Flood Investigation Report

Oadby & Wigston

22nd June 2023

Version	Published Date	Author	Approved By
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Thursday 22nd June 2023, twenty four residential properties and one business property were reported as having been internally flooded across five locations in Oadby. Twenty three residential properties were reported as having been internally flooded across seven locations in Wigston. The flooding was caused by an intense rainfall event in the late afternoon and early evening. Based on the available rainfall data (Fleckney rain gauge[11], located approximately 6 km south-east of Oadby and Wigston) approximately 48 mm of rainfall fell within a two-hour period on the 22nd June 2023. The storm was characteristic of a summer thunderstorm in the UK; short, intense and highly localised.

Given the high intensity of the rainfall event, significant volumes of rainfall appear to have been unable to infiltrate into the ground and overwhelmed local drainage systems. These factors resulted in overland flow rapidly moving towards relatively low-lying areas impacting properties built across natural flow routes that follow the relative ground levels towards ordinary watercourses. Additional properties were flooded by water overtopping banks of ordinary watercourses (primarily Wash Brook) due to their close proximity and relative ground levels.

SUMMARY OF FLOOD SOURCES

Ordinary Watercourse	☑	**Public Sewer**	☑
Main River	☐	**Canal**	☐
Surface Water	☑	**Land Drainage**	☐
Groundwater	☐	**Highway Drainage**	☑

NUMBER OF RECEPTORS IMPACTED WITHIN FLOOD AREAS - OADBY

Residential	Business	Other Buildings	Roads	Critical Infrastructure
24 (internal) 42 (external)	1 (internal)	0	13	0

NUMBER OF RECEPTORS IMPACTED WITHIN FLOOD AREAS - WIGSTON

Residential	Business	Other Buildings	Roads	Critical Infrastructure
23 (internal) 46 (external)	0	0	21	0

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SECTION 19 INVESTIGATIONS – DUTY TO INVESTIGATE

Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) (2010) 'local authorities: investigations' came into force on 6th April 2011. The legislation states:

'(1) On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:

a. *which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have relevant flood risk management functions, and*

b. *whether each of those RMAs has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to a flood event.*

(2) Where an authority carries out an investigation under Section 1 (above) it must:

c. *publish the results of its investigation, and*

d. *notify any relevant RMAs.'*

1.2 FORMAL FLOOD INVESTIGATIONS CRITERIA

As a LLFA, Leicestershire County Council, from herein referred to as "The Council", identified local thresholds for formally investigating flood incidents across Leicestershire within the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) published in August 2015. This policy advised when a formal flood investigation should be undertaken, including where one or more of the thresholds in Table 1 on the next page occurs as a result of a flooding incident.

A formal investigation into the flood incident in Oadby and Wigston on the 22nd June 2023 has been undertaken as the event triggered the locally agreed flooding characteristics or discretionary items as indicated in Table 1. Areas that had previously been subject to historic flooding and met the required threshold for investigation will not undergo another investigation, but will be summarised in this report. Not every instance of external flooding has therefore been investigated, nor instances of internal flooding from known flood sources.

Please note that the LFRMS has since been updated and published in February 2024. The updated Strategy includes a new Formal Flood Investigations Policy with revised thresholds[1].

[1] Leicestershire County Council (2024) Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/flood-risk-management

All published Section 19 reports to date can be found on the Council's website[2].

Table 1: Locally Agreed Criteria for Formal Flood Investigations

Mandatory Investigation	
Loss of life or serious injury	☐
Critical infrastructure flooded or nearly flooded from unknown or multiple sources	☐
Internal property flooding from unknown or multiple sources	☑
Discretionary Investigation	
A number of properties have been flooded or nearly flooded	☑
Other infrastructure flooded	☐
Repeated instances	☐
Investigation requested	☐
Risk to health (foul water)	☐
Environmental or ecologically important site affected	☐
Depth/area/velocity of flooding a cause for concern	☐

1.2.1 OTHER AREAS

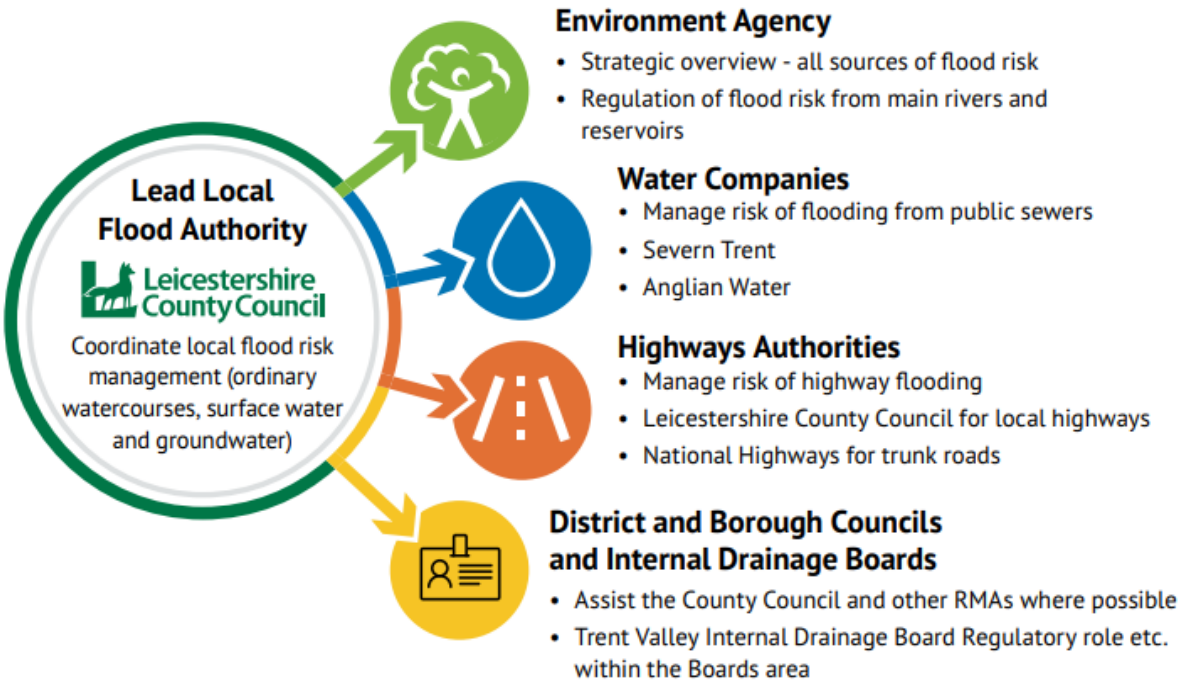
Other parts of the south east side of the County were affected but did not meet the criteria for an investigation and therefore are not referenced further in the report. The flooding was still investigated, and any relevant actions were taken.

Leicester City was also affected, and Leicester City Council have also published a formal flood investigation[3].

[2] Leicestershire County Council (2025) Formal Section 19 Flood Investigations. https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/lead-local-flood-authority/formal-section-19-flood-investigations

[3] Leicester City Council (June 2024) South and East Leicester - Flood investigation Report (June 2023) https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-environment/flooding-and-watercourses/flood-investigations-and-reports/

1.3 RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES (RMAS)



The following RMAs were identified as having relevant flood risk management functions to the flooding event in Oadby and Wigston on 22nd June 2023:

- Leicestershire County Council – LLFA
- Leicestershire County Council – Local Highways Authority
- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (OWBC) - Local Planning Authority who can carry out flood risk management works on minor watercourses.
- Severn Trent Water Ltd (STW) - Statutory undertaker for public wastewater and freshwater assets.

No flood impacts were identified in the Harborough District Council (HDC) administrative area that covers the upper catchment of the Wash Brook ordinary watercourse (see Figure 1). Therefore, no further consultation with HDC was required for the purposes of this report.

The Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for Main Rivers and the source of flooding to properties or the highway network in Oadby and Wigston was not determined to be from Main Rivers. The EA was not therefore required to perform a role in this area.

The associated RMA responsibilities are provided in Section 4. Their associated actions from this event identified during this investigation have been captured within the Action Lists in Section 5.

2 FLOOD INVESTIGATION STUDY AREA

The flooding event impacted several discrete communities across Oadby and Wigston, and different flooding mechanisms were experienced within different areas of these communities. These focus areas have therefore been discussed independently below.

A review of geological information from the British Geology Societies online mapping system[4] identified that this area of Leicestershire is dominated by the 'Oadby Member' lithology, characterised by superficial deposits of predominantly clay and silt, sand and gravel, and a bedrock of sedimentary mudstone. Both ground formations are associated with relatively low permeability, poor infiltration rates, a high water table, and groundwater flooding.

2.1 OADBY

The town of Oadby is located in the Oadby and Wigston Borough of Leicestershire, approximately six kilometres south-east of Leicester, as illustrated in Figure 1. The town lies predominantly within the catchment of the Wash Brook, which is a major tributary of the River Soar. Wash Brook originates in rural areas upstream of Oadby, within Harborough District and proceeds to flow in a westerly direction through Oadby within Oadby and Wigston Borough (Figure 1).

Wash Brook, depicted in Photograph 1, is an ordinary watercourse for its extent within Leicestershire. The catchment area of Wash Brook is highly urbanised and many of the open channel reaches flow through residential back gardens. It becomes designated a Main River as it enters Leicester City where it is called Saffron Brook.

Photograph 1: Wash Brook alongside Nene Court, Oadby

[4] British Geological Survey (2025) GeoIndex Onshore. https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html?_ga=2.126588623.377520356.1649146089-1757798915.1649146089

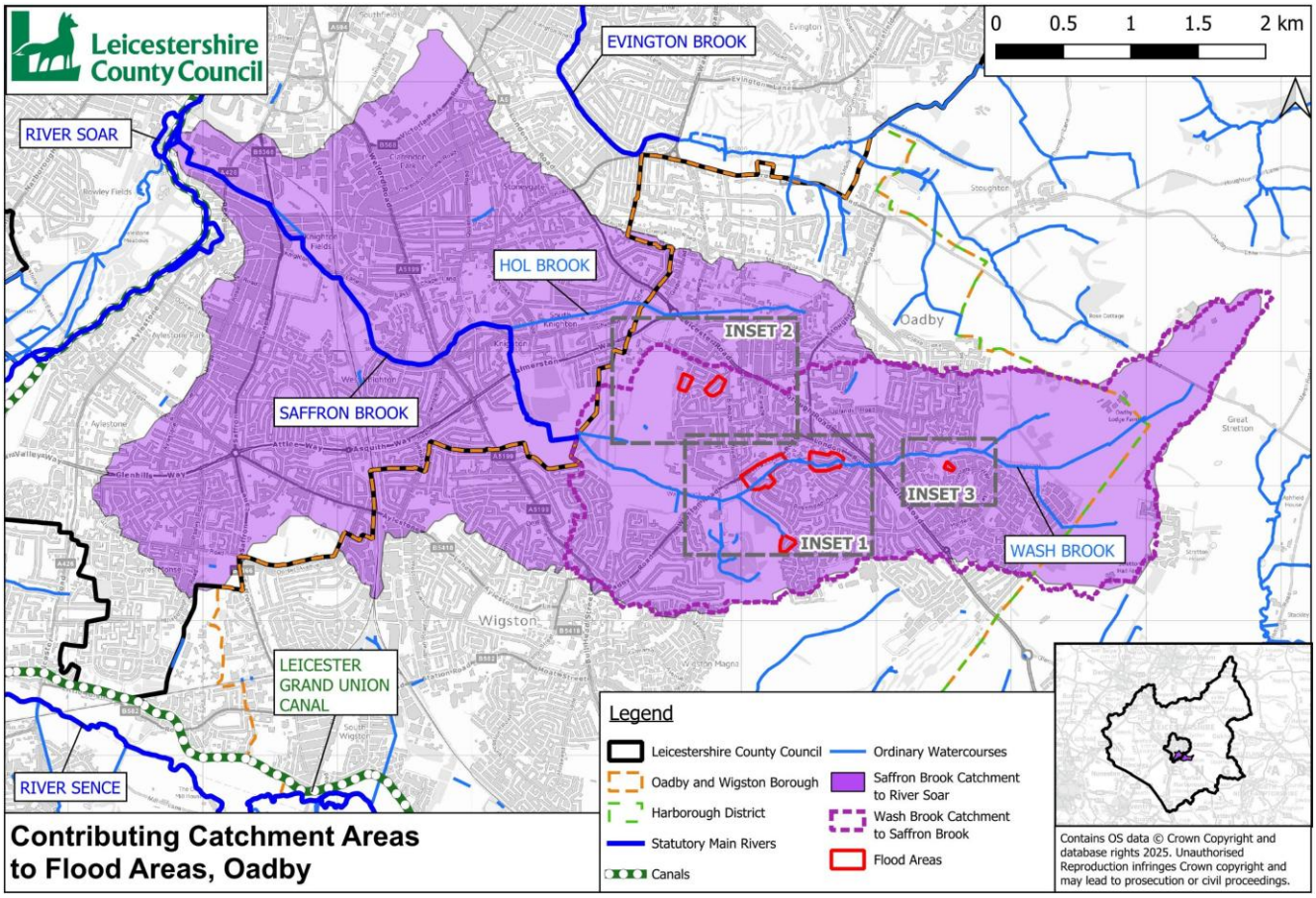


Figure 1. Location plan overview of contributing catchment areas and areas impacted by flooding in Oadby on 22nd June 2023.

See further details of each Flood Area in Inset 1 (Figure 7), Inset 2 (Figure 8) and Inset 3 (Figure 9) in Section 3.4.

2.2 WIGSTON

Wigston is a town located in the Oadby and Wigston Borough of Leicestershire, approximately six kilometres south of Leicester as illustrated in Figure 2.

The central and southern areas of the town lie predominantly within the catchment of the River Sense, which is a major tributary of the River Soar flowing north westwards to the south of the town. Two un-named ordinary watercourse tributaries flow generally southwards towards the River Sense. The northern area of the town lies within the catchment area of Wash Brook, described in Section 2.1, which flows in a north westerly direction to the north east of the town (Figure 1).

See further details of each Flood Area in Inset 4 (Figure 10), Inset 5 (Figure 11), Inset 6 (Figure 12) and Inset 7 (Figure 13) in Section 3.5.

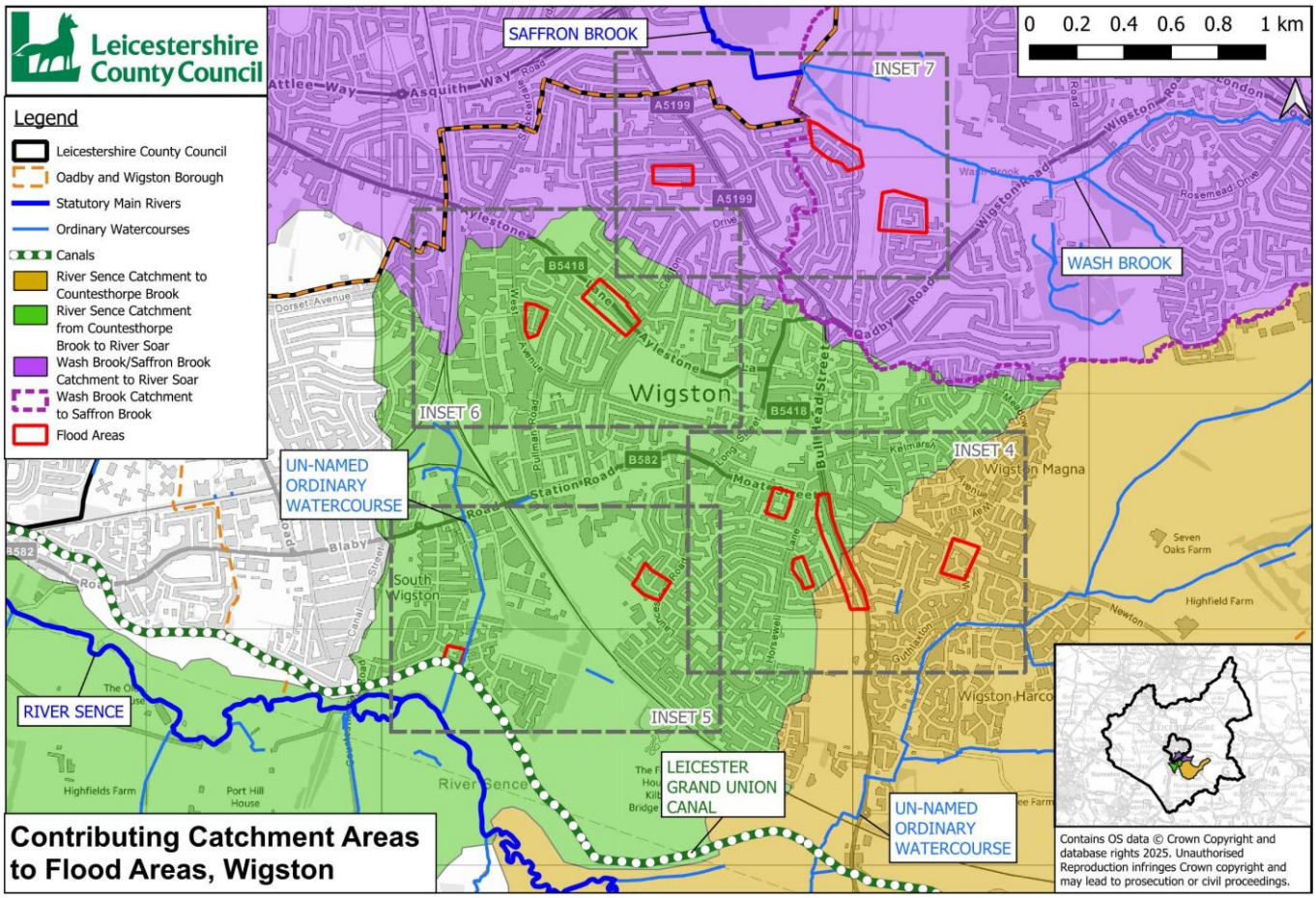


Figure 2. Location plan overview of contributing catchment areas and areas impacted by flooding in Wigston on 22nd June 2023.

