

Willaston Main Report Details

Project:	Storm Christoph Section 19 Main Report		
Area:	Willaston		
Date:	10/08/2022	Project No.:	5150735

Document history

Revision	Purpose description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
1.0	Draft for RMA Comment	TS	SF	EJG	EJG	10/08/22
2.0	Draft for Final Approval	TS	SF	EJG	EJG	01/09/22

Client signoff

Client	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Project	Storm Christoph Section 19 Main Report
Project No.	5150735
Client signature / date	

Willaston Main Report Details

This Willaston specific Main Report should be read in conjunction with the Section 19 Flood Investigation – Main Report (January 2021 Storm Christoph Flooding Event).

1. Background

Willaston is a village west of Ellesmere Port. There are no watercourses in proximity to the affected properties. The Wirral Way, which is a path on the track of an old railway, runs west to east just south of the affected properties.

The highway drainage system discharges into a Welsh Water surface water sewer in a chamber on the forecourt of the car sales garage. From this point it then travels towards Adfalent Lane where a series of open ditches then convey the water. Refer to Appendix I for a plan of the Welsh Water drainage system.

Parts of the village are in the very high-risk surface water flood zone, 1-in-30-year risk (Appendix II), although in the past 30 years there are no accounts of flooding having occurred to the extents as in 2021.

2. Flood Review

During Storm Christoph the surface water drainage system was unable to cope with the water which built up in a low area on Hadlow Road. This water subsequently inundated cottages located in the low-lying land alongside the highway. Water came from Hadlow Road before flowing through the front gardens and to the rear by way of the private access road adjacent to the properties, water entered the front and rear of the properties causing internal flooding. A contributory factor was the speed at which some vehicles passed through the water, pushing water towards the properties.

Residents reported that the gullies outside their properties on Hadlow Road were blocked. The roadside gullies on Hadlow Road were routinely cleansed and emptied in November 2019, prior to the arrival of Storm Christoph. With further cleansing taking place in February and March 2021.

No flood incidents were reported to Welsh Water during Storm Christoph.

Figure 1 shows details the flooding, developed in consultation with Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC), as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), and affected property owners.

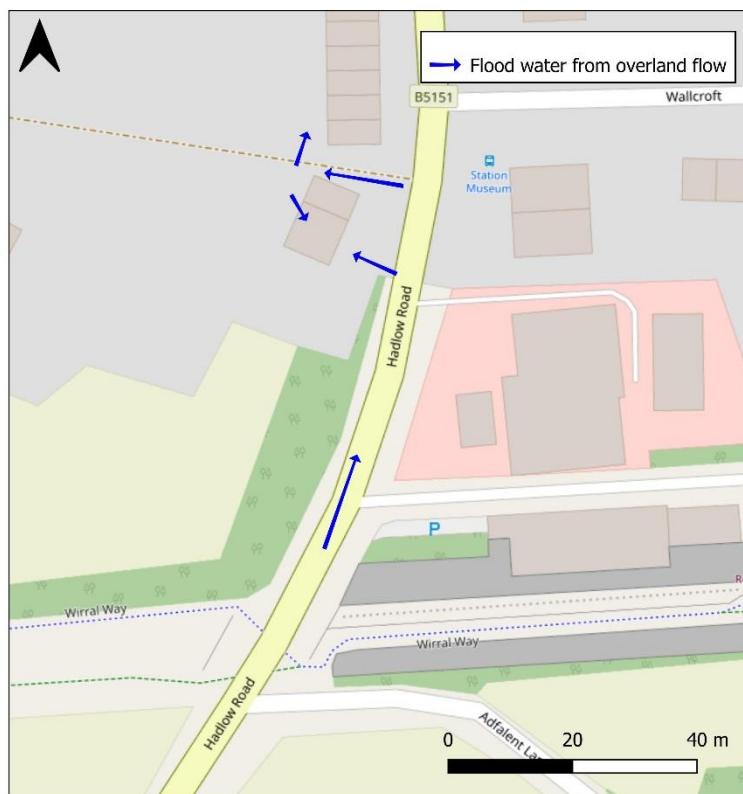


Figure 1 - Flood Overview

A photograph of a road gulley in the area can be seen in Figure 2.



Figure 2 - Road Gulley following Clearance after Storm Christoph

Source: Resident

Key statistics of the Storm Christoph Flooding in Willaston are summarised in Table 1. A detailed timeline of the flood event can be found in Appendix III.

