



APPENDIX Y

SECTION 19 REPORT – PLEASLEY – 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 Mansfield District Council (MDC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), VIA East Midlands Ltd as Highways Authority on behalf of NCC and the Environment Agency (EA).
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. Pleasley is a village within the District of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 2,590 people according to the 2021 census. The river Meaden flows through Pleasley under Chesterfield Road.
7. On the 20th October, during Storm Babet, areas of Pleasley suffered a flood event caused by sustained heavy rainfall. Between the 18th and 20th of October, 125.8mm of rainfall was recorded at the Sutton in Ashfield rain gauge (Figure 1). Consequently, 12 residential properties and 5 businesses were subject to internal flooding.
8. 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.

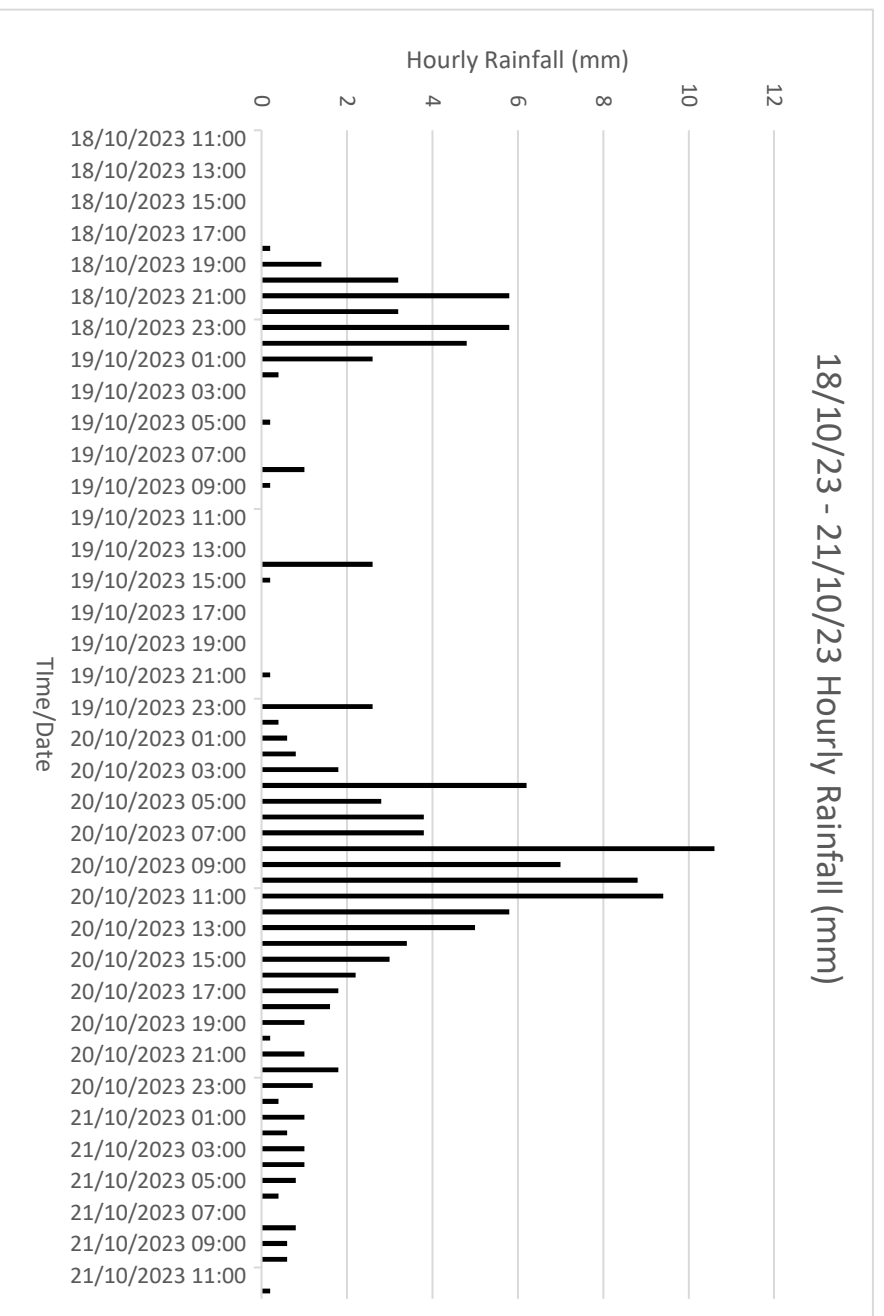


Figure 1. Sutton in Ashfield Hourly Rainfall 18th October 2023. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

9. A view of Pleasley is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were Chesterfield Road (15 properties) and Meden Square (2 properties)

