

*If you are unsure about anything within these notes then please contact the Flood Risk Management (FRM) team using the details at the end of this document.*

Derbyshire County Council is unable to endorse the use of any particular expert company, product or service. However, there are times when you may require an expert to assist you when looking to restore your property from flood damage, investigating a flooding concern, land drainage issue, land drainage consent application (Land Drainage Act, 1991), ecology/environment concern etc.

### **Expert services for assessing the impact of flood affected buildings and flood mitigation property surveys**

If you are unfortunate to have suffered from flooding you may require the services of an expert to help you restore your property. Experts can provide specialist knowledge to assess the damage to your property, such as by looking at structural damage (bulging, dislodged masonry etc.) and ensure the right recovery strategy is adopted.

If your property is identified to be at risk of or suffered from flooding you may wish to identify a bespoke flood mitigation solution for your property. A flood mitigation solution may include the installation of flood resilience or flood resistant products (property level protection), the creation of a property level flood plan and numerous other factors.

You can obtain a high level short report that outlines the typical costs of property level protection for your home by using the National Flood Forums **Property Protection Advisor**<sup>1</sup>. The report advises more permanent flood mitigation options than traditional sandbags such as flood doors, non-return valves, air brick covers, resealing etc.

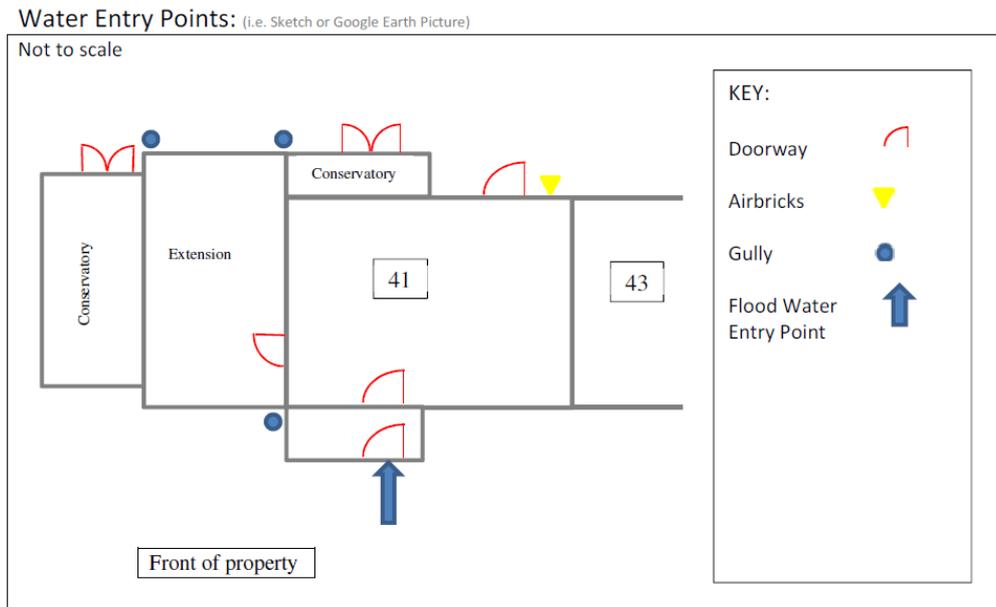


**Example flood door**

<sup>1</sup> [www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/flood-protection-adviser/](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/flood-protection-adviser/)

In order to identify more accurately the property level protection that may be required for your property you may wish to request an expert to undertake a 'flood mitigation survey'. A flood mitigation survey can help identify potential water ingress points and suggest products/ideas to help mitigate the ingress. The survey should also conclude with a potential cost for the works required.

The National Flood Forum publishes a directory of products and services designed to help mitigate flooding; this is known as the 'Blue Pages'<sup>2</sup>. For more information please visit [www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk) or contact them via telephone on **(01299) 403055**.



