

Signing petitions can work.

Defra has just published its draft for new limits on various sources of pollution. Commentators are universally critical of the low standards it sets. However just received from the Government Petitions Office is the following. You recently signed the petition "Ban Water Companies discharging raw sewage into water courses.": <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/582336>:

Read more about this and the sewage discharges into the Black Bourn at greenixworth.org.uk

As a result the Government has launched a public consultation to help develop a plan to reduce sewage discharges into rivers and other bodies of water from storm overflows in England.

Find out more about the consultation, and share your views:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water-industry/storm-overflows-discharge-reduction-plan/> The consultation is open until 11.45pm on 12 May 2022.

Separately the Government is required to publish a plan by September 2022 to reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows in England. It has said its plan will include new targets for water companies to reduce their reliance on storm overflows and tackle the ecological and public health harm caused by these discharges. This consultation seeks views on these targets and other elements of the plan ahead of its publication. Once the consultation has closed, the Government will publish a summary of the responses and next steps on the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/storm-overflows-reducing-sewage-discharge>. The consultation is being run by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)."

The link below goes direct to the Rivers Trust map and directory of sewage works and their discharges. It also accesses their full site so you may be interested in their dire warnings of water shortage.

https://theriverstrust.org/key-issues/sewage-in-rivers?mc_cid=c6247f0b70&mc_eid=f2fa5a3d81#main-content

Storm Sewage discharges into the Black Bourn – Update

Sewage Works Location	No. of times		Total hours of discharge	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Elmswell	35	71	306	698
Bradfield-Maypole Green	15	26	142	383
Rougham	2	0	12	0
Walsham le Willows	32	0	107	0
Badwell Ash	67	68	1122	1074

The following are not monitored: Wheely Hall Cottages – Woolpit; Drinkstone; Woodland Close – Thurtson; Pakenham; Ixworth; Stanton Works; Dale Road – Stanton Chare.