



Project Groundwater
Are you flood resilient?

Community Readiness Survey Report

Project Groundwater



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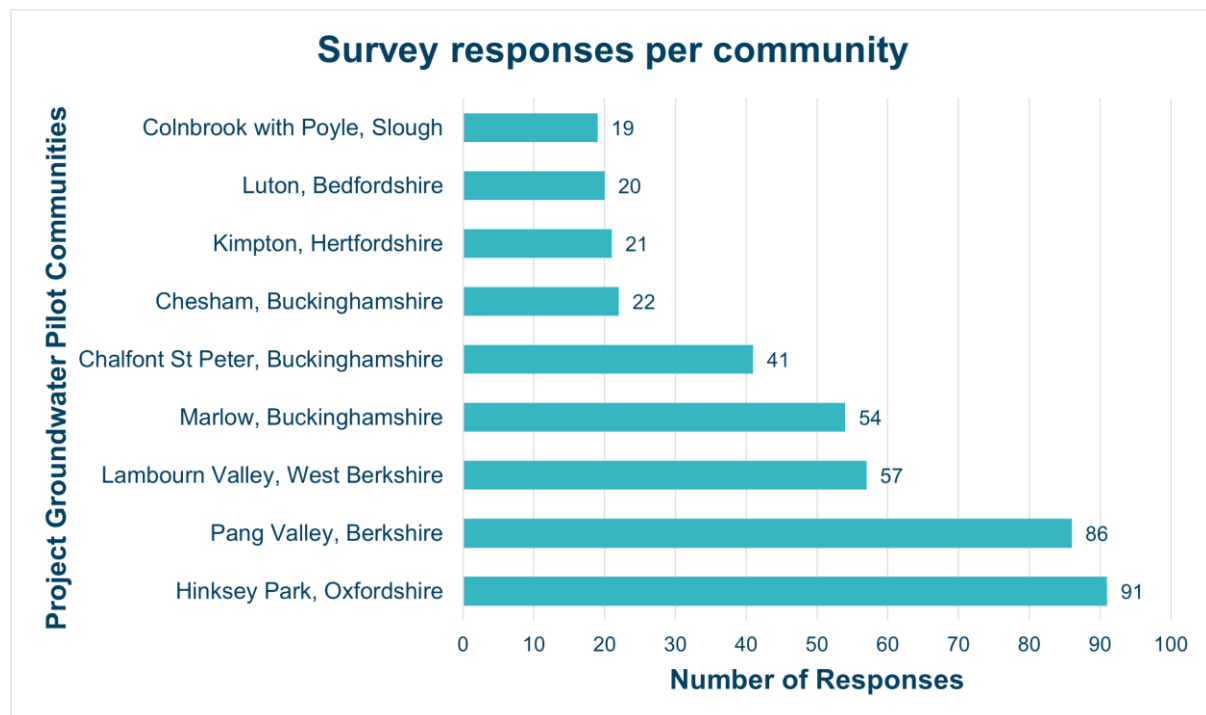
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Introduction

In December 2022, we released our first public survey, the Community Readiness Survey. Open for two and a half months, we were keen to hear from those that lived or worked in our pilot communities to understand their:

- current knowledge about groundwater flooding
- previous experiences with flooding
- appetite to get involved with our project

Over 400 people took the time to complete the survey, demonstrating the depth of local knowledge and the desire to learn more. Response rates varied by community, with the lowest at 19 in Colnbrook with Poyle and the highest at 91 in Hinksey Park.



