nn MONITORING OF THE PAR RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

The monitoring group operates under the citizen science scheme run by the Westcountry Rivers Trust. Comments, opinions and errors in this report are those of the author(s) only.

MARCH 2026

CONTENT	PAGES

A. OUR MARCH 2026 FINDINGS AT A GLANCE (SEE SECTIONS C TO I FOR FULL PICTURE)

1. Data

We sampled at 16 locations between 9th and 20th March 2026. The **red** highlighting shows results of concern.

CRITERIA	UPPER PAR (UPSTREAM OF CONFLUENCE WITH BOKIDDICK STREAM NEAR BLACK HILL CAR PARK) 5 TESTING LOCATIONS	LOWER PAR (FROM CONFLUENCE WITH BOKIDDICK STREAM TO SEA) 3 TESTING LOCATIONS	TRIBUTARIES OF UPPER PAR (EXCLUDING TRESKILLING STREAM THIS MONTH) 6 TESTING LOCATIONS	TRIBUTARIES OF LOWER PAR (POLMEAR & TYWARDREATH STREAMS) 2 TESTING LOCATIONS
TEMPERATURE ˚ CELSIUS (SHOULD NOT EXCEED 18˚ CELSIUS)	Mean 10.72 Median 10.4 Min 10 Max 11.6	Mean 11.96 Median 11.7 Min 11.2 Max 13	Mean 10.48 Median 10.3 Min 10.1 Max 11.2	Mean 13.7 Median 13.7 Min 13.3 Max 14.1
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS PPM (SHOULD NOT EXCEED 300 PPM)	Mean 66.4 Median 65 Min 57 Max 75	Mean 176.66 Median 74 Min 66 Max **390**	Mean 74.33 Median 58.5 Min 51 Max 159	Mean 141.5 Median 141.5 Min 129 Max 154
TURBIDITY (SHOULD BE <12 ON SECCHI TUBE. FOR AVERAGING ANY READING <12 IS COUNTED AS 0)	Mean 0 Median 0 Min 0 Max 0	Mean 0 Median 0 Min 0 Max 0	Mean 0 Median 0 Min 0 Max 0	Mean 0 Median 0 Min 0 Max 0
PHOSPHATES PPB (SHOULD NOT EXCEED 100 PPB)	Mean 120 Median 0 Min 0 Max **300**	Mean 200 Median 200 Min 100 Max **300**	Mean 0 Median 0 Min 0 Max 0	Mean 100 Median 100 Min 0 Max **200**
NITRATES (SHOULD NOT EXCEED 50 PPM)	Mean 0 Median 0 Min 0 Max 0	Mean 0 Median 0 Min 0 Max 0	Mean 0 Median 0 Min 0 Max 0	Mean 0 Median 0 Min 0 Max 0
RIVERFLY SCORE (TRIGGER LEVEL AT LRM SHOULD BE ≥ 6)	Riverfly surveys will resume in the Spring.			
KEY WILDLIFE (WRT KEY SPECIES ONLY* – FOR FULL LIST SEE SECTION I)			Beaver lake.	Fish
INVASIVE PLANTS	Hemlock Water Dropwort	Hemlock Water Dropwort, Japanese Knotweed	Hemlock Water Dropwort	Hemlock Water Dropwort

***The WRT monitoring forms highlight: Water Vole; Heron; Dipper; Otter (live sighting); Kingfisher; Dragonflies/Damselflies; Mink; Grey Wagtail; Fish; 'Other' . Beavers aren't stipulated but could, for example, be considered a key species under 'Other'. It is in this latter category that indirect evidence of otters, such as spraint, is included.**

2. Key points

(a) Positive signs

Cornwall Wildlife Trust's success in obtaining a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant for the *Tor to Shore* project (https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/tor-to-shore) offers hope for the future.

(b) Points of concern

Sewage spills from SWW's storm overflows continued. An allotment-user in Luxulyan said the river smelt badly of sewage on Sunday 8th March 2026.

High phosphates were recorded on the Tywardreath Stream near Treesmill.

(c) Areas for further research

There are various reasons why the main river and tributaries (other than the Bokiddick stream) fail to attain 'Good' ecological status. One is sewage pollution but the nature and impact of the pollution associated with SWW's facilities (the impact, if any, of private sewerage arrangements is a complete unknown) justifies investigation. With that in mind, the following questions were sent to SWW (eirenquiries@pennon-group.co.uk):

1. What action is South West Water currently taking, or planning to take, to reduce spills from these 6 storm overflows:

- **Roche storm overflow (SBB01035)**
- **Molinnis storm overflow, Bugle (SBB00794)**
- **Rescorla storm overflow, Luxulyan (SBB01022)**
- **Luxulyan sewage treatment works settled storm overflow, St Austell (SBB0119)**
- **Tredenham Close storm overflow, Par (SBB1273)**
- **Par No2 pumping station overflow, Par (SBB01273)?**

2. Is St Austell North STW currently able to deal with the sewage being received or does it have to remove waste by road tanker for treatment elsewhere, such as Nanstallon?

3. If St Austell North STW is unable to deal with current demands, is this due to increased demands from new housing (such as at West Carclaze Garden Village, near Penwithick), heavy rainfall, groundwater infiltration, a lack of investment, or a combination of two or more factors (and if so, which)?

4. What measures are taken by South West Water to deal with sewage that is spilled through storm overflows, including screening, monitoring, and removal (or treatment) of chemical and bacterial composition?

5. What measures are taken by South West Water to deal with treated effluent that is discharged through outfalls, including screening, monitoring, and removal (or treatment) of chemical and bacterial composition?

6. What checks are made on the Molinnis Storm overflow near Bugle (SBB00794)? (There is often a sewage smell near this facility.)
7. Why is the Rescorla storm overflow, Luxulyan (SBB01022) often offline for maintenance?

8. There is a sewage pumping station near Luxulyan village, with a discharge point at SX 0504 5783.

(a) Why isn't this featured on the WaterFit Live Storm Overflow map (https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/environment/rivers-and-bathing-waters/waterfitlive/storm-overflow-map/full-map)?

(b) How often have there been discharges from this point since January 2025?

9. The Environment Agency has confirmed that the Par River has a significant problem with phosphate pollution and that one source of this is likely to be St Austell North STW at Luxulyan. What plans are in place to remove phosphate from discharges into the river and what is the timescale for doing so?

10. Does South West Water use bio-beads in its treatment plants, including St Austell North at Luxulyan? What measures are in place to prevent these entering rivers and streams?

Normally a response would be due in 20 working days but on 31st March SWW apologised for being unable to meet this deadline:

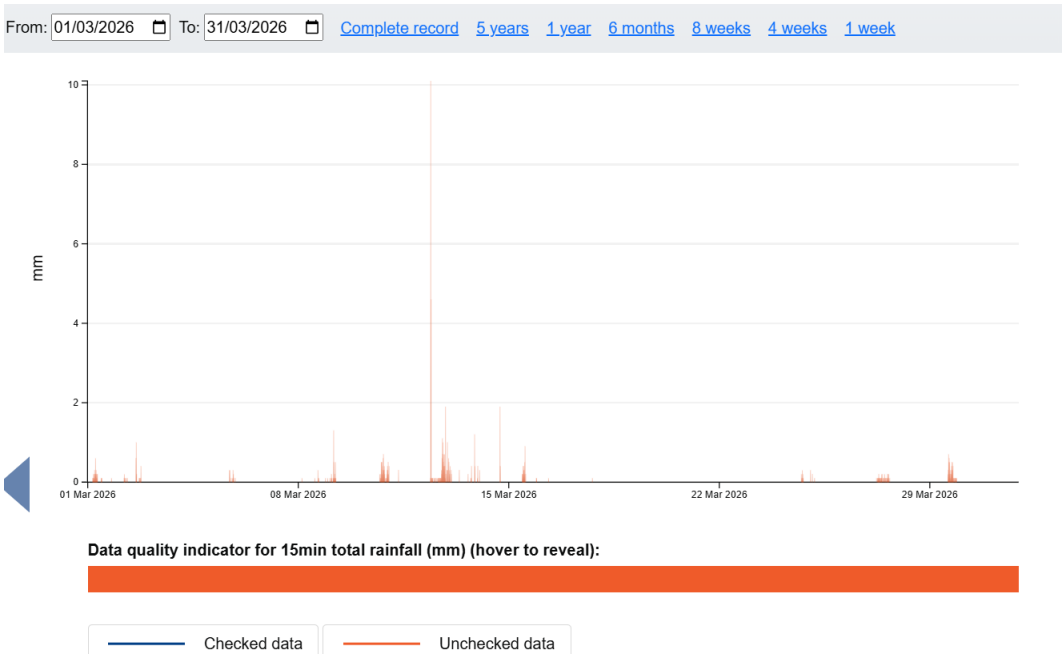
'*As the questions raised require additional time to address fully, the statutory deadline for response is being extended beyond the standard 20 working days. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.*

In accordance with Regulation 5(2) of the EIR, public authorities are ordinarily required to issue a response within 20 working days. However, Regulation 7 permits an extension of up to a further 20 working days, allowing a maximum response period of 40 working days. In accordance with Regulation 7, we will aim to provide a full response no later than 30 April 2026. We will, however, aim to respond sooner than this date.'

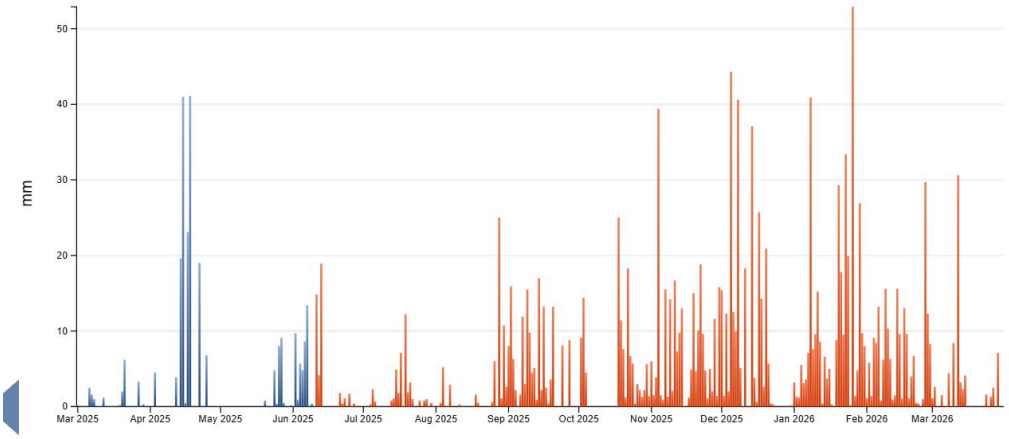
B. RAINFALL, RIVER LEVELS AND FLOW

1. Rainfall at Luxulyan (https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/station/14aadf3c-3d4d-44b3-b26b-cf705827d00e_377323)

