



APPENDIX F

SECTION 19 REPORT – CAUNTON – 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 Newark & Sherwood District Council (NSDC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), VIA East Midlands Ltd as Highways Authority on behalf of NCC, Severn Trent Water Ltd. (STW) and Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (TVIDB).
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. Caunton is a village within the District of Newark & Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 483 people according to the 2011 census.
7. Between 12:00 noon on the 18 and 23:00 on the 20 October, 124mm of rainfall was recorded at the Staythorpe rain gauge, which is approximately 6km from Caunton (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.

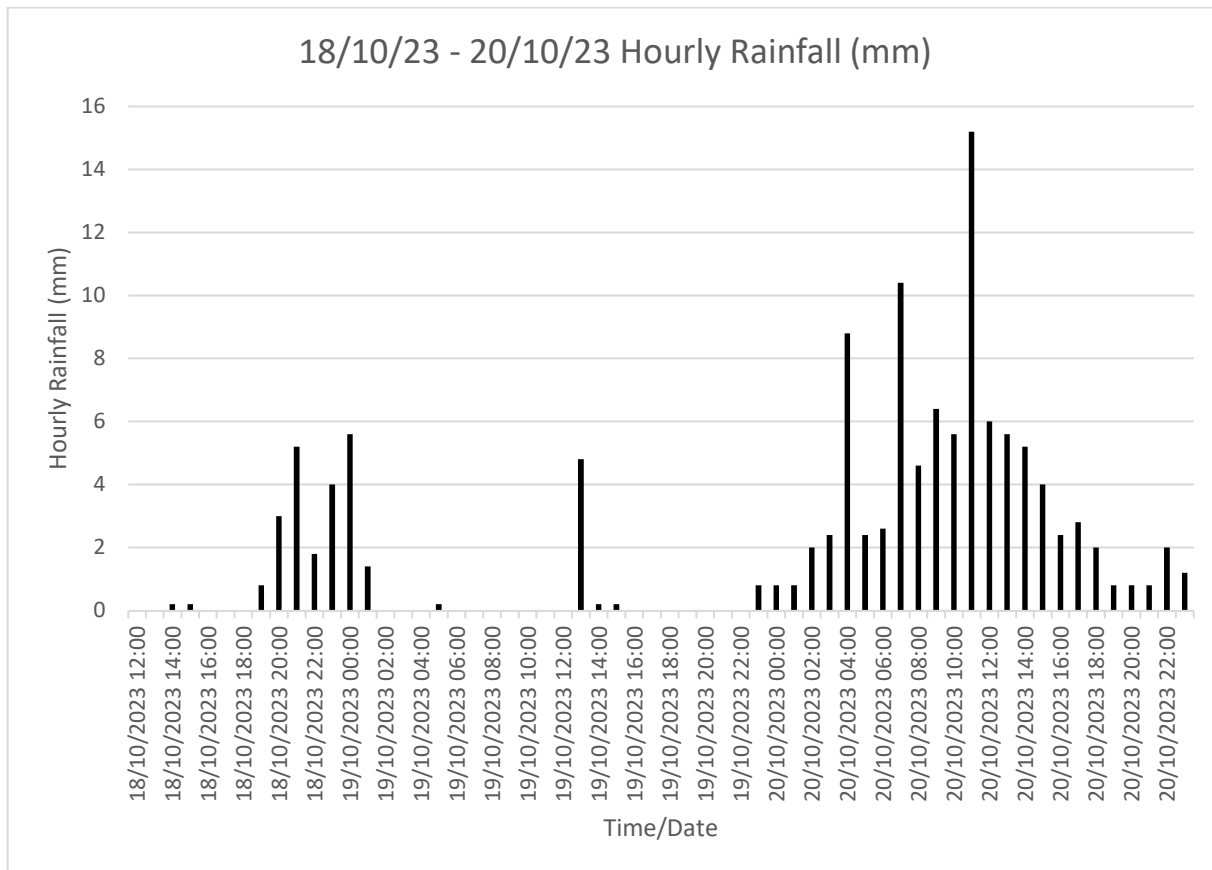


Figure 1. Staythorpe Hourly Rainfall from 12:00 18 to 23:00 20 October 2023. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

- During Storm Babet, 39 residential properties in Caunton were subject to internal flooding with more suffering flooding to gardens and outbuildings. The scale of flooding experienced by the village was greater than any on record. Figure 2 highlights the areas that were subjected to internal flooding.

