

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

KENT FLOOD RISK AND WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent Flood Risk and Water Management Committee held in the on Tuesday, 16 July 2024.

PRESENT: Mr A R Hills (Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Mr D Crow-Brown, Mr P Cole, Mr M A J Hood and Ms L Wright

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Apologies
(Item 1)

Apologies were received from Mrs McArthur for whom Ms L Wright was present.

Ms Dawkins was in attendance virtually.

2. Declarations of Interest
(Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 14 March 2024
(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2024 were an accurate record and that they be signed by the Chair.

4. Southern Water - Clean Rivers and Seas Taskforce - update on pilot schemes
(Item 4)

Jon Yates (Head of Delivery for Clean Rivers Taskforce, Southern Water) was in attendance for this item

1) Mr Yates presented to the committee. The contents of his presentation included:

- An overview of Combined Sewer Overflows
- Rivers and Seas Watch
- Optimisation at Whitstable and Deal; surface water connections at Whitstable; Sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) schemes in Whitstable, Deal and Margate; and, planters and water butts.

2) Further to questions from Members, it was noted that:

- The team working in Kent had been expanded and they were keen to expand joint working.
- Southern Water advised that they did social media apps to educate and engage with younger people. However, it was unclear what their reach was and whether communication via social media was constructive. Communication was important moving forward in engaging with customers.
- Southern Water wanted to work with schools and link their education programme with national curriculum. Southern Water had worked in 13 schools in Margate on 'SuDs for schools'.
- Maintenance costs were being considered with alternate delivery such as SuDs, and were not putting pressure on KCC's budgets.
- It was felt that it was useful to have local people working in catchments who understood the problems in their areas.

3) RESOLVED to note the content of the presentation.

5. Southern Gas Network- risk of flooding to gas network
(Item 5)

Helen Peile, Stakeholder and Community Manager, SGN, was in attendance for this item

Ms Peile presented on what happens when water enters the gas network. The contents of her presentation included:

- What happens when there is water ingress.
- Communication with affected customers and incident support.
- How SGN finds and removed water from gas network.

Further to questions from Members, it was noted that:

- Water ingress was discovered when there was interruption to the supply.
- Risks were being mitigated because SGN were 23 years into a 30 year programme to replace the older pipes. There were still a lot of cast iron and metal pipes and replacing these was a problem for the road network.
- It was felt that climate change did affect the condition of metal pipes but risk would decrease with time as the replacements were made.

3) RESOLVED to note the content of the presentation.

6. Water Management Solutions for Romney Marsh Area
(Item 6)

Neil Clarke, Flood Risk Project Manager was in attendance for this item

1) Mr Hills outlined the report.

2) Further to questions from Members, it was noted that:

- It was important to consider what was best practice nationally when looking at what was happening in the South East.
- Direct discharge to ground water was not allowed. A minimum of 1 metre of clear ground between the point of infiltration to ground water, if it was clean run off. Distance for removing pollution was bigger.
- There had been flooding as the dyke system had not been sufficient to manage heavy rainfall.
- There were some issues with salinity in the dyke system and it was complicated keeping the balance.

3) The Committee endorsed the report as the basis for a lobbying document to the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for investment funding in Romney Marsh.

7. Environment Agency and Met Office Alerts and Warnings and KCC severe weather response activity
(Item 7)

Andy Jeffery, Head of Resilience and Emergency Planning, was in attendance for this item

1) Mr Jeffery updated Members regarding changes to the Resilience and Emergency Planning Service and outlined the report.

2) Further to questions from Members, it was noted that:

- In April, Storm Kathleen caused a tidal surge in the North Sea which in turn caused increased operation of the Thames Barrier.

Thanks were given to Tony Harwood, Resilience and Emergency Planning Manager, who had retired from Kent County Council.

3) RESOLVED to note the report.

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Clean Rivers and Seas Task Force

