

An introduction to our Drainage and Water Recycling Management Plan

Please click here
to register for our
introductory DWMP
webinar on
16th September
at 13:00-14:30

What is a Drainage and Water Recycling Management Plan (DWMP)?

It is now a statutory requirement for sewerage undertakers to prepare, publish and maintain a DWMP under Section 79 of the Environment Act 2021.

These plans must be published every five years and undergo a period of public consultation. We are currently developing our second DWMP, which will cover a 25-year period from 2030 to 2055.

This DWMP will set out how we manage and develop our drainage and sewerage systems to meet our obligations under the Water Industry Act 1991. Once published, the plan will be reviewed and reported on annually.

[Click here to watch our video overview](#)



With our next DWMP we want to:



1. Provide a **comprehensive and evidence-based** assessment of our drainage systems' current capacity and the **actions needed in 5, 10 and 25 years** to address risks such as growth and climate change.



2. Deliver resilient systems that minimise failures **in the face of challenges like climate change**; success will be determined by 13 specified performance indicators and 6 trial ones.



3. Consider how drainage systems **impact on immediate and wider environmental outcomes** and develop solutions that will consider environmental enhancement and net gain.



4. **Engage and collaborate with other sectors** to consider the current and future risks and needs, working together to deliver effective solutions.



5. Look at the 'bigger picture' by considering **operational capacity (such as base costs and asset health)** when developing and delivering the plan and linking it to **other strategic planning frameworks**.



6. Improve customer outcomes and provide solutions and actions that deliver **value for money** and consider **societal benefits**.

What challenges do our water recycling systems face?

Flood risk

52% of our region falls within high-risk flood zones, with 28% of land below sea level.

Groundwater issues affect 50% of the region – this may increase as we reduce the amount of groundwater abstracted for public water supply.

Climate and environmental pressures

Our region is susceptible to soil shrinkage and ground movement, which can lead to our ageing infrastructure leaking.

More intense and erratic rainfall patterns can overwhelm our water recycling systems.

Our region includes several key chalk stream catchments, such as the River Wensum, River Nar, River Lark and River Cam that have global importance due to their ecological rarity.

A challenging landscape

Due to the landscape’s flat and highly drained nature, we use pumped systems to transport sewerage over long distances, which can increase the risk of blockages.

Growth

Home to 15% of England’s population, our region includes four rapidly expanding cities: Cambridge, Peterborough, Milton Keynes, and Northampton. By 2043, an additional 700,000 people are expected to reside in our area.

Other pressures

Whilst water usage among our customers is decreasing, reduced sewer flows can lead to more blockages.

Misconnections to our systems continue, contributing to hydraulic overload.

Our existing infrastructure is ageing.



What geographical boundaries will we use for DWMP?

We will use four geographic boundary levels to assess risk, aid collaboration and support reporting.

These levels are:

Level	Boundary	Purpose of boundary
1	Whole area of sewerage undertaker	Used for company-wide report (i.e. the main DWMP report)
2	River basin management catchment	The strategic level for establishing collaboration between organisations and for assessing the environmental condition of water bodies
3	Sewerage catchment(s) level	The level for carrying out a planning study and developing the plan
4	Local solution level (pumping station boundaries)	Provides a focus on clusters of problems, such as flooding



Why have we chosen river basin management catchments for our level 2 boundaries?

We have 15 river basin management catchments in our region.

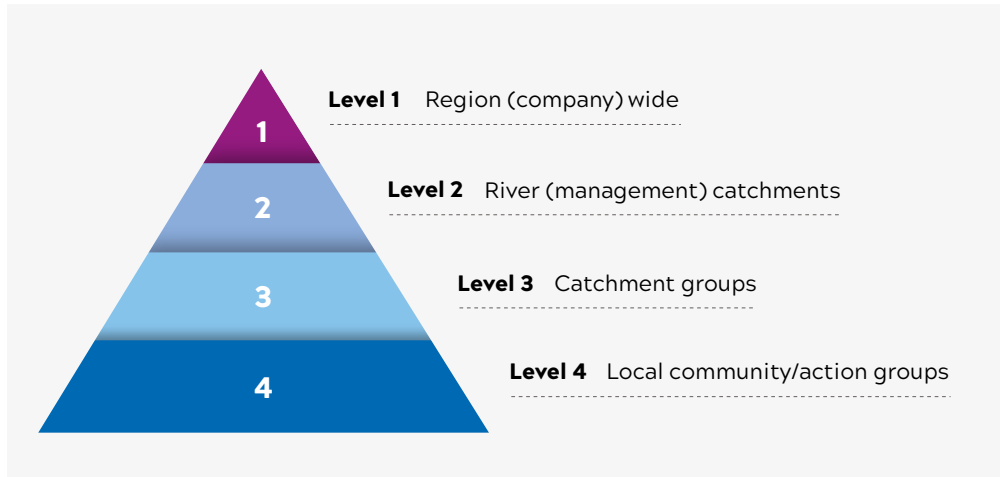
We have chosen to use river basin management catchments, rather than local authority boundaries, for analysis and reporting because they:

- Align with how we develop our Water Industry National Environment Programme, enabling efficiencies with data requirements, collaboration and modelling.
- Allow us to promote an integrated catchment approach, which will allow us to look at strategic options to benefit both water recycling and water resources.
- Can drill down into operational catchments and up into river basin districts, allowing for reporting and engagement on multiple levels.

