Settlement: Lyonshall

Location of Investigation

Figure 1: Large Scale Map showing the location of Lyonshall

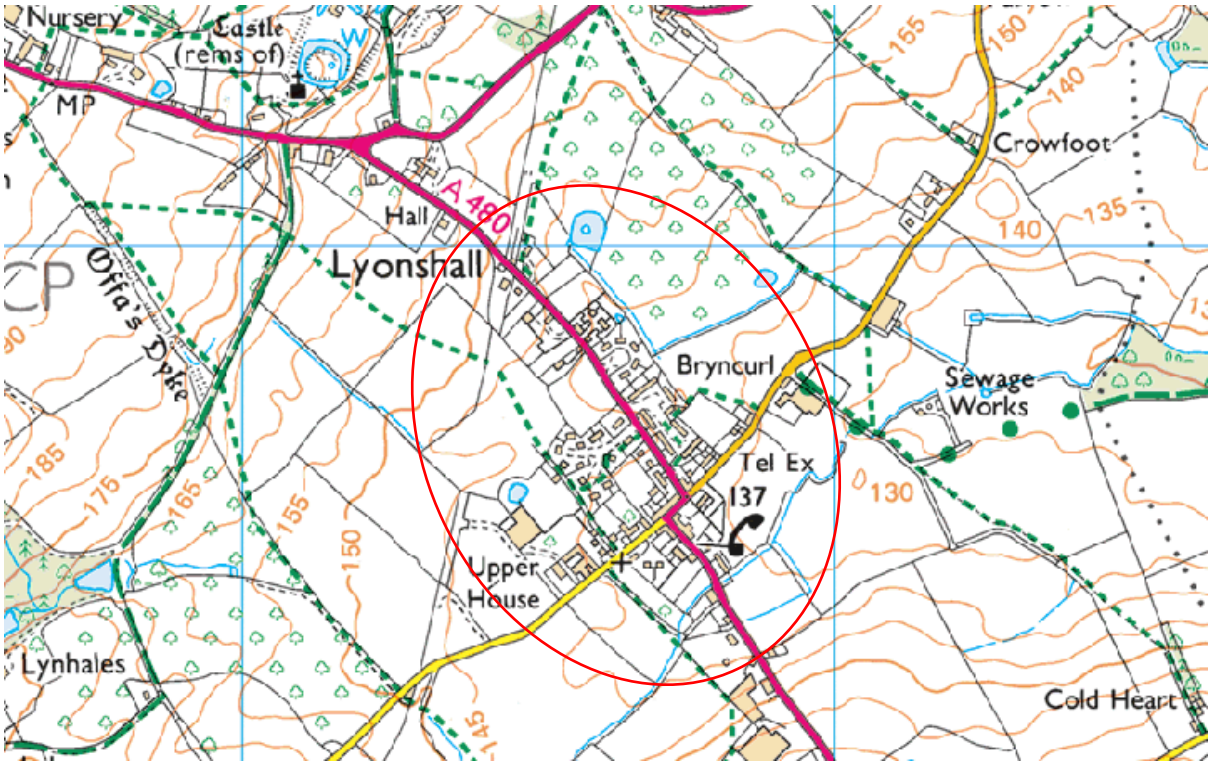


