

## **APPENDIX C**

### **SECTION 19 REPORT – CROPWELL BUTLER – FEBRUARY 2020**

#### **Introduction**

1. Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The objective of this report is to investigate which Risk Management Authorities had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in February 2020 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).
5. The Risk Management Authorities with a duty to respond to this flooding incident are Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC).
6. 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**

7. Over the weekend of the 15th and 16th of February 2020 Storm Dennis hit parts of Nottinghamshire with 34mm (an average month's worth) of rain falling in 48 hours. Across the UK a record 594 flood warnings and alerts were in place over the weekend with 38 flood warnings and 16 flood alerts across Nottinghamshire as shown in Figure 2 below. Storm Dennis followed Storm Ciara which had hit the previous week bringing heavy rain and winds of over 90mph resulting in more than 220 flood warnings and alerts in place across England. Both storm events followed some 6 months of persistent and often heavy rainfall across the UK.

During Storm Dennis, Via East Midlands Ltd. (on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council) facilitated 51 road closures, placed over 70 flood signs on the network to warn motorists and delivered over 4000 sandbags.

Storm Dennis is believed to have caused the worst winter floods in recent times, in part because the rain was so widespread but also because the ground was already saturated from Storm Ciara the previous week. It triggered a record-breaking number of Environment Agency flood warnings and alerts in England on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>.

A major incident was declared at 07:00 on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> by the Tactical Co-Ordinating Group. With the ground already saturated following one of the wettest autumn and winter periods on record, further intense rainfall on 16<sup>th</sup> February resulted in extensive flooding across the Nottinghamshire area, including Cropwell Butler (Figure 1), a village with a population of approximately 600 at the 2011 Census.

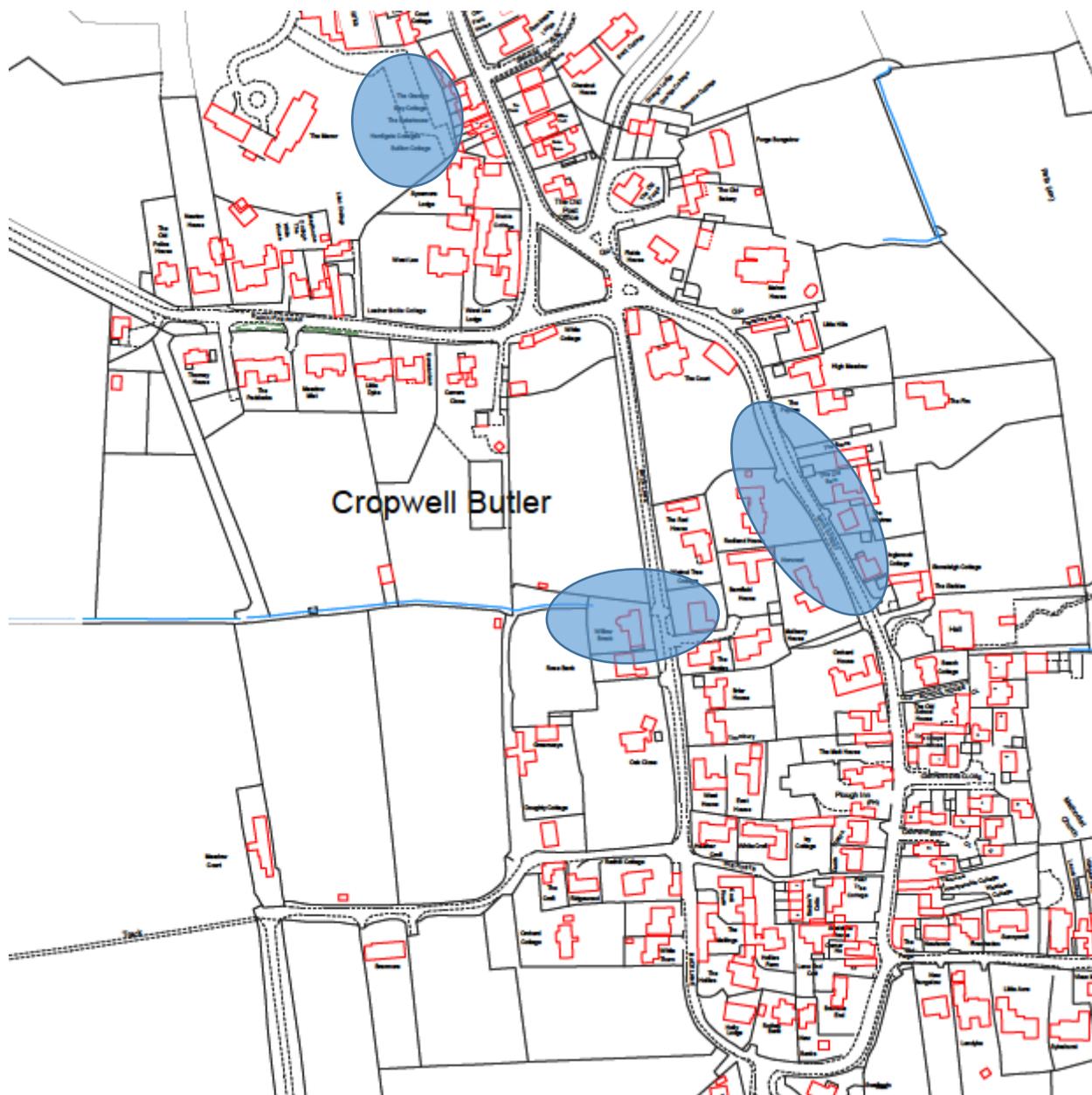


Figure 1. Location Plan



**Figure 2. Flood Warnings and Alerts Issued during February 2020**

On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 following the prolonged period of heavy rainfall, 15 properties on Hardigate Road, Main Street and Back Lane in Cropwell Butler suffered internal flooding.



