## Munday's Underbridge

[Adapted from *Building on Success,* Oxford Flood Alliance, March 2010.]

A 19 m wide bridge under the main line railway, conveying water from west to east and into the Thames.

Importance: it must work to full capacity to avoid water building up in the western floodplain.

Ownership: Network Rail (NR); Hinksey Drain is a Main River, so EA has powers. Road drains: Thames Water and Oxfordshire County Council.

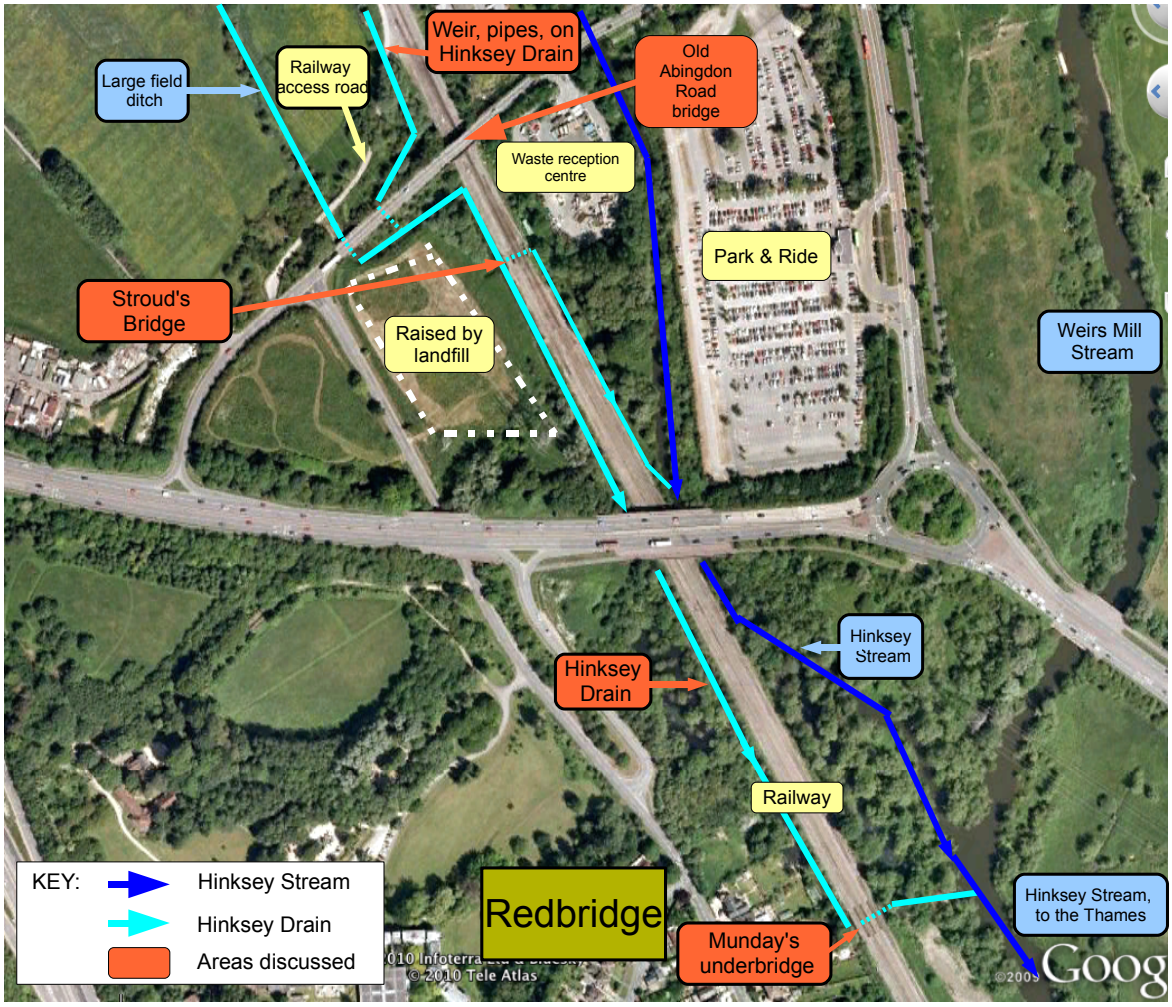


Fig. 3. Redbridge, showing Munday's as the final point at which floodwater can get under the dam formed by the railway line and leave the floodplain.

