The River Lark Catchment Partnership

Our environmental initiatives for rivers

Dr Robin Price – Director of Quality and Environment

25 May 2023

WINNER UtilityWeek AWARDS 2018 Utility of the Year

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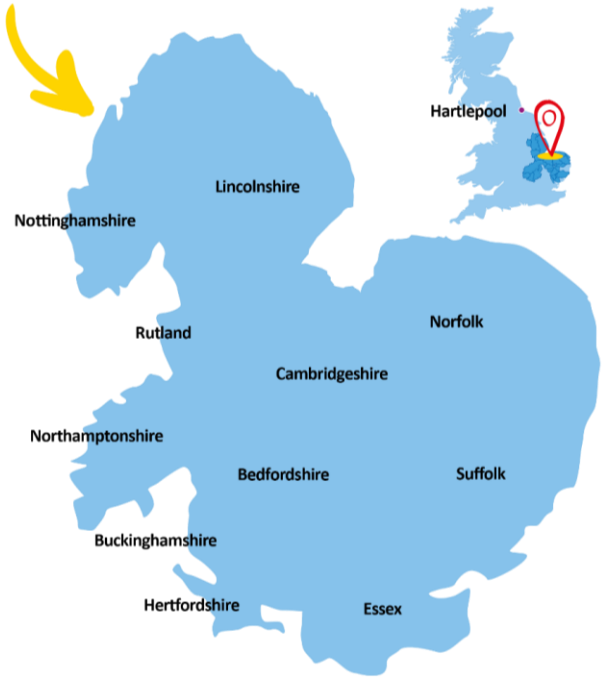
Our water company

The **largest** water and water recycling company in England by geographic area



Employing more than

5,000

people

Serving almost

7 million

customers across the East of England and Hartlepool

The driest region in the UK with

2/3

of the national average rainfall each year

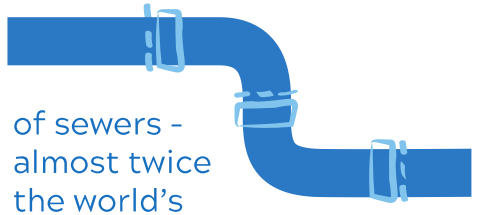
One of the UK's fastest-growing regions, projected to grow by

175,000

homes by 2025

Operating more than

76,000km



of sewers - almost twice the world's circumference! - and **1,128** water recycling centres.

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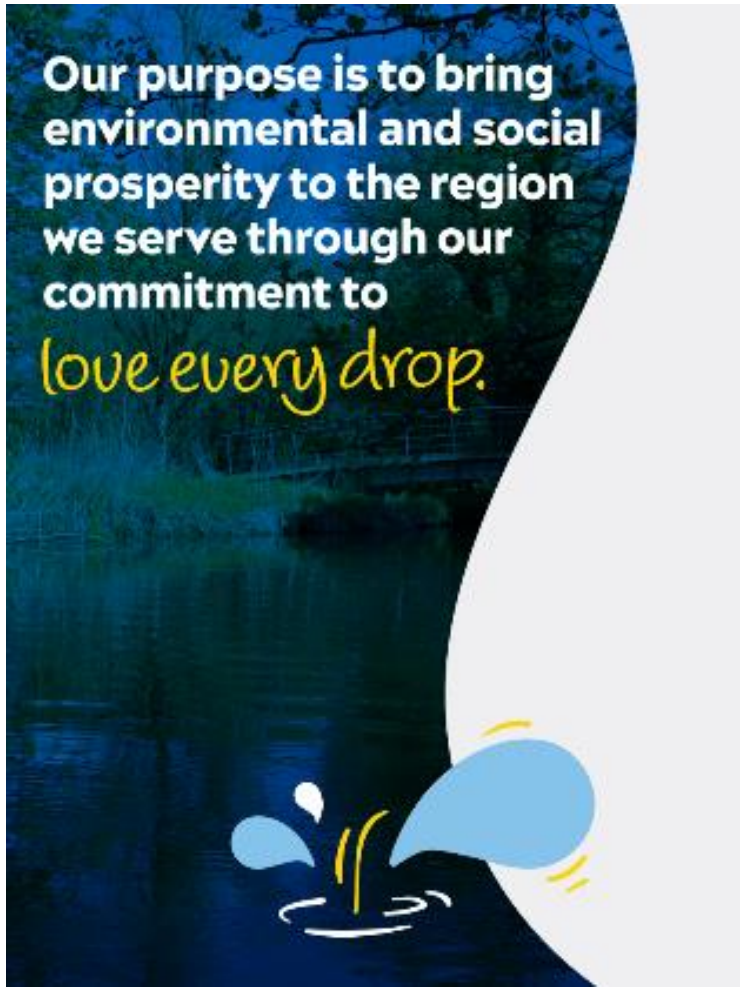
Our purpose as an organisation



