

Section 19 Flood Investigation

Flooding 24th November 2024 Long Compton

Warwickshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority

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2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2024, Warwickshire, just like much of the UK, was affected by a period of rainfall and strong winds between November 22nd-25th referred to as Storm Bert.

During this event, higher intensities of rainfall were experienced across Warwickshire, which were seen as persistent between the 23rd-24th November in particular. Whilst Long Compton is situated within Warwickshire, it is located near the Oxfordshire boarder. During Storm Bert, Oxfordshire was an area that saw particularly large amounts of rainfall as recognised by the Met Office, with the area encompassing Long Compton receiving around 80-100% of the monthly average rainfall across three days.

This heavy rain resulted in internal and external flooding to properties and businesses across the county. Long Compton was one area that was heavily affected by the amount of rainfall during this period, with 24 commercial/residential properties internally flooding on the 24th November. Due to the number of properties impacted by this event, this triggered the threshold for formal S19 investigation identified in Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS).

As required by Section 19 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, Warwickshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has a duty to investigate flooding where the appropriate thresholds have been met. Our thresholds for investigation are outlined in our LFRMS and have triggered the requirement for this report.

In the post event phase that followed, WCC's Flood Risk Management team worked with the members of the local Flood Action Group, to identify affected residents and provide advice and guidance. WCC LLFA are currently appraising a number of options to take forward with regards to possible remedial works, with conversations ongoing. This report focuses on the flooding that occurred during November 2024 and may not lead to the resolution of all issues relating to flooding in Long Compton. The LLFA does also acknowledge flooding occurred in September 2024, however the Section 19 thresholds utilised by WCC LLFA were not met during this event.

3 INTRODUCTION

3.1 The requirement to undertake this report

Section 19 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) requires that the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) undertake an investigation (to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate) upon becoming aware of flooding in its area.

The role of the LLFA in Warwickshire is carried out by the Flood Risk Management team at Warwickshire County Council (WCC).

The flood investigation must also determine the risk management authorities (RMAs) that have relevant flood risk management functions and whether each of those authorities have exercised or is proposing to exercise those functions in response to the flood. See Appendix I for the responsibilities of the various RMAs involved in this flood event.

Warwickshire County Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy identifies the thresholds that will apply when determining whether an investigation under Section 19 of the FWMA is required. These thresholds are as follows:

1. Flooding that poses a threat to the safety of the public or may directly result in serious injury or death
2. Five or more residential properties internally flooded
3. Two or more commercial properties internally flooded
4. One or more piece of critical infrastructure affected that impact on the wider area
5. Flooding that places vulnerable individuals or vulnerable communities at risk e.g. hospitals, care and nursing homes, schools, etc.
6. Where one or more residential properties have flooded internally from the same source on five or more occasions within the last five years

3.2 Scope of this report

This report summarises the completed and ongoing investigations carried out by Risk Management Authorities into the flooding which occurred on 24th November 2024 in Long Compton.

This report does not obligate the LLFA or other risk management authorities into resolving the flooding issues investigated herein, nor is it possible for the LLFA to impose others to undertake any of the recommended actions.

3.3 Disclaimer

This report has been prepared as part of WCC'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 WCC when preparing this report including reliance on information provided by others.

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

The information in this report is provided "as is" and no warranties, promises, and/or representations of any kind, expressed or implied, are given as to the nature, standard, accuracy, or otherwise of the information provided in this report nor to the suitability or otherwise of the information to your particular circumstances.

WCC does not accept any liability of any nature and howsoever arising for the use of this report or its contents by any third party. WCC shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature (direct, indirect, consequential, or other) which may arise as a result of the use of this report by a third party.

Nothing in this legal disclaimer will limit any of our liabilities in any way that is not permitted under applicable law or exclude any of our liabilities that may not be excluded under applicable law.

4 WEATHER AND FLOOD INFORMATION

4.1 Weather and flood warnings

In the days preceding the flood event, the Met Office named the incoming weather system as Storm Bert. The Met Office issued weather warnings across the country in relation to Storm Bert, with Warwickshire receiving yellow warnings in relation to wintry showers and heavy rain, which could result in flooding. Yellow and amber Flood Guidance Statements were also issued by the Environment Agency for areas across the country for the duration of Storm Bert, however such statements did not highlight Warwickshire as an area at yellow or amber risk. Warwickshire fell within Risk Area G, meaning minor impacts with low likelihood, however flooding impacts were possible due to continued rain. This can be seen on Figure 1 below.

