

Additional information provided by the Environment Agency

Bathing waters and communicating pollution risks:

- The Bathing Water Regulations set out the responsibilities of public bodies for each aspect of bathing water management:
 - The Secretary of State (Defra) is responsible for designating and de-designating bathing waters, providing guidance on how to implement the Regulations, preparing reports on bathing water seasons, and acting as an enforcer when local authorities fail to meet their duties.
 - The Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for monitoring, assessing and classifying bathing waters and providing bathing water profiles, as well as passing on information on bathing waters to public. The EA also has the responsibility to manage the quality of the water to meet the Regulations' standards through pollution prevention measures and to notify bathers via Swimfo of pollution incidents and warnings of Short Term Pollution.
 - Local Authorities are responsible for signage at bathing waters and the health of those who bathe there. They are also responsible for passing on information about pollution incidents at bathing waters to the public and to prevent people's exposure to them.
 - Finally, it's the responsibility of water companies to inform the EA and Local Authorities of any pollution incidents that take place.

River monitoring:

- Monitoring water quality is essential to keeping our rivers clean, and the Environment Agency has been collecting data from waterways since the 1980s. We have spent over £180m on environmental monitoring since 2016.
- In recent years the annual funding from government for monitoring activity has halved, therefore we welcome the additional resources announced in the Spending Review, which will allow us to invest more in this area.
- The River Surveillance Network is designed to provide a robust assessment of the health of rivers on a national scale, how this changes over time and over the long term. It is a small but critical component of a much wider set of locally targeted programmes which provide evidence on specific issues and on a local scale.
- We also welcome the various emerging citizen science initiatives that contribute valuable information on water quality to help everyone involved to identify and prioritise action.
- There are several [monitoring sites on the Bevern Stream](#).