



The Coal
Authority

Case studies on aquifer protection in rising mine water areas.

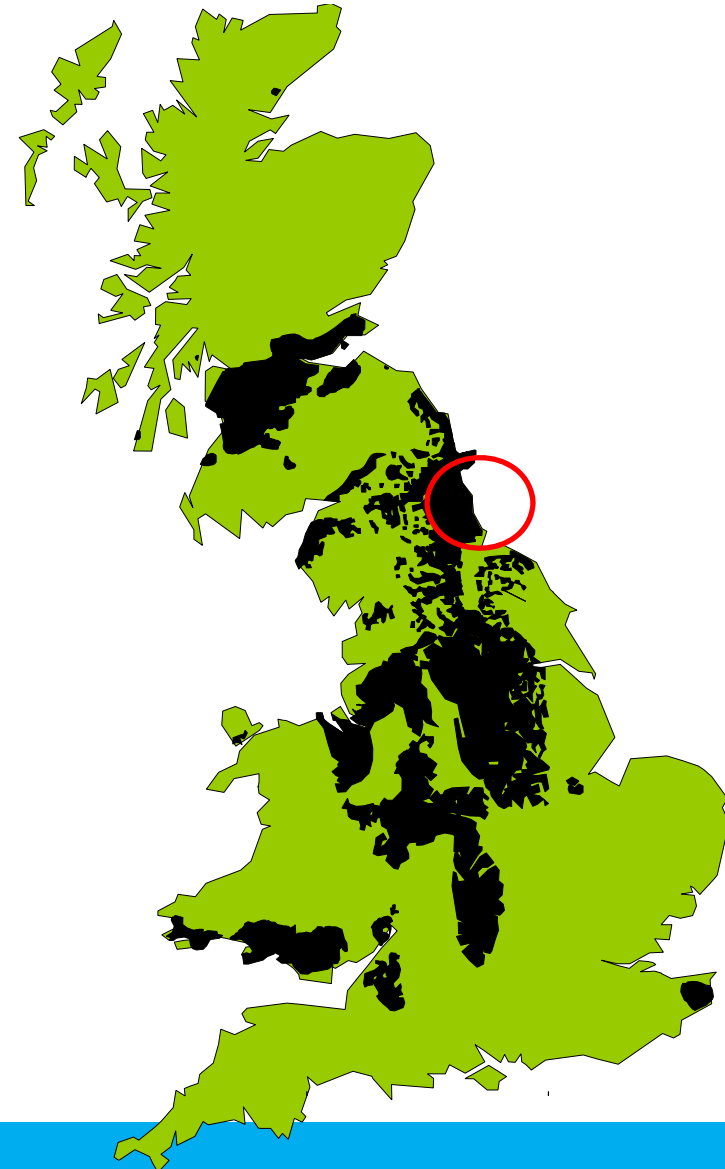
*Ian Watson, Steve Hill, Carl Banton and Tracey Davies
Coal Authority, United Kingdom*

December 2015

MEND, Vancouver

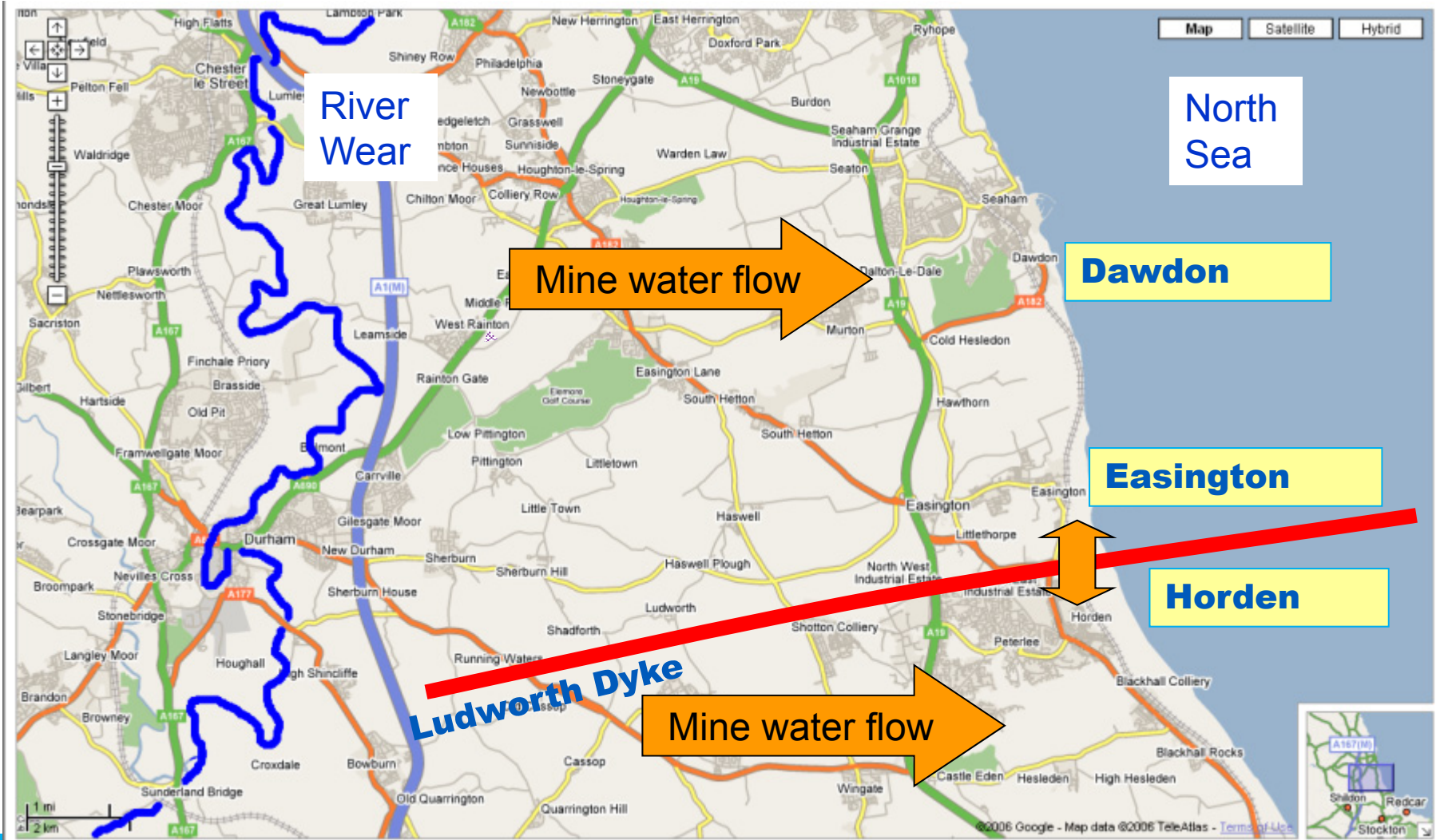


- Preventative Case Study
- Durham Aquifer Protection
- Active and Passive treatment schemes





