

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for environmental information. We appreciate your interest, and we want to let you know that your request has been carefully considered in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR).

Your request, and our response to your specific questions, are outlined below:

I write to request environmental information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

This request concerns the public sewerage / wastewater network serving and downstream of Smithy Lane, Gales Lane and the proposed development site for Chorley planning application 26/00116/FULMAJ - land north east of and adjacent to the Millennium Green, Hurst Green, Mawdesley.

I live at [REDACTED] and I am the land owner of land at the rear under which the sewer passes.

United Utilities previously sought to install monitoring equipment on barn land to the rear of my property, although I declined due to the site being overgrown and unsafe for United Utilities employees. The land has two manhole covers. I understand that several monitoring devices were in any event installed along [REDACTED]. The requested information is relevant to sewer capacity, surcharge risk, flooding risk, sewage escape risk, and the ability of the local wastewater network to accommodate further development.

Please provide the following recorded information:-

1. Sewer / wastewater monitoring near [REDACTED]

Please provide all recorded information identifying or summarising sewer / wastewater monitoring carried out, proposed or considered in the vicinity of:

[REDACTED]

- *the public sewer network downstream of the proposed development site for application 26/00116/FULMAJ.*

Please include:

1. *the reason monitoring was considered necessary;*
2. *the location of each monitor / logger / device, including asset IDs, manhole IDs or sewer references where available;*
3. *installation, operating, download and removal dates;*
4. *what was being monitored, e.g. depth, flow, surcharge, pressure, rainfall, velocity or overflow;*
5. *monitoring results, summaries, graphs, dashboards, spreadsheets or reports;*
6. *any conclusions, recommendations or follow-up actions from the monitoring.*

Where numerical monitoring data exists, please provide it in Excel or CSV format if reasonably available.

The map enclosed in Appendix A shows the geographical location of sewer monitors currently installed in the Mawdesley village area.

These monitors were installed as part of our Dynamic Network Maintenance (DNM) programme which is a data-driven system that helps us monitor and manage the wastewater network in real time.

The system works by using thousands of sensors across the sewer network, combined with advanced analytics, to spot early signs of operational problems, such as blockages, rising water levels, or asset issues, before they become incidents. This gives United Utilities early warning of issues in the network so we can fix them sooner, reducing the risk of flooding or pollution incidents, and providing a more reliable service to customers.

The unique location/sensor ID, date of installation and data the sensor collects is shown in the table below.

Sensor IDs	Date installed	Monitor data
12074-CO1 - BLACK MOOR ROAD CSO	02/02/2023	Flow level
CRSTN_Black Moor Road_SD48143801	22/01/2024	Flow level
CRSTN_Black Moor Road_SD48146802	22/12/2024	Flow level
CRSTN_Smithy Lane_SD48149701	28/11/2023	Flow level
CRSTN_Brookfield_SD49142810	27/09/2022	Flow level, tilt angle
CRSTN_New Street_SD49143905	16/08/2022	Flow level, tilt angle
CRSTN_Hurst Green_SD49153003	08/09/2022	Flow level, tilt angle

We also enclose comprehensive data downloads from each of the monitors. The table below gives an overview of the monitor data being supplied in the Excel files:



Water for the North West

United Utilities Water Limited
Haweswater House
Lingley Mere Business Park
Lingley Green Avenue
Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000
unitedutilities.com

Column	Description
FullName	Name/path of the monitored asset or signal
Value	Measured value (numeric) mm or ° (tilt angle)
Unit	Measurement unit (e.g. metres)
Date and Time	Timestamp of measurement
Source	Sensor type or Data source system

Since installation, these monitors have generated 32 alerts that required review by our Central Operations team, resulting in five proactive visits and two blockages being identified and removed before causing an issue.

