



APPENDIX W

SECTION 19 REPORT – ORDSALL – STORM BABET, OCTOBER 2023

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 RMAs 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 RMAs.
3. The objective of this report is to investigate which RMAs had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in October 2023 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), Bassetlaw District Council (BDC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), and VIA East Midlands Ltd as Highways Authority on behalf of NCC.
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. Ordsall is a village within the District of Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 14,194 people according to the 2011 census.
7. The River Idle (main river) runs from south to north through Ordsall, passing under a bridge on Goosemoor Lane.
8. On the 20th October, during Storm Babet, Ordsall suffered a flood event caused by sustained heavy rainfall. 103.2mm of rainfall was recorded at the Worksop rain gauge, with 75.4mm of this on the 20th alone, which is approximately 9km from Ordsall (Figure 1).

9. Consequently, 6 residential properties and 1 business were subject to internal flooding with more suffering flooding to gardens and outbuildings.
10. 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 following a dry period.

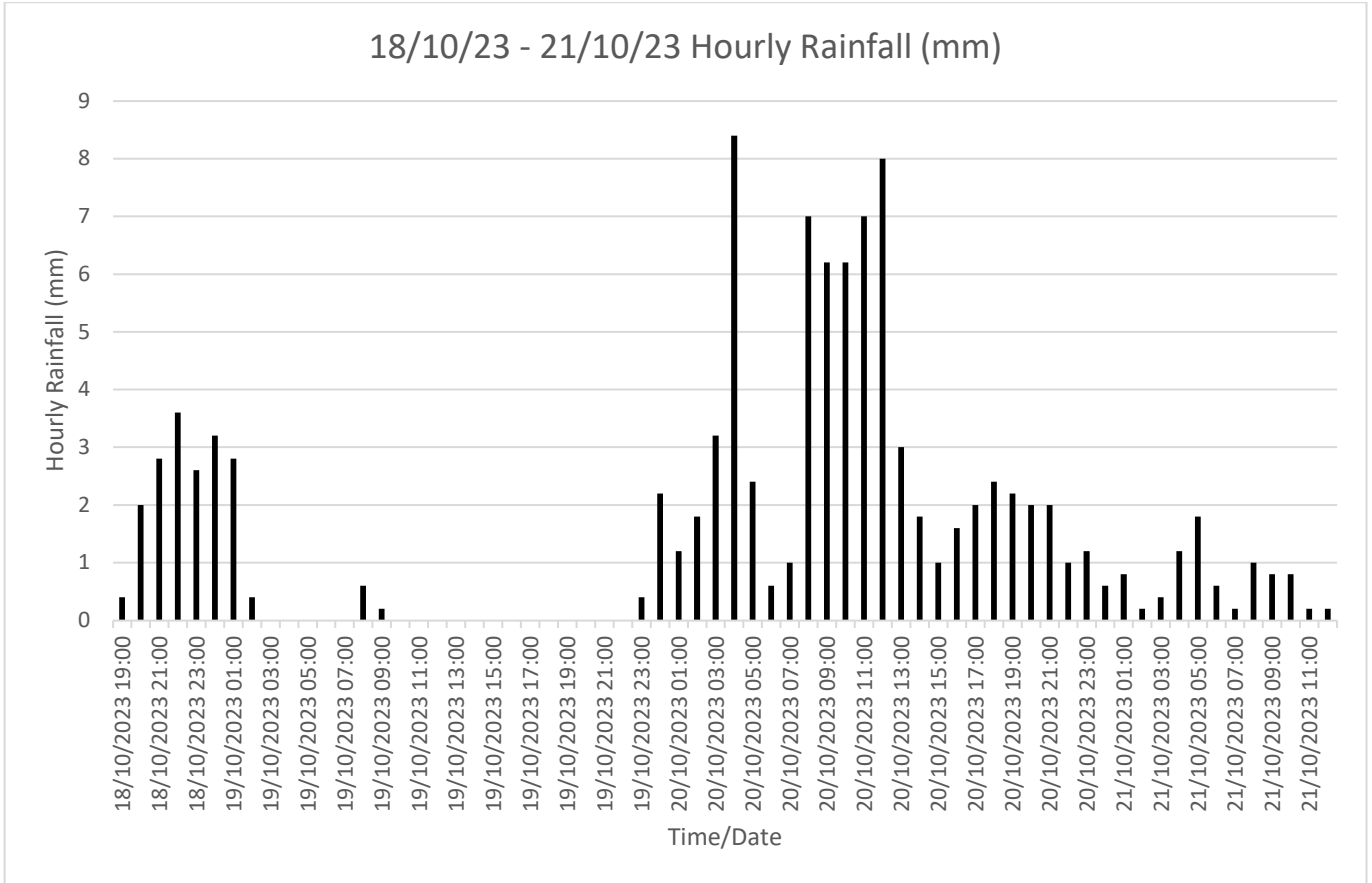


Figure 1. Worksop Hourly Rainfall 19:00 18th October – 12:00 21st October 2023. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

