419.
- Vehicle mounted loudhailer.
- Flood Warden Scheme.
- Variable display boards

The Environment Agency also operates a flood warning telephone service known as, Floodline [0845 988 1188], which gives advice and information. In addition, the Floodline 24 hour recorded message service will give information about flood warnings in force anywhere in England and Wales.

Flood warning signs used by the Environment Agency are described below:

- Flood Watch means flooding of low-lying land and roads is expected in the (xxx) area. Be aware! Be prepared! Watch out!
- Flood Warning means flooding of homes and businesses is expected in the (xxx) area, act now!
- Severe Flood Warning means severe flooding is expected in the (xxx) area. There is extreme danger to life and property. Act now!
- All Clear means flood Watches or Warnings are no longer in force in the (xxx) area.



The customer charter standard is to issue all warnings at least two hours in advance of any possible flooding.

There is one fluvial and one tidal flood warning areas within the Borough. These areas concentrate on the Combe Haven Catchment and are summarised below.

- River 074FWF4C2 & 074FWF4C3 Combe Haven
- Coastal 074WAC405 Beachy Head to Hastings.

Coastal flooding may be from either 'breaching' or 'overtopping', these are significantly different in nature as described below:

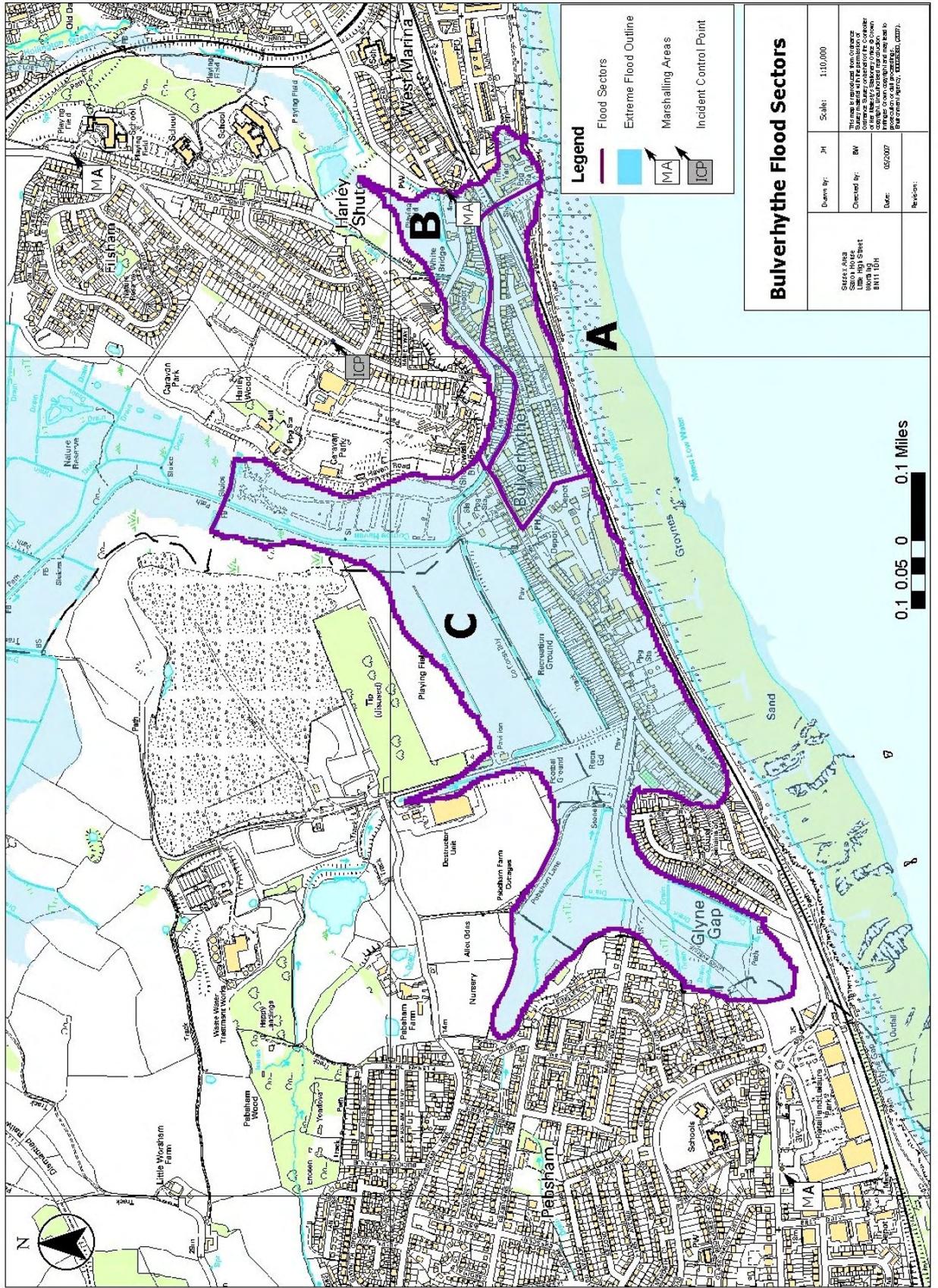
- *Breaching*. A breach of the defences will generally result from damage to some part of the flood defence, resulting in the lowering of the top level of the defence, allowing possible large amounts of water to flow through.
- *Overtopping*. Water flowing, wave breaking or wind-blown spray traveling over the defences. This will probably not result in serious damage to sea defences themselves. During periods of high water levels, extreme wave action or wind-blown spray, moderate amounts of water can pass over the defences. The resulting damage will depend on the drainage available behind the defences.

No specific details with regards to these flood warning areas have been provided either by the Environment Agency or by Hastings Borough Council.

#### Flood Plans

A series of Flood Plans are produced on a local basis to provide a framework for the co-ordinated inter-agency response to flooding or the threat of flooding in the area.

The only area within Hastings Borough with a formulated Flood Plan is Bulverhythe. Details of the recognised flood risk sectors in this area of Hastings Borough are included below.



Sector 'A'	Bulverhythe
Boundary	All properties south of Combe Haven River. Bulverhythe Road, Cliftonville Way, Arnside Road, Arnbury Mews & Bexhill Road from the western junction with Bulverhythe Rd to the railway bridge on the A259 which is the eastern boundary.
Population	750 approx.
Evacuation route(s)	Assembly areas; - from Bulverhythe Rd junc: with A259 (West),to Bulverhythe Rd to junc: with A259 (East) then to Harley Shute Road.

Sector 'B'	Bexhill Road
Boundary.	All properties along Bexhill Road north of the Combe Haven River from Sheepwash Bridge in the west to Seaside Road in the east. Including the lower end of Combe Haven caravan Site and Lovat Mead.
Population	Winter, 650 Summer, 850.
Evacuation route(s)	Assembly areas; - From Bulverhythe Road junc; with A259 (West) Bulverhythe Road to junc; with A259 (East) then to Harley Shute Road.
Other information	Filsham Valley School is included in this Sector

Sector 'C'	Glyne Gap
Boundary.	All other properties on Bexhill Road west of the western access to Bulverhythe Road including Abbey Drive up to the junction with Hythe Avenue Note Care should be taken to ensure the small number of properties in kent Close, Gloucester Avenue and Pebsham Farm Cottages(RDC) are not overlooked in the event of flooding.
Population	800
Evacuation route(s)	Assembly Areas:- From Glyne Gap/Bexhill Road to Bulverhythe Road junc: with A259(west) Bulverhythe Road to junc: with A259 (east) then to Harley Shute Road.

For full details of the emergency plan in place please refer to the Bulverhythe Flood Plan 2007.