

The Mayor Welcomes you to Bedford Borough Council's Flood Forum

12th February 2025

**In partnership with the Environment Agency
and Anglian Water**





Environment Agency's role in managing flooding and coastal erosion risk

Strategic Overview for all sources of flood risk

Understand flood risk through mapping, modelling, data, and information

Providing data, evidence, advice and guidance

Work in partnership to co-ordinate and support flood risk investment



Anglian
(Great Ouse)
Regional
Flood &
Coastal
Committee

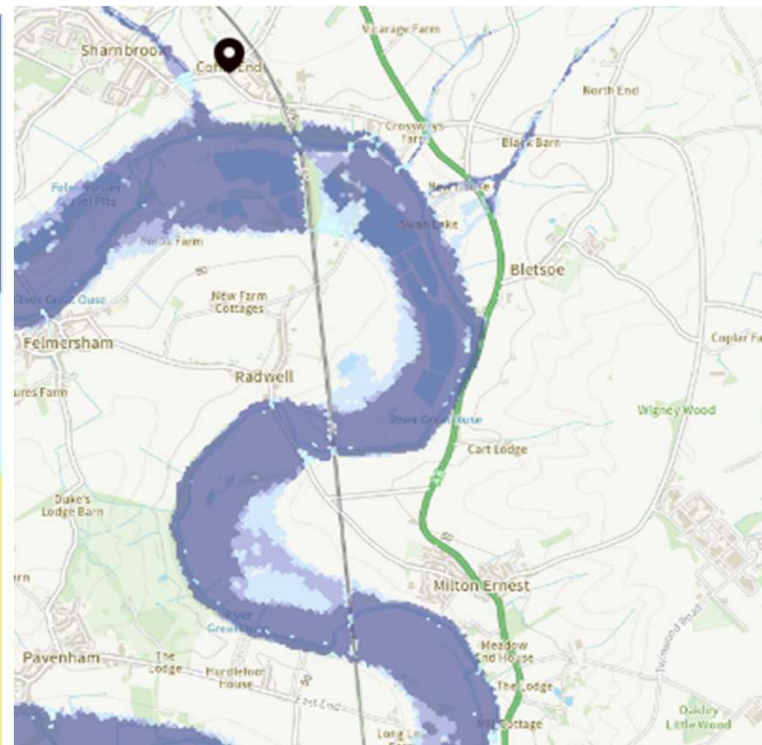
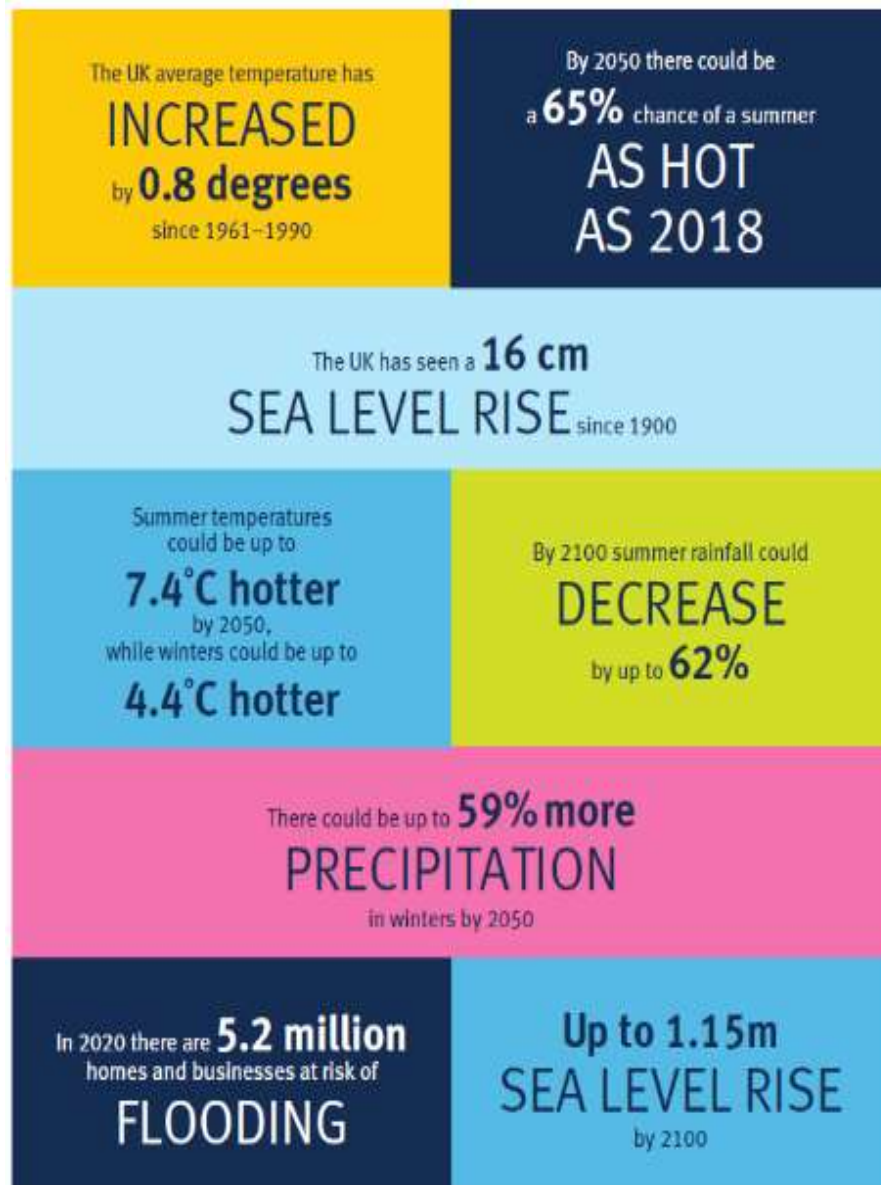


