

Policy and Scrutiny

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

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	24 February 2020
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/flood-risk-management/flood-investigations>

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 recommendations in the investigation report which have not yet been completed or programmed by the relevant Risk Management Authority.

The following figures focus on the number of flood investigations started in Quarter 3 (October – December 2019). A total of 81 flood investigations were started in Quarter 3, 52 in November alone. According to the Environment Agency Water Situation Reports, the overall rainfall in Quarter 3 was generally 'Exceptionally High' in Lincolnshire, at between 173% and 200% of the long term average.

Figure 1 illustrates the exceptional number of flood investigations undertaken in 2019 compared with the previous years, 2012 being the baseline figure which was when the County Council acquired the duty to investigate flooding.

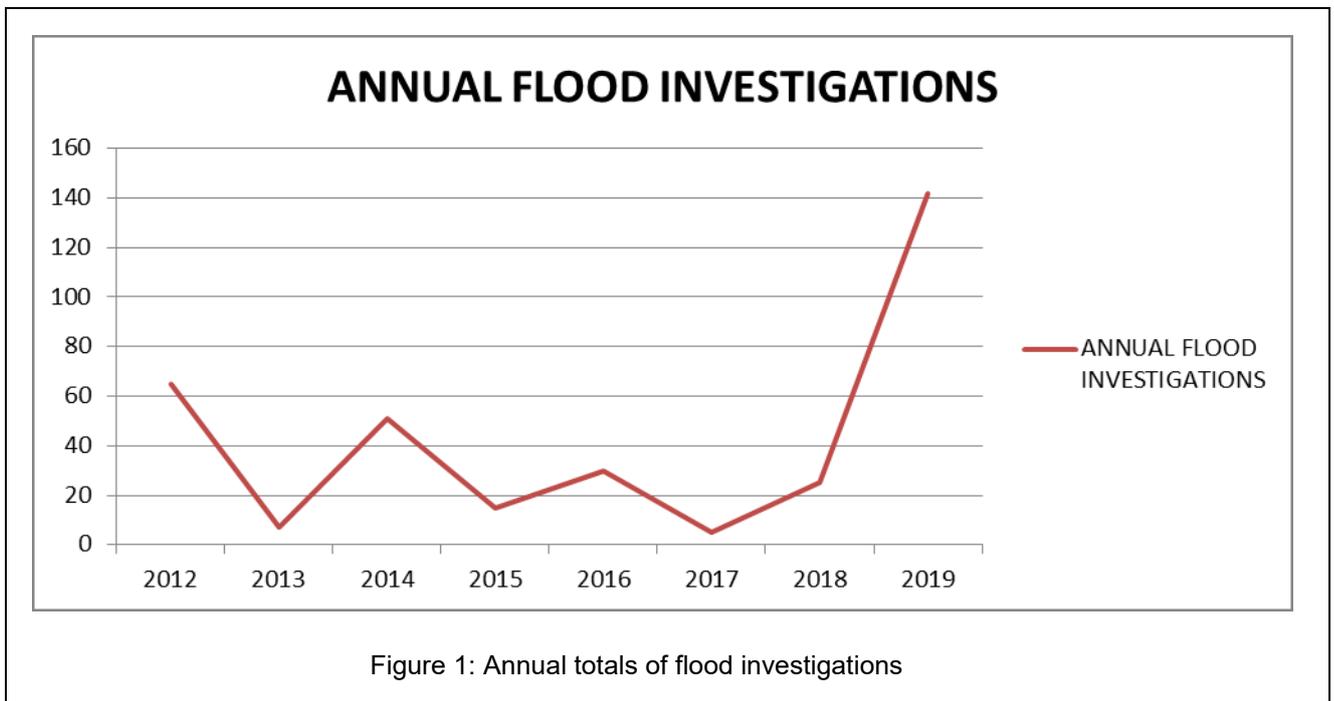


Table 1 below provides a monthly breakdown of the number of flood investigations commenced in 2019 compared with 2018. This is by way of comparison only, such a short timescale cannot reliably be used to indicate a trend or pattern, although it does serve as a reminder of the unpredictability of flooding events.

Month	No. of S19 investigations	
	2018	2019
January	1	0
February	0	0
March	1	0
April	3	0
May	0	1
June	6	45
July	5	4
August	8	4
September	0	7
October	0	25
November	0	52
December	1	4
Total	25	142

Table 1: Number of flood investigations commenced in 2018 and 2019

It should be noted that 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 the Committee will be pleased to learn that completed investigation reports into the flooding in 2019 are beginning to be received. The information published on the County Council web site will be updated accordingly.

With particular regard 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 now complete, details of which constitutes a separate paper to this meeting.

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.

2. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

3. 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.

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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

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