

# The Rural Diffuse Pollution Plan for Scotland

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# Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group (DPMAG)

- Members include NFUS, Scottish Tenant Farmers Association, Scottish Rural Property and Business Association, Forestry Commission, Scottish Environment LINK, Scottish Natural Heritage, RAFTS, Scottish Government

## Aims

- Create a robust governance, decision-making and coordination framework for the effective delivery of rural diffuse pollution in Scotland.
- Ensure input from a cross section of rural, environmental and biodiversity interests.

# Diffuse Pollution in Scotland

**Scotland's water quality is generally good**

**Main pollutants;** Nutrients N and P, SS, faecal bacteria, pesticides

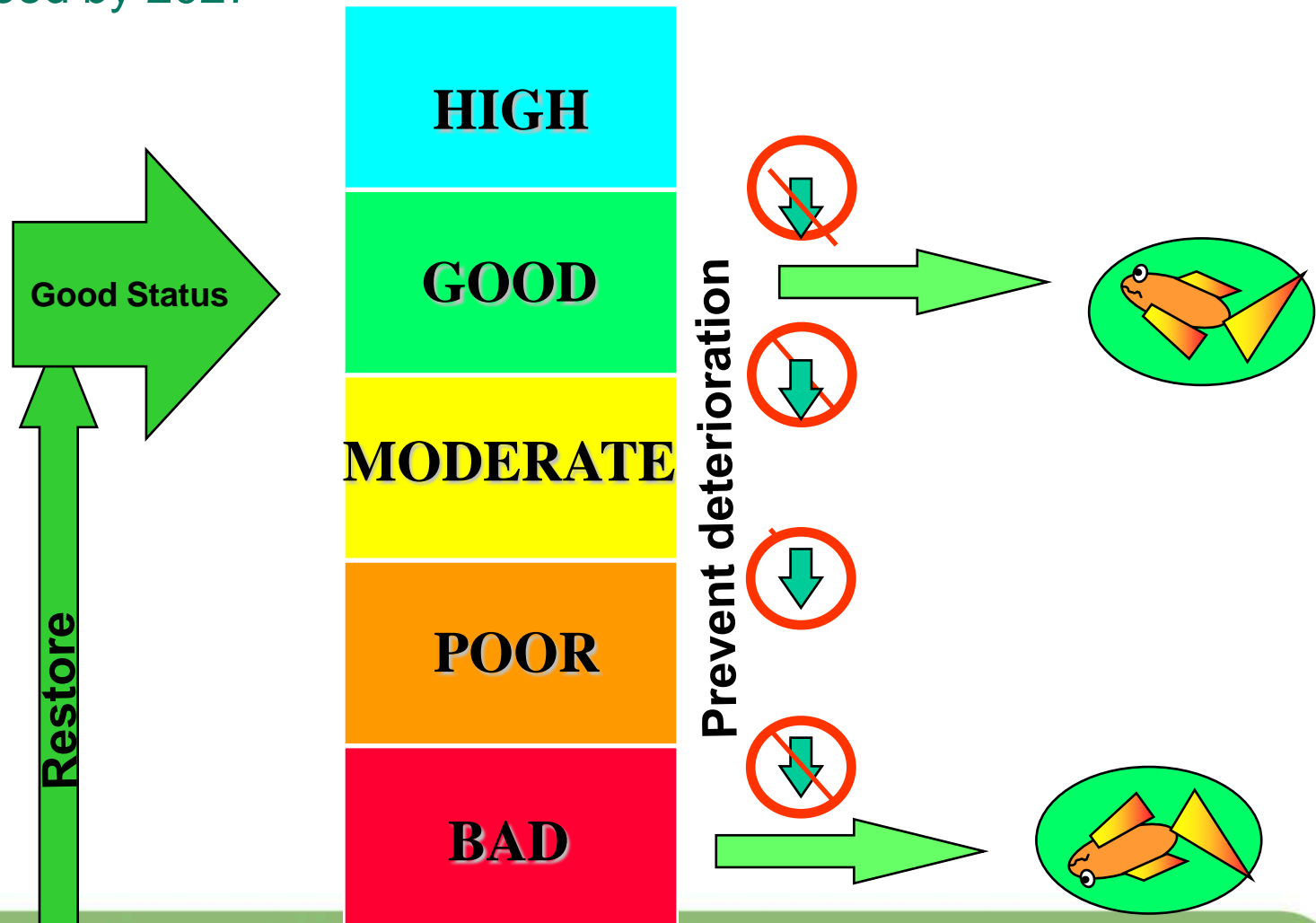
**Main Sources;** Agriculture, Urban run-off, Forestry  
Coal mining, Septic tanks, Recreation

