

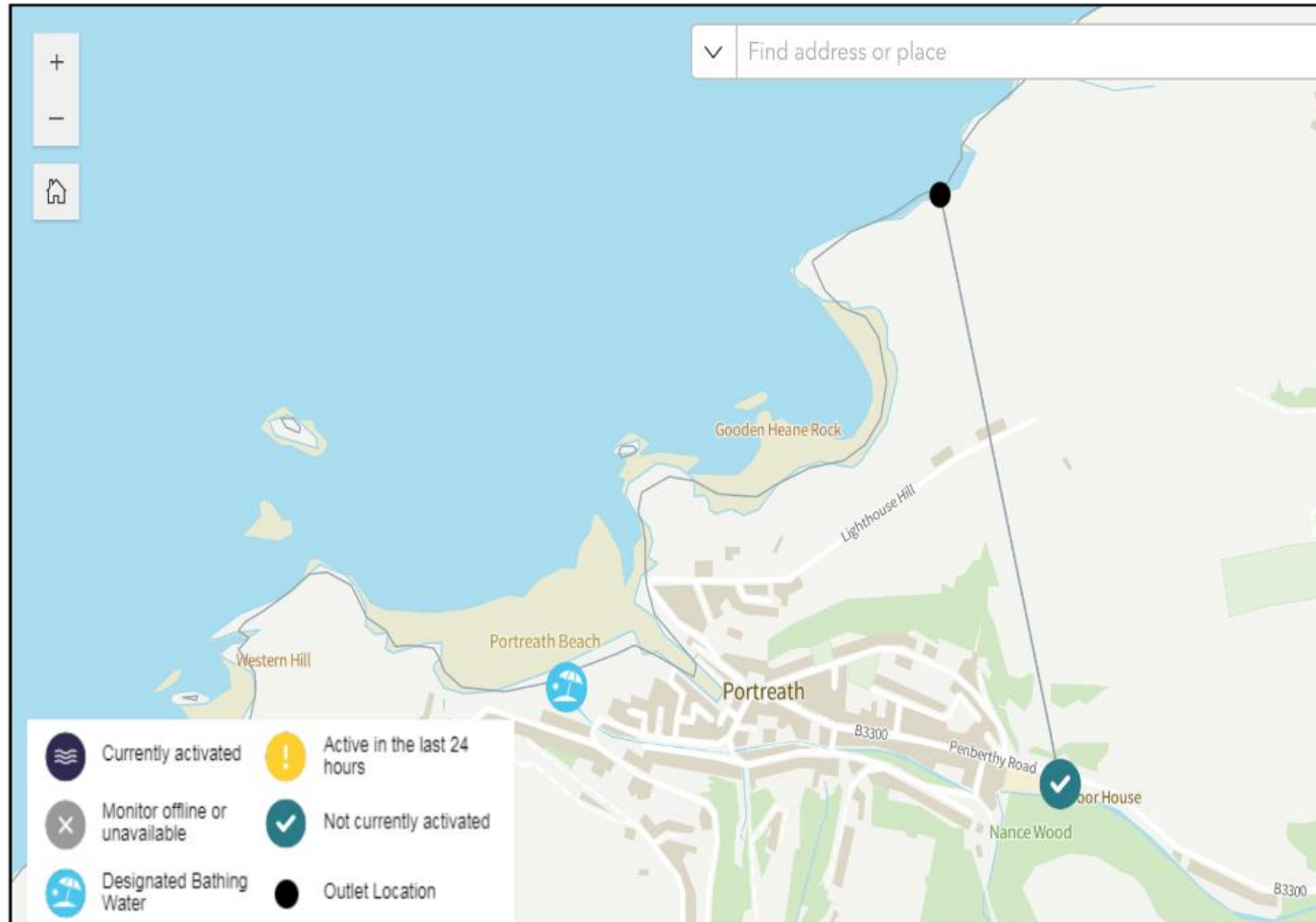


PORTREATH  
PARISH COUNCIL

# Portreath Parish Council

SWW vote of no confidence - briefing note

# The Bridge Storm Overflow



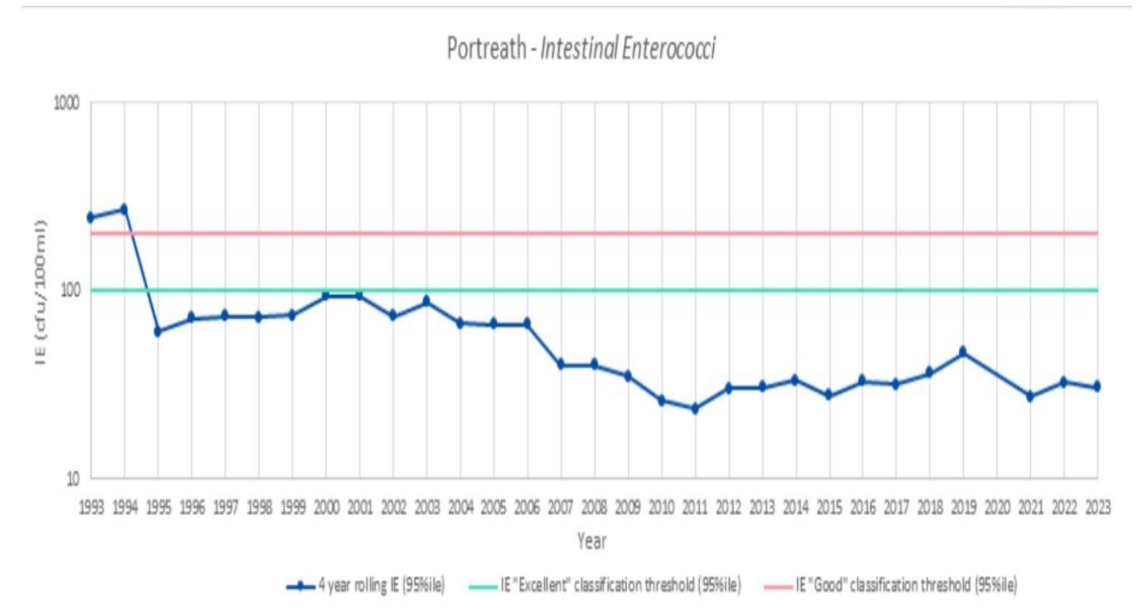
- Used when excess runoff overwhelms bridge sewer
- History of Use
  - 2020 – 152 occasions
  - 2021 – 94 occasions
  - 2022 – 80 occasions
  - 2023 – 120 occasions
  - 2024 – unknown but many
