



Groundwater Impacted System Management Plan

Witney, River Windrush

October 2024



It's everyone's water

Version control

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Introduction

This document sets out Thames Water's approach to the management of groundwater infiltration in sewerage systems where the influence of groundwater infiltration is viewed as significant likely leading to the sewerage system, on occasions, to become overwhelmed.

All sewerage systems combined and separate will experience some groundwater infiltration¹ and a nominal allowance in design will be made for this. However, in some catchments the impact of groundwater infiltration can be considerable leading to impacts on service during periods of high groundwater, typically during the winter.

Groundwater can enter the sewerage system through the pipes and manholes, this may occur at a defect (crack, hole, displaced joint) or on a normal joint on the sewer or in the manhole. A key point to note is that where infiltration occurs it is not necessarily an indicator that the sewer is in poor structural state simply that jointing techniques used are not completely watertight.

Ingress of groundwater is not limited to the public system that Thames Water owns and maintains but potentially the private drains, manholes and sewers that connect to our system.

Preventing and reducing the impact of groundwater infiltration is predominately achieved through the lining of sewers and

sealing of manholes. This entails the application of a synthetic liner within the pipe that creates a contiguous membrane for the length of the pipe or possibly section if the source of ingress can be narrowed down. For manholes it will typically entail sealing in a similar manner.

To line all sewers and manholes within most catchments would be prohibitively expensive to do so. Our approach to date has been centred on a 'find and fix' basis which has involved monitoring and investigating the networks in periods of high groundwater to identify sources of ingress and fix as we find them. This approach is constrained for the reason that investigations are typically limited to periods of high groundwater and when high groundwater occurs there are limited windows of time in which investigations can be successfully undertaken before flows either subside or the system is fully surcharged meaning CCTV surveys are not possible². Once sections of sewers have been lined, it will be a case of waiting until high groundwater levels reoccur to assess the effectiveness of the work undertaken, which may not be the subsequent winter but several years later.

It is recognised that the 'find & fix' approach to date lacks a degree of certainty of resolution and for this reason Thames Water has in 2020 undertaken a different approach for the medium to long-term management of groundwater, which is covered within this

¹ Sewers for Adoption makes an allowance for 10% of peak wastewater flow to allow for unaccounted flows such as groundwater infiltration.

² On occasions it is possible to over-pump between manholes to isolate sections of sewer to survey, this is not always feasible when the flows involved are simply too great to over-pump or the location prohibits this approach.

document under the plan section. These plans require significant investment which Thames Water will seek to secure. In the meantime, we will continue to investigate sources of infiltration when it occurs and where feasible, undertake the work through our capital maintenance budgets. We refer to these as 'minor works' opportunities i.e. where we have high degree of certainty of reducing point sources of infiltration and can do so with reasonable costs and time.

The structure of this document has been created with input from the Environment Agency. Sections covered in this document include our 'Outline Plan' with timescales, Mitigation i.e. how we intend to manage the risk until our plan is fully implemented and when we will publish future updates on progress against this plan.

Brief description of Witney catchment

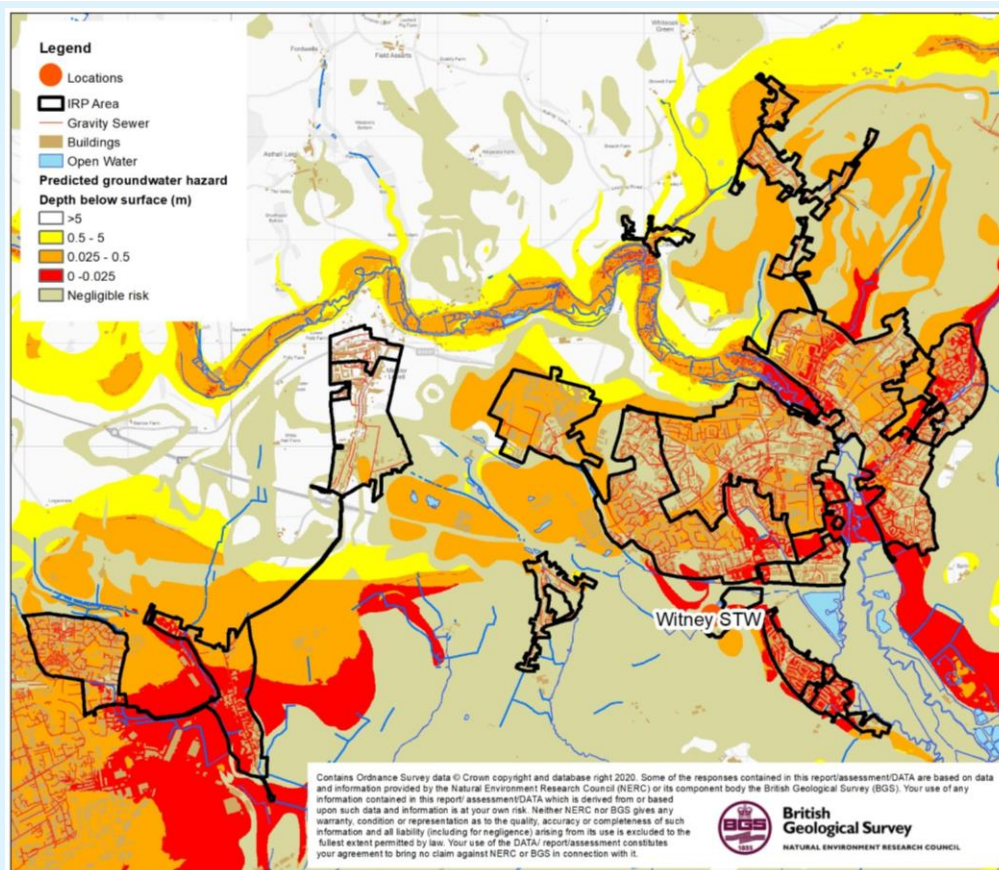


Figure 1.0 – Witney catchment

Witney is located on the River Windrush in Oxfordshire, England, 12 miles West of Oxford. Witney STW serves a population equivalent³ of 46,750 with a predominantly separate sewerage network totalling some 203 km in length excluding private drains and sewers. The extent of the catchment is shown in Figure 1.0 above.

Problem characterisation

The foul sewerage system in the village of Brize Norton, within the Witney catchment, has become overwhelmed for weeks and even months at a time in recent years, following prolonged and heavy rainfall and raised groundwater levels. Groundwater has potential to enter our sewers when levels are high which reduces their capacity and increases their risk of becoming overwhelmed. There is a strong link between the rising groundwater levels across the Brize Norton area and the drainage issues some of our customers have experienced,

³ Population equivalent based on unit per capita loading (PE), in waste-water treatment is the number expressing the ratio of the sum of the pollution load produced during 24 hours by industrial facilities and services to the individual pollution load in household sewage produced by one person in the same time.

We believe that the systems have surcharged because of a combination of groundwater infiltration to public and private drainage, groundwater run-off from saturated fields, surface water inundation from highways, public spaces and properties, and surface water misconnections.

CCTV surveys in the Brize Norton area found restrictions in our sewer capacity in the area caused by tree roots, debris and groundwater entering our sewers through cracks and other defects. Sewer lining has already been undertaken to a section of the main sewer in the fields to the east of Station Road.

The root causes of sewer surcharges are therefore numerous and the resolution of the issues complex, requiring all stakeholders responsible for drainage in the catchment to work together to resolve them. Witney STW includes storm tanks to handle excess flows, due to rainfall and snowmelt, above the flow to full treatment during storms. These store the flows and drain them back to the inlet for treatment when the storm flows subside but can discharge to the Curbridge Ditch when they are full.

In recent years the problems associated with wet weather events and high groundwater levels have led to restricted toilet use and external foul flooding to properties in Brize Norton, pollution as a result of surcharging sewers spilling out of manholes, flooding at the Brize Norton pumping station from the local watercourse, manholes located in low lying areas have become inundated with surface water, and pumping stations have been forced to operate far in excess of normal operation. There is a good correlation between groundwater levels and daily flow at Witney STW.

Our permit conditions for Witney STW state:

"The discharge shall only occur when and only for as long as the flow passed forward is equal to or greater than the overflow setting indicated due to rainfall and/or snowmelt.

Off-line storm storage must be fully utilised before a discharge occurs. It shall only fill when the flow passed forward is equal to or greater than the overflow setting indicated due to rainfall and/or snow melt and shall be emptied and its contents returned to the continuation flow as soon as reasonably practicable. The minimum off-line storm storage required is specified in table S3.3." (table is within the permit)."

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places a responsibility on Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs), to manage flood risk from surface and groundwater, plus a duty on all Risk Management Authorities (RMAs), to cooperate regarding flood risk. In our role as an RMA, Thames Water will work with Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council as planning authorities, and the Environment Agency to ensure that a collaborative approach can be developed to address the problems.

Thames Water also has a statutory obligation to comply with environmental legislation. The Water Framework Directive establishes a strategic approach to managing the water environment, which the Environment Agency achieves through River Basin Management Plans and setting environmental objectives for groundwater and surface water. The environment is also protected from adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater through

the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, which requires us to improve and extend the sewerage system according to section 94 of the Water Industry Act (1991).

On occasions where the incoming flow has exceeded treatment capacity for sustained periods, the storm tanks have become full and spills to watercourses have occurred.

Anticipated unavoidable discharges

Within recent years we have experienced unavoidable sewage escapes from the network as a direct result of unwanted flows. Where possible we will mitigate this risk by tankering. Impact has also been experienced at the Sewage Treatment Works where spills to the river during dry days are not compliant with the permit and have resulted in Category 2 pollution incidents.

General outline plan & timescale

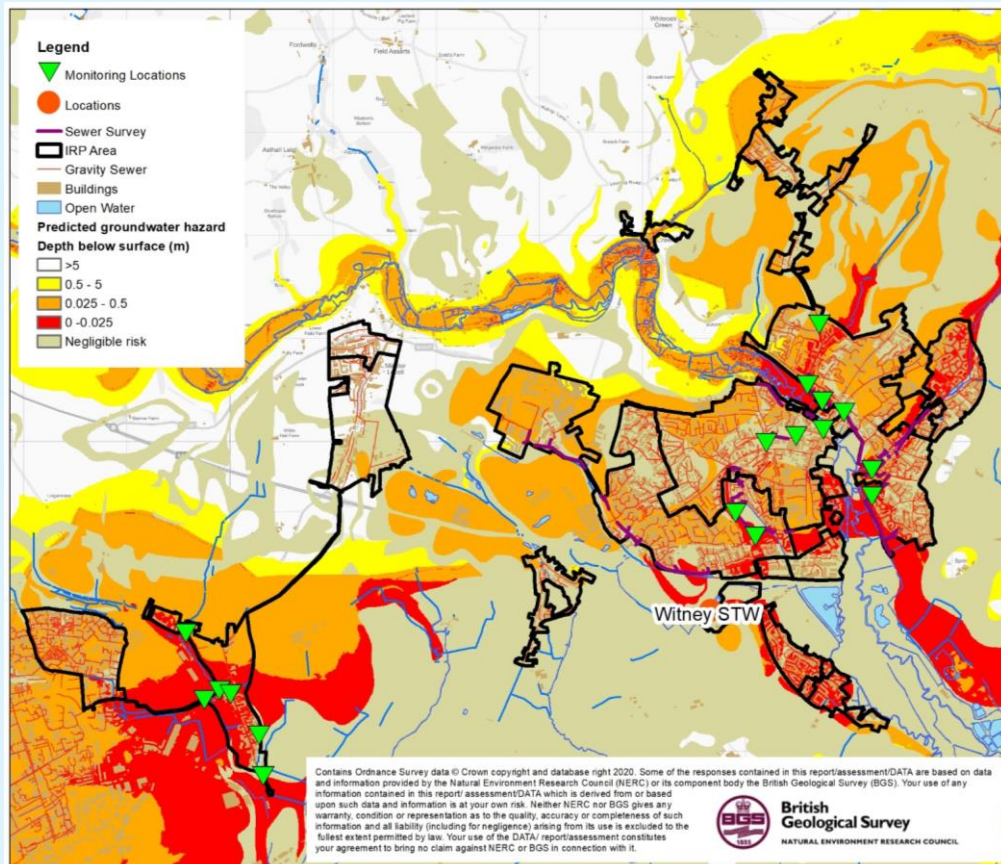


Figure 2.0 – Witney monitoring and infiltration zones

Key to bringing the impact of groundwater infiltration under control will be an enhanced monitoring regime. We have identified and have installed several telemetered depth monitor locations around the Witney system – see Figure 2.0.

Complementing the flow [at the treatment works] and depth measurement [in the sewer network] we will use pumping station run time data, rainfall data, river level data, and groundwater level data to create a full picture of movement and source of flows around the catchment.

Zones of Groundwater Risk

We engaged with JBA Consulting to develop plans for Witney that identify zones of groundwater risk, see Figure 2.0. These zones are modelled areas where the groundwater has been determined to be above the sewer and hence pose a potential risk for groundwater ingress.

The sewer depth monitors referred to earlier are sited in and around these zones to verify and calibrate the risk in each of the zones.

If following the proposal to the sealing in part or wholly⁴ of the high risk zones, should it be required, the system is found to be still experiencing excessive infiltration we would then look to potentially seal 'private' laterals and/or drains along with starting to seal the medium to low risk zones.

This document sets out an unconstrained approach to resolving the impact of groundwater infiltration within the system. Investment to address infiltration will be assessed and prioritised against other drivers e.g. STW upgrades, both in the catchment and across the region at each price review.

With this plan we remain committed to minimising the impact of groundwater on the sewerage system in Witney.

Our general medium to long term plan is therefore to apply a hierarchy to sealing the sewer as follows:

Activity	When	Description
Model Zones	2020/21	JBA have been engaged to undertake modelling activities to identify the areas to be targeted for sealing in the 56 systems identified as being impacted by infiltration.
Install monitors	2020/21-2021/22	Additional monitors have begun to be installed in the zones to help calibrate and validate the zones. Each year completeness / coverage monitors will be reviewed and added to / or modified, as necessary.
Calibrate zones	Refined each year	Following each winter, we intend to review the data from the monitors and if necessary, redefine the zones.
Look & Lift	Each winter	The look & lift surveys have two purposes, firstly to compliment the monitoring and secondly to identify 'quick fixes' that we would address through our normal capital maintenance.
CCTV	2020-2023	Required to confirm sewer condition and provide information to assist with costing any sewer lining.

⁴ Decisions regarding the extent of sealing will be based on outcomes of works undertaken to date, result of monitoring and successful submission of our plans for investment.

Activity	When	Description
Minor works	2020-2023	As mentioned, if we detect minor works being required, we will look to resolve these as and when we find them.
PR24 / Price review	2023/24	Ideally through monitoring and on-going investigations work towards managing the infiltration risk, in AMP7, will be successful. However, in the absence of evidence justifying the need not to undertake sealing of the high-risk zone this is to be included as part of PR24 investment plan. This work will be subject to Cost Benefit Analysis and Best Technical Knowledge Not Entailing Excessive Cost (BTKNEEC) assessments.
High risk zone sealing	2025-30	Sealing of high-risk zone undertaken subject to need being demonstrated.

Witney Infiltration Management Plan

As detailed above infiltration causes a range of issues.

