Leicestershire County Council

Flood Investigation Report

Storm Henk

2nd January 2024

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SECTION 19 INVESTIGATIONS – DUTY TO INVESTIGATE

Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) (2010) 'local authorities: investigations' came into force on 6th April 2011. The legislation states:

'(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 (RMA) 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 RMAs.'

1.2 FORMAL FLOOD INVESTIGATIONS CRITERIA

As a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Leicestershire County Council, from herein referred to as "The Council", identified local thresholds for formally investigating flood incidents within the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). The Council's Cabinet formally adopted an updated LFRMS in November 2023[1]. This included revised local thresholds for investigation, shown below:

LCC would ordinarily expect to exercise its statutory discretion to investigate a flooding incident occurring in its local area, in the following circumstances:

1) If the causes of flooding are unknown prior to the investigation, ***and***

2) one or more of the following criteria apply:

a) there is loss of human life as a direct result of the flood event

b) critical infrastructure is flooded in a way which impacts delivery of essential services

c) there is internal flooding confirmed to five or more residential properties

d) there is internal flooding confirmed to two or more commercial properties.

These thresholds are not absolute and the decision to conduct a formal flood investigation is at the discretion of the Director for Environment and Transport.

[1] Leicestershire County Council – Cabinet meeting minutes
https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7080&Ver=4

The publication of the updated LFRMS was delayed until February 2024 due to Storm Henk. As the updated LFRMS was approved prior to Storm Henk, the revised thresholds have been used for this investigation. Further details are available in the Leicestershire Formal Flood Investigations Policy (part of the LFRMS)[2].

1.2.1 LOCATIONS MEETING THRESHOLD FOR INVESTIGATION

A formal investigation into the Storm Henk flood incident in Leicestershire on the 2nd January 2024 has been undertaken as the event triggered the locally agreed flooding characteristics or discretionary items as indicated above. Eight locations fully met the threshold, as shown in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1: Locations affected by Storm Henk meeting the threshold for investigation

Locations Meeting Threshold	Report Section	Figure 3-1 Map Inset No.
Broughton Astley	4	*17 (A and B)*
Countesthorpe	5	*13*
Frisby on the Wreake	**Error! Reference s ource not found.**	*4*
Glooston	7	*15*
Loughborough	88	*1*
Quorn	9	*2*
Syston	10	*7*
Whetstone	10	*12*

[2] Leicester Formal Flood Investigations Policy https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-02/Leicestershire-Formal-Flood-Investigations-Policy.pdf

1.2.2 LOCATIONS PARTIALLY MEETING THRESHOLD FOR INVESTIGATION

A number of other locations are included which partially met the threshold for investigation (Table 1-2). In most cases these are locations where part two of the threshold was met, but not part one (*If the causes of flooding are unknown prior to the investigation)*. Generally, this is because the causes of flooding were relatively well established at the time of flooding, either due to previous investigations, or more simple flooding mechanisms. The Council has however chosen to report on these locations due to the severity of impacts, and to record actions.

Table 1-2: Locations affected by Storm Henk partially meeting the threshold for investigation

Locations Partially Meeting Threshold	Report Section	Figure 3-1 Map Inset No.
Asfordby & Asfordby Valley	11	*5*
Braunstone	13	*9*
Cosby	14	*11*
Fleckney	15	*14*
Great Glen	16	*10*
Sharnford	17	*16*
Sileby	18	*3*
Twyford	19	*8*
Wymondham	20	*6*

The locations from Table 1-1 and Table 1-2 are discussed further in Section 3 and are illustrated in Figure 3-1.

1.2.3 OTHER LOCATIONS

Other locations within the County were affected during Storm Henk, but were not close to meeting the criteria for a formal investigation, and are therefore not included. All flooding is still investigated however, and relevant actions taken and communicated to the affected community.

Leicester City Council[3] and Rutland County Council[4] have also published formal flood investigations covering Storm Henk.

[3] Leicester City Council - South and East Leicester - Flood investigation Report (2024) https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-environment/flooding-and-watercourses/flood-investigations-and-reports/

Rutland County Council Floods and water - Section 19 Flood Investigation Report 202.5 https://www.rutland.gov.uk/environment/floods-water/section-19-flood-investigations

1.3 RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES (RMA)

The following RMAs were identified as having flood risk management functions relevant to the flooding that occurred during the Storm Henk event across the areas covered within this report.

- **LLFA and Local Highways Authority (LHA)** - Leicestershire County Council (LCC);
- **District Councils** - Blaby District Council (BDC), Charnwood Borough Council (CBC), Harborough District Council (HDC), Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC), Melton Borough Council (MBC), North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC), Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (OWBC);
- **Severn Trent Water Ltd (STW) -** Statutory undertaker for public wastewater and freshwater assets, including some reservoirs;
- **Environment Agency (EA)** - Holds strategic responsibility for managing flood and coastal erosion risk across England. It also has permissive powers to undertake the operational management of flood risk from main rivers and reservoirs. This includes activities such as flood forecasting, issuing flood warnings, maintaining and operating flood defences, regulatory oversight, and providing specialist planning advice; and
- **National Highways -** responsible for operating, maintaining and improving the strategic road network – the motorways and major A roads in England.

1.3.1 CANAL AND RIVER TRUST

- The Canal and River Trust (CRT) is not designated as an RMA within the FWMA (2010). However, the CRT has been consulted as part of this report as they have been identified as a key stakeholder based on the mechanisms and impacts of the event from the Grand Union Canal at Loughborough.

1.4 REPORT STRUCTURE

This report will be structured to include all areas across Leicestershire affected by Storm Henk that either met or partially met the criteria for a formal flood investigation.

- **Section 2**22 provides a summary of the event and actions taken across the County including a summary of impacts by District.
- **Section 3** defines the focus Flood Areas identified within the Leicestershire County study area for the purposes of this report.
- **Sections 4 to 10** provide a detailed analysis of all the locations affected by Storm Henk that met the Council's Formal Flood Investigations Policy (as defined in Section 1.2 and 1.2.1 above).
- **Sections 12 to 20** provide an overview of locations which partially met the Council's Formal Flood Investigations Policy criteria (as defined in Section 1.2.2 above).
- **Section 21** provides a summary of RMA responsibilities.

2 FLOOD EVENT ANALYSIS - COUNTY OVERVIEW

2.1 PRIOR CONDITIONS

When Storm Henk arrived in the UK on 2nd January 2024, it was the eighth named storm of the 2023/24 season. This included Storm Babet in October 2023, which caused internal flooding to around 50 properties in Leicestershire.

The three months preceding Storm Henk were exceptionally wet in the East Midlands (Figure 2-1). Leicestershire received between 130% - 170% more rainfall than the 1991 – 2020 average.

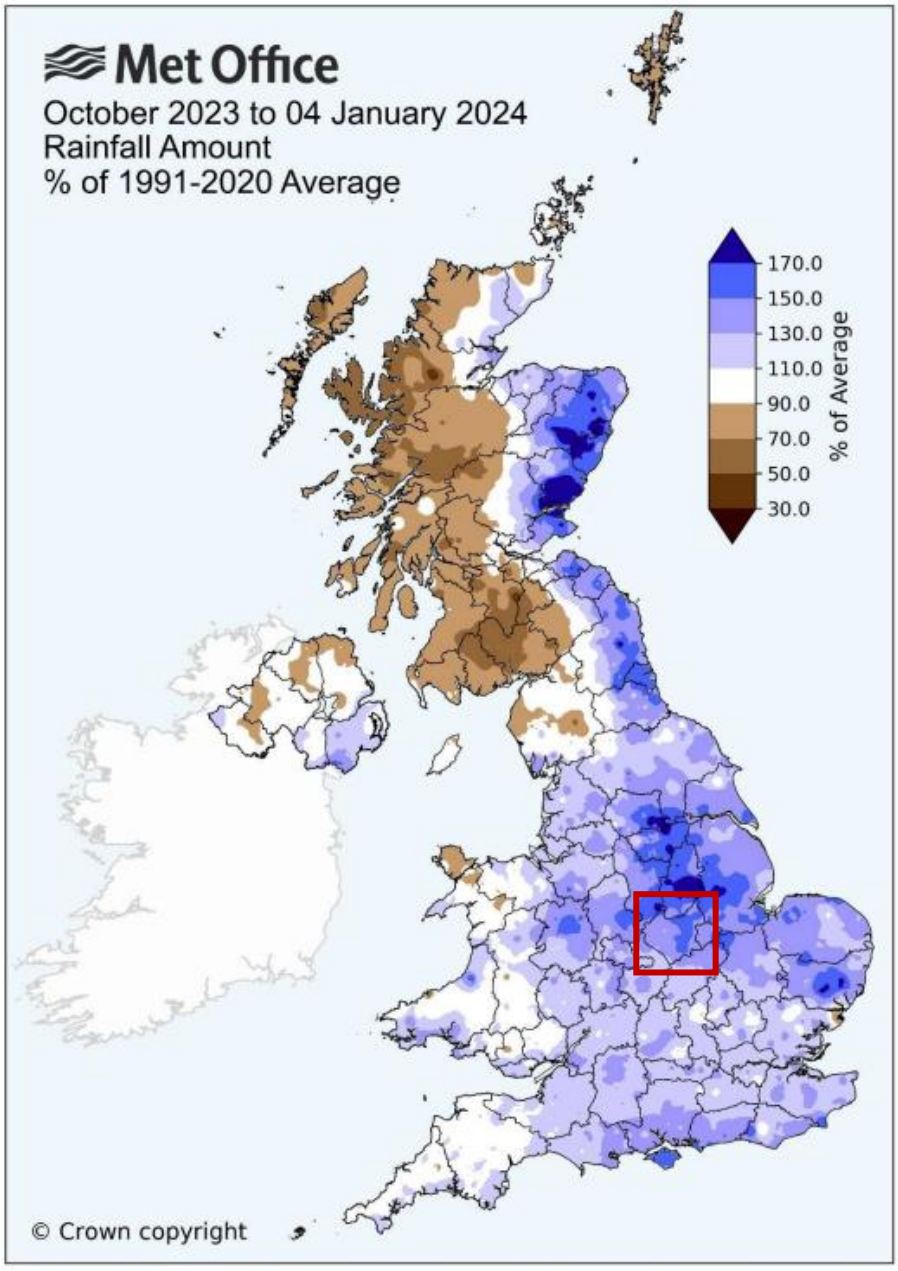
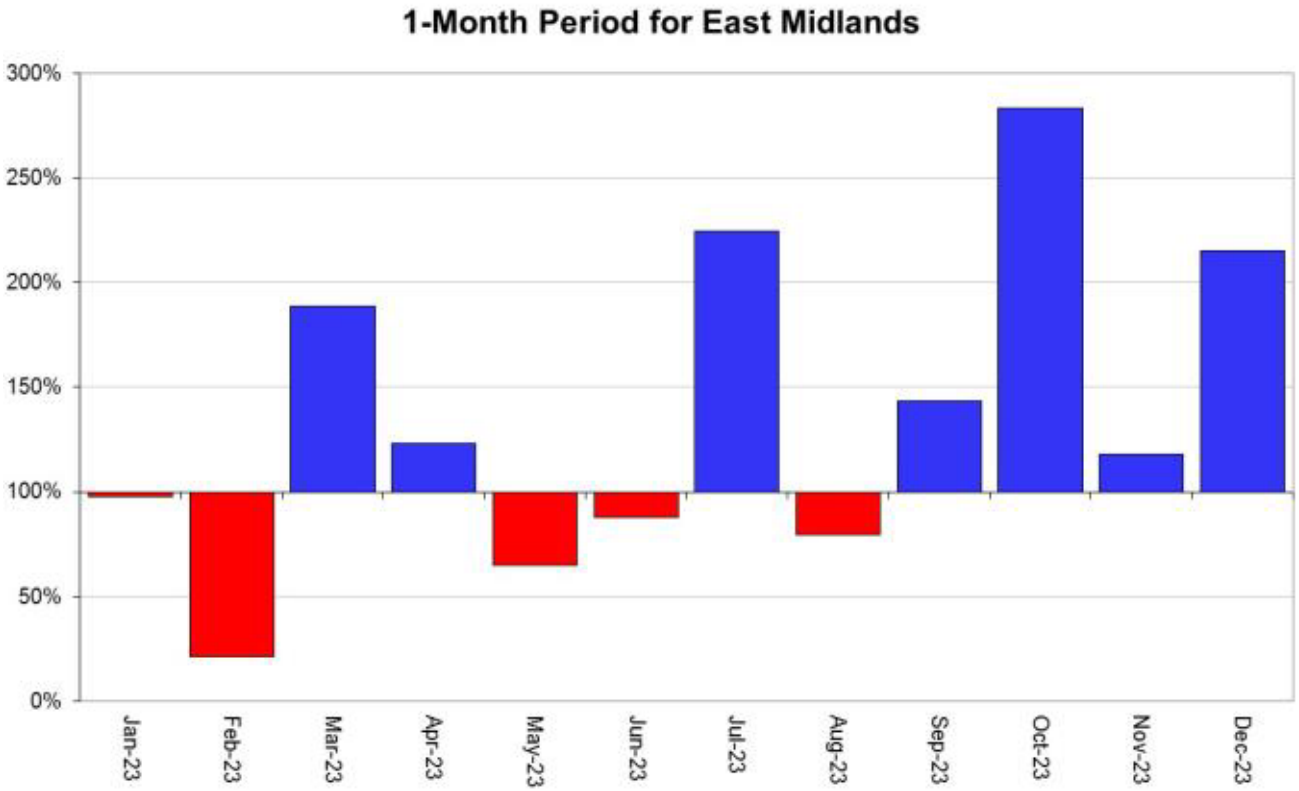


