

WOMBOURNE, STAFFORDSHIRE

Reducing spills and
improving rivers

Here's Callum to talk about
what we did:

[Weir plate installation in
Staffordshire](#)



Whether you're a river user, live locally, or are simply interested in river health, you want to see more done to have healthy and thriving rivers. And so do we. We know we need to go faster and further to reduce our impact on rivers. We're doing more, faster than any other water company to reduce spills from storm overflows as quickly as possible.

In 2024, we made our biggest year of investment in river health. So far, our huge team of engineers has delivered **1,500 improvements** to cut spills from storm overflows right across our region. We already believe this work has helped to prevent thousands of spills in 2024 alone. Our teams have delivered an average of **34 enhancements** per week since June 2024, going faster and further than anyone else to reduce spills.

Local to you in Staffordshire

In the south of Staffordshire, in Wombourne, we've made crucial upgrades to our storm overflow network by installing a new stainless steel weir plate. This new weir plate enhances the site's ability to hold back more water during a storm event, which in turn reduces the number of spills and helps protect local watercourses. By improving this key infrastructure, we're ensuring that water is better managed during heavy rainfall, keeping our local rivers and streams cleaner for the community and wildlife.

Improving rivers and streams

Providing water and managing waste, relies heavily on our teams and infrastructure to work around the clock. Heavy rain and storms can often overwhelm our network and in 2024 the majority of the Severn Trent region experienced nearly **20%** more heavy rainfall days compared to 2023.

That's why we're committed to doing more, and in the years to come we will see storm overflow usage reduce and in turn healthier rivers and water ways.

But what does this mean for the local rivers and water courses?

Merryhill Brook rises on the southwest edges of Wolverhampton and flows into the Wom Brook and then the River Smestow. Changed through urbanisation and prone to flooding due to clay soils, Merryhill Brook and the rivers it flows into will greatly benefit from the reduction in spills supporting the health of the river..

Our ambitious plans mean we're spending a further **£2 billion** over the next five years to improve river health. And we're fast tracking the delivery of an additional **600 solutions, by autumn 2025.**

With all of this, we aim to reduce the use of storm overflows across the region.



To hear about how we are
improving our region's rivers,
please visit our [YouTube playlist](#).

To see how we are investing in your area, you can look at
our [storm overflow map to find out more.](#)



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