

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time:- Tuesday 22 October 2024 at 1.30 p.m.

Venue:- Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH

Membership:- Councillors McKiernan (Chair), Tinsley (Vice-Chair), Adair, Ahmed, Baggaley, Beresford, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, Cowen, Havard, Jackson, Jones, Mault, Rashid, Stables, Beck, Thorp and Williams.

Co-opted Members:- Mrs. K. Bacon and Mrs. M. Jacques.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view [via the Council's website](#). The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Governance Advisor of their intentions prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 September 2024 (Pages 3 - 9)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 September 2024, as a true and correct record of the proceedings and to be signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of items listed on the agenda.

4. Questions from members of the public and the press

To receive questions relating to items of business on the agenda from members of the public or press who are present at the meeting.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.

6. Allotments Self-Management Update 2024 (Pages 11 - 32)

To consider the update on the progress towards the self-management of allotments in Rotherham, through:

- An update on the finalisation of the lease between the Rotherham Allotments Alliance (RAA) Ltd and the Council, and
- Progress of the work of Rotherham Allotment Alliance as set out in their Annual Report for 2023

7. Section 19 Report for Storm Babet (Pages 33 - 207)

To consider the Section 19 report, for Storm Babet, which detailed how the flooding occurred, which risk management authority was responsible and what could be done to reduce the risk in the future.

8. Draft Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy, November 2024 (Pages 209 - 237)

To consider the draft Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy which sets out the Council's approach to delivering a responsive repairs and maintenance service.

9. Improving Places Select Commission - Work Programme 2024 - 2025 (Pages 239 - 240)

To consider and endorse the outline schedule of scrutiny work for the 2024-2025 municipal year.

10. Urgent Business

To consider any item which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

**The next meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission
will be held on Tuesday 10 December 2024
commencing at 1.30 p.m.
in Rotherham Town Hall.**



**SHARON KEMP OBE,
Chief Executive.**

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 3 September 2024

Present:- Councillor McKiernan (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Ahmed, Baggaley, Beck, Beresford, C. Carter, Cowen, Havard, Jones, Mault, Rashid, Stables, Thorp and Williams.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tinsley, Mrs Bacon and Mrs Jacques.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2024

In the previous meeting held on 9 July 2024, it was agreed to seek further information regarding the new IT system for drainage. The Chair confirmed this information had been received but not in time to be included as part of the agenda. The information would be circulated to Members after the meeting via email.

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 July 2024 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The Chair advised that there were no members of the public or representatives of media organisations present at the meeting and there were no questions in respect of matters on the agenda.

19. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:-

That under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for agenda item 19 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006. This is formal notice under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England)

Regulations 2012 of Key Decisions due to be taken by the Authority and of those parts of the Cabinet meeting identified in this Forward Plan will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information as defined in the Local Government Act 1972.

20. OVERVIEW OF THE PORTFOLIO OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

The Chair welcomed Councillor Robert Taylor, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs, and the Local Economy to the meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy provided an overview of his portfolio, explaining that that it contained the most diverse areas of responsibility, ranging from securing jobs, investment in the economy and strategic responsibility for the built environment. The Cabinet Member decided to focus his briefing on a few broad headlines within this portfolio, which was transport infrastructure, regulatory functions, economic development, and regeneration.

The Cabinet Member stated that economic development drives several of the Council's key priorities and is also central in contributing towards Rotherham's vision for growth. He noted an example of economic development, which was the success of the five business centres strategically placed across Rotherham that supported over 150 businesses and provided over 800 jobs. These business centres have enabled 80% of Rotherham businesses to be operating for three years or more as well as supporting 40 new businesses to start-up every year, which has been a significant achievement for the borough given the economic challenges over the last few years. Included as part of economic development was Launchpad, an innovative programme delivered through the business centres that has supported new businesses and enabled both business growth and new jobs created across the borough. The Council has also supported inward investment and business growth through the Rotherham Together Partnership, Business Growth Board, and the Employment Skills Board, which also involves the Cabinet Member's involvement through his portfolio.

Regeneration was another critical area for the Cabinet Member due to all the developments happening across the borough including building major town projects, and the new Forge Island development, which is the new leisure destination in Rotherham and forms part of the town centre masterplan. The new cinema would be the first cinema in the town centre for over thirty years, which is a substantial achievement and would open to the public on Friday 6th September, 2024. In addition, to these developments there had been significant investment within Rotherham's markets along with other investments across the borough, derived from several successful funding bids.

The Cabinet Member informed the commission that the next phase of

transformation were the two sites in the town centre that were both integral to the future growth and development of the borough. Additionally, the Cabinet Member also highlighted the success of Rotherham's advanced manufacturing park (AMP), which has been recognised worldwide, as a pioneering centre that has some of the world's leading companies on the park including Rolls Royce, Boeing and McLaren Automotive.

The next area discussed by the Cabinet Member was transport infrastructure. He informed Members that this area underpinned all the work that has currently taken place within regeneration as well as in all future plans. Rotherham's mainline station was another notable example that was highlighted by Cabinet Member, which had provided greater opportunities for regeneration and connectivity for Rotherham by returning mainline train services to the borough. Another critical key area in transport infrastructure has been promoting safe and active travel. Work has taken place closely with members of the South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership around developing safer roads across the region and the borough.

The Cabinet Member explained a programme of maintenance which included repairing potholes, surfacing, and resurfacing roads because of the £24 million funding from the Council up to 2024 which has been used to improve the roads and reduce the number of potholes across the borough. He also explained that the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority had fundamentally looked at changing where bus services were managed, which would be another project that would feed into the infrastructure vision for Rotherham. The Cabinet Member explained that within this area, his portfolio also covered car parking, appeals, car parking permits, the blue badge scheme as well as managing untaxed and abandoned vehicle removal.

The Cabinet Member then proceeded to highlight the area of regulatory functions which his portfolio covered. This included the Council's Planning Board that assesses and processes planning applications as well as the work undertaken by the Licensing Committee considering and processing licenses. He confirmed that as part of this was the Council's Local Plan, which is a significant piece of work within the Council's long-term development strategy that has major implications for the borough in terms of policies and proposals for new housing, shopping, employment, and travel. Members were informed that this plan has since gone to Cabinet and was currently being assessed and reviewed.

The final area of the portfolio was property assets, which included managing safely and sustainably all council buildings and lands. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that the Council's property assets were a vast list, which required a lot of work to maintain and be kept up to date. Another important aspect within property assets was considering future needs and requirements for the borough in terms of net zero biodiversity and electric vehicle (EV) charging. He noted that this was critical for the

Council moving forward and would be beneficial in terms of future financial savings.

Overall, the Cabinet Member acknowledged that the past three months had been a steep but enjoyable learning curve for him as he developed his knowledge around this diverse portfolio. He also wanted to note that he was proud and grateful for all the council officers who had worked tirelessly against insurmountable pressures. The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for attending and sharing all the magnificent work across his portfolio with the commission.

In relation to the new cinema on Forge Island, Councillor Carter wanted to know if there would be any rent reductions for the new company to ensure this new entertainment venture was successful given that more people were now viewing films at home. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that this was a concern, but he felt incredibly positive as the cinema had been developed to take into consideration the changing way people are viewing entertainment. He also stated that the cinema was managed by an experienced national company who were already aware of such changes and were still successfully operating. The Cabinet Member stated that the new cinema intends to provide a full cinematic experience with its vast auditoriums, and an enjoyable place for families and young people to socialise.

A further question from Councillor Carter, was around the availability of EV charging on the Forge Island car park. The Cabinet Member confirmed that there were EV charging points on Forge Island and they will also be included in all car parking plans for future developments. He noted that work would take place by the Council to improve the offer across all its car parks to include available and working EV charging points and that measures have taken place through recent technologies to mitigate any vandalism on existing EV charging points.

The Chair then followed this line of questioning and wanted to know if the Council's EV charging strategies were ambitious and if the Council could go even further with this agenda. The Cabinet Member noted that the Council had been ambitious, but it still needs to be balanced in terms of sensible decision making within current financial constraints. Councillor Jones then queried whether the Council should take a more cautious view on large scale investments on EV charging, given that some of the biggest manufacturers had now moved away from EV cars to Hybrid cars. The Cabinet Member confirmed that they were aware of these emerging technologies and the next generation of cars, which was why such factors had been considered when progressing this programme forward for the borough.

Another question on car parking was provided by Councillor Thorp, who asked whether consideration had been given around offering free or reduced car parking for people visiting the new cinema, as he believed that this could encourage more people to go to the cinema, which would

be another way of ensuring its success. The Cabinet Member confirmed that as well as free car parking at the weekend and free 'off road' car parking there would be free car parking for up to three and a half hours for people going to the cinema.

In relation to active travel and cycle lanes the Chair asked how much work had taken place with the South Yorkshire Mayor and Sheffield City Council to ensure the number of cycle lanes was proportionately adequate for the borough. The Cabinet Member told Members that he had not yet been involved in this work, but he would take this consideration forward in any future decisions on proposed cycle lanes. The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment confirmed that regular liaison and partnership work had taken place at an officer level with the Combined Authority around transport and cycle lane schemes that were funded through city region and sustainable transport funding.

A final discussion took place around road resurfacing and utility companies, where the Chair asked whether utility companies were being fined for inadequate road repairs in line with current legislation, and if the Council held a list of which utility companies had been fined. The Cabinet Member was unaware of a list but confirmed that the Council had informed all utility companies of its road resurfacing schedule to help them plan in their work to avoid any unnecessary disruptions or fines. However, he acknowledged that they had not followed this schedule and there were times when the Council had not been informed of work undertaken by utility companies, but he assured the commission that with these cases the Council had taken necessary steps using this legislation.

Resolved: That the Improving Places Select Commission:

1. Noted the overview from the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs, and the Local Economy.

21. LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS - UPDATE

Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment and Simon Moss, Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport presented the draft proposals on the Long Term Plan for Towns.

Members were informed that in October 2023, the previous Conservative Government had identified fifty-five towns across the UK who would benefit from Long Term Plans for Towns. This would be supported by £1.1 billion of funding to drive ambitious plans for the regeneration of these fifty-five local towns over the next decade. As part of this, each town which included Rotherham were asked to: -

- Develop a Long-Term Plan to invest in and regenerate their town, based on the priorities of local people, and put to local people for

consultation.

- Receive £20 million in endowment-style funding and support over ten years to support the Town Plan, to be spent on issues that matter to local people, including regenerating high streets and securing public safety. This plan will be put to local people.
- Establish a Town Board to bring together community leaders, employers, local authorities, and the local MP to oversee and deliver the Long-Term Plan.
- Use a toolkit of powers, from tackling anti-social behaviour to auctioning empty high street shops, reforming licensing rules on shops and restaurants and supporting more housing in town centres.

In response, Rotherham Council developed a draft Long-Term Plan for Towns based on the requirements and proposed funding. Members of the commission was informed that extensive consultation had already taken place with a wide range of key stakeholders including partners and the public. However, since the general election the Council is now waiting for a position update from the new Labour Government before any further work could be undertaken.

The Chair then requested that under section 100 A 4 of the Local government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of such Act indicated as now amended by the Local government access to information various variation order 2006.

Resolved: That the Improving Places Select Commission:

1. Noted and agreed the presentation on the Long-Term Plan for Towns

22. IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION - WORK PROGRAMME 2024 - 2025

The Chair noted that there would be some further items to be added to the work programme, which will be shared with commission members. In addition, he noted that there had been two items from the commission's September's agenda which had been delayed and would be moved to later meetings, this included the Repairs and Maintenance Policy and the Flooding Alleviation Update.

Overall members agreed with the items on commission's proposed workplan, but it was noted by Councillor Beck that there needed to be

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION- 03/09/24

some more additional items which could be considered for a full review or have as a spotlight item added to the work programme.

The Chair asked the commission for any further suggestions, which could be added to the work programme and put forward as future investigations for the commission. Commission members were asked to reply through the chair over the next two weeks, with their suggestions for the work programme.

Resolved: That the Improving Places Select Commission note the outline work programme.

23. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items of business requiring the Commission's consideration.

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Public Report

Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 22 October 2024

Report Title

Allotments Self-Management Update 2024

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)Andy Lee, Green Spaces Manager
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Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides the Improving Places Select Commission with an update on the progress towards the self-management of allotments in Rotherham, through:

- An update on the finalisation of the lease between the Rotherham Allotments Alliance (RAA) Ltd and the Council, and
- Progress of the work of Rotherham Allotment Alliance as set out in their Annual Report for 2023

Recommendations

Improving Places Select Commission is asked to note the contents of the RAA report and progress towards the lease and comment on any arising issues.

List of Appendices IncludedAppendix 1 – RAA Annual Report 2023
Appendix 2 – Carbon Impact Assessment Form**Background Papers**

Improving Places Select Commission - Allotments Self-Managements Update 2022

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Allotments Self-Management Update 2024

1. Background

- 1.1 At the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision-Making meeting on the 9th July 2018, Members agreed to adopt a new vision and specification for allotments in which the Borough Council approved the transfer of the majority of Council-owned allotments to a new borough wide self-management body and to establish a Community Benefit Society for this purpose.
- 1.2 Following the transfer of the allotment management responsibility to the Rotherham Allotments Alliance (Ltd) (RAA) from 1st January 2020, updates have been provided to Improving Places Select Commission, the most recent being 13th December 2022.
- 1.3 Officers were asked to provide a further update which was originally to take place in March 2024 to coincide with the publication of the RAA Annual Report. This was subsequently rescheduled to October.

2. Key Issues

RAA Annual Report

- 2.1 The RAA provided its annual report to calendar year end, to the Council in line with its service level agreement requirements. The 2023 annual report is attached at appendix one.
 - 2.1.1 A summary of the key achievements and areas for improvement identified in the latest RAA annual report are as follows:
 - 2.1.2 Key Achievements:
 - Site Occupancy Key Performance Indicator: An impressive average of 95% occupancy across allotment sites, with many sites achieving 100% occupancy. This reflects strong community interest and utilisation of allotment spaces.
 - Engagement Initiatives: The introduction of society and tenant forum meetings has fostered better communication and collaboration between tenants and the RAA.
 - Community Outreach: The RAA's presence at the Rotherham Show received positive feedback, enhancing community visibility and engagement.
 - Leadership Development: Key roles within the RAA have been filled, strengthening the governance and operational capacity of the organisation.
 - 2.1.3 Areas for Improvement:
 - Infrastructure Investment: There is a need for investment to improve allotment infrastructure, including pathways and shared areas, as well as to increase the number of lettable plots. Enhancing

infrastructure will not only improve accessibility but also the overall experience for allotment holders.

- Stakeholder Engagement: Further engagement with society and tenant groups is necessary to enhance representation and ensure that diverse voices within the community are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

Progress on the Community Asset Transfer of Allotment Sites

- 2.2 Since the last IPSC report on 13th December 2022, progress has continued with the head lease and sub leases from the Borough Council to the RAA. It is recognised that the whole process has taken longer than expected due to unexpected complications in relation to deeds. There are some issues yet to be resolved in relation to Hartley Lane Allotment site.
- 2.2.1 All other issues previously reported have been resolved including the handover of the control of tenancies for animal grazing plots from the Council's Estates section to the RAA. The income generated from these plots since January 2020 has been reconciled and passed to the RAA.
- 2.2.2 Following the resolution of the issues at Hartley Lane there is an expectation that the lease will be finalised in early 2025. Positively, the management and operation of the allotments has not been affected by the delay and the RAA and Council officers have worked to ensure that the spirit of the transfer arrangement has been upheld.

Allotment Administrator

- 2.3 An Allotment Administrator has been seconded to the RAA from the Council. This was initially for a 15-month period but has now become a permanent agreement. All costs relating to this post are repaid to the Council by the RAA.

Service Level Agreement (SLA)

- 2.4 The RAA SLA and associated Key Performance Indicators (performance against these detailed in the annual report) has been in place since January 2020. The term of the SLA has now expired, therefore this has been updated and will be signed by both parties once the lease has been completed. This new SLA is expected to run for 5 years at which point it will be reviewed.

Capital Investment

- 2.5 Under the arrangement agreed in 2020 as part of the transfer of management, an allocation of £100,000 Capital funding was provided to improve several allotment sites for the benefit of their tenants. This funding was managed by the Council's Green Spaces team with RAA identifying works and making requests against this fund as appropriate. This capital investment is now complete.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 This is an update report. Members are asked to note progress made and comment on any issues arising.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 This is an update report. There is no proposal for consultation.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 This report is for information only.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, which is for information only. The allotments are operating on a self-financing basis. Costs for the seconded Allotments Assistant are recharged to the RAA and are funded by income collected by the RAA. The approved capital budget of £100k to provide infrastructure improvements has now been spent.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Council, through the Green Spaces service, retains a legacy role as the Statutory Allotments Authority function under the Allotments Act. This function cannot be transferred to the RAA and must remain with the Local Authority in non-parish areas.
- 7.2 Other than the above there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 Human Resources must be consulted for advice on any potential implications of staffing.
- 8.2 All relevant consultation with trade unions and staff should be undertaken before the decision-making report is submitted. Views received should be summarised in the report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 While the minimum age requirement for holding an allotment is 18, the RAA recognises the importance of engaging with children and young people in gardening and horticultural activities. By fostering early interest in these areas, the RAA will cultivate a sense of responsibility, environmental stewardship and community involvement among younger generations.

- 9.2 The RAA will explore the desirability of creating inclusive allotment initiatives specially tailored to meet the needs of Vulnerable Adults.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The RAA has an Equality, Diversity, Social and Child Protection policy which is provided on their website and the content of this policy is currently being updated.
- 10.2 The Rotherham Allotment Alliance is committed within its own company rules to the following statement: "The Rotherham Allotments Alliance will provide, promote and develop allotments in Rotherham so that they offer people of all backgrounds and abilities opportunities to enjoy gardening in safe, secure, accessible and environmentally sustainable surroundings. In doing so, it will make efficient use of available resources to ensure that the service is financially self-sufficient whilst remaining affordable to those who want to use it."

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 The management and operation of allotments play a critical role in the Council's target to be net carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030 and the aim for the entire borough of Rotherham to achieve the same status by 2040, as they contribute to carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, and the promotion of sustainable practices.
- 11.2 The ability to grow food locally and the community of food sharing for surplus produce, which is formed around allotments, will all contribute to an overall reduction in food miles and food waste.
- 11.3 Consultation with the Climate Change Team has taken place and a Carbon Impact Assessment has been completed which can be found at Appendix two.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 None

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Legal Risks
- Risk: Potential legal challenges related to the transfer of the allotment management responsibilities or disputes over leases, particularly concerning missing deeds or unregistered land.
 - Mitigation: Ensure comprehensive legal reviews are conducted prior to finalising any agreements. Maintaining open communication with legal and the RAA to address emerging issues promptly will help minimise this risk.

13.2 Financial Risks

- Risk: The RAA may face financial challenges if income from allotment rentals does not meet expectations or if costs exceed budgeted amounts.
- Mitigation: Conduct regular financial monitoring and analysis to identify trends and adjust financial forecasts and budgets as necessary.

13.3 Community Engagement Risks

- Risk: A lack of engagement from the community may lead to dissatisfaction or reduced participation in allotment activities.
- Mitigation: Foster community involvement by gaining feedback from allotment holders and local residents. Organise community events and workshops to promote the benefits of allotment gardening and encourage wider participation.

13.4 Human Resource Risks

- Risk: Dependence on a small number of staff or volunteers can lead to burnout or turnover, affecting the operation of the RAA.
- Mitigation: Develop a succession plan to ensure continuity in leadership and operations. Encourage volunteer participation and provide training to ensure a broader base of support for the RAA's activities.

13.5 Access and Inclusion Risks

- Risk: Failure to ensure that allotments are accessible and inclusive for all community members, particularly those with disabilities or from marginalised groups.
- Mitigation: Conduct accessibility audits of allotment sites and implement necessary improvements. Engage with diverse community groups to ensure that allotments meet the needs of all potential users.

Accountable Officer(s)

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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

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Rotherham Allotment Alliance Ltd

Annual Report 2023

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Introduction

As the Chairperson of Rotherham Allotments Alliance Ltd, I would like to extend a warm welcome to this year's Annual General Meeting. I appreciate your time and attention in reading this annual report, which outlines the operational activity of the Alliance in 2023.

I want to express my gratitude to all the hard-working directors who have dedicated their time and efforts to the alliance over the last twelve months. Their contributions have been invaluable.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Jamie for his support to me and the other board directors since his appointment.

The increasing cost of living is still affecting both members and the RAA. However, the alliance is financially stable and continues to budget carefully for a secure future. Moving forward, we face a new set of challenges in the next twelve months. Climate change is having a significant impact on gardening, with unpredictable rainfall and unseasonable temperatures. Legislative changes are also affecting the availability of pesticides and growing styles are changing to suit diverse lifestyles. We are entering an exciting era of allotment gardening, where we must collaborate to overcome the new challenges and benefit from the opportunities that come with them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Brian Steele

Chairperson - Rotherham Allotment Alliance Ltd



Site Statistics

All Sites	Total Plots	Let Plots	Unlettable Plots	Vacant Plots	Decommissioned Plots	Waiting List	Occupied (ex decom)
Grand Total	1343	1259	37	32	15	85	95%

Direct Managed	Total Plots	Let Plots	Unlettable Plots	Vacant Plots	Decommissioned Plots	Waiting List	Occupied (ex decom)
Avenue Road Allotments	73	69	2	1	1	11	96%
Greasbrough Allotments	89	85	1	3		10	96%
High Street Allotments	43	33	1	4	5	8	87%
Highfield Road Allotments	5	4		1		1	80%
Lowfield Avenue Allotments	14	9	5			4	64%
Moor Road Allotments	22	17	3	1	1	19	81%
Psalters Lane Allotments	9	7		2		1	78%
Rectory Field Allotments	64	52	5	5	2	14	84%
Rosehill Park Allotments	28	26		2		9	93%
St Leonards Road Allotments	14	14				8	100%
Grand Total	361	316	17	19	9	85	88%

Society Managed	Total Plots	Let Plots	Unlettable Plots	Vacant Plots	Decommissioned Plots	Waiting List	Occupied (ex decom)
Barnsley Road Allotments	58	54		3	1		95%
Broom Valley New Allotments	72	72					100%
Broom Valley Old Allotments	73	72		1			99%
Clifton Allotments	134	125	3	4	2		95%
Clough Bank Allotments	66	48	14	3	1		74%
Hartley Lane Allotments	148	148					100%
Herringthorpe Valley Road Allotments	105	105					100%
Kimberworth Park Allotments	32	32					100%
Queen Street North Allotments	32	32					100%
Queen Street South Allotments	48	48					100%
South Street Allotments	32	30	1		1		97%
Vicarage Field Allotments	53	49	2	2			92%
Wet Moor Lane Allotments	37	36			1		100%
Wharf Road Allotments	20	20					100%
Wood Street Allotments	72	72					100%
Grand Total	982	943	20	13	6		96%

*Society Site data is based on the static data provided to the RAA throughout the year.



Principal Achievements and Challenges

Principle achievements

Society / tenant forum meetings

The introduction of forum meetings has allowed tenants and societies to engage more with the RAA and discuss issues and ideas. It is hoped that the attendance of these meetings will improve with time.

Society forums	May	09 attended
	October	11 attended
Tenant forums	September	15 attended

Rotherham show

Attendance at the show was well-received by the public again this year. The competitions and free seed packets were popular with those who visited the stall. The show was promoted to both direct-managed and society tenants to encourage participation in the horticulture show.

New director appointment/roles

Sue Jackson was appointed to the role of treasurer. The appointment of Richard Watson filled the director vacancy. Richard is the treasurer of the Clifton Garden Allotment Society and has a wealth of experience and skills to benefit the RAA.

There is a vacancy for one Director on the board to be nominated by RMBC.

Principal challenges

Allotment support officer resignation

The Allotment Support Officer, Donna, resigned from the alliance in March of 2023 but continued to offer intermittent support to the board of Directors until a new officer was appointed. This support was greatly appreciated as well as the hard work of Directors covering the work required to

Society engagement

There are some societies that have not been actively involved with the RAA, while others have taken a more proactive approach. Although the society forums have been successful, there is still a need to improve relations between societies and the RAA. Due to limited sharing of data and reporting, the effectiveness of managing waiting lists across all sites is reduced. Society members may possess a wealth of information that has yet to be fully accessed for the benefit of all allotment tenants.

Tenant engagement

The previous ASO made significant progress in building a social media presence and other digital communication with tenants. This is a cost-effective and reliable method of engaging with those tenants who chose to access social media, email and the website. However, attendance at the AGM and shareholder forum was relatively low in relation to the total number of tenants. In summary, the flow of communication was from the RAA and to the tenants, suggesting a missed opportunity for useful tenant feedback and contributions.

Signing of the lease

The head lease could still not be finalised due to several outstanding issues raised by the solicitor. The majority of these have been resolved and it is hoped that the lease can be signed in 2024.



Summary of Works Completed



4 Sites had improvement work procured/completed to improve boundary security.

This includes fence and gate installation or repair.



Water drainage works were completed on **Moor Road Allotments**.

This will reduce water logging on site and allow unlettable plots to be tenanted.



4 Sites had urgent tree work completed.

Tree removal/reduction was necessary for the safety of tenants and site neighbours.



Shed doors were replaced at **South Street Allotments**.



14 skips were provided across sites, removing approximately 112m³ of waste from allotments.

Responsible waste management helped to reduce skip use compared to 2022.



Monthly rodent control across sites.

Operated by trained RAA directors and appointed volunteers.



Directors & Attendance

Directors	Brian Steele	Chair
	John Palmer	Vice Chair
	Jack Taylor	Secretary
	Sue Jackson	Treasurer
	Mick Hirst	
	Mohammed Sulleman	
	Richard Watson	

For RMBC	Councillor Dave Sheppard
	Vacancy

Director attendance at Board Meetings:

	Brian Steele	John Palmer	Jack Taylor	Mohammed Suleman	Mick Hirst	Cllr Dave Sheppard	Tess Sheen	Cllr Rachel Hughes	Sue Jackson	Richard Watson
06/02/2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	
13/02/2023	1	1	1	1	1		1			
20/03/2023	1	1	1		1	1				
17/04/2023	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	
22/05/2023	1	1	1	1	1	1				
12/06/2023	1	1			1	1	1		1	
17/07/2023	1	1	1	1	1	1				
21/08/2023	1	1	1			1			1	
04/09/2023	1	1	1	1	1				1	
16/10/2023	1	1	1		1	1			1	
13/11/2023	1	1			1	1			1	1
11/12/2023	1	1			1				1	1
Total Attendance	12	12	9	5	11	9	4	0	8	2
% Attendance	100%	100%	75%	42%	92%	75%	67%	0%	67%	100%



Policy Review and Amendments

Financial Regulations

- A.2. amended the wording to reflect current processes e.g. Quickbooks, cashless
- A.3. clarified the retention timescale.
- A.3. specified Voluntary Action Rotherham as an accountant.
- A.5.f removal of the requirement for biannual internal auditing.
- C. clarification of wording to align with RAA preference for electronic finance and banking.
- D. remove requirement for a separate purchase order register since the QuickBooks integration.
- D. amendments and clarification to authorisation limits:
 - ASO delegated spending authority is to increase to £300 net.
 - The £500 approval limit is to increase to £1,500 net.
 - Orders over £1,500 net require approval of the board or relevant subcommittee.
- E. updated to reflect use of Quickbooks, clarified cheque payment requirements.
- F. wording update to amend “will be maintained” to “will be permitted”, regarding petty cash
- I. addition of “buildings” to asset register in preparation of contract completion.
- K.1. clarified the retention timescale.
- K.2. removed section referring to duplicate records, no longer relevant
- L. reworded to remove reference to policy introduction.
- M. integrated section as previously approved.

Document reformatted to align section numbering and introduce contents.

Data Policy

New policy document introduced to meet GDPR requirements.
This policy replaces the confidentiality policy.

Waiting List Policy

New policy document to clarify the existing waiting list process.

Business Plan

The business plan for 2024 has been developed.



Future Plans

The Rotherham Allotment Alliance is committed to enhancing the allotment experience for our community members. As we look ahead, we have identified several key priorities to address:

Plot Clearance of Unused Plots

Clearing unused plots will not only improve the overall appearance but also create opportunities for new gardeners. Significant work has already been completed to return unused plots to a cultivatable state. However, there are still 37 plots across sites listed as unlettable. Plots being vacated with historic waste left behind will require clearance to enable new tenants the best opportunity to succeed.

Path Repairs and Improvement

Well-maintained pathways are essential for safe and convenient access to allotments. Due to increasing vehicle use on sites, some paths have been significantly degraded. We will prioritize repairing existing paths where a health and safety risk is present. Enhancing will be considered where the benefit is improved access, durability, or cost-effectiveness of maintaining the site.

Site Security

Ensuring the security of our allotment sites is paramount. We will explore measures such as improved fencing, locks, and temporary CCTV surveillance to safeguard our sites. Priority will be given to sites experiencing security issues where standard precautions are unsuccessful.

Health and Safety, Including Developing an Asbestos Policy

The well-being of our allotment users is crucial. We will develop health and safety guidelines relating to Asbestos in a new policy.

Tenant Survey with a Focus on Encouraging Diversity

We value the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of our allotment tenants. Through a survey, we will actively seek feedback and ideas to promote inclusivity and celebrate our community's richness.

Engaging More Actively with Societies

Collaborating with societies fosters knowledge sharing and camaraderie. We will actively engage with societies through the continuation of the forums and the introduction of dedicated web pages.

Engaging Better to Support New Tenants

We will develop a new strategy, guided by tenant feedback, to support new tenants in the first steps of their allotment journey. This will encompass improvements to the existing new tenant documentation and website. The RAA will explore options for knowledge-sharing events.



Finance Report

The Alliance has continued to use the services of the Voluntary Action Rotherham Community Accountant. This has enabled for the accounts to be reviewed professionally and help to identify where any improvements could be made in the financial practices.

The following summary pages are extracted from the annual accounts:

Rotherham Allotments Alliance Limited
Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	Total	Total
	£	£
Income:		
Rent	67,471	63,686
Water charges	3,664	2,447
Grant income	2 -	1,086
Capital re-imbursement	25	480
Membership	3	3
Bank interest	145	36
Total income	<u>71,308</u>	<u>67,738</u>
Expenditure		
Staff wages	3 17,256	17,425
Staff expenses	338	669
Repairs and maintenance	26,798	38,080
Security, keys, locks and gates	857	2,251
Pest control	1,279	2,458
Water	3,130	3,936
Directors expenses	-	60
Memberships and subscriptions	1,805	1,792
Insurance	932	352
IT and Communications	808	1,448
Admin expenses	476	1,182
Printing, postage & stationery	778	660
Marketing	-	159
Sundry purchases	60	235
Legal & professional fees	550	4,838
Depreciation	744	1,297
Total expenditure	<u>55,809</u>	<u>76,842</u>
Net income/expenditure	15,499	(9,104)
Total funds brought forward	36,453	45,557
Total funds carried forward	<u>51,952</u>	<u>36,453</u>



Rotherham Allotments Alliance Limited
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	4	5,181	5,923
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	1,390	1,382
Cash		71,825	31,950
		<u>73,215</u>	<u>33,331</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	6	(26,444)	(2,801)
Net assets		<u>51,952</u>	<u>36,453</u>
Represented by:			
General Funds		51,952	36,453
Total funds		<u>51,952</u>	<u>36,453</u>

Full financial details are available to view in the annual accounts.

There is an underspend of funds in 2023 due to the absence of an allotment support officer. These funds have been ringfenced for allocation in addition to the 2024 budget projection.



Rotherham Allotments Alliance Ltd Budget Overview

Expenses summary		2024		2025		2026	
Payroll	£	25,330.00	£	26,571.50	£	27,875.08	
Finance Costs	£	-	£	-	£	-	
Repair and Maintenance	£	35,667.50	£	37,450.88	£	39,323.42	
Office / General Expenditures	£	5,012.50	£	5,289.75	£	5,584.03	
Other Misc. Service Costs	£	657.50	£	690.38	£	724.89	
Advertising / Promotional	£	210.00	£	220.50	£	231.53	
Memberships	£	2,500.00	£	2,625.00	£	2,756.25	
Insurance	£	3,150.00	£	3,307.50	£	3,472.88	
Utilities	£	3,500.00	£	3,700.00	£	3,900.00	
Total Expenses	£	76,027.50	£	79,855.50	£	83,868.06	

Income		2024		2025		2026	
Societies	£	47,505.00	£	49,880.25	£	52,374.26	
Direct Managed	£	24,315.00	£	25,530.75	£	26,807.29	
Grazing	£	1,638.00	£	1,719.90	£	1,805.90	
Water	£	4,500.00	£	3,500.00	£	3,700.00	
Total Income	£	77,958.00	£	80,630.90	£	84,687.45	

Total Income		2024		2025		2026	
Net Income/(Expenditure)	£	1,930.50	£	775.40	£	819.38	



Summary

The last twelve months have been a difficult period for the Alliance with the changeover of ASO taking longer than anticipated, which put great pressure on the Directors to maintain day-to-day operations, especially concerning directly managed sites. This had a knock-on effect, in that the Board had intended to undertake more of a strategic role, look at funding opportunities and develop an agenda for future improvement work and development across all sites. Having now filled the ASO position it is hoped that the Board can now progress this work during the forthcoming years. With strategic use of the revenue from rents, applied skills and knowledge from Board members and advice from governing bodies, the Alliance will be able to offer continued improvement of the allotment provision in the Rotherham area.

Health and Safety, the clearing of remaining unlettable plots and removing historic waste will be a continuing priority, sourcing outside funding where required for specific projects. The education and encouragement of good gardening practices will be focused on, with regular inspections ensuring that tenants are working their plots effectively.

The strengthening of the relationship between the RAA, societies and tenants will continue with the bi-annual society forum and shareholder meetings and information and advice will be shared where appropriate.

Cost-reducing measures including emailing invoices, have been successful and will be monitored for effectiveness.

Waste removal is still one of the biggest issues on the sites and will continue in 2024.

Ground maintenance quality of work on sites has raised concerns and will need to be carefully monitored.

Demand for plots has still been high and waitlists for direct-managed sites have been managed accordingly.

The ASO remains to be a point of contact for all current and future tenants and will be responsible for promoting the sustainability of the allotment provision for future generations.

2023 saw unexpected challenges due to the resignation of the Allotment Support Officer. Directors volunteered to cover core tasks in the time taken to recruit a new ASO. This allowed continued service but in the absence of an ASO, some projects and goals were inevitably delayed. The appointment of a new ASO, brings a different skill set and renewed energy, supporting the RAA's future growth and development.

Appendix 2

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from transport?	Yes	The Council has a Statutory Responsibility to provide local allotment facilities. This provision enables communities to reduce their carbon footprint.	Through the provision of local allotment facilities there is a reduction in food miles as a result of enabling people to not only grow their own but to share surplus produce locally within their community	N/A	N/A
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Yes	Through the provision of local allotment facilities and community food sharing programmes, food waste will be reduced.	Through the provision of local allotment facilities and community food sharing programmes, food waste will be reduced.	N/A	N/A
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:					
All impacts are included above.					

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The RAA provides a positive impact in support of the Council's Climate Agenda aiming to reduce emissions and develop better habits related to food waste, through the provision of facilities for food to be grown locally, which in turn reduces food miles.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Zoe Oxley, Head of Operations and Business Transformation Culture, Sport & Tourism
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

Public Report
Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 22 October 2024

Report Title

Section 19 Report for Storm Babet

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge – Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Richard Jackson, Head of Highways and Flood Risk

Richard.Jackson@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, has carried out an investigation into the incidents of flooding caused by Storm Babet in October 2023 and prepared the Section 19 report. This report details how the flooding occurred, which risk management authority is responsible and what can be done to reduce the risk in the future.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the Report is noted by the Improving Places Select Commission.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Section 19 – Storm Babet

Appendix 2 FAQ – Storm Babet

Appendix 3 Community Engagement Events.

Appendix 4 Presentation

Background Papers

The section 19 is a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Section 19 Report for Storm Babet

1. Background

- 1.1 Storm Babet resulted in the most severe and widespread disruptive weather impacts of 2023. Multiple severe flood warnings were issued by the Environment Agency. Over 1000 homes in England were also affected by flooding across Yorkshire, the East Midlands and the Humber area. Yorkshire recorded its wettest 3-day period on record. This rain came on top of very wet weather earlier in October with some central and eastern parts of England recording more than twice the October whole month average rainfall in the first three weeks of the month. Rotherham Borough was heavily affected across the catchment, with internal flooding to 182 properties and 9 businesses. 148 properties were affected in the Catcliffe and Treeton area alone.
- 1.2 Under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Part 1.3 Section 19), as the LLFA, RMBC has the duty to investigate flood incidents and publish the results of the investigation.

The act states that:

On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a LLFA must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate.

- a) which RMA 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.

Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must

- a) publish the results of its investigation.
- b) notify any relevant risk management authorities.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Rotherham Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy states that a Section 19 investigation will be carried out if there are 5 or more properties flooded internally. Rotherham Council has adopted the Planning Portal definition relating to internal flooding. This defines a habitable room, above floor level. It states 'any room used or intended to be used for sleeping, cooking, living, or eating purposes. Enclosed spaces such as bath or toilet facilities, service rooms, corridors, laundries, hallways, utility rooms or similar spaces are excluded from this definition'. 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 have relevant flood risk management functions, and
 - b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Within the document several options have been considered for reducing flood risk for the areas affected by Storm Babet. A brief overview is highlighted below, the full explanation of the options can be found in the Community Flood Information Sheet for each area.

3.2 Catcliffe

Options to reduce the risk of future flooding are currently being investigated, and the Council is committed to funding three option appraisals to determine the most effective solution. These studies will be conducted as a desktop analysis to identify the best approach and are expected to be completed within 12 months. Following this, consideration will be given to the benefits of bringing the chosen option to a completed design, which will include:

- The feasibility study (a study to determine the viability and the benefits)
- Surveys and investigations for ecology, environmental, topographic and ground conditions
- Calculations
- Scheme design drawings (outline and detailed)
- Third party approvals (Environment Agency, utility companies, etc.)
- Landowner agreements
- Planning applications

Similar complex flood alleviation schemes have been delivered through the Councils 'Shovel Ready' project and have taken 3 years to reach pre construction detailed design.

Option 1 Upstream storage of storm water outside of the Rotherham catchment area to reduce peak flows of water within the River Rother.

Option 2 Increase the standard of protection defences around Catcliffe and Treeton Village.

Option 3 Alterations to the existing bridge on Treeton Lane to improve the flow path of the River Rother.

A Flood Alleviation Scheme to construct a new pumping station will have all designs and plans completed by April 2025. The pumping station will over pump surface water from the catchment area into the River Rother when levels in the river make this unachievable naturally (by gravity feed). This scheme will not reduce the risk of flooding from the River Rother but automate the existing pumping regime and allow better use of the Councils resources.

Whiston

- 3.3 A Flood Alleviation Scheme will start in late 2025, subject to approvals and legal agreements. The scheme aims to provide upstream storage of storm water, natural flood management measures and watercourse improvements to help mitigate flooding in Whiston.

Laughton Common

- 3.4 A Flood Alleviation Scheme will start in late 2025, subject to approvals and legal agreements. The scheme aims to provide upstream storage and watercourse improvements to help mitigate flooding in Laughton Common.

Various Other Affected Areas

- 3.5 Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised to avoid internal flooding over area flooding. Initial investigations have been carried out and schemes are currently being designed.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Section 19 report is a stand-alone document and will not be subject to further review or consultation. The council have committed to investigate the full next steps and have a detailed outline of the feasibility of the next steps within 12 months.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Next Steps to be reviewed by June 2025.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 No Financial or procurement implications.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Pitt Review was published in 2008 following the catastrophic floods in 2007 which resulted in 13 fatalities and widespread destruction. The review contained 92 recommendations from lessons learnt. These were addressed to the government, local authorities, Local Resilience Forums (LRF), insurers, the public, and providers of essential services.

In response to the Pitt Review, a new Act of Parliament called The Flood and Water Management Act was implemented.

The Flood and Water Management Act was published in 2010 to take forward the Pitt Review recommendations and create a national approach to flood risk management across England and Wales. The creation of Lead

Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) formed part of the Act along with Risk Management Authorities (RMA) all of whom have responsibilities in the management of flood risk. As the LLFA, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is responsible for the coordination and management of local flood risk (ordinary watercourses, surface water, and groundwater) and is required to work in cooperation with relevant authorities and RMAs. Other agencies and authorities defined as the RMAs (Part 1.1 Section 6) included for the purpose of this rainfall event:

- Environment Agency
- Yorkshire Water
- Severn Trent Water

Under Section 19 of the act (Part 1.3 Section 19), as the LLFA, RMBC has the duty to investigate flood incidents and publish the results of the investigation.

The act states that:

On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a LLFA must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate

- a) which RMA 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.

Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must

- a) publish the results of its investigation.
- b) notify any relevant risk management authorities.

The extent to which a particular flood is investigated is determined on a case-by case basis considering factors such as the source, duration, geographical spread, and severity of impact. In some circumstances, a flood enquiry triggers a formal investigation. The trigger for a formal investigation is when the enquiry meets or exceeds locally agreed criteria. Previous Section 19 reports can be found on the Rotherham Council website.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 No HR Implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 No Implications for Children, young people and vulnerable adults.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The Section 19 investigation looks at how to reduce flood risk to properties that was affected in October 2023 from Storm Babet this will provide a reduction to flood risk for residents, businesses and critical infrastructure, including schools, highways, and other public transport links within the Borough.

All residents, businesses, local Councillors and relevant stakeholders are consulted prior to the delivery of schemes, which includes the submission of planning applications where needed. All queries relating to access to properties or businesses are considered in the provision of the works. All additional requirements required to meet any specific needs of a group or individual during the delivery of our works will be accommodated, where practical and appropriate.

The Council will liaise with the various media outlets and social media portals, including the Council website, to make the wider community aware of the proposed, provide a method for interested parties to influence works and allow regular updates during the progress of the next steps.

The Council has already engaged with communities through Parish/Town Councils in workshops, distributed newsletters to residents and businesses previously affected by flooding, as well as engagement with stakeholders, landowners and residents where applicable in the environmental and engineering surveys for the schemes.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no CO₂ Emissions or Climate Change implications associated with this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Consultation with all key stake holders have taken place including the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Severn Trent Water

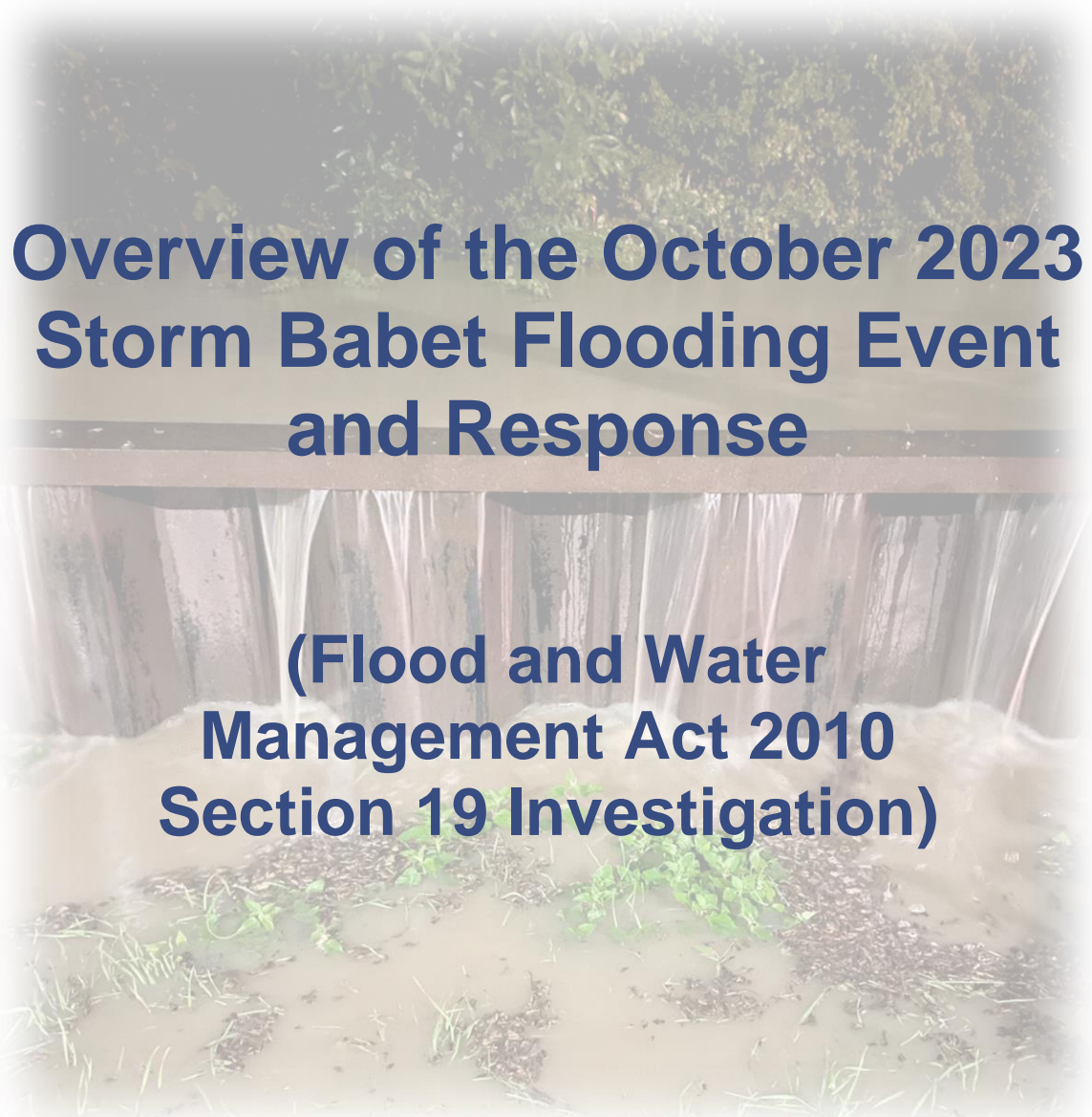
13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 No Risk identified.

*Report Author: Richard.Jackson, Head of Highways and Flood Risk.
Richard.Jackson@rotherham.gov.uk*

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

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The background of the page is a faded photograph. It shows a metal grate, likely a storm drain cover, with water flowing over it. In the background, there are green trees. The foreground shows some muddy ground with small green plants.

Overview of the October 2023 Storm Babet Flooding Event and Response

**(Flood and Water
Management Act 2010
Section 19 Investigation)**

Addressed to Residents and Risk Management Authorities (RMA's)

Title: Publication of the Section 19 Report and Community Flood Information Relating to Storm Babet October 2023.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), has a responsibility under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to investigate significant flood incidents in its area. Section 19 states:

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 have relevant flood risk management functions, and
- b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

Information included:

- Section 19 Flood Investigation – Legislative information around flood risk management responsibility and technical in nature and language.
- History of Flooding – Previous flood events and impacts
- Connected by Water update – Partnership working across the full catchment of South Yorkshire
- Flood Alleviation Scheme Update – 6 priority flood alleviation schemes and what has been built at present.
- Community Flood Information Sheets – Localised flooding information specific to your community relating to Storm Babet (October 2023) this will include works that have been delivered, and future works to reduce flood risk within the community.

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Part One: General Overview of the October 2023 Flooding Event and Response

Executive Summary

Storm Babet

Between the 18th and 21st of October 2023, Storm Babet brought major flooding to many areas across the UK. Some central and eastern parts of England recorded more than twice the October whole-month average rainfall in the first three weeks of the month.

Multiple severe flood warnings were issued by the Environment Agency across the country. Over 1000 homes in England were affected by flooding across Yorkshire, Derbyshire, the East Midlands and the Humber area. Sadly at least seven people were reported to have lost their lives across the Country as a result of the storm.

Yorkshire recorded its wettest 3-day period on record. This rain came after the area had already experienced very wet weather earlier in October.

The weather system which brought Storm Babet to the UK was unusual, meaning the accuracy for forecasting the intensity and movement of the event was challenging on a national, regional and local level. Atlantic storm systems affecting the UK in the autumn and winter months normally track west to east driven by the jet stream, clearing eastwards fairly quickly. In contrast, this storm was on an unusual track from south to north, enabling it to pick up additional moisture as it crossed the Bay of Biscay. Babet was also unable to clear eastward into the North Sea due to a blocking area of high pressure across Scandinavia. The rain-bearing fronts therefore remained stationary across eastern Scotland for a prolonged period before moving back across England and Wales, concentrating prolonged, intense and heavy rain over many areas.

