

SECTION 19 REPORT – NEWARK ON TRENT – JANUARY 2025

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 in January 2025 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 Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as LLFA, VIA East Midlands Ltd. on behalf of NCC as Highways Authority, and the Environment Agency.
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. Newark on Trent is a market town located in the Newark and Sherwood district of Nottinghamshire and has a population of approximately 30,345 according to the 2021 census. The town sits in the Trent Valley, just south of the A1 / A56 junction. Farndon Road is one of the main routes into the town from the south. Figure 1 shows the location of Newark on Trent, and Figure 2 shows Farndon Road and its proximity to the River Devon and the River Trent.

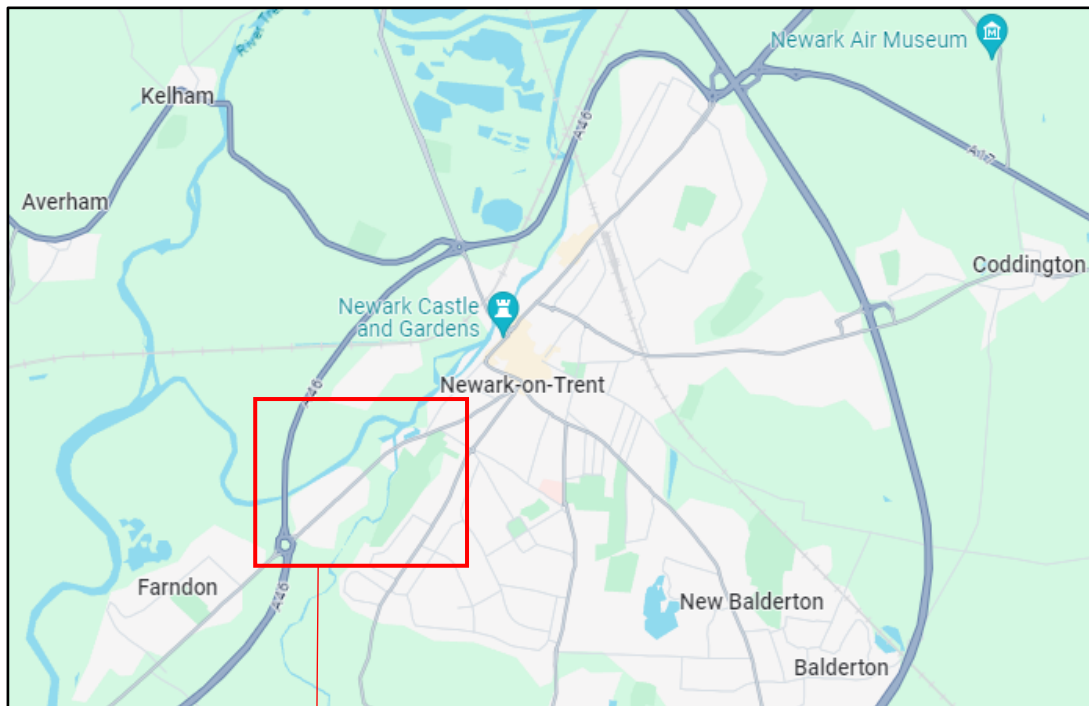


Figure1 - Newark on Trent location map

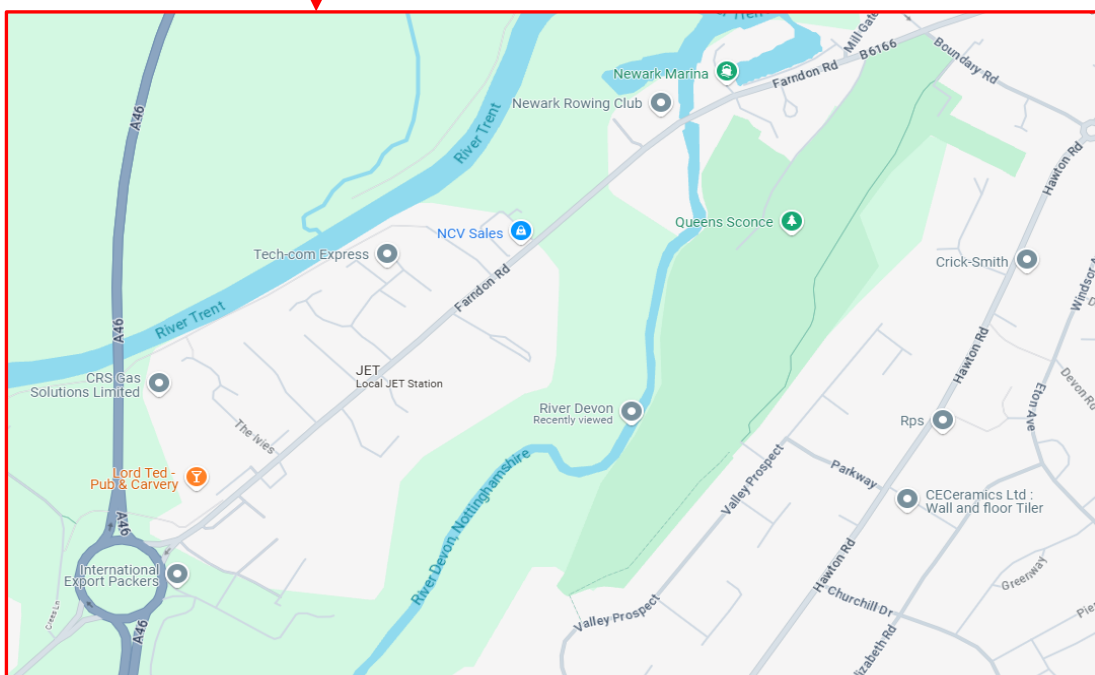


Figure 2 - Farndon Road location map

7. On the 4th and 5th of January 2025 areas of Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, which includes a large part of the River Devon catchment, experienced heavy rain and snow melt on to already saturated and frozen ground. A total of 42.8mm of rainfall fell in the River Devon catchment upstream (south / southeast) of Newark.
8. The DEFRA Hydrology data Explorer webpage shows river levels at the Wensor Bridge gauge (location shown on Figure 3) upstream of the flooded area peaked at 4.026m on the 7th January. This is the joint highest on record. The peak in river levels is shown on Figure 4. To add further context, the River Devon at Woolsthorpe experienced its highest ever recorded level of 2.47m during the same event further evidencing the amount of water moving towards Newark.

