

Case study 618

Sykes Pumps bypass blocked sewer

When a sinkhole appeared on a residential road in a Kentish coastal town, the resultant damage caused the water and sewage mains underground to flood a series of properties nearby. This had direct consequences for not just the premises in question, but also a vital water facility situated in close proximity to where the flooding occurred. A nearby Southern Water pumping station constantly fed with sewage and waste then went offline a few hours later, meaning a solution was required immediately.

Due to the high water table and unfavourable conditions at the location, sandy soil made its way into the pumping chamber – eventually rendering the station inoperative. With no way of stopping the sewage flowing into the surrounding area, a fleet of tankers had to be dispatched to collect and transport all wastewater to a nearby treatment plant.

The high costs attached to using tankers meant that alternative action was necessary, and it was at this point Sykes Pumps was contacted. Following a detailed assessment of the situation, it was decided that two existing three metre deep chambers could be used as temporary pumping chambers to help isolate the affected zones.

Spacial restrictions meant that a pumping arrangement predominately comprised of SP50 solids submersible pumps was proposed and implemented – made possible by using the nearby station's power supply. Two units were installed in each manhole and connected via temporary pipelines featuring non-return valves. This hire package remained in place for several weeks and successfully removed vast quantities of water and sediment efficiently while civil engineers rectified the root cause.



Model SP50
Motor type (V) 415 (3-phase) 50 Hz
Motor rating (kW) 5.2
Max power input (kW) 6.2
Running current (Amps) 11
Max solids (mm) 65
Discharge spigot 4" Bauer (100mm)
Dimensions (HxW) mm 760 x 410
Weight (Kg) 52



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