

Poynton Flood Update

Newsletter

September 2021

Dear Resident of Poynton

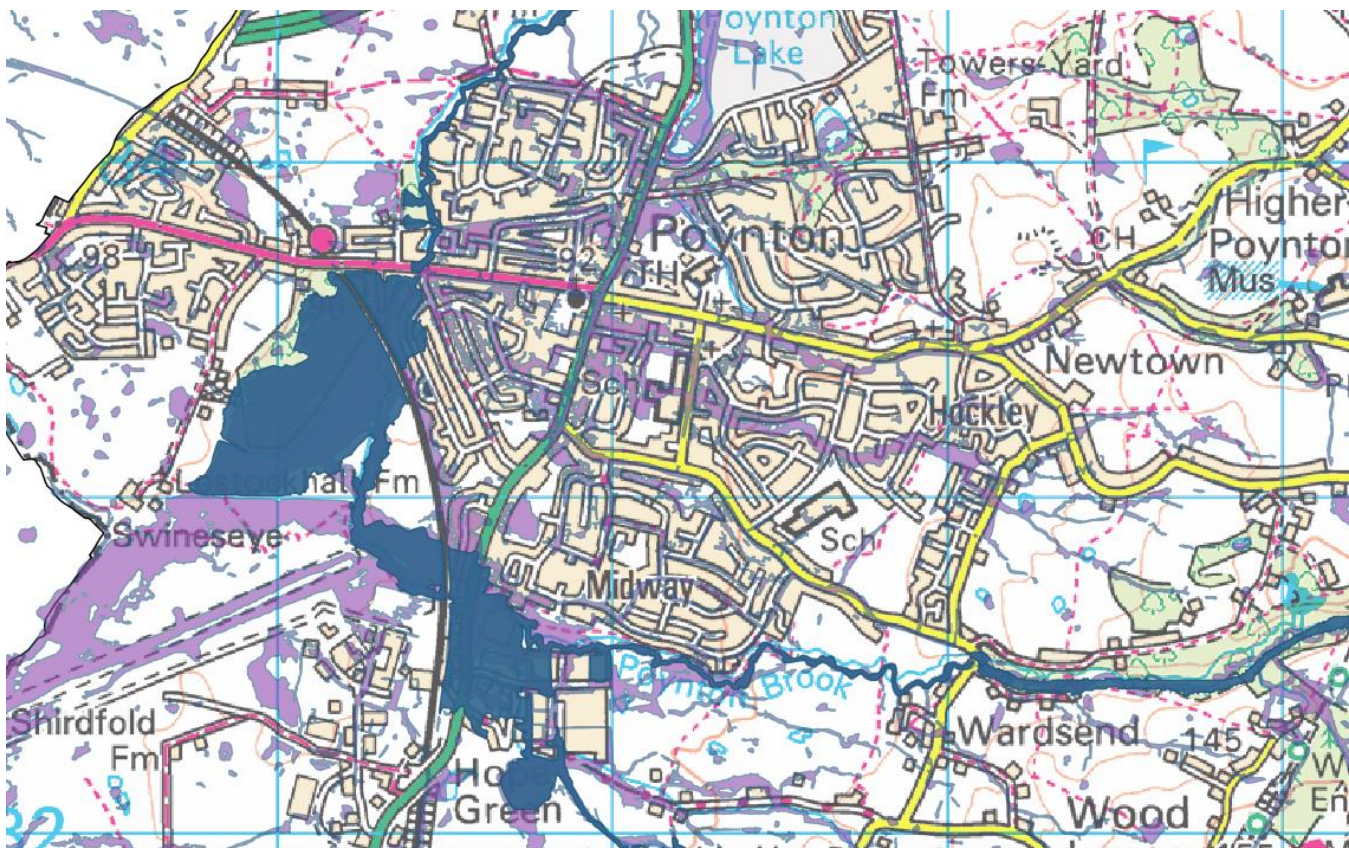
We wanted to provide you with a further, multi-agency, update on the work which has been carried out since the last newsletter. This includes updates from Cheshire East Council, United Utilities, Environment Agency, Poynton Flood Group, and Poynton Working Group. Further advice and information can be found on the Floodhub.

