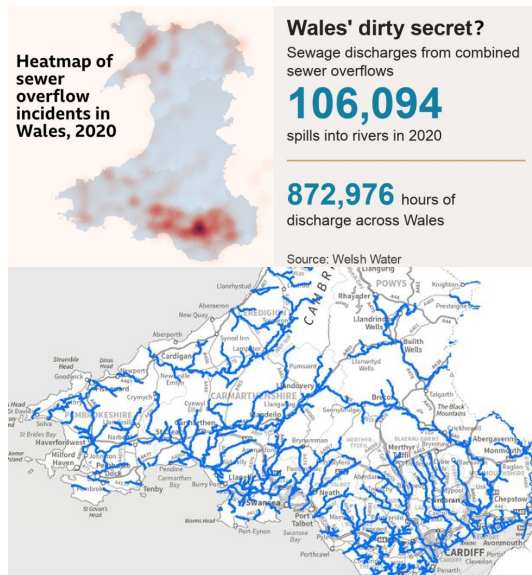
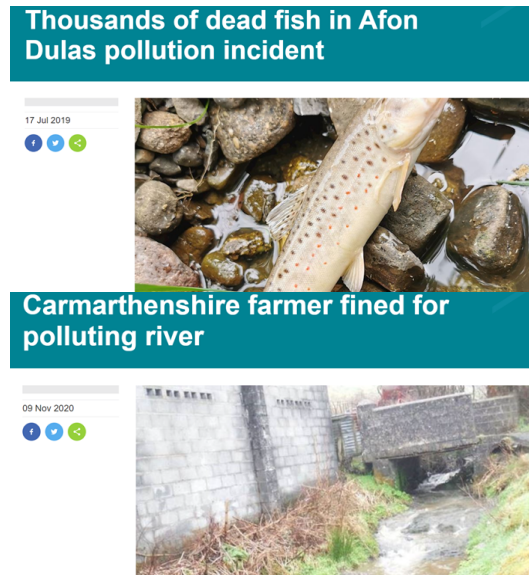




An introduction on the current state of rivers in Wales in regards to pollution levels, pollution sources and any high profile outcomes that have been in the media. (BBC News, 2021)

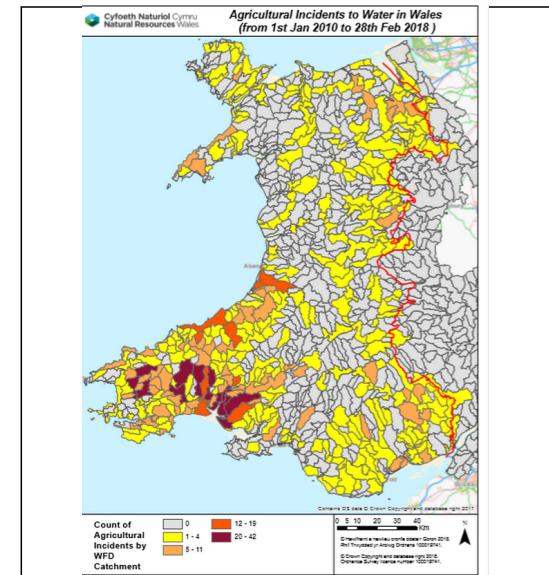


Pollution incidents in west wales /Pembrokeshire.

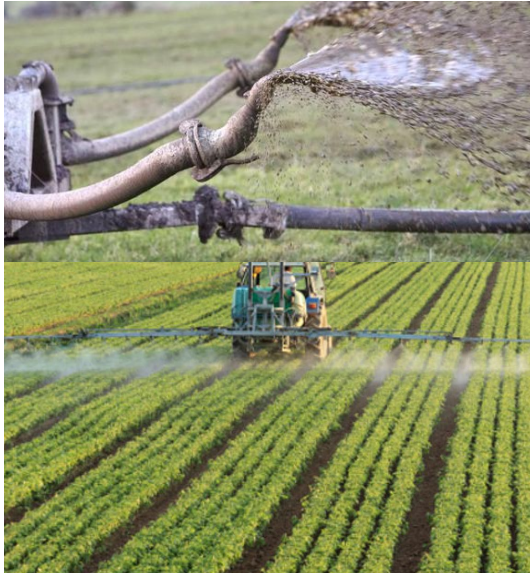
How does this happen?

(Natural Resources Wales, 2019)

(Natural Resources Wales, 2020)



Sources of pollution include: Agricultural practices that create loose soil structures (such as ploughing), which is then washed into the river by rainfall. The map above shows agricultural pollution is more common in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. ('interim-report-from-wlmf-subgroup-on-agricultural-pollution-final.pdf', 2018)

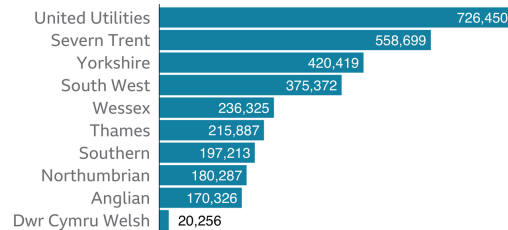


As well as being found in the soil that is washed away, fertilisers and pesticides can also pollute rivers via wind / rain / poor storage methods.

(A brighter future for Welsh rivers | Wildlife Trusts Wales, 2021)

Water companies discharged sewage into rivers for more than 3 million hours

Hours of storm overflows, 2020



Data for Northumbrian water included more than one value for a single spill
Dwr Cymru data is for operations in England only



Water companies (such as Dwr Cymru) often discharge sewage into rivers during periods of high rainfall, but unintentional leaks from old / unsuitable drainage systems can occur anytime .

(BBC News, 2021)



CARDIFF RIVERS GROUP
Piles of washed-up plastic bottles littered the River Rhymney before a clean-up by volunteers in March



Fly tipping and littering can cause lasting damage to waterways. Chemicals from household and industrial waste can dissolve in the water making it harder to treat.

(‘Moore - Diffuse Water Pollution in Wales.pdf’, no date)



Outcomes of pollution include a reduction in numbers of organisms that live in the river impacting food chains, and those that use it as a source of drinking water.

(InPractice67web.pdf, no date)



Solutions include improving farming methods (contour ploughing, increasing field margins), adapting existing sewage systems and developing legislation to eradicate sewage discharge into watercourses.

(Henriques et al., 2015)



Rivers provide a range of ecosystem services, such as drinking water, transportation and recreation. It is not just important for humans, but for all animals that our river systems are kept pollution free

(Gilvear, Spray and Casas-Mulet, 2013).