

Flood Resilience

Bloxham Flood Working Group

Thurs 25 September 2025

Bloxham Brook level at Bloxham

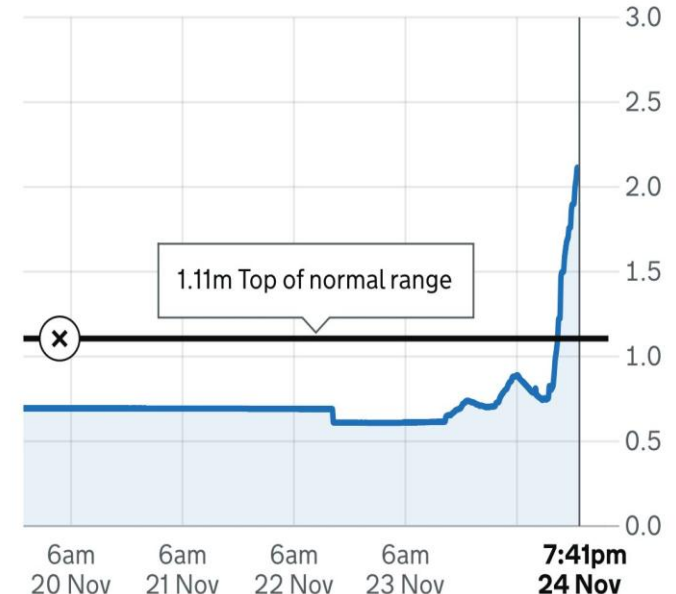
[Map](#) [Nearby levels](#)

Latest at 6:15pm on 24 November ⓘ

Height	Trend	State
2.11m ⓘ	Rising ⓘ	High ⓘ

Normal range 0.64m to 1.11m

Height in metres over the last 5 days



Housekeeping

Attendance sheets – circulating – these will allow us to stay in contact (*your address if not on email*)

Fire Exits

Purpose of this Evening

- Outline the Parish Council actions in response to the devastation of Storm Bert
- To identify actions to improve our flood resilience
- Share our ongoing plans to alleviate this type of flooding event in the future
- Storm Bert hit more properties in the village than anyone expected – so we want to make sure that **everyone** in the village can identify and make their own preparations for future storms.

Structure of our Presentations

Part 1 – Neil Hegarty, *Chair Parish Council Flood Working Group*

- **Overview of Storm Bert**
- **Actions taken since**
- **What we are still progressing**

Part 2 – Jerry Wood, *Village resident & Member of Flood Working Group*

- **Detailed look at impact of Storm Bert**
- **Overview of Natural Flood Management**
- **How we are working with our partners**

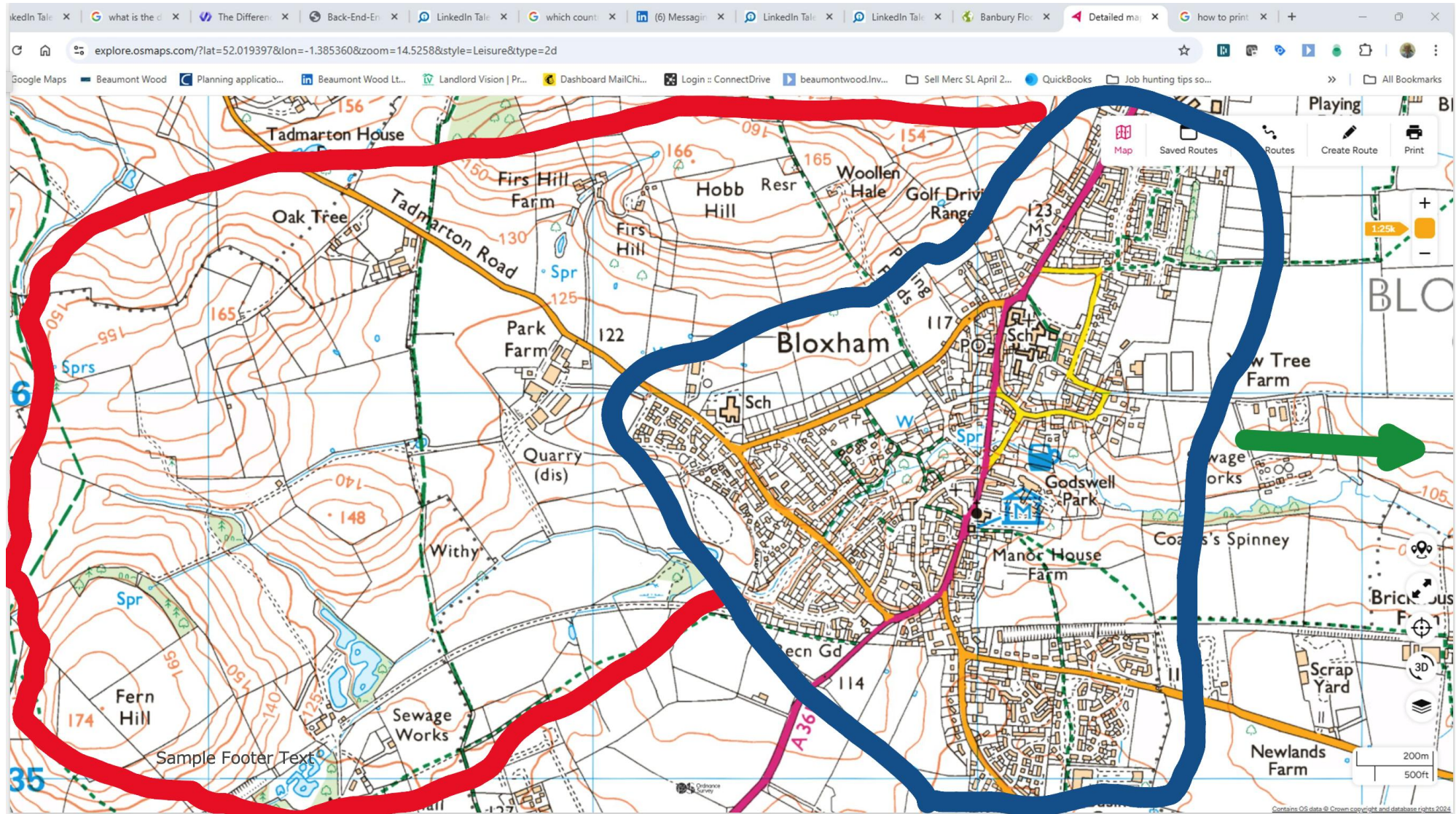
Storm Bert

- Record levels of rain
- Multiple areas of village hit
- Initial estimates were **35** properties impacted.
- Latest estimates put this closer to **65**
- Reports to OCC initiated their Section 19 process - report issued in July



Flood Working Group (FWG)

- Established at Parish Council meeting Dec 2024 and met early in 2025 - **3 Parish Councilors and 6 villagers**
- **Immediate focus :-**
 - Understand the scale of what happened
 - Review the village Emergency Response procedures
 - Identify anything we should do immediately to reduce the impact should another similar flood happen
- **Medium / Long Term focus**
 - What can we do to reduce the amount of water coming into the village



FWG Actions/1

- We saw a **fantastic response from villagers** on the night of the storm – helping others in need & distress
- Reviewed and updated the village **Emergency Plan**
- Focused on drain arrangements at Courtington Lane / Workhouse Lane junction – the S19 report also covered this problem
- Continuing to work with Bloxham School on flow from gullies from their playing field onto Courtington Lane

FWG Actions/2

- We highlighted problem with **blocked road drains** & gulleys and pushed OCC to get them cleaned
 - “Priority” drains cleaned Mar 2025
 - Wider village clean Aug 2025 (*awaiting confirmation of certain streets/drains*)
- Encourage use of “**FixmyStreet**” for reporting clogged drains etc –
 - OCC do this work – so the more reports are better
- Identified websites giving **flood resilience advice**
 - Real time water levels in the Bloxham Brook
 - General advice on flood resilience – OCC, FloodMary etc

FWG Actions/3

- January - walked the brook with EA rep – identified **action area around Little Bridge Road bridge** – now mainly cleared with final section next week
 - He highlighted that volume of water in brook was too great to pass under the bridges
- There is a lot of **debris in the brook** at the moment – because of the dry summer.
 - If you live beside the brook you need to clear it out before heavy rains come
- Issued our research on “**sandbags**”

FWG Actions/4

- We have **reviewed the OCC Section 19 report**, and identified actions we need to take, chase and expedite
 - **The report is on our website**
 - Some of the short-term actions have been completed (and this workshop is one of them) but others will remain ongoing for some time
- At times we need **volunteers** – if there is something blocking a drain or culvert – then move it!
 - **Preferably before, but also during a storm!**
 - **If you're a villager with skills that might be of use in what you're hearing about – then please come on board!**



FWG Actions/5

- Wanted to share our progress with the village – hence this workshop.
 - *(Thanks to Jerry for all his work on the flyer and the delivery!)*
- It was easy to see that reducing the flow of water into the village was vital – so we looked for other local villages that had faced this problem and had taken positive and successful action
- Jerry will cover how we approached this, and the partners we are now engaged with, in the next part of the presentation