

Suffolk

Flood Risk
Management Partnership

**Flood Investigation –
S19 Flood & Water Management Act 2010**

**Appendix D
to the Suffolk Flood Risk
Management Strategy**



March 2016

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Flood Investigation

S19 Flood & Water Management Act 2010

Suffolk County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, has been undertaking flood incident investigation work since 2011. During this time, processes have been put in place and reviewed based on the knowledge gained from these investigations. One of the elements that has not been addressed is the requirement to publish the outcomes of these investigations, as there appears to be some ambiguity to the detail required. Guidance from Central Government or Defra was not forthcoming on how this should be addressed.

This appendix outlines the requirements, the process, and what will be published.”

Flood & Water Management Act 2010

Section 19 - Local authorities: investigations

- (1) On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) 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.

Defining ‘Necessary or Appropriate’.

The act states where it considers it ‘necessary or appropriate’. This allows the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to determine the level of investigation required, as it would be neither practical or desirable for LLFA’s to carry out formal investigations for every occasion where flooding occurred. This gives the LLFA’s a great deal of latitude in determining the threshold that will determine whether or not to investigate a flood.

The Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy defines the criteria of when Suffolk will investigate;

An investigation will normally be carried out when any of the following criteria are met:

- where there was a risk to life as a result of flooding;
- where internal flooding of one property (domestic or business) has been experienced on more than one occasion;
- where internal flooding of five properties has been experienced during one single flood incident;
- where a major transport route was closed for more than 10 hours as a result of flooding;
- where critical infrastructure was affected by flooding;
- and where there is ambiguity surrounding the source or responsibility of a flood incident.

Reporting of incidents;

Incidents can be reported quickly and easily via Suffolk County Council's "Highways Reporting Tool" (<http://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>), or called in using our customer contact number **0345 606 6067**. All reports are stored on a central reporting system, and are plotted onto a digital mapping system; see appendix 1. These incidents are then analysed by an initial investigation, whether desktop or by site visit. Each incident is then prioritised from 1 to 3; 1 being a full investigation and 3 being insignificant. The definitions of these priorities can be found in appendix 2.

During 2014, 515 incidents of flooding were reported. However, it has been recognised that not all flood incidents are reported to SCC, as other flood risk management authorities will resolve the issues directly (e.g. Environment Agency or Anglian Water). Although this is beneficial in the short term, if these incidents are not recorded on a central database, then it is difficult to build an historical database to recognise flood patterns and areas that may benefit from long term solutions.

Once an incident has been designated priority 1, a full investigation is undertaken and a report will need to be published. Currently there are 5 reports published for incidents in Sudbury, Lawshall, Kesgrave, Felixstowe, and Lowestoft.

Level of Data to be Published

It must be recognised the sensitivity of published information which may blight an area. However, the whole purpose of publishing is to share information to increase our understanding of local flood risk. It should also be noted, that if the properties have been flooded then the owners have an obligation to declare the flooding in any insurance contract or property sale.

The minimum amount of information required to meet the act is;

Date: 15/07/2014

Location: Town

Source: Surface Water

Relevant RMA: LLFA

Although this will meet the criteria in the Act, it may be subject to many of a Freedom of Information requests and will likely be more resource intensive.

At the other end of the spectrum, a full report could be produced, detailing; rainfall data, flood levels, specific locations, property addresses etc. Although this data is useful for the investigation, some of this data could fall foul of the data protection act.

Therefore, the proposal is to publish a report that identifies, date of incident, the area of flooding, historical data, photos and plan of location. The format of such report can be found in Appendix 3.

Publishing

Before the report can be published;

- it will be passed through internal quality checks.
- be ratified by the Partnership.
- the flood risk management authority responsible will be informed.
- those who reported the flood will be informed.

The finished reports will be published on the Suffolk County Council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/flood-management-in-suffolk/flood-investigation-reports/> /