Figure 2: Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea), June 2021

Figure 3: Environment Agency's Surface Water Flood Map, June 2021

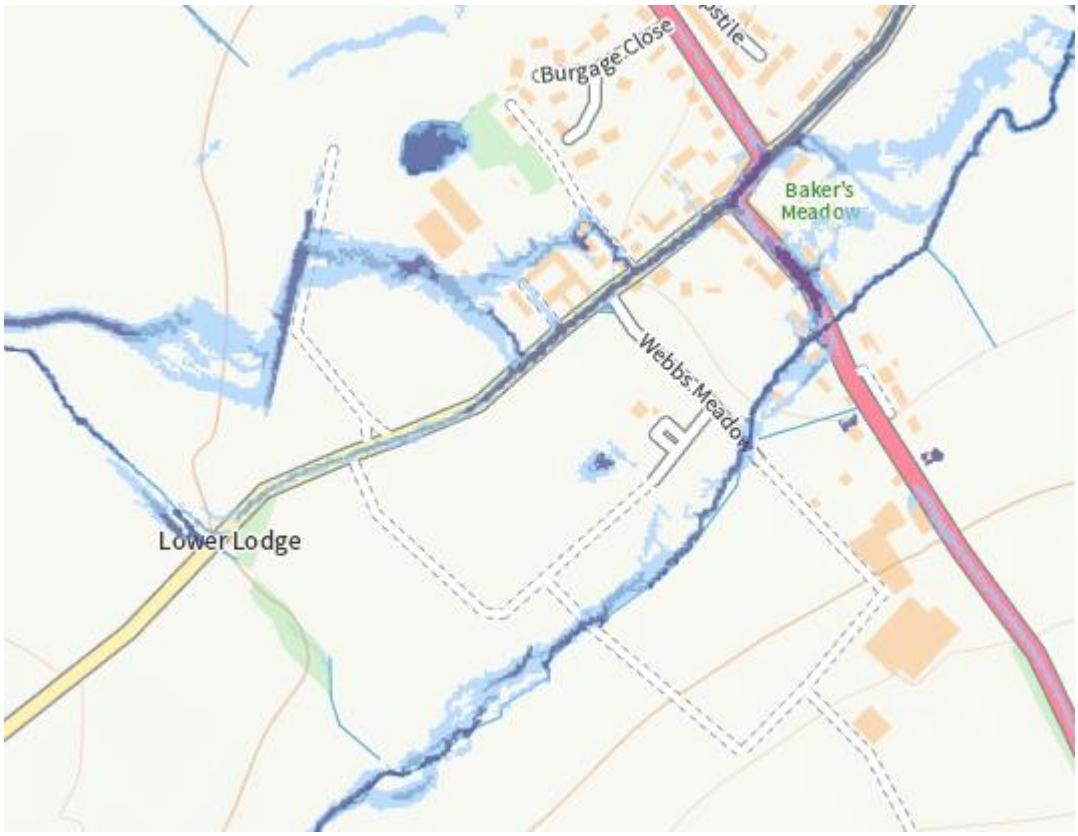


