Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Sweffling Flood Investigation –

Storm Babet 2023



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Date Published		16/12/2025
Latest Update		08/10/2026
Date Report Closed		

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Executive Summary

Storm Babet caused significant disruption to communities across Suffolk between 18th-21st October 2023. Sweffling was a community that was significantly impacted, with 5 properties suffering internal flooding as well as disruption to infrastructure and services. Suffolk County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, have therefore undertaken a Section 19 Flood Investigation. The resulting report will:

- highlight the probable causes of flooding
- identify options to reduce future flood risk and increase property resilience
- make recommendations for actions by relevant responsible organisations, landowners or homeowners.

Sweffling is located in an area at significant risk of both fluvial (river) and pluvial (surface water) flooding and the nature of the surrounding topography and geology contributes to the susceptibility of the community to flooding. Areas of Sweffling are low-lying, surrounded by a reasonably steep rural catchment, with multiple flow paths converging in the village where the gradient is noticeably shallower. The local geology and soils are characterised as having low permeability and high run off, making a number of properties in Sweffling vulnerable to flooding due to intense rainfall events.

Storm Babet delivered significant rainfall to the catchment, following an extended period of above average rainfall. Impacts within Sweffling were widespread and for the purposes of this report, the affected areas have been categorised into two zones. The description of the flood events detailed in the report have been compiled using data submitted to Suffolk County Council, as well as information from Risk Management Authorities (e.g. Suffolk County Council Highways and Anglian Water) and the community.

A comprehensive summary for each zone is provided within the report, outlining the context of the event and the impact. Key findings are that Sweffling was severely impacted by flooding due to the intensity of rainfall, that overwhelmed the natural flow routes and the capacity of watercourses and drainage infrastructure. This situation was compounded when overland flow paths converged and saw the resultant internal flooding of property.

Short, medium and longer term recommendations have been published and each have a potential role to improve resilience and reduce the risk of flooding to Sweffling. For short term measures, key highlights include the implementation of community flood plans, maximising Property Flood Resilience (PFR) grants, removal of blockages within watercourses, as well as investigations into local drainage infrastructure. For medium to longer term recommendations, there is emphasis on the management of

water from rural land and the creation of new natural flood management features, to reduce flood risk within the catchment.

Justification for Investigation

Suffolk County Council, Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has determined that in accordance with our criteria, it is considered necessary and appropriate to carry out an investigation into this flood event.

This is in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and in accordance with Section 19 (2) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, to publish the results and notify the relevant risk management authorities (RMAs).

Section 19 Local authorities: investigations

(1) On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate -

> *(a) which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and*
>
> *(b) whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.*

(2) Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must -

> *(a) publish the results of its investigation, and*
>
> *(b) notify any relevant risk management authorities*

Criteria for an investigation (as per Appendix D of the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy):	
There was a risk to life because of flooding?	
Internal flooding of one property (domestic or business) has been experienced on more than one occasion?	
Internal flooding of five properties has been experienced during one single flood incident	✓
Where a major transport route was closed for more than 10 hours because of flooding	
Critical infrastructure was affected by flooding	
There is ambiguity surrounding the source or responsibility of a flood incident	

Understanding the flood context

1. What happened during Storm Babet

A succession of weather fronts between the 11th and 13th of October 2023 brought significant rainfall to the region. Readings indicate that between 30mm and 50mm of rain fell across Suffolk compared with an average of just less than 65mm across the whole month of October according to Met Office weather data (Met Office, 1991-2020). This significant rainfall occurred in a short space of time and resulted in saturated land and rivers reaching their capacity. Shortly after this, Storm Babet followed on the 18th to 21st of October 2023. The storm brought between 50 mm and 80 mm of rain to much of central and northern East Anglia, with some Suffolk weather stations recording the wettest October day on record.

The Environment Agency river level measuring stations indicated many flows close to or exceeding their highest on record, and the weather remained wetter than average for the rest of the month. October 2023 was the joint wettest on record in the east of England since 1871. During Storm Babet, Suffolk saw the heaviest rainfall across East Anglia causing significant flooding of roads and properties. The river systems rose rapidly across whole catchments due to the existing conditions, which was unusual as storms will often impact a small area and result in a steady progression of flood water downstream. A major incident was declared by the Suffolk Resilience Forum (SRF) in the afternoon of the 20th of October due to significant impacts on communities and disruption to the road and rail networks.

The following maps illustrate the extent to which the rainfall in the months preceding Storm Babet exceeded the average monthly rainfall for July to October in recent years in Suffolk.

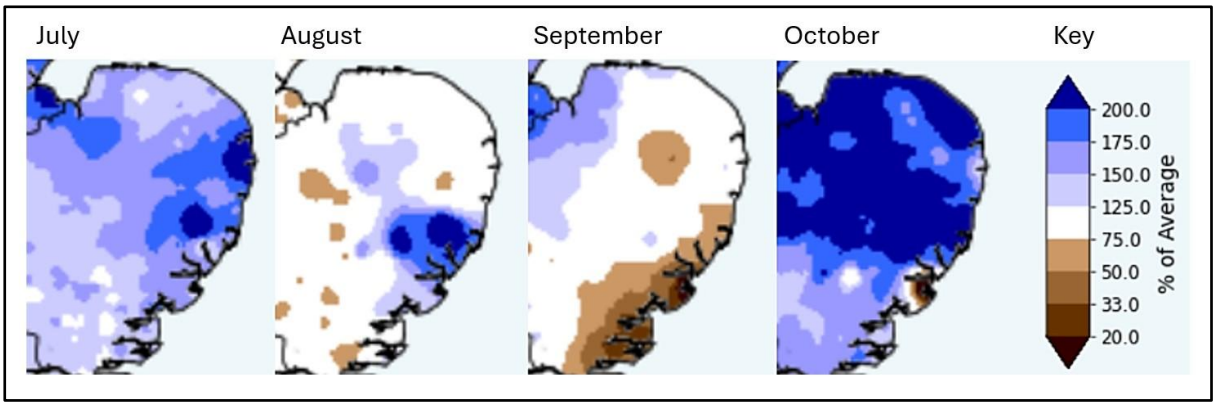


Figure 1 - Average rainfall in East Anglia between July and October 2023 as a percentage of the historical average monthly rainfall

The following report acknowledges that October 2023, and in particular Storm Babet, was an extreme event and will assess the likely causes and impacts. The report will recommend measures to reduce the risk of flooding within the location, in line with best practice, ranging from large to small scale interventions and be targeted at a range of stakeholders. It should be noted that Storm Babet was a significant event, with a low probability of recurrence. The recommendations will provide advice about reducing flood risk; however, they should not be relied upon as a guaranteed failsafe to mitigate against all future flooding.

2. Location of flooding

Sweffling is a village and parish situated in the Alde River valley. It is in the local authority district of East Suffolk. The village is approximately three miles to the west of the market town of Saxmundham.