11. A view of Ordsall is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were All Hallows Street and Goosemoor Lane.

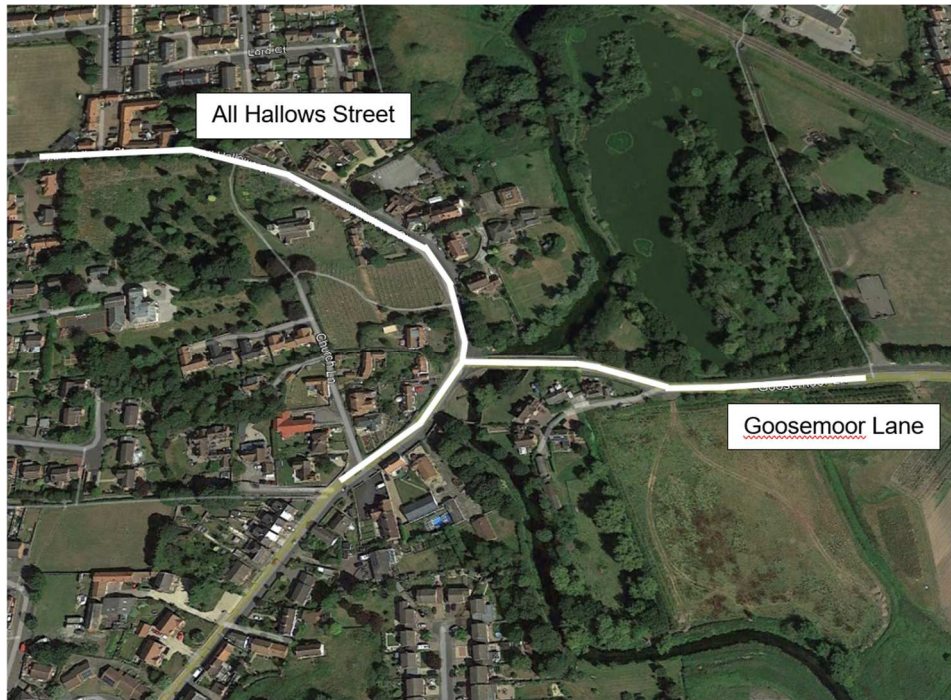


Figure 2. View of Ordsall flood affected areas.

Summary of flooding and its causes

12. As a result of the heavy sustained rainfall, the River Idle rose through the 20th, 21st, 22nd and early morning of the 23rd of October. At its peak the River reached a level of 1.79m (shown in figure 3.), substantially higher than the previous highest level on record of 1.65m set in June 2007.

River Idle level at Ordsall

[Map](#) [Downstream](#) [Nearby levels](#)