Page 1

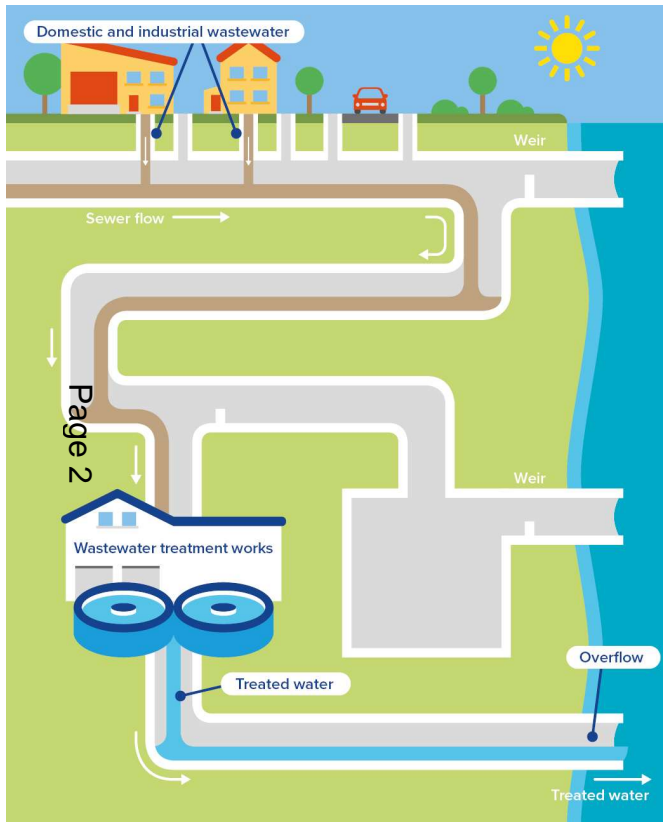


from
Southern
Water

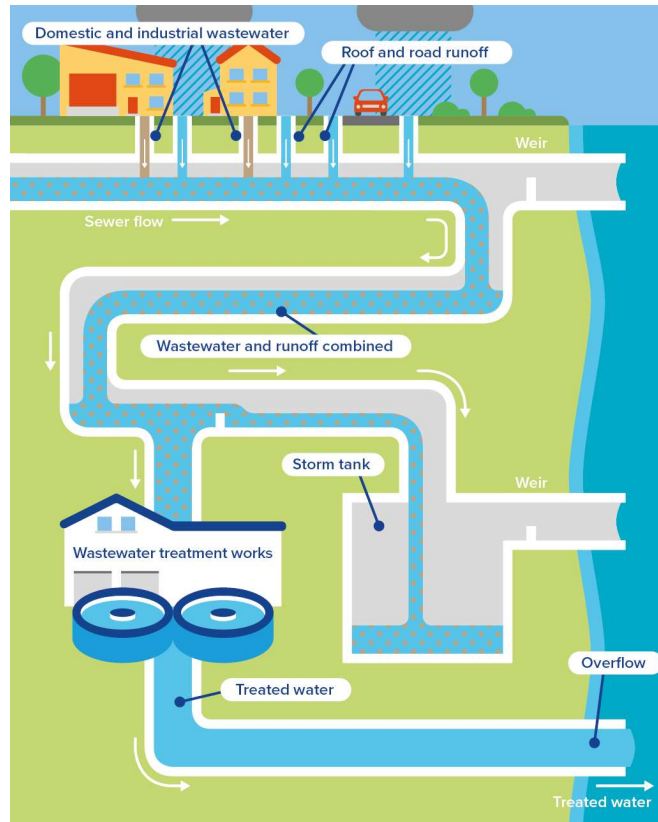
Minute Item 4

Why CSOs exist?

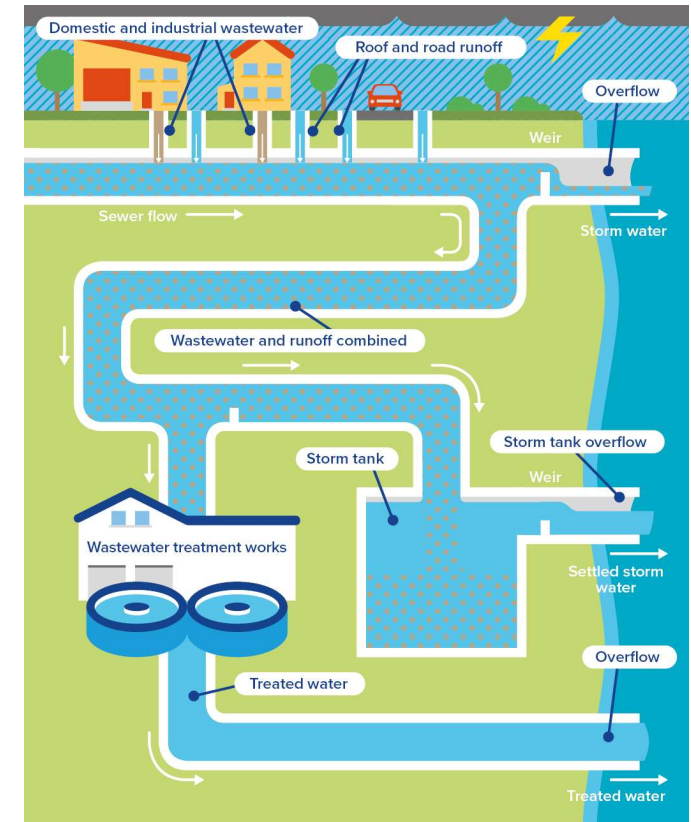
Dry conditions



Heavy Showers



Severe Storm



Approximately 1000 CSO's within the Southern Water Region.

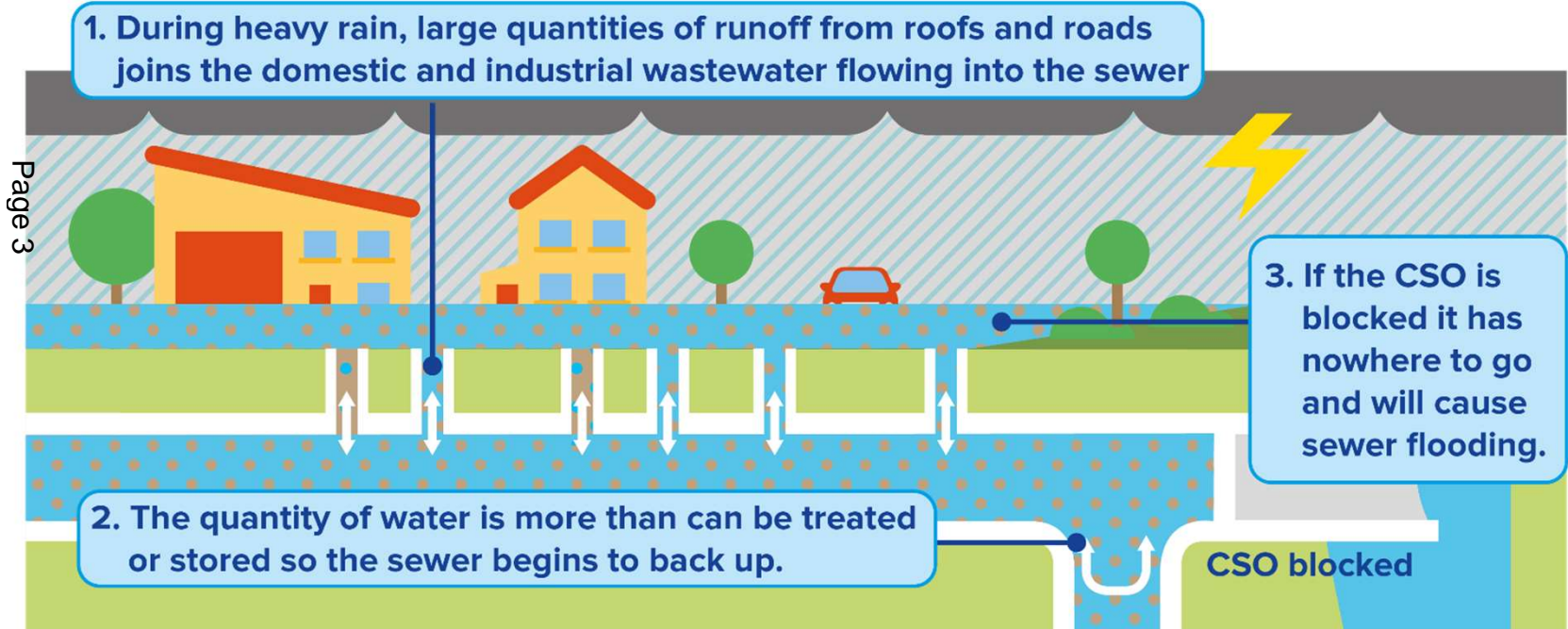
[What are storm overflows? \(southernwater.co.uk\)](http://southernwater.co.uk)

[Latest news, reports, and updates \(southernwater.co.uk\)](http://southernwater.co.uk)



What is a CSO and why do they exist?

