



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director of Place

Report to:	Flood & Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 February 2024
Subject:	Storm Babet, Storm Henk and Flood & Water Team update (including Section 19 investigations)

Summary:

To provide an update to Committee on the recent effects of Storm Henk across Lincolnshire and the work of the Flood and Water team including informing the Committee of the status of all current flood investigations being undertaken in the County.

Actions Required:

Members are invited to:

1. View the current list of completed and active flood investigations online at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/flood-risk-management/flood-investigations>
2. Inform Democratic Services in advance if they wish to raise any particular sites at the forthcoming Committee meeting.
3. Note and comment as required on updates provided on the work of the Floods and Water Team.

1. Background

A standing item to inform the Committee on the position of all current Section 19 investigations in the County. Whilst this report highlights the status of such investigations in the county, the opportunity is also being taken to update the committee on recent work and initiatives for which the Floods and Water Team are involved. This will hopefully provide members of the Committee with a much broader understanding on some of the recent work that has been undertaken in the County.

Investigations under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

The Committee will be aware that all such investigations are published on the County Council's website by means of an interactive map, whether the investigation is completed, actively under investigation or awaiting works to mitigate future flooding. When the Floods and Water Team are made aware of flooding that will trigger a S.19 investigation the database is updated, and as the online system is updated on a daily basis at 7pm, the information relating to that S.19 investigation will be available to view the same evening.

It is a duty under Section 19, Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (F&WMA) for the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to carry out investigations to identify which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have a flood risk management function in connection with the flood and whether they have exercised, or intend to exercise, that function in response to the flood. To assist with this, Lincolnshire County Council as the LLFA makes recommendations for proportionate works to manage future flood risk, to be delivered by individual RMAs or in partnership as considered appropriate or expedient. Such recommendations are also published although this is over and above the requirements of the F&WMA; all recommendations for mitigation works and the RMA leading those works are available to view on the interactive mapping. If Members have any site-specific questions, they are requested to contact the Flood and Water Manager in advance of the meeting.

The breakdown and current status of Section 19 Investigations is shown in table 1 on the following page:

	FY 2018 - 2019		FY 2019 - 2020		FY 2020 - 2021		FY 2021 - 2022		FY 2022 - 2023		FY 2023 - 2024		Total
	Ongoing	Completed	Ongoing	Completed	Ongoing	Completed	Ongoing	Completed	Ongoing	Completed	Ongoing	Completed	Ongoing
BBC	0	2	0	11	0	4	0	1	1	7	14	0	15
CoLC	0	2	0	10	0	6	0	9	0	4	16	0	16
ELDC	0	10	1	33	1	8	0	2	3	9	74	4	79
NKDC	0	8	0	31	0	5	0	9	1	4	69	0	70
SHDC	0	3	0	11	1	15	1	1	14	22	12	0	28
SKDC	0	2	1	16	3	13	0	5	3	3	53	2	60
WLDC	0	1	0	41	1	7	0	4	3	12	48	1	52
193													
Total	0	28	2	153	6	58	1	31	25	61	286	7	320

Table 1 – Status of Section 19 Investigations (January 2024)

