

APPENDIX K

SECTION 19 REPORT – EAST MARKHAM – 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 Risk Management Authorities 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 duty to respond to this flooding incident are Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Nottinghamshire County Council as Highways Authority (acting through Via East Midlands Ltd.), the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (TVIDB) and Bassetlaw District Council (BDC).
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 autumns on record, this resulted in extensive flooding across the Nottinghamshire area, including East Markham; a small village located in north Nottinghamshire, with a population of 1160 at the 2011 Census.

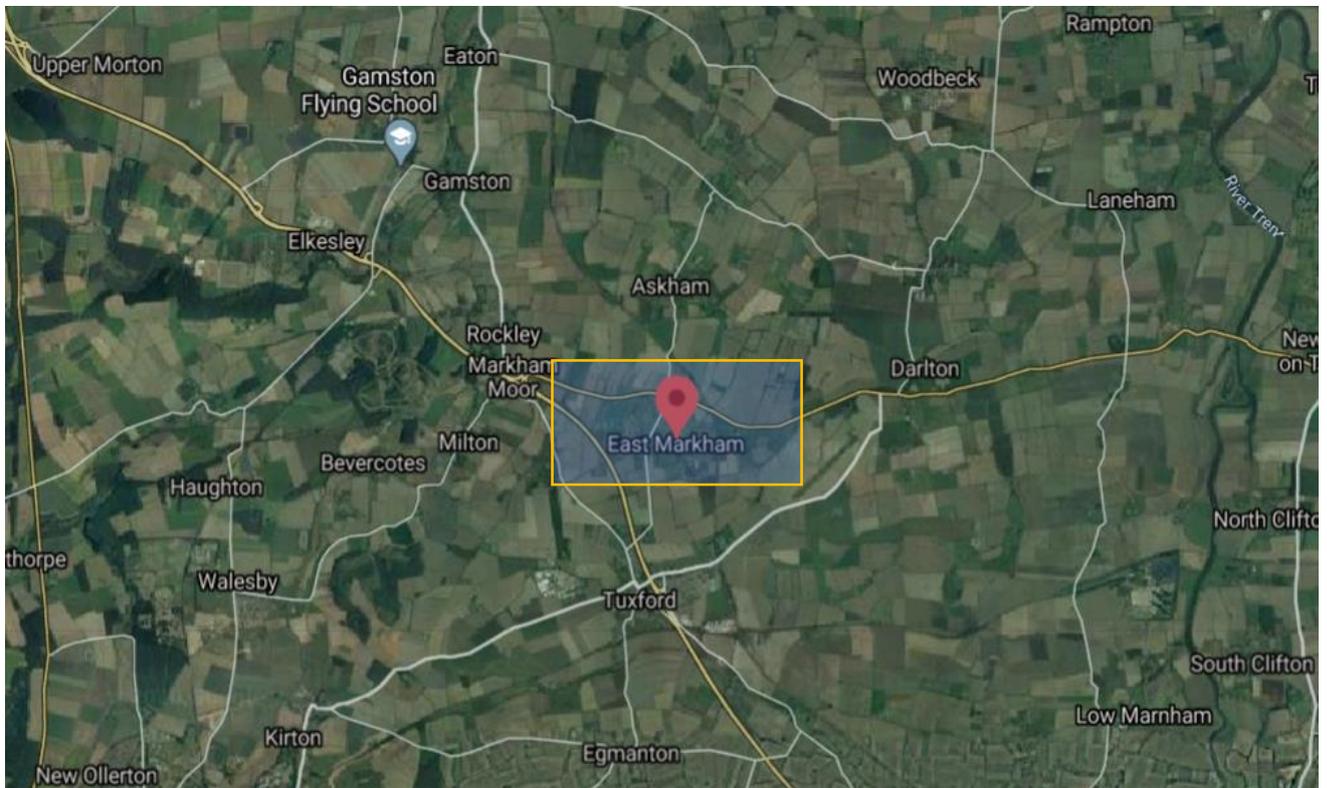


Figure 1 Location Plan

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.

