

# The Daily Bugle



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## Families Furious at Flood Defence Failure

**Houses built on floodplains are consumed by water after flood defences fail.**

Young families in Mistleton have been forced to abandon their houses after three feet of water flooded the Foxwood Housing Estate on Tuesday evening.

After more than three inches of rain fell in 24 hours, the River Swell burst its banks and flooded the brand new housing estate. More than 100 houses are thought to be affected.

When the people living on the estate bought their houses, they were assured that there was only a very small, 1-in-1000-year chance of their houses ever being flooded. However, less than a year later, the properties are swamped with water.

'We all know this area is a floodplain,' reveals Foxwood homeowner, Martin Hough, 'but we were all given a written document from the Environment Agency claiming the area was now safe from flooding. This wasn't supposed to happen!'

Two years ago, the town was given £3 million to spend on flood defences. Large pipes were built underground to channel water away from the river, but it is believed these have become clogged with rubbish, causing the river to flood.



*Houses built on floodplains – is your home at risk?*

There has been a great deal of damage caused to the property of homeowners. Abigail Green asks, 'Why didn't the flood defences work? Someone needs to take responsibility. All my downstairs furniture is ruined and my cat's run away. I haven't seen her for five days.'

Jonathan Brimstone from Mistleton Town Council has been quick to explain, 'We'll do everything in our power to find out what caused the flood and to find temporary accommodation for the people who have sadly had to leave their homes for the time being.'

In the meantime, hundreds of people remain angry and confused about why their houses have been flooded. We can only hope that other houses built on floodplains are safe.