



Upstream Thinking
Proof of Concept



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UPSTREAM THINKING: THE CORE CHALLENGE



Chemicals
Assets Sludge
Energy



0.0043p

COSTS: some costs are fixed
– some are **variable**



RISK: treatment **failure** leaves
pollutants in final water

SOURCE: Some pollutants are
natural – some can be **reduced**

10mg



Soil
Algae
Pesticides
Colour

UsT2: FINDING SOURCES OF POLLUTION

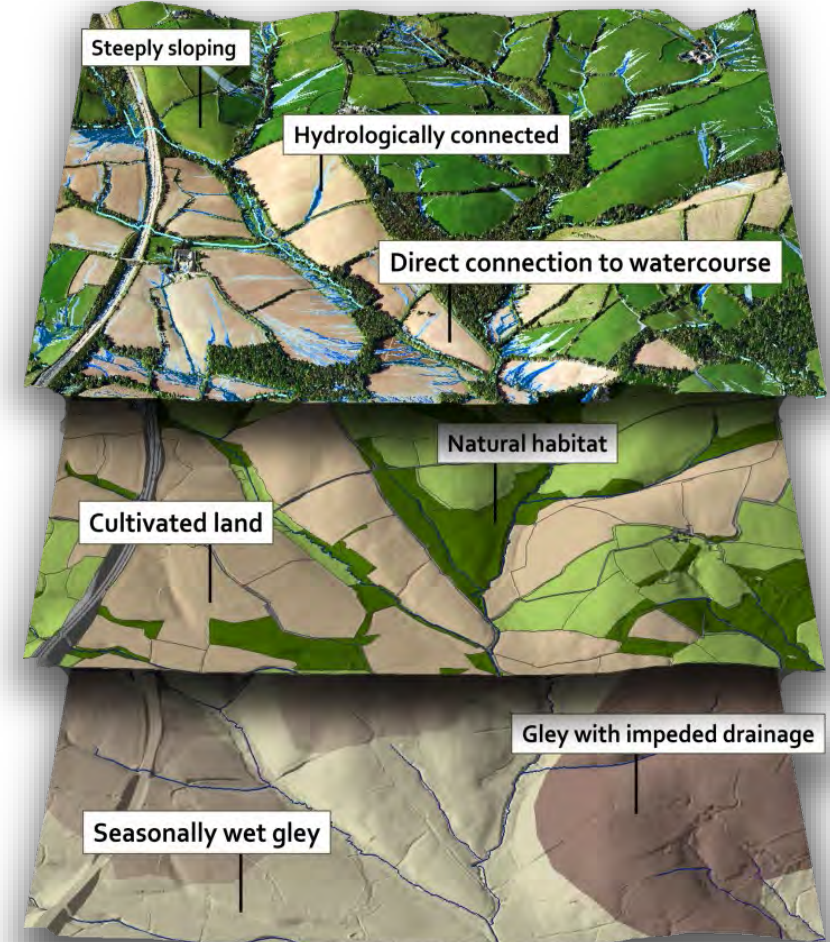
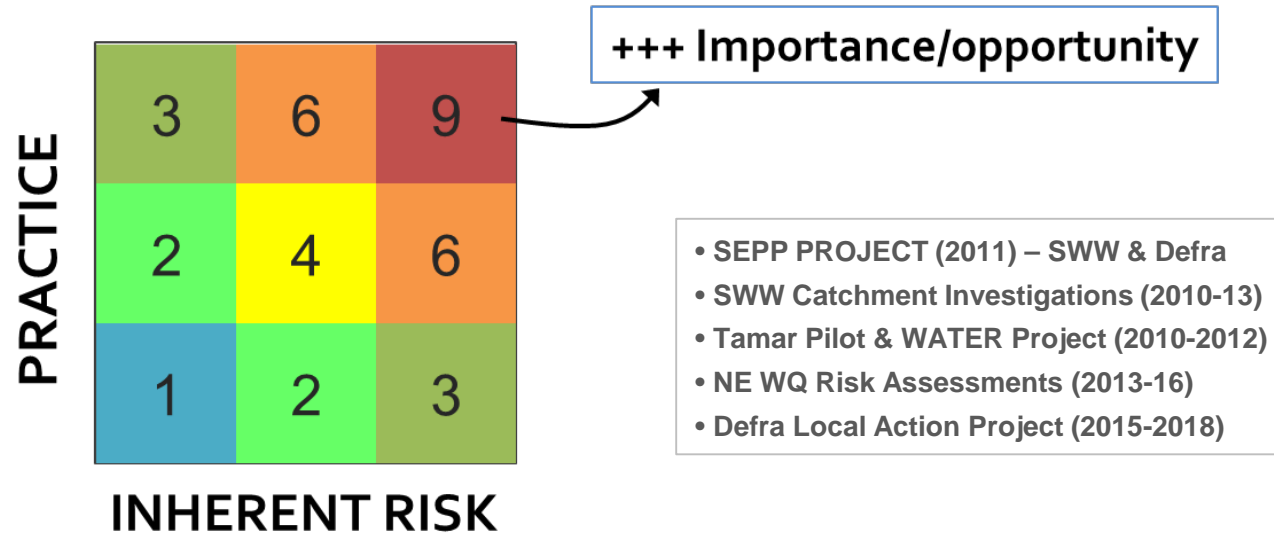
Modelling risk: *Source>Pathway>Receptor*

- **Robust environmental risk assessment is vital**

We need to characterise the pressures in the system and determine where they are coming from...

- **Seeking areas with ↑ opportunity for improvement**

Where the most risky behaviour is being undertaken in the most inherently risky places...



UsT2: FINDING SOURCES OF POLLUTION

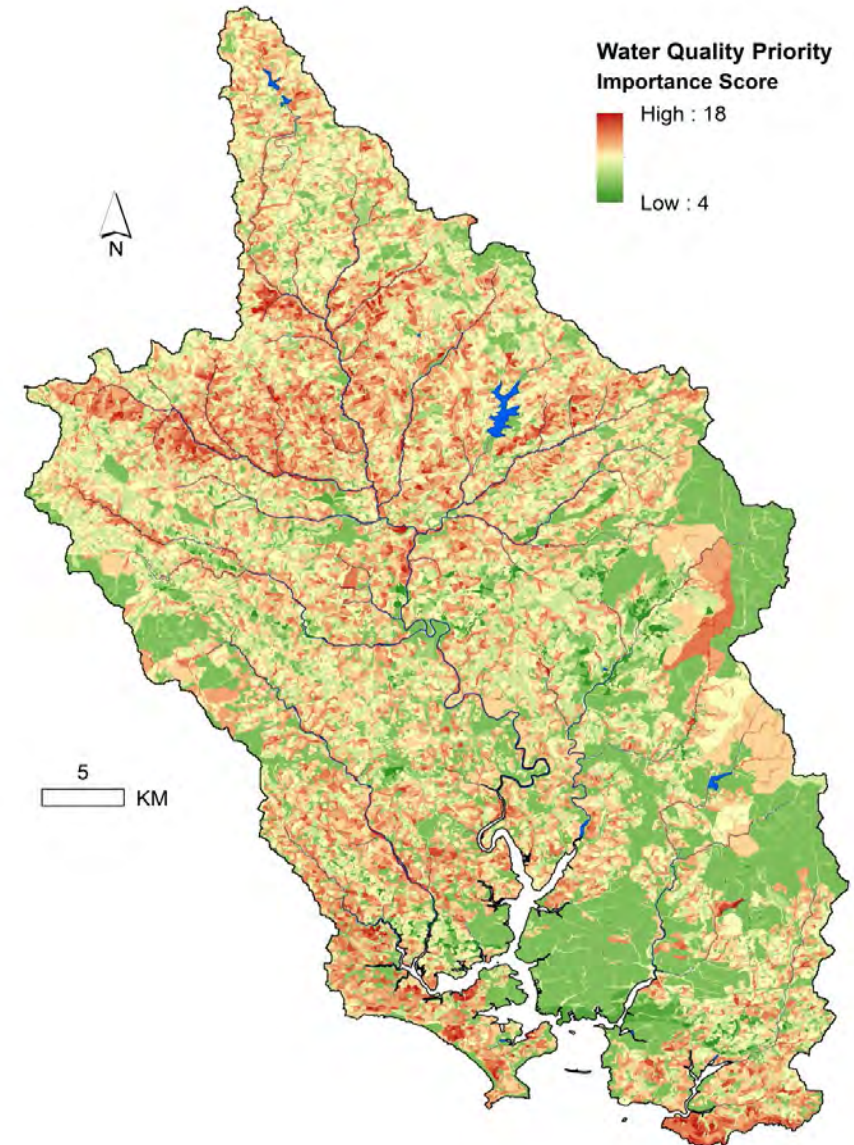
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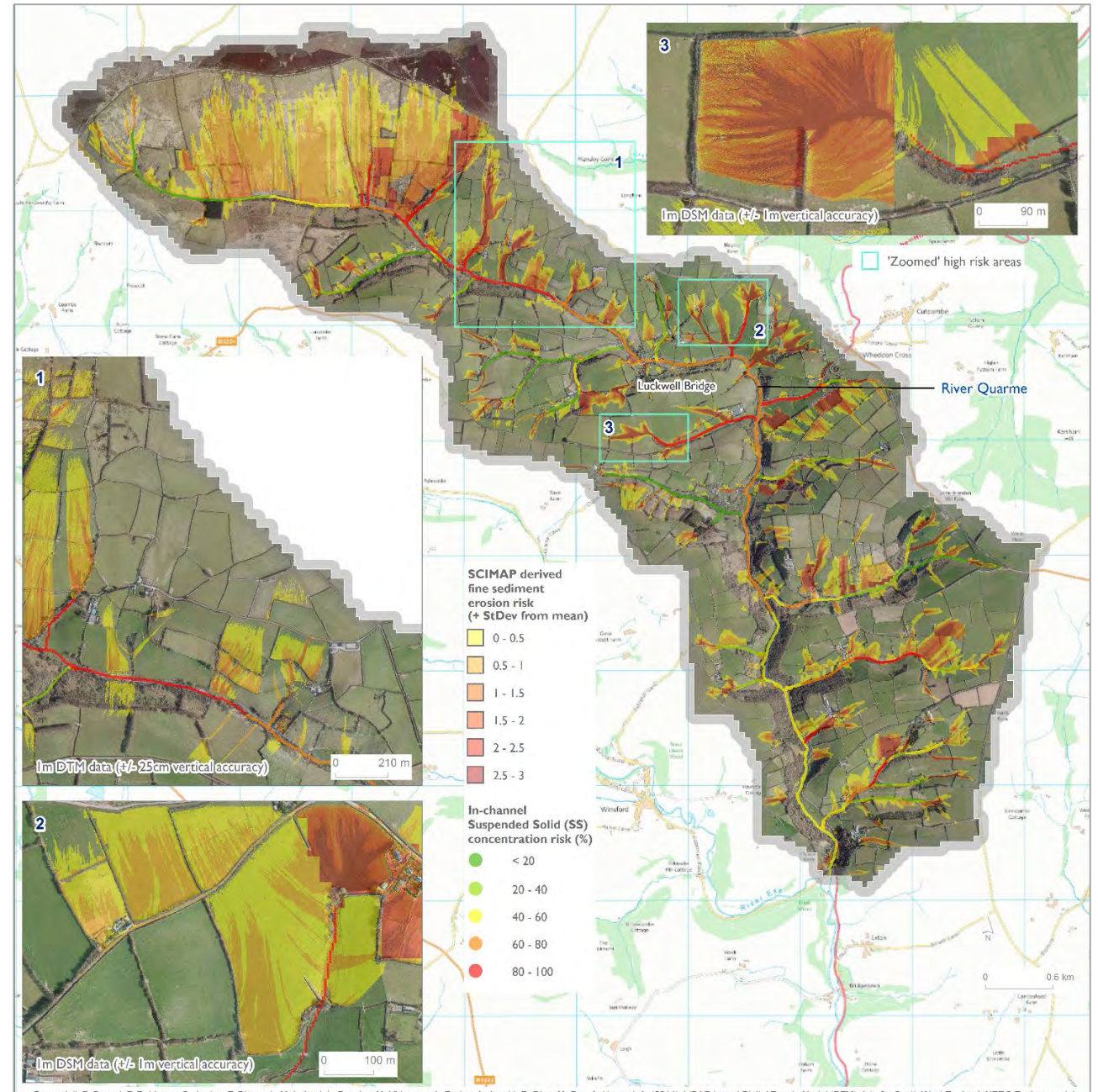
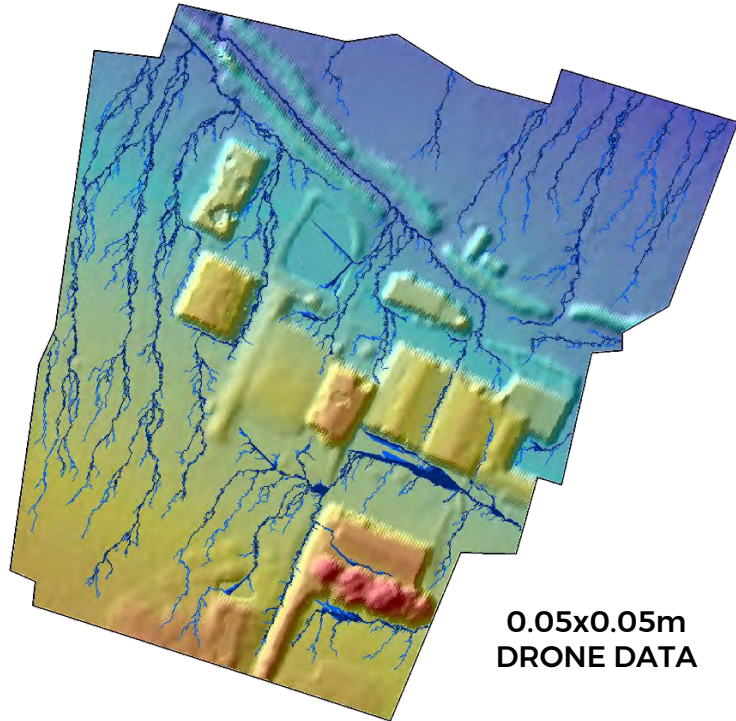


UsT2: TARGETING - SCIMAP

Modelling risk: *Source>Pathway>Receptor*

- **SCIMAP**

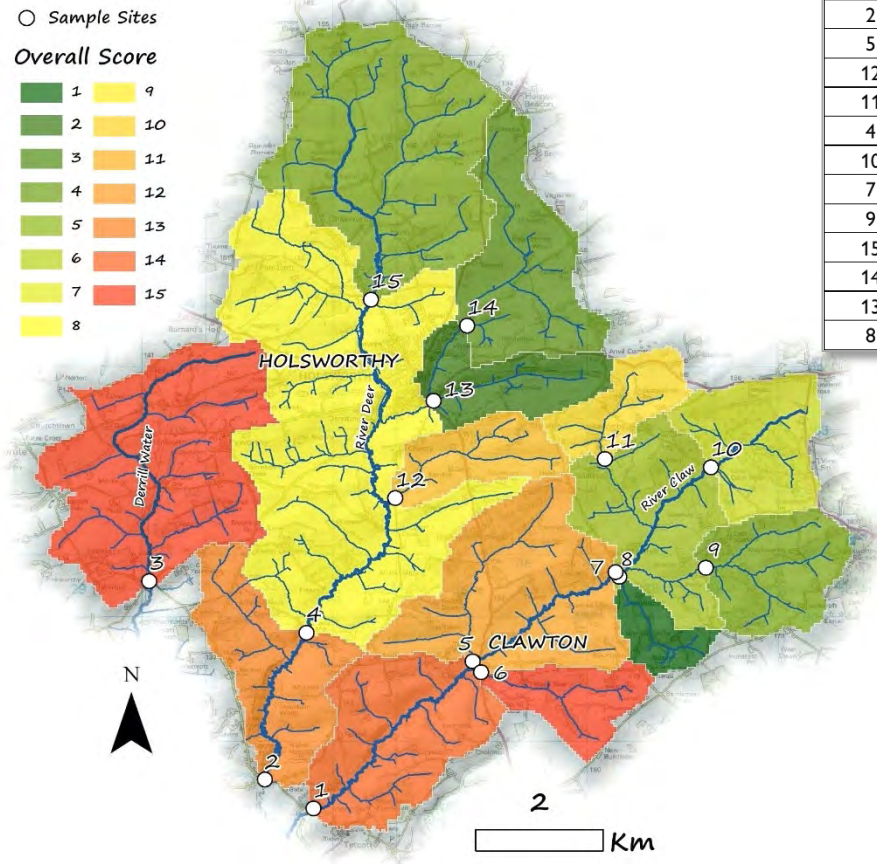
A powerful visualisation & engagement tool that can be applied at a variety of spatial scales to target pollution risk areas...



