



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Wood Street Village Section 19 Report: Storm Conall (27 November 2024)



Introduction

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) must (to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate) undertake an investigation upon becoming aware of a flood incident within its area.

An LLFA is defined under Section 6(7) of Flood and Water Management Act as being the county council for that area. Section 19(1) requires that the investigation determines the Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) that have relevant flood risk management functions and whether each of those authorities have exercised or propose to exercise those functions.

Section 19(2) requires that the LLFA publishes the results of its investigation and notify the relevant RMAs accordingly.

The purpose of this document is to summarise the results of the Section 19 investigations and clarify the cause and impacts of reported flooding at two sites within Worplesdon area attributed to Storm Conall, see Annex A. It will outline which RMAs have flood risk functions and whether these were used or are planned to be used.

Locations of the Investigation

This report addresses sites that flooded within the Worplesdon area during Storm Conall on 27 November 2024. There were approximately 39 incidents of internal property flooding, and 49 incidents of external property flooding reported within this catchment at the time of writing. Surrey County Council believes this is an underestimation, as it is likely that not all flooding cases were reported, and further properties fall within the surface water and fluvial flood risk areas.

This investigation concludes that the ordinary watercourses and main river that flows through these sites had been overwhelmed due to this high rainfall event. Although some obstructions were observed at points along the ordinary watercourses and main river, these are likely to have had minimal effect on the flood extent.

Below details the flood event to the two specific locations.

Wildfield Close

The properties of Wildfield Close range in surface water flood risk from low to high (1 in 1000- 1 in 30) see figure and is at risk of groundwater flooding. The bedrock is of clay, silt and sand geology therefore drainage is poor. Flooding has historically been limited to the road. Storm Henk (January 2024) resulted in the internal flooding of 4 properties at Wildfield Close, with the flood event attributed to an obstruction to a culverted section of watercourse that runs beneath the Close. The flood event of Storm Conall was attributed to the exceedance of local watercourse capacity.

Flood Event impact:

- 39 properties of Wildfield Close were affected by flooding internally with multiple residents being temporarily rehoused.
- Residents were unable to use vehicles as the road was unsafe for road users.

Causes of flooding:

- Storm Conall: heavy rainfall across Surrey on 27 November 2024.
- The high volume of rainfall overwhelmed an ordinary watercourse that runs beneath Wildfield Close. Although there were some obstructions to the ordinary watercourse, these are likely to have had minimal effect on the flooding.
- There was evidence of water exceeding the capacity of the watercourse upstream of Wildfield Close, making this an exceedance event.
- It was reported there was an obstruction to a road gully grate on Wildfield Close, that when cleared, allowed for water to quickly drain from the road and properties. Even if the gully grate had been clear, the system would likely have been overwhelmed, though it might have reduced the depth and extent of flooding.

Frog Grove Lane

The properties affected by flooding during Storm Conall on Frog Grove Lane range in surface water flood risk from low to high (1 in 1000- 1 in 30). Some properties are also at risk of fluvial flooding, sitting within Fluvial Flood Zone 1 and 2. The bedrock is of sand geology overlain by a mix of clay, silt, sand and gravel. This combination generally results in adequate drainage.

There is a current wetspot along the northern end of Frog Grove Lane.

Flood Event Impact:

- 10 properties of Frog Grove Lane were flooded externally. It is likely some properties would have flooded internally had pumps have not been employed to remove flood water.
- Frog Grove Lane became impassable for road users.

Causes of flooding:

- Storm Conall: High rainfall fell on Surrey 27 November 2024.
- Exceedance of ordinary watercourse and main river capacity.
- Exceedance of highway drainage capacity.

Roles and Responsibilities

There are a range of Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) which together cover all sources of flooding.

The Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for taking a strategic overview of the management of all sources of flooding and coastal erosion in England and Wales. They have prepared strategic plans which set out how to manage risk, provide evidence (for example their online flood maps), and provide advice to the Government. They provide support to the other RMAs through the development of risk management skills and provide a framework to support local delivery. The EA also has operational responsibility for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea, as well as being a coastal erosion RMA. Main Rivers are defined through a map which is updated annually. These tend to be the rivers which pose a significant risk to property in the country and the EA have permissive powers to carry out maintenance works on them.

Lead Local Flooding Authorities (LLFAs) are responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a strategy for local flood risk management in their areas. As part of this, the LLFA

liaises regularly with the EA as well as the other RMAs. They need to produce reports when there is a reported flood, and they must keep a register of flood risk management assets. They also have responsibility for managing the risk of flooding from surface water and groundwater.

District and Borough Councils can carry out flood risk management works on ordinary watercourses. Ordinary watercourses are rivers which are not designated as 'Main Rivers'. Through the planning processes, they control development in their area, ensuring that flood risks are effectively managed.

