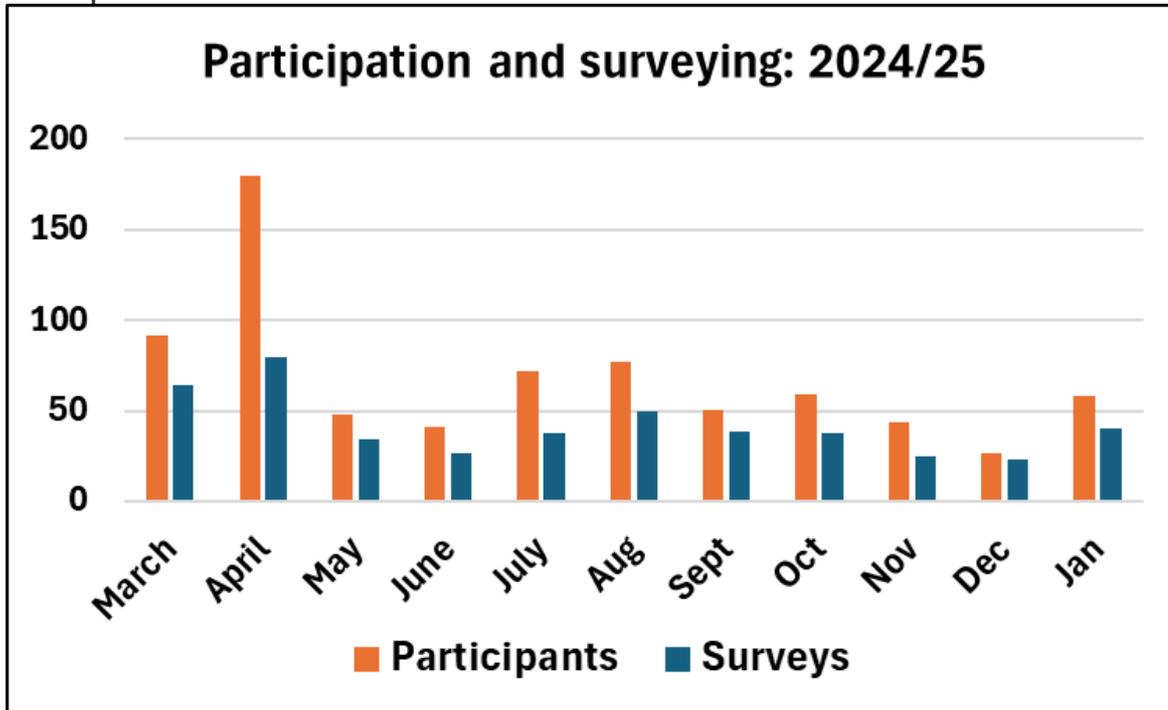


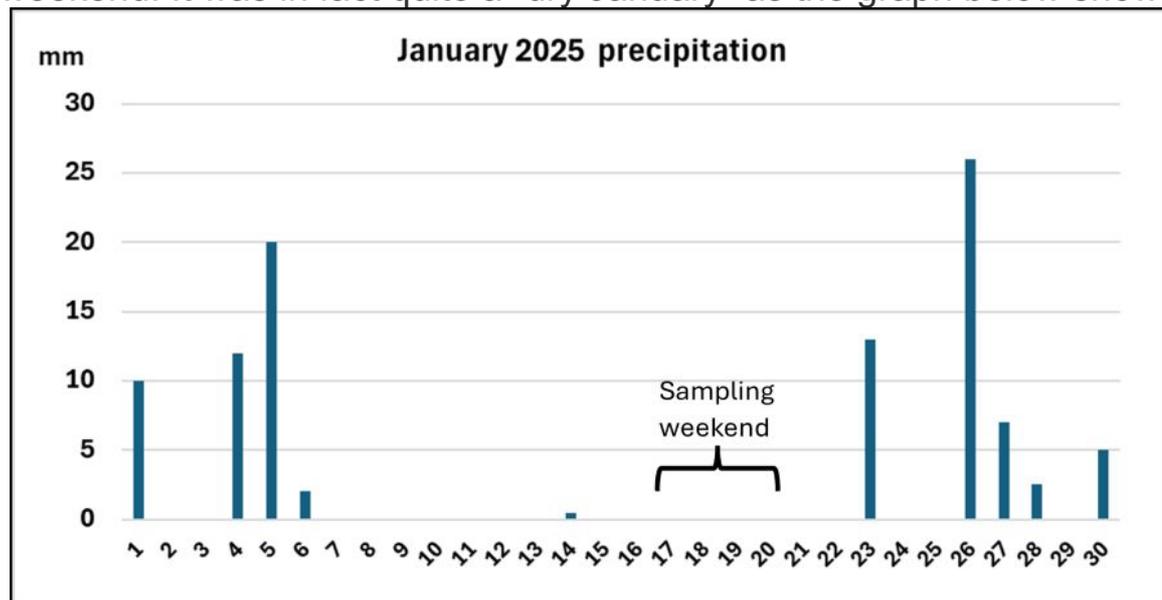
News from the Riverbank newsletter

Report on your FWW surveys from January 2025.

Well done to the 58 participants who recorded 40 surveys over the sampling weekend of 17 – 20 January, bringing the data collected back up September – October levels after our November/December slump. We can have greater confidence in our results and month-to-month comparisons when we have more data points.



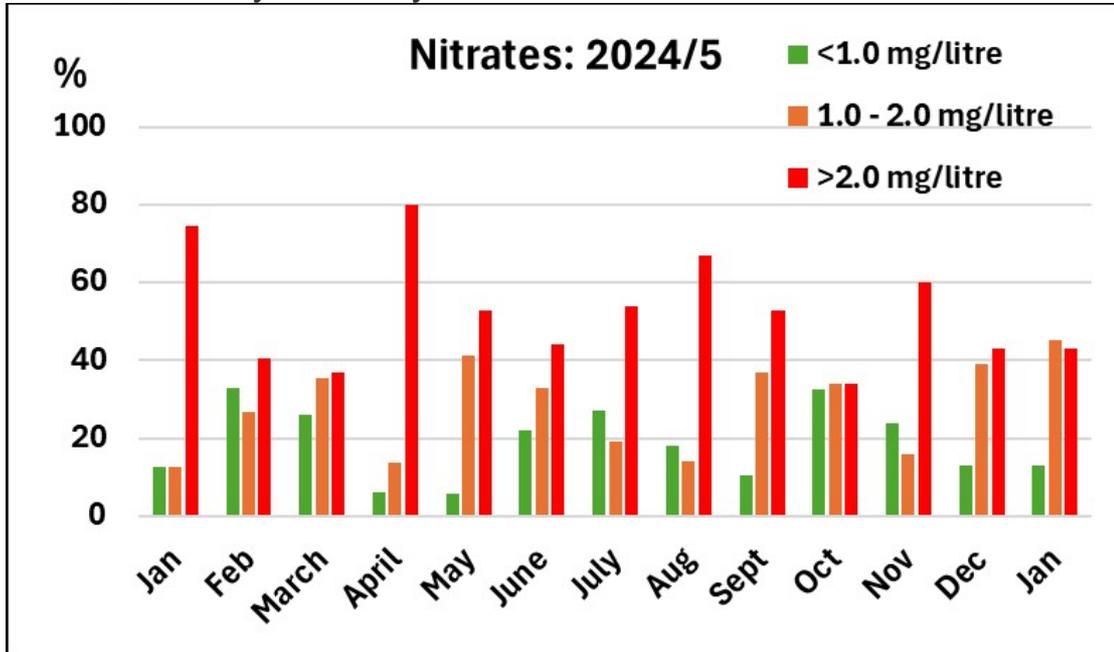
Now let's see what we learned over this largely dry weekend when most people recorded average water levels with steady flow. Luckily the effects of the snow and subsequent flooding in early January had largely resolved by the sampling weekend. It was in fact quite a "dry January" as the graph below shows



