

# Welcome to Southwell

Welcome to Southwell, one of the most delightful market towns in Nottinghamshire and the place where you have chosen to live.



In the past, Southwell has suffered significant flooding events that affected the lives of many residents and left properties and businesses damaged.

Since the last major flood in 2013, measures have been taken to reduce Southwell's flood risk and prepare the community should another flooding event occur. Some of these measures include the formation of the Southwell Flood Forum, the Road Closure and Flood Warden Scheme, Natural Flood Management within the upper catchment area outside Southwell and Community Resilience Plans.

This leaflet has been designed in consultation with the Estate Agent through which you have bought your new home and the National Flood Forum, to help new residents of Southwell be prepared should an extreme weather event occur and provide pointers on how you can help the community reduce its flood risk.

## Insurance in flood risk areas

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People sometimes worry about getting residential property insurance if they are at risk of flooding or if they have been flooded.

In a bid to help people, FloodRe was set up by the Government in partnership with home insurers to help bridge the cost gap. By working with home insurers behind the scenes, FloodRe may cover the flood risk element of your policy to help keep your premiums down. You deal with your insurers in the normal way. Should you make a valid claim, your insurers will pay the full cost of your claim but will be able to claim the flooding element back from FloodRe.

For more information on FloodRe please visit  
[www.floodre.co.uk](http://www.floodre.co.uk)

Or call National Flood Forum 01299 403055 for practical advice

## Being prepared

'Prevention is better than the cure' as the saying goes and although one might not be able to prevent a fast moving downpour, being prepared for one might just make it easier for you to cope with the aftermath should your home unfortunately flood due to the unforeseen weather conditions.



Below are a few helpful tips that can make life a bit easier in case of a flood

1. **Sign up to the Environment Agency Flood Alert System** - knowing if something is coming your way will help you plan better should the weather turn ugly.
2. **Prepare Emergency Plans** - having an emergency plan for the household will help everyone in the family know what to do, including the pets!
3. **Southwell Community Resilience Handbook** - this was put together by the Southwell Flood Forum to help people be prepared for any emergency. This is a free booklet available from the Southwell Flood Forum and can also be found on their website to download.
4. **Who to contact in case of flooding** - knowing who to contact first is important. Keep a list of your contacts somewhere handy such as by your phone or pinned to your fridge.
5. **Southwell Flood Forum** - the Forum is your community's voice on all matters concerning flooding within Southwell. Please visit their website at [www.southwellfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.southwellfloodforum.org.uk) to learn more about what is happening within your town and how they can help you be prepared.



## Who to contact:

If you would like further information or help on how to maintain your watercourse please contact Nottinghamshire County Council Flood Team: **0300 500 80 80** or Southwell Flood Forum **01636 815 739**

If you would like further information on community resilience please contact Southwell Flood Forum **01636 815 739**

If you would like further information on flooding please contact National Flood Forum **01299 403 055**

## Supporting and representing flood risk communities

The National Flood Forum is a Registered Charity No. 1121642

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Registered Office: Old Snuff Mill Warehouse, Park Lane, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 2EL • VAT Registered No: 786 2681 83

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## Reducing Southwell's Flood Risk

With the onset of climate change and more extreme weather events, many areas of the UK are becoming prone to some form of flooding and unfortunately Southwell has occasionally experienced such events over the past 20 years. However, work is underway to reduce the flood risk for Southwell and its residents through a new alleviation scheme and a 'Slow the Flow' project using Natural Flood Management techniques.

### 'Slow the Flow' with Natural Flood Management

Natural Flood Management work is currently being carried out in the Southwell catchment areas to help reduce the threat of flooding within the town. This work includes the construction and use of leaky barriers (man-made structures that allow a small amount of water to flow beneath the barrier whilst holding back the majority of the water), natural debris barriers that use naturally fallen trees across small rivers and streams which slows the flow of water, attenuation ponds and earthen bunds, which are banks strategically placed that hold water for longer, slowly releasing it through the ground and into watercourses.

Natural Flood Management techniques aim to help reduce the amount of water that would otherwise rush towards Southwell and overwhelm the internal drainage system as well as the Potwell Dyke and other watercourses.

*Would you like to be a Volunteer in your new community?*

*Southwell Flood Forum is always on the look out for volunteers to help with their activities on keeping the community safe.*

*If you would like to get involved, whether it is to help with the Road Closure Scheme, help keep watercourses clear and wildlife friendly or simply help deliver leaflets along your street, please do not be shy, contact the Forum on 01636 815 739 or visit their website and see how you can help in your area.*

## Are you a Riparian Owner?

By being a Riparian Owner, you can help reduce Southwell's flood risk.

If you are a riparian owner, which means you own land which has a watercourse (natural or artificial) running through it, under it or that one of your land boundaries is a stream, river, brook or ditch, then the responsibility for maintaining your watercourse falls to you. If the watercourse separates you and a neighbour or several neighbours, then you both or all, have responsibilities to maintain your side/stretch of the course.



Photo by NFF

Maintaining your watercourse includes keeping the watercourse clear of debris and free flowing at all times, managing the bank and bed by keeping vegetation under control and not allowing the silt to build up and allowing water to pass from your neighbour upstream to your neighbour downstream without obstruction.



Photo by NFF

Common problems that occur in watercourses which can increase the risk of flooding include:

- ◇ Excessive silt build up
- ◇ Garden and domestic waste deposited in the watercourse causing blockages
- ◇ Vegetation debris
- ◇ Inappropriate building construction or planting within 8 metres of the waters edge

The Environment Agency has produced guidance for Riparian Owners and can be found at

[https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/EA\\_Guide\\_to\\_rights\\_and\\_responsibilities\\_of\\_riverside\\_ownership.pdf](https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/EA_Guide_to_rights_and_responsibilities_of_riverside_ownership.pdf)

If you would like further information of your rights and responsibilities as a Riparian Owner, please contact Nottinghamshire County Council on **0300 500 80 80** or visit <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding/the-councils-role>

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