

Flood Risk Gaps in Broughton Astley

What the Council's Evidence DOESN'T Tell You (Plain English Guide)

Quick Summary

- The area is labelled low flood risk, but flooding is happening in real life.
- The official flood study does not properly assess the village.
- Drainage systems are not fully mapped or tested.
- Sewers and culverts are already struggling.
- New development will make things worse.

What is the SFRA?

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is meant to assess flood risk, drainage capacity, and whether land is safe to build on.

Main Problems Identified

1. No Detailed Modelling

Broughton Astley has not been properly modelled, meaning flood predictions are unreliable.

2. Real Flooding Ignored

Surface water flooding is happening on roads and land, but this is not properly reflected.

3. Critical Bottleneck

Multiple flows rely on one culvert under the railway, which is a clear risk point not properly assessed.

4. Unknown Drainage Network

Parts of the drainage system are not mapped yet, but decisions are still being made.

5. Poor Ground Conditions

Clay soil prevents water soaking away, increasing surface flooding risk.

6. Sewers Under Pressure

Evidence shows sewer surcharge and system overload already happening.

7. Misleading Runoff Calculations

'Greenfield runoff' figures are theoretical and do not reflect real-world constraints.

8. Cumulative Impact Missing

Multiple developments are not assessed together, ignoring combined impact.

Why This Matters

Planning rules require developments to be safe and not increase flood risk. This evidence gap means that requirement is not met.

Example Objection

I object to this development as the flood risk evidence is incomplete. The SFRA does not properly assess Broughton Astley, fails to consider real flooding events, and ignores key drainage constraints. Approving development under these conditions risks worsening flooding and conflicts with national planning policy.

Final Message

This is not about stopping development. It is about making sure infrastructure is in place first to protect homes, people, and the environment.