DRIP DRIP
WORKING TOWARDS A HEALTHY TAMAR RIVER

PRESENTER NICK SHAPLAND

WHY THE RIVER MATTERS

The river Tamar is not just a scenic backdrop, it is a **vital ecosystem** that creates a range of habitats.

It is also a **community resource** For centuries it has been a vital lifeline.

But
River is in decline.



DRIP DRIP-ORIGINS

OUR ACTION

PROTECTING THE TAMAR RIVER BY:

- REGULAR MONITORING
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- CREATING RIVER RIGHTS





SOUTH WEST WATER

WHY SOUTH WEST WATER HAS FAILED IN ITS DUTY OF CARE AND NEEDS TO BE ACCOUNTABLE.

- FOR REGULAR SEWAGE SPILLS THAT ENDANGERS THE RIVERS WILDLIFE AND HUMAN INTERACTION
- FOR DIVERTING FUNDS TO SHAREHOLDERS AND NOT MAINTAINING INFRASTRUCTURE
- IGNORING AND DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM FAILINGS

South West Water

Here are some numbers to demonstrate SWW performance over recent years. SWW is part of Pennon Group

2021 - 42,484 spills, 351,785 hours
They paid out 1 billion in dividends.(Extraordinary total due to very large special dividend in 2021.)

2022 - 37,649 spills, 290,271 hours
They paid £100 million in dividends

2023 - 58,249 spills, 520,737 hours
They paid out 111.7 million in dividends.

2024 - 56,173 spills, 544,439 hours
They paid out 126.9 million in dividends.

2025 - 46,164 spills, 407,006 hours
They paid out £133.7 million in dividends.

Information provided by Environment Agency and Market screener uk

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2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
42,484 spills	37,649 spills	58,249 spills	56,173 spills	46,164 spills
351,785 hours	351,785 hours	520,737 hours £111.7 millions	544,439 hours	407,006 hours
£1.5 Billion	£100 million		£126.9 millions	£133.7 millions

