

Sidmouth Surface Water Improvements

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) approves the Sidmouth Surface Water Improvement Scheme at an estimated cost of £759,000, planned to commence this financial year dependent on securing all funding;**
- (b) gives authority to apply for planning permission and acquire title and/or rights over the necessary land as required in order to deliver the scheme.**

1. Summary and Purpose of Report

Studies commissioned by Devon County Council (DCC) have established a significant and risk of surface water flooding in Sidmouth. This report focuses on the history and calculated risk of future surface water flooding in the town. It also details the scheme proposals that aim to reduce significantly this ongoing risk of flooding and recommends that DCC supports the delivery of these essential flood improvements through its capital programme, as set out in the recommendations above.

2. Background

The Surface Water Management Plan for Sidmouth, established that Sidmouth had a high risk of flooding affecting a significant number of residential and commercial properties. This point was emphasised in November 2014, when 18 properties in the town were flooded from surface runoff during a minor incident. The study and associated reports highlighted a number of options that could be investigated further and developed into deliverable flood improvements, to reduce the ongoing risk of flooding to residential homes and businesses.

Detailed hydraulic modelling has been carried out as part of the preferred scheme design, as recommended in the Surface Water Management Plan. This has identified over 100 properties that would benefit from the proposed works. Due to the nature of these works, together with the associated funding opportunities, the proposal is to phase the scheme over two financial years, in the very early and latter parts of 2019, as detailed below. This will help to minimise disruption and provide early improvements to the most critical areas.

3. Scheme Proposals

The works to reduce the risk of surface water flooding to over 100 properties in Sidmouth will be undertaken in two discrete locations in the town, as shown in Annex 1 and will include the following measures:

Phase 1 – Provision of a new and upsized drainage systems in the town centre, with new, direct discharges into the River Sid, as can be seen in Annex 2. This will involve the provision of additional highway gullies to collect the surface water flows and the laying of new large diameter pipes towards the River Sid. Protective non-return flap-valves will be installed on the new outlets to prevent river flows backing-up. Subject to funding, these works are proposed to commence on site in January 2019.

Phase 2 – Creation of surface water storage at The Knowle, as can be seen in Annex 3. Additional gullies and a new piped system will be installed to collect the surface water runoff and direct flows into the lower grounds of The Knowle. Here an earth dam, with controlled outlet, will be constructed to hold back the flow and regulate its discharge. This will help reduce the impact on the downstream drainage system by slowing down the flow. Subject to funding and the required planning consent, these works are proposed to take place immediately after the summer holiday period in 2019 to minimise disruption in Sidmouth.

4. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

Throughout the investigation and design process there has been a close working relationship between DCC's Flood & Coastal Risk Management Team, Jacobs Civil Engineering, East Devon District Council, South West Water and relevant landowners.

A planning application will be required for the works at The Knowle and, as part of this, a community-wide consultation will be undertaken by the local planning authority. In contrast, the drainage works within the town centre are classed as permitted development. Environmental Permits for the outfall works on the River Sid are currently being sought from the Environment Agency.

5. Financial Considerations

A business case has been submitted to the Environment Agency to request funding support from Defra's Flood Defence Grant in Aid and also via the Local Levy collected from the Lead Local Flood Authorities of Devon, Plymouth Torbay, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The scheme has a good partnership funding score which will assist in maximising the level of funding that can be drawn down from central government; the balance will be made up from DCC's own dedicated flood risk budgets. This will be in addition to the significant investment made by DCC to date through the required investigation and scheme design / preparation work. Capital works will be funded and monitored through DCC's capital programme.

The proposed implementation of the scheme and allocation of funding through DCC's capital programme is subject to formal confirmation of the external grants and contributions. Current estimates are for a further £719,000 to complete the works, in addition to the £39,945 previously spent, which are to be carried out in two phases over the two financial years, as shown in the table below. A contingency of 23% of the construction cost has been included as an element of risk and for any further shortfall that may occur during construction.

