

FAIRLIGHT UPDATE

What we're doing to 'slow the flow' and reduce surface water in Fairlight

[Watch our Fairlight Pathfinder Update video](#)

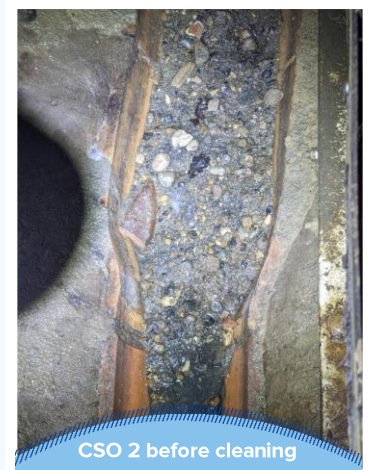
Background

The Fairlight catchment was specifically chosen as a Pathfinder due to current and historical occurrences of flooding, and current storm overflow performance within the area. The original Fairlight sewer network is acting as a combined sewer with foul water and surface water connecting into the sewerage network.

- **Infrastructure improvements:** We're upgrading and optimising our infrastructure and systems to manage heavier flows of rainwater.
- **Partnership:** We're working closely with customer and stakeholders within the catchments as well as local authorities, businesses, and homeowners so we can make the biggest impact possible.
- **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS):** We're using a variety of SuDS to increase natural drainage and manage excess surface water.
- **Putting misconceptions right:** Illegal surface water misconceptions can really affect how well sewer systems handle rainwater. Many of these misconceptions are on private pipework, so we need to ask permission from the landowner before we can put them right.

Our progress

- **Slow the flow:** We've installed 290 slow-drain water butts for residents so far. These will capture 27,550 litres of water per rain event and manage 0.56 hectares of impermeable area. Our delivery partner is now out in the catchment installing both sizes of water butts.
- **Pipework improvements:** We've carried out 5km of detailed surveys in the catchment on the main sewer spines. These have now been reviewed and sent to our contractor. The results will be used to create a programme of works to line key areas of the sewer to stop infiltration, with a view to start **Summer 2024**.
- **Illegal connections:** We've found and sealed eight illegal surface water connections within existing foul manholes, this has now increased the resilience of the system and is managing at least 0.5 hectares of impermeable area.
- **Optimisation:** We're in the process of reviewing and optimising the way we return stormwater stored in storm tanks back into the treatment works for processing. By doing this, we can hold and treat even more water. We're also reviewing the treatment process for other optimisation opportunities.
- **Large roof rainwater management:** We're carrying out surveys in the catchment on large roofs to manage their rainwater run-off. If the properties are connected to the foul system, our engineers will be contacting the owners with proposals to rectify the connections. Properties are already being identified and our engineers will be making contact soon to discuss options with the owners.
- **Working collaboratively:** We're working with the Marsham Sewer Trust and the Environment Agency on investigations into how the rainfall induced infiltration impacts the surrounding area.



CSO 2 before cleaning

Our progress



- Completed WinCan Survey
- Completed CCTV survey
- Lining Works in progress
- Completed Surveys at Marsham Farm
- Completed Lining Works



- Combined Sewer Overflow
- Surface Water connection under review
- Managed Surface water connection
- Red Roofs to be managed
- Treatment Works Optimisation



Upcoming

- **Pathfinder surveys:** A clean of Lower Waites Lane CSO 2 was carried out on the 16th of May , Waites Lane CSO to be completed once ground water levels subside - CCTV surveys are continuing in target areas, including areas we were unable to access earlier in the year due to high water levels . Many thanks to the residents for allowing the teams entry to their gardens – **Late Spring 2024**
- **Slow the Flow:** If you haven't already taken advantage of the free survey and potential water butt install, please make contact via email with your full name, address, and contact number to utilities@rescue2.co.uk. Alternatively call 01903 871105.
- **Red Roofs:** Our team has installed slow-drain water butts at The Cove freehouse. This will not only help slow the flow of water into the system, but will also reduce water usage for the business.
- **Engagement:** The next Fairlight working group is currently scheduled for Friday 19th July, however this may be subject to change.



The owners of The Cove
with their new water butts



100L water butt



Ongoing survey