



Environment
Agency

Water Framework Directive Classification 2013 progress update

October 2013

CatCode: LIT 8869

This document is out of date and was withdrawn 29/06/2017

Water Framework Directive

- ➔ We work with others to improve the quality of surface waters, ground waters, coastal waters and wetlands
- ➔ We measure improvements in **terms of the number of water bodies meeting good status**
- ➔ In 2009 we agreed with ministers a target that 32% of waters in England would reach “good status” or “good potential”



Other ways of measuring environmental quality

- ➔ We also measure environmental quality through for example our work on bathing waters, shellfish waters, evaluation of catchment sensitive farming as well as tracking fisheries and biodiversity improvements

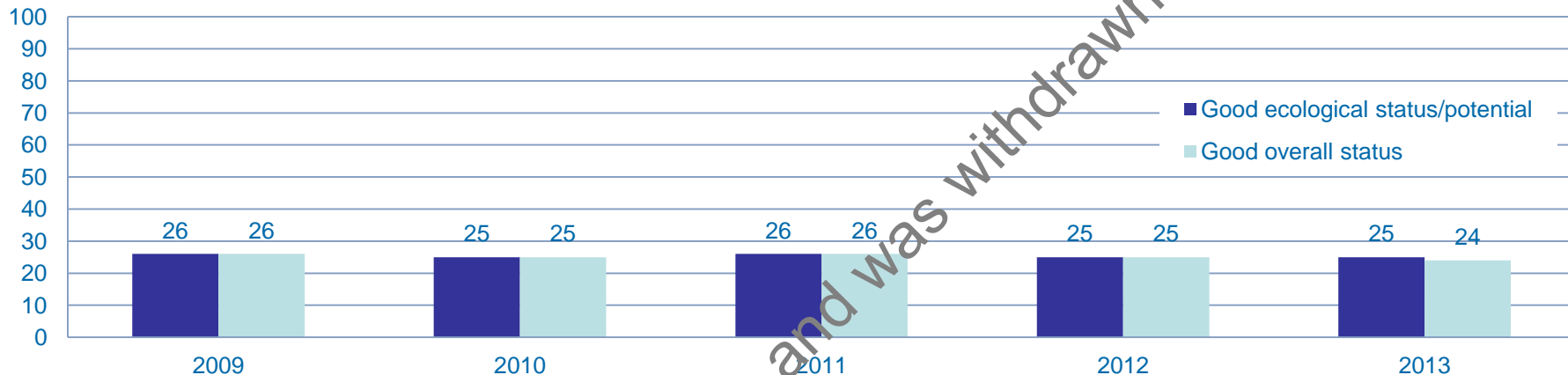


Current position

- ➔ We are confident that the work carried out to date by ourselves and with our partners will deliver significant environmental improvements but it may take longer than at first thought to reach 32%.

