



APPENDIX E

SECTION 19 REPORT – TOLLERTON – NOVEMBER 2019

Introduction

Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:

1. On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:
 - (a) Which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have relevant flood risk management functions.
 - (b) Whether each of those RMAs has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
2. Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) of Section 19 it must:
 - (a) Publish the results of its investigation.
 - (b) Notify any relevant Risk Management Authorities.
3. The objective of this report is to investigate which Risk Management Authorities had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in November 2019 and whether the relevant Risk Management Authorities have exercised, or propose to exercise, their risk management functions (as per section 19(1) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010).
4. The Risk Management Authorities with a responsibility for this flooding incident are Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Nottinghamshire County Council as Highways Authority (Via East Midlands Ltd.), and Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC).
5. It should be noted that this duty to investigate does not guarantee that flooding problems will be resolved and cannot force others into action.

Background

6. On the 7th November 2019, parts of the East Midlands experienced a month's worth of rainfall in just 24 hours. Via East Midlands Ltd., on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, facilitated 66 road closures across the county, placed over 750 flood signs on the network to warn motorists of issues and delivered over 5000 sandbags. It was reported by the Environment Agency that Nottinghamshire experienced 225% of its average monthly rainfall between the 7th and 14th November. A major incident was declared at 09:50 on Thursday 7th November by the Tactical Co-Ordinating Group.

With the ground already saturated following one of the wettest autumn's on record, further rain on the 14th November resulted in flooding across the Nottinghamshire area including Tollerton, a small town with a population of approximately 1900 at the 2011 Census.



Figure 1. Location Plan

The severe weather led to Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum declaring a major incident. In the following days, further intense rainfall caused additional surface water and fluvial (river) flooding.

During this period the Environment Agency monitored water levels constantly and issued 38 flood warnings and 16 flood alerts across Nottinghamshire in November as shown in Figure 2 below.

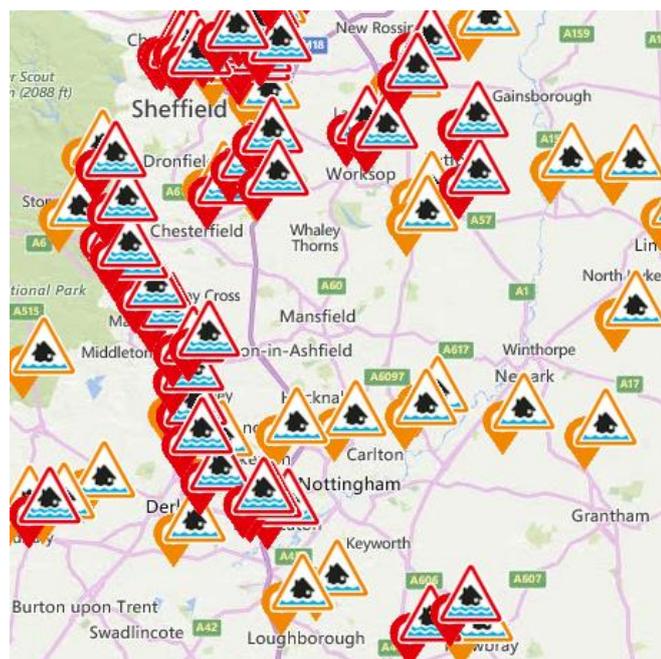


Figure 2. Flood Warnings and Alerts Issued during November 2019

On the 14th of November 2019 following the prolonged period of heavy rainfall, parts of Tollerton suffered a significant flood event with 14 reported incidents of internal property flooding. The flooding also affected a number of gardens, curtilages and the public highways in the village to the extent that Tollerton Lane was closed due to the severity of the flooding. The flooding led to properties on Tollerton Lane being evacuated.

