

APPENDIX G

SECTION 19 REPORT – COSSALL – 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 Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), VIA East Midlands Ltd as Highways Authority on behalf of NCC and Severn Trent Water Ltd. (STW).
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. Cossall is a village in the Broxtowe Borough of Nottinghamshire with a population of approximately 606 people according to the 2021 census.
7. On the 20th October, during Storm Babet, Cossall suffered a flood event caused by sustained heavy rainfall. Between the 18th and 20th of October, 107mm of rainfall was recorded at the Newstead Abbey rain gauge as shown by figure one below.
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.

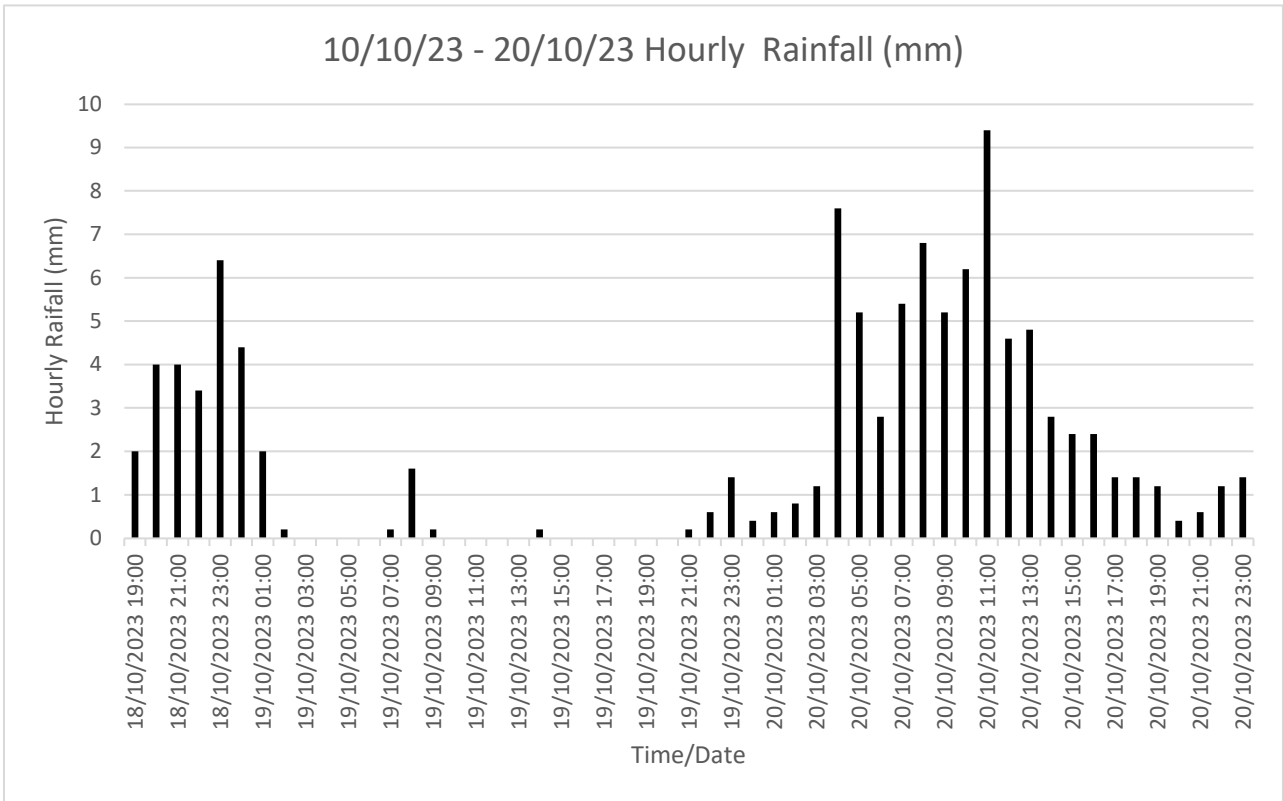


Figure 1. Newstead Hourly Rainfall 18th October 2023. Data supplied by the Environment Agency

9. Internal flooding was localised in Cossall and the affected roads where internal property flooding was present can be seen below.

a) Cossall: Awsworth Lane – 2 properties, Church Lane – 3 properties.



Figure 2: Reference view of affected areas in Cossall.

10. Figure 3 below is an extract from the Environment Agency's surface water flood risk maps that shows the area to be at risk of surface water flooding.