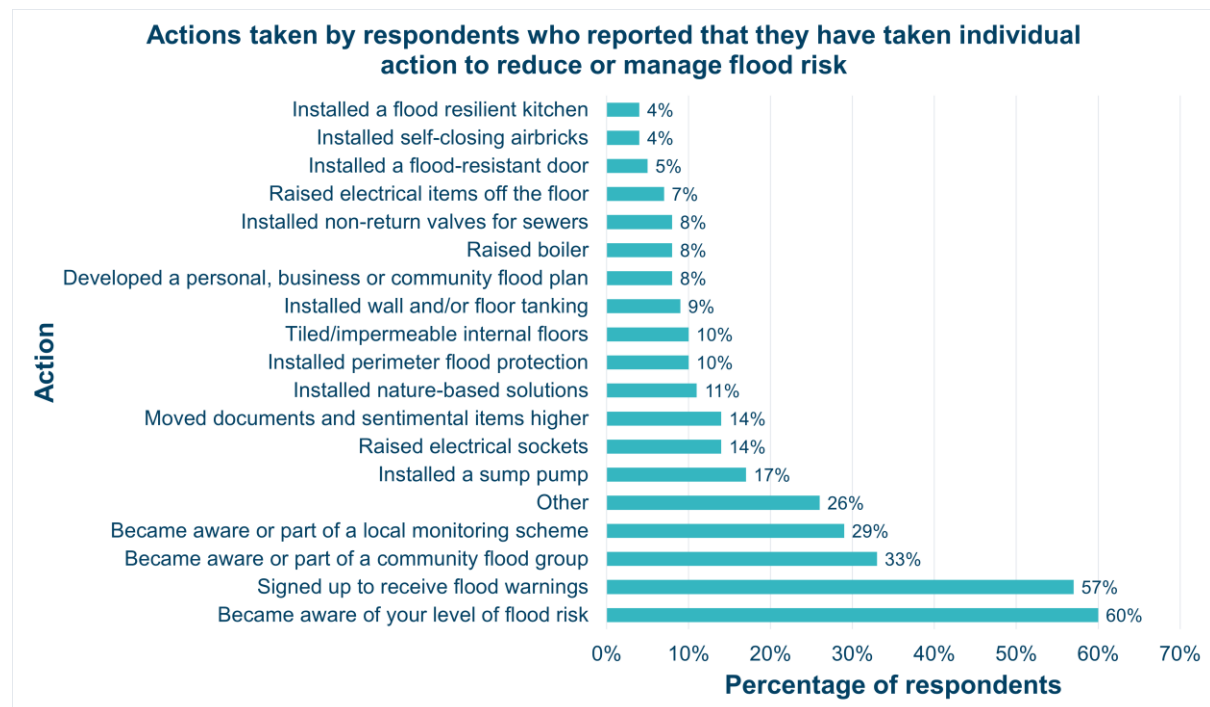
We looked into people's current levels of understanding and concern about flooding. Only 3% of respondents considered themselves experts when asked to rate their level of understanding of local flood mechanisms and risks, with a fairly even split between people thinking of themselves as quite well-informed (25%), understanding a fair amount (30%), and understanding a little (31%). Only 10% of people felt they knew nothing about flooding.

This helps us to understand how confident the community currently is when it comes to flooding, and shows where there is a gap in knowledge we could help to fill. Given how confident some community members are about their knowledge, there may be opportunities

for us to support shared learning events, allowing residents to learn from each other.

89% of respondents agreed that additional actions or initiatives are needed to reduce, manage or adapt to flooding in their community. This helps us to know that there is a need for a project like ours, and were pleased that 70% of respondents were keen to stay involved.

When we asked what individual steps people had taken to reduce or manage their flood risk, we received a wide range of responses, but the most common actions were related to raising flood awareness and understanding.



We then asked what people felt were the barriers to flood management, with the most common responses being the lack of information (47%) and the cost (46%). This informs us firstly that we can support communities by creating understandable and accessible information about groundwater flooding, and secondly, that we can also support communities by bringing in trustworthy suppliers and insurers to find the best cost-benefit solution for residents.

When asked what factors might encourage members of their community to take a more active role in flood management initiatives, we received the following responses:

- 62% of respondents feel they would benefit from knowing more about what options are available to help adapt to flooding.
- 53% of respondents feel they would benefit from knowing more about how their community might be affected by flooding.
- 44% of respondents feel they would benefit from feeling heard and trusting that participation in flood planning is taken seriously.

- 39% of respondents feel they would benefit from opportunities to engage in constructive conversations about their community's risk of flooding with a range of people.

We were interested in learning how people find out about local news in their communities so that we might use these channels to spread the word about Project Groundwater. We discovered that Facebook was the most often used channel, as 66% of respondents reported using it for local updates. This was followed by local group chats, chosen by 50% of respondents.

This has helped us identify how we should prioritise our messaging and how we need to enable individuals to easily share our work in their local group chats. From this feedback, we have now made it so that people can share our webpages, including this news update, to social media and to their group chats!

Chalfont St Peter



41 people from Chalfont St Peter took the time to complete our survey, demonstrating the depth of local knowledge and the desire to learn more. Most respondents had some knowledge of flooding, with 21% of respondents reporting they feel informed to some level about flooding and 14% of respondents not knowing anything about flooding. This helps us understand how confident the community is when it comes to flooding.