Storm Henk – 2 January 2023

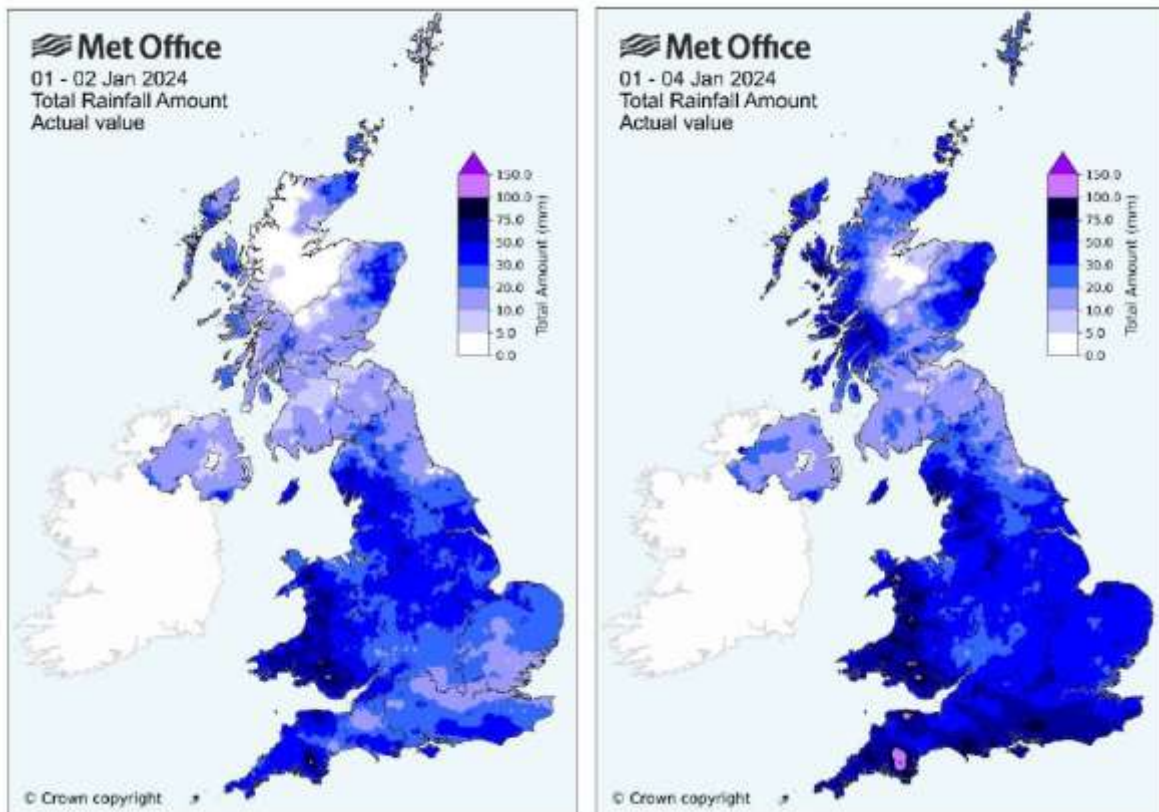
Storm Henk, the eighth storm of the 2023-2024 storm season, brought damaging winds and heavy rain to many parts of England and Wales on 2 January 2024.

Heavy rain from storm Henk contributed to significant flooding problems, following the wet weather during autumn, particularly as a result of Storm Babet, and in December 2023. Between 1 October 2023 and 4 January 2024, many areas across the UK received more than 150% of the 1991-2020 long term average rainfall for the four-month period October to January, including parts of the East Midlands.

For some of the wider context with regards to the impact of the storm and the weather patterns experienced the below information is taken from the following source on the Met Office website -[Microsoft Word - 2024 01 storm henk v1.docx \(metoffice.gov.uk\)](#). Information has been extracted with more specific reference to the events experienced in Lincolnshire.

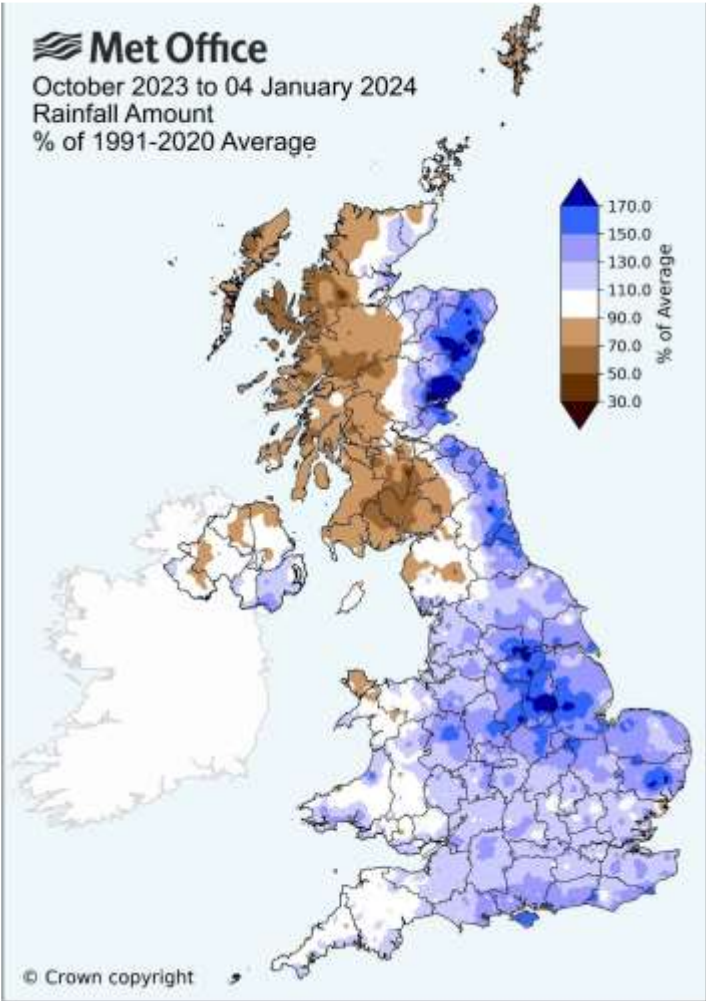
Weather Data

The charts below show rainfall totals for the first two days of 2024 (left) and the first four days (right). 2024 started on a very wet and unsettled note, with over 30mm of rain falling widely over much of England and Wales with over 50mm in some areas.



