

Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director – Place

Report to:	Flood & Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 November 2019
Subject:	To report progress on the investigations made in the County under Section 19 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA)

Summary:

This is a standing item to inform the Committee of the position of all current S.19 flood investigations in the County.

Actions Required:

Members of the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the investigations undertaken in the County under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA).

Members are asked to view the current S.19 spreadsheets online (also included at Appendix A) and inform Democratic Services in advance if they wish to highlight any particular sites at the forthcoming Scrutiny Committee meeting.

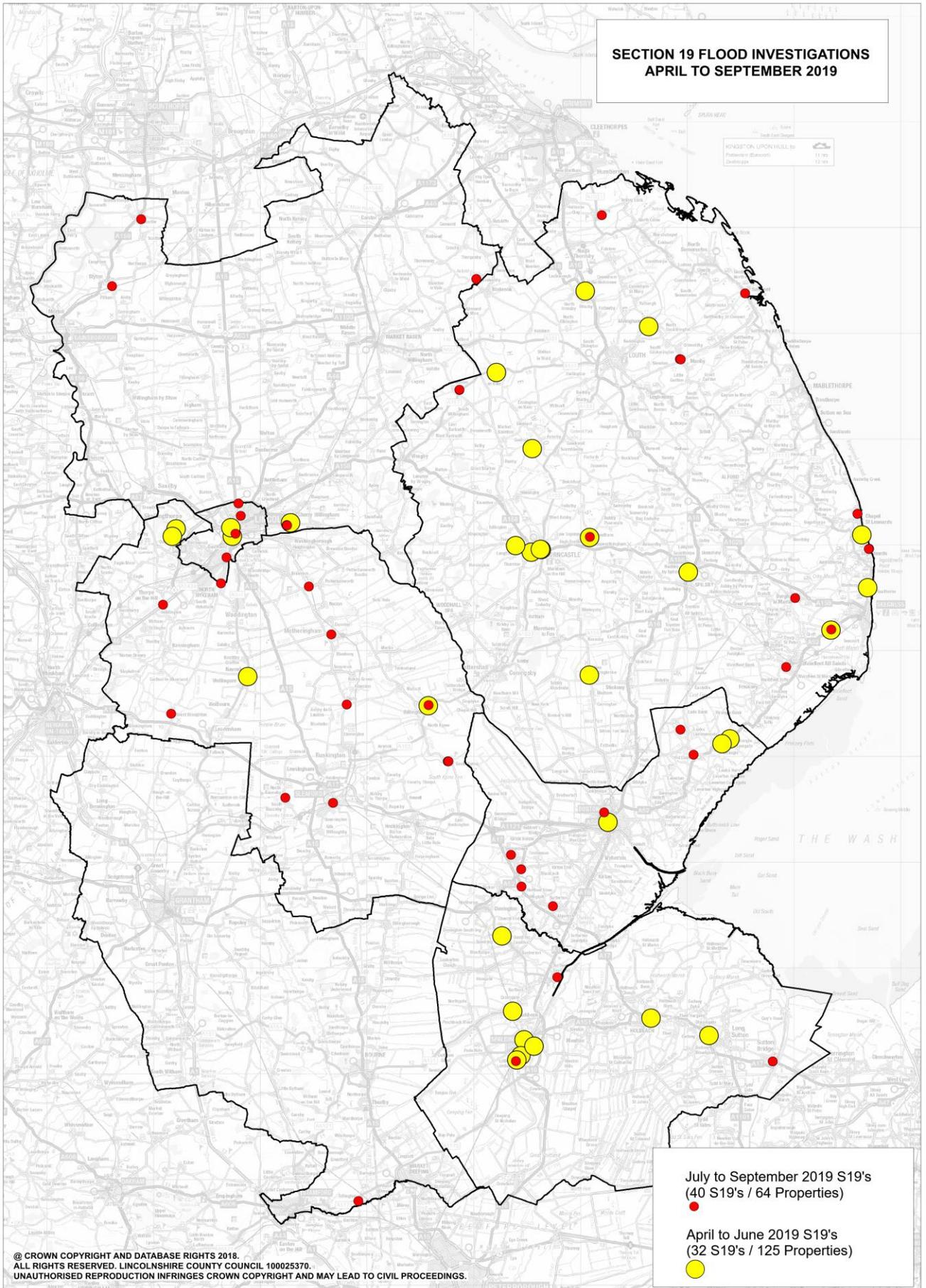
<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/flood-risk-management/flood-investigations/117780.article>

1. Background

This is a standing item to inform the Committee on the position of all current Section 19 investigations in the County, which are listed in Appendix A. It will be noted that in some cases the investigation is marked as being completed, but the flood incident will remain on Appendix A as there may be outstanding works arising from the investigation which have not yet been completed or programmed by the relevant Risk Management Authority.

Members will recall that at the meeting of the committee in September 2019, it was reported that 32 flood investigations were commenced in Quarter 1 as a result of the rainfall in June. In the following Quarter (July-September) the unseasonal rainfall continued, which contributed to a further 40 flood investigations being initiated. Figure 1 below is a drawing which illustrates the geographical spread of both Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 flood investigations.

