

# Worksop Flood 2019 - Partner Update

## COVID19 Restrictions

All Staff from Nottinghamshire County Council, Via EM, Bassetlaw District Council, The Environment Agency and The Canal and Rivers Trust are following Public Health England guidance to reduce their risk of either contracting coronavirus or transmitting the virus to the public. They continue to work in your area to ensure the risk of flooding is minimised whilst following the correct procedures, please be respectful of this should you need to approach them. Up to date Government guidance can be found here: [National guidance](#) | [Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

## Overview and Update

During the 7th and 8th of November 2019, the community of Worksop suffered the impacts of a devastating flood event where over 300 homes and businesses were internally flooded.

The Environment Agency, Bassetlaw District Council, The Canal and Rivers Trust and Nottinghamshire County Council are committed to investigating the causes of the flooding. They are also committed to considering potential solutions to reduce the risk of a repeat flooding event.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2021, County Councillors Callum Bailey, Nigel Turner, Glynn Gilfoyle and Sybil Fielding held a virtual meeting with officers from The Environment Agency, Bassetlaw District Council, the Canal and Rivers Trust and Nottinghamshire County Councils Flood Risk Management Team and Emergency Planning Team. This meeting was positive and productive with all partners providing updates on their plans to try and reduce the risk of future flooding events, how they are working together to achieve this and how they are assisting the community of Worksop to be more resilient to flooding.

During that meeting the following updates were provided:

Maintenance has been carried out in the following areas. More information on maintenance can be found on Page 6.

- Silt Removal – Canch park area.
- Tree work and blockage removal – Canch (Bracebridge to the Old Sewage Works off High Hoe Road).
- Tree work and blockage removal – Between Rugby and Cricket Club.
- Culvert inspections at the shopping centre in the town to ensure no blockages.

A computer model of the flooding event in 2019 is currently being built to replicate the impact that the flooding had on the community of Worksop. This is important because the model will provide evidence and detailed information to help with the following.

- Providing more detailed information for the public and our professional partners to assist in the preparation and response to flood risk.
- To better inform our early Flood Warning Service.
- To provide evidence which could inform potential future schemes aimed at reducing the risk of flooding in Worksop.

More information on the creation of the model and plans going forward please read page 6 and 7.

## **The following information may offer some insight to questions you have about the flooding:**

### *General Information – I have information I would like to share or would like information because I am concerned – who do I contact?*

It is our intention to hold a public drop in session so that you can speak directly to officers from each of the partner organisations. We will hopefully be able to organise this once the current Covid19 restrictions have been relaxed. In the meantime, should you wish to discuss anything sooner, you can contact Officers from:

The Environment Agency - [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) – 03708 506 506

Bassetlaw District Council - [customer.services@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@bassetlaw.gov.uk) – 01909 533 533 (01909 534 999 out of hours).

The Canal and Rivers Trust - [Enquiries.yorkshirenortheast@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries.yorkshirenortheast@canalrivertrust.org.uk) – 0303 040 4040

Nottinghamshire County Councils Flood Team – [flood.team@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:flood.team@nottscc.gov.uk) – 0300 500 80 80

### *I have concerns about the penstock and other water level controls at the Canch– who do I contact?*

The Environment Agency, Canal and Rivers Trust and Bassetlaw District Council have been working closely together to review the procedures of the operation of those features at the Canch when there is a risk of flooding. This new procedure is now in place and should you wish to discuss this further, you can contact Officers from:

The Environment Agency - [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) – 03708 506 506

Bassetlaw District Council - [customer.services@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@bassetlaw.gov.uk) – 01909 533 533 (01909 534 999 out of hours).