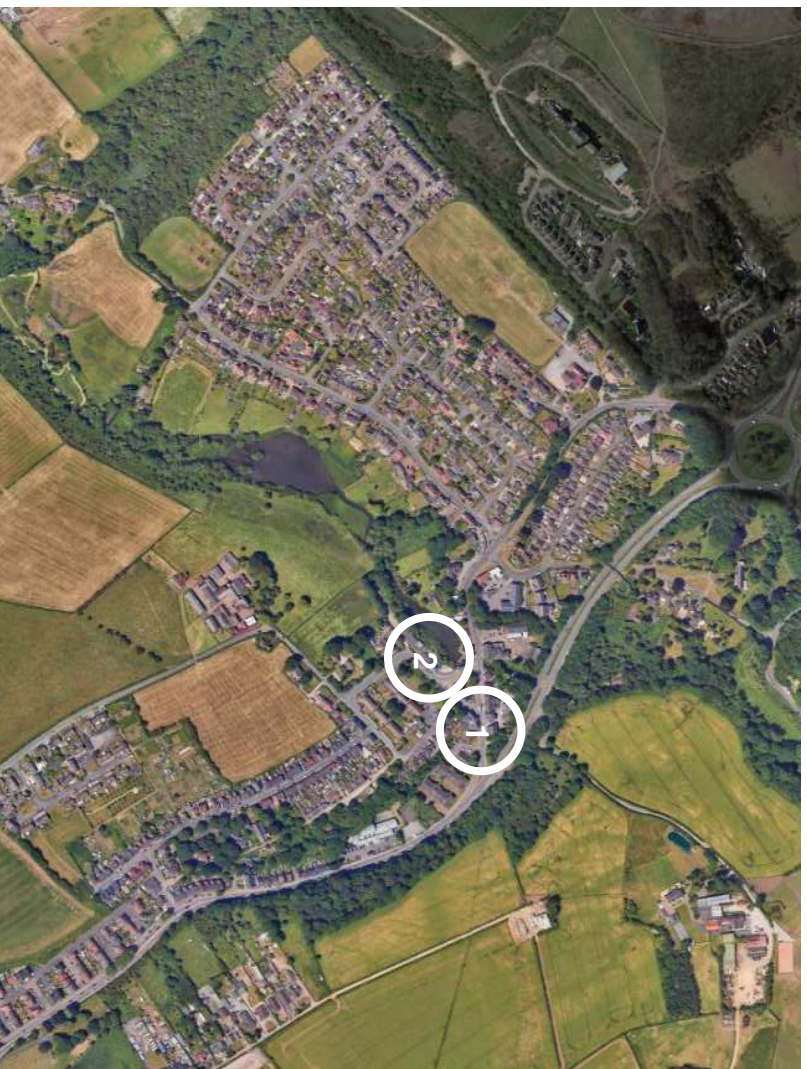


Figure 2. View of flood affected areas across Pleasley. Chesterfield Road (1), Meden Square (2).

Summary of flooding and its causes

10. Chesterfield Road and Meden Square

Areas impacted by flooding on Chesterfield Road and Meden Square are shown in Figure 3. In total, 12 residential properties and 3 businesses were impacted by flooding on Chesterfield Road with 2 business impacts on Meden Square. The River Meden flows under Chesterfield Road. As can be seen in Figure 4, the areas of Meden Square and Chesterfield Road are located within the high and medium river flood risk areas.

During Storm Babet at the River Meden measuring station at Pleasley, water reached the highest ever level recorded at the station with the water level peaking at 3.34m. It should be noted that the water level record for this gauge is limited with monitoring commencing in 2021. The water depth was significant enough for the river to flood onto Meden Square and Chesterfield Road with water consequently flooding properties.

Eyewitness reports suggest that Meden Square flooded from the south side of Chesterfield Road before water came out of bank from the millpond on the north side of Chesterfield Road.



Figure 3. Chesterfield Road and Meden Square.