Impact on Rotherham

The additional heavy rainfall during Storm Babet caused surface water flooding, and extensive road closures were needed around the Borough. In total 182 homes and 9 business were impacted by internal flooding. The community most affected by flooding were Catcliffe and Treeton Villages from the River Rother, where 148 properties were flooded, and many residents evacuated from their homes. Whiston also had significant number of properties impacted with 11 residential homes suffering internal flooding and Laughton Common was similarly affected with 7 residential properties suffering internal flooding, as did 16 further properties spread across the Borough.

The financial and emotional costs of both the immediate impact and longer-term consequences of this flooding to those residents and business owners affected cannot be underestimated. For many it has meant moving out of properties for long periods, bringing additional stress and financial burden to an already heartbreaking situation. For residents who live in areas at high risk of flooding, moving back into properties will bring anxiety relating to possible risk of future flooding due to

evermore unpredictable high intensity rainfall events, exacerbated by climate change.

Response and Recovery

From the arrival of Storm Babet to the UK and ahead of any localised impacts, the Council had carried out a critical list of cleansing activities around known flooding hotspot areas to ensure that surface water could escape promptly. The Council also set up a 24-hour rota for the Drainage and Highways Team and liaised extensively with the Environment Agency and other partners, to ensure that there was a shared understanding of the storm event. The Council deployed staff to monitor river levels, watercourses and rainfall data on the ground, across the Borough. Whilst it is important to note that main rivers such as the River Rother are the responsibility of the Environment Agency, the Council did maintain oversight of all sites across the Borough.

At 09:00 on Friday 20 October, the Council held a readiness meeting to ensure all relevant Council services were prepared for the upcoming rainfall event in Rotherham. This was due to concerns following the Met Office issuing an Amber weather warning. The Council's tactical management meetings continued to be held hourly following the readiness meeting and throughout the event and into recovery. At 10:00 Council officers set up pumps at Catcliffe to over pump surface water from the catchment area, which is standard practice in such events.

The Council called a meeting with the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum, which took place at 14:00, bringing together The Council, Environment Agency, Fire and Rescue, Police and other Local Resilience Forum members, following which a Multi-Agency Major Incident for South Yorkshire was declared at 17:32. A major incident is defined as an event which is likely to involve serious harm, damage, disruption or risk to human life or welfare.

At 10:30am on the 20th October a multi agency flood advisory service call was received by the Environment Agency updating all on the forecast rainfall and operational activities. Following this at 22:00, the Council called a local meeting between the Council and The Environment Agency (EA) in which the EA stated that the peak flow, which means the highest levels of water in the River Rother had passed and water levels were due to fall at 02:00 on Saturday 21st October, and levels were not expected to reach the top of the flood wall at Catcliffe.. Notwithstanding this latest information provided by the EA, the Council remained on site closely monitoring river levels and undertaking pumping operations. The Council continued to deploy relevant staff to monitor or take actions in various areas across the Borough.

At approximately 02:15 on Saturday 21st October, Council employees on site at Catcliffe, who were managing the surface water pumps at the side of the River Rother, noticed water seeping from the river through the vertical slots in the metal sheet piling and beginning to pond on Orgreave Road. This flooding rendered the surface water pumps ineffective due to them being deployed for surface water flooding and not river flooding. Officers raised the alarm with Senior Management in

the Council regarding the rising water levels and the potential for the River Rother to overtop the defence wall. In such circumstances, the Council, as well as other partners, have a legal duty to 'Warn and Inform' the public of the risks. In order to fulfil these responsibilities and ensure residents safety, the Council worked closely with the Fire and Rescue Service on site to take immediate action and provide advice to properties at risk in the area.

Council employees and the Fire and Rescue Service advised Catcliffe residents to evacuate their homes.

The Council, working with the Parish Council, established Catcliffe Memorial Hall as a rest centre for evacuated residents. Council Officers were deployed at the hall to provide immediate welfare, transport, assistance and support.

The actual peak flow of water in the River Rother remained at its highest level until 23:59 on Saturday 21st October 2023, 22 hours after the predicted peak level given by the Environment Agency. Tactical co-ordination meetings continued to be held by the Environment Agency throughout the 21st and 22nd of October

The South Yorkshire Multi Agency Major Incident was stood down at 12:32 on Tuesday 24th October 2023, due to flood levels continuing to recede and the threat of flooding diminishing. It is important to note that a Major Incident covers the period of acute response to an incident. When the Major Incident is stood down, a Recovery Process begins or continues. Throughout the incident and in the following days, the Council continued to increase its resources on the ground, with Council Officers based at Catcliffe Memorial Hall providing residents with welfare and practical support, and wider services mounting a significant clean-up operation to restore critical infrastructure and public areas.

Citizens Advice Rotherham, RotherFed, The Environment Agency and Voluntary Action Rotherham were also in attendance at Catcliffe Memorial Hall to offer support to residents affected by the flooding.

During the flooding response and recovery, the Council supported 162 visitors at the Memorial Hall rest centre until it was finally stood down at the end of February 2024 as a result of reduced demand for support from residents.

Further to the support and advice offered at the Memorial Hall rest centre, Council officers worked around the clock to deliver an ongoing programme of recovery: -

- Providing immediate housing support and advice as well as temporary accommodation for 17 households and longer-term relocation for 8 households into Council Housing.
- Ensuring the provision of crisis food to meet resident needs.
- Providing a dedicated store and distribution hub for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which was made freely available to affected residents (distributing over 5000 items of PPE).
- Managing donations of and the distribution of much needed clothing.

- Carrying out Health and Wellbeing visits (door knocks) direct to residents' homes.
- Setting up an onsite collection point at Catcliffe Memorial Hall where additional supplies were stored for residents to use.
- Organised the process for financial donations from local businesses and community groups, direct to residents for aid in recovery.
- Providing regular updates and signposting further advice and support through ward e-bulletins and across its digital channels.
- Deploying Grounds Maintenance and Street Scene operatives for over 1,800 hours to aid the recovery operation around the Borough to:
 - Provide assistance with the clean-up and removal of damaged goods from homes and businesses.
 - Carry out daily road sweeping activities and cleansing and maintenance of Council land.
 - Provide community skips for the disposal of flood damaged items (in place until the end of January, removing over 32 tonnes) and providing additional follow-up street cleansing in affected areas.
- Set up a dedicated webform for residents who still had damaged flood items left to dispose of to request their removal.
- Distributed £181,000 of grants to residents from local Council and Government grant schemes to support recovery.
- Granted a total of 204 properties Council tax discount.

The Council has also invested £11.3 million to progress the 6 priority flood alleviation schemes, the details of which feature in the following section.

The Community Flood Information Sheets provide more in-depth detail of the event in each affected area. This document also contains the Section 19 Report which the Council (acting as LLFA) has a statutory duty to produce and details the source of flooding and if the relevant risk management authority carried out its duty appropriately.

Summary of Next Steps by Area

Within the document several options have been considered for reducing flood risk for the areas affected by Storm Babet. A brief overview is highlighted below, the full explanation of the options can be found in the Community Flood Information Sheet for each area.

Catcliffe

Options to reduce the risk of future flooding are currently being investigated, and the Council is committed to funding three option appraisals to determine the most effective solution. These studies will be conducted as a desktop analysis to identify the best approach and are expected to be completed within 12 months. Following this, consideration will be given to the benefits of bringing the chosen option to a completed design, which will include:

- The feasibility study (a study to determine the viability and the benefits)
- Surveys and investigations for ecology, environmental, topographic and ground conditions
- Calculations
- Scheme design drawings (outline and detailed)
- Third party approvals (Environment Agency, utility companies, etc.)
- Landowner agreements
- Planning applications

Similar complex flood alleviation schemes have been delivered through the Councils 'Shovel Ready' project and have taken 3 years to reach pre construction detailed design.

- Option 1 Upstream storage of storm water outside of the Rotherham catchment area to reduce peak flows of water within the River Rother.
- Option 2 Increase the standard of protection defences around Catcliffe and Treeton Village.
- Option 3 Alterations to the existing bridge on Treeton Lane to improve the flow path of the River Rother.

A Flood Alleviation Scheme to construct a new pumping station will have all designs and plans completed by April 2025. The pumping station will over pump surface water from the catchment area into the River Rother when levels in the river make this unachievable naturally (by gravity feed). This scheme will not reduce the risk of flooding from the River Rother but automate the existing pumping regime and allow better use of the Councils resources.

At present, funding for the construction phase has not been secured. Nevertheless, the Council is actively seeking funding from various sources to facilitate the construction of this scheme.

Whiston

A Flood Alleviation Scheme will start in late 2025, subject to approvals and legal agreements. The scheme aims to provide upstream storage of storm water, natural flood management measures and watercourse improvements to help mitigate flooding in Whiston.

Laughton Common

A Flood Alleviation Scheme will start in late 2025, subject to approvals and legal agreements. The scheme aims to provide upstream storage and watercourse improvements to help mitigate flooding in Laughton Common.

Various Other Affected Areas

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised to avoid internal flooding over area flooding. Initial investigations have been carried out and schemes are currently being designed.

Incident Overview by Area

The Council is responsible as the Lead Local Flood Authority for managing and investigating surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater flooding. The Environment Agency is responsible for managing and maintaining all main rivers including the River Rother.

Catcliffe

On the 18th of October, Council officers were closely monitoring the emerging situation, with Senior Officers engaged in planning and overseeing related operational activities. On the 19th of October, Council Officers were despatched to Catcliffe to prepare a pumping operation. As the River Rother rises to a pre-determined level, a gate on the side of the river (called a Penstock) closes. The Penstock is operated and maintained by the Environment Agency. This was implemented after the devastating 2007 floods to prevent flooding from the surface water system. Without the Penstock, water from the river can flow in reverse back through the surface water pipes and out of road gullies. With the Penstock closed water is redirected into specially designed pumping chambers and the mobile pumps then lift the water out of these chambers, over the wall, and back into the river. Although Rotherham had experienced heavy rainfall during storm Babet, the pumps only needed to be operated intermittently initially. The Council were monitoring river levels around the borough at this time, and we were in regular contact with the Environment Agency and other key partners.

The Council continued to operate the mobile pumps throughout the 19th and 20th of October, and this controlled the level of surface water in the system, so preventing surface water flooding on roads affecting drives and homes.

At 22:00, the Council called a local meeting between the Council and The Environment Agency (EA) in which the EA stated that the peak flow, which means the highest levels of water in the River Rother had passed and water levels were due to fall at 02:00 on Saturday 21st October, and levels were not expected to reach the top of the flood wall at Catcliffe. Notwithstanding this latest information provided by the EA, the Council remained on site closely monitoring river levels and undertaking pumping operations. The Council continued to deploy relevant staff to monitor or take actions in various areas across the Borough.

The Council Staff on site who were managing the surface water pumps, witnessed water seeping from the river under the metal capping near the top of the sheet piled flood defence and beginning to pond on Orgreave Road at around 2:15am on the 21st of October.

The actual peak flow of water in the River Rother remained at its highest level until 23:59 on Saturday 21st October 2023, Tactical co-ordination meetings continued to be held by the Environment Agency throughout the 21st and 22nd of October 22 hours after the predicted peak level given by the Environment Agency. The Council's Principal Drainage Engineer was on site and, supported by Senior Officers working throughout the night to oversee the response Rotherham Council employees and the Fire and Rescue Service advised residents to evacuate their homes.

The river water then overtopped the capping of the flood defence wall at around 02:45am spreading across Orgreave Road and towards properties. The emergency services and Council Officers began evacuating properties at around 04:45am and the Council's pumps were disconnected at 5am and moved to higher ground.

In total 140 residential properties and 5 businesses were flooded in the Catcliffe. This was due to the River Rother overtopping the existing flood defence wall.

Treeton

In Treeton all three connecting roads were submerged by surface water flooding at points during Friday 20th October 2023. The route from Aughton along Treeton Lane / Wood Lane was still accessible by large vehicles or 4x4's. Council employees worked to fulfil sandbag requests received from concerned residents who witnessed flood water from the River Rother spreading further up Mill Lane and towards properties. 8 properties in Treeton were flooded from the River Rother.

Relevant to Catcliffe & Treeton

For Catcliffe and Treeton Villages the impacts of the flood have been devastating. The Council has met with the Environment Agency (EA) many times since October 2023 and continues to urge the EA to investigate what further defences can be implemented in Catcliffe and Treeton to reduce the risk of future events exceeding the existing defence.

The actual peak flow of water in the River Rother remained at its highest level until 23:59 on Saturday 21st October 2023, 22 hours after the predicted peak level given by the Environment Agency. The Council's Principal Drainage Engineer was on site and, supported by Senior Officers working throughout the night to oversee the response Rotherham Council employees and the Fire and Rescue Service advised residents to evacuate their homes.

Community feedback directed at the EA highlights concerns about the regulators managing the flow of the River Rother and whether these were operated effectively during storm Babet. The regulators are operated to prevent the River Rother peak

levels from coinciding with those of the River Don. If these peaks were to align, it could result in severe flooding in the centre of Rotherham and impact communities further along the River Rother corridor, extending in to Doncaster.

The 3 regulators are based in Canklow, Woodhouse Mill, and Meadowgate (which is in Rother Valley Country Park). During storm Babet, Meadowgate was undergoing necessary refurbishment and as such was out of commission. The other two regulators were operated during the event.

Since Storm Babet, The Environment Agency have modelled rainfall scenarios along the River Rother as part of their routine post incident investigation to demonstrate that having all three regulators working would not have prevented flooding to Catcliffe and Treeton. The intensity of the storm was over the 1 in 75 return period that exceeded the current Catcliffe flood defence wall. The Council will continue to work with the EA to seek more action to reduce the risk of flooding to properties where they hold the responsibility for managing flood risk. It is accepted that flooding can never be fully prevented, however the Council and the Environment Agency are committed to doing everything possible to ensuring communities are further protected, more resilient and at lower risk in future.

Whiston

Whiston Brook is classed as a main river and a rapid response catchment, and the Environment Agency has responsibility for managing flood risk.

Rainfall from Storm Babet landing on saturated agricultural catchment ground led to significant rises in the river level of Whiston Brook causing it to overflow. Internal flooding affected 10 properties from the river and 1 from surface water.

The Council worked throughout the period of Storm Babet delivering sandbags to try to protect properties. The scale of the event meant resources were stretched and some requests could not be fulfilled during the event. Sandbags offer limited protection, and it is likely that the flooding would have occurred regardless of the presence of sandbags; due to the high river levels and surface water flowing from already saturated ground.

Laughton Common

This area is surrounded by existing watercourses that flow through the housing estate and across Monksbridge Road in a mixture of culverted and open watercourses. The catchment is very flat with limited fall on the watercourses. During previous heavy rainfall events, water in the slow-moving watercourses rises and has regularly overtopped leading to flooding of properties. This has happened on many occasions prior to storm Babet.

During storm Babet the water level in Eel Mires Dike rose and exceeded the capacity of the watercourse leading to flooding of local roads and 7 residential properties.

The Council attended and laid out sandbags to try to direct water away from properties in what is now a familiar routine.

Other Areas of Rotherham Where Property Flooding Occurred

Storm Babet led to extensive surface water flooding of roads and properties around Rotherham. The large area of the borough affected highlights the magnitude of the challenges faced by residents and the Council responding to the event. Properties were flooded in the areas below:

- Kimberworth
- Stone Village (near Maltby)
- Kiveton Park
- Ravenfield
- North Anston
- Thurcroft
- Woodsetts
- Brinsworth
- Firbeck
- Thorpe Salvin
- Canklow
- Treeton (Separate to river flooding, located in East of Treeton Village)

In many areas existing drainage systems were overwhelmed leading to surface water runoff onto properties. The Council has investigated the causation of the properties that flooded internally to carry out our statutory duties as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) but also (where possible) to identify improvement schemes that can reduce the risk in future.

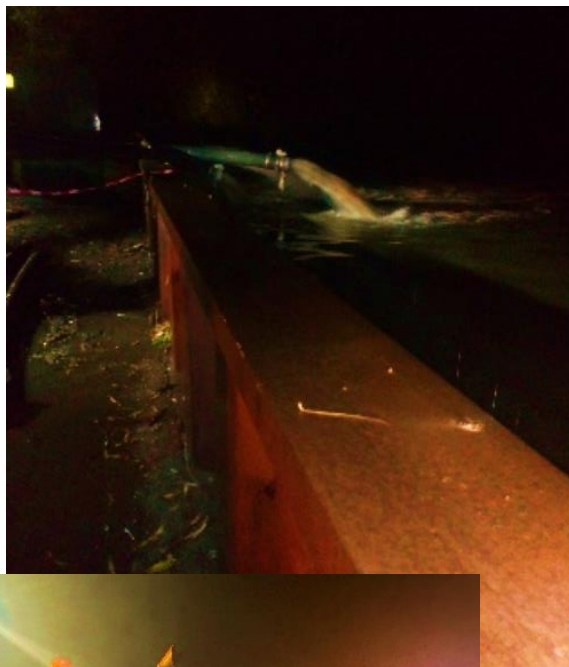
The Council has committed £1.2m over 4 years to invest in improving and upgrading highway drainage systems in areas across the Borough to reduce risk to properties from surface water flooding. The team are currently investigating and designing schemes at various locations across the Borough. The annual delivery programme will be published on the Councils website within the Highway Asset Management Programme - <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/roads-pavements/highways-asset-management>

Council Response

Following the receipt of the Amber weather warning for 19th October 2023 the Council deployed staff to monitor river levels, watercourses and rainfall data including working with the Environment Agency both on the ground and around the Borough. The Council operated around the clock throughout the event to support residents, deliver sandbags, and help the Community during the recovery phase.

Rotherham Council received over 550 resident reports of flooding within Storm Babet, The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers, and delivering sandbags as required. Pumps were set up at Catcliffe to over pump surface water from the catchment at 10am on 20th October 2023.

The Council distributed over 5000 sandbags throughout the storm event and over pumped more than 4 million litres of surface water from Catcliffe.





Response Timeline



18th October 2023

19th October 2023

21st October 2023

Rotherham Council set up shift patterns and monitored rainfall forecast and river levels.

Rotherham Council deployed pumps to reduce the surface water flooding from the catchment.
Rotherham Council

(2:00am)

River Rother began seeping through the flood defences before overtopping began. After a flood alert was issued at

(2:15am)

The Environment Agency issued a flood warning. To inform residents of possible imminent flooding. 02:34am

(4:00am)

Rotherham Council and Fire Rescue services began aiding residents in evacuating their homes following the

154 properties were evacuated by the multi-agency team.

teams monitored the situation 24 hours per day throughout the event.	09:52 am on the 20 th .	The Council contacted Fire and Rescue to attend site and support with warning and informing the public.	necessary planning and resourcing.
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Council Recovery

Community Engagement

From the 22nd of October 2023 to the 30th of January 2024, 23 newsletters were sent out to residents through the Neighbourhoods team. These provided updates in terms of flooding, available grants, disposal of flood items and support.

[Trouble viewing this email? Click here to view it in your browser.](#)



NEWS FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
ROTHER VALE WARD EDITION

Flood update

30 October 2023

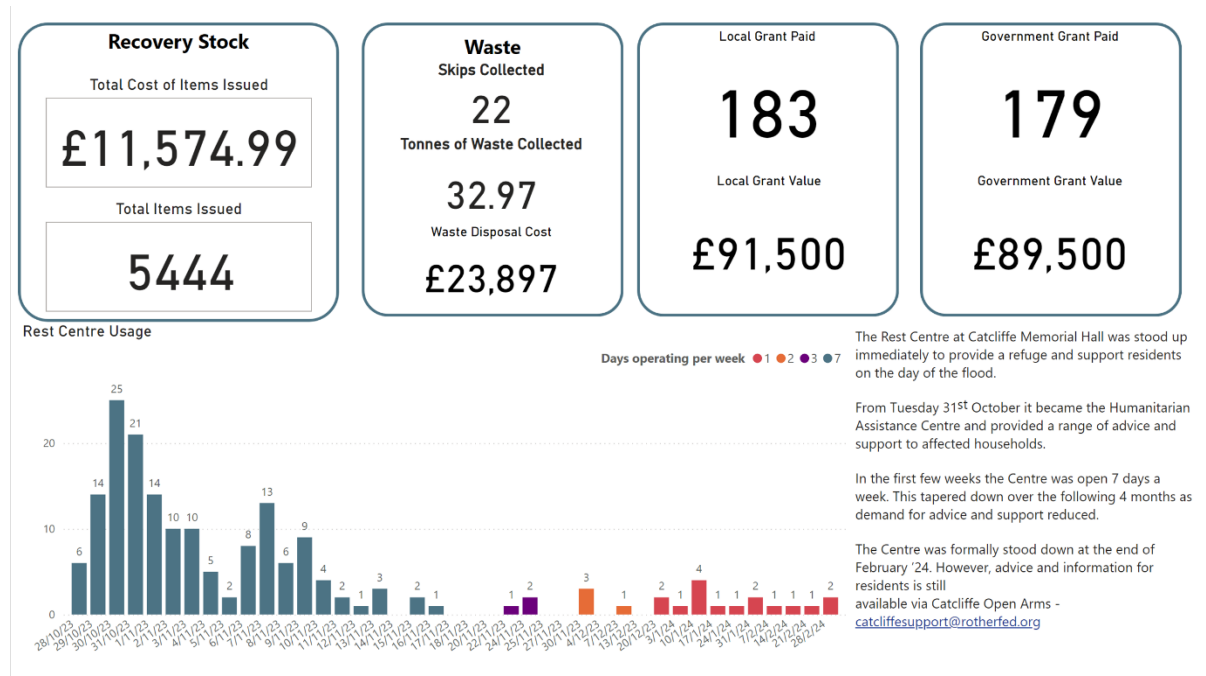
The Met Office has forecast strong winds and heavy rain across parts of southern England and Wales on Thursday as Storm Ciarán makes land.

No Flood Alerts or Warnings have been issued for the River Rother, but the Council is working with partners to monitor the situation in Rotherham.

Regular updates are also being shared on social media.

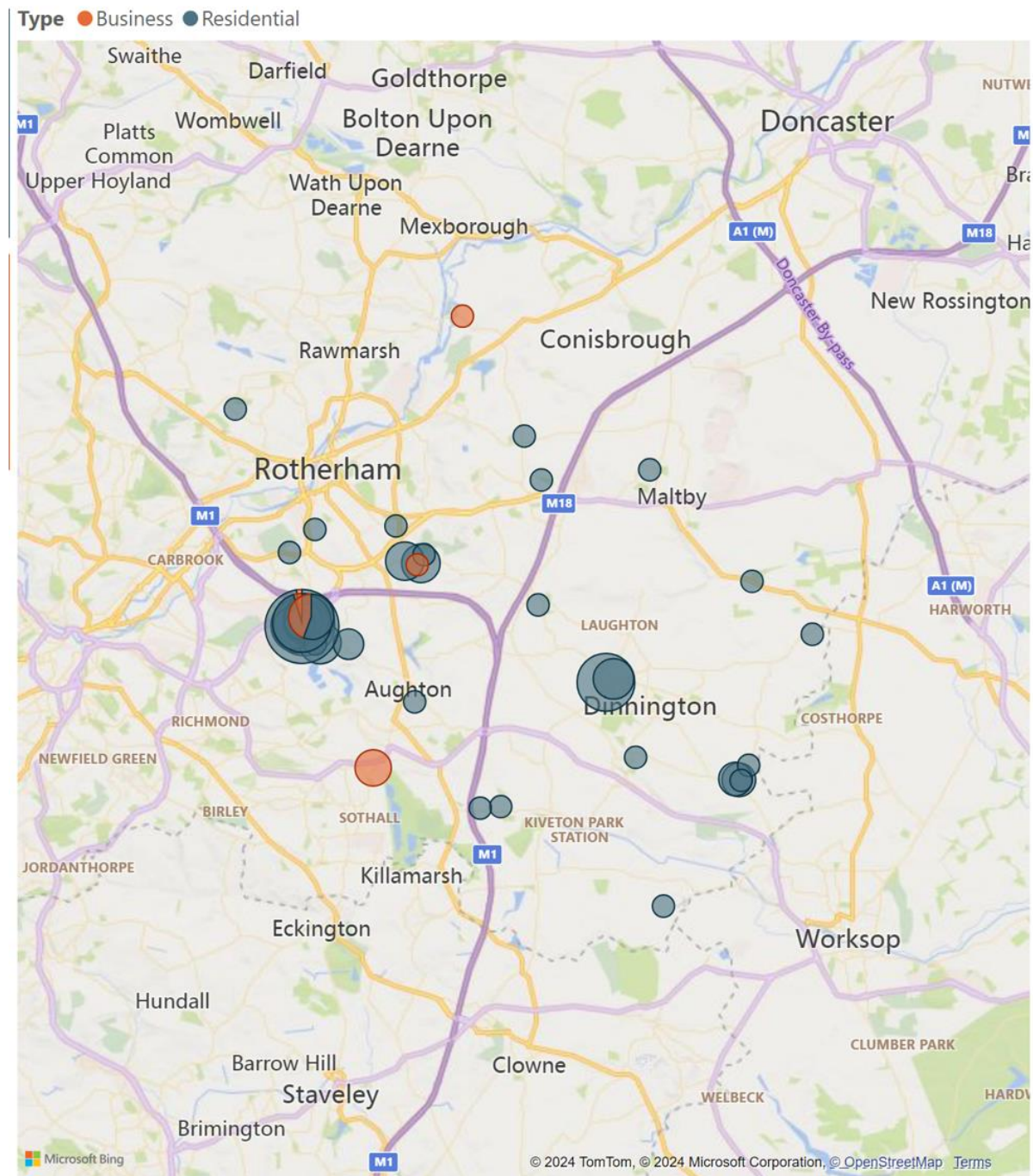
- Facebook
- X (previously Twitter)

The Council provided support throughout the recovery of the event with 5444 items being issued to residents to aid in the clean-up and 32.97 tonnes of materials being disposed. £181,000 of grants have been paid to residents from local and government grants.

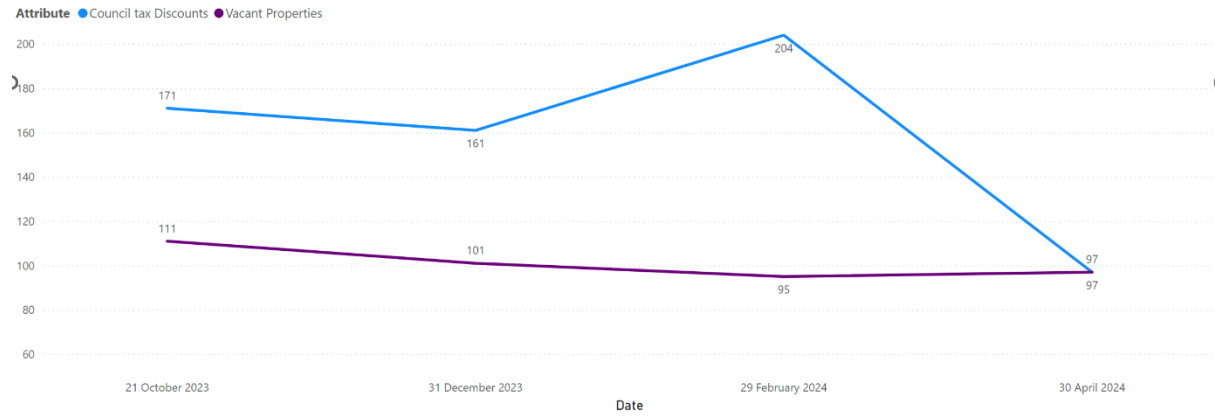


Catcliffe and Treeton Villages were the worst affected areas from flooding in October 2023, however the flood event affected properties all over the Borough. The map below shows the widespread flooding across the borough and key locations that were affected, both residential and businesses.

Location of flooded properties - all levels (Postcode Centroids)



The Council has aided residents that required evacuation with a discount on their council tax, the graph below shows the number of vacant properties and the number of properties that have been entitled to the discounted council tax.



Recovery Timeline



21st October 2023

A full rest centre was set up at Catcliffe Memorial Hall for evacuated residents. Sandbags were deployed to homes within both Catcliffe and Treeton. Immediate Housing support provided to those in need



22nd October 2023

The Council liaised with the Environment Agency and Fire and Rescue to arrange pumping operations to reduce the flooding following falls in river levels



23rd October 2023

Skips were provided the following day and remained in situ as part of the recovery, 22 large skips in total throughout the period to aid residents in removing flood damaged fixtures, fittings and furniture as well as a significant number of Council staff to assist residents



24th October 2023

Rotherham Council provide a fully stocked PPE cabin for use by affected residents.

Rotherham Council attended to remove silt and debris from the roads and drainage system. While also aiding residents in removal of flood damaged items from their homes.

Rotherham Council provide flood affected properties with a £500 flood grant and council tax relief until residents are able to return to their properties.

Defra have issued a property flood resilience grant of £5000 for residents to make their properties more resilient to future flood events.

Next Steps

People, property, infrastructure, and emergency services across the borough have been severely impacted by catchment wide flooding events in June 2007, November 2019, and October 2023, and there have also been a number of other “near miss” flood events over the last two decades. The Council and the Environment Agency have been working for a number of years to provide strategic solutions, which are needed to create a safe and prosperous place to live and work, which is reflected in the £11.3million worth of funding provided by the Council towards flood alleviation schemes.

Flooding creates a dangerous situation, particularly if people become trapped within floodwater, or if transport networks and other local access routes become flooded. Impacts of flooding on sections of the transport network regularly causes significant disruption to many residents and businesses across the borough. The predicted impacts of a changing climate will exacerbate this existing risk.

The Council is working with the Environment Agency (EA), South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), Network Rail (NR), Canal & River Trust (CRT), plus many other organisations, asset owners and landowners to deliver six Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects to reduce flood risk across the borough.

Delivery of these six Priority Flood Alleviation Schemes will significantly reduce flood risk to people, property and infrastructure, including:

- Approximately 290 residential properties (at risk of internal flooding)
- Approximately 360 business properties (at risk of internal flooding)
- Many more residential and business properties that suffer indirect impacts (where property access can be cut off by flooding)
- 8 sections of the strategic highways network (including key routes that need to be operational for emergency services during flood events)
- Rail and tram-train infrastructure (including services through Rotherham Central and Parkgate stations)
- Canal system (which includes residential moorings)
- Critical utility company infrastructure
- Community infrastructure

Options to reduce the risk of future flooding are currently being investigated, and the Council is committed to funding three option appraisals to determine the most effective solution. These studies will be conducted as a desktop analysis to identify the best approach and are expected to be completed within 12 months. Following this, consideration will be given to the benefits of bringing the chosen option to a completed design, which will include:

- The feasibility study (a study to determine the viability and the benefits)
- Surveys and investigations for ecology, environmental, topographic and ground conditions
- Calculations
- Scheme design drawings (outline and detailed)

- Third party approvals (Environment Agency, utility companies, etc.)
- Landowner agreements
- Planning applications

Similar complex flood alleviation schemes have been delivered through the Councils 'Shovel Ready' project and have taken 3 years to reach pre construction detailed design.

- **Option 1** - Creation of upstream storage and Natural Flood Management.

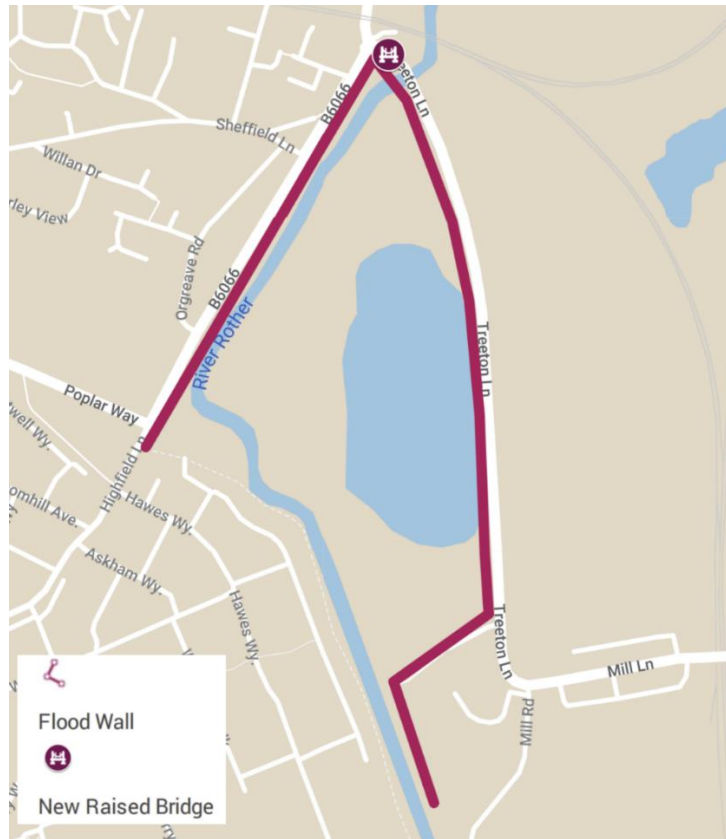
Upstream measures, such as storage, are an essential part of many Flood Alleviation Schemes and help provide a better standard of protection to homes and businesses. In addition, Natural Flood Management (NFM), can slow the flow of water from the upper catchment. Further investigation needs to be carried out to identify potential flood storage locations and areas for Natural Flood Management. Our current estimate for feasibility and design of this project is £4million.

Derbyshire County Council (upstream Council on the River Rother) and the Environment Agency are currently investigating a similar solution. The EA are developing a business case for a flood alleviation scheme to reduce the risk of flooding to properties on the River Hipper in Chesterfield. The project currently has a significant funding gap. Funding will need to be sought for the project to be delivered. Derbyshire County Council have several feasibility schemes for natural flood management on a tributary watercourse to the River Rother. A reduction in peak flow on the River Rother may reduce the risk downstream at Catcliffe and Treeton however, the reduction in peak flow will be minimal.

Derbyshire Flood Risk Management Partnership has been set up to continue communication between Local Authorities and the Environment Agency and Rotherham Council has been included.

- **Option 2** - Raising the flood defence wall and improving conveyance along the River Rother.

The standard of protection could be increased by raising and extending the defences along the River Rother in Catcliffe and Treeton Villages. The defences would need to be installed on both sides of the Rother and alterations would need to be undertaken to the bridge on Treeton Lane to improve conveyance. A sketch of an indicative alignment has been provided below to show the assumed extent of the works required for this option. This option has been estimated at £34million by Rotherham Council and has been shared with the Environment Agency for review within the Government rules and regulations.



- Option 3 – Improving Downstream Conveyance

To improve water flow in the River Rother, Rotherham Council plans to study how the Treeton Lane bridge restricts the flow of the river. The Environment Agency has a hydraulic model of the river that can be adapted to show the bridge's impact on the river. Replacing the bridge with a modern one is estimated to cost £5 million.



One of the Council's six Priority Flood Alleviation schemes that is being developed to a 'shovel ready' state is the Catcliffe Pumping Station. This scheme will help reduce the risk of surface water flooding to the residential properties in Catcliffe during an extreme rainfall event. The proposal will replace the Council's portable pumping arrangement to lift surface water into the River Rother when it is unable to drain via gravity.

Following an allocation of £0.6m of the Council's corporate resources in 2021, and an additional £0.3m from Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Local Levy fund in 2023/2024, the Council and our Consultants have been working hard to progress the various aspects to achieve 'shovel ready' status for this flood alleviation scheme. These aspects include:

- The feasibility study and options appraisal (a study to determine the viability of various options and their benefits)
- Surveys and investigations for ecology, environmental, topographic and ground condition
- Calculations
- Scheme design drawings (outline and detailed)
- Third party approvals (Environment Agency, utility companies, etc.)
- Landowner agreements
- Planning applications.

It is anticipated that the pumping station scheme will achieve 'shovel ready' status in the 2024/25 financial year.

At present, funding for the construction phase has not been secured. Nevertheless, we are actively seeking funding from various sources to facilitate the construction of

this scheme. The 2020 estimate for the construction phase for this scheme is £4.4 million.

The Council will continue to respond to flood events and assist residents within the community wherever possible.

Environment Agency (EA) Next Steps

The EA have carried out a full review of the flood warnings offered to Catcliffe and Treeton. When a Flood Warning is issued (even if there is no property flooding) the EA complete the following process:

- 1. Post incident data is collected.** This includes site visits, data sharing with our partners, social media searches and conversations with our flood wardens and local communities.
- 2. Identifying any missed flood warnings.** A check of flood warning triggers against river levels recorded to identify if any warnings where flooding occurred were not issued.
- 3. Validation of flood warnings.** A check of whether or not a flood warning was required and an assessment of the warning quality (for example, was it issued in a timely manner).
- 4. Warnings and alerts reviewed.** Following the validation of warnings, improvements (if required) are made to both the triggers and the area covered by the flood warnings.

This has been conducted by the EA with appropriate changes being made to the Treeton flood warning.

Following Storm Babet, Environment Agency catchment engineers have inspected its assets and are confident that they will continue to operate as designed. Some superficial damage was identified, and the Environment Agency is in the process of bidding for funding to carry out repair work where required. All proposed work remains subject to funding being secured. The Environment Agency have confirmed they plan to investigate the current standard of protection.

Meadowgate Regulator was operational from 21st December 2023. The Environment Agency continue to inspect and maintain their assets in the area and are ready to respond this winter. The significant refurbishment means that the regulator will continue to operate in the future.



Part Two: Community Flood Information Sheets

Catcliffe and Treeton Villages Community Flood Information Sheet

Contents

- Introduction
- Environment Agency Flow Regulators
- Environment Agency Information - Comparison of November 2019 and October 2023 Flood Events in the Don & Rother Catchments
- Environment Agency Information – Catcliffe & Treeton Flood Warning Information
- Environment Agency Modelling Summary – Meadowgate Regulator
- Environment Agency Modelling Outputs

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant rises in river levels, causing the River Rother to overtop due to heavy rainfall in the upstream catchment of Chesterfield and Derbyshire. Internal flooding affected 148 properties in Catcliffe and Treeton Villages.

There is an existing flood defence wall in Catcliffe village, which is the responsibility of the Environment Agency, and is currently designed to withstand a 1.3% above average rise in river levels (Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) or a 1 in 75-chance of flooding in any given year.

Storm Babet has been classified by the Environment Agency as producing a 1 in 100 - 200- return period on the River Rother, or a 1% - 0.5% AEP with a peak flow rate of 137m³/s recorded at the Whittington gauge.

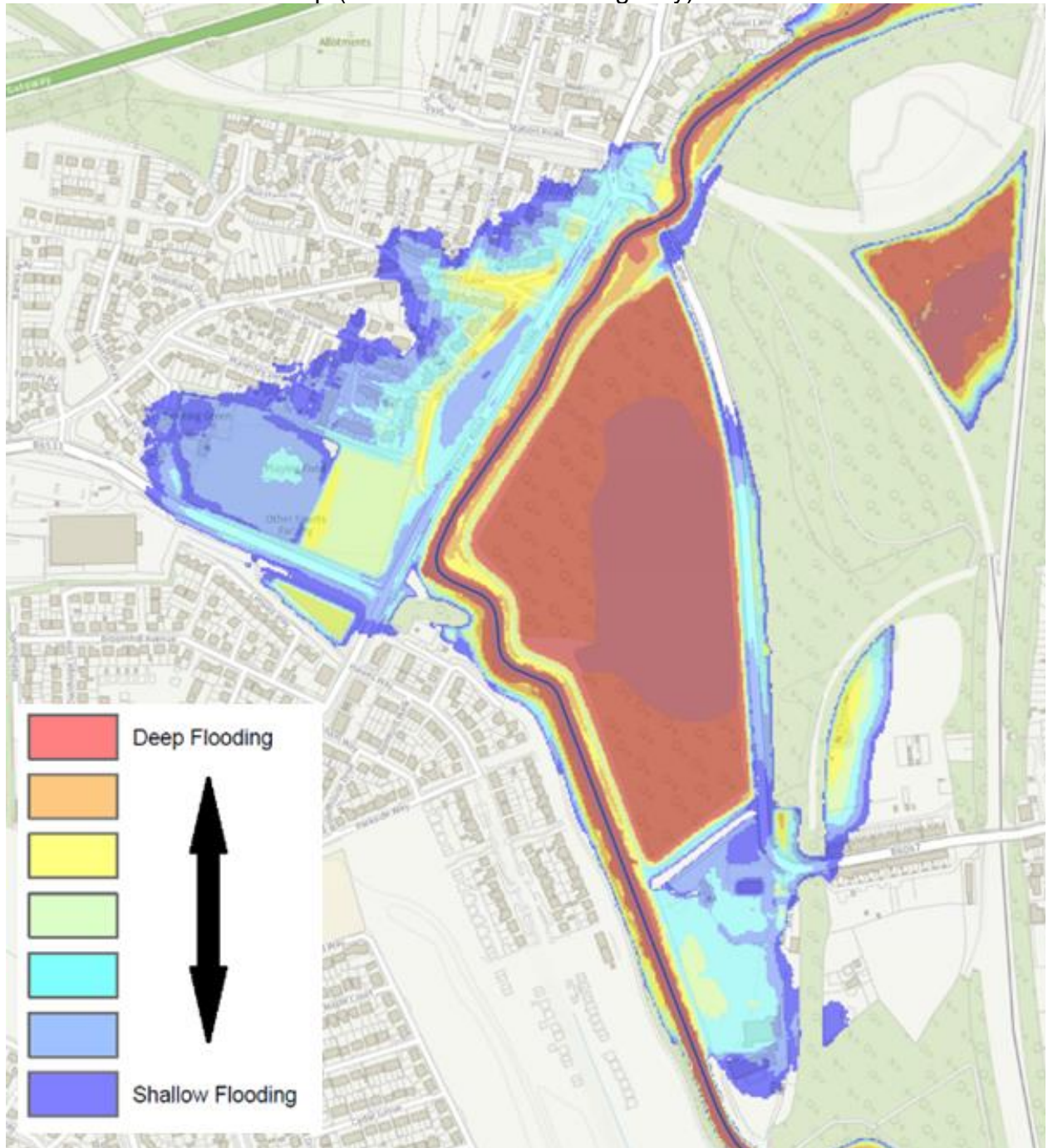
Station Name	Peak Flow (m ³ /s)	Rank (AMAX)	AEP (%)	Return period (years)
Sheffield Hadfields	179	4	5-7%	15-20
Rotherham Forge Island	350	4	5-10%	10-20
Sheepbridge	67.2	1	0.7-1%	100-150
Whittington	137	1	0.5-1%	100-200
Staveley	25.1	1	1-2%	50-100
Doncaster	297	3	2-4%	25-50
Barnsley	45.2	5	15-20%	5-7
Adwick	66.5	3	3-7%	20-30
Methley	303	7	15-20%	5-7

Table taken from the Environment Agency's Flood Hydrology Report – Storm Babet 18th to 22nd October 2023.

Storm Babet October 2023, peak river flow, annual exceedance probability and return period.

The results show this was an exceptional flood event in the Rother catchment, with the highest recorded peak flows at three stations. Sheepbridge and Whittington both exceeded the 1% AEP and Staveley exceeded the 2% AEP event.

Modelled Flood Extent Map (source: Environment Agency)



The map shows the extent of flooding that was witnessed in October 2023 at Catcliffe and Treeton Village.

Environment Agency Information - Comparison of November 2019 and October 2023 Flood Events in the Don & Rother Catchments

The following information has been provided by the Environment Agency following detailed discussion around the flooding event (Storm Babet) with the Council.

Introduction

This report sets out many of the key hydrological comparisons of the flood events that occurred in the River Don and River Rother catchments in November 2019 and in Storm Babet in October 2023. It is intended to complement the existing Environment Agency Flood Hydrology Reports which describe these events in detail. This report draws upon the data contained in the aforementioned Hydrology reports. The data, analysis, and interpretation contained in these reports were written shortly after each event.

The information provided is the best available data at the time of the reports. The Environment Agency continually reviews and improves data validation. This is especially true of aspects of large flood events where the cumulative effects of floods in 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2023 may have led to a number of subtle improvements in flood data quality.

Rainfall

Table 1 compares the peak rainfall totals for various durations at a number of sites in the Rother and at Langsett in the upper Don catchment for both November 2019 and Storm Babet in October 2023. The table highlights the percentage difference between these event rainfall totals by expressing the October 2023 rainfall total as a percentage of that of November 2019. Where it is larger the total is highlighted red and where lower it is highlighted in green.

duration (hrs)	Wingerworth			Linacre			Woodhouse Mill			Langsett		
	2019	2023	2023 as % of 2019	2019	2023	2023 as % of 2019	2019	2023	2023 as % of 2019	2019	2023	2023 as % of 2019
4	13.2	33.2	252%	15.6	34.2	219%	22.6	24.4	108%	22.2	24.6	111%
6	17.6	49.6	282%	20.8	45.6	219%	30.6	33.8	110%	32	33.8	106%
12	27.6	75	272%	35.8	67.4	188%	53.4	51.2	96%	57	60	105%
18	41	82.8	202%	55.2	78	141%	80.8	64.8	80%	74.6	77.6	104%
24	51.8	89	172%	64.8	84.2	130%	87.6	72.8	83%	80.2	87	108%
36	53.8	97.4	181%	66.4	92.4	139%	90.2	81	90%	83.2	93.8	113%
48	54.2	97.6	180%	67.4	102.8	153%	90.2	85.8	95%	83.8	105.2	126%

Table 1: Rainfall comparison November 2019 with October 2023

In October 2023, there was a lot more rain in the upper Rother area compared to November 2019, especially when looking at shorter timeframes like up to 12 hours. However, in Woodhouse Mill, which is downstream on the River Rother, there was more rain in 2019 when considering longer time periods. In the upper Don area above Sheffield, there was only a slight increase in rainfall in October 2023

compared to November 2019.

Figures 1 and 2 show where the rain fell during the floods in November 2019 and October 2023. But comparing them directly is difficult because the data for 2019 is for 24-hour rainfall while the 2023 data is for 36-hour rainfall. Still, they both indicate that in 2019, the rain was mostly concentrated in the north of the Rother area, particularly between Sheffield and Doncaster.

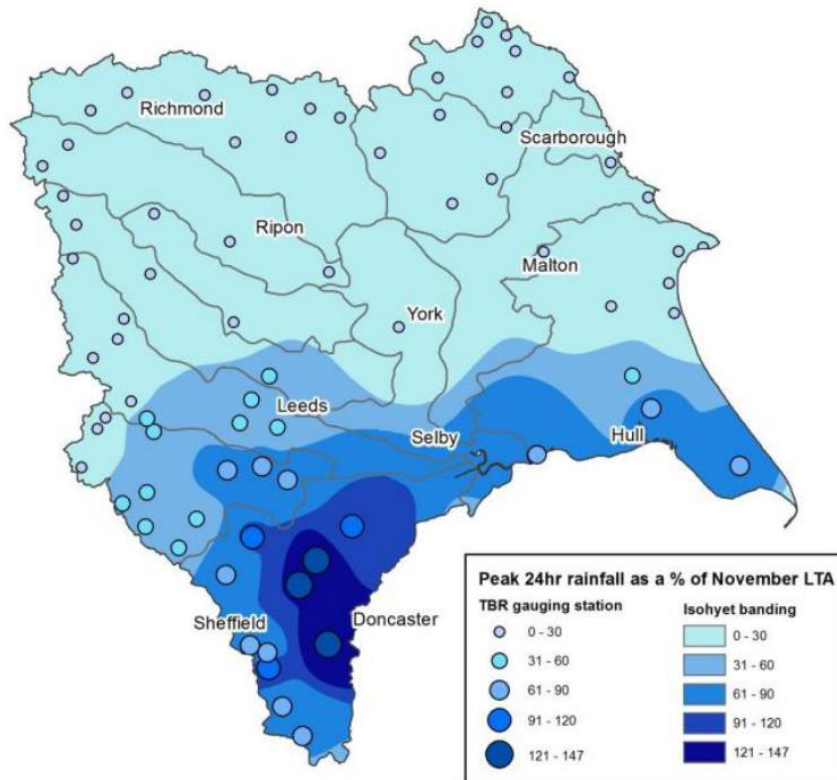


Figure 1: November 2019. Peak 24-hour rainfall totals across Yorkshire expressed as % November long term annual average rainfall.