The Canal and Rivers Trust - [Enquiries.yorkshirenortheast@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries.yorkshirenortheast@canalrivertrust.org.uk) – 0303 040 4040

### *I have concerns about the condition of a watercourse, the River, the Canal or the highway gullies/grates – who do I contact?*

The River Ryton – contact The Environment Agency - [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) - 03708 506 506

The Chesterfield Canal – contact The Canal and Rivers Trust - [Enquiries.yorkshirenortheast@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries.yorkshirenortheast@canalrivertrust.org.uk) – 0303 040 4040

A watercourse or ditch - contact Nottinghamshire County Councils Flood Team – [flood.team@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:flood.team@nottscc.gov.uk) – 0300 500 80 80

Highway Gullies/Grates – online at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/report-a-flooding-or-drainage-problem> - 0300 500 80 80

*I have previously flooded, would it be possible to have access to sandbags and close some of the roads in Worksop when there is a risk of flooding?*

The Environment Agency working with Nottinghamshire County Councils Emergency Planning Team are looking to recruit volunteers to become Flood Wardens who amongst other tasks will be trained to distribute sandbags and put out signs to close the highway on specific roads when required. Bassetlaw District Council are organising easily accessible areas to position Flood Stores where sandbags and signs can be stored safely until needed. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact:

Nottinghamshire County Councils Emergency Planning Team - [emergency.planning@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:emergency.planning@nottscc.gov.uk) – 0300 500 80 80

The Environment Agency - [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) - 03708 506 506

Bassetlaw District Council - [customer.services@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@bassetlaw.gov.uk) – 01909 533 533 (01909 534 999 out of hours).

*I have heard that I can apply to have my property protected against being flooded again, who do I contact?*

Following the November flooding the Government made the Flood Protection Grant available to residents in Worksop who were flooded in their houses. This Grant pays for a contractor to survey and then protect your house from being flooded again. Bassetlaw District Council are administering this Grant and if you flooded inside your house in November 2019 and have not yet done so, you can apply here: <https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/flooding-information/property-flood-resilience-pfr-scheme/>

## **Contact information:**

In the unfortunate event that further flooding occurs and impacts you, more information on what to do is available on the Nottinghamshire County Councils website:

Website: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding/the-councils-role](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding/the-councils-role)

For all other enquiries:

Phone: 0300 500 80 80

Monday to Friday: 8am to 8pm

Saturday: 8am to 12 noon

Out of Hours Phone: 01253 502776

Email: [enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk)

Website: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

Minicom: 01623 434993

Phone 0300 500 80 80 if you need the information in a different language or format.

## **Partner Updates:**

The following updates and useful information is provided by the Environment Agency.

## Workshop – Flood Risk Information and FAQs

### 1. Which organisation is responsible for my stretch of river?

#### **Environment Agency**

The Environment Agency carries out maintenance, improvement or construction work on main rivers to manage flood risk. We are also responsible for working in partnership with the Met Office to provide flood forecasts and warnings. The main river map (link below) shows which rivers are designated as 'main rivers'. In Workshop, the River Ryton is a main river. Other rivers are called 'ordinary watercourses'. Lead Local Flood Authorities, District Councils and Internal Drainage Boards carry out flood risk management on ordinary watercourses.

To see a map of the Main River network, please visit:

<https://environment.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=17cd53dfc524433980cc333726a56386>

#### **Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)**

LLFAs are County Councils and Unitary Authorities. They are responsible for managing and investigating the risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (smaller watercourses) and lead on community recovery. For information for your local council, please contact:

**Nottinghamshire County Council**

**0300 500 80 80**

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding/the-councils-role](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding/the-councils-role)

### 2. Who owns my stretch of river?

The owner of a watercourse is usually the owner of the land that the watercourse runs on or under. Where the watercourse is on the boundary of the land, the landowner is responsible for the watercourse up to its centre. If you own a watercourse, for example a river, culvert, brook or mill stream, you must maintain the river beds and banks and not obstruct the water flow. You should also call the Environment Agency incident hotline **0800 807060** to report flooding, collapsed or badly damaged banks, or any blockages which could cause flooding to main rivers. Further guidance on owning a watercourse can be found here: [www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse)

### 3. Who will provide me with sandbags?

Your local District Council may have some sandbags ready to deploy at times of flooding, but their priority is to protect the public at large. You should check with your own local authority in advance to find out what their policy is and how you can get access to sandbags before flooding starts. [www.bassetlaw.gov.uk](http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk) Remember, during a flood crisis there may be limited stocks per person or

supply routes may get blocked. If your local authority doesn't supply sandbags, you can buy unfilled sandbags and a supply of sand from most DIY stores and builders merchants, but remember that if there is a flood expected in your area demand may exceed supply as people rush to buy them. In an emergency you can use alternatives such as pillow cases or refuse sacks and fill them with garden soil.

