

# DEAL UPDATE

## What we're doing to 'slow the flow' and reduce surface water in Deal

[Watch our Deal Pathfinder Update video](#)

### Background

We launched our pathfinder programme in 2022 to learn how we could use sustainable ways to improve flooding and reduce the use of [storm overflows](#). We called these trials 'Pathfinder' projects.

During this Pathfinder process, we discovered the most affordable, sustainable, and effective way to reduce flooding and the use of storm overflows was to 'slow the flow' of water entering the sewer system.



### Our approach

- **Infrastructure improvements:** We're upgrading and optimising our infrastructure and systems to manage heavier flows of rainwater.
- **Partnership:** We're working closely with Deal Water Action Task Force as well as local authorities, businesses, and homeowners so we can make the biggest impact possible.
- **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS):** We're using a variety of SuDS to increase natural drainage and manage excess surface water.
- **Putting misconnections right:** Surface water [misconnections](#) can really affect how well sewer systems handle rainwater. Many of these misconnections are on private pipework, so we need to ask permission from the landowner before we can put them right.

### Our progress

- **Smart water management:** We've installed 50 [smart water butts](#) for residents on Claremont Road, Grange Road, Cowper Road and The Grove. The smart butts are solar powered and can predict incoming rainfall. When rain is expected, they slow-drain themselves in advance to make space for the roof water run-off from the expected rainfall.
- **Pipework improvements:** We've upgraded a surface water pipe to redirect flows away from Albert Road to Matthews Close Dyke during heavy rain.
- **Infrastructure optimisation:** We're upgrading infrastructure and control systems at our Golf Road treatment works to help us manage heavier flows of rainwater.
- **Sustainable drainage:** We supported Kent County Council through the planning and upgrading of their roadside drainage gullies in Albert Road.
- **Slow-drain water butts:** We're sending out one thousand letters in the Deal and Walmer area to offer residents free [slow-drain water butts](#). We're working with local company [Mechanica](#), to install them.



### Feedback

"There were a lot of people here that were concerned about the flooding. A lot of people were concerned about the environment, and the idea of the water butts was quite a good idea because you get to have plants, and I think it's something just nice for nature."

– Trevor Bond, Kent County Council

"This work is bringing fresh thinking and investment to our area that makes us a national leader in the issue of tackling storm overflows and sewage discharge prevention."

– Natalie Elphicke MP