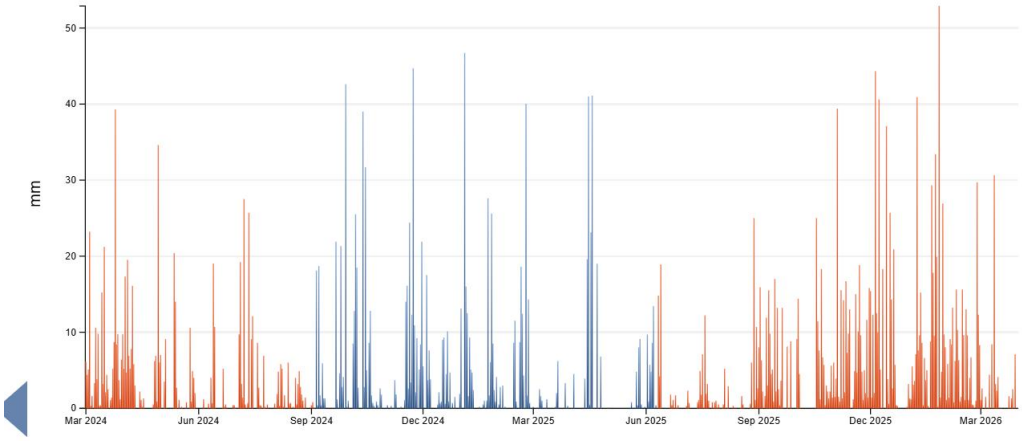
(a) March 2026



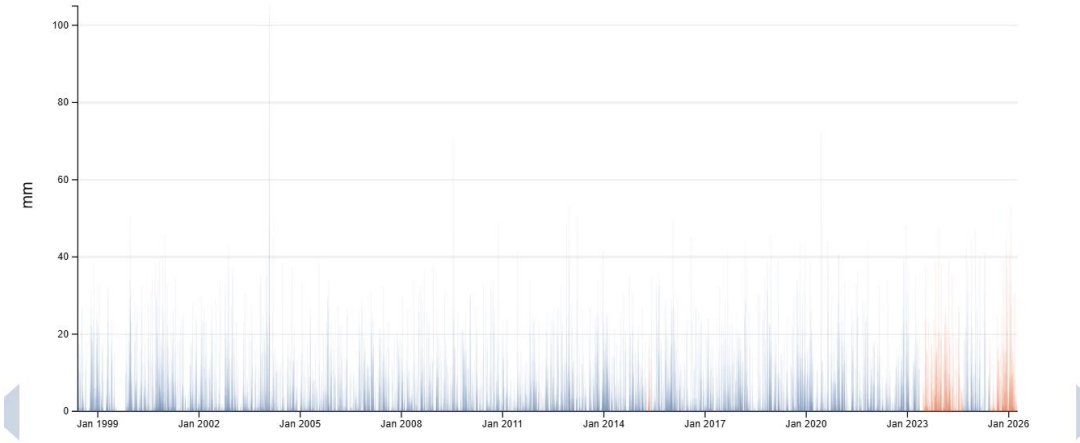
(b) From 1st March 2025 until 31st March 2026:



(c) From 1st March 2024 until 31st March 2026:

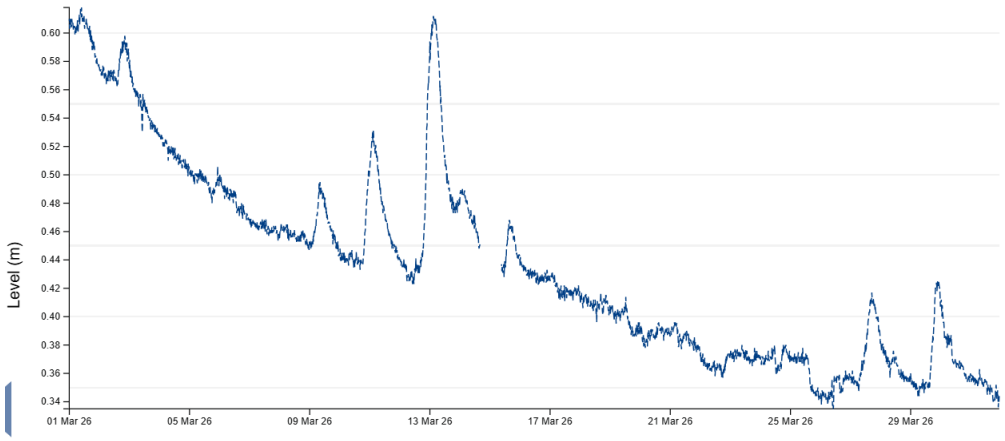


(d) Complete record:

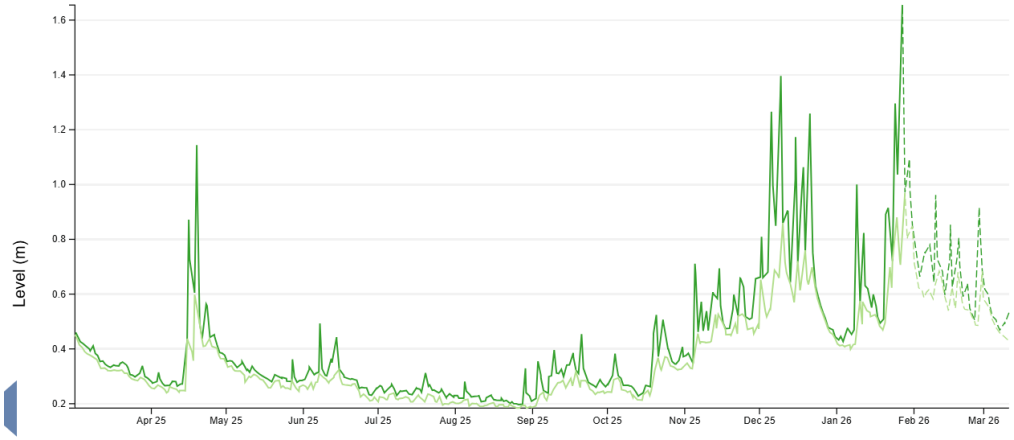


2. Par River levels at Luxulyan preceding and during surveys. Source: https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/station/14aadf3c-3d4d-44b3-b26b-cf705827d00e

(a) March 2026

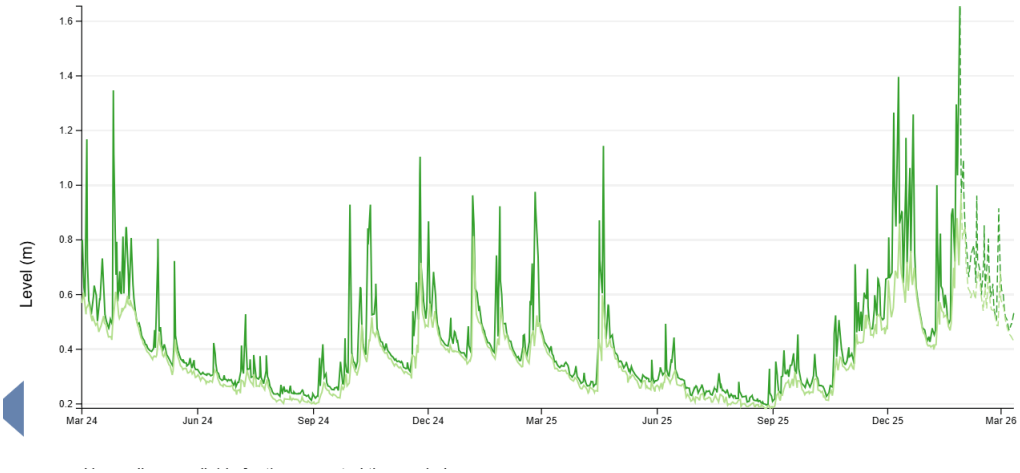


(b) From 1st March 2025 until 31st March 2026:

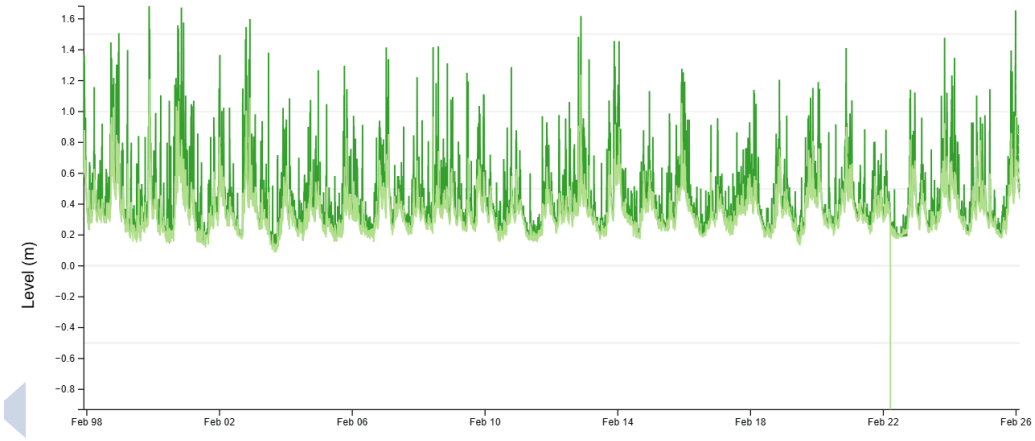


No readings available for the requested time period

(c) From 1st March 2024 until 31st March 2026:



(d) Complete record:



No readings available for the requested time period

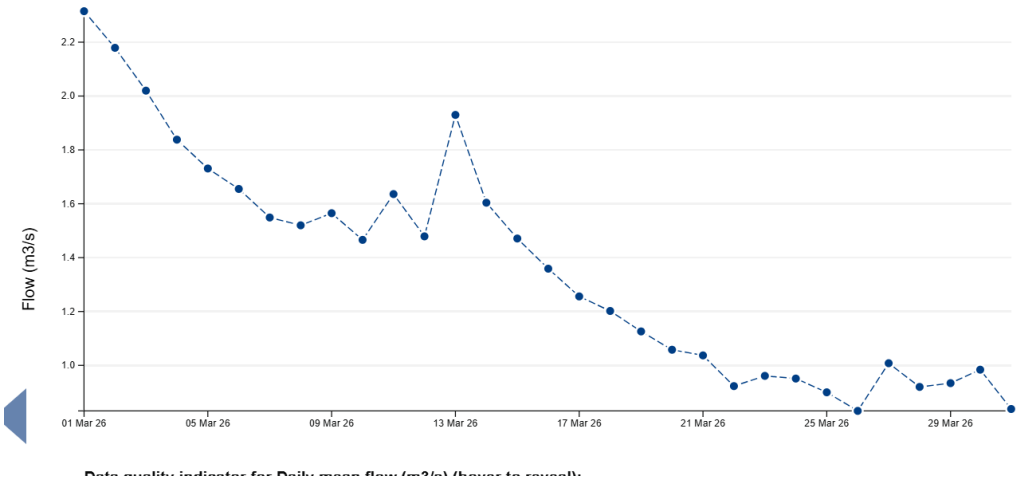
(e) How levels at Luxulyan could affect nearby areas:

1.80m	Property flooding is possible above this level. One or more flood warnings may be issued
1.68m	Water reaches the highest level recorded at this measuring station (recorded on 19 December 1999)
1.40m	Low lying land flooding is possible above this level. One or more flood alerts may be issued
	This is the top of the normal range

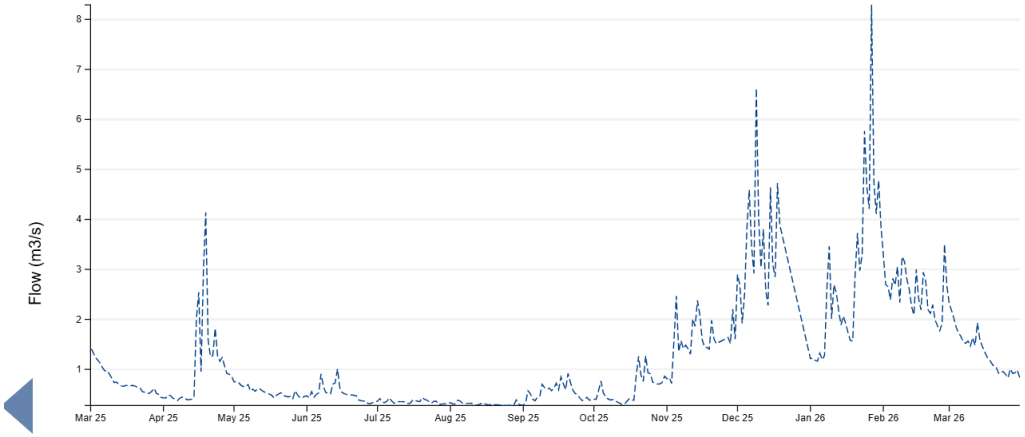
3. RIVER FLOW AT LUXULYAN (Daily Mean Flow in M3/s – cubic metres per second):

