

THE
DAVID TYRRELL
RECREATION
GROUND

Jerry Wood
Slow the flow

Agenda – outline thoughts

“It’s flooding property” = failure

“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results”

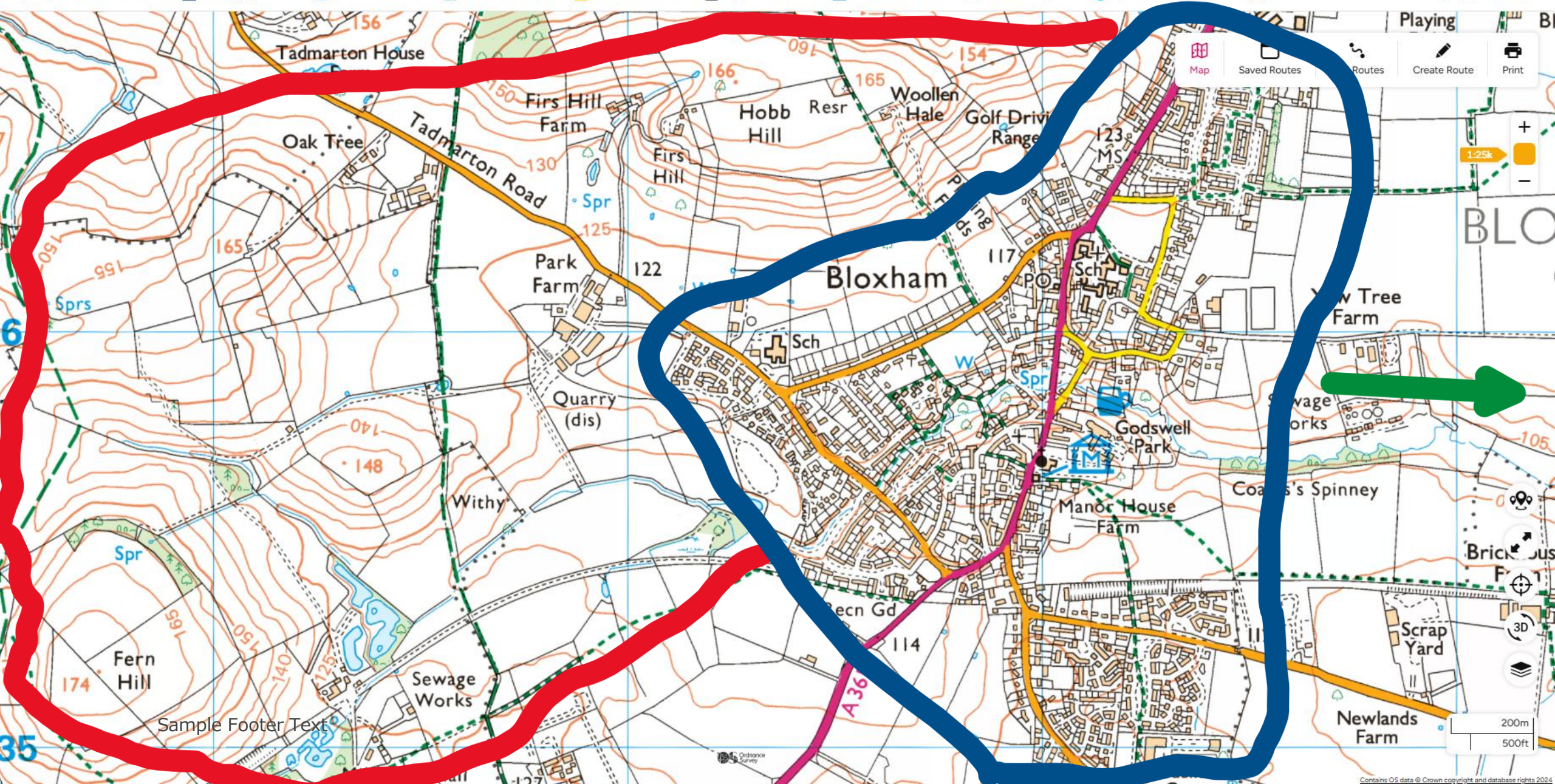
Success stories – local!

