Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Cavendish Flood Investigation –

Storm Babet 2023

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Executive Summary

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

Cavendish 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. The low-lying nature of Cavendish in the valley of the river Stour means that during high rainfall events, considerable overland flowpaths converge upstream and flow through Cavendish bringing floodwater in close proximity to many properties in the village. The local geology and soils are susceptible to high run off, making a number of properties in the village vulnerable to flooding due to intense rainfall events.

Storm Babet delivered significant rainfall to the catchment, following a period of above average rainfall. Impacts within Cavendish were widespread and for the purposes of this report, the affected areas have been categorised into three locations. 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 location is provided within the report, outlining the context of the event and the impact. Key findings are that Cavendish 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.

Short, medium and longer term recommendations have been published and each have a potential role to improve resilience and reduce the risk of flooding in Cavendish. For short term measures, key highlights include the implementation of a community flood plan and installing Property Flood Resilience (PFR). For medium to longer term recommendations, there is emphasis on the management of water from rural land through new natural flood management features and riparian landowners to carry out watercourse maintenance where appropriate 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.

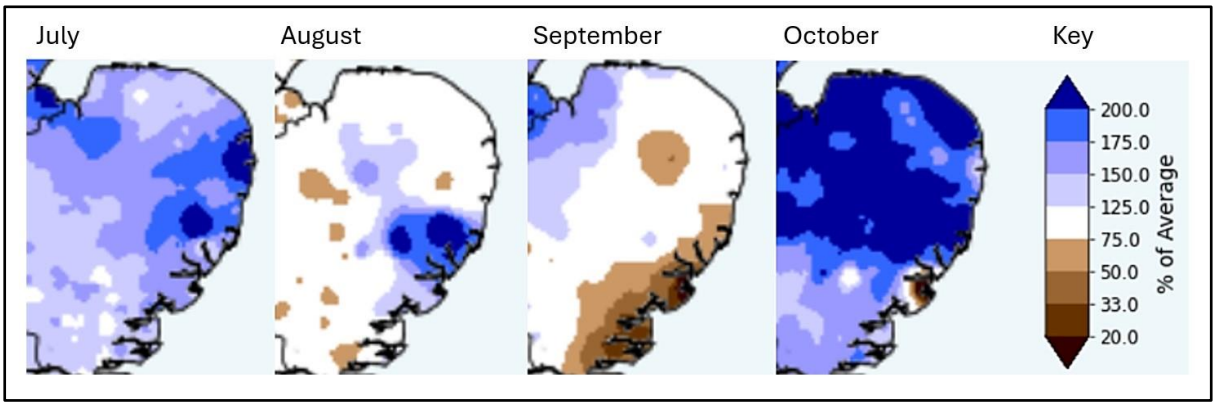

Figure 1. Average rainfall in East Anglia between July and October 2023 as a percentage of the historical average monthly rainfall

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

Cavendish is a village and parish situated in the Stour valley. It is in the local authority district of West Suffolk. The village is approximately six miles to the northwest of the larger market town of Sudbury.

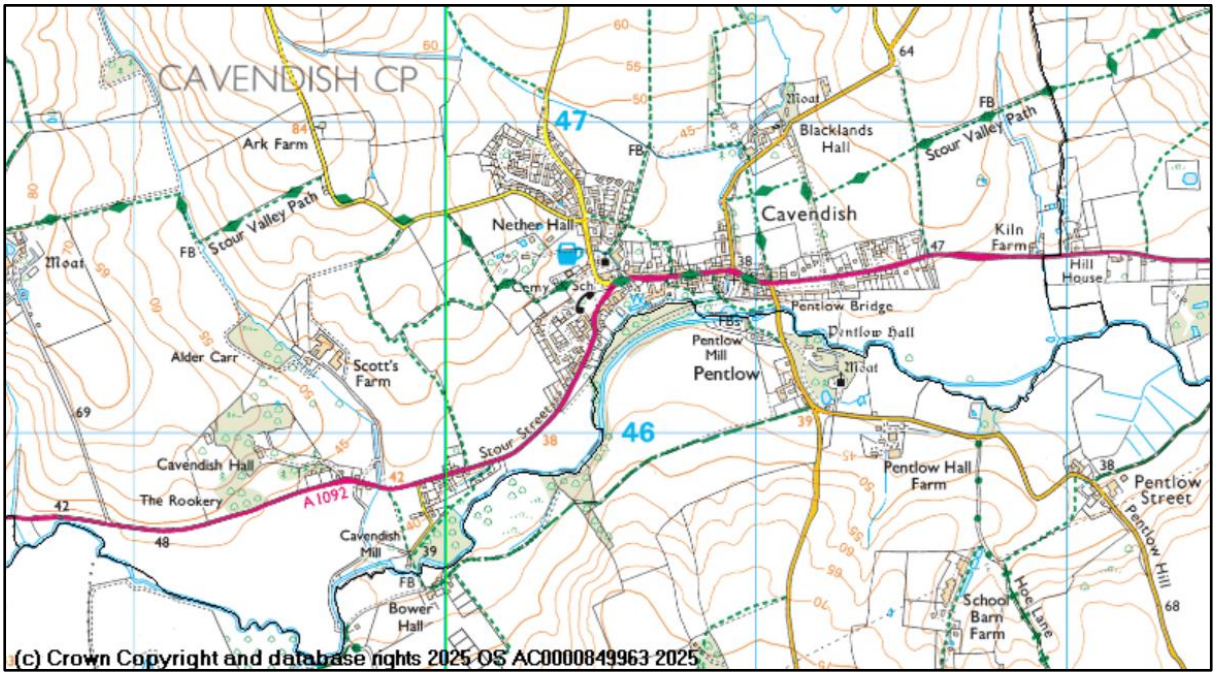

Figure 2. Investigation area map

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 board area.

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 in and around Cavendish.

Figure 3. 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. Cavendish was significantly impacted with approximately 8 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 4). The locations are as follows:

1. Stour Street
2. Poole Street and High Street
3. Peacocks Road

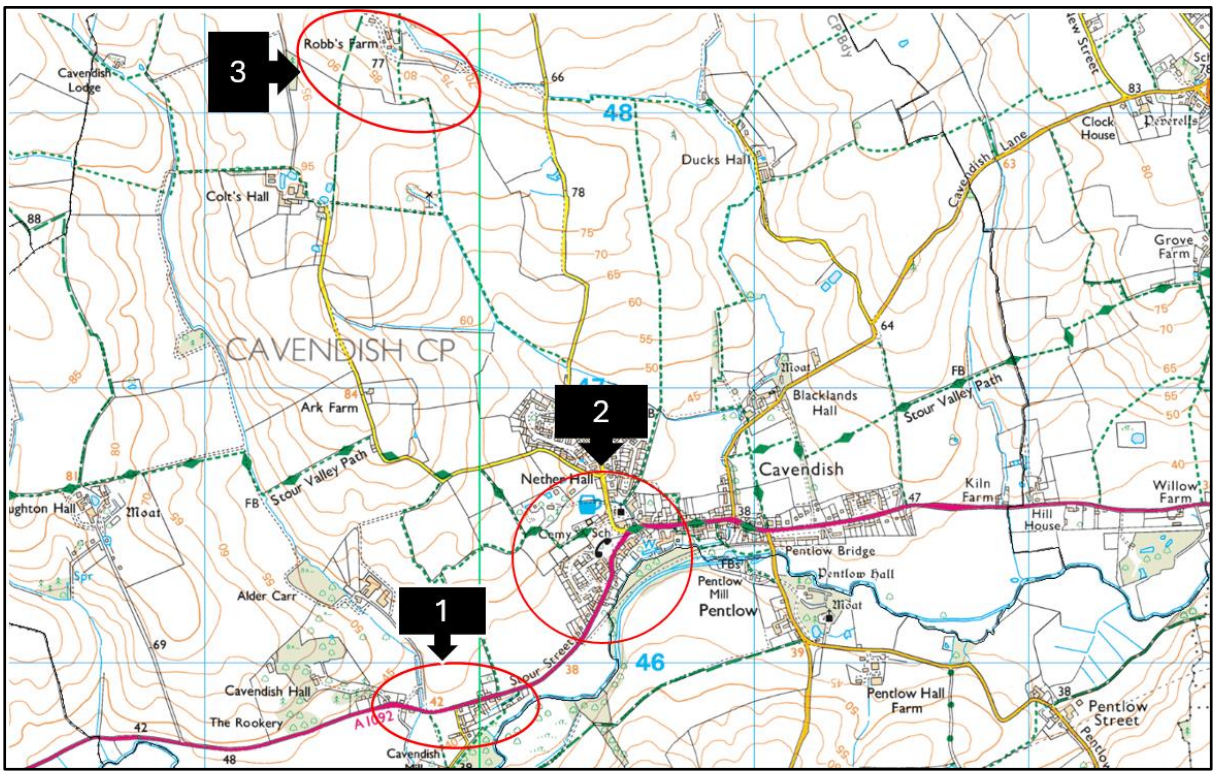

Figure 4. Cavendish investigation area map with locations

4. Records of any historical flooding

A review of Suffolk County Council's highway reporting tool, Environment Agency and Anglian Water records, indicate that parts of Cavendish have been frequently impacted by flooding in the past.

Suffolk Highways receive a higher than average number of reports regarding drainage. Most involve blocked drains or standing water on roads, but some have been regarding flooding of properties. Drainage repairs and improvements have been carried out on High Street and The Green over the last 8 years.

The Environment Agency have records of flooding in Cavendish in 1968, 1979, 1987, 2000 & 2001.

Anglian Water have said there is a history of flooding in Cavendish due to hydraulic overload of assets during significant rainfall events. There may have been a blockage on Poole Street which caused internal flooding.

