

# Wilsford 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 2023 – March 2024

### Regional Summary

The Wessex region experienced incredibly wet weather across 2023-24, with higher-than-average rainfall in nine months during the period. February 2024 was both the warmest on record and the wettest in 30 years, with the 12-month sequence to the end of February being the wettest since our records began in 1911.

Groundwater levels rose rapidly during the autumn, and whilst drier weather in January 2024 provided a brief reprieve, levels remained high for the majority of the winter.

[\*Warmest February on record for England and Wales - Met Office\*](#)

### Local Summary

The groundwater did not reach critical levels and the sewers were able to cope, therefore no mitigation works were carried out in the Wilsford catchment during the winter of 2023/24.

## 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.

Proactive inspections and maintenance of sewerage assets.

### Completed

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

Inspected public sewer network to identify points of infiltration.

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

Updated the catchment hydraulic model.

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

### Medium Term

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

Analyse flows in sewers using pumping station surveys, flow surveys and/or hydraulic modelling.

Update the catchment hydraulic model.

### Long Term

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.

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

Undertake pro-active cleaning (jetting) of sewers to maximise capacity.

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.

Install sealed covers on manhole chambers vulnerable to overland flow or river water entering through the cover.

Implement a scheme to improve the local water recycling centre (WRC).

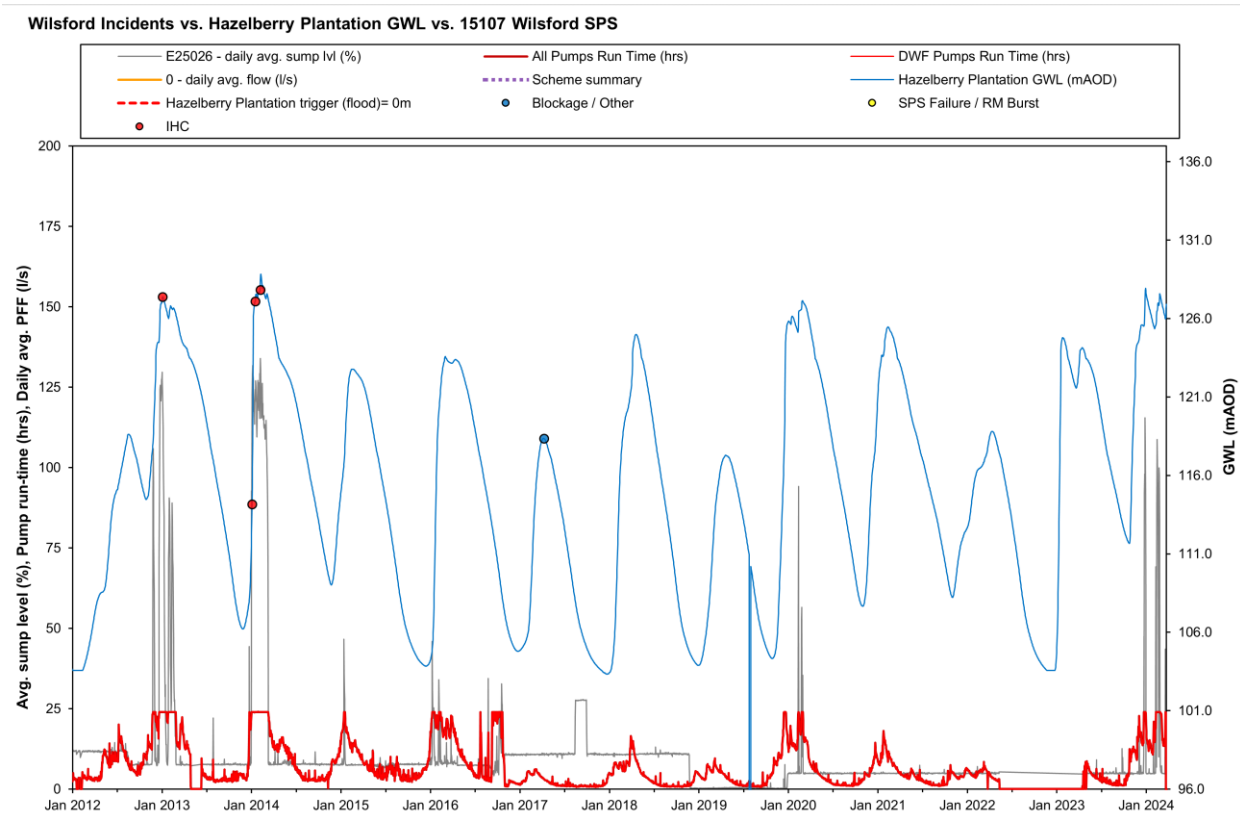
Implement a scheme to address capacity issues in the sewer network.

Investigate nature-based solutions in the catchment.

### Current Performance

The graph below shows incidents against groundwater levels (as measured at Hazelberry Plantation Borehole) and the flow at Wilsford Sewage Pumping Station (SPS).

Incidents caused by inadequate hydraulic capacity (IHC) have not been reported in the catchment since 2014, when regional groundwater levels were exceptionally high. The SPS has undergone pump improvements which is the likely reason why it was able to cope with the exceptionally high groundwater levels in winter 2023/24.



### Inspection and sealing since 2011

	2011-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Length of sewer inspected (m)	52	-	-	-	-
Length of sewer sealed (m)	0	-	-	-	-