91% of respondents stated they have experienced flooding directly or indirectly in Chalfont St Peter.

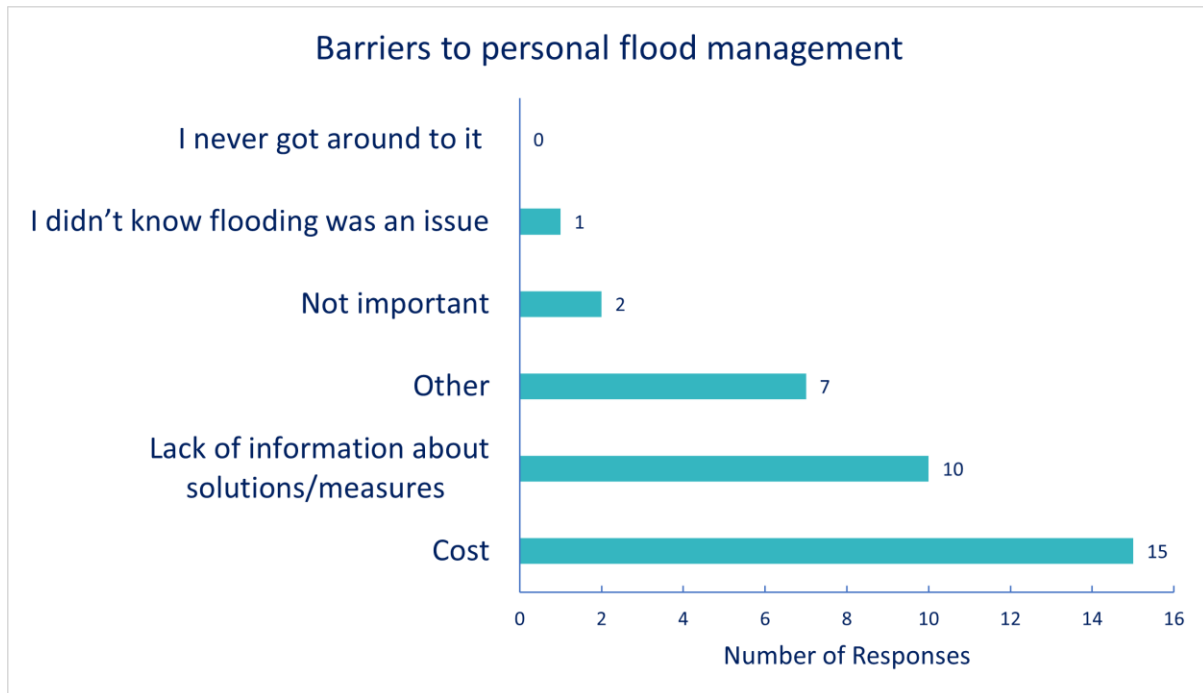
The level of concern among respondents varied with 58% of respondents experiencing some level of anxiety, 24% experiencing minor concerns, and 17% of respondents not worrying about flooding at all.

92% of respondents in Chalfont St Peter agreed that additional actions or initiatives are needed to reduce, manage or adapt to flooding in their community, which helps us to know that there is a need for a project like Project Groundwater. Additionally, we were pleased to learn that 56% of respondents expressed a keen interest in staying involved.

When asked about individual actions taken by respondents to reduce or manage flood risk in Chalfont St. Peter the most common actions were:

- increasing their level of awareness of flood risk
- installing non-return valves and sump pumps to remove or mitigate against flooding
- becoming aware or being a part of a community flood group, and becoming aware or part of a local monitoring scheme

Other actions that were taken related to clearing the river, planting trees, and the provision of permanent sandbags.



We then asked Chalfont St Peter residents what they felt were the barriers to personal flood management by themselves or their community. The most common response was the cost (36%) and lack of information (24%). This highlights that we need to explore how we can support communities in finding trustworthy suppliers and insurers to find the best cost-benefit solution for residents. We must also explore ways of creating understandable and accessible information about groundwater flooding.

When asked what factors might encourage members of Chalfont St Peter to take a more active role in flood management initiatives, we received the following responses:

- 25% of respondents feel they would benefit from knowing more about what options are available to help adapt to flooding.
- 24% of respondents feel they would benefit from knowing more about how their community might be affected by flooding.
- 14% of respondents feel they would benefit from feeling heard and trusting that participation in flood planning is taken seriously.