5. Predicted Flood Risk

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

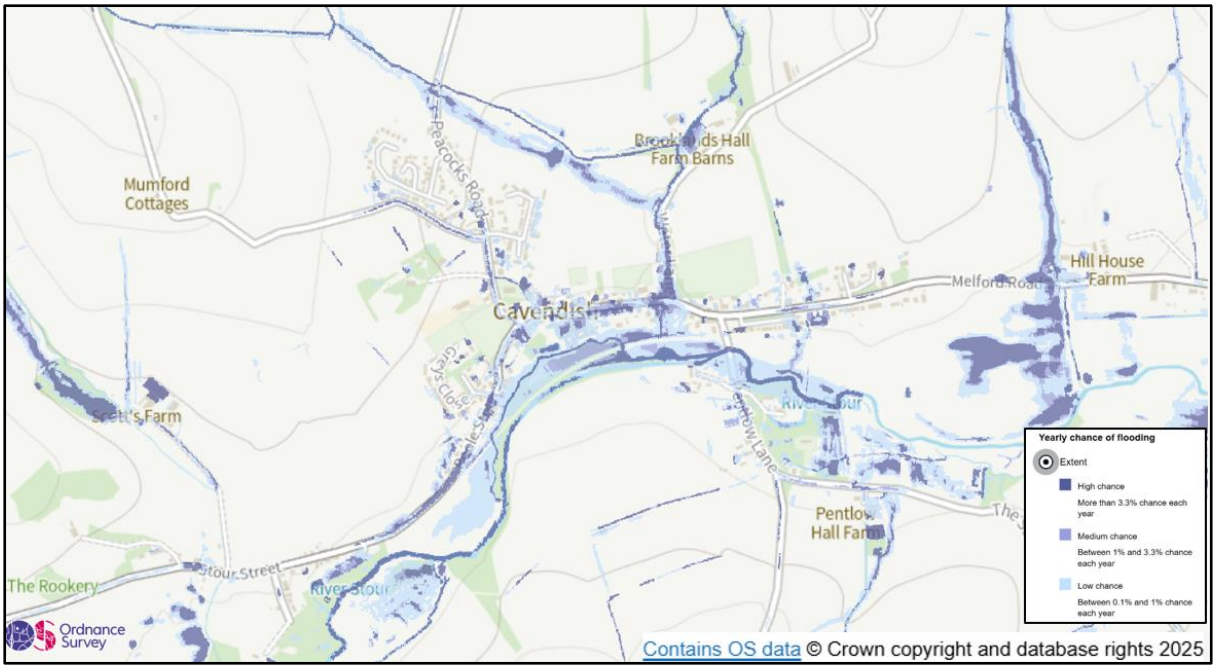

Figure 5. Surface water flood risk

Figure 5 highlights the predicted pluvial (surface water run-off from surrounding land and highways) flood risk in Cavendish, with multiple flow paths from the north coming through the village and into the river Stour to the south.

There is a high chance of surface water flooding on sections of Stour Street, Poole Street, High Street and Water Lane. These areas were all affected by flooding during Storm Babet.

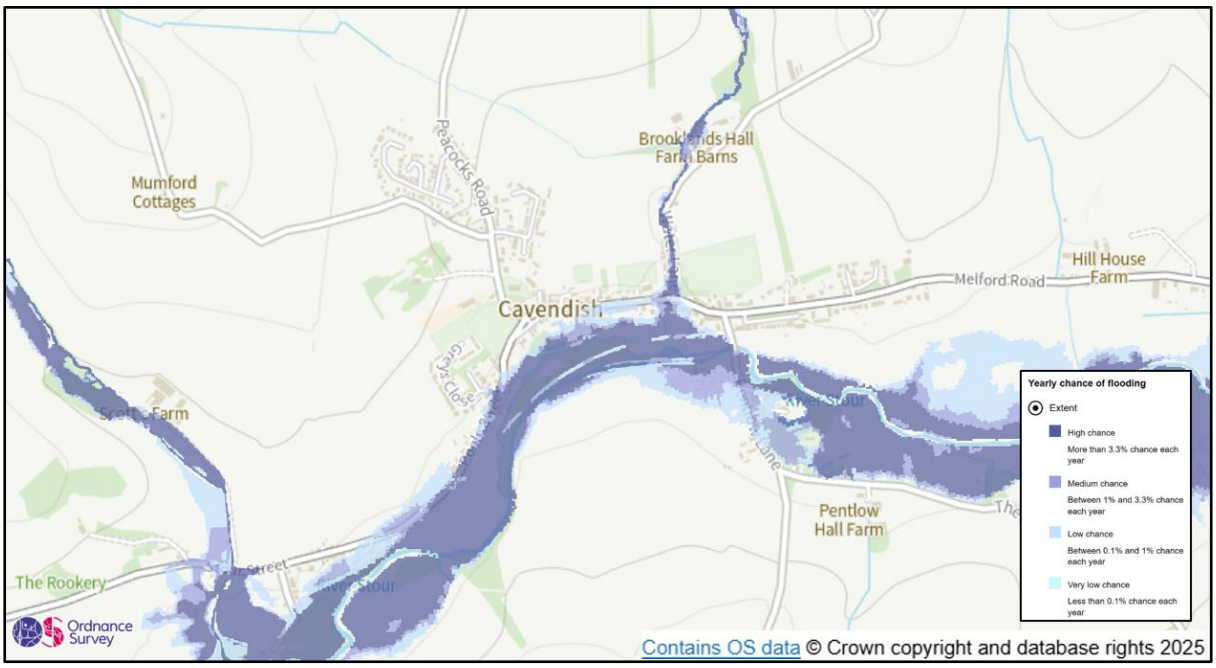

Figure 6. Flood risk from rivers and sea

Figure 6 shows the predicted fluvial (from designated main river and ordinary watercourses) flood risk in Cavendish. The fluvial flood risk in Cavendish is predominantly associated with the river Stour to the south of the village and two watercourses feeding into the Stour from the North.

There is a medium to high chance of fluvial flooding on sections of Stour Street, Poole Street, High Street and Water Lane. These areas were all affected by flooding during Storm Babet.

6. Catchment characteristics

The village of Cavendish is situated in the Stour valley. The village is surrounded by higher ground to the north and south. Two ordinary watercourses flow from the catchment to the north, through the village and into the Stour to the south.

