

Flood Investigation Report



Meldreth

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. Unfortunately owing to very limited resources we cannot investigate every incident, and as such we have prioritised investigations.

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	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	January 2014	Reference Number	FI/14/000026
Location of Incident	High Street and Whitecroft Road, Meldreth		
Risk Management Authority Reported to	CCC		
Incident Reported by	Resident		

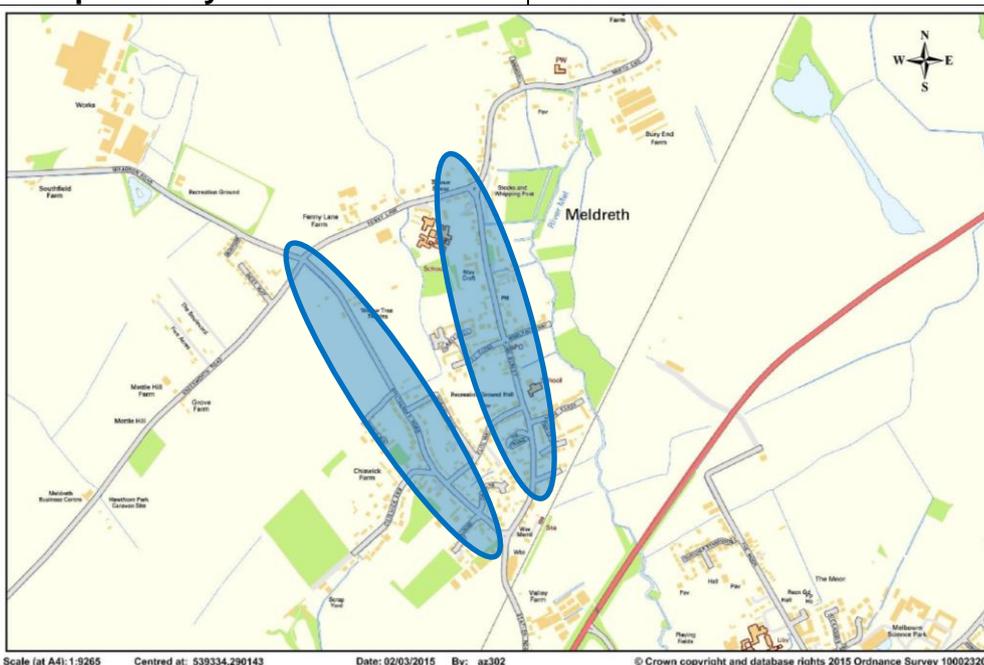


Figure 1. Location of flood incident

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

Historical Flooding	It has been reported to the LLFA that flooding occurred on High Street and Fenny Lane in 2011 and in 2012 the following roads experienced flooding; Royston, High Street, Station Road and Whitecroft Road.		
Source of Flooding	Surface water	Depth	150 – 300mm
Likely Cause of Incident			
It is believed that flooding occurred because of heavy rainfall causing surface water to run off into the local foul sewer system and caused drains to block and surcharge.			
Summary of Impact			
1 property flooded internally and external flooding.			
Action Taken by Relevant Risk Management Authorities			
South Cambridgeshire District Council	The Council has confirmed that the awarded watercourse near Whitecroft Road is well maintained and has no issues.		
HA	The highways system outfall was blocked and the riparian ditch required maintenance at Whitecroft Road. This maintenance has been undertaken by the resident and the department has renewed the pipework from the gully to the ditch and installed an additional gully. There were also issues with a riparian ditch around Ferry Lane, maintenance has been undertaken and the department has cleared the highways system.		
Other Works	Some remedial work has been carried out by the residents and landowners but unfortunately some residents have culverted the watercourse in their back gardens which reduces capacity and makes maintenance difficult.		
Further solutions			
CCC has produced a 'Riparian Owner Factsheet' to provide guidance on riparian owner's responsibilities. Landowners with land adjoining to a watercourse will have certain rights and responsibilities irrespective of whether it is piped or open. The Riparian Owner Factsheet is available on the County Council website:			
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.