Figure 2-1: Rainfall Totals (October 2023 – January 2024) as a percentage of the 1991 to 2020 Average[5]

[5] Met Office () Storm Henk, 2 January 2024. https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/weather/learn-about/uk-past-events/interesting/2024/2024_01_storm_henk_v1.pdf

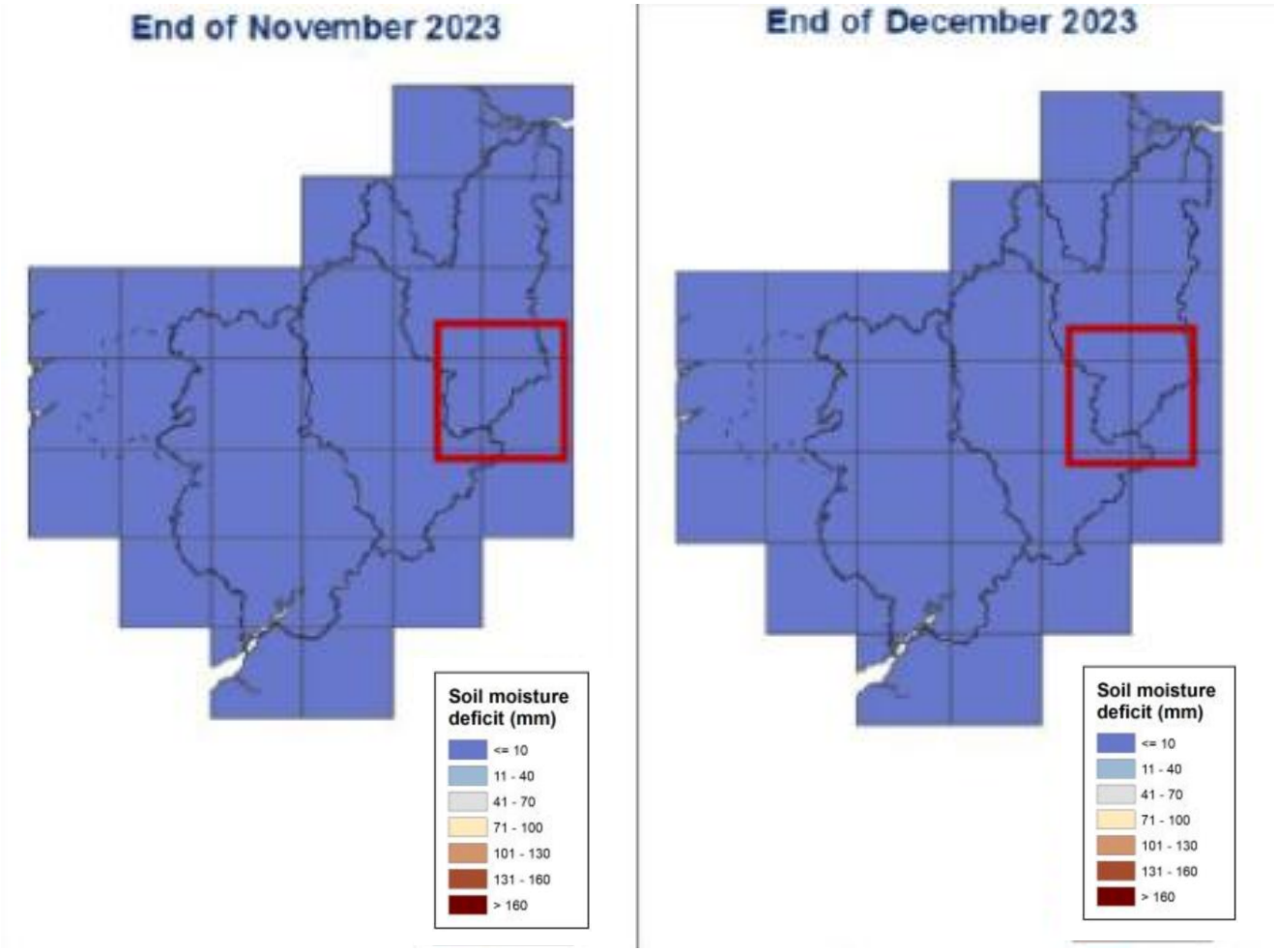
In the East Midlands, above average rainfall was received in all four months prior to January 2024, including double the average rainfall in December (Figure 2-2). This resulted in saturated catchments, as shown by the low soil moisture deficit values illustrated in **Error! R eference source not found.**.



Red is below average rainfall, and blue above average rainfall

Figure 2-2: East Midlands Monthly Rainfall throughout 2023 as percentage against Long-term Average[6]

[6] Environment Agency (December 2023) Water Situation Report



Leicestershire experienced high saturation (relatively wet), so a low soil moisture deficit.

Figure 2-3: East Midlands Soil Moisture Deficit November and December 2023[6]

2.2 WEATHER WARNINGS AND FLOOD WARNINGS

The Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) issue daily Flood Guidance Statements for England and Wales. A summary of Statements issued by the FFC relating to Storm Henk is provided in Table 2-1.

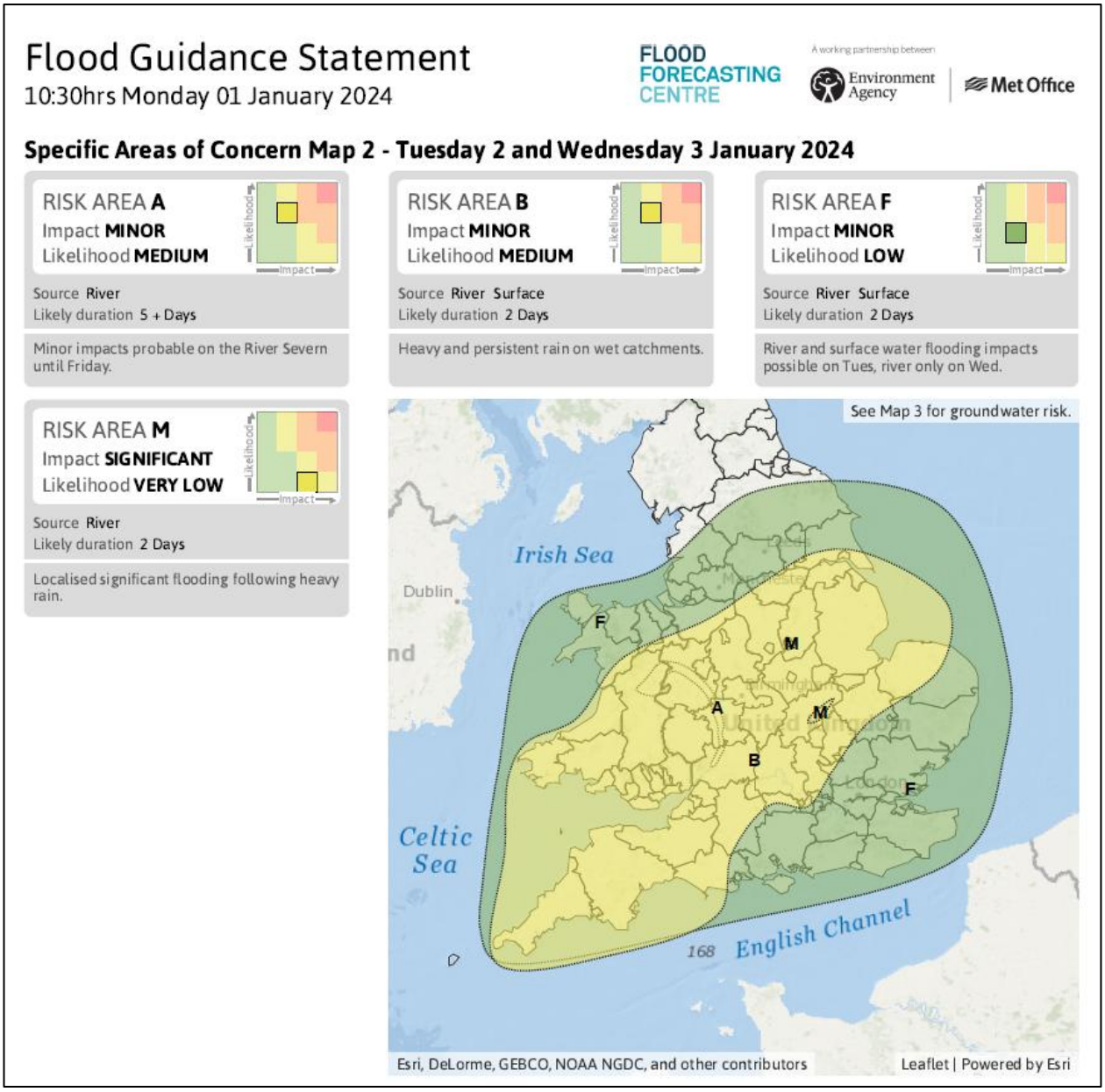
Green refers to 'very low' flood risk, and yellow 'low'. There were no amber ('medium') or red ('high') areas covering Leicestershire. Northamptonshire and parts of the Trent catchment to the north were the only areas to receive Amber ratings during this period.

