

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

12th July 2023, 7.30pm

The Town Hall, 12 Market Place

Cllr Williams (Chair)	Present		Cllr Perkin	Present
Cllr Cook	Present		Cllr Thomas	Present
Cllr Eyre	Apology		Martin Collins	Present
Cllr Golding	Present		Matthew Hatchwell	Apology
Cllr Newman	Present			

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Simone Stolton (via Zoom)

David Hadley (FAVWAT, Agenda Item 011 only)

011. Pollution and Water Quality Around Faversham Presentation

David Hadley, of FAVWAT delivered a presentation on the work of FAVWAT – presentation slides attached.

It was agreed that Mr Hadley would keep in contact with the Town Clerk on developments and ways in which the Town Council could support the project.

Simone Stolton suggested the work being undertaken by FAVWAT would be a good topic for one of Plastic Free Faversham's future Climate Cafes.

012. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Cllr Eyre and Matthew Hatchwell.

013. Declarations of Interest

None.

014. Co-option to Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Golding, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED for Simone Stolton of Plastic Free Faversham to be co-opted onto the Committee.***

015. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee dated 14th June 2023.***

In response to a query from Cllr Cook, the Town Clerk confirmed the work to update the Stonebridge Allotment Agreement was ongoing and it was hoped to present the new Agreement at the next meeting.

016. Action Plans Review

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED for the following amendments to the Climate and Biodiversity Annual Action Plan:**

1. Encourage implementation of Faversham's LCWIP and Parishes to Town Project. Review town wide electric bike and car schemes. Work with the Active Travel Committee and other groups to ensure working routes are identified and highlighted by better signage.

2. Facilitate the planting of wildflowers in grass verges, working with SBC and KCC. Continue to promote KCC's Project Bee.

6. Introduce guidelines for sustainable festivals and events working with Faversham event organisers and outside bodies whilst identifying best practice from other local authorities.

7. Encourage education around recycling in partnership with Swale Borough Council.

13. Water Pollution – Work with local groups to monitor water pollution.

Cllr Perkin provided a summary of progress on the Pesticide Free Town Action Plan. More work was required to ensure all allotment sites signed up to be pesticide free, plus as discussed at the previous meeting, a pesticide amnesty could be arranged. Other than those steps, further engagement with KCC on street cleansing would be required to gain Pesticide Free Town status.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Pesticide Free Action Plan without amendments.**

017. Development Updates

Stonebridge Pond – Matthew Hatchwell had emailed an update as follows: A draft scope of work for external consultancy had been resubmitted to SBC.

Biodiversity –

Pesticide Free Town – Cllr Perkin reported on a recent meeting with the Pesticide Action Network on the next steps to start a Pesticide amnesty. Talks were taking place with SBC and KCC about removal of the waste. This would be the first such amnesty in the South East.

Community Gardening – Cllr Williams provided an update on community gardening and the planters in town.

European Eels – Matthew Hatchwell had emailed an update as follows: A talk on European eels was included in the Open Faversham programme on 19th August at 7:30pm, in The Guildhall.

Nutrient Neutrality – Matthew Hatchwell had emailed an update as follows: Discussions were underway with a contact at the Environment Agency about the feasibility of using the same mechanism that has led to delay in new house

building near Cambridge (relating to increased abstraction of water from chalk aquifer and corresponding impact on local chalk streams) is applicable for the Faversham area.

Water/Wastewater – Matthew Hatchwell had emailed an update as follows: Report by South East Rivers Trust commissioned by Friends of the Westbrook on chalk-source streams along the North Kent coast between Graveney and Bapchild currently being finalised.

A panel discussion on water and wastewater was to be included in a series of evening talks to be hosted by the Faversham Society over the autumn/winter and themed on the Sustainable Development Goals. The full programme was still to be finalised, but the talks would probably take place in The Guildhall.

018. Solar Panels within the Conservation Area

Cllr Williams advised he would draft a letter to SBC this week and provide an update at the next meeting.