Chesham

In December 2022, we released our first public survey, the Community Readiness Survey. Open for two and a half months, we were keen to hear from those who lived or worked in our pilot communities to understand their:

- current knowledge about groundwater flooding
- previous experiences with flooding
- appetite to get involved with our project



We received participation from 22 individuals residing in Chesham. We examined the current level of understanding among Chesham residents regarding flooding. None of the respondents considered themselves experts in terms of understanding local flood mechanisms and risks. However, when asked to rate their understanding, 27% considered themselves reasonably well-informed, 13% possess a fair amount of understanding, 27% have a basic understanding, and 31% claimed to know nothing about flooding.

This information helps us gauge the community's confidence regarding flooding and identifies areas where knowledge gaps exist. Given the confidence displayed by some community members, there may be opportunities for us to facilitate shared learning events in Chesham, enabling residents to learn from one another.

The level of concern among respondents varied. Only 9% expressed no concern about flooding. For 36% of respondents, flooding was a minor concern, while 40% occasionally experienced anxiety and worry related to flooding without it being their primary concern. Additionally, 13% often felt anxious and worried about flooding, although no respondents reported that flood risk noticeably impacted their mental health.

An overwhelming 79% of respondents agreed that additional actions or initiatives are necessary to reduce, manage, or adapt to flooding in their community, and we were pleased to learn that 47% of respondents expressed a keen interest in staying involved.

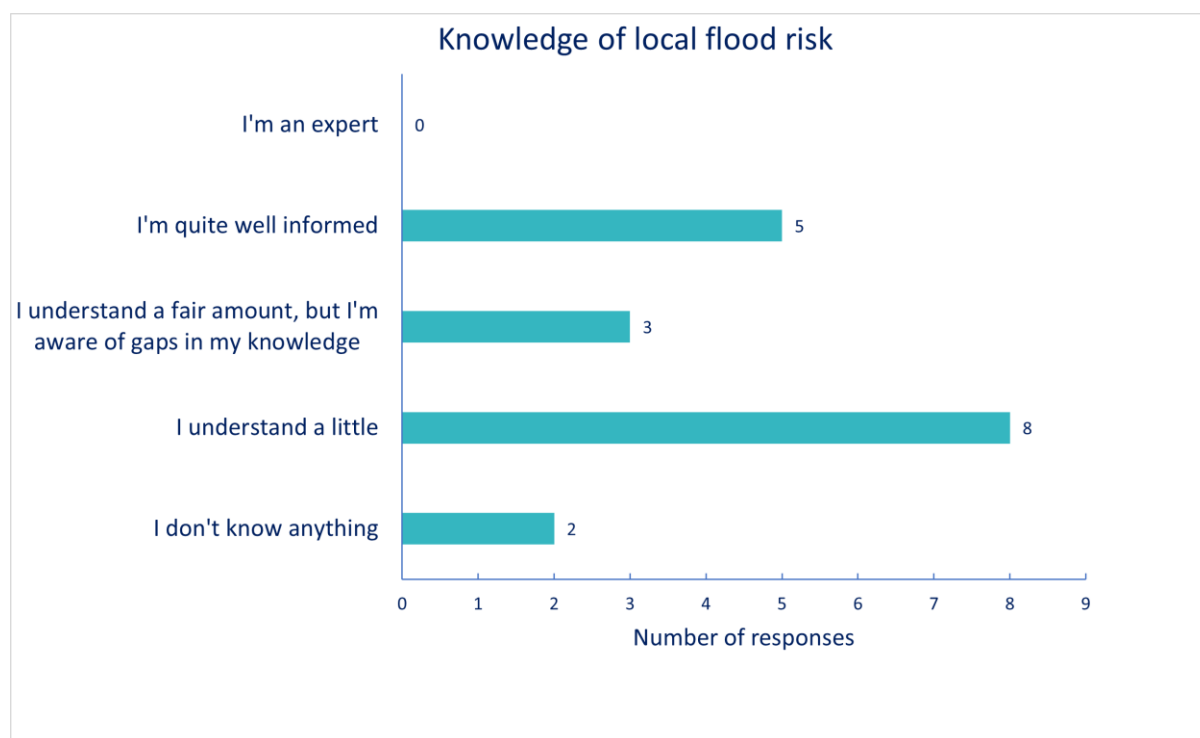
Regarding individual steps taken by respondents to reduce or manage their flood risk, we received a wide range of responses. However, the most common actions revolved around increasing awareness of the local flood risk and available support.