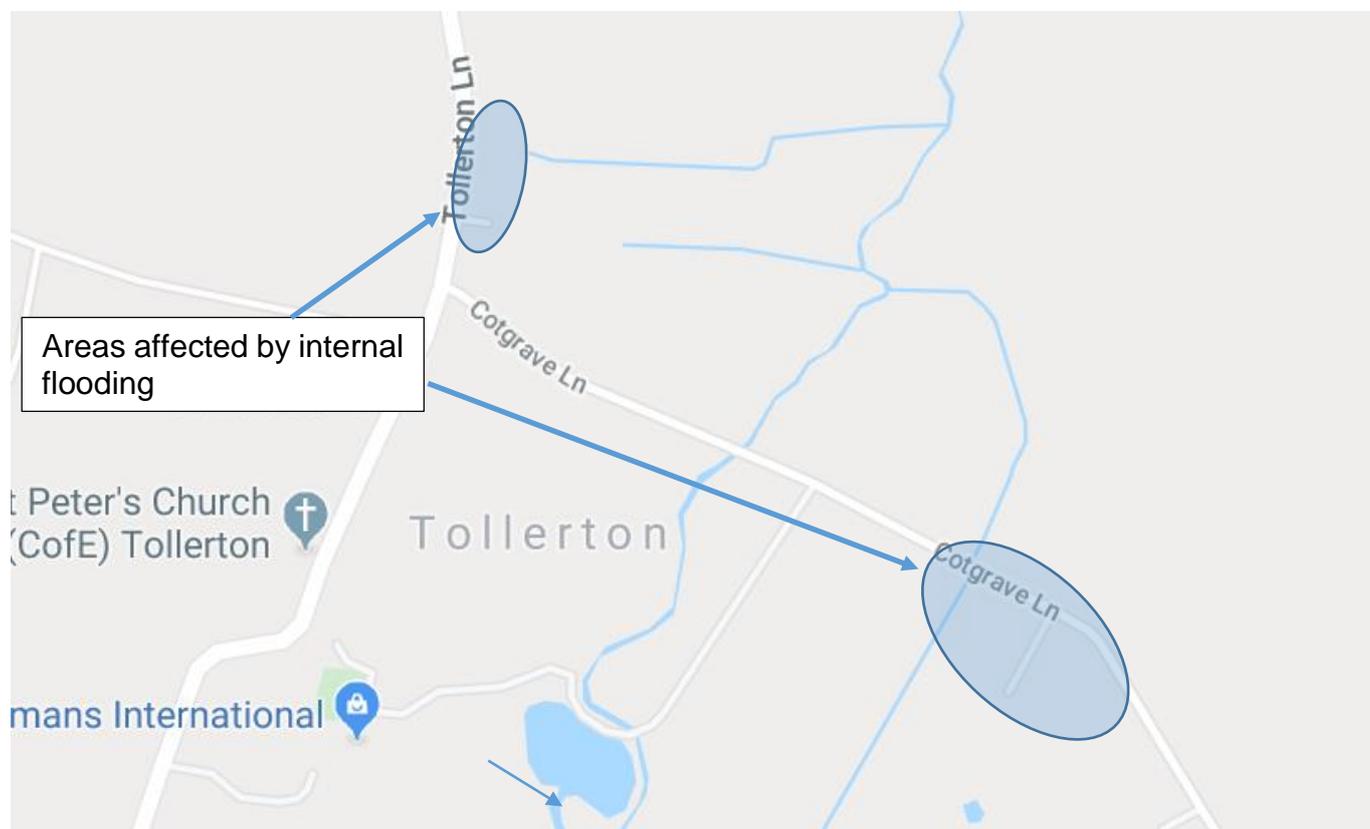


Figure 3. Plan highlighting areas affected by internal flooding

Summary of flooding and its causes

7. The areas of Tollerton affected are served by a mixture of highway drainage and network of surface water culverts and ditches and surrounded by fields as shown on Figure 4 below. It must be noted that there are other watercourses and culverts that help drain the area and that are likely to have contributed to some of the flooding but are not shown on Figure 4. These assets will be investigated, proven and mapped as part of future works in the catchment planned for completion in February.

