

Cote Hill

Infiltration Reduction Plan

Last Updated: March 2025



Executive summary

Cote Hill in Cumbria is currently in the intervention stage (see Figure 1) to address infiltration and reduce spills at the Cote Hill Wastewater Treatment Works Storm Tank Overflow (017670051ST). A desktop assessment concluded that there is a low likelihood of groundwater infiltration in the catchment however, CCTV surveys confirmed the presence of infiltration. Interventions to address this are underway and due to be completed in Spring / Summer 2025.

If groundwater infiltration is found to be a leading cause of spills, interventions will be assessed and this Infiltration Reduction Plan will be updated accordingly. If not, this plan will end at the investigation stage and next steps will be processed through other relevant workstreams.

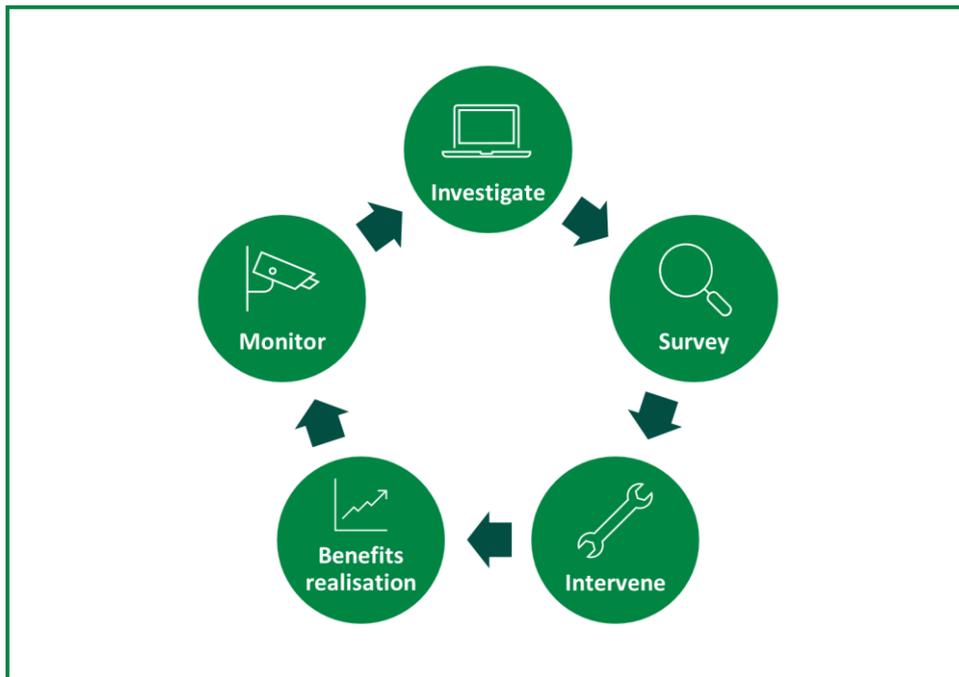


Figure 1: Iterative process to investigate, identify and address groundwater infiltration

Context

Sometimes, water can enter our wastewater pipes that they were not designed to receive. One source of these additional flows can be groundwater infiltration which can occur through pipe defects, leaky joints or issues with manholes. Extra water in the network can cause the sewer capacity to be exceeded, leading to sewer flooding or contributing to storm overflow activations.

As part of our ongoing work to maintain an effective network and achieve Better Rivers for the North West, our Infiltration Reduction Plans demonstrate our efforts to date and next steps to address infiltration and inflows in the catchment. This plan covers the Cote Hill drainage area and the associated overflow, Cote Hill Wastewater Treatment Works Storm Tank Overflow (017670051ST). In 2022, infiltration was identified as a potential leading cause of the storm overflow discharging. The purpose of this plan is to capture the process to investigate, identify and address significant groundwater infiltration.

