



Department
for Transport

APSE CONFERENCE

The Winter 2015/16 Storms

Steve Berry and Paula Claytonsmith





Preparations for Winter

- Important the transport sector, including local highway authorities, have robust contingency plans in place to mitigate against any significant weather that we may encounter over the winter period.
- In October 2015, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport wrote to remind local highway authorities of winter preparations.
- This follows on from various reviews undertaken after previous severe winter weather encountered since 2010.



To Leaders of all
Local Highway Authorities in England

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Andrew Jones MP

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London SW1P 4DR

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27 October 2015

Dear Colleague,

WINTER 2015/16

We are all too familiar with the UK weather being unpredictable and experience from recent winters has reminded us of the wisdom of planning for all eventualities. It is therefore important that the transport sector, including local highway authorities, have robust contingency plans in place to mitigate against any significant weather that we may encounter over the winter period.

Last year and following on from the wet winter of 2013/14 we wrote to you to highlight the independent report on transport resilience. This report made a number of recommendations to organisations including local authorities. I wish to take this opportunity to remind you of this report. The report can be found at the following weblink:

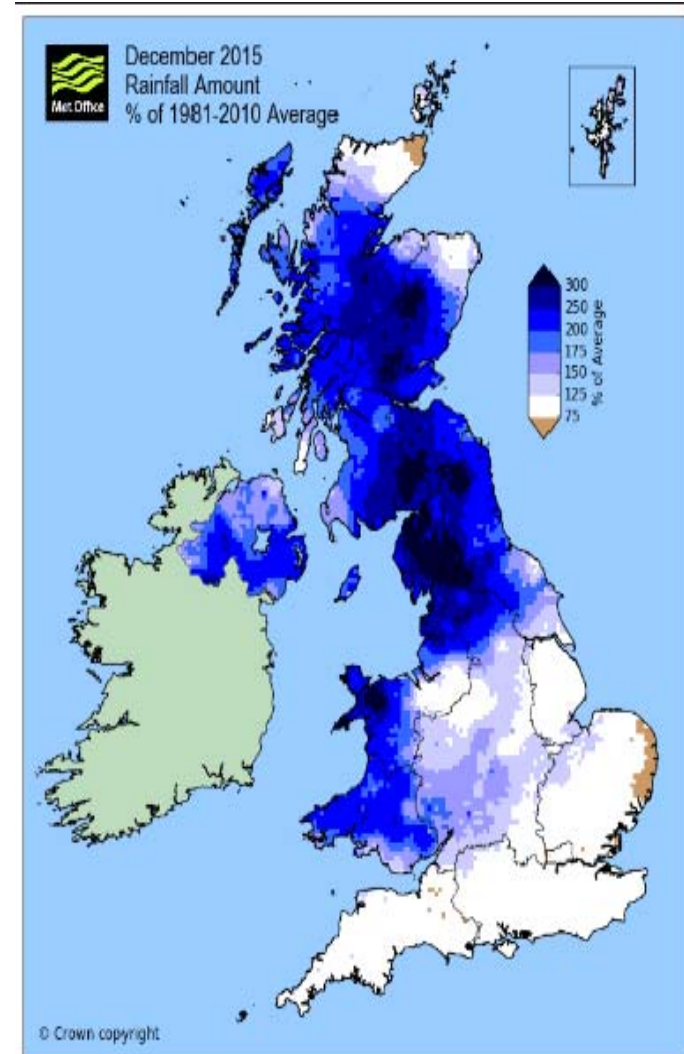
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-resilience-review-recommendations>

I am sure that your authority is already ensuring that drains and gullies that fall under your council's responsibility are inspected and cleansed to help reduce the risk of surface water flooding. It is also important that all necessary steps are undertaken to mitigate against any severe weather and this should include reviewing and updating winter service and other contingency plans and taking into account any lessons learnt from previous winters. It is also important that your authority works closely with your Local Resilience Forum and other key organisations and responders within your area, as well as ensuring effective



Scale and Context

- ▶ The **2015–16 Great Britain Storms** were a series of heavy rainfall events which led to flooding during the winter of late 2015 and early 2016.
- ▶ For example, **Storm Desmond** broke the United Kingdom's 24-hour rainfall record, with 341.4 mm of rain falling at Honister Pass in Cumbria on 5 December 2015.
- ▶ Further Storms were encountered – including **Eva, Frank and Gertrude** to add to the flooding and damage to properties and infrastructure.