Figure 4: Historic Mapping circa 1888 showing the old railway

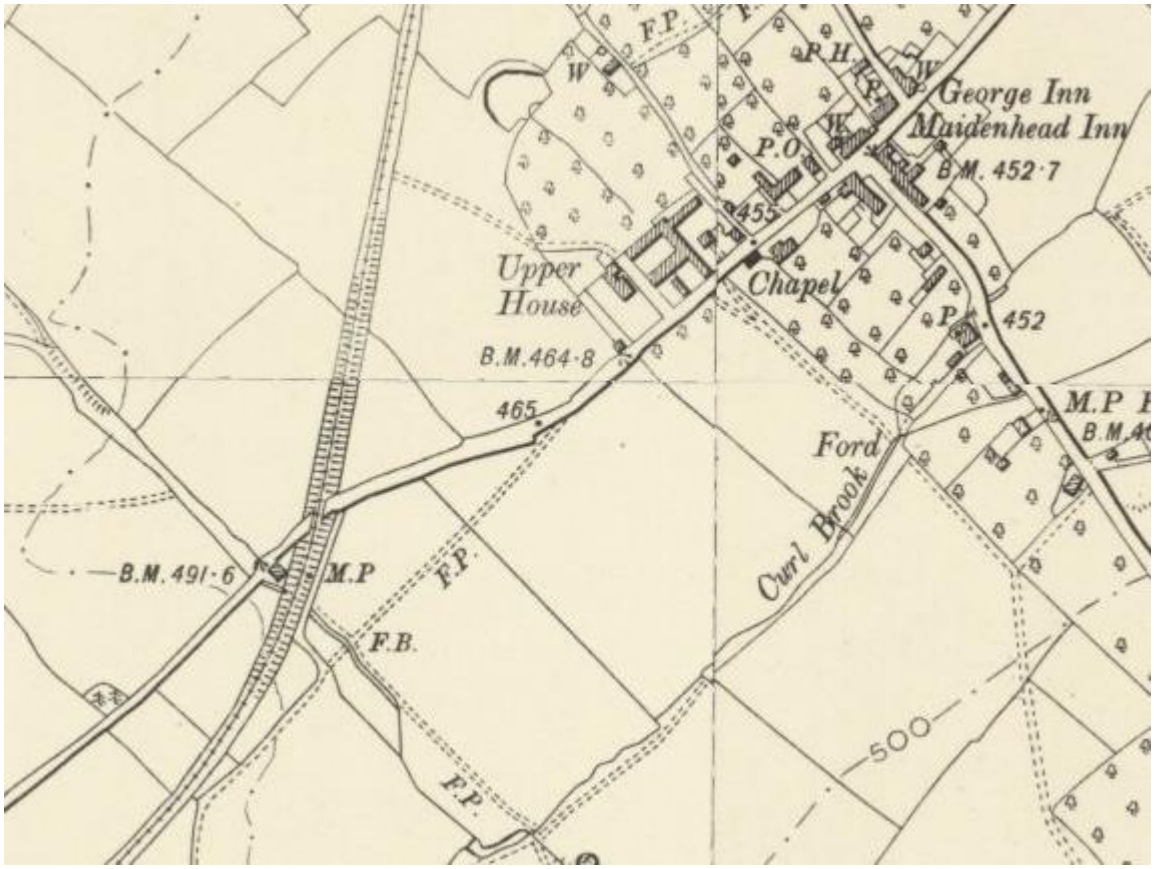
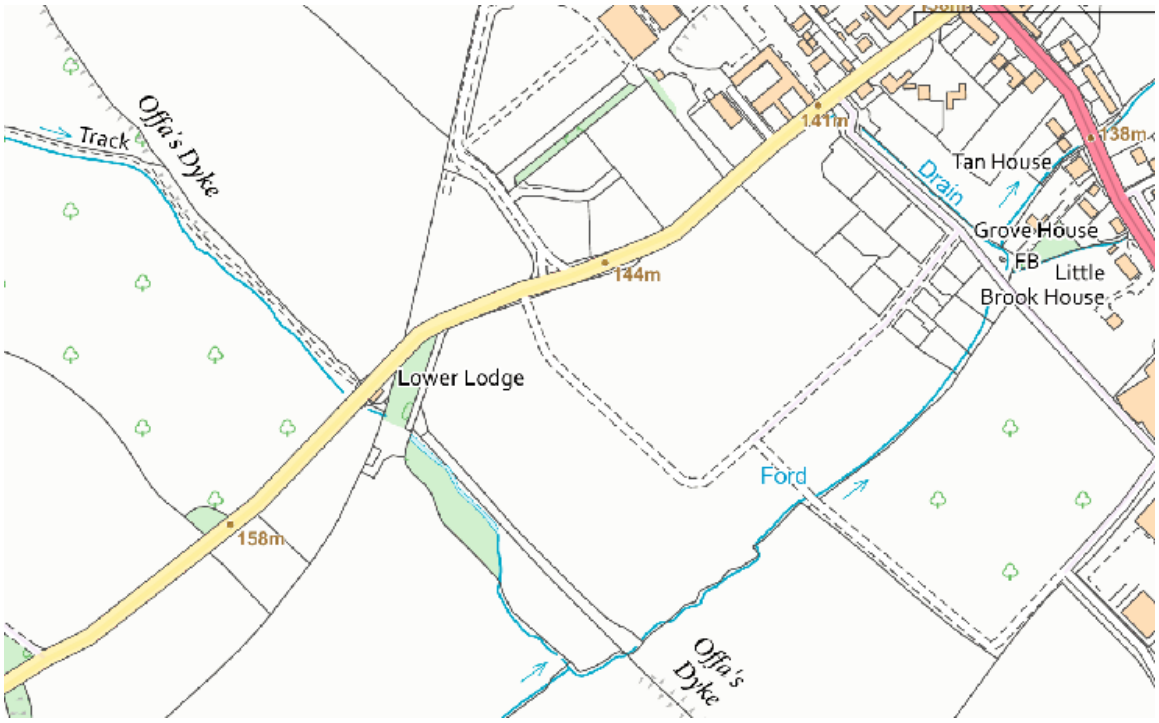


