

Flood Investigation Report



Longstanton

1.1 Background

As the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Cambridgeshire, it is Cambridgeshire County Council's (CCC) duty to investigate flood incidents as detailed within Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Flood and Water Management Act 2010: Section 19 – Local Authorities: Investigations

- 1) On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate -
 - a) which risk management authorities 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.
- 2) Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must -
 - a) publish the results of its investigation, and
 - b) notify any relevant risk management authorities.

CCC carries out flood investigation, in order to comply with current legislation. The Council's criteria can be found on [the County Council's web site](#)

1.2 Risk Management Authority

The flood investigation reports have been produced in partnership with the relevant Risk Management Authorities (RMA). RMAs are defined by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, as they have responsibilities for flood risk management. The RMAs have a duty to carry out flood risk management functions in a manner consistent with national and local strategies.

The RMAs in Cambridgeshire are listed below; Table 1 highlights the relevant RMA that will take the lead in managing the risk from various local sources of flooding.

- Anglian Water (AW)
- Environment Agency (EA)
- Internal Drainage Board (IDB)
- City and District Councils (C&DC)
- Highway Authority (HA) part of CCC

The flood investigation reports acts as a tool for all the relevant RMAs in identifying the actions that have been recommended for their attention and also determines which RMA(s) have exercised their flood risk management functions in response to flooding.

Table 1 Relevant flood Risk Management Authorities that will take the lead in managing the risk from various local sources of flooding.

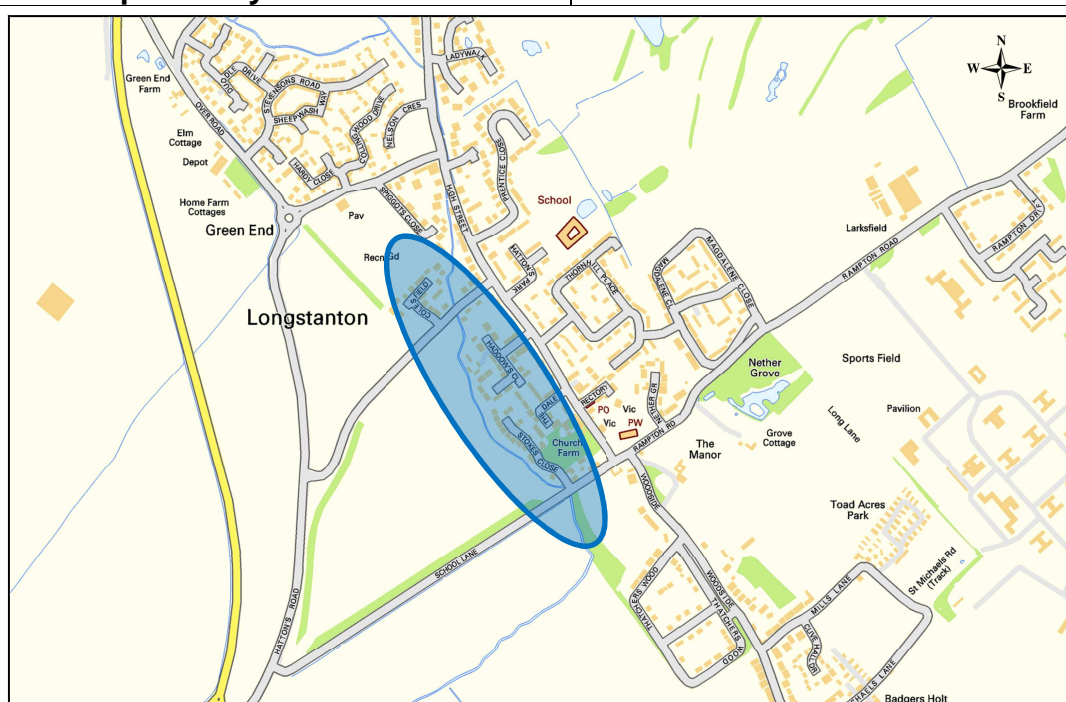
Flood Sources	EA	LLFA	C&DC	AW	HA	IDBs
RIVERS						
Main River	✓					
Ordinary Watercourse		✓				✓
Awarded Watercourse			✓			
Ground Water		✓				
SURFACE RUNOFF						
Surface water		✓				
Surface water originating on the highway					✓	
OTHER						
Sewer flooding				✓		
The Sea, Reservoirs	✓					

