

Flood Investigation Report

Kennell Hill, Sharnbrook

1. Introduction:

1.1. Background

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010, establishes unitary and upper tier authorities as Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs). Section 19 of the Act gives LLFAs the duty to investigate a flood event when considered appropriate and to the extent it deems necessary. The LLFA will identify the relevant Risk Management Authority (RMA) and record any actions which have been taken or they are proposing to action in response to the flood event.

When an investigation is carried out under section 19 of the Act, the LLFA will publish the results of the investigation and notify any relevant risk management authorities.

1.2. Risk Management Authority Responsibilities

Table 1.1 shows RMAs responsible for managing the flood risk from different sources that the BBC investigation procedure applies to.

Flood Source	Environment Agency	Lead Local Flood Authority	Drainage Authority	Water Company	Highway Authority
		Bedford Borough Council		Anglian Water	Bedford Borough Highways
Main River	X				
Surface Water		X			
Surface Water <i>(on or coming off the highway)</i>					X
Sewer flooding				X	
Ordinary Watercourse			X		
Groundwater		X			
Reservoirs	X				

2. Flood Incident, Extent and Impact:

On 14th July 2012, a property in the village of Sharnbrook, experienced internal flooding from the manhole located in the neighbouring pumping station curtilage which flowed into the properties garage, cellar and utility area.

The flooding event followed a recurring problem of foul water flooding to the resident's garden from a manhole situated at the bottom of the garden at the intersection of the Anglian Water overflow and the Highways drain. The previous garden flooding events occurred on the following occasions:

23rd August 2010

29th April 2012

5th May 2012

3. Likely Cause of Flood Incident

To understand the likely cause of the flood incidents, Bedford Borough Council, Highway Authority, Anglian Water and Environment Agency worked together. This investigation phase was concluded on 27th September 2012. This report outlines the results of that investigation.

Currently the pumping station overflow drains into a highway surface water drain. The flooding events only occurred during high rainfall. A survey of the highway pipe, identified a number of blockages within the section from the end of the High Street to the River Ouse. Also it was determined there was limited fall across the length of pipe to the outfall.

The blockages in the drain therefore would result in a backing up of surface water along the pipe during heavy rain, discharging out of the manholes along the pipe. The recent flooding event was caused by submersion of the pumping station hydrostatic head from this backing up of surface water. This resulted in the pumps failing and therefore foul water discharging to the overflow.

4. Responsible Risk Management Authority

As stated in section 3, the identified cause of the incident is blockages in the Highway pipe that the pumping station overflow connects to. Therefore the responsible authority required to take further action is Bedford Borough Council as a Highways Authority. Recommended actions are detailed in section 5.

5. Recommended Action

Table 5.1 highlights the recommended actions by Bedford Borough Council for the responsible RMA and a suggested timescale of responses required to confirm that the RMA is aware of the flood incident and is taking appropriate action.

Table 5.1: Recommended actions for the responsible authorities and timescale for a response required.

Responsible Authority	Action	Timescale for response required
Anglian Water	Reconfigure controls in pumping station to continue working in high flows	Complete
Highways Authority	Repair and maintain the highways drain and remove catch pits to ensure it is free flowing	April 2013
Anglian Water	Modify discharge consent to discharge directly to the Great River Ouse.	April 2013
Highways Authority	Set future periodic maintenance programme	April 2013

6. Next Steps

The next steps for the LLFA are to ensure the report is forwarded to the RMAs identified in table 5.1 and that these authorities are aware of their flood risk management responsibilities. The LLFA will follow up with the authorities to determine progress against the recommended actions.