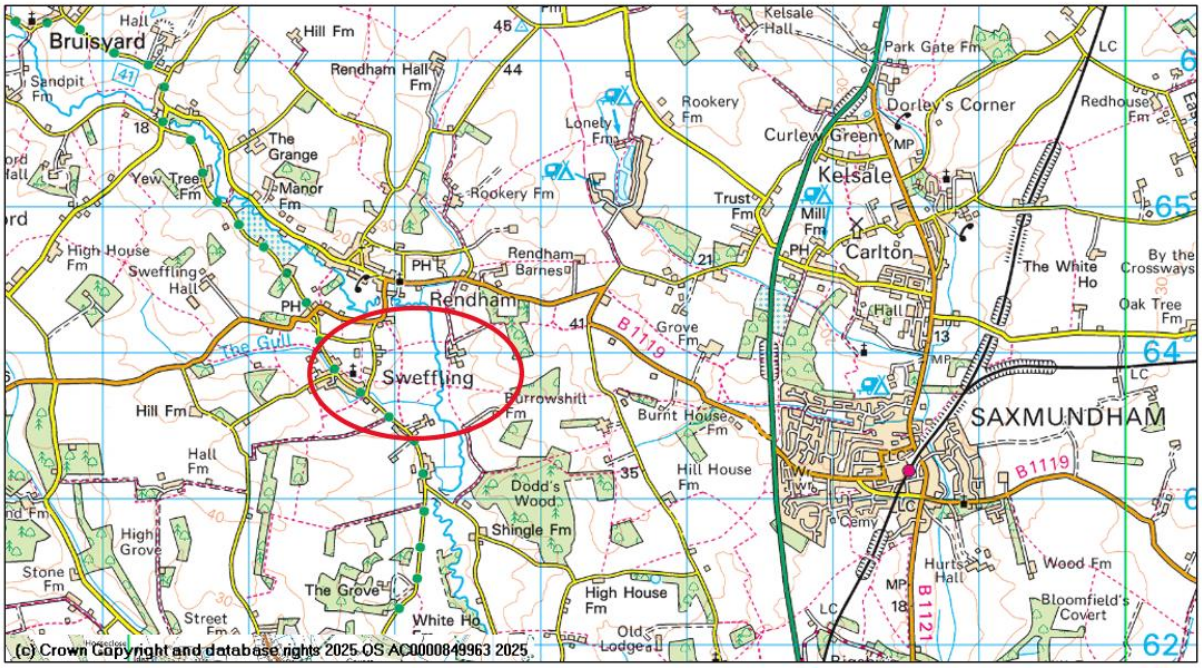


Figure 2 - Investigation area map

The Environment Agency has permissive powers to carry out maintenance, improvement or construction work on main rivers to manage flood risk. The Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) have similar permissive powers but instead relate to ordinary watercourses within their district.

Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) manage the flood risk from ordinary watercourses but responsibility for maintaining watercourses rests with the Riparian landowner, defined as those who have a river, stream or ditch which runs next to or through their land or property.

Figure. 3 below, shows the most significant watercourses (designated main river) in and around Sweffling.



Figure 3 - Location of statutory main river and ordinary watercourses

The East Suffolk Water Management Board (ESWMB) manages flood risk for the ordinary watercourses flowing into the River Alde in the area shown in Fig.4. The Gull is an ordinary watercourse maintainable by private landowners. There is a section of watercourse designated as a Board Arterial Watercourse (classified as Lower Priority for maintenance purposes) located to the east of Rendham.

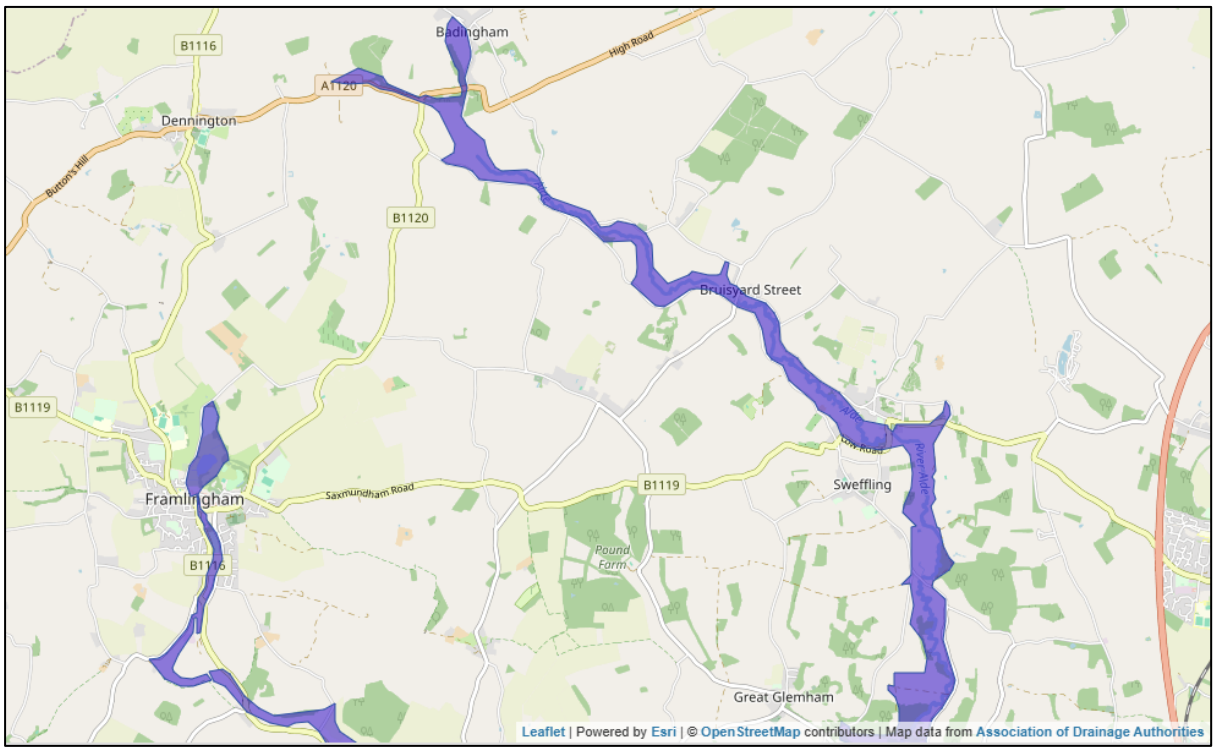


Figure 4 - Area of East Suffolk Water Management Board responsibility for flood risk in ordinary watercourses

On the 20th of October 2023, Storm Babet resulted in significant rainfall in Suffolk on top of an already wetter than average October. This caused internal flooding to properties, residential and commercial, across the county from various flooding sources. Sweffling was impacted with 5 properties reporting internal flooding. Flood water was described as coming from multiple sources including surface water runoff from surrounding fields and highways (pluvial) and the overtopping of local watercourses (fluvial).

