

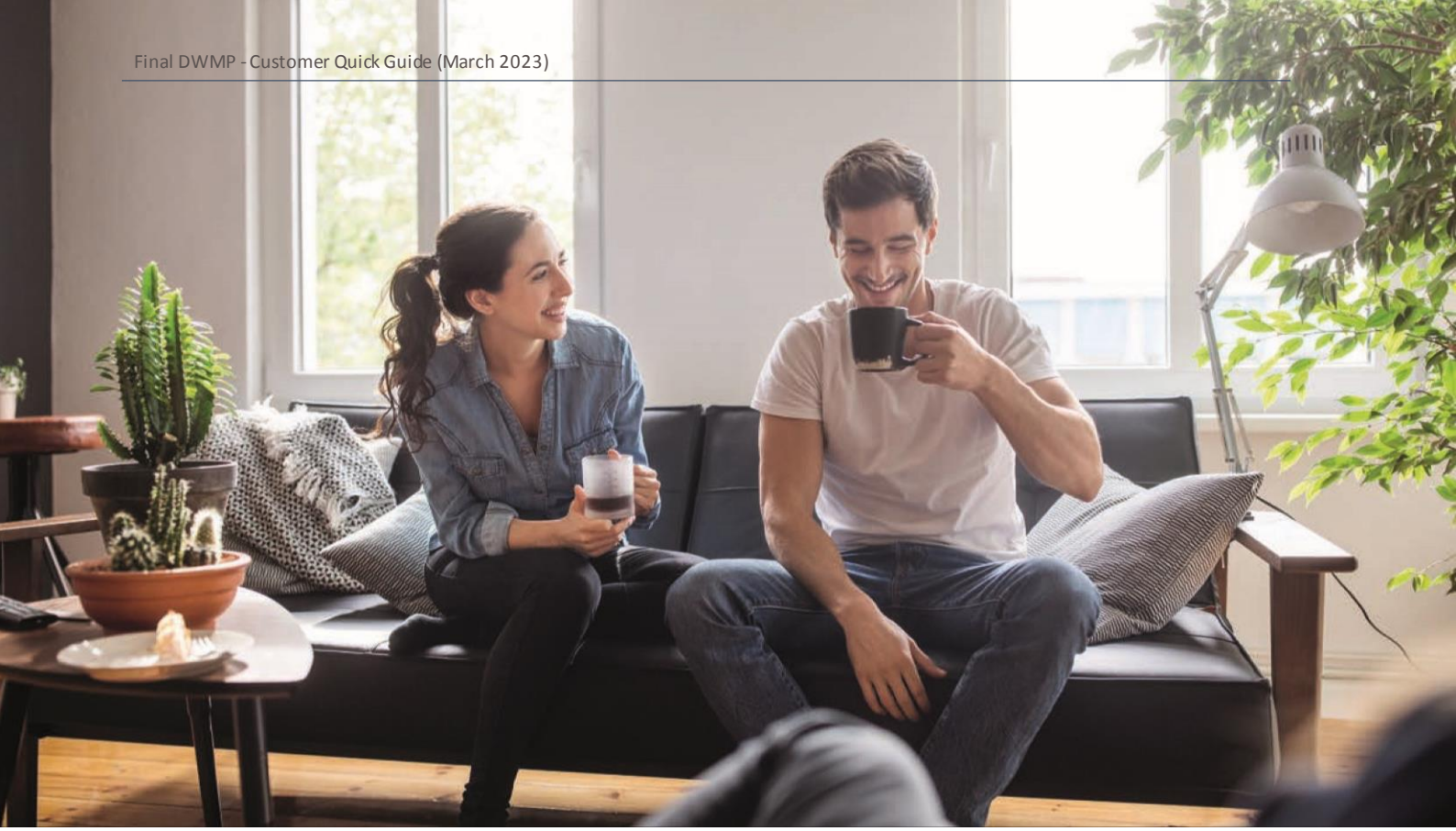
Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan

Customer Quick Guide

Final DWMP (March 2023)

WONDERFUL ON TAP

SEVERN TRENT



At Severn Trent we provide clean drinking water and take away wastewater for eight million customers. Every day we drain over 3.1 billion litres of wastewater from homes and businesses, but also from roads, highways, and public spaces across the Midlands. This flows through 92,441km of pipes, 4,626 pumping stations and nearly 1,000 treatment works. Here the water is cleaned and returned to the environment.

Like all water companies, we need to plan for the future. Our Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) looks at how our system works now, and the investments we need to make to meet the challenges we'll see over the next few decades. This is our first published DWMP and we'll regularly review it in the years to come.

Our network is large, and the changes we make will take time and cost a lot of money. So, we have to look at this over the long term, to keep our customers' bills affordable.

As someone who lives in our area, you deserve to know what we're doing. It affects you and the places where we all live. In June 2022, we published our Draft DWMP ahead of a three-month consultation with customers and stakeholders. Since then, we have been busy taking on-board the feedback and comment we received to incorporate into our Final DWMP. This document is a quick summary of what is in our Final DWMP and what happens next. You can see more detail on our Final DWMP at www.stwater.co.uk.