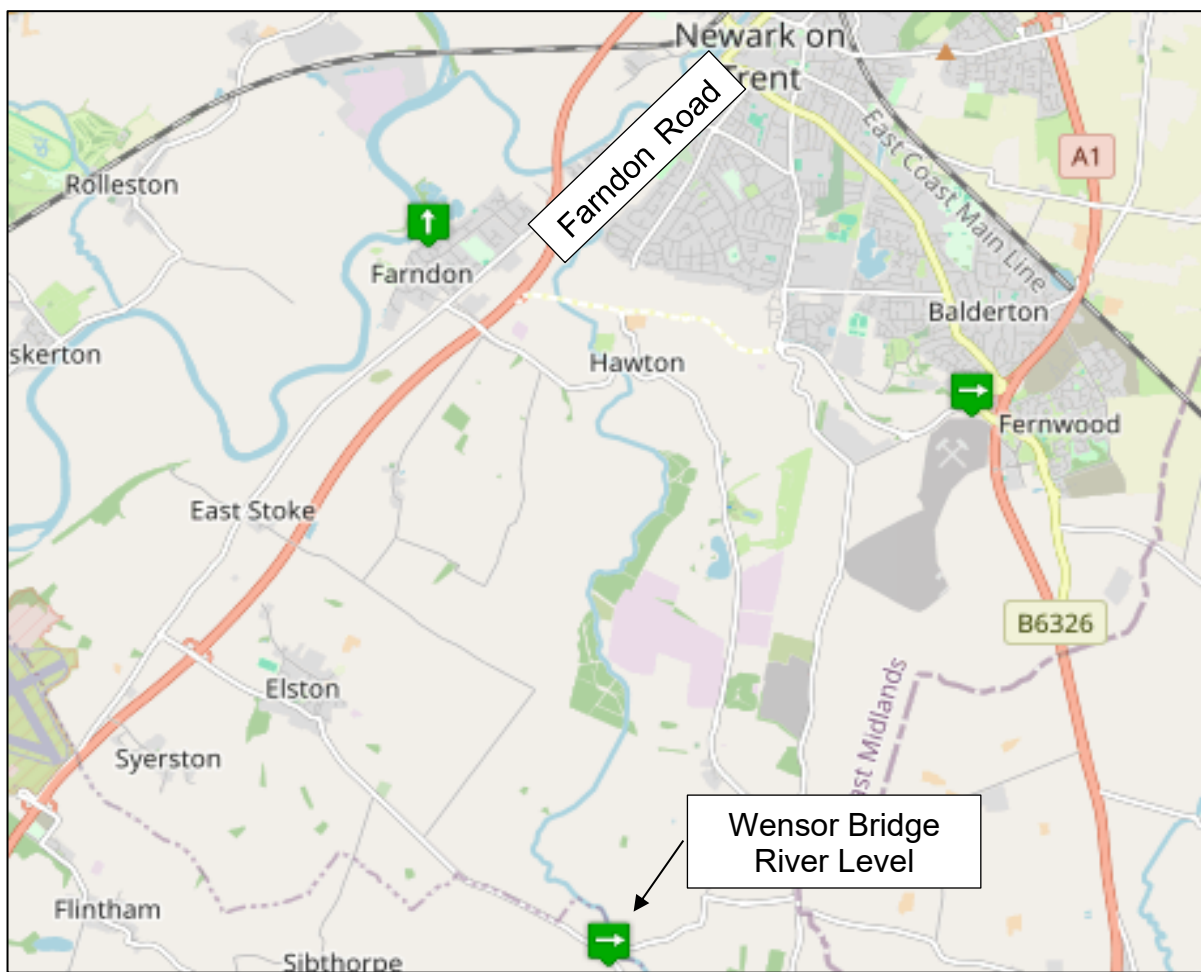


Figure 3 - Wensor Bridge, River Devon level gauge location.

9. By the early hours of 8th January 2025, the storm had resulted in 7 residential and 2 business properties in Newark on Trent experiencing internal flooding for the third time in 15 months. This flooding also resulted in 1 residential property in the adjacent village of Farndon suffering repeat internal flooding.