Most of the impacts from Storm Henk occurred on Tuesday 2nd January and Wednesday 3rd January 2024. An extract of the statement of the day prior (Monday 1st) is provided in Figure 2-4. Leicestershire is included within the large yellow low 'Risk Area B'.

Forecast risk of flooding also preceded and followed these dates, however the impacts were less severe due to less than anticipated rainfall. Further commentary is provided in Section 2.7.5 within the Actions chapter.

Table 2-1: Summary of Flood Guidance Statements issued by the Flood Forecasting Centre.

Date FGS Issued	Time Issued	Forecast Risk (colour denotes FGS rating)
Sunday 31st December 2023	10:30	**Sunday and Monday** - low likelihood of minor river flooding. Ongoing river impacts (for 2 days).
Monday 1st January 2024	10:30	**Monday** - low likelihood of minor river flooding. Ongoing river impacts (for 1 day).
		Tuesday and Wednesday - medium likelihood of low impact river and surface water flooding. Heavy and persistent rain of wet catchments.
Tuesday 2nd January 2024	10:30 and 15:30	**Tuesday** - medium likelihood of minor river and surface water flooding. Heavy and persistent rain on wet catchments.
		Wednesday - Medium likelihood of minor impacts from river flooding on Weds (for 1 day).
Wednesday 3rd January 2024	10:30	**Wednesday** - Low likelihood of minor river flooding. Ongoing river impacts possible (for 1 day).
Thursday 4th January 2024	10:30	**Thursday and Friday** - Low likelihood of significant impacts. Localised significant river flooding possible today and on Friday including River Trent (for 2 days).
Friday 5th January 2024	10:30	**Friday** - Low likelihood of minor impacts possible from recent rain (for 1 day).



Leicestershire is included in Area B

Figure 2-4: Flood Guidance Statement issued on Monday 1st January for Storm Henk rainfall on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd[7]

Several EA Flood Alerts were already in place prior to Storm Henk, due to elevated river levels and saturated ground conditions following a prolonged period of unsettled weather in December 2023, including on New Year's Eve.

[7] Flood Forecasting Centre (January 2024) Flood Guidance Statement 10:30hrs Monday 01 January 2024. https://assets.ffc-environment-agency.fgs.metoffice.gov.uk/fgs-statements/03770-2024-01-01_1030/fgs.pdf

Table 2-2 details key strategic RMA events through Storm Henk for Leicestershire.

Table 2-2: Storm Henk Key Events

Date / Time	Event
31st Dec 2023 (New Years Eve)	• Prolonged unsettled weather resulted in saturated ground conditions and elevated river levels. A storm causes river levels to rise.
Monday 1 Jan 2024 (New Years Day) 10:30	• The Flood Forecasting Centre issues a Flood Guidance Statement[7]. A Medium likelihood of low impact river and surface water flooding is predicted over the next two days, due to forecast heavy and persistent rain falling on already saturated catchments. • Shortly after, a yellow weather warning for rain is issued by the Met Office. • A number of flood alerts are already in place due to recent rainfall.
Monday 1 Jan 2024 Afternoon / evening	• Approximately 10mm of steady rainfall falls across Leicestershire.
Tuesday 2 Jan 2024 07:00	• It begins raining again in Leicestershire, and continues in most places until the evening.
Tuesday 2 Jan 2024 12:00	• Rivers respond quickly to Storm Henk's rainfall. Properties in upper river catchments begin to flood.
Tuesday 2 Jan 2024 23:15	• Properties begin to flood in Nort East Loughborough after the River Soar flows into the Grand Union Canal from Pillings Lock and the surrounding floodplain.
Wednesday 3 Jan 2024 09:15	• At Pillings Lock between Quorn and Loughborough, the River Soar peaks at a record level • By this point hundreds of properties have flooded. It becomes clear that Storm Henk is the worst flood event in Leicestershire in terms of properties impacted since Easter 1998. Other parts of the East Midlands are also severely impacted.
Thursday 4 Jan 2024 10:30	• The Flood Forecasting Centre issues another yellow statement, however rainfall and impacts are limited.
Saturday 6 Jan 2024	• The Secretary of State announces activation of the National Flood Recovery Framework.

A yellow weather warning for rain was issued by the Met Office at 10:56 on 1st January 2024, for the period of 17:00 hours on 1st January 2024 until 21:00 hours on 2nd January 2024.

A total of 37 Flood Warnings were issued across Leicestershire by the EA as a result of Storm Henk as detailed in Table 2-3.

Table 2-3: Flood Warnings issued by the Environment Agency During Storm Henk

Date	Time	Code	Name
01/01/2024	14:54	**034FWFSOZOUCH**	River Soar at Zouch Island
01/01/2024	18:21	**034FWFSOREDKEG**	River Soar at Redhill and Kegworth Bridge
02/01/2024	01:19	**034FWFROGLENFLD**	Rothley Brook at Glenfield and Anstey
02/01/2024	08:07	**034FWFTRCAVBRDG**	River Trent at Cavendish Bridge
02/01/2024	08:49	**034FWFTRSAWMARIN**	River Trent at Sawley Marina, including Sawley Lock
02/01/2024	12:18	**034FWFWRFRISWRKE**	River Wreake at Frisby-on-the-Wreake
02/01/2024	14:23	**034FWFTHLEICS**	Thurnby Brook at Thurnby in Leicester City
02/01/2024	14:47	**034FWFWOLUFSOUTH**	Wood Brook at Loughborough to the south of Derby Road
02/01/2024	14:57	**034FWFBUTHURNLEIC**	Bushby Brook at Thurnby in Leicester City
02/01/2024	15:04	**034FWFWOLOUGHB**	Wood Brook and River Soar at Loughborough to the north of Derby Road
02/01/2024	16:00	**034FWFGDWHITWICK**	Grace Dieu Brook at Whitwick and Thringstone
02/01/2024	16:32	**034FWFWBWHETSTNE**	Whetstone Brook at Whetstone
02/01/2024	16:38	**034FWFBUEVINLEIC**	Bushby Brook at Thurncourt, Evington and North Evington in Leicester City
02/01/2024	16:54	**034FWFSOSHRNFRD**	River Soar at Sharnford including Croft Mill
02/01/2024	17:04	**034FWFDVBOTTSFRD**	River Devon at Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston and Woolsthorpe
02/01/2024	17:56	**034FWFMLRUSHMEAD**	Melton Brook at Rushey Mead in Leicester City
02/01/2024	19:02	**034FWFSOBELGRAVE**	River Soar, Willow Brook and Melton Brook at Belgrave
02/01/2024	19:02	**034FWFSOBELGRAVE**	River Soar, Willow Brook and Melton Brook at Belgrave

Date	Time	Code	Name
02/01/2024	19:06	**034FWFTRCASDONKM**	River Trent at Castle Donington around Kings Mill
02/01/2024	19:16	**034FWFBBTHORACRE**	Black Brook at Thorpe Acre
02/01/2024	22:34	**034FWFSOBRUNSTNE**	River Soar at Braunstone
02/01/2024	22:35	**034FWFWRRIVSYST**	Rivers Wreake and Soar for riverside properties near Syston and Birstall
02/01/2024	23:53	**034FWFSONRTHAYLE**	River Soar at North Aylestone
02/01/2024	23:56	**034FWFSORUSHMEAD**	River Soar at Rushey Mead
02/01/2024	23:57	**034FWFSOAYLESTNE**	River Soar at Aylestone
03/01/2024	00:00	**034FWFSOLEICFROG**	River Soar at Frog Island and riverside areas of Leicester
03/01/2024	00:16	**034FWFSOLEIABMED**	River Soar at Leicester Abbey Meadows
03/01/2024	00:23	**034FWFSOMNTSORRL**	River Soar at Mountsorrel Lock and riverside properties and mills
03/01/2024	00:35	**034FWFSOBARRSOAR**	River Soar at Barrow upon Soar
03/01/2024	01:09	**034FWFWRRATHRUSS**	River Wreake at Thrussington and Ratcliffe on the Wreake
03/01/2024	01:35	**034FWFSONORMOOR**	River Soar at Moor Lane in Normanton on Soar and Hathern Sports Ground
03/01/2024	04:09	**034FWFSOCOTES**	River Soar at Cotes and Loughborough Moors
03/01/2024	04:09	**034FWFSOSILEBY**	River Soar at Sileby
03/01/2024	11:36	**034FWFSOCOSSNGTN**	River Soar at Cossington Village
03/01/2024	12:07	**034FWFWRMELTNMO**	River Wreake at Melton Mowbray
04/01/2024	00:56	**034FWFSORATSOAR**	River Soar at Ratcliffe on Soar
04/01/2024	12:56	**034FWFSOKEGWORTH**	River Soar at Kegworth

Mapped areas are viewable on the Gov.uk website

2.3 RAINFALL ANALYSIS

On 2nd January 2024, Storm Henk tracked across the UK bringing heavy and persistent rainfall affecting large parts of the UK including the East Midlands. Figure 2-5 below shows the rainfall radar from midday on the 2nd January 2024 as Storm Henk moved across the UK.