### Example extract for water entry points taken from a flood mitigation survey

National Government have produced guidance known as 'Six steps to property level flood resilience' available **online**<sup>3</sup>.

### Expert services relating to land drainage

*Services for internal surveying (camera), unblocking or fixing a damaged culverted/piped watercourse*

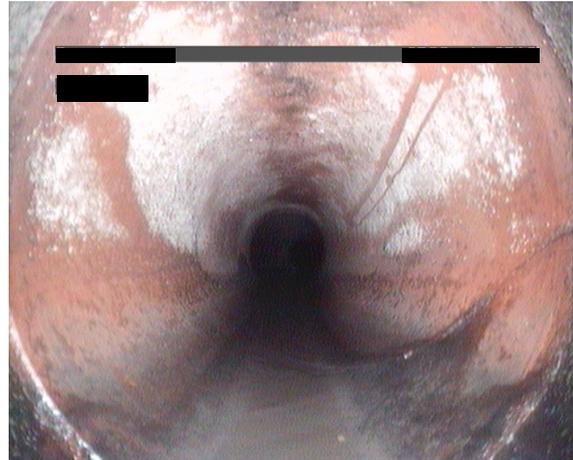
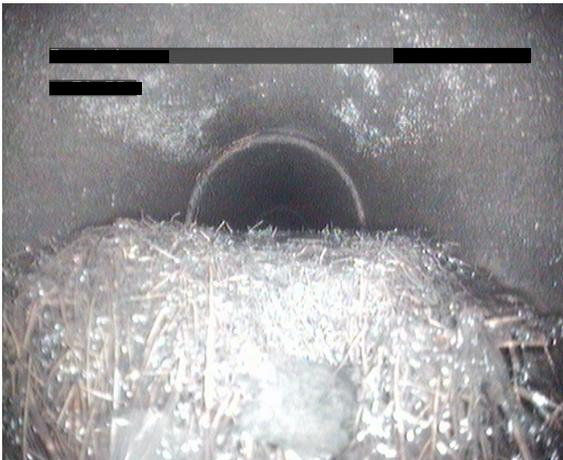
If you have suffered flooding as a result of blocked culvert or drain or have recently identified a culvert/drain to be located within property boundary then you may wish to commission an expert to undertake an internal condition survey or remedial works (i.e. jetting, unblocking, fixing).

Condition surveys are useful to determine the condition of a culvert or drain, establishing whether remedial works are required. They are also useful to

<sup>2</sup> [www.bluepages.org.uk/](http://www.bluepages.org.uk/)

<sup>3</sup> [www.smartfloodprotection.com/](http://www.smartfloodprotection.com/)

compile fully detailed reports, drawings, videos and DVDs. The surveys enable damage and blockages to be identified/located.



### Example video shot of an internal condition survey before and after jetting

#### *Services for designing amendments to or altering the direction of an ordinary watercourse*

If you wish to make an amendment to the direction or size of an ordinary watercourse or wish to install an obstruction to flow you will require consent under the Land Drainage Act (1991). For more information please contact the FRM team or visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/flooding). As part of your application for obtaining consent you may be required to obtain flow calculations (to show that the alterations will work hydraulically) or undertake a flood risk assessment to establish that the works do not exacerbate flood risk upstream or downstream of your proposals.

An expert can design a proposed new flow route/obstruction etc. and also create plans/drawings and produce all the documentation to fulfil the requirements of a land drainage consent application. If you're concerned that you are experiencing flooding from a watercourse and wish to make alterations then experts can also advise of what can and can't be done.

#### **Expert services for ecology and environmental concerns**

If you wish to work within or close proximity to an ordinary watercourse you may require a protected species survey (bat, newt, white clawed crayfish, water voles, otters etc.) or a River Habitat/Corridor Survey (an assessment of the ecological value of the river corridor system).

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are a charitable organisation who can help you understand the potential impact of any works on protected and non-protected species and or their habitats in the area. You can also contact the FRM team who may be able to assist you further.