For the purposes of this investigation the areas affected by flooding have been separated into two distinct locations (see Figure 5). The locations are as follows:

1. Holdens Lane and The Street
2. Low Road

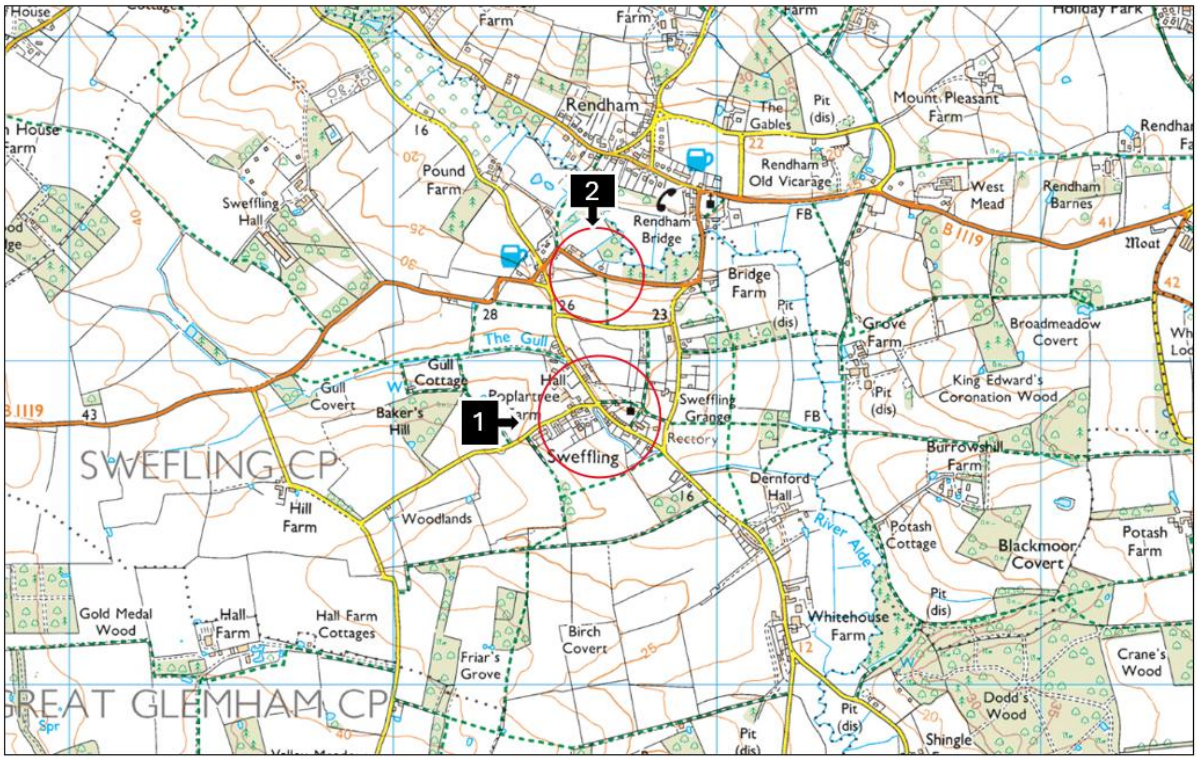


Figure 5 - Sweffling investigation area map with locations

3. Records of any historical flooding

The Environment Agency hold no historic records flooding in the area of Sweffling. Suffolk Highways have historical records of flooding at both Low Road and Holdens Lane.

4. Predicted Flood Risk

Several areas of Sweffling are at risk of flooding from pluvial and fluvial sources.

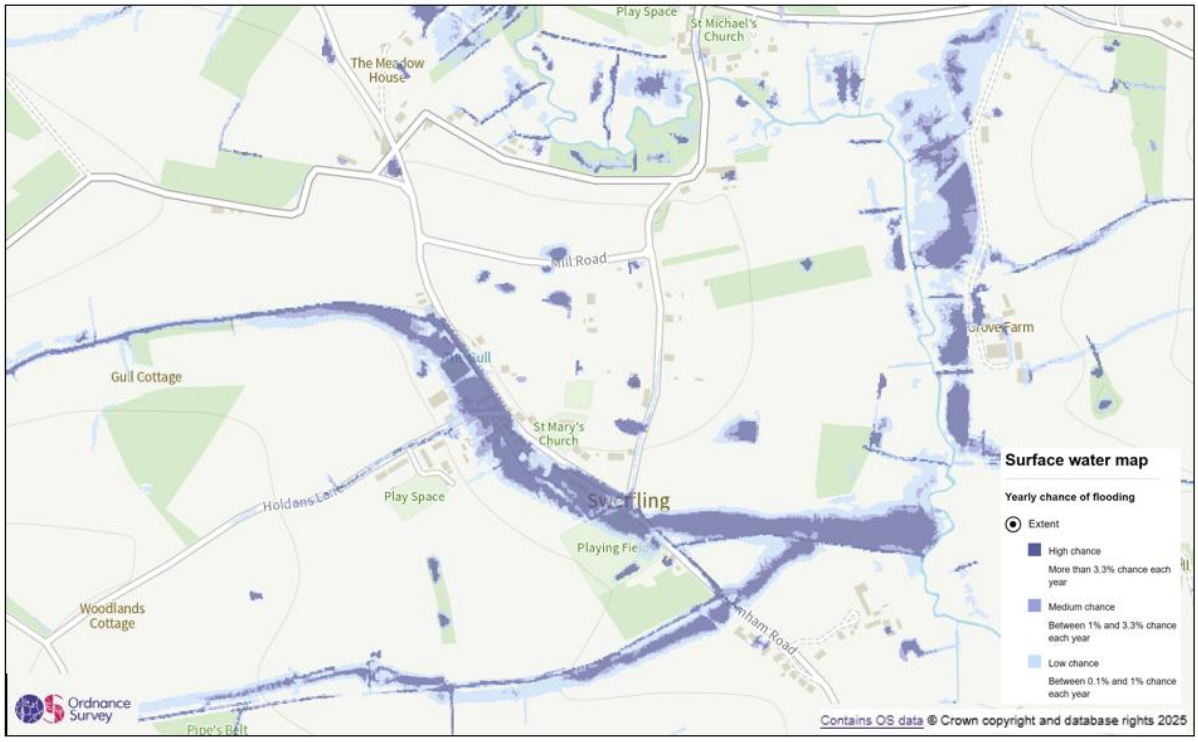


Figure 6 - Surface water flood risk

Figure 6. highlights the predicted pluvial (surface water run-off from surrounding land and highways) flood risk in Sweffling, with multiple flow paths travelling east through the village and into the River Alde.

Pluvial flood risk varies across the locations, ranging from low to high risk. Impacted locations including The Street, Holdens Lane and Low Road closely align with predicted flood risk for this area.

