

IDB Stillingfleet Pumping Station – January 2025

I had a number of queries and below are copies of the responses.

How is the capacity of the pumps impacted by the temporary ones currently in place?

IDB email response:

“Capacity wise - the station has an initial design capacity that was to cope with rectifying the subsidence caused by the Coal Authority, this was based mainly on lower day to day flows rather than flood events. Certain other factors can reduce this capacity such as an elevated river level, age of the pumping equipment and / or height that the pump equipment is lifting at / to therefore the station is not likely to achieve this during a flood event. The temporary pump capacity has been matched to as near as possible that of the station but again the discharge rates will be slightly reduced on the basis of the river levels etc. so it becomes quite complex as capacities can fluctuate.

The Stillingfleet catchment can become overwhelmed depending upon the intensity of the flood event thus amount of water entering the system all at once, this is nothing new as 2007 saw this happen along with 2012 and 2015. It should be kept in mind that the storage areas that are under water at the moment are there for this very reason unfortunately! but this is a temporary situation until after the event has passed through the system - the station could never keep water levels low during an intense event such as we have recently seen and this is the same for other stations alike.

Further towards Riccall the Riccall Dam pumping station catchment has also been overwhelmed by the recent rain and snowmelt. The pumps in that particular station have also been beaten for a time until the peak arrived yesterday and it is the same scenario.”

How many temporary pumps are there versus permanent pumps?

IDB email response:

“There are 3 temporary pumps running alongside 2 permanent pumps at the station.”

What's the plan to replace the temporary pumps?

IDB email response:

“Within the next 10 months “the following structures located at Stillingfleet Pumping Station will be replaced by the Coal Authority:

- Replacement of the current pumps and discharge columns, also replacing of the pumps electrical control panel.
- Replacing both gravity flap valves;
- Improve and as required replace the safety railings systems;
- Replace the control buildings access door to the pumping station;
- Further improvements within the induction channel.”