Surface water bodies in England ecological & overall status

Percentages of water bodies at good status in England

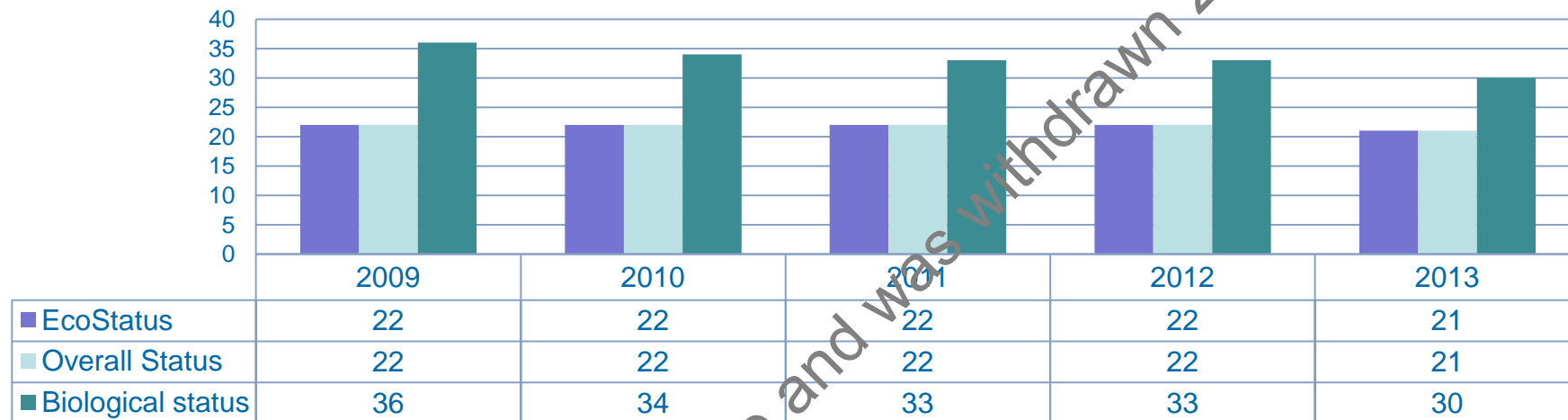


- ⇒ **25%** of surface water bodies are at good **ecological** status/potential or better
- ⇒ **Overall** (including chemical assessment) **24%** of surface water bodies, are at good status or better

Rivers

headline statistics for 2013

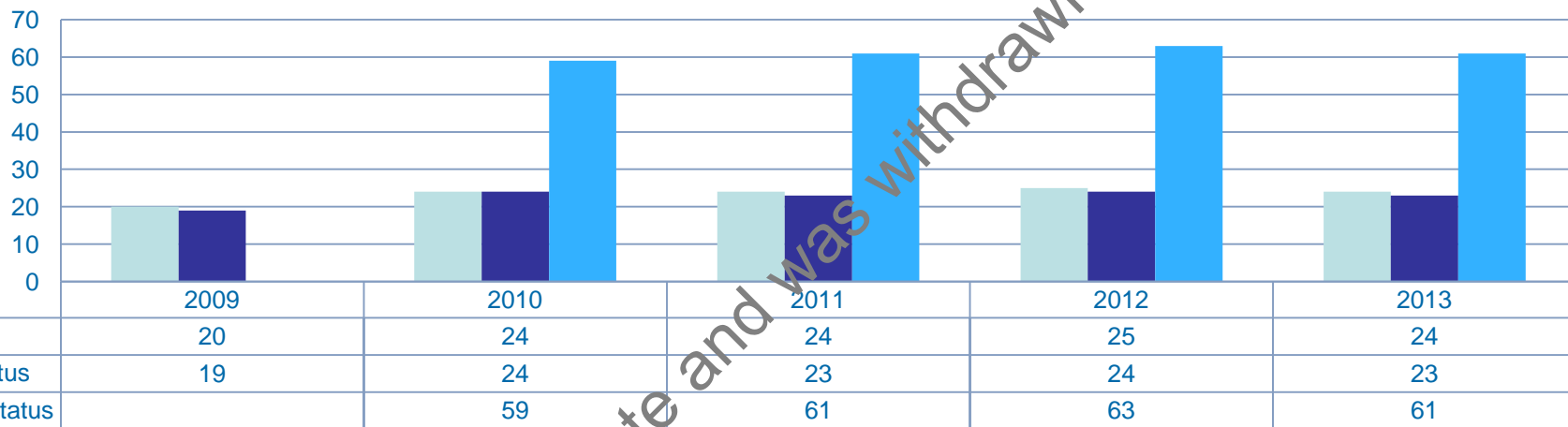
Status of rivers in England



- ➔ **21%** of river water bodies are at good **ecological** status/potential or better
- ➔ **30%** of rivers achieved good or better **biological** status down from **36%**
- ➔ This is because
 - ➔ Our monitoring programmes are biased towards collecting evidence in failing water bodies
 - ➔ We experienced less rainfall in 2010-11, affecting invertebrate populations.