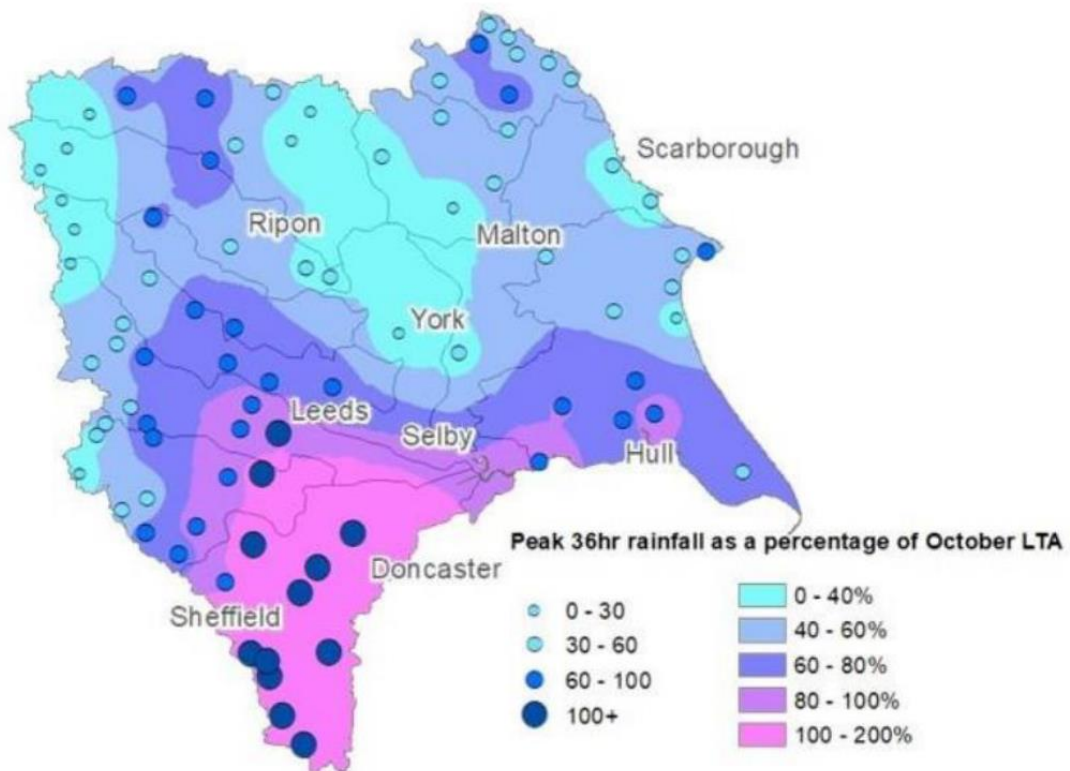


Figure 2: October 2023. Peak 36-hour rainfall totals across Yorkshire expressed as % October long term annual average rainfall.

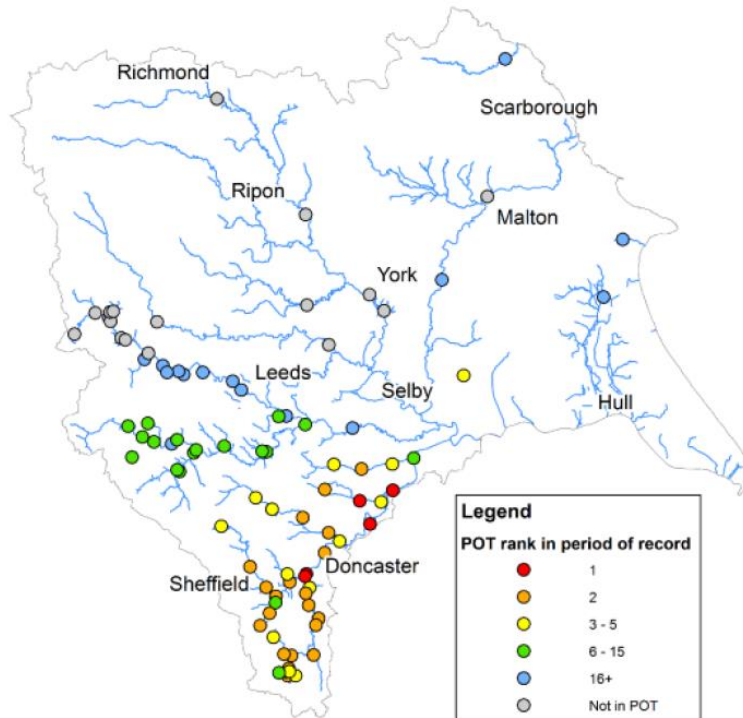


Figure 3: November 2019. Rank position of peak river levels. These ranks exclude post 2019 data.

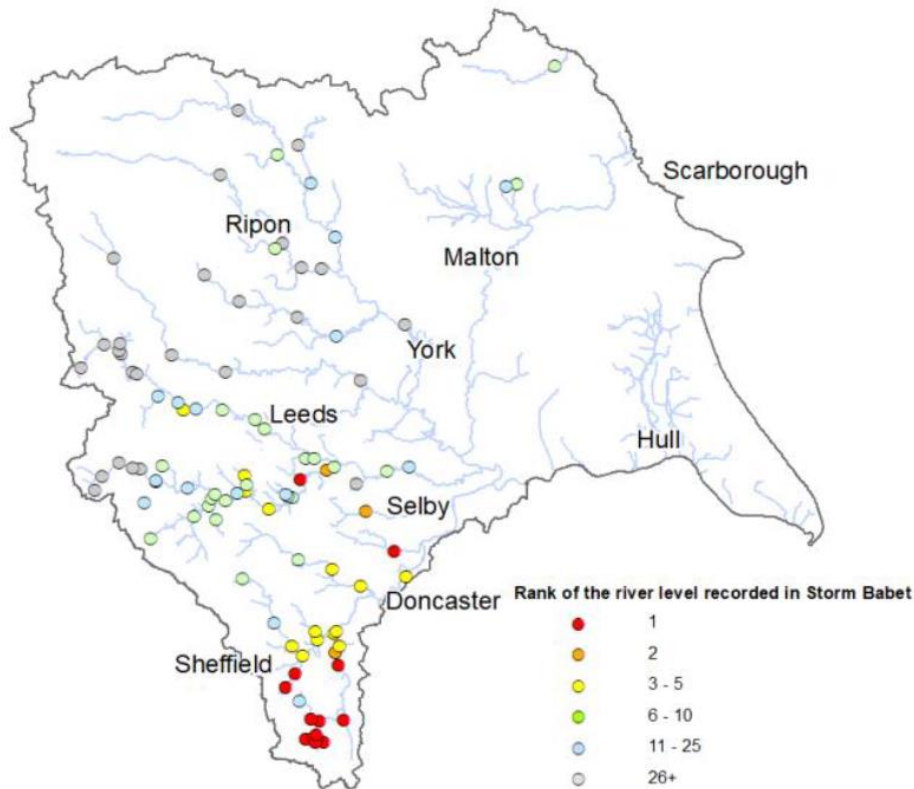


Figure 4: Storm Babet October 2023. Rank order of peak river levels across Yorkshire

River Levels

Comparison of river levels in the November 2019 and October 2023 floods can be taken directly from the October 2023 flood report as the table below is included in every report. Table 2 compares the event in question – on this occasion Storm Babet in 2023 – with the most up to date validated data for the 15 highest ranked events at each site.

Rank POT River Level (m Stage)	Rother													Upper Don				Lower Don			
	Chesfield St Augustines	Chesfield	Chesfield Park Road Bridge	Chesfield Calow Lane	Chesfield Hady Hill	Tipton Bridge	Sheepbridge	Whittington	Staveley	Killamarsh	Woodhouse Mill	Catcliffe	Canklow Regulator (upstream)	Penistone	Sheffield Hadfields	Rotherham	Rotherham Forge Island	Adwick	Doncaster	Nonwood	Went Outfall (River Went)
No. of water years in record	21	23	21	20	24	21	47	44	53	24	42	21	27	23	56	28	18	48	46	28	33
1	3.098	3.593	2.931	1.453	4.202	3.418	2.556	4.289	2.683	4.355	4.456	30.528	30.200	2.353	4.675	4.321	3.322	2.770	6.308	5.221	4.527
2	2.986	2.764	2.801	1.391	3.350	3.091	2.414	4.115	2.543	4.029	4.067	30.374	29.836	2.295	4.497	4.291	3.271	2.481	6.303	5.031	4.477
3	2.191	2.507	2.001	1.261	3.198	2.630	2.208	3.756	2.459	3.948	3.753	29.955	29.662	2.197	3.766	3.455	2.454	2.351	5.977	4.490	4.403
4	2.129	1.321	1.928	1.253	2.960	2.423	2.139	3.699	2.186	3.412	3.631	29.855	29.462	2.189	3.182	3.210	2.343	2.229	5.678	4.388	4.378
5	2.110	1.300	1.870	1.242	2.776	2.359	2.011	3.372	2.164	2.675	3.172	29.461	29.399	1.899	3.005	2.830	2.103	2.136	5.548	3.818	4.330
6	1.992	1.281	1.838	1.219	2.707	2.155	1.656	3.247	2.145	2.480	3.023	29.332	29.368	1.831	2.892	2.811	2.023	2.073	5.563	3.796	4.319
7	1.849	1.218	1.821	1.173	2.691	2.143	1.546	3.013	2.057	2.460	3.010	29.176	29.259	1.796	2.814	2.747	1.814	2.017	5.495	3.737	4.226
8	1.816	1.190	1.811	1.082	2.536	2.137	1.484	3.001	2.053	2.426	2.937	29.048	29.068	1.718	2.773	2.629	1.812	1.933	5.436	3.709	4.132
9	1.813	1.184	1.722	1.074	2.467	2.061	1.480	2.921	1.990	2.242	2.885	28.934	28.790	1.683	2.708	2.523	1.784	1.898	5.390	3.705	4.035
10	1.788	1.178	1.689	1.051	2.449	2.046	1.471	2.909	1.873	2.211	2.830	28.762	28.742	1.647	2.628	2.376	1.611	1.879	5.175	3.702	3.861
11	1.780	1.106	1.677	1.012	2.393	2.024	1.455	2.892	1.872	2.149	2.694	28.504	28.714	1.657	2.520	2.272	1.596	1.848	4.928	3.700	3.833
12	1.775	1.045	1.592	0.995	2.392	1.940	1.416	2.870	1.858	2.051	2.675	28.454	28.542	1.645	2.454	2.217	1.591	1.785	4.900	3.691	3.792
13	1.764	1.044	1.534	0.975	2.384	1.915	1.414	2.802	1.857	2.040	2.598	28.446	28.040	1.640	2.294	2.214	1.534	1.737	4.861	3.685	3.781
14	1.762	1.035	1.498	0.967	2.379	1.899	1.395	2.754	1.848	1.969	2.597	28.415	28.000	1.633	2.082	2.147	1.526	1.737	4.842	3.680	3.741
15	1.751	1.005	1.419	0.954	2.322	1.898	1.366	2.728	1.844	1.947	2.568	28.393	27.973	1.615	1.967	2.079	1.509	1.727	4.821	3.680	3.711
Difference Between 2023 and 2019 (m)	0.907	2.415	0.930	0.211	1.242	0.788	0.348	0.533	0.224	-0.081	0.703	0.573	-0.063	-0.035	-1.315	-1.081	-0.979	-0.130	-0.331	-0.592	-0.094

Key:	18th - 21st Oct. 2023 [Babet]
	7th - 8th Nov. 2019
	25th - 29th June 2007
	Late Oct. - Early Nov. 2000

Table 2: Top 15 ranked peak river levels in the Don & Rother catchments.

River levels in the Rother are the highest on record, followed by levels found in 2007 and 2019 flood events. The one inconsistency is at Killamarsh river level site which shows lower levels than past events. During this event the regulators at Canklow and Woodhouse Mill were operated. However, the river level at the Meadowgate regulator was not recorded as the regulator was undergoing refurbishment and was not operational during the event. At Killamarsh the river level is usually affected by the operation of the regulator at Meadowgate. In this event, levels at Killamarsh were consequently lower than 2007 and 2019 events when Meadowgate was available for operation. This is due to the regulator not operating so no flows were held back, hence river levels are lower as can be seen on the table above.

Table 2 compares peak river levels from October 2023 and November 2019. Numbers in green on the bottom row indicate where levels were higher in October 2023. The table shows that river levels in the upper Rother were consistently higher in October 2023, except for small differences at Killamarsh and upstream of the Canklow regulator due to operational changes and works. In the upper Don, levels were higher in November 2019, and this trend continues, though less pronounced, in the lower Don.

Figures 3 and 4 show the relative rank order of November 2019 and October 2023 peak river levels. Figure 3 is taken from the November 2019 report and shows the rank order of this event at the time the report was published. It provides a good indication of the severity and widespread nature of record or near record river levels across the Don catchment. It also shows how the river levels to the south, in the

Rother, and to the north in the Calder and Aire were substantial but not as highly ranked in the longer record.

River Flows and Return Periods

Table 3 shows the comparison of the river flows at selected flow gauges in the Rother, upper and lower Don.

Location	River Catchment	2019 Flow (m ³ /s)	2023 Flow (m ³ /s)	2019 flows return period	2023 flows return period
Sheffield Hadfields	Upper Don	249	179	100 - 150	15 - 20
Rotherham Forge Island	Upper Don	594	350	150 - 250	10 - 20
Sheepbridge	River Rother	50	67.2	60 - 80	100 - 150
Whittington	River Rother	100	137	45 - 55	100 - 200
Staveley	River Doe Lea	21.8	25.1	40 - 50	50 - 100
Doncaster	Lower Don	340-400	297	150 - 250	25 - 50

Table 3: Comparison of November 2019 and October 2023 river flows.

Comparing the river flows from November 2019 to October 2023 highlights their differences. It's important to note that the data for November 2019 is based on a report shortly after the event, and if analysed again with the latest information, it would consider the effects of subsequent floods in 2020 and 2022. However, the overall picture is not expected to change significantly.

In November 2019, the highest flows were seen in the upper Don, flowing through Rotherham and into the lower Don at Doncaster, exceeding the expected frequency of a once-in-a-century event. In the October 2023 storm, the flows in the upper Don were still significant but not as extreme as those in November 2019.

In October 2023, the most exceptional flows were mainly in the upper Rother, with return periods exceeding once in-a-century occurring upstream of regulated areas. The lower contribution from the upper Don at Sheffield Hadfield highlights how significant substantial flows in this area are in causing extreme flows in the lower Don at Doncaster.

The variations between the flows and return periods of 2019 and 2023 reflect the distribution of rainfall outlined in Table 1 and Figures 2 and 3.

Conclusion

Both the November 2019 and October 2023 events are considered among the most significant in the Don and Rother catchments, alongside June 2007. What sets them apart are subtle differences in where the rain fell, which is influenced by slight variations in the paths of the low-pressure systems causing the events.

In November 2019, heavy rainfall in both the lower and upper Don catchments led to record levels and large volumes of water in the River Don. However, the Rother area didn't experience as much heavy rainfall. This situation mostly flipped in October 2023, with localised storms bringing significant flows and volumes to the River Rother, while the effects on the upper Don were much less notable.

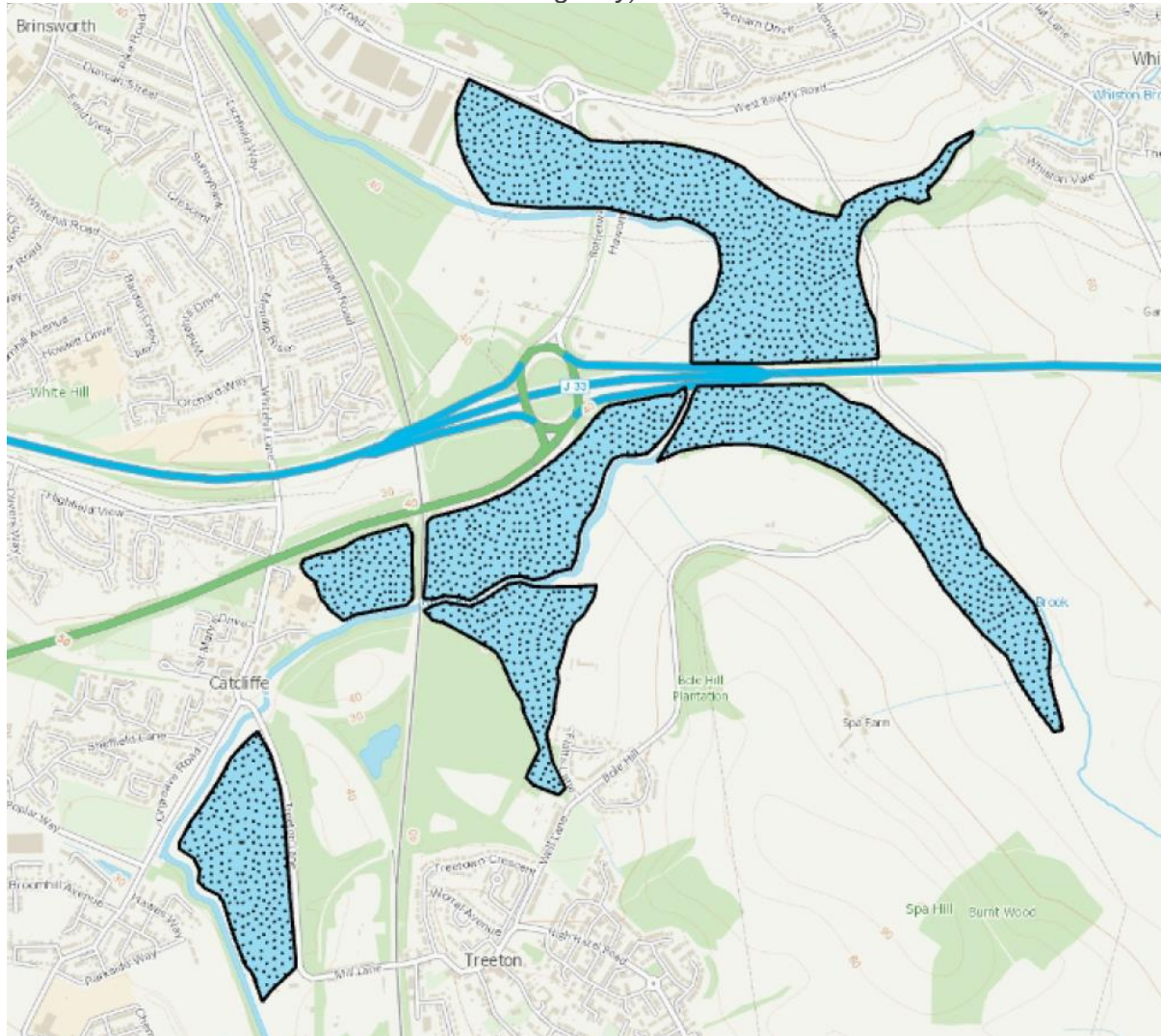
There are 3 Environment Agency flow regulators on the River Rother that control the peak flow during high river levels and are designed to temporarily divert flows into washlands.

The map displays the Rother Valley area, highlighting the locations of five water regulators and country parks. The regulators are marked with red stars and labeled: Canklow Regulator, Catcliffe, Woodhouse Mill Regulator, Meadowgate Regulator, and Rother Valley Country Park. The map includes major roads like the M1, A630, and A57, and various towns and villages such as Thurgate, Morthen, and Kiveton Park.

Canklow Flow Regulator

The Canklow Regulator was constructed in 1969 and can store up to 1,520,600m³ in the washlands around Junction 33 of the M1. Canklow Regulator is furthest downstream on the River Rother.

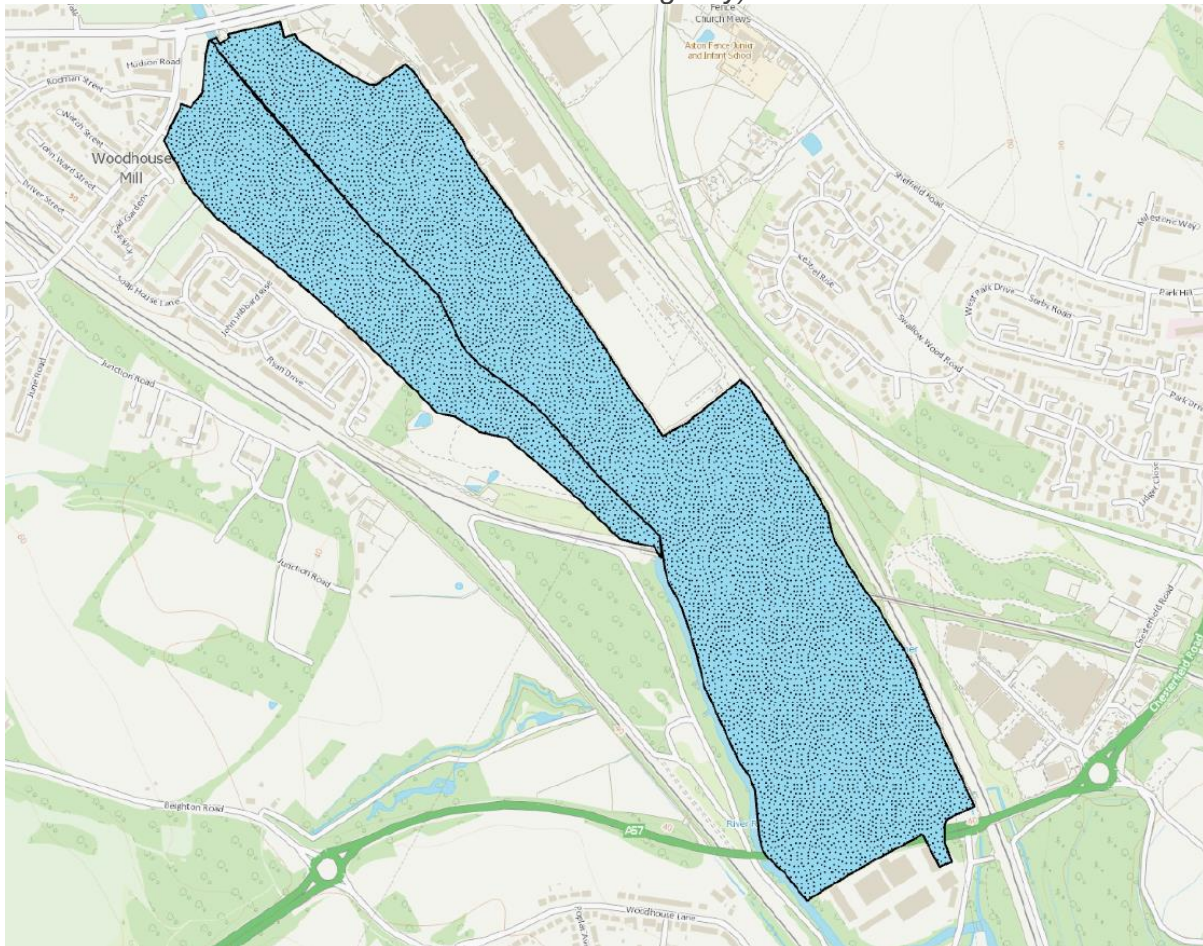
Canklow Flow Regulator Water Storage Areas (source: Environment Agency)



Woodhouse Mill Flow Regulator

The Woodhouse Mill Regulator was constructed in 1959 and can store up to 339,800m³ in the Woodhouse Washlands Nature Reserve. The Woodhouse Mill Regulator is in between the Canklow Regulator and the Meadowgate Regulator on the River Rother.

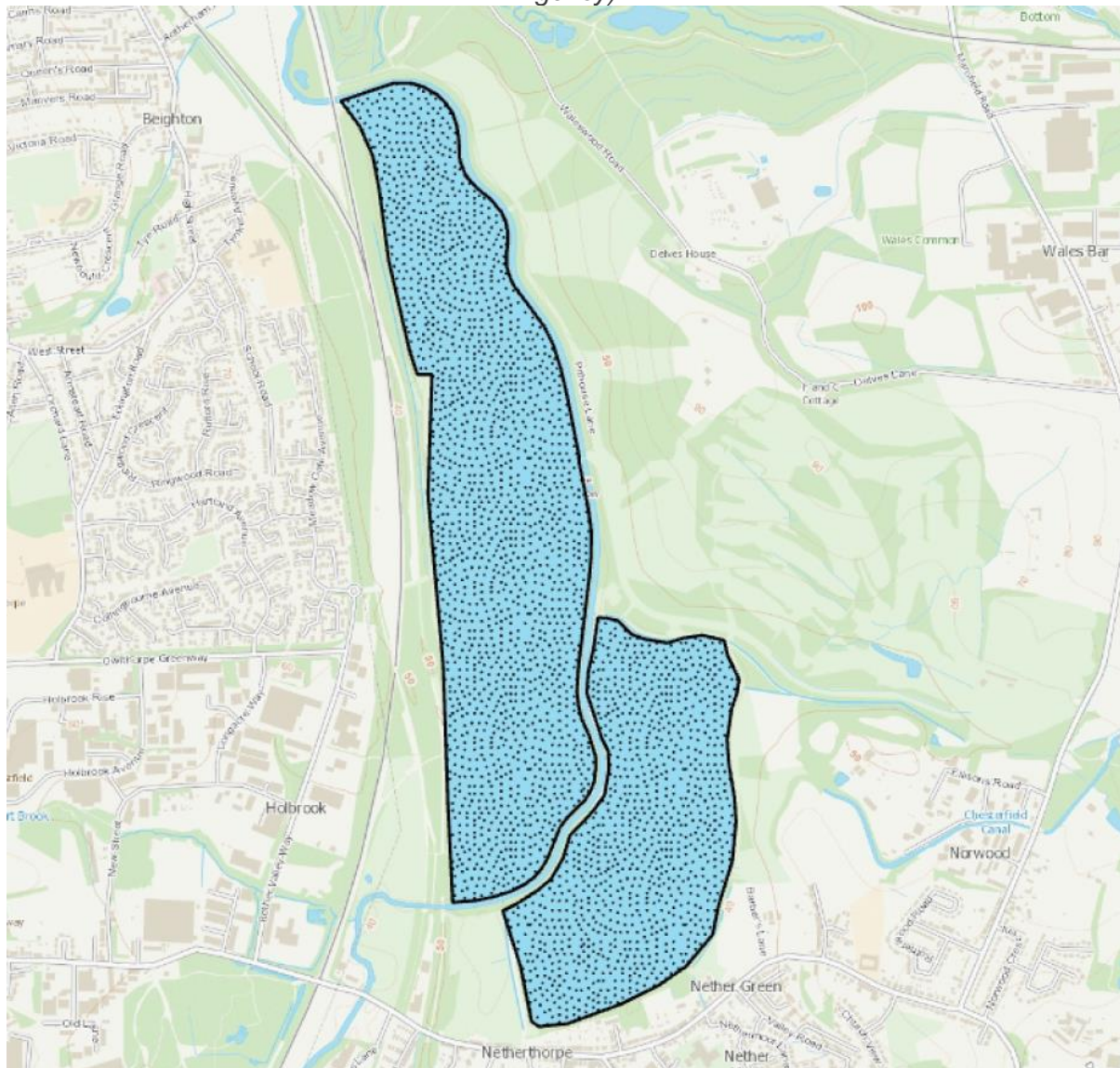
Woodhouse Mill Flow Regulator Water Storage Areas (source: Environment Agency)



Meadowgate Flow Regulator

The Meadowgate Regulator was constructed in 1982 and can store up to 1,500,000m³ in the surrounding 4 lakes (Meadowgate Lake, Nethermore Lake, Rother Valley Lake and Northern Lake). The Meadowgate Regulator is the furthest upstream on the River Rother.,

Meadowgate Flow Regulator Water Storage Areas (source: Environment Agency)



The Meadowgate Flow Regulator was not operational in Storm Babet due to it being refurbished. The type of gate has been changed from a 'fish belly' gate to a 'guillotine' gate. However, the way in which it operates has not changed.

Meadowgate Flow Regulator - Previous Installation ('fish belly' gate)



Meadowgate Flow Regulator - New Installation ('guillotine' gate)



The regulators are used to divert flows from the River Rother into wetlands, aiming to reduce peak flows within the River Rother and prevent them from coinciding with the peak flows of the River Don. The Environment Agency manages the water storage and gradually releases flows to ensure that no additional flood risks are created. The flow regulation system is not managed in a manner that prioritises the protection of downstream communities over upstream ones.

Environment Agency Information – Catcliffe & Treeton Flood Warning Information

The following information has been provided by the Environment Agency following detailed discussion around the flooding event (Storm Babet) with the Council.

Catcliffe and Treeton are covered by the same Flood Alert but have their own individual Flood Warnings. The text below indicates the difference between a Flood Alert and Flood Warning.

Flood Alert: Flood Alerts cover a large area of a catchment so this is an early indication to the public that they should be alert by keeping up to date with weather forecasts and any potential warnings.

An Alert is only issued between the hours of 6am and 9pm to avoid causing undue concern in unsociable hours. This would be the time to consider preparatory steps in a personal flood plan.

Flood Warning: Issued for a particular community when flooding to properties in that area is expected. **We aim to issue these with a lead time of around 2 hours before the first property is expected to flood (or 30 mins in rapid-responding catchments).** This is the public's cue to take action and put their flood plans into place, for example activating any property level resilience.

It is the Environment Agency's aim to give customers at least 2 hours' notice prior to any property flooding and to only issue a warning when EA are confident there will be property impact, to avoid overissuing and causing unnecessary concern. To assist with these aims, there are river level triggers set below defence heights and property impact thresholds which our Flood Warning Duty Officers use as a consideration to issue a Flood Warning. Alongside these levels, decisions are also made using the latest forecast, on-the-ground situational awareness and other significant data.

For the River Rother at Catcliffe, these were met on the evening of Friday 20th October 2023, however at this point the regulators were maintaining a constant level at Catcliffe.

Once levels started to rise again in the early hours of Saturday 21st October 2023 our Result Threshold trigger level was reached, this is the level at which we think property impact will definitely occur. This resulted in the warning being activated by the system at 01.36am, reaching customers via automation at 02:14am. Reports indicate the timing of first properties to be impacted by fluvial water as approximately 4am, resulting in 2.5 hours between the activation of the warning and impact, and just short of 2 hours for residents receiving the warning.

EA do appreciate this would seem a small amount of time for residents to take action, especially in the early hours of the morning. There is a balance between fulfilling our requirement to warn and inform property owners and ensuring we are warning accurately, with fewest false-alarms possible, within a fast-changing and large scale incident and forecast.

A Flood Warning can be reissued as a Severe Flood Warning, covering the same extent. The decision to issue a Severe Warning is not based on specific river levels but is a multi-agency decision informed by input from our professional partners such as the emergency

services and the local authority. We do not have a record of being advised by any partner that a Severe Flood Warning was required. When a Severe Warning is issued it is essentially indicating that there is a risk to life or risk of significant disruption to critical infrastructure. The advice for the public is to keep safe and follow advice from emergency services.

Flood Alert issued

The Flood Alert covering Catcliffe and Treeton is the “Lower River Rother Alert” which covers the River Rother and its tributaries from the Renishaw area to the confluence of the Don. This Flood Alert was issued at 09:52am on Friday 20th October 2023. This was to inform customers that Flooding is possible. Below is the text which was sent along with the Alert.

“River levels are forecast to rise on the River Rother between Killamarsh and Rotherham, due to heavy rainfall. Flooding of low-lying land near the watercourse is likely throughout today, Friday 20th October 2023.”

“Further heavy rainfall is forecast throughout today and river levels are expected to continue to rise. Our incident room is open, and we are closely monitoring rainfall and river levels. Avoid using low lying footpaths and any bridges near local watercourses and do not attempt to walk or drive through flood water. Start acting on your flood plan if you have one. This message will be updated by 17:55, 20/10/2023, or as the situation changes.”

Flood Warnings issued

The Flood Warning covering Catcliffe is the “River Rother at Catcliffe” which was issued at 02:14am on Saturday 21st October 2023. This was to inform customers that Flooding to properties is expected. Below is the text which was sent along with the Warning.

Flooding is expected in this area. This means properties are at risk of flooding. Please take action to protect yourself and your property and monitor local weather and river conditions. Avoid contact with, walking or driving through flood water. Consider activating any property flood protection products you may have. Environment Agency Flood Warning Officers set the river or tidal levels that have triggered this message. During industrial action this message has been automatically issued based on rising river or tidal levels.

The Flood Warning covering Treeton is the “River Rother at Treeton” which was issued at 10:56am on Saturday 21st October 2023. This was to inform customers that Flooding to properties is expected. Below is the text which was sent along with the Warning.

River levels have peaked in the River Rother upstream of Catcliffe after yesterday's rain. Despite this, water levels remain high in the Catcliffe Area as accumulated water drains away. Water levels are forecast to reach a level later this afternoon, 21/10/23, where flooding is possible on Mill Lane. Our incident rooms are open, and we are closely monitoring the situation. Monitor local water levels and weather conditions. Consider putting your flood plan into action. You should avoid walking, cycling or driving through flood water. This message will be updated by 18:55, 21/10/2023, or as the situation changes.

The Flood Warning at Treeton is a difficult warning to issue due to there being a number of different flooding mechanisms. Prior to Storm Babet, the EA believed the Flood Risk to be from Catcliffe Flash. Water enters the flash from the River Rother, and once at

capacity, water would start to overflow onto Treeton Lane and slowly move up to Mill Lane. The EA have no telemetry within the flash and so were unable to know at what point water was overflowing onto Treeton Lane.

Flood Alerts, Flood Warnings & Severe Flood Warnings

Full information regarding Flood Alerts, Flood Warnings & Severe Flood Warnings can be found on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-alerts-and-warnings-what-they-are-and-what-to-do>

Flood alert

A flood alert means that flooding is possible so you should prepare now.



Flood alert icon description: a black house with 1 wavy line of water covering the bottom of it, within an orange triangle.

The Environment Agency issues a flood alert when forecasts show that flooding may be possible from:

- rivers
- high tides, surges or strong winds at sea

Timeframe

The Environment Agency usually issues a flood alert between 2 and 12 hours before flooding. Flood alerts are usually issued during waking hours where possible.

What you should do

You should regularly check if there's a flood alert for your area and follow the official advice. (<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>)

If a flood alert is issued, you should:

- be ready to follow your flood plan
- have insurance documents and any medications ready
- avoid walking, cycling or driving through any flood water
- move any livestock and farming equipment away from areas likely to flood

What is at risk during a flood alert? The following can be at risk when a flood alert is in force:

- fields, recreational land and car parks
- minor roads
- farmland
- coastal areas affected by spray or waves overtopping

Flood warning

A flood warning means that flooding is expected so you should act now.



Flood warning icon description: a black house with 2 wavy lines of water covering the bottom of it, within a red triangle.

The Environment Agency issues a flood warning when forecasts show that flooding is expected from:

- rivers
- heavy rain that will cause rivers to flash flood
- high tides and surges coupled with strong winds at sea

Timeframe

The Environment Agency usually issues a flood warning 30 minutes to 2 hours before flooding.

What you should do

You should regularly check if there's a flood warning for your area and follow the official advice. (<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>)

If a warning is issued, you should:

- protect yourself and your loved ones
- move your loved ones, pets and valuables to a safe place
- move to higher ground or the upper floor of a building
- turn off the gas, electricity and water in your home if it's safe
- put flood protection equipment in place
- do as the emergency services tell you
- help others if it's safe to do so

What is at risk during a flood warning. The following can be at risk when a flood warning is in force:

- homes and businesses
- railway lines and infrastructure
- roads
- coastal areas affected by spray or waves overtopping
- flood plains, including caravans park and campsites
- major tourist and leisure attractions

Severe flood warning

A severe flood warning means that flooding could cause danger to life and significant disruption to communities. You must act now.



Severe flood warning icon description: a red house with 3 wavy lines of water covering the bottom of it, within a red triangle.

Timeframe

The Environment Agency issues a severe flood warning when flooding threatens life and communities.

What you should do

You should regularly check if there's a severe flood warning for your area and follow the official advice. (<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>)

If a severe warning is issued, you should:

- stay in a safe place
- be ready to evacuate your home
- do as the emergency services tell you
- call 999 if you are in immediate danger
- if you are caught in a flash flood move to higher ground or the upper floor of a building if it's safe

What may happen when a severe flood warning is in force. The following may happen during a severe flood warning:

- deep and fast-flowing water

- dangerous debris in the water
- buildings collapsing or at risk of collapsing
- communities unable to escape
- infrastructure not working, like gas, electricity and water
- the evacuation of lots of people

Environment Agency Modelling Summary – Meadowgate Regulator

The following information has been provided by the Environment Agency following detailed discussion around the flooding event (Storm Babet) with the Council.

The Environment Agency's current assessment is that the flood defence at Catcliffe, the sheet piled wall along Orgreave Road, provides a standard of protection of 1.3% Annual Exceedance Probability. Annual Exceedance Probabilities tell us how likely it is for an event to be equalled or exceeded in any given year. The table below explains this and shows with a 1.3% Annual Exceedance Probability the flood defence at Catcliffe has a return period of 1 in 75.

Return Periods (in Years)	Probability (Annual Exceedance Probability)	Chance of happening in any given year
2	0.5	50%
10	0.1	10%
25	0.04	4%
50	0.02	2%
75	0.013	1.3%
100	0.01	1%
500	0.002	0.2%
1000	0.001	0.1%

To understand the impact of Meadowgate Regulator not being operational during Storm Babet, the Environment Agency undertook a high-level modelling study. The modelling study doesn't duplicate the events of Storm Babet. Instead, the study uses modelling scenarios (called design flood events), to assess the impact of Meadowgate regulator not being in operation during Storm Babet.

As part of the modelling study, two scenarios were run to understand the impact of Meadowgate Regulator not being in operation during Storm Babet. These two scenarios were Meadowgate being operational and Meadowgate not being operational. The modelling study considered the 2%, 1.3%, 1% and 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probabilities.

During Storm Babet, the river gauges upstream of Meadowgate Regulator recorded flows between 1% and 0.5% Annual Probability Events. River flows at Catcliffe were similar, which led to the flood defence at Catcliffe (the sheet piled wall along Orgreave Road) being overtopped.

This aligns with the outputs from the modelling study. The modelling study shows there is no flooding in Catcliffe during the 2% and 1.3% Annual Exceedance Probabilities, as the Catcliffe flood defence (the sheet piled wall along Orgreave Road) keeps river flows in the River Rother.

As a whole, the modelling study shows for the 2%, 1.3% and 1% Annual Exceedance Probabilities there is a slight increase in flood depths and extents in Catcliffe and Treeton

when the Meadowgate Regulator is not operational. Based on the scale of the modelling, this increase in flood depths and extents does not impact any additional properties in Catcliffe or Treeton. For the 0.5 % Annual Exceedance Probability, there is a decrease in flood depths and extents in both Catcliffe and Treeton when the Meadowgate Regulator is not operational. During Storm Babet, river flows were between the 1% and 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probabilities.

The Don Regulators Project is a priority project at the Environment Agency, which includes the refurbishment of the Meadowgate, Canklow and Woodhouse Mill Regulators on the River Rother.

When choosing the preferred option for the refurbishment of Meadowgate Regulator, the length of time the gate was due to be out of operation was a priority consideration. In the design of the works, it was established that it was not economically viable to install a temporary arrangement that would act as a control during this time. It was always understood there would need to be a duration of time when Meadowgate Regulator would not be in operation.

The time the gate was not in operation was planned to be kept to a minimum, of approximately 1 week. Due to unforeseen events the proposed 1 week was extended. Once works were underway at the beginning of September, Meadowgate Regulator was no longer in operation. The 19th October was the date scheduled to install the new gate, but this was delayed by the arrival of Storm Babet.

Meadowgate Regulator was back operational on the 21st of December 2023.

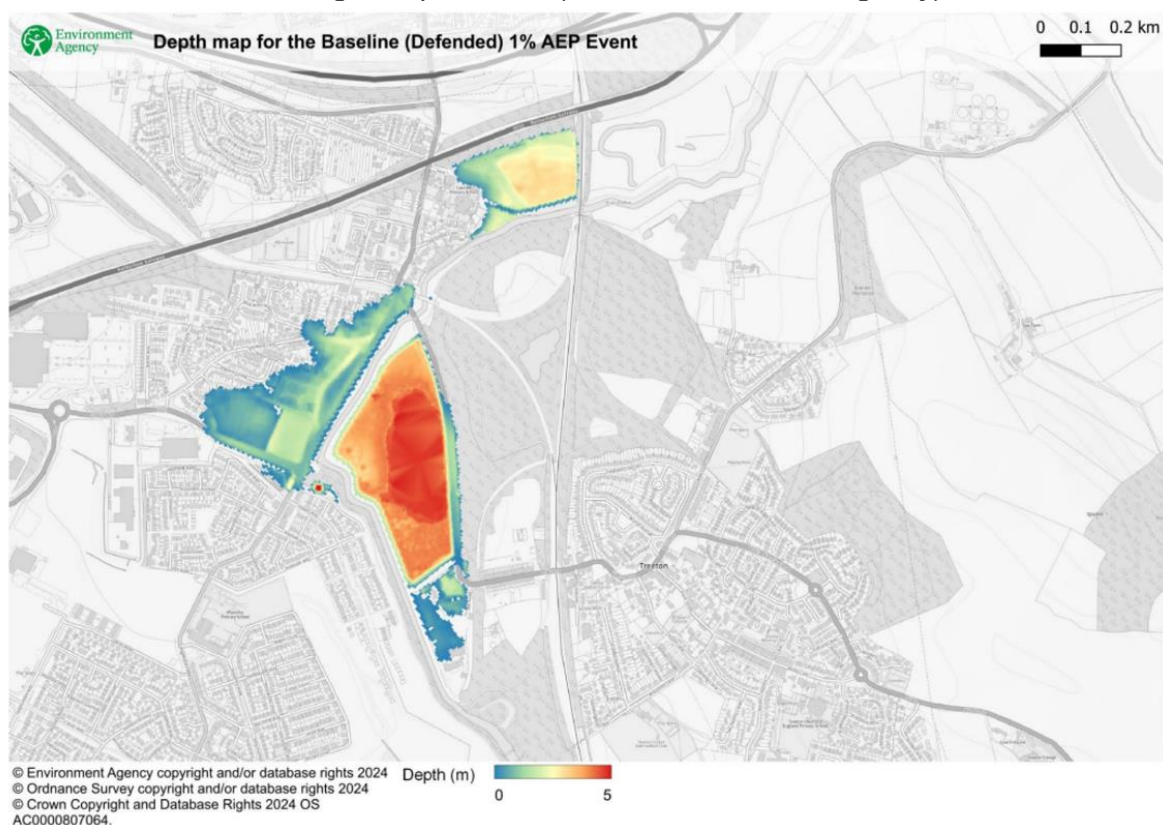
The contingency plan, during the time Meadowgate Regulator was out of operation, was to operate the other two regulators (Woodhouse Mill and Canklow). At the time of Storm Babet, both Canklow and Woodhouse Mill regulators were operated as per operating instructions which had been updated to provide contingency for the Meadowgate regulator being out of operation.

Environment Agency Modelling Outputs

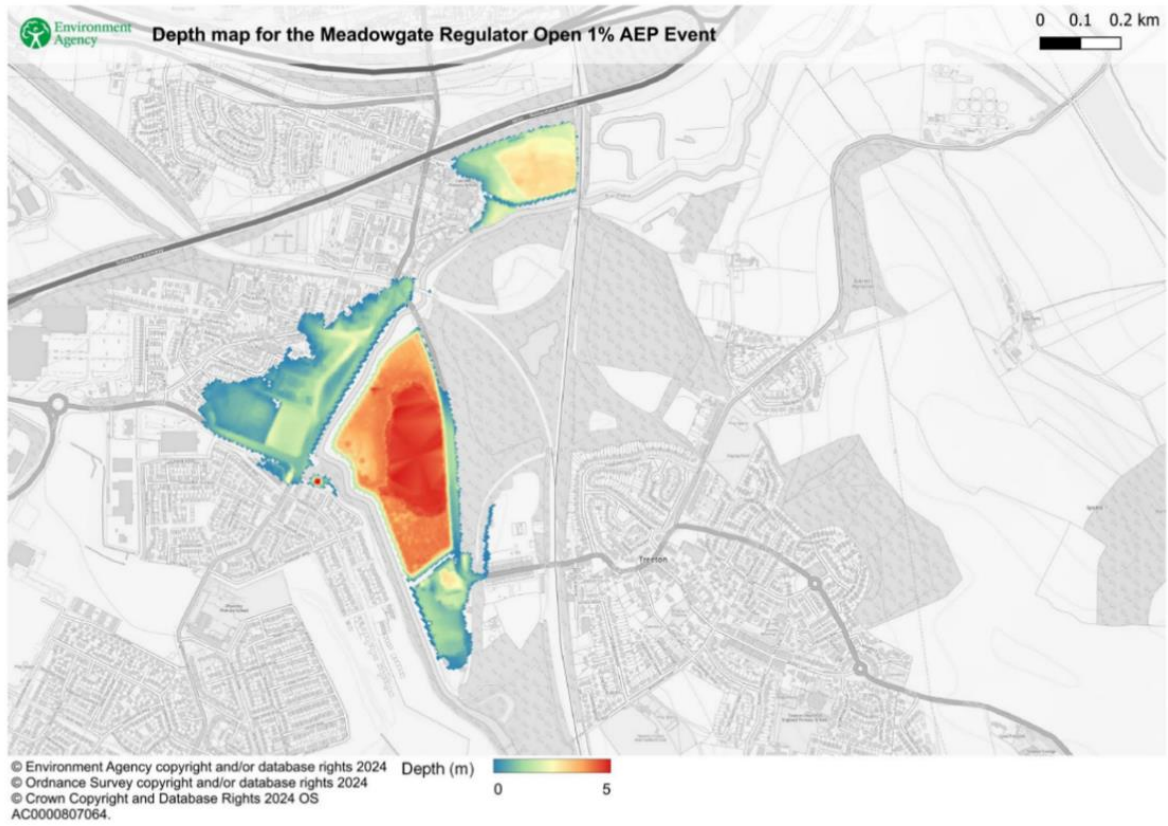
The following information has been provided by the Environment Agency following detailed discussion around the flooding event (Storm Babet) with the Council.

Maps showing the results from the modelling study are provided in this section. Maps 1 and 2 show the flood extents and depths during a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability, when Meadowgate Regulator is operational (also referred to as the Closed, Defended and Baseline scenario) and when Meadowgate Regulator is not operational (also referred to as the Open scenario). Map 3 shows the difference between the Meadowgate Regulator being operational and non operational during an 1% Annual Exceedance Probability.