3 FLOODING INCIDENT ON 22ND JUNE 2023

The majority of the information supporting the description of the flooding incident is based on first-hand accounts and flood survey information provided by affected residents.

3.1 PRIOR TO THE EVENT

The Council holds records of previous flooding reports for Oadby for the years 2016, 2020 and 2021. No formal flood investigations have previously been undertaken for Oadby or Wigston, as these previous events did not meet the Council's formal flood investigation criteria. This was as either due to the flooding cause being unknown, or internal property flooding had not been reported during these events.

Previous flooding to external areas of properties had been reported in 2016 along The Morwoods, Oadby. In 2021, internal flooding was reported to two properties, and external flooding at a third. These events were investigated and were determined to be due to ponding of surface water runoff (generated by intense rainfall) exceeding the design capacity of the local drainage network, and due to the Wash Brook overtopping its north bank inundating rear gardens. Several surface water outfalls into Wash Book were also submerged by the high water levels, restricting their ability to discharge. Several additional instances of external flooding were reported over the period 2016 to 2023. Extensive CCTV surveying of the local drainage network and gully cleansing was conducted over this period in response.

In 2016, the Council informally investigated flooding at two locations; Meadowcourt Road and Rosemead Drive. Flooding at Meadowcourt Road was related to an ordinary watercourse (Hol Brook) and its interaction with the STW system beneath the A6 Leicester Road. At Rosemead Drive, the flooding was identified as being related to the backing up of water within the stormwater drainage network. This was due to high water levels in Wash Brook, into which this drainage network discharges, submerging the outfalls.

Prior to the flooding event in June 2023, the Council had previously undertaken a formal flood investigation at Burleigh Avenue in Wigston which was published in December 2018[5]. This previous flooding event occurred on the 27th August 2016 and at least two residential properties experienced internal flooding. The investigation concluded that the capacity of the drainage system was exceeded as a result of the volume of water that fell during two short rainfall events. Surface water subsequently flowed over the land surface following the natural undulations in the ground levels and

[5] Leicestershire County Council (2018) Burleigh Avenue, Wigston: Flood Report https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2019/3/22/Burleigh-Avenue-Wigston-Final-Report-December-2018.pdf

ponding at a low point close to the junction between Burleigh Avenue and Barnby Avenue. More information is provided in Section 3.5.7.

Wash Brook is covered by an EA Flood Alert[6], however no alert was issued in June 2023 due to the speed of onset of flooding. Prior to the event on 22nd June, no local community flood plan or volunteer flood wardens were in place in Oadby or Wigston.

The Hydrological Summary produced by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology for June 2023[7] states the weather conditions in the first half of June were dominated by prolonged settled and dry conditions. These conditions were interrupted by a series of convective thunderstorms from the 13th June. From the 17th June, an Atlantic low brought a series of frontal systems to the UK for the rest of the month, resulting in unsettled conditions and rainfall events.

Further heavy rainfall and intense thunderstorms were experienced from the 20th June, with the second half of the month characterised by very localised heavy rainfall. This correlates with summer rainfall patterns, which are typically shorter and in greater intensity than winter storms[8] of comparable return probability in any year. The increasing frequency of such intense storms may also be attributed to the effects of climate change[9].

3.2 RAINFALL OVERVIEW

In the late afternoon and early evening of Thursday 22nd June 2023, Leicestershire and the city of Leicester were affected by thunderstorms and heavy rainfall. The rainfall was highly localised in nature, with the greatest rainfall intensity observed within the city boundary itself and areas to the south, including Oadby, Wigston and surrounding areas as illustrated in Figure 3.

[6] Environment Agency (2025) Flood Alerts – Tributaries in Leicester City. https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/target-area/034WAF405

[7] UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (June 2023) Hydrological summary for the United Kingdom: June 2023 https://nora.nerc.ac.uk/id/eprint/535432/

[8] Met Office (2025) UK and Global extreme events – Heavy rainfall and floods. https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/understanding-climate/uk-and-global-extreme-events-heavy-rainfall-and-floods

[9] Met Office (2024) Climate change drives increase in storm rainfall. https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/weather-and-climate-news/2024/climate-change-drives-increase-in-storm-rainfall

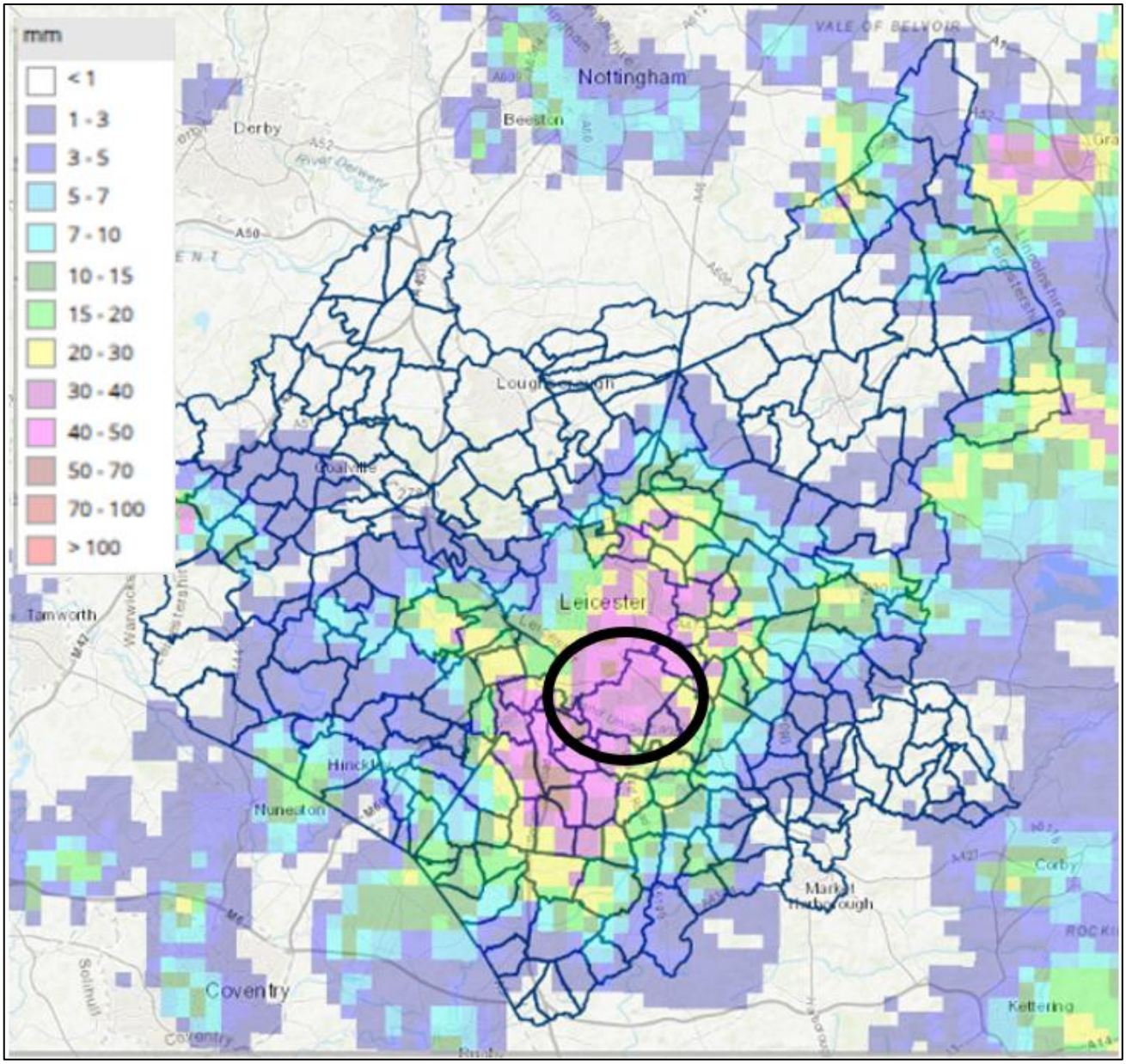


Figure 3. HydroMaster Total Rainfall (rainfall radar) on 22nd June 2023 (Oadby and Wigston circled).

A dynamic summary provided by HydroMaster[10], which provides precipitation observations and forecasts based on radar images, estimated a total of 38.4 mm rainfall on 22nd June 2023 across the OWBC boundary area.

HydroMaster estimates that ***maximum*** rate per hour across this area over a 1 hour and 3 hour storm both have a probability of between 2% (>1 in 50) and 1% (<1 in 100) in any year. The ***average*** rate per hour value estimated across this area over a 1 hour storm has a probability of between 5% (>1 in 20) and 2% (<1 in 50) in any year, and over a 3 hour storm has an annual probability of between 10% (>1 in 10) and 5% (<1 in 20) in any year.

[10] HydroMaster (February 2024) Dynamic Summary. https://app.hydromaster.com/applications/login/index.html

Typically, new road drainage networks are designed to accommodate up to a 1 in 10 (10%) chance in any year rainfall event on the contributing area of highway itself, but not for any additional volumes of overland flow originating from land adjacent to the highway. Older/historical networks may accommodate varying magnitude rainfall events.

Oadby and Wigston are located between three relevant EA rainfall gauges local to the study area that were used for data analysis purposes; Fleckney[11], Evington[12] and Littlethorpe[13].The locations of these gauges are presented in Figure 4.

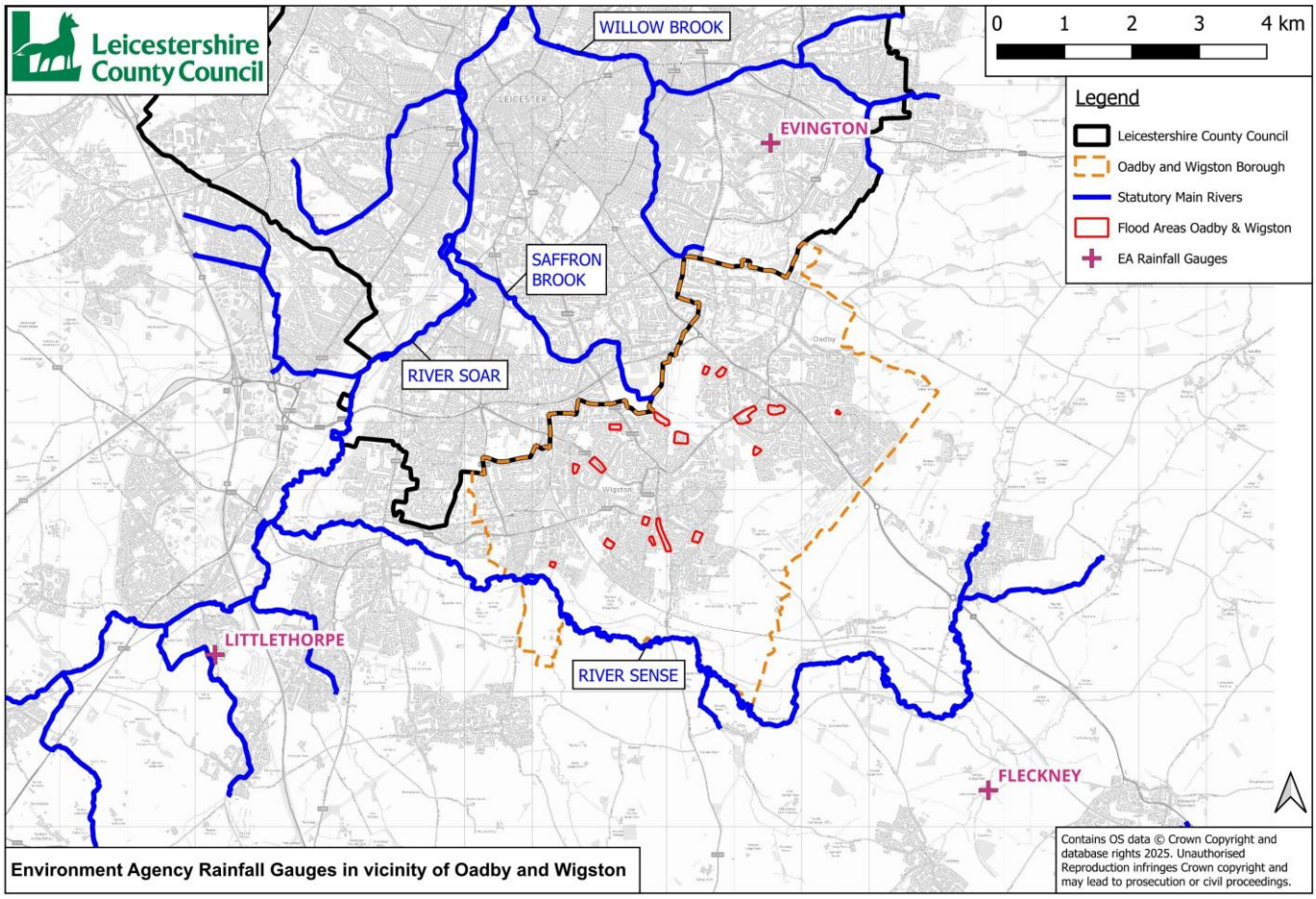


Figure 4. Relative location of Fleckney, Evington and Littlethorpe EA rainfall gauges

The region as a whole received below average rainfall for the month of June, but much of this total was concentrated into very localised heavy rainfall events. The cumulative rainfall measured at each of these gauges during key events in June 2023 are presented in Table 2. Rainfall profiles of June 22nd are presented in Figure 5.

[11] Defra (2025) Hydrology Data Explorer - Fleckney rain gauge. https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/station/8141e81a-970f-43a2-bd59-7badd94fca2a

[12] Defra (2025) Hydrology Data Explorer - Evington rain gauge https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/station/50ec6d91-ccdb-4d2f-92c1-594e6e05760b

[13] Defra (2025) Hydrology Data Explorer - Littlethorpe rain gauge https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/station/8e34512c-9966-4b67-a71e-b04c0500845c

Table 2. Significant rainfall events throughout June 2023

RAIN GAUGE	DATE AND TIME START-FINISH	RAINFALL MEASURED (MM)
Littlethorpe	12/06/2023 16:15 – 17:45	5.8
	18/06/2023 15:30 – 23:30	11.0
	20/06/2023 06:00 – 11:45	12.4
	22/06/2023 15:00 – 17:00	21.8
Fleckney	12/06/2023 16:00 – 17:00	6.4
	18/06/2023 15:30 – 03:45	5.4
	20/06/2023 06:00 – 12:15	27.6
	22/06/2023 15:30 – 17:30	48
Evington	12/06/2023 16:15 – 17:30	16.0
	18/06/2023 16:00 – 06:15	9.4
	20/06/2023 06:15 – 12:30	15.8
	22/06/2023 16:00 – 17:30	23.6

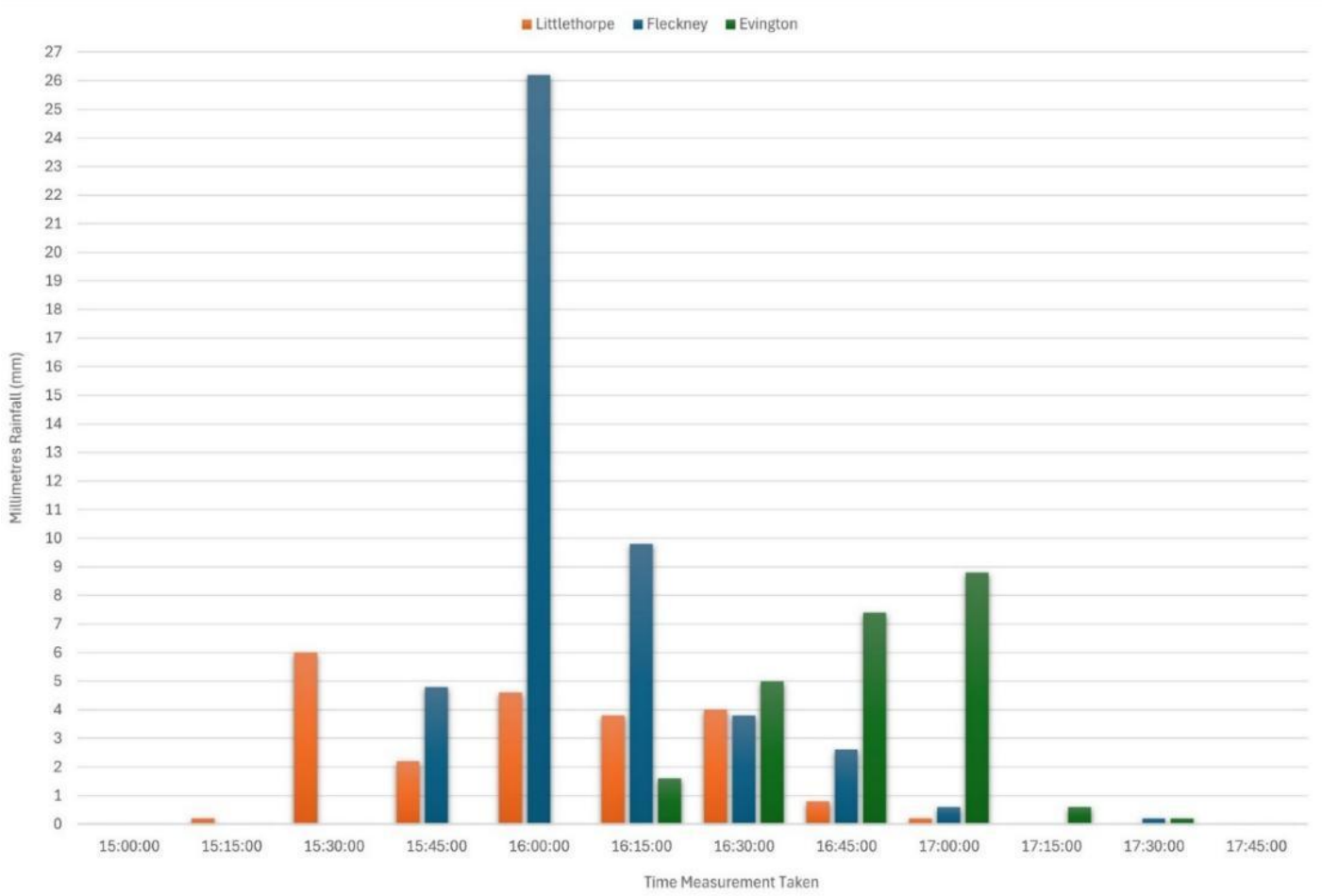


Figure 5. Rainfall profiles at Littlethorpe, Fleckney and Evington EA rainfall gauges across the 22nd June 2023 event

On the 22nd June 2023 the Littlethorpe rain gauge recorded a total of 21.8 mm over a two-hour period from 15:00 hours. The Fleckney rain gauge recorded the largest observed total of 48 mm of rainfall over a two-hour period from 15:30 hours and the Evington gauge recorded a total of 23.6 mm over a 1 and a half hour period from 16:00 hours, illustrating the general movement of the storm from south-west to north-east.