Cheshire East Council Update

Section 19 Report

Cheshire East Council have undertaken a section 19 report which can be found at the following link : <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/flooding/floods-and-flood-risk/flood-investigations.aspx>

Flood Risk in Poynton (Fluvial shown in blue, Surface Water shown in purple)



Task and Finish Group

At the Council's Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny (EROSC) Meeting on the 21st September 2020, a resolution passed to establish a task and finish group to undertake an in-depth review of flooding and flood risk management in Cheshire East. This would enable a number of meetings to be set up for task and finish members, as well as local ward councillors, Risk Management Authorities and others to scrutinise the impacts of the 2019 flooding in the various areas of Cheshire East that were affected (Including Poynton, Kettleshulme, Adlington, Prestbury & Bollington).

To date, meetings have been held with a range of stakeholders including:

- The FloodHub (<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/>)
- Poynton Town Council
- Poynton Flood Action Group
- Poynton Flood Working Group
- Environment Agency
- United Utilities
- Cheshire Resilience Forum (<https://cheshireresilience.org.uk/>)

Planning applications and strategic planning sites in Poynton

All planning application files are available to view online:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/view_a_planning_application/view_a_planning_application.aspx

Members of the public are invited to submit comments and any supporting evidence such as photographs or videos via email, or letter.

Sustainable surface water management is a material consideration for **all** planning applications. This means all development proposals must include a site-specific surface water drainage strategy following sustainable urban drainage guidelines (SuDS).

In line with Part H of the building regulations, surface water drainage options must be considered in the following order. An option higher in the hierarchy can only be agreed if it can be demonstrated that earlier options are not feasible.

1. Into the ground (via infiltration)
2. To a surface watercourse/ water body
3. To a surface water sewer
4. To a combined sewer

Un-developed sites, known as “Greenfield” sites:

Surface water run off must be managed to mimic existing greenfield runoff i.e. achieve at least no increase in run-off rates by storing water on/under the site and controlling the flows from site

On previously-developed sites, known as “Brownfield” sites:

Surface water run-off proposals should demonstrate a reduction in rates, by storing water on/under the site and controlling the flows from site

Highway gully clearance

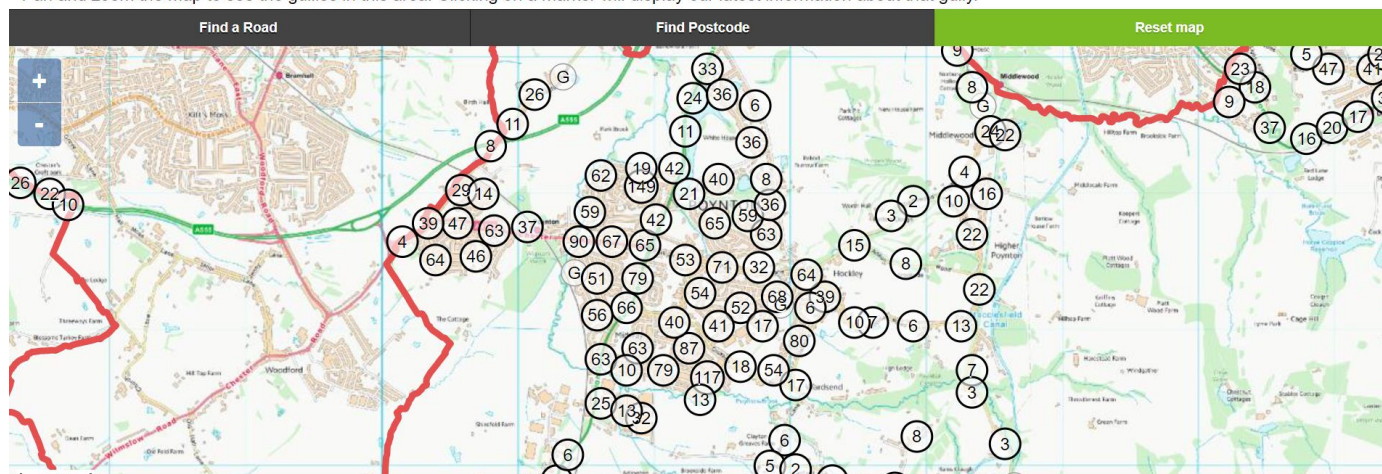
- The gulleys in Poynton were last cleansed in May 2021, following cleansing a condition summary statement is sent to the Town Council
- Details of the condition of each gully, its schedule condition and the date it was last attended is updated online: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/road-maintenance/gullies-and-drains.aspx
- To report an issue: <https://www.cheshireeasthighways.org/report-it-general.aspx>



Image of new gully information website



Pan and zoom the map to see the gullies in this area. Clicking on a marker will display our latest information about that gully.



