

# The Yorkshire Wolds need you: have your say on potential Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation

- Part of the Yorkshire Wolds is being considered for designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Local knowledge is needed by Natural England and local councils as they make an assessment
- People can share their views via a new [website](#), a series of face-to-face drop in sessions, webinars and an app
- Whether you live in the area, run a local business, represent a local organisation or enjoy visiting the Yorkshire Wolds, you can give evidence to help inform the potential designation

Natural England is asking for opinions on the landscapes and heritage of the Yorkshire Wolds as they assess its potential for designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Yorkshire Wolds is a tranquil landscape, known for steep sided dry dales, high but gentle escarpments, dramatic coastal cliffs, and open, rolling agricultural plateaus. Natural and cultural heritage in the area includes ancient woodland, species rich grasslands, chalk streams, Iron Age settlements, abandoned Medieval villages and Georgian manors and parkland. It includes a prominent chalk escarpment and foothills rising from the Vale of York to the west and the Vale of Pickering to the north.

In June 2021, Natural England announced that part of the Yorkshire Wolds would be considered for designation as an AONB, which would acknowledge the special beauty of the local landscape and could bring more environmental protection and investment to the area, as well as acting as a draw for tourists.

Members of the public are now being encouraged to contribute to the decision-making process with local knowledge.

From 6 June, people can have their say online by visiting the [newly launched website](#), where an app can also be downloaded. A series of face-to-face events and webinars are being planned where people can find out more.

## **Paul Duncan, Area Manager for Natural England, said:**

The fact part of the Yorkshire Wolds is being considered as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is an acknowledgement of how special it is. Designation as an AONB could see the landscape protected and draw investment, so we need local knowledge to help assess its suitability.

We are urging members of the public to provide their comments at a

host of drop-in sessions or via our new website and app. We want to know what people think about the natural beauty of the landscape; its condition, natural and cultural heritage, scenic qualities, relative wildness and tranquillity.

Our assessments will help Natural England's board decide whether to designate a new Yorkshire Wolds AONB. There would also be a statutory consultation, expected to take place in 2023, before a decision can be made and finally confirmed by Defra.

Designation could bring many benefits for the area, including boosting nature's recovery, attracting additional funding to help manage the area, raising awareness of what is important about the wolds and safeguarding a nationally important landscape for future generations.

Drop in sessions will be held around Bridlington, Flamborough and Malton on 9 and 10 June and in more southerly areas of East Riding in the week of 27 June – with more information available on the website once venues have been confirmed. There will be online events too with webinars planned for the weeks commencing 13 June and 27 June.

Visit <https://www.yorkshire-wolds-designation-project.org> to find out more about the Yorkshire Wolds landscape, what an AONB is, the process of designation, how you can contribute to the project, and the location and times of drop in sessions and webinars.

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## Millions invested to help people facing eviction or repossession

- New service to provide free legal support for those at risk of losing their home
- Early legal advice will also reduce burden on courts

More people will get access to free expert legal advice to give them the best chance of keeping their home when they fall into difficult financial times, backed by over £10 million of extra funding injected into housing legal aid every year.

Reforms to the former Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS) mean that anyone facing eviction or repossession will now receive free early legal advice on housing before appearing in court, as well as continuing to get advice and representation on the day of their hearing. By helping people facing repossession at the earliest point, it will potentially avoid the need for court proceedings altogether.

Additionally, individuals with a repossession notice can also receive early legal advice on debt and welfare benefit matters, to help with the wider issues they may face. This wrap-around care aims to help individuals and families keep their homes, improve their finances and gain access to support to improve their health and life prospects.

Justice Minister James Cartlidge said:

We don't want anyone to go through the devastating experience of losing their home, which is why we have overhauled the legal aid scheme to ensure anyone that needs it has earlier access to free legal advice.

During such a stressful and uncertain period in people's lives, our raft of reforms will also provide wider, wrap-around care to support individuals and families on money and welfare issues.

The Ministry of Justice will also be introducing a panel of legal experts to assist and train housing legal aid providers where they need further support in resolving more complex legal issues. This is alongside funding for a pilot solicitor training scheme to increase the number of lawyers providing this vital service.

Co-chair Housing Law Practitioners Association Simon Mullings said:

I welcome the proposals to put in place funded, non-means-tested, early legal advice to those facing possession proceedings.

The revised proposals take into account many of the issues we raised in the consultation period for the Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service (HLPAS).

While I still continue to advocate for 'crisis navigator' support at court and elsewhere, I believe that the HLPAS proposals, if implemented in the right way and aligned to further work by government to shore up the viability of housing providers, can be a significant step towards effective early legal advice.