However, it should be noted that as the rainfall event was very localised, it may not have been fully recorded by these nearby rain gauges.

3.3 WASH BROOK / SAFFRON BROOK GAUGE

The EA's monitor water levels along Saffron Brook at a hydrometry gauge located in Knighton Park[14], Oadby (Ordnance Survey grid reference SK 60719 00357) which is further downstream along the Wash Brook. Observed water levels (depth in metres at the gauge) from 00:00 hours on 22nd June to 23:59 hours on 23rd June are illustrated in Figure 6.

The peak water level in the brook occurred at 19:30 hours on 22nd June, approximately 3.5 hours after the peak rainfall at Fleckney (at 16:00 hours). *(No rating curve currently exists for the gauge to covert the water levels to flows – m^3/s.)*

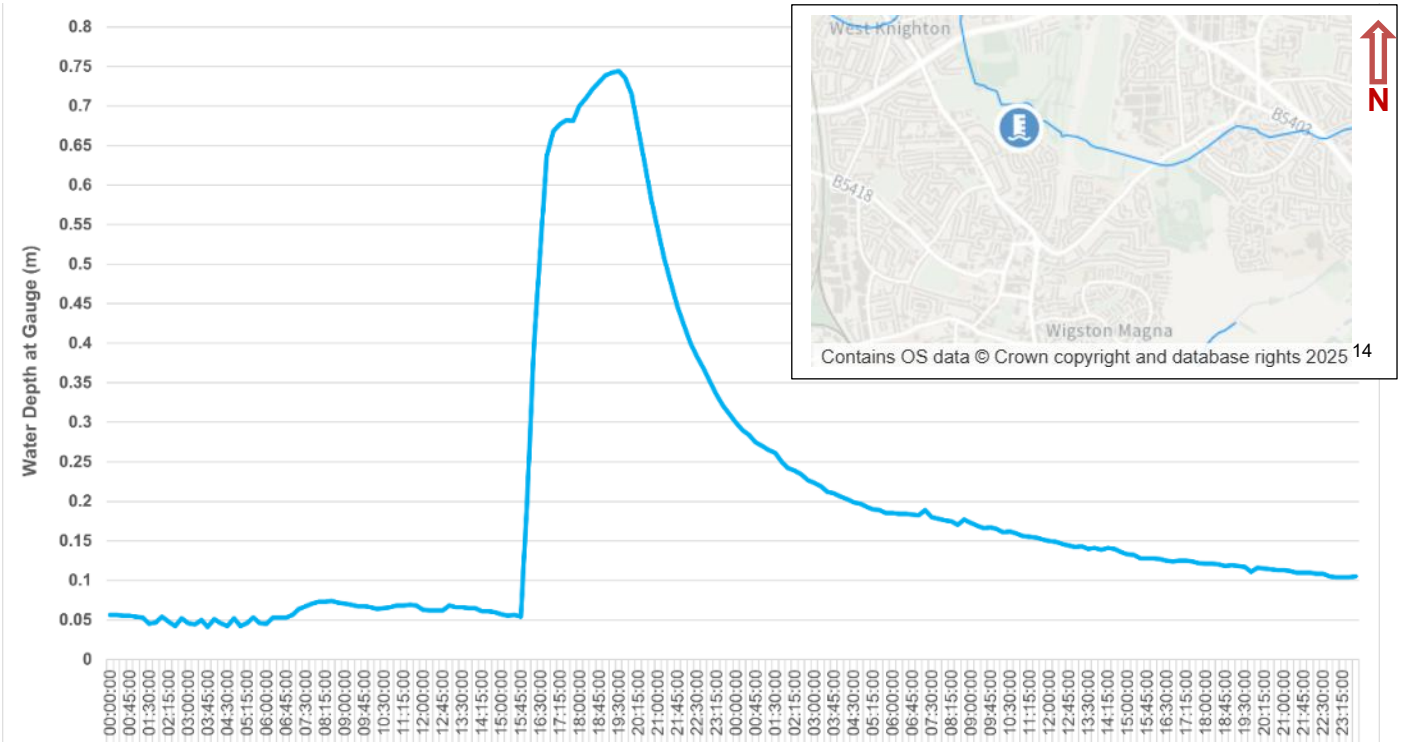


Figure 6. Water Level profile at EA gauge on Saffron Brook at Knighton Park, Oadby on 22nd June-23rd June 2023

[14] Defra (2025) Hydrology Data Explorer - Knighton Park water level gauge
https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/station/d2b7fdce-a031-4917-8b13-251ad5196027

3.4 FLOOD EVENT - OADBY

Figure 7, Figure 8 and Figure 9 illustrate the locations of Flood Areas A to E. A summary of the observed flooding mechanisms and impacts for each area is detailed below.

Where numbers of properties are quoted below as having flooding internally, these may, or may not, have also been flooded externally. Those quoted as having been flooded externally, are other properties *in addition* to those.

3.4.1 FLOOD AREA A – THE MORWOODS & GREENBANK DRIVE

In the afternoon of June 22nd 2023, surface water resulting from intense rainfall was reported to have initially flowed into The Morwoods from London Road (B582) in Oadby, as illustrated in Figure 7.

At the junction of London Road with The Morwoods, STW combined sewer systems became overwhelmed causing a sewer manhole cover to have lifted under hydraulic pressure (Photograph 2). The drainage network was overwhelmed by the quantity of water generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time-period and its design capacity was evidently exceeded.

A second STW combined sewer manhole also lifted towards the eastern end of The Morwoods. Figure 7 illustrates how overland flows (surface water contaminated with sewage) flowed southwards, accumulating at the lowest point at the western end of The Morwoods.

Highway gullies along The Morwoods were surcharged. They therefore became overwhelmed by such intense rainfall over such a short time period as they could not convey the sheer volume of water away from the area quickly enough. The design capacity of the drainage network into which these gullies connect was evidently exceeded.

This drainage network comprises a previously unmapped surface water pipe running beneath the footway on the north side of The Morwoods (identified during a survey conducted by LCC Highways in April 2025). Through dye-tracing, this was found to connect into a STW public surface water sewer at the manhole within the driveway of number 14 The Morwoods. Other highway gullies at the western extent of The Morwoods connect into this same public sewer at a manhole beneath the front garden of number 28 The Morwoods.

A private culverted watercourse flows in a southerly direction beneath London Road and the eastern extent of The Morwoods. The outfall, located along Wash Brook to the rear of number 3 The Morwoods, was observed on 22nd June to be submerged due to high water level in the brook. Flows were thus unable to discharge effectively at the downstream extent of the culvert. This resulted in a surcharged manhole and surcharging of several gullies along the eastern extent of The Morwoods that connect into this, due to its capacity being exceeded.

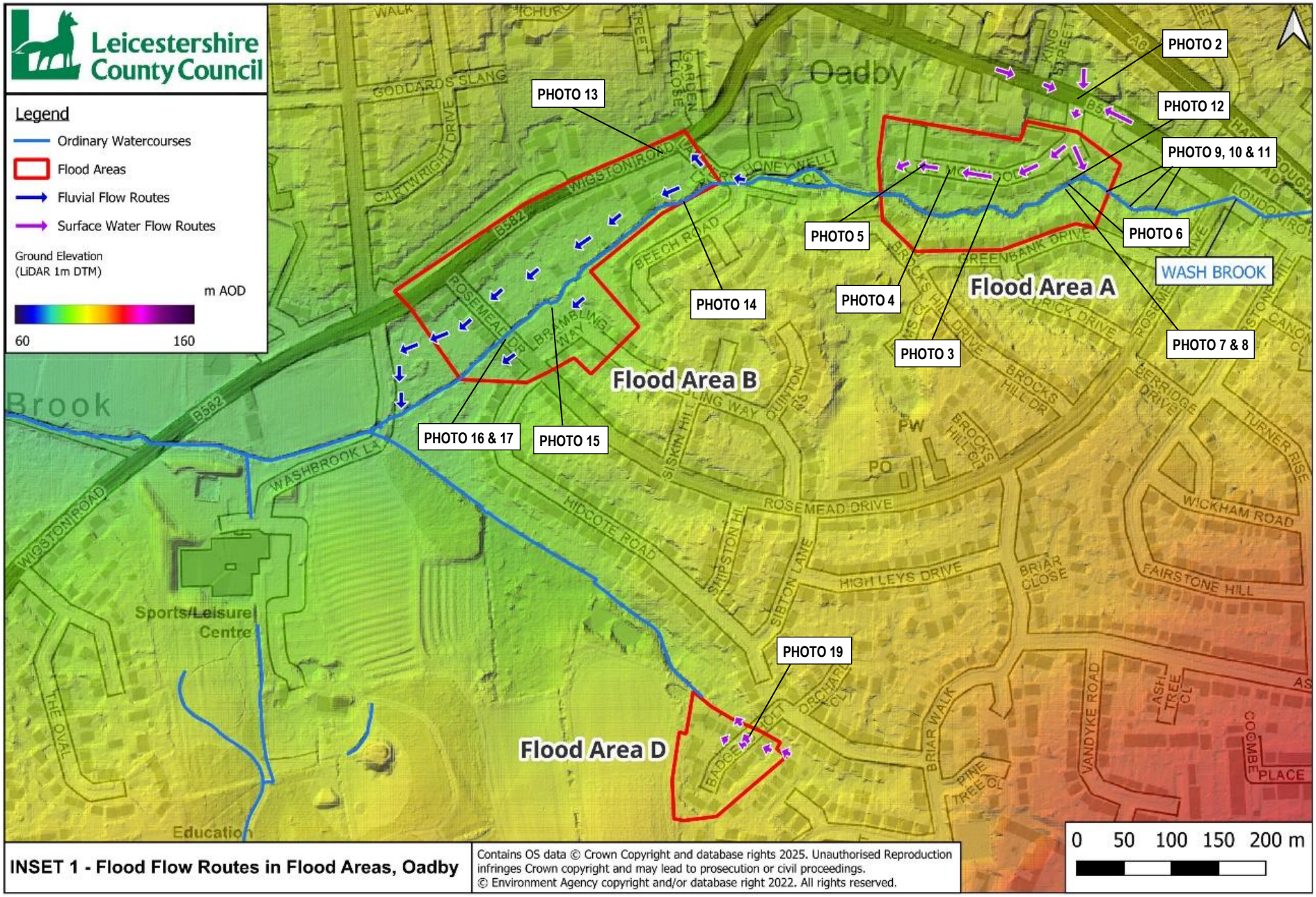


Figure 7: INSET 1: Flow routes through Flood Areas A, B and D, Oadby

The resulting floodwater accumulated on the highway to a depth that quickly overtopped kerbs on both sides (Photograph 3 and Photograph 4). This led to initial flooding of driveways and gardens of residential properties on the northern and southern sides of the highway (Photograph 5). External property flooding was reported at nine properties along The Morwoods.

Photograph 2: Flooding along London Road at junction with The Morwoods

Photograph 3: Flooding along The Morwoods

Photograph 4: Flooding along The Morwoods

Photograph 5: Flooding along The Morwoods

Some of the highway gullies were anecdotally reported as partially blocked, slowing down the conveyance of floodwater from the road into the drainage network. However, this was not confirmed as no evidence was found to substantiate the claim. The highway gullies were last cleansed prior to the June 2023 event in December 2021.

The drainage network was overwhelmed by the quantity of water generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time-period and its design capacity was evidently exceeded. The gullies therefore became overwhelmed as they could not convey any more water away from the area quickly enough.

Internal property flooding was also reported at nine properties on the southern side of the highway, where property thresholds were lower than the highway in some instances. Internal water levels were described as varying from 15-40cm depending on the location and elevation of the residential property relative to external ground levels, and gradient of the internal floorspace.

Flood water continued to flow downhill southwards through these properties and their rear gardens towards Wash Brook. Here, Wash Brook flows generally from east to west. It was reported that Wash Brook also overtopped its banks flooding the rear of back gardens along The Morwoods (Photograph 6) and within six rear gardens of properties along Greenbank Drive (Photograph 7 and Photograph 8) located adjacent to the south bank of Wash Brook.

Photograph 6: Flooding to rear garden along The Morwoods

Photograph 7: Flooding to rear garden along Greenbank Drive

Photograph 8: Flooding to rear garden along Greenbank Drive

It was anecdotally reported that overgrown vegetation within the channel may have reduced its capacity to convey flow during the flood event, and a fallen down tree over the brook was believed by residents to have impaired the watercourse's ability to drain away. However, the Wash Brook was not reported to have directly caused internal flooding to properties along The Morwoods from any bank overtopping.

One property along Greenbank Drive reported internal flooding; however, the exact source was unknown and was assumed to be a combination of surface water from the highway, fluvial from Wash Brook or groundwater flooding). The floodwater was reported knee-deep and caused damage to plants, raised beds, turf, garden furniture and outbuildings (sheds, greenhouses and garages).

Several riparian owned reaches of Wash Brook were reported and found to have been overgrown and at the upstream end of The Morwoods, was obstructed with concrete posts (Photograph 9), a canoe washed down from a garden (Photograph 10), and a discarded bath (Photograph 11). Some vegetation debris had also accumulated behind a pipe crossing over Wash Brook, further obstructing flows at the upstream end of The Morwoods (Photograph 12). As such, Wash Brook had a reduced capacity than what would be considered optimal to convey flow during the event.

Photograph 9: Discarded concrete posts in the Wash Brook at the upstream extent of The Morwoods

Photograph 10: Canoe washed downstream along Wash Brook at the upstream extent of The Morwoods

Photograph 11: Discarded bath along Wash Brook at the upstream extent of The Morwoods

Photograph 12: Blockage at pipe crossing over Wash Brook alongside The Morwoods

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

10 properties internally flooded

15 properties externally flooded

3.4.2 FLOOD AREA B – WIGSTON ROAD, ROSEMEAD DRIVE & BRAMBLING WAY

On 22nd June 2023, the Wash Brook was reported to have overtopped its banks behind the properties along Wigston Road, Rosemead Drive and Brambling Way in Oadby, as illustrated in Figure 7.

Flood water first flowed out of bank onto the road junction at Lawyers Lane with Beech Road and Honeywell Close to ankle depth, then into the rear gardens of properties along Wigston Road.

Reports were received of a blockage (identified as partially collapsed gabion baskets, unconsented under the LDA 1991) within the Wash Brook channel, adjacent to a residential garden shortly downstream of the Lawyers Lane culvert. This was observed to significantly reduce the channel capacity and impede the flow of water downstream, reducing the hydraulic performance of the Lawyers Lane culvert. Due to the speed of onset of the flooding, it is unlikely that this was a primary cause, but it may have subsequently increased the flood risk upstream by exacerbating the flow extents and

flow routing towards gardens in the local vicinity. However, in the absence of new river modelling, it is not known to what degree. This has been logged, investigated and remedial action is underway (see Section 5.1.3).

Internal flooding was reported at seven residential properties and one business property on Wigston Road directly from Wash Brook after depths exceeded property thresholds and entered through air bricks into basements. It was also anecdotally reported that because of the drainage network being overwhelmed, flood water flowed off Wigston Road into the front gardens/driveways of these properties. Several of these driveways slope down towards the properties, exacerbating the surface water flow routing. Anecdotal reports were made of partial blockages to highway drains (including a concrete dished channel) by weeds (Photograph 13).

Photograph 13: Partially blocked concrete dished channel drain along Wigston Road

Floodwater continued to flow south-west through the rear of gardens of properties situated along Wigston Road and Brambling Way. Evidence of this is depicted in Photograph 14 and Photograph 15 respectively, resulting in external property flooding being reported at a further eight properties along Wigston Road, and four properties along Brambling Way. These properties did not flood internally due to them having longer rear gardens which exhibit gradients that provided some informal storage.

Photograph 14: Flooding in rear garden along Wigston Road

Photograph 15: Flooding in rear garden along Brambling Way

Floodwater continued westwards onto Rosemead Drive, where water accumulated within a dip in the road as depicted in Photograph 16 and Photograph 17, before flowing through properties on the south-west side. Water also reportedly ponded on Washbrook Lane (the next road crossing Wash Brook that provides access from Wigston Road to Parklands Leisure Centre) adjacent the south-eastern boundary of the Oadby Football Club. This temporarily restricted access to the leisure centre. It was anecdotally reported that this resulted from a blockage in the Wash Brook, but this was not confirmed and the source of the blockage was not identified, as no evidence was found or submitted to substantiate the claim.

One internal property flooding report was received on Rosemead Drive. This property was located within the dip of the road and at a lower threshold than surrounding properties. It was reported that the flow of traffic through standing water on Rosemead Drive exacerbated flooding at this property, causing bow waves which were anecdotally described as being strong enough to break its existing flood gates.

