



Registered Charity
Number 1199418

windrushwasp.org

**Pan political.
End untreated sewage.
Improve effluent standards.
Make rivers safe for all.**

HOW?

**Investigation.
Communication and Education.
Engagement.
+ The Law.
LOCAL AND NATIONAL.**

Water company staff are not the problem – They are vital to the solution



Countryfile's Tom Heap investigates pollution of Britain's rivers

BBC

What have we learned?



22 October 2018 – WODC Water Day - included WASP after BBC Countryfile.

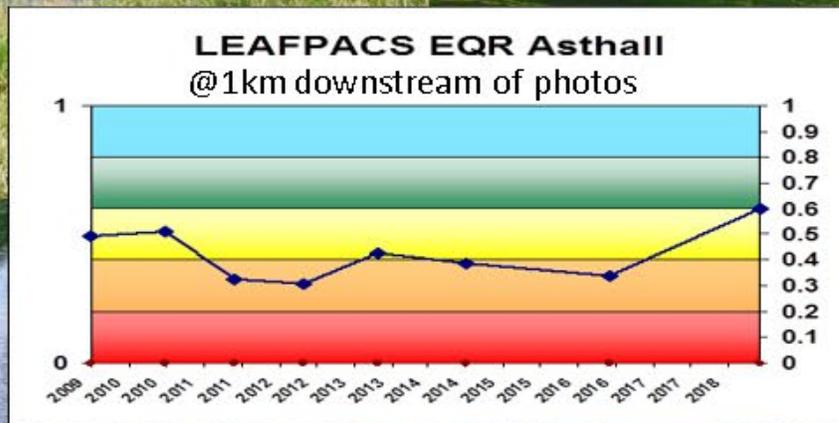


Burford July 2010



Widford May 2009

Environment Agency macrophyte (plant) survey



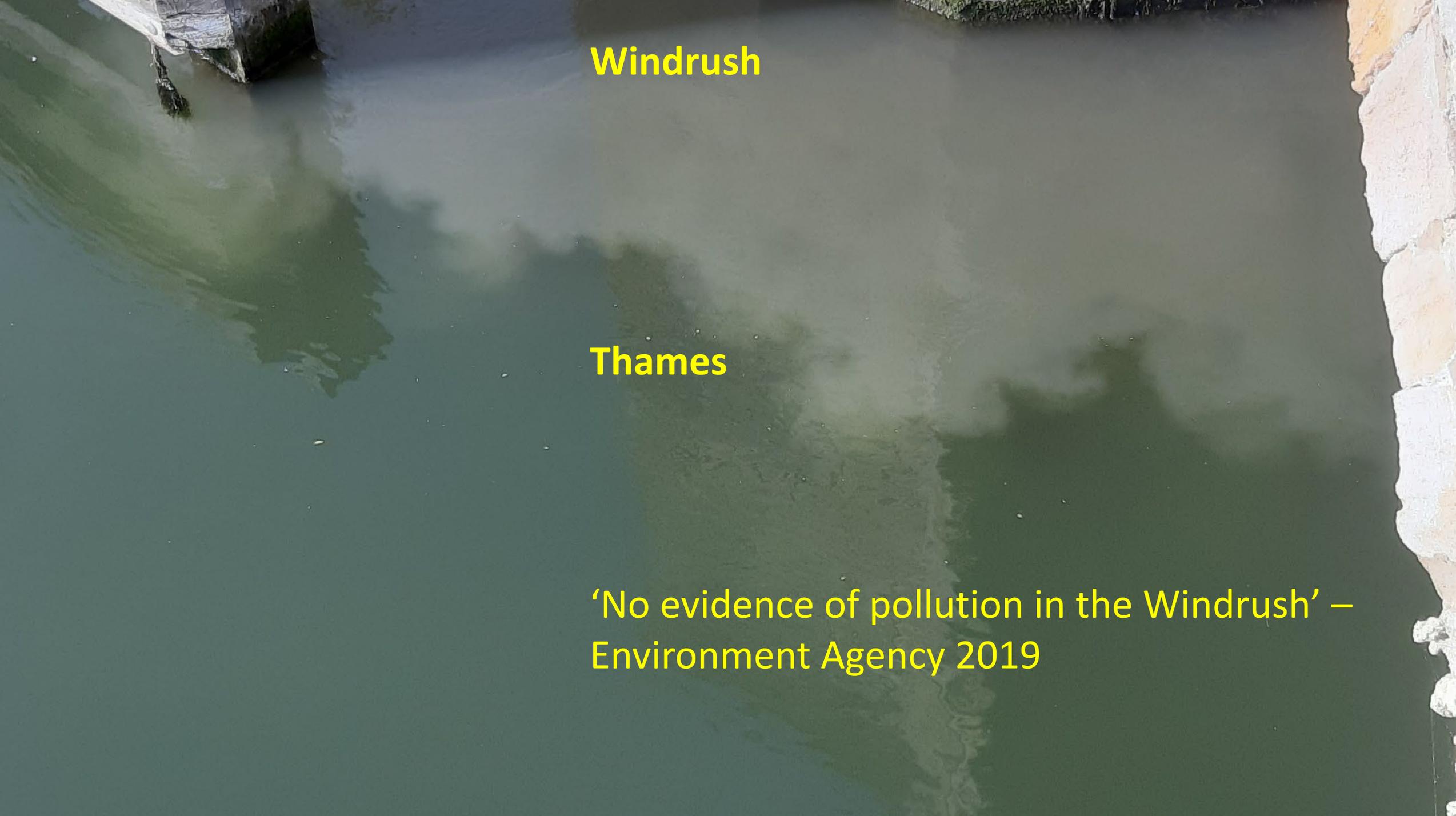
August 2020

River Windrush



July 2017





Windrush

Thames

**‘No evidence of pollution in the Windrush’ –
Environment Agency 2019**

According to the EA in 2019 there was no evidence of pollution in the River Windrush.



How?

Changing the game

Windrush Against Sewage Pollution report on illegal sewage spills

[Defra Press Office](#), 19 January 2022 - [Uncategorized](#)

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Environment ▶ Climate crisis Wildlife **Energy** Pollution

Rivers ● This article is more than 3 years old

AI reveals 1,000 'dark discharges' of untreated sewage in England

Paper says machine learning could prove crucial tool in efforts to improve quality of country's rivers



■ An image of sewage fungus from a 60-day discharge in the AI report. Photograph: Handout

Nearly 1,000 "dark discharges" of untreated sewage from two water company treatment plants in England have been detected by scientists using

Most viewed

-  [Live](#) Portugal 0-0 Slovenia (pens: 3-0): Euro 2024, last 16 - live reaction
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-  US supreme court rules Trump has 'absolute immunity' for official acts