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Examples of damage to Local Highway Infrastructure



All pictures courtesy of Google Images

Moving Britain Ahead



Ministerial Recovery Group

The strategic objective for a Ministerial Recovery Group (MRG) is to stabilise, restore and return to normality.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- engender public confidence in the recovery process at all levels;
- ensure effective, co-ordinated support by central government and other national bodies to the work of local authorities in helping communities affected by the floods return to normality;
- ensure that local authorities and other recovery agencies fulfil their role and that where necessary local issues are considered and resolved at the national level; and
- support mainstreaming of any residual recovery activity as soon as is possible.

KEY TASKS

- monitor the outcomes and spend of the recovery support package;
- ensure effective joined up working across national & local government (avoiding duplication/repetition) escalating issues that require resolution at the national level; and,
- ensure that inter-departmental, including Ministerial, agreement on the way forward is agreed & subsequently implemented.

Rapid response

- Important to deploy stable technology
- Understand the type of data that will allow rapid decisions
- Using technology to keep Ministers informed
- “Rogue” data issues
- Crowd sourcing report feedbacks

Previous resilience experience



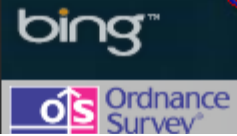
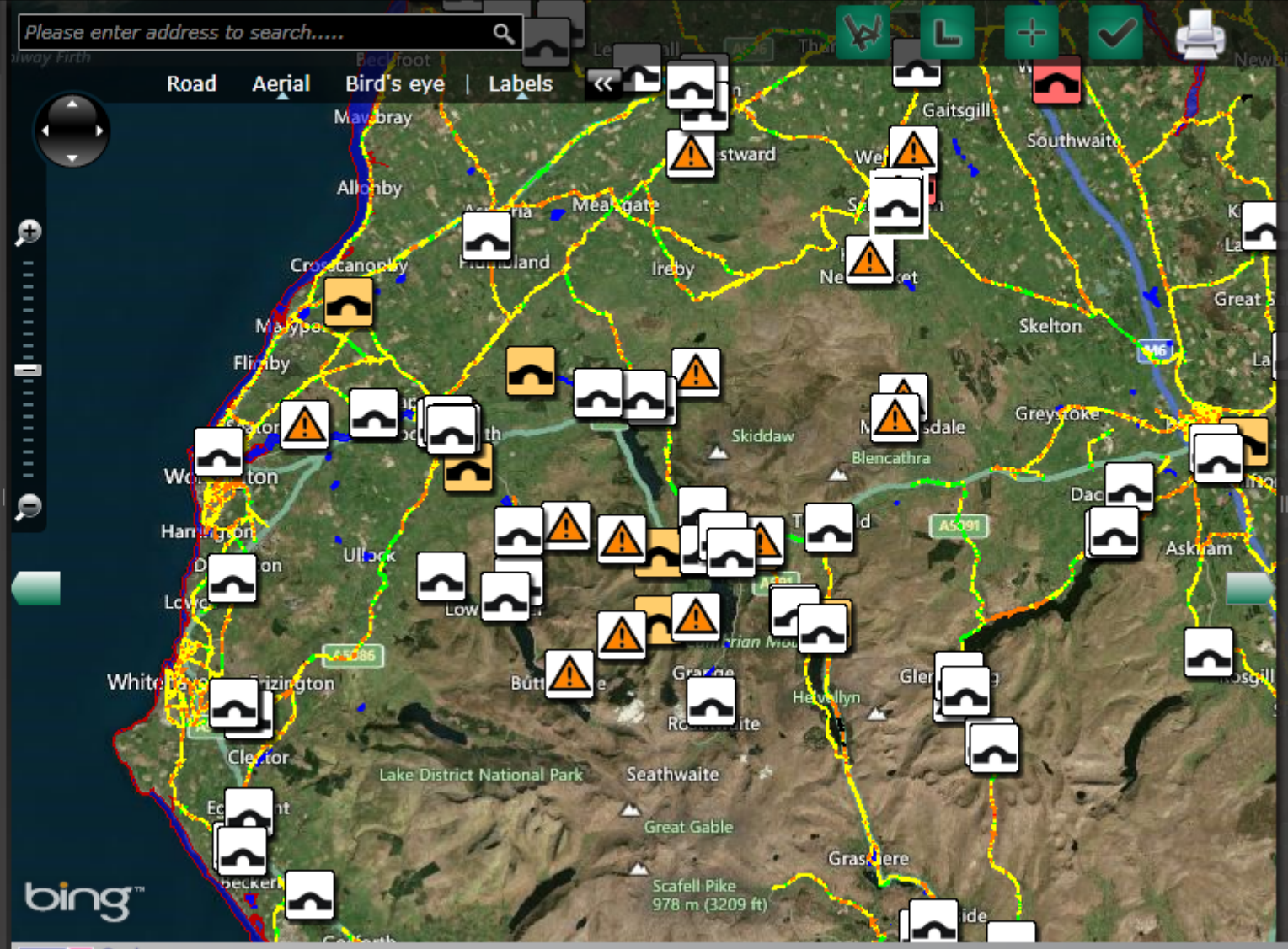
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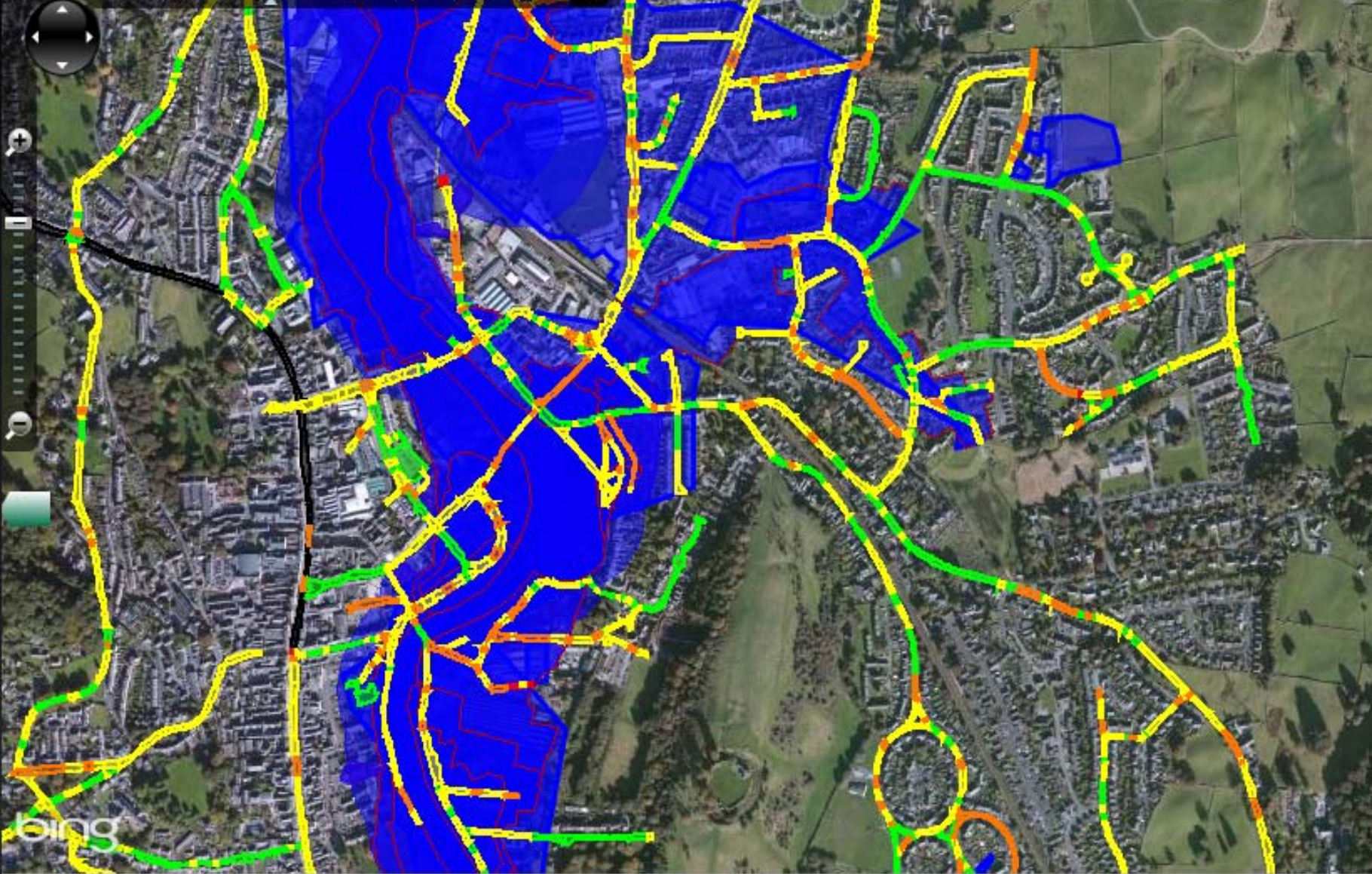
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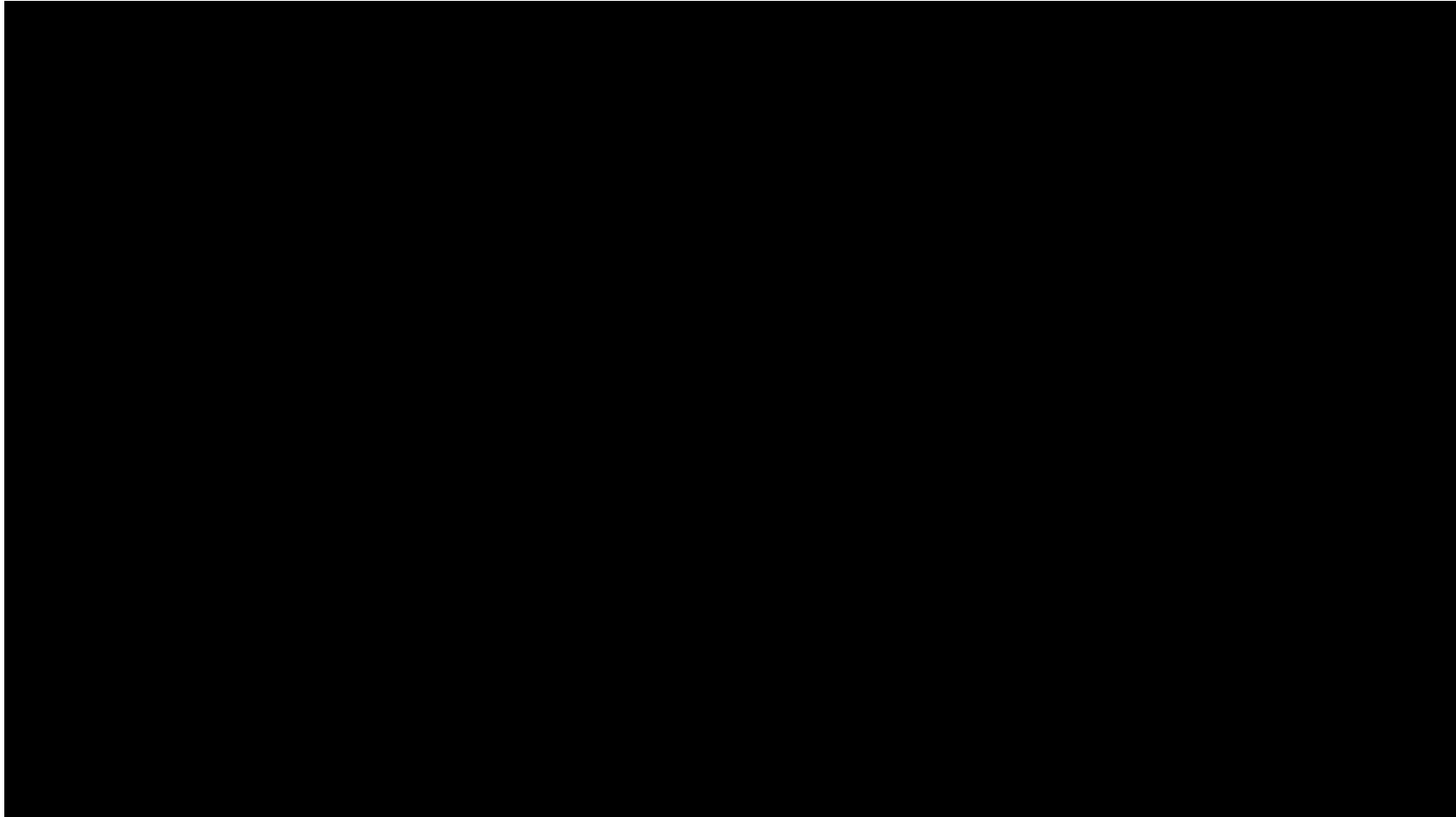
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Giving perspective to others