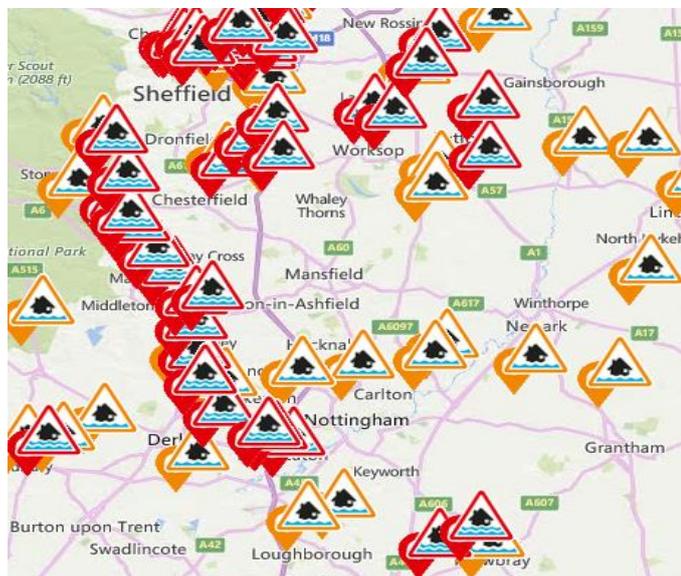


Figure 2. Flood Warnings and Alerts Issued during November 2019

On the 7th of November 2019 following the prolonged period of heavy rainfall, parts of East Markham suffered a significant flood event with 4 reported incidents of internal properties on York Street and 1 reported internal flooding on Great Lane. The flooding also affected the public highways in the village and a number of gardens and curtilages. Figure 3 shows the flooding locations and the watercourse that serves the village. East Markham has a history of flooding with the last severe event in 2007.

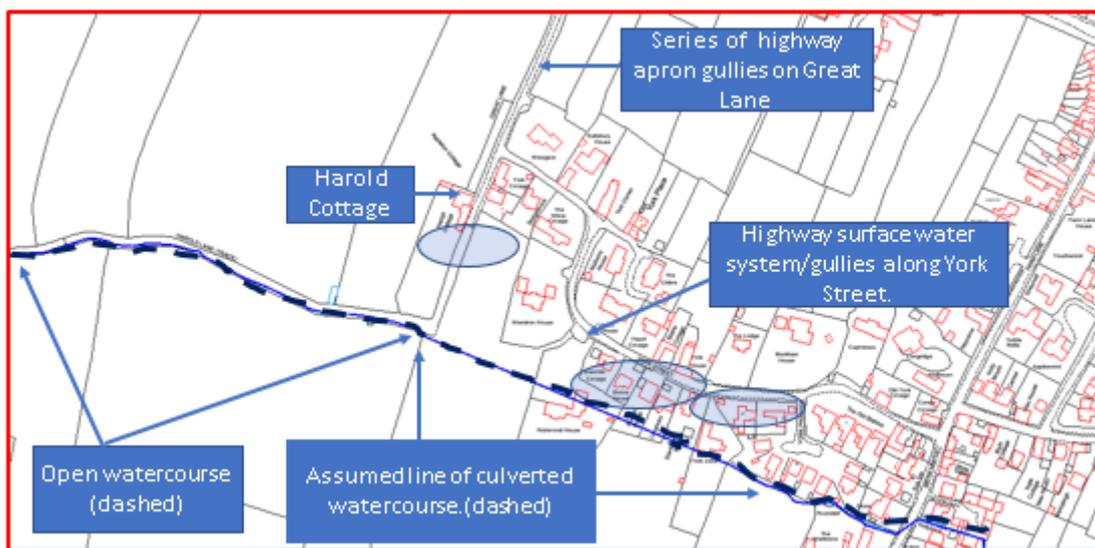


Figure 3. Areas affected by internal flooding and the route of the watercourse that serves the village.

Summary of flooding and its causes

7. East Markham is a rural village that sits in a natural valley surrounded by agricultural land. During periods of heavy or prolonged rain surface water runs down Great Lane where it enters a riparian watercourse. There are several highway gullies on Great Lane, which are designed to capture some of the surface water.

