



## **APPENDIX G**

### **SECTION 19 REPORT – RHODESIA – NOVEMBER 2019**

#### **Introduction**

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

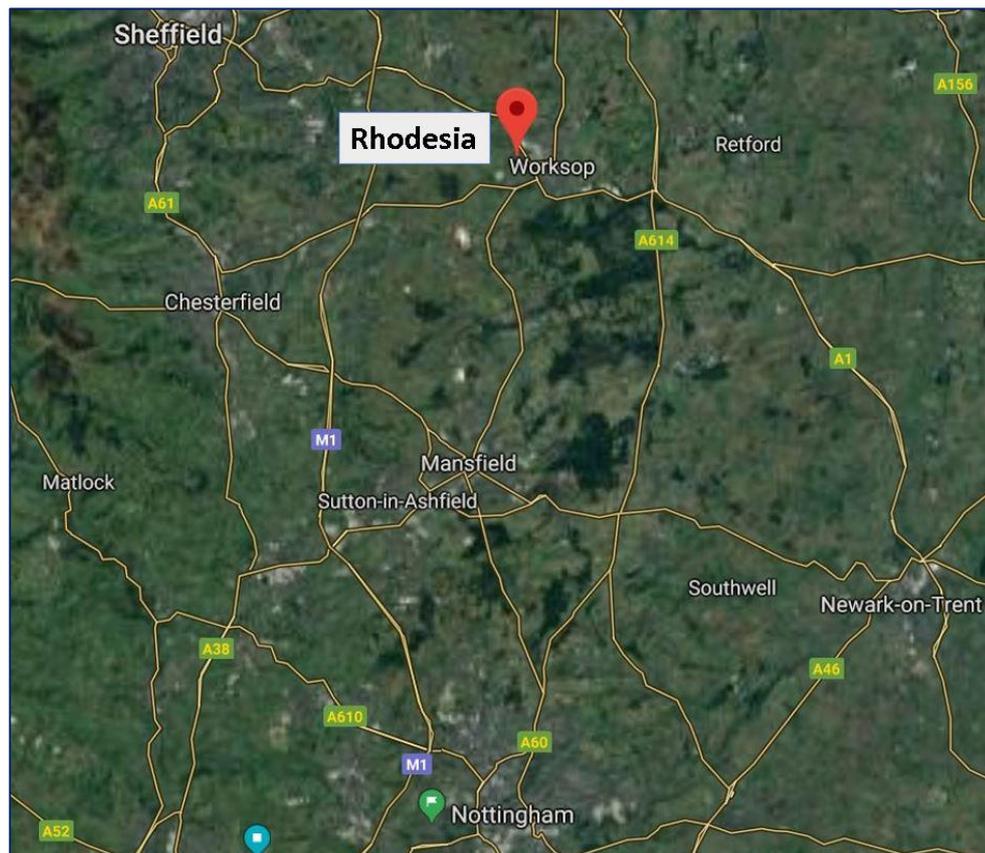
1. On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:
  - (a) Which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have relevant flood risk management functions.
  - (b) Whether each of those RMAs has exercised, or 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 RMAs.
3. The objective of this report is to investigate which RMAs had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in November 2019 and whether the relevant RMAs 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 (Via East Midlands Ltd.), Severn Trent Water (STW) 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November. A major incident was declared at 09:50 on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November by the Tactical Co-Ordinating Group.

With the ground already saturated following one of the wettest autumn's on record, this resulted in extensive flooding across the Nottinghamshire area including Rhodesia, a

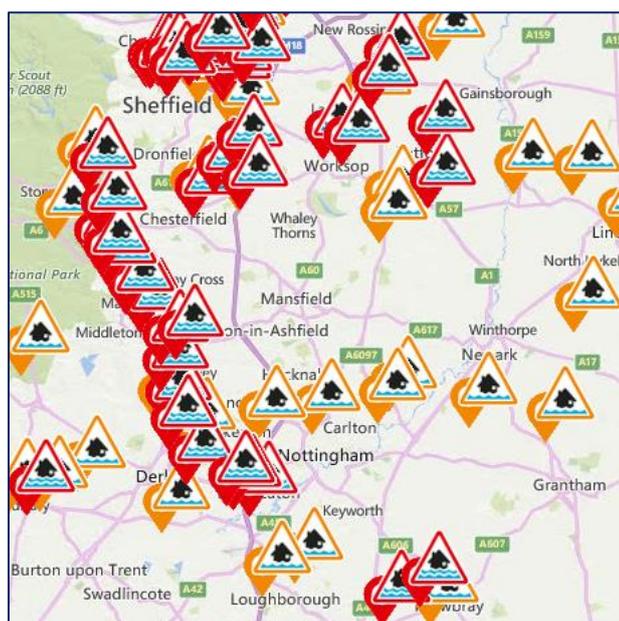
village and civil parish located in the county of Nottinghamshire. The population of the civil parish was 982 at the 2011 census.