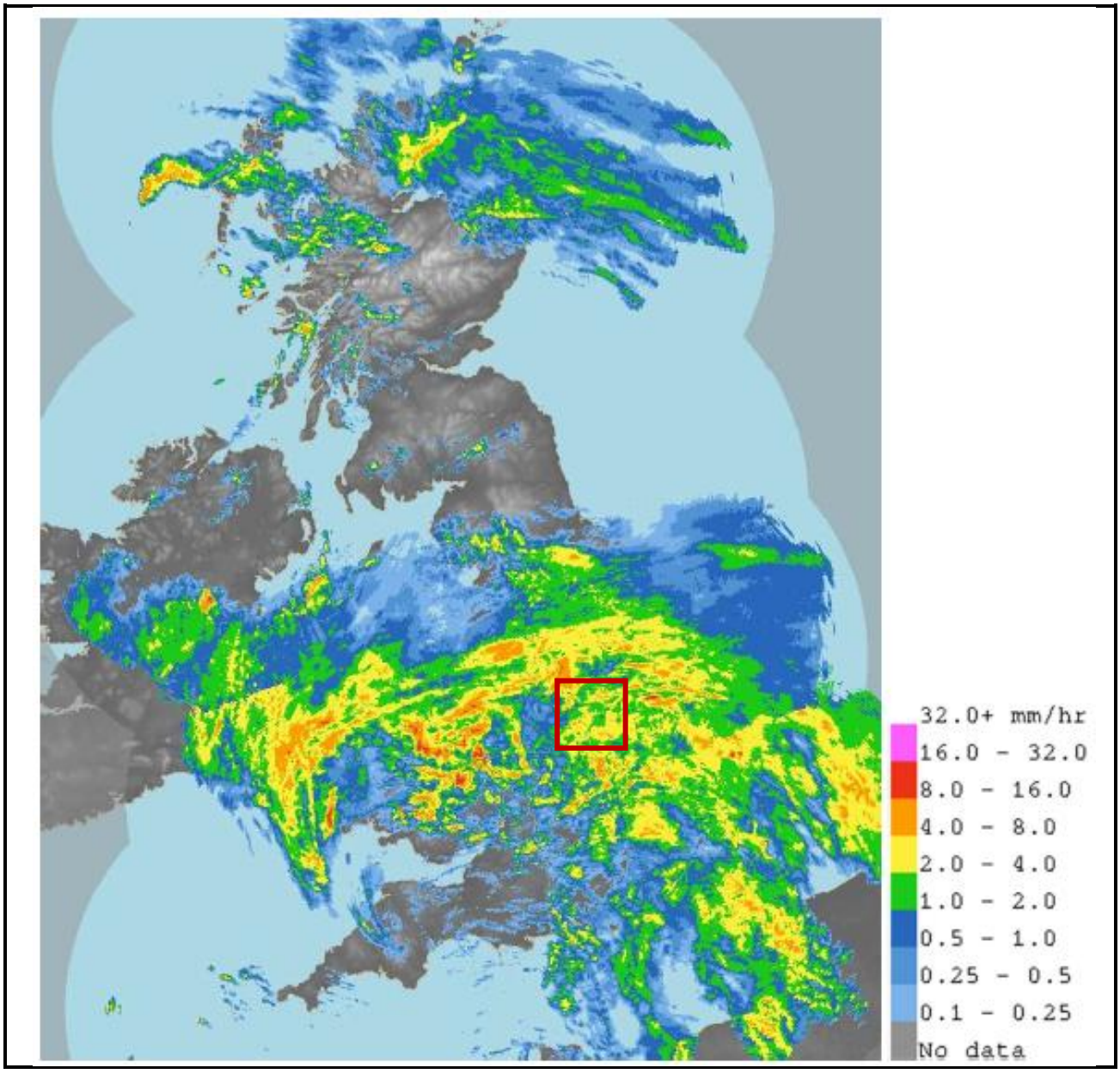


Figure 2-5: UK Rain radar image at 12:00 hours on 2nd January 2024 (Met Office)[5]

Figure 2-6 below show rainfall totals for the first two days of 2024 (left) and the first four days (right). Between 30-50mm of rain fell across most of Leicestershire within the first two days.

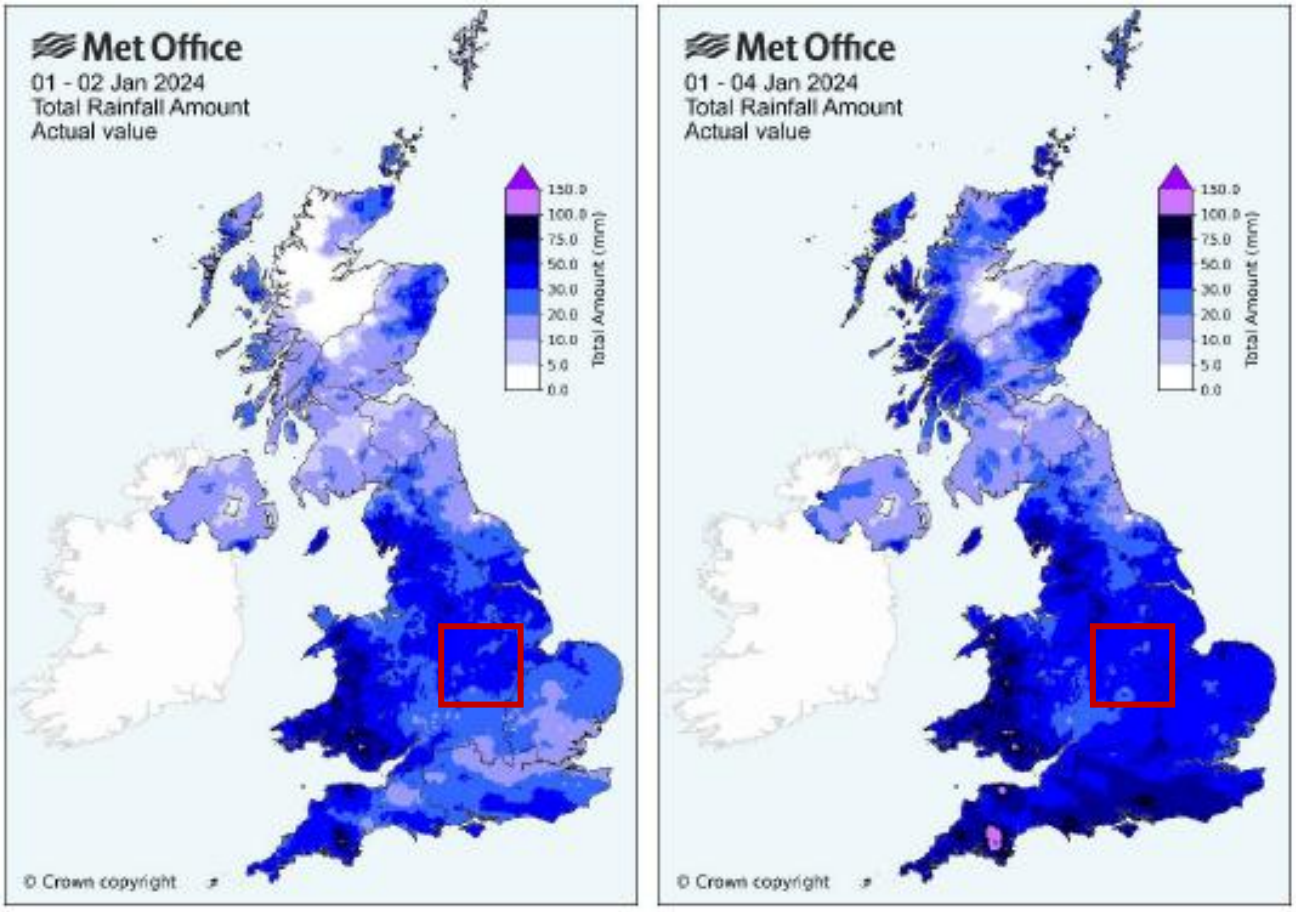


Figure 2-6: Storm Henk Rainfall Analysis, January 2024 (Met Office)[5]

The Hydrological Summary produced by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology for January 2024[8] states that low pressure systems, including Storm Henk, brought heavy rain onto saturated ground across England and Wales from 1st-4th (with rainfall accumulations of 50-100mm). River flows in January 2024 rose most notably in the Midlands, East Anglia and south-west England, and Leicestershire was among the worst affected areas by flooding.

[8] UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (January 2024) Hydrological summary for the United Kingdom: January 2024. https://nora.nerc.ac.uk/id/eprint/536910/

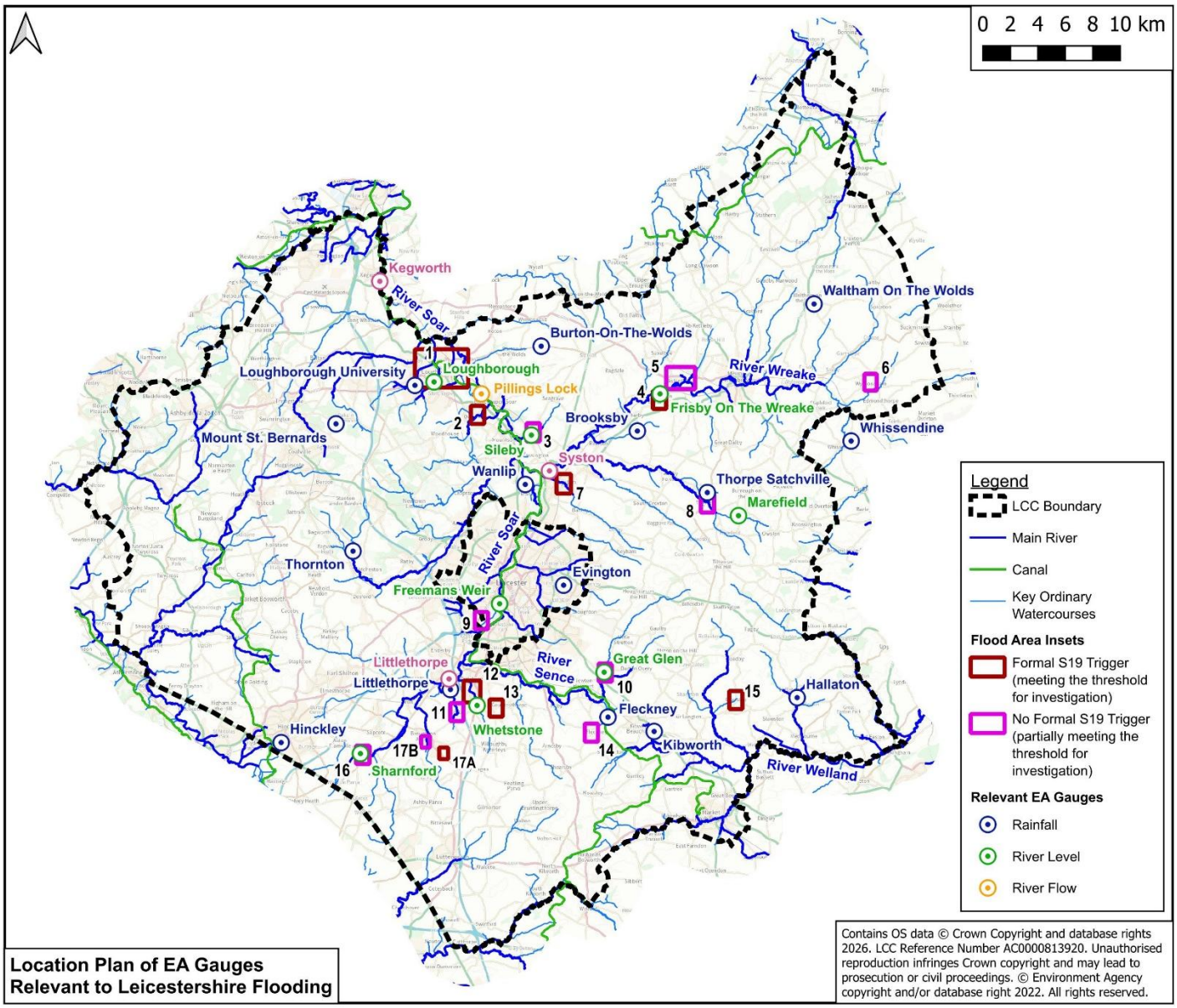


Figure 2-7: Location Plan Overview of EA Hydrometric Gauges relative to Storm Henk Flood Investigation Report Flood Areas

The total rainfall during Storm Henk observed across the gauges during the 6th January 2024 event was on average lower than those of Storm Babet in October 2023. However, the impacts at some locations were more significant during Storm Henk due to the ground being more saturated as a result of consecutive heavy storms over the winter of 2023, as discussed further in Section 2.4.