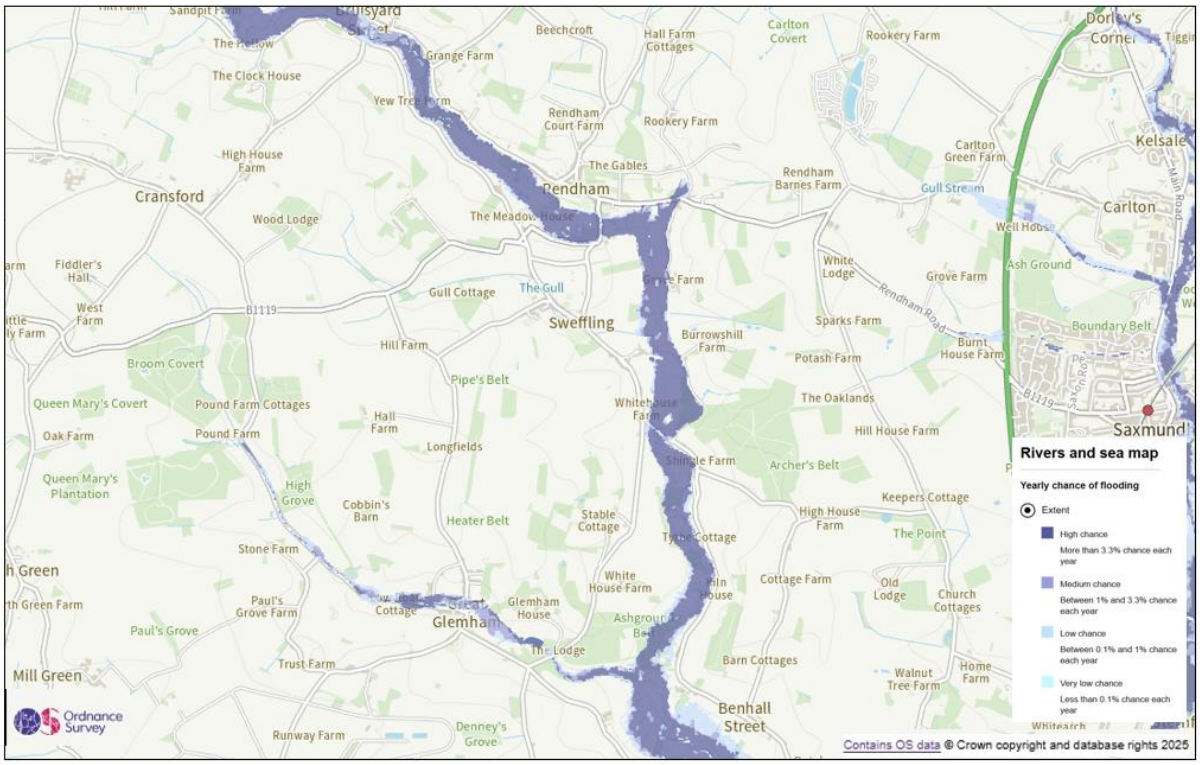


Figure 7 - Flood risk from rivers and sea

Figure 7 shows the predicted fluvial (from designated main river and ordinary watercourses) flood risk in Sweffling. The fluvial flood risk in Swefling is predominantly associated with the Gull which is a tributary of the River Alde. The Gull flows west to east through the village, before connecting with the River Alde to the east.

There is a low to high chance of fluvial flooding on sections of The Street, Holdens Lane and Low Road.

5. Catchment characteristics

The village of Sweffling is situated in the Alde River valley. The village is surrounded by higher ground to the north, east and west, which is primarily consisting of agricultural land. Surface water from this elevated land drains into a watercourse that flows from the catchment area to the northwest, passes through the village and discharges into the Alde River to the southeast.

At the bottom of the catchment, Snape sluice marks the tidal limit for the Alde and Ore estuary which flows to the North Sea. Snape is approximately 6 miles southeast of Sweffling.

The low-lying nature of Sweffling in the valley of the river Alde means that during high rainfall events, considerable overland flowpaths converge upstream and flow through Sweffling bringing floodwater in close proximity to many properties in the village. Overwhelmed drainage infrastructure may frequently be observed during these intense rainfall events.

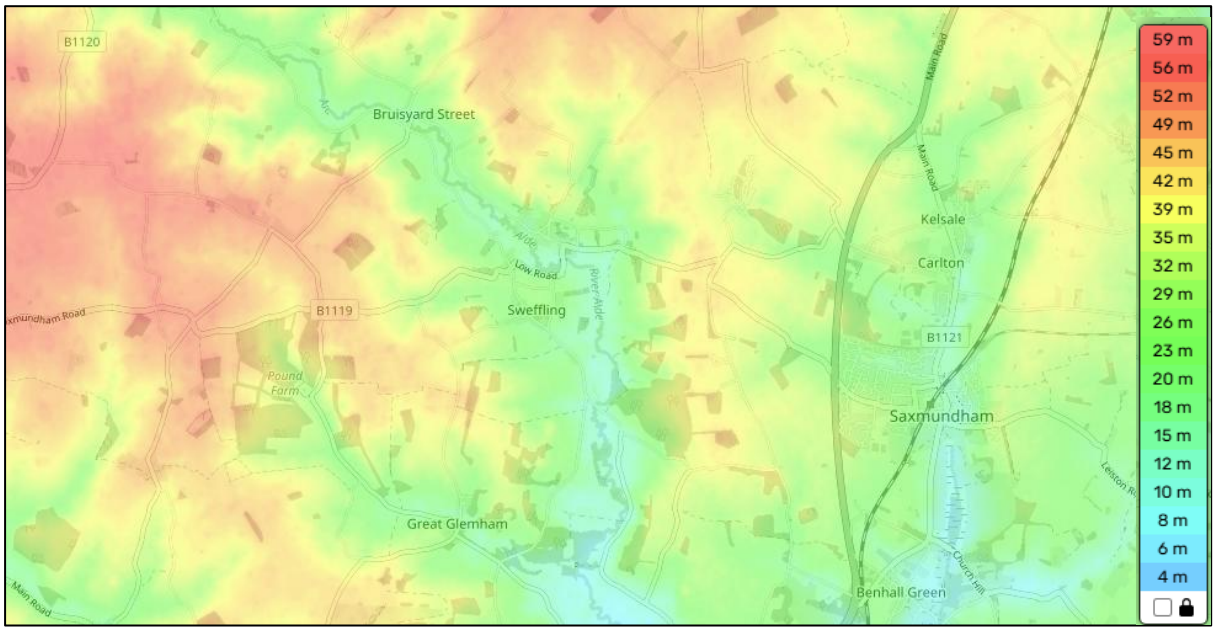


Figure 8 - Sweffling and surrounding topography (TessaDEM as cited in topographic-map.com)

Figure 8 shows the topography surrounding Sweffling with gradient changes across the wider region. Sweffling village is situated low in the landscape and some of the lowest points in Sweffling are along The Street, Holdens Lane and Low Road. These locations were identified as being some of the worst affected areas during Storm Babet.

