

Storm Darragh Flooding on Rye Tributaries December 2024

Summary of Section 19 report for
Area Committee 27 March 2026



Section 19 Process

- Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states that on becoming aware of a flood in its area, a Lead Local Flood Authority must investigate the flooding including the functions risk management authorities in response to the flood.
- Section 14 of the FWMA grants the LLFA power to request information associated with its functions.
- Section 3 of the North Yorkshire Council Flood Risk Strategy (2025) outlines the criteria that would trigger a Section 19 Investigation. Storm Darragh was judged to warrant a formal Section 19 Investigation due to:
 - The relationship with the functions of other Risk Management Authorities.
 - Number of properties internally flooded.
 - The depth, area or velocity of flooding reported.
 - The nature and extent of critical infrastructure impacted by the flood.

Flood History

History of Flooding on the River Dove

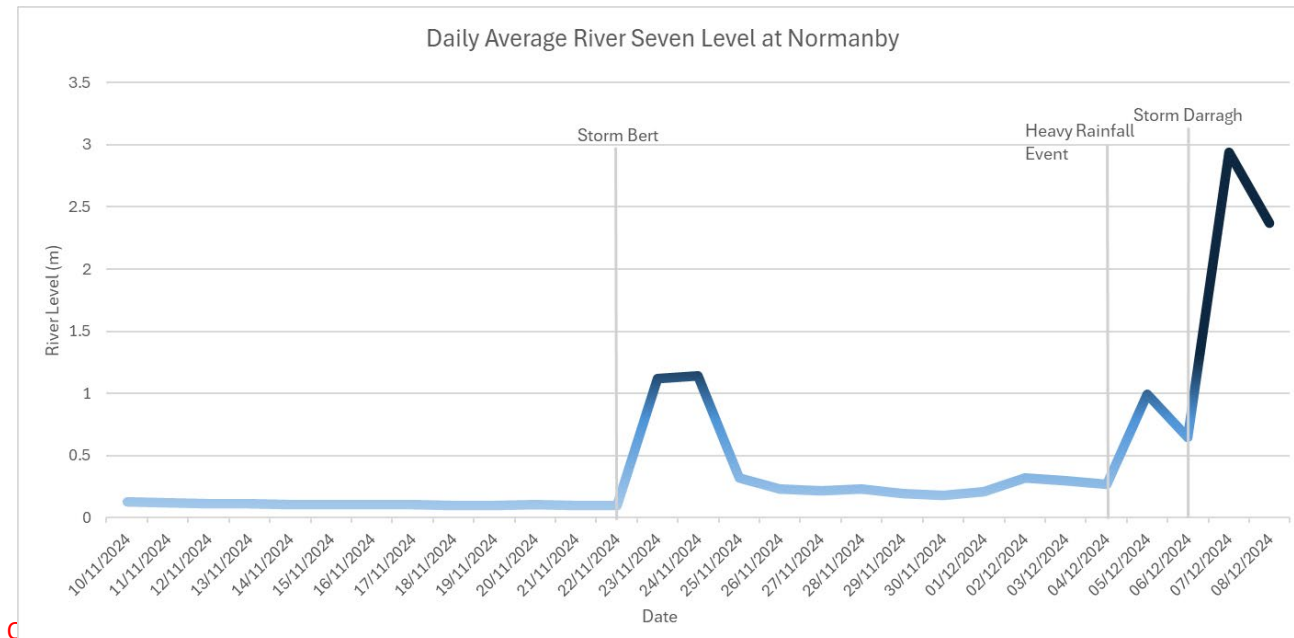
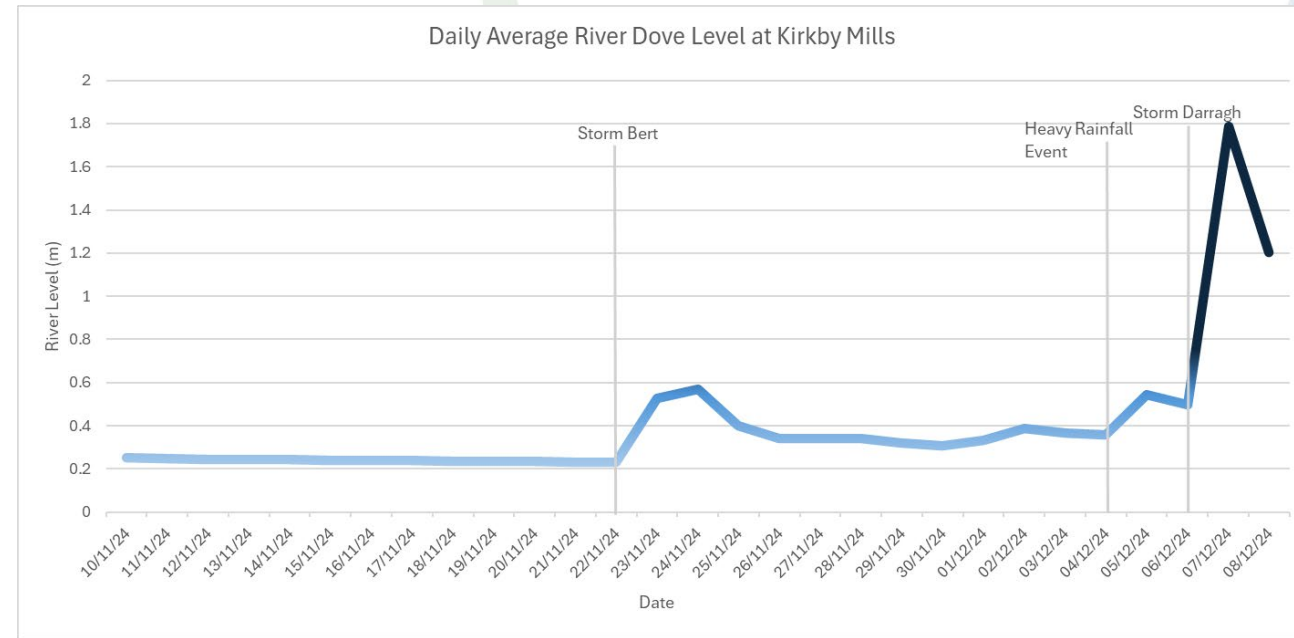
- July 1872** ● **Kirkby Mills:** Streams rose 36 inches in a few minutes, causing significant flooding – *York Herald*
- July 1930** ● **Keldholme:** Local properties flooded – *Malton Messenger*
- 1946** ● **Keldholme:** Houses damaged by flooding with 3-4 ft of water – *Yorkshire Post*
- Autumn 2000** ● **Keldholme:** Properties Flooded
- August 2002** ● **Kirkby Mills:** Properties Flooded
- September 2008** ● **Kirkby Mills:** Properties Flooded
- September 2020** ● **Kirkby Mills:** Properties Flooded

History of Flooding on the River Seven

- May 1864** ● **Sinnington:** Streams rose with unexampled rapidity carrying down trees and rocks – *Yorkshire Gazette*
- 1866** ● **Sinnington:** Village Flooded – *Yorkshire Gazette*
● Marton: Water was 5ft deep – *Yorkshire Gazette*
- Summer 1872** ● **Sinnington:** Summer thunderstorms lead to many houses being flooded – *York Herald*
- August 1878** ● **Marton:** All access to Marton suspended – *York Herald*
- November 1878** ● **Sinnington:** Floodwater covered the village green – *Malton Messenger*
- September 1880** ● **Sinnington:** Railway station was an island amongst floodwater, with some stating the flooding was worse than the 1878 flood event – *Yorkshire Gazette*
- June 1895** ● **Sinnington:** The whole village was flooded from the Seven – *Yorkshire Post*
- June 1895** ● **Sinnington:** The whole village was flooded from the Seven – *Yorkshire Post*
- September 1931** ● **Sinnington:** The village was inundated with many houses Flooded. Records of flooding on the River Seven were broken – *Yorkshire Gazette*
- Autumn 2000** ● **Sinnington:** Several properties flooded
- August 2002** ● **Sinnington:** Around 10 homes flooded – *York Press*
- June 2007** ● **Sinnington:** River Seven broke its banks, flooding the village – *York Press* and resident records– *York Press*
● Marton: Village was flooded with sandbags deployed – *York Press*
- September 2008** ● **Sinnington:** 3ft of water in homes – *York Press*

Preceding Weather

- On the 23rd of November, Storm Bert hit the UK bringing 6 hours of persistent and extensive rainfall with intermittent rainfall continuing into the 24th November.
- Between Storm Bert and the onset of Storm Darragh, 2 weeks of frequent short duration intermittent rainfall was present in the Rye catchments.
- Prior to the onset of Storm Darragh, on Thursday 5th December there were 2 hours of sustained intense rainfall, which maintained high river levels within the Rye catchment.

