

In response to section 7: The Water Environment

The area around Thorpe Lane, Fleets Road and the River Till has been prone to flooding for as long as I have lived here (since 1987) and many years prior. I have attached two maps showing where I have taken photos of the recent flooding in Thorpe le Fallows on 20th October. These photos were taken in the morning just after 9am and some angles taken again just before 12pm. I became aware of the rain starting in the early hours of 20th October, around 12.40am, so the amount of water collecting in the River Till, surrounding dykes and fields has only happened over a period of 8-9 hours and is continuing to rise.

The storm drain in photo ref 2 was installed to help reduce the flooding on the Fleets Road/ Thorpe Lane junction. Many times the bench would almost completely go underwater. As you can see from the photos the drain is still overwhelmed with the amount of water and the water level has risen above the drainage hole in just 3 hours.

You can see water accumulating in the field behind the bench in photo ref 1.

The photos taken on Thorpe Lane bend, photo ref 3, show the dyke overflowing onto the road at 09.10am, and by 11.58am the road is no longer visible and is on the way to becoming impassible.

I would've liked to have taken some more photos of the river at 12pm to see what the level was after 3 more hours, but I was unsure about making my way through the water on Thorpe Lane bend in photo ref 3 as it had become quite deep. The installation of acres of solar panels and industrialisation and disruption of this landscape is only sure to worsen the risk of flooding.

I have also included the flood risk screenshot from the government website that day which shows the expanse of the flooded area around the River Till.

I would also like to point out there are no hedgerows along the north side of Thorpe Lane either side of the river. Any solar panels would be 100% visible from this road and any hedgerows planted would take decades to become tall and dense enough to disguise them.

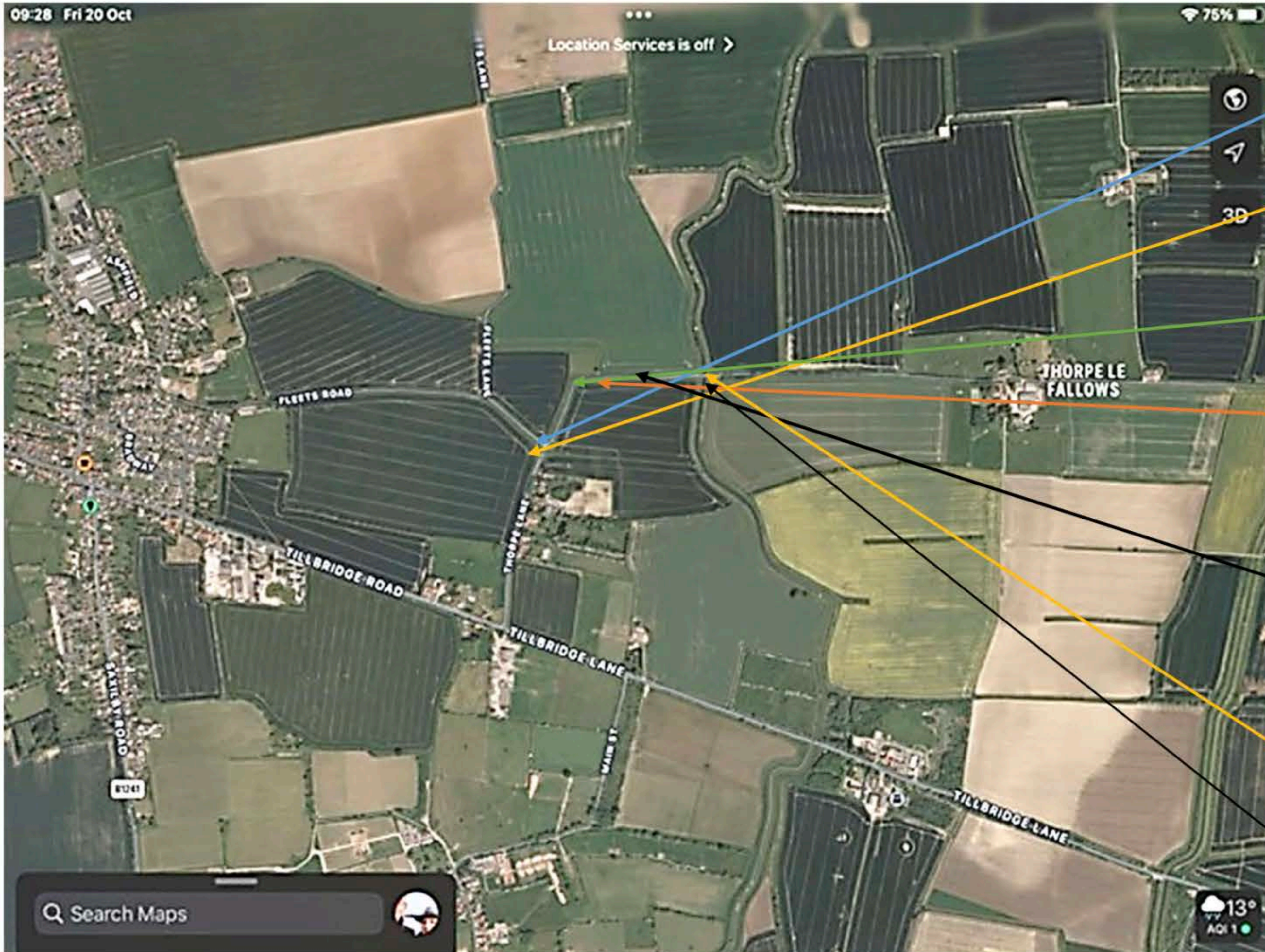
Other areas prone to flooding, and which also flooded on 20th October are the crossroads at Bransby, the fields belonging to Bransby horses rescue which run along side the River Till, Sturton by Stow high street, Squires Bridge over the River Till on Broxholme Lane. Bransby fields act as the River Till washlands and water is sent into them to stop the River Witham from flooding Lincoln city at The Brayford Pool in Lincoln which is connected to the River Witham and Foss Dyke (which connects to the River Till at Odder). Pictures attached of Bransby and Brayford Pool. Storm Babet brought unprecedented rainfall to the UK on Friday 20th October. The village of Bransby flooded with surface water, along with more than 40% of the charity's land after the Till Washlands were purposely flooded to protect homes in the city of Lincoln – worse than the damage they experienced in 2019. Information and images from the 2019 flood can be seen here <https://bransbyhorses.co.uk/the-floods-of-2019-update/>