Proposal

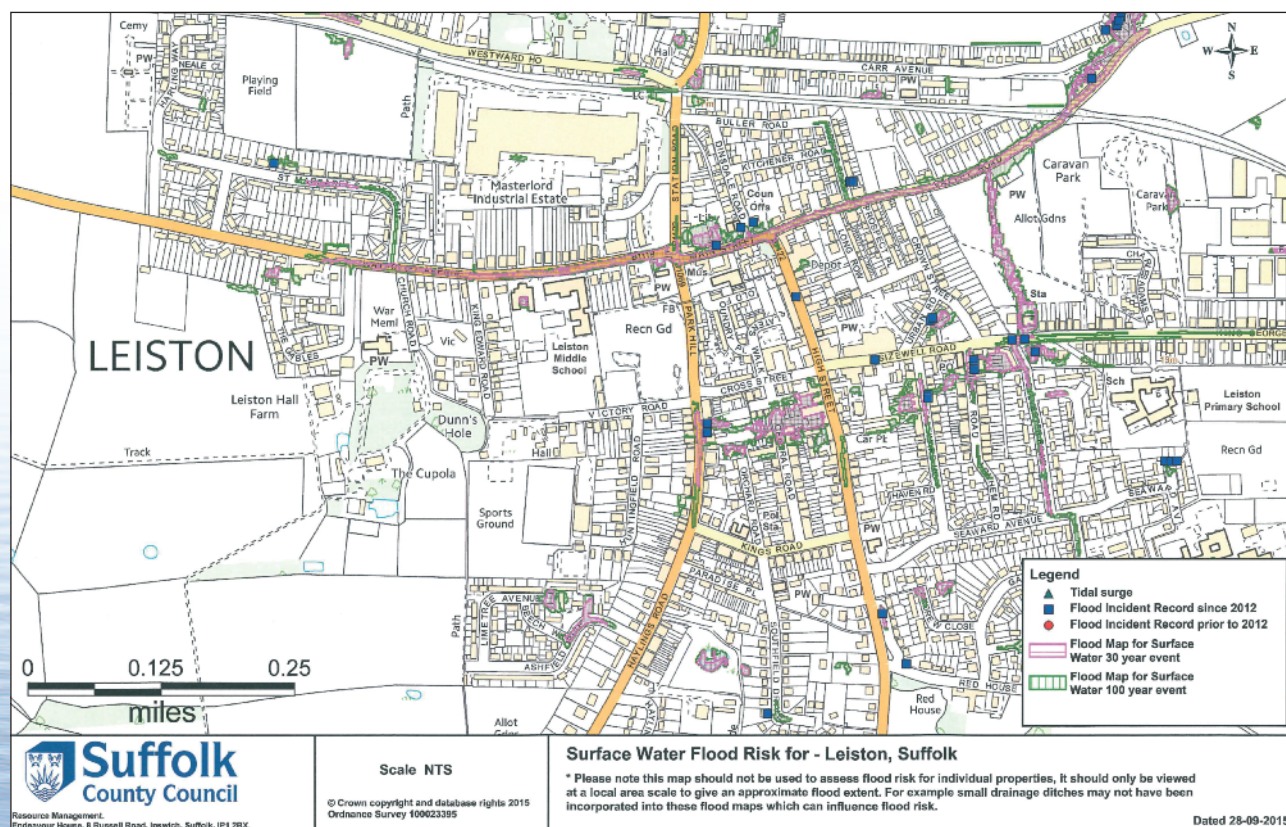
The proposal is to use the format proposed in Appendix 3 and publish on the Suffolk County Council website. A review of process and performance will be carried out after a 12 month period.

Discussion;

- (1) Appropriateness of priorities
- (2) Level of detail to publish
- (3) Ratification process
- (4) Publishing timescale
- (5) Other RMA reporting mechanisms and cross communications

Flood Incident Recording

Suffolk County Council															
Reports 2016															
Unique Ref #	Operator	District/Borough Council	Parish	Eastings	Northings	Lead Officer	Flood source	Details of any	Rainfall Depth	Rainfall Duration	Return Period	Domestic	Commercial	Nature of Damage	Prior Le
5	Fw/2016-0002	Mid Suffolk	Claydon	612766	249543	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
6	Fw/2016-0003	Ipswich	Ipswich	615025	244635	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
7	Fw/2016-0004	Forest Heath	Cavenham	576307	269710	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
8	Fw/2016-0005	Mid Suffolk	Debenham	615252	261753	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
9	Fw/2016-0006	Suffolk Coastal	Trimley St. Martin	626114	236547	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
10	Fw/2016-0007	Babergh	Bildeston	599359	249637	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
12	Fw/2016-0009	Vaveney	Lowestoft	653630	293970	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
13	Fw/2016-0010	Babergh	Stoke-by-Nayland	598416	236463	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
16	Fw/2016-0013	Mid Suffolk	Battisford	604887	253820	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
17	Fw/2016-0014	Mid Suffolk	Fressingfield	626141	277277	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
19	Fw/2016-0016	St. Edmundsbury	Haverhill	567750	245861	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
22	Fw/2016-0019	Suffolk Coastal	Marlesham	624164	245554	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
23	Fw/2016-0020	Mid Suffolk	Needham Market	608606	255158	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
24	Fw/2016-0021	Mid Suffolk	Little Blakenham	610750	248894	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
25	Fw/2016-0022	Babergh	Preston St. Mary	594545	251455	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
26	Fw/2016-0023	Vaveney	Bungay	633968	283644	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
27	Fw/2016-0024	Forest Heath	Newmarket	563334	264567	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
30	Fw/2016-0027	Vaveney	Lowestoft	654616	293772	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
31	Fw/2016-0028	Mid Suffolk	Stowupland	607271	260085	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
32	Fw/2016-0029	Vaveney	Lowestoft	653552	289873	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
33	Fw/2016-0030	St. Edmundsbury	Barnham	537065	277063	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
36	Fw/2016-0033	Vaveney	Lowestoft	651768	291023	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
37	Fw/2016-0034	Vaveney	Lowestoft	653575	294166	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
38	Fw/2016-0035	Ipswich	Ipswich	617708	244643	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
39	Fw/2016-0036	Mid Suffolk	Mendlesham	609822	263136	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
40	Fw/2016-0037	Vaveney	Lowestoft	653827	290317	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
41	Fw/2016-0038	Suffolk Coastal	Wimsham	616280	251455	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
42	Fw/2016-0039	St. Edmundsbury	Bradfield St. George	591478	260177	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
43	Fw/2016-0040	Ipswich	Ipswich	618315	245199	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
44	Fw/2016-0041	St. Edmundsbury	Haverhill	566111	245183	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
45	Fw/2016-0042	Suffolk Coastal	Hollesley	635351	244764	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
47	Fw/2016-0044	Mid Suffolk	Debenham	617576	262684	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
50	Fw/2016-0047	Mid Suffolk	Nettlestead	608558	249190	Steven Halls	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	
49	Fw/2016-0049	Suffolk Coastal	Trimley St. Martin	627437	236430	Jason Skilton	Drainage							BLDH Blocked Drain Hwy	