-  Rishi Sunak hints he might not quit as Tory leader immediately if he loses election - as it happened
-  Jude Bellingham investigated by Uefa over gesture after England goal



There has been coverage today in [The Times](#) and [BBC News](#) regarding a report by the campaign group Windrush Against Sewage Pollution on illegal sewage spills.

The report suggests that several water companies - Southern Water, South West Water, Thames Water, Welsh Water, Wessex Water, Yorkshire Water and United Utilities - have illegally spilt sewage from treatment works into rivers thousands of times between 2017 and 2021.

The Environment Age

Committees

[UK Parliament](#) > [Business](#) > [Committees](#) > [Industry and Regulators Committee](#) > [News Article](#)

Failures of regulators, water companies and Government leaving public and environment in the mire

22 March 2023



Under investment, insufficient government strategy, and inadequate co-ordination has resulted in a failure to “treat water with the care and importance it deserves”, warns committee.

- [Report: The affluent and the effluent: cleaning up the failures of water and sewage regulation\(HTML\)](#)



Government re
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rial (“Filthy P
August
counts
fact
..... Water quality in our rivers is now be
start of the Industrial Revolution.
..... Water companies are not “free to p
standards set by the law and the Enviro
meet in almost all cases.

Environment Agency investigation into sewage treatment works moves to next phase

[pressoffice](#), 23 June 2023 - [Environment Agency](#), [Water](#)



...you that the **investigation** is moving to its next phase which will include visits by EA investigators to sites where offending may have occurred. Since the **investigation** was launched, we...

18 months to decide to visit the crime scenes.

2 years to actually get to only some of them.

