



Southern Water: East Sussex update

10 December 2025

Today's agenda



- Welcome and company update
- Wastewater winter readiness
- Wastewater infrastructure investment across East Sussex
- Water: How we're responding to drought
- Clean Rivers and Seas Task Force
- Closing words



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Company update

Tim McMahon, Managing Director of Water

John Penicud, Managing Director for Wastewater

Eastbourne beads: What has happened

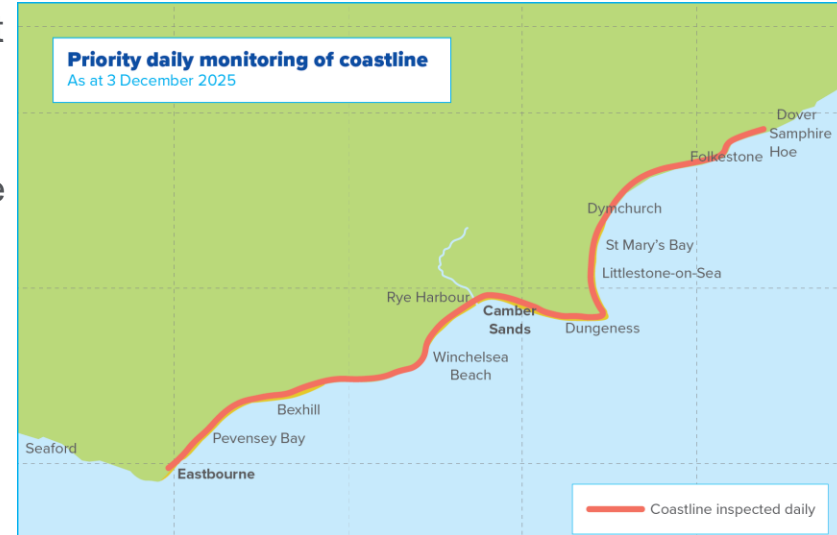
- On 29 October, up to 10 tonnes of plastic beads used in wastewater treatment were released from the Eastbourne Treatment Works and entered the sea via a 3.4km long outfall pipe. Beads began to wash up on Camber Sands beach during the week of 3 November. After initial reports that the beads had originated from shipping, on 10 November we confirmed the beads came from our site.
- This is a rare and extremely serious occurrence. We are very sorry for the impact it has had and completely understand the anger and anxiety it has caused to communities along the affected coast.
- We are determined to do all we can to put things right; we are paying for the clean-up, and we recognise this is a long-term, substantial commitment.



Eastbourne WTW beads: Next steps



- Southern Water teams, including specialist contractors, continue to support the clean-up effort at Camber Sands, working with Rother District Council, which is leading this work. We remain committed to supporting this work in every way we can.
- We've also committed to an independent investigation into the cause, have commissioned expert advice relating to the longer-term impact, and are working closely with the Environment Agency as part of the clean-up and environmental response.



Our Business Plan: 2025 to 2030



- **BACKGROUND:** In December 2024 we received our Final Determination from Ofwat for the regulatory period April 2025 – March 2030
- After very careful consideration, our board decided to appeal the Final Determination to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)
- Our argument was that Ofwat’s Final Determination would not enable us to deliver the environmental and performance improvements and new infrastructure that our customers and communities rightly expect



CMA appeal – where we are now



- On Thursday 9 October 2025, the CMA published its Provisional Determination on our 2025-2030 business plan.
- We reviewed the CMA's Provisional Determination, and responded to it on 11 November.
- The CMA is due to issue its Final Determination in the near future.
- The CMA appeal process does not hinder plans for 2025-26: these are being delivered as laid out in our Business Plan.
- We will keep you updated in the coming weeks.





Wastewater: Winter readiness

Paul Riordan, Head of Wastewater Treatment

Winter readiness – wastewater treatment



Our winter readiness programme includes a 45-point check per site, to ensure we are resilient.



Checks range from making sure our backup generators are working as they should in case of an emergency, to ensuring the site is gritted and staff are safe.



Gritting is crucial for staff safety but also ensuring tankers can get on/off sites collecting/removing sludge, ensuring our sites remain compliant.



Continuing to work with the Environment Agency to push more flow through sites which have additional capacity, to reduce storm spills and the impact of groundwater.



