

APPENDIX B

SECTION 19 REPORT – RUDDINGTON – JUNE 2020

Introduction

1. Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:
2. 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 Risk Management Authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
3. 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 Risk Management Authorities.
4. The objective of this report is to investigate which Risk Management Authorities had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in June 2020 and whether the relevant Risk Management Authorities have exercised, or propose to exercise, their risk management functions (as per section 19 (1) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010).
5. The Risk Management Authorities with a duty to respond to this flooding incident are Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC).
6. 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

7. On the 17th June 2020 the Met Office issued a yellow weather warning for thunderstorms and heavy rain. Torrential downpours ensued during late afternoon, which resulted in localised flooding.

During the storms Via East Midlands Ltd, (on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council) distributed sandbags to 5 different communities who submitted reports of internal flooding.

The intense storm dropped over half a months' worth of rain in just over one hour. This overwhelmed the ability of the drainage infrastructure to accommodate this type of a rainfall event.

8. On the 17th June 2020 several communities faced extensive flooding due to a torrential downpour, Ruddington (Figure 1), a village with a population of approximately 7200 at the 2011 Census, was one of these who were severely impacted.



Figure 1. Location Plan

The storms resulted in some areas experiencing over two weeks worth of rain in just two hours resulting in 22 business in the centre of Ruddington suffering internal flooding.



Figure 2. Localised flooding locations

Summary of flooding and its causes

9. The main High Street area of Ruddington affected by the flooding is in a natural low spot, and investigations concluded that the volume of rain experienced on the afternoon overwhelmed drainage systems in the area resulting in the flooding.

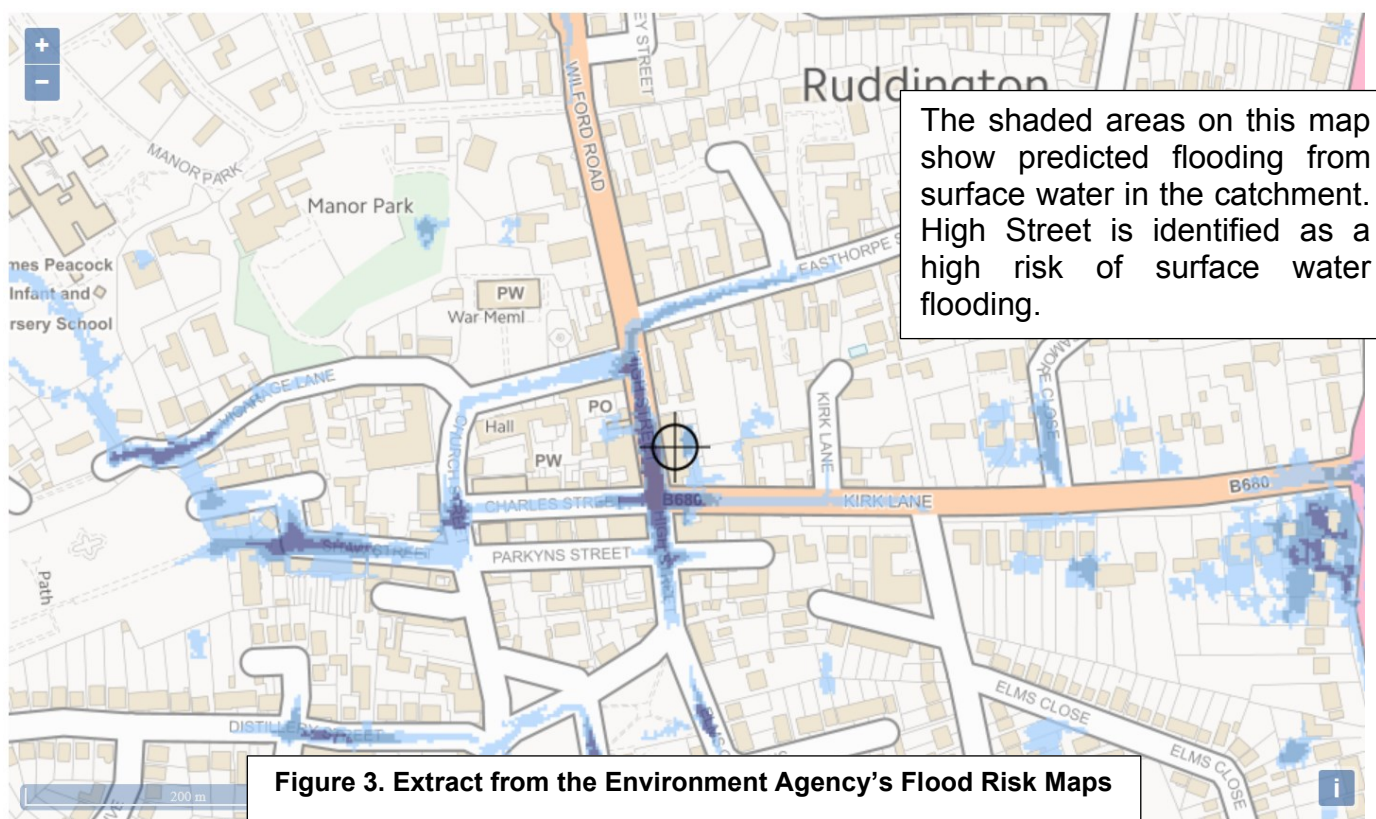
The blue arrows on Figure 2 shows the overland surface water flow paths from Easthorpe Street, Kirk Lane and Church Street heading towards High Street.

Talking with local business owners has identified that during the storm event the water levels within the highway rose to threshold level, with some of the lower lying properties suffering flooding due to the amount of water within the highway.

Eyewitness accounts suggest that some of the internal flooding was caused / worsened by bow waves resulting from drivers continuing to drive through flooded sections of the highway.

Investigations into a report of flooding from the rear of some properties concluded that these were caused by an isolated blocked private drainage asset on private land and was not a key contributor to the wider flooding.

Figure 3. below is an extract from the Environment Agency's Flood Risk mapping that clearly shows the predicted high risk of surface water flooding in the area as well as their positions within the Flood Zones.



Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

10. 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. Lead Local Flood Authorities also 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 The Nottinghamshire County Council)

- i. Maintenance of the public highways including highway drainage assets.
- ii. Provided site-based presence and investigations immediately following the event.

11. 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

12. 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:

a) Nottinghamshire County Council:

- i. Initiated and co-ordinated Emergency Planning procedures.
- ii. Administered the Flooding Hardship Fund.
- iii. Initiated and led the Section 19 Flood Investigation.

b) Rushcliffe Borough Council

- i. Provided emergency response support in management of flooding event.
- ii. Delivered sandbags to affected residents.
- iii. Managed and continue to manage recovery in affected Rushcliffe communities.
- iv. Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation.

Additional information and future actions.

13. 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.

14. Via East Midlands Ltd, (on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council) will continue to undertake routine maintenance on the drainage assets in the vicinity to ensure they are working at intended capacity.

15. 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.
16. Where appropriate Nottinghamshire County will administer a Flood Warden scheme, including supporting the provision of local sandbag stores, and a Community Flood Signage Scheme in communities at risk of potential flooding. All equipment and training is provided for free should there be sufficient volunteer interest in the community. Further information on these services are available on Nottinghamshire County Council's website.
17. 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.