

Owslebury Community Emergency Plan

1. Purpose of the Plan

This Community Emergency Plan (CEP) has been developed for the village of Owslebury, Hampshire (population approx. 900). Its purpose is to help the community prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies that may disrupt normal life. The plan supports, but does not replace, the actions of the emergency services and Hampshire County Council.

Objectives:

- Identify the main risks facing Owslebury
- Set out mitigation and preparedness measures
- Define clear actions for residents and community responders during an emergency
- Improve communication, coordination, and resilience within the village

2. Community Profile

- **Location:** Rural parish south of Winchester, Hampshire
- **Population:** Approx. 900 residents
- **Settlement pattern:** The central village of Owslebury with surrounding outlying hamlets and dispersed rural properties

Included areas:

- Owslebury (central village)
- Marwell
- Longwood
- Morestead
- Baybridge
- Hensting Lane (as far as Morelands Copse)

Key features: Residential housing, village hall, pub (The Ship), church, primary school, agricultural land, woodland, minor rural roads, footpaths, and proximity to Marwell Zoo.

Rural considerations:

- Dispersed properties and small clusters of housing
- Limited public transport
- Reliance on minor roads which may become impassable during severe weather
- Variable mobile phone coverage in some locations

Vulnerable groups: Elderly residents, people with disabilities, those with limited mobility or transport, residents living alone, and families with young children.

3. Plan Activation

Emergency Management Stages

Emergencies are managed through four broad stages. Not all incidents will follow these stages in sequence, but they provide a useful framework for understanding how the community response operates:

1. **Planning and Preparedness** – Ongoing work to identify risks, build resilience, and prepare the community before an incident occurs.
2. **Preparation Following a Warning** – Actions taken when there is advance notice of an incident, such as severe weather warnings.
3. **Response** – Immediate actions taken to protect life, support vulnerable residents, and assist emergency services during an incident.
4. **Recovery** – Actions to support residents, restore normality, and review lessons learned following an incident.

This plan may be activated when:

- An emergency is occurring or imminent and is affecting Owslebury
- The emergency services are stretched or delayed
- There is a need for coordinated community action

Activation may be initiated by a Parish Council representative, Community Emergency Coordinators, or Emergency Services.

4. Risk Assessment

This section identifies the principal risks relevant to Owslebury Parish. The assessments are indicative and are intended to support preparedness and proportionate community action rather than provide exhaustive operational detail.

Marwell Zoo has its own emergency response plans and would work directly with the emergency services. The role of the community plan is limited to awareness, communication, and resident safety.

4.1 Severe Weather (High Risk)

Risks:

- Heavy rain and flooding
- Snow and ice
- Heatwaves

- High winds

Impacts:

- Impassable roads, particularly affecting outlying hamlets and Hensting Lane
- Power outages
- Damage to property
- Isolation of residents in dispersed rural locations
- Heat shock

Mitigation:

- Encourage residents to sign up for Met Office weather alerts
- Grit bins maintained and accessible, including near rural junctions
- Tree, ditch, and drainage maintenance
- Community register of vulnerable residents (GDPR-compliant), including those in isolated properties

Actions During an Incident:

- Prioritise welfare checks on outlying hamlets and isolated homes
- Avoid unnecessary travel
- Report blocked roads or fallen trees to Hampshire Highways
- Use village hall as a temporary warm or rest centre if required

4.2 Flooding (Medium–High Risk)

Risks:

- Surface water flooding
- Localised drainage failure

Impacts:

- Damage to homes
- Road closures
- Contaminated water

Mitigation:

- Identify known flood-prone areas
- Encourage use of property-level flood protection
- Maintain ditches and drains

Actions:

- Move valuables upstairs
- Avoid floodwater
- Assist residents to safe locations if needed
- Communicate updates via agreed channels

4.3 Power and Utilities Failure (Medium Risk)

Context: Owslebury Parish does not have a mains gas supply. Energy provision is primarily electricity-based, with many properties using oil, LPG, or solid fuel for heating.