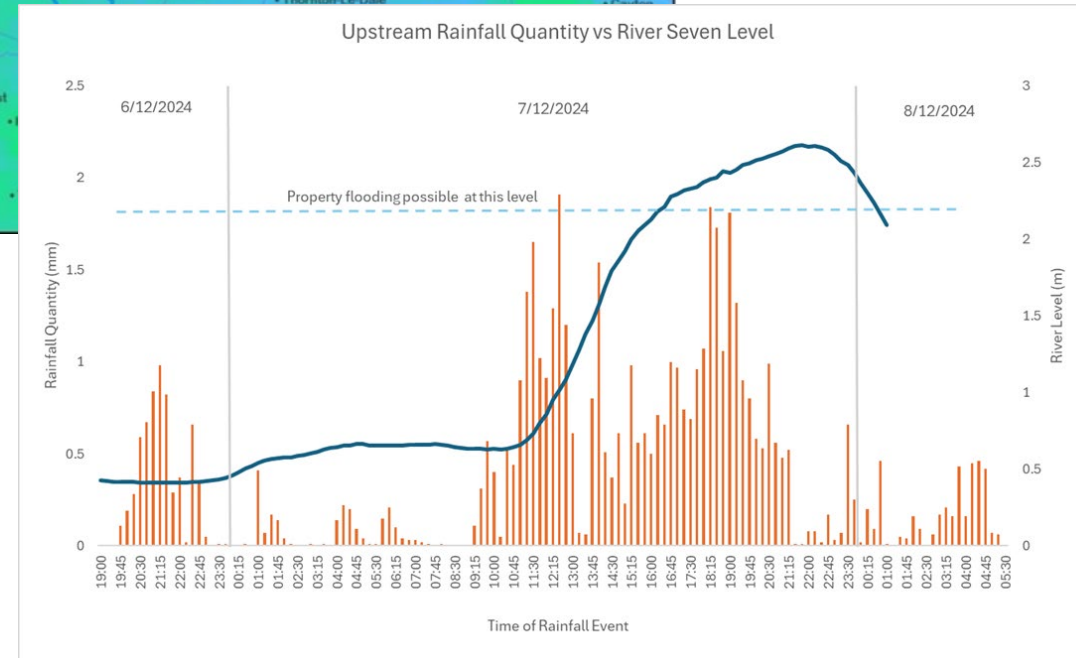
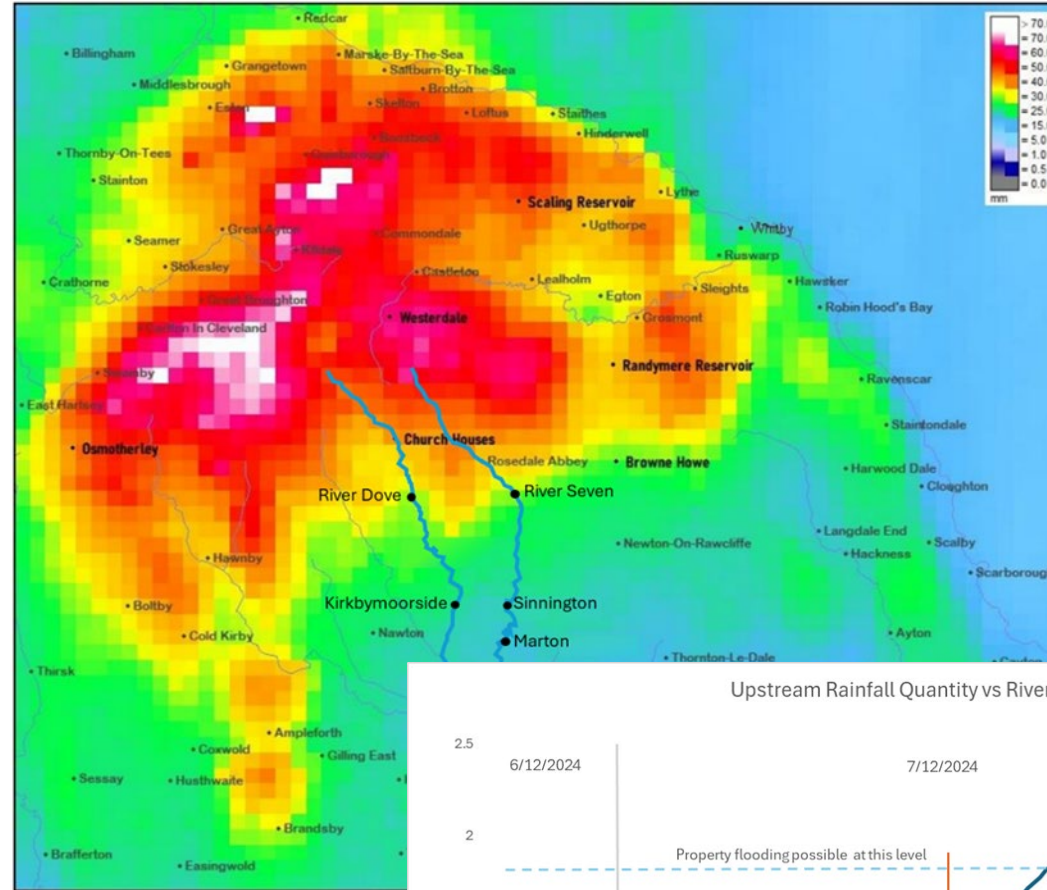