Table 1 - Flood Impact Summary

Residential properties affected:	Commercial premises affected:	Number of properties evacuated:	Number of properties flooded:	Number of domestic properties flooded:	Number of commercial premises flooded:	Comment
3	0	2	2	2	0	As reported to CWaC prior to publishing

Table 2 provides a summary of the flood event, impact and response in Willaston.

Table 2 – Willaston Flooding

Willaston	
Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20th January 2021
Affected Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hadlow Road
Flood Alert / warning issued?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area is not covered by a Flood Warning or Flood Alert
Flooding Impacts and Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property damage Additional stress and mental anguish on the community over such an event happening again
Summary of Flooding Incident Response During Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandbags provided following the event (after flooding had already occurred) Services were overwhelmed and unable to provide timely response

The following actions were undertaken following the event and prior to the completion of the interim report:

- Drains on Hadlow Road were cleared following Storm Christoph 18th Feb 2021.
- Meeting on site with affected residents 14th July 2021 with the LLFA.

3. RMA Response

This section outlines the RMA response to the flood event at Willaston and identifies area for improvement of flood risk. Consultations have been undertaken with the participating RMAs and local residents to inform this assessment.

- CWaC has responded to the reports of flooding from highways drains by undertaking an investigation of the highway drainage on Hadlow Road. This investigation identified that there were no significant defects on the highway system.
- LLFA has promoted the use of FloodHub for affected residents

4. Recommended Actions

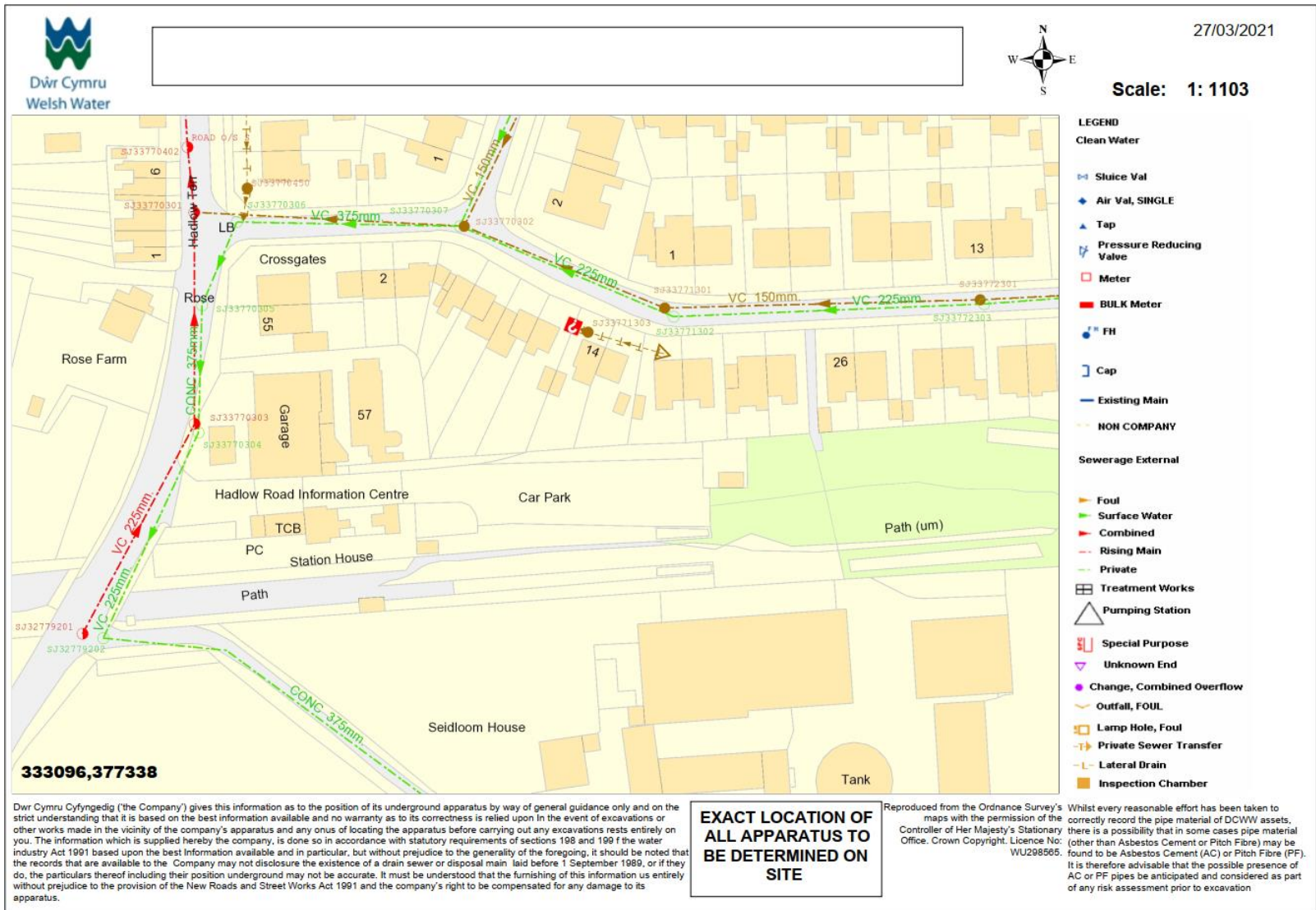
The LLFA role is to coordinate the management of flood risk within their administrative area. It is suggested that the recommendations made within this report are taken on board by the relevant RMAs and reviewed on a regular basis.