East of Wear Mining Block

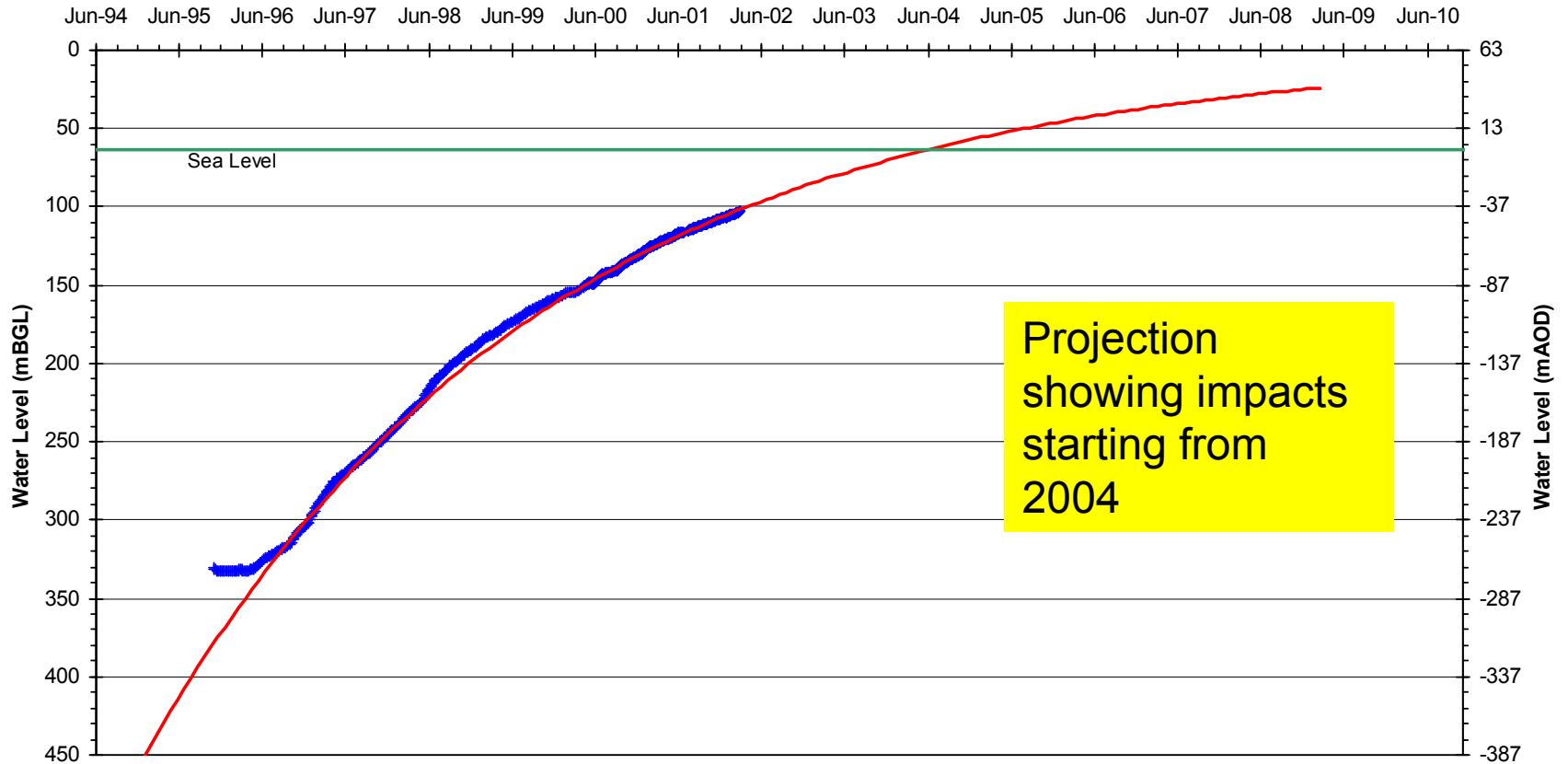




2002: Rising Mine Water Levels

Water Level Projections for Sites East of Wear

Date



◆ Horden (2) + Horden — Projected Water Level — Ordnance Datum Line



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The Pollution Threat in East Durham

