Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Cretingham Flood Investigation

Storm Babet 2023



	Name	Date
Report Author	Susie Clark	
Responsible Officer:	Susie Clark	
Checked by:	Ellie Coleby	27/10/2025
RMA Review:		10/11/2025
Approved by:	Matt Hullis	21/11/2025
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Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership

Contents

Executive Summary 3
Justification for Investigation 4
Understanding the flood context 5
1. What happened during Storm Babet 5
2. Location of flooding 6
3. Records of any historical flooding 9
4. Predicted Flood Risk 9
5. Catchment characteristics 11
Flooding Sources, Pathways & Receptors 13
Risk Management Authorities, Non-Risk Management Authorities and flood risk functions 20
Action(s) completed to date 20
LLFA Recommended Action(s) 22
Approval 25
Disclaimer 26
Appendix A – Indicative location for NFM and watercourse maintenance 0

Figures

Fig. 1. Average monthly rainfall (July – October 2023) as a percentage of the historic average monthly rainfall 5
Fig. 2. Investigation area map 6
Fig. 3. Location of statutory main rivers 7
Figure 4 East Suffolk Drainage Board Catchment Management Area CMT184G (outlined in red) 8
Fig. 5. Distinct flood zones 9
Fig. 6. Predicted flood risk from surface water (Environment Agency) 10
Fig. 7. Predicted flood risk from rivers (Environment Agency) 10
Fig. 8. Elevation (National River Flow Archive) 11
Fig. 9. Soil map of catchment area (LandIS Soilscapes) 12
Fig. 10. Superficial geology (British Geological Society) 12
Fig. 11. Approximate floodwater flow paths, Swan Lane (north) 14
Fig. 12. Approximate floodwater flow paths in Swan Lane (south) 15
Fig. 13 Approximate floodwater flowpaths in The Street, Cretingham Lane and Ipswich Road 17

Executive Summary

Storm Babet caused significant disruption to communities across Suffolk between 18th - 21st October 2023. Cretingham was a community that was significantly impacted, with approximately five 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.

Cretingham is located in an area at significant risk of both fluvial and pluvial flooding and the nature of the surrounding topography and geology contributes to the susceptibility of the community to flooding. Cretingham is a rural catchment with low-lying areas where multiple flood water flow paths converge. The local geology and soils are susceptible to high run off, making a high number of properties in the village 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 Cretingham were widespread and for the purposes of this report, the affected areas have been categorised into five 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 Cretingham was severely impacted by flooding due to the intensity and duration of rainfall which 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 Cretingham. For short term measures, key highlights include the implementation of a community flood plan and installing Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures. For medium to longer term recommendations, there is emphasis on the management of water from rural land though 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 Meteorological Office weather data (Met Office, 1991- 2020). This significant rainfall in a short space of time 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 gauging 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 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.

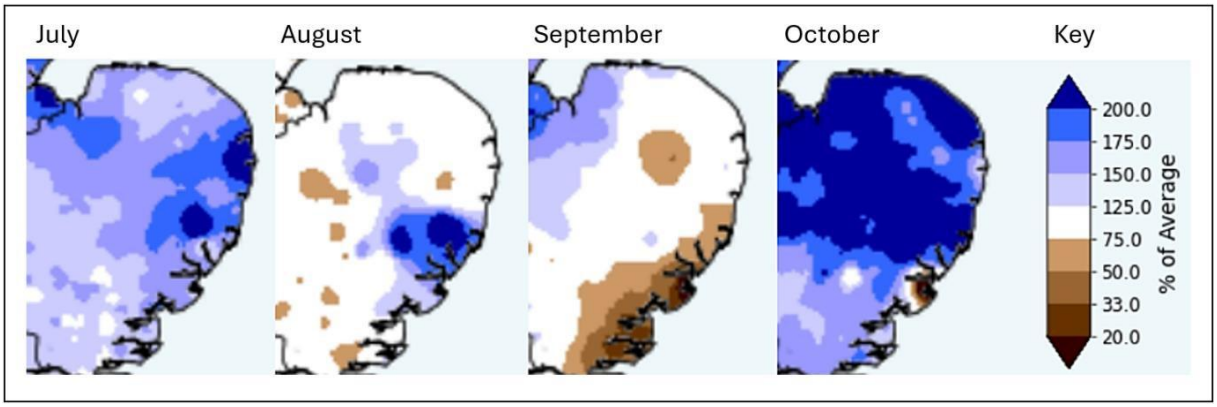


Fig. 1. Average monthly rainfall (July – October 2023) as a percentage of the historic average monthly rainfall

The following report acknowledges that October 2023 and particularly Storm Babet, was an extreme event and will assess the probable 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

The village of Cretingham is located in the district of East Suffolk District Council, approximately four miles southeast of the town of Debenham and four miles southwest of Framlingham (Fig. 2).

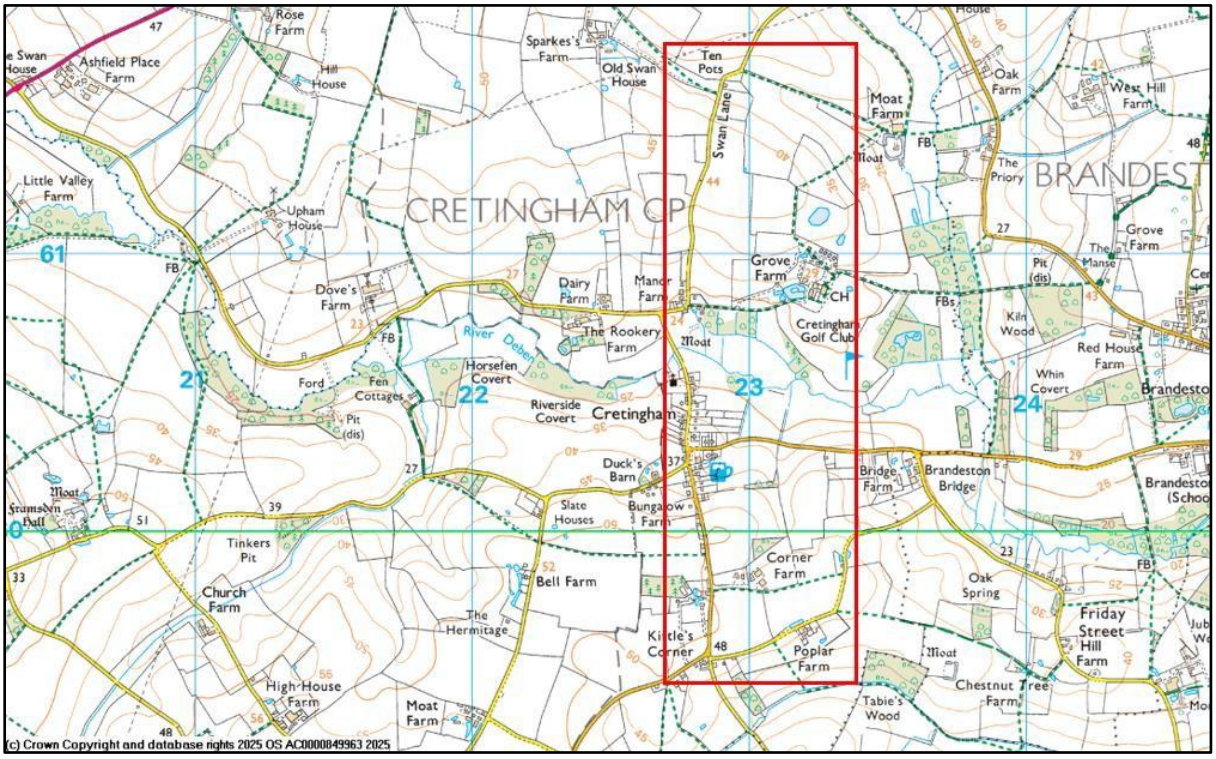


Fig. 2. Investigation area map

Fig. 3 shows the location of statutory main rivers in the vicinity of Cretingham. The River Deben flows from west to east across the parish.