019. Environmental Improvements for North Preston

Cllr Cook summarised the current position regarding the green spaces on the North Preston estate and the shortage of trees, benches, and shrubbery.

The Town Clerk suggested arranging a meeting with Graeme Tuff of SBC to consult him on any plans. Cllr Cook advised he would create an action plan and get costings on the different items.

020. Interpretation Panel for Westbrook Stream

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Interpretation Panel for Westbrook Stream.***

021. Community Orchard for Perry Court

The possibility of establishing a Community Orchard following the transfer of Perry Court allotments to the Town Council was discussed, more information would be available following a meeting due to take place with the developer.

022. Request for a Tree for Millfield Estate

Cllr Williams agreed to contact KCC to seek guidance on replacing the tree at Millfield Estate.

023. Fast Fashion

Cllr Perkin reported she had been in contact with Community Share Wear who provided clothes to victims of domestic violence and recycled clothes that would otherwise go to waste. The possibility of Community Share Wear having pop ups at the Town Council later in the year was discussed. Cllr Perkin had also been in contact with Community Wardrobe based at Whitstable, who held a fashion swap shop and the Salvation Army who provided clothes and school uniforms.

Simone Stolton suggested this could be a good item for a Climate Café and Cllr Perkin agreed to discuss this with her following the meeting.

024. Allotments Report

It was agreed to hold a signing ceremony to mark the completion of the St Nicholas Allotment Agreement.

The Allotments Report was received.

025. Items for Report

Swale Friends of the Earth Lovely World Event

Martin Collins reported on the success of the Lovely World event at the Alexander Centre and thanked the Committee for their support.

Favwat

Faversham and villages water quality testing

initiated by **Green Party** members and now involves
Faversham Creek Trust and
Friends of the Westbrook and Stonebridge Pond.



Faversham Creek Sewage Works outflow



Combined sewer overflows - CSOs

How Heavy Rain Causes Sewage Overflows

CLIMATE CENTRAL





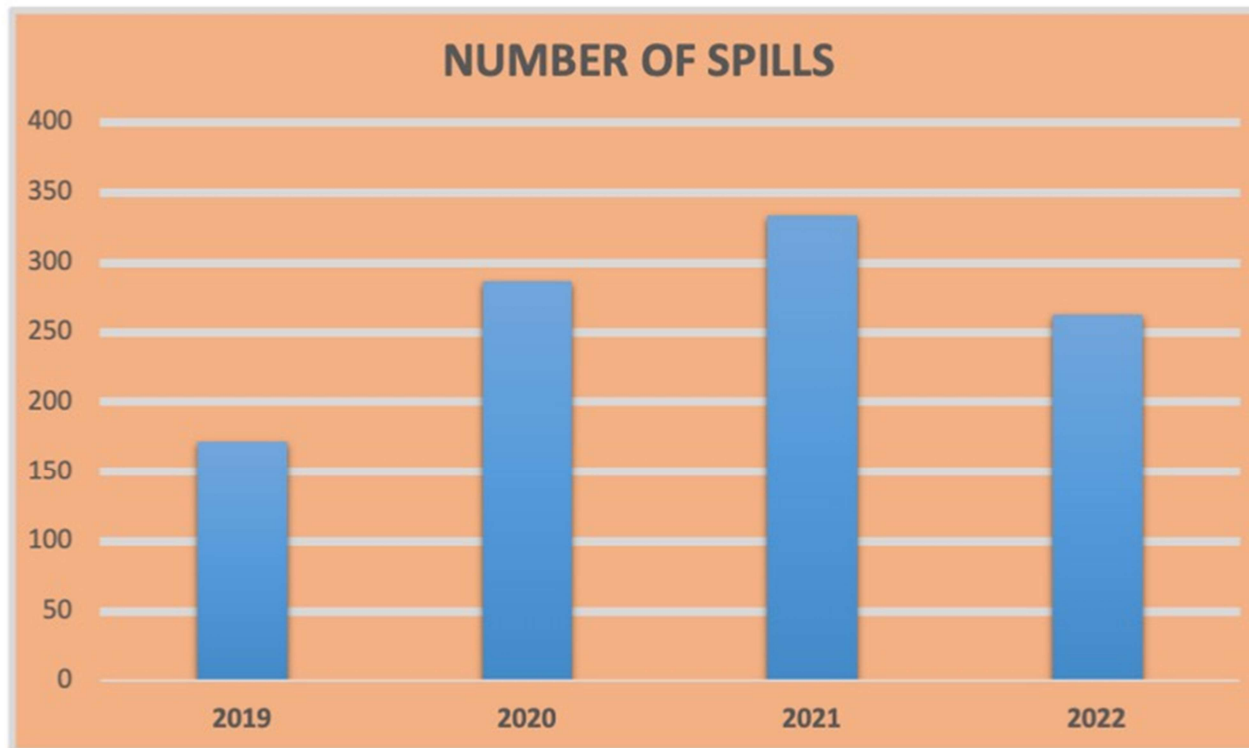
The Environment Agency may record fewer than 3.5% of Thames Water's unpermitted spills*