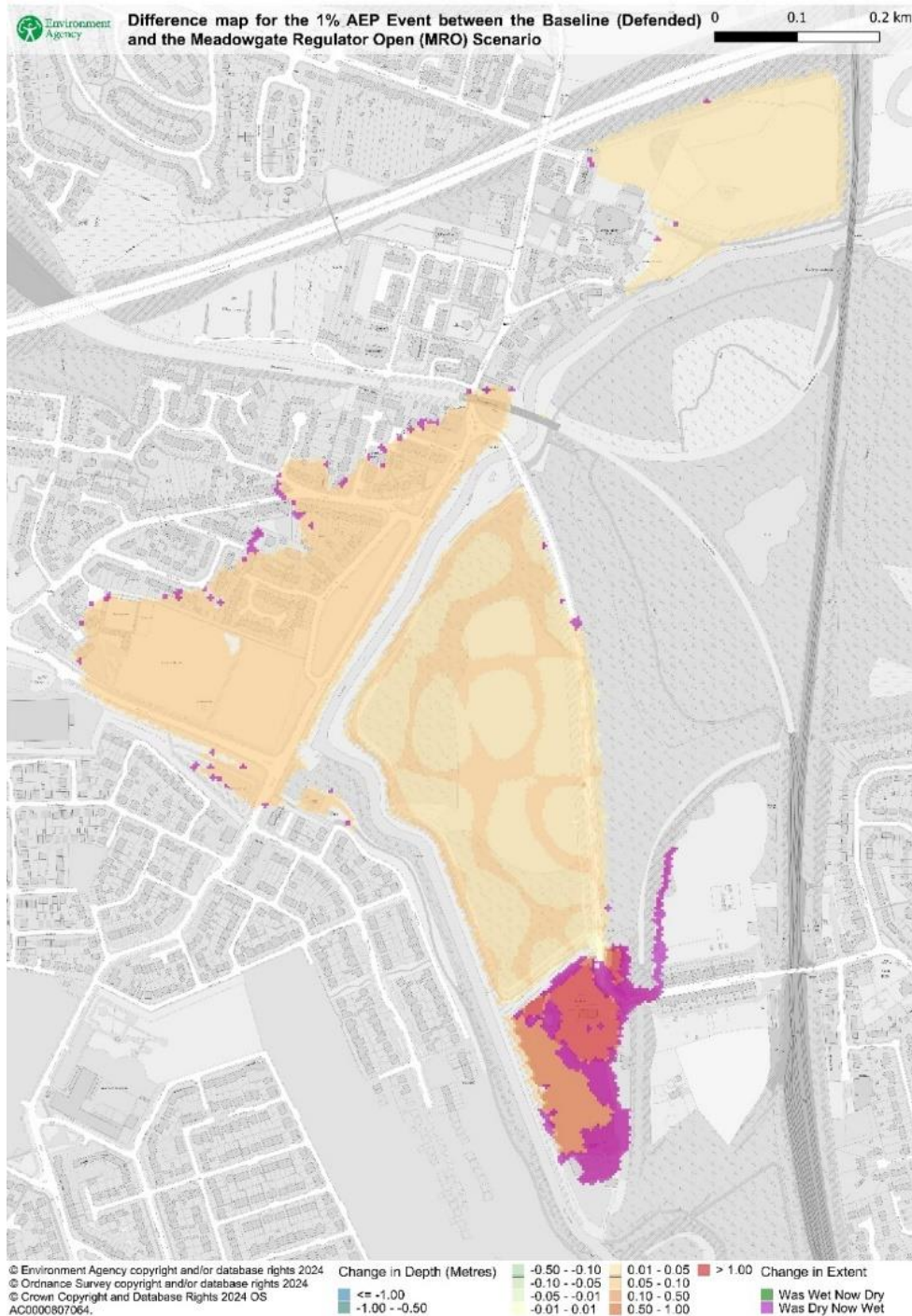
Map 1: Depth grids – 1% Annual Exceedance Probability – Meadowgate Operational (source:Environment Agency)



Map 2: Depth grids – 1% Annual Exceedance Probability –
Meadowgate Non Operational (source:Environment Agency)

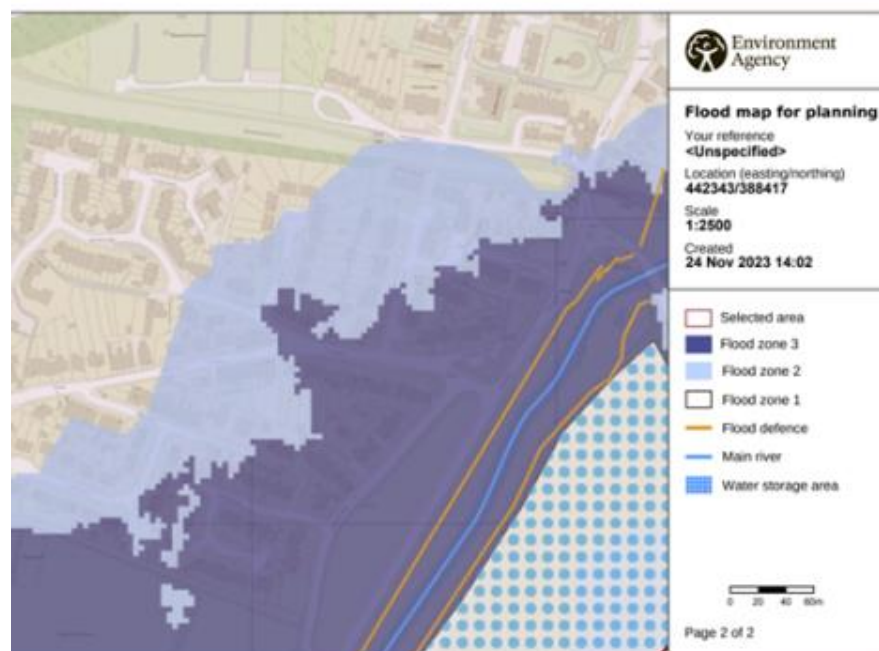


Map 3: Difference map for Meadowgate Closed vs Meadowgate Open
- 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (source:Environment Agency)



CATCLIFFE

OCTOBER 2023 FLOODS



FLOOD RISK

- Catcliffe is defined by the Environment Agency (EA) as being within flood zone 3. This definition is used nationally, and it means an area has a high probability of flooding from rivers or the sea
- Flood warning area: Catcliffe including the area bounded by Orgreave Road, Station Road, Sheffield Lane and Blue Mans Way.
- Flood defences have been built to protect against flooding from rivers or the sea (shown as an orange line on the map). Flood defences reduce, but do not completely stop the chance of flooding because they can be overtopped or fail.
- Properties in Catcliffe are already protected from flooding by the River Rother by sheet pile defence and earth embankments. These defences provide a 1 in 75 year Standard of Protection (there is a 1.33% chance of them being overtopped in any one year.)

TIMELINE OF EVENTS:

- Met office issued yellow and amber warnings for persistent heavy rain for the 19th, 20th and 21st October.
- 19th October – persistent heavy rainfall started – river and surface water flooding was anticipated.
- River levels were predicted to elevate from the heavy rainfall.
- Pumps were placed in Catcliffe to remove some of the surface water.
- Sandbags were delivered to residents.
- 21st October – river level in Catcliffe rose to levels higher than the floods back in 2019.
- Rotherham council closely monitored river levels alongside the Environment Agency.
- The pressure of the water against the sheet piling wall caused the river water to start seeping through the gaps in the wall, this then caused Orgreave Road to start flooding.
- Emergency services were called to the scene to assist.
- Residents were evacuated from their homes and taken to the Catcliffe memorial hall.
- A major incident was declared and more emergency services were brought to the scene.
- The river continued to rise causing the overtopping of the existing flood defences.
- By 6am the whole road was covered and this began to flood the properties.



FLOOD MECHANISM :

- The River Rother catchment is fully maintained and managed by the Environment Agency, and stems from Chesterfield picking up tributaries from around Derbyshire, before passing through Killamarsh towards Catcliffe.
- Two flow regulators are situated upstream of Catcliffe to regulate flow and reduce peak flooding downstream. The regulators allow flows to overspill into wash land areas when operated.
- In October 2023, Meadowgate flow regulator situated at Rother valley country park was out of commission.
- Woodhouse Mill flow regulator operated and reached peak height of 4.46 meters, 400mm higher than the water level recorded in 2007.
- The River Rother at Catcliffe reached a level of 30.52 meters, 150mm higher than the levels recorded in 2007.

Whiston Village Community Flood Information Sheet

Contents

- Introduction
- Flood Warnings Issued
- Flood Alerts, Flood Warnings & Severe Flood Warnings
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- River Flooding
- Community Engagement
- Next Steps

Introduction

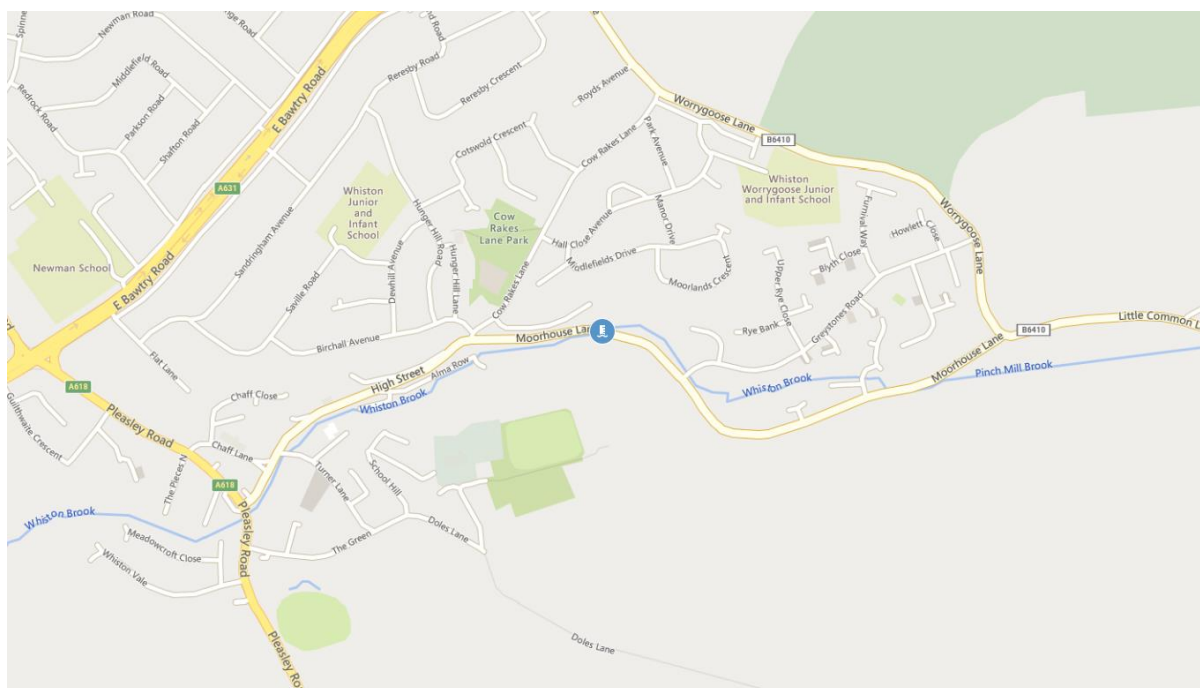
Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant rises in river levels, causing the Whiston Brook to overflow due to heavy rainfall. Whiston Brook is classed as a rapid response catchment. Internal flooding affected 10 properties from the River and 1 from surface water. The surrounding catchment was fully saturated due to recent rainfall events causing excess surface water run-off.

Whiston has been significantly impacted from flooding on numerous occasions with properties being flooded internally more than once in recent years. Storm Babet caused flooding to 10 properties on Moorhouse Lane from over topping of the Whiston Brook, that is managed and maintained by the Environment Agency.

The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required. And together with the Environment Agency continued to monitor the river levels throughout Storm Babet.

Levels within the river was recorded at 1.947m in 2023 which was 0.355m lower than levels experienced in 2019. No telemetry system was in place in the June 2007 flood event.

The Whiston Brook River Telemetry can be viewed here: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/9043>



Flood Warnings Issued by the Environment Agency

Flood Warning issued on 20 Oct 2023 08:08

Whiston Brook

River levels are rising rapidly on Whiston Brook due to persistent rainfall. Flooding is forecast to affect areas adjacent to Whiston Brook this morning, particularly Moorhouse Lane Road in Whiston. Rainfall is expected throughout today, 20th October 2023, and river levels are expected to remain high. Our incident rooms are open, and we are closely monitoring the situation. Monitor local water levels and weather conditions. Consider putting your flood plan into action. You should avoid walking, cycling or driving through flood water. This message will be updated by 16:10 on 20/10/2023, or as the situation changes.

Further update on the website no update was sent to residents.

Flood Warning issued on 20 Oct 2023 17:28

Whiston Brook

River levels are rising rapidly on Whiston Brook due to persistent rainfall. Flooding is forecast to affect areas adjacent to Whiston Brook this morning, particularly Moorhouse Lane Road in Whiston. Rainfall is expected throughout this evening, 20th October 2023 and into tomorrow, 21st October 2023, and river levels are expected to remain high. Our incident rooms are open, and we are closely monitoring the situation. Monitor local water levels and weather conditions. Consider putting your flood plan into action. You should avoid walking, cycling or driving through flood water. This message will be updated by 01:30 AM on 21/10/2023, or as the situation changes.

Flood Alerts, Flood Warnings & Severe Flood Warnings

Full information regarding Flood Alerts, Flood Warnings & Severe Flood Warnings can be found on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-alerts-and-warnings-what-they-are-and-what-to-do>

Flood alert

A flood alert means that flooding is possible so you should prepare now.



Flood alert icon description: a black house with 1 wavy line of water covering the bottom of it, within an orange triangle.

The Environment Agency issues a flood alert when forecasts show that flooding may be possible from:

- rivers
- high tides, surges or strong winds at sea

Timeframe

The Environment Agency usually issues a flood alert between 2 and 12 hours before flooding. Flood alerts are usually issued during waking hours where possible.

What you should do

You should regularly check if there's a flood alert for your area and follow the official advice. (<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>)

If a flood alert is issued, you should:

- be ready to follow your flood plan
- have insurance documents and any medications ready
- avoid walking, cycling or driving through any flood water
- move any livestock and farming equipment away from areas likely to flood

What is at risk during a flood alert? The following can be at risk when a flood alert is in force:

- fields, recreational land and car parks

- minor roads
- farmland
- coastal areas affected by spray or waves overtopping

Flood warning

A flood warning means that flooding is expected so you should act now.



Flood warning icon description: a black house with 2 wavy lines of water covering the bottom of it, within a red triangle.

The Environment Agency issues a flood warning when forecasts show that flooding is expected from:

- rivers
- heavy rain that will cause rivers to flash flood
- high tides and surges coupled with strong winds at sea

Timeframe

The Environment Agency usually issues a flood warning 30 minutes to 2 hours before flooding.

What you should do

You should regularly check if there's a flood warning for your area and follow the official advice. (<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>)

If a warning is issued, you should:

- protect yourself and your loved ones
- move your loved ones, pets and valuables to a safe place
- move to higher ground or the upper floor of a building
- turn off the gas, electricity and water in your home if it's safe
- put flood protection equipment in place
- do as the emergency services tell you
- help others if it's safe to do so

What is at risk during a flood warning. The following can be at risk when a flood warning is in force:

- homes and businesses
- railway lines and infrastructure
- roads
- coastal areas affected by spray or waves overtopping
- flood plains, including caravans park and campsites
- major tourist and leisure attractions

Severe flood warning

A severe flood warning means that flooding could cause danger to life and significant disruption to communities. You must act now.



Severe flood warning icon description: a red house with 3 wavy lines of water covering the bottom of it, within a red triangle.

Timeframe

The Environment Agency issues a severe flood warning when flooding threatens life and communities.

What you should do

You should regularly check if there's a severe flood warning for your area and follow the official advice. (<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>)

If a severe warning is issued, you should:

- stay in a safe place
- be ready to evacuate your home
- do as the emergency services tell you
- call 999 if you are in immediate danger
- if you are caught in a flash flood move to higher ground or the upper floor of a building if it's safe

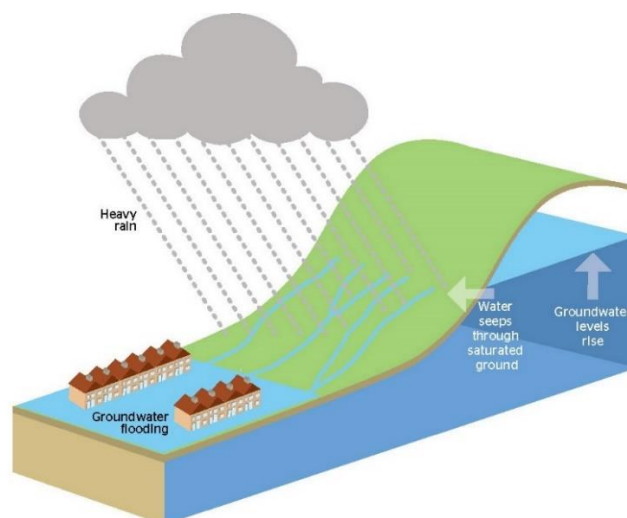
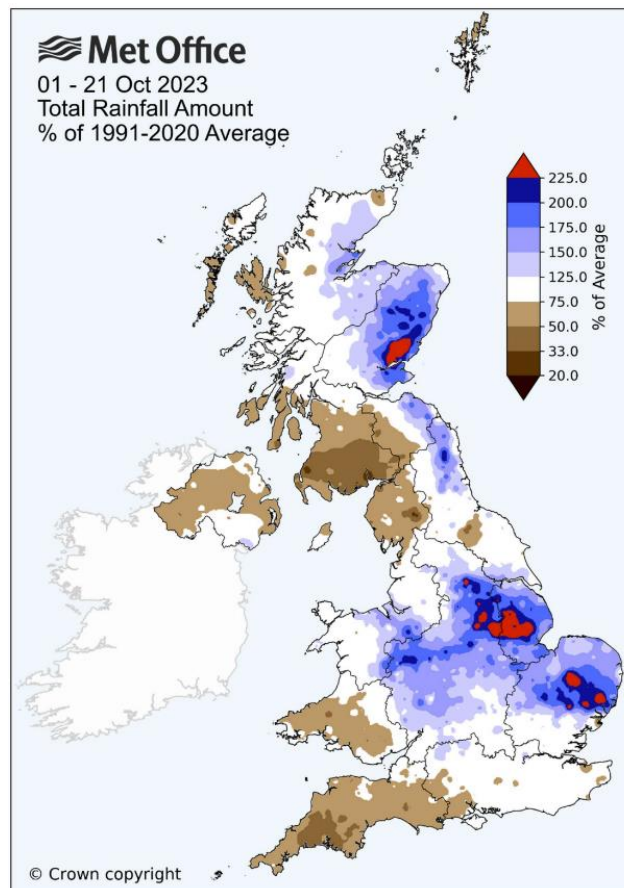
What may happen when a severe flood warning is in force. The following may happen during a severe flood warning:

- deep and fast-flowing water
- dangerous debris in the water
- buildings collapsing or at risk of collapsing
- communities unable to escape
- infrastructure not working, like gas, electricity and water
- the evacuation of lots of people

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior, causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.



Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

River flooding

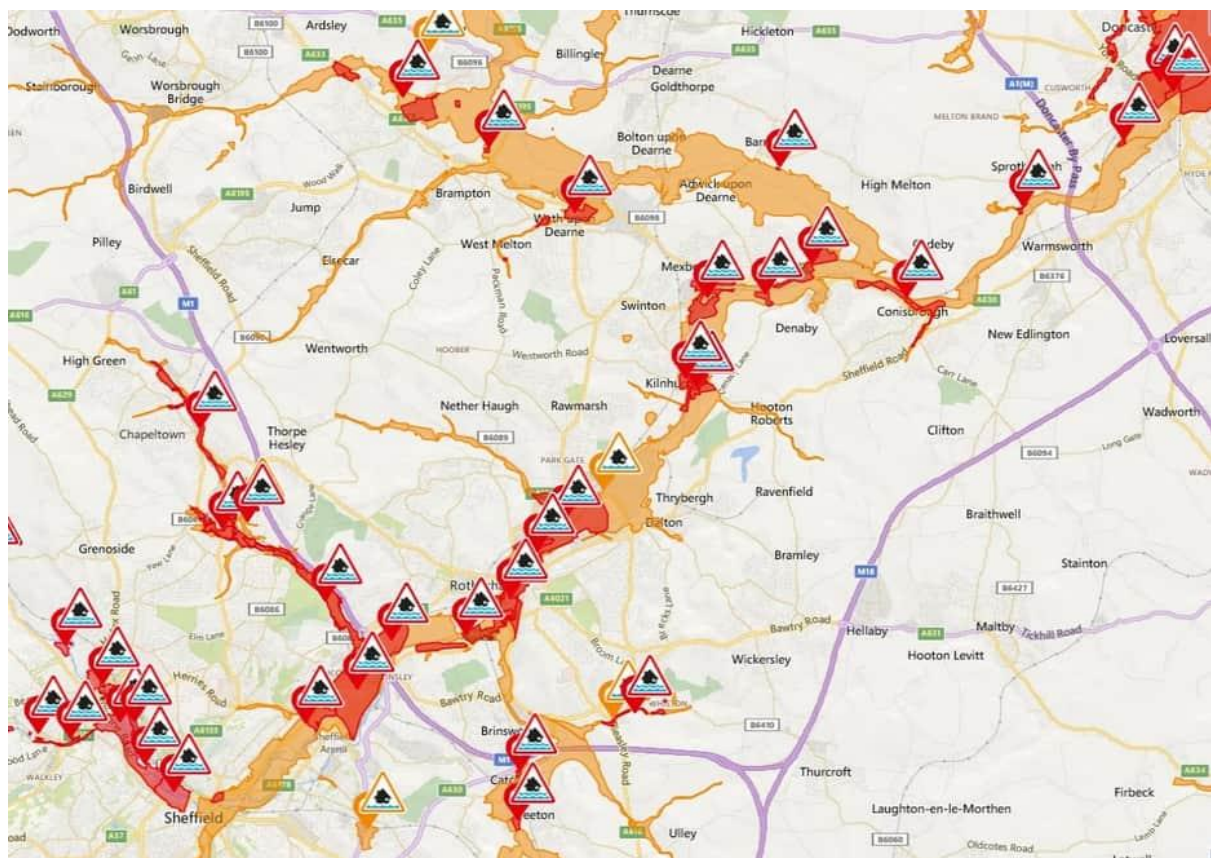
High levels of rainfall can result in rivers 'bursting their banks' (i.e., the river spilling out and flooding surrounding land). Flooding is a natural phenomenon, so it is usual for rivers to flood. If the river is classed as a 'main river', the management of flood risk will be the responsibility of the Environment Agency (EA). The Environment Agency carries out maintenance, improvement or construction work on main rivers to manage the flood risk.

The Environment Agency provide flood warning services for main river flooding.

Types of flooding: You can sign up to this service if your property is at risk here:

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

For help and guidance regarding river flooding contact the Environment Agency's Floodline on 0345 988 1188.



Community Engagement

Since the flooding in 2019 Rotherham Council has been working closely with the Parish Council to assist with creating Community Flood Plans and providing information and support within the community.

Several drainage projects have been carried out to reduce the risk of flooding, including new outfalls from highway drains, additional drainage assets and flood bunding to hold water back from properties.

Rotherham Council, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency attended Whiston's festival in 2022 and produced two guidance leaflets which were delivered to all residents in Whiston.



Parish Council Engagement

Council staff have attended several Parish Council meetings relating to flood and have been available to answer any questions and provide updates on the continued works to reduce flood risk.

The most recent was –

Public meeting – Flood risk in Whiston, Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 6.30pm in the Main Hall Whiston Parish Hall

Present:

Rotherglen Associates, Drainage Adviser to the Parish Council and Whiston Residents Action Group.

Representing RMBC Drainage Team.

Parish Clerk and 71 members of the public/local parishioners.

Information was provided to the Parish Council after the event relating to issues raised by attendees. Example of which is below.



Whiston Parish Council Meeting Follow-Up 9th April 2024

Rotherham Councils drainage team would like to thank the Parish Council for inviting us along to the meeting on the 9th April 2024. The strength of local concern was clear, and we recognise the need to provide reassurance on matters of flood risk especially to those who have suffered previous flooding or are at risk. The Council is committed to reducing flood risk around the borough and has invested significantly in preparing the 6 priority Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) to “shovel ready” status by the end of 2024. The Council has also recently announced an additional £300k of capital money to be used to improve highway drainage to further reduce flood risk from surface water. In the meeting several questions were asked that we were not able to fully answer on the evening. We have aimed to answer the outstanding issues raised, and we have also included responses obtained from the Environment Agency (EA) and Yorkshire Water (YW).

Q&A Whiston Parish Council Meeting

Q: Explanation on why the (FAS) scheme has taken so long to design?

A: Complex catchment, third party agreements for access, detailed surveys that need to be undertaken at different times of the year, approval process with EA & YW are some of the main procedures that are carried out within the design phase.

Q: Who to contact for garden rubbish being thrown in Whiston Brook?

A: (EA Response) Throwing Garden rubbish into Whiston Brook could have consequences resulting in increased flood risk. Please report all instances of this to Environment incident hotline Telephone (24-hour service) 0800 80 70 60.

Leaflet issued 2021

WHISTON BROOK

Working together to reduce the risk of flooding

The location of Whiston Brook means that it can cause flooding to nearby properties during heavy rainfall. By working together we can reduce this risk.

Organisations including the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Rotherham Council all work together to reduce the risk of flooding to properties.

There are also things that you can do to help.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The Environment Agency is responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea. They look at ways of reducing the risk of flooding and regulate the way water enters the river. Before, during and after a flood they check main river defences.

Contact the Environment Agency to:

- Report an obstruction in Whiston Brook that may lead to flooding
- Report pollution or a flooding incident

www.gov.uk/environment-agency
0800 80 70 60

ROTHERHAM COUNCIL

Rotherham Council is responsible for local flood response. They make sure the highway drainage networks such as streets and roads are clear and maintained, help communities recover from flooding and, in some cases, provide financial assistance to those affected by floods.

Contact Rotherham Council to:

- Report a blocked, damaged or missing manhole, drain cover or gully grate
- Request sandbags if your home is at risk
- Find out what financial assistance is available if you have been affected by floods

www.rotherham.gov.uk
01709 336003

YORKSHIRE WATER

Yorkshire Water is responsible for the public sewer systems in the region.

Contact Yorkshire Water if:

- Sewage has come into your property
- Sewage is outside of your property. You can check to see if someone has already reported the flood on their website
- You see a water leak

www.yorkshirewater.com
0345 1 242 424



Leaflet issued 2021

Your responsibilities as a property owner

As a landowner near Whiston Brook there are things that you can do to help prevent flooding. If the boundary of your land is next to the brook, you own and are responsible for the land up to the centre of the brook.

To help prevent flooding you must:

- Allow excess rainfall flow through your land/garden
- Keep your land clear of anything that could cause an obstruction and increase the risk of flooding
- Maintain any trees and shrubs that grow along your section of the riverbed and banks
- Clear any litter and animal carcasses from the brook and banks, even if they are not from your land (contact the Environment Agency for help and advice)
- Leave the edges of the riverbank clear and free of development to allow access
- Keep any structures on your land such as bridges, culverts, trash screens, weirs and mill gates clear of debris
- Control any invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed

For more information about living by a river visit:

www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse

03708 506 506

Be prepared for flooding

The Environment Agency provide a free Flood Warning Service to warn residents and businesses when flooding is expected.

By registering for the service you will receive an advanced warning of potential flooding in your area. This gives you time to stay safe, take action and prepare yourself and your property for flooding.

The team can also help you make a personal flood plan so you know what to do in the event of a flood.

To register for the service visit:

www.flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings

0345 988 1188

What's happening in South Yorkshire

For information about the flood recovery work taking place across South Yorkshire visit

www.consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/south-yorkshire-flood-recovery-information-page

If you have any questions about any of the work being carried out across Rotherham please email:

SYPSO@environment-agency.gov.uk



Leaflet issued August 2023

WHISTON

Working together to reduce the risk of flooding

Flooding occurs in Whiston because the brook's tributaries and drainage systems cannot always cope with the amount of rainfall, which results in flooding of nearby properties.

Rotherham Council work together with other organisations including the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and Whiston Parish Council to reduce the risk of flooding.

ROTHERHAM COUNCIL

Rotherham Council is responsible for the local flood response. They make sure the highway drainage networks such as streets and roads are clear and maintained, help communities recover from flooding.

Contact Rotherham Council to:

- Report a blocked, damaged or missing manhole, drain cover or gully grate
- Request sandbags if your home is at risk of imminent flooding

For useful information on flood events and how to prepare for them visit:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/water-management-flooding

For information on how to prepare your home and community for an emergency visit:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/emergencies

t. 01709 336003

WHISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Whiston Parish Council have supplied Hydrosacks to properties at risk of flooding.

They are lightweight, easy to carry and can be easily and safely disposed of after use. Rotherham Council and the Parish Council work together during a flood event to agree on the most suitable locations for the Hydrosacks and provide properties with a supply if they are deemed at-risk.

www.whistonparishcouncil.com

t. 07712 305729



Leaflet issued August 2023

Next Steps

- People, property, infrastructure, and emergency services across the borough have been severely impacted by catchment wide flooding events in June 2007, November 2019, and October 2023, and there has also been a number of other “near miss” flood events over the last two decades.

Flooding creates a dangerous situation, particularly if people become trapped within floodwater, or if transport networks and other local access routes become flooded. Impacts of flooding on sections of the transport network regularly causes significant disruption to many residents and businesses across the borough. The predicted impacts of a changing climate will exacerbate this existing risk, and strategic solutions are needed to create a safe and prosperous place to live and work.

The Council is working with the Environment Agency (EA), South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), Network Rail (NR), Canal & River Trust (CRT), plus many other organisations, asset owners, and landowners to deliver six Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects to reduce flood risk across the borough.

Delivery of these six Priority Flood Alleviation Schemes will significantly reduce flood risk to people, property and infrastructure, including:

- Approximately 290 residential properties (at risk of internal flooding)
- Approximately 360 business properties (at risk of internal flooding)
- Many more residential and business properties that suffer indirect impacts (where property access can be cut off by flooding)
- 8 sections of the strategic highways network (including key routes that need to be operational for emergency services during flood events)
- Rail and tram-train infrastructure (including services through Rotherham Central and Parkgate stations)
- Canal system (which includes residential moorings)
- Critical utility company infrastructure
- Community infrastructure

One of the Council’s six Priority Flood Alleviation schemes that is being developed to a ‘shovel ready’ state is the Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme. This scheme will help reduce the risk of flooding to Whiston by reducing peak flows across the catchment during a storm event by storing water in an attenuation basin / reservoir upstream. In addition, watercourse and culvert improvements will be undertaken to improve the conveyance of water.

Following an allocation of £0.5m from the Council’s corporate resources in 2021, and an additional £0.5m from Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Local Levy fund in 2023/2024, the Council and our Consultants have been working hard to progress the various aspects to achieve ‘shovel ready’ status for this flood alleviation scheme. These aspects include:

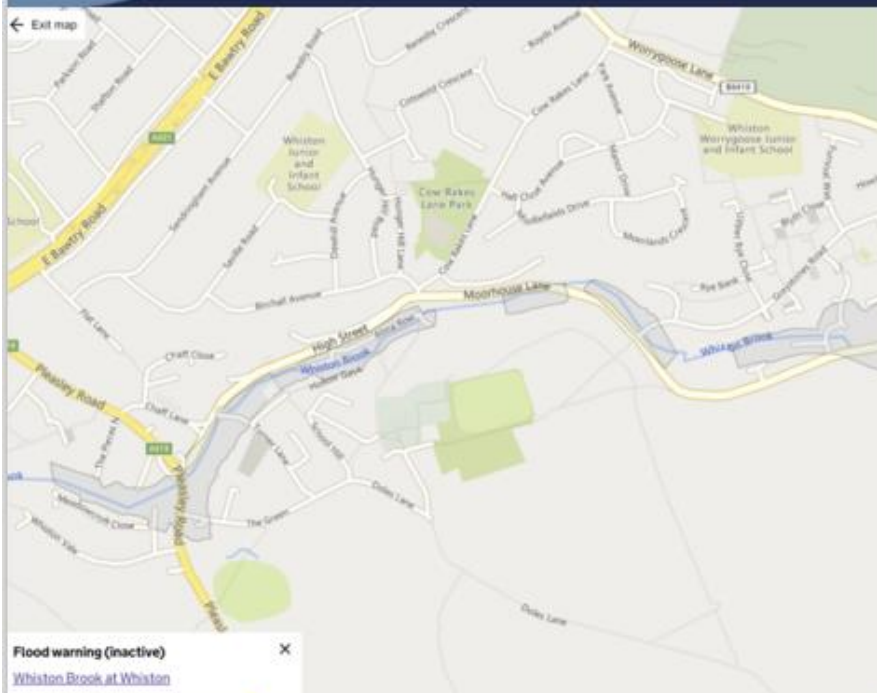
- The feasibility study and options appraisal (a study to determine the viability of various options and they benefits)
- Surveys and investigations for ecology, environmental, topographic and ground condition
- Modelling and calculations
- Scheme design drawings (outline and detailed)
- Third party approvals (Environment Agency, utility companies, etc.)
- Landowner agreements
- Planning applications.

With construction funding allocated, it is anticipated that construction works on the Flood Alleviation Scheme will start in late 2025, subject to approvals and legal agreements. It is estimate that the construction phase for this scheme will cost in the region of £5.5mil.

- The Council will continue to respond to flood events and assist residents within the community where possible.

WHISTON

OCTOBER 2023 FLOODS



FLOOD RISK

- Flood zone 3 – high probability of flooding from rivers and the sea.
- Main river which runs through Whiston known as Whiston Brook.
- Flood warning area: Whiston Brook through Whiston, from Moorhouse Lane, along High Street to Meadowcroft Close.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS:

- Met office issued yellow and amber warnings for persistent heavy rain for the 19th, 20th and 21st October.
- 19th October – persistent heavy rainfall started – river and surface water flooding was anticipated.
- River levels were predicted to elevate from the heavy rainfall.
- Sandbags were delivered to residents.
- Rotherham council closely monitored river levels alongside the Environment Agency.
- On Friday 20th October, Moorhouse Lane had to be closed due to flooding.
- Communities and neighbourhoods attended all properties that experienced internal flooding.
- Skips were provided to aid residents with disposing of flood damaged furniture.



FLOOD MECHANISM:

- Whiston Brook has been classified as a main river and is managed by the Environment Agency. Due to several months of heavy rainfall, high ground saturation has caused high levels of surface water run-off.
- Storm Babet saw peak rainfall within Whiston reaching 81mm within a 48 hour period, and peak flows within the river of 1.95 meters, 350mm lower than the levels recorded in 2019.

Dinnington & Laughton Common Community Flood Information Sheet

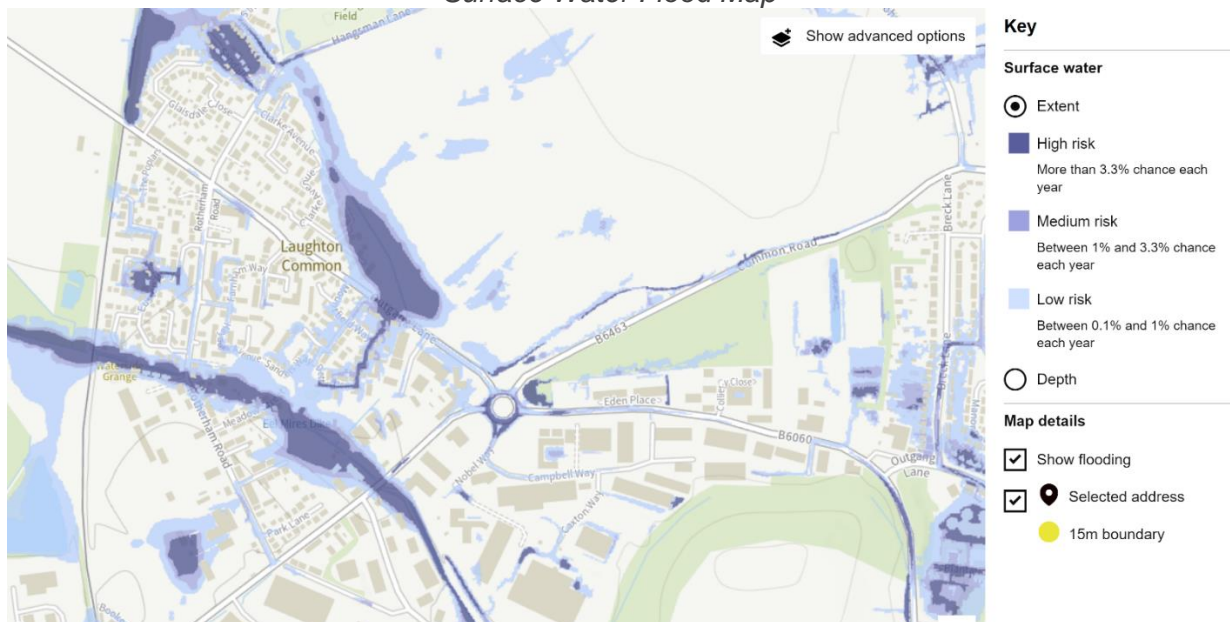
Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Ordinary Watercourses
- Riparian Ownership
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant rises in watercourse levels, causing Eel Mires Dike to overflow due to heavy rainfall. Internal flooding affected 7 properties from the watercourse. The surrounding catchment was fully saturated due to recent rainfall events causing excess surface water run-off.

Surface Water Flood Map




Dinnington and Laughton Common were heavily impacted during Storm Babet. Eel Mires Dike (watercourse) over topped as a result of saturated ground that surrounds both Laughton Common and Dinnington. The culverted watercourse from Outgang Lane does not have sufficient capacity during high volumes of surface water runoff. The flooding that occurred on Meadow Street was due to Eel Mires Dike culverted watercourse being overwhelmed.

The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required. And continued to monitor the river levels throughout Storm Babet.

Since 2019 Rotherham Council has been working with Dinnington Town Council to assist with resource requests and draft community flood plans. Rotherham Council have provided the Town Council with HydroSacks (an alternative to sandbags) to assist in providing resilience.

Rotherham Council's Emergency Planning Team has carried out exercises with Dinnington Town Council to improve their preparedness to dealing with flood events and increase their knowledge on how to respond within a flood event.

Emergency Planning Shared Service
 Rotherham & Sheffield

Exercise April Showers


July 12th 2022

10:00 -12:00

|

Version No.	0.1
Date Issued	
Author	Francesca Croot
Authorised By:	Claire Hanson

Riverside House
 Main Street
 Rotherham
 S60 1AE
 Tel: 01709 823878
 Email: EPSharedService@rotherham.gov.uk



Contents**Aim:**

To provide an opportunity for Dinnington St Johns to validate their community emergency plan.

Objectives:

1. To confirm the activation procedures within the plan are suffice
2. To confirm the process of communication between Dinnington St Johns Town Council and RMBC
3. To discuss the Dinnington St Johns Council response options to a potential flood emergency
4. To provide an opportunity for staff to review and familiarise themselves with the plan
5. To provide an opportunity to identify learning and recommendations to inform future planning needs

Date of Exercise

Tuesday 12th April 10-12am

Location

The Lyric, 62a Laughton Road, Dinnington, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S25 2PS.

Participation

The exercise is aimed at Dinnington St Johns Town Council with support from RMBC to review and validate the Community Emergency Plan. This exercise will take place via a table-top format

Invitees

Name	Designation
IBC:	

The training session focused around:

- Before an incident / once an incident looks likely:
 - Signing up to Met Office alerts as means of keeping an eye on the forecast.
 - Ensuring arrangements are in place – i.e., having your own sandbags / setting up flood barriers.
- During an incident:
 - Ensuring that a messaging network is set up between local residents, Town Council.
 - Having a presence on the ground and checking known hotspots.

Guidance leaflets were then produced to provide information on who to contact within the event, what to do within a flood event, and the upcoming scheme to reduce flood risk; which were delivered to over 2000 residents in Laughton Common and adjacent areas.

Leaflet issued May 2022

LAUGHTON COMMON

Working together to reduce the risk of flooding

Flooding occurs in Laughton Common because the drainage systems and smaller watercourses (also called ordinary watercourses) in the area cannot always cope with the amount of rainfall, which results in flooding of properties.

Rotherham Council work together with other organisations including the Environment Agency, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and Dinnington St John's Town Council to reduce the risk of flooding.

ROTHERHAM COUNCIL

Rotherham Council is responsible for the local flood response. They make sure the highway drainage networks such as streets and roads are clear and maintained, help communities recover from flooding and, in some cases, provide financial assistance to those affected by floods.

Contact Rotherham Council to:

- Report a blocked, damaged or missing manhole, drain cover or gully grate
- Find out what financial assistance is available if you have been affected by floods

For useful information on flood events and how to prepare for them visit:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/water-management-flooding

For information on how to prepare your home and community for an emergency visit:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/emergencies

t. 01709 336003

DINNINGTON ST JOHN'S TOWN COUNCIL

Dinnington St John's Town Council have a supply of Hydrosacks to help reduce distribution time during a flood event. Hydrosacks are a modern eco-friendly alternative to traditional sandbags. They are lightweight, easy to carry and can be easily and safely disposed of after use.

Rotherham Council and the Town Council work together during a flood event to agree on the most suitable locations for the Hydrosacks and provide properties with a supply if they are deemed at-risk.

www.dinningtonstjohns.org

t. 07947 880573 – Town Clerk



Dinnington St John's Town Council

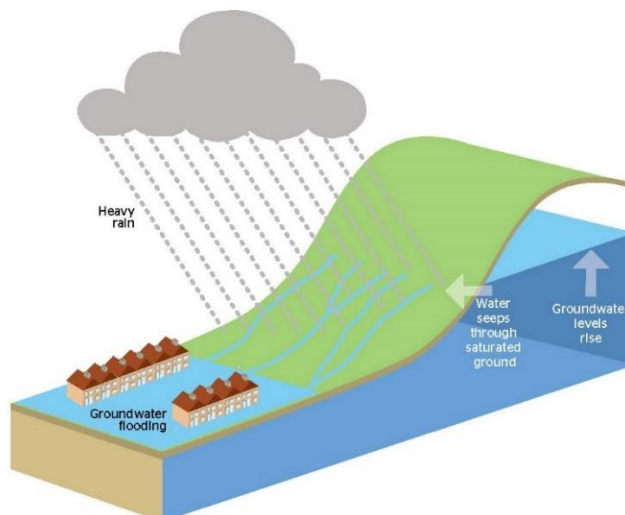
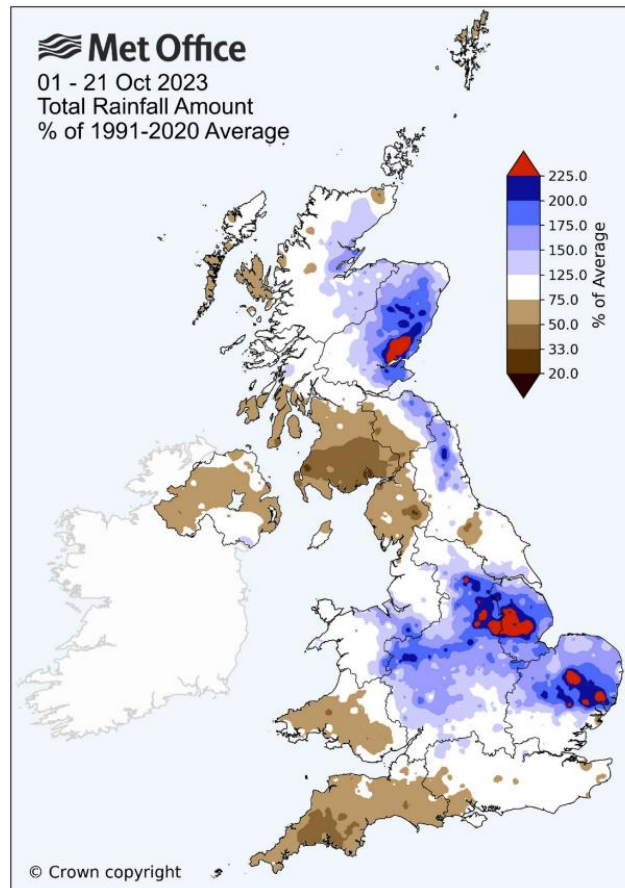


Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.



Ground Water Flooding

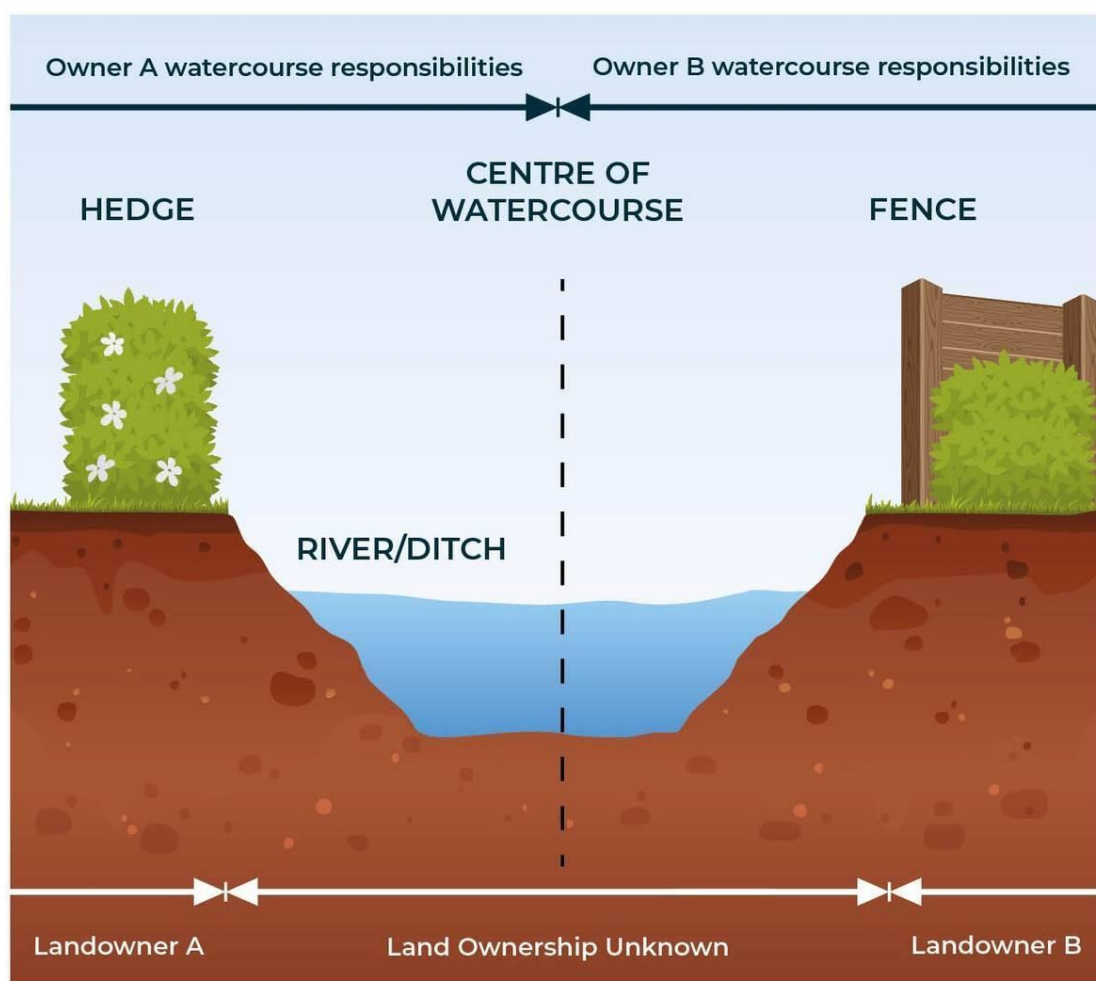
Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Ordinary Watercourses

Watercourses that are not managed by the environment agency and are riparian owner's responsibility. Flooding occurs when a break or failure happens, or the banks of the watercourse are over topped.

Riparian Ownership

If you are a riparian owner of a watercourse, for example if you live next to a watercourse, or a watercourse flows through your land, you have very important and specific legal responsibilities to manage flood risk. The responsibility will lie to the centre of the watercourse if your land is adjacent.



Next Steps

- People, property, infrastructure, and emergency services across the borough have been severely impacted by catchment wide flooding events in June 2007, November 2019, and October 2023, and there has also been a number of other “near miss” flood events over the last two decades.

Flooding creates a dangerous situation, particularly if people become trapped within floodwater, or if transport networks and other local access routes become flooded. Impacts of flooding on sections of the transport network regularly causes significant disruption to many residents and businesses across the borough. The predicted impacts of a changing climate will exacerbate this existing risk, and strategic solutions are needed to create a safe and prosperous place to live and work.

The Council is working with the Environment Agency (EA), South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), Network Rail (NR), Canal & River Trust (CRT), plus many other organisations, asset owners and landowners to deliver six Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects to reduce flood risk across the borough.

Delivery of these six Priority Flood Alleviation Schemes will significantly reduce flood risk to people, property and infrastructure, including:

- Approximately 290 residential properties (at risk of internal flooding)
- Approximately 360 business properties (at risk of internal flooding)
- Many more residential and business properties that suffer indirect impacts (where property access can be cut off by flooding)
- 8 sections of the strategic highways network (including key routes that need to be operational for emergency services during flood events)
- Rail and tram-train infrastructure (including services through Rotherham Central and Parkgate stations)
- Canal system (which includes residential moorings)
- Critical utility company infrastructure
- Community infrastructure

One of the Council’s six Priority Flood Alleviation schemes that is being developed to a ‘shovel ready’ state is the Eel Mires Dike Flood Alleviation Scheme at Laughton Common. The scheme will help reduce the risk of flooding to the Laughton Common area by reducing peak flows across the catchment during a storm event by storing water in attenuation basins upstream. In addition, watercourse and culvert improvement works will be undertaken to improve the conveyance of water.