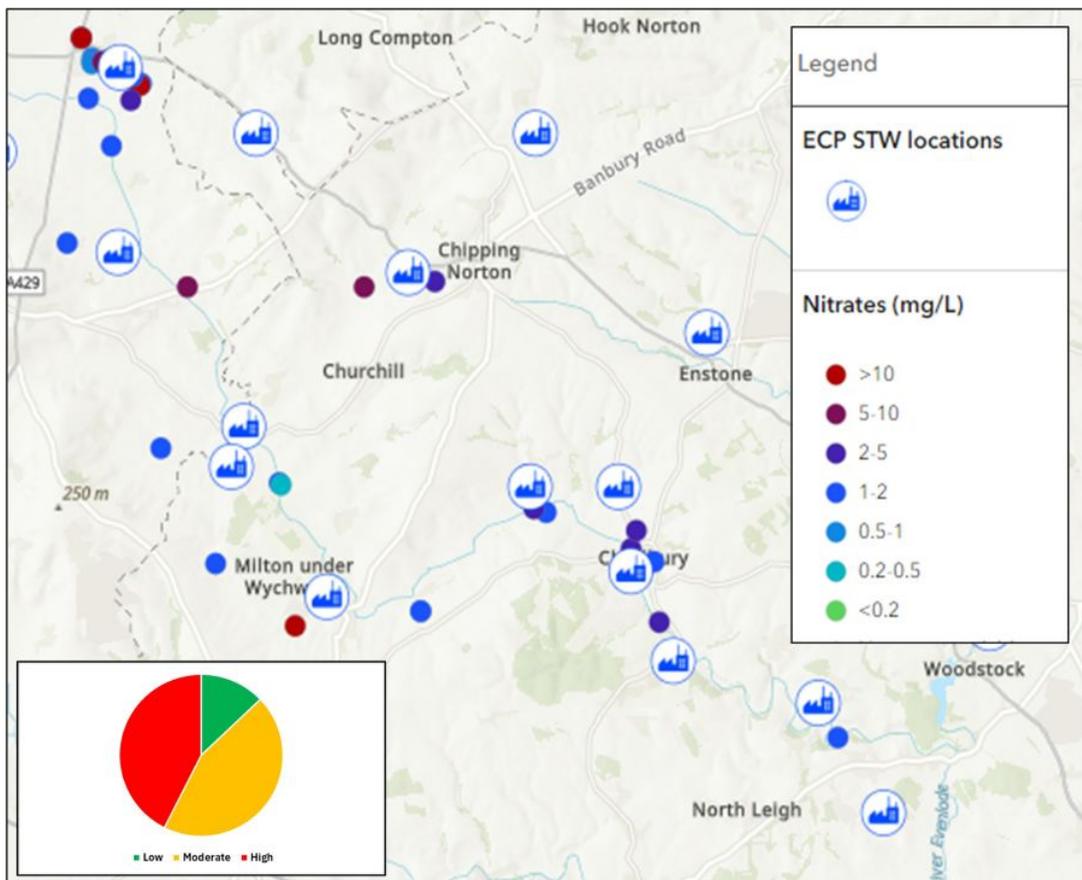
Thanks to Rupert for the Moreton-in-Marsh rainfall record.

News from the Riverbank newsletter

The next graph shows that the percentage of surveys with good (<1.0 mg/L) nitrate concentrations remained at December's relatively low level (13%). There was a slight change, showing a small improvement, between the percentage of moderate and high (> 1 mg/L and 2.0 mg/L respectively) at 87% of the sites surveyed, but overall, January was very similar to December in terms of nitrate concentrations.

