

Bleadon 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 received 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

Local groundwater levels remained low for the period between April 2024 - March 2025 and the sewers were able to cope, meaning no mitigation was required in this part of the catchment. No incidents attributed to inadequate hydraulic capacity were reported.

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.

Installed permanent flow meters at key pumping stations to continuously record pump performance.

Updated the catchment hydraulic model.

Sealed sewers and manholes to prevent groundwater infiltration.

Inspected public sewer network to identify points of infiltration.

Completed (cont.)

Undertaken pumping station or flow surveys to analyse flows in sewers.

Upgraded pumping stations where appropriate, to improve the reliability and performance of the site.

Short Term

Infiltration sealing of sewers and manholes, where deemed cost-effective, targeting work according to study findings.

Medium Term

Undertake pro-active inspection of public sewers and manholes using CCTV to identify points of infiltration.

Long Term

Identify road gullies and other impermeable areas that are connected into the foul sewers.

Inspect private gullies, drains, and manholes where applicable.

Consider sustainable solutions to rainwater management, for example above-ground attenuation and property-level interventions.

When Necessary

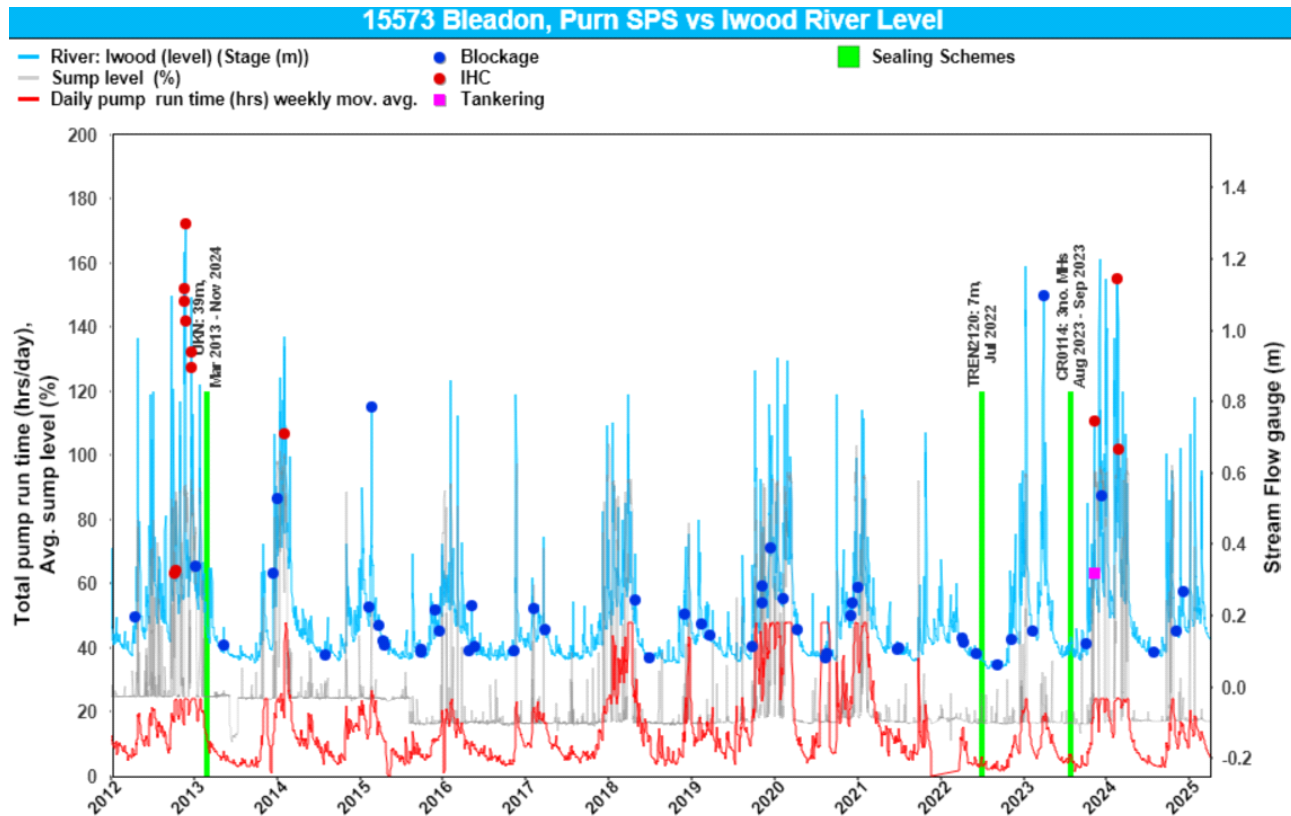
Undertake review of incidents of sewer flooding suspected to be affected by groundwater infiltration.

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.

Current Performance

The graph below compares the Iwood River level and telemetry at Bleadon Purn Sewage Pumping Station (SPS). The river level is used to indicate groundwater levels in the area. The pump activity at the Bleadon Purn shows a clear correlation with groundwater, showing the impact of infiltration on the network. Incidents attributed to inadequate hydraulic capacity (IHC) were reported in the catchment during the exceptionally wet winter of 2023/24.



Inspection and sealing since 2011

	2011-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Length of sewer inspected (m)	3,294	-	-	-	-	484
Length of sewer sealed (m)	38	-	-	7	-	1