

SECTION 19 REPORT – ROCKLEY (WITH MARKHAM MOOR AND WEST DRAYTON) – STORM BABET, OCTOBER 2023

FOR COMPLETENESS, THIS APPENDIX SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PLACE) TO PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2025: “FLOODING EVENT ON THE 4TH TO THE 8TH OF JANUARY 2025, PLUS ROCKLEY (WITH MARKHAM MOOR AND WEST DRAYTON) – STORM BABET, OCTOBER 2023”.

<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 (LLFA) must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:
 - a) Which Risk Management Authorities 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 from Storm Babet in October 2023 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 Authorities for this area of Nottinghamshire are the Environment Agency, Bassetlaw District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as LLFA, Via East Midlands Ltd. as Highways Authority on behalf of NCC and the Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board.
5. It should be noted that a Section 19 does not identify specific measures to alleviate future flood risk, and it does not guarantee that flooding problems will be resolved and cannot force others into action. It is up to each Risk Management Authority if they then wish to carry out further investigation into possible flood prevention and protection measures that could be implemented.

Background

6. Rockley is a village within the District of Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire, approximately 2km south of Retford. It is part of the West Drayton Civil Parish, which also includes the villages of West Drayton and Markham Moor.
7. On the 20th of October 2023, during Storm Babet, Rockley suffered a flood event caused by sustained heavy rainfall. 103.2mm of rainfall was recorded at the Worksop rain gauge, which is approximately 15km from Rockley, with 75.4mm of this rainfall on the 20th alone (Figure 1).
8. This storm came after a prolonged period of persistent rain which had saturated the ground resulting in flooding of roads and properties quicker than they would usually following a dry period.
9. Consequently, 7 residential properties and 1 business in Rockley were subject to internal flooding with more suffering flooding to gardens and outbuildings. It is also noted in this report that in the wider Civil Parish 1 residential property in Markham Moor and 3 residential properties in West Drayton also suffered internal flooding with more suffering flooding to gardens and outbuildings.