CSOs are **essentially** a pressure relief valve for the system to prevent the devastating impact of sewer flooding. Blocking up CSOs will cause flooding.



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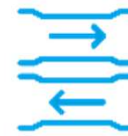


How do we tackle them?

There are four main ways to reduce storm overflows and the harm they cause



Source control



Infrastructure optimisation



Stormwater treatment



Building bigger infrastructure

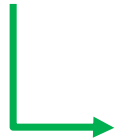
Overflows in Kent

Key stats

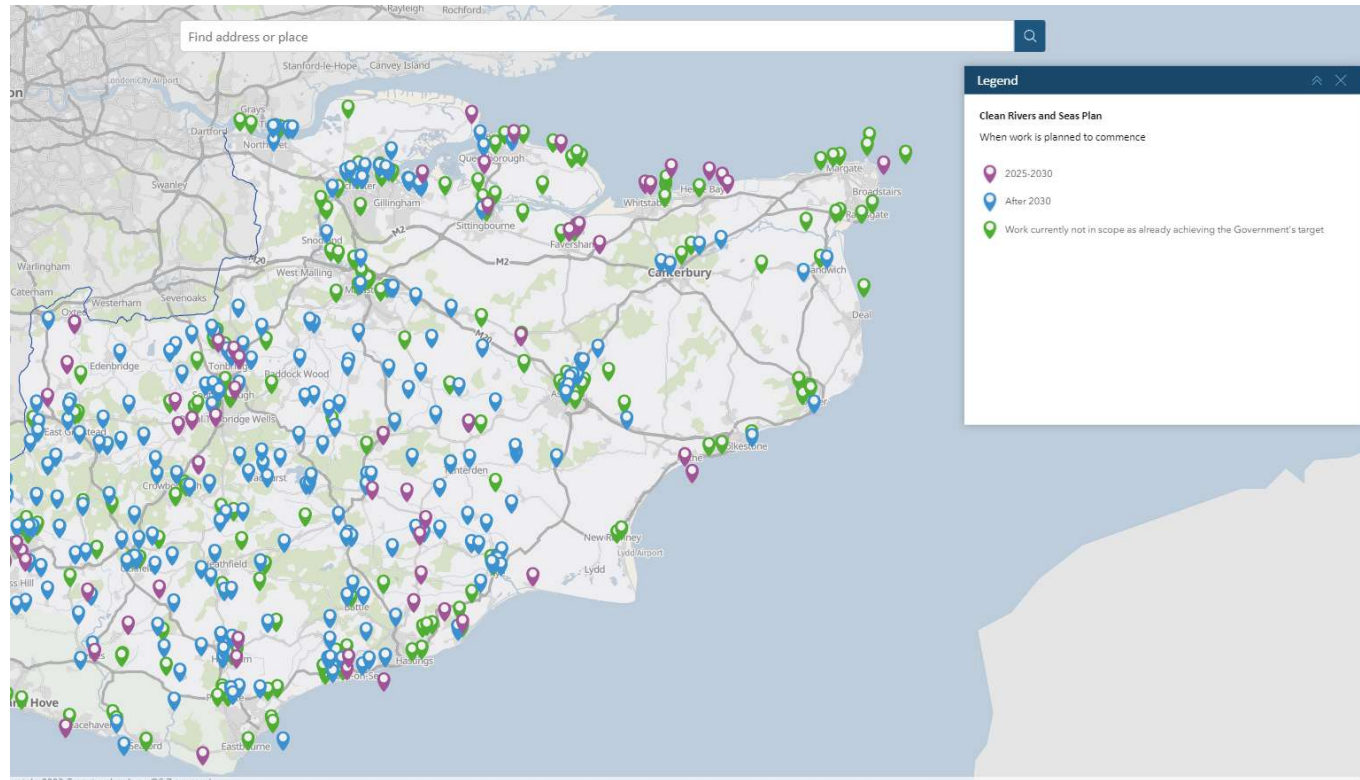
322 Storm Overflows in Kent

152 Require work/investment to achieve Govt. targets before 2050

33 Overflows working on between 2025-2030



Approximately **£207m** investment in next five years



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



Rivers and Seas Watch

WATER for LIFE from Southern Water

Subscribe Feedback

Map Release History Learn More

Pre-release (Beta) your feedback will help us improve this new service

Enter address, bathing site or outfall name

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HERNE BAY CENTRAL

No release impacting bathing site
There have been no recent outfall releases

Latest Impacting Release - from SWALECLIFFE NO1

Started	Ended	Duration
10/06/24 07:26	10/06/24 07:45	18 minutes

Latest Not Impacting Release - from SWALECLIFFE NO1

Started	Ended	Duration	Status
11/06/24 22:50	11/06/24 23:53	1 hour 2 minutes	Genuine