Following an allocation of £0.6m from the Council’s corporate resources in 2021, the Council and our Consultants have been working hard to progress the various aspects to achieve ‘shovel ready’ status for this flood alleviation scheme. These aspects include:

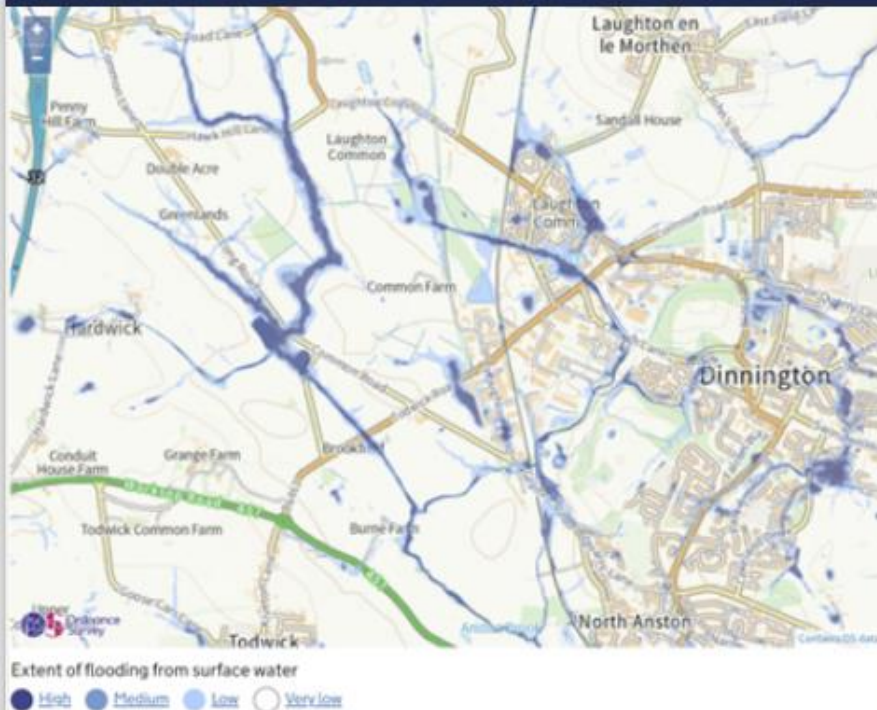
- The feasibility study and options appraisal (a study to determine the viability of various options and they benefits)
- Surveys and investigations for ecology, environmental, topographic and ground condition
- Modelling and calculations
- Scheme design drawings (outline and detailed)
- Third party approvals (Environment Agency, utility companies, etc.)
- Landowner agreements
- Planning applications

With construction funding allocated, it is anticipated that construction works on the Flood Alleviation Scheme will start in late 2025, subject to approvals and legal agreements. It is estimate that the construction phase for this scheme will cost in the region of £6.6mil.

- The Council will continue to respond to flood events and assist residents within the community where possible.

LAUGHTON COMMON

OCTOBER 2023 FLOODS



FLOOD RISK

- Flood zone 1 – low probability of flooding from rivers and the sea.
- High risk area for surface water flooding.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS:

- Met office issued yellow and amber warnings for persistent heavy rain for the 19th, 20th and 21st October.
- 19th October – persistent heavy rainfall started – river and surface water flooding was anticipated.
- Sandbags were delivered to residents.
- Dinnington Town Council issued hydro-sacks to vulnerable residents.
- Rotherham council closely monitored river levels alongside the Environment Agency.
- On Friday 20th October, roads were closed throughout the day as flood waters continued to rise.
- Communities and neighbourhoods attended all properties that experienced internal flooding.



FLOOD MECHANISM:

- Eel Mires Dike is classified as an ordinary watercourse and falls under responsibility of riparian ownership.
- Due to several months of heavy rainfall, high ground saturation has caused high levels of surface water run-off.
- Storm Babet saw peak rainfall within Laughton Common reaching 100.4mm within a 48 hour period. The large rural catchment overwhelmed the existing watercourse and culverts, causing widespread flooding throughout Laughton Common.

Kimberworth Park Community Flood Information Sheet

Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant surface water flooding. Internal flooding affected 1 property within Kimberworth Park, this was due to the level of rainfall experienced surpassed the design criteria for the existing highway drain.



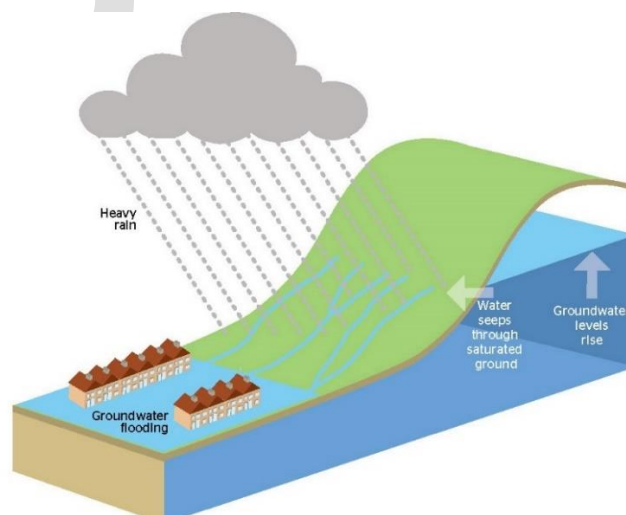
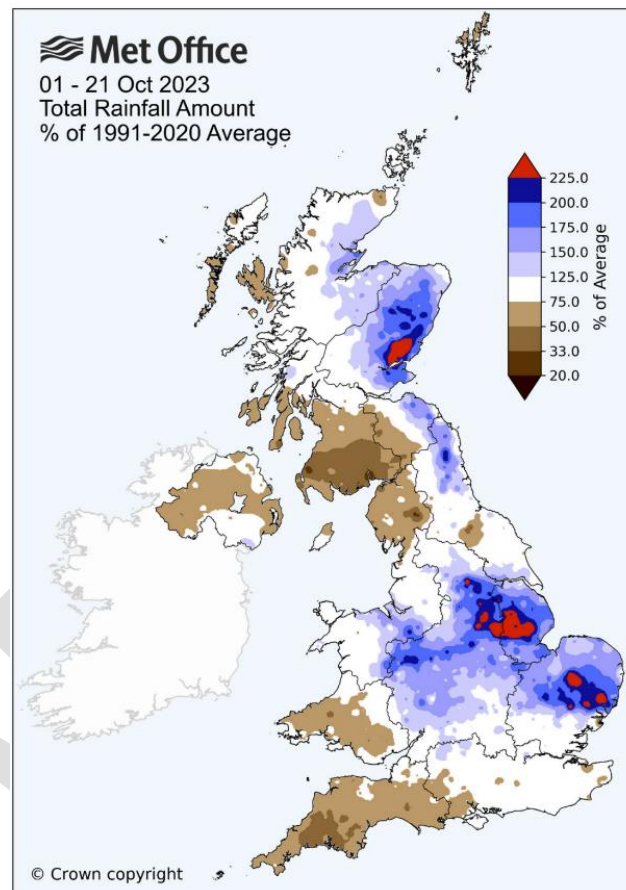
During Storm Babet the area experienced extremely heavy rainfall and high levels of surface water and groundwater flooding that caused internal flooding to 1 property in Kimberworth Park.

The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.



Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Next Steps

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised for internally flooding over area flooding.

The Council will continue to monitor these issues and carrying out further investigation and remedial works as identified. A property flood resilience grant has been offered to all properties that have been affected by internal flooding to install resilience measures on their individual homes.

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Treeton (Shorland Drive) Community Flood Information Sheet

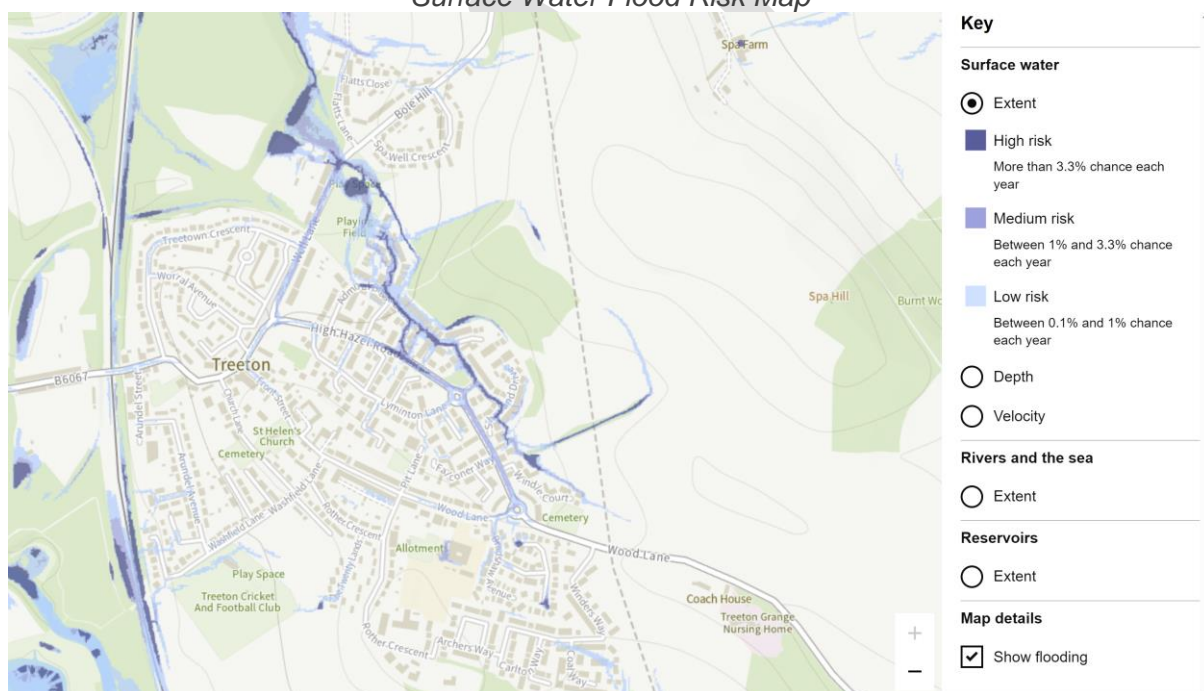
Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant surface water flooding. Internal flooding affected 2 properties at Shorland Drive, Treeton, this was due to the surrounding catchment being fully saturated due to recent rainfall events causing excess surface water run-off from Council owned land.

Surface Water Flood Risk Map



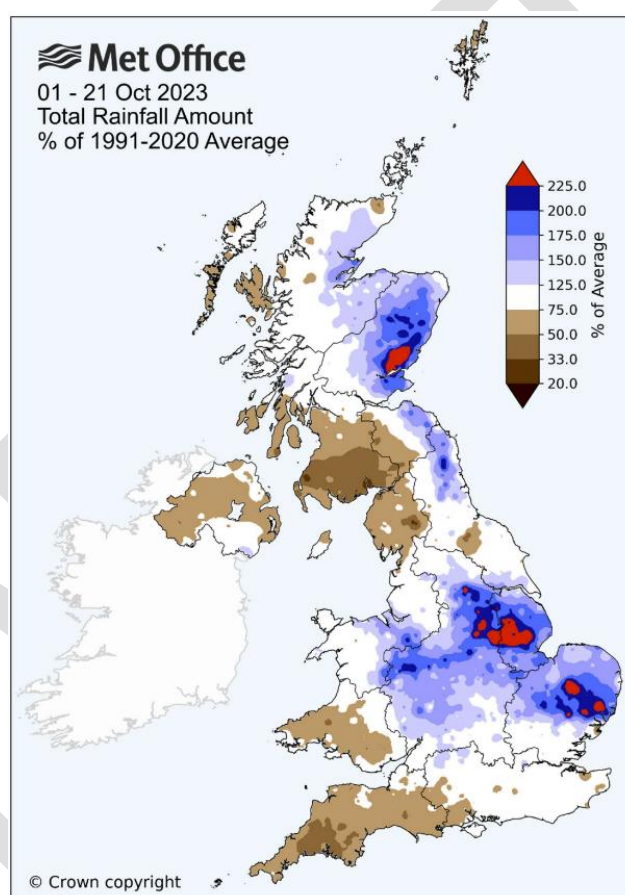
During Storm Babet the area experienced extremely heavy rainfall and surface water run-off from the surrounding greenspace (which was already saturated due to the prolonged rainfall). Both of these situations contributed to higher-than-normal water levels in existing watercourses, which unfortunately over-topped and caused flooding to the properties.

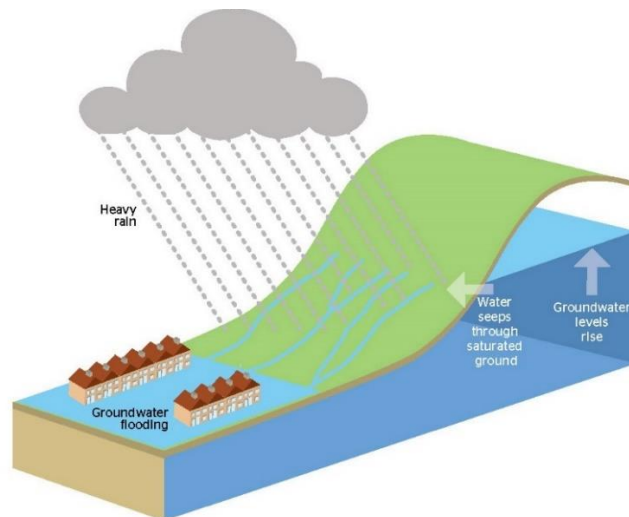
The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.





Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Next Steps

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised for internally flooding over area flooding.

Following the storm event, the Council have identified priority areas where improvements can be made to the existing drainage infrastructure to reduce flooding, particularly on the highway network and to properties. Upon investigation the Council found an existing culvert in the rear gardens that was overwhelmed within the event due to the existing capacity. Due to the surface water run-off from Council land, the Council has installed leaky dams up stream to reduce the velocity and volume of water entering the culvert within extreme events. Further to this an overflow from the culvert has been installed into the existing highway drainage network to relieve the pressure on the culvert.

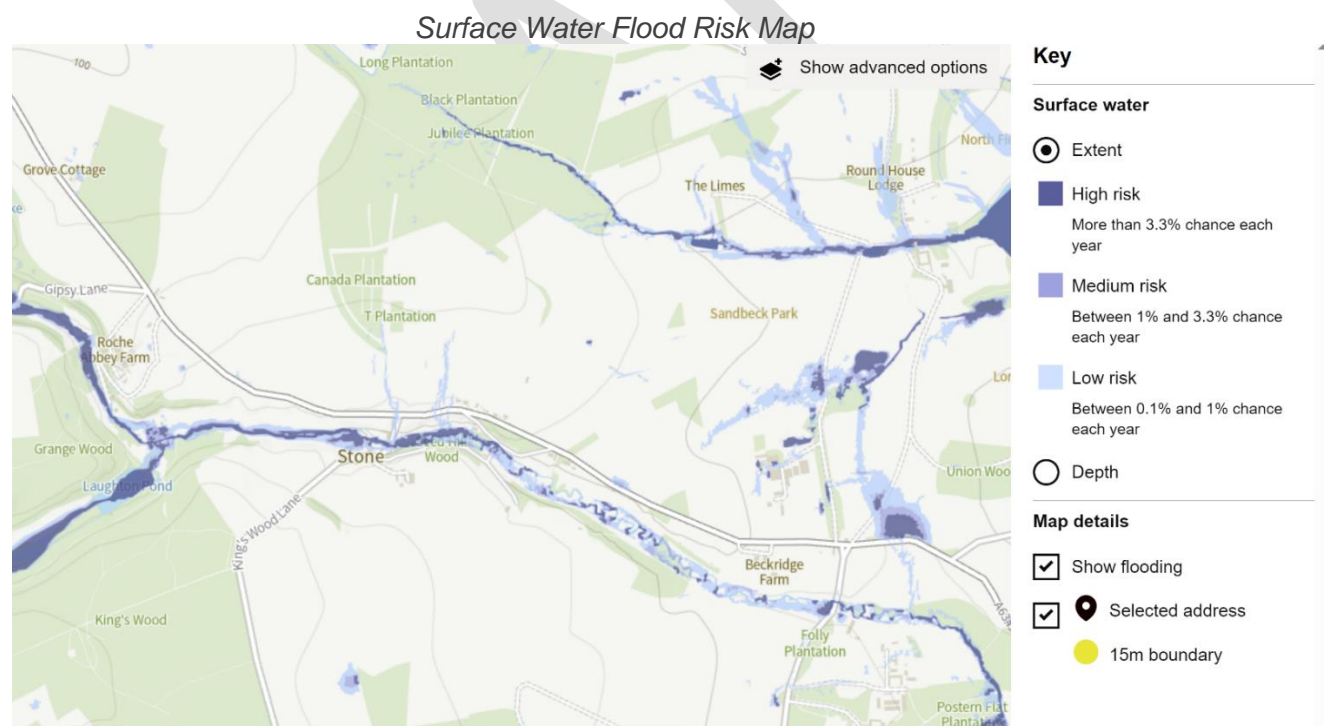
Stone Community Flood Information Sheet

Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- River Flooding
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant rises in river levels, causing the Main River (Maltby / Firbeck Dike) to overflow due to heavy rainfall. Internal flooding affected 1 property from the river. The surrounding catchment was fully saturated due to recent rainfall events causing excess surface water run-off.



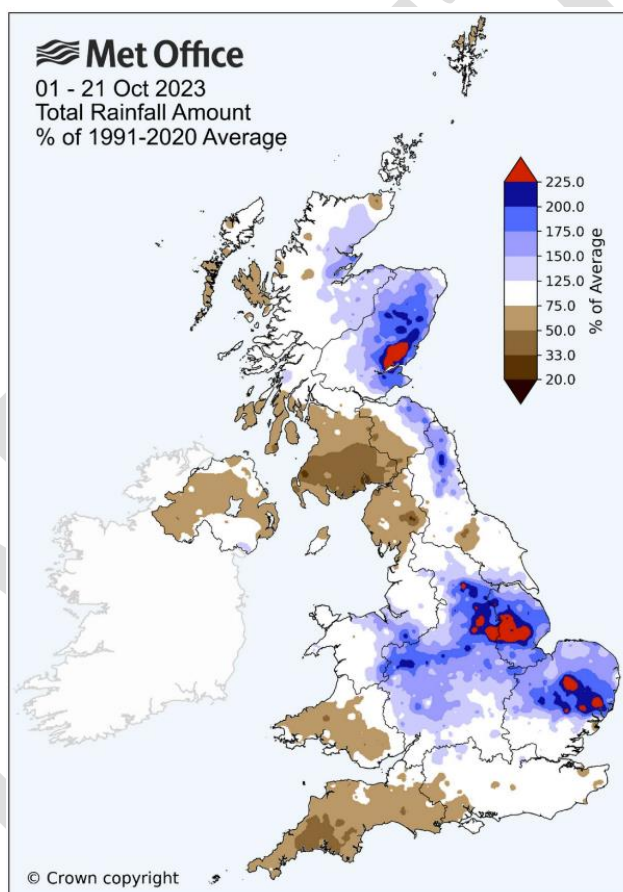
During Storm Babet the area experienced extremely heavy rainfall and surface water run-off from the surrounding farmland (which was already saturated due to the prolonged rainfall). Both of these situations contributed to higher-than-normal water levels in Maltby Dike, which unfortunately over-topped and caused flooding to the property adjacent to the Dike in Stone village.

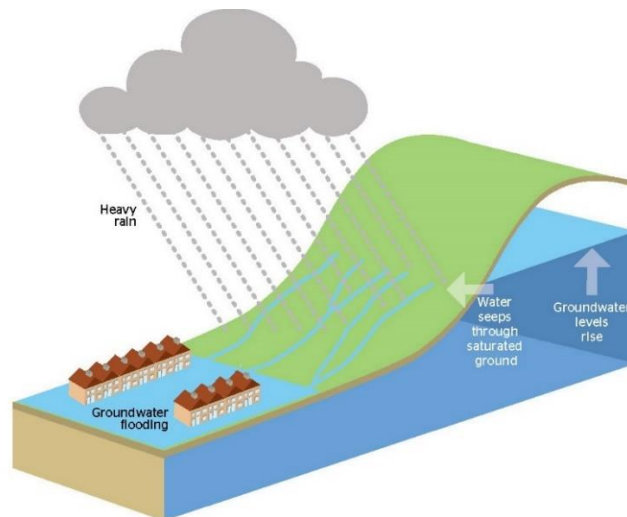
The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required. Numerous sandbags were delivered to Stone over the course of the storm event and gullies cleared to keep the highway network open.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.





Ground Water Flooding

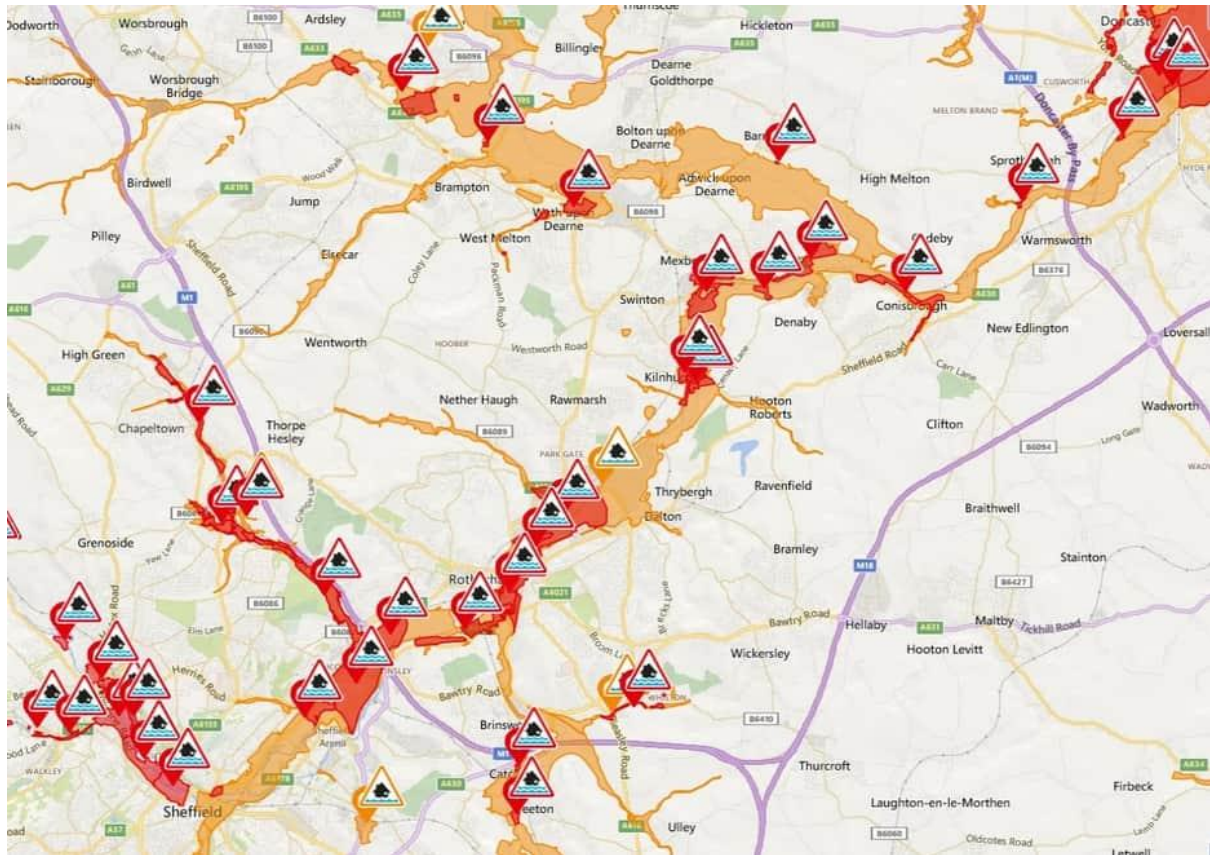
Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

River flooding

High levels of rainfall can result in rivers 'bursting their banks' (i.e., the river spilling out and flooding surrounding land). Flooding is a natural phenomenon, so it is usual for rivers to flood. If the river is classed as a 'main river', the management of flood risk will be the responsibility of the Environment Agency (EA). The Environment Agency carries out maintenance, improvement or construction work on main rivers to manage the flood risk.

The Environment Agency provide flood warning services for main river flooding. Types of flooding: You can sign up to this service if your property is at risk here: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

For help and guidance regarding river flooding contact the Environment Agency's Floodline on 0345 988 1188.



Next Steps

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised for internally flooding over area flooding.

Following the storm event, we have identified priority areas where improvements can be made to the existing drainage infrastructure to reduce flooding, particularly on the highway network and to properties. The current highway drainage network is under capacity and is due to be renewed, works are due to be carried out this financial year 2024/25.

Kiveton Park Community Flood Information Sheet

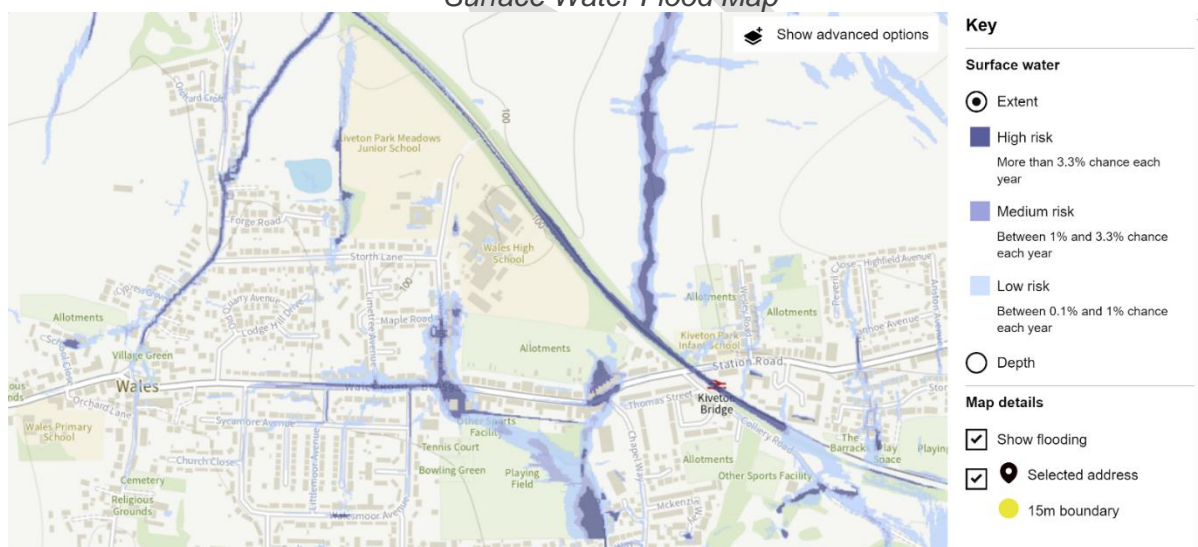
Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant surface water flooding. Internal flooding affected 1 property within Kiveton Park, this was due to the surrounding catchment being fully saturated due to recent rainfall events causing excess surface water run-off.

Surface Water Flood Map



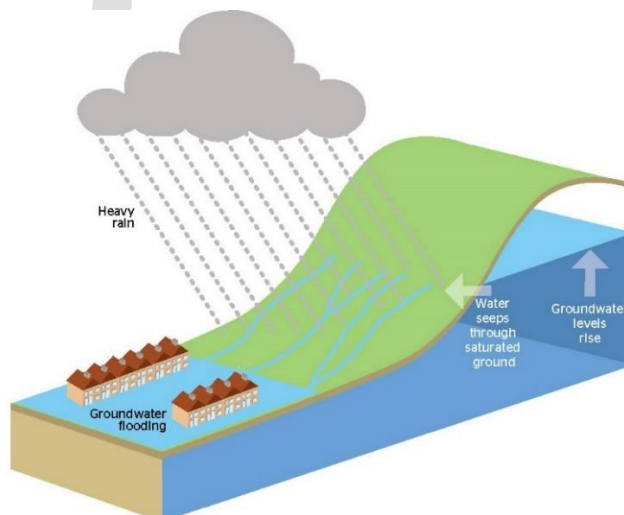
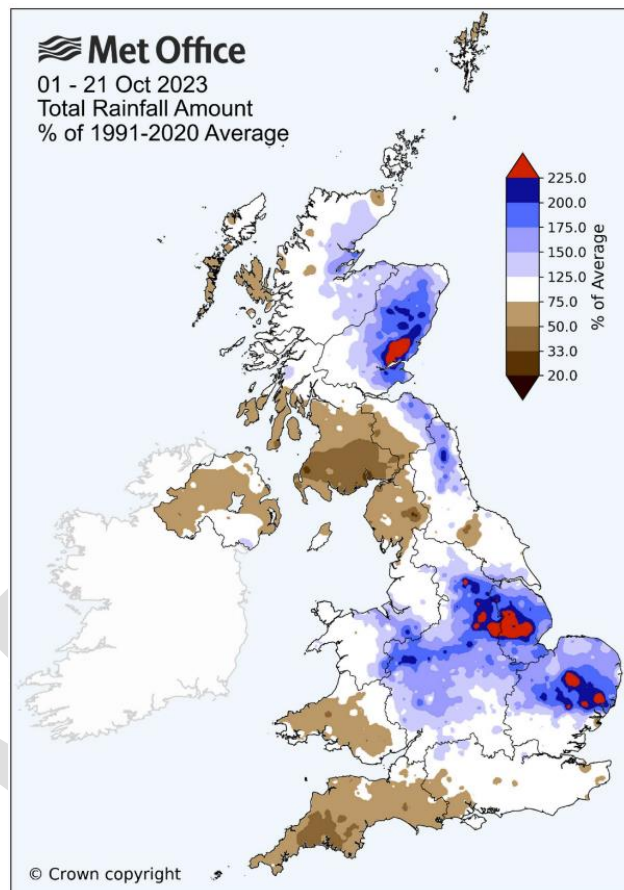
During Storm Babet, the area experienced extremely heavy rainfall, the existing highway drainage system was overwhelmed which caused surface water flooding to 1 residential property.

The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.



Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Next Steps

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised for internally flooding over area flooding.

The Council will continue to monitor these issues and carry out further investigation and remedial works. A property flood resilience grant has been offered to all properties that have been affected by internal flooding to install resilience measures on their individual homes.

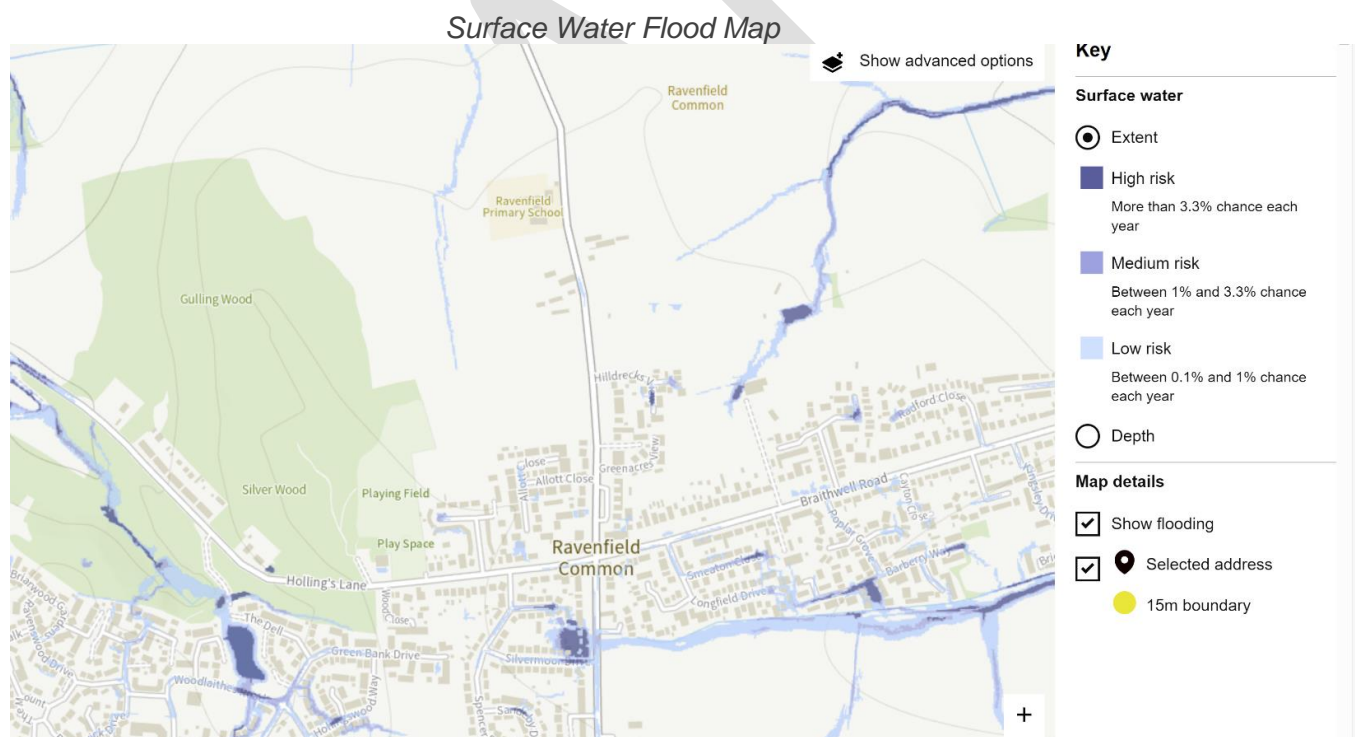
Ravenfield Community Flood Information Sheet

Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Sewers and Drains
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant surface water flooding. Internal flooding affected 1 property within Ravenfield, this was due to the level of rainfall experienced surpassed the design criteria for the existing public surface water sewer that is owned and maintained by Severn Trent Water



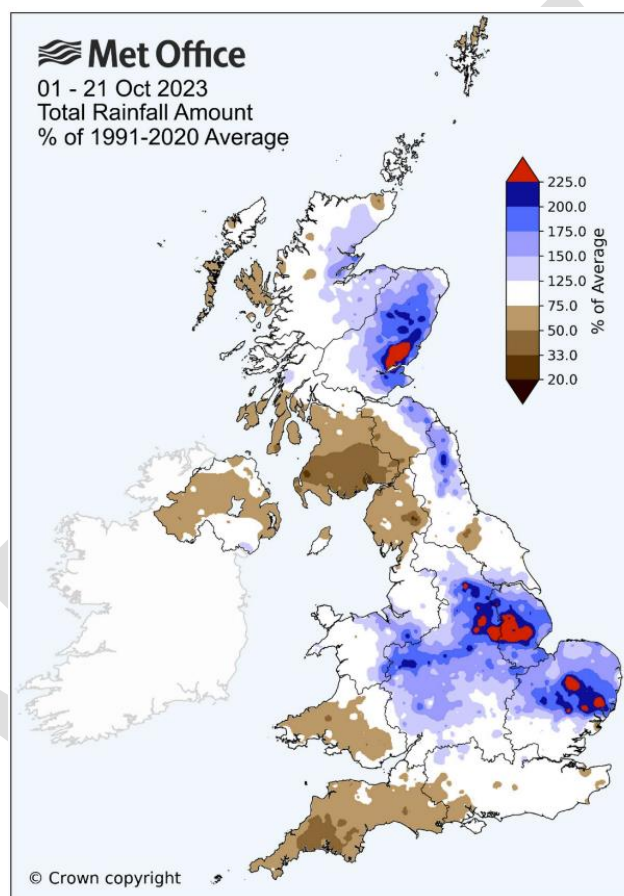
The isolated property that was affected within Ravenfield was due to intense rainfall overwhelming the Severn Trent Sewer, this caused surface water to escape from a manhole on the property and flood the residential dwelling internally.

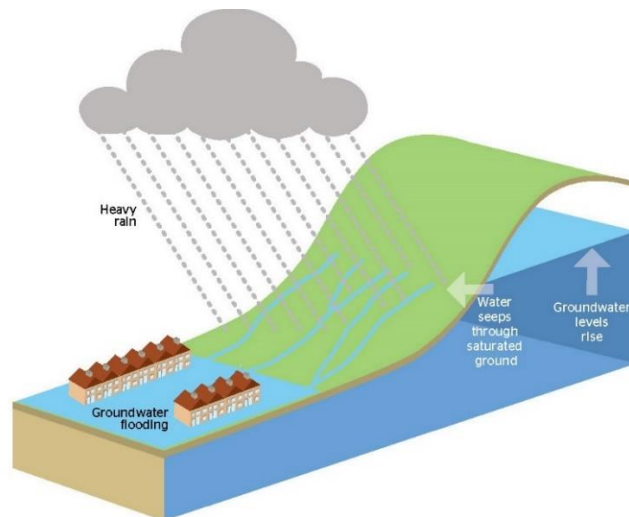
The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.





Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Sewers and Drains (Information below provided by Severn Trent Water)

If you can see sewer debris like toilet paper, then this may be a sewer flooding. If it's coming from the public sewerage network Severn Trent Water will look after this, contact us for help. You should report sewer flooding to us immediately. Get in touch and we'll be able to help and provide advice on what to do. If the flooding is only affecting your home and is coming from a private drain on yours or your neighbour's boundary, then you or the owner of the drain will need to arrange the repair. You should contact your insurer in any case of sewer flooding. If you don't, it may affect your future claims. To find out more about different types of flooding, please visit Severn Trent Water's website: <https://www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/flooding/>

Next Steps

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised for internally flooding over area flooding.

Severn Trent Water are committed to investigating the internal flooding caused by surcharging of the public surface water sewer. A property flood resilience grant has been offered to all properties that have been affected by internal flooding to install resilience measures on their individual homes.

North Anston Community Flood Information Sheet

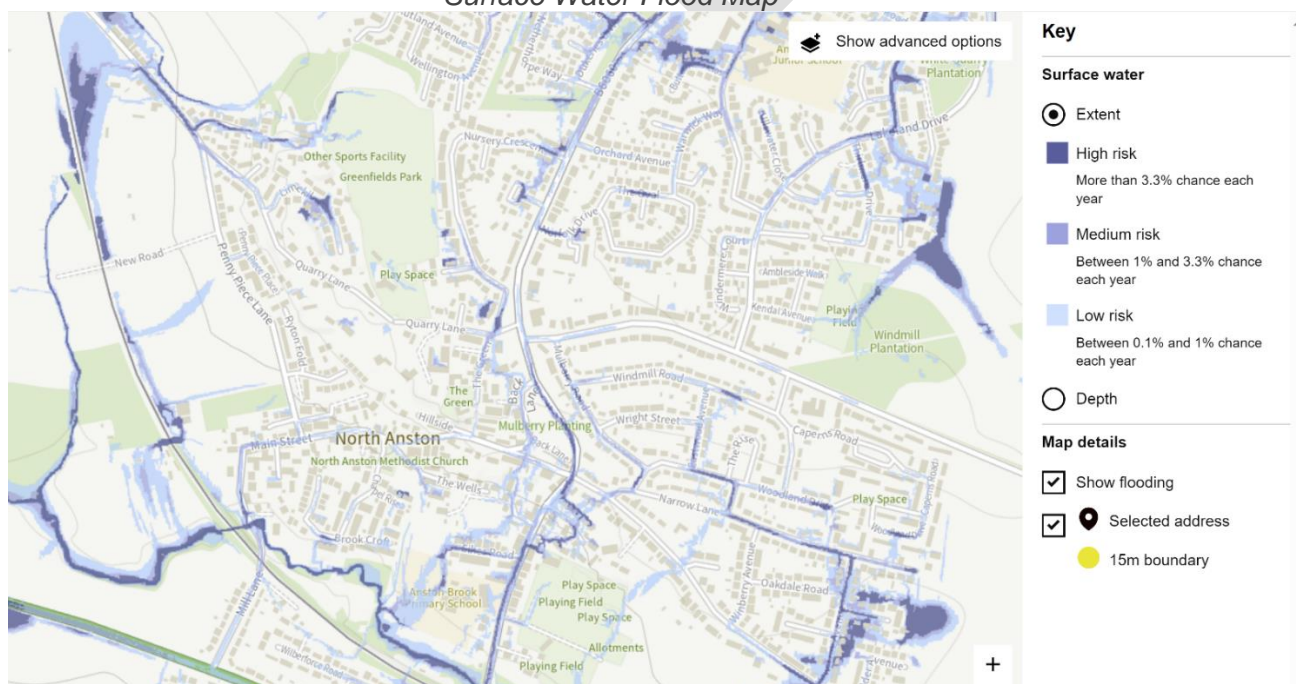
Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant surface water flooding. Internal flooding affected 1 property within North Anston, this was due to the level of rainfall experienced surpassing the design criteria for the existing highway drain.

Surface Water Flood Map

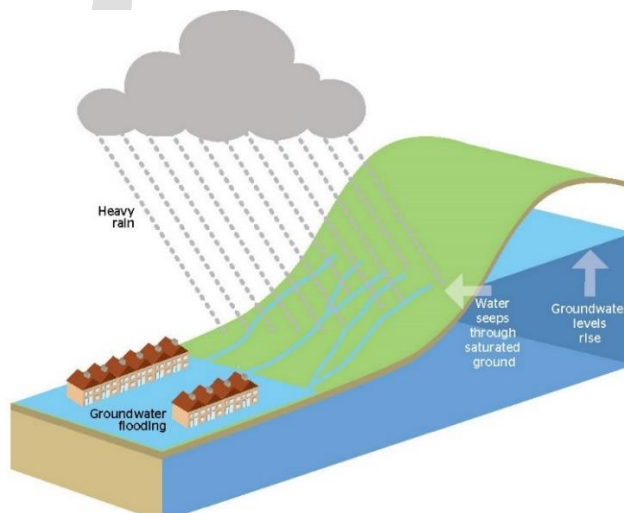
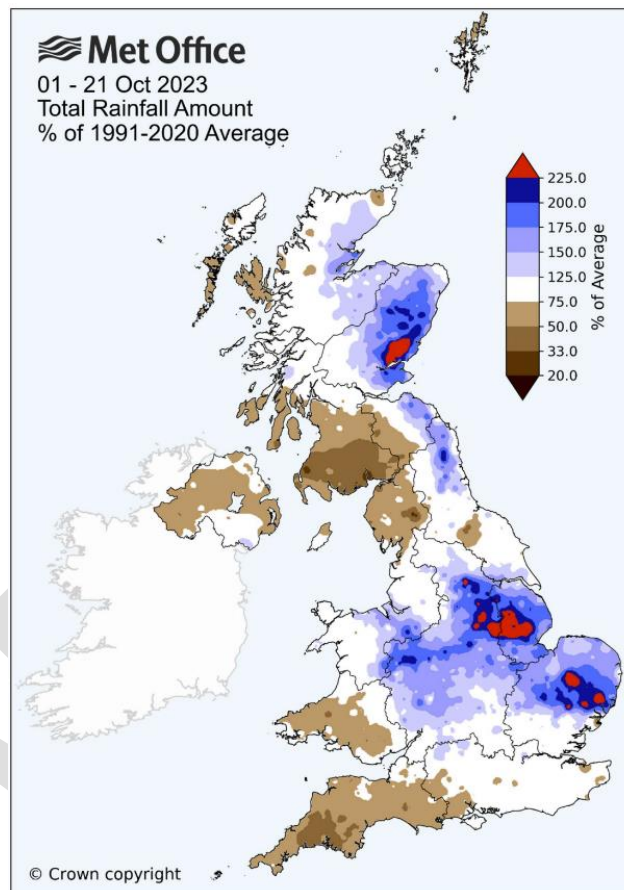


During Storm Babet the area experienced extremely heavy rainfall and surface water and groundwater flooding that caused internal flooding to 1 property. The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.



Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Next Steps

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised for internally flooding over area flooding.

A CCTV survey has been carried out and tree roots have been identified in the existing highway drain and the tree roots have been removed using specialist contractor. A property flood resilience grant has been offered to all properties that have been affected by internal flooding to install resilience measures on their individual homes.

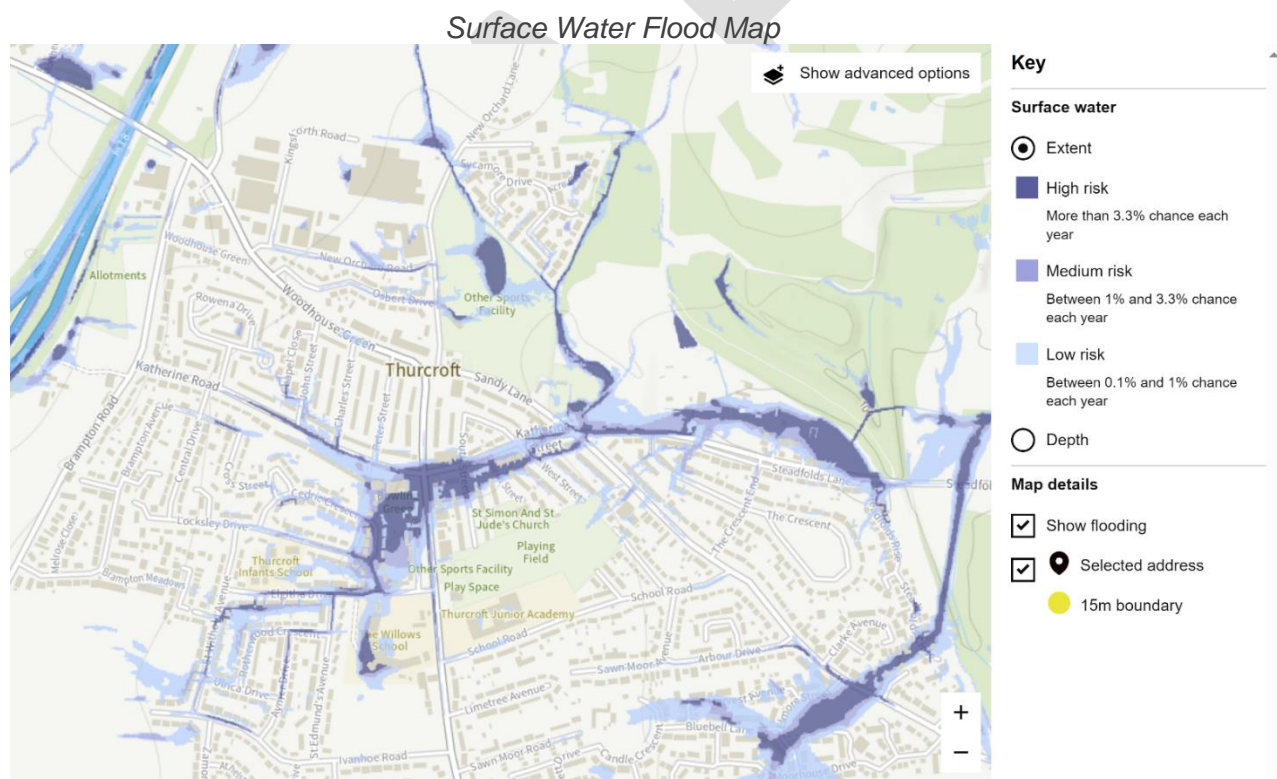
Thurcroft Community Flood Information Sheet

Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant surface water flooding. Internal flooding affected 1 property within Thurcroft, this was due to the surrounding catchment being fully saturated due to recent rainfall events causing excess surface water run-off.



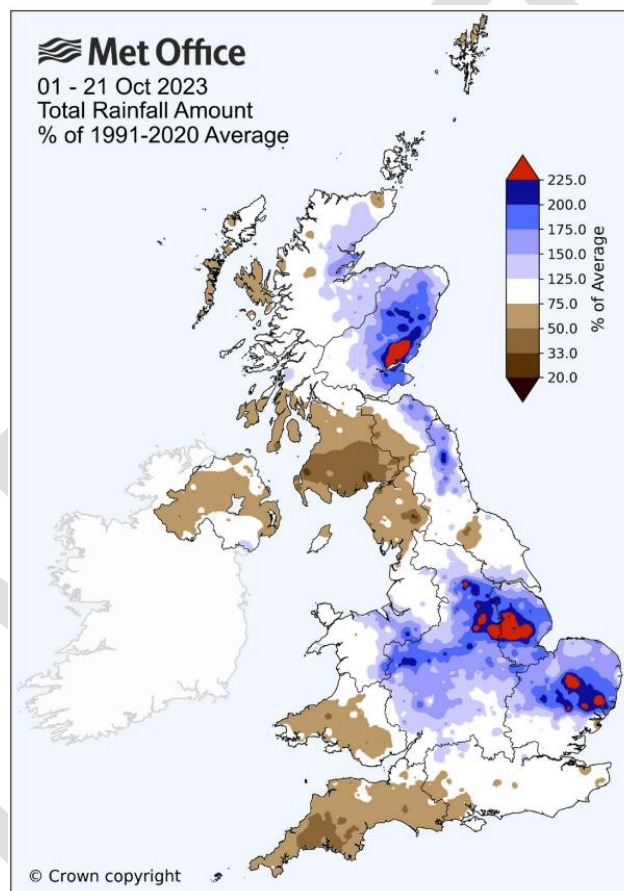
During Storm Babet, the area experienced exceptionally heavy rainfall. The accumulation of rainfall that was experienced over several months caused ground conditions to be saturated. Consequently, surface water run-off from the highway flowed onto low lying properties flooding one property internally.