Photograph 16: Flooding along Rosemead Drive

Photograph 17: Flooding along Rosemead Drive

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

9 properties internally flooded

20 properties externally flooded

3.4.3 FLOOD AREA C – FOXHUNTER DRIVE & SEAGRAVE DRIVE

On 22nd June 2023 surface water was reported to have flowed down the highway along Seagrave Drive and from both directions along Foxhunter Drive in Oadby, before accumulating in a dip in the road, as illustrated in Figure 8. It is understood that highway gullies were overwhelmed/surcharged by such intense rainfall over such a short time period as they could not convey the sheer volume of water away from the area quickly enough. The design capacity of the surface water drainage network into which they connect was evidently exceeded.

Surface water reportedly overtopped kerbs on the western side of both highways, resulting in internal property flooding via the frontage of three properties along Seagrave Drive and external flooding of rear gardens at three additional properties. Flood water also overtopped the residential property thresholds of two properties along Foxhunter Drive, again from the front resulting in internal and external flooding; one rear garden of which is depicted in Photograph 18. Internal water levels here were described to have covered the carpet/floor. Two additional properties were externally flooded within gardens.

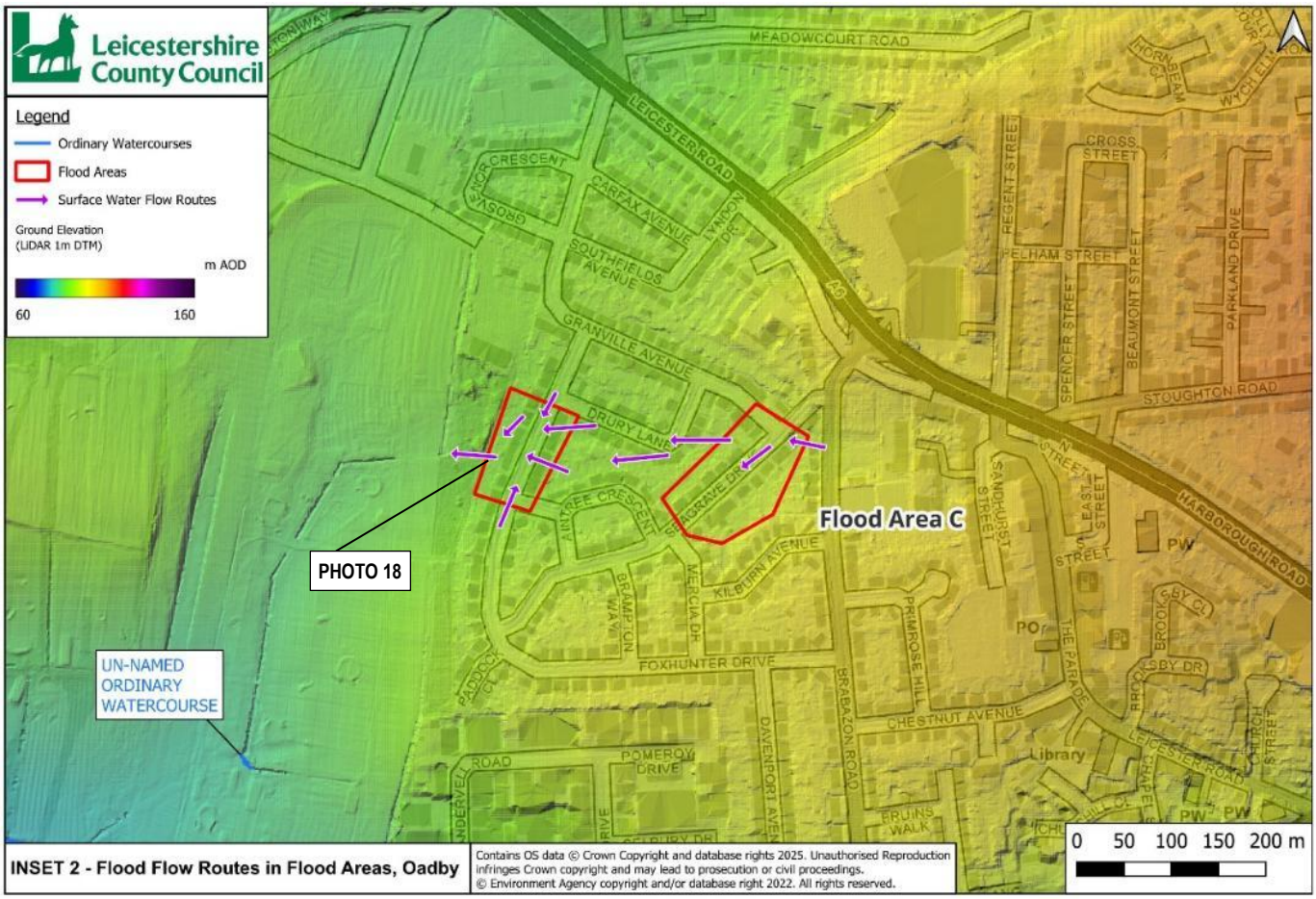


Figure 8. INSET 2: Flow routes through Flood Area C, Oadby

Photograph 18: Flooding in rear garden along Foxhunter Drive

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

4 properties internally flooded

5 properties externally flooded

3.4.4 FLOOD AREA D – BADGERS HOLT

In anecdotal reports from 22nd June 2023, surface water was described as flowing north-westwards along Badgers Holt in Oadby, following the local topography of the highway towards an un-named ordinary watercourse, as illustrated in Figure 7.

Floodwater surcharged from a STW surface water network manhole. as depicted in Photograph 19. The drainage network was overwhelmed by the quantity of water generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time-period, and its design capacity was evidently exceeded. This part of the network conveys flows into a system beneath Hidcote Road to the north. The surface water drainage network located further to the south along Badgers Holt discharges into Brock Hill Country Park to the west).

Six reports of external residential property flooding were received which included flooding to gardens, driveways and a garage.

Photograph 19: Flooding and surcharged surface water network gully, Badgers Holt

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

0 properties internally flooded

6 properties externally flooded

3.4.5 FLOOD AREA E – WHEATLAND CLOSE

In anecdotal reports from 22nd June 2023, surface water was described as flowing down the highway to the bottom of the cul-de-sac at the northern end of Wheatland Close in Oadby towards Wash Brook, as illustrated in Figure 9.

The highway slopes steeply downwards from the junction of Wheatland Close with Hunters Way round to the northern end. The drainage network was overwhelmed by the volume of water generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time-period and its design capacity was evidently exceeded. Surface water reportedly accumulated on the northern end of the highway and quickly overtopped the kerb threshold.

This initially resulted in external flooding to driveways and gardens on residential properties, as depicted in Photograph 20. This also resulted in internal property flooding at two properties on the northern side of the highway, where property thresholds were lower than the highway. Internal water levels were described as reaching the top of skirting boards.

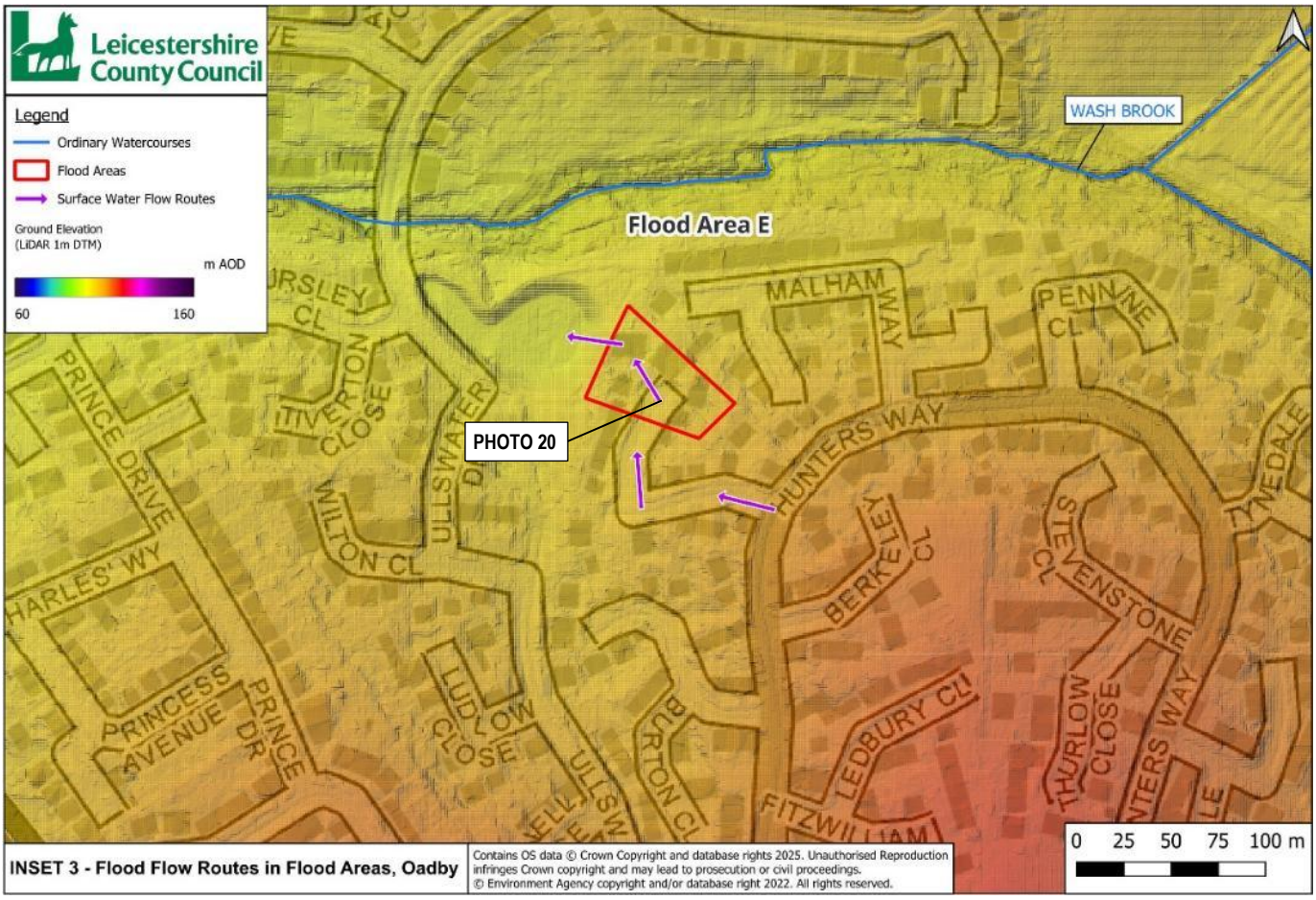


Figure 9. INSET 3: Flow routes through Flood Area E, Oadby

Photograph 20: Flooding along Wheatland Close

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

2 properties internally flooded

0 properties externally flooded

3.5 FLOOD EVENT - WIGSTON

Figure 10, Figure 11, Figure 12 and Figure 13 illustrate the locations of Flood Areas F to L. A summary of the observed flooding mechanisms and impacts for each flood area is detailed below.

As described in Section 3.4, where numbers of properties are quoted below as having flooding internally, these may or may not, have also been flooded externally. Those quoted as having been flooded externally, are other properties *in addition* to those.

3.5.1 FLOOD AREA F – NEWTON LANE & HALTER SLADE

Surface water from intense rainfall was described in anecdotal reports from 22nd June 2023 as accumulating at a low point on the highway along Newton Lane in Wigston near the junction of Halter Slade and Guthlaxton Way. Water then flowed southwards into Halter Slade, as illustrated in Figure 10.

One property along Halter Slade reported internal flooding and external flooding of their driveway and the road outside their property as a result of intense rainfall, and that they observed a "*blocked storm drain*". However, no evidence was found or submitted to substantiate the claim of the blocked gully and confirm this. The drainage network into which the local highway gullies connect was overwhelmed by the volume of water generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time-period and its design capacity was evidently exceeded, likely resulting in surcharging of a gully.

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

1 property internally flooded

1 property externally flooded

3.5.2 FLOOD AREA G – PEACOCK PLACE, HALCROFT RISE & WELFORD ROAD

In anecdotal reports from 22nd June 2023, surface water was described as flowing down the highway from the Moat Street area, accumulating on the highway along Peacock Place in Wigston, as illustrated in Figure 10 and as depicted in Photograph 21 and Photograph 22.

Several reports indicated that drains were blocked outside a supermarket on the Moat Street/Peacock place junction and water and sewage flowed directly from manhole covers on Peacock Place. The flood water accumulated on the southern end of the highway and overtopped the highway kerb threshold. This resulted in external property flooding to the frontage of five residential properties described as above knee deep. At a further five properties, the flood water exceeded property thresholds, resulting in internal flooding. Internal water levels were described as covering the carpet/floor.

A STW surface water sewer is present across the cul-de-sac junction. Two manholes, including one within the car park of the supermarket and one in the front garden of number 30 Peacock Place are present. The cul-de-sac itself is private land (not within highway maintainable land). No evidence of any gully blockages was submitted or found to substantiate or confirm the claim. It is therefore undetermined as to whether any blockages were in fact present, and which/how many manholes/gullies were affected. However, the drainage network was likely overwhelmed by the quantity of water generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time-period and its design capacity was exceeded, resulting in surcharging of the gullies and/or manholes. STW did not receive any reports of flooding from the network following the flooding event.

On Halcroft Rise, surface water was described as bubbling from gullies, accumulating on the highway before overtopping kerb thresholds. The surface water drainage network here (highway gullies connected into STW storm drains) was overwhelmed by the volume of water generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time-period and its design capacity was evidently exceeded. Surface water accumulated within the low point of the junction of Halcroft Rise and Langton Road, overtopping the highway kerbs on the western side of Halcroft Rise. External property flooding was reported by two residential properties on the western side of the highway, with internal property flooding reported by one additional residential property.

Surface water was described as flowing down the highway on Welford Road, accumulating on the highway as illustrated in Figure 10. The local drainage network also became overwhelmed by the volume of water generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time-period and its design capacity was evidently exceeded. Surface water overtopped the kerb threshold. External property flooding affected two residential properties, and two residential properties experienced internal flooding. These properties were reportedly affected due to property thresholds being lower than or similar levels to the highway.

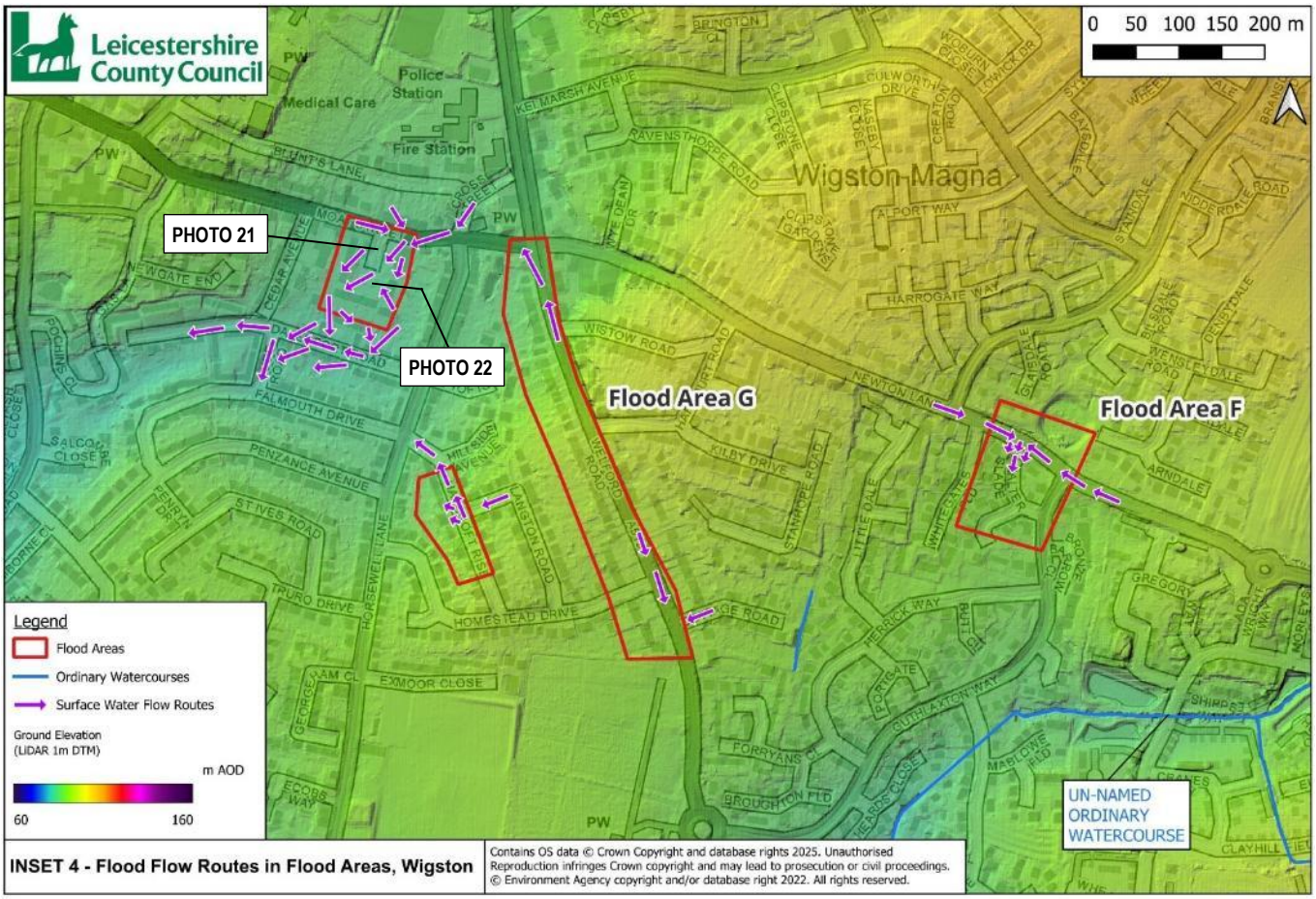


Figure 10. INSET 4: Flow routes through Flood Areas F and G, Wigston

Photograph 21: Flooding at Peacock Place

Photograph 22: Flooding at Peacock Place

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

8 properties internally flooded

8 properties externally flooded

3.5.3 FLOOD AREA H – SEATON ROAD

Anecdotal reports from 22nd June 2023 described surface water flowing 'like a river' southwards along Launceston Road in Wigston. Water flowed along Pensilva Close and Cawsand Road, before converging on the lowest point at the southern end of Seaton Road, as illustrated in Figure 11 and as depicted in Photograph 23.

