

**DARD
RIVERS AGENCY**

MEADOWSIDE

**AUGUST 2008 FLOOD NON-
TECHNICAL SUMMARY
REPORT**

September 2009

INTRODUCTION

An independent study was commissioned by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Rivers Agency to investigate the serious flood event in Meadowside, Antrim, on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th August.

This non-technical summary presents the key findings and recommendations contained within the full report.

LOCATION

The Meadowside housing development is situated adjacent to the Sixmilewater River and is protected from flooding from the river by a flood defence consisting of a wall and embankment. The flood defence was constructed to national standards (1 in 100 chance in any one year) by Rivers Agency in response to the October 1987 flood.

AUGUST 2008 FLOOD EVENT

The August 2008 event was an extreme occurrence well in excess of the national standard of protection to which the flood defence was designed. Evidence shows that the 2008 event was much worse than 1987 and was probably the most extreme flooding the area has experienced in over 125 years.

As a result of the extreme nature of the event the flood defences were overtopped causing flooding of 33 homes, with flood depth levels nearing 1.0 metre in those worst-affected.

CONDITION OF THE FLOOD DEFENCE

The floodwall remains in good condition and the earth embankment in fair condition. Some remedial works are recommended for the wall and embankment. Overall the flood defence continues to provide a high degree of flood protection from river flooding consistent with national standards.

The back drainage system which collects water behind the river's flood defence consists of separate surface water drainage and underground sewage systems. Surface water drains to the river via flap valves which automatically close off when river levels are high. The report determined there is a flood risk associated with the back drainage.

CONCLUSION

The August 2008 flood was an extreme event and probably the most extreme flooding the area has experienced in over 125 years. The August flood was in excess of the national standard of protection to which the flood defence was designed causing overtopping and flooding of 33 homes.

While requiring minor remedial works, the flood defence continues to provide a high degree of flood protection from river flooding consistent with national standards.

There is a flood risk associated with the back drainage system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The report makes the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that the level of the flood defence is consistent with the new river model which has just been completed.
2. Investigate replacement of the existing flap valves on the back drainage system
3. Infill a section of the Mill Race
4. Along with the other drainage agencies, investigate the suitability of the back drainage system.
5. Replace the sealant to the joints of the concrete floodwall