

Boston Borough Council

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

30th April 2026

Matthew Harrison

Flood & Water Manager

Lincolnshire County Council



Lincolnshire County Council – Lead Local Flood Authority

As LLFA for Lincolnshire we are responsible for managing the risk of flooding from the following sources:

- Surface water
- Ordinary watercourses
- Groundwater

The roles and responsibilities of the County Council as LLFA are as follows:

- We develop and maintain a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- We carry out investigations into flooding and then publish the outcomes
- We undertake works to manage flood risk from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses
- We are a statutory consultee in planning for all major developments
- We maintain a register of assets
- We regulate ordinary watercourses outside of Internal Drainage Board areas. In Lincolnshire, Internal Drainage Boards act as our agents in these areas.

To assist us in meeting our statutory requirements we work with other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs), key stakeholders and communities.

Floods & Water Management Act 2010 - Section 19 processing

The purpose of investigations is to determine:

- *which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions*
- *whether each of those has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to a flood event*

The reports do not blame or hold any authority or individual to account nor legally enforce any recommendations

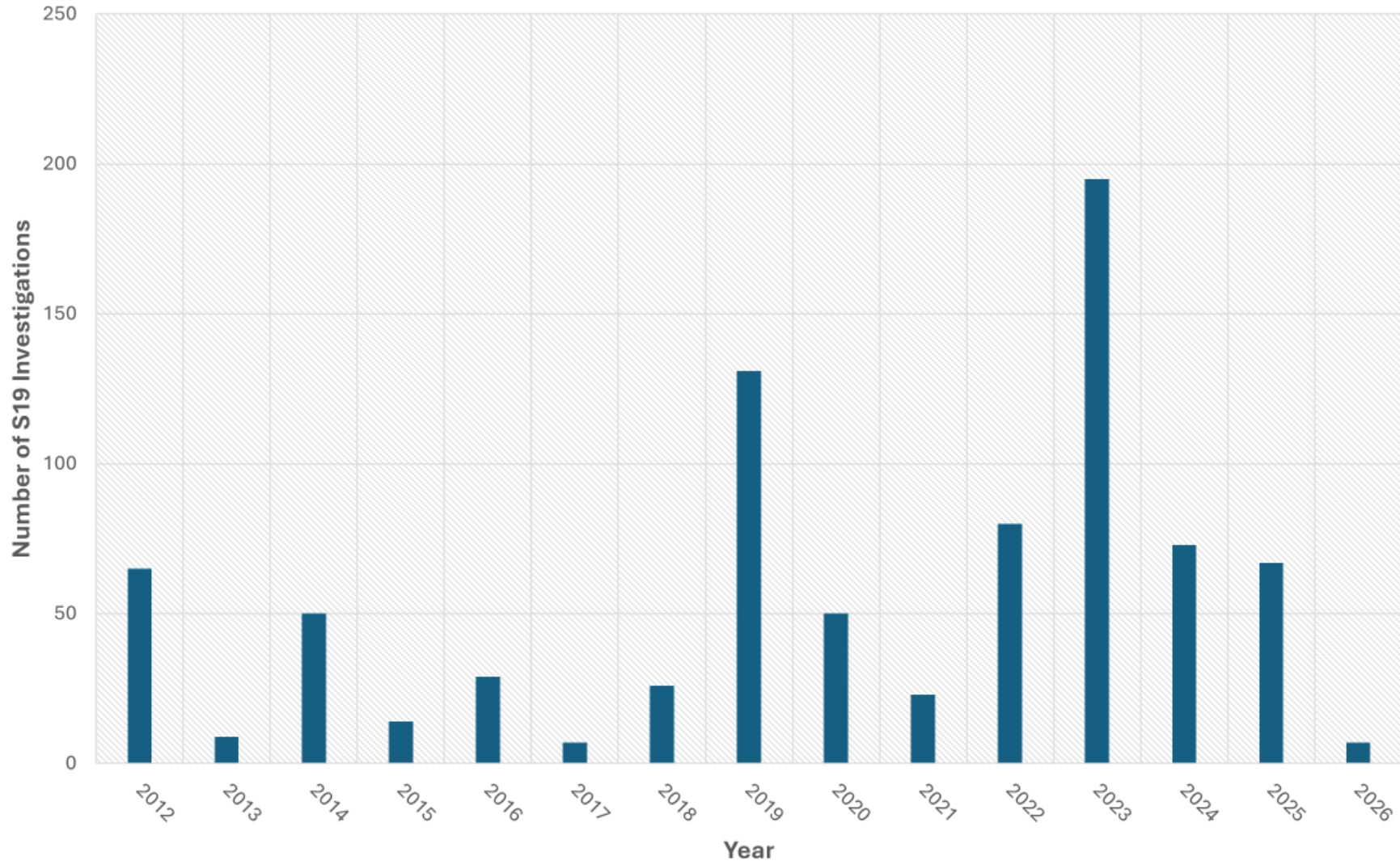
Floods & Water Management Act 2010 – Section 19

