

Settlement: North of Staunton on Wye

Location of Investigation

Figure 1: Large Scale Map showing location of study area North of Staunton on Wye

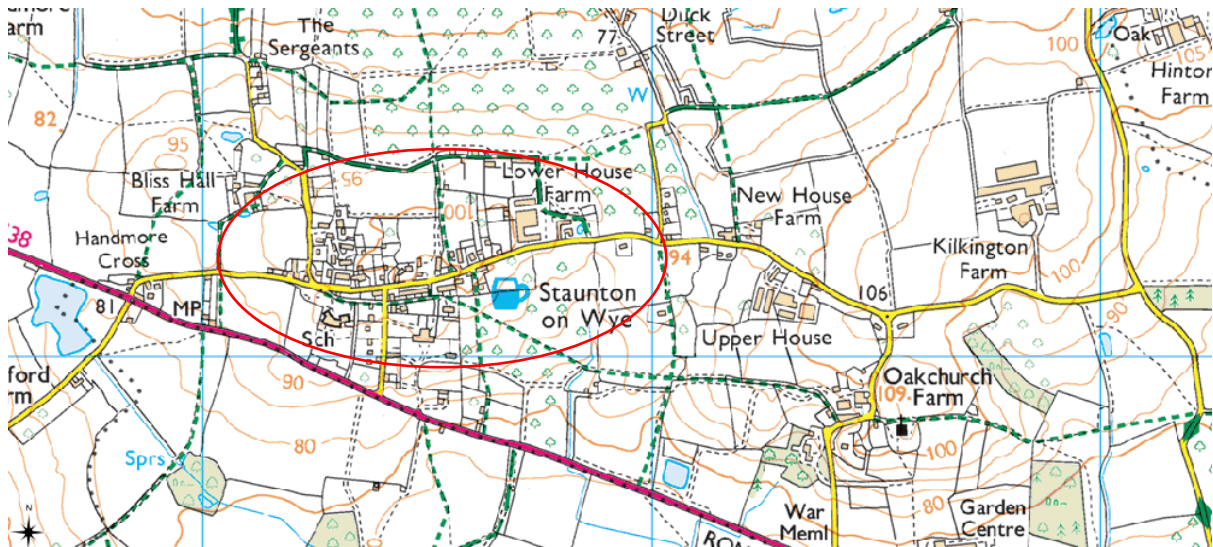
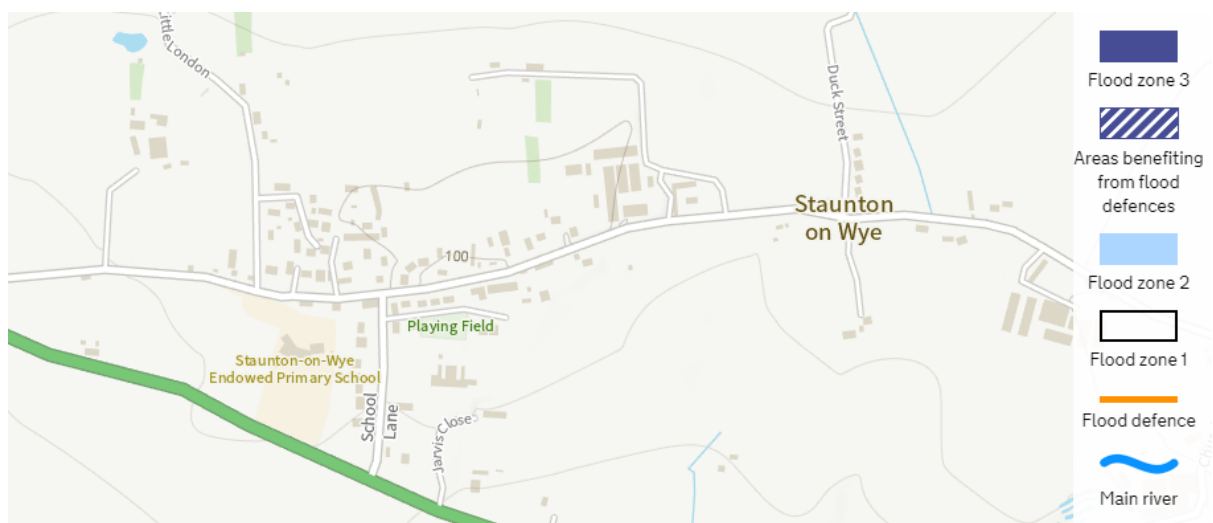


