



SECTION 19 REPORT – EASTWOOD 23RD JULY 2013

Introduction

Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:

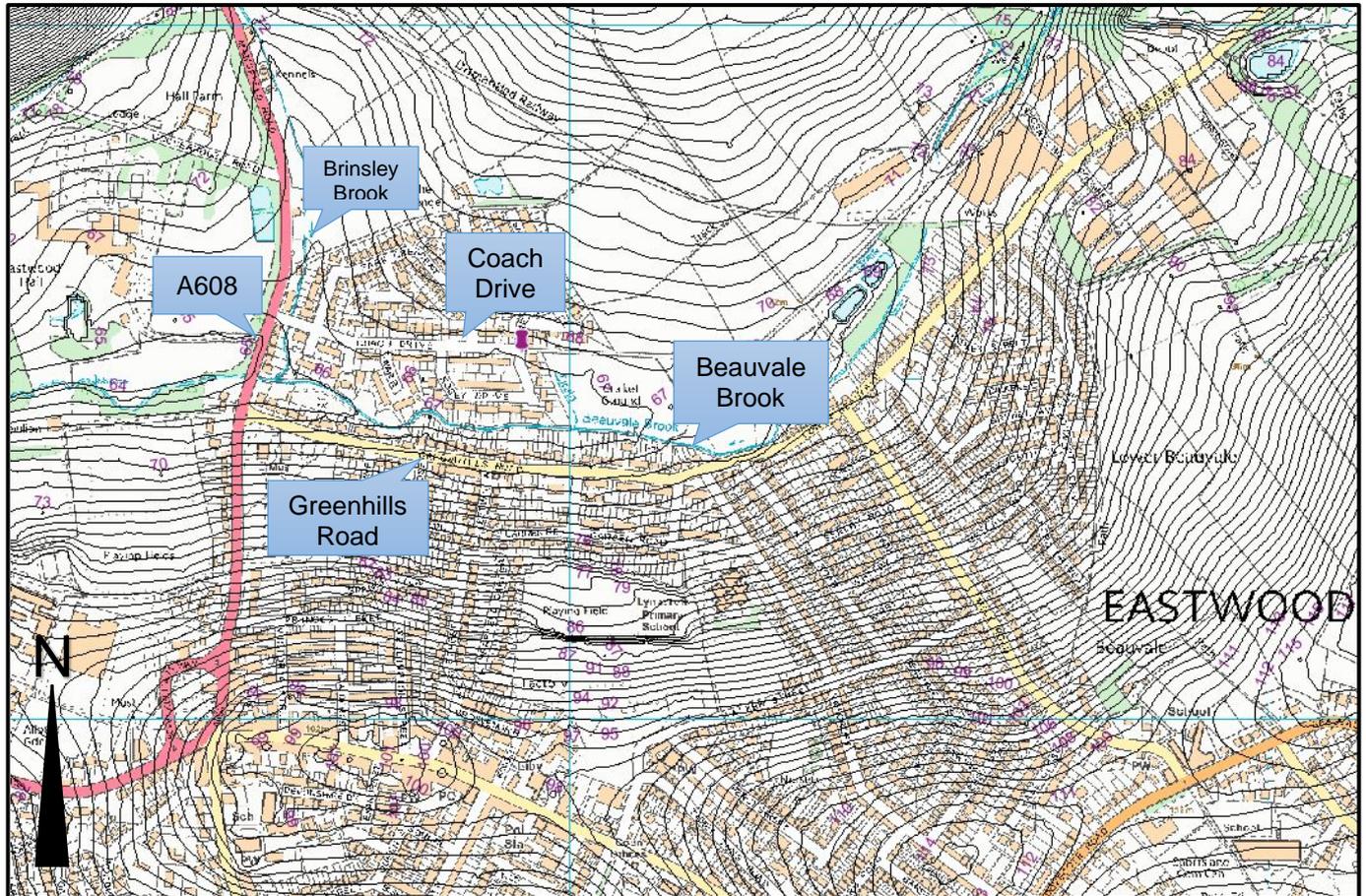
1. On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:
 - (a) Which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have relevant flood risk management functions.
 - (b) Whether each of those risk management authorities 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) 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 RMAs had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in July 2013 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 the Environment Agency (EA), Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority and Highways Authority and Severn Trent Water Ltd (STW). (There is no Internal Drainage Board (IDB) here).
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. On the late afternoon of the 23rd July 2013 parts of Nottinghamshire were subjected to intense rainfall, 36mm of rain fell in under 1 hour, an intensity of cloud burst way beyond the capacity of any existing drainage provision. As a result of this many parts of the County, including Eastwood, experienced major flooding with several hundred properties across the county affected. There were 5 recorded properties within Eastwood that suffered flooding internally with three contributing sources including overland flow, surcharged highway drains and flooded ordinary watercourses.

