

River Guardians Scorecard



How to use this scorecard

River Guardian River Health Scorecards are produced to visualise data collected by citizen scientists across the Arun & Western Streams and provide a simplified summary of local river health. Due to the nature of the scheme, there are gaps in the data. Numbers in brackets in the catchment summary indicate the number of sightings of each species observed throughout the year.

What communities and individuals can do to help

Many resources are available that enable individuals to make a positive difference in their local watercourse. Western Sussex Rivers Trust supports pollution reduction, public river access and provides training for small groups interested in protecting local rivers. These River Guardians help maintain stream water quality and River Health Observational Assessments and promote environmental awareness to the public. WSRT has been able to compile these River Health Scorecards due to the 130+ River Guardians who conducted over 1000 River Health Surveys, totalling over 1500 volunteer hours. Individuals and communities can also:

- Improve fertiliser, septic tank and land management.
- Keep litter out of waterways.
- Report pollution to the Environment agency, local Water Company or local authority
- Participate in monitoring and clean-up activities in your local rivers.
- Share your knowledge with others!
- Maintain buffer vegetation lining streams.
- Divert water off roads and trails to avoid soil erosion and flooding.
- Plant trees, shrubs and ground covers that reduce stormwater runoff.
- Volunteers for the WSRT River Guardians to help collect samples to monitor water quality.

This report card was produced in February 2024 by the Western Sussex Rivers Trust as part of the CaSTCo (Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative) project and represents a joint effort of citizen scientists, Rivers Trusts, Water Companies and Regulators. The aim of this river card is to provide a transparent and timely assessment of water quality for waterbodies within the Arun & Western Streams Catchment. Environmental report cards synthesize ecological data and communicate scientific results to the public to galvanize efforts to improve ecosystem health. Report cards inform policy and management, mobilise local communities, and stimulate research. Scores were determined by comparing four ecosystem health indicators (total nitrogen, phosphate, total suspended solids, turbidity, INNS, invertebrates, pollution and habitat abundance & diversity) to scientifically-derived thresholds that assess potential risks to ecosystem health. These indicator scores were combined into a River Health Index, which is presented as eight indicator scores and an overall waterbody score.

Become a River Guardian!

Join WSRT River Guardians and help to monitor a river or stream in your local area.

Web: wsrt.org.uk/get-involved/water-monitoring **Email:** keir@arrrt.org

