



APPENDIX C

SECTION 19 REPORT – COLWICK – 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 Gedling Borough Council (GBC), 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. Colwick is a village within the Borough of Gedling, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 2,778 people according to the 2021 census.
7. Colwick is a village which sits within the defended River Trent floodplain with two watercourses flowing from the north of the village into the River Trent at the south. The watercourses are culverted along the majority of their reaches and have a flap valve control structure at the point of discharge into the River Trent. Levels within the watercourses are managed by over pumping when water levels within the River Trent are high.

8. Between the 2nd and 4th of January, Colwick suffered a flood event caused by sustained rainfall over a saturated catchment which caused water levels within the River Trent at Colwick to rise to near-record levels. On the 2nd of January, 23.6mm of rainfall was recorded at the Colwick rain gauge (Figure 1) with a maximum 60-minute intensity of 5.6mm/hr. Consequently, 16 residential properties and 5 businesses were subject to internal flooding with more suffering flooding to gardens and outbuildings.
9. This storm came after a prolonged period of persistent rain and above average rainfall which had saturated the ground, resulting in high river flows and consequent flooding of roads and properties.

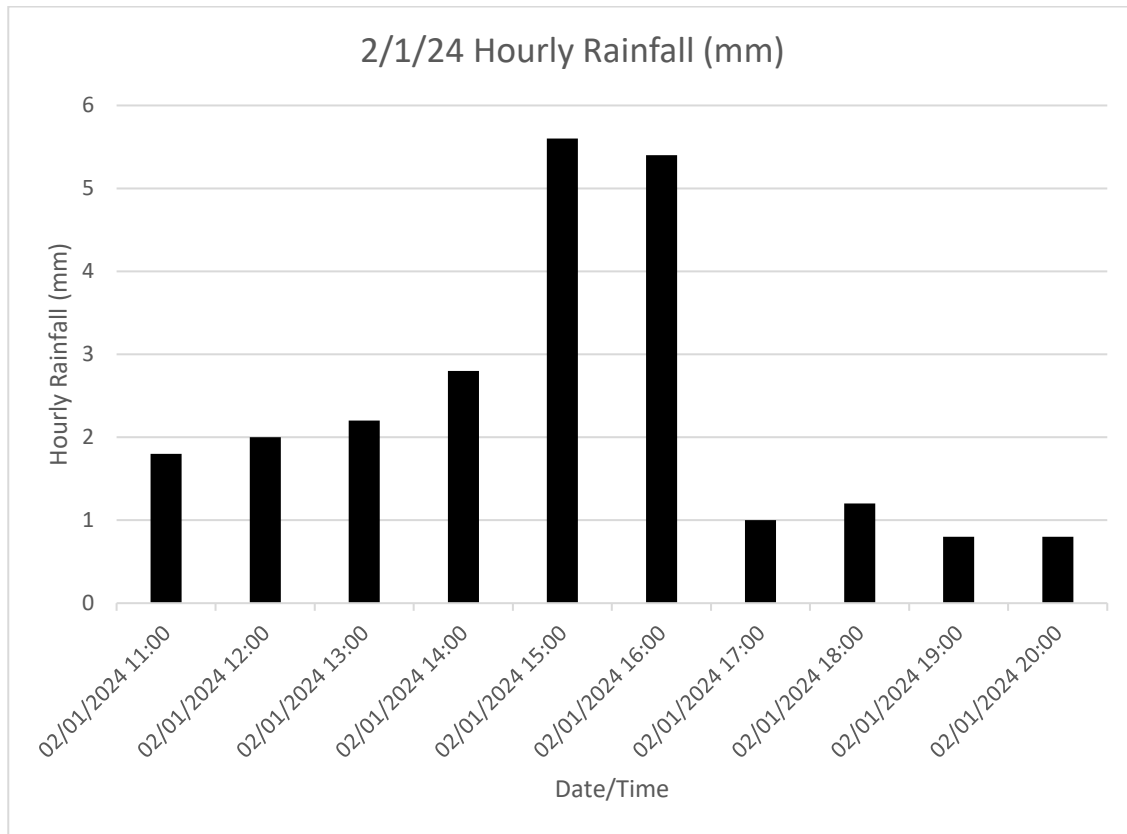


Figure 1. Colwick Hourly Rainfall 2nd January 2024. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

10. A location map of Colwick is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were:
- Vale Road (15 properties)
 - Charworth Road (1 property)
 - Churchill Business Park (5 properties)



Figure 2. Reference Map for flood affected areas across Colwick. Vale Road (1), Charworth Road (2), Churchill Business Park (3).

Summary of flooding and its causes

Vale Road and Charworth Road

11. Areas impacted by flooding on Vale Road and Charworth Road are shown in Figure 3. A watercourse is present which flows from the north-west side of Vale Road before flowing through a culvert under Vale Road and the Business Park to the south. The watercourse discharges to the River Trent via a control structure at the eastern corner of the Business park. Due to the high water levels of the River Trent as a result of rainfall during Storm Henk, and despite over pumping at the control structure site downstream, water from this watercourse was not able to discharge into the River Trent at a sufficient volume and so areas of Vale Road and Charworth Road were flooded as water levels built up within the watercourse. This caused internal flooding to 16 residential properties. It has been stated by residents that vehicles traveling through flood water and causing bow waves exacerbated the flooding to some properties. It was also reported by the Colwick Parish Council that the reach of watercourse closest to the River Trent had a significant amount of litter within it (including large items) which may have reduced conveyance in the channel.
12. Affected residents reported that in some instances, water entered properties from below floorboards which indicates groundwater flooding was present. It was also reported by residents that some properties were pumping water out of their premises and into highway gullies. However, a link between pumping out of properties and flooding within the area has not been established at present.



Figure 3. View of Vale Road and Charworth Road.

Churchill Business Park

13. Within Churchill Business Park, 5 business properties were internally flooded during Storm Henk (Figure 4). Flooding within the business park was result of the same flooding mechanism as on Vale Road as discussed previously. Water which was not able to discharge from the watercourse into the River Trent caused the water level to rise to a level where the channel capacity was exceeded and so areas of the Business Park were subjected to flooding. However, a second watercourse exists at the southwest boundary of the Business Park. This may have also contributed to flooding in the area through a similar mechanism of high-water levels in the River Trent causing a lack of discharge into it from the watercourse and therefore raised water levels within the watercourse.



Figure 4. View of Main Street.

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. Gedling 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) Attended a public meeting coordinated by the Colwick Parish Council concerning flood risk in Colwick.

18. Gedling Borough Council.

- a) Took an active role in the Section 19 Investigation.
- b) Monitored and maintained the pump at the downstream end of Road No 2 throughout the flood event.
- c) Deployed sandbags to at risk properties.
- d) Cleared trash screens and drainage grids during the flood event to improve conveyance.
- e) Cleansed roads following the storm event.

Additional Information and Future Actions

- 19. 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.
- 20. 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.
- 21. NCC held a meeting with Colwick Parish Council on the 26th of April 2024 to discuss the causes of flooding in Colwick during Storm Henk which have contributed to the information within this report.
- 22. Colwick Parish Council organised a community drop-in session on the 23rd of May 2024 which was attended by NCC, GBC, STW and the Environment Agency.
- 23. NCC will continue to support Colwick residents to establish a Community Flood Signage Scheme through its training programme. We will support 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. NCC will work with other applicable RMAs to assess potential options to reduce flood risk within affected areas of Colwick.