Hinksey Drain just upstream from Munday's is shown in flood in the next two photographs, figs. 4 and 5.

Fig. 4. Main railway line just below the Abingdon Road bridge, with Hinksey Drain over its banks in the foreground (2008).

Fig. 5. Looking south from the Abingdon Road bridge. Hinksey Drain runs alongside the line on the right of the photograph, flowing south.

Work done by the Environment Agency in 2009 helped to open the bridge up - by desilting and clearing the channel beyond, removing a concrete wall (sic) across the stream leading to the bridge, and clearing a short length of the channel upstream from the bridge. This is welcome. However, there remains much more to be done to get the bridge back to working at full capacity. The approach channel (Hinksey Drain) is narrow as it nears the bridge, being only about 4.8 m wide (Fig. 6).


Fig. 6. Looking downstream to Munday's underbridge

A 0.9 m road drain pipe from Kennington Road sticks well out into the stream leading to the bridge, restricting the channel. Consequently the downstream part of the bridge silts up quickly (Figs. 7 and 8)

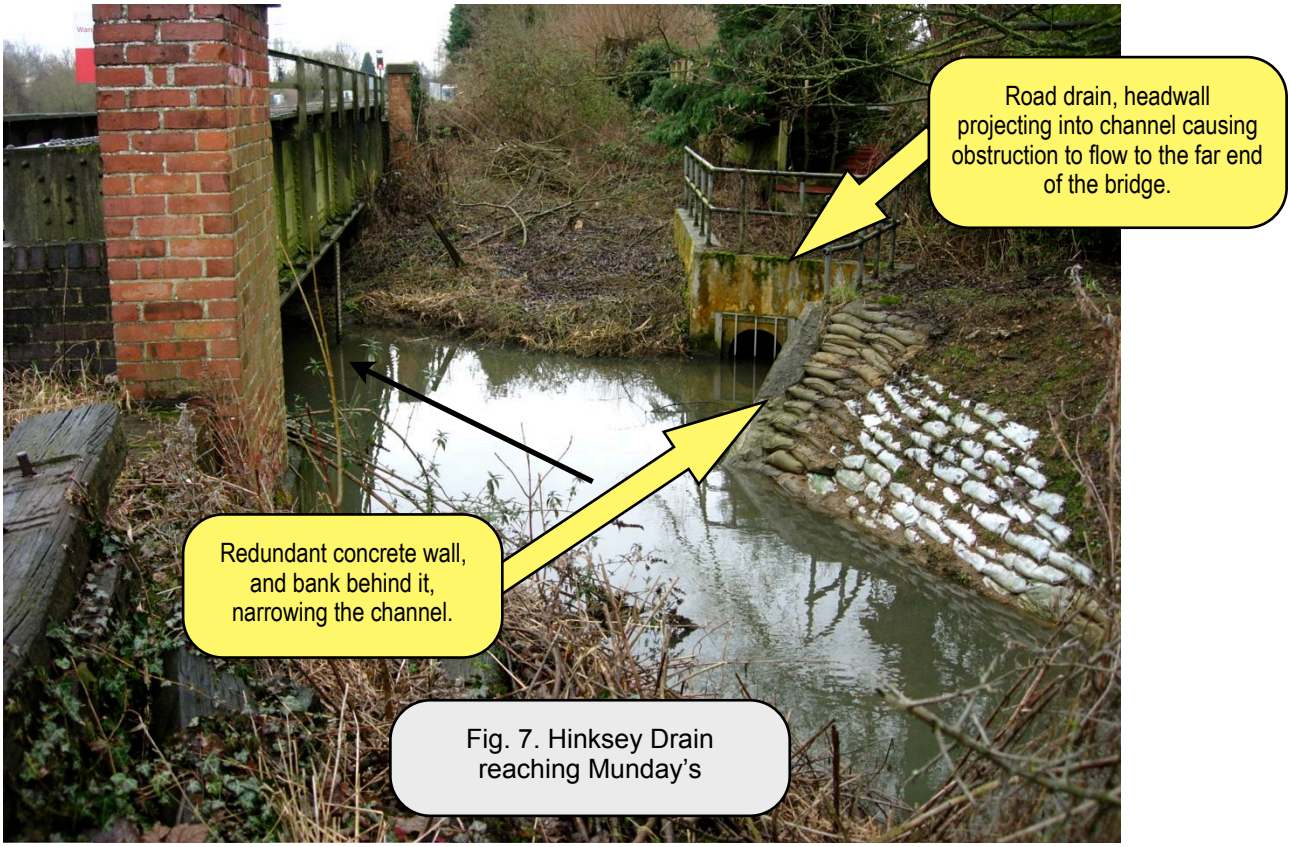


Fig. 7. Hinksey Drain reaching Munday's


Fig. 8. Wasted bridge

Suggestions (Fig. 9):

- The road drain pipe should be cut well back and a new headwall built.
- The soil in front of the far end of the bridge and the soil and silt under it should be cleared.
- The approach channel is discussed below on page 11: *'Hinksey Drain from the bridge on the old Abingdon Road to Stroud's and Munday's bridges'* .

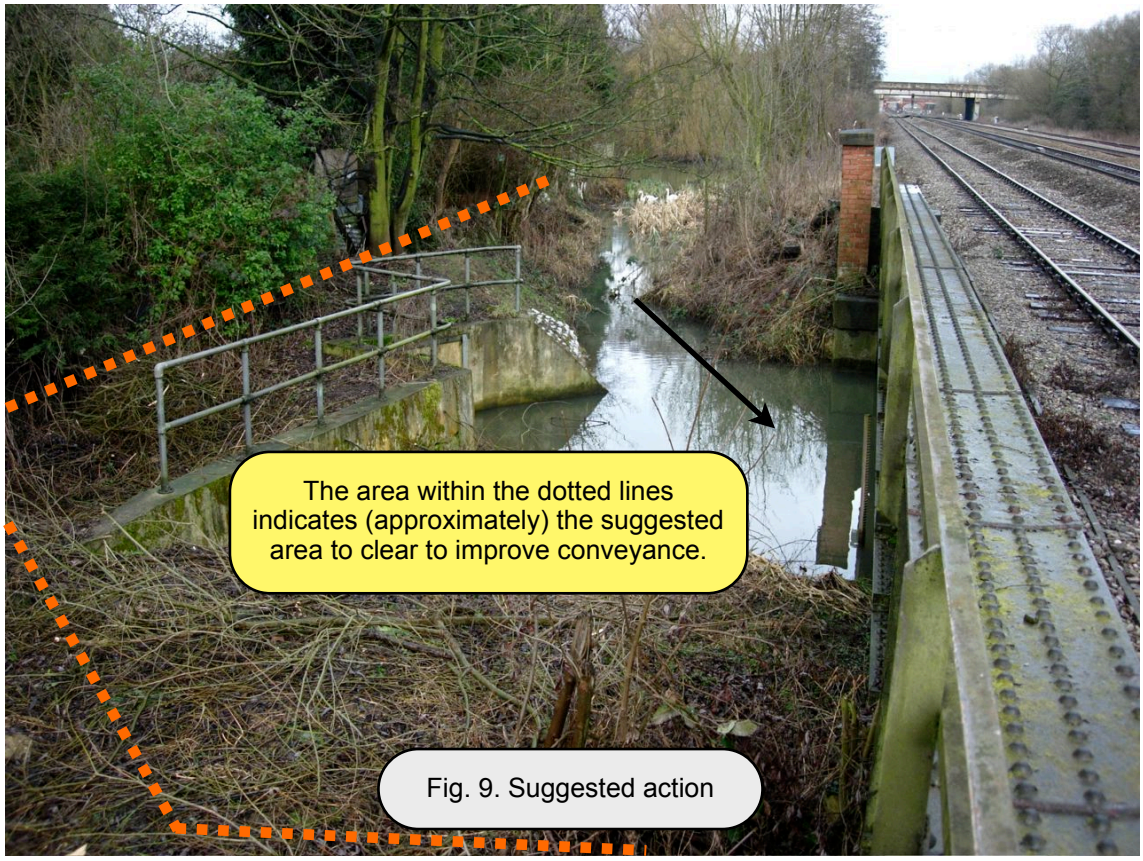


Fig. 9. Suggested action