

Storm Overflow Task Force

May 2022 update



from
Southern
Water.

The Storm Overflow Task Force is a dedicated team responsible for driving Southern Water's ambitious targets to significantly reduce storm overflows by 2030. The team are piloting schemes across the region, building long-term cross-industry partnerships, and developing a regional plan to ensure we have a sustainable system fit for the future.

Task force factfile



Headed by Dr Nick Mills, the task force has 13 members of staff and technical partners.

It's responsible for delivering five pioneering 'pathfinder' projects in the first two years and a regional plan by the end of this year.



It meets weekly to ensure targets are met and delivery is on track.

It was established in November 2021.



Find out about how Southern Water is **reducing storm overflows**



Pathfinder projects

We've selected pathfinder projects that pose complex challenges, have a high volume of storm overflow spills or require an innovative approach to tackle local wastewater treatment issues. Our work on the pathfinder projects will also validate our general approach to reducing storm overflows across our region.



The UK sewer network is largely derived from the Victorians, as are many networks across the world. This is therefore a global problem and the task force has been reviewing international approaches to storm overflows.

Our main focus has been understanding the challenges of each pathfinder catchment and establishing the partnerships required for long-term success. As a result of this work we've been able to identify solutions, which we've begun to implement.

We'll complete each project in three stages:

1

Complete the initial survey of the area and identify any immediate solutions.

2

Deliver these initial solutions and establish pilots to test new concepts and approaches.

3

Implement larger and more complex solutions to deliver the desired outcome for each project.

So far we have completed the following analysis and interventions:

- An in-depth analysis of the wastewater systems across each pathfinder catchment.
- Connectivity, asset, storm tank, and CCTV surveys on our network and customers' houses.
- Improved **Beachbuoy**, our near real-time storm overflow reporting tool and aligned it with Surfers Against Sewage data.
- Upgraded the flap valve at Albert Road, Deal.
- Installed long-term flow monitoring at George Park, Margate to explore further opportunities on site.
- Published our **letter** to David Black, Interim Chief of Ofwat.
- Published our annual **Flow and Spill reporting** data.
- Commissioned Elliott Gill (author of the national **DEFRA report**) to build our regional plan.
- Successfully applied for an Environment Agency grant for flooding intervention at Binstead.

We've also developed a wide range of partnerships and collaborations:

- We're co-chairing the Deal Water Action Taskforce (Deal-WAT) with Natalie Elphicke MP for Dover and Deal.
- We have an on-going collaboration with Pan Parishes' councillors and the local community in North Hampshire, working to tackle localised groundwater infiltration.
- We've worked with local authorities to share CCTV surveys for highways drainage.
- We've arranged site visits and partnership working with environmental charity Groundwork in Deal and Margate.
- Working with Kent County Council regarding further developments on George Park Margate.
- Working with the Environment Agency, local authority, parish councils and wild swimming groups on the Isle of Wight.
- We've commissioned a specialist partner to install two water quality testing buoys this summer.
- We're collaborating with Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads.

What to expect this summer?

- We're publishing initial study reports for Deal, Margate, Swalecliffe and Sandown.
- Tackling misconnections on the network.
- Launching water quality buoys in Hayling Island and Tankerton.
- Initial deployment of sustainable drainage solutions in homes, businesses, and schools.
- Kent County Council are increasing the gullies in Albert Road in June and Southern Water will be upgrading the surface water sewer in the same road in the summer.
- Initial interventions in Margate, Swalecliffe, Sandown, and Pan Parishes.
- Consultation on our regional plan.
- Improvement to Beachbuoy to take account of tidal conditions.

Snapshot in numbers

75+ customers and stakeholders have attended a site tour at Sandown, Bosham, Ford and Budds Farm wastewater treatment sites.



We've installed:

30 flow monitors
14 depth monitors
16 rain gauges
6 pump loggers



More than **10TB** of data analysed in graphical information systems.



133km of pipe surveyed.
2000+ manholes surveyed.

70 points of interest identified on the Isle of Wight, where surface water lines potentially discharge into the foul.



5 technical working group meetings for Deal, Margate and Swalecliffe.

2 Albert Road residents meetings with Deal-WAT.



“ We now understand the issues and challenges we face, and the vital role cross-industry collaboration will play to significantly reduce the use of storm overflows. Together we must prevent, or slow, the flow of rainwater in our sewer network. We want to demonstrate that cost-effective and sustainable solutions are the future, and shy away from falling back onto the usual carbon-intensive and expensive end of pipe methods. Southern Water is passionate about the environment and the task force will work extremely hard to deliver the outputs our stakeholders and customers expect and deserve from us. ” Dr. Nick Mills

