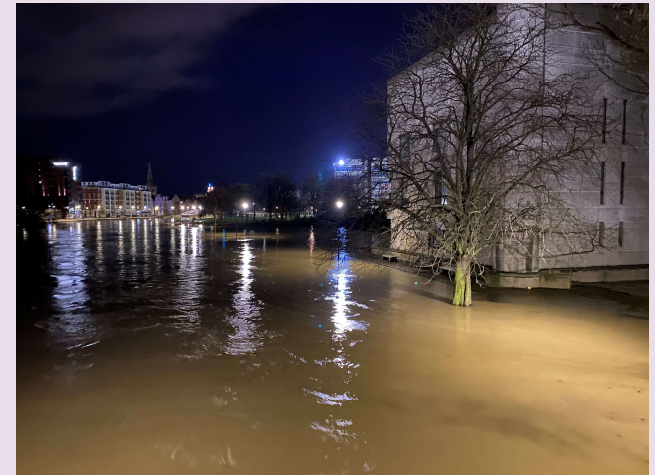


Bedford Borough Flood Forum

November 2021



Cllr Doug McMurdo

Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Culture

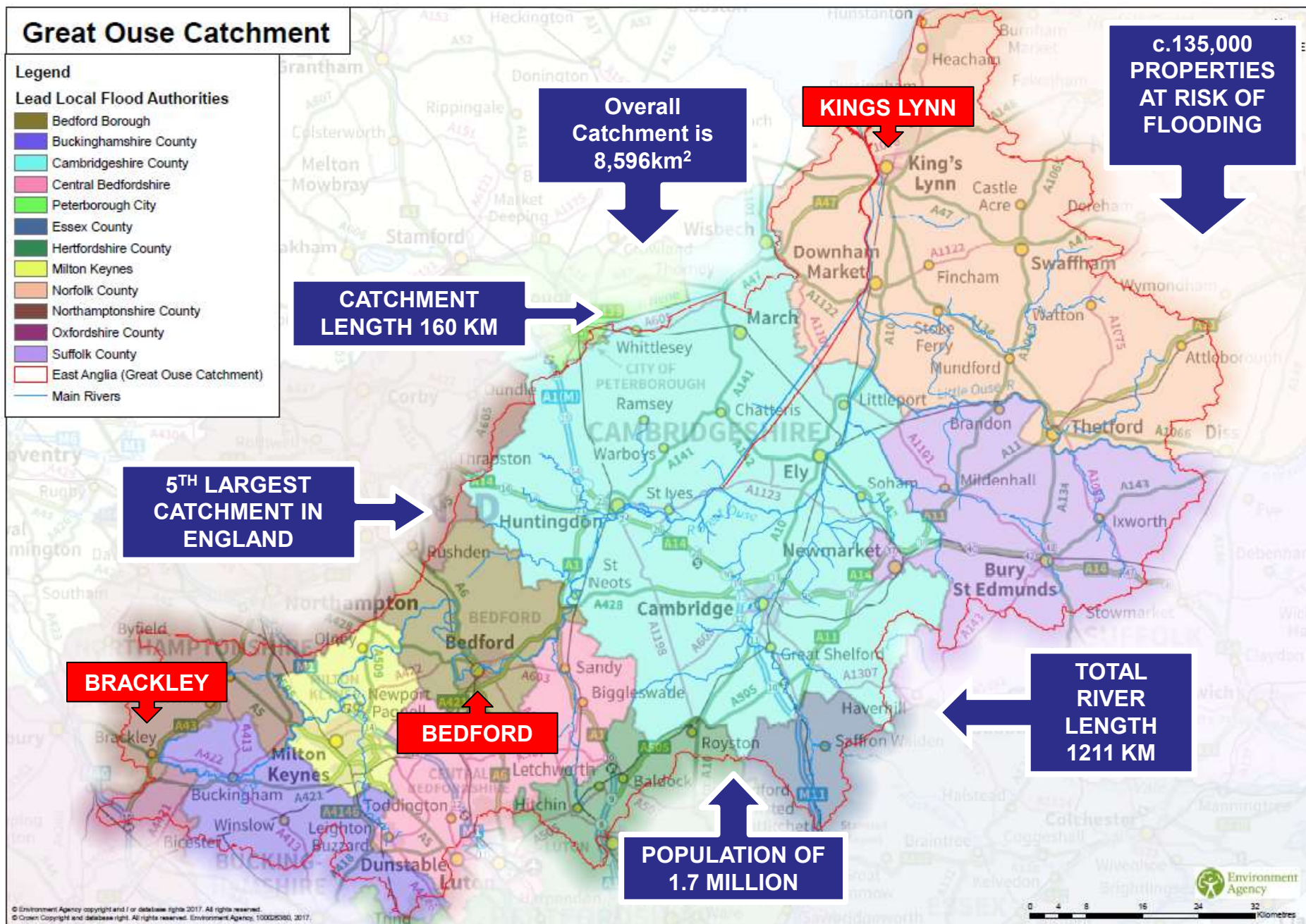
Appointee for Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC)

