

Appendix 3

Historical records of flooding

Table A3-1. Historical records of flooding in Mid Devon

Ref.	Date	Description	Source
1	13 October 1625	“A tremendous flood swept through the valley, causing great devastation. In the town of Tiverton alone 53 houses were destroyed.”	Quoted in Brierley (1964)
2	1692	“A wave of water 4-5 ft deep swept through West Exe, Tiverton , causing great damage to walls and houses.”	Quoted in Brierley (1964)
3	1757	“As a result of extremely heavy overnight rain the Exe rose suddenly and swept away the Mill House situated at the end of West Exe, Tiverton . Many bridges were destroyed or damaged throughout the Exe Valley .”	Quoted in Brierley (1964)
4	1795	“Many bridges were damaged and Swines Bridge at Tiverton was swept away.”	Quoted in Brierley (1964)
5	1809	“Water 5 ft deep in West Exe, Tiverton .”	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
6	January 1809	“In the Town of Thorverton a brook of water rose in an unprecedented manner and broke down a cob wall ... one half of [a] dwelling house was washed away.”	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
7	1853	“... the Exeter and Crediton Branch was much damaged [by flood water] and the traffic thereon suspended for some time in the winter of 1853.”	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
8	January 1866	“ Tiverton , greatest flood in the Exe for 20 years.”	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
9	19 October 1875	Observer at Tiverton noted “Excessive rain in evening; great floods.”	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
10	15-16 April 1877	“Exeter, ... Crediton , and various other places in Devonshire, are reported to have suffered greatly from floods produced by the rains of the 15 th and 16 th .”	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events