Our 25-year strategic ambitions are shaped to deliver on our purpose and drive us to achieve more, for everyone

By 2030, be a **net zero carbon** business and reduce the carbon in building and maintaining our assets by 70%.

Work with others to **achieve significant improvement in ecological quality** across our catchments.

Make the **East of England resilient** to the risks of drought and flooding.

Enable sustainable economic and housing growth in the UK's fastest growing region.

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Our environmental investment programme

Between 2020 and 2025 we're investing £811 million as part of our Water Industry Natural Environment Programme

Our AMP7 improvement commitments

- **Phosphorous**
  - 390km river enhanced
  - 120km protected from deterioration
- **Chemicals**
  - 30km protected from deterioration
- **Eel schemes**
  - Screening and eel pass improved across 200km of river habitat
- **Physical habitat restoration**
  - Improving access to 120km of river

A big focus on reducing storm spills

- Our accelerated £200 million+ AMP7 programme
- Installing more storm tanks: £80 million
- Increasing capacity at water recycling centres, reducing the risk of spills to the environment: £56 million
- Targeting investment to increase monitoring, directly reduce spills and pollutions, and protect the environment: £46 million
- Improving bathing water quality: £21.5 million
- Installing sustainable drainage solutions: £20 million

Get River Positive

Driven by our purpose, and the shared expectations of our customers that rivers should be beautiful places, rich in nature, Anglian Water joined forces with Severn Trent in March 2022 to launch Get River Positive

This means we will strive to do no harm to UK rivers and do everything we can to ensure they can thrive.

Our five Get River Positive commitments

- Ensure storm overflows and sewage treatment works do not harm rivers.
- Create more opportunities for everyone to enjoy our region's rivers.
- Support others to improve and care for rivers.
- Enhance our rivers and create new habitats so wildlife can thrive.
- Be open and transparent about our performance and our plans.

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The River Lark – our flagship chalk stream

An ambitious new strategy for chalk streams

Defra Press Office, 19 October 2021 - Weekly stories

Environment Minister Rebecca Pow, Environment Agency Chair Emma Howard Boyd and Natural England Chair Tony Juniper visited the River Mimran in Hertfordshire on Friday 15 October for the launch of the Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy.

They met with members of the Chalk Stream Restoration Working Group, which has put forward a set of recommendations to protect and restore England's rare chalk streams.

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The River Lark

Reasons for not achieving good status by business sector

Significant water management issue	Changes to the natural flow and level of water	Invasive non-native species	Physical modifications	Pollution from abandoned mines	Pollution from rural areas	Pollution from towns, cities and transport	Pollution from waste water
Agriculture and rural land management	7	0	9	0	3	0	0
Domestic general public	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industry	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Local & central government	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
Mining and quarrying	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Navigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No sector responsible	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recreation	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sector under investigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban and transport	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Waste treatment and disposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Industry	7	0	0	0	0	0	9
Total	15	4	19	0	3	1	9

Ecological status for surface waters

Ecological status or potential	Bad	Poor	Moderate	Good	High	Total
Number of water bodies	2	2	7	1	0	12
Number of water body elements	3	9	9	16	61	98

16 out of the 51 RNAGs are due to Anglian Water
These are due to phosphate, flow, dissolved oxygen and macrophytes

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Reducing phosphate in the River Lark catchment

Asset Name	Phosphorus Limit mg/l
FORNHAM ALL SAINTS STW	2
GT WHELNETHAM STW	1
MILDENHALL STW	2
STANNINGFIELD STW	2
TUDDENHAM STW	1
WEST STOW STW	1.5

Water Recycling Centres with phosphate treatment (current)

Asset Name	Phosphorus Limit mg/l
HAWSTEAD STW	0.4
GAZELEY STW	0.8
LIDGATE STW	1
ROUGHAM STW	0.5
TUDDENHAM STW	0.5
CHIPPENHAM STW	1