Risks:

- Electricity outages
- Water supply interruption
- Telecommunications failure

Impacts:

- Loss of heating, lighting, communications
- Increased risk to elderly and medically dependent residents

Mitigation:

- Promote household emergency kits (torches, batteries, blankets)
- Identify residents reliant on powered medical equipment
- Encourage safe storage and management of alternative fuels
- Maintain list of emergency contact numbers

Actions:

- Report outages to electricity, water, or telecoms providers
- Check on vulnerable residents, particularly those reliant on electric heating
- Establish a community information point if required

4.4 Transport Disruption (Medium Risk)

Risks:

- Road accidents
- Severe weather blocking access roads
- Fallen trees or debris on minor roads

Impacts:

- Isolation of outlying hamlets and rural properties

- Delayed access for emergency services
- Disruption to supplies and care visits

Mitigation:

- Awareness of alternative routes
- Local volunteers with suitable vehicles (e.g. 4x4)
- Local knowledge shared via hamlet representatives

Actions:

- Share verified travel and access information
- Assist residents who are unable to travel or receive deliveries
- Escalate access issues to emergency services where life safety is affected

4.5 Fire (Low–Medium Risk)

Risks:

- House fires
- Grass or field fires during dry periods

Impacts:

- Risk to life and property
- Smoke and air quality issues

Mitigation:

- Fire safety awareness
- Smoke alarm installation
- Clear access routes for fire appliances

Actions:

- Call 999 immediately
- Evacuate affected properties
- Support displaced residents

4.6 Pandemic or Public Health Emergency (Low–Medium Risk)

Risks:

- Infectious disease outbreaks

Impacts:

- Reduced workforce

- Vulnerable residents at higher risk

Mitigation:

- Communication networks established
- Support networks for food and medicine delivery

Actions:

- Follow NHS and government guidance
- Activate volunteer support schemes

4.7 Major Incident at Marwell Zoo (Low Likelihood / High Impact)

Marwell Zoo is located within approximately one mile of Owslebury. While the zoo operates under strict licensing, safety, and emergency planning requirements, its proximity represents a contextual risk factor for the parish. The likelihood of an incident affecting the community is low; however, the potential impact could be significant. Marwell Zoo has its own emergency response plans and would work directly with the emergency services. The role of the community plan is limited to awareness, communication, and resident safety.

Risks:

- Escape of a dangerous animal
- Major fire
- Large-scale emergency response requiring cordons or evacuation

Impacts:

- Residents advised to remain indoors (lockdown)
- Road closures affecting access to and from the village
- High public and media interest

Mitigation:

- Awareness that emergency services will take full control
- Residents understand the importance of following official instructions
- Pre-agreed communication channels for rapid information sharing

Actions During an Incident:

- Immediately follow instructions from police or emergency services
- Remain indoors unless instructed to evacuate
- Keep doors and windows closed if advised
- Do not attempt to approach the zoo or incident site

- Share only verified information via agreed community channels

5. Community Roles and Responsibilities

Incident Priorities

When responding to any emergency, the following priorities apply:

1. Preserve life and safety.
2. Support vulnerable people.
3. Protect property and the environment.
4. Maintain essential communication.
5. Support professional responders.

These priorities guide all community actions under this plan.

5.1 Community Emergency Coordinators

- Act as main point of contact
- Liaise with emergency services and local authorities
- Coordinate volunteers

5.2 Parish Council

- Supports plan maintenance
- Provides local leadership

5.3 Volunteers

- Welfare checks
- Transport and deliveries
- Information sharing

5.4 Residents

- Personal preparedness
- Looking out for neighbours
- Following official guidance

6. Communication Plan

Effective communication is critical during an emergency, particularly given the dispersed nature of the parish and its outlying hamlets.

Principles:

- Share accurate, verified information only
- Follow instructions from emergency services and local authorities

- Avoid spreading rumours or speculation
- Respect privacy and data protection requirements

Primary methods:

- Village and hamlet WhatsApp or messaging groups
- Noticeboards
- Direct contact via hamlet representatives

Hamlet Representatives (where available): Each outlying area (Marwell, Longwood, Morestead, Baybridge, and Hensting Lane as far as Morelands Copse) should, where possible, have an identified local contact or representative. These roles are informal and voluntary and help to:

- Relay information to and from the central coordination point
- Identify emerging issues or urgent needs
- Coordinate welfare checks locally
- Report back to Community Emergency Co-ordinators

7. Parish Map Description

Owslebury Parish is a rural area located south-east of Winchester in Hampshire. The parish comprises a central village core and several outlying hamlets and rural corridors.