**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

In the early hours of the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 following the prolonged period of heavy rainfall, a section of Mary Street in Rhodesia suffered a significant flood event with 9 reported incidents of internal property flooding. The flooding also affected the public highway some gardens and curtilages.

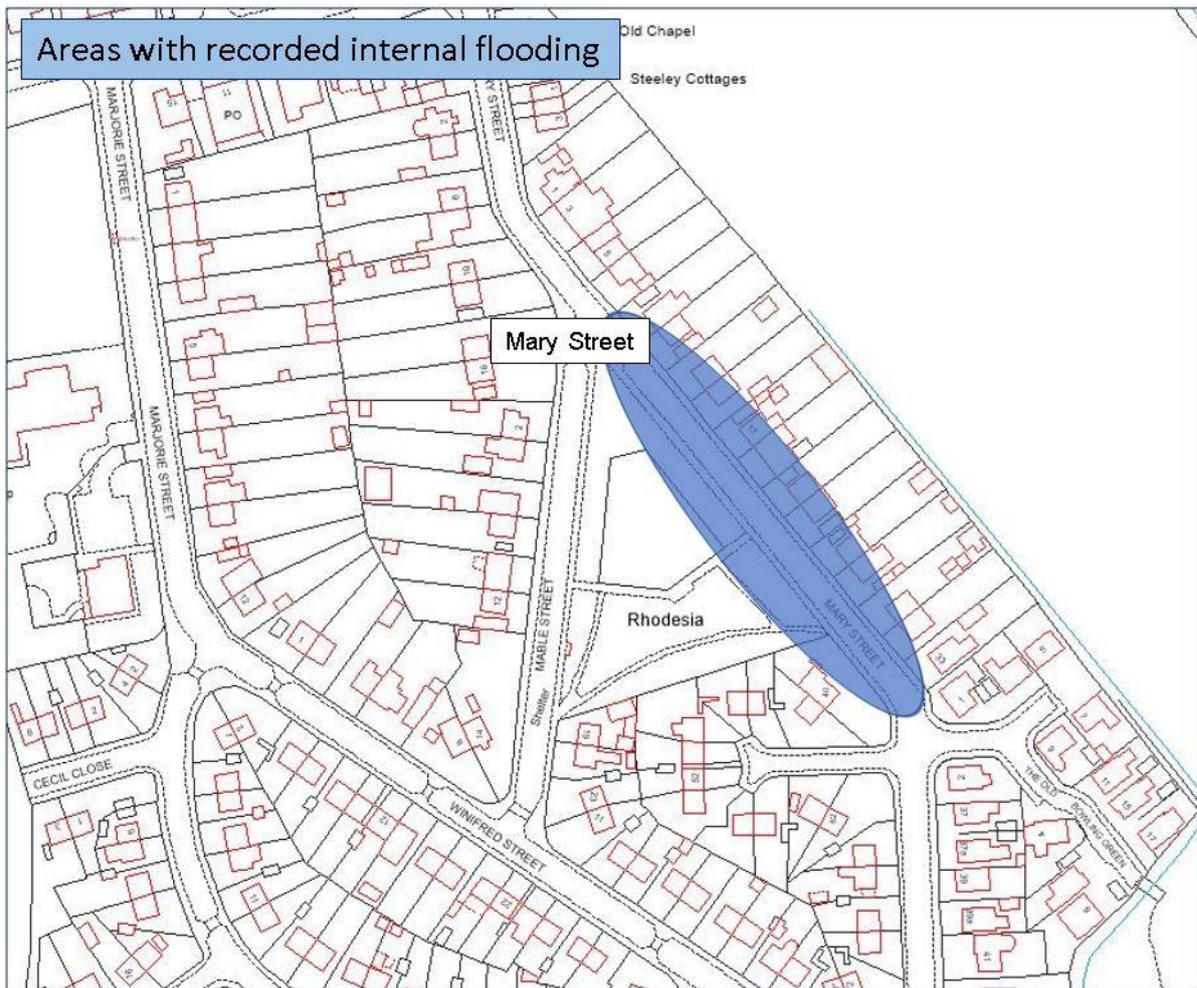
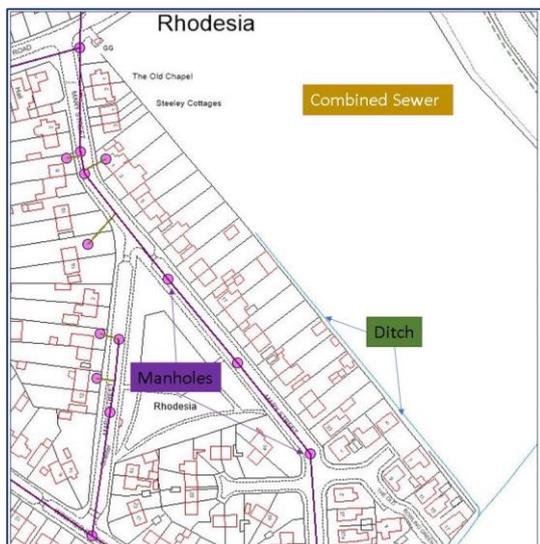