Release History

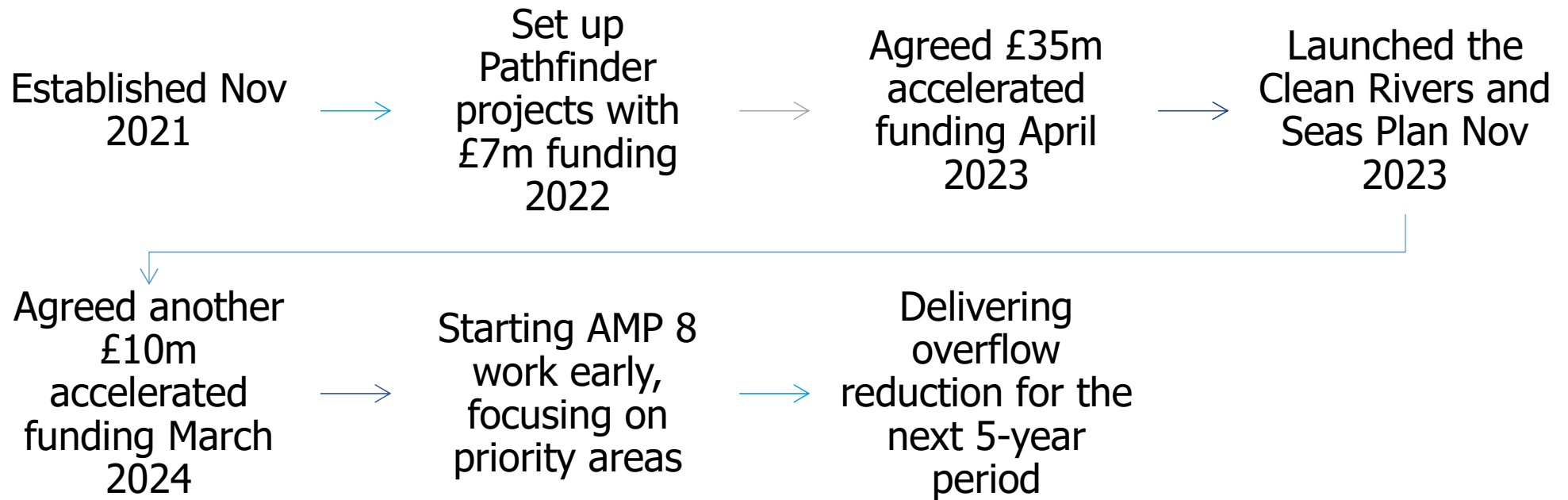
Show all
Total: 616

Updated: 28/06/2024 13:41 BST

- Launching [Rivers and Seas Watch](#) imminently (pre-release version live)
- Co-created with customers and stakeholders
- All storm overflows included
- More transparency, better usability, more features



Task Force evolution



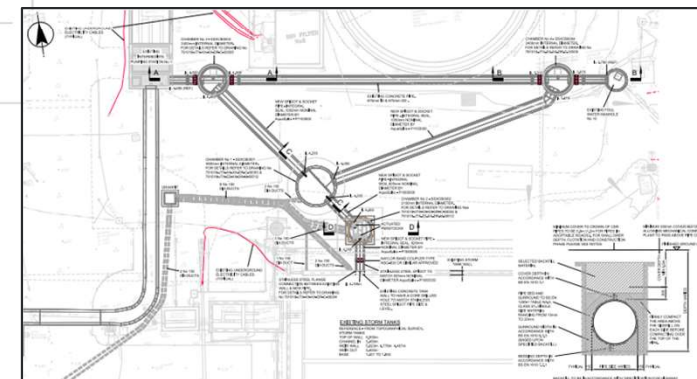
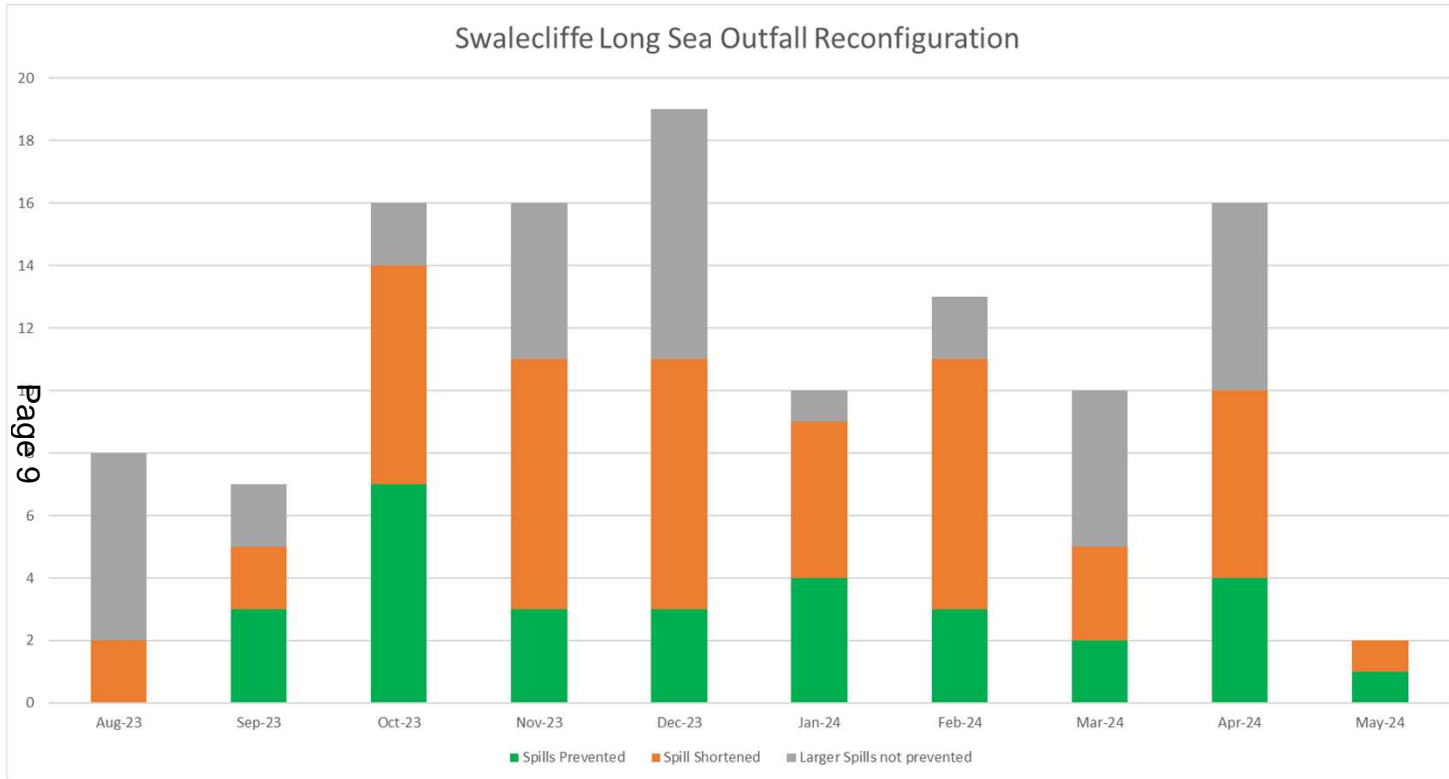
Optimisation

