

Yorkshire Water

Supporting Coastal Communities

Scarborough & Whitby Update

5/6/2026

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Yorkshire Water at a glance.



5.5m
customers

2.2m
households

1m
customers living
with illness or
disability

188,000
customers living
in water poverty

140,000
business and
non-household
customers

1.3bn
litres collected,
treated and
returned
every day

53,000km
sewers

32,000km
waterpipes

50
water treatment
works

605
waste water
treatment works

Key:

- Operational boundary water service
- Operational boundary sewerage service
- National Parks



YorkshireWater

A thriving Yorkshire. Right for customers. Right for the environment.



Deliver safe, clean, great tasting water and ensure we can continue to meet water demand in future.



Provide a tailored, reliable service and make sure that we are easy to interact with, in whatever way our customers choose to get in touch.



Deliver value for money to our customers, keep bills as low as possible, and offer the right support to customers who struggle to pay.



Build and operate efficient, climate-resilient infrastructure to provide reliable services for our customers.

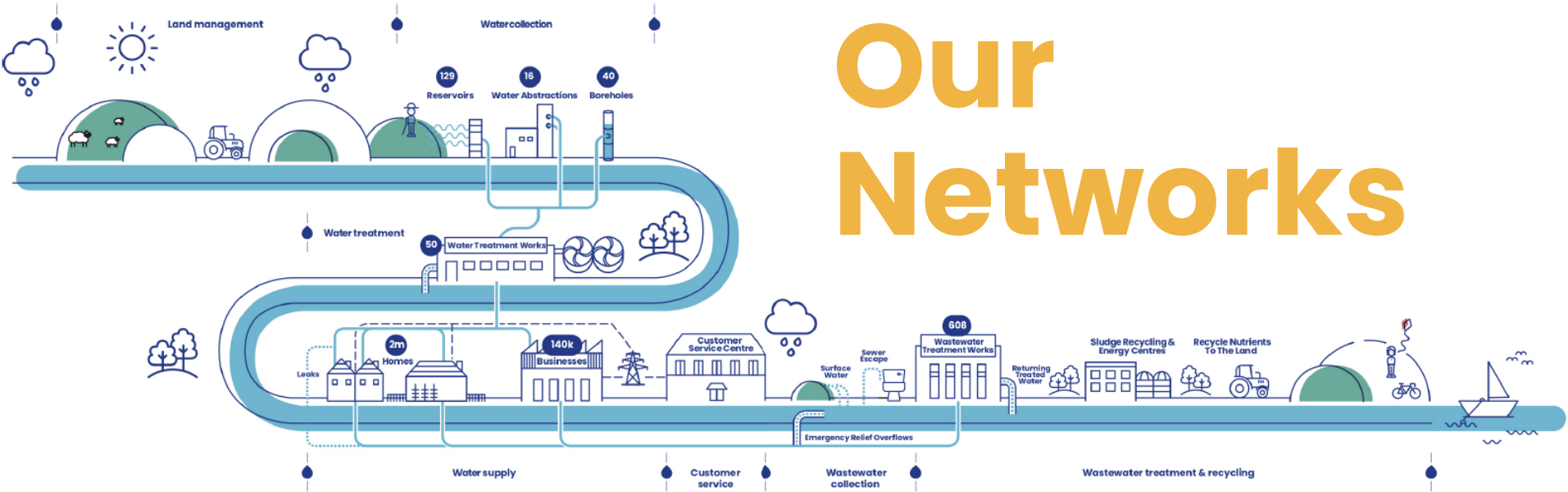


Reduce pollution and sewer flooding, improve river quality, and enhance biodiversity across the region.



Reduce carbon emissions towards net zero across our business and supply chain.





Our Networks

Two connected networks: Clean water supply and wastewater collection working together

Clean water network: Sources, treats, and delivers safe drinking water through 32,000 km of pipes

Wastewater network: Collects used water and sewage through 53,000 km of sewers for treatment

End-to-end process: From abstraction → treatment → distribution → collection → re-treatment → return to environment

Surface water management: Separate sewers carry rainwater away from homes and streets, allowing rainwater to return to rivers naturally, without full treatment

Always operating: Managing around 1.3 billion litres of water every day across Yorkshire



What is a CSO?

A Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) is a pressure relief point within the wastewater network that is designed to manage excess flows during heavy rainfall.

Why CSOs are needed

Yorkshire's sewer system often carries both sewage and rainwater in the same pipes. During storms, this combined flow can exceed network capacity, and CSOs prevent the system from backing up into homes, streets, and businesses.

How CSOs operate

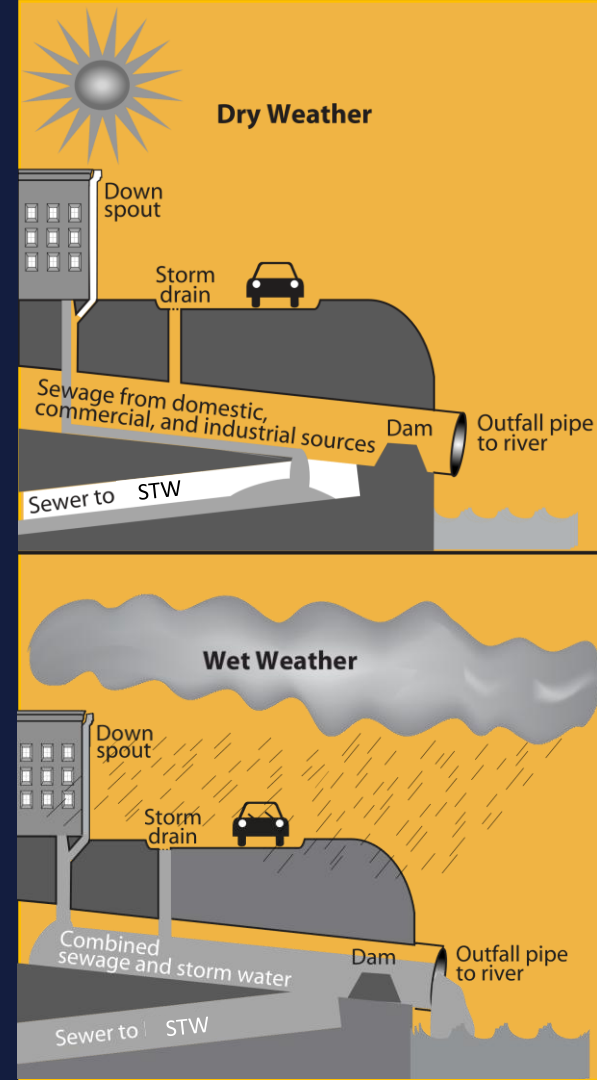
When flows get too high, CSOs automatically release a diluted mix of rainwater and wastewater into nearby watercourses, acting as a controlled safety mechanism within the network.

Environmental trade-off

While essential for protecting properties and public health, CSO discharges can impact rivers and water quality, making them a key area of environmental focus.

Focus for improvement

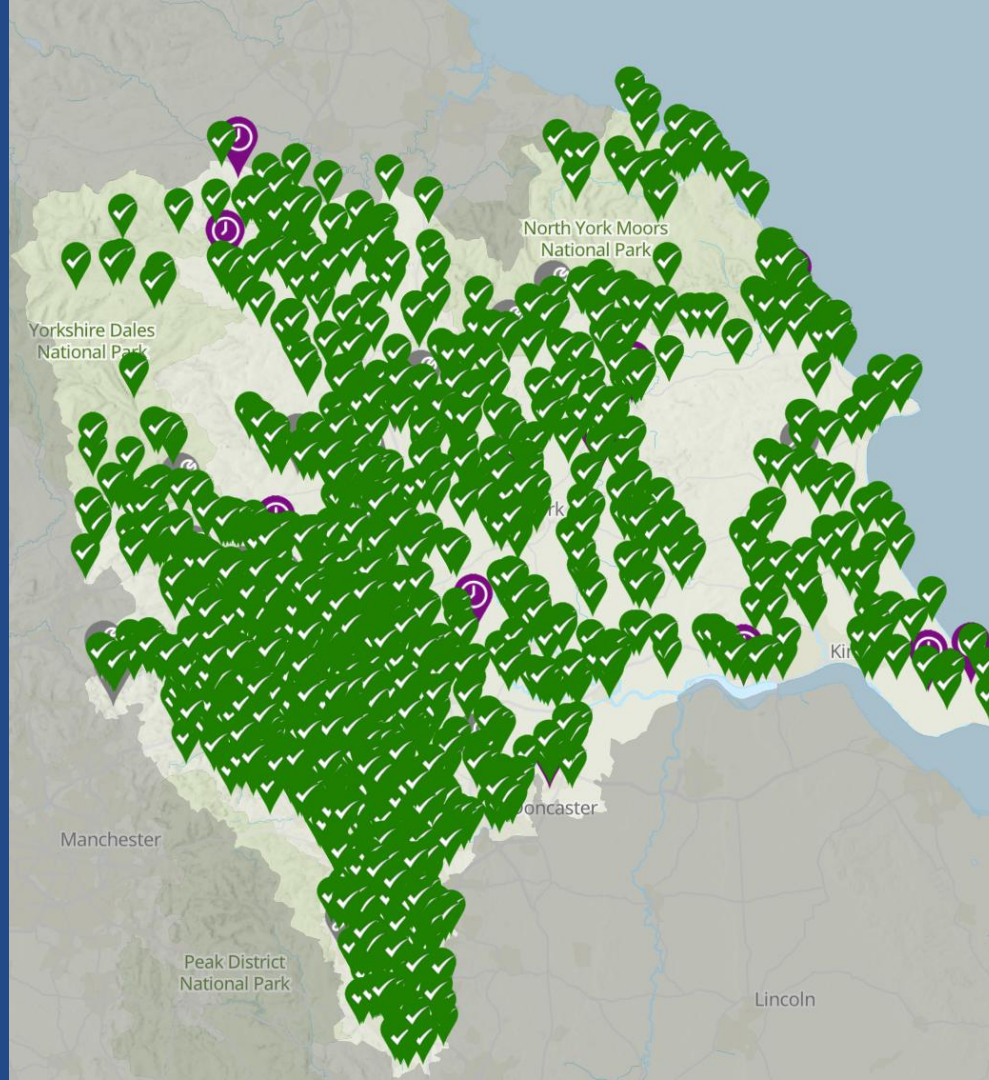
Reducing reliance on CSOs—through surface water separation, network improvements, and investment—is a major priority for Yorkshire Water.



Live storm overflow map

See whether any overflows are currently operating as well as the date, time and duration of the last time it operated.

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/45b567b9b39d4cea64c22c19366d118/page/Page>

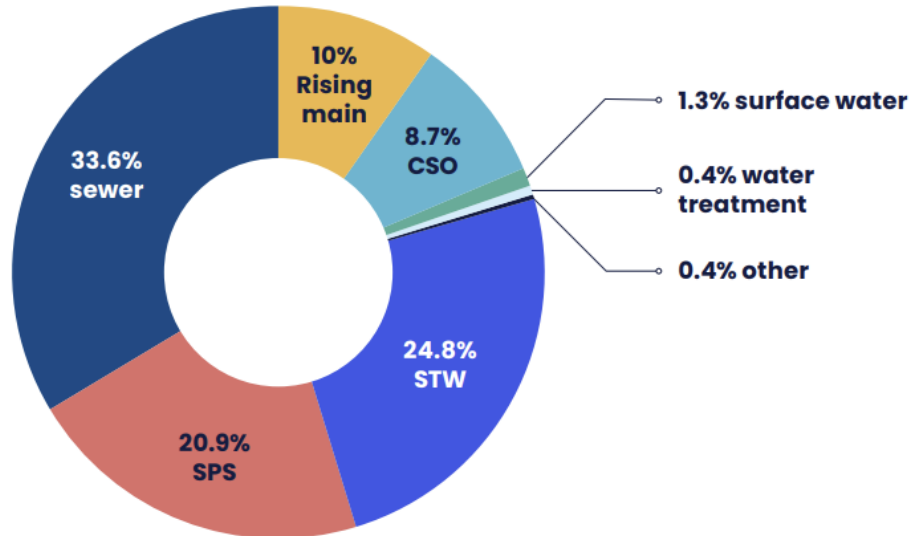


Pollution

- Pollution is when a substance, or effluent in the case of sewage companies, enters a watercourse.
- Pollutions arise from asset failures such as: burst pipes, from the impacts of severe weather such as flooding, or the handling and storage of chemicals used in treatment processes.
- Blockages in the sewer network is one of the main root causes of pollution across the water industry. 70% of all blockages are caused by wet wipes which is why we've called for a ban on plastics in all single-use sanitary items, as well as an end to 'fine to flush' labelling and the introduction of mandatory 'do not flush' warnings on all packaging.

Total incidents breakdown by asset type

2022 to 2024



Protecting Yorkshire's rich and diverse environment is key to everything we do. From supplying our customers with clean water, to treating wastewater and returning it safely back to our rivers and seas. We take our responsibility for protecting the environment seriously and our [Pollution Incident Reduction Plan](#) outlines how we plan to continue to reduce our impact.

How to spot pollution

Signs of a suspected pollution in rivers, water courses or coastal areas could include:



Toilet paper, tissues, wipes, faecal matter, condoms or sanitary products



Cloudy or milky river or stream



Soap suds or foam



Slimy grey sewage fungus



Dead or gasping fish



Sewage odour

To report a suspected pollution incident, please call YW on **0800 138 3484** or the EA incident line on **0800 80 70 60**

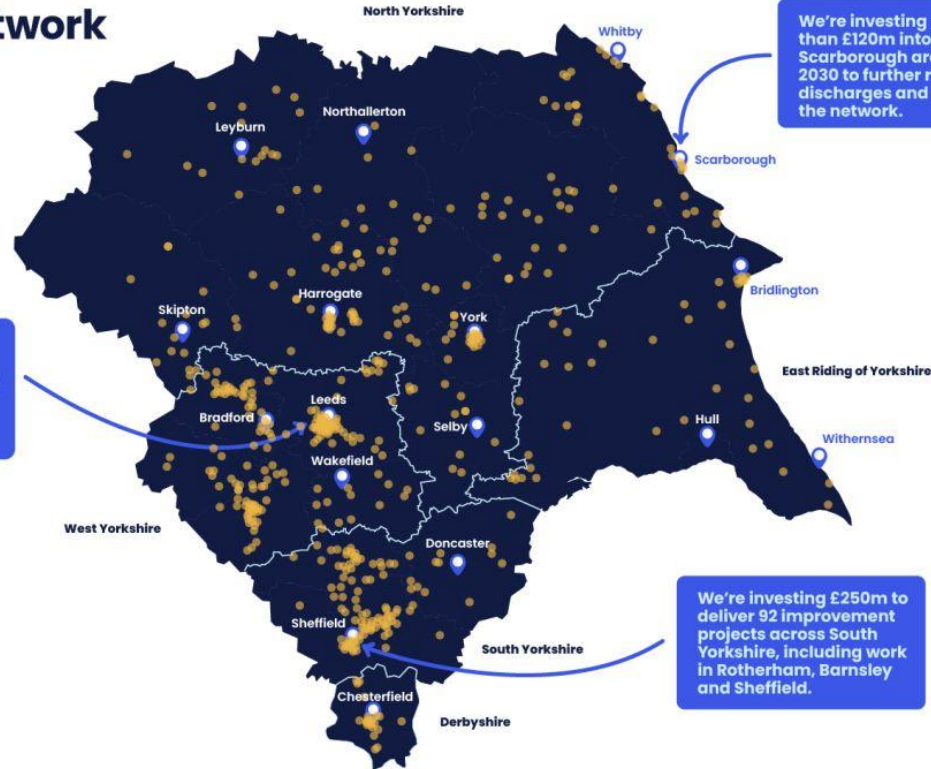


AMP 8 Investment

Yorkshire Water's broader £8.3 billion regional investment programme (2025–2030).

Planned improvements to our wastewater network

The map below shows planned projects between 2025 and 2030, to help improve our region's rivers, waterways and coastal waters.



We have 37 projects in the Leeds area, totalling more than £88.2m investment to reduce discharges into the river Aire and other local watercourses.

We're investing more than £120m into the Scarborough area before 2030 to further reduce discharges and improve the network.

We're investing £250m to deliver 92 improvement projects across South Yorkshire, including work in Rotherham, Barnsley and Sheffield.

Key

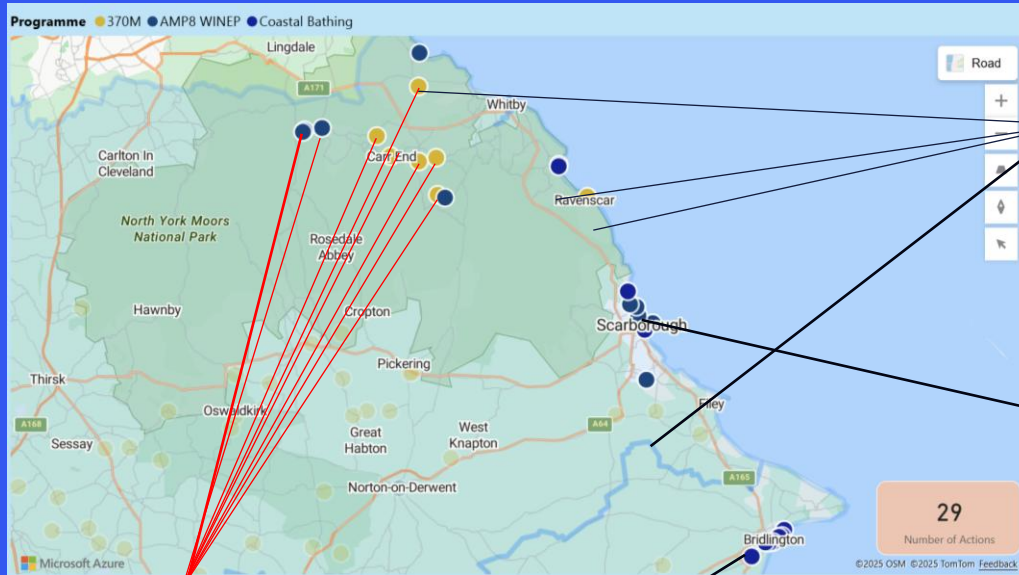
- Town/City
- Individual projects
- Counties

We're working on 485 individual projects between 2025 and 2030 in locations across Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

These projects are part of a £1.5bn programme to reduce discharges from combined sewer overflows and improve health of our region's rivers, waterways and coastal waters.



Coastal Programme



Additional Bathing Water

RUNSWICK BECK/CSO
 ROBIN HOODS BAY LWR/CSO
 NEW ROAD BRIDGE/CSO
 RAVENSCAR/STW
 CARRHOUSE LN CAYTON/2 CSO

Scarborough Programme

AQUARIUM TOP/CSO
 CORNER CAFÉ/NO 2 CSO
 SCALBY MILLS/CSO
 SCARBOROUGH/STW/FFT
 SCARBOROUGH/STW/STORM TREATMENT
 TOLL HOUSE/SPS
 WHITBY ROAD BDG/CSO

North Yorks Moors

MICKLEBY/STW
 ASH GROVE CASTLETON/CSO
 CASTLETON/SPS
 DANBY/STW
 EGTON BRIDGE/STW
 GLAISDALE/STW
 GROSMONT/STW
 GROSMONT/STW
 LEALHOLM/STW
 GOATHLAND GRNWAY/CSO
 GOATHLAND/NO 3 STW

Bridlington Programme

BESSINGBY ROAD/CSO
 BRIDLINGTON/STW_S01453
 HILDERTHORPE ROAD/CSO
 LIMEKILN LANE/NO 2 CSO
 SANDS LANE BRID/CSO
 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE/2 CSO
 ST ANNES ROAD/CSO

Capex £252m



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Bathing Waters

Environment Act 2021 – tighter standards: Introduced new targets to reduce storm overflow discharges and protect public health and the environment

Clear reduction targets: By 2035, overflows near bathing waters must be reduced to an average of 2 per season (coastal) and 1 per season (inland)

Record investment: Yorkshire Water is delivering its largest ever investment (2025–2030) to improve the wastewater network

Targeted improvements: Funding focused on reducing CSO discharges and upgrading treatment works near bathing waters

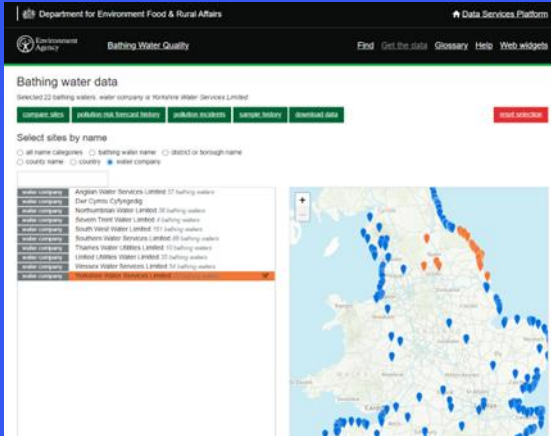
Complex challenge: Bathing water quality is influenced by multiple factors, not just wastewater infrastructure

Partnership approach: Working with regulators, local authorities, and stakeholders through the Yorkshire Bathing Water Partnership to drive improvements together



What is a designated bathing water?

- A designated bathing water is a coastal or inland water body officially identified for recreational bathing—typically where a significant number of people are expected to bathe—and is regularly monitored and classified to ensure water quality and protect public health. In future, this may also mean waterbodies used for water sports. There are over 600 in the UK!
- These bathing waters are sampled weekly by the EA for bacteria, E-Coli and Intestinal Enterococci, during bathing water season (15th May to 30th September) and results are published on the Government website Swimfo, enabling individuals to decide whether to use the water based on bacteria levels.
- There are 18 coastal designated bathing waters, and now 4 inland bathing waters in Yorkshire. (River Swale at Richmond application just approved by DEFRA this week)



Coastal	Inland
Runswick Bay	Ilkley
Sandsend	Wetherby
Whitby	Knaresborough
Robin Hoods Bay	
Scarborough North	
Scarborough South	
Cayton Bay	
Filey	
Reighton	
Flamborough South	
Danes Dyke	
Bridlington North	
Bridlington South	
Wilsthorpe	
Fraisthorpe	
Skipsea	
Hornsea	
Withernsea	

Bathing Water Directive

- The Bathing Water Directive sets out the requirements for:
 - Monitoring and classifying bathing water quality
 - Managing bathing water quality
 - Providing information to the public on bathing water quality
- Under the Directive, bathing waters are classified annually into the following categories: Poor (advice against bathing), Sufficient, Good, and Excellent.
- Classifications are made using the previous four years of data. For example, the 2025 classification is based on data from 2022 onwards.
- Several beaches in Yorkshire have a Pollution Risk Forecasting (PRF) system in place, where EA having a proven model considering temperature, wind direction and tidal patterns that can reduce bathing water quality. (We have 7 beaches in Yorkshire with PRF).
- Samples taken when a Pollution Risk Forecast or abnormal situation is raised are eligible for discounting when reviewed at the EA compliance panel where supporting evidence is sufficient, but it is at the agency's discretion.
- All samples are uploaded to SWIMFO



Factors Influencing BWQ



How are you bathing waters performing

	AMP 7 Yr5 (*EA)	Yr1 (EA)
Bathing Water	24/25 Actual	25/26 Actual
Cayton Bay	Excellent	Excellent
Filey	Good	Good
Reighton	Excellent	Good
Robin Hoods Bay	Sufficient	Sufficient
Runswick Bay	Good	Good
Sandsend	Excellent	Excellent
Scarborough North Bay	Sufficient	Sufficient
Scarborough South Bay	Poor	Poor
Whitby	Excellent	Excellent

Local Investment in Scarborough & Whitby

We're committed to improving river health and bathing water quality through significant investments.

Overall:

- Major investment to improve storm overflows: £1.5 billion programme to reduce CSO use
- Upgrading treatment works: £350 million invested across 85 sites to lower phosphorus levels
- Enhanced monitoring: £23 million to improve wastewater network intelligence and performance tracking

Scarborough & Whitby:

- Targeting bathing waters: Significant funding focused on key sites including Ilkley, Scarborough, and Bridlington
- Local focus – Scarborough: Around £120 million investment (AMP8) to reduce spills and improve bathing water quality
- Wider regional impact: Over £238.5 million invested across Scarborough & Whitby (2025–2030), covering 54 projects
- Seagrown Innovation Trial
- Esplanade CSO: investment undertaken in AMP7



Infrastructure Investment in AMP8 in Scarborough

- In 2023 we completed a £2.4m scheme to increase storage at Wheatcroft to reduce discharges to 2 per season.
- In 2025-2030 we are investing up to £150m in Scarborough which will include upgrading our Sewage Treatment Works.
- Consultation will be phased so we can keep you up to date and include you in our design at every stage
- We can feed this back to in a way, and of a frequency that is preferable to you



Our current assets for investment.

Manage Rainwater

Primrose Drive, Hull

What is it?

A combination of ways to stop excess rainwater overwhelming our networks. Things like rain gardens that collect highway run-off or nature based drainage systems such as planters, water-butts or large green spaces re-profiled for rain water storage and release.

What do you need to know about it?

- Natural approach to drainage
- Doesn't involve major building work
- Will improve the look of the town
- Based in the town
- Enhances biodiversity and habitats
- Great way to get community involvement

How we're using it already...

Our Living With Water initiative uses sustainable drainage systems, such as absorbent surfaces or rain gardens, to manage rainwater in a more natural way.

Rather than letting the water run straight into drains, these methods store water, let it soak into the ground, or reuse it. This reduces the risk of flooding and eases pressure on combined sewers during heavy rainfall.



Increase water treatment capacity

Withernsea

What is it?

Expanding and upgrading Scarborough's existing treatment works.

What do you need to know about it?

- Environmentally friendly
- Natural treatment
- Proven technology
- Developed away from the town
- Cheaper to operate

How we're using it already...

In Withernsea, we're using an environmentally friendly wastewater treatment process called Aero-Fac®.

It works through large, open treatment ponds where natural biological processes clean the water, instead of relying on mechanical equipment that uses lots of energy. The new treatment works was built inland to replace an older coastal site and is designed to cope with the seasonal population changes caused by tourism.

It can automatically adjust to higher flows during busy periods, without the need for additional storm tanks or extra chemicals. It's also quieter than traditional treatment processes and causes much lower carbon emissions – as well as producing no sludge and very little smell.



Create tunnels

Ilkley

What is it?

A tunnel, or series of tunnels, used to quickly remove and store surface water underground.

What do you need to know about it?

- Removes and stores wastewater
- Buried below ground
- Connects to existing wastewater network
- Not too disruptive to build

How we're using it already...

In Ilkley, we've installed new sewer tunnels beneath the town using specialist tunnelling techniques that minimise disruption at the surface. These tunnels help capture the extra water that falls during heavy rain, reducing the need for storm overflows into the River Wharfe.

When the rain stops, we transfer the wastewater stored in the tunnels to the treatment works. By building underground, this approach avoids taking up valuable land, protects town centres, and keeps important roads and public spaces open during construction.



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Build storage tanks

Ilkley

What is it?

A large tank, or series of tanks, that store excess water during heavy rainfall.

What do you need to know about it?

- Stores wastewater for treatment and removal
- Buried underground
- Connects to existing wastewater network
- Built in the town
- Needs a bit of space

How we're using it already...

All over Yorkshire, we're investing in storm-water storage tanks, helping to prevent flooding and reduce the need for storm overflows into rivers and other waterways.

As climate change makes our weather more unpredictable, these tanks are a big help for the wastewater network. When rainfall levels rise, wastewater is stored temporarily in the tanks. Then, when the levels go back to normal, the water is gradually released into the system and sent for full treatment.

By increasing storage capacity below ground, these schemes help protect homes, communities and the environment, while taking up very little space on the surface.



Consultation update

Phase one Consultation

28th April – 30th June

Various stakeholder meetings planned and evening events being booked:

Hospitality Assoc 11th June

The Library 11th June 4pm-7pm

The Street 15th June 4pm-7pm

Online consultation until 30th June

6 x Public consultations events in Scarborough Library

Big Ideas by the Sea

Sea Life Centre

Commonplace digital platform

Total **3871 customers** have been to our stands

959 customers actively sharing their views with us



Have your say...

Yorkshire Water is running public consultation sessions in Scarborough to shape how the £120m investment is delivered.

Engagement includes:

- Drop-in sessions started at Scarborough Library, actively looking for more sites
- Online consultation platforms
- Letters to ~30,000 customers



Scan this QR code to have your say or leave any feedback here...

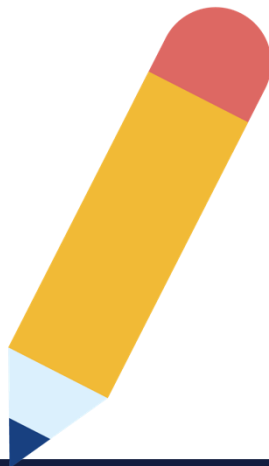
Doing right by Scarborough

YorkshireWater

Use the QR code to have your say on what you want the future of Scarborough to look like.

Key Takeaways

The main points we'd like you to leave with today.



Water quality is shaped by a complex system, not a single source

Whole catchment approach



Reducing storm overflows is a clear priority

Reducing how often and how long they operate



We're delivering major investment, but partnership is key

Over £238.5 million invested across Scarborough & Whitby



YorkshireWater

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Report a Pollution Incident

[0800 138 3484](tel:08001383484)