Highway drainage improvements:

Drainage improvement works were completed on Woodside Close (March 2021). The ordinary watercourse that runs from the bifurcation on Park Lane Stream behind the Sports club has been cleansed and surveyed to outfall at Poynton Pool and the residents downstream have worked to restore this flow path to Poynton Pool.

Images of cleanse and CCTV at Woodside (March 2021)



While this work was ongoing and until downstream land levels were appropriate some temporary stop logs have been installed at the bifurcation to manage low flows – during a storm event / high flows these would be overtopped and the flow path to Poynton Pool restored.

The stop logs will be removed following the completion of the outfall works by United Utilities which will restore the natural flow path to Poynton Pool.



Image of bifurcation of Park Lane Stream (March 2021)



Lostock Road

A drainage improvement scheme is planned to replace the existing highway drainage assets and improve highway drainage from Lostock Road to outfall in Poynton Brook.

London Road South

Additional works are planned to further improve the highway drainage assets and improve highway drainage along London Road South to outfall in Poynton Brook.

Coppice Road

Ongoing flood investigation to determine the nature of any further works required in this location to reduce the impact of flooding.

Melrose Crescent

With agreement from local landowners a high level overflow for an existing drainage system is to be fitted to provide provision in extreme weather events for excess surface water from the upper catchment to drain onto the Middlewood Way, where the water will be temporarily stored before infiltrating and naturally draining via gravity towards Norbury Brook.

These works are intended to complement the Natural Flood Management interventions upstream at Middlecale Farm to reduce flood flows downstream into Park Lane Stream.

Waterloo Road / Kettleshulme Way area

A feasibility study is underway to establish the potential of raising the highway at Waterloo Road to store flood flows upstream (to the East) as part of this work the ordinary watercourse that flows west via Kettleshulme Way will be cleansed and CCTV surveyed, without prejudice by Cheshire East Council, from the twin inlets on the eastern side of Waterloo Road, downstream.

An additional gully was added to the system to drain water from Waterloo Road in the summer 2020.

The Full list of highway drainage improvements 2021/22 is published online:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/highways_and_roads.aspx

Privately owned surface water drains/sewers

- A number of privately owned surface water sewers have been discovered across Poynton, these are sewers that have not been adopted formally by United Utilities and remain the responsibility of the home owner or in some instances a management company.
- Privately owned surface water sewers tend to direct water from properties into local watercourses.
- All privately owned systems remain the maintenance responsibility of the property/land owner.
- Where a number of properties connect to such a system residents will share maintenance responsibilities.
- Cheshire East and United Utilities are continuing to support residents who have identified such systems.
- Cheshire East has, without prejudice, cleansed and CCTV surveyed the surface water sewer that runs down Melrose Crescent.

Ordinary watercourses

Park Lane Stream

The culvert underneath Park Lane, near Willow Close was cleansed in August 2021 as part of the Council preventative maintenance programme. This removed silt and debris via suction while larger items were removed using rakes and shovels.

Other planned works in Poynton are available to view online:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/road-maintenance/road-repair-and-improvement-programme-2021-2022/road-repair-and-improvement-programme-2021-2022.aspx



Willow Close / Park Lane: Culvert cleanse August 2018



This site was last attended in April 2019 when a number of substantial tree stumps, bin lids and a traffic cone were removed along with a build-up of silt and debris.

Culvert works December 2018, channel/culvert cleanse April 2019



All Ordinary watercourses

Maintenance of ordinary watercourses remains the responsibility of the riparian owners.

Cheshire East Council undertake maintenance of structures including trash screens on Middlewood Road and Park Lane (Willow Close)

To report an issue: <https://www.cheshireeasthighways.org/report-it-general.aspx>

CEC are exploring potential opportunities to incorporate slow the flow with Council tree planting and carbon sink projects in the area.

Riparian ownership

In summary if you are a riparian owner, you have responsibilities for the stretch of watercourse you own. These include, but are not limited to letting the water flow naturally.

You must let water flow naturally.

You may have to remove blockages, fallen trees or overhanging branches from your watercourse, or cut back trees and shrubs on the bank, if they could:

- Obstruct or affect a public right of navigation – ask your navigation authority for advice.
- Reduce the flow or cause flooding to other landowners' property – you may have to pay damages if they do.

You should:

- Leave all other trees, branches and shrubs - they can help prevent flooding by varying the shape and flow of the channel, and reduce erosion.
- Keep any trash screen, weir, mill gate or other structure clear.

Don't go inside a culvert. You could get trapped or poisoned by gases.

Cheshire East Council does not have a responsibility to undertake works on an ordinary watercourse, but they do control work carried out in and around watercourses.