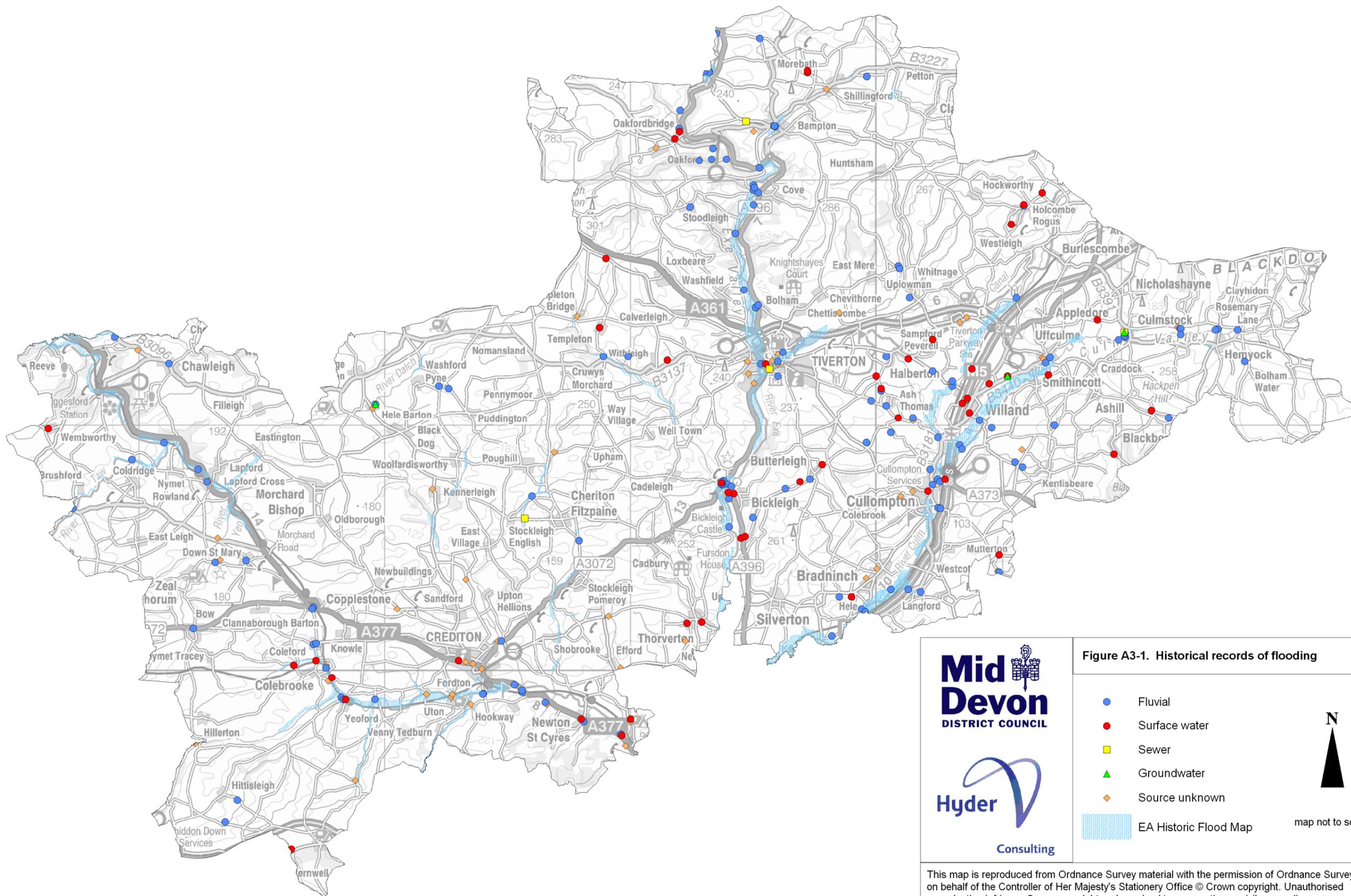
Ref.	Date	Description	Source
11	1884	"... the daily [rain] fall exceeded an inch ... on March 3 rd , and June 27 th ... on both occasions the fall occurred in the night, and on the following morning the Exe had risen so rapidly that the lower parts of Tiverton were flooded, the main sewers and drains being choked and unable to carry off the superabundant flow of water."	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
12	26 October 1909	Rainfall observer at Tiverton noted "River Exe high and River Lowman in flood."	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
13	21 December 1909	Observer at Uffculme noted "Rain fell on frozen ground in the night and caused the worst floods known here for 16 years."	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
14	21-22 December 1909	Rainfall observer at Crediton noted "Between 6 pm on 21 st and 5 am on 22 nd , 1.65 in [42 mm] of rain fell, and the ground being frozen serious floods resulted."	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
15		Rainfall observer at Tiverton noted "Rain commenced at 7:30 pm on 21 st and 1.39 in [35 mm] fell in less than 12 hours. The Exe was in flood, and as the ground was frozen hard none of the rain could soak in until the thaw on the morning of the 22 nd ."	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
16	24-25 August 1912	Observer at Tiverton noted "River Exe in flood."	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
17	June 1946	In Cullompton , 2.35 in [60 mm] of rain fell in 45 minutes and "... in the lower part of the town flooding was 3 ft deep in houses."	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
18	30 September 1960	"Serious and unexpected damage was reported from Crediton and the neighbouring hamlet of Fordton , where several cottages collapsed."	Devon Flood Story (p. 2, 1960)
19		In Fordton , "flood water reached a depth of five feet"	Devon Flood Story (p. 20, 1960)
20		Yeoford Station was flooded, as well as "... the tracks between Yeoford and Crediton , where ballast was washed away leaving the tracks suspended."	Brierley (p. 163, 1964)
21		"At midday heavy flood waters were surging over a bridge on the main Southern line between Exeter and Crediton , and as a precaution trains were cancelled. About three hours later the bridge collapsed."	Devon Flood Story (p. 12, 1960)