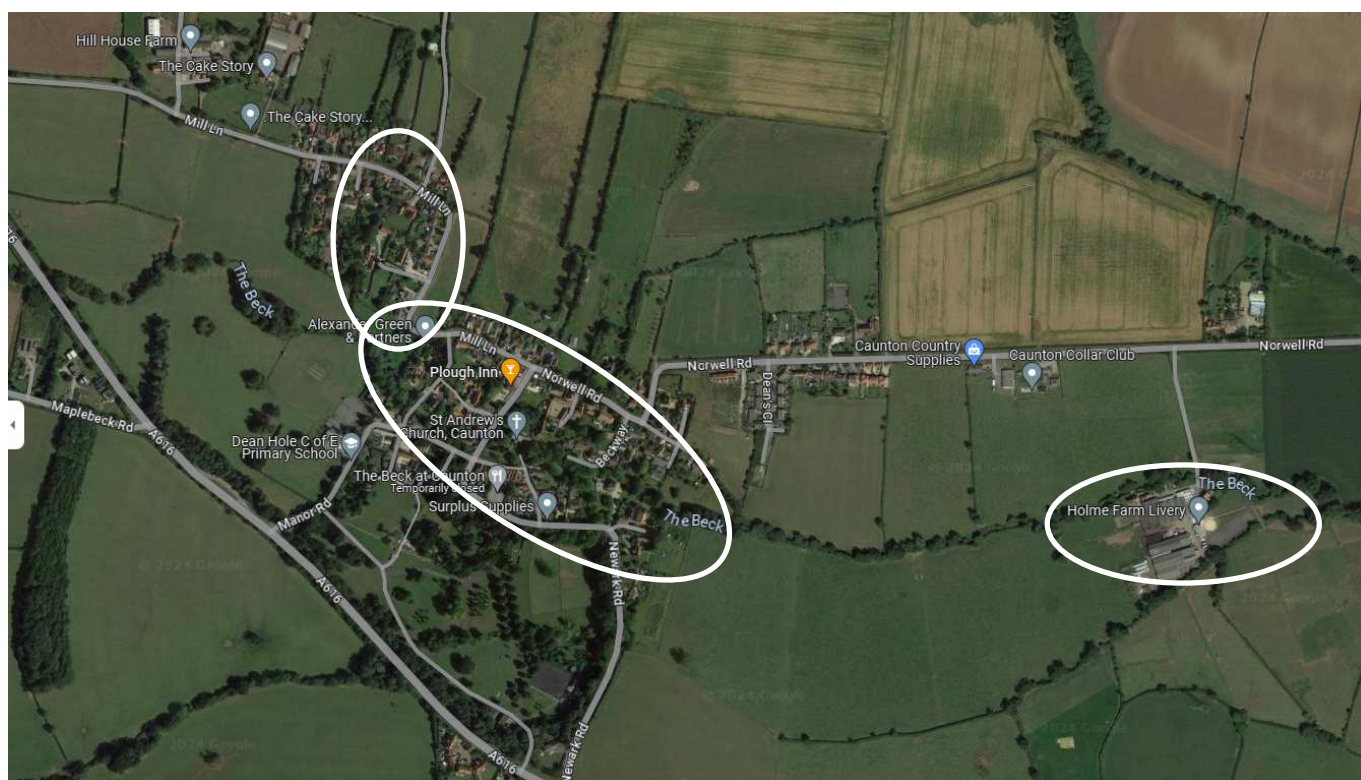


Figure 2. Map of Caunton highlighting areas affected by internal flooding.