**Figure 3. Cropwell Butler showing flooded area**

### **Summary of flooding and its causes**

8. Cropwell Butler is a small rural village surrounded by agricultural land and served by a network of unnamed watercourses that collect surface water and highway water from the catchment, converge in the centre of the village and ultimately discharge to the west of the village via a culvert that runs under the Village Hall on Main Street. There were three key areas of flooding in the village, Hardigate Road, Back Lane and Main Street.

### **Hardigate Road**

9. 5 properties on Hardigate Road were flooded, with reports that the water entered from the rear of the properties. The Grove tributary passes through the estate to the rear of the

affected properties. This tributary takes some of its flows from the surface water balancing ponds that are part of the A46 drainage system. This tributary exceeded capacity during the storm event which resulted in water exiting the rear boundary of the estate into the properties on Hardigate Road.

### **Back Lane**

10. The 3 properties which suffered flooding at Back Lane are within a natural low spot where several catchments and the Radcliffe Road tributary converge. This then flows towards Main Street where it joins the Main Street culvert and outfalls to the rear of the Village Hall. At the rear of one property on Back Lane a trash screen is believed to have been blocked which caused water to overtop, flooding the adjacent property and then flowing into Back Lane.

Residents of Back Lane expressed additional concerns relating to blocked gullies intercepting surface water runoff from Hoe Lane. A combination of extreme flows, blocked drainage assets, and over-capacity drainage systems downstream are believed to be the cause of flooding in this area.

### **Main Street**

11. All watercourses within Cropwell Butler converge at Main Street before heading west underneath the village Hall and out to join the River Smite.

Reports of gullies and manholes working in reverse and surcharging suggest evidence of the system being overwhelmed and over capacity.

Residents confirmed 7 properties on Main Street flooded from the front of the properties with additional flooding being suffered due to bow waves from vehicles driving through the flood waters on the road.

The culvert underneath the Village Hall was cleared in 2012 arranged by Nottinghamshire County Council with the assistance of the Parish Council (as Riparian owners).

### **Summary of causes of the flood**

12. Cropwell Butler is a small rural catchment and under normal weather and rainfall conditions, the drainage system (providing adequate maintenance has taken place) has the ability to cope without causing significant flooding. The event of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 led to surface water runoff that exceeded the capacity of the various systems.

It is evident from investigating the flooding that there were a number of issues other than the volume of rain that contributed to the severity of the flooding. Riparian ownership of local drainage ditches and watercourses which play a key factor in moving and managing surface water were identified and this apparatus must therefore be adequately maintained. During this event several riparian owned assets were identified as either poorly managed or blocked which resulted in pinch points at key locations.

### **Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities**

13. 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. Lead Local Flood Authorities also 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.
- ii. Provided site-based presence and investigations immediately following the event.

14. Rushcliffe 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**

15. The following lists 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:

a) Nottinghamshire County Council:

- i. Initiated and co-ordinated Emergency Planning procedures.
- ii. Administered the Flooding Hardship Fund.
- iii. Initiated and led the Section19 Flood Investigation.

b) Rushcliffe Borough Council

- i. Provided emergency response support in management of flooding event.
- ii. Delivered sandbags to affected residents.
- iii. Managed and continue to manage recovery in affected Rushcliffe communities.
- iv. Administered the flood hardship fund and Community recovery grant.

- v. Administered council tax and business rate relief grant scheme.
- vi. Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation.

c) Highways England

- i. Actively engaged in S19 Flood Investigation.

**Additional information and future actions.**

- 16. 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.
- 17. The local community spirit and resilience during the flooding must be recognised as without their efforts the impacts of the flooding could have been worse.
- 18. Nottinghamshire County Council will continue to liaise directly with landowners to provide advice and assistance with reference to their riparian ownerships in relation to the flooding suffered in this community.
- 19. Where appropriate Nottinghamshire County Council and the Environment Agency administer a Flood Warden scheme, including supporting the provision of local sandbag stores, and a Community Flood Signage Scheme in communities at risk of potential flooding. All equipment and training is provided for free should there be sufficient volunteer interest in the community. Further information on these services are available on Nottinghamshire County Council's website.
- 20. Rushcliffe Borough Council administer a flood resilience store grant scheme to encourage community resilience. Grants of up to £1050 are available to Parish Councils. They are also administering the Government's flood resilience grant to those properties affected.
- 21. 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.