Ref.	Date	Description	Source
22		"... Bridge Reeve near Chulmleigh ... flood water was pouring through the front window of a cottage and out the back."	Devon Flood Story (p. 18, 1960)
23	1 October 1960	"There were ... fresh floods in the Exeter and Crediton areas"	Devon Flood Story (p. 2, 1960)
24		"After torrential rain on the night of September 30, the River Lowman rose rapidly and flooded Blundells Road, Tiverton . By midday on October 1, Lowman Green was four feet under water. Traffic between the town and Halberton was at a standstill for a time, and hundreds of people were stranded."	Devon Flood Story (p. 23, 1960)
25		"The 7:15 am train from Hemyock to Tiverton Junction on the Culm Valley branch had an adventurous career. Shortly after setting out the driver noticed that the ballast was washed away ... temporary repairs were made. On the resumed journey, further down the line at Culmstock the track began subsiding beneath the train."	Devon Flood Story (p. 12, 1960)
26		"The Exe Valley branch was flooded at Tiverton"	
27		"Floods at Hele had cut both up and down tracks on the main line."	
28	6 October 1960	"Torrential rain sent new floods surging through Devon during the evening ... Crediton being completely cut off by road and rail for some hours. There was also serious flooding in the Taw valley"	Devon Flood Story (p. 2, 1960)
		" Copplestone station on the Barnstaple line was under water and there was a wash-out between Yeoford and Coleford Junction."	Devon Flood Story (p. 12, 1960)
29		"... the main line at Silverton was flooded to a depth of 1 ft."	Brierley (p. 162, 1964)
30		In Fordton , "... eleven families had to be evacuated."	Devon Flood Story (p. 20, 1960)
31		"At Tiverton police were out in the streets warning householders to barricade their homes."	Devon Flood Story (p. 9, 1960)
32		"The River Yeo rose five feet in four hours"	Devon Flood Story (p. 20, 1960)
33	8 October 1960	" Tiverton on the Exe also experienced floods"	Devon Flood Story (p. 2, 1960)
34	22 October 1960	Flooding occurred in Crediton , following a total of 64 mm of rain on 20 and 21 October (recorded in Exeter)	Brierley (p. 156, 1964)

Ref.	Date	Description	Source
35	27 October 1960	“Rail services between the West, London and the North were interrupted last night at Cullompton and - for the second time in a few weeks – at Crediton , where passengers were having to transfer to emergency buses to complete their journey.”	The Western Morning News (Devon Edition, 28/10/1960)
36		<p>“Tiverton ... was flooded again, and several schools had to close.”</p> <p>“The Lowman had once again caused the trouble at Tiverton. It broke its banks in Blundell’s Road soon after 3 am, cutting the town in half. ... At its highest ever, with water lapping the main arches of Lowman Bridge”</p> <p>“For the fourth time in a month householders and shopkeepers in Lowman Green and Blundell’s road Tiverton, had their homes and premises flooded to a depth of over 3 ft.”</p> <p>Floodwater also swept through the yard of Tiverton Sawmills and lapped the platforms at Tiverton railway station.”</p>	
37		“Both the Western and Southern Region main railway lines were cut by the floods. On Southern lines buses had to take over from the trains between Crediton and Exeter On the Western Region buses provided the link between Exeter and Cullompton .”	
38		“At Bridge Reeve , near Chulmleigh, the Taw rose to an unprecedented height”	
39		“One factory had to be closed at Cullompton More than 3 ft of water entered the Railway Inn. People had to be rescued from caravans at the Station Road site and caravans were hauled to higher ground.”	
40		“Water on the main road at Bickleigh was over 2 ft deep. ... the Little Dart and Exe combined to flood ground floors of the Fisherman’s Cot, the Trout Inn, and Bickleigh Cottage Guest House.”	
41		“There was also flooding in the hamlet of Hele by the station.”	
42		“... ballast was again washed out from under the down line at Hele & Bradninch [station].”	
43	29 October 1960	“For the fourth time in a month householders and shopkeepers in Lowman Green, Tiverton , had their premises saturated with three feet of flood water.”	The Western Morning News (29/10/1960)

