

## **APPENDIX U**

### **SECTION 19 REPORT – NEWARK-ON-TRENT – STORM BABET, OCTOBER 2023**

#### **Introduction**

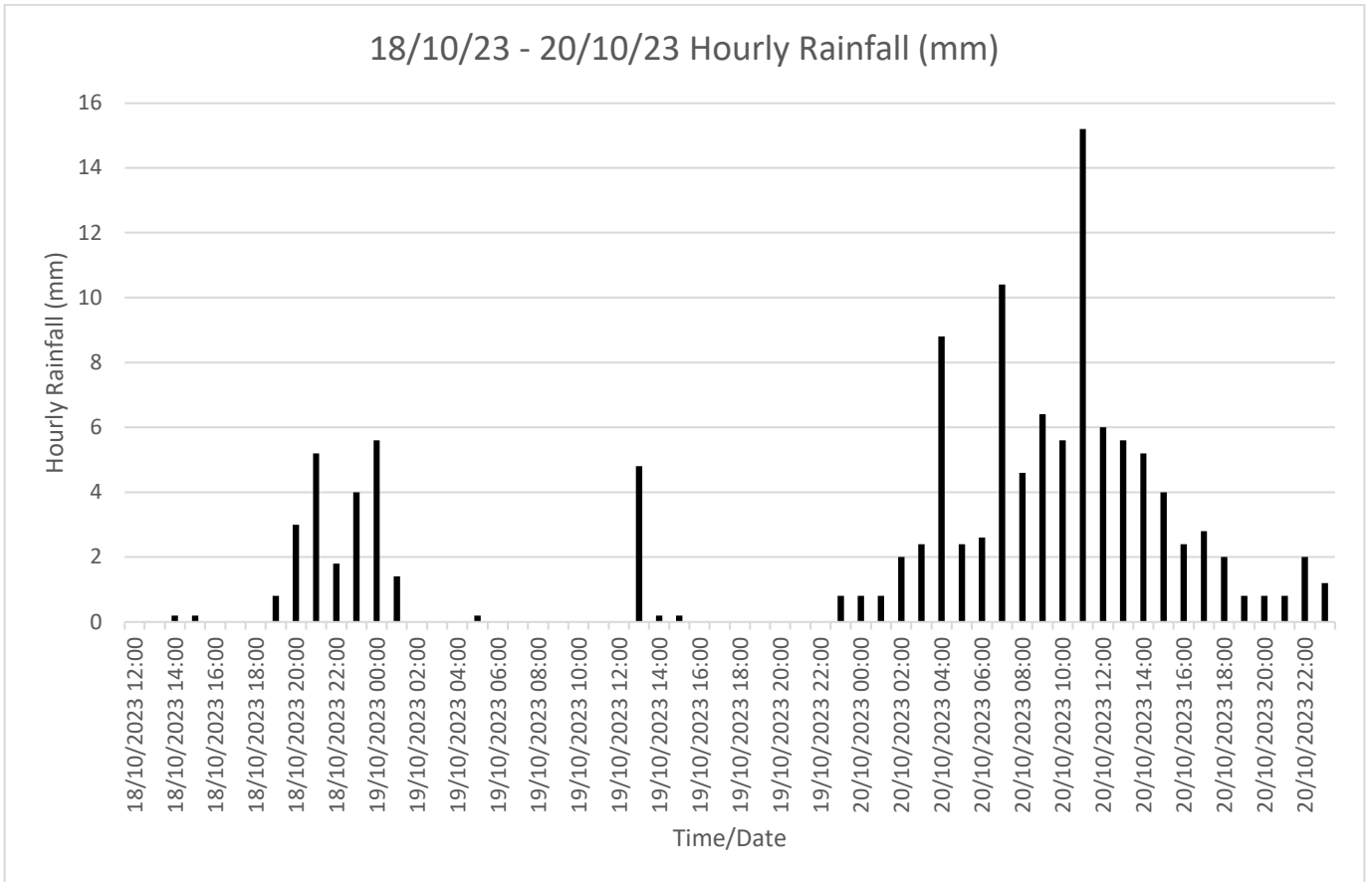
Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:

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 the Environment Agency (EA) (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire), Newark & Sherwood District Council (NSDC), The 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. Newark-on-Trent is a town within the District of Newark & Sherwood, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 30,433 people according to the 2021 census.
7. The River Trent (main river) runs from through the north-western edge of the Town, flowing in a generally north-easterly direction. The River Devon (main river) also runs through part of the town before out-falling into the River Trent at Newark Marina.
8. On the 20<sup>th</sup> October, during Storm Babet, Newark-on-Trent suffered a flood event caused by sustained heavy rainfall. Between 12:00 noon on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 23:00 on the 20<sup>th</sup> October, 124mm of rainfall was recorded at the Staythorpe rain gauge, which is approximately 3.5km from Newark-on-Trent (Figure 1).