We also inquired about the barriers to flood management, and the most frequent responses highlighted cost (27%) and a lack of information about potential solutions (13%). This indicates we can support communities by creating easily understandable and accessible information about groundwater flooding. Additionally, we can assist communities by collaborating with reliable suppliers and insurers to find the most cost-effective solutions for residents.

When asked about the factors that might encourage community members to engage in flood management initiatives actively, we obtained the following responses:

- 32% of respondents believed they would benefit from learning more about the available options to adapt to flooding.
- 20% of respondents felt they would benefit from opportunities to contribute to the implementation of flood reduction and management initiatives.
- 16% of respondents expressed the need to feel heard and have confidence in the serious consideration of their participation in flood planning.

Colnbrook with Poyle



19 people from Colnbrook with Poyle took the time to complete our survey, most respondents had some knowledge of flooding, with 84% of respondents feeling informed to some level about flooding and 10% of respondents not knowing anything. This helps us understand how confident the community is when it comes to flooding and opportunities to support greater information-sharing.

The level of concern among respondents varied, with 79% of respondents experiencing some level of anxiety, 10% experiencing minor problems, and 5% of respondents not worrying about flooding at all.

94% of respondents believe that more actions need to be taken to prepare for future flooding. Education and advice, drainage/sewage maintenance, and proactive, collaborative action were identified as suggested actions to reduce, manage or adapt to flooding in the Colnbrook with Poyle community.

When asked what factors might encourage respondents to take a more active role in flood management initiatives, Colnbrook with Poyle community members gave the following responses:

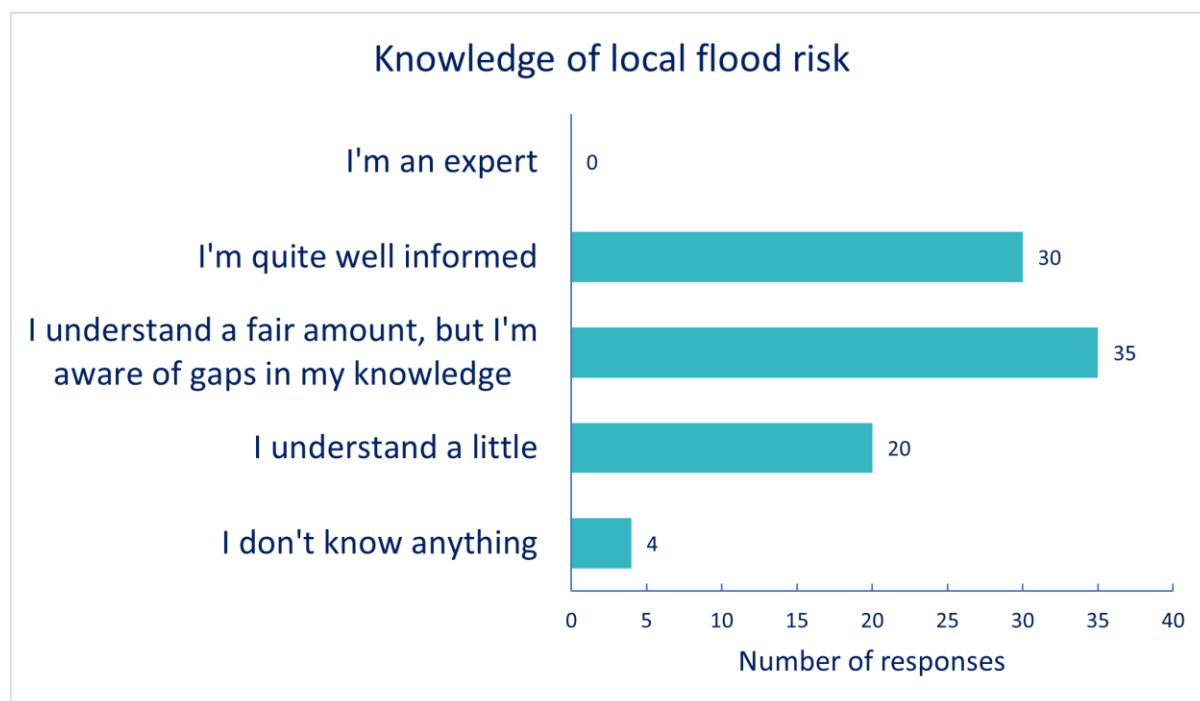
- 22% of respondents feel they would benefit from knowing more about what options are available to help adapt to flooding.
- 22% of respondents feel they need to have the time and energy and additional resources.

