

# Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme – Newsletter 5

**August 2026**

The Environment Agency is leading the Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS) in partnership with Warrington Borough Council and United Utilities.

The scheme aims to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses across Warrington from Sankey Brook, Dallam Brook and Longford Brook. Through this newsletter, we would like to share an update on the activities and partnership work undertaken to support the development of the scheme and to reduce flood risk to local communities within Sankey, Dallam and Longford areas.

## Working Together to Reduce Flood Risk and Improve Resilience for Communities

Each organisation plays an important role in managing flood risk:

- Environment Agency – responsible for flooding from rivers and the sea.
- United Utilities – manages flooding related to the surface water and wastewater network.
- Warrington Borough Council – responsible for highway drainage and local surface water management.

By combining expertise and resources, we are developing a long-term and integrated approach to help protect homes, businesses and infrastructure.

## Funding for 2026/27

We are pleased to announce that the project has secured a significant increase in funding for the 2026/27 financial year. Originally allocated £1.1 million, the scheme has received an additional £1.365 million, bringing the total investment to £2.465 million.

This funding will enable us to undertake important ground investigation works, a key milestone in the project. The information gathered will support the next stage of detailed design and help ensure the scheme continues to progress.

## Future Funding

Funding for 2027/28 remains uncertain due to strong competition for funding across the country, with priority currently being given to schemes already under construction. Despite these challenges, this project remains a priority for us, and we will continue to explore all available funding opportunities to help move it forward.

## Progress Update:

### **Surveys Completed**

A range of surveys have now been completed to help us better understand the area and inform future design work, including:

- Environmental and ecological surveys
- Bridge inspections
- Topographical surveys, including measurements of channels, culverts, and land levels

### **Maintenance Work Completed**

To help reduce flood risk and improve the condition of local watercourses, we have completed:

- Sandbag wall repairs at Rostherne Close. Works completed November 2025.
- Vegetation clearance to aid with surveys for the scheme – ongoing.
- Responding to incidents: for example removal of trees or debris from watercourse when needed.



Vegetation/ tree  
Clearance



Rostherne Close –  
Sandbag Wall



## Sankey Brook FRMS - What's happening next?

### Ground Investigation

The next step is to understand what the ground make-up and condition is within our scheme area. This will happen in two ways:

1. Non-intrusive work
  - Geophysical surveys to map what is underground using surface equipment
  - Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to locate buried pipes and cables

This work is planned to start **Autumn 2026**.

2. Intrusive work
  - Boreholes and trial pits to examine the ground and check stability
  - Soil sampling and testing to understand its properties and check for contamination

This will involve machinery on site and is planned for **early 2027**.

### Looking at using Sankey Canal

- We are presently assessing the viability of whether we can utilise any spare capacity of the existing St Helens Canal as well as Sankey Brook to further optimise the scheme design

### Working with local stakeholders

- The project team is speaking with key landowners and businesses that could be affected by the work



**Example of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey**



**Example of machinery used for borehole trials**

## Progress update from Warrington BC and United Utilities:

### **Liverpool Road Scheme**

In June 2026 the new Liverpool Road Flood Risk Management Scheme at Sankey Bridges was successfully completed, providing greater protection for 62 homes and businesses in one of Warrington's highest flood risk locations.

The scheme was delivered by Warrington Borough Council in partnership with the Environment Agency and United Utilities. The £946,000 investment includes a new drainage network, an automated pumping station, improved road drainage and highway resurfacing, all designed to better collect and manage surface water during periods of heavy rain.

As well as helping to reduce flood risk for local residents, businesses and Liverpool Road itself, the scheme will:

- Improve resilience to future extreme weather events
- Reduce pressure on the sewer network and help lower the risk of foul flooding
- Support water levels and biodiversity within the nearby Sankey Canal

The project represents an important long-term investment in protecting local communities from the impacts of flooding and climate change.



Innovative Pump Chamber Level 1



Liverpool Road Pumping Station

### **Cromwell Avenue**

In response to flooding experienced in the Cromwell Avenue area, United Utilities has installed two innovative non-return valves called 'WaStops' on surface water outfalls linked to the local drainage system. These valves allow surface water to flow in a desired direction whilst preventing backflow and river waters from entering the surface water system when river levels are high. This will reduce flood risk to local communities.



Example of a "WaStop"

## Better Rivers

United Utilities is continuing with their Better Rivers programme, this aims to reduce sewage spills and additional water flows into waterways such as Sankey Brook. This will help improve water quality and reduce flood risk. There are currently six projects taking place locally, which will help reduce spills in the Warrington North area.

## Environment Agency Flood Warnings

Properties at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea are eligible to receive free flood alerts and warnings from the Environment Agency. You can receive these by phone, text or email. To register for this free service either call the Environment Agency's Floodline number on 0345 988 1188 or register your details online by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings>. You can also find further information and a selection of downloadable resources on how to become more flood resilient at [www.thefloodhub.co.uk](http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk). The Flood Hub is a one stop shop for flood advice and information.

| <br><b>Flood Alert</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <br><b>Flood Warning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <br><b>Severe Flood Warning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <p>This means <b>flooding is possible</b> and you need to stay vigilant, making early preparations for a potential flood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor the situation through forecasts, the Environment Agency's 'Check for Flooding' service, local radio stations and monitoring stations.</li><li>• Check your flood plan is filled and your flood kit is complete and ready if needed.</li></ul> | <p>This means <b>flooding is expected</b> and immediate action is required to protect yourself and your property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to monitor the situation.</li><li>• Carry out actions detailed in your flood plan.</li><li>• Put any property flood resilience equipment into place.</li></ul> | <p>This means <b>severe flooding is expected</b> and is likely to cause significant risk to life and destruction of property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare to evacuate and cooperate with the emergency services.</li><li>• Get your flood kit before evacuating.</li><li>• Turn off utility supplies.</li></ul> |

Further information on flood warnings can be found at the following link

<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/blog/flood-alert-flood-warning-and-severe-flood-warning-whats-the-difference/?term=FLOOD%20WARNINGS>

## Continued Engagement:

We would like to thank residents, businesses and stakeholders for their continued patience and support as we progress this important flood risk management scheme. We remain committed to keeping the community informed as the project develops and key milestones are reached.

## Keeping in Touch:

If you have any queries or concerns and would like to speak to a member of the project team, please email [FloodResilienceGMMC@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:FloodResilienceGMMC@environment-agency.gov.uk) or if you do not have access to email, please call 02030 250495.

Information regarding the proposed scheme is available on the "Flood Hub" at the following link: [Sankey Brook Proposed Flood Risk Management Scheme | The Flood Hub](#) or scan the QR code