Source: https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/station/d58ffa6f-8f0d-4626-b7a1-23de1774b470

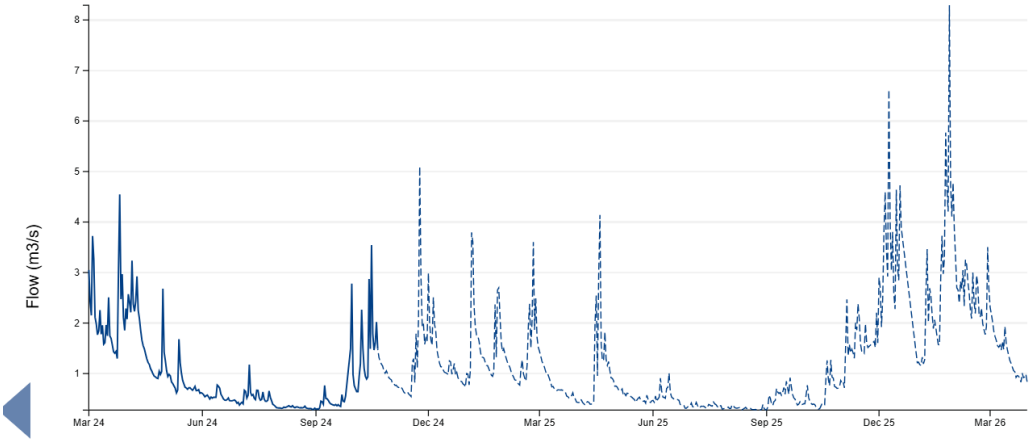
(a) March 2026



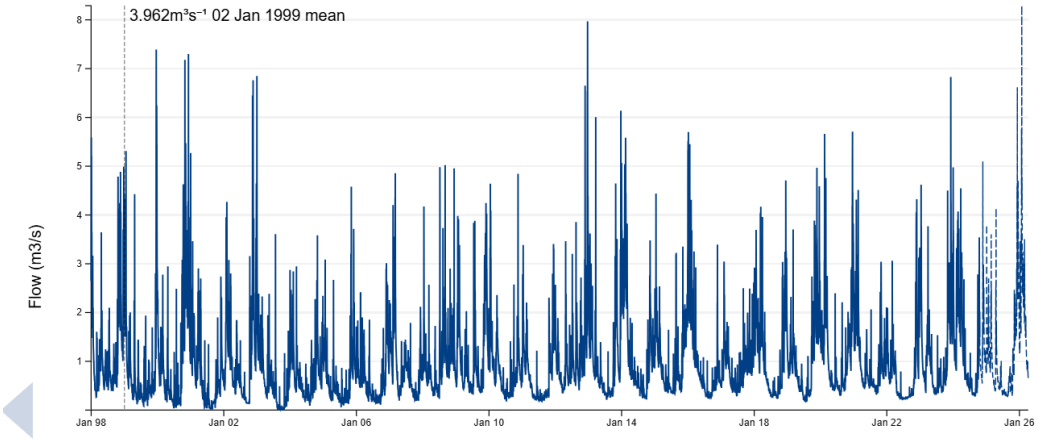
(b) From 1st March 2025 until 31st March 2026:



(c) From 1st March 2024 until 31st March 2026:



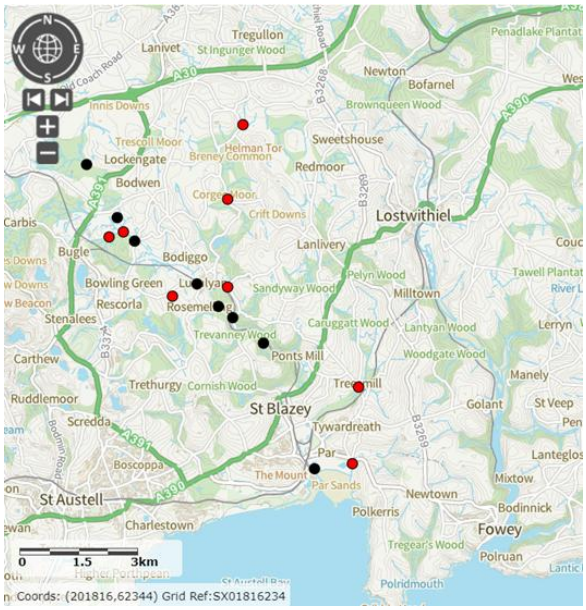
(d) Complete record:



C. MARCH 2026 MONITORING POINTS

This month monitoring occurred at 16 locations.

Points along the main Par River are shown in black. Those in red are on tributaries.



Source: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx

LOCATION	PAR/TRIBUTARY	DATE/TIME	TYPE OF CHECK	MONITORED BY
Criggan Moors, Par River, SX 01882 61133	**PAR**	11/3/2026 9:45		Roger Smith
South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX02668 59747	**PAR**	11/3/2026 9:00	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Near Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271	**SECONDARY TRIBUTARY (OF CARBIS STREAM)**	11/3/2026 10:30	CSI sample & Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401	**TRIBUTARY**	11/3/2026 8:45	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164	**PAR**	11/3/2026 10:50	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726	**TRIBUTARY**	11/3/2026 11:30	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045	**PAR**	11/3/2026 11:55	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454	**PAR**	11/3/2026 13:20	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226	**TRIBUTARY**	12/3/2026 10:15	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167	**TRIBUTARY**	12/3/2026 10:50	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953	**TRIBUTARY**	11/3/2026 16:10	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179	**PAR**	11/3/2026 13:45	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509	**PAR**	11/3/2026 15:10	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Veronica Jones, Roger Smith
Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385	**TRIBUTARY**	16/3/2026 13:15	CSI sampling. Cartographer record. Riverfly.	Brian Harrisson
Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261	**PAR**	9/3/2026 11:09	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Brian Harrisson
Polmear Stream, Ship Inn SX 08749 53417	**TRIBUTARY**	20/3/2026 11:41	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Simon Tagney

D. THIS MONTH IN PICTURES1

1. Lake near Helman Tor created by the beavers. Recently, Cornwall Wildlife Trust has introduced two more in the reserve. The impact on water flow and biodiversity will be positive.

2. “A Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse - and Thou Beside me singing in the Wilderness - And Wilderness is Paradise enow.” *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. The scene (minus the book and people) seems to have been re-enacted on the Upper Par near the confluence with the Carbis Stream.

3. The valley of the Bokiddick Stream near Luxulyan:

4. The Upper Par next to Luxulyan allotments. An allotment-user said the river smelt badly of sewage on Sunday 8th March 2026.

5. The re-emergence of Japanese Knotweed at Cam Bridges near Luxulyan:

6. The increased river flow during the wet winter created a shingle spit at Lady Rashleigh Mine in Luxulyan Valley, as well as gouging a deeper channel on the outside of the bend.

7. A placid scene on the Lower Par near Par Beach slipway:

Photo: Brian Harrisson

8. A fish was seen in the Polmear Stream:

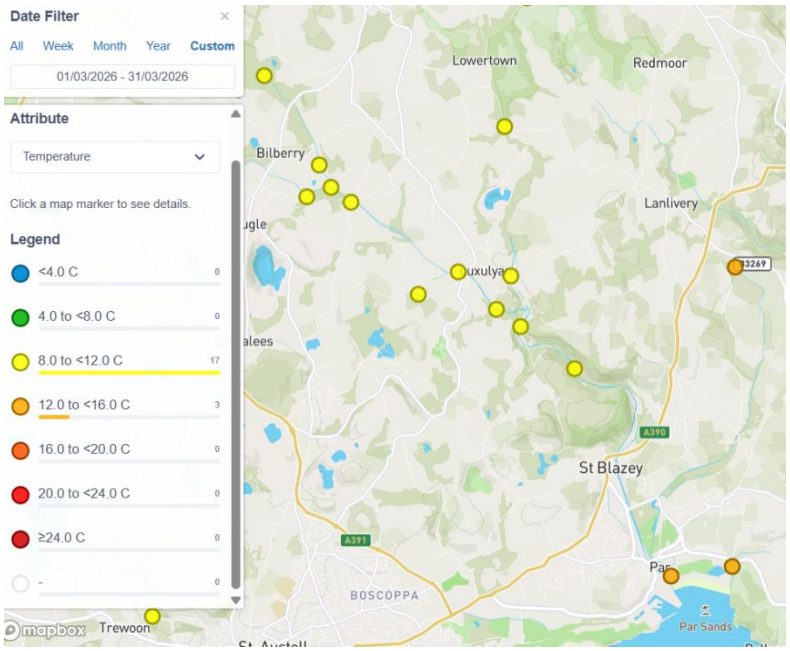
Photo: Simon Tagney

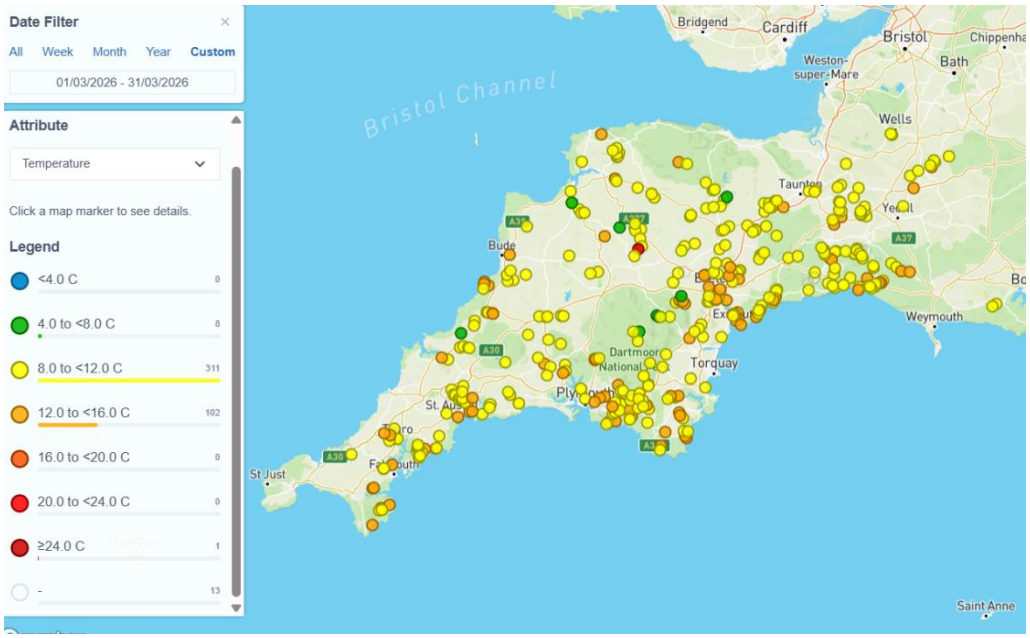
E. TEMPERATURE

1. This is the WRT's explanation of why this is monitored:

Temperature is a vital parameter within the river ecosystem. It controls many of the aquatic species life cycles. Temperature fluctuates with the seasons; however, you do get variation within that, particularly in small rivers and streams. Another important reason to measure temperature is to track the impact of our warming climate on our waterbodies.

Geographical comparison. Source: Cartographer.





Results March 2026

Results above the temperature at which fish and other organisms can function healthily will be shown in red. At present, 18 ˚Celsius is being used as the upper safe limit for fish and other creatures, although 20˚ Celsius has been suggested by WRT instead. The Yealm Estuary to Moor Project (YEM) in Devon considers that the upper safe level (USL) for temperature is 19.5 °C.