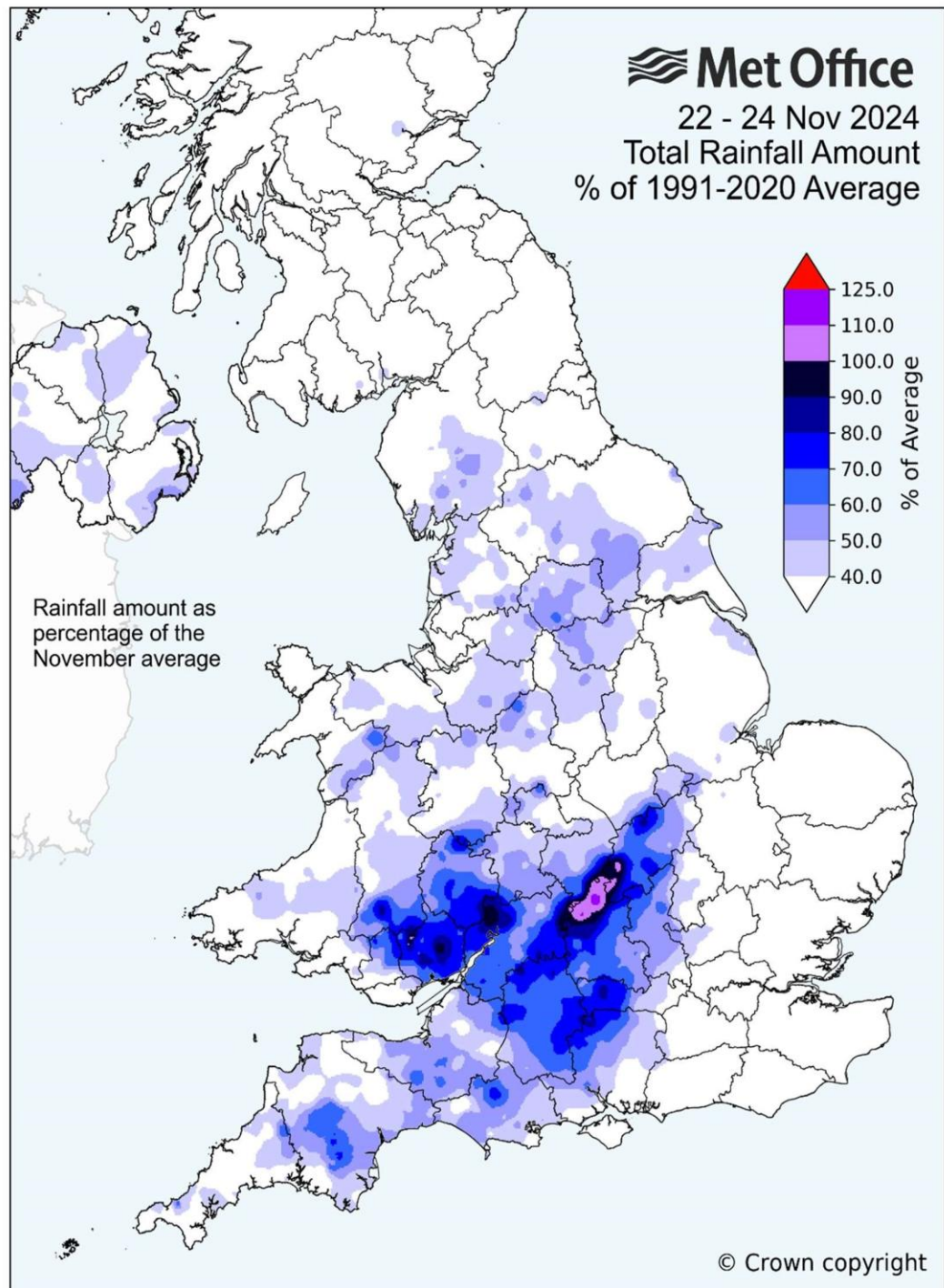
Actions completed, and underway

No “magic wand” or over-promising

This is complicated, with multiple people & agencies involved







Storm Bert

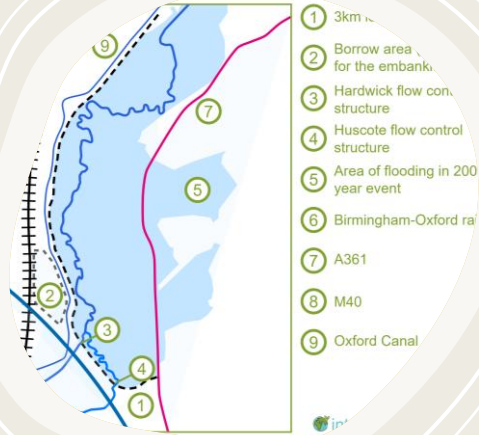
was the second wettest autumn on record in the Oxfordshire series from 1836, exceeded only by autumn 1960 (351.5mm). BUT, IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT STORM BERT!! More frequent / intense storms coming

Station	Elevation (masl)	Total 22-24 November 2024	November 1991-2020 average	% of average
South Newington, Oxfordshire	105	89.8	80.4	111.7
Banbury, Grimsbury P Sta, Oxfordshire	87	72.4	68.6	105.5
Chipping Norton S Wks, Oxfordshire	140	78.2	75.6	103.5
Usk, Monmouthshire	25	110.2	115.8	95.2
Byfield S Wks, Northamptonshire	136	64.6	67.8	95.2