The move follows a two-month consultation into the reform of housing legal aid, part of our wider civil legal aid strategy to improve the breadth and quality of advice available for those who need it.

## **Notes to Editors**

- The support will be via 1:1 legal advice from a housing legal aid provider who holds a contract for the new service.
- The MOJ is bringing forward the legislation to implement the proposals this summer.
- Implementation will be in in spring 2023, once the Legal Aid Agency's

contractual tender process has concluded.

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## [Stick With Your Mates: the key message as holidaymakers return to the Balearics](#)

The British Consulates in Palma and Ibiza have reinforced the messages of their annual campaign, now in its third year, encouraging young British holidaymakers to “Stick With Your Mates” and have a holiday to remember, rather than one to forget. This comes ahead of what is expected to be a record-breaking season: Majorca was named as the world’s top destination for 2022 by travel website TripAdvisor and, at Easter, bookings to the Balearics by British visitors were already up by 12% on 2019. But it is also a season in which one British national has already tragically lost their life after falling from a seventh-floor balcony of a hotel in Magaluf on 12 May.

The Stick With Your Mates campaign was developed in response to a number of tragic accidents involving young British tourists visiting the Balearic Islands – many involving falls. Investigations by the British Consulate in Palma found that the vast majority of serious incidents took place when the individuals were on their own, having been separated from friends.

The campaign began in 2019 – giving young people tips and advice on how to look after each other and help avoid serious accidents on holiday. For example, to head back to your accommodation together, to stay in touch on a group chat and to watch each other’s drinks. As a result, during the 2019 season there were 61% fewer serious falls and 50% fewer fatalities (compared to 2018).

UK Ambassador Hugh Elliott said:

We know how excited young people will be about what may be their first holiday abroad for at least two years. The Balearics are a fantastic and safe destination, but we want to make sure that our visitors are aware of the local rules and know how to stay safe on a night out.

We are working closely with the Balearic Government whose new measures include limiting excessive consumption of alcohol and anti-social behaviour. We all have a responsibility to know the rules, stick to them and ensure a great holiday for ourselves, and those around us.

The best way to do that is to make sure that you look after your

mates – stick together on a night out. We have already seen one tragic death this season. My thoughts are with the family – I hope no other families have to go through what they have.

British holidaymaker, Jack Jenkins, suffered serious injuries after falling from a balcony in Magaluf in June 2018. He said:

It's taken me over three years to recover from my fall and I'm still not 100%. I spent a long time in hospital and had over five different operations. I don't want anyone else to have to go through what I went through and what my family went through. That's why I'm supporting this campaign encouraging people to stick with their mates. Don't let your mate walk back to the hotel on their own, keep an eye on your drinks and keep it together. And have a great holiday!

You should check [FCDO Travel Advice](#) before travelling to make sure you are fully informed on the entry requirements for Spain, and that you understand and comply with local rules.

You should also get a [travel insurance policy](#) and make sure you know what cover it provides. If you do not have appropriate insurance before you travel, you could be liable for emergency expenses, including medical treatment, which may cost thousands of pounds.

- research in 2019 showed campaign had significant impact on the target audience with 60% of those who recalled the campaign video content saying it had “seriously made them think” or that they “did something different as a result”
- the campaign features short videos and digital images that will be targeted at young people visiting the islands through social media. Partners are encouraged to [share the content](#) and use the hashtag #stickwithyourmates
- this year's campaign launch took place in Ibiza on 4 May with British Ambassador to Spain Hugh Elliott alongside the Spanish Minister for Tourism Fernando Valdés and the President of the Balearic Islands Francina Armengol
- [Trip Advisor announces top trending destinations for 2022](#)

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[Environment Agency prosecutes  
Worcestershire farm company for](#)

# polluting local watercourse

- Members of public alert Environment Agency to dead fish
- Farm employees did not keep proper maintenance record

Springhill Farms (Persore) Limited pleaded guilty at Kidderminster Magistrates Court yesterday (25 May) to the illegal discharge of anaerobic digestate and sugar beet washings into the local watercourse, as well as failure to comply with nitrate regulations having allowed 2.5 times the limit to be spread onto land. The company was fined a total of £120,000 and ordered to pay costs of £28,125.19.

Officers from the Environment Agency were first alerted to the situation in February 2018 when members of the public discovered dead fish in Piddle Brook near Redditch.

An investigation discovered a faulty pipe had started to discharge anaerobic digestate into the watercourse from nearby Rotherdale Farm, which is run by the company.

