Response to Suffolk County Council Framlingham Flood Investigation Storm Babet 2023

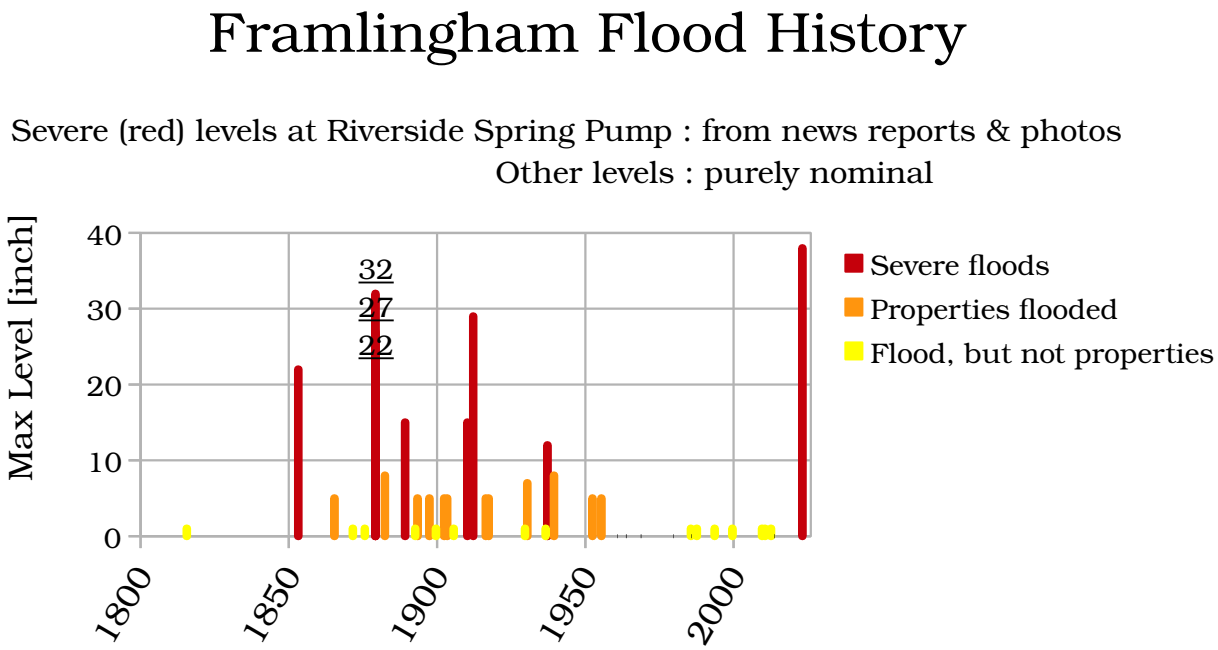
Framlingham Flood Resilience and Recovery Working Group

Part 2 Consolidated Recap of Framlingham Flooding Documentation

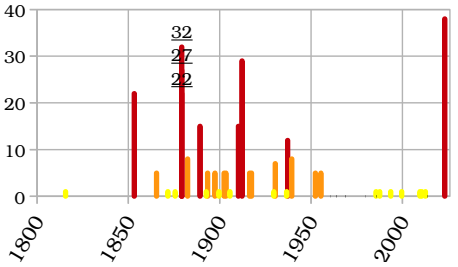
Table of Appendices

Appendix A. Framlingham's Flood History

The latest copy of this report by Bob Briscoe is available at:
https://homefarmparham.co.uk/history/Fram/2024HistoryFramFloodsSummary+Detail.pdf



Fram's Flood History since 1850s



- 21 floods into properties, incl. 9 severe
  - 16 others with no mention of flooded properties
  - in one year 3 severe floods (1879)
  - Babet (2023) the deepest yet
- Long pauses
  - early 1950s to 2023
  - 1614 flood : "More than 2 centuries are said to have elapsed between that and the next (1853)" [Fram Weekly News, 1910]
- Reliable data? yes and no
  - multiple sources carefully searched, mostly newspaper reports & photo archives
  - severe max flood levels are based on measurements or hearsay of measurements
  - many thanks to John Bridges for his research and discussions (but, any errors or omissions are mine alone)

1

Photo credit: John Bridges

1

More information

- 5-page appendix: abridged source data and more info, e.g:
  - 1903 & 1930:
    - along Riverside, the river ran backwards towards the Mere
  - 1882:
    - 28th Oct floods after: 1¾" in 2 days, 3½" that week, 6" that month* but still no reports of flooded properties
    - obstructions had been thoroughly cleared since disastrous 1879 floods
- Unabridged source data: https://homefarmparham.co.uk/history/Fram/2024HistoryFramFloods.ods

---

* Oct 1882 daily rainfall records at Mount Pleasant, Fram.

1 A little less intense than Babet rainfall: over 4" in 3 days up to 20 Oct 2023 (at Charsfield)

Year	Date	Severity	Rel. depth	Selected quotes	Sources
Legend					
		H		High: Properties flooded and >12" in the streets	
		M		Med: Properties flooded	
		L		Low: No mention of properties flooded	
			X=Jul 1879		
1614	21 Jan 1614			"In reference to this stream, as it flows through the town at the western extremity of the Market-place, we find on p60 of the first Register Book of Framlingham the following entry:- ... ther was sutch a water at the Mill Bridge, as the like as neuer seene in any man's tyme then lyueynge..." "a great flood washed up the Mill Bridge, Framlingham and destroyed the water mills."	[FF24] [Green1834; p10] [Green1895 p84] [LFA (1882)]
1815	26 Mar 1815	L		Flooding around the mere "Mr. Churchard, Earl Soham, drowned" [presumably Deben not Ore, but notable]	[SCC24] [LFA (1882)]
				"As far back as the year 1614 a flood is recorded at the same spot [Albert Place] in "The Guide to Framlingham." but more than two centuries are said to have elapsed between that and the next one (1853)."	[FWN 3 Dec 1910]
1853	25 Apr 1853	H	X – 10"	"At eight p.m. the Mere presented a sea of water. When the inundation was at its height, it stood above the centre of the arch of the Mill Bridge, an event which far exceeded anything of the kind then known within the last 75 years."	[FF24] [Green1895 p84]
1859	3 Sep 1859			Publication of [FWN] started	
1865	24 Aug 1865	M		"Tempest.—On Tuesday afternoon last, a very heavy tempest passed over to the south of Framlingham. A water spout burst near Mr, Borrett's residence, and the farm premises opposite Broadwater were completely inundated. Two cottages were filled with water and the family had to keep upstairs until the storm was over. Parham low meadows were entirely under water; and such a circumstance in month of August has not been known within the memory of man." "A Flood! Such was the heavy fall of rain on Wednesday night and Thursday morning last, that the Mere was completely flooded and presented such a sight as rarely seen in winter! ...The road at Saxtead Bottoms was quite impassable to pedestrians for several hours. ... Such a circumstance in the midst of harvest operations is not remembered by the oldest inhabitant of Framlingham. "	[FWN 26 Aug] [ChG15]
1871		L		"That year the Mere was in flood to a great extent and there were 18 acres of water. Several of the young people took up boating."	[FWN 7 Nov 1936]
1875	16 Jul 1875	L		"The heavy rains of Wednesday and Thursday must have done considerable damage to the hay. ... Our Mere is now flooded (Friday) by the rains, a sight scarcely ever seen in July by any of the inhabitants."	[FWN 17 Jul]
1875	22 Jul 1875	L		"The Mere, by the rains of the previous Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, was flooded on Thursday morning to a higher point than reached in the past winter. The hay crop...has been floating away day by day. Such a flood that had not been known for 22 years. The fine weather on Thursday abated the water several inches."	[FF24] [FWN 24 Jul]
1879	21 Jul 1879	H	X	"**The July flood exceeded 1853 by 10 inches.** No question that it was through neglecting to keep clear the course of the river. **Read's fellmonger's yard [Tanyard Court] deluged to 18 inches by noon and at night 3 feet. H Fairweather [Bridge Cottage], house and premises flooded to a depth from a foot to three feet.** The dribbling stream of late years...has allowed us to grow careless in the matter of keeping the channel at its proper width and	[FF24] [FWN 26 Jul] [Green1895 p84]

Year	Date	Severity	Rel. depth	Selected quotes	Sources
				depth." "Colonel Barne, M.P., … owing to the line being flooded, was unable to keep his appointment," (Thu 24 Jul) "The holidays should have begun on Saturday last, but owing to the floods last week interfering with railway communications they were postponed until this week. " (2 Aug 1879)	
1879	17 Sep 1879	H	= 1853	Similar floods [to 1853] occurred in July and September 1879. "ladders and carts had to be employed to liberate Mr. Barker and Mr. Howard from their dwellings. **The People's Hall [United Free Church] had about ten inches of water in the lower portion.** Mrs. Pinfold and Mrs. Catchpole were flooded **ten inches**.... Mr. F. Read's fellmongering premises were under water to the **depth of three to four feet**." [I suspect the following quotes relate to the subsequent week] "A severe thunderstorm occurred periodically during the night. The river began to overflow the following morning and stood **about 4 or 5 inches on the path near the Spring Pump. Fairfield Road was a complete river for nearly a quarter of a mile and about 2 feet deep**. The streets of the town were washed clear of silt. The Post office, the Peoples Hall and **all the houses on the banks of the river were inundated to a depth of 12 to 18 inches**. A brick bridge on the north of the town was carried away."	[FF24] [EAFFC; (Ips J, 20 Sep)]
1879	24 Sep 1879	H	X – 5"	"Having had as recently as last week a protracted tempest, which converted our Mere into an extensive lake, and swelled the river to the brim, none of the inhabitants anticipated that another and a larger one would follow in its wake within a week's time. " ...by 11 o'clock the highest point was reached, registering just **five inches lower than the flood of July** ...A brick bridge, close by the Little Lodge was completely carried away by the force of the torrent early in the morning and the vehicular traffic to Countess Wells and Lodge Farm have to be carried on by the Brabling Green route." "**there were only three weeks without rain or snow from Michaelmas, 1878, to Michaelmas, 1879.**"	[FWN 27 Sep] [Green1895 p84 (Lambert's Family Almanac)]
1881				"The winter of the same year [1879] was noted for a great flood, as was that of 1881. These were very devastating."	[FWN 14 Nov 1936
1882	1 Oct 1882	0.04"			
1882	2 Oct 1882	0.02"			
1882	5 Oct 1882	0.07"			
1882	7 Oct 1882	0.16"			
1882	11 Oct 1882	0.20"			
1882	12 Oct 1882	0.73"			
1882	13 Oct 1882	0.04"			
1882	16 Oct 1882	0.40"			
1882	18 Oct 1882	0.03"			
1882	19 Oct 1882	0.19"			
1882	21 Oct 1882	0.85"			
1882	22 Oct 1882	0.03"			
1882	24 Oct 1882	0.81"			
1882	26 Oct 1882	0.19"			