Taynton, Black House Farm, Gloucestershire	73	83.4	88.8	93.9

The table above shows 3-day rainfall totals for selected rain-gauges which experienced the highest totals as a percentage of their November 1991-2020 whole-month average.

MAJOR success story

– Banbury



- Why? 1998 flood closed railway station & caused £12.5 million in damage.
- What? Flood storage **reservoir** north of the town at an investment of £18.5 million
- Built a 3-kilometre-long and 4.5-metre-high embankment
- Benefits are estimated at over £100 million with 441 houses and 73 commercial properties protected from flooding.
- Inspiration for our village



“Slow the flow” in the red area



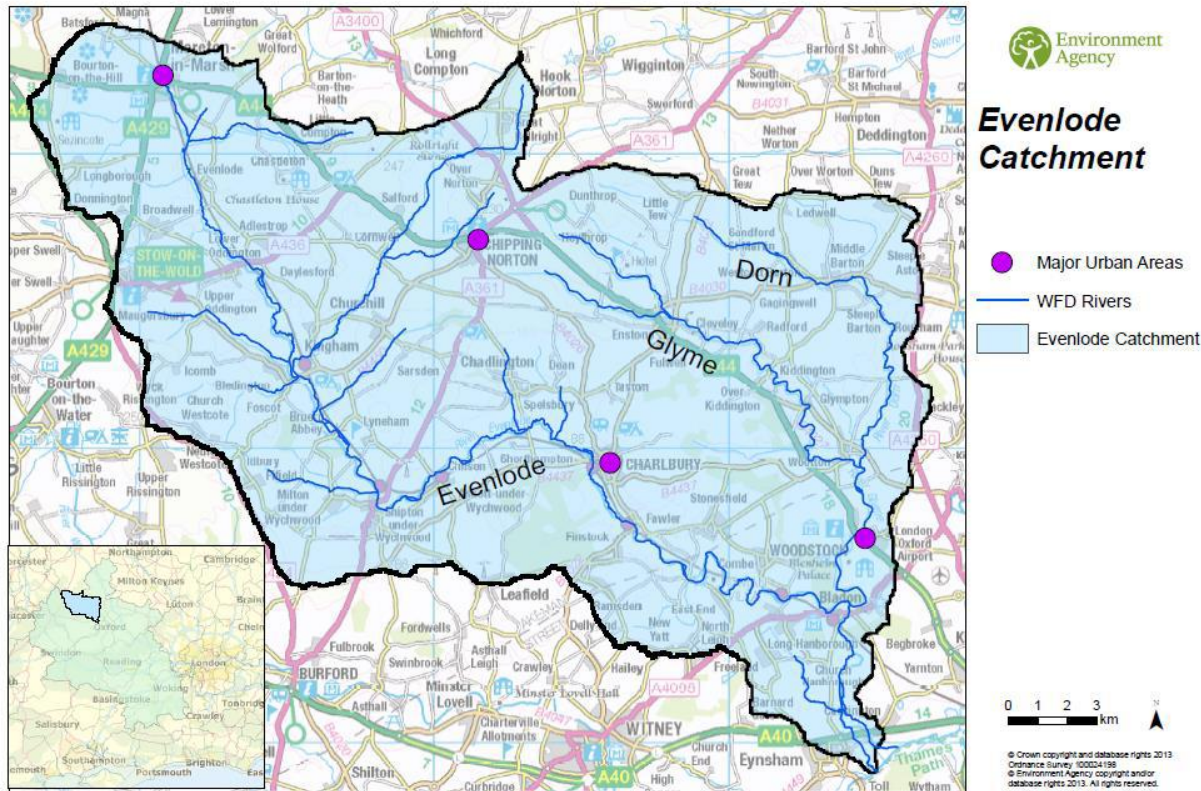
Reduce the rate at which water from the catchment area enters the village system. Reduce “peak flow”

