



United Utilities Water Limited
Haweswater House
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Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000

unitedutilities.com

Our ref: EIR/ID758
Date: 10/04/2026
Email: EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk

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:

This request is about your high pressure sewage pipeline from the Bridge Trafford pumping station to Mickle Trafford Sewage Works.

I would like a detailed record of any maintenance undertaken on this pipeline since its installation in the 1960's as well as the method of installation across the peat land it traverses, and details of all monitoring which has taken place and is currently taking place. I would like information about any pollution incidents relating to this pipeline and would also like to know the capacity of the pipeline and flow rates of waste through it on a daily basis since 01/01/2016. This should include volumes entering the pipe at Bridge Trafford and exiting at Mickle Trafford sewage works.

Our response:

As you have stated, the rising main from the Bridge Trafford pumping station to the Mickle Trafford wastewater treatment works was initially constructed in the 1960's. As this is now over 50 years ago, we do not hold any details of the method of installation of this rising main and therefore cannot provide any data under Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) Regulation 12(4)(a).

Rising mains are underground infrastructure assets, and do not need to be proactively maintained, with work only being undertaken on them if or when issues arise, or if there are indications of risks to the pipeline.

We have checked our records and identified maintenance activities that were undertaken in May 2024. At this time, we attended site in response to reports of wastewater within a ditch. The local response team investigated and found a damaged pipe within what appeared to be a man-made ditch within a field. The team isolated the rising main and tanker resources were mobilised to manage the flows and tanker them away from Bridge Trafford pumping station to cease the spill to the ditch. The team then continued their investigations and concluded that there was no discharge to the surrounding field drainage system and no connectivity from this ditch to the fishing lakes or to the River Gowy.

We reported this to the Environment Agency (EA), as a potential pollution incident, and coded the incident as category 3 (A Category 3 pollution incident, is defined by the [Environment Agency's Common Incident Classification Scheme \(CICS\)](#), as minor or minimal impact on the environment, people, or property, that is characterized by localized, temporary, or low-level effects rather than

widespread damage).

We are also planning to undertake work to inspect and where necessary maintain the air valves on this rising main. This work will be undertaken sometime within the current five year period (2025 to 2030), although the work forms part of a wider regional programme of similar work and the exact date of this work has still to be confirmed.

For further information, a potential issue was reported in this area in March 2026. This was investigated by the local response team, who arrived on site but did not witness evidence of sewerage discharge or odour, they also took ammonia samples of the water course which also did not indicate any evidence of sewage discharge. This incident was not reported to the EA as there were no UU assets at this location, and no discharge to the environment occurred.

The rising main from Bridge Trafford pumping station to Mickle Trafford WwTW is a 100mm asbestos cement pipeline that is approximately 1,150m in length. The Bridge Trafford pumping is required to pump all the flow that arrives at the station to Mickle Trafford WwTW and, therefore, the station does not have a permitted maximum pass forward flow rate, although it does have a permitted dry weather flow rate of 17 m³/day.

The Bridge Trafford pumping station manages all flows that arrive at it and passes them forward to Mickle Trafford wastewater treatment works. The operation and performance of the pumps is monitored and controlled through the use of sensors and telemetry systems that monitor the level of the flow within the "wet well". As the flows are controlled through the use of level sensors, we have not needed to install any flow monitors at the station and therefore, we do not hold and therefore cannot provide any data under Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) Regulation 12(4)(a).

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