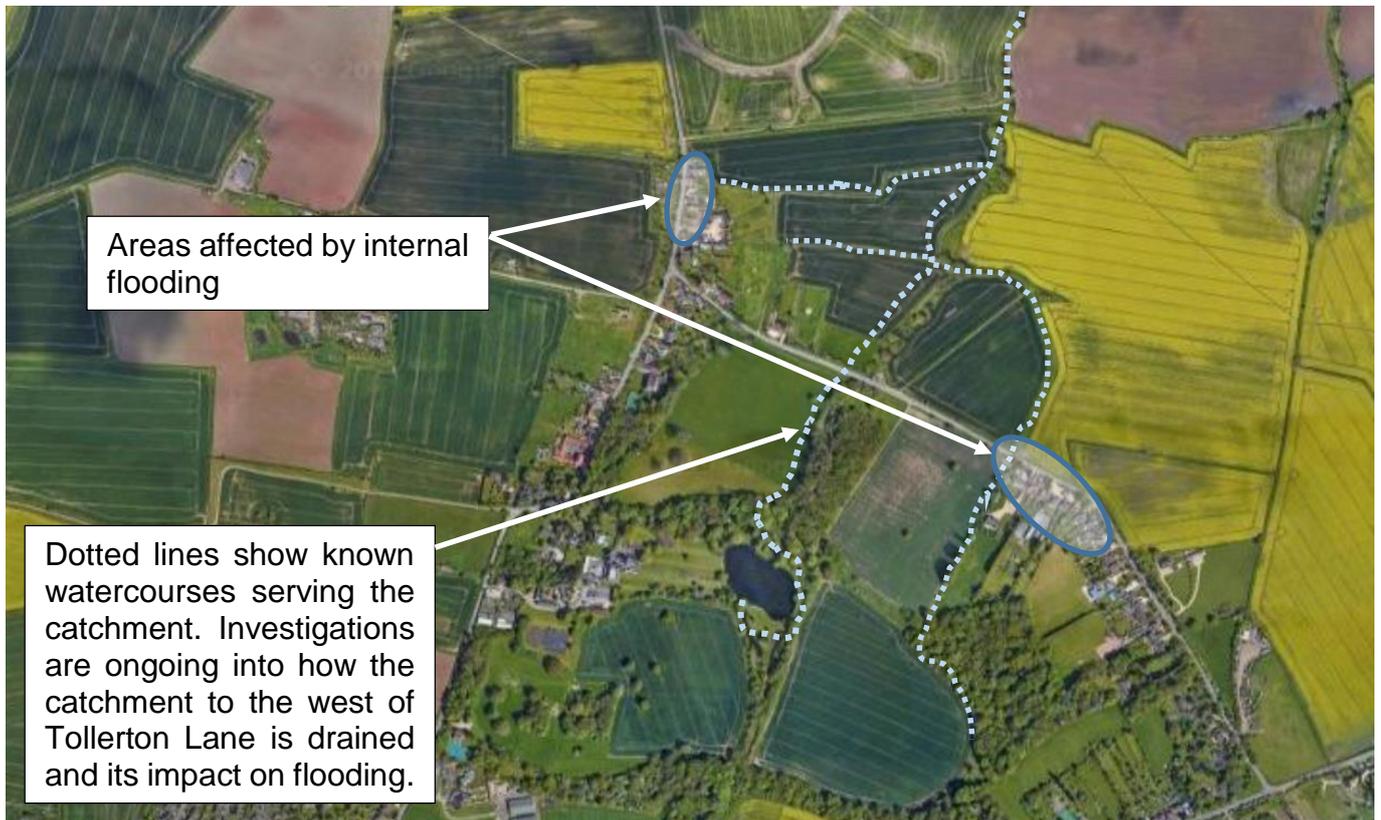


Figure 4. Plan showing watercourses and rural nature of catchment

During the rainfall all the surface water assets were overwhelmed resulting in flooding of properties. The flooding was exacerbated due to run off from the surrounding fields, an issue whose impact was worsened due to the saturation of ground following the prolonged period of rainfall. Indeed, in many instances across the County during this period areas that were normally permeable were behaving as almost impermeable due to ground saturation.