2021 - 42,484 spills, 351,785 hours
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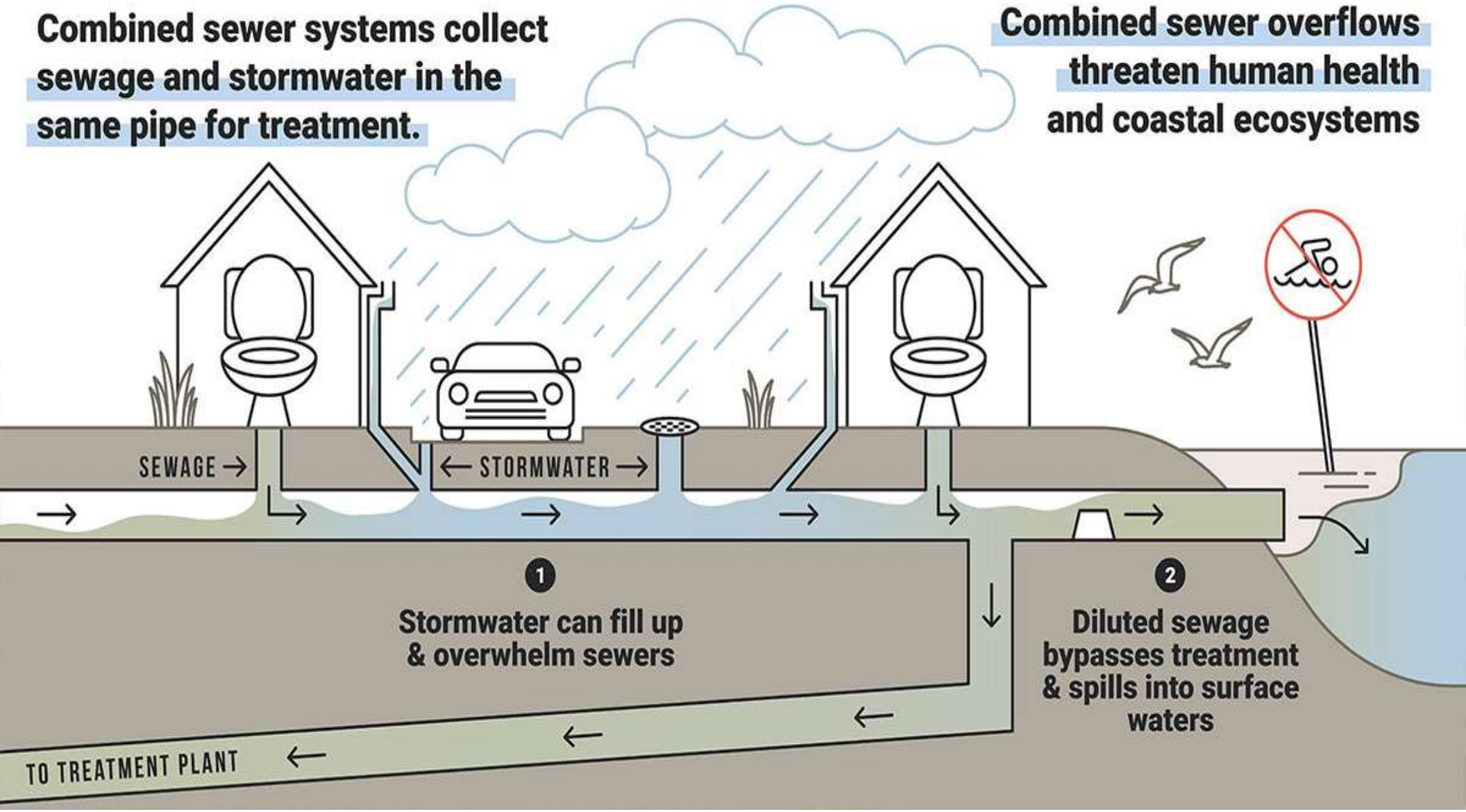
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Combined sewer systems collect sewage and stormwater in the same pipe for treatment.
Combined sewer overflows threaten human health and coastal ecosystems
SEWAGE →
← STORMWATER →
1
Stormwater can fill up & overwhelm sewers
2
Diluted sewage bypasses treatment & spills into surface waters
TO TREATMENT PLANT ←

THE GUIDELINES

A DISCHARGE EVENT

"water companies are allowed to spill on "wet days" (defined as rainfall exceeding 0.25mm in the preceding 24 hours or maybe even 72 hours (not tested in court)

The law also states "Where there is a discharge from a storm overflow, the undertaker, must publish that there has been a discharge, the location, when it began and when it ended."

