

Citizen Science Water Quality Survey Form

Survey Details

Site Name – River/Stream: _____ at Location: _____

Grid Reference: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ Observer Name: _____

☐ I have read and understood ARRTs Health & Safety policies and will follow safety guidance provided

Type of waterbody (tick one)

☐ River ☐ Stream ☐ Lake ☐ Pond ☐ Estuary/tidal
☐ Other: _____

Rain in previous 24 hours (tick one)

☐ None ☐ Light rain/showers ☐ Heavy or prolonged rain



Please take up to four photos to go with your survey data. One photo should be taken from the same place on each visit and will capture some of the waterbody and surroundings. [Other features where photos would be useful are highlighted with the camera icon.](#)

General Ecosystem Observations

Dominant land use within ~50m (tick all that apply) 

☐ Woodland ☐ Moorland/heath ☐ Urban/residential ☐ Industrial/commercial ☐ Parkland/gardens ☐ Grassland/pasture
☐ Agriculture (crops) ☐ Tilled land (ploughed/cultivated field) ☐ Other: _____

Dominant bankside vegetation (tick all that apply) 

☐ Trees/shrubs ☐ Mixed Plants/Flowers ☐ Grass ☐ None (Impermeable Surface e.g. tarmac)
☐ None (bare earth) ☐ Other: _____

Wildlife spotted (tick all that apply)

☐ Otter ☐ Water vole ☐ Kingfisher ☐ Grey Wagtail ☐ Heron ☐ Fish
☐ Dragonflies/Damselflies ☐ Duck ☐ Moorhen/Coot ☐ Geese ☐ Swans
☐ None ☐ Other: _____

Problem plant species (tick all that apply) 

☐ Himalayan balsam ☐ Japanese knotweed ☐ Giant hogweed ☐ Skunk cabbage ☐ Curly waterweed ☐ Floating Pennywort

If you see any of the following, call the Environment Agency 24-hour incident hotline 0800 80 70 60: Pollution to water or land, damage or danger to the natural environment, dead fish or fish gasping for air, collapsed or badly damaged riverbanks.



Evidence of Pollution

Pollution sources (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Outfall discharging
- ☐ Outfall not discharging
- ☐ Outfall causing odour
- ☐ Outfall causing discolouration
- ☐ Collapsed riverbanks
- ☐ Cattle/stock access to river
- ☐ Grey water (misconnection)
- ☐ Road run-off
- ☐ Soil run-off
- ☐ Farm run-off (slurry/silage)
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Evidence of recent pollution (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Sewage-related litter
- ☐ Litter/ Fly-tipping
- ☐ Unpleasant odour
- ☐ Oily sheen
- ☐ Foam (white/ fragrant)
- ☐ Smothering algae
- ☐ Sewage fungus
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

River Channel Observations

Channel dimensions: Estimated Width at water level (m): _____ Estimated average depth (m): _____

Predominant substrate (tick one)

- ☐ Boulders (>25cm football size)
- ☐ Stones (25cm - 6cm Tennis ball size)
- ☐ Gravel (4mm - 6cm)
- ☐ Sand (Up to 2mm)
- ☐ Silt/mud (Identify by eye looks like mud not sand)
- ☐ Bedrock
- ☐ Artificial
- ☐ Not visible
- ☐ Other: _____

Channel Vegetation (Tick one)

Can you see aquatic vegetation submerged/emerging from the river channel?

- ☐ Extensive (>33%)
- ☐ Present (<33%)
- ☐ Not visible
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Flow conditions (tick one)

Where 'steady' is walking speed, 'surging' is faster and 'slow' is slower than walking speed.

- ☐ Surging
- ☐ Steady
- ☐ Slow
- ☐ Still

Water level Estimate (tick one)

- ☐ High
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Low

Obstacles to fish or flow (tick all that apply)

Water and fish need to move freely. Is there an obstruction in the channel (within 50m) which might stop or inhibit natural flow or fish movement?

- ☐ None
- ☐ Weir
- ☐ Fallen or Submerged Tree
- ☐ Debris Dam
- ☐ Bridge/Culvert (if obstructing flow)
- ☐ Other Artificial Structure

Water quality readings

Temperature (°C): _____ Dissolved Solids (TDS – ppm): _____ Phosphate (mg/L) _____ Turbidity: _____

Nitrate (ppm): ☐ 0 ☐ 5 ☐ 10 ☐ 25 ☐ 50

Notes:

