



APPENDIX G

SECTION 19 REPORT – GUNTHORPE – 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 Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC), 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), Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (TVIDB) 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. Gunthorpe is a village within the Newark and Sherwood district of Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 740 people according to the 2021 census. Gunthorpe sits in the River Trent corridor adjacent to the A6097, approximately 7 miles northeast of Nottingham. The southern boundary of the village is bordered by the River Trent and several tributaries, including the Cocker Beck, which run through the village before

discharging into the River Trent. Figure 1 shows how the village of Gunthorpe sits within these watercourses.

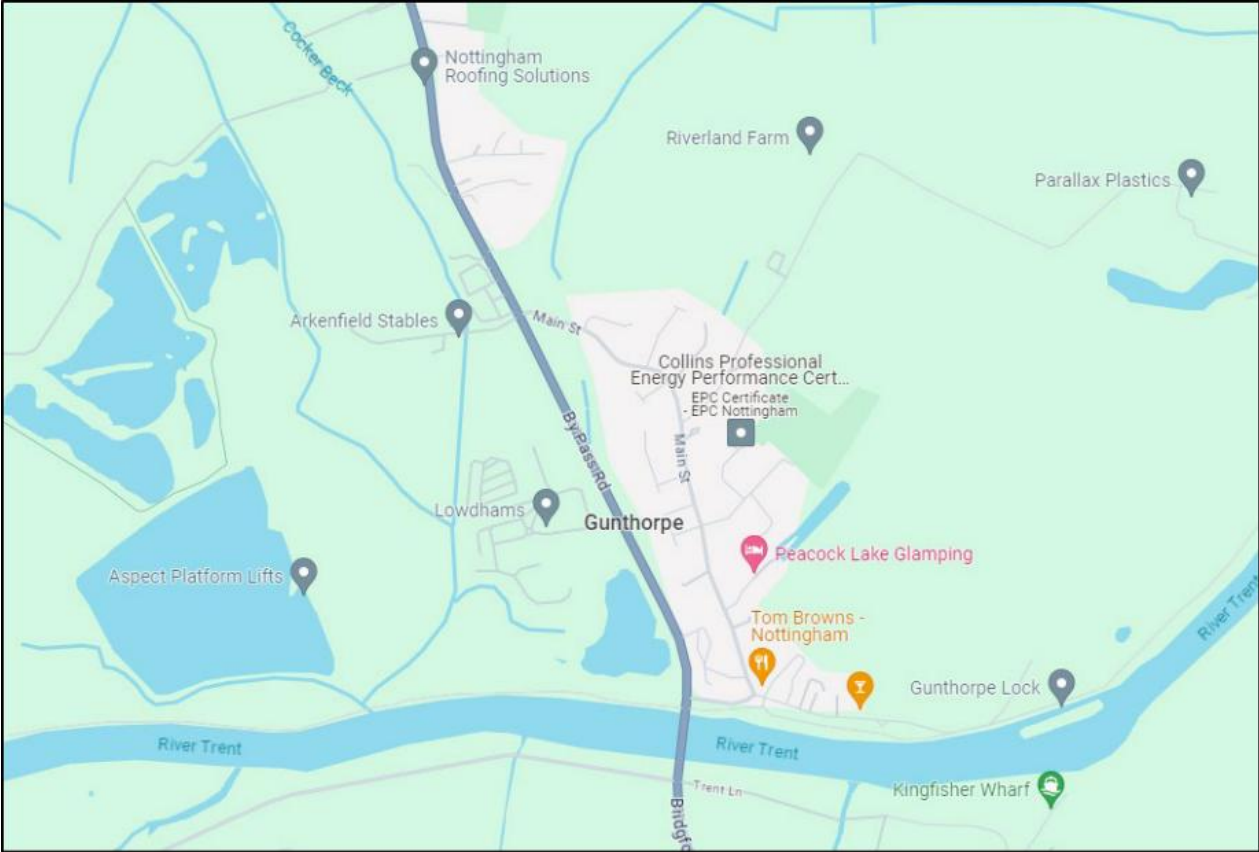


Figure 1. Gunthorpe showing its proximity to the River Trent and watercourses.

- 7. On the 2nd January 2024, Storm Henk brought heavy rain across the East Midlands resulting in widespread flooding across Nottinghamshire. The Lambley rain gauge, located approximately 3m to the west of Gunthorpe, measured a total of 23.6mm of rain between 10am and 9pm and a peak of 6.4mm per hour. Figure 2 shows the hourly rainfall at Lambley Gauge.

