

Flood Bulletin – Low Road and Glasgow Road, Perth

The Council is producing bulletins aimed at keeping local communities informed following the severe flooding of 11/12 August 2020.

This bulletin has been prepared specifically for residents affected by flooding on Low Road and Glasgow Road.

Flooding at Low Road and Glasgow Road

This severe storm of 11/12 August 2020 resulted in widespread flooding in Perth & Kinross-with approximately 225 properties affected.

Low Road and Glasgow Road were badly affected with approximately 9 properties being flooded, with further impacts to a larger number of resident's gardens and outbuildings. The Scouring burn is understood to have burst its banks onto Glasgow Road affecting properties and causing a small embankment failure and an oil spill in the area. The Glasgow Road was shut for a time.

In relation to oil pollution, SEPA's role was to seek to establish the source of the pollution and assess potential impacts on the river or on groundwater. SEPA attended the Low Road area and commenced investigation on the morning of 12 August 2020. On 14 August, SEPA collected samples of oil deposits found in the Low Road area, analysis later confirmed that the oil was commercial lubricant oil. SEPA believes the oil pollution arose from the garage located on Glasgow Road and expected the business to carry out appropriate clean up. The garage owner has advised anyone with a claim should approach the garage's insurer.

The flooding experienced on 12 August 2020 was the result of surface water flooding (also known as pluvial flooding) and the overtopping of the Scouring Burn. A significant volume of rainfall fell in a relatively short space of time and overwhelmed the drainage systems in the area. This resulted in overland flow with water gathering and flooding at low spots on the ground.

The Council cleaned and jetted all of the gullies on Low Road on 18 August 2020. The Community Greenspace team also removed grass and soil from the area that had oil residue and had the ground reinstated.

Post Flood Response Work & Community Meetings

Following the flooding of 11 and 12 August 2020, Council officers were deployed to investigate, initially undertaking door to door visits, engaging with affected residents and businesses and offering advice and support. This work was supported by our Customer Contact Centre, Health & Social Care Partnership and other agencies, including the Scottish Flood Forum.

The Council held online public meetings with the main affected communities. A meeting was held on 29 September 2020 for residents in the Craigie Burn catchment. The link to the recording of the meeting can still be accessed via:

www.pkc.gov.uk/August2020flooding

Although the flood event lasted just a matter of hours, the impact was felt for much longer and the Council continued to receive a high volume of calls and e-mails from residents for some months. By the end of December 2020, the Council had logged, and was still responding to, over 650 enquiries.

SEPA Report

SEPA published a report on the storm in December 2020 which can be viewed at <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/536333/the-flash-floods-of-11-and-12-august-2020.pdf>. The report confirms that the maximum hourly rainfall accumulations for Perth are typically expected to have a return period of 1 in 150 years, and the longer duration rainfall accumulations are expected to have a return period in the range of 1 in 75 years (3 hours) and 1 in 250 years (12 hours). SEPA's report therefore notes that the rainfall was an extreme event compared to historical records and can be considered rare.

Committee Report

A report on the flooding was considered by the Council's Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 18 August 2021. The report describes the extent of the severe flooding and includes the findings of the review of the Council's response to the flooding and actions taken in response to the previous emergency motion approved by Committee on 19 August 2020. The report also makes recommendations for short, medium and long-term actions.

The committee documents can be viewed on the Council's website at:

<https://perth-and-kinross.cmis.uk.com/perth-and-kinross/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/3116/Committee/111/Default.aspx>

Public Consultation - Draft Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans

Following on from the completion of the Perth Integrated Catchment Study, the current, and future, Tay Local Flood Risk Management Plan includes the following key actions for your area:

- The Perth Surface Water Management Plan
- The Craigie Burn Flood Protection Study

The Council has written to local residents to highlight the current public consultation on the second cycle of flood risk management plans which is open until 31 October 2021. You can respond to the consultation via the following link:

<https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/frmplans/>

If you have any enquiries regarding the consultation, please contact frmplanning@sepa.org.uk. Please enter 'FRM Consultation' in the subject line.

You can also access the consultation via the Council's consultation hub at <https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/communities/floodriskconsultation2021/> and webpage at www.pkc.gov.uk/frmplans.