Whilst consultation on our DWMP has now ended, if you have any further questions then please email us at **DWMP@severntrent.co.uk**.

What are the main things we need our **drainage** and **wastewater systems** to do?

Take away our **wastewater**, safely and hygienically, treat it and clean it.

Deal with **rainwater**, taking it away from our homes and businesses and preventing flooding.

Do all of this while **protecting our places** – our rivers and waterways – and the wider environment.



What's going to affect **drainage** and **wastewater** in the future?

Climate change, population growth and urban creep will increase pressure on our wastewater systems between now and 2050

- By 2050, climate change will increase the risk of flooding. With warmer, wetter winters, we'll see more extreme heavy rainfall events, increasing the risk of rivers breaking their banks or saturated ground flooding. And while summers will be drier, we'll see more frequent, heavier, torrential downpours that could spark localised flash flooding as drains fill and the excess water has nowhere to go.
- We think the number of people we serve will grow by 14% by 2050. Most of this growth will be around existing towns and cities, driving up more demand for housing.
- The increase in paving over grassy areas, known as urban creep – means there will be more rainfall run-off and less absorbed into the ground.

If we did nothing, by 2050 we could see:

- 61% more flood water escaping from the sewer network
- 44,000 more properties would be affected by internal sewer flooding from a severe 1 in 50-year rainfall event
- 14% increase in activations from storm overflows
- 20% of our wastewater treatment works would be at risk of not operating effectively

What do we plan to do over the next **few years**?

We're planning how our drainage and wastewater will look by 2050 but we need to start working now – there's a lot to do and we need to spread the investment. Here's what we're planning **between now and 2050**.

Protecting river water quality

By 2030 we plan to:

- Put into place engineering projects involving pipes, drainage systems, monitoring, water treatment and nature-based solutions, that will improve 121 river reaches across our area (about 1,928 km in length).
- Ensure none of our drainage operations cause RNAGs (Reasons for Not Achieving Good Status) for rivers in our area.
- Maintain full monitoring on every storm overflow in our area.
- Overhaul and upgrade 361 storm overflows across our sewerage catchment areas.
- Reduce activations from storm overflows to an average of 10 per year in high priority areas and 20 per year elsewhere (currently the average is 25 per year).
- Improve 50km of rivers in Warwickshire and Shropshire and create 15km of bathing quality rivers by 2025.
- Have further plans in place to double the amount of bathing quality rivers in the Midlands within 10 years.

Making our areas more flood-resilient

By 2030 we plan to:

- Undertake upgrades to improve surface water drainage in our highest risk areas to alleviate 1 in 50-year flood risk to around 24,000 properties.
- We will use a variety of engineering methods, including water separation and nature-based solutions to ensure solutions maximise best value.

Improving the capacity of our wastewater treatment

By 2030 we plan to:

- Continue to invest in major upgrades to our wastewater treatment works to ensure there is the right level of treatment capacity to deal with expected new development.

What are the long-term **targets?**

By 2030

- Our operations will no longer be causing unhealthy rivers, using Environment Agency measures.
- We'll be working with other sectors to help deliver the Government's 25-year Environment Programme.
- We aim to reduce process emissions (CO_2e) across our assets by 70%.

By 2045

- In line with the Government's Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan, 100% of Defra outlined priority areas (Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, etc) within our region will be protected from harm by our improvements to sewer overflows.

By 2050

- In line with the Government's Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan, no storm overflow will operate more than 10 times per year or cause harm as defined by the Environment Agency storm overflow guidance.
- Reduced risk of properties flooding up to a 1 in 50-year storm event where a solution is cost beneficial.
- Zero serious pollutions caused by our operations.

To do this, we would need to further invest an average of £266.5 million per year between now and 2050. This breaks down to spending £179.4 million per year to meet the Government's targets for storm overflows, £65.4m to upgrade wastewater treatment works to ensure they continue to treat flow effectively, and £21.8m to alleviate sewer flooding caused by heavy rainfall. This would mean an annual incremental increase on customer bills of £1.60, meaning bills would be £39.90 higher by 2050.



How we are using our DWMP to inform investment plans

Our customers are at the heart of our plans. We've already spoken to many of you to understand what you think about long-term challenges we face, and we have used this feedback to refine our Final DWMP.

Our findings from our Final DWMP are being used to inform our next 5-year business plan which is being submitted to Ofwat in October 2023. This plan will set out all our investment plans for 2025 to 2030 (known as AMP8), including what we need to ensure tap water remains good to drink and delivering other non DWMP focused improvement needs. Our business plan will consider priorities to meet the long-term challenges we face, whilst taking account of affordability of customers' bills. Ofwat will review our plan and will publish their conclusions in Autumn 2024.

You can see our full Final DWMP on our website: **www.stwater.co.uk**.

Going forward our next DWMP (covering 25-year period from 2030 to 2055) is expected to be published in 2028. In the meantime, we will be using the findings of our first DWMP to support the delivery of AMP8 improvement schemes, whilst also starting to work with our regulators and stakeholders to see how we can improve the next DWMP.

Should you have any questions and enquiries relating to DWMP, please feel free to contact us via our dedicated inbox at **DWMP@severntrent.co.uk**.