Reducing risk and improving resilience

- Avoid inappropriate development to ensure climate resilient growth
- Build, maintain and operate our flood risk management assets
- We warn and inform and support communities to become more resilient to flooding



Understanding the risk



Rivers and sea map

Yearly chance of flooding

Flood area (extent)

- High chance
- Medium chance
- Low chance
- Very low chance

Yearly chance of flooding between 2036 and 2069

Flood area (extent)

Map details

- ☒ Show flooding
- ☒ Selected address

River Great Ouse level at Bedford

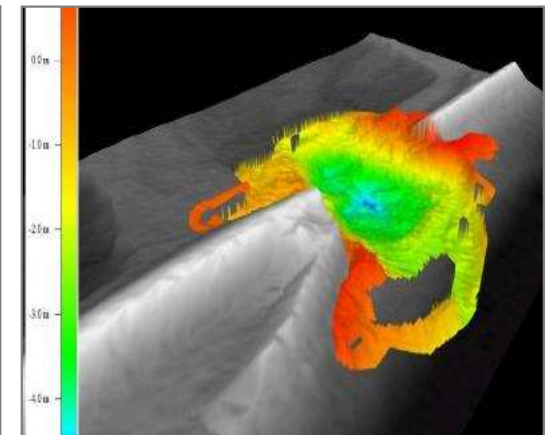
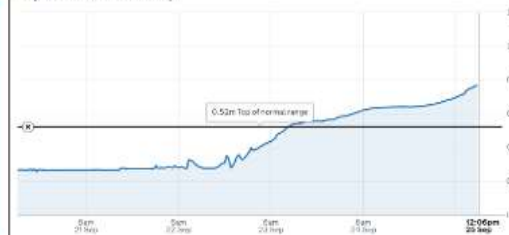
The Bedford Great Ouse

Latest at 11:45am on 25 September ⁽¹⁾

Height **0.77m** ⁽²⁾ Trend **Rising** ⁽³⁾ State **High** ⁽⁴⁾

Normal range 0.50m to 0.53m

Height in metres over the last 5 days



Anglian Water Responsibilities

Our obligations when it comes to flooding

Cooperate with other
Risk Management
Authorities (RMAs)



Category 2 responders – we
are not a blue light
emergency responder

Respond to, and
implement actions
from section 19s



Ensure our assets remain in
operational working order
(even though they may be
surcharged)

As a gesture of goodwill, we
will clear up any foul spills
after the flooding event

Common Misconceptions

We are not a statutory
Consultee to the town
and country planning
act

Developers currently have an automatic right to
connect to the public sewer system

Not all drainage infrastructure is owned and maintained by Anglian Water. Other authorities
responsible include the Environment Agency, Highways, IDBs and riparian owners

