

DRAINAGE PROBLEMS CHAPEL HILL, AYLBURTON / FEB 2025

Background

For the past several years myself and other residents of Chapel Hill have repeatedly reported drain blockages on Chapel Hill to Gloucestershire Highways, and repeatedly they have not been addressed. Therefore it seems appropriate to lay out an extensive overview of what is going on in the hope that a more detailed report than that which is possible to upload to "FixmyStreet" might help in kickstarting some actual meaningful action.

During any sustained period of medium to heavy rainfall, which lately has been very regular, there are numerous drainage issues that lead to vast amounts of water running down Chapel Hill lane, causing significant erosion, increased debris into other drains and increased chances of flooding to the houses on the main road in the village.

There are 3 main problems to address... (I will use What3Words locations throughout for locations as this is what Highways suggests)

1. A partial blockage between the drain at `///pampering.vivid.grades` and the drain at `///rested.nothing.ecologist`. This has been reported many times. The problem here seems to be that the blockage is only a partial blockage and not located at either manhole cover location, but somewhere in between. Having spoken to the people sent out by Highways to look at it, they told me that the problem is "if it's not over-flowing at the time we come to inspect it then we have to pass it working OK". But as it's only a partial blockage, it might appear to be running without any problems 90% of the time. Below is a picture showing what happens when we get heavy rain for a few hours. My guess is that the partial blockage is located at `///lift.saddens.valve` as this is the location where Severn Trent water dug up the road in 2018 to install a new water connection, but that is just an educated guess.

The water from this drain regularly backing up is causing significant erosion to the sides of the highway further down the road at `///galloped.brain.wide` and also `///remember.friend.motivates`

Solution: Find the partial blockage and clear it.



The drain at [///pampering.vivd.grades](http://pampering.vivd.grades) - this is happening at least every month at the moment. In dry spells, the drain will appear to be running freely.



Suspected location of partial blockage [///lift.saddens.valve](#) - you can clearly see where Severn Trent Water dug up the lane to install a new water connection. It is directly above the drainage channel.

2. There are a string of blocked drains on the north side of the lane at the following locations:

[///dare.delusions.shuffles](#)

[///wonderfully.coached.fluffed](#)

[///alas.cured.fights](#)

[///thudded.fantastic.alternate](#)

It appears that at some point all the water from the north side of the lane was diverted across to the south side. This is from the drain at [///channel.climate.devoured](#) to the drain at

///jets.stiletto.evidently. (which regularly overflows as it cannot handle the additional flow. The drain at ///channel.climate.devoured also smells strongly of sewage and during heavy periods of rain appears to leach sewage onto the lane. This all adds further pressure to the drainage problem in point 1.



The drain at ///channel.climate.devoured diverted across to ///jets.stiletto.evidently - the tarmac repair shows the diversion clearly.

Finally in this section, there is a drain that is also partially blocked at ///eagle.support.bloodshot.

Solution: Reinstate and clear the diverted drains on the north side of the lane.

3. There is a large oak tree stump blocking the drainage ditch further up the lane at /// disprove.redeeming.sourcing leading to at least half the water from the drainage ditches to be diverted onto the lane and causing significant road erosion and potholes at ///trendy.appraised.dive. I spoke to the workers from Highways when they were clearing the ditches last summer and asked if they were planning on grinding out the tree stump as it would clearly cause a problem to the drainage. They agreed and said that it wasn't their job and another team should be along to remove the stump. This sadly never happened. The result is that half of all the water coming from upper common ends up draining directly onto the lane.

Solution: Remove the tree stump.

Conclusion - with some targeted well thought-out repairs, the drainage problems laid out in this report could be significantly alleviated. It's a waste of our tax payers money to keep sending teams out to *not* fix the problems. As someone who witnesses the flooding every time it occurs I hope you might find my analysis helpful, and that some meaningful action will be taken.

Yours sincerely,