And information and images of the vast area flooded in 2023 can be seen here

<https://bransbyhorses.co.uk/emergency-flood-crisis-2023/>

I strongly feel I am being wholly disadvantaged throughout this examination process. I work and have young children and it is physically impossible for me to spend the time reading the sheer volume of documentation in order to participate. I don't have a computer at home and trying to read these documents on a mobile device is extremely difficult. I attempted to read the Skidmore Review as mentioned in section 3 of your questions as you have asked all IP's to comment, but this document is 340 pages! There are also two other deadlines this week, one yesterday for Gate Burton and one on Friday for West Burton. How the public are expected to keep up with this is beyond me. The whole process is extremely complicated and confusing, made worse by the close and overlapping deadlines of each proposal. What I do know is this cumulative project will cover approximately 16 miles by 8 miles of fields, farmland and wonderful countryside in this area. Every journey I take I will see solar panels. To say that hedges will be planted and that in 15 years time we won't see them is completely lacking any empathy to those of us who live here and will have this blight on our countryside. This will seriously affect the mental health of myself and my family and we do not want it. There are other options for renewable energy.

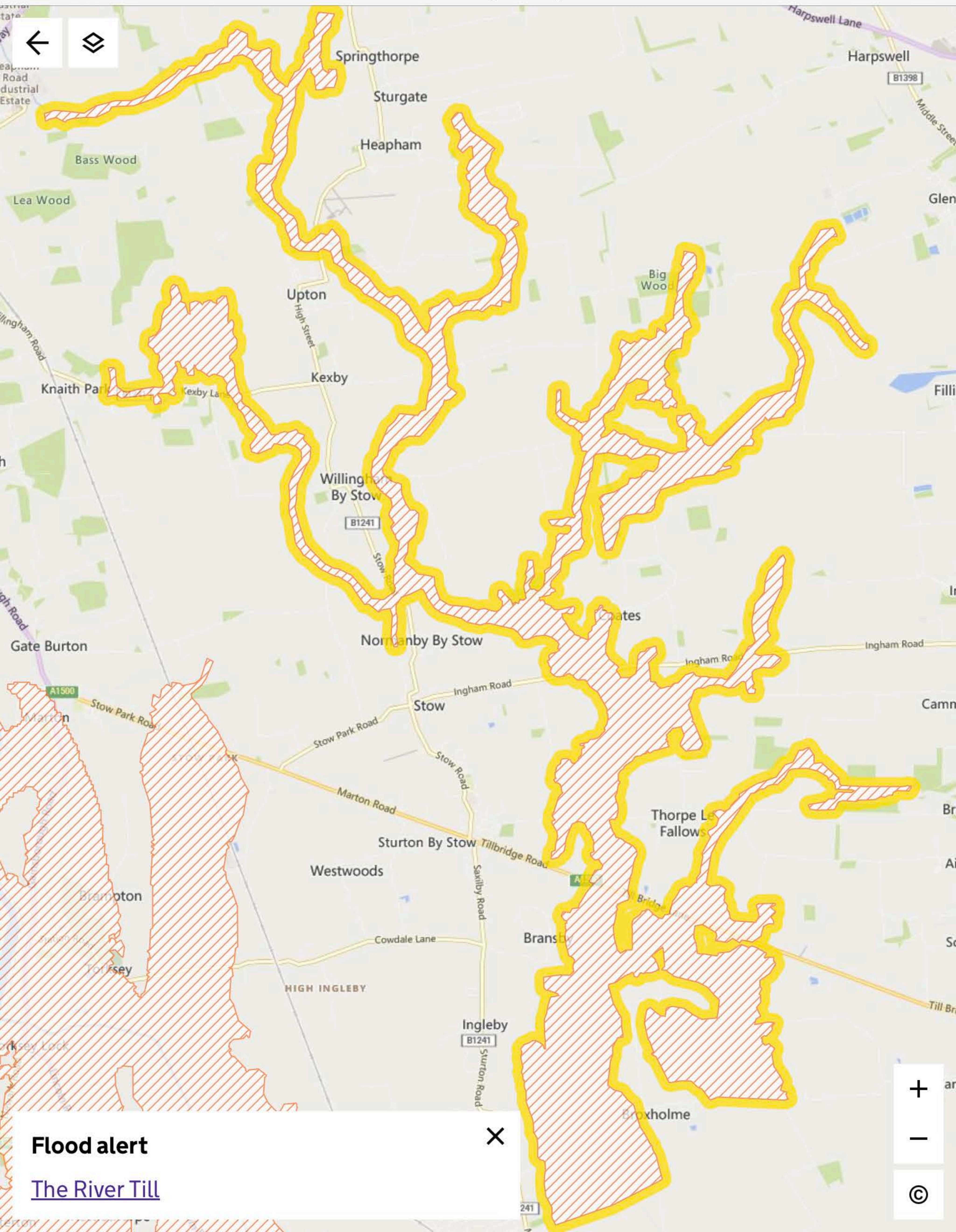
ID20037012 – COTTAM SOLAR - OVERHEAD MAP BELOW PLEASE SEE REFERENCE NUMBERS 1 THROUGH TO 7 WHICH ARE BETWEEN VIEWING POINTS 7 AND 8 CONTAINED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT APPENDIX 8.1.5: PHOTOGRAPHY AND PHOTOMONTAGE METHODOLOGY PART 1 OF 5 JANUARY 2023.



- Ref Numbers:-
- 1 – Bench at junction of Fleets Road and Thorpe Lane
 - 2 – Storm drain in dyke at junction of Fleets Road and Thorpe Lane, opposite side of the road to the bench
 - 3 – Bend on Thorpe Lane between Viewpoint 8 and Viewpoint 7,.
 - 4 – Dyke on south side of Thorpe Lane (right hand side of the road if travelling to Thorpe) between Viewpoints 7 & 8 and the River Till Bridge/Thorpe Bridge.
 - 5a & 5b – Dyke on north side of Thorpe Lane (left hand side of the road if travelling to Thorpe) between Viewpoint 7 & 8 and River Till/ Thorpe Bridge. 5a. Looking NW. 5b. Looking NE.
 - 6 – Looking North (and NW and NE) on River Till/ Thorpe Bridge
 - 7 - Looking South on River Till/Thorpe Bridge

20/10/23 Photo ref 5a dyke NW view,
taken at 09.01am





Flood alert

[The River Till](#)



20/10/23 Photo ref 5b dyke NE view,
taken at 09.01 am. Also note there are no
hedgerows



20/10/23 Photo ref 6 looking North, River
Till, 09.02am



20/10/23 Photo ref 6 looking NW from River
Till/ Thorpe bridge, 09.02am



20/10/23 Photo ref 6 looking NE from
River Till/Thorpe bridge 09.03am



20/10/23 Photo ref 2 storm drain,
taken at 09.06am.