9. Consequently, 15 residential properties and 2 businesses were subject to internal flooding with more suffering flooding to gardens and outbuildings.
10. 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.** Staythorpe Hourly Rainfall from 12:00 18<sup>th</sup> to 23:00 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

11. A view of Newark-on-Trent is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were Beacon Heights (2 properties), Bowbridge Road (1 property) and Farndon Road (14 properties).



**Figure 2.** View of Newark-on-Trent flood affected areas. 1. Farndon Road, 2. Bowbridge Road, 3. Beacon Heights.

## Summary of flooding and its causes

### 12. Beacon Heights

Two residential properties were internally flooded on Beacon Heights, shown in Figure 3.

Due to the sustained heavy rainfall, surface water was noted as running down both Beacon Way and Beacon Heights, following the topography of the area and the channelling nature of the highways. This flow path is predicted by Environment Agency surface water mapping shown in figure 4.

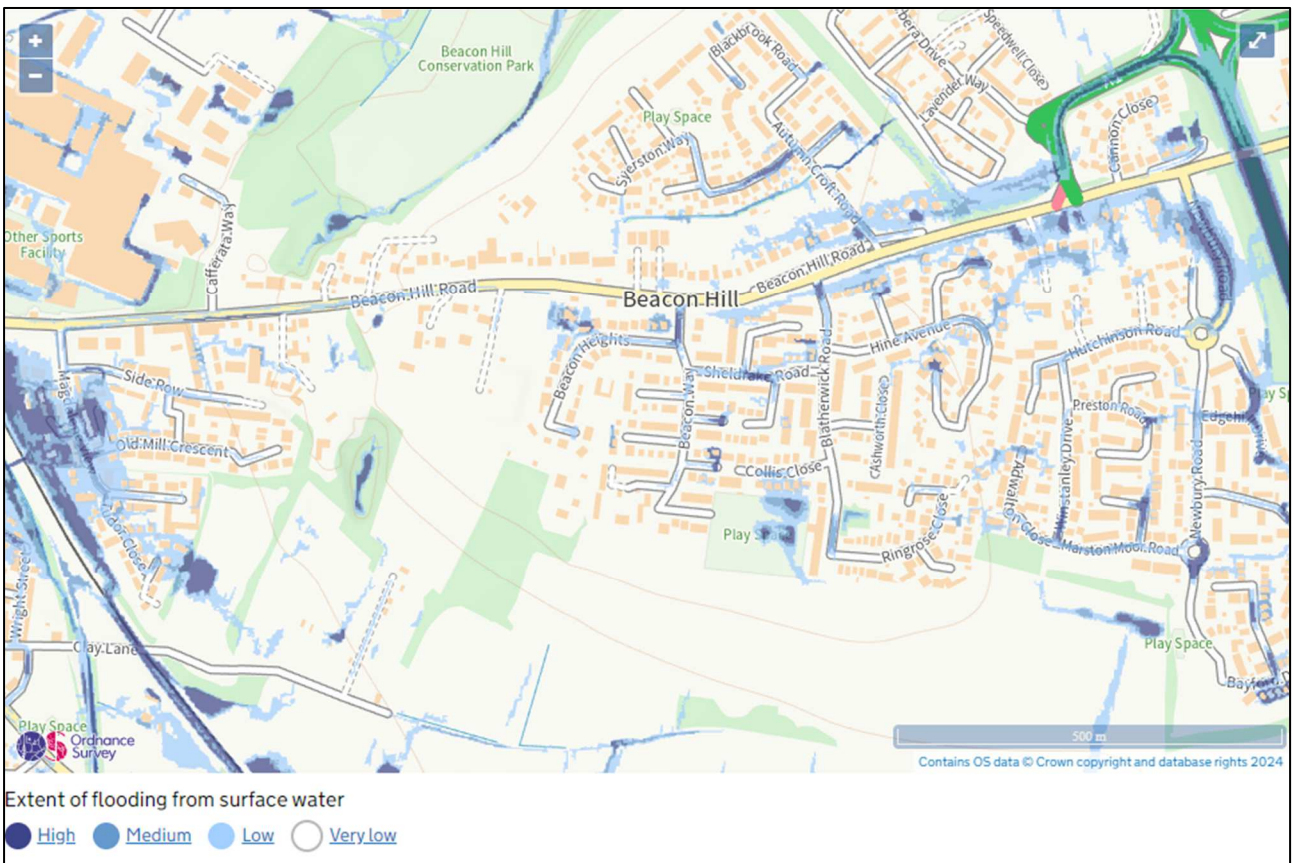
(1)