Whitstable, Deal

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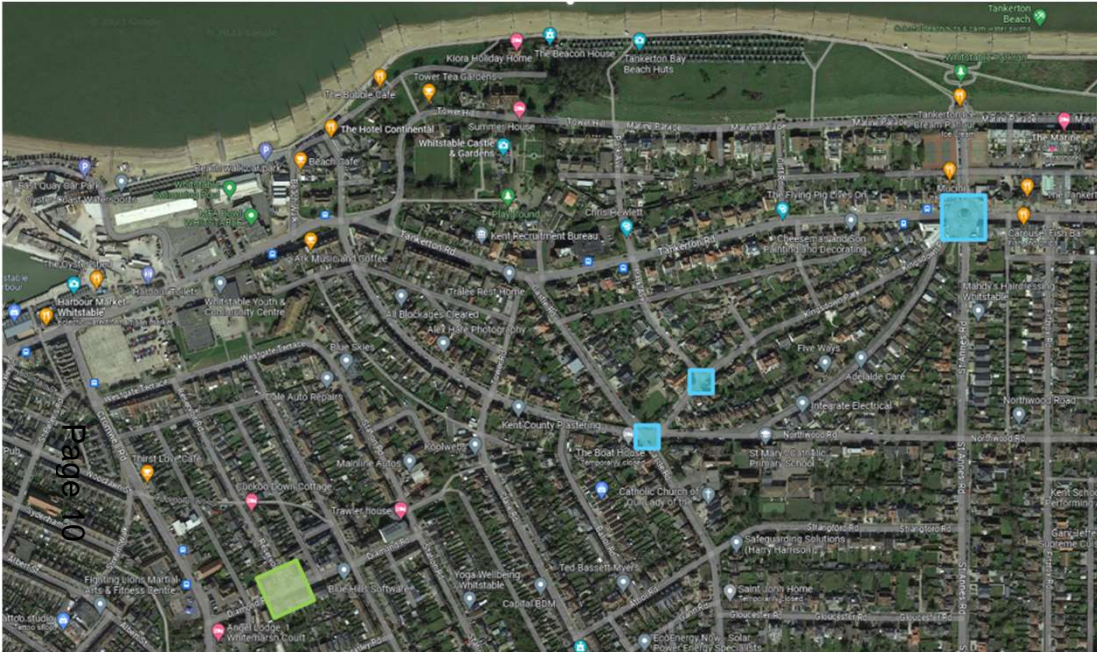


Swalecliffe Long Sea Outfall reconfiguration



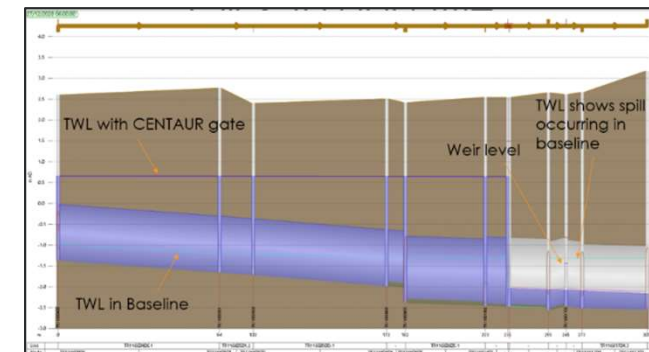
- Anticipated 20% average reduction in Long Sea Outfall events.
- In operation since 21st August 2023.
- Since August 2023 we have:
 - captured 30 of the 115 discrete storm events that have occurred (26%)

Centaur Gates



- Diamond Road CSO, modelled c60% reduction in spills
- Tankerton Circus CSO, modelled c40% reduction in spills

- We are currently developing a programme of works to make Whitstable the first Intelligent Catchment utilising forecast rainfall, real time network information and AI to manage the infrastructure in a different efficient way to reduce CSO usage across the catchment and 37 pumping stations



Surface Water Connections

Whitstable, Deal, Fairlight

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Tankerton Road

- Surface Water Connection directly discharging into Tankerton Circus CSO.
- New connection to bypass CSO and divert flow directly into surface water line.
- Managing at least 0.5ha of impermeable area.
- Works now completed and reduce storms by 30% since completion



SuD's Schemes

Whitstable, Deal, Margate

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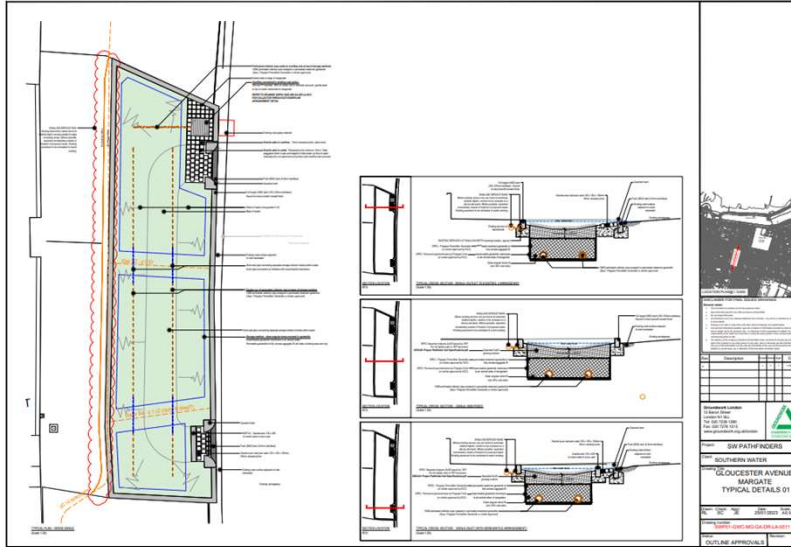


Tankerton Road

- Surface Water Connection directly discharging into Tankerton Circus CSO.
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- Works now completed



SuDS – Highways Margate



Gloucester Avenue
Proposed street improvements

Introduction: the Pathfinder Project
The Pathfinder project is a collaborative project which aims to improve water quality throughout Kent. The project aims to reduce the amount of surface water runoff from hard surfaces (roads, paths, roofs etc) entering the combined drainage network. The effect of this will be to reduce the number of spills from Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).

What is being proposed?
Adaptation of existing grassed verges along Gloucester Avenue, to take rainwater run-off from the road surface into shallow, grassed channels, and new tree planting.

Why is this work proposed?
The modified verges will collect and channel rainwater, which will be absorbed into the ground and by plants. These types of Landscape design features are called "SuDS" (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems). See next page for more info on SuDS.

Will this change the street?
Very little - the proposals are designed to fit into the existing level/verge footprints. The profile of the grass surface will be shaped to provide a shallow channel. Changes will be relatively small, and offer environmental benefits in terms of surface water management and flood risk reduction.

Where is this proposed?
Southern half of Gloucester Avenue (see right)

When will the work take place?
To be confirmed - expected to be in late 2023, subject to Kent County Council approvals and consultation.