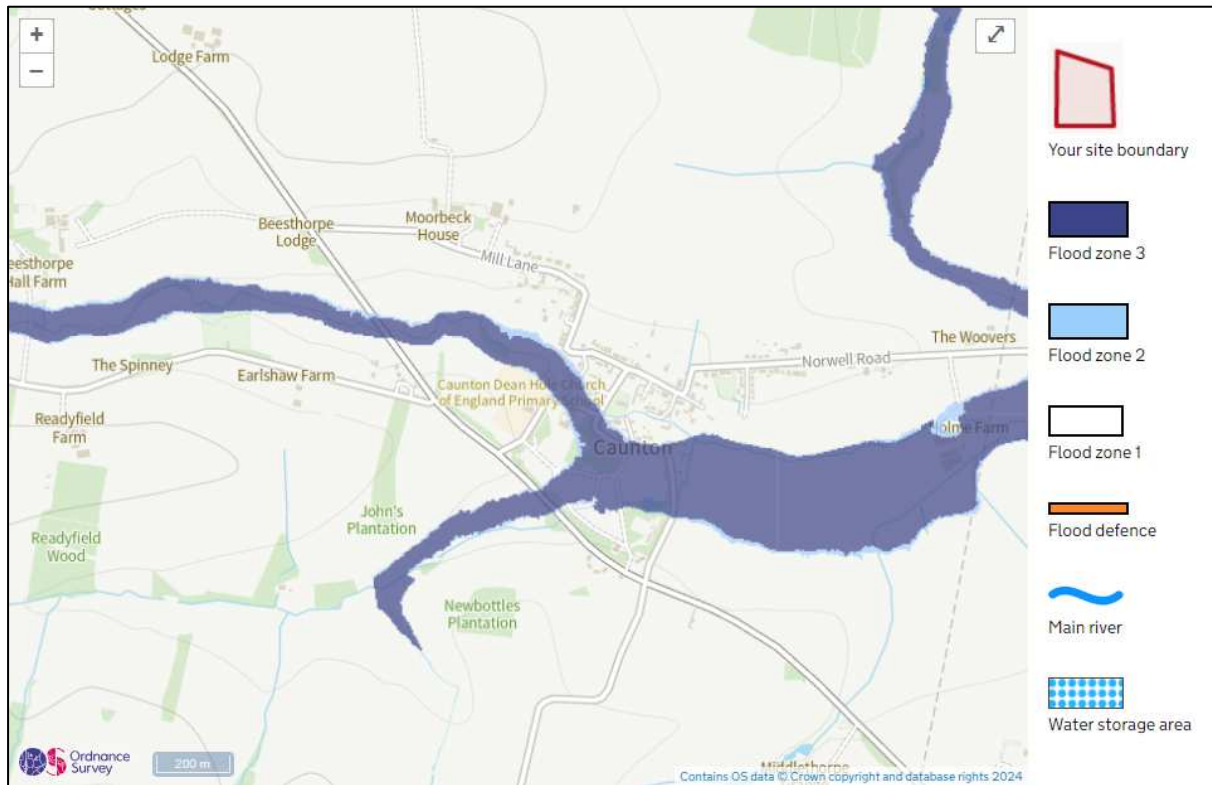


Figure 4. Predicted Flood Zone Extents (FZ3 is darkest area)