Water Recycling Centres with phosphate Investment schemes (for delivery by 2025)

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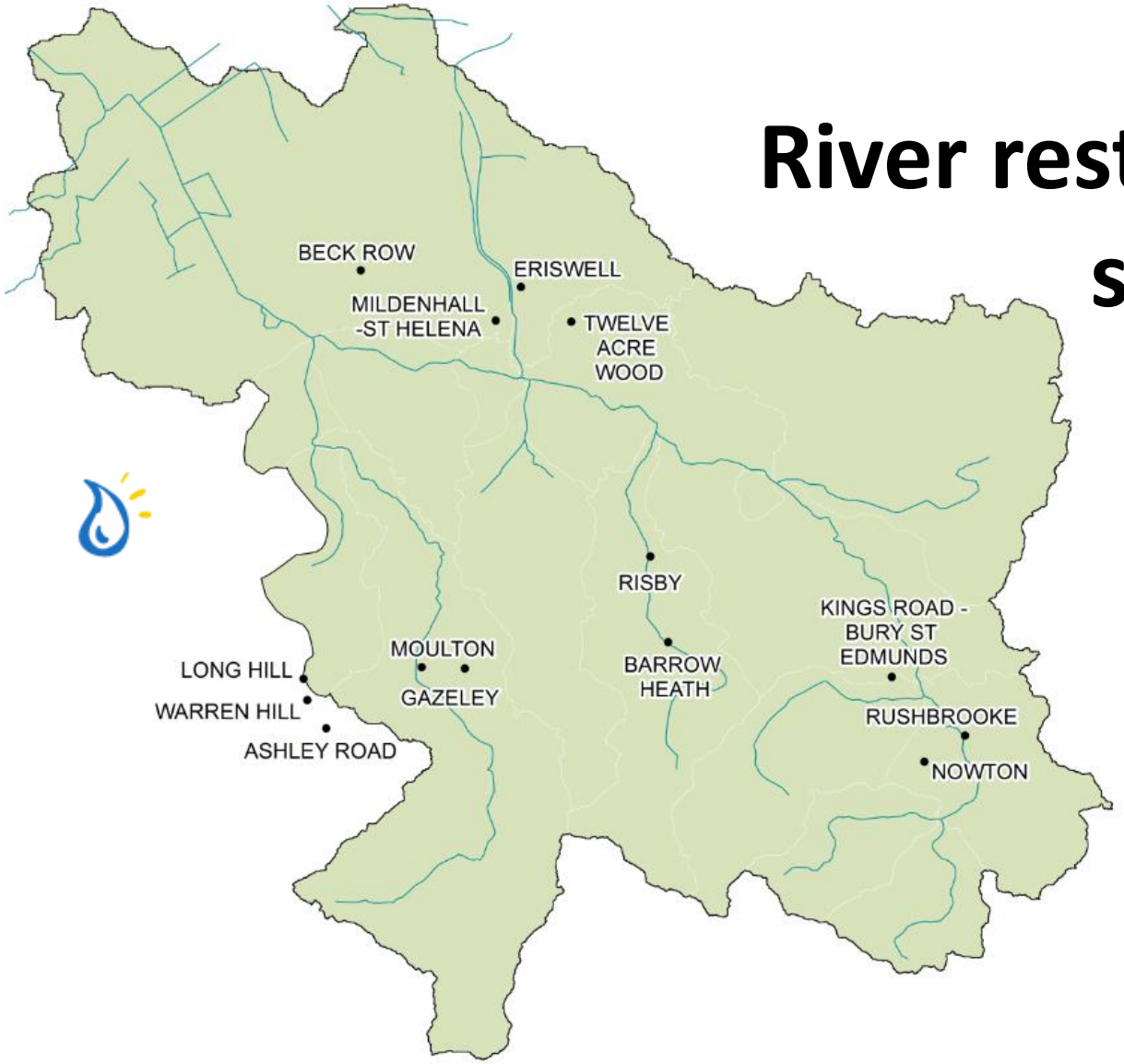
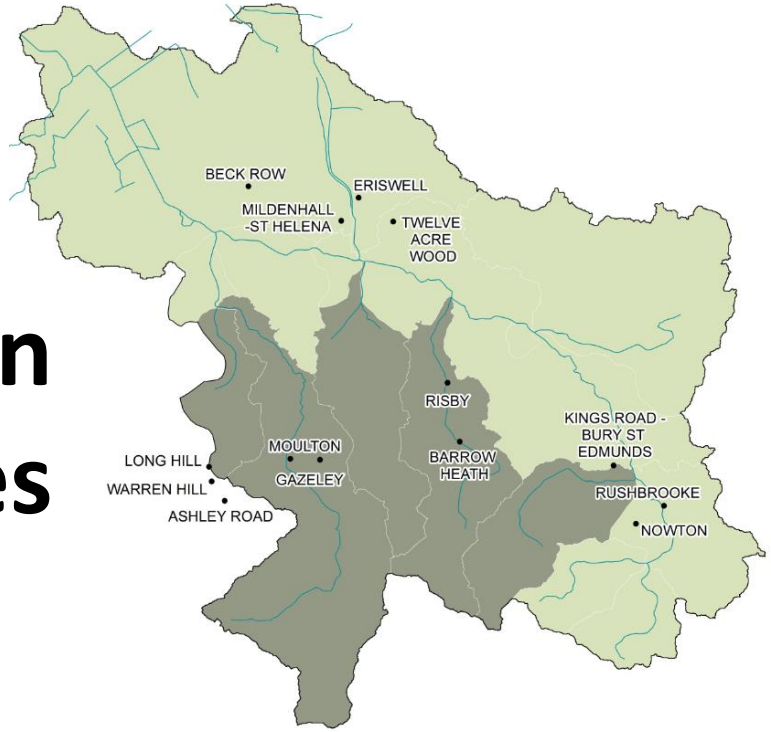
Improving river flows