- 16% of respondents feel they would benefit from knowing more about how their community might be affected by flooding.
- 16% of respondents feel they would benefit from feeling heard and trusting that participation in flood planning is taken seriously.

40% of respondents expressed a keen interest in staying involved with Project Groundwater.

Hinksey Park

91 individuals residing in Hinksey Park took part in the survey, highlighting the extensive local knowledge and the eagerness to gain more information.



We investigated the current levels of understanding and concern about flooding among the respondents. None of them considered themselves experts when asked to rate their understanding of local flood mechanisms and risks. The respondents were fairly evenly divided, with 32% considering themselves quite well-informed, 38% having a fair amount of understanding, and 21% having a basic understanding. Only 4% felt they knew nothing about flooding.

This information allows us to gauge the community's confidence when it comes to flooding and identifies areas where knowledge gaps exist. Given the confidence displayed by some community members, there may be opportunities for us to support shared learning events, enabling residents to learn from one another.

The level of concern among respondents varied, with zero respondents expressing no concern about flooding. For 22% of respondents, flooding was a minor concern, while 73% stated they experienced occasional or regular anxiety and worry about flooding. 2% reported that flood risk had a noticeable impact on their mental health.

An overwhelming 93% of respondents agreed that additional actions or initiatives are necessary to reduce, manage, or adapt to flooding in their community, 87% of respondents expressed a keen interest in staying involved with Project Groundwater.

Regarding individual steps taken by respondents to reduce or manage their flood risk, we received a wide range of responses. However, the most common actions revolved around raising flood awareness, such as signing up for flood warnings and becoming aware of the local flood risk.

We also asked about the barriers to flood management, and the most common responses highlighted a lack of information (44%) and cost (22%). This indicates that the provision of accessible information about groundwater flooding and recommendations on potential cost-effective measures would most likely support the community in becoming more resilient to groundwater flooding.

When asked about the factors that might encourage community members to take a more active role in flood management initiatives, we obtained the following responses:

- 29% of respondents felt they would benefit from knowing more about the available options to adapt to flooding.
- 21% of respondents expressed the need to feel heard and have confidence that their participation in flood planning is taken seriously.
- 19% of respondents felt they would benefit from opportunities to engage in constructive conversations about their community's risk of flooding with a diverse range of people.

Kimpton

21 people from Kimpton took the time to complete the survey.



We investigated the current levels of understanding about flooding in Kimpton. Only one respondent considered themselves an expert on local flood mechanisms and risks. 14% of people thought of themselves as quite well informed, 38% said that they understand a fair amount, 23% said that they understand a little, and 14% said that they know nothing.

This helps us to understand how confident the community currently is when it comes to flooding and shows where there is a knowledge gap we could help to fill. In addition, speaking to people in Kimpton has highlighted that many have experienced flooding first-hand. Other residents who may have moved to Kimpton more recently might be less aware.

Respondents' level of concern varied, with 15% of respondents having no concern about flooding. For 45% of respondents, flooding represents a minor concern, and 30% sometimes feel anxious and worried without flooding being their top concern. 10% of people stated they often feel anxious and worried about flooding.

74% of respondents agreed that additional actions or initiatives are needed to reduce, manage or adapt to flooding in their community, 68% of respondents were keen to stay involved with Project Groundwater.

When asked what individual steps people had taken to reduce or manage their flood risk, we received a wide range of responses, but the most common actions were related to raising their awareness about local flood risks and the support available.

We asked about perceived barriers to flood management, with popular responses being the cost and lack of information about potential solutions. Four respondents also mentioned that they feel the council or local authorities have not intervened sufficiently. This informs us firstly that we can support communities by creating understandable and accessible information

about groundwater flooding, as well as sharing information around possible cost-effective methods of flood management. This also indicates that it might be useful to support communities by facilitating conversations around flooding and flood management with the local authorities.