## Finding an expert

Currently there is no formal assurance scheme for specialists carrying out property flood risk assessments and surveys for flood resilience/resistant products. However, the following organisations may be able to help you find qualified independent professionals experienced in assessing flood risk for individual properties:

- The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Chartered Institution of Civil Engineers
- Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
- The Association of Building Engineers

The Property Care Association (PCA)<sup>4</sup> is the trade association representing specialists who can be trusted to resolve problems affecting buildings. Members of the PCA can offer services for investigating and resolving problems affecting buildings including:

- Damp
- Condensation
- Timber decay or insect attack
- Dampness and water penetration in basements
- Floodwater recovery and flood protection
- Structural defects
- Invasive weed control

You may wish to locate a specialist contractor using the County Council's Trusted Trader scheme online using:

### Derbyshire's online trusted trader scheme

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/trusted\\_trader/](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/trusted_trader/)

To find an expert consultant you may wish to contact the Environment Agency or search for a consultant online.

In all instances the National Flood Forum or the FRM team may be able to offer assistance in where to find an expert to help you.

## Kitemarks for flood protection products

A BSI Kitemark has been developed for some flood protection products which offers a level of confidence through the knowledge that these products have

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.property-care.org/>

undergone strict testing. A list of products that have passed the BSI Kitemark test can be found online at:

[www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/Product-Directory/](http://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/Product-Directory/)

The relevant Kitemark standard for flood protection is PAS 1188. Please search for 'PAS 1188' in the standard box and 'UK' in the Country box.

### The County Council using experts

Consultants are sometimes utilised to supplement team investigations where the County Council do not have the technical capacity or resource available. The County Council have an agreed framework of consultants of who to use. A number of consultants have bided to be part of this agreed framework and are rigorously checked to ensure that they are suitable for providing a service to the County Council.

Most recently the FRM team have procured the services of a consultant to produce a number of technical reports required to support obtaining national funding for a number of flood mitigation projects in Derbyshire. The FRM team have also recently utilised a company to undertake property level flood mitigation surveys in support of local flood mitigation scheme. Please refer to the [Funding Guidance Notes](#), [Pinxton Guidance Notes](#), [Chesterfield Integrated Model Guidance Notes](#) and Part 2 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for more information relating to Derbyshire's flood mitigation schemes.

### Frequently asked questions

*I need a survey but I am not sure if I can afford it?*

In some instances a survey or service may appear costly, however to avoid an infringement of Land Drainage or Environment law you are strongly advised to investigate the matter further. For example: if any works that you chose to undertake impact on protected species you can face large fines or possibly receive a custodial sentence.

It may be worth you looking to procure services collectively with adjacent property owners or landowners. For example: if a number of properties on your street have been impacted by flooding, it may be worth you looking to procure a consultant collectively who's fees may be costly for individual site visits.

*I have got a historic protected building and I don't want a contractor to damage or infringe upon its protected status.*

Many historic buildings are not only at risk from flood damage but also damage from inappropriate remedial works carried out by contractors who have little understanding of historic fabric.

For guidance relating to protected buildings please contact **Historic England**<sup>5</sup>, **Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings**<sup>6</sup>, **the Institute of Historic Building Conservation**<sup>7</sup> or review **the Register of Architects Accredited in Building Conservation**<sup>8</sup>.

Further information on 'Flooding and Historic Buildings' is also available **online**<sup>9</sup>.

**Derbyshire County Council**  
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Email: [flood.team@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:flood.team@derbyshire.gov.uk)

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<sup>5</sup> [www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)

<sup>6</sup> [www.spab.org.uk](http://www.spab.org.uk)

<sup>7</sup> [www.ihbc.org.uk](http://www.ihbc.org.uk)

<sup>8</sup> [www.aabc-register.co.uk](http://www.aabc-register.co.uk)

<sup>9</sup> [www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)