River restoration schemes



Name of Waterbody	Completion Date
Lee Brook	22/12/2024
Tuddenham Stream	22/12/2024
Cavenham Stream	22/12/2024
Kennett - Lee Brook	22/12/2024
Linnet	22/12/2024

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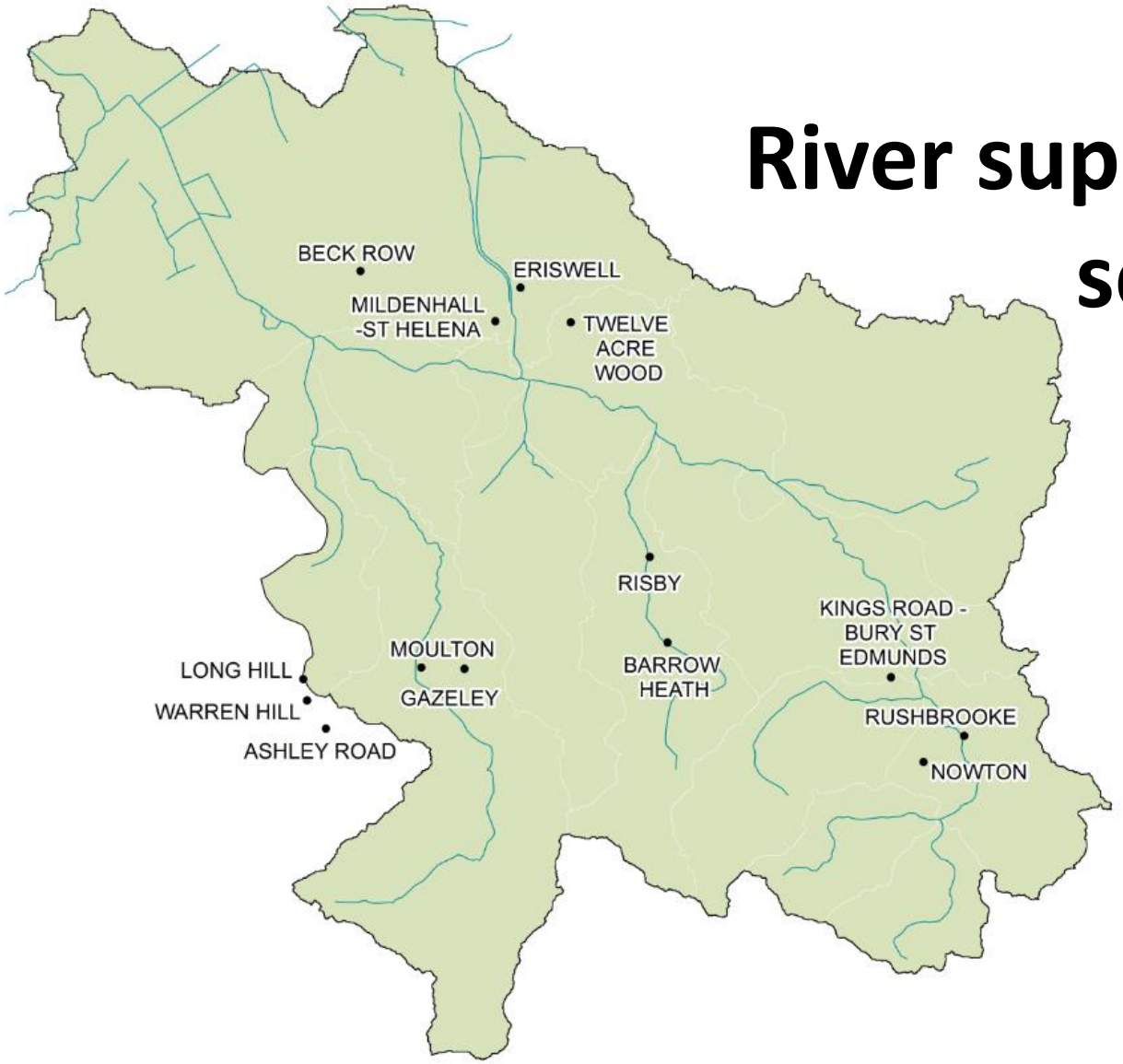
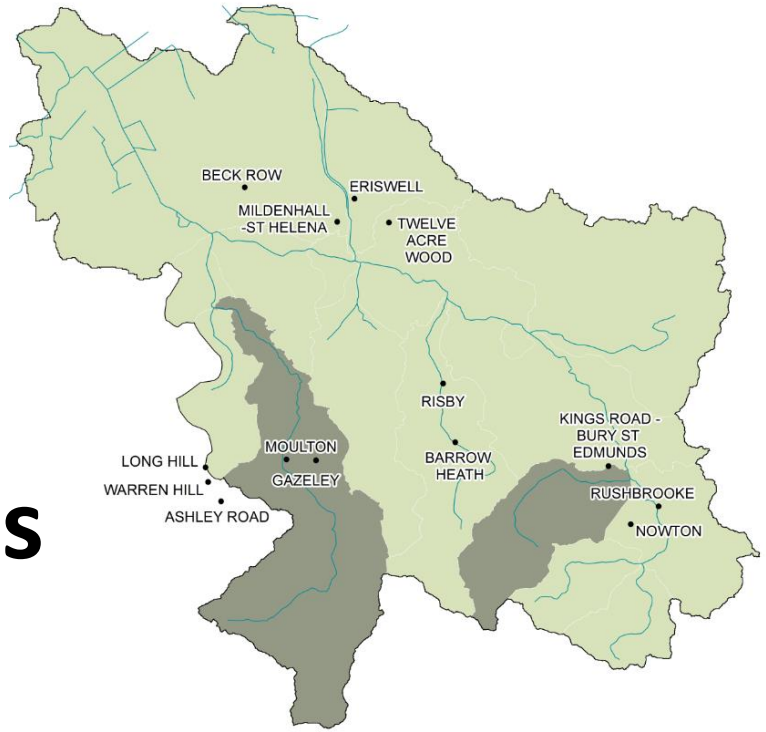