As part of our current investment plan, we have a project to increase the flow to full treatment at Witney STW. The main driver for the upgrade is growth, however the rate of maximum observed infiltration is considered as part of the calculation for the new treatment flow rates. This work is programmed to be completed by 31/03/2025, however we are looking to deliver this earlier.

In the intervening period we intend to continue to monitor the network for potential sources of infiltration that may improve the performance prior to upgrade of the sewage treatment works.

High level approach statement

For Witney our approach to tackling infiltration will be undertaken as follows:

1. We will take a twin track approach of developing a solution at the sewage treatment works. At present our programme for implementation of the upgrade of Witney STWs is completion by 2025⁵.
2. In parallel to the progression of the STWs solution to deal with the infiltration received we will investigate the network with a view to identifying sources of ingress of infiltration that are cost effective⁶ to address. To investigate the network, we/will

- Have undertaken a desktop analysis to determine infiltration high to low risk zones (October 2020);
- Installed additional monitoring to back up the analysis (a) and to aide focusing of locations for identification of infiltration (2020 to 2023). Each year we will assess the completeness of monitoring and if required add to or modify the current locations.
- Undertake sample CCTV in the high to low risk zones to assess the general asset health of the sewers and manholes (ongoing).
- Review results of Winter 2019/20 and 2020/21 with historic data to build up evidence to support interventions in the network (Summer 2021).

3. If significant investment is identified as being required, then this will need to be considered in terms of relative need compared to other systems being investigated for infiltration reduction. However, where viable opportunities are identified these will be included in our AMP9 (2030-35) programme of investment. Significant investment needs may need to be included in our future investment cycles.

⁵ This project is a 2025 WINEP output, we are looking to deliver earlier if possible.

⁶ Assessment of cost effectiveness is based on assessment of the ratio of the cost of a solution to the monetised benefit gained from implementing the solution i.e. reduction in flood/pollution risk and/or reduced operating costs.

Investigations

As mentioned above JBA Consulting have been supporting by undertaking an exercise involving assessing groundwater elevation data to determine which areas of the network are potentially below the groundwater table during high groundwater periods.

Site investigations, undertaken by Dene-Tech and our Customer Field Services (Thames Water Operations) have included 'look & lift' surveys, CCTV and where necessary dye tracing to confirm connectivity.

A table of the work undertaken is included in the appendix to this report.

Monitoring

Sewer Depth Monitors continue to be installed in the catchment in 2020/2021 (see Figure 2.0). These devices are telemetered and provide real time data on the level of flow in the sewer.

The purpose of these units is to act as alerts for high groundwater impact in the sewer, calibration of the zones of infiltration risk and to demonstrate benefit gained from work undertaken to reduce infiltration.

To provide evidence in the future of further need to manage the impact of infiltration.

Mitigation

On occasions to avoid flooding of properties or to manage the risk of damage to the environment we may undertake tankering from (manholes) points on the network, make use of pumps to manage flows or deploy settlement tanks to part treat sewage before release to the environment.

With regard to Witney, we do not envisage needing to undertake mitigation work within the network.

Updates

Work on the Groundwater infiltration management plan will continue, and we will aim to provide updates annually by the end of October each year.

Appendix

Groundwater infiltration potential analysis

The sewer network classified by the groundwater infiltration risk zones. The lengths of sewers within these zones are presented in the table below.

Sewer Length by Groundwater Infiltration Risk Zones

Risk category	Description	Length (km)	Percentage
High	Predicted groundwater extreme >1m above pipe invert	69.83	48.4
Medium	Predicted groundwater extreme 0-1m above pipe invert	7.00	4.8
Low	Predicted groundwater extreme 0-1m below pipe invert	5.38	3.7
Very Low	Predicted groundwater extreme >1m below pipe invert	62.20	43.1
Total		144.41 ⁷	100.0

In addition, the table below presents the surface water flood risk classification for manholes within the catchment.

Manholes by Surface Water Inundation Risk Category

Risk category	Description	Number	Percentage
High	Inundation risk in 3.3% AEP fluvial or pluvial event	485	8.7
Medium	Inundation risk in 1% AEP fluvial or pluvial event	206	3.7
Low	Inundation risk in 0.1% AEP fluvial or pluvial event	711	12.7
Very Low	All other manholes	4200	74.9
Total		5602	100.0

⁷ Total of sewer length is for length of mapped sewers only and will not include unmapped S105a transferred sewers in all cases.

Investigations & remedial work undertaken since 2019/20 and future plans

The three tables below summarise the finding of the survey and implementation work identified in the 2019/20 period. The final table summarises our current known plans for remediating groundwater infiltration issues.

2019/20 Survey Statistics

Elements		Units	Value	Comment
Planned Survey		m	3,090	Survey was planned for a significant part of the valley floor. It was possible to complete 97% of the survey (see Figure 2).
Survey Completed		m	3,010	
		%	97	
		Lengths (No.)	180	
Clear Flow Observed		m	456	25.5% of the sewer network surveyed had evidence of groundwater infiltration.
		%	15	
Sewer Infiltration Locations Identified	Infiltration Gushing	No.	1	22 groundwater infiltration locations were identified in the sewers. Of those 3 were identified as “gushing” and therefore should be the focus of repair as soon as possible.
	Infiltration Gushing at Joint		2	
	Infiltration Running		1	
	Infiltration Running at joint		16	
	Infiltration Dripping			
	Infiltration Dripping at joint			
	Infiltration Seeping			
	Infiltration Seeping at joint		2	
	Grand Total		22	

Elements		Units	Value	Comment
Manhole Infiltration Locations Identified	Infiltration around pipe	No.	7	24 groundwater infiltration locations were identified at manhole locations. Of those 3 were identified as “gushing” and therefore should be the focus of repair as soon as possible.
	Infiltration through benching		6	
	Infiltration through chamber wall		3	
	Gushing		3	
	Running		3	
	Dripping		2	
	Seeping			
	Grand Total		24	
Monitoring Locations Active		No.	17	17 Water level monitoring locations have been installed within the catchment. Their locations are shown in Figure 2.
Details of other Surveys				No other surveys have occurred in the catchment during the period.

2019/20 Implementation Works

Activities	Value	Comment
Sewer Lining Length (m)	0	The focus of this period was investigations to identify the location of implementation works required. We are currently progressing the priority 1 locations below though our governance process for remediation, which is being monitored also by the EA.
Infiltration Points Targeted (no.)	0	
Manhole Sealing (no.)	0	

Future Works

	Priority 2020/2021	Known follow On Work
Survey	See main text	
Sewer Lining	3 gushing locations identified	18 weeping locations identified in 2019/20 Locations identified in Future Surveys
Manhole Sealing – Infiltration Ingress	3 gushing locations identified	21 weeping locations identified in 2019/20 Locations identified in Future Surveys
Manhole Sealing – Pluvial and Fluvial Ingress	Plan to be developed based on at risk manholes identified in JBA analysis.	
Sewage Treatment Works Upgrade	See main text.	

Glossary of terms

AEP – Annual Exceedance Potential

AMP – Asset Management Plan

CCTV – Closed Circuit Television

EA - Environment Agency

IRP – Infiltration Reduction Plans

MH- Manhole

STW – Sewage Treatment Works

WINEP – Water Industry National Environment Programme

Addendum – Annual Update 2021

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Introduction

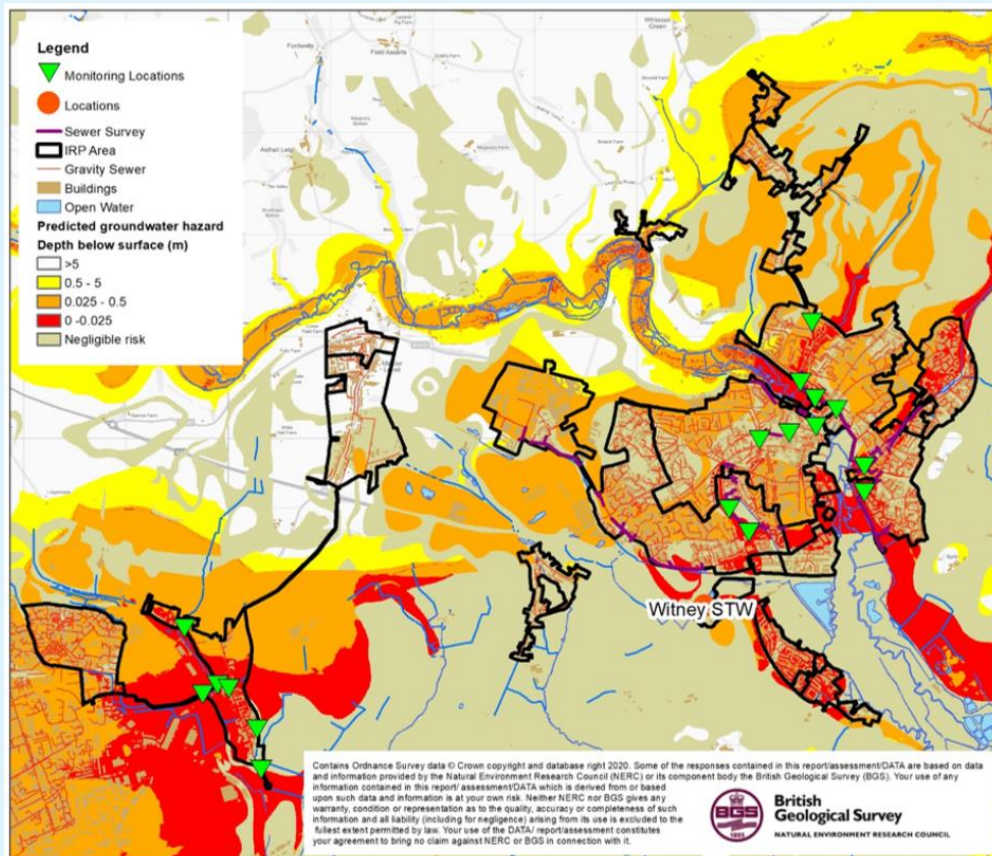


Figure 1 – Witney monitoring and infiltration zones

This addendum to the Witney Groundwater Impacted System Management Plan 2020 (GISMP) provides an update on performance/work undertaken in the period from September 2020 to September 2021 (the UK Hydrological Year¹) key points covered include:

- Hydrological Conditions
- How the sewerage system has performed over this period
- Mitigation / remedial measures progressed over the last year and being planned.
- Summary and next steps

⁷ [Happy New Water Year! | National River Flow Archive \(ceh.ac.uk\)](https://www.ceh.ac.uk/national-river-flow-archive)

2020-21 Hydrological Review

This section summaries the hydrological conditions at Witney over the period

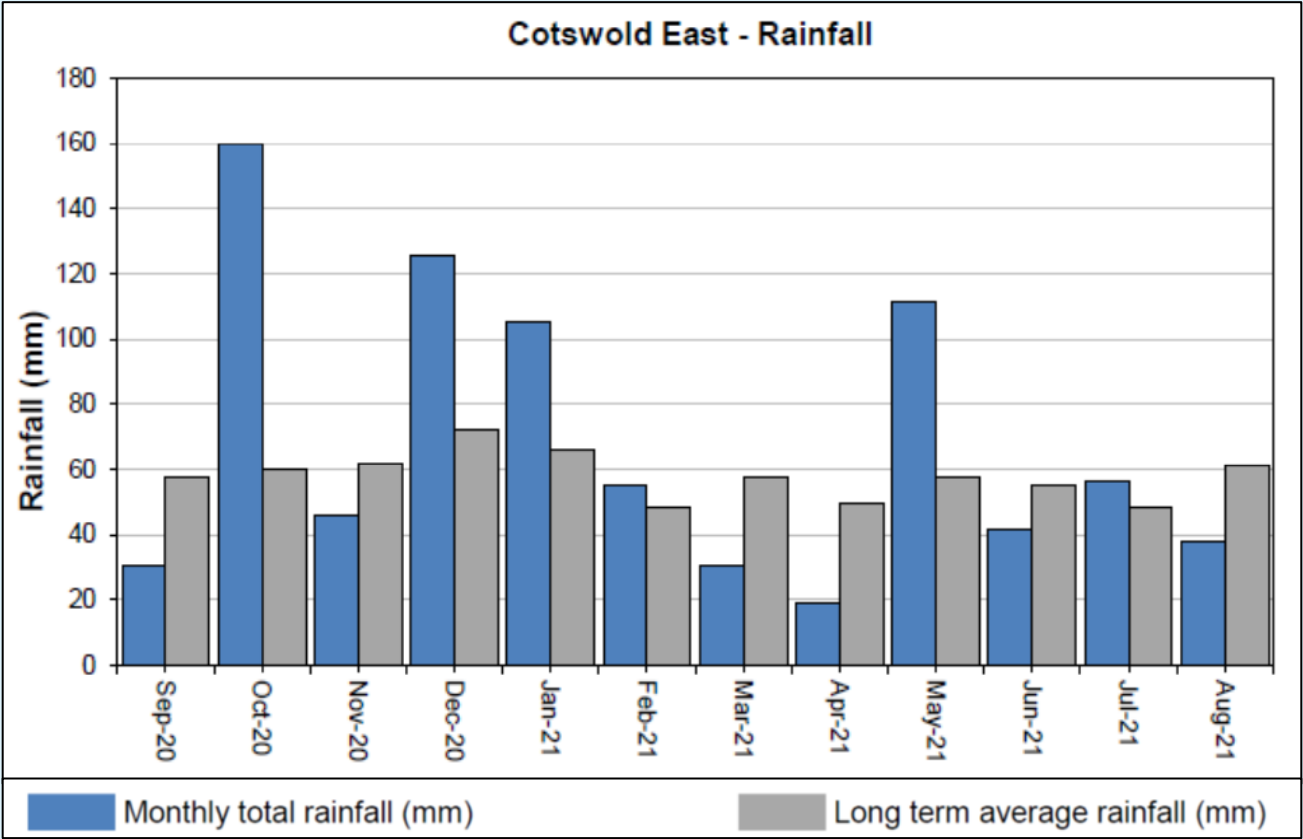


Figure 2 – Monthly rainfall depths local to the system

Witney is situated in the Cotswold East water resources area. Figure 2 shows the monthly rainfall total depths against the long-term average rainfall in the location of Witney over the period take from the *Environment Agency Water Situation Report August 2021*¹

The graph indicates that monthly rainfall at times in the last year has significantly exceeded long-term averages, this was especially notable in the winter period.

Figure 3 shows the location of the British Geological Survey (BGS) monitoring borehole at Ampney Crucis which has been monitoring groundwater since 1959. Figures 4 and 5 show river levels in the River Windrush at Witney which are a good indication of local groundwater levels over time. Figure 6 and 7 show the last two and ten years of groundwater level data overlain on expected ranges. This shows how recent groundwater levels have compared against the expected range, they show that generally over the last two winters groundwater levels have been notably higher, with the peak groundwater levels close to or within the exceptional high range.

¹Environment Agency Water Situation Report August 2021
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1016481/Thames_Water_Situation_Report_August_2021.pdf).