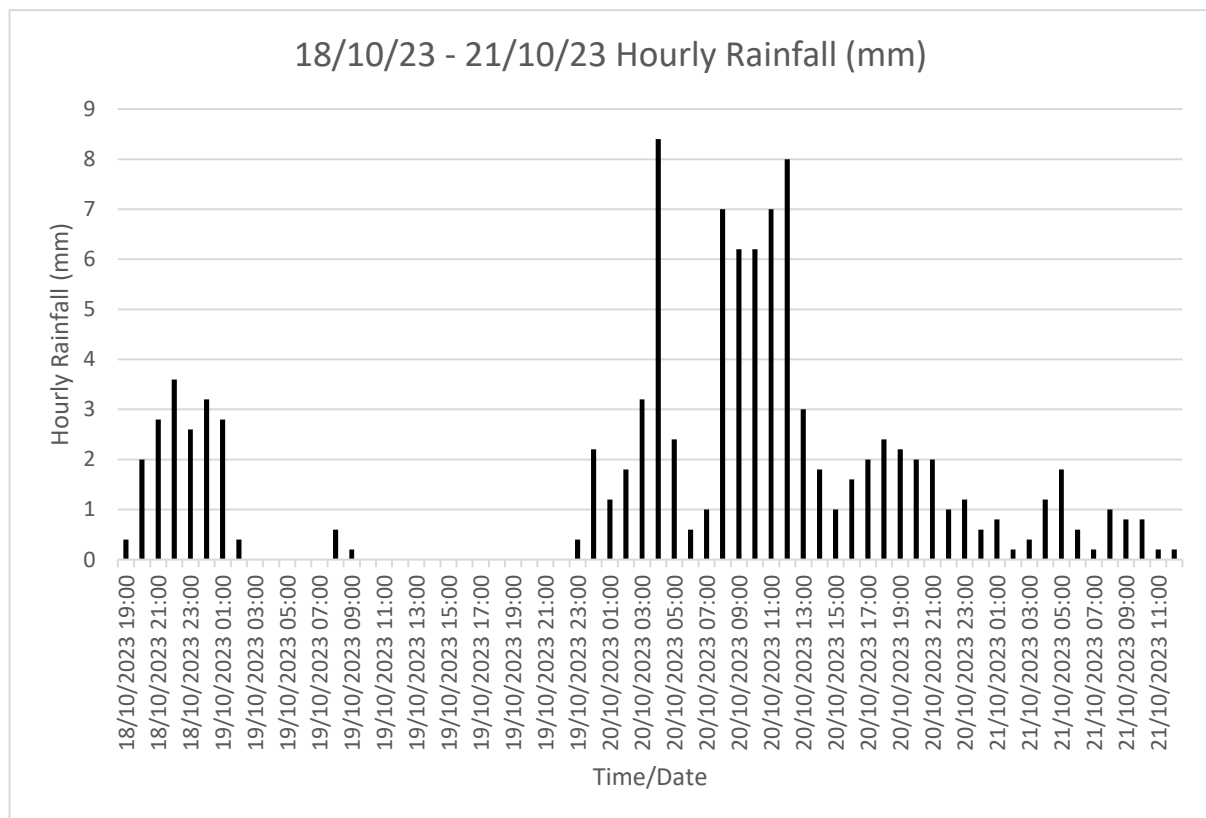


Figure 1 - Worksop hourly rainfall 19:00 18th October - 12:00 21st October 2023.
Data supplied by the Environment Agency

10. A view of affected areas in Rockley is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were:

- Great North Road (1 property)
- Holme Lane (3 properties)
- Mill Lane (4 properties)



Figure 2 – Reference Map of Rockley flood affected areas

Summary of flooding and its causes

11. The flooding Rockley experienced was as a result of two distinct flooding mechanisms. For 3 properties on Mill Lane the flooding which they suffered was in relation to the River Maun; while residents noted that the river did not breach directly adjacent to properties, the river is thought to have overtopped its banks further upstream and subsequent overland flows came across fields. This flow across the fields was described as being 'like a tidal wave' and as such with river and ditch levels locally being high already, drainage features were unable to manage or intercept this large volume.
12. Properties on Holme Lane and Great North Road suffered flooding from surface water runoff from the surrounding fields, as well as an unnamed ordinary watercourse and highway culverts being overwhelmed. This caused roads to become flooded and allowed flows towards Mill Lane, which subsequently caused flooding to one further property on Mill Lane.
13. Figure 3 shows Fluvial Flood Risk Mapping, which correlates with the flooding experienced, with part of Mill Lane, Rockley, and a large area upstream (to the South) in Flood Zone 3.

