

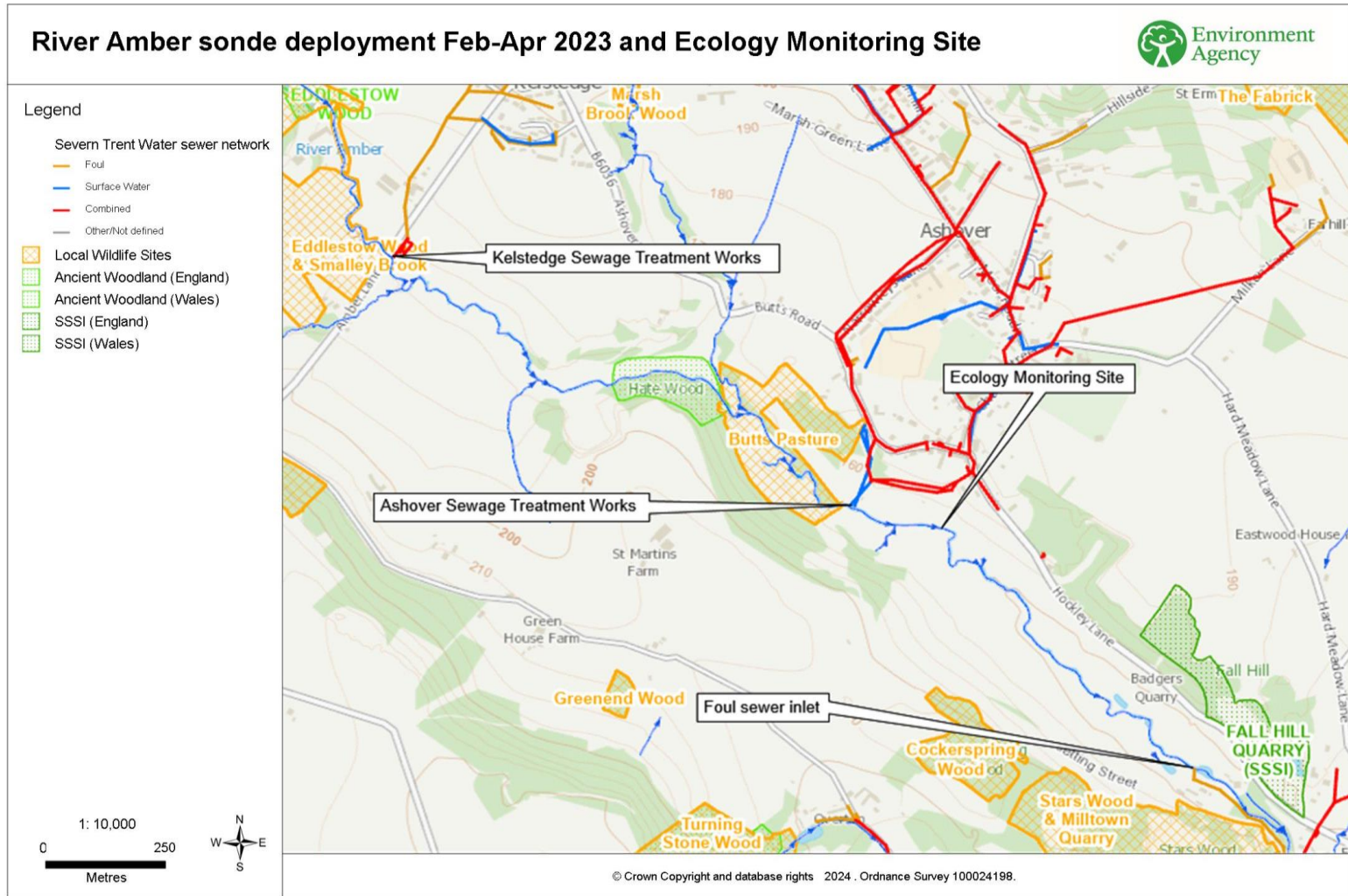
River Amber Water Quality Investigation – Feb – Jun 2023

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Environment Officer
08/05/2024

Response to reported water quality issues in River Amber, Ashover

- November 2022
 - Meeting at Ashover STW
 - Severn Trent Water
 - MP
 - Parish Council
 - Local stakeholders
 - Environment Agency
- Outcome
 - Agreed that EA will carry out monitoring of River Amber to assess impacts of Severn Trent assets to watercourse
 - Sondes deployed upstream and downstream of assets Feb-Apr 2023