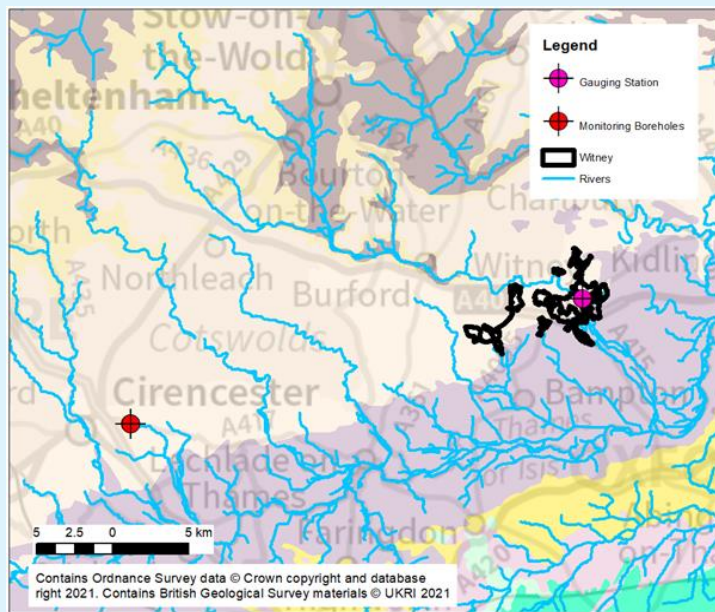


Figure 3 – Location of Ampney Crucis Monitoring Borehole Relative to Witney



Figure 4 – 2020-2021 River levels at Witney (River Windrush) – River Levels UK (riverlevels.uk).

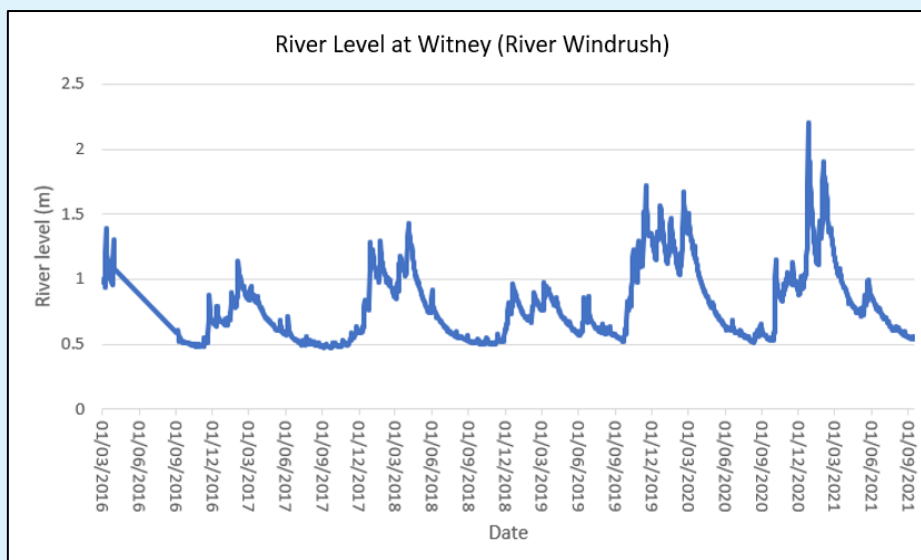


Figure 5 – 2016-2021 River levels at Witney (River Windrush) – River Levels UK (riverlevels.uk).

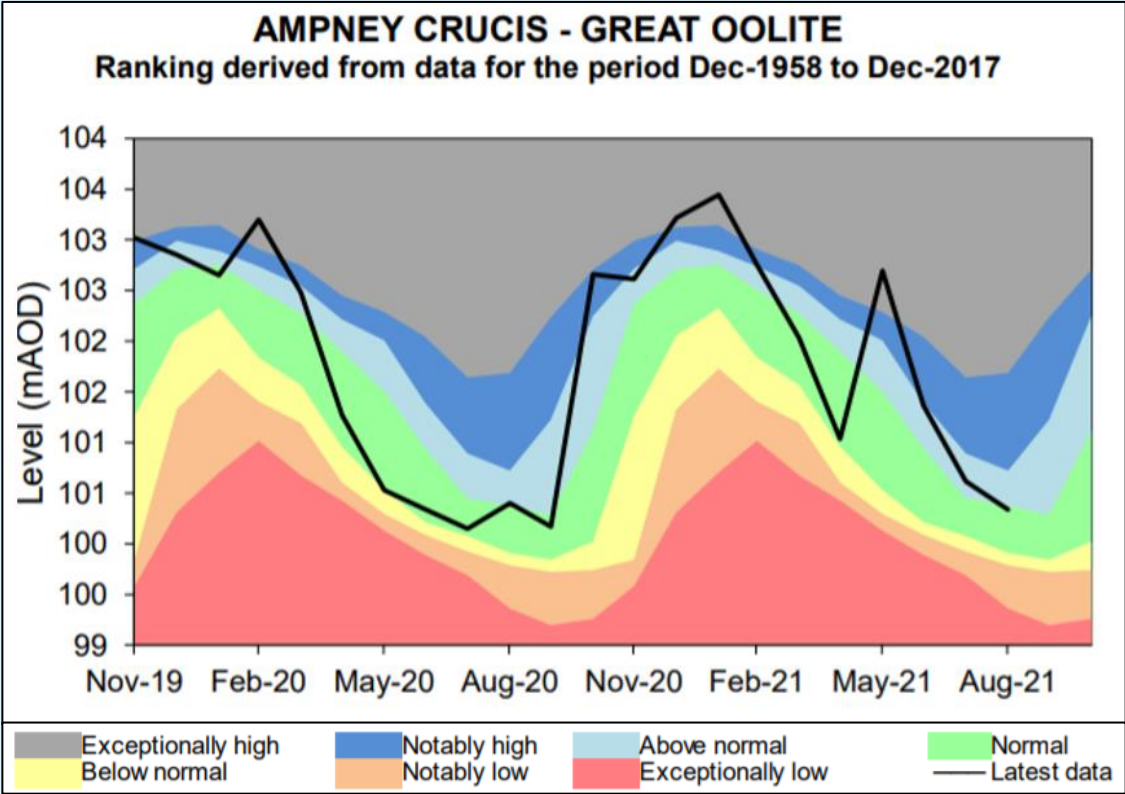


Figure 6 – 2019-2021 Groundwater levels at Ampney Crucis. (Environment Agency Water Situation Report August 2021)

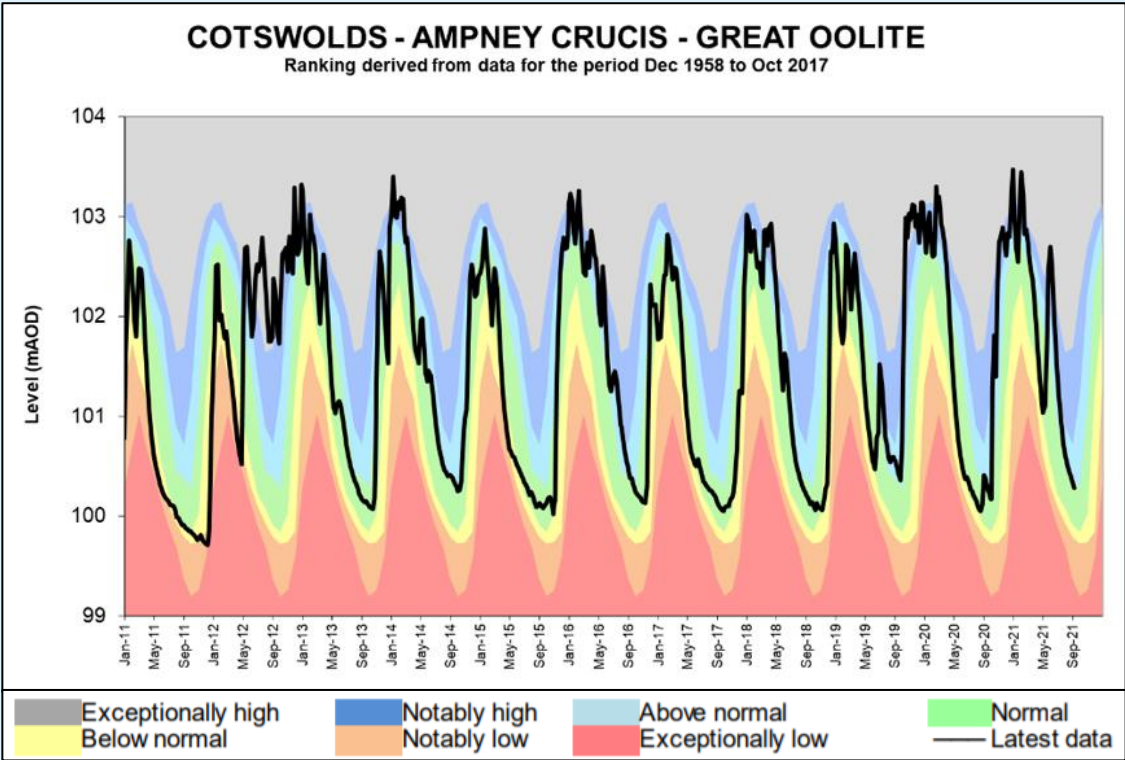


Figure 7 – 2011-2021 Groundwater levels at Ampney Crucis. (Environment Agency Water Situation Report August 2021)

Investigations & remedial work undertaken in the period and future work

The three tables below in summary provide an update on recent survey and remediation work undertaken during the period .

Additional Survey Statistics

Elements		Units	Value	Comment
Planned Survey		m	716	716m of CCTV was planned in the Crawley SPS area, however the system was heavily surcharged at the time of survey and therefore could not be fully completed.
Survey Completed		m	285	
		%	39	
		Lengths (No.)	19	
Clear Flow Observed		m	148	Of the 285m surveyed, 148m clear flow was observed.
		%	52	
Sewer Infiltration Locations Identified	Infiltration Gushing	No.	0	Due to the surcharged system only a few locations of infiltration were identified. These locations are in addition to the ones identified in the original report (2020).
	Infiltration Gushing at Joint		0	
	Infiltration Running		0	
	Infiltration Running at joint		4	
	Infiltration Dripping		0	
	Infiltration Dripping at joint		1	
	Infiltration Seeping		0	
	Infiltration Seeping at joint		2	
	Grand Total		7	

Elements		Units	Value	Comment
Manhole Infiltration Locations Identified	Infiltration around pipe	No.	0	13 Manholes surveyed, however system surcharged at the time of survey so we were unable to identify points of ingress.
	Infiltration through benching		0	
	Infiltration through chamber wall		0	
	Gushing		0	
	Running		0	
	Dripping		0	
	Seeping		0	
	Grand Total		0	
Monitoring Locations Active		No.	17	Existing live monitor locations as shown on Figure 1
Details of other Surveys			-	

Remediation Works in the period

Activities	Value	Comment
Sewer Lining Length (m)	Works to deliver 10m of patch lining as identified from the 2019/20 surveys is to be completed by November 2021. This will address the gushers identified in the original GISMP.	Remaining work subject to site conditions being suitable.
Manhole Sealing (no.)	A total of 5 manholes (identified in the 2019/202 surveys) are due to be sealed by November 2021. This will address the gushers identified in the original GISMP.	

Future Works

	Priority 2021/22	Known follow On Work
Survey	Re survey upstream of Crawley SPS where we were not able to complete previous CCTV due to sewers being surcharged at the time of survey.	To be confirmed
Sewer Lining	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Manhole Sealing – Infiltration Ingress	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Manhole Sealing – Pluvial and Fluvial Ingress	Plan to be developed based on at risk manholes identified in JBA analysis.	
Sewage Treatment Works Upgrade	As part of our current AMP7 investment plan, we have a project to increase the flow to full treatment at Witney STW. The main driver for the upgrade is growth, however the rate of maximum observed infiltration is considered as part of the calculation for the new treatment flow rates. This work is programmed to be completed by 31/03/2025, however we are looking to deliver this earlier.	

2020-21 Infiltration Review

This section summaries the scale of infiltration at Witney over the period

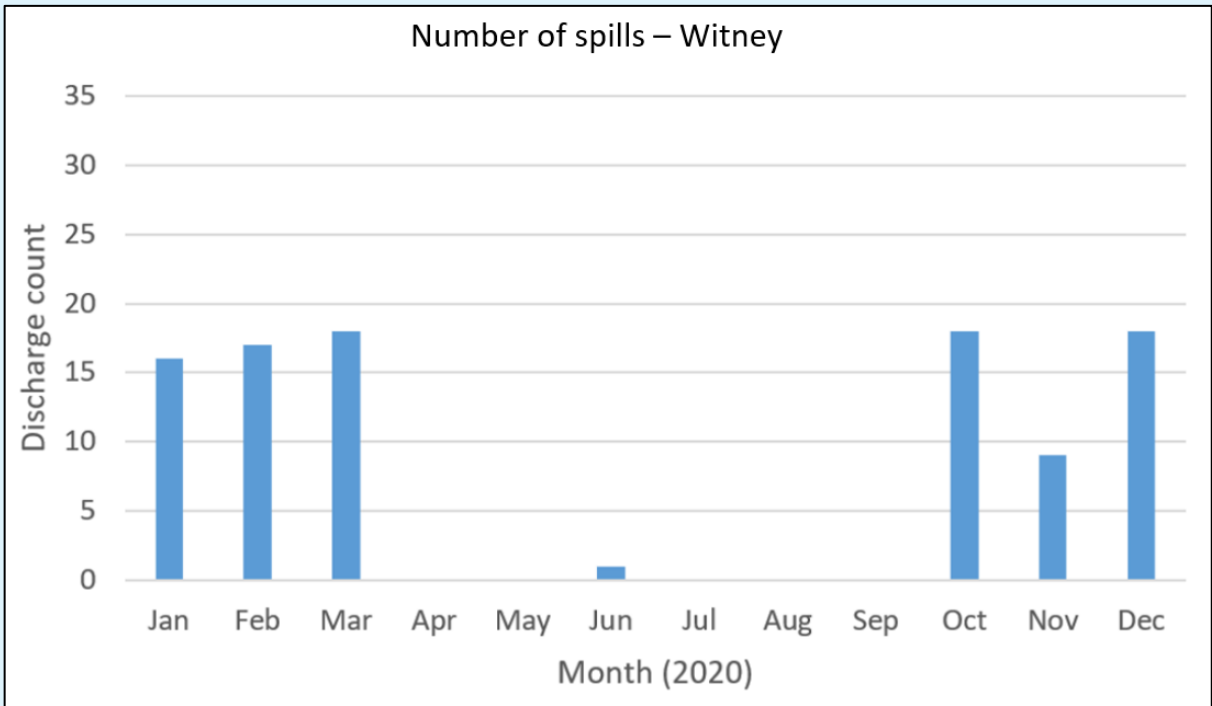


Figure 8 – Number of spills at Witney STW (taken from Event Duration monitor (EDM) Data).*

Figure 8 shows the number of spills per month at Wintey Sewage Treatment Works (STW). January to March and October to December experienced the greatest number of spills. In the summer, with the exception of June, no spills were recorded highlighting the influence of groundwater infiltration/winter flows on the system. This Combined Sewer Overflow location has met the trigger for the EA’s Storm Outfall Overflow Assessment Framework (SOAF) and is currently under further investigation with regards to root cause and impact

Some parts of the Witney system were impacted during the winter period. As a result tankering was implemented to further manage the risk of property flooding in the Brize Norton and Crawley SPS areas.

