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Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly



## Responsibilities

Within England we're responsible for:

- regulating major industry and waste
- treatment of contaminated land
- water quality and resources
- fisheries
- inland river, estuary and harbour navigations
- conservation and ecology

We are also responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea.

## Priorities

Our priorities are to:

- work with businesses and other organisations to manage the use of resources
- increase the resilience of people, property and businesses to the risks of flooding and coastal erosion
- protect and improving water, land and biodiversity
- improve the way we work as a regulator to protect people and the environment and support sustainable growth

Read more about [Environment Agency: EA2025 creating a better place](#)



**EA 2025**

A NATION RESILIENT  
TO CLIMATE CHANGE



**EA 2025**

HEALTHY AIR,  
LAND AND WATER



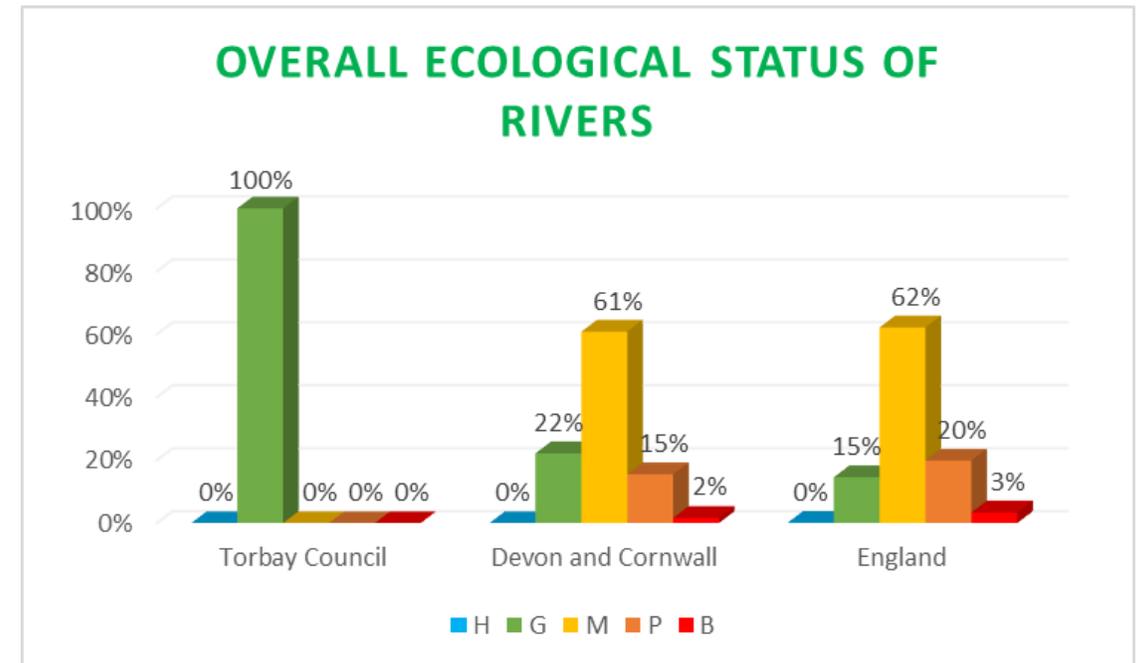
**EA 2025**

GREEN GROWTH AND  
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

# What is state of the Water Environment?

BW Reference	Name	Sampling to be taken between May - September	Bathing Water Status
23100	Maidencombe	10	EXCELLENT
23200	Watcombe	20	CLOSED
23300	Oddicombe	10	EXCELLENT
23400	Babbacombe	15	EXCELLENT
23501	Anstey's Cove (Torquay)	20	EXCELLENT
23600	Meadfoot	10	EXCELLENT
23700	Beacon Cove	15	EXCELLENT
23800	Torre Abbey	20	EXCELLENT
23900	Hollicombe	20	GOOD
24000	Paignton Preston Sands	20	EXCELLENT
24100	Paignton Paignton Sands	20	GOOD
<b>24200</b>	<b>Goodrington</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>SUFFICIENT</b>
24300	Broadsands	15	EXCELLENT
24500	Breakwater Beach (Shoalstone)	10	EXCELLENT
24600	St Mary's Bay (Devon)	10	EXCELLENT

- Torbay has 15 bathing waters.
- Torbay has one river classified in 2022 under the Water Environment Regulations (WER), the Upper Aller Brook. The Upper Aller Brook is designated as having Good Ecological Status.



