

MAIN RIVERS

CHILDREY BROOK

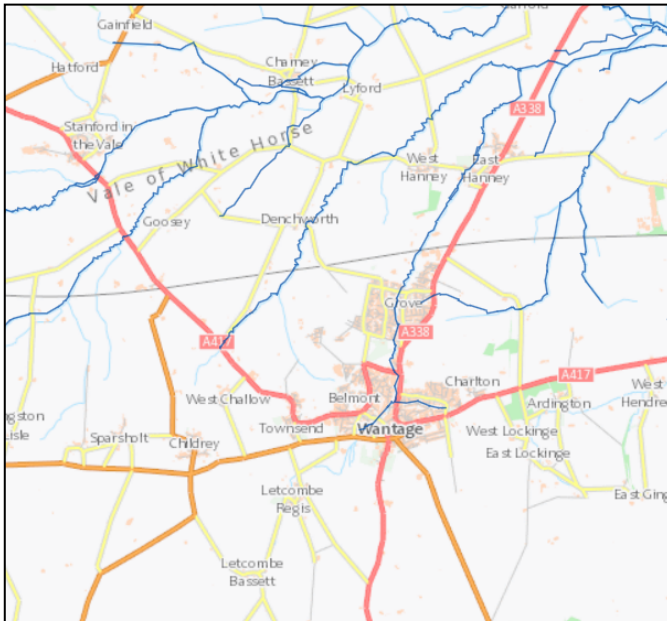
The designation of **Main River** applies to the **Childrey Brook from the A417 to its confluence with the River Ock near Marcham Mill** but this only applies to the Childrey tributary. The West Challow tributary (the one that has been causing all the flooding) is *NOT* currently designated as Main River.

LETCOMBE BROOK

The designation Main River applies to the **Letcombe Brook from Locks Lane to its meeting with the Childrey Brook at Garford**. The **Humber Ditch** is also classified as Main River from Charlton Village Road until it reaches the Letcombe Brook.

Main Rivers are usually larger watercourses which are designated as a 'main river' on the Environment Agency's (EA) Main River Map [Statutory Main River Map](#). Some smaller watercourses can also be classified as main rivers if they pose a significant flood risk. The Environment Agency carry out maintenance, improvement, and construction work on main rivers to manage flood risk for the catchment.

The term Main River can change over time as the Environment Agency update their records.



The dark blue lines are main rivers

ORDINARY WATERCOURSES

An **Ordinary Watercourse** is any river, stream, ditch, drain, cut, dyke, sluice, or passage through which water flows that is **not classified as a main river**. These watercourses are typically smaller and managed by local authorities, rather than the Environment Agency, which oversees main rivers.

Local authorities have **permissive powers** to carry out flood defence works on ordinary watercourses, but the primary responsibility for maintenance usually falls on **riparian owners** (those who own land adjacent to the watercourse). If an ordinary watercourse touches a property, the landowner may be responsible for keeping it clear of obstructions to ensure proper water flow.

Woodhill Brook is an Ordinary Watercourse.