From December 2023 all readings have been taken with the new thermometer/TDS device. Previously, all Upper Par readings, except for Lady Rashleigh Mine, have been taken with the old device. There is a worrying discrepancy with the readings on the older devices.

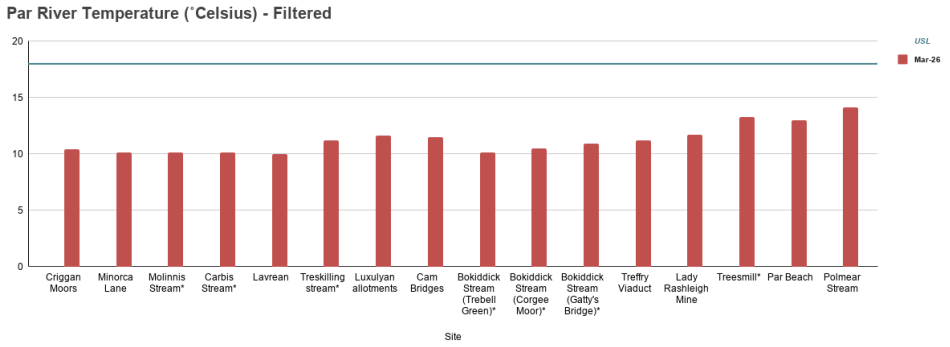
PAR RIVER/TRIBUTARY	LOCATION		Temperature ˚Celsius
Par	Criggan Moors, Par River, SX 01882 61133		**10.4**
Par	South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX 02657 59788		**10.1**
Secondary tributary	Near Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271		**10.1**
Tributary	Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401		**10.1**
Par	Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164		**10**
Tributary	Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726		**11.2**
Par	Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045		**11.6**
Par	Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454		**11.5**
Tributary	Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226		**10.1**
Tributary	Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167		**10.5**
Tributary	Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953		**10.9**
Par	Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179		**11.2**
Par	Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509		**11.7**
Tributary	Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385		**13.3**
Par	Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261		**13**
Tributary	Polmear Stream, Ship Inn, SX 08749 53417		**14.1**

Colour coding:

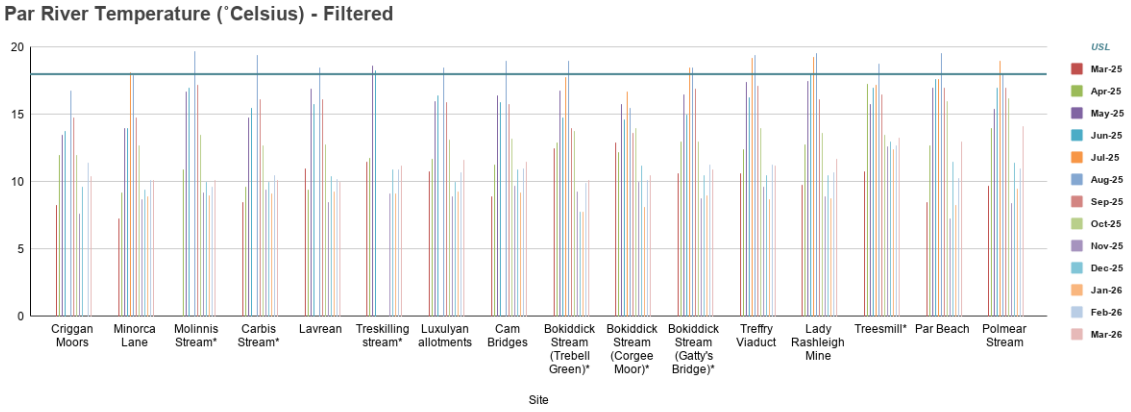
Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par (China Clay-country streams)	
Tributaries of Lower Par	

3. Graphs

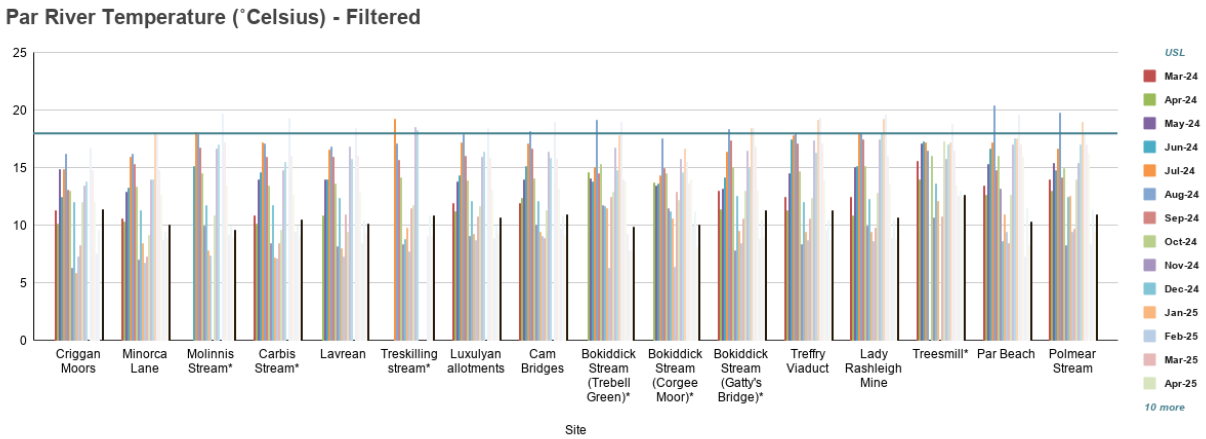
(a) This month:



(b) From 1st March 2025 until 31st March 2026:



(c) From 1st March 2024 until 31st March 2026:

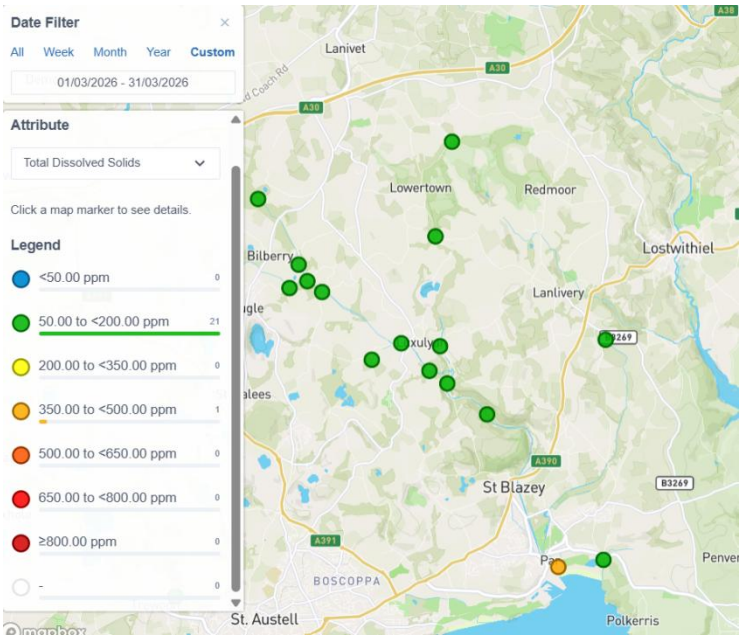


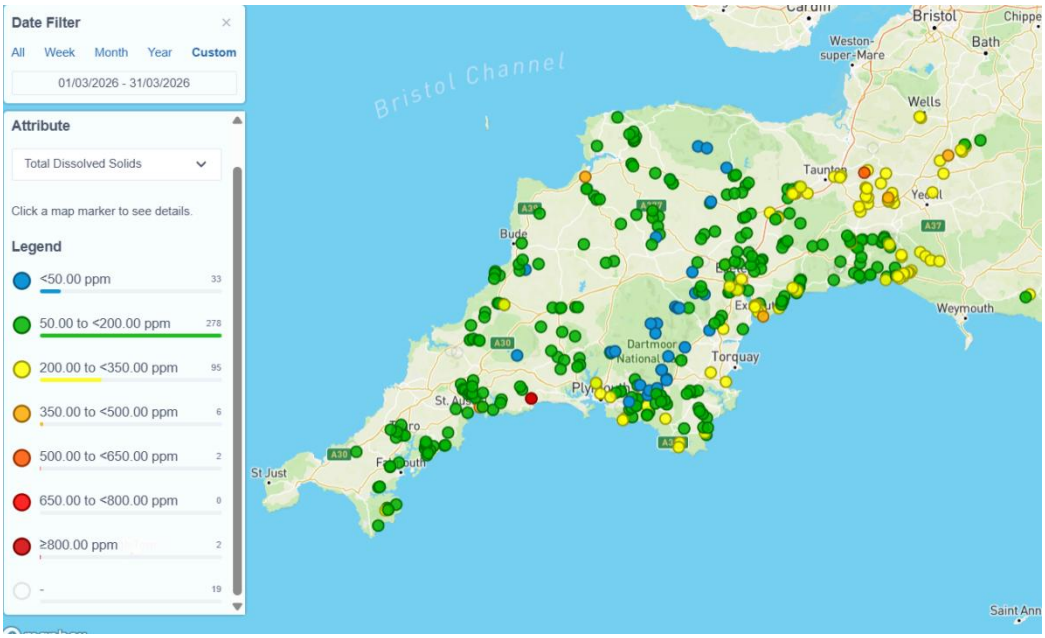
F. TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS

1. We measure these in ppm (parts per million). The Yealm Estuary to Moor Project (YEM) in Devon considers that the upper safe level (USL) for TDS is 300 PPM. This is the WRT's explanation:

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) is directly related to the conductivity of the water. The more minerals, salts and metals that are dissolved in the water the more conductive it gets. Low levels of dissolved solids in waters such as those on Dartmoor near to the source of the river are a result of very low levels of input from the surrounding landscape. As the river runs down to the sea it collects material from many different inputs, some natural and some man-made such as farms, sewage plants, factories and residential areas. This typically increases the amount of solids dissolved in the water leading to a higher reading. Harmful pollution from things like sewage, slurry and factory discharge will usually elevate your TDS reading. However, some pollutants such as oil can lower conductivity; therefore it should be used as a general indicator of water quality not a specific measure of toxicity. Geology will influence the normal level of conductivity in a watercourse (e.g. Areas dominated by granite generally give a lower conductivity than those with limestone). Regular monitoring will allow the detection of changes in conductivity which can indicate pollution.

