FOLLOW THE PROJECT

Find us on Facebook
@TeamProjectSponge

Follow us on Instagram
@Projectspongeslough

FIND OUT MORE & STAY UPDATED:

www. projectsponge.co.uk/
in-your-area/flood-hub

sponge@slough.gov.uk

projectsponge.co.uk/newsletter

Scan this QR code to give us your feedback, or to view this leaflet in Urdu, Punjabi or Polish.

EVERY IMPROVEMENT STARTS WITH A CONVERSATION

Whether it's reporting a blocked drain, sharing an idea or volunteering at an event, your feedback helps shape what happens next.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF PROJECT SPONGE.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Project Sponge is built on partnership - bringing together organisations, local communities and residents to create neighbourhoods that are greener, healthier and better prepared for the future.

WILDFOWL AND WETLAND TRUST

A leading wetland restoration charity, focused on unlocking the power of wetlands – to help nature burst back to life. WWT is working within the area to bring 'Future-Proofed Neighbourhoods' to Slough. This means bringing together residents, to act as one, for a stronger and more sustainable response to the climate and nature Crises.

NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM

The only charity dedicated to supporting flooded communities across England and Wales, NFF is working with residents who have experienced flooding, ensuring they are at the heart of any decision-making.

Both authorities have responsibility for the infrastructure and green spaces in the area, and a commitment to providing opportunities for residents to change the things they believe need changing in their community.

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Project Sponge is supported by Slough Borough Council, with a focus on working with residents to cultivate strong, healthy and attractive neighbourhoods where residents live well, independently, and become self-sufficient. Slough Borough Council has responsibility for the infrastructure and green spaces in the area, and a commitment to providing opportunities for residents to change the things they believe need changing in their community.

Our Project Partners

Slough Borough Council · WWT · National Flood Forum

Project Sponge is funded by Defra as one of the 25 Flood and Coastal Innovation Programmes, managed by the Environment Agency. The £200 million programmes will drive innovation in flood and coastal resilience and adaptation to a changing climate.

The evidence gathered through this 6 year programme will guide future approaches in flood and coastal risk management.

RESILIENCE
A PRACTICAL GUIDE

Protecting your home, your neighbourhood and your local green spaces



PROJECT SPONGE WATER + PEOPLE + NATURE

HAS FLOODING EVER AFFECTED YOUR HOME OR STREET?

Even if your home has not flooded before, heavy rain can still affect your street, drains, garden or access routes. These simple steps can help you feel more confident if heavy rain affects your area.

Experiencing any type of flooding can be stressful. But you are not alone. There is support available, and there are practical steps you can take now to help protect your home and be better prepared in the future.



ARE YOU COVERED FOR FLOODING?

If you own your property, check your buildings and contents insurance. If you rent, make sure your belongings are covered and speak to your landlord about the building itself. If you're finding it difficult to get affordable flood insurance, ask your insurer about Flood Re-backed policies

BE PREPARED:

Below you'll find a simple checklist to help you prepare your own flood plan.

TASK	WHY IT HELPS
☐ Check your insurance	Check you have the right insurance for your home.
☐ Know how to turn off gas, electricity, water	To reduce risks if water enters the property.
☐ Keep useful phone numbers	GP, insurer, council, family.
☐ Create an emergency flood kit (grab bag)	Create a simple emergency flood kit (also called a 'grab bag') with essentials such as a torch, charger, medication and important documents.
☐ Photograph your property / contents now	To help save time with claims later.
☐ Plan how to move valuables upstairs	Books, electronics, photos — move them before water comes.
☐ Identify weak points (doors, air bricks, gaps)	Think about where water could enter your property and what you could move or protect if heavy rain is forecast.

DID YOU KNOW? **Most people don't think flooding will affect them until it does. A few simple preparations now can make a big difference if heavy rain affects your home or street.**

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SIMPLE CHANGES YOU CAN MAKE AT HOME

You can check the long term risk to your property at:
www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk

When water enters, resistance helps to stop it; resilience helps reduce the damage if it does. If you are at risk there are things you or your landlord can do to help protect your home. But please remember, every property is different, there's no single solution that works for everyone, and we'd always recommend contacting Slough Borough Council's flood team **FloodandWaterTeam@slough.gov.uk** for advice.

The best approach depends on your home's age, type, location and level of flood risk.

You can find more information on flood products and services at **bluepages.org.uk**

RESISTANCE MEASURES (PREVENT ENTRY):

- Use flood boards or doors for doors and garages
- Install non-return valves to stop sewer backflow
- Seal air bricks or gaps at the base of properties
- Maintain pointing, drains, and external walls so water can't seep in

RESILIENCE MEASURES (MINIMISE DAMAGE):

- Use floor coverings that dry quickly (tiles, not carpets)
- Raise electric sockets, boilers, wiring above likely flood height
- Use porous or breathable plaster on walls
- Store valuables off the ground, move them upstairs if a flood alert is issued
- In older or historic buildings, choose materials that cope well with water (e.g. lime plaster) — avoid waterproof "tanking" solutions if they damage the fabric of the building

CUT OUT & KEEP

Residents told us they wanted clearer information about who to contact if flooding happens. That's why we've included a cut-out contact guide you can keep somewhere handy at home.