Year	Date	Severity	Rel. depth	Selected quotes	Sources
1882	27 Oct 1882	1.10"			
1882	28 Oct 1882	0.66"			
1882	30 Oct 1882	0.35"			
1882	31 Oct 1882	0.02"			
1882	1-31 Oct 1882	5.89"		The rainfall here in the past month was quite as much as we knew what to do with in our heavy land district ; and although the fall is excessive, it is not near as much as reported in other parts of the county I herewith beg to hand you a copy of my register :— In the corresponding month last year the fall here was 3.46 ihches.—I am, &c, REUBEN WHITEHEAD, Mount Pleasant, Framingham. November Ist, 1882.	[FWN 4 Nov]
1882	28 Oct 1882	M	X – 24"	"We have had a narrow escape of another disastrous flood. Had it not been for a partial clearance of the river a repetition of all this would assuredly have been experienced." "In the forenoon of Saturday the cottages at the Brooks [Brook Lane/Vyces Road] were flooded through what might be justly termed culpable negligence of the proper persons in not clearing the way for the stream just below this part... The Mere was quickly converted into a lake of fine expanse of waters; and by noontime the water overflowed the wall of the river by the Post Office, and towards night the road by the People's Hall [United Free Church] was impassable... All along the course of the river the banks were overflown, and Mr. Clarke's Nursery Garden was **under water some feet**. Several cottages were also inundated. Grave fears were entertained that the water would reach the great height of '80 but it was apparent that the work of the Surveyors and other owners in clearing the river had its desired effect, for the water was **kept down two feet** entirely through this work. [The references to '1880' are probably mistaken references to 1879. No reference to a Fram flood can be found in the FWN during 1880, except letters in Jan and May 1880 about the 1879 flood. An 1882 letter talks only of '2 former occasions'.]	[FF24] [FWN 4 Nov]
1889	23 Oct 1889	H	X – 17" =15" ∴ X = 32"	"Meanwhile "**The Brooks**" [Brook La/Vyces Rd] ... **rose so rapidly that the cottages ... were submerged some eighteen inches** before breakfast time ; and articles of furniture were to that depth in water. ...Here the water rose **from six to eight inches higher than '79**. This stream ... sent down a heavy torrent of water which was unable find outlet, save by course ... into the Station road, thence by the Post-ofllce. The water of the river rose higher and higher until 10 o'clock **the highest point was reached which was just sixteen to 18 inches lower than the great flood of '79"** "The sheets of water soon filled the streets, blocking all the gratings of the sewers. **A cottage on the Post Office bridge was submerged several inches**. Mr Bonney [Gentlemen's Corner] also flooded; lower parts of houses in Station Road as well as the Railway Inn. The scene from the Free Methodist Church [The United Free Church] to Station Road and Riverside was that of a flowing river; and **the school rooms of this church were submerged some four inches**. All approaches to the Post Office and station under water, and only by carts and horses could letters be posted. **Reads fellmonger business submerged some two feet**, while the Sale Yard [Elms flats] was inundated. The Yard was united with the Mere, forming **a gigantic lake, extending to beyond the Little Lodge, and covering some 40-50 acres**." "The rain caused the river to overflow its banks and flood the lower parts of town so that it was impossible to gain access to the post Office [Curry India]. A fellmonger's yard [Elms Flats] was **flooded to a depth of 18 inches** and caused much damage. The Reading Room [short distance into Brook Lane, on the left] was also flooded." "Mr John Self photographed the scene at Albert Place from several points, and copies can be had at one 1 shilling each" **Level at spring pump scaled from postcard on p1** [ChG15]. [The reverse says "Flood 1899", but no report of floods	[FF24] [EAFFC; (Ips J, 25 Oct)] [FWN 26 Oct] [FWN 3 Dec 1910] [FHPA] [ChG15]

Year	Date	Severity	Rel. depth	Selected quotes	Sources
				of that scale can be found in the newspaper archives for 1899. It precisely matches other photos that match to the photo of the 1889 floods in FWN]	
1892	14 Oct 1892	L		"Another Great Flood in the Mere this morning (Friday) resulting from the heavy down-pour of rain on Thursday night and the early hours of this morning. The **[rainfall] record for this month must be nearly five inches**."	[FWN 15 Oct]
1893	13 Jul 1893	M		"...on Thursday morning, a rainstorm was experienced, the like of which is not remembered for at least half a century. The streets in the lower part of town were rendered impassable and the sewers burst in several places. **In Station Road the depth of water was 16 to 18 inches**." "A Water Spout burst over the town about ten o'clock on Wednesday morning, when the rain came in perfect sheets of water, deluging the low-lying part of the town by the Post Office [Curry India], and bursting open the sewers. Cellars and houses were flooded, and many roofs of houses were unable to carry off the water quick enough to prevent its ingress to the bedrooms. At the time the water was **quite two feet deep on the road by the Railway Inn**,"	[EAFFC; (EADT, 14 Jul)] [EADT 14 Jul] [FWN 15 Jul]
1897	Feb 1897	M		Mr. Francis Read, of Framlingham, stating that during the recent flood his property was submerged to large extent. He considered that this was partly duo the high embankment made by the District Council on the Sewage Works	[FF24] [FWN 2 Mar]
1899	Feb 1899	L		"...and the gales of the few days past with their flood sequel have brought widespread havoc" [in the section for news local to Fram]	[FWN 18 Feb]
1902	19 Jul 1902	M		"**The road from the Post Office to the station was flooded to a depth of 18 inches**, recalling the floods of 1879 and 1880s. Many cottagers who were visiting the town for their weekly shopping were compelled to return with empty baskets." "Rain fell in torrents for an hour and a half. **The roads in the lower part of town were flooded to 18 inches**. The road to the Railway Station opposite Mill's Almshouses became a stream and the Reading Room in an adjacent road [short distance into Brook Lane, on the left] was flooded. " "In Fore Street the sewer burst, and the water rushed down the roadway in a resistless torrent, A wall dividing some property from the river was carried away by the water, and a large quantity of land subsided. "	[FF24] [EAFFC; (IpsJ, 25 Ju)] [DEx 25 Jul]
1903	15 Jun 1903	M		The low-lying parts of Framlingham were flooded on Monday evening **to a depth of several inches**. The water entered the " bunch of houses at the " Brooks," [Brook Lane/Vyces Road] driving the occupants to the upper rooms. ...**the road at Albert Place was several inches under water**, which subsided as quickly it had risen. The peculiar behaviour of the water in the river attracted no little attention, **the stream at Albert Place running backwards towards the Mere**. This was attributed to the rivers in the Mere being as yet comparatively dry and to heavy flows into the river lower down from other directions, forcing the water back.	[FWN 20 Jun]
1905	Jan 1905	L		"Backed up in the Mere giving rise to flooding downstream" "the heavy rain storms and floods which have prevailed recently" (in notes of Fram Farmers Club)	[FHPA] [EADT 14 Jan]
1910	2 Dec 1910	H	= 1889	The picture given below shows **the floods, in Framlingham in October 1889, and is an accurate Illustration of the present flooded condition of Albert Place**, the only difference being that everything appearing therein ... is 21 years older. The abnormal rainfall causing the flood began at 5 p.m. on Wednesday. and there has thus been **over 48 hours' continuous downpour**. Residents in Albert Place ... had to hastily clear their bottom rooms, the floors of which have been **several inches under water**, ... The waters washed through the tanyard from the Mere into the river near the Mill Bridge, completely covered the	[FF24] [FWN 3 Dec]

Year	Date	Severity	Rel. depth	Selected quotes	Sources
				Sale ground, and reached such height as to extinguish the Kiln fire at the adjoining Maltings—an extremely rare occurrence. As far back as the year 1614 a flood is recorded at the same spot in "The Guide to Framlingham." but more than two centuries are said to have elapsed between that and the next one.(1853). Coming to more recent years, many of our leaders remember the two great floods in Framlingham in the disastrous year of 1879, and many more still a similar event ten years later, depicted below.	
1912	26 Aug 1912	H	X – 3"	Albert Place flooded "same height as 1879." "Abnormal floods. The low-lying parts were all **many feet under water**. Furniture and various belongings were washed away and never recovered. For many hours there were scenes of desolation everywhere. The cut corn on many farms has been washed into the ditches. Residents in Albert Place showed **a cut mark in the bricks showing the high water mark of 1879, which was not met by three inches**, but some neighbours said it was higher." [The level at the spring pump scaled from a postcard [FHPA; 702F1] is 16", which seems significantly less than 3" short of 1879, but it may not have been at its peak.]	[FHPA] [FF24 31 Aug]
1916	29 Aug 1916	L		"30 hours of rain. ... "the Meres and other low-lying parts of the town were quickly inundated, but happily there was not the serious flooding in the town experienced on former occasions,"	[FF24] [FWN 2 Sep]
1917	14 Jul 1917	M		"The storm raged for at least an hour and **houses were quickly inundated with several inches of water** appearing in the most unexpected places. The rain was accompanied by hailstones of unusual size." "The total rainfall during the storm, as registered at the College, was 1.89 inches, representing 189 tons on every acre ground. In 35 minutes I¾ inches of rain fell. "	[EAFFC; (DEx, 20 Jul)] [FWN 21 Jul 1917]
1929		L		"Weather report for the year. Drought started in January and continued with slight breaks over most of country until autumn, then followed by heavy rain and floods. Heat wave in December."	[FF24]
1930	7 Aug 1930	M		"the expansive Meres resembled a miniature sea, all being completely inundated. The fast - swelling main stream through the town was curious spectacle, **flowing for a time in an opposite direction towards the Meres**, this being caused by the heavy weight of water rushing broadside into it from smaller streams to the south of the town and forcing it to recede. ...the worst experienced was at The Brooks [Brook Lane/Vyces Road], where the ground floors of three dwellings,... were **under water to a depth of some two feet**. ...The **Fairfield Road and other low-lying parts of the parish were under water to a depth of several inches**, but, happily, the material damage suffered was less serious.	[FWN 9 Aug]
1936	Nov 1936	L		"AS soon the floods subsided about a fortnight ago flock of Snipe settled down on the sodden grass-land about the Meres."	[FF24] [FWN 5 Dec 1936]
1937	21 May 1937	H	12"	"People were roused from sleep to rescue stock, furniture and all manner of goods and chattels. The night was full of activities as the work of succouring those distressed went on till dawn. The Brooks [Brook Lane/Vyces Road] again suffered terribly, but the most dramatic occurrence of all was the destruction of the bridge opposite Mr Brand's shop [The Wine shop]. **Brooks rose to about 3 feet above ground, water rose to 4 foot in pig sty** and 1 drowned. Charles Nesling's cattle and horses on Meres. His son saw the danger, caught a pony and rode bare back to round up cattle. Driven back to farm for safety. Rail line impassable. The bridge at Mr Robinson's farm [Little Lodge] suffered the same fate as Station Road bridge." **Level at spring pump scaled from photo [FHPA; 648 F 2]**	[FHPA] [FF24] [FWN 22 May]
1939	26 Jan 1939	M		"scenes ... almost the same as those following the memorable storm of May 21st, 1937. Once again the Mere became a miniature lake and the river was unable to carry away the mass of water. **Albert Place and the road in front of**	[FHPA] [FF24] [FWN 28 Jan]

Year	Date	Severity	Rel. depth	Selected quotes	Sources
				the Post Office were flooded to a depth in places of about one and a half feet. The School Room of the Methodist Church was flooded, while the ground floor of houses in the vicinity suffered a like fate. Considerable damage to property has resulted At a little after midnight on Wednesday, Fairfield Road was only just passable by car... The sale ground, ...was under water. The old electric light works... were also flooded out, while old cars standing in the yard were half submerged. Strange to relate, the houses at "The Brooks" [Brook Lane/Vyces Road] where so much damage was done during the last flood, are practically high and dry" "John Self spoke of a tree across the river at Broadwater which acted as a dam and kept water back into the town. Mr Potter said that twice in two years, householders had suffered from severe flooding."	
1939	30 Sep 1939			Publication of [FWN] ended. The main sources used only thinly cover Fram during the period from 1939-1960.	
1952	22 Nov 1952	M		"A road near Ipswich was flooded and when the River Ore rose at Framlingham (Suffolk), furniture was removed from downstairs rooms."	[FF24] [Birmingham Weekly Mercury 23 Nov1952]
1955	14 Aug 1955	M		a torrential three-hour downpour soon left its mark. In Fore Street the gutters were unable to coup with the water and 79- year-old Mr. and Mrs. S. Gyford. who live at the bottom of Fore Street, had to vacate their home. Water rushed through their front door and within a few minutes the whole of the lower floors were submerged. In Well Close Square the water crashed up against the shop windows of Mr. John Self's and under the door into the shop. ... Water also entered a number of houses in this vicinity. Children coming from the afternoon Sunday School service at the Methodist Church had to paddle through Station Road with their teachers in order to reach their homes.	[DEx 19 Aug]
1960	19 Sep 1960			Framlingham 1.50 inches in 45 min "Intense rain was reported in Framlingham, Suffolk, at Shoeburyness and Martlesham, Suffolk."	[EAFFC; British Rainfall (1861 to 1961)]
				The sources used do not cover the period after 1960 in as much detail	
1963	17 Sep 1963			"FRAMLINGHAM: a short but severe storm shortly after 6 p.m. on Tuesday. and within a few minutes road drains were blocked and two manholes blown up. No serious flooding was reported. "	[DEx 20 Sep]
			Rank [RL]		
1968	16 Sep 1968		3	"Weekend floods struck East Anglia Sunday night.... In the Framlingham area the badly-hit districts were at Earl Soham. Debenham, Framsden and Bruisyard. Framlingham itself was virtually unaffected, "	[DEx 20 Sep] [RL]
1979	2 Feb 1979		1	Joint 1st highest max annual flow measurement at Little Glemham Beversham gauge (1965-2023)	[RL]
1985	22 Jan 1985	L	13	"Against the dramatic backdrop of the ancient castle, the skaters have a superb outdoor rink as picturesque as anything in the Alps, on Saturday, just a week away before the floods came to spoil everybody's fun. "	[DEx 25 Jan] [RL]
1985	27 Dec 1985		1	Joint 1st highest max annual flow measurement at Little Glemham Beversham gauge (1965-2023)	[RL]
1987	Oct 1987	L		"WI: At the last meeting the speaker and her knitting machine failed to arrive because of the flooded roads."	[DEx 23 Oct]
1993		L		"Elms car park partially flooded." 29 Badingham Rd: 6" of water in kitchen & hallway from nearby ditch; fire service supplied sandbags	[FF24] [correspond-ence with resident]
1999		L		"Fluvial flooding from the river Ore. The Mere overflowed into the present- day area of Tanyard's Court."	[SCC24]