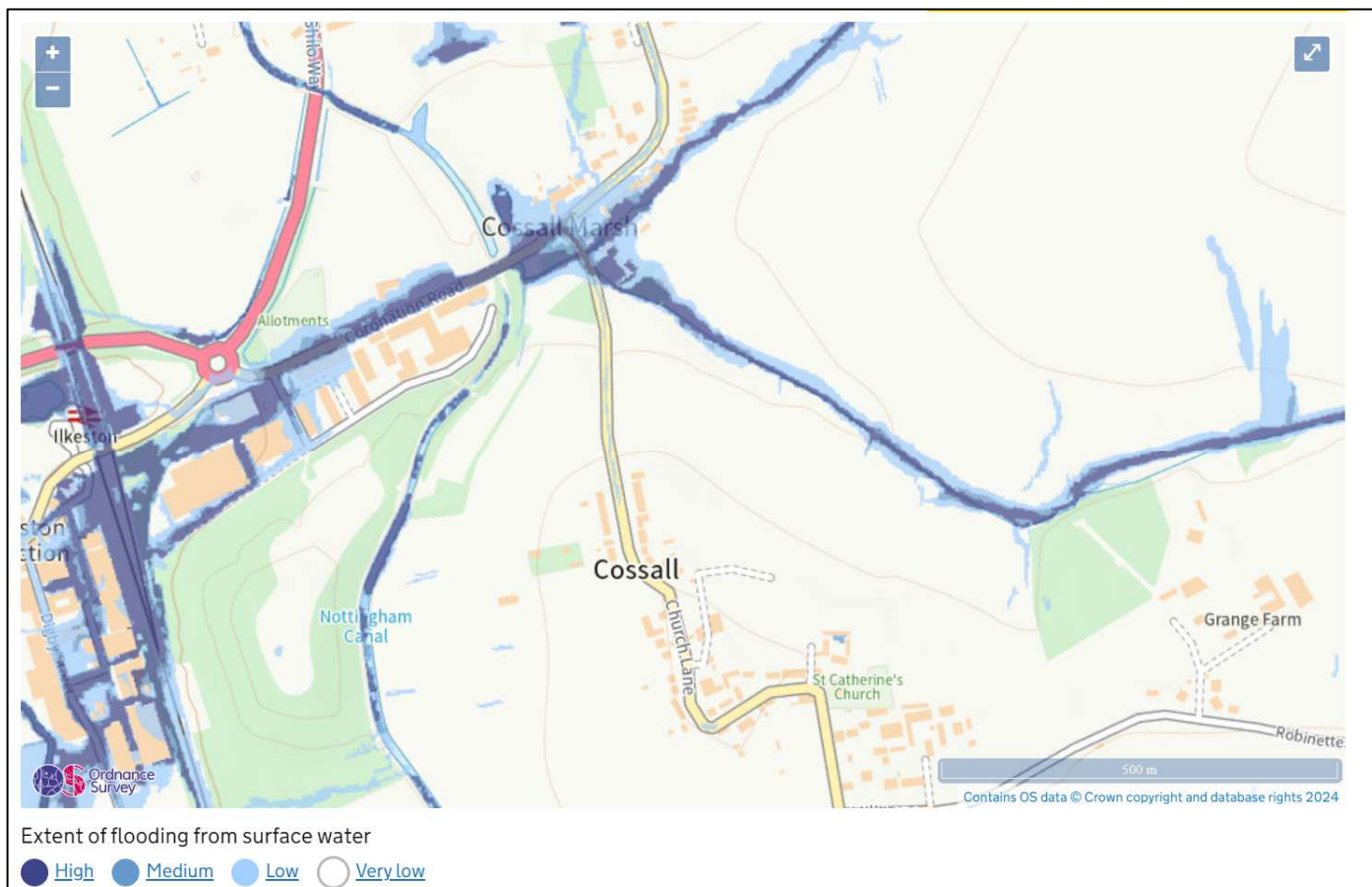


Figure 3: Environment Agency: Surface Water Risk Mapping for Radcliffe on Trent.

11. Evidence supplied by local residents show manholes within both Awsworth Lane and Church Lane surcharging subsequently filling the highway and flowing into adjacent land and properties resulting in localised internal property flooding.
12. During storm event the ordinary watercourse at the rear of properties on Church Lane was at capacity, therefore highway gulleys could not operate effectively resulting in localised highway flooding.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

13. 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.
14. Broxtowe Borough Council
- i. 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.
15. Severn Trent Water Ltd. (STW).
- a) Maintenance of the public sewerage system.
- a. As a water and sewerage company, STW 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 RMAs on how water and sewerage company assets impact on local flood risk.
 - vi. STW 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

16. The following lists the actions taken by each Risk Management Authority 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. Broxtowe Borough Council.

- a) Provided emergency response support in management of flooding event.
- b) Delivered sandbags to affected residents.
- c) Managed and continue to manage recovery in affected Broxtowe communities.
- d) Administered the flood hardship fund.
- e) Administered the council tax and business rate relief grant scheme.
- f) Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation.
- g) Distributed sandbags to residents.

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 contained within this report.
- 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. 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.
- 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.