River Wear Inland



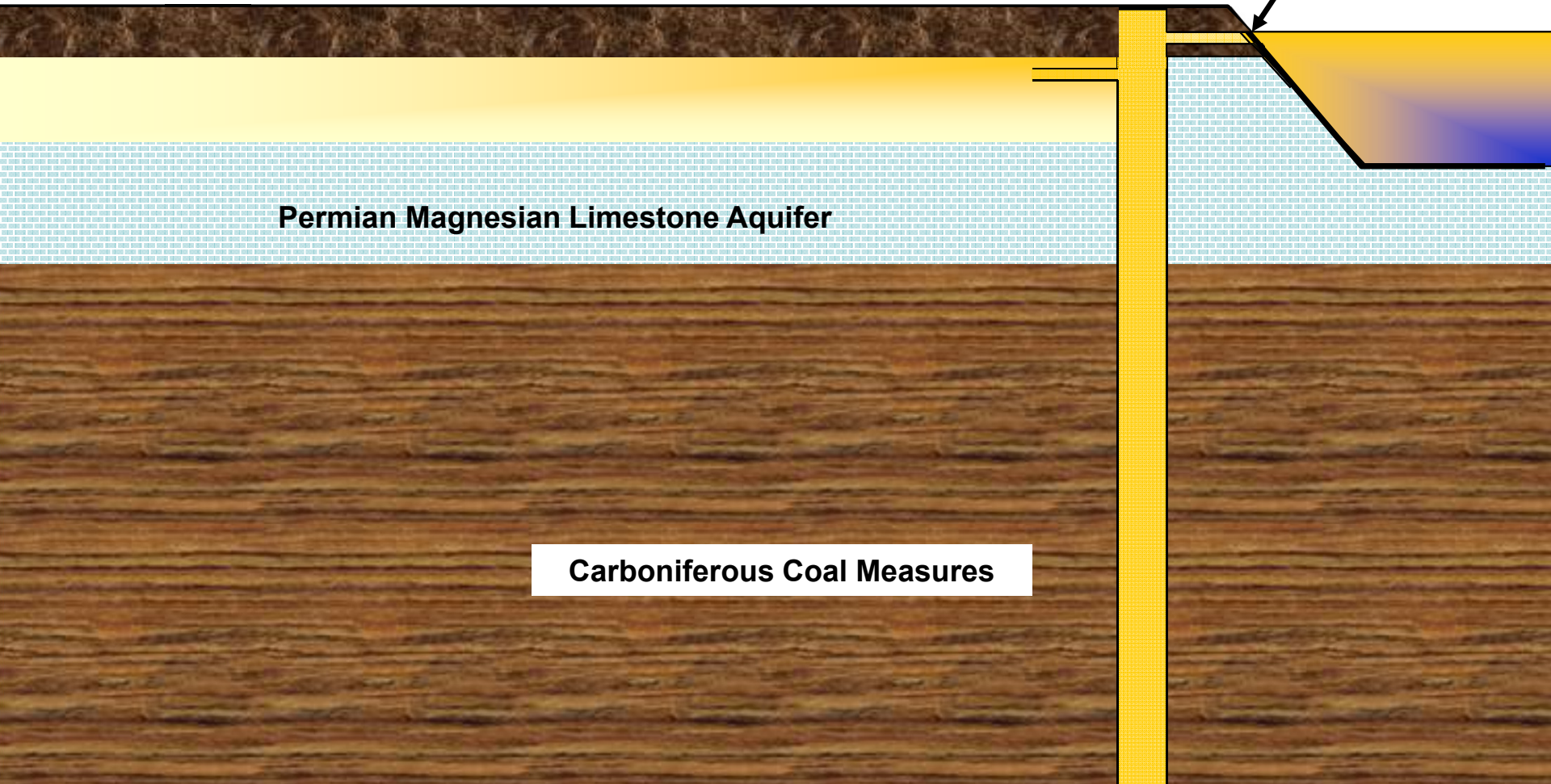
Deep Coastal
Shaft

Colliery Beach
Adit

North Sea

Permian Magnesian Limestone Aquifer

Carboniferous Coal Measures



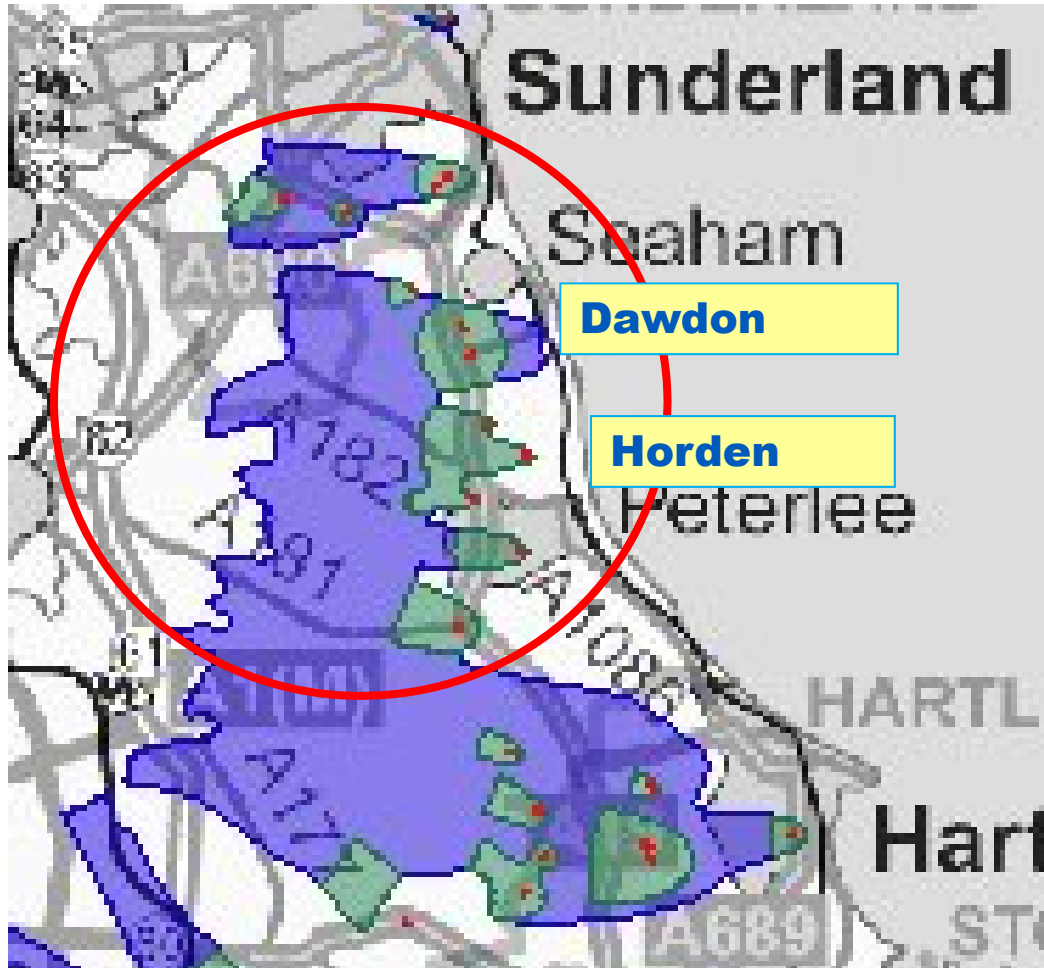


Key Contaminants

- Iron - up to 200 mg/l
- Salinity - Hypersaline
- Chlorides - 20,000 to 30,000 mg/l
- Sulphate – 3,000 to 5,000 mg/l



Source Protection Zones



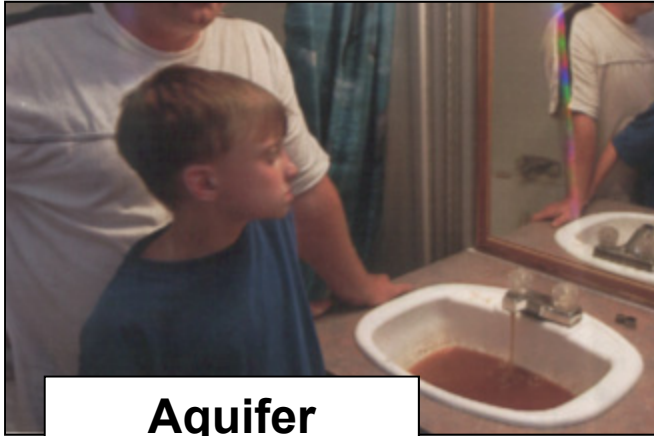
Permian Magnesian
Limestone Aquifer

c. 36 Million Litres /
day abstracted by
Northumbrian Water
Ltd:

150,000 people rely
on this major aquifer
for drinking water



Possible Impacts



**Aquifer
Pollution**



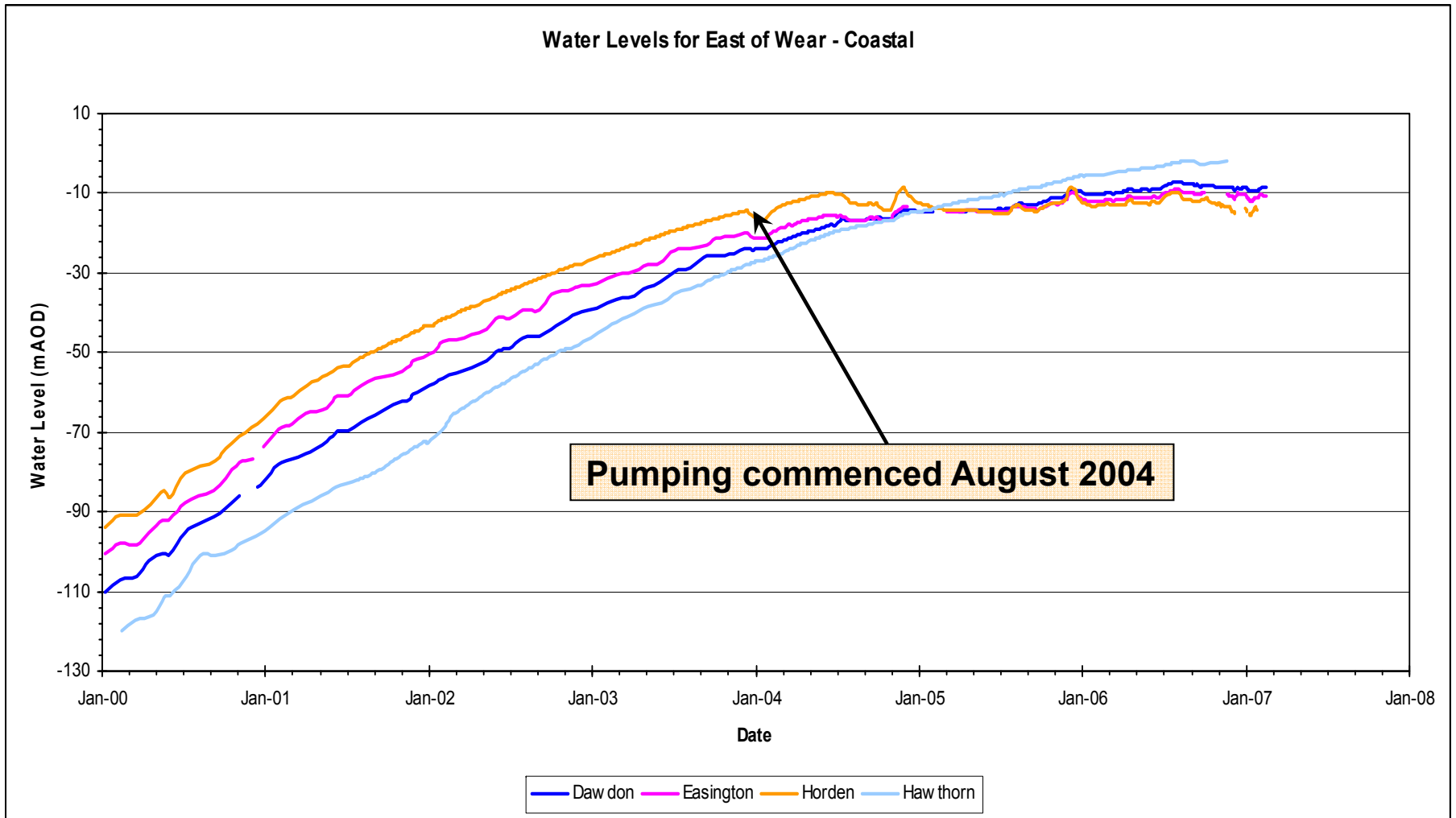
**River
Pollution**



**Coastal
Pollution**



Horden Control of Water Levels





Horden Temporary Active Treatment Scheme



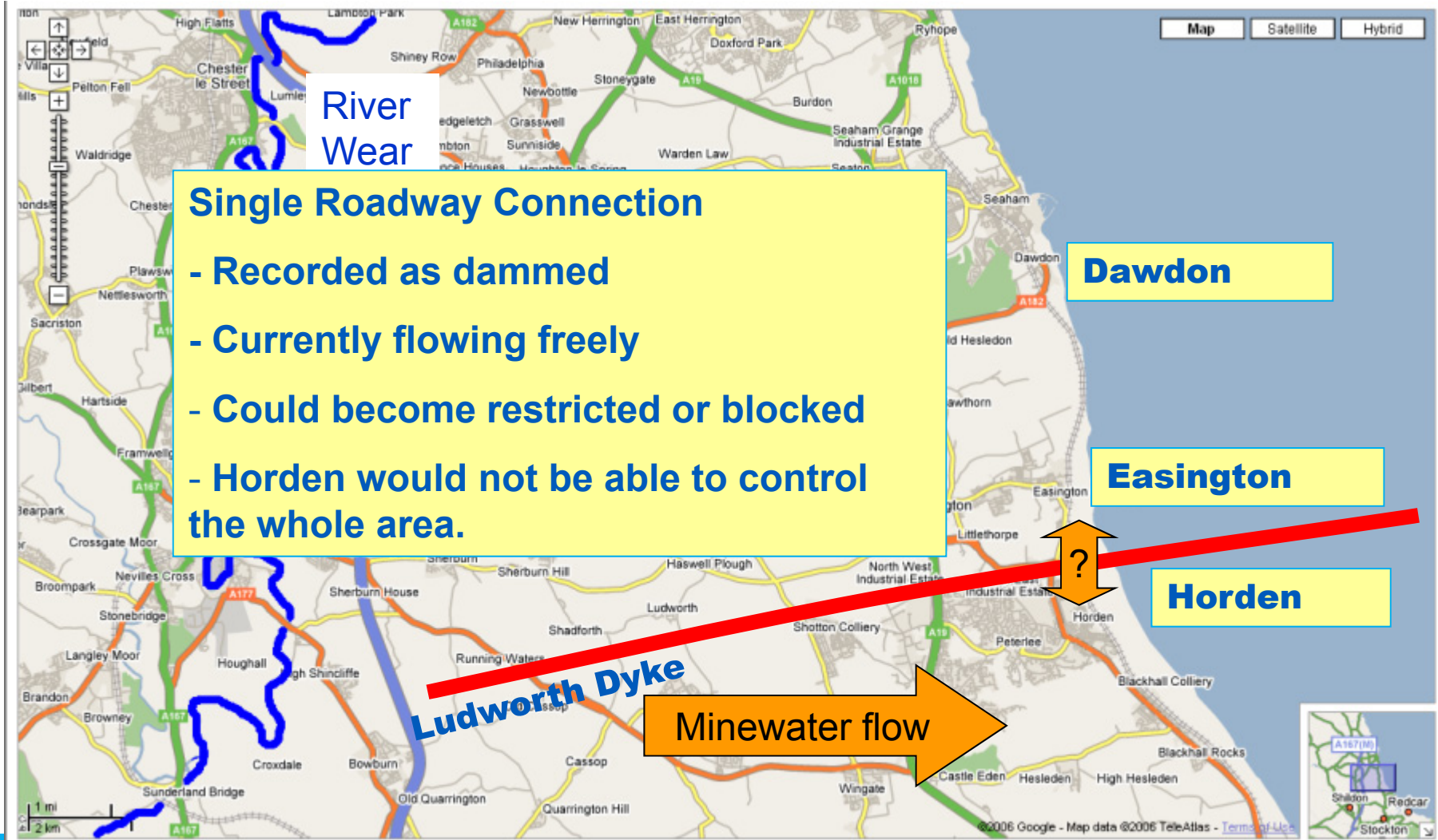


Horden Temporary Active Treatment Scheme





Hydraulic Control Risks





Proposed Two Site Strategy

Main pump & treat site at Dawdon

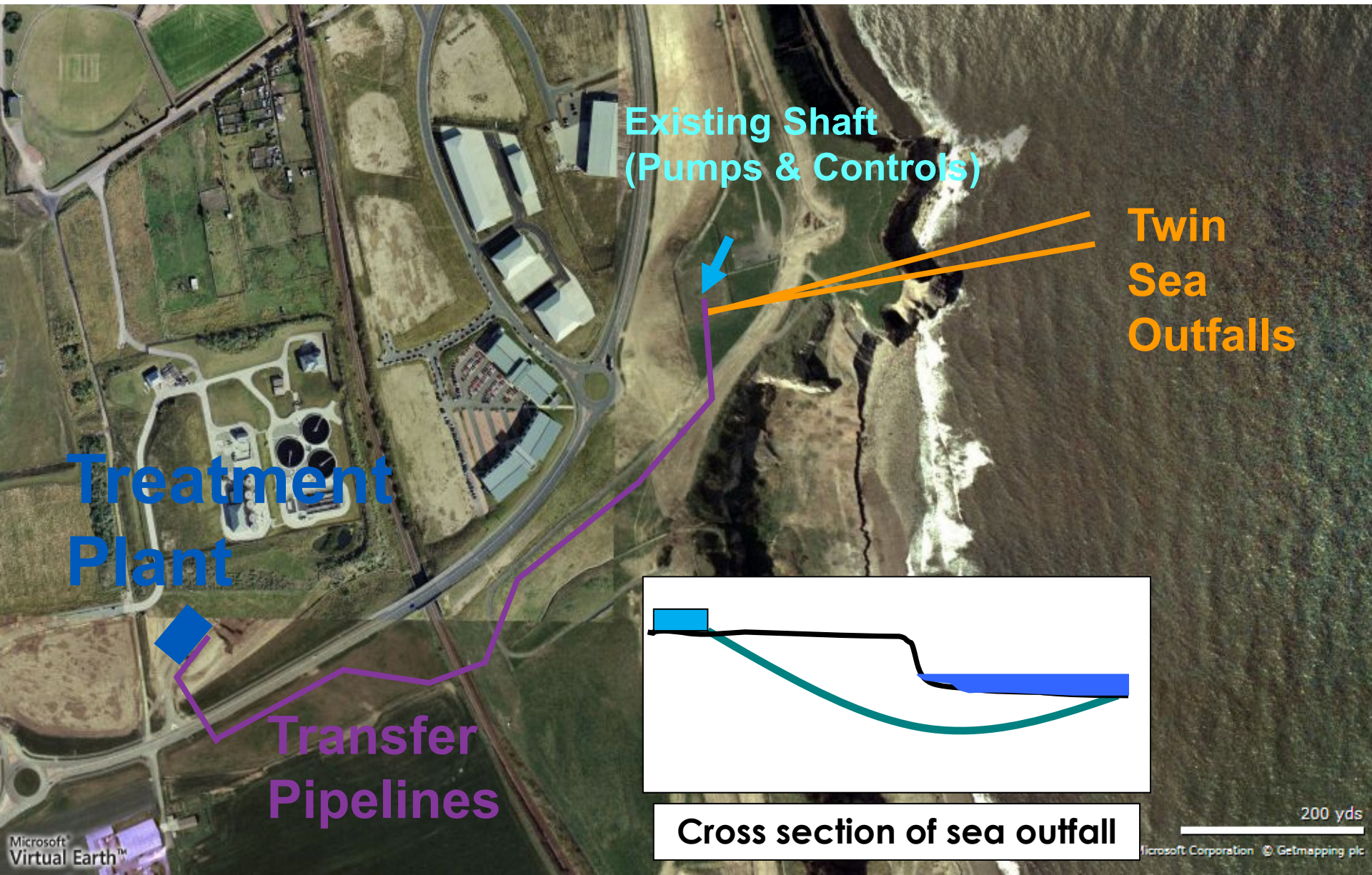
- For hydraulic control North of Ludworth Dyke
- Dawdon shaft is deeper than Horden
 - Expect worse quality mine water
 - Higher chlorides, iron etc.
- Active treatment technology to remove Iron
 - 150 l/s capacity

Secondary pump & treat site at Horden

- Existing 100 to 150 l/s capacity temporary active plant
 - Chlorides high due to high pumping rate
- Reduce to 50 l/s when Dawdon commissioned
- If chlorides reduce replace with passive plant
 - Settling lagoons and reed beds



