2025 New Forest fish survey results

Dom Longley, March 2026.

European eel

Chub

Pike

Brown trout (non-migratory)

Brown trout (migratory: sea trout)

Roach

Gudgeon

Bullhead

3-spined stickleback

Brook lamprey

Stone loach

Minnow

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Brown (sea) trout Salmo trutta

An excellent indicator of aquatic environmental quality

"A canary in the coalmine"

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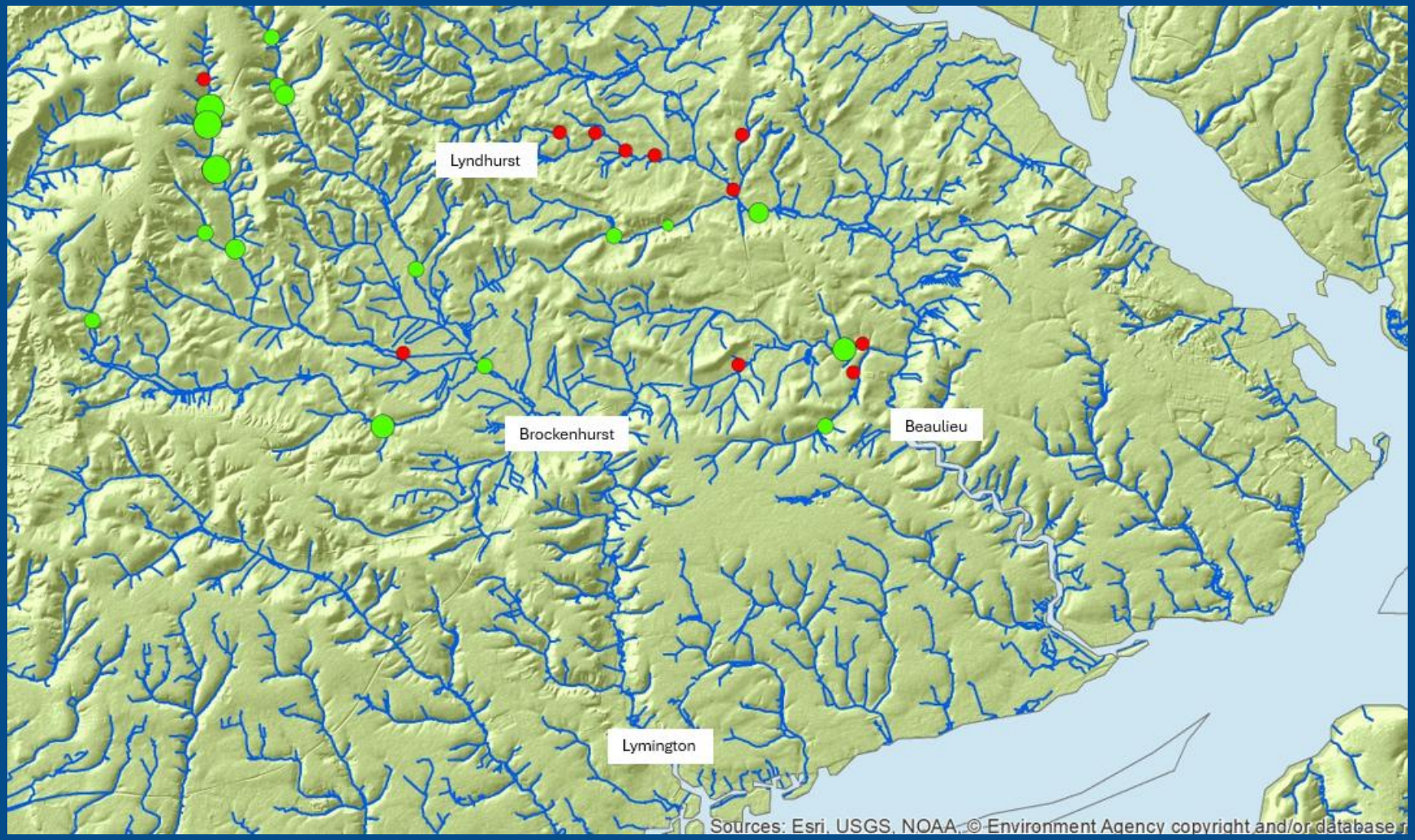
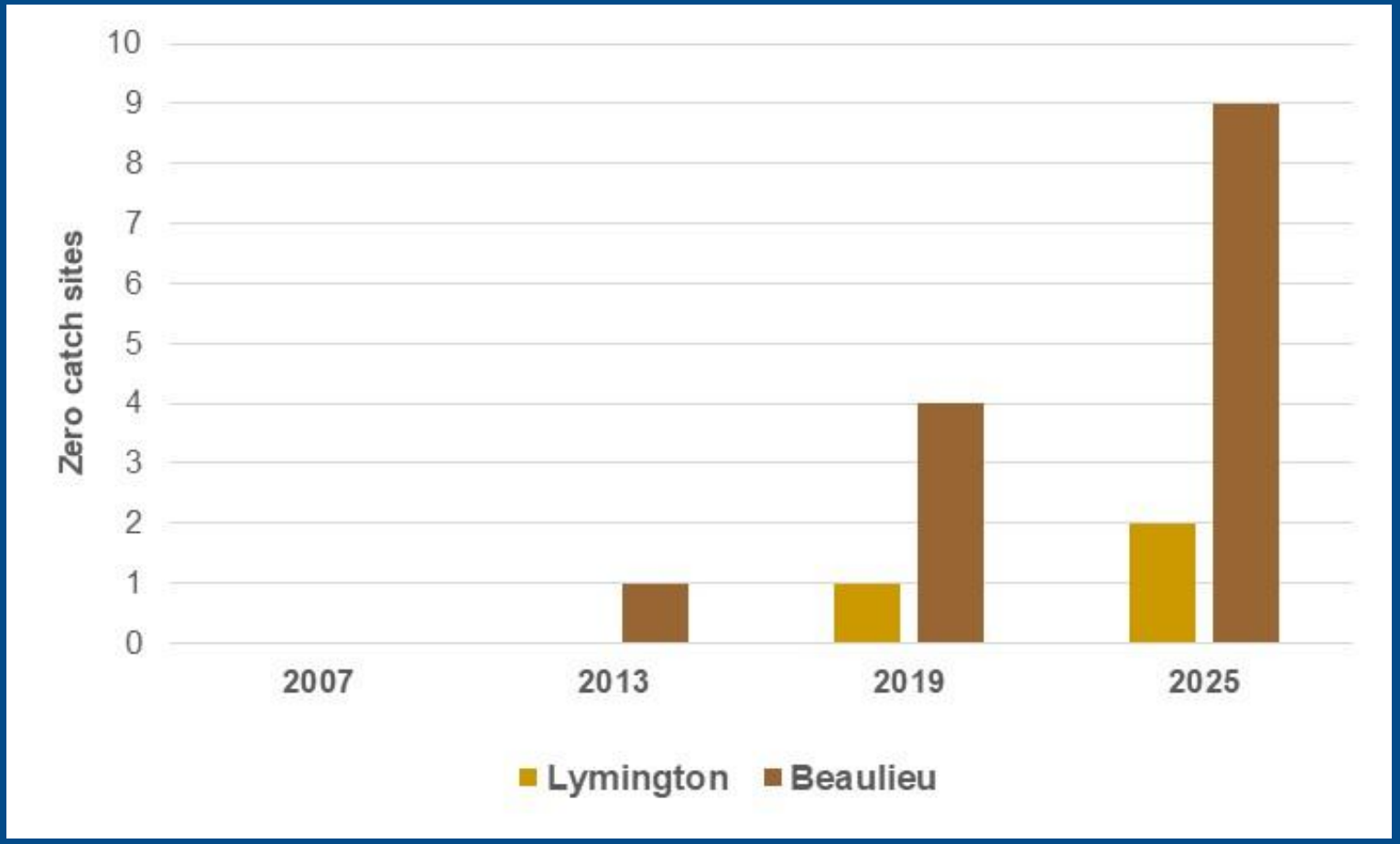
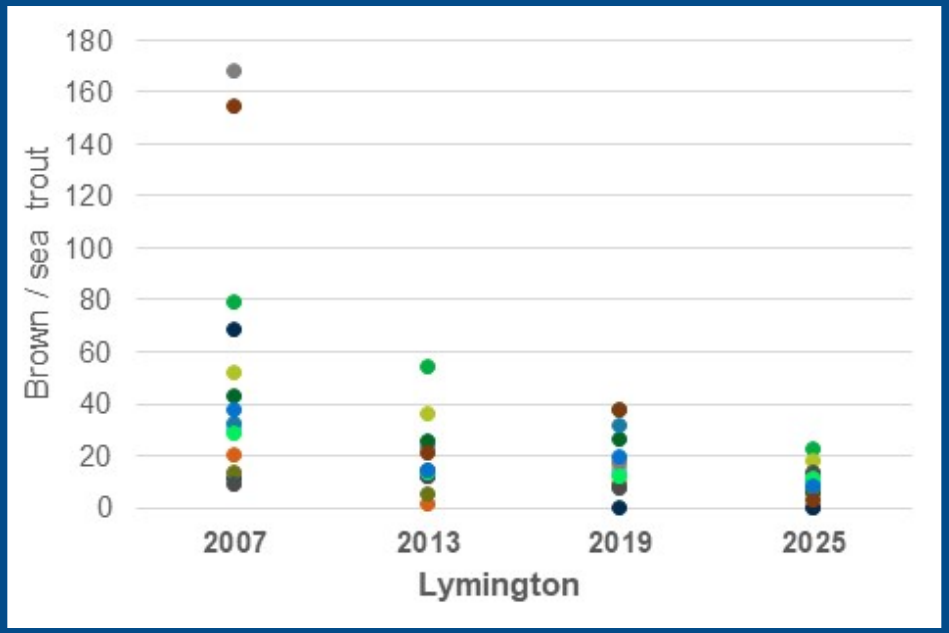
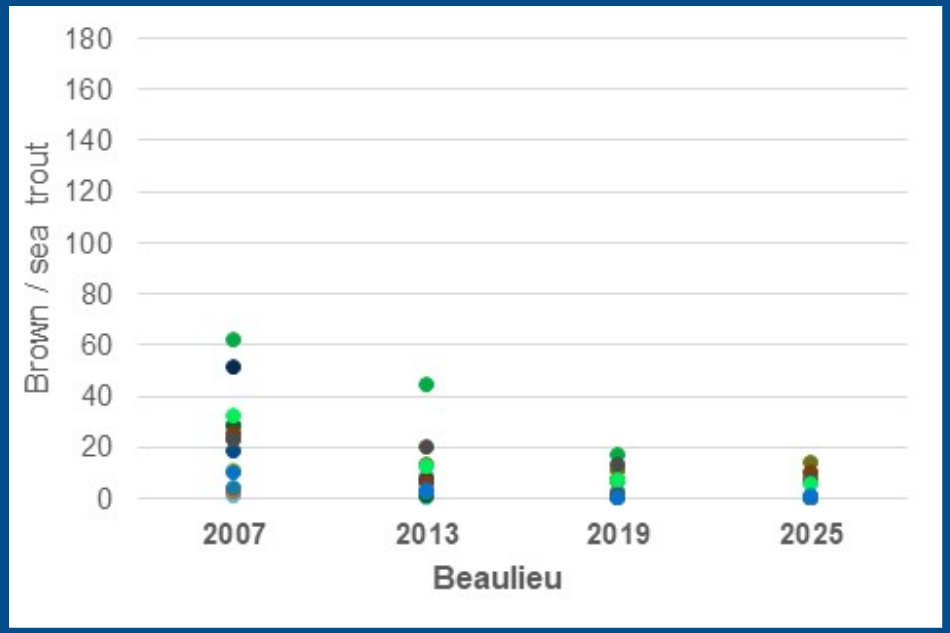




Lymington & Beaulieu Rivers: zero brown trout sites

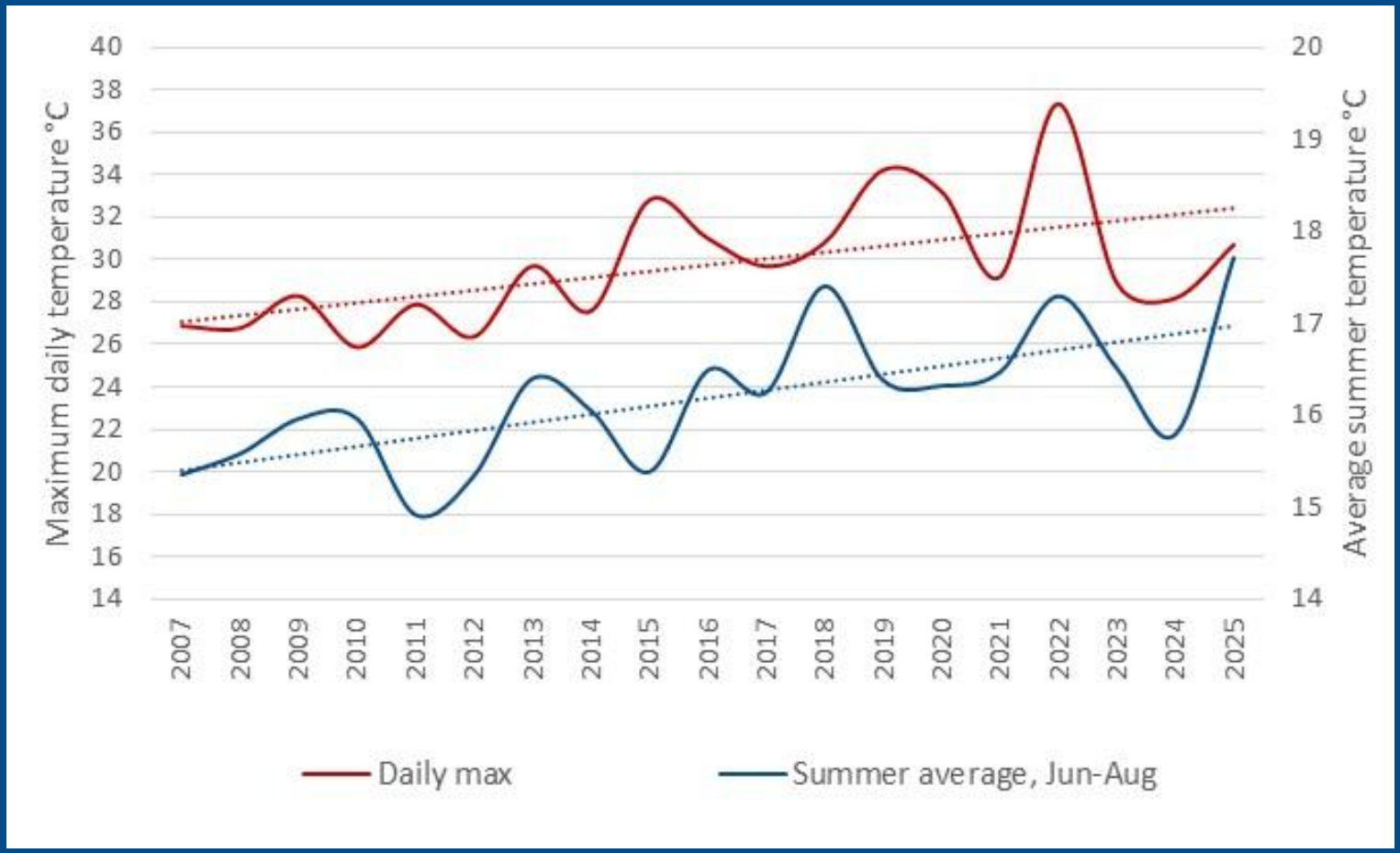




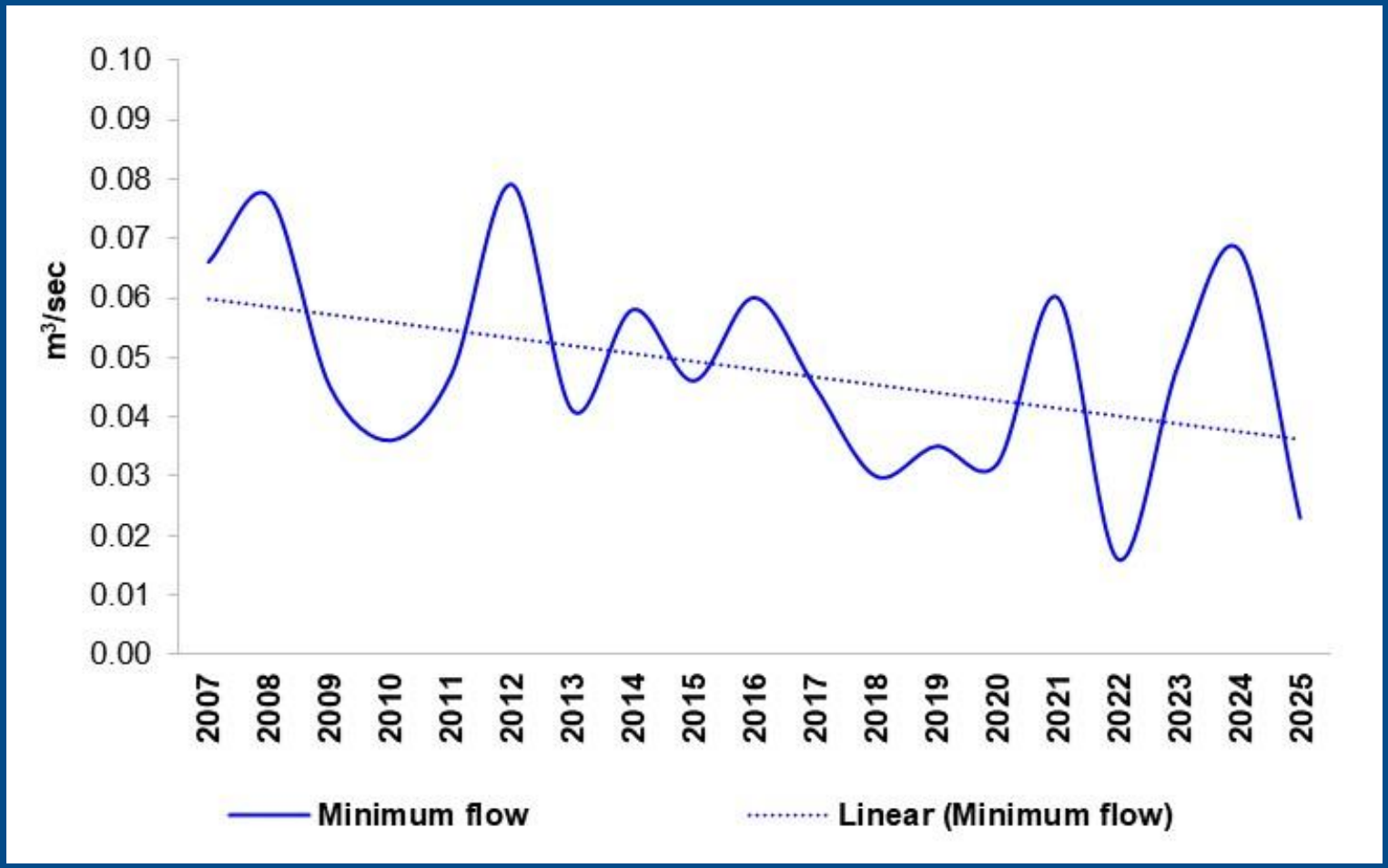
Lymington & Beaulieu Rivers: brown trout abundance

Why the decline & why are Beaulieu River trout doing so much worse?

1. Climate



Central England maximum temperature & average summer temperature



Brockenhurst flow gauging station: minimum annual flow

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The primary solution to thermal stress is shade

2. Contamination

Lyndhurst sewage treatment works: Combined Stormwater Outfall

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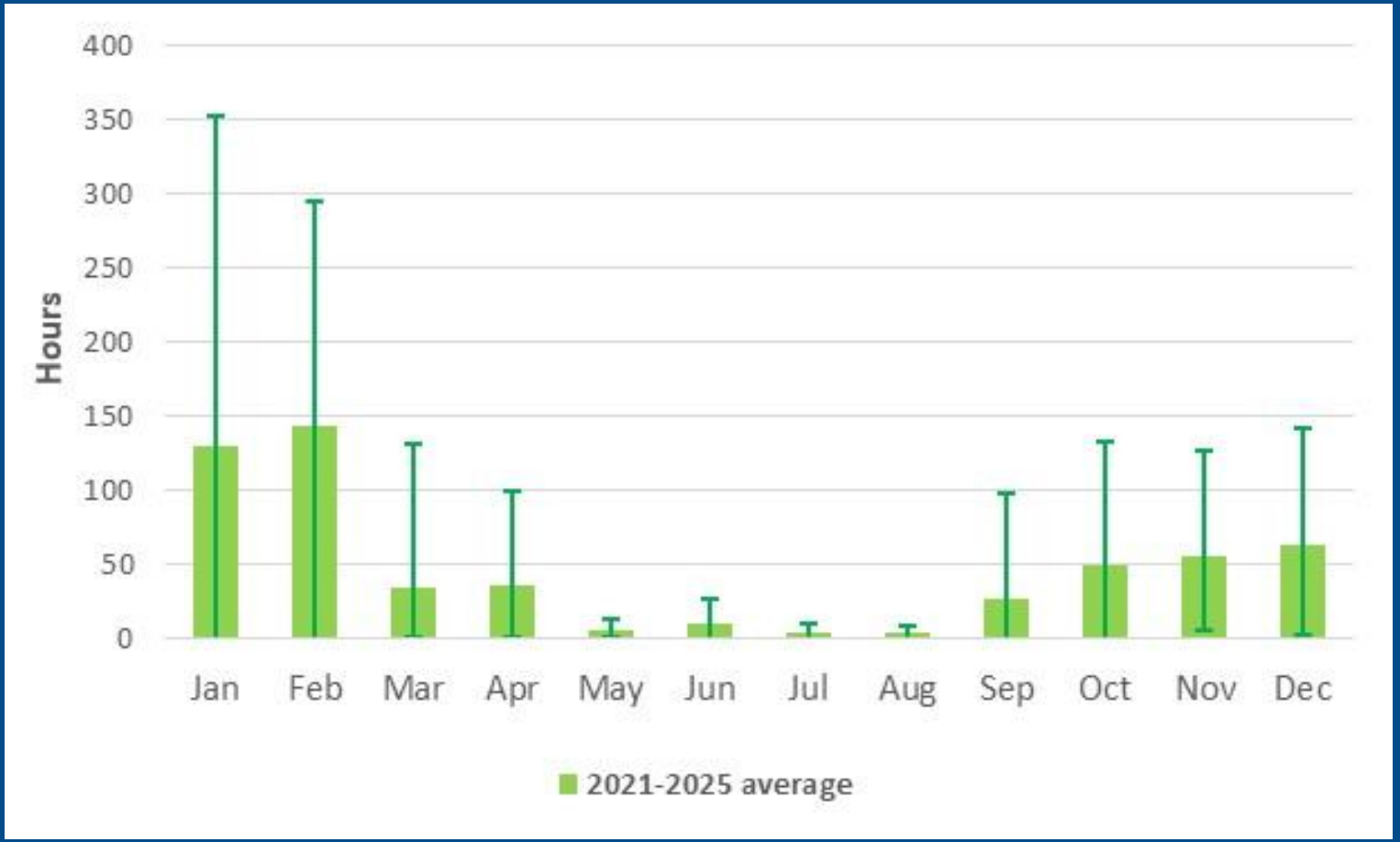
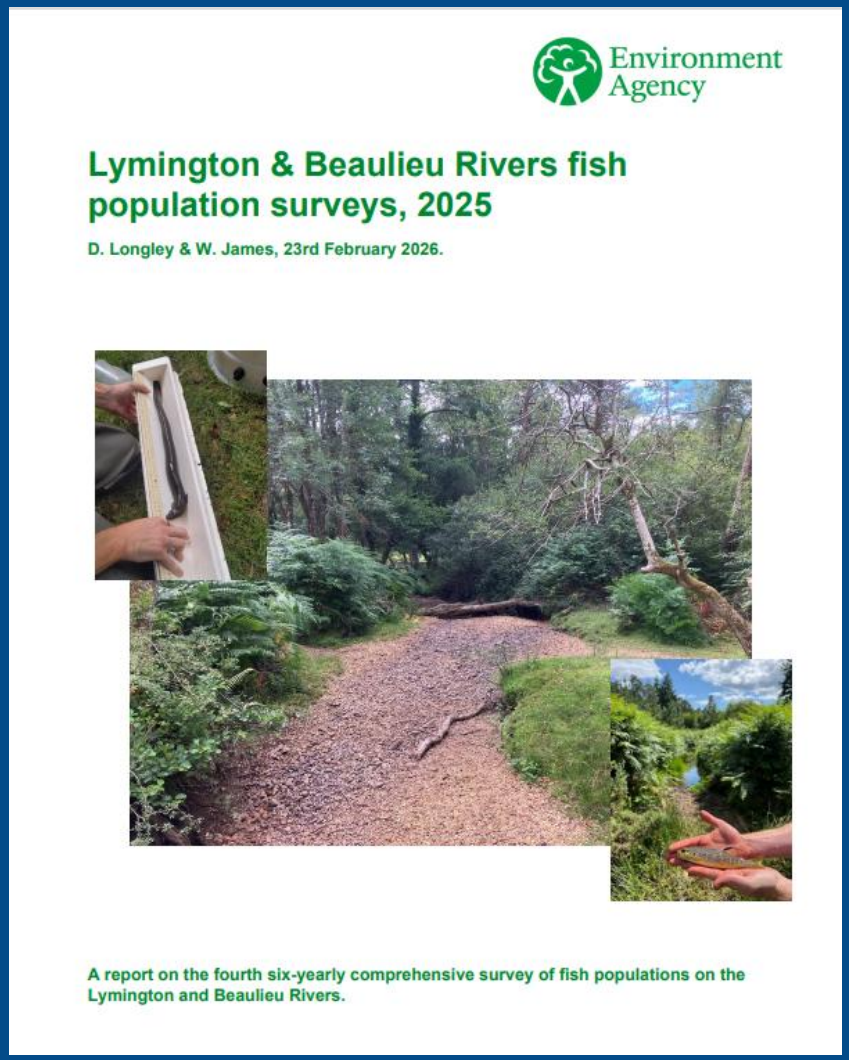


Lyndhurst CSO average, max & min monthly discharge hours 2021-2025 *(NB 456 hrs / 19 days Jan 26)*

What is the current plan?

Southern Water "Rivers & seas watch" web portal, accessed 27/02/26

Start date:	To be planned for **after 2030**
Regulatory deadline:	**After 2030**
Total estimated costs:	**£2.99 million**
What causes storm overflows here:	*Groundwater getting into sewers (both public and private)*
Planned solutions:	*We will implement a range of solutions which will likely include: 6.3 km sewer sealing (public and private)*



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Conclusions:

- *Thermal stress on New Forest streams ecosystems is severe and increasing.*
- *The Beaulieu River is under significant additional stress from CSO contamination.*
- ***Increased riparian shading & completion of infrastructure upgrades at Lyndhurst STW are both essential.***

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