Ref.	Date	Description	Source
44	4 December 1960	<p>“Heavy rain and high winds throughout Saturday [3 December] and the early hours of Sunday morning [4 December] brought severe flooding to ... Tiverton, and to the towns and villages of the Taw valley.”</p> <p>“The floods at Tiverton were the worst ever recorded, and about 500 houses were affected, some to a depth of 8 ft.”</p> <p>“The most difficult road was that between Exeter and Tiverton, which was impassable at Bickleigh, and in Tiverton itself.”</p> <p>In Tiverton, “... at 9 am ... the Exe, rising 12 ft in an hour and travelling at over 40 miles an hour, broke its banks. In a fury it swept through Leat Street, West Exe North, and West Exe South, and swirled into many more before it met a torrent that rushed through the Walronds Housing Estate.”</p> <p>“At the beginning, the Tiverton factory acted like a gigantic dam shielding much of Leat Street, but as the build-up of water continued, the turbulent muddy tide broke over a 5 ft high boundary wall.”</p> <p>“At Ladysmead 20 sheep grazing on the football field were cut off in the grandstand.”</p> <p>Flooding affected Chappell’s buildings in West Exe South, and residents of the Walronds Almshouses in Well Brook Street were marooned.”</p>	The Western Morning News (Devon Edition, 5/12/1960)
45		<p>“Bampton was flooded, but not as badly as in October.”</p>	
46	11 February 1990	<p>“The entire Devon stretch of the M5 was closed because of high winds and surface water.”</p>	Express & Echo (12/2/1990)
47	7 August 1997	<p>The car park of the Culm Valley Sports Centre in Cullompton flooded from the Crow Green Stream</p>	Mid Devon District Council (2006)
48	30 October 2000	<p>“Flooding closed the A396 at Bickleigh and between Bampton and Tiverton.”</p>	Express & Echo (30/10/2000)
49	31 October 2000	<p>Seven people were rescued from flooded cottages in Bolham.</p>	Express & Echo (31/10/2000)
50	31 October 2000	<p>A family were rescued from their flooded farm in Bickleigh.</p>	Express & Echo (31/10/2000)
51	5 November 2000	<p>“Flash flooding of a small tributary on the edge of Thorverton caused misery to dozens of residents.”</p>	Express & Echo (7/11/2000)
52	7 November 2000	<p>“The Tarka line between Exeter and Barnstaple ... remains closed because of flooding.”</p>	Express & Echo (7/11/2000)

Ref.	Date	Description	Source
53	16 November 2000	Bickleigh Mill Heritage Centre (photograph 40) was flooded	Express & Echo (16/11/2000)
54	7 December 2000	Flooding from the River Lowman affected Tiverton Business Park, as well as residential properties in the vicinity of Station Road and Little Silver	Environment Agency (2008, pers. comm.)
55	Autumn 2000	"More than 60 sheep marooned in a flooded field near Cullompton were rescued by [a] RSPCA inspector ... and mechanics from a local garage."	Environment Agency (2001)
56	October 2000 – January 2001	171 properties were flooded in Devon as a whole	Environment Agency (2001)
57	December 2000	44 properties in Bampton were flooded to a depth of approximately 0.9 m	Environment Agency (2006)



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Figure A3-1. Historical records of flooding