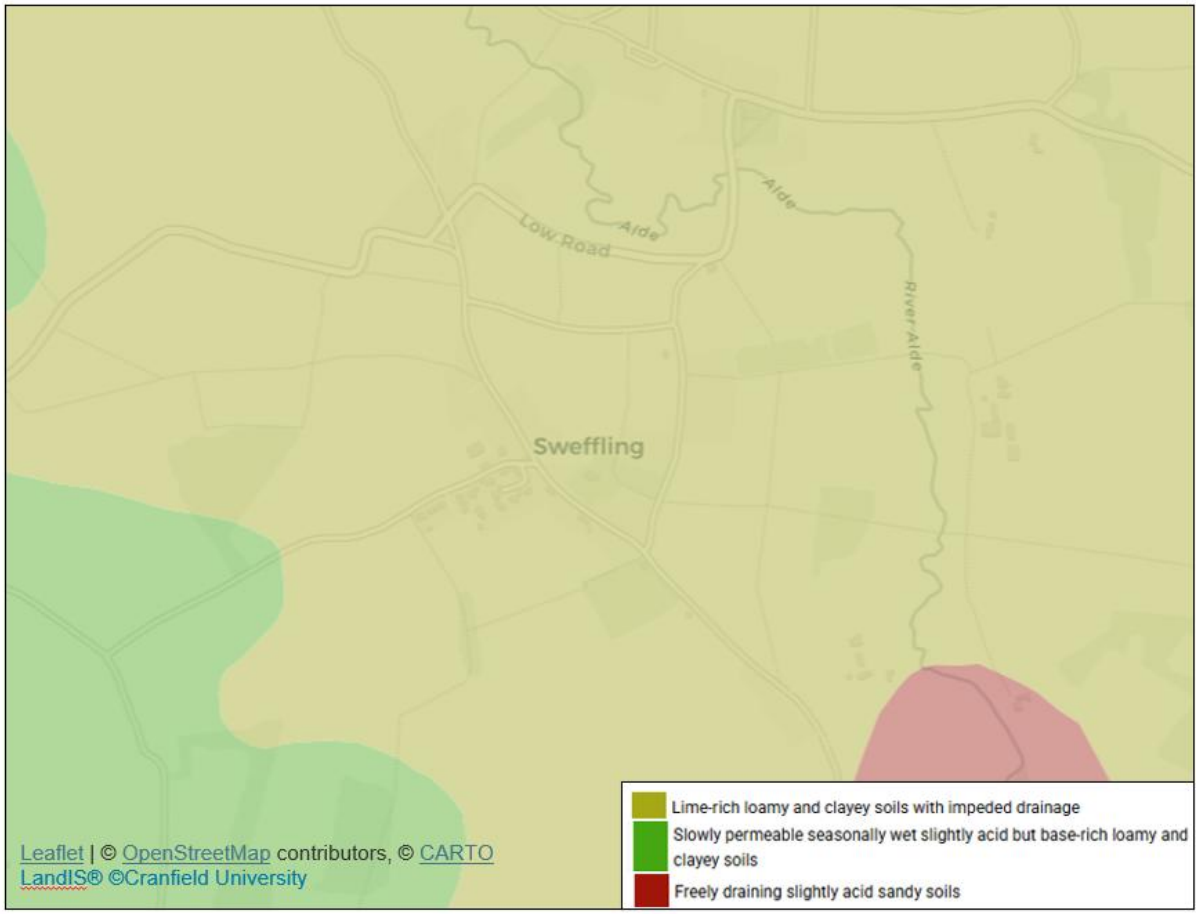


Figure 9 - Soil map (LandIS Soilscapes)

The soils surrounding Sweffling are loamy and clayey with impeded drainage, meaning that water permeates more slowly and surface water runoff is greater. The floodplain soils surrounding the River Alde are more freely draining with naturally high groundwater and tend to be wetter.

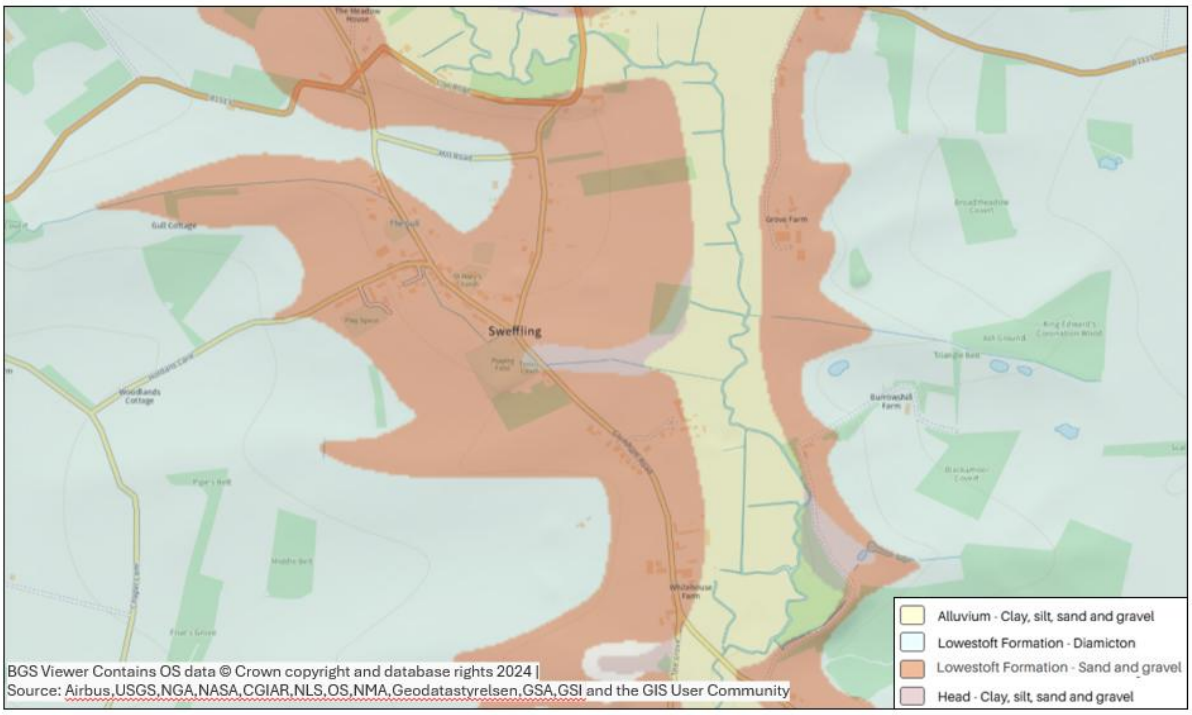


Figure 10 - Superficial Geology (BGS Viewer)

Lowestoft Formation 'Diamicton' surrounds Sweffling which is described by the British geological survey as a diverse mixture of clay, sand, gravel, and boulders varying widely in size and shape. This generally has a low permeability, meaning water will tend to flow off it before it can be infiltrated.

Much of Sweffling lies in low-lying terrain, where surface water naturally flows into The Gull and subsequently the River Alde. Combined with the low permeability of surrounding soils, this makes the area particularly susceptible to flooding during extreme rainfall events.

Flooding Source(s), Pathway(s) & Receptor(s)

Storm Babet was an extreme event which came at a time when Suffolk had experienced a significant amount of rainfall in the preceding week.

Storm Babet delivered significant rainfall in the catchment between 19 and 20 October. The nearest rainfall gauge to Sweffling is in Benhall Green. At the Benhall Green rainfall gauge there was 44mm of rain recorded in a 12-hour period. At the Woodbridge rainfall gauge there was 52.4mm of rain recorded over a period of 17hrs between 19 Oct and 20 Oct. More than half (31.4mm) of the rainfall was received in just over 4hrs between 06:45am to 11:00am on 20 October.

The Environment Agency issue two types of warning when flooding is possible from a main river. These are:

1. Flood Alert – Flooding is possible. Be prepared. - usually issued between 2 and 12 hours before flooding.
2. Flood Warning - Flooding is expected. Immediate action required – usually issued 30 minutes to 2 hours before flooding.

Sweffling is not covered by the Environment Agency Flood Warning Service.

The description of the flood events described below will discuss the probable sources of flooding, the observed flow paths through the community and the receptors which have been affected. The term ‘floodwater’ may be used to describe both fluvial (water from a watercourse) and pluvial (surface water run-off) flooding. This section has been prepared using reports submitted to Suffolk County Council via the online Highways Reporting Tool and information gathered by Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and the community.

Detailed descriptions of each investigation area can be found in the following section.

1. Holdens Lane and The Street

Following heavy rainfall on the morning of 20 October, large volumes of surface water from the surrounding agricultural land merged with floodwater from the highway, along with water from the overtopping banks of The Gull.