Bedford Borough Council

Resilience Team

Responsibilities

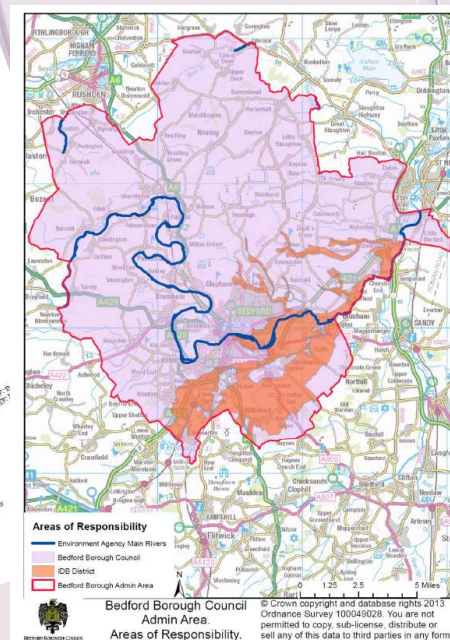
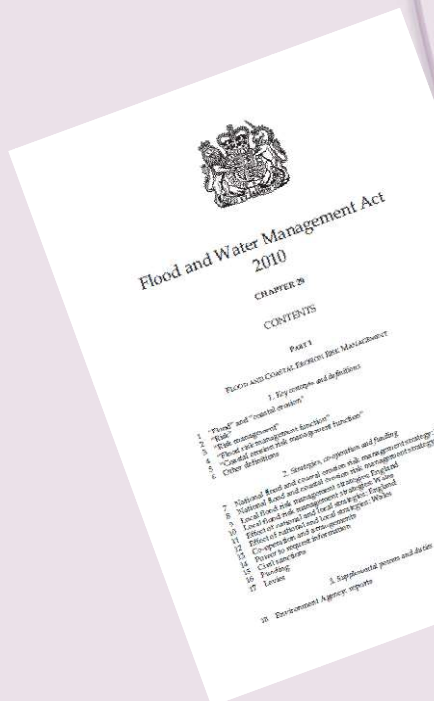
Bedford Borough Council is designated a Lead Local Flood Authority as a Unitary Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

As the Lead Local Flood Authority for the area, we are responsible for managing flood risk from:

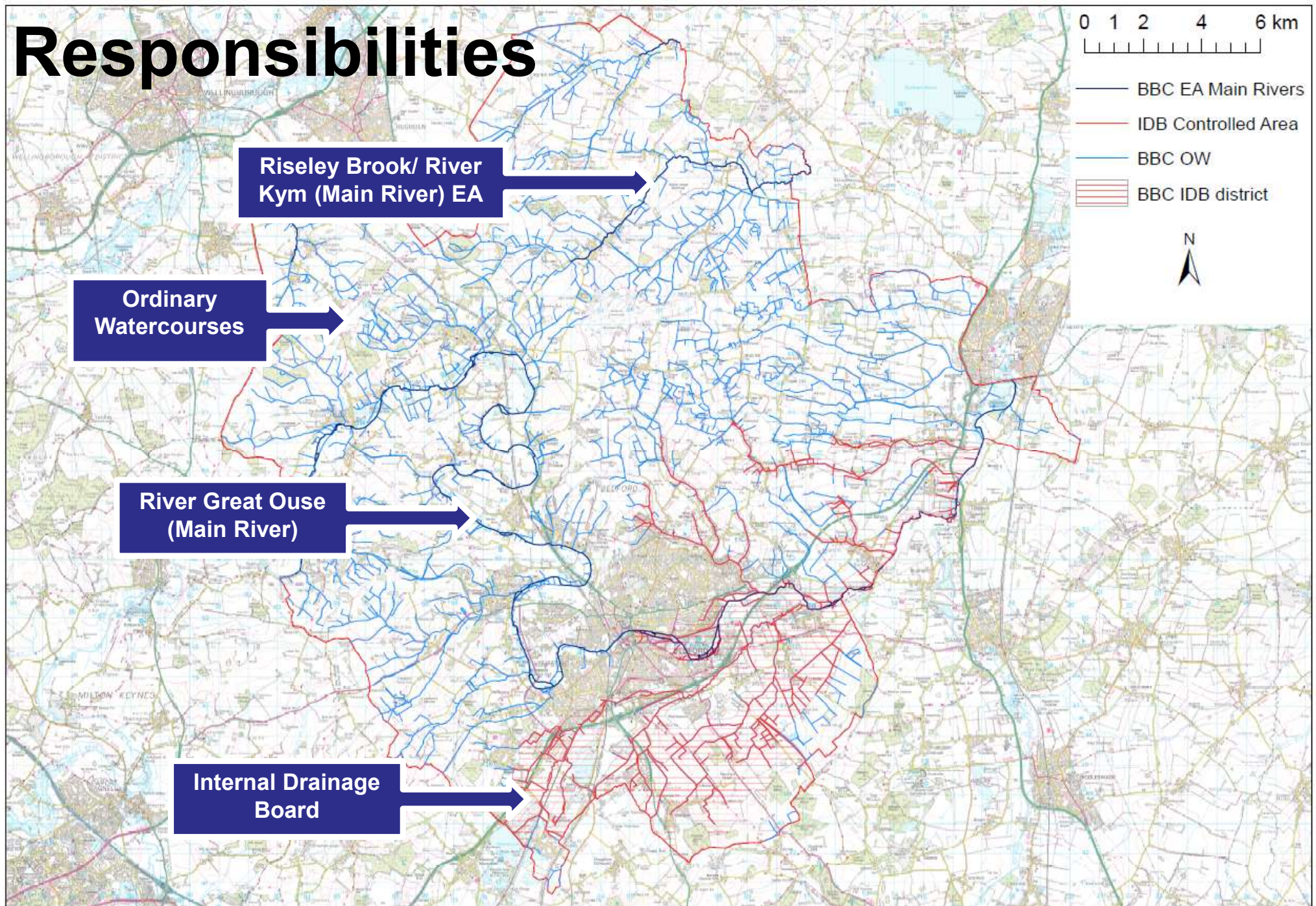
- surface water
- groundwater
- ordinary watercourses, such as small rivers, streams, brooks and ditches

