

Chock Lane Sewer Upgrade – Spring 2014

Wessex Water is required by changes in EU legislation to improve the filtration of water that overflows from sewers into waterways at times of overload, ie during periods of heavy rain. This all happens out of sight below our feet but the new mechanical filters, located in enlarged Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) chambers below ground, require electrical power and controls which are enclosed in new control panels located in kiosks at the road side.

The new filters (6mm mechanical screens), contained within new larger chambers, will screen out the solids, so that they are retained in the sewer and do not overspill into the local watercourses.

The associated control kiosks will control when the rotating screen is actually brought into operation (at times of high flow). When the work is completed, the new kiosks will be the only visible sign - above ground - that anything has happened. It is necessary for the equipment to be housed in an above-ground control kiosk to enable operational staff to access the equipment in a safe, controlled environment.

In total, there are six locations within Westbury-on-Trym where these improvements will be undertaken during 2014 - each with its own associated control kiosk. Planning permission is required for each of the control kiosks but the remainder of the works (mechanical screen and below ground ducting) will be constructed under Permitted Development Rights.

A small local group, made up from Councillors, The Westbury on Trym Society and the Neighbourhood Partnership, worked behind the scenes with Wessex Water to optimise the location of these kiosks and to minimise their visual impact.

In January 2014, Chock Lane was closed completely to through traffic for three months, to enable Wessex Water to undertake major reconstruction work on an existing CSO chamber at the junction of Trym Road and Chock Lane.

The following series of photographs record the work as it progressed during the three month period that the road was closed. I hope that some readers may find this interesting!

Alan Aburrow
April 2014

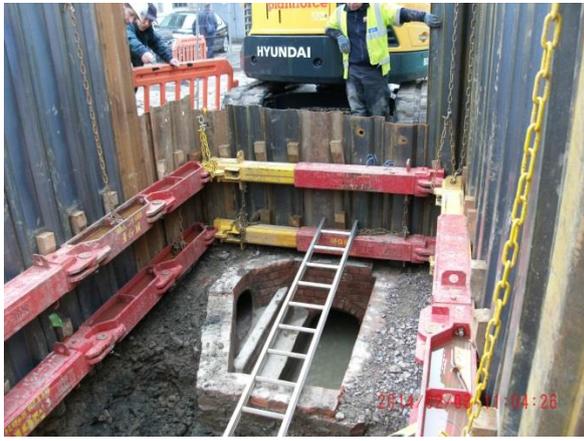


Fig 1. Original chamber, after cover removed



Fig 2. Fixed overflow weir in original chamber



Fig 3. New chamber, partially constructed



Fig 4. New chamber with new weir



Fig 5. Rotating screen in position



Fig 6. New chamber – topped out



Fig 7. New chamber cover – fully fitted



Fig 8. New control kiosk