

## **Section 19 Flood Report**

**Event:** River Thames, Kennet and Holybrook - Winter Flooding 2013 /2014

Note No: FIR 2

This Flood Investigation Report (FIR) has been completed by Reading Borough Council (RBC) under our duties as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) states that on becoming aware of a flood in our area, when appropriate, we must investigate along with the relevant flood Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) involved and find out which flood risk management functions have been, or will be taken, if any.

Table 1 shows recommend information that should be collected as part of a flood investigation. Table 2 explains the RMAs responsible for managing the flood risk from different sources that the RBC investigation procedure follows.

 Table 1 Information LLFA must now record.

Flood Incident	
Start Date	dd / mm / yyyy
Duration of Flood Event	weeks
Probability of Event	% annual probability
Main Source of Flooding	Surface runoff; Groundwater; Ordinary watercourses; Artificial infrastructure; Main rivers; The sea; No data
Main Mechanism of Flooding	Natural exceedance; Defence exceedance; Failure; Blockage or restriction; or No data
Main Characteristics	Natural flood; Flash flood; Deep flood; Snow melt flood; No data
Significant Consequences	To human health (residential properties) To economy (non-residential properties) To the environment (designated sites flooded)

Table 2 Responsible Risk Management Authorities for different sources of flooding

Flood Source	Environment Agency	Reading Borough Council as Lead Local Flood Authority	Thames Water as Water Company	Highways Authority
Main River	✓			
Surface Water		✓		
Surface water on or coming from the highway				1
Sewer			✓	
Ordinary Watercourse		1		
Groundwater		✓		
Reservoirs	×			





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The Reading area was impacted by flooding in January 2014 which was attributed to flooding from the River Thames, Kennet and Holybrook.

The rainfall levels for the south of England during the winter of 2013 / 2014 were exceptional and in Berkshire over 58% of the average annual total of rainfall fell during the 3 month winter period alone. The cumulative effects of prolonged rainfall on the River Thames and its tributaries during December left the rivers well above normal levels at the start of the New Year. Levels continued to rise during the first week of 2014 and reached their highest peak in on the Thames in Reading on 10 January 2014.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2014 the EA issued a flood warning for the Lower Kennet from Theale to Reading and one property in the Kirtons Farm area was reported as flooding.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2014 further flood warnings were issued and twenty six properties were reported flooding over a period of several days from the Kennet and its tributaries, including the Holybrook:

- 4 homes in Pingewood.
- 10 homes in Burghfield.
- 5 in Southcote.
- 7 Rose Kiln Lane.

Reading Borough Council's civil contingency records have thirty seven properties recorded as suffering internal flooding from the winter flooding events, with ten resulting from direct flooding of the River Thames and twenty seven from its tributaries.

A summary of the flood incident is shown in the table below.

Start Date	4 January 2014
Duration	Between January and February 2014
Probability	Not Calculated
Main Source	Main River
Main Mechanism	Natural exceedance
Main Characteristics	Natural flood - saturated ground conditions and extreme prolonged rainfall
Significant Consequences	27 properties flooded from EA records 37 properties flooded from RBC records

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