

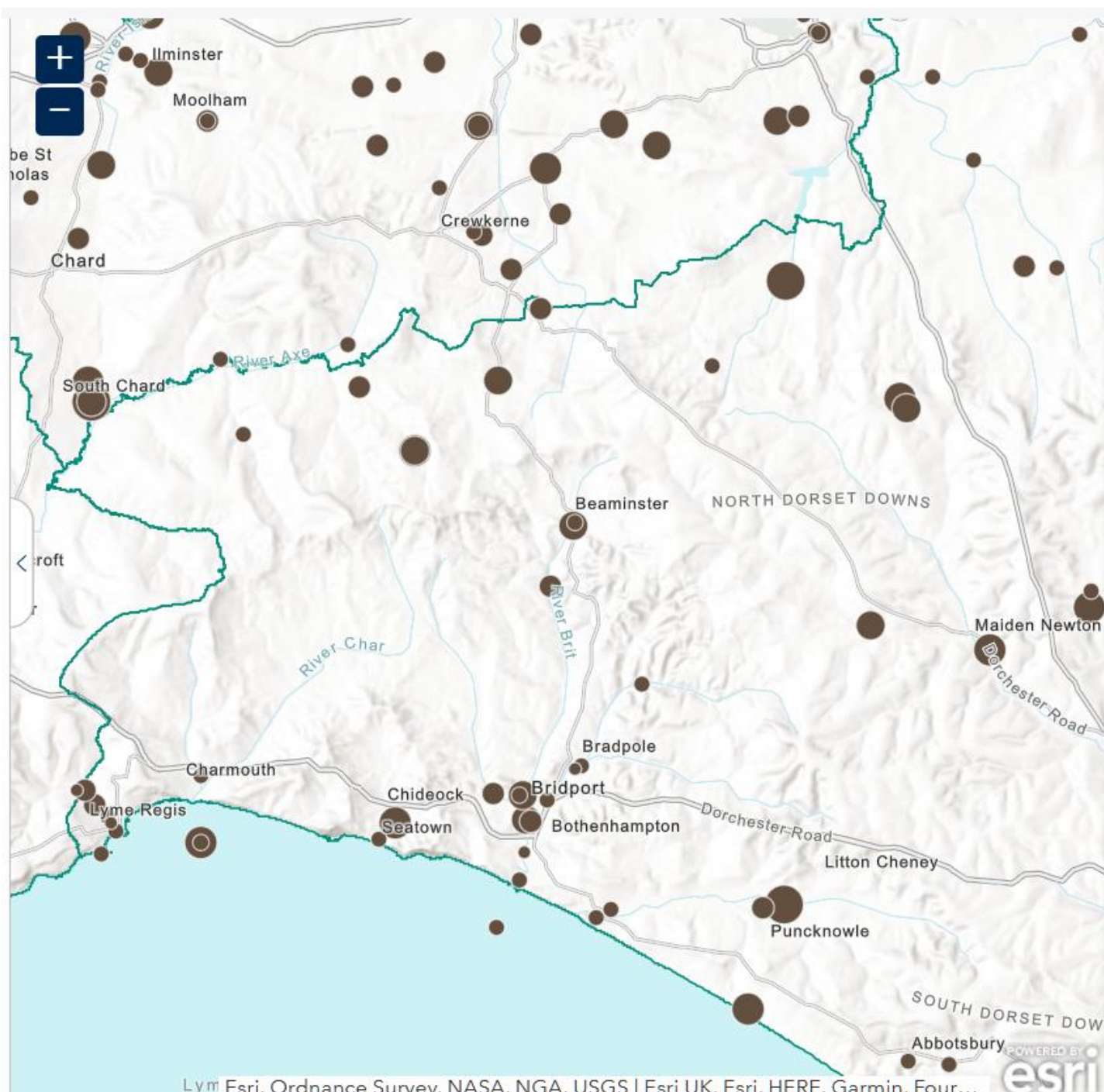
## The Asker and Mangerton

- The Asker is the most westerly recognised chalk stream in the UK. The Mangerton is an unrecognised chalk stream.
- Both rivers have alkaline pH values and a conductivity just into the hard water category. They lack turbidity and have a phosphate concentration within the expected range of a chalk stream.
- Three years of results entered into the database of National Anglers River Monitoring Initiative (ARMI) for six monitoring sites places the Asker and Mangerton within the top 15% of the very many UK rivers assessed.
- Our analysis of species at risk from pollution (SPEAR) index used by the Environment Agency classifies the rivers within the high water quality group of the EU water directive.
- The Environment Agency only ranks the Asker as moderate for abundance of macrophytes which provide habitat for fish. The lack of river plants is probably due to shading by trees that overhang the narrow river. Like many rivers, both fail standards for mercury levels.
- I started CSI on the Asker and Mangerton in April 2021. 4 registered monitors started in 2022 for them and the Lower Brit.
- The Asker is subject to limited agricultural pollution as we have worked with the farmers. Run-off into roads has then ended up in the rivers and there is a dairy close to the Asker
- The Mangerton has one site of final/treated sewage effluent and a sewer storm overflows with a total discharge time of 14 hours in 2021.
- The Upper Asker has no water company discharges but the Lower Asker has 4 sewer storm overflows with a total discharge time of 187 hours
- Trail cameras have established to-date that 39 species of bird and 17 of mammals occur in the river and its margins. Otters occur but water vole is restricted to the lower regions of the river and disappear when mink are in evidence.
- Several fish inhabit the rivers. Signal but not native crayfish occur in the Asker. The upper reaches of this river are inaccessible to salmonids because of a large weir at Loders.
- Plans for 2023 are:
  - To continue monitoring at the existing sites and work with other West Dorset rivers.
  - To acquire and utilise mink monitoring rafts.
  - To support efforts to install a fish bypass for Loders weir. The aim is to enhance colonisation of the river by the European Eel (critically endangered on the IUCN Red List) and enable salmonids to reach spawning grounds.
- The Asker could provide a reference comparison supporting efforts within Dorset to enhance the health of other rivers.

[Download | Is my river fit to play in? \(arcgis.com\)](#)

[Westcountry CSI Volunteer Manual \(arcgis.com\)](#)

## Location of sewage outfalls



### West Dorset Rivers Operational Catchment | Catchment Data Explorer

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/OperationalCatchment/3528>

#### Dorset AONB West Dorset Rivers and Coastal Streams

<https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/project/rivers/>

#### • West Dorset Rivers and Coastal Streams - CaBa (Catchment Based Approach)

<https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/get-involved/west-dorset-rivers-and-coastal-streams/>

#### • Dorset Wild Rivers | Dorset Catchment Partnerships

<https://www.dorsetcatchments.co.uk/projects/dorset-wild-rivers/>