At approximately 10.30am, a significant volume of water travelling south along The Gull - originating from higher agricultural land to the east west and south of the village - spilled onto The Street, to a depth of about 30-40 cm. This was compounded by a very significant flow of water travelling at speed downhill, in an easterly direction from the fields at the top of Holdens Lane towards the junction with The Street. Along the way, flood water entered driveways of properties, subsequently flowing towards buildings, causing internal flooding. The two bodies of water converged at the junction, causing water to back up toward a nearby cul-de-sac, as there was nowhere else for

it to go. The excess water then spread laterally toward adjacent residential properties, leading to deep pooling on The Street and surrounding roads

To the south of the village, the watercourse quickly reached its capacity due to the volume of floodwater. This situation was worsened by a lack of maintenance, which contributed to the water overtopping and spilling onto The Street at the southern end. Flood water then spread northwards, along The Street, resulting in part of The Street becoming impassable.

The source of the flooding is thought to have been contributed to by the large amount of pluvial and fluvial flood water overwhelming the capacity of the culvert. The eastern bank of The Gull, in some locations along The Street, was overwhelmed, allowing floodwater to flow through one or more gardens before discharging into The Street. where, it met water travelling from the south.

One resident commented that around 14.30 water levels suddenly dropped, commenting that the sluice gates at Snape may have been opened.

On the day of the flooding, the high tide at Iken Cliffs was at approximately 04.56 and 17.17. The sluice gate at Snape (through which the river Alde flows to the Alde and Ore estuary and subsequently into the North Sea) is a passive structure without external power supply, which operates in relation to the relative fluvial and tidal water levels. At high tide the pressure of the tidal waters closes the gates to protect the upstream freshwater environment from undesirable saltwater incursion. Low tide was 11.24 and 23.31 respectively, therefore this would not have impacted the flooding in Sweffling.

The majority of the highway drainage assets in this area were recorded as being operational. There was one asset at the junction of Church Road and The Street that was non-operational at the time. A resident commented that they felt the drainage along Holdens Lane was ineffective due to poor maintenance and that previous drainage assets were no longer there, commenting that when there is high rainfall, there is an issue of high levels of surface water that travel down and accumulate at the junction of Holdens Lane and The Street. Residents have dug a trench to help alleviate the volumes of water on the highway, although this is a temporary measure and not a permanent solution.

During Storm Babet the existing highway drainage assets on Holdens Lane and The Street were overwhelmed by the sheer amount of floodwater. It is likely the water had nowhere to drain to, as the watercourse into which the gullies drain, was at capacity and overtopping.

The floodwater flowpaths observed on Holdens Lane and The Street during Storm Babet closely match the national fluvial flood risk mapping (see Figure 11). Sections of Holdens Lane are characterised as having a high chance of pluvial flooding and low

chance of fluvial flooding. The chance of pluvial flooding on The Street is low, with fluvial risk being high in areas (Figure 5).

In Summary:

- Following heavy rainfall, high water volumes flowed down multiple watercourses surrounding the catchment. Water levels exceeded the capacity of the channel in multiple locations and flowed across land and onto the highway.
- High volumes of surface water from neighbouring agricultural land and the highway flowed at speed down Holden's lane, merging with floodwater from The Gull. The culvert became overwhelmed and not able to cope with the volume of water.
- Drainage assets on Holdens Lane and The Street were overwhelmed by the sheer amount of floodwater and were unable to outfall into the watercourse. In addition, a resident's observations suggest that a gully along Holdens Lane may be positioned too high to intercept surface runoff efficiently.
- The gully located at the junction of Rectory Road and The Street was not operational at the time of the event. Nevertheless, due to the intensity of rainfall and the large volumes of runoff generated, it is considered unlikely that the gully's operation would have materially reduced flooding in this location
- Some properties were flooded from the front, directly from surface water on the highway.
- To the rear of The Street, water levels in The Gull rose steadily. The situation was worsened by the lack of maintenance of the watercourse, leading to flooding across several gardens and causing internal flooding in properties

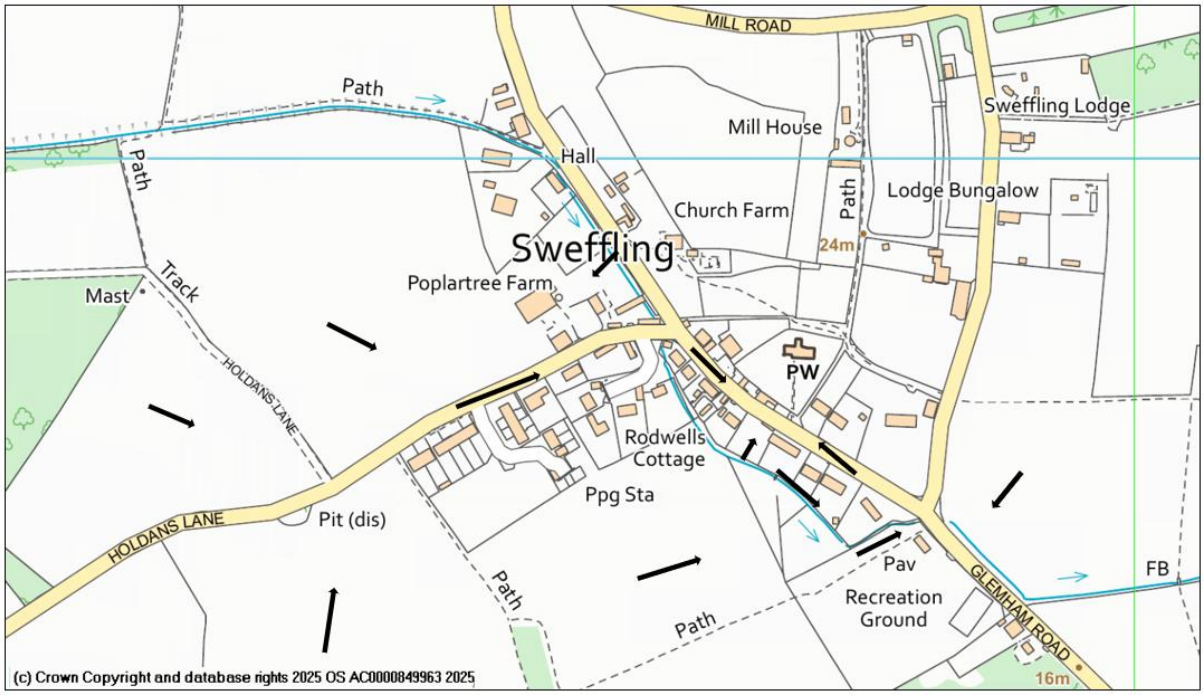


Figure 11 - Approximate flood water flow routes along Holdens Lane and The Street



Figure 12 - Fluvial flood risk on Holdans Lane and The Street

LLFA recommended action(s):

- Residents to install Property Flood Resilience (PFR).
- Riparian landowners to carry out appropriate maintenance to watercourse along Holdens Lane, The Street and Glemham Road to reduce flood risk as necessary as per their riparian responsibilities.
- Explore potential NFM projects to ‘slow the flow’ and attenuate water on overland flow paths on agricultural land to the north and south of Holdens Lane, to the west of the village e.g. storage ponds, wetland areas, field bund.
- Suffolk Highways to ensure the completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance on Holdens Lane, The Street, Glemham Road and Rectory Road.
- Suffolk Highways to investigate the capacity of the drainage along Holdens Lane, including at the junction of The Street and Holden’s Lane.
- Suffolk Highways to investigate operational performance of assets on the junction of The Street, Church Lane and Glemham Road.
- Sweffling parish council to investigate utilising the Community Self Help scheme to help manage localised flooding

