

APPENDIX P

SECTION 19 REPORT – ZOUCHE – 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 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 Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC), 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. Zouch is a hamlet within the Borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire.
7. On the 2nd of January, during Storm Henk, Zouch suffered a flood event caused by sustained rainfall over a saturated catchment. On this day, 22mm of rainfall was recorded at the Sutton Bonnington rain gauge (Figure 1) with a maximum 60-minute intensity of 5.2mm/hr.

8. This storm came 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.

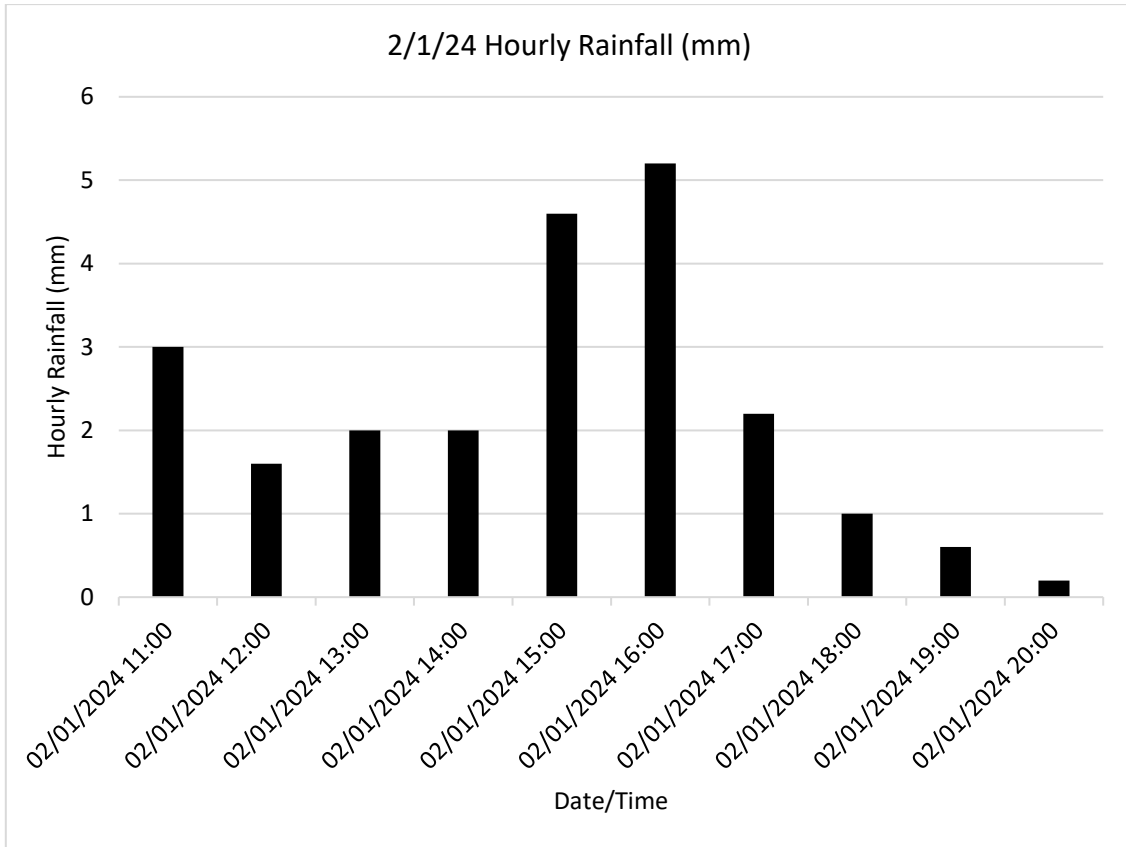


Figure 1. Sutton Bonnington Hourly Rainfall 2nd January 2024. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

9. A location map of Zouch is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were:
- Main Street (9 properties)
 - Lower Holme (11 properties)
 - Upper Holme (4 properties)



Figure 2. Reference map for flood affected areas across Zouch. Main Street (9), Lower Holme (11), Upper Holme (4).

Summary of flooding and its causes

10. Zouch is situated adjacent to the River Soar; designated as a main river. During Storm Henk, river levels peaked to near-highest recorded levels; this resulted in the river breaking its banks at multiple locations both upstream and downstream causing internal property flooding. River flows at these locations have been recorded as the highest flows on record for the past 5 years causing internal property flooding to 27 properties.
11. Figure 3 below highlights the area of flood risk as identified by the Environment Agency's fluvial flood risk mapping, as noted below there is a high risk of flooding in Zouch from the River Soar.



Figure 3. Environment Agency – Flood Risk Mapping for Zouch

12. Figure 4 below shows aerial footage taken of Zouch on the 4th of January demonstrating the areas affected by flooding.



Figure 4. Aerial footage for flood affected areas across Zouch.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. Rushcliffe 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.

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.
- p) Met with residents to discuss the flooding in Zouch.

18. Rushcliffe Borough Council.

- a) Established an Emergency Executive Team and supported the wider LRF response to flooding.
- b) Offered housing to displaced residents.
- c) Streetwise collected bulky items & carried out debris cleaning.
- d) Liaised directly with the local Ward councillor who provided the link with the community.
- e) Provided advice and signposted to community to relevant support e.g., requests for sandbags.
- f) Signposted local businesses and people living in domestic properties who suffered from internal flooding to support grants and funding.

19. The Environment Agency.

- a) The Environment Agency warned and informed the community of Zouch in a timely manner by issuing a Flood Warning for the River Soar at Zouch Island at 14:54 on 1st January 2024.
- b) The Environment Agency also 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) The Environment Agency organised and attended multi-agency community drop-in events which were attended by Severn Trent Water, District Authority and County Council.
- d) The Environment Agency coordinated community information officers to gather information and visit affected communities to understand the impact of flooding on affected communities and collect data. This information is used to validate and improve the Flood Warning Service and update hydraulic models.

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. Access improvement works are planned at Zouch including a radial gate to enable machinery on site to remove blockages quickly.
22. 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.
23. Rushcliffe Borough Council have identified the below proposed future actions:
 - a) Support volunteers across the borough to work with the EA and NCC on signing up to be Flood Warnings / Flood Signage Scheme.
 - b) Development of web pages with advice on flooding.
 - c) Development of customer services protocol for response to flooding.
 - d) Environment health support to the businesses affected by flooding.
 - e) Recruitment drive (flood warden training for RRT).
 - f) Promote flood store grant to Parish councils.