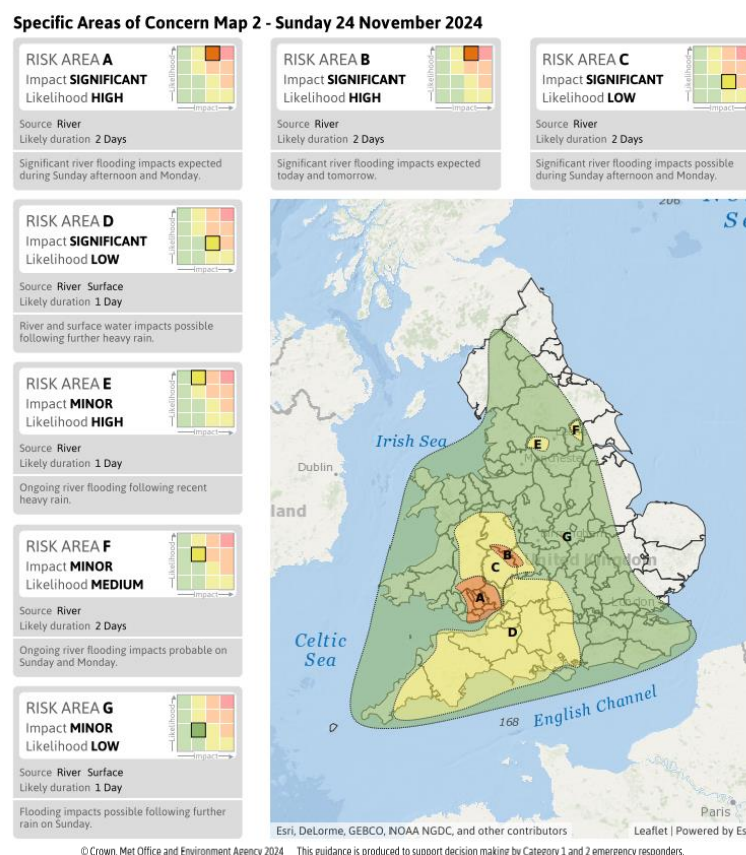


Figure 1 – Section of the Flood Guidance Statement from the Flood Forecasting Centre for Sunday 24th November 2024

Rainfall radar data for Long Compton obtained through Hydromaster, a software which WCC utilises that provides real time and historic rainfall data from the Met Office, has been reviewed to understand the amount of rainfall that fell over the catchment of Long Compton during Storm Bert. Within Hydromaster, the catchment of Long Compton is 15.4km² in size. Within the week encompassing Storm Bert (21st-28th November), the catchment received 60.3mm of rainfall. Over 50mm of this rainfall fell between November 23rd and 25th. This can be compared to the overall rainfall for November, which was 87.03mm. Preceding Storm Bert, the county did also receive snowfall, this snowfall melted as this continuous rain fell on areas of the county, including Long Compton, during Storm Bert.

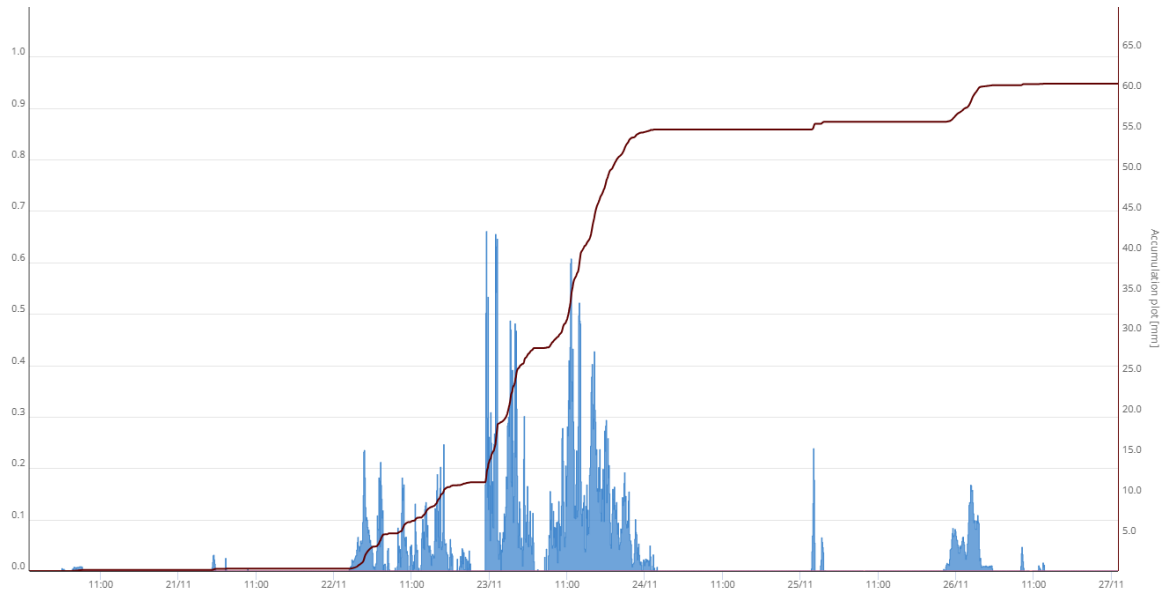
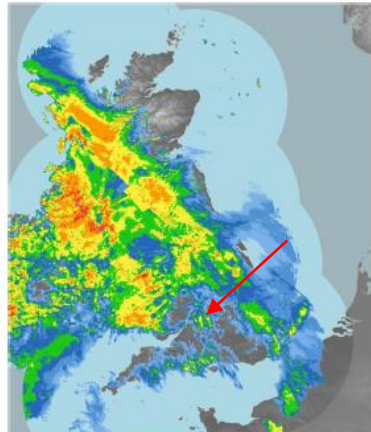


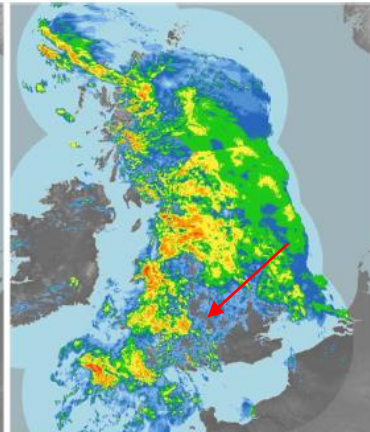
Figure 2 – Rainfall accumulation within Long Compton between 20th-27th November 2024 from Hydromaster, accumulating to 60mm.