#### • Dorset Local Nature Partnership Natural Value 2022: The State of Dorset's Environment

<https://dorsetlnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/DLNP-NVR-2022.pdf>

<https://dorsetlnp.org.uk/>

**West Milton Water Recycling Centre (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 41658**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 5 times for a total of 14 hours, discharging into the Trib Of Mangerton River.

**Lee Lane Pumping Station (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 402029**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 9 times for a total of 46 hours, discharging into the River Asker.

**Fishweir Fields PS (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 402030**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 0 times for a total of 0 hours, discharging into the River Asker Via Sws.

**East Bridge Combined Sewer Overflow (Wessex Water)**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 3 times for a total of 0 hours, discharging into the River Asker(s).

**South Bridge Comb. Storm Overflow (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 400444**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 35 times for a total of 141 hours, discharging into the River Asker(s).

**West Bay Road Cso (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 41198**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 0 times for a total of 0 hours, discharging into the River Brit.

The reason that the water company provided as to why event duration monitors may have provided information for less than 90% of the relevant return period was: Comms Failure / Issue.

**West Bay Sluices (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 402047**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 13 times for a total of 37 hours, discharging into the Bridport Harbour(west Bay)(c).

**South Street Cso (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 402084**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 59 times for a total of 184 hours, discharging into the River Brit.

**Bridport West Street Cso (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 402083**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 47 times for a total of 76 hours, discharging into the River Brit.

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**West Bridge Cso (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 402082**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 18 times for a total of 17 hours, discharging into the River Brit.

**West Road Foundry Pumping Station (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 402031**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 36 times for a total of 228 hours, discharging into the River Simene.

**Netherbury Pumping Station (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 402106**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 33 times for a total of 293 hours, discharging into the River Brit.

**Southgate Pumping Station (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 401557**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 56 times for a total of 440 hours, discharging into the River Brit.

The reason that the water company provided as to why an overflow may have high spill counts in that period:  
Not Asset Maintenance - Hydraulic Capacity.

