

Our 2023/24 River Health Report

Take a look at how we're doing
against our commitments

April 2024



YorkshireWater

Introduction

How are we doing against our commitments?

Yorkshire is a place we're proud to call home and it's a home we not only want to take good care of, but make even better, especially its rivers and coastlines, so that the people of Yorkshire can continue to enjoy them

We're on with our largest ever environmental investment programme that will see us cement river health at the top of our agenda to make sure we're doing the right things for the water environment to help it thrive for years to come.

We know the issues facing our rivers and coast are complex and that's why we continue to deliver a range of solutions for rural, urban and coastal environments. Our plan will continue to grow, and we have proposed an even larger programme for regulators to get behind at the next investment period (2025 – 2030).

Overall, this plan is progressing well but ultimately we need to continue to do more, to ensure it is right for customers and right for the environment.

What does this plan show?

This document illustrates how we are doing against the key commitments we have made to improve river health in Yorkshire. The summary details are included on the next few pages categorised into key themes:

- Improving river water quality
- Creating SMART networks to protect rivers
- Creating places for customers to enjoy and wildlife to thrive
- Working in partnership with others to look after rivers
- Storm overflow investment
- Other performance commitments

There is more information on all the different themes listed above on our website just visit:
www.yorkshirewater.com/environment/river-health/

Performance against our commitments

River Health Commitments

Theme	Commitment	Delivered by	Action summary	On track
Improving river water quality	Improving 741km of rivers	31/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of 93 schemes to improve river length in AMP7 • In 2023/24 we've delivered a total river length of 117.9km vs target of 69.7km • By end of Year 5 (24/25) we are forecasting 710.7km of river length improved against a target of 741.7km • The shortfall of 31km is due to several technically infeasible projects and a large project at Pudsey Beck which will be delivered by a Nature Based Solution, but will not be delivered within AMP7 • We are working with Rivers Trusts and similar organisations to deliver alternative projects to bring us back to the target value 	Off Track – Recovery plan in place
	Reducing phosphorus in rivers by 56%	31/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of 85 projects to install Phosphorus removal technology at Wastewater Treatment Works. • 4 Delivered to date, remainder on track for delivery within AMP7 period (by end 24/25) 	On track

River Health Commitments

Theme 3	Commitment	Delivered by	Action summary	On track
Creating SMART network to protect rivers	Rising main investment	31/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £13m spent to date in AMP7 on rising main improvement 125 Syrinix pressure monitors to be installed, a further 28 to be installed this year 	On track
	Piloting a smart sewer network in Ilkley	08/08./23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 140 sensors have been installed in the gravity sewer network in Ilkley allowing us to monitor the network from customer properties through to the treatment works. We also installed 21 water quality monitors upstream and downstream of all the CSO & STW outfalls in the Ilkley & Ben Rhydding catchments in line with the requirement in the environment act. Ongoing deployment of smart and leaky water butts designed to control / slow the flow of surface water entering the combined sewer network and should ultimately reduce the number of spills from our CSO's. 	Complete
	100% EDM by the end of 2023	31/12/2023	100% of installations completed.	Complete
	Real time reporting of EDM data	31/12/2023	Real time reporting of all storm overflow EDM data (Bathing Water and inland watercourses) now live.	Complete

River Health Commitments

Themes	Commitment	Delivered by	Action summary	On track
Creating places for customers to enjoy and wildlife to thrive	Improving 25km of bathing water in Ilkley	30/06/2023 31/10/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upstream disinfection equipment at 3x WwTW (Beamsley, Draughton, Grassington) has now been installed. Increased sewer capacity in Ilkley has now been completed. 	Complete
	Improving screening at Rivadale CSO	11/02/2022	Enhanced 6mm 2D screening installed	Complete
	Investing £6million into fish passes	31/03/2025	5 fish pass schemes have now been completed. 1 additional scheme is on track to complete in 24/25. Several schemes were removed due to technical infeasibility, but alternative schemes are being considered. We are forecasting to deliver more than the initial 6 planned, across 5 different rivers.	On track
	Supporting others with £1.5 million to enable more fish passes	31/02/2025	<p>Having already successfully completed the DNAire partnership project, we are continuing to work with partners on the Rivers Aire, Don, Calder and Colne to improve river connectivity by identifying priority weirs for modification or removal.</p> <p>The outcomes of this programme, including number of fish passes (5 completed, 3 on target) and community engagement/wider outcomes have been achieved.</p>	On track

River Health Commitments

Themes	Commitment	Delivered by	Action summary	On track
Working in partnerships with others to look after rivers	Sponsoring 5 catchment officers		We continue to work closely with the 5 Catchment Partnership officers. They have now helped facilitate over 2400 hours of volunteer input, surveyed over 80 km of river to identify issues for mitigation, and helped deliver over 140 ha of catchment habitat improvements.	On-going
	Unlocking £1million in match funding for improving river monitoring and river health with our river partners		In addition to securing £1.5m in 2022, over the last financial year we have helped facilitate over £1.1m of additional external funding from public and private sources.	On-going

River Health Commitments

Theme	Commitment	Delivered by	Action summary	On track
Storm overflow investment	Investing £137 million to improve and monitor all storm overflows	31/03/2025	Installation of monitoring is ongoing at our outfalls. Increased storm tank capacity investment is taking place to reduce the impact of storm overflows e.g. storage, capacity and outfall relocations. We are pursuing nature based solutions as much as possible, which may extend the timescale for some schemes.	On Track
	£180million reduction in spills from 2021	31/03/2025	Reducing storm overflow spills by 20% through a mixture of storage, SUD and SW removal schemes. 151 sites are being investigated with solutions being implemented to reduce the number of spills. More information is here - https://www.yorkshirewater.com/environment/river-health/storm-overflow-investment/	On Track
Other commitments	Pollution Incident Reduction Plan	31/12/2025	Last year saw a slight decline in pollution incident reduction performance, we are working hard to rectify this by continuing to deliver upon the commitments in our Pollution Incident Reduction plan.	Off Track
	Permit discharge compliance at WWTW	31/12/2025	Improve resilience of WwTW treatment processes to prevent continuous discharge failure. 99.7% compliance achieved in 2023.	On Track
	100% compliance with FFT at WWTW	31/12/2022	Improve resilience of WwTW to ensure the continued adherence FFT requirements. On average our WwTW treat 145% of their FFT consent.	Complete

Long-term plans and commitments

Looking further ahead

We've made good progress with our plans, but we know there is more to do in the coming months and years.

Here's a few of the things you can expect to see from us

- By 2025 we will achieve a 20% reduction in spills from storm overflows
- By 2025 56% of phosphorous will have been removed from rivers
- Over 700 kms of rivers will have been improved by 2025 through our WINEP programme

As we head into our next five-year business plan period doing right for the environment will be at the core of our plans. We'll be focussing on tackling the large number of storm overflows we have in Yorkshire, prioritising our investment on the most sensitive ones that contribute to poor ecological health or impact upon bathing waters. We'll also be focusing on our key environmental targets and commitments to make sure we're playing our part in looking after the rivers in Yorkshire.

