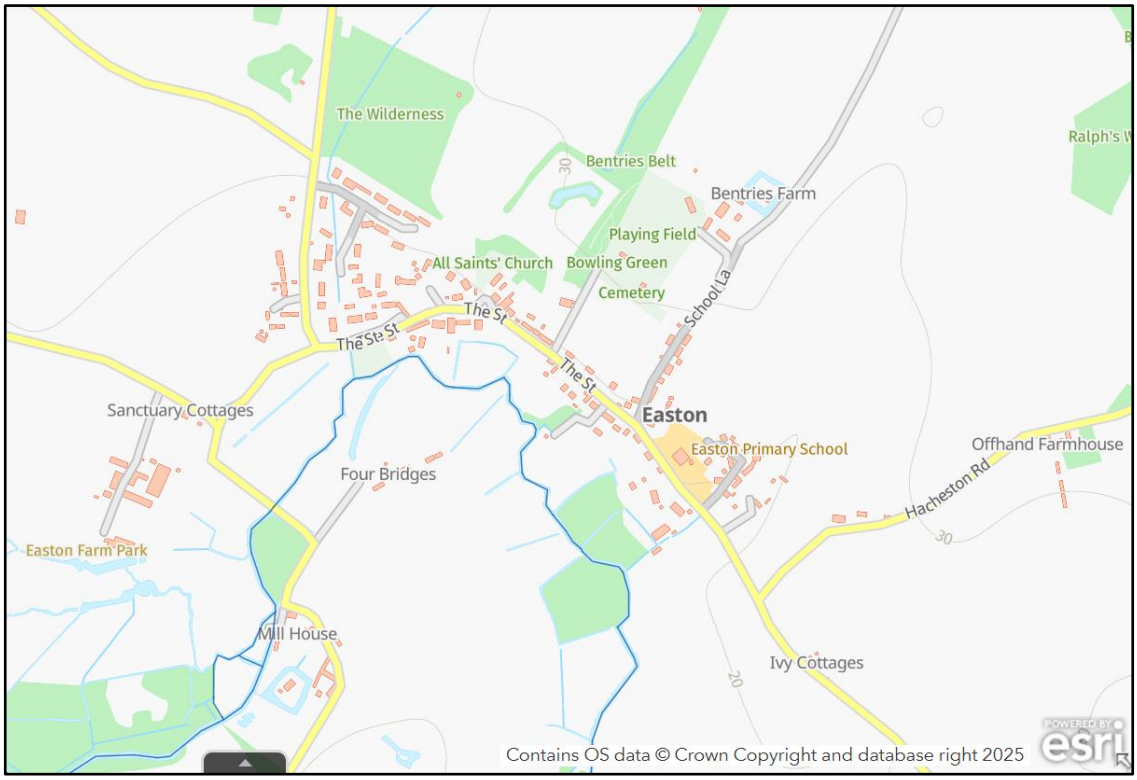
Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Easton Flood Investigation –

Storm Babet 2023



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Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership

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Executive Summary

Storm Babet caused significant disruption to communities across Suffolk between 18th - 21st October 2023. Easton as a community was impacted, with six 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.

Easton is located in an area predominantly at risk of pluvial flooding and the nature of the surrounding topography and geology contributes to the susceptibility of the community to flooding. The low-lying nature of Easton means that during high rainfall events, considerable overland surface water flowpaths converge and flow into the main river bringing floodwater in close proximity to properties in the village. The wider surrounding geology and soils are susceptible to high runoff, making a number of properties in the village vulnerable to flooding during intense rainfall events.

Storm Babet delivered significant rainfall to the catchment, following a period of above average rainfall. 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 Highways, The EA and Anglian Water) and the community.

A comprehensive summary is provided within the report, outlining the context of the event and the impact. A key finding is that Easton was severely impacted by flooding due to it being located in a low point, close to the bottom of the catchment, where floodwater from the surrounding higher ground flows through and into the river Deben.

Easton was impacted by flooding due to the intensity of rainfall, which caused huge amounts of surface water runoff, overwhelming the drainage infrastructure and inundating low lying areas of the village.

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 the village. Key highlights include the implementation of community flood plans, utilising Property Flood Resilience (PFR) and continued maintenance of piped and open watercourses and drainage assets. For medium to longer term recommendations, there is emphasis on management of water from rural land and the creation of new natural flood management features, to help reduce flood risk within the village. Also to investigate the condition of existing highway drainage assets and whether neighbouring housing development has had an impact on local flood risk.

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.

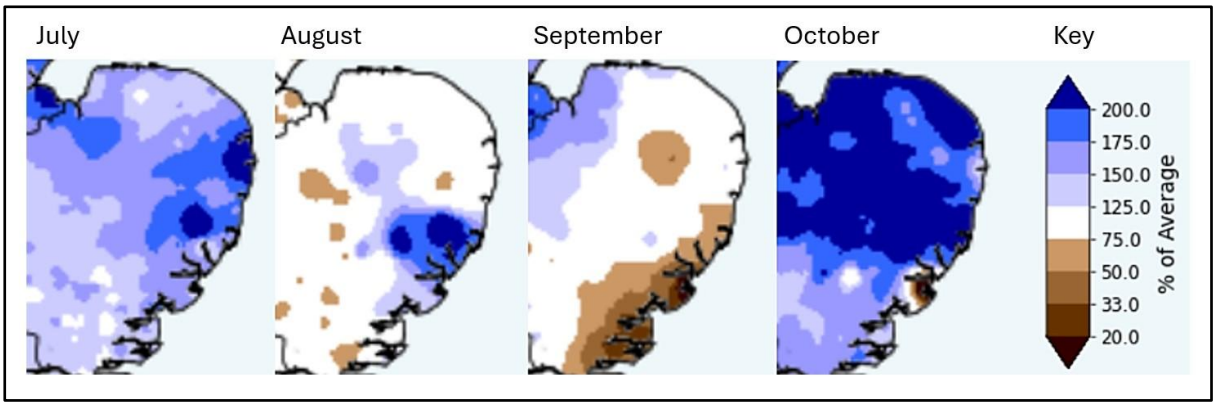


Figure 1. Average rainfall in East Anglia between July and October 2023 as a percentage of the historical average monthly rainfall

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

Easton is a village and parish situated in the Deben valley. It is approximately 3 miles northwest of the historic town of Wickham Market and it is in the local authority district of East Suffolk.