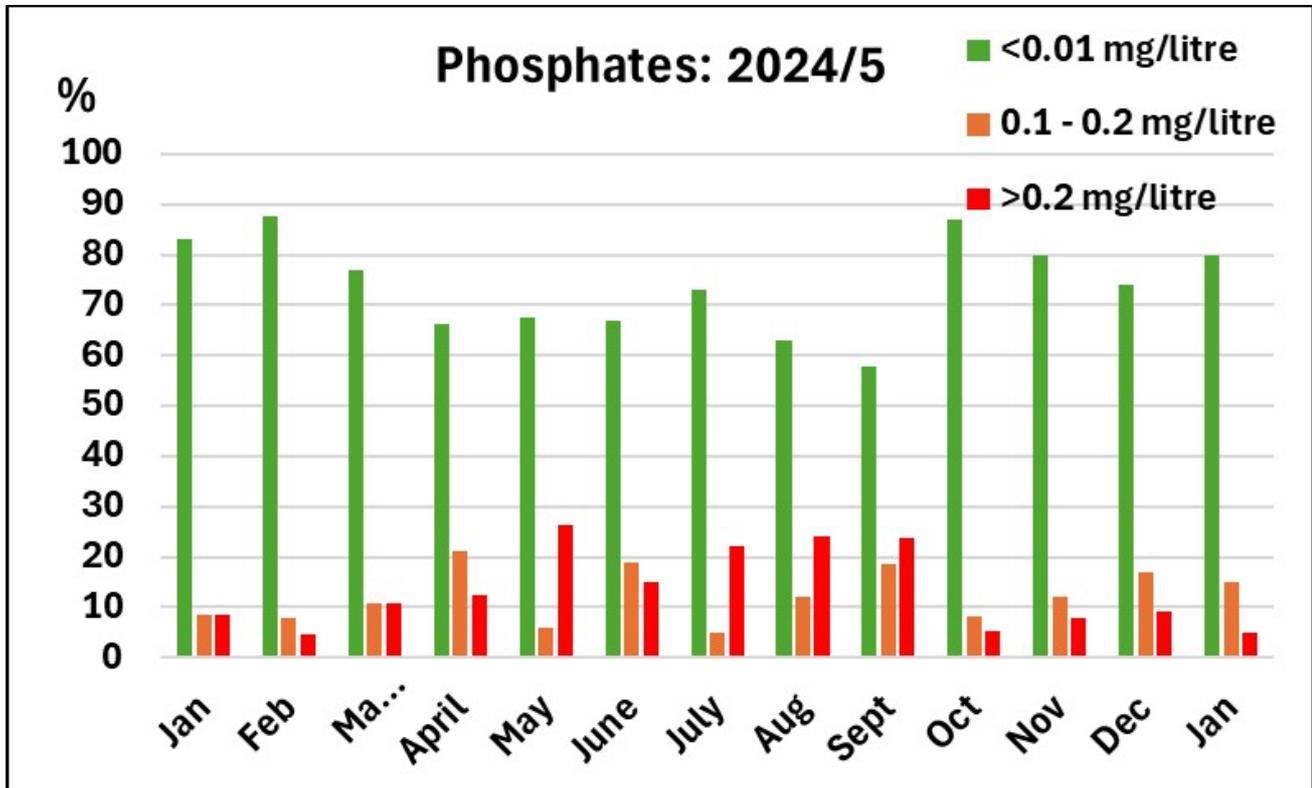


The predominance of moderate and high nitrate concentrations is evident in the next map. The inset pie chart shows the same percentages of low, moderate, and high concentrations as the graph above.

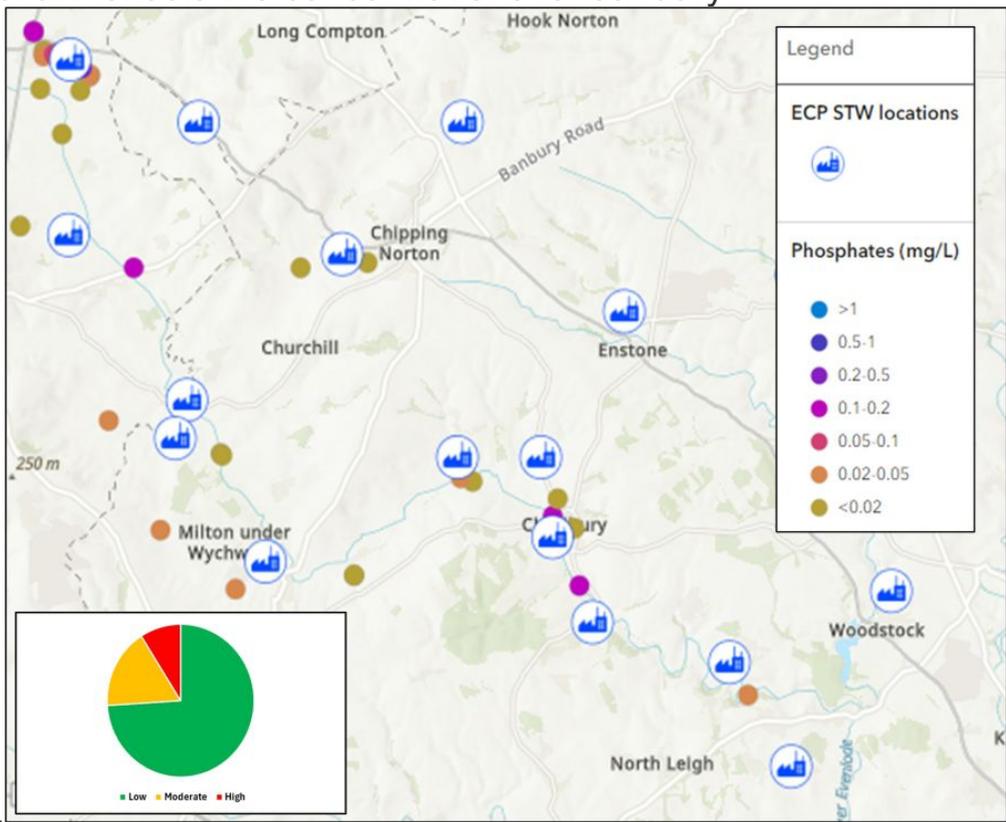


News from the Riverbank newsletter

The next graph shows that phosphate concentrations improved in January, with more surveys returning low or good concentrations, and the percentage of surveys showing moderate and particularly poor/high concentrations decreasing.