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

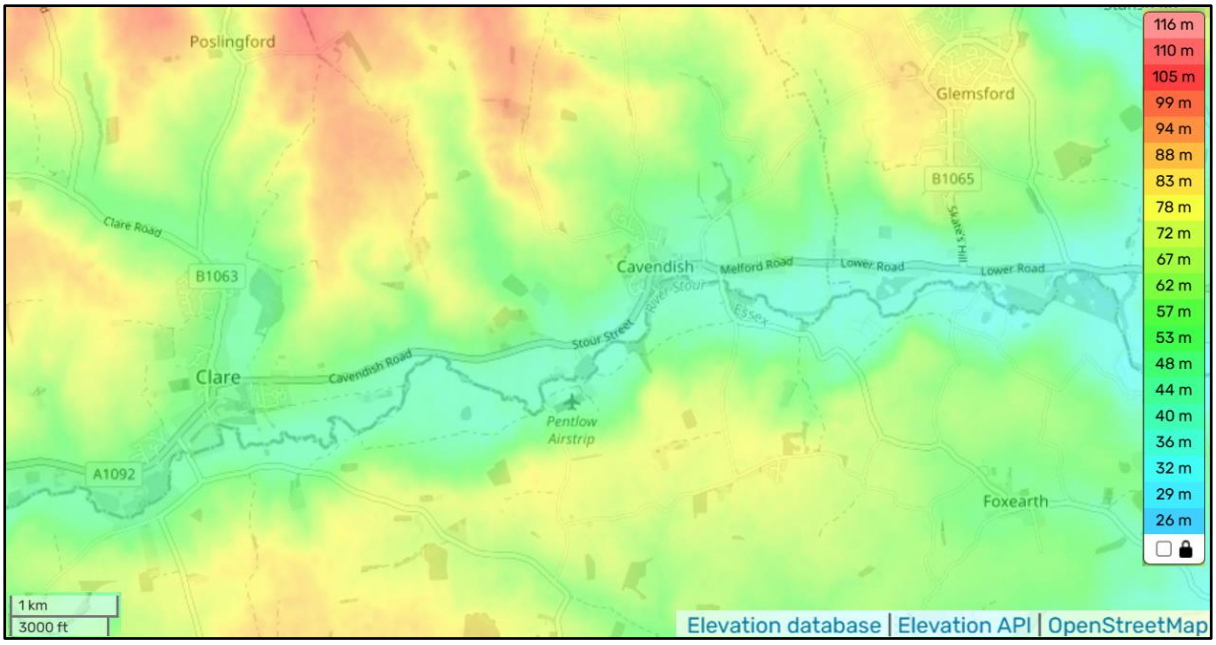

Figure 7. Cavendish and surrounding topography (TessaDEM as cited in topographic-map.com)

Figure 7 shows the topography surrounding Cavendish with gradient changes across the wider region. Cavendish village is situated low in the landscape generally and some of the lowest points in Cavendish are along Stour Street, Poole Street and High Street. These locations were identified as being some of the worst affected areas during Storm Babet.

Figure 8. Soil map (LandIS Soilscapes)

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

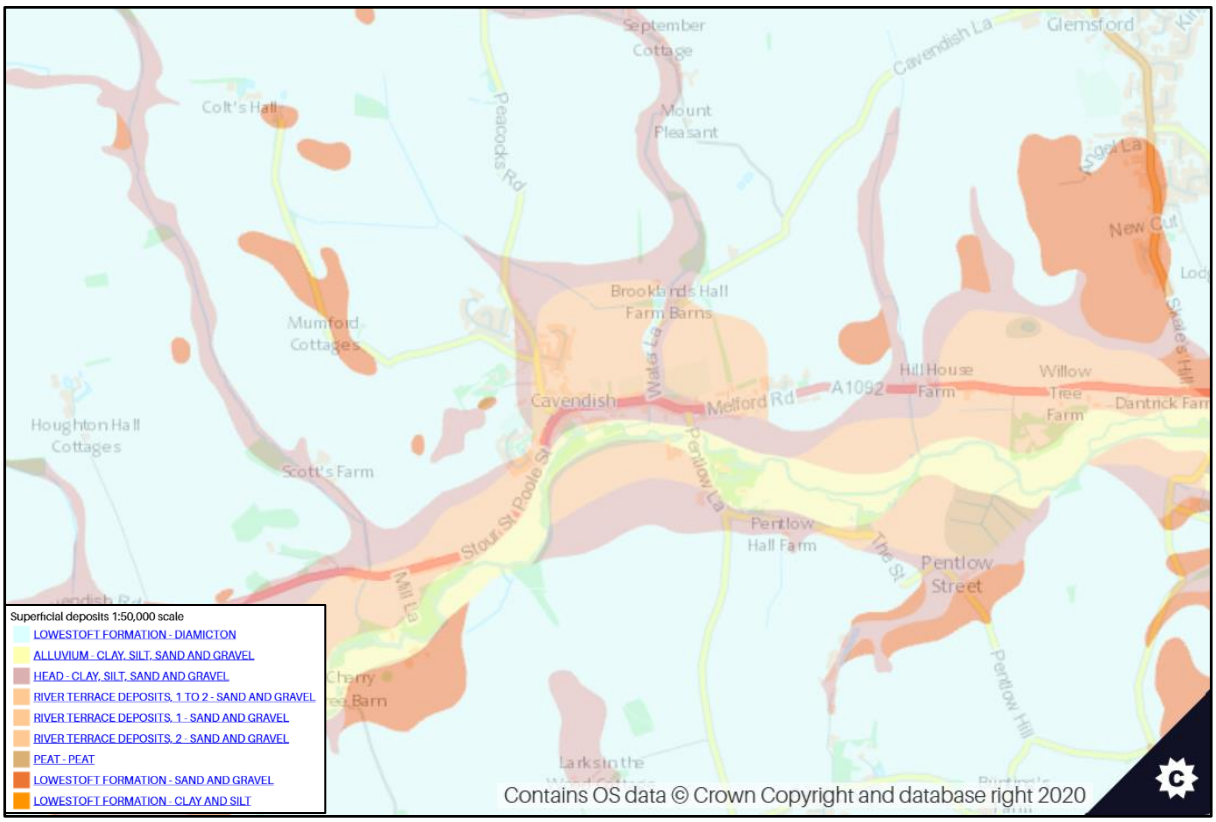

Figure 9. Superficial Geology (BGS Viewer)

Lowestoft Formation 'Diamicton' surrounds Cavendish 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 much of Cavendish, with surface water flow paths merging into the river Stour and the low permeability of the surrounding soils, make it susceptible to flooding in 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. Data from the rainfall gauge at Lavenham recorded 50.77mm of rainfall on 20th October, with 15-minute peaks of 5.43mm at 00:30 GMT and 5.21mm at 07:00 GMT.

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.

Areas of Stour Street, Poole Street and High Street at risk of flooding from the River Stour are within the Flood Alert area of 'The Upper Stour and Surrounding Tributaries'. This flood alert was issued on 20th October 2023 at 09:15am and remained in force until its removal on 25th October 2023.