2. Low Road

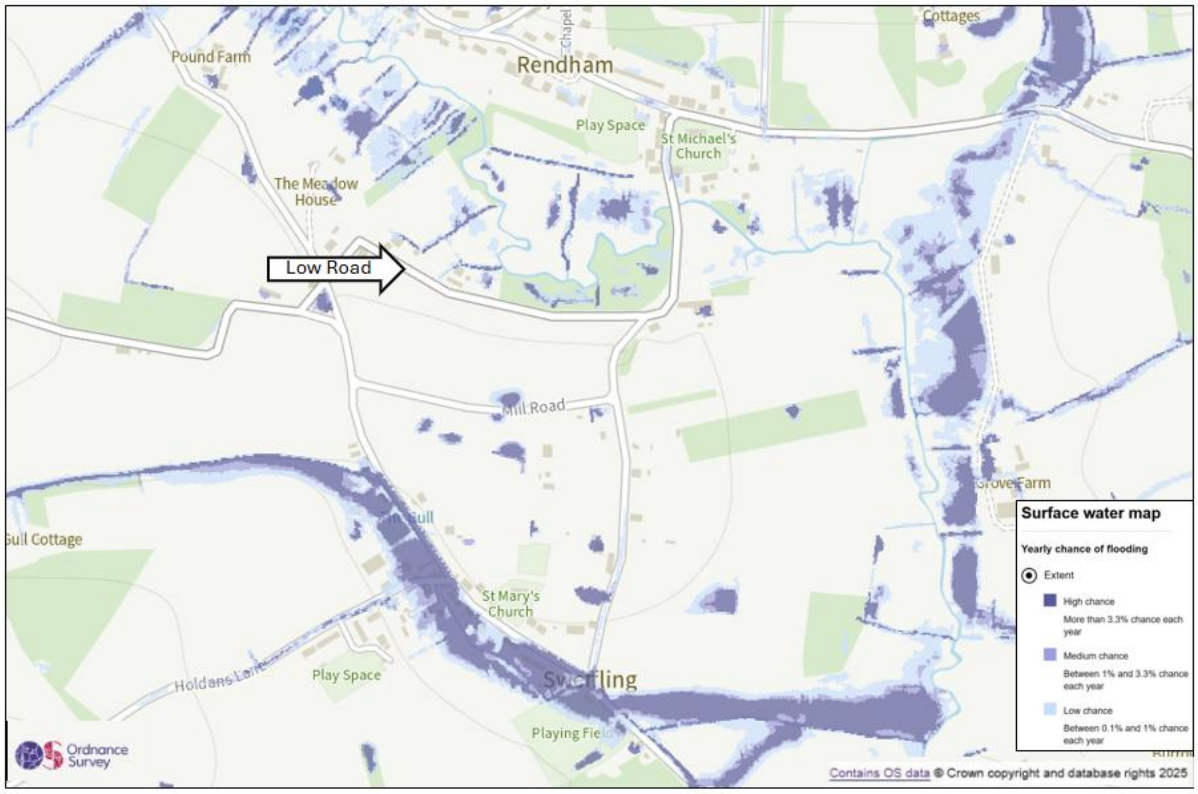


Figure 13 - Surface water flood risk on Low Road

Properties were flooded directly from the watercourse located to the rear, which runs adjacent to Low Road, discharging into the River Alde. During storm Babet, floodwater quickly overwhelmed the capacity of the river, flowing into the floodplain before overtopping into rear gardens and properties. Properties impacted long Low Road are at high risk of fluvial flooding and the impacts experienced closely align with the predicted flood risk maps for this location (see figure 14).

While the recent flooding was primarily the result of the river overtopping its banks, there have also been previous reports of water running off adjacent fields and entering properties from the front during heavy rainfall. Recurrent drainage issues along Low Road, including blocked surface water drains, may have contributed to the extent of flooding experienced.



Figure 14 - Fluvial flood risk on Low Road

In Summary:

- Intense rainfall during Storm Babet caused water to exceed capacity of the river flow into the flood plain and eventually travel into rear gardens and properties.
- River overtopping was the primary driver, but surface water also contributed, including runoff from neighbouring fields and the highway.
- Highway drainage was overwhelmed during the event, and several gullies were blocked or non-operational, which may have contributed to the extent of surface water in this location.

LLFA recommended action(s):

- Residents to install Property Flood Resilience (PFR).
- Suffolk Highways to ensure the completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance on Low Road.
- Suffolk Highways to investigate operational performance of assets along Low Road

Images

Photos included in the report have been submitted via a range of sources, including customer reports, community information and by Risk Management Authorities. The use of photos has been included in good faith to support the investigation and provide further context of the flood event



Image 1 - Junction of Holdens Lane and Holdens Meadow and Junction of Holdens Lane and The Street, looking East



Image 2 - The overflowed Gull, at Junction of Holdens Lane and The Street, looking Southeast.

Risk Management Authorities, Non Risk Management Authority and flood risk function(s)

The following section acknowledges both RMA's and Non-RMA's relevant to the location and provide an overview of their flood risk functions. The table has been compiled from information collated as part of the investigation. It is not exhaustive and it should be acknowledged additional organisations and groups may be active within the community.

Risk Management Authority	**Relevant Flood Risk Function(s)**
Suffolk County Council	Lead local Flood Authority (LLFA), Highways Authority & Asset Owner
The Environment Agency (EA)	Lead organisation for providing flood risk management under its permissive powers and issuing warnings of flooding from main river
Essex and Suffolk Water	Asset owner supplying water and water recycling services
Internal Drainage Board (IDB)	Internal Drainage Board (IDB) Supervising land drainage and flood defence works on ordinary watercourses
East Suffolk District Council	Local Planning Authority (LPA) & Asset Owner
Non-Risk Management Authority	**Relevant Flood Risk Function(s)**
Private Landowners	Riparian responsibilities and management of water from land or watercourses
Private Homeowners	Improving flood resilience to property and some riparian responsibilities if adjacent to watercourses.
Sweffling Parish Council	Manage flood risk at a community level, prepare and produce flood action plans and maintain watercourses where present on land they own

Action(s) completed to date:

The following section acknowledges actions that RMA's and Non-RMAs have implemented or are currently in progress since Storm Babet and prior to publishing of this report.

