Wilton Town Council Floods Advisory Committee
Terms of Reference

Version	Date	Adopted	Minute Ref	Summary of Changes
Original				
Revision 1				
Revision 2				
Revision 3				

Name
Floods and River Management Advisory Committee (FaRMAC)

Membership
The committee will consist of members appointed by the Council and relevant stakeholders.

Quorum
A quorum is determined by Council policy.

Chair
The Chair will be elected at the annual meeting of the Council in May.

Meetings
FaRMAC will meet at least twice annually, or as required, at a suitable location. Meetings are not open to the public.

Proposed Objectives

1. **Flood Risk Reduction and Resilience**

   Advise on strategies to mitigate flood risk within the parish/town boundary.

   Support the development of sustainable drainage and natural flood management solutions.

2. **River and Watercourse Management**

   Monitor and advise on the condition of rivers, streams, and associated infrastructure.

   Promote best practices for maintaining watercourses in line with environmental and legal requirements.

3. **Stakeholder Engagement**

   Establish clear communication channels with residents, landowners, and businesses affected by flood risk.

   Facilitate regular consultation sessions to gather feedback and share updates on flood management initiatives.

4. **Riparian Rights and Responsibilities**

   Provide guidance to landowners on their legal obligations and rights as riparian owners.

   Encourage compliance with statutory duties for maintaining watercourses and preventing obstructions.

5. **Emergency Preparedness**

   Support the development and review of local flood emergency plans.

   Promote community awareness and preparedness for flood events.

6. **Partnership Working**

   Liaise with relevant agencies (Environment Agency, local authorities, drainage boards) to ensure coordinated action.

   Advocate for funding and resources to support flood resilience projects.

7. **Education and Awareness**

   Deliver public information campaigns on flood risk, riparian responsibilities, and environmental stewardship.

   Encourage community participation in river conservation and flood prevention initiatives.

8. **Reporting**

   FaRMAC will report directly to Full Council, with recommendations subject to Council approval.

Wilton Town Council,
The Council Offices, Kingsbury Square, Wilton. SP2 0BA
Telephone: 01722 742093
Interim Town Clerk & RFO: Brie Logan
e-mail: clerk@Wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

Wilton Town Council – Flood & Rivers Advisory Committee

Date: Monday 19 January • **Time:** 2pm • **Venue:** Pavilion, Castle Meadow

Summary of Meeting

Present: Cllr Maria La Femina (MLF), Alan Crossley (AC), Pete Blackman (PB), John Catchpole (JC), Geoff Naish (GN), Tim Phelps (TP), Anthony Brown-Hovelt (ABH), Michael Holm (MH)(Environment Agency) and Danny Everett (DE) (Wiltshire Council)

Officers: Brie Logan (BL) (Interim Town Clerk), Rhys O'Connor (Facilities) and Ross Moore (Project Support)

Apologies: Rachel Ashton Brown and Cllr Peter Edge

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1. **Welcome & Introductions**

   BL welcomed attendees. Members introduced themselves, and the purpose and remit of the newly formalised Advisory Committee were outlined.

2. **Background & Committee Purpose**

   The meeting reviewed the transition from the informal Flood Group (created in 2008) to a formal Advisory Committee reporting to Wilton Town Council.

   Key aims include enhancing collaboration, ensuring clearer responsibilities, and improving engagement with stakeholders.

3. **How the Committee will Work**

   The committee will operate collaboratively with defined lines of reporting. Engagement with external partners—including Wiltshire Council, the Environment Agency, and community volunteers—will be central to its work.

   PB was nominated as chair of the Advisory Committee (to be ratified by WTC)

4. Meeting Cycle & Draft Terms of Reference

- Meetings to be held twice yearly (October and March/April), with additional meetings arranged as and when required.
- Emergency procedures to be aligned with Wiltshire Council Emergency Planning and Flood Plans, with support from Emergency Planning Officer Renata.
- Review of historic and current flood plans:

  a) AC Crossley to send the 2016 Flood Plan (BL to confirm if already on website).
  b) DE to check with Renata regarding any Wiltshire Council flood plans on record for Wilton.

- Recognition that flood wardens and flood plan responsibilities sit with the Town Council.
- Environment Agency statutory and permissive powers were noted.
- Terms of Reference were reviewed.

5. Environment Agency Update

MH presented the December 2025 update report on the Rivers Nadder & Wylye.

Key points:

- Current standard of protection is good, with minor surface water issues.
- The 2017 scheme proposed building an embankment; however, updated modelling shows a more comprehensive intervention would increase flood risk elsewhere due to the complexity of the river system.
- Funding limitations remain a barrier to major works.
- Dredging, de-silting, and possible modification of the weir were discussed, with recognition of tension between flood prevention and conservation duties.
- Riparian responsibilities lack precise guidance; issues raised include legacy and land ownership concerns.