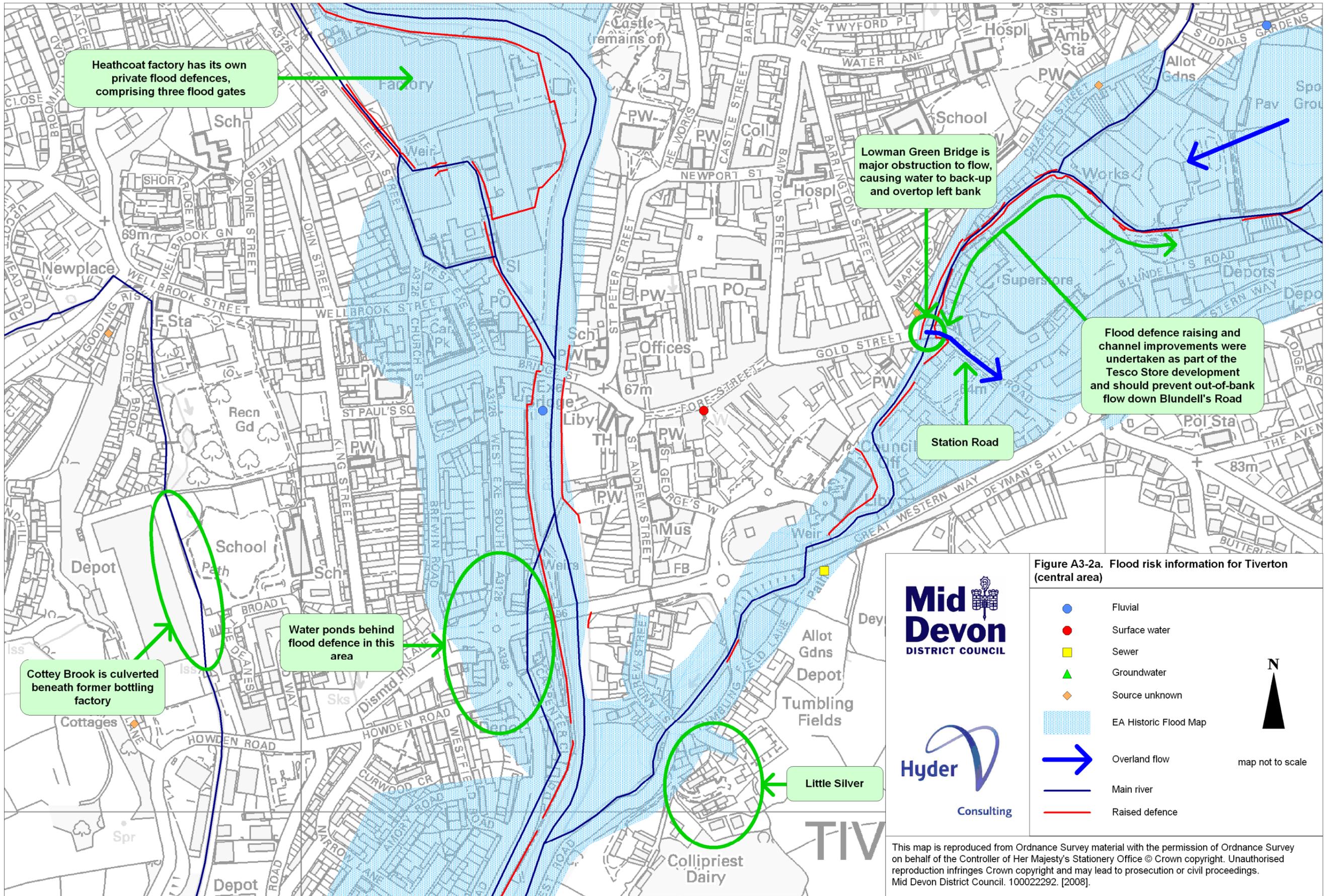
- Fluvial
- Surface water
- Sewer
- ▲ Groundwater
- ◆ Source unknown