Data released by the Met Office following Storm Bert includes rain-radar images at 6 hourly intervals, from 7am (0600 UTC) on 23rd November. Long Compton has been marked with a red arrow on the images taken from the Met Office below, which show the extensive nature of rainfall. The coloured key also denotes the amount of rainfall fallen.

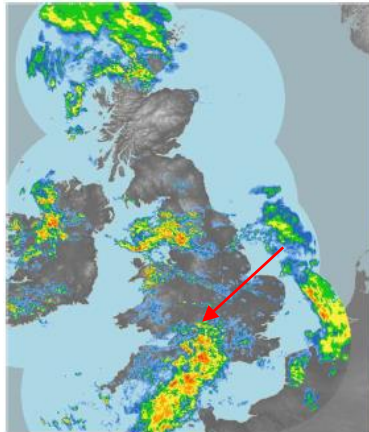
0600 UTC 23rd



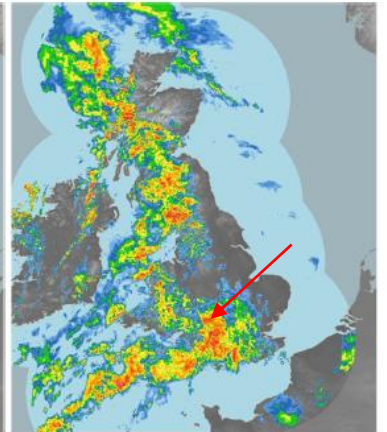
1200 UTC 23rd



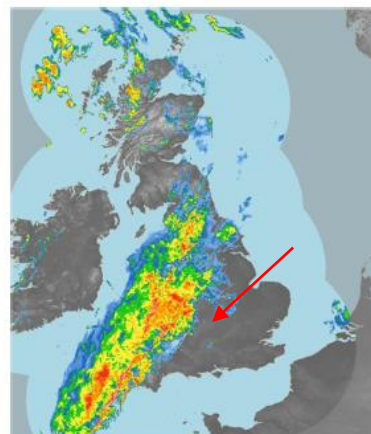
1800 UTC 23rd



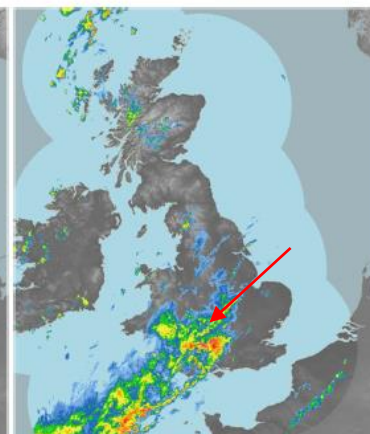
0000 UTC 24th



0600 UTC 24th



1200 UTC 24th



1800 UTC 24th

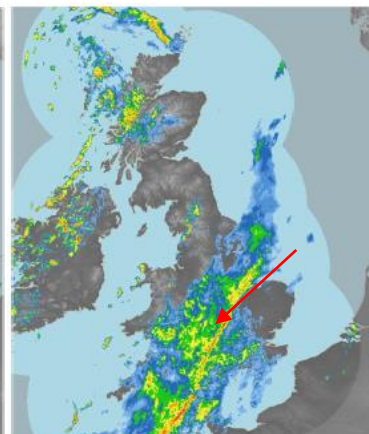


Figure 3 – Rain-radar images at 6 hourly intervals, from 7am (0600 UTC) on 23rd November – 5pm (1800 UTC) on 24th November

The Met Office also produced a map which indicates total rainfall amounts across the United Kingdom, as seen below. This also correlates with the rainfall data taken from Hydromaster, which indicates across three consecutive days (22nd-24th November) around 50mm fell within the vicinity of Long Compton. South of Long Compton in Oxfordshire, rainfall is seen to be higher, with rainfall amounts of up to 100mm.

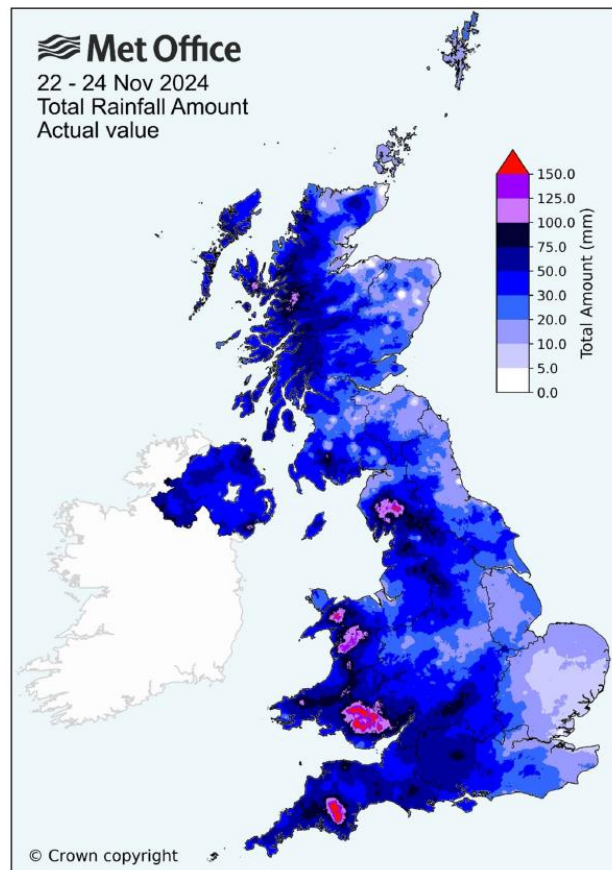


Figure 4 – Met Office Total Rainfall Amounts between 22nd-24th November 2024.