Chair of Beds & Ivel IDB

Agenda

- Introductions
- The Great Ouse Catchment
- Statutory Responsibilities
 - Bedford Borough Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority
- Christmas 2020
- Community Flood Groups
- Riparian Responsibilities
- Questions





River Great Ouse within the Borough



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

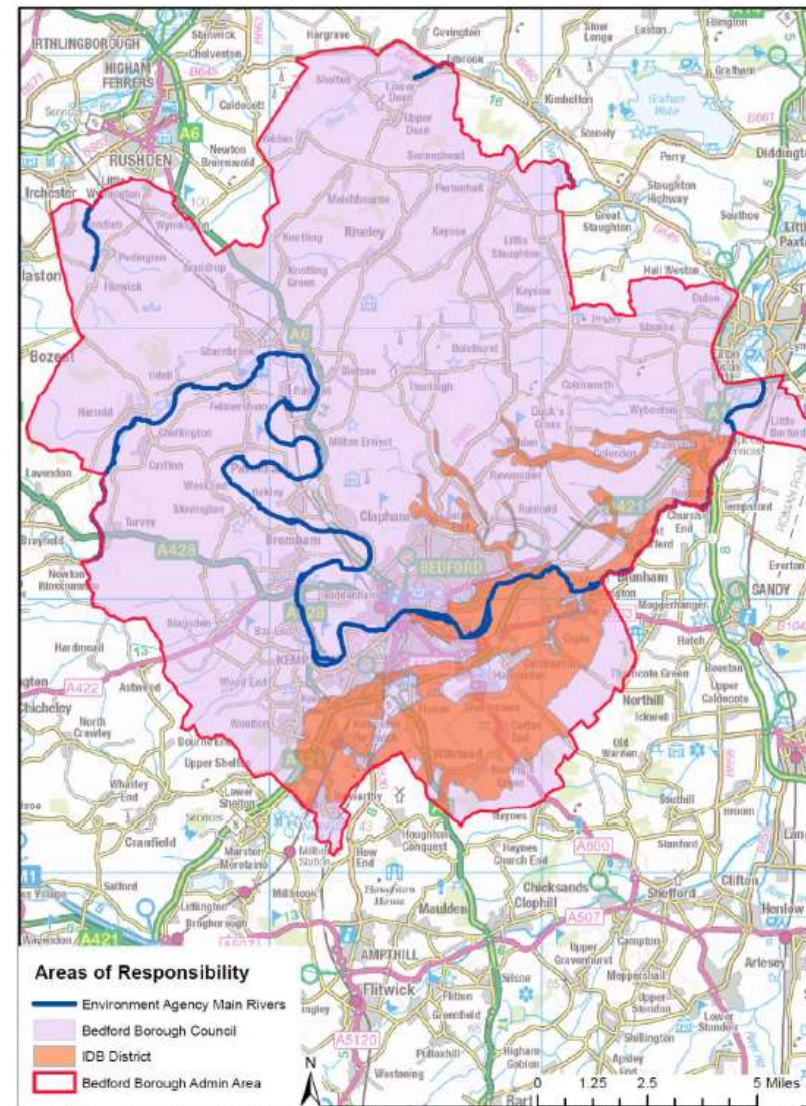
**CATCHMENT
UPSTREAM
OF THE
BOROUGH
456km²**