Flood Incident Priority

Flood Incident Priority

A flood incident can take varying forms and be interpreted in different ways in terms of where water should not be present. When reported the significance of the flood is associated with varying levels of expectation. Given that the number of incidents tends to increase when there is a period of intense rainfall, the incoming incidents of flooding need to be prioritised to effectively deal with those of worst impact. Therefore a priority system is used to guide the investigations to effectively reduce the impact of flooding.

The priority system is based on the SFRM strategy and put into 3 categories; Priority 1, 2 & 3, defined as follows;

Priority 1; Full investigation and publish a report

Criteria;

- there was a risk to life as a result of flooding
- internal flooding of one property (domestic or commercial) has been experienced on more than one occasion
- internal flooding of 5 properties or more has been experienced during one single flood incident
- a major transport route was closed for more than 10 hours
- critical infrastructure was affected
- there is ambiguity surrounding the source or responsibility of a flood incident
- political request
- repeated priority 2 incidents.

Priority 2; Desktop and possible site investigation, no published report, recorded, inform those responsible, cursory feedback.

Criteria;

- Threat of P1, but less impact
- Less than 5 properties flooded internally
- Garden flooding, probable overspill internal to property
- Culvert blocked properties may be affected
- Highway impassable less than 10 hours
- Watercourse at high level, no flow
- Repeated priority 3 significance assessment.

Priority 3; Desktop investigation, recorded, no published report, feedback?

Criteria;

- Insignificant;
- No property flooded;
- Garden flooding but will not spill into property;
- Highway ponding;
- Culvert blocked, no threat to property;
- Watercourse at high level and flowing.

Flood Investigation Report

Flood Investigation Report

Upon learning of the following flood event the Council determined it was necessary to carry out an investigation under Section 19 (1) of the Flood and Water Management Act in order to determine which risk management authorities had relevant flood risk management functions and whether each of those risk management authorities had exercised or was proposing to exercise those functions in response to the flood. In accordance with Section 19 (2) of the Flood and Water Management Act this report details the results of the investigation.

Reference: FW2014-0376 (may be more than one for a storm event)	
Location: (Street name, Town, County, postcode)	
Flood Event Date:	
Reported to SCC Date:	
Investigation Date:	
Reason for investigation: (State priority criteria)	
Investigation area map	
OS Grid Reference:	

Extent of flooding: (Include approximate dimensions and depths)	
Effect of flooding: (Properties affected, road closed, critical infrastructure, duration)	
History: (record historical data sourced from locals and desktop study)	
Causes: (information found from desktop study and site investigation, rainfall intensity, obstructions, topography)	
Additional Information & Photos: (Maintenance regimes, condition survey, flow paths, images of flood, levels)	

Additional Information & Photos:

(Maintenance regimes, condition survey, flow paths, images of flood, levels)

Risk Management Authority: (May be more than one)	
Functions: (Asset responsibility, riparian owner)	
Action: (action required and by when, completed)	
Recommendations: (Increase maintenance/inspection, alter control devices, designate features)	
	Name Date
Prepared by:	
Checked by:	
Approved by:	