Various methods:

- Plant trees & vegetation
- Improve soil porosity
- Improve drainage
- Re-meander streams and rivers
- Create (recreate) flood plains / ponds
- Leaky dams
- Temporary water storage areas



Evenlode Catchment project – next door Ann Berkely – a great help



Since 2014, the Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP) has been dedicated to improving water quality, enhancing biodiversity, and managing flood risks while increasing climate resilience across the Evenlode catchment area. Our mission is to create a thriving, sustainable water environment that benefits both wildlife and local communities.



Milton Under Wychwood

Key points about flooding in Milton Under Wychwood:

- Affected area:**

- "The Heath" is considered the most vulnerable part of the village due to its location near the confluence of Littlestock Brook a tributary of the River Evenlode.

- Cause:**

- Flooding is primarily caused by heavy rainfall leading to the overflow of Littlestock Brook.

- Impact:**

- Flood event in 31 May 2008 resulted in significant damage to properties in The Heath area. The Heath suffered extensive damage with 7 properties experiencing flooding, costing £400,000 in repairs

- Mitigation efforts:** The local parish council has implemented a Natural Flood Management (NFM) scheme to help manage flood risk in the area. Storm Bert did NOT cause a flood there.





Cornwell wetlands:

- Downstream from Chipping Norton
- Landowner was keen to re-purpose some unproductive fields used only for rough grazing
- Plans laid, funds acquired
- Re-connected a fast-flowing ditch to the former floodplain





Benefits of Cornwell wetlands project

- **c. 25,000 m³ (10 Olympic swimming pools) of water temporary storage created in just 1 of the 3 fields re-purposed**
- **This relieves the “peak flow” downstream**

A re-purposed UK flood plain could attract a range of wildlife, including:

Birds:

Waders like Lapwing and Redshank, wildfowl like Teal, Wigeon, and Shoveler, and species dependent on damp conditions such as Skylarks and Yellow Wagtails, as well as owls, kingfishers, and swans during flooding events.

Mammals:

Otters, water voles

Invertebrates:

Dragonflies, damselflies, water beetles, and pollinators like bumblebees, which rely on diverse wetland plants and flowers.

Amphibians:

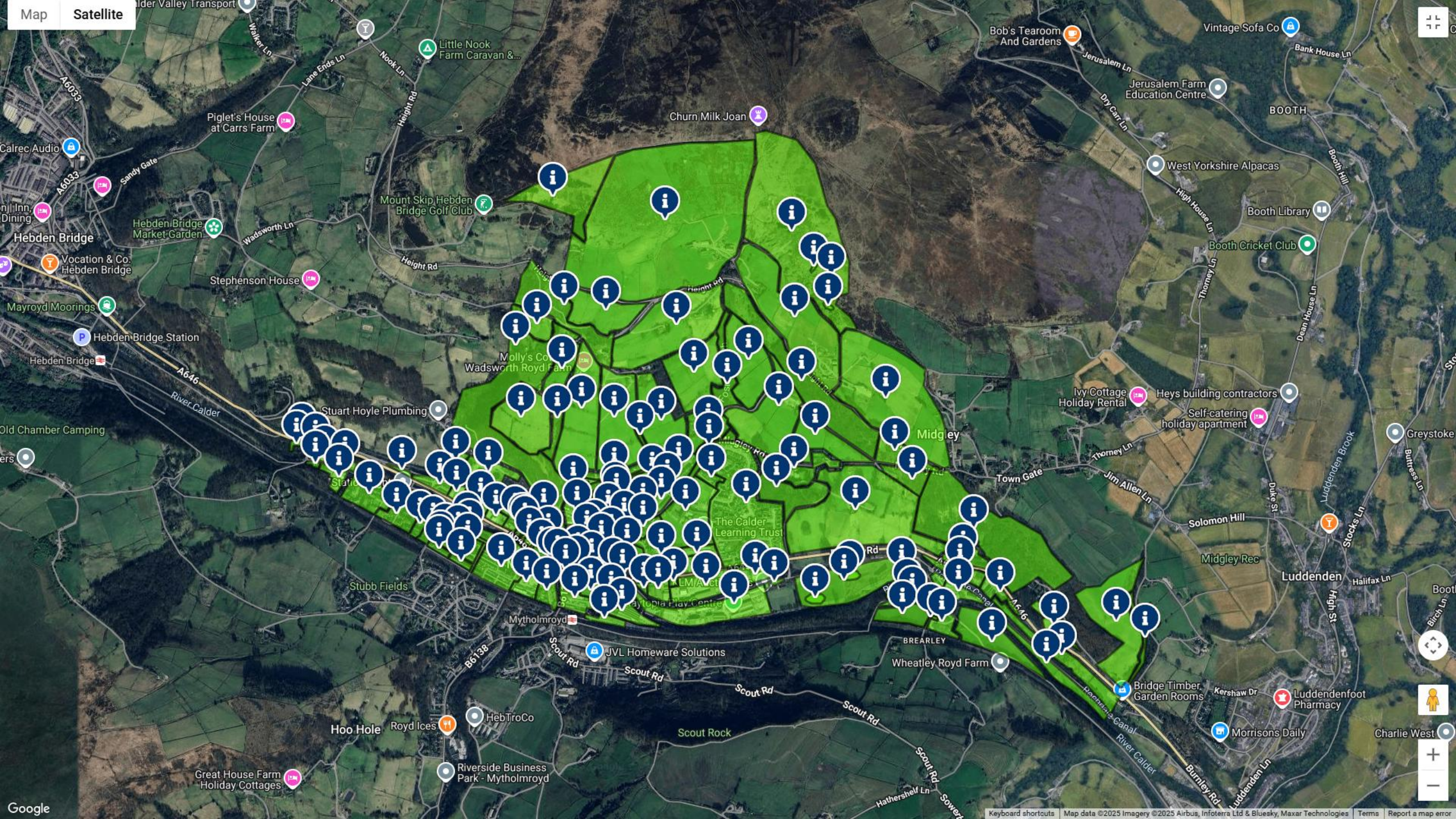
Frogs and other amphibians that thrive in wet environments, especially in the ditches and scrapes that form within flood plains.

