MONITORING OF THE PAR RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

The monitoring group operates under the citizen science scheme run by the Westcountry Rivers Trust. Comments and opinions in this report are those of the authors only.

JULY 2025

A. OUR JULY 2025 FINDINGS AT A GLANCE (SEE SECTIONS C TO I FOR FULL PICTURE)

1. Data

We sampled at 16 locations between 14th and 16th July 2025. The **red** highlighting shows results of concern. Unfortunately, it was impossible to record temperatures or TDS at 7 locations on the Upper Par, Molinnis and Carbis watercourses.

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 (BOKIDDICK STREAM ONLY) 3 TESTING LOCATIONS	TRIBUTARIES OF LOWER PAR (POLMEAR & TYWARDREATH STREAMS) 2 TESTING LOCATIONS
TEMPERATURE ˚ CELSIUS (SHOULD NOT EXCEED 18˚ CELSIUS)	Mean Median Min Max	Mean 18.7 Median 19.2 Min 17.6 Max 19.3	Mean 17.66 Median 17.8 Min 16.7 Max 18.5	Mean 18.1 Median 18.1 Min 17.2 Max 19
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS PPM (SHOULD NOT EXCEED 300 PPM)	Mean Median Min Max	Mean 140 Median 145 Min 126 Max 149	Mean 68.66 Median 68 Min 64 Max 74	Mean 133.5 Median 133.5 Min 111 Max 156
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 **700** Median 0 Min 0 Max **2500**	Mean **1233.33** Median **1000** Min **200** Max **2500**	Mean 0 Median 0 Min 0 Max 0	Mean 50 Median 50 Min 0 Max 100
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)	Tywardreath Stream. Score = 5. Trigger level =5.			
KEY WILDLIFE (WRT KEY SPECIES ONLY* – FOR FULL LIST SEE SECTION I)		Otter spraint	Beaver (evidence) Grey Wagtail	
INVASIVE PLANTS	Hemlock Water Dropwort, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed	Hemlock Water Dropwort	Hemlock Water Dropwort	Hemlock Water Dropwort

***The WRT monitoring forms highlight: Water Vole; Heron; Dipper; Otter; Kingfisher; Dragonflies/Damselflies; Mink; Grey Wagtail; Fish; 'Other'. Beavers aren't stipulated but could, for example, be considered a key species under 'Other'.**

2. Key points

(a) Positive signs

(i) Although the evidence is rather subjective, the range of bird calls next to the beaver-created lake on the Upper Bokiddick Stream seems to have increased over the past year, possibly an indication of the positive impact on local biodiversity.

(ii) Otter spraint was found near Lady Rashleigh Mine on the Lower Par River.

(iii) Simon Tagney's riverfly survey on the Tywardreath Stream met the trigger level.

(b) Points of concern

(i) On the main Par River the maximum readings for phosphates (2500 PPB) were recorded, prompting a report to the Environment Agency using the online reporting facility at https://www.gov.uk/report-water-pollution.

(ii) River temperatures at Lady Rashleigh Mine (Lower Par) and on the Polmear Stream were 19.3˚ and 19˚Celsius respectively, which would be likely to cause stress for fish and other creatures.

(iii) Unfortunately, faulty equipment meant that it was not possible to record Total Dissolved Solids or temperature at 7 locations. Faulty memory meant that not all the kit needed for the riverfly survey at Lady Rashleigh Mine was brought, so no testing occurred.

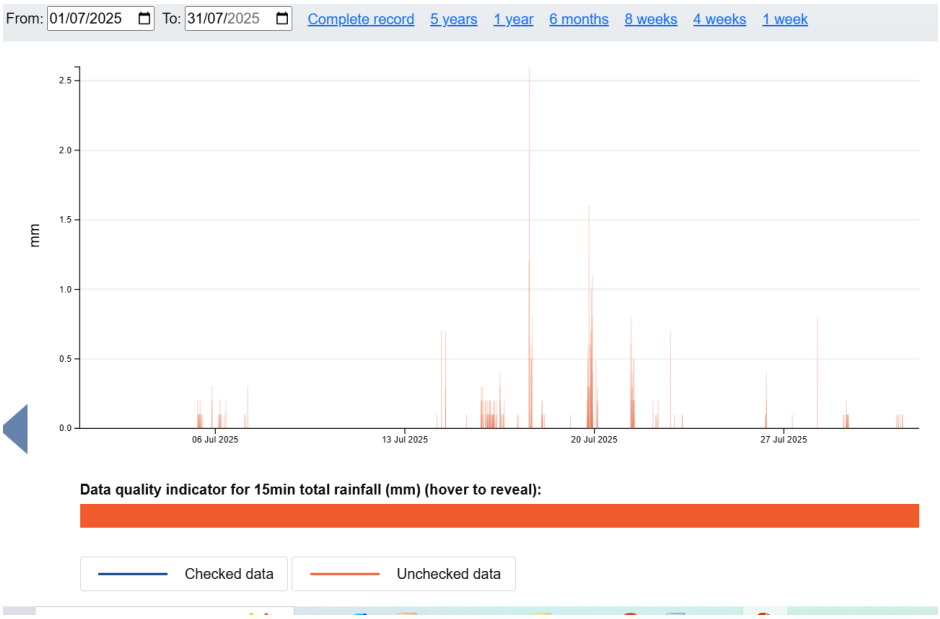
(c) Areas for further research

The capacity and operation of SWW's St Austell North STW and the impact on the river remain unclear. The requirement to reduce phosphate levels won't apply until 2030. Its capacity to treat sewage from the new settlement at West Carclaze is questioned locally, especially given the number of tankers apparently taking waste to Nanstallon on a daily basis.

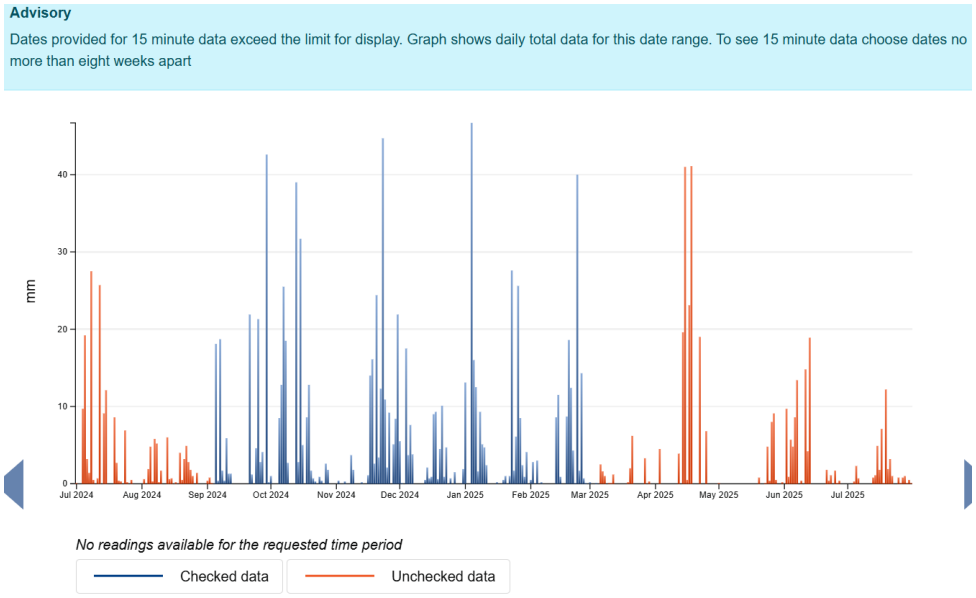
B. RAINFALL, RIVER LEVELS AND FLOW

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

(a) July 2025

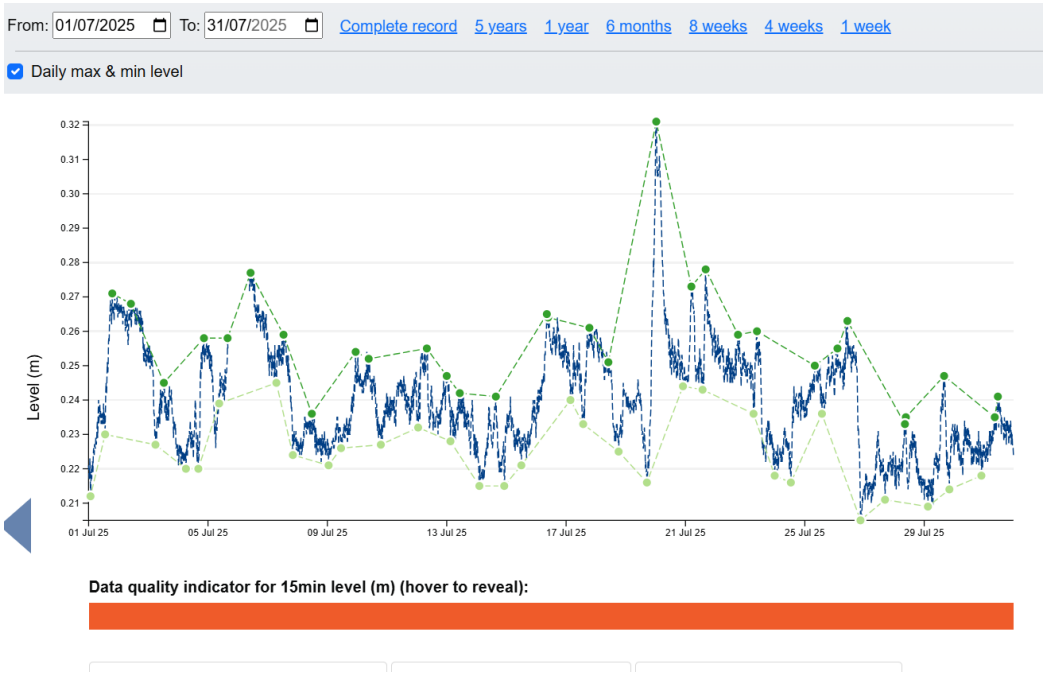


(b) From 1st July 2024 until 31st July 2025:

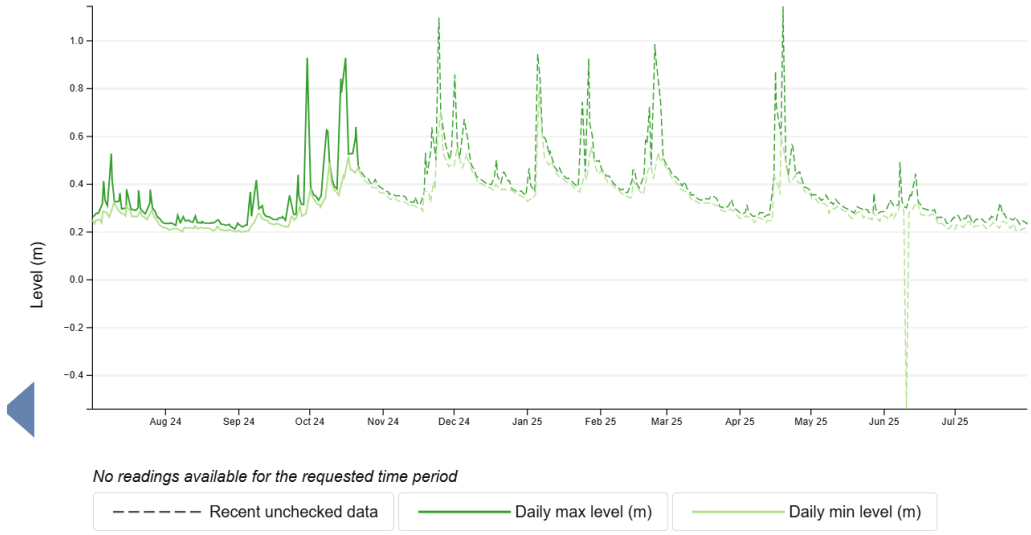


2. Par River levels at Luxulyan preceding and during surveys. Source: https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/station/14aadf3c-3d4d-44b3-b26b-cf705827d00e

(a) July 2025



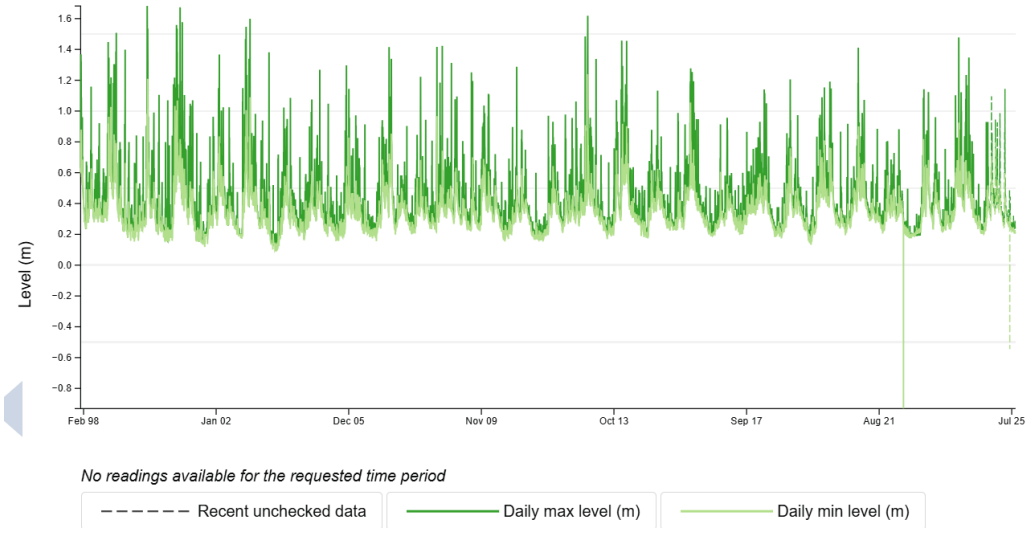
(b) From 1st July 2024 to 31st July 2025



(c) 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

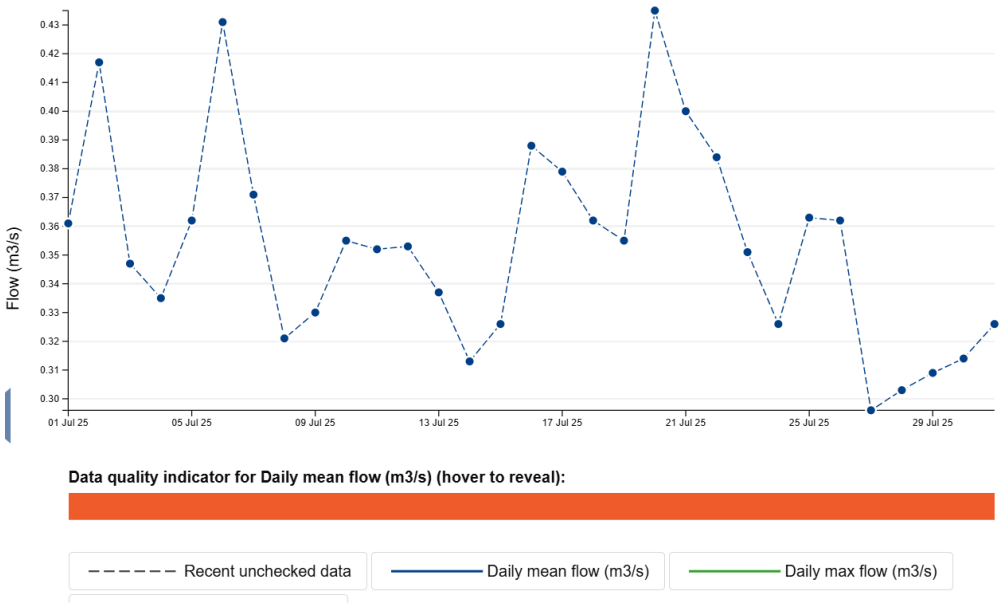
(d) Complete record of river levels at Luxulyan. Refer to level descriptions in previous section.



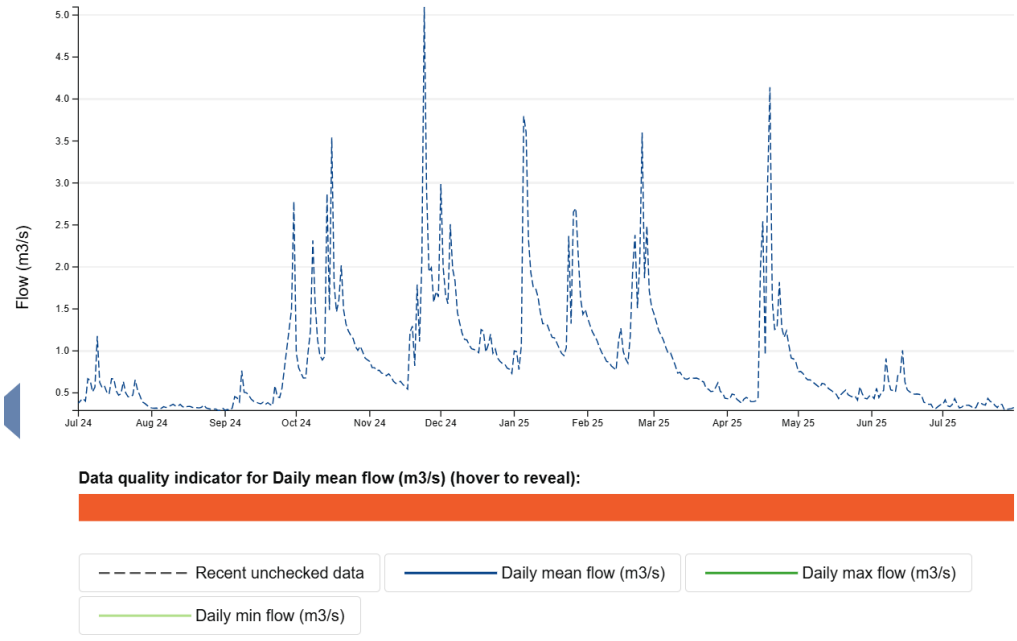
3. RIVER FLOW AT LUXULYAN (Daily Mean Flow in M3/s – cubic metres per second):

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

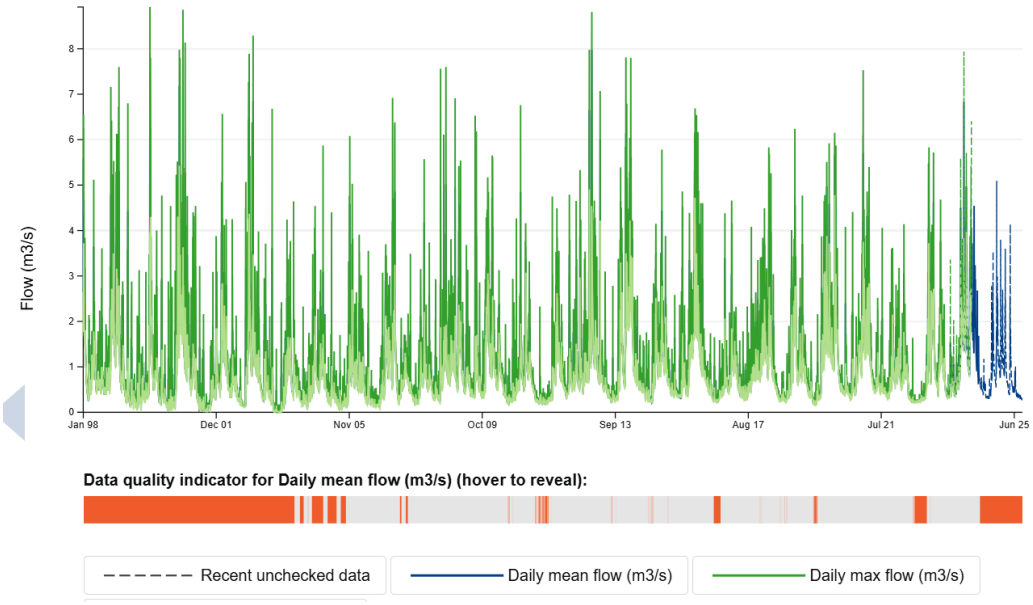
(a) July 2025 (N.B. Some data unchecked):



(b) From 1st July 2024 until 31st July 2025



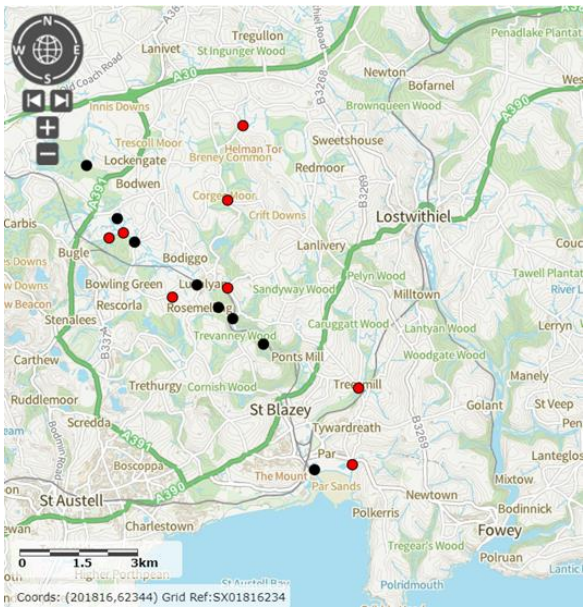
(c) Complete record of river flow at Luxulyan



4. The graphs in sections 1 to 3 are taken from Hydrology Data Explorer (https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/explore). Data for Luxulyan and Par St Andrews are used here. Other stations in the Par catchment include: Ponts Vale, Par Highways, Treesmill Dam Public Footpath, Treesmill Dam Marsh Villa Gardens, and St Blazey (rainfall only). It is possible to check daily Par River levels for Luxulyan, Ponts Vale and St Blazey Station Stream at St Blazey Station Road at: https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels/rloi/3159 .