When asked what factors might encourage members of their community to take a more active role in flood management initiatives, we received the following responses:

- 37% of respondents feel they would benefit from feeling heard and trusting that participation in flood planning is taken seriously.
- 17% of respondents feel they would benefit from having opportunities for conversations about flood risk in the community.
- 17% of respondents feel they would benefit from opportunities to engage in delivering outcomes for flood reduction and management initiatives.
- 17% also said they would benefit from being directly asked to get involved.

Lambourn Valley

57 people from Lambourn Valley took the time to complete the survey, demonstrating the depth of local knowledge and the desire to learn more.



Most respondents had some knowledge of flooding, with 94% of respondents feeling they are informed to some level about flooding and 5% of respondents not knowing anything. This helps us understand how confident the community is regarding flooding.

92% of respondents stated that they have experienced direct or indirect impacts of flooding in Lambourn Valley.

The level of concern among respondents varied with 77% respondents experiencing some level of anxiety, 21% experiencing minor concerns and 2% of respondents not worrying about flooding at all.

63% of respondents were aware of some actions or initiatives happening in the community. When asked about individual steps taken to reduce or manage their flood risk, we received a wide range of responses. The most common actions involved:

- increasing their level of awareness of flood risk
- becoming aware of or part of a community flood group
- signing up to receive flood warnings
- becoming aware of or part of a local monitoring scheme.

Some respondents have taken direct steps to alleviate the impacts of flooding in their homes, such as installing nature-based solutions and sump pumps.

When asked what Lambourn Valley residents felt were the barriers to flood management, the most common responses were cost (22%) and lack of information (22%), highlighting the need

to explore how we can best support the Lambourn Valley community in addressing these barriers.

When asked what factors might encourage members of Lambourn Valley to take a more active role in flood management initiatives, we received the following responses:

- 22% of respondents feel they would benefit from knowing more about what options are available to help adapt to flooding.
- 20% of respondents feel they would benefit from knowing more about how their community might be affected by flooding.
- 18% of respondents feel they would benefit from feeling heard and trusting that participation in flood planning is taken seriously.
- 16% of respondents feel they would benefit from opportunities to engage in constructive conversations about their community's risk of flooding with a range of people.

71% of respondents expressed a keen interest in staying involved with Project Groundwater.

Luton

20 people from Luton took the time to complete our survey.



When asked to rate their current level of understanding about flooding in Luton, 10% of respondents considered themselves experts, 5% said they were quite well informed, and 5% said they understand a fair amount. Most respondents, however, stated that they understand little (45%) or nothing (30%) about flood mechanisms.

This helps us to understand how confident the community currently feels about flooding in the area. While a few people are well informed, a much larger number know very little about flood mechanisms. This highlights that our work in the Luton community might benefit from widespread, accessible information sharing about groundwater flooding and local flood risk, including potential workshops and education around these issues.

Respondents' level of concern varied, with most stating minor (28%) or no (44%) concern. 17% of people sometimes feel anxious and worried and 11% often feel anxious and worried about flooding.

81% of respondents agreed that additional actions or initiatives are needed to reduce, manage or adapt to flooding in their community.

When we asked what individual steps people had taken to reduce or manage their flood risk, we received a wide range of responses that included installing nature-based solutions like sustainable drainage. Respondents have also:

- Sought out information, including signing up to receive flood warnings
- Become aware of their level of flood risk
- Become aware of community flood groups or monitoring schemes
- Developed flood plans

The most common perceived barriers to flood management were the cost (42%), not being aware that flooding was an issue (26%) and lack of information (21%). This informs us that

providing accessible information about groundwater flooding and recommendations on potential cost-effective measures would most likely support the Luton community in becoming more resilient to groundwater flooding.

When asked what factors might encourage members of their community to take a more active role in flood management initiatives, the three most common responses were:

- Feeling heard: trust that participation in flood planning is taken seriously
- Knowing more about what options are available to help adapt to flooding
- Opportunities to engage in constructive conversations about the community's risk of flooding with a range of people

This suggests that the project can engage with the Luton community by sharing information and facilitating meaningful, collaborative discussions with the communities and relevant parties like water companies and local authorities.

However, it is important to note that the next most popular response was 'Having the time, energy and/or additional resources (transport, childcare, access etc.) to get involved.' which suggests that there are also wider accessibility and inclusion considerations to take into account while engaging with the public.

57% of respondents were keen to stay involved with Project Groundwater.

Marlow

Our survey received participation from 54 individuals residing in Marlow, showcasing the local knowledge depth and the eagerness to expand knowledge further.



