

Flooding at Queen Camel and West Camel

The Case for Provision of Alleviation Ponds

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1. The 2019 Report by the Environmental Agency in conjunction with Highways England located upstream of Queen Camel some 240,000-cu.m of alleviation ponds. The 2019 cost was estimated at £8 million (£33 cu. m) and the benefit at only £6.9 Million.
2. In my opinion, the costs were over-estimated as little of the excavated material is moved off site. Also, the benefit of £6.9 million was an underestimate being based only on one flood.
3. I have recalculated the cost/ benefit analysis based on the May 2023 flood as follows:

Houses flooded = 88 at £100,000	£ 8.8 Million
Repair two damaged bridges/ roads	£ 1.0 Million
Damage to 'Old School' and shed	£ 2.0 Million
Other damage to West Camel	£ 1.0 Million
Total:	£12.8 Million

This excludes damages further downstream at Bridgehampton etc. and to farmland.

Note: flooding also occurred at the sewage works which then polluted water that flooded in Queen Camel.

4. There have been seven floods in 23 years since 2000 and our ignoring first and last 5 to 7 years therefore it is incorrect to use only a single year.
5. Allowing for some deferment I calculate that future damage should be based on a 2.5 X.
6. Cost of construction 240,000-cu.m at £40 totals £9.6 Million.
7. Therefore, a threefold benefit 10/32.
Note: this will also benefit all areas downstream and if their damages were included, the benefit would be over 4 X.

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