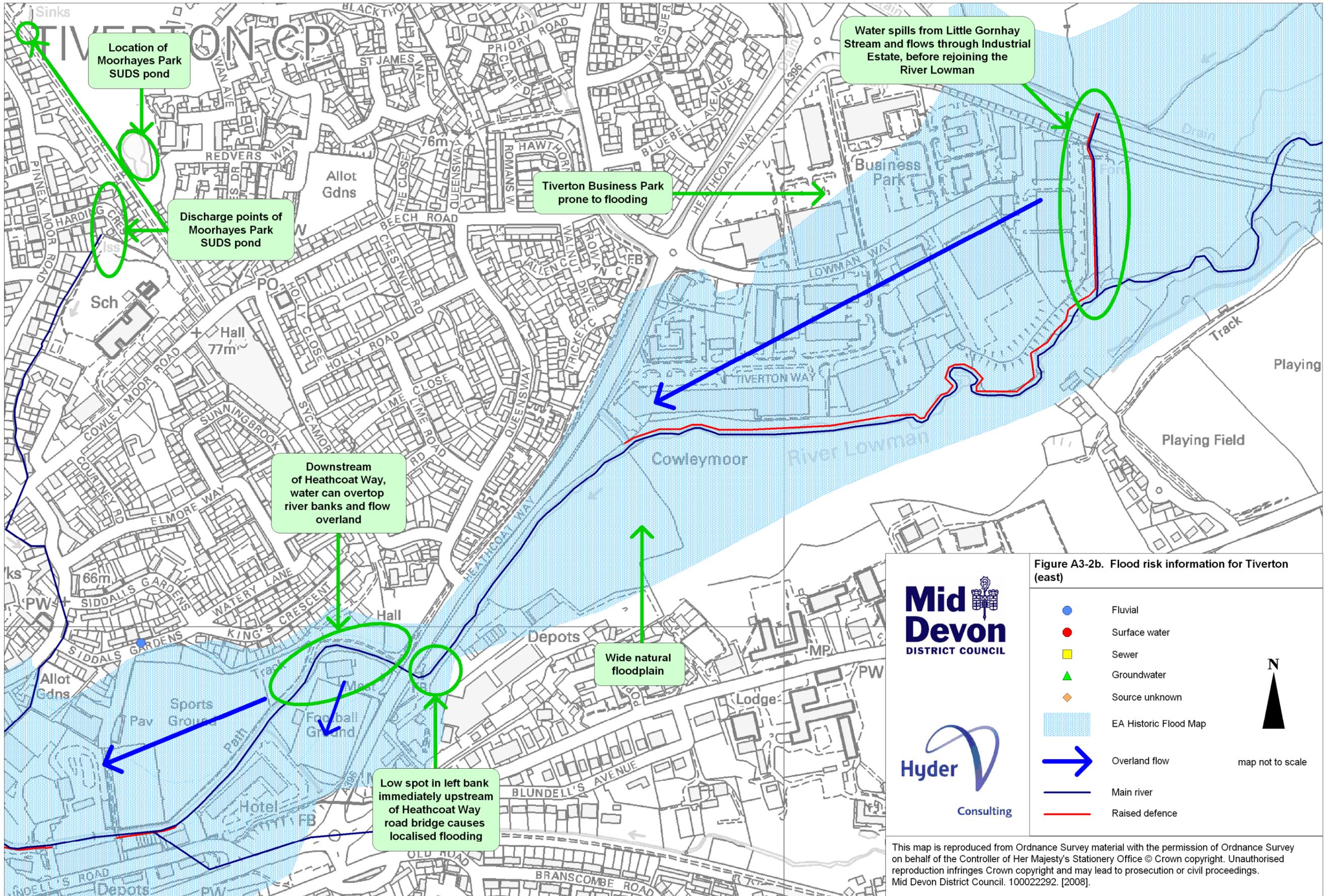
EA Historic Flood Map



map not to scale

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Location of Moorhayes Park SUDS pond

Discharge points of Moorhayes Park SUDS pond

Water spills from Little Gornhay Stream and flows through Industrial Estate, before rejoining the River Lowman

Tiverton Business Park prone to flooding

Downstream of Heathcoat Way, water can overtop river banks and flow overland

Wide natural floodplain

Low spot in left bank immediately upstream of Heathcoat Way road bridge causes localised flooding

Figure A3-2b. Flood risk information for Tiverton (east)