Proposals are being consulted for the Southern half of Gloucester Avenue

ABOVE: impression of what the proposals would look like along Gloucester Avenue

Questions or comments?
For further information on the project, or to have your say please visit details@waterforlife.co.uk, or contact [01843812000](tel:01843812000) or www.waterforlife.co.uk

SW PATHFINDER
SOUTHERN WATER
GLOUCESTER AVENUE, MARGATE
KEY PLAN 1 OF 4 GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLANS
DATE: 15/05/2023
SCALE: 1:1000
OUTLINE APPROVAL

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)

The Pathfinder project is developing and building Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in the Kent area. These proposed projects will reduce the flow of surface water entering the combined sewer network. The key aim of the Pathfinder project is to reduce spills from Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).

Why are SuDS needed?

A increase in rainfall and storms due to climate change, combined with an increase in development (hard paved surfaces such as roads and paths) means that the existing drainage network is full to capacity. In high rainfall events this can lead to flooding and CSO spills.

Surface water picks up pollutants as it runs across roads and other surfaces, enters the drains and ends up in water courses reducing the quality of the water. Many drainage systems in towns and cities are part of the combined sewer system - this takes water from both surface rainfall, and waste water from buildings.

In high rainfall events, the drains fill to capacity. When this happens, excess water is released into rivers and the sea. Where this water comes from combined drainage systems, waste and other contaminants are often contained within the discharge.

SuDS help by reducing the flow of water into drains, which reduces the strain on existing underground drainage networks. This can help prevent spills from Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), reducing flooding, and improving water quality.

What do SuDS look like?

There are lots of different types of SuDS - you've probably walked past one on the street and not even noticed! They can look like planters, grassed verges, tree pits, or other landscape features. This page shows some examples.

SW Pathfinder

Water for Life
from Southern Water

- Gloucester Avenue – managing 0.5ha
- Consultation underway with residents
- Works planned to start September 2024

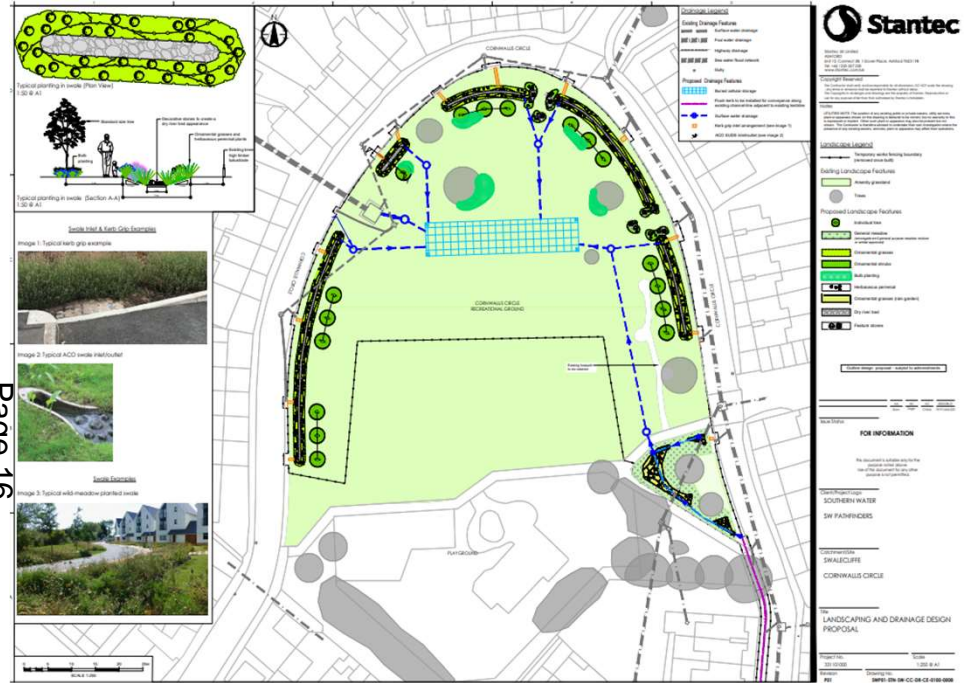


Large SuDS – Green Parks

Westmeads Recreational Ground:

Large scale Green park managing 1.3ha of impermeable area

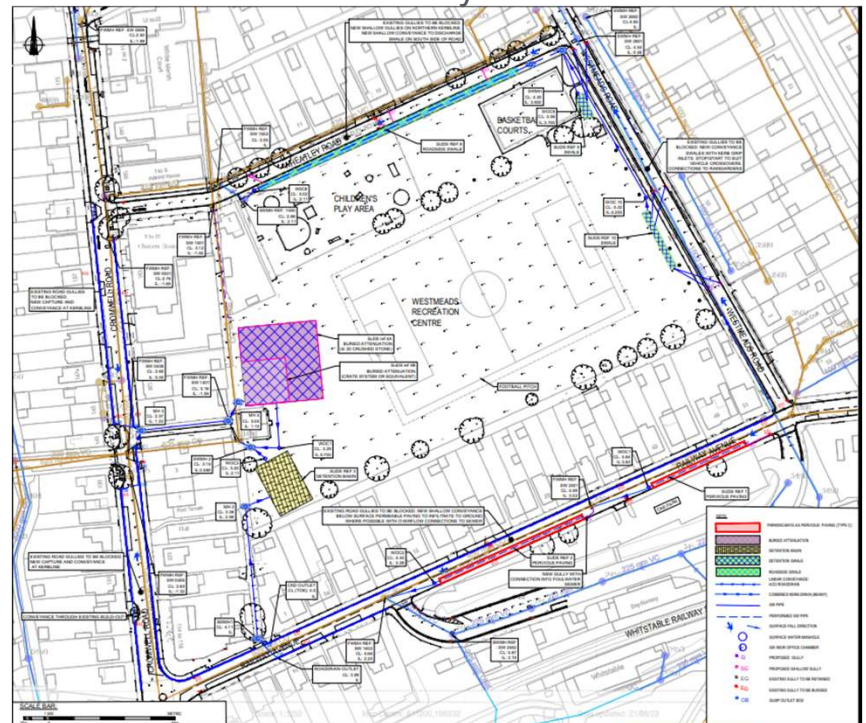
Canterbury CC driver to bring back football to the grounds and introduce soft landscaping to increase biodiversity



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Cornwallis Circle:
 Potential 1.2ha of impermeable area managed across two phases.
 After a successful consultation with local residents, we are moving into Ground Investigations and Detailed design.