For information on how to use sandbags properly for flood protection, please visit: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/sandbags-how-to-use-them-to-prepare-for-a-flood](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sandbags-how-to-use-them-to-prepare-for-a-flood) As a community, you can apply for a grant for a community resilience store, which can be used to store equipment such as sandbags. Please see Question 10 (Additional Grant Funding) for more information.

#### 4. Where can I find details for recent planning applications, and whether flood risk has been considered?

Information on local planning applications can usually be found on your local authority's website here: [www.bassetlaw.gov.uk](http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk) Planning applications for developments within flood zones require a flood risk assessment to be submitted with the application. Find out more about flood zones and flood risk assessments here: [www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-for-planning-applications](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-for-planning-applications)

The Environment Agency provides expert statutory and discretionary advice to planners, developers, and communities, provides evidence on the capacity and value of the environment to aid decision-making, and attracts investment into the environment.

The Environment Agency's External Consultation Checklist informs Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) of the types of development where we should be consulted. It describes the categories of development that could potentially impact on the environment and includes those for which we are listed as a statutory consultee in Schedule 4 of the Development Management Procedure Order (DMPO) and current Government planning policy.

With particular reference to flood risk, the Environment Agency is consulted on certain types of development within Flood Zones 2 and 3. Paragraph 155 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that where development is proposed in areas at risk of flooding 'the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere'. Whilst the onus is on applicants to demonstrate this in a site specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), the LPA will ultimately need to satisfy themselves that this requirement has been met. Depending on the particular flood risks to a site, the LPA may be required to seek the views of the Environment Agency and/or the Lead Local Flood Authority.

For further details on specific planning applications, please contact your local LPA:

**Bassetlaw District Council**

**01909 533 533**

[www.bassetlaw.gov.uk](http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk)

#### 5. Where can I find a map that will show the flood risk for my area?

You can view flood risk maps for your area by visiting:

[www.flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map](http://www.flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map)

Type your postcode in the search box on the right-hand side to zoom into your area, and then click and drag the map to pan around. You can switch between maps of flood risk from rivers or from surface water by selecting the different options in the drop-down menu on the left-hand side.

To find out more about your area's long-term flood risk, please visit:

## 6. What maintenance will be carried out to my stretch of river?

The Environment Agency carry out scheduled maintenance activities which include:

### **Routine maintenance programme:**

- 3 grass cuts against the wall assets the EA maintains.
- Monthly operational checks against the EA maintained assets.
- Weed spraying (non-invasive).
- Quarterly maintenance check on the channel for removal of blockages and to check conveyance.
- 2 Annual Maintenance checks against the walls to ensure their performance in flood events.

### **Intermittent maintenance carried out:**

- Silt Removal – Canch park area.
- Tree work and blockage removal – Canch (Bracebridge to the Old Sewage Works off High Hoe Road).
- Tree work and blockage removal – Between Rugby and Cricket Club.
- Culvert inspections at the shopping centre in the town to ensure no blockages.
- Incident Response training.

To see the maintenance schedule, please visit: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme)

We also carry out ad hoc maintenance works as and when issues are reported. Please call the Environment Agency Incident hotline [0800 807060](tel:0800807060) to report collapsed or badly damaged banks, or any blockages which could cause flooding to main rivers.

## 7. Is anything being planned for the future?

The Environment Agency is currently producing a River Ryton Catchment Flood Model that will form the basis to:

- Better inform our Flood Warning Service.
- Provide more detailed information for the public and our professional partners to assist in the preparation and response to flood risk.
- Inform future flood risk options for Worksop and the surrounding area, including the potential for a future capital investment scheme.

