

SECTION 19 REPORT – EAST LEAKE – 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 event 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 Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as LLFA, VIA East Midlands Ltd. on behalf of NCC as Highways Authority, Severn Trent Water and the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.
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. East Leake is a village within the Borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 8,555 people according to the 2021 census. The Kingston Brook flows along the north end of the village with the Sheepwash Brook flowing through the centre of the village itself.
7. On the 6th of January, East Leake suffered a flood event caused by sustained rainfall over a wet catchment. During the event, 38.6mm of rainfall was recorded at the Sutton Bonington rain gauge (Figure 1), with a maximum 60-minute intensity of 9.8mm/hr.

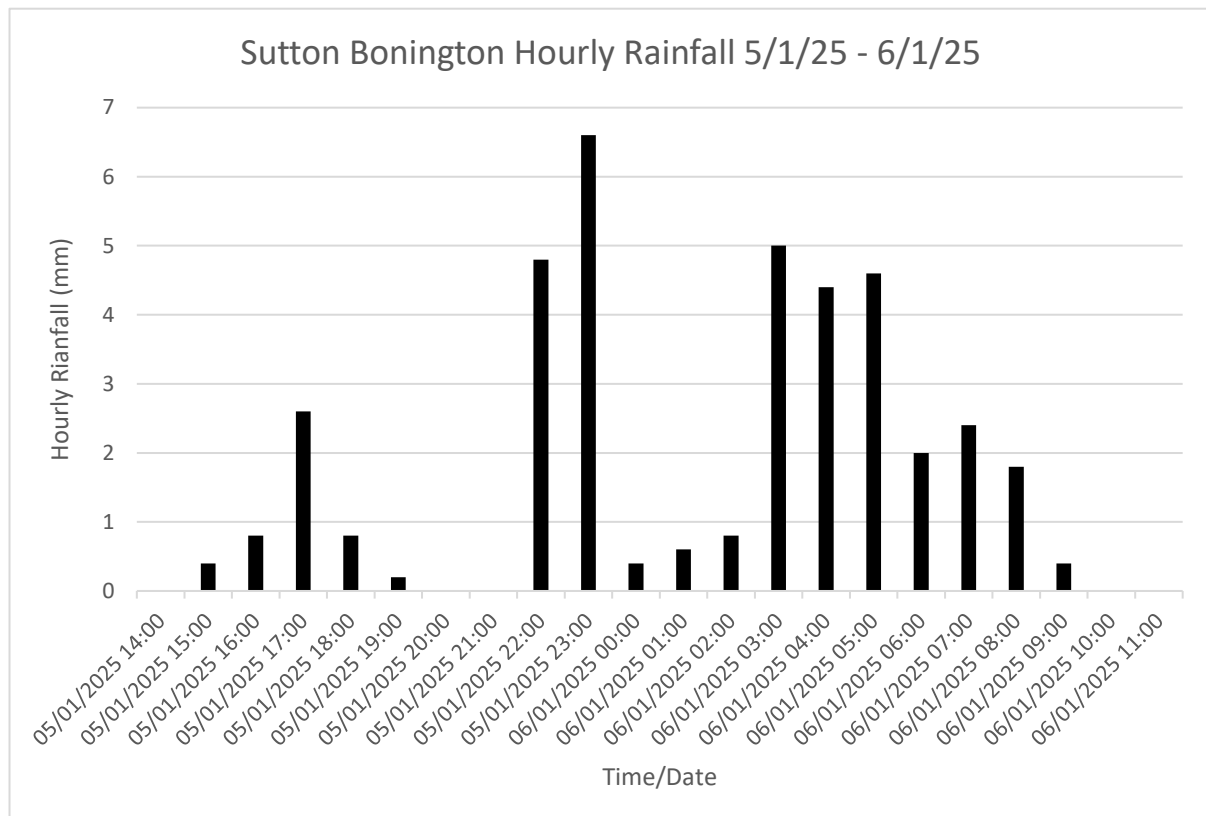


Figure 1 - Sutton Bonington Hourly Rainfall 5th - 6th Jan 2025. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

8. This caused the Kingston Brook and Sheepwash Brook to flow out of bank causing internal flooding to 7 residential properties and 1 business with many more properties affected by external flooding (Figure 2). Residents affected also reported that sewer systems surcharged which contributed further to the flooding which occurred. A map of flood risk from rivers and sea in East Leake can be seen in Figure 3.
9. A location map of East Leake is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were:
 - Brookside (3 properties)
 - Costock Road (3 properties)
 - Main Road (2 properties)



Figure 2 - Reference map for flood affected areas across East Leake, Main Street (4), Costock Road (3).