Table 2-4 below shows the rainfall recorded at stations on the Soar catchment over the course of Storm Henk. It shows the peak rainfall accumulation and rainfall return periods across different durations of time, up to 8 days. As outlined above, the accumulations observed are relatively commonplace but resulted in significant impacts in the communities across Leicestershire. The locations of these gauges relevant to the focus Flood Areas being investigated in this report (as detailed in Section 3) are illustrated in Figure 2-7.

Table 2-4: River Soar Catchment Rain Gauge Analysis – Storm Henk January 2024

Accumulation and Annual Exceedance Probability – EMD Rainfall Analysis

	Peak Rainfall Accumulation (mm)				
Location	**12 hours**	**24 hours**	**48 hours**	**96 hours**	**192 hours**
Sutton Bonington	22.8	32.4	34.8	44.8	65.4
Mt St Bernards	25.2	38	42.2	56.8	75
Loughborough University	22.4	36.6	39.6	58.6	80.8
Leicester Water Centre	26.2	36	38.6	66.8	86.2
Burton on the Wolds	21.2	30.2	33	54.6	72.4
Thornton	19.4	28.6	31	46.6	63.2
Wanlip	19.2	26.6	28.2	48.4	63.8
Evington	27.8	37.2	39.4	59	73.6
Littlethorpe	23.4	33.2	35.8	59.2	75.6
Fleckney	26.6	38	40.2	59.6	80.8
Brooksby	24	32.4	34.8	53.6	71.2
Thorpe Satchville	28	40.2	42.4	64.6	82.8
Waltham on the Wolds	27.6	36	38.8	55.6	69.4
Whissendine	23.8	34.2	36.4	53	70.8

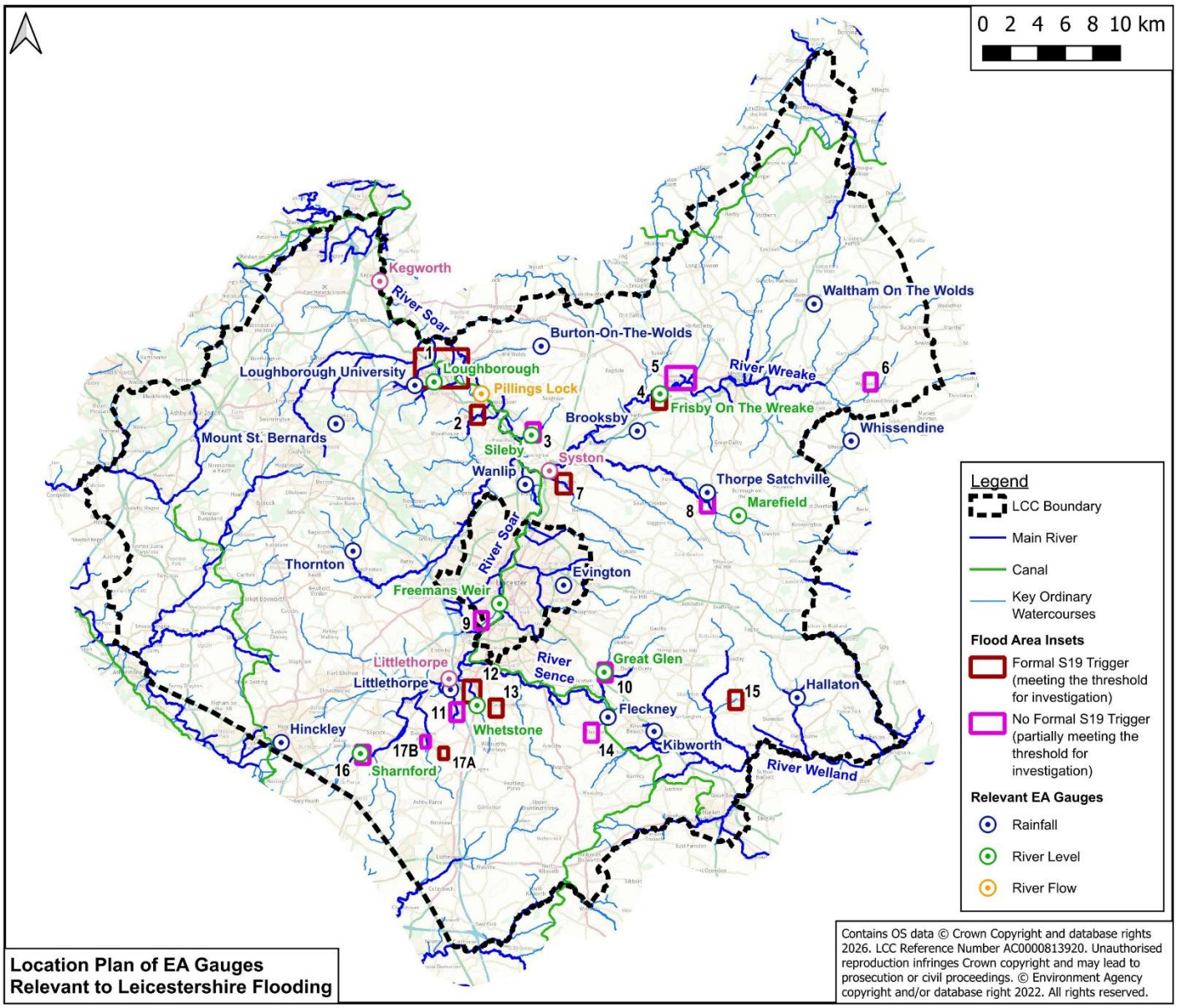


Figure 2-7: Location Plan Overview of EA Hydrometric Gauges relative to Storm Henk Flood Investigation Report Flood Areas

The total rainfall during Storm Henk observed across the gauges during the 6th January 2024 event was on average lower than those of Storm Babet in October 2023. However, the impacts at some locations were more significant during Storm Henk due to the ground being more saturated as a result of consecutive heavy storms over the winter of 2023, as discussed further in Section 2.4.

2.4 RIVER LEVELS

River levels reacted quickly to the rainfall from Storm Henk as a result of the already saturated ground. There are a number of river gauges in Leicestershire, which measures either river flow or river level. The EA has installed and maintains a network of river gauges across the country and their gauge information is publicly available and can be viewed on the Defra[9] and EA[10] websites. Some gauges are privately owned.

During Storm Henk, many gauging stations across Leicestershire and the East Midlands recorded their highest levels or flows on record. Table 2-5 on the next page shows gauge information from the EA for at six gauging stations along the River Soar recorded during Storm Henk (January 2024) as well as other historically high river levels and flows for context and comparison. The River Soar in Leicestershire saw the highest levels ever recorded at all of its gauging stations.

Further record levels were observed at five key tributaries across the Soar catchment relative to the flood investigation study areas. Values in a red box indicate that this is the highest levels/flows (where applicable) recorded at these gauges. Greyed out boxes indicate that the gauge was not in operation at this time or there was no significant level recorded.

The high river levels seen in the Storm Henk suggests that a significant amount of water entered the rivers despite the relatively low levels of rainfall. These catchments would have been saturated by the wet weather during this period following consecutive storms across winter 2023, reducing the capacity of the soil to absorb further rainfall. This led to higher levels of runoff than would typically be expected, increasing the risk of flooding and impacts incurred during Storm Henk.

The Met Office[11] states that following a relentless succession of Atlantic low pressure systems, and the ground already saturated from the persistent rain throughout December 2023, the extra heavy rainfall from Henk, the eighth named storm of the 2023-24 winter, resulted in full rivers and significant flooding problems.

[9] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2026) Hydrology Data Explorer. https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/explore
[10] Environment Agency (2026) Check for Flooding. https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/
[11] Met Office (2024) January 2024 Weather Report. https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/weather/learn-about/uk-past-events/summaries/mwr_2024_01_for_print.pdf

Table 2-5: River Soar and Tributary Historic River Gaugings – Storm Henk January 2024

(red = highest on record) Level in m = metres above gauge station datum. Flow in m3/s = metres cubed per second (m3/s, Cumecs)

River	Gauge Location	Peak Level (mASD) or Flow (m^3/s)							
		Gauge Type	Jan 2024	Oct 2023	Jan 2021	Nov 2012	July 2007	Nov 2000	April 1998
Soar Brook	**Sharnford**	Level	1.8	1.39		1.75	1.63	1.53	
Soar	**Littlethorpe**	Flow	42	17.7		37.3			
Soar	**Littlethorpe**	Level	2.76	2.595		2.64			
Soar	**Freemans Weir**	Level	0.746	0.57	0.458	0.57			
Soar	**Pillings Lock (U/S)**	Flow	194.19	96.1	86.6	120.37		115.7	190.34
Soar		Level	2.5	2.12	1.82	2.11	1.97	2.12	2.25
Soar	**Kegworth**	Level	1.32	1.23	1.17	1.26		1.31	1.31
Sence	**Great Glen**	Level	3.44	3.45		2.95			
Whetstone Brook	**Whetstone**	Level	1.76	1.235	1.37	1.35			
Wood Brook	**Loughborough**	Level	1.05	0.69	1.1	0.92			
Wreake	**Frisby (D/S)**	Level	2.97	2.84	2.66	2.81			3.67
Wreake	**Syston**	Level	3.69	3.37					3.83

2.5 INITIAL IMPACTS AND RESPONSE

2.5.1 LCC LLFA

Following the flood event, the Council initially received telephone, email, online and letter reports of flooding to highways, residential gardens, and internal flooding to residential and commercial buildings.

The Council then conducted a range of site surveys across the predominant areas reported as flooding, visiting highways and flooded properties, meeting their occupants and recording information.

The Council has reviewed and analysed all anecdotal reports received and available data collected as part of this investigation in Section 4 to Section 20.

2.5.2 LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUM

The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) quickly established a multi-agency command and control structure to oversee and coordinate response through strategic and tactical coordination groups. The Leicestershire Multi-Agency Flood Plan was activated, and a major incident was agreed amongst emergency responders over the 3rd and 4th January due to the severity of impacts.

- Over 100 incidents were attended by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, including in Loughborough and Zouch, where some residents were evacuated to temporary accommodations.
- The Council's Highways team had received nearly 500 calls. Over 250 jobs were raised, and 70 roads were closed.
- It became clear that a large number of properties had internally flooded.

Partners issued comms and media messages across platforms to:

- Encourage sign up for EA Flood Alerts;
- Signpost to helpful websites to aid recovery;
- Report flooding;
- Take extra care; and
- Not to move flood signs and ignore road closures.

Emergency responders and RMAs worked in partnership to collate information on impacted properties and identify vulnerable persons who may require support. LCC LLFA coordinated a multi-agency list of flooded properties which was shared and discussed during multiagency meetings. Information was gathered through sources such as door knocking, direct reports and reports from flood wardens.