TraC water bodies headline statistics for 2013

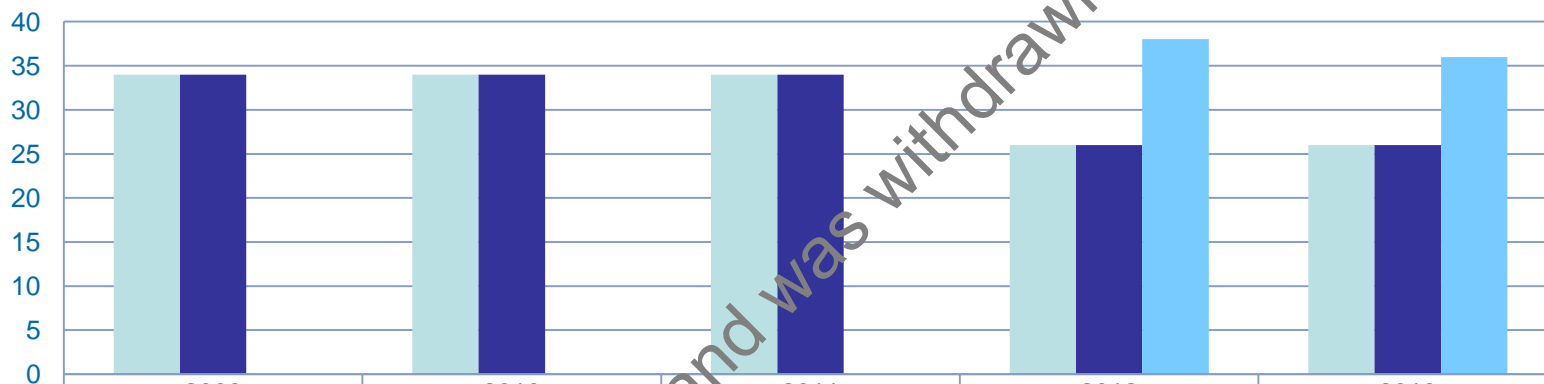
Status of transitional and coastal water bodies in England



- ➔ **24%** of TraC water bodies are at good **ecological** status/potential or better
- ➔ **61%** of TraC water bodies are at good **biological** status/potential or better

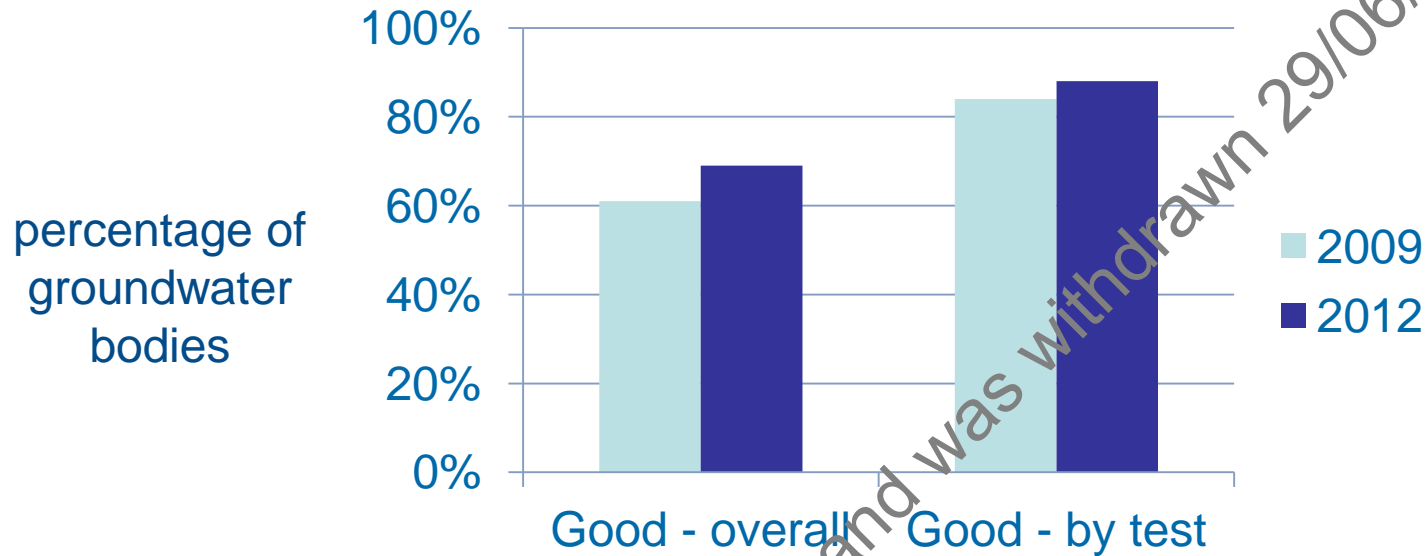
Lakes headline statistics for 2013

Status of lakes in England



- ➔ **26%** of lake water bodies are at good **ecological** status/potential or better
- ➔ We are not reporting a real deterioration in environmental conditions. The decrease from **34%** in 2011 is put down to an enhanced and standardised monitoring programme providing better evidence