This Section 19 report recommends the following actions be taken:

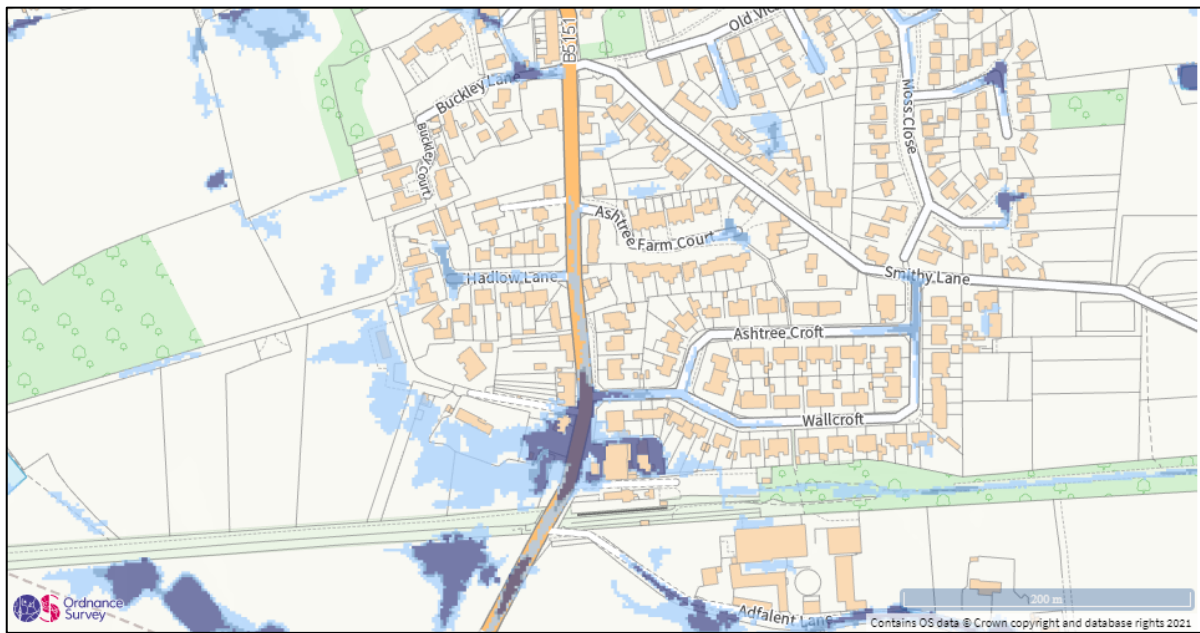
- Willaston to be considered for increased incident response including sandbags being provided in advance of expected events and, provision of traffic signage to slow traffic
- LLFA to work with the residents to determine whether property resilience measures could reduce the risk of significant damage in the future

- CWaC to increase its gulley emptying frequency on Hadlow Road in line with its risk-based approach to gulley emptying

Appendix I – Welsh Water Drainage System



Appendix II - Map



Extent of flooding from surface water



Source: EA

Appendix III – Timeline

Time	Willaston
20 th Jan 19:00	Water collected on Hadlow Road and backed up onto the private lane adjacent to the affected properties.
20 th Jan 19:30	Water on Hadlow road was approximately 300mm deep.
20 th Jan 20:00	Water entered the gardens of properties on Hadlow Road.
20 th Jan 21:00	Internal flooding reached approximately 300mm deep. Residents attempted to contact emergency services and evacuated to neighbour's house on higher ground.