

## DEVON AREA INTERNAL REPORT

### MALODOURS AND DISCOLOURATION ON THE WOOL BROOK SIDMOUTH.

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## MALODOURS AND DISCOLOURATION ON THE WOOL BROOK, SIDMOUTH

### 1. INTRODUCTION

A request was received from Andrew Sweetapple, Water Quality Officer, to investigate the cause of intermittent malodours and discolouration of the Wool Brook, Sidmouth.

The Wool Brook is a tributary of the River Sid. This report is concerned with approximately 1 km of the Wool Brook (Fig.1) from the Recreation Ground, Lower Woolbrook (NGR SY126889) upstream to the road bridge at Higher Woolbrook (NGR SY117134).

Between sites 1 and 4 the watercourse adjoins residential property and allotments. From site 4 to site 6 the Wool Brook is spanned by numerous private foul water pipes which connect to a main sewer in the road. The sewer runs within 5 metres of the Wool Brook for some 200 metres.

### 2. METHOD

The investigation was carried out on 19th December 1995 during wet weather (6.9mm rain on 18th, and 14.1mm rain on 19th December) and consequent high flows.

In situ dissolved oxygen and temperature readings were taken at 5 river sites and from two substantial inputs (4 and 5, Fig.1).

### 3. RESULTS

Other than discolouration due to prevailing weather conditions no unexpected colour was found. An effluent odour was detected in the region of site 4 but the source was not identified. Neither input had a discernable smell and are probably surface water drains.

### 4. DISCUSSION

Dissolved oxygen values were all compliant with River Quality Objective class 1 (although no routine water quality monitoring is undertaken on the Wool Brook).

In view of the description given in (1.) above, the potential for pollutants to enter the watercourse is fairly high.

### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The site is attended by the Water Quality Officer as soon as possible after any problems are reported in order to locate their source.

Robin Pearson Investigations Technician 15.02.96

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