

Frequently Asked Questions - Updated November 2024

Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme

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

In recent years, the Environment Agency (EA) has moved away from regularly dredging long sections of watercourses. Instead, we focus on maintaining the natural bed level of the watercourse. We are currently reviewing how our annual maintenance could help control vegetation growth along the banks, but we face challenges due to protected species habitats and limited funding. However, we're working with our Fisheries, Geomorphology and Biodiversity team and plan to carry out a one-time vegetation clearance along Longford Brook in the Orford Park area in 2025. This is to see if it helps improve water flow and natural silt movement.

For further information on dredging, please click [here](#)

There have been several problems with getting access to the area between Winwick Road and Longford barrage. Our teams can't cross the channel to clear vegetation and debris, and this is being treated as a health and safety concern. We recently held meetings on site with United Utilities to discuss pollution incidents affecting the watercourse, and they are working with their team to address some of the ongoing issues.

- 2) 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 all 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.

- 3) 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 is not feasible as this high ground extends from the watercourse all the way across Sankey Valley Park towards the Canal. The solution in this area is likely to include raised walls along Rostherne Close to contain river flows.

- 4) 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 at Warrington Borough Council to ensure that the developing proposals continue to work alongside one another.
- 5) 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 [Flooding - past investigations | warrington.gov.uk](https://warrington.gov.uk/past-investigations) where you can view this Section 19 report.

Interim Plans – Maintenance and support

- 6) 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 were explained in detail in the February 2023 Warrington Flood Risk Multi-agency Newsletter available here.

https://thefloodhub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Warrington-Flood-Risk-Newsletter-Update-Feb-2023-Final_.pdf

They have now been summarised with a plan of delivered and planned works in our Newsletter 4 dated November 2024. <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Sankey-Brook-FRMS-Newsletter-Final-6-Nov-24v1-1.pdf>

We plan to have more public drop-in sessions as the scheme develops to keep communities informed and to continue to answer questions and collect feedback.

- 7) 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. [Warrington-Flood-Risk-Newsletter-Update-Feb-2023-Final_.pdf](https://warrington.gov.uk/past-investigations)
The temporary sandbag wall is inspected every week, and its condition is reported to the delivery team.
- 8) 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 will take action as

appropriate. The incident hotline number is 0800 80 70 60 and there is further information available [Report an environmental incident - GOV.UK](#)

9) 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.

10) 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.

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

Japanese Knotweed is currently being managed as part of our annual maintenance program in this area. While it's the responsibility of the landowner along the watercourse to control invasive species, we may exercise our permissive powers to treat them if they pose a flood risk or interfere with flood defences. In the years leading up to construction, we will carry out further treatments in additional locations to ensure invasive species don't hinder the building process. Treating Japanese Knotweed typically takes three years, with treatments done three times per year during specific windows. We've committed to continuing this program leading up to the planned start of construction, and preparations have already started. Treatment will begin during the next treatment window in 2025.

12) 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](#)

13) 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](#)

14) 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](#)

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](#)

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](#) 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.

15) How do 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](#)

16) 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](#)

17) 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](#) 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.