Why are we investing in Barrow?

As part of our long-term Action Plan for Barrow, we're working on a multi-million-pound investment programme to reduce storm water spills and enhance water quality.

We're exploring a variety of techniques to improve Barrow's water quality including building storage tanks and separating surface water from the combined sewer system, which would involve 're-plumbing' drainage pipes from roofs, car parks and highways.

Why Flass Lane?

It's the central point between 9 storm overflows and with one project we can reduce spills from all 9 (not shown on map).

Other locations were considered.

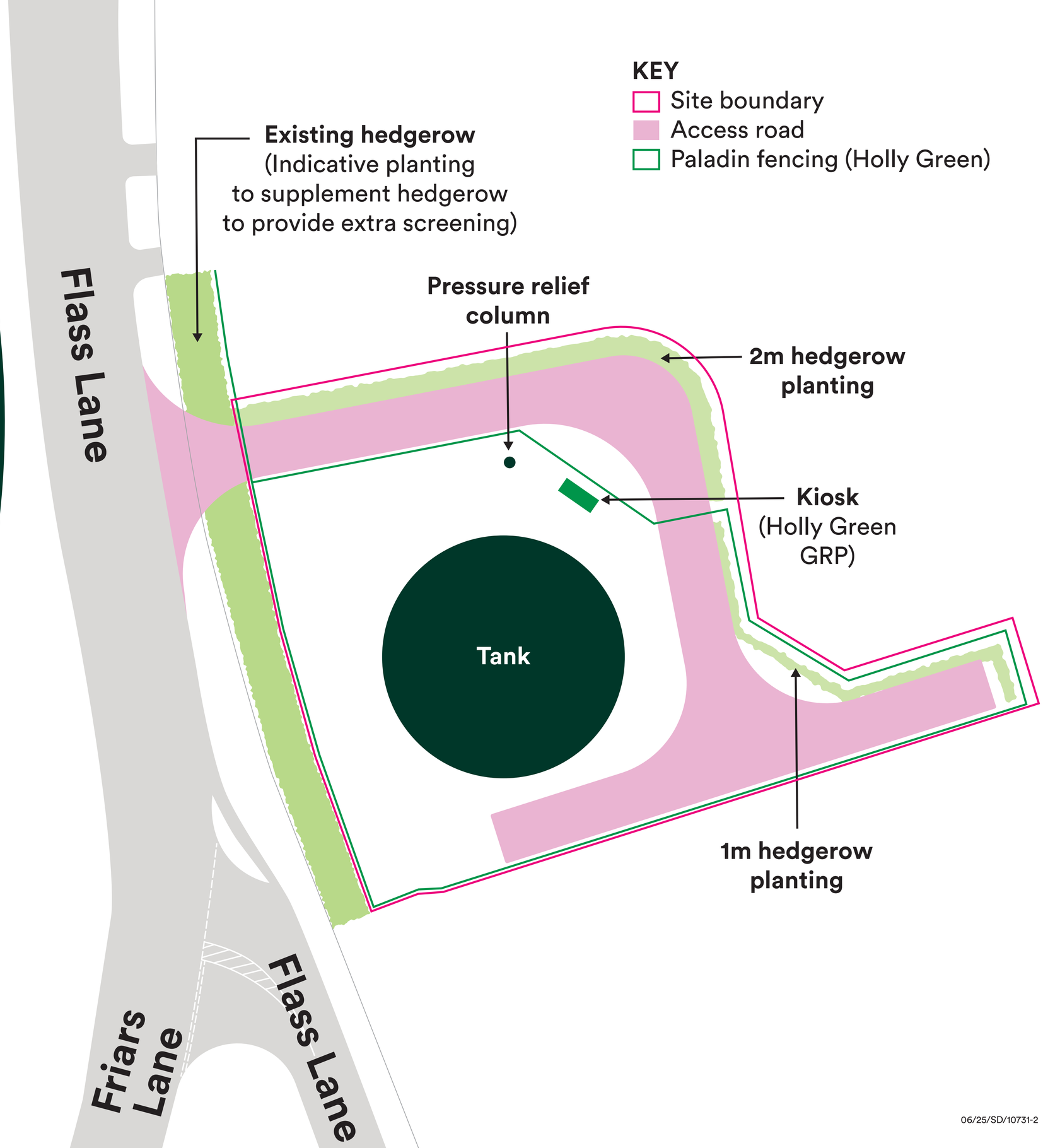
Starting at Flass Lane

Flass Lane is one of our flagship projects to improve water quality in Barrow. We're starting work now to prepare the way for new underground storage to complement the existing treatment infrastructure and help to further reduce stormwater spills.

We're proposing to build a new 27 metre diameter storage tank which can hold around 5,500m³ – that's more than two Olympic sized swimming pools! This will provide storage for 9 storm overflows in one location and reduce disruption across Barrow.

Upon completion, the site will be landscaped back to grass with a fenced compound containing a kiosk (building). The fence will mostly be screened by the existing hedgerow apart from the new access gate off Flass Lane.

Here's what it will look like



Why do we need storm overflows in Barrow?

Storm overflows have been a feature of the sewer systems for over 150 years acting as a pressure relief valve to protect homes and businesses from the risk of flooding when there's too much rainfall.

