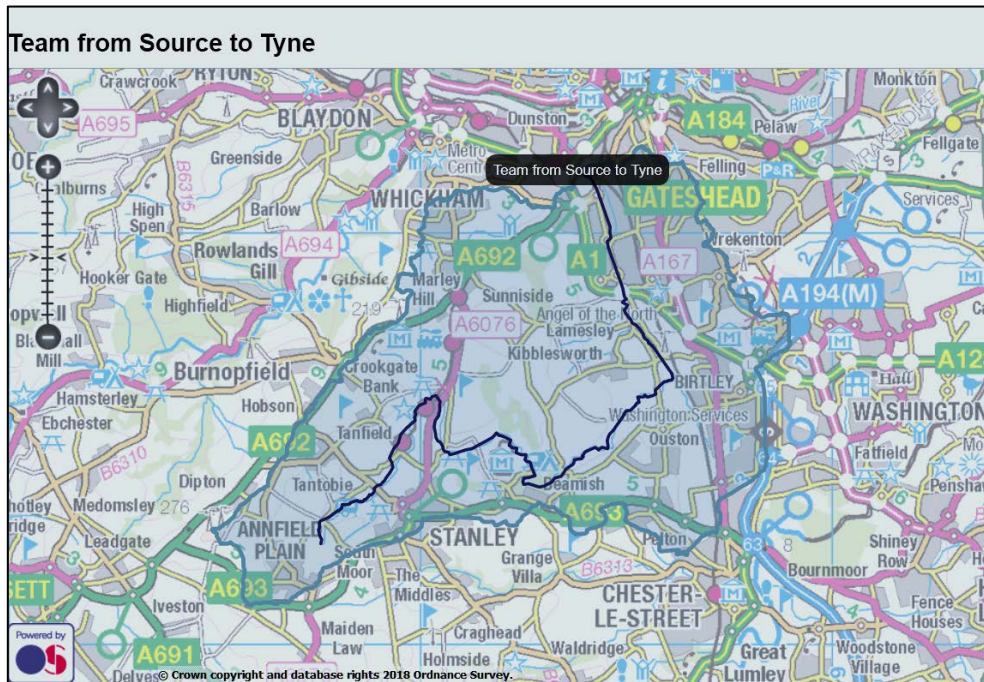




TYNE CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

River Team sub-catchment group

First meeting held 26 January 2017 at Gateshead Civic Centre



Present:	Taryn Al-Mashgari	Environment Agency
	Peter Burrows	Gateshead Council
	Rob Carr	Environment Agency
	Mark Dinning	Durham Wildlife Trust
	Neil Howliston	Northumbrian Water
	Susan Mackirdy	Tyne Rivers Trust (host of the Tyne Catchment Partnership)
	Laura Mullin	Environment Agency
	Peter Shield	Gateshead Council
	Lesley Silvera	Groundwork
	Elaine Smith	Northumbrian Water
	Laura Wilkinson	Northumbrian Water
	Neil Wilkinson	Gateshead Council

Susan Mackirdy welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for giving their time. She explained that the meeting had been convened by Tyne Rivers Trust as host of the Tyne Catchment Partnership, as it had been identified by the Partnership that a sub-catchment group to address the issues on the River Team would be useful, and would follow on from successful similar groups focusing on the Ouseburn and River Don.

Everyone introduced themselves and their interest in the catchment. There was then a wide ranging discussion about issues on the River Team and projects currently addressing them. There was also a



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map session when people could write down issues, opportunities etc. at specific geographic locations (reproduced at the end of these notes).

WFD status

Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) the River Team is classified as Heavily Modified. In terms of water quality there has been some improvement in the last few years, but there are still some really bad water quality 'hot spots'. The problems are caused by a number of factors including mining legacy, physical modification, flooding, highways drainage, land management issues (including agriculture, industry and horsiculture), multiple landfills including some pre-regulation.

The EA's objective is to improve the water quality, address issues of habitat degradation, reduce flood risk and increase wildlife and biodiversity.

The EA is currently working with communities on flood risk issues, including visits to schools. There are proposals to bring in a temporary barrier at the very bottom of the River Team, like the one that is deployed on the quayside.

Pollution incidents tend to be linked with industrial estates and include oil pollution, tributyltin (TBT) and phosphate (though the phosphate issues may be sorted out by the imminent installation of phosphate stripping at East Tanfield waste water treatment works – the EA will carry out further sampling to find out whether other phosphate inputs remain after the upgrade is completed).