Our analysis shows that many unpermitted spills go undetected by the Environment Agency. This is partially because they only request daily data from Thames Water. We request data recorded at 15 minute intervals - giving us a more detailed picture.

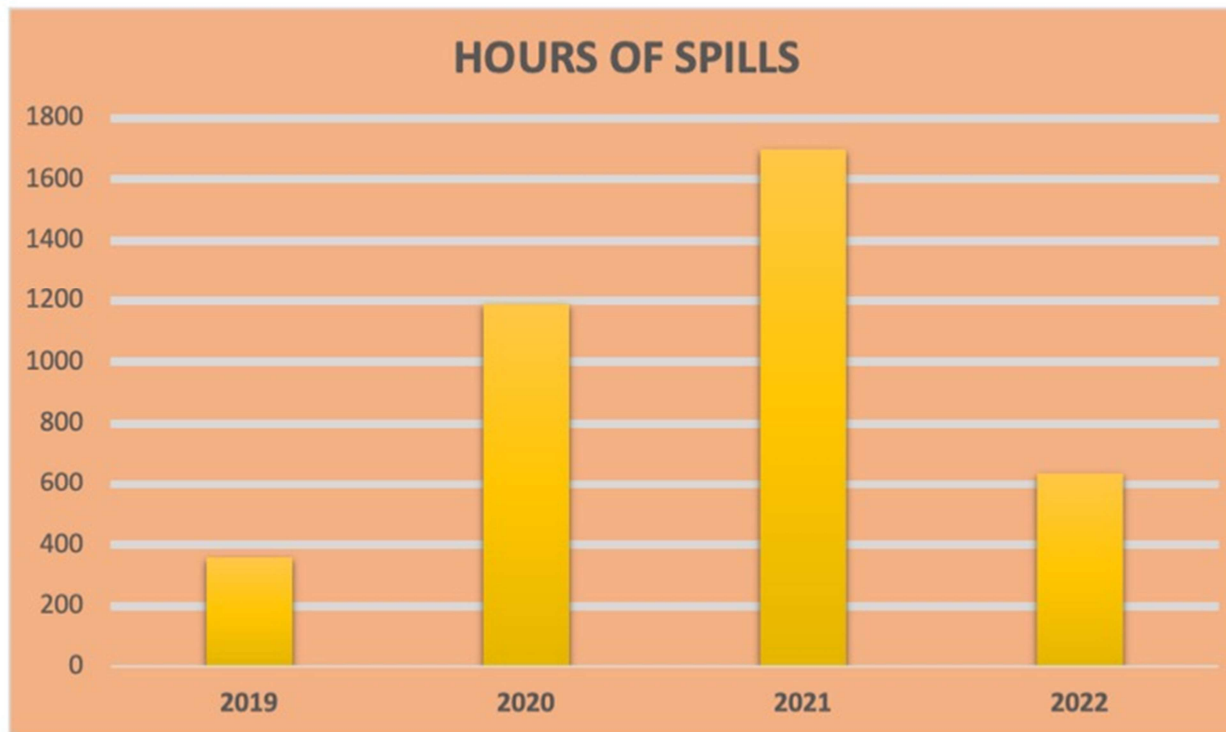


* Our analysis suggests there were 944 spills between 2010 & 2020 from Thames Water sites that breached permitted treatment standards. The Environment Agency records only list 33.

