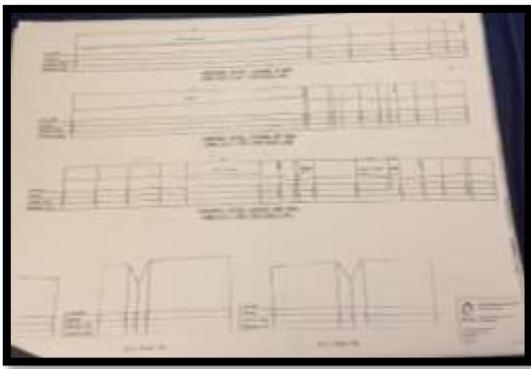


Borth Community Council: Information Notes

Summary of leats, Leri and outfalls

Leat

- Water needs to run from the South to the North and a flow to the outfall. Deviations in direction of the leat to take into account the railway.
- East side of the railway continues to be maintained, runs up to Derwenlas
- Leats to the west of the railway are not maintained
- C5, Borth Community Council is responsible for clearing leat including reeds, last cleared about 2 years ago (approx.. £1000 for about 150 m)
- Heavy rain falling on pavements and roads often flows into surface water drains or highway drains, ending up in local rivers and, ultimately, the sea.



1995 NRA longitudinal and cross sections of the leat, from N to S; C/S 1, C/S 2, C/S 3, C/S 4 and C/S 5. Marks existing level and proposed level.

Issues with west side leat

- Multiple sources of water into leat including excess rainwater from roads via drains from the west side.
- West side no longer maintained. Water Board and Parish Council/Rural District Council stopped clearing ditches when mains sewage was installed in 1970's
- Lack of recent cleaning to ensure functioning of leats
- Blocking of some residential leats and culverting
- Encroachment by building into watercourses
- Pumping excess water at Cae Gwylan

Possible steps forward

- Partnership group to work together, plan work, organise, consider realistic options in current financial climate (previously estimated £1 million to rectify leat) for the leats. Supported by Ceredigion Flooding Task & Finish Group
- Need to map the leat and set in context of its surroundings
- Riparian ownership should be understood along the length.

NRW guide to rights and responsibilities of riverside ownership in Wales

Some key points (see document for full references)

- Owners of property next to a river, stream, ditch are a 'riparian owner' with common law rights. P3. If you rent the land, there should be an agreement with the owner p5

- ‘A watercourse is a natural **or artificial channel** above or below ground through which water flows, such as a river, brook, beck, ditch, mill, stream or culvert’ p3
- Risk management authority can advise on managing watercourse, not approve or consent work that would harm the environment or increase flood risk even if structurally sound, discourage culverting... building into watercourses – encroachment. P4

Ownership – rights (see document p6 for full references)

- If land boundary is next to a watercourse it is assumed that ownership is up to the centre of the watercourse
- If a watercourse runs along a garden wall or hedge – check property deeds to see if wall marks boundary.
- If own land with watercourse through or underneath then have ownership of that part of the watercourse
- Artificial watercourses may be the responsibility of a third party – check deeds

Ownership – responsibilities (see document p7 for full references)

- Must let water flow through without obstruction, pollution or diversion which affects the rights of others
- Accept flood flows, even if caused by inadequate capacity up/downstream
- Keep banks clear of any obstructions that may increase flood risk
- Responsible for maintaining the bed and banks, trees and shrubs, litter and animal carcasses
- Leave a development free edge on the banks
- Culverts etc. should be clear of debris, blocked culverts may back up and cause flooding above ground – you must clear a blocked culvert
- Legal obligation to notify NRW if building or altering a structure/obstruction
- Do not dispose of garden waste/cuttings, control invasives e.g. Japanese knotweed

Afon Leri

The River Leri flows 20 kilometres through the Borth bog salt marshes (large number of grazing lambs), before reaching the sea.

Borth Sewage Treatment Works discharges into the River Leri and the Dyfi Estuary, has a tertiary treatment process. This is inspected as part of the pre-season bathing water programme

Constraint to water flow at the boat yard bridge, issue can be the speed of flow resulting in backing up with the tide. Lack of flooding/inundation of fields up and downstream over pasture and saltmarsh, water has nowhere to go.

Major breaching of the Leri embankment 25–26 January 1990

Peat banks of Leri, some limited damaged from 2014 storm

Cors Fochno raised bog

2014 NRW assent for operations on Cors Fochno SAC, Dyfi SSSI to de-weed Pwll Du ditch in order to manage water levels SAC. Flood defence maintenance works, option W2 weed cutting. New sluice/repairs outfall for Pwll Du. Not to excessively cut and expose banks, not between April and September (breeding birds and water vole interest).

Reviewed 2020.

Old drainage channels – blocking ditches that run saline water into the bog

Outfalls and discharges

Outfall area at Ynyslas responsibility of Ceredigion County Council

Nant Brynowen discharges onto the beach, 250 metres south of the monitoring point.

13 December 2015