

Poynton Flood Update Newsletter

December 2020

Dear Resident of Poynton

We wanted to provide you with a further multi-agency update on the work which has been carried out since the flooding of Poynton in July/August 2019. This includes updates from Cheshire East Council, United Utilities, Environment Agency, Poynton Flood Group, and Poynton Working Group. Further advice and information can be found on the Floodhub.

As you are aware, we continue to live in unprecedented times with the global outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. Following government advice we are clear that the safety of everyone is our priority. We are also clear that much of our work has been identified as essential by the government and we have continued with this work, where it remains safe to do so.

Our key priorities are to protect the health, safety and well-being of our own staff, the public and the businesses and partners we work with; to prevent loss of life and serious harm to the environment; and to keep our critical operations running.

Please could residents ensure that flooding incidents are reported to the appropriate agency, numbers are at the foot of the newsletter.

We wish to reassure you that work is continuing in Poynton to further protect the communities from future flood events. We hope that you are all staying safe and well during this time.

Cheshire East Council Update

Section 19 Report

Cheshire East Council's role is to undertake the formal flood investigation which is called the section 19 report, which is a requirement of section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010.

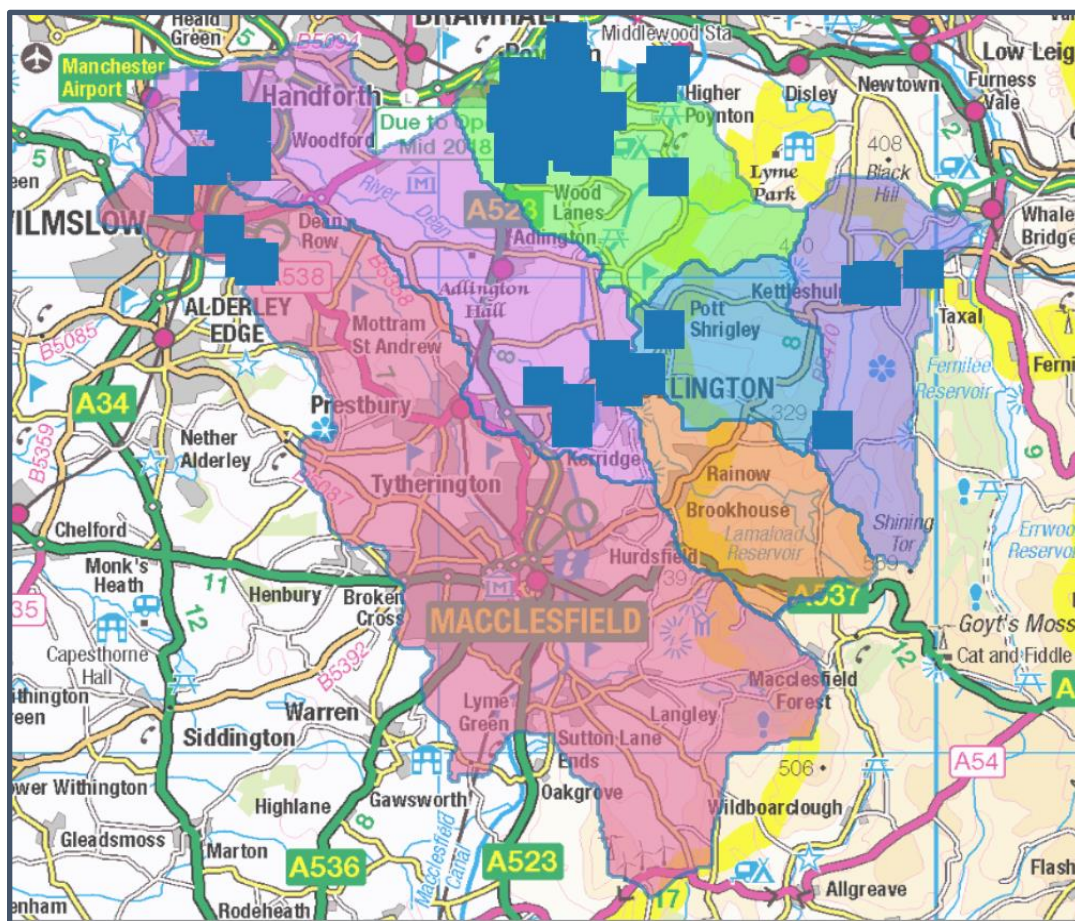
The purpose of a formal flood investigation is to record:

- Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and
- Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

The risk management authorities who have recommendations for actions have been notified which have formed the basis for some of the activities on-going since July 2019. The notification of these recommendations is not dependent upon the publication of the report (please see attached recommendations from the Section 19 report - local updates)

To report internal property flooding to the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) please email: Flood.Investigation@cheshireeast.gov.uk or call 0300 123 5500.

Properties reporting flooding between 28th - 31 July 2019. Green area highlights the Poynton Brook catchment.



The draft report has been presented to the Council for approval and will shortly be published online: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/flooding/floods-and-flood-risk/flood-investigations.aspx>

Task and Finish Group

At the Council's Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny (EROSC) Meeting on the 21st September 2020, a resolution passed to establish a task and finish group to undertake an in-depth review of flooding and flood risk management in Cheshire East. This would enable a number of meetings to be set up for task and finish members, as well as local ward councillors, Risk Management Authorities and others to scrutinise the impacts of the 2019 flooding in the various areas of Cheshire East that were affected (Including Poynton, Kettleshulme, Adlington, Prestbury & Bollington).

In recognition that communications have become more challenging this year, and as works continue locally we endeavour to update Poynton Town Council and their Flood Working Group of the local schemes that are being undertaken in response to the flooding experienced in Poynton. Details are also available on the Cheshire East Highways webpage and Twitter account. Please note, that where a scheme would highlight the flood risk at a particular property this **will not** be advertised publically due to GDPR regulations and the risk of property blight.



Planning applications and strategic planning sites in Poynton

All planning application files are available to view online:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/view_a_planning_application/view_a_planning_application.aspx

Members of the public can continue to submit their comments, and any supporting evidence such as photographs or videos via email, or letter. Please see the online guidance for further details.

Sustainable surface water management is a material consideration for all planning applications. This means all development proposals must include a site-specific surface water drainage strategy following sustainable urban drainage guidelines (SuDS).

- On Greenfield sites, surface water run off must be managed to achieve at least no increase in run-off rates. Where possible, there should be a reduction in rates.
- On previously-developed sites, run-off proposals should demonstrate a reduction in rates in line with the non-statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (2015) (or any later replacement standards).

Highway drainage improvements:

Drainage improvement works have been completed on Dickens Lane, adjacent to Moggies Lane Bridge and on Waterloo Road adjacent to Easton Close.

Drainage improvements are planned for Woodside Close, Lostock Road and London Road South as part of the annually approved local drainage improvement schemes, the full list is published online:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/road-maintenance/road-repair-and-improvement-programme-2020-2021.aspx

Highway gully clearance

- Poynton gulleys are cleansed as part of an ongoing maintenance plan, further details are available online, Poynton is Route 21. https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/road-maintenance/gullies-and-drains.aspx
- To report an issue: <https://www.cheshireeasthighways.org/report-it-general.aspx>