Opaque and no indication that Directors investigated.

No independent oversight.

No Confidence.

Ofwat hits ailing Thames Water with £40m fine over dividend payment

Britain's biggest water company has been warned it faces a fine of over £40m for allowing a £37.5m dividend to be paid to its owners last year, [Sky News](#) learns.



Mark Kleinman

City editor @MarkKleinmanSky

🕒 Saturday 1 June 2024 12:09, UK



3% of bills
spent on
loans

That would be
good

If it was true

6p on the government
We paid over £118 million in
business rates and employer's
National Insurance in 2022/23.

3p on our lenders
To invest in our network, we borrow
money at efficient rates while keeping
your bills as low as we can.

Revealed: your water company's finances

Search for your postcode



Thames Water Utilities Limited

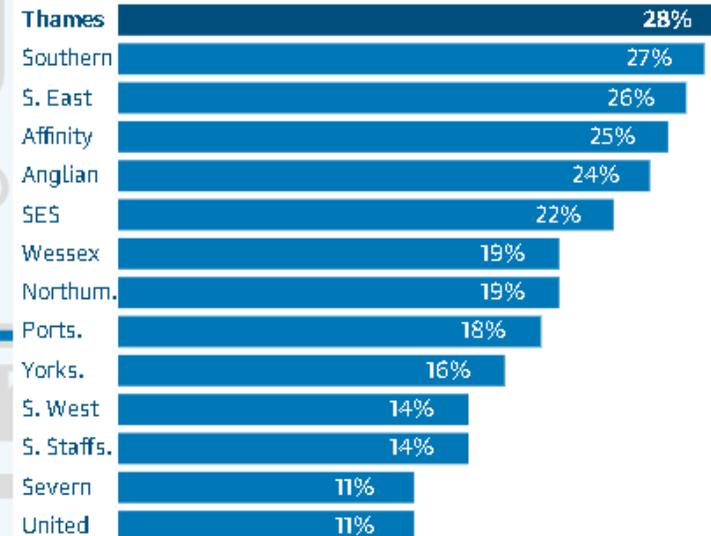


28%

Clear

of revenue spent servicing debt by Thames

English water companies: % of revenue spent paying interest or fees on debt, 2019-2023 average



Guardian graphic. Source: company financial documents from 1990 to 2023. See [full methodology](#). *Thames provides water and sewage services.

There has never been a year since privatisation when shareholders contributed more cash than they took out.



Stanley Root

Former audit partner, with 29 years' experience at one of the Big Four accountancy firms

'We would love to do more but Ofwat won't let us'



Thames Water was funded for 812 'outputs' in 2020 – 2025 – Allowed £672M

108 'outputs' pushed back to 2025 – 2030 + **£1.134Bn extra required.**

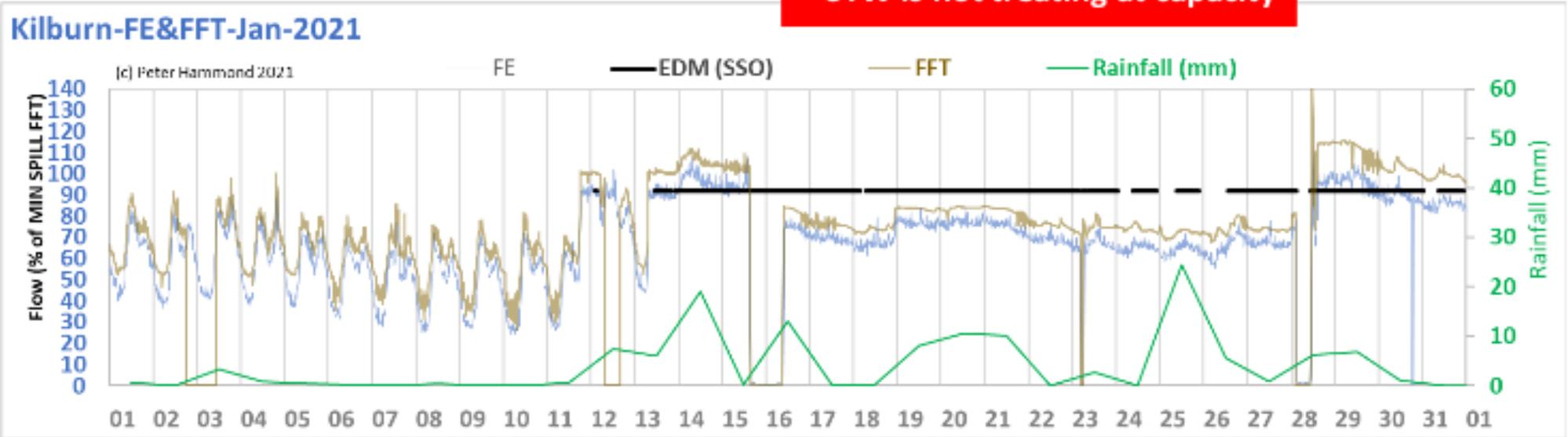
What about the extra £2Bn 'investment' promised this year?

