

## **APPENDIX H**

### **SECTION 19 REPORT – EAST MARKHAM – STORM BABET, OCTOBER 2023**

#### **Introduction**

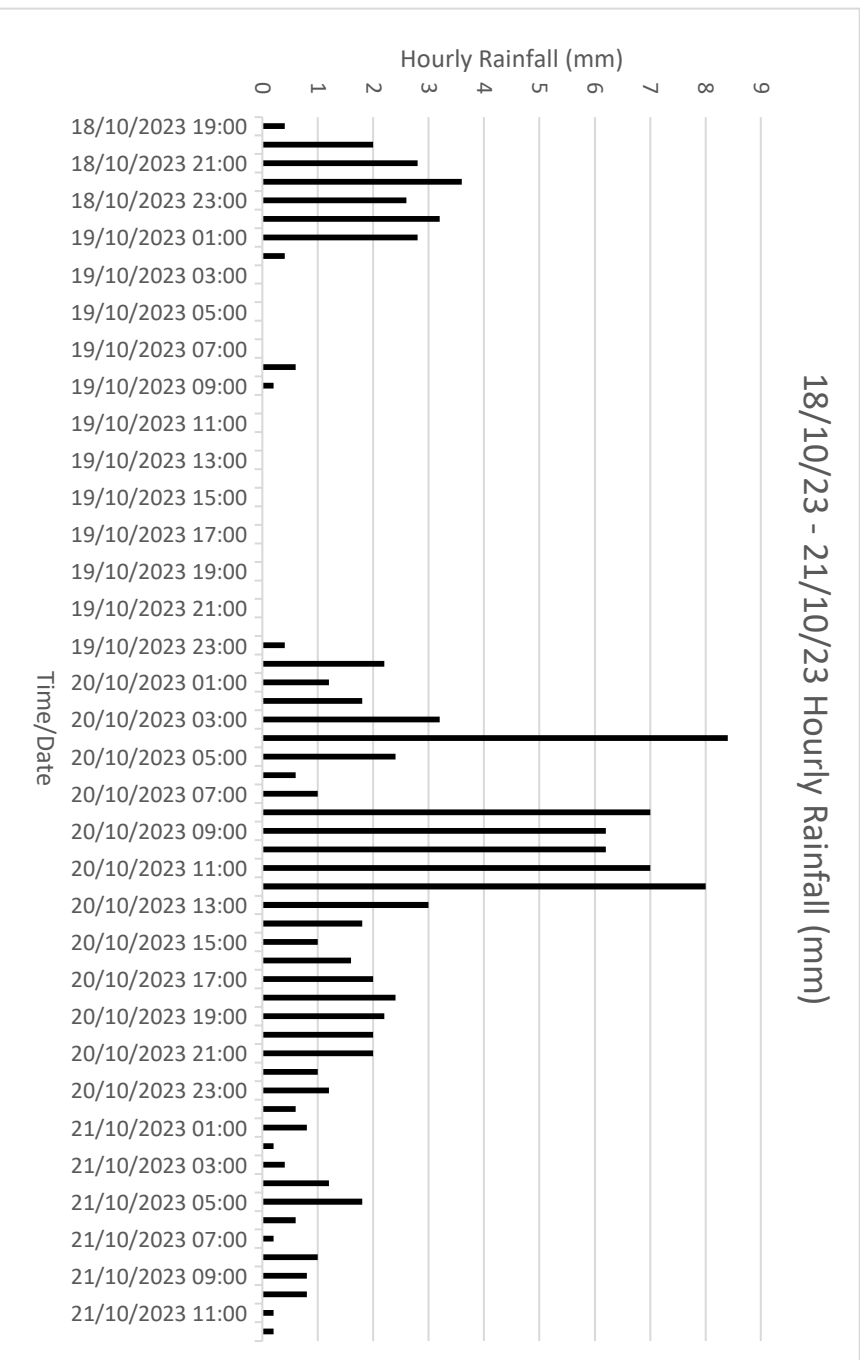
Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:

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 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. East Markham is a village within the District of Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 1,274 people according to the 2021 census.
7. On the 20<sup>th</sup> October, during Storm Babet, East Markham suffered a flood event caused by sustained heavy rainfall. 103.2mm of rainfall was recorded at the Worksop rain gauge, which is approximately 15km from East Markham, with 75.4mm of this on the 20<sup>th</sup> alone (Figure 1).
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.

9. Consequently, 6 residential properties were subject to internal flooding with more suffering flooding to gardens and outbuildings.