Figure 3 – Fluvial Flood Risk Map of East Leake. Data provided by the Environment Agency.

Summary of flooding and its causes

10. Costock Road and Main Street are situated in close proximity to the Kingston Brook. Due to intense rainfall and consequent high flows in the Kingston Brook, some properties were internally flooding in this area. Residents affected in this area also reported that sewer systems surcharged which contributed further to the flooding which occurred.
11. Similarly, high flows within the Sheepwash Brook caused by intense rainfall over the catchment, and restrictions to conveyance due to historic culverting, caused the Sheepwash Brook to flood out of bank on Brookside. The floodwater entered some properties in this area with others experiencing external flooding.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

12. 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, LLFAs can raise awareness of flood risks.
 - v. LLFAs 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.
13. 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.

14. Severn Trent Water Ltd.

a) Maintenance of the public sewerage system.

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.

15. 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.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

16. 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.

17. 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 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 Risk Management Authorities and partners to verify the scale of 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, including the East Leake Scheme.
- k) Delivered sandbags to affected areas and communities.
- l) Closed 64 roads across Nottinghamshire to promote road safety and avoid additional flood damage to at risk areas.
- m) Utilised existing communication channels to update the public, partners and Elected Members with key messages during the event.
- n) In January 2025, organised a meeting with flood affected residents to discuss flooding mechanisms and impacts in East Leake in order to inform the Section 19 report. This meeting allowed for flooding issues experienced by residents to be discussed.
- o) In March 2025, organised a multi-agency meeting to discuss flooding impacts and mechanisms raised during the residents meeting with relevant Risk Management Authorities to progress towards positive next steps.

18. Rushcliffe Borough Council

- a) Worked closely with NCC and other partners to share flood impact data.
- b) Collaborated with community flood wardens and local volunteers to provide on-the-ground support.
- c) Conducted housing assessments to determine the suitability of properties for habitation.
- d) Provided guidance on health and safety measures, including sanitation and water safety.
- e) Supported residents in accessing temporary accommodation where required.
- f) Communicated key messages to the public through council channels, including website updates, social media posts and press releases. Also liaison with Elected Members was undertaken.
- g) Responded to resident queries and concerns in a timely and empathetic manner.
- h) Established a visible presence in the community to offer support, guidance and information to residents.

- i) Provided emotional support and signposted residents to relevant support services.
- j) Chaired and coordinated the Recovery Coordination Group, ensuring a multi-agency approach to support affected residents and businesses.
- k) Developed and implemented a recovery action plan with input from key stakeholders and agencies.
- l) Facilitated information sharing and collaboration among partners, including NCC, Severn Trent, and the Environment Agency.
- m) Continued to monitor the needs of the community and adapted recovery support as necessary.
- n) Engaged with local community groups to build resilience and improve preparedness for future flooding events.

19. Severn Trent Water

- a) Severn Trent received reports of issues following this flood event. These were investigated, but found to be predominantly due to surface water or river flooding inundation of the network.
- b) Severn Trent attended the multi-agency meeting to discuss the flooding impacts with other Risk Management Authorities.
- c) Severn Trent are aware of the on-going issues with the combined sewer network. These are being looked into and measures to address these are being investigated.

20. Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board

- a) The Board maintain the Kingston Brook which flows through the village of East Leake. Works to clear large areas of trees and vegetation were undertaken in early 2025.
- b) Officers have and continue to engage in regular discussions with the Member of Parliament, the Local Parish Council, Severn Trent, Highways and the residents of East Leake.

Additional Information and Future Actions

- 21. 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.
- 22. 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. Volunteers in East Leake closed flooded roads to prevent further damage from bow waves. Volunteers also helped to gather information on the flooding impacts to properties, which has been an important input into this report.
- 23. 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.

24. 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 now active in East Leake and has been supplied with signage and Personal Protective Equipment. Officers of the Flood Risk Management team are working with the community to help them develop a local flood action group.
25. Under the NCC Property Flood Resilience (PFR) programme, the Flood Risk Management team have sent letters to residents affected by flooding in January 2025 to offer a survey and potential PFR measures, such as flood doors and self-closing air bricks. The aim of PFR is to increase individual property resilience to future flooding. The survey and PFR measures are fully funded by NCC under the PFR programme. Any measures to be installed are subject to a survey to ensure that the measures offered are appropriate.