

APPENDIX O

SECTION 19 REPORT – WORKSOP – STORM HENK, JANUARY 2024

FOR COMPLETENESS, THIS APPENDIX SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PLACE) TO PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE ON 22 JULY 2024: “SECTION 19 REPORTS: STORM HENK FLOODING JANUARY 2024”.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding-help-and-advice/the-councils-role>

Introduction

Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:

1. On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:
 - (a) Which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have relevant flood risk management functions.
 - (b) Whether each of those RMAs has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
2. Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) of Section 19 it must:-
 - (a) Publish the results of its investigation.
 - (b) Notify any relevant RMAs.
3. The objective of this report is to investigate which RMAs had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in January 2024 and whether the relevant RMAs have exercised, or propose to exercise, their risk management functions (as per section 19(1) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010).
4. The Risk Management Authorities for this area of Nottinghamshire are Bassetlaw District Council (BDC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), VIA East Midlands Ltd on behalf of NCC as Highways Authority, the Environment Agency (EA) and Severn Trent Water (STW).
5. It should be noted that this duty to investigate does not guarantee that flooding problems will be resolved and cannot force others into action.

Background

6. Worksop is a town within the District of Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 43,439 people according to the 2021 census.
7. The River Ryton (main river) runs through Worksop from West to East, with several bridges and culverts through the town. The Worksop River Level gauge is located near Stubbing Lane, and a rain gauge is present in the Manton area of the town.

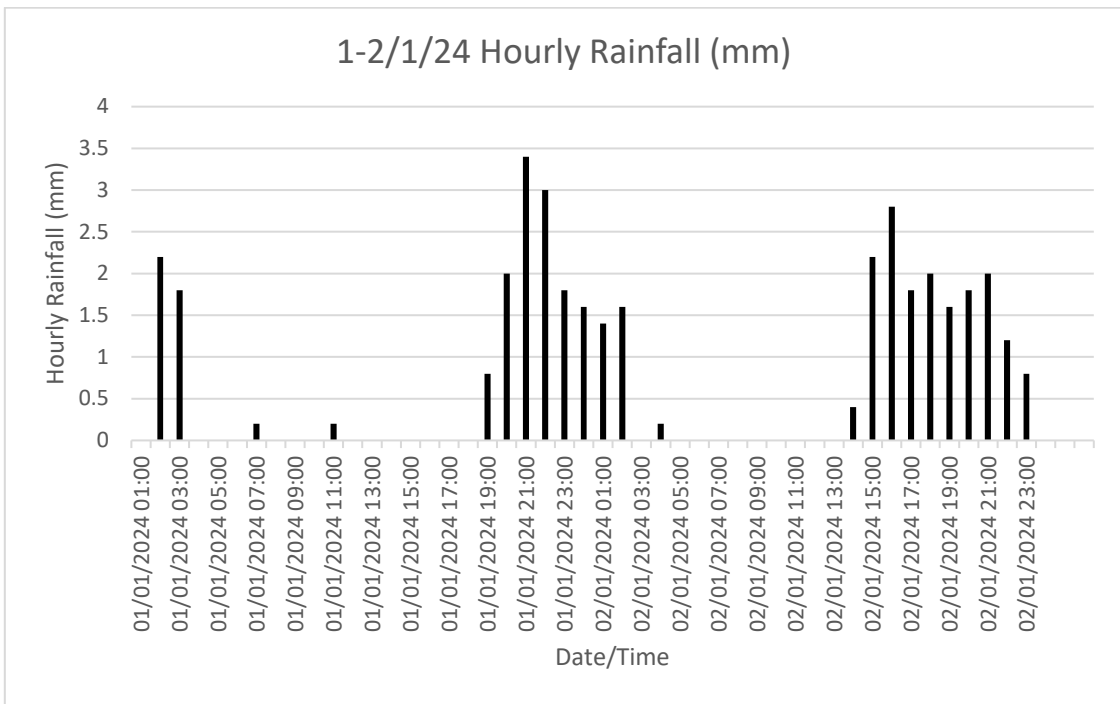


Figure 1. Workstop Hourly Rainfall 01:00 1st to 23:00 2nd January 2024. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

8. A view of Workstop is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were:

- Allen Street (12 properties)
- Bridge Street (1 property)
- Hardy Street (5 properties)



