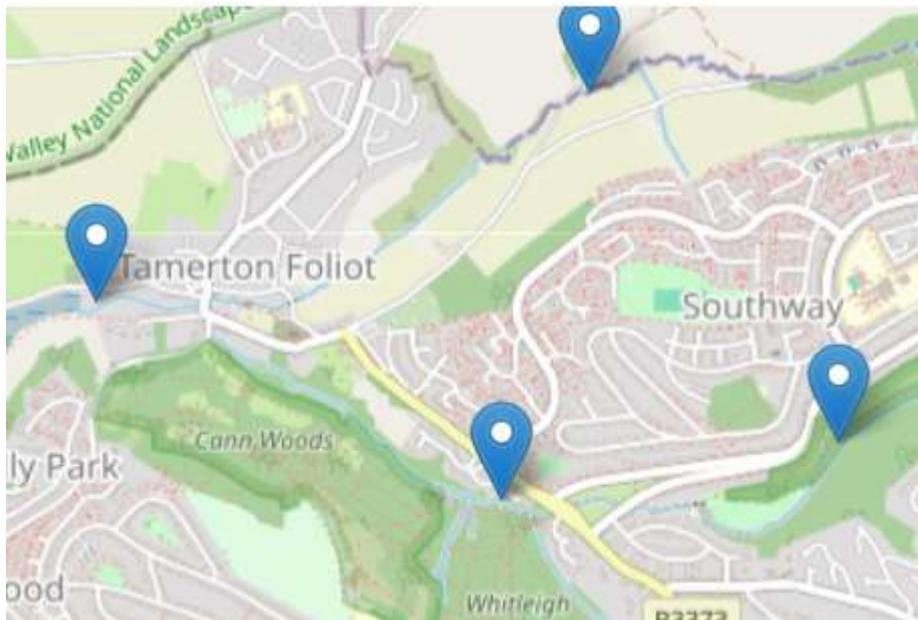


Pollution in the Creek

Water entering the Creek at its head originates from streams in Tamerton Foliot, fed by watersheds along Tavistock Road and the eastern end of Budshead Road. This catchment area includes much of Roborough, Southway and part of Whitleigh.

The main sewer lines broadly follow the same route, combining to form the trunk sewer that carries flows to Ennesettle Treatment Works. Along this network there are four licensed Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).



One such outlet is located near Haysend Farm.



Further information is available here:

<https://tfvcs.org/sewage-in-our-streams-and-tamerton-creek/>

These CSOs are designed to operate during periods of heavy rainfall — something we have experienced frequently this year. However, with significant housing development across the area and additional discharge from the Mayflower Water Treatment Plant at Roborough Down (which connects to the sewer just upstream of Tamerton Foliot), the system now appears unable to cope with the volume.

As a result, the manhole in Church Row Lane regularly overflows, discharging foul water, including faecal matter and sanitary products, onto the road and directly into the stream. A recent incident occurred on 9 December 2025.



South West Water installed an electric sluice gate to regulate flows within the system, but this has not resolved the problem.

Each incident has been reported to South West Water and the Environment Agency. However, responses to date have been ineffective, and meaningful action has not followed. The matter has now been raised with our local MP.

Nic T Brown