Summary

The winter of 2020-21 was a particularly wet winter with groundwater levels in the aquifer beneath Witney notably high for long periods. This was reflected in the discharges seen at the Sewage Treatment works from the Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) data.

Remediation identified from the 2020 survey is with our delivery teams and due to be completed by November 2021.

A review of the data from Crawley Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) has highlighted that this system experiences high flows in winter. Further lift and look and CCTV survey has been carried out in the area upstream of the SPS to identify priority infiltration locations for remediation in 2022. Analysis of pumping station performance provides a useful way of breaking down the system in terms of which areas are most impacted by groundwater infiltration.

Lift and look and CCTV surveys will be undertaken in remaining wet winter periods if conditions allow and subject to funding and available capacity. The aim of this is to find further priority locations for remediation and investigating/justifying the need for future larger scale lining as part of our Price Review (PR) process if required.

As part of our current investment plan, we have a project to increase the flow to full treatment at Witney STW. The main driver for the upgrade is growth, however the rate of maximum observed infiltration is considered as part of the calculation for the new treatment flow rates. This work is programmed to be completed by 31/03/2025, however we are looking to deliver this earlier.

Addendum – Annual Update 2022

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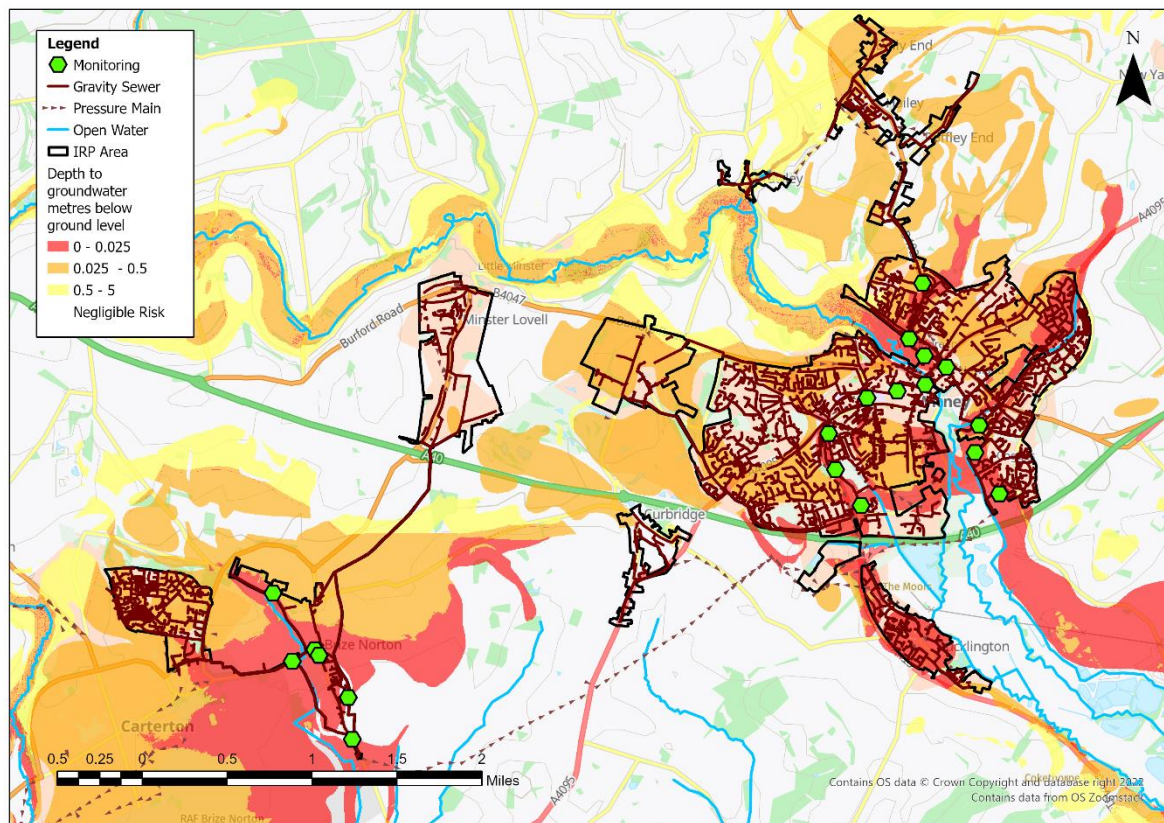
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Overview

This addendum to the Witney Groundwater Impacted System Management Plan 2021 (GISMP) provides an update on performance/work undertaken in the Hydrological Year October 2021 to September 2022. The key points covered include:

- Hydrological conditions
- How the sewerage system has performed over this period
- Mitigation / remedial measures progressed over the last year and being planned
- Summary and plan for 2022/23

Figure 1 – Witney Monitoring Plan



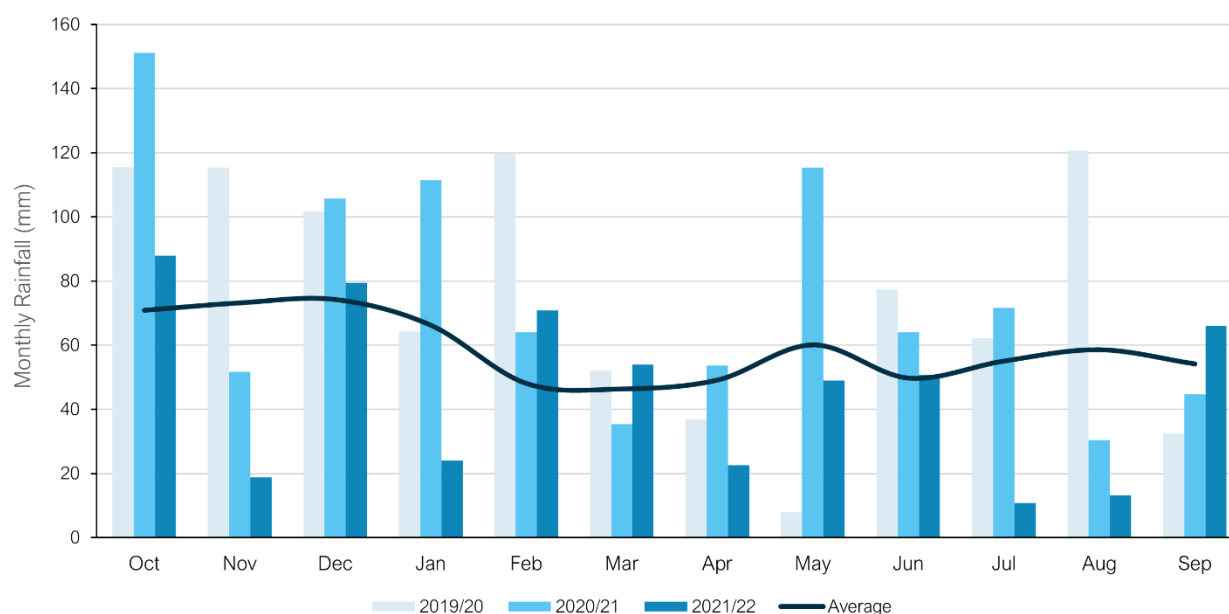
Hydrological Review – 2021-2022

This section summaries the hydrological conditions within the Witney catchment within the period under investigation and provides comparison against previous year's performance to put the annual performance into context. The hydrological review has been undertaken based on the Hydrological Year which runs October 1st to September 30th.

Catchment Rainfall

Representative Radar rainfall has been used to generate monthly data at catchment level for comparison with average data generated by local Met Office Weather Station Records. Figure 2 presents the comparison of this data for the last three hydrological years to support longer term trends within the local system.

Figure 2 – Monthly Rainfall Performance



Average Values taken from Met Office Weather Station at Brize Norton based on the period 1991-2020

The total rainfall for the 2021/22 hydrological year is 21% below the annual average total. Total rainfall values are presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Total Rainfall Based on Hydrological Year

Average (mm)	2019/20 (mm)	2020/21 (mm)	2021/22 (mm)
706	906	899	560

Groundwater / Local River Level

The Witney catchment is situated in the Cotswolds West and Upper Thames water resources areas. It is primarily situated in the Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation of coarse to fine grained sediment, the Forest Marble Formation of coarse to fine grained sediment and the Cornbrash formation of carbonate material. These are not designated principal aquifers within the UK.

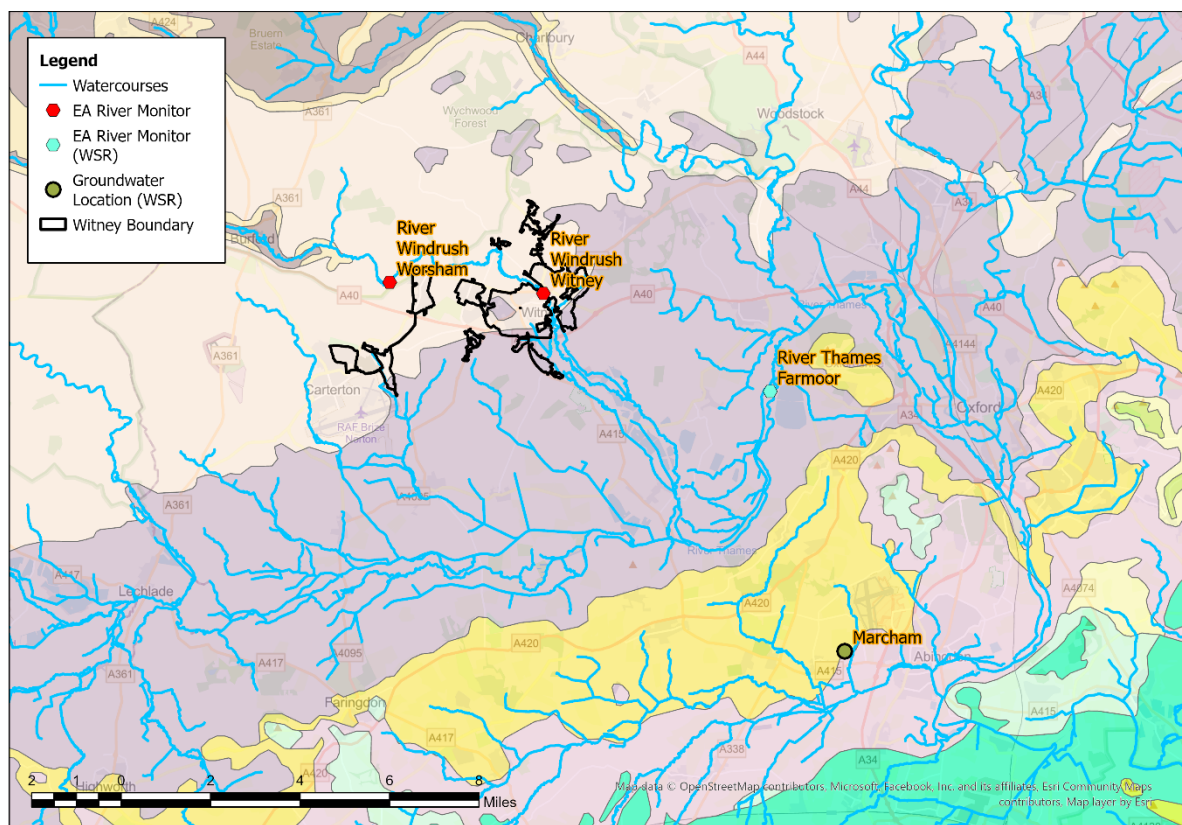
The Environment Agency has gauging stations on local watercourses measuring stage and observation boreholes measuring groundwater levels locally to the catchment which can be used to provide indicative local groundwater performance.

From previous investigations we have identified the following sites are good indicators of groundwater levels within the catchment.

- River Windrush, Worsham.
- River Windrush, Witney.

These sites are illustrated in the figure below, alongside the closest groundwater reference station and closest gauging station from the Water Situation Report.

Figure 4 – Local Monitoring Stations



The following figures represent the last three hydrological years of level information at the indicator sites to build a picture of the relative conditions prevalent in the current year. It is presented against both the daily total rainfall values for the catchment and a rolling 15 day total rainfall.