C. JULY 2025 MONITORING POINTS

This month monitoring occurred at 16 locations. Monitoring 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**	16/7/2025 9:10	CSI sample & Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX02668 59747	**PAR**	16/7/2025 8:10	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Near Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271	**SECONDARY TRIBUTARY (OF CARBIS STREAM)**	16/7/2025 10:25	CSI sample & Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401	**TRIBUTARY**	16/7/2025 10:10	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164	**PAR**	16/7/2025 10:45	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726	**TRIBUTARY**	16/7/2025 11:30	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045	**PAR**	16/7/2025 11:55	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454	**PAR**	16/7/2025 13:05	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226	**TRIBUTARY**	14/7/2025 10:20	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167	**TRIBUTARY**	14/7/2025 11:05	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Roger Smith
Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953	**TRIBUTARY**	16/7/2025 16:10	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Joan Farmer
Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179	**PAR**	16/7/2025 15:15	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Joan Farmer
Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509	**PAR**	16/7/2025 14:15	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Joan Farmer, Veronica Jones, Roger Smith
Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385	**TRIBUTARY**	16/7/2025 12:45	CSI sampling. Cartographer record. Riverfly.	Maggie Tagney, Simon Tagney
Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261	**PAR**	16/7/2025 17:14	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Brian Harrisson
Polmear Stream, Ship Inn SX 08749 53417	**TRIBUTARY**	15/7/2025 16:10	CSI sampling. Cartographer record.	Simon Tagney

The times have been included in the previous table in case that explains some of the variations in readings.

D. THIS MONTH IN PICTURES

1. The Upper Bokiddick Stream has been transformed by beaver activity, to the benefit of biodiversity, as well as helping to slow river flow.

2. Japanese Knotweed next to the Par River at Cam Bridges. The extent is small but growing. Far worse coverage can be seen along the Treskilling Stream on Bridges Moor and the Molinnis Stream between Bugle and Lavrean.

3. Very low water level on the Tywardreath Stream at Treesmill.

Photo: Maggie Tagney

4. Thick foliage and low water on the Polmear Stream near Par Beach.

Photo: Simon Tagney

5. Low water as the Par River approaches the sea.

Photo: Brian Harrisson

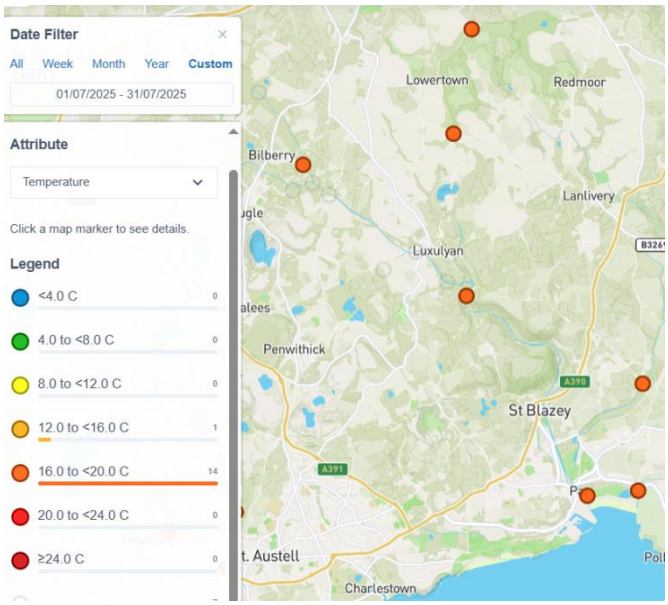
E. TEMPERATURE

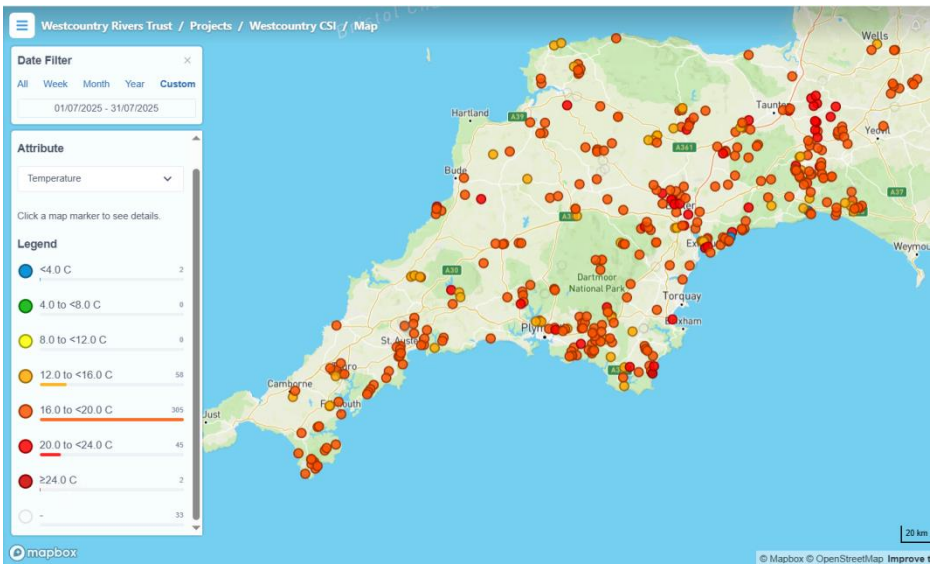
1. This is the WRT's explanation of why this is monitored:

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.

N.B. INCOMPLETE RESULTS THIS MONTH





Results July 2025

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.

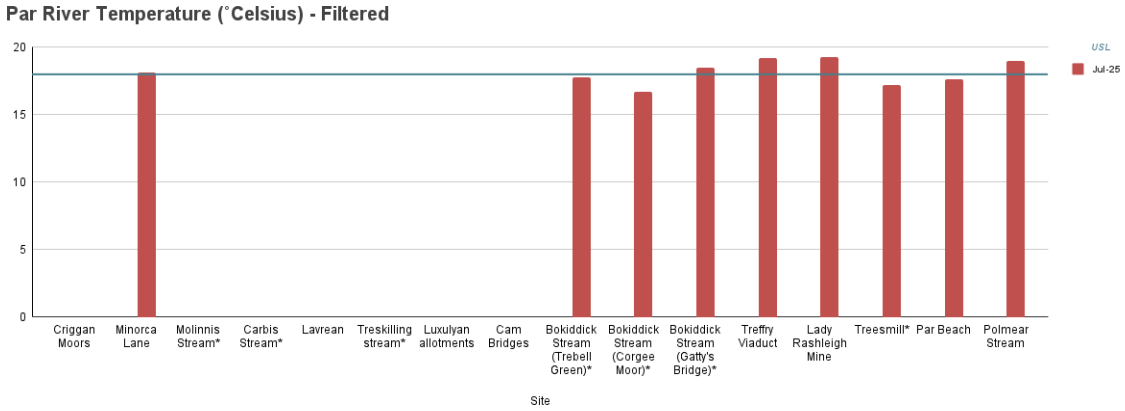
PAR RIVER/TRIBUTARY	LOCATION		Temperature ˚Celsius
Par	Criggan Moors, Par River, SX 01882 61133		-
Par	South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX 02657 59788		18.1
Secondary tributary	Near Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271		-
Tributary	Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401		-
Par	Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164		-
Tributary	Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726		-
Par	Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045		-
Par	Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454		-
Tributary	Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226		17.8
Tributary	Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167		16.7
Tributary	Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953		18.5
Par	Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179		19.2
Par	Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509		19.3
Tributary	Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385		17.2
Par	Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261		17.6
Tributary	Polmear Stream, Ship Inn, SX 08749 53417		19

Colour coding:

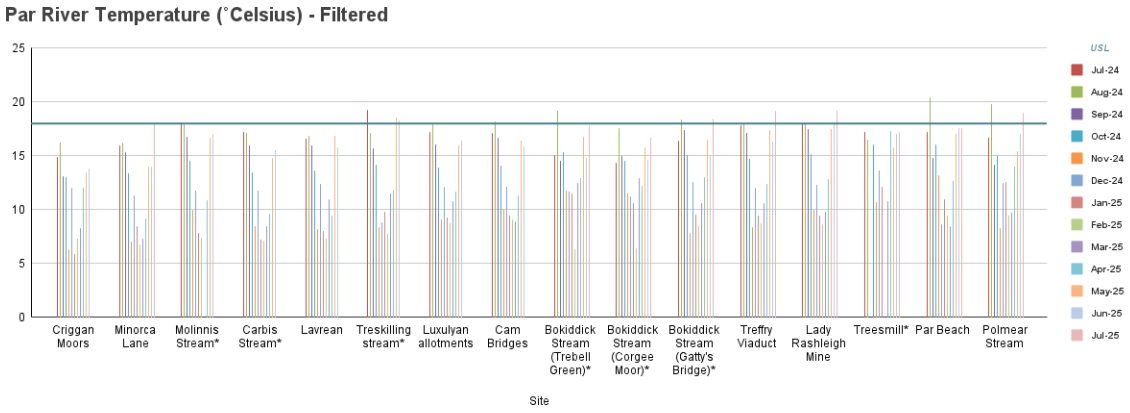
Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par	
Tributaries of Lower Par	

3. Graphs

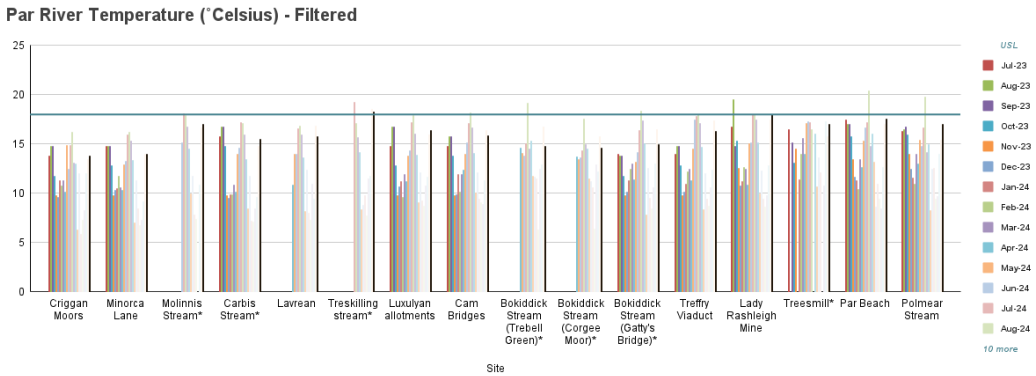
(a) This month:



(b) From 1st July 2024 until 31st July 2025:



(c) From 1st July 2023 until 31st July 2025:



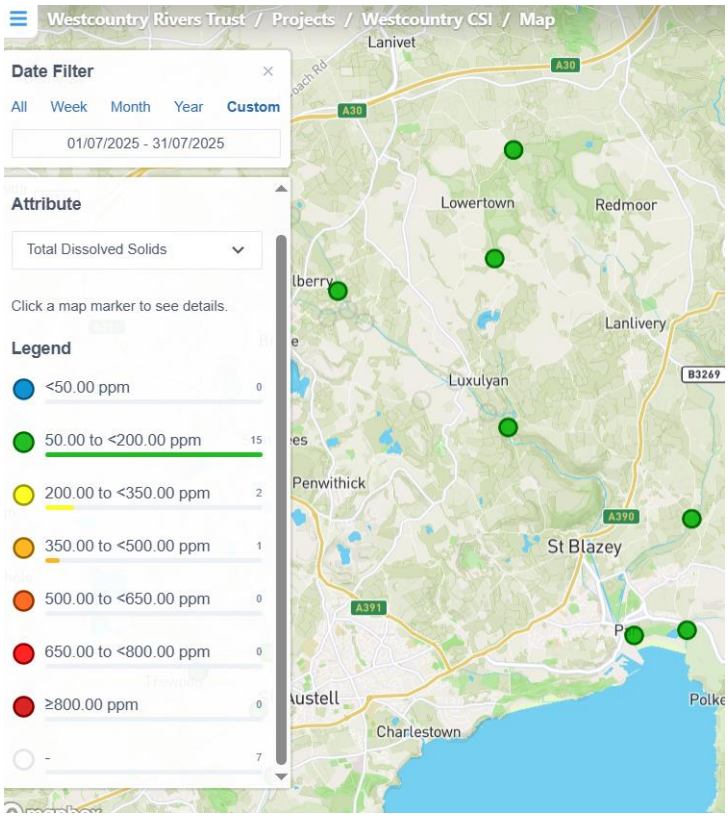
F. TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS

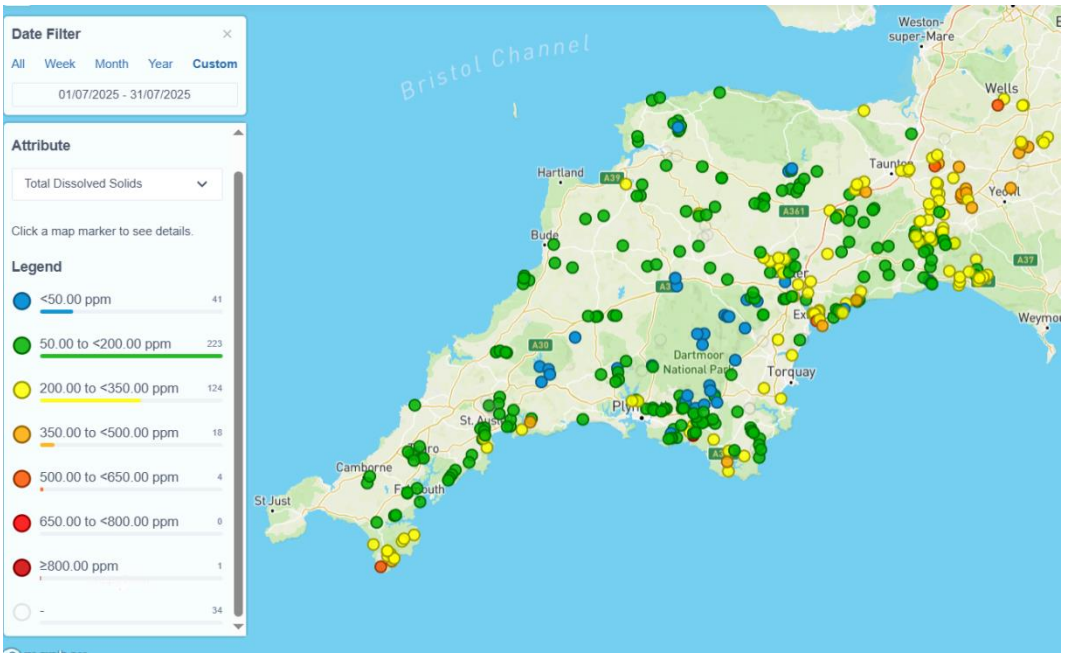
1. We measure these in ppm (parts per million). This is the WRT's explanation:

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.

N.B. INCOMPLETE RESULTS THIS MONTH





2. Results July 2025

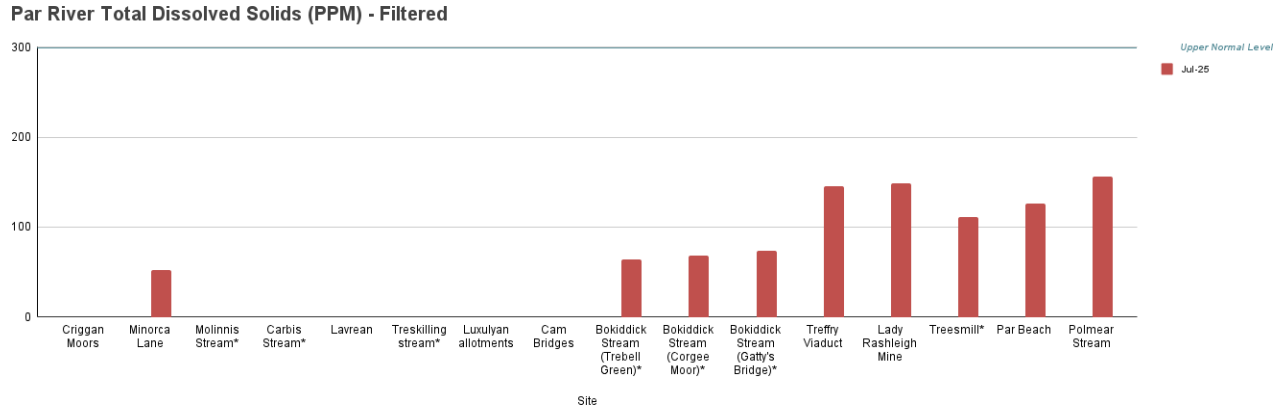
PAR RIVER/TRIBUTARY	LOCATION		Total Dissolved Solids PPM
Par	Criggan Moors, Par River, SX 01882 61133		-
Par	South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX 02657 59788		52
Secondary tributary	Near Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271		-
Tributary	Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401		-
Par	Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164		-
Tributary	Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726		-
Par	Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045		-
Par	Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454		-
Tributary	Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226		64
Tributary	Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167		68
Tributary	Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953		74
Par	Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179		145
Par	Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509		149
Tributary	Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385		111
Par	Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261		126
Tributary	Polmear Stream, Ship Inn, SX 08749 53417		156

Colour coding:

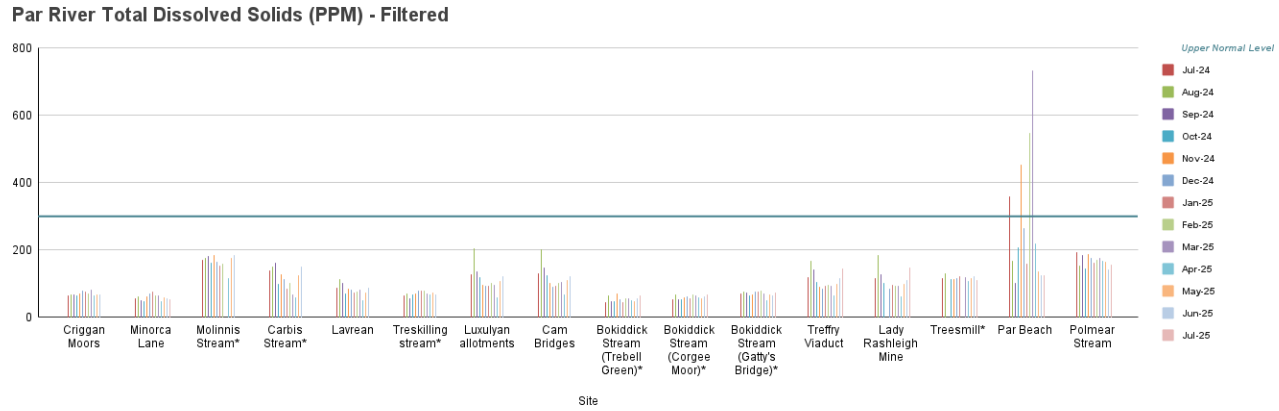
Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par	
Tributaries of Lower Par	

3. Graphs

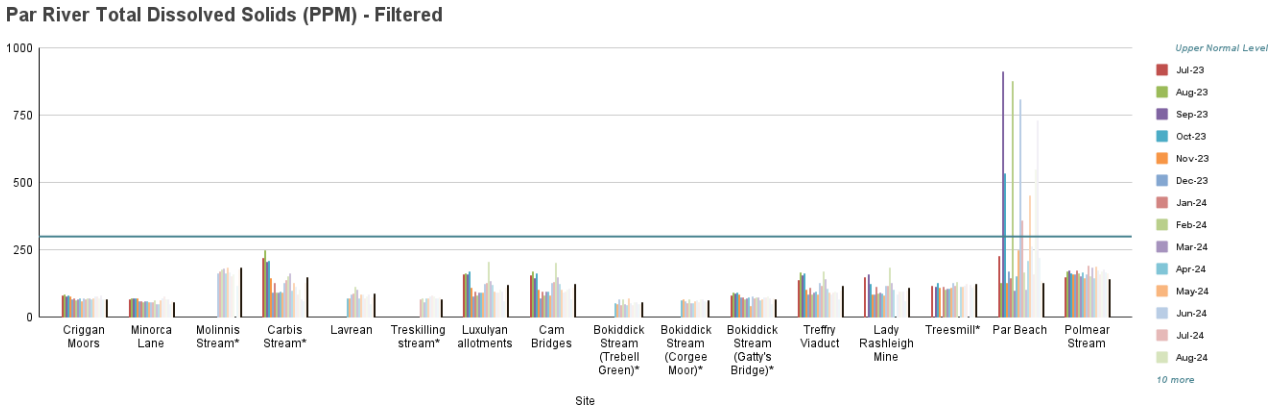
(a) This month:



(b) From 1st July 2024 until 31st July 2025:



(c) From 1st July 2023 until 31st July 2025:



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.