Slide 16

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SuDS – Highways – Whitstable Library

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- ① Proposed Raingardens
- ② Bridge
- ③ Proposed Planter bed
- ④ Proposed Green roofs
- ⑤ Hard-standing tree pits
- ⑥ Existing soft landscaping
- ⑦ Gulleys
- ⑧ Flag-pole
- ⑨ Memorial

We are proposing some greening interventions around the Library that focus on water management and wildlife enhancement. The proposals include green roofs on buggy and bin stores and some additional planting beds. We are including Rain gardens to help manage rain and surface water run-off, along with engineered tree planting systems that will slow the flow of surface water into the combined drainage systems.

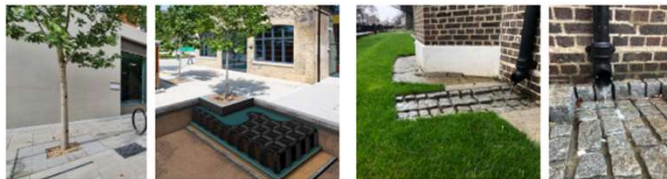


① Rain gardens - SuDS that capture rainfall before it enters the piped network and allows it to infiltrate into the ground.

② Wide wooden bridge for easy access through the rain garden.



③ New buggy stores and bin stores with green roofs for water management and wildlife benefit.



④ Engineered tree pits that manage rain water run off and benefit longterm tree health.

⑤ Gulleys for excess water to escape into a suitable overflow system.

- Managing large roof runoff and Highways drainage
- Increasing biodiversity in an urbanised area
- KCC review expected Dec 23 then moving to Detailed Design.



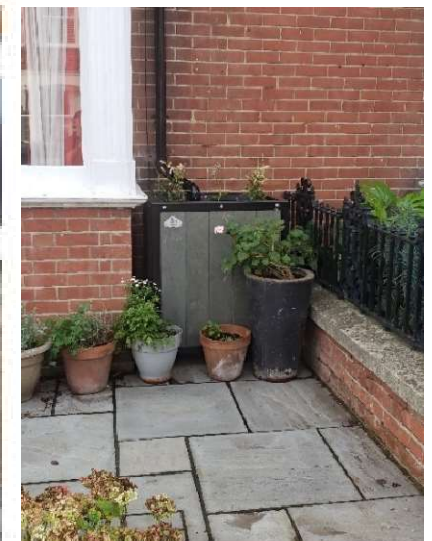
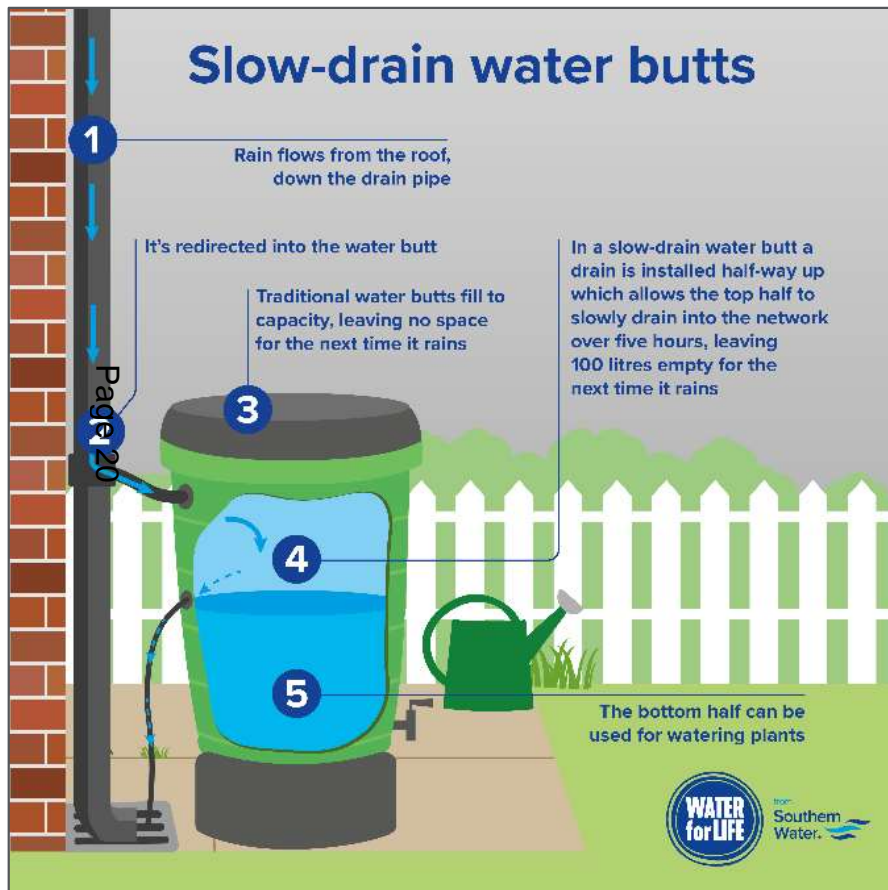
Planters and Water butts

Whitstable

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Planters and Water Butts



Slow the Flow – Household and Non Household
We've installed over 3000 slow the flow water butts across our region.

