

Warrington Flood Risk Newsletter Update

February 2023

Dear Resident,

We would like to tell you about the activities and partnership work Warrington Borough Council, The Environment Agency and United Utilities have been carrying out since Storm Christoph two years ago in the Sankey Bridges, Dallam, Callands and Longford Brook area.

Warrington Borough Council

Grant Close

- Work was undertaken prior to Christmas to enlarge an existing culvert. This project will improve water capacity and reduce the risk of blockages on the main river at this location.



Storm Christoph Section 19 (S19) Report

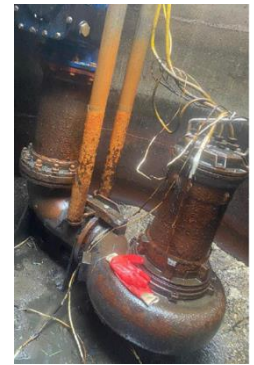
- A section 19 flood investigation report is a public statement of the circumstances of a flood event and what organisations had a role in managing the risks and responding.
- The Storm Christoph S19 report has been completed and published on the Council's website. The S19 report consists of 32 separate investigations combined into the one report.
- It is available to read at warrington.gov.uk/flooding-past-investigations

Densham Avenue

- Due to repeated flooding events, Warrington Borough Council, in collaboration with partners United Utilities and Environment Agency, designed and implemented a new pump station to reduce the risk of future flooding to Densham Avenue.
- We are approaching the second anniversary of the completion of the Dallam Brook pumping station, which to date has been very successful in reducing the flood risk to Densham Avenue.
- The project involved the demolition of the previous drainage system outfall into Dallam Brook and the construction of a new pumping station.
- Three new pumps were installed to help discharge water from the drainage system into Dallam Brook.
- We continue to monitor the area for flooding on an ongoing basis.

Higham Avenue

- Following an inspection, the larger of the two pumps was removed from the pump station and overhauled. It was reinstalled in August 2022 and both pumps were fully operational within the pump station ahead of the winter period.
- Going forward, United Utilities are inspecting the pump station on a frequent basis and in advance of forecast heavy rainfall. The Council's contractors continue to inspect the pump station on a monthly basis.
- The next project will be to raise the electric cabinet to a higher level to prevent failure of the electric pumps in the event of flooding. Works are currently planned for this Spring 2023.



United Utilities

Higham Avenue

- United Utilities have worked closely with the council to fund and deliver the repairs to the pumps.
- We also carried out modifications of the pumping station controls to allow more accurate monitoring.
- We continue to work alongside the council to upgrade the mechanical and electrical components of the pumping station.

Charter Avenue

- Charter Avenue was suffering from repeat flooding.
- We have undertaken numerous investigations in liaison with the council. While investigations have been ongoing regarding a permanent solution, United Utilities have a robust contingency plan in place to prevent flooding in Charter Avenue. This has been successfully mobilised and deployed several times during significant weather events.
- New valves have now been installed, successfully protecting multiple properties from flooding.

Dynamic Network Management

- Our goal is to create a smarter network that enables us to truly understand how our drainage systems perform. We want to be proactive, identifying potential issues before they become problems. The key to achieving this is through Dynamic Network Management.
- We are installing sensors around our network that will monitor levels and learn how levels change. The sensors will spot deviations to usual levels and flag them to our control centre for investigation and resolution before our customers know anything has happened.
- To date regionally, more than 5,900 sensors have been installed across the 54 'hot spot' areas, which is around a quarter of the way through the total programme of installations - 20,000 in total will be installed by Summer 2023.
- Locally in Warrington, we have installed 437 monitors out of a total of 850.
- We have an established Alert Response Team that are trained and out and about responding to any alerts that come in.

Environment Agency

Sankey Bridges

- Rostherne Close: A sandbag wall was constructed as an interim contingency measure to prevent flood flow route from Sankey Brook channel.
- Following the public drop-in sessions and listening to your feedback; this sandbag wall has recently been reconstructed by our Field Operations team to make it more substantial and robust. Photo shows how this now looks.
- We will continue to investigate a further potential interim measure in this area ahead of the Capital scheme.
- Repairs to the floodwall to Rostherne Close properties and Evelyn Street School are due to be completed by end of Spring 2023. These repairs include repointing, mastic replacement and patch repairs to the existing flood wall.



