

# DONISTHORPE, LEICESTERSHIRE

Improved capacity cuts  
local overflow spills

Here's Glenn Yeomans to  
talk about what we did:

Repurposing tanks in  
Donisthorpe.



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 Leicestershire

Our Donisthorpe treatment plant serves customers in and around this village in north-west Leicestershire, close to the Derbyshire border. As part of our plan to cut spills into local rivers and streams, we've been working at Donisthorpe to improve its capacity. If we can hold more rainwater on-site during heavy rain, there's much less chance of sewers flooding and triggering overflow spills.

In 2024 we adapted several existing tanks at the treatment works so they could hold more stormwater, increasing the plant's capacity by **40%** - an extra **177,000 litres**, equivalent to **2,200 bathtubs**. That means straight away there will be far fewer spills into 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.

The changes at Donisthorpe help to protect the Hooborough Brook and the River Mease. The Hooborough Brook forms part of the border between Leicestershire and Derbyshire meandering and treelined along parts of its path. It flows into the River Mease, a UK Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation. Reducing pollution to these rivers will support river health for nature 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.

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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