Flood alleviation / habitat creation scheme

A major scheme is planned principally to reduce flooding on the Team Valley Trading Estate (fluvial and surface water). A presentation on this was given to the Tyne Catchment Partnership meeting in September 2017.

At Lamesley Pastures (a wildlife site managed by Durham Wildlife Trust on behalf of Gateshead Council) there are plans to extend the wetland nature reserve and create more storage. At other sites there are plans to do some hard engineering works, deculverting, and the installation of leaky dams and other measures to slow water flow.

Various bids for funding are being submitted, including EA FCRM grant in aid, and the ERDF fund. It is possible that some of the project will be started in 2018, but the main delivery period will start in 2020.

There is a Surface Water Management Plan for the Team Valley Trading Estate and pilot areas have been identified to retrofit SuDS.

The Joseph Swan Academy has surface water flooding issues as it sits over a culverted stream – Gateshead Council and the EA are currently looking into this.

A1 realignment

A realignment of the A1 where it crosses the railway line (near Birtley) is planned for 2020. This is a big opportunity to involve Highways England in improvements which will benefit the watercourse.

Groundwater/minewater issues

The Coal Authority is looking at proposals to cease/reduce pumping of minewater to reduce its carbon footprint, including gravity feed options; this has potential impacts for the River Team catchment. There are minewater pumps at Kibblesworth. Some minewater is pumped through the



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Lamesley reedbed and Birtley water treatment works – the resultant water quality is fine but it's not certain that the pumping will continue in the future.

There are brownfield sites which have been discounted for development due to flooding concerns.

Nature/species/habitat conservation

Although parts of the River Team catchment are very urban there is also a substantial amount of agricultural land and some protected habitats and species. There are locally designated nature conservation sites, and it is also an important inter-district wildlife corridor.

The river acts as a wildlife corridor and supports protected species – water vole (last seen 8 years ago), otter, great crested newt, woodland. Durham Wildlife Trust carried out activities through its Living Waterways project a few years ago, including interventions on the Black Burn and work with volunteers.

There is a Woodland Trust woodland creation scheme at Hedley Hall near Tanfield Railway. The Trust has acquired 13ha of arable land which will become woodland and include potential natural flood management features.

Restored opencast sites have been returned to wetland and heathland in the past.

The catchment contains areas of high amenity value, especially around the Beamish Burn.

Northumbrian Water assets and issues

NW will feed back on their priority areas within the Team catchment, and also any sewerage or network issues and any investigations into pollution sources (eg. CSO spills, industrial inputs to the sewerage system).

There have been CSO projects around Annfield and Stanley in the past.

NW has waste water treatment works at East Tanfield, Birtley and Causey Arch. There are also some substantial private treatment works. Current work at East Tanfield treatment works includes increasing the size of the storm storage tanks and putting in phosphate stripping. Query whether the Birtley works are also in line for phosphate removal (to be checked).

NW carried out a chemical investigation programme in the River Team, which included taking water samples on the main River Team and the Rowletch Burn, which was concluded in June 2017 and the findings will soon be ready to share.

No-one was sure whether there are any planned works within the catchment in the next NW business plan – Rob will check on this.

Rowletch Burn investigations

Groundwork is undertaking an investigation on the Rowletch Burn which will conclude at the end of March 2018. The project aims to identify sources of pollution and other issues, identify potential sites for improvement, and engage with landowners. The river runs very close to the railway and suffers from the impacts of many landfills, including some pre-regulation. Lesley Silvera reported significant amounts of litter on rights of way near the Drum Industrial Estate. There was a query over whether Durham CC intends to expand this industrial estate.