Funding Source	Prior to 2018/19	2018/19 – Ph 1	2019/20 – Ph 2	Total
Prior capital costs incurred by DCC	£39,945	£0	£0	£39,945
DCC PT&E Flood Risk Management revenue budget		£50,000	£50,000	£100,000
PT&E capital budget for Flood Risk Management		£50,000	£70,000	£120,000
Flood Defence Grant in Aid See note below *		£100,000	£299,000	£399,000
Local Levy See note below *		£30,000	£70,000	£100,000
Total	£39,945	£230,000	£489,000	£758,945

* These figures are subject to justification and approval. Failure to secure external funding will require the scheme to be deferred until an alternative and affordable solution can be achieved.

DCC capital and revenue budgets are already in place as part of the approved capital programme.

6. Sustainability, Equality and Public Health Considerations

All of the surface water flood improvements mentioned in this report will be developed in accordance with the Equality and Environmental Assessments produced in support of the Devon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. All elements of the scheme have been assessed at the appropriate stage using the corporate, integrated assessment tool, with relevant equality and environmental impacts identified and acted on as necessary.

The works outlined in this report are all designed to improve the protection afforded to the community and individual properties currently at risk of flooding and, thereby, support health and wellbeing. More than just protecting the properties alone, it should be noted that flood water has the potential for transporting contaminants, such as sewage; so, reducing flood risk has clear health benefits.

An environmental appraisal of the proposals indicates that, with appropriate mitigation, there will be limited impact upon landscape, historic and ecological interests. The creation of a flood attenuation area will assist in maximising any ecological opportunities. These issues and any implications will be taken into account, in line with relevant policy considerations, through the planning process.

7. Legal Considerations

All works will be carried out in accordance with the powers and duties assigned to DCC under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Land Drainage Act 1991, Town and Country Planning Acts and any other relevant legislation. The lawful implications and consequences of the proposals and relevant actions have been considered through the design process and will be addressed, as necessary, through the implementation of the scheme. Phase two will involve a planning application and legal easement to enable construction and future maintenance of key elements within the proposed scheme, in particular for the storage area within the grounds of The Knowle. Positive negotiations on this are well advanced.

8. Risk Management Considerations

The risks associated with flooding are set out in the Devon Local Risk Management Strategy and addressed through DCC, Local Resilience Forum and local community emergency plans. In addition, the corporate risk register identifies the risks linked to the implementation of DCC's role as Lead Local Flood Authority. The proposed works are designed to reduce these risks and align with these strategies and plans.

The current standard of protection to some properties is estimated to be as low as from the 1 in 5 year event and this scheme aims to improve the standard up to the 1 in 75 year, as a minimum, and, for many properties, up to the 1 in 100 year scenario.

9. Discussion

The delivery of these important surface water flood improvements will significantly increase the standard of protection and reduce the risk of flooding to over 100 residential properties in the town of Sidmouth. The business case to be submitted to the Environment Agency justifies the level of investment in the proposed scheme in accordance with national objectives. It also has a high priority when considered against the criteria set out in the Devon Flood Risk Management Strategy.

10. Options/Alternatives

Several other options that could reduce the risk of surface water flooding in Sidmouth were considered, including natural flood risk management, large flood relief culverts and mechanical pumping stations. These were considered against a range of factors such as environmental impact, flood risk benefit, future maintenance liabilities, social impact, health and safety implications and economic affordability.

The assessment has indicated that the preferred option, and hence the proposed scheme, is deemed to provide the most advantageous and cost beneficial scheme that will give immediate benefit upon completion of the works. This will be fully scrutinised by the Environment Agency, as part of the business case approval process for Defra funding.

11. Reason for Recommendation/Conclusion

The proactive investigations and extensive modelling of the surface water flood risk in Sidmouth has identified the potential vulnerability and extent of risk to the affected properties. This has highlighted the urgent need for the proposed surface water flood alleviation works. It is, therefore, recommended that the proposed scheme is approved for delivery through the DCC capital programme in order to secure these essential flood improvements.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: Sidmouth

Cabinet Member for Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services:
Councillor Roger Croad

Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity: Dr Virginia Pearson

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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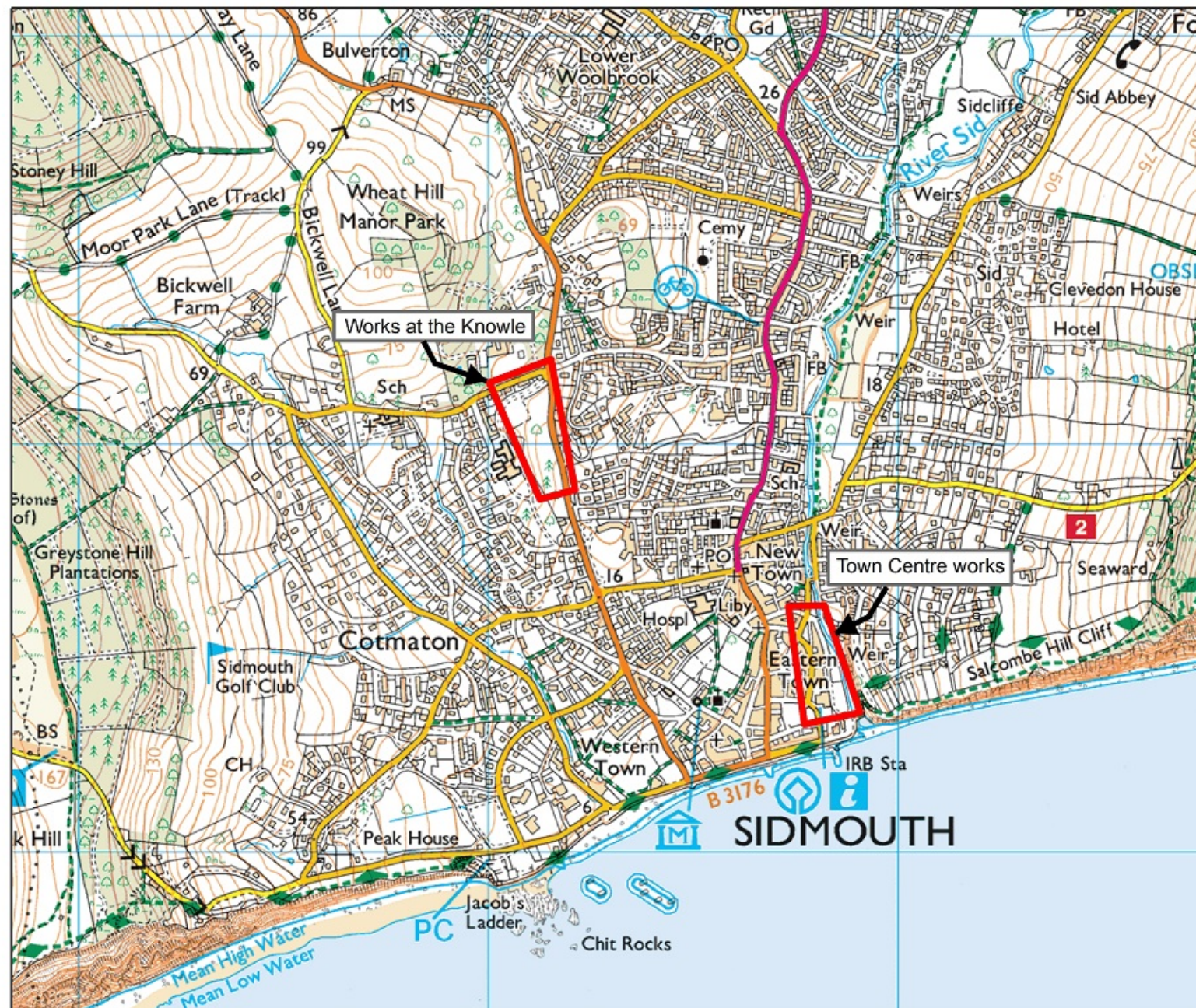
Tel No: (01392) 383000

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
Nil		

mh190918cab Sidmouth Surface Water Improvements
hk 05 270918

Sidmouth Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme

ANNEX 1 Scheme Locations



Date:
October 2018

Scale:
0 37.5 75 150 Meters



Flood Risk Management
Environment Group
Planning, Transportation and Environment
Devon County Council
Lucombe House, County Hall
Exeter, EX2 4QD