Privately owned surface water sewers

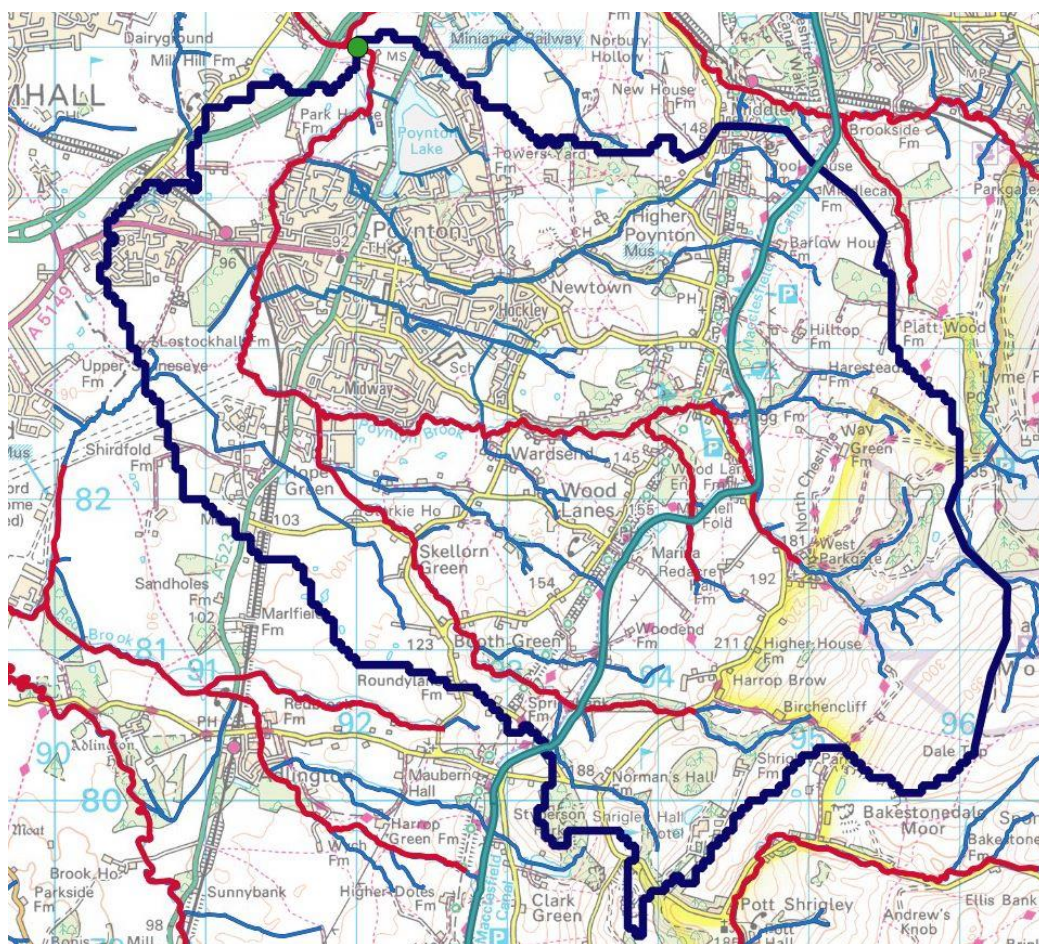
- A number of privately owned surface water sewers have been discovered across Poynton, these are sewers that drain water from properties into local watercourses.
- All privately owned systems remain the maintenance responsibility of the property owner .
- Where a number of properties connect to such a system residents will share maintenance responsibilities.
- Cheshire East and United Utilities are continuing to support residents who have identified such systems.
- Cheshire East has, without prejudice, cleansed and CCTV surveyed the surface water sewer that runs down Melrose Crescent. The results of the survey will be shared with the residents who retain the responsibility for maintaining this system.

Ordinary watercourses

- Park Lane stream: Cheshire East has, without prejudice, cleansed the open section of the ordinary watercourse downstream of Glastonbury Drive. Works started here in June 2020. These works were then paused due to the bird nesting seasons as a number of trees had cracked or fallen and needed to be pollarded or felled to allow machine access. These works commenced again at the beginning of October , works should be completed in November 2020.
- Coppice Stream: Localised issues have been discussed on site with local residents and local landowners.
- Survey work is planned, without prejudice, by United Utilities to CCTV a section of ordinary watercourse associated with Coppice Stream, the affected riparian owners have been notified of this in writing and contacted by the Poynton Town Council Flood Working Group.



Watercourse within Poynton: ordinary watercourses shown in blue, main rivers shown in red. Dark Blue line shows approximate watershed of the Poynton Brook and Both Green Brook catchment. All water falling within the dark blue line will flow through Poynton towards Lady Brook in the North Northwest of the image shown as a green spot.