Number of spills into Swale Estuary 2019 - 22



Hours of spills into Swale Estuary 2019 - 22



CSOs feeding into Faversham Creek.



WHITSTABLE SOS PROTEST



Eutrophication Process in 5 Stages

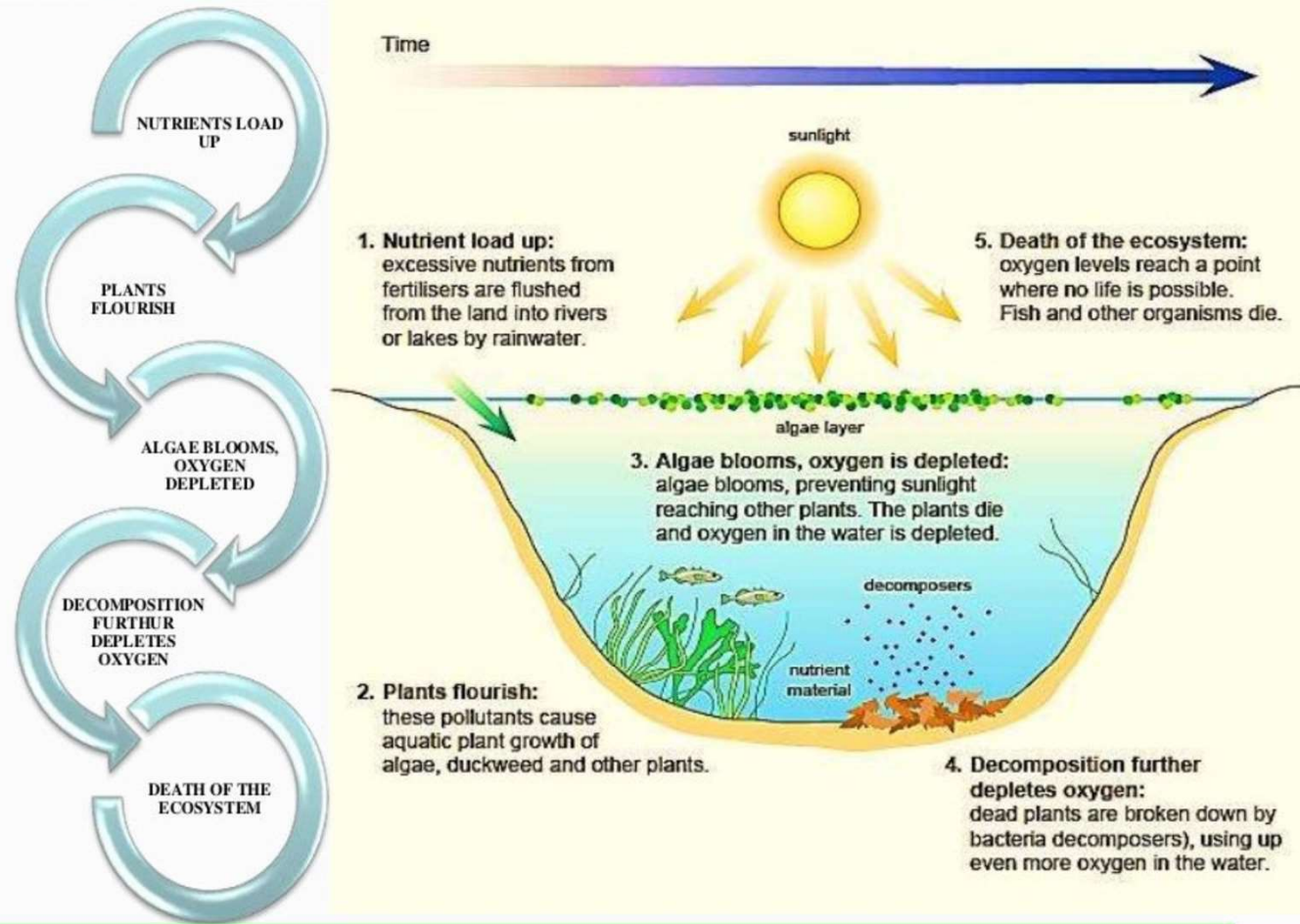


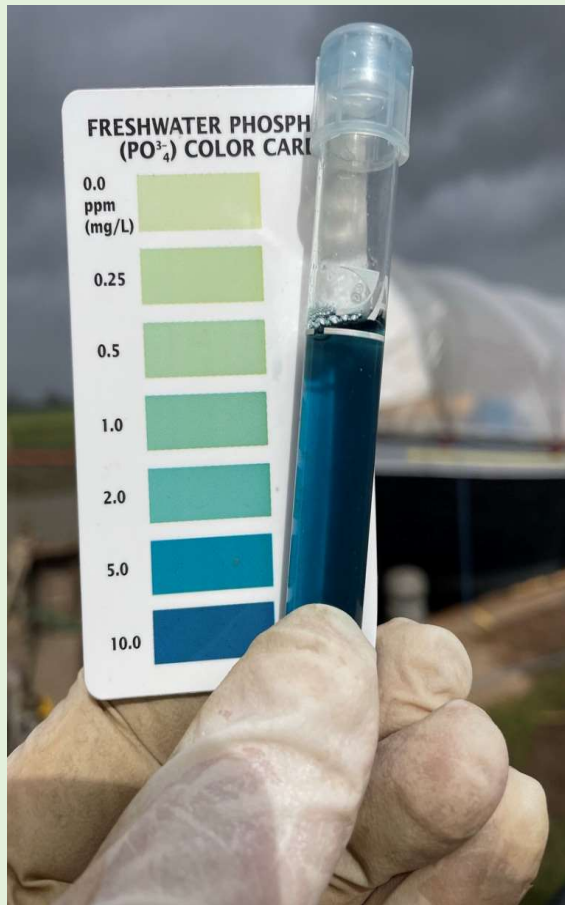


Photo Peter Paine

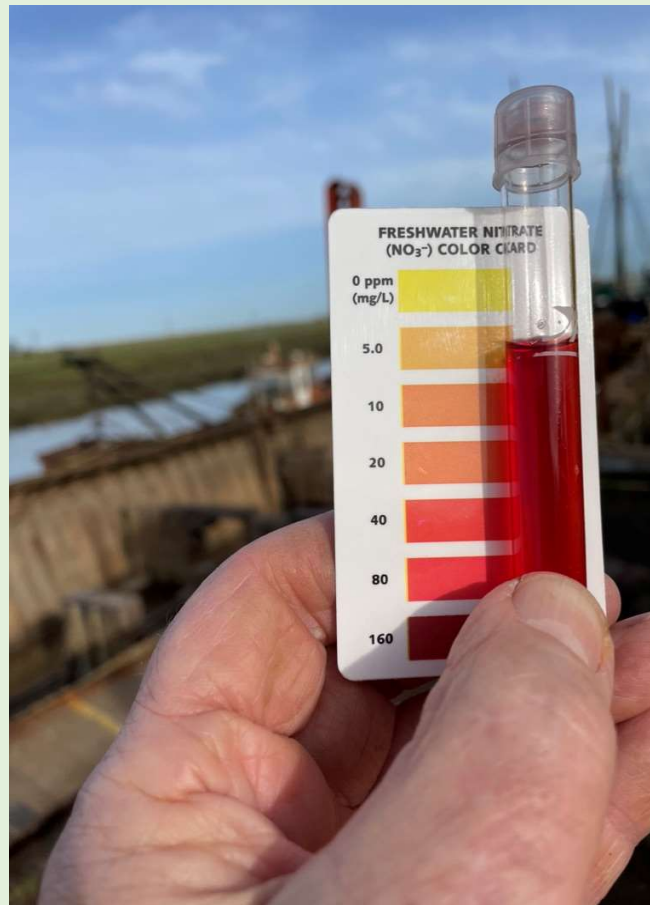


FAVWAT TESTING
AT FAVERSHAM
SEWAGE WORKS
FOR
NITRATES
