

**East Anglia is the driest part in the UK,** and the reservoirs in our region are vital for bringing clean, healthy drinking water to the six million people who live here.

The water quality in these reservoirs is dependent on a range of factors, including agricultural chemicals that make it into the rivers which feed them.

Ravensthorpe Water Treatment Works produces around 6.5 million litres of water a day which supplies a population of 18,000 from the north of Northampton to Daventry and Rugby in the west. The treatment works is fed by two reservoirs, Ravensthorpe itself and the neighbouring Hollowell reservoir. Ravensthorpe Reservoir covers 45ha and was constructed in 1891 making it the oldest of the Northamptonshire reservoirs. Hollowell reservoir is slightly bigger at 50ha and was constructed in 1938. These two reservoirs are wholly fed by the natural catchments upstream of the reservoir - 2200ha of land of which 77% is agricultural.

Under the European Union's Water Framework Directive (WFD) Ravensthorpe and Hollowell Reservoirs and their natural catchments have been designated as surface water Safeguard Zones.

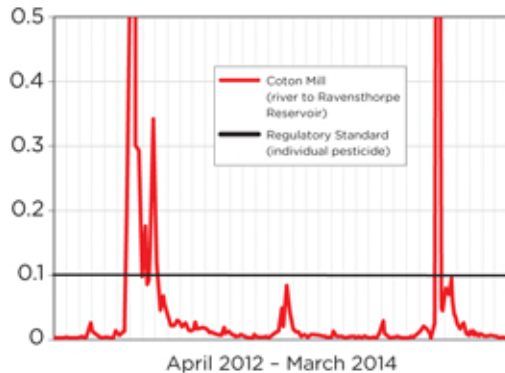
We, at Anglian Water, want to work with the farming community in this catchment to secure healthy waters from source to abstraction and beyond.



The map above shows the boundary of the natural catchment for Hollowell and Ravensthorpe reservoirs.

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**Ravensthorpe and Hollowell - Metaldehyde (µg/l)**



Metaldehyde levels peak in water courses feeding Hollowell and Ravensthorpe reservoirs during the Autumn, pushing them well above the official regulatory standard of 0.1 micrograms per litre.

**Metaldehyde and drinking water**

We recognise pest management is essential to agriculture in order to produce healthy crops. Whilst water treatment is effective at removing many chemicals from waters used for drinking, metaldehyde - found in slug pellets - cannot be treated. At present, the only option for managing metaldehyde levels to ensure that they remain below legal limits is through dilution however, this isn't a sustainable option - especially during periods of water scarcity when the security of the public water supply is dependent on us being able to access sufficient raw water for treatment.

DEFRA have said that unless levels of metaldehyde in raw waters reduce within the next three years, they will look to ban its use in areas identified as important for drinking water abstraction. Typically this will be on land in proximity to reservoirs and certain key rivers. At Anglian Water, we believe that there is a better way than banning. By working with farmers in the areas identified as being important to drinking water production we believe that the use of alternative slug control options (alternative active ingredients and cultural controls) could avoid the introduction of bans.

**Why should we work together?**

Our customers and farmers' customers - your customers - are the same people. They require affordable water bills as much as they do affordable food prices. This is why we want to work closer with farmers in our region. We don't want to see any business in our region adversely affected because it has an impact on the local economy. And what is bad for the local economy is bad for us all.