Main River (shown in red)

A main river is usually a large stream or river, such as Poynton Brook. However, locally important smaller watercourses can be designated as Main Rivers. The Environment Agency has authority, powers, rights and responsibilities for managing Main Rivers in England and Wales.

Ordinary Watercourse (shown in light blue)

An ordinary watercourse is any river, stream, ditch and culvert not defined as Main River. Ordinary watercourses are the responsibility of the riparian owner. A riparian owner is the person, or people, with watercourses on, next to or under their property. If you own a property boundary contains a watercourse this means that you are a riparian owner, as such you are responsible for maintaining this watercourse under the Land Drainage Act, 1991.

Macclesfield canal (shown in teal)

The canal is owned and maintained by the Canal and River Trust

Riparian ownership

In summary if you are a riparian owner, you have responsibilities for the stretch of watercourse you own. These include, but are not limited to letting the water flow naturally.

You must let water flow naturally.

You may have to remove blockages, fallen trees or overhanging branches from your watercourse, or cut back trees and shrubs on the bank, if they could:

- Obstruct or affect a public right of navigation – ask your navigation authority for advice.
- Reduce the flow or cause flooding to other landowners' property – you may have to pay damages if they do.

You should:

- Leave all other trees, branches and shrubs - they can help prevent flooding by varying the shape and flow of the channel, and reduce erosion.
- Keep any trash screen, weir, mill gate or other structure clear.

Don't go inside a culvert. You could get trapped or poisoned by gases.

Cheshire East Council does not have a responsibility to undertake works on an ordinary watercourse, but they do control work carried out in and around watercourses.

For example:

- You have the right to protect your property from flooding and erosion, but you must:
- Get permissions to build anything in or around the watercourse.
- Not build anything which could divert water and increase flood risk to other people's property, or you may have to pay damages.

You must obtain consent before you:

- Change, remove or build any flood defence on your land.
- Do any work within 8 meters of a watercourse.

For more details on being a riparian owner, please visit the following site: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

Natural Flood Management

Options being reviewed to slow the flow and hold water flood waters upstream by multi agency partners in conjunction with the National Trust and other local land owners.

- Cheshire East attended the public meeting that was held on 3rd March 2020 at St Martins Church 18 Shrigley Rd N, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1TE with local landowners to explore options for slowing the flow within the Poynton Brook catchment.
- Cheshire East organised a walkover of the upper catchment of the Park Lane Stream was undertaken by a multi-agency team on 4th March 2020.
- Works to slow the flow on Coppice Stream are being reviewed, workson the highway/footway to help reduce local flooding to this area was completed this summer



Wards End Bridge (retaining wall adjacent to the bridge) – Poynton Brook

Works have now been completed.

Trash Screen/culvert clearance on ordinary watercourse

Cheshire East Highways clear the screens on a regular basis along with ad-hoc clearance following periods of high rainfall:

- Middlewood Road
- Park Lane (Willow Close)

To report an issue: <https://www.cheshireeasthighways.org/report-it-general.aspx>

Cheshire East Covid 19 Advice/Guidance

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/media_hub/media_releases/cheshire-east-launches-covid-19-information-hub-and-support-network.aspx

United Utilities

United Utilities are the statutory undertaker for water and wastewater services and have carried out investigations into flooding which was reported to them. The result of investigations we undertake is shared with the Lead Local Flood Authority and we are one of the risk management authorities who contribute to the section 19 report into flooding.