Lead Local Flood Authority duties include:

- Investigating significant flooding incidents
- developing, maintaining and applying a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- co-operating with flood risk management authorities, such as the Environment Agency
- ensuring ordinary watercourses are free of blockages
- granting consent for third-party works on ordinary watercourses
- acting as a statutory consultee for surface water drainage proposals on major planning applications



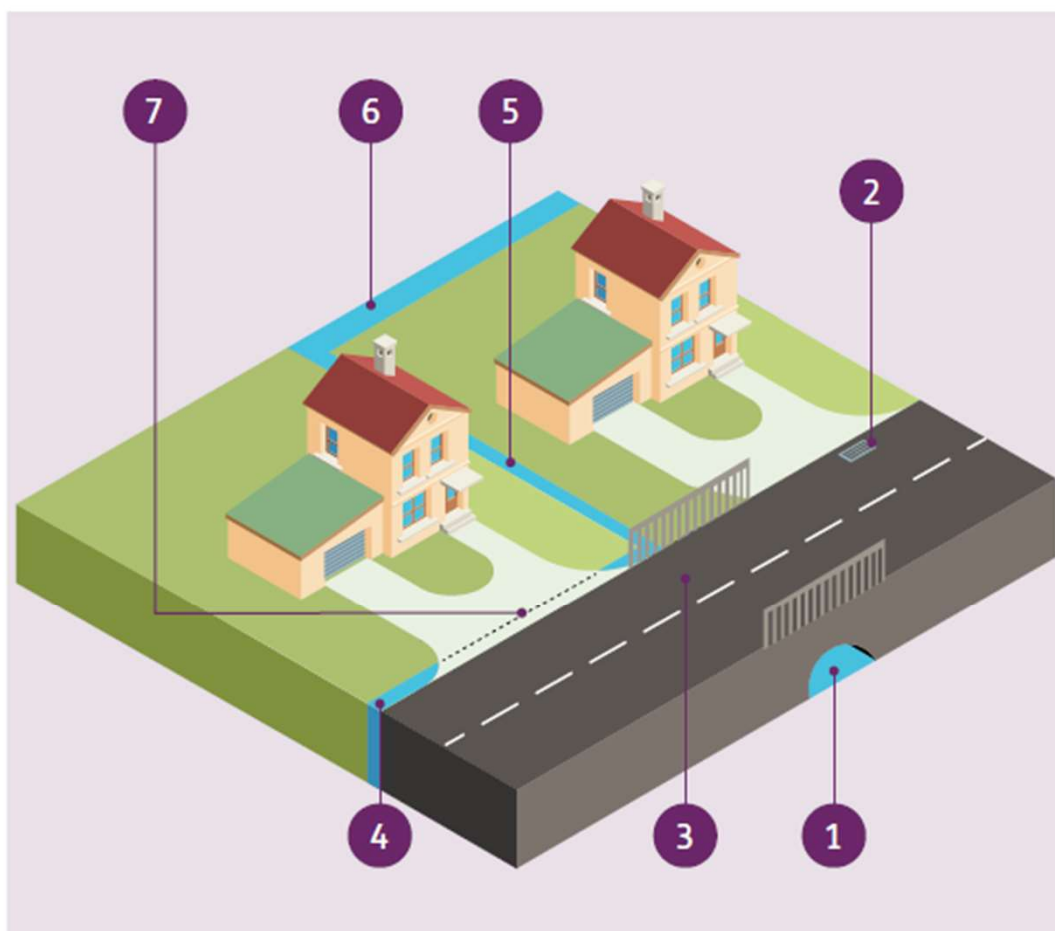
Responsibilities



Riparian Ownership

Land Drainage Act 1991

Riparian responsibilities explained



- 1 Culvert under the road**
– responsibility of Highways Authority
- 2 Gullies on road**
– responsibility of Highways Authority
- 3 Road bridges**
– responsibility of Highways Authority
- 4 Ditch/watercourse next to the road**
– responsibility of adjoining land owner
- 5 Ditch/watercourse between two properties**
– joint responsibility up to centre of the watercourse of both properties
- 6 Ditch/watercourse solely on land on one owner**
– sole responsibility of land owner
- 7 Culverted pipe under property**
– responsibility of owner

Our role in flood incident response and recovery



**FLOOD
ALERT**

PREPARE

- Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- Visit [flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk](https://www.flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk)



**FLOOD
WARNING**

ACT

- Turn off gas, water and electricity
- Move things upstairs
- Move family, pets and car to safety



**SEVERE
FLOOD
WARNING**

SURVIVE

- Call 999 if in immediate danger
- Listen to emergency services and evacuate if told to do so

floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk

**FLOODS
DESTROY**
IF PREPARED

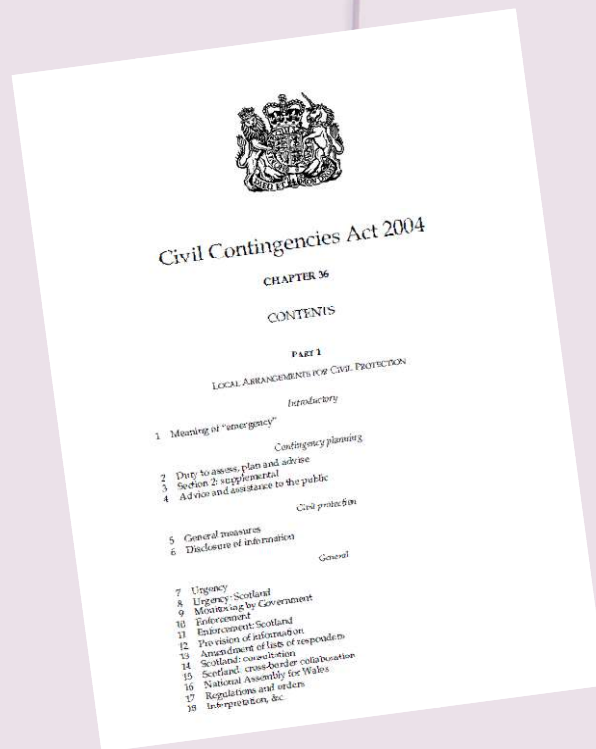
Floodline on 0345 988 1188

#floodaware



Category 1 responder under Civil Contingencies Act 2004

**A single statutory and regulatory framework
Places a range of civil protection duties on core local responders**



- Establishes clear set of roles and responsibilities
- Divides responders in 2 categories (Category 1 and 2 responders)
- Importance of Local Resilience Forums (LRF's)
- Is split into two parts; Local arrangements/BAU and 'Emergency Powers'

Central
Bedfordshire



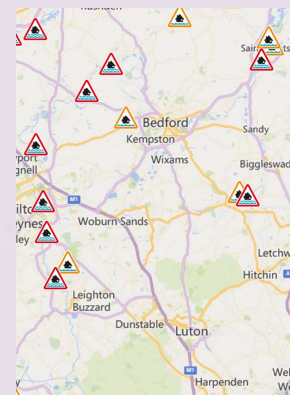
Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum



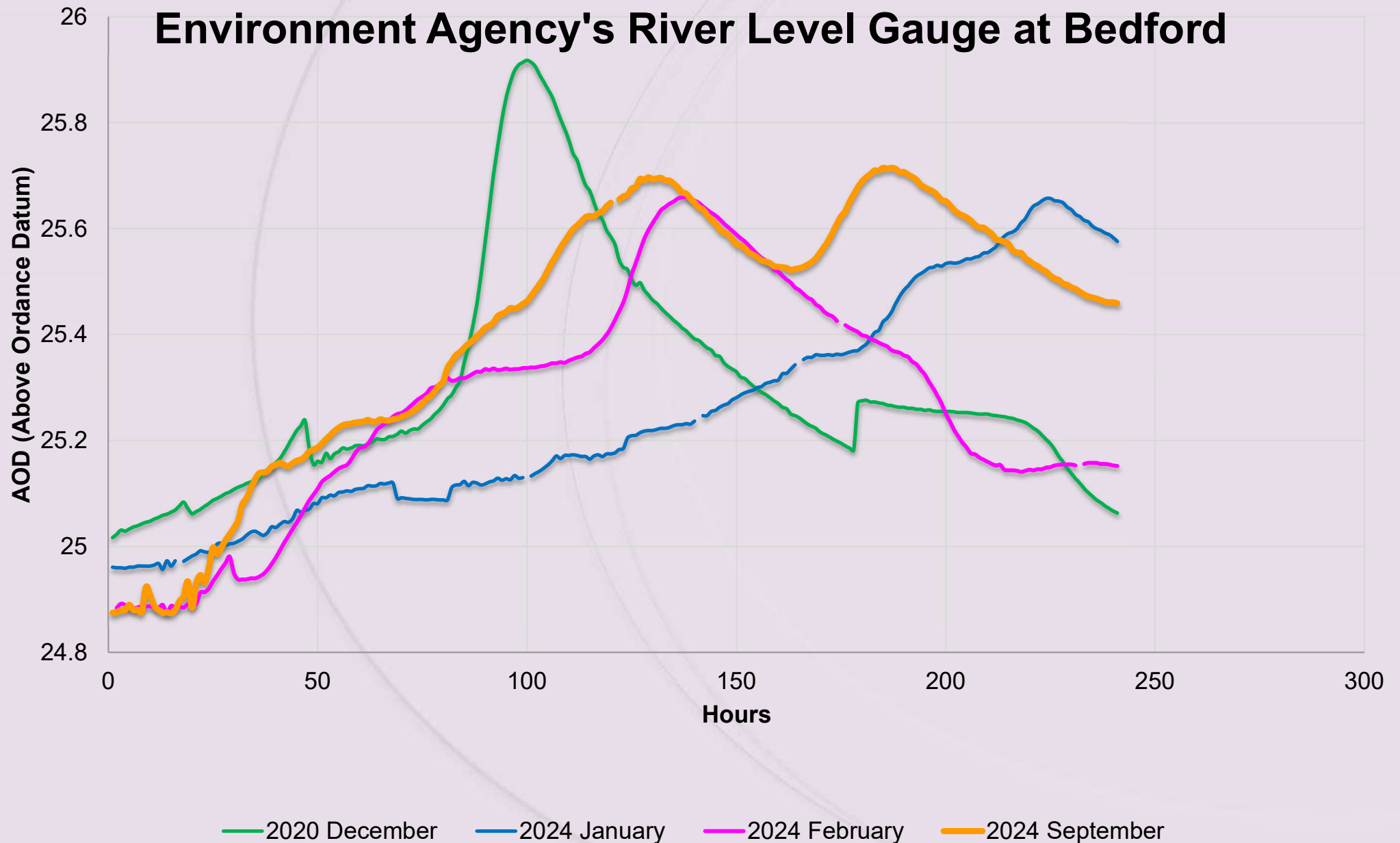
Bedfordshire
Fire and Rescue Service

Role of the Council during Flooding

- Welfare checks on vulnerable residents
- Support emergency services and community
- Water level monitoring
- Emergency transport and accommodation in cases of evacuation
- Assistance centres
- Lead on recovery
- Liaison with flood groups
- Coordinate activities of voluntary sector



Flooding 2024



September 2024

Flood from 21st September – 1st October 2024

The Event:

- Bedfordshire experienced their wettest September on record
- Over 200mm of rain fell in one week
- Widespread flooding across the Borough
- Multiagency response with partners over that week.
- Currently 65 properties have reported internal property flooding from both Surface water (46) and fluvial (19) across 31 different location.

Recovery Phase:

- With help from partners Impact Assessments have been carried and continue to be completed those properties impacted by the flooding.
- Working alongside Highways and street cleansing to ensure those impacted roads and gullies are cleansed and cleaned.
- Work with our waste team to collect used aqua sacs and flood damaged furniture

Future Work:

- Complete Section 19 Flood Investigation following the widespread flooding across the Borough
- Work with residents ensuring the resilience of their properties
- Work with landowners and riparian owners.
- Continue to work with Flood Groups and set up more Flood Groups to ensue future resilience across our communities.

Just Bin It

Nearly all of the 37,000 blockages a year on our network are avoidable, so we are working to raise awareness.

Blockages are caused by items such as wet wipes and fats, oils and grease being flushed down toilets or put down kitchen sinks.