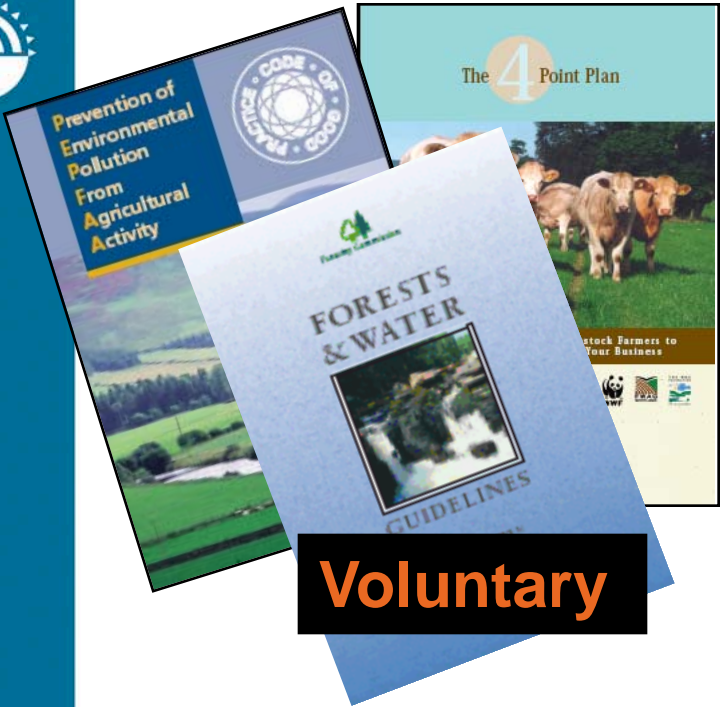
**Rural Diffuse Pollution is now the largest pollution pressure**

# Water Framework Directive

**Aims** - prevent deterioration and enhance status.

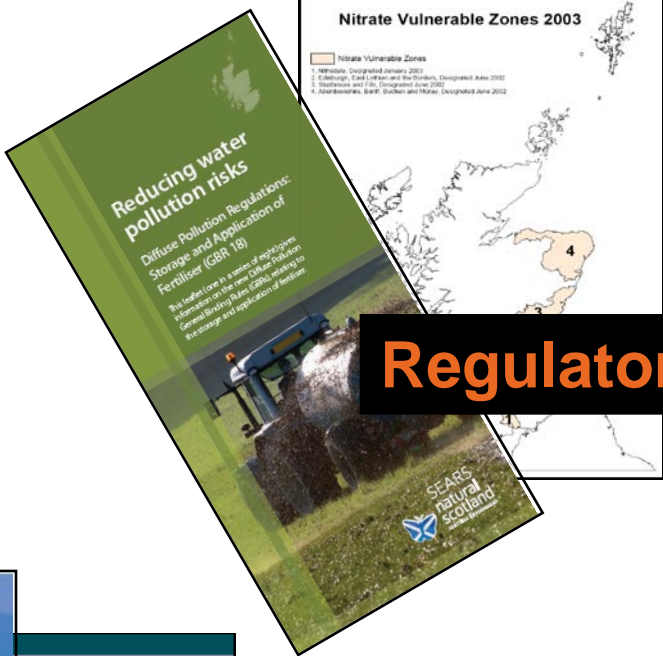
**Ambitious objectives** – 97% of waterbodies in Scotland to be good by 2027





