

OFWAT Amends Yorkshire Water's Plan for 2025-2030

<https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Overview-of-Yoa>

[12% reduction in leakage Yorkshire Waters-PR24-draft-determination.pdf](#)

Suggested Citizen Actions:

NAG continues to want to make **the Nidd** safe for all – for humans and for wildlife, by stopping or drastically reducing pollution from human and animal sewage and from urban and rural runoff.

Now knowing what the official plans are for the Nidd for the next 5 years, we all need to:

1. **Keep alert** and make sure our opinions about the importance of water quality keep being heard (MPs, mayor, local councillors and the media)
2. **Keep up to date:** e.g. SAS have some good material [Ofwat publishes draft determinations - Surfers Against Sewage \(sas.org.uk\)](#)

(Yes, I know that you are probably not surfing in the Nidd, but SAS campaigns are about inland river pollution as well as in the sea. E.g. NAG is working with SAS this month to collect more Water Quality samples at The Lido)

3. **Register** for and join in the OFWAT 'Your water your say webinar' on **July 23rd**

https://bethereglobal.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SaeP0TV_SDSbYLaMSsbVzg#/registration

4. **Look regularly at the Nidd interactive map** – [Yorkshire Water - Storm Overflow Map \(arcgis.com\)](#)

(Maybe 'adopt' a beck where you frequently walk? Keep an eye out for pollution and report it to the Environment Agency 0800 80 70 60 (Keep Safe, and Legal!))

OFWAT:

The Government's Financial Regulator aims to 'ensure that consumers receive high standards of good quality water, sanitation and drainage services at a fair price'

OFWAT says in its summary that "We consider that currently Yorkshire Water's performance lags behind most other companies in the sector, with its business plan being "Standard", rated above "lacking ambition" but below "Outstanding".

Areas that the company needs to improve include water supply interruptions, internal sewer flooding, repairs to bursts on its water mains and customer satisfaction".

OFWAT expects, by 2030:

- a 43% reduction in storm overflow spills, from 2021 levels
- a 12% reduction in leakage
- a 60% reduction in internal sewer flooding
- a 43% reduction in sewer collapses, plus
- a projected increase in average household bills in Yorkshire from £430 pa in 2024-25 to £569 pa in 2029-30

Yorkshire Water:

YW's original business plan is at: [yky01_pr24-business-plan.pdf \(yorkshirewater.com\)](https://www.yorkshirewater.com/yky01_pr24-business-plan.pdf)

This envisages

- improving sewage treatment works (STWs) such as Killinghall, Harrogate North and Knaresborough, particularly phosphate reduction (*the high levels of which NAG highlighted in our two surveys last year*).
- Improving monitoring at STWs and the many Nidd Catchment Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) highlighted in our website using the newly available map of current overflows
- And investigating and improving specific storm overflow spills, especially in Harrogate.

The Press:

The Press is full of the news about OFWAT's report, with many concerns that include whether Water Companies' business plans are ambitious enough, achievable with the financial and other resources that are available, are value for money, and involve consumers (customers /us) paying again (twice) for what was promised for earlier delivery. **What do you think?**

Personally, I think the plan is not ambitious enough, not collaborative or integrated enough and not 'natural rather than chemical' enough. And the Nidd still feels like a poor cousin compared with the other Yorkshire Rivers!

It is not enough! We also need to keep a close eye on the timely and effective delivery of what is planned

David Clayden, NAG Chair

12 July 2024