Figure 5A – River Windrush, Worsham

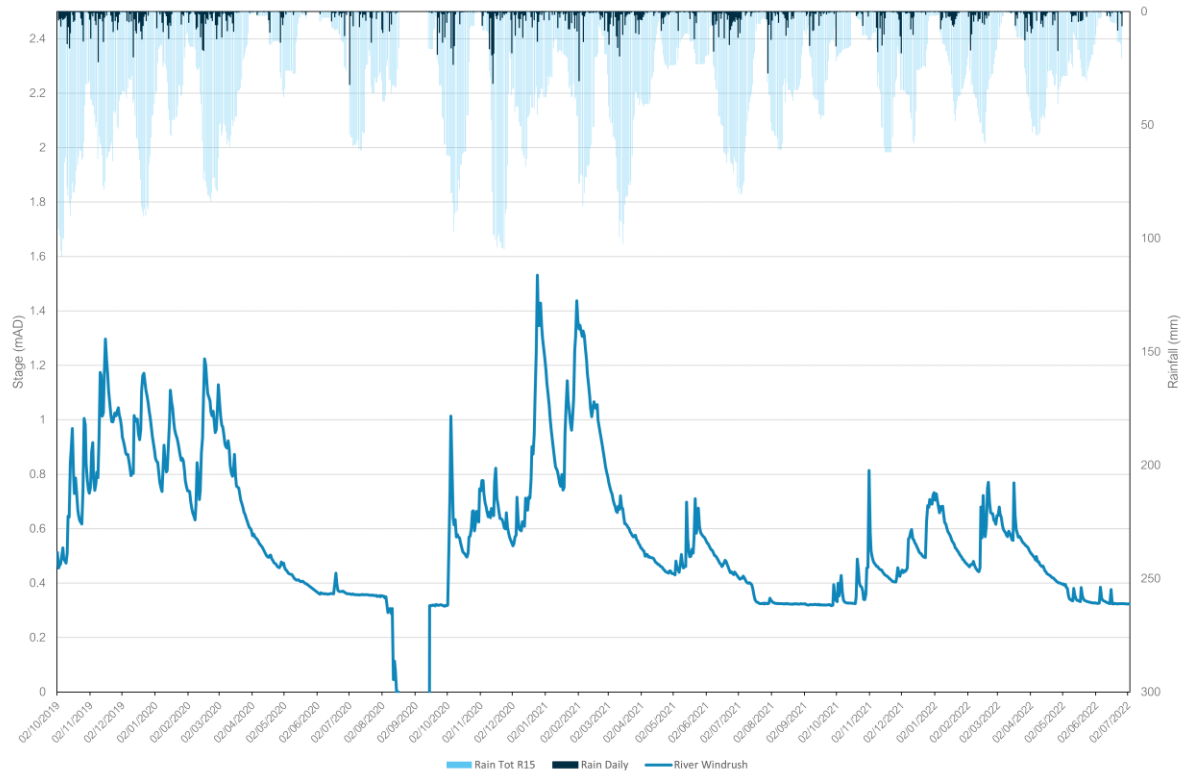
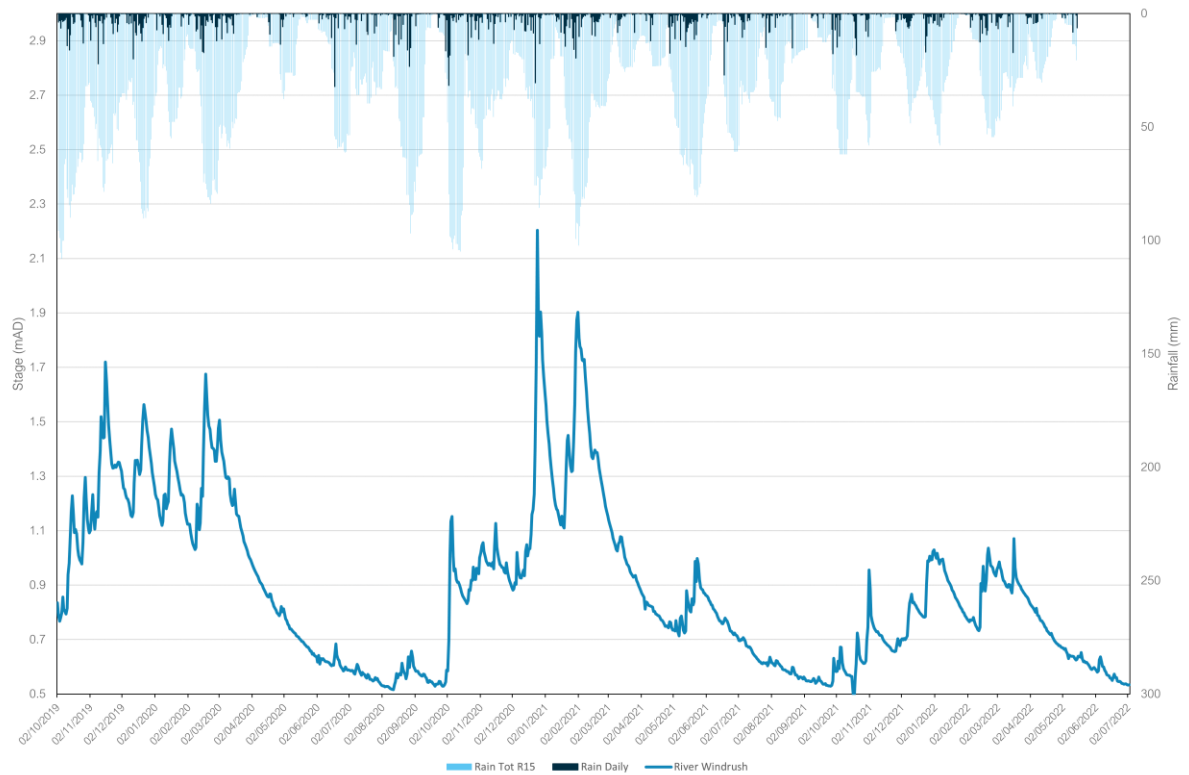
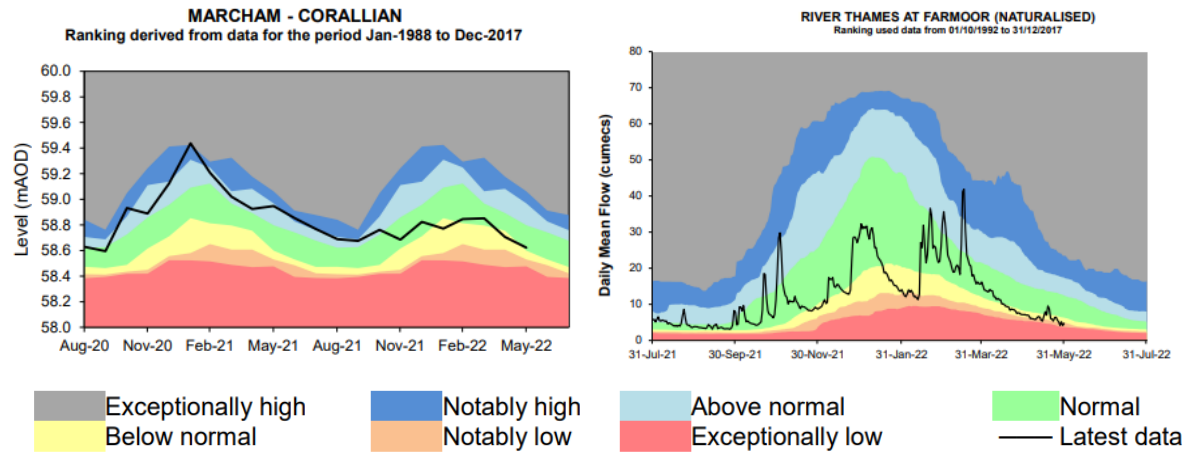


Figure 5B– River Windrush, Witney



In addition to these specific stations, the wider groundwater context is illustrated in the Water Situation Report for Cotswolds West. The nearest groundwater reference station is Marcham. This site shows significantly lower overall groundwater than the previous year. This can be seen in the figure below alongside the river indicator location at Farmoor on the River Thames.

Figure 6 – Water Situation Report



Extract from - [Water Situation Report \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Network Performance

Within the Witney catchment there is one site detailed within the Environment Agency Consents Database which has an Event Duration Monitor (EDM) fitted.

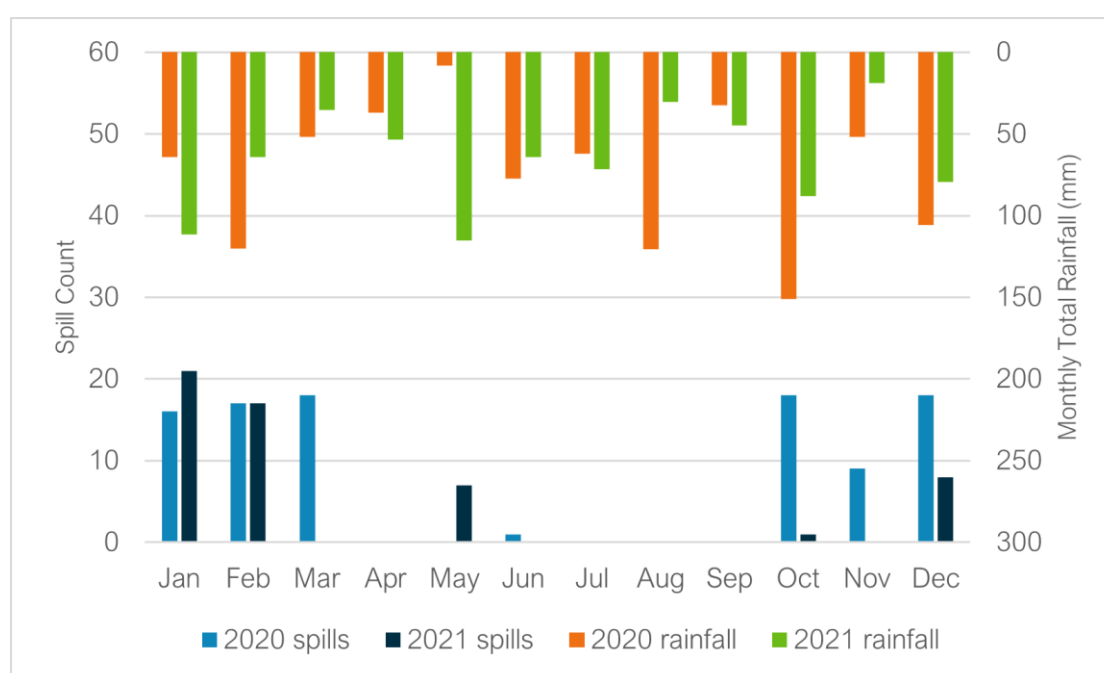
Table 7 below details the last 2 years performance of overflows within the catchment.

Table 7 – Event Duration Monitoring

Overflow	2020		2021	
	Spills	Duration (hours)	Spills	Duration (hours)
Witney STW	97	1563.23	54	934.91

A critical part of the assessment of EDM performance and its relation to groundwater inundation is to review the month-on-month spill performance, against previous years and the monthly total rainfall values to give context to the performance. Figure 8 below presents the EDM performance trend and rainfall for recent years.

Figure 8 – EDM Monthly Performance



The trend in spill performance across the two recorded years does show variation in spills, with a focus on spills during the autumn and winter months. The data suggests a wider relationship between rainfall, elevated groundwater levels and spill frequency. A slower tail off in spills is evident within the first half of 2020, when the indicator sites on the Windrush at Worsham and Windrush at Witney suggest groundwater levels were higher than within the first half of 2021.

Investigations & Interventions

This section details the activities that have been undertaken within the catchment within the Hydrological Year 2021-22.

Monitor Installations

The sewer depth monitor (SDM) programme supports long term groundwater understanding within GISMP catchments. Currently, there are a total of 19 monitors installed within the Witney catchment. There are currently no further monitor installs planned.

The data from these will be cross-referenced with other long-term records (where available) within the catchment.

Remediation Works Undertaken this Hydrological Year

Table 9 below provides a summary of the investigations and remediation works undertaken or planned within the Witney catchment in the 2021-22 Hydrological Year.

Table 9 – Works Undertaken in the 2021/22 Hydrological Year

Investigation/ remediation type	Number/ length undertaken
CCTV survey	4963 metres*
Look and lift survey	N/A
Sewer lining	6 metres completed, further 4 metres planned by end of November 2022**
Patch lining	N/A
Manhole sealing	2 manholes completed, further 3 planned by end of November 2022*
Manhole sealing plates	N/A
Manhole covers and frames replaced	N/A
Dig down	1 to remove root ingress

*Footage is being reviewed at the time of writing

**Remediation originally identified from the 2019/20 surveys. These are locations where we have access issues (e.g., land access), which are in the process of being addressed.

Although the seasonal trends in groundwater have been low in comparison with previous years and the SDM installations are generally not showing significant groundwater presence, targeted surveys and appropriate remedial action have been undertaken where groundwater levels have allowed.

Summary

Rainfall in the Witney catchment over the 2021/22 hydrological year has been below average, with groundwater levels in the aquifer beneath Witney not reaching the levels seen in previous years which triggered groundwater ingress into the sewerage network and elevated flow/depth readings at monitoring sites.

Lift and look and CCTV surveys will be undertaken in remaining wet winter periods if conditions allow and subject to funding and available capacity. The aim of this is to find further priority locations for remediation and investigating/justifying the need for future larger scale lining as part of our Price Review (PR) process if required.

Addendum - Annual Update 2023

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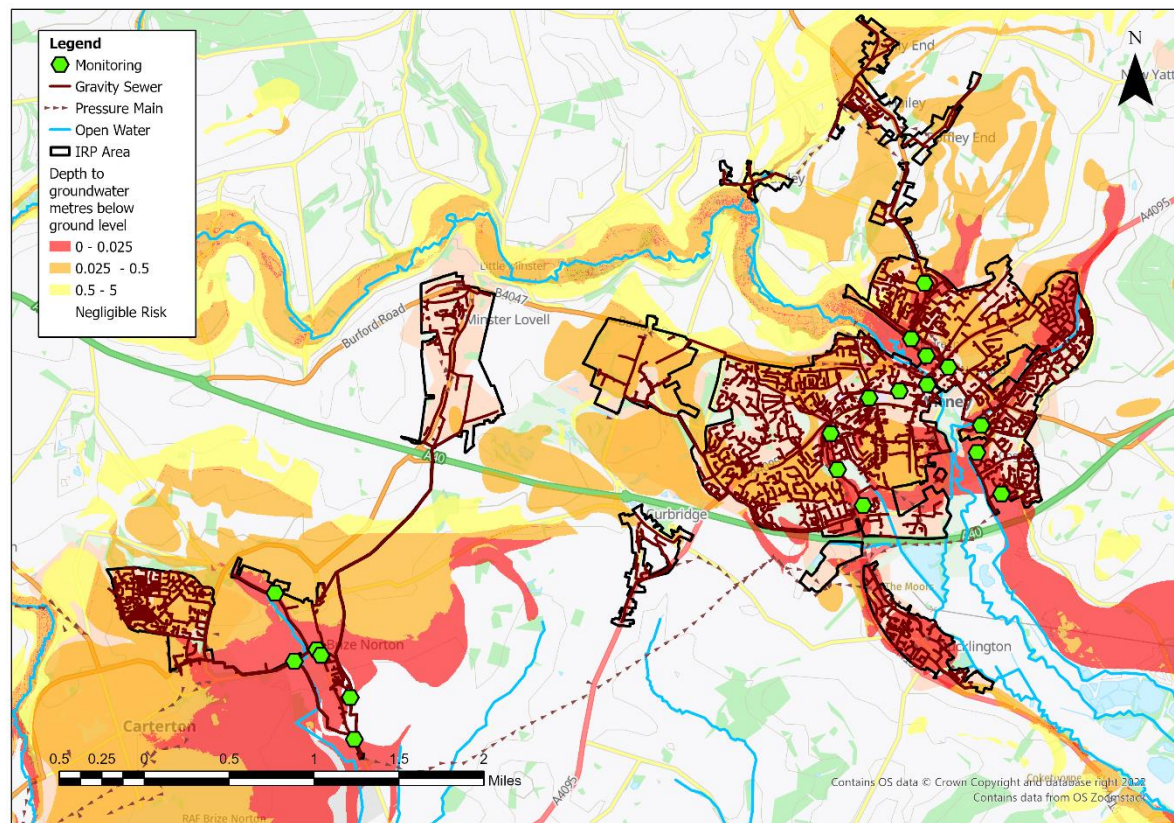
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Overview

This addendum to the Witney Groundwater Impacted System Management Plan 2021 (GISMP) provides an update on performance/work undertaken in the Hydrological Year October 2022 to September 2023. The key points covered include:

- Hydrological conditions
- Performance of the sewerage system
- Mitigation / remedial measures progressed over the last year and being planned
- Summary and plan for 2023/24

Figure 1 – Witney Monitoring Plan



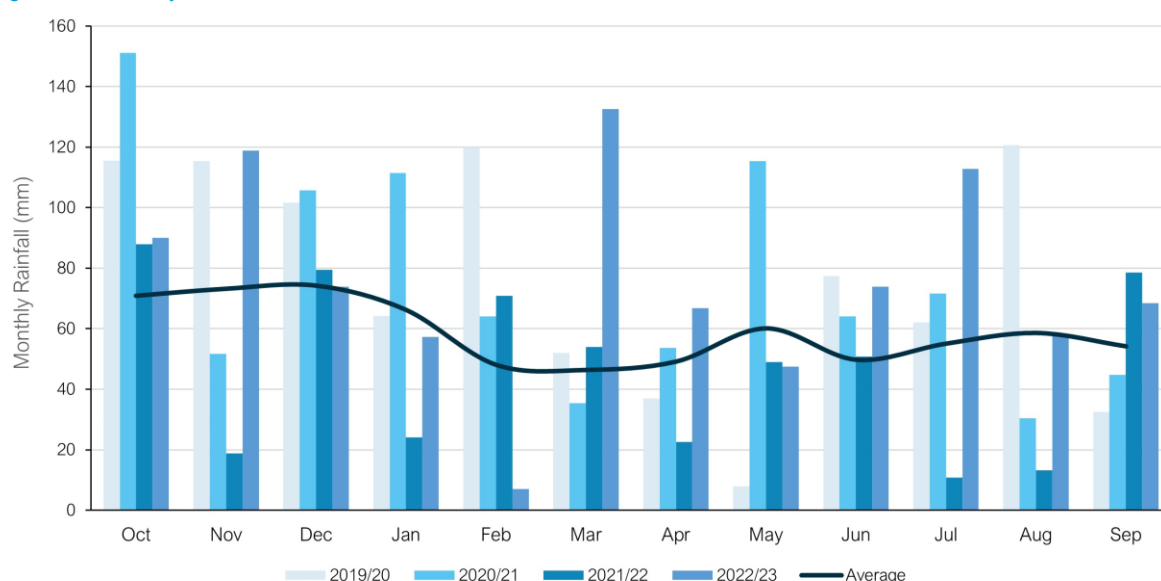
Hydrological Review – 2022-2023

This section summaries the hydrological conditions within the Witney catchment within the period under investigation and provides comparison against previous year's performance to put the annual performance into context. The hydrological review has been undertaken based on the Hydrological Year which runs October 1st to September 30th.