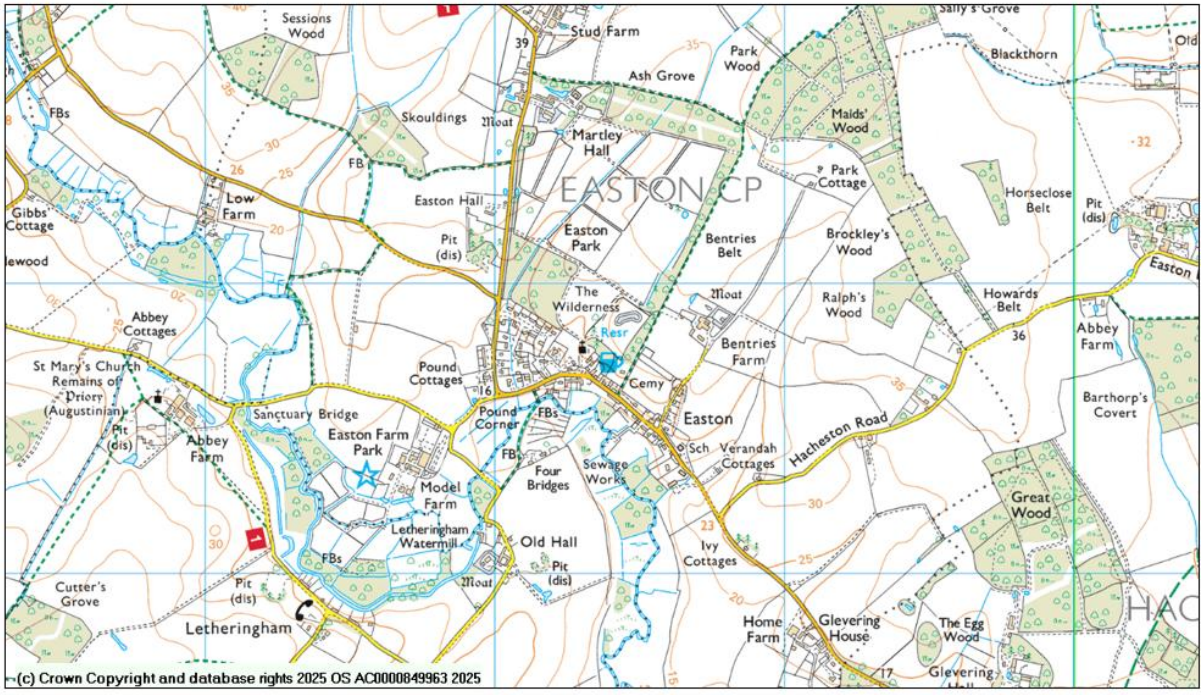


Figure 2. Investigation area map

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.

The East Suffolk Water Management Board (ESWMB) manages flood risk for the ordinary watercourses flowing into the River Deben in the area shown in Fig.3.

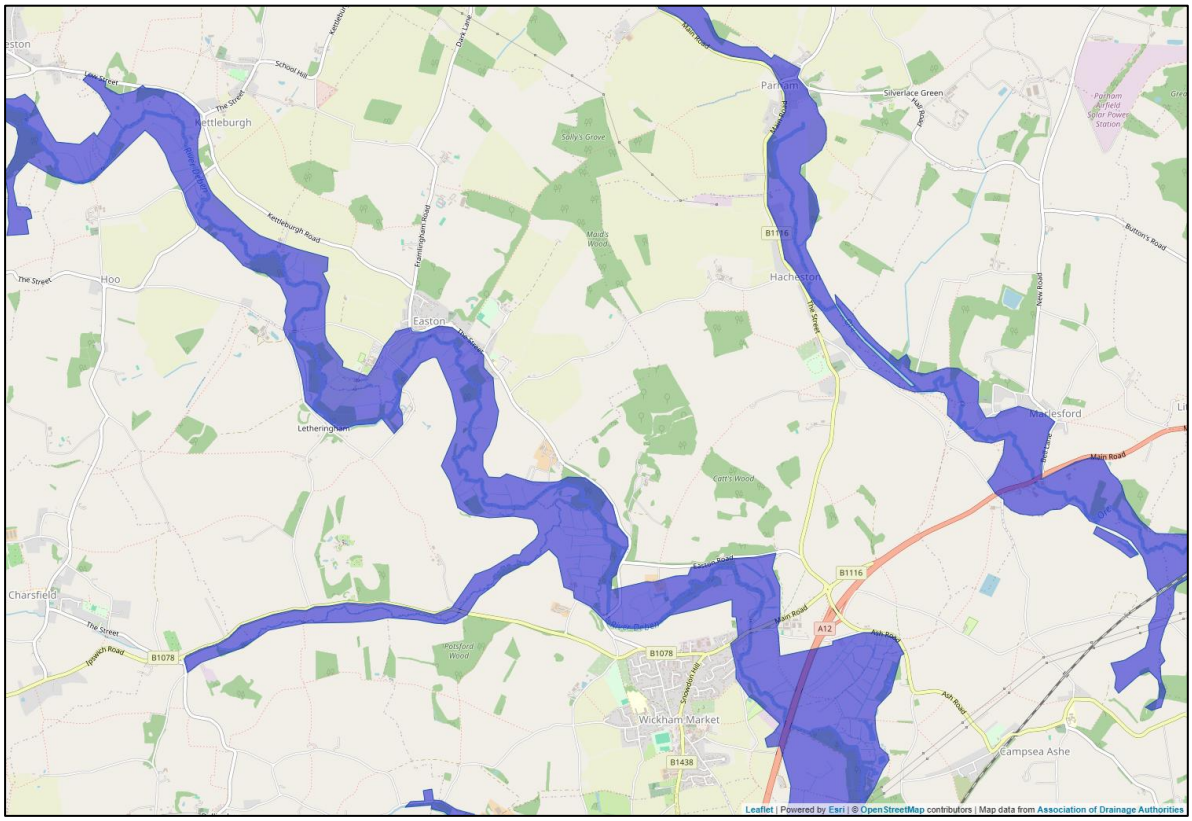


Figure 3. Area of East Suffolk Water Management Board responsibility for flood risk in ordinary watercourses



Figure 4. Location of statutory main river and 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. Easton was one such community impacted, with 6 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 three distinct locations (see Figure 5). The locations are as follows:

1. Harriers Walk
2. The Street
3. Hacheston Road

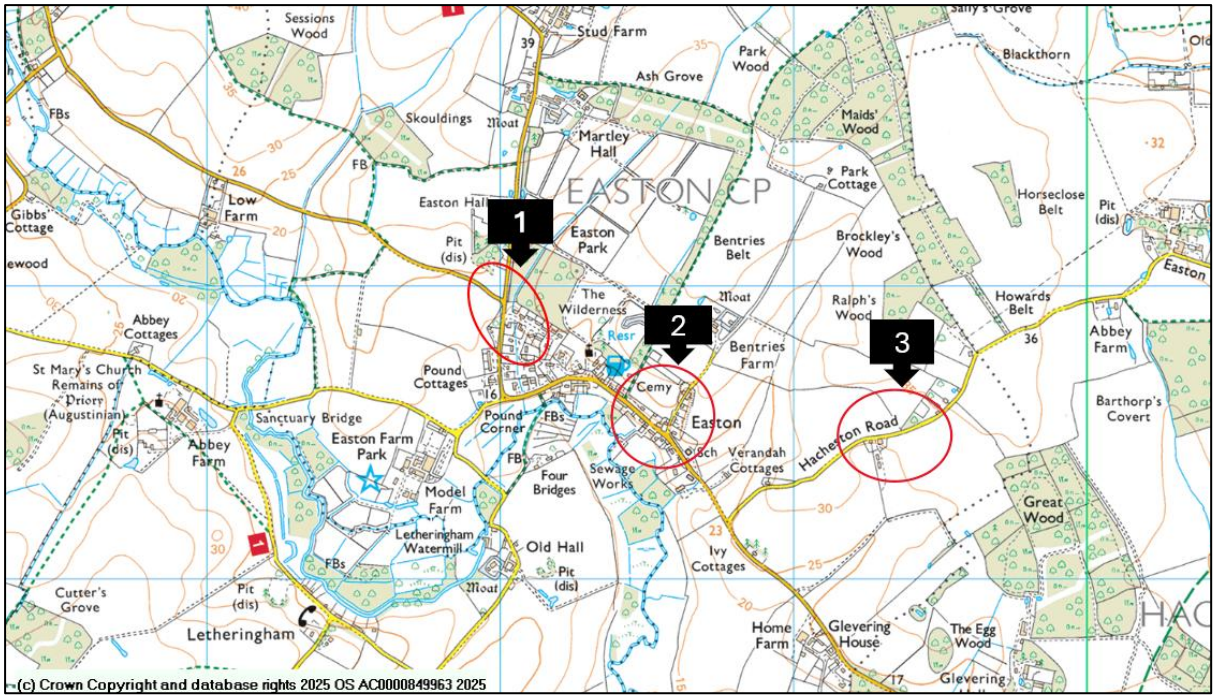


Figure 5. Easton investigation area map with locations

3. Records of any historical flooding

The Environment Agency: The EA hold one record of historical flooding for the area of Easton. Record reports flooding to 1 property between 11th-13th October 1993, source of flooding is noted as fluvial.

Anglian Water: No significant flood history for Easton.

Suffolk Highways: Historically there have been reports for Easton parish, mainly on The Street, but also on School Lane. Two locations on The Street were reported 2017 and 2021.

4. Predicted Flood Risk

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

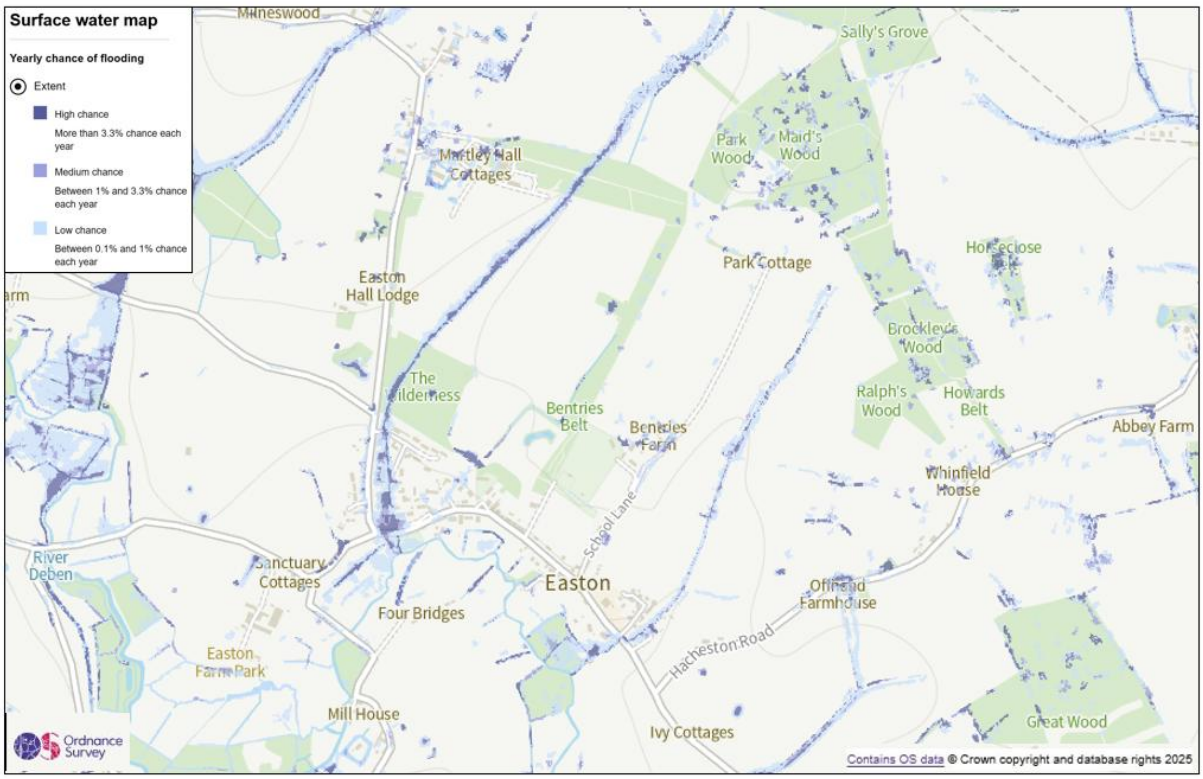


Figure 6. Surface water flood risk

Figure 6 highlights the predicted pluvial (surface water runoff from surrounding land and highways) flood risk in Easton. There are several flow paths that run through the village from the north, joining the river Deben to the South. There are also areas of isolated surface water flood risk.

There is a high chance of surface water flooding on Harriers Walk, Hacheston Road and sections of The Street. These areas were all affected by flooding during Storm Babet.