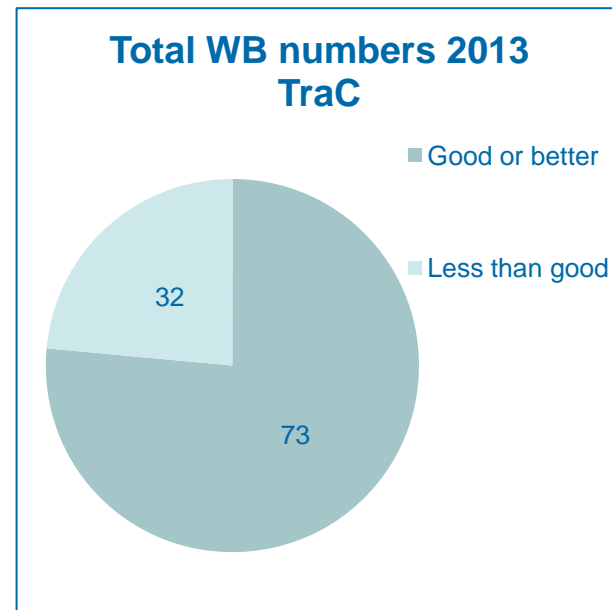
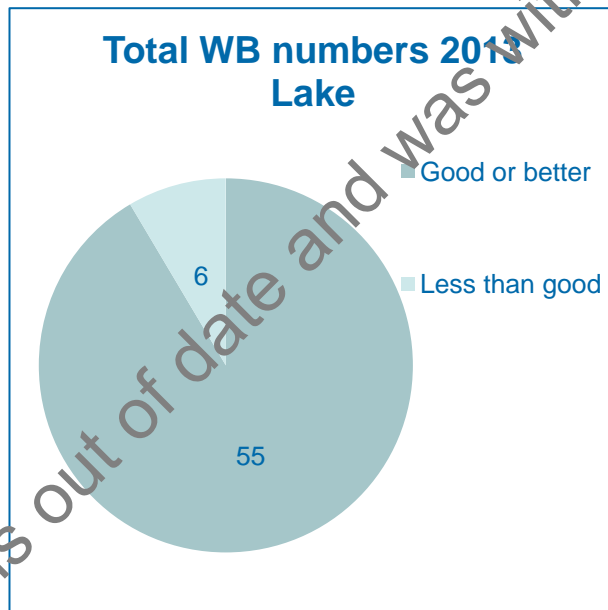
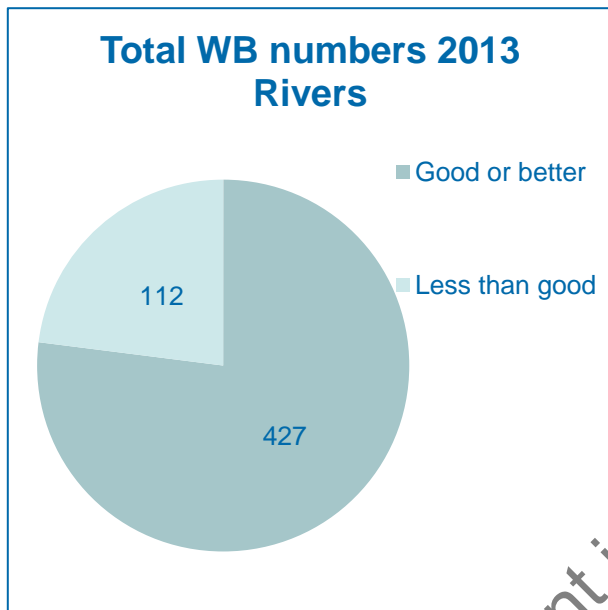
Quantitative status of groundwater bodies in England