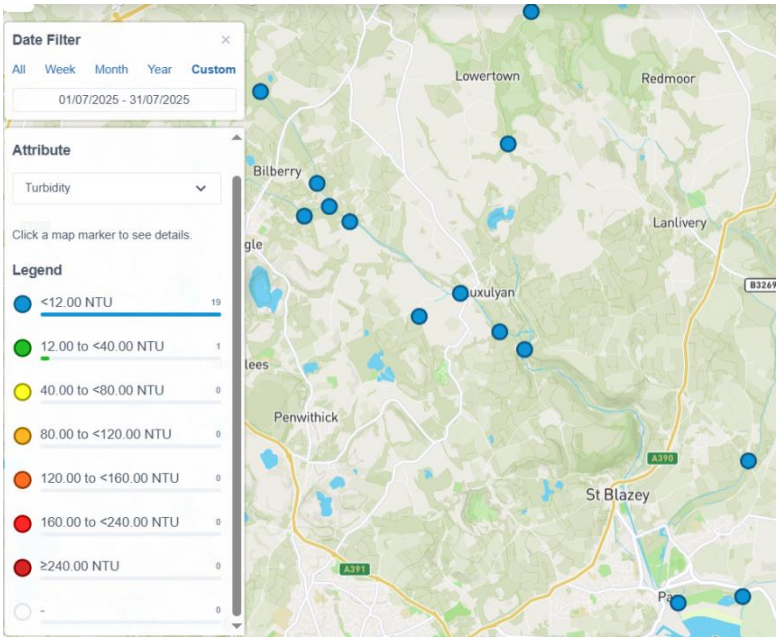
The Yealm Estuary to Moor Project (YEM) in Devon considers that the upper safe level (USL) for turbidity is 75 NTU = 25 mg/l.

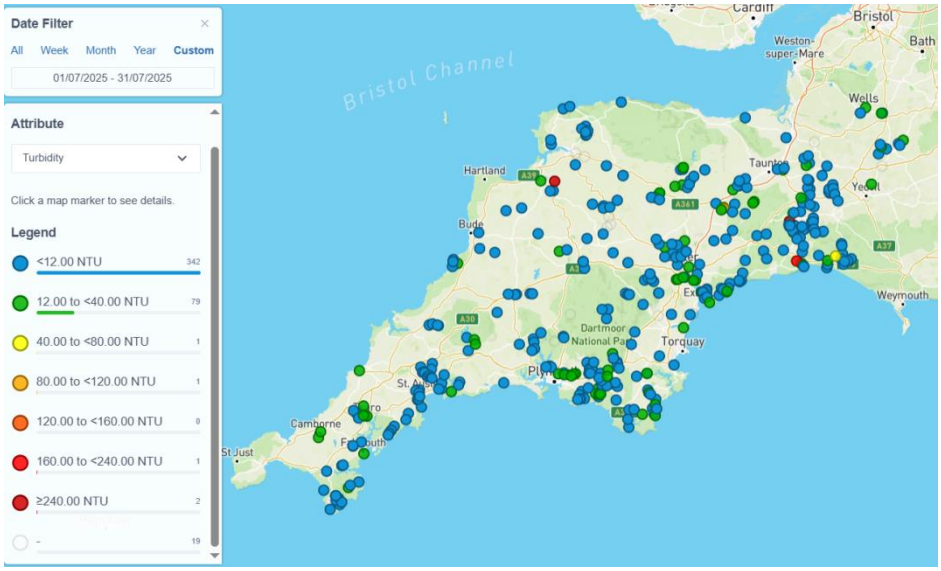
2. Results July 2025:

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:

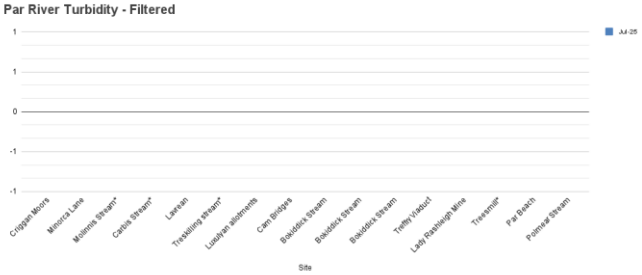
Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par	
Tributaries of Lower Par	



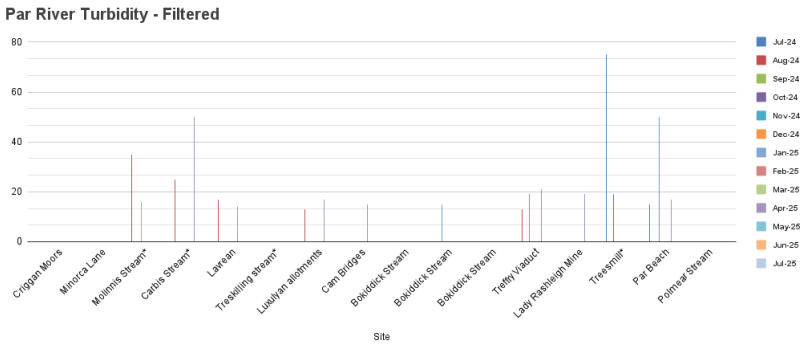


3. Graphs

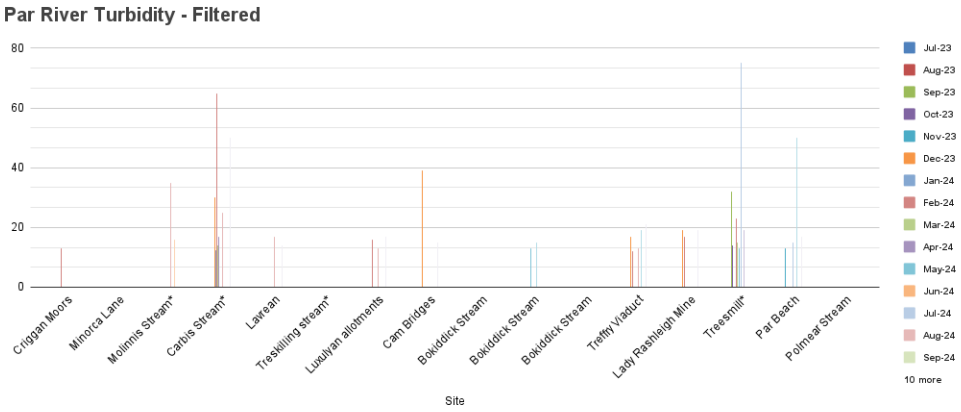
(a) This month



(b) From 1st July 2024 until 31st July 2025:



(c) From 1st July 2023 until 31st July 2025:



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

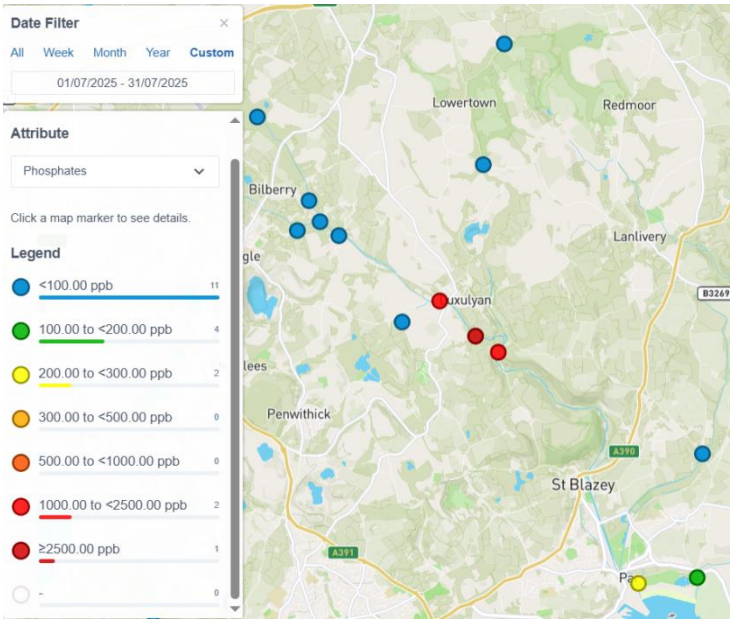
2. Results May 2025

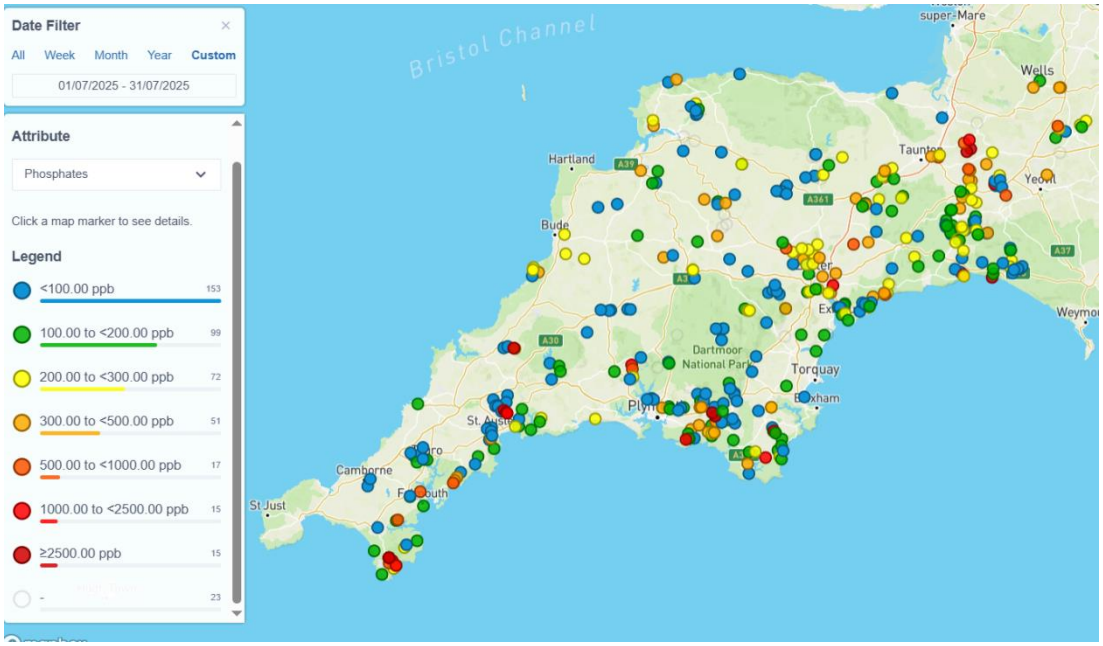
Results in red show phosphate levels that are classified as 'High' (above the upper safe level). WRT advice is that this is 100 Parts per Billion (0.1 mg/l).