**Voluntary**

# Measures



**Regulatory**

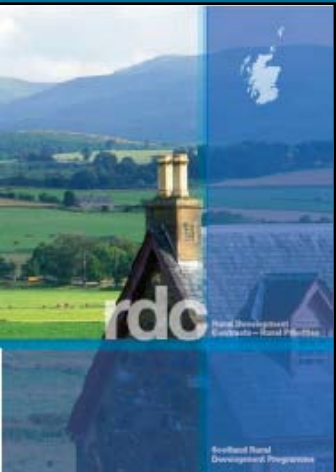


**Economic**

# Scotland Rural Development Programme

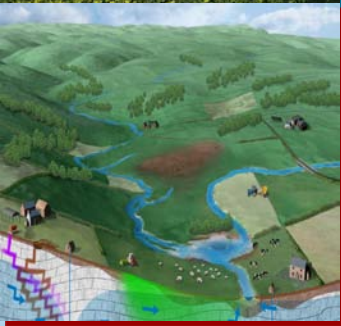
## Rural Priorities

- fencing, water margins and riparian buffer strips, tracks, gates and river crossings, biobeds, constructed farm wetlands, arable reversion to grassland
- **Targeting** New National Target for water quality
- **Promotion** of SRDP water quality measures
- **Collaboration** – wide catchment coverage required
- **Multiple benefits** – biodiversity, climate change, flooding



# Diffuse Pollution General Binding Rules (DP GBRs)

- Based on widely accepted standards of good practice e.g. PEPFAA, Forests and Water Guidelines
- Apply to all rural land use e.g. golf courses, parkland, forestry and agriculture
- Level playing field for all land managers
- Agricultural Activities include; keeping of livestock, cultivation of land and storage and application of fertilisers



# Scotland's approach to DP Mitigation

Sound science demonstrate impact, pollutant source and pathways.

