

Economic Regeneration, Growth & Environment

S19. (1) Flood Investigation Report



Engineering & Flood Risk Management Team

Warrington Borough Council – Lead Local Flood Authority





Date: January 2016

**Location: A562 Widnes Road, Penketh
(Adjacent to entrance to Fiddlers Ferry Power Station.)**

Flood Investigation Reference Number: 2012/010

Version: Final 01

Revision Schedule: 2012/010 Flood Investigation

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Document Status: Final01 Issued to JWT for approval.				

Revision	Name	Name	Name	Name
Date	Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature
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Document Status:				

Supporting Documents:

- Drawing Number: LD2012/010/GA – General Arrangement

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1.0 Introduction

Following this flood event an investigation under Section 19 (1) of the Flood and Water Management Act was undertaken to determine which risk management authorities had relevant flood risk management functions and whether each of those risk management authorities had exercised or was proposing to exercise those functions in response to the flood. In accordance with Section 19 (2) of the Flood and Water Management Act this report details the results of the investigation.

2.0 Details of the Flood Event

Reference:	2012/010		
Location:	A562 Widnes Road, Penketh Adjacent to entrance to Fiddlers Ferry Power Station		
Date of Flood Events:	26/12/2015- 15/01/2015	Duration:	Exact duration unknown
Reason for investigation:	Flooding resulting in major disruption to the flow of traffic.		
Identified Cause:	Fluvial/surface water flooding due to poor condition of downstream receiving watercourse and blockage of downstream culvert.		

3.0 Extent of the Flooding

The extent of the flooding was:

- 200m long section of inbound lane into Warrington of A562 Widnes Road.
- Flooding to agricultural land.
- External property flooding to Rose Tree Farm.
- External property flooding to boarding kennels.

The above flooding resulted in Warrington Borough Council Maintenance Team deploying 3 way traffic signals on numerous occasions in order to maintain highway safety.

Figure 1: Image of Flooding to A562 Widnes Road.



Figure 2: Image of Flooding to Agricultural Land adjacent to A562 Widnes Road.



Figure 3: Image of Flooding to Entrance of Rose Tree Farm.



4.0 Cause of the Flood Event

4.1 Site Visit (13 January 2016)

The following Council Officers attended the A562 on 13 January 2016 in order to identify the cause of the flood event:

- Jonathan Dawson-Parry (Asset & Flood Risk Engineer)
- John Ansell (Highways & Street Works Team Leader)
- Kevin Maloney (Highways Inspector)

4.2 Observations Made During Site Visit

It was identified during the site visit on 13 January 2016 that the drainage ditches adjacent to an access road at Fiddlers Ferry power station were in poor condition (shown in red on drawing no. LD2012/010/GA).

It was also identified at a farm access into a field next to the access road that the water level upstream was higher than the water level downstream indicating that the culvert under the field access had either collapsed or was blocked. (Exact location shown on drawing no. LD2012/010/GA).

4.3 Subsequent Actions

Kevin Moloney (Highway Inspector) met with the power station site manager on 14 January 2016 to discuss the issues identified in section 4.2.

The power station site manager agreed to clean the ditches out and investigate the blockage/collapse of the culvert under the field access. Work commenced on 15 January 2016.

Following the work undertaken by the power station the water level receded.

5.0 Conclusion

It is the conclusion of Warrington Borough Council that the flood event was as a result of poorly maintained ditches on land belonging to Fiddlers Ferry Power Station which prevented the highway drainage and culverted watercourse under Widnes Road from discharging.

6.0 Flood Risk Management Authority Responsibility

As the ditch is classified as an ordinary watercourse, Warrington Borough Council as Lead Local Flood Authority is the appropriate Risk Management Authority. Warrington Borough Council will continue to monitor the location for flooding and take appropriate action as the regulatory body should it occur.

The ongoing maintenance of the ditches is the responsibility of the riparian land owner which in this case is Fiddlers Ferry Power Station. Riparian owners have various responsibilities including:

- Accepting flood flows through land, even if these are caused by inadequate capacity downstream. A landowner has no duty in common law to improve the drainage capacity of a watercourse he/she owns.
- Letting water flow through their land without any obstruction, pollution or diversion which affects the rights of others.
- Maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse and the trees and shrubs growing on the banks. Riparian owners should also clear any litter and animal carcasses from the channel and banks, even if they did not come from their land.

Warrington Borough Council is under no obligation to undertake watercourse inspections and is only obliged to maintain watercourses where they pass through land belonging to the Council.

7.0 Disclaimer

Although every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within the pages of this report, we can't guarantee that the contents will always be current, accurate or complete.

This report has been prepared as part of Council's responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

The findings of this report are based on a subjective assessment of the information available to those undertaking the investigation and therefore may not include all relevant information. Therefore it shouldn't be considered as a definitive assessment of all factors that may have triggered or contributed to the flood event.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on our assumptions when preparing this report, including, but not limited to those key assumptions noted in the reports, including reliance on information provided by third parties.

The Council expressly disclaims responsibility for any error in, or omission from, this report arising from or in connection with any of the assumptions made being incorrect. The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in these reports are based on conditions encountered and information reviewed at the time of preparation and the Council expressly disclaims responsibility for any error in, or omission from, this report arising from or in connection with those opinions, conclusions and any recommendations.

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This document will be reviewed following any new information being received in relation to the flood event and its causes/effects.