- Within SWW agreement with the Environment Agency

# EA harmful bacteria readings for Portreath Bathing water 1993-2023 (May to October)

Ecoli Intestinal Enterococci Chart Guidance

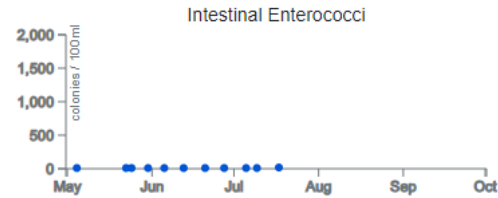
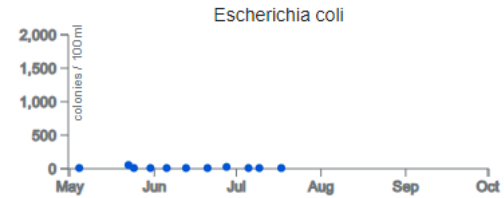


Ecoli Intestinal Enterococci Chart Guidance

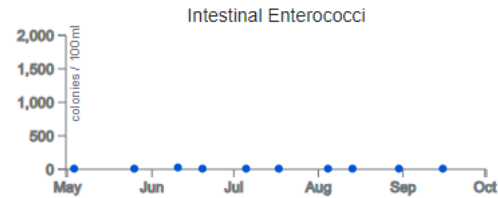
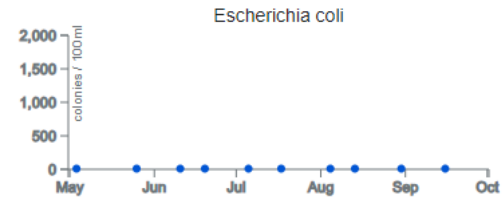