**CATCHMENT
DOWN
STREAM OF
THE BOROUGH
1296km²**

**RIVER
LENGTH
WITHIN THE
BOROUGH
95KM**

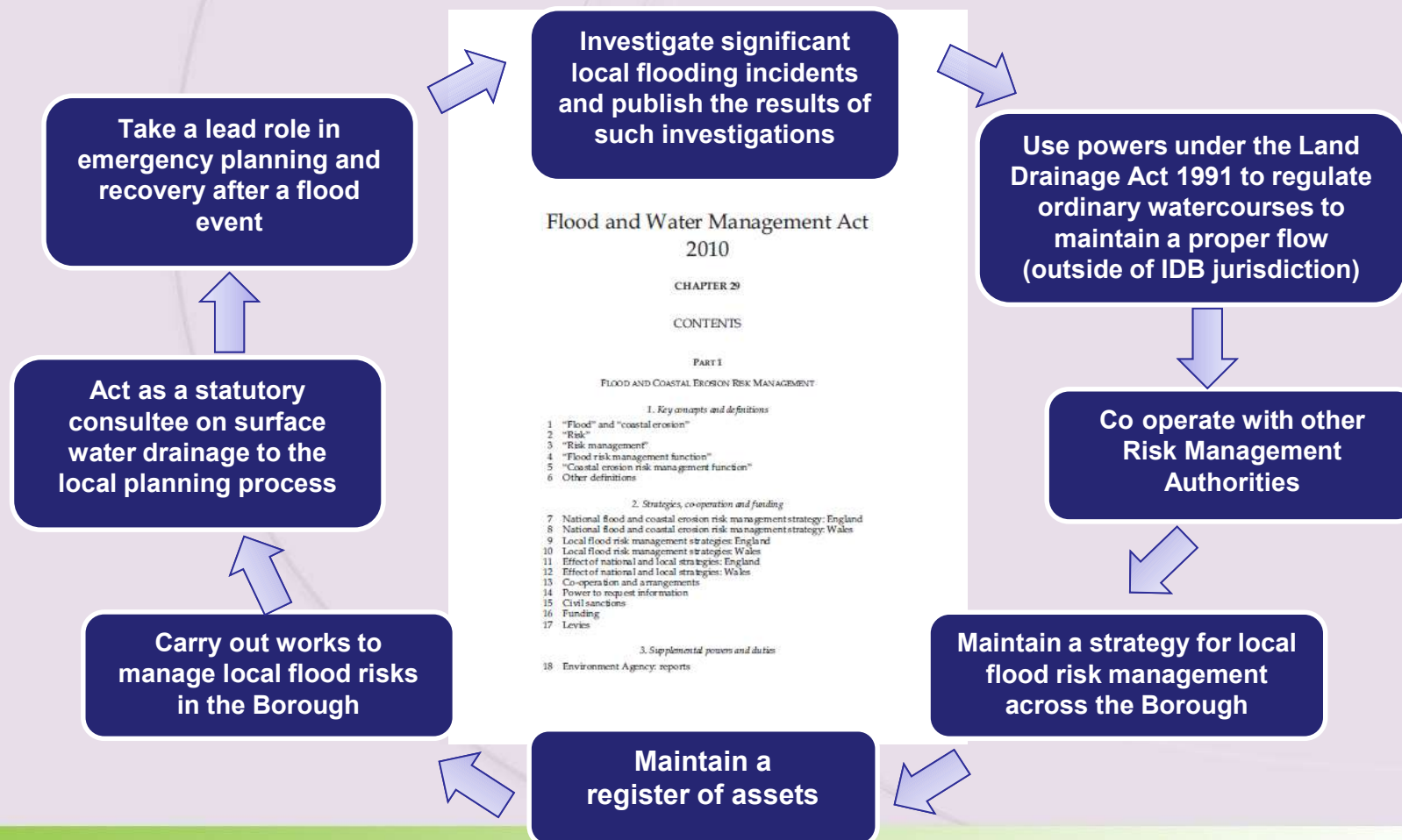
**5280
PROPERTIES
AT RISK OF
FLOODING**

**3,400 OF
THOSE
PROPERTIES
WITHIN
BEDFORD
TOWN**



Statutory Responsibilities

- Bedford Borough Council is a designated **Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)** as an Unitary/Upper Tier Authority



December 2020

- Widespread flooding across the Borough from 23rd - 26th December 2020
- River levels reaches Easter 1998 levels
- Internal flooding across 27 different locations at 65 properties
- Second wettest December across East Anglian since records began in 1981
- Ground was saturated
- 20 – 30 mm rainfall in 24hours which some areas received greater than 50mm
- The catchment could not cope

