

APPENDIX K

SECTION 19 REPORT – RETFORD – 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 Bassetlaw District Council (BDC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), VIA East Midlands Ltd on behalf of NCC as Highways Authority, the Environment Agency (EA), Severn Trent Water (STW) and Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board (IOAIDB).
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. Retford is a town within the District of Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 23,740 people according to the 2021 census.
7. The River Idle (main river) runs through Retford from south to north. The Carr Dyke (Internal Drainage Board managed) runs through part of the town before discharging into the River Idle.

8. Rainfall data from the Workop rainfall gauge, approximately 10km to the west, is given in Figure 1 for Storm Henk.

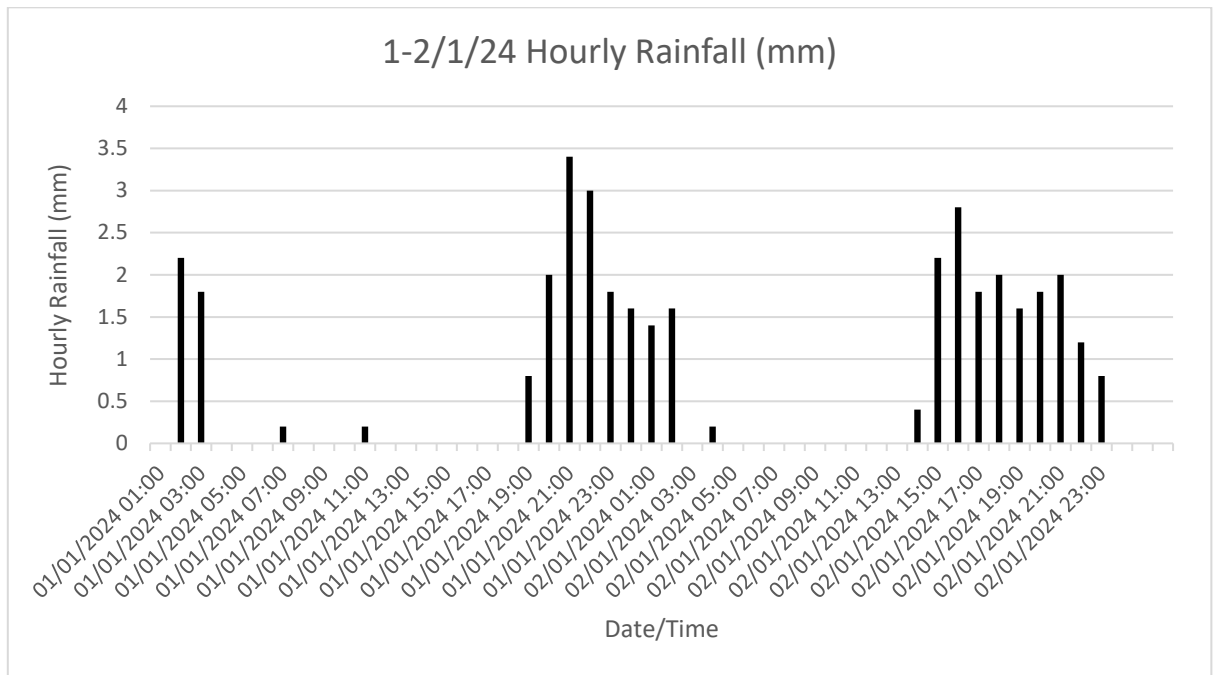


Figure 1. Workop Hourly Rainfall 01:00 1st to 23:00 2nd January 2024. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

9. A view of Retford is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were:

- Cobwell Road (2 properties)
- Darrell Road (1 property)
- Meden Way (1 property)
- Poulter View (1 property)

