

21st March 2025

Eccleshall Flooding

Dear Customers,

We are aware of the local concerns and reports of flooding within the town, particularly in and around the Castle Street / Stafford Street area and wanted to provide you with an update with the steps jointly being undertaken.

The cause of the flooding is a combination of rainwater collecting on the ground and sewers not being able to handle the extra water. As the organisations responsible for flood risk management, we are working together to find the best long-term solution to fix the problem.

To support the development of collaborative solutions, Severn Trent across its wider service area is committing at least £30 million by 2030 to work with local authorities and other partners to tackle flood risk to properties. You can read more about our future plans here: [Our plans 2025 - 2030](#) | [About Us](#) | [Severn Trent Water](#)

Flooding caused by heavy intense rainfall can happen due to different reasons:

- Flooding can occur when rainwater stays on the ground (known as 'surface water flooding'), which falls under the remit of the Lead Local Flood Authority. For Eccleshall, this is Staffordshire County Council.
- Rainwater enters the underground sewer system and mixes with wastewater from homes and businesses. When there is too much water, the system can get overwhelmed, causing sewer flooding. To prevent this in the past, older sewer systems were designed with storm overflows that allowed the extra rainwater to flow into nearby watercourses instead of backing up and flooding properties.

The town of Eccleshall has two separate sewer systems, both managed by Severn Trent. One system collects waste from homes and businesses, while the other handles rainwater and runoff from roads, roofs, and nearby fields. The waste from the foul sewer system flows to a pumping station on Stone Road, which pumps it uphill to a treatment plant near Sturbridge village.

The pumping station normally has enough capacity to handle the wastewater flow. However, as the town has grown over the years, more rainwater is entering the foul sewer system. During heavy rainfall, the system becomes overwhelmed, causing overflows that release excess water into the local watercourse through a storm overflow to prevent sewer flooding.

The performance of this overflow is currently not where we would like it to be, having spilled 67 times in 2023 and 26 times in 2024. Severn Trent's aim is that by 2045 we'll be spilling no more than 10 times in a year from any of our overflows across the whole of the region.

You can see the performance of all of our storm overflow live via our Get River Positive Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) map: [Storm Overflow Map](#) | [In My Area](#) | [Severn Trent Water](#)

We're committed to a £1.7 billion investment plan to halve average spills from storm overflows and move ahead of government target trajectories for 2050. You can read more about how we're planning to do this here: [Get River Positive](#) | [Severn Trent Water](#)

The surface water system in Eccleshall is complex, with assets owned by Severn Trent, Staffordshire County Council, and local landowners. Since these systems need to work together to manage heavy rainfall, managing surface water is a shared responsibility. Strong collaboration between all parties is essential to finding a long-term solution.

Severn Trent Water has been working closely with Staffordshire County Council in recent years to assess the performance of the sewerage and drainage systems. Together, we are actively engaging with landowners, businesses, and residents to reduce and better manage the amount of surface water entering the system.

Over £350,000 of investment has already been put in by both Severn Trent and Staffordshire County Council to resolve some of the flooding issues in Eccleshall, including but not limited to:

- Drainage improvements in Stone Road to take the storm surcharge away from the carriageway.
- Installing trash screens to stop storm drains from being blocked and overflowing.
- Physical surveys to confirm the capacity of assets, understand how rainfall is connected to the sewerage system and calculate how much impermeable areas are connected, such as roads and roofs. This entails measuring and mapping the network to ensure we understand it in its completeness.
- A flow monitoring survey, where instrumentation was left in the network recording hydraulic performances for several weeks. This helps us observe how the system reacts to rainfall.
- A detailed above ground and below ground capacity modelling flood study to develop a “digital twin” of the drainage and sewerage system in the town. This allows us to better understand how heavy rainfall is being drained and we are using historically reported incidents to verify its accuracy. This model will help identify the principal sources and provide a platform to develop solution options.
- Additional storm water holding tanks at the pumping station to take some of the peak storm water and reduce the frequency and duration of storm overflow spills.

We are now focusing on developing solutions to increase the capacity of the surface water drainage and sewer systems to prevent flooding. We are also working to agree on how the costs will be shared between stakeholders.

We will provide an updated statement following further development to ensure that all our customers can see the benefit of this joint working and investment.

Bob Stear

Chief Engineer – Severn Trent