# What action is being taken?

## Action Plan: Goodrington (Deterioration)

Location	Torbay, Devon	Bathing water number	24200								
Usage	Popular	Controller	Torbay Council								
Type of Bathing Water	Coastal	Designate in	1988								
Local contact- Water Quality:	Gabrielle Garland	Champion	A&R Devon								
Local contact- comms:	Sophia Ashby	Area Environment Manager	Bruce Newport								
Expected Result in 2024	Sufficient	Area	DCIS								
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Classification and % risk of failure	Sufficient (0%)	Good (0%)	Good (0%)	Good (0%)	Sufficient (0%)	Sufficient (6.2%)	Sufficient (32%)	Un-classified	Good (46%)	Good (0%)	Sufficient (0%)

Bathing Water History & Characteristics
<p><b>Bathing water profile</b></p> <p><a href="#">Bathing water profile (data.gov.uk)</a></p> <p><b>Sampling Programme</b></p> <p>BW statutory sample: <a href="#">Goodrington Beach (24200)</a>                      Investigational sample: <a href="#">Goodrington Stream At Beach</a>                      Investigational sample: <a href="#">Goodrington Stream Car Park</a></p> <p><b>Local context</b></p> <p>The Environment Agency (EA) engage with the Torbay Council and South West Water (SWW) closely and liaise around water quality issues that could affect the bathing water.</p>

- Bathing waters are having ongoing investigations if at sufficient or good.
- Goodrington- bathing water impacted by diffuse urban pollution, misconnections, dog faeces.
- Agriculture not thought to be of major impact
- Rapid bacteria sampling undertaken
- Ragging infrastructure to prevent blocking (WINEP)
- SWW has done investigations
- No connectivity to nearby holiday park
- EA monitoring
- Event Duration Monitoring: Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) data provides a robust and consistent way of monitoring how often and for how long storm overflows are used. This monitoring underpins our planning, compliance and enforcement work.

## Reporting to the Public



- The Environment Agency's online tool [Swimfo](#) provides information on all our designated bathing waters
- The Environment Agency works with local authorities to enable decisions on posting signs at these swimming locations to inform bathers about any possible dips in water quality.
- The Environment Agency does not warn and inform the public when **permitted** spills are happening. However, the local water company, SWW, does.
- You can find out more at: [Event duration monitoring – lifting the lid on storm overflows - Creating a better place \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

## Are all the spills illegal?



- Event Duration Monitors increase transparency by measuring how, when and for how long a storm overflow is in operation.
- 100% of storm overflows across the water network in England have now been fitted with Event Duration Monitors (EDMs).
- This shows the public when discharges are happening, and helps the government and regulators to better hold water companies to account for illegal sewage spills and improve knowledge of overflow operation to identify where improvements can be made.
- Storm overflows are an automatic safety valve that release excess pressure on the network from flooding and rain – preventing sewage backing up into properties and stopping widespread mains pipe bursts across the country.
- They should, however, only be used under strict permit conditions.**

## What else is the Environment Agency doing??



- Catchment co-ordinator Emma McGee involved in partnership working re water quality and more.
- Increased development, discussions with Local authority and SWW on asset improvement via the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP)
- Liaising with forums: The Torbay climate partnership the EA fed into the **Greener Way For Our Bay Framework and Action Plan**
- Flood pipeline project- active partner
- Seagrass and ecology surveys
- Dye tracing
- Watching brief via sampling at other beaches

## Enforcement



**In Devon and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, for 2024/2025 the Water Industry teams will deliver**

- 335 inspections to South West Water Assets.
- measures to address concerns about flow and storm overflows
- increased enforcement action for pollution incidents.

**The Water (Special Measures) Bill will:**

- speed up our enforcement response
- us to focus our prosecution activities
- Strengthen penalties for obstruction offences
- enable the courts to include imprisonment
- give water companies a duty to publish data within an hour of a discharge for all emergency overflows in England.
- new statutory requirements for water companies to publish annual Pollution Incident Reduction Plans

# Enforcement & Compliance

## Devon dairy farm prosecuted for 'chronic and continuing' pollution

A dairy farm in north Devon has been prosecuted after it was found to have caused pollution in a nearby stream, with ammonia levels almost 100 times higher than healthy levels

by Conor McClone



## Two-thirds of cattle farms in north Devon cause river pollution

Nearly nine in 10 farms inspected failed to comply with regulations, according to a report from the Environment Agency



The River Torridge near Great Torrington. The report said that many dairy farms had increased their herds, but not their slurry storage. Photograph: John Insull/Alamy

Press release

## North Devon company fined for pollution that devastated fish population

The North Devon company that caused a pollution incident leading to a devastating fish kill on the River Mole near South Molton has been fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £9,836 in costs.

## South West Water fined more than £2.1m over sewage pollution

© 26 April



South West Water pleaded guilty to 13 charges of unauthorised sewage releases and breaches of environmental permits

South West Water has been fined a record amount of more than £2.1m after admitting causing pollution in Devon and Cornwall.