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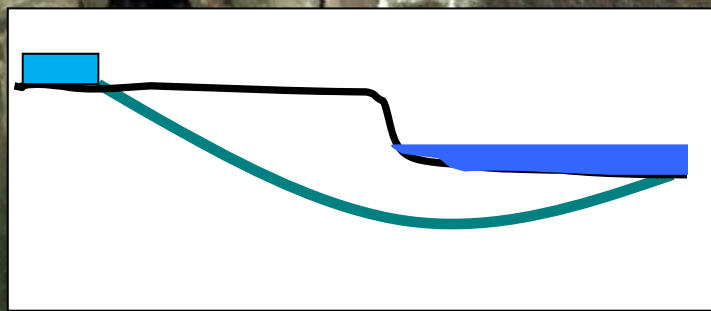


Existing Shaft
(Pumps & Controls)

Twin
Sea
Outfalls

Treatment
Plant

Transfer
Pipelines

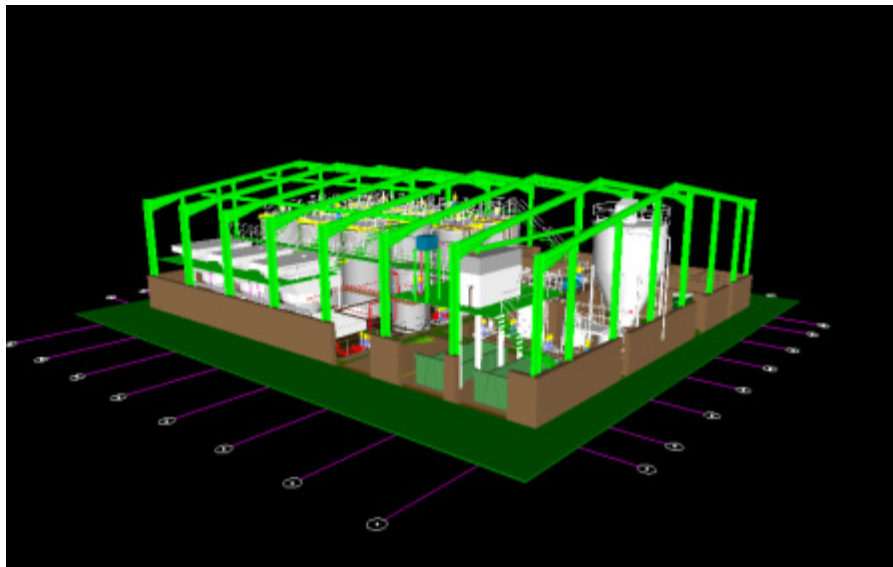


Cross section of sea outfall

200 yds



Process Construction



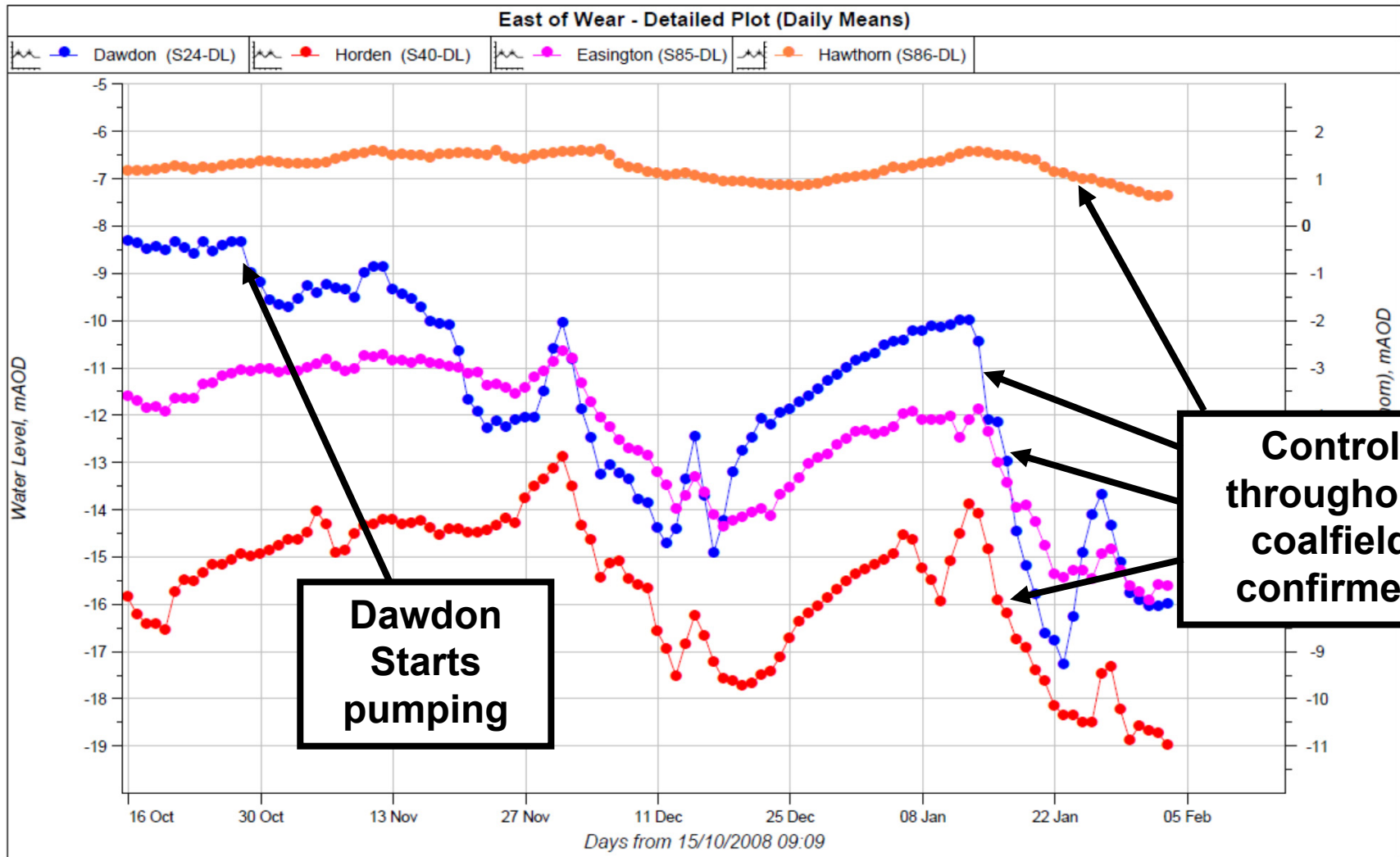
Multi disciplinary project