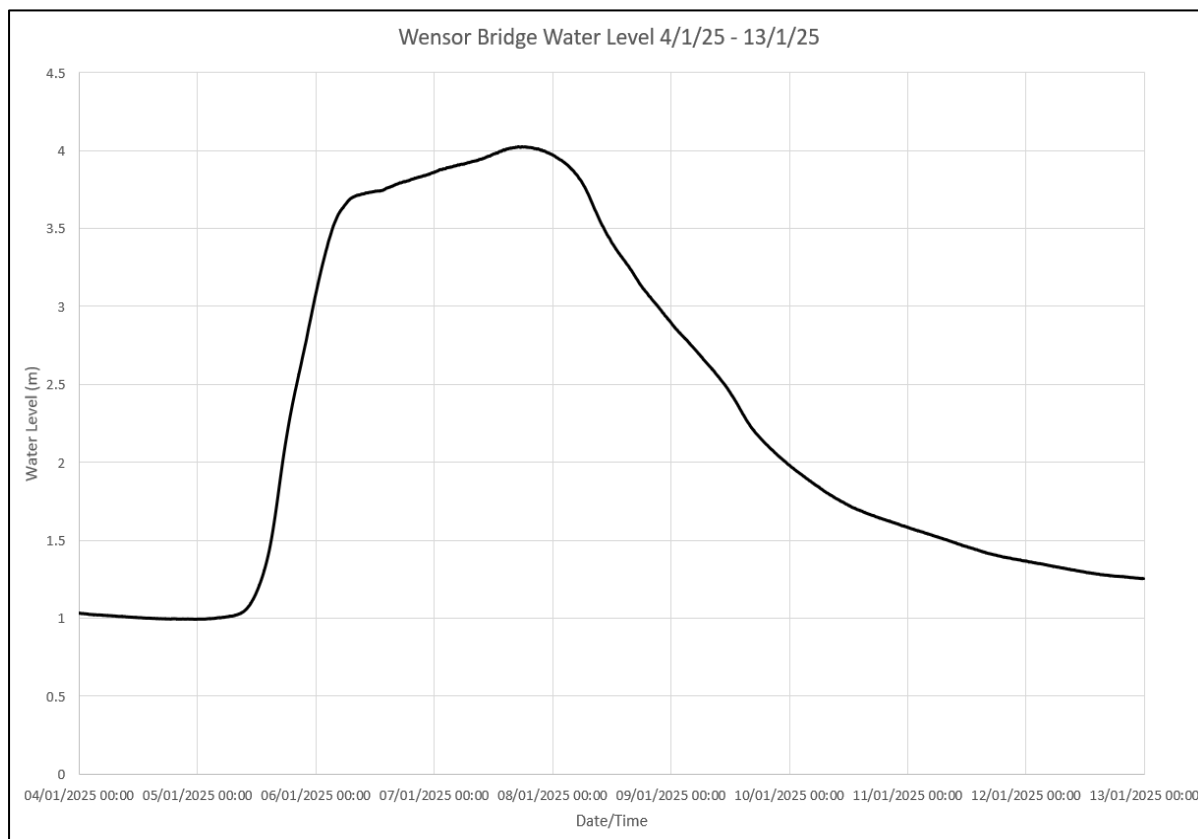
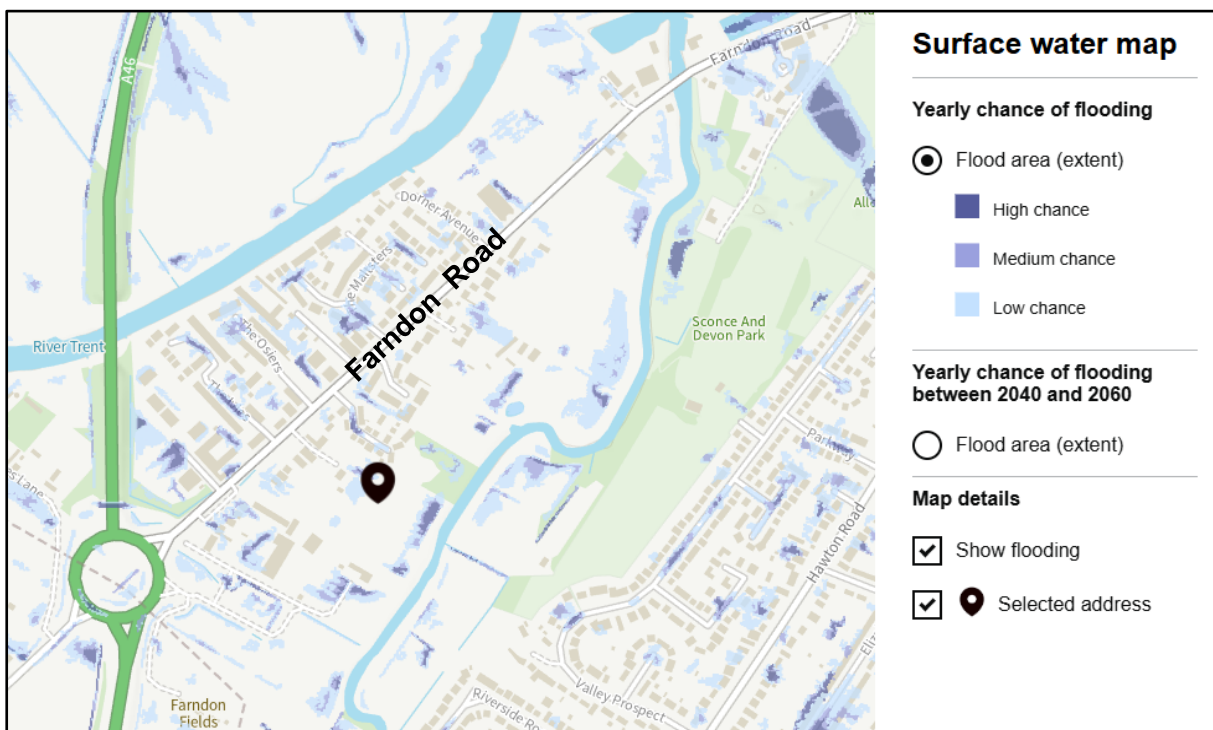