Storm Darragh

Storm Darragh rainfall lasted approx. 12 hours, from roughly 9am to 9pm and totalled at 15.5mm of rainfall in the areas of Kirkby Mills, Sinnington and Marton.

Higher up in the catchment received more intense rainfall, for a longer duration with about 80mm of rainfall accumulated within 25 hours.

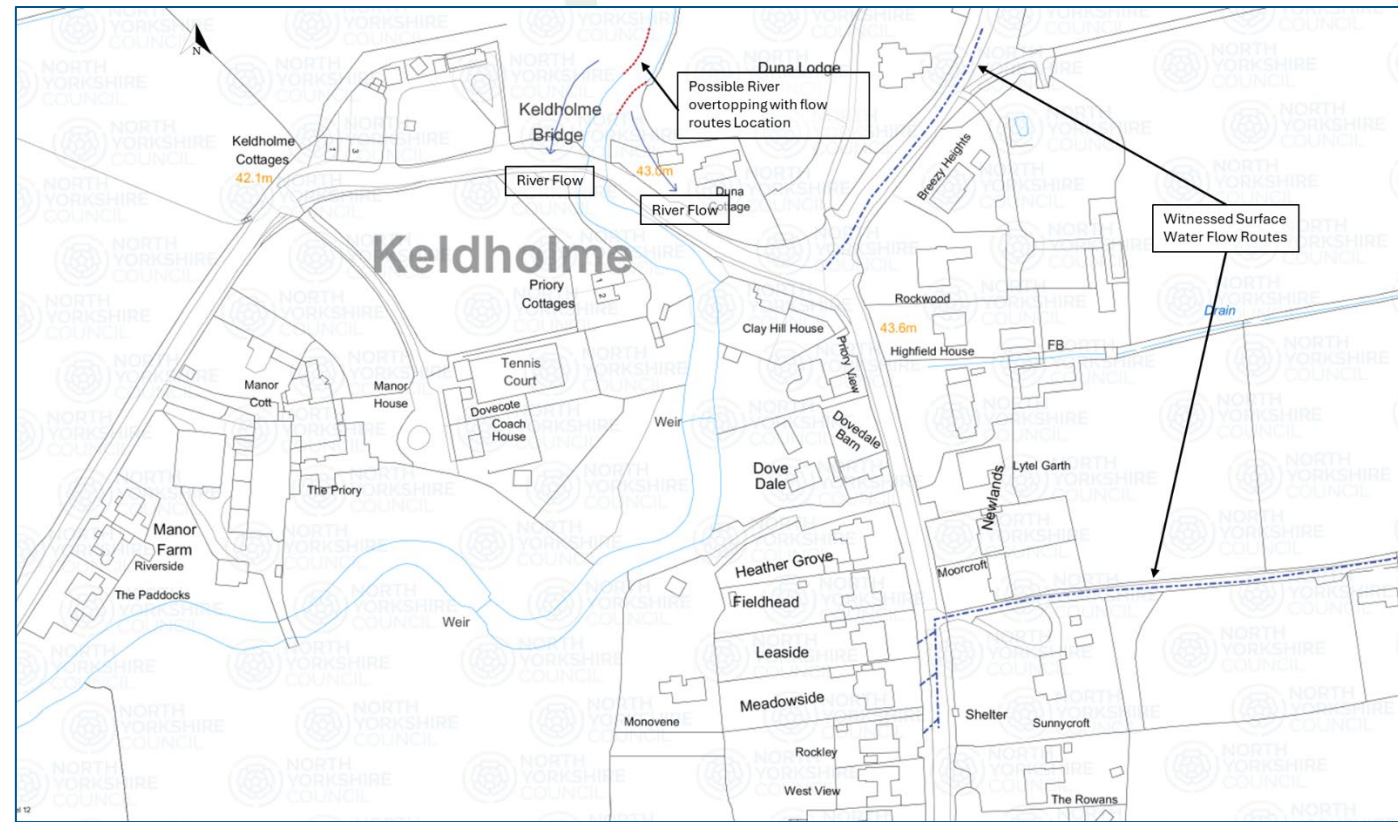
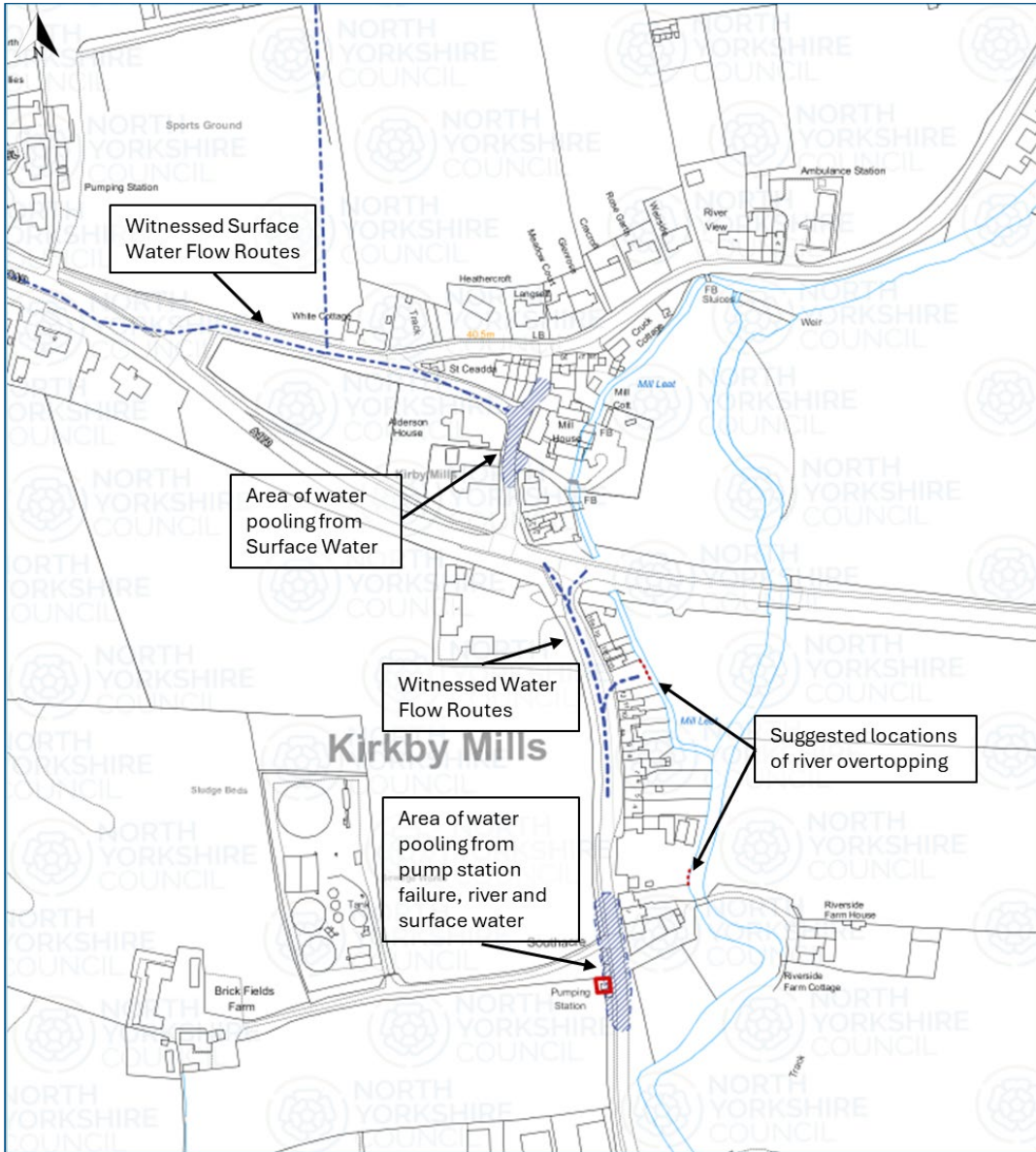
The Rivers responded rapidly to the upstream rainfall.



