

# Improving Places Select Commission 22nd October 2024

Update on:  
**Section 19 Investigation – Storm Babet  
October 2023**

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# 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

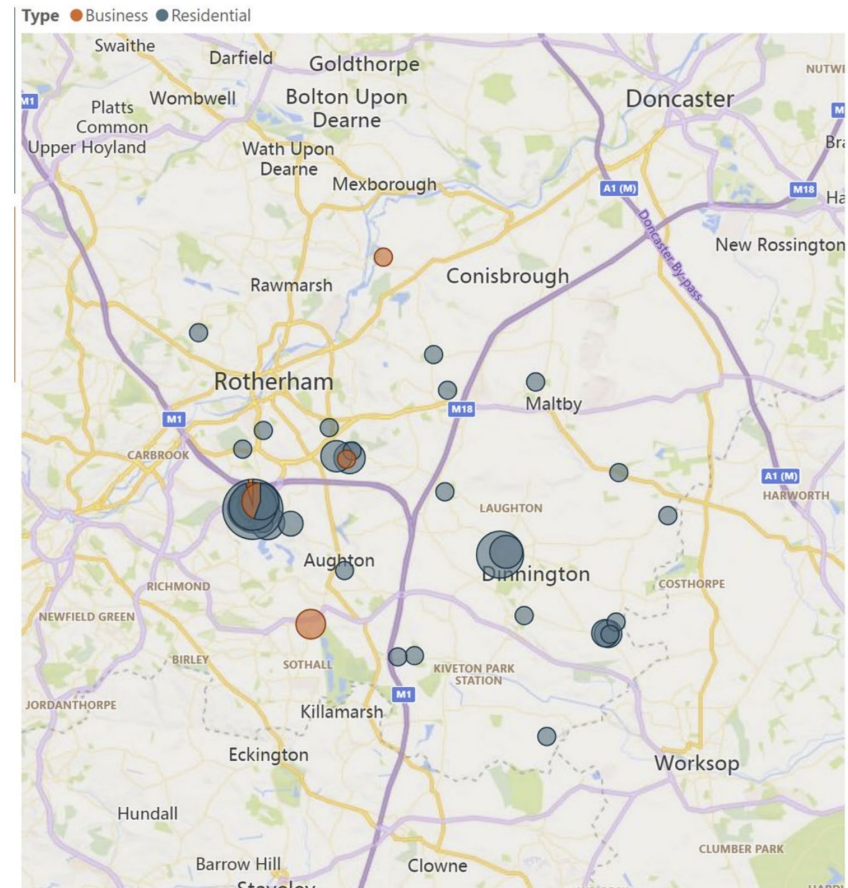
- a) Which RMA have relevant flood risk management functions,
- b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

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

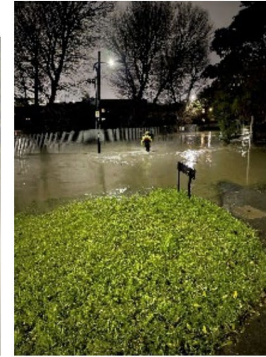
# Storm Babet

- 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<sup>th</sup> October 2023

19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

21<sup>st</sup> 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)  
River Rother began seeping through the flood defences before overtopping began. After a flood alert was issued at 09:52 am on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

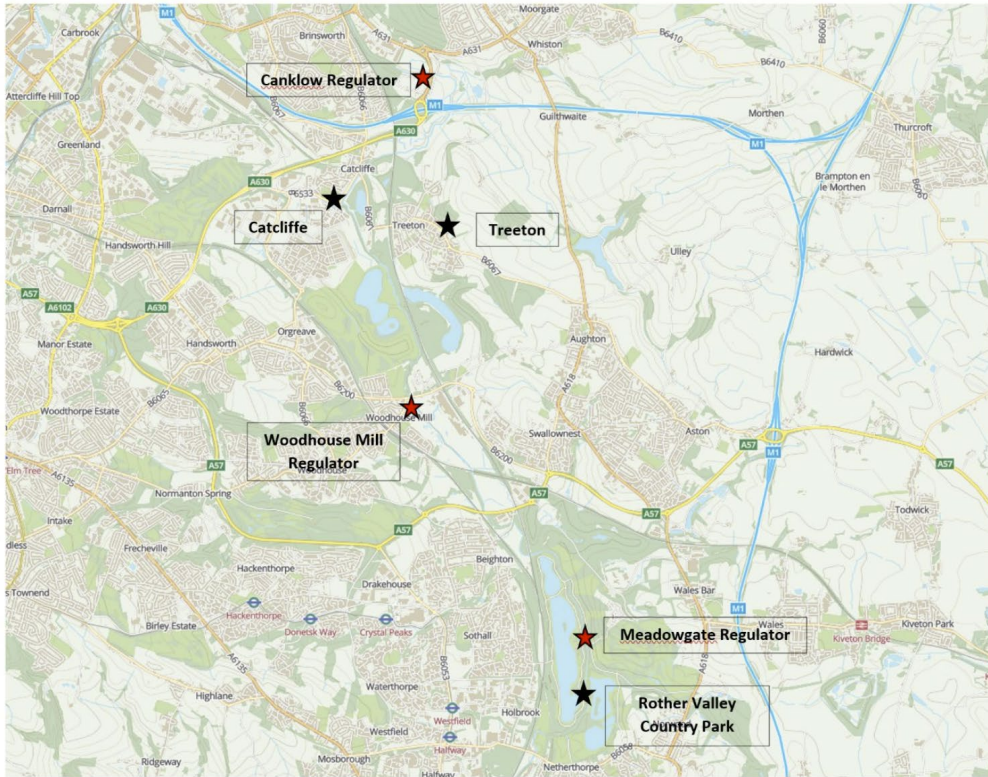
(2:15am)  
The Environment Agency issued a flood warning. To inform residents of possible imminent flooding. 02:34am The Council contacted Fire and Rescue to attend site and support with warning and informing the public.