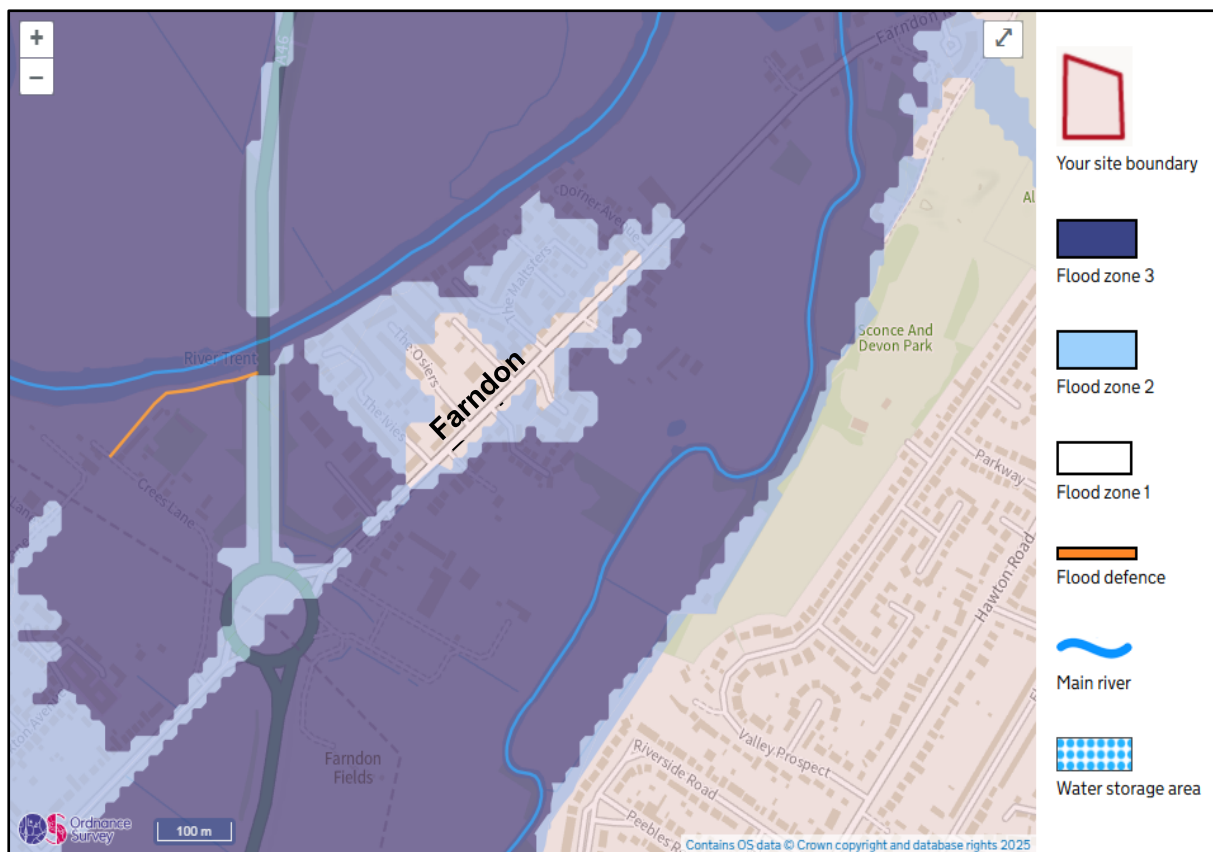


