

- How do we demonstrate to the EA that land has flooded?

This is classed as historic flooding, we are able to consider changes to outlines if we receive more credible data than what we have. This can be in the form of a film, which is date stamped, which shows water coming out of the bank and flood levels. If the data/evidence is valid then it can form part of the flood zone 2 outlines, they do not form part of flood zone 3 outlines. This is our national position and it has been challenged in the past. Not one person is able to verify. We need the physical evidence.

- How do we get maps altered?

To challenge our flood maps you would need to carry out hydraulic modelling, which is a computer simulation of how a river may flood, based on real world measurements. Evidence of historic events can be used to back up the model and vice versa. To change the flood maps we would need as much data as possible. Once we have been given a model we have a specific team that checks the accuracy. Modelling this area would be expensive as all the water courses would have to be included.

If the data and information is accepted then the maps will be changed. The planning authority do not get formally told. We check and update flood maps four times a year.

The agency does get consulted on any local plans that the council undertake to ensure they have used the most up to date data.

- Can planning consent be held up on the flooding issue until it is proven one way or the other

Land stays the same classification as it is until the decision has been made on the status of that specific site.

- Is there a strategy for the prevention of flooding in our Parish, are there any schemes planned awaiting funding?

Can you give us any details on the work planned along the Devon and subject to funding being available when would it take place?. Is there a requirement for a strip of land on either bank of the Devon to be kept clear for your access and maintenance purposes?

The agency requires 3 meters either side of the river to gain access with our equipment. This could be for mowing or clearing activities.

For this area on the River Devon we have full time members of staff to ensure that weed growth is under control to ensure that the river flows are kept clear.

There are planned works to carry out de-silting on the River Devon, this will start 25th January 2016.

Each year we have to ask for money for specific activities. We have asked for modelling of Bottesford to take place due to the area a high priority. But we will not know if we have

secured the funding until December 2016 for it then to happen is 17/18. The modelling will include the surrounding water courses as well to get the whole picture of what is happening. Once we have the information we shall be able to accurately assess which properties are at risk and what level of flooding is.

- Can you help us derive a strategy and program of works that will truly minimise the risk of flooding in the parish?

We could look at improvements, such as improving our flood warning system. If there are any schemes planned we could look at getting joint funding (maybe with the local authority etc).

In our plan we should identify any necessary schemes that safeguard the Parish

- We have four waterways that impact on the parish, the Grantham Canal, Winterbeck, Rundle and River Devon. The 2001 event showed that all were involved in the flooding and they affected Muston, Easthorpe and Bottesford and the flood only subsided when the Devon drained the water. These four waterways are under separate authorities can there be an organisation (such as the EA) that takes an overview of all of them?

Considering how these waterways inter-relate, and they all seem to be under the control of different Authorities how would we achieve a coordinated plan and the necessary action?

All of these will be included in the modelling.

- The local reservoirs I understand are under different authorities, can the EA have an influence on these?

This is true, Knipton reservoir is owned by Canal and Rivers Trust. We do have a duty under the reservoir act to ensure the reservoirs monitored and maintained

We have a dedicated team in Exeter of engineers who collate inspection reports and carry out audit.

We inspect the reservoirs every year and they have a statutory inspection every 10 years.

If you notice any issues or faults please contact : John Outram 03708 506 506

The flooding in Cumbria and elsewhere has apparently meant that flooding will be looked at it a different light, how will that effect the EA's plans in our area?

The agency currently is involved at looking into upstream land management with farmers. Take into account the whole river system instead of just smaller scale management.