Fordingbridge Infiltration Reduction Plan Summary

This provides an update on the last year's groundwater situation, what mitigation actions, if any, were taken and a summary of our action plan to prevent flooding due to groundwater infiltration of our sewer network.

April 2024 – March 2025

Regional Summary

2024 continued to be a very wet year in the Wessex Water region, with above average rainfall in the majority of months. In particular, groundwater levels rose dramatically in September 2024, where the region recieved over 250% of the monthly average rainfall. This resulted in many catchments experiencing inundation from groundwater much earlier than usual.
Whilst December was relatively dry, above-average rainfall for the remainder of the autumn and winter meant that groundwater levels remained elevated until March, at which point the drier weather enabled the majority of catchments to recover.

Record-breaking rainfall for some this September - Met Office

Local Summary

River levels at East Mills gauge, near Fordingbridge, were very high during winter 2024/25 however, no incidents attributed to inadequate hydraulic capacity (IHC) were reported in the Fordingbridge Green Lane sewage pumping station (SPS) catchment.

Action Plan

Annual Activity
Review asset and operational data and update annual reports.
Continue monitoring system performance using telemetry, rainfall records and local groundwater levels to inform the operational response during high-groundwater periods, and to monitor changing infiltration levels in the catchment.
Use machine learning to predict flows in sewers and proactively identify blockages and other issues.
Undertake pro-active cleaning (jetting) of sewers to maximise capacity.
Proactive inspections and maintenance of sewerage assets.

Completed
Installed in-sewer monitors at key locations to better understand flows in the network.
Investigated nature-based solutions in the catchment.
Inspected public sewer network to identify points of infiltration.
Implemented a scheme to improve the local water recycling centre (WRC).
Implemented a scheme to address capacity issues in the sewer network.

Completed (cont.)
Updated the catchment hydraulic model.
Sealed sewers and manholes to prevent groundwater infiltration.
Undertaken pumping station or flow surveys to analyse flows in sewers.
Reviewed incidents of sewer flooding.

Short Term
Undertake pro-active inspection of public sewers and manholes using CCTV to identify points of infiltration.
Implement a scheme to improve the local water recycling centre (WRC).
Implement a scheme to address capacity issues in the sewer network.
Update the catchment hydraulic model.

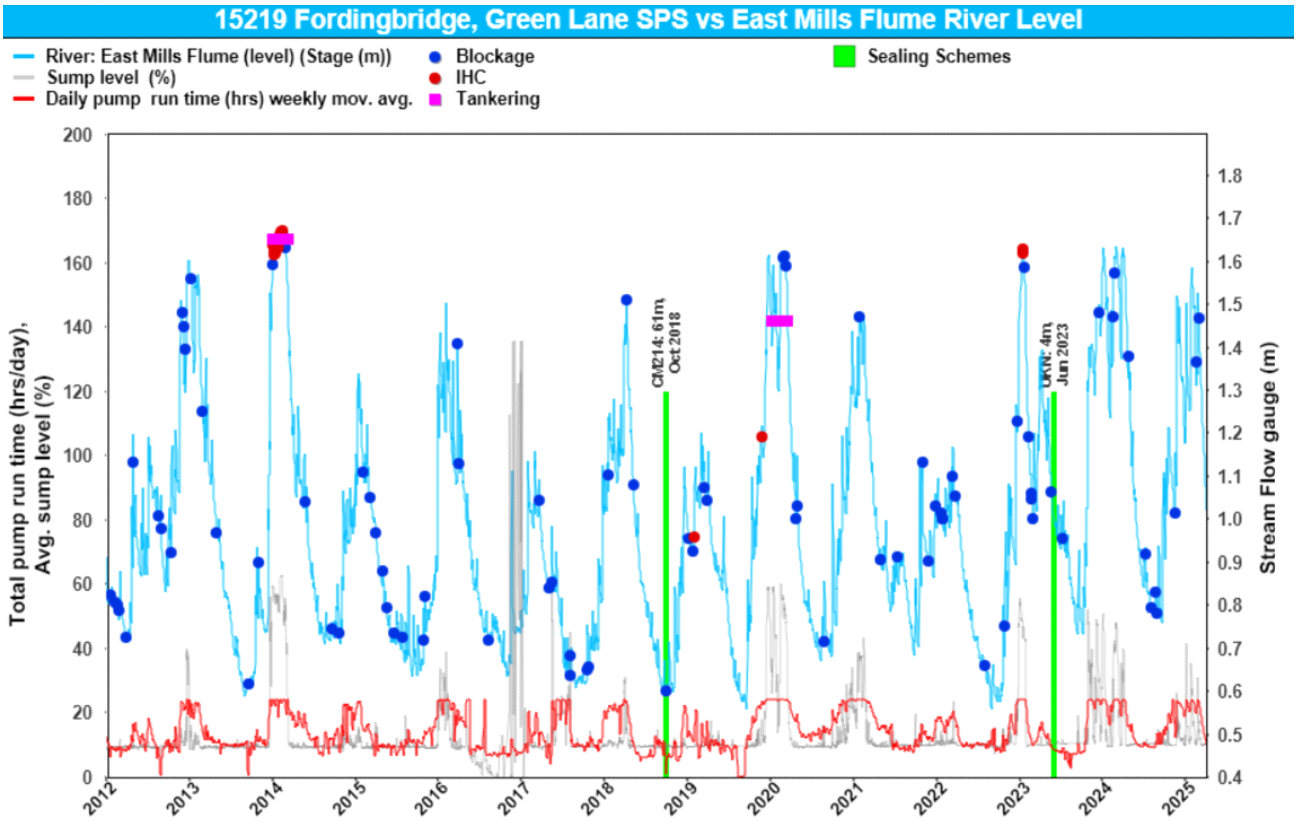
Medium Term
Infiltration sealing of sewers and manholes, where deemed cost-effective, targeting work according to study findings.
Implement Nature-based Solutions in the wider catchment.

Long Term
Identify road gullies and other impermeable areas that are connected into the foul sewers.
Inspect private gullies, drains, and manholes where applicable.
Install permanent flow meters at key pumping stations to continuously record pump performance.
Consider sustainable solutions to rainwater management, for example above-ground attenuation and property-level interventions.

When Necessary
Implement emergency tankering procedure for preventing restricted toilet use and sewer flooding during high groundwater periods, in order to protect public health.
Implement Operational Mitigation Action Plan (OMAP) for discharging excess flows to the environment as a last resort, when tankering would not prevent restricted toilet use or sewer flooding, and public health is at risk.
Upgrade pumping stations where appropriate, to improve the reliability and performance of the site.

Current Performance

The graph below displays incidents against river levels (as measured at East Mills Flume, an indication of groundater levels) and the telemetry at Green Lane sewage pumping station (SPS). Infiltration remains to have an effect on the catchment, as seen by long pump run times in the winter months, however incidents attributed to indequate hydraulic capacity (IHC) have not been reported since winter 2022/23, when the river level was extremely high.



Inspection and sealing since 2011

	2011-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Length of sewer inspected (m)	2,992	-	-	1,602	2,000	-
Length of sewer sealed (m)	48	62	-	-	2	-