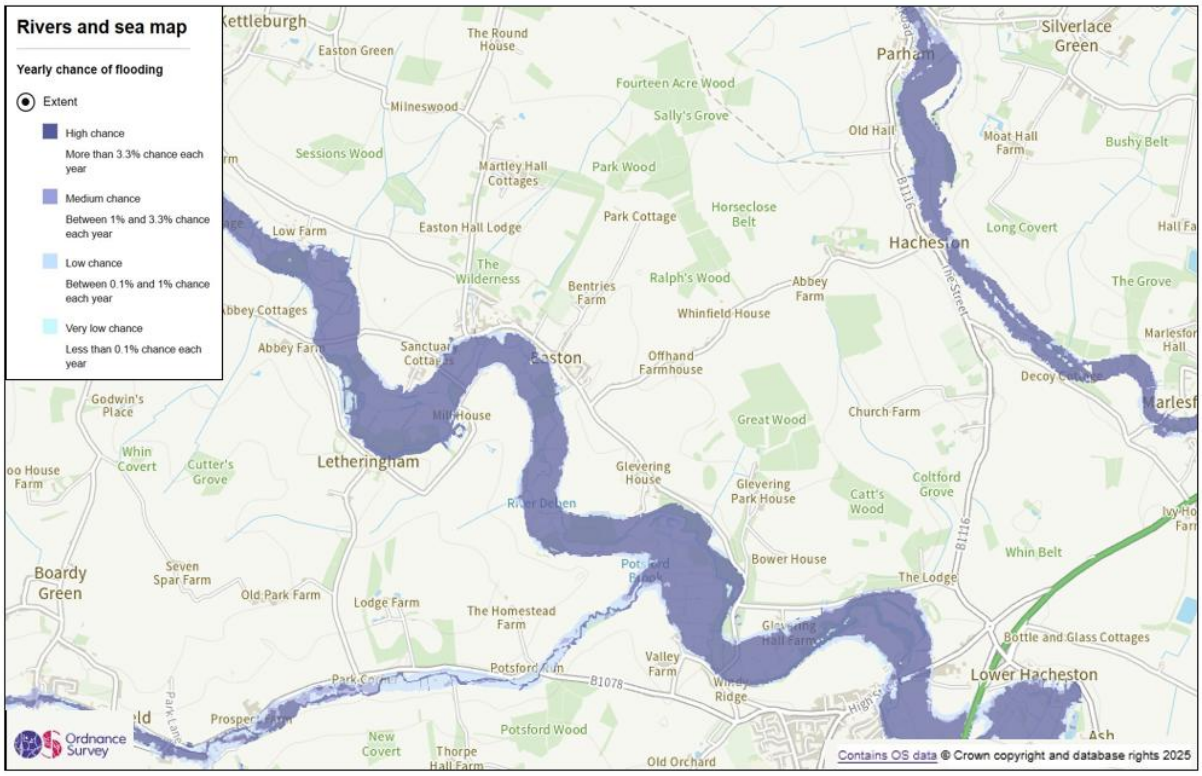


Figure 7. Flood risk from rivers and sea

Figure 7 shows the predicted fluvial (from designated main river and ordinary watercourses) flood risk in Easton. The fluvial flood risk in Easton is predominantly associated with the river Deben which flows from the northwest of the catchment, then adjacent to the village, and onwards southeast towards Wickham Market.

There is a low chance of fluvial flooding to some properties on The Street.

5. Catchment characteristics

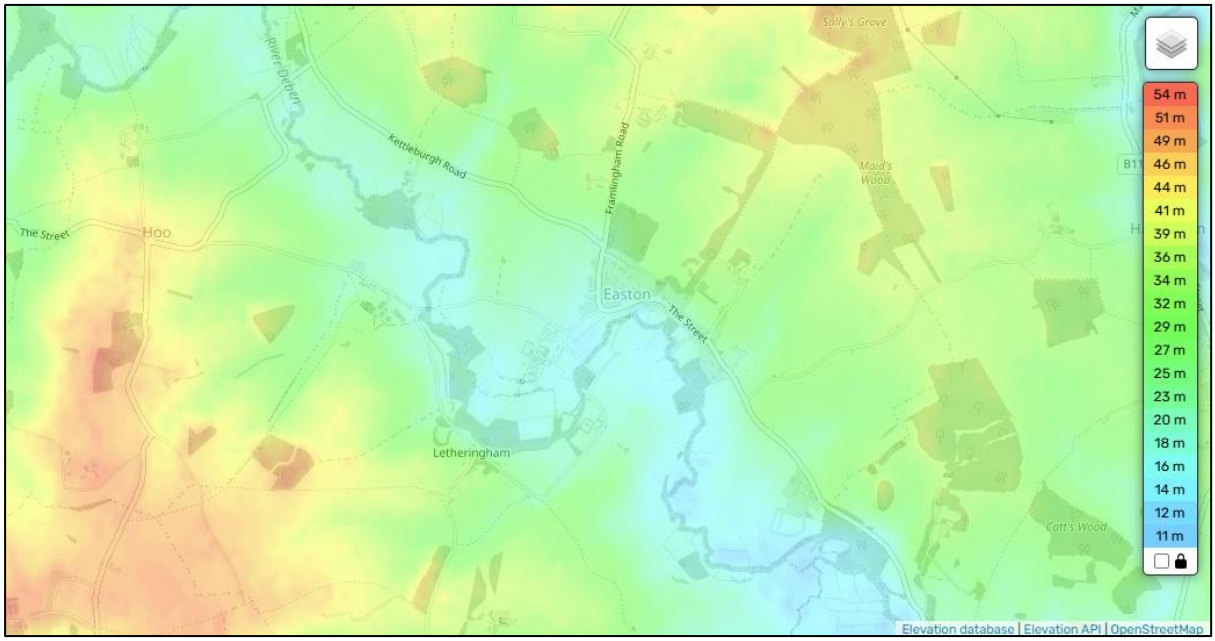


Figure 8. Easton and surrounding topography (TessaDEM as cited in topographic-map.com)

Figure 8 shows the topography surrounding Easton with gradient changes across the wider region. Easton village is situated low in the landscape, surrounded by higher ground to the northeast and southwest.

The low-lying nature of Easton in the valley of the river Deben, means that during high rainfall events, considerable overland flowpaths converge and flow through Easton towards the Deben, bringing floodwater in close proximity to properties in the village. Overwhelmed highway drainage infrastructure may be observed during these intense rainfall events. Sections of The Street are among the lowest points in the village and these areas were badly affected by flooding during Strom Babet.