We may undertake a section 19 flood investigation when:

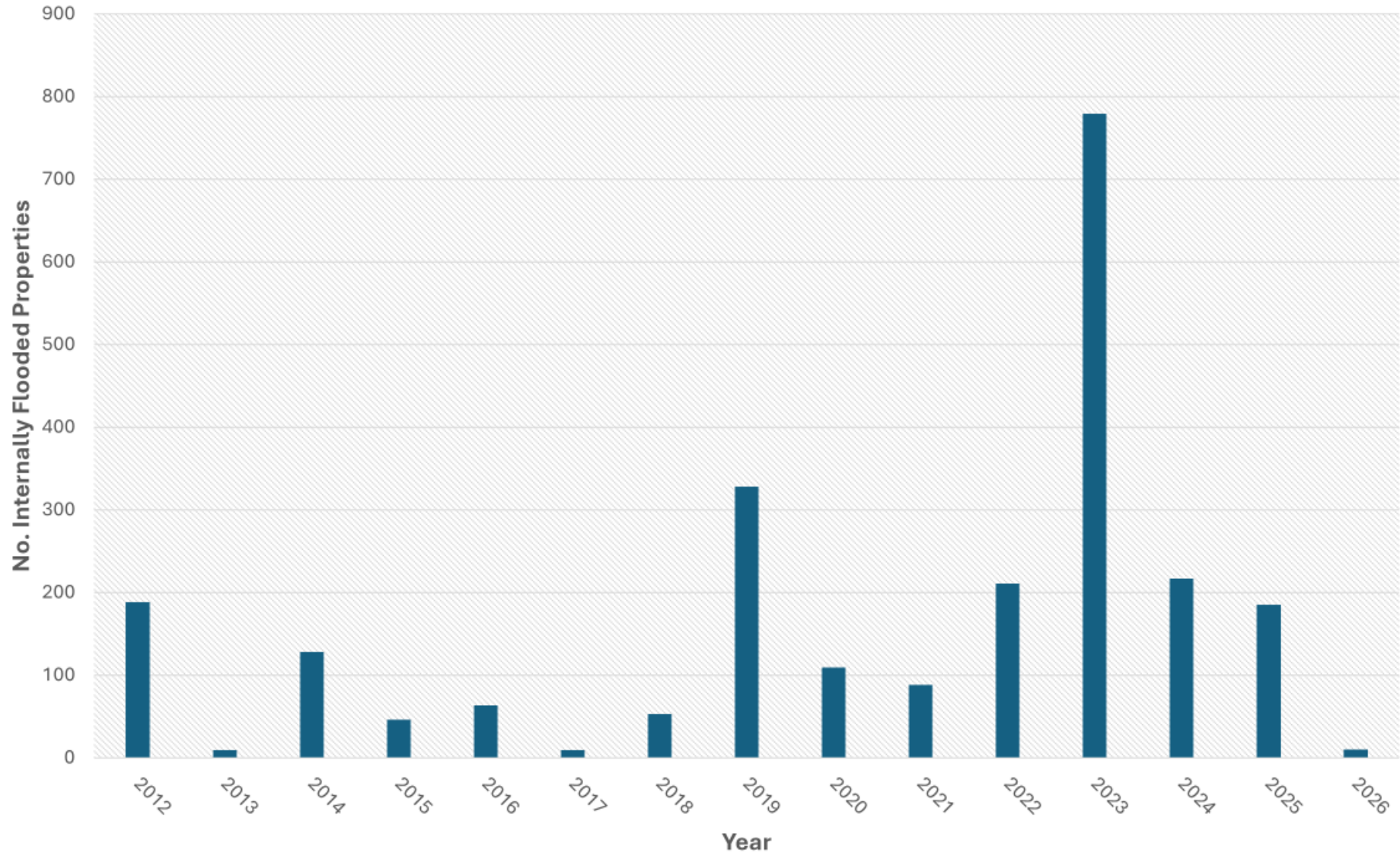
- one or more properties are internally flooded
- one or more critical service is internally flooded
- one or more critical service can't operate due to lack of access
- one or more flooded critical installation results in the loss of a service impacting on a local community, or causes pollution to internal property
- at least two hectares of grade 3+ agricultural land is flooded for more than two days
- any national 3+ category road is made impassable due to flooding
- flooding to a minor road occurs cutting off access to a village, hamlet or blocks a bus route
- flooding occurs to a railway/ station adversely impacting on normal timetables or cuts of a rail link