Year	Date	Severity	Rel. depth	Selected quotes	Sources
2009	10 Feb 2009	L	10	"Water up to the steps of the Railway Inn." "Water in Station Road up to pavement level outside Railway Inn." "The mere was an incredible size this morning after the overnight rain. Riverside near the Coop was aptly named and the Elms car park was half flooded." "A typical high for this location [New Road bridge river gauge] is 1.1m and the highest level ever [as of 21-Dec-2022] recorded here is 1.16m (reached on Tuesday 10th February 2009 at 3:15am)."	[YouTube] [Hitchams blog] [FTC22] [RL]
2010		L		"Surface water flooding caused by heavy rainfall."	[SCC24]
2012		L		"Surface water flooding on Station Road"	[SCC24]
2013	10 Mar 2013		4		[RL]
2023	20 Oct 2023	H	38"	Storm Babet. **Level at Spring pump scaled from photo on p4 and measured relative to fence rail to double-check.**	[SCC24]
				Flooding has not entered Fram Motorcycles, which backs onto the Elms car-park, in the living memory of Carl Squirrel or his father, which extends back to the early 1960s	

References

[DEx] Search for 'flood Framlingham' in the Diss Express (1869-1999) in the British Newspaper archive

[FWN] Search for 'flood Framlingham' in the Framlingham Weekly News (1859-1939) in the British Newspaper archive

[FHPA] Search for 'flood' in the Framlingham Historical Photo Archive

[ChG15] Charnwood Genealogy "Floods in Framlingham" (Jul 2015)

[FF24] John Bridges, "The Framlingham Floods; An Historical Retrospect," Framfare (Mar 2024)

[SCC24] Suffolk County Council, "Framlingham Flood Investigation – Storm Babet 2023" (Aug 2024) [no sources given]

[EAFFC] David Archer "East Anglia: Flash Flood Chronology" (Sep 2023)

[RL] River levels Little Glemham/Blaxall Beversham gauge Max annual flow & stage (level) dataset (1965-2023)

Sources for [FF24]:

[FWN]

[LFA] Lamberts Family Almanac (1871 to 1916), includes daily rain gauge readings at Mount Pleasant, Framlingham by Reuben Whitehead

[Green1834] Richard Green "The History, Topography and Antiquities of Framlingham and Saxtead" (1834)

[Green1895] Richard Green (pub. posthumously by Robert Lambert), "The Guide to Framlingham" (1895)

Many thanks to John Bridges for his research, discussions and review.

However, any errors or omissions are mine alone

Bob Briscoe, 8 Sep 2024

Appendix B. Historical Retrospect in Framfare (Mar 2024)

THE FRAMLINGHAM FLOODS AN HISTORICAL RETROSPECT

John F. Bridges

The floods caused by storm Babet brought devastation to the low-lying parts of the town on Friday 20 October 2023. Looking back over time, the occurrences of flooding have been well recorded in *Framlingham Weekly News* (published 1859 to 1939) and *Lamberts Family Almanac* (1871 to 1916). Richard Green's *The History, Topography and Antiquities of Framlingham and Saxtead* of 1834, refers to the 1614 flood. More recently, there are U Tube videos, such as one in 2009 showing water up to the steps of the Railway Inn. The following descriptions of flooding are based on the above sources.

1614 "The 21st of Januarre, Anno, 1614, ther was sutch a water at the Mill Bridge, as the like as neuer seene in any man's tyme then lyueynge..." There had been two water mills, with one located near Tanyard Court.

1853. A very remarkable flood took place here on 25th April, **1853**. At eight p.m. the Mere presented a sea of water. When the inundation was at its height, it stood above the centre of the arch of the Mill Bridge, an event which far exceeded anything of the kind then known within the last 75 years. This was more than two centuries after the last flood of 1614.

1875 July. The Mere was flooded to a higher point than reached last winter. The hay crop...has been floating away day by day. Such a flood that had not been known for 22 years.

1879 July. Similar floods [to 1853] occurred in July and September 1879. The July flood exceeded 1853 by 10 inches. No question that it was through neglecting to keep clear the course of the river. Read's fellmonger's yard [Tanyard Court] deluged to 18 inches by noon and at night 3 feet. H Fairweather [Bridge Cottage], house and premises flooded to a depth from a foot to three feet. The dribbling stream of late years...has allowed us to grow careless in the matter of keeping the channel at its proper width and depth.

1882 Great flood at Framlingham and all low lying parts in neighbouring parishes. About two feet lower than 1880 as river has been widened and cleared of debris.

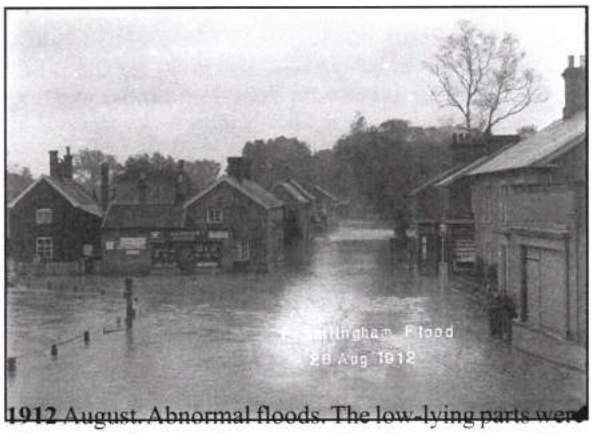
1889 October. The sheets of water soon filled the streets, blocking all the gratings of the sewers. A cottage on the Post Office bridge was submerged several inches. Mr Bonney [Gentlemen's Corner] also flooded; lower parts of houses in Station Road as well as the Railway Inn. The scene from the Free Methodist Church [The United Free Church] to Station Road and Riverside was that of a flowing river; and the school rooms of this church were submerged some four inches.

All approaches to the Post Office and station under water, and only by carts and horses could letters be posted. Reads fellmonger business submerged some two feet, while the Sale Yard [Elms flats] was inundated. The Yard was united with the Mere, forming a gigantic lake, extending to beyond the Little Lodge, and covering some 40-50 acres.

1897 Floods at Framlingham.

1902 July. The road from the Post Office to the station was flooded to a depth of 18 inches, recalling the floods of 1879 and 1880s. Many cottagers who were visiting the town for their weekly shopping were compelled to return with empty baskets.

1910 November. Abnormal rainfall began at 5pm and there has been a continuous downpour for more than 48 hours. Residents in Albert Place and other low-lying parts of the town are in a sad plight. Floors have been under several inches of water.

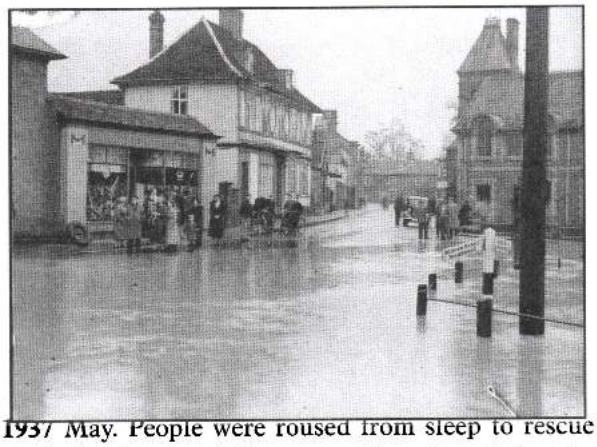


1912 August. Abnormal floods. The low-lying parts were all many feet under water. Furniture and various belongings were washed away and never recovered. For many hours there were scenes of desolation everywhere. The cut corn on many farms has been washed into the ditches. Residents in Albert Place showed a cut mark in the bricks showing the high water mark of 1879, which was not met by three inches, but some neighbours said it was higher.

1916 September. 30 hours of rain. The Meres and low-lying areas quickly inundated. Cellars and basements flooded.

1929 Weather report for the year. Drought started in January and continued with slight breaks over most of country until autumn, then followed by heavy rain and floods. Heat wave in December. *cont overleaf*

1936 As soon as floods subsided...



1937 May. People were roused from sleep to rescue stock, furniture and all manner of goods and chattels. The night was full of activities as the work of succouring those distressed went on till dawn.

The Brooks [Brook Lane/Vyces Road] again suffered terribly, but the most dramatic occurrence of all was the destruction of the bridge opposite Mr Brand's shop [The Wine shop]. Brooks rose to about 3 feet above ground, water rose to 4 foot in pig sty and 1 drowned.
Charles Nesling's cattle and horses on Meres. His son saw the danger, caught a pony and rode bare back to round up cattle. Driven back to farm for safety. Rail line impassable. The bridge at Mr Robinson's farm [Little Lodge] suffered the same fate as Station Road bridge.

1939 February. John Self spoke of a tree across the river at Broadwater which acted as a dam and kept water back into the town. Mr Potter said that twice in two years, householders had suffered from severe flooding.

1952 November. Furniture removed from downstairs rooms.
1993 Elms car park partially flooded.
2009 Water in Station Road up to pavement level outside Railway Inn.
Most towns and villages developed alongside a river, with the surrounding higher ground draining the water into it. Although there are many complex reasons for any flood, in its simplest form, it is a matter of water flowing through a system. If the resistance to flow is high, e.g. excess vegetation and obstructions in the river, then the flow will be reduced and water backs up.

For much of the time poor maintenance does not manifest itself as flooding because water flows are low. However, when rainfall conditions are abnormal as seen last year, then significant flooding occurs. A well-maintained river course would reduce the extent of flooding, but not prevent it. If you try to put an excessive amount of water into any system, it will overflow.

From the recorded events in the last 200 years, major floods occurred in:

1853, 1875, 1879, 1882, 1889, 1902, 1910, 1912, 1916, 1929, 1937.

It is difficult to make an objective comparison between these events and the floods of 2023 as the historic evidence is often not adequately defined.

However, a best estimate is that the 2023 floods were at least 12 inches (305mm) higher than those previously recorded.

Appendix C. Amazi Babet 2023 Framlingham Report

"Storm Babet 2023 Framlingham; Review of Flooding" Leigh Parratt, AMA942 Revision B, Amazi Report (April 2024): www.framlingham.com/uploads/amazi-flood-report-2404259

Storm Babet 2023 Framlingham

Review of Flooding

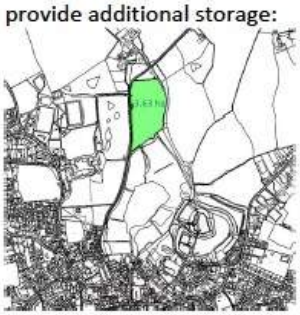
AMA942 Revision B
April 2024

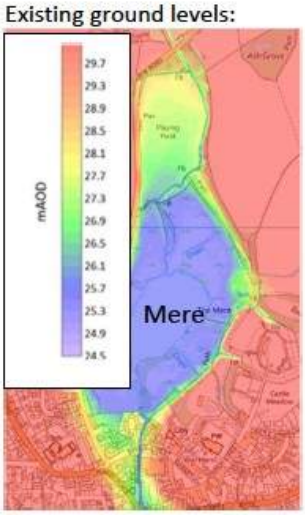
Prepared for: Framlingham Town Council
Flood Resilience & Recovery Group

amazi

Extracts of pages 33 to 35 follow - listing proposals for flood prevention

B9.10	**How can damage be minimised if the flow event happens again?** River flows and rainfall are expected to increase due to future climate change. So there is increased chance of such an occurrence in the future. Aside from the exact cause and the immediate and other actions listed in Section C, some radical measures are considered below. Maybe these measures are not fully beneficial in isolation, so consider combination of measures. Also there needs to be consideration of how likely is it for this flood event to occur again? There are barriers to these ideas and some could be viewed as unrealistic, but these need to be tabled with relevant parties to ensure that all options are considered.		
B10	**Idea**	**Opportunity**	**Obstacle**
Divert (Flow to pass through town more safely)	B10.1 Widen River Ore from Mere to downstream of the Town	Additional capacity to safely convey flow of given return period event and reduce probability of flooding	• Many properties on surface water route to River will not benefit • Would need to ensure no increase in flooding downstream where water would be received quicker. • Would need a detailed hydraulic model to assist with design and confirm resulting benefit • May be more difficult to widen the structures
	B10.2 New (additional) Conveyance channel/culvert through the Town	More controlled conveyance of flow from the Mere to downstream of Framlingham	• It would need to be very large, within the low areas and there is not enough room • Land ownership/permissions • Many properties on surface water route to River will not benefit • Would need to ensure no increase in flooding downstream where water would be received quicker. • Would need a detailed hydraulic model to assist with design and confirm resulting benefit • May still be flood event more extreme than any designed mitigation. • Funding?
	B10.3 Try and keep flow within the River channel. Flow overspilled onto Riverside and	Temporary defences at the northern part of the Town to prevent the Station Road flow exiting the river so flow remains in the main channel and its floodplain	• The River channel downstream of where diversion would be needed was also at capacity and suffering significant flooding. This may have been downstream of a key constriction area though. The channel capacity in this area to be reviewed:

B	Storm Babet		
	Station Road and formed a second channel		 • Where to store and who to maintain the barriers • Who would install the barriers (trained volunteers?). There would need to be barriers to convert either (or both) of the two north south roads into temporary flow channels. • The rapidity of runoff response to rainfall is so fast that it is unlikely to be possible to mobilise and install. They can work well on larger catchments where the flood response is much slower and early warnings are possible. • Would need to be really careful of 'cry wolf' response to all storms.
B10.2 Attenuate (Hold back flow upstream of the Town to reduce flows reaching the Town)	B10.4 Enlarge and dredge the Mere	Attenuate more water upstream May provide some flood alleviation by reducing the probability of flooding in Town. For example, if the field upstream of the mere (shown in green) is dug down to provide additional storage: 	• May still be flood event more extreme than any designed mitigation • Funding • Land to be donated • Environmental considerations • Significant excavation required and would need depositing off site. • Hydraulic modelling required to demonstrate benefit. Info on scheme: Current field levels vary by over 2m from 26.2 to 28.3 mAOD. So, if dug down level to enable storage would need to have high embankments around the south and east of the field in particular to contain flow. Even if storage depth = 0.5 m, the volume that could be stored is c18,000 m³ A flow of 3 cum/sec would take 1.7 hours to fill this volume.