Peacehaven WTW



Wastewater infrastructure investment across East Sussex

Chris Braham, Head of Wastewater Asset Strategy and Planning

During AMP8 (2025-2030) we are investing £156m, which includes:

Network Projects

- Rising Mains (£4m)
- Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Scheme (£900k)
- Clean Rivers & Seas (£64M)

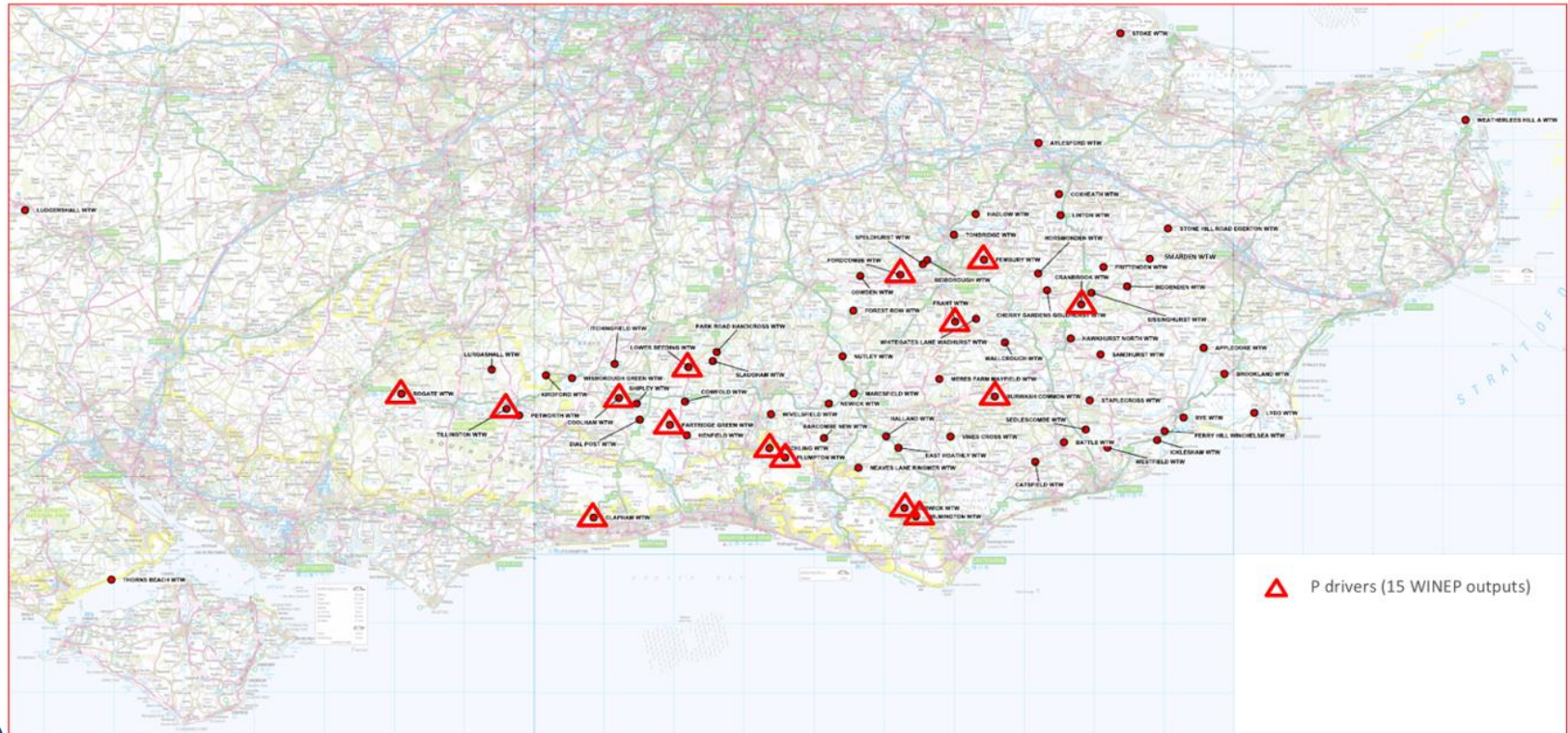
Treatment Enhancement

- Treatment Works Growth – Wivelsfield WTW (£2M)
- Improved quality of treated wastewater, including Phosphorus removal (£121m)
- Resilience and Capital Maintenance – Eastbourne, Bexhill/Hastings (£20.6M)