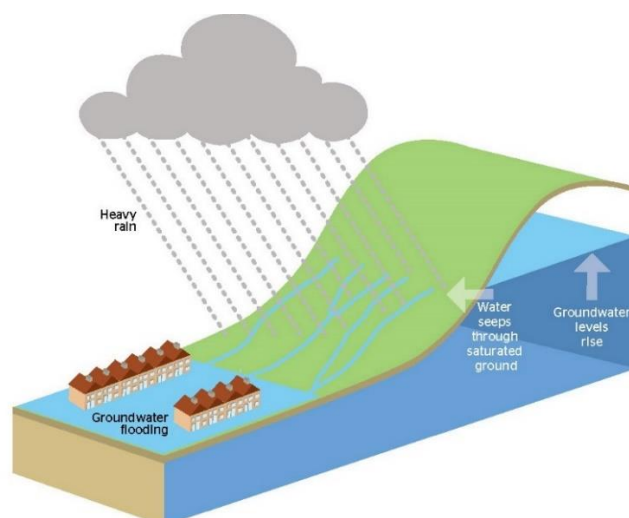
The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.





Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Next Steps

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised for internally flooding over area flooding.

Looking forward, a list of priority schemes is currently being compiled and fully investigated. These initiatives aim to address vulnerabilities in the drainage system and mitigate the impact of future flooding events. By prioritising these schemes, we aim to bolster the area's resilience and minimise the risk of damage from similar weather events in the future.

Woodsetts Community Flood Information Sheet

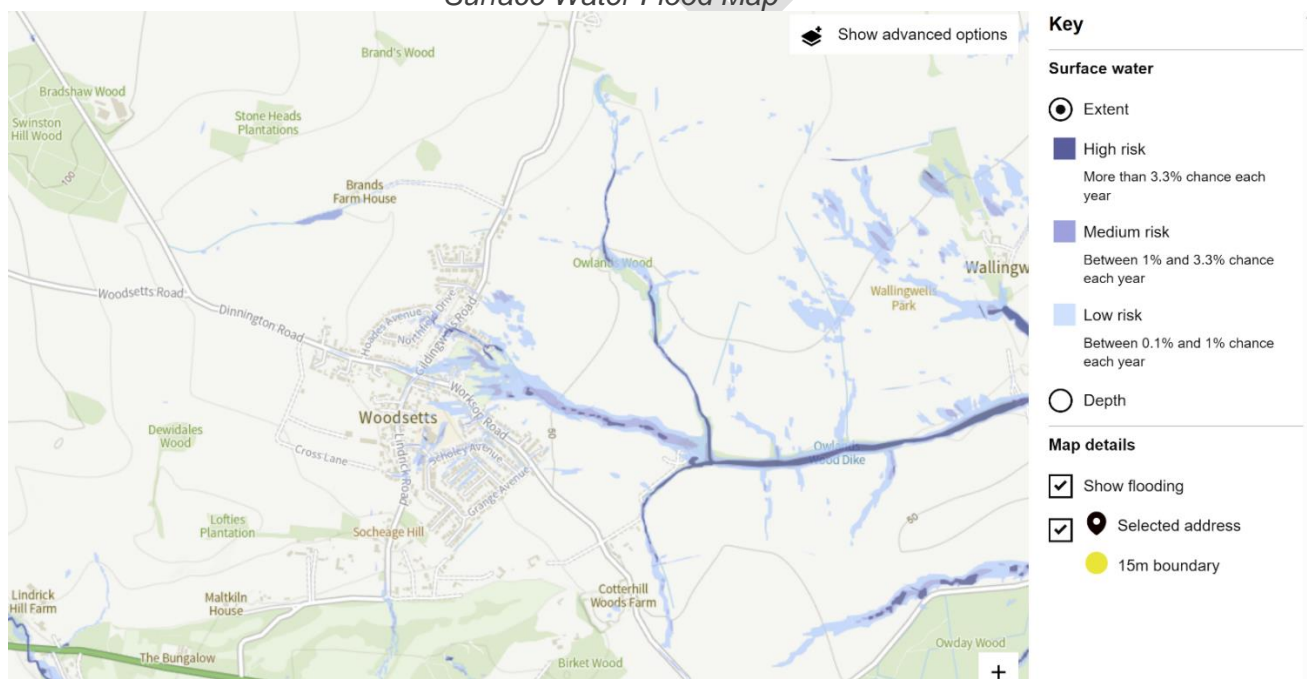
Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant surface water flooding. Internal flooding affected 3 properties within Woodsetts, this was due to the level of rainfall experienced surpassing the design criteria for the existing highway drain.

Surface Water Flood Map



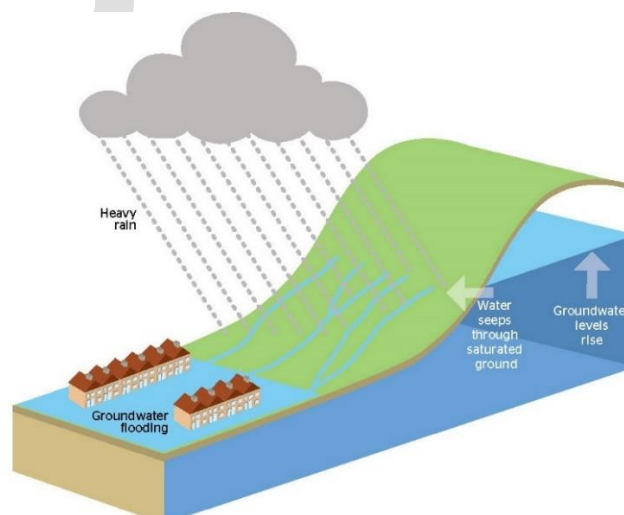
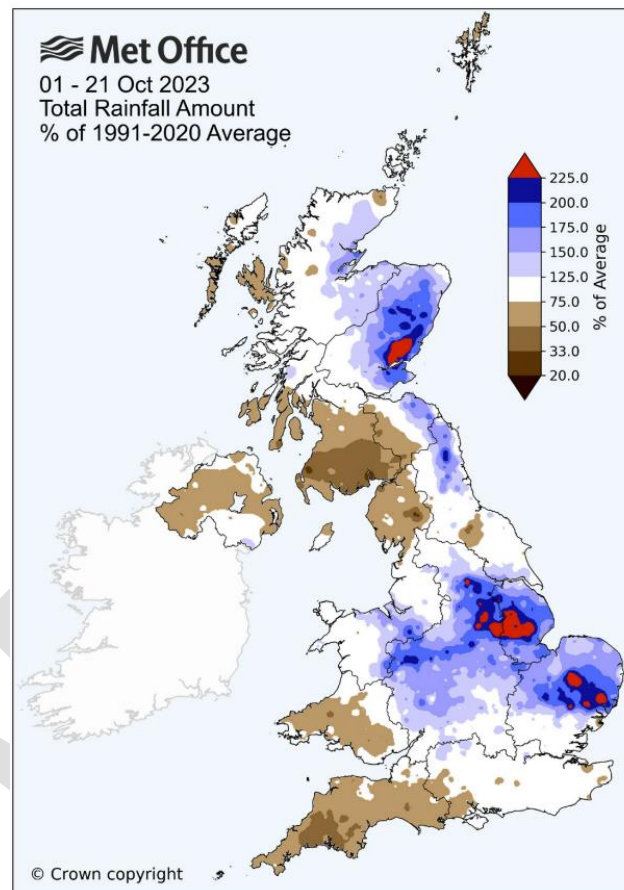
During Storm Babet the area experienced extremely heavy rainfall and unprecedented surface water runoff from the surrounding farmland (which was already saturated due to the prolonged rainfall). The existing surface water sewer was overloaded & surcharged, causing flooding to a number of properties.

The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.



Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Next Steps

Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues, schemes will be priorities for internally flooded properties over all other types of flooding.

Following the storm event, the Council are currently preparing and designing a scheme to increase the surface water storage capacity using the adjacent farmland, to manage flows and reduce flooding.

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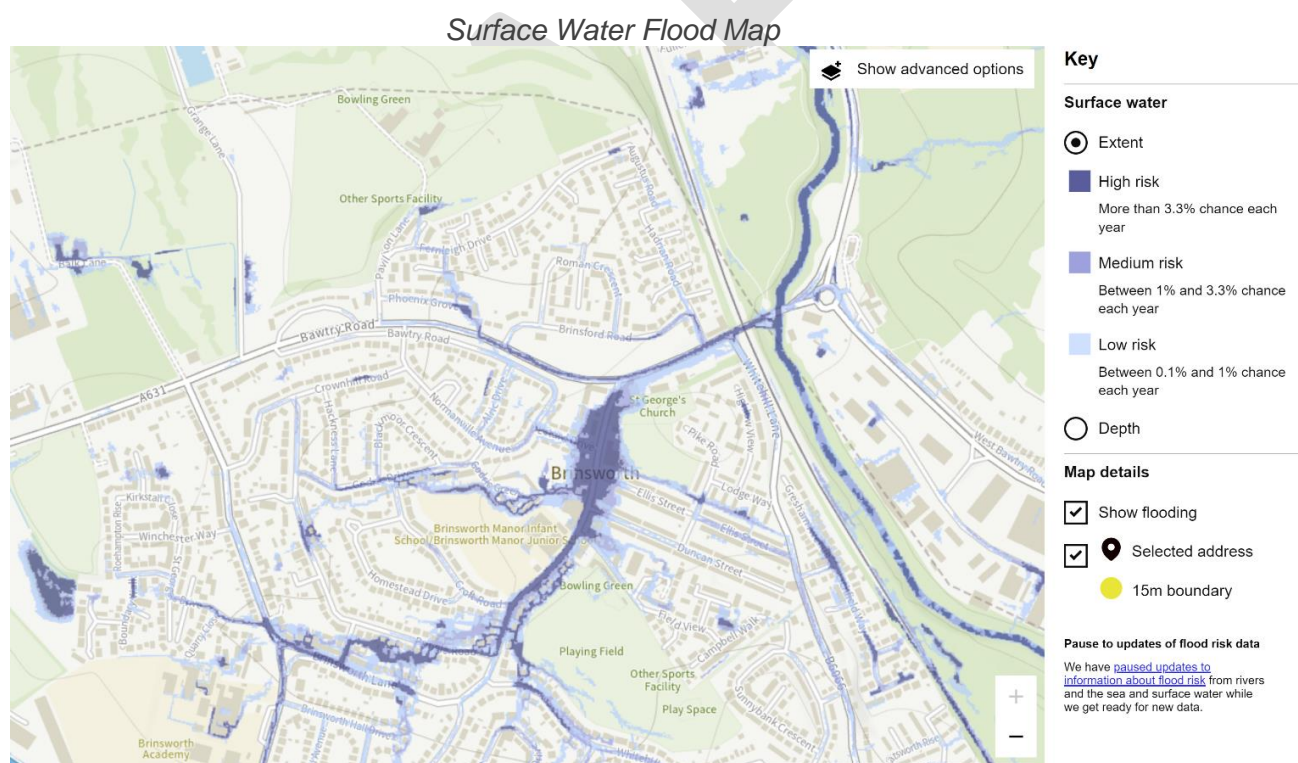
Brinsworth Community Flood Information Sheet

Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant surface water flooding. Internal flooding affected 1 property within Brinsworth, this was due to the level of rainfall experienced surpassing the design criteria for the existing public combined sewer that is owned and maintained by Yorkshire Water.



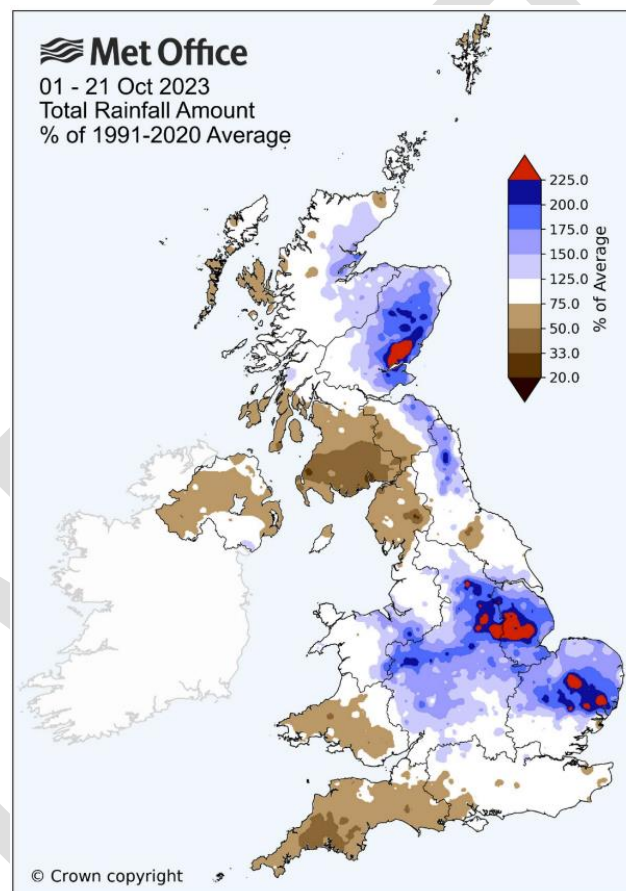
During Storm Babet the area experienced extremely heavy rainfall and surface water run-off from an already saturated catchment due to the prolonged rainfall. The existing surface water sewer was overloaded & surcharged, causing flooding to 1 property.

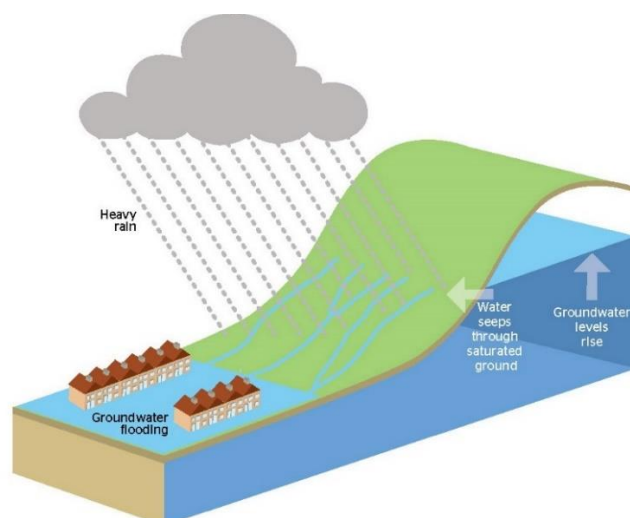
The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.





Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Next Steps

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised for internally flooding over area flooding.

The Council will continue to monitor these issues and carry out further investigation and remedial works. A property flood resilience grant has been offered to all properties that have been affected by internal flooding to install resilience measures on their individual homes.

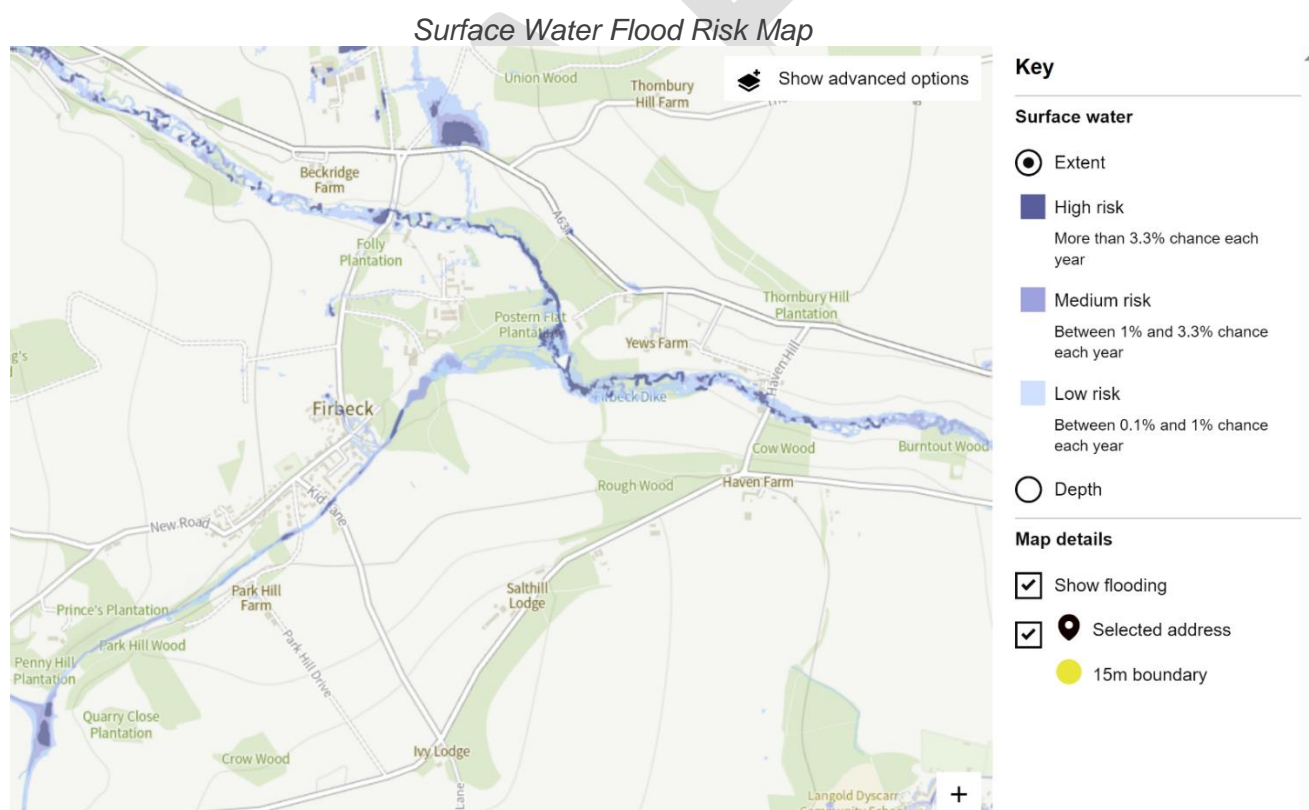
Firbeck Community Flood Information Sheet

Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant surface water flooding. Internal flooding affected 1 property within Firbeck, this was due to the surrounding catchment being fully saturated due to recent rainfall events causing excess surface water run-off.



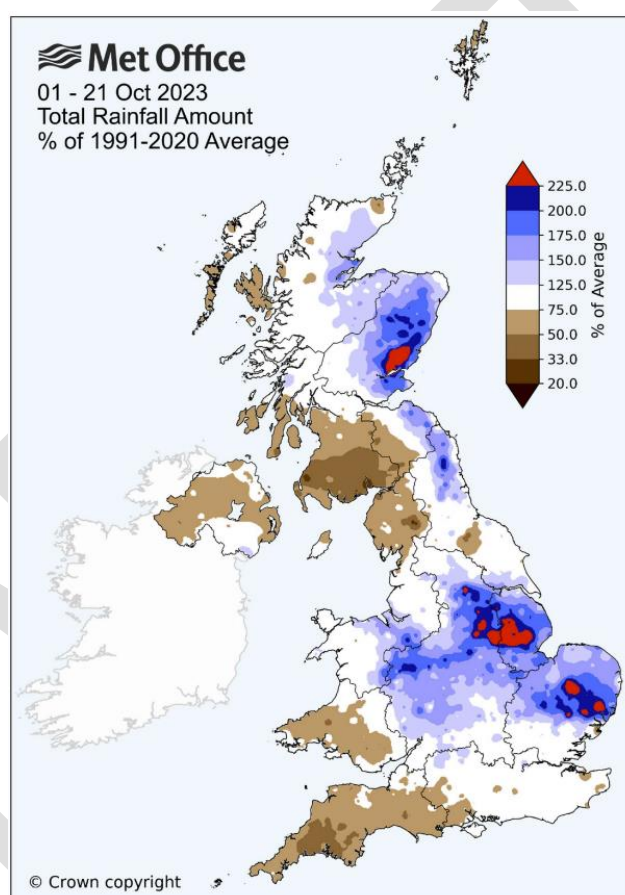
During Storm Babet the area experienced extremely heavy rainfall and unprecedented surface water runoff from the surrounding farmland (which was already saturated due to the prolonged rainfall). There were a number of instances of isolated flooding incident to one property.

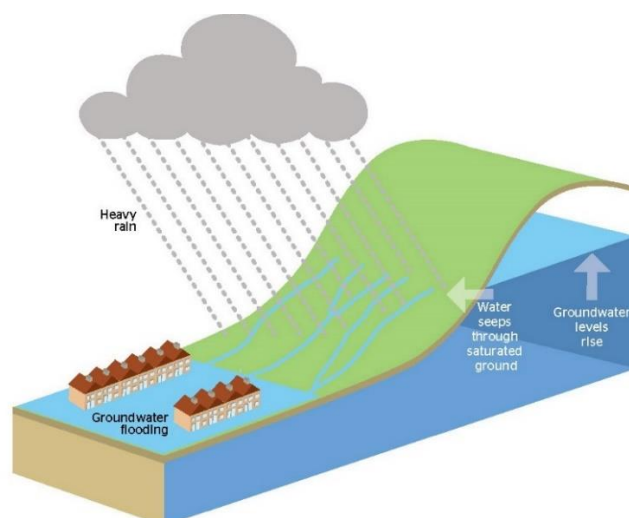
The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.





Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Next Steps

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised for internally flooding over area flooding.

The Council is currently designing a scheme to increase the existing drainage assets within the area, including attenuation to store storm water within extreme rainfall events. A property flood resilience grant has been offered to all properties that have been affected by internal flooding to install resilience measures on their individual homes.

Thorpe Salvin Community Flood Information Sheet

Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant surface water flooding. Internal flooding affected 1 property within Thorpe Salvin, due to the surrounding catchment being saturated due to recent rainfall events causing excess surface water run-off.



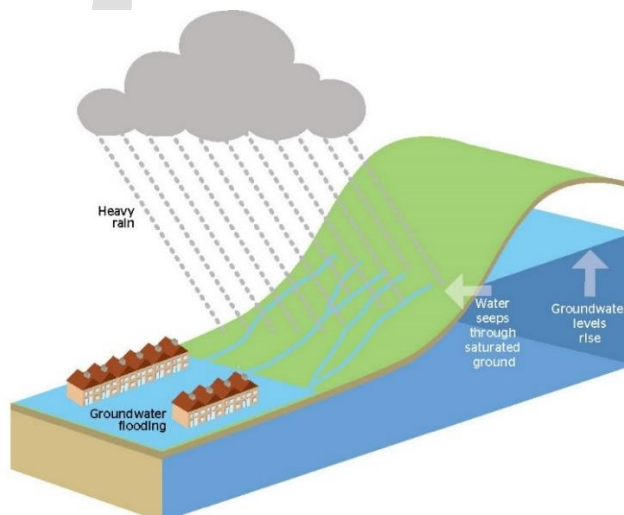
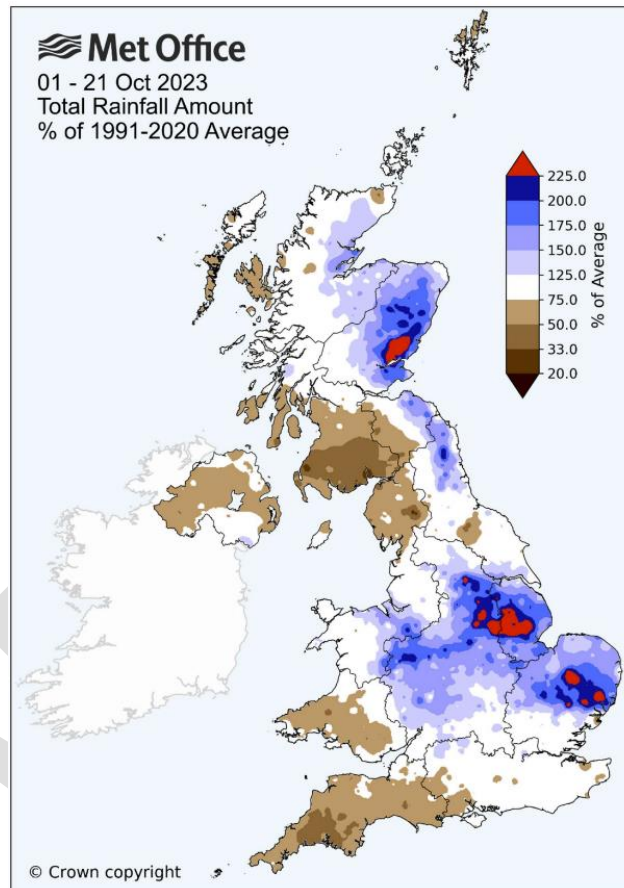
During Storm Babet the area experienced extremely heavy rainfall and unprecedented surface water runoff from the surrounding farmland (which was already saturated due to the prolonged rainfall). There were a number of instances of isolated flooding incidents to properties.

The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required. Numerous sandbags were delivered to Thorpe Salvin over the course of the storm event and gullies cleared to keep the highway network open.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount that could soak into permeable land.



Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Next Steps

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised for internally flooding over area flooding.

The Council is currently preparing a scheme to improve the existing highway drainage within the area, including attenuation to store storm water within extreme rainfall events. A property flood resilience grant has been offered to all properties that have been affected by internal flooding to install resilience measures on their individual homes.

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Canklow Community Flood Information Sheet

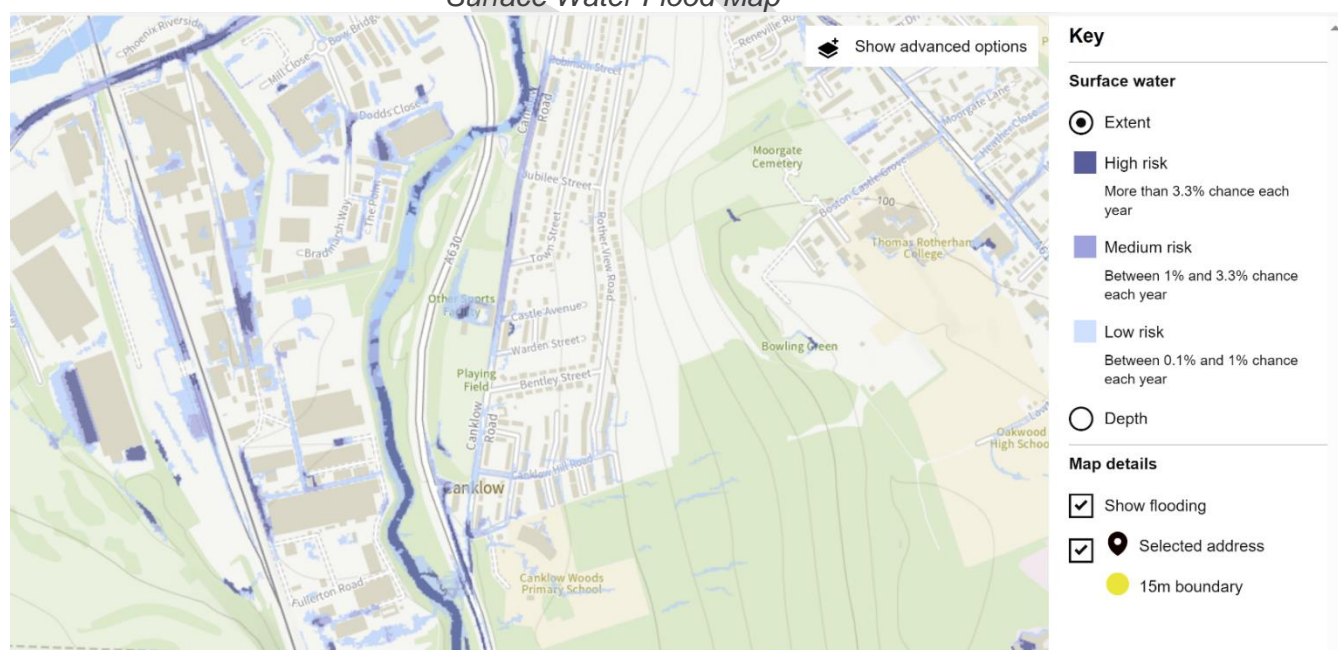
Contents

- Introduction
- Surface Water Flooding
- Ground Water Flooding
- Next Steps

Introduction

Storm Babet in October 2023 led to significant surface water flooding. Internal flooding affected 1 property within Canklow, this was due to the surrounding catchment being fully saturated due to recent rainfall events causing excess surface water run-off.

Surface Water Flood Map



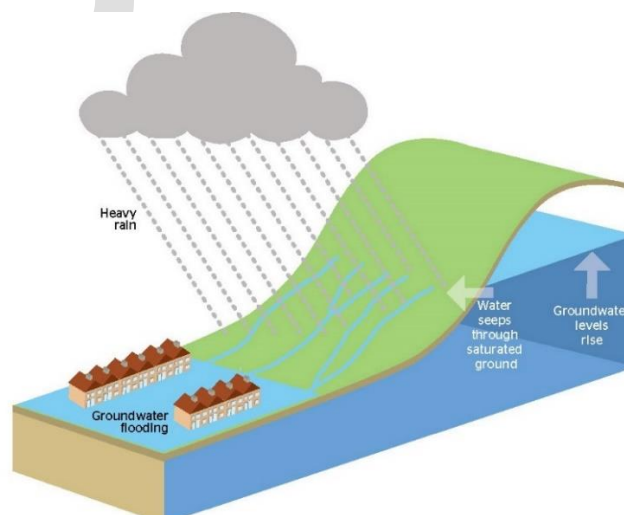
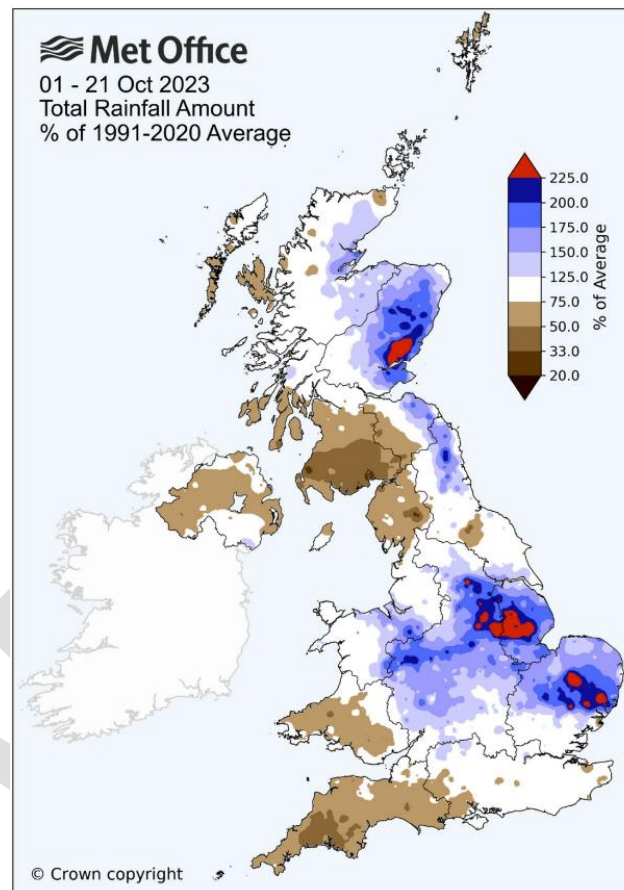
During Storm Babet, the area experienced extremely heavy rainfall, the existing highway drainage system was overwhelmed, and this caused issues with surface water causing internal flooding to 1 residential property.

The Council worked throughout the storm event and afterwards by providing support to residents, pumping out, cleansing blocked gullies, sewers and delivering sandbags as required.

Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drains and surface water sewers and is unable to drain away through drainage systems or soak into the land, and instead flows over the land.

In October 2023 this is exacerbated due to extremely wet periods for several months prior causing a saturated catchment that increased overland flows and reduced the amount of water that could soak into permeable land.



Ground Water Flooding

Water under the ground defined as the water table has risen due to saturation of the land and reached the top of the soil causing flooding.

Next Steps

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised for internally flooding over area flooding.

The Council will continue to monitor these issues and work with the residents to carry out further investigation and remedial works. A property flood resilience grant has been offered to all properties that have been affected by internal flooding to install resilience measures on their individual homes.

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Part Three: History of Flooding

Flood Events

Frequency of Flood Events

Between the year 1900 and 2000 there were three major flood events that took place in South Yorkshire. 1947 was the worst event, with flooding also occurring in 1973 and 1991 inundating Sheffield Train Station.

Since 2000 and 2023 there have been 14 flood events that have exceeded the design capacity of our drainage systems in South Yorkshire and internally flooded properties with three events occurring in 2023 alone.

2007 Flood Event

The flood that occurred in 2007 was the most severe event to affect South Yorkshire to date. This event affected the whole of England and was the catalyst which drove change in flood risk management; sparked the need for wider change nationally and brought about the introduction of the Pitt Review.

Since rainfall records started to be collected in 1766 there has not been a wetter May to July period than in 2007. Many locations were deluged with a month's rainfall falling in a few hours. The wet May and early June meant that the ground was saturated and could no longer absorb rainfall. Extreme rainfall in late June and late July caused flash flooding where it fell and then accumulated in rivers to extend the impact to the floodplain.

The 2007 floods were different in scale and type from recent severe floods. In particular, a much higher proportion of the flooding than normal came from surface water rather than rivers. Surface water flooding was at its worst in cities such as Hull, but many villages and individual properties also suffered across the country from Bristol to Newcastle. Two-thirds of the properties flooded during 2007 were affected because drains and sewers were overwhelmed.

River flooding was extensive in the River Don, Severn and Thames and their tributaries. It would have been worse but for the protection given by existing flood schemes. Warnings were issued directly to over 34,000 homes. South Yorkshire suffered record breaking flood levels. Many flood defences were simply overwhelmed. The June 2007 events were historically and statistically significant. At many sites the magnitude of the rainfall produced river levels that were the highest on record. At some sites there is evidence to suggest that the levels in the river may have been the highest in the last 100 years.

100-year return period events have become more probable in recent years occurring several times since 2007. Calculated rainfall return periods for the 2007 event show many sites with more than a 50-year return period. These, and the flow return periods of 80 to 100 years, make this an exceptional and statistically rare event at that time.

Part Four: Update on Flood Alleviation Schemes

Introduction

The Council's Drainage Team fulfils the Council's statutory role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the remit of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The LLFA's role includes taking the lead in identifying and delivering Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) projects, which requires partnership working with other Risk Management Authorities (RMA's) (organisations that are responsible for managing flood risk) RMA's, stakeholders, landowners, funders and external suppliers.

Following the November 2019 floods, many small and medium sized projects have been identified and delivered to reduce the risk of flooding across the borough. These projects typically focus on small numbers of properties and are delivered by the Council's in-house teams.

In addition, six priority FAS projects have been identified to reduce risk to larger numbers of properties (i.e., residential and commercial), strategic highways, the rail networks, the tram / train network and other critical infrastructure (e.g., utility networks). The priority FAS projects are:

- Rotherham Renaissance FAS
- Parkgate & Rawmarsh FAS
- Whiston Brook FAS at Whiston
- Eel Mires Dike FAS at Laughton Common
- Catcliffe pumping station
- Culvert renewal programme

All six projects are currently going through the design and approvals phase to reach a 'shovel ready'* status, with support from external partners, consultants and contractors.

*Shovel ready means the feasibility, landowner approvals and design prior to scheme delivery.

Forge Island Canal Barrier

Following the previous flood events in Rotherham Town Centre, the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme was developed, with three advanced phases being constructed recently, to reduce the risk of future flooding to the town centre and the Rotherham Central railway station.

The Forge Island Canal Barrier was constructed in the summer of 2022 adjacent to the regeneration scheme on Forge Island.

The Canal Barrier causes no additional flood risk upstream or downstream, the main purpose is to prevent the River Don flowing down the canal in extreme rainfall events, Forge Island is still utilised as a flood storage area within a flood event.



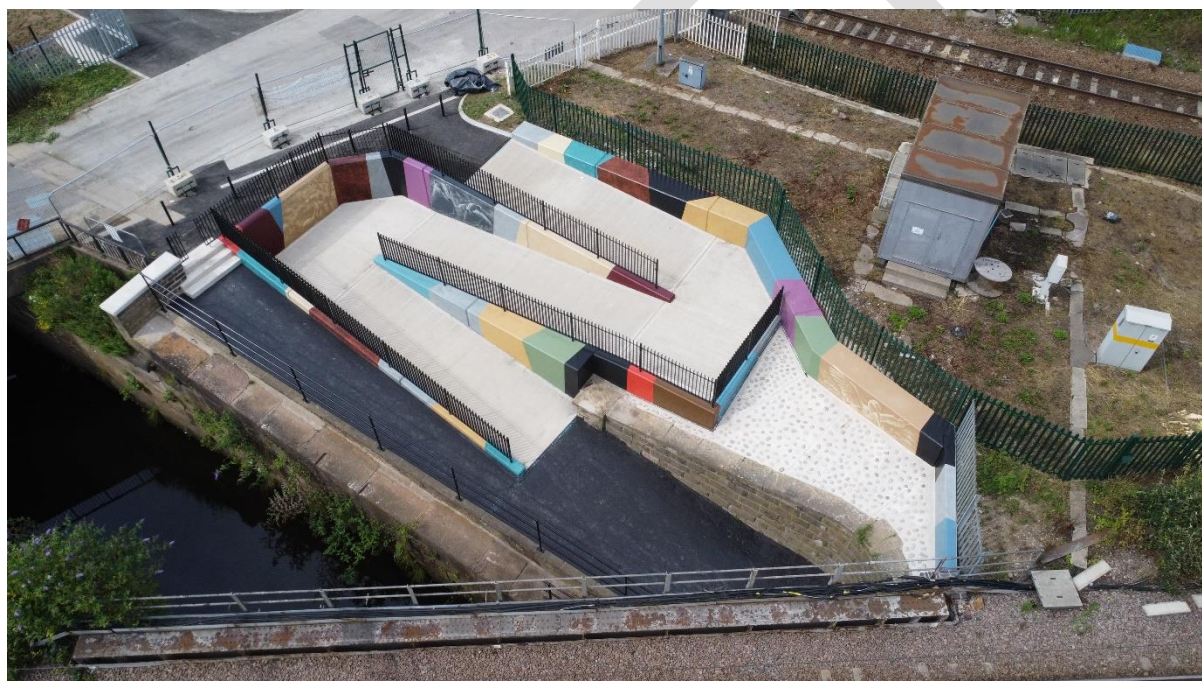


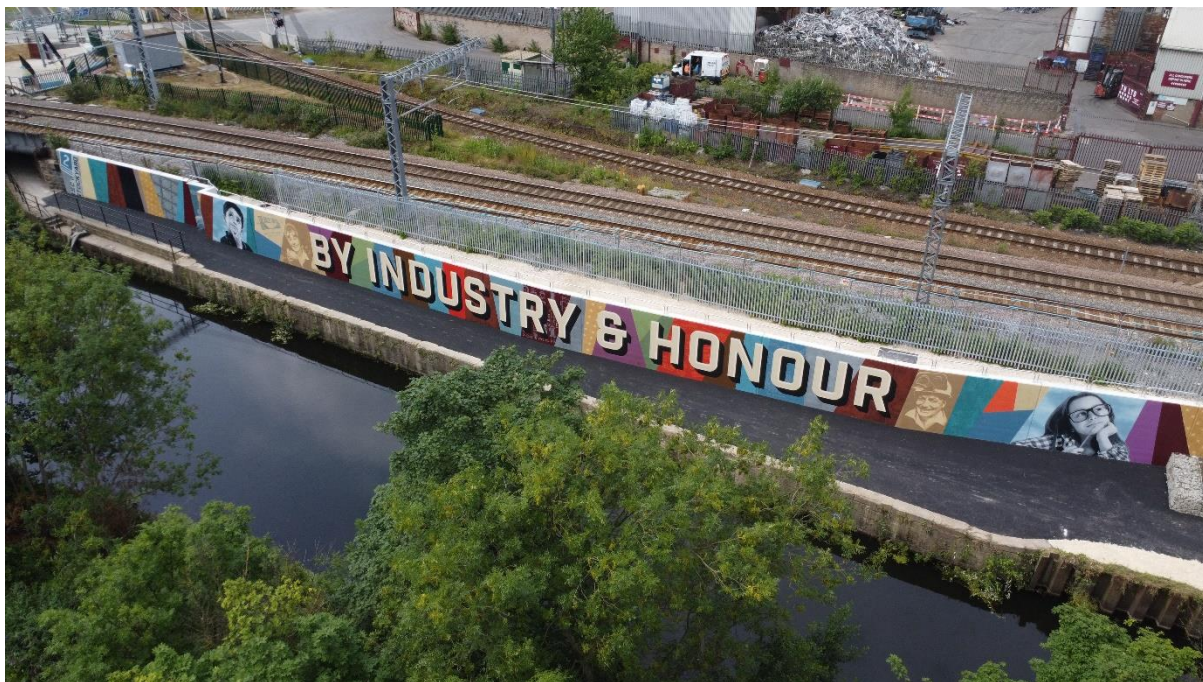
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Ickles Lock to Centenary Way

The flood defences between Ickles Lock and Centenary Way forms another part of the Council's Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme to reduce the impact of severe flooding from heavy rains, like those encountered in 2007 and 2019.

The Ickles Lock Scheme was completed in the Summer of 2023. A 125-metre-long concrete wall built between the railway and canal from Ickles Lock to Centenary Way, Rotherham Town Centre, will now better protect businesses and the railway from floods. Rotherham Council and its partners have invested £7million to complete this latest phase of works. the overall Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme will reduce the risk of flooding from the River Don and its tributaries along a 5 km-long stretch of the river, as it weaves through Templeborough, Rotherham Town Centre and Parkgate.





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Wider Beneficiaries of Rotherham's Six Priority FAS project

Project	Residential	Businesses	Transport	Community Infrastructure	Economic Benefits
Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme Note: This project is to reduce risk from designated "Main River"	<u>Town Centre</u> At risk of flooding: 8 Flooded in Nov 19: 1 <u>Kilnhurst</u> At risk of flooding: 12 Flooded in Nov 19: 6	<u>Town Centre</u> At risk of flooding: 115 (plus, many where access is cut off) Flooded in Nov 19: 22 <u>Parkgate</u> At risk of flooding: 90 (plus, many where access is cut off) Flooded in Nov 19: 90 <u>Kilnhurst</u> At risk of flooding: 40 Flooded in Nov 19: 26	<u>Templeborough, Town Centre and Parkgate</u> A630, A633, A6123, A6178 and local road network Railway and tram/train network through Rotherham Central and Parkgate stations <u>Kilnhurst</u> B6090 and local roads Railway (freight line)	<u>Templeborough, Town Centre and Parkgate</u> 2 Wastewater pumping stations (Marsh Street & Rawmarsh Road) 1 Electricity sub-station (Rawmarsh Road) <u>Kilnhurst</u> Kilnhurst Primary School 1 Wastewater treatment works	<u>Templeborough, Town Centre and Parkgate</u> Town centre regeneration, employment and economic growth £20m of flood damage costs avoided Loss of GVA associated with flooding estimated to be £76m <u>Kilnhurst</u> £TBCm by ongoing study
Parkgate & Rawmarsh Flood Alleviation Scheme	At risk of flooding: 56 Flooded in Nov 19: 9 (Note: All 'At risk' numbers are in the upper catchment, outside the River Don floodplain)	At risk of flooding: 141 (plus 158 where access is cut off) Flooded in Nov 19: 124	A633, A6123, local road network Railway and tram/train network through Parkgate station	Access to Parkgate Shopping and local supermarkets	Parkgate and Rawmarsh employment and economic growth £30m of flood damage costs avoided Loss of GVA associated with flooding estimated to be £51m Avoidance severance of the main east/west route across the borough and emergency service intervention and rescue costs.

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Project	Residential	Businesses	Transport	Community Infrastructure	Economic Benefits
Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme Note: This project is to reduce risk from designated "Main River"	At risk of flooding: 67 Flooded in Nov 19: 27	At risk of flooding: 1 Flooded in Nov 19: 0	A618 and local roads	Parish Hall	£TBCm by ongoing study
Eel Mires Dike Flood Alleviation Scheme, at Laughton Common	At risk of flooding: 89 Flooded in Nov 19: 52	At risk of flooding: 10 Flooded in Nov 19: 1	B6060, B6463 and local roads	N/A	£TBCm by ongoing study
Catcliffe Pumping Station	At risk of flooding: 60 Flooded in Nov 19: 0	At risk of flooding: 2 Flooded in Nov 19: 0	B6066 and local Roads	Community shop, garage and sports pitches	£TBCm by ongoing study
Culvert Renewal Programme	TBC by borough wide study	TBC by borough wide study	TBC by borough wide study	TBC by borough wide study	£TBCm by borough wide study



Part Five:

Section 19 Information

Introduction

Storm Babet resulted in the most severe and widespread disruptive weather impacts of 2023. Multiple severe flood warnings were issued by the Environment Agency. Over 1000 homes in England were also affected by flooding across Yorkshire, the East Midlands and the Humber area. Yorkshire recorded its wettest 3-day period on record. This rain came on top of very wet weather earlier in October with some central and eastern parts of England recording more than twice the October whole-month average rainfall in the first three weeks of the month. Rotherham Borough was heavily affected across the catchment, with internal flooding to 182 properties and 9 businesses. 148 properties were affected in the Catcliffe and Treeton area alone.

Legislation

Pitt Review (2008) - Flood and Water Management Act (2010).

The Pitt Review was published in 2008 following the catastrophic floods in 2007 which resulted in 13 fatalities and widespread destruction. The review contained 92 recommendations from lessons learnt. These were addressed to the government, local authorities, Local Resilience Forums (LRF), insurers, the public, and providers of essential services.

In response to the Pitt Review, a new Act of Parliament called The Flood and Water Management Act was implemented.

The Flood and Water Management Act was published in 2010 to take forward the Pitt Review recommendations and create a national approach to flood risk management across England and Wales. The creation of Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) formed part of the Act along with Risk Management Authorities (RMA) all of whom have responsibilities in the management of flood risk.

As the LLFA, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is responsible for the coordination and management of local flood risk (ordinary watercourses, surface water, and groundwater) and is required to work in cooperation with relevant authorities and RMAs. Other agencies and authorities defined as the RMAs (Part 1.1 Section 6) included for the purpose of this rainfall event:

- Environment Agency
- Yorkshire Water
- Severn Trent Water

Under Section 19 of the act (Part 1.3 Section 19), as the LLFA, RMBC has the duty to investigate flood incidents and publish the results of the investigation.

The act states that:

On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a LLFA must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate—

- a) which RMA 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.

Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must—

- a) publish the results of its investigation.
- b) notify any relevant risk management authorities.

The extent to which a particular flood is investigated is determined on a case-by-case basis considering factors such as the source, duration, geographical spread, and severity of impact. In some circumstances, a flood enquiry triggers a formal investigation. The trigger for a formal investigation is when the enquiry meets or exceeds locally agreed criteria. Previous Section 19 reports can be found on the Rotherham Council website.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

This Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was originally produced by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in 2014 and has been updated to take into consideration the recent devastating floods of 2019 and updates to help meet the challenges of climate change.

The Strategy sets out how the local flood risk within the Borough will be managed.

The general principles of the Local Flood Risk Strategy are:

- Community focus & partnership working
- Sustainability
- Risk Based Approach
- Multiple benefits

The Strategy also explains how we will determine the location and size of flood risk. We have developed a coordinated, resourced and diverse action plan to manage the risk.

