

Overview of Environment Agency (EA) Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Activities in the City of Nottingham

General

The EA is responsible under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 for the management of main rivers, but work in partnership with Lead Local Flood Authorities, like Nottingham City Council, in exercising our Strategic Overview role, and in the delivery of the FCRM Capital Investment Programme.

Within the City the main rivers include the River Trent for its whole length through Nottingham, The River Leen, from Bestwood Village to its confluence with the River Trent, near The Meadows, The Day Brook, from Arnold to Old Basford and to the west of the City the Tottle Brook in Wollaton. On the south side of the City there is also the Fairham Brook and the Nethergate Brook in Clifton.

Asset Performance and Field Operations

We undertake routine maintenance of critical FCRM assets on the River Trent, River Leen, Day Brook, Tottle Brook, Fairham Brook and Nethergate Brook. The types of work we do, range from tree and bush maintenance alongside river corridors, through to CCTV inspections of culverts, to ensure they are not blocked by silt or other water borne debris.

Our Field Teams will ensure trash screens are clear during poor weather and periods of high flow, particularly in the Day Brook and River Leen catchment.

We regularly review the operation of our assets and where necessary we will replace or improve assets. For example, we are currently developing a business case to fund the construction of a new automated trash screen at the entrance to the Day Brook culvert on the Nottingham High School playing fields.

Partnership and Strategic Overview

The PSO Team respond to planning consultations that have high flood risk implications. We are currently reviewing the proposed new hockey pitches at the Nottingham High School, to ensure that any redevelopment does not increase flood risk either to the proposed development or to the existing built environment in the vicinity. We are also working with the City to consider the regeneration of sites in Old Basford, with a view to stimulating economic growth and delivering flood risk improvements.

The team also regulate activities, such as building bridges, installing new services, or fencing, close to, or within the water environment. This is to ensure that they are correctly permitted and flood risk is not increased by the proposed activity.

The PSO team lead on the development of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) approved FCRM Capital Investment Programme. This includes the Day Brook which is within the National 6 year Programme in 2020. Consultants working upon our behalf have produced an Initial Assessment that has identified flood risk options and we are currently considering the best way forward. We are working with the City Council, STW, Nottinghamshire County Council and Gedling Borough Council, as well as critical landowners to consider how funding gaps between available Flood Defence Grant In Aid (FDGIA) and the cost of a future scheme can be addressed in partnership.

We look to deliver environmental benefits as well as FCRM benefits, where possible. The successful delivery of future FCRM schemes are dependent upon external contributions, as well as FDGIA and we have supported the bid for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) by the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for blue/green infrastructure, within the City of Nottingham.

Improving techniques around modelling of watercourses provides us with opportunities to improve flood risk data. PSO identify areas for data improvement and the Tottle Brook is programmed to be modelled in 2018/19. This will provide an opportunity to better understand the flood risk from this watercourse and to assess if future FCRM improvements are required from this new data set.

Flood Resilience

We provide flood warnings to professional partners, households and businesses throughout the City. We issue Flood Warnings and Alerts on the Trent corridor through the City and also along the River Leen and Day Brook. We issue warnings to City communities that include Ventnor Rise, Heathfield, Old Basford, Bulwell, Bobbers Mill, Radford and Lenton, The Meadows, Wilford and Queen's Drive. Approximately 5,400 properties and businesses are signed up to receive warnings. This represents approximately a 40% coverage of properties and businesses at flood risk within each community. Ventnor Rise has a 64% sign up to the flood warning service. The community have received 4 warnings in the last 13 months.

Our Flood Resilience Team ensure that EA staff are trained to be Major Incident Ready, as well as work alongside LRF's in an incident management capacity. We are also currently working with Nottingham City Emergency Planners to update their local information as part of our Local Resilience Forum flood plan improvements programme.

We work with the National Flood Forum to improve community awareness of flood risk, particularly in areas affected by rapid response watercourses, such as the Day Brook. Along with the City Council and STW, we have been attending 6 monthly meetings with residents from Old Basford and the Heathfield Estate. These meetings are a useful opportunity to exchange information between residents and professional partners with respect to flood warnings and longer term plans to manage flood risk in the Day Brook catchment.

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