

Wirral MBC – LLFA – Significant Flood Event Report

LOCATION: NGR Area/street name		Various locations within Wallasey/New Brighton/Leasowe and Heswall		REFERENCE NO.	W/26.8.11/01-27	
Start date & time	26/8/11	End date & time	26/8/11	Data collection date	30/8/11 - 22/9/11	
				Observer	J.H. Baker	
** Responsible Risk Management Authority (RMA)		Highway Authority (LLFA), United Utilities and Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water)		** Have RMA responded appropriately? Main contact (name& no)	Yes Various contacts were made	
Maximum depth (m)		350mm		History of flooding?	Most locations had suffered previous flooding within last 10yrs	
SOURCE OF FLOODING			CAUSE OF FLOODING			
River: Main (EA)	N	drainage capacity exceeded			Y	
Sea (EA)	N	mechanical failure			N	
Drainage: sewer (UU, WW)	Y	operational failure/ breach of defence			N	
River: Ordinary	N	system 'tide locked' (ie drain can not discharge due to high river level)			N	
Drainage: highway	Y	blockage of bridge		blockage in culvert/pipe	N	
Surface water	Y	blockage in channel		blockage of screen	N	
Ground water	Y	unknown/other (give details)				
Other/unknown (give details)						
Additional comments on the cause of flooding: An unpredicted extreme storm event (1 in 561yr event) hit the Wirral on the evening of Friday 26 August 2011, It is believed to have tracked across the borough in a narrow band from south-west to north-east, leading to flooding in low-lying locations in Heswall, Leasowe, Wallasey and New Brighton. No visual supporting information available from Wirral staff as storm occurred out of hours and had not been predicted.						
Is level survey required? (mark high water level/wrack)			N	Surveyed	N/A	
EFFECT						
Properties flooded (residential)	Y	internal	24	external	2	Max depth (m)
Properties flooded (commercial)	Y	internal	1	external	N/K	
Infrastructure affected (list)	Public sewer system					
Roads affected (list)	Y Damage to surface at a number of locations from surcharging public sewers.					
Other (list)	A large number of sewer manholes were dislodged.					
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: Wirral to consider possible improvements to highway drainage system to ensure maximum discharge is available from the area. However, 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 do not design new sewers to cope with this magnitude of storm.

