

River Health Plan

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

April 2023



Introduction

How are we doing against our commitments??

Yorkshire is a place we're proud to call home, it's one we want to take good care of, make it 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.

There isn't just one thing needed, that is why we continue to deliver a range of solutions for rural, urban and coastal environments. Our plan will continue to grow and we will be wanting to propose an even larger plan 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



YorkshireWater

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 2022/23 we've delivered a total river length of 53.68km vs target of 47.3km• By end of Year 4 (23/24) we are forecasting 119.4km of river length improved against a target of 69.7km.• Our overall forecast by 2025 is 765.27km or river length improved vs a target of 741.67km. Vast majority of length delivered in final year.	
	Reducing phosphorus in rivers by 56%		<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 Dec 2024 regulatory dates	

River Health Commitments

Theme	Commitment	Delivered by	Action summary	On track
Creating SMART network to protect rivers	Rising main investment	31/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £9.2m spent to date in AMP7 on rising main improvement Air valve inspection programme 125 Syrinix pressure monitors to be installed 	
	Piloting a smart sewer network in Ilkley	08/08./23	<p>Installed 140 sensors in the gravity sewer network in Ilkley to be done in April 2023 allowing us to monitor the network from customer properties through to the treatment works.</p> <p>Completed the install of 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..</p> <p>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. These will be deployed from summer 2023 and there performance measured by the sewer network monitors and level monitoring built into the water butts themselves.</p>	On track
	100% EDM by the end of 2023	31/12/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of EDM devices at 17 CSOs 	
	Real time reporting of EDM data	31/12/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real time reporting of all storm overflow EDM data (Bathing Water and inland watercourses) 	

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 at 3x WwTW (Beamsley, Draughton, Grassington)Increased sewer capacity in Ilkley	
	Improving screening at Rivadale CSO	11/02/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced 6mm 2D screening installed	Complete
	Investing £6million into fish passes	31/03/2025	We will improve fish passage at 7 sites on 6 rivers	On track
	Supporting others with £1.5 million to enable more fish passes	31/02/2025	Working with partners to build resilience in river catchments by improving river connectivity. DNAire partnership project completed with four fish passes on key barriers on the River Aire and large programme of community engagement	On track
Working in partnerships with others to look after rivers	Sponsoring 5 catchment officers		5 roles are in post covering agriculture, fisheries and general catchment issues.	On-going
	Unlocking £1million in match funding for improving river monitoring and river health with our river partners		We've secured £1.5million match funding for CABA and ERDF projects working with the Freshwater Biological Association (FBA) the NYMNP, the Environment Agency, and the National Park	

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 Increased storm tank capacity Investment to reduce the impact of storm overflows e.g. storage, capacity, relocations Investigations into frequently operating overflows	
	£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	
Other commitments	Pollution Incident Reduction Plan	31/12/2025	19% reduction in pollution incidents in 2022 (Link to PIRP on website)	
	Permit discharge compliance at WWTW	31/12/2025	Improve resilience of WwTW treatment processes to prevent continuous discharge failure. 99.7% compliance achieved in 2022.	
	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 the coming months and years.

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

- By the end of the 2023, us, along with other water companies have committed to 100% of our event duration monitoring (EDM) data being available for people to access on our website in real time;
- By 2025 we will have 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. Whilst also focusing on our key environmental targets and commitments to make sure we're playing our part in looking after the rivers in Yorkshire.