For example:

- You have the right to protect your property from flooding and erosion, but you must:
- Get permissions to build anything in or around the watercourse.
- Not build anything which could divert water and increase flood risk to other people's property, or you may have to pay damages.

You must obtain consent before you:

- Change, remove or build any flood defence on your land.
- Do any work within 8 meters of a watercourse.

For more details on being a riparian owner, please visit the following site: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

United Utilities

United Utilities are the statutory undertaker for water and wastewater services and have carried out investigations into flooding which was reported to them. United Utilities are only responsible for flooding that occurs as a result of an escape from the public sewer system. The result of investigations we undertake is shared with the Lead Local Flood Authority and we are one of the risk management authorities who contribute to the section 19 report into flooding.

- We continue to work with Cheshire East Council to develop a partnership scheme to divert some surface water flow from Park Lane Stream via an existing culvert into Poynton Lake, thereby reducing the volume of water passing forward via the Park Lane Stream through the Mayfair Close / Covell Road / Tulworth Road culvert systems.
 - We have a project assigned to replace existing surface water outfalls on Park Lane Stream and on the land between Parklands Way and Woodside Lane as well as 2 surface water headwalls to Poynton Brook. We are currently liaising with the Environment Agency for permits to enable the delivery and completion of these projects.
- Work continues on the drainage area study. We have identified multiple areas across the catchment where we will be installing flow monitors. These flow monitors will be installed over the next 6 months and this information will give us a better understanding of how our network performs and will produce information that we can feed into our future business plan.
- United Utilities remain supportive of the National Trust and the Cheshire Wildlife Trust with the Natural Flood Management work in the land above Poynton to slow the flow of surface water runoff.

It should be noted that some of the above activities may be inhibited due to government restrictions and personnel availability as a result of the coronavirus situation.

There is no change to how United Utilities will respond during a flooding event. The procedure to call United Utilities' integrated call centre should you experience sewer flooding is unchanged and can be found on the website <https://www.unitedutilities.com/emergencies/got-a-problem/blocked-drains/>. The United Utilities emergency number is 0345 672 3723.



Any work that is to be carried out as a result of a sewer flooding incident would still be considered essential by United Utilities therefore we would still attend site to support, clean up, collect data and arrange any repairs which may be required.

On reporting the incident to United Utilities' call centre, customers will be asked whether they are self-isolating or are displaying symptoms of Covid-19. United Utilities will still attend in response to customer calls but for those customers who are self-isolating or displaying symptoms the United Utilities team will be provided with enhanced PPE to protect customers and employees.

UU are monitoring work force levels as people are self-isolating and / or sick, so if there is any impact on response times the customer will be made aware of this at the time of reporting the incident

Help 'Stop The Block'

A blocked sink or an overflowing loo is the last thing any of us need right now, we're encouraging people to dispose of fats and grease responsibly and help to 'Stop The Block'.

Unfortunately when fats, oils and grease get poured down the sink, they can mix together with other waste, such as wet wipes, and form 'fatbergs' in our sewers. These blockages mean that wastewater can't flow through the sewers to our treatment sites and that can result in flooding. So, after cooking, please pour or scrape any fat, oil or grease into a heat-resistant container and once cooled, empty the contents into the bin. This way we can help keep the pipes, drains and sewers blockage free.



For more information, please visit

<https://www.unitedutilities.com/help-and-support/wastewater-services/stop-the-block/>

A recent blockage found in the UU sewer network – a mixture of cotton buds, wipes and kitchen roll. Only flush the 3p's!

Priority Services – extra help for those who need it most

If you or any of your family and friends have particular health issues and haven't yet registered for United Utilities' Priority Services, then please visit [unitedutilities.com/priorityservices](https://www.unitedutilities.com/priorityservices) for additional support with your water services. If you know someone who isn't online then you can register them on their behalf.

Environment Agency

Natural Flood Management (NFM) update May 2021

To recap, the Environment Agency has been working in partnership with UU, Cheshire East and landowners in the catchment upstream of Poynton to deliver NFM interventions to try and intercept, and slow the flow of water upstream, in an attempt to reduce the peaks at downstream areas of flood risk. In March 2020, just prior to lockdown, leads with co-operative and willing landowners were established, and following that the Environment Agency commissioned Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) to identify, scope and deliver NFM interventions in the catchment upstream of Poynton.