Figure 2-8 illustrates hot spots of locations of internal flooding across Leicestershire as a result of Storm Henk.

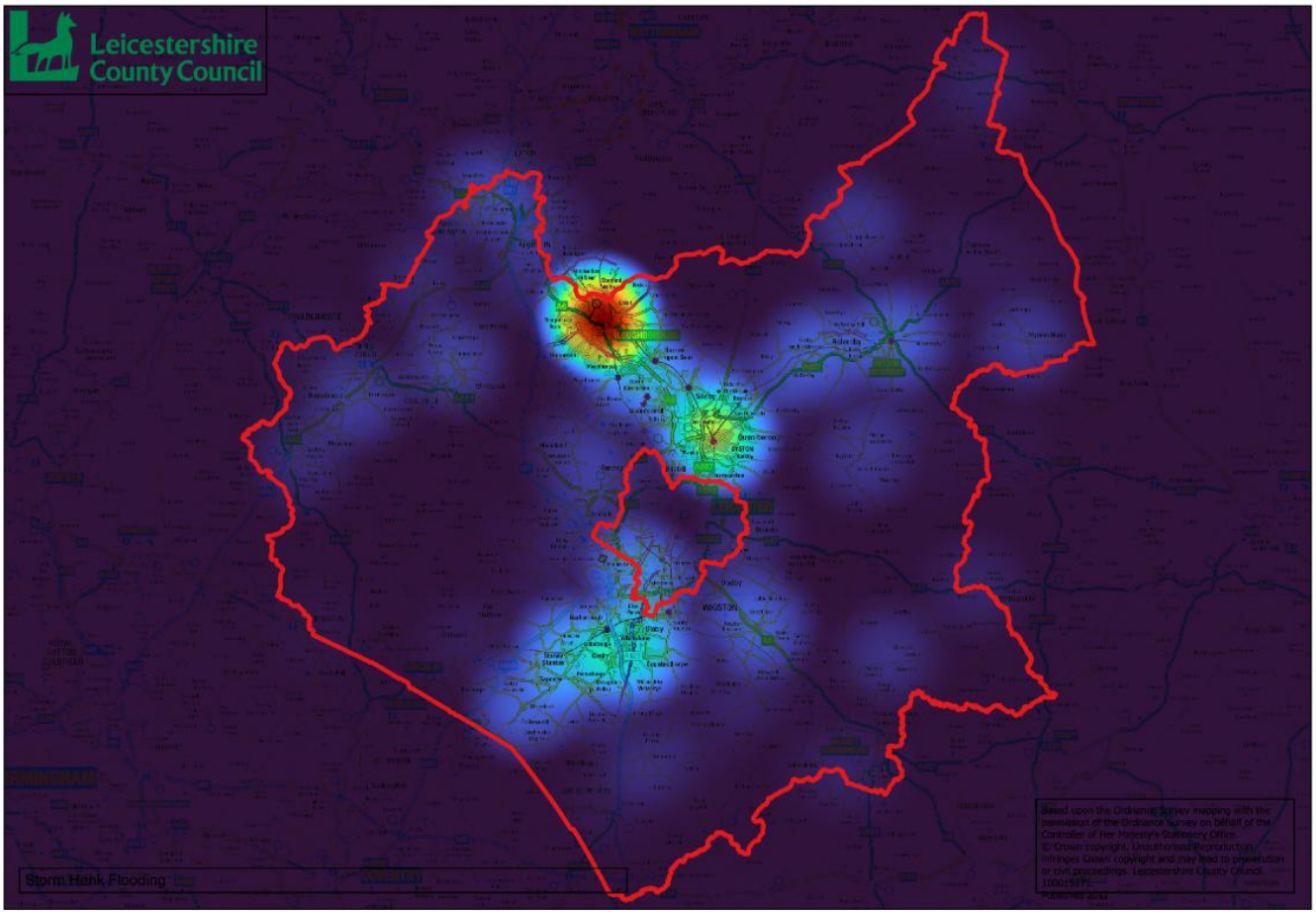


Figure 2-8: Hotspot Map of Storm Henk Internal Flooding Incidents (excludes Leicester City). Redder areas depict a larger number of properties impacted (excluding the boundary), and purple less.

Table 2-6 details the total number of properties (both residential and commercial/industrial) reported as flooded in Leicestershire.

Table 2-6: Number of Properties Reported to have Flooded in Each Leicestershire District/Borough in January 2024

District	Internally Flooded	Externally Flooded
Blaby	133	50
Charnwood	248	79
Harborough	36	20
Hinckley and Bosworth	5	0
Melton	59	23
North West Leicestershire	37	18
Oadby and Wigston	2	6

Details of numbers of properties flooded during storm Henk in Leicester City and in Rutland County Council can be found in their Storm Henk Flood Investigation Reports published in 2024[12] and 2025[13] respectively.

2.5.3 RECOVERY CO-ORDINATION

Following the initial response, a LRF Recovery Co-Ordinating Group was set up, as well as a number of sub cells including Humanitarian Assistance Cell, Environment and Infrastructure Cell, Multi - Agency Information Cell and the Media and Communications cell. These cells aided the coordination of the next steps following the flooding incident.

2.5.4 LCC HIGHWAYS

Necessary repairs were carried out over several days after the flood event to make the carriageways safe. The Council as the LHA also undertook remedial maintenance of highway drainage assets across Leicestershire such as where gullies had become blocked with silt and debris during the event.

2.5.5 SEVERN TRENT WATER

STW investigated in response to calls from the public regarding sewer flooding to highways, regarding properties which experienced lifted/dislodged manhole covers and regarding sewage effluent contamination of floodwater. STW was consulted to obtain details about their local sewerage networks performance during the flood event and their recovery works.

[12] Leicester City Council (2024) Flood Investigation Report of the flood event from Storm Henk 1st to 4th January 2024. https://www.leicester.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-01/storm-henk-section-19-flood-investigation-report.pdf
[13] Rutland County Council (2025) Section 19 Flood Investigation Report. https://www.rutland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/Section_19_Flood__Investigation_Report_2025.pdf

2.5.6 DISTRICT COUNCILS

District Councils provided street cleansing and bulky waste collections in affected areas as well as working with LCC LLFA to complete further door knocking and recovery exercises.

2.5.7 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The EA supported post-flood recovery by undertaking inspections of flood defence assets, implementing immediate repairs where feasible, and identifying and scheduling longer-term remedial works. It also removed blockages and debris from main rivers, collected and supplied technical data to support flood investigations and the validation of flood warnings, contributed to recovery planning and engagement with affected communities, and monitored the environmental impacts arising from the flooding.

2.6 COMMUNITY IMPACTS

The speed, magnitude and unexpected nature of the flood event significantly impacted upon the residents and businesses of Leicestershire. The event occurred soon after the traditional Christmas period and reports were made referencing feeling shocked and frightened at the onset of the flooding; devastation quickly set in for many as the extent of the event was realised.

Due to the magnitude of the event, for many, it was their first time experiencing severe property flooding. Many were forced to leave their homes to stay in rented accommodation for significant parts of the year interrupting schooling patterns and work and creating additional stress to everyday lives. In some instances, residents reported being located significant distances away from their home, making it difficult to manage recovery of their homes and carry on with their lives.

The mental health implications of the event are thought to be significant. Concerns about repeat flooding remain high. Some affected residents report that they remain frightened to leave their homes to go on holiday, or whenever it rains they become nervous of potential flooding.

LCC LLFA is aware that it was a significant time before some properties owners returned to their homes; often in part due to further flood events compounding the impacts, particularly an event on 6th January 2025.

Some business owners had to fund raise to try to maintain their business for the future in lieu of business insurance payouts or cover. It is not known the full impact on businesses across the County, in particular Loughborough, which is dominated by small and medium enterprises. Countywide the economic impact was substantial.

Naturally the communities impacted have searched to blame someone for the flood event. It is hoped that this report goes someway to help those affected understand the flooding mechanisms and responsible bodies and actions taken to date and planned for the future to help mitigate future flood events.

This report details the severity and magnitude of the flooding from Storm Henk. It is not possible to stop all flooding from such events; we can only plan to help reduce the impacts. Therefore, it is crucial that everyone takes steps to be prepared for it to help reduce the severity of impacts.

2.7 ACTIONS

The following actions relate to the whole of Leicestershire. Location specific actions are contained within the individual summaries provided in Section 4 to Section 20 respectively.

2.7.1 BRIEFING

- On 9th January 2024 the Chair of the LRF's Recovery Co-ordination Group briefed all Leicestershire MPs.
- On 17th January 2024 the Council's Flood Risk Manager provided an overview of the impacts to the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC)[14]. RFCCs guide flood and coastal erosion risk management activities within their river catchments and along the coastline.
- On 18th January 2024, Council Officers updated the Council's Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which at the time acted as the Flood Risk Management Committee, monitoring the activities of RMAs.

2.7.2 DEBRIEFING

Following the impact of Storm Henk, a debrief was held by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Prepared and Resilience Partnership Manager on 13th February 2024. This was undertaken to review multiagency response during the incident and initial recovery. Several observations were made during this process which highlighted recommendations that would be used for improving response to future events.

2.7.3 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND RECOVERY SUPPORT

RMAs received high volumes of enquiries, including Councillors and MPs requesting information on behalf of their constituents. Multiple site visits were also conducted to gather information and provide information and support to affected communities.

In February / March 2024, LCC LLFA coordinated five multi-agency public drop-in sessions in Blaby (2), Loughborough, Melton-Mowbray and Syston. These events were attended by a total of 250 visitors. The sessions were an opportunity for answering questions around the causes of flooding and recovery, but also to encourage flood preparedness. For example, by encouraging attendees to sign up to the EAs flood warning information service.

[14] Trent RFCC (2026) Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/trent-regional-flood-and-coastal-committee

2.7.4 FLOOD RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

On 6th January 2024, the Secretary of State announced activation of the National Flood Recovery Framework[15]. Leicestershire qualified immediately as there was already in excess of 50 properties confirmed as having internally flooded. The following support was made available by National Government through the framework:

1. **Community Recovery Grant:** Flooded households could apply for up to £500 cash as a grant to help with immediate costs.
2. **Council tax reductions:** 'significantly affected' households were potentially eligible for council tax reductions of 100% for at least three months.
3. **Business Recovery Grant:** Small and medium sized businesses were potentially eligible for a grant of up to £2,500 to help with immediate recovery.
4. **Business rate reductions:** 'significantly affected' businesses were potentially eligible for business rates relief of 100% for at least three months**.**
5. **Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant:** property owners or tenants were potentially eligible for a £5,000 grant to help fund resistance or recoverability measures. Grants could also potentially be pooled towards community measures.

Items 1-4 were arranged through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and administered by the District and Borough Council's between January and April 2024. Item 5 was arranged through Defra and administered by the Council. The Council opened applications for Grants in April 2024. The application process and a step-by-step grant process guide was published on the website. Property owners were required to arrange their own surveys and works in advance of reimbursement. Initially, Defra required measures to be completed by 30th September 2025. A rule change in December 2024 altered this to require that measures be approved by the Council by 30th September 2025. The Council claimed 144 Grants from Defra at a total value of just over £700,000.