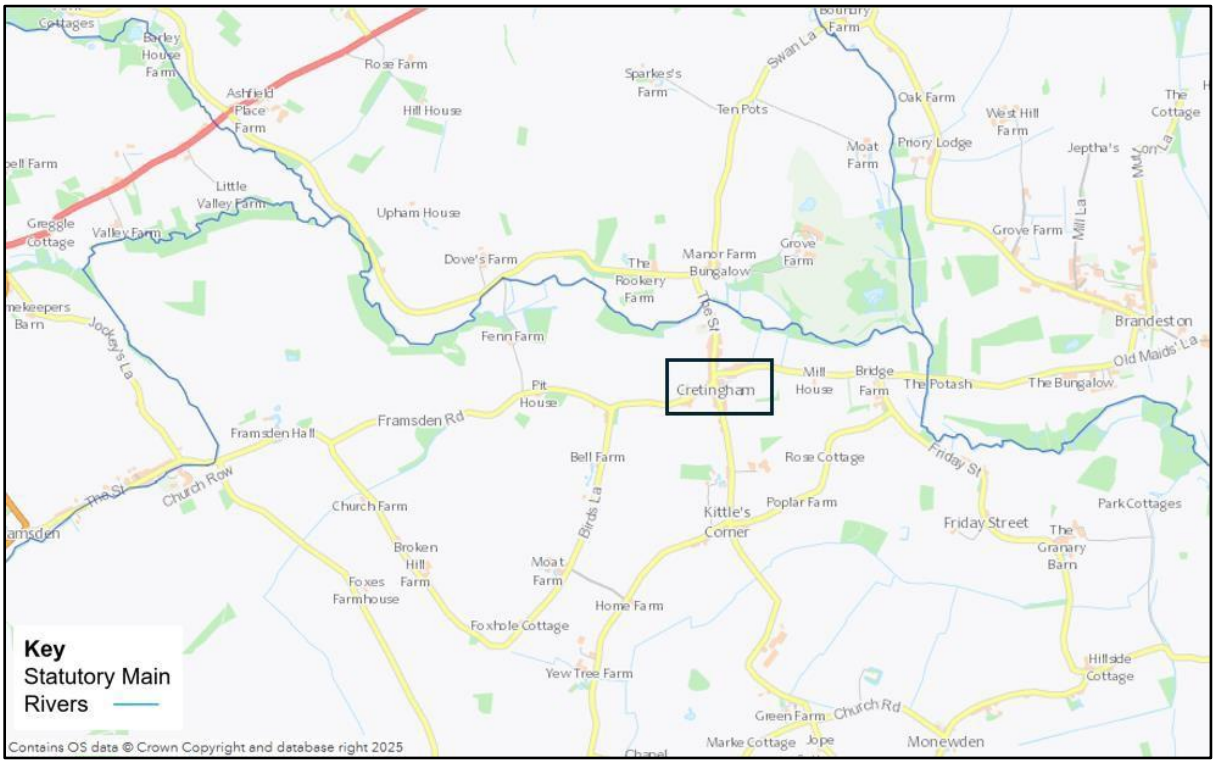


Fig. 3. Location of statutory main rivers

The Environment Agency has permissive powers to carry out maintenance, improvement or construction work on statutory main rivers to manage flood risk. 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.

The local Internal Drainage Board is the East Suffolk Water Management Board (ESWMB). It oversees a gravity catchment (CMT184G) within the Internal Drainage District which includes an area in Cretingham which is adjacent to the River Deben and a tributary flowing from the north (Figure 4). Areas reporting internally flooded property in Swan Lane and The Street fall partly within the ESWMB district. The Board has one arterial watercourse in the vicinity of Cretingham which is known as Horsefen (DRN184G0701). As a Board arterial watercourse this is subject to an annual maintenance regime from the Board's operatives.

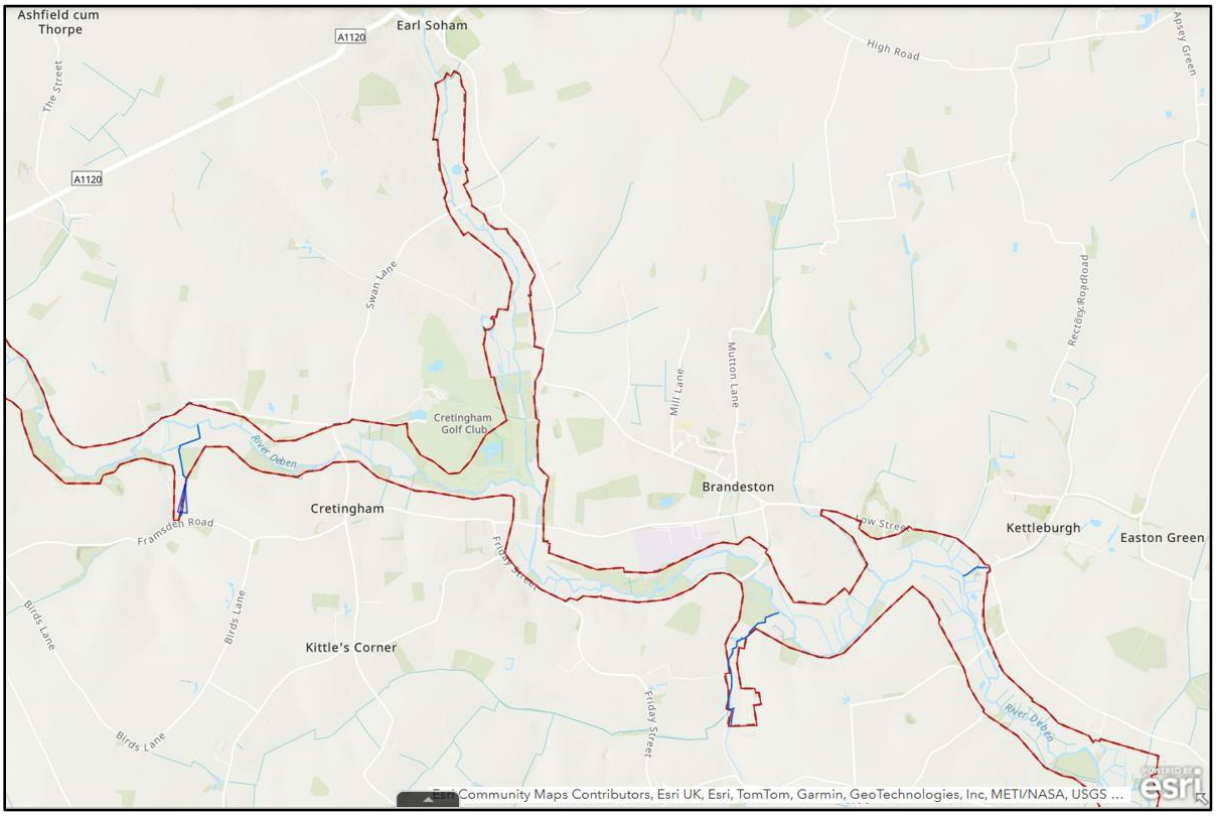


Figure 4 East Suffolk Drainage Board Catchment Management Area CMT184G (outlined in red)