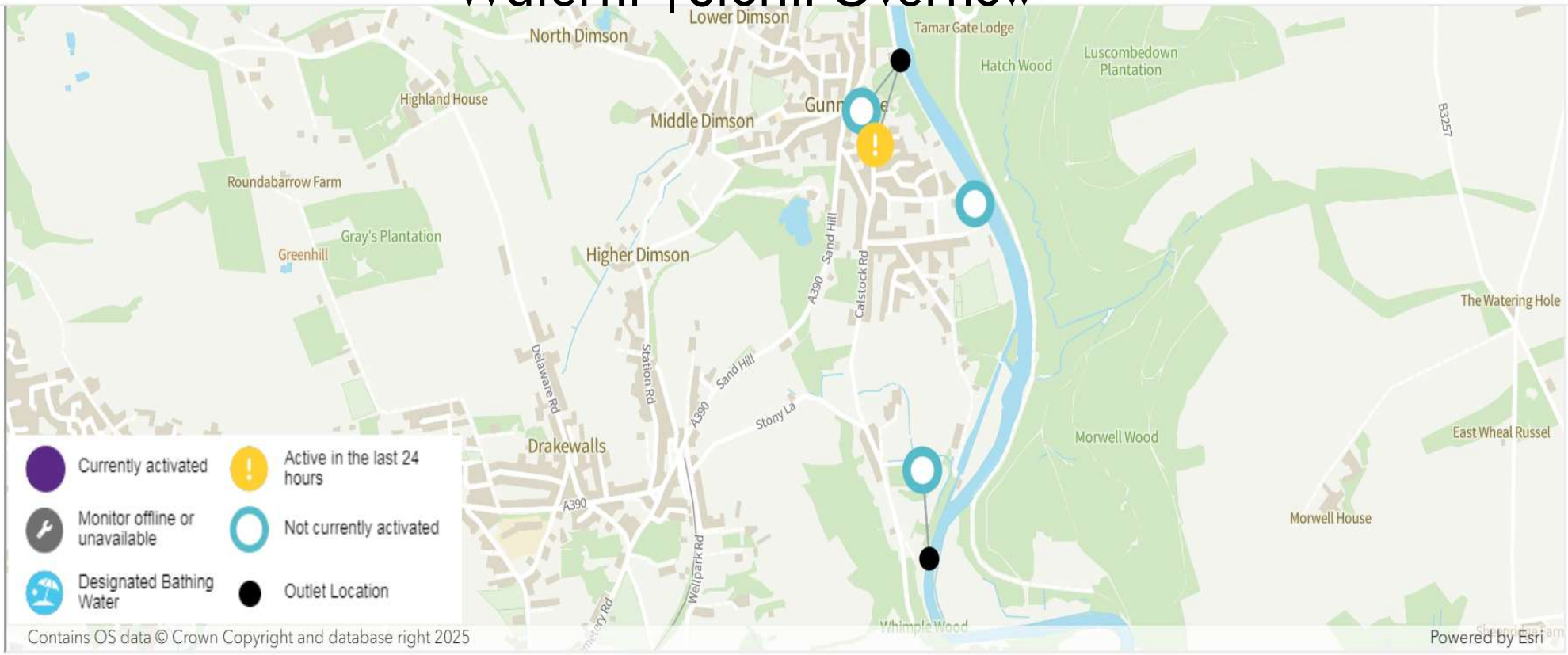
And these must be published in near-real-time (within 1 hour).

South West Water do this by very helpfully publishing on waterfitlive

https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/environment/rivers-and-bathing-waters/waterfitlive/storm-overflow-map

Import favourites | Home CCTV

Waterfit | Storm Overflow



You can access storm overflow data in several different ways, thanks to our commitment to transparency.

IN OUR HOMES

Use water butts to collect rainwater for the garden

Take care what we release into the sewage system: chemicals, medicines, hormones, and non toilet paper waste



IN OUR COMMUNITIES:

Find out where you local CSO is and monitor it for illegal Discharge event through Waterfitlive.

Spread the word.



IN OUR INFLUENCE

Encourage your parish council sign up to Dowr Glan

Let SWW know your opinions and feelings, perhaps even vote with your wallet through withholding the sewerage portion of your bill.

Volunteer with Drip Drip



ACTION

What can you do?

Register your interest with Drip Drip and receive an information pack by email.
Full instructions on how to :-

1. Withhold Sewerage payments
2. Volunteer with Drip Drip
3. Monitor CSO releases using Waterfitlive
4. Personal responsibility 3Ps Pee, Poo, Paper.
5. Water butts, why use treated water to water your plants.
6. What to not put down your sink.
7. MP pro forma letter.
8. River rights introduction/update
9. Copy of Drip Drip Manifesto.

RIVER RIGHTS MANIFESTO FOR THE TAMAR

THE AIM IS TO CREATE A FUTURE IN WHICH THE TAMAR IS NOT ONLY DEFENDED WHEN DAMAGED, BUT HAS A RIGHT TO BE NURTURED AND CARED FOR.

RIVER RIGHTS CHARTER WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FOUNDATION AND SIMMONDS AND SIMMONDS LAW FIRM, AS A PRO BONO CLIENT TO CREATE A TEMPLATE FOR OTHER RIVER ACTIVISTS.

CREATION OF RIVER GUARDIANS

ALSO LINKED TO 60 OTHER RIVER RIGHTS GROUPS.

RIVER
GUARDIANS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION
PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS TO GET MORE INVOLVED.