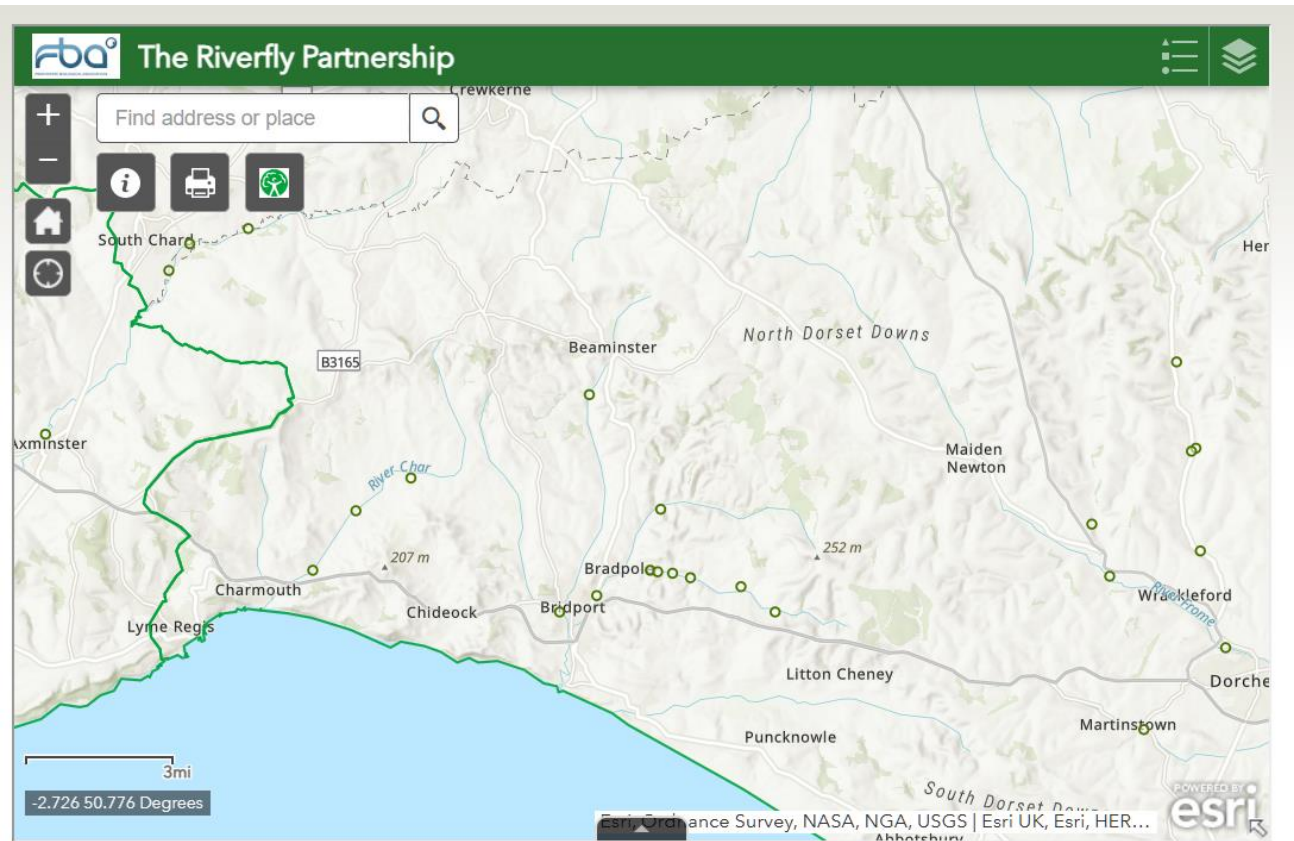
**Hams Path Combined Sewer Overflow (Wessex Water)**

**Permit number: 401558**

In 2021, this sewer storm overflow spilled 16 times for a total of 18 hours, discharging into the River Brit(s).

4 additional sewage outfalls on lower Asker.

ARMI interactive map [Interactive map | Riverflies \(fba.org.uk\)](#) Riverfly sample points



**River Asker No rain for a while 12 Dec near Co-Op**



[Surveys - Westcountry Rivers Trust \(cartographer.io\)](http://www.cartographer.io)

**CSI**

**Simene – nil**

**River Brit**

Brit, Beamminster, footbridge into Parnham Deer Park, ST 47588 00595, David Greenwood

The Brit, St.Swithins, SY 46403 93320, Lucy Rowland

The Brit, Palmers Brewery, SY 46458 92195, Lucy Rowland  
River Brit, SY 46428 92466 09/11/2019, Suzanne Faulkner

### **Mangerton**

Mangerton Brook, David Bligh

- Mangerton Brook, MAB-01, SY 48345 94260
- Mangerton Brook, MAB-02, SY 50121 96251
- Mangerton Brook, MAB-03, SY 52043 95664
- Mangerton Brook, MAB-04, SY 49322 96140

Mangerton, Milton Mill, SY 49461 96102, Chuck Willmott, 22/07/2022

River Mangerton, Castle Mill Farm, SY 52043 95664, Chuck Willmott, 15/04/2021

### **Asker**

River Asker, Below weir Loders, SY 49198 94116Approved

Chuck Willmott30/01/2023

River Asker, Mill Leat, SY 49219 94116Approved

Chuck Willmott30/01/2023

Asker, Behind Seals Cove (Shoe Lane), SY 47836 93708Approved

ChrisU28/01/2023

River Asker, Bridge at ///awakening.imported.drummers, SY 47493 93324Approved

David A Smith28/01/2023

Bell Coombe Brook, Old Mill, SY 49831 94058Approved

Chuck Willmott08/01/2023

Bell Coombe Brook, Bell Coombe, SY 50451 94714Approved

Chuck Willmott15/11/2022

**River Bride - Nil**