Priority is given to floods which affect one or more properties.

Number of S19 Investigations 2012-04/2026

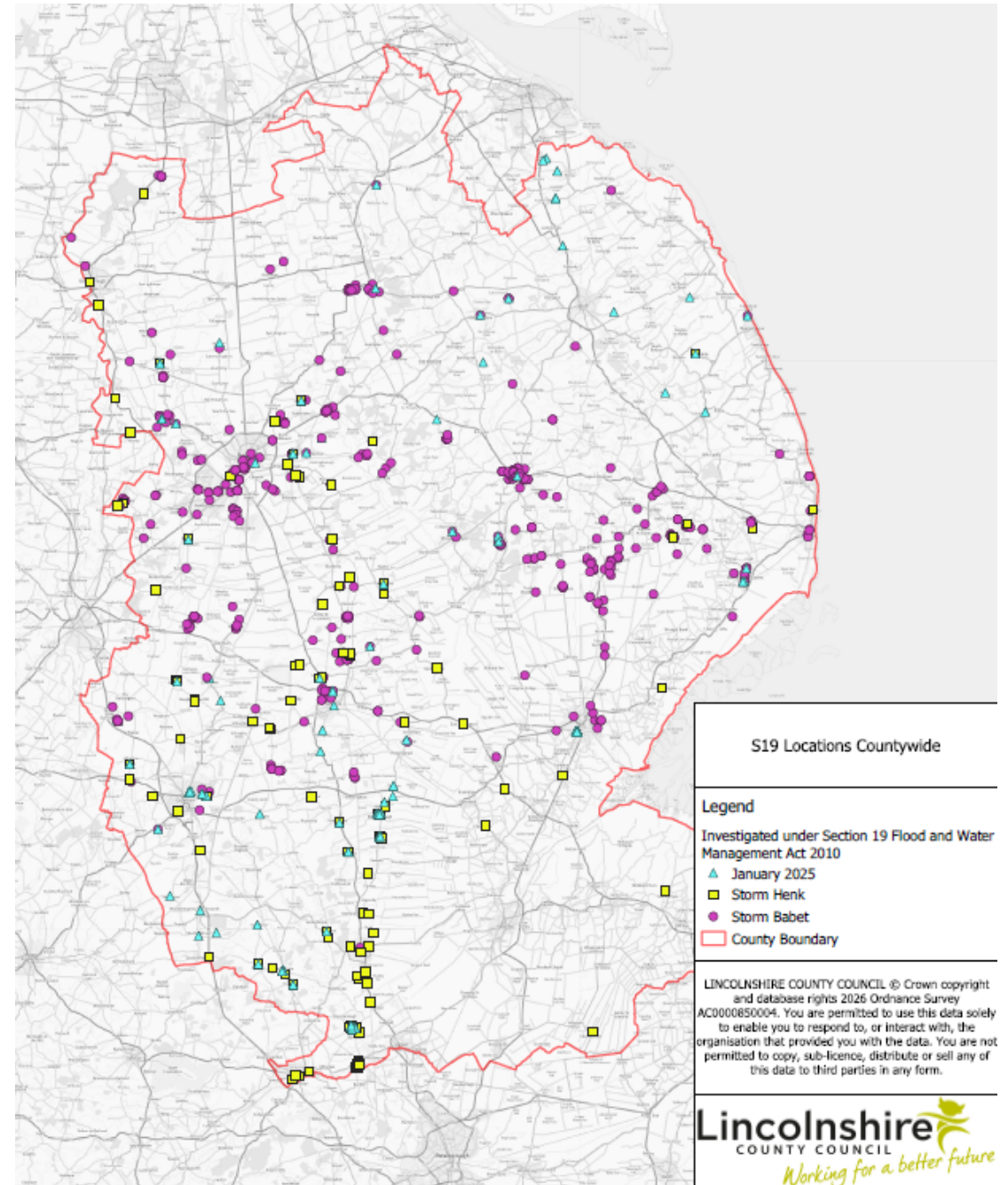