2. Sewer capacity / surcharge / hydraulic assessment

For the period 1 January 2016 to date, please provide any recorded capacity assessments, hydraulic modelling, calculations, technical notes or internal reviews concerning the ability of the relevant foul / combined / wastewater network to accommodate flows from:

- *Mawdesley village;*
- *[REDACTED];*
- *[REDACTED];*
- *the proposed 78-dwelling development under application 26/00116/FULMAJ;*
- *any other nearby committed development where flows enter the same or connected network.*

Please include any information on:

available headroom / spare capacity;

- 1. dry-weather and storm-flow assumptions;*
- 2. infiltration / inflow assumptions;*
- 3. surcharge risk;*
- 4. whether the downstream sewer is under capacity monitoring and why;*
- 5. whether off-site reinforcement, diversion, storage, pumping, attenuation or other works may be required;*
- 6. whether any additional surface water connection to the public sewer would be acceptable or unacceptable;*
- 7. whether foul and surface water must be kept separate for this catchment.*

The village of Mawdesley, and surrounding roads, are in the drainage catchment for Croston Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW). United Utilities does not undertake 'headroom' assessments; instead we undertake annual Dry Weather Flow (DWF) assessments based on the flow limit stated within each sites' environmental permit. . These assessments help us understand environmental impact, plant capacity and regulatory compliance risks. This is known as a 'Q90' assessment.

The Q90 is a statistical flow metric representing the daily volume of wastewater treated at the works that is exceeded 90% of the time so the lowest 10% will be the flows received by the works under 'dry' conditions, and therefore the representation of the domestic/commercial flows alone, without the impact of rainfall.

The Q90 is typically calculated by gathering a full year (365 days) of total daily volume (TDV) data from a site, then sorting the 365 individual values from lowest to highest. The Q90 is then the 10th percentile value within that list of ascending data. This means that this is the flow rate, over a year, that is exceeded 90% of the time.

For the 2025 calendar year we have calculated the Q90 at Croston WwTW as 4,008 m³ against the permitted value of 4,950 m³, as set by the Environment Agency. This shows that the site is operating well within its hydraulic capacity.

The only other specific correspondence and assessments regarding capacity in this area relate to the proposed development application (26/00116/FULMAJ). Further details on this can be found in our response to question 4 below.

The existing sewer network in Mawdesley is a combined system, accommodating both foul and surface water flows. This system is not subject to capacity monitoring but, as explained in question 1, we do have DNM monitors located throughout the village monitoring flow levels. For new developments, water companies and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) require that the developer use a strict drainage hierarchy to manage surface water to help manage demand on the existing sewer network infrastructure. The developer must explore these options in this order:

1. Soakaway with discharge directly into the ground.
2. Discharge to the local watercourse.
3. Installation of a surface water sewer.
4. Installation/connection to a combined sewer.

As can be seen, connection of new surface water flows to a combined sewer should only consider a viable option when other options are legitimately discounted.

3. [REDACTED] - sewage escape / manhole surcharge incidents

Please provide all recorded incident information relating to sewer flooding, sewage escape, manhole surcharge or manhole cover displacement affecting or near [REDACTED], Mawdesley, including the incident where sewage escaped onto the grounds of [REDACTED] after a manhole displaced / lifted / "blew its lid", leading to raw sewage discharge. Please include:

- 1. incident reports;***
- 2. call logs / complaint logs;***
- 3. engineer attendance notes;***
- 4. photographs;***
- 5. cause or root-cause analysis;***
- 6. whether the cause was blockage, hydraulic overload, storm condition, infiltration, sewer condition, pump/network failure or some other cause;***
- 7. any clean-up, remediation, monitoring, repair/capital works arising from the incident.***

I am not seeking private personal data about individual residents. Please redact personal data and

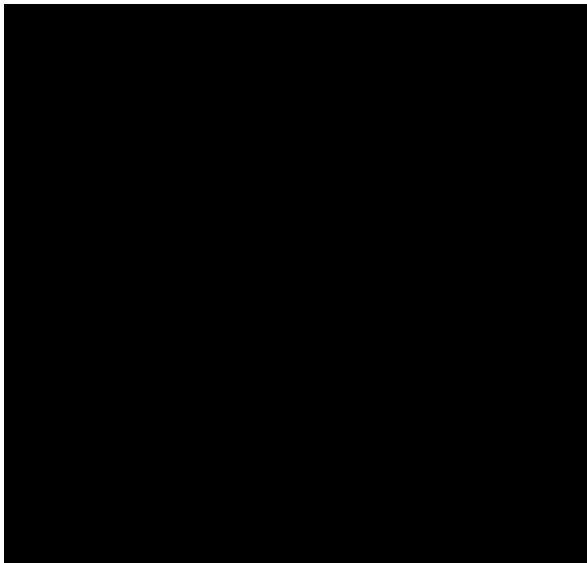
disclose the environmental, operational and technical substance.