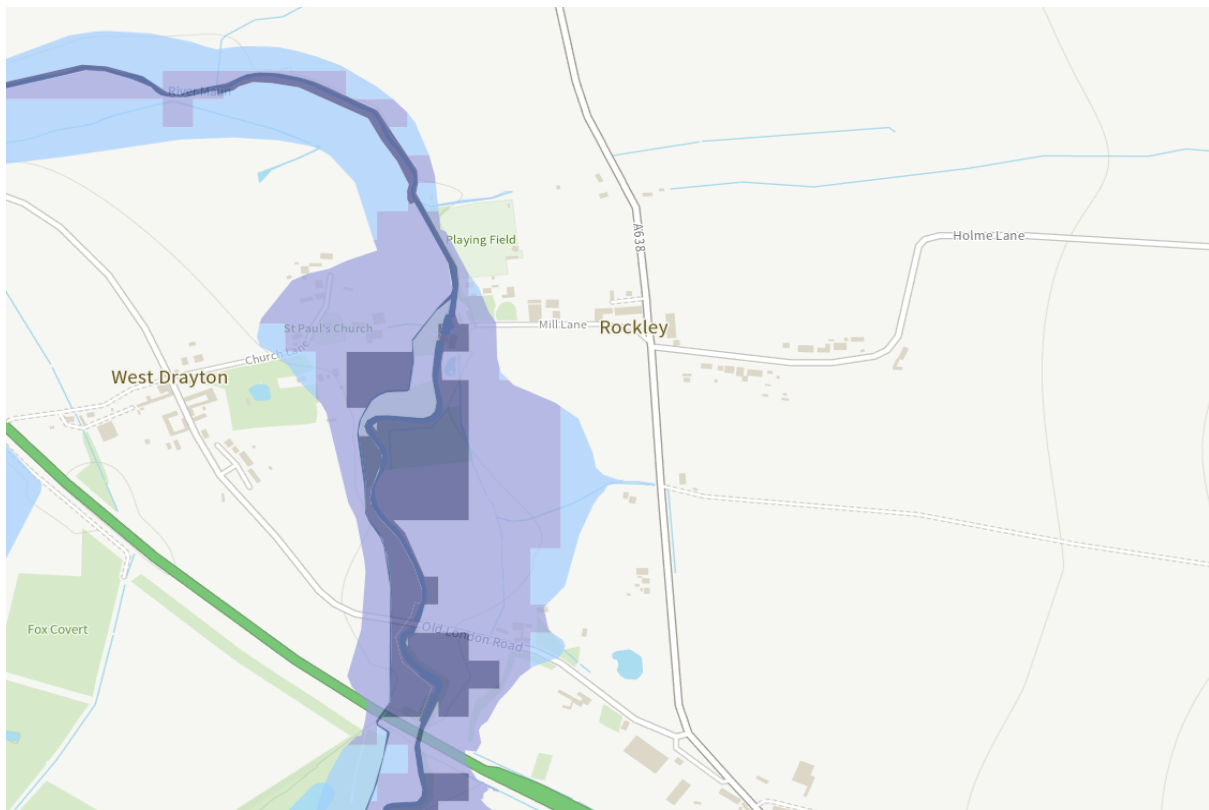


Figure 3 - Fluvial Flood Risk Map of Rockley. Data provided by the Environment Agency

14. Figure 4 shows surface water flood risk for the area, with several surface water flow paths flowing from east to west, towards Great North Road.