On the 20th October 2023, Storm Babet resulted in significant rainfall across Suffolk on already saturated ground due to above average rainfall in the preceding weeks. Cretingham was significantly impacted with approximately five properties reporting internal flooding. Flood water was described as coming from several sources including surface water runoff from surrounding fields (pluvial), the overtopping of local watercourses (fluvial) and overwhelmed drainage systems. Within this report, the term 'flood water' may be used to describe all types of flooding.

For the purposes of this investigation the various areas affected by flooding have been separated into three distinct zones:

1. Swan Lane (north)
2. Swan Lane (south)
3. The Street
4. Cretingham Lane
5. Ipswich Road.

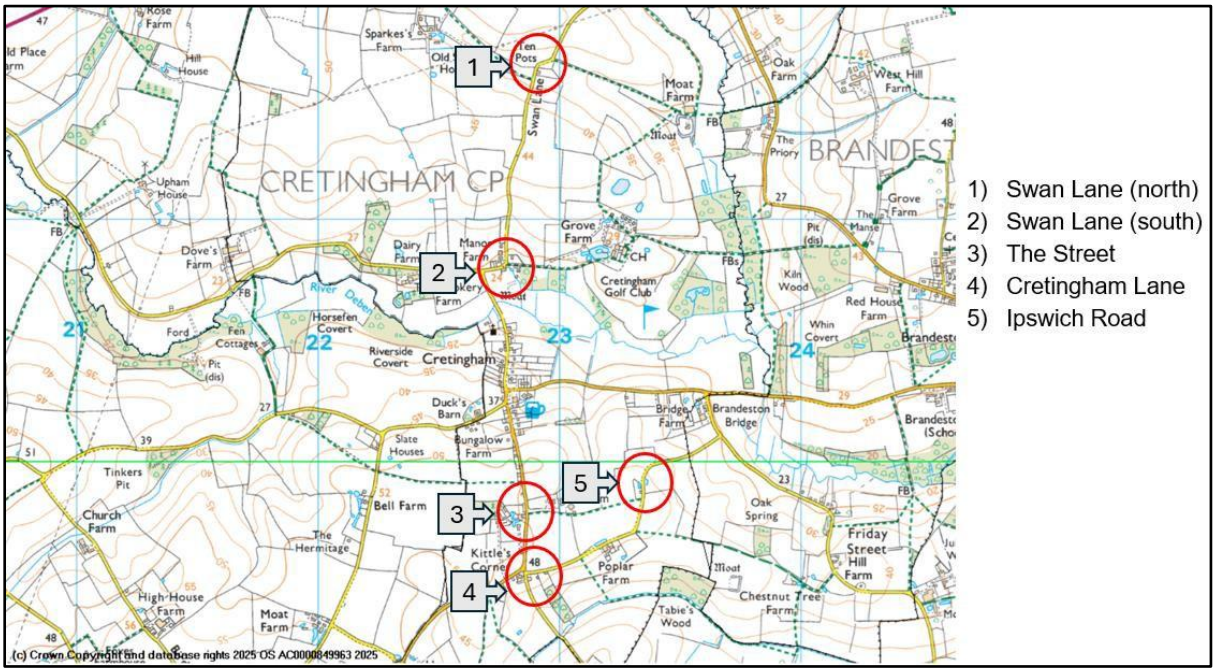


Fig. 5. Distinct flood zones

3. Records of any historical flooding

A review of Suffolk County Council's Highways reporting tool, local and social media reports indicated internal flooding of property north of Kittle's Corner, on the west side of The Street in 1984.

The Environment Agency and Anglian Water hold no historical records of flooding for the area of Cretingham.

4. Predicted Flood Risk

The parish of Cretingham is at significant risk of pluvial flooding (Fig. 5). Surface water flood risk ranging from low to high chance of flooding is associated with all the affected property in Cretingham, except for affected property in Cretingham Lane which was projected to be at no surface water flood risk. It should be noted that low chance of flooding indicates a flood risk during extreme events, such as Storm Babet.

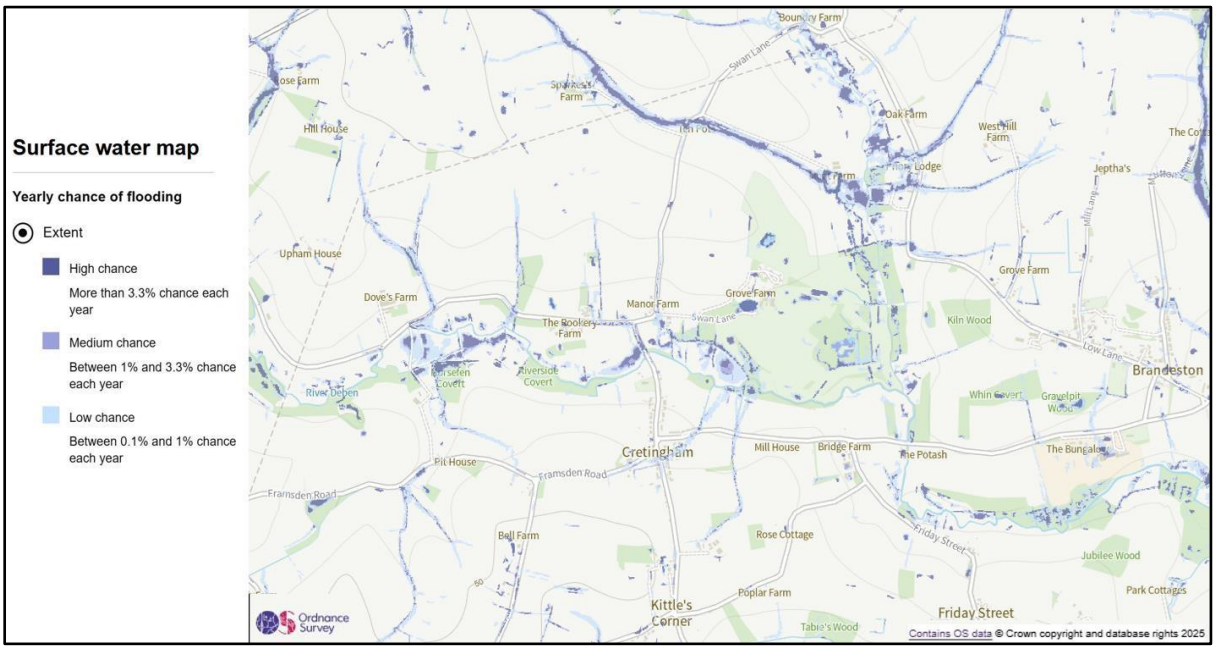


Fig. 6. Predicted flood risk from surface water (Environment Agency)

Fluvial flood risk for property in Cretingham parish is associated primarily with the River Deben, which flows eastwards across the parish. Affected property in the southern part of Swan Lane, close to the junction with The Street, is projected to be at low fluvial flood risk and adjacent to an area of high risk. All other affected property is not projected to be at fluvial flood risk.

