

Gleaston

Infiltration Reduction Plan

Last Updated: March 2025



Executive summary

The Gleaston Castle area in Cumbria is currently in the intervention stage (see Figure 1) to address infiltration and reduce spills at the Gleaston Castle CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) Storm Overflow (LAK0053SO, also known as Scales CSO). A desktop assessment concluded that flows are influenced by seasonal high groundwater levels, indicative of groundwater infiltration and CCTV surveys confirmed the presence of infiltration. Interventions to address this are underway and due to be completed in Spring / Summer 2025.

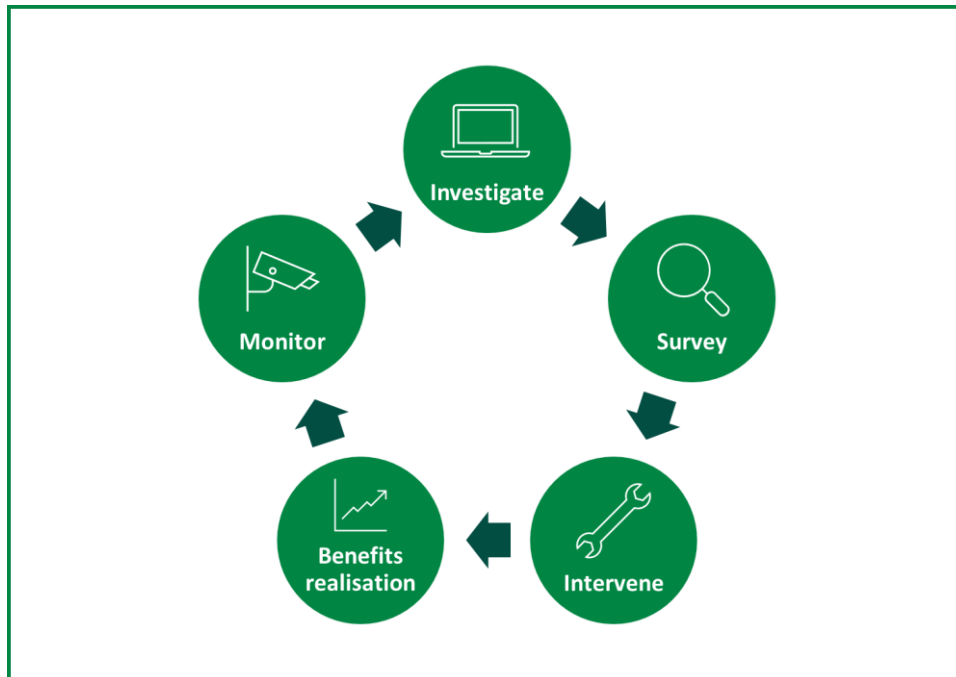


Figure 1: Iterative process to investigate, identify and address groundwater infiltration

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 Gleaston Castle drainage area and the associated overflow, Gleaston Castle CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) Storm Overflow (LAK0053SO). In 2023, infiltration was identified as a potential leading cause of the storm overflow discharging. The purpose of this plan is to further investigate and address this. The purpose of this plan is to capture the process to investigate, identify and address significant groundwater infiltration.