It was anecdotally reported that the local drainage network along Seaton Road was overwhelmed by the volume of water that fell during the prolonged, torrential rain. Several gullies were anecdotally reported as being partially blocked. No evidence however was found or submitted to substantiate the claim and confirm this. Debris remained on the road as it subsided which residents attempted to clear. This suggests that the highway gullies were working. However, the drainage network they connect into was overwhelmed by the volume of water generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time-period and its design capacity was evidently exceeded. The gullies surcharged as they could not convey the sheer volume of water away from the area quickly enough.

Floodwater accumulated on the highway and overtopped the kerb thresholds on both sides to ankle depths, resulting in external property flooding to seven residential properties and internal property flooding at one residential property. A resident described the floodwater on the road and within their garden as "*almost knee deep*". Another stated vehicles driving through the floodwater "*created ripples making it worse*".

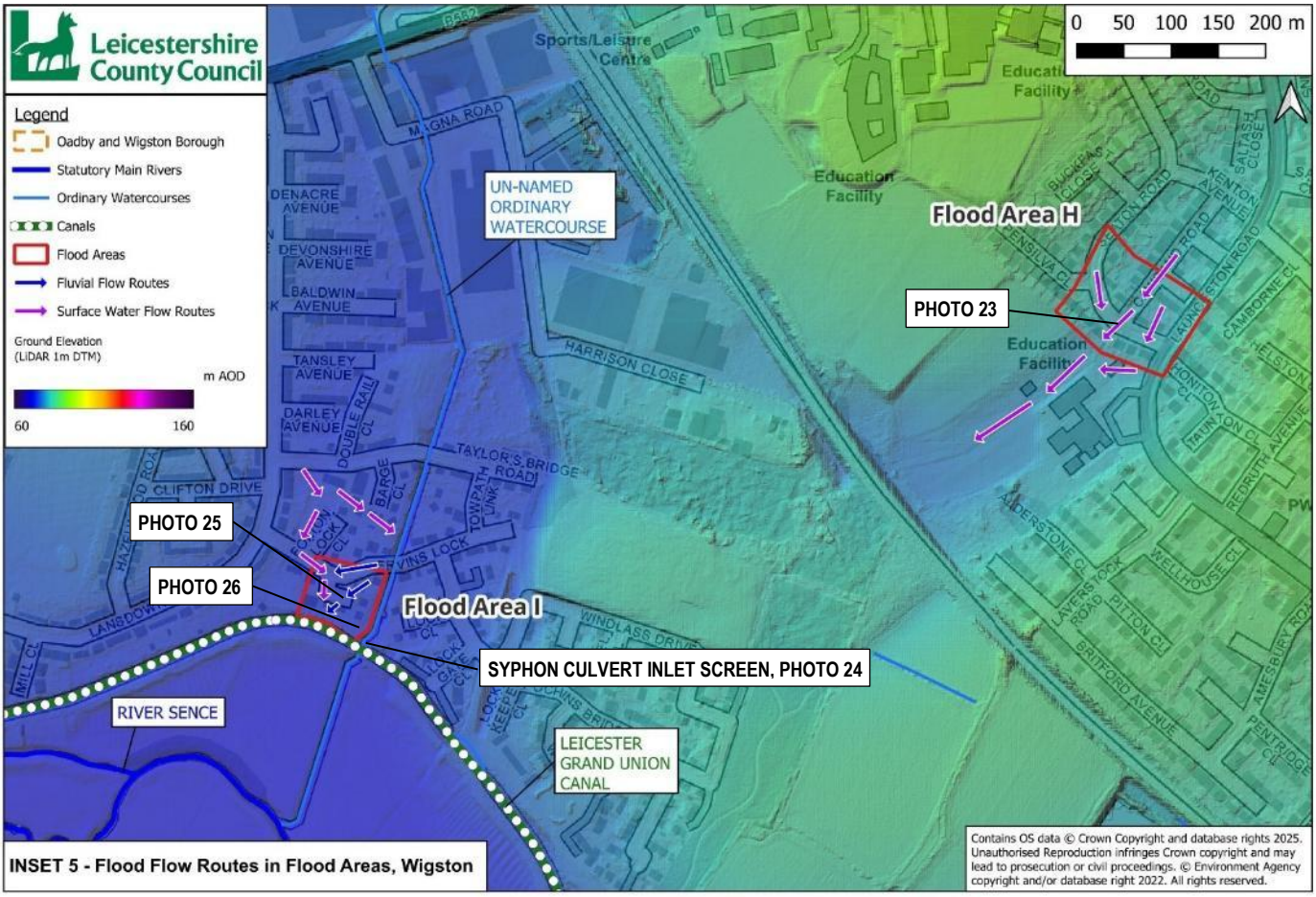


Figure 11. INSET 5: Flow routes through Flood Areas H and I, Wigston

Photograph 23: Flooding at Seaton Road

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

1 property internally flooded

8 properties externally flooded

3.5.4 FLOOD AREA I – NARROW BOAT CLOSE

In the afternoon of June 22nd 2023, surface water was reported to have flowed along the highway of Ervins Lock in both directions south eastwards and south westwards, before converging and flowing southwards along Narrow Boat Close, as illustrated by the purple arrows in Figure 11.

An open channel storm drain (un-named ordinary watercourse tributary of the River Sence), currently under the responsibility of STW, flows southwards immediately to the east of Narrow Boat Close. To the south east, this storm drain exhibits a screen where the channel is syphoned beneath the Grand Union Canal in a culvert. Residents reported both blockages within and overtopping of this storm drain.

STW regularly inspect this screen and remove identified blockages. A site inspection confirm it was clear at the end of May 2023. Another site inspection conducted by STW shortly after the event identified a significant amount of new vegetation and urban debris mobilised by the floodwater blinding the screen, causing a partial/full blockage of the syphon inlet (Photograph 24). This caused raised water levels upstream of the screen as it reduced the capacity of the culvert inlet impacting the hydraulic performance of the culvert and slowed down the flow of water. High water levels observed around the River Sense confluence shortly downstream also overwhelmed this storm drain as water was unable to discharge. Subsequently, fluvial flooding was incurred to rear gardens along Narrow Boat Close due to overtopping of the east bank (illustrated by the blue flow arrows in Figure 11).

Photograph 24: Blinded screen on storm drain south east of Narrow Boat Close

Water was described as flowing out of manholes on Narrow Boat Close. A surface water sewer beneath Narrow Boat Close discharges into this storm drain beneath Ervins Lock. The high water levels in the storm drain prevented free discharge from the surface water sewer network outfall, resulting in these surcharged manholes along the road as its capacity was exceeded.

One property reported being flooded internally and seven additional properties reported external flooding within their gardens and driveways from these combined pluvial and fluvial flooding mechanisms. Photograph 25 and Photograph 26 depict water ponding to ankle depths on the highway and within the rear garden of a residential property along Narrow Boat Close respectively.

Photograph 25: Flooding along Narrow Boat Close

Photograph 26: Flooding to rear garden along Narrow Boat Close

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

1 property internally flooded

7 properties externally flooded

3.5.6 FLOOD AREA J – AYLESTONE LANE & DUKES CLOSE

At Aylestone Lane, flooding on 22nd June 2023 was reported from surface water accumulating on the highway, as illustrated in Figure 12. The drainage network (highway gullies connected to a STW public surface water sewer) became overwhelmed as the volume of water generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time period exceeded the design capacity.

Six properties reported external flooding within their gardens and driveways to ankle depth, as depicted in Photograph 27. One additional property flooded internally as the threshold was exceeded, and the resident reported sewage in the water. STW were made aware of the incident by one resident, however this report was cancelled at the resident's request. Several gardens alongside the highway are at lower ground levels, which reportedly exacerbated the ease of flow of surface water from the road into them.

Residents along Dukes Close also described surface water flowing down the street and ponding on the highway. Three properties were flooded externally within front gardens, rear gardens and driveways, and two additional properties were flooded internally. It was reported that water ponded to ankle depth on a low point at the southern end of the cul-de-sac, as depicted in Photograph 28.

A small highway gully here was also reportedly blocked. However, no evidence was found or submitted to substantiate this claim, so it cannot be confirmed. This is the only gully along the street connecting into the public sewer. It is likely therefore that it became overwhelmed by such intense rainfall over such a short time period and was surcharging as it could not convey the sheer volume of water away from the area quickly enough, and that the design capacity of the surface water drainage network into which it connects was evidently exceeded.

Photograph 27: Flooding in front garden along Aylestone Lane

Photograph 28: Flooding along Dukes Close

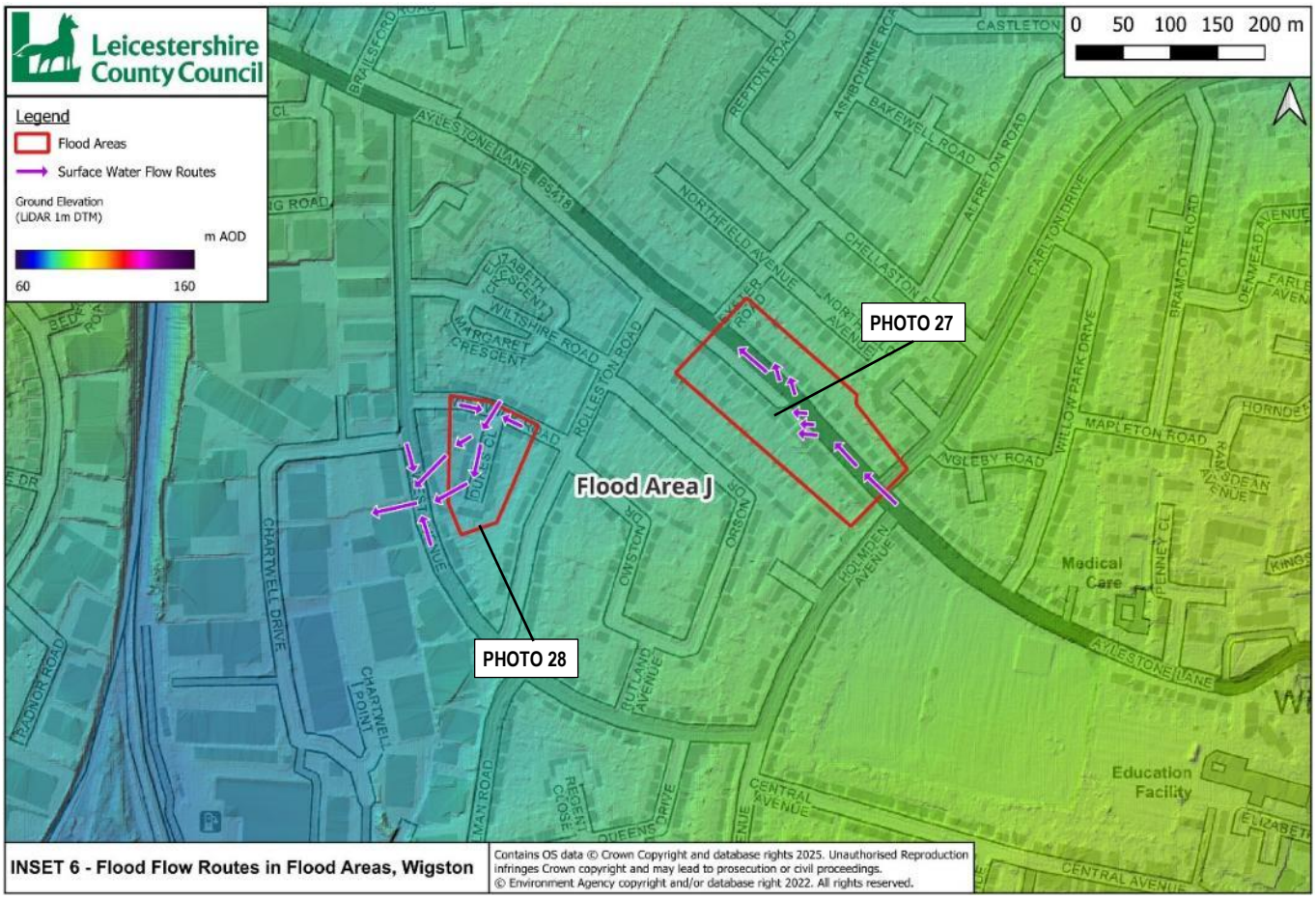


Figure 12. INSET 6: Flow routes through Flood Area J, Wigston

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

3 properties internally flooded

9 properties externally flooded

3.5.7 FLOOD AREA K – BURLEIGH AVENUE

As described in Section 3.1, a previous Section 19 Flood Investigation Report for Burleigh Avenue, Wigston was produced following the 27th August 2016 flood event which previously met the LLFA's criteria (at least two internal properties were flooded). The report was published in November 2017 and a link to the report can be found at the Council's Formal Section 19 Flood Investigations webpage[5].

Reported surface water flow routes along Burleigh Avenue during the flood event on 22nd June 2023 are illustrated in Figure 13. A public STW surface water gravity sewer flows from west to east beneath the road connecting into the network beneath the A5199 Leicester Road. A second flows south to north beneath Barby Avenue and The Crescent to the west (at the junction with Burleigh Avenue) into the system beneath Kensington Avenue to the north.

As per this previous event, on the 22nd June 2023, the volume of surface water flow generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time-period overwhelmed the existing surface water drainage network as its design capacity was evidently exceeded.

This resulted in excess surface water accumulating and pooling in the road close to the junction with Barnby Avenue to ankle depths as depicted in Photograph 29. It then overtopped the kerbs spilling into the driveways and gardens of four residential properties flooding them externally, and exceeding the thresholds of an additional five properties, flooding those internally.

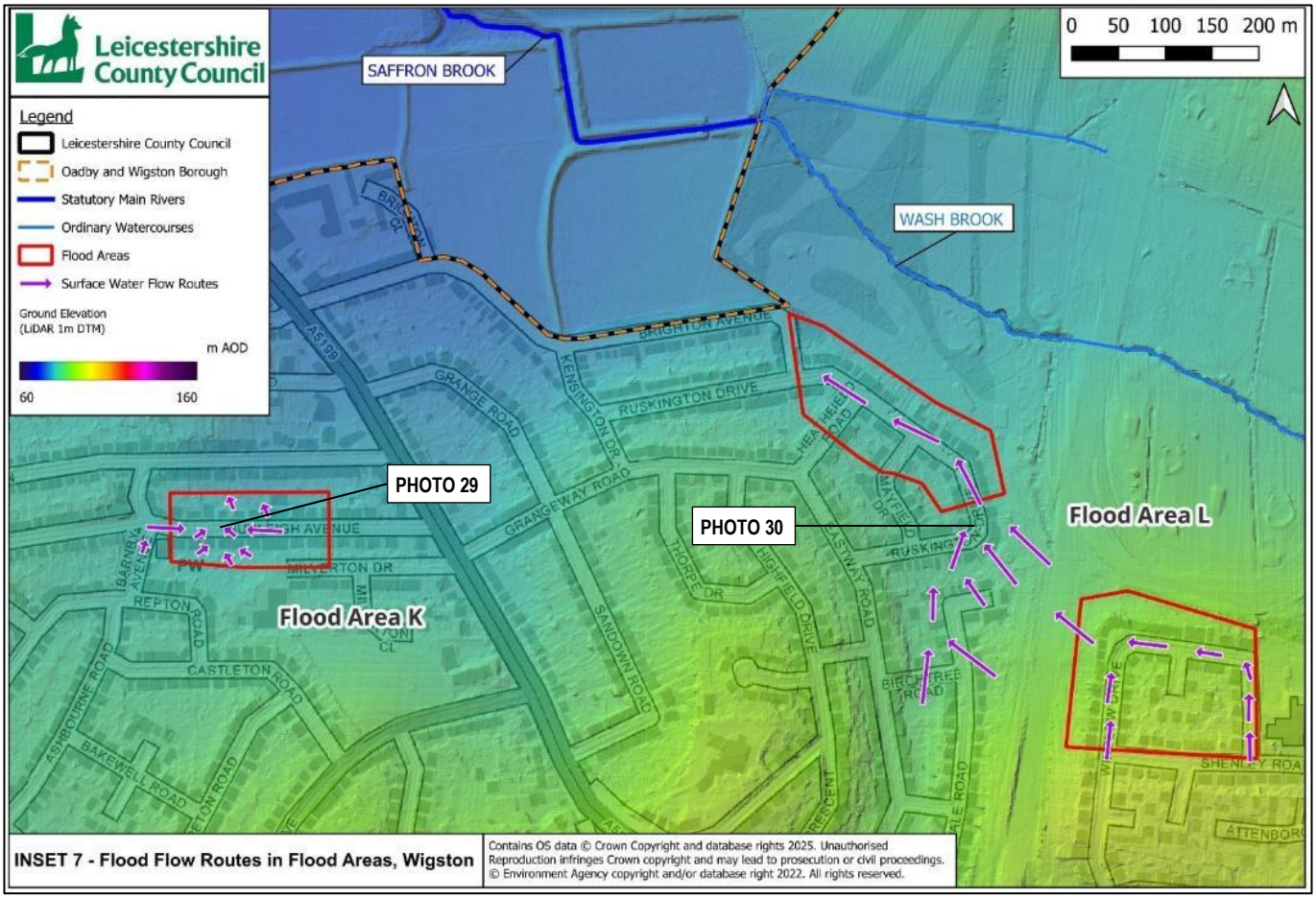


Figure 13. INSET 7: Flow routes through Flood Risk Areas K and L, Wigston

Photograph 29: Flooding along Burleigh Avenue

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

5 properties internally flooded

4 properties externally flooded

3.5.8 FLOOD AREA L – WINSLOW DRIVE & RUSKINGTON DRIVE

In the afternoon of 22nd June 2023 following torrential rain, surface water was anecdotally reported as flowing northwards and westwards along Winslow Drive. This followed the local ground levels as illustrated in Figure 13 and accumulated on the highway. The surface water drainage network became overwhelmed by the quantity of water generated by such intense rainfall over such a short time-period and its design capacity was evidently exceeded. Highway gullies were reported to have been partially blocked/clogged by weeds. However, this was not confirmed as no evidence was found to substantiate the claim. It is likely they could not convey the sheer volume of water away from the area quickly enough as the drainage network they connect into was at full capacity.