The flood model of the River Ryton is a significant and complex piece of work and we expect to see outputs from this work in Autumn 2021. The model is built upon a hydrological analysis of the River Ryton catchment area, as well as rainfall estimations, so we can understand the volume of water we might expect for a variety of different magnitude flood events. We measure flood events as a percentage chance of a flood occurring in any one year. For example a 1% chance flood will be significantly greater than a 20% chance flood in any one year. Initial findings are that, not surprisingly, both the flood events in 2007 and 2019 were significantly low % chance flood events in any one year. We are still working on the hydrology as this information does have implications for any funding that may be available for any future flood risk improvements, as flood risk capital investment tends to be focused upon localities of high % chance flood events occurring, and this is why we continue to test the hydrological information for the River Ryton.

We have been able to calibrate the model against the flood event in November 2019. This means that when we apply the same flow of water that was recorded at our Worksop river gauge in November 2019 there is a similar replication of impacts on property in the town.

This level of calibration is good news as it allows us to test some engineering options in Worksop and the model will simulate the outcome of these options. Work is ongoing with this optioneering work, but initial draft outputs suggest that the creation of flood storage upstream of the main town centre and also improvements to some of the bridge and culvert crossings in the town could reduce flood levels if flows in the River Ryton equivalent to those in 2019 were to reoccur. As these results emerge and become verified we will continue to engage with partners to establish if this work can be used to help shape any future development work in Worksop to assist in reducing flood risk.

## 8. What is the Flood Warning Service and how do I register?

The Environment Agency issue Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings to inform the public of expected flooding.

Flood Alerts are issued when low-lying land and roads are expected to flood. This is an early indication of possible further flooding.

Flood Warnings are issued when property flooding is expected. Upon receiving a Flood Warning, immediate action may be required to protect your property.

You can sign up to receive Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings by phone, email or text message if your home or business is at risk of flooding.

To register for this free service, please visit: [www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](http://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings)

You'll need to provide:

- the address you're registering.
- a phone number which you can be contacted on day or night.
- an email address.

You can also register, update your details or cancel your account by calling **Floodline**: 0345 988 1188 (24-hour service).

## 9. How can I make my property flood resilient?

There are many things you can do to protect your property and your belongings from flooding. A great way to start is by creating a personal flood plan. A template can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan) For advice and information on property resilience products and simple ways to reduce the damage caused by flood water, please visit The National Flood Forum ([www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk)), which is a charity aimed at supporting individuals and communities at risk of flooding. The National Flood Forum also provide an independent directory of property flood resilience products, called Blue Pages ([www.bluepages.org.uk](http://www.bluepages.org.uk)), which can help to advise and inform you of what's available to help reduce the risk of flooding to your property.

## 10. How can I help my community during a flood?

You can help your community before, during and after flooding by becoming a community Flood Warden. Flood Wardens are volunteers who are trained by the Environment Agency and the Local Authority, and can help prepare the community by:

- ✓ Monitoring the rivers for obstructions and hazards, and reporting these to the Environment Agency.
- ✓ Contributing to the creation of a community flood plan.
- ✓ Helping to prepare the local community.
- ✓ Offering support during flooding.

- ✓ Keeping residents informed of the ongoing situation.
- ✓ Monitoring the situation locally and reporting back to the Environment Agency and local authorities.



Activities that Flood Wardens do not carry out include:

- ✗ Putting themselves at risk or entering flood water.
- ✗ Rescuing people or animals (this is the role of the emergency services).
- ✗ Unblocking watercourses (this must be done by professionals).
- ✗ Closing roads or diverting traffic.

If you are interested in becoming a Flood Warden, or would like help to create a community flood plan, please contact the Environment Agency on 0114 282 5312 or [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk), and we will be happy to provide more information. We will let you know if there is an existing scheme in your community which you can join or help you to set one up.

### **Additional Grant Funding**

As a community, you can also apply for a grant for a community resilience store, which can be used to store flood resilience equipment such as sandbags and flood boards.

For more information, please contact your local authority, who can help by identifying grant funding from other organisations such as the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC).

**Bassetlaw District Council**

**01909 533 533**

[www.bassetlaw.gov.uk](http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk)