

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20260708 – EIR – Data Supplied

Date: 08 July 2026 17:20:00

Attachments: image001.png

Reference Number: **EIR**

Dear

I refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 15 June for information regarding:

"I have read Yorkshire Water's Nature First Commitment, which states that the nature-based solutions are your preferred way of delivering services and highlights the use of catchment solutions, sustainable drainage (SuDS), wetlands and landscape-scale approaches to reduce storm overflows, flooding and improve environmental outcomes for customers and the environment.

In light of this commitment, please provide any information that explains:

- 1. How the proposed Rivelin CSO scheme has been assessed against Yorkshire Water's Nature First Commitment and how the preferred solution is consistent with that policy.*
- 2. What nature-based, catchment-based or source-control alternatives were considered for reducing storm overflow operational at Rivelin, and the reasons these were not taken forward if they were discounted.*

3. *How the scheme is expected to affect biodiversity, habitats and ecological value at the site.*
4. *Whether Yorkshire Water has undertaken any Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment, biodiversity metric assessment, or equivalent evaluation of ecological enhancement for the scheme. I appreciate that statutory BNG requirements may be apply where works proceed under permitted development rights. However, given Yorkshire Water's published Nature First Commitment, I would be interested in understanding how the scheme is expected to deliver a net improvement in biodiversity and habitat value compared with the site's existing ecological baseline.*
5. *How and why investment at the Rivelin CSO was prioritised, particularly as the overflow does not appear to be shown on the Water UK Storm Overflows Plan mapping shown on this link <https://www.water.org.uk/overflows-plan>*
6. *Additionally, please explain how the proposed pumped tank solution is expected to perform under future climate change scenarios over its design life, including how climate resilience has been assessed in terms of rainfall and hydraulic uplift allowances. In particular, please confirm whether the scheme has been appraised or stress-tested using UK climate change allowances (including sensitivity testing to higher-end scenarios), and whether this approach is consistent with methodologies commonly applied in FCERM appraisal and design guidance. If such assessments have been undertaken, please provide the key assumptions and outputs."*

Please find attached the data which you have requested.

1. How the proposed Rivelin CSO scheme has been assessed against Yorkshire Water's Nature First Commitment and how the preferred solution is consistent with that policy.

The Alliance is committed to delivering at least 20% of solutions across the overall programme through interventions that wholly or partially incorporate Blue-Green infrastructure principles. In addition, the programme seeks to contribute towards the disconnection or attenuation of 58.8 hectares of impermeable area within the combined sewer network, forming part of the overall commitment to achieve 66 hectares across the wider programme. This target aligns with the ambitions publicly set out by Yorkshire Water within its Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) and PR24 Business Plan submission. Blue-Green infrastructure encompasses measures designed to more closely replicate the natural water cycle by managing and attenuating surface water flows. Impermeable area disconnection refers either to land that is no longer directly connected to the combined sewer network or to an equivalent calculated impermeable area benefit achieved through land drainage disconnection and flow reduction measures.

2. What nature-based, catchment-based or source-control alternatives were considered for reducing storm overflow operational at Rivelin, and the reasons these were not taken forward if they were discounted.

The catchment upstream of Rivelin Valley 3 CSO is predominantly served by a combined sewer network, with a number of smaller areas draining surface water only. This was identified as a potential opportunity to reduce flows to the foul network through the separation of surface water runoff. However, a key constraint was the limited availability of suitable surface water receptors to accommodate redirected flows.

During the development of the options, the project team encountered several challenges, including unforeseen complexities associated with the

identification and investigation of a culverted watercourse. Progress was also impacted by difficulties in securing access to privately owned land required for surveys and further investigations.

Opportunities to remove areas of highway drainage from the sewer network were explored collaboratively with Sheffield City Council. While constructive discussions took place, these opportunities were ultimately not progressed due to differing programme priorities and timescales across the organisations.

3. How the scheme is expected to affect biodiversity, habitats and ecological value at the site.

This scheme has been designed to address storm over flow improvements and its drivers are EnvAct_IMP4 (Improvements to reduce storm overflows spills to an average of 10 rainfall events per year by 31/03/2028) and EnvAct_IMP5 (Improvements to reduce storm overflow aesthetic impacts by installation of screens by 31/03/2028).

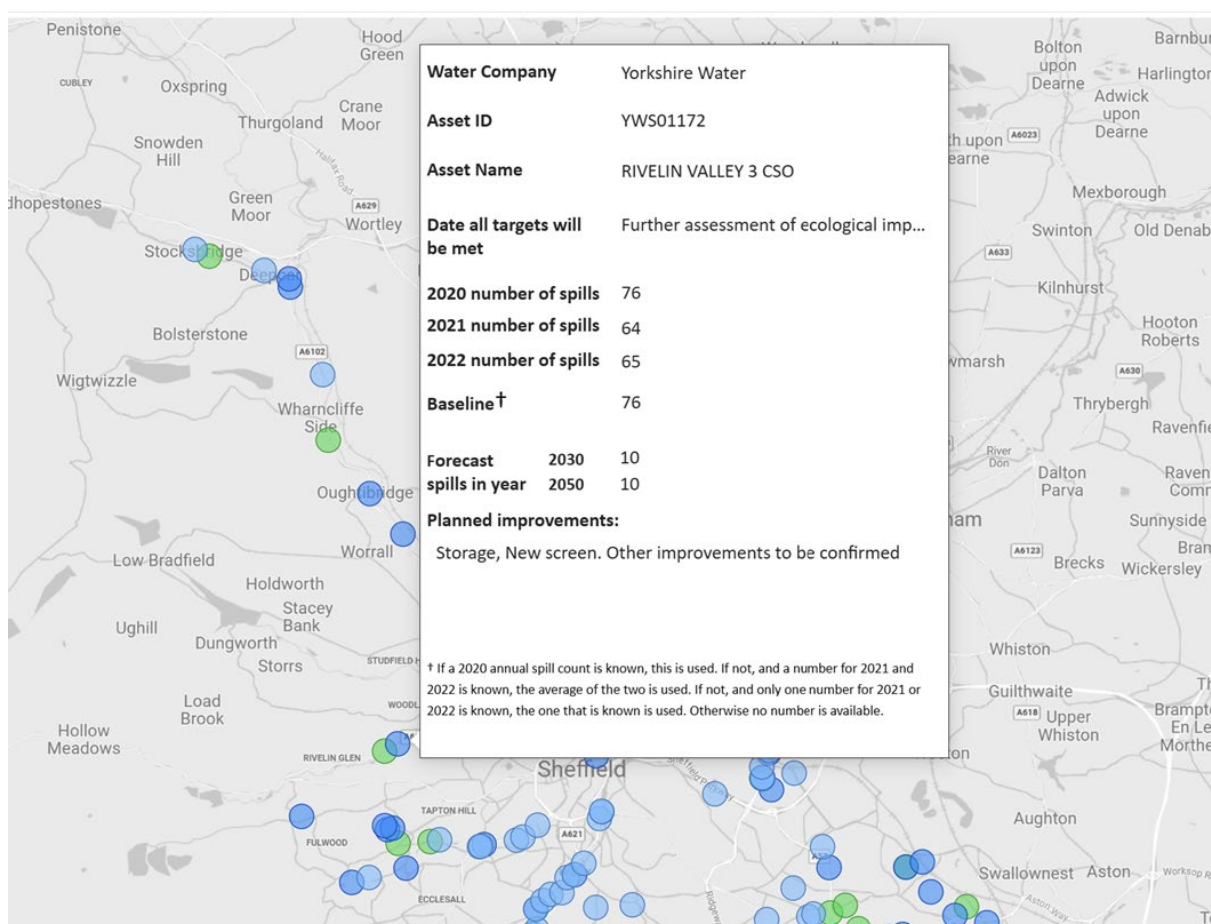
4. Whether Yorkshire Water has undertaken any Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment, biodiversity metric assessment, or equivalent evaluation of ecological enhancement for the scheme. I appreciate that statutory BNG requirements may be apply where works proceed under permitted development rights. However, given Yorkshire Water's published Nature First Commitment, I would be interested in understanding how the scheme is expected to deliver a net improvement in biodiversity and habitat value compared with the site's existing ecological baseline.

Ecological desk top studies and PEA (preliminary ecological surveys) are conducted for all Alliance schemes however BNG assessment is not required as this scheme is being built under permitted development rights.

5. How and why investment at the Rivelin CSO was prioritised, particularly as the overflow does not appear to be shown on the Water UK Storm Overflows Plan mapping shown on this link

<https://www.water.org.uk/overflows-plan>

Rivelin Valley 3 CSO is shown on the Water UK Storm Overflows Plan, reference YWS01172. The overflow is included within the AMP8 plan as it is a priority site and has a SOAF (storm overflow assessment framework) driver under the WFD (water framework directive). Link to the SOAF can be found here; [Storm overflow assessment framework 2025 – GOV.UK](#)



6. Additionally, please explain how the proposed pumped tank solution is expected to perform under future climate change scenarios over its design life, including how climate resilience has

been assessed in terms of rainfall and hydraulic uplift allowances. In particular, please confirm whether the scheme has been appraised or stress-tested using UK climate change allowances (including sensitivity testing to higher-end scenarios), and whether this approach is consistent with methodologies commonly applied in FCERM appraisal and design guidance. If such assessments have been undertaken, please provide the key assumptions and outputs.

The storm overflow interventions are based on the requirements of the Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan, which originated from the Environment Act. The tank solution has been designed to meet the requirements by 2050. To enable us to do this, our designs take into account the future growth, creep and climate change predictions based on UKCP18. Our spill frequency design and impacts are assessed on climate perturbed rainfall based on UK Water Industry Research's RED-UP (version 3) project.

Our designs consider the impact of causing potential detriment, be that impact on flood risk within the network, top water levels within the network and a negative impact on any other combined sewer overflow. This scheme has been designed to address storm over flow improvements and its drivers are EnvAct_IMP4 (Improvements to reduce storm overflows spills to an average of 10 rainfall events per year by 31/03/2028) and EnvAct_IMP5 (Improvements to reduce storm overflow aesthetic impacts by installation of screens by 31/03/2028). Although the driver for this project is not flood alleviation, sewer flooding is expected to be alleviated by the proposed solution on Rivelin Valley Road.

I trust that the provision of this data satisfies your request. In accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, if you are not satisfied with this reply to your request you can ask for an internal

review. A request for an internal review must be submitted within 40 working days by contacting the Data Protection Team.

Thank you for contacting Yorkshire Water.

Yours sincerely,

Data Protection Team

Email: EIR@Yorkshirewater.co.uk