6. River Technical Note

A summary of the commissioned technical findings was reviewed.

Recommendation focuses on targeted management and maintenance, not large-scale capital schemes (£20m+).

- GN confirmed he takes responsibility for the tree management on his land.

7. Flood Defence Container – Assets Review

This was not discussed - the next meeting will include:

- Review of the current Flood Plan.
- Identification of required updates and equipment needs.

8. **Observations from Pete Blackman**

Points raised:

- The Technical Note should be integrated into a town-wide River Management Plan.
- Maintenance needs highlighted at the A30 and Minster Street, including ivy removal from riverside trees.
- WTC is moving to a more proactive stance; an annual EMR budget will be allocated.
- Review of the Tree Policy is required, including risk assessment and control of self-seeded scrub trees.

9. **Next Steps & River Management Plan Structure**

The plan should include:

- A clear Mission Statement.
- Feasible, realistic, and achievable short and long-term objectives.
- Joint work with the Environment Agency (MH) and Wiltshire Council (DE) to explore funding opportunities.

The committee will meet **Monday 16 February at 2pm** to begin drafting the plan and mapping the catchment.

10. **Communications & Public Engagement**

- Communication will be coordinated by WTC.
- A public engagement plan will be created once the River Management Plan is drafted and approved.

Next steps:

For the Next Meeting

- Begin identifying short-term local initiatives and longer-term strategic objectives.
- Research environmental funding options.

Assigned Actions

- DE: Send AO plans covering Wilton and wider catchment.
- PB, MLF, AC, GN, JC, MH: Attend meeting on **Monday 16 February at 2pm**.
- MH: Support training and contact Tom Lord (Natural England) regarding facilitation.
- BL: Access WC templates including letter templates, Flood Warden Handbook, and watercourse documents.
- All: Review the Terms of Reference and advise BL of any proposed edits.
- DE: Liaise with Emergency Planners re: resources for community emergency volunteers.
- MH → BL: Provide information on riparian responsibilities.
- BL: Follow South West Environment Agency on Facebook and share relevant posts via WTC.
- BL: Update WTC on the meeting and next steps.

FiveRivers

It's in our nature.

Contact us.
01722 783 041
office@five-rivers.com
www.five-rivers.com

Visit us.
Five Rivers, Hangar 5A,
Thruxton Airfield, Andover,
Hampshire, SP11 8PN

5005D – Wilton Flow and Erosion ECI Technical Report.

Technical Report

Prepared for

Wilton Town Council

Document title	-	Wilton Flow and Erosion – ECI Technical Report
Status	-	Client Issue
Project code	-	5005D
Client	-	Wilton Town Council
Date of issue	-	12/11/2025
Author	-	Aaron McDonnell
Signature	-	
Internal QC reviewer	-	Henry Baker
Signature	-	
Internal QC approver	-	Henry Baker
Signature	-	

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1. Introduction

1.1. Project Summary.

FiveRivers has been commissioned by Wilton Town Council to carry out a technical walkover survey and prepare a report on the condition of the River Wylye and its various tributaries as they flow through the town of Wilton.

The scope of work includes an environmental assessment of the current site conditions, based on observations made during the walkover conducted on 12th November. As part of this assessment, the report will consider opportunities for improved channel function using a clearing channel approach, where targeted removal of accumulated debris, excessive vegetation, or man-made obstructions may be appropriate to restore conveyance and reduce localised flood risk. In addition, the report will explore options for introducing features where beneficial. These interventions can help to locally increase flow velocities, reduce sediment deposition, and promote more dynamic processes that support both ecological health and overall system resilience.

The report will provide recommendations for works to support catchment health, reduce flood risk, and enhance the overall resilience of the river system. A summary of findings and conclusions will be presented at the end of the report.

1.2. Site Location

Several locations within the Wilton catchment area of the River Wylye were assessed. The image below highlights the key areas examined as part of the environmental assessment.

Figure 1: Site Location Areas

2. Environmental Assessment

2.1. Site Condition Observations

Crow Lane:

The road bridge adjacent to Crow Lane exhibits significant vegetation growth, including an alder tree located at the downstream end of the bridge. During periods of high flow, this vegetation is likely to restrict water movement and impede the free passage of flow beneath the structure.

Further downstream the channel exhibits similar vegetation growth which will restrict water movement further.

Further upstream along Crow Lane, a high flow channel was observed. This channel was likely originally designed to convey flows during high water or flood events. However, during the site visit, it was noted that the channel is heavily obstructed by debris, vegetation, and tree growth at its downstream end where it connects with the main channel. These blockages are likely to limit its hydraulic capacity and effectiveness during flood conditions.

