

APPENDIX D

SECTION 19 REPORT – COSTOCK – 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), and VIA East Midlands Ltd on behalf of NCC as Highways Authority.
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. Costock is a village within the Borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 645 people according to the 2021 census.
7. On the 2nd of January, during Storm Henk, Costock suffered a flood event caused by sustained rainfall over a saturated catchment. On this day, 23mm of rainfall was recorded at the Colwick rain gauge (Figure 1) with a maximum 60-minute intensity of 5.6mm/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.

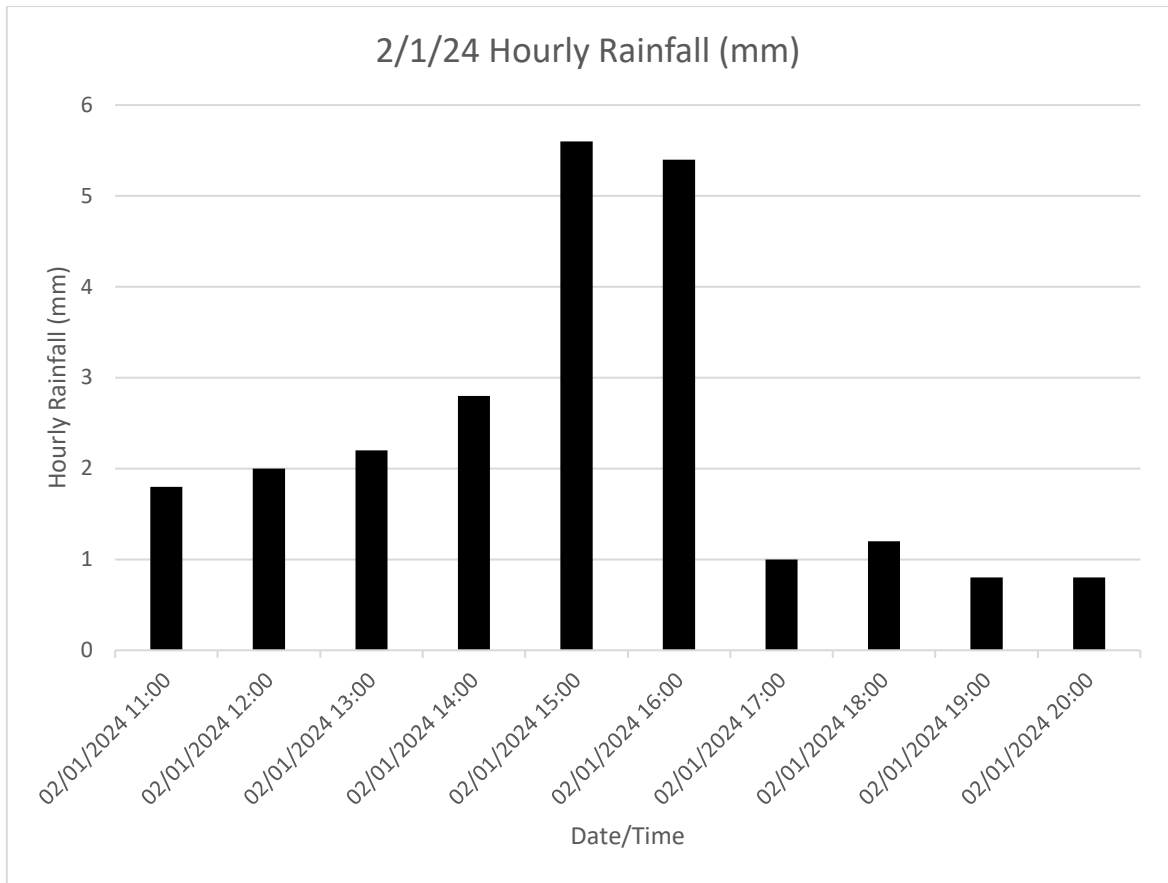


Figure 1. Colwick Hourly Rainfall 2nd January 2024. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

9. A location map of Costock is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were:

- Main Street (2 properties)
- Chapel Lane (2 properties)
- Church Lane (4 properties)



Figure 2. Reference map for flood affected areas across Costock. Main Street (2), Chapel Lane (2), Church Lane (4).

Summary of flooding and its causes

10. Costock is situated at the northern end of a large agricultural catchment to the south. During Storm Henk, these fields were extremely saturated following months of prolonged rainfall.
11. Surface water landing on the fields subsequently flowed northerly towards the village utilising both existing drainage ditches in addition to flowing across the land due to the lack of infiltration. Water entered through Algar Close before flowing onto Main Street, and through to Church Lane and Chapel Lane.
12. The flooding affecting properties on Main Street was exacerbated by vehicles attempting to drive through flood waters, causing bow waves to flow into the properties adjacent to the highway. In addition, properties on Main Street were further affected from flows from the adjacent agricultural land.

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. 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

15. 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:

16. 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 Local Residents to discuss flooding mechanisms and impacts in Costock.

17. 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 sand bags
- f) Signposted local businesses and people living in domestic properties who suffered from internal flooding to support grants and funding.

Additional Information and Future Actions

18. 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.

19. The local community spirit and resilience during the flooding must be recognised as without their efforts the impacts of the flooding could have been worse.
20. NCC are currently working with landowners to promote the installation of Natural Flood Management in catchments upstream of Costock.
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 will continue to develop its Flood Warden / Road Closure training programme and support given to community volunteer groups to help ensure they operate as effectively and safely as possible. A community flood signage scheme is being developed in Costock with support from NCC. Officers for the Flood Risk Management team are working with the community to help them develop a local flood action group.
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 the businesses affected by flooding.
 - e) Recruitment drive (flood warden training for RRT).
 - f) Promote flood store grant to Parish councils.