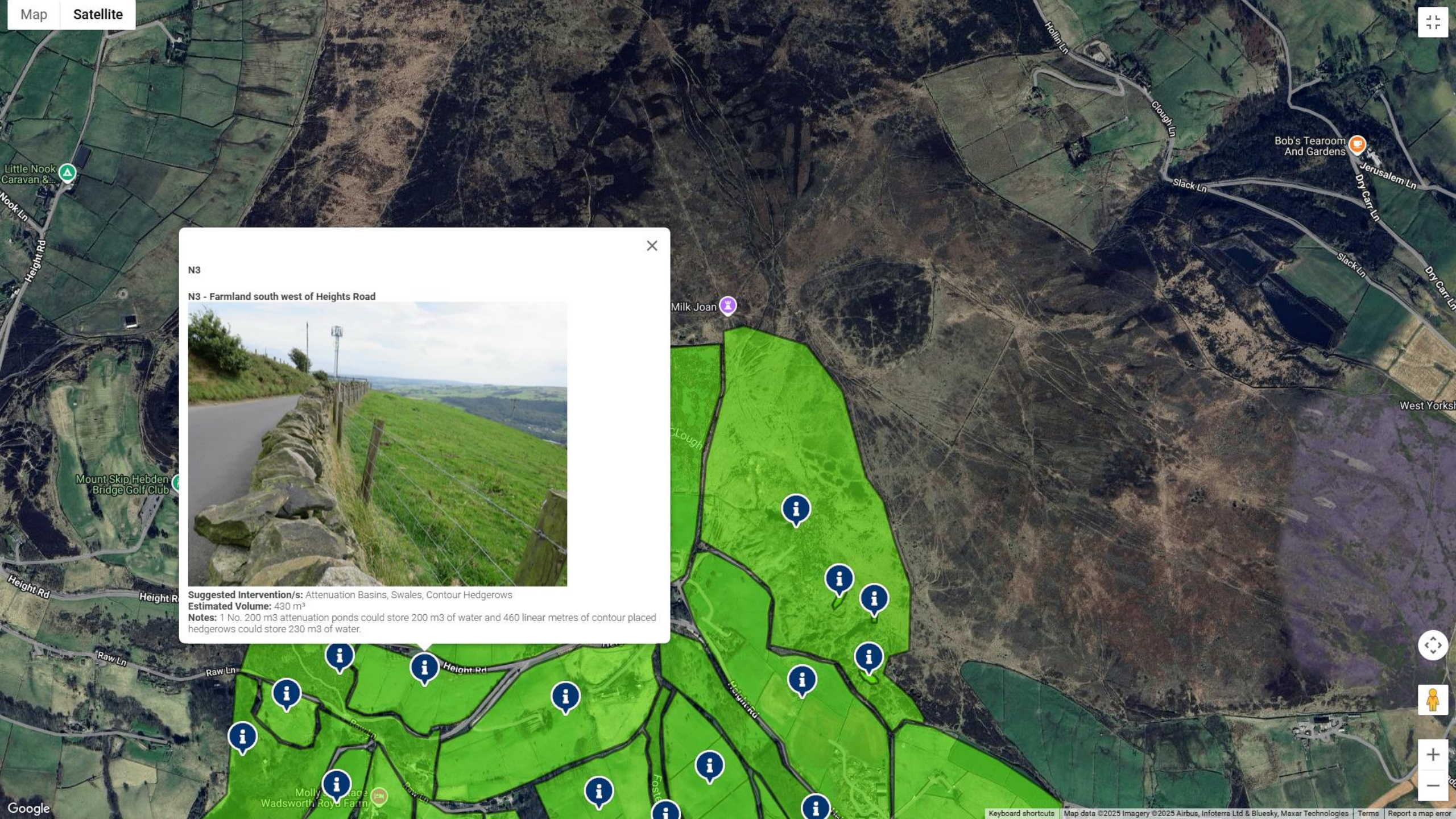
Natural flood management techniques



1. In stream structures for example woody debris
2. Blocking of moorland drainage channels
3. Woodland planting
4. Land and soil management practices, cover crops, hedgerows, suitable crops
5. River morphology and floodplain restoration for example removal of embankments and remeandering
6. Inland storage ponds and wetlands
7. Protecting riverbanks for example stock fencing
8. Sustainable urban drainage systems for example swales, wetlands in urban areas, green roofs, permeable pavements, detention ponds, filter strips
9. Saltmarsh restoration
10. Coastal managed realignment
11. Coastal change management

Taken from the [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England](#)





N3

N3 - Farmland south west of Heights Road



Suggested Intervention/s: Attenuation Basins, Swales, Contour Hedgerows

Estimated Volume: 430 m³

Notes: 1 No. 200 m3 attenuation ponds could store 200 m3 of water and 460 linear metres of contour placed hedgerows could store 230 m3 of water.



• We now have expert external help:

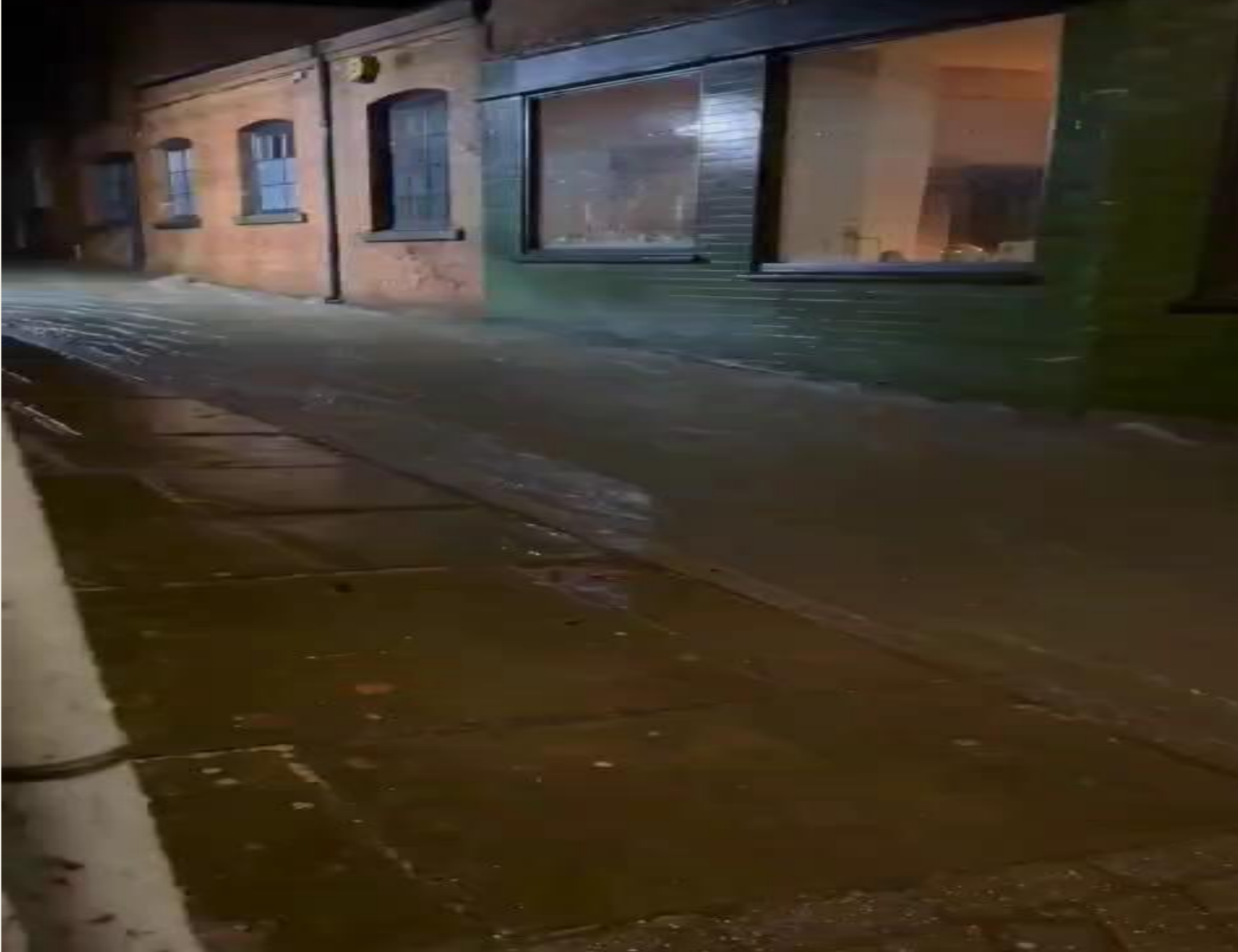
- Matt Wood (Environment Agency Catchment Coordinator Cherwell & Ray and Upper Thames)
- Mat Lloyd (Environment Agency)
- Adrian Porter (Chilterns Conservation Board)
- Michael Borchart (Natural England)
- Tom Hall (Catchment partnership and Cherwell farmer's cluster)
- Giles Strother (Land Adviser, Catchment host – Cherwell & Ray, Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust)
- Carolina Orlandi Pinto (River Restoration Programme Manager Thames 21)



Actions underway:

- Contacting various landowners
- Early days, but some are responding
- Reviewing which measures may be appropriate to our village
- Checking for grants & funds e.g. Expression of Interest for WEIF (Water Environment Improvement Fund) funding for study and design work





What next? NFM may look good – but how does it help US?

- Continue talking with landowners to get specific schemes in place
- Get data to support decision making
- Involve landowners – what's in it for them (retain soil and fertiliser etc.)
- Continue to contact existing successful schemes – pick their brains
- Investigate funding – it comes and goes
- Build awareness / momentum in the village
- Looking for volunteers! Join our flood group, provide expertise. Sign up sheet
- **IT IS TIME TO STOP BLOXHAM FLOODING - LET'S DO THIS!**