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Sidmouth Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme

ANNEX 2 Proposed Town Centre Drainage Improvements

Proposed works

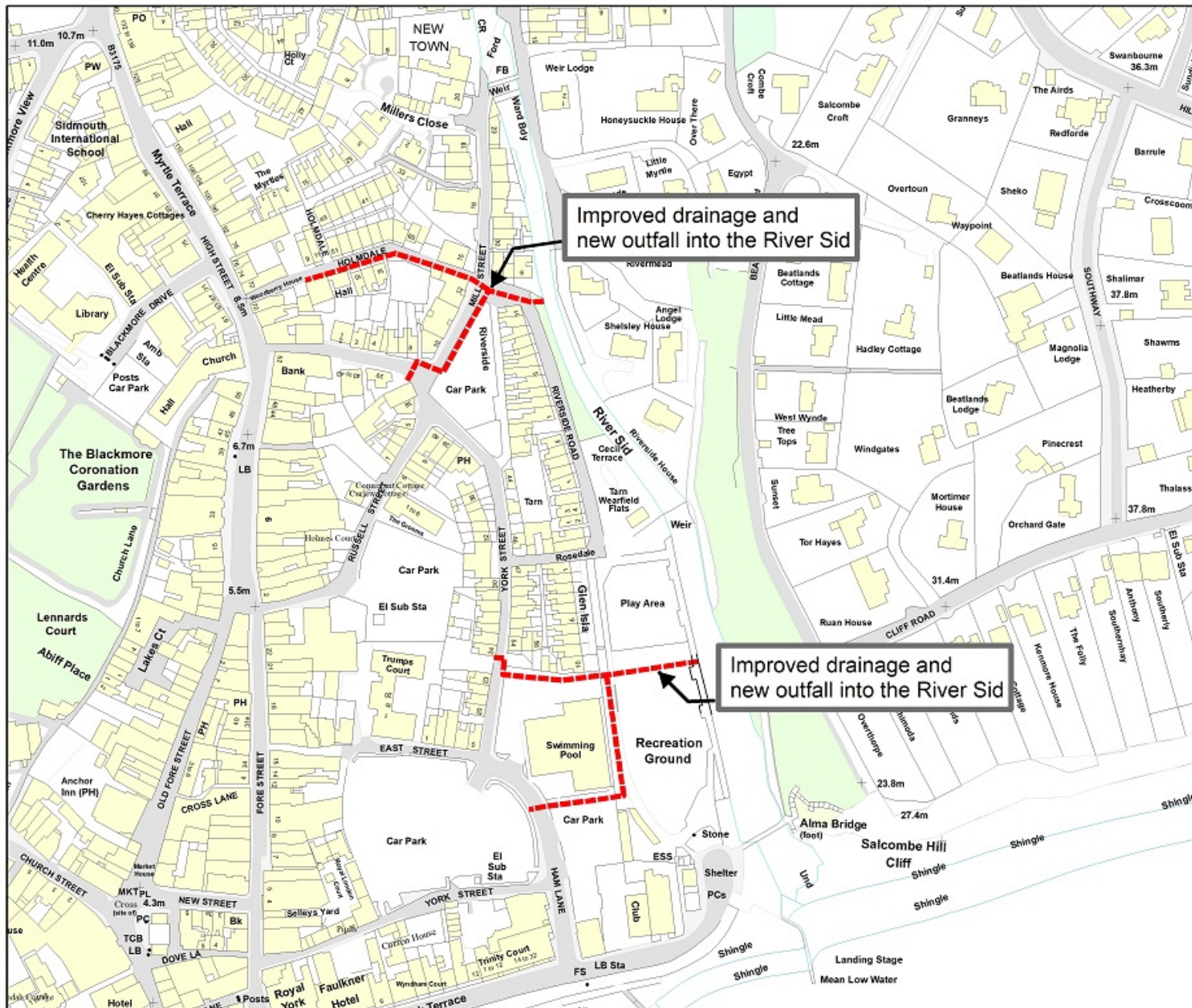
Date:
October 2018

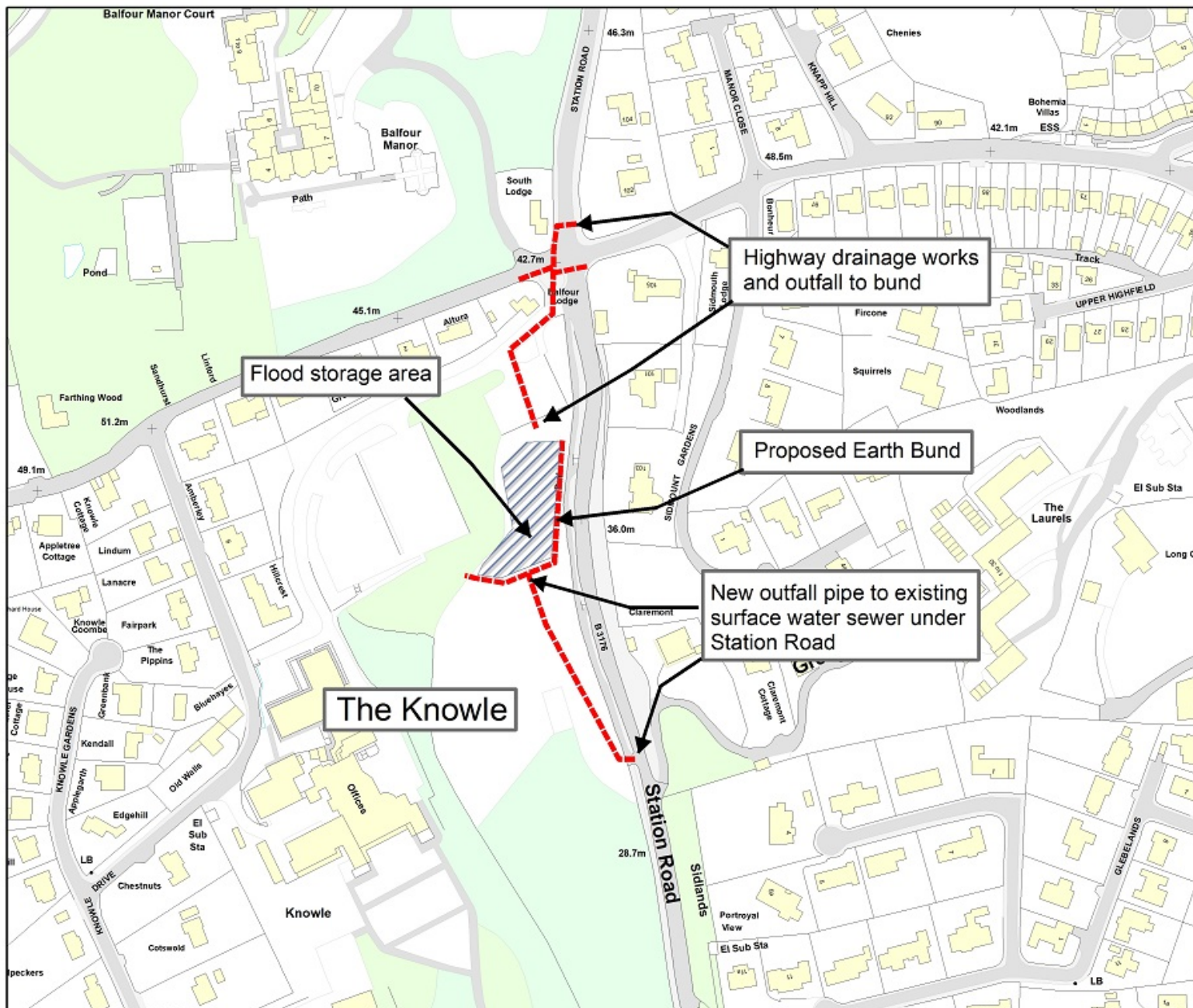
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Sidmouth Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme

ANNEX 3 Proposed Flood Storage at the Knowle

Proposed works

Area of temporary water storage



Date: October 2018

Scale: 0 5 10 20 Meters



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