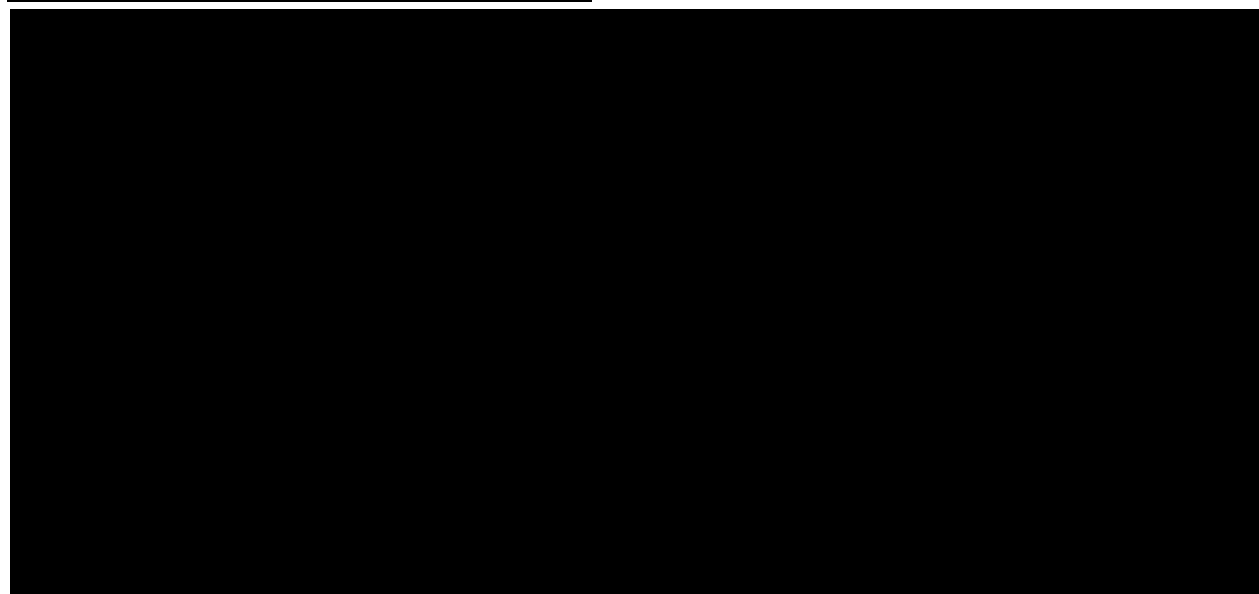
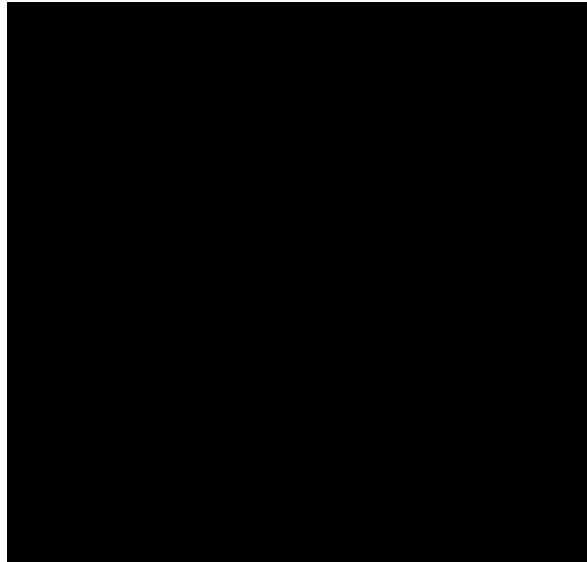
We have reviewed the historical activity log at this location dating back to 2019. The only incident on record occurred in September 2019 and we believe this is likely the one you reference above. A summary of the notes and from the technician who attended this incident are outlined below:

On 29 September at 11:15, a customer reported that wastewater was overflowing from a manhole, running down the road and entering a nearby brook. This was reported to the Environment Agency under NIRS reference number 1742140.

