

CARLTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

New storage tank
to cut spills and
improve rivers

Here's Andrew Fairburn talking
about how this programme will
improve the local environment:

[Innovation in Nottinghamshire](#)



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, a huge team of engineers has delivered **1,500 improvements** to cut spills from storm overflows right across our region. As a result, 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 Nottinghamshire

Buried under the car park of a leisure centre in Carlton, east of Nottingham, is the latest innovation to tackle overflow spills into rivers.

We've installed a massive underground storage tank to take the strain when there's heavy rainfall, reducing the pressure on the local sewage network and cutting spills into the nearby Ouse Dyke. The Dyke, which leads into the River Trent, is an important site for wildlife, attracting herons and kingfishers.

The new tank will hold more than **500,000 litres** of rainwater – about **3,100 bathtubs** worth – during heavy rain. That means local sewers are far less likely to flood and spill through overflows into the Dyke. It's part of a **£4 million** project to improve the health of local waterways.

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.

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.

And that's not all. We're working closely with Mansfield Town Council on a further **£76m programme** to install Sustainable Urban Drainage Solutions (SUDS) to reduce the risk of surface water flooding during storms. SUDS soak up and deal with rainwater separately from foul sewage from homes and businesses, helping to take pressure off the network.

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

The Ouse Dyke rises in Mapperley and winds its way through Gedling flowing into the River Trent at Stoke Bardolph. Understood to have been moved when flood protection was installed along the Trent, the Ouse Dyke has acted as a farm drain and is now being supported by many local groups for wildlife. Our work will support the wider work to improve Ouse Dyke.



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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