Community Resilience

Residents are encouraged to take action to reduce the risk of flooding to their property. This could include having your own supply of sandbags available and fitting flood protection products to your property, such as airbrick covers or door guards. Please refer to the Council's previous flood bulletin (under 'What action can I take to protect my property from flooding?') and Frequently Asked Questions at www.pkc.gov.uk/August2020flooding. Further information can also be found at www.pkc.gov.uk/plp.

The Scottish Flood Forum

The Scottish Flood Forum is an independent charity which supports individuals and communities at risk from flooding. If you were affected by the flooding and have not already done so, we would advise you to contact the Forum – their contact details are at the end of this bulletin.

Out of Hours Emergency Service

Some residents struggled to contact the Council for assistance during the night of 11/12 August 2020. This was one of the key issues examined in the above noted report to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 18 August 2021.

The Council will establish arrangements with Aberdeen City Council call centre to provide additional dedicated staff to answer calls during severe weather events. Such an arrangement will be based on the availability of staff, and at the request of the Council. It is therefore intended to introduce this arrangement in the event of an amber weather warning. It would, however, require an advance warning to be in place to enable call handlers to be sought.

Scouring Burn Clearance Works

The storm on 11/12 August 2020 resulted in very intense rainfall and generated very high flows within the Scouring Burn. The high flows washed a large amount of debris into the burn and caused some bank failures. Following the flooding the Council completed considerable clearance works in order to return the burn to its pre-flood condition. The works included the clearance of the flood storage 'dry' pond (adjacent to Glasgow Road), the removal of gravel and debris from trash screens and general clearance works along the Scouring Burn.

The Council has subsequently completed significant clearance works at the Low Road culvert in March and April 2021. Works to the eroded banks at Buckie Braes have also been completed.

Note that in addition to the above, the Council's Roads Maintenance Partnership also regularly carry out the clearance of trash screens along the Scouring Burn, as well as undertaking maintenance on the flood storage ponds that form part of the Perth Flood Scheme. Persimmon Homes are in the process of completing remedial works to the trash screen just upstream of Necessity Brae. Once approved, the Council will adopt this screen and add it to the above noted clearance schedule.

The Council continues to undertake routine inspections of the Scouring Burn every 6 months, although we will respond to any issues reported in the interim. We will carry out clearance and repair work where this will substantially reduce flood risk. Any identified works are carried out in order of priority as resources permit.

Future Action

The published Tay Local Flood Risk Management Plan includes a flood study for the Craigie Burn (and the Scouring Burn). A hydraulic model of the Craigie Burn has already been developed and consulting engineers are being engaged to use this model to examine the potential options for managing flood risk in the future. We will engage with the community during the course of this study which will not be completed until next year.

Flooding in the Craigie Burn catchment has occurred in the past and the Council have already taken action to reduce the impact of flooding. However, we cannot eliminate the risk of flooding. Unfortunately, exceptional weather events are happening more often, and flooding is having increasing impact and effect across the whole country. There will always be limits as to what individual Council's and public sector agencies can achieve to prevent flooding. We therefore strongly encourage individuals and communities to build better flood resilience and welcome discussions around how we can support this.

Further Information and Advice

Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at www.pkc.gov.uk/August2020flooding. Further information and advice on flooding can be found on the Council's website at www.pkc.gov.uk/flooding and www.pkc.gov.uk/frmplans.

Contact Details

Perth and Kinross Council: Tel 01738 475000 (8.45am – 5pm)
Tel 01738 476476 (out of hours emergencies)
E-mail flood@pkc.gov.uk (routine enquiries)
Tel 01738 476476 or 01738 475000 (road drains)

Road drains: www.pkc.gov.uk/article/14914/Report-a-road-or-street-lighting-fault
(You don't need to register - just click the link at the bottom of the page).

Scottish Water: Tel 0800 077 8778 (customer helpline)
(Any sewer flooding should be reported
to Scottish Water.)

Scottish Flood Forum: Tel 07895 883170
E-mail admin@scottishfloodforum.org

SEPA Floodline Tel 0345 988 1188