

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

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 September 2023
Subject:	Flood and Water Team update (including Section 19 investigations)

Summary:

This report provides an update to Committee on the recent work of the Flood and Water team including informing the Committee of the status of all current flood investigations being undertaken in the County.

Actions Required:

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- (1) view the current list of completed and active flood investigations online at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/flood-risk-management/flood-investigations>
- (2) Inform Democratic Services in advance if they wish to raise any particular sites at the forthcoming Committee meeting.
- (3) To note and comment as required on updates provided on the work of the Floods and Water Team.

1. Background

A standing item to inform the Committee on the position of all current Section 19 investigations in the County. Whilst this report highlights the status of such investigations in the county, the opportunity is also being taken to update the committee on recent work and initiatives for which the Floods and Water Team are involved. This will hopefully provide members of the Committee with a much broader understanding on some of the recent work that has been undertaken in the County.

Investigations under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

The Committee will be aware that all such investigations are published on the County Council's website by means of an interactive map, whether the investigation is completed, actively under investigation or awaiting works to mitigate future flooding. When the

Floods and Water Team are made aware of flooding that will trigger a S.19 investigation the database is updated, and as the online system is updated on a daily basis at 7pm, the information relating to that S.19 investigation will be available to view the same evening.

It is a duty under Section 19, Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (F&WMA) for the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to carry out investigations to identify which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have a flood risk management function in connection with the flood and whether they have exercised, or intend to exercise, that function in response to the flood. To assist with this, Lincolnshire County Council as the LLFA makes recommendations for proportionate works to manage future flood risk, to be delivered by individual RMAs or in partnership as considered appropriate or expedient. Such recommendations are also published although this is over and above the requirements of the F&WMA; all recommendations for mitigation works and the RMA leading those works are available to view on the interactive mapping. If Members have any site-specific questions, they are requested to contact the Flood and Water Manager in advance of the meeting.

To provide an update on the status of S.19 reports since the committee last met in May 2023, please see Table 1 below.

Number of Reports On-going	40 (46.67% decrease since last reported)
Number of completed investigations with considerations still on-going with regards recommendations	196 (14.41 % decrease since last reported)
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2023 – 2024)	13
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2022 -2023)	3
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2021 -2022)	3
Number of reports commissioned in Q2 (2023 – 2024)	5 (at the time of writing)
Number of reports commissioned in Q2 (2022 – 2023)	57
Number of reports commissioned in Q2 (2021 – 2022)	10
Number of Reports Circulated to RMAs for Endorsement	8 (at the time of writing)
Number of reports currently being reviewed / revised by Flood Risk Team	15 (previously 22)
Reports Awaiting Sign-off	3 (same as before)

Table 1: Status of S.19 investigations as 21st August 2023

The total annual number of S.19 investigations and properties affected between 2012/13 and 2022/23 can be seen in table 2 below.

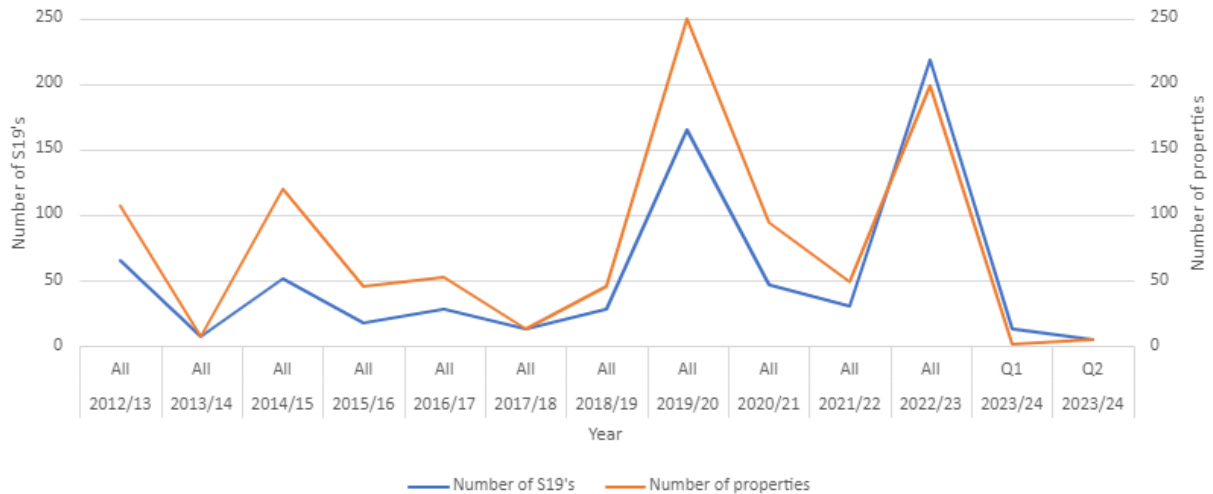


Table 2: Annual totals of Number of S.19 Investigations and properties affected

Near Miss Data

In addition to formal S.19 investigations, data is collected by the floods and water team for the number of near miss reports received. When a report of flooding is received into the Council confirmation is sought from those making the report if water has entered the property. If it is identified water did not enter the property, the occurrence would be reported as a near miss if:

- Water is approaching the property or is against the property but has not gone internal
- The reporter has requested sandbags
- Internal flooding to a garage (detached or joined)
- Internal flooding to outbuildings
- Internal flooding to conservatories

An exercise has been undertaken within the Floods and Water Team to interrogate records received by the authority back to when the role of Lead Local Flood Authority came into effect in 2012. All reports received as *Flooding – Risk to property/life* were reviewed to see if the above near miss criteria had been met. This process was completed in 2021 and a summary of the near miss data collected is summarised in table 3 below.

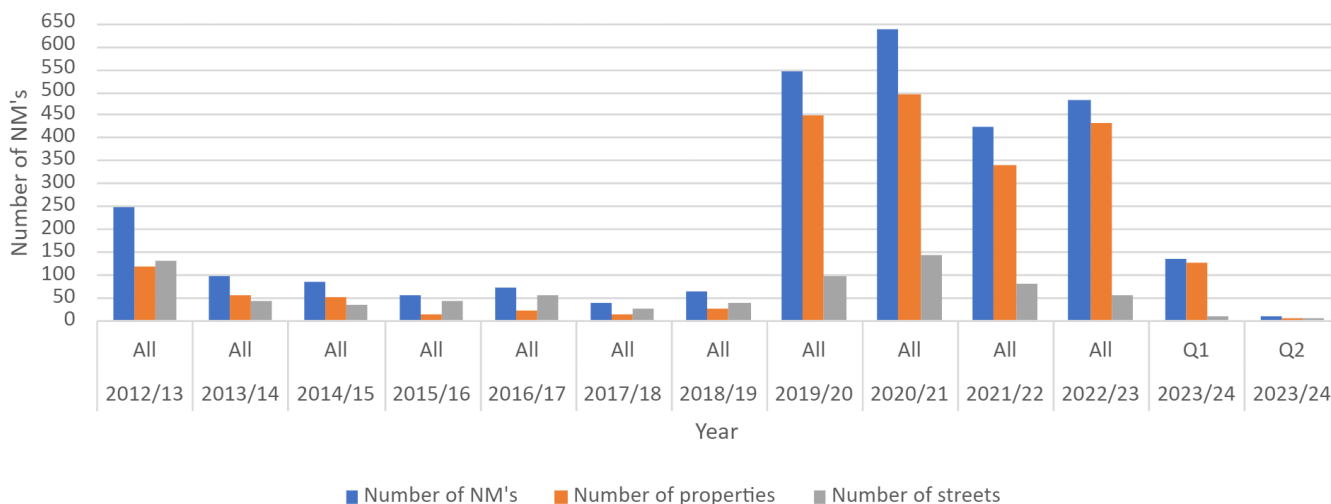


Table 3: Summary of near miss data collated between 2012/13 and 2023/24

The collation of the near miss data can help inform decision making for future programmes of works by taking a proactive, rather than reactive approach to addressing flood risk and drainage issues which have not been identified through the formal Section 19 investigation process. It should be noted however that recommendations and actions will still be undertaken in response to a near miss incident and can be directed to the appropriate department or Risk Management Authority to take appropriate measures, therefore dealing with such incidents in a timely and proportionate manner which does not incur the resource and time pressures of a formal investigation.

Other workstreams

Long Bennington Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Long Bennington Flood Alleviation Scheme is progressing well and remains on Programme. The new 600m pipe and outfall to the River Witham situated in land to the rear of the Royal Oak Pub have now been installed, along with all manholes, connections and gullies in this section.

PBS Construction are now well underway with Phase 2 on Main Road with over half of the new system installed in this section. PBS and the Design Team have also been proactive in installing additional gullies and connections when needs have been identified whilst on site to enable the best possible protection to properties in the village. The scheme is scheduled to be complete at the end of September.

The Long Bennington Flood Alleviation scheme forms part of the Councils 6-year capital flood risk programme and will contribute to addressing surface water flooding issues previously experienced in the village, better protecting in excess of 50 properties.

Project Groundwater – Greater Lincolnshire

Following the presentation made to committee in May 2023 the following are updates on the key workstreams that form part of the DEFRA funded Project Groundwater – Greater Lincolnshire.

Trial Communities Update

Barrow

Mapping and modelling underway to determine groundwater issues. Alongside this a Base Line survey of the Barrow chalk stream has taken place with recommendations of works that could take place there. Awaiting hydrologists insights on how to proceed.

Barton

Modelling and mapping underway to identify groundwater issues and areas for improvement, after issues near the cricket pitches and football fields having already being highlighted by the National Flood Forum and residents.

Grimsby - Salting's Allotments

Ecological study now complete and all indications are 'good to go'. Secretary of State has confirmed the change of usage. Initial clearance of the site for further borehole analysis is in the tender process, with aim of diggers going in early September. Further soil sampling and borehole analysis to be undertaken before full clearance works to take place. Several wetland design companies pitching concept designs in October.

Grimsby – Kingston Gardens

Local ecologists have proposed redesign ideas for Kingston gardens, awaiting tender process for clearance works. Ecological survey taken place end of July, results due in the next few weeks. Local schools have been engaged to join in with the redesign of the site by helping design information boards for display around the park.

Scopwick

Mapping and modelling underway following discussions with Parish Council members and local residents, further boreholes being added at various locations to get a better understanding of what is going on in the various geology levels.

Project collaborations Update

Multi-Coloured Manual suite of methodologies applied to Groundwater flooding.

Middlesex University conducted a groundwater flood risk economic appraisal methodology of the MCM. Awaiting proposals and timescales to fully update the MCM to include groundwater flooding.

Groundwater teams' PFR Partnership

A joint funded project started in May between Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project and Buckinghamshire Council's GRACE project to design, test and implement innovative, cost beneficial PFR techniques and community measures.

Impact of Groundwater flooding on Mental Health

A Collaborative project between Project Groundwater Greater Lincolnshire and Buckinghamshire council's Project GRACE looking to enlist multiple academic institutions to work on a long term project alongside the NHS into the mental health impacts of flooding.

Salinisation of the Fen and the economic impact to food production

2 year Post Doctoral Research Assistant started in July building on previous research to gain an understanding of salinisation in the fen. Further proposals being constructed by the University of Lincoln currently into bringing on an economic student to support the project to find the effects of salinisation and the cost per hectare per crop.

Dynamic licences - engendering climate-sensitive low-land flood-resilience through novel nature-based abstraction

Collaborative 4-year project begins in September with a PhD student from Lincoln University researching water abstraction licences across not only Lincoln but on a global scale and how a dynamic licence methodology could benefit this area.

Boreholes

National Flood Forum have made contact with many landowners in the Bourne region, with walkover surveys taking place end of September. Project has been expanded past the Bourne region to include a wider variety of boreholes to gain a bigger understanding of how much water is being lost across the aquifer.

The project has also been expanded and is working with Wilkin Chapman LLP to look into the legal ownership of boreholes once they have been decommissioned, as well as calling for boreholes to be included in conveyancing searches for home owners so people are not caught unaware if a previously sealed borehole starts leaking on their property.

2. Conclusion

The Flood and Water team will continue to prioritise work on Section 19 investigations, however it should be noted that there is always likely to be great variance in the number and complexity of investigations undertaken which are influenced by weather events. In addition, progress continues to be made on key initiatives such as the Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project and the development of pipeline flood alleviation schemes through the capital flood risk programme as well as more local partnership works. The Flood and Water Team will continue to build on the excellent working relationships it has with other service areas within Lincolnshire County Council, and with other Lincolnshire Risk Management Authorities to deliver partnership projects for the benefit of residents and communities across the county. Further updates will be presented to future meetings of this committee.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

n/a

4. Appendices

n/a

4. Background Papers

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

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