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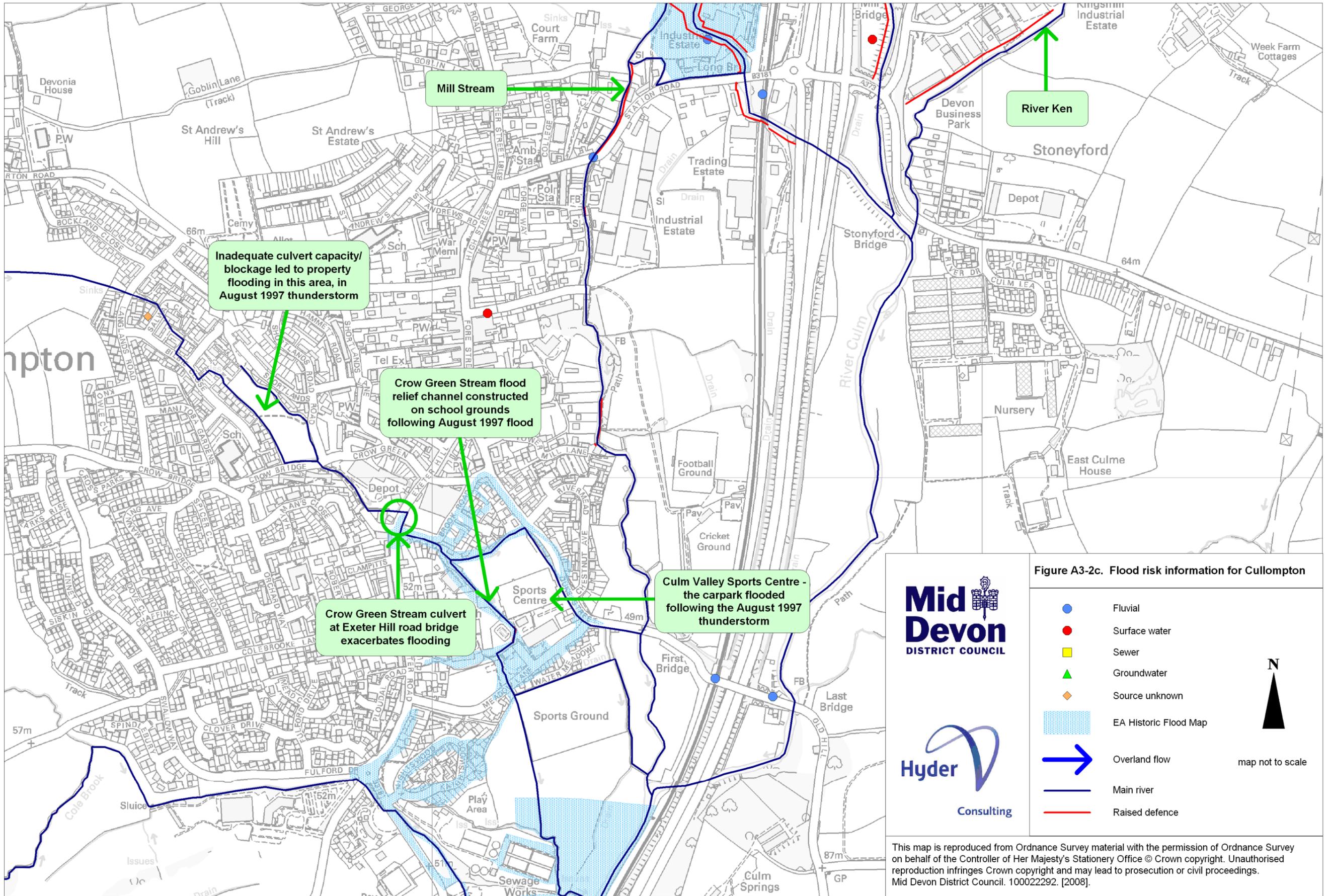
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- Fluvial
- Surface water
- Sewer
- ▲ Groundwater
- ◆ Source unknown
- EA Historic Flood Map
- ➔ Overland flow
- Main river
- Raised defence



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Inadequate culvert capacity/blockage led to property flooding in this area, in August 1997 thunderstorm

Crow Green Stream flood relief channel constructed on school grounds following August 1997 flood

Crow Green Stream culvert at Exeter Hill road bridge exacerbates flooding

Culm Valley Sports Centre - the carpark flooded following the August 1997 thunderstorm

Figure A3-2c. Flood risk information for Cullompton

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- Fluvial
- Surface water
- Sewer
- ▲ Groundwater
- ◆ Source unknown
- EA Historic Flood Map
- ➔ Overland flow
- Main river
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