WHO TO CONTACT IF FLOODING HAPPENS

IF LIFE IS IN DANGER

Call **999** immediately

FLOODING ON ROADS OR PAVEMENTS

(Including blocked drains and gullies)

Slough Borough Council, Report online: **slough.gov.uk/xfp/form/152**

FLOODING FROM A RIVER

Environment Agency Floodline **0345 988 1188**

Sign up for free flood warnings: **gov.uk/get-flood-warnings**

SEWER FLOODING OR A BURST WATER MAIN

Thames Water **0800 316 9800**

ADVICE BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER FLOODING

National Flood Forum **01299 403055** | **nationalfloodforum.org.uk**

PROJECT SPONGE

Need help signing up for flood warnings?
Come along to one of our community events and we'll help you get set up.

WORKING TOGETHER

Project Sponge is about more than reducing flood risk. The improvements you see across the area are being shaped by local residents, community groups and partner organisations working together.



WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU – IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Project Sponge is a local initiative helping our neighbourhood manage the effects of climate change, including heavier rainfall and drought, by working with nature. The project aims to reduce flood risk while bringing wildlife and greener spaces back into our community.

By creating wetlands, restoring habitats and improving the way water moves through the local area, we're helping to reduce flood risk while creating greener, healthier places for people and wildlife to enjoy.

- Rain doesn't always go where we want it to. When heavy storms arrive, water can overflow paths, gardens, and even enter homes.
- Nearly half of local residents told us they've experienced flooding or serious water problems. Taking a few simple steps now can make a real difference if heavy rain affects your home or street.
- In our area, the Salt Hill Stream and nearby green spaces are key: how water flows, flash floods, or blocked drains has a direct effect on your streets, properties and local facilities.
- By working with the natural landscape and using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), we can help slow, store and redirect rainwater naturally — reducing pressure on drains and lowering the chance of flooding.
- These changes also improve water quality, help biodiversity, and make our local green spaces more attractive (more wildlife, better planting, cleaner parks).

WE WANT TO:

- Use nature to slow, store, and redirect rainwater
- Reduce flood risk for homes, roads, and public spaces
- Bring back and improve the wildlife and biodiversity in the area
- Work alongside residents, so together we can shape a neighbourhood that's better prepared for the future.

BE PART OF THE CHANGE — YOUR INVOLVEMENT MATTERS

Whether you'd like to volunteer, learn something new or simply find out what's happening in your area, there are lots of ways to join in.

COME ALONG

Come along to one of our drop-in events or workshops to meet the team, ask questions, hear about upcoming projects and help shape future improvements in your neighbourhood.

VOLUNTEER

Whether it's planting, helping at community events, wildlife surveys or citizen science activities, every volunteer helps make a difference.

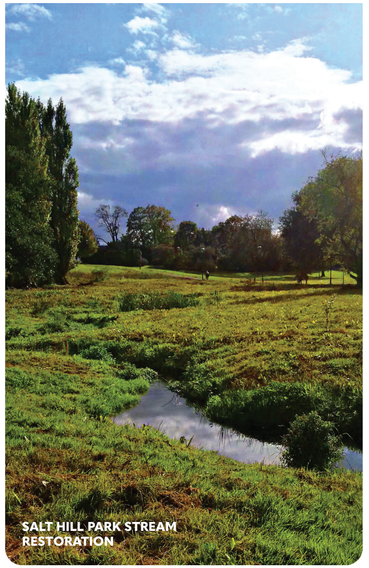
FLOOD ACTION GROUPS

Flood Action Groups bring neighbours together to share local knowledge and support one another before, during and after flooding. Existing groups include Chalvey, Burnham, Farnham and Cippenham, and we'd love to help more communities get started. Find out how to start a Flood Action Group at **nationalfloodforum.org.uk**

HELP US SPOT PROBLEMS EARLY

Blocked drains, litter, overgrown vegetation and damaged planting can all affect how water moves through the neighbourhood. If you notice something that could increase flood risk, please report it at **www.slough.gov.uk/report.**





SALT HILL PARK STREAM RESTORATION



DRAINPIPE WETLAND



PLANTERS TO COLLECT AND SLOW RAINWATER

GREEN SPACES, WILDLIFE AND OUR FUTURE

HELPING NATURE THRIVE HERE

Project Sponge isn't just about water – it's about creating healthier places for people and wildlife.

Healthy wetlands, meadows and streams don't just support birds, insects and amphibians. They also help slow the flow of rainwater, improve water quality and make our parks and neighbourhoods greener and more enjoyable.

By working with nature, we can help create communities that are better prepared for the future while supporting wildlife at the same time.

WHAT NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS BRING

- Slow the flow of rainwater before it reaches drains.
- Reduce pressure on local drainage systems.
- Improve water quality.
- Create homes for birds, insects and other wildlife.
- Make our parks and green spaces healthier and more enjoyable for everyone.

BRING A LITTLE WETLAND HOME

You don't need a nature reserve to make a difference. Whether you've got a garden, a backyard, a balcony or even just a downpipe, there are simple ways to help wildlife, support healthy waterways and manage rainwater where you live.

- Create a small rain garden to store and soak up water
- Build a mini drainpipe wetland
- Create a container pond
- Choose plants that support pollinators
- Make your garden more wildlife friendly

For inspiration, ideas and step-by-step guides, visit: **wwt.org.uk/gardening-for-wetlands**

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