Catchment Rainfall

Representative Radar rainfall has been used to generate monthly data at catchment level for comparison with average data generated by local Met Office Weather Station Records. Figure 2 presents the comparison of this data for the last four hydrological years to support longer term trends within the local system.

Figure 2 – Monthly Rainfall Performance



Average Values taken from Met Office Weather Station at Brize Norton based on the period 1991-2020

The total rainfall for the 2022/23 hydrological year is 28% above the annual average total. Total rainfall values are presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3 –Total Rainfall Based on Hydrological Year

Average (mm)	2019/20 (mm)	2020/21 (mm)	2021/22 (mm)	2022/23 (mm)
706	906	899	560	907

Groundwater / Local River Level

The Witney catchment is situated in the Cotswolds West and Upper Thames water resources areas. It is primarily situated in the Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation of coarse to fine grained sediment, the Forest Marble Formation of coarse to fine grained sediment and the Cornbrash formation of carbonate material. These are not designated principal aquifers within the UK.

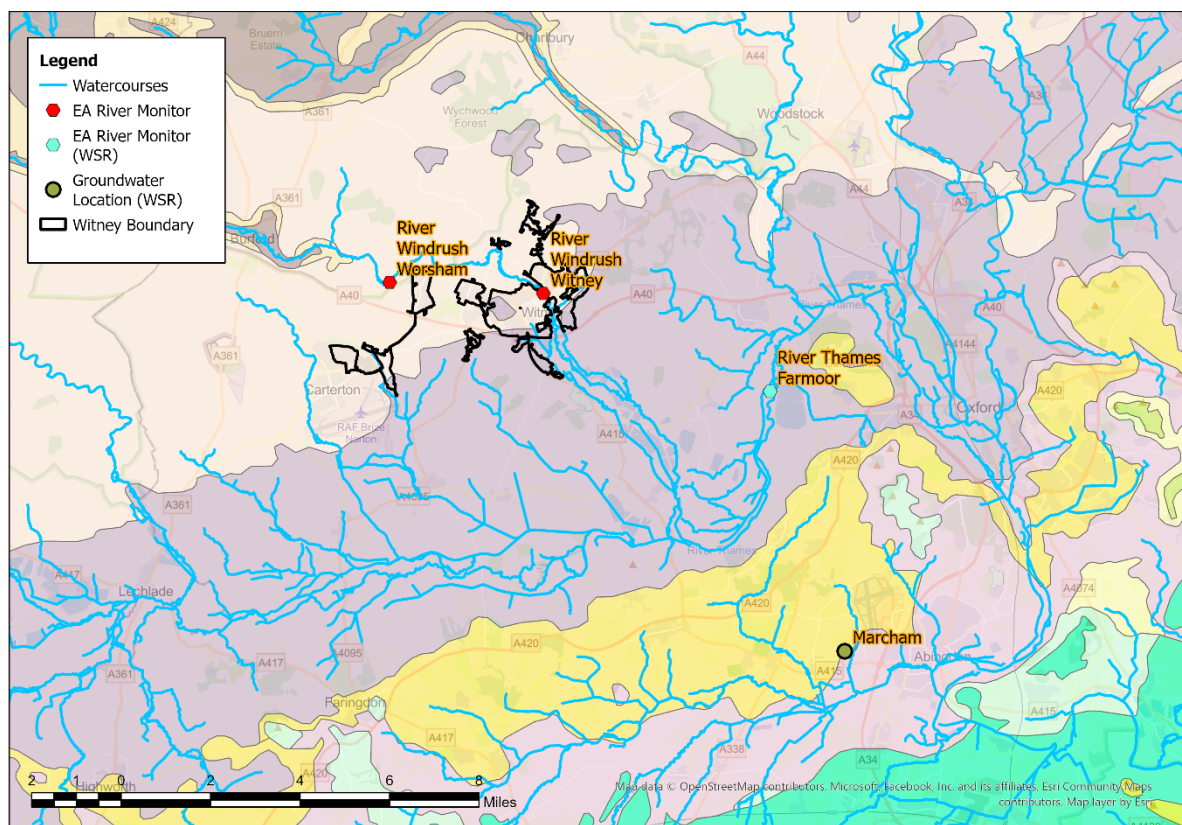
The Environment Agency has gauging stations on local watercourses measuring stage and observation boreholes (OBH) measuring groundwater levels locally to the catchment which can be used to provide indicative local groundwater performance.

From previous investigations we have identified the following sites are good indicators of groundwater levels within the catchment.

- River Windrush, Worsham.
- River Windrush, Witney.

These sites are illustrated in the figure below, alongside the closest groundwater reference station and closest gauging station from the Water Situation Report.

Figure 4 – Local Monitoring Stations



The following figures represent the last three hydrological years of level information at the indicator sites to build a picture of the relative conditions prevalent in the current year. It is presented against both the daily total rainfall values for the catchment and a rolling 15 day total rainfall.

Figure 5A – River Windrush, Worsham

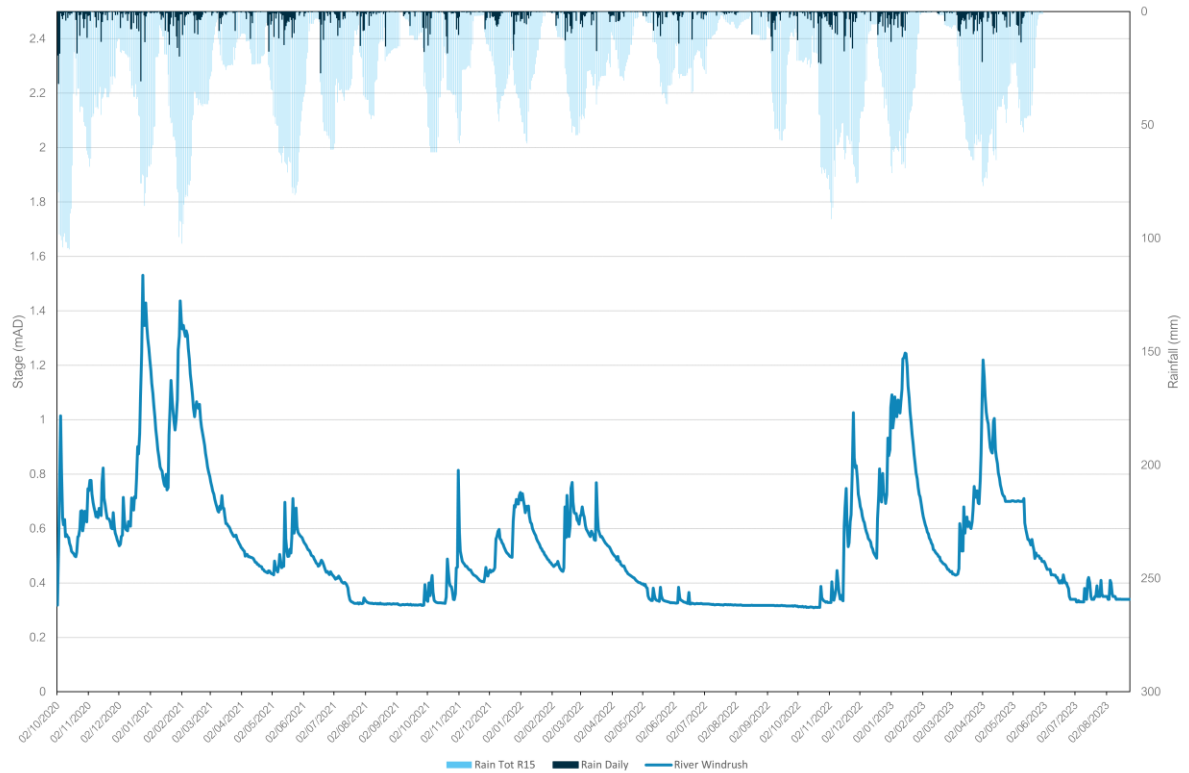
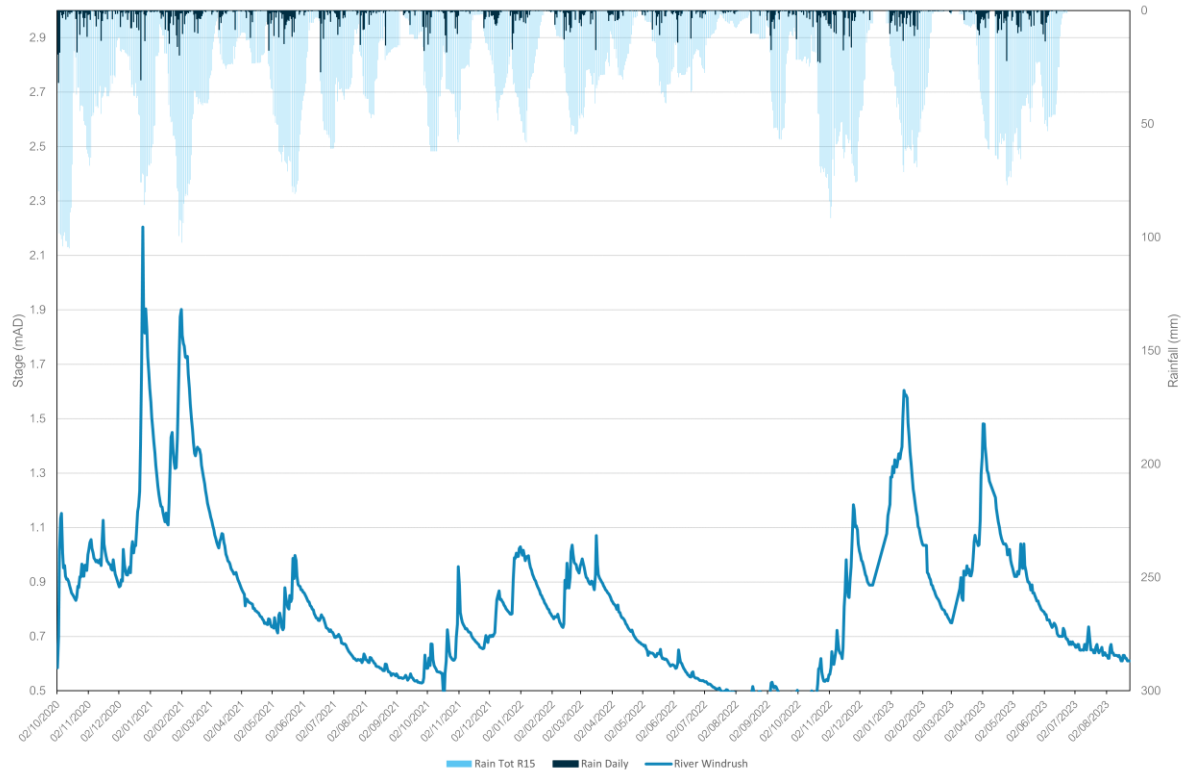
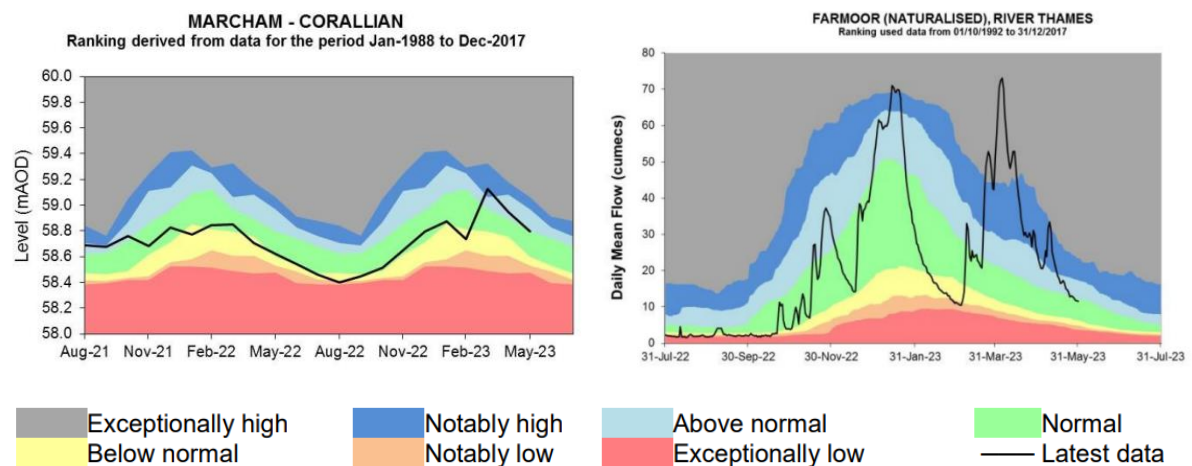


Figure 5B– River Windrush, Witney



In addition to these specific stations, the wider groundwater context is illustrated in the Water Situation Report for Cotswolds West. The nearest groundwater reference station is Marcham. This site shows groundwater levels generally around below normal levels in 2022. Groundwater levels are observed to rise towards the end of the year, reaching above normal and notably high levels in 2023. This can be seen in the figure below alongside the river indicator location at Farmoor on the River Thames.

Figure 6 – Water Situation Report



Extract from - [Water Situation Report \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Network Performance

Within the Witney catchment there is one site detailed within the Environment Agency Consents Database which has an Event Duration Monitor (EDM) fitted.