A redundant weir was observed in the Crow Lane area, causing an accumulation of debris upstream. This obstruction is creating a localised difference in water levels of approximately 100mm. The weir no longer serves a functional purpose and is contributing to an increased flood risk by allowing debris to collect, which could exacerbate flooding to surrounding areas during high flow events. Removal or modification of this structure is recommended to restore natural flow and reduce associated risks.

Figure 2: Images left to right. Road bridge adjacent to Crow lane, Crow lane High level channel blocked, Crow lane redundant weir.

Wilton Meadows/ Wiley Ter:

During the walkover at Wilton Meadows, several medium to large willow trees were observed along the banks of the River Wylye. These trees pose a potential future risk of falling into the channel and becoming established within the watercourse, which could restrict flow and reduce channel capacity. While a limited amount of fallen or marginal vegetation can provide ecological benefits and does not significantly impact flow, ongoing maintenance will be required to prevent excessive accumulation of fallen trees or debris that could lead to blockages.

Further downstream, an artificially created high flow relief channel designed to run adjacent to Wiley Ter was found to have little to no observable flow. This lack of movement is likely due to a downstream obstruction identified later in this report, a weir with an abnormally high crest level. The gradient of the tributary is minimal, and dense vegetation growth within the channel further contributes to the reduction of flow velocity and conveyance.

Downstream of the road bridge adjacent to Wiley Ter, vegetation has become established across the full width of the channel due to prolonged low flow conditions. This excessive growth is restricting flow, reducing conveyance capacity, and increasing the risk of localised flooding during high water events.

Refer to the below figure for the corresponding images to show reference.

Figure 3: Images left to right. Wilt eadows Overhanging Willow, Wiley Ter high hannel, Downstream of Wiley Ter

Wilton Guild Shopping centre and car park area:

Upstream of the Guild Shopping Centre entrance, debris was observed within the river channel, along with localised areas of bank erosion. These erosions correspond with the remnants of a previously installed revetment, which has deteriorated, leaving only some upright posts in place.

Further downstream, towards the A30, similar patterns were observed. The original revetment has largely diminished, and additional erosion along the banks has been caused by wildlife, public access, and domestic animals. Several willow trees are also establishing along the banks; these will require management to prevent them from dominating the channel margins and further restricting flow.

The connecting channel from Wiley Terrace contains a substantial weir, approximately 800mm in height, which significantly restricts downstream flow. This obstruction results in minimal water movement in the channel, causing debris and sediment to accumulate. Consequently, the restricted flow increases the risk of flooding to upstream properties during high flow events. Addressing this area presents a key opportunity for flood alleviation and improving overall channel efficiency.

Refer to below images referencing the above.

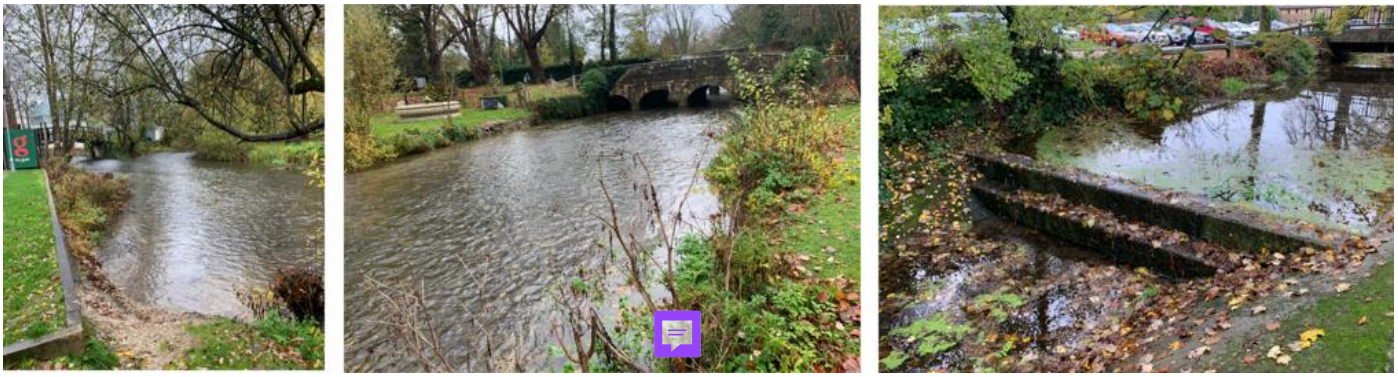

Figure 4: Images left to right. Wilton Guild Shopping centre, River Wylye upstream of A30 Road Bridge, Weir on River Wylye Channel from Wiley Ter.

