

APPENDIX A

SECTION 19 REPORT – OLLERTON – 16 AUGUST 2020

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 Risk Management Authorities 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 Risk Management Authorities.
3. The objective of this report is to investigate which Risk Management Authorities had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding on 16 August 2020 and whether the relevant Risk Management Authorities 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 Authority with a responsibility for this flooding incident are Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).
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. The month of August started out as a dry month before receiving large amounts of rainfall across the East Midlands region with levels 'Above Normal' (94.3mm) compared to the long-term average (63.6mm) experienced across the region. Soil saturation was also showing as higher than the long-term average¹.

On the evening of Sunday 15th August Ollerton, a town with a population of almost 10,000², was subjected to heavy localised rainfall that resulted in 5 business premises experiencing internal flooding.

¹ Source: Environment Agency Monthly Water Situation Report, Midlands Area Summary – August 2020

² National Census 2011



Figure 1. Location Plan.



Figure 2. Plan highlighting area affected by internal flooding.

Summary of flooding and its causes

7. The internal flooding was very isolated in nature with 5 adjacent businesses affected. Investigations showed that excessive surface water entered the businesses from the rear doors, adjacent to a small, privately owned car park. Discussions with business owners that were on site at the time of flooding concluded that the cause of the flooding must have been a very isolated downpour that resulted in water running off the carpark and into the businesses. Figures 3-5 below show further detail of the flooding for reference.

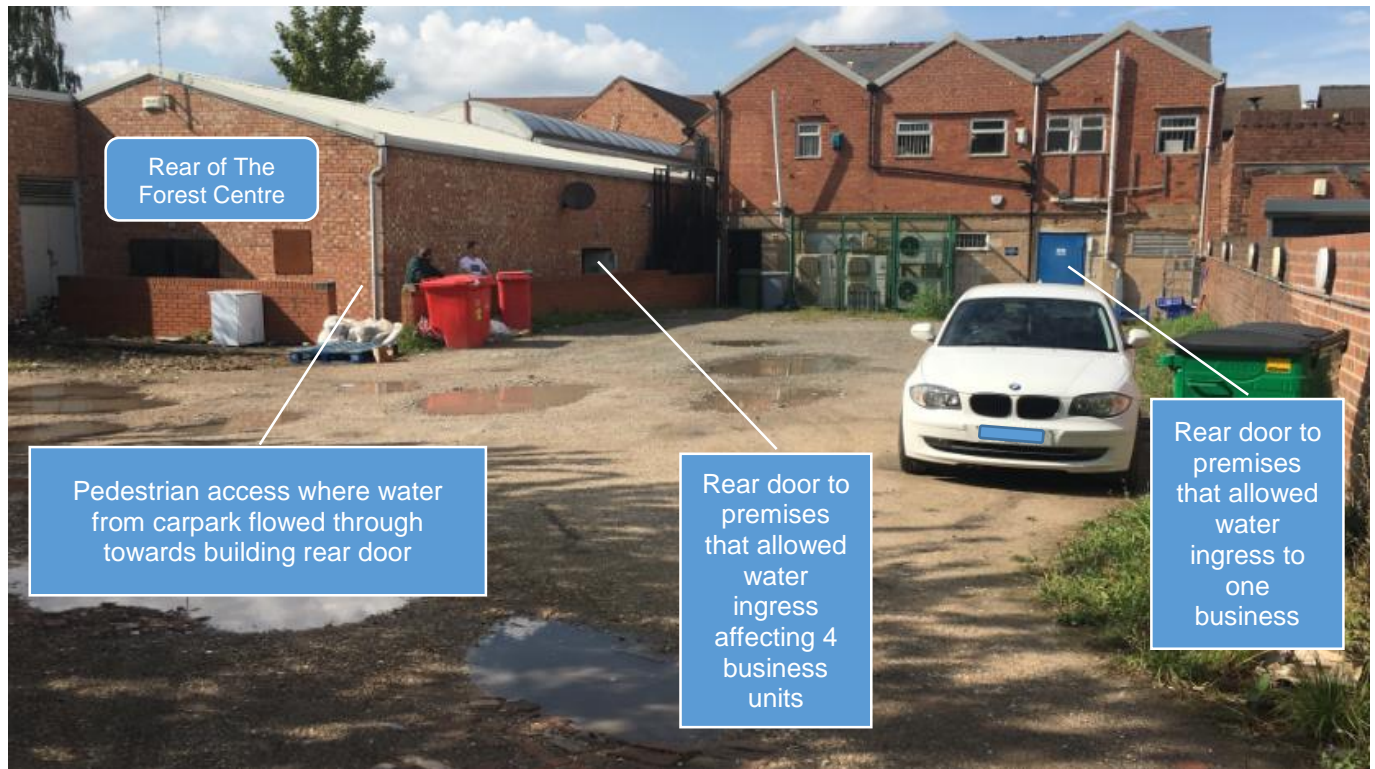


Figure 3. Photo showing flood entry points (taken at rear of The Forest Centre shopping arcade).



Figure 4. Photo showing carpark and access to rear of affected businesses.



Figure 5. Photo showing rear access to The Forest Centre shopping arcade where flood water entered the building.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

8. 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. Lead Local Flood Authorities also 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.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

9. The following lists the actions taken by each Risk Management Authority in response to the flooding both in the immediate aftermath as well as in the longer term:

a) Nottinghamshire County Council:

- i. Carried out on site investigation into the flooding.
- ii. Liaised with business owners and Parish Council on site.
- iii. Offer of future support to promote and encourage local flood risk awareness and management.
- iv. Initiated and led the Section19 Flood Investigation.
- v. Ensured affected properties are included for consideration in Property Flood Resilience project.

Additional information and future actions

10. This was a very isolated flooding incident and onsite investigations concluded that it was the result of a heavy localised rainfall event falling onto a privately-owned semi-permeable surface with no other obvious contributing factors. There was no evidence or suggestions that any flood water came from the public highway network.
11. The local community spirit and resilience during the flooding should be recognised as the flooding was not foreseeable and without the efforts made the impacts of the flooding could have been worse.
12. Provision of Property Flood Resilience measures will be considered for the affected properties as part of the Authority's Property Flood Resilience project. Initial contact with property owners to discuss the options is scheduled for November.
13. 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. NCC will continue to work closely with partners and communities to identify ways of proactively reducing the risk, likelihood and consequences of future flooding events.