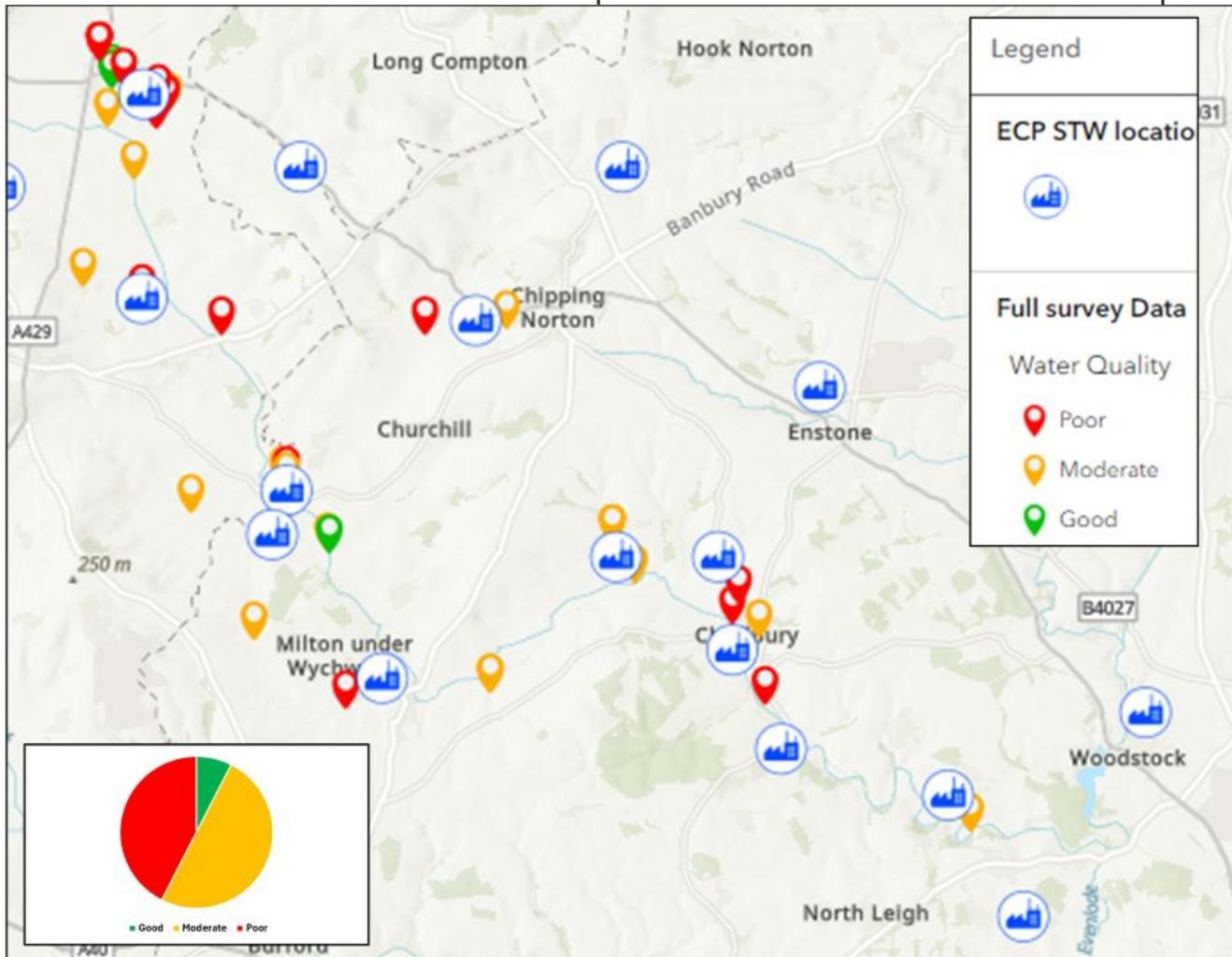


The widespread pattern of low/good phosphate concentrations are shown in the map below, with few, isolated moderate and high concentrations. The inset pie chart reflects the concentrations for January



News from the Riverbank newsletter

Bringing nitrate and phosphate results together with turbidity data and your observations of algae and water colour produces the green, orange and red water quality pins on the map below. The inset pie chart reveals that the water quality at 93% of the 40 sites tested was unacceptable – in other words moderate or poor

