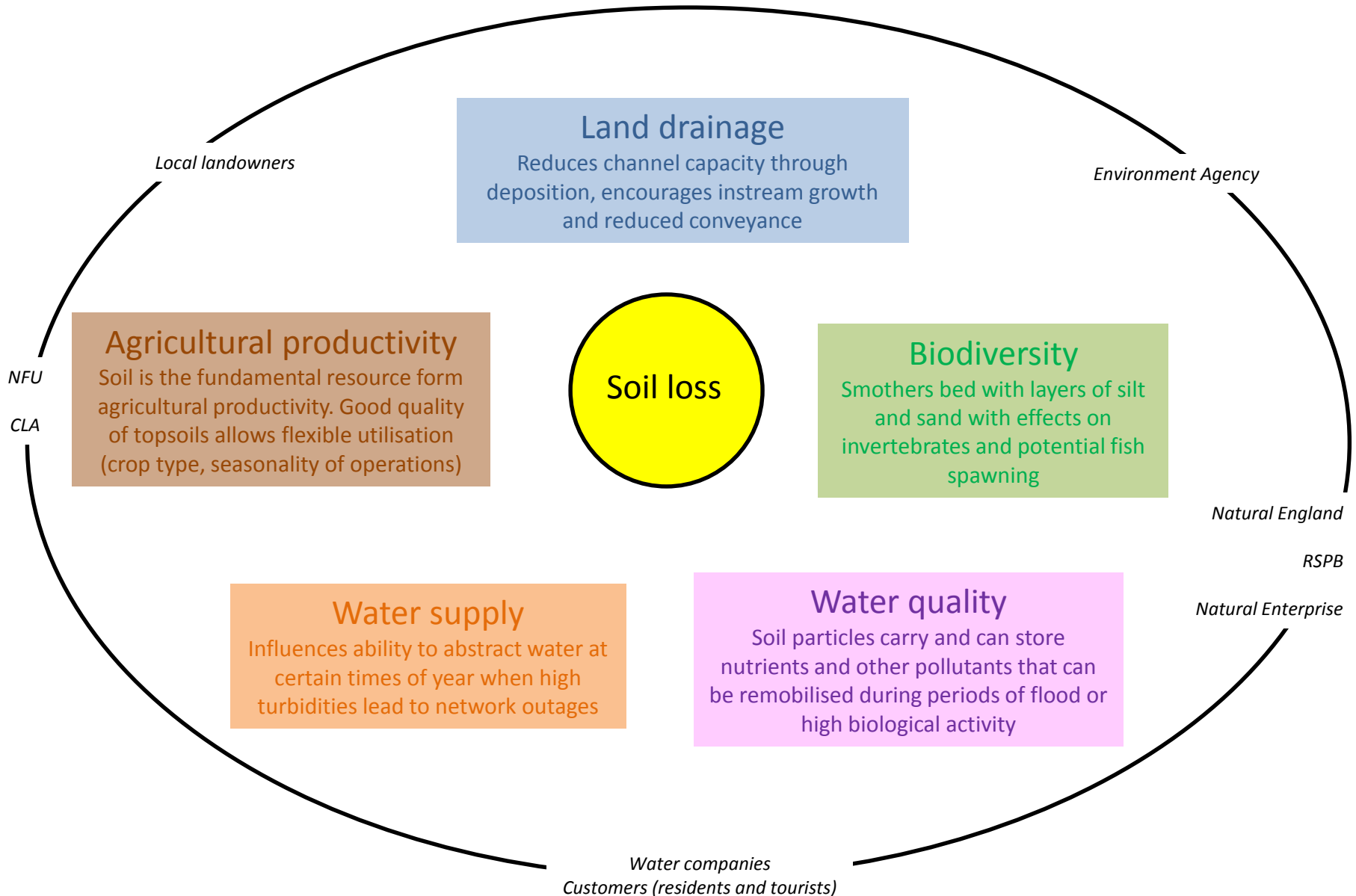
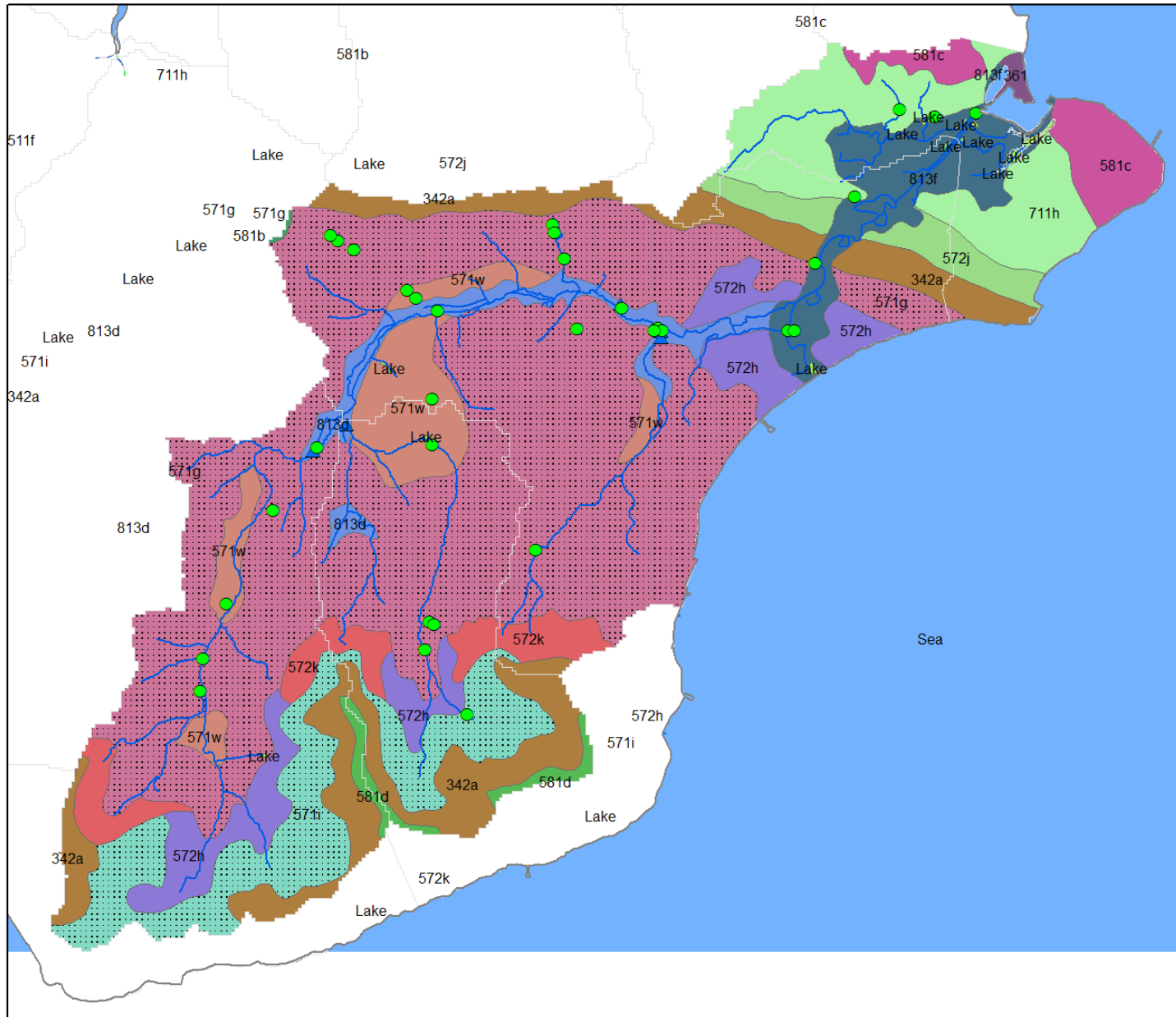


# Working together to tackle common issues



# Understanding catchment characteristics



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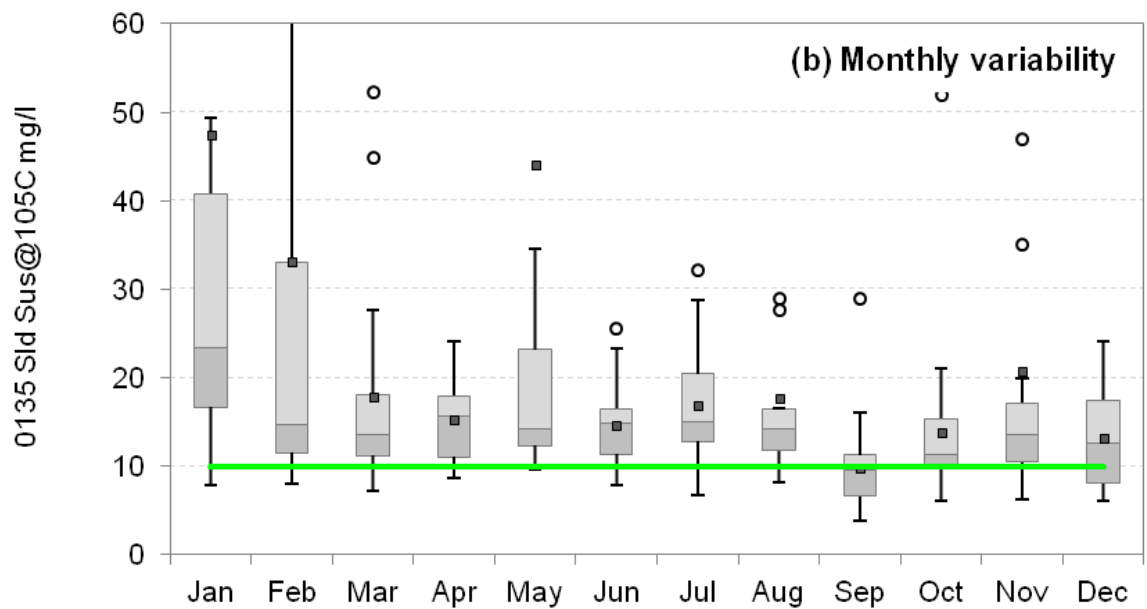
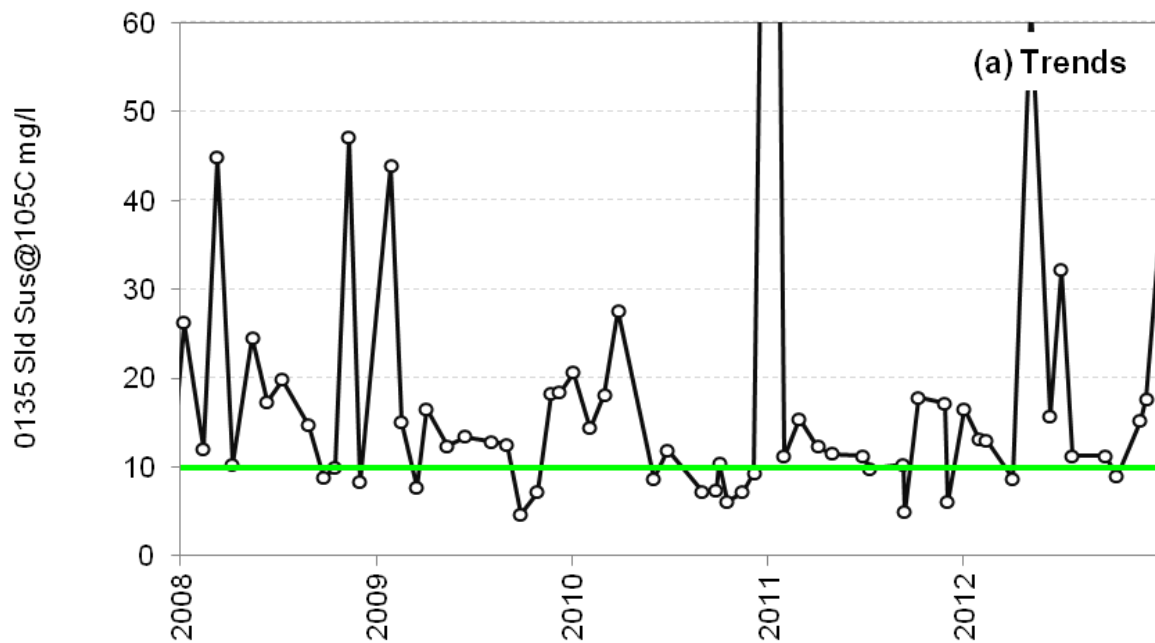
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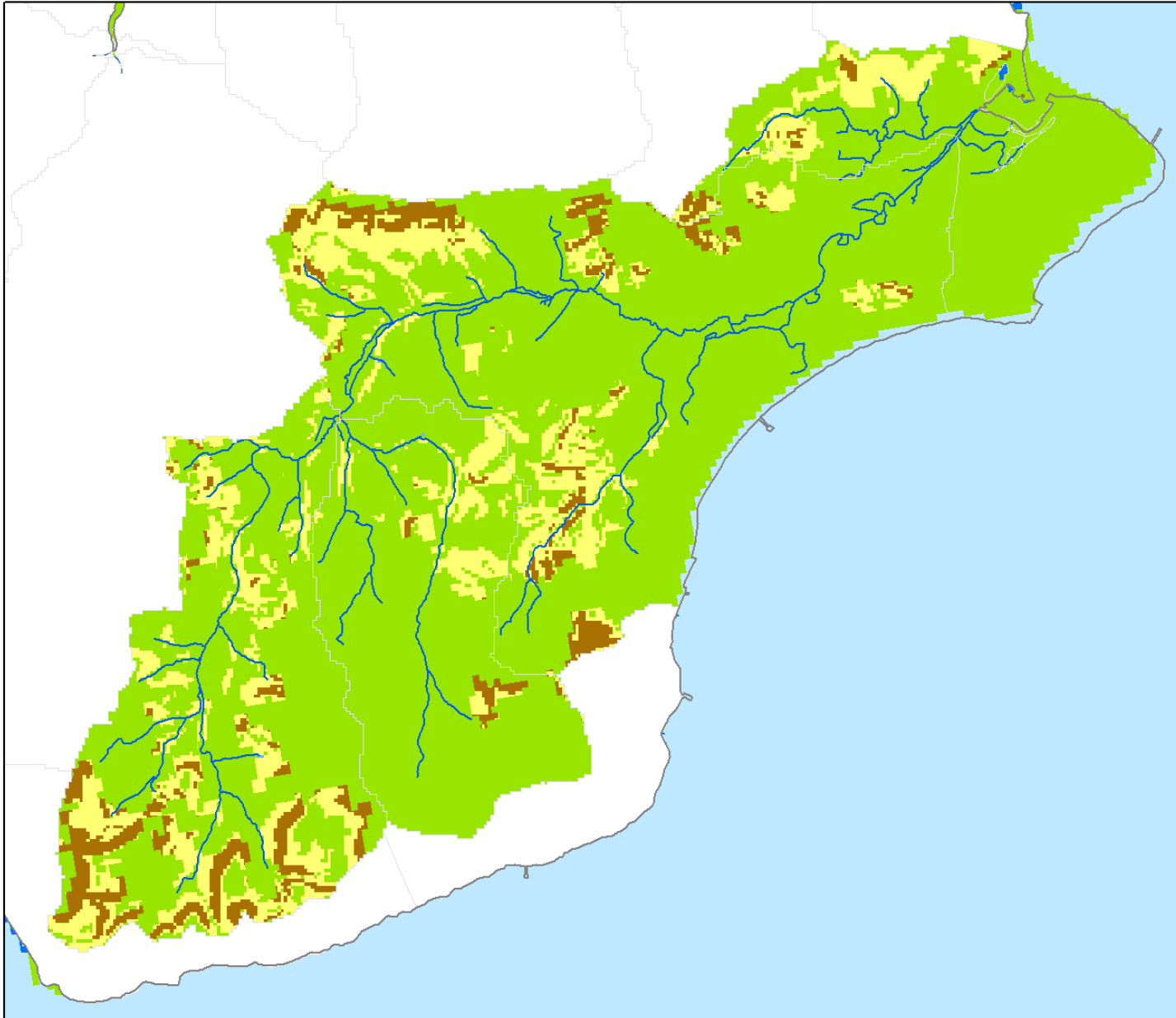
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SCALE	DRAWN	OPENED	APPROVED
1:50,000	JW		
REF NUMBER	DATE	DATE	DATE
806xxx	11/12/12		

# When are sediment concentrations greatest?



# What areas are most at risk? How can we focus our efforts?



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806xxx	11/12/12		

## Controlling soil erosion

Incorporating former advisory leaflets on grazing livestock, wind, outdoor pigs and the uplands

Revised: September 2005



# Identifying resources and other similar catchments



## sediment matters

A practical guide to sediment and its impacts in UK rivers



- The Rother Valley
- Erosion in the Rother valley
- Assessment of risk
  - The (Defra, 2005a) scheme: context and approach
  - How successful is the Defra risk-assessment scheme?
  - Can the Defra risk-assessment scheme be improved?
  - What is the role of rainfall?
- Control of runoff and erosion
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
- References

## Soil erosion and risk-assessment for on- and off-farm impacts: A test case using the Midhurst area, West Sussex, UK

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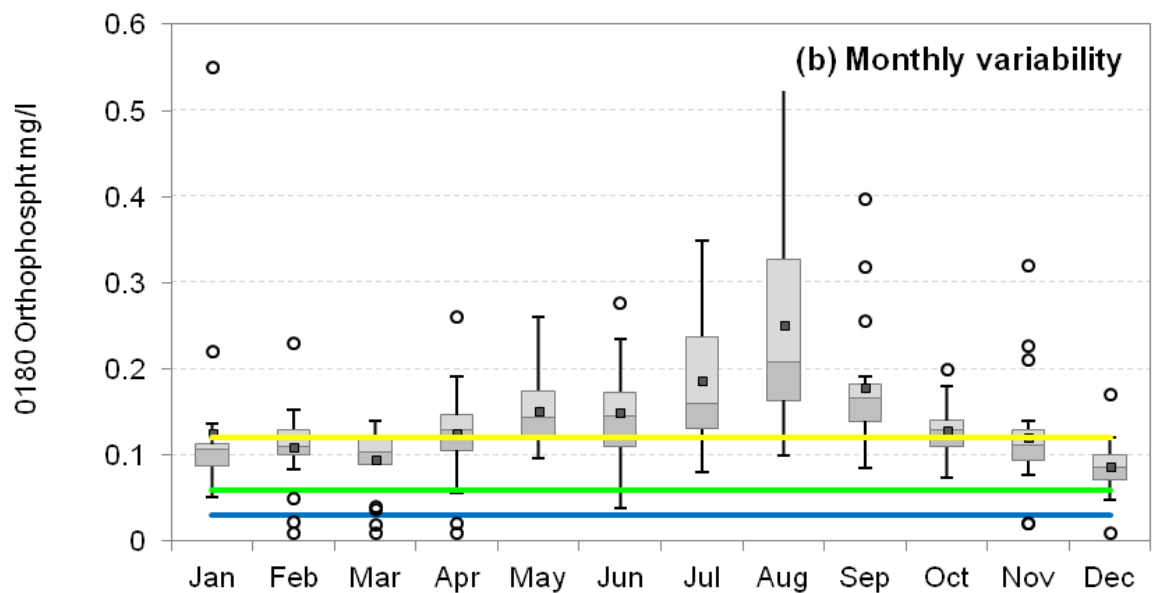
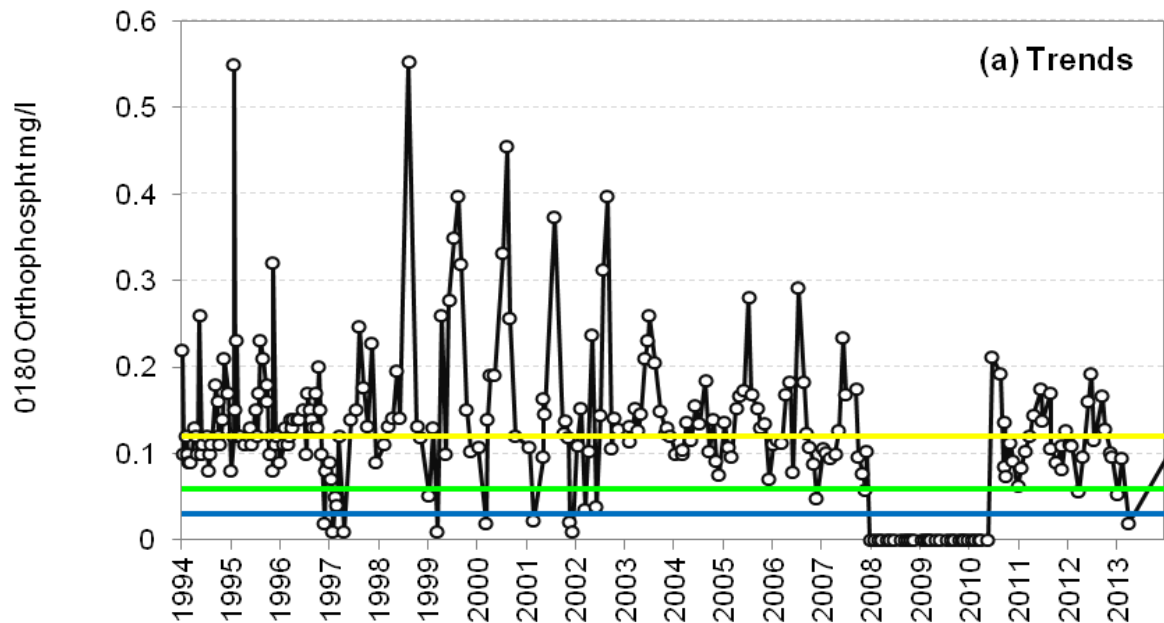
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Muddy floods

### ABSTRACT

Soil erosion on agricultural land is a growing problem in Western Europe and constitutes a threat to quality and to the ability of soils to provide environmental services. The off-site impacts of poorly eroded soil, principally eutrophication of water bodies, sedimentation of gravel-bedded rivers, its reservoir capacity, muddy flooding of roads and communities, are increasingly recognised and the shift of funding in the European Union (EU) from production-related to avoidance of pollutant landscape protection, raises issues of cross-compliance: public support for agriculture has to be given value-for-money. In this context risk-assessment procedures have been introduced to help farmers recognise sites where either certain crops should not be grown or anti-erosion measures are required. Defra [Defra, 2005a, Controlling Soil Erosion: a Manual for the Assessment and Management of Agricultural Land at Risk of Water Erosion in Lowland England, Revised September 2005, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, London] sets out a system of risk-assessment, including ranked crops susceptible to erosion and anti-erosion measures, that may be selected. We assess this system using field data for an area of erodible soils in the Rother valley, Sussex. The Defra approach identifies most at-risk fields and, taken together with land-use maps, allows non-compliance with advice to be highlighted. We suggest a simple extension to the system which would further identify at-risk fields in terms of possible damage to roads and rivers from muddy runoff. The increased risk of erosion in the study area is associated with certain crops: potatoes, winter cereals, maize and grazed turnips and seems unlikely to be the result of changes in rainfall which over the last 130 years are minimal. We have not evaluated proposed anti-erosion measures in the area because few have been put into practice. The European Water Framework Directive will increasingly focus attention on agricultural fields as a source of river pollution. Assessing the risk of erosion and the need for field testing of suggested approaches, are not simply issues for the EU, but for the management of global agricultural systems.

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# When are phosphate concentrations greatest?



# Summary

- The Eastern Yar suffers from an elevated sediment load. Sediment influences all the river stakeholders in one way or another
- Most of the sediment moves during individual large flood events – 90% of the sediment moving in 5% of the time
- The main soil types of the Eastern Yar catchment are at risk of water erosion
- The highest sediment loads in the Eastern Yar are in winter (January and February)
- In contrast, the highest concentrations of phosphate in the river are recorded during the summer months, when the flows are lowest