3. Associated Risks

3.1. Risks Associated with Crow Lane

- **Vegetation Growth at Road Bridge**

Alder tree and dense vegetation at the downstream end of the bridge could restrict flow during high water events. Potential for debris accumulation against the bridge, increasing localised flood risk and reduced hydraulic efficiency under the bridge during peak flows.

- **Blocked High Level Channel (Upstream)**

Obstructions from vegetation, debris, and tree growth may reduce channel capacity during flood events and increased risk of upstream flooding if high flows cannot be conveyed effectively.

- **Redundant Weir**

Creates a localised water level difference (approx. 100mm) and traps debris, which is no longer functional, contributing to elevated flood risk for surrounding properties.

Obstruction may exacerbate upstream flooding during high flow events.

3.2. Risks Associated with Wilton Meadows / Wiley Terrace

- **Overhanging Willow Trees**

Medium to large willow trees could fall into the channel, causing blockages and restricting flow and potential for future bank destabilisation if root systems fail or trees topple.

- **Low Flow Relief Channel Adjacent to Wiley Terrace**

Obstruction from downstream weir limits water conveyance, reducing hydraulic efficiency. Also, the noted minimal channel gradient and dense vegetation slow flow, increasing risk of upstream flooding. Along with the accumulation of debris in stagnant areas may further impede flow.

- **Vegetation Across Channel Downstream of Wiley Terrace Bridge**

Full width vegetation growth reduces channel capacity and increased likelihood of localised flooding during high flow events. Also allows for potential for debris entrapment, worsening flood risk.

3.3. Risks Associated with Wilton Guild Shopping Centre and Car Park Area

- **Debris and Bank Erosion Upstream of Guild Shopping Centre**

Localised erosion of banks reduces channel stability and may contribute to sedimentation downstream, along with remnants of deteriorated revetment provide limited protection, increasing risk of further bank failure.

- **Downstream Reach Towards A30**

Loss of revetment and erosion from wildlife, public use, and domestic animals. Along with establishing willow trees could dominate banks, reduce channel conveyance and increase flood risk.

- **Connecting Channel from Wiley Terrace (Large Weir, 800 mm)**

Significant restriction to flow, causing debris accumulation and minimal water movement. Also, increased flooding risk to upstream properties during high flow events.

This represents a key area for intervention to improve flood alleviation and channel efficiency.

4. Recommendations

4.1. Crow Lane

Based on the observed risks, including vegetation encroachment at the bridge, blockage of the high level channel, and debris accumulation around a redundant weir. It is recommended that regular vegetation management be undertaken, with overhanging and channel vegetation, particularly alder trees near the bridge, routinely trimmed or removed to maintain unobstructed flow.

A scheduled maintenance programme should also be implemented to minimise debris build up. The high level channel should be cleared of accumulated debris, trees, and invasive vegetation to restore its intended hydraulic capacity during flood conditions.

In addition, the redundant weir should be modified or removed to re-establish natural flow conditions and reduce upstream water level variation, ensuring that all removed material is safely disposed of and monitoring is carried out for any downstream sediment movement.

4.2. Wilton Meadows / Wiley Terrace

Given the observed risks overhanging willow trees, reduced low flow capacity in the relief channel due to a high downstream weir, and vegetation growth restricting flow downstream of the bridge. It is recommended that a proactive tree management approach be adopted, involving the monitoring and selective pruning or removal of medium to large willow trees to prevent potential blockages while retaining ecological value through a structured maintenance plan.

Improvements to the relief channel should include assessing and modifying the downstream weir to enable more effective low flow conveyance, alongside clearing vegetation and debris to restore hydraulic efficiency.

Additionally, vegetation downstream of the bridge should be periodically cut or managed across the full channel width to maintain capacity, using methods such as marginal planting or controlled vegetation zones to ensure an appropriate balance between ecological benefits and hydraulic performance.

4.3. Guild Shopping Centre and Car Park Area

Putting into account current observed risks, including debris accumulation, bank erosion with diminished revetments, the establishment of willow trees, and a substantial weir restricting flow. It is recommended that bank stabilisation works be undertaken, repairing or replacing degraded revetments with environmentally sensitive solutions such as bioengineering, pre planted coir rolls, or rock rolls (however have plastic content for the material used to contain the granite rocks), while also introducing protective measures to limit damage from wildlife, domestic animals, and public access.

Willow trees along the channel margins should be pruned or selectively removed to prevent dominance and maintain flow capacity, with consideration given to planting alternative riparian species that provide bank stability without impeding conveyance.

The 800 mm weir on the connecting channel from Wiley Terrace should be modified or lowered to restore more natural flow, reduce debris accumulation, and decrease upstream flood risk, followed by monitoring to ensure improvements do not trigger downstream erosion. This can also be done by introduced a drop board structure in its place to adjust flows according to seasonal water levels.