Since then, and through lockdown, Cheshire Wildlife Trust staff have been working through these leads, trying to match up locations where interventions are needed most and where landowners are willing. Joe, Matt and Ashley from CWT spent a lot of time engaging with people to achieve this (this stage can be a long process). It is important to note that interventions require landowner co-operation and cannot be arbitrarily introduced.



As most interventions involve temporarily holding water in times of flood, or nudging water to flow a particular way through the landscape, generally landowners do not feel there is a significant conflict with their agricultural practices.

Areas of land around Poynton Coppice are a priority area and options in this area are being looked at thoroughly. Similarly, Higher Poynton is a priority area, as is the area around Rabbit Burrow Farm, Pool House Farm. Options to divert floodwaters onto Middlewood Way are also being considered.

We are pleased to report that upstream of Waterloo Road on one of the tributaries that has been identified as a flood route during previous events, and upstream of a vulnerable flood risk area, a bund to slow the flow has been constructed (see picture below). The bund will allow water to be contained at this point and should help trap and contain some of the runoff from upstream.



Additionally, at the Gables (Higher Poynton), 3 clay dams have been installed (see photo below), along with a tree felled into the channel and with a further two large woody dams underway.



Clay bund at the Gables

At Middlecale Farm, there are two further NFM intervention locations, consisting of storage ponds, woody debris dams and 'kested' (raised) hedgerows, which will serve to intercept, and temporarily store overland flood flows.



Middlecale Farm attenuation area during construction.

This work has shown what can be achieved and our thanks go to the landowners who've been willing to make this happen, and to their co-operation in helping achieving these outcomes. It couldn't have happened without their support, and without the hard work of Cheshire Wildlife Trust staff. What has been achieved so far is a great start and shows what is possible, but to make a difference on the larger magnitude floods, we need to do more interventions in more locations, and there are many places where we can and wish to do more. We will continue to work with landowners and the Flood Action Group to achieve these ends and encourage help in trying to find more locations where we can intervene to temporarily store water and slow the flow.

Embankment repair

A repair to the embankment along the Armcon Industrial Estate upstream of London Road, has been completed over the winter, reducing the risk of flooding to the industrial estate and locations downstream. Any embankment can be overtopped if an event is significant enough, but if we are faced with a similar event again the impacts should be less significant than those experienced in July 2019.



Poynton Flood Group

Members of Poynton Flood Action Group joined representatives from the Environment Agency, Cheshire East; Poynton Town Council to view the Natural Flood Management measures that have been put in place on agricultural land in Higher Poynton. (see pictures in this newsletter).

It was encouraging to see that these measures are being taken. After inspection by the Environment Agency, who commissioned the work, it was agreed that the 2 schemes could be improved and extended.

Poynton Flood Action Group consider that these measures in combination with other works done by Cheshire East, United Utilities and Poynton Town Council will help to protect Poynton from flooding in the future.

We are hoping that other Landowners in Poynton will see the mutual benefits to Natural Flood Management measures and come forward and volunteer to have suitable measures on their land. This can be done either through the Town Council or by approaching the Environment Agency directly through the contact details in this Newsletter.

Poynton Working Group Update

Flood information for residents

The Town Council and volunteers have now delivered the '**Poynton Update and News - Flooding. How to prepare and what action to take in the event of a flood**' to households in Poynton. A copy of the leaflet and more detailed information about flooding can be found on Poynton Town Council's newly refurbished website which has a dedicated page for residents providing information about flooding https://www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk/Flooding_35283.aspx. The Clerk would also encourage residents to sign up to the council's electronic newsletter called the PUN, which provides information about Poynton issues, including flooding updates. [Subscribe to the PUN](#).

Poynton Community Flood Warden

The Town Council has now recruited a number of volunteer Flood Wardens who will be undertaking training this autumn to support our community and increase the Town's flood resilience. Further details will be posted on the Town Council's website shortly.

Flood Resilience Measures

Using funding obtained from the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner, the Town Council has purchased a number of flood resilience measures which would be deployed during a flood including water snakes, eco blocks and hessian sacks. Householders living in flood risk areas are encouraged to consider their own flood resilience measures. The <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/> is a useful source of information for householders and businesses.

Flood Hub - <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/>

The Flood Hub website is a joint initiative by Newground, the Environment Agency, United Utilities, and the Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire Strategic Flood Partnerships. It is funded by the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC), and it launched on 5th November 2018.

The website aims to be a one-stop-shop for providing flood resilience advice and information for householders, businesses and communities. Using our online digital capability we keep users up to date with the latest flood news, events and information resources available in order to stay flood aware and increase their own resilience.