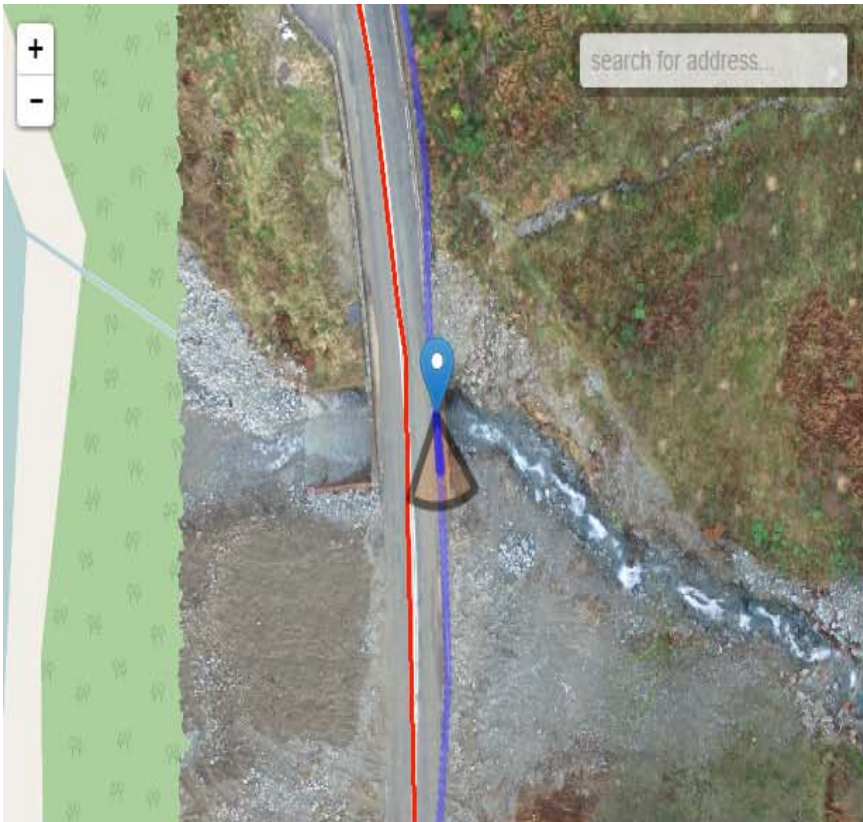
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3D to understand ongoing issues







