

**SECTION 19 REPORT – COSTOCK – JANUARY 2025**

FOR COMPLETENESS, THIS APPENDIX SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PLACE) TO PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE ON 10<sup>TH</sup> 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 Agencies for this area of Nottinghamshire are Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as LLFA, and VIA East Midlands Ltd. on behalf of NCC as Highways Authority.
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. Costock is a village within the Borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 645 people according to the 2021 census.
7. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, Costock suffered a flood event caused by sustained rainfall over a wet catchment. During the rainfall 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. This generated overland flow (surface water) within the surrounding catchment which overwhelmed existing drainage systems. The sustained rainfall caused 11 properties to be affected by internal flooding with many more affected by external flooding (Figure 2). A map of surface water flood risk in Costock can be seen in Figure 3.

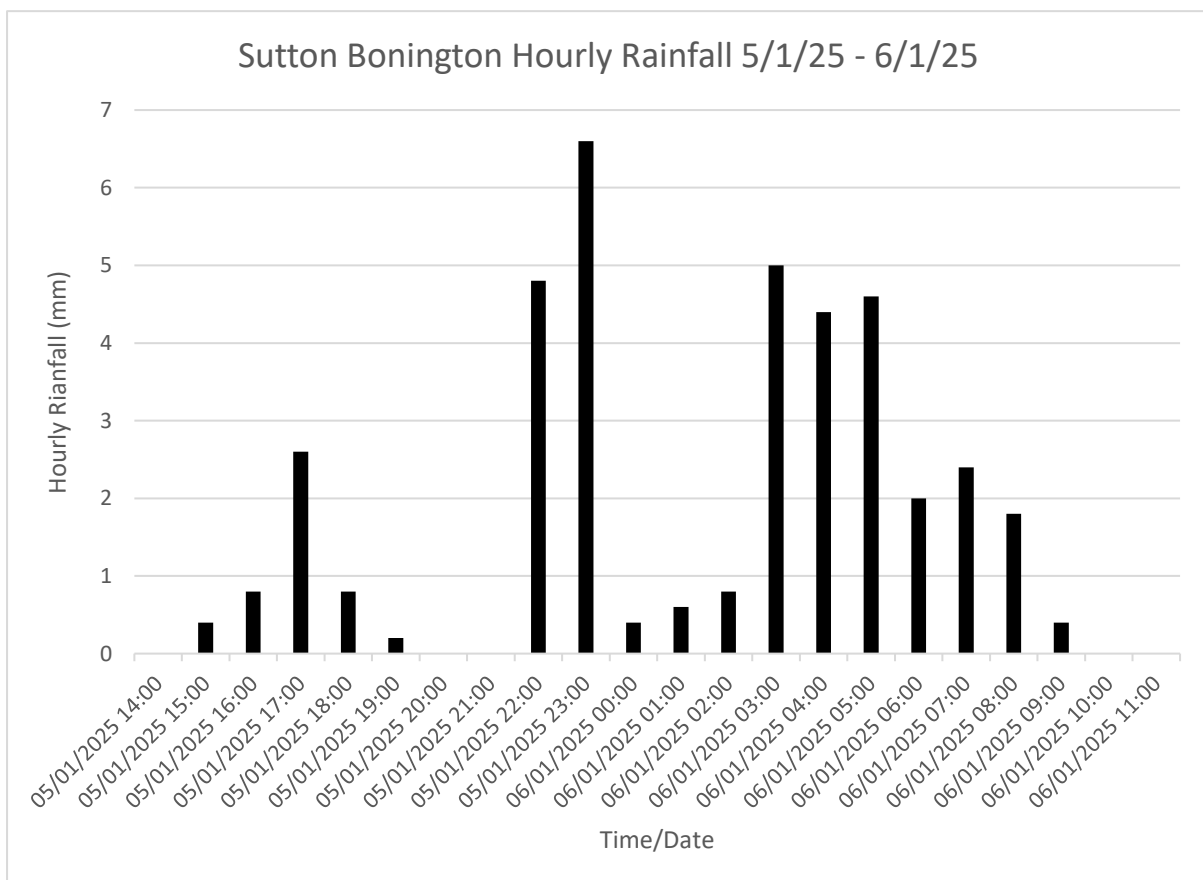


Figure 1 - Sutton Bonington Hourly Rainfall 5th - 6th Jan 2025. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

8. A location map of Costock is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were:
  - Main Street (6 properties)
  - Chapel Lane (3 properties)
  - Church Lane (2 properties)



Figure 2 – Reference Map for flood affected areas across Costock.