(4:00am)  
Rotherham Council and Fire Rescue services began aiding residents in evacuating their homes following the necessary planning and resourcing.

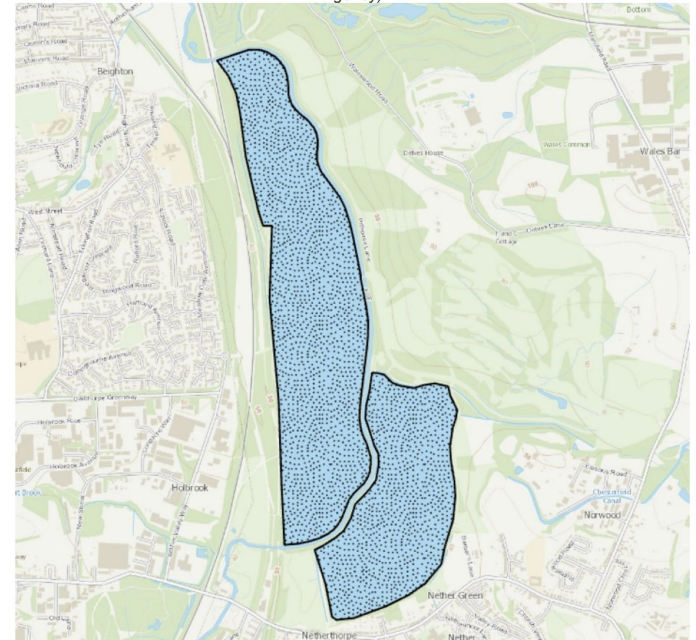
154 properties were evacuated by the multi-agency team.

# Regulators

Regulators Location Map



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



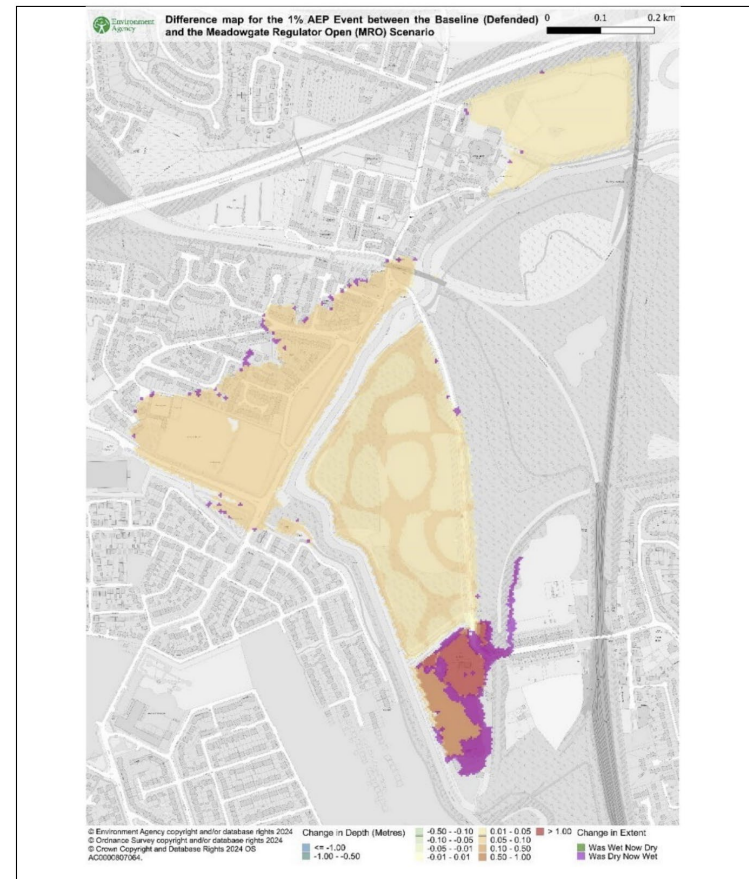
The regulators are used to divert flows from the River Rother into wetlands, aiming to reduce peak flows within the River Rother and prevent them from coinciding with the peak flows of the River Don.



# 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



21<sup>st</sup> 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



22<sup>nd</sup> 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



23<sup>rd</sup> 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



24<sup>th</sup> 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 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?