

Theme(s):	A: Conserve and restore river habitat, and adapt to / mitigate for the physical impacts of weather extremes and climate change.
Goal(s):	A1: Reduce pollution to the water environment.
Sub-goal(s):	A1a: Reduce point-source pollution to the water environment.

In theory, Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) are triggered during high river flows which dilute discharges, however this is not always true in local areas. In the majority of cases there is some form of deterioration in river health, and in some cases an ecological and aesthetic 'dead zone' around overflows. The project would identify problem sites and monitor for impacts (eg. through riverfly surveys), and encourage reporting of incidents to the Environment Agency. With evidence in place, pressure can then be brought to improve problem sites.

A known site is the North bank of the South Tyne at Haydon Bridge where the CSO releases after heavy rain on the Whin Sill when there is often insufficient flow in the river which rises in the North Pennines. Similar problems occur with the CSO at Corbridge.

Project Status:	Proposed
Potential Deliverer(s):	River Watch community groups, other community-based environmental groups like Groundwork, research projects for undergraduate/Masters students, Northumbrian Water for changes to sewer network
Estimated Timeframe:	5 to 10 years
Estimated Project Cost:	£5,000 to £25,000
Potential Funding Source(s):	Northumbrian Water, Environment Agency, angling groups, charitable trusts where ecosystem or community damage proven