

RIVERFLY CENSUS RESULTS

USK - CLWYD - E.CLEDDAU

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Salmon & Trout Conservation Cymru

Wales

DEFENDING OUR WILD WATERS + EST 1903

METHOD

WHAT WE'VE DONE

The Riverfly Census was created to collect much needed high-resolution, scientifically robust data about the state of our rivers and the pressures facing them. We frequently talk about missing flylife and lack of fish compared to the 'good old days', but anecdotal evidence like this has little weight in environmental decision making.

Without data you're just another person with an opinion

W. Edwards Deming

River insects spend the majority of their lives in the water as nymphs, making them brilliant indicators of river health. Their continuous exposure to water makes examining them much more informative than spot chemical samples. Every invertebrate is unique, and each requires a specific set of conditions to thrive.

The Riverfly Census utilises the invertebrate assemblage: presence, absence and abundance of certain invertebrates, to indicate the types of stress our rivers are experiencing. The composition of the invertebrate community in the sample allows a biometric score to be calculated, which provides a surrogate, or direct scale, of physical chemical impact. Below are the biometrics used and the type of stress they indicate.

BIOMETRIC GLOSSARY

PSI	TRPI	SPEAR	LIFE	SI
Proportion of Sediment-sensitive Invertebrates	Total Reactive Phosphorus Index	SPEcies At Risk	Lotic-invertebrate Index for Flow Evaluation	Saprobic Index
A measure of stress caused by excess fine sediment on the invertebrate community	A relatively new metric developed to indicate pressure from phosphorus pollution	A measure to assess the impact of exposure to pesticides, herbicides and complex chemical toxicants on the invertebrate community	A metric to assess the impact of flow related stress on invertebrate communities which live in flowing water	A measure to indicate stress on the invertebrate community caused by organic pollution

WHAT WE'VE DONE Census Method

The Riverfly Census has spanned three years. It began in 2015, initially with 12 rivers across England. Three Welsh rivers were added in 2016. Multiple sample sites were carefully selected on each river.



Kick-sweep sampling was completed in spring and autumn to EA guidelines, at all sample sites. Sampling and species-level identification were carried out by professional external consultants, Aquascience Consultancy Ltd.



Species presence/absence data was inputted into Aquascience's biometric calculator to obtain scores against key stress types. The data was then evaluated in a whole catchment context to pinpoint likely suspects contributing to river deterioration.

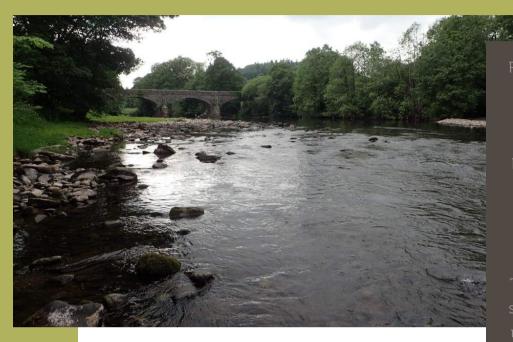


The data was compiled, and is being reported to stakeholders and policy makers, to improve management and conservation of our rivers.





what we've found River Usk



Riverfly Census sampling on the Usk began in autumn 2016 and continued for three years on 6 sites: Llanllowell, Great Hardwick, Glanusk, Llansantffraed, Aberbran Fawr and Pont Newydd.

The locations of our sample sites are shown on the map, represented by pink circles.



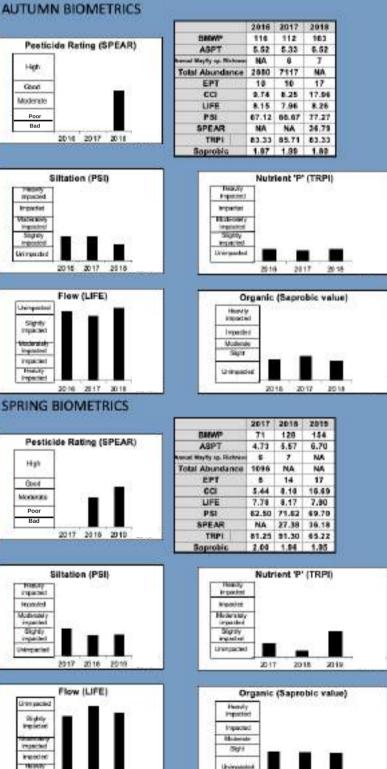
WHAT WE'VE FOUND Llanllowell

Llanllowell was the furthest downstream site sampled. The invertebrate community did

not exhibit any considerable stress from organic enrichment, excess fine sediment or nutrients.