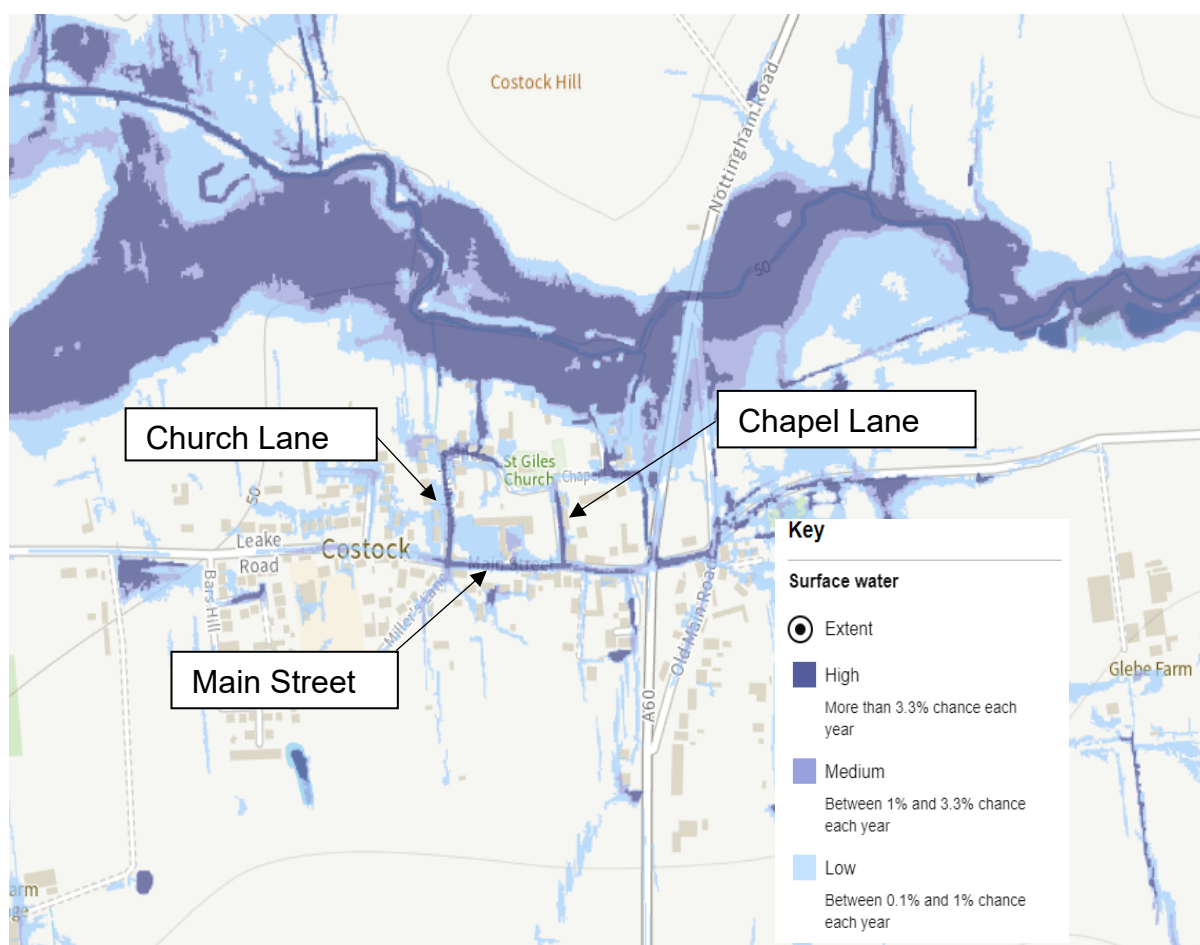


Figure 3 - Surface Water Flood Risk Map for Costock. Data provided by the Environment Agency.

