

## Flood and Water Management Act 2010

### Section 19 Report on Flooding Incident Investigation Romsey

#### Executive Summary

##### Background

Following the flooding incidents in Romsey in December 2013 and January 2014, Hampshire County Council (HCC) as the Lead Local Flood Authority for the area chose to conduct an investigation as per Section 19 of the Flood and Water management Act 2010 (FWMA). Hampshire County Council decided to contract the work of this investigation to a third party consultant in order to maintain the objectiveness of this particular investigation. CH2MHILL were commissioned to carry out this investigation on behalf of Hampshire in February 2014 with the scope extended to cover the flooding incidents up to the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2014.

##### Investigation

The Investigation focused on specific areas of Romsey that were affected by flooding namely; Cupernham Lane, Winchester Road, Middlebridge Street, Riverside gardens, and Mainstone and causeway.

In order to gather additional information about the extents of the flooding incidents and the properties affected, a series of questionnaires were sent out to residents in the areas affected by flooding. In addition, a public consultation event was held at Romsey Town hall on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Data was also obtained from consultations with relevant risk management authorities and stakeholders, and site visits.

##### Conclusions from Investigation

Fluvial, surface water, foul water and groundwater flooding all affected the investigation area during the investigation period.

Using the flooding incident maps created it is estimated that the flooding in Romsey between the 23<sup>rd</sup> December and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014 directly affected up to 96 properties and occurred through a variety of flood mechanisms at various locations. From the questionnaire responses, 69 properties were reported as flooded (26 internally, 37 externally and 8 with cellar flooding).

At **Cupernham lane** surface runoff due to the terrain and high groundwater levels led to the flooding of Cupernham Lane.

At **Winchester Road** groundwater issues led to flooding of properties' cellars and inundated sewers led to surface water flooding of properties particularly at the location close to the Plaza Roundabout.

At **Mainstone and Causeway** there were separate distinct incidents which contributed to the flooding. Surface water flooding from the A3090/A27 to the properties at Mainstone and also Groundwater levels combined with excess flows in the ordinary watercourse in the field to the rear of Mainstone causing separate incidents flooding properties on the Causeway and the rear of properties on Mainstone.

The properties in **Riverside Gardens** were affected by surface water flooding from sewer networks. Some properties suffered directly from fluvial flooding from the River Test.

Properties in **Middlebridge Street** were affected by surface water and foul flooding from sewer networks. Some properties also reported groundwater flooding.

Following a review of the approved surface water drainage strategy for the **Abbotswood development** it was judged that the Abbotswood development did not result in an increasing of the flood risk to Cupernham Lane.

Due to the level of attenuation provided by the basins and water management features installed at the time, the flooding of Cupernham lane witnessed in the incidents between December 2013 and February 2014 was actually alleviated slightly due to the Abbotswood development.

Despite this, it is felt that further efforts could have been made during development to reduce potential offsite flood risk (assuming that the design confirms additional attenuation to count for factor of safety). During the planning process, more efforts could also have been made to assess the impact of flooding to downstream receptors. Measures are now being taken by the Abbotswood development to implement a revised drainage strategy.

Responses on emergency measures carried out during the investigation period were received from the Environment Agency and Test Valley Borough Council.

### **Future Action**

The Report on flooding Incidents in Romsey has investigated the flooding events and is able to serve as the basis for any development of future options to manage the flood risk in Romsey.

Risk Management Authorities were consulted on future actions planned. Whilst there is no specific action planned at present, potential options have been explored and are to be pursued. Mainstone and Causeway is seen as a priority area where the flood risk needs to be addressed.