Impacts – Kirkby Mills and Keldholme

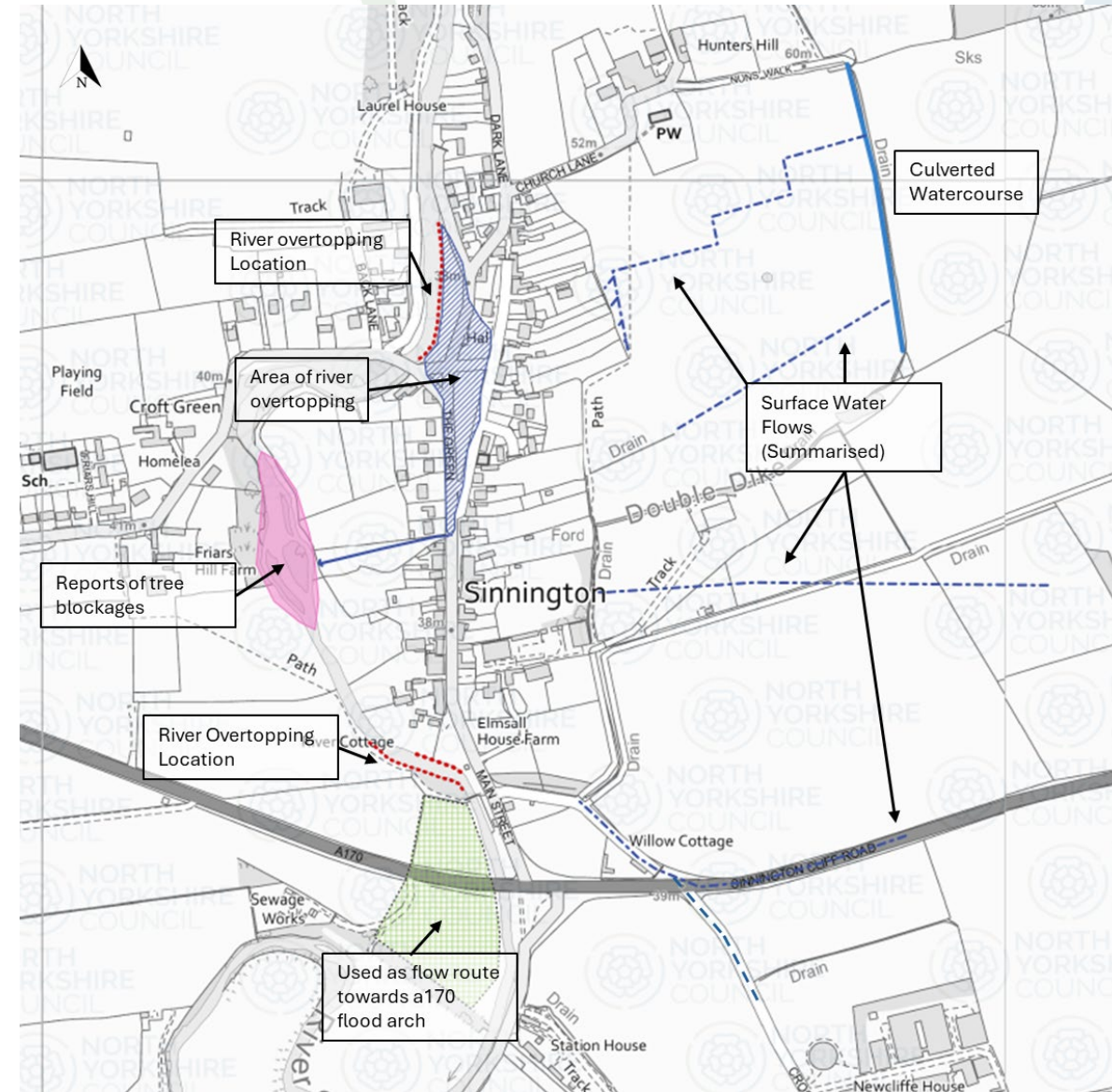
- A total of 29 records of internal flooding and near-miss events were reported.
- The first property was reported to have flooded at approximately 16:00 due to an overtopping of the Mill Race.
- Surface water flows were observed travelling from Kirkbymoorside and along the A170, accumulating in topographical low points.
- Yorkshire Water reported a power failure at their pumping station south of Kirkby Mills at 17:22, with a second failure occurring at 23:11. The latter event also affected the backup system. During pump failure, excess water was diverted to the River Dove