Bio - Resources

- Industrial Emissions Enhancements – Peacehaven & Bexhill/Hastings (£7.55m)

Overview of WTW schemes



Example Schemes

Project Name	Programme	Investment Value (£m)
Eastbourne Multi Cap Maintenance	Compliance & Optimisation	£19
Ticehurst WTW Sanitary	WINEP - Sanitary and Chemicals	£11
Hailsham South WTW Sanitary	WINEP - Sanitary and Chemicals	£10
Redgate Mill Crowborough WTW P Removal	WINEP - Nutrients	£10
Hartfield WTW P Removal	WINEP - Nutrients	£9
Stubbs Lane Brede WTW P Removal	WINEP - Nutrients	£7
Guestling Green WTW P removal	WINEP - Nutrients	£6
Winchelsea Beach WTW P Removal	WINEP - Nutrients	£5
St Johns Crowborough WTW P Removal	WINEP - Nutrients	£4
Blackham WTW P Removal	WINEP - Nutrients	£4



Water: How we're responding to drought

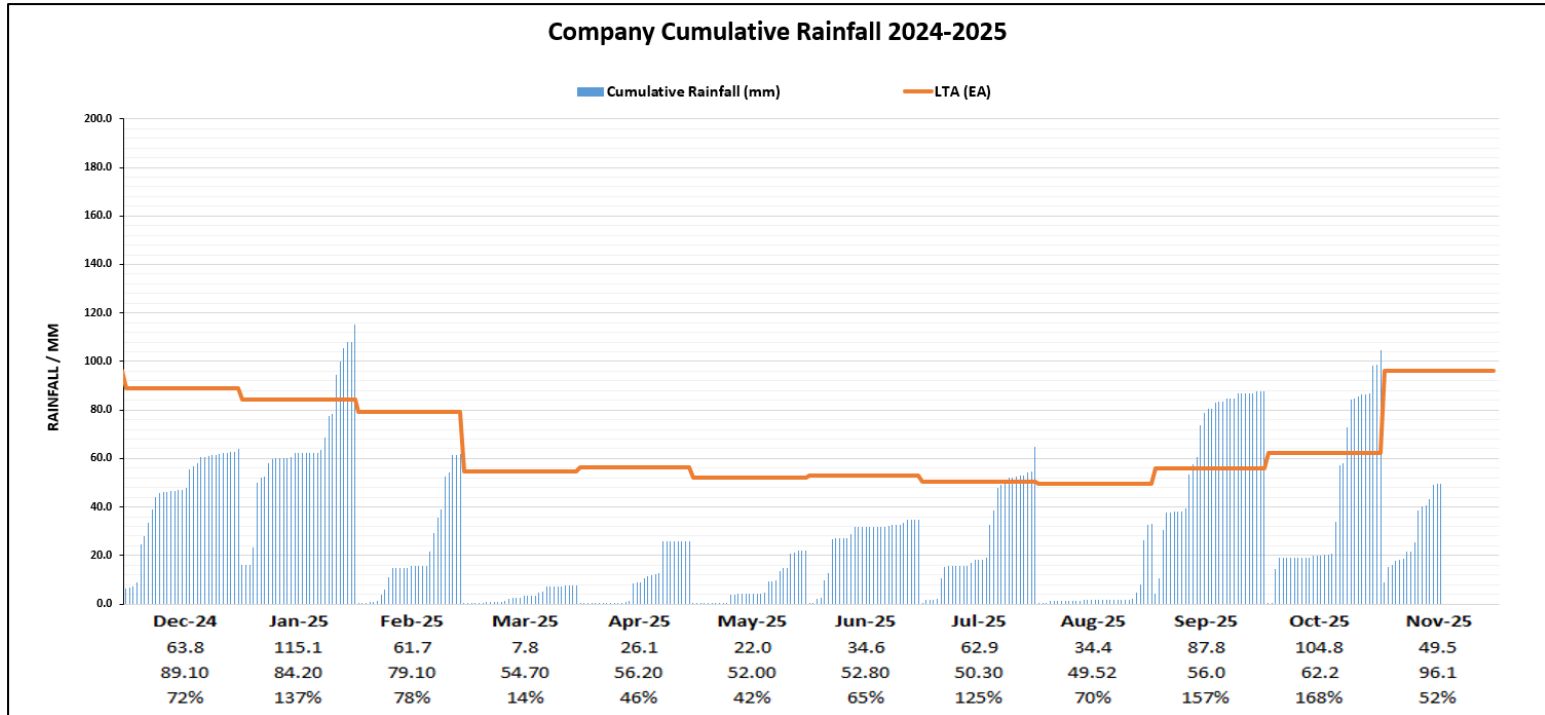
Richard Smart, Drought, Resilience and Emergency Planning Manager

Benedict Sansom, Water Resources Planning Manager

Record Breaking Dry Weather

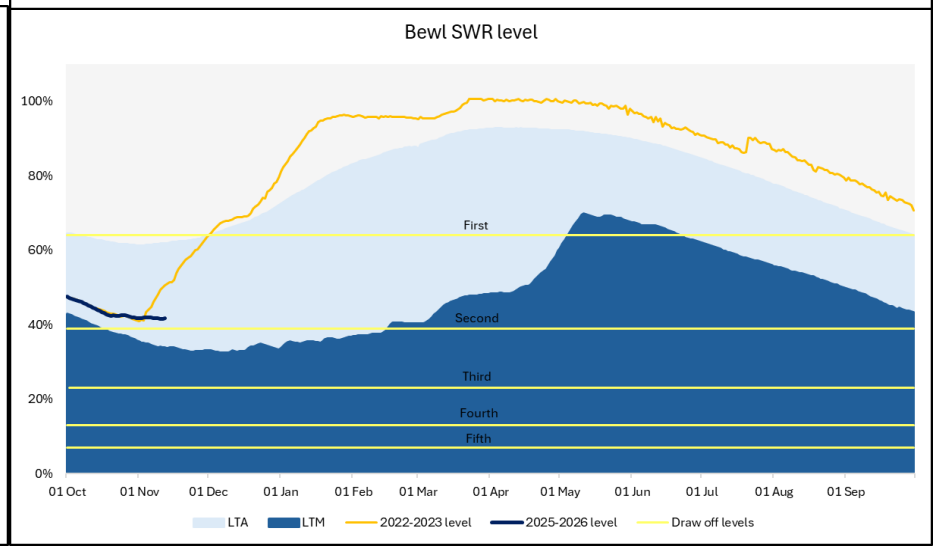
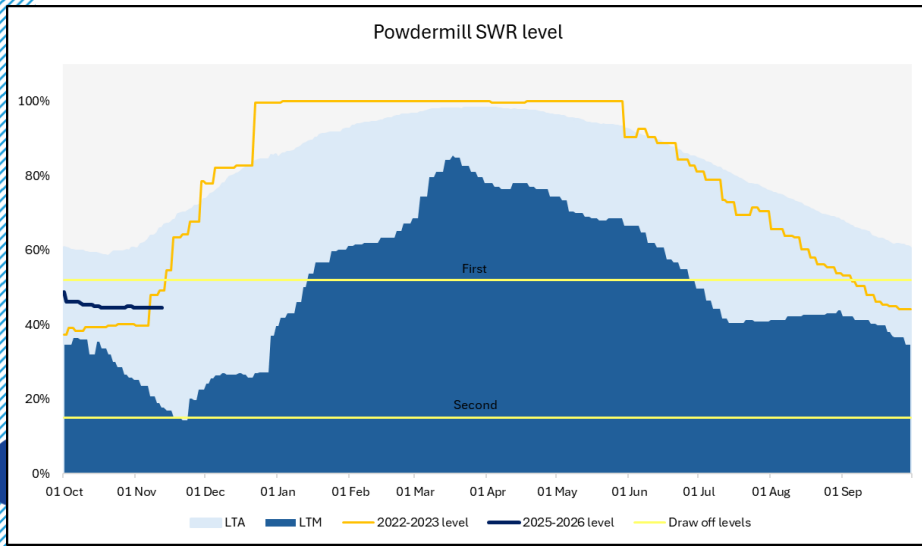
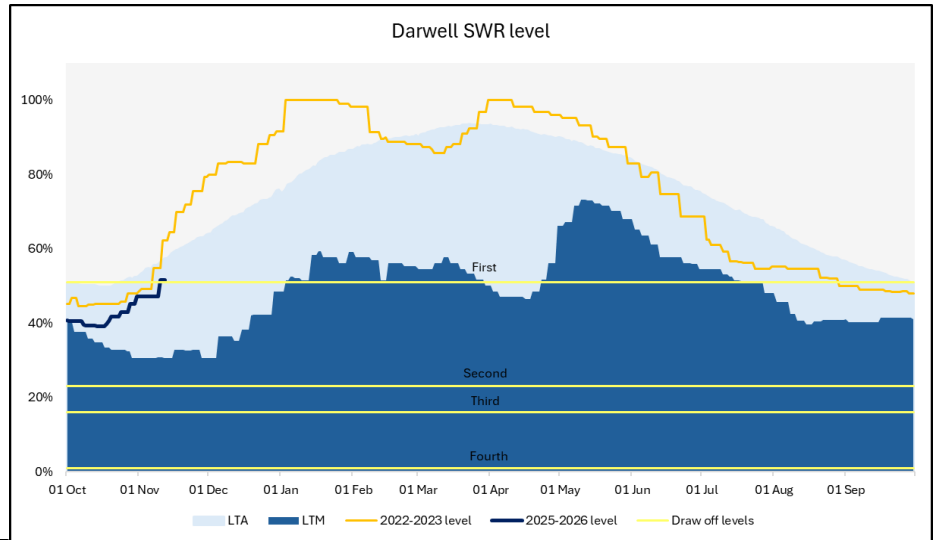


- Summer 2025 rainfall averaged at 62% of Long Term Average (LTA).
- March – May recorded 630 hours of sunshine, breaking previous records.
- Driest Spring in over 100 years and the warmest June on record.
- 4 Summer Heatwaves recorded, with Faversham peaking at 35.8°C
- By August, the whole of the South East of England was declared as “pro-longed dry weather”.



Reservoir Recovery Vs. 2022

- Darwell
 - Storage capacity – 4,604ML
 - Current Level – 51.5%
- Bewl
 - Storage capacity – 31,300ML
 - Current Level – 42%
- Powdermill
 - Storage capacity – 856ML
 - Current Level – 45%

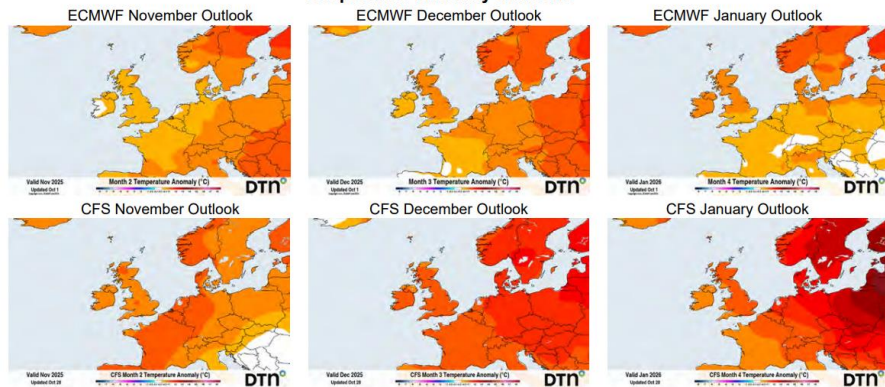


Latest weather forecast

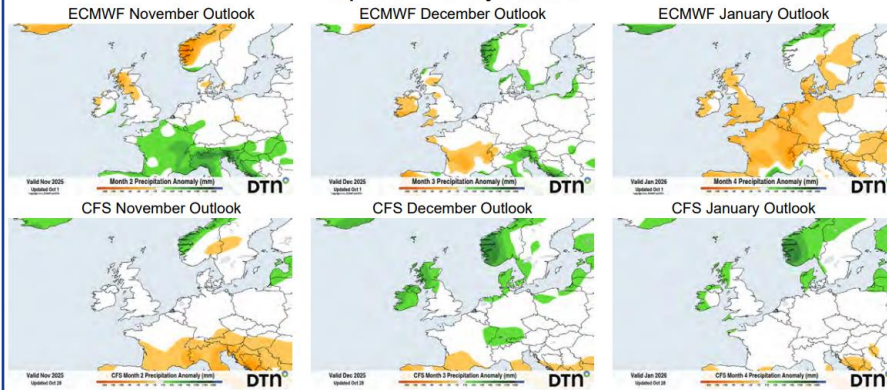
Temperature Outlook November, December, January

Precipitation Outlook November, December, January

Temperature Anomaly Outlooks



Precipitation Anomaly Outlooks

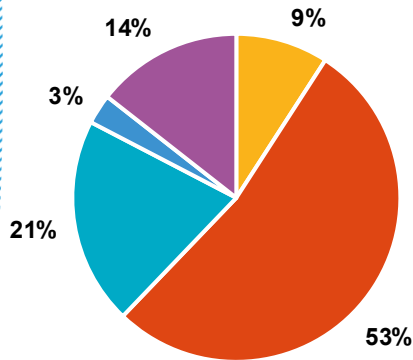


Early Winter Outlook:

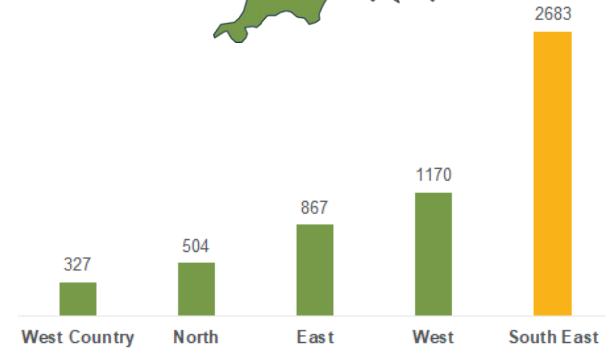
- **Temperatures:** Both major climate models (ECMWF and CFS) predict a warmer-than-usual start to winter across most of Europe. The strongest warmth is expected in far eastern and far northern/northeastern regions. This warmer trend is likely to last through the next three months. Western and northwestern Europe may see more ups and downs, but overall, the CFS model suggests it will be warmer than the ECMWF model.
- **Rainfall:** November looks wetter than normal, especially according to the ECMWF model. For December and January, ECMWF leans drier than CFS. Overall, confidence in the rainfall forecast is low, meaning conditions could vary.

The South East of England is seriously water-stressed

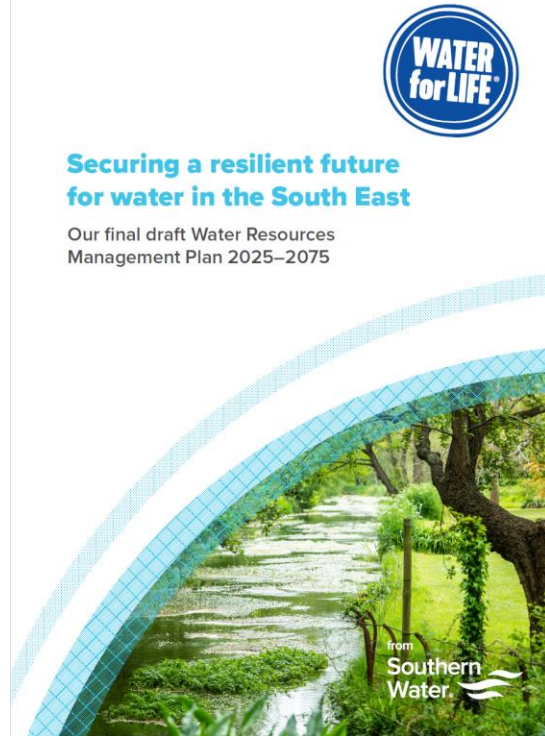
- The Environment Agency has identified that by 2050, almost 5 billion extra litres of water will be required every day, to maintain public water supplies in England.
- More than half that need is in the South East.
- The main driver in the South East is what the EA defines as “Environmental Destination” which means improving and enhancing the natural world.