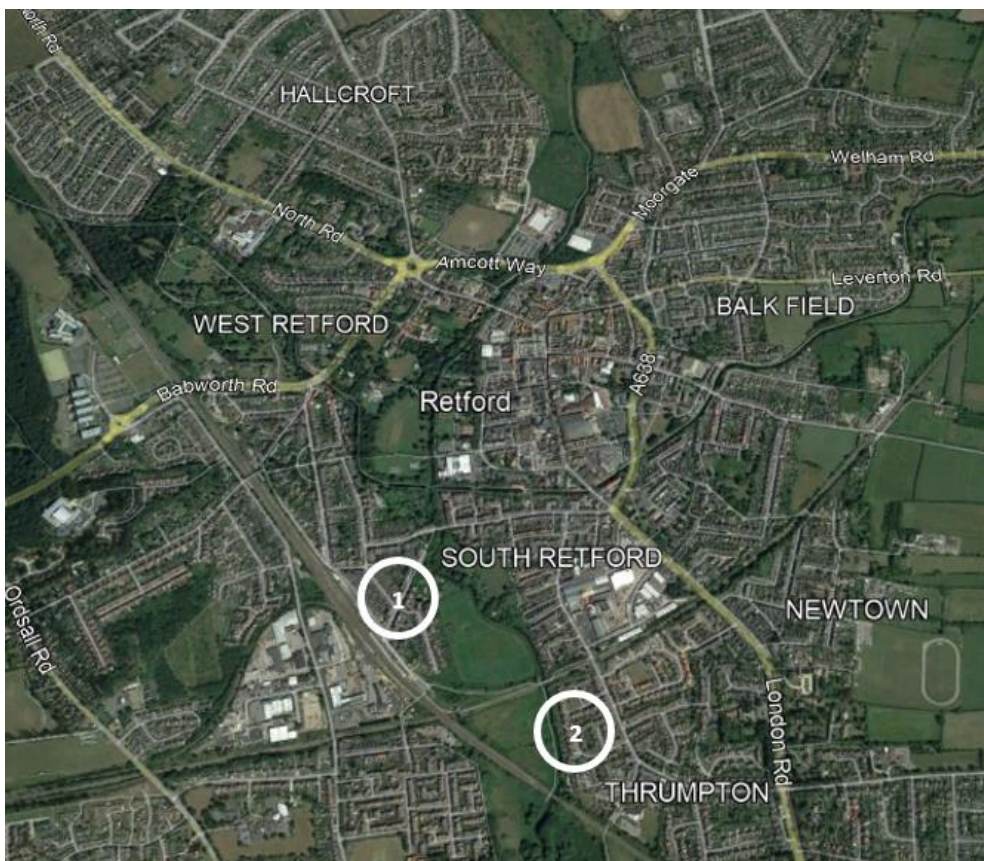


Figure 2. Flood Affected Properties in Retford. 1) Cobwell Road and Darrell Road 2) Meden Way and Poulter View.

Summary of flooding and its causes

Cobwell Road and Darrell Road

10. 2 properties on Cobwell Road and 1 property on Darrell Road were reported as suffering internal flooding, as shown in figure 3.