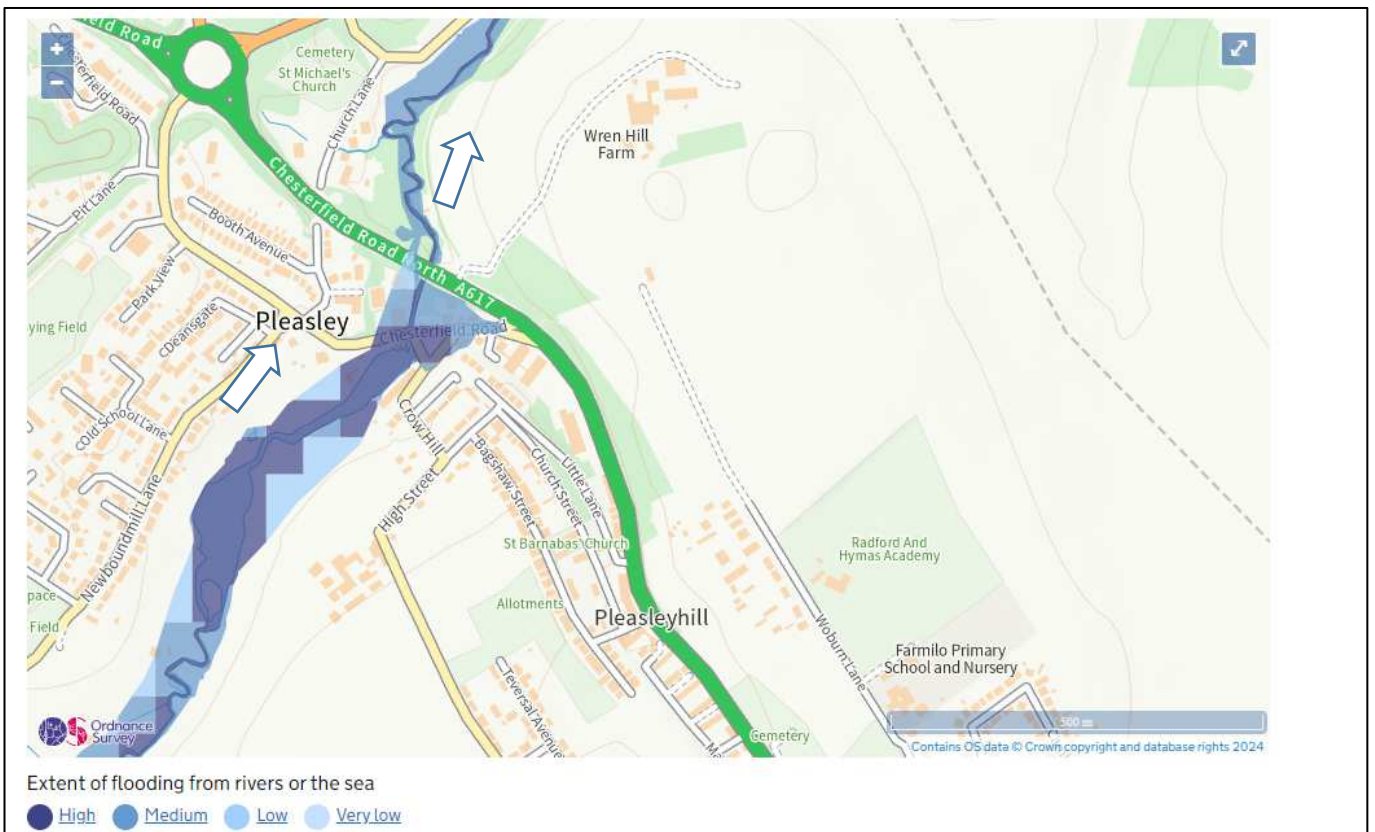


Figure 4. EA Flood Risk from Rivers mapping for Pleasley. Data supplied by Environment Agency.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

11. 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 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.

12. 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.
 - b) Maintenance and management of main rivers and associated flood risk.
13. Mansfield 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.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

14. 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:
15. The 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.
- p) Met with members of the Parish Council to gather information which was used to inform this report.

16. Mansfield District Council
 - a) Established an Incident Management Team and supported the wider LRF response to flooding.
 - b) Offered housing to displaced residents.
 - c) Collected bulky items & debris cleaning.
 - d) Liaised directly with the local Ward councillor who provided the link with the community.
 - e) Provided advice and signposted to community to relevant support e.g. requests for sand bags.
 - f) Signposted local businesses and people living in domestic properties who suffered from internal flooding to support grants and funding.

17. Environment Agency
 - a) The Environment Agency warned and informed the Community and Partners, instigated flood patrols in accordance with incident response procedures, and cleared blockages in the area before and after the peak flows when it was safe to do so.
 - b) In the Summer of 2023, a large desilt was carried out on the River Meden downstream of Pleasley Square.
 - c) The Environment Agency warned and informed the community of Pleasley in a timely manner by issuing a Flood Alert for the River Meden in Nottinghamshire on
 - d) 19/10/2023 and issued the Flood warning for the River Meden at Pleasley on 20/10/2023.
 - 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.

Additional Information and Future Actions

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. Mansfield District Council aim to:
 - a) Support Pleasley develop a Flood Resilience Store and Pleasley Flood Plan.
 - b) Support Pleasley volunteers work with the EA and NCC on signing up to be Flood Warnings / Flood Signage Scheme.
 - c) Development of web pages with advice on flooding.
 - d) Development of customer services protocol for response to flooding.
 - e) Environment health support the businesses affected by flooding.

21. The Environment Agency will continue to gather data and evidence to help validate the Flood Warning Service and investigate further options to reduce flood risk in the area.

22. NCC will continue to develop its Flood Warden / Road Closure training programme and support given to community volunteer groups to help ensure they operate as effectively and safely as possible. A community flood signage scheme is being developed in Pleasley with support from NCC. Officers for the Flood Risk Management team are working with the community to help them develop a local flood action group.
23. 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 Member later this year for consideration.
24. NCC will work with its partners to look at ways of strengthening the enforcement of riparian responsibilities alongside developing our asset inspection process.