

APPENDIX J

SECTION 19 REPORT – RADCLIFFE ON TRENT – STORM HENK, JANUARY 2024

FOR COMPLETENESS, THIS APPENDIX SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PLACE) TO PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE ON 22 JULY 2024: “SECTION 19 REPORTS: STORM HENK FLOODING JANUARY 2024”.

<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 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 January 2024 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 Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), VIA East Midlands Ltd on behalf of NCC as Highways Authority.
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. Radcliffe on Trent is a town within the Borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 8,145 people according to the 2021 census.
7. On the 2nd of January 2024, during Storm Henk, Radcliffe on Trent suffered a flood event caused by sustained rainfall over a saturated catchment. On the 2nd of January, 23mm of rainfall was recorded at the Colwick rain gauge (Figure 1) with a maximum 60-minute intensity of 5.6mm/hr.

8. This storm came after a prolonged period of persistent rain and above average rainfall which had saturated the ground, resulting in flooding of roads and properties quicker than they would following a dry period.

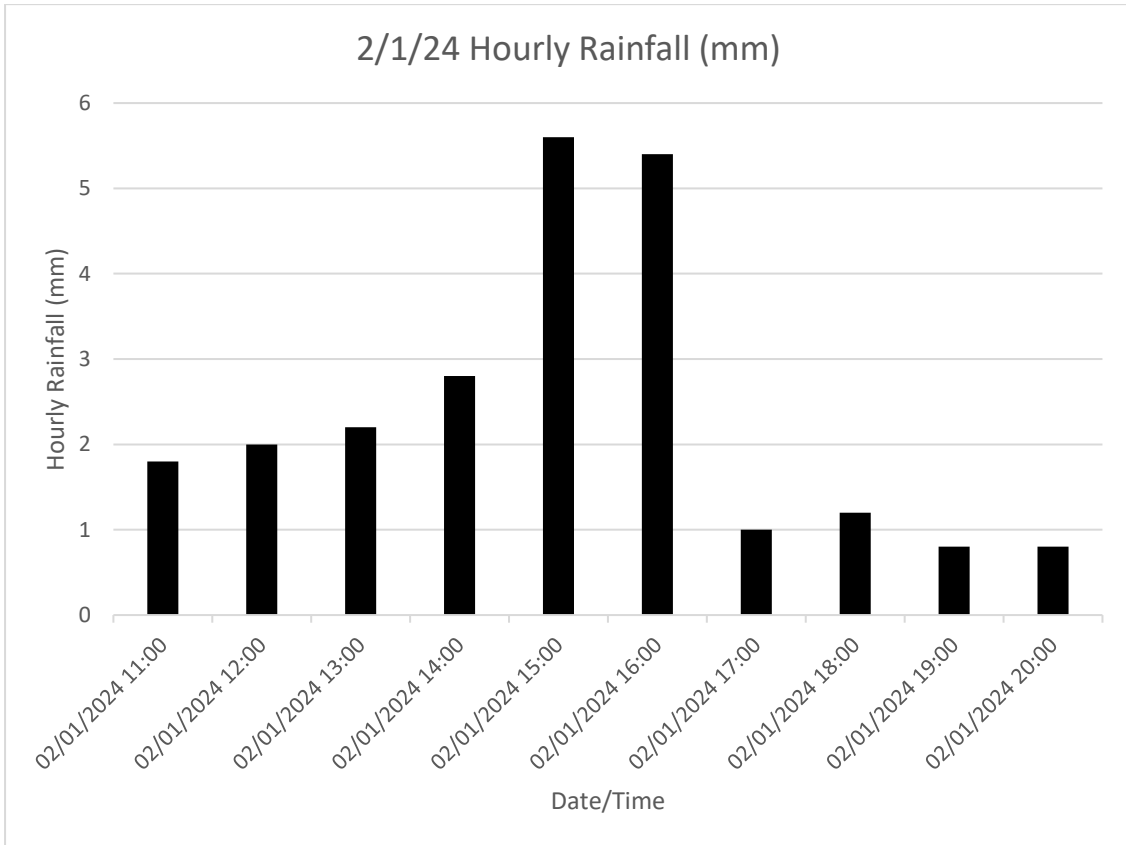


Figure 1. Colwick Hourly Rainfall 2nd January 2024. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

9. A location map of Radcliffe on Trent is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were:

- Clumber Drive (12 properties)



Figure 2: Reference map for flood affected areas across Radcliffe on Trent. Clumber Drive (11)

Summary of flooding and its causes

10. The area affected lies along the line of the Sykes Drain, an ordinary watercourse that serves a rural area to the east of Radcliffe and ultimately flows into the centre of the village via a largely culverted route.
11. 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. This area has suffered flooding events previously, in 1977 and 2020. The cause of flooding in 2020 was evidenced to be due to a blockage on the trash screen behind the boundary of 87 Clumber Drive. In this instance the flooding during Storm Babet does not appear to have been caused by a blockage but rather by the volume of water.



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

12. Evidence from members of the local community shows Sykes Drain surcharging the trash screen located behind the boundary of 87 Clumber Drive, this water then follows the natural topography of the area subsequently flowing down Clumber Drive towards Penrith Avenue.

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. 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.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

15. 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:

16. 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, Elected Members, 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 69 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 residents to discuss flood risk in Radcliffe on Trent.

17. Rushcliffe 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 Rushcliffe communities.
- d) Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation.
- e) Liaised with affected residents on site.

Additional Information and Future Actions

- 18. 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.
- 19. The local community spirit and resilience during the flooding must be recognised as without their efforts the impacts of the flooding could have been worse.
- 20. NCC are currently working with the developer to provide additional flood water storage in the location of the site to allow for overflow during large storm events. Further details of these works will be shared to the community as they are available.
- 21. 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.
- 22. 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 being developed in Radcliffe on Trent with support from NCC. Officers for the Flood Risk Management team are working with the community to help them develop a local flood action group.
- 23. NCC is currently working to install bespoke Property Flood Resilience measures to affected properties as part of its Property Flood Resilience capital programme.
- 24. NCC will work with its partners to look at ways of strengthening the enforcement of riparian responsibilities alongside developing our asset inspection process.