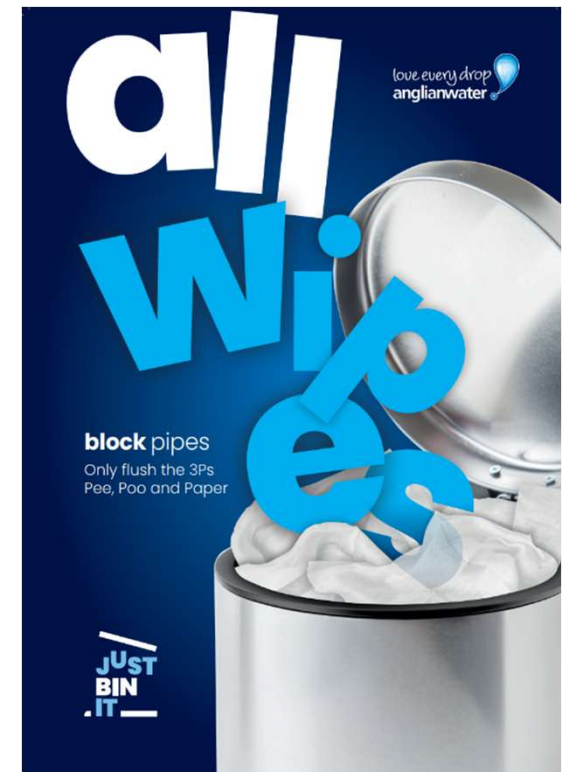
80% of sewer floodings are caused by avoidable blockages, affecting customers and the environment.

We have launched a new campaign – ‘Just Bin It’ to encourage customers to protect their pipes from blockages and avoid an unexpected plumbing bill.

Wipes take thousands of years to break down because they aren’t bio-degradable, so they belong in the bin and not down the loo. The number of skips we fill with rubbish like wipes would stack up as high as Mount Everest.

To avoid blocked pipes and keep sewers clear we all need to **Just Bin It**. Just bin it to help keep the sewer pipes clean by:

- Only flushing the 3Ps: Pee, Poo and (toilet) Paper
- ✓ Binning wet wipes and sanitary products
- ✓ Once cooled, binning any cooking fat, oil or grease
- ✓



Ground water

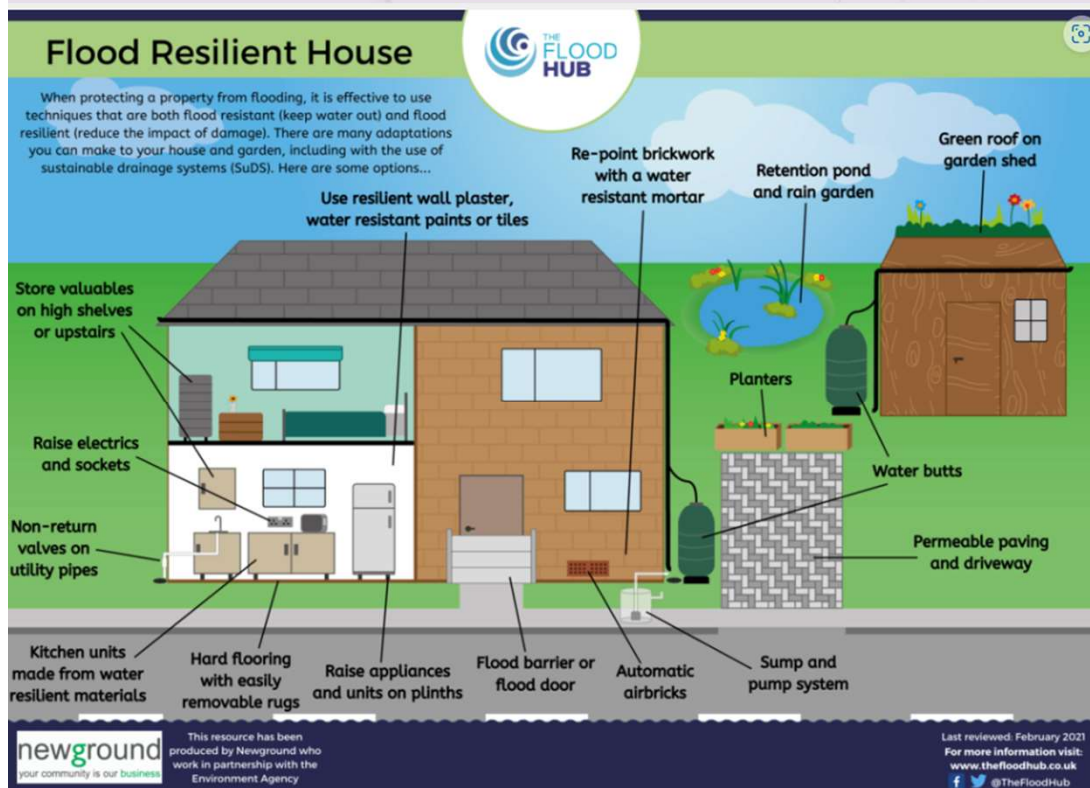
Gravity sewers are not sealed systems

Ground water has the potential to make its way into the sewer system through joints and collars in the sewer

