

## Gully Cleansing Transcript

[Text: Anthea Coxon, Highway Services Manager]

[Video footage: Anthea Coxon standing in front of Gully Cleansing Wagon]

[Anthea Coxon] We're here today with one of our Gully Cleansing teams carrying out routine maintenance.

[Anthea Coxon] Durham County Council have approximately 120,000 gullies to clean and maintain across the County.

[Video footage: Gully Wagon parked up on country road]

[Video footage: Anthea Coxon standing in front of Gully Cleansing Wagon]

[Anthea Coxon] It's important that these gullies are working efficiently as possible to prevent against property flooding ... [Video footage: Workmen cleaning a gully] road closures and [Video footage: Anthea Coxon standing in front of Gully Cleansing Wagon] road traffic accidents as a result of surface water on the highway.

[Video footage: Workman operating a hose to clean a gully]

[Anthea Coxon] Gully Wagon parked up on country road]

[Anthea Coxon] All gullies are cleaned by a two-person operator gully motor a hose is placed into the gully to suck out all the contents [Video footage: Workmen pressing button on side of Gully Cleansing wagon] from the chamber.

[Video footage: workman operating hose in gully]

[Anthea Coxon] The gully outlet is then jetted with high pressure water to ensure any potential blockages are removed. The gully chamber is then filled with water above the level of the outlet [Video footage: Workmen standing at back of Gully Cleansing Wagon] to ensure water is flowing out and to create a water trap.

[Anthea Coxon] The gully cleansing program is planned to be as efficient and effective as possible. Gullies are cleaned on varying frequencies depending on for example, the road priority or previous history of flooding in a specific location. As well as planned cleansing, we also carry out reactive cleanses following reports from our customers... of gullies that are not operating as efficiently as possible.

[Video footage: Anthea Coxon standing in front of Gully Cleansing Wagon]

[Anthea Coxon] Everyone can play their part in reporting flooding on our roads and our footpaths. What we need to know is what the problem is and where it is and that way, we can make sure we can resolve it as quickly as possible. One important thing to bear in mind is that it's normal to see standing water in a gully, that on its own doesn't constitute a blockage, but what does is when you see silt or surface water standing on the top of the gully.

[Pictures: DCC logo]

[Text: To report a problem go to [www.durham.gov.uk/roadandpath](http://www.durham.gov.uk/roadandpath)]