Lllanllowell was the only Usk site where failure against the SPEAR chemical Water Framework Directive (WFD) target (proposed by Beketov et al., 2009) was recorded in spring 2018.





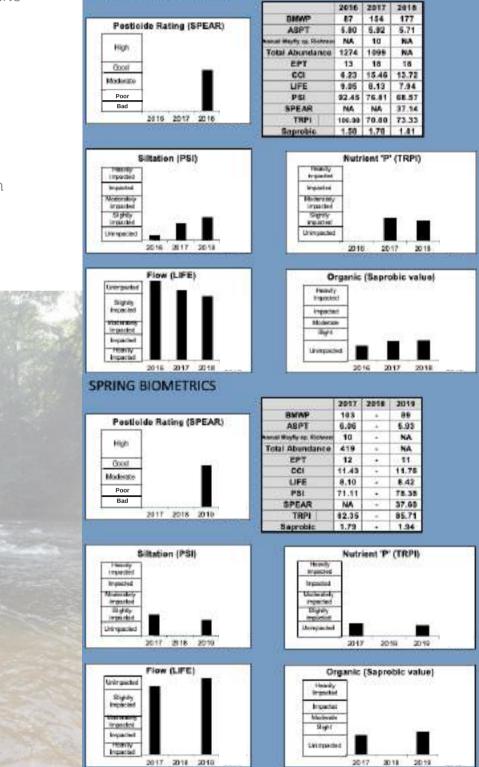
WHAT WE'VE FOUND Great Hardwick

Due to unfavourable sampling conditions, Great Hardwick was not sampled in spring 2018.

AUTUMN BIOMETRICS

Overall, this site was indicated by the invertebrate community to be in healthy condition. No concerning stress was indicated by any of the biometrics throughout the survey period.

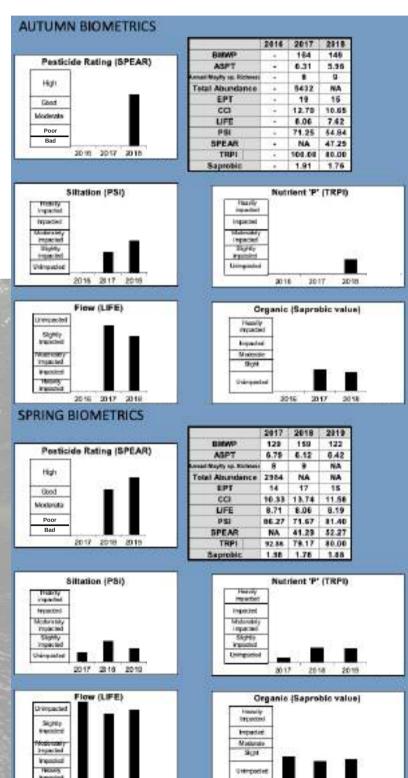
A rare species, the Brown May Dun (*Heptagenia fuscogrisea*) was found at Great Hardwick.



WHAT WE'VE FOUND Glanusk

The invertebrate community at Glanusk did exhibit moderate stress from excess fine sediment, but this was only once in autumn 2018.

Concerning stress from organic enrichment, chemicals and excess nutrients was not indicated at this site.