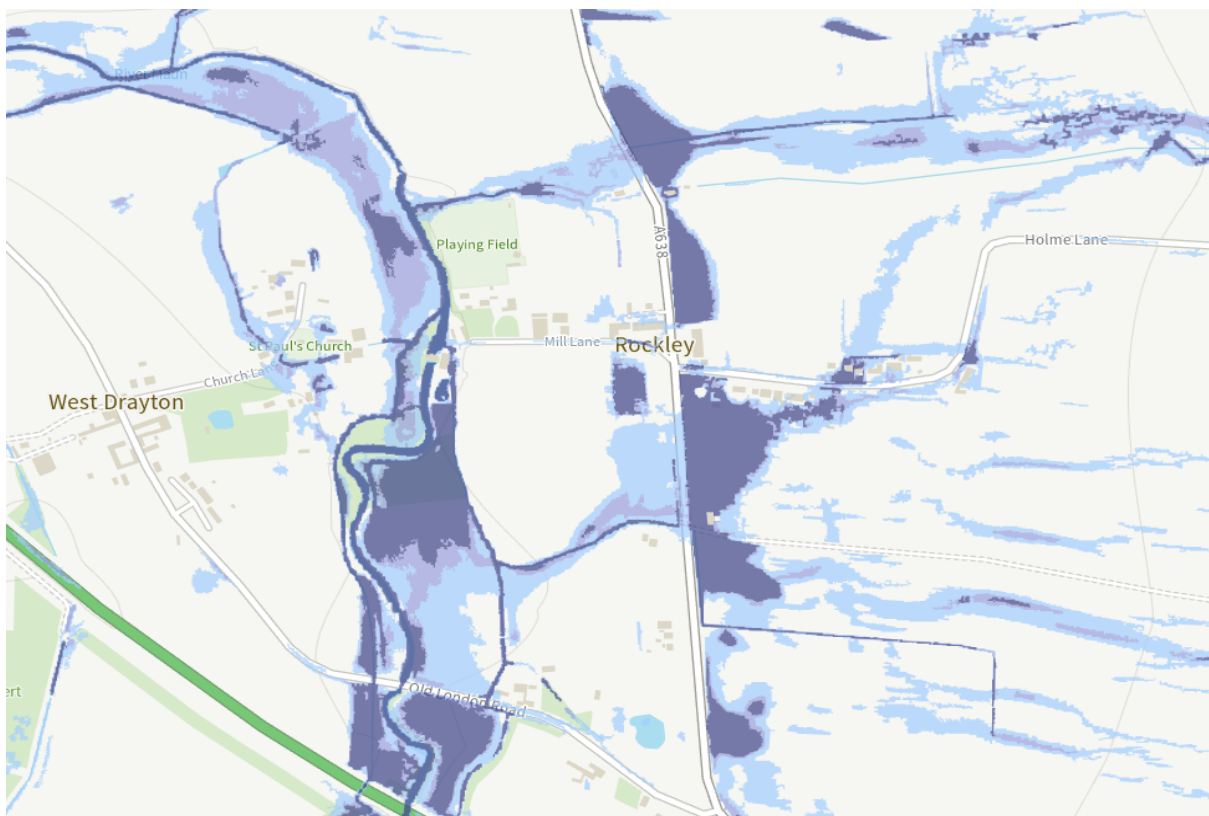


Figure 4 - Surface Water Flood Risk Map of Rockley. Data provided by the Environment Agency

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

15. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)

a) Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)

- 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 LLFA, NCC have a new 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, the LLFA can raise awareness of flood risks.
- v. LLFA 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 (NCC/Via East Midlands Ltd)

- i. Maintenance of the public highways including highway drainage assets.

16. Bassetlaw 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.

17. 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, and the issuing of Flood Warnings using the national Flood Warning System.

18. Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board

- a) Has a duty to manage flood risk and land drainage within areas of special drainage need in the Isle of Axholme board area.

- 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.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

19. The following paragraphs list 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:
20. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)

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 Risk Management Authorities and partners to verify the scale of internal flooding.
- d) Collated flood impact data from other Risk Management Authorities 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 Risk Management Authorities, 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 77 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.

21. Bassetlaw District Council

- a) Provided emergency response support for management of the flooding event, including:
 - i. Participation in all LRF Strategic Co-ordination Group, Tactical Co-ordination Group, Communications Cell and Recovery Co-ordination Group meetings.
 - ii. Deployment of sandbags and Aqua Sacs to vulnerable premises and residents when requested and supplies allowed.
 - iii. Public communication of key messages at different phases of the incident, including warn and inform and recovery.
- b) Cleansing of detritus from roads and paths.
- c) Promoted and administered the Community Recovery Grant and Council Tax discount schemes.
- d) Actively engaged in the S19 Flood Investigation.

22. Environment Agency

- a) Warned and informed the community of Rockley by issuing the Flood Warning for the River Main at Haughton, Milton and West Drayton on the 19/10/2023 at 09:27.
- b) 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) Organised and attended multi-agency community drop-in events which were attended by Severn Trent, Bassetlaw District Council and NCC.
- d) Coordinated community officers to gather information and visit the 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 the hydraulic models.

23. Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board

- a) The board stated there were no works that the Board could undertake that would add any beneficial impact.

24. Severn Trent Water

- a) At the time of writing this report, Severn Trent are not aware of any sewer related issues during this event.
- b) If further information comes to light that indicates sewer related issues, Severn Trent will investigate these.

Additional Information and Future Actions

25. 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.
26. Since Storm Babet, NCC Flood Risk Management Team have undertaken a CCTV survey of the culverted sections of watercourse along Holme Lane, to fully understand the construction and condition of culverts in the area, and are also working closely with VIA East Midlands Ltd to ensure any necessary repairs of highways systems are undertaken. NCC Flood Risk Management Team are also working with the Environment Agency to understand the flooding on Mill Lane, and support any future actions in relation to this wherever possible.
27. The Flood Risk Management team will look at the suitability of its Property Flood Resilience Programme for communities affected by Storm Babet and will take recommendations through the Cabinet Member later this year for consideration.
28. NCC will work with its partners to look at ways of strengthening the enforcement of riparian responsibilities alongside developing our asset inspection process.
29. As the LLFA, NCC 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.
30. The local community's resilience during the flooding must be recognised, as without their efforts, the impacts of the flooding could have been more severe.
31. Bassetlaw District Council participated in the Local Resilience Forum Storm Babet Debrief and learning review meeting which identified a number of future actions.
32. Bassetlaw District Council has undertaken an internal review of the response to Storm Babet which identified a number of future actions.
33. Following a motion to Bassetlaw full Council on the 25th of January 2024, a resolution was passed to establish a working group reporting into Cabinet to focus exclusively on flooding, to ensure continued focus and scrutiny.
34. Bassetlaw District Council will work with partners to lobby for a change in government policy regarding the Environment Agency funding framework to enable more flood alleviation schemes to be delivered locally.