

From [REDACTED]
8 YARROW COURT
DUMFRIES
SCOTLAND
DG2 9HG

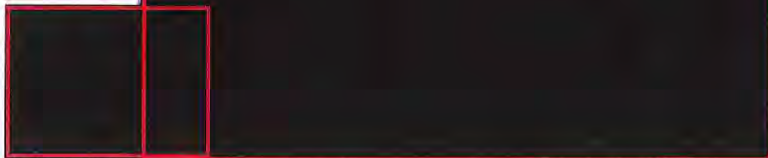
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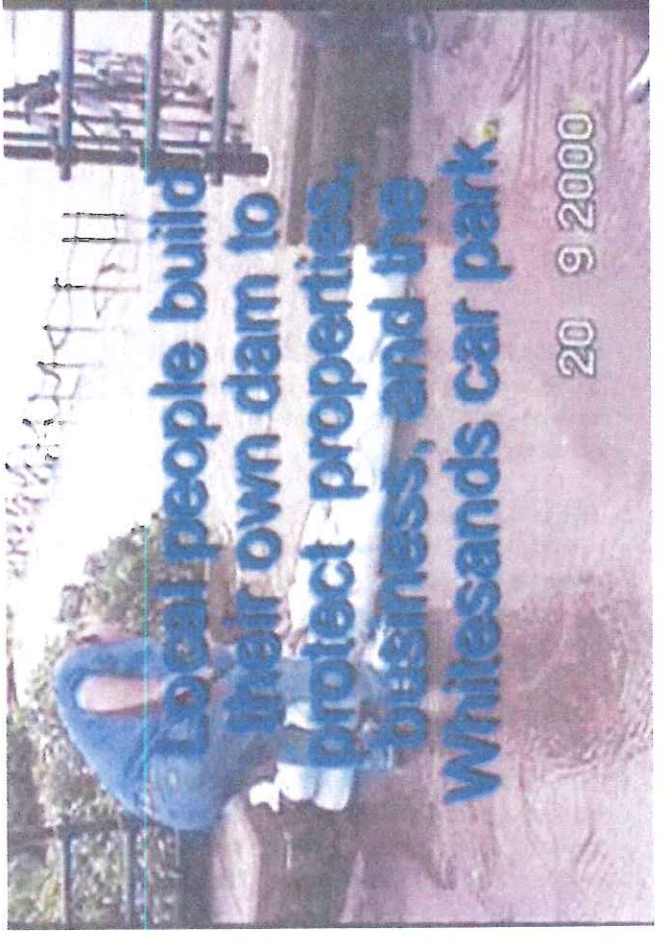
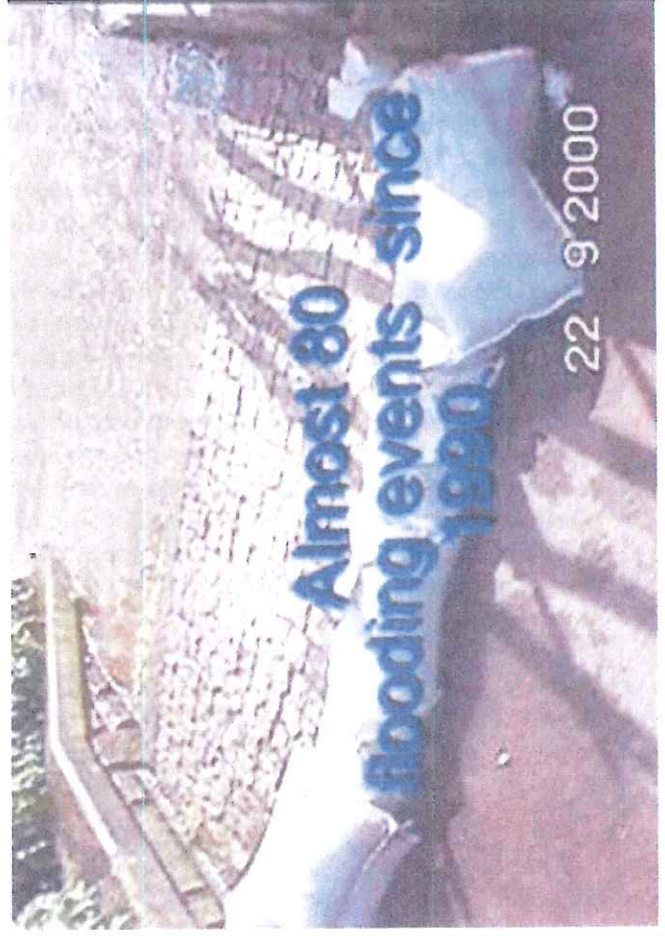
Dear Environment Minister

I would like to make representation about the refusal by the Scottish Environmental protection Agency, SEPA, about their refusal to Dumfries and Galloway council regarding the removal of silt, trees, and various quantities of debris, from the river Nith within the area known as the Whitesands Dumfries Scotland.

Please find photos and film of the river Nith within the area of the Whitesands Dumfries Scotland. I would point out that the Royal society for the protection of birds does not support SEPA on the build up of silt and vegetation that sits within the river Nith above the Caul. This area as you can see by the photos and film has been allowed to build up over many years. I as well as many others put this build up of silt vegetation and debris down to the lack of basic maintenance. I have included a photo taken in 1880, as you can see there is no build up of silt within the area. Another photo taken around 1950 also shows there is no build up of silt. There is now several thousand cubic metres sitting within the river which displaces millions of litres of water during times of flooding. The vast majority of residents within Dumfries want to see our river cleaned up with the eventual taming of the river Nith from its Jekyll and Hyde characteristics. There has been well over 90 flooding events since 1990, every one of them severely disrupts Dumfries town. When flooded It adds vital minutes on to the times of our emergency services from our local hospital. I believe an additional 3 minutes out and five minutes back especially for the residents that live within North West Dumfries. If you were to take a survey tomorrow, you would find that the vast majority of people want to see the river Nith cleaned with the silt being removed. I have also included a photo of a large excavation machine working within the river Cree in Wigtownshire doing work for Scottish water. This was allowed by SEPA, yet when It comes to Dumfries the answer is no. Why is this? That one is allowed to work within one river and another not. I have also sent you photos of the silt that lies below our Iconic Devorgilla and Buccleuch bridges. I have also including a photo of a swan that attempted to nest within this are. As you will see by the photo the weeds and vegetation grew up all round and up through her nest. Eventually she gave up and just walked away leaving her eggs. Yet when the river was clean and free of silt at this point, there were around twenty swans that gathered and swam in this area. Some of these photos were taken during the Burns light celebrations when the first Minister for Scotland MP, MSP, Alex Salmond attended. As you will see the litter was also left for all the residents and visitors to view. Regarding the litter, the litter is in some ways the smaller issue here, but one that SEPA continues to highlight. Dumfries has been allowed to be run down over the years with the river being no exception. Your predecessor MSP and Environment Minister Michael Russell, did his utmost to see the river and town turned around for which I thank him for. I do hope that you continue his good work so that we can all see a river to be proud of. One last point SEPA say there is a great diversity of animal life lives within the silt trees and debris. If you ask the residents about this, you will find that it's certainly not the case. In fact there are a good number of rats that live within the silted area; all you have to do is to ask some of the residents and business people that work there. So I appeal to you on behalf of many to allow our river Nith to be cleaned and be the start of regeneration for our largest town within the Dumfries and Galloway region of Scotland...

Sincerely
David R Slater
David R Slater





LOCATION THE SANDY OPENING FIRST PLACE RIVER FLOODS



WHITESANDS FLOODED



SMT - WINTER PHOTOS





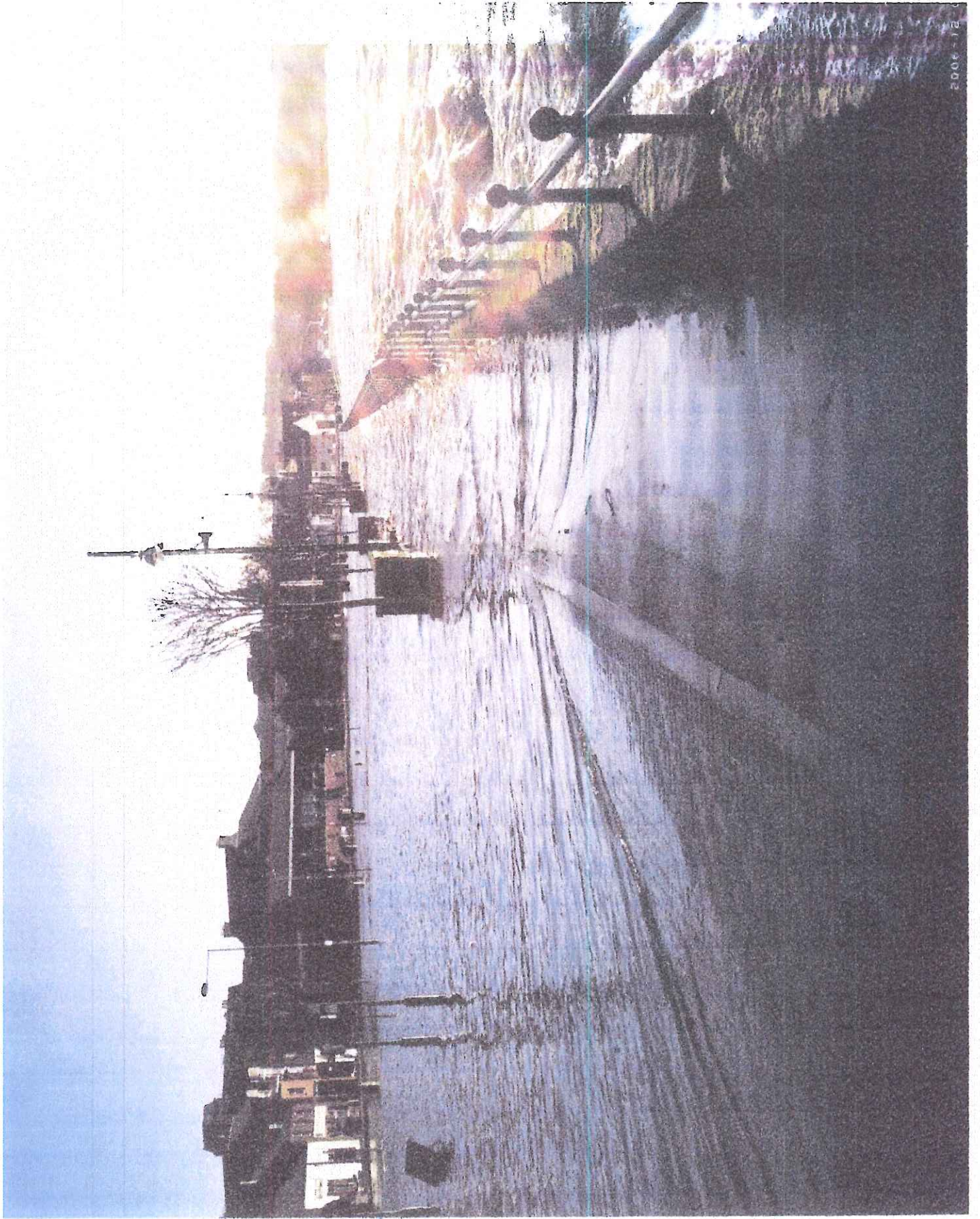
PHOTO
D R STATER



TEMPORARY FLOOD BARRIER
DEMONSTRATION IN CANAL
AFTER GREAT FLOOD.
100 METRES CAN BE LAID IN
45 MINUTES BY FOUR PEOPLE



DIGGER IN RIVER CREEK
WORKING FOR SCOTTISH WATER



2008-1-17

WHITESANDS DUMFRIES
AS YOU CAN SEE THE WATER IS ONLY
INCHES DEEP AT RAINING YET TOWN FLOODED.



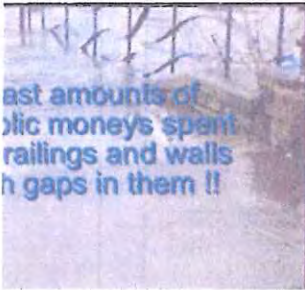
AREA OF SILT IN WINTER
LOCATION DEVBAGINNA BRIDGE



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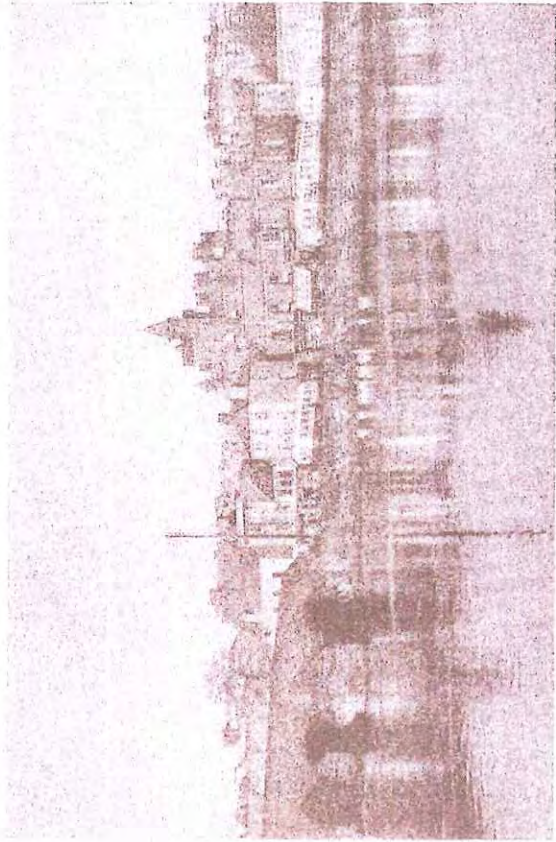
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1950

The River Nidd at Doncliffe, showing the Wildesands and Auld Brig.