

Storm Overflows

Two water company strategies

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Storm Overflows – Two Water Company Strategies

Introduction

Severn Trent is one of the largest of the 11 regulated water and sewerage companies in England and Wales. Our wastewater networks serve nearly 9.3 million people and every year our 92,500km of sewer pipes collect over 3.1 billion litres of wastewater per day which is then treated by 957 wastewater treatment works before being safely returned to the environment. Severn Trent sits wholly within England.

Hafren Dyfrdwy is the smallest of the 11 regulated water and sewerage companies in England and Wales. Our wastewater networks serve around 40,000 people, with around 500km of sewer pipes connecting to 50 wastewater treatment works catchments before being safely returned to the environment. The majority of our catchments serve small rural communities and villages, with 44% of the population we serve being in our two largest catchments of Newtown and Welshpool. Hafren Dyfrdwy sits wholly with Wales.

Both companies take their responsibility seriously to ensure that our wastewater assets continue to safely take away the water we flush down the sewers and can cope with the rainwater that falls on our roofs and streets. Over decades we have developed tools to understand the risks and improvements needed to ensure our assets can cope with the challenges in the future.

Our River Pledges

While each company has different country frameworks and legislations to be taken into consideration the same internal ambitions exists to reduce the impact to our customers from flood risk and to ensure our assets cause no harm to the environment. Both companies have their own River Pledges that collate all of their short term pledges to improve the local rivers and our interaction with other stakeholders.

Our pledges		
1. No harm to rivers from our operations	2. Bathing quality rivers	3. New deal for farmers
	4. New habitats for wildlife	5. Transparent reporting on progress

Our future improvement plans

For both companies the future storm overflow improvements are embedded in our drainage and wastewater management plans with the 2025 – 2030 investment plans being outlined in our PR24 proposals that have recently been published.

Below are the links to the two companies published DWMPs which outline more information on how the fuller waste system plan has been put in place. This includes an addendum to show alignment between the publish DWMPs in March 2023 and the PR24 publication in October 2023.

<https://www.hdcymru.co.uk/about-us/plan-and-strategy/drainage-and-wastewater-management-plan/>

<https://www.severntrent.com/about-us/our-plans/drainage-wastewater-management-plan/>

Severn Trents Storm Overflow future improvement plans

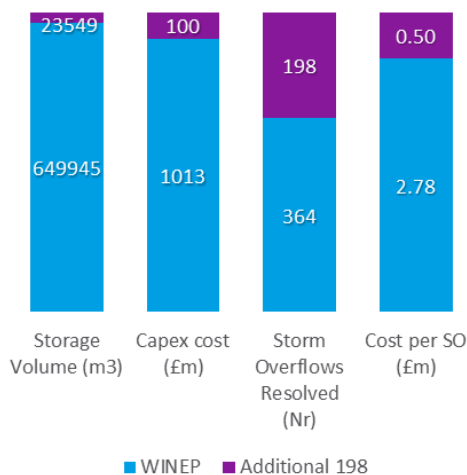
A difference between the two companies plan creation is that in England there is the additional requirement for Severn Trent to comply with all interim and final targets held within Defras Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan (SODRP). This includes reducing all storm overflows to spill less than 10 times in a typical year, ensure there is no harm from our assets and implement screening controls. There is additional focus on high priority rivers / areas in regards to areas with known harm (RNAGs & recent SOAF outputs), close to SSSI / SACs, discharging into eutrophic sensitive rivers and chalk rivers.

Severn Trents ambition is to be above these targets going forward and met the high priority and all asset base targets an AMP early.

For AMP8 Severn Trents storm overflow plan for AMP8 includes focusing on

- WINEP 364 sites that are defined as causing harm, align with our wider major improvements at works and / or in high priority rivers (RNAGs, SOAFs, SSSIs or SACs)
- 198 sites that are most cost effective to reduce spills with nature-based solutions

With a Total proposed enhancement investment of £1.1bn



Full Severn Trent 2025 – 2030 proposed plan is here

<https://www.stwater.co.uk/about-us/our-plans-2025-2030/>

Further details of this element of Severn Trents plan is here

https://www.stwater.co.uk/content/dam/stw/about_us/pr24/sve27-04b-wastewater-winep.pdf

Hafren Dyfrdwy Storm Overflow future improvement plans

Hafren Dyfrdwys plan is based on a combination of our internal ambitions and the NRW new classification document.

Internal Ambition

- No storm overflow spill more than 20 times in a typical year by 2050
- Progressive reduction in full asset base spill frequency average

NRW new Classification document

- All assets kept within permit conditions
- Fair share of harm from our assets resolved
- Improvement of asset design to increase screening and structure set up

For AMP8 our internal plan is aligned to our DWMP but our ambition is to go faster. We will therefore continue to look for optimisation improvements that we can undertake within our system. At the same time our NEP focus is to investigate all storm overflows and complete feasibility for Newtown in a wholistic place based strategy approach.

	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	TOTAL
Number of Harm site storm overflows improved	0	2	0	0	0	2
Number of storm overflows spilling >20 per year improved	0	7	7	9	8	31
Number of storm overflows with screen only improvements	0	0	3	4	3	10

Conclusion

While these two companies are in different countries and their at the different ends of scale for size of company the focus is similar even with the legislation and policy documents being different.