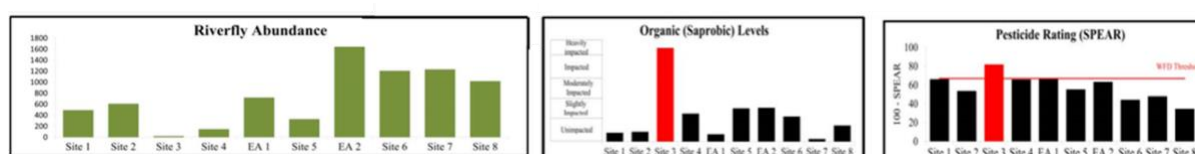


Shrewton sewage treatment works, River Till – background information

The River Till is a Sites of Special Scientific Interest and part of the River Avon Special Areas Of Conservation. The River Till is a winterbourne chalk stream supporting internationally important Bullhead and Atlantic Salmon. Wiltshire Fisheries Association (WFA) conducted invertebrate sampling across eight sites on the Till in April 2022. The most notable pressure on the Till is Wessex Water’s Shrewton Sewage Treatment Works (STW). WFA’s sampling found a notable reduction in riverfly abundance directly downstream from the STW. The sample, from the closest downstream site (Site 3) to the STW, was highly impacted by saprobic and chemical pressure.



The Event Duration Monitoring device at Shrewton STW recorded an unbroken spill (single pause of 3hrs 45mins), into the River Till, lasting for a period of 167 days in 2021. This event amounted to just under 4,000 hours between 07/01/21 – 23/06/21. When we compared the final effluent flow data and overflow start/stop times at Shrewton, against the STW’s environmental permit, we were able to quantify the extent of illegal spilling at the works. There were 1-2 ‘early spill days’ and 64-108 ‘dry spill days’ at Shrewton STW over 2021, all of which are illegal.

67% (18.76)				70% (19.6)				75% (21)			
YEAR		No. of early spill days	MINS	YEAR		No. of early spill days	MINS	YEAR		No. of early spill days	MINS
2021		1	90	2021		1	90	2021		2	105
2020		1	60	2020		3	90	2020		4	105

0.00mm		1.00 mm		2.00 mm		5.00mm		
YEAR		No. of dry spill days	YEAR		No. of dry spill days	YEAR		No. of dry spill days
2021		64	2021		83	2021		108
2020		68	2020		99	2020		141

There has been a 48% increase in the annual flow (m3) entering Shrewton STW from 2017 to 2021. The amount of phosphate entering the works has more than doubled, over the same time period, from 112kg to 294kg. The amount of untreated sewage spilling from the works would indicate the works is unable to cope with the increase from 2017 to 2021.