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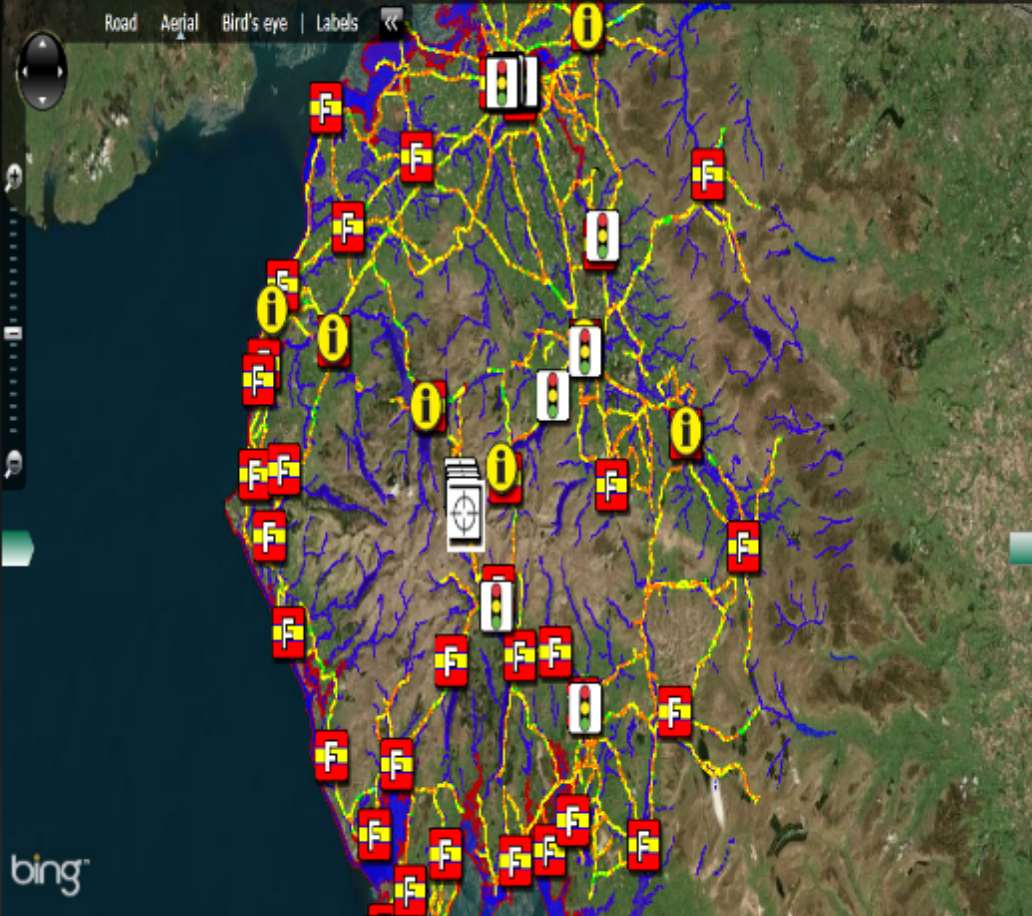


Image 11



Image 12





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Thank You



Moving Britain Ahead



March 2016