Flood water overtopped the highway kerb threshold on both sides of the highway, causing external property flooding to driveways and gardens of four residential properties on Winslow Drive, and internal property flooding at one residential property.

Surface water was also described as flowing north westwards along Ruskington Drive, located downhill from Winslow Drive to the north west as illustrated in Figure 13. This reportedly accumulated on the highway turning it into ‘a river’. The volume of overland flow thus overwhelmed the design capacity of the drainage network in the area.

Flood water reportedly overtopped the highway kerb threshold on both sides, causing external property flooding roughly ankle deep to driveways, gardens and garages of three properties as depicted in Photograph 30. On the northern side of the highway, three additional properties also experienced internal property flooding, as property threshold levels were eventually overwhelmed.

Photograph 30: Flooding along Ruskington Drive

WHO OR WHAT WAS AFFECTED?

4 properties internally flooded

9 properties externally flooded

3.6 POST FLOOD EVENT – OADBY & WIGSTON

3.6.1 RESPONSE

Following the flood event, the Council initially received telephone, email, online and letter reports of flooding to highways, residential gardens and internal flooding to residential and commercial buildings.

The Council then conducted a range of site surveys across the areas in Oadby and Wigston illustrated in Figure 14, visiting highways and properties which had reportedly flooded, meeting their occupants and taking photographs.

Flood Reporting Forms were distributed to the doorsteps/letterboxes on the affected streets. This was done to ensure all unreported flooding information was attained by the Council, allowing for a more informed approach to providing a suitable response based upon the nature, extent and impacts of the event.

The Council has reviewed and analysed all anecdotal reports received and available data collected as part of this investigation in Section 3.4 and Section 3.5.

The Council's Highways team responded to reports of flooding and highway damage. Necessary repairs were carried out over several days after the flood event to make carriageways safe. The Council as the Local Highway Authority also undertook remedial maintenance of highway drainage assets across Oadby (see Section 5.1).

STW attended in response to calls from the public regarding sewer flooding to highways, regarding properties which experienced lifted/dislodged manhole covers and regarding sewage effluent contamination of floodwater. STW was consulted to obtain details about their local sewerage networks performance during the flood event and the recovery works conducted in response to this event (see Section 5.1).

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service attended emergency calls received in response to flooding of vehicles and where internal property thresholds were exceeded by the ponding floodwater. A meeting was also held with the elected County Councillor for OWBC to communicate the outcomes of the Council's investigations.

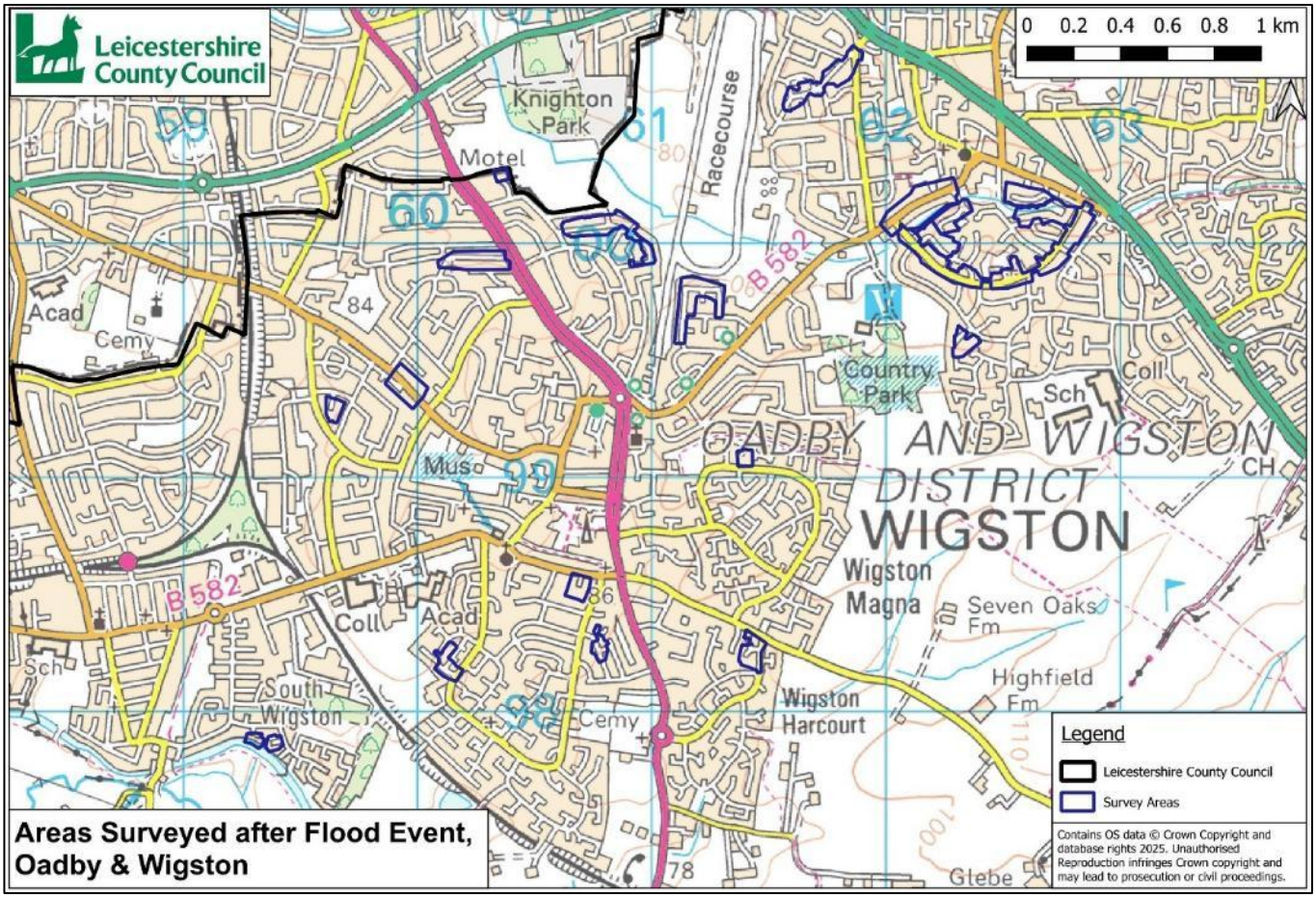


Figure 14. Areas Surveyed by LLFA after the 22nd June 2023 Flood Event

3.6.2 RISK OF FLOODING FROM SURFACE WATER (PLUVIAL) MAPPING REVIEW

As part of the initial desktop study, the Council also reviewed the Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (RoFSW) map (Oadby in Figure 15, Wigston in Figure 16) available online[15]. This data has been produced by the EA and is created using high level modelling which represents where water could flow and accumulate when rainwater does not drain away through the normal drainage systems or soak into the ground, but ponds or flows over the ground instead. The modelling does not consider property threshold levels, and therefore cannot accurately predict internal flooding. The map illustrates the flood extents during the following rainfall event probabilities/magnitudes.

- **High risk** - greater than or equal to 1 in 30 (3.3%) chance of flooding in each year;
- **Medium risk** – less than 1 in 30 (3.3%) but greater than or equal to 1 in 100 (1%) chance of flooding in each year; and
- **Low risk** – less than 1 in 100 (1%) but greater than or equal to 1 in 1000 (0.1%) chance of flooding in each year.

[15] Environment Agency (2025) Check your long term flood risk. https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/map

In the absence of or smaller watercourse modelling, surface water flood models are often good indicators of ordinary watercourse floodplain extents, as surface water models take into account rapid runoff from non-fluvial sources (such as roads, fields etc), from which smaller watercourses are more responsive.

The RoFSW maps for Oadby and Wigston illustrate high/medium and low risks of flooding and flow routes along locally lowest ground levels (effectively valleys leading towards ordinary watercourses). The flood extents closely compare to what was observed within the Flood Areas identified and described in Section 3.4 and Section 3.5 during the 22nd June flood event. This therefore confirms that these properties are at high risk of surface water (pluvial) flooding.

It must be noted that the modelled rainfall magnitude/duration and spatial distribution of rainfall may vary substantially to what was experienced during the 22nd June 2023 flood event, which explains why some of the areas identified in the EA RoFSW map did not flood at that time.

3.6.3 FLOOD ZONES & RISK OF FLOODING FROM RIVERS (FLUVIAL) MAPPING REVIEW

As part of the initial desktop study, the Council also reviewed the Flood Map for Planning Flood Zone map[16] and the Risk of Flooding from Rivers and the Sea (RoFRS) map[15] for Oadby and Wigston to identify any risks of fluvial flooding.

Flood Zones are a composite dataset produced by the EA including national and local modelled data, and information from past floods. The Flood Zones data shows the extent of land at present day risk of flooding from rivers and the sea, *ignoring the benefits of defences*, for the following scenarios:

- **Flood Zone 3 (High to Medium risk)** – Areas shown to be at a 1% or greater chance of flooding each year;
- **Flood Zone 2 (Low risk)** – Land having between 0.1% - 1% (1 in 100 to 1 in 1000) chance of flooding each year, and accepted recorded flood outlines; and
- **Flood Zone 1 (Very Low risk)** – Land having a less than 0.1% (1 in 1000) chance of flooding each year (not shown in this dataset, but covers all other areas).

The RoFRS map shows the chance of flooding from rivers and the sea *taking into account the presence and condition of flood defences*

- **High risk** - greater than or equal to 3.3% chance each year (1 in 30)
- **Medium risk** - less than 3.3% but greater than or equal to 1% chance each year;
- **Low risk** - less than 1% but greater than or equal to 0.1% chance each year; and
- **Very Low risk** - less than 0.1% chance each year (1 in 1,000) *(not shown in the dataset but covers all other areas)*

[16] Environment Agency (2025) Flood Map for Planning. https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/map

While flood defences reduce the level of risk they do not completely remove it. The RoFRS maps may therefore identify risk to areas behind some (e.g. water can flow over the top of the defence, or they can fail in extreme weather conditions or if they are in poor condition).

Figure 17 illustrates the modelled ***undefended*** Flood Zones and Figure 18 illustrates the modelled ***defended*** RoFRS extents associated with the Wash Brook.

The flood extents closely compare to what was observed within the Flood Area A and Flood Area B identified and described in Section 3.4.1 and Section 3.4.2 during the 22nd June flood event. This therefore confirms that these properties are at high risk of watercourse (fluvial) flooding.

3.6.4 OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

The 22nd June 2023 storm was not considered by Government to be nationally significant enough to trigger the activation of the UK's National Flood Recovery Framework and as such, the properties affected during this event were not able to access recovery funding.

On 6th January 2025, a significant storm event hit the East Midlands and widespread flooding occurred including in Leicestershire. As a result of this event, 18 residential properties suffered internal flooding again in Oadby and Wigston Borough. The flood event followed a similar pattern to several of the flow routes identified in this report at Wigston Road and Rosemead Drive, but the rainfall experienced was not as intense as that experienced from the June 2023 event.

The EA's rain gauge at Evington recorded a total of 28.4mm of rainfall, which predominantly fell between 00:00 and 06:00 on the 6thof January 2025. In comparison to the flood event which occurred in June 2023, the rainfall measured during this more recent event fell over a longer period and was less in volume giving more time for the local drainage network to cope with the water. This is likely to have explained why the impacts were slightly less than following the 2023 event.

Note that the National Flood Recovery Framework was not activated for the 6th January 2025 event either, as that event was also not considered nationally significant.

The 6th January 2025 subsequently resulted in no major or new issues, but raised the Council's concern for the higher priority areas previously identified.

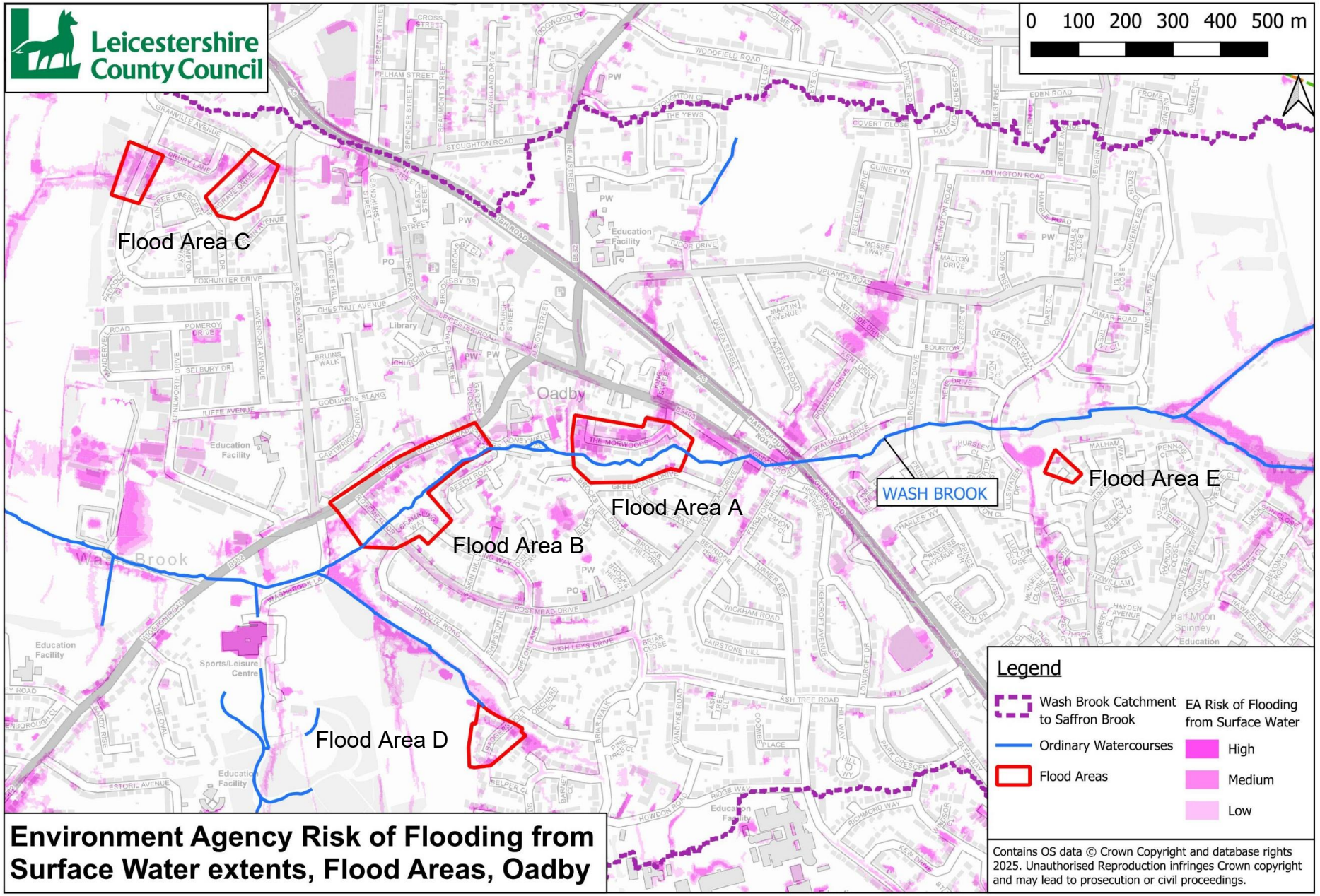


Figure 15. EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water extents through Flood Areas in Oadby

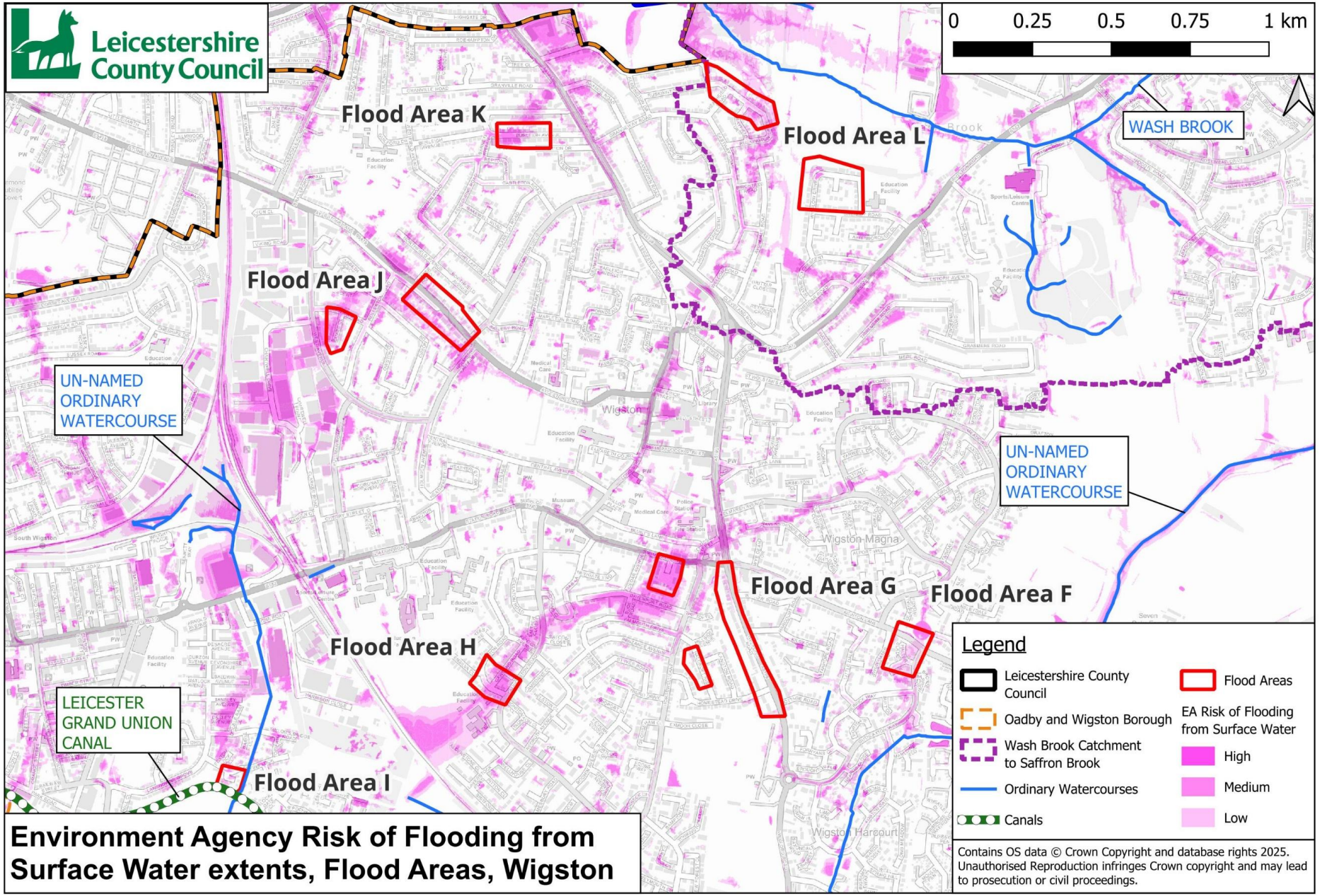


Figure 16. EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water extents through Flood Areas in Wigston