2.7.5 WARNING AND INFORMING

The Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) presented to the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee in January 2025. As noted in Section 2.2, the FFC provide the daily flood guidance statements. The FCC noted the recent high levels of flooding in the East Midlands, and the complexities and uncertainties around flood forecasting. The FFC reviews Statements following all flood events, and both the EA and LCC are in regular contact to provide feedback.

[15] Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2024) Government payments for communities affected by flooding. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-payments-for-communities-affected-by-flooding

The EA also review Flood Warnings. All issued Flood Warnings undergo post-event validation to confirm that trigger levels remain appropriate and that warnings are being issued with the required accuracy and timeliness. Adjustments to trigger thresholds or warning areas are made where necessary following review. As the service provides alerts and warnings for fluvial flooding, establishing an optimal trigger level is complex where there are multiple sources of flooding, and continued engagement with the community is essential to support resilience to flooding from all sources.

In general, communities affected are also thought to be more aware of Flood Alerts and Warnings following flooding, and the increased potential for flooding following prolonged periods of wet winter weather.

2.7.6 INVESTIGATIONS

Flood investigations commenced immediately following the event.

- The EA formed an internal recovery cell. This was in place until March 2025. The EA completed hydrological analysis of the event.
- In April 2024, the Council allocated £0.4m additional resource to assist with formal flood investigations and other related tasks.

The Council in its coordination role as LCC LLFA prioritised support to the public (e.g. enquiry responses, PFR Repair Grants administration) and the investigation, identification and coordination of actions over the writing of this formal report. Report writing was delayed by further flood events, especially 6th January 2025. In recognition of the need for transparency over actions, RMAs made available Flood Area location Draft Action Plans to communities over the course of 2025.

REVIEW OF RISK OF FLOODING FROM SURFACE WATER MAPPING (PLUVIAL)

As part of the formal investigation desk top studies, LCC LLFA reviewed the latest 17th September 2025 NaFRA2 Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (RoFSW) map available online[16] for the identified Flood Areas across Leicestershire (see Section 3).

This data has been produced by the EA and is created using high level modelling which represents where water could flow and accumulate when rainwater does not drain away through the normal drainage systems or soak into the ground, but ponds or flows over the ground instead. Average losses due to drainage systems are represented. The modelling does not however consider property threshold levels and does not necessarily represent all the potential scenarios, conditions of defence infrastructure, detailed landscaping or limitations in drainage infrastructure. The map illustrates the flood extents during the following rainfall event probabilities/magnitudes.

- **High risk** - greater than or equal to 1 in 30 (3.3%) chance of flooding in each year;
- **Medium risk** – less than 1 in 30 (3.3%) but greater than or equal to 1 in 100 (1%) chance of flooding in each year; and
- **Low risk** – less than 1 in 100 (1%) but greater than or equal to 1 in 1000 (0.1%) chance of flooding in each year.

In the absence of smaller watercourse modelling, surface water flood models are often good indicators of ordinary watercourse floodplain extents, as surface water models take into account rapid runoff from non-fluvial sources (such as roads, fields etc), from which smaller watercourses are more responsive.

For more details please the Defra website[17].

It must be noted that the modelled rainfall magnitude/duration and spatial distribution of rainfall may vary substantially to what was experienced during the Storm Henk flood event, which explains why some of the areas identified in the EA RoFSW (NaFRA2) map did not flood at that time.

See analysis of the RoFSW (NaFRA2) mapping within each focus Flood Area in Sections 4 to 20.

[16] Environment Agency (2026) Check your long term flood risk – Risk of Flooding from Surface Water. https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/map
[17] Defra (2025) Risk of Flooding from Surface Water. https://environment.data.gov.uk/dataset/b5aaa28d-6eb9-460e-8d6f-43caa71fbe0e

REVIEW OF FLOOD MAP FOR PLANNING FLOOD ZONES MAPPING (FLUVIAL)

As part of the formal investigation desktop study, the Council also reviewed the latest 28th November 2025 NaFRA2 Flood Map for Planning Flood Zone map available online[18] for the identified Flood Areas across Leicestershire (see Section 3) to identify the predicted risks of fluvial flooding.

Flood Zones are a composite dataset produced by the EA including national and local modelled data, and information from past floods. The Flood Zones data shows the extent of land at present day risk of flooding from rivers and the sea, *ignoring the benefits of flood defences* for the following scenarios:

- **Flood Zone 3 (High risk)** – Land having a 1 in 100 (1%) or greater annual probability of river flooding; or Land having a 1 in 200 (0.5%) or greater annual probability of sea flooding.
- **Flood Zone 2 (Medium risk)** – Land having between a 1 in 100 (1%) and 1 in 1000 (0.1%) annual probability of river flooding; or land having between a 1 in 200 (0.5%) and 1 in 1000 (0.1%) annual probability of sea flooding, and accepted recorded flood outlines; and
- **Flood Zone 1 (Low risk)** – Land having a less than 1 in 1000 (0.1%) annual probability of river or sea flooding. (not shown in this dataset but covers all areas not contained within Flood Zones 2 and 3).

For more details please the Defra website[19].

[18] Environment Agency (2026) Flood Map for Planning. https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/map
[19] Defra (2025) Flood Map for Planning - Flood Zones. https://environment.data.gov.uk/dataset/04532375-a198-476e-985e-0579a0a11b47

RISK OF FLOODING FROM RIVERS AND THE SEA MAPPING (FLUVIAL)

As part of the formal investigation desktop study, the Council also reviewed the latest 28th January 2025 NaFRA2 Risk of Flooding from Rivers and the Sea (RoFRS) map available online[20] for the identified Flood Areas across Leicestershire (see Section 3) to identify the predicted risks of fluvial flooding.

RoFRS map is a probabilistic product meaning that it shows the overall risk, rather than the risk associated with a specific event or scenario. It represents the presence and condition of flood risk management assets and takes account of the chance of them overtopping or failing. It uses local and national modelling for defended and undefended scenarios, along with national breach modelling to create the flood risk likelihood.

The RoFRS map shows the chance of flooding from rivers and the sea *taking into account the presence and condition of flood defences,* for the following scenarios:

- **High risk** - greater than or equal to 1 in 30 (3.3%) chance in any given year;
- **Medium risk** - less than 1 in 30 (3.3%) but greater than or equal to 1 in 100 (1%) chance in any given year;
- **Low risk** - less than 1 in 100 (1%) but greater than or equal to a 1 in 1000 (0.1%) chance in any given year; and
- **Very Low risk** - less than 0.1% chance in any given year *(not shown in the dataset but covers all other areas)*

While flood defences reduce the level of risk, they do not completely remove it. The RoFRS maps may therefore identify risk to areas behind some (e.g. water can flow over the top of the defence, or they can fail in extreme weather conditions or if they are in poor condition).

For more details please the Defra website[21].

See analysis of the Flood Zones and RoFRS mapping within each focus Flood Area (where applicable) in Sections 4 to 20.

[20] Environment Agency (2026) Check your long term flood risk – Risk of Flooding from Rivers and the Sea. https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/map
[21] Defra (2025) Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea. https://environment.data.gov.uk/dataset/96ab4342-82c1-4095-87f1-0082e8d84ef1

3 FLOOD AREA LOCATIONS

The flooding event impacted several discrete communities, and the overall dominant mechanism was from Main Rivers for most communities. Other flooding mechanisms were also experienced within different communities. The 'Flood Areas' within the communities as defined in Table 1-1 (meeting the threshold for investigation) and Table 1-2 (partially meeting the threshold for investigation) have therefore been discussed independently.

The locations are discussed in alphabetical order with those that tiggered the formal investigation discussed first in Sections 4 to 10, and other locations significantly affected after in Sections 12-20. The locations of these are illustrated in Figure 3-1. See further mapping and details of each Flood Area Inset in Sections 4 to Section 20.

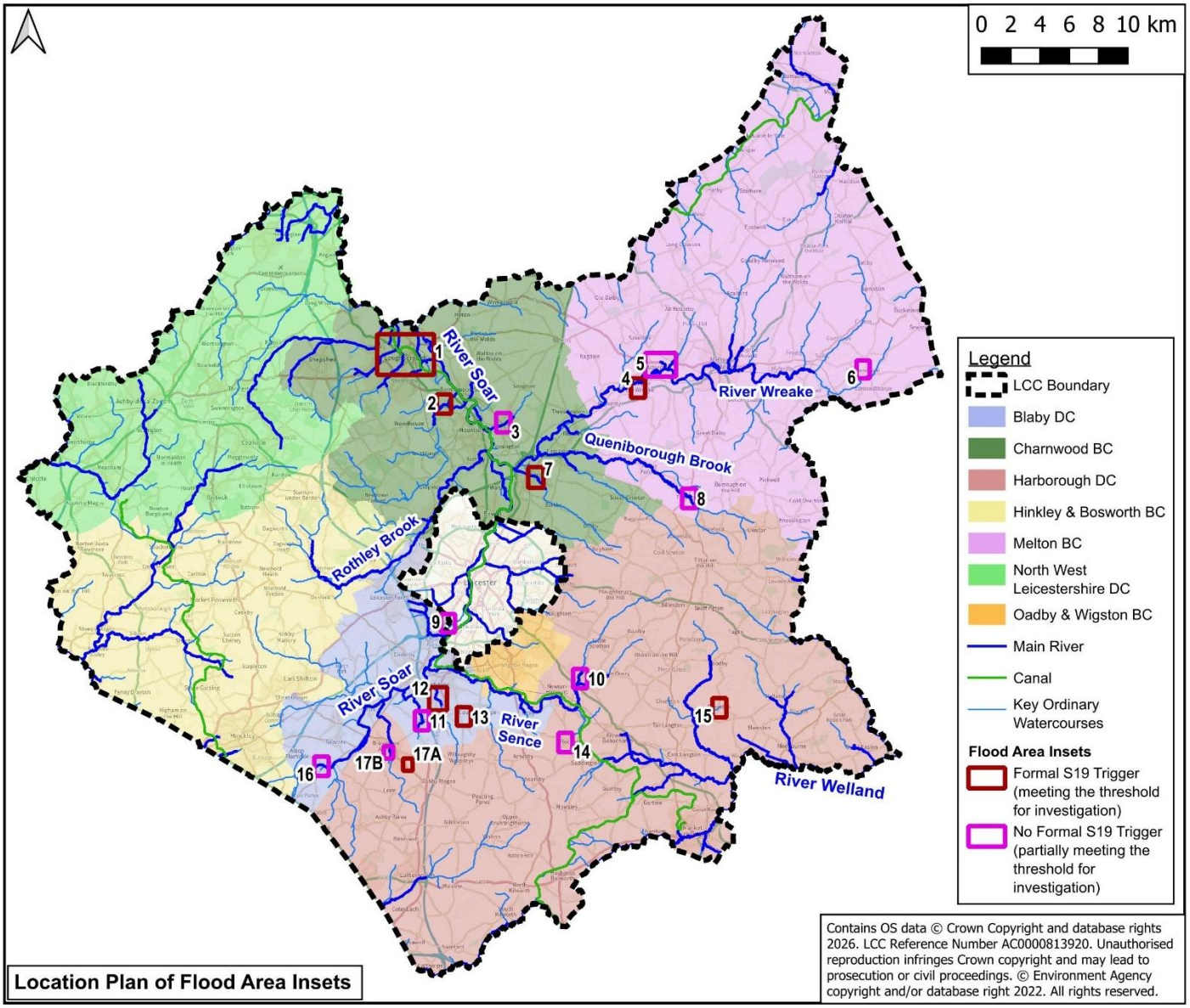


Figure 3-1: Location Plan Overview of Areas Impacted by Flooding in Leicestershire on 2nd January 2024

4 BROUGHTON ASTLEY

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

5 COUNTESTHORPE

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

6 FRISBY ON THE WREAKE

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

7 GLOOSTON

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

8 LOUGHBOROUGH

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

9 QUORN

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

10 SYSTON

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

11 WHETSTONE

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

12 ASFORDBY & ASFORDBY VALLEY

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

13 SOUTH BRAUNSTONE

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

14 COSBY

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

15 FLECKNEY

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

16 GREAT GLEN

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

17 SHARNFORD

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

18 SILEBY

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

19 TWYFORD

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

20 WYMONDHAM

Please view separate document available from the same web page.

