

[Notice: SY10 8BG, Morton Growers Limited: environmental permit application advertisement](#)

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- how you can view the application documents
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
 - what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)
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[Corporate report: State of the environment: water quality](#)

Updated: Minor format change.

This report covers the key environmental issues relating to water quality. It includes the water quality of rivers, estuaries, coasts and groundwater.

The report focuses on status and trends in:

- nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrates
- chemicals, such as pesticides and pharmaceuticals
- bathing water quality
- water pollution incidents

It also summarises current and future pressures such as:

- population growth
- climate change
- emerging pollutants

[Press release: Illegal angler hooks £600 penalty](#)

Anglers are being urged to obey the law after a Lincolnshire man was ordered to pay more than £600 for fishing illegally.

Shaun Hammond, 28, of Mariners Arms Flats, Keadby, was caught fishing without a licence at Hibaldstow Bridge on the River Ancholme in October last year.

He was discovered by an Environment Agency enforcement officer carrying out a routine patrol to enforce the law and protect the environment for people and wildlife.

Hammond committed an additional offence by refusing to give his name and address to the officer.

Enforcement officers are considered in law to be the same as police constables. Obstructing one effectively doubled the amount Mr Hammond was fined.

Hammond was proved guilty in absence at Grimsby Magistrates' Court on 9 February. He was fined £440 – £220 for each offence – and ordered to pay costs of £127, as well as a victim surcharge of £44, bringing the total penalty to £611.

Caroline Tero, fisheries team leader at the Environment Agency, said:

Not only was Mr Hammond fishing illegally, he also obstructed a law enforcement officer who was doing his duty to protect the environment for people and wildlife. We and the courts take this very seriously and will always look to protect the wellbeing of our officers.

It makes no sense to have the embarrassment of a court visit, a criminal conviction and a bill for potentially thousands of pounds when an annual licence is currently just £30. We hope this will make people think twice before picking up a rod illegally and if they don't, our officers are ready and waiting.

Steve Powell, Enforcement Once team manager for the Environment Agency, said:

The case acts as a reminder of the importance of having a fishing licence – and shows how seriously the courts take these offences.

We hope the outcome will deter any angler who is thinking of fishing without a licence.

The yearly fishing licence Mr Hammond required would have cost just £30. Other types of licence are available, including one-day for £6, eight-day for £12, and a free one for those aged 12 to 16.

The money from licence sales supports fish, fisheries and fishing, and protects the future of angling. A small number of people refuse to buy one, cheating the sport and their fellow anglers.

For the minority who flout the rules, the most common offence is fishing without a valid licence, which could land them with a fine of up to £2,500 and a criminal record.

Last year in England, the Environment Agency checked more than 63,000 fishing licences and prosecuted 2,330 for rod and line offences, resulting in fines in excess of £335,000.

Any angler aged 12 or over, fishing on a river, canal or still water needs a licence. They are available online via gov.uk or by calling the Environment Agency on 0344 800 5386.

Anyone with information about suspected illegal fishing activities can contact the Environment Agency Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

[Research and analysis: State of the environment](#)

Updated: Added report: State of the environment: air quality.

These reports cover the key environmental issues relating to:

- air quality – the concentrations of pollutants in our air, and their effects on the environment and health
- water resources – how much clean water we have available
- water quality – including rivers, estuaries, coasts and groundwater

The reports include the:

- status and trends
- current and future pressures

[Press release: Two-thirds of motorists would risk their lives in a flood](#)

A shocking two-thirds of drivers would gamble with their safety by driving through floodwater – even though this is the leading cause of death during a flood, new figures have revealed.

In a survey commissioned by the Environment Agency and the AA, 68% of motorists admitted they'd take the risk rather than find a safer route.

The alarming figures emerge as the Environment Agency runs its campaign warning people across the country to be prepared for flooding in advance by [checking their risk and signing up for free warnings](#)

The AA has rescued more than 14,500 drivers from floods since 2013 with the top spot being Rufford Lane in Newark, Nottinghamshire, where over 100 rescues have been carried out in the last 5 years.

Driving through floodwater puts the lives of drivers and their passengers on the line, risks the safety of emergency responders, and often causes serious damage to the vehicle, with three-quarters of flood-damaged cars ultimately being written off.

Caroline Douglass, Director of Incident Management and Resilience at the Environment Agency, said:

The results of this survey are extremely concerning – no one should put their own life or those of their friends and family at risk during a flood. Just 30cm of water can float a family car, and smaller cars take even less.

If you're driving long distances this winter, please check online for any flood warnings in force along your route, and if you find your way blocked by floodwater, never take the risk – turn around and find another way.

Vince Crane, AA Patrol of the Year, said:

If the road ahead is flooded, don't chance it – flood water can be deceptively deep and can mask other hazards on the road.

It only takes an egg-cupful of water to be sucked into your engine to wreck it and on many cars, the engine's air intake is low down at the front.

As well as the damage to your car, attempting to drive through flood water puts you and your passengers in danger – so it's just not worth the risk.

The survey of more than 18,000 AA members, carried out by Populus also found that:

- Women in Yorkshire and Humber are the safest drivers in a flood, being the least likely to attempt to drive through flood water and the most likely to turn around and find another route.
- Men in the South East and East of England are most likely to put themselves and their passengers in danger by driving through flood water – with nearly 3/4 (74%) saying that they would risk driving through rather than find an alternative route.
- Under a third of all drivers would turn around and find another route if their way was blocked by flood water.
- Men are more likely to drive through flood water than women – with 72% admitting that they would try it, compared with 60% of women.
- People under 34 are slightly less likely to drive through flood water than those 35 and above, while the under-24s in London are the least likely to drive through flood water.

5.2 million homes and businesses in England are at risk of flooding. This winter the Environment Agency is encouraging people to be prepared and stay safe during flooding by [checking their flood risk online](#).

For more information on driving in heavy rain and standing water visit the [AA's website](#).

The top 10 spots for rescues from flood water January 2013 – December 2017 were:

Location	Breakdown
Rufford lane, Newark, Nottingham	101
Slash Lane, Barrow upon Soar, Loughborough	77
Houndsfield Lane, Shirley, Solihull	47
Bridgenorth Road, Trescott, Wolverhampton	39
Riverside, Eynsford, Dartford, Kent	39
Bucklebury, West Berkshire	32
Mountsorrel, Loughborough	31
Hawkswood Lane, Fulmer, Gerrards Cross	31
Winterbourne, Wiltshire	30
Mill Lane, Brockenhurst, Hampshire	30