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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Following acceptance of the Norwich to Tilbury Development Consent Order (DCO) application (EN020027) by the Planning Inspectorate on 26 September 2025, a meeting was held with Suffolk County Council to review **5.9.2 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Suffolk County Council (incl LLFA and Highways) [APP-090]**.
- 1.1.2 Suffolk County Council raised that, since the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) (**7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]**) was completed, they had published additional information on historical flood events, particularly in the aftermath of Storm Babet in October 2023. Suffolk County Council also identified further information on historical flood events that had not previously been shared.
- 1.1.3 This Technical Note also addresses information on historical flood events published since completion of the FRA by Norfolk County Council. Essex County Council and Thurrock Council have not published any further information.
- 1.1.4 This information has been reviewed and is summarised in this Technical Note, together with a back check to determine whether the historical flooding information has any impact on the conclusions of **7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]**.

2. Historical Flooding

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 **7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]** submitted in August 2025, provides a summary of flood risk data relevant to the geographical extent of Norwich to Tilbury (the 'Project') in Section 4. Section 4 also includes information on historical flooding events, however, the time of drafting pre-dated Storm Babet.
- 2.1.2 Additional and recent historical flooding records have been collected from the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) (up to and including November 2025) and reviewed to determine:
- If any of the historical events occurred within the Project's Order Limits, and
 - If any events would impact on the assessment conclusion and / or the proposed flood risk control and mitigation measures.

2.2 Suffolk County Council

- 2.2.1 Suffolk County Council provided mapping files and flood investigation reports for incidents impacting land within the Order Limits in November 2025. This information is summarised in Table 2.1 and the paragraphs below.

Stowupland Flood Investigation – Storm Babet¹ (Suffolk County Council, 2025)

- 2.2.2 Six internal flood incidents reported on 20 October 2023 caused by various flood sources including surface water runoff from surrounding fields and highways, overtopping of local watercourses and overwhelmed drainage systems. The flooding also impacted Saxham Street/Church Road, one of the Projects Primary Access Routes.

Table 2.1 Suffolk County Council flood incidents within the Order Limits (April 2010 to January 2024)

Date	Parish	Road Name	Flood Type
17/01/2024	Hintlesham	THORPES HILL	Flooded Road/Pavement
08/01/2024	Bramford	BULLEN LANE	Flooded Road/Pavement
05/01/2024	Barking	NEEDHAM ROAD	Flooded Road/Pavement
19/12/2023	Bramford	BULLEN LANE	Flooded Road/Pavement
19/12/2023	Holton St. Mary	ACACIA ROAD	Flooded Road/Pavement
12/12/2023	Bramford	BULLEN LANE	Flooded Road/Pavement

¹ SCC (2025). Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act Stowupland Flood Investigation – Storm Babet 2023. Available at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/s19-stowupland-report.pdf> [Accessed February 2026]

Date	Parish	Road Name	Flood Type
05/12/2023	Barking	NEEDHAM ROAD	Flooded Road/Pavement
20/11/2023	Barking	NEEDHAM ROAD	Flooded Road/Pavement
15/11/2023	Mellis	ASH ROAD	Flooded Road/Pavement
02/11/2023	Bramford	BULLEN LANE	Flooded Road/Pavement
02/11/2023	Rickinghall Inferior	FINNINGHAM ROAD	Flooded Road/Pavement
02/11/2023	Gislingham	THORNHAM ROAD	Flooded Road/Pavement
20/10/2023	Copdock and Washbrook	PIGEONS LANE	Flooded Road/Pavement
12/10/2023	Bramford	BULLEN LANE	Flooded Garden / Drive
25/10/2022	Ringshall	RINGSHALL ROAD	Blocked / Overflowing Drain
05/10/2021	Bramford	BULLEN LANE	Flooded Road/Pavement
29/01/2021	Somersham	BLOOD HILL	Flooded Ditch
06/01/2021	Bramford	BULLEN LANE	Blocked / Overflowing Drain
29/12/2020	Somersham	BLOOD HILL	Flooded Ditch
20/12/2019	Bramford	BULLEN LANE	Flooded Garden / Drive
26/11/2019	Mellis	ASH ROAD	Flooded Road/Pavement
04/11/2019	Palgrave	PALGRAVE FOOTPATH 004	Flooded Road/Pavement
16/05/2018	Bramford	BULLEN LANE	Blocked / Overflowing Drain
18/10/2017	Bramford	LORAINE WAY	Blocked / Overflowing Drain
31/05/2017	Bramford	BULLEN LANE	Flooded Garden / Drive
09/03/2016	Stowupland	SAXHAM STREET	Blocked Highway Drain
28/01/2016	Hintlesham	THORPES HILL	Blocked Highway Drain
18/01/2016	Hintlesham	THORPES HILL	Blocked Highway Drain

NB: it is noted that some of the flood incidents in this table are from several years ago and pre-date completion of the 7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]. The specific data for the older events was not previously provided for inclusion within 7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331] in response to a data request from the LLFAs, possibly as these are all highly localised incidents, several of which are associated with blockages in drainage systems.