Figure 5- Route of the upstream tributary of the Curl Brook alongside Offa's Dyke footpath



Date of key flood event	February 16th 2020
Authorities with Flood Risk Management duties or functions relating to the event	Herefordshire Council (Land Drainage Authority)

The Curl Brook and the Sour Brook are designated as Ordinary Watercourses which therefore fall under the regulatory supervision of Herefordshire Council Land Drainage Authority.

Key Flood Event

Flood Type: Fluvial & Surface Water, Foul

Watercourse Catchment: Curl Brook and Sour Brook.

Internal flooding was recorded at three properties within Lyonshall during February 2020, although flood water also entered some porches. The reported internal flood depths were all less than 6 inches.

Two of these properties reported problems with river overflow from the Curl Brook. Other properties indicate sources of flooding associated with blocked gullies, as well as overflowing sewers and toilets. These reports are consistent with overland flows or a lack of drainage capacity.

None of the respondents indicated that their property had previously flooded. However, a site visit in June 2021 has confirmed that there has previously been causes of flooding from the Curl Brook and also episodes of foul flooding.

A further two properties in the parish flooded from the Sour Brook.

Number of Internally Flooded Properties related to key flood event	5
Number of Internally Flooded Properties during most acute flood	5
Impact on Strategic Highway Network	None reported
Impact on Critical Services	None reported
Health Risks	No injuries or loss of life were reported

Description of Flooding

All the properties which reported flooding are located in Flood Zone 1 of the Flood Map for Planning. However, OS mapping shows watercourses located in and around the village (the Curl Brook and Sour Brook). It appears that the flood risk from these watercourses has not been mapped on the Flood Map for Planning for the reaches that are located close to the properties which flooded.

The highway culvert on the A480 is on high ground, it is possible that the Curl Brook was diverted off its natural route although there is no evidence of this on historic mapping.

The Surface Water Flood Map shows areas of flood risk around all of the properties which reported flooding. An upstream tributary of the Curl Brook was diverted when a railway was constructed. The channel runs on a gentle gradient. Reports indicate that water drains onto the road and into the village. The surface water flood map also indicates that surface water spills across farmland towards the centre of the village. There are no reports of internal flooding arising from this source.

The site visit confirmed that the foul sewers surcharge during storms and there are some reports of foul flooding on highways.

Damage to Cultural Heritage Sites: There are no listed buildings located in the Flood Zone within Lyonshall.

Previous reports of floods

There are limited records other than the episode on 16th February 2020.

Previous Flood Risk Studies

There are no flood risk studies previously undertaken at this location.

Conclusion

Herefordshire Council Land Drainage Authority proposes to exercise their flood risk management function in response to the recent flooding. Herefordshire Council LLFA have identified a requirement to promote delivery of a feasibility study on the Curl Brook.

DEFRA grant funding is being sought for this study based on the existing fluvial flood risk in the village of Lyonshall. Further governance reports will be required prior to any formal application for funding.

There is also a problem of surface water runoff affecting the highway, but the installation of land drainage and highway drainage to resolve this problem would require provision of a substantial budget.