Number of Internally Flooded Properties Recorded 2012-04/2026



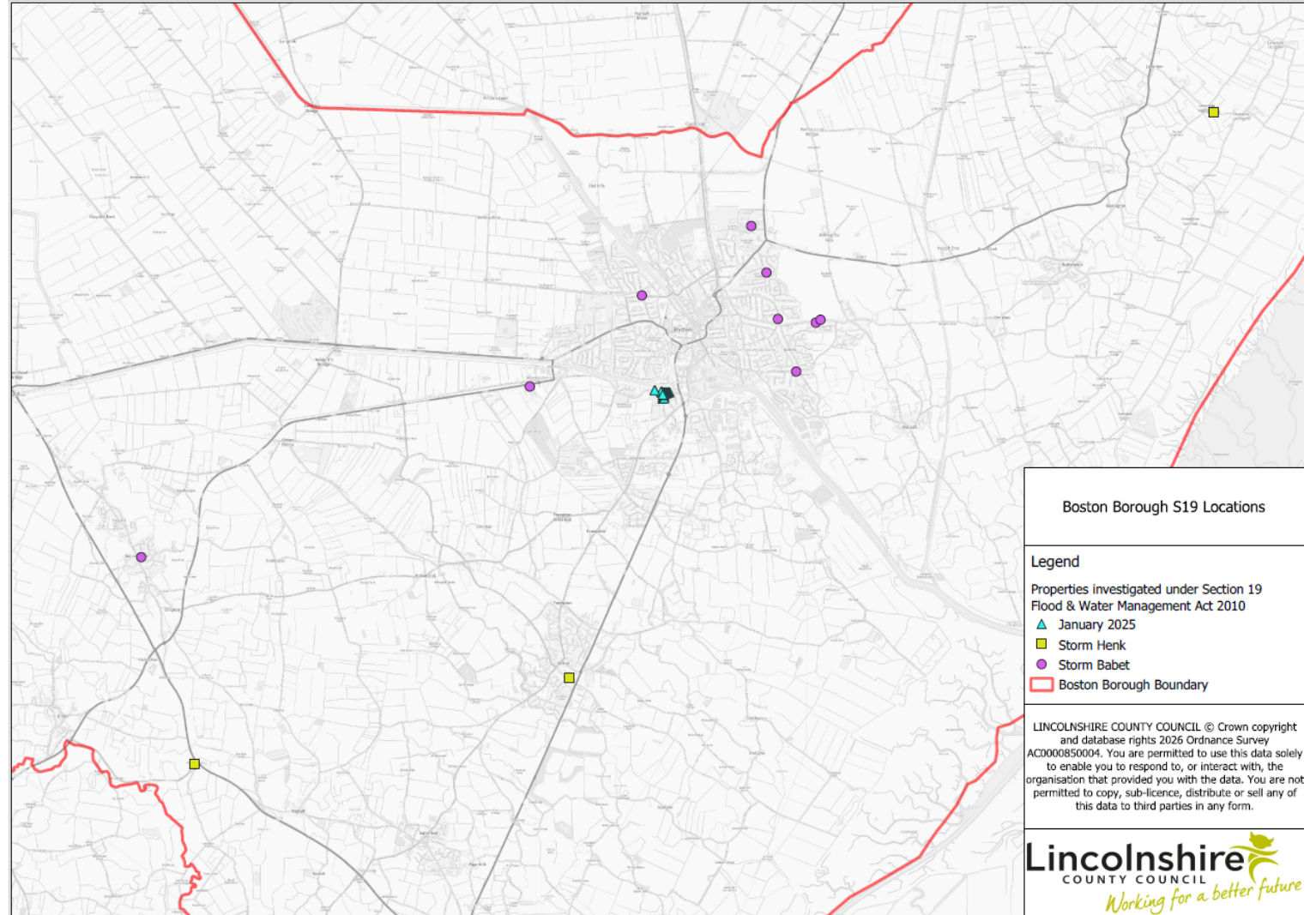
Section 19 locations following;