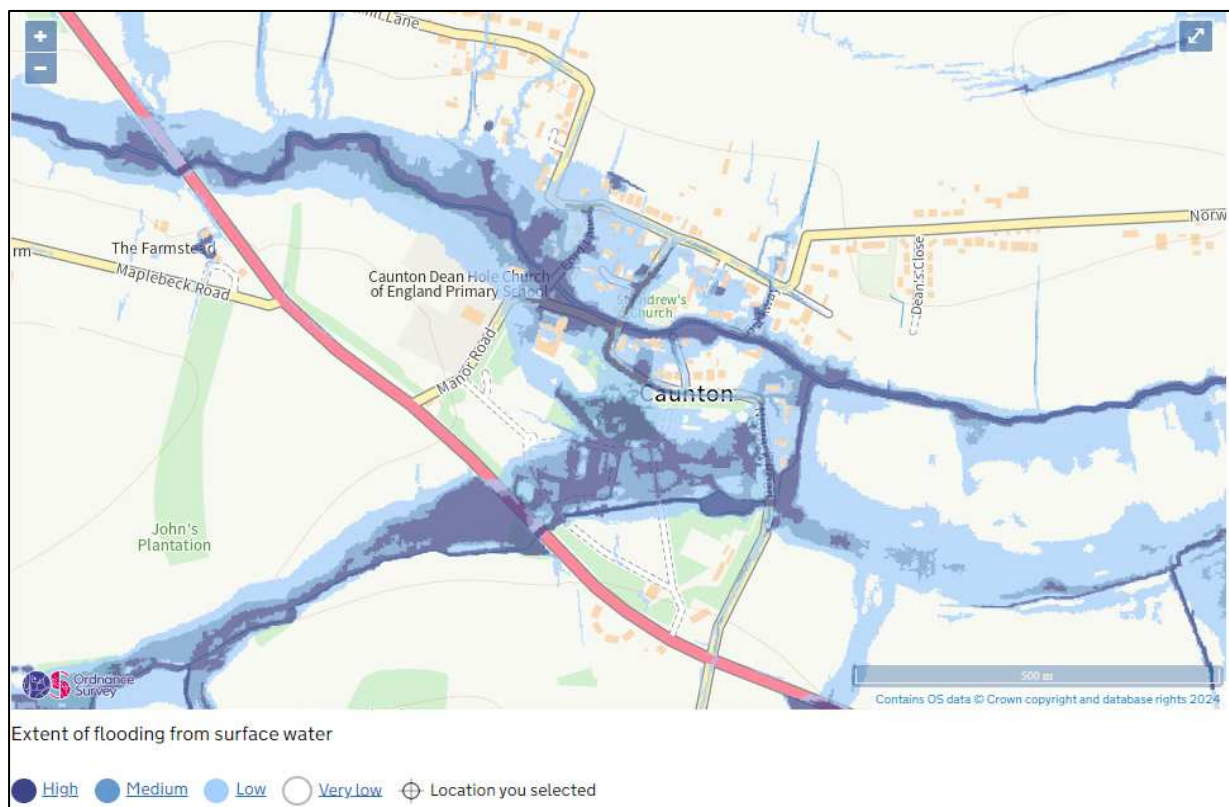


Figure 5. Predicted Surface Water Flood Extents

12. Figures 4 and 5 help to confirm the areas naturally occurring risk of flooding and correlate with the majority of flooding experienced during Storm Babet.

13. At a public meeting held in the village and attended by a representative from NCC's Flood Risk Management Team residents raised concerns regarding the hydraulic capacity of the three bridges that span The Beck in the village. These concerns have been passed to the TVIDB for their consideration and it is expected they will communicate direct with the Parish Council.
14. A number of properties in the Mill Lane area suffered from internal flooding and discussions suggested that this was due to surface water runoff from the public highway. During these discussions concerns were raised about the effectiveness of the highway drainage network and it was agreed that an investigation into the condition and connectivity of the drainage system serving Mill Lane to its junction with Main Street / Norwell Road be carried out by NCC. This work was carried out in February and its findings are being used to support localised improvements.
15. During the flooding the resilience and community spirit shown within the village was exceptional and without it the consequences may well have been worse. The community adopts a very positive and proactive approach to flood resilience and we will continue to work with and support them.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

16. 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.
 - ii. Provided site-based presence and investigations immediately following the event.

17. Newark and 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.
18. 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.
19. 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 Flooding

20. 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:
21. The 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) Liaised with the Parish Council in the aftermath of the event.
- q) Commissioned an investigation into the surface water runoff / highway drainage on Mill Lane area.

22. 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.

23. Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board

- a) Staff attended site during and after the event and cleared the Beck of debris.
- b) Regular maintenance programme was completed prior to the flooding and will continue as planned.
- c) The IDB is working closely with lead partners to identify and deliver appropriate solutions, including supporting securing funding applications and with engineering and design expertise where applicable.
- d) In all parts of the IDB districts (both Trent Valley and Isle of Axholme and Northern Nottinghamshire) the regular annual maintenance regime has been and will continue to be delivered to reduce risk and identify potential risk areas.

Additional Information and Future Actions

- 24. 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.
- 25. Caunton community are considering how best to access and utilise the Governments Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant.
- 26. Caunton Parish Council and its residents have a well- established working relationship with a number of the RMAs including NCCs Flood Risk Management Tea, the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and Via East Midlands Ltd. and are committed to continue with that working relationship.
- 27. 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.
- 28. NCC will discuss its Flood Warden / Road Closure training programme with community volunteer groups and develop as appropriate.
- 29. 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.
- 30. NCC will work with its partners to look at ways of strengthening the enforcement of riparian responsibilities alongside developing our asset inspection process.