*Figure 3. Beacon Heights.*





**Figure 4.** Surface Water Flood Risk Mapping. Data Provided by the Environment Agency.

13. Bowbridge Road

One business property was internally flooded on Bowbridge Road, shown in Figure 5. Flooding here was a result of a localised surface water flow path and ponding.



**Figure 5.** Bowbridge Road.



14. Farndon Road

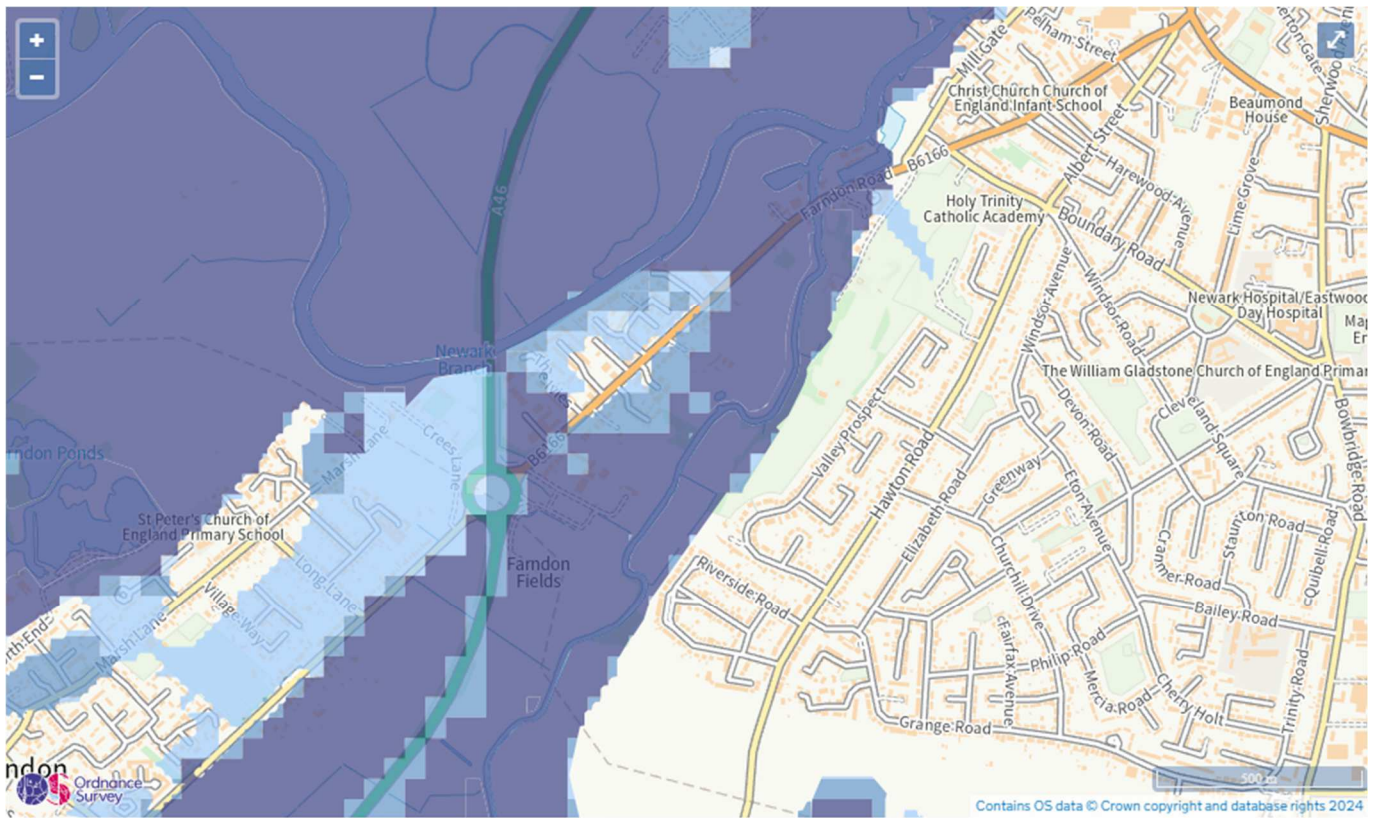
At Farndon Road thirteen residential and one business property were internally flooded, shown in Figure 6.