Figure 2. Flood Affected Properties in Workstop

Summary of flooding and its causes

9. Due to the sustained heavy rainfall, the River Ryton which flows through Worksop rose, peaking at 1.52m at the Worksop gauge on Stubbing Lane. While this is higher than the level at which it is indicated that property flooding is possible, 1.3m as noted on Defra's river level website, it is significantly lower than experienced during Storm Babet (2.11m).
10. Reports from residents indicated that as a result of Storm Henk flood water appeared to come from the Bull Brook (Ordinary Watercourse) at Central Avenue. It then flowed down Central Avenue, also flooding down King Street, Allen Street and Hardy Street. Reports confirmed it did not reach Newcastle Avenue. Data recorded by the Environment Agency indicates that a total of 14 residential and 3 business properties suffered internal property flooding in this area, with more recorded as suffering external flooding, affecting gardens and outbuildings.
11. Witness reports from residents on Brook Terrace confirmed that the Bull Brook did rise, however that this did not come out of channel, and as such did not cause any internal property flooding in this location or cause flows down Newcastle Avenue as has been seen previously.
12. In order to fully understand flooding mechanism in this location in relation to both Storm Babet and Storm Henk further investigation from partners is being undertaken, including physical surveys of the Bull Brook, combined modelling of the Bull Brook and River Ryton, and an integrated surface water study.
13. While close in proximity, flood water did not reach up to Bridge Street, however 1 business property on Bridge Street suffered internal property flooding as a result of localised surface water pooling.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

14. Nottinghamshire County Council.
 - a) Lead Local Flood Authority.
 - i. Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations.
 - ii. Play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event.
 - iii. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, we have a duty to determine which risk management authorities have relevant powers to investigate flood incidents to help understand how they happened, and whether those authorities have or intend to exercise their powers.
 - iv. By working in partnership with communities, Lead Local Flood Authorities can raise awareness of flood risks.
 - v. Lead Local Flood Authorities should encourage local communities to participate in local flood risk management.
 - b) Emergency Planning.
 - i. If a flood happens, all local authorities are 'category one responders' under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.
 - c) Highway Authority (VIA East Midlands Ltd. on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council).

- i. Maintenance of the public highways including highway drainage assets.

15. The Environment Agency.

- a) Category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.
- b) Maintenance and management of main rivers and associated flood risk.

16. Bassetlaw District Council.

- a) Category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.

17. Severn Trent Water Ltd. (STW).

- a) Maintenance of the public sewerage system.

As a water and sewerage company, STW manage the risk of flooding from their water supply and sewerage facilities. This includes;

- i. Surface water sewers – these carry rainfall and surface water away from properties to watercourses.
- ii. Foul water sewers – these carry wastewater away from properties to be treated.
- iii. Combined water sewers – these drain both wastewater and surface water from properties along with run off from highways.
- iv. Managing the impact of flooding to their networks by ensuring their systems have the appropriate level of resilience to flooding.
- v. Engage with RMAs on how water and sewerage company assets impact on local flood risk.
- vi. STW are Category 2 responders under the Civil Contingencies act, providing emergency response and supporting the management of flooding events.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

18. The following lists the actions taken by each RMA in response to the flooding both in the immediate aftermath as well as in the longer term:

19. Nottinghamshire County Council.

Officers from across the County Council played a key role in the response to the Major Incident that had significant impacts across the county. The following lists the key actions taken by Nottinghamshire County Council:

- a) Initiated its Community Flood Recovery Grant to support individuals affected by internal flooding as a short-term recovery aid.
- b) Attended site after flooding occurred to verify scale of internal flooding, offer support, guidance and advice to affected residents and businesses.
- c) Information gathered on site was fed back to relevant RMA's and partners.

- d) Collated flood impact data from other RMA's and partners and published verified data on Resilience Direct.
- e) Visited flood affected residents and businesses to establish sources and mechanisms of flooding and severity of flood impacts.
- f) Chaired and attended Strategic / Tactical / Recovery Coordination Group meetings initiated by the Local Resilience Forum.
- g) Provided 24-hour support through the Emergency Planning team.
- h) Carried out relevant actions requested by Strategic / Tactical / Recovery Coordination Groups.
- i) Initiated and led the Section 19 Flood Investigation, including liaison with relevant RMA's, Elected Members, Parish Councils, community groups, affected residents and businesses.
- j) Leading on procurement and delivery of DEFRA Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme.
- k) Liaised with and supported existing community flood signage schemes during the flooding.
- l) Delivered sandbags to affected areas and communities.
- m) Closed 69 roads across Nottinghamshire to promote road safety and avoid additional flood damage to at risk areas.
- n) Supported District and Borough partners by sharing resources during the emergency response.
- o) Utilised existing communication channels to update the public, partners and Elected Members with key messages during the event.
- p) Attended a public meeting concerning flood risk in Worksop.

