

APPENDIX L

SECTION 19 REPORT – STAPLEFORD – 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 26 JUNE 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 October 2023 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 Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC), 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. Stapleford is a town within the Borough of Broxtowe, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 15,453 people according to the 2021 census.
7. On the 2nd of January 2024, during Storm Henk, Stapleford suffered a flood event caused by sustained rainfall over a saturated catchment. On this day, 18.4mm of rainfall was recorded at the Watnall rain gauge (Figure 1) with a maximum 60-minute intensity of 4.6mm/hr.

8. This storm occurred after a prolonged period of persistent rain and above average rainfall which had saturated the ground, resulting in flooding of roads and properties quicker than they would following a dry period.

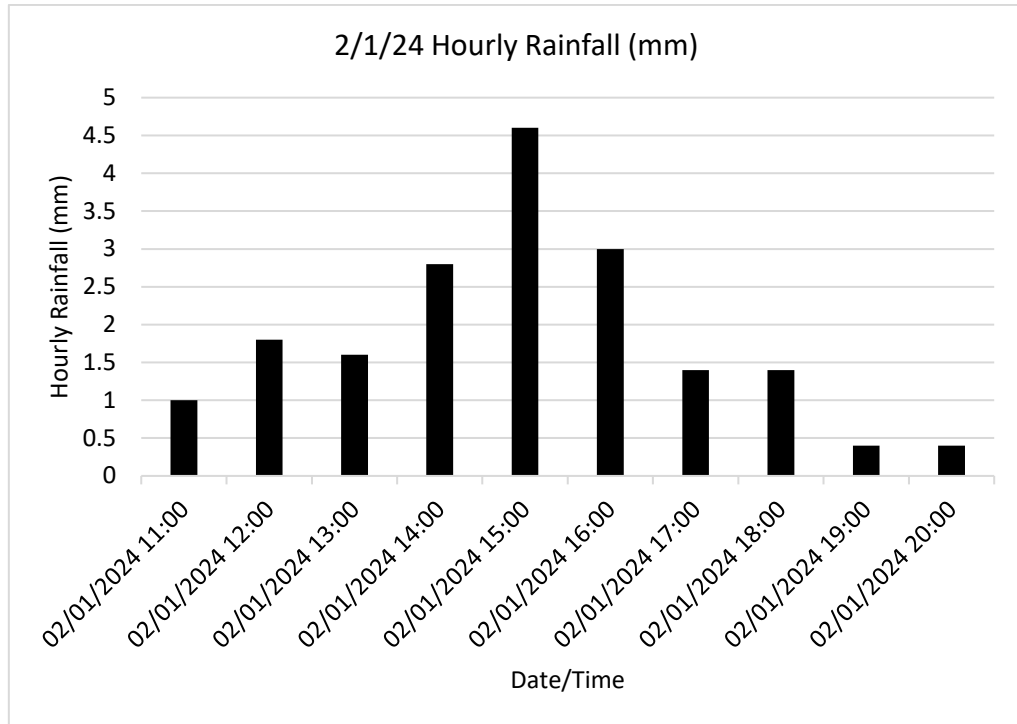


Figure 1. Watnall Hourly Rainfall 2nd January 2024. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

9. Location maps of Stapleford are shown in Figures 2 and 3 below. The areas affected were:

- Bessell Lane (8 properties)
- Nottingham Road (4 properties)



Figure 2. Reference map for flood affected areas across Stapleford. Bessell Lane (4).



Figure 3. Reference map for flood affected areas across Stapleford. Nottingham Road (2).

Summary of flooding and its causes

10. Various reports were provided by local businesses in this area that there were a large number of blocked gullies. Whilst this may have slowed down the release of water in the area, due to the high level in the River Erewash these gullies would not have been able to discharge effectively. A combination of overland flows from the River Erewash and surface water appears to be the main contributing factor to the flooding in this instance.
11. With reference to Figure 3, properties on Nottingham Road were affected due to the capacity of the network, with subsequent flooding on the highway causing runoff into 4 properties. Reports from local community expressed concerns that bow waves from vehicles driving through flood water exacerbated these issues.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. Broxtowe Borough 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.

15. Severn Trent Water Ltd.

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

16. 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:

17. 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.

18. Severn Trent Water

- a) Received reports of flooding from sewers in this area and have undertaken extensive investigations into the causes of the flooding.
- b) Followed up directly with some of the affected residents about any sewer related issues.

19. Broxtowe Borough Council

- a) Provided emergency response support in management of the flooding event. This included some provision of temporary accommodation.
- b) Actively engaged in the Section 19 flood investigation.

Additional Information and Future Actions

- 20. 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.
- 21. 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.
- 22. NCC are currently working with Via East Midlands investigating drainage assets in the locality. As part of this we are also working with Network Rail of whom have drainage assets in the area.