*Figure 1. Workshop Hourly Rainfall 19:00 18<sup>th</sup> October – 12:00 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.*

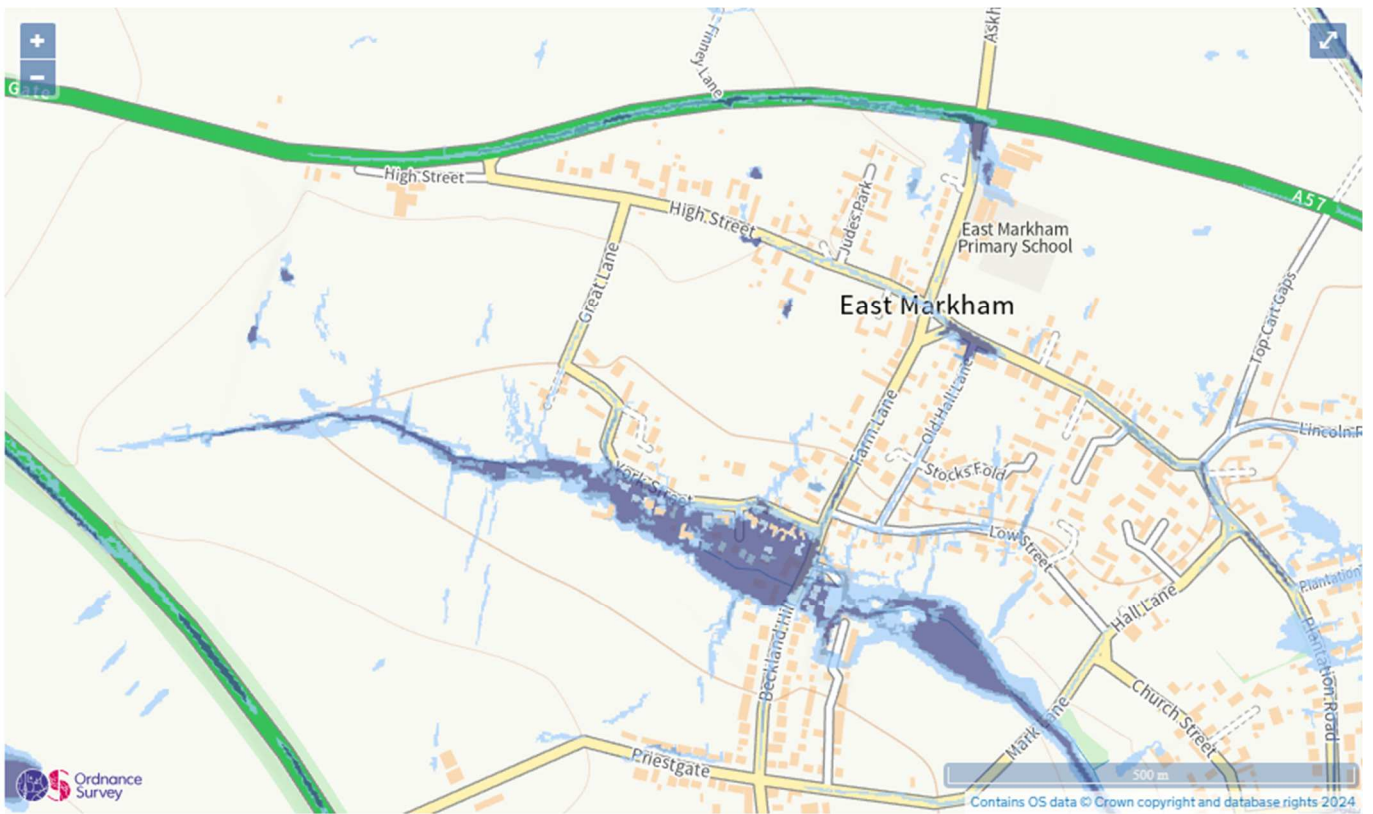
- A view of affected areas in East Markham is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were York Street (4 properties ) and York Paddock (2 properties).



*Figure 2. View of East Markham flood affected areas.*

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

10. Four residential properties were internally flooded on York Street and Two residential properties were flooded on York Paddock, with many more suffering flooding to gardens and outbuildings.
11. An un-named ordinary watercourse flows from higher ground to the west of the village, this then enters a culvert approximately 90 metres to the west of York Street. This culvert then runs underneath a field and York Street, before passing to the rear of York Paddock and returning to an open watercourse.
12. During the event this culvert was overwhelmed and as such water then ran overland from the culvert inlet across the field and onto York Street. This was exacerbated by flooding already present on the highway. Due to the topography of York Street and York Paddock, properties which are lower than the road then had water running down their gardens and into properties.
13. Figure 3 shows predicted surface water flow paths which correlate with those experienced.



Extent of flooding from surface water  
 ● High ● Medium ● Low ○ Very low

Figure 3. Surface Water Flood Risk Mapping. Data provided by the Environment Agency.

### Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

#### 14. The 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.

#### 15. 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.

## **Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood**

16. 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:
17. 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.
18. 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.

### **Additional Information and Future Actions**

- 19. 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.
- 20. 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.
- 21. 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.
- 22. NCC will work with its partners to look at ways of strengthening the enforcement of riparian responsibilities alongside developing our asset inspection process.
- 23. Bassetlaw District Council participated in the LRF Storm Babet Debrief and learning review meeting which identified a number of future actions.
- 24. Bassetlaw District Council has undertaken an internal review of the response to Storm Babet which identified a number of future actions.
- 25. 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.
- 26. 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.