Figure 4 - Wensor Bridge, River Devon level gauge data.

10. Figures 5 and 6 overleaf show the predicted risk of flooding as published by the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning service for the Farndon Road area.



Summary of flooding and its causes

11. Figure 7 shows the areas affected by internal flooding.



Figure 7 - View of Farndon Road highlighting areas affected by internal flooding.

12. The rain and snowmelt in the catchment overwhelmed the River Devon resulting in it overtopping its banks and flooding the surrounding area.
13. Internal flooding affected two discreet areas: Farndon Road area and Fosse Road, Farndon.
- a) Farndon Road properties were flooded by water from the River Devon overtopping its banks. This is the third time properties in this area have flooded since October 2023. The flooding of the Farndon Road area is the subject of ongoing discussions between residents, various Risk Management Authorities, Newark and Sherwood District as Local Planning Authority and a private developer. The fundamentals of these discussions relate to suggestions by residents that work carried out on the Middlebeck development to the south of Newark on Trent contributed to the flooding and what options there are to reduce the risk of future flooding to the area.

b) One property of Fosse Road was internally flooded due to flood water from the River Devon and ordinary watercourses filling the flood plain around the property.

14. The following images were captured by NCC drone pilots and show the change in flood extents from the 7th to the 8th of January 2025.