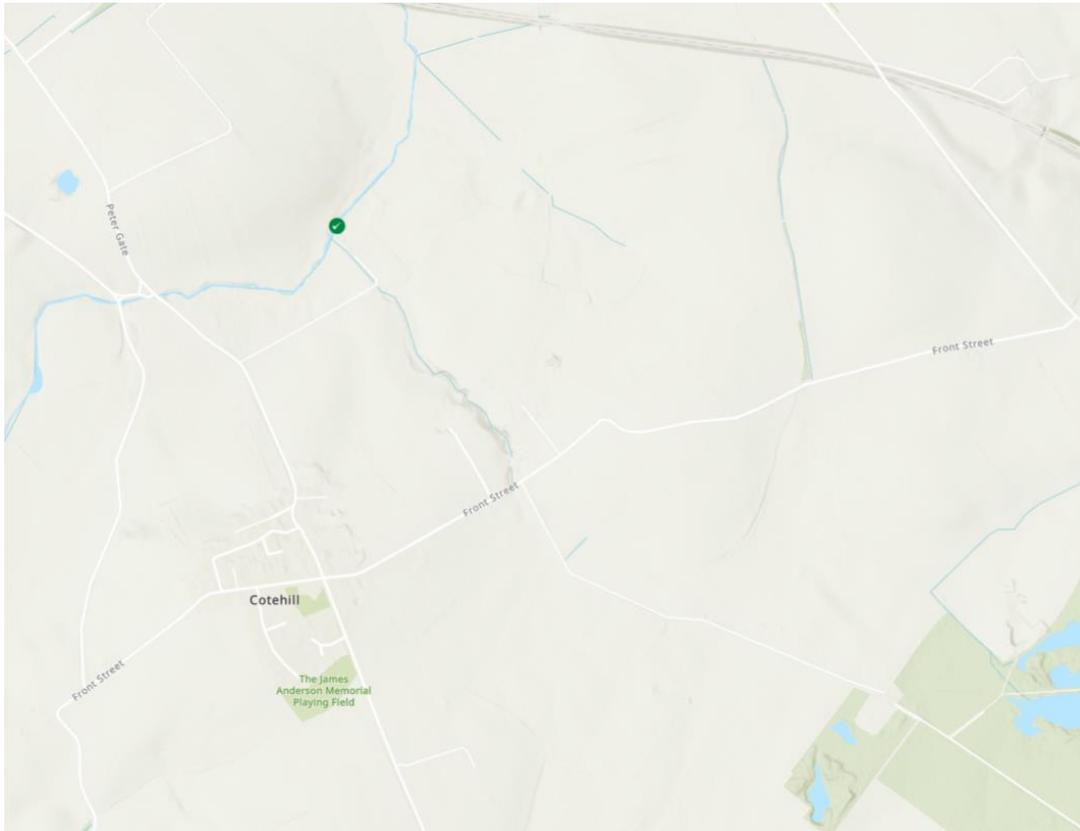


Figure 2: United Utilities – Better Rivers – Storm Overflow Map (September 2024). The green dot marks the Cote Hill Wastewater Treatment Works Storm Tank Overflow.

A village and parish in Cumbria, lies southeast of Carlisle, South of Pow Maughan Beck, tributary of the River Eden. The surrounding area features gently rolling hills and small wooded areas with primarily agricultural land use.

Investigate

A desktop study was undertaken using available data to understand the extent of infiltration in the sewer network of the drainage catchment. The following data (where available) was analysed to determine the scale and location of potential infiltration:

- Relevant flow and depth data
- Operational information
- MCERTS data
- Hydraulic models of the catchment
- River levels
- Groundwater (borehole) data
- Spill analysis
- Topographical and sewer maps

The assessment concluded that significant groundwater infiltration was unlikely in the catchment. Monitoring at the storm tank indicated possible rainfall driven infiltration however, there is little evidence of base flow that would be indicative of groundwater infiltration. Further observations also identified areas of the catchment where rural streams / ditches either cross or run adjacent to public sewers.

From these findings, it was recommended that CCTV surveys are completed to see if there is infiltration of the water course into the sewer. The CCTV survey should also identify if there is land drainage connected into the sewer, which would be assessed for removal.

Survey

As recommended, we completed 694m of CCTV surveys in Winter 2024 and identified infiltration. The CCTV surveys were reviewed by an engineer and assessed using Artificial Intelligence to rapidly identify and locate points of infiltration requiring remedial works. Infiltration in the sewer network was confirmed in various locations to varying levels of severity from heavy, to seeping and dripping infiltration.

Intervention

Remedial works to address infiltration are due to be completed in Spring / Summer 2025. Plans include relining over 200m of the sewer network.

Next Steps

Cote Hill is currently in the intervention stage of identifying and addressing infiltration. The site will follow the iterative process displayed in Figure 1 to monitor the efficacy of the remedial works and identify new points of infiltration, should they arise.