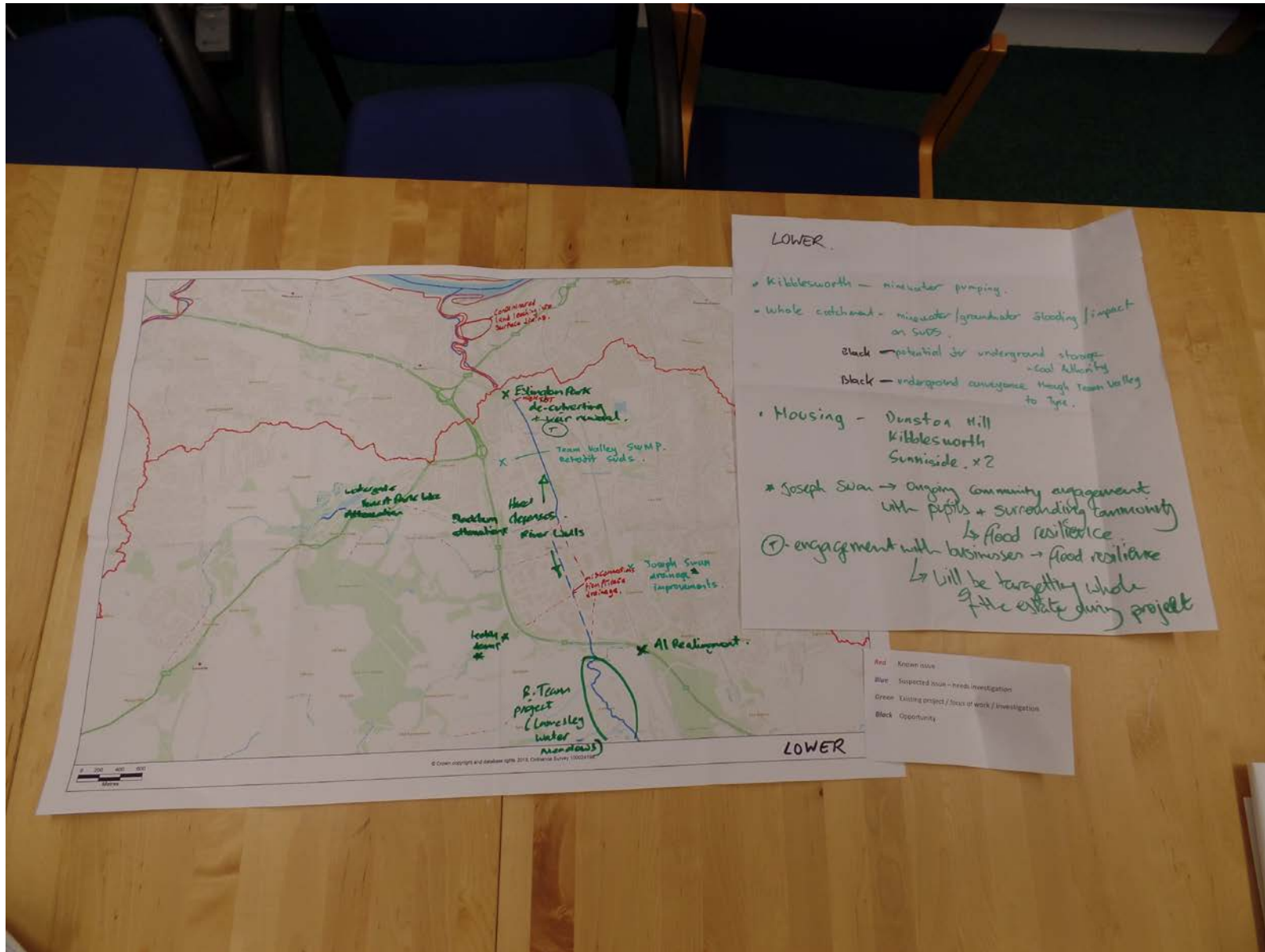
Other issues/potential issues

Historically there have been problems from the railway marshalling yard (ballast processing/treatment) but it is unclear whether this is still an impact. Groundwork has had no response following enquiries to Network Rail.

Tyne Rivers Trust would like to undertake walkover surveys to identify other issues, eg. in-stream obstructions to fish passage and issues from land management (agriculture and horsiculture are likely sources of problems), similar to that undertaken in the River Don and the Ouseburn. The EA locally has applied for £20k funding to carry out feasibility work, and potentially interventions, on the River Team; we should hear very soon if this bid has been successful.

Actions

Circulate map with Team valley boundary shown (see beginning of these notes)	Susan Mackirdy
Identify priority areas for Northumbrian Water	Elaine Smith
Report on industrial inputs to the sewerage system	Neil Wilkinson
Check whether phosphate stripping is to be added to the Birtley waste water treatment works.	Laura Wilkinson
Share the NW chemical investigation programme results	Laura Wilkinson
Check whether there are any River Team projects in the NW PR19 business plan	Rob Carr





Red: Known issue
Blue: Suspected issue - needs investigation
Green: Existing project / focus of work / investigation
Black: Opportunity



ROWITCH BLEN : Note from Leney Sibson : MIDDLE MAP.

