

## **Transcription**

### **KNOWING THE SITUATION AND GETTING ON WITH IT**

#### **Transcription of a digital story told by Brian, a business owner from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, UK**

If you live in Tewkesbury and subject to flooding you have your own personal flood gauge - it could be a brick wall or doorstep or anything that is personal to you.

This gate is my flood gauge. When I drive to work I can tell where the water is on the gate what to expect when I get to the shop.

On the way home you decide if it's higher or lower so you get home either happy or severely depressed. At the 2007 flood the gate completely disappeared, nearby houses and our businesses were instantly flooded.

The building was flooded to a depth of 4 foot so virtually everything was destroyed.

This feeling of helplessness produced a fragile state of mind followed by a dread of going in for the first time. When the time came, my friend Richard Bailey knew how I was feeling, bundled me in the car and dragged me down to Tewkesbury.

What we found was total devastation but still we couldn't do anything until the mud dried enough to work on.

The 2007 flood prompted us to do some remedial work. The building has been up for about 60 years, it has been consistently flooded hundreds of times and has had the effect of eroding the foundations away nearest to the Carrant Brook. Our plans are to excavate and install a row of gabions alongside the brook to stop water further penetrating the building.

Flood gauge are useless to us because water finds its way in through the floor. The one single thing that is of most use is the Environment Agency's flood alert information. We have a series of telephone numbers which take you straight to a flood gauge to get a reading. By keeping the readings year on year and referring to them every time you really can formulate an accurate prediction.

When we brought the property we knew exactly the flooding situation so we do not need any sympathy, we just get on with it.