

# Flood Investigation Report

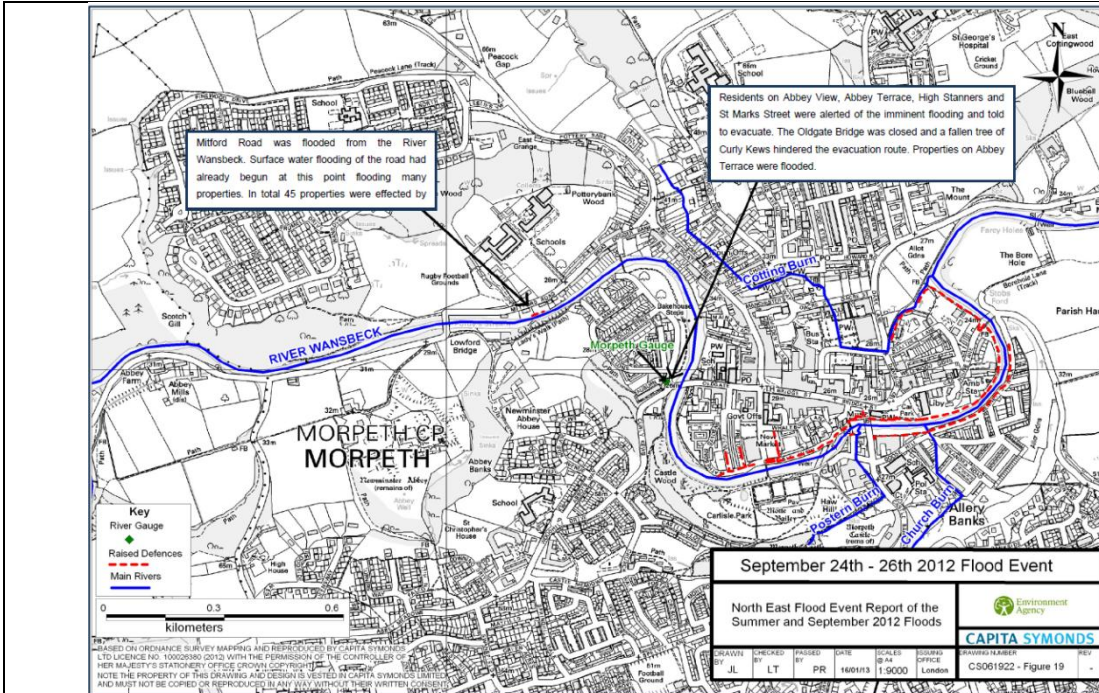
4.14

Location: **Morpeth** Incident Date: **25/09/2012**

## Source(s) of flooding:

Ordinary Watercourse	Main River	Surface Water	Groundwater	Sewer	Sea	Tidal Lock
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impacts (number)	Residential	Business	Other Buildings	Roads	Critical Infrastructure
	<b>45</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>



## Description

Morpeth is located on a meander of the River Wansbeck. The Cotting Burn, Church Burn and Postern Burn, all designated as main rivers, flow through the centre of Morpeth and discharge into the River Wansbeck. There is flow gauge located upstream of Morpeth on the River Wansbeck at Mitford and a level gauge located in the centre of Morpeth at Oldgate Bridge.

Following the sustained heavy rainfall falling within the River Wansbeck catchment, the river burst its banks in Morpeth in the early hours of 25 September 2012. During the flood event a peak level of 27.11m AOD was recorded at Morpeth level gauge and flooding was recorded at 45 properties. Approximately 700 properties were protected by existing Environment Agency flood defences. Mitford Road began to flood from the River Wansbeck, surface water flooding of the road occurred earlier.

Flows from the Cotting Burn came out of bank and caused flooding within the Copper Chare area of central Morpeth. Eight properties were reported to have flooded.

The Environment Agency issued a Flood Alert for the River Wansbeck at 1800 on 24 September. This was upgraded at 0400 on 25 September to a Flood Warning for the River Wansbeck at Riverside and at 0730 for the River Wansbeck at Morpeth (Mitford Road area).

High Stanners was the first area to experience flooding with it commencing at 0445 on 25 September. This was followed by Dawson Place which began to flood from the Cotting Burn around 0600 – 0700. Also around this time (0615-0700) Oldgate Bridge was closed and a fallen tree on Curly Kews hindered the evacuation route for residents. The evacuation of residents began in the High Stanners at this time. At 1000 Mitford Road began to flood from the River Wansbeck; however, at 1100 the evacuation of residents ended and the peak on the River Wansbeck had passed.

Morpeth has a longstanding history of flooding with records of flooding dating back to 1839. Most recently, flooding occurred in 2008 affecting approximately 1000 properties and, prior to this, the last major flood occurred in 1963 when 482 properties were flooded.

After the 2008 flood event, a scheme to alleviate flood risk from the River Wansbeck through Morpeth was proposed. This scheme has commenced with completion scheduled for late 2014.

**RMA Actions:**

<b>NCC</b>	<i>Exercised:</i>	Carried out FIR; Internal review undertaken reviewing NCCs response to the flood event in Morpeth;
	<i>Proposed:</i>	Flood Exercise with all RMA partners undertaken in Morpeth. Continuing to work with RMA partners in delivering the Morpeth Flood Alleviation Scheme. In addition working on a scheme looking at alleviating surface water flooding issues within Morpeth.
<b>EA</b>	<i>Exercised:</i>	Assisted in FIR
	<i>Proposed:</i>	Continuing to work with RMA partners in delivering the Morpeth Flood Alleviation Scheme
<b>NWL</b>	<i>Exercised:</i>	
	<i>Proposed:</i>	
<b>Other</b>	<i>Exercised:</i>	
	<i>Proposed:</i>	

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## Additional supporting information



Plate 1: Northumberland Fire and Rescue services within Morpeth



Plate 2: Flooding on Mitford Road, Morpeth

### **Sign Off**

Drafted by: Environment Agency / James Hitching (NCC)

Approved by:

**Date**

26/06/13

RMA Notification: EA ☒ NWL ☒ Other ☐ (please specify)