

**Lead Local Flood Authority**  
**Section 19 (Flood and Water Management Act**  
**2010)**  
**Flood Investigation Report**

**Report Title:**

The Street, Coney Weston, Suffolk

**Report Reference(s):**

FW2020 - 2258

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<i>Hannah Purkis</i>	
<b>Created by:</b>	<i>Hannah Purkis</i>	<i>12/01/2021</i>
<b>Checked by:</b>	<i>Simon Curl</i>	<i>02/02/2021</i>
<b>RMA Review:</b>	<i>Anglian Water SCC Highways</i>	<i>09/04/2021</i>
<b>Approved by:</b>	<i>Matt Hullis</i>	<i>12/04/2021</i>
<b>Date Published</b>		<i>13/04/2021</i>

**1.0** Suffolk County Council (SCC) as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has determined that in accordance with criteria, it considered it necessary or appropriate to carry out an investigation into this flood event 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).

**2.0 Reference:** FW2020 - 2258

**2.1 Location:** The Street, Coney Weston, Suffolk

**2.2 Flood Event Date:** Various, from 07/01/2016 to 11/01/2021

**2.3 Reported to SCC Date:** 11/01/2021

**2.4 Investigation Commencement Date:** 12/01/2021

**2.5 Criteria for investigation:**

<b>Criteria for an investigation (as per Appendix D of the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy):</b>	<b>✓/ X</b>
There was a risk to life as a result 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 as a result of flooding	-
Critical infrastructure was affected by flooding	-
There is ambiguity surrounding the source or responsibility of a flood incident	-

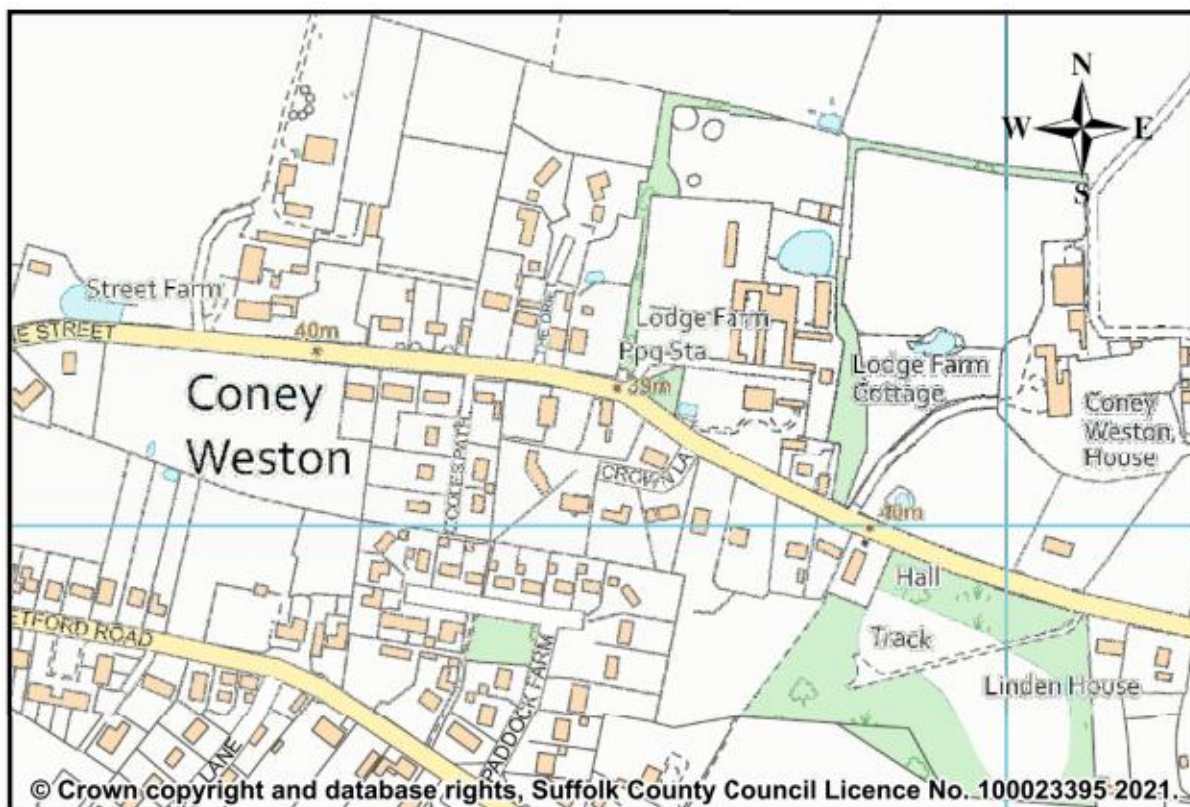


Figure 1 - Investigation Area Map

**2.6 OS Grid Reference:** TL 95770 78079

**2.7 Extent of flooding:**

Repeated incidents of highway flooding within The Street to a depth of approximately 200-300mm for a distance of over 30m throughout December 2020 and January 2021.