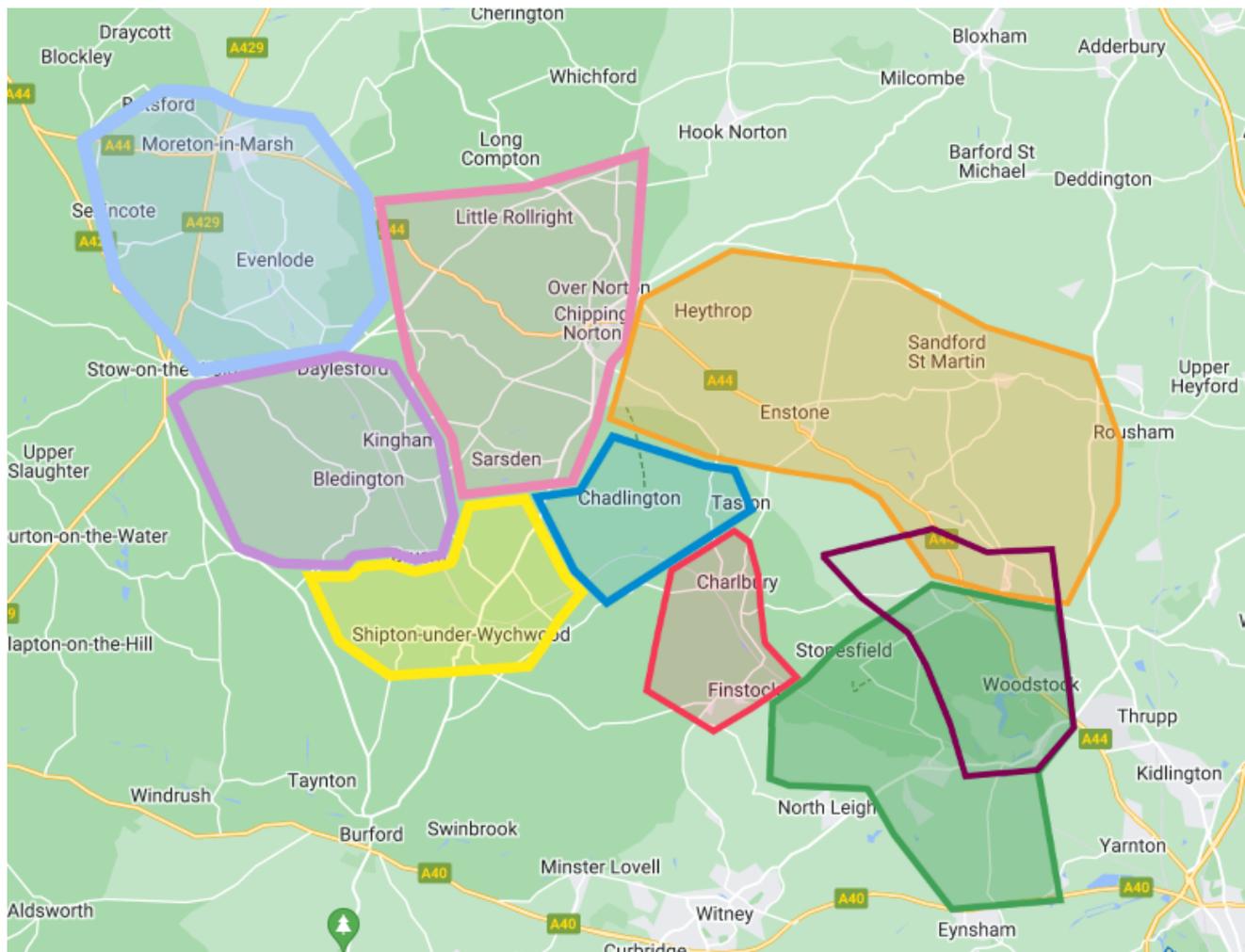


High nitrates seem to be driving the overall moderate and poor water quality. However, the EA characterises the River Thames system, of which the Evenlode is a tributary, as being a phosphate-limited system. In other words, although it is heavily impacted by nitrates from past and present agriculture and from wastewater, eutrophication will be somewhat suppressed if phosphate concentrations remain low. This highlights the impact of the FWW surveys returning unacceptable (>0.01 mg/L) phosphate.

Every month Laura publishes a full water quality report for the Evenlode Catchment.

These are available to read [HERE](#) 

News from the Riverbank newsletter