UsT2: FINDING SOURCES OF POLLUTION

Monitoring: survey & sampling for source apportionment

WQ spot sampling



Site No.	River	Site	EC	TURB	PO ₄	COL	TRYP	C-DOM	OBA	OVERALL
3	Derrill Water	Yeomadon	13	14	13	12	13	8	9	11.7
6	Beer Stream	Clawton	15	8	9	8	14	14	14	11.7
1	Claw	Tetcott	9	13	7	14	12	9	10	10.6
2	Deer	North Tamerton	14	12	15	11	10	3	6	10.1
5	Claw	Clawton	5	15	12	15	1	10	11	9.9
12	Chasty Stream	Ratherton	12	6	10	6	15	7	8	9.1
11	Hollacombe Stream	Hayne Barton	10	1	14	1	6	15	15	8.9
4	Deer	Forda Mill	11	11	11	13	9	1	1	8.1
10	Claw	Higher Claw Bridge	2	10	4	7	7	13	13	8.0
7	Claw	Claw Bridge	1	9	8	10	3	12	12	7.9
9	Arscott Stream	Hayford Plantation	3	7	2	9	2	11	7	5.9
15	Claw	Gulliver Bridge	6	4	6	3	11	6	5	5.9
14	Lamerton Stream	Lamerton	8	5	3	5	8	4	3	5.1
13	Southcombe Stream	Cole's Mill Bridge	7	3	1	2	5	5	4	3.9
8	Middlecroft Stream	Clawford Cross	4	2	5	4	4	2	2	3.3

Overall water quality is the **average** of the scores given for each basic water quality indicator (conductivity, phosphate, colour, sediment, tryptophan, C-DOM and OBA).

The lower Deer, lower and mid Claw and Derrill Water are the worst affected overall. Subsequent surveys will help to refine any seasonal influences on water quality in these catchments.

UsT2: DELIVERY OF ADVICE & MEASURES

Delivery: farmer engagement, advice & investment



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UsT2: DELIVERY OF ADVICE & MEASURES

Delivery: farmer engagement, advice & investment

Tamar farm visited in March 2016 where work was identified to update the dirty water system through installing a new pump to reduce the risk of overflows to the river and by redirecting it across the farm via pipework system. Works completed to value of £4,406 (50% grant).



UsT2: DELIVERY OF ADVICE & MEASURES

Delivery: farmer engagement, advice & investment

Tamar farm visited in January 2016 where work was identified to cover an open yard area to reduce volumes of dirty water produced, diverting clean water and thereby improving slurry storage and reducing nutrient spreading on the land. Works completed to value of £21,500 (50% grant).



UsT2: DELIVERY OF ADVICE & MEASURES

Delivery: farmer engagement, advice & investment

Tamar farm visited in August 2016 where work was identified for fencing to protect the watercourses, providing a wider natural buffer to intercept any soil or nutrients mobilised. The fence line incorporates gated access for stock management and one improved crossing with stone. Works completed to value of £2,033 (50% grant).



UsT2: DELIVERY OF ADVICE & MEASURES

Delivery: farmer engagement, advice & investment

An Exe farm (upscaling) visited in November 2015 where work was identified to upgrade 2 sections of the current cattle track by installing concrete sleepers to negate the poaching of soils under and reduce mobilisation and nutrient loading entering adjacent watercourses. Works completed to value of £5,614 (50% grant).

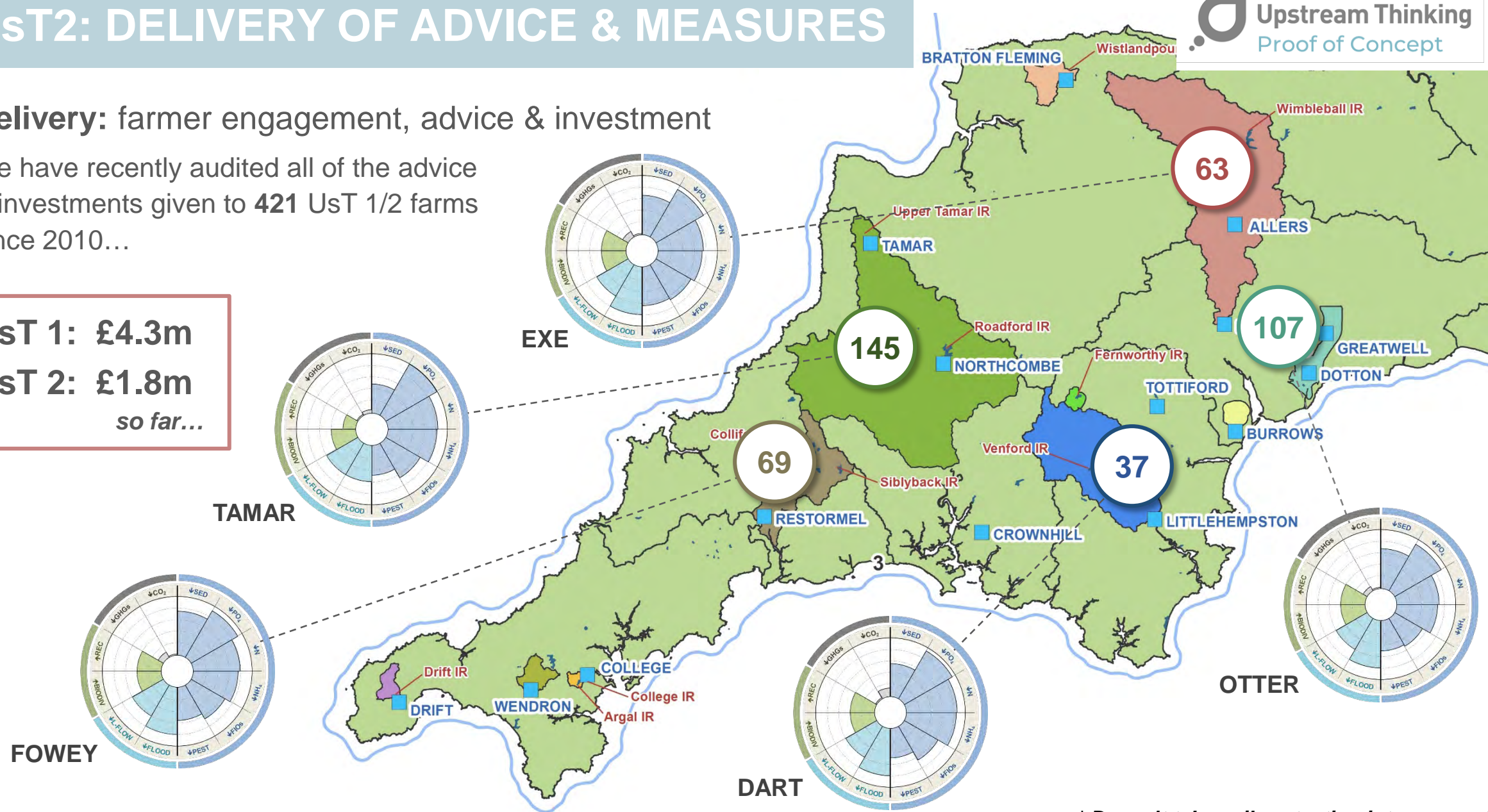


UsT2: DELIVERY OF ADVICE & MEASURES

Delivery: farmer engagement, advice & investment


We have recently audited all of the advice & investments given to **421** UsT 1/2 farms since 2010...

UsT 1: £4.3m
UsT 2: £1.8m
so far...



* Doesn't take soil protection into account



 **Upstream Thinking**
Pesticide Simulator





Upstream Thinking Pesticide Simulator





THE PESTICIDE CHALLENGE

- ‘**Pesticides**’ – any chemical used to kill or control ‘pest’ organisms – typically in agriculture or horticulture
- When used correctly, they can deliver substantial **benefits for society**:
 - Increase availability of good quality, reasonably priced food
 - Help maintain urban environments & infrastructure
- Can pose a **significant threat** to ecosystem health, biodiversity and human health if lost to environment
- **Risks of contamination** need to be assessed and measures taken to minimise

THE WATER COMPANY VIEW



- UK water companies are required by law to –
 1. Assess the risk that pesticides pose to raw water sources
 2. Monitor sources for the presence of pesticides
- EU Drinking Water Directive
“...must be no individual pesticide detected in drinking water over 0.1 µg per litre...”
- Increasing levels of pesticides found in raw water has driven huge increases in treatment processes...and costs...

WTWs processes for mitigating pesticide contamination include:

Dilution – Adsorption – Biological – Destruction – Physical Removal



THE WATER COMPANY VIEW

- **Switching sources** or blending raw water to dilute contaminants (£ ⚡ ×)
- **Adsorption** onto granular or powdered activated carbon (£ ⚡)
- **Destruction** using ozone, ultraviolet irradiation or advanced oxidation (£ ⚡)
- **Physical removal** (size exclusion) using nano-filtration reverse osmosis (£ ⚡)

£ Expensive
⚡ High energy demand
× May not be possible



THE WATER COMPANY VIEW

There is always some residual level of risk...

- Some pesticides, such as metaldehyde (slug pellets) and the herbicide chlopyralid, can still 'break through' these processes...
- The performance of treatment processes, such as activated carbon filters, can be degraded if raw water quality is poor.



3x MECHANISMS OF PESTICIDE POLLUTION

- Pesticide pollution typically occurs via **3 mechanisms** –
 1. **Wash-off from land** following application
 2. **Spills during preparation** and **equipment washing**
 3. **Leaks** from current and/or old **storage** facilities
- **The risk of pollution can be reduced (but never to zero) by increasing the adoption of good/best practices for each of these process...**

SPATIAL ASSESSMENT OF PESTICIDE POLLUTION SOURCES

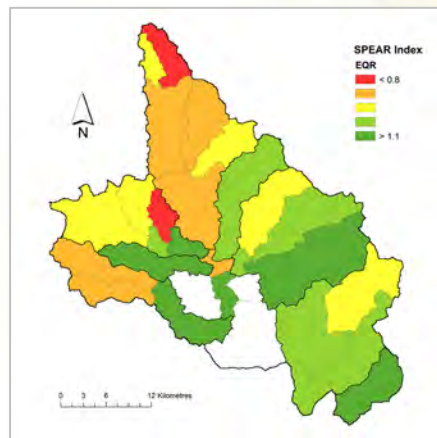
- 2x approaches for identifying pesticide sources in a landscape –

1. **Monitoring** (biological or chemical)

SPEcies At Risk: Pesticides

(SPEAR-PESTICIDES Index)

Assesses how invertebrates in a river are being affected by pesticides (esp. insecticides)



SPATIAL ASSESSMENT OF PESTICIDE POLLUTION SOURCES

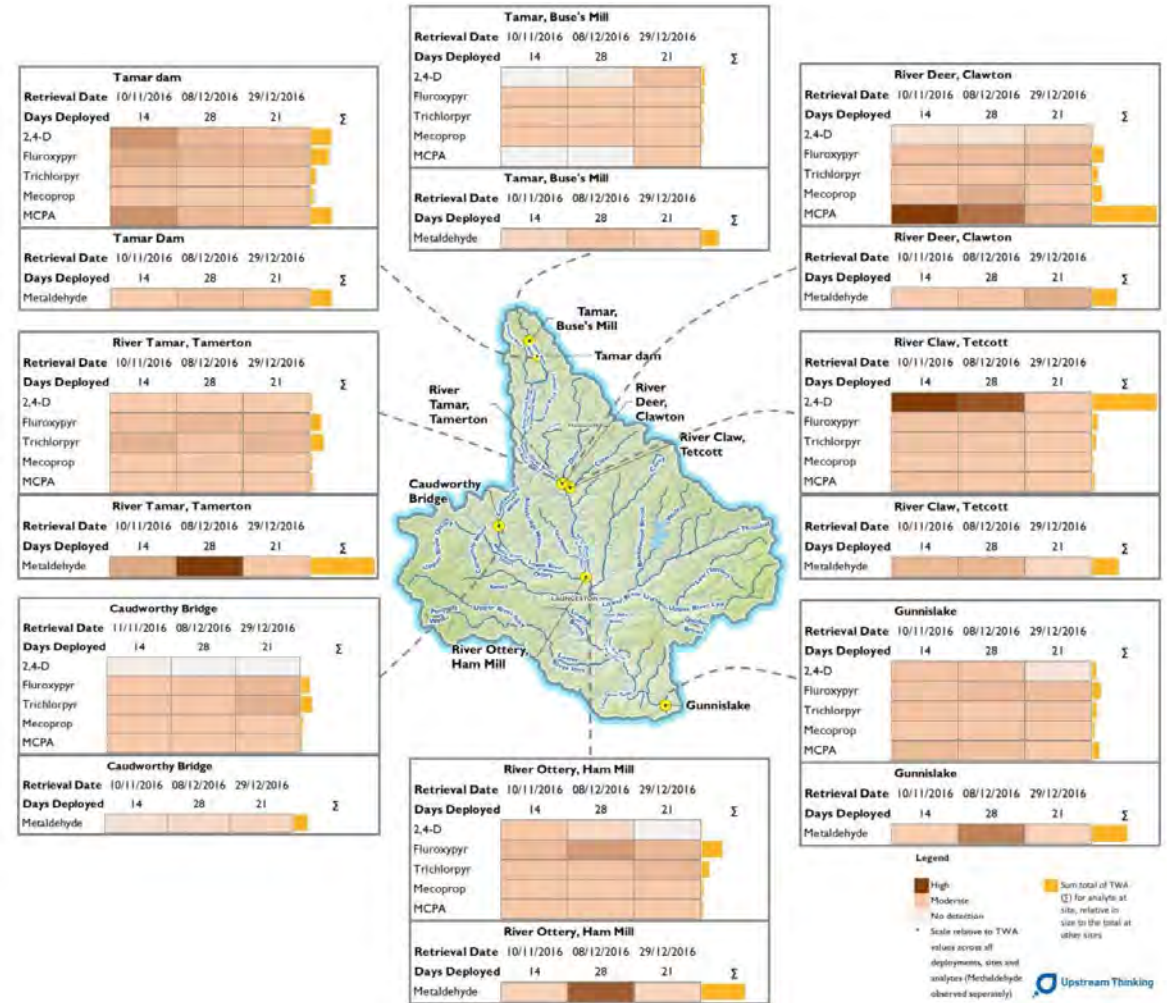
- 2x approaches for identifying pesticide sources in a landscape -

1. Monitoring (biological or chemical)

Passive sampling



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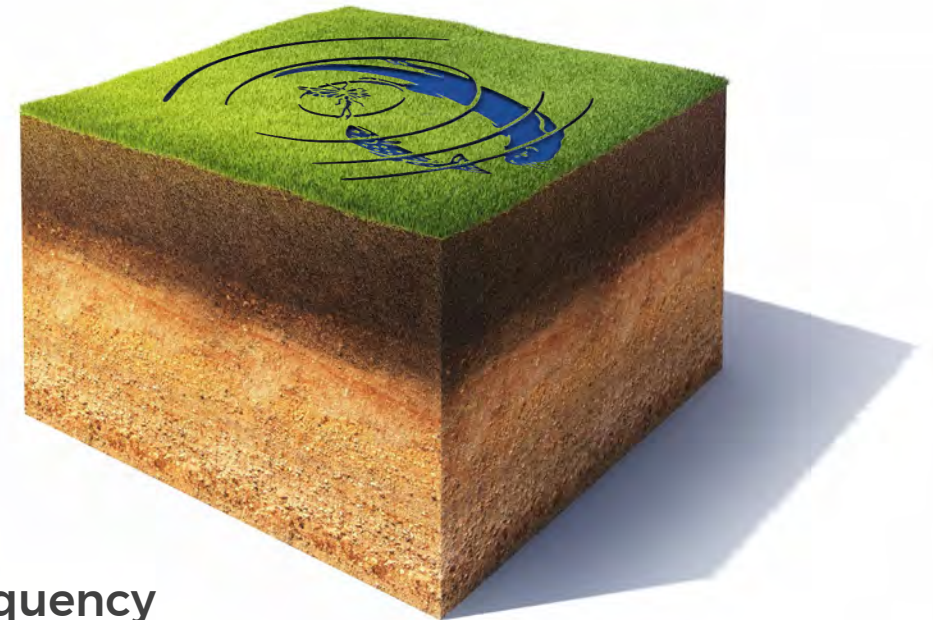


THE UPSTREAM THINKING PESTICIDE POLLUTION SIMULATOR

WRT have undertaken a comprehensive review of existing pesticide models

We identified the need for a **pesticide simulator** that:

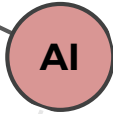
- Assesses risk at **fine spatial** (sub-field) & **temporal** (day) scale
- Incorporates **local data**
- Helps **target/design advice & measures**
- Simulates **stochastic pesticide pollution events**
- Works for **grassland dominated catchments**
- Demonstrates **changes in pesticide pollution events** (frequency and magnitude) resulting from **land management advice and measures**



LAND USE OR CROP



£ AI APPLIED



HALF LIFE

MODULE 1: BEHAVIOUR/PRACTICE

! DATE/TIMING

RATE

FREQUENCY !

APPLICATION

! PROCESS
(Prep & washdown)

SOURCE

PATHWAY

RECEPTOR

ADVICE & MEASURES



MORPHOLOGY !

PROXIMITY TO WATERCOURSE !

PRIOR WETNESS !

APPLICATION SITUATION

IMPACTS

PARTITION CONSTANT (K_d)

SOIL TYPE

£ (ECO) HEALTH

£ COST OF REMOVAL

£ COST OF NON-REMOVAL

SOIL ORGANIC CARBON (SC)

SOIL CONDITION

DEPTH

HYDROLOGY

COMPACTION !

SOIL HYDROLOGY

HYDROLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY !

! RAINFALL

CATCHMENT HYDROLOGY

! = RISK FACTOR - LIKELIHOOD OF CONTAMINATION

! = FACTOR EFFECTING LEVEL OF CONTAMINATION

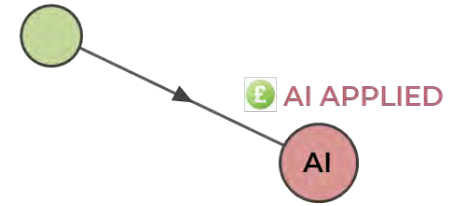
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 **Upstream Thinking**
Pesticide Simulator

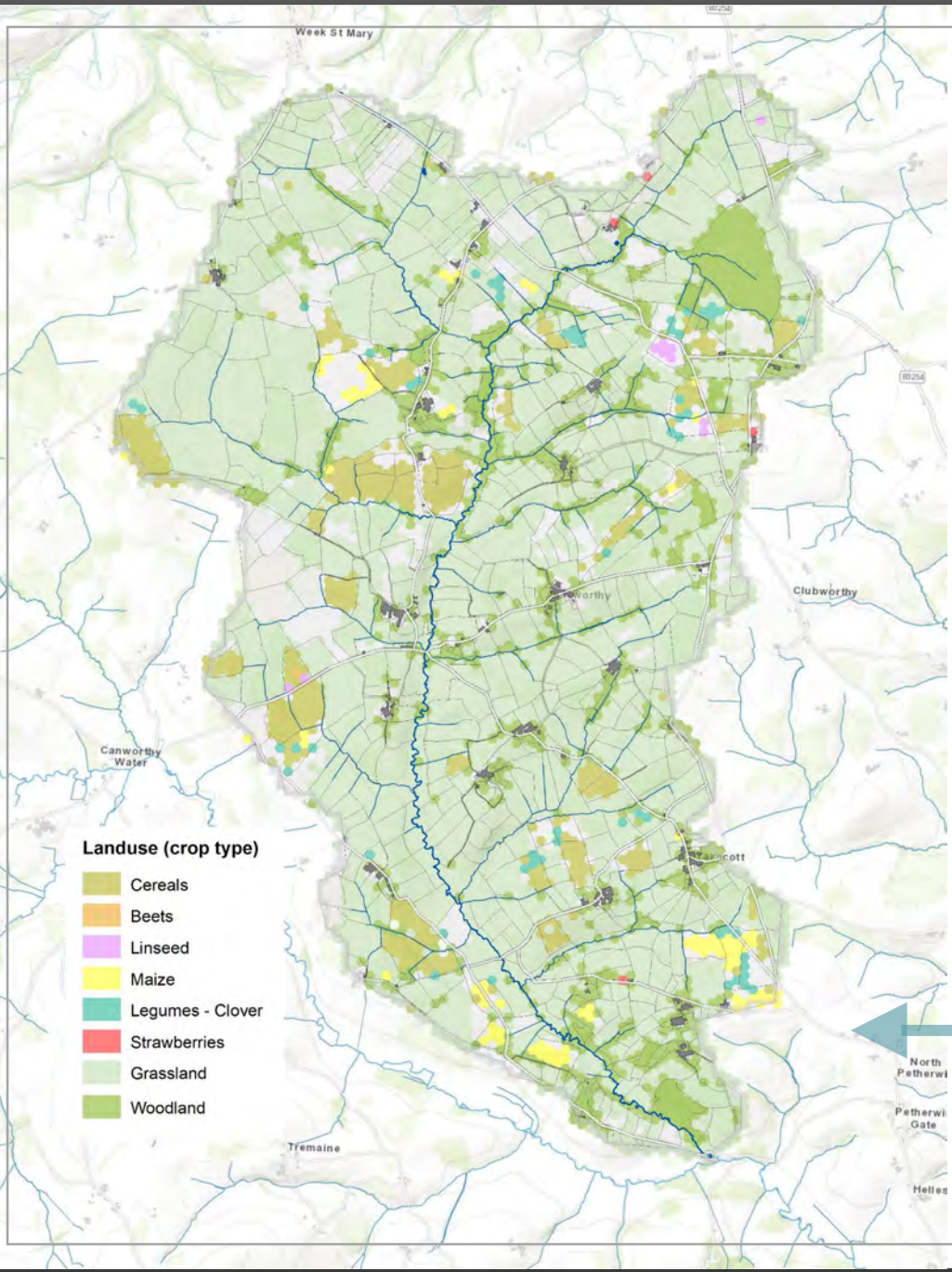
MODULE 1: BEHAVIOUR/PRACTICE

LAND USE OR CROP

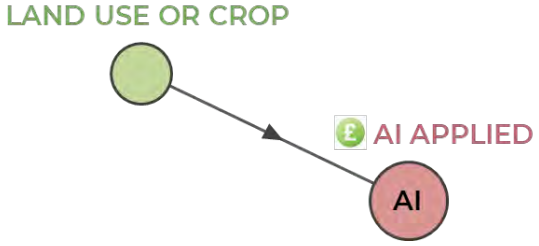


Undertook comprehensive review of :

- Pesticide formulations on the market, their usage guidelines & their cost
- Current agronomic advice provided to farmers of different types in the South West
- Latest regulatory framework relating to integrated pest management (IPM)
- Farmer (& spray contractor) perceptions of IPM & typical behaviour



MODULE 1: BEHAVIOUR/PRACTICE

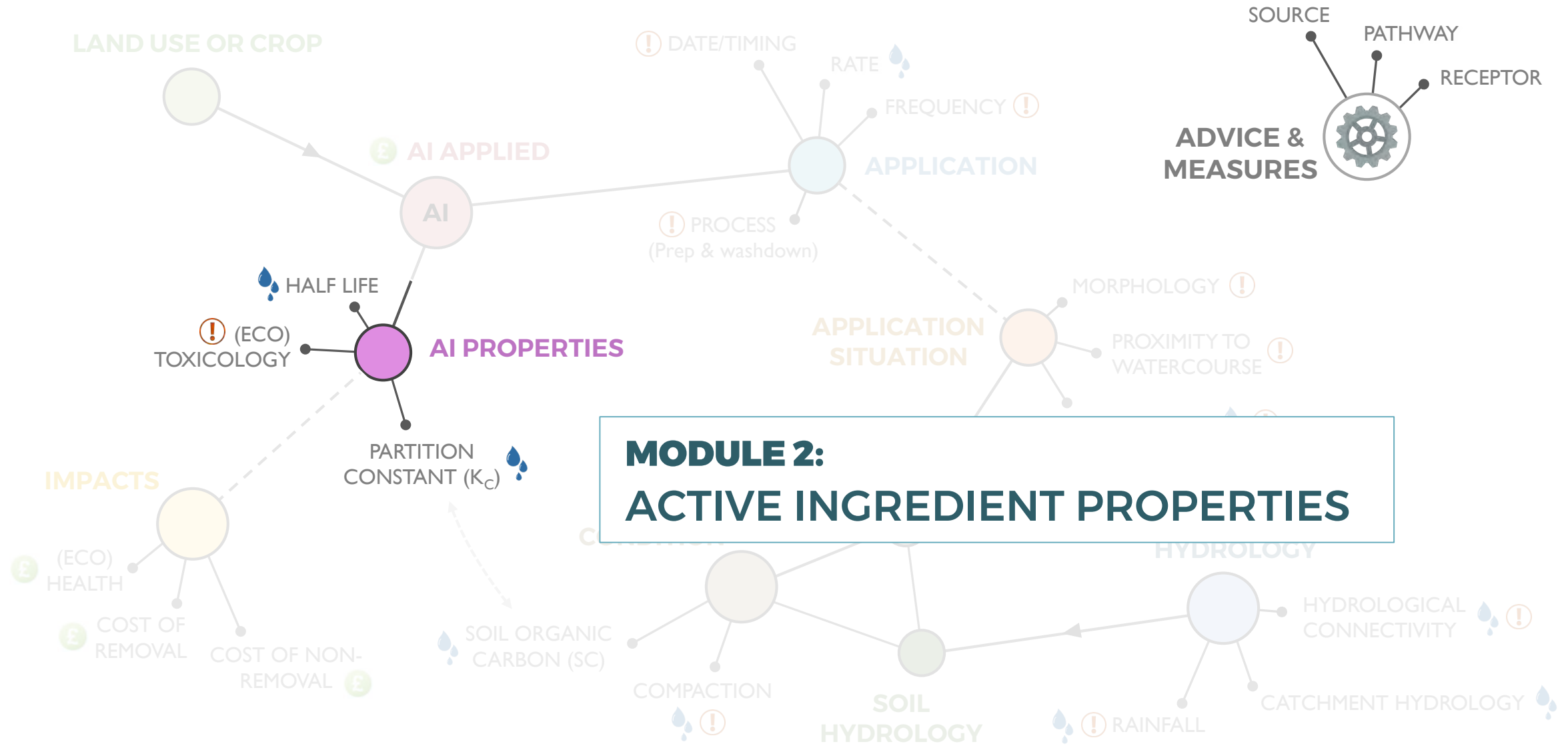


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Active ingredient choice & application method is determined by land use / crop type / pest type

The most critical factor is the 'decision-to-spray'

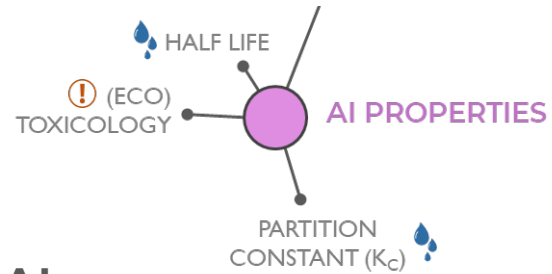


⚠ = RISK FACTOR - LIKELIHOOD OF CONTAMINATION

💧 = FACTOR EFFECTING LEVEL OF CONTAMINATION

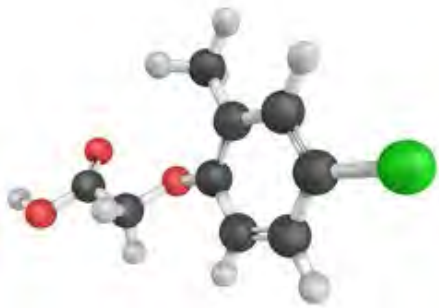
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MODULE 2: AI PROPERTIES



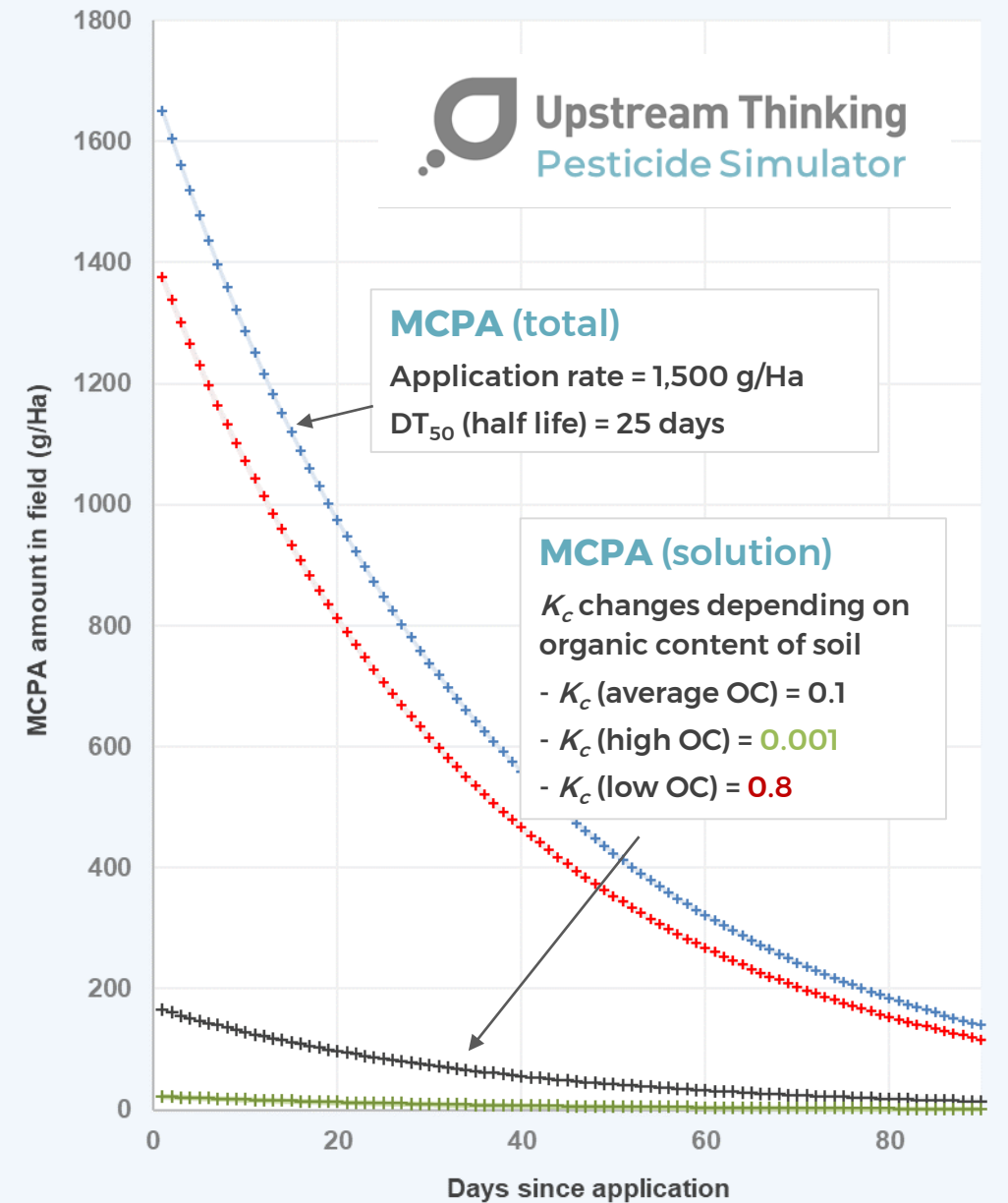
Key characteristics of each AI -

- **Half life** - rate of AI breakdown
- **Partition Constant (K_c)** - proportion of AI applied that enters solution in soil pore water
- **Mobility & persistence** in the environment
- **Ecotoxicology & potential human toxicology**

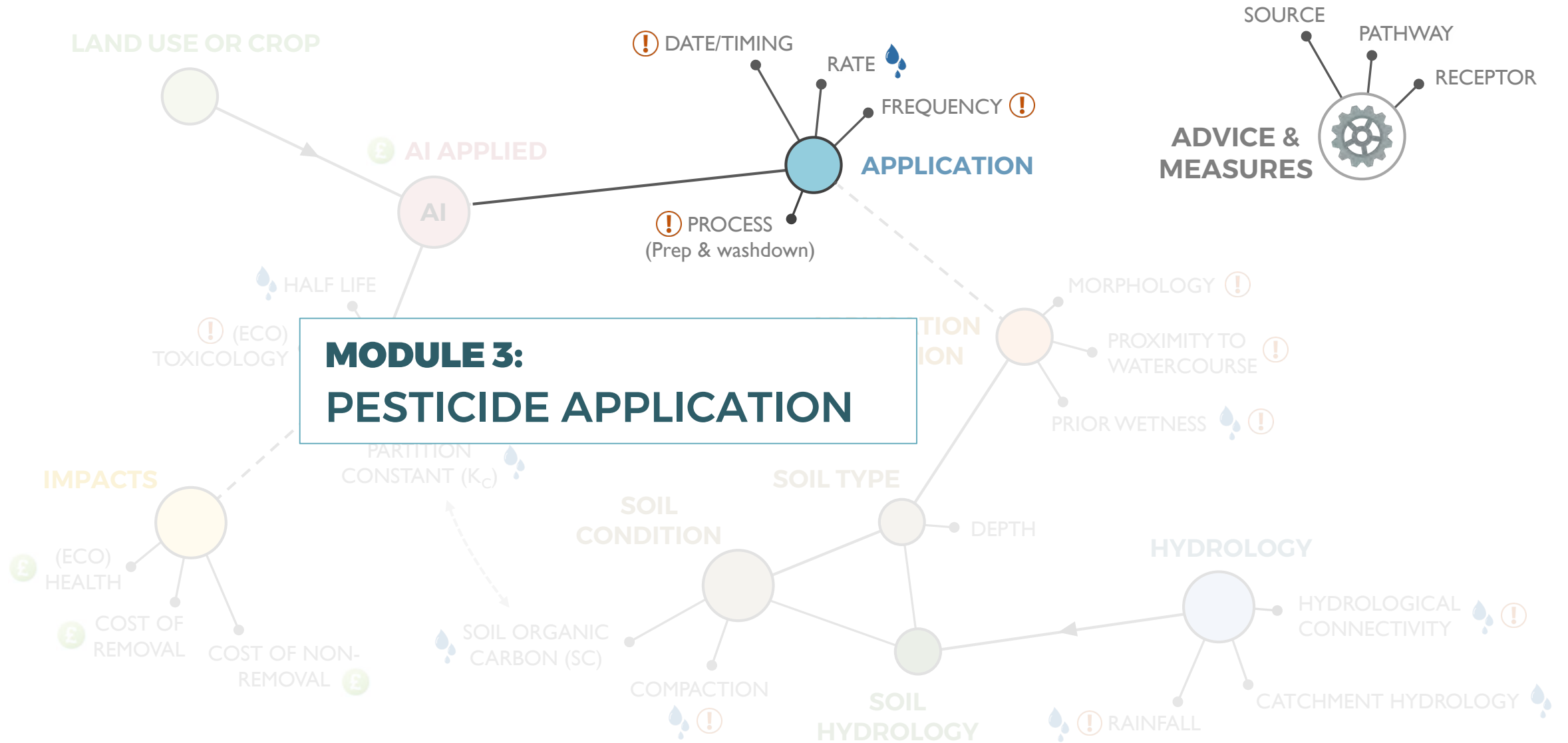


MCPA

2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid is a selective herbicide used to control broadleaf weeds, such as thistle and dock, in cereal crops and pasture.