Fosse Road - 07/01/2025



Fosse Road - 08/01/2025



Farndon Road - 07/01/2025



Farndon Road - 08/01/2025



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 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, 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 (VIA East Midlands Ltd. on behalf of NCC)

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

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. Severn Trent Water

- a) Maintenance of the public sewerage system.

- b) As a water and sewerage company, Severn Trent 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 Risk Management Authorities on how water and sewerage company assets impact on local flood risk.
 - vi. Severn Trent 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

- 20. The following paragraphs list the actions taken by each Risk Management Authorities in response to the flooding both in the immediate aftermath as well as in the longer term:

- 21. 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 NCC:

- a) Initiated its Community Flood Recovery Grant to support individuals affected by internal flooding as a short-term recovery aid.
- b) Attended site before, during and after the 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 / or attended the 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 the Tactical / Recovery Coordination Groups.
- i) Initiated and led the Section 19 Flood Investigation, including liaison with relevant Risk Management Authorities, Elected Members, Parish Councils, community groups, affected residents and businesses.

- j) Liaised with and supported existing community flood signage schemes during the flooding.
- k) Delivered sandbags to affected areas and communities.
- l) Utilised existing methods of communication to update the public, partners and Elected Members with key messages during the flood event.
- m) Attended a public meeting concerning flood risk in the Farndon area of Newark on Trent.

22. Environment Agency

- a) The Environment Agency warned and informed the community of Newark on Trent in a timely manner by issuing a Flood Warning for the River Trent at Newark Tolney Lane and Riverside Marinas on 02:14, the River Trent at Farndon riverside properties including Dorner Avenue and Wyke and Marsh Lane on 07/01/2025 at 03:10, the River Trent at Newark the Sugar Factory and Kelham Bridge on 07/01/2025 and the River Trent at Newark for riverside properties on 07/01/2025 at 08:45.
- 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) A team with pumps were deployed at Brewers Wharf, over pumping flood water throughout the event.
- d) The Environment Agency walked the length of the defences with residents and undertook a catchment wide inspection.
- e) The Environment Agency also attended a public meeting with residents of Farndon Road, Newark, along with other external partners at the Aura Centre, Newark, that was organised by the local member of parliament, Robert Jenrick.
- f) The Environment Agency coordinated community information officers to gather information and visit affected communities to understand the impact of flooding and collect data. This information is used to validate and improve the Flood Warning Service.
- g) The Environment Agency attended a further public meeting hosted by the Newark member of parliament, Robert Jenrick, after the flooding event.

23. Newark and Sherwood District Council

- a) The council played a full and intensive role alongside other agencies and community representatives.
- b) The council 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 across various departments prioritising the flood response. Staff worked through the flood event, working beyond the normal working hours and days.
- d) Staff visited impacted communities and vulnerable individuals.
- e) Aqua Sacs were delivered to properties that were not able to access local resilience stores.

- f) The council were prepared to support evacuated residents and were ready to provide emergency accommodation if necessary.
- g) The communications officers worked with other agencies to warn and inform the public of the risks and the support that was available. Briefings were also provided to councillors and community leaders.
- h) After the event, staff worked to clean up roads, paths and remove items from internally flooded properties on request.
- i) Staff contacted affected individuals to identify humanitarian needs and offer direct support or liaison with other agencies to find the appropriate assistance.
- j) Once the risk of further flooding had passed, the council commenced its role in meeting the recovery needs of impacted communities and individuals.
- k) An internal debrief was conducted to identify any lessons learned.

24. Severn Trent Water

- a) Severn Trent received reports of issues following this flood event. These were investigated but found to be predominantly river flooding.
- 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. 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.
- 27. 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.
- 28. The Environment Agency has secured funding to offer a Property Flood Resilience survey for a small number of properties which have flooded multiple times over the last few winters.
- 29. The Environment Agency are developing a flood warning for the River Devon from our Wensor Bridge gauge, utilising data gathered from the recent flood events. We will contact the community when this work has progressed to share information on how this can support them in becoming more resilient to flooding.
- 30. The Environment Agency is updating its hydraulic modelling for the River Trent with initial surveying work due to commence in 2025. The impacts of the

recent flooding will be included and will help with assessing any potential flood mitigation schemes. This will also include the lower reach of the River Devon.

31. NCC continue to support the local residents and attend regular partnership based meetings