- We have been working with Cheshire East Council to agree works to work together to divert some flow from Park Lane Stream via an existing culvert into Poynton Lake, thereby reducing the volume of water passing forward via the Park Lane Stream through the Mayfair Close / Covell Road / Tulworth Road culvert systems.
 - This work will involve some manhole improvements and some without prejudice cleaning of the culverted watercourse once permissions have been gained by Cheshire East Council.
 - Also included is a new surface water outfall to Park Lane Stream on land between Parklands Way and Woodside Lane.
- We have been liaising with the Environment Agency and landowners regarding replacement of 2 surface water outfall headwalls to Poynton Brook (Main River).
- Work continues on the drainage area study.
- United Utilities remain supportive of the National Trust and the Cheshire Wildlife Trust with the Natural Flood Management work in the land above Poynton to slow the flow of surface water runoff.
 - Sustainable surface water management in the upstream catchment is likely to be a large factor in preventing repetition of the devastating impact as a result of the extreme events weather events such as we have seen in the last few years.

It should be noted that some of the above activities may be inhibited due to government restrictions and personnel availability as a result of the coronavirus situation.

There is no change to how United Utilities will respond during a flooding event. The procedure to call United Utilities' integrated call centre should you experience sewer flooding is unchanged and can be found on the website <https://www.unitedutilities.com/emergencies/got-a-problem/blocked-drains/>. The United Utilities emergency number is 0345 672 3723.

Any work that is to be carried out as a result of a sewer flooding incident would still be considered essential by United Utilities therefore we would still attend site to support, clean up, collect data and arrange any repairs which may be required.



On reporting the incident to United Utilities' call centre, customers will be asked whether they are self-isolating or are displaying symptoms of Covid-19. United Utilities will still attend in response to customer calls but for those customers who are self-isolating or displaying symptoms the United Utilities team will be provided with enhanced PPE to protect customers and employees.

UU are monitoring work force levels as people are self-isolating and / or sick, so if there is any impact on response times the customer will be made aware of this at the time of reporting the incident.

Help 'Stop The Block' this Christmas

A blocked sink or an overflowing loo is the last thing any of us need right now, and even more so as we approach the festive season. This Christmas-time, we're encouraging people to dispose of fats and grease responsibly and help to 'Stop The Block'.

Unfortunately when fats, oils and grease get poured down the sink, they can mix together with other waste, such as wet wipes, and form 'fatbergs' in our sewers. These blockages mean that wastewater can't flow through the sewers to our treatment sites and that can result in flooding. So, after cooking the Christmas dinner, please pour or scrape any fat, oil or grease into a heat-resistant container and once cooled, empty the contents into the bin. This way we can help keep the pipes, drains and sewers blockage free.



For more information, please visit <https://www.unitedutilities.com/help-and-support/wastewater-services/stop-the-block/>

A recent blockage found in the UU sewer network – a mixture of cotton buds, wipes and kitchen roll. Only flush the 3p's!

Priority Services – extra help for those who need it most

If you or any of your family and friends have particular health issues and haven't yet registered for United Utilities' Priority Services, then please visit [unitedutilities.com/priorityservices](https://www.unitedutilities.com/priorityservices) for additional support with your water services. If you know someone who isn't online then you can register them on their behalf.

Environment Agency

Following the successful landowner meeting back in March, where leads on co-operative and willing landowners were established, the Environment Agency commissioned Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) to identify, scope and deliver NFM interventions in the catchment upstream of Poynton.

Cheshire Wildlife trust staff have been working through these leads, and are trying to match up where interventions are needed most, with locations where landowners are willing. Joe, Matt and Ashley from CWT have spent a lot of time engaging with people to achieve this; this stage is always a long process. Nigel Fore from the Flood action Group has helped facilitate this with some helpful leads and suggestions, as have our other professional partners in UU and Cheshire East. It is important to note that interventions require landowner co-operation and they cannot be arbitrarily introduced.

As most interventions involve temporarily holding water in times of flood, or nudging water to flow a particular way through the landscape, most landowners do not feel there is a significant conflict with their agricultural practices.

Areas of land around Poynton Coppice are a priority area and options in this area are being looked at thoroughly. Similarly, Higher Poynton is a priority area, as is the area around Rabbit Burrow Farm, Pool House Farm. Options to divert floodwaters onto Middlewood Way are also being considered. Work is developing in these locations and we hope to come back shortly with some reports on delivery.

