

A RELIABLE AND SUFFICIENT WATER SUPPLY FOR YOU

Hosepipe ban? What hosepipe ban?

In darts the magic figure is 180, in ten-pin bowling it's 300 and in gymnastics the perfect 10 was the aspirational score until Romania's Nadia Comaneci came along and charmed the world as well as the judges in the 1976 Olympics.

In the world of water supply the dream score is 100 – and today Northumbrian Water Group (NWG) can boast that it has reached that ambitious goal.

The newly-expanded reservoir at [Abberton](#) in Essex has convinced industry regulator Ofwat to upgrade our security of supply index to 100, meaning that they are convinced we have enough water bore holes and reservoirs to supply customers in dry years without having to impose hosepipe bans or any other restrictions.



We have 24 beautiful reservoirs - 22 in the Northumbrian Water operating region and two in Essex & Suffolk. These range in size from Kielder Water, the largest man-made reservoir in north-west Europe, to the tiny Hisehope and Smiddy Shaw, both located on Muggleswick, a common in County Durham that sounds like it belongs in a Harry Potter novel.

We know that our reservoirs are recreational areas and important to wildlife. We have:

SSSIs – sites of special scientific interest;
SPAs – special protection areas;
SACs – special areas of conservation;
AONBs – areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Acronyms are us!

We are also pretty handy when it comes to statistics:

- 19 of our reservoir sites have car parking facilities;
- 13 have picnic areas;
- 6 have trails;
- 10 have bird hides;
- Kielder Water alone has 26 miles of shoreline and holds 200 BILLION litres of water.



As well as being beautiful places to visit, walk and explore, some of our reservoirs also form an important part of rare habitats like the upland limestone around Cow Green, home to a rare

snail, the Round-Mouthed Whorl snail and amazing plants like the Spring Gentian and Teesdale Violet.

Nature and the environment are so important to us that inactive sites such as Tunstall, Scaling Dam and Lockwood Beck have been kept and managed for recreational and wildlife interests. In Abberton we also have a Ramsar site which is an intergovernmental treaty that provides “the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources”.

And then there’s tourism. [Kielder Water & Forest Park](#) offers the perfect site for a relaxing holiday. Surrounded by a forest made up of mostly Sitka Spruce and Norway Spruce, which provides excellent living conditions for the Red Squirrel, and heather moorland, self-catering lodges and a caravan park offer peace and tranquillity. There are also many opportunities to try out new sports and activities as well as star gazing thanks to the Kielder Observatory, with the largest expanse of dark night sky in the whole of Europe.