Owners of land with a watercourse running through it are termed as ‘riparian owners’ and often have responsibilities to maintain and allow the free flow of water through their land. Further information on riparian owner rights can be found on the [CCC website](#).

Flood Incident, Extent and Impact:

Table 2. Formal Flood Investigation Report

Date of Incident	August 2014	Reference Number	FI/14/000047
Location of Incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colesfield Road • School Lane • Stokes Close • Hattons Road • Sheepwash Way • Thatchers Wood 		
Risk Management Authority Reported to	South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and CCC		
Incident Reported by	Resident and SCDC		



Scale (at A4): 1:15918 Centred at: 539741,266551 Date: 11/03/2015 By: AZ302 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 OS 100023205

Figure 1. Location of flood incident

Note: The above map is indicative and does not represent the true extent of flooding.

Historical Flooding	Unknown		
Source of Flooding	Surface water	Depth	Unknown
Likely Cause of Incident			
<p>Flooding was caused as a result of an intense rainfall event. The primary cause of the flooding was the volume of rainfall that fell over a very short period within the Longstanton brook catchment This represented 304% of the August long term monthly average rainfall of 46mm for the county and represents an estimated return period of 1 in 330 years. Longstanton experienced 3 times the monthly total rainfall in a few hours. Contributing factors include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity issue with the drainage system • Vegetation, silt and debris washed off land into the watercourse blocking a culvert. 			
Summary of Impact			
18 properties were flooded internally and there was extensive flooding reported.			
Action Taken by Relevant Risk Management Authorities			
LLFA, HA, SCDC and EA	All attended a Parish Council meeting to answer questions from the residents.		
LLFA	The County Council has sent a letter to parliament in correspondence with South Cambridgeshire District Council. Both South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council regret to say there was very little that could have been done to avoid the flooding owing to the sheer magnitude of the event		
HA	Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department distributed Sandbags on the day of the intense rainfall event. The department has also undertaken jetting works in and around Longstanton as part of the cyclic maintenance.		
SCDC	<p>The rainfall intensity was such that a huge quantity of straw washed off the agricultural land upstream of the village and caused a blockage at the School Hill culvert. As an awarded watercourse South Cambridgeshire District Council is responsible for maintaining it and had cleared the culvert three weeks earlier during the previous rainfall event.</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire District Council's annual maintenance works commenced two weeks before the flooding and the brook banks had been 'flail' mowed both upstream and downstream of the village. Some planned de-silting work has taken place since the flooding as well as the removal of large amount of straw and other debris washed into the watercourse by the flood water. The District Council has visited the site on five different occasions; to remove the blockages from the watercourse at School Lane, Village Centre and Hattons Road.</p>		
Further solutions			
Works are planned to commence this year on the creation of the substantial balancing ponds along Hatton's Road. These are part of the benefit being provided to the village as part of the Northstowe development. Although nothing can be guaranteed, the new ponds will offer much benefit to the village and substantially			

reduce the flood risk. CCC recommends that residents, whose properties have been flooded, contact the [National Flood Forum](#) for details on how to protect their property.

Please Note: The actions undertaken, as part of this flood investigation does not preclude the risk of the area flooding in the future. If you live in an area that is at a risk of flooding, CCC would encourage you undertake the action highlighted in the 'Further Solutions' section in Table 2.

Next Steps

The next steps for the LLFA is to ensure the report is forwarded to the RMAs identified in the above table and that these authorities are aware of their flood risk management responsibilities.