B	Storm Babet		
		Existing ground levels: 	
	B10.5 Storge in rural areas upstream	Attenuate water further upstream (e.g. natural flood management). Maybe more attractive to funding.	• If small scale then schemes of this nature provide limited benefit, especially during the rarer (more extreme) flow events. They tend to be more beneficial to more frequent events. • Would need a much larger area of storage than one may visualise. The flow in the River Ore is high and storage systems will very quickly fill, or may already be part full from preceding storm events. • So may need a hydraulic model to assist with design and confirm resulting benefit • Cooperation of landowners and financial compensation for land loss (or donated land) • May still be flood event more extreme than any designed mitigation. • Funding for planning and construction
	B10.6 Wall around weir to increase storage capacity of Mere	Attenuate water upstream Could consider alongside Idea B10.4.	• The Environment Agency modelling showed little benefit except to The Elms (see Table A8.1 – 'Mere enhancement')
Protect	B10.7 Property level protection	• Protect properties whatever the flood event • Can be actioned quickly	• Most buildings are not possible to make watertight • Funding • Conservation/historic building consents • Likely to rely upon measures that need intervention and owners may not be present to install
	B10.8 Town wide demountable barriers. Would need flow control structure at the Mere to divert flow along the temporary route created with	• Cost effective method of protection • Relatively quick to have available. Without years of modelling and other permissions	• Where to store and who to maintain the barriers • Who would install the barriers (trained volunteers?). There would need to be barriers to convert either (or both) of the two north south roads into temporary flow channels. • The rapidity of runoff response to rainfall is so fast that it is unlikely to be possible to mobilise and install They can work well on larger catchments where the flood response is much slower and early warnings are possible.

B	Storm Babet		
	demountable barriers		• Would need to be really careful of 'cry wolf' response to all storms
	B10.9 Raised walls along channel	E.g. glass walls to heighten banks of river	• Will raise water levels throughout, including incoming drainage systems which could have consequences of more flooding aside from the river. • Would need landowner permissions and Environment Agency permits • So would need a detailed hydraulic model to assist with design and confirm resulting benefit • Visual impact • Conservation consents • Cost • Need to consider flooding as a result of failure of defence • Ownership/maintenance responsibility
Resilience	B10.10 Properties at risk to be flood resilient to enable rapid reinstatement if similar flood event occurs again	Owners and insurers to consider: Useful references: Flood resilience measures are outlined in CLG, *Improving the Flood Performance of New Buildings* (2007) CIRIA *Code of practice for property flood resilience* (C790), *Flood Resilient Building* BS85500:2015, Flood resistant and resilient construction CIRIA improving flood resilience advice Sheets 1-8 and Historic England *Flooding and Historic Buildings* (2010).	• Some measures not compatible with historic buildings • Flood resilience measures extend the duration over which the building can withstand a head of water, they do not make it watertight

Appendix D. Suffolk County Council Section 19 Report

"Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010; Framlingham Flood Investigation – Storm Babet 2023" Stephen Quinn, Suffolk County Council (Jul 2024)
https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/framlingham-flood-investigation-report-24-07-2024.pdf

Suffolk County Council

Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Framlingham Flood Investigation – Storm Babet 2023

	Name	Date
Report Author	Stephen Quinn	
Responsible Officer:	Stephen Quinn	
Checked by:	Ellie Beecroft	17/05/2024
RMA Review:		07/06/2024
Approved by:	Matt Hullis	27/06/2024
Date Published		25/07/2024
Date Report Closed		

Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership

Quoted below from the SCC Section 19 report: summaries of flooding sources, pathways & receptors with associated recommended actions for each area of Framlingham. The original report should be referred to for the associated maps.

North Framlingham

The primary source of flooding in the north of Framlingham was fluvial flooding, from the overtopping of the River Ore and the Mere through which the Ore flows.

LLFA recommended action(s) for North Framlingham:

- Investigate potential NFM projects and funding opportunities which aim to attenuate water and 'slow the flow' in upper catchment north of Framlingham.
- Framlingham College and Suffolk Wildlife Trust to review their maintenance and management of the Mere.
- Investigate potential new/additional highway drainage assets on New Road.
- Improve drainage system on The Elms car park
- Remove any observed blockages within the main river and ordinary watercourses where flood risk is increased.
- Ensure the completion of highway drainage asset maintenance and investigate if capacity and condition are sufficient.
- Investigate any capital interventions that can improve flood resilience of the town.

West Framlingham

The primary source of flooding in the west was fluvial, with flood water overtopping the banks of the Cherry Brook watercourse. This was contributed to by surface water run-off from higher ground and the additional backing up of flood water from the culvert under The Mills. Brook Lane is aligned along the major flow path from the west coming into central Framlingham.

LLFA recommended action(s) for West Framlingham:

- Investigate potential NFM projects and funding opportunities which aim to attenuate water and 'slow the flow' in the catchments west of Framlingham.
- Remove any observed blockages within the main river and ordinary watercourses where flood risk is increased.
- Ensure the completion of highway drainage asset maintenance and investigate if capacity and condition are sufficient.
- Investigate options to connect surface water flowing on Brook Lane back into the river.
- Investigate options to improve the capacity of the culvert below The Mills on Brook Lane.

Central Framlingham

The primary source of flooding was a combination of fluvial and pluvial flooding, with flood water from the river and roads merging. The banks of the River Ore overtopped and

combined with surface water flows from the north (Bridge Street, Well Close Square), the east (Fore Street) and west (Brook Lane).

In summary:

- Central Framlingham, particularly Albert Place & Station Road, acted as a basin into which the flood water flowed.
- The River Ore exceeded capacity and overtopped along Riverside and south of Fore Street.
- Pluvial flows from the north, west and east added to the extensive floodwater.
- Drainage assets on the highways were overwhelmed.

LLFA recommended action(s) for Central Framlingham:

- Investigate potential NFM projects and funding opportunities which aim to attenuate water and 'slow the flow' in the catchments surrounding Framlingham.
- Remove any observed blockages within the main river and ordinary watercourses where flood risk is increased.
- Ensure the completion of highway drainage asset maintenance and investigate if capacity and condition are sufficient.
- Investigate any capital interventions that can improve the flood resilience of the town.

East Framlingham

The flooding in the Fairfield Road area was caused by a combination of fluvial flooding from the River Ore overtopping its banks and pluvial flooding, with water flowing off fields from the east - flowing down the watercourse between 'The Knoll' and 'Fairfield Crescent' where it would ordinarily pass under Fairfield Road via a culvert and discharge into the Ore. The capacity of this culvert was exceeded due to the sheer abundance of rainfall and surface run-off flowing through the watercourse.

In summary:

- High rainfall resulted initially in large amounts of pluvial flows coming from fields to the east.
- The culverts beneath Fairfield Road rapidly exceeded capacity and overflowed.
- Surface water flowed down the four roads that join Fairfield Road adding to the floodwater.
- The River Ore reached capacity and overtopped both banks.
- Drainage assets on the highway were overwhelmed.

LLFA recommended action(s) for East Framlingham:

- Investigate potential NFM projects and funding opportunities which aim to attenuate water and 'slow the flow' in the catchment East of Framlingham.
- Remove observed blockages within the man river channel along Fairfield Road.

- Create a ditch / improved drainage assets at the bottom of the field east of Fairfield Road
- Ensure the completion of highway drainage asset maintenance and investigate if capacity and condition are sufficient.
- Investigate options to improve the capacity of the culverts below Fairfield Road connecting the watercourses with the main river
- Investigate any capital interventions that can improve the flood resilience of the town.

South Framlingham

The predominant source of flooding suffered was pluvial from adjacent fields, combining with flood water already on the roads. There was also fluvial flooding from the River Ore which impacted properties externally from the rear as the river levels rose. Multiple commercial properties on the north end of Woodbridge Road suffered pluvial flooding from the front, as flood water flowed south-west from Fairfield Road and merged with substantial surface water - from the fields to the east. The observed flow paths and flood extents closely match the national predicted surface water flood risk mapping. Blockages and in-channel debris may also have slowed the conveyance of the flood water in the river channel at this location.

In summary:

- High rainfall resulted in large amounts of pluvial flows coming from fields to the East and West.
- Flood water flowed along Woodbridge Road and Kettleburgh Road impacting properties from the front.
- Drainage assets on the highway were overwhelmed.

LLFA recommended action(s) for South Framlingham:

- Investigate potential NFM projects and funding opportunities which aim to attenuate water and ‘slow the flow’ in the fields to the East and West.
- Remove observed blockages within ordinary watercourses and main river.
- Investigate options to improve drainage / water storage at the bottom of the field east of Woodbridge Road.
- Ensure the completion of highway drainage asset maintenance and investigate if capacity and condition are sufficient.
- Investigate any capital interventions that can improve the flood resilience of the town

Appendix E. Some Observations on Storm Babet and the SCC19 report

Compiled by: Edmund Brown

Introduction

Parts of the town of Framlingham were severely flooded by exceptionally heavy rainfall on 20 October 2023. The damage was caused by a named storm, storm Babet.

The effects of the storm were magnified by the fact that, before the storm, rainfall amounts had been high for a number of months, leading to high levels of groundwater.

My interest in the flood stems from the fact that I am a retired agronomist who has worked in the East Suffolk catchment of the rivers Waveney, Alde, Ore and Deben for some 30+ years. As such I have observed the land use, and change of land use, over this period of time.

Whilst the flooding of these rivers is not frequent, it has occurred several times in the recent past, and will certainly recur in the future. However, the consequences of storm Babet appear to have been more severe than previous floods.

It is important to determine whether the severe damage by Babet was brought about by the severity of the storm or by the changes in the urbanisation of the town itself.

Recent Floods

The following are records of recent flooding back to 1865:

August 26 1865 - reported in the Framlingham Weekly News August 1912 - reported by word of mouth

May 1937 - Station Road bridge washed away Autumn 1994/5 reported by word of mouth October 20 2023 - storm Babet

Flood Time/Severity

Why such severe consequences?

One of the causes at least would seem to be the SPEED at which the water rose. It was almost as if a darn had burst upstream of the Mere. Thus, there was very little time for any preventative action to be taken.

The problem facing Framlingham is the fact that a lot of water has to get through the town via a very narrow gap! This gap can be closed at either end of the town so that water cannot get away quickly enough to prevent damage to property. The only way the water can flow through the town is if it flows more quickly. The energy in the flowing water is equal to the square of its velocity. That is to say that if the speed of the flow doubles, then the energy of the flow is four times greater.

Photographs of the 1994/5 flood and 2023 flood show that the peak water level was much lower in 1994/5 than in 2023. This is shown by two photographs (Photos 1 and 2). In Photo lor2 the brick wall round the United Free Church has been taken down to allow the extension to be built.

Comparisons between Photos 1 and 2 show that the water level was some 3ft higher in 2023 than in 1994/5. Again Photo 3 shows the back of The Elms, where in 1994/5 the

water level is some 3ft lower than the flood level in 2023. Photo 4 shows that in 1994/5 water was still able just to cope with the Fore Street bridge.