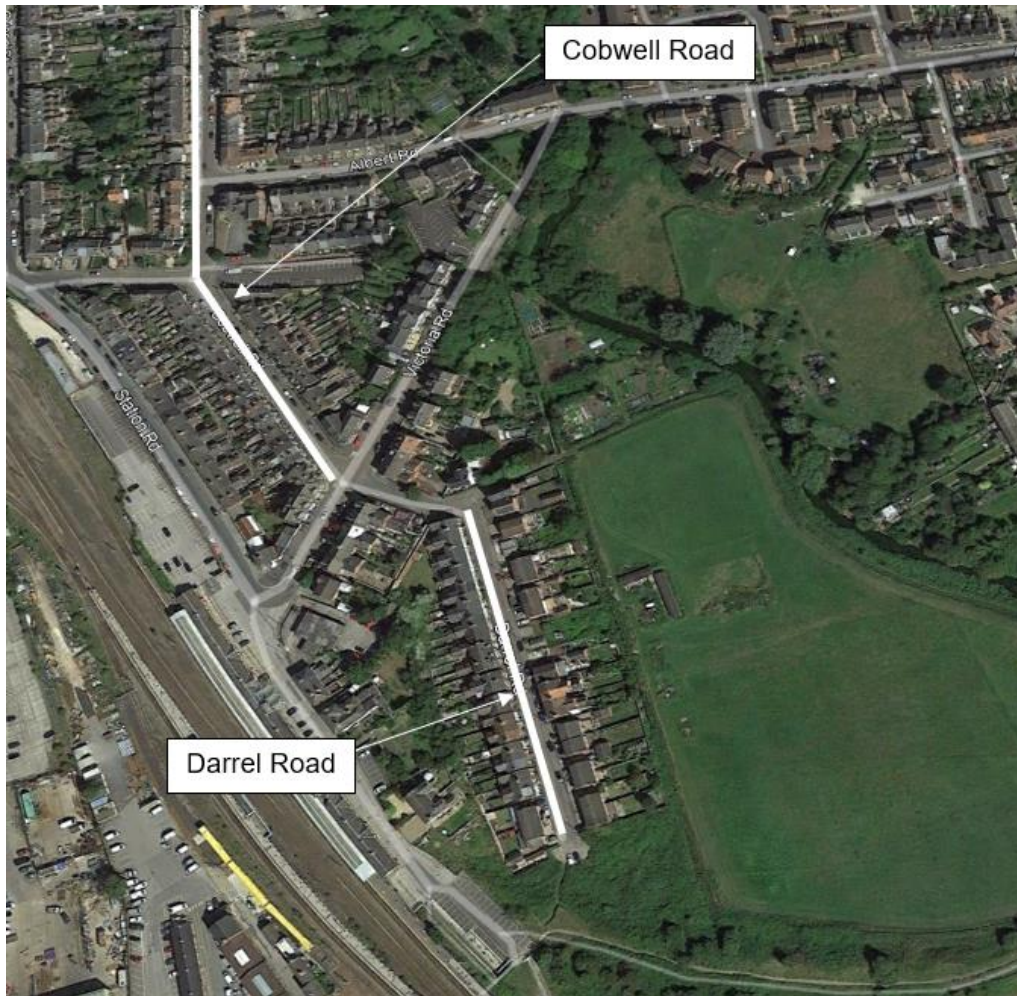


Figure 3. Cobwell Road and Darrell Road

11. Accounts from residents on Cobwell Road report that the water rose through the floor of cellars. They also noted that they had not had previous issues with water ingress into their cellar and had not since the event.
12. Flooding to Darrell Road followed the same mechanism that has previously been experienced. Saturated ground and rainfall directly from Storm Henk raised levels in the Carr Dyke. The high levels in the River Idle are then understood to have contributed to this further rising, causing levels to flood into gardens, outbuildings and 1 property internally.
13. Modelling to fully understand this mechanism of flooding is being undertaken by the Environment Agency and Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board, to inform potential future works.

Meden Way and Poulter View

14. 1 property on Meden Way and 1 property on Poulter View suffered internal flooding. As shown in Figure 4. The River Idle runs directly to the west of Meden Way and Poulter View.

15. During Storm Henk, the River Idle reached 1.36m at the River Level gauge at Ordsall. Due to the close proximity, it is unclear at present whether the flooding was as a result of the River Idle overtopping, drainage being unable to effectively discharge into the River Idle or a combination of factors. Further discussions and investigations where necessary will be undertaken with the Environment Agency.



Figure 4. Meden Way and Poulter View

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 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.

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.
- b) Maintenance and management of main rivers and associated flood risk and the issuing of Flood Warnings using the national Flood Warning System.

18. Bassetlaw 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.

19. Isle of Axholme 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.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

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. 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) Attended the public drop in session concerning flood risk in Retford.

22. The Environment Agency

- a) Warned and informed the community of Retford in a timely manner by issuing a Flood Warning for the River Idle at West Retford and Ordsall at 20:32 on 2 January 2024.
- b) Instigated flood patrols to operate their structures in accordance with their incident response procedures and cleared blockages in the area before and after the peak flows.
- c) Installed pumps at Grove Lane and Blackstope Lane in anticipation of the forecasted rain. These were operated 24 hours a day for 3 days when the flood water receded.
- d) Coordinated community information officers to gather information and visit affected communities to understand the impact of flooding on affected communities and collect data.
- e) Organised a multi-agency community drop in event which was attended by Nottinghamshire County Council, Severn Trent Water and Bassetlaw District Council.

23. Bassetlaw District Council

- a) Provided emergency response support for management of the flooding event including
 - i. Participation in all LRF Strategic Co-ordination Group, Tactical Coordination Group, Communications Cell and Recovery Coordination Group meetings
 - ii. Active deployment of sandbags and aquasacs to vulnerable premises and residents
 - iii. Provision of community resilience stores enabling access to sandbags and aquasacs
 - iv. Public communication of key messages at different phases of the incident, including warn and inform and recovery
- b) Cleansing of detritus from roads, car parks and paths
- c) Promoted and administered the Community Recovery Grant and Council Tax Discount schemes
- d) Actively engaged in the s.19 Flood Investigation

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 listed below.

25. 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.
26. NCC are liaising with VIA East Midlands Ltd., Severn Trent Water and Anglian Water to investigate the source of the flooding on Cobwell Road.
27. The Environment Agency will review and make any improvements to the pumping strategy for Retford.
28. The Environment Agency are investigating options for upstream flood storage that may benefit both Ordsall and Retford in reducing flooding from the River Idle.
29. In agreement with Bassetlaw District Council, the Environment Agency intends to deliver a package of recovery works and intermittent revenue projects. These will take place in the 2024/2025 Financial Year and subsequent years following. The proposed works include:
 - Retford Beck culvert renewal / replacement for Grove Lane and Blackstope Lane.
 - River Idle/Carr Dyke modelling of interactions between watercourses. Working with IDB.
 - River Idle de-silts through town centre and downstream.
 - River Idle conveyance and tree works through town centre and downstream.
 - Thrumpton/Poulter View wall repair.
30. The Environment Agency will be updating their recently published Bassetlaw Citizen Space page to provide the Retford community with latest information on ongoing and future flood risk management works.
31. Bassetlaw District Council has established a working group reporting into Cabinet to focus exclusively on flooding, to ensure continued focus and scrutiny on this important issue.
32. Bassetlaw District Council has established and leads a multi-agency Bassetlaw Flood Partnership to ensure strong interagency communications and proactive and collaborative planning in relation to flooding.
33. Bassetlaw District Council is working with partners to lobby for a change in government policy regarding the Environment Agency funding framework to enable more flood alleviation schemes to be delivered locally.