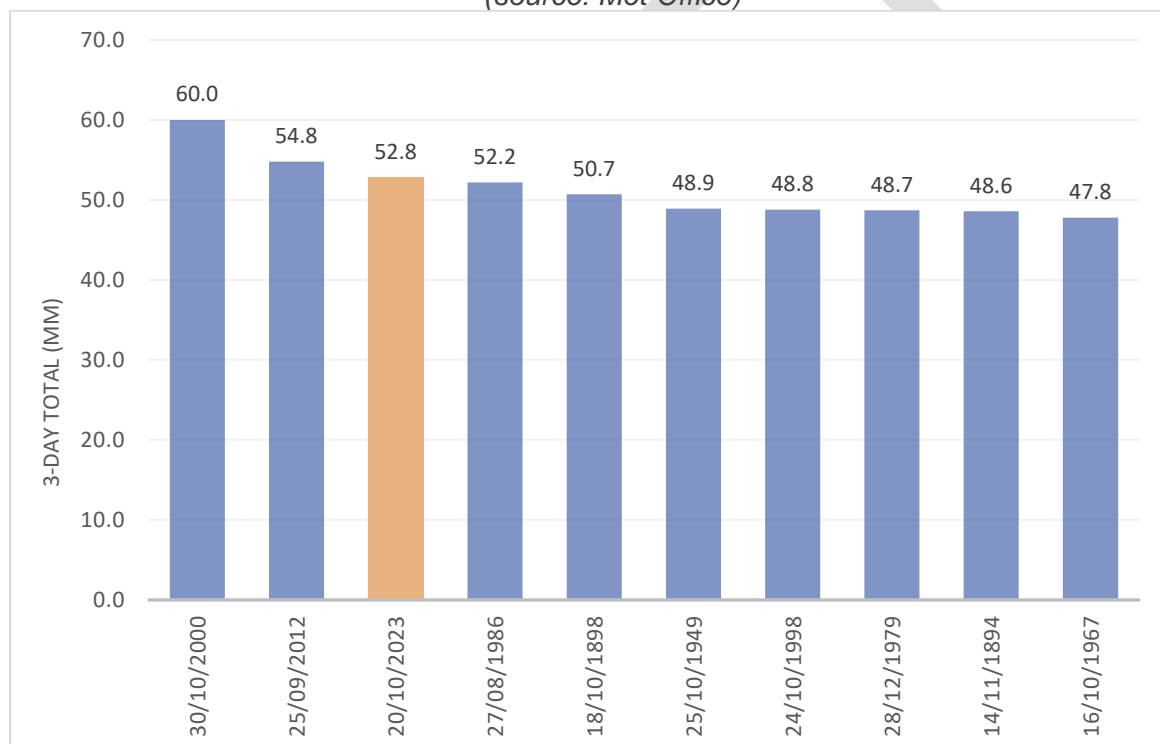
Rotherham's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy can be downloaded from the Council's website here: <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/water-management-flooding/flood-risk-management-strategy>

Weather Data

Storm Babet caused many issues for forecasting due to it tracking north to the UK. Atlantic storm systems affecting the UK in the autumn and winter months normally track west to east. Due to the unusual nature of Storm Babet, the accuracy for forecasting the intensity and movement of the event was challenging on a national, regional and local level.

For England overall, the 3-day period 18 to 20 October 2023 was the third-wettest independent 3-day period since records began in 1891. With 52.8mm of rain falling in Yorkshire which is 53% of the October whole-month average. The chart below shows the 10 wettest independent 3-day periods on record for England and Wales in the series.

*10 wettest independent 3-day periods on record for England and Wales
(source: Met Office)*



Peak Rainfall for the catchment reached a return period of 1 in 260 years for a 24-hour period and reach a cumulative rainfall amount of 151.2mm over a 48-hour period. Rainfall data has been taken from the Environment Agency's Weather Station at Woodhouse Mill.

*Analysis of peak rainfall accumulation at selected sites for Storm Babet -
October 2023 (source: Environment Agency)*

Storm Babet 19th - 22nd October 2023	Rother			Upper Don				Dearne			Don
	Wingerworth	Linacre	Woodhouse Mill	Dore	Ringlow	Redmires	Langsett	Harley	Cannon Hall	Wombwell	South Elmsall
Peak Rainfall (mm)											
1 hour total	18	10.2	7.4	10	10.6	14	8.4	7.8	7	5.4	11.4
4 hour total	33.2	34.2	24.4	34	34.4	45.6	24.6	20.6	19	14	31
6 hour total	49.6	45.6	33.8	44	44.8	59.6	33.8	27.2	23.2	18.4	34
12 hour total	75	67.4	51.2	67	69.6	89	60	48.6	40.4	36.2	49.6
18 hour total	82.8	78	64.8	82	89.6	113.4	77.6	64.2	55.2	49.2	61.8
24 hour total	89	84.2	72.8	93.2	98	126.2	87	76.4	66.8	58.4	72.2
36 hour total	97.4	92.4	81	102.2	107.2	136.8	93.8	83.2	71.4	63.4	77.4
48 hour total	97.6	102.8	85.8	112	116.6	151.2	105.2	91.8	89.6	72.4	89.4
Return Period (years)											
1 hour	4					2					< 2
4 hour	6	7	2	8	8	25	< 2				6
6 hour	24	15	4	15	15	50	3	< 2			5
12 hour	80	40	11	40	45	135	13	8	4	3	15
18 hour	80	50	20	60	80	230	25	18	8	7	30
24 hour	85	50	27	65	80	260	25	27	15	10	50
36 hour	90	50	28	60	70	200	18	27	12	10	40
48 hour	65	60	27	65	70	200	18	30	23	13	65
% October LTA											
1 hour	27	14	13	14	13	15	9	14	11	11	23
4 hour	50	48	44	46	43	47	26	37	30	29	61
6 hour	75	64	61	60	56	62	35	49	37	38	67
12 hour	114	94	93	91	57	92	63	87	65	76	98
18 hour	126	109	117	111	112	118	81	115	88	103	122
24 hour	135	118	132	126	123	131	91	137	107	122	143
36 hour	148	129	147	138	134	142	98	149	114	132	153
48 hour	148	144	155	152	146	157	110	165	143	151	177
Key											
Peak Rainfall (mm)	10	Less than 1:50 (2%) Year Return Period									
	50	Between 1:50 (2%) and 1:100 (1%) Year Return Period									
	230	Over 1:100 (1%) Year Return Period									
% October LTA	LTA	Long Term Average									
	25	Less than 25% of the October Long Term Average									
	65	Between 50% and 75% of the October Long Term Average									
	85	Between 75% and 100% of the October Long Term Average									
	110	Over 100% of the October Long Term Average									

Rainfall totals for Storm Babet October 2023 compared with 13th to 16th June 2007, and 24th to 26th June 2007
(source: Environment Agency)

October 2023 compared with June 2007	Rother						Upper Don					
	Wingerworth		Linacre		Woodhouse Mill		Dore		Redmires		Langsett	
	Oct 2023	Jun 2007	Oct 2023	Jun 2007	Oct 2023	Jun 2007	Oct 2023	Jun 2007	Oct 2023	Jun 2007	Oct 2023	Jun 2007
Peak Rainfall (mm)												
6 hour total	50	26	46	35	34	33	44	33	60	33	34	46
12 hour total	75	39	67	63	51	52	67	57	89	57	60	75
24 hour total	89	60	84	76	73	63	93	71	126	76	87	94
48 hour total	98	83	103	79	86	82	112	99	151	101	105	98

October 2023 compared with June 2007 (continued)	Dearne						Don	
	Harley		Cannon Hall		Wombwell		South Elmsall	
	Oct 2023	Jun 2007	Oct 2023	Jun 2007	Oct 2023	Jun 2007	Oct 2023	Jun 2007
Peak Rainfall (mm)								
6 hour total	27	46	23	45	18	40	34	49
12 hour total	49	72	40	69	36	48	50	71
24 hour total	76	85	67	80	58	51	72	79
48 hour total	92	116	90	82	72	77	89	97

Key	
10	Largest Peak Rainfall Accumulation in Bold
50	Peak rainfall from early (13th to 16th) June 2007
50	Peak rainfall from late (24th to 26th) June 2007

The comparison in the above table illustrates the difference between the rainfall accumulation in the upper and lower reaches of the Don catchment. In the Rother and upper Don catchments the largest rainfall totals, highlighted in bold, result from the October 2023 event, with the short duration totals substantially greater in the

Chesterfield area. In the Dearne and Lower Don the late June 2007 rainfall was significantly more intense over shorter durations and comparable over longer periods.

Risk Management Authorities

Rotherham Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy states that a Section 19 investigation will be carried out if there are 5 or more properties flooded internally. Rotherham Council has adopted the Planning Portal definition relating to internal flooding. This defines a habitable room, above floor level. It states 'any room used or intended to be used for sleeping, cooking, living, or eating purposes. Enclosed spaces such as bath or toilet facilities, service rooms, corridors, laundries, hallways, utility rooms or similar spaces are excluded from this definition'.

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 have relevant flood risk management functions, and
- b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

Internal Residential Flooding

Residential Property address	Number of properties flooded internally	Risk Management Authority Responsible (a)	Duties Carried Out (b)
California Drive, Catcliffe, Rotherham	40	Environment Agency	Yes
Waverley View, Catcliffe, Rotherham	13	Environment Agency	Yes
Willan Drive, Catcliffe, Rotherham	1	Environment Agency	Yes
Railway Avenue, Catcliffe, Rotherham	4	Environment Agency	Yes
Sheffield Lane, Catcliffe, Rotherham	21	Environment Agency	Yes
Southview Terrace, Catcliffe, Rotherham	6	Environment Agency	Yes

Residential Property address	Number of properties flooded internally	Risk Management Authority Responsible (a)	Duties Carried Out (b)
The Croft, Catcliffe, Rotherham	7	Environment Agency	Yes
Orgreave Road, Catcliffe, Rotherham	23	Environment Agency	Yes
Chapel Walk, Catcliffe, Rotherham	10	Environment Agency	Yes
Mappins Road, Catcliffe, Rotherham	14	Environment Agency	Yes
Frederick Street, Catcliffe, Rotherham	1	Environment Agency	Yes
Shorland Drive, Treeton, Rotherham	2	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Mill Lane, Treeton, Rotherham	8	Environment Agency	Yes
Sanbergh Road, Kimberworth Park, Rotherham	1	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Horseshoe Lane, Stone, Rotherham	1	Environment Agency	Yes
Limetree Avenue, Kiveton Park, Rotherham	1	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Moor Lane North, Ravenfield, Rotherham	1	Severn Trent Water	Yes
Meadow Street, Laughton Common, Dinnington, Rotherham	4	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Carson Avenue, Laughton Common, Dinnington, Rotherham	3	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Mulberry Road, North Anston, Rotherham	1	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Katherine Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham	1	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes

Residential Property address	Number of properties flooded internally	Risk Management Authority Responsible (a)	Duties Carried Out (b)
Howlett Close, Whiston, Rotherham	1	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Moorhouse Lane, Whiston, Rotherham	10	Environment Agency	Yes
Hoades Avenue, Woodsetts, Rotherham	3	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Bawtry Road, Brinsworth, Rotherham	1	Rotherham MBC as LLFA & Yorkshire Water	Yes
Gildingwells Road, Woodsetts, Rotherham	1	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Lamb Lane, Firbeck, Rotherham	1	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Common Road, Thorpe Salvin, Rotherham	1	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Henderson Court, Canklow, Rotherham	1	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes

Internal Business Flooding

Business Property Address	Number of properties flooded internally	Risk Management Authority Responsible (a)	Duties Carried Out (b)
Sheffield Lane, Catcliffe, Rotherham,	1	Environment Agency	Yes
Main Street, Catcliffe, Rotherham	3	Environment Agency	Yes
Rotherham Road, Beighton, Rotherham	3	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
Kilnhurst Road, Hooton Roberts, Rotherham	1	Rotherham MBC as LLFA	Yes
California Drive, Catcliffe, Rotherham	1	Environment Agency	Yes

Summary

The Council undertook its annual preparations for the winter period, which includes adding additional standby teams on call, removing surface water from catchpits and soakaways to increase capacity. It also includes additional cleansing of trash screens, inlets and outlets of culverts and ensuring highway drainage is operational in key locations that are prone to flooding.

The flooding experienced was exacerbated by continuous rainfall throughout the Summer and Autumn period, this saturated the catchment area, increasing surface water run-off during Storm Babet that could not be managed by existing drainage systems, ordinary watercourses or Main Rivers. Leading to 182 homes and 9 businesses affected by internal flooding.

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council



Part Six: Conclusion

Conclusion

October 2023 Storm Babet event is considered among the most significant in the River Don and River Rother catchments, alongside the June 2007 and November 2019 events. What sets them apart are subtle differences in where the rain fell, which is influenced by slight variations in the paths of the low-pressure systems causing the events.

In November 2019, heavy rainfall in both the lower and upper Don catchments led to record levels and large volumes of water in the River Don. However, the Rother area did not experience significant rainfall.

This situation mostly flipped in October 2023, with localised storms bringing significant flows and volumes to the River Rother, while the effects on the upper Don were much less.

The flooding experienced affected 182 residential properties internally and 9 businesses.

Appendix 1: Connected by Water

Connected By Water

Connected by Water is an alliance between the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, City of Doncaster Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Sheffield City Council, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency.



The flooding in November 2019 provided the catalyst for the creation of the alliance and for the first Connected by Water Action Plan. One of the wettest autumns on record led to unprecedented river levels, and widespread flooding across South Yorkshire. Leaders in the region came together to develop an ambitious new flood risk programme for South Yorkshire and to make the case for significant funding. This was the beginning of Connected by Water.

Since November 2019 member authorities have been working together, not only to deliver flood risk management schemes on the ground, but also to plan catchment-wide measures for the future to help meet the challenges of climate change.

The Alliance is exploring all measures to both adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change across South Yorkshire and to reduce the impacts of flooding. Its Action Plan is a 'living plan' because we don't yet have all the answers. The Alliance are focused on building and shaping this plan based on emerging data, knowledge and opportunities, and will continue to do this over the coming months and years.

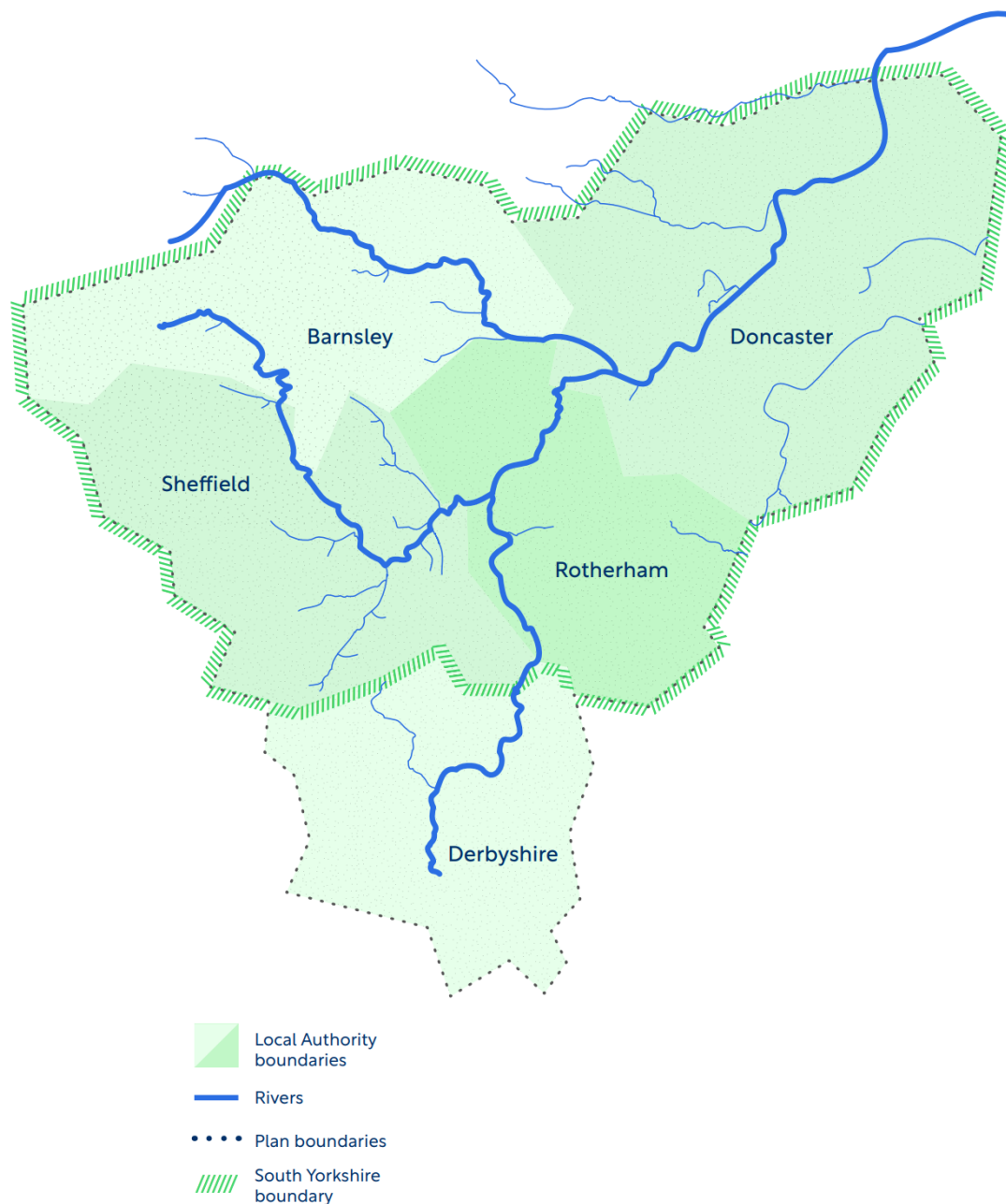
Climate Change Impact

Climate change is leading to rising sea levels and wetter winters with more intense rainfall. All factors that will increase the risk of flooding from the rivers, surface water and the public sewer network across South Yorkshire. Unless more is done to tackle the emerging issues, South Yorkshire communities will struggle to cope with the increasingly catastrophic impacts of more frequent and severe floods.

Catchment Approach

Water crosses member local authority's boundaries at multiple points. Connected by Water will work as a partnership to view flooding as a whole catchment across South Yorkshire rather than as individual areas.

Source to Sea is the alliances catchment wide approach to combatting the climate and nature emergencies. By working with natural processes, it aims to make South Yorkshire more resilient to flooding and drought.



Covering most of South Yorkshire, the Don catchment contains a varied landscape, from upland hills in the Peak District, Derbyshire and the Dearne near Barnsley, to the lowlands around Doncaster where the Lower River Don reaches the confluence with the tidal Ouse at the head of the Humber Estuary.

With such varied geographies and political boundaries, the programme is organised into three workstreams:

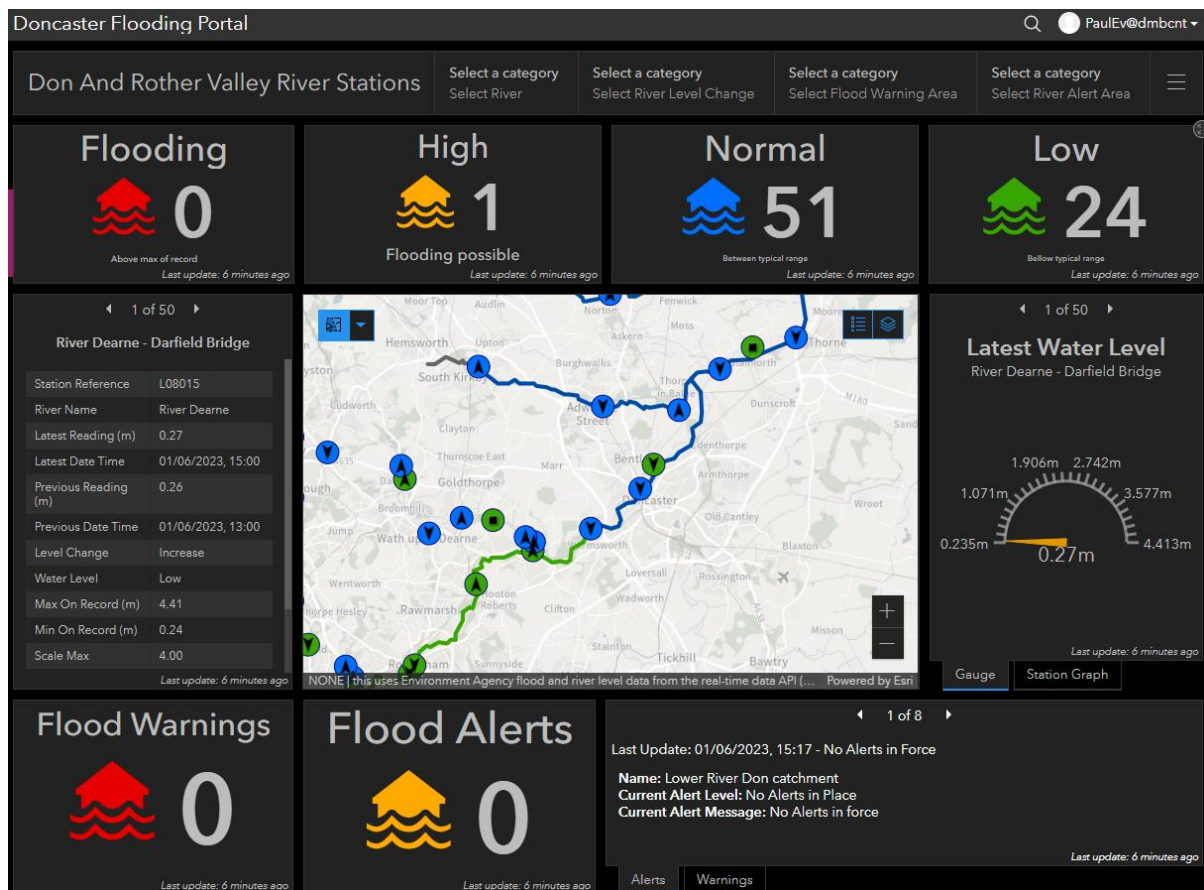
- **Upper Don** Source to Sea – Peak District National Park and Sheffield
- **Middle Don** Source to Sea – North-East Derbyshire, Rotherham and Barnsley
- **Lower Don** Source to Sea – Doncaster

Each workstream is investigating opportunities for a series of Nature-based Solutions projects that focus on reducing flood risk, with multiple benefits to the wider environment and people.

A wide range of interventions are being explored, including:

- Restoring upland and lowland blanket bog and peatlands
- Creating and restoring wetland
- Restoring and planting woodland
- Sustainable land management
- Reconnecting and restoring floodplains
- Leaky dams, attenuation ponds and swales
- Reviewing existing flood assets and their integration with the surrounding environment.

Catchment Projects - Flood Risk Dashboard



Connected by Water alliance are creating a flood risk dashboard that will allow all warnings, forecasts and telemetry to be accessible in one place. This will include all risk management authority's data in one place and allow better informed operational decisions to take places locally.

- Uses EA open-source data to display telemetry information in a more use friendly setting.
- Aim is to have a South Yorkshire own telemetry, Internal Drainage Boards (IDB's), Yorkshire Water (YW) etc included on the map to widen the picture.
- Helps member authorities to understand better how water levels are moving through the catchment during an event.

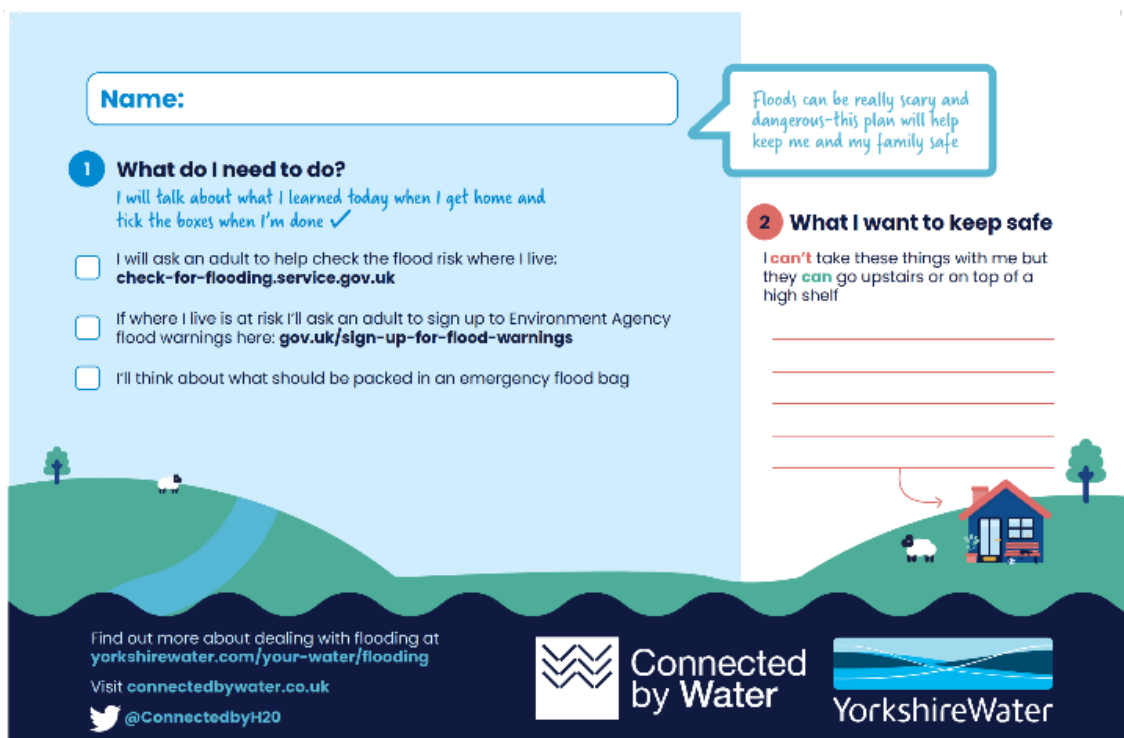
Catchment Projects - Educational Lessons

An education programme is to be delivered in South Yorkshire schools creating a generation of flood aware children.

Connected by Water are delivering an interactive presentation that emphasises how components of the water cycle can result in areas of flooding. The problems caused by flooding are highlighted, discussed and the benefit of flood plans and alerts are put forward.

The pupils also participate in an interactive lego lesson which demonstrates the use of natural flood management, highlighting ways of managing flood risk at household, community and catchment scale. Pupils given leaflet for their book bags or activity to do at home. Ask school to take photos to share in their newsletter or parent comms app.

The aim is to deliver an interactive presentation that emphasises how components of the water cycle can result in areas of flooding. The problems caused by flooding are highlighted, discussed and the benefit of flood plans and alerts are put forward.



Name: _____

1 What do I need to do?
I will talk about what I learned today when I get home and tick the boxes when I'm done ✓


- ☐ I will ask an adult to help check the flood risk where I live: **check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk**
- ☐ If where I live is at risk I'll ask an adult to sign up to Environment Agency flood warnings here: **gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings**
- ☐ I'll think about what should be packed in an emergency flood bag

2 What I want to keep safe
I **can't** take these things with me but they **can** go upstairs or on top of a high shelf


Find out more about dealing with flooding at yorkshirewater.com/your-water/flooding
Visit connectedbywater.co.uk
@ConnectedbyH2O

Connected by Water
YorkshireWater


3 What to pack in my flood bag




4 What does my pet need?




5 Flood warnings
What do they mean? Share this with your family!

 **Flood Alert**
Prepare

- Put medicines and insurance documents in a bag
- Visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk

 **Flood Warning**
Act

- Turn off gas, water and electricity
- Move things upstairs or to safety
- Move family, pets and car to safety

 **Severe Flood Warning**
Survive & evacuate

- Call 999 if in immediate danger
- Follow advice from emergency services

6 Important numbers
In an emergency, call 999 if an adult isn't there to do it. Who else would you need to call for help?

Write the numbers below:

Who: _____	Number: _____
Who: _____	Number: _____
Who: _____	Number: _____
Who: _____	Number: _____
Who: _____	Number: _____
Who: _____	Number: _____
Who: _____	Number: _____

The lessons aim to provide key messages, such as:

- Flooding and Climate Change is everyone's responsibility.
- Provide an increased awareness of flooding from all sources and how to prepare.
- Preventing blockages in sewers and rivers can help reduce flood risk.
- Flood risk and pollution can be managed sustainably through nature-based solutions and Sustainable drainage.



Connected by Water

Sheffield City Council
@SheffCouncil

The first phase of improvements to flood defences in the Loxley Valley, Hillsborough, are now complete.

They aim to protect 63 homes and 152 businesses from the damaging effects of flooding, like those seen in the area in 2007 and 2019.

Learn more: sheffnews.com/news/first-phase/



4:30 PM · Oct 17, 2023 · 9,249 Views



You reposted



Liz Ballard (Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Tr @LizBallard_SRV · Oct 6

Today @WildSheffield celebrating completion of the Limb Brook Nature based solutions Demonstrator. Working with the @EnvAgencyYNE and @SheffCouncil + fantastic volunteers = 18 attenuation ponds, 50 leaky dams, swales etc to 'slow the flow' in #Sheffield and beyond.



You reposted
Rotherham Council
@RMBPress

Rotherham Council and its partners have invested £7million to complete the latest phase of flood relief works. And the painters have pulled out all the stops too! rotherham.gov.uk/news/article/8...
@SouthYorksMCA @JacksonCivils @CanalRiverTrust @EnvAgencyYNE @networkrail @Sustrans



1.9K



Sheaf Screen, Sheffield

The Environment Agency is leading a £3.5m project to upgrade the Sheaf Screen in Sheffield.

The Sheaf Screen is a debris screen. It catches debris, such as branches and plastic that have entered the river, and reduces the amount that enters culverts, where the debris could cause blockages and disrupt the flow of water.

Following recent improvements debris in the screen is now removed by automated grabs, which are operated remotely. During this project the environment around the screen has been enhanced including with the installation of bat boxes.

Improvements to the Sheaf Screen are keeping water flowing through the River Sheaf and through the city, reducing the risk of flooding to homes and businesses.

You'll be able to find out more about schemes in Sheffield elsewhere in the exhibition.



2A - Ickles Lock FAS – Construction Began May 2022 - Completed July 2023 - £4.9million





Connected
by Water

SY highlighted as a best practice case study for our catchment approach

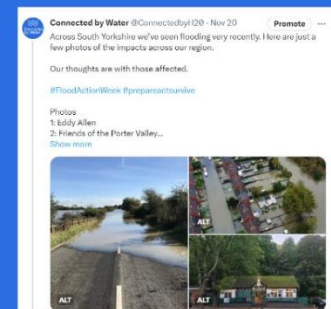
Highlights



Connected by Water lego based primary lesson piloting in Rotherham (Nov 23) prior to roll out across South Yorkshire (2024)



Coordinated flood awareness campaign across SY (November 2023)



Raising public awareness of flood risk and resilience via City of Rivers exhibition and events (from November 2023) and Yorkshire Day (August 2023)



Storm Babet October 2023- Section 19

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why do we need a Section 19?

A: The Council has a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to investigate any incidents of flooding that have caused internal damage to properties. The Council is required to publish a full investigation report, identify who is responsible, and determine whether the relevant authorities have fulfilled their duties in response to the flooding.

Q: Why did flooding occur in Rotherham?

A: Localised heavy rainfall caused surface water flooding to individual properties, plus, more intense rainfall fell in the upper catchment of the River Rother in Chesterfield and north Derbyshire that saw river levels reach their highest level on record.

Q: Why has the Section 19 Investigation taken so long to publish.

A: Following the flood event, all properties that had been affected by flooding had a full investigation into what happened and how the flooding occurred. Flooding of various sources increased the time it has taken to collate all the information and provide suitable next steps which included working with all stakeholders. The Council also had to go through 2 periods of politically restricted activity during the local elections and then the General Election between March and July 2024.

Q: Why was there little to no warning that property flooding was going to occur?

A: The Environment Agency (EA) issue all flood warnings and have a duty to ensure all residents have a minimum of 2-hour response before flooding occurs. Within a rapid response catchment like Whiston this is reduced to 30 minutes.

At Catcliffe and Treeton Village a flood alert was issued at 09:34am on the 20th October. The flood warning was issued by the Environment Agency at 01:36am reaching residents by 02:14am just short of 2 hours on the 21st October.

“Once levels started to rise again in the early hours of Saturday 21st October 2023 our Result Threshold trigger level was reached, this is the level at which we think property impact will definitely occur. This resulted in the warning being activated by the system at 01.36am, reaching customers via automation at 02:14am. Reports indicate the timing of first properties to be impacted by fluvial water as approximately 4am, resulting in 2.5 hours between the activation of the warning and impact, and just short of 2 hours for residents receiving the warning”. (EA Source)

Q: Did the Environment Agency Don Regulators store water on the River Rother?

A: The EA Don Regulators are in place to divert water from the River Rother into storage areas to ensure the peak on the River Rother does not collide with the peak on the River Don. Within Storm Babet, 2 of the 3 regulators operated and moved water from the Rother into the washlands. The Meadowgate regulator at Rother Valley Country Park was out of commission for refurbishment and did not operate and store flows within Rother Valley.

Q: Were Catcliffe and Treeton sacrificed to save other communities?

A: Catcliffe and Treeton was flooded due to the level in the River Rother reaching its highest on record. No operational decision was made to hold flows back and cause flooding to Catcliffe and Treeton Village.

Q: Will we flood again?

A: Flooding has increasingly become a recurring issue in recent years, highlighting a concerning trend in the frequency of extreme weather events globally. In Rotherham, there have been five significant flooding events in the past 23 years, each surpassing the magnitude of a "1 in 100 year" return period. The repeated occurrence of floods within such a short span strongly suggests that nationally we are becoming more vulnerable to extreme weather patterns.

Several factors contribute to this heightened flood risk across the UK, including climate change, urbanization, and inadequate drainage systems. As global temperatures rise, the atmosphere can hold more moisture, leading to heavier rainfall events. Additionally, urban development often reduces the land's natural ability to absorb water, exacerbating flood conditions. Given these changes, the probability of flooding occurring again in the near future is not only likely but should be expected. This reality underscores the urgent need for improved flood management strategies, infrastructure resilience, and climate adaptation measures to protect communities like Rotherham from future flood disasters.

Q: Is climate change the reason for increased flood risk?

A: Climate change results in more intense rainfall. This increases the chances of flooding. This is because warming means the air can hold more moisture (for every 1°C of warming, the atmosphere can hold 7% more moisture). Climate change also makes the probability of extreme weather events more likely.

Q: What will be done to reduce the risk of flooding occurring again?

A: Following the Section 19 investigation the Council has looked at the next steps for reduce the risk of flooding for each area affected. The Council continues to carry out flood alleviation schemes within the borough. Further information on this can be found at - <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/water-management-flooding/the-6-priority-flood-alleviation-schemes>

Q: What can I do if my insurance company refuses to provide me with home insurance?

A: A Government scheme was set up following the 2007 floods to help properties affected by flooding get affordable home insurance. The scheme is called Flood Re and further information can be found at - <https://www.floodre.co.uk/>

Q: What is property flood resilience?

A: Property Flood Resilience (PFR) is the term used to describe the ways in which a property can be protected from flood damage. The two main strategies used are 'resistance' and 'resilience'.

Flood Resistance

A flood 'resistance' approach aims to prevent water entry or reduce the amount of floodwater that enters a property, and it requires the purchase and installation of home flood defence products. These products can be permanent or temporary. Permanent products are fitted, left in place, and remain 'always ready' to work 24/7, with no action needed to activate them in the event of a flood. Temporary measures are usually stored away and then put in place when flooding is expected.

Government guidelines suggest 600mm (2ft) as a safe height to resist water entry, but many buildings in flood risk areas are protected to around 900mm (3ft). Beyond this height, it is advised that floodwater should be allowed to overtop barriers and enter a property to prevent structural damage.

A successful resistance strategy ensures that every water entry point on the property is protected. If a single point is missed or a flood defence product fails, the property will begin to take on floodwater which compromises all other protection measures and results in a failed package of works.

Flood Resilience

A flood 'resilience' approach aims to reduce the damage caused by floodwater when it enters a property, resulting in quick and easy cleaning, drying, recovery and reoccupation of the property. This could potentially eliminate the need for an insurance claim. Resilient measures usually involve changes to the fabric of the building so no action is needed to activate them in the event of a flood. Undertaking a resilience approach directly after your home has flooded presents an opportunity to reinstate the property with water resilient materials and design which will speed recovery.

Q: Who is responsible for main river flooding

A: The Environment Agency are responsible for all main rivers. This includes managing and maintaining the river and investigating why flooding has occurred.

Q: Who is responsible for surface water (overland flow) flooding?

A: The Council acting as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is responsible for investigating and manage all surface water flood risk.

Q: Did the flood defences upstream in Derbyshire and Sheffield cause flooding in Rotherham?

A: All flood defence schemes before being implemented must show they will cause no additional flood risk to any area downstream. The Environment Agency have an assurance process to ensure flood water is not being pushed to another community.

Q: Did the Canal Barrier cause flooding in Catcliffe and Treeton Village?

A: The Canal barrier has been installed to reduce the risk of flows from the River Don entering the canal and flooding the train station. Flood storage at Forge Island is still fully utilised. The scheme has no negative impact on upstream areas and will not affect levels within the River Rother.

Q: Did the Waverley Estate increase the flood risk in Catcliffe and Treeton Village?

A: The new housing estate at Waverley has its own attenuation that has been created to store storm water, when high intensity rainfall events occur. Water is stored within a reservoir and slowly discharged in the River Rother at the same rate in which it would have naturally ran off the land before the development.

Q: When the Meadowgate Regulator was being refurbished what contingency plans were in place?

A: The Environment Agency have confirmed that the works were planned for the summer period and the construction phase was programmed to take one week. An issue occurred when installing the new gate that caused the delay and the need for a new gate to be installed at a later period.

Q: Would flooding have occurred in Catcliffe and Treeton if all regulators were operational?

A: The river level recorded on the River Rother was the highest on record and would have caused flooding if all regulators had operated. Hydraulic modelling carried out by the Environment Agency shows that within this size of storm event flooding would have still occurred.

Appendix 3

Upcoming Community Drop in Events and Public Meeting

Community Drop in event 10 th September 2024	Community is invited to meet the Council and Risk Management Authorities at drop-in sessions at Catcliffe – two planned events will be held 1st 10:00 – 16:00 and 2nd 18:00 – 21:00 – the dates will depend on the availability of the Catcliffe Memorial Hall.
Public Meeting 12 th September 2024	Followed by a Public Meeting held 18:00 - 20:00
11 th September 2024	Community is invited to meet the Council and Risk Management Authorities at drop-in sessions at Whiston Hall – two planned events will be held 1st 10:00 – 16:00 and 2nd 18:00 – 21:00 – the dates will depend on the availability of Whiston Hall.
18th September 2024	Community is invited to meet the Council and Risk Management Authorities at drop-in sessions at Dinnington – two planned events will be held 1st 10:00 – 16:00 and 2nd 18:00 – 21:00 – the dates will depend on the availability of the Lyric Theatre Hall.
Other Locations, properties with internal flooding outside the above location	If you would like to discuss any information found within the Section 19 or Community Flood information Sheet please contact via e-mail or telephone at: R&E-Drainage@rotherham.gov.uk or 01709 336003

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Improving Places Select Commission

22nd October 2024

Update on:
Section 19 Investigation – Storm Babet
October 2023

Page 197

Richard Jackson & Andy Saxton

Contents

1.	.....	Section 19
2.	.....	Storm Babet Overview
3.	.....	Response
4.	.....	Regulators
5.	.....	Recovery
6.	.....	EA Modelling
7.	.....	Next Steps (Catcliffe)
8.	.....	Next Steps Continued

Section 19 Investigation

Under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management act (Part 1.3 Section 19), as the LLFA, RMBC has the duty to investigate flood incidents and publish the results of the investigation. The act states that:

On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a LLFA must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate

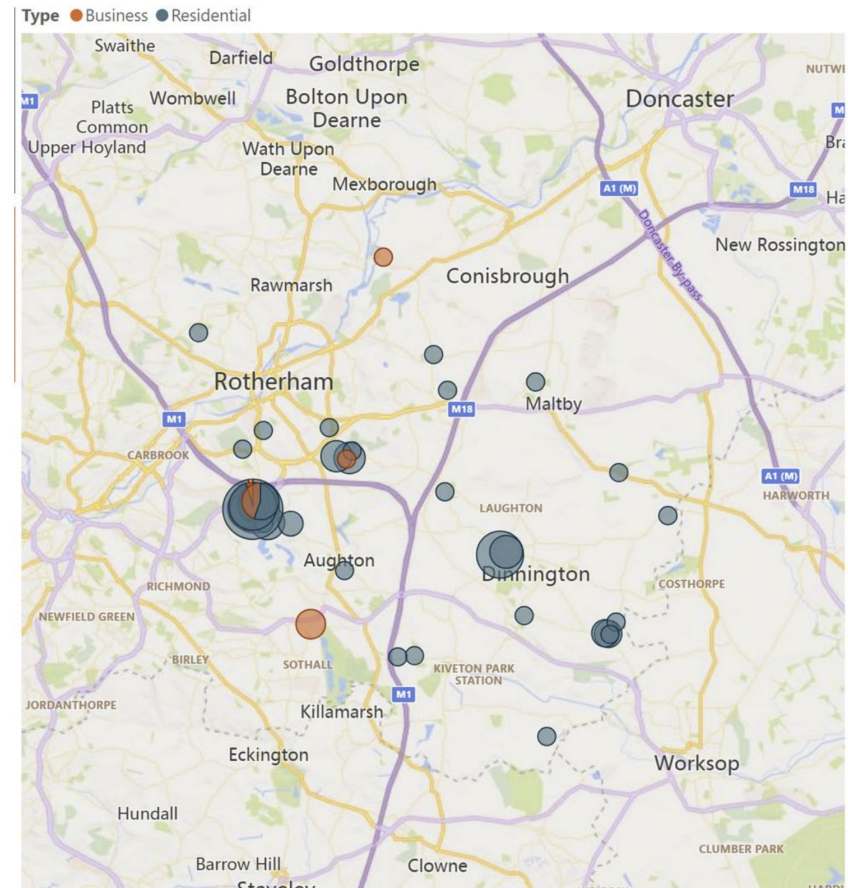
- a) Which RMA have relevant flood risk management functions,
- b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must:

- a) publish the results of its investigation.
- b) notify any relevant risk management authorities

Storm Babet

- This rain came on top of very wet weather earlier in October with some central and eastern parts of England recording more than twice the October whole-month average rainfall in the first three weeks of the month. Rotherham Borough was heavily affected across the catchment, with internal flooding to 182 properties and 9 businesses. 148 properties were affected in the Catcliffe and Treeton area alone.



Response

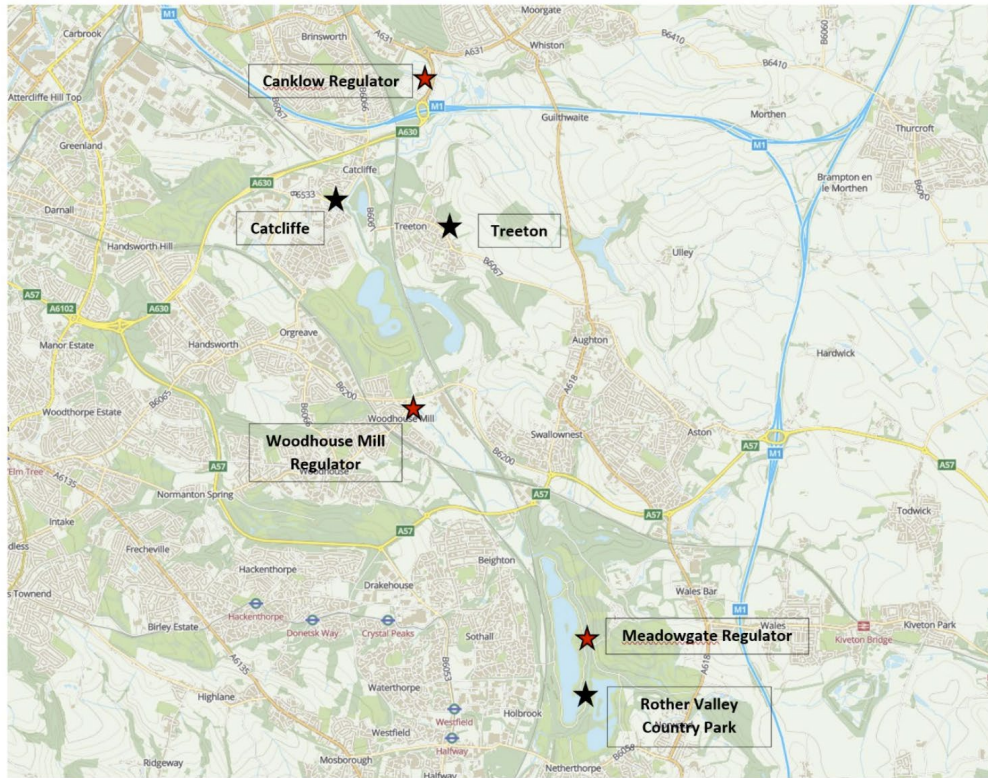
Response Timeline



18 th October 2023		19 th October 2023		21 st October 2023	
Rotherham Council set up shift patterns and monitored rainfall forecast and river levels.	Rotherham Council deployed pumps to reduce the surface water flooding from the catchment. Rotherham Council teams monitored the situation 24 hours per day throughout the event.	(2:00am)	(2:15am)	(4:00am)	154 properties were evacuated by the multi-agency team.
		River Rother began seeping through the flood defences before overtopping began. After a flood alert was issued at 09:52 am on the 20 th .	The Environment Agency issued a flood warning. To inform residents of possible imminent flooding. 02:34am The Council contacted Fire and Rescue to attend site and support with warning and informing the public.	Rotherham Council and Fire Rescue services began aiding residents in evacuating their homes following the necessary planning and resourcing.	

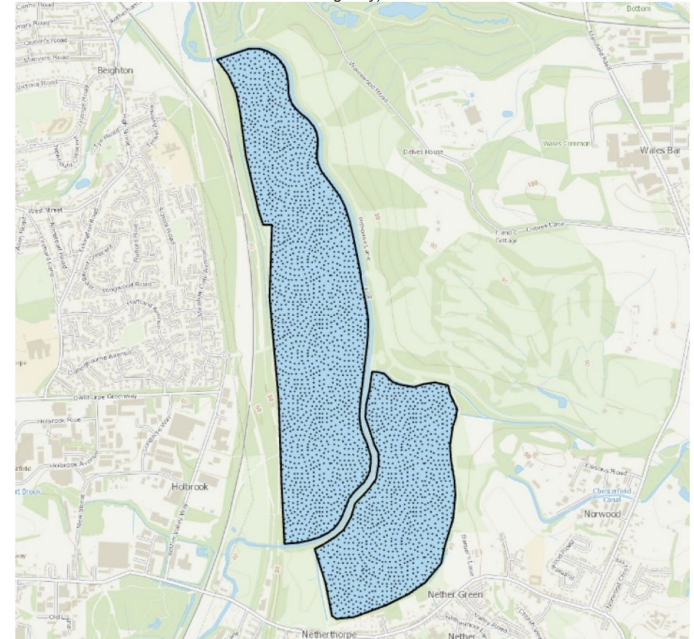
Regulators

Regulators Location Map



The regulators are used to divert flows from the River Rother into wetlands, aiming to reduce peak flows within the River Rother and prevent them from coinciding with the peak flows of the River Don.