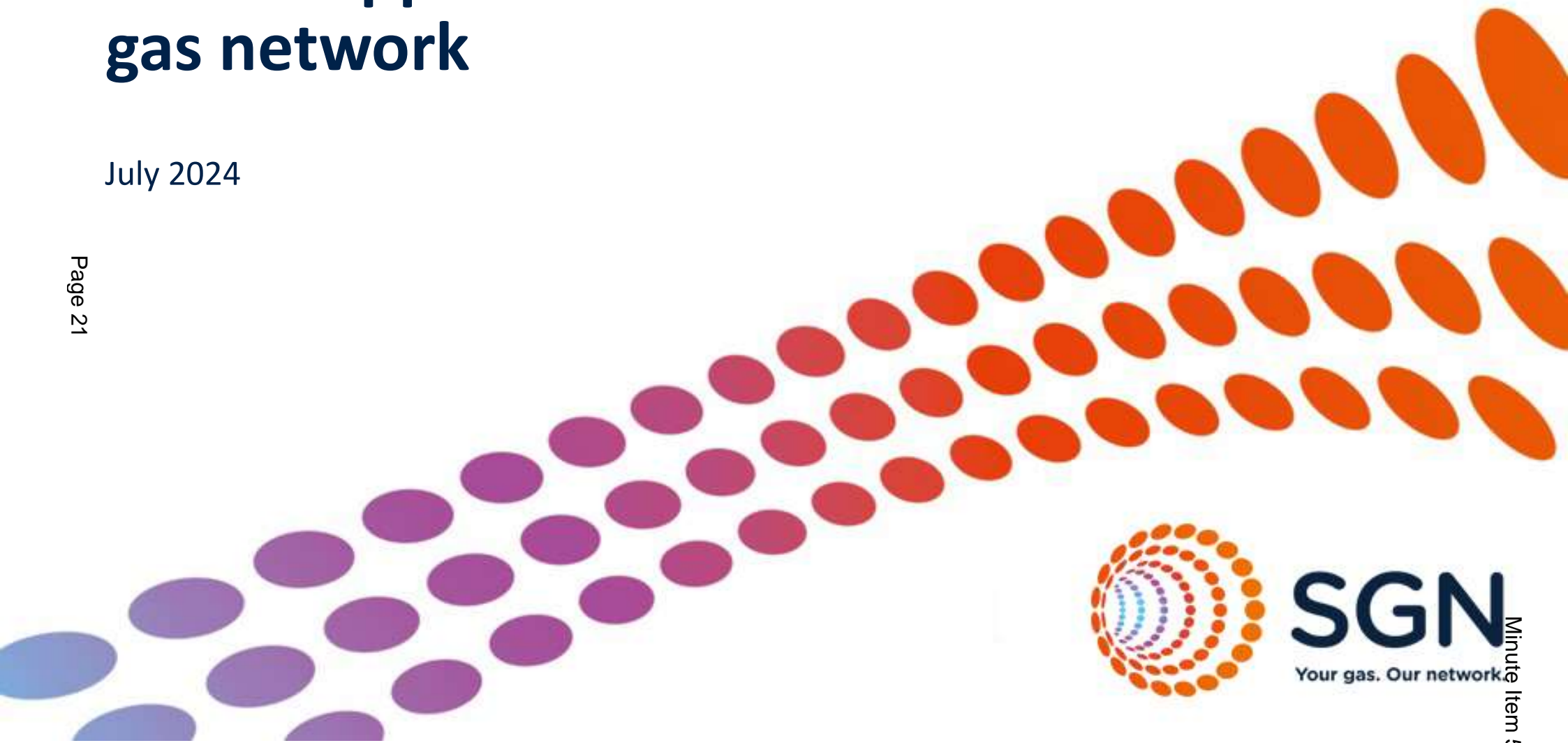
Targeting the large industrial roof spaces
All survey dependant.



What happens when water enters the gas network

July 2024

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SGN
Your gas. Our network

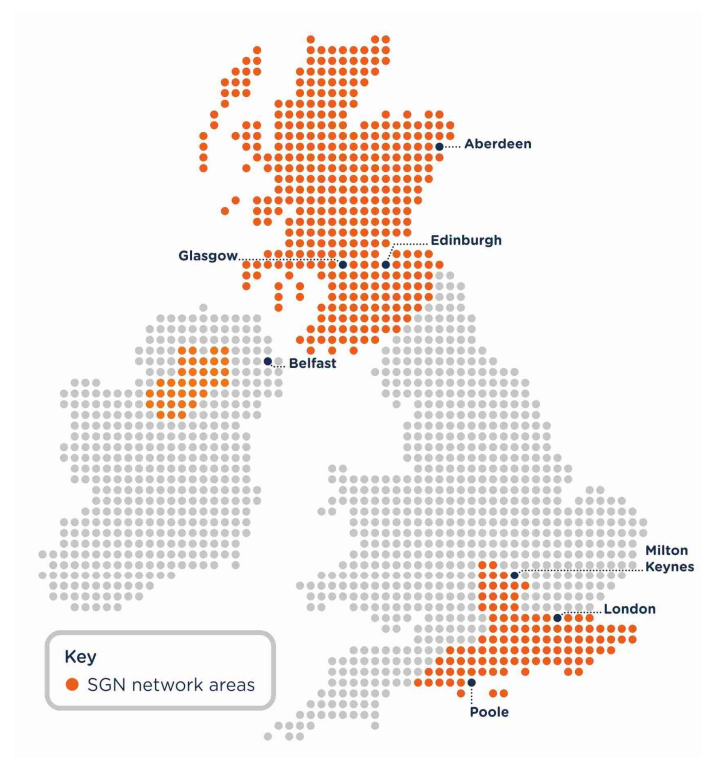
Minute Item 5

A bit about us - we are SGN

We manage the network of over 74,000 kilometres of pipes that distribute natural and green gas to 5.9 million homes and businesses across the South of England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

Whoever your supplier is, our pipes deliver gas safely, reliably and efficiently to every one of our customers.

It's your gas, in our network.



When things go wrong – Water ingress



Occasionally, water can get into our network of pipes. It can quickly spread over a large area and will interrupt the supply of gas to nearby properties.

This could be due to natural flooding or more commonly third-party damage to a water main near our gas pipes

Once this happens it's important to access all affected homes and isolate the supply at the meter as quickly as possible to prevent damage to connected appliances

The gas supply cannot be reconnected until all the water is removed and safety checks are carried out.

How we communicate with affected customers

Teams on the ground – visiting affected properties to isolate supplies

Incident operations – Mobile Hub

Use of Social Media – Facebook, “X” (Twitter)

Bespoke Web updates – www.sgn.co.uk

SGN Alert Service – where customers have signed up for text or email alerts

Recent Example -Banbury June/July 2024

On 29 June we became aware of a potential water ingress incident in the OX16 area of Banbury

Thames Water had been working nearby and found that water from a leaking main had entered our 200mm ductile iron gas pipe.

This quickly spread over 1km away at the bottom of a hill

700 properties affected – all supplies had to be disconnected and safety checked once the water was removed.



Incident Support

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Once an incident was declared our engineers and support teams mobilized to the area

We set up a mobile hub in a nearby Community Centre to manage the incident and provide customer support

Finding the water!

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Removing the Water

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A well-earned break for our hardworking engineers


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Summary of events

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Thanks to our customers in Banbury for your support, patience and understanding after water flooded our gas network



700! gas supplies affected	216 engineers and colleagues from support teams working round the clock	277 vulnerable customers supported
3.2 kilometers of gas pipes flooded	451 hotplates and heaters given to the local community	38,000 litres of water removed from our network
		4 syphon tankers

