



## **Environment Agency On-Property Protection Pilot Scheme: Gunthorpe, Nottinghamshire**

The City of Nottingham is subject to improved capital flood defences comprising flood walls and embankments provided by the Environment Agency. This will increase the level of protection to properties within the city itself however in downstream areas the situation is that there will be no benefit and in fact it is believed that some areas would have a slightly increased flood risk.

Unlike the city, the downstream area is sparsely populated with most of the population in small villages; therefore it has been assessed that these areas would be unlikely to benefit from their own capital flood defence scheme because of the cost outweighing the benefit. As the area does have a long history of flooding it has been deemed that the villages themselves are of importance on a regional level and a budget to protect a number of properties using resilience measures has been set aside by the Regional Flood Defence Committee in 2007 after consultation with the local council (Newark and Sherwood District Council) and the Environment Agency.

The area of Gunthorpe was one area which came particularly under the spotlight and had a number of people active in lobbying the Environment Agency and council. It had a long history of flooding not just from the Trent but mainly from a tributary and in some cases surface water run-off and drainage. The likelihood of fluvial flooding was typically in the range of 1 in 10 year return period to 1 in 75 year return period.

40 properties were identified as being potentially at risk from a 1 in 10 year return period although at this stage the information was based on LIDAR data and flooding archives. Some of these properties were owner occupied, some were rented and some were empty. The people themselves would be described as relatively property rich and in some cases income poor. Property types varied from older terrace properties to large detached and very individual properties. This variance meant that a common understanding of building structure and potential leak-paths for floodwater, could not be made without individual inspections – and for this purpose it was decided that an individual ‘flood mitigation and defence report’ would be required for each property.

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