

Sewage Dumping into the Humber in North Lincolnshire



There has been much national press coverage recently of raw sewage release into the sea at or near bathing beaches.

What are the Problems with Dumping Raw Sewage?

High levels of sewage dumping present two main types of harm:

Harm to public health

Discharges contain raw sewage, which can contain high levels of harmful viruses and bacteria. This can pose health risks to people who use rivers and the sea for recreation.

Harm to the environment

Sewage dumping can also lead to harm to the environment. Raw sewage can contain pollutants, microplastics and chemicals, as well as visible litter that is flushed down toilets.

The Environment Agency issues a 'get out of jail free card' that allows the Water Authorities to use 'storm overflows' in 'exceptional situations' which appears to cover almost all cases. Meanwhile the Water Companies continue to pay out large dividends and underinvest in upgrading their sewage infrastructure to fix the problem.

Anglian Water Sewage Overflow Events in North Lincolnshire

Although we don't have any official bathing beaches In North Lincolnshire, we do have the Humber Estuary which has every conservation designation possible. It is simply the crown jewel of habitats within North Lincolnshire.

As the Humber estuary is dominated by tidal flows, any sewage, microplastics, chemicals and other waste mainly stay in the estuary rather than taken out to sea. This is, after all, why the majority of the mud in the Humber comes from the Yorkshire coast.

Surely there is no raw sewage dumping into such an important and vulnerable place?
.....think again!

The top two Anglian Water 'storm overflow' events into the Humber were at the following Sewage Treatment Works:

Barton-upon-Humber: **1,420 hours duration; 111 times per year (2021)**

Winteringham: **3,020 hours duration; 136 times per year (2021)**

Equal to to over 4 months of constant raw sewage overflow at Winteringham and 2 months of constant raw sewage overflow at Barton.

Incredible and appalling.

Effects of Climate Change and more Housing

Climate change is predicted to increase winter rainfall and for the rainfall will be much more severe. This will lead to increased sewage dumping. New housing will also increase sewage dumping.

What Should be Done?

Upgrades to Sewage Treatment Works

There is a long-term plan for upgrading Anglian Water Sewage Treatment Works. Shockingly, neither Winteringham or Barton appear on it. Obviously continued dividend payments to shareholders are far more important. **How can this possibly be justified?**

This is completely unacceptable to North Lincolnshire residents. We demand action:

From Anglian Water:

- Add both Winteringham and Barton-upon-Humber Water Recycling Centres and Pumping Stations to the list of infrastructure that is in need of urgent upgrade.
- Funding for retrofit Sustainable Drainage Systems such as 'smart' residential water butts.

From North Lincolnshire Council

- Retrofit Sustainable Drainage Systems on NLC car parks, roads and properties such as schools and leisure centres. This will reduce yearly charges paid by North Lincolnshire Council to Anglian Water to process this water. It will also reduce carbon emissions allocated to NLC that were previously required for processing of this water run-off.



**GREENS CALL FOR ACTION AND
INVESTMENT FROM ANGLIAN
WATER TO PUT AN END TO
SEWAGE SPILLS**