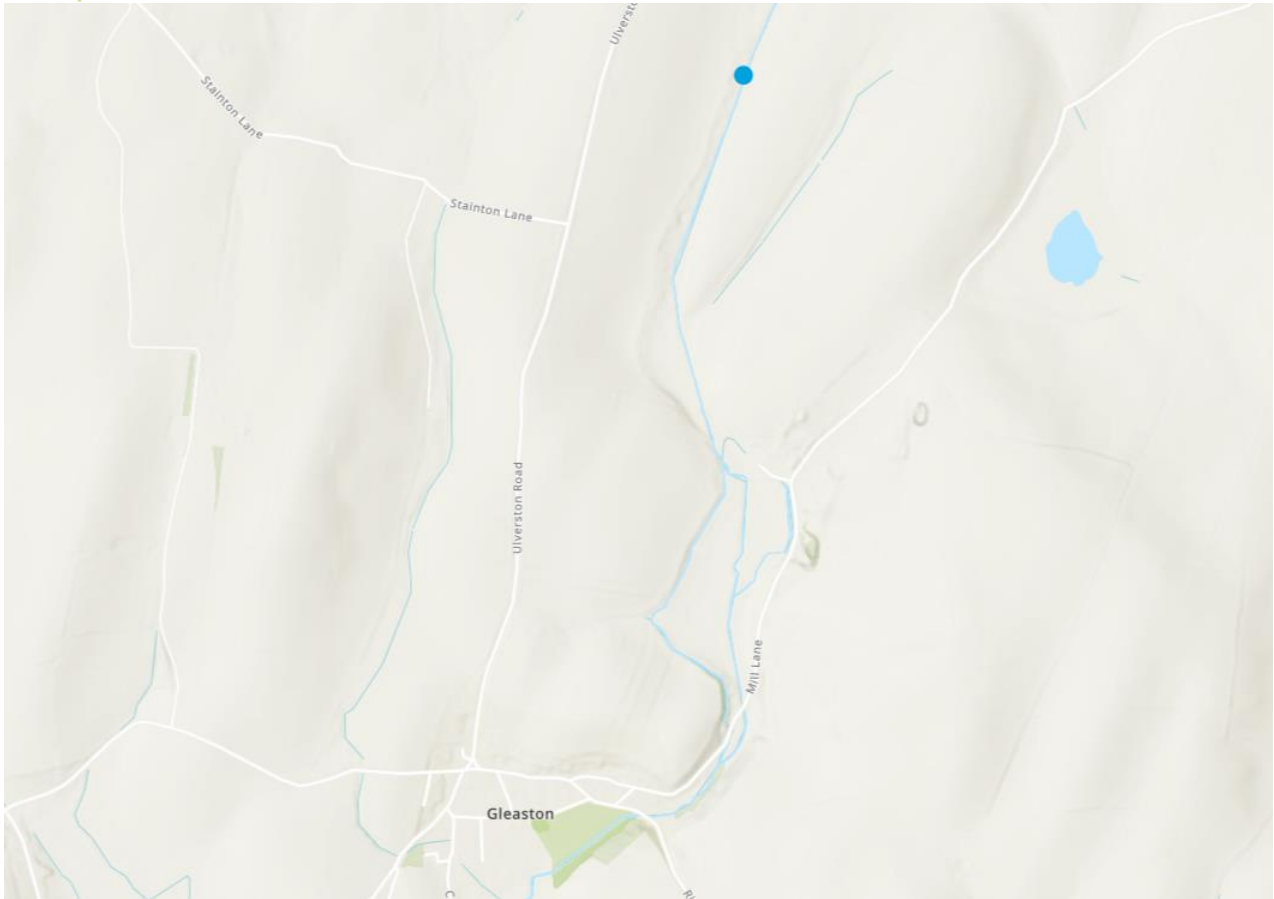


Figure 2: United Utilities – Better Rivers – Storm Overflow Map (December 2024). The blue dot marks the Gleaston Castle CSO Storm Overflow.

Gleaston is a village in Furness, Cumbria. 2km from Newbiggin beach. Gleaston Beck flows through the village into Deep Meadows Beck to the South.

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 possible in the catchment as MCERTS and monitoring device data indicate high winter groundwater levels that are likely influencing flows. Further observations also identified areas where sewers are close to, and cross local watercourses. Structural defects or connectivity between the watercourse and the sewers could be causes of infiltration.

The contribution of groundwater infiltration to spill frequency in the area can only be determined after further investigations. 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

Comprehensive CCTV surveying of the area has been completed. Two lengths of sewer and one manhole were shown to be suffering with severe infiltration in an area with a high water table.

Intervention

Remedial works to address infiltration are underway and include relaying over 100m of the sewer network and replacing 1 manhole. The new lengths of sewer will be laid in a material which will prevent further infiltration at this point, and in addition these lengths of sewer, a new manhole will be concrete encased to add further protection against ground water in the area.

Next steps

Gleaston is currently in the intervention stage of identifying and addressing infiltration (see Figure 1). 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.