

# The Role of The Environment Agency Regulating Sewage and Sewerage

This presentation gives an overview of:

OUR STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

OUR PLANNING FRAMEWORK

OUR DELIVERY FRAMEWORK



# The Role of The Environment Agency Regulating Sewage and Sewerage

Statute –	Water Framework Directive Shellfish Waters Directive Bathing Waters Directive Environment Act 2021 (environment bill)	} Sets out the duties, responsibilities, how we should monitor and targets to achieve for the EA
Plans –	River Basin Management Plans Flood Risk Management Plans Environment Agency 25 Year Plan Drainage and Waste Water Management Plans Designated Protected Area Plans	} Sets out the ambition, outcomes and how we work to achieve including who we work with.
Programmes –	Price Review 14, 19, 24 Water Industry National Environment Programme Asset Management Plans	} Sets out mechanisms and programmes by which we and other organisations will fund and achieve their part.

- CSOs are a necessary design feature of any sewerage infrastructure system in order to ensure treatment can be sustained and properties are not flooded by sewage backing up during heavy rainfall or emergencies (such as pipe blockages)
- CSOs operate when excess flows occur in the combined systems that can be caused by several factors such as misconnected surface water drainage, groundwater inundation to faulty sewers which SWW are investigating via catchment inundation surveys and by additional development which may exert additional pressure on networks and sewage works before the water company has invested in extra storage or additional treatment.
- The demands on some parts of the sewage network may have also increased as a result in changes associated with the pandemic including more people working from home and staycation tourism pressure.
- Climate change is expected to increase pressure to combined systems, that also receive surface water drainage, due to an increase in both the frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall.

Since 2016 monitoring, known as Event Duration Monitoring (EDM), has been installed on 80% of the sewerage network (national figures) from 862 locations to >12, 000 with SWW having >1200 monitored locations. Water and sewerage companies have committed to accelerate their plans to ensure the remaining storm overflows are monitored by the end of 2023 as part of an initiative known as Green Recovery.

So part of the increase in notifications, awareness and social / political pressure reflects the increased monitoring, and therefore raised awareness, rather than increased spills necessarily.

The increase in EDM has provided both the water companies and EA with significant insights into the functioning of the sewerage systems across the board.

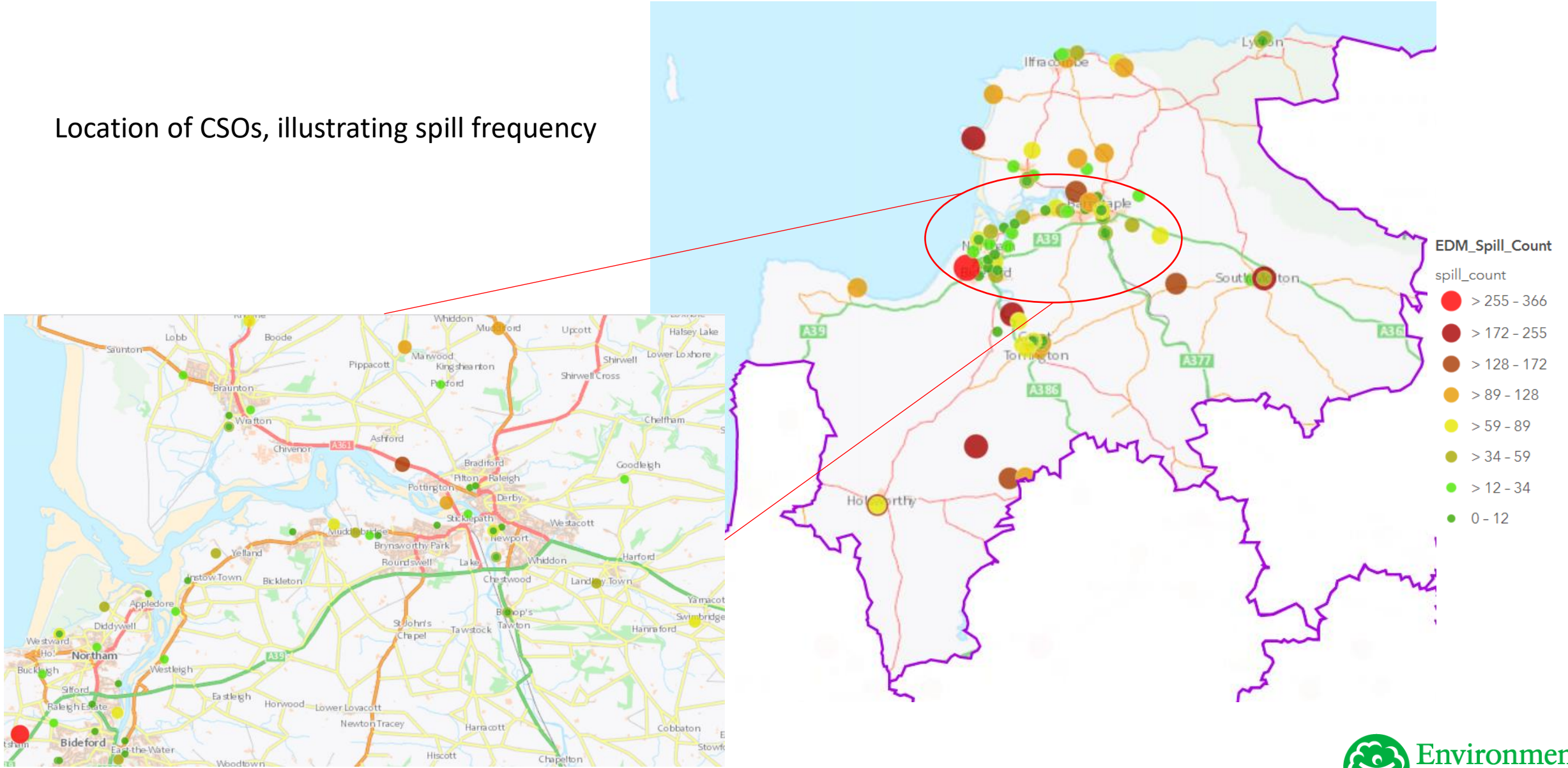
On 18 November 2021 the EA and OFWAT announced a major investigation into sewage treatment works, details of which can be found [following this link](#).

The AMP programmes that have provided £1.4billion of investment by South West Water since 1990. A significant amount of this investment has focussed, over the years, on bathing and shellfish waters, in recognition of their social and economic importance.

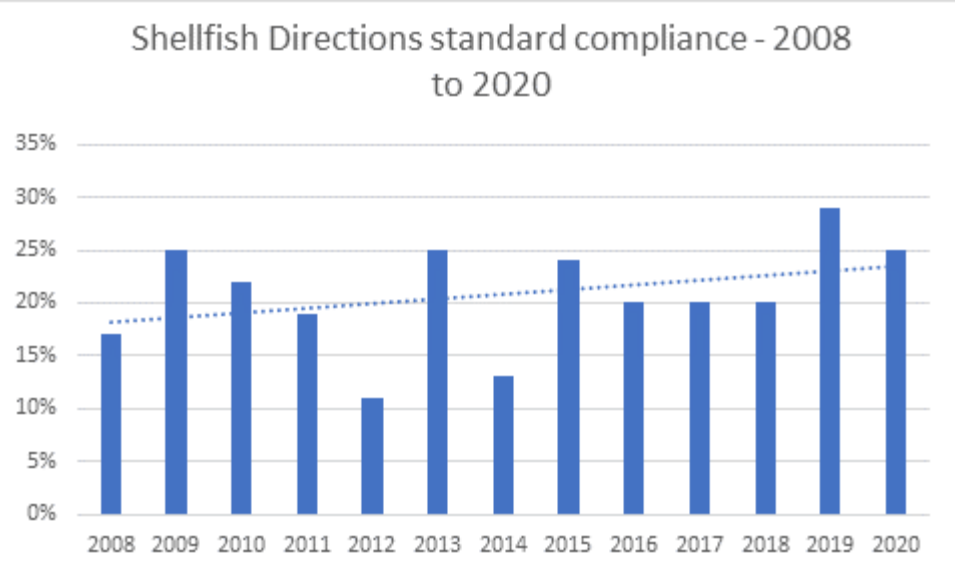
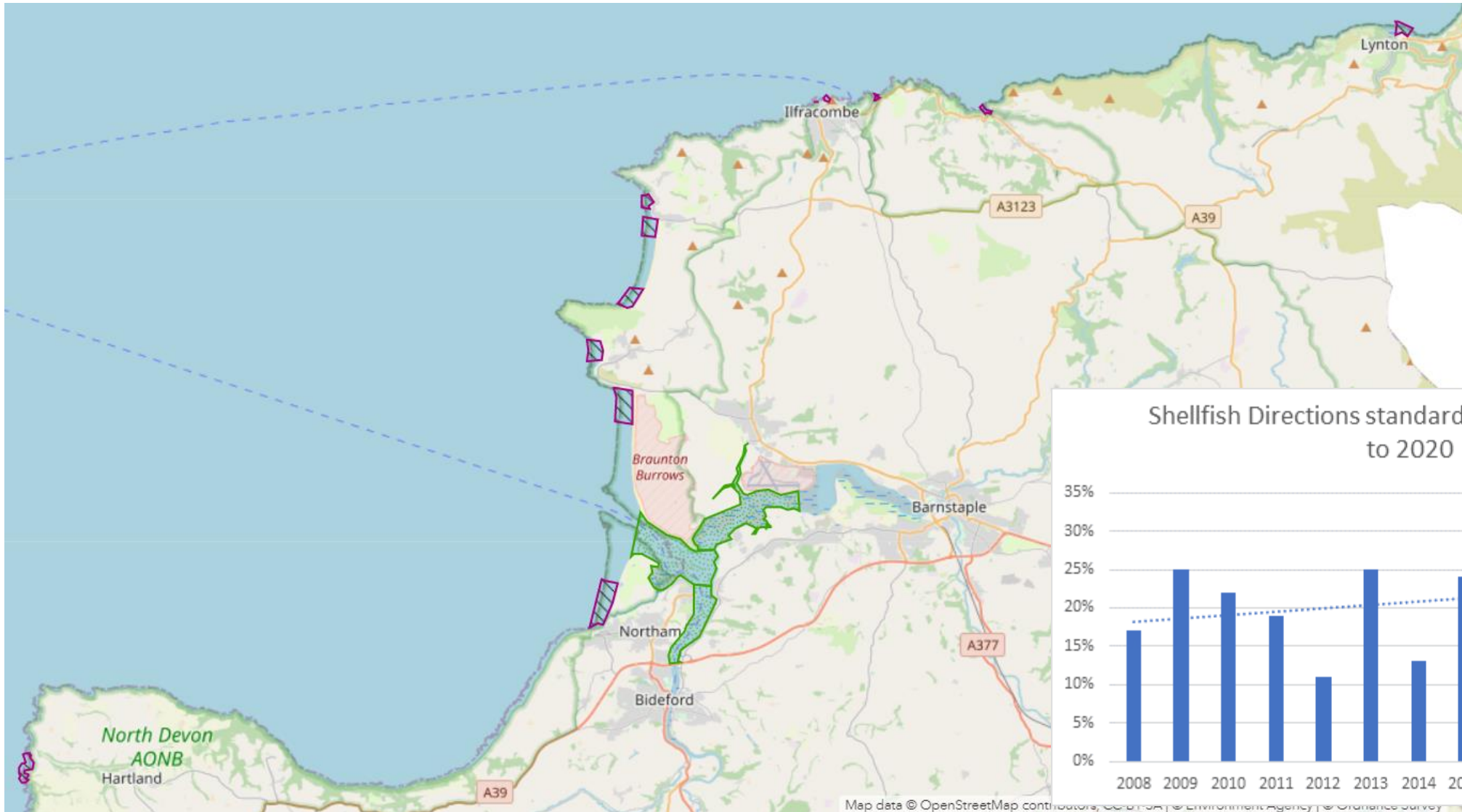
SWW AMP 7 contains over 100 individual lines of monitoring, investigation and improvement at CSOs. It also includes the development of Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMP) to better protect the environment and reduce flooding from sewers and surface water.