Sonde Deployments Feb-Apr 2023



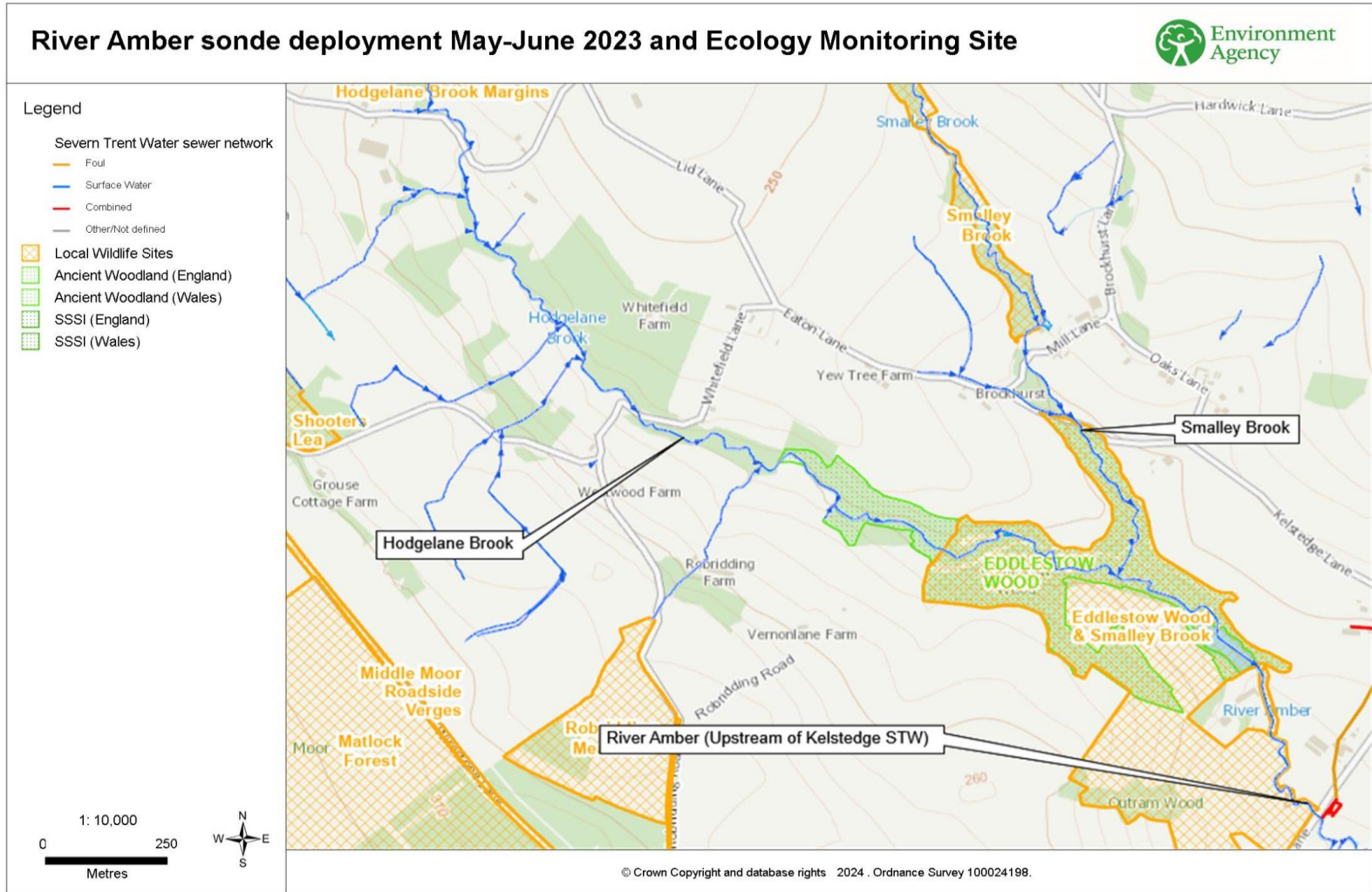
Findings

- Data collected shows no difference in water quality upstream and downstream of sewage treatment works.
 - Indication that pollutants are entering the River Amber upstream of Kelstedge Sewage Treatment works.
- Ecological monitoring of plants and invertebrates downstream of Ashover STW from 2022 shows good scores.
- Analysis indicates that nutrient/organic pressures having more impact than other pressures
 - Further monitoring scheduled 2027

Further investigation

- May – June 2023
 - Sondes deployed upstream of Kelstedge STW to further pinpoint potential sources of pollution.
 - Hodgelane Brook
 - Smalley Brook
- Findings
 - Small, independent spikes in ammonium levels suggest potential inputs from different sources on both tributaries
 - These could be associated with agricultural or domestic sources

Sonde Deployments May-Jun 2023



Actions to date

- 4 Farm Inspections carried out in Upper Amber catchment
- 6 further inspections scheduled
- Common issues identified
 - Lack of soil analysis/Nutrient Management Plans
 - Clean/dirty water separation/management
 - Improper disposal of domestic septic tank waste

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