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

9. Costock is situated at the northern end of an agricultural catchment with the Kingston Brook to the north of the village. Soils within the catchment are clay type with impeded drainage meaning overland flow generation is likely to be high. During the flooding event, agricultural fields were already wet following previous rain and snowfall.
10. Rainfall landing on the fields to the south of the village flowed northerly towards the village through both existing drainage ditches and across the land due to the lack of infiltration. Water entered through Millers Street and Algar Close before flowing onto Main Street, and through to Church Lane and Chapel Lane.
11. Via East Midlands Ltd. have been working to resolve third-party damage to highway drainage systems in Costock. Restrictions to conveyance within highway drainage systems were still present on Church Lane, Main Street and Algar Close as a result of third-party damage. Such restrictions could have contributed to the surcharging of drainage systems which were overwhelmed during the flood event.

## **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
  - a) Maintenance of the public sewerage system.
  - b) 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.

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

- 15. 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.
- 16. 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 internal 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 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 Costock 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) Attended a public meeting with residents to discuss flooding mechanisms and impacts in Costock.

#### 17. Rushcliffe Borough Council

- a) Mobilised the Rapid Response Team to go door-to-door in affected areas, speaking directly with residents.
- b) Verified internal and external flood damage, collecting vital information to inform the recovery process.
- c) Provided residents with information on NCC's Community Flood Recovery Grant and Rushcliffe Borough Council's Flooded Garage Grant schemes.
- d) Distributed leaflets containing details on mental health support services and guidance on coping during and after floods.
- e) Delivered sandbags to affected areas and communities.
- f) Worked closely with NCC and other partners to share flood impact data.
- g) Collaborated with community flood wardens and local volunteers to provide on-the-ground support.
- h) Conducted housing assessments to determine the suitability of properties for habitation.
- i) Provided guidance on health and safety measures, including sanitation and water safety. Supported residents in accessing temporary accommodation where required.
- j) Communicated key messages to the public through council channels, including website updates, social media posts and press releases.
- k) Responded to resident queries and concerns in a timely and empathetic manner.
- l) Established a visible presence in the community to offer support and guidance, and information to the residents.
- m) Provided emotional support and signposted residents to relevant support services.
- n) Chaired and coordinated the Recovery Coordination Group, ensuring a multi-agency approach to support affected residents and businesses.

- o) Developed and implemented a recovery action plan with input from key stakeholders and agencies.
- p) Facilitated information sharing and collaboration among partners, including NCC, Severn Trent and the Environment Agency
- q) Continued to monitor the needs of the community and adapted recovery support as necessary.
- r) Engaged with local community groups to build resilience and improve preparedness for future flooding events.
- s) Supported waste management by arranging additional waste collection services for flood-damaged materials.
- t) Coordinated drop-off points and collected flood-affected rubbish to assist with the community's clean-up efforts.
- u) Liaised with the British Red Cross to carry out house visits, ensuring vulnerable residents were checked on and provided with necessary support.

18. 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.

19. Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board

- a) The Board continues to maintain the Kingston Brook which flows through the village of Costock. Works to desilt this channel are scheduled.
- b) Officers continue to engage in regular discussions with the Member of Parliament, the Local Parish Council, Severn Trent, Highways and the residents of Costock.

## **Additional Information and Future Actions**

- 20. 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.
- 21. 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 Costock 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.
- 22. NCC have worked with landowners to construct Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures in the upper catchment of Costock. The £25,000 NCC funded project installed three earth bunds, two attenuation ponds and two large swales in 2024 which all work to attenuate water during flood events. The NFM features are currently being monitored to assess if any efficiencies can be made to their effectiveness.

23. As the LLFA, NCC have witnessed and 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 Costock and has been supplied with signage and Personal Protective Equipment.