- **Central Owslebury Village:** Contains the village hall, church, and main residential cluster, acting as the primary coordination and information hub during emergencies.
- **Marwell:** Located to the south, including the area surrounding Marwell Zoo, with rural housing and access via minor roads.
- **Longwood:** A small, dispersed settlement to the south-east, surrounded by woodland and farmland.
- **Morestead:** Located to the north, connected by rural lanes, with a mix of residential and agricultural properties.
- **Baybridge:** A small cluster of properties to the south along rural routes, potentially affected by surface water and road access issues.
- **Hensting Lane (to Morelands Copse):** A linear rural area with dispersed housing, woodland, and limited alternative access routes. Potentially affected by surface water and road access issues.

The parish is connected primarily by minor roads and lanes, which may be vulnerable to flooding, snow, fallen trees, or accidents. Emergency response times may vary across the parish, particularly in more remote locations.

8. Key Locations and Resources

The following buildings and facilities have been approached and agreement has been received in principle for their use, subject to safety considerations, to support the community during an emergency:

- **Village Hall:** Primary community coordination point; may be used as a rest centre, information hub, or warm space. A publicly accessible **defibrillator (AED)** is located at the Village Hall.
- **The Ship (Public House):** Agreed location for temporary shelter, information sharing, and community support, subject to tenant availability and safety considerations.
- **Primary School:** May be used as a place of safety or support facility, subject to operational circumstances and local authority requirements.
- **Church:** May be used for community support, rest, or quiet space during prolonged incidents, or as a cool space during heat waves.
- **Emergency equipment:** Grit bins, first aid kits, **publicly accessible defibrillator (AED) located at the Village Hall**

Use of all buildings will remain subject to the nature of the emergency and any specific safety or access constraints at the time.

9. Vulnerable Residents

A confidential, voluntary register should be maintained to identify residents who may need additional support during an emergency.

10. Training and Exercises

- Annual review of the plan
- Periodic table-top or practical exercises
- Volunteer training in first aid and emergency response

11. Risk Matrix Summary

The table below provides a high-level overview of the key risks affecting Owslebury Parish.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Rating
Severe weather (snow, storms, heat)	High	Medium–High	High
Flooding (surface water)	Medium	Medium	Medium–High
Power and utilities failure	Medium	Medium	Medium
Transport disruption	Medium	Medium	Medium

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Rating
Fire (domestic or rural)	Low– Medium	High	Medium
Pandemic / public health emergency	Low– Medium	High	Medium
Major incident at Marwell Zoo	Low	High	Medium

This matrix is indicative and should be reviewed annually or following any significant incident.

12. Recovery and Post-Incident Actions

Following any emergency, the focus will shift from immediate response to recovery. This may include:

- Support residents returning home
- Emotional and practical support
- Review response and update plan

13. Plan Maintenance

- Review annually or after an incident
- Update contact details and risk assessments
- Approval by Parish Council

14. Useful Contacts

Contact details should be reviewed at least annually and updated following any personnel changes.

Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)	999	
Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance	999	
Police (Non-emergency)	101	
NHS (Non-emergency)	111	
Hampshire Fire and Rescue (Non-emergency)	02380 644 000	office hours
	02380 386 390	out of hours
Flood Line (warnings and advice)	0845 988 1188	24 hours
Hampshire Constabulary HQ	08450 454 545	

Utilities

SSEN (Electricity Network)	0800 072 7282
Report a power cut or hazard	105
Southern Water	0330 303 0368
Gas (emergency leaks including off grid)	0800 111 999

Councils

HCC	0845 603 5638 (office hours)
	0300 555 1373 (out of hours)
HCC Highways	0300 555 1388
WCC Emergency	01962 840 222 (office hours)
	01962 840 222 (out of hours)

General

Radio Solent	96.1 FM & 103.8FM
Rapid Relief Team	0208 391 7625

Appendix C – Confidential Contact Directory (Restricted Distribution) will contain contact details for key personnel, building keyholders, volunteers and specialist resources and will be maintained separately in a confidential Contact Directory held by the Parish Clerk and Community Emergency Coordinator.

Version Control and Approval

Version	Date	Description of Change	Approved By
1.2		Adopted by Owslebury Parish Council	

Next Review Due: 12 months from adoption, or following a significant incident.

Document Distribution

This plan will be:

- Held and updated by Owslebury Emergency Committee
- Held by Owslebury Parish Council
- Made available to Hampshire County Council and other responding authorities on request
- Used to inform community volunteers and local response arrangements

A shorter resident-facing summary may be distributed publicly.