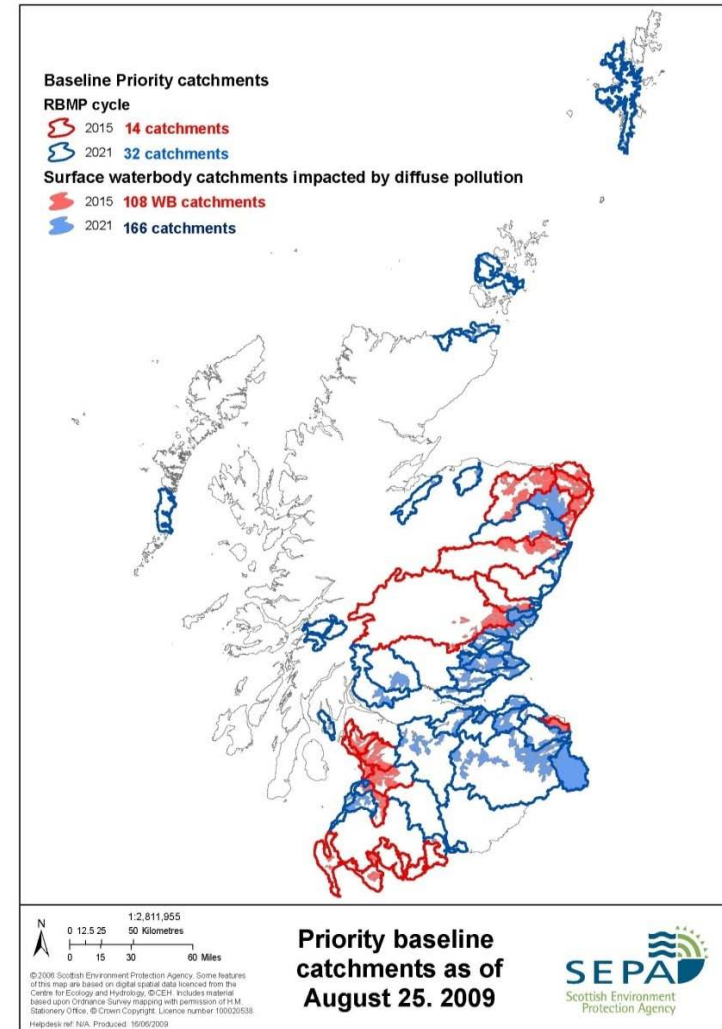


Priority catchment approach - a catchment management type approach – evidence gathering, awareness raising, one to one land manager inspections and advice, targeting measures and funding.



# What and where are Scotland's priority catchments?

- Impacted surface and groundwaters
- Over 100 catchments identified
- Selection based on protected area status and risks to human health
- Cover some of Scotland's most important waters for bathing, drinking, conservation and recreation





## Multiple benefits

... cumulatively at the catchment/ landscape scale...

Water quality  
improvement  
and farm and  
forestry business  
benefit –  
resource use.

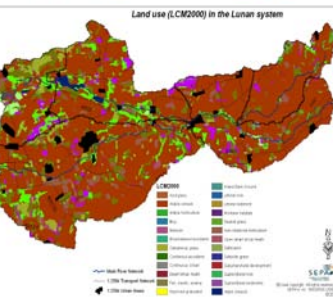
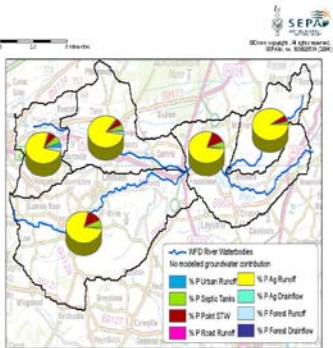
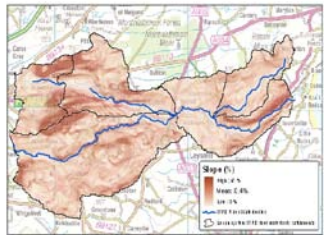


Climate  
change,  
flooding and  
soil quality.  
Add-on benefits  
for Scotland plc

Biodiversity, habitat connectivity, landscape, river restoration

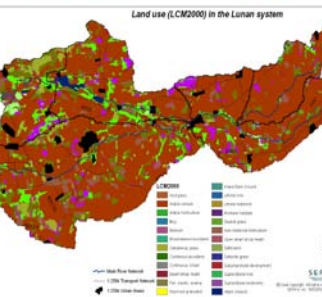
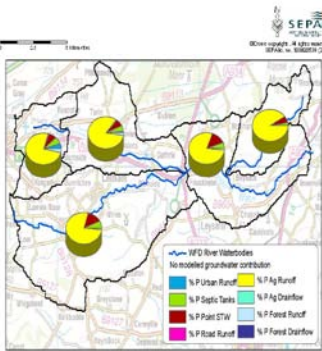
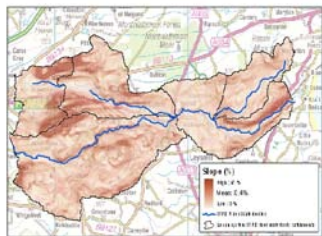
# Where does the Lunan fit?

- Currently covered by national awareness raising
- Next basin planning cycle 2015-21 – priority catchment
- Baseline against which to assess if measures effective
- Test of the voluntary approach
- Lessons learned will feed into process



# Monitoring and Research

- Development a data collection framework to assess and understand the effectiveness of measures and mitigate rural diffuse pollution.;
  - Land managers attitude and engagement
  - Land use and management
  - Environmental quality
  - Costs
  