Officers were told that the company used a lagoon to store digestate and used an underground pump system to spread liquid as a fertiliser. Around 220 dead fish were discovered in Piddle Brook and another 100 at a marina further down the watercourse.

Farm employees said they did not maintain records of the volumes in the lagoon and had no maintenance record either of the lagoon or pipework.

A further offence was recorded in May of 2018 when company officials notified the Environment Agency that foam had been reported in Piddle Brook.

An investigation revealed that sugar beet discharge, being used to irrigate a field, had started to spill into the watercourse from a faulty pipe.

No dead fish were recorded on this occasion and the farm took immediate steps to fix the faulty pipe.

The initial investigation had prompted the Environment Agency to ask the company for levels of nitrates used on the farm.

Regulations were introduced in 2015 aimed at farms limiting the amounts of nitrogen used on land in an effort to prevent the pollution of ground and surface waters.

However, the company admitted there was no nitrogen fertiliser plan in accordance with the regulations. It was subsequently discovered that 19 fields had been treated with amounts of nitrogen that exceeded the 250kilogram/hectare limit.

It is important all organisations take action to avoid polluting the environment through careful consideration of their processes and procedures,

and the monitoring of operations.

A spokesperson for the Environment Agency said:

We always strive to work with farmers to reduce the risk of pollution, protect the environment, and ensure they are compliant with the regulations.

However, where there is evidence of serious pollution issues we will not hesitate to pursue the offenders concerned and take tough enforcement action.

We expect much better from such a large and experienced farming business, both for the environment and the local community.

If people are concerned about impacts on the environment, they should contact the Environment Agency's 24-hour incident line on 0800 807060.

## **Offences/charges**

- Between 12 and 14 February 2018, Springhill Farms (Persnore) Limited caused a water discharge activity, namely a discharge of anaerobic digestate into a tributary of the Piddle Brook, Wyre Piddle, when not authorised by an environmental permit to do so, contrary to Regulation 38(1)(a) and Regulation 12(1)(b) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.
- On 18 May 2018 Springhill Farms (Persnore) Limited caused a water discharge activity, namely a discharge of sugar beet washings into a tributary of the Piddle Brook, Wyre Piddle, when not authorised by an environmental permit to do so, contrary to Regulation 38(1)(a) and Regulation 12(1)(b) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.
- Springhill Farms (Persnore) Limited, between 1 June 2015 and 1 June 2017, being the occupier of a holding in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, namely Springhill Farm, failed to comply with the requirements of Regulation 8 of The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015, in that in respect of each field listed in the Schedule of Offences below, it failed to ensure that in any 12 month period the total amount of nitrogen in organic manure spread on any given hectare of land on the holding did not exceed 250kg, and each and every contravention listed in the Schedule of Offences below was a separate offence contrary to Regulation 41(1)(a) of the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015:
- Springhill Farms (Persnore) Limited, between 1 June 2015 and 1 June

2017, being the occupier of a holding in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, namely Rotherdale Farm, failed to comply with the requirements of Regulation 8 of The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015, in that in respect of each field listed in the Schedule of Offences below, it failed to ensure that in any 12 month period the total amount of nitrogen in organic manure spread on any given hectare of land on the holding did not exceed 250kg, and each and every contravention listed in the Schedule of Offences below was a separate offence contrary to Regulation 41(1)(a) of the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015.

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## [New league tables show how quickly police forces answer 999 calls](#)

The time it takes each police force in the UK to answer emergency 999 calls has been published for the first time ever, in a bid to further improve the speed of the service provided to the public.

This delivers on a key commitment in the government's Beating Crime Plan to improve transparency and performance, forming part of the government's wider ongoing work to cut crime, improve public services and make our streets safer.

Publishing the 999 league tables will reconnect the police with the public, holding individual forces to account and helping identify previously unknown issues, with the goal of driving up performance.

On average across the UK, police forces receive a 999 call every 3 seconds. Today's data shows 71% of these are answered within the target of under 10 seconds, with an overall average of 16.1 seconds' answer time. This is the first time forces have been able to compare their answering times.

With considerable variation across the country, this information will empower all forces to bring their service up to the public's expectations.

Home Secretary, Priti Patel, said:

Calling 999 can literally be a matter of life and death. The public deserve to know that their local police force will be at the end of the phone, ready to leap into action at seconds' notice to protect them from harm.

Fundamentally, publishing this data is about driving up standards in our incredible emergency services even further, so that the public can have every confidence in the police's ability to save



lives and keep our streets safe.