Latest at 6:30am on 24 October ⓘ

Height
1.11m ⓘ

Trend
Steady ⓘ

State
High ⓘ

Normal range 0.19m to 0.85m

Height in metres over the last 5 days

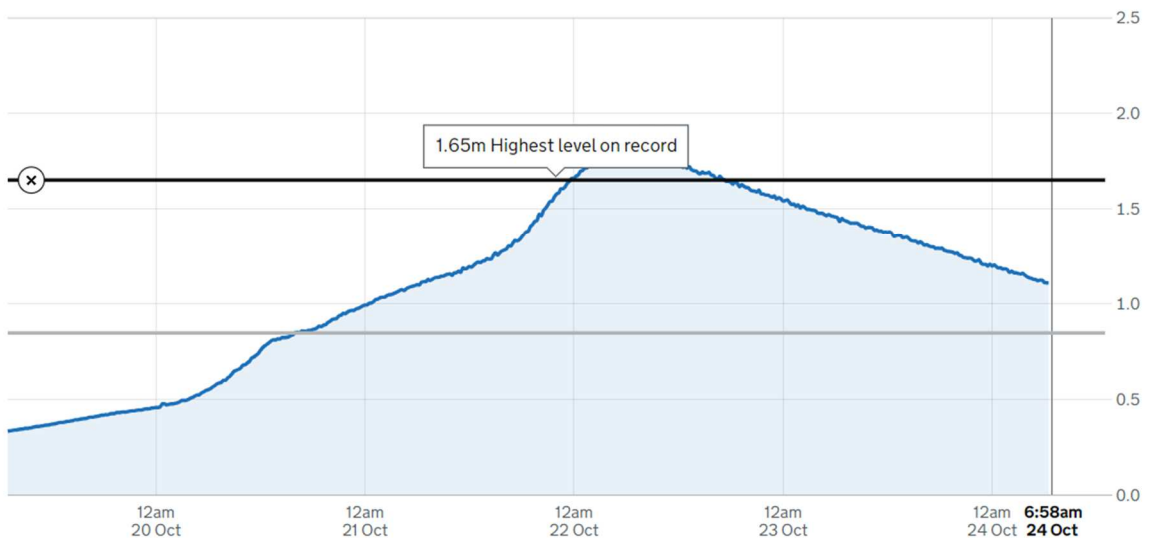


Figure 3. River Level gauge data for the River Idle at Ordsall. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

13. Accounts from residents on All Hallows Street note that once the River Idle had reached a level whereby it overtopped defences to the south side of the bridge that water poured out from the River Idle onto the highway. Following the gradient of the road this then flowed across the front of Goosemoor Lane, however it could not flow back into the River due to defences on the north side of the bridge (Concrete Blocks and Metal Gates). As a result the water then flowed further down All Hallows Street, flowing off the highway and flooding properties. It is also noted that as River levels continued to rise that All Hallows Street was flooded completely across the carriageway to a depth of approximately 2 foot, causing further internal flooding. As a result three residential and one Business were internally flooded on All Hallows Road with more suffering flooding to gardens and outbuildings.
14. Due to the rising River Idle, properties on Goosemoor Lane were surrounded both by flood water on All Hallows Street as described previously, but also from the River Idle overtopping into adjacent fields, flooding these and Goosemoor Lane to the east. This reached levels which caused internal flooding to Three residential properties on Goosemoor Lane and outbuildings and gardens of more, with the nature of the flooding isolating properties.