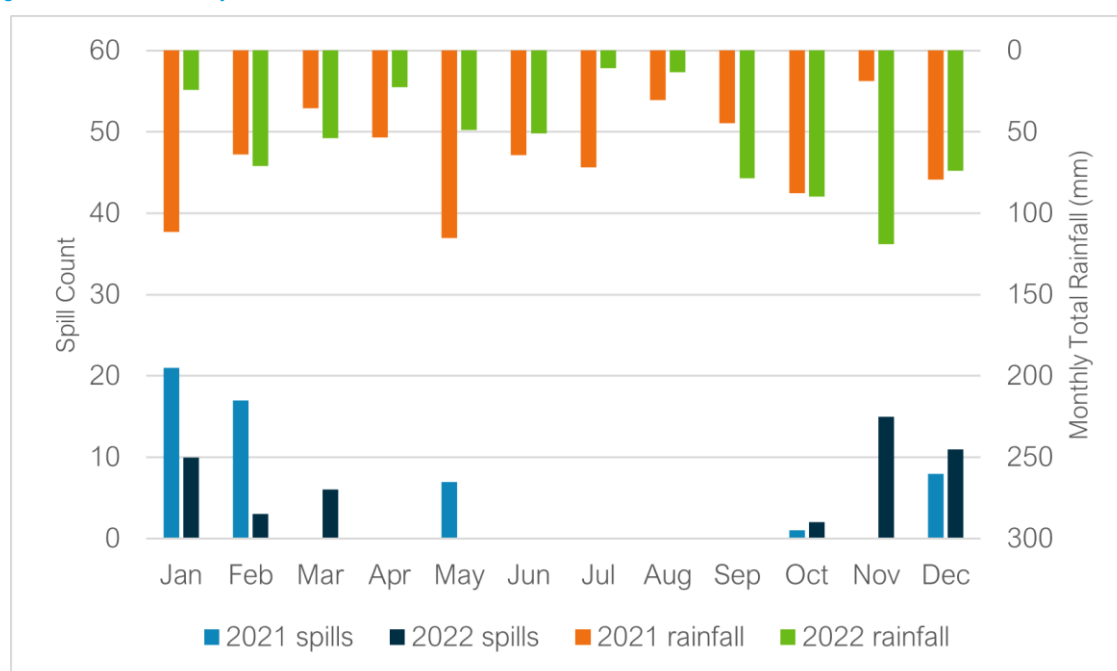
Table 7 below details the last 2 years performance of overflows within the catchment.

Table 7 – Event Duration Monitoring

Overflow	2021		2022	
	Spills	Duration (hours)	Spills	Duration (hours)
Witney STW	54	934.91	47	719.18

A critical part of the assessment of EDM performance and its relation to groundwater infiltration is to review the month-on-month spill performance, against previous years and the monthly total rainfall values to give context to the performance. Figure 8 below presents the EDM performance trend and rainfall for recent years.

Figure 8 – EDM Monthly Performance



The trend in spill performance across the two recorded years does show variation in spills, with a focus on spills during the autumn and winter months. The data suggests a wider relationship between rainfall, elevated groundwater levels and spill frequency. Despite broadly similar rainfall totals, a much lower number of spills were recorded at Witney STW in February 2022 compared to February 2021. The indicator site data shown in Figure 5, suggests groundwater levels in the catchment were significantly higher in February 2021. Similarly, a significant number of spills were recorded in November and December 2022, when the indicator site data suggests groundwater levels in the catchment became elevated. A relationship between spills and monthly total rainfall is also evident. For example, in May 2021, when the indicator site data suggests groundwater levels in the catchment were not significantly elevated, a relatively high number of spills were recorded. A high rainfall total was recorded in this month.

Investigations & Interventions

This section details the activities that have been undertaken within the catchment within the Hydrological Year 2022-23.

Monitor Installations

The sewer depth monitor (SDM) programme supports long term groundwater understanding within GISMP catchments. Currently, there are a total of 19 monitors installed within the Witney catchment. There are currently no further monitor installs planned.

The data from these will be cross-referenced with other long-term records (where available) within the catchment.

Remediation Works Undertaken this Hydrological Year

Table 9 below provides a summary of the investigations and remediation works undertaken or planned within the Witney catchment in the 2022-23 Hydrological Year, as well as works undertaken in the 2021-22 Hydrological Year.

Table 9 – Works Undertaken in the 2022/23 Hydrological Year & in the 2021/22 Hydrological Year

Investigation/ remediation type	Number/ length undertaken 21/22	Number/ length undertaken 22/23
CCTV survey	4.963 kilometres	1.437 kilometres
Look and lift survey	N/A	4 surveys
Sewer lining	10 metres	1.182 kilometres in Brize Norton (delivery over the summer 2023 period), 120 metres completed in Crawley
Patch lining	N/A	N/A
Manhole sealing	5 manholes	N/A
Manhole sealing plates	N/A	N/A
Manhole covers and frames replaced	N/A	4 manholes in Crawley
Dig down	1 to remove root ingress	N/A

Note, tankering was required at Brize Norton SPS in November 2022 as groundwater levels became elevated, four tankers were deployed to the location.

Witney STW is also being upgraded at a cost of more than £17 million, providing a major increase in treatment capacity. This will reduce the need for untreated discharges to the environment.

Summary

EDM data is indicative of the role of groundwater infiltration on spills in the Witney catchment. This hydrological year (October 2022 – September 2023), indicator site data suggests groundwater levels in the catchment have generally been higher than the previous hydrological year, and EDM data for 2023 will be analysed once available to continue to examine the relationship between groundwater levels and overflow spills in the Witney catchment.

Lift and look and CCTV surveys will be undertaken in remaining wet winter periods if conditions allow, within this AMP7 period (2020- 2025). The aim of this is to find further priority locations for remediation and investigating/justifying the need for future larger scale lining as part of our 2024 Price Review (PR) process if required.

Addendum - Annual Update 2024

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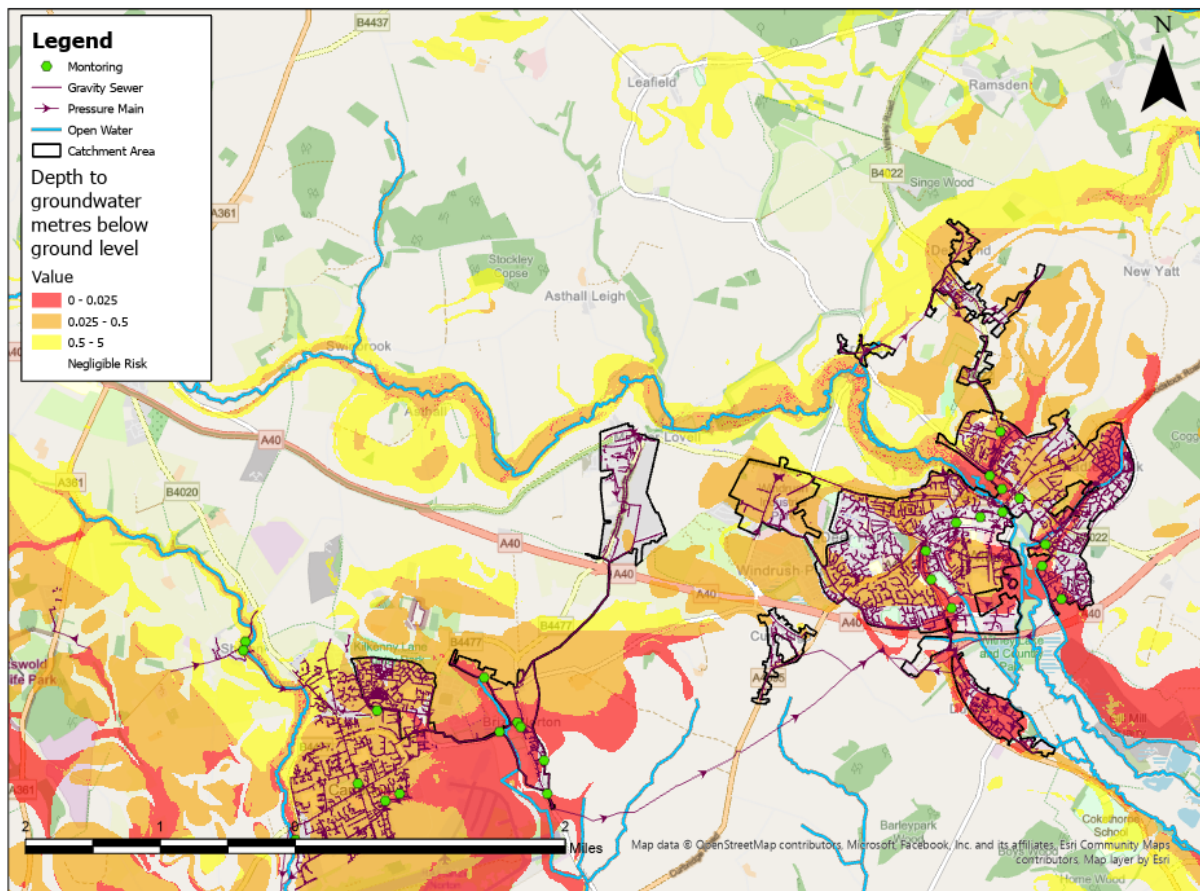
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Overview

This addendum to the Witney Groundwater Impacted System Management Plan 2021 (GISMP) provides an update on performance/work undertaken in the Hydrological Year October 2023 to September 2024. The key points covered include:

- Hydrological conditions
- Performance of the sewerage system
- Mitigation / remedial measures progressed over the last year and being planned
- Summary and plan for 2024/25

Figure 1 – Witney Monitoring Plan



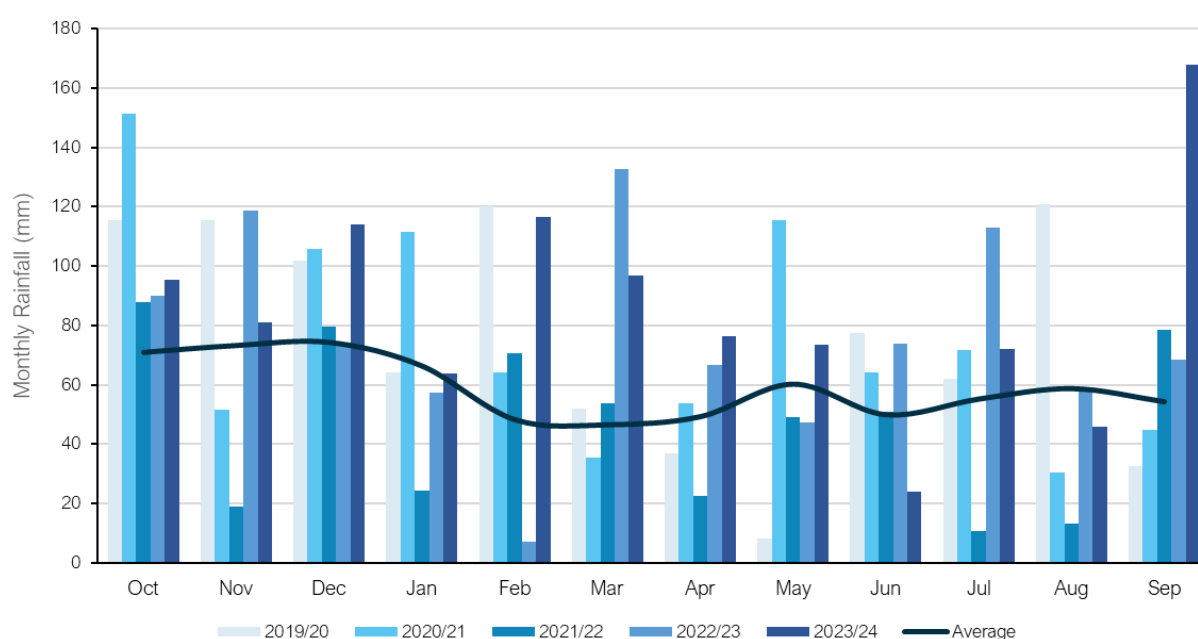
Hydrological Review – 2023-2024

This section summarises the hydrological conditions within the Witney catchment within the period under investigation and provides comparison against previous year's performance to put the annual performance into context. The hydrological review has been undertaken based on the Hydrological Year which runs October 1st to September 30th.

Catchment Rainfall

Representative Radar rainfall has been used to generate monthly data at catchment level for comparison with average data generated by local Met Office Weather Station Records. Figure 2 presents the comparison of this data for the last five hydrological years to support longer term trends within the local system.

Figure 2 – Monthly Rainfall Data



Average Values taken from Met Office Weather Station at Brize Norton based on the period 1991-2020

The total rainfall for the 2023/24 hydrological year is 46% above the annual average total. Total rainfall values are presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3 –Total Rainfall Based on Hydrological Year

Average (mm)	2019/20 (mm)	2020/21 (mm)	2021/22 (mm)	2022/23 (mm)	2023/24 (mm)
706	906	899	560	907	1028

Groundwater / Local River Level

The Witney catchment is situated in the Cotswolds West and Upper Thames water resources areas. It is primarily situated in the Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation of coarse to fine grained sediment, the Forest Marble Formation of coarse to fine grained sediment and the Cornbrash formation of carbonate material. These are not designated principal aquifers within the UK.

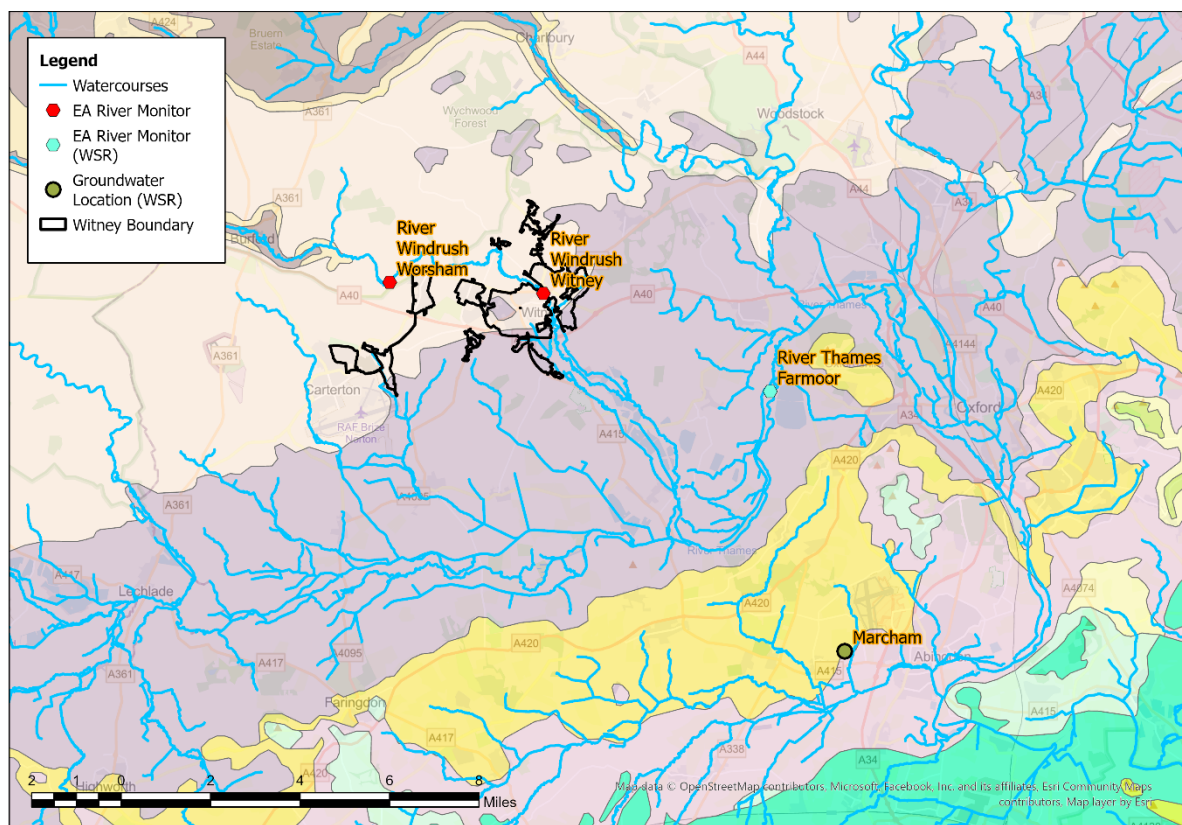
The Environment Agency has gauging stations on local watercourses measuring stage and observation boreholes (OBH) measuring groundwater levels locally to the catchment which can be used to provide indicative local groundwater performance.