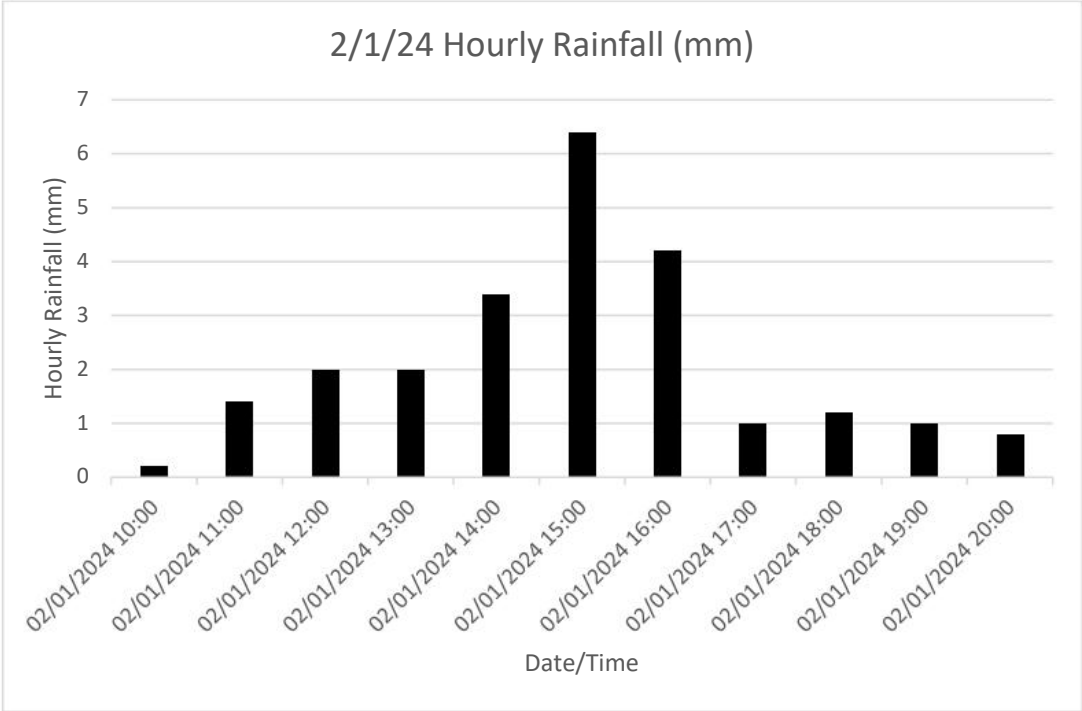


Figure 2. Lambley hourly rainfall. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

Summary of flooding and its causes

8. Gunthorpe has a significant history of flooding. The village location renders it at high risk of flooding. When the River Trent surcharges, it has a direct detrimental impact on the ability of its tributaries to discharge into it. With these tributaries all surcharged other surface water assets in the village are unable to function effectively.
9. Storm Henk caused the River Trent to flood out of bank resulting in the village being cut off. One property reported flooding internally from the river. Ten other properties reported being internally flooded and these have all been attributed to rising ground water, with residents' reports describing flood water coming up through the floors of their properties.
10. Figure 5 shows how the areas affected all lie within Flood Zone 3 – an area at high risk of flooding from rivers.



Figure 5. Excerpt from the Flood map for Planning

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. Newark and Sherwood District 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.

14. Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

- a) Has a duty to manage flood risk and land drainage within areas of special drainage need in the Trent Valley.
- b) Has permissive powers to undertake work to provide water level management within their area.
- c) Undertake works to reduce flood risk to people and property and manage water levels for local needs including the maintenance of rivers, drainage channels, outfalls and pumping stations.

15. Severn Trent Water.

- a) Maintenance of the public sewerage system.
- b) 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.
- p) Attended public meetings concerning flood risk in Gunthorpe.

18. The Environment Agency.

- a) The Environment Agency warned and informed the community of Gunthorpe in a timely manner by issuing a Flood Warning for the River Trent at Gunthorpe including the A6097 at 07:59 on 3rd 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 attended a multi-agency community drop in event which was attended by Nottinghamshire County Council, Severn Trent Water and Newark & Sherwood District 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.

19. Newark and Sherwood District Council

- a) Played a full and intensive role alongside other agencies and community representatives.
- b) Worked to deliver whatever support was possible from the skills and resources available.
- c) Ahead of the storm the council stood up a team of managers to prepare for potential impacts across the district. A large team of staff was formed from across departments prioritising the flood response. Staff worked throughout the flood event, working beyond the normal working hours and days.
- d) Staff visited impacted communities and vulnerable individuals.
- e) Many hundreds of aqua sacs were delivered and people were helped to evacuate their homes.
- f) The council prepared to support evacuated residents and provided emergency accommodation when necessary.
- g) The communications officers worked with other agencies to warn and inform the public of the risks and the support that was available. Daily briefings were also provided to councillors and community leaders.
- h) As the flood event changed from the surface water flooding to the continued risk of river flooding the council commenced actions to help clean up roads , paths and remove bulky waste from flooded homes.
- i) Staff contacted affected individuals to identify humanitarian needs and offer direct support or liaised with other agencies to find the appropriate assistance.
- j) Due to the predicted extreme levels for the River Trent, the council coordinated in person visits to communities at high risk of flooding to reinforce the need to take immediate action to prepare for potential flooding.
- k) Once the risk of further flooding had passed the council commenced its role in meeting the recovery needs of impacted communities and individuals. Grant funding is being delivered to those eligible.
- l) An internal and multi-agency debrief was conducted to identify any lessons learned.
- m) Since the flood the council has worked with parish and town councils to restock stores of aqua sacs.

20. 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) Contacted affected residents directly about any sewer related issues.
- c) Attended and supported the community drop-in session in Gunthorpe with other Risk Management Authorities following Storm Henk.

Additional Information and Future Actions

21. 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.
22. NCC will continue support Gunthorpe 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.
23. NCC will work with its partners to look at ways of strengthening the enforcement of riparian responsibilities alongside developing our asset inspection process.
24. 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.