### Smart Biosphere – Applications & Customers

Application Modules	Realtime monitoring	Forecasting predictive analysis	Geographic track & trace	Scenario modelling	Intervention baseline & monitor
Coilform	✓	✓			✓
Water nutrient load	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eutrophication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water pollutants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water volume/flow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Soil chemistry	✓		✓		
Bathing quality	✓	✓			

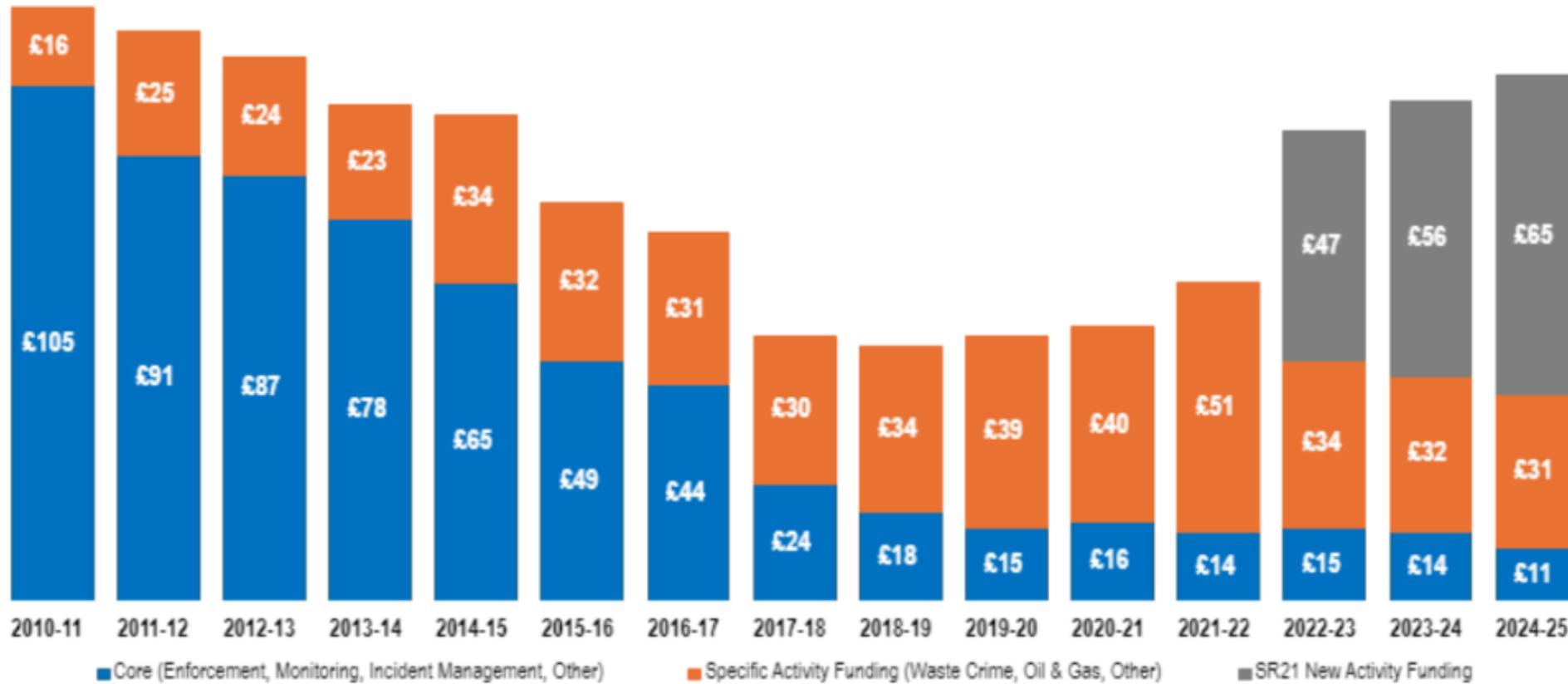
#### Customers



## Misconnection campaign in Torrington



## GiA Resource Funding



### Additional funding from SR21 (£65m)

- Project Speed
- Contaminated Land
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Navigation
- Environmental Monitoring
- Nature For Climate & Biodiversity
- Water Transformation
- Future Farming
- Chemical Regulation
- Waste Reform
- Marine

### Examples of specific activity funding (£31m)

- Air Quality Monitoring
- Abstraction Reform
- Environment Bill
- Waste Crime

### Examples of non specific funding (£12m)

- Enforcement
- Monitoring
- IT & Data
- Whole Life Costs



## **Our duties**

**Under section 2 of WIA91 as amended, we must carry out most of our work as an economic regulator in the way we consider will best:**

- further the consumer objective to protect the interests of consumers, wherever appropriate by promoting effective competition
- secure that water companies (meaning water and sewerage undertakers) properly carry out their statutory functions
- secure that water companies can (in particular through securing reasonable returns on their capital) finance the proper carrying out of their statutory functions
- secure that water supply licensees and sewerage licensees properly carry out their licensed activities and statutory functions
- further the resilience objective to secure the long-term resilience of water companies' water supply and wastewater systems; and to secure that they take steps to enable them, in the long term, to meet the need for water supplies and wastewater services

## What can you do to help?



As a Local authority

- Misconnections
- Consideration to increased development
- Surface water connections/ infiltration

The public:

- So many incidents are caused by blockages:
- Wet wipes
- Fats, oils, grease