Over 30 different sub-contractors

Complex programming



Pumping at Dawdon

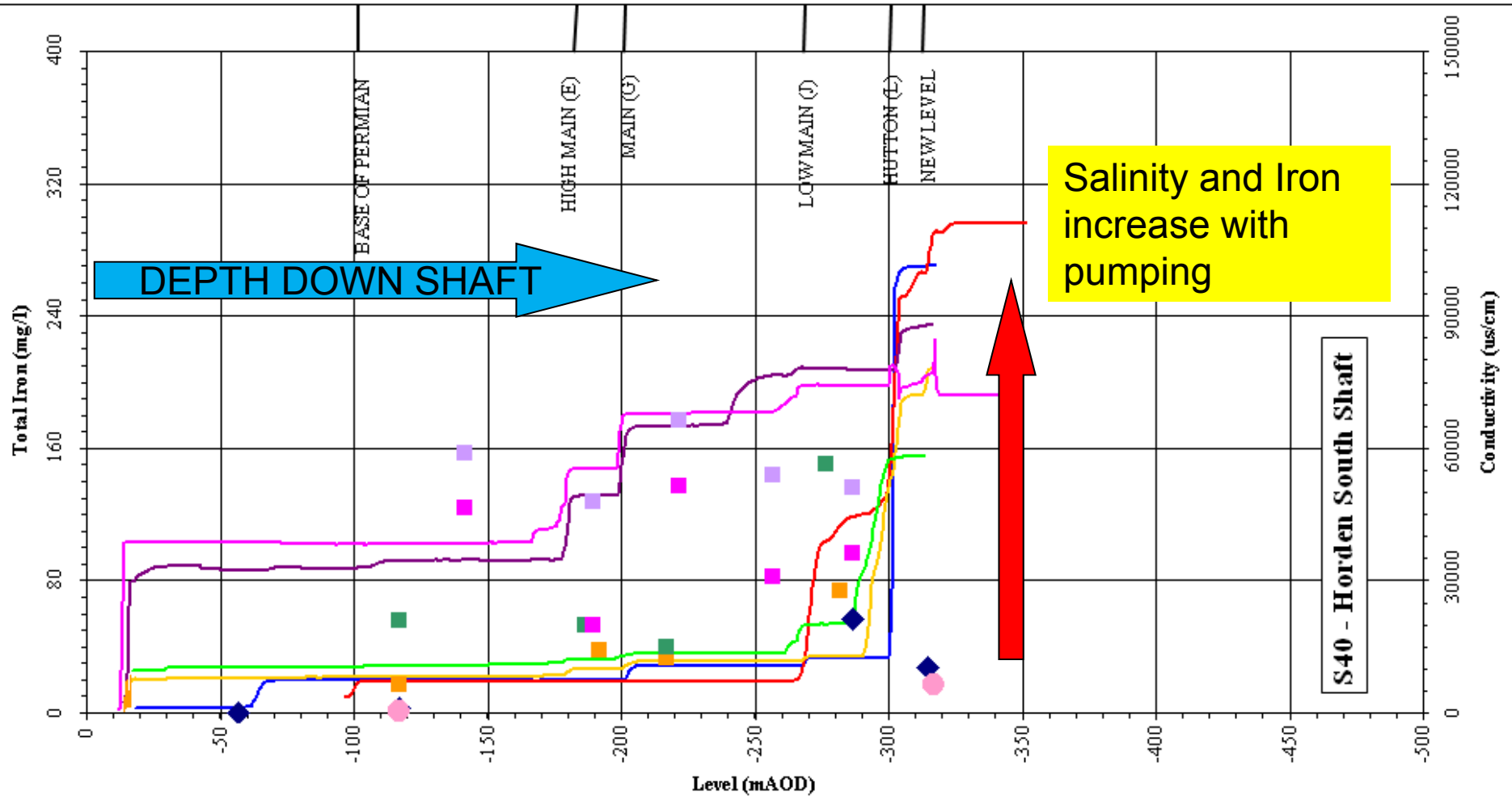




- Preventing Aquifer Pollution by:
- 2 Active Pump & Treat schemes:
 - Horden Temporary
 - Dawdon
- Final Phase:
- Replace Horden active with Passive
 - New Lagoons and reedbeds
 - Reedbeds depend on decreased Chloride