The riparian watercourse running west to east shown on Figure 3 is open until it reaches Harold’s Cottage after which it is culverted. During heavy or prolonged rainfall, the culvert becomes overwelled and discharges surface water towards the bottom of the field where it enters York Street.

During heavy rain the highway surface water system on York Street is overwhelmed, and in November this resulted in flooding properties, roads and curtilages. **Figure 4** below shows the natural valley that East Markham sits within and how water flows through the village. Figure 5 shows the risk of flooding in the area from rivers and surface water as evidenced on the Environment Agency’s flood risk mapping system. The information on Figure 5 shows a very close alignment between predicted and actual risk.

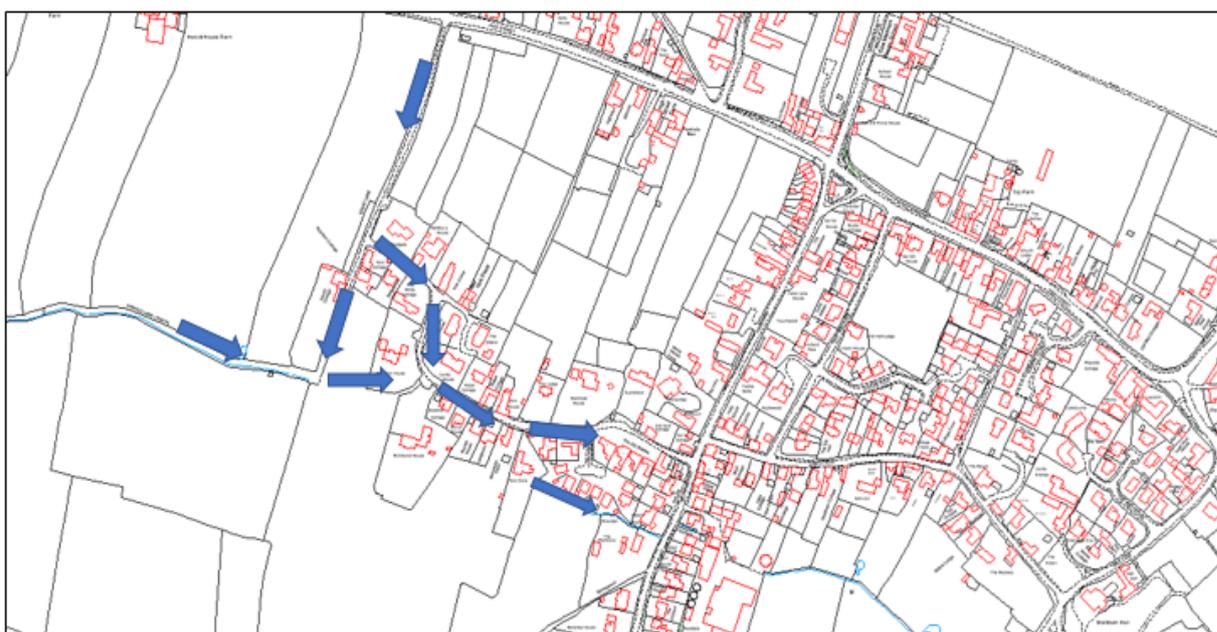
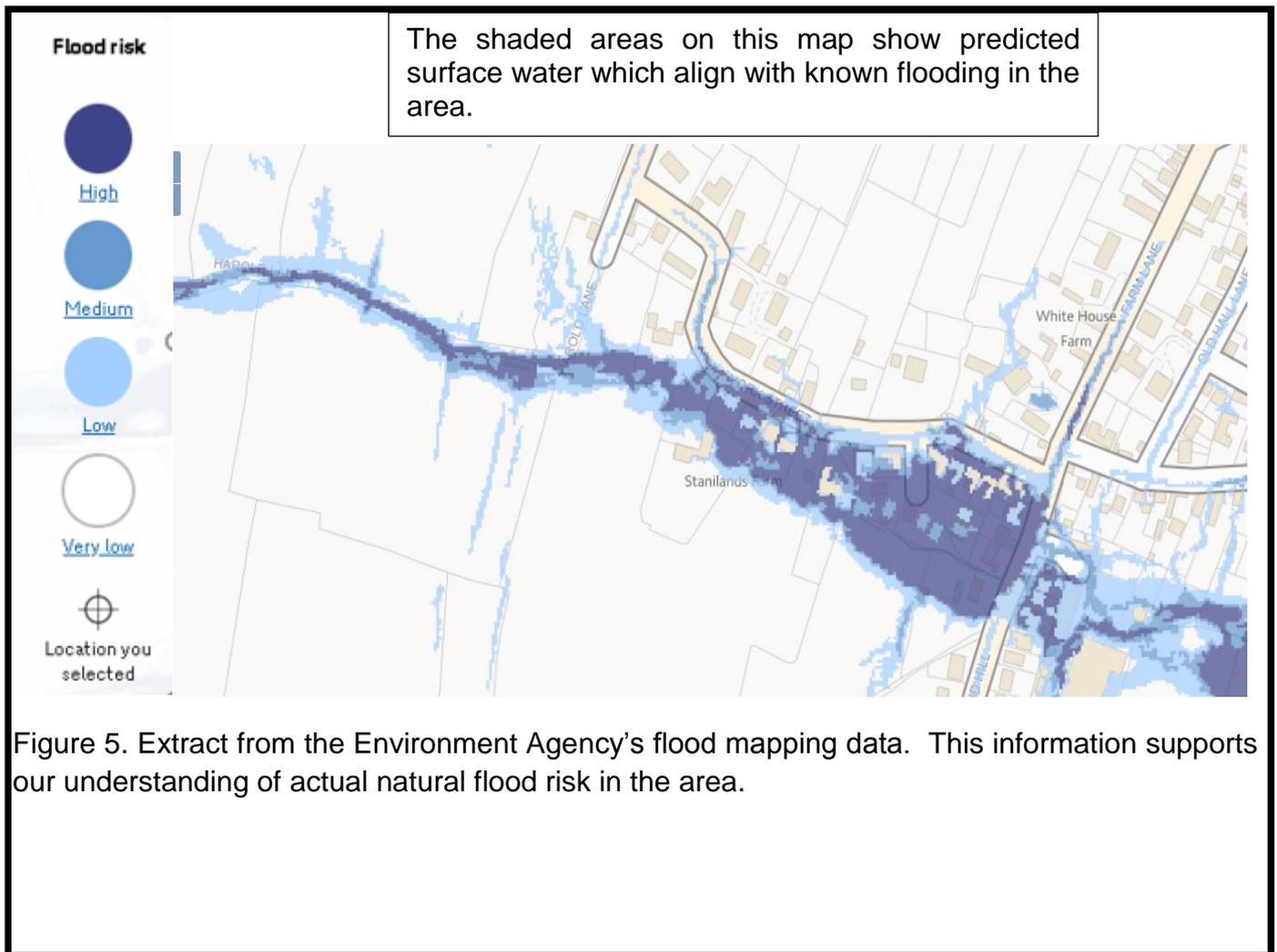


Figure 4. Natural flow paths for surface water in the catchment shown by the arrows.



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 (Via East Midlands Ltd. on behalf of The Nottinghamshire County Council)
 - i. Maintenance of the public highways including highway drainage assets.
 - ii. Provided site-based presence and investigations immediately following the event.

9. Bassetlaw District 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. Administered their Flooding Hardship Grant.
 - ii. Initiated and led the Section 19 Flood Investigation.
- b) Emergency Planning
 - i. Provided emergency response support in management of flooding event.
 - ii. Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation.
- c) Highway Authority (Via East Midlands Ltd. on behalf of The Nottinghamshire County Council)
 - i. Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood investigation.
 - ii. Initiated emergency road closure and post flooding sweep of roads.

11. Bassetlaw District Council

- i. Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation

Additional information and future actions

- 12. Nottinghamshire County Council Flood Risk Management team propose to carry out further investigations into the connectivity of the surface water assets in the area and establish the condition of the riparian culvert. This work is programmed for completion later in 2020 and any actions identified as a result of the investigations will be discussed and shared with the relevant parties.
- 13. The community spirit and resilience during the flooding must be recognised as without their efforts the impacts of the flooding could have been worse.
- 14. 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.
- 15. 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.

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.