- Climate Change
- Environmental Destination
- Household Population Growth
- Business Growth
- Drought Resilience



Final Draft WRMP24 Update



- Public consultation finished in December 2024.
- fdWRMP24 and Statement of Response submitted to Defra on 30th May 2025.
- Awaiting final regulatory review.
- AMP8 started in April 2025.

Draft WRMP29 Update



- EA published draft guidance for consultation in October 2025.
- Unconstrained options assessment started. Deadline December 2026.
- Public consultation planned for 2028.

Water resources planning guideline

For consultation

Drought Plan 2027 Update



- Drought Plan 2022 published in August 2025
- Pre-consultation ended 31st October 2025
- DP27 draft deadline – 31st March 2026
- Public consultation – Summer 2026
- Final publication – March 2027
- Emergency Drought Plan development.





Clean Rivers and Seas Task Force: What we're doing in East Sussex

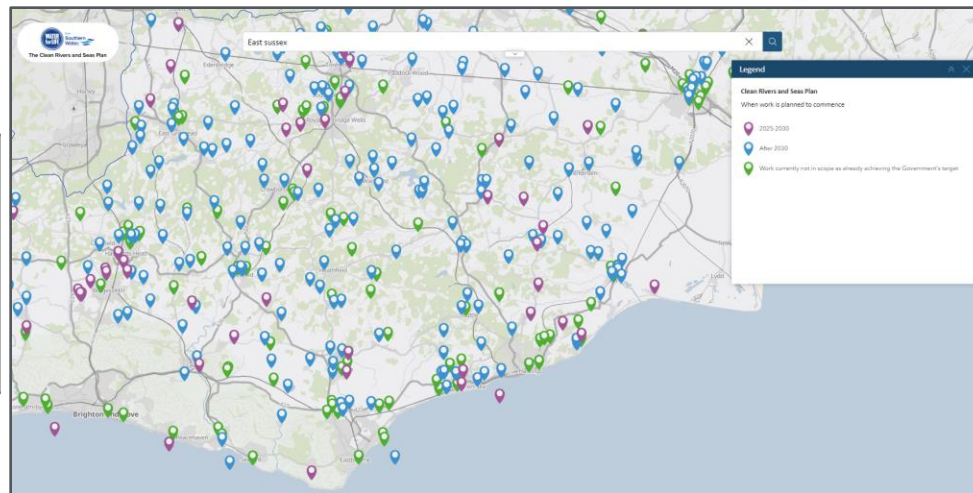
Nicole McNab, Head of Strategic Partnerships

Overflows in East Sussex

Key stats

- 199** Storm Overflows in East Sussex
- 132** Require work/investment to achieve Govt. targets before 2050
- 22** Overflows working on between 2025-2030

Hastings & Bexhill, Ham Lane (Lewes), Neaves Lane (Ringmer) - catchments which have been brought forward to 2026.



southernwater.co.uk/water-for-life/clean-rivers-and-seas-plan/map

How do we prioritise investment and areas we are working on in East Sussex



Target Areas in East Sussex

Storm overflow prioritisation: Government and Regulatory targets

Shellfish waters

Environmentally sensitive sites

Bathing waters

CATCHMENT	START	FINISH
HASTINGS BEXHILL 2030	2026	2030
FAIRLIGHT	2025	2030
HAILSHAM	2026	2028
BARCOMBE	2026	2030
MAYFIELD SSO	2026	2030
MILL CORNER NORTHIAM	2026	2030
WESTHAM CEO	2026	2030
ROTHERFIELD	2026	2030
WIVELSFIELD	2026	2030
DITCHLING	2027	2030
NUTLEY SSO	2027	2030
HASTINGS BEXHILL 2035	2028	2025
CAMBER 2035	2028	2035
EAST DEAN	2028	2035
HALLAND	2028	2035
NEWHAVEN	2028	2035
PEACEHAVEN 2035	2028	2035
RINGMER	2028	2035
NORTHIAM	2028	2035
WESTFIELD	2028	2035
GUESTLING GREEN	2028	2035
HAILSHAM SOUTH	2028	2035