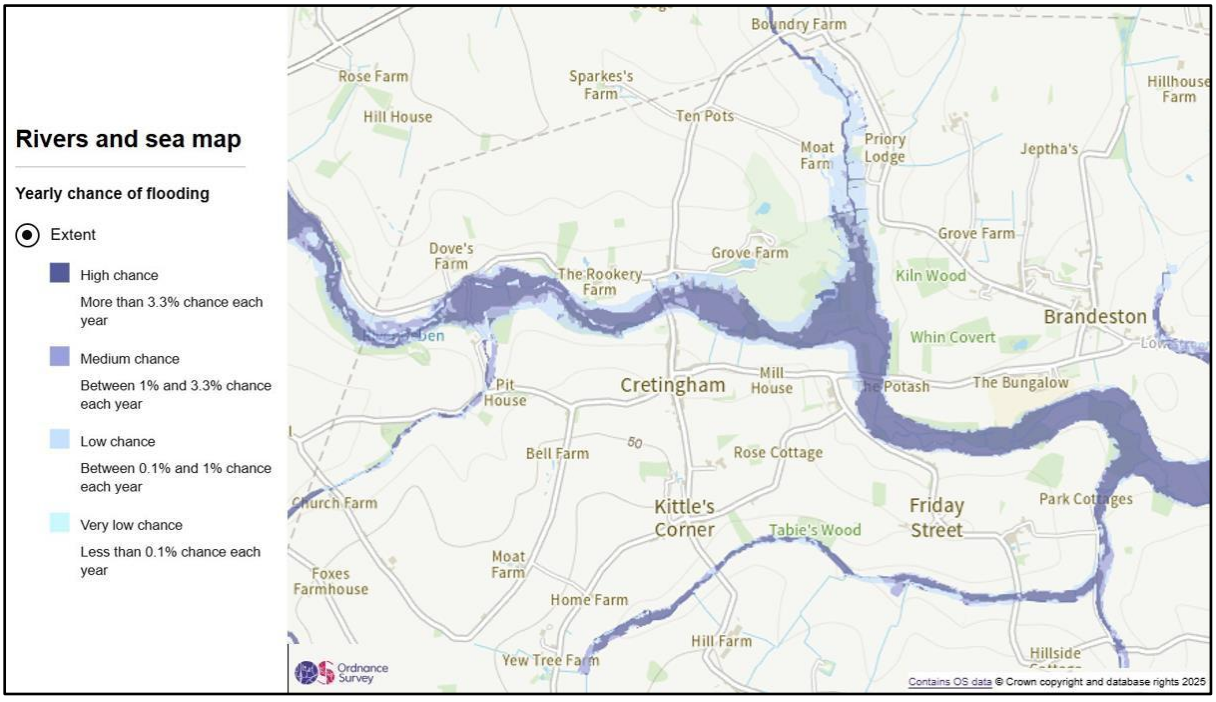


Fig. 7. Predicted flood risk from rivers (Environment Agency)

5. Catchment characteristics

The parish of Cretingham is situated in a rural area with farmland used predominantly for arable agriculture, with some pasture. A tributary flows from the north down the east side of the parish, merging with the River Deben and then flowing east. There is also a tributary which flows northwards from the south of the parish and then flows east, passing south of Kittle's Corner, to join the River Deben east of the parish.

During high rainfall events considerable flows of water converge towards low-lying areas of the village (Fig. 8). Overwhelmed infrastructure and watercourses may be observed during these intense rainfall events.

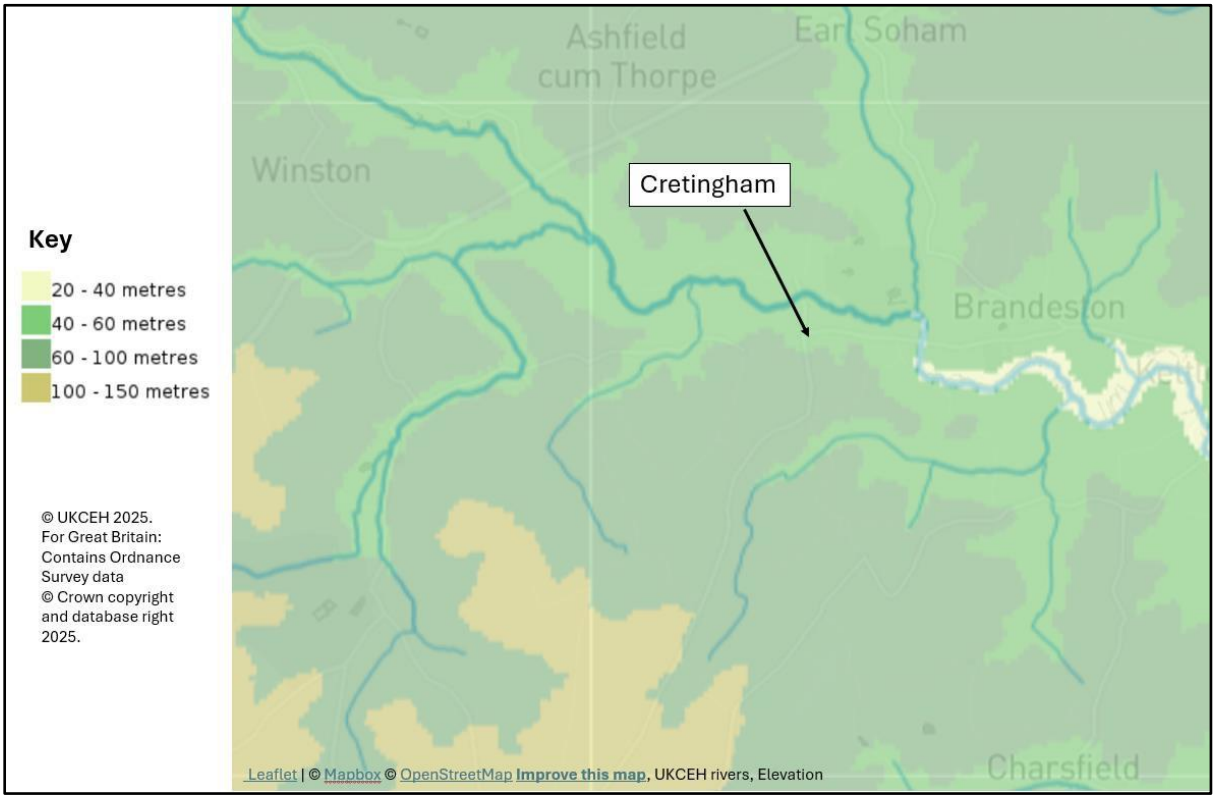


Fig. 8. Elevation (National River Flow Archive)

The soils in the catchment surrounding Cretingham are loamy and clayey with impeded drainage, meaning that water penetrates more slowly, and surface water runoff is greater, particularly during intense rainfall (Fig. 9). However, the saturated nature of the soils leading up to the event would also have prevented some infiltration.