Why Was Babet So Particularly Destructive?

1 The large amount of water falling on already saturated soils was prevented from percolating into the top layer of the soil. But the water had to go somewhere, so it simply flowed over the surface.

2 At that time of year (autumn) the soil surface over large areas of the catchments was in an unstable state. Much winter corn (wheat and barley) had been sown, and the surface rolled to give a fine seedbed to improve germination and to obtain a good surface for herbicides to work most efficiently. The adoption of min till and regenerative processes all helped to make seedbeds ideal for crop sowing. Also crops were drilled later than usual to try to prevent the establishment of difficult to control grass weeds. These surfaces shed water extremely rapidly. In normal circumstances water would be held at the surface of these heavy land fields and eventually drain to ditches through land drains. By the end of October, a high percentage of winter wheat and winter barley has been sown and the crop has emerged. Once established, the crop would normally help stabilise the soil surface. This effect was almost entirely absent in 2023.

3 The Mere

Much has been spoken about the effect the Mere had on the flood. Calls are being made for the Mere to be dredged again. I would suggest that this would not help in any way.

In the 1920s/30s the Mere was a valuable wildlife site, with a good balance of good and bad wildlife. Unfortunately, it was not maintained properly and finished up as a rather poor-quality open water pond. Prior to this the Mere was covered throughout the summer by various marshland plants (see Painting 5) and occupied by a variety of wildlife. It can be seen from the painting (Photo 6) that at this time the river flowed within its banks across the Mere. After the last dredging, the site is now a 516ft lake bordered by a few marshland species. The deep open water lake is now occupied by otters, which not only eat fish but anything with feathers, especially young ducklings. When this vegetation died down in the autumn, it had a positive effect on the water flow across the Mere, slowing the flow and making its inflow/outflow time longer. More dredging would simply make it easier for water to flow across the Mere and build up trying to enter the town and make the downstream flow worse.

It should be remembered that the Mere is always full i.e. there is always a small trickle passing the Co-op and Town Pump.

Thus the water in the Mere will not act as a buffer for water already in the Mere. Any useful holding capacity will be limited to the increased depth as indicated by the Mere itself. To have any real effect the riverbed would need to be lowered from the Mere exit to a point further down stream.

1 Other Flood Sources

People living along Station Road and Fairfield Road noted and complained that they were flooded from behind the river; that is to say by run off from the fields east and west of the river. It looks very much as if the extra hard surfaces played a part in increasing the severity of the flood.

What Can Be Done to Ensure The Consequences Are Less Severe Next Time?

1 Do nothing. This is not an option because there will be another flood, and it may be more severe than Babet.

2 Dredge the Mere again. This would be counterproductive, unless a very expensive system of bunds and locks is installed. It probably would not work. It was noted that the exit to Riverside was blocked by large logs, but it had no positive effect on Riverside or any other downstream properties flooding.

3 Make sure that all downstream ditches and entrances to flood plains are clear of debris. All rivers should be walked at the end of summer to check for obstructions.

4 Investigate all types of flood alleviation/protection suitable for use near vulnerable properties.

5 Have a plan to mitigate the effects of overland flooding. Should arable farming be encouraged (paid) to leave wider margins beside all major upstream ditches in the catchment areas?

6 Allow upstream areas to flood and so reduce the pressure downstream.

7 Fill ditches with bales.

8 *Drilling Dates

Up until this year, much winter wheat, barley and OSR have been traditionally sown in September. By mid-October many areas are green and very actively growing. In 2023 sowing was much delayed by the lack of moisture, so when it did rain crops were sown very rapidly. Large areas sown at the same time resulted in deep flooding (see Photos 8 and 9) in rural areas. The water simply could not get away quickly enough.

This resulted in very large areas of very fine seedbeds. Water from these fields very quickly began to flow across the field surfaces into ditches and upstream flood areas (see Photos 7 and 8). The urban areas of Framlingham were quickly overwhelmed, resulting in deep flooding (see Photo 10).

The soils were so particularly unstable this year because many fields had not been ploughed but used various min till techniques. This shallow cultivation very quickly began to wash away.

Ploughed fields have the capacity to hold water to the depth to which they were cultivated and more. Min till fields hold on to many times less water than deep cultivated fields. Min till as part of a regenerative agricultural system could possibly be integrated with other flood precautions.

That is to say farmers should be incentivised to follow a plan in terms of drilling dates and tillage methods (not very likely).

*Min till is a system of sowing crops into shallow seedbeds and obviates ploughing or deep cultivations.

1 All new building developments should be subject to an evaluation of flooding risk. Flood risk should be of greater importance than housing or unplanned infrastructure development.

Conclusions

The speed of water rising and falling in Framlingham (and other villages) means that the problem will not be solved by some quick fix. The problem of flood insurance will not be easily solved.

Getting the region to alter its farming habits would be a near impossible task. BUT Framlingham should not be seen as a one off problem. Rainfall can vary enormously over short and long distances in Suffolk and Norfolk. The situation therefore should be treated in its entirety. Just to involve Framlingham and its local area could create other high risk areas in East Suffolk.

Proper use of vehicles should be part of any preparation for flood protection. i.e. big tractors should be limited to 2-3 mph when passing properties, especially those with accommodation (houses, pubs, restaurants etc.). (See photo 10) (8 inches of rain fell on August 26 1912 over Norwich with damage as far south as Debenham.)

What is required now is some radical thinking to solve parking and flooding problems together.

Warnings

1 Too great a reliance should not be made of high-tech warnings. What is needed when an area is under threat is feet on the ground, knowing who needs help and when. Towns and villages across the east should have a documented flood procedure, with nominated personnel for specific tasks i.e. rescuing livestock etc.

2 Please be aware that some of the material in this paper may be subject to copyright.

Edmund Brown BSc Agric, PGDip Environmental Assessment

Photo Index

1. United Free Church 1994/5
2. United Free Church October 2023
3. Back of the Elms 1994/5
4. Fore St 1994/5
5. Painting by Channing Dowsing September 1928
6. Painting by Pop Haynes May 1937
7. Arable land holding water upstream. Note field has been drilled with OSR. 1994/5
8. Arable land in suitable condition to repel flooding 1994/5
9. Dredging 1994/5
10. Wash from large vehicles can negate the benefits of sandbags.

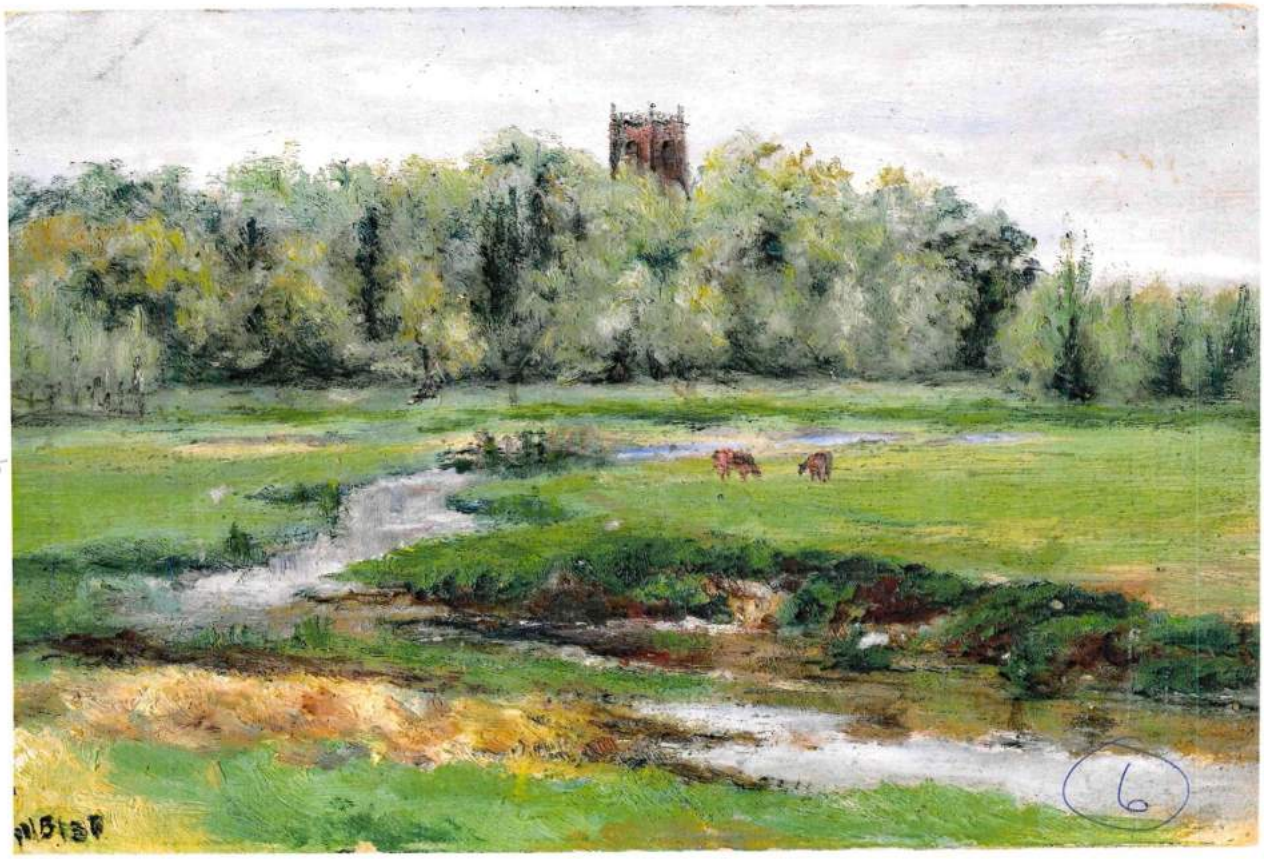

1


UNITED FREE CHURCH
2


K645 TDX
3


4


5


6

7

8


(9)
MILES

Further Notes on Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Framlingham Flood Investigation - Storm Babet 2023.

[Mr Brown's subsequent specific review comments have been incorporated into the section-by-section review in Part 1. Nonetheless, his summary is included below.]

SUMMARY

1. The flooding from Storm Babet was unavoidable. No warning of the amount of water could have been anticipated. However, it has highlighted what can happen.

2. The effect of agricultural cultivation has led to some erosion of neighbouring fields, but this only created a lot of dirty water. The real damage was caused by water – lots of it and much flowing fast.

3. Some decisions on actions will need to be taken sooner rather then later, to reassure the people of Framlingham and surrounding villages that all the relevant authorities are working towards improving the resilience of the affected area.

4. The people of Framlingham and those living downstream of the Meres expect to see/hear actions being taken, not excuses.

5. Can I suggest that the three word slogan **SLOW THE FLO**W be adopted?

Edmund Brown BSc Agric, PGDip Environmental Assessment - 8 Sept 2024

Appendix F. Archaeological Report on Framlingham Mere

"Archaeological Field Survey Report, Framlingham Mere, Suffolk" Moraig Brown & Paul Pattison, NMR No: TM 26 SE 1 Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) Request Survey (Oct 1997)
https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/8420/FRAMLINGHAMMERESUFFOLK

This interesting report researches the Mere in Framlingham, providing insights into its past shape and area and historical uses.

FRAMLINGHAM MERE,
FRAMLINGHAM,
SUFFOLK

NMR NUMBER TM 26 SE 1

REQUEST SURVEY

OCTOBER 1997

RCHME (CAMBRIDGE)
Brooklands
24 Brooklands Avenue,
CAMBRIDGE, CB2 2BU

Appendix G. The Gull Waterway / Brook Lane - Brief Overview Report

Compiled by:

Vince Langdon-Morris (VLM) - District Councillor - Framlingham Ward

Chris Strachan (CS) Fram Flood Resilience & Recovery Working Group

Date: 24-6-24

VLM and CS met at the junction of New Street and Brook Lane just outside Framlingham (near Lincoln Barn) at 7:00 am on Monday, 24th June 2024.

The aim of this exercise was to complete a visual survey of the Gull, from this point to the junction of the Gull and Ore River, just off Station Road in Framlingham.

The following observations were made about this stretch of waterway which was severely flooded during Storm Babet on Friday, 20th October 2024.

1 This stretch of waterway does not need deepening. The base of the waterway is largely gravel, small stones and hard standing. It is scoured by the stream and there are little to no signs of siltation.

2 The stream bed, and especially the banks have been extensively engineered along its length (From New Street Brook Lane junction all the way to the Ore River). This is evidenced by brick side walls, many topped by flat steel girders and road outlet drains that accept water from the road. Much of this engineered infrastructure appears to have been done to strengthen and protect the roadside verges on the waterway side from collapsing.