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		1000
Par	Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454		2500
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		1000
Par	Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509		2500
Tributary	Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385		0
Par	Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261		200
Tributary	Polmear Stream, Ship Inn, SX 08749 53417		100

Colour coding:

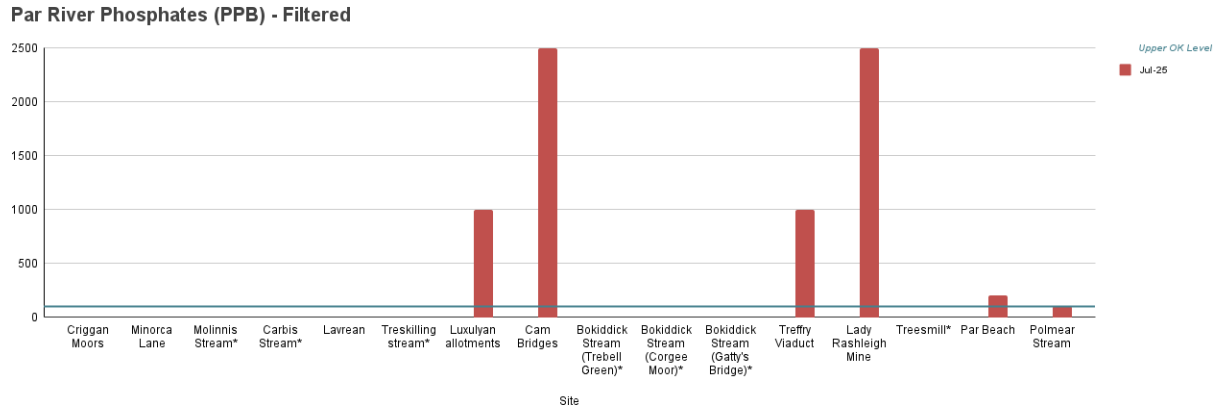
Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par	
Tributaries of Lower Par	



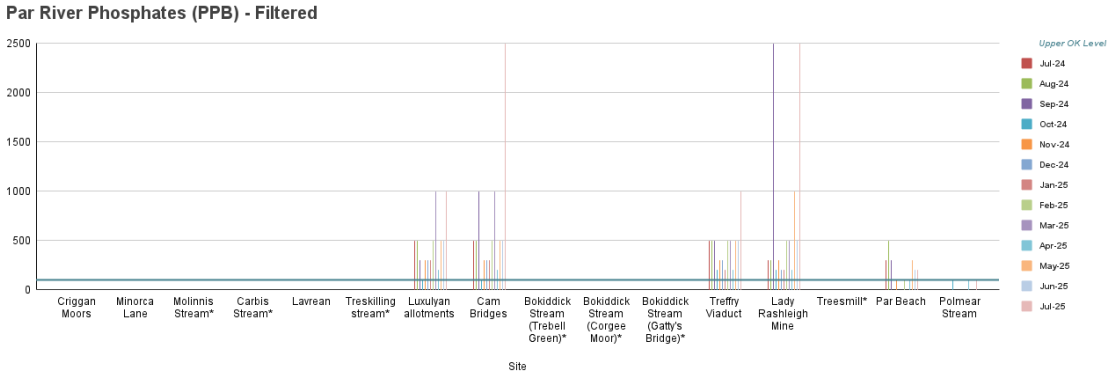


4. Graphs

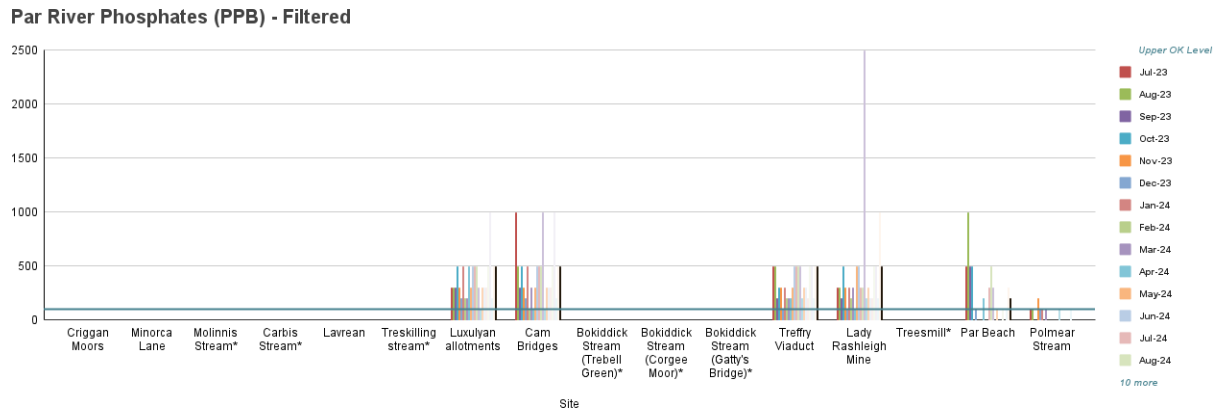
(a) This month:



(b) From 1st July 2024 until 31st July 2025:



(c) From 1st July 2023 until 31st July 2025:

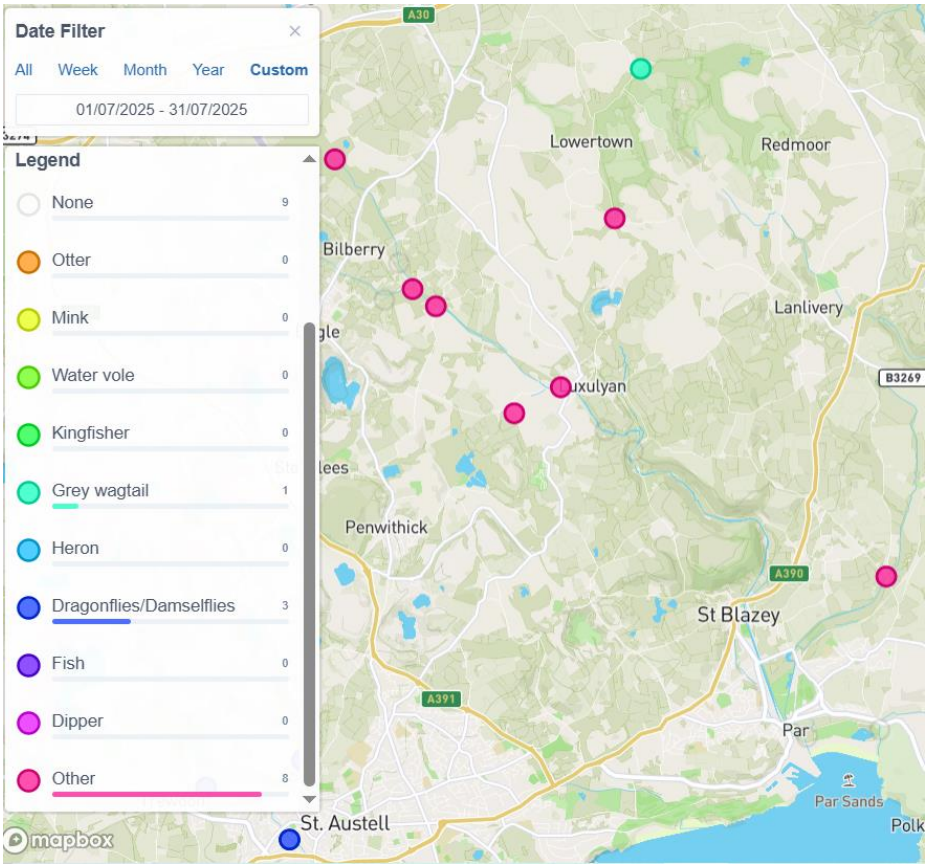


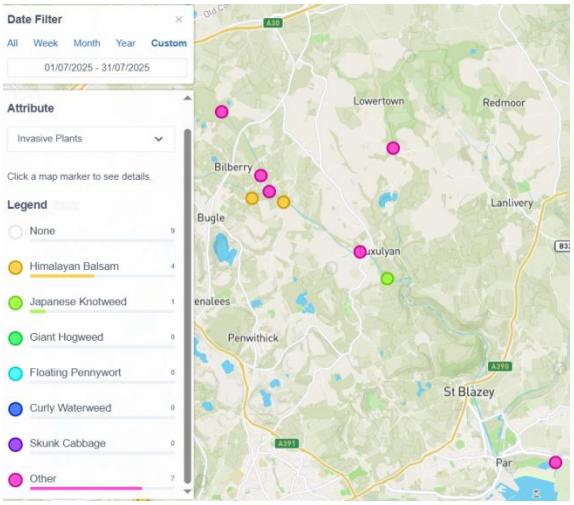
I. NITRATE

Nitrate testing began this month at all sites except Treesmill. Readings were all 0 PPM. Graphs will be generated once more results are available.