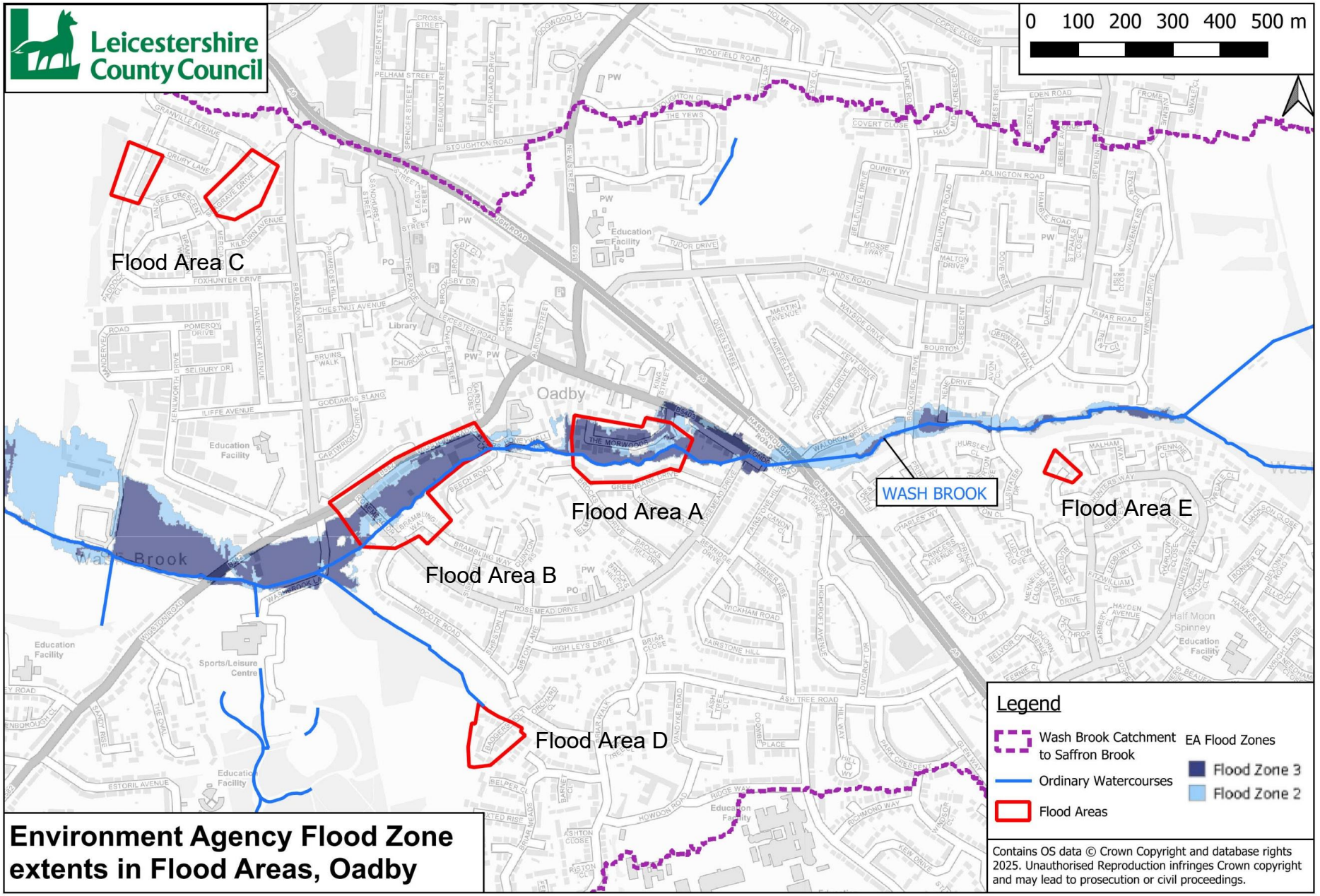


Figure 17. EA Flood Map for Planning Flood Zones (Undefended) extents through Flood Areas in Oadby

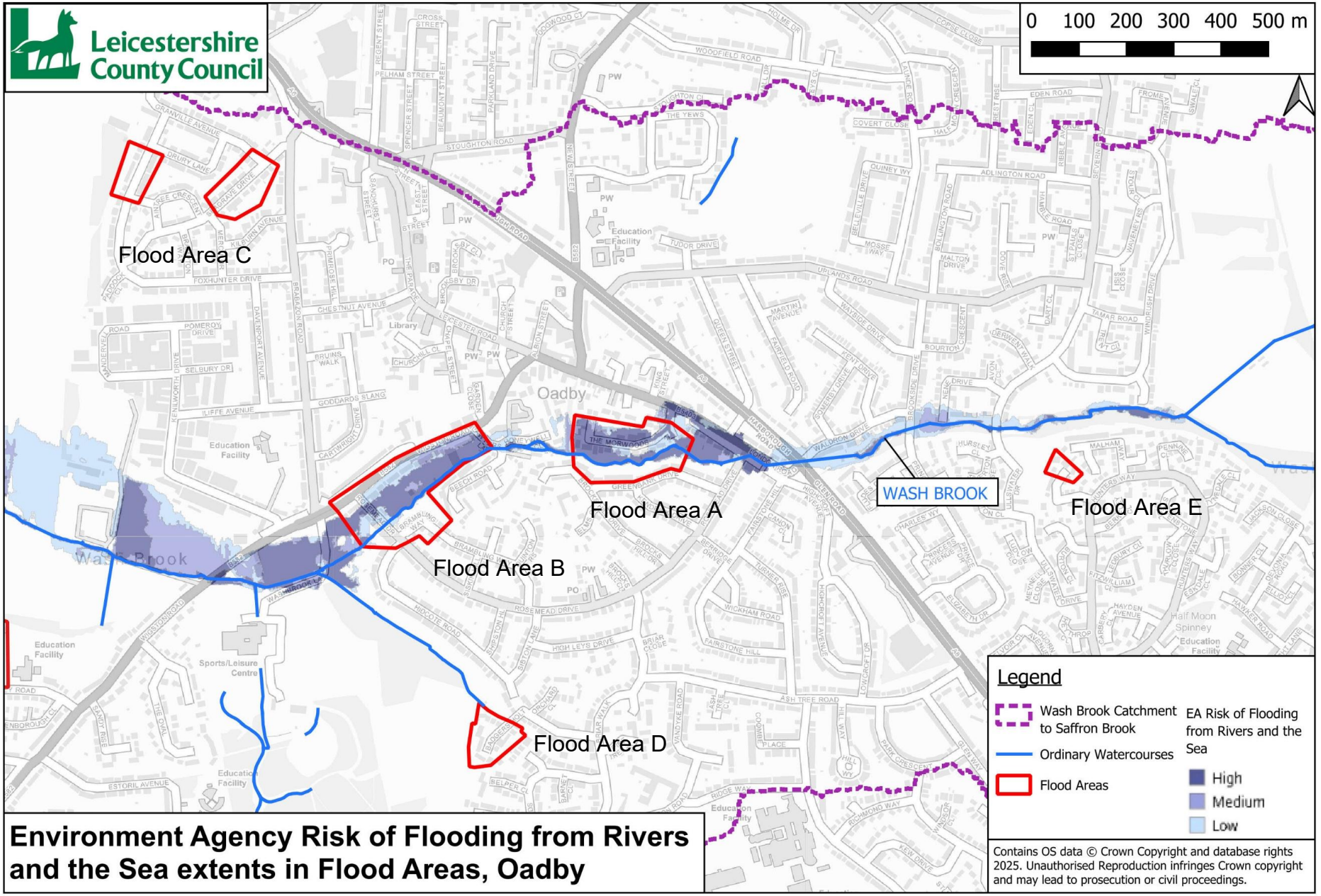


Figure 18: EA Risk of Flooding from Rivers and the Sea (Defended) extents through Flood Areas in Oadby

3.7 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND IMPACTS

A combination of factors described below led to in the internal ingress of stormwater to a reported 48 residential/business properties and external flooding of a reported 88 residential properties within the defined Flood Areas in Oadby and Wigston on 22nd June 2023:

- Higher than average rainfall was experienced during three events in rapid succession over the preceding 10 days. These had saturated the surrounding ground and greatly reduced the catchment's ability to absorb more water.
- The storm was characteristic of a summer thunderstorm in the UK; short, intense and highly localised, (the nearest rain gauge at Fleckney recorded 48 mm of rainfall within a two-hour period). Such extreme heavy rainfall fell in such a short time that water could not infiltrate the ground or get into the drainage network quickly enough to prevent accumulation and overland flow.
- The main source of flooding was therefore from surface water runoff from highways in combination with additional inputs of overland flow from higher ground onto the highways. This water clearly exceeded the design capacity of the drainage network, evidenced in areas where ponding was observed, and where manholes were surcharged displacing their covers. The drainage networks were therefore overwhelmed. These factors resulted in water flowing overland towards relatively low-lying areas, impacting properties built across natural flow routes by flooding front gardens, driveways, rear gardens, outbuildings and internal property (Flood Areas A to L). This flooding mechanism observed is consistent with the EA's modelled pluvial 'high risk' flood extents (RoFSW).
- In addition to capacity exceedance described above, the limited ability of drainage networks to discharge flows exacerbated and prolonged pooling of surface water on highways. This was particularly severe on The Morwoods (Flood Area A), Wigston Road, Lawyers Lane and Rosemead Drive (Flood Area B) next to Wash Brook, and along Narrow Boat Close next to a storm drain and River Sense confluence (Flood Area I). This was due to surface water outfall pipes (at their downstream extent) being submerged by elevated water levels within brooks. The flooding observed on the roads therefore was not necessarily the result of the brooks overtopping.
- Wash Brook (located to the rear of properties within Flood Area A and Flood Area B) and the storm drain adjacent Flood Area I, overtopped their banks. This resulted in external property flooding to rear gardens, garages, sheds and driveways, and internal flooding of ground floor and basement accommodation due to their close proximity and relative ground levels. This flooding mechanism observed is consistent with the EA's modelled flood fluvial extents (undefended Flood Zones and defended RoFRS) and the EA's modelled pluvial flood extents (RoFSW).

Numerous flood sources resulted in direct damage to road/footpath surfaces, paving, vehicles, landscaping, buildings, internal fixtures/fittings, furniture and contents; all at great cost. Indirect consequential impacts and costs of the disruption to the local community and users of the highway network were extensive; traffic disruption, the cleaning required, loss of pay from being unable to go to work, and the initial and ongoing distress. Internal and external property flooding resulted in significant emotional, mental health and financial impacts to the affected residents. These are not exhaustive lists.

Many factors as follows may have exacerbated the impacts of the flood event. Whilst these factors may have made a difference to the volume and peak flood levels, at the time of writing this report, there is no conclusive evidence that mitigating these factors would have prevented any of the internal flooding experienced from this event.

- In localised areas where drainage infrastructure (such as gullies) is limited, any minor obstructions of or impairments to such features (such as from mobilised vegetation and road debris) could have contributed towards a reduction in conveyance of water into the drainage network. This subsequent ability to efficiently discharge water away may have exacerbated and prolonged flooding from Flood Areas A, B, D, F, G, H, J and L.
- The speed of flooding meant that the official EA Flood Alert for 'Tributaries in Leicester City'[6] along Saffron Brook and Wash Brook, downstream of the A6 Glen Road was not activated. However, Flood Alerts are not issued by the EA for surface water flash flooding, nor for smaller ordinary watercourses (they are largely only issued for the Main Rivers, the sea and in some areas, groundwater). This meant that landowners/occupiers at risk of flooding from surface water and small ordinary watercourses may not, in any case, have been able to implement any emergency plans or organise effective measures to protect their properties and belongings. Such measures might include moving vehicles or protecting their properties with flood barriers, sandbags and silica gel bags. which may have reduced the impacts if warnings were available.
- An obstruction/blockage (unconsented and partially collapsed gabion baskets) shortly downstream of the Wash Brook Lawyers Lane culvert (Flood Area B) may have reduced the channel capacity impeding the flow of water, impacting the hydraulic performance of the culvert. Due to the speed of flooding, it is unlikely that this alone caused the flooding, but it may have increased the flood risk upstream and exacerbated the flood extents and flow routing towards gardens in the local vicinity. However, in the absence of new river modelling, it is not known to what degree.
- The syphon culvert inlet screen in the storm drain east of Narrow Boat Close (Flood Area I) was blinded by vegetation and urban debris mobilised by the floodwater. This reduced the capacity of the culvert inlet impacting the hydraulic

performance of the culvert and slowed down the flow of water. This likely increased the flood risk upstream and exacerbated the flow routing towards gardens in the local vicinity. However, as above, in the absence of new river modelling it is not known to what extent. Due to the speed of flooding, it is unlikely that this would have caused the flooding alone, but it may have increased the extents.

- Several riparian owned reaches of ordinary watercourse (Wash Brook) (Flood Area A) were found to have been overgrown and as such had a reduced capacity than optimal to convey flow during the event. Given the sheer volume of water experienced over such a short time however, out-of-bank flooding was likely inevitable, so the impact of this is not considered significant during this event.
- Vehicle traffic passing through standing water on highways was reported to have caused bow waves, exacerbating flooding at several properties (Flood Area B), especially where road levels exceeded those of adjacent properties (Flood Areas A, E G and J).
- Parked vehicles routinely prevent access to perform gully cleansing/jetting activities as frequently as required by LCC Highways for maintenance purposes.
- Many properties unfortunately did not have an adequate level of property flood resilience or insurance cover to mitigate the flooding experienced, either from a lack of awareness of the risks, an inability to afford it, an inability to obtain it due to a previous history of flooding, or by choice.

The associated RMA responsibilities are provided in Section 4. Their associated actions from this event identified during this investigation have been captured within the Action Lists in Section 5.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY (LCC)

As the LLFA, the Council has the responsibility to co-ordinate the management of flood risk and the interaction of RMAs across Leicestershire. As stated previously, the Council has a duty to investigate flood incidents under Section 19 of the FWMA. Publication of this report is the conclusion of that process.

The Council also has a responsibility to maintain a register of drainage assets which are considered to provide a significant role in the mitigation of flood risk (as detailed within Section 21 of the FWMA). The register must contain a record detailing each structure or feature including ownership and state of repair. The Council look for support and information from other agencies that are designated as RMAs to ensure any assets which could potentially have a significant effect on flood risk are recorded on the asset register.

The FWMA does not provide the Council with a mandate or funding to tackle all identified causes of flooding, however, it can make recommendations to mitigate flood risk as far as possible The Council has permissive enforcement powers related to ordinary watercourses within private ownership. The duty to maintain the ordinary watercourses on private land however rests with the relevant riparian landowner.

For more information, please refer to the LFRMS.

4.2 HIGHWAY AUTHORITY (LCC)

The Local Highway Authority (LCC) has a duty to maintain the Highway under Section 41 of the Highways Act (1980). Section 100 states that the Council also has the responsibility to maintain a safe and reliable local highway network, including provision for highway drainage, and has power to prevent water running onto the highway from adjoining land.

4.3 OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL / HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

OWBC and HDC have powers under Section 14 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 (LDA) to undertake flood risk management works on ordinary watercourses (excluding Main Rivers), where deemed necessary. Under Section 20 of the LDA, Borough/District Councils have the power (by agreement of any person and at their expense) to undertake drainage work which that person is entitled to carry out and maintain.

4.4 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The EA has a strategic overview responsibility under the FWMA as well as permissive powers to carry out maintenance work on Main Rivers under Section 165 of the Water Resources Act (WRA) (1991). Main Rivers include all watercourses indicated on the statutory Main River maps held by the EA and the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). This includes any structure or appliance for controlling or regulating the flow of water into, in or out of the channel.

The EA has permissive powers to carry out works of maintenance and improvement on these rivers. These powers can be used to undertake works to reduce flood risk where landowners fail to undertake their responsibilities under the WRA.

The EA can undertake enforcement action where third-party asset owners fail to maintain their property/land in appropriate condition. They may consider undertaking maintenance or repair of third-party assets in order to safeguard the public interest and where other options are not appropriate.

As described in Section 1.3, no Main Rivers were identified as being the source of flooding to properties or the highway network during this event in Oadby or Wigston.

4.5 WATER COMPANY (SEVERN TRENT WATER)

Water and sewerage companies are responsible for managing flood risk related to surface water, foul water and combined sewer systems. Public sewers are designed to protect properties from flood risk in normal wet weather conditions. In extreme weather conditions however, there is a risk of these public sewers being overwhelmed resulting in sewer flooding.