- ➔ Good quantitative status apparent improvement - 61% in 2009 to 69% in 2012
- ➔ 88% of chemical tests across all groundwater bodies showed good status, compared with 84% in 2009
- ➔ The 'one out, all out' rule leads to the difference in overall status compared with the results by test

Chemical status England

➔ 79% of all surface water bodies assessed in England are good or better



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River Basin District: breakdown ecological status

RBD	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Change since 2009
Solway Tweed	44	43	45	48	41	-3
Northumbria	43	41	43	40	42	-1
Humber	18	16	17	18	17	-1
Anglian	18	19	18	18	17	-1
Thames	23	22	22	18	19	-4
South East	19	15	16	15	15	-4
South West	33	31	34	32	31	-2
Severn	29	30	30	30	29	0
Dee	28	26	30	30	25	-3
North West	30	31	30	29	30	0.

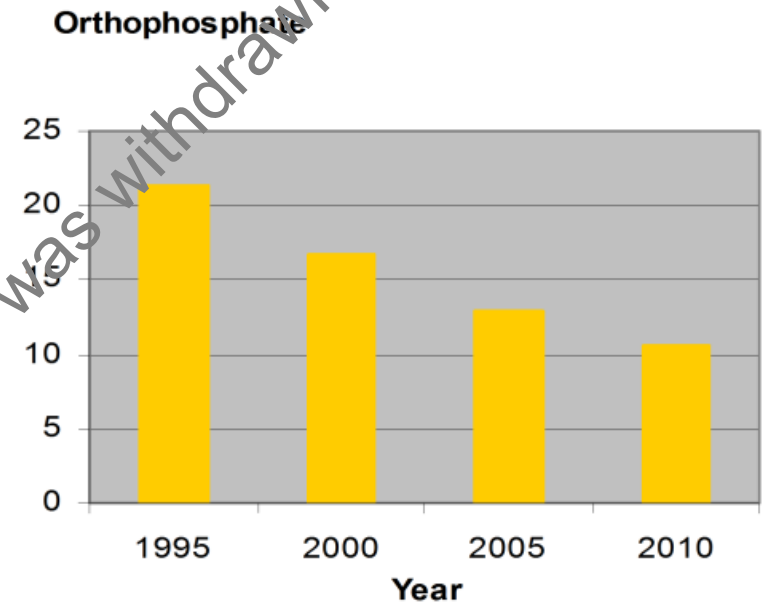
Changes since 2009

- ➔ Net improvement in status for phosphate
- ➔ Net deterioration in invertebrate status



Phosphorus improvements

- ➔ Largest source of P to rivers in England is sewage
- ➔ Large investment to remove P at sewage treatment works likely contributing factor
- ➔ Significant improvements in river phosphorus (P) concentrations in rivers evident in Midlands, North East & South West



