

Update from South West Water from Public Affairs Manager, sent to CC Crabtree, 08/01/24 16:49

The £150,000 that will be spent to reduce groundwater infiltration – this is where groundwater is entering the combined sewers through manholes or joints in the pipework as well as misconnections from streams and land drains. This is what we've found to be the worst contributor to storm overflow activation in Portreath.

In order to fix it, we'll first use flow monitor data, and our knowledge of the area, to identify target areas. Then, we'll send a CCTV camera down the sewers in that area to see what's going on inside the pipes. Where we find water entering the sewers, we'll arrange repairs which can include lining or patching the pipe or sealing manholes via spray techniques. This is a phased solution, so as repairs are made, we'll still be monitoring to see where further repairs or improvements are needed to reduce this infiltration more and more. We'll be prioritising the worst infiltration first.

There are other works that may be needed, and the £150,000 will be increased if necessary. Depending on what our investigations report, we may need to divert land drains and watercourses away from our sewerage system to decrease the risk of infiltration.

By targeting and tailoring our investment in this way, we can remain cost-effective whilst significantly reducing storm overflow activation in the area.