PHOSPHATES
& AMMONIA

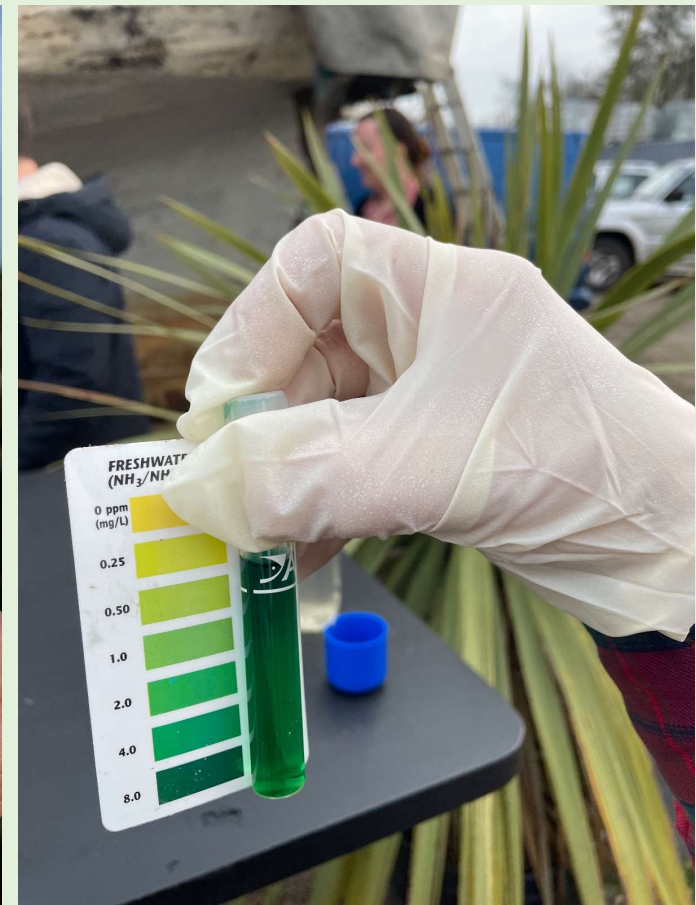
NITRATE

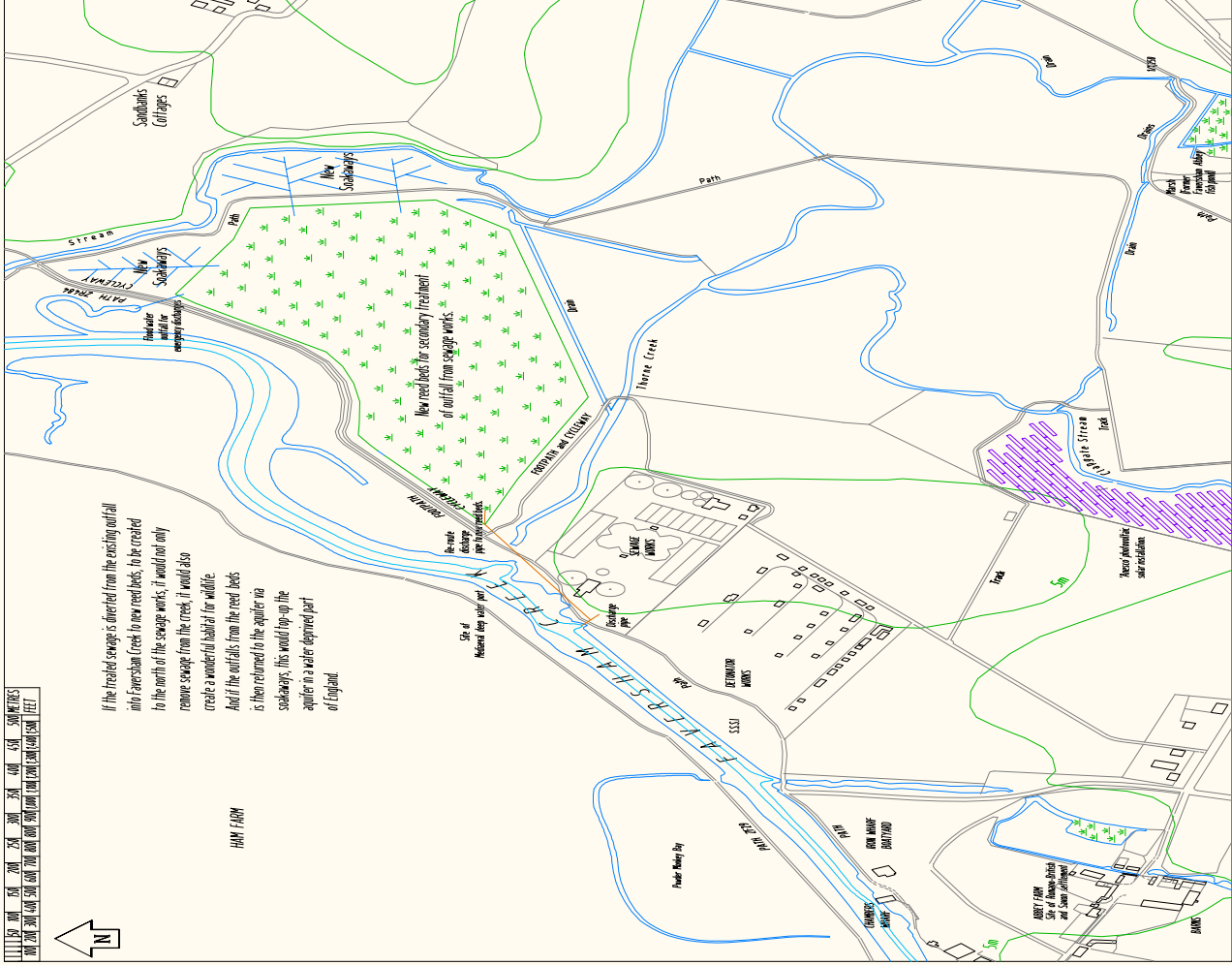


PHOSPHATE



AMMONIA





1:1500 1:1000 1:500 1:200 1:100 1:50 1:25 1:10 1:500 METRES
 1:1500 1:1000 1:500 1:200 1:100 1:50 1:25 1:10 1:500 FEET



If the treated sewage is diverted from the existing outfall into Faversham Creek to new reed beds, to be created to the north of the sewage works, it would not only remove sewage from the creek, it would also create a wonderful habitat for wildlife. And if the outfalls from the reed beds is then returned to the aquifer via soakaways, this would top-up the aquifer in a water-depleted part of England.

HAM FARM

New reed beds for secondary treatment of outfall from sewage works.

FAVERSHAM SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS
 Nr ABBEY FARM, FAVERSHAM, KENT
 1/500 SCALE MAP FOR ADDITIONAL SEWAGE TREATMENT
 FOR FAVERSHAM CREEK TRUST

PRELIMINARY

SCALE: 1/500
 DATE: September 2022
 DRAWN: E.L.
 DRAWING No: 2206/32

Cleaner Coasts for Communities



A project born out of conservation and community concern.

Aim: To reduce water quality issues on the Medway and Swale Estuary by understanding the scale and cause of pollution.

