

Orleton: Highway Surface Water Flood Defence

Orleton Village needs a scheme for the prevention of serious highway flooding on the B4361, Millbrook Way, and the reduction of flood risk on the recreation ground and to local residential dwellings. This flooding results from run-off which enters the carriageway from adjoining farmland and inadequate land drainage.

The proposed scheme

Gratings akin to cattle grids (marked 'C' and 'D') would be placed across the width of the carriageway a short distance beyond the Maidenhead PH and additional gratings on the opposite side of the junction connected by 600mm pipe(s) to farmland and, from there, via ditches and then running in to Brimfield Brook. The position of these gratings would capture the majority of flood waters on the carriageway.

The scheme would divert the captured flows beyond the village, reducing the flood risk to property and transferring the flood water to an area of flood Zone 3 agricultural land, already at high risk of flooding.

The scheme is attractive because it largely exploits existing ditches and watercourses and will also serve to drain farm and community recreation land.

The most challenging section of this proposal will be the construction of grids and highway drainage for the 200m between point 'A' and 'B'. (See Fig 1 below), where it can be contained in a ditch and flow to Brimfield Brook. The Apperley Recreation Ground will benefit from these works as they will provide more effective drainage with a higher capacity.



Fig.1

As you will see below (Fig 2), the effect of these works is also to carry the surface flows currently flooding the village and highways, beyond the flood zones likely to give rise to property flooding.

The scheme would seek to deliver the following:

- Capture and reduce flooding on the B4361 and in Millbrook Way - securing their continued operation in flood conditions
- Maintain essential services and the economy in the village as between the medical centre, post office, public house, school and village hall.
- Maintain one safe route out of the village during storm events (Kings Road, Tunnel Lane are both subject to flooding).
- Reduce the risk of surface water flooding to property in, Millbrook Close and Mortimer Drive, Millbrook Way and on the B4361 (including the Maidenhead PH cellars).

The scheme would be part of a broader package of measures working with other stakeholders developing natural flood management above the catchment.

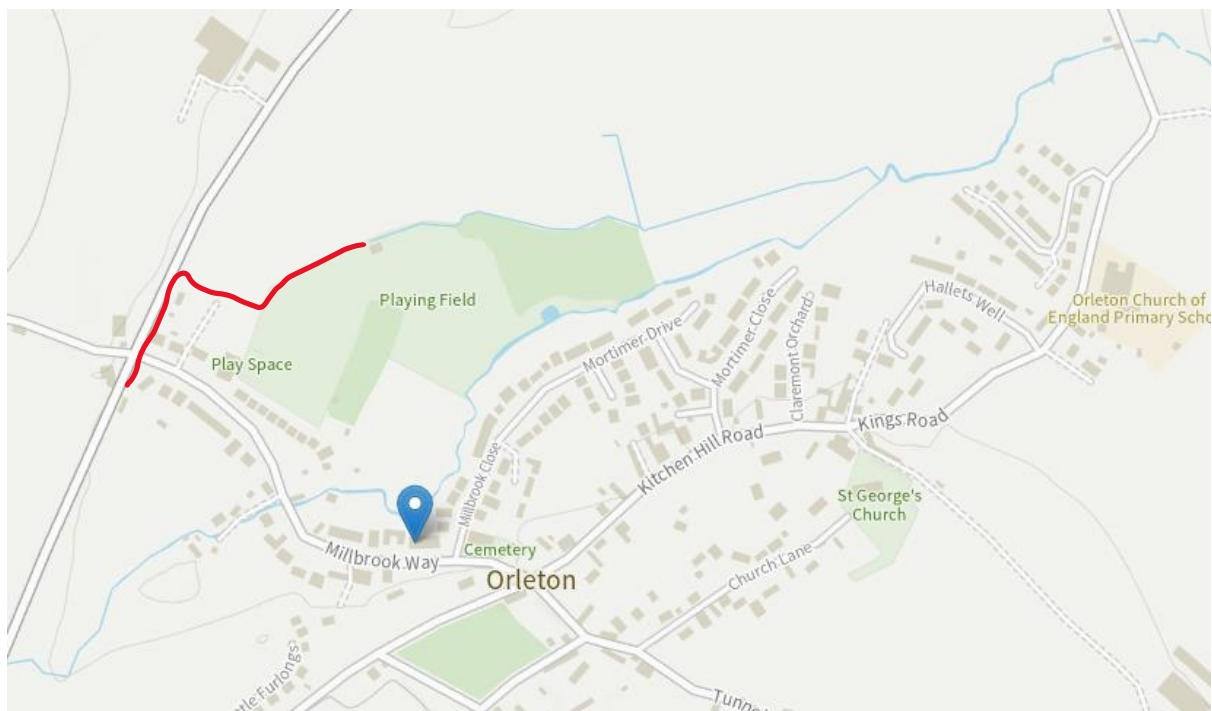


Fig 2.

Funding

Funding for the proposal would, I hope, be secured from a scheme under development at HC under which parish council will be permitted to develop and commission schemes to reduce highway flooding. This scheme would allow OPC to appoint independent contractors at a lower cost than might currently be possible. The current budgets for each scheme are c.£40,000. However, the opportunity for the parish council to appoint local contractors or to receive voluntary assistance for those sections of the project falling outside the public highway may offer significant savings.

Clearly, we have not discussed this proposal with any landowner nor Orleton Recreation Association and any proposals are subject to the grant and terms of any permission.

I would very much welcome your thoughts on this concept and any obvious problems you may foresee.

Kind regards

David Lane Land – Land Drainage Lead - Orleton Parish Council