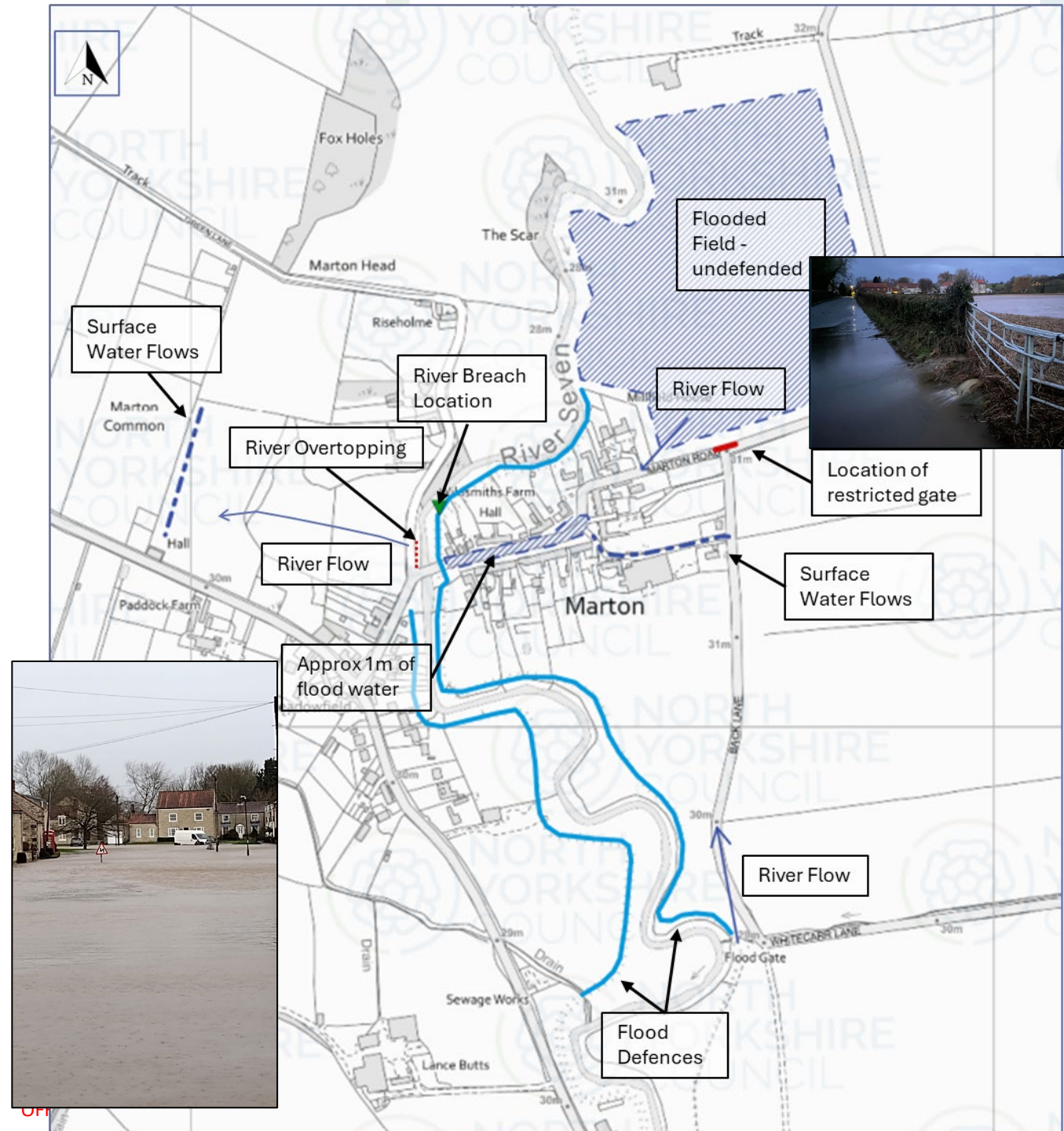
Impacts – Sinnington

- A total of 21 flood incidents were reported, of which 19 involved internal property flooding
- Many properties avoided internal flooding through the use of improvised flood defences, including sandbags, towels and boards.
- Flooding was observed through river overtopping and surface water flows coming into the village.



Impacts – Marton

- There were 24 reported flooding incidents, 20 internal property flooding.
- Marton is partially defended by flood embankments, which constrained the river until early morning on the 8th of December when a tree falling caused a breach in the embankment.
- Vegetation blockages caused an unusual re-routing of flood water into the main street of Marton.



