

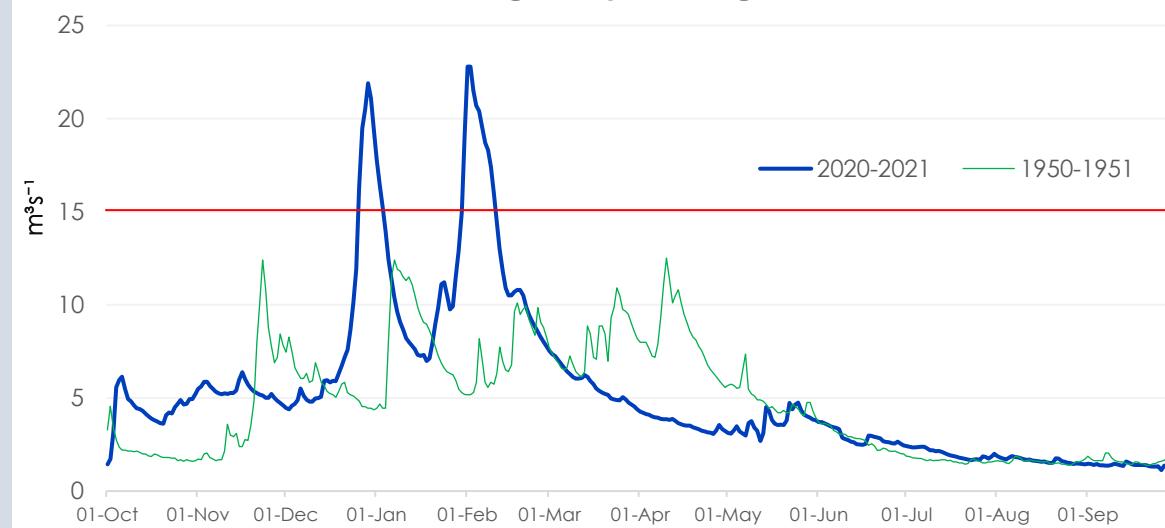
River Windrush floods - increasing in both frequency and severity

As per this data, since records began in October 1950, there have been:

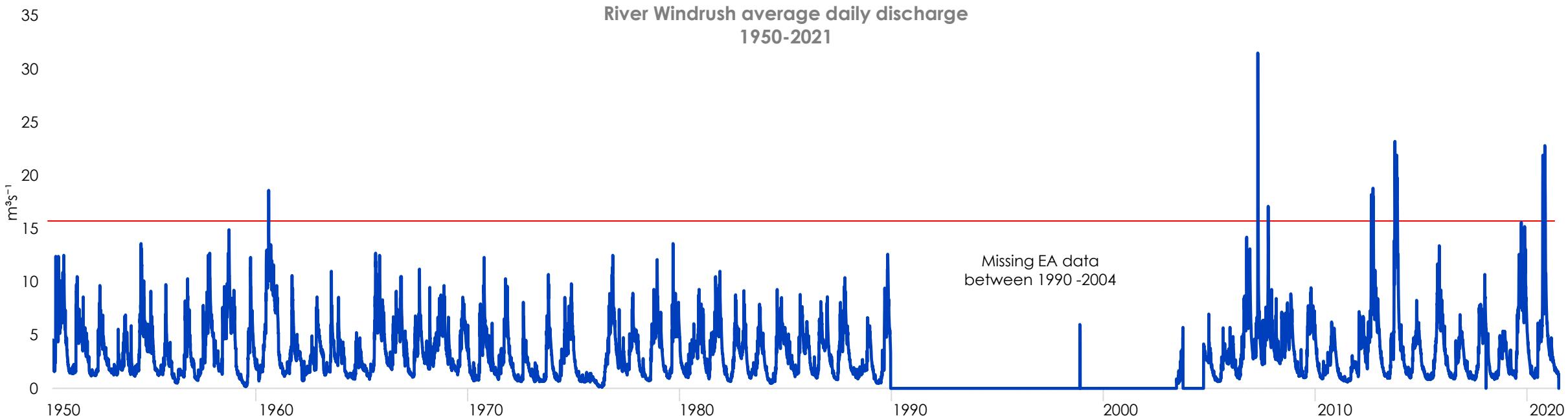
- 93 days where the discharge at Newbridge has been over 15 cubic metres per second
- 89 of these days have occurred in the last 15 years, with
- 21 occurring in the last 12 months.

How much is due to climate change and how much is due to land use change is debatable. What is not debatable is that both the frequency and the severity of floods has increased substantially. This deteriorating situation needs to be at the centre of all decisions relating to the river, including flood control, planning approvals and sewage treatment.