20. The Environment Agency

- a) Warned and informed the community of Worksop in a timely manner by issuing a Flood Warning for the River Ryton at Worksop, Shelley Street at 13:37 on 2 January 2024 and River Ryton at Worksop Town Centre including Shireoaks at 20:50 on 2 January 2024.
- b) Instigated flood patrols to operate their structures in accordance with their incident response procedures and cleared blockages in the area before and after the peak flows.
- c) Coordinated community information officers to gather information and visit affected communities to understand the impact of flooding on affected communities and collect data.
- d) Organised a multi-agency community drop in event which was attended by Nottinghamshire County Council, Severn Trent Water and Bassetlaw District Council.

21. Bassetlaw District Council

- a) Provided emergency response support for management of the flooding event including
 - i. Participation in all LRF Strategic Co-ordination Group, Tactical Coordination Group, Communications Cell and Recovery Coordination Group meetings
 - ii. Active deployment of sandbags and aquasacs to vulnerable premises and residents
 - iii. Provision of community resilience stores enabling access to sandbags and aquasacs
 - iv. Public communication of key messages at different phases of the incident, including warn and inform and recovery
- b) Cleansing of detritus from roads, car parks and paths
- c) Promoted and administered the Community Recovery Grant and Council Tax Discount schemes

Additional Information and Future Actions

22. All the Risk Management Authorities involved in this event are committed to continuing the investigations into the causes of this incident. Those investigations may identify further actions not listed below.
23. NCC will continue to support its Flood Warden / Road Closure training programme and community volunteer groups to help ensure they operate as effectively and safely as possible.
24. The Flood Risk Management team will look at the suitability of its Property Flood Resilience Programme for communities affected by Storm Henk and will take recommendations through the Cabinet Member later this year for consideration.
25. NCC will work with its partners to look at ways of strengthening the enforcement of riparian responsibilities alongside developing our asset inspection process.
26. As the Lead Local Flood Authority we have witnessed and have experience of how flooding devastates communities. The most vulnerable in the community will be our priority. Nottinghamshire County Council will continue to work closely with partners and communities to identify ways of proactively reducing the risk, likelihood and consequences of future flooding events.
27. The Environment Agency will continue to deliver the enhanced maintenance regime, hold regular reviews with partners and gather data and evidence to help validate the flood warning service.
28. In agreement with Bassetlaw District Council, the Environment Agency intends to deliver a package of recovery works and intermittent revenue projects. These will take place in the 2024/2025 Financial Year and subsequent years following. The proposed works include:
 - Desilting works on the:
River Ryton through town centre and downstream Canch.
 - Worksop River Ryton conveyance and tree works through town centre and downstream.
 - Consider taking on operational control of the Canch Canal and River Trust sluice gates and investigate which works are required to bring them up to an expected standard.
 - Canch Canal feeder – options around spillway to bring water back into River Ryton, downstream of the Canal and River Trust penstocks will be explored.
 - Potential for a section of new floodwall along Priorswell Road at the Canch – if modelling shows this to be viable.
 - Explore the potential for Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures in the upper Ryton catchment to reduce and slow the flow of water into the river during periods of high rainfall.
29. The Environment Agency will be updating their recently published Bassetlaw Citizen Space webpage to provide the Worksop community with the latest information on ongoing and future flood risk management works and will work with the library to provide updates there for those who do not use the internet.
30. Bassetlaw District Council has established a working group reporting into Cabinet to focus exclusively on flooding, to ensure continued focus and scrutiny on this important issue.

31. Bassetlaw District Council has established and leads a multi-agency Bassetlaw Flood Partnership to ensure strong interagency communications and proactive and collaborative planning in relation to flooding.
32. Bassetlaw District Council is working with partners to lobby for a change in government policy regarding the Environment Agency funding framework to enable more flood alleviation schemes to be delivered locally.