Horden Shaft Water Profile

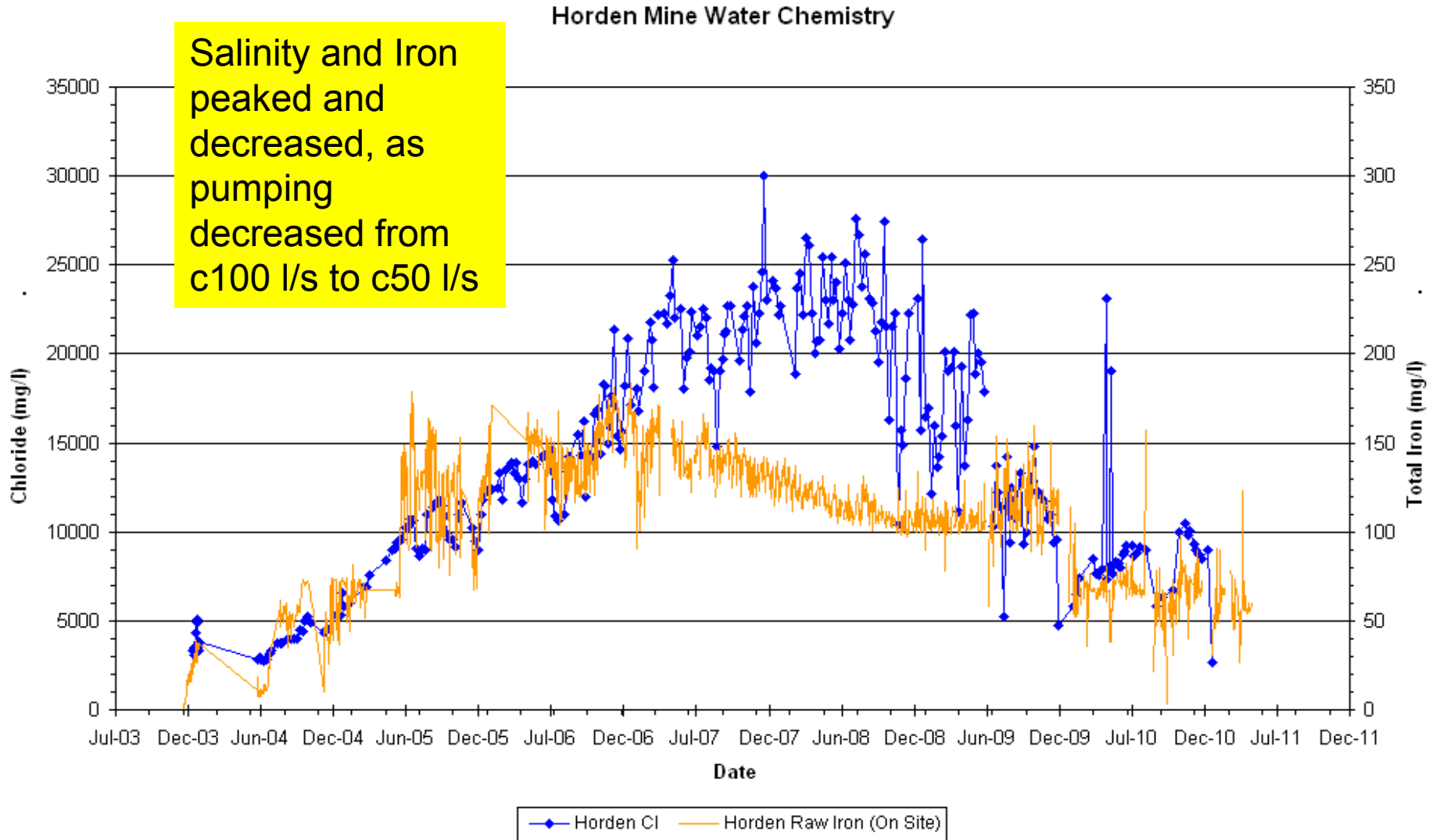


- Conductivity - Pre-Pumping
- Conduct - 2000
- Conductivity - Pumping
- Cond Pumping - 2004
- Cond Pumping - Oct05
- Cond - 2006
- Iron - Pre-Pumping
- Iron - 2000
- Onsite Fe - 2003 (Dec)
- Iron - Pumping
- Iron - 2004
- Iron - 2005
- On Site Fe - 2006



Horden Quality 2004-2010

Salinity and Iron peaked and decreased, as pumping decreased from c100 l/s to c50 l/s





Horden Passive forming of lagoon cells





Horden Passive – Lining the cells





Horden Passive – finishing reedbeds





Horden Passive – Water testing of Lagoon Liner





Horden Passive shortly after commissioning



Active Treatment Area = 0.1 ha

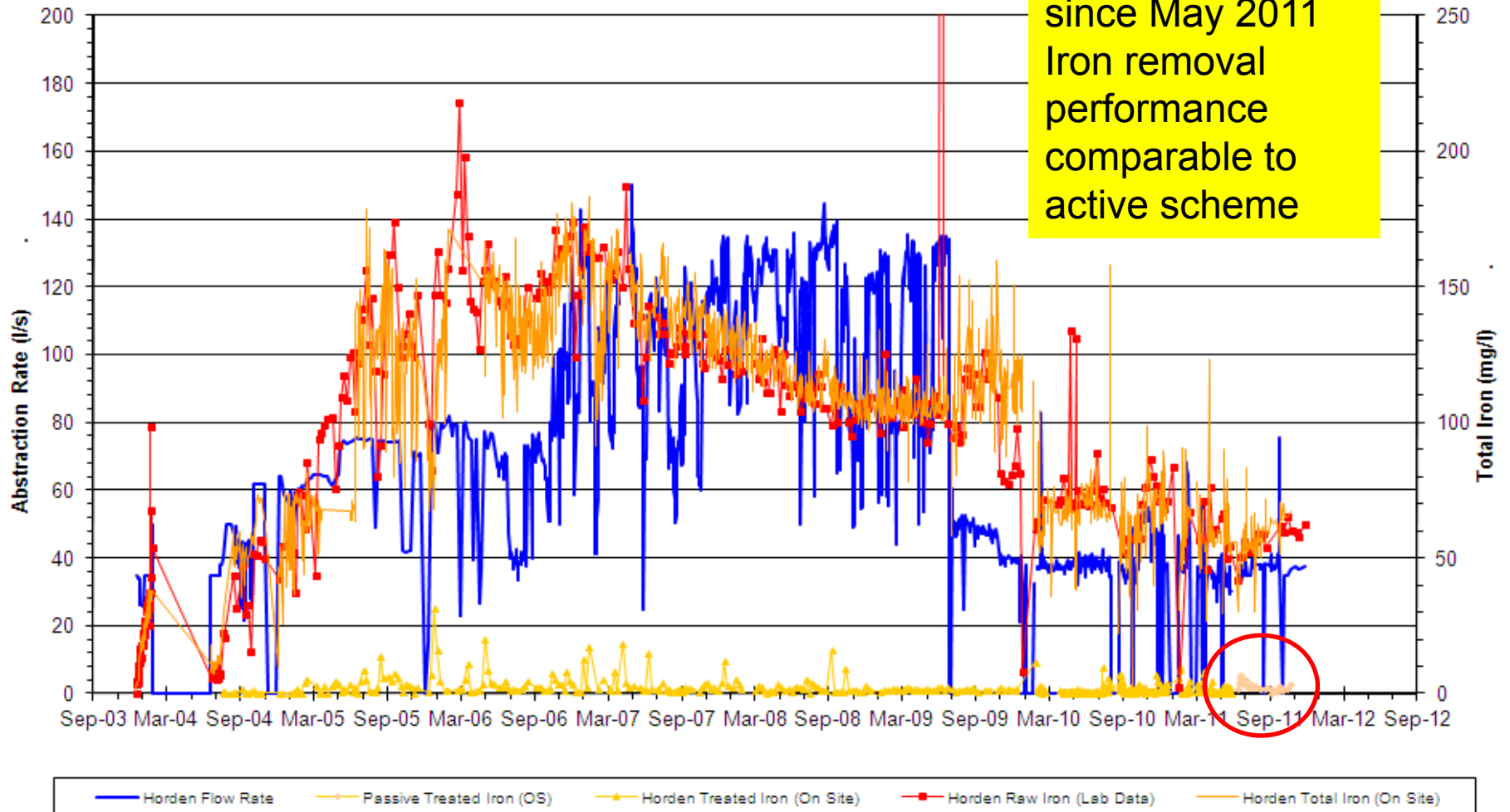
Passive Treatment Area = 1.7 ha



Horden trend chart Flow v Iron (Raw & Treated)

Abstraction v Total Iron for Horden

Passive Scheme since May 2011 Iron removal performance comparable to active scheme





Summary

- Pumping at 2 sites
- Dawdon Active treatment for:
 - High flows of poor quality water
- Horden Passive treatment for:
 - Smaller flows of better quality water
- Drinking Water Aquifer protected

- Future – other areas of UK at risk
 - E.g. Nottinghamshire