Local authority area boundaries will be shown on our external GIS platform. We are keen to work with our stakeholders to ensure our spatial systems provide the information that is needed.

How will we engage with stakeholders?

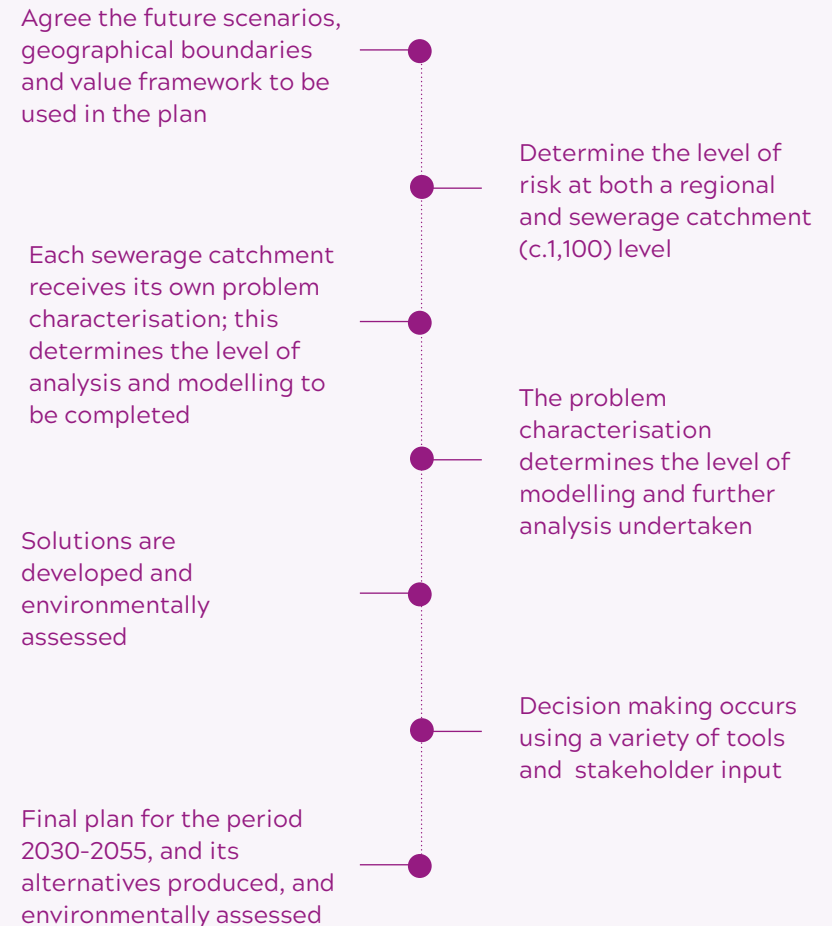
We will have different stakeholder groups that align to our boundaries.



We are currently initiating these groups, with each having its own remit. Please get in touch at dwmp@anglianwater.co.uk if you would like to be involved.