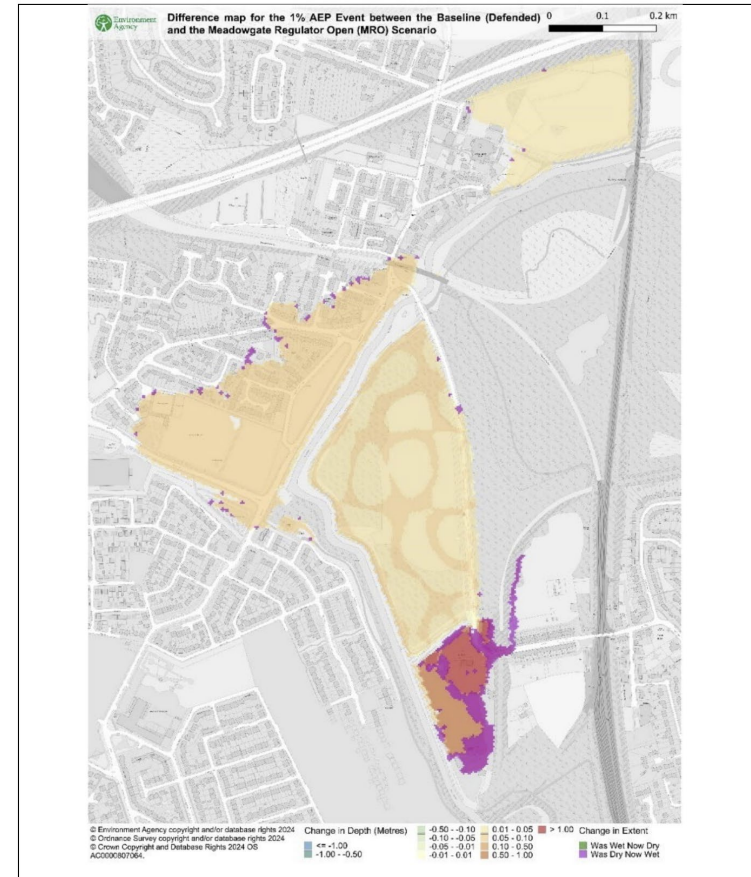
Meadowgate Flow Regulator Water Storage Areas (source: Environment Agency)



EA Modelling

Map showing the results from the modelling study carried out by the EA. This shows the difference between the Meadowgate Regulator being operational and non operational during an 1% Annual Exceedance Probability.

With the Purple area not flooding if the regulator operates.



Recovery

Recovery Timeline



21st October 2023

22nd October 2023

23rd October 2023

24th October 2023

A full rest centre was set up at Catcliffe Memorial Hall for evacuated residents. Sandbags were deployed to homes within both Catcliffe and Treeton. Immediate Housing support provided to those in need

The Council liaised with the Environment Agency and Fire and Rescue to arrange pumping operations to reduce the flooding following falls in river levels

Skips were provided the following day and remained in situ as part of the recovery, 22 large skips in total throughout the period to aid residents in removing flood damaged fixtures, fittings and furniture as well as a significant number of Council staff to assist residents

Rotherham Council provide a fully stocked PPE cabin for use by affected residents.

Rotherham Council attended to remove silt and debris from the roads and drainage system. While also aiding residents in removal of flood damaged items from their homes.

Rotherham Council provide flood affected properties with a £500 flood grant and council tax relief until residents are able to return to their properties.

Defra have issued a property flood resilience grant of £5000 for residents to make their properties more resilient to future flood events.

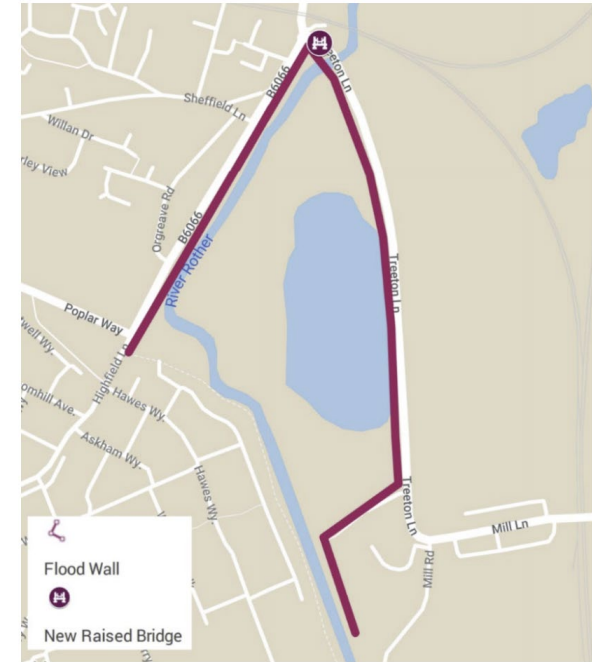
Next Steps Catcliffe

Option 1 Upstream storage of storm water outside of the Rotherham catchment area to reduce peak flows of water within the River Rother.

Option 2 Increase the standard of protection defences around Catcliffe and Treeton Village.

Option 3 Alterations to the existing bridge on Treeton Lane to improve the flow path of the River Rother.

A Flood Alleviation Scheme to construct a new pumping station will have all designs and plans completed by April 2025. The pumping station will over pump surface water from the catchment area into the River Rother when levels in the river make this unachievable naturally (by gravity feed). This scheme will not reduce the risk of flooding from the River Rother but automate the existing pumping regime and allow better use of the Councils resources.



Next Steps Continued

Whiston

A Flood Alleviation Scheme will start in late 2025, subject to approvals and legal agreements. The scheme aims to provide upstream storage of storm water, natural flood management measures and watercourse improvements to help mitigate flooding in Whiston.

Laughton Common

A Flood Alleviation Scheme will start in late 2025, subject to approvals and legal agreements. The scheme aims to provide upstream storage and watercourse improvements to help mitigate flooding in Laughton Common.

Various Other Affected Areas

Residential and Commercial Property Internal flooding is the highest priority when investigating flooding issues. The delivery of projects to reduce flood risk is prioritised to avoid internal flooding over area flooding. Initial investigations have been carried out and schemes are currently being designed.

Any Questions?

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Public Report
Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 22 October 2024

Report Title

Draft Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy, November 2024

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

Wendy G Foster, Improvement Manager, Housing Property Services
01709 255047 or Wendy-regen.foster@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Council is committed to delivering a high quality, value for money repairs service which is customer focused, efficient, and accessible to everyone.

The Draft Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy sets out the Council's approach to delivering a responsive repairs and maintenance service which meets the needs of tenants and leaseholders, and enables the Council to meet its statutory, regulatory, and contractual obligations.

The report also provides an update on the work which has begun to consider the future of the repairs and maintenance service in the context of new consumer regulations.

Recommendations

1. That Improving Places Select Commission provide feedback on the draft Repairs and Maintenance Policy.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Draft Repairs and Maintenance Policy.

Background Papers

- 1) The Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Standards
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/regulatory-standards-for-landlords>
- 2) The Social Housing (Regulation) Act, 2023 <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3177>
- 3) Tenant Satisfaction Measures
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-introduction-of-tenant-satisfaction-measures/outcome/tenant-satisfaction-measures-summary-of-rsh-requirements-accessible>
- 4) Awaab's Law Consultation <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/awaabs-law-consultation-on-timescales-for-repairs-in-the-social-rented-sector>
- 5) Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy
<https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/documents/s142954/Appendix%201%20-%20Damp%20Mould%20and%20Condensation.pdf>
- 6) Housing Fire Safety Policy
<https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=98148>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Cabinet – 18 November 2024

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY

1. Background

- 1.1 It is imperative that the Council has a robust Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy in place which outlines the approach to delivery of the service in order to ensure that tenants are able to access information on how the service is delivered and hold the Council as 'landlord' to account.
- 1.2 The introduction of the Social Housing (Regulation) Act, 2023, prompted the Council, and social housing landlords nationally, to examine all aspects of its housing service activity. This self-assessment enabled the Council to gauge how well it is meeting the expectations of the Regulator of Social Housing's (RoSH's) consumer standards, to identify gaps in delivery, and focus on areas for improvement.
- 1.3 When assessing housing service's activity against the new regulatory standards, it is prudent for the Council to consider the future delivery of its repairs and maintenance activity; the current contracts commenced on 1st April 2020 and have recently been extended until 31st March 2027, with an option to extend up to a further three financial years.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 The Housing Property Service is responsible for the repairs, maintenance and investment in the Council's housing revenue account assets. This includes:
 - 19,879 residential properties
 - 3,254 garages on 404 purpose-built garage sites
 - 144 garage plot sites
 - 37 boiler houses
 - 45 neighbourhood centres
 - 1 residential tower block over 18 metres
- 2.2 The draft Repairs and Maintenance Policy sets out the Council's overall approach to delivering repairs and maintenance and how it meets its obligations, including the relevant consumer standards. The policy applies to the repair of Council owned housing properties, including the assets listed above as well as communal areas and some equipment such as lifts.
- 2.3 The current service delivery model, encapsulated within the draft policy, is subject to the terms of the existing contracts with the Council's current delivery partners and the current allocated budgets therefore there is limited scope for significant change. However, the draft policy does update the Council's position in respect of decorating allowances.
- 2.4 The existing decoration allowance is as follows:
 - Awards £25 per room damaged,
 - is awarded per habitable room,
 - issues payments by cheque, and

- has no limit to the sum awarded.

2.5 Following a review, the draft Repairs and Maintenance policy proposes that from April 2024, the allowance is amended as follows:

- payment will increase to £50 per room damaged (hall, stairs and landing will count as one room)
- allowance will be awarded for any room within the main envelope of the property and in which tenants carry out their daily lives. This does not include outhouses,
- payment will be made either to the tenant's rent account or via bank transfer, and
- payments will be limited to £350 per property.

2.6 The draft Policy also includes:

- The types of repairs the Council is responsible for and the responsibilities of tenants.
- How reports are dealt with including prioritisation based upon the type of the repair and the impact upon the tenants' personal circumstances.
- The repairs categories, including timescales for completion.

2.7 The Council carries out high volumes of repairs: over 6,000 repairs completed each month which is 200 repairs each day.

2.8 The table below shows the minimum numbers of repairs which the Council carries out annually. It excludes contracted capital works, lifts, damp, mould, and cyclical compliance works.

YEAR	NUMBER OF REPAIRS
2023/2024	73,312
2022/2023	70,621
2021/2022	71,989
2020/2021	62,831
2019/2020	75,797

2.9 Demand on the repairs services is expected to continue to increase, and greater agility may be needed when responding to reports of damp and mould. In the future, other Category One Hazards in the Housing Health and Safety Rating System, may also have to be prioritised, depending on the outcome of the Government consultation on Awaab's Law.

2.10 The regulatory context for the delivery of repairs and maintenance services is undergoing a period of change, including new consumer standards, Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs), Awaab's Law, the professionalisation of the sector, and a review of the Decent Homes Standard. The Council needs to evaluate and review the current service model against this changing regulatory environment.

2.11 Currently the majority of work is included within two large repairs and maintenance contracts which are split geographically and by work category.

Specialist work, such as damp, mould and lift servicing, is separately managed within smaller contracts.

- 2.12 An engagement programme is currently underway aimed at better understanding the views of tenants, elected members, and officers, and focus on the outputs required for future service delivery.
- 2.13 A service review will bring together:
1. The outputs collated from tenants, elected members, and officers,
 2. Legislative and regulatory requirements, including the Regulator of Social Housing's Tenant Satisfaction Measures and consumer standards, and
 3. Repairs and maintenance data which indicates likely areas of pressure in the future.
- 2.14 Housing Property Services will hold a seminar with elected members, to share an overview of the current delivery of repairs and maintenance. Towards the end of that session, elected members will be asked about the repairs and maintenance priorities they would like to see embedded in the service in future.
- 2.15 An industry specialist will be engaged to overlay the Council's identified requirements against the service delivery options available to the Council.
- 2.16 The outcome of this exercise will enable an informed decision about the future delivery of the Council's repairs and maintenance service, which will be subject to Cabinet decisions as relevant.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The Repairs and Maintenance Policy, and compliance policies have been identified as key documents needed by social housing landlords under the Regulator of Social Housing's new Safety and Quality Consumer Standard. IPSC are requested to review the policies and provide feedback prior to finalising for Cabinet approval.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The current service delivery model is subject to the terms of the existing contracts with the Council's current delivery partners and the current allocated budgets therefore there is limited scope for significant change.
- 4.2 The Draft Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy was shared with Tenant Scrutiny Panel on Monday, 15 July 2024 where constructive feedback was shared and included in the draft.
- 4.3 The main point of discussion with Tenant Scrutiny related to section regarding, 'Tenants' Personal Circumstances'. This section addresses the requirement to consider individual resident's needs when assessing the urgency of a repair. It was originally titled 'Tenant Vulnerabilities', but

tenants did not agree with characterising personal circumstances as vulnerabilities.

- 4.4 It is proposed that the future delivery of the repairs and maintenance service is subject to wider engagement with tenants and residents.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Implementation of the draft policy would follow Cabinet decision on 25 November.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 For the financial year 2024/2025, there is a revenue budget of £24.5m and a capital budget of £29.2m in place to deliver the Council's housing repairs, maintenance and investment services across various contracts.
- 6.2 Any changes to how the service delivers and operates may change the cost profiles. The budgets are reviewed during the HRA Business Planning and budget setting process. Future requirements will be considered, and appropriate budgets set in place based on priority and affordability.
- 6.3 The current repairs and maintenance contracts have been extended until March 2027 with an option to extend for a further three years in one-year increments.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are legal requirements for maintaining social housing, keeping it free from hazards and in a reasonable state of repair. The Regulator of Social Housing also provides for Consumer Standards which require social landlords to have an accurate, up to date and evidenced understanding of the condition of their homes. The Regulators' Tenant Satisfaction Measures are a core set of performance measures against which all social providers of housing must publish their performance.
- 7.2 The draft Repairs and Maintenance Policy incorporates the legal and regulatory requirements to ensure compliance with and understanding of the repair and maintenance obligations.
- 7.3 In implementing the policy, the Council will be able to demonstrate adherence to the new Consumer Standards, whilst also minimising the risk of customer complaint and/or legal challenge and/or enforcement action by the Regulator. The Repairs and Maintenance policy will likely require amendment to reflect specific timeframes for repairs to be carried out in the social rented sector once determined.
- 7.4 In due course the government will introduce Awaab's law which will require landlords to fix reported health hazards within specified timescales. The Repairs and Maintenance Policy may require amendment to reflect the criteria within the law.

8 Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no HR implications associated with this document.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Council will take into account whether a resident has any particular needs that give a specific repair more urgency than the designated timescales.

9.2 Depending on tenants' needs, and in particular circumstances, the Council will adjust the urgency of a repair if the risk to health, safety and security is increased due to tenants' personal circumstances.

10 Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The Council supports equality of access for all its tenants, especially those who are at most risk due to their/their household members' needs, those who have difficulties managing their property, and those who struggle to sustain a tenancy. The Council recognises that some groups with protected characteristics are more likely to fall into one of these categories.

10.2 Where appropriate the Council will adapt working practices to ensure tenants do not face additional barriers when accessing services. This includes providing information to tenants in Braille, large print, audio, or alternative languages.

10.3 The Council will record and monitor data to gain insight on satisfaction levels and service outcomes for tenants with protected characteristics and use this information to help improve services.

11 Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Refurbishment works undertaken by the service improve the thermal efficiency of properties which positively contributes to the reduction of CO₂ emissions and climate change agenda.

12 Implications for Partners

12.1 Should the delivery model change in the future, there will be an impact on the contractors.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The attached policies reflect the current arrangements which have been in place since 2020.

13.2 Social housing landlords are awaiting the outcome of the Government consultation on Awaab's Law and are keen to understand the range of

hazards against which tenant's personal circumstances need to be taken into consideration when prioritising repair.

- 13.3 The Council has already put in place processes to deal with reports of damp and mould and is working to the timescales laid out in the Government consultation. This has resulted in an increase in reports of damp and mould, to which the Council must respond within 10 days.

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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Appendix 1

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY

NOVEMBER 2024

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Council is committed to delivering a high quality, value for money repairs service which is customer focused, efficient, and accessible to everyone. This policy sets out how the Council delivers a responsive repairs and maintenance service which meets the needs of tenants and leaseholders, and enables the Council to meet its statutory, regulatory, and contractual obligations.

2 PURPOSE

This policy sets out the Council's overall approach to repairs and maintenance and how it meets its obligations.

3 SCOPE

The policy applies to the responsive repair and maintenance of Council owned housing properties, including garages, district heating boiler houses, communal areas, neighbourhood centres, and some equipment such as lifts.

The policy includes the Council's and tenants' responsibility for the completion of repairs in the following areas:

- Emergency repairs
- Non-urgent repairs
- Non-standard (batched) repairs
- Cyclical maintenance
- Out of hours repairs
- Repairs which are the responsibility of tenants, and
- Rechargeable repairs.

It also sets out the approach to:

- Decoration allowance
- Right to compensation
- Right to repair
- Tenant recharges.

Separate policies exist for certain aspects of the Council's repairs and maintenance obligations. These are referred to in this policy. The key ones are:

- Housing Services Gas and Carbon Monoxide Policy
- Housing Services Electrical Safety Policy
- Water Safety Policy
- Lift Safety Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy
- Asbestos Management Plan

4 LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

The Council has an obligation to keep its homes in a reasonable state of repair and to keep its tenants, their families, and visitors safe.

In April 2024, a new suite of consumer standards was introduced to bring greater transparency, and to monitor and improve, the quality of services delivered by social housing landlords. The repairs and maintenance of properties is covered by the Safety and Quality Consumer Standard.

In addition to repairs, the Council has compliance responsibilities relating to:

- Gas safety
- Electrical safety
- Legionella checks
- Servicing passenger lifts, medical lifts, and hoists
- Asbestos inspection
- Fire safety, and
- Maintenance of communal areas.

For more information, please refer to the separate policies which set out how the Council meets the obligations.

5 TREATING TENANTS WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT

The Council is committed to providing a high-quality customer service that is accessible to everyone, right first time, and keeps customers informed of progress.

The Council's responsive repairs and maintenance service aims to put tenants at the centre of its delivery. It is committed to being accessible to every tenant, and values tenant feedback – both complaints and compliments.

When attending tenants' homes to carry out repairs, the Council and its contractors must:

- Be respectful of tenants' homes, environment, and cultural factors,
- Aim to carry out the repair during the first visit,
- Minimise noise and disruption,
- Park works vehicles properly and not damage grass verges,
- Always wear their identification badge,
- Protect tenants' floorings by wearing shoe coverings when entering a tenant's home,
- Not use tenants' facilities without tenants' permission.

To support operatives carrying out repairs, the Council asks tenants to:

- Not use abusive or threatening language or act in a violent, aggressive or abusive manner towards the Council staff and contractors,
- Keep their pets in a room away from operatives carrying out the repair, and
- Not smoke/vape inside the property when Council staff or contractors are present.

6 DELIVERING RESPONSIVE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

6.1 Right First Time

The Council aims to complete a responsive repair on the first visit; this is called 'Right First Time'. The repair is 'Right First Time' if the operative attended the property, identified, diagnosed, and fixed the fault during the first visit/during the same day. If this is not possible, as additional materials or trades are needed, a second visit will be scheduled within a reasonable timescale.

6.2 Reporting repairs

Tenants can report repairs for their own properties. If nominated by the tenant, household members, carers, and friends, can also report repairs on behalf of the tenant.

Tenants, or their nominated advocates, can report most day-to-day repairs on the website, using 'Housing Online', or by telephoning the Council's customer contact centre on 01709 336009. Some repairs, such as damp and mould, can currently only be reported via the telephone, but the Council aims to implement online reporting functionality as soon as possible.

When reporting repairs, tenants, or their nominated representatives, need to tell us:

- Their name, full address, and daytime telephone number,
- As much as they can about the repair –where the problem is and what is wrong,
- Whether there are any particular circumstances, such as health conditions or other vulnerabilities, that need to be taken into account, and
- Convenient times when operatives will be able to access the property.

If a gas leak is suspected, tenants should contact the National Gas Emergency Service on 0800 111 999.

Day to day repairs do not include large installation work, such as new roofs or upgrade works, such as kitchen replacement. These works are completed on larger planned work schemes.

6.3 Appointments for responsive repairs

When repairs are requested, and the work is ordered, a mutually convenient appointment will be agreed. The appointment will be for either a morning, afternoon, midday, or weekend, on a mutually convenient date.

Appointments are available all-day, Monday to Friday for day-to-day repairs, and seven days a week for plumbing, joinery, and electrical repairs. Tenants can book the following time slots:

	Appointment slot	Monday to Friday	Saturday*	Sunday*	Bank holidays
Morning	08:00 to 12:00	✓	✓	✓	Emergencies only
Afternoon	12:00 to 16:00	✓	✓	✓	
Evening	16:00 to 20:00	✓			
Midday	10:00 to 14:00	✓			
All day	08:00 to 20:00	✓			

*Plumbing, joinery and electrical work only.

For reports of damp and mould, the Council's Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy sets out the Council's timescales for responding and addressing damp and mould.

For medical lifts and hoists, and for passenger lifts, operatives attend within four hours. More details are contained in the Lift Safety Policy.

There may be circumstances beyond the Council's control when operatives will not be able to attend the scheduled appointment. On these rare occasions, the tenant will be contacted in advance of the appointment to reschedule.

6.4 Timescales for responsive repairs

The Council allocates responsive repairs into categories and each category has set timescales for completion.

When a repair request is received, the Council will work with the tenant to determine the urgency of the repair, and:

- Complete emergency repairs within four hours (where there is risk to life or property)
- Complete some gas repairs before the end of the next working day (such as no heat and no hot water)
- Arrange a mutually convenient appointment with the tenant to complete non-urgent repairs within 28 days.

The Council has just procured an external organisation to carry out stock condition surveys for all its HRA properties, over the next three years. Sample surveys will start in November 2024 with the surveyors working to capacity from January 2025.

The Council is currently unaware of the scope of repairs, and the quantity of repairs, which will result from the stock conditions surveys. As such, no decisions have yet been agreed regarding who will carry out the resulting repairs. Should the Council opt for its external contracting partners to carry out the work, there may be an impact on the 28-day timescale for carrying out non-urgent repairs.

Emergency repairs are defined as repairs that require immediate and urgent action to prevent risk to people or property, as such, the Council operates 24-hours a day, 365 days of the year to attend emergency repairs. These repairs usually involve carrying out work to make the home safe and secure while further works are arranged for a later date.

All reported emergencies are attended within a four-hour period. This includes emergencies that are reported after 16:00 which are passed to the emergency call out team. The call out team works between 16:00 and 08:00.

When reporting emergency repairs, tenants may be asked additional questions to understand the extent or severity of the repair. Depending on the specific details and the tenant's circumstances, some repairs may fall out of the four-hour priority and be allocated as non-urgent.

Please see Appendix A for the full list of emergency repairs.

Where an emergency repair has been completed, such as boarding broken glazing in a window, the Council will arrange a follow-up appointment for further works to be carried out, such as measuring-up and re-glazing the window. When there is a delay between the emergency repair and the follow-up works, the Council will:

- Write to the tenant to inform them that further works have been arranged, and
- Contact the tenant again to let them know when operatives will attend.

Unless materials or skills needed to carry out the repair are non-standard, in most cases follow-up repairs will be completed within four months.

Urgent repairs include a total loss of heating and hot water. Urgent repairs are attended by 20:00 on the day after a repair is reported. For example, if an urgent repair is reported on a Monday morning, an operative will attend either before 20:00 on Monday or between 08:00 and 20:00 on Tuesday, dependent upon availability.

Routine Repairs are standard, non-urgent repairs which are allocated within a 28-day priority, and appointments are chosen by tenants or agreed at a mutually convenient time (see 6.3).

Examples of non-urgent repairs include:

- A light not working,
- A dripping tap,
- A radiator not working,
- Leaking guttering,
- A repair to a roof tile.

The 'Tenants Personal Circumstances' section sets out how the Council may on occasion prioritise the delivery non-urgent repairs.

Planned maintenance works are repairs which do not require urgent attention and can be included in a future works programme. This includes replacing an external door, kitchen, roof or bathroom which cannot be repaired. Tenants receive

confirmation that the work has been placed on a programme and they will be notified when the work will take place.

Cyclical maintenance covers the regular servicing of gas appliances, electrical wiring, and carbon monoxide/fire detectors, as well as the maintenance of communal water tanks, medical lifts and hoists, including stair lifts, and passenger lifts.

6.5 Repairs to medical lifts and hoists, and passenger lifts

Please refer to the Lift Safety Policy.

6.6 Repairs to communal aerials

Repairs to communal aerials should be attended within 5 working days.

6.7 The Council's repairs responsibilities

The Council is responsible for the structure, exterior, services, and fixtures and fittings, and any communal areas in the building, excluding communal gardens. In all cases, repair is considered before renewal.

The Council is responsible for the following:

- a) Drains, gutters, and outside pipes,
- b) Roof, external walls, doors, and windows,
- c) Maintenance of pipework for water, and gas and electricity installations, within the boundary of the home,
- d) Outbuildings,
- e) Sewers which are not the responsibility of another person or body,
- f) Paths, steps, or other access routes that connect the front of the property to the front door, and the front door to the back door,
- g) Heating and hot water systems including central heating, gas fires, fireplaces, flues, ventilation and chimneys,
- h) Water, including baths, wash-hand basins, sinks, toilets, pipes, drains, and guttering,
- i) Fitted kitchens,
- j) Medical lifts and hoists, and passenger lifts fitted by the Council,
- k) Services to utilities including gas pipes, electrical wiring, and any fixed appliances provided by the Council, and
- l) Communal areas such as hallways, door entry systems, fire alarms, stairs, lifts, landings, and communal entrances.

The Council will not repair or replace items:

- a) Which are old but functional – if they are working well, they may not be repaired or replaced,
- b) For cosmetic reasons – such as a scratch on a windowpane, or a stain on a floor tile,
- c) Which could be a minor trip hazard such as a loose tile or a crack in the pavement (unless the tenant has mobility issues),

- d) Which do not match the rest of the kitchen or bathroom. (If an exact replacement cannot be found, the closest match possible will be fitted, but the entire kitchen or bathroom suite will not be replaced.)
- e) This includes unsafe fencing. Where fencing is broken or unsafe, the Council will remove the fencing and will only replace it by exception.

6.8 Tenants' repairs and responsibilities

To ensure tenants receive a fair and value for money service, tenants are responsible for carrying out some minor repairs. A full list of these can be found in the Tenants' Guide to Your Home and the tenancy agreement.

Unless provided by the Council's Furnished Homes service, tenants are responsible for the connection of washing machines, dishwashers, tumble dryers, cookers, and any other electrical appliances.

Any work to gas, electrical or water supplies must be carried out by a qualified and competent person. Failure to do so may constitute a breach of tenancy.

Examples of tenant responsibilities include:

- a) Tenant's own fixtures and fittings, eg. curtain rails,
- b) Internal decoration,
- c) Repairing small cracks and holes in walls and ceilings,
- d) Repairing tile grouting,
- e) Any lock changes as a result of lost or stolen keys,
- f) Clearing external grates,
- g) Clothesline hooks and clothes posts,
- h) Repairing and replacing boundary fences, gates, and associated hardware
- i) Internal door handles and latches,
- j) Floor covering, including vinyl and carpets (unless provided as part of the paid for Furnished Homes package),
- k) Very small areas of mould which can be easily wiped away, eg, on a windowsill or at the bottom of a window where condensation is sometimes found.

Plumbing repairs include:

- a) Refixing or renewing a toilet seat,
- b) Refixing or renewing the plug and chain for the bath, sink, or wash hand basin,
- c) Refixing or renewing cylinder jackets,
- d) Refixing or renewing high level toilet flush chains,
- e) Plunging minor blockages to sinks, baths and showers.

Electrical repairs include:

- a) All extension leads,
- b) Light bulbs, including outside lights,
- c) Tenants own non-standard light fittings, fluorescent tubes and starters,
- d) TV aerials, satellite dishes, or sockets other than communal sockets,
- e) Telephone cables and equipment, except door access control,

- f) Resetting timer controls to heating and hot water systems, including changing batteries.

Please note, this is not an exhaustive list.

The Council may carry out repairs caused through damage by the tenant and the costs will be recharged to the tenant.

To avoid further damage to the property or risk of injury, it is tenants' responsibility to report repairs promptly.

6.9 Tenants' Personal Circumstances

The Council will take into account whether a resident has any particular needs that give a specific repair more urgency than the designated timescales. Particularly high priority is given to repairs arising from harassment, domestic violence, or offensive graffiti.

Depending on tenants' needs, and in particular circumstances, the Council will endeavour to do the following:

- Adjust the urgency of a repair if the risk to health, safety and security is increased due to tenants' personal circumstances,
- Officers/operatives may make a safeguarding referral if vulnerabilities are identified, and if it is understood that the household could benefit from wider support,
- Offer additional support to tenants who may need reassurance regarding the nature of the repair and how it will be carried out.

The Council will aim to record tenants' relevant support needs and personal circumstances on IT systems and refer to this information when liaising with tenants. To do this, the Council will encourage all tenants to share information about their personal circumstances and vulnerabilities when engaging with services.

Due to limitations in the Council's IT systems, the Council may on occasion request that a tenant provides information about their circumstances at the point at which they report a repair. This is because information already held by the Council about the tenant's circumstances may not be available to Council officers logging repairs.

7 LEASEHOLDERS' RESPONSIVE REPAIRS

The Council's obligations to leaseholders include keeping the building in which the leasehold property is sited, in a good state of repair. This includes the external fabric of the building, and any shared or communal areas.

In turn, leaseholders are obligated to pay a share of the costs for carrying out those repairs; the details of these repairs are set out in leaseholders' annual service charge invoices. The apportionment of these charges can be found in leaseholders' leases.

For more information, please refer to Leaseholders' Rights and Responsibilities on the Council's website.

8 REPAIRS TO NEW BUILD PROPERTIES

New Council properties, whether built by the Council or acquired on the open market, are subject to a 12-month defects period.

For acquisitions of new build properties, or properties acquired on the open market, building contractors and housebuilders are responsible for dealing with any defects identified during the 12-month defects period. They are responsible for defects arising from faults in materials, manufacturing, and installation but any repairs needed as a result of tenant use, are dealt with in the same way as other responsive repairs.

Repairs requested during the defects period will be triaged before being passed onto the contractor/housebuilder. This is to ensure that the repair is needed due to a defect. Triageing the repair will reduce the likelihood of the Council being charged by the contractor for an incorrect call out.

Emergency repairs to new build or acquired properties align with the Council's timescales for emergency repairs to its other stock. If necessary, the Council will instruct its own repairs and maintenance operatives to carry out the repair and consider recharging the contractor/house builder afterwards.

9 NO ACCESS

It is important that Tenants allow operatives access to carry out repairs, servicing, and maintenance, as stated in tenancy agreements and Guide to Your Home. In some cases, if tenants refuse to grant access to operatives, the Council will apply to court to gain access.

If operatives are unable to access the property to carry out a repair, a missed appointment card will be left at the address requesting that the tenant contacts the Council to arrange a new appointment.

If the appointment was initially made to carry-out a repair which is causing a risk to the tenant, their household members, and other residents, or is causing damage to the property, the Council will explore all available options to gain access, including legal action.

The Council is legally obligated to carry out certain maintenance and servicing works, such as annual gas servicing. The Council sends appointment letters to tenants with a date and time to carry out the work and, if operatives are unable to gain access to the home on the first occasion, a second appointment letter will be sent, and, if necessary, a third appointment letter. Tenants have the opportunity to contact the Council and rearrange the appointment at any time.

If, after three attempts, the Council still cannot access the property, legal proceedings may commence, and the Council may apply to court to gain access.

Council officers or agents may enter the property without giving notice if entry is necessary because of an emergency. If forced entry is needed, the local Police will be notified and, when appropriate, a request for assistance will be made.

10 COMPLIANCE

Legislation places a duty on landlords to service and maintain elements of tenants' homes regularly. In addition to repairs, the Council has specific responsibilities relating to:

- Gas safety
- Electrical safety
- Water hygiene checks
- Servicing passenger lifts, medical lifts, and hoists
- Asbestos inspection
- Damp and mould
- Fire safety, and
- Maintenance of communal areas.

For more information, please refer to the Council's Compliance Policies.

11 DAMP AND MOULD

The Council is taking a proactive approach to dealing with damp, mould, and condensation in Council properties and currently runs this aspect of the repairs and maintenance service to different timescales than other repairs. For more information, please refer to the Damp, Mould, and Condensation Policy.

12 TENANT ALTERATIONS

Tenants are entitled to make improvements and alterations to their home but must get written permission before carrying out any work.

A tenant alteration pack can be requested and must be completed, giving details of the type of work proposed and a basic drawing of the change. It is important that tenants do not start work without written permission. If permission is not provided, then tenants may have to return the property to how it was before or will be re-charged for the Council to carry out the repairs.

Tenants must get permission to carry out the following, or other similar work:

- Decorate the outside of the property,
- Any structural alteration, improvement, or addition to the building,
- Any change to the fixtures and fittings or additions to the fixtures and fittings.

This includes:

- Building a garage or shed or other large structure in the garden
- Laying a drive or car parking space
- Installing a shower, central heating or gas fire. (Please note, the installation of log burners or dual fuel fires is not allowed.)

- Artexing ceilings. (the Artexing of walls is not allowed)
- Removing walls
- Installing a new fitted kitchen
- Installing fitted wardrobes
- Laying laminate flooring
- Installing a new bathroom
- Building a porch
- Removing or replacing internal and external doors
- Constructing a door arch
- Putting up TV aerials or satellite dishes
- Installing CCTV cameras or other surveillance
- Altering the garden or boundary of the property

This list does not state every type of alteration which requires permission. In addition, building regulation approval or planning permission may be required dependent upon the type of work. It is the tenant's responsibility to obtain any relevant permissions.

The Council will not take responsibility for the repair or maintenance of installations fitted by the tenant unless this has been agreed in writing.

13 TENANT RECHARGES

Tenants will be recharged for any works required as a result of tenant damage or fault. For example, any deliberate or accidental damage that could have been prevented with reasonable care – such as doors being damaged, or keys lost, and a lock change required.

At the end of a tenancy the Council may take steps to recover reasonable costs incurred if:

- Missed or damaged items need to be replaced or repaired,
- Aids and adaptations are removed without the Council's permission,
- Any tenant alterations do not comply with relevant regulations and have to be replaced or repaired,
- Any tenant alterations were made without the Council's written consent (see the Tenants' Alterations Procedure),
- Items are left in the home and need to be removed and stored, after the termination date,
- Items are left in the home which need to be disposed of by the Council,
- The property needs to be cleaned.

The Council will charge tenants for any works which are listed above as tenants' responsibilities if the work is carried out by the Council or its contractors to return the property to its original condition.

14 DECORATION ALLOWANCE

Once properties are let, tenants take responsibility for decorating their homes as detailed in the tenancy agreement.

When delivering some works to properties, tenants' decoration to walls and ceilings can be damaged and compensation is paid to tenants to help towards the cost of redecorating; this compensation is called Decoration Allowance.

Decoration Allowance does not cover the full cost of re-decorating, rather it is a sum awarded to acknowledge the damage done to décor which can be used to contribute towards the cost of redecorating.

The Council has a legal duty to make good or compensate for damaged decorations as a result of works carried out to their homes. Examples of such repair work may include:

- Electrical re-wiring following an electrical fault,
- Broken bathroom fittings and associated re-tiling,
- Insecure external windows/doors,
- Loose or detached banister/handrail,
- Leaking roof,
- Repairing a defective damp proof course.

The Council has no legal responsibility to provide decoration allowance following an improvement to a home. As a good landlord the Council wishes to help tenants where decorations have been disturbed following programmed/ improvement works. Not all improvement works will cause damage or require the full decoration of a room. Examples of programmed works can include:

- Kitchen replacement (if the Council does not redecorate following fitting),
- Bathroom replacement (if the Council does not redecorate following fitting),
- Damp proof course renewal,
- Installing a Damp Proof Course for the first time,
- Plastering.*

* Most damage to plasterwork is discovered during routine redecoration by a customer. In such circumstances, compensation for damage to decoration is not appropriate. If the Council has to make good plasterwork as a result of damage caused during repair work, then the customer should be compensated by way of a decoration allowance.

From April 2025, the Council's sums and payment methods for decoration allowance will change:

CURRENTLY	FROM APRIL 2024
Payment of £25 per room damaged	Payment will increase to £50 per room damaged
Awarded per habitable room	Will be awarded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • per room, including halls, stairs and landing which will count as one room. • for any other rooms within the main envelope of the property and in which tenants carry out their daily

	lives – this does not include outhouses.
Paid by cheque	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid as a credit to the tenant's rent account, or • by cheque, issued in the tenant's name
No limit	Limited to £350 per property.

The sums awarded will be reviewed every three years.

15 RIGHT TO REPAIR

If there are delays with works being carried out, and the work is not completed to the timescales specified in the service standards, the Right to Repair Scheme may offer tenants the chance to request that an alternative contractor carry out the work. If the repair is still not done, the tenant may be entitled to compensation.

The Right to Repair only applies to certain eligible repairs. Additional information on the scheme is available in The Guide to your Home.

16 AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS

The Council is committed to helping tenants stay in their homes for as long as they choose. If tenants require adaptations to their homes, such as handrails to the entrance to doors, or a shower unit rather than a bath, an assessment can be requested. The Council may be able to assist with funding towards the cost of adapting homes to better meet a tenant's assessed care needs.

More information can be found in the Council's Aids and Adaptations Policy.

17 USING REPAIRS DATA TO INFORM INVESTMENT DECISIONS

The Council draws on multiple data sources to understand the expected lifespan of components of its housing stock. These data indicate the expected lifespans of roofs, kitchens, boilers, etc.

Examples of this include:

- Analysis of repairs data to inform capital programmes, eg, roofing programmes,
- Referrals from each areas' Technical Officers, drawing on their experiences and inspections in a locality,
- Tapping into the knowledge and data of contract partners,
- Referrals from Technical Officers regarding pathways, paving, etc, which are passed for possible inclusion in the Environmental Programme,
- Looking at data from proactive hot-spot areas for damp and mould.

18 DISREPAIR AND COMPENSATION

In some circumstances, the Council may need to offer a tenant compensation, including:

- If a tenant has completed agreed improvements to their home which qualify for compensation,
- Right to Repair (see section 15),
- If the Council or its contractors accidentally damage tenant property when carrying out a repair,
- If the Council's/contractor's service has been considerably below a reasonably expected standard and if the tenant has been substantially inconvenienced or incurred a financial loss.

Tenants are able to lodge a disrepair claim with the Council if the Council has been informed of a defect and been given reasonable opportunity to rectify it but has not done so. Please refer to the Council's website to find out more about Housing Disrepair Claims.

19 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The Council supports equality of access for all its tenants, especially those who are at most risk due to their/their household members' needs, those who have difficulties managing their property, and those who struggle to sustain a tenancy. The Council recognises that some groups with protected characteristics are more likely to fall into one of these categories.

Where appropriate the Council will adapt working practices to ensure tenants do not face additional barriers when accessing services. This includes providing information to tenants in Braille, large print, audio, or alternative languages.

The Council will record and monitor data to gain insight on satisfaction levels and service outcomes for tenants with protected characteristics and use this information to help improve services.

The Council will take into account whether a resident has any particular needs that give a specific repair more urgency than the designated timescales.

Depending on tenants' needs, and in particular circumstances, the Council will adjust the urgency of a repair if the risk to health, safety and security is increased due to tenants' personal circumstances.

20 MONITORING AND PERFORMANCE

This policy and the repairs and maintenance service will be monitored through a variety of means, including:

- Regular performance reports, including a monthly performance scorecard and a quarterly compliance scorecard
- Contract monitoring meetings with contractors

- Tenant feedback, including the level and nature of complaints from tenants regarding repairs and maintenance, tenant perception measures results, and instant satisfaction survey results (tenants are sent a text message after each repair requesting feedback).

Responsive repairs and Tenant Satisfaction Measures; please see Appendix B for a full list of performance indicators for responsive repairs and Tenant Satisfaction Measures.

For more information regarding compliance monitoring and performance, please refer to the Compliance Policies.

21 COMPLAINTS

Anyone who feels that they have had a poor service from the Council, or one of its contractors, and has tried to get the problem solved by speaking to an officer from Housing Services, can make a complaint.

For more information about how to make a complaint, please refer to the Council's Complaints Procedure for Housing Services.

22 HOW TENANTS CAN GET INVOLVED

The Council is keen to involve tenants in shaping its services and ensuring the Council delivers on the issues which matter most to tenants.

By working together, the Council and tenants can develop and improve services for all customers. From how well Council policies are explained to where and how money is spent, tenants can have a say on what happens.

The Council convenes a Repairs sub-group of the Housing Involvement Panel which includes tenant representatives.

For more information, please see the Council's Tenant Engagement Framework or visit the Council's Tenant Involvement web pages

www.rotherham.gov.uk/tenantinvolvement

Email customerinvolvement@rotherham.gov.uk, or

Phone 01709 822100

Tenants could also contact the local tenant federation.

Rotherham Federation of Communities

Web www.rotherhamfederation.org

Email info@rotherfed.org

Phone 01709 368515

POLICY TITLE	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY
LEAD OFFICER	LYNSEY STEPHENSON
DATE APPROVED	18 November 2024
APPROVED BY	Cabinet
IMPLEMENTATION DATE	Immediately
REVIEW DATE	Annual
RELATED INFORMATION/POLICIES	ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN DAMP AND MOULD POLICY DISREPAIR GUIDANCE FIRE SAFETY POLICY WATER HYGIENE SAFETY POLICY LIFT & LIFTING EQUIPMENT SAFETY POLICY LETTABLE STANDARD RECHARGEABLE REPAIRS MUTUAL EXCHANGES & TRANSFERS AIDS & ADAPTATIONS POLICY TENANCY AGREEMENT TENANTS GUIDE TO YOUR HOME

DOCUMENT CONTROL/REVISION HISTORY

DATE APPROVED	18 November 2024
REVISION DATE	November 2025

Version no.	Date	Authorisation route	Summary of changes
	17.07.24	SMT	Add paragraph re leaseholders Add to Dignity and Respect and move towards beginning of document Change 'Vulnerable' in Vulnerable Tenants Section Appendix A, Emergency repairs – outline circumstances Repairs to new build/open market acquisitions – 12 months defects period
	23.07.24	DLT	None
	07.10.24	SLT	
	22.10.24	IPSC	
	18.11.24	Cabinet	

APPENDIX 1

COMPLETE LIST OF EMERGENCY REPAIRS

REPAIR	WHEN IS THIS REPAIR CLASSED AS URGENT?
Waste pump not working	If this is a wet room
WC pan blocked	If it is the only toilet in the property
Fire alarm triggered in neighbourhood centre	Always
Fire alarm triggered in block of flats	Always
Repair communal external door (Property Not Secure)	Always
Refix hip/ridge tiles – if roof leak or dangerous	If the tiles are hanging dangerously
Renew hip/ridge tiles – if roof leak or dangerous	If the tiles are hanging dangerously
Refix loose concrete coping	If the coping poses a significant risk to tenants or members of the public
Refix loose brick on edge coping	If the coping poses a significant risk to tenants or members of the public
Soil pipe leaking on joint	If the pipe is leaking raw sewage
Soil pipe cracked and leaking	If the pipe is leaking raw sewage
Refix soil pipe	If the pipe is at imminent risk of falling
Cooker control unit (switch and socket) damaged/not working	If there are bare wires showing or signs/smells of burning
Cooker outlet (plate behind cooker) damaged/not working	If there are bare wires showing or signs/smells of burning
No power or lights	If trip switches have been reset and there is still no power/lights
No power to property	If trip switches have been reset and there is still no power/lights
No lights to property	If trip switches have been reset and there are still no lights
Light switch damaged or not working	If there are bare wires showing or if there are signs of burning
Smoke alarm/beeping/sounding	If the alarm is sounding constantly
Socket/fused spur damaged/not working	If there are bare wires showing or signs/smell of burning
Water leaking on to electrics	Always
Boundary wall loose or crumbling	If the wall is at risk of falling
Cladding boards loose or damaged	If the cladding is at risk of falling
Coping loose/missing bricks	If the wall is at risk of falling
Coping loose/missing concrete	If the wall is at risk of falling
Repair concrete canopy over door	If the canopy is in a dangerous state
Repair timber canopy over door	If the canopy is in a dangerous state

REPAIR	WHEN IS THIS REPAIR CLASSED AS URGENT?
Repair PVC canopy over door	If the canopy is in a dangerous state
Gain entry to property/lock change	Always
Wall unit unsafe	If the unit is at risk of falling imminently
Supply and fit grab rail to shower/bath	If the tenant is ready to leave hospital and the works are needed as part of their discharge.
Supply and fit grab rail to toilet	If the tenant is ready to leave hospital and the works are needed as part of their discharge.
Supply and fit grab rail to external door	If the tenant is ready to leave hospital and the works are needed as part of their discharge.
Supply and fit key safe	If the tenant is ready to leave hospital and the works are needed as part of their discharge.
Leaking pipe work at roof level	If the leak is coming into the property and affecting the electrics
Leak from cold water tank	If the leak is affecting the electrics or if the leak cannot be contained
External water mains pipe burst/leaking	If the leak is within the boundary of the property
External water mains pipe frozen	If the pipework is within the boundary of the property
Soil pipe leaking	If the pipe is leaking raw sewage
Soil pipe loose	If the pipe is at imminent risk of falling
Pot loose or broken	If the chimney pot is at imminent risk of falling
Chimney stack loose or crumbling	If the stack is at imminent risk of falling
Barge boards missing, loose or rotten	If the loose boards pose an imminent danger of falling
Fascia boards missing, loose or rotten	If the loose fascia boards pose an imminent danger of falling
Soffit boards missing, loose or rotten	If the loose soffits pose an imminent danger of falling
Board up window	Always

APPENDIX 2**COMPLETE LIST OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR RESPONSIVE REPAIRS AND TENANT SATISFACTION MEASURES (TSMs)**

RESPONSIVE REPAIRS	TSMs
% of four-hour responsive repairs which are attended within timescales	Homes that do not meet the Decent Homes Standard
% of four-hour emergency gas responsive repairs which are attended within timescales	Number of responsive repairs raised during reporting year
% of responsive repairs completed "Right First Time"	Number of responsive repairs cancelled by landlord (the Council) or at the tenant's request, for any reason
% of gas responsive repairs completed "Right First Time"	Number of responsive repairs reclassified either by addition of extra time or change in status to another work category, eg Planned
Average number of days to complete a void (major works and minor works)	Number of responsive repairs completed in first year
% of 24-hour urgent gas responsive repairs which are attended within timescales	Number of responsive repairs which have not been completed (work in progress)
% of appointed responsive repairs which are completed within timescales	Asbestos safety checks
% of appointed gas responsive repairs which are completed within timescales	Lift safety checks
% of planned revenue works which are completed within timescales	Gas safety checks
% of aids and adaptations which are completed within timescales	Fire safety checks
% of voids uncap and tests Availability of Uncap & Test slots	
% of repairs where an appointment has been made and kept	

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Improving Places Select Commission – Work Programme 2024-25 – presented in October 2024

Chair: Cllr Cameron McKiernan
Governance Manager: Barbel Gale

Vice-Chair: Cllr Adam Tinsley
Link Officer: Andrew Bramidge

The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023 as criteria to long/short list each of the commission's respective priorities:

Establish as a starting point:

- What are the key issues?
- What is the desired outcome?

Agree principles for longlisting:

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is this being looked at elsewhere?
- Is this a priority for the council or community?

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria, e.g.

- T: Time: is it the right time, enough resources?
- O: Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
- P: Performance: can scrutiny make a difference
- I: Interest: what is the interest to the public?
- C: Contribution to the corporate plan

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
04-Jun-24	Housing Strategy Update Nominate representative to the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel
09-Jul-24	Overview of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Housing Overview of the portfolio of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working
03-Sep-24	Overview of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy Overview of the draft Rotherham Town Centre 10 Year Plan
22-Oct-24	Sec19 Flood Report Allotments Annual Update Repairs and Maintenance Policy (Delayed from September)
10-Dec-24	Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report Bereavement Services Annual Report Flooding Alleviation Update (Delayed from September)
11-Feb-25	Nature Recovery Strategy Consider the outline plan of the planned trainline extension to Waverley and Parkgate (Mainline station proposal, considering any potential impacts. Overview of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities
18-Mar-25	Housing Strategy - final progress report on 2022-25 Tenant Scrutiny report: How Rotherham Council supports new tenants

Items for Scheduling	
School Road safety motion - Scrutiny Review	Poss Joint with ILSC - Agenda for Council Meeting on Wednesday 29 November 2023, 2.00 p.m. - Rotherham Council
TBC - Further discussions to take place between the Chair and Cabinet Member	Community Living Fund
TBC	Update on the impact of 'Awaab's Law'
TBC	Off Road Bikes - Consideration is to be given as to how this topic could be scrutinised. - Suggest a meeting with Cabinet Member/Officers/Wentworth Woodhouse Reps + briefing note - Involve Cllr Jackson to this.
TBC	Briefing Note followed by Spotlight Review if required - Rural Strategy
Poss Dec	Review of Town Centre Events Programme
TBC	Consideration of the Our Places Fund
TBC	Review of Rothercard - specifically looking at the changes to the criteria and how it can be made available to a wider cohort of residents again.
Workshop November / December TBC	Housing Allocations Policy
Workshop November / December TBC	Consideration of the 2025-28 Housing Strategy