2.3 Norfolk County Council

2.3.1 Norfolk County Council provided flood investigation reports for incidents impacting land within the Order Limits in November 2025. This information is summarised in the paragraphs that follow.

Addendum to Investigation Report into Flooding across Norfolk in Storm Babet²

- Needham Market:
 - Two internal flood incidents reported in October 2023. The cause was attributed to the watercourse being partially obstructed by debris or silt downstream, reducing the efficiency of the upstream drainage system contributing to flooding at the affected properties, and surface water runoff from significant rainfall flowing along the road network.

Investigation Report into the Flooding across Norfolk in Storm Babet excluding Besthorpe Stream Catchment³

- Pristow Green Lane, Tibenham:
 - One internal flood incident reported in October 2023. The cause was attributed to the watercourse being partially obstructed by debris or silt downstream, reducing the efficiency of the upstream drainage system contributing to flooding at the affected properties.

One internal flood incident reported in February 2024, with no cause reported.

- Long Row, Tibenham:
 - One internal flood incident reported in October 2023. The cause was attributed to loss of pre-existing drainage features (such as drains, dykes, ditches, ponds, culverts) within the area exacerbating the flooding, significant rainfall concentrated on the highway, and surface water runoff flowing off adjacent fields.

2.4 Essex County Council

2.4.1 No new historical flooding information has been published by Essex County Council since completion of **7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]**.

2.5 Thurrock Council

2.5.1 No new historical flooding information has been published by Thurrock Council since completion of **7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]**.

² NCC (2025). Addendum to Investigation Report into the Flooding across Norfolk in Storm Babet. Report Reference: FIR076A. Available at: https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/media/44184/Addendum-to-Investigation-Report-into-Flooding-across-Norfolk-in-Storm-Babet-FIR076A/pdf/pcAddendum_to_Investigation_Report_into_Flooding_across_Norfolk_in_Storm_Babet_FIR076A.pdf?m=1761648666933 [Accessed February 2026]

³ NCC (2025). Investigation Report into the Flooding across Norfolk in Storm Babet excluding Besthorpe Stream Catchment. Report Reference: FIR076 Part 2. Available at: https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/media/41289/Investigation-Report-Norfolk-wide-Storm-Babet-excluding-Besthorpe-Stream-FIR076-Part-2/pdf/n8Investigation_Report_Norfolk_wide_Storm_Babet_excluding_Besthorpe_Stream_FIR076_Part_2_3.pdf?m=1761929276287 [Accessed February 2026]

3. Implications

- 3.1.1 The additional historical flood incident information provided adds to the context of the flood risk baseline presented in **7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]**. The majority of the incidents in the additional information are attributed to surface water flooding, triggered by issues, such as blockages, with the existing land drainage network. The information provided by Suffolk County Council in particular highlights that some incidents have occurred in the same or similar locations on multiple occasions (e.g. Bullen Lane).
- 3.1.2 National Grid has made a number of commitments to managing flood risk and land drainage during construction and operation (and maintenance) of the Project. These are documented in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision B)**. Measures would be in place to manage surface water runoff and minimise impacts on the land drainage regime across the Project, including allowances for climate change resilience within the designs of operational Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). As per commitment GG22, the appointed Main Works Contractor(s) would prepare a Surface Water Management Plan that would be developed liaising with the LLFAs, with ongoing dialogue during implementation of the measures. The Plan would demonstrate how runoff across the site would be controlled and how any off-site effects would be managed and mitigated.
- 3.1.3 Given the commitments and measures around flood risk management and land drainage that would be in place for the Project, the newly published information reported in this Technical Note does not change the conclusions of **7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]**, and it is considered that no additional controls or mitigation measures are necessary.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1.1 Additional information on historical flood events provided and published by the LLFAs since completion of **7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]** has been reviewed and has been summarised in this Technical Note where relevant to the Project.
- 4.1.2 The additional information, provided and published by the LLFAs in November 2025, includes Investigation Reports for Storm Babet. This major storm event occurred just prior to finalising the drafting of **Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]** and therefore could not be included within the version submitted with the DCO application in August 2025. Suffolk County Council also provided a shapefile containing their records of flood incidents along the Project route, some of which relate to minor, localised flooding incidents that pre-date finalising the drafting of the **Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]**.
- 4.1.3 The implications of the additional information have been reviewed. Whilst it adds to the context of the flood risk baseline, it was already understood that multiple flood incidents had occurred within the Order Limits for the Project, with many of these attributed to surface water flooding / issues with the existing land drainage network. Given the commitments and measures around flood risk management and land drainage that would be in place for the Project, the newly published information reported in this Technical Note does not change the conclusions of **7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]**. These commitments and measures would manage surface water runoff and minimise impacts on the land drainage regime across the Project.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Reference
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
DCO	Development Consent Order
ECC	Essex County Council
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
NCC	Norfolk County Council
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems

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