Action	Risk Management Authority	Progress
Offer of Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures to the properties that flooded during Storms Babet.	Suffolk County Council Lead Local Flood Authority	Application window now closed. Installation of PFR measures on approved applications has been extended to December 2025.
Ensure riparian landowner responsibilities are understood with regard to watercourse management.	Suffolk County Council Lead Local Flood Authority	SCC published "Flood Smart Living" online and hard copy guide to increasing flood resilience for residents, landowners and communities, December 2024.
Investigation into surface water on the highway have occurred at the junction of Holdens Lane and The Street.	Suffolk Highways	To consider next steps for formalising the dug out channel as land adjacent is private.
Continue with maintenance programme on designated arterial watercourses	IDB	Ongoing
Understand the annual event probability of the rainfall & river flow across the region.	The Environment Agency (EA)	Complete. Details of the report can be found on the SCC website or at the following https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/storm-babet
Localised installation of NFM measures to manage flood flows	Residents	A Leaky dam was constructed by local volunteers, using fallen timber branches etc. The purpose of the construction, being to slow the flow of water along The Gull during times of prolonged and/or heavy rain.
Localised maintenance of watercourse.	Residents / Riparian landowners	A length of The Gull has been cleared below Sweffling Village Hut in The Street, as far as the junction of Holdens Lane, by removing a long- term build-up of

		silt. Additional clearance has been completed in the upper catchment.
Localised drainage works to reduce flood water ponding on the highway.	Residents	A small trench has been hand dug to relieve surface water accumulating on the public highway, at the junction of Holdens Lane and The Street. The works enable water to be drained into The Gull on the south side of the culvert, which otherwise would be remained on the highway.

LLFA Recommended Action(s):

The following section provides a range of flood mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce the risk of flooding in Sweffling. They have been derived from data and evidence collated as part of the report and have been included having been considered realistic in their implementation. The implementation of actions falls to the responsible party. Progress on the action will be monitored by Suffolk County Council, but it should be acknowledged that the council has limited powers to enforce the implementation of recommended actions.

Action	Responsible Party	Timescale for response	Latest Progress Update for Actions (June 2026)
Short Term Actions (e.g. standard maintenance activity and initial investigation of options that can be undertaken with limited need for forward planningu			
Establish a Community Emergency Plan that includes plans to manage future flood events – Liaison with Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit.	Sweffling Parish Council	6 months	**Ongoing:** **Update from Sweffling Parish Council:** Yes to be commenced. Responsibility for progressing an emergency plan remains with the Parish Council.
Residents to consider installing Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures to property to reduce damage caused by flooding.	SCC LLFA / Residents	N/A	DEFRA PFR Grant has now closed for new applications. Installation of PFR measures on approved applications has been extended to December 2025. Further information on PFR measures can be found within SCC published "Flood Smart Living" handbook including advice on how to source products independently. There is currently no active PFR schemes being managed by the LLFA in Suffolk.

			Update from Sweffling Parish Council: Some residents have installed PFR. In addition, bank strengthening, ditch clearance and flood protection works have been undertaken in some areas of the village.
Riparian landowners to carry out appropriate watercourse maintenance to reduce flood risk as necessary as per their riparian responsibilities (See Appendix A).	Riparian landowners	N/A	Further information on Riparian Ownership can be found within SCC published "Flood Smart Living" handbook.
Investigate utilising the Community Self Help scheme to help manage localised flooding	Sweffling Parish Council / Suffolk Highways	6 -12 months	Further information can be found at the following https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/community-self-help-scheme
Suffolk Highways to ensure the completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance on Holdens Lane, The Street, Glemham Road, Low Road and Church Road	Suffolk Highways	Annually	**Ongoing:** **Update from Suffolk Highways:** Routine cleansing of the gullies will be completed in line with the set cycles (annual or biennial).
Suffolk Highways to investigate the potential blocked / broken highway drainage assets on Low Road.	Suffolk Highways	6-12 months	**Complete** **Update from Highways:** All highways assets on Holdens Lane were jetted and cleared in February 2026. Although not a highways asset the crew also jetted the piped watercourse where it runs beside

			the road and is accessible to the jetting tanker. Beyond The Croft the watercourse turns deeper into private land to presumably ultimately run to The Gull. We can't comment on the condition of this section. The riparian owners may need to undertake some clearance. This information was passed to the flood and water team in February. Low Road. All highways drainage assets cleared, jetted and operational on leaving. Several sections of private assets also jetted clear with no issues found. Jetting was also carried out on Glemham Road. Ditches were found to require regrading, once that is completed there is a culvert that should be jetted.
Review the findings and recommendations following initial investigations concerning drainage at the junction of Holdens Lane and The Street,	Suffolk Highways	6-12 months	**Complete** **Update from Highways:** The reports back from jetting and investigation crew confirm highways assets are operational.
Investigate the drainage systems along Holdens Lane to ensure they are functioning effectively	Suffolk Highways	6-12 months	**Complete** **Update from Highways:** The reports back from jetting and investigation crew confirm highways assets are operational.

			There may be issues downstream that would benefit from clearing or maintenance. At the instance of the Parish we did send out an engineer to undertake an initial review. There has not been any further investigation of the private drainage.
Identify where works could be considered to improve flow through the village to reduce risk through effective watercourse management (See Appendix A).	Residents / Community and Suffolk LLFA	6-12 months	**Complete:** **Update from Suffolk LLFA:** Letters have been posted to those with riparian responsibilities along Low Road
Medium Term Actions (e.g. longer planning timescales and potential need to source funding but potential for greater impact)			
Deliver improvements to manage excessive surface water at Holdens Lane if investigation works suggest it is beneficial and viable.	Suffolk Highways	12 months	**Complete** **Update from Highways:** Please see update above
Landowners to explore potential NFM measures which aim to attenuate water and 'slow the flow' on overland flow paths in the catchments north and south of Holdens Lane, west of the village e.g. storage ponds, wetland areas, field bund.	Landowners, supported by relevant authority, resource dependant (SCC LLFA, EA)	12 - 24 months	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.
Investigate opportunities to update development plan policy in Neighbourhood Plans or any potential Joint Local Plan site allocation(s) which identify risks and opportunities to mitigate flood risk	Local Planning Authority, SCC LLFA	12 months+	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.

issues as development comes forward.			
Long Term actions (significantly longer timescale and budget required with potentially greater positive impact)			
Installation of NFM features within upper catchments to attenuate and slow flood water if investigation works suggest it is viable.	Landowners, supported by relevant authority, resource dependant (SCC LLFA, EA)	TBC	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.
Deliver any capital interventions that are economically, technically and environmentally feasible and acceptable to improve flood resilience of the village.	SCC LLFA, EA and landowners	TBC	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.

Approval

This report will be reviewed and updated every 6 months until actions are marked as complete.

Reviewer	Date of Review
Ellie Coleby	08/10/2026

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared and published as part of Suffolk County Council's responsibilities under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It is intended to provide context and information to support the delivery of the local flood risk management strategy and should not be used for any other purpose.

The findings of the report are based on a subjective assessment of the information available by those undertaking the investigation and therefore while all reasonable efforts have been made to gather and verify such information may not include all relevant information. As such it should not be considered as a definitive assessment of all factors that may have triggered or contributed to the flood event. Should there be additional information available to develop the report, please email to floodinvestigations@suffolk.gov.uk

The opinions, conclusions and recommendations in this Report are based on assumptions made by Suffolk County Council when preparing this report, including, but not limited to those key assumptions noted in the Report, including reliance on information provided by third parties.

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The implications for producing Flood Investigation Reports and any consequences of blight have been considered. The process of gaining insurance for a property and/or purchasing/selling a property and any flooding issues identified are considered a separate and legally binding process placed upon property owners and this is independent of and does not relate to Suffolk County Council highlighting flooding to properties at a street level. Property owners and prospective purchasers or occupiers of property are advised to seek and rely on their own surveys and reports regarding any specific risk to any identified area of land.

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Appendix A – Indicative locations for NFM and watercourse maintenance