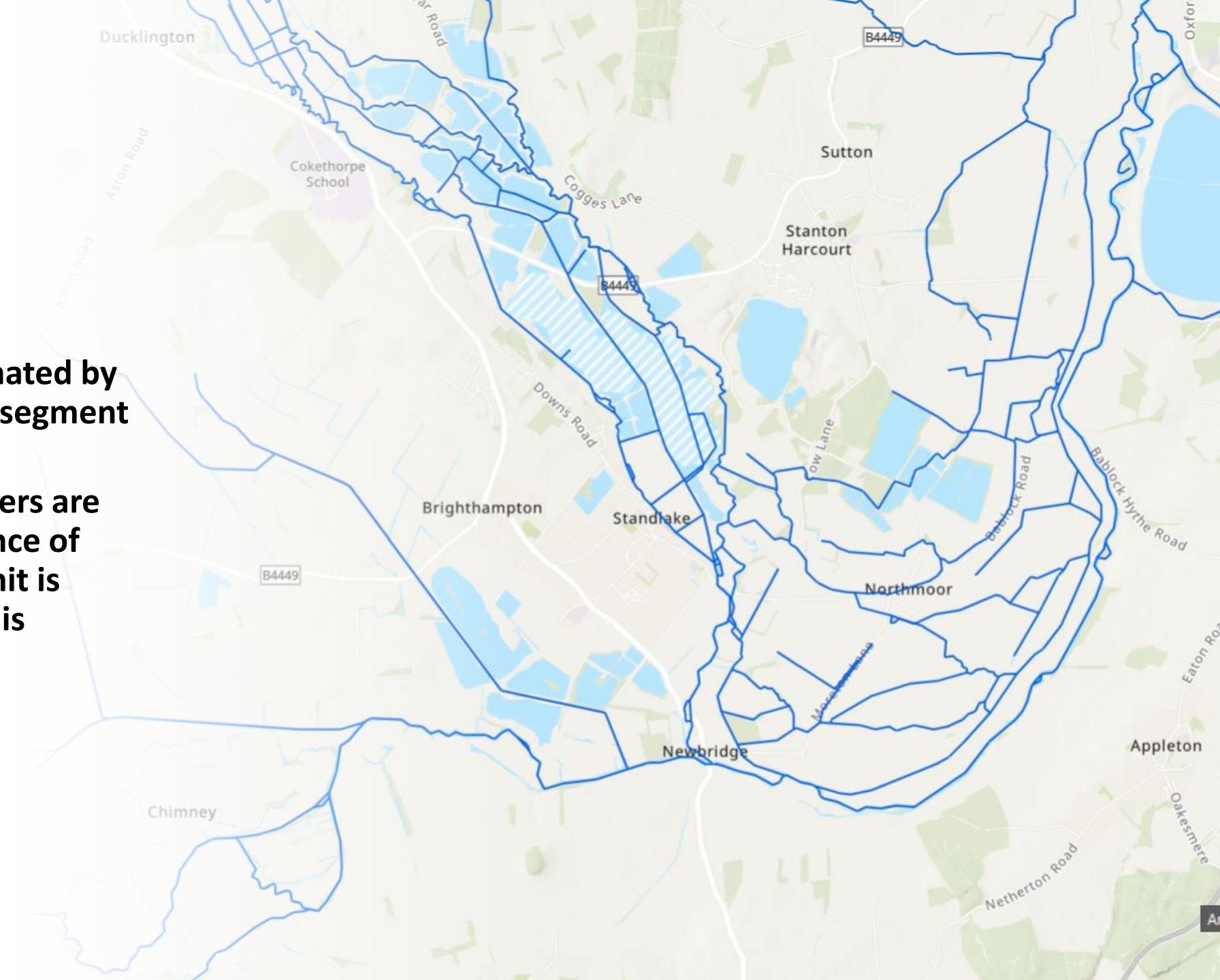
River Windrush average daily discharge 2020-21 VS 1950-51



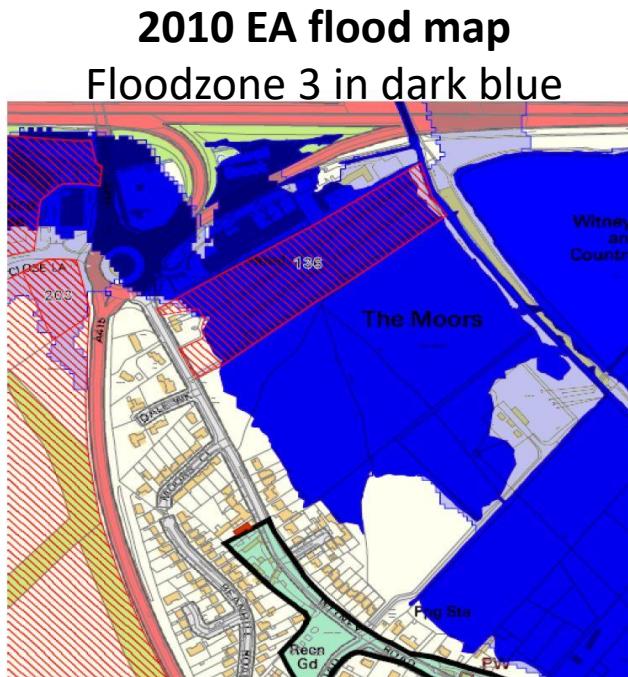
River Windrush average daily discharge
1950-2021



- “Main Rivers”, as designated by Environment Agency, in a segment of West Oxfordshire
- While riparian landowners are responsible for maintenance of “Main Rivers”, an EA permit is required before any work is carried out



Example of major near term flood risk – The Moors field, Ducklington



Current EA flood map
Floodzone 3 in pale blue



- Planning permission currently being sought for 120 houses (approx. 300 people) on a portion of The Moors field
- Application was unanimously turned down by Lowlands Planning Sub-Committee in February. However, flood risk could not be listed as an objection as neither the EA nor OCC (the Lead Local Flood Authority) raised any objections re flooding, unsurprisingly as the current flood map shows no problem. A planning Inquiry is now underway regarding the application
- As per WODC's Witney flood report:
 - The EA's 2014 model does not take account of tributaries - neither the Colwell Brook, nor Queen Emma's Dyke which join at the northern corner of The Moors, which then join the Windrush at the eastern corner of The Moors
 - The 2020 floods were a "greater than a 1 in 100 year" event; as were the 2014 floods and the 2007 floods
- This flawed EA flood model is what current planning decisions are being based on. As is clear above, this potentially puts a large amount of people at high risk