Purely to keep the company afloat and delivering returns?

Not forgetting Severn Trent

Severn Trent Water: illegal sewage discharges at Kilburn STW

13 days with discharges when STW is not treating at capacity



All data (apart from rainfall) provided by Severn Trent via the Environment Agency

Cotswold spillers				
WWTW	Hours 2023	YTD 2024	PE served	Operator
Ampney St Peter	2,759	1,780	2,502	TWUL
Amdoversford	2,092	1,748	760	TWUL
Blockley	3,535	N/A	1,920	SvT
Bourton on the Water	1,565	1,670	5,998	TWUL
Cirencester	2,871	2,607	33,896	TWUL
Cricklade	1,483	789	4,401	TWUL
Fairford	3,391	2,515	4,936	TWUL
Lechlade	688	1,456	2,967	TWUL
Moreton in Marsh	2,013	995	6,346	TWUL
	20,397	13,560	63,726	
Note YTD 2024 figures unverified				
Hatchetts SPS (Cricklade)	451	478	N/A	TWUL

Fairford Sewage Treatment Works

In October 2021, with regard to Fairford STW's ability to cope with new housing in respect of 87 houses West of Hatherop Road 22/03770/OUT, your staff responded to the developer for a pre planning application inquiry: ***'We are pleased to confirm that there will be sufficient foul water capacity in our sewerage network to serve your site.'***



How do we move forward



“Water infrastructure has not kept pace with development growth over decades’ Defra 2021

100 houses = 30 tonnes of sewage/wastewater per day

West Oxfordshire campaigners want sewage upgrade condition on planning

6th January



By **Miranda Norris**
Senior reporter

Share



24 Comments

Environmental campaigners are calling for developments to be paused until sewage treatment works are upgraded to cope with them.

Case study.

Vaughan Lewis and Geoff Tombs.



Key messages.

Not pro or anti development – anti making lives worse.

Not holding up housing – that is the water companies and regulators fault.

Protecting quality of life and public health for existing and new residents.

Publish with every press release.

Highlight previous neglect – tactical decision.



Recommendations

A portfolio of interventions is needed to create multiple barriers of protection to minimise public health risks from treated effluent and storm overflows. Our collaborative approach identified the need to take a risk-based methodology to the deployment of interventions and to target those actions at sites where public health risks are greatest, while balancing the need for action

Immediate actions to reduce the public health risks

- Maintenance and rehabilitation:** Water service providers should further prioritise maintenance and rehabilitation of assets, informed by regulatory frameworks that require the demonstration of asset resilience including the reduction in sewer infiltration, and supported by enforcement measures.
- Monitoring and forecasting:** Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) should revise targets to accelerate the roll-out

6 | TESTING THE WATERS PRIORITIES FOR MITIGATING HEALTH RISKS FROM WASTEWATER POLLUTION



It outlines **15 recommendations** for water service providers, UK government, devolved administrations and public bodies to reduce public health risks posed by polluted water. The report's findings are based on risk-based assessments and consultations with more than 100 engineers, wastewater experts, the water industry, campaign organisations and policymakers.

It focuses on the role of wastewater infrastructure in introducing primarily human faecal organisms into open water through storm overflows and





**The law,
Transparency
Public scrutiny
Value for money**

Shill Brook - limestone stream above Carterton sewage works.

March 2021



Below Carterton sewage works - March 2021