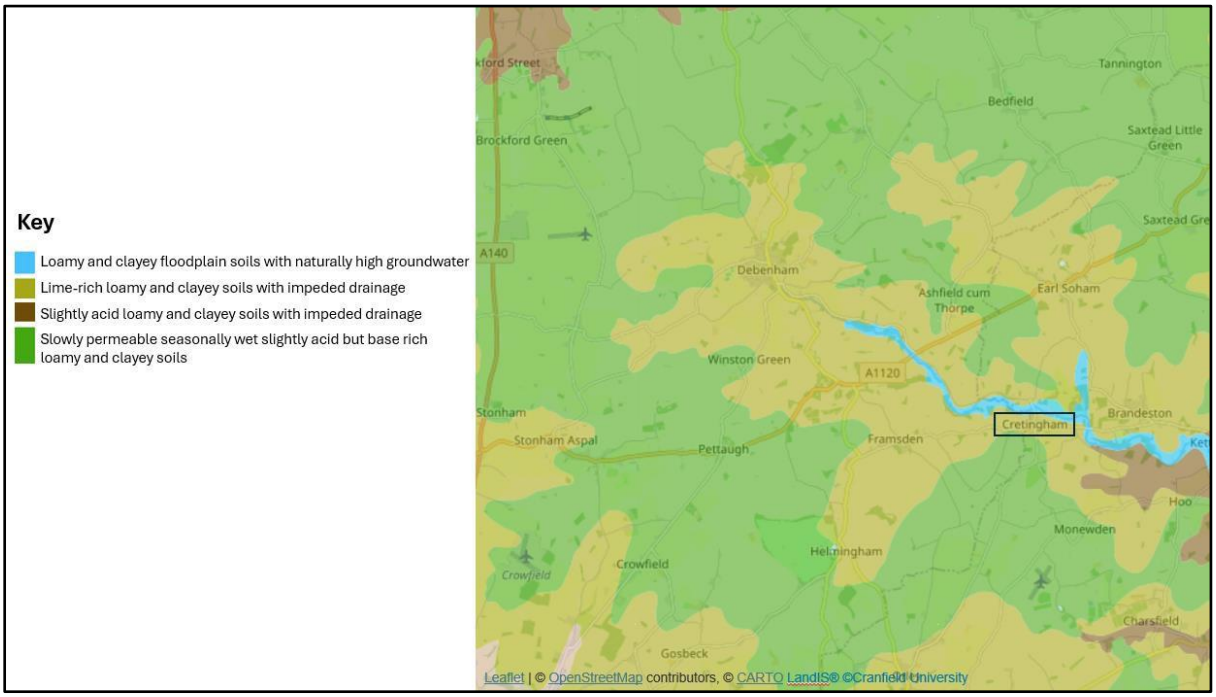


Fig. 9. Soil map of catchment area (LandIS Soilscapes)

Fig. 10 shows that much of the superficial geology in the catchment surrounding Cretingham is made up of 'Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton' 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 is sometimes known as boulder clay. This generally has a low permeability meaning water will tend to flow off it before it can infiltrate, which also reflects the reports collected during Storm Babet.

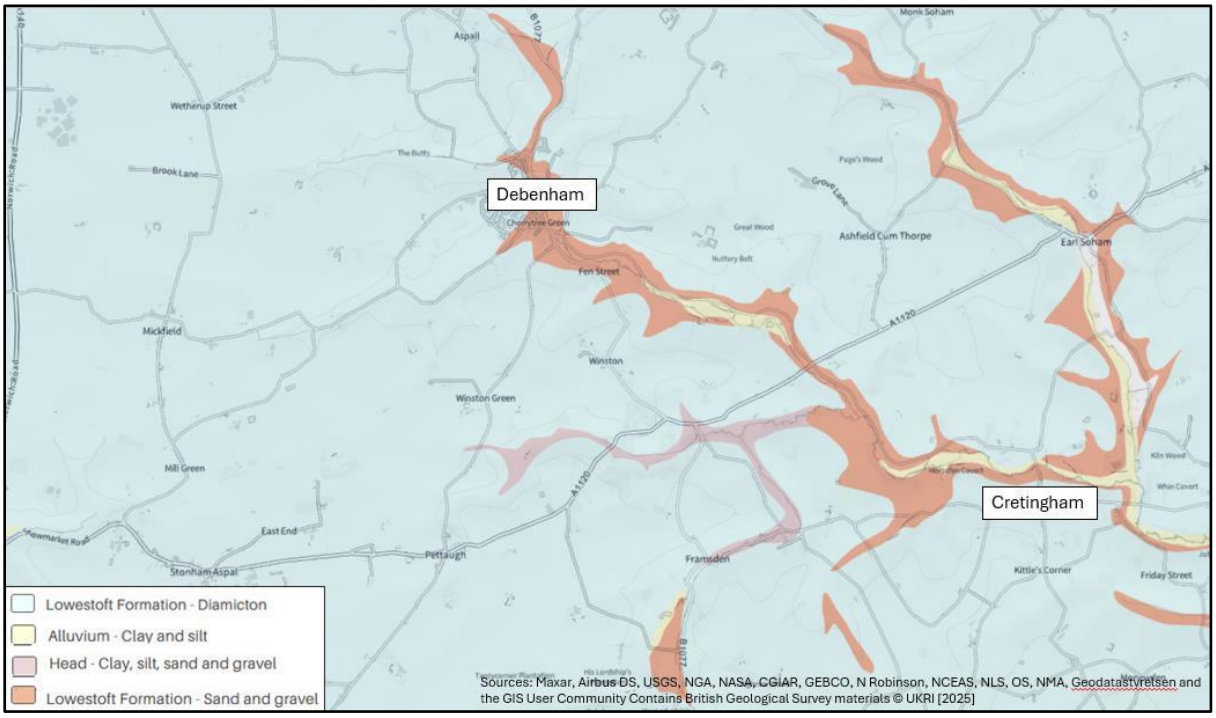


Fig. 10. Superficial geology (British Geological Society)

The bedrock in Cretingham and in the surrounding upstream areas of the catchment consists of various chalk formations which are generally relatively permeable and Crag Group - sand. However, during short term intense rainfall events, soil composition and superficial geology become more influential in affecting the volume of surface water runoff. Combined with the topography within the catchment, these make Cretingham susceptible to extreme rainfall events. Saturated ground and high rainfall, like that of Storm Babet, will further emphasise the vulnerability of the parish and localised flooding could be experienced.

Flooding Sources, Pathways & Receptors

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

Data from surrounding Environment Agency rain gauges indicates that a significant volume of rain was experienced during Storm Babet. The nearby rainfall gauge at Needham Market recorded 54.2mm of rainfall between 22:45 on 19/10/23 and 15:30 on 20/10/23.

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.

The Flood Alert area for the 'Rivers Deben and Lark' covers the area at risk of flooding from the main river Deben. This Flood Alert was issued on 18th October 2023 at 22:12 and remained in force until it was removed on 24th October 2023.
The Flood Warning area of the River Deben from Debenham to Cretingham covers a similar area passing west to east across The Street. This Flood Warning was issued at 13:58 on 20th October 2023 and remained in force until it was removed on 22nd October 2023.

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, community data and site visits.