ECP 8 Groupings

Sam and Laura have been busy meeting up with many of the ECP8 groups these past few weeks. Demonstrating how groups and individuals can access, edit, analyse, and use their data for local campaigning and advocacy in the future.

We have also been asking for at least 1 willing group member to act as a 'group manager'. Someone who is comfortable double checking the groups monthly surveys are correct as a minimum, and potentially using then using that data to share your results to the wider community and continue engagement.

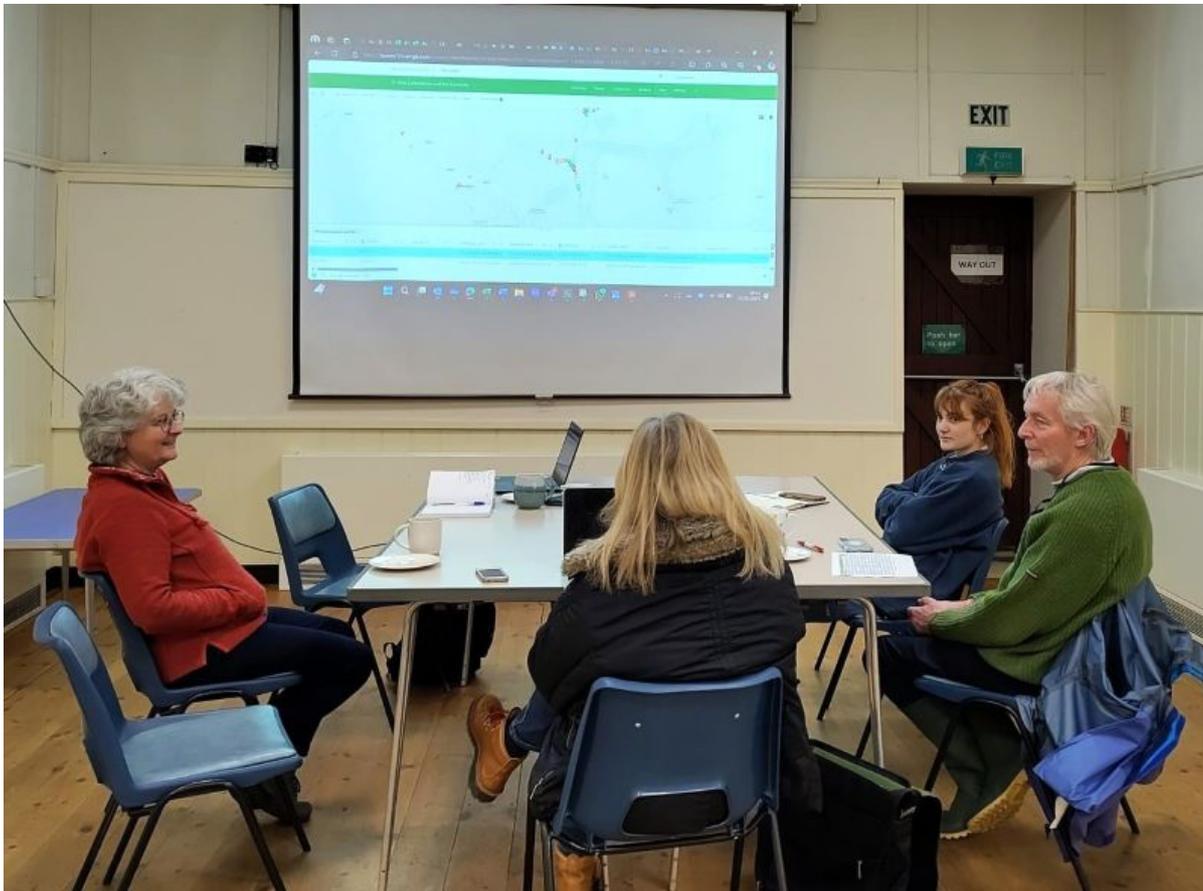
So far we have visited groups in and around Moreton-in-Marsh, Bledington, Combe, the Wychwoods, and Chadlington.