These areas are also covered by the Flood Warning area for 'The River Stour from downstream of Kedington to Sudbury'. The flood warning for this area was issued on 20th October at 18:49pm and remained in force until it was removed on 21st October at 17:30pm.

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. Stour Street

Following heavy rainfall on the morning of 20 October, high water levels flowed down multiple watercourses from the catchments north of Cavendish. Water levels exceeded the capacity of the channel in multiple locations and flowed across land and onto the highway. The rainfall had caused floodwater to pool in several places on the highway and these additional fluvial flows added to the extent of the flooding seen along Stour Street (see Image 1).

The majority of the highway drainage assets in this area were recorded as being operational, with some noted as being slow running, prior to Storm Babet. In the months after the storm some highway gullies were blocked with silt before they were cleansed again. It is likely large amounts of silt and sediment had been carried from the surrounding fields onto the highway by the massive surface water flows seen during Storm Babet.

During Storm Babet the existing highway drainage assets on Stour 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 so high and flooding out of bank itself. Traffic attempting to drive through the floodwater on the highway caused bow waves which further increased the flooding experienced.

One property was internally flooded directly from the highway with floodwater depths on the road exceeding 400mm. The watercourse overtopped south of the A1092, with floodwater flowing west across the garden before merging with water from the highway effectively surrounding the property (see figure 10).

The floodwater flowpaths observed on Stour Street during Storm Babet closely match the national fluvial flood risk mapping (see Figure 11). Sections of Stour Street are characterised as having a medium to high yearly chance of fluvial flooding. The yearly chance of surface water flooding on Stour Street ranges from low to high in different areas (Figure 5).

In Summary:

- Following heavy rainfall, high water levels flowed down multiple watercourses from the catchments north of Cavendish. Water levels exceeded the capacity of the channel in multiple locations and flowed across land and onto the highway.
- Drainage assets on Stour 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 so high and flooding out of bank itself.
- One property was flooded directly from the highway and surrounded by floodwater from the overwhelmed watercourse.