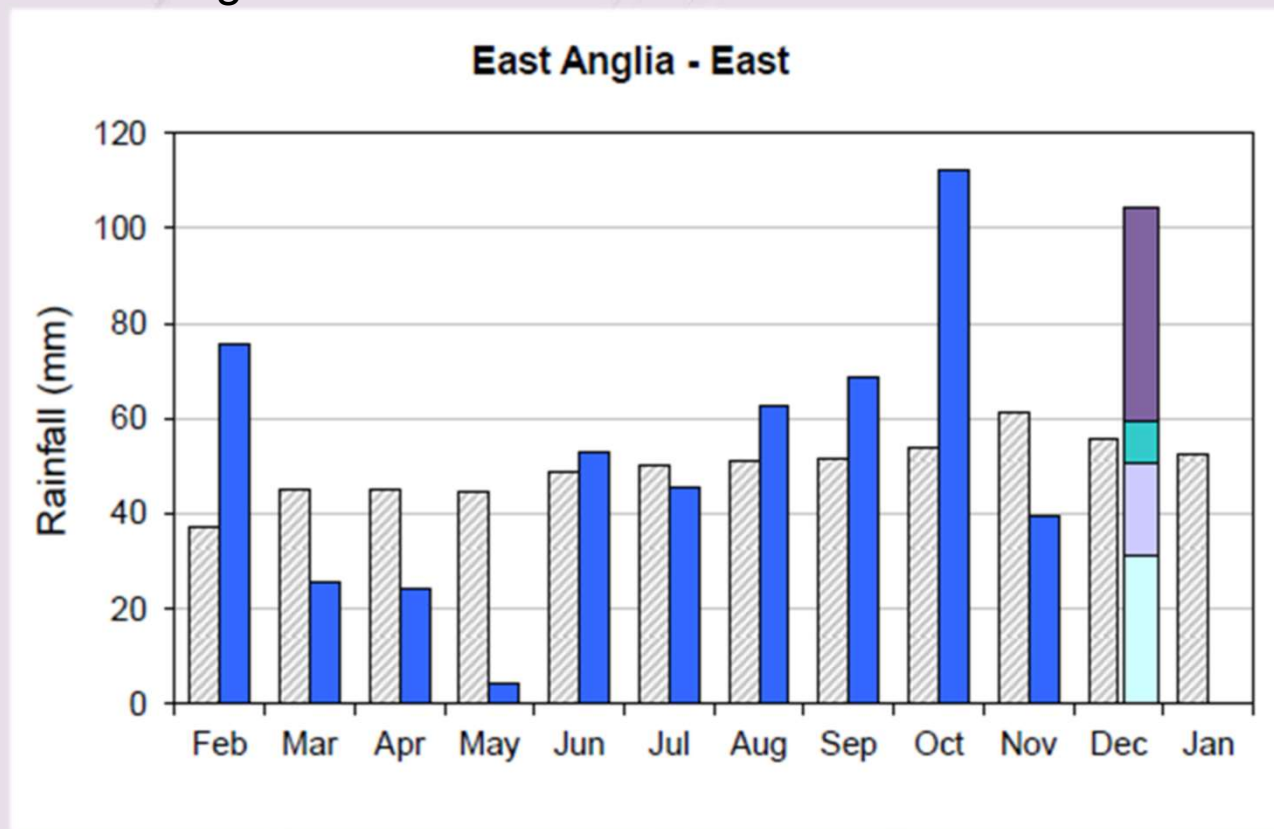


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Rainfall

The average rainfall across East Anglia in December 2020 was 108mm 195% of the Long Terms Average.



Rainfall

December 2020

Monthly total rainfall (mm)
December rainfall (provisional)

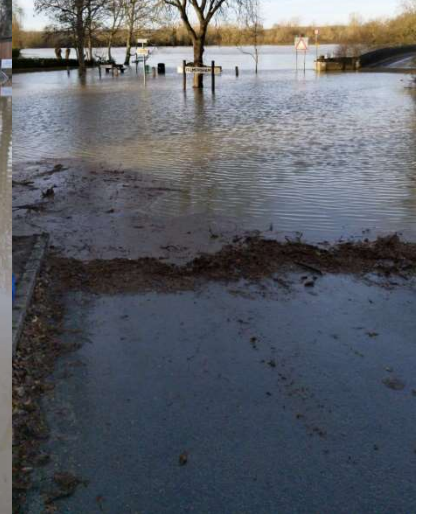
Long-term average rainfall (mm)