Summary of flooding and its causes

7. Eastwood is a busy former coal mining town in the District of Broxtowe. It has a hilly topography with a number of natural valleys with ordinary watercourses that take water from those hills to the River Erewash to the West. This flood event in July 2013 was concentrated around the catchment of one of those watercourses The Beauvale Brook.



Map 1 – Catchment Details

8. The areas around Coach Drive and Greenhills Road were particularly affected as was the A608 which has the Brinsley Brook running parallel with it. The Brinsley Brook is a tributary for The Beauvale Brook and both meet near the entrance to Coach Drive.
9. The flooding experienced by the residents of this part of Eastwood came from three identified sources Fluvial; from the Beauvale Brook and the Brinsley Brook, Pluvial; surface water from the surrounding fields, footpaths and roads and highway drainage; from drainage gullies that were at or above operational capacity.
10. Investigations identified sections of both the Beauvale and Brinsley Brook to be heavily silted with areas where the natural flow of water would be impeded due to overgrown vegetation. These watercourses are classed as ordinary watercourses so the maintenance responsibilities lie with those who own the land adjacent to either side of the watercourse, called Riparian Owners. There were also a number of culverts along each channel some of which had trash screens which blocked with debris during the event.
11. Significant amounts of water flowed directly off the hills to the North and East of this catchment, it was found during investigations that lack of maintenance of some hedge line ditches was a contributing factor to water running from those hills. The water was simply

following the natural topography of the land trying to get to the Beauvale Brook. Once the water reached a road or footpath it was channelled into the residential areas.

12. The high levels of surface water once collected on the roads overwhelmed the existing drainage infrastructure. The standard design capacity of the highway drainage was not sufficient to cope with that amount of water and surcharged in places passing the problem onto other areas.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

1. 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. 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. LLFAs also 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, LLFAs can raise awareness of flood risks.
- v. LLFAs should encourage local communities to participate in local flood risk management.

b) Highway Authority

- i. Maintenance of the public highways.

c) Severn Trent Water Ltd.

- i. Maintenance of the public sewerage system.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

2. 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:

a) Nottinghamshire County Council:

- i. Initiated and co-ordinated Emergency Planning procedures.
- ii. Provided emergency response crews to assist in management of flooding event.
- iii. Initiated and led the S19 Flood Investigation.
- iv. Actively engage with the community following the event to offer support and advice where required.
- v. Contacted riparian owners to request vegetation and silt clearance where identified.

b) Severn Trent Water Ltd:

- i. Provided emergency response crews to assist in management of flooding event.
- ii. Surveyed and cleansed public sewer system.

c) Nottinghamshire County Council as Highway Authority:

- i. Provided emergency response crews to assist in management of flooding event.
- ii. Surveyed and cleansed highway drainage network.
- iii. Attended and cleared blocked trash screens to remove debris.

3. The investigation concludes that all risk management authorities have and continue to, exercise their respective functions in response to the flood.

Additional information.

4. During the investigations NCC officers liaised closely with BBC and the community to clarify responsibilities and ensure the community had as much support and understanding as possible to aid future flood resilience.

Future Actions

5. NCC will continue to inspect the condition of both the Beauvale Brook and the Brinsley Brook and any culverts which could obstruct flow when blocked. We will also work with land owners who are responsible for hedge side ditches to ensure they are kept clean. NCC in its role as Highway Authority will continue to monitor the condition of the highway drainage system in this area to ensure full operational capacity.