1. OPS : 6 new monitoring points with EA (-1 Drum Ind'Estotez & Bittley Sewage Works)
These will be finalised 30.1.18: EA + GWR.

2. OPP : 1B STOCK CUP PIT: condition on planning permission
visit due with Peter Stuedt.

3. OPP : Agricultural land study by EA's Neil Partridge 2018-19

① NORTH QUARRY - LEACHATE BUBBLING OUT AT BANK SIDES
EA due to ↑ monitoring 2018 - Feb. May

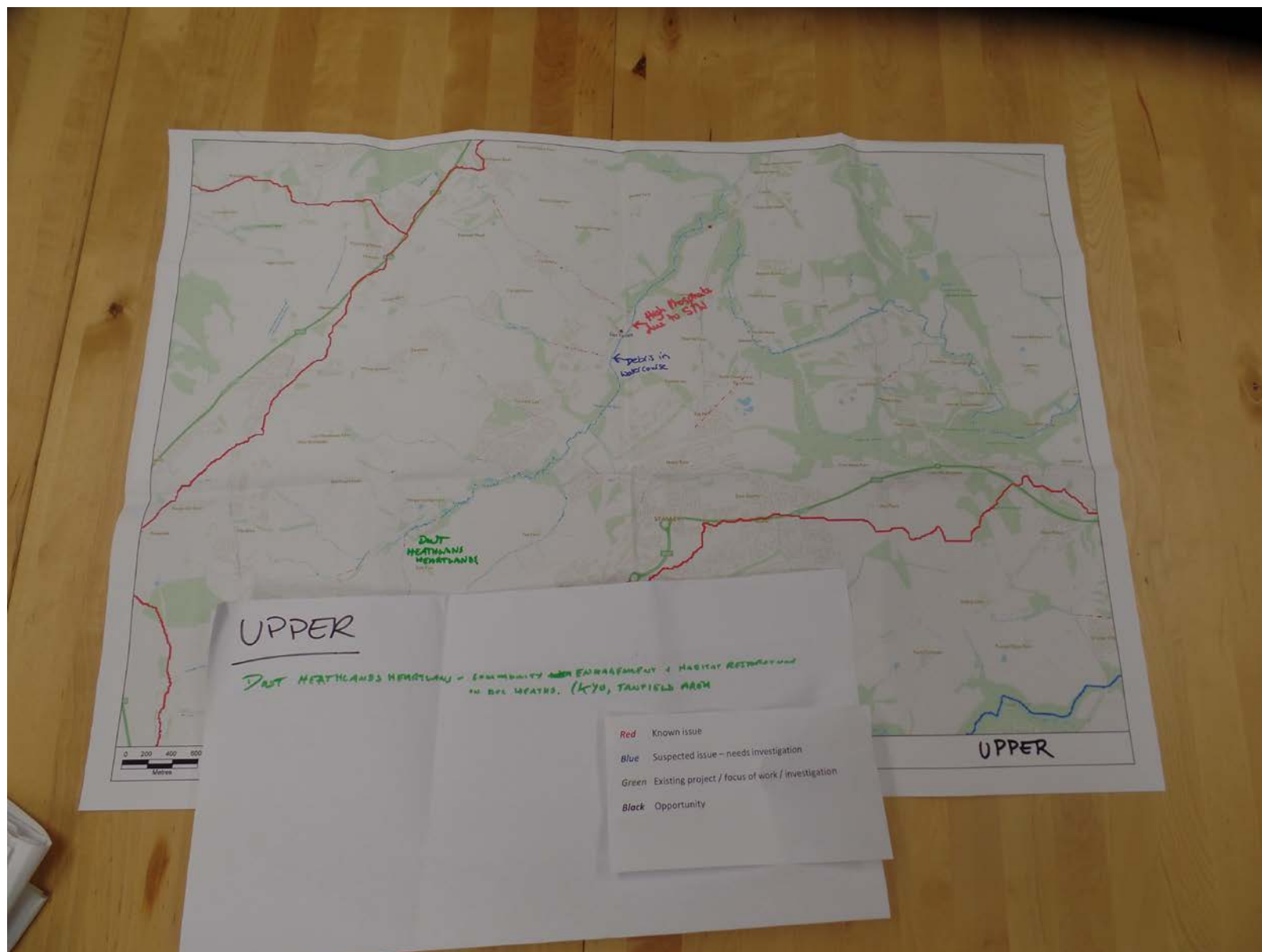
② OCHRE DISCHARGE from old culvert adjacent to water-course. Source unknown. EA investigating

4. OPP : ^{DCC} Woodland opp where watercourse is finding way thru' stonework on made land channel.

③ Westline - pollution issues : this is being investigated.

