

## **Luton, Broadhembury Parish – Community Flood Scheme Case Study**

Luton is a small Hamlet in the Parish of Broadhembury in East Devon. It sits alongside an unnamed ordinary watercourse, which eventually flows down to the Main River Tale. Due to the local topography of the surrounding fields and roads that lead down to Luton, it is particularly vulnerable to surface water flooding.

Luton has been threatened by surface water flooding in recent years, with the nearby roads, gardens and driveways flooded and in one case a near miss to property. It was found that after heavy rainfall these flows were generated in Wilderness Lane, where surface runoff from surrounding fields contributed to flows along the road, eroding and damaging the surface. Flows would then continue down the A373 towards Luton and across fields, following the topography down to nearby gardens and houses of Luton to collect in a large 'lake' in the field. Further flows also found their way down other pathways and tracks into Luton.



**Surface water on Wilderness Lane before the flood scheme.**

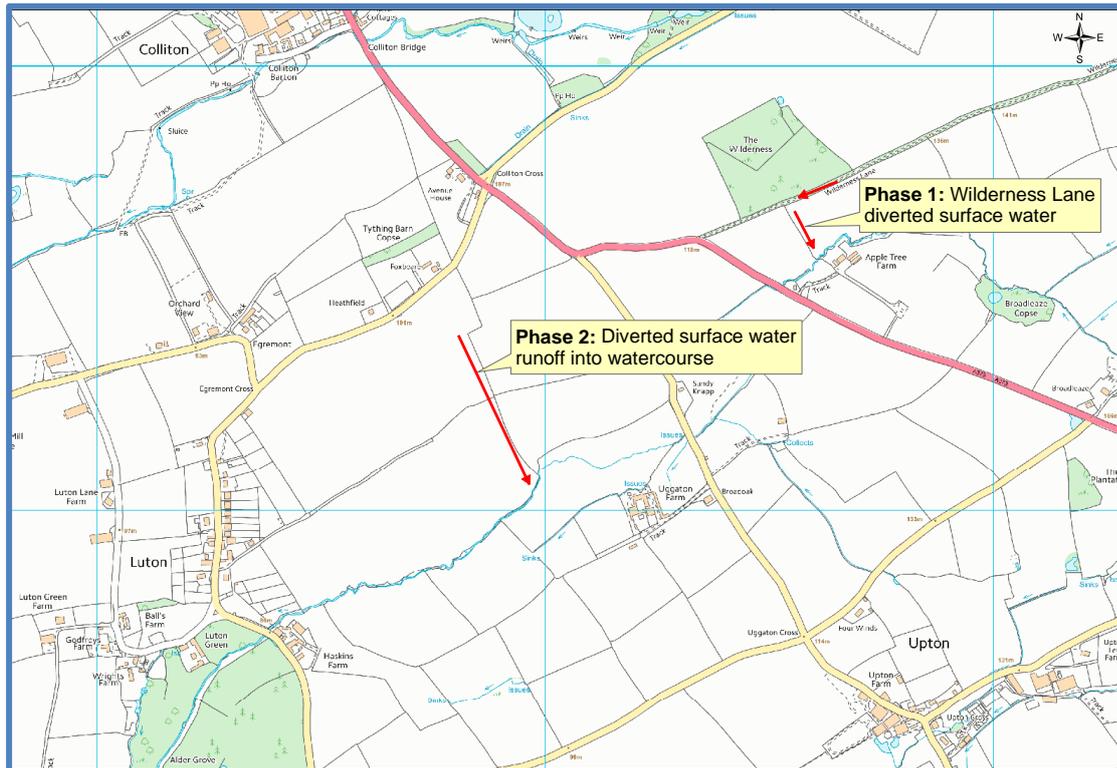
Following the flooding in Luton during the heavy rainfall and storms of February 2014, the local community decided to take action and to work together and in partnership with Devon County Council to put measures in place to reduce the flood risk.

The resulting flood alleviation scheme was developed and designed by local residents and supported by local land owners.

Phase 1 of the scheme is designed to divert surface water that was running down Wilderness Lane through a newly installed pipe and into the watercourse before it can travel down the main road and into Luton.

Phase 2 diverts water in another location across locally owned fields and into the river to the North East of Haskins Farm.

It is believed that the scheme will divert approximately 70-80% of the surface water into the watercourse before reaching Luton.



**Locations upstream where the surface water has been diverted into the watercourse before reaching Luton via surface runoff.**

The Parish came to Devon County Council with their proposals for the flood alleviation scheme. Highways and the Flood Risk Team were together able to provide £7,000 towards the scheme and the community did the rest, working with the local land owners and employing local contractors to carry out the work.

These works have already made a noticeable difference to the community and shows what can be done cost effectively through community engagement.



**Locals at work installing the diversion pipe.**