Phase 1: Design the strategy

Phase 2: Collect the data

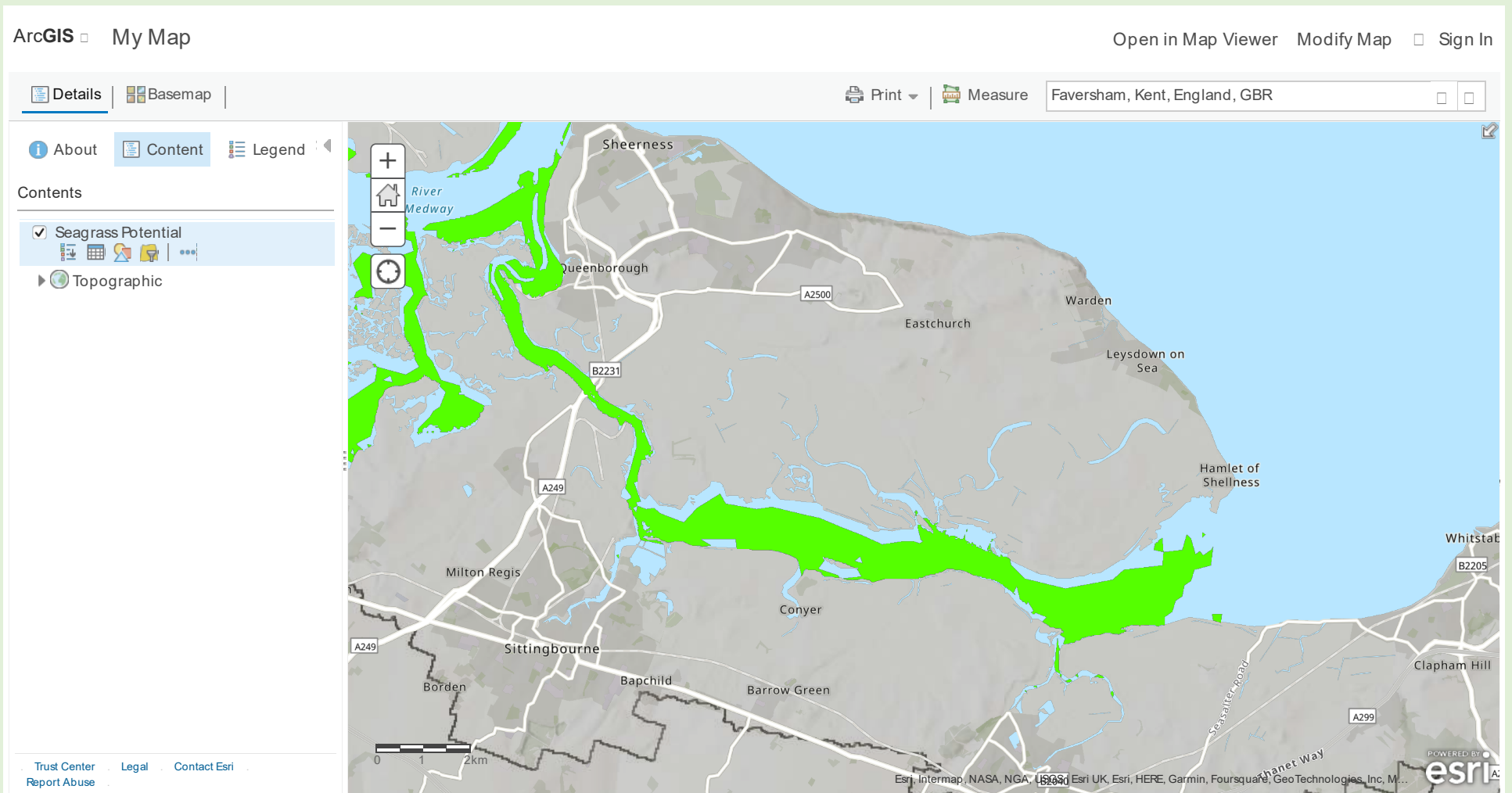
Phase 3: Analyse and map the data and disseminate findings



Seagrass beds in the Swale & Medway 2022



Government map of sea grass potential in the Swale



Sea grass

Globally captures carbon up to 35 times faster than rain forest

Supports biodiversity:
provides nursery habitat for key species such as cod and plaice;
and for octopus, dogfish, seahorses and seals;
and a feeding ground for wildfowl

Protects coasts from erosion by damping impact of waves

Once established removes pollutants



Where does your water bill go?