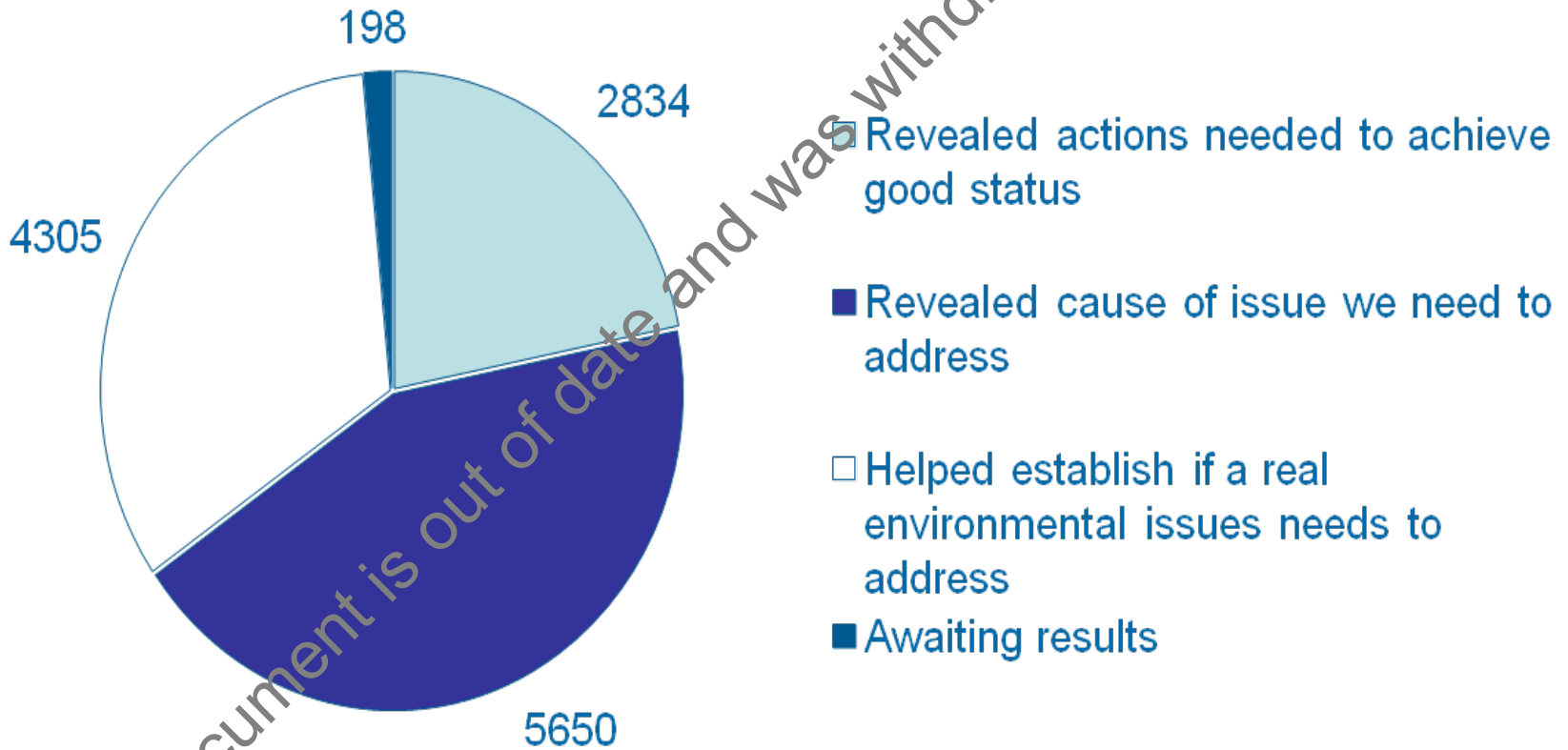
River Derwent

- ➔ Actions to reduce P and improve ecology
- ➔ Continuing to see element level improvements

Classification Year	Invertebrate Class	Diatom Class	Macrophyte Class	Phosphate Class	Ammonia Class
2009	High	Not Applicable	Moderate	Moderate	High
2010	Good	Poor	Good	Moderate	High
2011	Good	Poor	Good/High	Good	High
2012	Good	Poor	Good	Good	High
2013	High	Good	Good	High	High