From a Lincolnshire perspective Storm Henk brought almost a month's worth of rainfall to parts of the county in just three days. For example, Cranwell recorded 44.8mm (1.8in) of rain between 31 December and 3 January. The January average there for the whole month is 48.1mm. Elsewhere Holbeach in the south of the county received 38.4mm, well over half of their average January rainfall of 50.8mm. All of this came off the back of one of the wettest autumns and Decembers on record which has already left the ground across the county saturated. The close proximity of Storms Babet and Henk and the extensive impacts that have resulted from them did not permit enough time to assess and understand any additional causation of flooding (beyond excessive rainfall and saturated ground) and develop any mitigation plans. Investigating the causes of flooding will remain a priority within the available time and resources moving forward, subject to any further events during this winter period. As has been widely reported in the media the flooding impacts have been felt across the country and are by no means confined to Lincolnshire.

The chart below shows rainfall totals from October 2023 to 4 January 2024 as a percentage of the four-month long-term average for October to January inclusive. Remarkably, only a few days into January, several parts of the country, including Lincolnshire had received over 150% of the four-month average rainfall, and in some locations over 170%.



Impacts in Lincolnshire

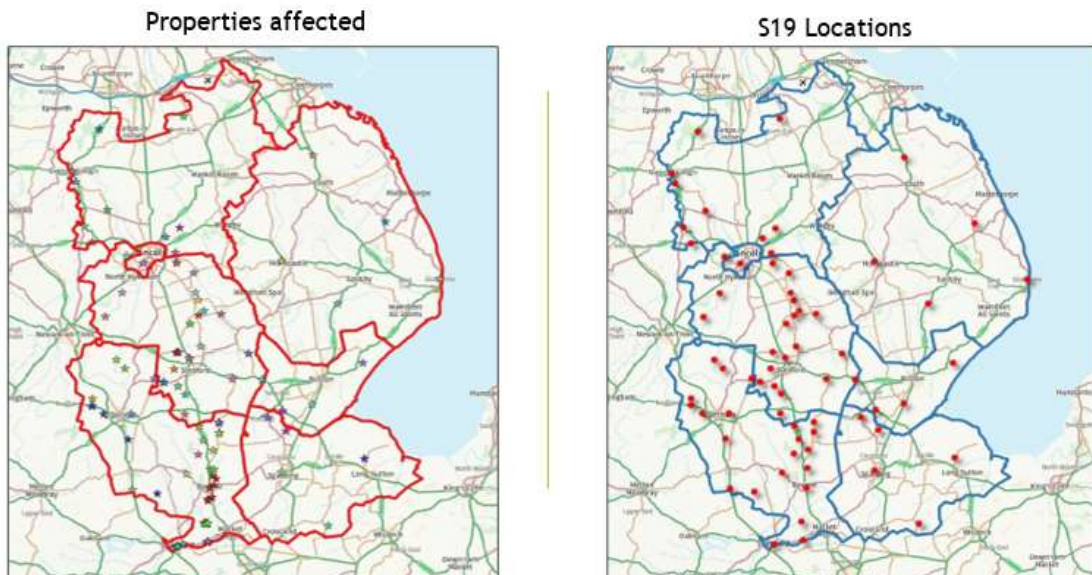
To date, following the impacts of Storm Henk, 68 Section 19 investigations have been commissioned dealing with 122 properties which suffered internal flooding. All district council areas were affected as shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2 – Number of properties internally flooded by district authority area

District	Number of Properties Internally Flooded	No of S19 Reports Commissioned
BBC	3	3
CoLC	2	1
ELDC	7	5
NKDC	34	22
SHDC	6	5
SKDC	60	22
WLDC	10	10

The maps below in figure 1 show the location of Section 19 Investigations across the county as a result of Storm Henk:

Figure 1 – Distribution of Section 19 Investigations following Storm Henk

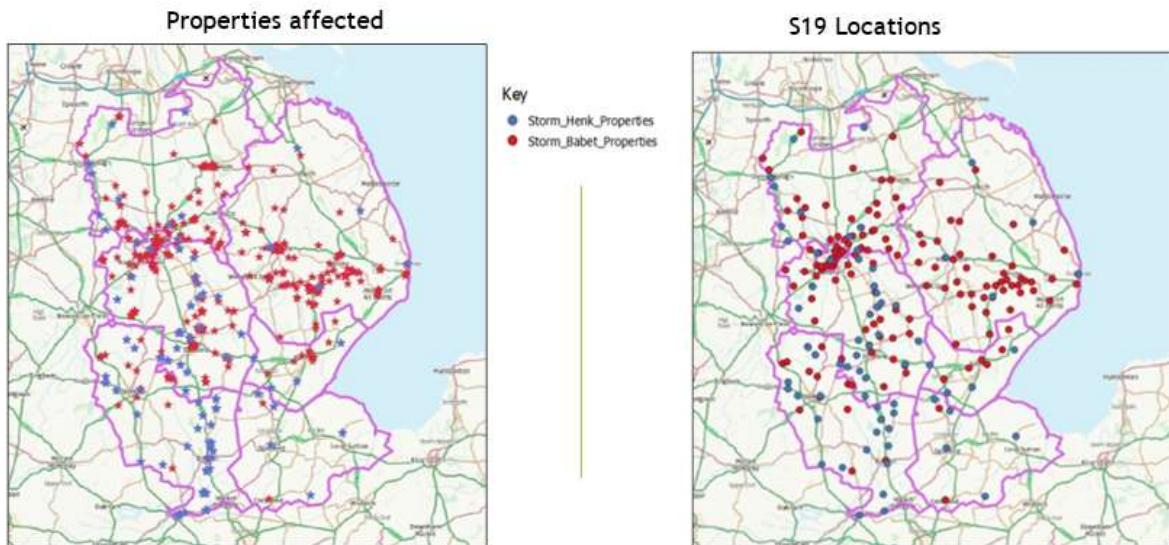


The combined effects of Storm Babet and Storm Henk have caused significant and widespread issues across Lincolnshire on a scale not seen since Lincolnshire County Council became Lead Local Flood Authority in 2012. At the time of writing following the

effects of flooding from both storm events 235 Section 19 Investigations are being undertaken covering 825 properties affected by internal flooding. Of these, 42 properties were affected by internal flooding from both Storm Babet and Storm Henk.

Figure 2 below shows the distribution of S.19 Investigations for both Storm Babet and Storm Henk:

Figure 2 – Distribution of Section 19 Investigations following Storm Babet and Storm Henk



The ambitious target has been set to have all Section 19 Investigations linked to Storms Babet and Henk completed by August 2024. This will however be kept under constant review as the complexity of investigations will vary, however it is recognised the importance of completing such investigations as quickly and efficiently as possible so that recommendations can be published.

Flood Recovery Framework

Following activation of the Flood Recovery Framework in October 2023 in the aftermath of Storm Babet, a further Flood Recovery Framework was activated following Storm Henk. Help is available for:

1. Flooded households in eligible affected areas, who can apply for up to £500 cash to help with immediate costs.
2. Households and businesses significantly affected, who will be eligible for 100% council tax and business rates relief for at least 3 months.
3. Small-to-medium sized businesses in eligible affected areas, who can apply for up to £2,500 from the Business Recovery Grant to help them return quickly to business as usual.
4. Eligible flood-hit property owners, who can apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding via the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme.

5. Farmers who have suffered uninsurable damage to their land will be able to apply for grants of up to £25,000 through the Farming Recovery Fund

Government have again established the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Grant Scheme with the aim of reducing the risk of future flooding and/or minimising the effects of future flooding for properties flooded as a result of Storm Henk in January 2024. Eligible properties affected by the storm between the dates of 2 and 12 January will be able to apply to Lincolnshire County Council who will be administering this grant with up to £5,000 available to help make homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding. The £5000 grant covers property surveys with remaining funds being able to be used for physical PFR measures. Further information and guidance can be found on the Lincolnshire County Council website here - [Property flood resilience grant – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

To date Lincolnshire County council has received 286 Expressions of Interest for the PFR grant scheme following both Storms Babet and Henk. Subsequently 141 Full applications have been returned for assessment and for initial property surveys to be undertaken. Applications are currently being dealt with in batches, assessed against a priority criteria to ensure that applications put forward to PFR contractors can be delivered within the timeframes set out in government guidance to ensure the grant monies can be drawn down in the specified timeframe.

This process is being kept under constant review as applications are received as there will be a maximum capacity of work that contractors will be able to achieve within the timeframes applied by Government.

2. Conclusion

The Flood and Water team will continue to prioritise work on Section 19 investigations, and the recommendations that come out of them. Storm Henk, and Babet before it, have again highlighted the impacts significant weather events have on resource to ensure Lincolnshire County Council can undertake its duty under the Flood and Water Management Act. The Floods and Water team will continue to work closely with internal departments and external partners and stakeholders to assess the impacts of these extreme weather events and seek mitigation measures wherever possible, as well as advising individuals and communities how they can become more resilient to such events as and when they may happen in the future.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

None used.

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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