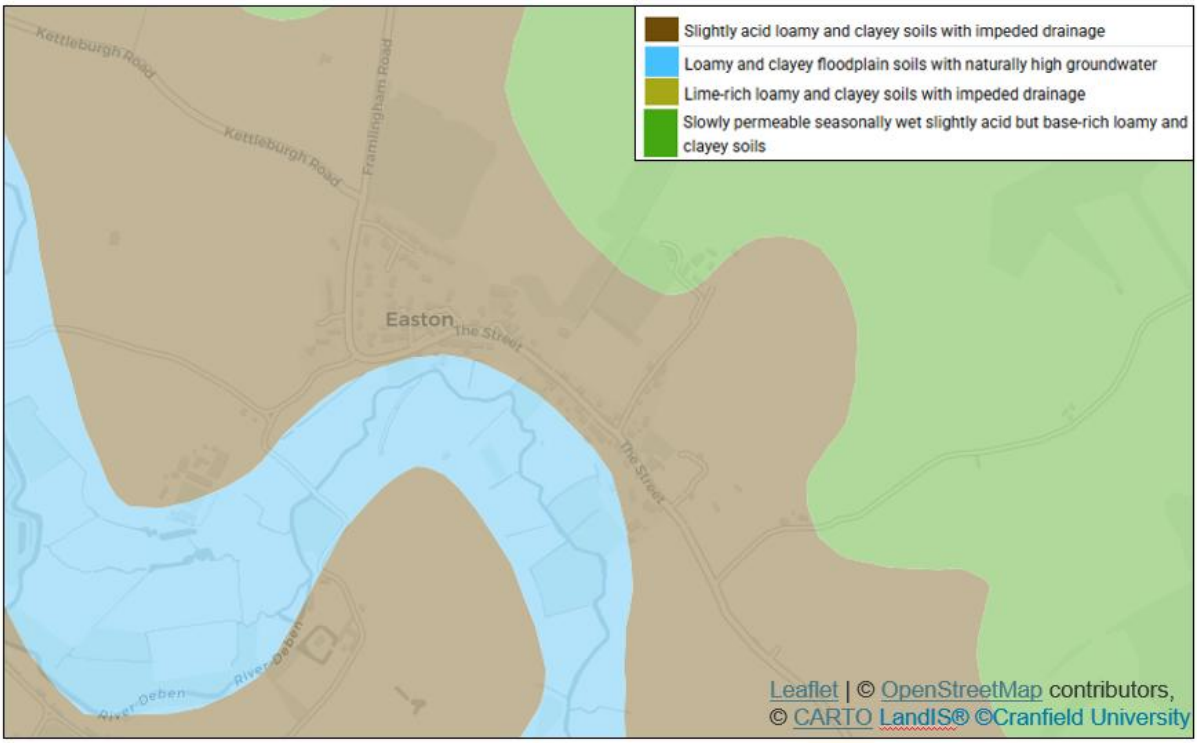


Figure 9. Soil map (LandIS Soilscapes)

The soils of the higher ground surrounding Easton 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 Deben are more freely draining with naturally high groundwater and tend to be wetter.

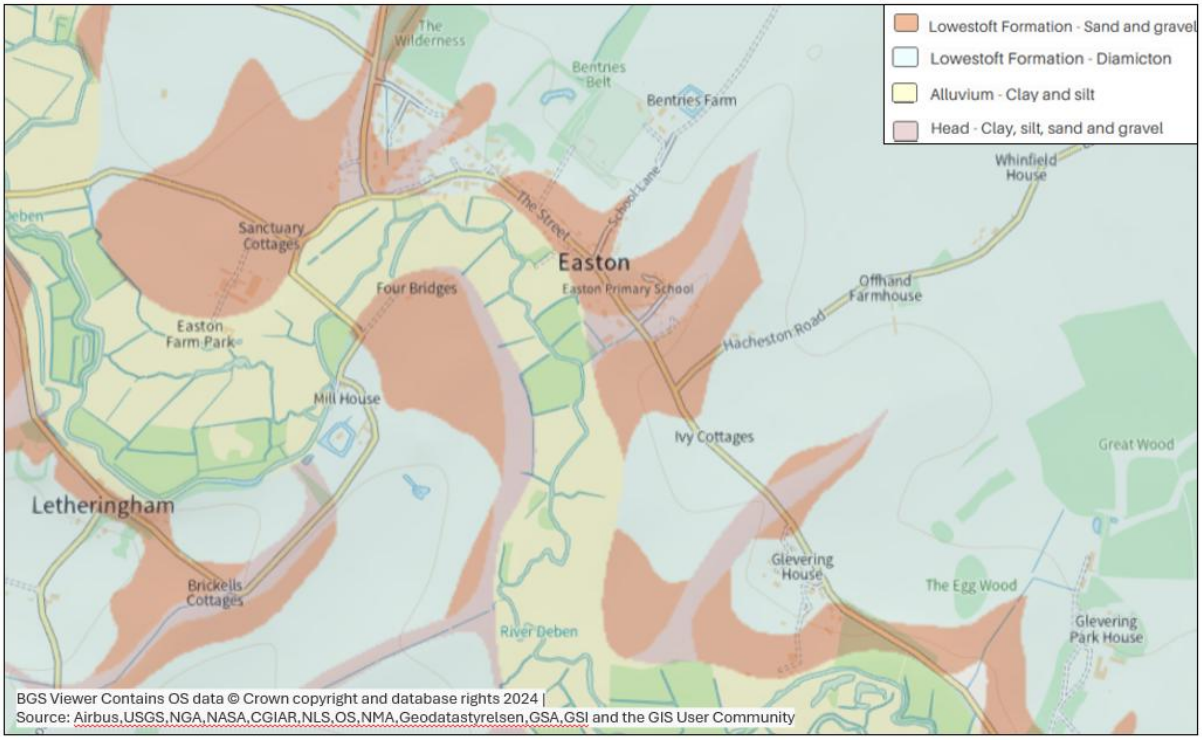


Figure 10. Superficial Geology (BGS Viewer)

Lowestoft Formation ‘Diamicton’ surrounds Easton 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.

The low-lying nature of Easton, with surface water flow paths merging before flowing into the River Deben and the low permeability of the wider surrounding soils, make it susceptible to flooding in extreme rainfall events.