Dallam

Charter Avenue

- We have been working with the council and United Utilities on longer term solutions, which has included the installation of a non-return valve.
- We have recently conducted a successful operational test of the French drain and outfall behind the Charter Avenue flood defence.

Higham Avenue

- Improvements made to the resilience of the telemetry station.
- Following the Storm Christoph flood event we have reviewed the river level in which we issue flood warnings to ensure residents have enough time to prepare for flooding.



Grant Close, Callands

- The Environment Agency and Warrington Borough Council are investigating flood risk on North Park Brook in the Callands area in the vicinity of Grants Close, which drains the Westbrook and Gemini area.
- A temporary solution has been completed, with a permanent solution being developed.

Environment Agency Routine River Maintenance

We have recently carried out maintenance within the Warrington area.

Sankey

- Watercourse – annual maintenance of the channel has been completed. This includes vegetation clearance around the scheme’s assets, debris removal in the channel, and channel-side vegetation management
- Walls behind Rostherne Close and Evelyn School – vegetation clearance work has also been completed.
- St. Helen’s Canal – work to remove the trees within the overflow channel has been completed. Maturing and fallen trees within the channel were removed so the overflow channel can operate without obstruction.
- Annual Asset Inspections – inspections are next due February 2023.

Dallam

- Watercourse – blockage removal and bank side vegetation work has been completed.
- Tree work – we removed fallen trees behind Charter Avenue and the willows at the confluence of Dallam and Sankey.

Longford

- Watercourse – channel-side vegetation management and blockage/debris removal has been completed.
- Inspections – We have completed inspections Jun 2021, next inspection due August 2023.

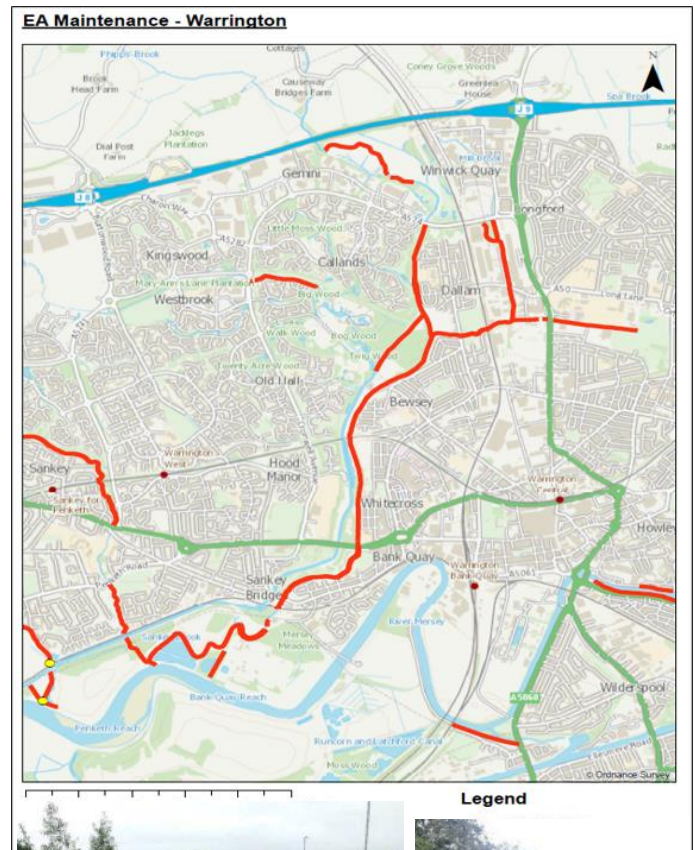
Callands/Europa Boulevard

- Watercourse – blockage/debris removal has been completed.
- Inspections - 2 sections both annually completed, August & October 22. Next due August/October 2023.

Inspections - The Environment Agency conduct condition inspections on channel sides of main rivers, programmed on a frequency determined by the associated flood risk of the watercourse and assets. These inspections are a visual assessment of the condition of the assets, EA flood defence assets but also those of 3rd parties. By determining and monitoring the condition of assets along watercourse we can ensure flood defence assets operate as designed when needed to, but also allows us to flag up any deterioration or required repairs.

Proposed Sankey Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme

The project team continue to work hard with partners to look at viable options to reduce the risk of flooding in the Sankey Brook area. For further information and updates please visit thefloodhub.co.uk/sankeybrookFRMSwarrington



Before and after photos of Dallam Brook, taken from Longshaw Street.