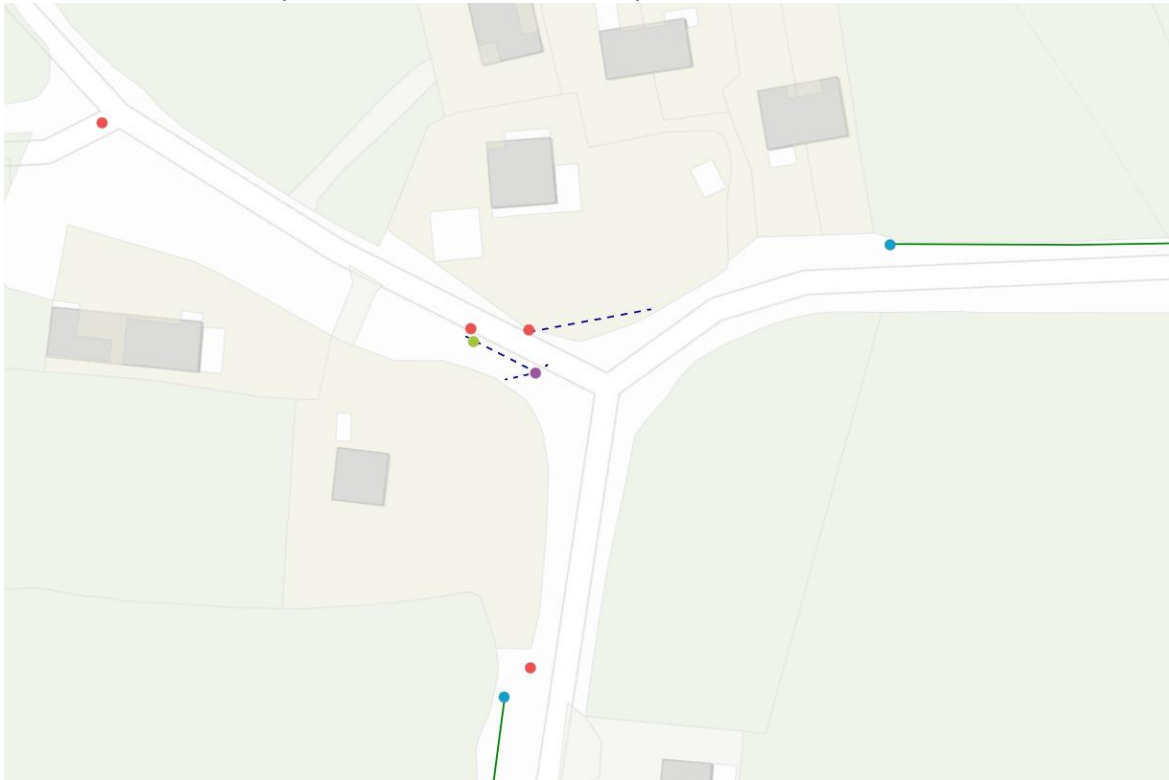


Hello all,

We had an unexpected opportunity on Friday 24th April to undertake a little bit of investigation works, which I've captured below on a sketch plan:



Orange dots are gullies, blue are headwalls, green/purple are catchpits/manholes. Dashed lines are pipes/culverts, solid green are ditches/watercourses
Don't try and scale off the plan, it's indicative only!

I've only mapped what we've found, we'll need the vector to go out and help prove connectivity/clear system.

I suspect the following:

1. There is a pipe running to the eastern ditch – Purple dot to right hand blue dot
2. The gully on the north side of the road connects to this above pipe, but the rods didn't give a precise answer
3. Northwestern gully (in access road) connects to the southeast into known system at the green dot
4. I don't know where the ditchline from the south or the gully there go – needs jetting to confirm
5. The purple dot has a short connection coming in from the west (towards the hedge) – this may connect to a land drain or private culvert, connecting into the piped drainage system. However, BT's box has severed it and we were unable to rod more than 1m upstream of the chamber.

I have asked Highways to put this site on their vector programme for when it's next available in area, and to jet the links yet unconfirmed with connections.

However, the area where the water was seen to be coming out of the ground back in January was also excavated, and no pipe found. As the highway drainage is identified away from the

point where it was coming up, and the likely severing of the private drain (see point 5 above) could indicate where the surface flow seen was coming from.

The Highway Drainage is not intended as a flooding defence measure, but we will confirm that it's functioning correctly in our ownership.

In terms of 'who owns what':-

- Wiltshire Council own the Highway Drainage, and culverted watercourses under the highway (tarmac road)
 - Wiltshire Council have responsibility for highway drainage in the verge, but only if it's draining the highway directly
 - Highway drainage may discharge into watercourses/culverted watercourses and ownership becomes riparian owned at that point
- If a ditch flows into a pipe, it's counted as a culverted watercourse, and will be owned by the relevant riparian owner (whoever owns the adjacent land, or land above the route)
- Roadside ditches are owned by the adjacent landowner, and count as ordinary watercourses
- Private drainage – such as that believed to be coming in behind the BT box on the corner, is riparian owned
- Verges are technically owned by the adjacent landowner in most cases (unless the Council is the landowner, when we'd own it), however they may be maintained in terms of visibility by the Council for public safety on the highway.

We'll get the vector to jet what we can – if we find damaged sections under riparian ownership we'll notify the relevant landowner, but it will be their duty to undertake repairs.

The private drainage connection coming in from the west into the purple dot chamber will need investigation by the landowner to see if it's broken from the house side as well. If damaged by BT they may wish to reconnect it to the chamber, but the damage would be a private matter for the landowner and BT.

I would advise that the ditches up and downstream of the marked headwalls are inspected by the landowner and maintained, if necessary, the Parish Council can help with liaison between landowners for this and would be your point of contact. We advise that the silt level downstream of a piped outfall should never be higher than the bottom of the pipe coming out in order to maintain efficient flow, and storage capacity in the open ditch.

It is worth noting that the Environment Agency surface water flood mapping indicates there is a surface flow route through the gardens of properties on the corner going west to east, matching the reported issues over last winter. While the highway drainage may help manage that risk, it has a finite ability to do so, and landowners are required to allow water to flow over their lands under the influence of gravity.

Kind regards

Richard Williams BEng
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Highways Asset Management and Commissioning