Risk Management Response

Initial

- Resilience and Emergencies Team set up:
 - Bronze Commanders to liaise with emergency services
 - Set up Local Assistance Centre in Kirkbymoorside with assistance from Town Council – RET, Social Care, Housing, Highways, Localities, Flood Risk Management and Major Incident Response Team were some of The Council Departments who based themselves there for two weeks.
- The Council provided skips and helped with carpet and furniture removal.
- Flood Risk Management did site visits, set up 3 drop-in sessions and encouraged residents not already signed up to the Property Flood Alleviation Scheme running in the area, to sign up.
- £300 grants were made available to residents from the Two Ridings Foundation, to aid in the immediate recovery.
- The Environment Agency carried out temporary embankment repairs in Marton, after a tree was uprooted within the embankment.

Medium Term

- Flood Risk Management are continuing to work with contractors to survey and fit bespoke Property Flood Resilience to impacted properties.
- Resilience and Emergencies Team are engaging with local communities and Parish Councils to strengthen local preparedness through development of Community Local Plans.
- The Environment Agency are continuing their Natural Flood Management project on the River Dove, which aims to deliver 11,000m³ of water storage, reducing the flood risk to 12 properties in Kirkby Mills. A 17-hectare site at Grouse Hall performed effectively during Storm Darragh by storing and slowing a large volume of water that could have made its way downstream.

Recommendations

General:

- 1) The LLFA to continue to deliver the existing property flood resilience scheme that will benefit properties in Keldholme, Kirkby Mills and Sinnington.
- 2) All risk management authorities to continue responsive engagement and service within the villages.
- 3) Environment Agency to continue engagement and increase education regarding the flood warning system and landowner and homeowner responsibilities.

Kirkby Mills:

- 1) North Yorkshire Council Highways and Yorkshire Water to jointly investigate the drainage system north of the A170, focusing on interactions between the Yorkshire Water network, highway gullies, and the river near the Mill, and assess the potential benefit of installing a non-return valve at the outfall.
- 2) North Yorkshire Council Bridges team and landowners to de-silt and regularly monitor the bridge to maintain flow capacity and reduce flood risk.
- 3) Yorkshire Water to assess how the Combined Sewer Overflow affects river channel capacity and contributes to flood risk.
- 4) Yorkshire Water to investigate power failure of pumping station and configure plan to avoid it happening in the future Environment Agency to engage riparian landowners to raise awareness of their responsibilities and take enforcement action on unconsented works, including the weir and Mill Race.

Recommendations

Keldholme:

- 1) North Yorkshire Council Bridges as part of Local Highway Authority to continue to monitor silt levels under Keldholme Bridge.
- 2) North Yorkshire Council as Local Highway Authority and LLFA to explore opportunities reduce Surface Water flow impacts on the Highway from the East.

Sinnington:

- 1) North Yorkshire Council to work with landowners on riparian responsibility and engage in the education of surface water flow management.
- 2) North Yorkshire Council to explore maintaining the existing flow pathway on Main Street at Land Adjacent to Riverdell, is maintained in the event of any future proposals to develop the land.

Recommendations

Marion:

- 1) Environment Agency to review flood defence and tree management regime, work with landowners on educating riparian responsibility and undertake enforcement where needed.
- 2) Environment Agency to submit funding bids to further repair the breach and carry out other maintenance of the flood embankments and river channel where a business case for investment can be made and where funding is available. This includes bank surveys to assess for low spots, embankment repairs and tree and vegetation clearance to aid conveyance.
- 3) Yorkshire Water to demonstrate how separating out the surface water from the Combined system will not increase surface water flood risk if the river level is high and reduce bad connections as an output of the CCTV survey.
- 4) North Yorkshire Council Resilience and Emergencies Team to help set up a community action group with the assistance of Marion Parish.

Updates to Recommendations

Recommendations	Current Actions
Community Engagement	FRM running 2 drop-in sessions in April with RET, EA and YW
Property Flood Resilience – Kirkby Mills, Keldholme and Sinnington	All surveys complete and installations have begun, 6 properties complete
Kirkby Mills Drainage	Highways and Yorkshire Water have investigated the drainage and identified a location where a flap valve can be installed to reduce river water backflowing into the highway gully network
Kirkby Mills Yorkshire Water Combined Sewer Overflow	Engagement, funding and research being undertaken to understand one of the CSO's in Kirkby Mills
Keldholme Surface Water Flows	Highways have programmed work to alleviate some flows
Sinnington Surface Water and Drainage	Farming landowner has increase culvert capacity and discussing with neighbours about adding another ditch to capture surface water flows. FRM Team currently arranging surveys to the drainage network around A170 to better understand connections and identify any blockages.
Environment Agency Marton maintenance	Funding bid has been submitted for a permanent breach repair and a business case is being prepared for bank maintenance, reviewing bank condition, which will include tree maintenance and levelling out low spots.