MODULE 3: PESTICIDE APPLICATION



(!) = RISK FACTOR - LIKELIHOOD OF CONTAMINATION

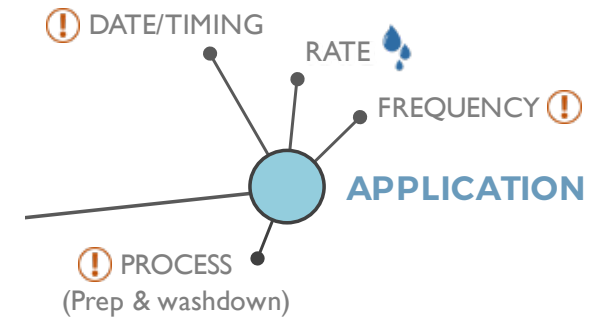
(water drop) = FACTOR EFFECTING LEVEL OF CONTAMINATION

(£) = ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION - COSTS

MODULE 3: PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Key parameters relating to pesticide application processes –

- **Process risk** – spray accuracy, preparation & washdown (biobed use)
- **Date (timing) of application** – when is spraying done (earliest/latest)
- **Application rate** – at what rate is an AI applied (usually in g/Ha)
- **Number of applications** – trade-offs between 1 big hit or multiple


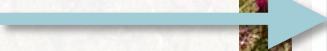


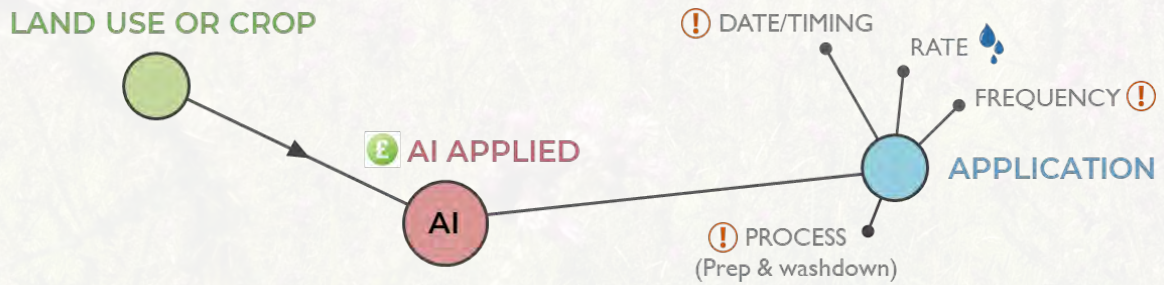
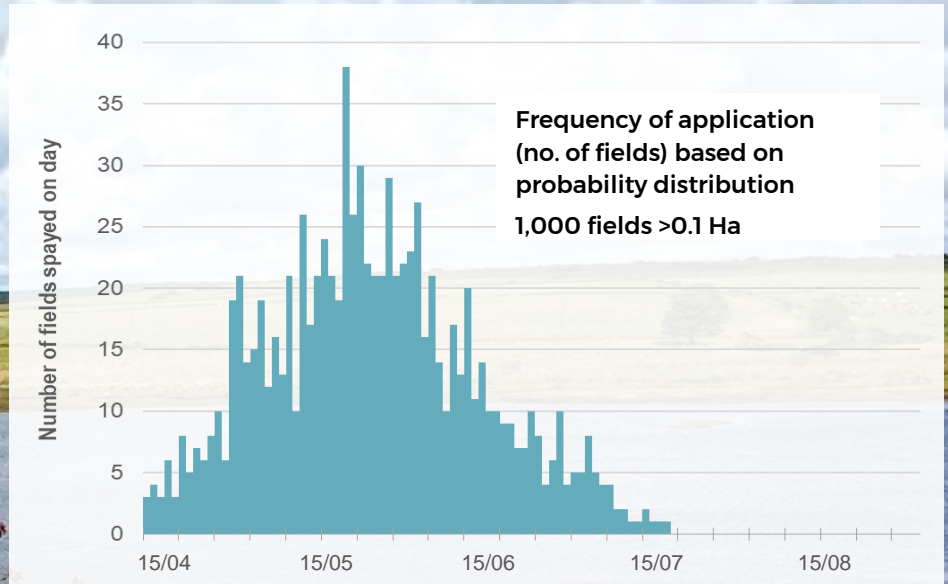
 Upstream Thinking
Pesticide Simulator











CASE STUDY: IPM FOR GRASSLAND

Farmers need to selectively control grassland weeds (thistles, docks, rushes, nettles, etc)

- **'Decision to spray'** - judgment/advice —  **Probably most critical factor**
- **2x application windows** - spring & autumn
- **AI selection** - based on **target, advice & cost**
- **Application rate** - according to label/advice 



 £29.94 from 2 shops Depitox 5L, Depitox 5L ★★★★★ (118)	 £65.22 from Pithcare Headland Polo 10L, Headland Polo ★★★★★ (66)	 £59.22 from Pithcare Thrust Selective Herbicide 5L, Each ★★★★★ (24)	 £56.82 from 10+ shops Roundup ProVantage 400 5L, 5 Litres ★★★★★ (234)
 £65.82 from Pithcare Finalsan Plus 5L, Each ★★★★★ (12)	 £47.34 from Pithcare Hysward-P 5 Litres ★★★★★ (17)	 £358.20 from Pithcare Rescue Selective Herbicide 1L, 1 Litres	 £117.90 from Pithcare Optica Selective Herbicide 10L, Each

LAND USE OR CROP

! DATE/TIMING

RATE

FREQUENCY !

SOURCE

PATHWAY

RECEPTOR

ADVICE & MEASURES



MODULE 4: APPLICATION SITUATION

(Prep & washdown)

HALF LIFE

! (ECO) TOXICOLOGY

AI PROPERTIES

APPLICATION SITUATION

MORPHOLOGY !

PROXIMITY TO WATERCOURSE !

PRIOR WETNESS !

IMPACTS

PARTITION CONSTANT (K_d)

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COST OF REMOVAL

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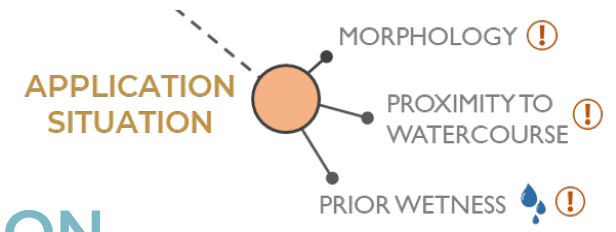
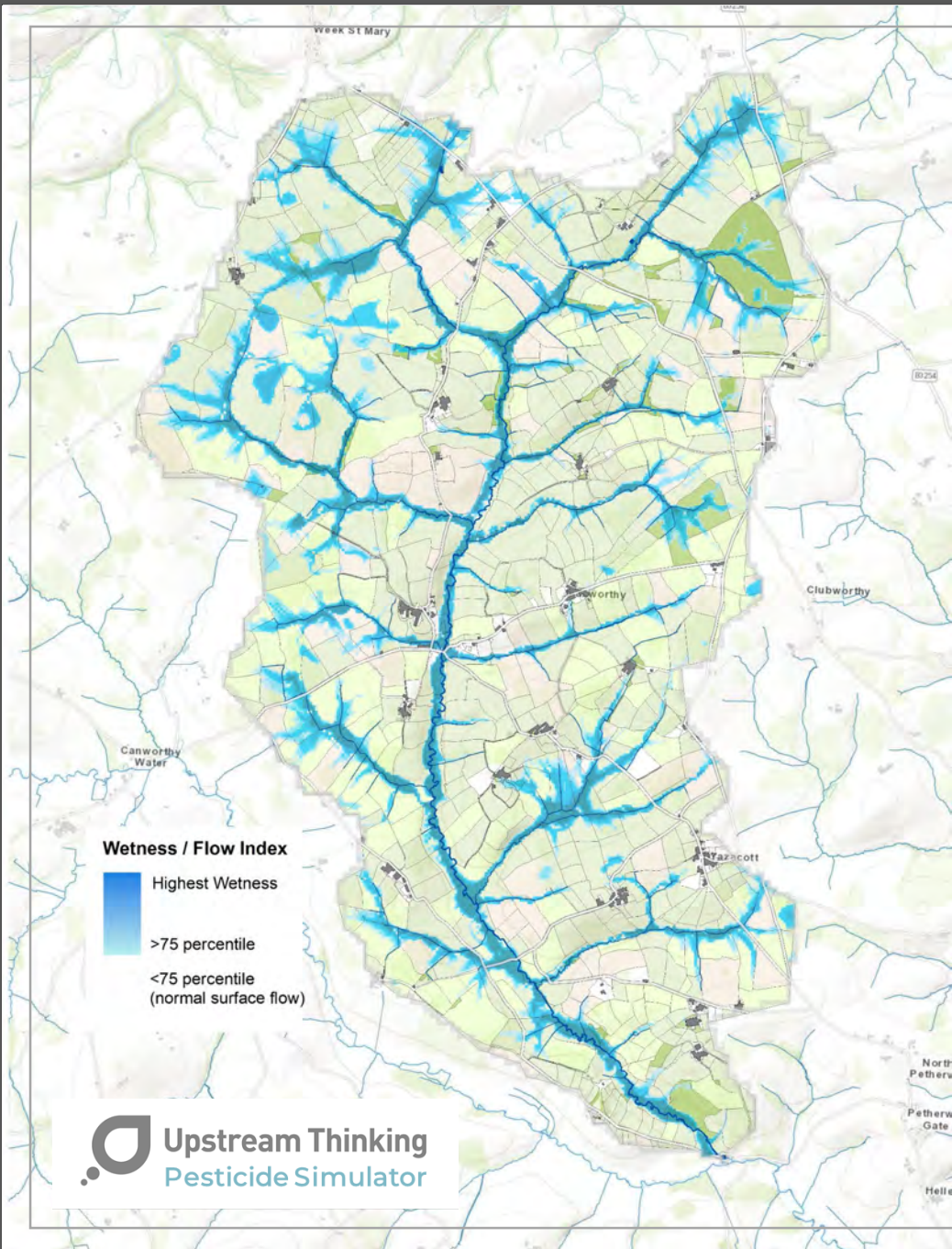
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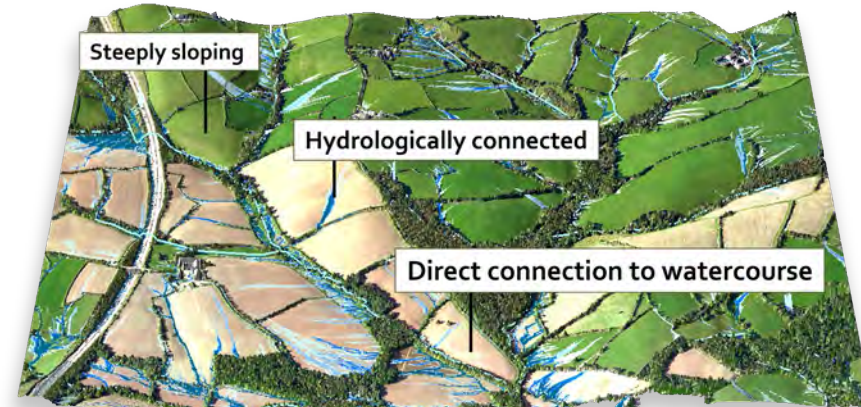
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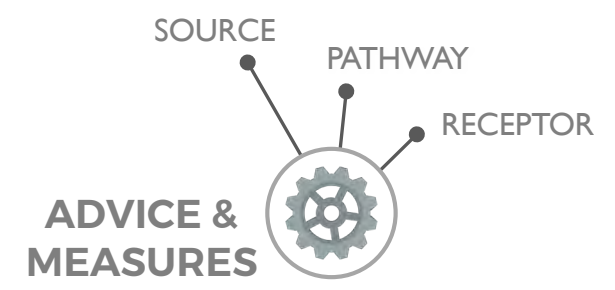


MODULE 4: APPLICATION SITUATION

Several key characteristics of the application situation significantly effect pollution risk:

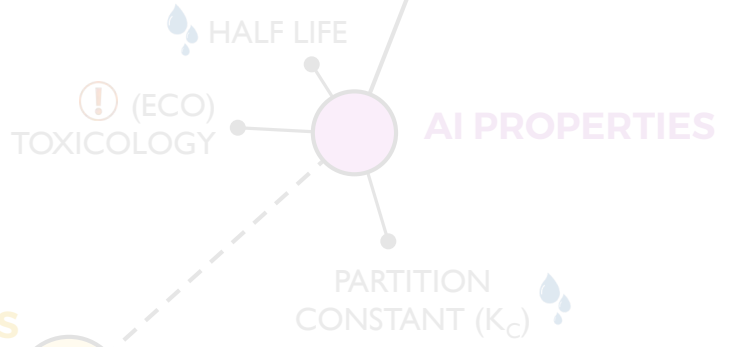
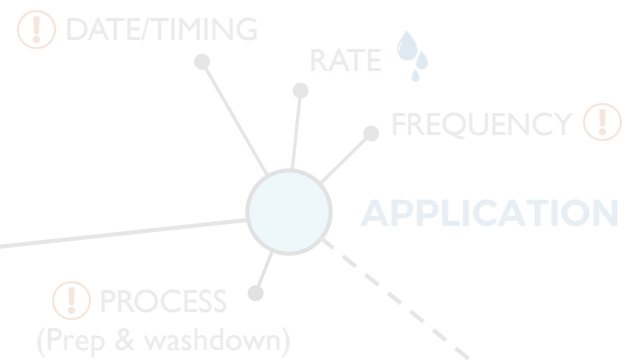
- **Morphology** - slope increases run-off potential
- **Hydrological connectivity & prior wetness**
 ↑ % of AI entering solution & ↑ mobilisation risk
- **Proximity to watercourse** - ↓ pathway attenuation





LAND USE OR CROP

AI APPLIED



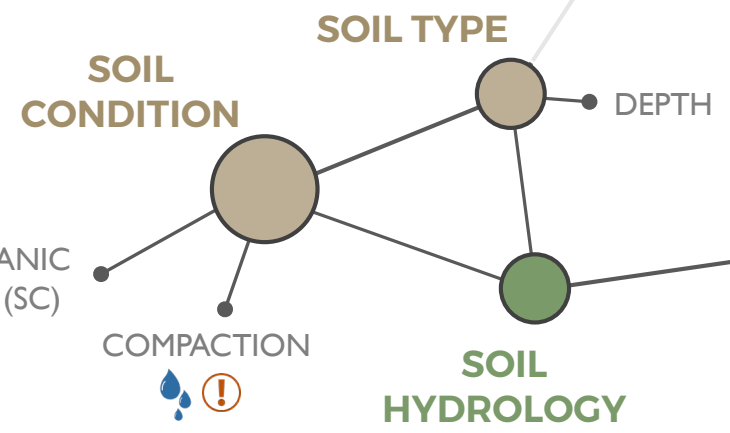
APPLICATION SITUATION



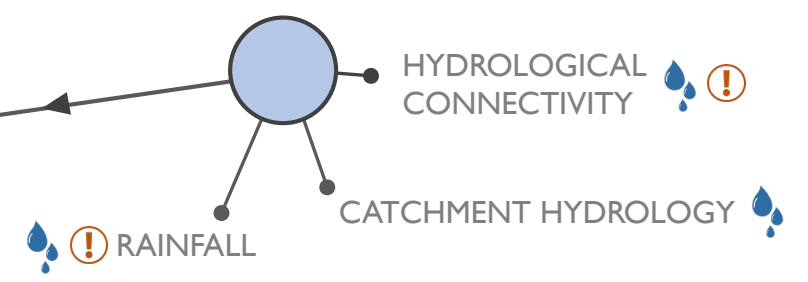
IMPACTS



**MODULE 5:
HYDROLOGY & SOIL**



HYDROLOGY

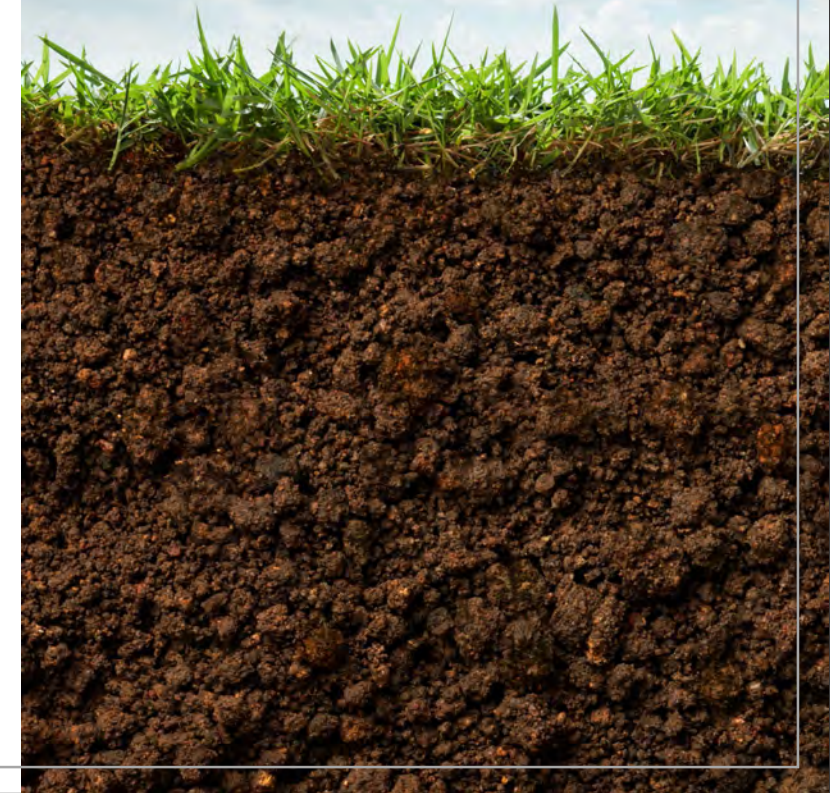
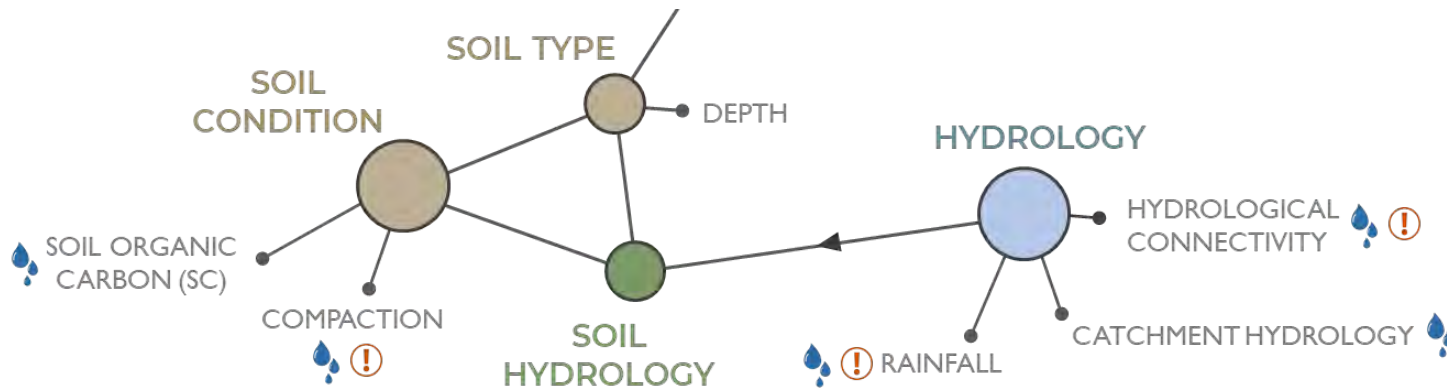


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MODULE 5: HYDROLOGY & SOIL

Factors that determine the hydrological response of a catchment landscape :

- **Rainfall** - input of water to the system
- **Catchment size & morphology**
- determines volume of water & rate of run-off
- **Soil type (character) & condition** - determine soil hydrology



MODULE 5: HYDROLOGY & SOIL



Soil hydrology model (based on TOPMODEL):
Developed by Mick Whelan at Uni of Leicester...

SOIL - 0712d - HALLSWORTH 1 - 49% of catchment area

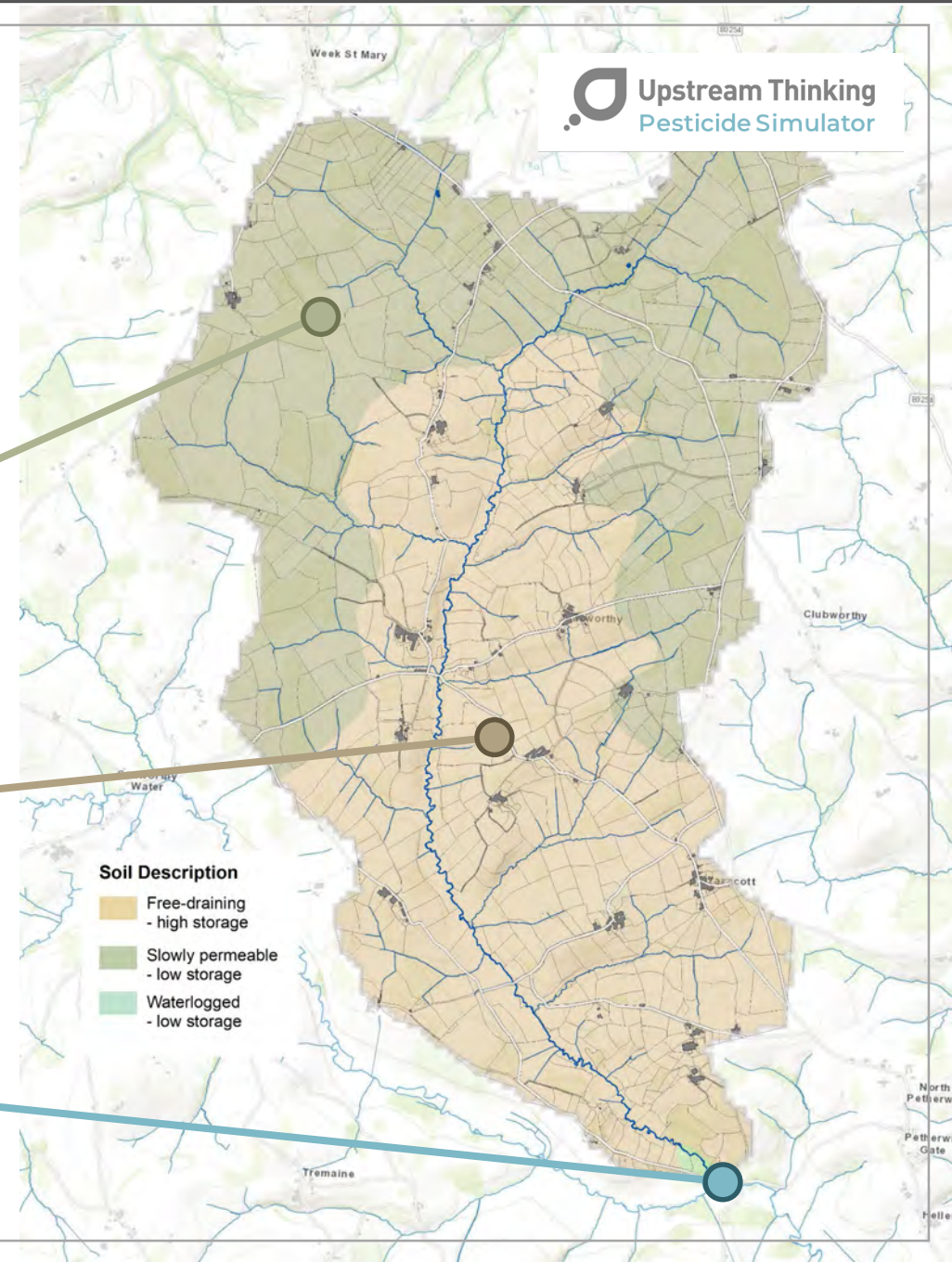
- Seasonally waterlogged slowly permeable stagnogley (clay) soils
- Low hydraulic conductivity and high run-off risk
- High initial water content & low storage capacity

SOIL - 0541h - NEATH - 51% of catchment area

- Brown earth (loamy) soils - permeable and well drained
- High hydraulic conductivity and low run-off risk
- Low initial water content & high storage capacity

FLOW - Hydrological Monitoring (DTC)

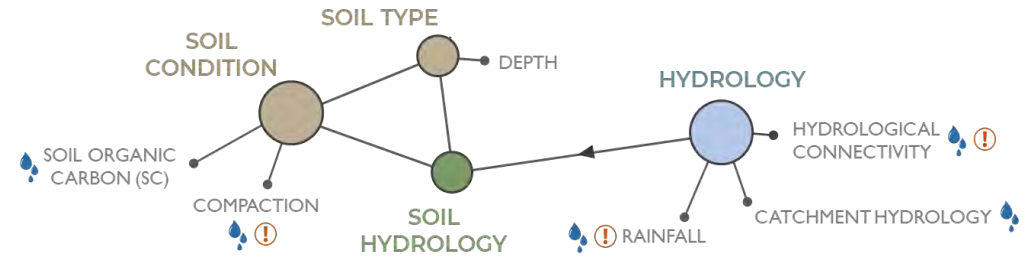
- Caudworthy Ford - outflow of 26 sq km catchment
- Flow (Q in m³/s) measures at 15 min intervals 2012-2016
- Mean Daily Flows (MDF) calculated



MODULE 5: HYDROLOGY & SOIL

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Innate soil character

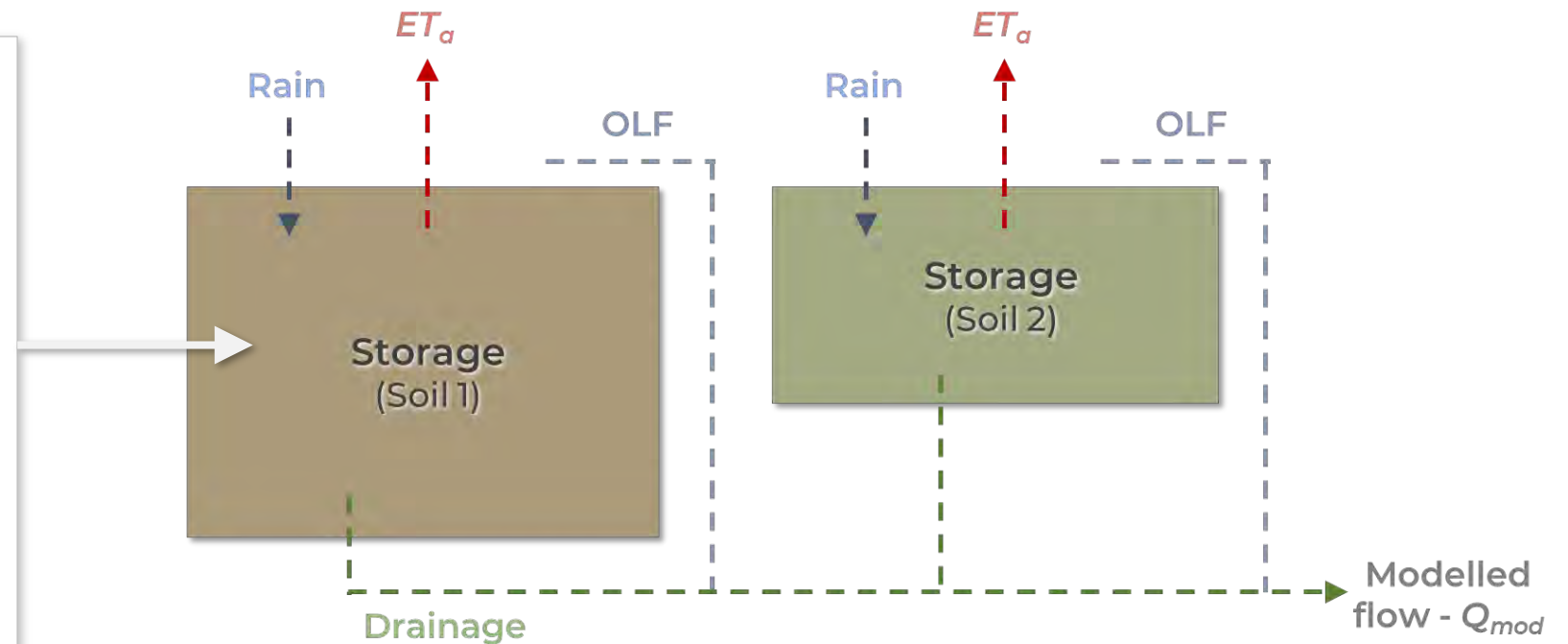
- Soil depth
- Hydraulic conductivity (k_r)
- Saturated soil conductivity (K_{sat})
- Saturated Water Content
- Permanent Wilting Point

Soil / antecedent conditions

- Initial water content
- Organic carbon content of soil
- Evapotranspiration rate

Landscape factors

- % of soil type in catchment



Rain = Rainfall OLF = Over Land Flow

ET_a = Actual Evapotranspiration

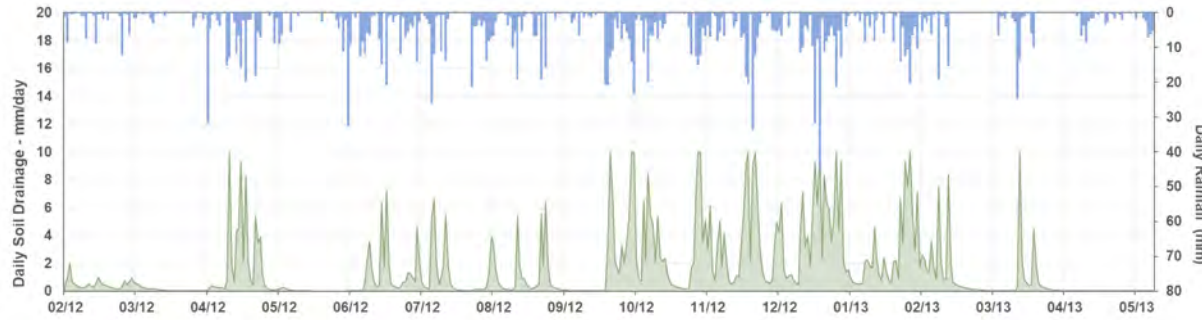
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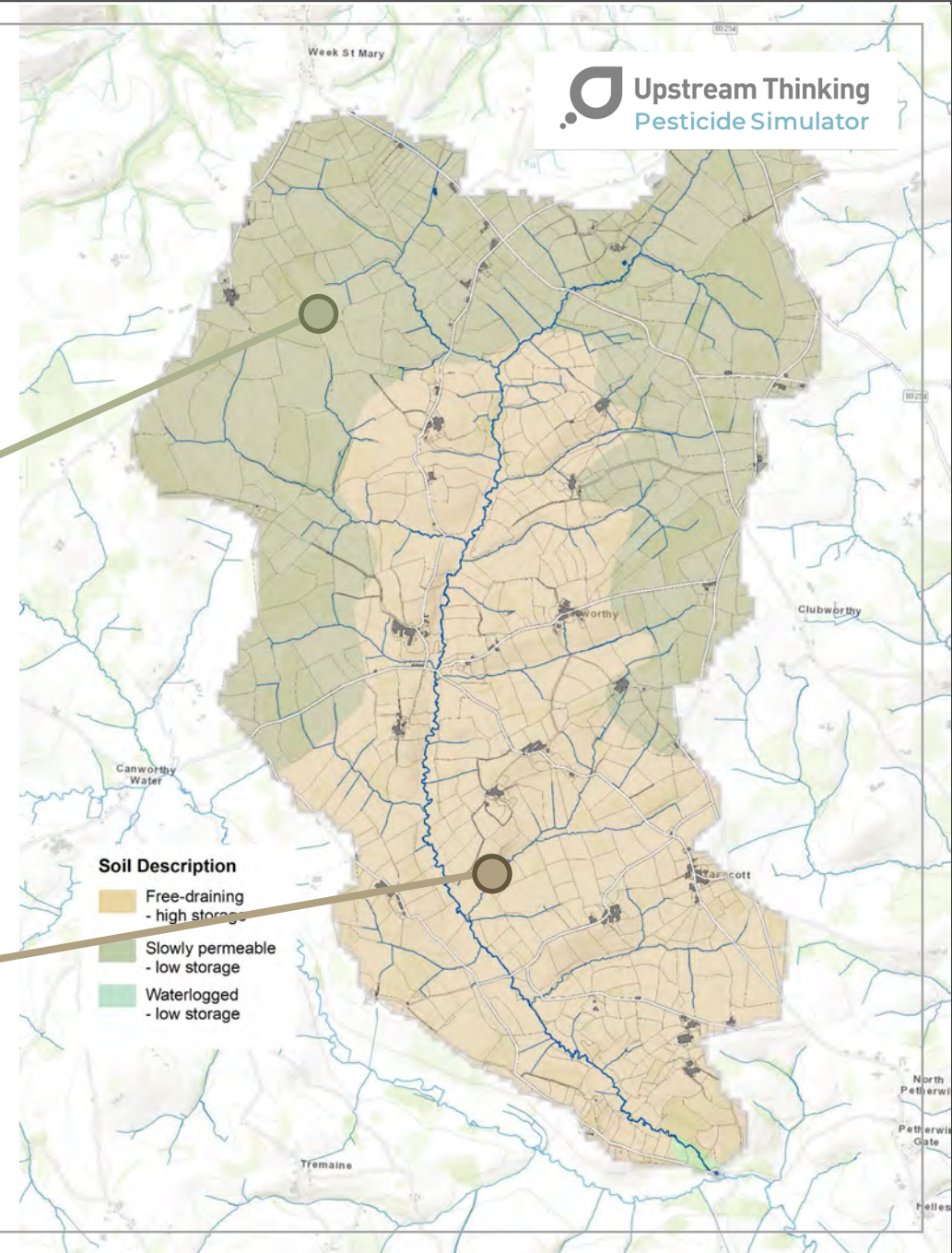
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SOIL - 0712d - HALLSWORTH1 - Daily Drainage (mm/day)

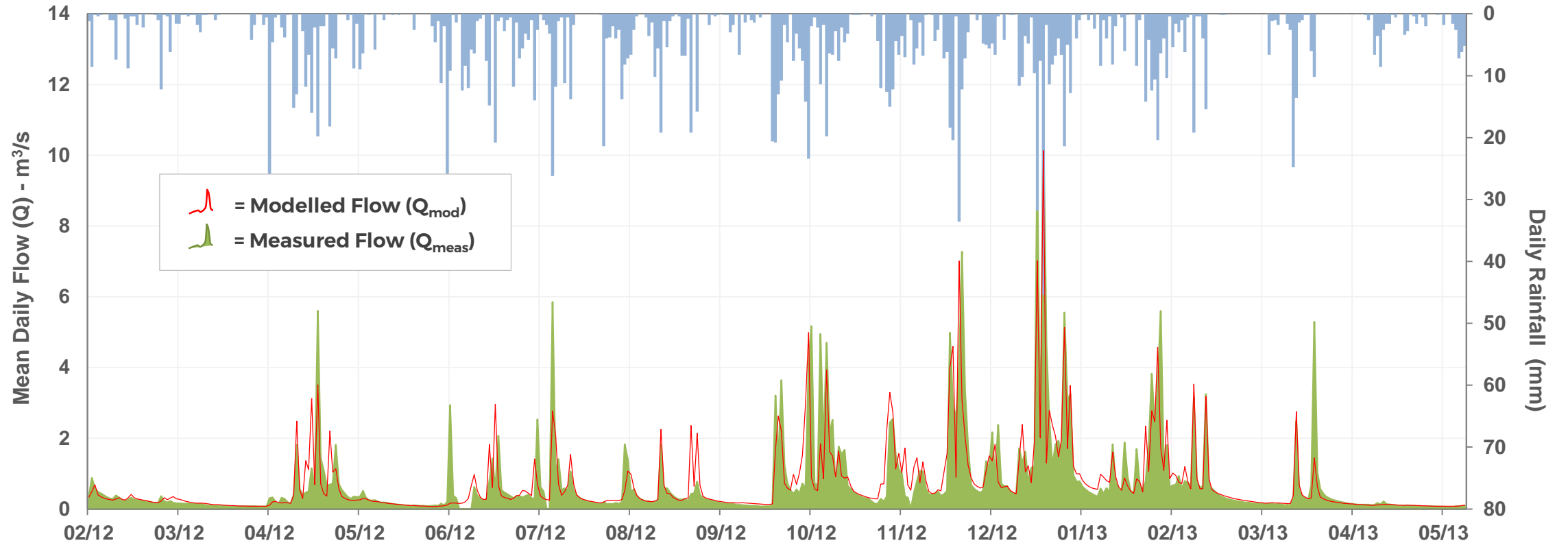
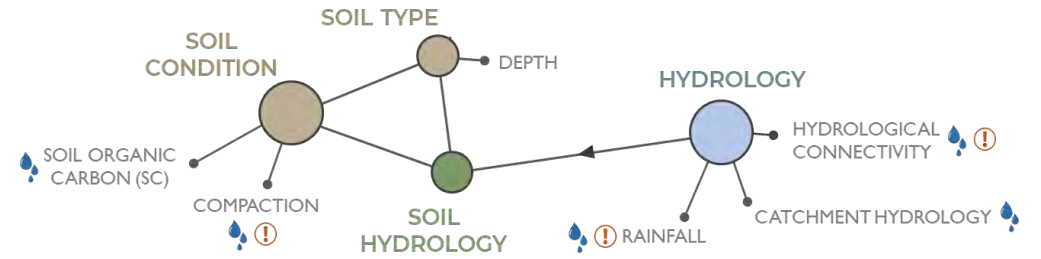


SOIL - 0541h - NEATH - Daily Drainage (mm/day)



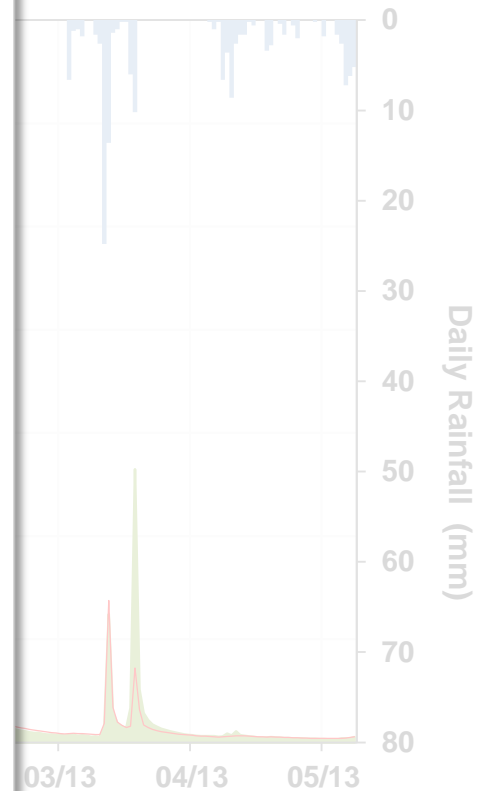
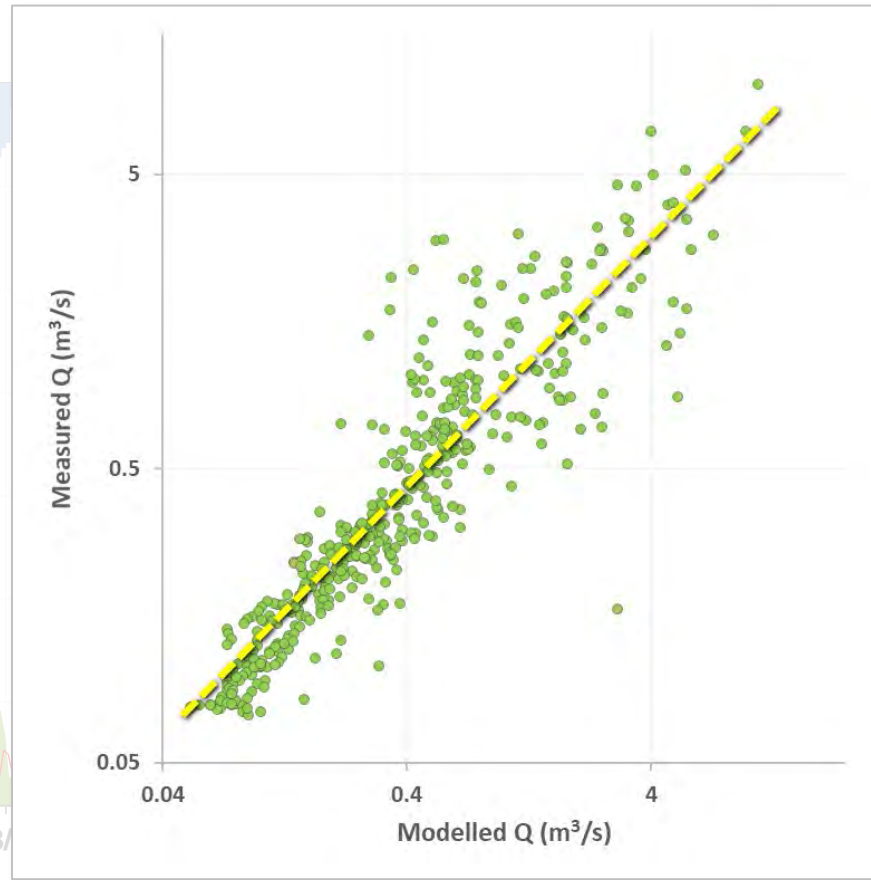
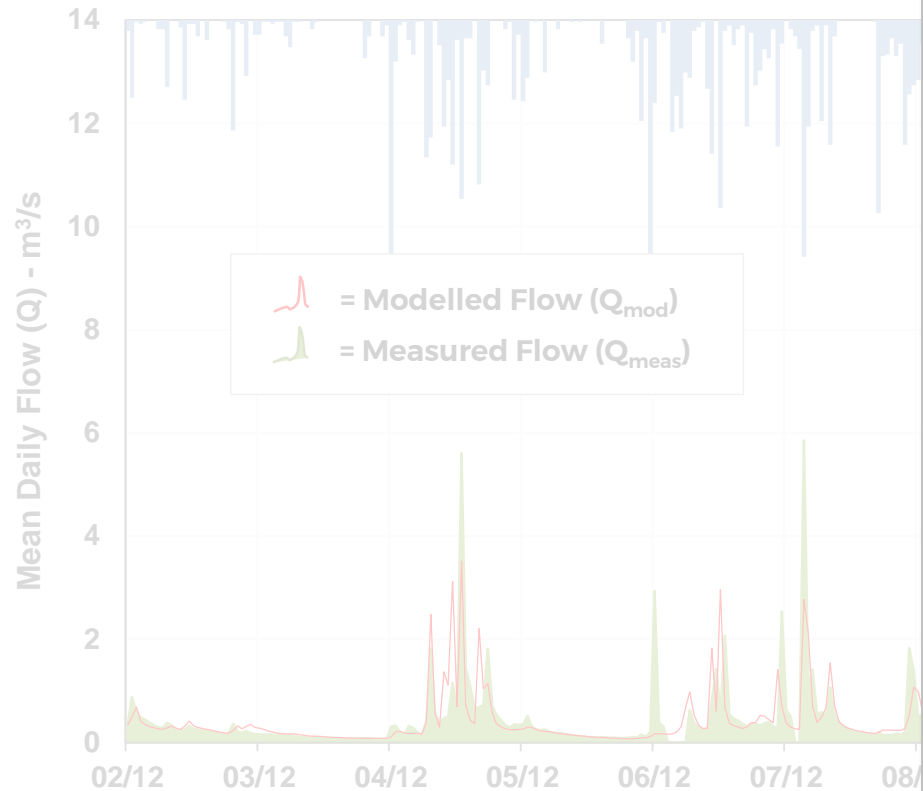
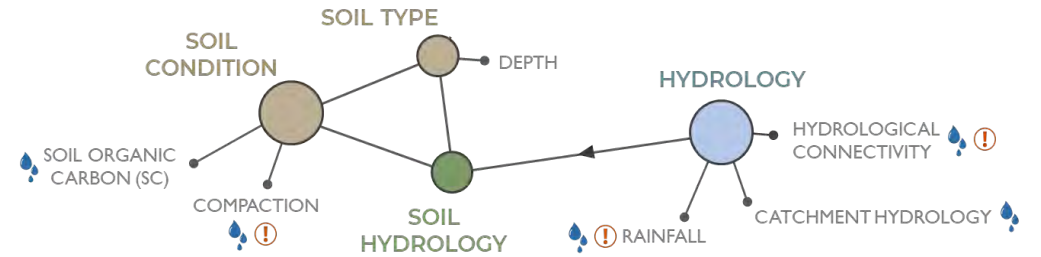
MODULE 5: HYDROLOGY & SOIL

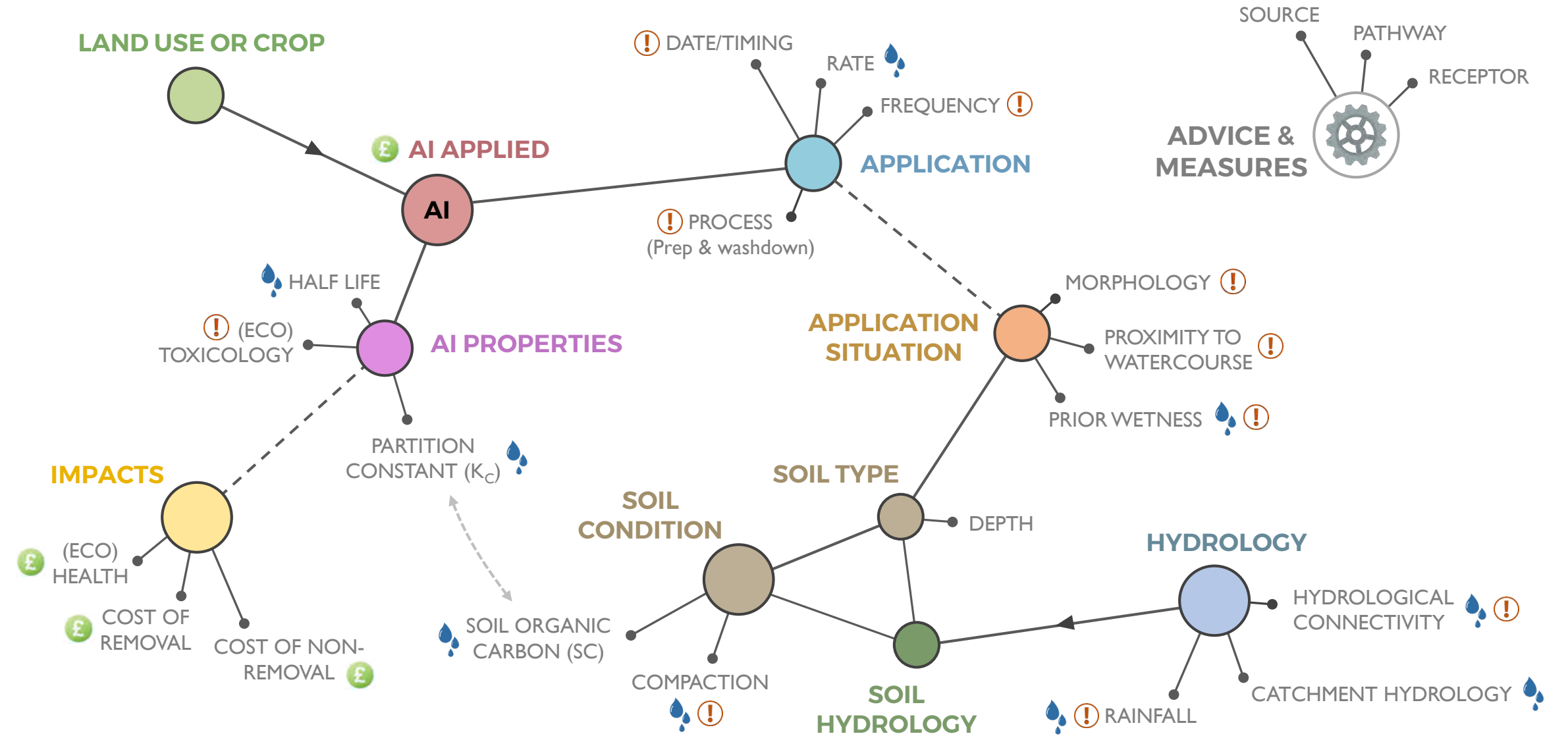
Soil hydrology model (based on TOPMODEL):
Developed by Mick Whelan at Uni of Leicester...



MODULE 5: HYDROLOGY & SOIL

Soil hydrology model (based on TOPMODEL):
Developed by Mick Whelan at Uni of Leicester...





! = RISK FACTOR - LIKELIHOOD OF CONTAMINATION water drop = FACTOR EFFECTING LEVEL OF CONTAMINATION £ = ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION - COSTS

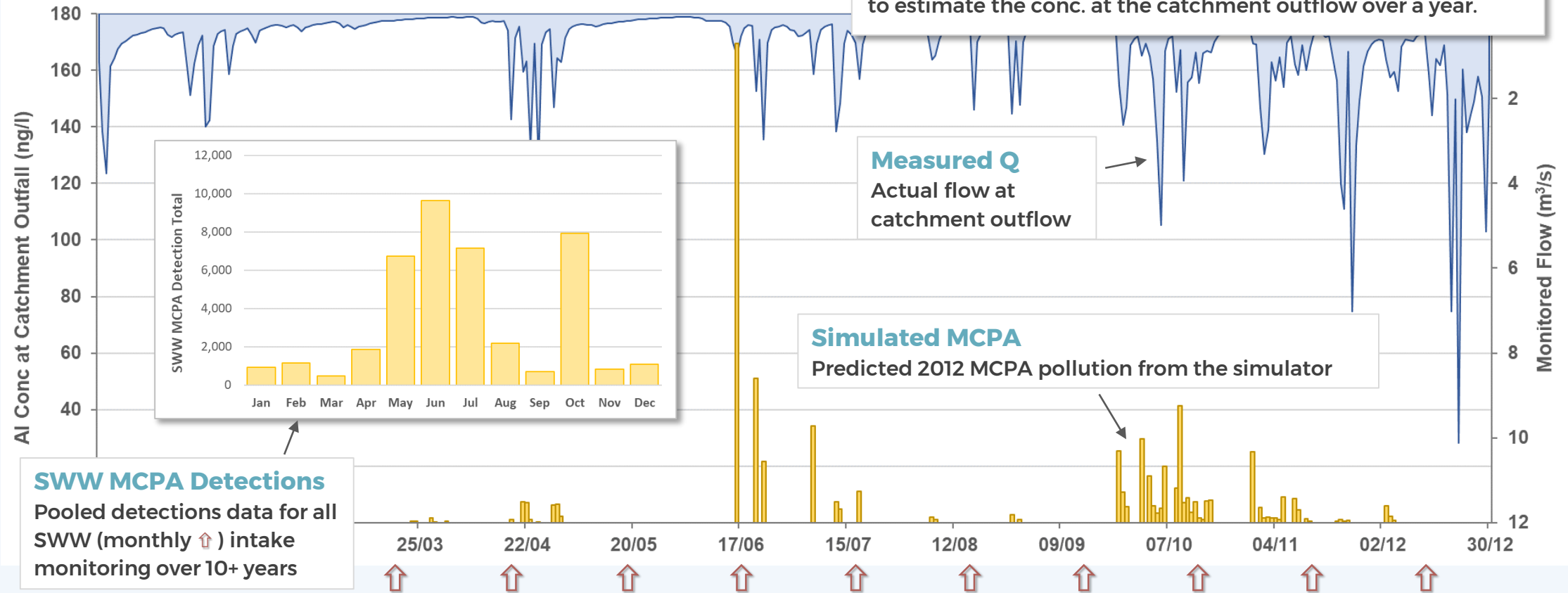
UST PESTICIDE SIMULATOR: OUTPUTS & SCENARIOS

Simulator built to include all modules:

Initial build for MCPA usage in the Caudworthy Water in the Otter

PESTICIDE SIMULATION

The AI losses from all fields are then accumulated and diluted to estimate the conc. at the catchment outflow over a year.





MODULE 6: ADVICE & MEASURES



A number of Best Farming Practices serve to reduce the risk of pesticide pollution –

- ↓ **Process risk**
Spray accuracy, preparation & washdown (biobed use)
- △ **Date (timing) of application**
When in the year or in relation to weather
- ↓ **Application rate**
What rate is AI applied at (usually in g/Ha)
- ↑ **Soil carbon content**
Increase adsorption & reduce soluble fraction
- △ **Active ingredient**
To one with reduced mobility or less risk to receptors
- ≠ **Pollution pathways**
Create features that slow/store contaminated water

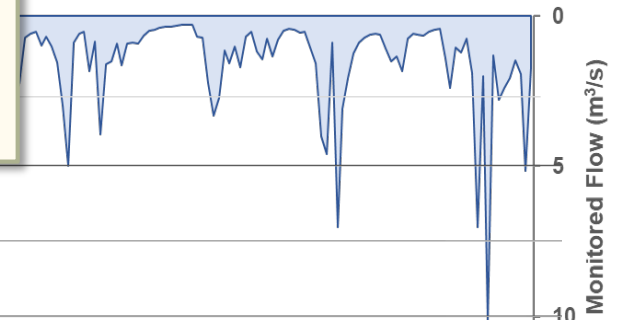
UsT PESTICIDE SIMULATOR: OUTPUTS & SCENARIOS

BASELINE (~MCPA)

DT₅₀ = 25
 K_d = 1.2 K_{oc} = 5 (74)
 App Rate = 1,650 g/Ha

Observation

Frequency of events lower in spring due to lower rainfall frequency - BUT magnitude greater & autumn false positives?



SCENARIO

SPRING AI USE

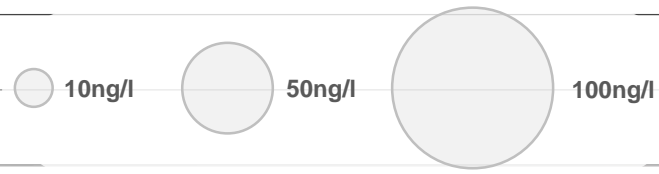
TEMPORARY GRASS	0.2
CROPS	0.5
PERMANENT PASTURE	1
OTHER	0
WOODLAND	0.1

AUTUMN AI USE

TEMPORARY GRASS	0.8
CROPS	0.5
PERMANENT PASTURE	0
OTHER	0
WOODLAND	0.1

Concentration of AI (ng/l as area)

BASELINE



14

EVENTS

30

EVENTS

01/01 29/01 26/02 25/03 22/04 20/05 17/06 15/07 12/08 09/09 07/10 04/11 02/12 30/12

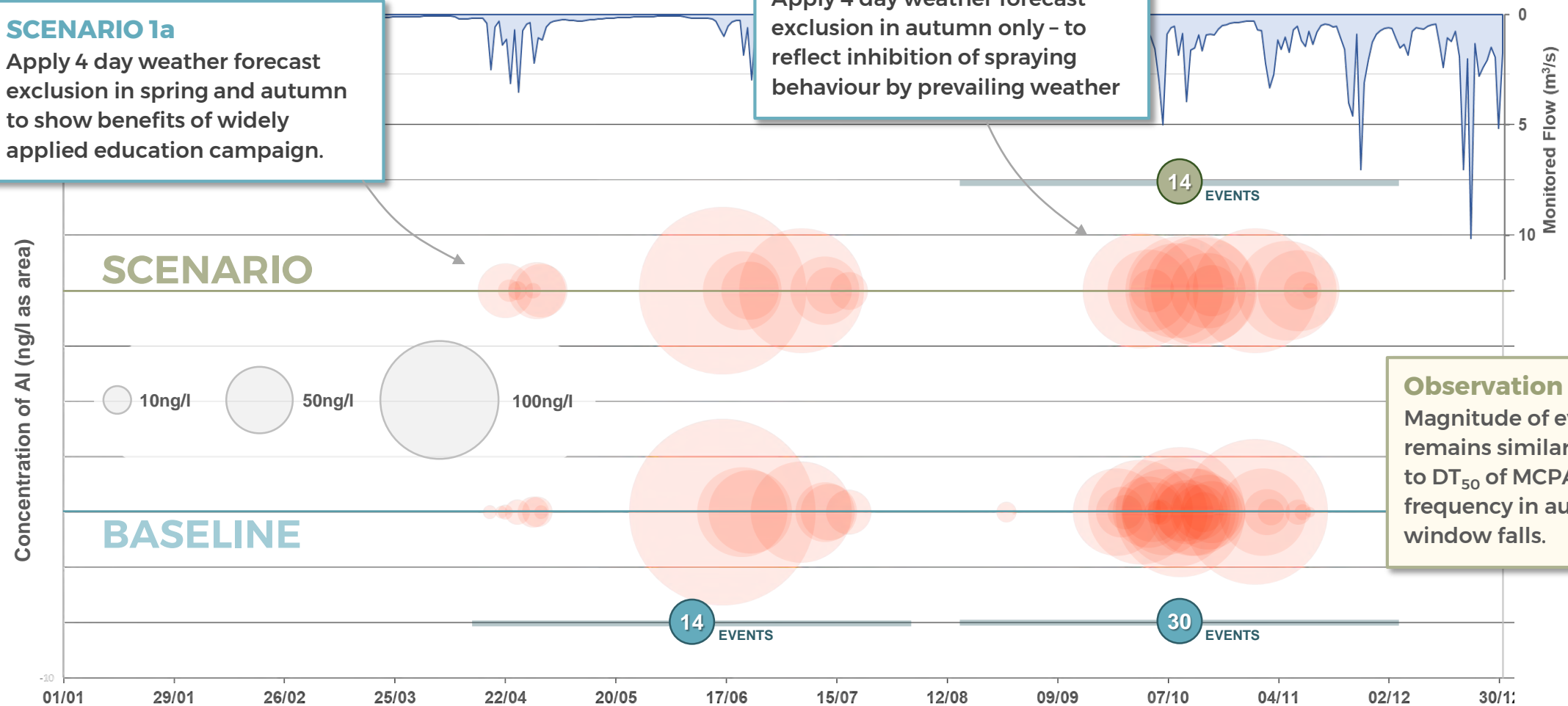
U_sT PESTICIDE SIMULATOR: OUTPUTS & SCENARIOS

SCENARIO 1a

Apply 4 day weather forecast exclusion in spring and autumn to show benefits of widely applied education campaign.

SCENARIO 1

Apply 4 day weather forecast exclusion in autumn only - to reflect inhibition of spraying behaviour by prevailing weather



Observation

Magnitude of events remains similar due to DT₅₀ of MCPA, but frequency in autumn window falls.

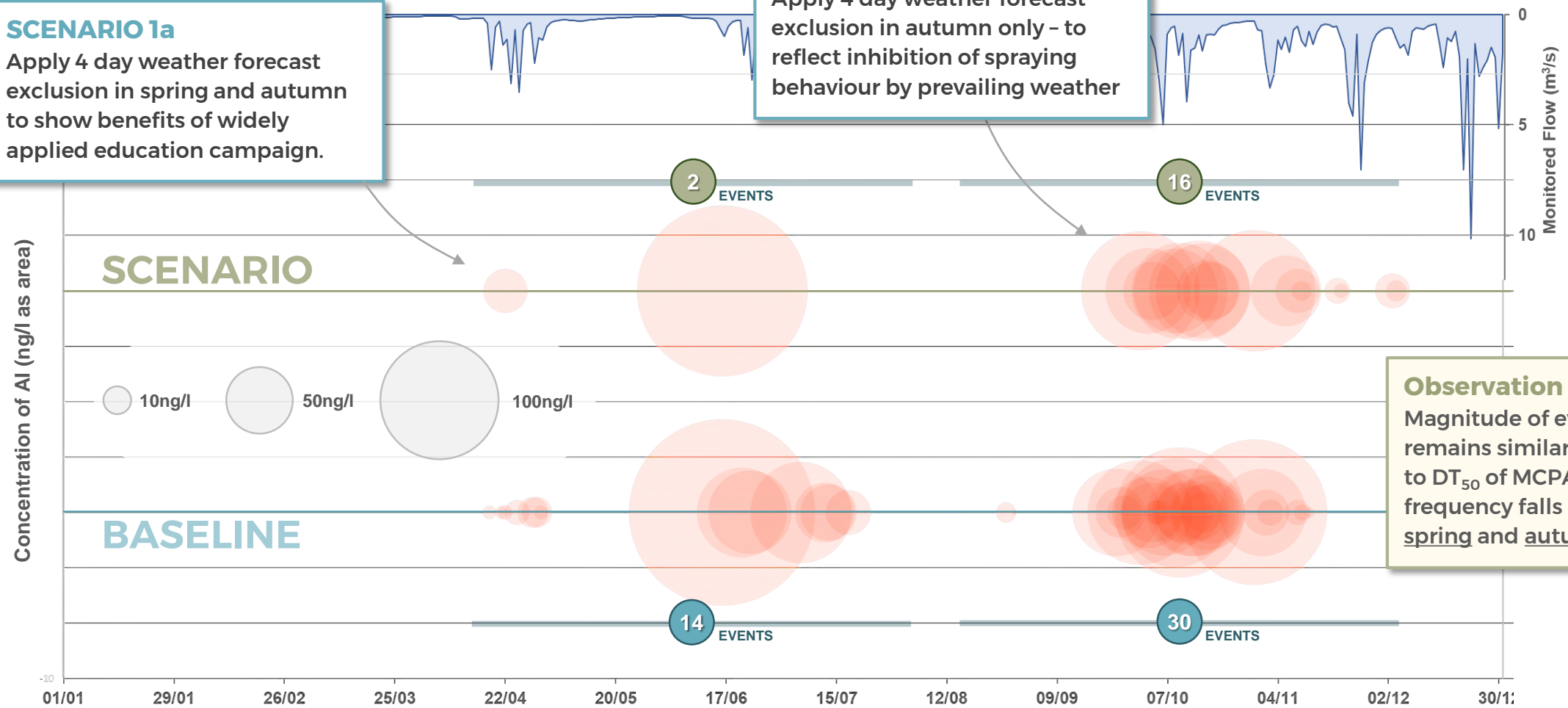
U_sT PESTICIDE SIMULATOR: OUTPUTS & SCENARIOS

SCENARIO 1a

Apply 4 day weather forecast exclusion in spring and autumn to show benefits of widely applied education campaign.

SCENARIO 1

Apply 4 day weather forecast exclusion in autumn only - to reflect inhibition of spraying behaviour by prevailing weather



Observation
Magnitude of events remains similar due to DT₅₀ of MCPA, but frequency falls in spring and autumn.

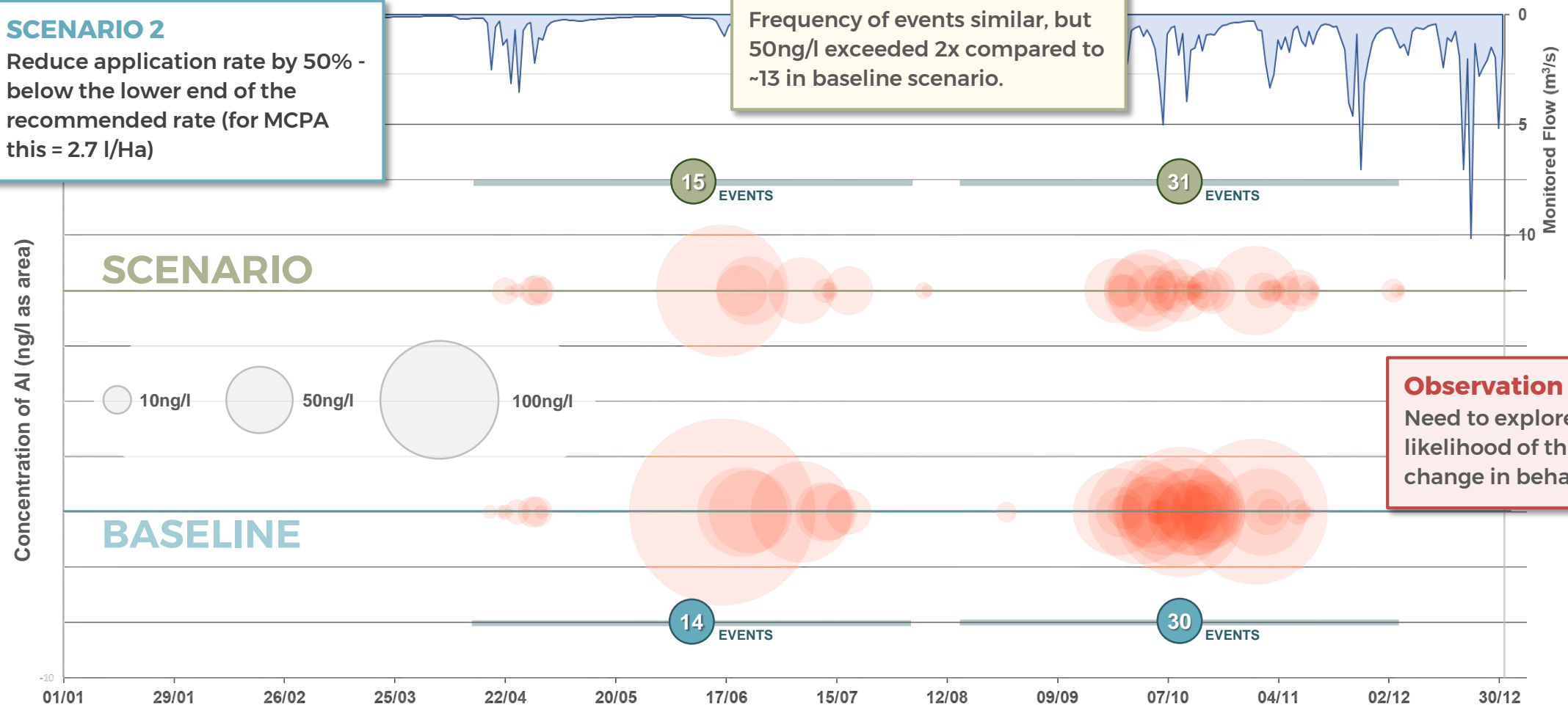
UsT PESTICIDE SIMULATOR: OUTPUTS & SCENARIOS

SCENARIO 2

Reduce application rate by 50% - below the lower end of the recommended rate (for MCPA this = 2.7 l/Ha)

Observation

Frequency of events similar, but 50ng/l exceeded 2x compared to ~13 in baseline scenario.



Observation
Need to explore the likelihood of this change in behaviour.

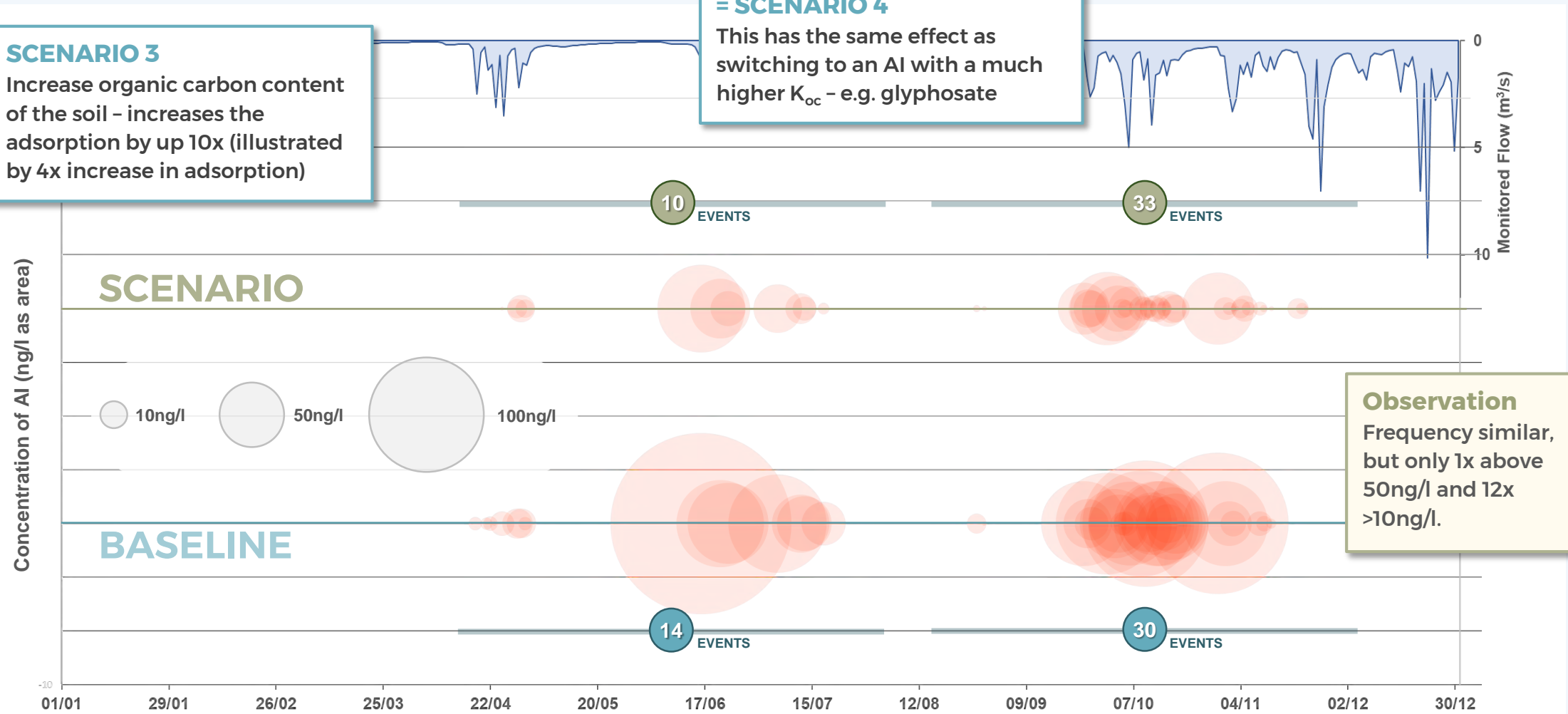
U_sT PESTICIDE SIMULATOR: OUTPUTS & SCENARIOS

SCENARIO 3

Increase organic carbon content of the soil - increases the adsorption by up 10x (illustrated by 4x increase in adsorption)

= SCENARIO 4

This has the same effect as switching to an AI with a much higher K_{oc} - e.g. glyphosate



Observation
Frequency similar, but only 1x above 50ng/l and 12x >10ng/l.

U_sT PESTICIDE SIMULATOR: OUTPUTS & SCENARIOS

SCENARIO 5

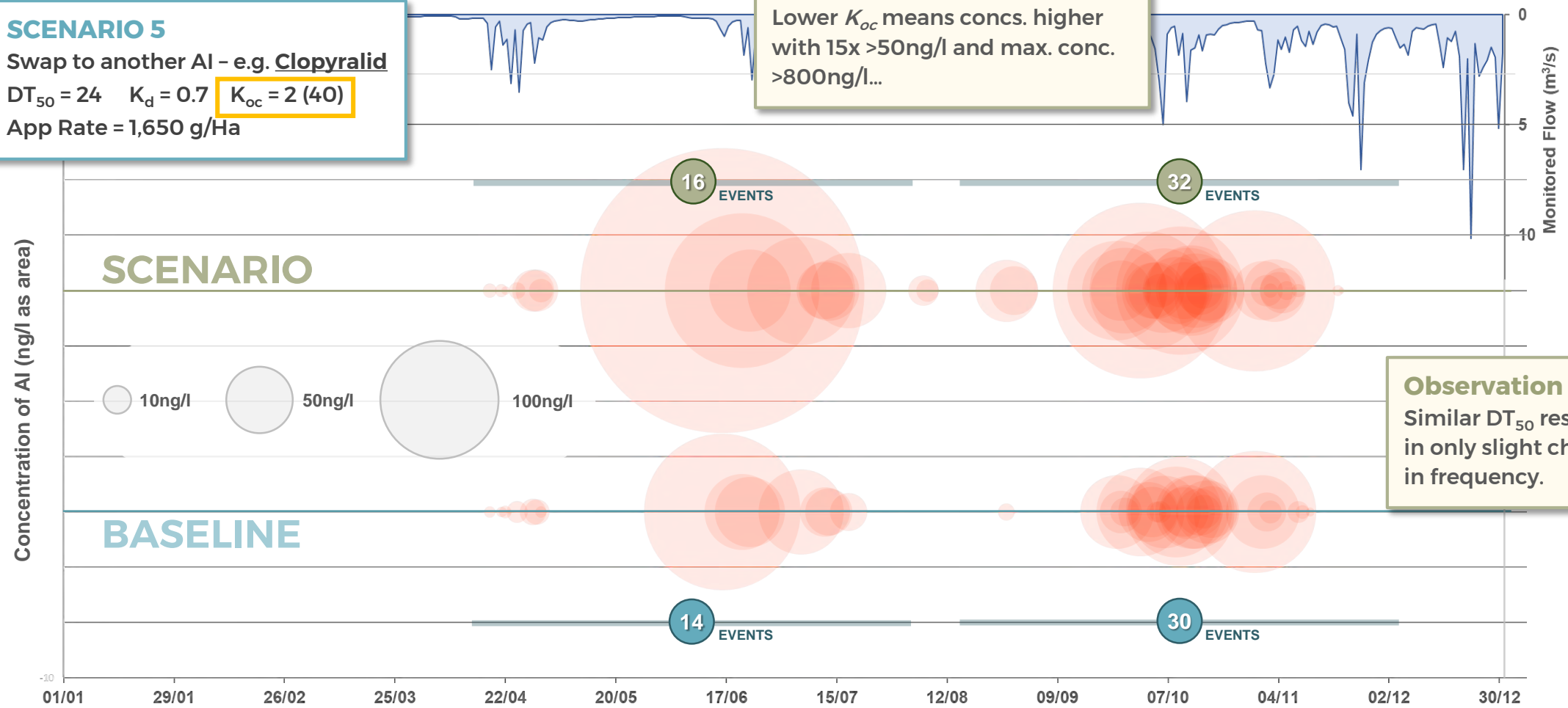
Swap to another AI - e.g. Clopyralid

DT₅₀ = 24 K_d = 0.7 **K_{oc} = 2 (40)**

App Rate = 1,650 g/Ha

Observation

Lower K_{oc} means concs. higher with 15x >50ng/l and max. conc. >800ng/l...



Observation

Similar DT₅₀ results in only slight change in frequency.

UsT PESTICIDE SIMULATOR: OUTPUTS & SCENARIOS

SCENARIO 5a

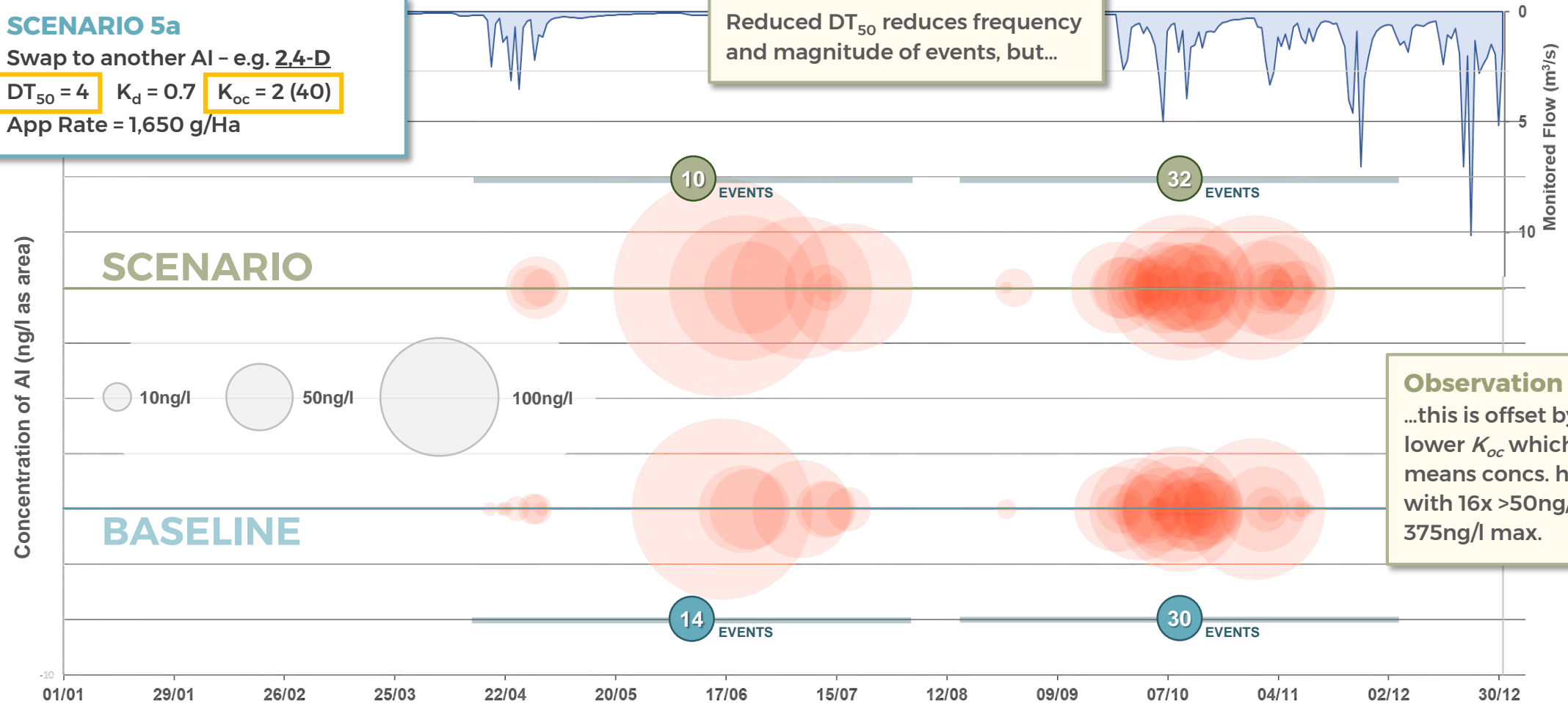
Swap to another AI - e.g. **2,4-D**

DT₅₀ = 4 **K_d = 0.7** **K_{oc} = 2 (40)**

App Rate = 1,650 g/Ha

Observation

Reduced DT₅₀ reduces frequency and magnitude of events, but...



Observation

...this is offset by lower K_{oc} which means concs. higher with 16x >50ng/l and 375ng/l max.

UsT PESTICIDE SIMULATOR: OUTPUTS & SCENARIOS

SCENARIO 6

Shift AI use on permanent pasture into autumn and switch emphasis to spring rather than winter crops

SPRING AI USE

TEMPORARY GRASS	0.2
CROPS	1
PERMANENT PASTURE	0.2
OTHER	0
WOODLAND	0.1

AUTUMN AI USE

TEMPORARY GRASS	0.8
CROPS	0.1
PERMANENT PASTURE	1
OTHER	0
WOODLAND	0.1

Concentration of AI (ng/l as area)

SCENARIO

BASELINE

01/01 29/01 26/02 25/03 22/04 20/05 17/06 15/07 12/08 09/09 07/10 04/11 02/12 30/12

12 EVENTS

38 EVENTS

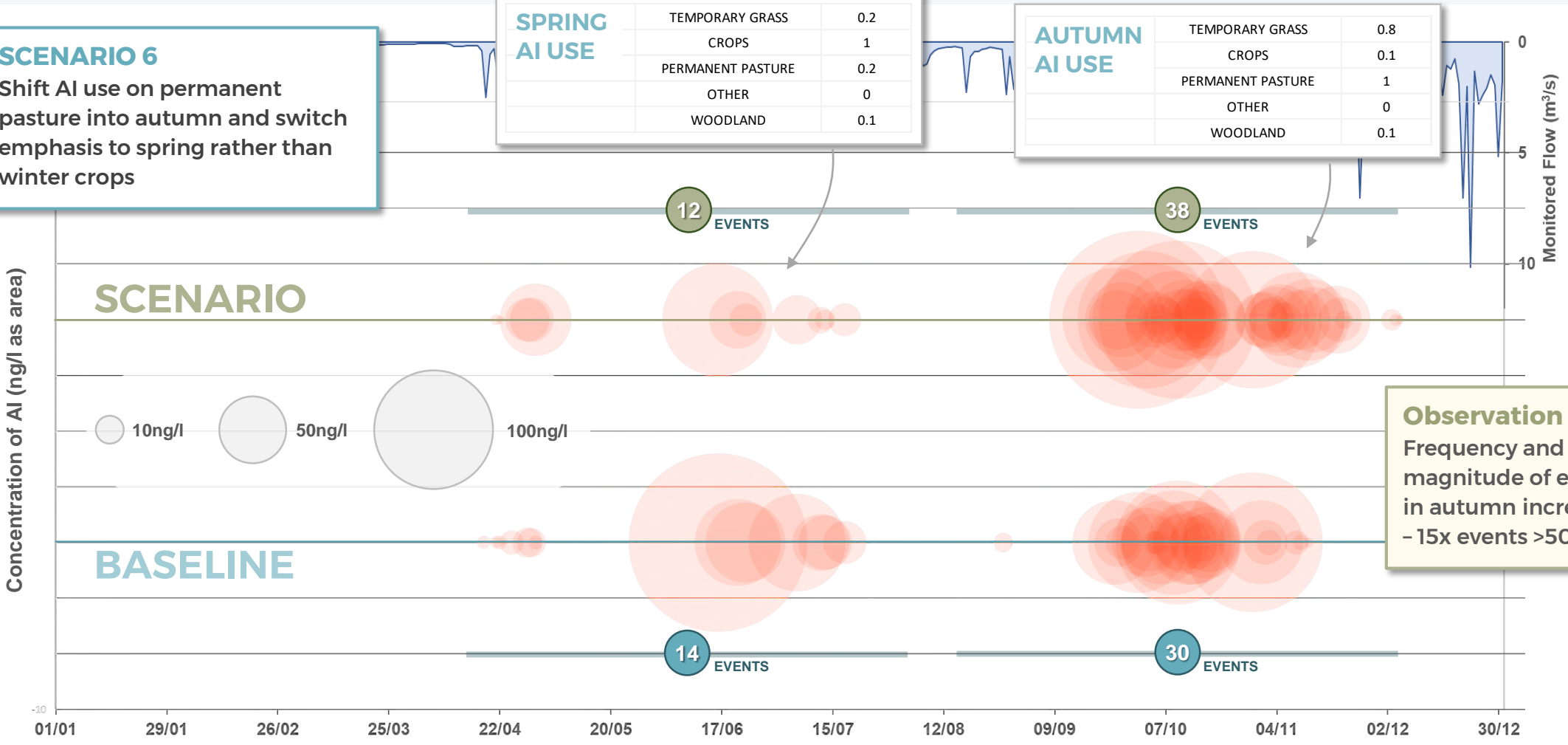
14 EVENTS

30 EVENTS

10ng/l 50ng/l 100ng/l

Observation
Frequency and magnitude of events in autumn increased - 15x events >50ng/l.

Monitored Flow (m³/s)

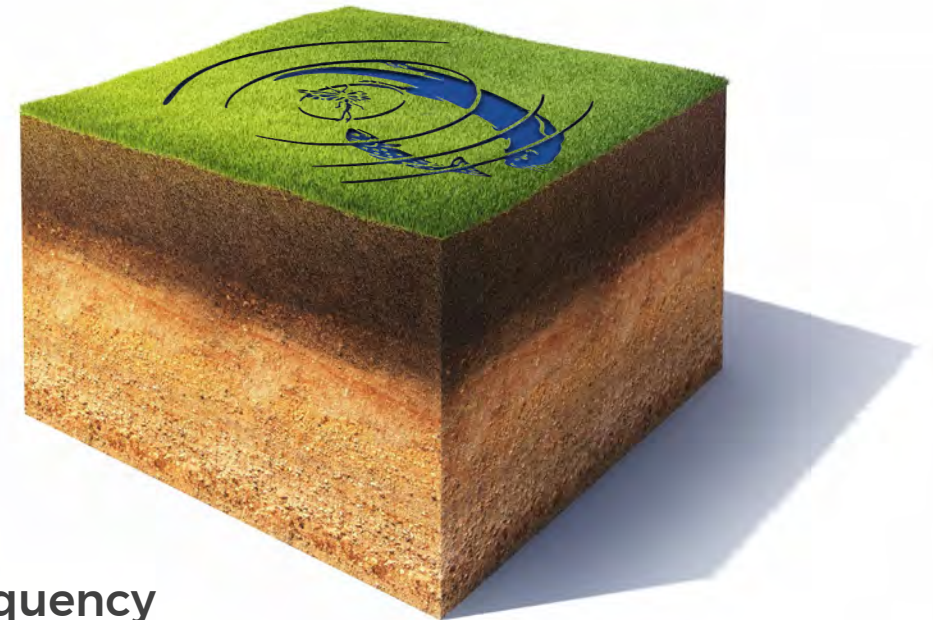


THE UPSTREAM THINKING PESTICIDE POLLUTION SIMULATOR

WRT have undertaken a comprehensive review of existing pesticide models

...and have then developed a pesticide simulator that:

- Assesses risk at fine spatial (sub-field) & temporal (day) scale
- Incorporates local data
- Helps target/design advice & measures
- Simulates stochastic pesticide pollution events
- Works for grassland dominated catchments
- Demonstrates changes in pesticide pollution events (frequency and magnitude) resulting from land management advice and measures



UsT2 & 3: FUTURE DIRECTIONS & PLANS



The successful realisation of UST2/3 outcomes will require us to become more expert in –

1. SOIL STEWARDSHIP
2. PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL & ECONOMIC PRESSURES ACTING ON FARMERS





Upstream Thinking
Proof of Concept



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