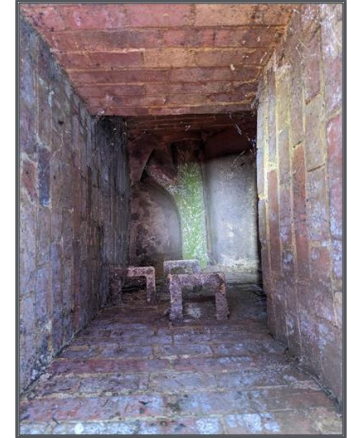
What we've done in recent months

- **Worked with Ofwat to agree pulling investment forward** for some East Sussex overflows – starting 2026 rather than 2028
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with East Sussex County Council for **Highways SuDS Programme** and now reviewing Heads of Terms.
- Provided East Sussex County Council with **funding for x2 Full Time Employees** to support the Highways SuDS Programme
- Supporting East Sussex County Council on their **SuDS in Schools programme** in Hastings, Eastbourne and Willingdon.
- Supporting Hastings Borough Council and East Sussex County Council on the **Hastings Town Centre Public Realm Scheme**.
- Building Highways SuDS Programme starting in Hailsham, Fairlight and Hastings.



In the coming months...

- **Detailed investigations** beginning in Hailsham, Hastings and Bexhill.
- **We will be expanding out into more areas** in East Sussex including London Road Bexhill CSO
- Continuing with a programme of **Sewer Sealing** the main trunk sewers in **Fairlight** with a further 2.4km
- Manhole rehabilitation to lock out water infiltration
- **Investigating domestic and highways surface water separation** and removal
- Continuing our partnership support of the Future Landscapes Trust



East Sussex Bathing Water Classifications 2025



Bathing Water	2024	2025	Change
Bexhill	Sufficient	Sufficient	-
Birling Gap	Excellent	Excellent	-
Brighton Central	Good	Good	-
Brighton Kemptown	Excellent	Excellent	-
Camber	Good	Good	-
Eastbourne	Good	Good	-
Hastings Pelham Beach	Excellent	Good	↓
Hove	Excellent	Excellent	-
Norman`s Bay	Excellent	Excellent	-
Pevensey Bay	Good	Good	-
Rottingdean Beach	Good	Excellent	↑
Saltdean	Excellent	Excellent	-
Seaford	Excellent	Excellent	-
St Leonards	Excellent	Excellent	-
Winchelsea	Good	Good	-

Across East Sussex, there are 15 designated bathing waters and 93% of these are classified as either ‘Excellent’ or ‘Good’. This year’s classifications has seen one bathing water classification improve, with one going down a classification.

East Sussex Bathing Water: What we've done recently and what is next



Completed recently

- **Sewer rehab programme:** CCTV surveys on the public foul sewers, resulting in 83m of sewer repairs in Bexhill, Hastings and St Leonards
- **Illegal Connections:** 2 illegally connected properties identified and resolved across East Sussex
- **Outfall Awareness pilot** rolled out in Bexhill to help inform the public around the location and purpose of our surface water outfalls

What is next

Continuing our Bathing Water Improvement Plan, with focused investigations in Bexhill and Hastings

Sewer rehab programme continues in Bexhill.

Our first community engagement steering group in Bexhill



Community Centre Grants

Supporting Community Centres across our region



Our Community Centre Grants

As part of our programme to support making the community stronger, our Community Centre Grants are back for a fourth year.

Focused grant allocation

Concentrating resources on five key areas; Chatham, Folkestone, Eastbourne, Bognor & Southampton, this approach ensures meaningful impact and supports communities facing significant challenges.

Sustainable community support

Providing deeper, sustainable assistance to community centres strengthens vital lifelines in our community.

Measuring impact and accountability

Narrowing focus allows better measurement of outcomes, ensuring transparency and accountability in grant allocation.

Maximising Impact

The approach aims to enhance resilience, trust, and operational efficiency for maximum social benefits.



How to apply



Application Timeline

Applications open on 1 December and close on 15 December, with announcements in mid-January.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be independent community centres without local authority core funding and host a minimum of three weekly in-person activities and offer a wide range of services for the whole community.

Call to Action

Encourages centres to apply now to strengthen sustainability and support resilient communities.

Visit our website to find out more:

[Community Centre Grants](#)



Applications close on 15 December 2025.



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AOB