WFD investigations

➔ 12987 investigations completed by end 2012



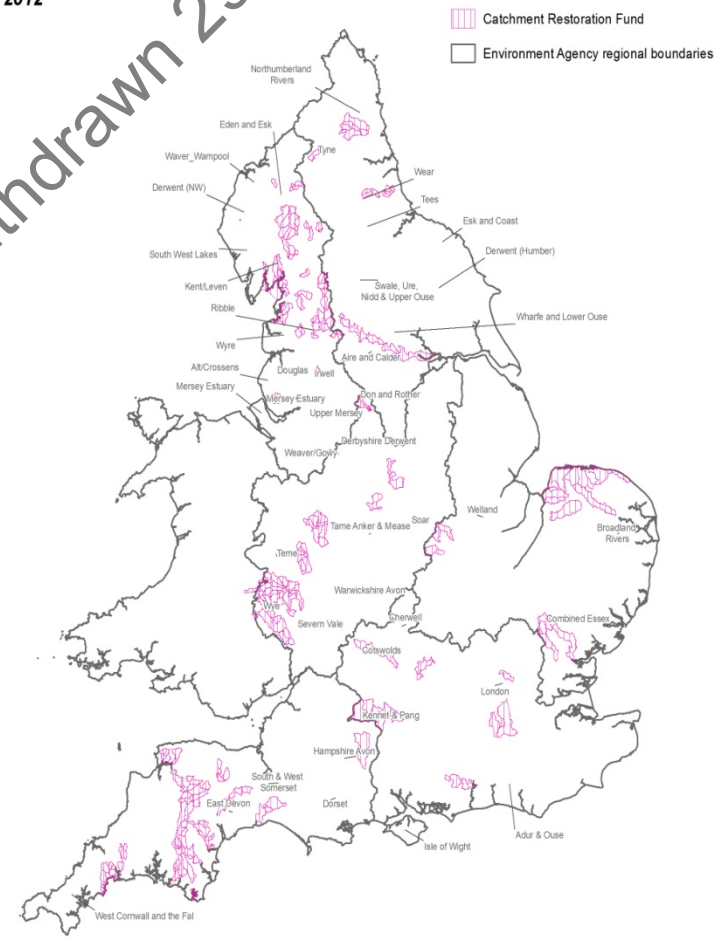
Catchment restoration fund



Catchment Restoration Fund Projects
Funded by WFD GIA
October 2012

➔ Investments since April 2012

- ➔ 42 projects costing ~ £24m
- ➔ ~£5m additional funding from variety of sources
- ➔ 244 water bodies targeted
- ➔ In 2013, we have created and restored ~8,000m of channel features



What are we doing to tackle the issues?

➔ Lots of work underway, we know it will take time to see improvements

Reducing pollution from farms and improving the river for wildlife



River Petteril, North Cumbria

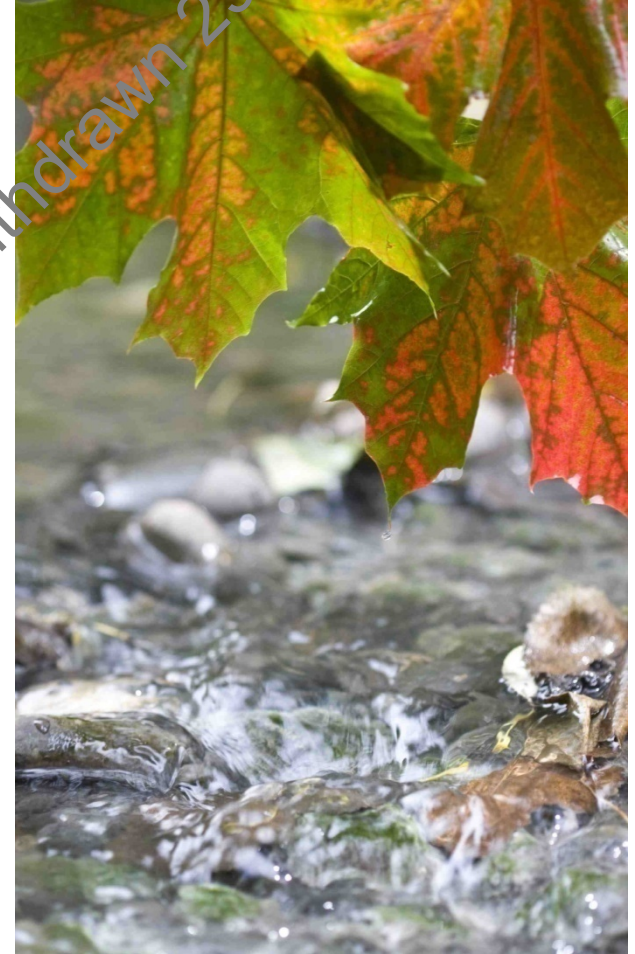
Tackling urban diffuse pollution and putting in habitat restoration measures



Cudworth Dike, River Dearne, South Yorkshire

Improving the way we classify from 2013 onwards

- ➔ New standards
- ➔ New assessment methods
- ➔ Revised water body boundaries
- ➔ Underpin the draft 2015 river basin management plans



Summary

- ➔ Still much to be done to meet WFD standards
- ➔ We are working closely with others to deliver
- ➔ We are confident that work carried out to date will deliver significant improvements but it may take longer to achieve the target of 32%