

Boscastle Floods Task

The flood on 16 August 2004 in Boscastle in Cornwall was the worst in local memory and an Environment Agency report concluded that it was among the most extreme ever experienced in Britain.

Previous floods have been recorded in Boscastle in 1847, 1957, 1958, 1963 and 1996 but the 2004 flood was significant as the peak flow was about 140 cumecs (m³/s) and the annual chance of this (or a greater) flood occurring, in any one year is about 1 in 400.

Complete the Boscastle Flood Case Study template using the following information to help you

- Hydrograph Data - 16 August 2004

Time	12:00	12:30	13:00	13:30	14:00	14:30	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00
Precipitation	0	4	3	10	4	6	13	15	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Discharge	1	1	2	2	6	10	20	50	52	55	90	98	100	90	55	22	10

Add labels to your hydrograph

Use the following labels on your A3 sheet in the correct place.

- A drainage culvert was improved to allow more water to flow through.
- A new bridge was built.
- Approximately 200 mm of rain fell in 24 hours.
- Boscastle is at the confluence of three rivers.
- The shop was rebuilt.
- Buildings were flooded and/or destroyed.
- Buildings were searched.
- Cars, which had been swept away, were removed from the harbour.
- Cars, vans and caravans were washed in the sea.
- Debris was scattered over a large area.
- Helicopters rescued people from trees and rooftops.
- Loss of businesses.
- Loss of communications.
- Loss of habitat.
- Loss of income from tourism.
- Roads were cleared.
- The car park was raised and given a permeable surface.
- The drainage basin has areas of impermeable rock.
- The drainage basin has steep slopes.
- The flooding coincided with a high tide.
- The ground was saturated from previous rain storms i.e. a short lag time.
- The river was widened and lowered.
- Trees were removed from the river channel.
- Trees were uprooted.
- Two million tonnes of water flowed through Boscastle in one day.
- Water gauging stations were installed.

Extension:

- What further information can you research and add to your diagram about the Boscastle Floods of 2007?
- Can you research the Boscastle Floods of 2007