River support schemes



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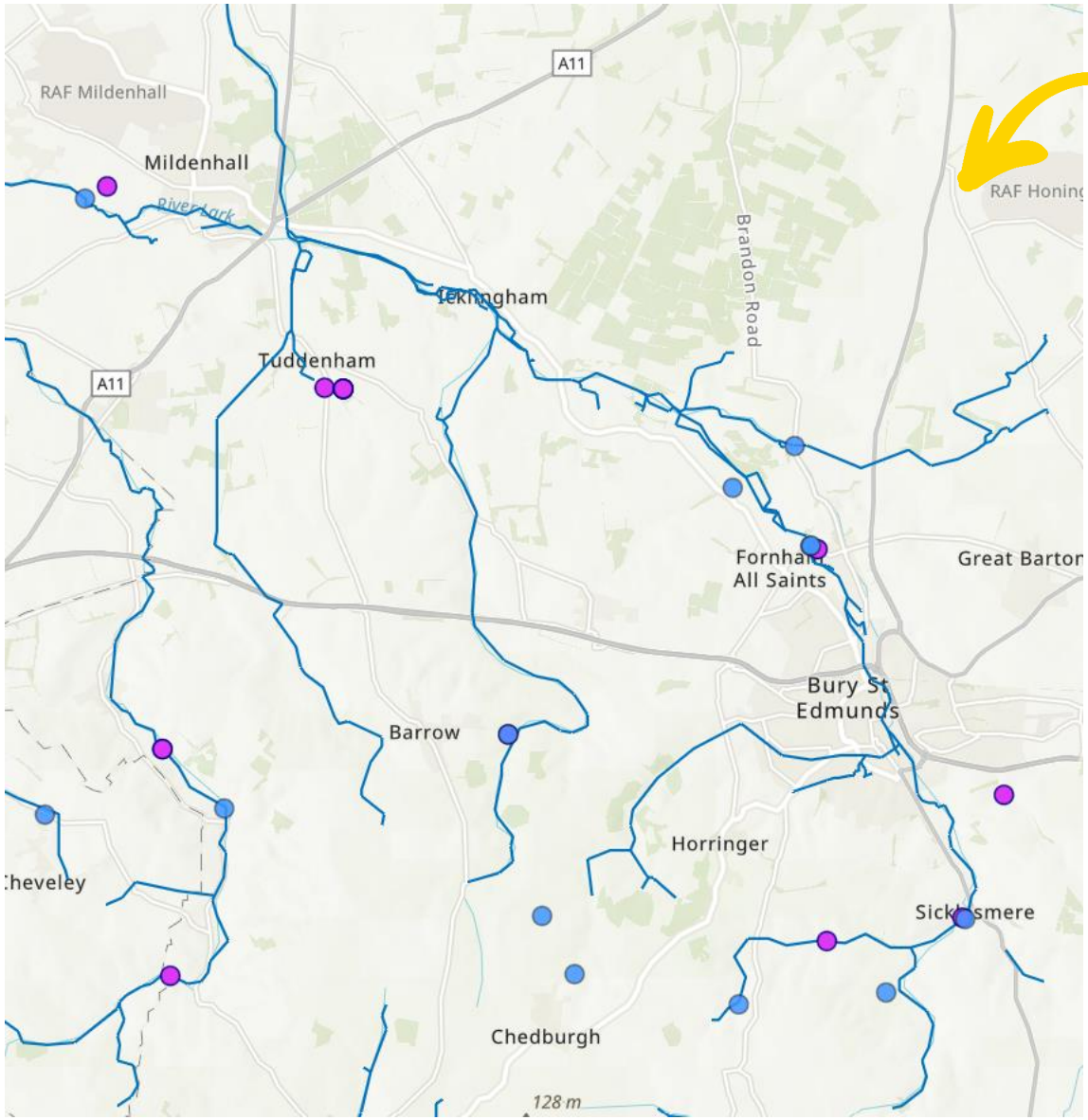
To further support flows across the Lark catchment, we have committed to license reductions across all of our abstractions.

We have also accepted new, tighter “hands-off flow” conditions at Kings Road and Rushbrooke sources (from 31/03/2025), meaning we will take less water when the river most needs it.

The Lark Catchment – storm overflows



There are 16 permitted storm overflows in the Lark catchment – the majority are at Pumping Stations, with several at Water Recycling Centres.

- In 2021, 5 were monitored, and average spill numbers were 9 occasions per overflow.
- In 2022, 12 were monitored, and average spill numbers were 7 occasions per overflow.

By the end of 2023, all 16 will be monitored.

The site with highest number of spills was Barrow WRC; we saw a 50% reduction in spills in 2022 compared to 2023, and further storm tank capacity has now been added which should reduce spills further.

All of this information is available on our website.

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The River Lark – our investment plans through to 2025

We have identified a number of investment schemes for the Lark management catchment for the period between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2030, including.

9 schemes focused on *Protecting the environment from the* ***effects of intermittent discharges*** *and remove* ***local impact of storm overflows***.