- Research to support plan delivery and understanding of effectiveness



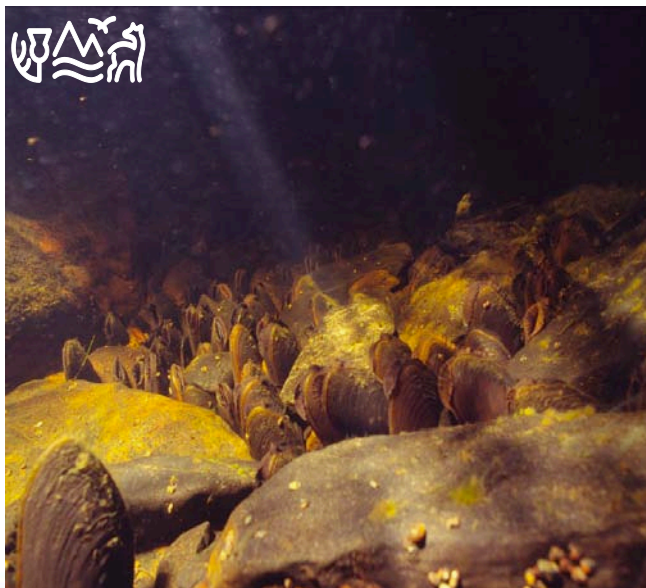
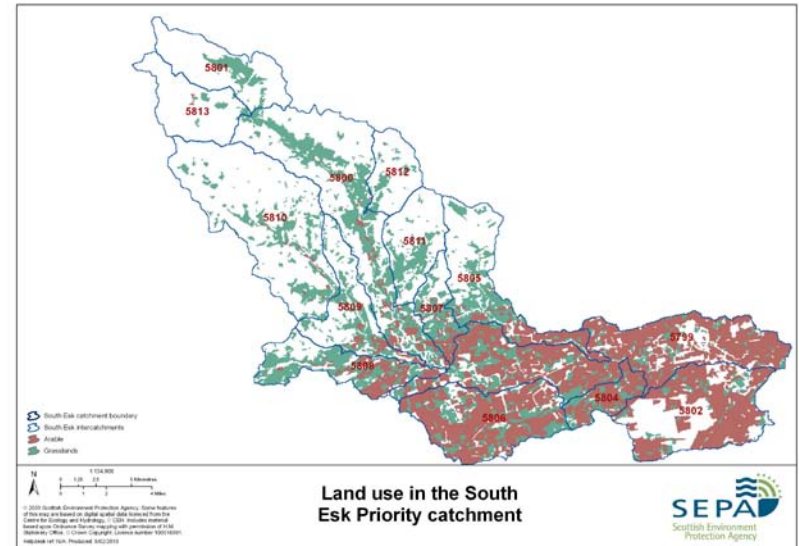
- **Catchment walking almost complete,  
> 3000km walked to date**
- **Awareness raising events ongoing &  
well attended**
- **1:1 site visits due to start March 2011**



**Where are we  
now?**

# The South Esk Priority Catchment

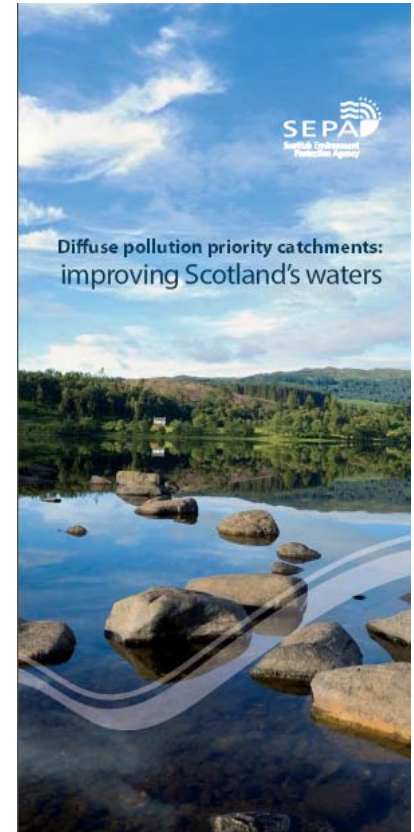
- High value agricultural land
- NVZ designation
- Montrose basin SPA, SSSI & Ramsar site
- SAC for Atlantic salmon and Freshwater pearl mussels



- Groundwater classed as poor
- Montrose Basin classed as moderate
- 7 out of 14 rivers classed as less than good status
- Natura 2000 site in unfavourable condition

# South Esk Catchment walk

- Approximately 400km walked, identifying:
  - DP GBR breaches
  - Good practice
  - Land use in riparian zone
  - Point source issues, e.g. septic tanks
  - Invasive Non-native Species
  - Morphology pressures
  - Other issues e.g. fly tipping, fallen stock, farm tips



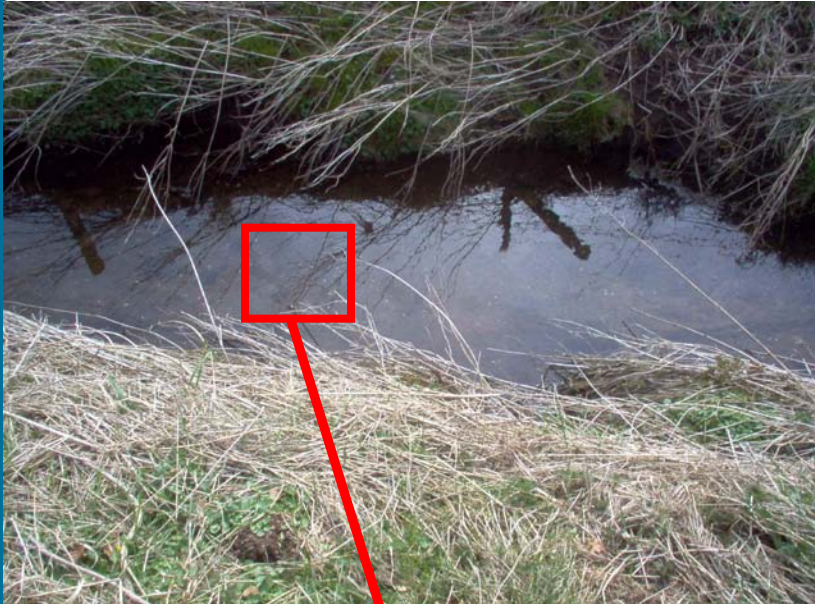
- Walks carried out by SEPA staff with assistance from Esk Rivers Fisheries Trust
- Project Officer for River South Esk CP also accompanied SEPA



# What did we find??

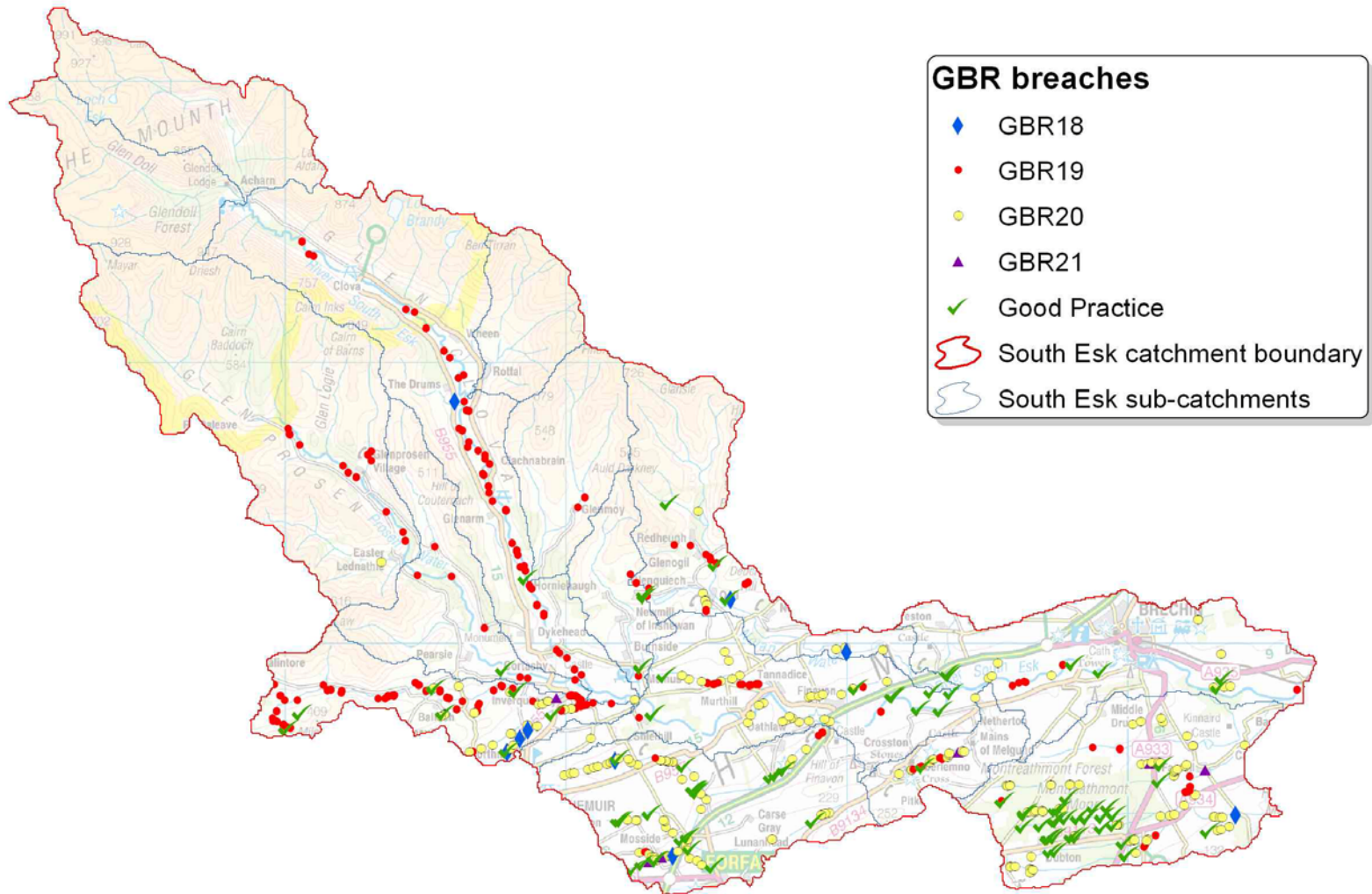


# Findings (cont)



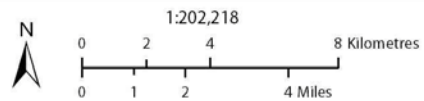
# Good Practice also noted





**GBR breaches**

- ◆ GBR18
- GBR19
- GBR20
- ▲ GBR21
- ✓ Good Practice
- South Esk catchment boundary
- South Esk sub-catchments



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## GBR breaches in the South Esk catchment



# Catchment walk findings – the national picture

Priority Catchment	River length (km)	Total no breaches	Fertiliser	Livestock	Cultivation	Drainage	Good Practice
Ayr	350	<b>451</b>	32	383	35	0	10
Doon	140	<b>85</b>	3	70	11	1	13
N Ayrshire coastal	45	<b>66</b>	1	59	5	0	3
Irvine	525	<b>425</b>	13	399	9	4	8
Garnock	252	<b>335</b>	4	331	0	0	2
Eye	130	<b>286</b>	1	263	18	4	7
Ugie	275	<b>233</b>	3	189	38	2	No info
Buchan Coastal	310	<b>249</b>	3	238	4	3	2
South Esk	400	<b>507</b>	10	257	234	6	95

- Total river length walked = 2425 km
- Total number of DP GBR breaches = 2637



# Livestock poaching & erosion



## Cultivation & runoff



# Other Problems We Came Across



Sewage overflows



Forestry drainage



Septic tanks



Surface water drainage





# Thank you!

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**SEPA Land Unit**