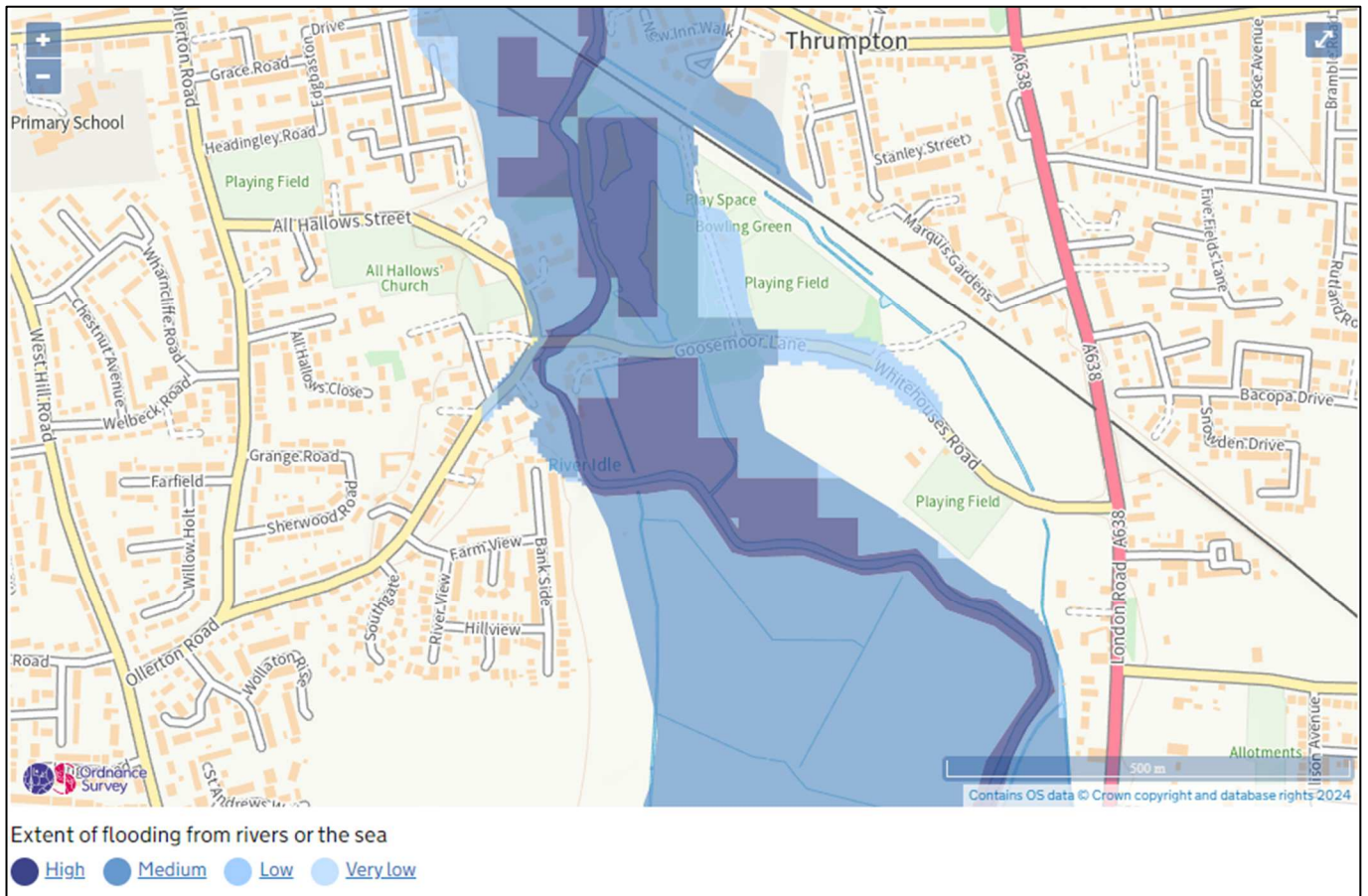


Figure 4. Fluvial Flood Risk Mapping. Data provided by the Environment Agency.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

15. 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. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, we 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, 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 (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. The 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.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

18. 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:
19. Nottinghamshire County Council.

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 RMA's and partners.
- d) Collated flood impact data from other RMA's 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 RMA's, 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.

20. 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 Coordination Group, Communications Cell and Recovery Coordination Group meetings.
 - ii. Active deployment of sandbags and aquasacs to vulnerable premises and residents.
 - iii. Provision of community resilience stores enabling access to sandbags and aquasacs.
 - iv. Public communication of key messages at different phases of the incident, including warn and inform and recovery.
 - v. Provision of a rest centre at Retford Leisure Centre.
 - vi. Provided temporary accommodation to affected residents in need.
- b) Provided skips, caged vans and staffing support to residents to dispose of flood damaged property.
- c) Cleansing of significant detritus from roads, car parks and paths.
- d) Rehoused affected tenants from Council properties.
- e) Undertook repairs to affected Council housing properties.
- f) Promoted and administered Business Recovery Grant and Business Rates Relief schemes.
- g) Promoted and administered the Community Recovery Grant and Council Tax Discount schemes.
- h) Worked in Partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council in relation to the verification and administration of the Property Flood Resilience Grant Scheme.
- i) Actively engaged in the section19 Flood Investigation.

21. The Environment Agency (EA)

- a) The Environment Agency warned and informed the community and partners by issuing a Flood Alert for the River Idle in Nottinghamshire Flood Alert on 19/10/2023 and a Flood Warning for the River Idle at West Retford and Ordsall on 21/10/2023.
- b) The Environment Agency issued a Severe Flood Warning for the River Idle at West Retford and Ordsall on 22/10/2023.
- c) The Environment Agency instigated flood patrols on 19/10/2023 to operate structures in accordance with incident response procedures. The Environment Agency cleared blockages in the area before and after the peak flows when it was safe to do so, installing flood gates at Ordsall and setting up pumps in advance of the storm.
- d) The Environment Agency liaised with Nottinghamshire Police and Fire and Rescue Services to evacuate residents as conditions worsened.
- e) The Environment Agency coordinated community information officers and surveyors to gather information and visit affected communities to understand the impact of flooding on affected communities and collect data.
- f) The Environment Agency along with partner organisations, have been working with Bassetlaw District Council extensively since Storm Babet.

Additional Information and Future Actions

22. 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.

23. 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.
24. The Environment Agency will de-silt the River Idle through the town centre and downstream and work carry out tree works to improve flow in this location. Repairs will also be carried out to the Thrumpton/Poulter flood wall.
25. The Environment Agency will organise a multi-agency drop in event for Retford & Ordsall.
26. The Environment Agency are investigating options for upstream flood storage that may benefit both Ordsall and Retford in reducing flooding from the River Idle.
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 Members 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. Bassetlaw District Council participated in the LRF Storm Babet Debrief and learning review meeting which identified a number of future actions.
30. Bassetlaw District Council has undertaken an internal review of the response to Storm Babet which identified a number of future actions.
31. Following a motion to Bassetlaw full Council on 25 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.
32. 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.