Figure 5 shows the topography of the area and the surface water flow paths. Figures 5 and 6 show how low the affected properties are compared to the surrounding area highlighting their vulnerability to flooding.



Figure 5. Catchment and natural surface water flow paths

Figure 6 below shows extracts from the Environment Agency’s flood risk maps where the predicted flooding is very similar to the areas actually affected by the flooding. The discrepancies are likely to be down to the level of accuracy used in the mapping and also influenced by drainage assets operating outside of their optimal levels due to blockages. These assumptions will be considered during the further investigations planned for the area in February.

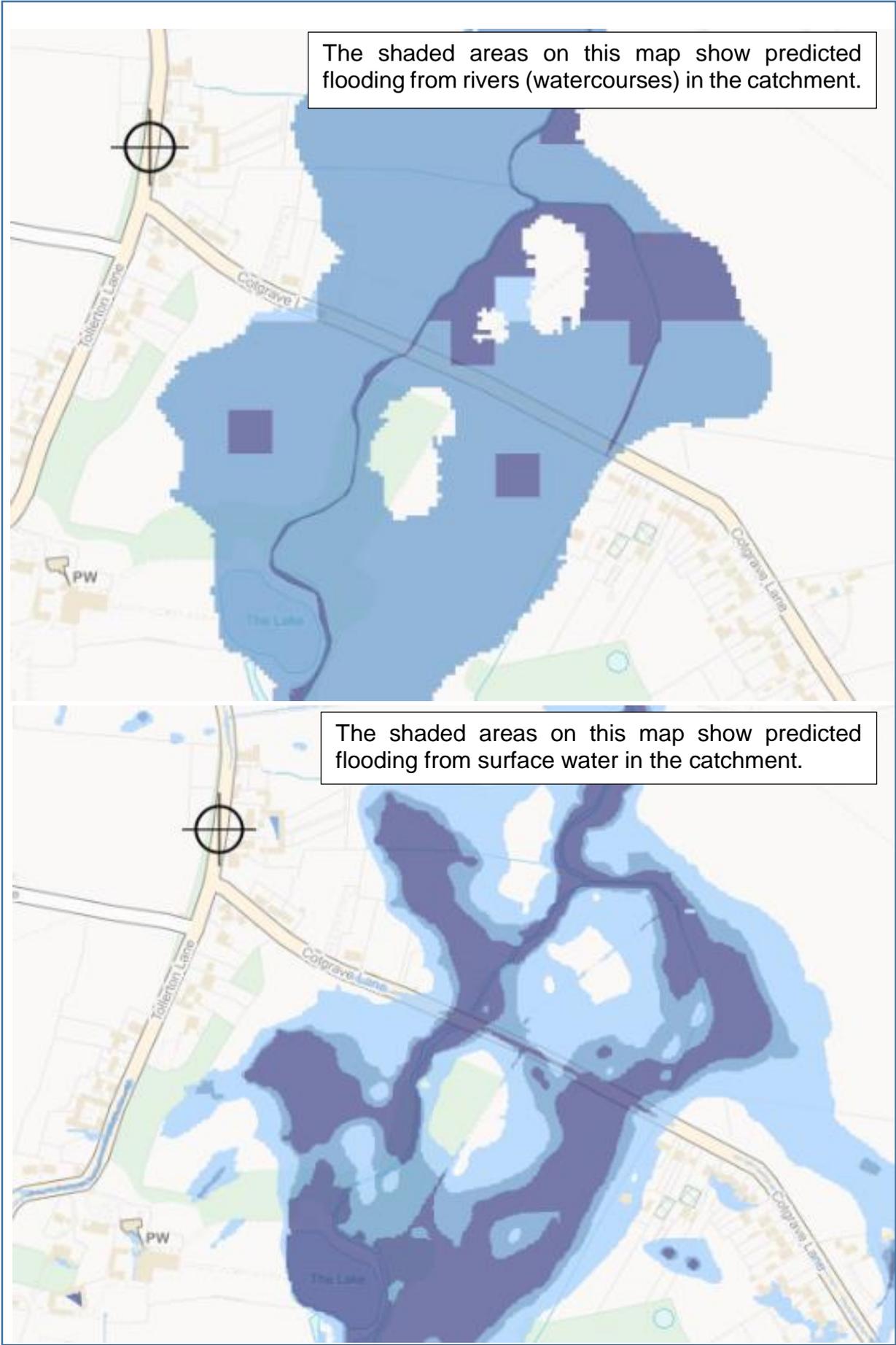


Figure 6. Extract from the Environment Agency’s flood risk maps for the area. The darker the shading, the higher the risk of flooding

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

8. Nottinghamshire County Council

a) Lead Local Flood Authority

- i. Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations.
- ii. Play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event.
- iii. Lead Local Flood Authorities also have a duty to determine which risk management authorities have relevant powers to investigate flood incidents to help understand how they happened, and whether those authorities have or intend to exercise their powers.
- iv. By working in partnership with communities, Lead Local Flood Authorities can raise awareness of flood risks.
- v. Lead Local Flood Authorities should encourage local communities to participate in local flood risk management.

b) Emergency Planning

- i. If a flood happens, all local authorities are 'category one responders' under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.

c) Highway Authority (Nottinghamshire County Council / VIA East Midlands Ltd.)

- i. Maintenance of the public highways including highway drainage assets.
- ii. Provided site-based presence and investigations immediately following the event.

9. Rushcliffe Borough Council

- a) Category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

10. The following lists the actions taken by each Risk Management Authority in response to the flooding both in the immediate aftermath as well as in the longer term:

a) Nottinghamshire County Council:

- i. Initiated and co-ordinated Emergency Planning procedures.
- ii. Delivered sandbags to affected residents and facilitated emergency road closure.