8 schemes to improve flow control at Water Recycling Centres

Phosphate reduction at four treatment works

2 schemes to ensure *no deterioration in surface water status* across the whole the **Lark operational catchment and specifically Lark Abbey Gardens-Mildenhall.**

Increased storm water capacity at Fornham All Saints and Mildenhall works

An Advanced WINEP proposal to enable additional partnership opportunities

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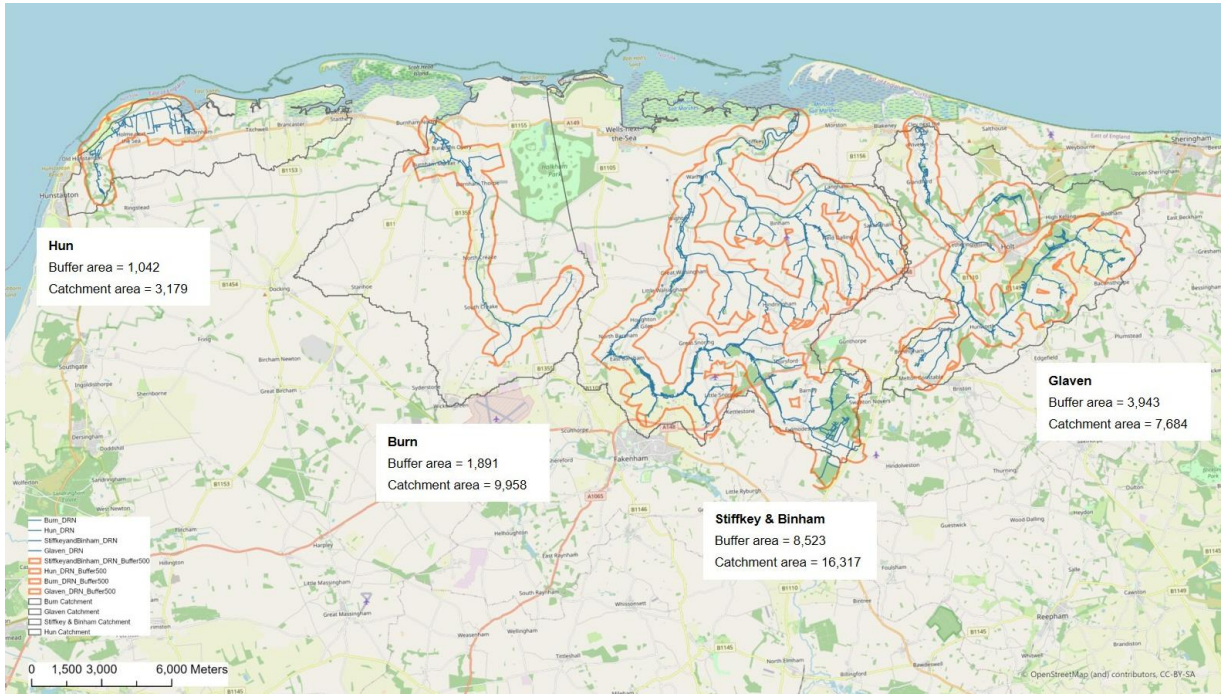
Norfolk Chalk Stream Landscape Recovery



‘Once in a generation’ scheme to restore nature in 22 areas across England

Exclusive: conservationists hail government-backed projects led by farmers and landowners to revive biodiversity

Titchwell Marsh RSPB nature reserve on the north Norfolk coast. Photograph: Simon Dack/Alamy

Norfolk County Council

NORFOLK RIVERS TRUST

WWF

Microsoft

NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

defra
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

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The world's first Ecological Digital Twin

Partners

Project delivery partners:

avanade

Microsoft

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We aim to work with a wide range of partners, including:

NORFOLK RIVERS TRUST

University of Suffolk

Wessex Water

SEVERN TRENT WATER

National Trust

CLA

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The Lark catchment – involved in CaSTCo

CaSTCo (Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative) is a **3-year Ofwat innovation project**

Involving 24 partners

Partner organisations include: **Water companies, CaBA partners, Environment Agency, Specialist advisors and Universities.**

Total project: **£7.1milion over 2.75 years, £600k for project delivery- ends June 2025**

Collaborative project to **co-create a national framework** focussed on **citizen science and low-cost monitoring** to generate a **body of evidence regarding catchment health.**

CaSTCo

Making sure that people count at the heart of rivers' recovery

'Communities to be included in collecting and sharing river catchment data so that we all have better understanding and achieve better management of our rivers'.