1st to 6th 7th to 13th 14th to 20th 21st to 27th



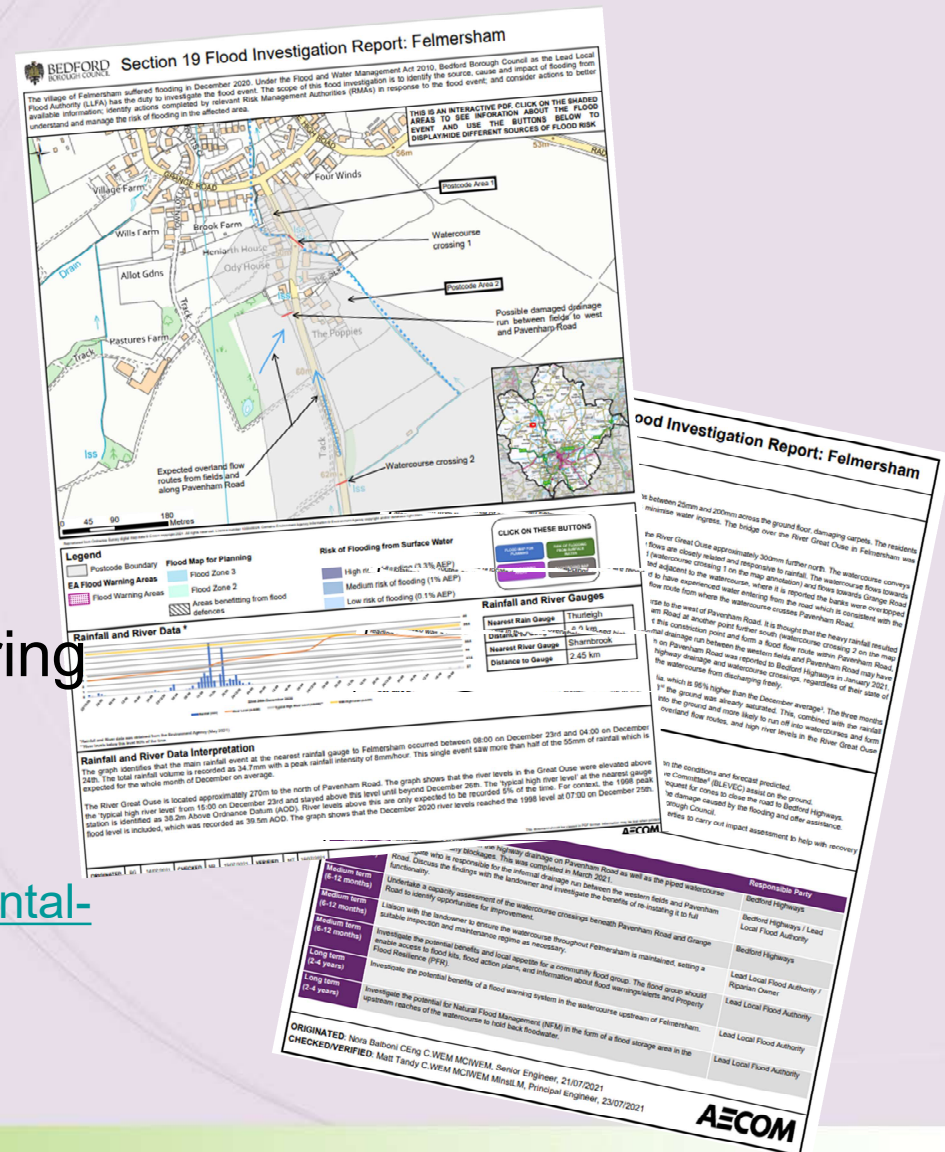


*Fluvial Flooding
December 2020*



Section 19 Investigations

- 27 Individual Flood Investigations
- 141 Recommendations
- Working with landowners/riparian owners
- Building Resilience into communities
- Working with Highways clearing gullies/culverts
- Setting up Flood Groups
- <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/flood-risk-management-in-bedfr/investigating-flooding/>



Community Flood Groups

- Flood Groups have been set up across the Borough in Riseley, Yelden and Clapham.
- Since Christmas Groups have also been set up in Carlton, Odell, Harrold and Turvey
- Provide training, support, advice, equipment/kit, exercises
- Communities better prepared and more resilient during flood events
- We are encouraging more communities to set up groups