Ditches adjacent to the highway reported to be at or over capacity and overflowing onto the highway from overland runoff from adjacent fields. Both flooding from the highway and overflowing ditches was reported to be encroaching into private gardens.

4 No. properties were also reported to have experienced internal flooding, where water levels reached a significant depth.

**2.8 Effect of flooding:**

A nearby Anglian Water foul water pumping station flooded and failed resulting in sewage mixed in with the accumulated depths of surface water runoff.

Ground floor flooding in multiple properties (including at least one with ground floor sleeping accommodation) to depth of 100mm and damage to internal furnishings and furniture.

Extensive flooding to private driveways, gardens and outbuildings causing damage to various stored items.

Highway reported to be impassable by pedestrians or cars for several days, limiting access to properties. Cars and small vans needing to be towed out of floodwaters having tried to drive through deep water.

## **2.9 History:**

The highway (The Street) and adjacent garden land and properties have been reported to have flooded previously, most notably in the early part of 2016. Significant works to cleanse highway drainage were carried out by SCC highways, with no subsequent reports of flooding from mid 2016 (following the works) to late 2020.

## **2.10 Flooding Source:**

Surface water runoff from adjacent land (overland flow), roads and highways.

## **2.11 Likely causes:**

Significant rainfall event coupled with known risk of surface water flooding locally.

Cohesive nature of underlying geology contributing to overland flow alongside modern-day farming practices increasing runoff and volume.

Insufficient number of ordinary watercourses to capture overland flow and culverting of the watercourses beneath private driveways, which reduces capacity for conveyance and/or storage.

Insufficient or lack of maintenance within roadside ditches, both those under local landowner riparian responsibility and SCC Highways responsibility leading to overgrown watercourses which have less capacity for conveyance and/or storage.

Siltation and general deterioration of highways drainage within The Street, as evidenced by survey both in 2020 and historically in 2016.

Partial failure of Anglian Water pumping station contributing to volumes of floodwater.

## **2.12 Additional Information:**

Multiple incidents of surface water flooding were reported at “Three Ways”, at the meeting of Rushford Road, Thetford Road and The Street, located approximately 400m upstream, in a westerly direction, of the Anglian Water pumping station and surrounding properties which are the focus of this report.

The surface water flooding relates to a number of roadside ditches which become culverted downstream of “Three Ways” and head towards the centre of Coney Weston. This is likely to have been a factor in the flooding which forms the basis of this investigation.

The majority of the flooded properties are shown to be at risk of flooding from surface water on the indicative flood map for planning as hosted by the GOV.UK website.

Highway gullies along The Street are reported to have been surcharging during the storm event resulting in water flowing down the highway and contributing to overland flow from adjacent greenfield areas.

Reported issues of the Anglian Water foul sewer and pumping station surcharging, this could have been partly contributed to by the ingress of surface water into the foul sewer. Anglian Water are aware of the issue and are investigating. Therefore, this will not be considered further within this report but is flagged up as an Action in the table below for completeness.

### 3.0 Risk Management Authority with Relevant Flood Risk Function

SCC –LLFA

SCC – Highways Authority

Anglian Water Services – Sewer Maintenance and Asset Owner

Local Landowners – Riparian Responsibilities

### 4.0 Recommendations:

Action	Responsible Authority	Timescale for response	Latest Progress Update for Actions
Investigate and maintain foul sewer in the highway and pumping station	Anglian Water Services	Completed	Anglian Water Services attended Dec 2020
Dig out surface water storage feature (pond)	SCC Highways /Riparian Owners	Completed	Pond cleared out as of Jan 2021

Investigate ownership and maintenance responsibilities of ordinary watercourse at upper end of The Street	SCC Highways	Completed	SCC Highways have concluded that the watercourse in question is for SCC to maintain
Regrade/improve roadside ditches under their ownership	SCC Highways	April 2021	
Cleanse & survey highways drainage system	SCC Highways	April 2021	
Explore potential options for property level resilience measures and funding opportunities	Property Owners supported by SCC LLFA	3 months	N/A
Riparian owners to clear ordinary watercourse	Riparian Owners supported by SCC LLFA	3 months	
Capital scheme to improve highways drainage within The Street	SCC Highways	12- 24 months	