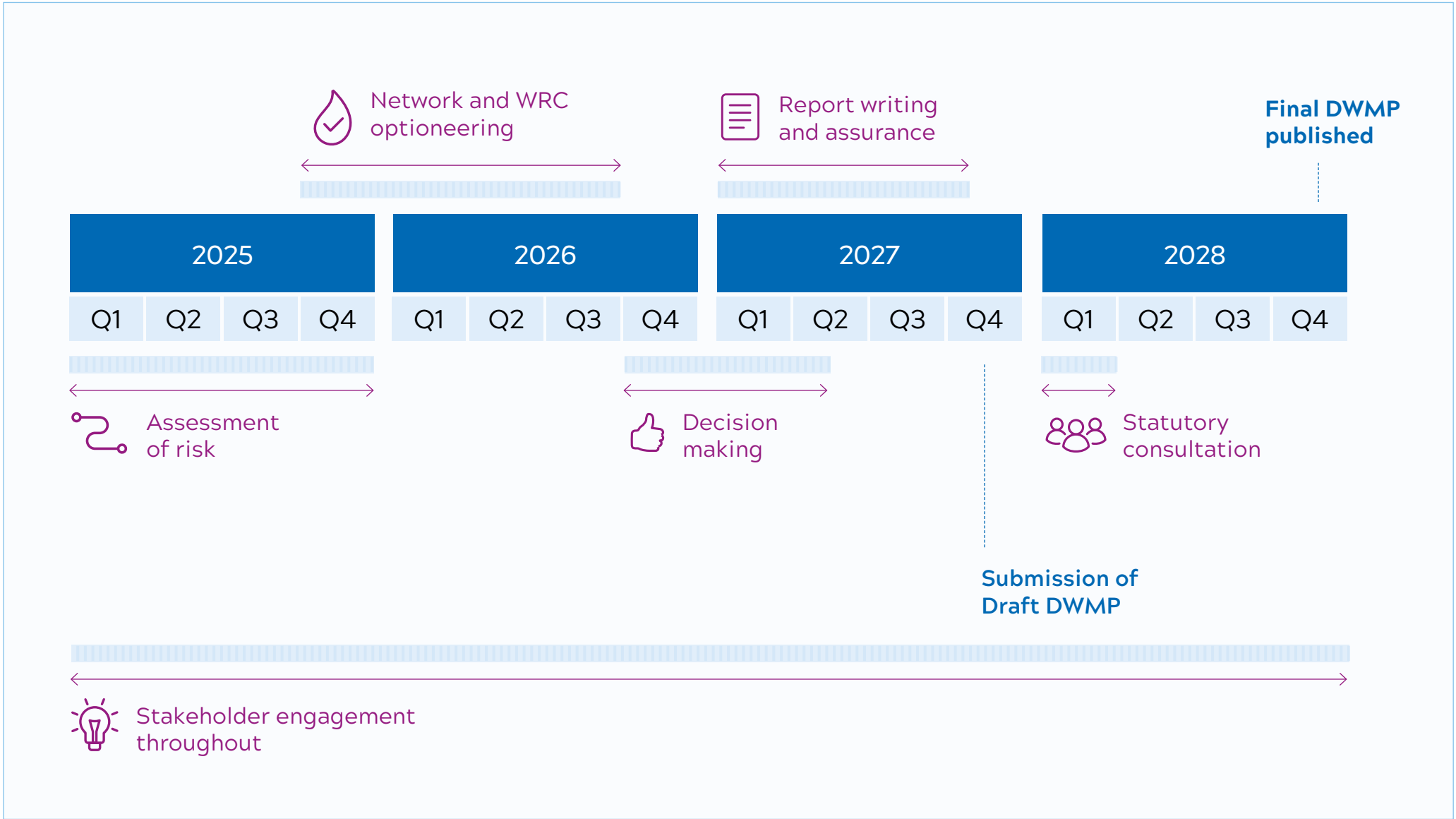


What are the main steps in developing the DWMP?



The published DWMP is subject to an annual review, which could trigger a change to another ('adaptive') pathway if the future differs materially from our forecasts, for example if new environmental regulation occurs or new towns are developed.

What does our programme look like?



How will we assess if the plan is successful?

We will use performance indicators to assess how impactful our planning is. These performance indicators – used by all the water companies that provide sewerage services – determine how we are performing now (our baseline) and to forecast future performance.

What performance indicators will we use?

- Flooding incidences
- Storm overflow performance
- Treatment works compliance
- Number of pollutions
- Public sewerage impacts on rivers
- Bathing water quality
- Shellfish water quality

What are the benefits of using performance indicators?

- They provide a comparable measure of our current and future performance.
- We will gain a deeper understanding of our region's water quality and establish a long-term plan – rather than working on a five yearly investment cycle – to improve it.
- Provides us with quantitative measures to understand the impact of growth, and the ability to promote investment to ensure it is sustainable.
- Gives transparency to our stakeholders and customers.



How does our DWMP fit into the here and now?

We are working hard to improve our current water recycling performance through initiatives such as:

[Our Pollution Incident Reduction Plan](#)

[Storm Overflow Action Plan](#)

[Storm Overflow Monitoring](#)

[Get River Positive commitments](#)

[Preventing blockages through Just Bin It](#)

[Our Flooding Incident Reduction Plan](#)

[Promoting the story behind water](#)

We are closely monitoring what changes the Cunliffe Report will drive; however, our DWMP programme continues as planned.

[Our Business Plan \(Price Review 2024\) sees us invest:](#)

£736 million

in managing storm water and reducing flood risk



Over £1 billion

on improving coastal, bathing and river water quality

£265 million

to cater for growth in our water recycling systems



Find out more here
[Our Plan 2025 to 2030](#)



Please join us at our introductory DWMP webinar on
16th September from 13:00 to 14:30 to learn more.

The webinar will cover:

- An overview of DWMP and how it fits in with our other long-term strategies and catchment-based decision making.
- The aims of our DWMP.
- The geographical boundaries to be used and how we will use GIS to improve accessibility for our stakeholders.
- An overview of how we will forecast future challenges to 2055.
- The analysis of the tools we will use.
- Our stakeholder engagement strategy and how you can get involved.

Please register for
the webinar here

This is the first in a series of webinars and we hope you can join us. If you are unable to, we will make the recording accessible.

You can also reach us at
dwmp@anglianwater.co.uk
and there will be opportunity
for Q&A at the end of the session.