Water and sewerage companies are responsible for managing the risks of flooding from their drainage systems, including both their surface water only systems and combined sewer systems.

Highway Authorities are responsible for providing and managing highway drainage and roadside ditches and must ensure that road projects do not increase flood risk.

Landowners have the responsibility to protect their land and property from flood damage.

Recommendations

Recommendations are not instructions and need to be examined by the relevant Risk Management Authority or individual and for them to make a decision on whether to action the recommendation or not. The LLFA cannot require a third party to deliver a recommendation action.

The options presented should be examined by the risk management authorities and residents to be assessed for their feasibility and financial viability.

Network rail should consider the following:

- To remove obstructions from culvert asset beneath the railway to allow for free flow of water through the channel.

Surrey County Council should consider the following:

- Continue to engage and coordinate with residents and RMAs fulfilling their duty to investigate flood events under section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
- To consider the feasibility of Natural Flood Risk management or other infrastructure investment to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water.

Guildford Borough Council should consider the following:

- To consider review of street cleaning cycle to prioritise vulnerable roads prior to storms.
- To consider working with residents to develop an emergency plan to respond to flooding of Wildfield Close and exercise this plan.
- To consider the feasibility of infrastructure investment to reduce the risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses.
- To consider review of the issue of fly tipping and a way to mitigate this.

Action taken/To be taken

Surrey County Council:

- As part of LLFA duties, SCC with colleagues at GBC, EA and Worplesdon Parish Council have undertaken site visits to review condition of ordinary watercourses and assess the causes of flooding.
- Are reviewing the feasibility of Natural Flood Risk management or other infrastructure investment to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water.
- Surrey Highways have undertaken gully jetting works and surveys on Frog Grove Lane to clear drains and map assets to better understand drainage layout.

Guildford Borough Council:

- Have undertaken a site with colleagues at GBC, EA and WPC to review the condition of ordinary watercourses and assess the cause of flooding.

Network Rail:

- Have flagged obstructions to culvert assets to be cleared.

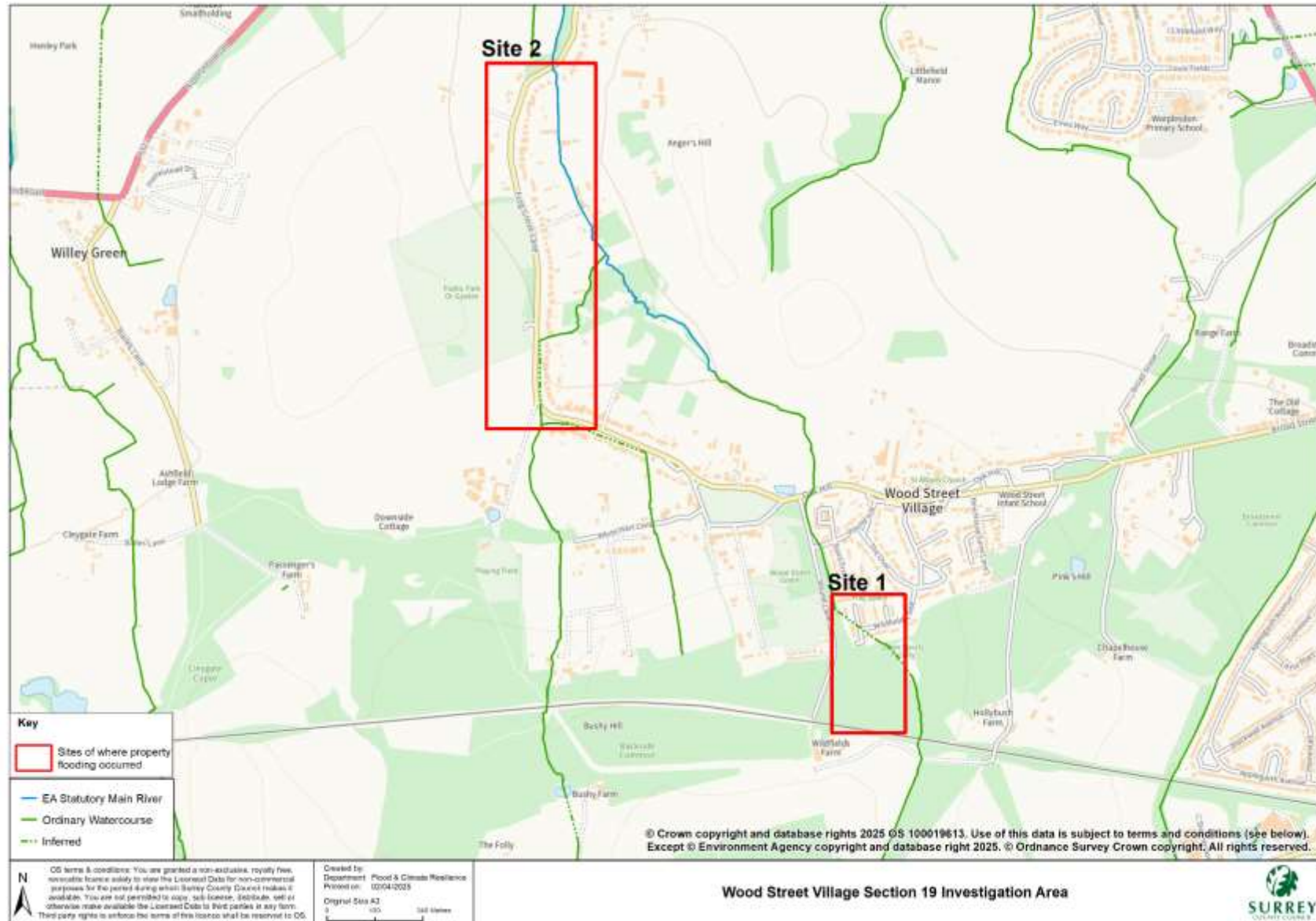
Worplesdon Parish Council:

- Have undertaken a site visit with colleagues at SCC, EA, and GBC to review the condition of ordinary watercourses and assess the cause of flooding.
- Routinely monitor the ordinary watercourse south of Wildfield Close, removing obstructions to the channel where necessary.

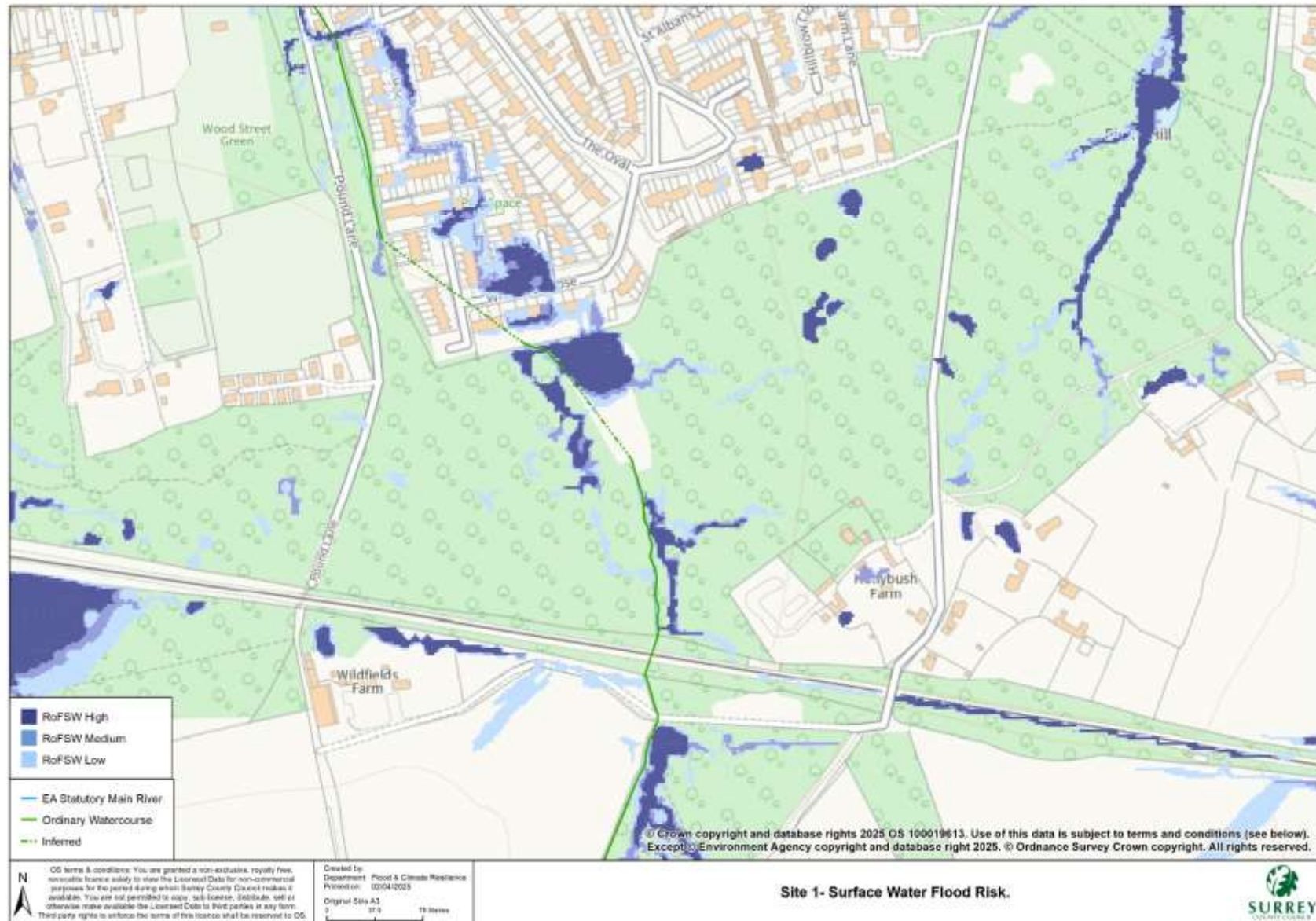
Environment Agency:

- Have undertaken site visit to review condition of main river and establish cause of flooding.