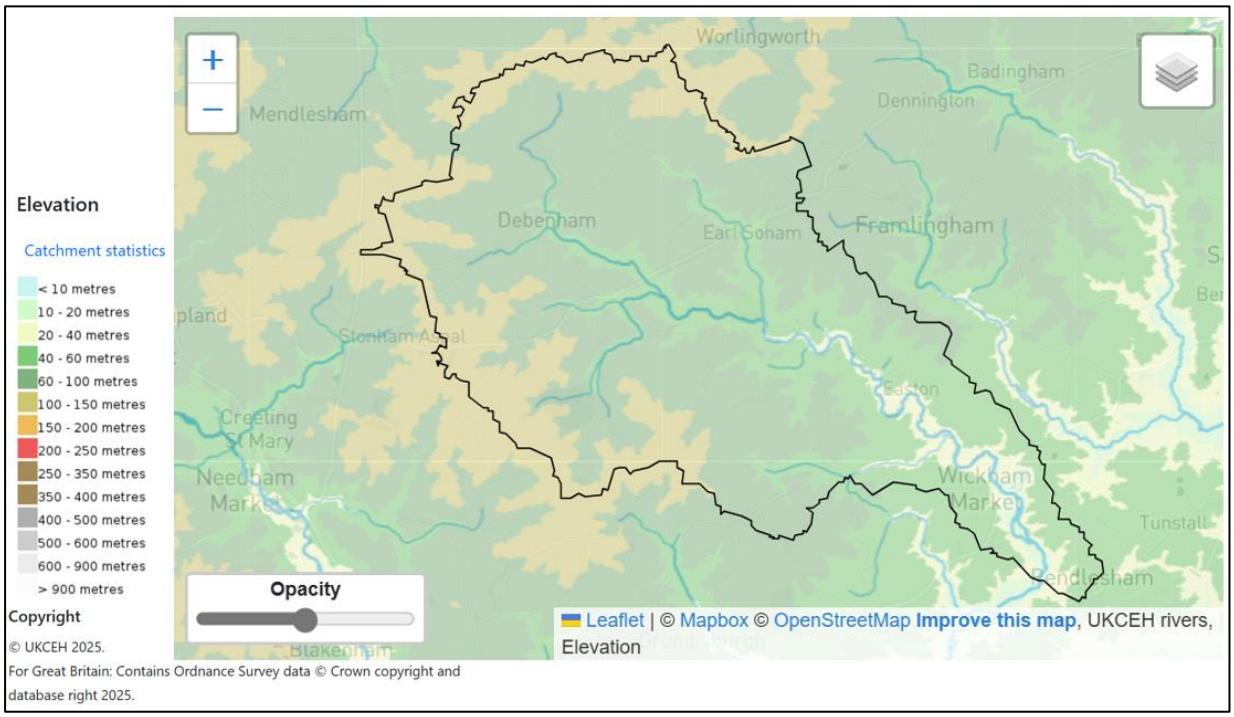


Figure 11. Elevation map of river Deben catchment area (National River Flow Archive)

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 River Deben catchment between 19 and 22 October. Data from surrounding Environment Agency rain gauges indicates that a significant volume of rain was experienced during Storm Babet. At Earl Soham rainfall gauge, 68mm was recorded in 21 hrs. More than half of this rainfall (35mm) was received in 3 hours from 8:30 am to 11:30 am.

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 properties to the south and west of Easton. This Flood Alert was issued on 18th October 2023 at 22:12 and remained in force until it was removed on 24th October 2023.

Covering a similar extent in Easton is the Flood Warning area of the River Deben from downstream of Cretingham to Ufford. This Flood Warning was issued at 15.45 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 runoff) 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. Harriers Walk

The primary cause of flooding on Harriers Walk was pluvial flooding. On 20 October 2023, intense rainfall caused huge amounts of surface water to flow north to south, from the farmland above Easton towards the village. Much of the water arrived along the watercourse identified as the main flow path on the flood map, but some of the internal flooding on Harriers Walk was caused by surface water runoff from fields draining onto the Kettleburgh Road, flowing onto Framlingham Road and then into properties. Residents described this fast-flowing floodwater on the highway as

sweeping into Harriers Walk and also into property adjacent to Framlingham Road, submerging gardens, garages and flowing down driveways and surrounding houses (see Figure 12). The existing highway drainage along Framlingham Road and on Harriers Walk was overwhelmed by the sheer volume and force of floodwater during the storm event.

One property was flooded directly from the watercourse that runs through Harriers Walk north to south towards the Deben. The capacity of this watercourse was clearly exceeded by the amount of floodwater flowing into it from the catchments above. There are culverted sections of this channel in the built up area of the village, for road crossings and within private property. This will have reduced conveyance in the watercourse and increased the risk of water backing up behind the culverts as well as being a site for potential blockages, although this was not reported during the storm. Two sections of culverting on private property were identified as unconsented works, these were assessed by SCC LLFA engineers and one section was removed due to the potential for increased flood risk.

The primary cause of flooding in this location was the amount of water falling on a large arable catchment which flows unrestricted onto roads and via a watercourse directly adjacent to properties in the built up area of the village. The floodwater flowpaths observed on Harriers Walk during Storm Babet closely match the national surface water flood risk mapping (see Figure 13), which show a high likelihood of surface water flooding.



Figure 12. Approximate flood water flow routes on Harriers Walk



Figure 13. Surface water flood risk on Harriers Walk

In Summary:

- The primary cause of the flooding on Harriers Walk was pluvial flooding.
- Intense rainfall caused huge amounts of surface water runoff from the fields north and northwest of Easton to drain onto watercourses and onto the highway.
- Kettleburgh Road and Framlingham Road acted as pathways for the floodwater to flow into Harriers Walk.
- The watercourse running through Harriers Walk overtopped as its capacity was exceeded by the amount of surface water flowing from the catchments to the north.
- Floodwater flowed down driveways, surrounding properties and submerging gardens.

LLFA recommended action(s):

- Residents to consider installing Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures.
- Riparian landowners to carry out appropriate open and piped watercourse maintenance 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 north and northwest of Kettleburgh Road and Harriers Walk, E.g. leaky dams, woody debris installation, restoration of watercourses, storage ponds, wetland areas.
- Suffolk Highways to investigate options for improving highway drainage on Kettleburgh Road and Framlingham Road to manage surface water flows.
- Suffolk Highways to ensure the completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance on Framlingham Road and Harriers Walk.

- Riparian landowners and members of the public to report any observed blockages in the culverts below the highway on the Suffolk Highways online reporting tool.

2. The Street

On the morning of 20 October 2023, intense rainfall caused large amounts of surface water to flow down Cemetery Lane on to The Street. Large sections of The Street were submerged, with the sewers backing up and foul water merging with the increasing extent of floodwater. Residents have described the highway drainage system on The Street as ineffective, with the problem of blocked drains being highlighted on numerous occasions prior to Storm Babet.

One property was flooded directly from the surface water pooling on the highway as the water overtopped from a gully and flowed down the driveway. The gully drains via a pipe to a ditch and then on to the river Deben. The outfall at the ditch and possibly the pipe itself was blocked. Floodwater was also observed emerging via the tarmac drive, leaking through the pipe surround indicating the possibility of a blockage. The property was internally flooded to a depth of approximately 180mm.