Detailed descriptions of each investigation area can be found below.

1. Swan Lane (north)

The northernmost area where property was affected by internal flooding was on the east side of Swan Lane (north). Affected property was at high risk of surface water flooding and no risk of fluvial (river water) flooding.

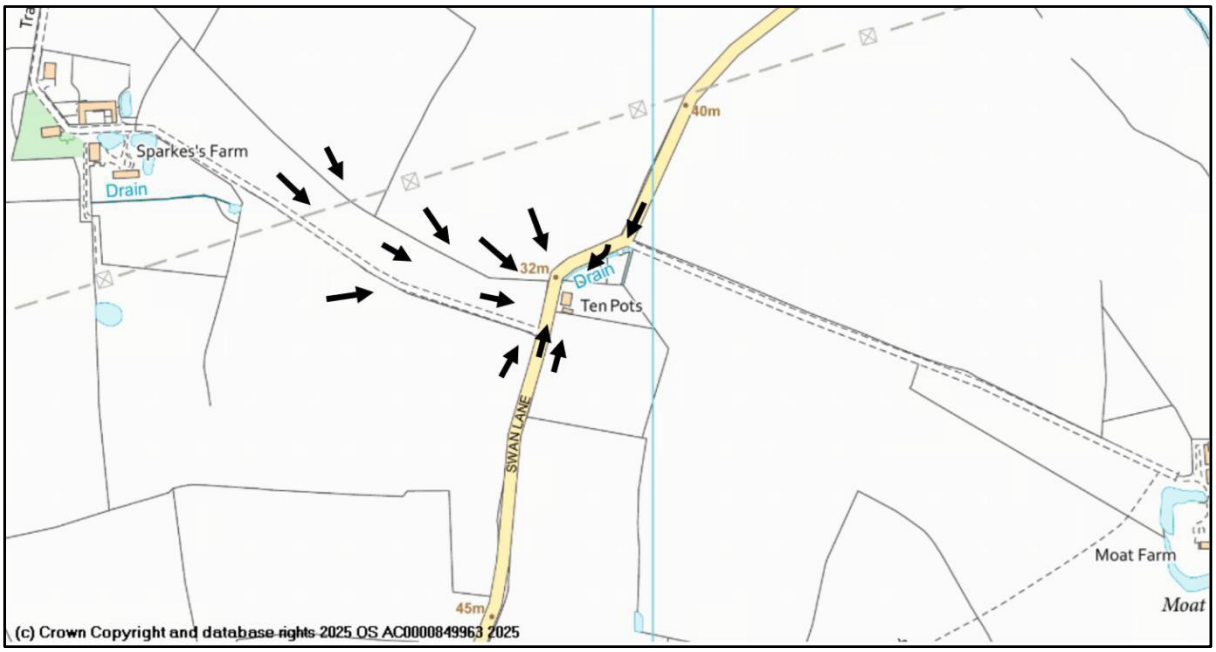


Fig. 11. Approximate floodwater flow paths, Swan Lane (north)

Significant rainfall on a relatively large catchment caused considerable quantities of surface water to flow from arable fields and field drainage ditches primarily from the west side of Swan Lane, although surface water also flowed north towards affected property on the east side of Swan Lane. Local ditches were reported not to have been maintained. Surface water also flowed down Swan Lane towards affected property from the north and south. Two of the gullies in the vicinity may not have been fully functioning at the time as they were reported not to be operational in subsequent cyclical maintenance visits. However, due to the extreme rainfall conditions, the capacity of the wider drainage system, even if fully functioning, would have been exceeded.

In summary:

- Large quantities of surface water from a large catchment flowed across fields and from overtopping ditches towards affected property.
- Ditches in the vicinity were reported not to have been maintained.
- Surface water also flowed down Swan Lane from the north and south towards affected property.
- Two gullies may not have been fully functioning.

Recommended actions:

- Residents to install Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures.
- Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flow paths, buffer strips, field bunds, leaky dams, and attenuation ponds) to “slow the flow” and attenuate water in the upper catchment on the surface water flow paths and ditches.
- Landowners to carry out watercourse maintenance to reduce flood risk as necessary in accordance with their riparian responsibilities.
- SCC Highways to investigate potential blockages of gullies on Swan Lane in the vicinity of affected property.
- SCC Highways to ensure completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance.

2. Swan Lane (south)

Affected property in the southern part of Swan Lane, close to the junction with The Street, is projected to be at low fluvial and surface water flood risk and adjacent to an area of high fluvial and surface water flood risk.

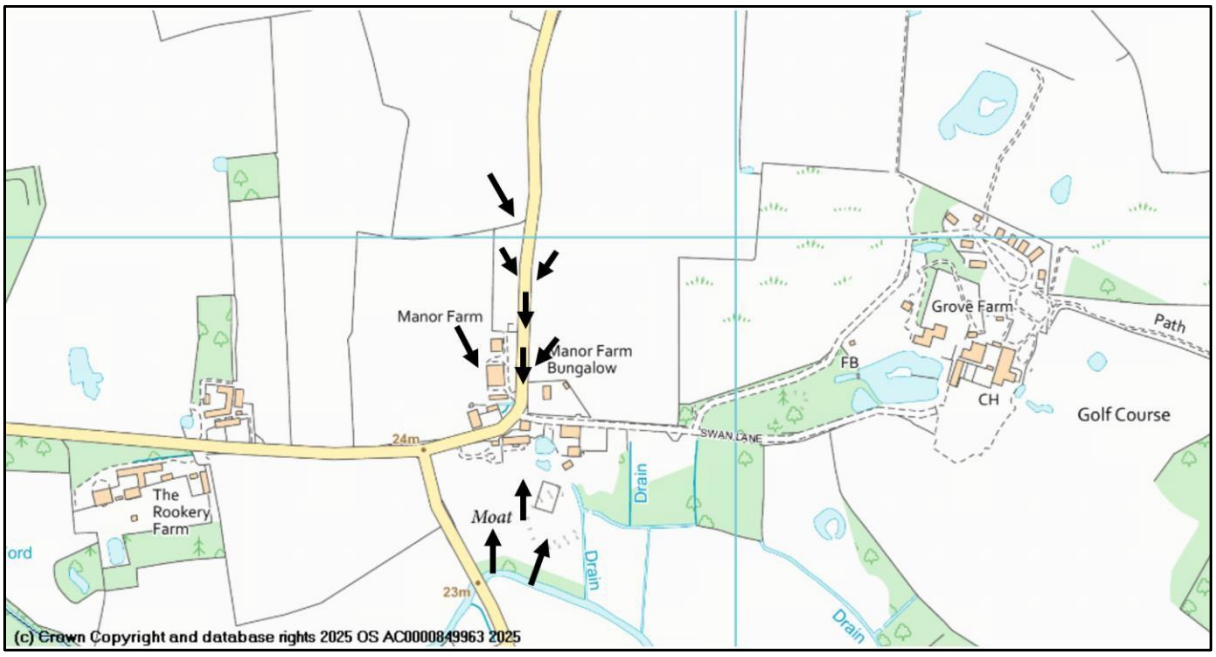


Fig. 12. Approximate floodwater flow paths in Swan Lane (south)

Property on the south side of Swan Lane reported flooding on the morning of the 20th October due to water flowing down Swan Lane from the north. 2-3 inches of water was reported to be flowing down Swan Lane, overwhelming the drainage system, with drains reported to be blocked. Surface water runoff was also flowing south across fields towards affected property and from fields onto the highway. Affected property flooded again later on the 20th October due to the River Deben water level rising and

overtopping south of affected property. After Storm Babet, ditches to the north of affected property on the west and east side of Swan Lane and highways drainage were inspected by SCC LLFA. Gullies were found to be blocked with silt. Ditches were found to be blocked due to dense vegetation, silt and debris. Both headwalls on the east side were also showing signs of damage. Riparian owners were advised of their responsibilities for maintaining watercourses. In 2024 and in March 2025, SCC Highways cleared and jetted gullies and culverts in the vicinity of affected property.