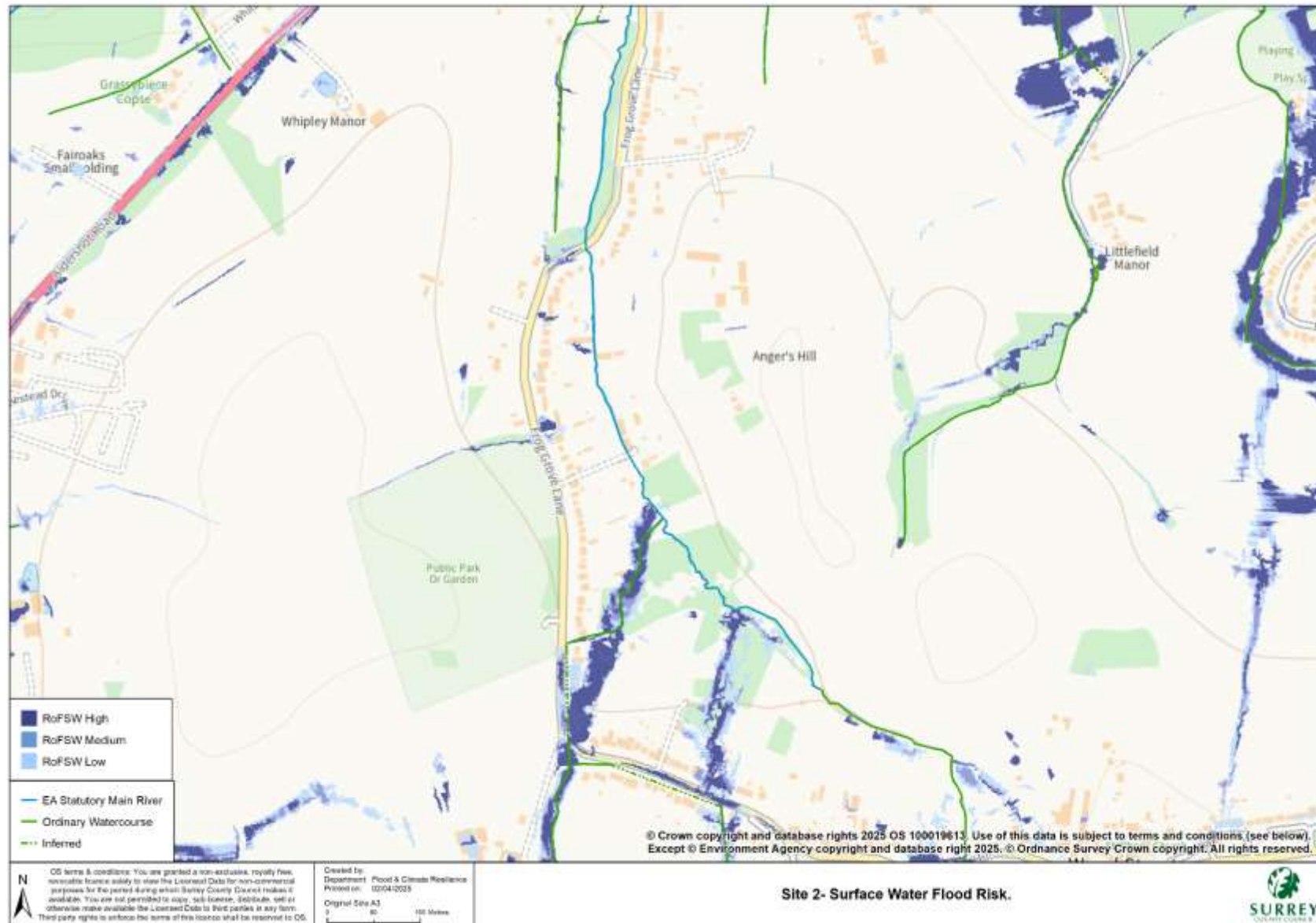
Annex A. Site Locations



Annex B. Site 1- Surface Water Flood Risk



Annex C. Site 2- Surface Water Flood Risk



Annex D. Site 2- Fluvial Flood Risk