Figure 2: Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea), June 2021



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| Date of key flood event | February 16 th 2020 |
| Authorities with Flood Risk Management duties or functions relating to the event | Herefordshire Council (Land Drainage Authority) Environment Agency |

The Letton Lake tributary is designated as an Ordinary Watercourse which therefore falls under the responsibility of Herefordshire Council Land Drainage Authority. The River Wye is a main river and is under the regulatory supervision of the Environment Agency.

Key Flood Event

Flood Type: Fluvial

Watercourse Catchment: Letton Lake is a tributary of the River Wye.

12 properties located north of Staunton on Wye, experienced internal flooding in February 2020 and three in October 2019. Two of these properties were flooded in both events. Depths are typically stated as ranging from 1ft to 5ft but depths greater than 6ft were recorded for outbuildings. Respondents reported flooding lasted 1 to 4 days. One property described flooding reaching the top of the stairs, trapping the residents for 24 hours until they were rescued by the fire service.

Respondents also reported that the events in 2019 and 2020 were not the first time they had flooded. Two properties which flooded in 2019 or 2020 (or both) reported historic flooding in 1998. One property reported flooding 20 years ago and one property reported flooding in 2000 and 2002. Herefordshire Council records identify some history of flooding between 1998 and 2016.

Four properties which flooded internally and externally reported that the source of flooding was an overflowing river or stream, commenting that the River Wye overflowed and travelled across the common. In addition, two properties also reported surface water flooding, with one commenting that the water came from the direction of Letton and the other property also reporting multiple sources of flooding (an overflowing ditch, groundwater or spring, overflowing septic tank and overflowing toilet).

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| Number of Internally Flooded Properties related to key flood event | 12 |
| Number of Internally Flooded Properties during most acute flood | 12 |
| Impact on Strategic Highway Network | A438 flooded at Letton |
| Impact on Critical Services | None reported |
| Health Risks | No injuries or loss of life were reported |

Description of Flooding

Review of the data and mapping indicates the primary source of flooding to be from the River Wye, or its tributary 'Letton Lake', which extends through the flood plain across the common. The tributary takes a convoluted route towards the river, hence it may run on a gentle gradient. High River Wye levels may have adversely impacted the capacity of this watercourse.

In February the Wye reached the highest recorded level at the Old Wye Bridge in central Hereford.

All the properties in the area are within or adjacent to Flood Zone 3 and are therefore likely to be at high risk of flooding from rivers. The Surface Water Flood Map does not indicate any clear overland flow routes or local low points which are not associated with flooding from rivers.

The evidence for flooding from the Wye is supported by the long duration of flooding which one of the respondents reported and by the high depths of flooding reported by several residents. Flood durations of 2 to 4 days are more likely to be from a large river such as the Wye than from a small tributary such as Letton Lake. However, all the other respondents reported flood durations of 1 day

to 2 days, which could be explained by a tributary. Therefore, it may be that flooding at some properties was more influenced by the levels in the Wye than others.

A Road Closure was implemented on the A438 during the flooding, with traffic diversions in place.

Damage to Cultural Heritage Sites: None reported.

Previous reports of floods

Prior to the October 2019 (3 properties) and February 2020 (12 properties) flood events, previous flood events were reported as having occurred in 1998, 2000 and 2002.

Previous Flood Risk Studies

There are no flood risk studies previously undertaken at this location.

Conclusion

The primary source of flooding was from the River Wye. Many of the properties are within the Flood Plain of the River Wye. The most effective form of flood defence would be to implement Property Level Flood Resilience or consider floor raising at low lying properties.