

## FAQ

Q: Why did flooding occur in Rotherham?

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

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

A: The Environment Agency 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. Flood Alerts within Rotherham was issued early on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> October which informs residents to make preparation.

Q: Did the EA 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 this is 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. Meadowgate regulator at Rother Valley Country Park was out of commission for refurbishment and did not operate and store flows within Rother Valley.

Q: Was 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 is becoming more of a regular occurrence in recent years, with 5 major events above a 1 in 100 year return period occurring in Rotherham in the last 23 years. The probability of flooding occurring again is likely

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 next steps for reduce the risk of flooding for each area affect. 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 this 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) are 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 implemented to prevent flow 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 Waverly Estate increase the flood risk in Catcliffe and Treeton Village?

A: The new housing estate at Waverly has its own attenuation that has been created to store storm water, when high intense 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.