From the rainfall data published by the Met Office, it can also be seen that a large percentage of the Warwickshire County received rainfall over the same three-day period, which would equate to at minimum, 40% of the 1991-2020 total rainfall amount average for November. The areas of Long Compton and Barton on the Heath are denoted as receiving around 100% of the monthly average over a three-day period.

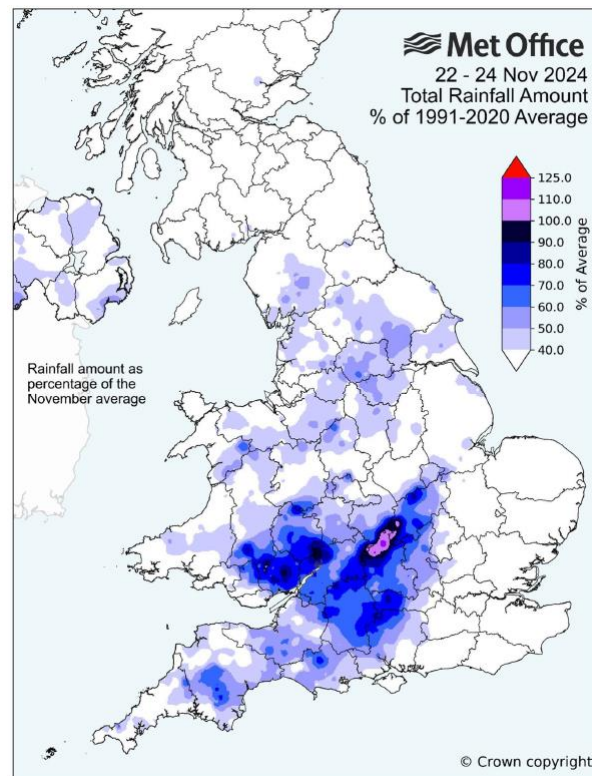


Figure 5 – Met Office Total Rainfall Amounts (% of 1991-2000 Average) between 22nd-24th November 2024.

Anecdotal reports, alongside reports from Long Compton residents suggests that the rainfall fell heavily over many hours, resulting in run off from surrounding fields and roads, in addition to water coming out of the banks of two ordinary watercourses. One of which runs through the centre of the village and the other being the Nethercote Brook. Several properties experienced internal flooding whilst more experienced external flooding to gardens.

Given the absence of accurate local rainfall data and a local rain gauge, it is conceivable that true intensities discussed above may have been higher.

Reviewing the rainfall for the month of November gives an idea of the saturation of the ground before Storm Bert arrived. Data from Hydromaster indicates 30mm of rainfall fell on the Long Compton catchment in the month leading up to Storm Bert, however anecdotal reports suggest flooding occurred at a faster pace, due to ice snowmelt from snow that fell in the days preceding the storm. Considerable amounts of rain in addition to snow and ice, increased the impacts of Storm Bert due to already saturated fields and full watercourses, leading to increased runoff.

5 INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

5.1 Locations included in the investigation

The details in this investigation relate only to flooding experienced within Long Compton on the 24th November 2024. The LLFA does however acknowledge flooding also occurred in September 2024.

The below figure shows the area of Long Compton covered by this report. The LLFA received reports of internal flooding from several commercial and residential properties on Main Street, Broad/East Street and Butlers Lane. Our recommendations following this flood event consider information obtained following a meeting with a representative of the community.