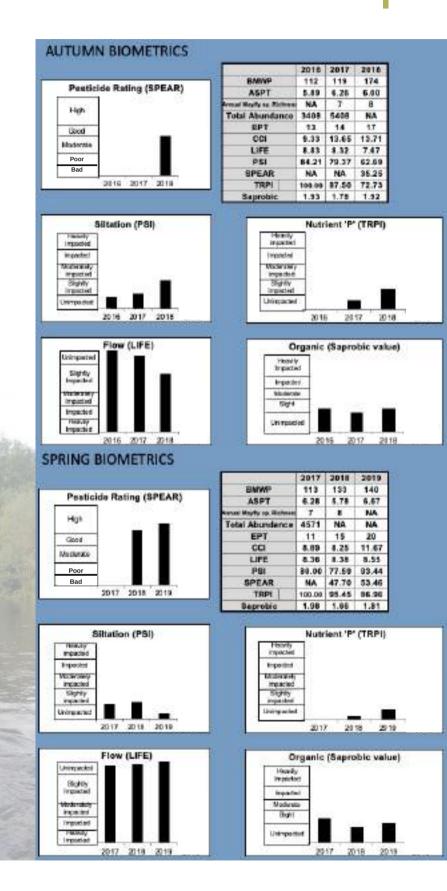
2017

2018

WHAT WE'VE FOUND Llansantffraed

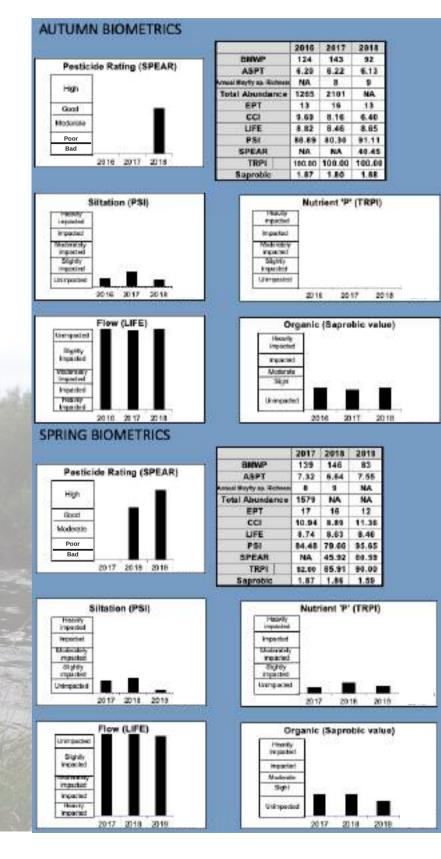
The invertebrate community at Llansantffraed indicated minimal stress from chemicals, organic enrichment or excess nutrients throughout the survey period.

There was a slight peak in sediment stress in autumn 2018, but it was still below moderate impact.



WHAT WE'VE FOUND Aberbran Fawr

Aberbran Fawr was a consistently healthy site, Concerning stress from organic enrichment, chemicals and excess nutrients was not indicated throughout the survey.

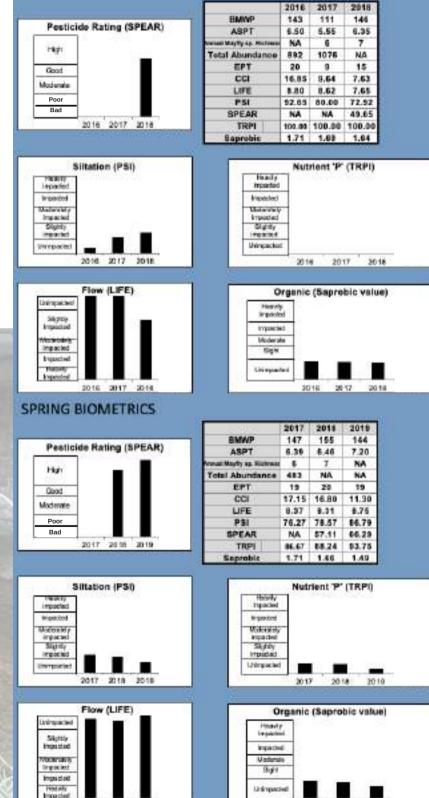


WHAT WE'VE FOUND Pont Newydd

Pont Newydd was a healthy site, with minimal sediment, nutrient, organic and nutrient stress indicated by the invertebrate community.

AUTUMN BIOMETRICS

2017 2018 2019



2019

2018

what we've found River Clwyd



Riverfly Census sampling on the Clwyd began in autumn 2016 and continued for three years on 5 sites: Dwr lal, Llanfair Dyffyn, Clywedog, Brookhouse Mill and Wheeler.

The locations of our sample sites are shown on the map, represented by pink circles.



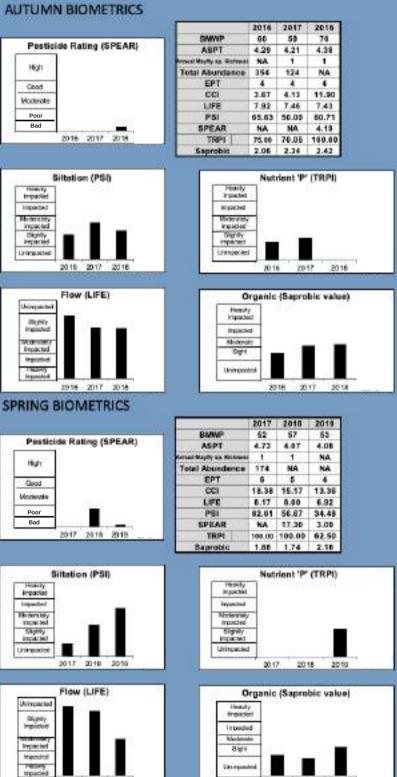
WHAT WE'VE FOUND Dwr lal

Considerable stress from excess fine sediment was indicated at Dwr lal, with moderate stress in autumn 2017, spring 2018 and spring 2019.

Nutrient stress on the invertebrate community was minimal.

Organic enrichment stress was pronounced in autumn 2017, autumn 2018 and spring 2019.





2018

WHAT WE'VE FOUND Llanfair Dyffyn

Due to unfavourable sampling conditions, this site was not sampled in spring 2019.

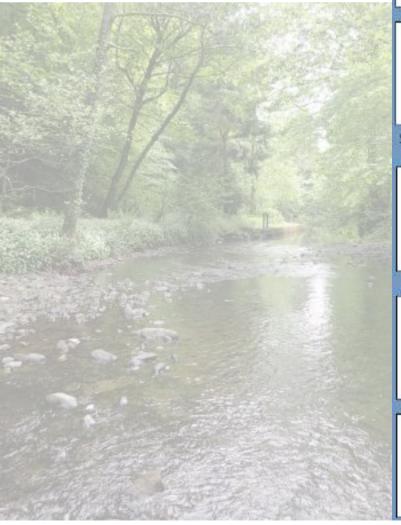
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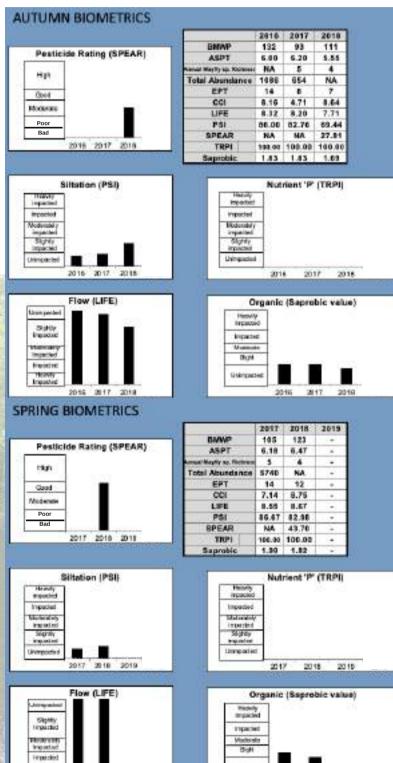
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2017 2018 2018

The invertebrate community at Llanfair Dyffyn did not exhibit any considerable stress from organic enrichment, excess fine sediment or nutrients.

Chemical stress was indicated, with failure against the proposed WFD standard occurring in autumn 2018.





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3019

132

6.29

6

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12

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8.00

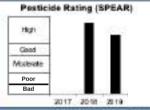
1.71

2018

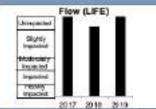
WHAT WE'VE FOUND Clywedog

Clywedog was a healthy site, with minimal sediment, nutrient, organic and nutrient stress indicated by the invertebrate community.

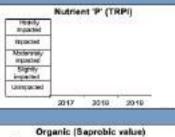
AUTUMN BIOMETRICS 2016 2017 2018 BINNP 151 140 Pesticide Rating (SPEAR) ASPT 6.57 7,00 NA splity an R 5 High: 402 Tetal Abundance 756 EPT 17 16 Good CCI 13.61 10.00 Moderate LIFE 8.72 8.57 Poor 87.72 30.31 76.74 P81 Bad SPEAR NA 49.09 NA 2016 2017 2018 100.00 100.00 TRPI 100.00 Saprobic 1.67 1.71 Siltation (PSI) Nutrient 'P' (TRPI) Hanky rearing Incoded Impleted Malerado Material V impactor Sigidy impacted Impletion Staylogy Implicitie Unimpacted. Universitied 2010 2017 2018 2016 2017 2018 Flow (LIFE) Organic (Ssprobic value) Unrepetied Heavily Imposited Signey implicited inclusion in Important Miderate Serv Impercised (Burgataki d 2016 20.17 SPRING BIOMETRICS

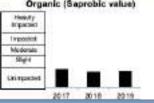






8	2017	2018	2019
BINNP	130	97	143
ASPT	6.50	6.47	7.15
lennai Mayfly ap Michaele	5	6	NA
Total Abundance	656	NA	NA
EPT	18	18	17
CCI	9.47	5.33	9.17
LIFE	8.96	8.14	8.61
PSI	95.16	78.57	91.30
SPEAR	NA	63.89	53.08
TRPI	100.00	100.00	100.00
Saprobio	1.74	1.66	1.69



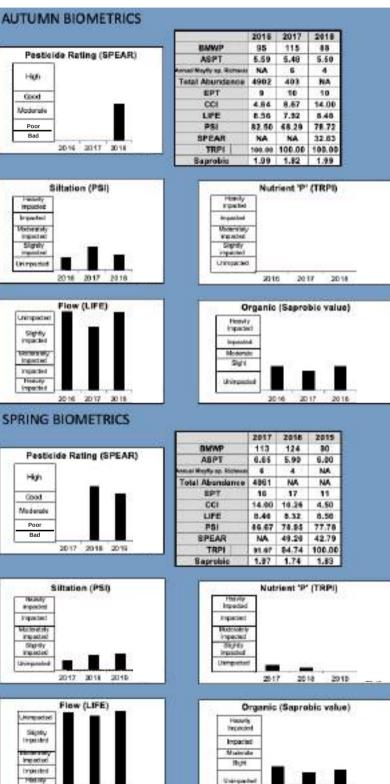


WHAT WE'VE FOUND Brookhouse Mill

Chemical stress was indicated at Brookhouse Mill, with failure against the proposed WFD standard occurring in autumn 2018.

Nutrient, sediment and organic stress on the invertebrate community was minimal.





2018

2017

WHAT WE'VE FOUND Wheeler

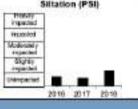
Apart from a failure against the proposed WFD chemical standard for SPEAR in autumn 2018, Wheeler was indicated to be a healthy site. Stress from excess nutrients, fine sediment or organic enrichment was minimal.

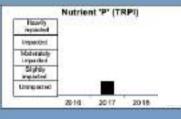


AUTUMN BIOMETRICS Pesticide Rating (SPEAR) High Good Moderate Poor Bad 2016 2017 2018 Sittation (PSI)







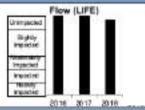


Organic (Saprobic value)

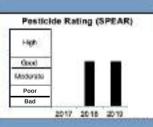
20.17

2018

20.16



SPRING BIOMETRICS





Flow (LIFE)

2017

(Jairganha)

Sight

Ingo

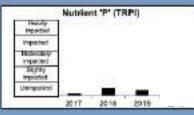
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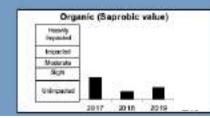
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WHAT WE'VE FOUND

E. Cleddau



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Riverfly Census sampling on tributaries of the Eastern Cleddau river began in autumn 2016 and continued for three years on 5 sites: Longford Brook, Pont Shan, Narberth Brook, Churchill Brook and Deepford Brook.

The locations of our sample sites are shown on the map, represented by pink circles.

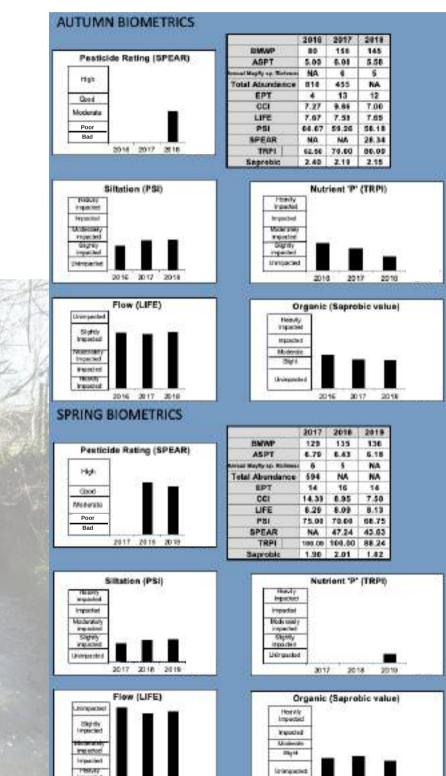
WHAT WE'VE FOUND Longford Brook

Seasonal stress was exhibited at Longford Brook, with considerable stress being indicated by the invertebrate community in autumn. Sediment stress was an issue, with moderate

PSI signatures in autumn 2017 and autumn 2018.

Moderate stress from organic enrichment was exhibited in autumn 2016.

The proposed chemical WFD standard for SPEAR was failed in autumn 2018.



2018

2019

2017

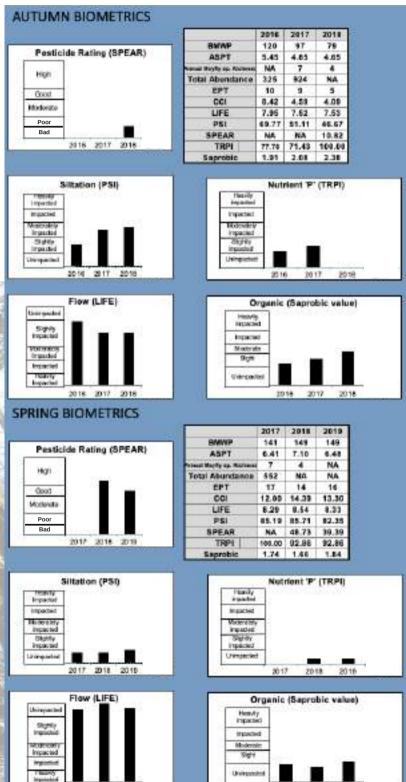
WHAT WE'VE FOUND Pont Shan

Nutrient stress was minimal throughout the survey period at Pont Shan, but seasonal stress was indicated by all the other biometrics.

A notable organic enrichment peak occurred in autumn 2018. Sediment pressure was also moderate in autumn 2017 and autumn 2018.

In autumn 2018 the proposed WFD SPEAR chemical standard was failed with an extremely low score.





2017 2018 2019

2018

2019

WHAT WE'VE FOUND Narberth Brook

Apart from a borderline moderate impact PSI score exhibited in autumn 2018, the invertebrate community indicated that Narberth Brook was a relatively healthy site throughout our survey.

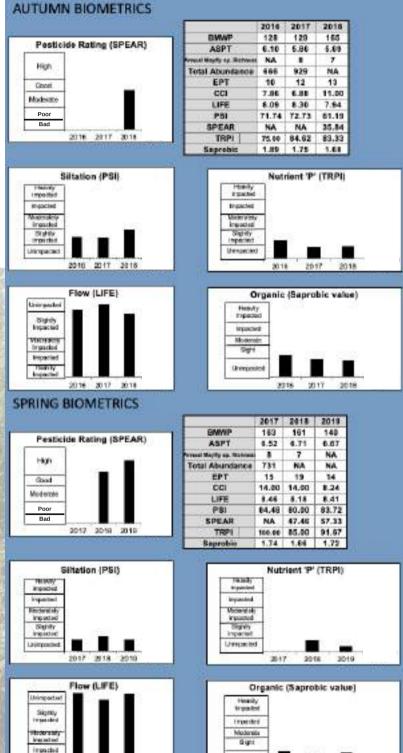
AUTUMN BIOMETRICS 2016 2017 2018 LIMME 151 151 141 Pesticide Rating (SPEAR) ASPT 6.04 6.67 5.88 NA laying an 12 6 High Total Abundance 714 863 NA. EPT 19 15 10 Good CCI 12.33 12.06 8.75 Moderate LIFE 0.18 0.30 7.64 Poor P.51 79.10 67.80 61.87 Bad SPEAR NA NA. 33.12 2016 2017 2118 100.00 100.00 100.00 10071 Saprobio 1.77 1.80 1.76 Siltation (PSI) Nutrient 'P' (TRPI) Нек// прази In piedini Mode costly impacted Stightly Vederate Signly water lot ingenided. **Umperior** intracted 2017 2018 2016 2018 2017 2018 Flow (LIFE) Organic (Saprobic value) Unimpacted Heavily Chightly Translation Imposited riða. Skitt 17993 Uningeted time or 0.16 20.12 81.05 2017 2018 SPRING BIOMETRICS 2017 2018 2018 BINWI 140 134 146 Pesticide Rating (SPEAR) ASPT 6.35 6.38 6.64 NA 7 tyly sp. W 6 Hah NA Total Abundance 588 NA. EPT 10 17 18 Geed CCI 15.40 15.00 8.57 Noterate LIFE 8.43 8.46 8.37 Poor 87.27 88.27 88.99 P81 Bad SPEAR NA 47.17 51.12 20.17 2018 2019 TRPI 100.00 100.00 93.75 1.71 1.63 1.70 Saprobic Siltation (PSI) Nutrient 'P' (TRPI) Sec. 10 -theody \$ ipac * pat inpated We dera ki y Whole solely inqualited Digitity Slightly inconcised. impacted Univoleted Unineacted. 2017 2018 2019 2017 2018 2019 Flow (LIFE) Organic (Saprobic value) Unimpacted Heavily Imported alighty Important (rapi TRACTING VIEW Moderalia Sign inquick ingets Uningented

2017 2018 2019

WHAT WE'VE FOUND Churchill Brook

The invertebrate community at Churchill Brook indicated minimal stress from chemicals, organic enrichment or excess nutrients throughout the survey period.

There was a slight peak in sediment stress in autumn 2018, but it was still below moderate impact.



Unimported

2017 2018

3010



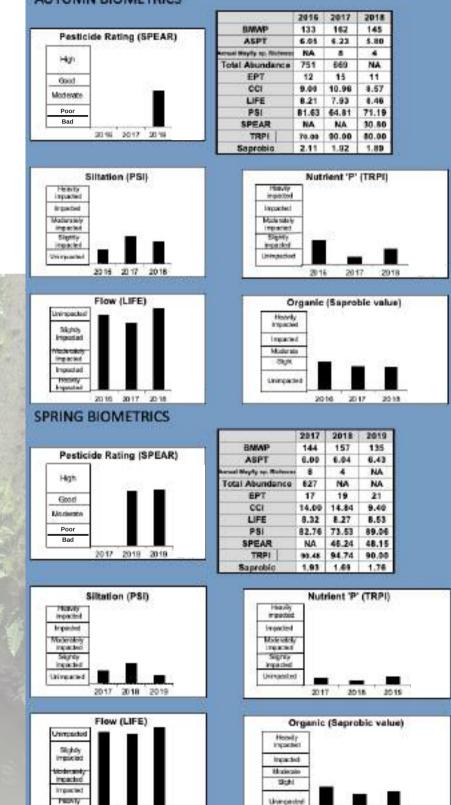
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30.18

WHAT WE'VE FOUND Deepford Brook

Deepford Brook was a healthy site, with minimal sediment, nutrient, organic and nutrient stress indicated by the invertebrate community.

AUTUMN BIOMETRICS



2017 2118 2019

2017

2018

FINAL WORD

Many of our rivers lack historical reference points, making it difficult to know exactly what optimal conditions in our rivers should look like. It is only with a reliable 'benchmark' of health that we can properly quantify deterioration or recovery, and only with robust long term monitoring can we truly understand the changes occurring in our freshwater systems.

Our Riverfly Census data has highlighted the subtle but lethal pressures facing UK rivers, but we need help to extend species level invertebrate analysis to many more. Our new project, SmartRivers, will enable volunteers to monitor the water quality in their rivers to a near-professional standard. SmartRivers compliments existing Riverfly Partnership monitoring but provides more information. The high-resolution nature of the data also means that S&TC is able to work with the Environment Agency and others to address the causes of poor water quality and drive forward positive change.

REFERENCES

Beketov MA, Foit K, Schäfer, RB. (2009). SPEAR indicates pesticide effects in streams–comparative use of species-and family-level biomonitoring data. Environmental Pollution: 157(6) pp. 1841-1848.

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