3 The stream bed varies both in width and depth along its course. Much of this is also due to engineering works completed over many decades, including many culverts, bridges and drains (under Castle Brooks estate). This has had the effect of narrowing the channel in many places and constricting the water flow, that must pass through it. This definitely leads to back-up and flooding, as evidenced by rainfall events over the past 6 months.

Overall Conclusions

From this brief observation of the Gull, several conclusions may be drawn:

- The waterway is extensively engineered, and this has impacts on water flow resulting in water backing up and flooding in heavy downpours.
- Deepening this waterway is not practical, given the many man-made obstructions and would not be in any way effective.
- **It is suggested that the thrust of our efforts need to be made in mitigating and ameliorating water flow above further up the river, in the catchment that feeds this waterway (the area of land behind the New Street / Brook Lane junction).**

Appendix H. Riparian Law Correspondence

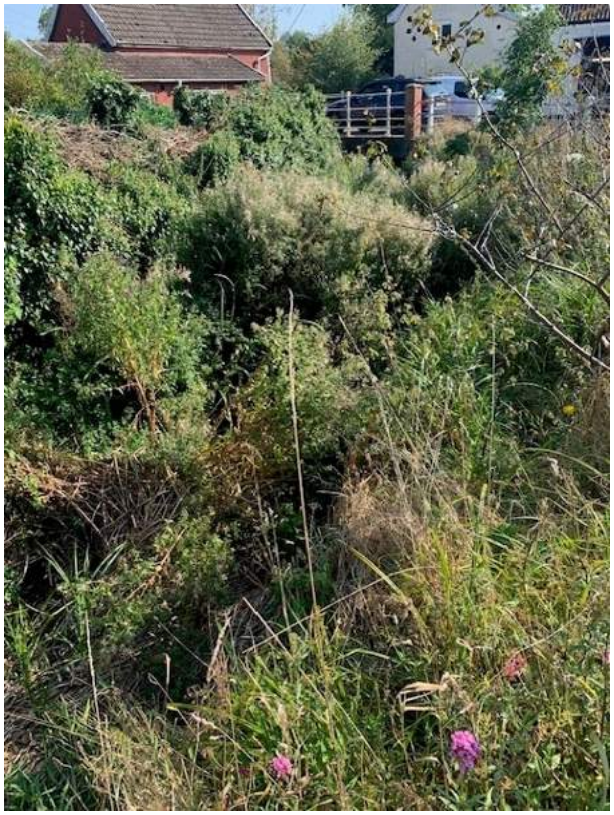
Examples of emails regarding riparian rights on properties adjacent to water courses, and owners/Council responsibilities.

From: Robert Rous
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 7:43 AM
To: Deputy Town Clerk and Vince Langdon-Morris Cc: Bob Briscoe
Subject: Framlingham

Dear Lydia & Vince, Considering all the work on flood prevention that the Fram Town Council has been talking about, I was amazed to see the river through Framlingham covered with weeds & standing pools of water by Fram Farmers showing that there are further blockages downstream. The Bridge at the end of the town also has sediment holding back water & obstructions. Pics below. I appreciate that farmers can help by holding back water in low lying places but surely the water course through the town should be the highest priority to get the water that has arrived away. Whoever's responsibility this is , it needs sorting urgently.

Kind regards,

Robert Dennington Hall Farms



From: Deputy Town Clerk
Sent: 25 September 2024 09:48
To: Robert Rous
Cc: Vince Langdon-Morris
Subject: RE: Framlingham

We totally echo your disgust with the section of the river at Riverside. The Town Council has been pushing for action on this for months. The Environment Agency has this week sent a letter to ALL residents in Fram whose properties lie next to a watercourse, with details of their riparian rights/ responsibilities. This has generated a lot of interest/concern/questions amongst Town residents.

The EA has the right to work on the river near the Co-Op, but the general maintenance responsibilities fall to the Co-Op. Let's hope they act on this week's correspondence as our attempts to engage with them on this have fallen on deaf ears.

The standing water at Fram Farmers is another ongoing, difficult issue that SCC has been trying to resolve. This is the latest email from them on this subject:

From: No Reply <NoReply@suffolk.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 August 2024 13:05
To: Deputy Town Clerk <dtc@framlingham.com>
Subject: Station Road, Framlingham - 440449

"We are aware that there has been water ponding along this section of Station Road, near No.70 and the college entrance a number of times. Highways Assessment officers have attempted to resolve the matter using reactive jetting. The crew attended and cleared out the drains near the college entrance on 22nd March 2024 but there are more complex problems, potentially in outfall pipes which may be in the adjacent landowners responsibility.

We would obviously like to deal with all cases of flooding immediately, but we have been and still are dealing with a huge backlog of flooding cases.

In recent years we have experienced wet winters and more frequent heavy rainfall events, and the last 12 months in particular have been some of the wettest on record. That has swollen the already high number of flooding cases dramatically. Flooding reports increased by 364% this winter compared to the year before.

We currently have a very long list of known flooding sites which far outstrips our resources. The full list is around 1200 sites, which will take many years of work. Over 150 of those are in the very high priority band, and even those will take a couple of years.

Therefore, we must prioritise the sites to work on based upon the impact of the flood waters.

How we prioritise sites for programmed repairs

• there is an immediate and high risk to life because of flooding;

• internal flooding of 1 property (domestic or business) on more than 1 occasion;

• internal flooding of 5 properties has been experienced during one single flood incident;

• a major transport route (eg A140) closed for more than 10 hours because of flooding;

• critical infrastructure (eg a hospital, school or fire station) was affected by flooding.

I regret to inform you that the issue you have raised does not fall into any of the priorities shown below and therefore there is little or no prospect of us doing repair or improvement work at this location in the foreseeable future. However, we will continue to monitor the location as part of our routine inspections and undertake routine maintenance."

From: Bob Briscoe
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 5:26 PM
To: Vince Langdon-Morris and Robert Rous Cc: Deputy Town Clerk
Subject: Framlingham

Vince & Robert, and adding Mark Benbow as chair of FTC's Resilience working group,

I think Robert is talking about the existing responsibilities for continuously keeping the flow path clear, which shouldn't need to wait for action points in a report (but might have to if they are not being done).

Summary of the rest of this rather long email:

The responsibility for maintaining free flow lies with each riparian owner, which includes the owners of each garden fronting onto the river, who are rarely local authorities or Government agencies, except in cases like the Fen Meadow (FTC). The Ore through Fram is designated as a 'Main River' {Note 1}; so the Environment Agency can choose to do the maintenance as well, but it is not responsible for doing it.

According to the map below, this means that over 100 different property owners are responsible for keeping the watercourse through Fram flowing. However, probably few know they are responsible, and none have the capability to do the job well or efficiently on their own. Also, although SCC has enforcement powers, no-one is responsible for regularly checking that anyone is carrying out their responsibilities, and no-one is responsible for notifying anyone that they are responsible.

This presents an opportunity for a low-cost high-benefit intervention by Fram TC: directly and exclusively notifying each riparian owner of their flood-mitigation responsibilities (not just via a broadcast email, web page or public meeting).

Environment Agency: Figure A6.1 in the report FTC commissioned after Babet gives an example of the Environment Agency's planned annual clearance works to the Ore through Fram (in 2023), but it's too low resolution to read. The Ore downstream of the Dennington Rd bridge is also covered by the E Suffolk Internal Drainage Board. It's not clear what their responsibility is, if any. I suspect the shared responsibility between EA and riparian owners has led to confusion over who is doing what, and circular finger-pointing. With IDBs as a third dimension, there's even scope for spherical finger-pointing!!! The Env Agency is much clearer about what it's not responsible for than anyone else, as shown in the following examples (my emphasis).

SCC web page on maintenance of watercourses: "For these main rivers, the Environment Agency is responsible for ensuring that the channel is kept clear, and in some circumstances may use permissive powers to do works themselves. However, landowners who own land which has a main river crossing or bordering their land are still considered to be riparian owners and still have responsibilities to keep the channel clear. "

Table in SCC's guide {Note 2} listing which RMA (Risk Management Authority) is responsible for managing each different type of flood risk: "Main rivers : Environment Agency" ... However, it adds… "Being responsible for the management of flood risk does not automatically mean RMA’s have maintenance responsibility. Often this is still the responsibility of riparian owners."

The Env Agency's guide for riparian owners on main rivers {Note 3}: "The Environment Agency, using its permissive powers, can carry out maintenance, improvement, or construction work on main rivers to manage flood risk and protect the environment. As these powers are permissive only, the Environment Agency is not obliged to carry out either maintenance or new works on main rivers. ... Funding is allocated to

work where it provides the greatest benefit to flood risk to better protect people, property, and wildlife."

Riparian Owners:One of the recommendations from the Babet report that FTC commissioned:

- C9 "Training event for riparian owners to better understand their responsibilities"
- FTC's Resilience committee addressed this with the following action point:
- "Hold a public meeting; planned for Oct 2024"

While this will be useful, personally I don't think holding a meeting (or posting a web page) is sufficient. It is very unlikely that all the relevant 'riparian owners' will attend (or even know about) the public meeting. Also, this is a continuous responsibility, and the next severe storm might be 20 years hence.

The current approach rests on the idea that riparian owners have their responsibilities whether or not they are reminded. This would be fine if the goal was to point the finger of blame after a flood. But if the goal is to prevent flooding, hundreds of people have to act in coordination. So, given new people move in, and old people forget, surely the least that can be done centrally is to remind the specific plot-owners of their responsibilities every so often (e.g. every year before the Autumn).

This would require a local authority {Note 4} to:

1 Either maintain a list of all the relevant plot-owners and lease-holders along the river.

2 Or to occasionally inspect the water course then (somehow) identify just the owners of land where there are problems (such as those in the photos), and serve notice on them.

In either case, a database of riparian owners would be needed (only of offending owners in the latter case). The Land Registry screen grab below shows all the Land Registry plots along the river through Fram. I've highlighted those not registered in light blue (including the Town Council's own Fen Meadow). SCC's web site says the local parish council "might" know who the owners are (using local knowledge presumably).

Although no-one has legal responsibility to notify riparian owners of their responsibilities, specific direct notification would seem to be one of the most cost-effective missing pieces that Fram TC could address to minimise flooding in Fram. So the relevant action point ought really to establish a database of riparian owners and remind them annually of their responsibilities. And perhaps also enable coordinated works jointly funded between them. If a riparian owner then still did not do the necessary maintenance, along a main river (like the Ore through Fram) the Env Agency has the power (but not the responsibility) to enter the land to clear the watercourse. On an 'Ordinary Watercourse' (non-main river) {Note 1}, SCC (as local lead flood authority) has the legal enforcement powers to make riparian owners keep a watercourse clear, but I don't know whether SCC's powers cover a Main River, if neither the riparian owner nor the EA is doing their job.

Ecology vs Flood Prevention: The guidance on riparian owners' responsibilities generally stresses ecological advice, e.g. not maintaining one bank, leaving cut branches in the watercourse, etc. 'except where there is a risk of flooding'. This requires each riparian owner to judge whether low flow through their plot might cause flooding. When sending out notices to specific riparian owners in Fram, it would help to make it clear that they are being contacted precisely because their plot is deemed at risk of causing flooding, so ecology takes second place in their cases.

Theory is not Practice. Even where responsibilities are clear, they are not being adhered to. For instance: SCC says it has not even created the flood asset register (a register of structures that would significantly affect flooding) that it has been responsible for creating and maintaining since the 2010 Flood & Water Management Act.

The Env Agency /has/ created a register of its flood assets. According to its register, the flood assets it maintains only cover short specific parts of the Ore infrastructure through Fram. For instance, try entering the postcode for Station Road (IP13 9EE) and selecting 'Maintained Assets' from the pull-down menu. It then only shows the stretch between Bridge Street and the St John's Ambulance hut, as well as parts of Cherry Brook.

I believe this says nothing about maintenance of the watercourse itself, only about maintenance of 'flood assets', i.e. structures within the watercourse.

Notes

Note 1: The Ore is designated as 'Main River' from where it runs under Dennington Road. Cherry Brook (down Brook Lane) is also designated as 'Main River' from where it runs under New Street.

The E Suffolk Internal Drainage Board covers the Ore from the bridge under the Dennington Rd. However, unlike the main River Ore, the IDB does not cover Cherry Brook at all. See the IDB map.

Note 2: SCC's web page "Riparian Ownership in Suffolk" refers to their fairly brief (16-page) 2019 booklet "Guidance for Riparian Ownership in Suffolk".

Note 3: In July 24, EA updated their 64-page guide "Your watercourse: rights and roles". However, it is very unlikely that many riparian owners know they did.

Note 4: As SCC's booklet says, "RMAs do not have an obligation to inform you that you are a riparian owner." SCC seems to rely on 'the public' reporting problems to them.

