

# Loughborough, Cothelstone Avenue



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## Flood Report

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To discuss the flood report contact the Flood Risk Management Team by  
e-mail: [flooding@leics.gov.uk](mailto:flooding@leics.gov.uk) or phone 0116 305 0001

# DETAILED FLOOD INVESTIGATION

<b>Investigation Ref.:</b>	<b>2012-047</b>
<b>Investigation:</b>	<b>Loughborough, Cothelstone Avenue</b>
<b>Date of Flooding:</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b>
<b>Revision</b>	<b>FINAL</b>

<b>Officer:</b>	<b>E Knight</b>	<b>Senior Technician</b>	<b>7/5/14</b>
<b>Checked:</b>	<b>J McGuinness</b>	<b>Senior Engineer</b>	<b>4/6/14</b>
<b>Approved:</b>	<b>D Rawle</b>	<b>Team Manager</b>	<b>4/6/14</b>

**Environment and Transport Department,  
Technical Services Group,  
County Hall,  
Glenfield,  
Leicester.  
LE3 8RJ.**



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# **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **1.1 STATUTORY CONTEXT**

Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) states that, on becoming aware of a flood which meets certain predetermined criteria, the LLFA (lead local flood authority) must undertake a flood investigation in order to determine the relevant flood risk management authorities involved and which flood risk management actions have been (or should be) taken to mitigate future flood risk. Where an authority carries out a formal investigation, it must publish the results.

- 1.2 It was deemed necessary to complete a formal investigation into the flooding incident at Cothelstone Avenue on the 28th June 2012. The internal flooding of two properties was reported to the LLFA and the source of the flooding was initially not clear and reported to be from multiple sources.

## **1.3 CAUSE OF FLOODING**

The flooding that occurred at Cothelstone Ave, Loughborough is a result short duration very intense rainfall event that following a number of days and weeks of significant rain. The inability of existing drainage systems to collect and carry rainwater effectively meant excess surface water flowed over ground following natural contours to low points in the area.

## **1.4 MAIN FINDING**

Surface water was seen to be running off the park and flowing onto Cothelstone Avenue. The design capacity of the 'public sewer' and highway gullies were exceeded due to this additional surface water.

The natural flow path for the surface water is through the properties on Cothelstone Avenue. Surface Water is believed to have flowed in, around and through the houses, eventually returning to the open space via the rear gardens.





## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY INVESTIGATION**

Section 19 of the FWMA states:

- (1) On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers 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

### **2.2 FLOOD INVESTIGATION CRITERIA**

A formal investigation will be carried out if one or more of the following occurs after a flooding event:

- Loss of life or serious injury
- Critical infrastructure flooded or nearly flooded from unknown or multiple sources
- Internal property flooding from unknown or multiple sources

In the following circumstances, discretion may be used to investigate a flooding incident:

- A number of properties have been flooded or nearly flooded
- Other infrastructure flooded
- Repeated instances
- Investigation requested
- Risk to health (foul water)
- Environmental or ecologically important site affected
- Depth/area/velocity of flooding a cause for concern

### **2.3 RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES**

The following risk management authorities were identified as relevant to the flooding within Charnwood Borough:

- Leicestershire County Council – Lead Local flood Authority
- Leicestershire County Council – Local highway authority
- Environment Agency – Midlands East Area
- Charnwood Borough Council
- Severn Trent Water Ltd



## 2.4 NON-RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

The following agencies are not prescribed as risk management authorities (RMAs). However, they have a significant involvement in flood risk management:

- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Resilience Forum

## 2.5 FLOODING INCIDENT

It was considered appropriate to complete a formal investigation into the flooding incident at Cothelstone Avenue, Loughborough on 28th June 2012 since at least one property was flooded internally, and the source of the flooding was initially not clear and reported to be from multiple sources.



### 3 **SITE BACKGROUND**

#### 3.1 **LOCATION**

Cothelstone Avenue, Loughborough is situated in the North of Leicestershire, within the borough of Charnwood, approximately 13 miles from Leicester. The area immediately around Cothelstone Avenue is low-lying, with the only significant hill in the area being Gorse Covert located on the opposite side of the Black Brook.

Cothelstone Avenue is situated adjacent to The Black Brook which is classified as a 'Main River' which means that the Environment Agency has permissive powers to undertake work to reduce flood risk.

The area is located within Flood Zone 2 of the Environment Agency Main River flood map. The Environment Agency defines Zone 2 as an 'outlying area likely to be affected by a major flood, there is up to a 0.1 per cent (1 in 1000) chance of river flooding each year'.

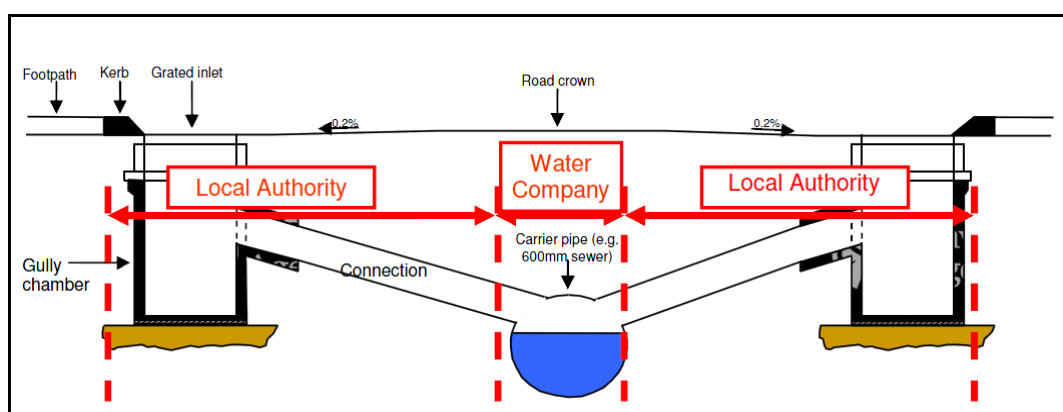
The area also benefits from a flood defence built to protect the area from flooding from the Black Brook up to a 1 per cent (1 in 100) chance.

#### 3.2 **DRAINAGE SYSTEMS**

There is a single watercourse within the area and this is the Black Brook

The area is served by both a foul and dedicated storm public sewer systems. These systems are maintained by Severn Trent Water as the relevant water and sewerage authority. The responsibility for lateral connections onto the main sewer varies and can either be the responsibility of the adjacent landowner or water company (Severn Trent Water). Further guidance on this is contained within the 'Useful Contacts' section of this report.

The highway drainage network within the immediate area consists of a number of highway gullies which connect via lateral connections to the 'public sewer'. The local highway authority is responsible for maintaining highway gullies (drains) and the lateral connections to the public sewer. This is indicated by figure 1 below:



**Figure 1: Highway Drainage Responsibilities**



## 4 **FLOODING INCIDENT**

### 4.1 **PREVIOUS FLOODING INCIDENTS**

While there are no recorded flooding incidents in the area, anecdotal evidence indicates that the park has flooded from time to time, however the flooding would normally remain within the open space.

### 4.2 **FLOOD INCIDENT**

On the 28th June 2012 there was a short duration very intense rainfall event that followed a number of days and weeks of significant rain. It is believed that the ground was saturated and green field runoff rates would have consequently been higher than usual. Two residential properties suffered internal flooding to a depth of approximately 250mm; the floodwater was not believed to be running at a high velocity.

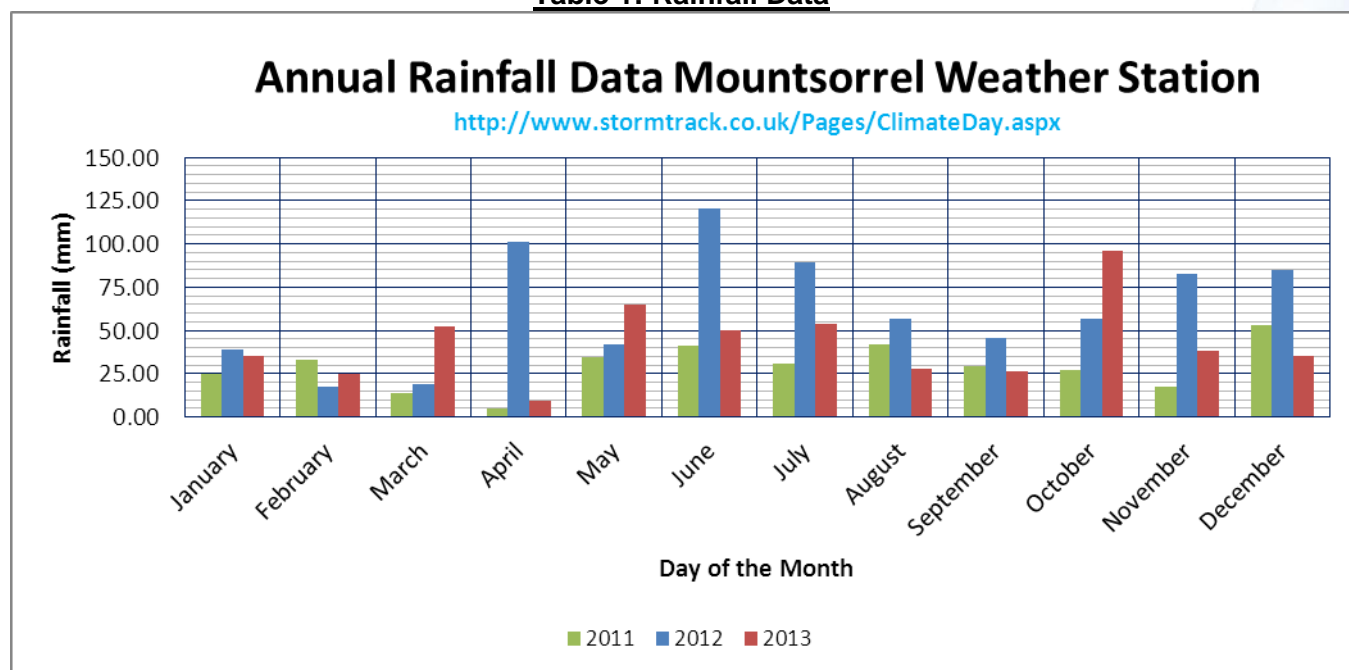
The County Council has received accounts of surface water running from the public open space and flowing onto Cothelstone Avenue. The design capacity of the 'public sewer' and highway gullies were exceeded due to the additional surface water and this resulted in the flooding of the highway. The flow path of the surface water also flooded two residential properties on Cothelstone Avenue.

### 4.3 **RAINFALL ANALYSIS**

Well above average rainfall was experienced in the East Midlands in the summer of 2012. On 28th June 2012, approx. 22.00 mm rainfall was recorded, at a nearby weather station.

The graph below depicts the annual rainfall at the Mountsorrel weather station 2011 – 2013.

**Table 1: Rainfall Data**





## **5 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND FINDINGS**

### **5.1 IMPACTS**

People and property were affected by the flooding as a result of the significant rainfall. The County Council have spoken to the affected persons to establish and further quantify the physical effects of the flooding incident.

### **5.2 HIGHWAY DRAINS**

The spacing and location of the gullies on Cothelstone Avenue complies with the design criteria for a residential street, as laid out in the '6Cs Design Guide'. These highway gullies are connected into the Severn Trent Water adopted surface 'public sewer' in Cothelstone Avenue.

### **5.3 PUBLIC SEWER**

Within the area immediately outside the affected properties there is both a public foul and surface water sewer ( Appendix D);

- The foul sewer takes the foul water away to be treated and is not associated with the flooding in this location.
- The surface water sewer runs in a northerly direction with an outfall into the Black Brook.

### **5.4 THE BLACK BROOK**

The Black Brook is designated by the Environment Agency as Main River. There has been extensive flood defence work undertaken on the banks of the brook at this location. The Black Brook was running at a high on the day of the flooding incident, the EA river gauge indicates the normal level being between 0.52m – 1.57m. On the 28 June 2012 the water level rose steeply, reaching a peak of 2.0m at midnight then fell again at a slower rate to reach near normal conditions by 8:00am on the 30 June 2012.

### **5.5 EXTENT OF FLOODING**

The extent of the flooding is broadly reflective of the low lying areas indicated by both LIDAR mapping (Appendix B) and the Flood Map for Surface Water (Appendix C).

Aerial LIDAR uses a laser to measure the distance between a survey aircraft and the ground surface, including buildings and other assets (above ground pipelines, highways, street furniture, power lines, railway tracks). This data is represented in a LIDAR Plan that shows the topography of the area.

The Environment Agency's Flood Map for Surface Water shows areas where surface water would be expected to flow or pond.



## **6 RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **6.1 LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY (LCC)**

As stated within the introduction section, the County Council as the LLFA has a responsibility to investigate flood incidents under Section 19 of the FWMA.

The LLFA also has a responsibility to maintain a register of assets which have a significant effect on flooding from surface runoff, groundwater or ordinary watercourse, as detailed within Section 21 of the FWMA. The register must contain a record about each structure or feature, including the ownership and state of repair.

Whilst the County Council can suggest possible causes of flooding in Leicestershire and make recommendations to ensure flood risk is mitigated as far as possible, the FWMA does not provide the County Council with the mandate or funding to tackle all identified causes of flooding.

The County Council also has powers to serve notice on individuals, requiring them to maintain the flow of ordinary watercourses in accordance with Section 25 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 (LDA)

### **6.2 CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

CBC has powers under Section 14 of the LDA to undertake flood risk management works on ordinary watercourses (non-Main River), where deemed necessary. Under Section 20 of the LDA, CBC has the powers to (by agreement of any person and at their expense) undertake drainage work which that person is entitled to carry out and maintain.

### **6.3 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

The Environment Agency has a strategic overview responsibility under the FWMA as well as permissive powers to carry out maintenance work on Main Rivers under Section 165 of the Water Resources Act (WRA). Main River means all watercourses shown on the statutory Main River maps held by the Environment Agency and the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and can include any structure or appliance for controlling or regulating the flow of water into, in or out of the channel.

The Environment Agency has permissive powers to carry out works of maintenance and improvement on these rivers. These powers can be used to undertake works to reduce flood risk where landowners fail to undertake their responsibilities under the WRA.

The Environment Agency can undertake enforcement action where third party asset owners fail to maintain their property/land in appropriate condition. They may consider undertaking maintenance or repair of third party assets in order to safeguard the public interest and where other options are not appropriate.

### **6.4 HIGHWAY AUTHORITY (LCC)**

LCC, in its role as local highway authority, has a duty to maintain the highway under Section 41 of the Highway Act 1980. Section 100 of the Highways Act 1980 also gives the power to prevent water running on to a highway. Further information on the Highways Act 1980 is available via the link identified within the Useful Links section of this report.

## 6.5 WATER COMPANY (SEVERN TRENT WATER)

Water and sewerage companies are responsible for managing the risks of flooding from surface water, foul water or combined sewer systems. Public sewers are designed to protect properties from the risk of flooding in normal wet weather conditions. However, in extreme weather conditions, there is a risk that sewer systems can become overwhelmed and result in sewer flooding.

Since October 2011, under the 'Private Sewer Transfer', Water Companies are required to adopt piped systems on private land that serve more than one curtilage and were connected to a public sewer on or prior to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011. Statutory sewerage undertakers have a duty under Section 94 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to provide sewers for the drainage of buildings and associated paved areas within property boundaries.

Water companies are responsible for public sewers and lateral drains. A public sewer is a conduit, normally a pipe that is vested in a water and sewerage company (or predecessor thereof) that drains two or more properties and conveys foul, surface water or combined sewage from one point to another point and discharges via a positive outfall. There is no automatic right of connection for other sources of drainage to the public sewer network. Connection is therefore discretionary, following an application to connect.

## 6.6 RIPARIAN LANDOWNERS OF WATERCOURSES

As detailed within the EA document 'Living on the Edge', riparian landowners have certain rights and responsibilities, including the following:

- They must maintain the bed and banks of their watercourse, and also 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 culverts, trash screens, weirs and mill gates.

The following link provides further information:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31626.aspx>.

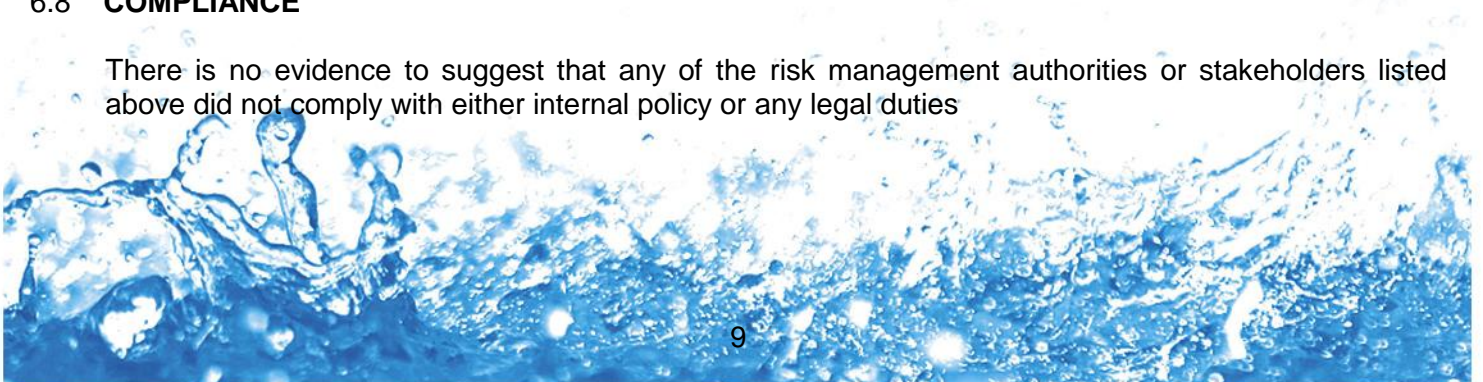
## 6.7 RESIDENTS AND TENNANTS

Local residents and tenants who are aware that they are at risk of flooding should take action to ensure that they and their properties are protected.

Community resilience is important in providing information and support to each other if flooding is anticipated. Actions taken can include signing up to Flood Warning Direct (if available), nominating a community flood warden, producing a community flood plan implementing property level protection and moving valuable items to higher ground, to more permanent measures such as installing floodgates, raising electrical sockets and fitting non-return valves on pipes.

## 6.8 COMPLIANCE

There is no evidence to suggest that any of the risk management authorities or stakeholders listed above did not comply with either internal policy or any legal duties





## 7 **CONCLUSION**

The flooding that occurred on Cothlestone Avenue is a result of the rainfall that fell in the preceding weeks combined with intense rainfall that fell over a short period of time on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Existing drainage systems were unable to cope with the deluge of water, which effectively meant excess surface water flowed over ground following natural contours to low points in the area.

Existing physical barriers, such as kerbs, to prevent surface water from the public highway overtopping and entering properties were compromised by the volume and depth of ponding.



## **8 RECOMENDATIONS**

### **8.1 SEVERN TRENT WATER**

Severn Trent Water should continue to monitor their network. A particular item of concern is the outfall of the Surface Water sewer which was reported to be under water when the Black Brook was in full flow. The non-return valve should continued to be maintained in line with STW policies and procedures.

### **8.2 LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY (LLFA)**

The LLFA will continue to monitor the locality and revisit when required, and continue to coordinate the management of flood risk and the interaction of RMAs across Leicestershire.

### **8.3 LOCAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY (LCC)**

The Highway Authority should check the gullies and lateral connections to ensure that they are in good working order.

### **8.4 CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL (CBC)**

Charnwood Borough Council should consider the management of the surface water runoff from the park; consideration should be given to the construction of a low bund along the eastern and southern boundaries of the open space to provide a basic level of protection to the adjacent properties.

### **8.5 THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)**

In some circumstances watercourse maintenance can reduce the effect of flooding and improve land drainage. The Environment Agency should continue to monitor the Black Brook and monitor the impacts on local drainage systems.



## 9 **ACRONYMS**

EA	Environment Agency
LCC	Leicestershire County Council
CBC	Charnwood Borough Council
FIR	Flood Investigation Report
FWMA	Flood and Water Management Act 2010
LDA	Land Drainage Act 1991
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
WRA	Water Resources Act 1991
LIDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
STW	Severn Trent Water Ltd
FMfSW	Flood Map for Surface Water
RMA	Risk Management Authorities

## 10 **USEFUL CONTACTS**

### 10.1 **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

General enquiries 03708 506 506 (Mon-Fri, 8am – 6pm)  
Incident hotline 0800 80 70 60 (free phone, 24hours)

### 10.2 **SEVERN TRENT WATER**

Emergencies 0800 783 4444(24hours)  
Website: [www.stwater.co.uk](http://www.stwater.co.uk)

### 10.3 **LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Highways 0116 305 0001 (24hours)

### 10.4 **LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Lead local flood authority 0116 305 0001 (Mon-Fri, 9am – 5pm)  
Email: [flooding@leics.gov.uk](mailto:flooding@leics.gov.uk)

### 10.5 **CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Customer Services 01509 263151

### 10.6 **USEFUL LINKS**

**OFWAT Guidance on sewers**

[http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/consumerissues/rightsresponsibilities/sewers/prs\\_web\\_sewertransfer](http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/consumerissues/rightsresponsibilities/sewers/prs_web_sewertransfer)

**Environment Agency:**

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/>

**Charnwood Borough Council Website:**

<http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/>

**Leicestershire County Council Flood Risk Team:**

<http://www.leics.gov.uk/flooding>

**Local Resilience Forum:**

<http://www.localresilienceforum.org.uk/>





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**Land Drainage Act 1991:**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents>

**Water Resources Act 1991:**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/57/contents>

**Highways Act 1980:**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66>

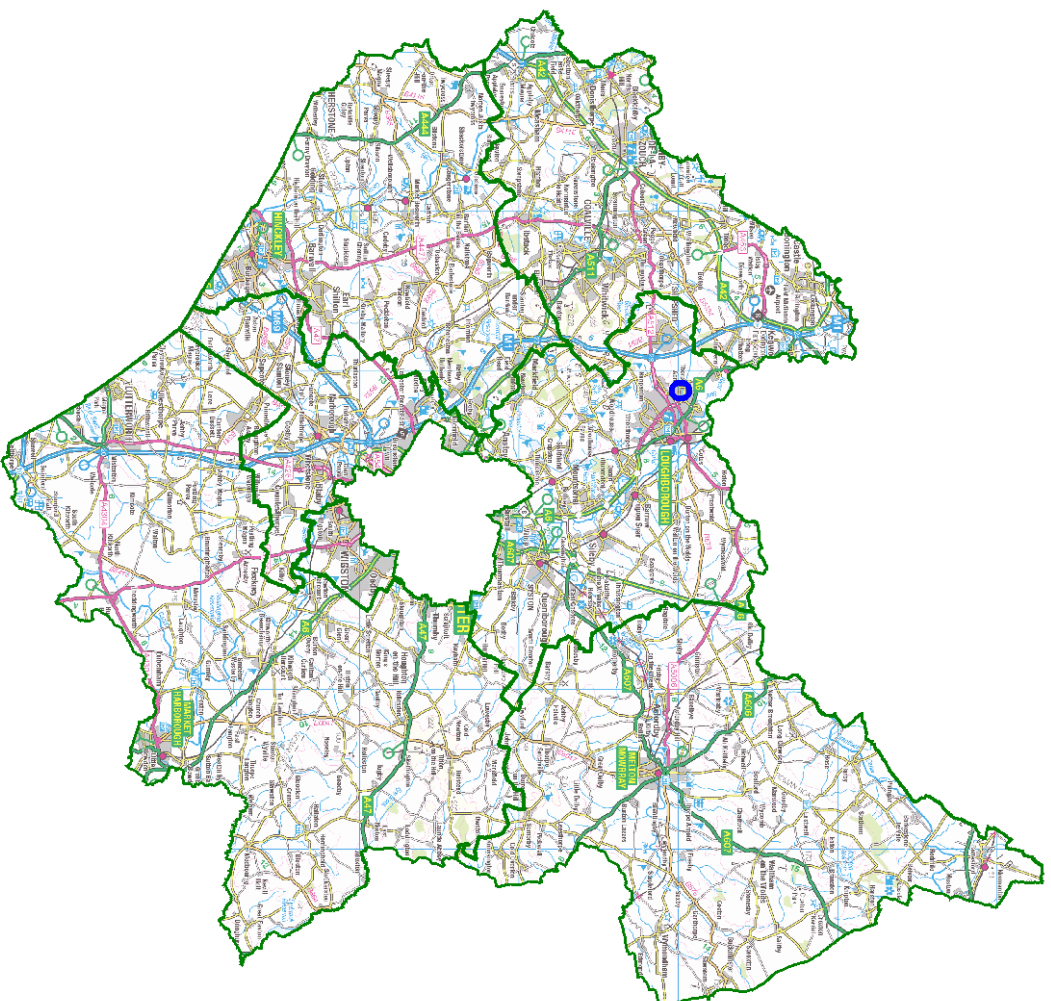
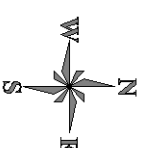


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# **APPENDIX A**

## **SITE LOCATION PLAN**





**NOTES:**

1. The blue circle indicates the approximate location of the flooding



ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT  
DEPARTMENT

ON BEHALF OF THE  
DIRECTOR

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT  
SERVICE:  
LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY

TITLE:  
Location Plan, Cothelstone Avenue

LOCATION:  
COTHELSTONE AVENUE, LOUGHBOROUGH

DRAWING NUMBER	SCALE
2012-Eng-047-LP	Not To Scale
CREATED BY: Chris Bramley	DATE: 27-12-2013
APPROVED BY: Daniel Rawle	SIZE: A4

E-MAIL: <a href="mailto:flooding@leics.gov.uk">flooding@leics.gov.uk</a>	
PHONE: 0116 305 0001	FAX:
COUNTY HALL • GLENFIELD • LEICESTER • LE3 8RJ	

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LA100019271. Published 2013.

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This map gives an indication of the broad areas likely to be at risk of surface water flooding. It is not suitable for use at an individual property scale due to the method used.



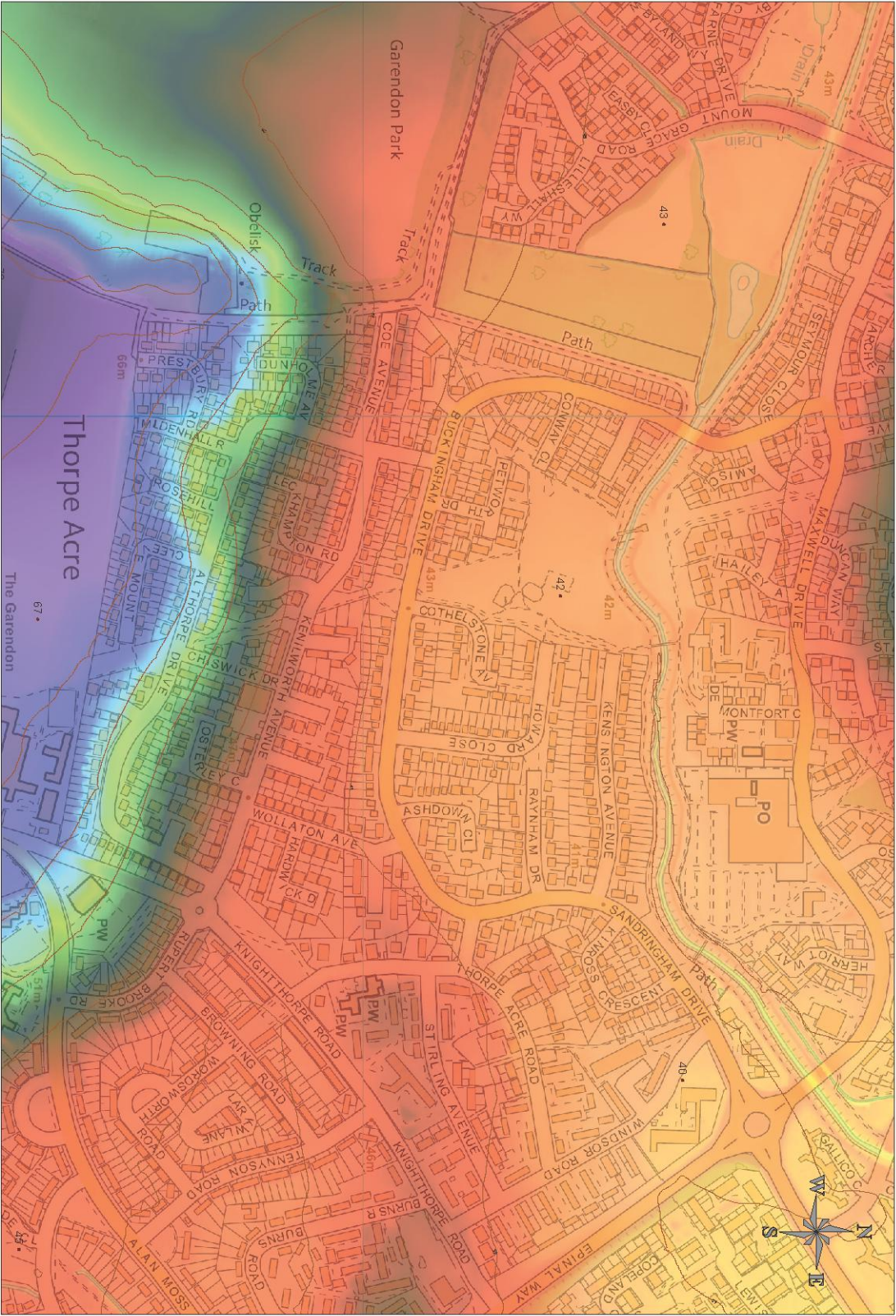
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# **APPENDIX B**

## **LIDAR PLAN**







Location Map



Key

Lidar levels



LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT  
LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY

TITLE:  
Lidar mapping for  
Cothelstone Avenue

LOCATION:  
COTHELSTONE AVENUE  
LOUGHBOROUGH

DRAWING NUMBER  
2012-lnv-047-01

SCALE  
Not To Scale

CREATED BY: Chris Bramley

DATE: 21-03-2014

APPROVED BY: Daniel Rawle

SIZE: A4

E-MAIL: [flooding@leics.gov.uk](mailto:flooding@leics.gov.uk)

PHONE: 0116 305 0001

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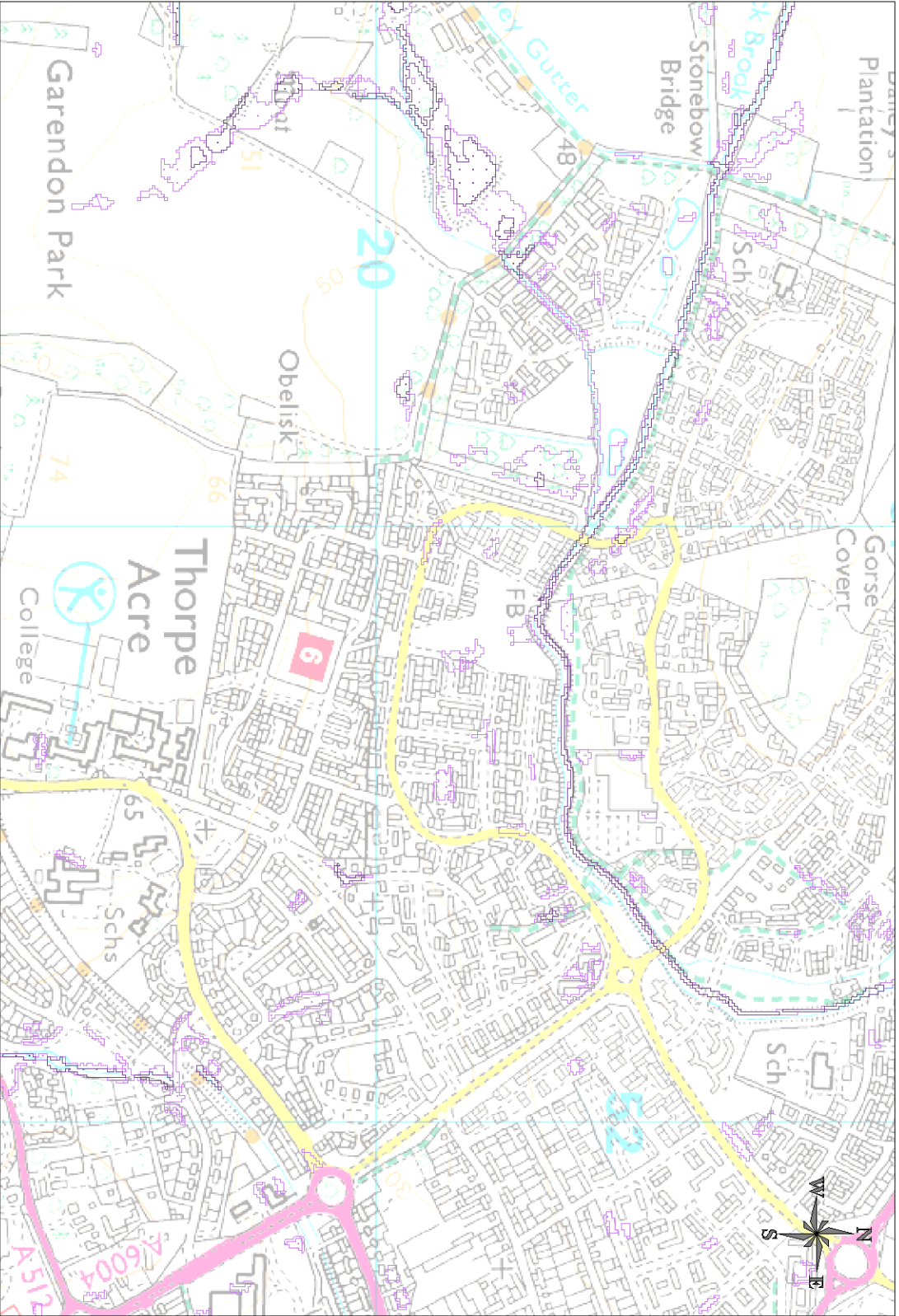
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# **APPENDIX C**

## **FLOOD MAP FOR SURFACE WATER (FMfSW)**


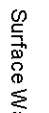






**Key**

**1 in 30 Year Flood Map**

-  Surface Water
-  Surface Water Deep

**NOTES:**

1. N/A



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DEPARTMENT

ON BEHALF OF THE  
DIRECTOR

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

SERVICE:  
LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY

TITLE:  
1 in 30 year surface water flood map  
Cotthelstone Avenue

LOCATION:

COTHELSTONE LANE, LOUGHBOROUGH

DRAWINGNUMBER  
2012-Inv-047-SW30  
SCALE  
Not To Scale

CREATED BY: Chris Bramley  
DATE: 24-12-2013

APPROVED BY: Daniel Rawle  
SIZE: A4

E-MAIL: [flooding@leics.gov.uk](mailto:flooding@leics.gov.uk)

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# **APPENDIX D**

## **SEVERN TRENT WATER PLAN**







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# **APPENDIX E**

## **EA STANDARD NOTICE**



## Standard notice [not for use with Special Data, Personal Data or unlicensed 3<sup>rd</sup> party rights]



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