From previous investigations we have identified the following sites are good indicators of groundwater levels within the catchment.

- River Windrush, Worsham.
- River Windrush, Witney.

These sites are illustrated in Figure 4, alongside the closest groundwater reference station and closest gauging station from the Water Situation Report.

Figure 4 – Local Monitoring Stations



Figures 5A-5B represent the last three hydrological years of level information at the indicator sites to build a picture of the relative conditions prevalent in the current year. It is presented against both the daily total rainfall values for the catchment and a rolling 15 day total rainfall.

Figure 5A – River Windrush, Worsham

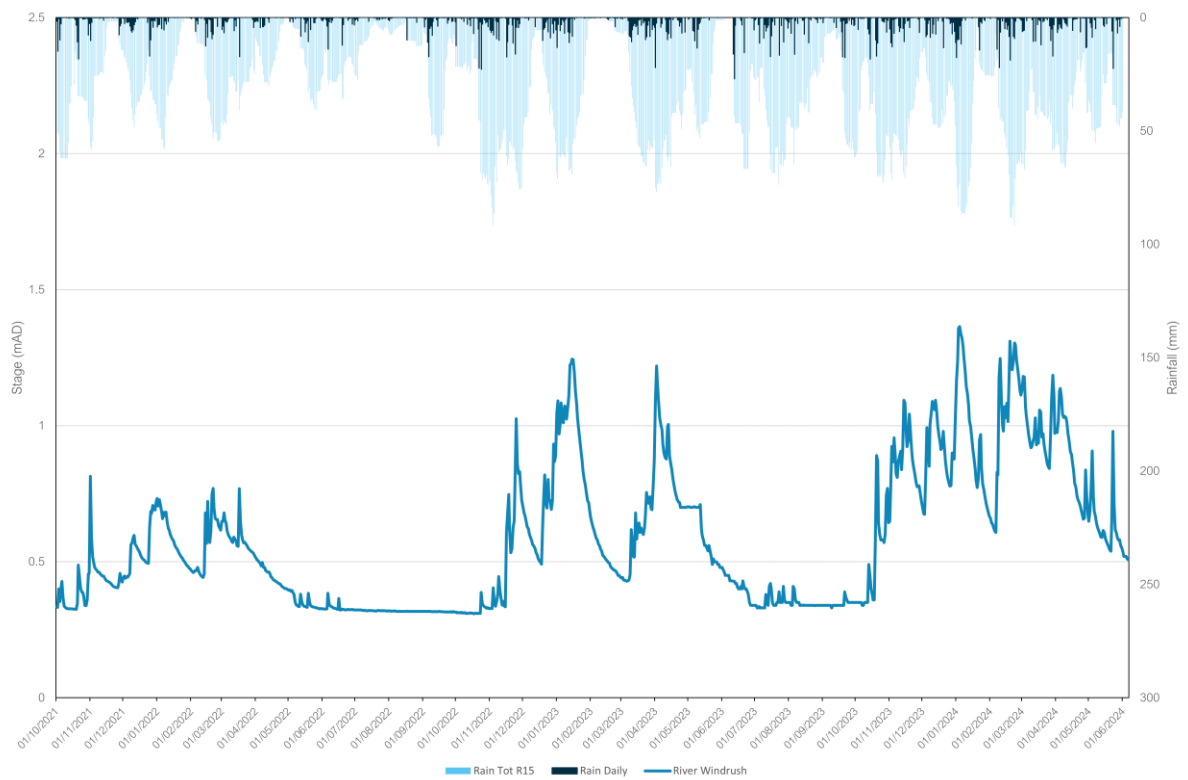
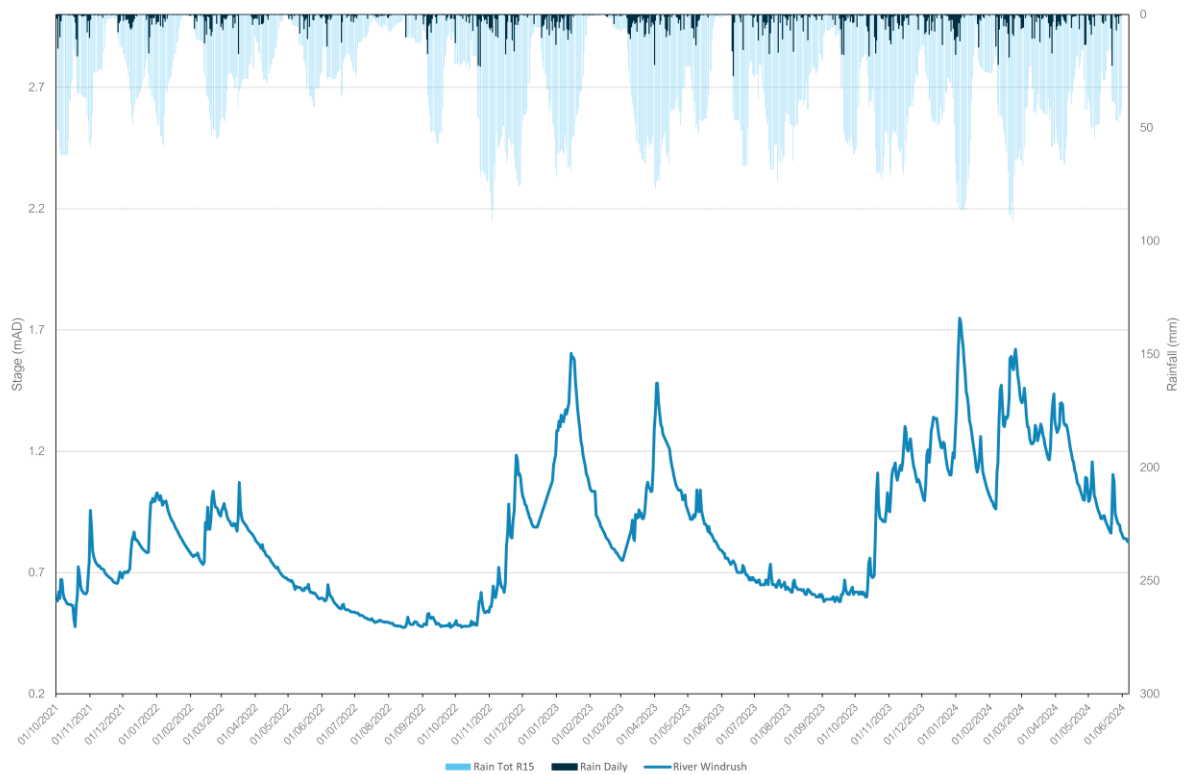
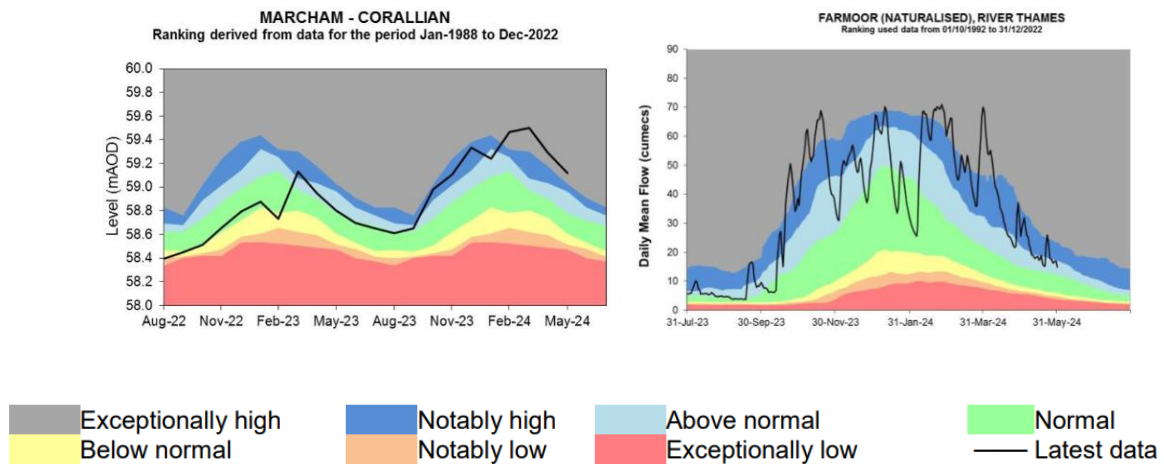


Figure 5B– River Windrush, Witney



In addition to these specific stations, the wider groundwater context is illustrated in the Water Situation Report for Cotswolds West. The nearest groundwater reference station is Marcham. This site shows groundwater levels generally at normal and above normal levels in 2023, reaching notably high levels towards the end of the year. Groundwater levels in the first half of 2024 were higher than those observed in the first half of 2023 and were consistently at notably and exceptionally high levels. This can be seen in Figure 6 alongside the river indicator location at Farmoor on the River Thames.

Figure 6 – Water Situation Report



Extract from - [Water Situation Report \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Network Performance

Within the Witney catchment there is one site detailed within the Environment Agency Consents Database which has an Event Duration Monitor (EDM) fitted.

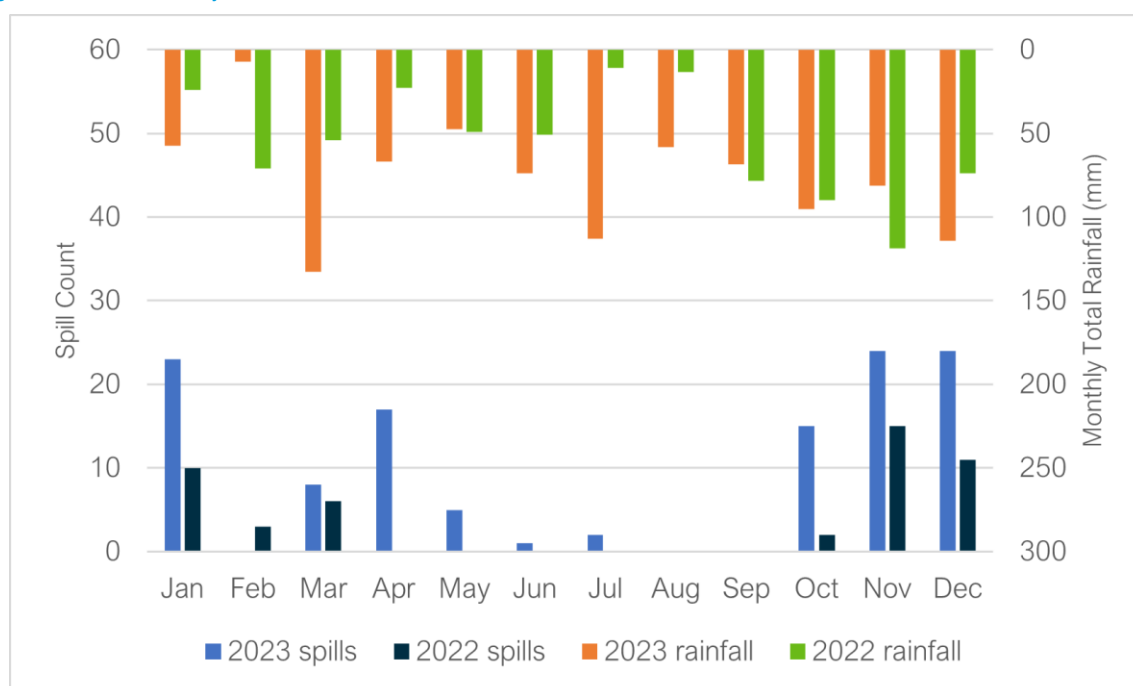
Table 7 below details the last 2 years performance of overflows within the catchment.

Table 7 – Event Duration Monitoring

Overflow	2022		2023	
	Spills	Duration (hours)	Spills	Duration (hours)
Witney STW	47	719.18	119	2206.5

A critical part of the assessment of EDM performance and its relation to groundwater infiltration is to review the month-on-month spill performance, against previous years and the monthly total rainfall values to give context to the performance. Figure 8 below presents the EDM performance trend and rainfall for recent years.

Figure 8 – EDM Monthly Performance



The trend in spill performance across the two recorded years does show variation in spills, with a focus on spills during the autumn and winter months. The data suggests a wider relationship between rainfall, elevated groundwater levels and spill frequency. For example, despite similar rainfall totals in October 2022 and October 2023, significantly more spills were recorded at Witney STW in October 2023. The indicator site data shown in Figures 5 and 6, suggests that groundwater levels in the catchment were significantly more elevated in October 2023. The occurrence of spills in summer months in 2023, outside of periods of significantly elevated groundwater levels, is also indicative of spills occurring in the catchment during prolonged or intense rainfall events outside of periods of significant groundwater infiltration.

Investigations & Interventions

This section details the activities that have been undertaken within the catchment within the Hydrological Year 2023-24.

Monitor Installations

The sewer depth monitor (SDM) programme supports long term groundwater understanding within GISMP catchments. Currently, there are a total of 19 monitors installed within the Witney catchment. There are currently no further monitor installs planned.

The data from these will be cross-referenced with other long-term records (where available) within the catchment.

Remediation Works Undertaken this Hydrological Year

Table 9 below provides a summary of the investigations and remediation works undertaken or planned within the Witney catchment in the 2023-24 Hydrological Year, as well as works undertaken in the previous two hydrological years.

Table 9 – Works Undertaken in the 2023/24, 2022/23 & 2021/22 Hydrological Year

Investigation/ remediation type	Number/ length undertaken 21/22	Number/ length undertaken 22/23	Number/ length undertaken 23/24
CCTV survey	4.963 kilometres	1.437 kilometres	555 metres
Look and lift survey	N/A	4 surveys	4 surveys
Sewer lining	10 metres	1.182 kilometres in Brize Norton (delivery over the summer 2023 period), 120 metres completed in Crawley	24 metres complete 945 metres planned
Patch lining	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manhole sealing	5 manholes	N/A	N/A
Manhole sealing plates	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manhole covers and frames replaced	N/A	4 manholes in Crawley	N/A
Dig down	1 to remove root ingress	N/A	N/A

Tankering was required in the 2023/24 Hydrological Year in the Witney catchment. A total of 70 days of flow management was undertaken across Witney SPS and Brize Norton SPS.

Witney STW is also being upgraded at a cost of more than £17 million, providing a major increase in treatment capacity. This will reduce the need for untreated discharges to the environment. The work is expected to be complete in early AMP 8, however, delivery dates are being managed at a programme level, delivery dates stated are based upon current views and are subject to change.

It is expected that this catchment will meet all government targets for storm overflows by 2040 – 2045.

Summary

EDM data is indicative of the role of groundwater infiltration on spills in the Witney catchment. This hydrological year (October 2023 – September 2024), indicator site data suggests groundwater levels in the catchment have generally been higher than the previous hydrological year. The EDM data for 2024 will be analysed once available to continue to examine the relationship between groundwater levels and overflow spills in the Witney catchment.

Lift and look and CCTV surveys will be undertaken in remaining wet winter periods if conditions allow and subject to funding and available capacity. The aim of this is to find further priority locations for remediation and investigating/justifying the need for future larger scale lining as part of our Price Review (PR) process if required.



It's everyone's water