We can now see where forces are excelling and where vital improvements need to be made and I thank the police for their commitment to ensuring we maintain the best emergency services in the world.

The first data set covers calls made between 1 November 2021 to 30 April 2022. It shows some forces are consistently responsive, while others require improvement. One such high performing force was Avon and Somerset, who consistently answer over 90% of their 999 calls in under 10 seconds.

Where a large number of calls are answered between 10 to 60 seconds, the public will rightly expect to see improvements where these league tables show they are required.

There are a range of reasons for disparities and the data is likely to vary each month. Police forces are operationally independent, and each will have its own unique pressures to identify and address. Prank calls, a lag time in connecting and inappropriate use of 999 to call for issues that are not emergencies, can all contribute to delays in answering.

The lag time, between dialling 999 and being connected to a call handler, can be up to 7 seconds in some areas. Some police forces are already reviewing their telephony systems and working with BT to resolve this.

Seasonal periods, such as New Year's Eve, particularly hot or cold weather, concerts and festivals, can also have a significant impact on waiting times in some forces, due to peaks in people travelling to the force area. An overall picture of a force's effectiveness in answering emergency calls, considering these factors, will continue to be refined as the data collection continues.

The data is accessible to the public via [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk), where they can access their local force's data under the 999 performance data tab. Going forward the data will be released at the end of each month for the previous month.

National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Lead for Contact Management, Assistant Chief Constable Alan Todd, said:

Today's release of 999 Performance Data shows the high level of demand being placed on call handlers on a daily basis throughout the UK.

We can see between November 2021 to April 2022, policing answered over 3.7 million calls in under 10 seconds and a further 1.2 million in under 60 seconds.

Forces of England, Wales and Northern Ireland strive to answer 90% of 999 calls within 10 seconds, with Police Scotland aiming to have a mean answering time of 999 calls answered in under 10 seconds.

The 999 Performance Data is helping policing understand the experience of the public from their point of view from the moment they dial 999. We know that there are sometimes lag times in connecting calls to the police and these vary across the country, however this isn't for a member of public to resolve, it is for us within policing to look at our infrastructure and work with our key partners, including BT, to improve the experience of a member of public calling 999.

We want the public to have access to the data as part of policing being open and transparent. This is the first time police forces and the public have been able to see the time it takes to answer 999 calls from the call being made by the public, it being connected to the police by BT and local providers, to it being answered by police call handlers. We will learn from this data in order to improve the speed at which 999 calls are answered so that the public can expect the fastest possible response when calling 999.

We know that most people will call the police in their time of need, but unfortunately this isn't always the case and I would like to remind people to only call 999 in a genuine emergency.

There is a huge amount of pressure put on call handlers, who work tirelessly to provide the right support and advice in someone's time of need, but we are far too often seeing some from within our society, inappropriately using 999.

We know one of our biggest areas of concern for 999 calls to the police are prank calls. Not only do they waste police time, it can also delay someone who needs genuine help getting it when they need it. When someone dials 999, every second counts, and we can't have those selfish individuals in our society wilfully wasting police time through prank calls.

To them, my appeal is to be considerate that their actions may be putting someone's life at risk. People will be calling 999 when they are in need of emergency help, together we must ensure that the lines are not being put under pressure through things like prank calls aimed at wasting police time.

I also understand that some people may be concerned about whether they should be dialling 999 or not and in what circumstances. We know when a member of public calls 999 for something which is policing related, it may not be an emergency and they have to be directed to other services such as 101, which results in inadvertently taking up 999 emergency call handlers time.

The message to the public is that you should absolutely call 999, but do so if a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed; if there is a threat to someone's life, or they are in immediate danger or harm; if property is in danger of being

damaged; or if a serious disruption to the public is likely.

If your call to the police does not fit within these areas but is still policing related and not an emergency, you should contact your local force via the police non-emergency number 101 or use online reporting via your local force website.

APCC Local Policing Leads, Alison Hernandez and Jeff Cuthbert, said:

This performance data demonstrates the demand for policing and the volume of calls forces are dealing with across the country.

The public quite rightly expect the police to respond to 999 calls in good time, so Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be using this data to get a grip on performance across our local forces, hold our chief constables to account and ensure members of the public are receiving an efficient and effective response when they report to 999.

As the public's voice in policing, PCCs are very keen to better understand the experiences of the public when contacting their local forces, which is why the APCC issued a [national survey on contact management](#) earlier this month to help identify any challenges around where the public report crime through both 101 and 999 services.

PCCs are committed to supporting excellence in policing and will use this data to continually drive forward improvements and hold the police to account on behalf of the public.