- iii. Carried out (and continue to carry out) investigations on culvert and watercourses in vicinity of flooded properties and checked highway gully connectivity / condition.
- iv. Liaison with Parish Council and offer of future support to promote and encourage local flood risk awareness and management.
- v. Administered Flood Hardship Fund.

vi. Initiated and led the Section 19 Flood Investigation.

b) Rushcliffe Borough Council

- i. Provided emergency response support in management of flooding event.
- ii. Delivered sandbags to affected residents.
- iii. Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation.
- iv. Manage and continue to manage recovery in affected Rushcliffe communities.
- v. Administered the flood hardship fund and Community recovery grant.
- vi. Administered council tax and business rate relief grant scheme.

Additional information and future actions

11. All the Risk Management Authorities involved in this event are committed to continuing the investigations into the causes of this incident. Those investigations may identify further actions not listed below.
12. Where appropriate Nottinghamshire County Council and the Environment Agency administer a Flood Warden scheme, including supporting the provision of local sandbag stores, and a Community Flood Signage Scheme in communities at risk of potential flooding. All equipment and training is provided for free should there be sufficient volunteer interest in the community. Further information on these services are available on Nottinghamshire County Council's website.
13. The local community spirit and resilience during the flooding must be recognised as without their efforts the impacts of the flooding could have been worse.
14. Rushcliffe Borough Council administer a flood resilience store grant scheme to encourage community resilience. Grants of up to £1050 are available to Parish Councils.
15. We have already begun further investigations into the network of surface water assets in the catchment with a view to ensure they are properly referenced and managed by their respective owners and have approached Tollerton Parish Council with an offer of support to help understand and communicate local flood risk management awareness.
16. As the Lead Local Flood Authority we have witnessed and have experience of how flooding devastates communities. The most vulnerable in the community will be our priority. NCC will continue to work closely with partners and communities to identify ways of proactively reducing the risk, likelihood and consequences of future flooding events.