Additionally, a routine debris management programme should be implemented upstream of key areas such as the Guild Shopping Centre and bridges, potentially supported by community awareness initiatives to better inform the importance of the Rivers and keeping them functioning.

4.4. General Recommendations Across the Catchment

To support long term flood resilience, a programme of targeted physical works and ongoing monitoring is recommended. Key interventions include vegetation management around bridges, selective pruning or removal of willow and alder trees, routine debris clearance across channels, and periodic cutting of vegetation downstream of structures to maintain conveyance.

As an additional option, the installation of in channel flow deflectors may be considered at sites where increasing local flow velocity would help reduce sediment deposition or improve channel self-cleansing. Appropriately designed deflectors can also create beneficial hydraulic diversity, supporting habitat quality while complementing wider flood-risk management objectives.

Structural measures, such as stabilising eroded banks with environmentally sensitive revetments, modifying or lowering redundant and restrictive weirs, and clearing accumulated material from the high flow and relief channels, should be undertaken to restore hydraulic capacity and reduce local water-level impacts.

Flow deflectors may also be incorporated alongside these structural works to direct water toward the centre of the channel, discourage lateral erosion, and promote more efficient sediment transport. This can reduce the frequency of maintenance and support a more naturally functioning channel system.

These works should be complemented by the installation of flow and water level monitoring at critical locations to evaluate performance, along with regular walkover inspections to identify emerging blockages, erosion, or vegetation growth. Development of a hydraulic model of the River Wylye through Wilton would provide further insight into how these interventions, including the strategic use of flow deflectors affect channel capacity and flood risk. All actions should be implemented in compliance with environmental regulations, ensuring that ecological value is maintained while improving the overall resilience of the watercourse.

5. Summary & Conclusions

5.1. Summary of Key Findings

The River Wylye through Wilton shows multiple factors that reduce hydraulic capacity and increase flood risk.

At Crow Lane, dense vegetation at the bridge, a blocked high level channel, and a redundant weir are restricting flow and causing localised water level differences. In Wilton Meadows and along Wiley Terrace, medium to large willow trees pose a risk of falling into the channel, while low flow relief channels are impeded by dense vegetation and a high downstream weir, reducing conveyance. Downstream near the Guild Shopping Centre, debris accumulation, bank erosion, deteriorated revetments, and the 800mm weir on the connecting channel from Wiley Terrace further restrict flow and exacerbate upstream flood risk. Across the catchment, vegetation overgrowth, structural obstructions, and sediment accumulation are widespread, contributing to localised flooding and reduced channel efficiency.

5.2. Conclusions

Targeted interventions are essential to restore the hydraulic capacity of the River Wylye, reduce flood risk, and maintain the ecological value of the catchment. Recommended measures include selective pruning or removal of overhanging trees, routine debris clearance, repair or replacement of eroded revetments, and modification or removal of restrictive or redundant weirs.

As an additional option, the introduction of in-channel flow deflectors may be considered at suitable locations. These features can help concentrate flows, increase local velocity, reduce excessive sediment deposition, and encourage more natural channel processes. When appropriately designed, deflectors can also enhance habitat diversity by creating alternating zones of faster and slower water, benefitting fish and macroinvertebrate communities.

Additional actions such as improvements to relief channels, combined with ongoing monitoring of flow and water levels supported by hydraulic modelling, will help ensure the long term effectiveness of these interventions. Incorporating flow deflectors into these broader channel improvements can further support conveyance, promote self-cleansing processes, and reduce maintenance needs over time. Regular inspections, community engagement, and adherence to environmental regulations are also key to supporting the resilience of the River Wylye while balancing flood mitigation with ecological protection.

It is important to note that all works involving alterations to the river channel, banks, or structures may require formal consents and permits from the relevant regulatory bodies. These can include, but are not limited to, Environment Agency consents, planning permissions, and adherence to local by-laws or protected species legislation. Where flow deflectors are proposed, their design and placement must also comply with regulatory requirements to ensure no adverse impact on flood risk or protected habitats.

FiveRivers has extensive experience in navigating these regulatory requirements, ensuring that all interventions are fully compliant with environmental and planning legislation. FiveRivers is well equipped to provide a full range of services to address these challenges. From initial site assessments and hydraulic modelling to the design and implementation of physical interventions, including the installation of in-channel deflectors where appropriate, we can support all aspects of river management. Our team can assist in securing the necessary consents, carrying out environmentally sensitive works, and establishing long-term monitoring programmes to ensure that the River Wylye remains resilient, safe, and ecologically healthy.