If the local community can help with any local landowner contact, this would be greatly appreciated and they should contact Ashley at Adeane@cheshirewt.org.uk.



We continue to undertake regular conveyance checks on the watercourses, following our interventions earlier this year. If you see a blockage, please contact the EA via our Incident hotline Telephone on 0800 80 70 60, which is a 24-hour service.

We would also like to highlight at an early stage, the government's £200 million Innovative Resilience Programme.

This new programme, first announced in the Budget, will deliver innovative actions in 25 local areas such as nature based solutions, sustainable drainage systems, pro-active approaches for making existing properties more flood resilient, encouraging local businesses to improve their flood resilience, and building voluntary sector capacity to respond and recover. It will demonstrate how innovative actions can work individually and in combination to improve resilience to flooding and coastal erosion, and encourage strategic thinking and working across administrative boundaries.

Funding will be around £6 million per area during 2021 -27. The Environment Agency will invite Lead Local Flood Authorities and Coast Protection Authorities to work with local partners on expressions of interest later this year. We will publish a prospectus which will include a menu of actions from which each area can select those it will take forward. Once selected, the 25 areas will then work up their proposals in more detail, before the programme begins in April 2021. We will provide some preparation funding to the 25 areas in 2020 -21.

The Environment Agency is always focussed on protecting lives, livelihoods and the environment. Our commitment to this does not change while dealing with the effects of coronavirus, but we have to take into account the national situation. During this crisis, our priorities are as follows: -

Protect our staff's health, safety and wellbeing we will protect the health, safety and wellbeing of all our staff. We will ensure the resilience of incident responders, equipment and critical suppliers.

Sustain our critical activities

Protection of lives and livelihoods – Our role is a Category 1 Incident Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means we continue operate 24/7 to respond to flooding and other environmental incidents alongside our partners.

Preventing serious harm to the environment –The Environment Agency will continue work to provide the appropriate level of regulation and services to ensure the environment is protected. We have agreed ways of working for our field teams to reduce the risk of contracting Coronavirus.

Warning and informing the public about flood risk; we continue to operate and maintain our existing flood defences; and construct new ones.

We have taken action to ensure that we can sustain these vital services. While of course we always need to prioritise our work, we remain fully operational.

Poynton Flood Group

Poynton Flood Action group were pleased to see the production of the Section 19 report into the floods of 31 July 2019. We note that the report, while covering the source and some of the causes of flooding would benefit from local inputs to help inform a clear multi agency plan.

With this in mind members of the Flood Action Group and the Town Council met with David Rutley MP to raise concerns that we considered the report to be lacking in what we had hoped for and deserve. David Rutley wrote to Cheshire East to raise these concerns.

Since then we are pleased to learn that the content of the S19 report is to be the subject of some further scrutiny by Cheshire East Council through a 'Task and Finish Group'.

Lead officers, who are helping to coordinate the review, have assured us that they will be inviting input from members of Poynton Flood Action Group who have had direct experience of flooding.



Poynton Working Group Update

The Section 19 report investigating the flooding was received by the Poynton Town Council's Flood Working Group in October 2020. Representatives of the Working Group attended the Cheshire East cabinet meeting where the report was discussed and made representations to cabinet members, stressing importance of clear action plans and deadlines. Following the publication of the s19 report the Working Group remains active, logging issues and investigating problems that may cause or exacerbate flooding. The Flood Working Group continues to monitor actions undertaken by the various agencies and lobby on behalf of residents. We will be arranging a multi-agency meeting and further meetings with the Flood Action Group to discuss progress and next steps shortly.

Flood Hub - <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/>

The Flood Hub website is a joint initiative by Newground, the Environment Agency, United Utilities, and the Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire Strategic Flood Partnerships. It is funded by the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC), and it launched on 5th November 2018.

The website aims to be a one-stop-shop for providing flood resilience advice and information for householders, businesses and communities. Using our online digital capability we keep users up to date with the latest flood news, events and information resources available in order to stay flood aware and increase their own resilience.

Useful links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