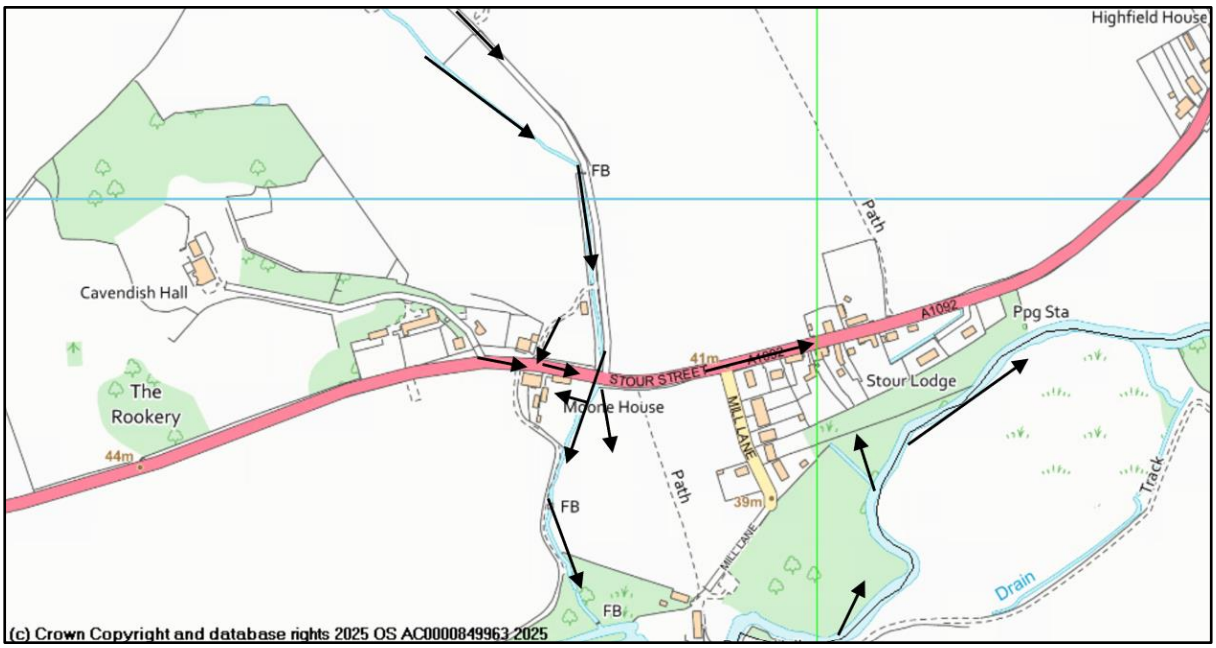

Figure 10. Approximate flood water flow routes along Stour Street

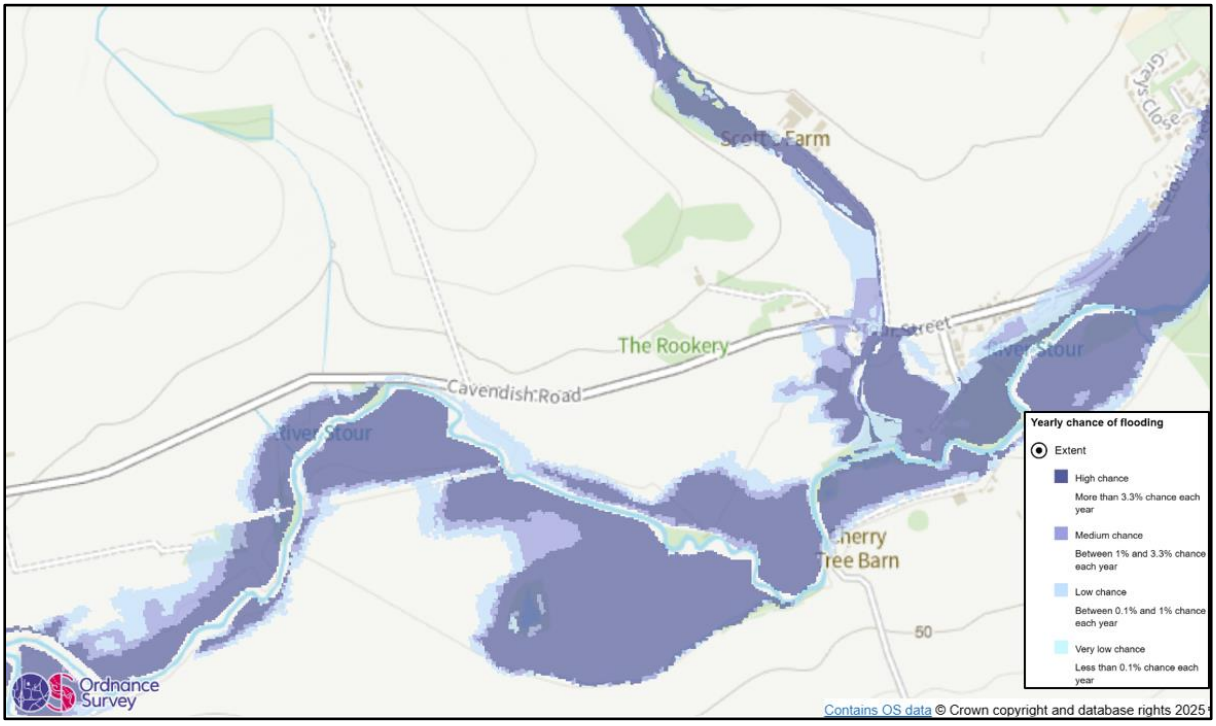

Figure 11. Fluvial flood risk on Stour Street

LLFA recommended action(s):

- Residents to install Property Flood Resilience (PFR).
- Riparian landowners to carry out appropriate 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 Stour Street, 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 Stour Street.
- Landowners / General public to report any observed blockages below Stour Street road bridge on the Suffolk Highways Online Reporting Tool.

2. Poole Street and High Street

The intense rainfall during Storm Babet caused large amounts of floodwater to pool on the highway with long sections of Poole Street either partially or wholly submerged in floodwater. The areas opposite Greys Close and Peacocks Road are particularly susceptible to surface water flooding as floodwater flows downhill along the highway towards properties on Poole Street (see Figure 12).

Traffic driving through the floodwater caused bow waves to push water towards driveways and front porches resulting in at least one property being directly flooded through the front door.

Residents reported that a during and after Storm Babet, water was seen surcharging from manholes on Poole Street. Anglian Water believe the sewer was likely overloaded from the rainfall and additional surface water runoff entering the sewer and exceeding the capacity of the system. Anglian Water records indicate that reports of this nature are frequent in this area.

To the rear of properties on Poole Street, water levels in the river Stour rose steadily throughout the day flooding into and across multiple gardens by late afternoon.