- Storm Babet October 2023
- Storm Henk January 2024
- Extreme weather January 2025



Section 19 locations within Boston Borough area following;

- Storm Babet October 2023
- Storm Henk January 2024
- Extreme weather January 2025



Boston S19 information - <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/flood-risk-management/flood-investigations>

S19 Report Reference Number	Description of Flooding	Recommendations for Consideration
S19-941	<p>The predominant mechanism of flooding was as a result of the overtopping of two wall sections along the southern bank of the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD), which was generally driven by extreme rainfall and snowmelt / frozen ground conditions in the Black Sluice catchment. Peak flows reached the lower section of the SFFD during high tide, preventing their discharge into the tidally influenced Haven, contributing to the overtopping of the system. The flooding may have been further exacerbated due to issues in the management of the flood risk assets along the SFFD, particularly along Wyberton West Road.</p>	<p>Task 1 - The residents of the affected properties should consider implementing flood resistance and resilience measures at their properties to reduce the possible impacts of flooding should it occur again in the future, as advised by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and the Environment Agency where required. Task 1 update (23/02/2026) - Property Flood Resilience (PFR) information provided to affected properties through the LCC administered scheme following the event, where further information can be found on the LCC website.</p> <p>Task 2 - The residents of Wyberton West Road and Park Road, with support from Boston Borough Council (BBC) and/or the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF), should consider producing a flood action plan (where not done so already) to ensure that they are suitably prepared should flooding occur again in the future. Such approach should be consistent with BBC's current emergency response plan. Task 2 update (23/02/2026) -The Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) through the Resilient Communities Programme, are working with communities and parishes across the county to develop Flood Action Groups and Plans, alongside information on preparedness through the Community Resilience Newsletter and LRF website.</p> <p>Task 3 - The Environment Agency (EA) should consider reviewing the hydraulic modelling for the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) to ensure that it is reflective of the flooding experienced on 06 January 2025. Following this, the plan for mitigation within the Black Sluice Catchment should be reviewed to ensure it remains appropriate. Task 3 update (20/02/2026) – It is understood that a review of the existing hydraulic modelling for the SFFD is underway by the EA including the undertaking of a simulation of the January 2025 incident, outputs will be shared with partner organisations and stakeholders when available.</p> <p>Task 4 - The EA should consider reviewing the potential for a Flood Warning service for the downstream reaches of the SFFD; should this be deemed unfeasible, consideration should be given to amending the wording of the Flood Alert for this area to reduce confusion regarding the potential for internal flooding and whether future warnings will be received. Task 4 update (03/07/2025) - The EA have improved Flood Warning Service areas, with a new Flood Warning Area (FWA) for the SFFD in Boston for 139 properties following the January flooding.</p> <p>Task 5 - The EA should consider raising the two wall sections along Wyberton West Road so that they are at the same height as the adjacent sections of embankment, to reduce the potential for future overtopping in this location. Task 5 update (20/02/2026) - Please refer to Task 3 updates.</p>

Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Grant

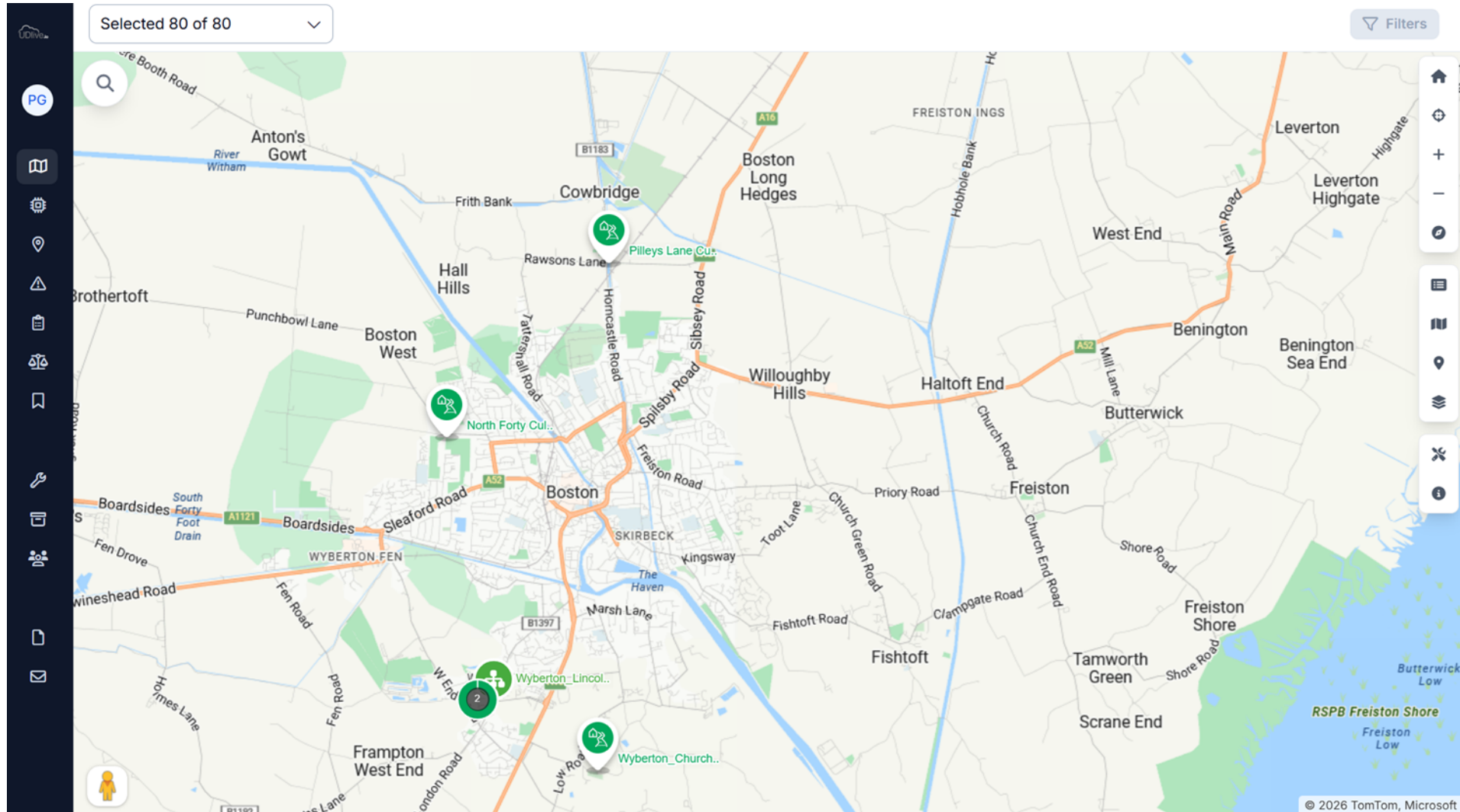
Lincolnshire County Council - £1million allocation to support properties affected following January 2025 flooding (no government support available unlike Storms Babet and Henk)

Boston Borough Council area

No of eligible properties for grant application - 40 invited to apply.

No of active applications – 9 (1 installation completed, 5 received first stage funding and at varying stages of installation, and 3 properties have yet to submit all supporting info but funding secured)

Project Groundwater Telemetry devices



Thank you