

The National Trust: James Thomas/Alex Palmer:	Answers provided to questions from the Committee:
<p>1. In your opinion, how bad is the issue of water pollution in the rivers and on the beaches of North Devon and what are the causes?</p>	<p>Across the National Trust landholding in the North Devon Portfolio, we have a range of diversity in land use. We notice in areas with intensive agriculture there seems to be the highest levels of pollution from diffuse run-off. However, pollution also enters our land from wider sources such as the road infrastructure network, urbanised areas, and surface water run-off. We only own limited stretches of the river network so it is difficult to pinpoint exactly where the pollution is entering the system. We are working within our land holding to reduce pollution and implementing sustainable practises and nature-based solutions to capture pollutants.</p>
<p>2. The public receives a variety of different information on the water quality in their rivers and on their coast. Sometimes this information conflicts. Who is responsible for this confusion? And how should the public be informed?</p>	<p>The public should be informed by the Environment Agency who are the statutory body for water quality.</p>
<p>3. In order for planning authorities to properly determine planning applications, should water companies provide up to date appropriate information on the capacity of sewage disposal for the proposed development?</p>	<p>No comment.</p>

<p>4. Individual organisations and groups currently undertake their own testing. How can we compare those results and use that data in the most effective way?</p>	<p>The rise in CSI spot testing and Riverfly surveying is providing a useful guide to flagging potential water quality issues. It raises awareness of the issue and generates proactive action on potential solutions from independent landowners. If a serious issue is flagged this should then be reported and followed up by the statutory body e.g. Environment Agency.</p>
<p>5. When will this situation be resolved and how? And what are the main impediments?</p>	<p>The solution needs to be resolved ASAP, a wider catchment approach is required to understand the issues and mitigate against these.</p>