In summary:

- Affected property was initially flooded from the north, from Swan Lane and surface water runoff from fields.
- Affected property was later flooded from the south, from the overtopping River Deben.
- The drainage system was overwhelmed.
- Ditches in the vicinity were found to be blocked and in poor condition during inspection after Storm Babet.
- Gullies in the vicinity were also found to be blocked with silt.
- Riparian owners were advised of their responsibilities for maintaining watercourses.
- SCC Highways cleared and jetted gullies and culverts in the vicinity of affected property after Storm Babet.

Recommended actions:

- Residents to install Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures.
- Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flowpaths, buffer strips, field bunds, leaky dams, and attenuation ponds) to “slow the flow” and attenuate water in the fields to the north of affected property on the surface water flow paths and ditches if further flooding is observed from the north.
- Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flowpaths, buffer strips, field bunds, leaky dams, attenuation ponds and floodplain reconnection) to “slow the flow” and attenuate water in the upper catchment of the River Deben.
- Landowners to continue to carry out watercourse maintenance to reduce flood risk as necessary in accordance with their riparian responsibilities.
- SCC Highways to ensure completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance.

3. The Street

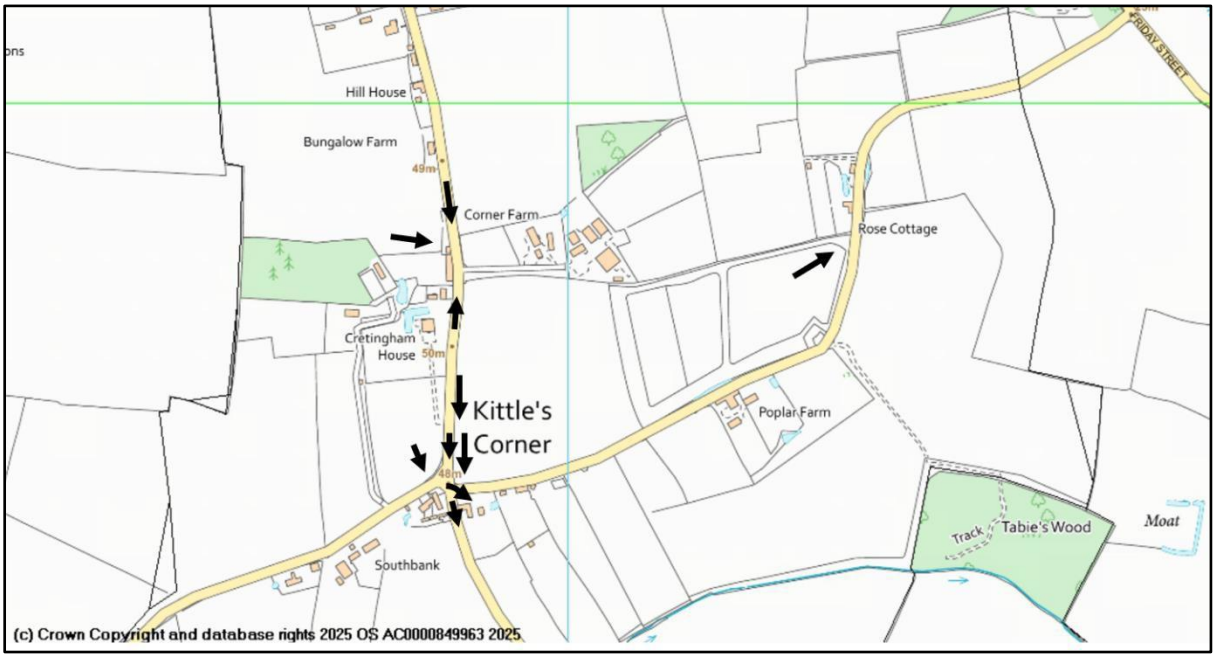


Fig. 13 Approximate floodwater flowpaths in The Street, Cretingham Lane and Ipswich Road

Property on the west side of The Street, to the north of Kittle's Corner, is reported to have flooded. Property in this area is projected to be at low surface water flood risk and no fluvial flood risk.

Surface water flowed from fields west of affected property, overwhelming a small drainage channel on the edge of the field to the rear of the property. This floodwater was supplemented by surface water flowing from the north and south along The Street towards an area of low-lying road, adjacent to affected property. Internal property flood water levels reached approximately 10cm.

Following Storm Babet, adjacent landowners and a farmer deepened the drainage channel to the rear of affected property (which had filled with silt over time) and reconnected it to the cleared section of ditch adjacent to affected property, to connect it with a ditch on the east side of the highway.

In summary:

- Surface water flowed across fields and overwhelmed a ditch at the rear of affected property.
- Surface water also flowed down The Street from the north and south towards affected property.
- Sections of ditch were cleared to the rear of affected property after Storm Babet and reconnected to the existing drainage system.

Recommended actions:

- Residents to install Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures.
- Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flow paths, buffer strips, field bunds, and attenuation ponds) to “slow the flow” and attenuate water on the surface water flow paths and ditches if further flooding occurs.
- Landowners to continue to carry out watercourse maintenance to reduce flood risk as necessary in accordance with their riparian responsibilities.
- SCC Highways to ensure completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance.

Cretingham Lane

Property on the east side of Cretingham Lane, close to Kittle’s Corner, is reported to have flooded. This property was reported to have flooded again in Storm Henk. Property in this area is projected to be at no fluvial and surface water flood risk.

Surface water is reported to have flowed from fields located to the north of affected property and then on to Cretingham Lane and Ipswich Road and into affected property (Fig. 13). Field ditches in the vicinity were overwhelmed. Field ditches to the north of affected property were reported subsequently to be in poor condition.

After Storm Babet, ditches to the north of affected property on the east side of The Street were inspected by SCC LLFA. Ditches were found to be poorly maintained. Riparian owners were advised of their responsibilities for maintaining watercourses.

In summary:

- Surface water flowed south from fields on to Cretingham Lane and Ipswich Road towards impacted property.
- Field ditches in the vicinity overtopped.
- Ditches to the north of affected property were subsequently found to be in poor condition during an inspection by SCC LLFA.

Recommended actions:

- Residents to install Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures.
- Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flow paths, buffer strips, field bunds, and attenuation ponds) to “slow the flow” and attenuate water on the surface water flow paths in the fields to the north of affected property.
- Landowners to carry out watercourse maintenance to reduce flood risk as necessary in accordance with their riparian responsibilities.