20/10/23 Photo ref 1 bench, raised water in dyke
09.13am



20/10/23 Photo ref 3, bend on Thorpe Lane, heading away from Thorpe. Public Footpath sign on bend 09.12am



20/10/23 Photo ref 3, bend on Thorpe Lane heading to Thorpe, water pouring from dyke 09.10am



20/10/23 Photo ref 3, bend on Thorpe Lane heading to
Thorpe 09.10am



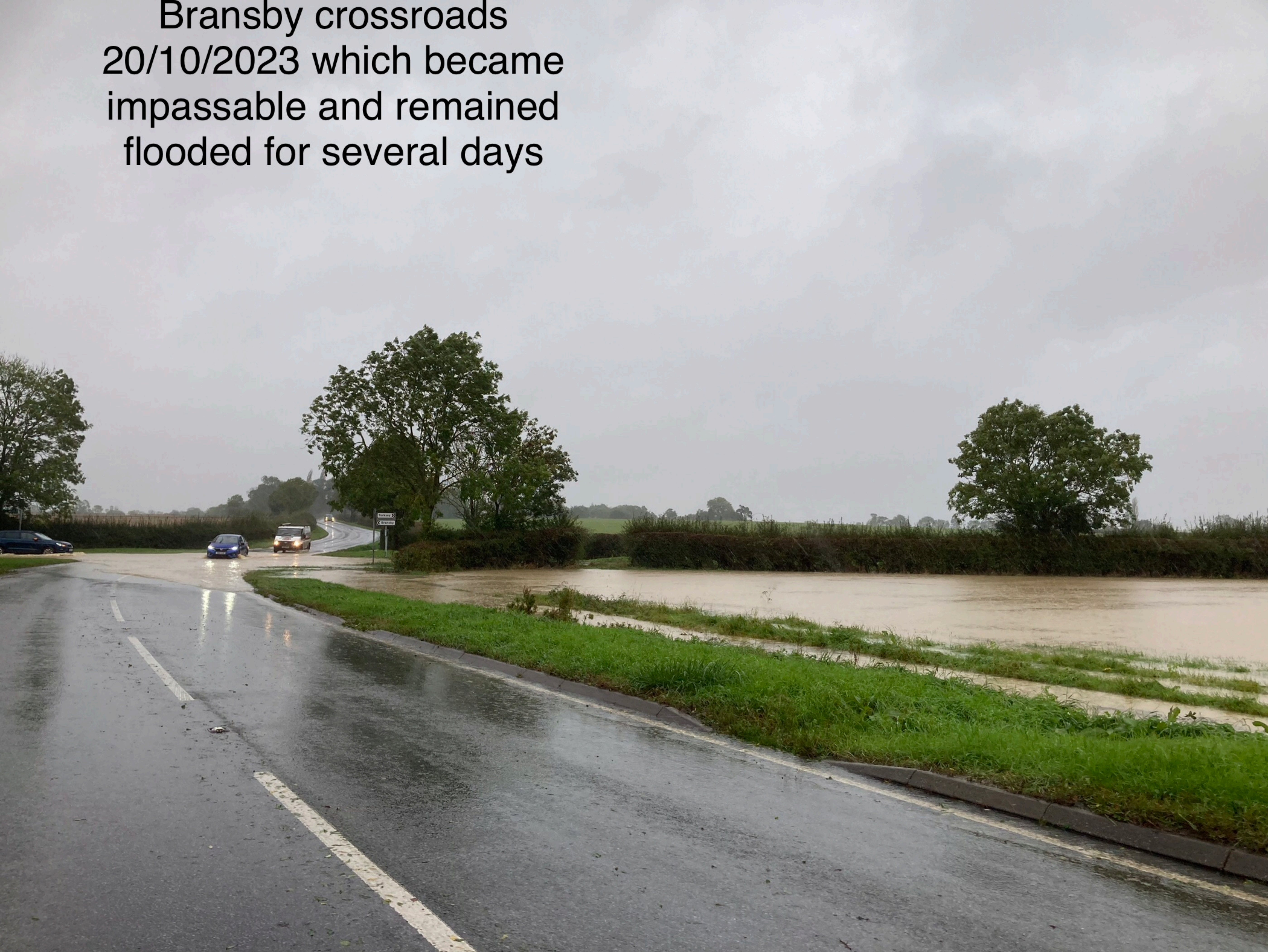
20/10/23 Photo ref 2, photo
taken at 11.57am, water level
has risen since photo at
09.06am.



20/10/23 Photo ref 3,
bend on Thorpe Lane,
taken at 11.58am,
water level has risen
since photos at
09.10am.



Bransby crossroads
20/10/2023 which became
impassable and remained
flooded for several days





Flooding in Lincoln Brayford Pool



Flooding in Lincoln Brayford Pool

The second time in six years
Ingham Road has become
impassable



Fields alongside Ingham Road which are within the Applicant's plan





Photos taken within this area