Our field team attended site at 13:20 and confirmed that a combined sewer on [REDACTED] was surcharging onto the highway. The flow travelled approximately 60 metres before entering New Reed Brook, resulting in a pollution incident. At the time, there was very heavy rainfall, and the brook was already experiencing high flows. Due to the dilution from rainfall, there was no visible impact within the watercourse.

The issue was linked to the sewer network becoming hydraulically overloaded during the extreme weather. Once the rainfall had subsided, we completed a CCTV survey of the sewer and identified a minor silt build-up (approximately 15% of the capacity), which was then cleared. Note – we believe this silt deposit to be a result of flood water inundation.





As outlined above in our response to question 1, we have subsequently installed several DNM devices in the area, which help us spot early signs of operational problems, such as blockages, rising water levels, or asset issues, before they become incidents.

We have checked our case management system and can confirm there are no call or complaints associated in this area so we are unable to provide you with a copy of this in line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR. For awareness, United Utilities changed the system that it uses to log all customer cases in 2019, including any correspondence between customers and the Company. Legally, public authorities must hold records for a minimum of six years, which includes any documents held in previous systems. As we are now outside of this retention period, we are unable to share any information from prior to 2019 as it is no longer held. This approach is in line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR.

4. Planning application 26/00116/FULMAJ

Please provide United Utilities' recorded technical information concerning drainage / sewer capacity / sewer surcharge / surface water / foul water in relation to planning application 26/00116/FULMAJ, including:

1. Technical review notes concerning the submitted Drainage Strategy;

The comments enclosed in Appendix B were provided by United Utilities to Chorley Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in May 2026. The purpose of these comments was to support the LPA in its determination of the planning application detailed above, and to direct the applicant to further sources of support and guidance on matters that might impact their proposal.

2. any assessment of whether the drainage strategy is acceptable only "in principle" or whether material detailed design issues remain unresolved;

As outlined in the attached comments, we can confirm that whilst the strategy for the disposal of foul and surface water is acceptable 'in principle', there are elements of the detailed drainage design that might not be acceptable to United Utilities and will require resolution by the applicant. For this reason, and to avoid any unnecessary delays or costs for the applicant, we requested that the proposed drainage strategy is not approved until such time as all concerns are resolved.

The decision on approval of the planning permission remains with the LPA.

3. Any assessment of whether the public sewer crossing the site affects the proposed layout;

From the drawings received from the developer, to allow for the housing to be constructed the existing sewer will need to be diverted. An initial high-level review of the route appears to be acceptable to UUW, but this is still subject to a more detailed assessment through a Section 185 sewer diversion application.

Should any sewers within the development be put forward for adoption by United Utilities, the technical detail will be assessed through a Section 104 sewer adoption application.

4. any assessment of whether the proposed development could require off-site sewer reinforcement;

There are currently no plans to undertake any sewer reinforcement in the area.

5. any correspondence or notes between United Utilities and Chorley Council, the applicant or the applicant's consultants on those specific drainage / wastewater issues.

As described above in question 4.1, United Utilities provided the attached comments to the LPA in May 2026.

We hope that this response answers your request. However, if you're not satisfied with how we've handled it, you can request an internal review. To do this, please write to us at Environmental Information Office, Haweswater House, Lingley Mere, Warrington, WA5 3LP or email us at EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk, addressing your request to [REDACTED], and explaining why you're unhappy with our response. We'll be very happy to review your request and ensure we've done everything we can to assist you.

Any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this response, and we will reply within 40 working days from receipt of the request for internal review.

Many thanks,



Environmental Information team
United Utilities

We'd love to hear your feedback on how we handled your request! If you have a moment, please complete our short survey [here](#) – your input helps us improve our service.