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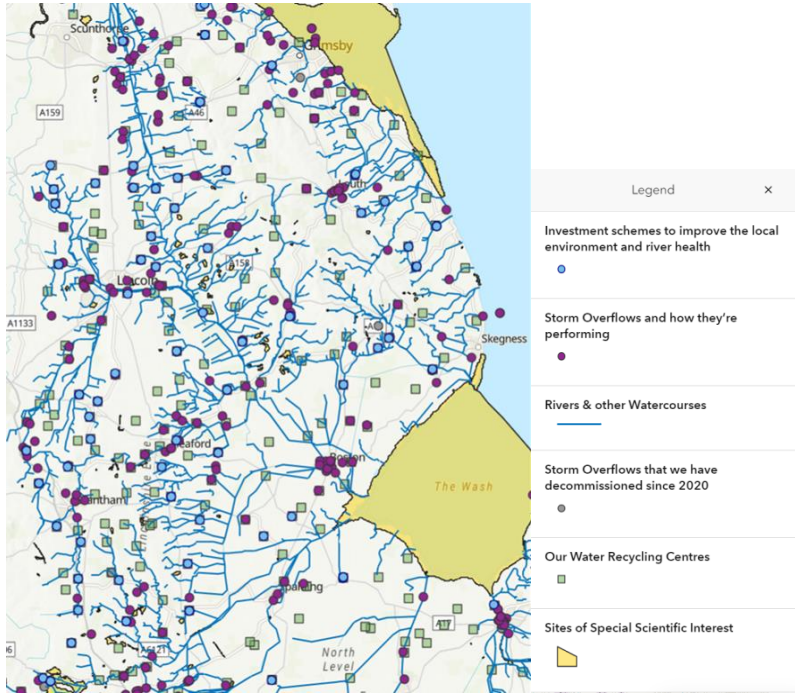
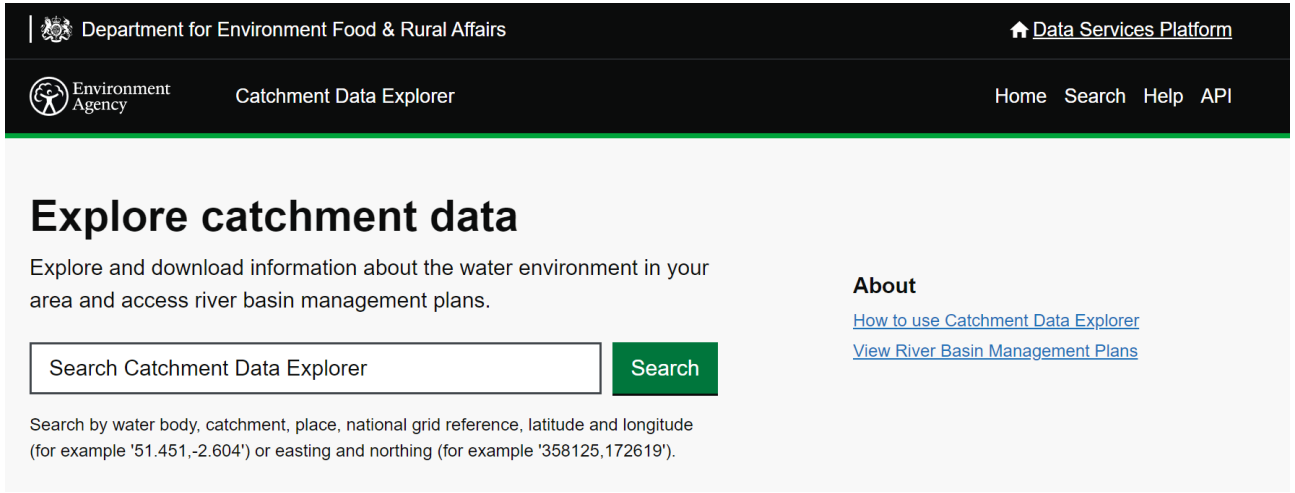
Where to find more information

The Get River Positive Map

An interactive map where you can view:

- Storm overflows and their performance
- Rivers and SSSIs
- Anglian Water's assets
- Investment schemes
- Decommissioned storm overflows





Thank you for listening