Wilton – Environment Agency flood risk management update

Environment Agency in the last couple of years has used Wessex Regional Flood & Coastal Committee funding to review the impacts of the increased flood risk on the Rivers Nadder and Wylye shown in the 2020 flood map updates.

River Nadder – *rapidly responding catchment*.

- Currently a flood embankment and walls around South Street (Figure 1).
- Recent assessment showed the current flood alleviation scheme is generally fit for purpose for next 15-20 years.
- After that would likely need increasing in height and extending through the southern part of the town for the impacts of climate change.

River Wylye – *slower reacting groundwater dominated catchment*.

- Currently a flood embankment around Wiley Terrace that the EA maintain(Figure 1). There is a temporary barrier put out by the community along Crow Lane when river levels reach an agreed threshold.
- In 2017 EA proposed a flood defence project around Recreation Ground and Crow Lane. This was rejected by Town Council in 2017, as they wanted an alternative design which took up less space and further justification that it wouldn't disbenefit other parts of the Town. Following this position the project effectively paused.
- Recent assessment (2024) using the latest modelling has shown the impact of the recreation ground scheme and where it would disbenefit. This is principally around the Riverside/ Churchill Court area and towards the A36 (Figure 2)
- To reduce the dis-benefit from this scheme addition defences (Figure 3) would be required to keep the river away from properties, and likely to need pumping stations to pick up ground water and surface water.

