

= River Trym =

The River Trym is a short river , some 4 @. @ 5 miles (7 @. @ 2 km) in length , which rises in Filton , South Gloucestershire , England . The upper reaches are culverted , some underground , through mostly urban landscapes , but once it emerges into the open it flows through a nature reserve and city parks before joining the tidal River Avon at Sea Mills . 18th @- @ century water mills near the mouth gave the area its name .

Portus Abonae was a Roman port at the mouth which provided an embarkation point for journeys across the River Severn to South Wales . In the 18th century there were short lived attempts at creating a port and a whale fishery here . The name Trym appears to have Anglo @- @ Saxon roots . In recent years silting problems , caused by urban development have caused some difficulties , but alleviation works have helped reduce the problem .

= = Course = =

The Trym rises near Filton in South Gloucestershire , in the area of Filton Golf Club. and much of its upper course is culverted underneath 20th century housing . It surfaces in the Bristol suburb of Southmead , then flows open through Badock 's Wood nature reserve . Just south of here is Henleaze Swimming Lake , a former quarry fed by springs , the overflow running into the Trym . The river is culverted through Westbury @- @ on @- @ Trym village . A sluice here is used to divert water into a storm drain in times of high rainfall to save the village centre from flooding .

The Trym then disappears into culverts , re @- @ emerging at Henbury Golf Club before entering the Blaise Castle estate where it is joined on the right bank by the Hazel Brook above Coombe Dingle . The remains of Coombe Mill , which was fed by both the Hazel Brook and the Trym can be seen here . Passing under Dingle Road bridge , the river then flows through Sea Mills river park , passing under the Portway and the Severn Beach railway line before joining the river Avon . A weir under the Portway prevents flooding upstream , except during the highest spring tides .

= = Natural history = =

Badock 's Wood in Southmead is a nature reserve managed by Bristol City Council . Areas of beech , oak and ash woodland support a range of other bushes and shrubs , including hazel , maple , hawthorn and blackthorn . Badock 's Meadow , a former prefab housing estate has been reseeded with native meadow plants including oxeye daisies , yellow rattle , wild carrot and knapweed . Wildlife includes native woodland birds including woodpeckers and owls , also pipistrelle bats .

The Blaise Castle estate contains a variety of trees and plant life , also providing cover for birds and small mammals . Further downstream , just above Sea Mills , Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed , both invasive riverside plants have established themselves . Ducks and moorhen can be found along many stretches of the river , with gulls and estuary birds near the mouth .

A pollution incident by Wessex Water which allowed sewage to flow into the Trym in 2001 , killing eels , sticklebacks and invertebrates , resulted in a fine following prosecution by the Environment Agency . Other pollution incidents have followed .

= = History = =

At the confluence of the Trym with the Avon was the Roman port and small town of Portus Abonae , which took its name from the main river Avon which simply means ' river ' in British Celtic . Abona was a staging point for the Roman invasion of Wales and was at the western end of the Roman road from Silchester .

In the 15th century there were tide mills at Millpill , near the mouth . An attempt was made in 1712 by the entrepreneur Joshua Franklyn to open a commercial dock at the mouth of the Trym , on the Roman site , but the venture foundered after a few decades . A whale fishery enterprise set up in 1752 was equally short lived . Parts of the dock walls can still be seen .

= = Etymology = =

Linguistics sources indicate that the name Trym may derive from the Anglo Saxon , meaning ' firm ' or ' strong ' one ' .

= = Hydrology = =

The flow of the river has decreased in power in recent years , partly because of surface run off in the upper catchment of the Hazel Brook , especially from the large retail centre at Cribbs Causeway , which sends a good deal of silt into the system , slowing the flow and creating a risk of flooding downstream . This problem has now been partially alleviated by the construction of the Catbrain attenuation reservoir near Cribbs Causeway . Measurements of pollution by the city council show the water to be relatively clean .