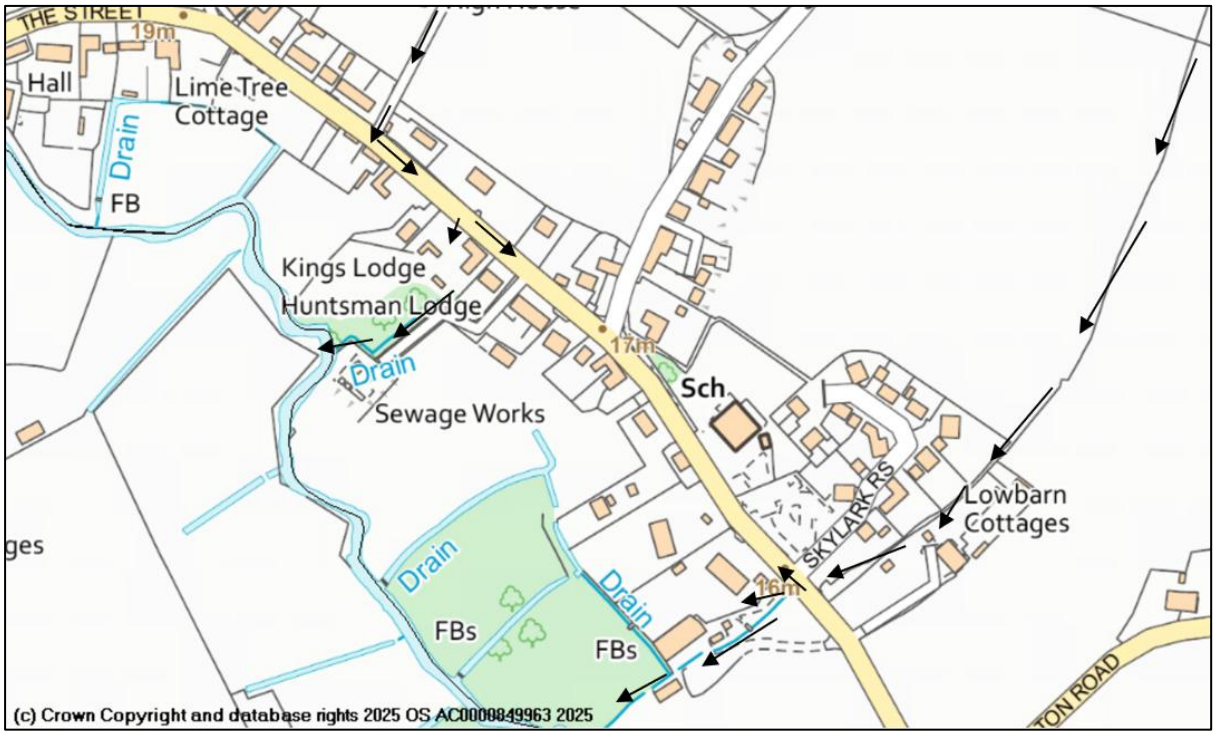


Figure 14. Approximate flood water flow routes on The Street

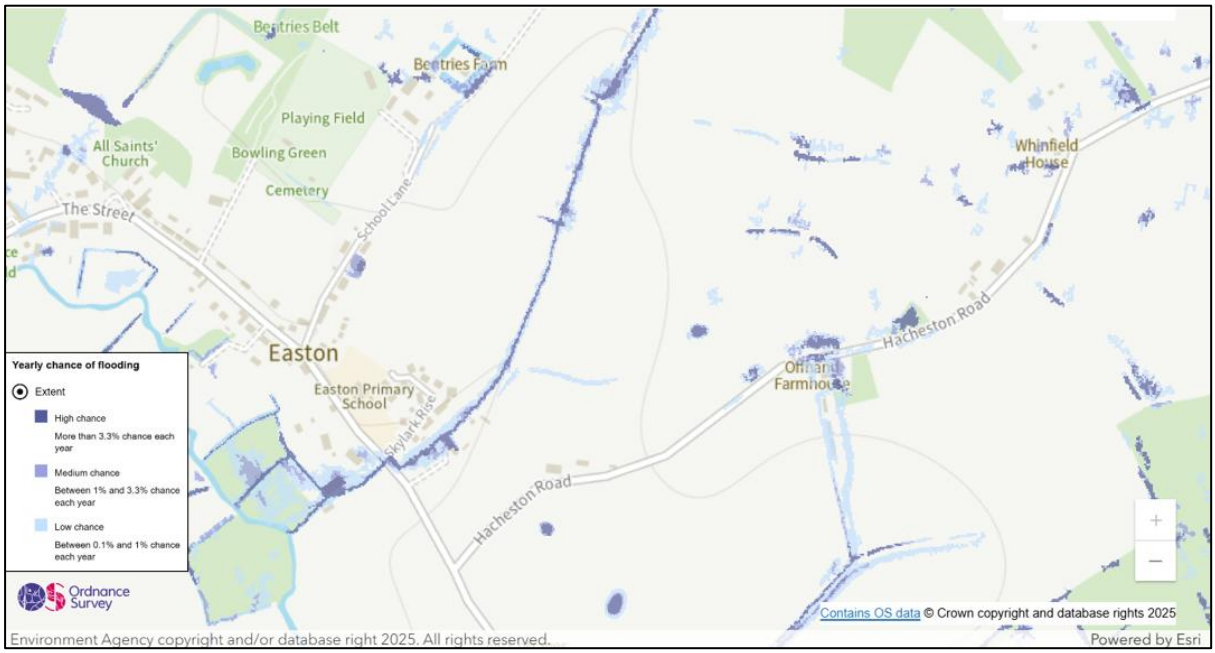


Figure 15. Surface water flood risk on The Street and Hacheston Road

During Storm Babet large amounts of floodwater flowed down the open watercourse adjacent to the Skylark Rise development from the catchments upstream of Easton. Two properties were flooded directly from the overwhelmed watercourse as the extreme water levels exceeded the capacity of channel in multiple locations (see Figure 14). Reports from the residents indicate the culvert below the highway was blocked with silt and vegetation and the watercourse itself was overgrown with vegetation along its length due to a lack of maintenance prior to the storm. The floodwater backed up at the culvert and discharged over the road at this location.

A large extent of the watercourse and the area upstream and downstream of the culvert was cleared in the months after Storm Babet by the landowner following an enforcement notice. This will improve floodwater conveyance. However, given the intensity of the rainfall, over a relatively short timescale, it is probable that flooding would have occurred in this location. This was an exceptional event that exceeded the capacity of the local drainage system in multiple locations across Easton.

Reports from residents suggest that works undertaken in the vicinity of the floodplain may have contributed to local flood risk, and this is currently being explored directly with the resident concerned. The property itself is at significant flood risk, primarily due to the large catchment and the restricted nature of the watercourses and drainage in this location, which were the main causes of the resultant flooding. Nevertheless, the LLFA is continuing to examine what, if any, impact the adjacent development may have had on the overall local flood risk. The LLFA will provide updates to the resident directly and they will also be captured within the recommendations section of this report.

The floodwater flowpaths observed on The Street during Storm Babet align closely with the national surface water flood risk mapping (see Figure 15). In some locations the flooding experienced was more extensive than the mapped risk. The majority of the internally flooded properties are located in areas characterised as having a high chance of surface water flooding.