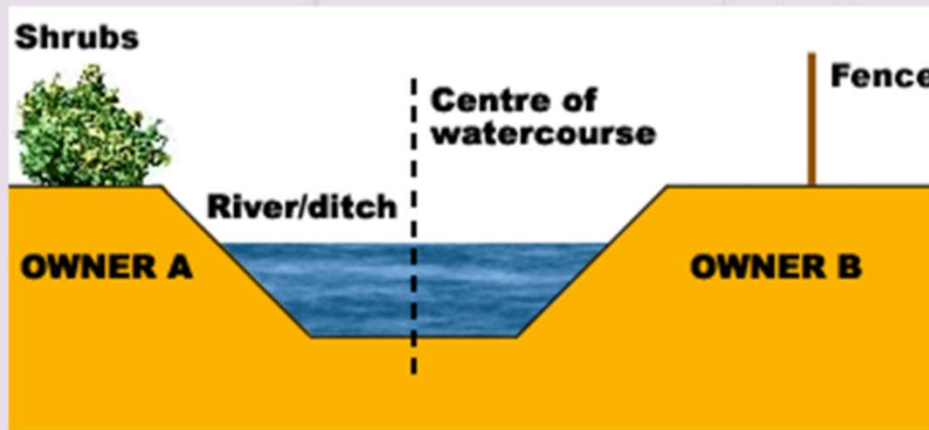


Riparian Responsibilities

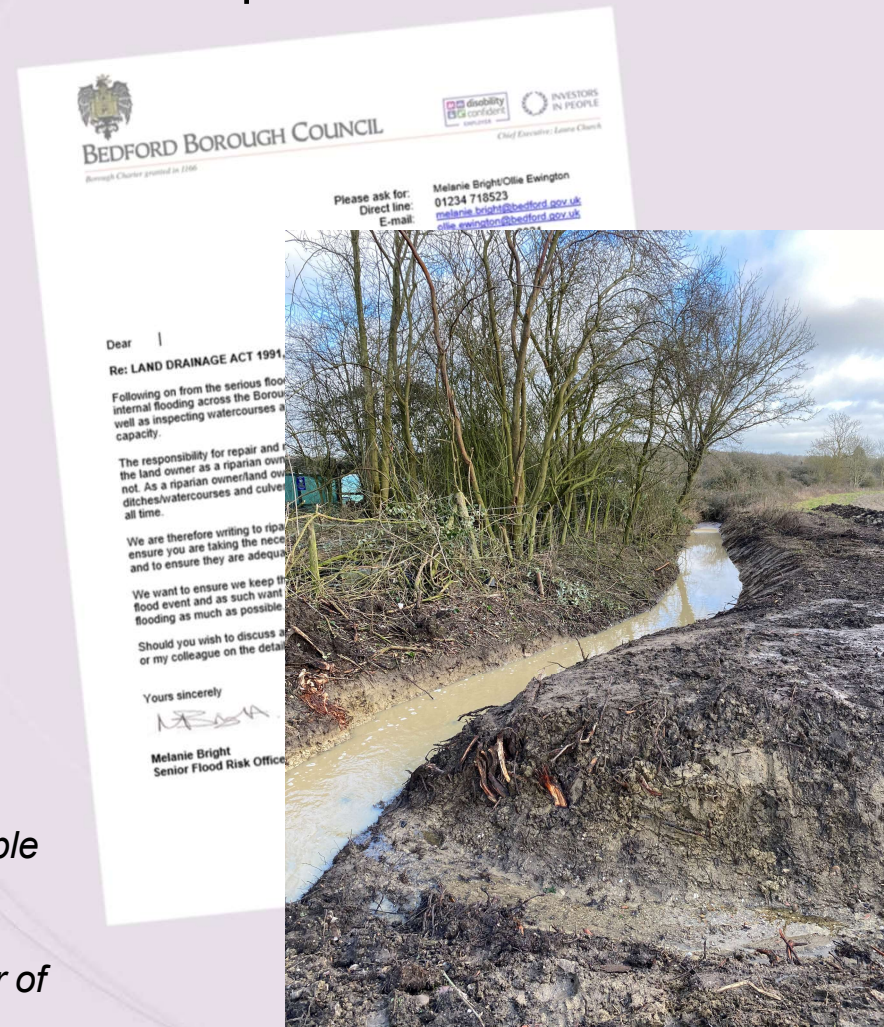


Land Drainage Act 1991: Section 25 Powers to require works for maintaining flow of a watercourse/ditch

You are considered a “riparian owner” by law if you own land which is adjacent to a watercourse or land which has a watercourse running through or underneath it.



**If you live adjacent to a roadside ditch you are responsible for the maintenance of this ditch where it borders your land. This applies to the entire width of the channel, as Highways do not own the road, they are just a maintainer of the road.*



Questions?



For further information please visit:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/flood-risk-management-in-bedfr/>

Or contact:

floodrisk@Bedford.gov.uk