As with problems on highways, the trend seems to be not to take responsibility for preventing problems, but to only take action when someone complains.

Regards

Bob

Subject: RE: Framlingham
Date: Wed, 25 Sep 2024 08:48:27 +0000
From: Vince Langdon-Morris
To: Robert Rous
CC: Bob Briscoe, Deputy Town Clerk

Robert, Thanks for this.

Bob and I are working on getting a consolidated response together to all the recent flooding reporting for FTC Framlingham Resilience Response Working Group (there is a lot of it), defining the needed actions, sharing it with SCC and Environment Agency and then understanding how to get them actioned.

I will share your email with the environment agency.

Vince

Appendix I. Notice of Riparian Responsibilities

Page 1 of a notice emailed by the EA to riparian landowners on 20 Sep 2024:

> "Information for Riparian Owners; Your responsibilities and the support available from the Environment Agency" Environment Agency (Sep 2024)

This followed recent EA publication of updated guidance:

> "Your watercourse: rights and roles" Environment Agency (Jul 2024)
> https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/27275/widgets/77300/documents/65543
> Also available via: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse

Information for Riparian Owners:

Your responsibilities and the support available from the Environment Agency

Environment Agency

What are we telling you about?

You are receiving this newsletter because we believe you live next to a watercourse and we're trying to raise awareness of 'Riparian Ownership', which is often misunderstood. If you do not own the property, please forward this to the owner.

A Riparian Owner is somebody who has a watercourse running beneath, through or on the border of their land. This might be a river, stream, ditch or buried watercourse.

It is not always obvious if you are a Riparian Owner. The image to the right shows a watercourse next to a residential property. It is likely the centre of the watercourse (not the fence) forms the property's boundary. This means the landowners on each side of the ditch will own and be responsible for halfway across the watercourse.

There are links at the end of the document with more information (pages 4 and 5). For guidance on who is a Riparian Owner, see Links section 1 (page 4).

Advice on managing your watercourse

As a Riparian Owner, you have rights and responsibilities, and it is essential to understand these to protect the environment, your interests and help manage flood risk. The Environment Agency can help guide you through looking after your watercourse(s), with information on best practice or necessary permits.

To start, please read the current guidance on riparian responsibilities from the Environment Agency and Suffolk County Council (Links section 2, page 4).

When you might need a permit

As a Riparian Owner, you need to know which activities around or in a Main River will need an Environment Agency **Flood Risk Activity Permit** (also referred to as a FRAP). For guides on what is a Main River and permitting see Links section 3 (page 5). This may include preventing bank erosion or repairing it, carrying out any construction, or any other activity that could increase flood risk to yourself or others.

You are likely to need permits or exemptions in place if you're planning to undertake work:

1. In the channel or within eight metres (26 feet) of a Main River
2. In the channel or within 16 metres (53 feet) of a tidal Main River
3. In a floodplain* of a Main River.

*A floodplain is a low-lying area of land on either side of a river that will flood if the river overtops. If you are intending to do works requiring a permit and are unsure if you are located in a floodplain, please contact the email address at the end of this section.

Appendix J. Planning Inspectorate - Outline Planning Permission Appeal

Land Between The River Ore & Station Road, IP13 9EZ
Ref: APP/X3540/W/24/3347785
Dated: 24-09-24

Response by planning inspectorate. *Dear Mr Langdon-Morris, Thank you for your recent correspondence about this appeal which contains hyperlinks. We cannot accept documents which contain hyperlinks, as we cannot be sure that everyone involved has exactly the same version, or that they have access to the equipment needed to view the evidence. Contents within the link will not be viewed by the Inspector unless you submit a separate download within 5 working days from the date of this correspondence. Regards, J. Parsons | Case Officer. The Planning Inspectorate. T 0303 444 5477* ***Ensuring fairness, openness and impartiality across all our services***

Resubmission by: Vincent Langdon-Morris, District Councillor, Framlingham Ward, East Suffolk.

This re-submission has all *hyperlinks* removed, as per your email dated 24-09-24, see appendix to this document. Please note this resubmission now refers to official flooding reports compiled for Framlingham Town (post Storm Babet on 20th October 2023) which are not hyperlinks. These reports need to be consulted by the inspector, as evidence in conjunction with this re-submission.

Reference: APP/X3540/W/24/3344468 Date: 10th September 2024

LAND BETWEEN THE RIVER ORE AND STATION ROAD FRAMLINGHAM IP13 9EZ Grid Ref Easting: 628496 Grid Ref Northing: 262555

PROPOSED OAK FRAMED DWELLING AND CART-LODGE GARAGE Area (in hectares) of the whole appeal site [e.g. 1234.56] 0.45 hectare's

This submission provides evidence to **support the refusal** of this planning application by East Suffolk Council Planning Department, relating to the proposed self-build house construction just off Station Road in Framlingham.

Please see below the appellants reasons to have this decision overturned in this Section 78 appeal statement. From the appellants submission, I note:

· *Whether the appeal site is 'a suitable location for residential development' having regard to the policies of the Development Plan as a whole, and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

· *Whether the proposals will cause harm to the character of the area.*

Please see my submission challenging the suitability of this location for residential development.

I note the appellant has also contracted a survey by MTC Engineering to complete a Flood Risk Assessment of the site, see Addendum: Point 1.18:

"*As such it is considered that surface water flood risk has been adequately assessed in relation to the Sequential Test and that there are no such grounds on which to object to the proposed development of a single dwelling on land off Station Road, Framlingham."*

I must wholeheartedly disagree with this statement, based on the severe and recent effects of Storm Babet flooding on 20th October 2023, and the urgent need for the Environment Agency to re-define flood zones across the town. These *'adequately addressed'* statements are based on **out-of-date** flood modelling data, compiled by the Environment Agency many years before the extreme Storm Babet event, further evidenced below. The Environment Agency has stated that it must now reassess these existing flood zone maps, due to the severity of flooding across the town.

Storm Babet, Emergency Response: As a Framlingham District Councillor, beginning around 12:00, and for the next 4 days:

- I stood helplessly with Leiston Fire services, as my wife was saved from our car (in a life-threatening situation) and a deluge of flooding in Framlingham,
- Established a flood emergency headquarters in Framlingham Town Council offices.
- Assisting in the set-up of a 'rest centre' for flood victims in Castle Community Rooms.
- The Chief Executive Officer, East Suffolk District Council rapidly upgrading our flooding to a 'Major Incident'
- The town cut off from emergency services, unable to access the town due to the severity of flooding and the hundreds of abandoned cars obstructing road access.

The flooding severely damaged over 70 homes in Framlingham (and across Suffolk 750 homes flood damaged). Nearly 100 vehicles (including mine) were submerged across the town and to date many affected homes remain unoccupied and uninhabitable. As the anniversary of Storm Babet approaches, many traumatised residents are questioning why this location, and others, are being selected for construction?

The proposed construction site lies within metres of the **epicentre** of the Storm Babet flood event in Framlingham (personal observation). It turned the nearby bridge on Station Road into an 'island' with flood water, like a giant 'washing machine' engulfing nearby houses on Fairfield Road. The nearby businesses downstream, experienced explosive toilets, inundation by sewage and coffins floating around.

Even more importantly, pertaining to this appeal, the lower floors of the nearby Framlingham Technical Centre (in which people were trapped on upper floors, including the local MPs staff) were flooded. Yet this Technical Centre is **not** shown on flood risk maps as being vulnerable to flooding? This site lies almost on the same elevation to this proposed construction location.

In addition, severe *pluvial* flooding in Storm Babet swept off the fields behind the houses on Station Road, and coming close to entering these houses set well up the slope? *These homes lie **above** the proposed residential construction site.*

Allowing construction in flood plains is sending the wrong message to people, traumatised first by covid and now severe flooding. A brand-new housing development in nearby Parham Village (see *what three words* location *inversely.flying.shave*) amply demonstrates the folly of allowing planning permission and construction close to a flood plain (also the Ore River). Despite clearly documented concerns of Parham Parish Council about placing houses in a flood plain, Storm Babet proceeded to overwhelm and severely damage these brand-new houses and their occupants, who had only moved in 4 weeks before?

The Flood Resilience & Recovery Working Group: Framlingham Town Council has been very pro-active in investigating, documenting and communicating with residents and local authorities. This group was formed just after Storm Babet, 20th October 2024 and meets regularly, generating a wealth of evidence and defining the steps required to make our town and community more resilient to future emergency events.

Two well attended public meetings have been held, a third is scheduled for November 2024, designed to identify the actions and resources needed to build the resilience of our town to future flooding events. Please refer to the Framlingham Town Council website, **Framlingham Flood Resilience & Recovery** and especially links to the Amazi and statutory Suffolk County Council Section 19 reports referenced here.

- Framlingham Town Council and Flood Resilience and Recovery Working Group agreed to fund and contract a flood risk consultant (approved by Suffolk County Council). The amazi-flood-report was released in April 2024 and compiled to speed up the evidence gathering process and identify protective measures for the town. Please see Fig. A3 Page 6. This flood information mapping is based on **outdated** data. The Environment Agency has stated that these maps, for flood zones 2 and 3 must be updated to take account of changed **pluvial** & **fluvial** flooding risks across the town. Fig. A4/1 on page 7 show the risk of flooding from surface water–Framlingham South. This also shows errors, for example the Framlingham Technical Centre which is approximately 150 meters *north northeast* of this proposed construction site (shown in light blue shading, i.e. low risk to flooding, 1:1000-year event). Yet during Storm Babet the entire area was under at least two feet of water?
- Suffolk County Council have now provided a statutory S19 flood assessment report of Framlingham town (the first of 50 similar reports for the County) and its wider catchment. **Please also see this on Suffolk County Council Website, Flood Investigation Reports, Framlingham.** This report, the first completed, is largely in response to the Amazi Flood Report for Framlingham, which SCC and the Environment Agency have reviewed and endorsed.
- **Pollution:** Since agreement of the Framlingham Neighbourhood plan in 2017, the town has seen the construction of nearly 500 new houses. There has been no inward investment in the town's infrastructure, especially sanitation. During Storm Babet the towns sewage network discharged directly into the flood water (human effluent,

household fuel oil and roadside run off). Any new construction at this site will lie alongside future flooding events with this poor water quality.

- East Suffolk Council recently established a £500,000 **Resilience and Emergency Response Fund** designed to provide rapid, short-term funding to support Town and Parish Councils to respond to future flooding events. ESC is also in the process of hiring a Resilience Coordinator to assist Town and Parish Councils to build their capacity, knowledge, resilience and response capability for future emergency events.

This written submission supports a rejection of this appeal. I have worked for the British Government as a climate advisor and am very concerned that our existing body of law / legal statute still applies 'business as usual' principles, which are ignoring climate mitigation policy and urgently need climate adaptation actions. The law as it relates to my residents is increasingly out of step with the realities that we are facing in a changing climate.

Appendix K. Consolidation of Recommended Actions

The following table pulls together the actions from:

- Suffolk County Council's Section 19 report, identified in the first column as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) (these recommendations have been copied in Appendix D. of the present report).
  Note: SCC did not number its actions (although it plans to do so when it updates the report). So identifiers were assigned in the form S.*tn*, where 'S' stands for SCC, '*t*' stands for the timescale that SCC assigned to each action (S/M/L for Short/Medium/Long term) and '*n*' is just a number invented for the present report, with no implication of prioritization.
- Framlingham Town Council's Amazi report identified in the first column by either 'FTC RA' or 'FTC idea', depending on whether the Amazi report listed them as a Recommended Action (RA) in its Appendix C or as a flood prevention idea in its Appendix B10 (the latter is copied in Appendix C. of the present report).

Each action was then sorted into the following categories (some fell into multiple categories): Property repairs; Warning system; Emergency response; Maintenance prioritization; Specific maintenance tasks; Prevention prioritization; or Specific prevention measures. The specific prevention measures were further sub-categorized as either Divert; Attenuate; Protect; or Resilience (following the example of the Amazi report).

This exercise ensured that similar actions from the two reports were listed close to each other in the sorted list, so that overlaps between the two reports could be called out in the right-most column. It also allowed gaps in either report to be identified.

This table is ***not*** intended to track progress on each action. That is being done separately and best continued after the two lists have been merged.