In Summary:

- Intense rainfall caused large amounts of surface water to flow down Cemetery Lane and the open watercourse adjacent to the Skylark Rise development towards The Street.
- Parts of The Street were completely submerged in floodwater as the highway drainage assets were overwhelmed and the capacity of the watercourse next to Skylark Rise was exceeded.
- Some of the gullies, associated pipework and ditches may have been partially blocked, inhibiting drainage from the highway. Residents had reported drainage issues on The Street prior to Storm Babet.
- The watercourse next to Skylark Rise was undermaintained with overgrown vegetation and the downstream culvert was partly blocked with silt.
- One property was flooded directly from floodwater on the highway. Two properties were flooded from the overtopped watercourse.

LLFA recommended action(s):

- Residents to consider installing Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures.
- Riparian landowners to carry out appropriate open and piped watercourse maintenance 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 north and northeast of The Street and Skylark Rise, E.g. leaky dams, woody debris installation, restoration of watercourses, storage ponds, wetland areas.
- Suffolk Highways to ensure the completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance on The Street.
- Suffolk Highways to investigate the condition of the existing highway drainage assets on The Street.
- East Suffolk District Council (ESDC) and Suffolk County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), continue to explore what, if any, impact the Skylark Rise development may have had on the overall local flood risk.
- Riparian landowners and members of the public to report any observed blockages in the culverts below the highway on the Suffolk Highways online reporting tool.

3. Hacheston Road

Following heavy and prolonged rainfall on the morning of the 20 October, internal flooding to one property on Hacheston Road was caused by large amounts of surface water flowing across fields and combining with floodwater from overwhelmed drainage ditches.

Resident reports suggest the floodwater accumulated in the roadside ditch before overtopping and merging with surface water on the highway before flowing across the driveway and impacting the property and outbuildings. The existing highway drainage assets on Hacheston Road were overwhelmed by the volume of water on the road. Parts of Hacheston Road are characterised as being at high risk of surface water flooding on the national surface water flood risk mapping (see Figure 15).

LLFA recommended action(s):

- Residents to consider installing Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures.
- Riparian landowners to carry out appropriate open and piped watercourse maintenance 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 north of Hacheston Road, E.g. leaky dams, woody debris installation, restoration of watercourses, storage ponds, wetland areas.
- Suffolk Highways to ensure the completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance on Hacheston Road.

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 (SCC)	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
Anglian Water	Asset owner supplying water and water recycling services
East Suffolk Water Management Board (IDB)	Internal Drainage Board (IDB) Supervising land drainage and flood defence works on ordinary watercourses
East Suffolk District Council (ESDC)	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.
Easton 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.
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
Some localised jetting was carried out in 2024. More extensive jetting will be considered for the S19 project.	Suffolk Highways	Ongoing

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 Easton. 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 planning)			
Establish a Community Emergency Plan that includes plans to manage future flood events – Liaison with Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit.	Easton Parish Council	6 months	No further action is proposed at this stage. 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 had 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.
Riparian landowners to carry out appropriate open and piped watercourse maintenance to reduce flood risk as	Riparian landowners	N/A	Further information on Riparian Ownership can be found within SCC published "Flood Smart Living" handbook.

necessary as per their riparian responsibilities (See Appendix A).			
Riparian landowners and members of the public to report any observed blockages in the culverts below the highway on the Suffolk Highways online reporting tool.	Riparian landowners and members of the public	N/A	Residents, riparian landowners and the Parish Council are encouraged to continue providing relevant information to SCC where appropriate to support ongoing flood risk management activities. It can be reported at the following https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue
Suffolk Highways to investigate the condition of the existing highway drainage assets on The Street.	Suffolk Highways	12 months	**Complete** Update from Suffolk Highways: Jetting and ditching carried out at various locations along The Street. There are issues which require repair or maintenance for the longer term. These will be prioritised within the Suffolk highways Flood Site Register.
Suffolk Highways to ensure the completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance on Framlingham Road, Harriers Walk, The Street and Hacheston 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). Easton Parish Council may wish to explore Suffolk Highways' Community Self-Help Scheme to support local resilience and minor maintenance activities. - https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/community-self-help-scheme

Medium Term Actions (e.g. longer planning timescales and potential need to source funding but potential for greater impact)			
Explore potential NFM measures which aim to attenuate water and 'slow the flow' on overland flow paths in the catchments north of Easton e.g. storage ponds, wetland areas, leaky dams, woody debris installation and restoration of watercourses.	Landowners, supported by relevant authority, resource dependant (SCC LLFA, EA)	12 - 24 months	**Ongoing**. Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) update: The area West of Framlingham Road is currently subject to a full planning application for the construction and operation of a Solar Farm that incorporates proposed Surface Water Drainage and Landscape Strategies, ensuring no additional flow velocities or volumes are generated from the pre-development agricultural use. In addition to this, the applicant has sought to provide check dams, interception swales, permeable surfaces, and bunding to maximise on-site water retention and minimise flow rates. The LLFA continues to respond as a statutory consultee to ensure flood risk is mitigated within the proposed development and has worked closely with the developer, including walkovers of both sites.
Suffolk County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and East Suffolk District Council (ESDC), continue to explore what, if any, impact the Skylark Rise development may have had on the overall local flood risk. This should include consideration of whether the development has influenced surface water runoff, drainage capacity, or connectivity with existing flood risk management infrastructure.	SCC (LLFA) & ESDC	12 - 24 months	**Ongoing** Lead Local Authority (LLFA) update: The LLFA reviewed the approved layout and drainage strategy for the Skylark Rise development, including ground levels adjacent to the watercourse and the provision of over 100m³ of soakaway storage. While some localised level changes and impermeable fencing are present, no clear evidence has been identified that the development deviated from the approved plans or that it has materially altered flood

			risk at this location. Consequently, no planning enforcement route has been identified.
Suffolk Highways to investigate options for upscaling and improving highway drainage on Kettleburgh Road and Framlingham Road to manage surface water flows.	Suffolk Highways	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 issues as development comes forward.	Local Planning Authority, Easton Parish Council, SCC LLFA	12 months+	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.
Long Term actions (significantly longer timescale and budget required with potentially greater positive impact)			
Deliver improvements to highway drainage network to manage surface water flows if investigation works suggest it is beneficial and viable.	SCC Highways	TBC	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.
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	Landowners, supported by relevant authority,	TBC	**Ongoing** – No update expected at this time.

to improve the flood resilience of the village.	resource dependant (SCC LLFA, EA)		

Approval

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

Reviewer	Date of Review
Ellie Coleby	05/10/2026

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