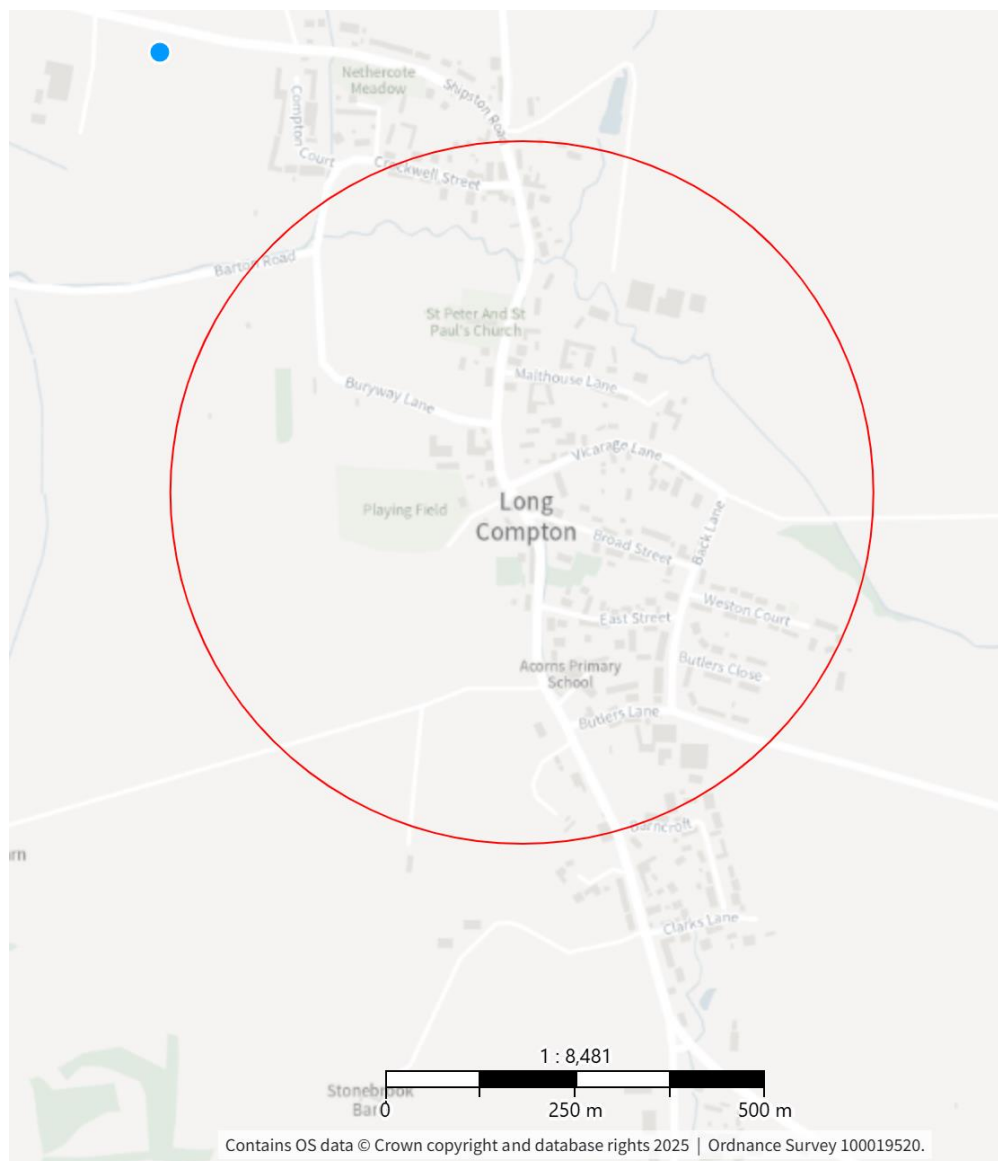


Figure 6 – Map of Long Compton showing location of investigation focus.
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6 KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE INVESTIGATION

6.1 Source of flooding

The flood impacts in Long Compton during this event were a result of surface water runoff from surrounding land (located in close proximity to the Western Bypass), inundation of the artificial drainage network such as highway drains and the water level in the Nethercote Brook being high which resulted in an unnamed ordinary watercourse running through the centre of the village (adjacent to Main Street) backing up and bursting its banks. The capacity of the Nethercote brook was also exceeded

Where surface water flows were present, much of the resulting flow followed the route of the existing highway with the resulting effect of channelling water. This was evidenced by the large amounts of surface water ponding on the highway and routing towards properties as a result of the existing highway drainage systems quickly reaching capacity.

The Environment Agency's Risk of Flooding from Surface Water mapping shows the modelled data for Long Compton. The flow routes seen during this flood event mimic those seen on the modelled data.

