

Water Framework Directive Classifications - Avon Rivers

Document prepared by Wiltshire Fisheries Association.

River Avon (Main River)

WFD Classifications 2019

For the purposes of Water Framework Classification, the Environment Agency ignoring the Swallowcliffe tributary divides the Avon into 7 stretches: - the Western arm from Marden to Rushall; 2 stretches of the Eastern arm running downstream to Pewsey and thence to Manningford; 2 stretches of the upper Avon, running from Rushall to the junction with the Western Avon being "Poor", while other stretches of the Upper Avon, above Netherhampton and Nine Mile river, thence to Stratford-sub-Castle; the separate Nine Mile River; and the middle Avon running downstream to Salisbury. The classification is assessed at the downstream end of each stretch. Because the classification is only undertaken every 3 years, the most recent is for the period ended 2019. Please note that some stretches have deteriorated since 2019. The classifications and causes of deficiencies, as acknowledged by the EA, are set out below.

Western Arm - Marden to Rushall

Status	WFD Standards Failures		Causes
Moderate	Phosphates	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos; PBDE	STW; Agriculture; natural mineralisation

Eastern and Deane Water –to Pewsey

Status	WFD Standards Failures		Causes
Poor	Phosphates	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos; PBDE; Mercury	Urban and transport; Agriculture; natural mineralisation

Eastern and Woodborough Stream (to Manningford Bohune)

Status	WFD Standards Failures			Causes
Moderate	Phosphates	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos	Mercury	STW; Agriculture; Industry; Mercury – cause unknown.

Upper (Rushall to u/s Nine Mile River)

Status	WFD Standards Deficiencies			Causes
Moderate	Phosphates;	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos	Mercury; PBDE	Sewage Discharge; Agriculture; PBDE -cause unknown; natural mineralisation.

Nine Mile River

Status	WFD Standards Deficiencies			Causes
Moderate	Phosphates;	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos	Mercury; PBDE	Abstraction; No sector responsible

Upper (d/s Nine Mile River to Salisbury)

Status	WFD Standards Deficiencies		Causes
Moderate	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos		Mercury; PBDE No sector responsible

Lower (Salisbury and downstream to the coast)

Status	WFD Standards Failures	Causes
Moderate	Mercury; PBDE	Sewage discharge; industry; Agriculture; natural mineralisation

River Nadder

WFD Classifications 2019

For the purposes of Water Framework Classification, the Environment Agency) ignoring the Swallowcliffe tributary) divides the Nadder into 4 stretches: - Headwaters, Upper, Middle and Lower. The river Sem is a major source of the flow to the Nadder, joining the river just west of Wardour. The classification is assessed at the downstream end of each stretch. Because the classification is only undertaken every 3 years, the most recent is for the period ended 2019. Increases in Orthophosphate concentration have resulted in deterioration in the stretch from Tisbury to Wilton to "Poor" in the 2 years to 2021. The classifications and causes of deficiencies, as acknowledged by the EA, are set out below.

Headwaters (upstream of Wardour Lakes)

Status	WFD Standards Failures		Causes
Poor	Phosphates	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos	Septic Tanks; Agriculture – livestock management, Industry – perhaps watercress.

Upper (Wardour to Tisbury)

Status	WFD Standards Failures			Causes
Moderate	Phosphates	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos	Mercury	Sewage Discharge; Agriculture; mercury – cause unknown.

River Sem

Status	WFD Standards Failures		Causes
Moderate	Phosphates	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos Mercury	Agriculture; Urban and Transport

Middle (Tisbury to Wilton)

Status	WFD Standards Deficiencies			Causes
Moderate	Phosphates;	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos	Mercury; PBDE	Sewage Discharge; Agriculture; PBDE -cause unknown; natural mineralisation.

Lower (Wilton to Salisbury -where Avon meets the Nadder)

Status	WFD Standards Failures	Causes
Good	Mercury; PBDE	Unknown

River Wylfe

WFD Classifications 2019

For the purposes of Water Framework Classification, the Environment Agency) divides the Wylfe into 6 stretches: - the headwaters, flowing from the Deverills down to Warminster; 2 tributaries, being the Were or Swan to Warminster, the other being the Heytesbury Stream joining the Wylfe below Heytesbury; the middle from Warminster to Great Wishford; the River Till flowing from Tillshead and joining the Wylfe at Great Wishford; and the lower stretch, from Great Wishford to Warminster. The classification is assessed at the downstream end of each stretch. Because the classification is only undertaken every 3 years, the most recent is for the period ended 2019. The classifications and causes of deficiencies, as acknowledged by the EA, are set out below.

Headwaters (Through the Deverills and upstream of Warminster/Boreham)

Status	WFD Standards Failures		Causes
Poor	Phosphates	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos	Natural mineralisation; no sector responsible

Wylfe Tributary - (Were or Swan to Warminster)

Status	WFD Standards Failures			Causes
Moderate	Phosphates	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos	Mercury	Sewage Discharge; Agriculture; mercury – cause unknown.

Wylfe Tributary (Heytesbury Stream)

Status	WFD Standards Failures			Causes
Moderate	Phosphates;	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos	Mercury; PBDE	No sector responsible; PBDE -cause unknown;

Middle (Boreham to Great Wishford)

Status	WFD Standards Failures			Causes
Good	Phosphates;	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos	Mercury; PBDE	Sewage discharge; private waste water; urban and transport; Agriculture

River Till (Tillshead to Great Wishford)

Status	WFD Standards Failures		Causes
Good	Flow	Mercury; PBDE	Water industry abstraction; cause unknown

Lower (Great Wishford to Wilton)

Status	WFD Standards Failures	Causes
Good	Mercury; PBDE	No sector responsible – cause unknown

River Bourne

WFD Classifications 2019

For the purposes of Water Framework Classification, the Environment Agency maintains that the status of the river Bourne is “Moderate”. The classification is arrived at only by considering the status at the far downstream end of the Bourne at Laverstock. Orthophosphate levels are also only monitored at this site. Because the classification is only undertaken every 3 years, the most recent is for the period ended 2019 and is somewhat out of date. Notwithstanding these limitations, it is accepted that the “Moderate” classification is due in part to over-abstraction, not lease by the water industry.

The whole river Bourne

Status	WFD Standards Failures			Causes
Moderate	Abstraction	Mercury; PBDE	Fish barriers	Water Industry; Urban and Transport; no sector responsible