Following the ‘Private Sewer Transfer’ on 1st July 2011, water companies are now responsible for all pipes systems on private land that serve more than one curtilage and are connected to a public sewer. Under Section 94 of the Water Industry Act (1991) statutory sewerage undertakers have a duty to provide sewers for drainage of buildings and associated paved areas within property boundaries.

Water companies are responsible for all public sewers and lateral drains. Public sewers are a conduit (typically a pipe) assigned to a water and sewerage company that drains two or more properties conveying foul, surface water or combined sewerage to a positive outfall. Connection of other drainage sources to public sewers is discretionary following an application to connect.

4.6 RIPARIAN LANDOWNERS OF WATERCOURSES & HOMEOWNERS

Riparian landowners have certain rights and responsibilities including:

- They must maintain the bed and banks of their watercourse, including the trees and shrubs growing on the banks;
- They must clear any debris, even if it did not originate from their land. This debris may be natural or man-made;
- They must keep any structures that they own clear of debris. These structures include (but are not limited to) culverts, trash screens, weirs and mill gates.

All riparian landowners have the same rights and responsibilities. However, a landowner has no duty in common law to improve the drainage capacity of watercourse he/she owns.

A full explanation of the rights, roles and responsibilities of riparian ownership are given on the 'Owning a Watercourse' government webpage found at:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse

The EA provides further guidance on the riparian landowner rights, roles and responsibilities specifically for Main Rivers at:

https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/your-watercourse-rights-and-roles

5 ACTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

The Council (as the LLFA), LCC Highways, OWBC and STW have agreed to and/or completed the following actions tabulated in Sections 5.1.1, 5.1.2 and 5.1.3.

5.1.1 SHORT-TERM ACTIONS (0 - 6 MONTHS)

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
Flood Investigation Co-ordination	Co-ordinate the formal investigation of the 22nd June 2023 event and the actions of all RMAs, and feedback to the community.	LCC (LLFA)	**Completed** - through publication of this report.
Site Walkovers	Play a key role in the immediate aftermath of the flooding incident, co-ordinating the community response.	OWBC	**Completed**
	To inform investigation and aid data collection including photographs of flooded property and issue/completion of Flood Report Forms by residents/business owners to help identify actions required.	LCC (LLFA)	**Completed** – 06/07/2023,19/07/2023, 13/09/2023, 27/09/2023 and 29/11/2023
RMA Engagement	All partners to conduct initial meetings, site visits and information sharing to understand the impacts and extents of the flooding.	LCC (LLFA), LCC (Highways) STW, and EA	**Completed** – Meetings held on 12/07/2023, 26/07/2023, 06/09/2023, 13/09/2023, 27/09/2023, 11/10/2023, 21/11/2023, 13/03/2024, 24/04/2024 and 16/07/2024.
Local Community Engagement	Provide support to the local community and issue guidance documentation to affected residents or businesses where possible.	LCC (LLFA)	**Completed** – distributed copies of the Council's Guidance Notes.

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
Local Community Engagement	Public meeting with residents of The Morwoods.	LCC (LLFA)	**Completed** – 17/08/2023
Public Sewer Network Investigations	To conduct an inspection into the combined sewer system to identify any culverted watercourse connections for Wash Brook, defects, blockages, or intrusions.	STW	**Completed** – private culverted ordinary watercourse culvert identified connecting beneath The Morwoods into Wash Brook. Added to Council LLFA Asset Register.
	Investigate the connectivity and condition of the surface water network (CCTV survey) and their outfalls from The Morwoods downstream towards Wigston Road.	STW	**Completed** – STW provided detailed sewer maps to the Council LLFA. Looking in good condition. Residents have been updated. Patch and lining work on Wigston Road completed.
	Completed extensive reactive cleansing of the surface water sewer drainage network at The Morwoods downstream towards Wigston Road.	STW	**Completed**
	To investigate surface water sewer at Foxhunter Drive (CCTV survey).	STW	**Ongoing** – STW working with LCC to determine any next steps required.
	Extensive reactive cleansing of the surface water and combined sewer network at Badgers Holt.	STW	**Completed -** cleansed the combined and surface water network in the area and the outfall at the country park was inspected and found to be draining freely.

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
Public Sewer Network Investigations	CCTV surveying of surface water sewer network assets at Narrow Boat Close and associated cleansing works of the adjacent storm drain screen.	STW	**Completed** – network surveyed and cleansed, and blockages at syphon inlet screen along storm drain cleared. A level monitor has been installed near the trash screen. Further investigations are ongoing to install a camera to further monitor the asset, as well as pre and post storm inspections for debris on the trash screen to reduce the local flood risk severity.
New Public Sewer Assets	New manhole installation along Chicken Alley along surface water sewer located between The Morwoods and Honeywell Close, Oadby for improved maintenance access.	STW	**Completed** – Cut down tree. Carried our repair. Liner installed. 6 monthly planned inspection.
Highway Drainage Network Investigations	Review the highway drainage system (CCTV survey), gully locations and routine gully cleansing priority at the western end of The Morwoods.	LCC (Highways)	**Completed** – CCTV and dye tracing 02/04/2025. Gullies along the whole length of The Morwoods raised from a Priority 2 (P2) to Priority 1 (P1).

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
Gully Cleansing	Complete extensive reactive inspection and cleansing of the highway drainage network at the following: - gullies at Dukes Close that connect into public sewers. - gullies at The Morwoods - gullies/concrete dished channels at Wigston Road. - gullies at Wheatland Close - gullies at Newton Lane and Halter Slade.	LCC (Highways)	**Completed** – 10/11/2023 jetted and found to be blocked. CCTV surveyed, re-jetted and cleansed 06/02/2024. – 18/09/2023 – 03/08/2023 and 24-25/10/2023 – 19/09/2023 – 23/1/2023
Highway Drainage Improvements	Install a new offset gully behind an existing one at Halter Slade with kerb modifications.	LCC (Highways)	**Completed** – Installed a gully behind, with kerb around and connected onto existing pipework 08/08/2023. (STW continue to conduct maintenance on the lagoon on the north side of Newton Lane.)
Riparian Ownership Engagement	Continue to work with residents and other RMAs to ensure that riparian landowners are fully aware of their maintenance responsibilities for watercourses.	LCC (LLFA)	**Completed** – The Council LLFA has provided several homeowners with Guidance Note email/paper leaflets about their riparian responsibilities to maintain ordinary watercourses including vegetation clearance.

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
Culvert Condition Surveys	Conduct inspections and/or CCTV survey on sections of riparian culverted watercourses in Oadby (Wash Brook between Waldron Drive and Rosemead Drive beneath the A6 Harborough Road, and beneath Lawyers Lane) to improve confidence of condition and function.	LCC (LLFA)	**Completed** – No obstructions found. Minor build-up of brick/rubble debris found in a section of the Lawyers Lane culvert which runs beneath private land, but nothing to significantly affect the flow of the watercourse.

5.1.2 MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS (6-12 MONTHS)

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
RMA Engagement	All partners to continue regular meetings to assess flood mechanisms and identify further actions as part of the formal flood investigation.	LCC (LLFA), LCC (Highways), STW, and EA	**Ongoing**
Event Hydrology Review	Review the data and hydrology from the flood event.	LCC (LLFA)	**Completed** – 15 minute interval data obtained from relevant local rainfall gauges (Evington, Littlethorpe and Fleckney) and water level gauges (Saffron Brook at Knighton Park).
Culvert Surveys	Conduct informal CCTV survey on sections of highway culverts in Oadby to improve confidence of condition and function.	LCC (Highways)	**Ongoing** – as and when required on Highway culverts following any reports of blockages.

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
Gully Cleansing	Review the routine cleansing priority of gullies at the bottom end of The Morwoods (Oadby) and consider raising their priority level.	LCC (Highways)	**Completed** – Raised from a Priority 2 to Priority 1 for the gullies along the whole length of The Morwoods. P1's are cleansed every 10 months or sooner if reported as blocked.
	Jet and cleanse/empty gullies at: - Dukes Close - Halcroft Rise, - Peacock Place, - Ruskington Drive, - Seaton Road, - Winslow Drive, and - Foxhunter Drive.	LCC (Highways)	**Completed** – 08/06/2024 27/07/2024 08/04/2024 19/12/2024 15/10/2024 24/09/2024 01/11/2023
Private Sewer Maintenance	To continue follow-up of surface water sewer drainage maintenance works as and when appropriate along The Morwoods.	STW	**Ongoing** – Added to 6 months cleanse list.
Local Community Engagement	Conduct further site visits to affected properties as part of the development of the Formal Flood Investigation.	LLC (LLFA)	**Completed** – 03/06/2024, 11/12/2025.
	Support the creation of a Flood Action Group with residents/business owners in Oadby and Wigston, the appointment of a Flood Warden and/or developing a Community Flood Plan.	LLC (LLFA)	**Completed** – The Washbrook Wombles (see Section 5.3).

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
Riparian Ownership Engagement	Engage with riparian landowners along the Wash Brook to encourage regular maintenance and removal of blockages where reported.	LLC (LLFA)	**Ongoing** – Letters issued to riparian landowners when new issues are identified.

5.1.3 LONG-TERM ACTIONS (12 MONTHS+)

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
RMA Engagement	To continue to work collaboratively with all RMAs to investigate and subsequent flood events to help mitigate any future flooding.	LCC (LLFA), LCC (Highways), STW, and EA	**Ongoing** – further engagement undertaken following the Storm Babet (16th October 2023), Storm Henk (2nd January 2024) and January 6th 2025 flood events.
	Production of an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).	OWBC	**Ongoing** – LCC LLFA has provided OWBC with comments on their Draft (now published) Level 1 SFRA (February 2024) and Level 2 (October 2024) SFRA.
Highway Works	Raise kerbs along Aylestone Lane to help stop water flowing from the carriageway onto the footways. Install new gullies and enlarge footway gully for a bigger catch-pot with new lid to catch more water.	LCC (Highways)	**Completed** – 24/11/2024
	Upgrade gully lids along The Morwoods connecting into the private culverted watercourse to catch more water.	LCC (Highways)	**Completed** – 11/02/2025

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
Ordinary Watercourse Improvement Works	Liaise with riparian landowner with regards to removal of blockage along Wash Brook shortly downstream (west) of Lawyers Lane.	LCC (LLFA)	**Ongoing** – Extensive engagement has been completed with the riparian landowner at this location and an agreement for the removal of the obstruction is being sought and agreed.
	Consideration of installation of a new culvert inlet debris trap/screen being undertaken along Wash Brook upstream of Lawyers Lane.	LCC (LLFA)	**Complete** – this option was considered; however, the Council has no current plans to install a new screen. Would require construction on and access to private land, and regular maintenance and debris clearance in order not to increase flood risk upstream.
Inclusion of any newly identified Ordinary Watercourse assets in the LLFA's Asset Register	Identify any key drainage assets that have a significant impact on flood risk for inclusion on the Council's Flood Risk Asset Register (where appropriate).	LCC (LLFA)	**Ongoing** – added private Ordinary Watercourse culvert added that crosses southwards beneath The Morwoods and outfalls into Wash Brook.
Seek National Funding for Flood Management Schemes	Oadby was identified in the assessment of local flood risk as a priority catchment. Investigate the appropriateness of a bid for national funding to help fund investigation, assessment, design and construction of resilience work where possible (e.g. Natural Flood	LCC (LLFA)	**Completed** – Defra Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy (FCERM) Grant in Aid (GiA) secured for a Wash Brook Catchment Modelling Study to identify the existing flooding mechanisms and risks, and

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
	Management, asset improvement, Property Flood Resilience).		potential options for further investigation. **Ongoing** – Further consideration of more GiA, Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Local Levy and other public/private partnership funding will be undertaken following the outcomes of the modelling study next financial year to undertake a business case to progress potential options identified to the feasibility assessment and design phase (2026/2027).
Better understand the sources and mechanisms of flooding	Commission a detailed, integrated flood modelling study assessing flood risk from surface water runoff (pluvial) and the Wash Brook ordinary watercourse (fluvial) in order to gain a greater understanding of the nature, mechanisms and impacts of flooding in Oadby and the wider Wash Brook catchment.	LCC (LLFA)	**Ongoing** – Procured a Wash Brook Catchment Modelling Study. Began work June 2025. Scope includes more detailed surveying on key drainage infrastructure. A long list of multiple mitigation options will be assessed to help reduce future flood risk in the catchment identified.

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
Develop workable solutions to help reduce the impacts of surface water and Ordinary Watercourse flooding to areas of <u>Oadby and north Wigston within the Wash Brook catchment</u>	Following the outcomes of the Wash Brook Catchment Modelling Study modelling, undertake a FCERM Outline Business Case (OBC) to reduce the long list of potential options identified to a short list and progress these to feasibility assessment and identify Preferred Options.	LCC (LLFA)	**To begin 2026/2027**
	If the OBC identified feasible Preferred Options, as part of a Full Business Case (FBC), progress the Preferred Options identified to the detailed design phase.	LCC (LLFA)	**To begin 2027/2028** – dependent on the outcome of the Wash Brook OBC.
	Collaboration of all RMA partners and Stakeholders to implement possible solutions for helping to reduce the impact where possible and feasible (cost proportionate).	LCC (LLFA), LCC (Highways), STW, and EA	**To begin 2028/2029** – dependent on the outcome of the Wash Brook OBC and FBC above.
Develop workable solutions to help reduce the impacts flooding to areas of <u>South Wigston</u>	Seek other funding for potential surface water flooding mitigation and develop appropriate business cases.	LCC (LLFA)	**Ongoing** – opportunities being considered for individual PFR funding or grouped PFR funding with GiA and Local Levy funds as they arise.
	Collaboration of all RMA partners and Stakeholders to implement possible solutions for helping to reduce the impact where possible and feasible (cost proportionate).	LCC (LLFA), LCC (Highways) and STW	**Ongoing** – dependent on the outcome of any business case above.

ACTION	ACTION DETAIL	LEAD RMA	STATUS
Development of a Flood Warning Service for Wash Brook	Use the telemetry gauge at the Severn Road, Oadby crossing to implement local flood warnings for Wash Brook.	EA	**Ongoing** – A warning service will be delivered, currently anticipated in 2026.
Local Community Engagement	Consult regularly with the Parish Council, Washbrook Wombles Flood Action Group (see Section 5.3) and Flood Wardens to update the existing Community Flood Plan where appropriate.	LCC (LLFA)	**Ongoing** – every 3 months from publication date of this report.

5.2 PRIVATE RIPARIAN LANDOWNERS AND HOMEOWNERS

Local residents and tenants who are located within high-risk areas for surface water flooding and who are aware that they are at risk of flooding should take action to ensure that they and their properties are protected.

Community resilience is important in providing information and support to each other if flooding is anticipated. Actions taken can include:

- signing up to flood alerts and warnings[17] (where available);
- nominating a community flood warden;
- producing a community flood plan[18];
- implementing property level protection/flood resilience and;
- moving valuable items to higher ground.

More permanent measures are also possible such as;

- installing floodgates;
- raising electrical sockets; and
- fitting non-return valves on pipes.

More information on flood resilience can be found at:
https://www.llrresilienceforum.org.uk/prepare-yourself/flooding

More information and advice on what to do to prepare for potential floods, and what to do during and after a flood can be found at:
https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage

5.3 FLOOD ACTION GROUP AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

Following the flooding event of 22nd June 2023, the Washbrook Wombles Flood Action Group (FLAG) was created to take care of the Wash Brook and reduce the risk of flooding. The FLAG is led by residents of The Morwoods whose properties border the brook, designating them riparian owners meaning that they have a responsibility for the brook's maintenance. The FLAG organises regular group clearing events with volunteers to ensure the brook is free of obstructions and debris allowing it to remain free-flowing and reduce the risk of future flooding.

The Washbrook Wombles also have regular update meetings with the Council LLFA team to communicate any ongoing riparian and highway drainage asset maintenance issues and convey flood risk management activities being conducted. This role will additionally include supporting the LLFA with engaging with key local landowners/riparian landowners.

[17] Gov.uk (2025) Sign up for flood warnings. https://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings

[18] Gov.uk (2023) Community flood plan guidance.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-flood-plan-template/community-flood-plan

The FLAG recently prepared a Flood Report for the Council in response to the recent flooding event of 6th January 2025 and provided observations on a heavy rainfall event incurred on 24th October 2025. They have proposed to continue to monitor watercourses and drainage infrastructure in the area.

The FLAG have been advised by the Council to also consider producing and regularly reviewing a community flood plan[18] in collaboration with the LLFA to assist in raising awareness of the risks of flooding locally, and preparing the community before, during and after floods with advice on property/personal protection and recovery.

The FLAG developed a Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/410502058209406/

More information can be found at:

https://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/pages/the_washbrook_wombles

STATUS OF REPORT AND DISCLAIMER

This report has been prepared as part of the Council's responsibilities under the FWMA.

The findings of the report are based on a subjective assessment of the information available by those undertaking the investigation and therefore may not include all relevant information. As such it should not be considered as a definitive assessment of all factors that may have triggered or contributed to the flood event.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on assumptions made by the Council when preparing this report, including, but not limited to those key assumptions noted in the report, including reliance on information provided by others.

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

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

The Council does not accept any liability for the use of this report or its contents by any third party.

GLOSSARY

Acronyms / Term	Definition
EA	Environment Agency
FLAG	Flood Action Group
FWMA	Flood and Water Management Act 2010
HDC	Harborough District Council
LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LDA	Land Drainage Act 1991
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
Main River	Those watercourses for which the EA is the relevant RMA
OWBC	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Ordinary Watercourse	Any watercourse that is not a Main River, and the LLFA, District / Borough Council or Internal Drainage Board is not the relevant RMA
RMAs	Risk Management Authorities
STW	Severn Trent Water
The Council	Leicestershire County Council
RoFSW	Risk of Flooding from Surface Water mapping (Environment Agency)