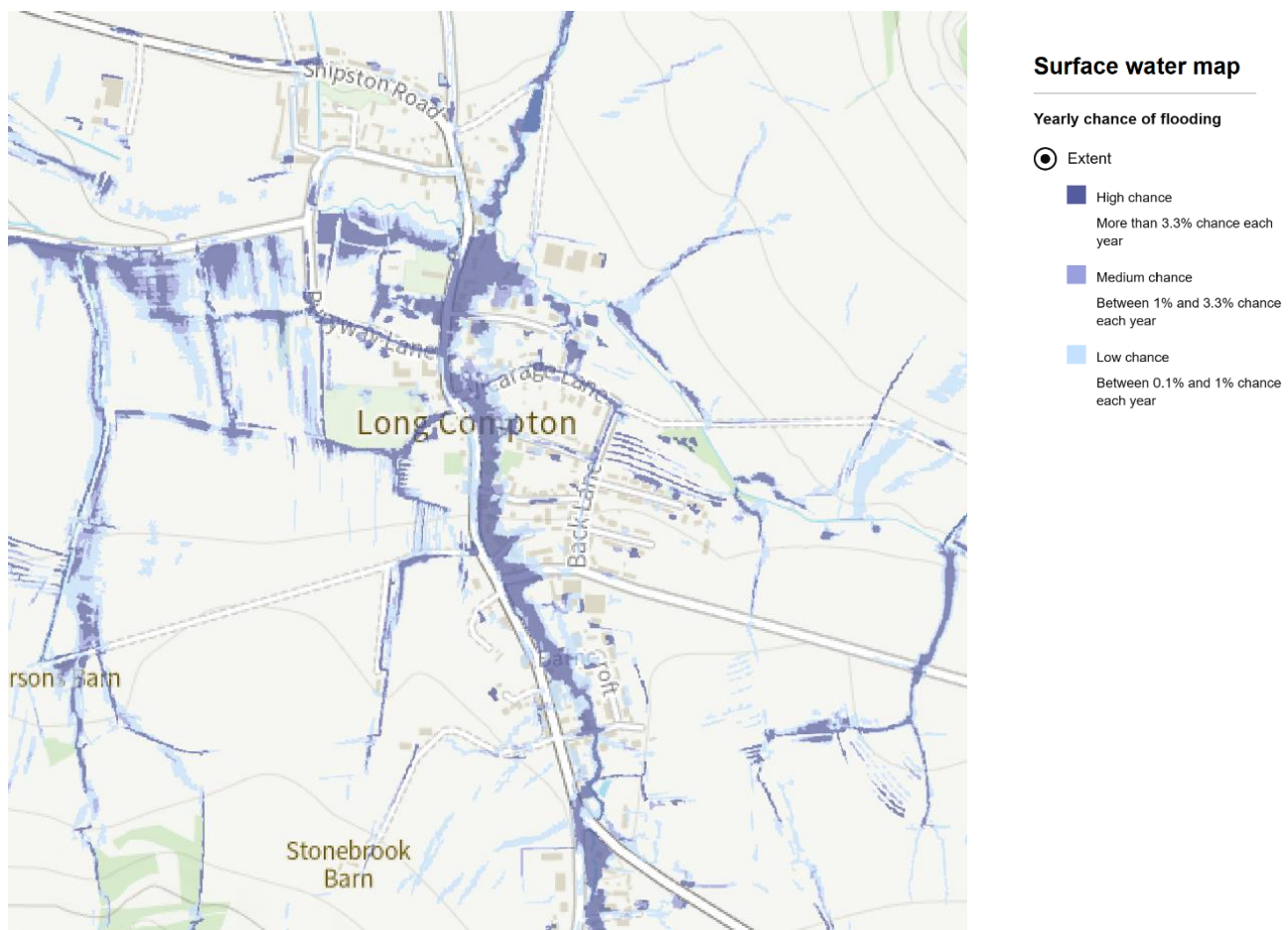


Figure 7 – Risk of Flooding for Surface Water modelled data

Flooding was reported in three main areas of Long Compton.

- Main Street,
- Broad/East Street
- Butlers Lane

All properties internally flooded during this storm event flooded from similar sources. Appendix A-B provides further details on how, to our knowledge and from the information we have available, the flooding in Long Compton occurred on the 24th November 2024.

6.2 Gathering data for the investigation

After the November 2024 flood event, officers from WCC (Flood Risk Management) attended a site meeting with a resident in Long Compton to ascertain the number of properties affected by flooding, to what extent they were affected and the mechanisms through which the flooding occurred. As part of this site visit a site walkover also took place to view areas of concern and conversations were held over potential mitigation measures and their viability. At the time of writing these discussions are still ongoing with WCC and the community in regular communication. Due to under reporting, the true scale of flooding only came to light a few months after the event which was why only one resident was present at the site meeting.

6.3 Summary of investigations

From our investigations and conversations with a resident in Long Compton, there was no obvious failure of any artificial drainage infrastructure that led to the flooding in Long Compton on the 24th November 2024. WCC County Highways will continue to cleanse the highway drainage on a cyclic basis.

WCC and the local resident are in conversation to assess the viability of diverting a certain volume of water from the central ordinary watercourse running adjacent to Main Street into the Western Bypass. This work would be subject to an Ordinary Watercourse Land Drainage Consent (OWLDC) application and a pre-application meeting was held in June 2025 where WCC outlined what they would expect to see as part of any future application. It should be noted that any such application would need to be driven at a local level.

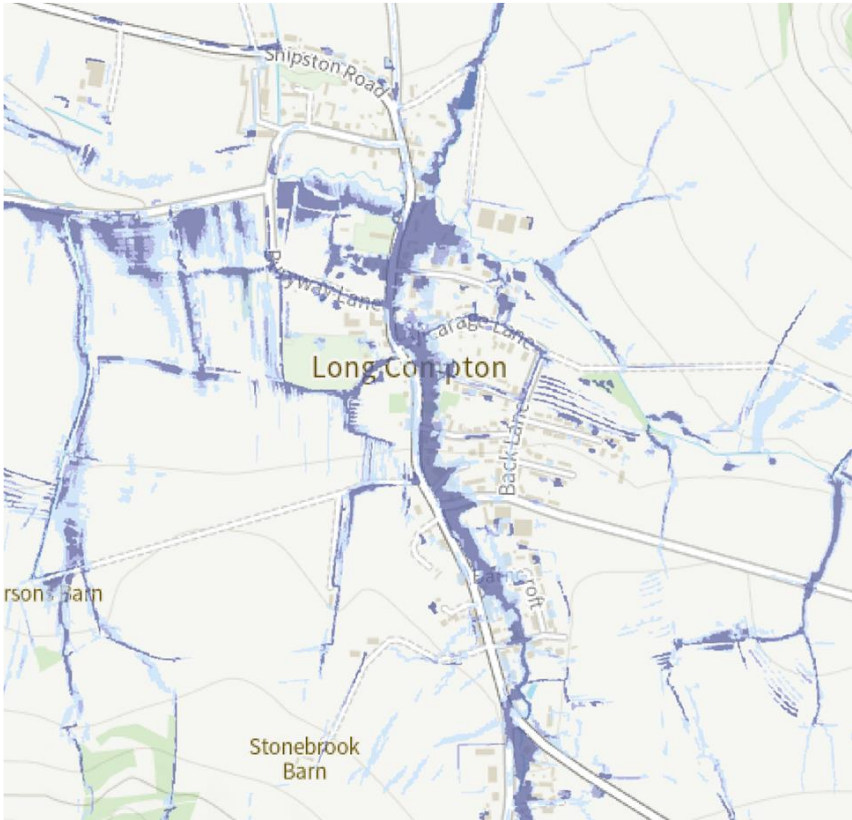
Discussions have also taken place with the resident as to whether Natural Flood Management (NFM) may be appropriate in reducing flood risk to the village. Any such NFM scheme would also be subject to an OWLDC application and would be supported by WCC. Any such application would again need to be driven at a local level.

WCC Flood Risk Team are gathering information and looking into the potential for a Capital Scheme for the at-risk properties. Whilst the information for a scheme is being gathered, there is no guarantee that a scheme would be economically viable and therefore all options for reducing risk should be considered by residents.

