February 2024

Whitstable update

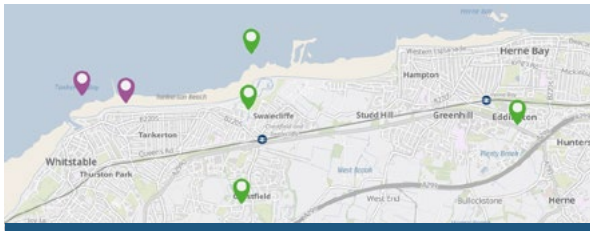
Clean Rivers and Seas Task Force

Clean Rivers and Seas Plan

Our recently published Clean Rivers and Seas Plan shows how we intend to reduce storm overflows across our region.

Unlike the rest of the industry, we're prioritising green solutions over grey, with 79% of our interventions being either nature-based or hybrid. This allows us to future-proof our approach while ensuring a healthy environment for years to come.

The plan will evolve as we learn more from our Pathfinder projects and we'll continue to work closely with our regulators to deliver an ambitious programme.



Scan the code to see our interactive map of local storm overflows and our plan to reduce them, or visit: southernwater.co.uk/water-for-life/clean-rivers-and-seas-plan/map

Planned investment in Whitstable

Diamond Road and Tankerton Circus

The problem

Too much rainwater is getting into the local sewer network, resulting in storm overflows releasing excess water into rivers and seas.

The solution

Sustainable drainage solutions installed in the community and increased and optimised storage capacity.

When will the work start?

2025-2030 (part of this work will be carried out before 2025).

Swalecliffe No1 wastewater treatment works

The problem

Multiple impacts are causing storm overflows in this location.

The solution

Further investigation is required and the solution will involve multiple interventions.

When will the work start?

2025-2030 (part of this work will be carried out before 2025).

Want to know more about our investment in Whitstable?

Visit us at southernwater.co.uk/our-performance/storm-overflows/pathfinder-projects/north-kent-and-the-east

Frequently asked questions

What are you doing in my area?

Water and wastewater companies have invested around £10 billion a year since 2000, maintaining and improving sites, technology and services, improving drinking water quality and the quality of water entering the environment. Here are a few things we're doing:

- Site reconfigurations to hold extra flow and reduce storm overflow releases by up to 30%.
- Working with landowners, local authorities, and the Environment Agency to rectify illegal connections of surface water into the combined sewer.
- Conducting connectivity surveys to find properties with large roofs that have their surface water entering the foul network, and looking at interventions that can remove or slow the flow of this surface water entering the network.
- Working with our partners in Local Authorities to turn Cornwallis Circle into a SuDS Park to increase natural drainage. We'll also be offering free installation of slow-drain water butts to every property in Cornwallis Circle. With these two interventions combined, we'll be able to manage 1.2 hectares of impermeable area.
- Installing raingarden planters in schools to slow the flow of rainwater off roofs and playgrounds, reducing standing water and preventing the sewer system becoming overwhelmed and causing storm overflows.
- Installing slow-drain water butts to slow the flow of rainwater off roofs and into the sewer system. We've installed over 500 so far, managing over 100,000 litres of rainwater.
- Identifying areas where our interventions will be most effective.

Why will reducing overflows take time?

We're currently in the process of discovering which solutions will prevent storm overflows long-term. We're enhancing our knowledge to enable us to deliver at scale in the next Asset Management Period (2025-2030).

Our approach will ensure:

- funding and resources are allocated to solutions that will work
- overall environmental impact is reduced
- wider benefits from delivering green solutions such as increased biodiversity, carbon reduction, higher property and land value
- future costs are avoided by getting the solutions right first time
- communities are brought together to protect water and the environment.