Yorkshire Water Publish Interactive Map of Storm Overflows!

The awaited interactive map of 'live' Storm Overflows, promised by all water companies nationally, has been published by YW.

View the map here...

The Stray Ferret reports: Local river bathers to get live data on sewage - The Stray Ferret

It's good - providing up to date, near real time data on all Yorkshire Storm Overflow discharges to waterways from combined sewer overflows (CSOs), which can occur during periods of heavy rainfall. (and sometimes when there isn't! Ed.)

For each storm overflow, the map will show if it is

currently spilling,

has spilled in the last 24 hours,

has not spilt recently or

is under maintenance.

There is also a link to an FAQ page to help people use the map and understand what storm overflows are, why they are used and what YW is doing to reduce discharges.

This map is obviously of direct interest to wild swimmers at the Lido, and elsewhere, but hopefully it will ensure that when a CSO is spilling, or a monitor is not operating properly, an engineer can tackle the issue promptly - maybe reducing the need for volunteers like NAGgers to report spills to the Environment Agency (0800 80 70 60)

NAG Comments:

Reporting spills is STILL a good idea, to demonstrate that citizens are interested in the cleanliness of their rivers, and want something done about it, promptly!)

My interest, and probably yours, is about the Nidd, but there are plenty of other Yorkshire rivers with poor water quality!

We still need the annual returns from YW for the number and duration of all Storm Water spills into the Nidd, so we can see whether YW's plans are improving the situation sufficiently, and to schedule.

As I write the map has, for the Nidd:

lots of ticks with a green background on it (not spilling - excellent!)

Four CSOs where the monitor is 'under maintenance' i.e. not working at the moment, hence no information about spills is available These include Hambleton Road CSO, discharging into Bilton Beck, reported by NAG on April 12th

Pateley Bridge CSO discharged for 2 minutes today (no rain)

Eastfield Farm CSO, discharging into Crimple Beck -still overflowing (no rain)

It may seem churlish to criticize, when we can now access this current storm overflow data - but now we have the monitoring data (mostly) it is the **engineer response** and the **spill reduction** that we need to have!

Please keep looking at this map, as it changes over time - and monitor the Nidd or your local beck directly, reporting / publicizing / following up on it!

David Clayden

NAG Chair

April 30th 2024