Figure 1: Wilton flood map and assets

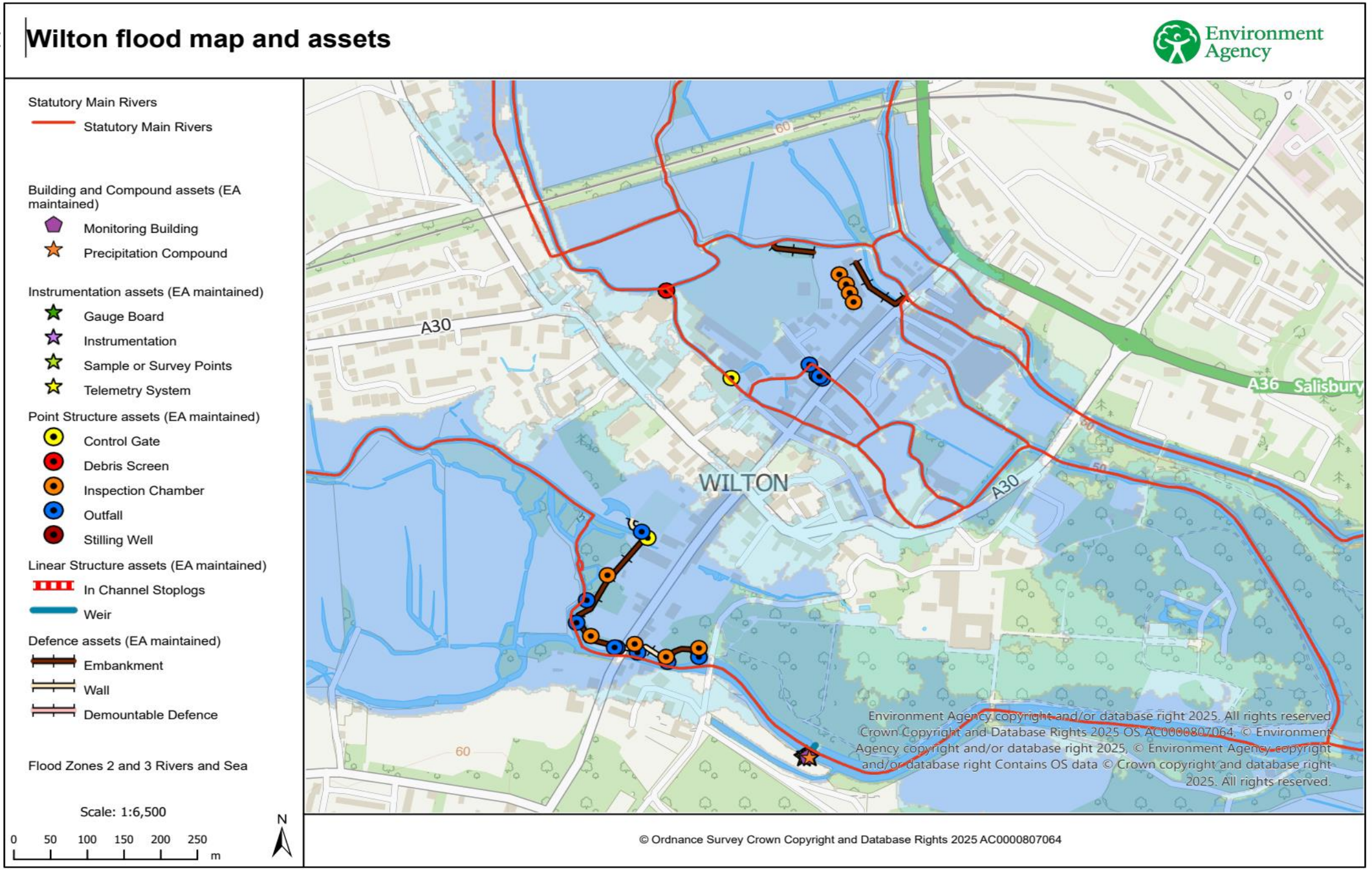

Figure 2: Areas shown to be dis-benefitting from 2017 scheme

Areas shown to be dis-benefitting from 2017 scheme

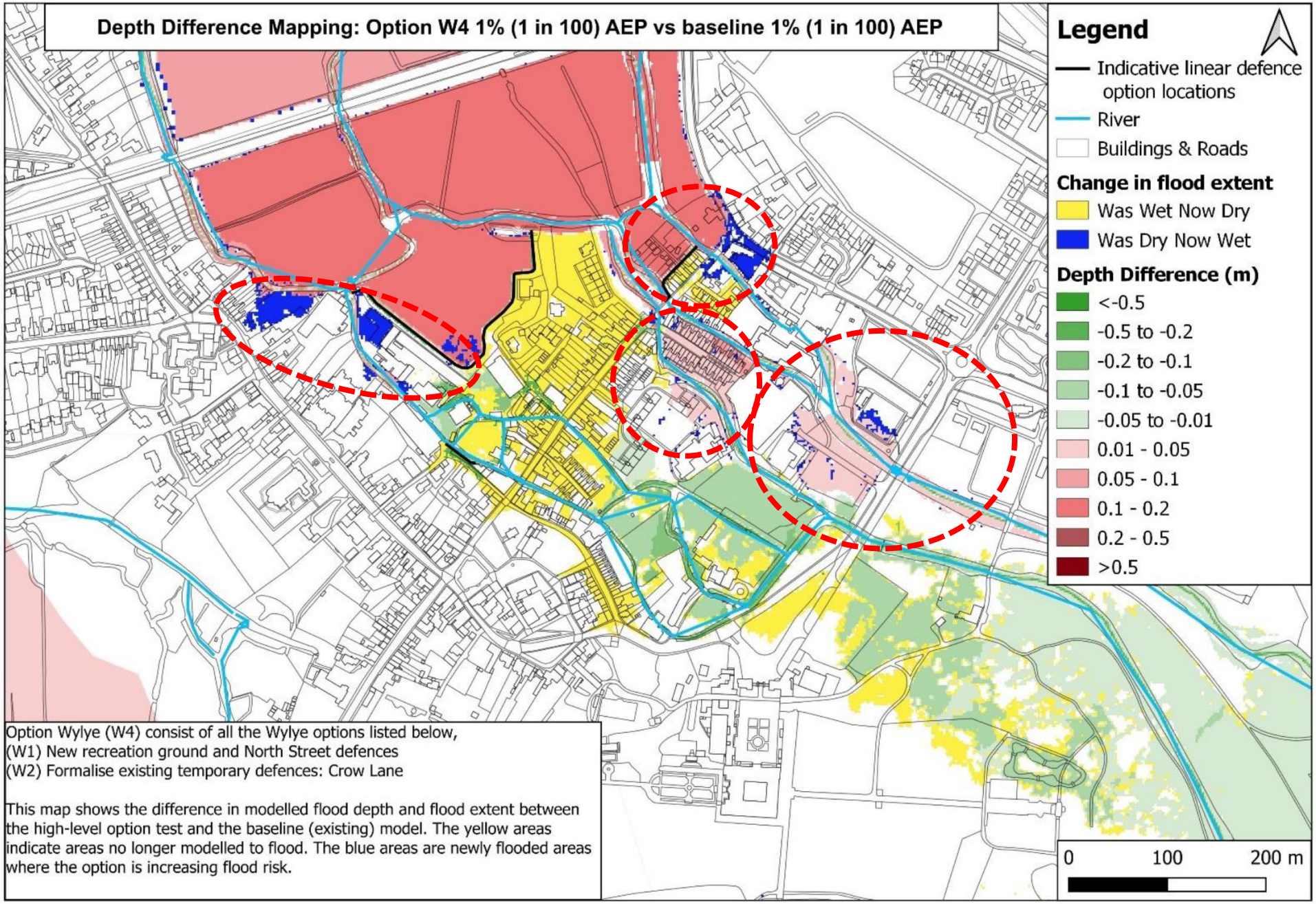

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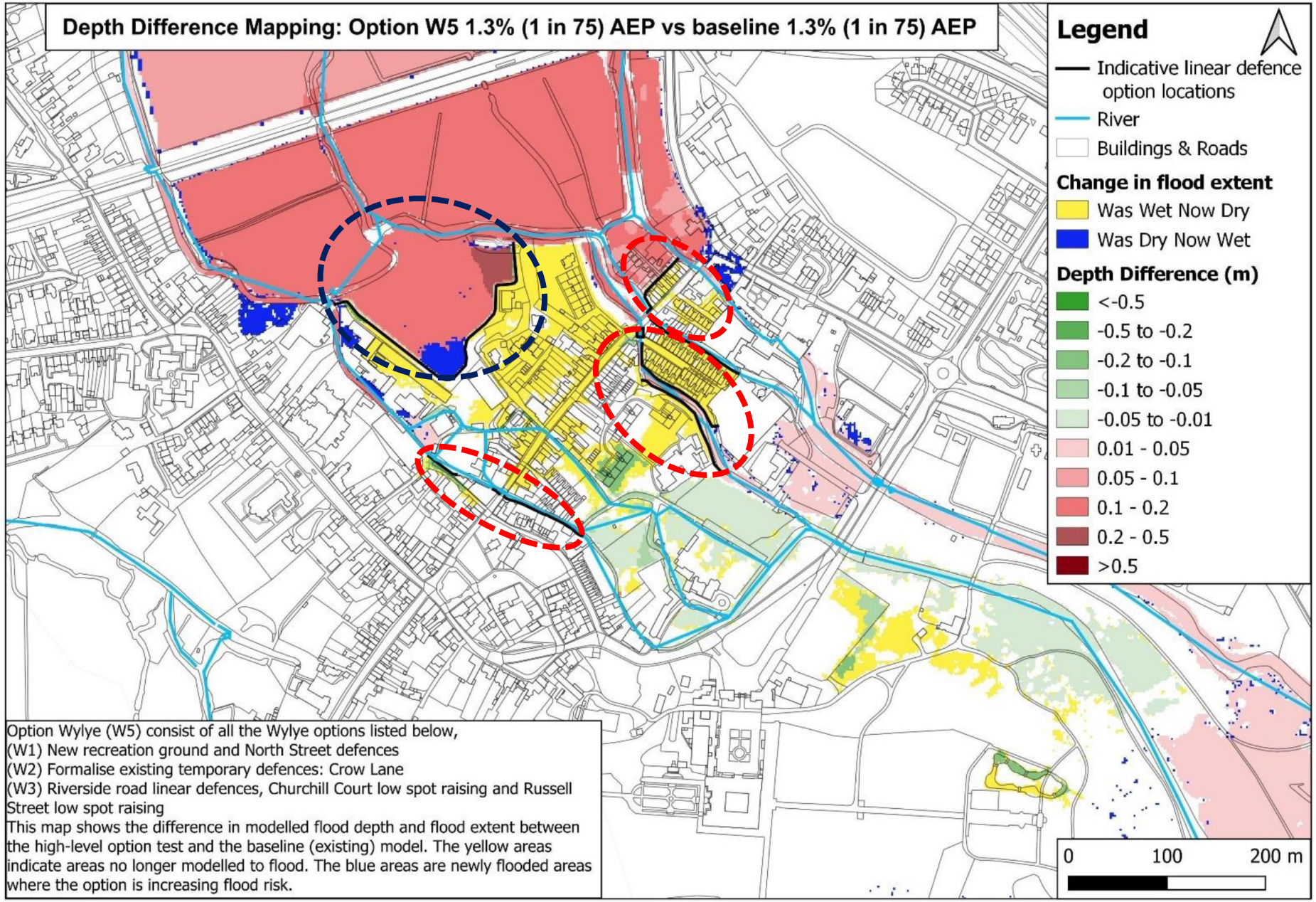
Figure 3: Areas required to reduce impacts across the whole community

2017 scheme

Additional areas required for 2024 scheme



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Way forward

Likely that comprehensive scheme for the Wylye would be too expensive and not meet government cost/benefit ratio and prioritisation criteria (i.e. deprived communities, etc). Early estimate cost could be in the region of £15-20 million due to the complexities of the engineering solutions and the difficult construction conditions.

Therefore, need to determine if continue with the current approach of trying to develop a comprehensive scheme. Or to look at other options including property flood resilience measures, and community resilience measures.

Supportive of collaborative approach to discussing the above, using subject experts and the local community representatives in a Town Council led forum. This approach is something that we are about to start up in Bradford on Avon following our announcement that we cannot deliver a capital flood alleviation scheme for them and need to focus on resilience measures.

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