The environment, social interest, and legislation are always changing; more can and still needs to be done. While improvements can be sought by a variety of stakeholders according to their own priorities, remit and responsibility; wholesale improvement, adaption and sustainability of drainage infrastructures can only be achieved where sewerage undertakers, regulators, planners and developers work together.

## Location of CSOs, illustrating spill frequency

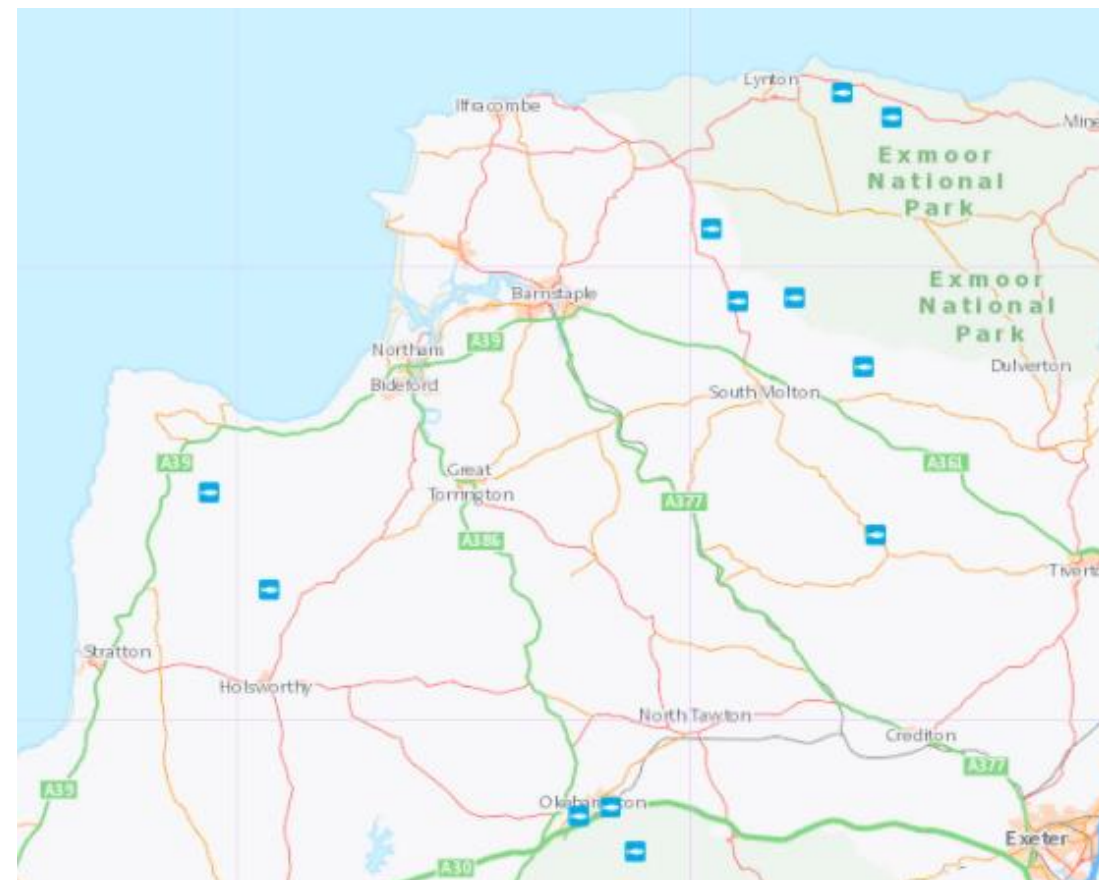
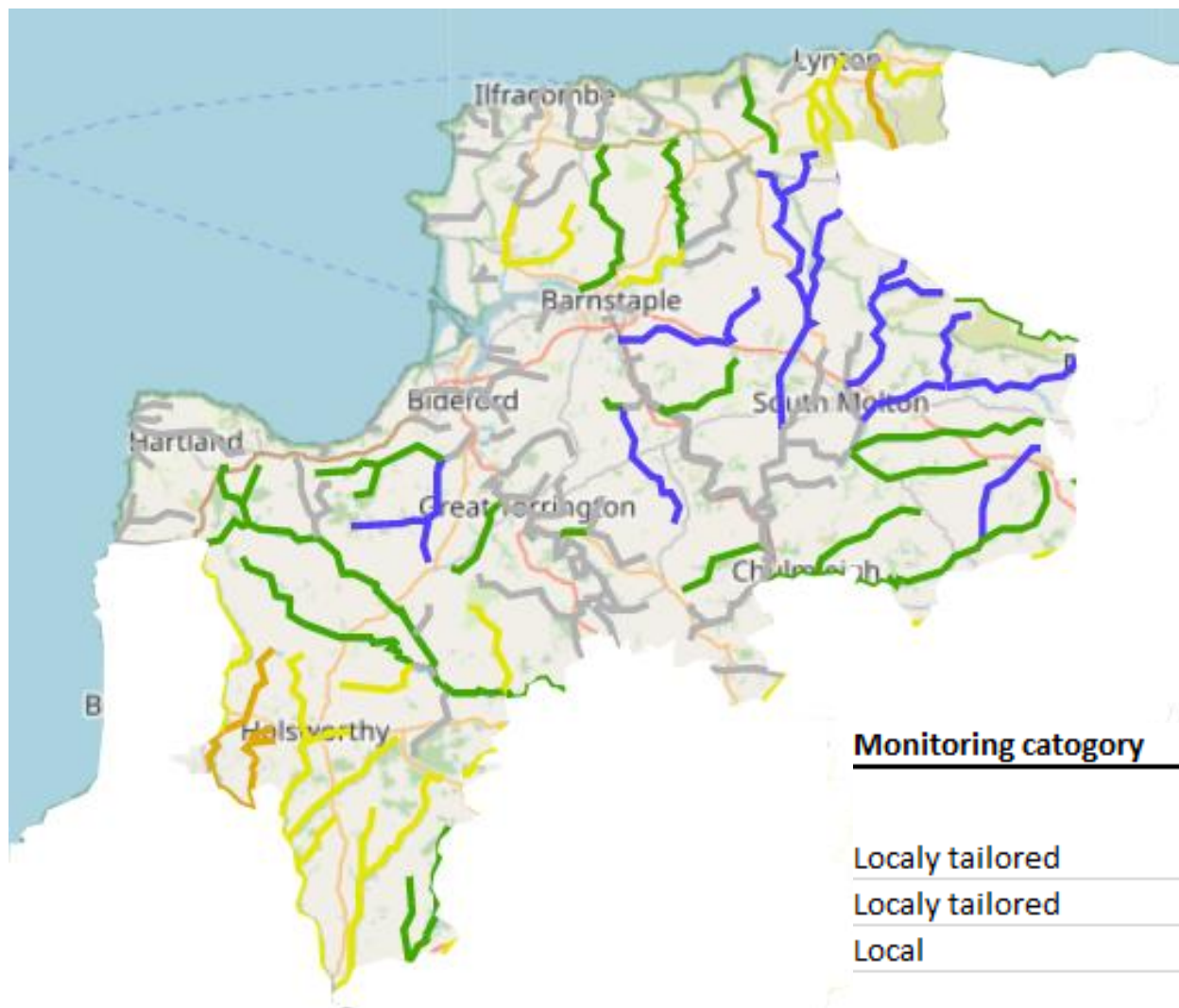