We examined the current levels of understanding and concern about flooding in the community. Only 2% considered themselves experts when rating their understanding of local flood mechanisms and risks. There was a reasonably even distribution of respondents who viewed themselves as quite well-informed (18%) and having a fair amount of understanding (27%). A larger proportion had a basic understanding (37%), while 11% admitted knowing nothing about flooding.

This information helps us gauge the community's confidence regarding flooding and identifies areas where knowledge gaps exist. Given the confidence displayed by some community members, there may be opportunities for us to support shared learning events, fostering an environment where residents can learn from one another.

The level of concern among respondents varied, with only 2% expressing no concern about flooding. For 35% of respondents, flooding represented a minor concern, while 46% experienced occasional anxiety and worry about flooding without it being their primary concern. Additionally, 11% often felt anxious and worried about flooding, and 2% reported that flood risk noticeably impacted their mental health.

An overwhelming 87% of respondents agreed that additional actions or initiatives are necessary to reduce, manage, or adapt to flooding in their community. 71% of respondents expressed a keen interest in remaining involved.

Regarding the individual steps respondents took to reduce or manage their flood risk, we received a wide range of responses. The most common actions revolved around raising their awareness of the risk and receiving flood warnings.

We also inquired about the barriers to flood management, and the most common responses highlighted a lack of information (47%) and cost (24%), highlighting the need to explore how we can best support the Marlow community in addressing these barriers.

We asked about the factors that might encourage community members to play a more active role in flood management initiatives and found:

- 31% of respondents felt they would benefit from knowing more about the available options to help adapt to flooding
- 19% of respondents expressed the need for opportunities to engage in constructive conversations about their community's risk of flooding with a diverse range of individuals.
- 17% of respondents felt they would benefit from feeling heard and having confidence that their participation in flood planning is taken seriously

Pang Valley

We were delighted that 86 people from Pang Valley took the time to complete our survey, demonstrating the depth of local knowledge and the desire to learn more.



We looked into people's current levels of understanding and concern about flooding. 3% of respondents considered themselves experts when asked to rate their level of understanding of local flood mechanisms and risks, with a fairly even split between people thinking of themselves as quite well-informed (23%) and understanding a fair amount (25%). Fewer people understand a little (36%). 6% of people felt they knew nothing about flooding.

This helps us to understand how confident the community currently is when it comes to flooding, and shows where there is a knowledge gap we could help to fill. Given how confident some community members are about their knowledge, there may be opportunities for us to support shared learning events, allowing residents to learn from each other.

Respondents' level of concern varied, though only 1% of respondents did not have any concern about flooding. For 44% of respondents, flooding represents a minor concern, and 40% sometimes feel anxious and worried without flooding being their top concern. 9% often feel anxious and worried about flooding, and no respondents reported flood risk having a noticeable impact on their mental health.

92% of respondents agreed that additional actions or initiatives are needed to reduce, manage or adapt to flooding in their community. This helps us to confirm the relevance of Project Groundwater, and we were pleased to learn that 72% of respondents were keen to stay involved.

When we asked what individual steps people had taken to reduce or manage their flood risk, we received a wide range of responses, but the most common actions were related to raising their awareness of risk and receiving warnings.

We then asked what people felt were the barriers to flood management, with the most common responses being the lack of information (43%) and the cost (37%), highlighting the need to explore how we can best support the Pang Valley community in addressing these barriers.

We asked what factors might encourage members of their community to take a more active role in flood management initiatives:

- 28% of respondents feel they would benefit from knowing more about the options available to help adapt to flooding
- 18% of respondents feel they would benefit from feeling heard and trusting that participation in flood planning is taken seriously
- 18% of respondents feel they would benefit from opportunities to engage in constructive conversations about their community's risk of flooding with a range of people.

Conclusion

The results from the community readiness survey highlight a strong local awareness of flooding, though confidence and understanding of groundwater flood risks vary significantly between areas. While most respondents have experienced flooding directly or indirectly, many expressed a desire for clearer, more accessible information and practical guidance.

Across all communities, the majority agreed that further action is needed to manage and adapt to flooding, with cost and lack of information identified as the main barriers. Encouragingly, many respondents were eager to stay involved and learn more, particularly through shared learning events and community-based initiatives. These findings confirm a high level of engagement and demonstrate that Project Groundwater was an initiative that was well placed to support communities in building knowledge, confidence, and resilience against future flood risk.