Reccm'd by	ref #	What	Who	When	Short/ Med/ Long Term (S/M/L)	Property Repairs	Warning System	Emg'cy Response	Mtce priorities	Maintenance	Prevent'n priorities	Prevention	Divert	Attenuate	Protect	Resilience	Rationalisation of Actions
LLFA	S.S2	Maximise the take up of the £5k PFR Grant currently available to residents before the April 2025 deadline	SCC LLFA (Lead Local Flood Authority) / Residents	Latest Apr 2025	S	Repairs											
LLFA	S.S3	Flood Warning improvements. Environment Agency to create a new spatial extent for the flood alert and flood warning areas in Framlingham to incorporate properties that flooded in Storm Babet.	Environment Agency	6 months	S		Warning										
LLFA	S.S4	Environment Agency to review the timeliness of issuing flood warnings and implement any changes.	Environment Agency	6 months	S		Warning										Merge with C25

FTC RA	C25	Query Environment Agency on warnings: Why was there a 3 hour delay? How will that be avoided in future? Review trigger levels for when warnings are given Consider rate of rise (rise was rapid) To provide more advanced warning, can warnings be given for predicted rainfall or rainfall as gauged, especially to assist with surface water flooding preparation?	To discuss with EA at meeting. See C1			Warning			Merge with S.S4
LLFA	S.M7	Flood Warning. Environment Agency to investigate alternative, and innovative means of improving the real time data and information to inform the flood warning service	Environment Agency	2026	M	Warning			High level grouping for C6,C8, C27
FTC RA	C6	Consider town wide warning system, in addition to the Environment Agency flood warnings.				Warning			
FTC RA	C8	Consider another water level monitoring system in the town to track raise of rise as well as specific water level thresholds	Ideally we want a representative from the EA on this working group. CS to broach with colleagues and report back			Warning			Merge with C27
FTC RA	C27	Consider is New Road the best/only place where water levels should be gauged? The existing arrangement needs review since it may not be accurately capturing the peaks (gauge too low? Overland flow? Etc	See C8			Warning			Merge with C8
FTC RA	C13	Change the water level thresholds at which different warnings are issued. And consider warning for rapid rate of rise				Warning			
LLFA	S.S1	Establish a Community Emergency Plan that includes plans to manage future flood events – Liaison with Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit.	Framlingham Town Council	6-12 months	S		Response		Merge with C7 High level grouping for C16, C11
FTC RA	C7	Flood Response Plan for the Town: Equipment needed? Storage? Who can access? Dissemination of warnings to vulnerable residents	To discuss with ESC's Emergency Response Co- Ordinator when appointed – VLM will update				Response		Merge with S.S1 High level grouping for C16, C11
FTC RA	C16	Vulnerable residents that need immediate care during flood event to be identified on a map and specific needs identified. An organisation assigned to ensure they have support during future flood events.	NC and ESC's new Emergency Response Officer to work together on this				Response		

FTC RA	C11	Write clear guidance note to all residents at risk, whether flooded in recent events or not, and confirm the predicted risk and resources which may assist with preparation.		Defer until January 2025	M	Response	
FTC RA	C26	Consider recommendations within the SCC Section 19 report for Framlingham	To consider when S19 report received			Repairs, Warning, Response, Pri Mtce, Mtce, Pri Prev, Prevent, Divert, Attenuate, Protect, Resilience	
FTC RA	C3	Public meeting		Oct 2024	S	Repairs, Warning, Response, Pri Mtce, Mtce, Pri Prev, Prevent, Divert, Attenuate, Protect, Resilience	
FTC RA	C9	Training event for riparian owners to better understand their responsibilities	FTC to host public meeting. CS will ask Will Todd and/or other colleagues if they could attend. SCC will also be asked to attend	October	S	Pri Mtce	
LLFA	S.M6	Investigate the flood risk implications of varying amounts of silt in the Main River channel	Environment Agency	2025	M	Pri Mtce	
FTC RA	C14	Consider creating a local river management team to identify areas for action in a coordinated manner and with recognition from the Environment Agency. So more coherent voice: walk route, training, voluntary, safety.	R&R group to look into setting up a River Warden Team as a means to manage the river proactively			Mtce	
FTC RA	C20	• Clear plan for assistance with dredgings/debris disposal: funding and organising skips to remove items rather than leaving on the banks to act as debris during a flood. clearance away from [...?]				Mtce	High level grouping for S.S5, S.S6,S.S7,S.S8,C15 ,C23
FTC RA	C23	Felled timber in Mere being mobilised during flooding and blocking River/structures. Framlingham College to clarify in a written statement how future management will prevent similar situation in future.	To discuss with Framlingham College and ask them to attend the next R&R meeting			Mtce	Merge with S.S5
LLFA	S.S5	Framlingham College and SWT to review their maintenance/management of the Mere to ensure the river exit is kept clear of waste & debris	Framlingham College and SWT	6-12 months	S	Mtce	Merge with C23
LLFA	S.S6	Remove observed blockages within the channel along Fairfield Road	EA and Riparian landowners	6 months	S	Mtce	
LLFA	S.S7	Remove observed blockages within ordinary watercourses and main river	EA (where increase to flood risk is observed) / Riparian landowners	As and when required	S	Mtce	High level grouping for S.S6
FTC RA	C15	Gulley cleaning: Suffolk County Council Highways to provide a report on confirming their annual schedule	LK to ask Local SCC Liaison Engineer when			Mtce	Relates to S.S8, but regards regular

		and a living list of actions being taken on all reported incidents. Accountable to the Town Council	Framlingham's cyclical cleans are scheduled for				Mtce		maintenance
LLFA	S.S8	Ensure the completion of highway drainage asset cyclic maintenance along the four worst affected roads (Albert Place, Station Road, Brook Lane, Fairfield Road). Investigate highways drainage generally to ensure capacity and condition are sufficient.	SCC Highways Authority	6-12 months	S		Mtce		Relates to C15, but regards once-off maintenance
LLFA	S.S9	Investigate the potential feasibility (economic, technical & environmental) of a range of capital interventions to manage flood risk in the town.	EA and SCC LLFA with landowners	12 months	S		Pri Prev	Pri Prev	High level grouping for all Prevention Prioritisation actions
FTC RA	C1	Meeting with Environment Agency to discuss in detail their findings on Storm Babet and to run through the Ideas presented in Section B10.	LK to try to organise	ASAP	S		Pri Prev	Pri Prev	
FTC RA	C2	Meeting with other relevant stakeholders to discuss in detail the ideas presented in Section B10.	To organise after meeting with EA	By end of July 2024	S		Pri Prev	Pri Prev	
FTC RA	C4	Review EA rainfall rarity report once available.	LP will pass on when received – now expected in autumn				Pri Prev		
FTC RA	C5	If this rarity report demonstrates that the event was not rarer than 1:1,000 year, then request the Environment Agency update the flood model to reflect the actual predicted flooding. Including 2D direct rainfall runoff to capture the surface water currently not included in the modelling.	To request after report received- see C4				Pri Prev		
FTC RA	C19	Request Environment Agency update Environment Agency hydraulic model of the River Ore, to include: • walk route to identify where the model currently not best representing flow dynamics Include direct rainfall to represent surface water in the 2D domain					Pri Prev	Pri Prev	Merge with S.M8
LLFA	S.M8	Improved understanding of fluvial and pluvial flood risk within the town through updates to hydraulic modelling to inform potential capital works.	SCC LLFA and EA	2027	M		Pri Prev		Merge with C19
FTC RA	C10	Development planning to fully consider the extent of flooding that occurred during Babet which was more extensive than flood extent estimates currently used in planning process (i.e. that currently identified in the Environment Agency flood model).	PW- to ensure that flooding risks and preventative measures are considered when carrying out the Neighbourhood Plan review				Pri Prev		

FTC RA	C12	Ensure developments appropriately consider no increase in flood risk elsewhere: a) flood storage and b) exceedance runoff^. There are examples of developments in Framlingham that have not complied with these fundamental, long standing requirements of planning policy (and its associated guidance). They are absolutely vital in helping protect against increases in flood risk. ^See Section B5, B9.4, B9.9. ESC can clarify this design criteria with specific local guidance if deemed appropriate. The LLFA guidance: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset- library/2023-sf3967-scc-suffolk-flood-risk-appendix-a2.pdf	Linked to C10									Pri Prev						
FTC RA	C18	Liaise with Environment Agency to hear what other lessons have they learnt from their post Babet investigations throughout the County and beyond.	See C8. An EA representative as a member of this working group would be very useful							Pri Mtce	Mtce	Pri Prev	Prevent	Divert	Attenuate	Protect	Resilience		
LLFA	S.L1	Deliver any capital interventions that are economically, technically and environmentally feasible and acceptable to improve the flood resilience of the town.	EA, SCC LLFA, Landowners, Town Council	TBC	L								Prevent	Divert	Attenuate	Protect	Resilience	High level grouping for all Prevention actions	
FTC RA	C17	Continue to engage with Anglian Water regarding maintenance of their systems throughout the town and to discuss the foul water flooding at Kettleburgh Road.	VW will look into this. She will also see if there is a CSO at the Fram plant and if so, how many times it has been discharged during recent storms.										Prevent	Divert					
FTC Idea	B10.1	Widen River Ore from Mere to downstream of the Town											Prevent	Divert					
FTC Idea	B10.2	New (additional) Conveyance channel/culvert through the Town											Prevent	Divert					
FTC Idea	B10.3	Try and keep flow within the River channel. Flow overspilled onto Riverside and Station Road and formed a second channel											Prevent	Divert					
LLFA (idea?)	S.M2	Investigate potential new/additional highway drainage assets on New Road	SCC Highways Authority	12-24 months	M								Prevent	Divert?				Idea rather than recommended action?	
LLFA (idea?)	S.M3	Improve drainage system on The Elms carpark	East Suffolk District Council	12-24 months	M								Prevent	Divert?				Idea rather than recommended action?	
LLFA (idea?)	S.M4	Investigate options to connect surface water flowing on Brook Lane and Fairfield Road back into the river	SCC Highways Authority	12-24 months	M								Prevent	Divert?				Idea rather than recommended action?	
LLFA (idea?)	S.M5	Investigate the options for improved drainage assets / water storage at the bottom of the field east of Fairfield Road and Woodbridge Road	SCC LLFA with landowners	12-24 months	M								Prevent	Divert?				Idea rather than recommended action?	

LLFA (idea?)	S.L2	Investigate options to enlarge the capacity of the culvert below The Mills on Brook Lane	SCC Highways Authority	TBC	L		Prevent	Divert?		Idea rather than recommended action?
LLFA (idea?)	S.L3	Investigate options to enlarge the capacity of the culverts below Fairfield Road connecting the watercourses with the main river	SCC Highways Authority	TBC	L		Prevent	Divert?		Idea rather than recommended action?
LLFA (idea?)	S.L4	Improvements to highway drainage network to manage surface water flows if investigation works suggest it is viable.	SCC Highways Authority	TBC	L		Prevent	Divert?		Idea rather than recommended action?
FTC RA	C21	Water management and farming practices have large impact upon runoff rates. Refer to Figure B9.1. Discuss with landowners/NFU/relevant stakeholders to highlight impact and consider catchment wide policy for practices that reduce, rather than increase runoff.	Cluster group to give a presentation at the public meeting in October				Prevent		Attenuate	
FTC RA	C22	Consider locations for upstream storage in rural areas. Technically there will be many locations, but needs a study to consider in relation to land use/ownership and potential benefit etc.	Linked to C21				Prevent		Attenuate	
LLFA	S.M1	Investigate potential NFM projects and funding opportunities which aim to attenuate water and 'slow the flow' in the upper catchments e.g. reservoirs, storage ponds, wetland areas, leaky dams.	EA, SCC LLFA and Landowners. Identified areas for possible schemes are on the overland surface water flow paths (3 North of the town, 1 in West and 2 East of the town, see fig.4).	12-24 months	M		Prevent		Attenuate	Merge with S.M9 & B10.5
LLFA	S.M9	Investigate potential and seek funding for projects which aim to attenuate water in the upper catchments e.g. reservoirs, storage ponds, wetland areas.	SCC LLFA	24 months+	M		Prevent		Attenuate	Merge with S.M1 & B10.5
FTC Idea	B10.5	Storage in rural areas upstream					Prevent		Attenuate	Merge with S.M1 & S.M9
FTC RA	C24	Mere to be dredged so further loss of capacity is avoided over time.	To discuss with Framlingham College and ask them to attend the next R&R meeting				Prevent		Attenuate	Merge with B10.4
FTC Idea	B10.4	Enlarge and dredge the Mere					Prevent		Attenuate	Merge with C24
FTC Idea	B10.6	Wall around weir to increase storage capacity of Mere					Prevent		Attenuate	

FTC Idea	B10.7	Property level protection	Prevent		Protect	
FTC Idea	B10.8	Town wide demountable barriers. Would need flow control structure at the Mere to divert flow along the temporary route created with demountable barriers	Prevent		Protect	
FTC Idea	B10.9	Raised walls along channel	Prevent		Protect	
FTC Idea	B10.10	Properties at risk to be flood resilient to enable rapid reinstatement if similar flood event occurs again	Prevent			Resilience