7 APPENDICIES A-B: LOCATION REPORTS

Appendix A: Long Compton Location

Appendix B: Long Compton Actions and Opportunities

 WCC Section 19 Flood Investigation	Long Compton, Stratford District Appendix A																
What was affected? <table> <tr> <td>Confirmed residential properties internally flooded</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr> <td>Confirmed commercial properties internally flooded</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Properties externally flooded</td><td>0</td></tr> </table> Source of flooding <table> <tr> <td>Surface water</td><td>✓</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sewers</td><td>✗</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main river</td><td>✗</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ordinary watercourse</td><td>✓</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other</td><td>✗</td></tr> </table>	Confirmed residential properties internally flooded	20	Confirmed commercial properties internally flooded	4	Properties externally flooded	0	Surface water	✓	Sewers	✗	Main river	✗	Ordinary watercourse	✓	Other	✗	What are the existing surface water mechanics and systems in Long Compton? The village of Long Compton is situated in Stratford District around 5 miles south of Shipston on Stour. The village is positioned on Main Street with several small side streets breaking off which are all shown to be at risk of surface water flooding. There is an ordinary watercourse which runs parallel to Main Street and flows through numerous antique culverts before discharging into the Nethercote Brook north of Malthouse Lane. The brook then flows west and away from the village The fields surrounding Long Compton are shown to convey surface water flow routes towards the village contributing to numerous different routes of passage onto Main Street and during heavy storm events, the volume of water puts pressure on the existing highway drainage system into reaching capacity. The highway drainage system in Long Compton discharges into the ordinary watercourse running adjacent to Main Street. West of the village there is a system which is locally referred to as ‘the western bypass’ which does serve to drain the fields to the west of the village reducing the volume of runoff entering the village. Long Compton is served wholly by Severn Trent Water (STW) combined sewer systems which takes effluent from the village to the sewage treatment plant located northwest of the village.
Confirmed residential properties internally flooded	20																
Confirmed commercial properties internally flooded	4																
Properties externally flooded	0																
Surface water	✓																
Sewers	✗																
Main river	✗																
Ordinary watercourse	✓																
Other	✗																
	What happened here on 24th November 2024? In the days preceding the flood event, the Met Office named the incoming weather system as Storm Bert. Rainfall radar data for Long Compton showed that the week encompassing Storm Bert (21st-28th November), the catchment in which Long Compton is located received 60.3mm of rainfall. Over 50mm of this rainfall fell between November 23rd and 25th. It should also be taken into consideration that preceding Storm Bert, the county did receive snowfall. This snowfall melted as this continuous rain fell on areas of the county, including Long Compton, during Storm Bert. As a result of the snowfall and rain, the levels in the Nethercote Brook where high which therefore meant that the ordinary watercourse running through the centre of Long Compton (adjacent to Main Street) was unable to discharge and therefore backed up into the village and subsequently burst its bank. The capacity of the Nethercote Brook was also exceeded. The highway gullies located on Main Street ordinarily discharge into the ordinary watercourse running adjacent to Main Street however, given the high-water level, the gullies were unable to discharge into this watercourse. This led to the highway and numerous residential and commercial properties to internally flood. Numerous open fields surround the village and following heavy snowfall and rain, surface water runoff from these fields was conveyed towards the village where the artificial drainage systems was at capacity further contributing to the flooding situation in the village. The surface water flows were broadly in line with the National Surface Water Flood Risk Mapping.																
Source: Environment Agency (Risk of Flooding from Surface Water, Main River Mapping). Note this is modelled information indicative of the main risk areas. It does not indicate the areas that flooded in November 2024.	Is there a history of flooding in this location? WCC as the LLFA hold historic records of flooding occurring in Long Compton with reports received in 2016, 2019, 2020, 2023 and 2024. The majority of these reports relate to internal property flooding however WCC also hold records of flooding to the highway as well as commercial premises.																

No.	Action	Responsible authority	Progress
1	Ensure that highway cyclic gully cleansing is scheduled and undertaken at an appropriate interval	WCC Highways	Ongoing
2	Consider undertaking a study to assess potential mitigation options	LLFA	Ongoing
3	Offer advice to residents that have been internally flooded from this flood event.	LLFA	Completed
4	Consider a potential Land Drainage Consent application for works to divert flows from the central watercourse to western bypass	Flood Action Group	Ongoing
5	Consider a potential Land Drainage Consent application for NFM works to the east of the village.	Flood Action Group	Ongoing
6	Ensure maintenance of riparian owned watercourses/culverts is carried out as deemed appropriate to ensure the free flow of water.	Riparian Landowner	Ongoing

What are the future opportunities that may reduce flood risk here?