As a result of the heavy sustained rainfall the River Devon burst its banks, initially flooding out into rear gardens but continuing to rise until flooding reached into properties. Figure 7 shows that the area is predicted to be at High and Medium risk of Fluvial flooding in relation to the River Devon.

Further properties on Farndon Road were flooded from groundwater rising in cellars.



**Figure 6.** Farndon Road.



Extent of flooding from rivers or the sea

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low

**Figure 7. Fluvial Flood Risk Mapping. Data Provided by the Environment Agency.**

## Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

### 15. 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.

16. Newark & Sherwood 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.
17. 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.
18. Severn Trent Water Ltd. (STW).
  - a) Maintenance of the public sewerage system.
  - b) As a water and sewerage company, STW manage the risk of flooding from their water supply and sewerage facilities. This includes:
    - Surface water sewers – these carry rainfall and surface water away from properties to watercourses.
    - Foul water sewers – these carry wastewater away from properties to be treated.
    - Combined water sewers – these drain both wastewater and surface water from properties along with run off from highways.
    - Managing the impact of flooding to their networks by ensuring their systems have the appropriate level of resilience to flooding.
    - Engage with RMAs on how water and sewerage company assets impact on local flood risk.
    - 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**

19. 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:
20. 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 the community following the event to understand the nature of the flooding and inform the Section 19 report and next steps.

21. Newark & Sherwood District Council

- a) Played a full and intensive role alongside other agencies and community representatives.
- b) Worked to deliver whatever support was possible from the skills and resources available.
- c) Ahead of the storm the council stood up a team of managers to prepare for potential impacts across the district. A large team of staff was formed from across departments prioritising the flood response. Staff worked throughout the flood event, working beyond the normal working hours and days.
- d) Staff visited impacted communities and vulnerable individuals.
- e) Many hundreds of aqua sacs were delivered and people were helped to evacuate their homes.
- f) The council prepared to support evacuated residents and provided emergency accommodation when necessary.
- g) The communications officers worked with other agencies to warn and inform the public of the risks and the support that was available. Daily briefings were also provided to councillors and community leaders.
- h) As the flood event changed from the surface water flooding to the continued risk of river flooding the council commenced actions to help clean up roads, paths and remove bulky waste from flooded homes.
- i) Staff contacted affected individuals to identify humanitarian needs and offer direct support or liaised with other agencies to find the appropriate assistance.
- j) Due to the predicted extreme levels for the River Trent, the council coordinated in person visits to communities at high risk of flooding to reinforce the need to take immediate action to prepare for potential flooding.
- k) Once the risk of further flooding had passed the council commenced its role in meeting the recovery needs of impacted communities and individuals. Grant funding is being delivered to those eligible.
- l) An internal and multi-agency debrief was conducted to identify any lessons learned.
- m) Since the flood the council has worked with parish and town councils to restock stores of aqua sacs.

22. Severn Trent Water Ltd (STW)

- a) At the time of writing this report, Severn Trent has received reports of flooding in this area and are completing ongoing investigations into the source of flooding.
- b) Severn Trent actively engaged with the Section 19 Flood investigation.

## **Additional Information and Future Actions**

23. 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.
24. 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.
25. The LLFA will liaise with the Environment Agency in relation to the flooding from the River Devon.
26. 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.
27. NCC will work with its partners to look at ways of strengthening the enforcement of riparian responsibilities alongside developing our asset inspection process.