J. WILDLIFE & INVASIVE PLANTS

Wildlife & Invasive Plants sightings at the monitoring points included:





LOCATION	WILDLIFE NOTED		INVASIVE PLANTS NOTED
Criggan Moors, SX 01882 61133	**HEARD: Goldcrest**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX 02657 59788			Hemlock Water Dropwort
Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271	**HEARD: Wren**		Japanese Knotweed Himalayan Balsam Hemlock Water Dropwort
Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401	**HEARD: Wood Pigeon**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164	**HEARD: Gulls** **SEEN: Pond skater**		Hemlock Water Dropwort Himalayan Balsam
Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726	**HEARD: Goldfinch, House Sparrow**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045	**HEARD: House Sparrow, Wren, Chaffinch, Goldfinch**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454			Hemlock Water Dropwort, Japanese Knotweed
Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226	**HEARD: Carrion Crow, Long-tailed Tit, Linnet, Treecreeper, Grey Wagtail** **SEEN: Lake created by beaver dam and gnawed trees. Grey Wagtail, Treecreeper**		None
Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167	**HEARD: Long-tailed Tit, Wood Pigeon, Bullfinch**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953			
Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179			
Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509	**SEEN: Old otter spraint,**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385	**HEARD: Wood Pigeon, Chiffchaff, Blue Tit, House Sparrow**		Hemlock Water Dropwort
Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261	**SEEN: Gull**		
Polmear Stream, Ship Inn, SX 08749 53417			Hemlock Water Dropwort

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

Colour coding:

Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par	
Tributaries of Lower Par	

Old otter spraint near Lady Rashleigh Mine, Lower Par River

K. ARMI RIVERFLY SURVEYS ON TYWARDREATH STREAM

Four of the group (Joan Farmer, Veronica Jones, Roger Smith, and Simon Tagney) have undertaken the training to carry out Riverfly Surveys under the Anglers' Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (https://www.riverflies.org/rp-riverfly-monitoring-initiative). In short, sampling for 8 riverfly groups is carried out using standardised methods with scores calculated for their abundance. Information is passed to ARMI and the ORKS database. If the score does not reach a trigger level (in our case trigger level was raised from 5 to 6 in May 2022), the Environment Agency must be informed immediately since it is highly likely to indicate that the water is polluted. Our group received approval to sample at two sites: Luxulyan allotments (SX 04743 58054) and Lady Rashleigh Mine (SX 06453 56500). We have decided, for the time being, to concentrate on the latter, but from May 2024 have moved the kick-sampling site a few metres downstream of the bridge where conditions are safer and easier. This amended site will be known as Lady Rashleigh 2 in the ARMI/ORKS record. Recently, Simon and Brian have started to look at a location on the Tywardreath Stream, at SX SX0887055340.

It is impossible to count every invertebrate so this counting method is used:

Abundance	Score	Estimated Number
1-9	1	Quick count
10-99	2	Nearest 10
100-999	3	Nearest 100
>1000	4	Nearest 1000

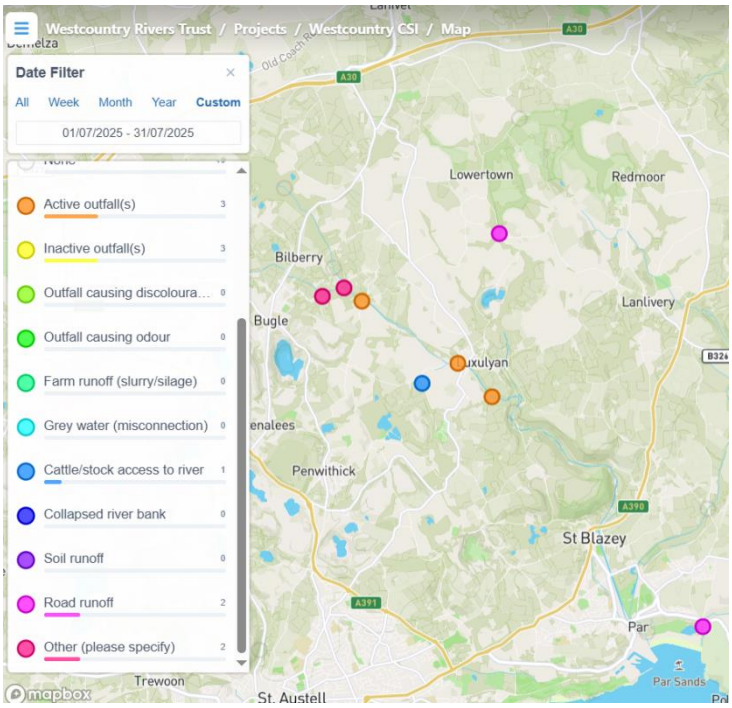
Results of survey on the Tywardreath Stream carried out by Simon Tagney and colleague(s) in July 2025.

	SPECIES	NUMBER	CATEGORY
Trichoptera			
1	Cased Caddisfly	0	0
2	Caseless Caddisfly	0	0
Ephemeroptera 3 tails			
3	Mayfly (Ephemeridae)	1	1
4	Blue-winged olive (Ephemerellidae)	0	0
5	Flat-bodied up-wings (Heptageniidae)	0	0
6	Olives (Baetidae)	17+	2
Plecoptera 2 tails			
7	Stoneflies	0	0
Gammaridae			
8	Freshwater Shrimp	50+	2
			5

CATEGORY TOTAL	**5**
TRIGGER LEVEL	**5**

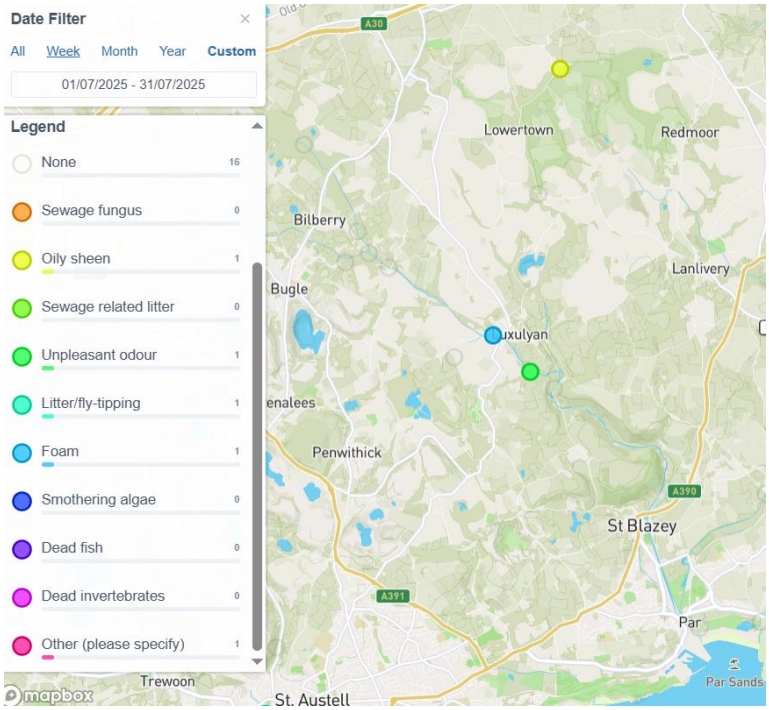
L. POLLUTION SOURCES AND EVIDENCE

1. Visible sources of pollution (source: Cartographer)



2. Evidence of recent pollution:

The ‘oily sheen’ on the Upper Bokiddick seems to be an error.



LOCATION		EVIDENCE OF RECENT POLLUTION
Criggan Moors, SX 01882 61133		None
South of Minorca Lane, Par River, SX 02657 59788		None
Forkandles Farm, Molinnis Stream, SX 02460 59271		None
Carbis Stream SX 02834 59401		None
Lavrean, Par River SX 03134 59164		Foam
Treskilling, Treskilling Stream, SX 04107 57726		Trampled mud (cattle)
Luxulyan allotments, Par River, SX 04732 58045		Foam, phosphate
Cam Bridges, Par River, SX 05292 57454		Foam, smell, phosphate
Trebell Green, Bokiddick Stream SX 0551960226		None
Corgee Moor, Bokiddick Stream SX 0593462167		None
Gatty's Bridge, Bokiddick Stream SX 05531 57953		None
Treffry Viaduct, Par River, SX 05650 57179		phosphate
Lady Rashleigh Mine, Par River, SX 06451 56509		Foam, phosphate
Treesmill, Tywardreath Stream, SX 08873 55385		None
Par Beach slipway, SX 0776 53261		Phosphate
Polmear Stream, Ship Inn, SX 08749 53417		None

Phosphate included if in excess of 100PPB.

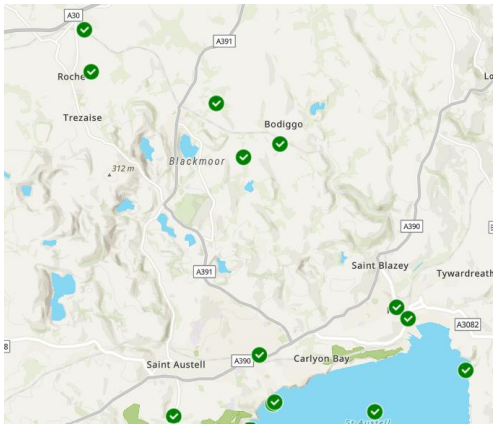
Colour coding:

Upper Par	
Lower Par	
Bokiddick Stream	
Tributaries of Upper Par	
Tributaries of Lower Par	

High phosphate levels were reported to the Environment Agency on 16th July 2025. The reference number is: 02408738.

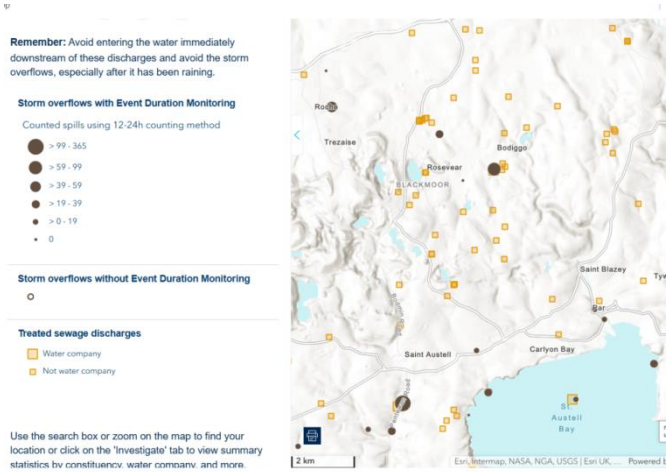
3. South West Water Storm Overflows

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 June 2025):

The main overflows are (from source to sea along the catchment):

- Roche storm overflow (SWW1001)
- Molinnis storm overflow, Bugle (SWW0765)
- Rescorla storm overflow, Luxulyan (SWW0987)
- Luxulyan sewage treatment works settled storm overflow, St Austell (SWW0694)
- Tredenham Close storm overflow, Par (SWW1230)
- Par No2 pumping station overflow, Par (SWW0519)

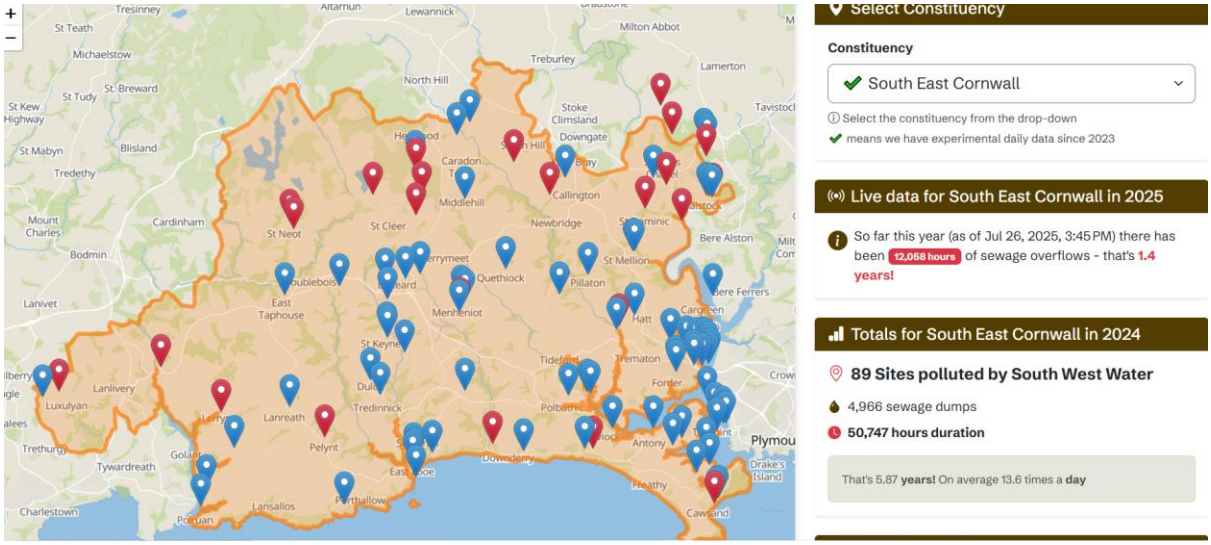
(c) SWW Storm Overflow spills July2025 (https://theriverstrust.org/sewage-map**)**. This may not be accurate.

