

Wirral MBC – LLFA – Significant Flood Event Report

LOCATION: NGR Area/street name		Various locations within the Wirral Boundary		REFERENCE NO.	<i>W15.8.12/01-35</i>	
Start date & time	15/08/12	End date & time	16/08/12	Data collection date	20/8 – 18/9/12	
				Observer	J.H. Baker	
** Responsible Risk Management Authority (RMA)		Highway Authority (LLFA), United Utilities, Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water) & Environment Agency		** Have RMA responded appropriately? Main contact (name& no)	Yes Various contacts were made	
Maximum depth (m)		150mm		History of flooding?	A number of the locations had flooded before, particularly during the incident 2 days earlier.	
SOURCE OF FLOODING			CAUSE OF FLOODING			
River: Main (EA)	Y	drainage capacity exceeded			Y	
Sea (EA)	N	mechanical failure			N	
Drainage: sewer (UU, WW)	Y	operational failure/ breach of defence			N	
River: Ordinary	Y	system 'tide locked' (ie drain can not discharge due to high river level)			Y	
Drainage: highway	Y	blockage of bridge	N	blockage in culvert/pipe	N	
Surface water	Y	blockage in channel	N	blockage of screen	N	
Ground water	Y	unknown/other (give details)				
Other/unknown (give details)						
Additional comments on the cause of flooding: A significant storm event (1 in 12yr event) hit the Wirral on the Wednesday 15 August 2012.						
Is level survey required? (mark high water level/wrack)		N	Surveyed	N/A		
EFFECT						
Properties flooded (residential)	Y	internal	26	external	9	Max depth (m)
Properties flooded (commercial)	Y	internal	0	external	N/K	
Infrastructure affected (list)	Public sewer system and highway drainage network					0..15
Roads affected (list)	Y A small number of roads were closed by flood water which receded once rain had ceased. A number of locations had blocked gullies but it is not known if these were caused by debris washed in by heavy rain or had existed prior to the flood.					
Other (list)	Many of the public sewers surcharged preventing highway gullies from discharging until storm ceased.					
Map/ sketch of flood						

ACTION TAKEN: All properties visited and details of flooding noted. Road gullies in vicinity of the properties checked and no problems identified. Residents advised to contact Water Company to report flooding.

ACTION REQUIRED: Water Companies to investigate public sewers in vicinity of flooded properties.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION: Investigations of locations where gullies are connected to a highway drain rather than a public sewer. However, the existing drainage systems as a whole were unable to deal with the amount of surface water generated by the storm event. Once storm had abated all flooding drained away.

OTHER INFO: It is unlikely that any improvements/additions to the highway drainage system would prevent future flooding from storm events of this magnitude. The Water Companies design new sewers not to flood during this type of event they will however surcharge, which will prevent gullies connected to them from discharging. Some public sewers are believed to surcharge more frequently during less intense rainfall.