Ipswich Road

Property on the west side of Ipswich Road is reported to have flooded. Property in this area is projected to be at high surface water flood risk. (Low fluvial flood risk is shown aligned with the onsite pond).

Surface water flowed from fields located west and south of affected property towards it and towards a farm ditch adjacent to it (Fig. 13). This farm ditch is reported to have overtopped. Farm ditches in the vicinity were reported to be in need of maintenance. A culvert under Ipswich Road which would have enabled floodwater to flow east, away from affected property, was reported to be blocked.

In summary:

- Surface water flowed northeast across fields towards affected property.
- A farm ditch adjacent to affected property overtopped.
- Farm ditches in the vicinity were reported to be in need of maintenance.
- A culvert under Ipswich Road was reported to be blocked.

Recommended actions:

- Residents to install Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures.
- Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flow paths, buffer strips, field bunds, and attenuation ponds) to “slow the flow” and attenuate water on the surface water flow paths.
- Landowners to carry out watercourse maintenance to reduce flood risk as necessary in accordance with their riparian responsibilities.
- SCC Highways to investigate and clear potential blockages in the culvert under Ipswich Road.
- SCC Highways to ensure completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance.

Risk Management Authorities, Non-Risk Management Authorities and flood risk functions

Risk Management Authority	Relevant Flood Risk Function(s)
Suffolk County Council	Lead Local Flood Authority, Highways Authority & Asset Owner
Environment Agency	Lead organisation for providing flood risk management under its permissive powers and warning of flooding from main rivers
East Suffolk District Council	Local Planning Authority & Asset Owner
Anglian Water	Asset Owner
East Suffolk Water Management Board (ESWMB)	Regulator of ordinary watercourses within the Internal Drainage District
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.
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	Responsible Party	Progress
Offer of £5k Property Flood Resilience (PFR) grant funded scheme to eligible properties that flooded during Storm Babet	Suffolk County Council Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)	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	SCC LLFA	SCC published "Flood Smart Living" handbook designed to increase flood resilience for residents, landowners and communities, December 2024

After Storm Babet, ditches to the north of affected property on the west and east side of Swan Lane (south) and highways drainage were inspected by SCC LLFA. Gullies were found to be blocked with silt. Ditches were found to be blocked due to dense vegetation, silt and debris. Both headwalls on the east side were also showing signs of damage. Riparian owners were advised of their responsibilities for maintaining watercourses.	SCC LLFA	
Cleared and jetted gullies and culverts in the vicinity of affected property at Swan Lane (south) after Storm Babet.	SCC Highways	2024 and March 2025
After Storm Babet, ditches on the east side of The Street (to the north of affected property in Cretingham Lane) were inspected by SCC LLFA. Ditches were found to be poorly maintained. Riparian owners were advised of their responsibilities for maintaining watercourses.	SCC LLFA	

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 Cretingham. 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 (May 2026)
Short Term Actions (e.g. standard maintenance activity and initial investigation of options that can be undertaken with limited need for forward planning)			
Establish a Community Emergency Plan that includes plans to manage future flood events –Liaison with Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit	Cretingham Parish Council	6 months	Ongoing – Development of a Community Emergency Plan is in progress. .
Residents to consider installing Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures to property to reduce damage caused by flooding.	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 are currently no active PFR schemes being managed by the LLFA in Suffolk.

Investigate potential blockages of gullies on Swan Lane (north) in the vicinity of affected property and clear if present	SCC Highways	6 months	**Complete** Update from Suffolk highways: Extensive jetting and cleansing carried out along Swan Lane. Competed April 2026. The crews noted that there is excessive silt run off from surrounding land.
Investigate potential blockages in the culvert under Ipswich Road and clear blockages if present	SCC Highways	6 months	Investigations will be undertaken as budget and resources permit, with prioritisation determined in accordance with the Suffolk Highways Flood Site Assessment Matrix.
Ensure completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance in Swan Lane (north and south)	SCC Highways		Completed in line with biennial Programme
Ensure completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance in The Street	SCC Highways		Completed in line with biennial Programme
Ensure completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance in Ipswich Road	SCC Highways		Highway drainage maintenance has been undertaken in accordance with Suffolk Highways' programmed maintenance activities. Any drainage issues identified between programmed works should be reported via the Suffolk Highways online reporting tool, where they will be assessed and prioritised in line with established inspection and maintenance processes.
Landowners to carry out watercourse maintenance, including culverts, to reduce flood risk as necessary in accordance with their riparian responsibilities. (See Appendix A)	Riparian Landowners	6 months	Further information on Riparian Ownership can be found within SCC published "Flood Smart Living" handbook. The Parish Council are pleased with the priority being given to this issue locally and more than satisfied with progress thus far

Medium Term Actions (e.g. longer planning timescales and potential need to source funding but potential for greater impact)			
Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flow paths, buffer strips, field bunds, leaky dams, and attenuation ponds) to “slow the flow” and attenuate water in the upper catchment above affected property in Swan Lane (north) on the surface water flow paths and ditches.	Landowners, supported by relevant authority, resource dependant (SCC LLFA, EA)	12 - 24 months	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.
Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flowpaths, buffer strips, field bunds, leaky dams, and attenuation ponds) to “slow the flow” and attenuate water in the fields to the north of affected property on the surface water flow paths and ditches if further flooding is observed from the north of affected property in Swan Lane (south).	Landowners, supported by relevant authority, resource dependant (SCC LLFA, EA, ESWMB)	12-24 months	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.
Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flowpaths, buffer strips, field bunds, leaky dams, attenuation ponds and floodplain reconnection) to “slow the flow” and attenuate water in the upper catchment of the River Deben.	Landowners, supported by relevant authority, resource dependant (EA, SCC LLFA, ESWMB)	12-24 months	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.
Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flow paths, buffer strips, field bunds, and attenuation ponds) to “slow the flow” and attenuate water on the surface water flow paths and	Landowners, supported by relevant authority, resource	12-24 months	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.

ditches if further flooding occurs in the vicinity of affected property in The Street.	dependant (SCC LLFA, EA)		
Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flow paths, buffer strips, field bunds, and attenuation ponds) to "slow the flow" and attenuate water on the surface water flow paths in the fields to the north of affected property in Cretingham Lane.	Landowners, supported by relevant authority, resource dependant (SCC LLFA, EA)	12-24 months	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.
Explore potential natural flood management measures (eg. ploughing across flow paths, buffer strips, field bunds, and attenuation ponds) to "slow the flow" and attenuate water on the surface water flow paths flowing towards affected property on Ipswich Road.	Landowners, supported by relevant authority, resource dependant (SCC LLFA, EA)	12-24 months	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.
Long Term actions (significantly longer timescale and budget required with potentially greater positive impact)			
Deliver any capital interventions that are economically, technically and environmentally feasible and acceptable to improve the flood resilience of the village, e.g. NFM and PFR measures.	Landowners, supported by relevant authority, resource dependant (SCC LLFA, EA)	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.

Suffolk County Council expressly disclaims responsibility for any error in, or omission from, this report arising from or in connection with any of the assumptions being incorrect.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on conditions encountered and information reviewed at the time of preparation and Suffolk County Council expressly disclaims responsibility for any error in, or omission from this report arising from or in connection with those opinions, conclusions, and any recommendations.

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 location for NFM and watercourse maintenance