Over the next **25 years** we expect more extreme rainfall events, increasing in severity

Over half of our sewer network, **54%** is combined so it fills up more quickly when it rains

We have **40%** more overflows than the industry average

Being a rainy region, Met Office data shows the amount of **water running into our sewers is 28% higher** than elsewhere in England and Wales

Sewers are typically **no more than 15% full** during dry conditions so it's heavy rainfall that causes overflows to operate

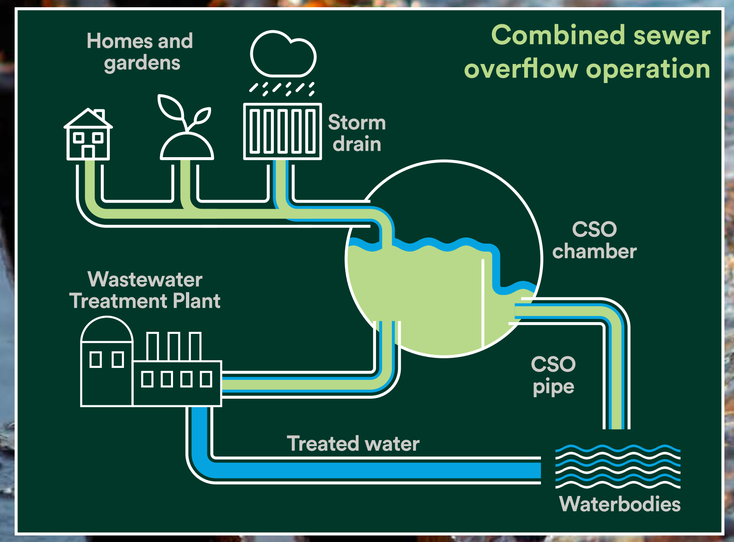
Our work in Barrow will see improvements to **21 storm overflows in 9 locations across** the Barrow catchment, reducing spills and enhancing water quality in the Walney Channel, Irish Sea and Morecambe Bay.

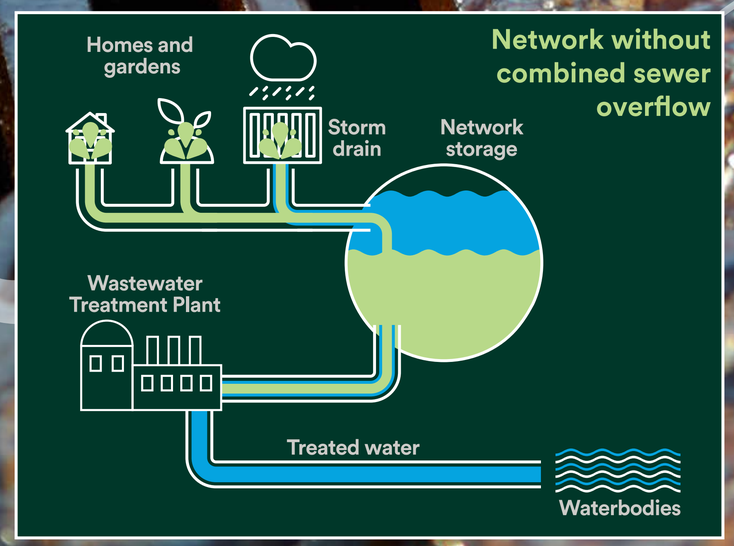
We're listening...

We've been listening to what people say - and no-one wants to see sewage from storm overflows discharged into rivers. We get that and have ambitious plans to tackle this - getting set to deliver the largest environmental improvement in the country from 2025.

It will need a re-plumb of the drainage system across the North West to achieve this.

This is similar to the switch from diesel to electric vehicles, so it can't happen overnight - but we remain committed to bringing about the improvements everyone wants to see so that we can all enjoy our region's waterways.





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Carrying out the project considerately and safely

We understand that construction activity can be disruptive and our teams will do all they can to minimise the impact on the local community and road users throughout the project

When will we be working?

Our normal working hours are 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday.

We don't currently anticipate a need for working weekends or public holidays. Should we need to undertake works outside of our usual working hours we will notify you in advance.

What can we expect?

The majority of works will be undertaken in the field however, there will be certain activities that require traffic management on Flass Lane. During busy periods we will actively manage this, to keep any delays to a minimum.

During working hours there will be an increase in construction noise. We will implement processes to monitor this and mitigate excessive noise where possible.

Construction sites can be messy and dry weather can cause dust. We will implement mitigation measures to suppress dust and minimise dirt leaving site.

We will keep you informed of any changes to our scheduled work which may affect you.

Image shows an example of a completed storm tank we have built in Blackpool.

What our work will involve

Will it smell?

The storage tank will be located below ground and only used during periods of heavy rainfall when the sewers are overrun with surface water. This makes the risk of odour low.

How often will the site be visited once works are complete?

We currently anticipate that the site will be visited annually, for routine maintenance checks.

Proposed timeline (*subject to change)

Spring 2025
Ground investigations and survey works

Summer 2025
Submission of planning application

- **Summer/Autumn 2025**
Further investigations and surveys to support the detailed design

- **Late 2025**
Site mobilisation to commence

- **Early 2026**
Main construction works begin

- **2027**
Planned completion expected

What else are we doing in the area?

We will be carrying out surface water separation in the area as part of our Action Plan for Barrow.

This work involves separating surface water from the combined sewer system which means that the ‘clean’ water can be removed from the drainage system and only the ‘dirty’ wastewater is taken to the wastewater treatment works. This is a more efficient and sustainable approach to managing flows.

It will involve ‘re-plumbing’ drainage pipes from roofs, car parks, highways and other hard standing areas to remove them from the sewer system and re-connecting them to discharge into water bodies.

Will it be noisy?

The pumps will be submerged at the bottom of the storm tank and the electrical control panels within the kiosk are not inherently noise producing. It is not expected to increase noise levels at the boundary of the site.

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