# BATHING WATERS AND SHELLFISH WATERS



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, CC-BY, Imagery © Environment Agency, Ordnance Survey

# FISH COMPLIANCE

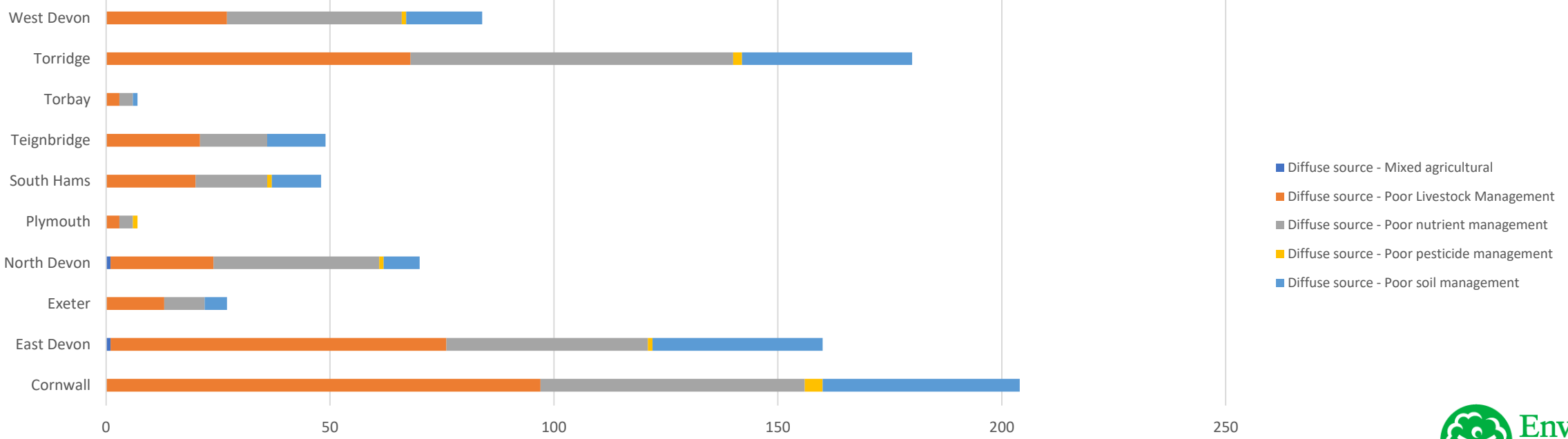
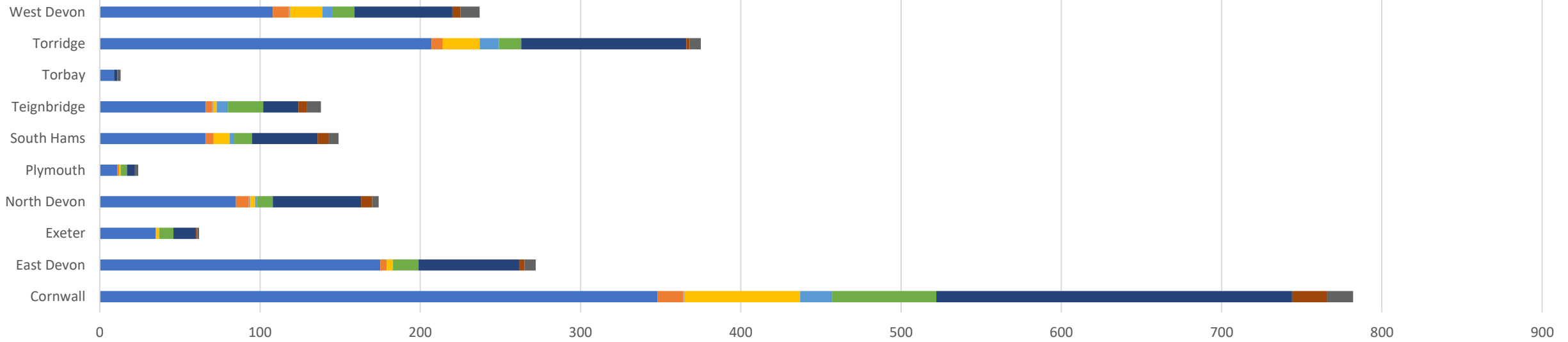


Monitoring category	Programme name	Number of sites
Locally tailored	Core Fisheries Monitoring Programme	
Locally tailored	Salmon and Sea Trout	12
Locally tailored	Area drought plan	2
Local	Mole fish kill revisit	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>





■ Diffuse source 
 ■ Flow 
 ■ Invasive non-native species 
 ■ Natural 
 ■ Other pressures 
 ■ Physical modification 
 ■ Point source 
 ■ Suspect data 
 ■ Unknown (pending investigation)



THANK YOU