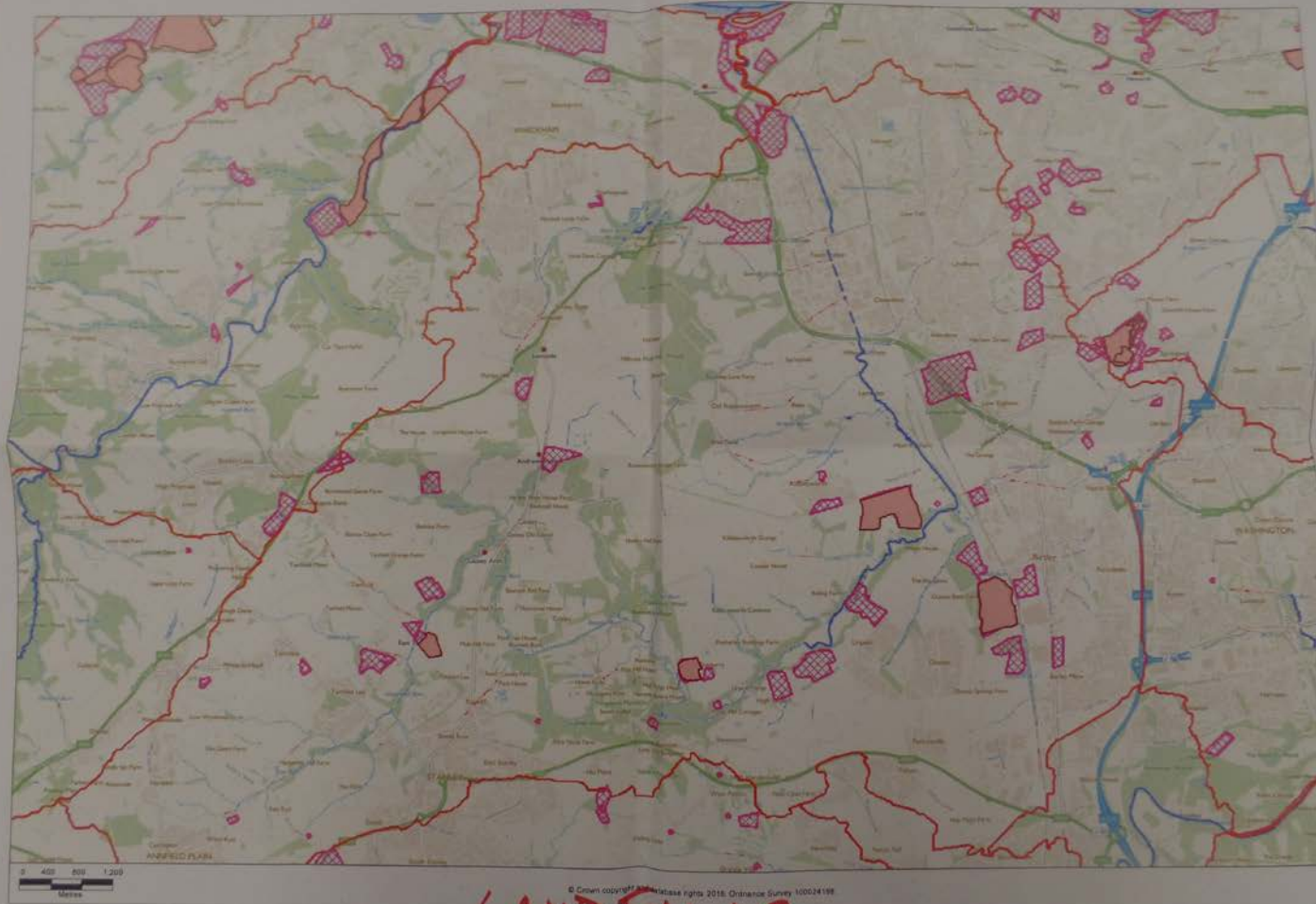
④ Illegal settlement on Station Rd - effluent into Rowitch. Robcar has reported

① St Bedes are renewing their bore-holes to improve their testing (DCC - Michael Curry)





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LANDFILLS