

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Section 19 Report on Flooding Incident Investigation into Bucksin

Executive Summary

Background

Following the flooding incidents in Bucksin during February and March 2014, Hampshire County Council (HCC) as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council decided to carry out an investigation as per section 19 of the Flood Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA). Hampshire County Council decided to contract out the work of this investigation to a third party consultant to maintain the objectiveness of this investigation. CH2M HILL were commissioned to carry out this investigation in March 2014. The flooding occurred between 7th February 2014 and the end of March 2014.

Investigation

This investigation focused on specific area of Bucksin that were affected by flooding, namely areas surrounding the Ridgeway Centre, Grampian Way and Basingstoke Golf Centre. Data for the investigation was obtained from the questionnaires circulated to residents, consultations with relevant risk management authorities and stakeholders and site visits.

Conclusions from Investigation

Fluvial, surface water, foul water and groundwater flooding all affected the investigation area during the investigation period. 45 properties were reported as flooding (36 internally and 9 externally) by residents in the questionnaire responses. Using the flooding incident maps created for the investigation report, it is estimated that up to 88 properties could have been flooded.

The flooding appeared to be instigated by high groundwater levels which caused a dormant spring to become active and the surface water drainage, formed of soakaways, not to function. This in turn caused runoff to follow the historic river course northeast and accumulate in low lying areas.

There were 36 properties that reported foul flooding at their property suggesting that the foul sewer network was unable to cope with the inundation from the groundwater and surface water flooding.

There could be a link between groundwater levels dropping due to increased abstraction from the West Ham Park West boreholes and the apparently fast flood subsidence in the northeast of the Bucksin estate. However there is no conclusive evidence that this is the case.

Recommendations

Better monitoring of the groundwater, including setting up a threshold at which point actions should be taken; and a review of the multi-agency flood plan to make it clear on the actions required by RMAs during groundwater flooding.

The limitation of the drainage design and maintenance regime should be assessed to further understand the causes the flooding.