Brigstock Flood Risk Report
Northamptonshire Pathfinder Project

Sources of main flood risk
Surface water
River
Susceptible to ground water

Sources deemed very low risk
Reservoir
Sources that haven’t been assessed
Sewerage, Canal

Description of Flood Risk
The village of Brigstock is located within the valley of the Harpers Brook and is located on either side of the river. The main flood risk to the village is a combination of surface water runoff from the surrounding hills and river flooding from Harper's Brook. Flooding from the river is likely to have a slow response rate and therefore sufficient warning time, however surface water flooding from the surrounding steep land is likely to have a quick response rate with little warning. The public sewer system is predominantly a combined surface water and foul system, which is likely to have a limited capacity, and therefore surface water flooding is more likely to be contaminated. There is a variable risk of groundwater flooding throughout the village.

Property and Asset Impact
24% (143) of properties within the surveyed area (not necessarily the same as the Parish Boundary) are at low risk of surface water and river flooding, including 4 businesses and community assets.
13 Listed Buildings/ Structures
2 Local Wildlife Sites
9 Roads (Bridge St, Grafton Rd, Sudborough Rd, Church St, The Syke, Stable Hill, Kennel Hill, Benfield Rd, Stanion Rd)

Flood History
There are 2 flood incidents on Northamptonshire County Council’s records, with 1 property affected, which is within the flood risk area. There may be other historic flooding incidents that have not been reported to NCC.

Warning System
The Environment Agency does provide the Flood Warning Direct Service to properties at risk from Main River flooding; of the 33 properties that can receive these warning, only 16 are registered (48%). Flood Wardens, businesses and emergency services can also register to receive messages for Flood Alert areas affecting roads in the village’s vicinity.

Existing Community Resilience
There is no Community Emergency Plan, Parish Highway Warden or Flood Wardens that the County Council is aware of. The number of properties with resilience measures such as household flood or/and emergency plans or property flood protection is currently unknown.
Guidance for the Community Flood Risk Reports

The first two maps provide a desk based flood risk assessment of the following rainfall scenarios:

- 1:30 (3.3%) chance of surface water flooding in any given year. This is defined as a ‘high’ risk as it is more likely to occur but a smaller geographical area is likely to be affected.
- 1:1000 (0.1%) chance of surface water and river flooding in any given year. This is defined as a ‘low’ risk as less likely to occur but a larger area is likely to be affected.

The maps predict where storm water would flow and pool when an extreme rainfall event occurs. It shows these areas in shades of blue. It takes account of factors such as topography (contours and slopes), ground surface (hard impermeable surfaces like roads or soft absorptive surfaces like fields), location of streams and rivers, and a standard capacity for all drains and sewers.

The purpose of these maps is to illustrate the potential flood risk of the area. They are not designed to detail the flood risk of individual properties or premises. They indicate the extent of potential flooding; this can help to understand the potential impact to property, businesses, community facilities and infrastructure such as roads in the area.

These maps do not indicate everywhere that flooding could occur, as there are factors that the maps do not take into account such as blocked ditches, sewers or gullies, burst water mains or changes in land use such as a gravel drive changed to tarmac. Therefore there may be locations outside the shaded area on the map that could be affected by flooding.

A map is also provided which show the potential susceptibility to groundwater flooding. This identifies areas where the geology indicates that groundwater might emerge and cause flooding. The white areas on the map indicate low susceptibility.

Identifying areas within a community that are at potential risk can help focus on what measures can be taken by property owners, the community, land owners and flood risk authorities to reduce the risk and improve the community’s flood resilience. Measures could focus on:

- helping residents and businesses be informed of their flood risk;
- keeping pipes, drains, ditches and watercourses free flowing by identifying owners and providing advice on good maintenance;
- storing, using or slowing rainwater at source so reducing the strain on the drainage systems when under pressure; and
- helping residents, businesses and community be prepared so they know how they can respond to a flooding event to protect their families, livelihoods and vulnerable people.

Northamptonshire County Council will be developing an online toolkit about community flood resilience during 2014 which will help to provide future information about these measures.

This report can form part of a Community Flood Risk and Mitigation Investigation. These provide further flood risk and resilience measures information. For more information, please contact Ruth Rolls, Flood and Water Project Manager on rrolls@northamptonshire.gov.uk or 01604 366014.

The maps below are available on the Environment Agency’s ‘What’s in your backyard?’ website.