# Recent EA harmful bacteria readings

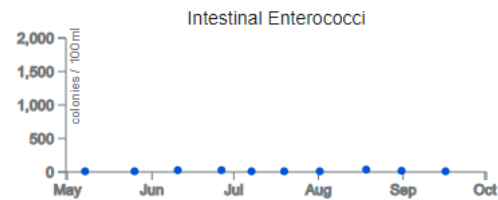
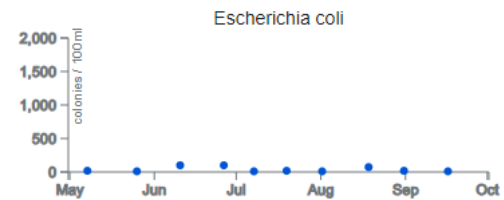
2024



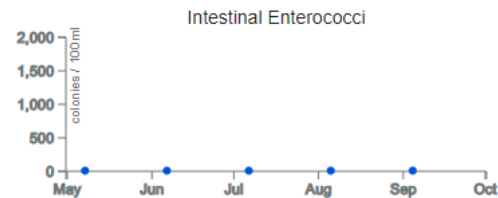
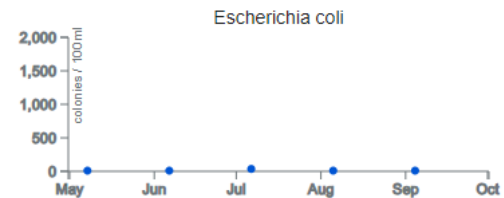
2023 ★★★★★ excellent ⓘ



2022 ★★★★★ excellent ⓘ



2021 ★★★★★ excellent ⓘ



Date	EC	IE	Potential to disregard?
17 Jul 24 11:04	< 10	18	no
09 Jul 24 10:15	< 10	< 10	no
05 Jul 24 11:05	< 10	< 10	no
27 Jun 24 10:00	27	< 10	no
20 Jun 24 10:53	< 10	< 10	no
12 Jun 24 14:16	< 10	< 10	no
05 Jun 24 11:45	< 10	< 10	no
30 May 24 13:12	< 10	< 10	no
24 May 24 12:00	< 10	< 10	no
22 May 24 12:24	54	< 10	no
04 May 24 11:40	< 10	< 10	no

2020

# Roles and Responsibilities

- Government sets the regulatory framework including a target to stop the use of storm overflows by 2050
- Ofwat – primarily the economic and market regulator – agrees five year business plans for each water company – next is 2025-2030
- Environment agency monitors compliance with regulations including use of storm overflows and has powers to prosecute non compliance
- Water companies manages water life cycle from reservoirs, fresh water to sewage management. Average spend on new/renewing assets is 40% of turnover. Typical return to shareholders is circa 5% which is similar to borrowing costs (source Ofwat).

# Discussion Points

- All agree that no sewage should enter the sea or rivers – its disgusting.
- The EA readings of the sea water at Portreath beach indicate excellent water quality, despite the frequent use of the storm overflow.
- This is due to the outflow location plus strong prevailing tides and currents.
- SWW plan for 2025-30 commits to stop the use of storm overflows that affect bathing water and fisheries by 2030 at a cost of £760M.
- I believe Cornwall Council should be more vocal given the importance to citizens and businesses of this issue – motion for the ocean etc.
- Individuals might want to write to our new MP re the 2050 government target.
- As important is that we need year round, highly visible water quality monitoring. There is huge confusion, mistrust and fear about is it or is it not safe to enter bathing water.
- Over to councillors for discussion and decision.