**SECTION 19 FLOOD INVESTIGATIONS
APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2019**

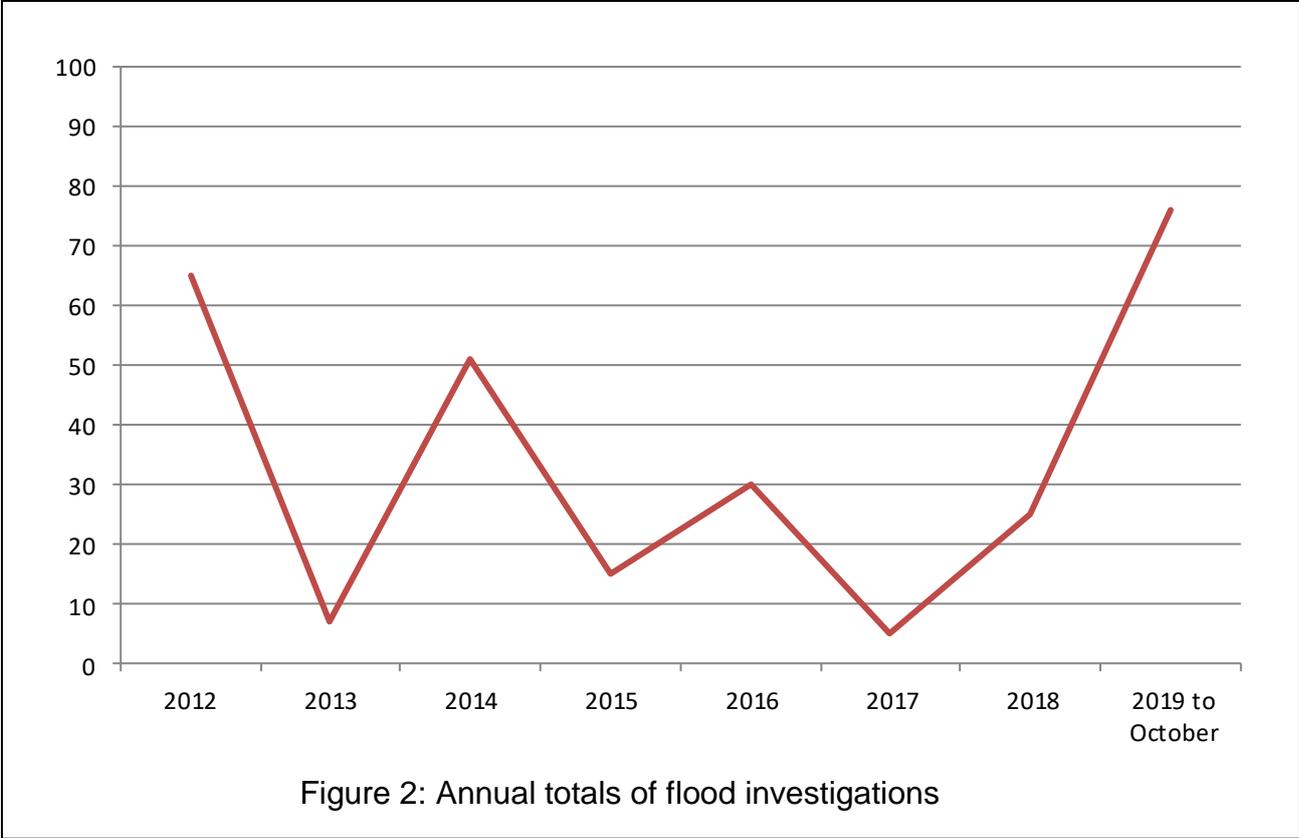


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According to the Environment Agency, in terms of the long-term average the rainfall in Lincolnshire over the last six months was 'exceptionally high' in the central and southern parts of the county, and 'above normal' in the most northern areas. The table of monthly rainfall totals at Appendix B illustrates the rainfall totals in a number of catchments in the county.

When considered in conjunction with the very low soil moisture deficit (a measure of the capacity of the ground to absorb water) there is a heightened flood risk from surface water (pluvial), ground water and water courses (fluvial), which is reflected in the unprecedented number of flood investigations that have been started.

Figure 2 shows the number of flood investigations undertaken each year since the creation of Lead Local Flood Authorities in April 2012. It can be seen that the current year has been exceptional, and there is every indication that this trend is set to continue into Quarter 3 of 2019/20.



As noted previously, while investigations are underway it is not possible to give an indication of the local factors at play in each flood event. Even when some localities have experienced repeated flooding in a short period of time. Until the investigation is completed it is not always possible to say which individual properties were victim to such flooding or if there are common causes between events.

With an unprecedented number of flooding incidents members will understand that there is a consequent call on limited resources to carry out the investigations.

Every effort is being made to complete the investigations in a timely manner, and it will be appreciated that there is also an impact on risk management partners as they are required to provide the Lead Local Flood Authority with relevant information.

With particular regard to in to the flooding in June at Wainfleet, the committee will be aware that Norfolk County Council is undertaking the investigation on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council. The investigation is making good progress, and as part of the information gathering exercise the investigation team has met with local residents and groups, including local farmers. A large quantity of data has been gathered and is currently being analysed. This has revealed a more complex situation on the ground than was originally envisaged. The complexity of the data and the time needed to analyse it means that publication of the final report is likely to be early next year, rather than in late November as originally estimated. While preliminary findings could have been present to this meeting of the Committee, these would in all probability change and would inevitably be incomplete. On balance, therefore, it is considered preferable to present the complete picture early in the New Year, along with full recommendations.

2. Conclusion

Members are invited to raise any questions about Appendix A or any other flooding queries with the Flood Risk Manager, whose contact details can be found at the end of this report.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Record of current flood investigations in the County carried out in accordance with S.19 FWMA.
Appendix B	Monthly rainfall figures April to October 2019

5. Background Papers

This report was written by Paul Brookes, County Flood Risk Manager, who can be contacted on (01522) 782070 or paul.brookes@lincolnshire.gov.uk.