Re-lining can help to a point, but it does not remove the risk of ground water flooding, it just moves it elsewhere



Flood Resilience



Flood Action Groups

- *A voluntary group of local residents who meet on a regular basis to work on behalf of the wider community to help to try and reduce the impact of future flood events.*

- **Benefits**

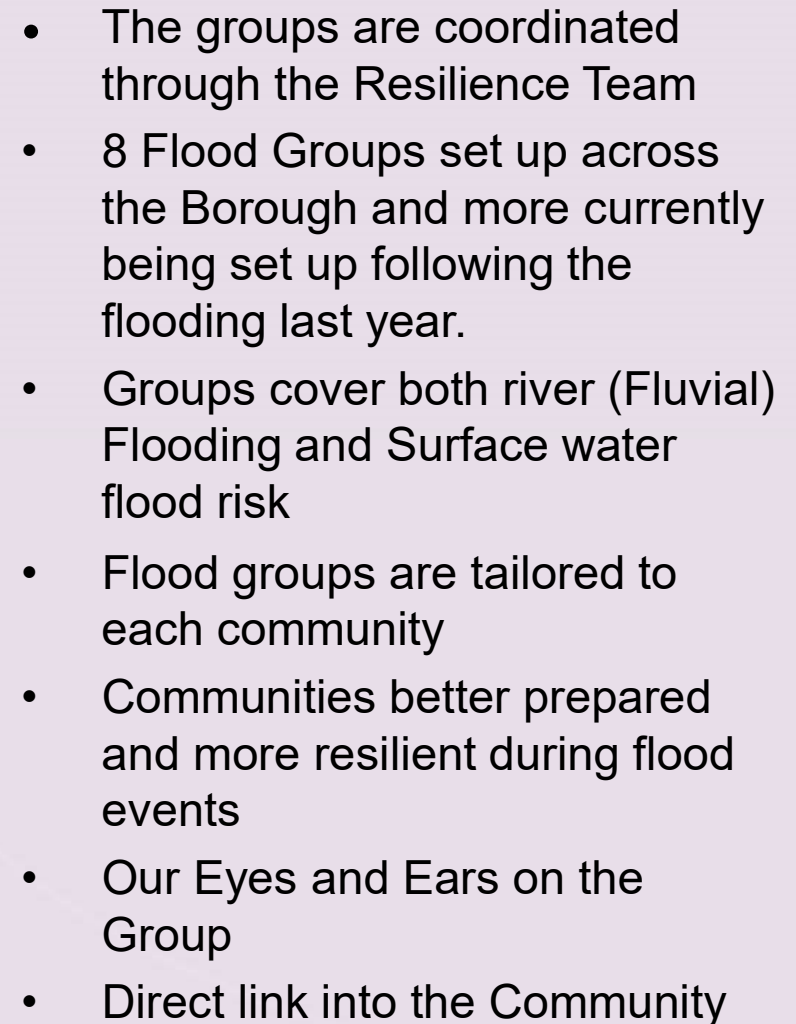
- Disseminate flood warnings
- Encourage flood warning sign-up
- Raise awareness of flood risk
- Collect data
- Collective voice
- Your community



Riseley flood group members with their flood kit

- **Flood kits**

- Local levy funding
- £1800 per community
- Hi-vis jackets, hydrosacks, torches, 'Flood' road signs, first aid kits, gloves, walkie-talkies, pumps etc
- Kit can be replenished
- Main river and surface water flooding



Thank you for listening
Any Questions?

Who can you contact about flooding?

- In an emergency, dial 999 if life is in danger.
- **Floodline 24-hours 0345 9881188** www.gov.uk/flood for flood warnings and advice.
- **Environment Agency 24-hour incident hotline 0800 80 70 60** to report flooding from main rivers, damage to riverbanks and blockages causing flood risk.
- Your local council www.gov.uk/find-local-council
- **Water company** www.water.org.uk/customers/find-your-supplier
- **Report flooding from a sewer, water main or a household storm water drain**
Anglian Water: **0345 7145 145** Thames Water: **0800 316 9800** Affinity Water: **0345 357 2407**
- **Electricity supplier** www.powercut105.com
- **Gas supplier 0800 111 999** www.energy-uk.org.uk/customers/find-your-energy-supplier
- **National Flood Forum 01299 403055** www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk
- **Association of British Insurers 0207 600 3333** www.abi.org.uk
- **British Damage Management Association 01858 414278** www.bdma.org.uk
- **British Red Cross 0344 871 1111** www.redcross.org.uk
- **Samaritans 020 8394 8300** www.samaritans.org