

Feedback from the virtual consultation October 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

The Flood Risk Management Scheme Questions

- 1) Will the watercourse alongside North Park Brook Road being taken into consideration so that water does not back flow under linear defences?

We have recently completed an interim solution for this location, and will make sure that any modification within the permanent solution itself accommodates the hydraulics of this location. For a photo of some of the works so far, please see the February 2023 Warrington Flood Risk Multi-Agency Newsletter available [here](#).

- 2) Will Longford Brook be cleaned and dredged as the brook backs up and floods Orford Park and the surrounding area?

Over the last few years, the EA have moved away from the regular routine dredging of long stretches of watercourses and now aims to maintain at the natural bed level of the watercourse. There is an ongoing review as to how our annual maintenance may help mitigate the vegetation growth on the banks of a watercourse, but we are restricted by protected species habitats.

However, a one-off dredging of the brook will likely form an integral part of the capital project proposal to ensure that existing outfalls can freely discharge and that flow to the pumping station at the downstream end of the brook is not impeded. Ongoing maintenance commitments post scheme are to be reviewed.

- 3) Can Sankey Brook have water diverted continuously to maintain the water level in the Sankey Canal?

Warrington Borough Council have investigated the hydrological connection with Sankey Brook and ruled out diverting the water continuously, as there is insufficient water year-round to meet the requirements to top up the canal. They are instead topping up the canal from the River Mersey near Fiddlers Ferry to maintain appropriate levels in the canal.

With regards to the capital scheme, the existing overflow channel between the Sankey Brook and the canal remains and will continue to operate during the higher flood events – this is how it currently works. At this stage of the project we are not looking to change this existing configuration.

- 4) Are you going to change the bank profile opposite Rostherne Close, so it is lower than the houses?

The project team considered this location and have concluded that lowering the bank height on the opposite side of Sankey Brook at Rostherne Close would not help during the kind of

flood events we are looking to defend against. During these high-water events, the whole area between Sankey Brook and the canal will be submerged and the presence or absence of the high right bank will have little impact on water levels.

The solution will most likely include raised walls along Rostherne Close to maximise the flow capacity in Sankey Brook, the canal and the land in between.

5) Will the new link road in Sankey Bridges affect these plans?

We need to ensure that both schemes are compatible and that one does not adversely impact the other. We will continue to work closely with the Western Link team to ensure that the developing proposals continue to work alongside one another.

6) Are you aware that in parts of Sankey Bridges the water appeared to come through the floors before coming in through the doors?

For further information, Warrington Borough Council have investigated the Storm Christoph flooding and published the report on their website. Please go to <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/flooding-past-investigations> to view this Section 19 report.

Interim Plans – Maintenance and Support

7) Is there anything being done about the flood risk before the project is finished?

With our partners (Warrington Borough Council and United Utilities) we have worked on a range of interim actions and solutions to help reduce the flood risk while the capital scheme is developed and built. These are explained in further detail in the February 2023 Warrington Flood Risk Multi-agency Newsletter available [here](#). Further updates will be posted on the [Flood Hub](#) pages until the project is complete.

As well as these works, we are keen to ensure residents are signed up to the Environment Agency's [flood warnings service](#).

The community drop-in sessions in October 2022 were well attended with useful discussions and feedback received. We plan to have more drop-in sessions as the scheme develops to keep communities informed and to continue to answer questions and collect feedback.

8) Can the sandbag wall in Rostherne Close be raised higher?

We have assessed the viability and safety of raising the height of the sandbag wall. We have concluded that it could become unsafe to raise the height of this wall, however we have reconstructed it to add a better and more substantial base which could possibly lead to more protection. This work was completed in February 2023, for a photo of the wall, please see the February 2023 Warrington Flood Risk Multi-agency Newsletter available [here](#).

9) How often is the river checked for fallen trees and debris?

Maintenance is conducted annually along Sankey Brook, which includes debris and vegetation removal. However, if the community sees a potential blockage in the watercourse at any time, they can report it to the Environment Agency on our Incident Hotline which is open 24 hours a day. The Duty Officer will risk assess the report, as tree and debris in the water course is not always a cause for concern, and take action as appropriate. The incident hotline number is 0800 80 70 60 and there is further information available at [Report an environmental incident - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

10) If the drainage grids are blocked who should I notify?

Drainage grids are the local council's responsibility to maintain. The easiest way to report blocked drains or gullies causing a flood risk is to use Warrington Borough Council's online form. The link to this form is found on their flooding advice page: [Flooding advice | warrington.gov.uk](#) alternatively, the main contact number of the council is **01925 443322**.

11) How do we get sandbags in a flood risk situation? Do we need to order them? Can we get enough to use on all the property's doorways?

Warrington Borough Council can distribute sandbags, their website has advice about what to do if your house is at risk of flooding, including a phone number to request sandbags and get advice and support. Please go to [Flooding advice | warrington.gov.uk](#) to view this information. Alternatively, the main contact number for the council is **01925 443322**.

12) What is being done about the Japanese Knotweed near Rostherne Close?

Japanese Knotweed will continue to be treated as part of our annual maintenance programme where possible. Unfortunately managing Japanese Knotweed is a never-ending battle so we focus our attentions on where it is likely to cause a flood risk or cause detriment to our flood defences.

In the years leading up to construction the site will need to be cleared of invasive species including Japanese Knotweed. The removal process for Japanese Knotweed usually takes three years and we have committed to an ongoing programme in the run up to the project starting construction.

13) I have found it very difficult to get house insurance due to the risk of flooding, what can I do?

There is a joint initiative between the government and insurers to help make the flood part of household insurance more affordable. More information and advice can be found at [Flood Re - A flood re-insurance scheme](#) and on the Flood Hub's Knowledge Hub at [Knowledge Hub | The Flood Hub](#)

14) Where can I get further information about flood risk? – e.g. Flood Plans?

The Flood Hub have collated resources from many different sources in their Knowledge Hub, including information about insurance, household flood plans and guides for homeowners, follow this link to explore the Knowledge Hub: [Knowledge Hub | The Flood Hub](#)

15) Where can I find out more information about who is responsible for flood risk issues near me?

As a useful starting point to determine who may be responsible for different types of flooding go to: [Report a flood or possible cause of flooding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

To report a concern or incident about **main river or tidal flooding** to the Environment Agency phone our Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60 and there is further information is available at [Report an environmental incident - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

United Utilities have a page regarding **sewer flooding** and flood risk: [Flooding | United Utilities](#)

Warrington Borough Council have flood risk advice, contact details and to report **surface water flooding**: [Flooding advice | warrington.gov.uk](#)

For information about owning or living near a watercourse please go to: [Owning a watercourse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) this gives information about the landowner's (riparian owner) responsibilities and also gives links about who to contact for different types of flood risk concern.

16) How to I report a flood risk issue to the Environment Agency?

To report a concern about main river flooding or an environmental incident to the Environment Agency phone our Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60 and there is further information is available at [Report an environmental incident - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

17) How do I keep up to date with this project?

The project team will add new information regarding the scheme to the Flood Hub pages [Sankey Brook Proposed Flood Risk Management Scheme | The Flood Hub](#)

18) How do I sign up to the Flood Warning Service?

To sign up for flood warnings please follow this link: [Sign up for flood warnings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or you can also sign up using the Floodline on 0345 988 1188. You'll need to provide the address you want flood warnings for, an email address, and a way to contact you at any time of day or night - you can choose to get a call, text or email.