

Flood Investigation Report



Oakington

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 Website](#)

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 determine 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	SCDC	AW	HA
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	✓				

In the case of Oakington the relevant RMA's are South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Authority, Anglian Water (AW) and the Environment Agency (EA). 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/14/000046
Location of Incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge Road • Kettles Close • Arcadia Gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longstanton Road • Orchard Way • The Broadway • Water Lane 	
Risk Management Authority Reported to	South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Anglian Water and CCC Highways Authority		
Incident Reported by	Residents and The Environment Agency		

	<p>the flooding in 2014, had looked at ways to reduce the flood risk or the impact of flooding on the residents of Oakington. A scheme to install property level protection (PLP) commenced in the summer of 2012. 53 properties in Oakington signed up to receive PLP and this was being installed over the spring/summer of 2014 and was partially complete when the flooding of 8th-9th August 2014 occurred.</p> <p>The EA were informed by residents that had PLP installed that it had not operated as expected during the extreme rainfall event. The EA has undertaken an investigation into why this happened and the resulting "Oakington Property Level Protection Scheme" report is attached to this report.</p>
EA, HA, SCDC, AW and LLFA	<p>After the 2014 flooding the EA arranged a post flooding event in Oakington that was attended by over 130 residents. The event was hosted by the Environment Agency and supported by representatives from Oakington & Westwick Parish, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Anglian Water.</p>
LLFA	<p>Cambridgeshire County Council has working in partnership with the relevant RMAs to establish what happened during the flood event. The findings are contained within this report.</p>
HA	<p>Cambridgeshire County Council Highways has checked and cleared the relevant surface water drains for which they have responsibility.</p>
AW	<p>At the time of the extreme rainfall event, Anglian Water had 2 pumps in operation that ran non-stop throughout the storm period of 8th August.2014. The pumping station is designed to run automatically on 2 pumps. A third pump was also operated during the extreme rainfall event until all the surface water entering the pumping station was cleared.</p>
SCDC	<p>South Cambridgeshire District Council carries out annual maintenance on the ditches known as 'awarded watercourses' drains which are identified as their responsibility. An assessment of the awarded watercourses was made after the flood event and no additional maintenance was required. South Cambridgeshire District Council is not aware of any issues with their network. All relevant maintenance work was completed by December 2014.</p>
Further solutions	
<p>The Environment Agency will be holding a post flood event in the summer, supported by Cambridgeshire County Council, and RMAs to follow up on any issues that residents might have.</p> <p>The Environment Agency will be taking forward any actions from the investigation in respect of the operation of the PLP during the rainfall event.</p> <p>The Highways Authority will be prioritising the routine cleansing on highways gullies as part of a new risk based approach to gully cleansing. Please report any issues on the County Council's website</p>	

Cambridgeshire County Council recommends that residents, whose properties have been flooded, contact the [National Flood Forum](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk) for details on how to protect their property. Their website is www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk
The Environment Agency has encouraged residents to establish a Flood Action Group to help the community to respond during a flooding event.

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.