21 RESPONSIBILITIES

For more information on roles and responsibilities, please refer to the LFRMS.

21.1 LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY (LCC)

As the LLFA, the Council has the responsibility to co-ordinate the management of flood risk and the interaction of RMAs across Leicestershire. As stated previously, the Council has a duty to investigate flood incidents under Section 19 of the FWMA. Publication of this report is the conclusion of that process.

The Council also has a responsibility to maintain a register of drainage assets which are considered to provide a significant role in the mitigation of flood risk (as detailed within Section 21 of the FWMA). The register must contain a record detailing each structure or feature including ownership and state of repair. The Council look for support and information from other agencies that are designated as RMAs to ensure any assets which could potentially have a significant effect on flood risk are recorded on the asset register.

The FWMA does not provide the Council with a mandate or funding to tackle all identified causes of flooding, however, it can make recommendations to mitigate flood risk as far as possible. The Council has permissive enforcement powers related to ordinary watercourses within private ownership. The duty to maintain the ordinary watercourses on private land however rests with the relevant riparian landowner.

General flooding related information and advice is provided at:
https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage

21.2 BOROUGH / DISTRICT COUNCILS

Borough and District Councils have limited permissive powers under the Land Drainage Act (1991) in relation to ordinary watercourses (excluding Main Rivers). In particular, Section 14 of the Act provides a power - but not a duty - to undertake land drainage or flood risk management works where a Council chooses to do so. Section 20 of the Act further allows Borough and District Councils, by agreement and at another party's expense, to carry out drainage works which that party is otherwise entitled to undertake. The existence of these permissive powers should not be interpreted as an obligation on the Council to act, nor as an acceptance of responsibility for private drainage systems or watercourses.

21.3 HIGHWAY AUTHORITY (LCC)

LCC LHA has a duty to maintain the Highway under Section 41 of the Highways Act (1980). Section 100 states that the Council also has the responsibility to maintain a safe and reliable local highway network, including provision for highway drainage, and has power to prevent water running onto the highway from adjoining land.

21.4 WATER COMPANY (SEVERN TRENT WATER)

Water and sewerage companies are responsible for managing flood risk related to surface water, foul water and combined sewer systems. Public sewers are designed to protect properties from flood risk in normal wet weather conditions. In extreme weather conditions however, there is a risk of these public sewers being overwhelmed resulting in sewer flooding.

Following the 'Private Sewer Transfer' on 1st July 2011, water companies are now responsible for all pipes systems on private land that serve more than one curtilage and are connected to a public sewer. Under Section 94 of the Water Industry Act (1991) statutory sewerage undertakers have a duty to provide sewers for drainage of buildings and associated paved areas within property boundaries.

Water companies are responsible for all public sewers and lateral drains. Public sewers are a conduit (typically a pipe) assigned to a water and sewerage company that drains two or more properties conveying foul, surface water or combined sewerage to a positive outfall. Connection of other drainage sources to public sewers is discretionary following an application to connect.

21.5 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)

The EA, under the FWMA holds strategic oversight for managing flood risk from main rivers, the sea and reservoirs. Its duties include providing flood warnings, operating and maintaining flood defences, supporting planning, and coordinating national flood risk management activities.

In addition to these statutory responsibilities, the EA has permissive powers under the Water Resources Act (WRA) 1991 to undertake maintenance and improvement works on Main Rivers. Main Rivers comprise all watercourses identified on the statutory Main River maps[22] maintained by the EA and Defra, including any structures or appliances used to control or regulate water flow into, within, or out of the channel.

These permissive powers enable the EA to carry out works that reduce flood risk in circumstances where riparian landowners have not fulfilled their obligations under the WRA. The EA may also undertake enforcement action where third-party asset owners fail to maintain their land or structures to an appropriate standard. Where it is necessary to safeguard the public interest and no suitable alternative options exist, the EA may elect to undertake maintenance or repairs to third-party assets.

21.6 CANAL AND RIVER TRUST

The Canal and River Trust are a charitable organisation who own and maintain 2000 miles of canal and river navigations in England & Wales, including the Grand Union Canal in Loughborough.

[22] Statutory Main River Map https://environment.data.gov.uk/explore/25dde009-ba7d-40de-8380-c5c3bb32ccdc?download=true

21.7 RIPARIAN LANDOWNERS OF WATERCOURSES

Riparian landowners have certain rights and responsibilities including:

- They must maintain the bed and banks of their watercourse, including the trees and shrubs growing on the banks;
- They must clear any debris, even if it did not originate from their land. This debris may be natural or man-made;
- They must keep any structures that they own clear of debris. These structures include (but are not limited to) culverts, trash screens, weirs and mill gates.

All riparian landowners have the same rights and responsibilities. However, a landowner has no duty in common law to improve the drainage capacity of watercourse he/she owns.

These rights and responsibilities to not apply to canals. A full explanation of the rights, roles and responsibilities of riparian ownership are given on the 'Owning a Watercourse' government webpage found at:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse

The EA provides further guidance on the riparian landowner rights, roles and responsibilities specifically for Main Rivers at:

https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/your-watercourse-rights-and-roles

21.8 PROPERTY OWNERS & COMMUNITY ACTION

Local residents and tenants who are aware that they are at risk of flooding should take action to ensure that their properties are protected or to reduce the impact of future flooding. Actions taken now can reduce the negative impact of an event and the time taken to get back to normal.

Community resilience is important in providing information and support to each other if flooding is anticipated. Actions taken can include:

- signing up to flood alerts and warnings[23] (where available);
- nominating a community flood warden;
- producing a community flood plan[24];
- reporting issues with flood risk assets;
- implementing property level protection/flood resilience and;
- moving valuable items to higher ground.

[23] Gov.uk (2025) Sign up for flood warnings. https://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings
[24] Gov.uk (2023) Community flood plan guidance. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-flood-plan-template/community-flood-plan

More permanent measures are also possible such as;

- installing floodgates;
- raising electrical sockets; and
- fitting non-return valves on pipes.

More information on flood resilience can be found at the LRF website[25]. Flood Mary can also provide useful hints and tips on how to prepare for and recover from a flood event[26]. More information and advice on what to do to prepare for potential floods, and what to do during and after a flood can be found on the LCC website[27].

21.9 PARISH COUNCILS AND FLOOD ACTION GROUPS

Parish Councils and Flood Action Groups can play an important non-statutory role. By working collaboratively with RMAs they can:

- create positive links which means that communities know the right people and organisations to talk to if there is an issue or idea;
- share local flood knowledge by collating and reporting flood information;
- disseminate updates;
- encourage flood preparedness and develop community response plans – help the community be prepared for flooding, act quickly during a flood and to recover quickly after a flood; and
- find funding opportunities – if a group is constituted it may be able to access funding.

21.10 FLOOD WARDENS

Flood Wardens are trusted local volunteers who play a key role in helping communities prepare for, and respond to, flooding. The role is non-operational and focuses on awareness, communication and community resilience, rather than physical flood response. Flood Wardens should never enter flood water. Volunteer Flood Wardens may:

- act as a local point of contact for flood information in your community;
- help share official warnings and advice from organisations such as the EA and LCC;
- support residents to understand flood risk; and
- support community recovery following flooding, where appropriate.

Further information, including how to become a Flood Warden, is available on the LRF website[28]

[25] Local Resilience Forum (2026) https://www.llrresilienceforum.org.uk/prepare-yourself/flooding
[26] Flood Mary (2026) https://floodmary.com/
[27] Leicestershire County Council (2026) Flooding and Drainage https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage
[28] LRF (2026) https://www.llrresilienceforum.org.uk/prepare-your-community/volunteering#:~:text=Flood%20Wardens%20are%20trusted%20local,rather%20than%20physical%20flood%20response

STATUS OF REPORT AND DISCLAIMER

This report has been prepared as part of the Council's responsibilities under the FWMA.

The findings of the report are based on a subjective assessment of the information available by those undertaking the investigation and therefore may not include all relevant information. As such it should not be considered as a definitive assessment of all factors that may have triggered or contributed to the flood event.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on assumptions made by the Council when preparing this report, including, but not limited to those key assumptions noted in the report, including reliance on information provided by others.

The Council expressly disclaims responsibility for any error in, or omission from this report arising from or in connection with any of the assumptions being incorrect.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on conditions encountered and information reviewed at the time of preparation and the Council expressly disclaims responsibility for any error in, or omission from, this report arising from or in connection with those opinions, conclusions and any recommendations.

The Council does not accept any liability for the use of this report or its contents by any third party.

GLOSSARY

Acronyms / Term	Definition
AW	Anglian Water
BDC	Blaby District Council,
BGS	British Geology Society
CBC	Charnwood Borough Council
CRT	Canal and River Trust
EA	Environment Agency
FEH	Flood Estimation Handbook
FLAG	Flood Action Group
FWMA	Flood and Water Management Act 2010
HDC	Harborough District Council
HBBC	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LDA	Land Drainage Act 1991
LHA	Local Highways Authority
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LRF	Local Resilience Forum
Main River	Those watercourses for which the EA is the relevant RMA
MBC	Melton Borough Council
NWLDC	North West Leicestershire District Council
Ordinary Watercourse	Any river, stream, ditch, drain, culvert, or pipe that transports water and is not designated as a "Main River" on the EA's map. Regulated by LLFAs or IDBs
OSNGR	Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference
OWBC	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
RFCC	Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
RMA	Risk Management Authority
RoFRS	Risk of Flooding from Rivers and the Sea (EA)
RoFSW	Risk of Flooding from Surface Water mapping (EA)
STW	Severn Trent Water
S19	FWMA Section 19 report
The Council	Leicestershire County Council
TRT	Trent Rivers Trust
UKCEH	UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology