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Thursday 15 October 2020



Rushcliffe Community
Contact Centre

Rectory Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 6BU

To all Members of the Communities Scrutiny Group

Dear Councillor

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

Please note the attached documents below for the meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group to be held on Wednesday, 7 October 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Sull'.

Sanjit Sull
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

4. Flooding and Drainage (Pages 1 - 62)

The report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods is attached.

5. Rushcliffe Nature Strategy (Pages 63 - 76)

The report of the Executive Manager – Communities is attached.

Membership

Chairman: Councillor J Wheeler

Vice-Chairman: Councillor B Bansal

Councillors: G Dickman, L Healy, R Jones, R Mallender, D Simms, R Walker and G Williams

In person

Monday to Friday
8.30am - 5pm
First Saturday of
each month
9am - 1pm

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Rushcliffe Borough
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Nottinghamshire County Council The Lead Local Flood Authority



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Agenda Item 4



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Lead Local Flood Authority – The Background

Sir Michael Pitt's Review of
2007 summer floods.



Creation of the Flood and
Water Management Act 2010.



Lead Local Flood Authority
role.




Learning lessons from the 2007 floods

An independent review by Sir Michael Pitt

June 2008

 The Pitt Review



Flood and Water Management Act 2010

CHAPTER 29

CONTENTS

Part I
Enactment and Citation

1. Enactment and citation

2. "Flood" and "coastal erosion"

3. "Bank"

4. "Risk management"

5. "Flood risk management function"

6. "Coastal erosion risk management function"

7. Other definitions

2. Strategies, organisation and funding

7. National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy: England

8. National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy: Wales

9. Local flood risk management strategy: England

10. Local flood risk management strategy: Wales

11. Flood risk management strategies: Wales

12. Effect of national and local strategies: England

13. Effect of national and local strategies: Wales

14. Co-operation and arrangements

15. Powers to request information

16. Civil penalties

17. Funding

18. Lapses

3. Supplemental provisions and data

19. Government Agency reports



Nottinghamshire
County Council

What is the LLFA?

- Coordinate Flood Risk Management across Nottinghamshire.
- Statutory consultee on surface water to the Local Planning Authorities and the County Planning Authority.
- Maintain a register of assets that have a critical impact on effect on flood risk in the County.
- Issue Land Drainage Consents.
- Publish and develop Strategic Documentation and contribute to others.

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**Risk
Management
Authorities**

**Lead Local
Flood
Authority**

**District
Council**

**Internal
Drainage
Board**

**Severn
Trent Water**

**Environment
Agency**

The Confusion!



- **We are not a first responders!**
- **We oversee, understand, educate and influence**
- **We ensure coordination across RMA's**
- **We Lead on managing local Surface Water flood risk,**
- **ground water and Ordinary Water Courses.**

Powers – Land Drainage Authority

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**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Water runs down hillSimple! The complexity is who owns the hill!

Flooding type	Responsibility	Action
Roads	Our Highways team provide and manage highway drainage and ensure that road projects do not increase flood risk.	You can report road related damage/problems to us
Public sewer/burst water mains	Severn Trent Water 0800 783 4444 @stwater	You can report problems directly
Main rivers	Environment Agency 0845 988 1188 @EnvAgency	You can call the 24 hour incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60
Ordinary watercourses	Small rivers and streams which are not managed by the Environment Agency. They are the responsibility of the owners of their banks (riparian owners)	We must provide consent to any changes on these, see making changes to waterways.
Rising groundwater	The property owner but we can provide advice.	See preparing for flooding

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Under Our Umbrella



• Ashfield:	87 miles	16 named watercourses	585 unnamed
• Bassetlaw:	520 miles	78 named watercourses	1043 unnamed
• Broxtowe:	42 miles	13 named watercourses	194 unnamed
• Gedling:	54 miles	14 named watercourses	215 unnamed
• Mansfield:	10 miles	7 named watercourses	66 unnamed
• N&S:	535 miles	49 named watercourses	1456 unnamed
• Rushcliffe:	365 miles	25 named watercourses	962 unnamed

Countywide: 1613 miles

202 named watercourses and 4521 unnamed



Ordinary Watercourses

- An Ordinary Watercourse is any; river, stream, ditch, drain or dyke of which does not form part of a main river.
- The responsibility to maintain ordinary watercourses rest with “Riparian Owners”.
- A Riparian owner owns the land in which the water sits. Where a watercourse runs along the boundary of a property, you are assumed to own the land up to the centre of the watercourse.



Sewer Flooding

- Responsibility for Sewer Flooding depends on which element of the system is causing the problem. In general:
 - Sewerage Companies are responsible for the public sewers and drains located outside the boundary of a property;
 - Property owners are responsible for the drainage which carry their water to the public sewer;
 - Local Authorities and the Highways Agency are responsible for highway drainage on roads they maintain.



What do we do initially after an event?

After a flood event we:

- Are on site as soon as possible. Provide guidance support and advice to all affected individuals.
- We collect information and data about the event.
- Co-ordinate with other RMA's.
- Section 19's is trigger hit,



What Advice?

Based on experience after a flooding event affected residents want to understand how they can get their lives back to normal.

- Who is going to help us?
- Resilience Measures / Property Flood Resilience.
- Information /Data/ EA Warning System.
- Insurance - Flood RE scheme.
- Why did this happen?
- Who is responsible?



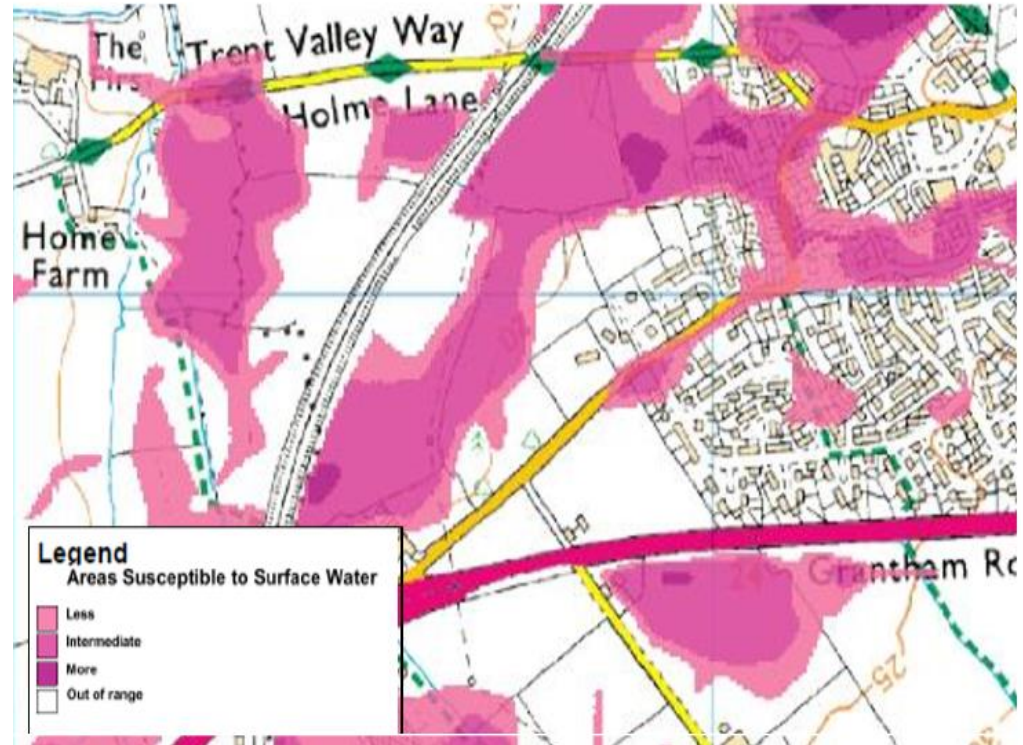
Our role in the Planning Process

- As LLFA we are a statutory consultee for all Local Planning Authorities in the County.
- Our consultee role covers the management of surface water for major developments.
- The Environment Agency are statutory consultee in regards to any developments on flood plains, and where there is any interaction with Main Rivers.
- Formally consideration by the Local Planning Authority.



Rushcliffe Planning

- Since April 2020 we have commented on 73 Major Planning Applications.
- These planning applications look to safeguard of over 1,600 residential properties.
- These sites have their flood risk assessed as part of the planning process to ensure they met current guidelines.



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Section 19 Reports

- Cropwell Butler 2012
- Gotham 2016
- Tollerton 2019
- Bingham 2019
- Gotham 2019
- Radcliffe on Trent 2020
- Sutton Bonington 2020
- Tollerton 2020
- Gotham 2020
- Cotgrave 2020
- Cropwell Butler 2020
- Bingham 2020

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Mitigation and Prevention

- Following a flood event we work very closely with all Risk Management Authorities and our key partners to understand the mechanisms for a flooding event.
- We work closely with our key partners to incorporate schemes within our capital programme.
- NCC Capital Programme is an amalgamation of Nottinghamshire County Council led schemes and our key partner schemes where we are supporting.
- We liaise closely with landowners where they are responsible for undertaking works following a flood event.



Ruddington – High Street

- June 2020 Ruddington High Street suffered internal property flooding to 22 businesses.
- Business hardship support grants were made available to all affected businesses in the area.
- NCC staff were present and on site the morning after the event to provide guidance, advice and support to all affected business owners.





East Leake

- East Leake suffers from a combination of sewer flooding and fluvial flooding from minor watercourses.
- During storm events, the local sewerage system is overrun and subsequently works in reverse causing flood waters to become polluted with foul water.
- NCC are working with Severn Trent to understand the weaknesses in their system and to help work towards a solution.

Radcliffe on Trent- Clumber Drive



- Maintenance issues on an ordinary watercourse at the rear of Clumber Drive contributed to several properties suffering internal flooding.
- Close liaison with riparian owners to strengthen the resilience of the network in the locality have been ongoing.
- Section 19 investigation was published following the event in February 2020.



Bingham — Western Avenue

- Residents of Western Avenue have been repeatedly affected by a drainage ditch at the rear of their properties owned by Network Rail.
- NCC have liaised with Network Rail as well as landowners upstream to manage and maintain the ditch to alleviate the potential for flooding.
- Ditch clearance work has recently been undertaken by the parties involved.

Cropwell Butler

- Cropwell Butler has suffered repeated flooding events within the community.
- We have been engaging with all relevant landowners, stakeholders and RMA's in order to try to find a workable solution for the community.
- Several factors affect the flood risk in the locality, including; capacity problems, maintenance of minor watercourse and natural pinch points.

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West Bridgford – Rugby Road

- Residents of Parkstone Close have been affected by the Ordinary Watercourse which runs underneath Rugby Road.
- NCC have been working directly with RBC and Via to assist in the maintenance and management of the watercourse.
- Further modelling is currently taking place in the area to highlight any further flooding risks.



Gotham

- Gotham has seen several repeated flood events caused by a lack of maintenance on minor watercourses.
- Investigations have taken place to understand the problems faced at this community.
- Natural flood management techniques are being employed to manage the risk of flooding.



Making a difference in our Communities

- Education/Awareness/Resilience.
 - Range of experience in the Team.
 - Support communities to be independent/sustainable.
- Page 22 Influence future proofing solutions, technology, innovation.

Facilitate investment, growth, ambition, connectivity.

- Partnership Working.
- Alignment, new opportunities and ideas.
- Celebrate! Build investment relationships and capitalise on confidence levels.





Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board Water Management Consortium

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**Presentation to Rushcliffe Borough Council
Communities Scrutiny Group
7th October 2020**

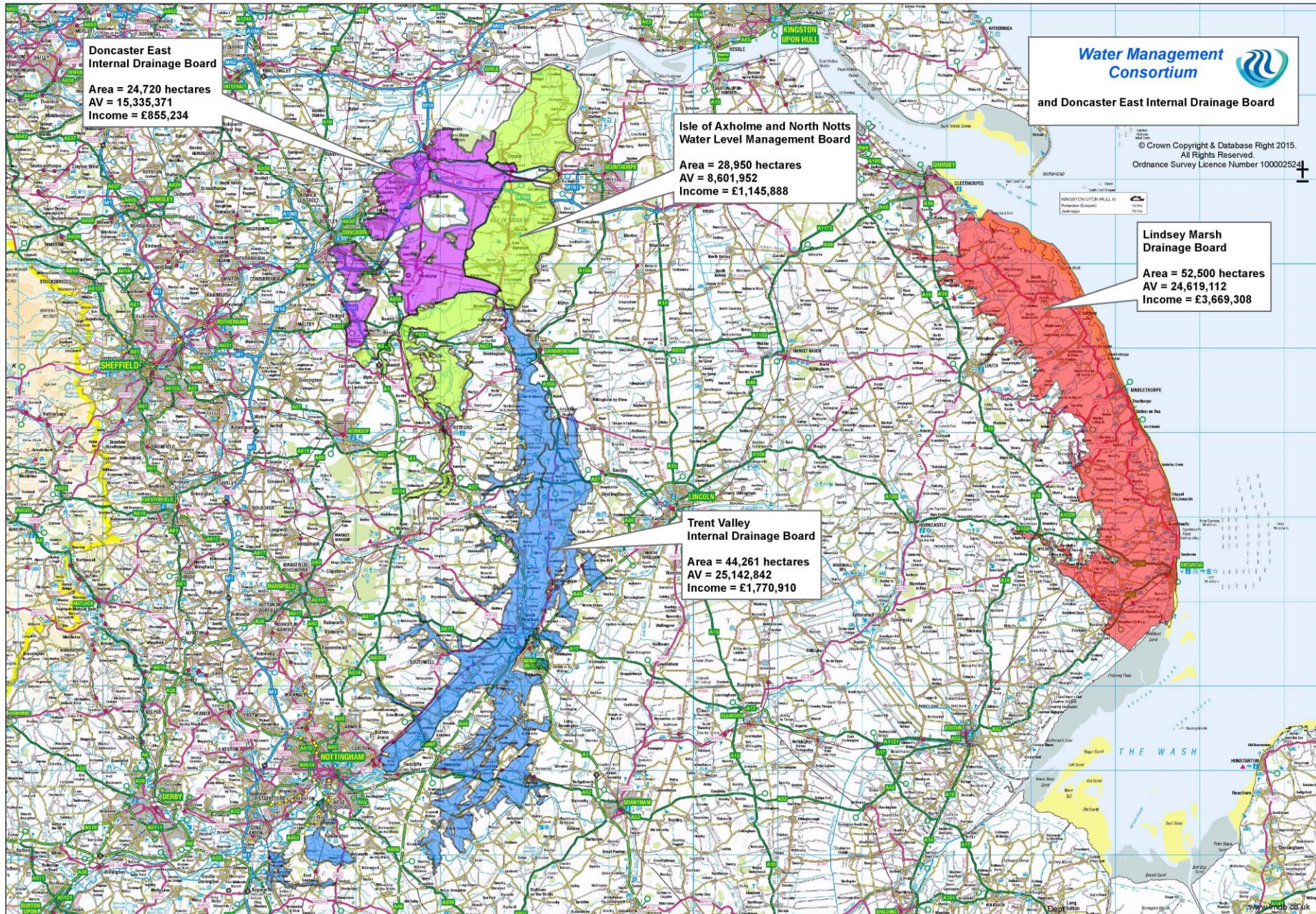
What is an Internal Drainage Board?

- IDBs occur where there is a particular flood risk to an area and where the existence of a local public authority is thought necessary to alleviate that risk; an area which will derive benefit or avoid danger as a result of drainage operations.
- IDBs are local public authorities, existing to defend a local area from flood risk, and to manage water levels.
- IDBs operate within a framework laid down by statute.
- IDBs activities normally involve the exercise of a permissive power, enabling them to undertake defined activities if they so wish, rather than a statutory duty.

The Water Management Consortium

- Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board
- Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
- Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board

Management Services also provided to Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board



Water Management Consortium
and Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board

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Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board

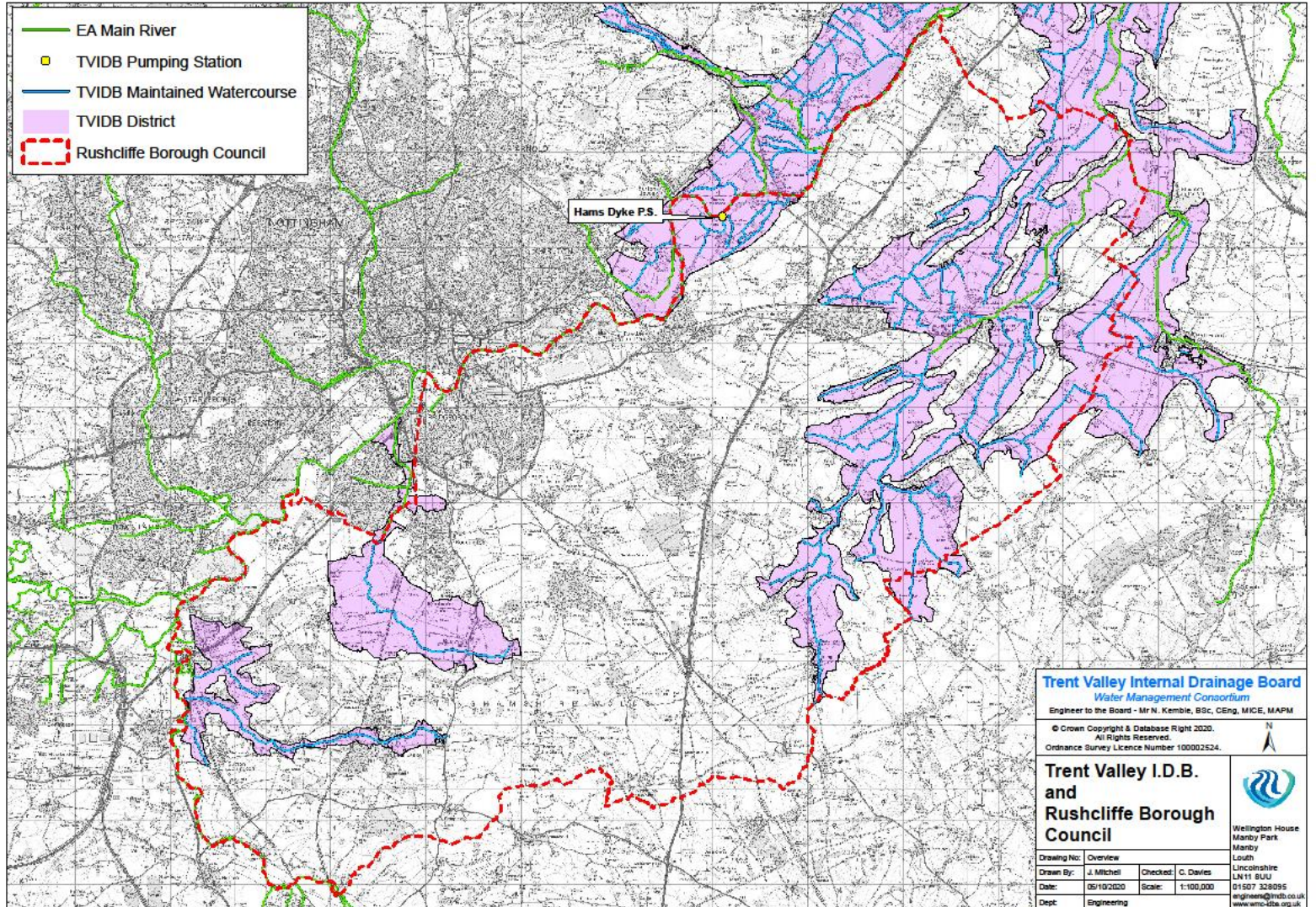
- Formed in 2012 (amalgamation of Kingston Brook, Fairham Brook, Laneham and Newark IDBs).
- Covers an area of over 44,000 hectares.
- Maintains 778km of watercourse.
- Operates 18 Pumping Stations.

The Board

- Managed by a Board 25 Board members - 12 elected by drainage ratepayers, 13 appointed by district/borough councils.
- Elections are held every three years for those members directly elected by the drainage ratepayers.
- Appointed members do not have to be councillors or employees of the council. They should have knowledge or experience relevant to the Board.
- Members are accountable for the actions and omissions of the IDB they represent. They must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the IDB acts properly with due care and attention to the law.
- All members are there to represent the Board and decisions should not be prejudiced by political influences unrelated to the functions of the Board.

Transparency and Accountability

- We provide an efficient, value for money service to our ratepayers and promote a culture of openness and transparency.
- Board meetings held bi-monthly.
- Annual external audit of accounts and independent internal auditor.
- Annual Report to DEFRA.
- Information posted on the website.
- Advice from the Association of Drainage Authorities.
- Environment Agency has supervisory powers in relation to IDB boundaries, reconstitution, etc.



Income and Expenditure 2019/20

Income

Rates and Levies	£1,667,160
Other (inc grants)	£504,535
	£2,171,695

Expenditure

Drain Maintenance	£273,190
Pumping Stations	£269,707
Engineering Projects	£875,458
Other	£1,326,362
	£2,744,717

Surplus/Deficit	-£573,022
-----------------	-----------

Income from Drainage Rates and Special Levies 2020/21

	<i>Amount</i>
Drainage rates in respect of agricultural land and agricultural buildings	£409,895
Newark and Sherwood District Council	£584,575
Rushcliffe Borough Council	£283,302
Bassetlaw District Council	£431,698
West Lindsey District Council	£41,358
North Kesteven District Council	£29,889
Gedling Borough Council	£19,189
Melton Borough Council	£18,718

Maintenance

- Flailing and weedcutting is undertaken either annually or every two to three years depending what is required.
- This work is prioritised depending on the area protected, e.g. Kingston and Fairham Brook, and Shelford catchment are maintained every year.



Winter Works

- Regular reforming/desilting of watercourses is undertaken to ensure they continue to function at design standard.
- Assets are inspected annually and work prioritised.
- Extensive tree and bushing work is undertaken annually to ensure access is maintained.
- A programme of access improvements is underway to increase efficiency.

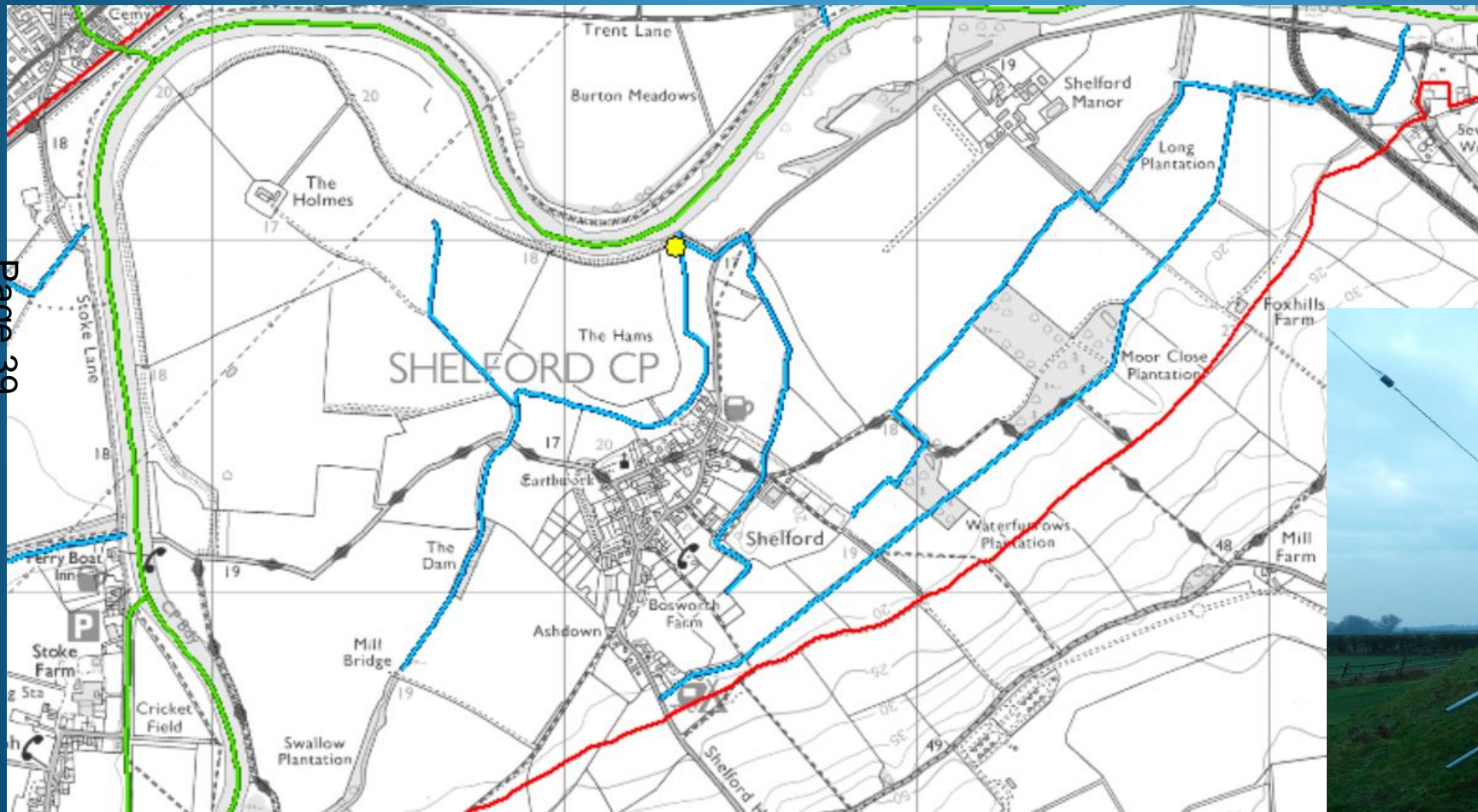




Capital Works

- Regular Maintenance Programme in place for Pumping Stations to ensure they continue to operate effectively.
- Pumps refurbished on a ten year cycle and major pumping station overhaul every 30 years.

Hams Dyke Pumping Station Refurbishment 2022 - Estimated Cost £413,000



Environmental

- Sympathetic management of watercourses ensures effective flood and water level management and meets our statutory obligation to conserve and enhance the environment.

Dedicated Environmental Officer.

- Actively involved with Environmental partners.
- Environmental surveys undertaken prior to work.
- Mitigation works undertaken.
- Recording of environmental sightings, e.g. water voles.
- Erection of barn owl boxes and annual monitoring with Hawk and Owl Trust.



Water Level Management

- Changing weather patterns mean a greater need for water level management, not just flood protection.
- The Board aims, wherever possible, to higher water levels in the summer to assist with irrigation and lower levels in the winter to allow additional storage.
- Assessing the impacts of future development, e.g. surveys and modelling of the Brooks.

Flooding

- The Board is aware of the devastating effect flooding has on people, their homes, and local businesses including prime agricultural farmland.
- Whilst we do not have a statutory duty to prevent flooding, the Board aims to provide a level of protection against a 1 in 75 year rainfall event for urban areas and 1 in 10 years for agricultural land.
- Catchment studies are carried out taking into account climate change, rising sea levels, increased development etc.

- Weather monitored and pre-emptive measures taken.
- Central control room manned 24 hours a day during a major flood event.
- Liaison with EA and Local Authorities and IDB presence in central emergency control centre.

Additional manpower and equipment such as pumps available from the Consortium partners.



Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA) Works

- Planned partnership schemes in the area on main rivers for Environment Agency, e.g. River Greet and Cocker Beck.
- **All costs fully reimbursed by EA.**
- Partnership scheme on Fairham Brook with EA.

Examples of Work Undertaken in the Rushcliffe Area by the Board this Year

- Kingston Brook at East and West Leake
- Fairham Brook at Bunny

Kingston Brook Bank Repair, West Leake



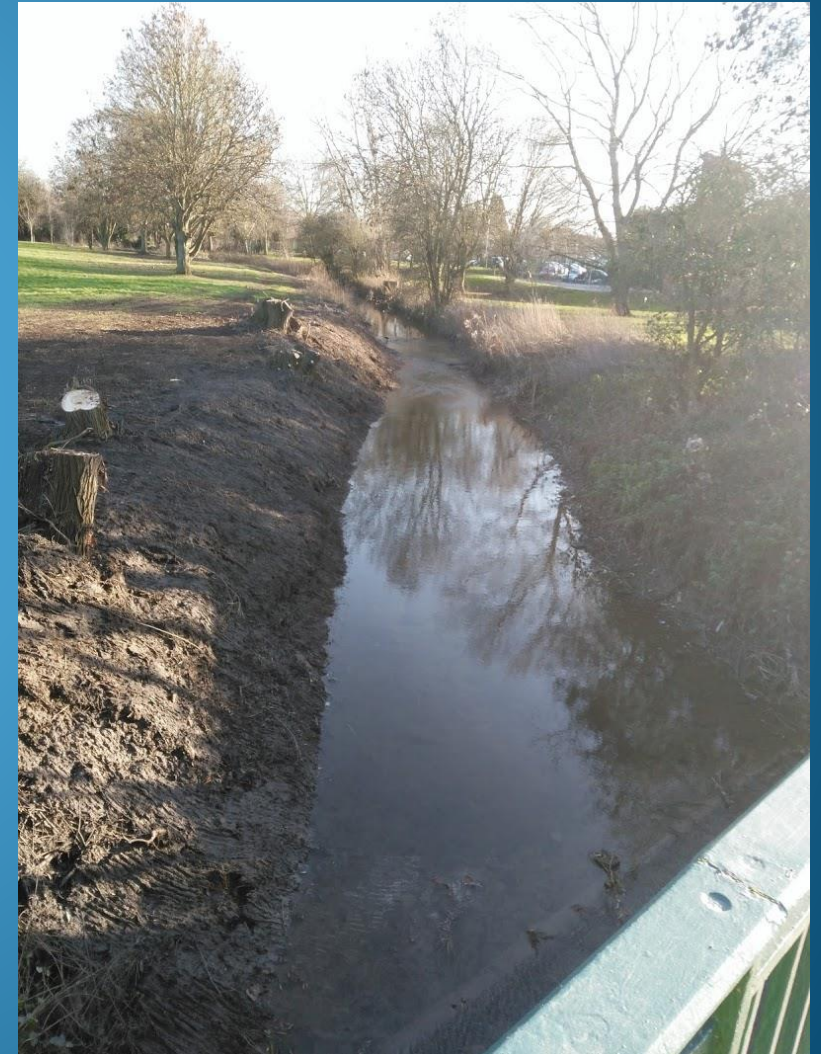
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Fairham Brook Bank Repair, Bunny

Upstream of Gotham Road



Removal of silt bed and trees through the Park



Removal of silt bed and trees through the Park



Access improvements upstream of Gotham Road



Removal of rotten willow tree in the park

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Temporary access crossing point over Sheep Wash Brook





Rushcliffe
Borough Council



Rushcliffe Borough Council

Community scrutiny group

Emergency planning

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Role

- Conduct flood risk management works on minor watercourses in our ownership.
- Work in partnership with Lead Local Flood Authority and risk management authorities
- Take planning decisions on developments.
- Work with communities
- Emergency response and recovery work



Recent flooding

November 2019

- Tollerton
- Gotham,
- Bingham,
- West Bridgford,
- Ruddington,
- Sutton Bonington,
- Radcliffe on Trent

February 2020

- Tollerton
- Gotham
- Bingham
- Ruddington
- Sutton Bonington
- Radcliffe on Trent
- Cropwell Butler
- East Leake
- Rempstone
- Colston Bassett / Cotgrave

June 2020

- Ruddington



Work pre flooding

- Schedule of inspection and maintenance works.
 - Ditches
 - Streams
 - Balancing ponds
- Community engagement



Rushcliffe role in response

- Sandbag delivery. Prioritising the vulnerable
- Evacuation and provision of places of safety
- Rest Centres
- Temporary accommodation for the homeless
- Humanitarian assistance
- Rapid response team
- Multi agency structure
- Elected member briefings



Partnership working in recovery

- Page 60
- Information sharing
 - Lead Local Flood Authority
 - Severn Trent / Internal drainage board
 - Parish Councils



Role of elected members

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

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- Civil Contingencies Act obligations being met

CIVIC LEADERSHIP

- Focal point for the local area

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- Encourage increased community resilience
- Support through the response and recovery

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Rushcliffe
Borough Council



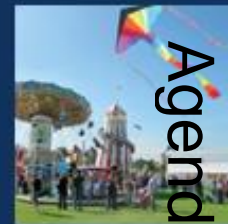
Rushcliffe Borough Council

Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy

Derek Hayden

Paul Phillips

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Agenda Item 5





Pledge for Nature

- On 28 September, Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister of the UK, signed the Leaders Pledge for Nature, at the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity along with 64 other countries, seeking to reverse Biodiversity Loss by 2030.
- The pledge states: “We are in a state of planetary emergency: the interdependent crises of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and climate change”





Rushcliffe Today

Rushcliffe has a wealth of nature conservation sites

- 8 sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- 226 Local Wildlife Sites (1,889 hectares)
- 6 Local Nature Reserves
- 39 sites managed as nature reserves (453 hectares)
- 7 Ancient Woodlands



Achievements of 2015-20 Strategy

- Active management commenced at Dewberry Hill and Lily Ponds in Ratcliffe on Trent
- Grassland sites scrub control provided by remote mower hire
- Establishment of Tree Wardens in Rushcliffe and supply of 5329 free trees to the public and 363 trees to parishes and communities by 2019, further trees to be provided in 2020
- Increase in nature conservation volunteering to 12,591 hours in 2018 (8,378 hours in 2014 up from 3,138 hours in 2004)
- 23 projects supported with RBC grants between 2015 and 2020
- Barn Owl (an indicator of a healthy environment) population growth – 126 chicks ringed in 2019 (4 in 2000 and 47 in 2015)



Proposed Strategic Aim 2021-2025

“To protect and enhance nature conservation in Rushcliffe, help mitigate the effects of climate change on wildlife and provide ready access to wildlife rich green spaces. There will be a particular emphasis on species-rich grassland, wetland and woodland habitats, and species characteristic of the Borough such as grizzled skipper, great crested newts and brown hare. This will be achieved through forming effective partnerships, brought together through the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group (RNCSIG)”





Proposed Objectives 2021-2025

- 1. Promote Landscape Scale Conservation to create a more resilient natural environment**
- 2. Promote the maintenance and enhancement of nature reserves**
- 3. Promote sympathetic land management for wildlife in rural and urban areas**
- 4. Support monitoring of Rushcliffe's biodiversity**
- 5. Raise awareness of nature conservation issues**
- 6. Seek to influence the impact of development on wildlife**



Woodland & Trees

- Promote appropriate new woodland planting and or/ regeneration (particularly linked to existing woods)
- Develop tree-planting schemes, carbon offset schemes & Community Orchards
- Promote sympathetic woodland management
- Use tree preservation orders for threatened valuable trees
- Enable tree wardens to protect and enhance tree cover
- Target of 20 hectares of new woodland (30,000 trees)
- Encourage use of locally sourced native trees



Species-rich grassland on roadsides

- Rushcliffe Borough Council resolved to ask Scrutiny to review the feasibility of sowing native wild flower seeds along the grassed areas that it manages and put forwards recommendations to the Cabinet.”

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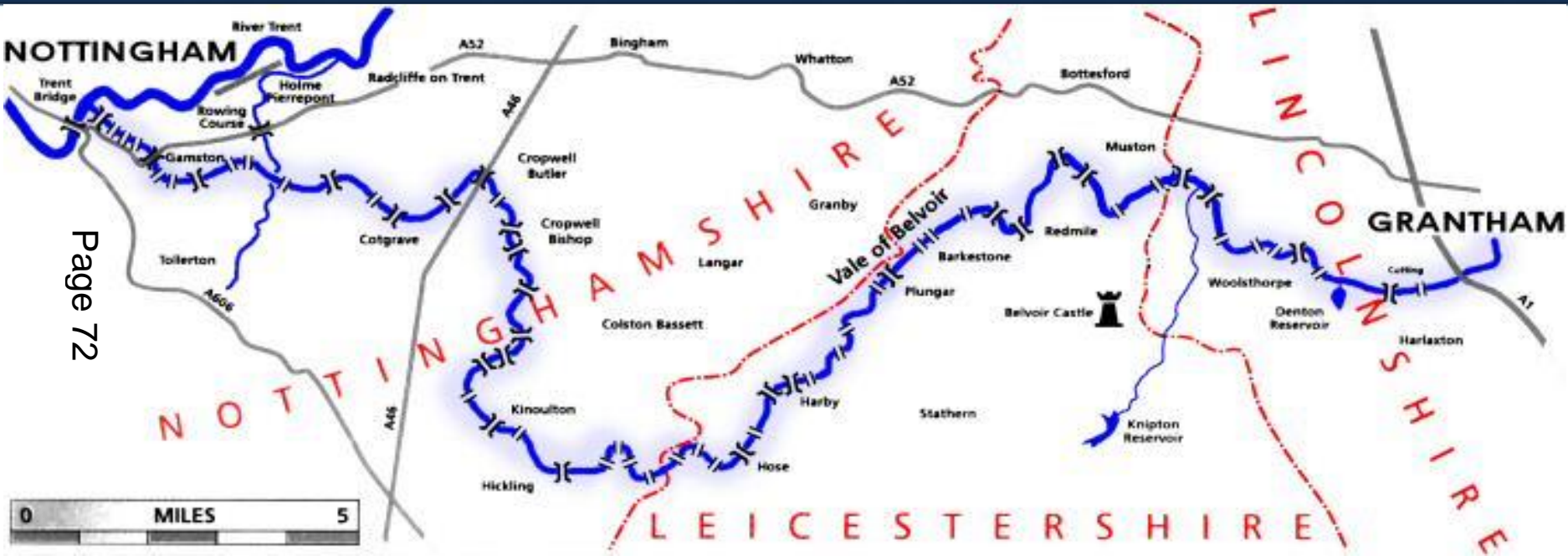
Species-rich grassland on roadsides

- The strategy group (RNCSIG) supports enhanced management and extension of Notified Road Verges
- The group has concerns about the risk of introducing non local species / sub species seed, especially in rural areas and on sensitive wildlife sites
- The group is in dialogue with Highways England and Nottinghamshire Highways to manage important verges appropriately





Grantham Canal



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Grantham Canal

- Water supply issues have led to sections becoming dry and regular wildlife health concerns
- The Canal and River trust state: “Unfortunately there are no quick wins, no alternative supplies of water that can be easily tapped into, ... a solution may be some years away”
- The strategy 2016 -20 states “we will: Liaise over the future redevelopment of the Grantham Canal and its surroundings” and “We will seek to: Protect and enhance the Grantham Canal”



Biodiversity Net Gain

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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Biodiversity Net Gain

- Biodiversity Net Gain is a development process, that is implemented and monitored through the local planning process
- It requires development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before...where developers work with local governments and stakeholders to support their priorities for nature conservation
- It sets measurable target for development projects where impacts on biodiversity are avoided and then minimised through restoration and / or compensation
- It requires management in the long term (25+ years)



Next Stages

- Discussion, questions and comments from Communities Scrutiny Group
- Wider partner and public consultation
- Final draft of strategy produced by end of 2020
- Report back to council in early 2021 for adoption by the council
- Implementation through RNCSIG partners