2. Geographical comparison. Source: Cartographer.





3. Results March 2026

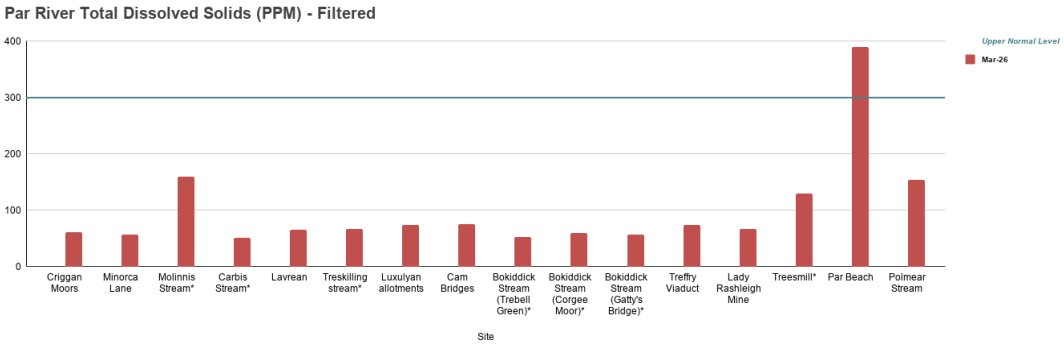
PAR RIVER/TRIBUTARY	LOCATION		Total Dissolved Solids PPM
Par	Criggan Moors, Par River, SX 01882 61133		**61**
Par	South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX 02657 59788		**57**
Secondary tributary	Near Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271		**159**
Tributary	Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401		**51**
Par	Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164		**65**
Tributary	Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726		**66**
Par	Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045		**74**
Par	Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454		**75**
Tributary	Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226		**53**
Tributary	Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167		**60**
Tributary	Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953		**57**
Par	Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179		**74**
Par	Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509		**66**
Tributary	Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385		**129**
Par	Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261		**390**
Tributary	Polmear Stream, Ship Inn, SX 08749 53417		**154**

Colour coding:

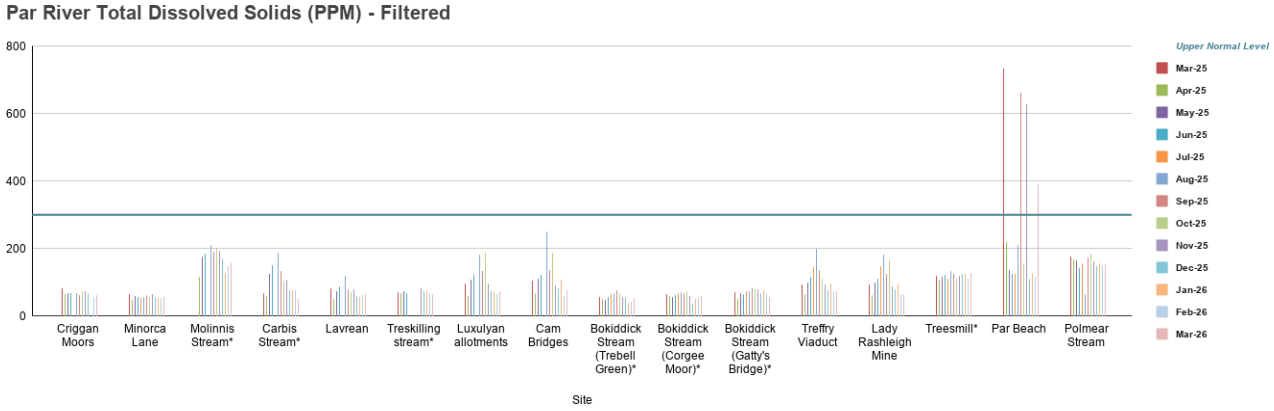
Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par (China Clay-country streams)	
Tributaries of Lower Par	

3. Graphs

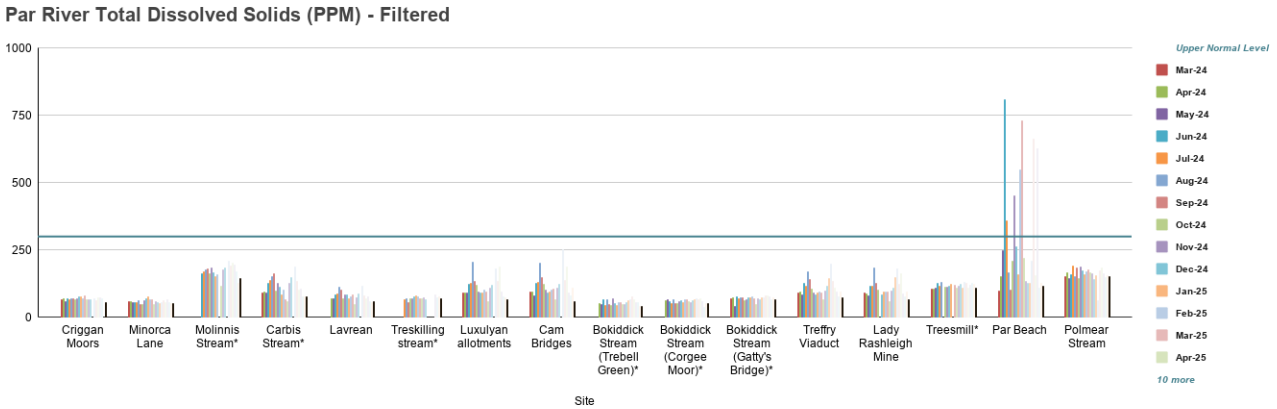
(a) This month:



(b) From 1st March 2025 until 31st March 2026:



(c) From 1st March 2024 until 31st March 2026:



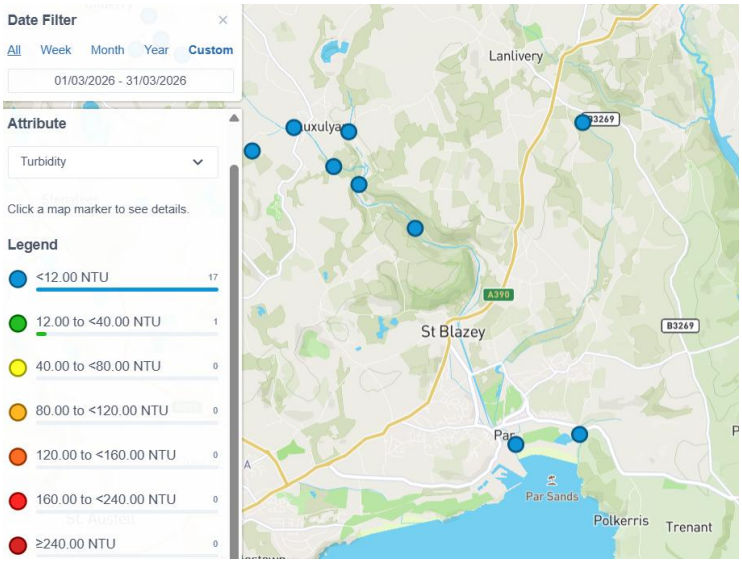
G. TURBIDITY

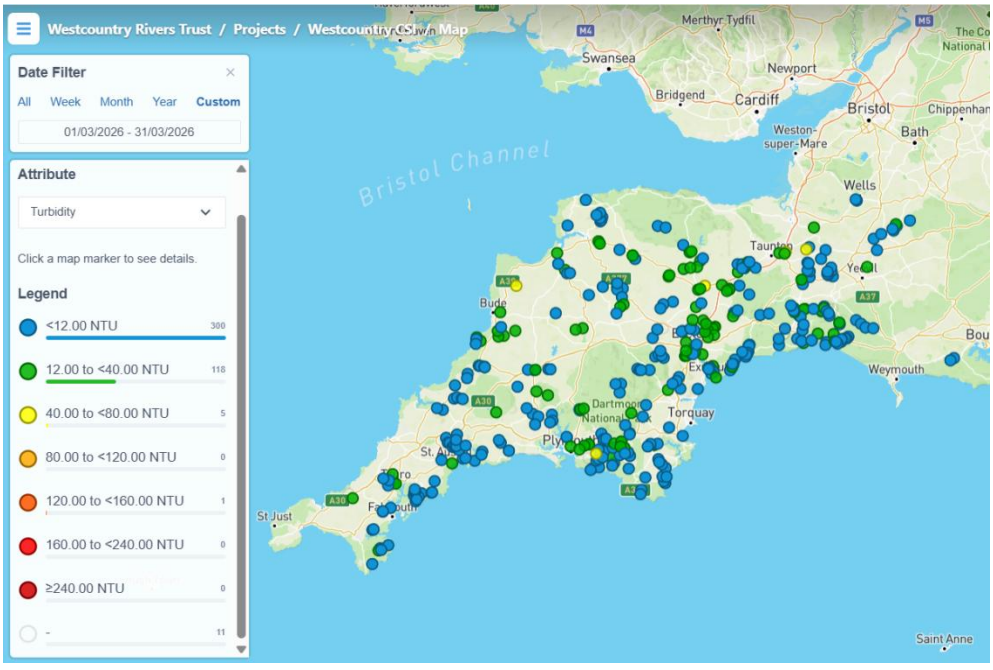
1. This is the WRT explanation of this measure:

Turbidity tube is a measure of the optical clarity of the water. The more suspended particles in the water the lower the clarity and the higher the turbidity. You will often find your waterbody gets more turbid after heavy rainfall due to soil running off the fields and sediment being mixed into the water column. This loss of topsoil is both a problem for farmer and river. It can often contain chemicals from the fertiliser and pesticides used on the land. An increase in sediment level on the substrate of the river can cause smothering of habitat by removing light and oxygen. Aquatic wildlife such as the less mobile invertebrates and fish eggs struggle to survive in low oxygen conditions and without light, plants are unable to grow. It is a good idea to sample your river after different weather conditions to understand how it responds to rainfall or drought.

The Yealm Estuary to Moor Project (YEM) in Devon considers that the upper safe level (USL) for turbidity is 75 NTU = 25 mg/l.

2. Geographical comparison. Source: Cartographer.





3. Results March 2026:

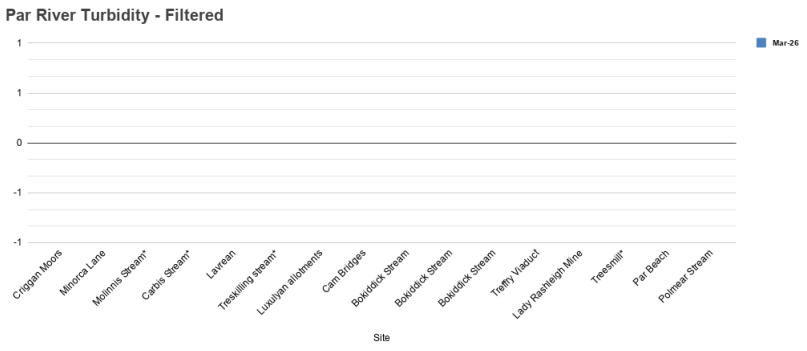
PAR RIVER/TRIBUTARY	LOCATION		Turbidity (NTU)
Par	Criggan Moors, Par River, SX 01882 61133		**<12**
Par	South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX 02657 59788		**<12**
Secondary tributary	Near Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271		**<12**
Tributary	Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401		**<12**
Par	Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164		**<12**
Tributary	Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726		**<12**
Par	Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045		**<12**
Par	Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454		**<12**
Tributary	Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226		**<12**
Tributary	Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167		**<12**
Tributary	Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953		**<12**
Par	Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179		**<12**
Par	Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509		**<12**
Tributary	Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385		**<12**
Par	Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261		**<12**
Tributary	Polmear Stream, Ship Inn, SX 08749 53417		**<12**

Colour coding:

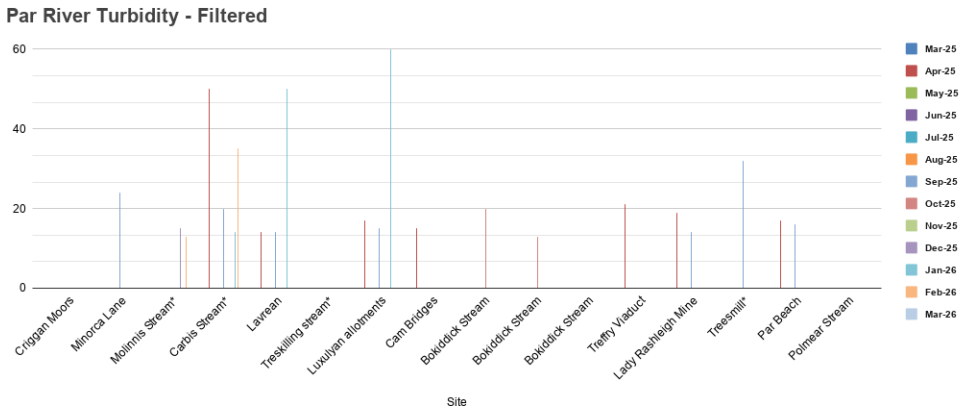
Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par (China Clay-country streams)	
Tributaries of Lower Par	