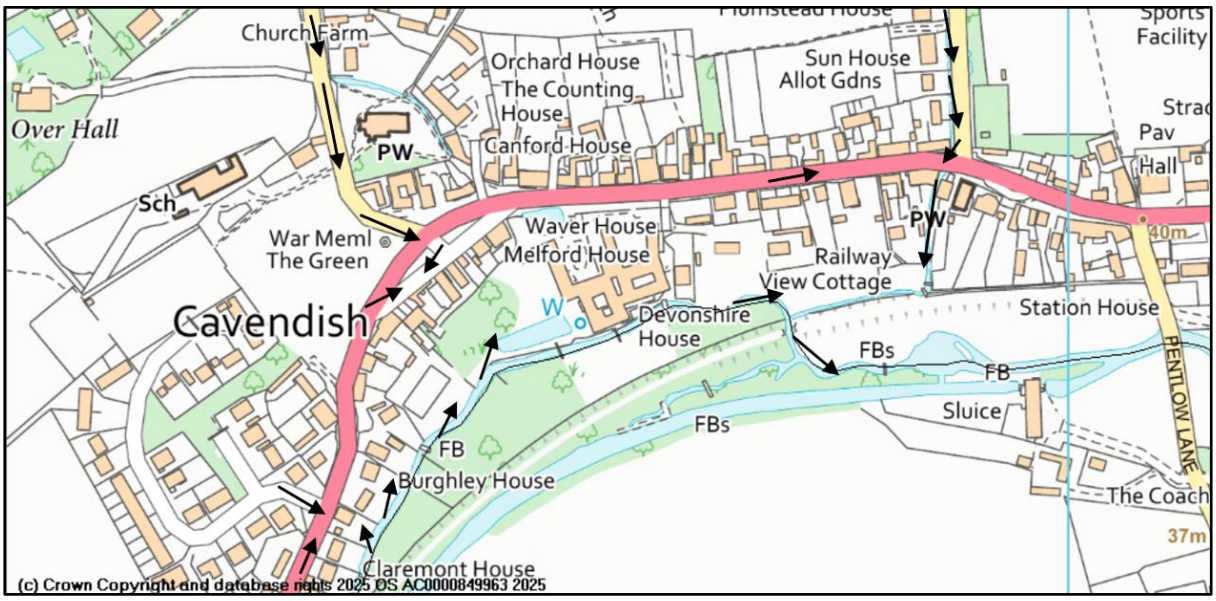

Figure 12. Approximate flood water flow routes on Poole Street and High Street

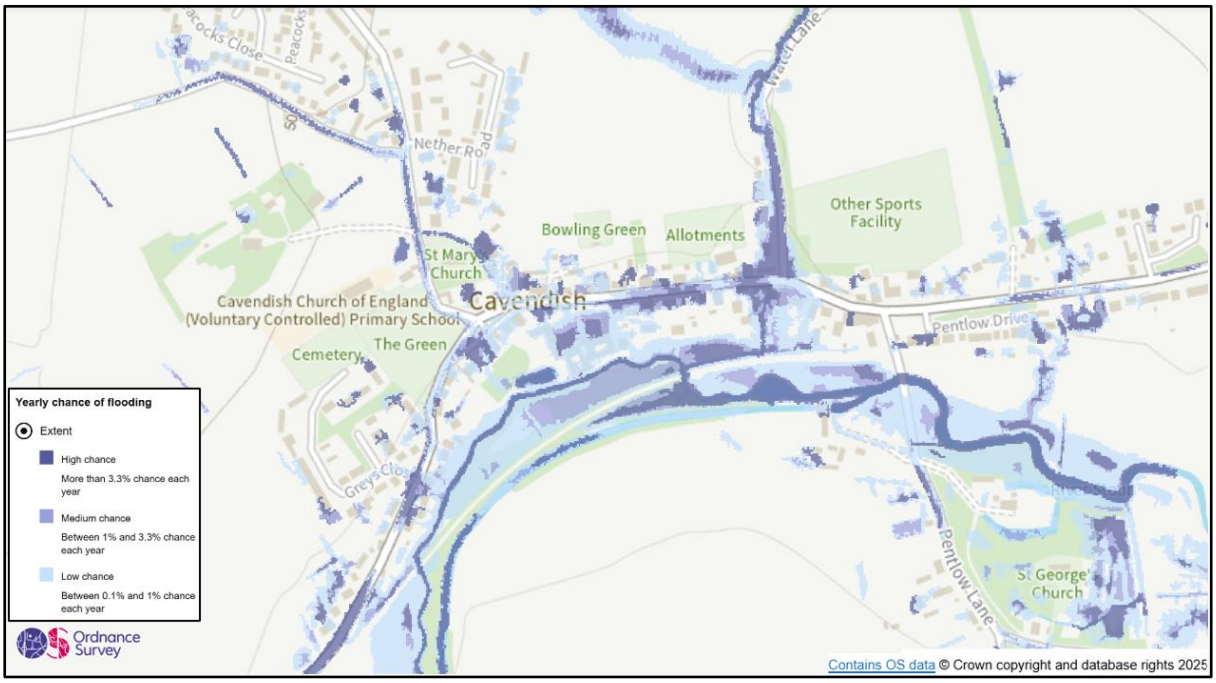

Figure 13. Surface water flood risk on Poole Street and High Street

Further along Poole Street towards the village centre, opposite The Green, residents reported that the main road and the service road were submerged in floodwater (Image 2). One property was flooded from the front, with approximately 4 inches of water internally. Resident's reports cite blocked or broken drains as being a persistent factor in flooding on the service road. Suffolk Highways are aware of issues at this location and have previously carried out underground works.

The surface water flowed down the highway from Peacocks Road and Colts Hall Lane, downhill towards Poole Street and the service road. This area is shown as being at high chance of surface water flooding on the national flood risk maps (see Figure 13). Suffolk Highways carried out some jetting work on the drainage assets on Peacocks Road and the Colts Hall Lane area in the aftermath of Storm Babet with further future work planned.

On High Street several properties were flooded directly from the overwhelmed watercourse that runs along Water Lane. Large amounts of floodwater flowed down the watercourse from the catchment to the north, exceeding the capacity of the channel (see Figure 12). The floodwater spilled out on to the highway up to 2ft in depth on Water Lane and High Street. Residents reported the that the watercourse had been poorly maintained leading up to the storm. Overgrown vegetation and loose debris in the channel may have reduced the capacity in places and exacerbated the flooding. Water Lane and parts of High Street are shown to be at a high yearly chance of fluvial flooding (see Figure 14).

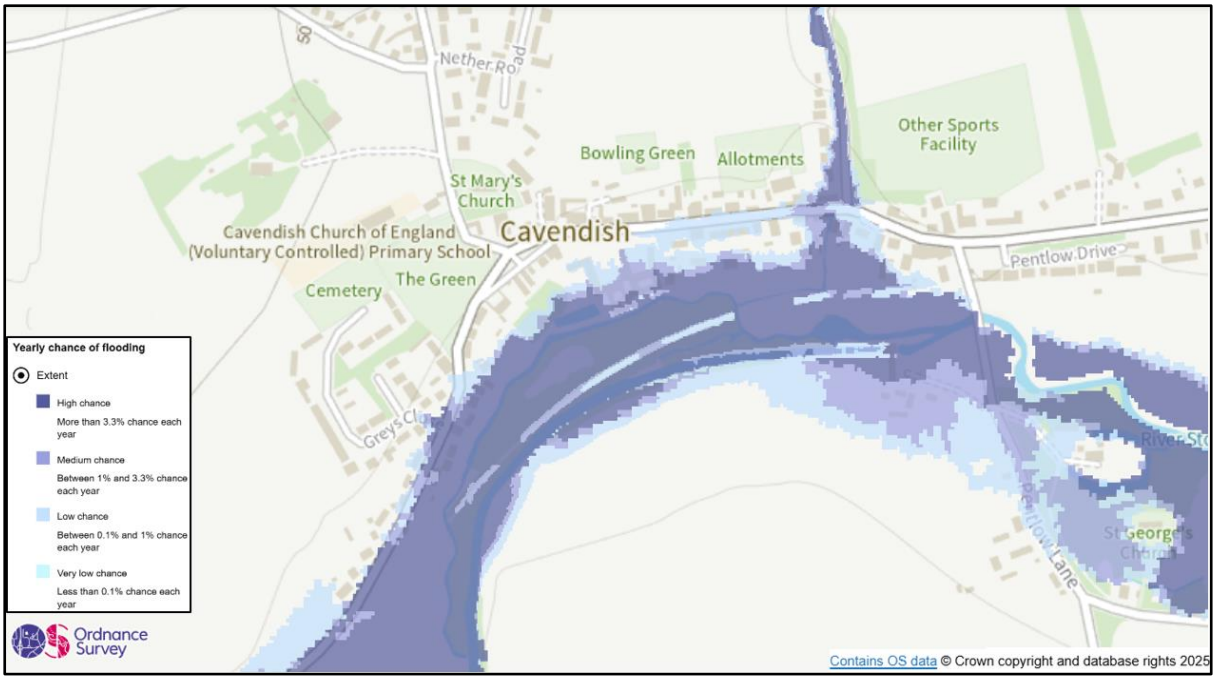

Figure 14. Fluvial flood risk on Poole Street and High Street

In Summary:

- Intense rainfall during Storm Babet caused water to pool on the highway, sections of Poole Street were either partially or wholly submerged in floodwater.
- Traffic driving through the floodwater pushed water towards properties.
- Water was surcharging from manholes on Poole Street as the sewer was overloaded from the rainfall and additional surface water runoff.
- At least two properties were flooded from the front, directly from the highway.

- To the rear of Poole Street and High Street, the river Stour rose steadily throughout the day flooding into and across multiple gardens.
- On High Street several properties were flooded from the overwhelmed watercourse that runs along Water Lane.

LLFA recommended action(s):

- Residents to install Property Flood Resilience (PFR).
- Riparian landowners to carry out appropriate maintenance to watercourse along Water Lane to reduce flood risk as necessary as per their riparian responsibilities.
- Explore potential NFM projects to 'slow the flow' in watercourses and attenuate water on overland flow paths north of Water Lane and High Street, 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 Poole Street and High Street.
- Suffolk Highways to investigate potential blocked / broken highway drainage assets on the service road off Poole Street / High Street.
- Landowners / General public to report any observed blockages below Stour Street road bridge on the Suffolk Highways Online Reporting Tool.
- Cavendish Parish Council to investigate utilising the Suffolk highways Community Self Help scheme to be able to set out flood warning signage on the highway.

3. Peacocks Road

In the Peacocks road area, an overwhelmed brook led to internal flooding of a property. The extreme quantity of rain over a relatively short time far exceeded the capacity of the brook as it overtopped along a length of approximately 200 - 300m. The floodwater flowed across fields and gardens towards out buildings and homes. The situation was repeated only weeks later during Storm Ciaran in early November. The yearly chance of surface water flooding in this area is shown below (Figure 16).

Figure 15. Surface water flood risk on Peacocks Road

In Summary:

- Following heavy rainfall during Storm Babet, high water levels flowed down the brook next to Peacocks Road north of Cavendish. Water levels exceeded the capacity of the watercourse in multiple locations and flowed across land towards the property.

LLFA recommended action(s):

- Residents to install Property Flood Resilience (PFR).
- Riparian landowners to carry out appropriate 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 northwest of Peacocks 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 Peacocks Road.

Images

The use of photos below has been included to support the investigation and provide further context of the flood event.

Image 1. Flooding on Stour Street

Image 2. Flooding on Poole Street service road

Image 3. Flooding on Peacocks 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	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
West 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.
Cavendish 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
Suffolk Highways carried out: - a) jetting of highways assets (gullies, pipes and chambers) on Stour Street/Clare Road to the west of the watercourse culvert. b) Jetting and root cutting on the highway's assets along 350m of Colts Hall Road from Peacocks Road westwards.	Suffolk Highways	Complete

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 Cavendish. 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 (January 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.	Cavendish Parish Council	6 months	Parish council to liaise with the JEPU to develop or update the Community Emergency Plan.
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. There is currently no active PFR schemes being managed by the LLFA in Suffolk.

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 be able to set out flood warning signage on the highway.	Cavendish Parish Council / Suffolk Highways	6 -12 months	Further information ca 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 Stour Street, Poole Street, High Street and Peacocks Road.	Suffolk Highways	Annually	Ongoing. Routine cleansing of the gullies will be completed in line with the set cycles (annual or biennial). **Update from Suffolk Highways:** Stour Street - Most drainage assets were operational following May 2025 maintenance. The gully west of Mill Lane is currently restricted by a buried outfall and overgrown ditch. Remedial works are planned to unearth the pipe and restore full system flow. Poole Street - Jetting operations restored flow to most assets. A pipe collapse was identified nearby Claremont House, with ditch regrading required near No 6 Poole Street. Remedial works are programmed to ensure network functionality. High Street - Jetting operations restored flow to most assets. Investigations identified a catchpit with a missing cover nearby of No 55 and a gully blocked by

			concrete near Granby Cottage. Remedial works are programmed to restore functionality. Peacocks Road - Six non-operational assets were identified. The network is scheduled for cleansing, programmed to take place during jetting operations in February to reinstate full network functionality. The Green - Culvert masonry west of Devonshire House shows structural failure, requiring replacement. Access issues near Waver House prevented an outfall survey, where the adjacent gully has collapsed. Remedial works are programmed to restore the network.
Suffolk Highways to investigate the potential blocked / broken highway drainage assets on the service road off Poole Street / High Street following reports of a blocked and / or damaged drains.	Suffolk Highways	6 -12 months	Update from Suffolk Highways: Please see above
Landowners / General public to report any observed blockages below Stour Street road bridge on the Suffolk Highways Online Reporting Tool.	Landowners / General public	6 -12 months	As required.
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	Landowners, supported by relevant authority,	12 - 24 months	Ongoing – no update expected at this time.

the upper catchments north and northwest of Cavendish e.g. storage ponds, wetland areas, leaky dams, woody debris installation and restoration of watercourses.	resource dependant (SCC LLFA, EA)		
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, 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)			
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 improvements, if investigation works suggest it is beneficial and viable, in service road off Poole Street / High Street to highway drainage network to manage surface water flow (as set out in the short term action).	Suffolk Highways	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	09/03/2026

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 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 locations for NFM and watercourse maintenance