8 APPENDIX C – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Critical infrastructure	Infrastructure which is considered vital or indispensable to society, the economy, public health or the environment, and where the failure or destruction would have large impact. Examples include hospitals, communications, electricity sub-stations, water treatment works, transport infrastructure and reservoirs.
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	The government department responsible for policy and regulations on environmental, food and rural issues. This includes all aspects of flood risk management.
Environment Agency (EA)	See Appendix D.
External flooding	Flooding of areas of property that are not under the definition of internal flooding. Examples include gardens, driveways, parking areas and outbuildings such as sheds and garages.
Flood Risk Management (FRM)	FRM aims to reduce the likelihood and/or the impact of floods. This typically includes the following elements: prevention, protection, preparedness, response and recovery. In the context of this report, FRM also refers to the team at WCC which undertakes the LLFA role.
Exceedance flows	Excess surface water flow that occurs when the capacity of the drainage system is exceeded.
Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA)	Legislation which came into effect in April 2010. The Act takes forward a number of recommendations from the Pitt Review into the 2007 floods and placed new responsibilities on the Environment Agency, local authorities and property developers (amongst others) to manage the risk of flooding.
Internal flooding	Flooding of habitable living or business areas of a property. This does not include gardens and outbuildings such as sheds, garages etc. and not normally basements and porches.
Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)	See Appendix D.
Main River	Watercourses designated as 'main' are generally the larger arterial watercourses, as shown on the Statutory Main Rivers Map. The Environment Agency has permissive powers, but not a duty, to carry out maintenance, improvement or construction work on designated main rivers.
Ordinary watercourse	A watercourse that is not a designated Main River. On ordinary watercourses the LLFA (or Internal Drainage Board if relevant) have permissive powers, but not a duty, to carry out maintenance, improvement or construction work.
Pluvial or surface water flooding	Caused by rainfall exceeding the capacity of the ground or drainage system and occurs due to water ponding on or flowing over the ground surface before it reaches a drain or watercourse.

Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures	Measures that are designed to keep flood water out of properties and businesses, and could include flood barriers and doors, non-return valves and airbrick covers. Sometimes also known as Property Level Resilience (PLR).
Riparian landowners	Someone who owns land or property adjacent to a watercourse. Under common law, a riparian owner has a duty to maintain the watercourse and allow flow to pass through freely.
Risk management authority (RMA)	An authority which is defined as such in the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. Such authorities have powers that they can use to carry out their flood and coastal erosion risk management responsibilities. See Appendix I for a summary of these responsibilities.
Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map (RoFSW)	National-scale long-term risk mapping on gov.uk website showing the areas of England at risk of flooding from surface water. Extent, velocity and depth information is available for a range of flood probabilities.
Section 19 Flood Investigation	An investigation of a flood event by the Lead Local Flood Authority under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
Severn Trent Water (ST)	See Appendix D.
Warwickshire County Council (WCC)	See Appendix D.

9 APPENDIX D – RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have defined roles and responsibilities with regards to flood risk management, as defined within the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

All RMAs under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) have a responsibility to cooperate and coordinate with regards to their flood risk management functions, including raising awareness of flood risk and the sharing of information.

The section below outlines the key roles and responsibilities of the RMAs relevant to this Section 19 flood investigation.

9.1 Environment Agency

The Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for taking a strategic overview of the management of all sources of flooding and coastal erosion in England and Wales. They have prepared strategic plans which set out how to manage risk, provide evidence (for example, their online flood maps), and provide advice to the Government.

They provide support to the other RMAs through the development of risk management skills and provide a framework to support local delivery. The EA also has operational responsibility for managing the risk of coastal erosion and flooding from main rivers, reservoirs and the sea. Main Rivers are defined through an agreed map which is updated annually. These tend to be the larger rivers in the country.

The EA are category 1 responders regarding flood risk (Civil Contingencies Act 2004). They are required to warn and inform of flood risk.

9.2 Water and sewerage companies

Severn Trent Water (STW) holds responsibility for managing risks of flooding from water supply and sewerage within the majority of Warwickshire. Thames Water have a small area of responsibility in the south of the county.

Water and sewerage companies (WaSCs) as category 2 responders to national emergencies placing on them duties to share information with other responders in an appropriate manner. They are also responsible for managing risks associated with assets or processes that may cause or be affected by flooding.

Relevant actions include the inspection, maintenance, repair and any works to their water and sewerage assets which typically includes pipes, manholes, attenuation tanks or other infrastructure such as pumping stations.

9.3 Warwickshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority

Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) have the lead operational role in managing the risk of flooding from surface water and groundwater.

Flood risk management functions include (but are not limited to); the provision of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) and Surface Water Management

Plan, designation and maintenance of a register of structures or features that have a significant effect on flood risk, consenting and enforcement works on Ordinary Watercourses, undertaking works to mitigate surface water and groundwater flooding and undertaking Section 19 investigations.

The LLFA are a statutory consultee on major planning applications for surface water drainage. By working with developers and local planning authorities, the LLFA role is to ensure that runoff arising from major development sites is appropriately managed to avoid increasing flood risk.

9.4 Warwickshire County Council as Highway Authority

WCC also has responsibilities as a Highways Authority which may relate to flooding. Highway authorities are responsible for providing and managing highway drainage which may include provision of roadside drains/ditches and must ensure that road projects do not increase flood risk.

The Highways Authority has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain existing highways drainage. They also have powers to improve drainage systems but no duty to do so.

Highway drainage systems are designed to take highway surface water. Highway drainage systems are not designed as “storm drains”, and do not have the capacity for the level of rainfall from an extreme flash flood.

9.5 District and Borough Councils

District and Borough Councils can carry out flood risk management works on ordinary watercourses. Through the planning processes, they control development in their area, ensuring that flood risks are effectively managed. This includes the development of plans and strategies to limit or mitigate development in flood risk areas.

Within Warwickshire there are 5 district/borough councils: Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwick District Council, Rugby Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council.

9.6 Landowners

Landowners have riparian responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) to maintain and undertake any necessary works on assets on their land (with consent from the relevant RMA) which may have an effect on flood risk including watercourses and drainage assets.

Further information on riparian responsibilities is available on www.gov.uk/guidance/owningawatercourse