4. Graphs

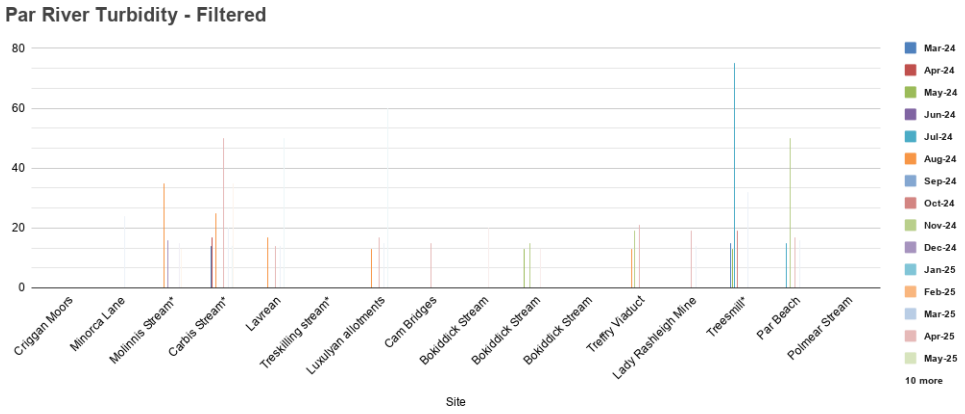
(a) This month:



(b) From 1st March 2025 until 31st March 2026:



(c) From 1st March 2024 until 31st March 2026:



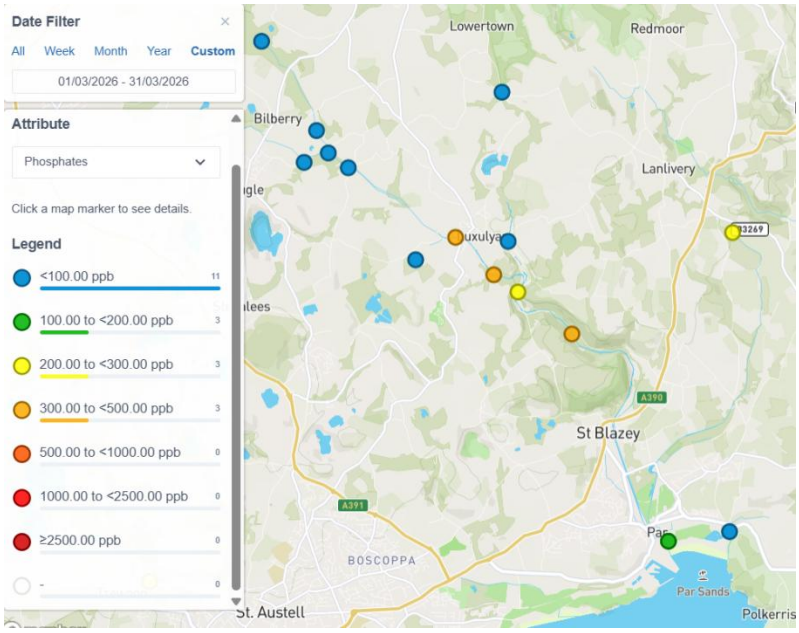
H. PHOSPHATES

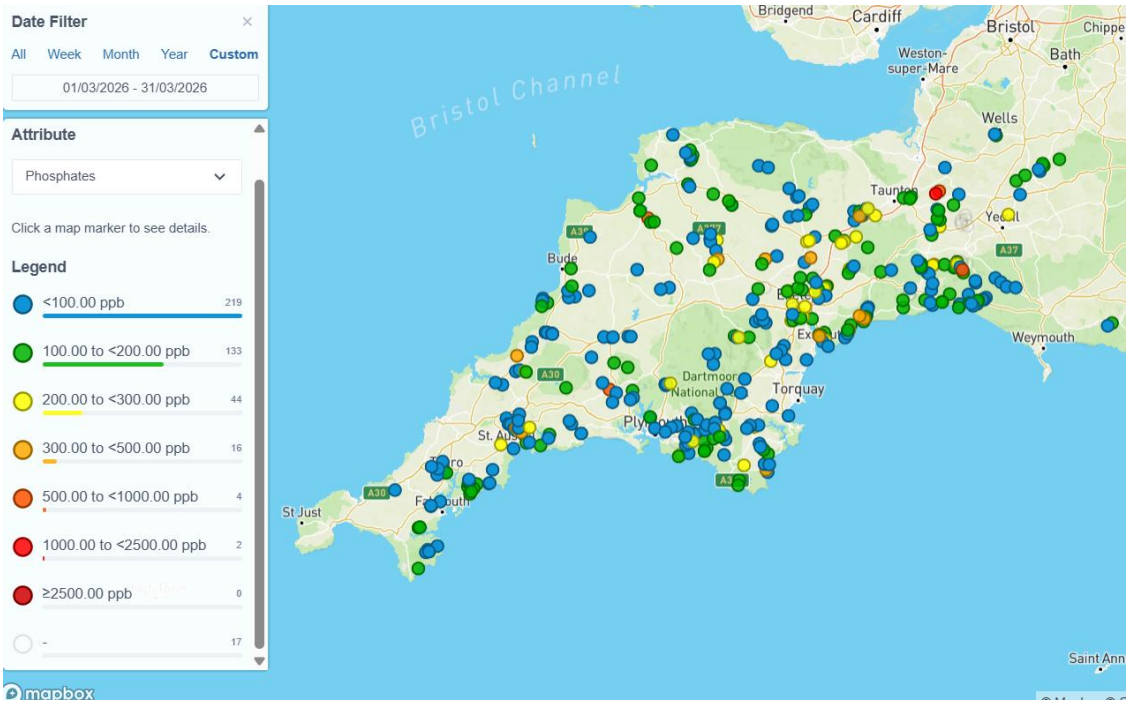
1. This is the WRT's explanation of this measure.

Phosphate occurs naturally within the river ecosystem, but in very low levels under 0.05 mg/l. Therefore, higher levels may indicate anthropogenic input. Phosphate is found in animal and human waste, cleaning chemicals, industrial runoff and fertiliser so this can be a good indicator of pollution. Having raised levels of phosphate can lead to increases in plant growth within the watercourse. This leads to a depletion of oxygen due to the plant's aerobic respiration during the night. Without oxygen aquatic species cannot survive and the river ecosystem collapses. (It is important to note that phosphate is taken up by plants. You may get a low reading but high plant growth, indicating eutrophication.) Ranges on phosphate diagnostic colour chart:

0 – 100 OK
200 – 300 HIGH
500 – 2500 – TOO HIGH

2. Geographical comparison. Source: Cartographer.





3. Results March 2026

Results in red show phosphate levels that are classified as 'High' (above the upper safe level). WRT advice is that this is 100 Parts per Billion (0.1 mg/l).

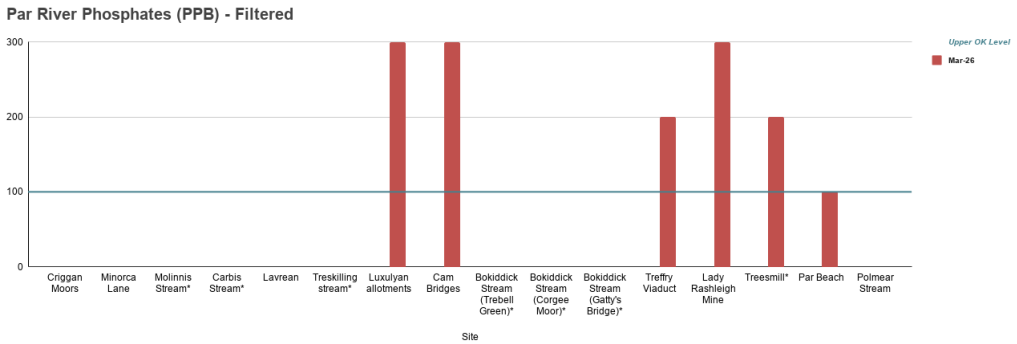
PAR RIVER/TRIBUTARY	LOCATION		Phosphates PPB
Par	Criggan Moors, Par River, SX 01882 61133		0
Par	South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX 02657 59788		0
Secondary tributary	Near Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271		0
Tributary	Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401		0
Par	Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164		0
Tributary	Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726		0
Par	Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045		300
Par	Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454		300
Tributary	Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226		0
Tributary	Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167		0
Tributary	Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953		0
Par	Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179		200
Par	Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509		300
Tributary	Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385		200
Par	Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261		100
Tributary	Polmear Stream, Ship Inn, SX 08749 53417		0

Colour coding:

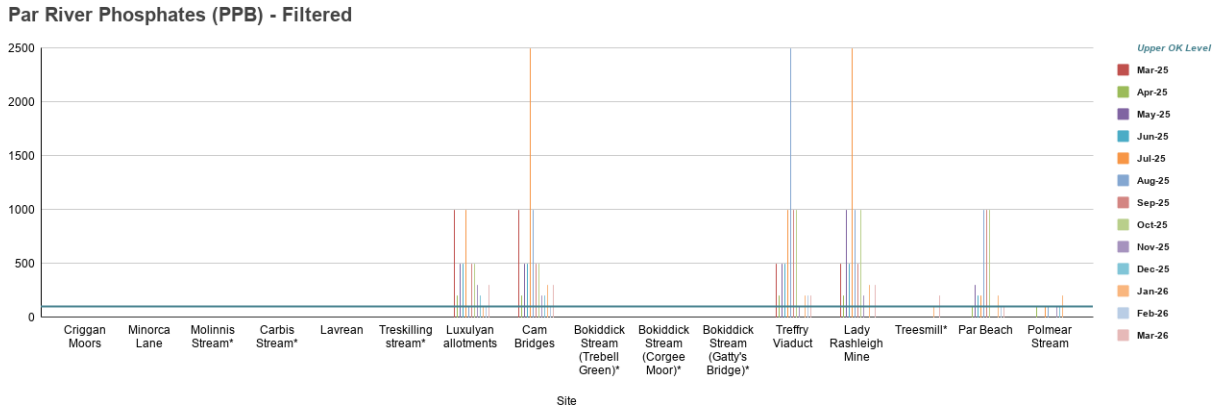
Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par (China Clay-country streams)	
Tributaries of Lower Par	

4. Graphs

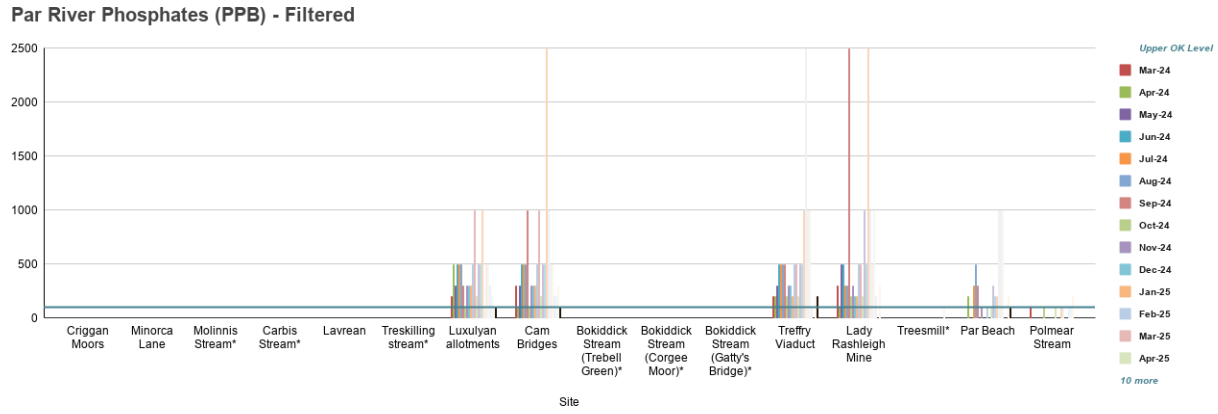
(a) This month:



(b) From 1st March 2025 until 31st March 2026:



(c) From 1st March 2024 until 31st March 2026:

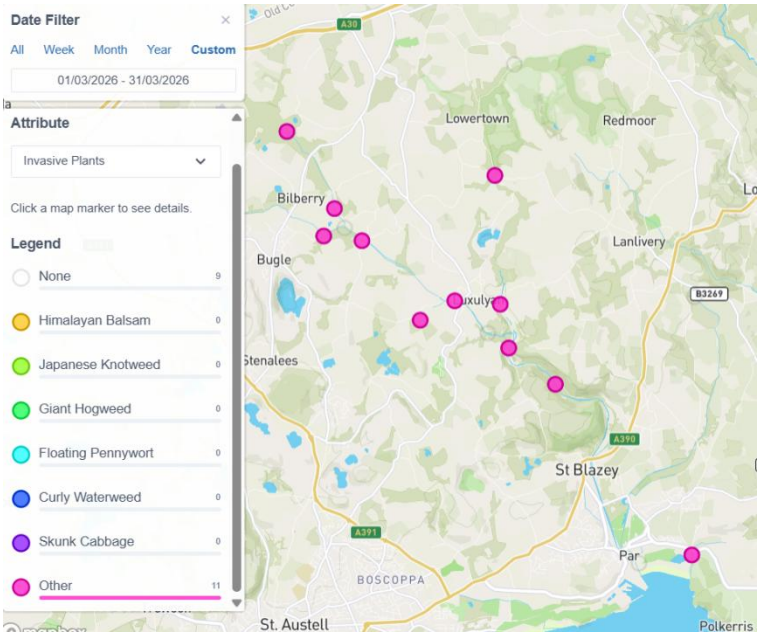


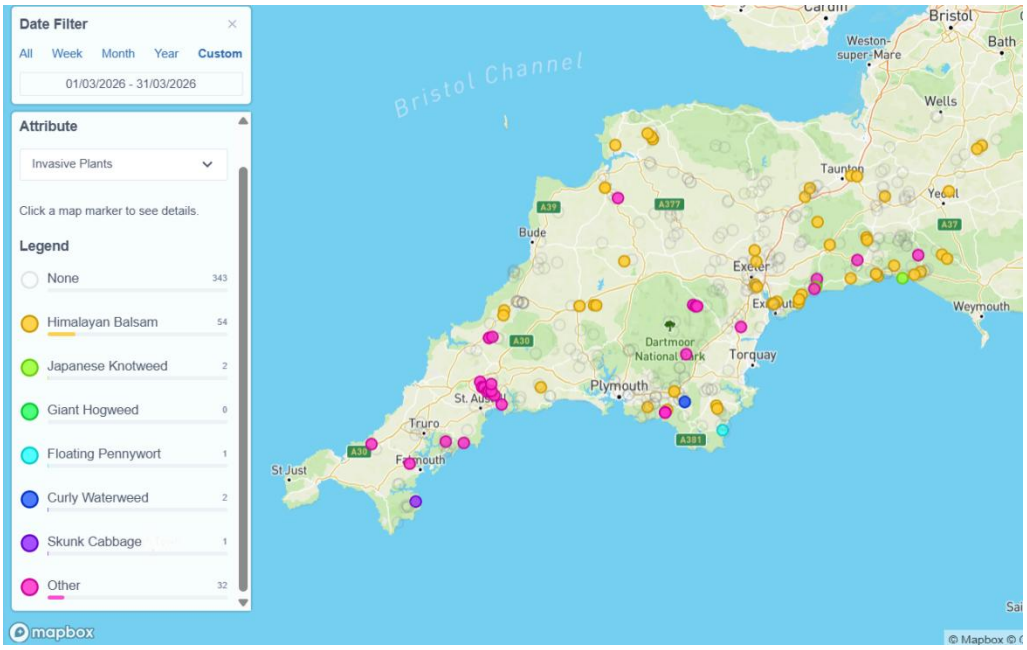
I. NITRATE

Nitrate results were recorded at all sites except Gatty's, Treffry Viaduct, and Polmear. Readings were all 0 PPM. Graphs will be generated once more results are available.

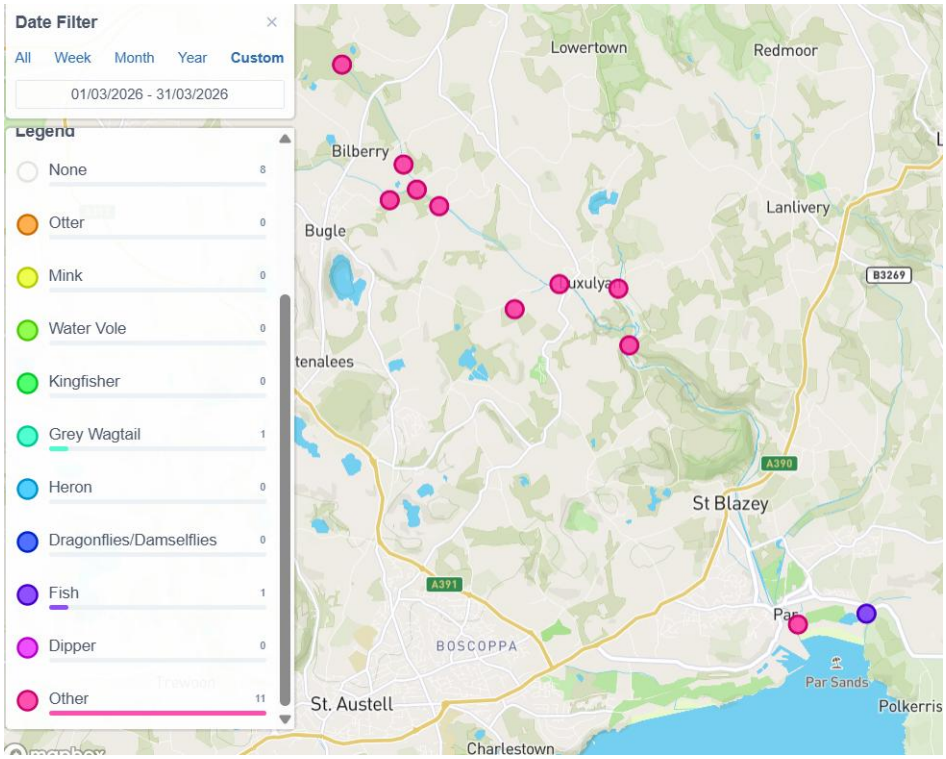
J. WILDLIFE & INVASIVE PLANTS

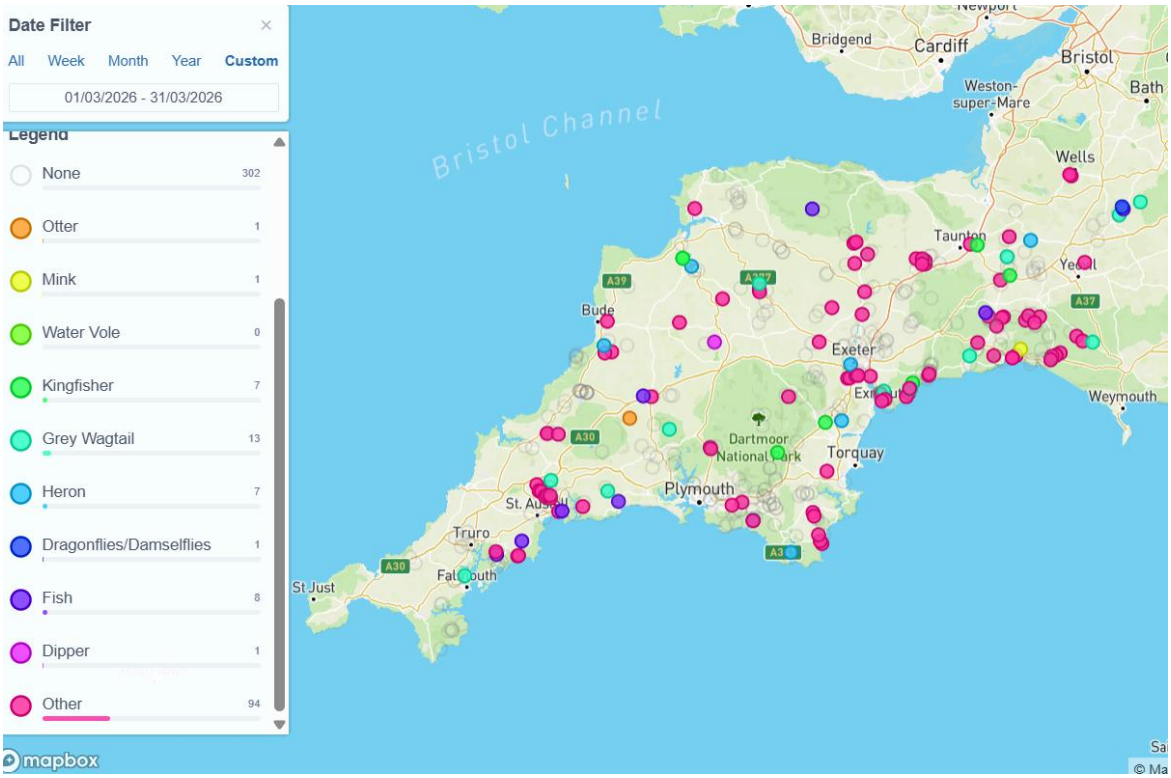
1. Invasive Plants sightings at the monitoring points included:





2. Wildlife spotted:





Wildlife & Invasive Plants sightings at the monitoring points included:

LOCATION	WILDLIFE NOTED		INVASIVE PLANTS NOTED
Criggan Moors, SX 01882 61133	**HEARD: Jackdaw, Robin**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX 02657 59788	**HEARD: Chaffinch, Wren, House Sparrow, Robin, Long-tailed Tit**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271	**SEEN: Buzzard** **HEARD: Buzzard, Robin, Herring Gull, Dunnock**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401	**HEARD: Great Tit**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164	**HEARD: Herring Gull, Wren, Robin**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726	**SEEN: Greenfinch**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045	**HEARD: Robin, Blue Tit, Wood Pigeon, Chaffinch**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454			Hemlock Water Dropwort, Japanese Knotweed
Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226	**SEEN: Beaver lake** **HEARD: Wren**		
Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167			Hemlock Water Dropwort
Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953	**HEARD: Jackdaw**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179	**HEARD: Robin**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509	**HEARD: Wren, Robin**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385			
Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261	**Ducks, Egret, Herring Gull**		
Polmear Stream, Ship Inn, SX 08749 53417	**SEEN: Fish**		Hemlock Water Dropwort

The Merlin Bird ID app has been used to identify birdsong (https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/) unless stated otherwise.

Colour coding:

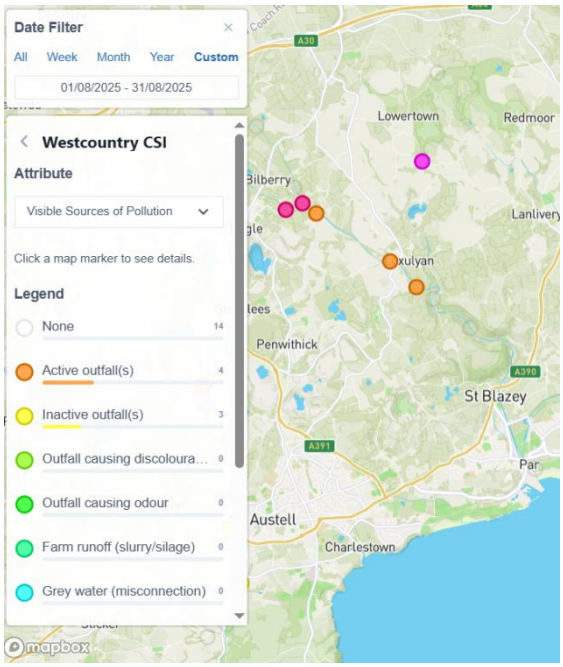
Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par (China Clay-country streams)	
Tributaries of Lower Par	

K. ARMI RIVERFLY SURVEYS ON LOWER PAR RIVER AND TYWARDREATH STREAM

These will resume in the spring.

