



# Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan

Juan Scouller, 9 November



# Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan

- £56 billion capital investment over 25 years.
- Eliminate ecological harm, protect public health
- 2035: all bathing waters and 75% of high priority nature sites
- 2050: remaining overflows

# Target 1: Ecology

- Water companies will only be permitted to discharge from a storm overflow where they can demonstrate that there is no local adverse ecological impact.
  - 2035 - 75% high priority sites
  - 2045 – all high priority sites
  - 2050 – all sites

## Target 2: Public health

- Water companies must significantly reduce harmful pathogens from storm overflows discharging into and near designated bathing waters, by either: applying disinfection; or reducing the frequency of discharges to meet Environment Agency spill standards by 2035.

# Target 3: Rainfall

- Storm overflows will not be permitted to discharge above an average of 10 rainfall events per year by 2050

# Rainwater management

Rainwater should be managed following these two principles:

- Rainwater should be treated as a resource to be valued for the benefit of people and the environment, not mixed with sewage or other contaminants.
- Rainwater should be discharged back to the environment as close as possible to where it lands or channelled to a close watercourse without first mixing it with sewage.

# How do we get better solutions?

- Reduce surface water connected to the combined sewer network
- Prioritise a natural capital approach, considering carbon reduction and biodiversity net gain, as well as catchment level and nature-based solutions in their planning.
- In practice? Grey vs Green – the role you all play.



Thank you

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