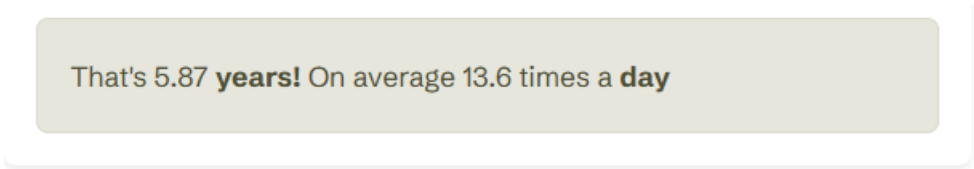
LOCATION/WATERCOURSE	SPILLAGES	TOTAL SPILLAGE DURATION JUNE 2025
Victoria pumping station overflow, Roche (SWW1266) Into Par River		
Molinnis storm overflow, Bugle (SWW0765) Into tributary of Par River		

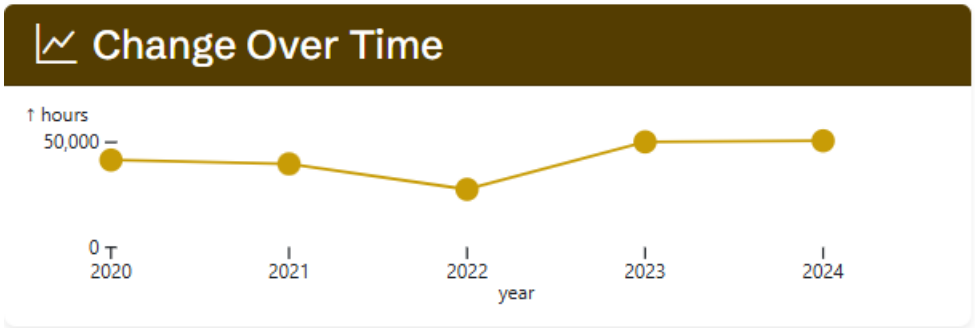
Rescorla storm overflow, Luxulyan (SWW0987) Into 'Tributary of Par Sands (S)' [sic]		
Luxulyan sewage treatment works settled storm overflow, St Austell (SWW0694) Into Par River	**3rd July 2025** **Started: 9:11 am** **Stopped: 9:13 am** **Duration: 2 minutes**	**2 minutes**
Tredenham Close storm overflow, Par (SWW1230) Into St Blazey stream	**Started:** **Stopped:** **Duration:**	
Par No2 pumping station overflow, Par (SWW0519) Into Par River	**Started:** **Stopped:** **Duration:**	

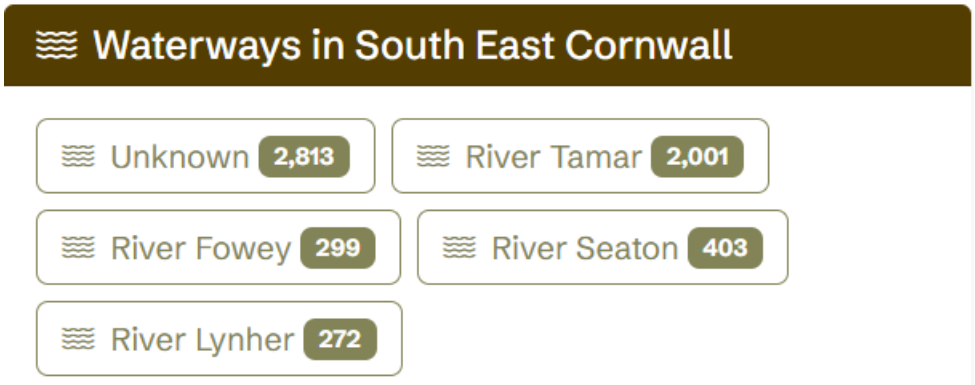
(e) South West Water sewage spills by Parliamentary constituency

(i) South-East Cornwall (https://top-of-the-poops.org/constituency/south-east-cornwall **)**



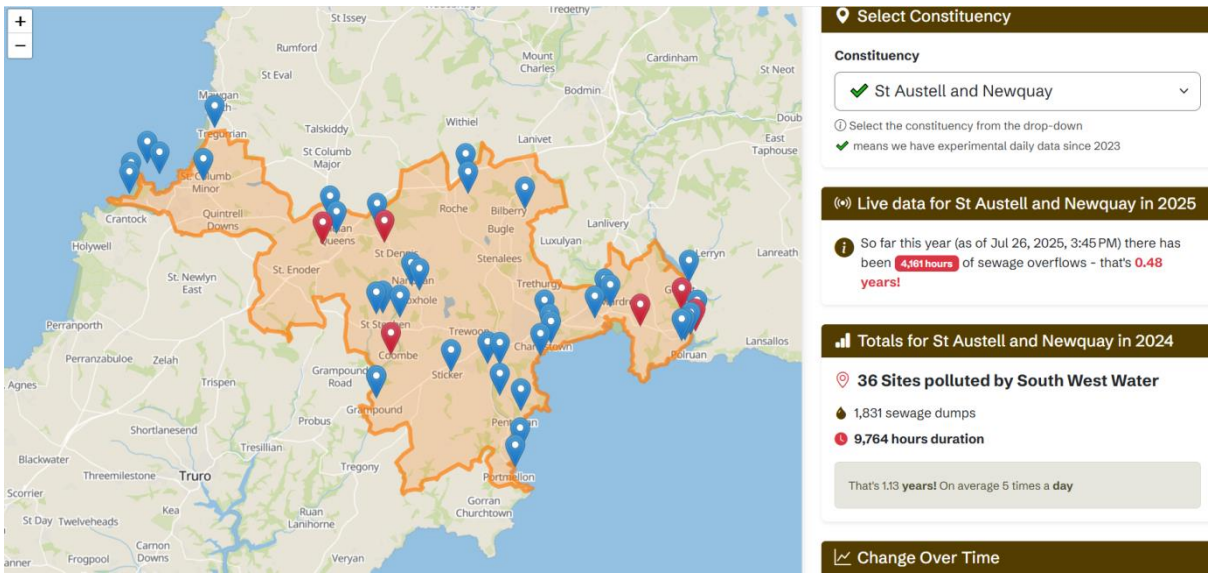


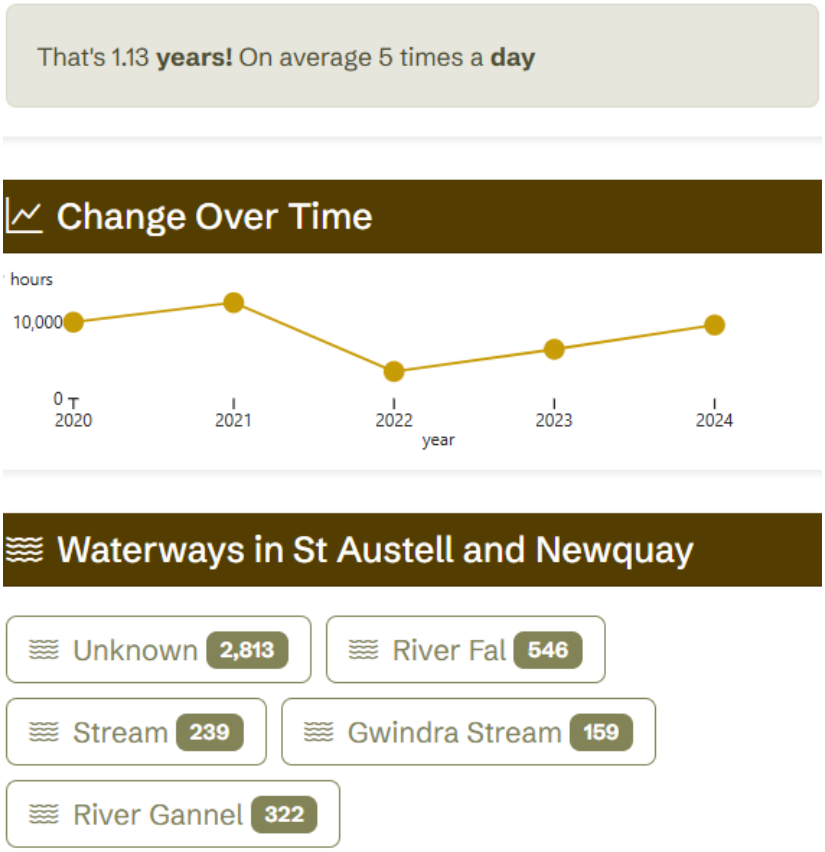




The Par/Luxulyan River will be included in 'Unknown'.

(ii) St Austell and Newquay





(iii) South-East Cornwall and St Austell and Newquay Parliamentary constituency sewage spills national rankings 2024.

	National rank	Sewage dumps	Change (dumps)	Duration (hours)	Change (hours duration)
SE Cornwall	**11/650**	**4966**	**↓ -738**	**50,747**	**↑ 530**
St Austell & Newquay	**129/650**	**1831**	**↑ 218**	**9,764**	**↑ 3223**

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 and Sasha Pinto 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 and Peter Scobie, have been invaluable.

Report compiled by Roger Smith, 29th July 2025