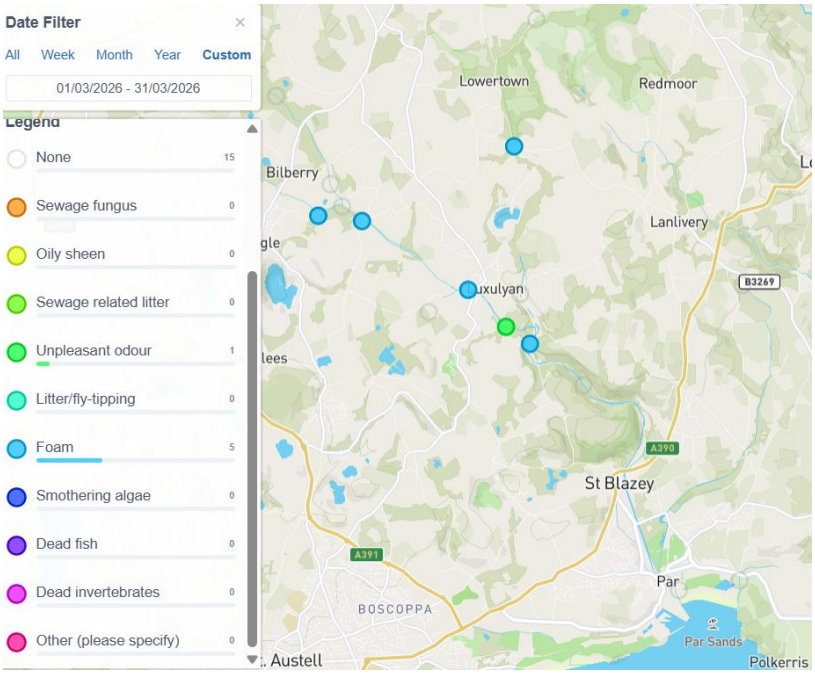
L. POLLUTION SOURCES AND EVIDENCE

1. Visible sources of pollution (source: Cartographer)



2. Evidence of recent pollution:

This relates to pollution that is visible; filtered sewage was spilled into the Molinnis and Carbis Streams, and the Par River (see section 3 below), but this is not shown on the map.



LOCATION		EVIDENCE OF RECENT POLLUTION
Criggan Moors, SX 01882 61133		
South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX 02657 59788		
Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271		
Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401		
Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164		Foam
Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726		
Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045		Filtered sewage (?), phosphates
Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454		Smell, filtered sewage (?), phosphates
Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226		
Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167		
Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953		
Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179		Filtered sewage (?), foam, phosphates
Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509		Phosphates, filtered sewage (?)
Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385		Phosphates
Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261		Filtered sewage (?)
Polmear Stream, Ship Inn, SX 08749 53417		

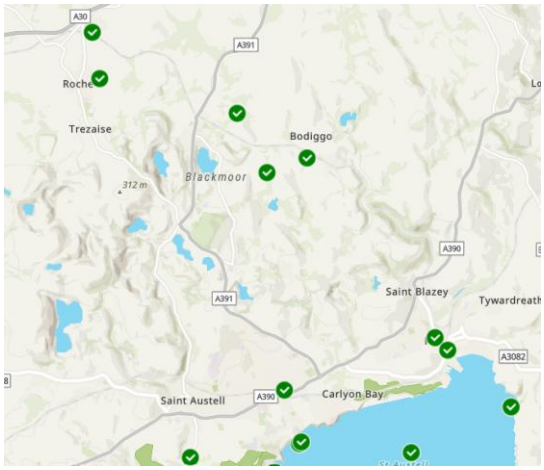
N.B. Although not noticeable at our monitoring points, there is a persistent smell of sewage in the vicinity of the Molinnis CSO even when there have been no reported discharges.

Colour coding:

Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par (China Clay-country streams)	
Tributaries of Lower Par	

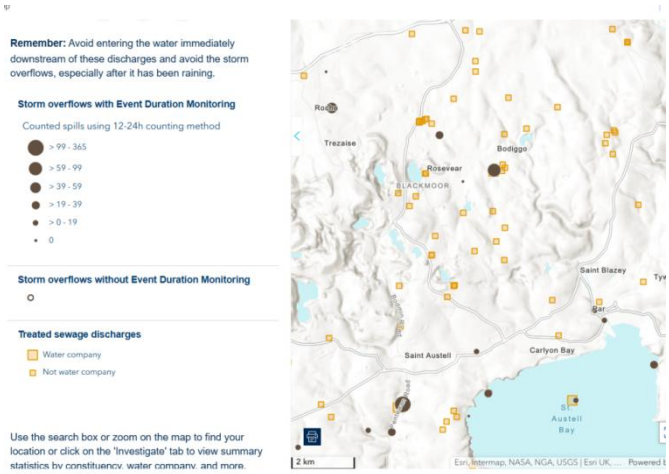
3. South West Water Storm Overflows

The Rivers Trust's sewage map (https://www.sewagemap.co.uk/) gives live information about discharges of sewage into rivers and the sea by water companies. (This is also provided by South West Water's WaterFit Live site: https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/storm-overflow-map).



This screenshot is for illustrative purposes only. Not all of the locations are in the Par River catchment.

It should be noted that there are also numerous private sewerage arrangements in the area but information about possible contamination of watercourses from these has not been found. The following screenshot shows the different facilities in the area (source: https://theriverstrust.org/key-issues/sewage-in-rivers)



(b) South West Water Storm Overflows in the Par River Catchment (updated December 2025):

The main overflows are (from source to sea along the catchment). The identification numbers have been updated:

- Roche storm overflow (SBB01035)
- Molinnis storm overflow, Bugle (SBB00794)

- Rescorla storm overflow, Luxulyan (SBB01022)
- Luxulyan sewage treatment works settled storm overflow, St Austell (SBB0119)
- Tredenham Close storm overflow, Par (SBB1273)
- Par No2 pumping station overflow, Par (SBB01273)

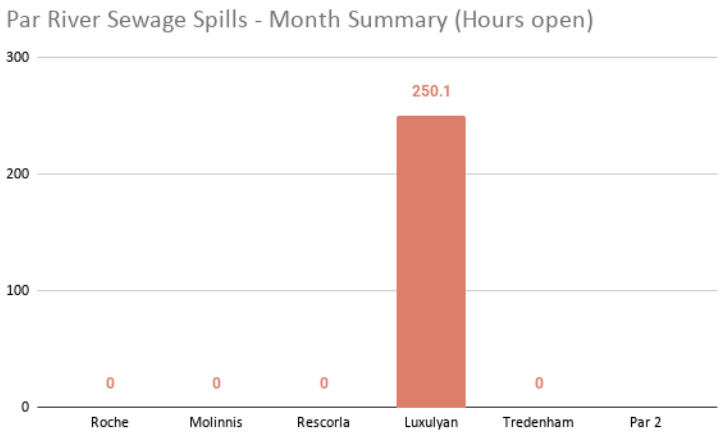
This information has been taken from the *Surfers Against Sewage* discharge website: https://datahq.sas.org.uk/sewage-data-hq/ and The Rivers Trust's site: https://theriverstrust.org/sewage-map .

(c) Graphs:

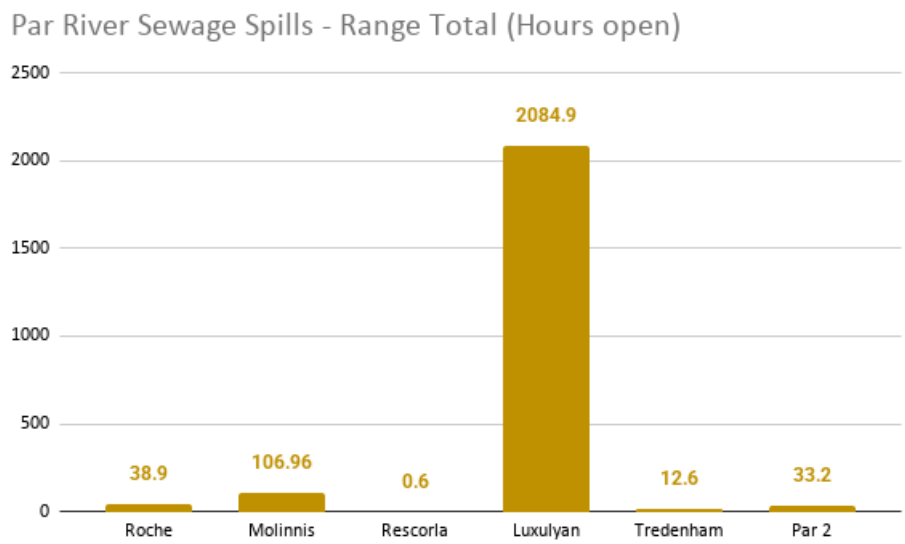
Data has been taken from https://datahq.sas.org.uk/sewage-data-hq/.

Any errors are the fault of the compiler of this report. Results are indicative, not definitive.

(i) March 2026:



(ii) From 1st December 2025 until 31st March 2026:



The Rescorla CSO registered no spills but was offline for maintenance for 92 hours and 28 minutes.

M. HOW TO REPORT RIVER POLLUTION

HOW TO REPORT RIVER POLLUTION

River pollution can now be reported **online** to the Environment Agency at: https://www.gov.uk/report-water-pollution .

Use this service to report water pollution in:

- rivers or the sea
- lakes or reservoirs
- canals
- smaller streams or watercourses (for example, a brook or culvert)

Water pollution can include:

- sewage
- waste, spills or leaks from farms
- waste, spills or leaks from factories or other industry
- spills or leaks from objects

If you're unable to use the online service, you can **call** the Environment Agency:
Environment Agency incident hotline

Telephone: **0800 80 70 60**

24-hour service

N. OUR GROUP AND SUPPORTERS

Monitoring is part of the Citizen Science programme run by the West Country Rivers Trust (WCRT) and is carried out monthly by volunteers, including Joan Farmer; Veronica Jones; Roger Smith; Simon Tagney; Maggie Tagney; and Brian Harrisson. They have received training from Lydia Ashworth, Junior Evidence and Engagement Officer of the West Country Rivers Trust (https://wrt.org.uk/project/become-a-citizen-scientist/). Results are logged on the Cartographer website. The support and advice given by Ross Tonkin, Lloyd Paynter, David Edwards, Claire and Gary Phillips, Jenny Heskett, Nick Taylor, Jeremy Roberts, Mat Bateman, Colin Pringle, Matt Healey, Simon Browning, Lydia Deacon, Jack Middleton, Anna Seal, Anna Crane, Zoe Connelly, Jade Neville, Lauren Jasper, Callum Lewis, Gwen Maggs, Oscar Miller, Sasha Pinto and Jenny Tagney is greatly appreciated. The work carried out by the late Dave Burrell both in the field and in checking reports will not be forgotten. The interest and encouragement offered by Environment Agency officers, especially Lisa Best, Lisa Goodall, Layla Ousley, Jenny Davies, Leah Steward, Nicola Rogers, Peter Scobie, and Sally Turberville have been invaluable.

Report compiled by Roger Smith, 12th April 2026