Figure 3. Plan highlighting area affected by internal flooding

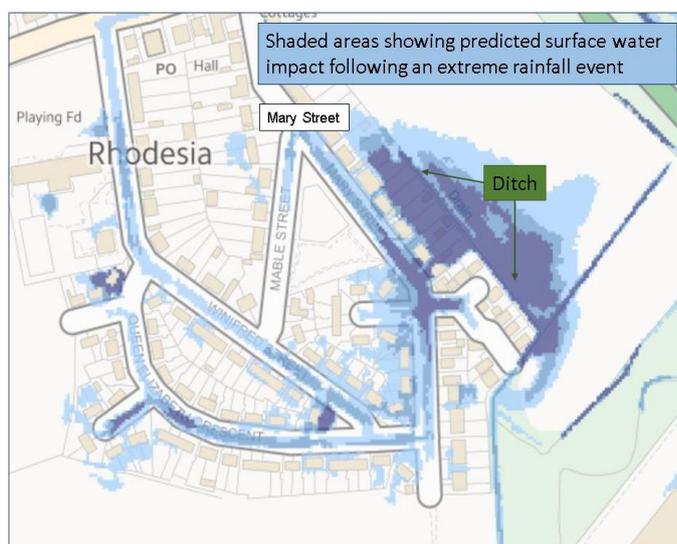
### Summary of flooding and its causes

7. This part of Rhodesia has a mixture of rural agricultural land and housing. There are several ordinary watercourses and ditch systems along boundaries that drain the rural catchment and a combined sewer network that serves the urban catchment. That combined sewer system takes surface water as well as foul water

During the previous days and weeks consistent periods of rainfall had saturated the agricultural land putting pressure on the network of watercourses and ditches. The intense rainfall that fell on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November caused this channel network to overflow in many places which led to more surface water running off the land and into gardens and onto the highway which added to the volume of water in the combined sewer system.



**Figure 4. Plan showing the public combined sewer and ditch.**



**Figure 5. Environment Agency Flood Risk Map for surface water**

Figure 4 above shows the combined sewer that runs along Mary Street, this sewer carries surface water and foul water from the estate to the north of this plan. The plan also shows a ditch system that follows the boundary at the rear of the properties. Figure 5 above, which is a plan showing predicted surface water flows clearly highlights the amount of surface water that can collect in this area of Rhodesia.

Properties were flooded here from increasing surface water collecting on the road to the front with observations suggesting that water was surcharging from the sewer system manholes. This ponding grew until it reached and entered front doors. It was also apparent that water was coming into rear gardens from the land to the rear which is now a new development under construction. It is also believed that the ditch to the rear of the properties could not cope with the volume of water and overflowed.

### **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. Bassetlaw District Council
- i. 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.
10. Severn Trent Water
- i. Maintenance of the public sewage system.

### **Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood**

11. 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) The Nottinghamshire County Council:
    - i. Initiated and co-ordinated Emergency Planning procedures.
    - ii. Provided sandbags to stock and restock the flood resilience store in Rhodesia, over 5000 delivered across the County.
    - iii. Administered Nottinghamshire County Councils Flood Hardship Fund to affected residents.
    - iv. Initiated and led the Section19 Flood Investigation.
  - b) Bassetlaw District Council
    - i. Took an active role in the Tactical Coordination Group once a Major Incident was declared.
    - ii. Provided emergency response support in management of flooding event.
    - iii. Actively engaged in the Section19 Flood Investigation.
    - iv. Administered Flood Hardship fund.
  - c) Severn Trent Water
    - i. Provided emergency response crews to assist in management of flooding event.
    - ii. Surveyed and cleansed public sewer system.

### **Additional information and Future Actions**

12. Rhodesia has suffered from flooding in the past, most recently in 2007. It appears that the event in November has similarities to the 2007 event, however what did happen is not yet fully understood. Severn Trent Water will continue their investigation into how the combined system operated on that day. Further inspection of the local watercourses and ditches will also be required to ensure that they are being adequately maintained.

The community of Rhodesia has access to a flood resilience store which contains a stock of sandbags. Those sandbags were made available and distributed by local volunteers during this event, if it was not for this community spirit the number of properties internally flooded could well have been higher.

All the Risk Management Authorities involved in this event are committed to continuing the investigations into the causes of this incident. Funding is being sought to enable a full catchment study into the flood risk in Gotham. That study may identify further actions not listed here.

Bassetlaw District Council will support future investigations and reviews into emergency procedures. They are leading the organising of public drop in sessions in Worksop and Retford on the 10th and 12th of February. These will be attended by officers from multiple agencies to provide updates, advice and assistance where required. They will also be administering Government grants where applicable.

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.

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.