The final meeting will be in Enstone Parish Hall at 7:30pm on the 18th Feb.

Please do come along and join us if you can

News from the Riverbank newsletter

What we have seen is that there is still a fantastic amount of energy and engagement from many of you throughout the catchment. We really hope that this can continue long into the future. Remember, the ECP is not disappearing and support will still be given available. Save water@earthwatch.org.uk to your contact list and don't be shy to ask for help



Riverfly - Extended course

On the 3rd Feb a large group of riverfly monitors from around the Evenlode catchment expanded their knowledge and qualification by attending the extended riverfly course with Tony Bostock. Increasing our species count from 8 to a whopping 33, and improving our knowledge of the invasive species we might find during our time on the riverbank.

News from the Riverbank newsletter



Upcoming Events

Presentation Evening on 19th Feb at 7-8pm

'Rivers in Decline - Challenges and Hope for Recovery'

St Kenelm's Church, Enstone, OX7 4NL

FWW training on 1st March at 0930-1130

Please contact Sam to register and for venue details.

sfrith@earthwatch.org.uk

Following on from the presentation evening on the 19th Feb, this FreshWater Watch training session is anyone who would like to either polish-up their skills and to recruit new citizen scientists to water quality monitoring. We are in need of data from the Dorn and the Glyme, especially between Enstone, the Bartons, and Woodstock. If you know of anyone that might be interested then please share.

News from the Riverbank newsletter

WAG Walk and Talk on 22nd Feb at 10-12pm

Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water, W3W screen.masts.implore

New FWW citizen scientist group 'Windrush Action Group' have invited us to join them for a walk

Evenlode Catchment Partnership Exhibit on 15th March

Please check you inbox for invite to this event

Join us for a celebratory buffet lunch. There will be displays of our projects and achievements around the room and will be time to relax and chat with your fellow volunteers and project partners

The image contains three promotional posters for environmental events. The first poster on the left is titled 'EVENLODE CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS RIVERS IN DECLINE CHALLENGES & HOPE FOR RECOVERY 19TH FEB, 7-8PM' and is held at St Kenelm's Church, Enstone, OX7 4NL. The middle poster is for 'River Water Quality Walk and Talk' on Saturday 22nd Feb 10-12 at Greystones Farm, What3Words screen.masts.implore, featuring a photo of a riverbank. The third poster on the right is for 'CITIZEN SCIENCE TRAINING FRESHWATER MONITORING FOR NUTRIENT POLLUTION' on 1st March, 0930-1130 in Enstone, Oxfordshire. All posters include contact information for sfrith@earthwatch.org.uk and logos for ECP and Freshwater Watch.

Voices of the River

Our collection of fantastic presentations from those who work hard to protect our rivers is really filling up! Each episode has covered a different subject, educating us on just how much hard work is going on across the nation.

Our next episode is on the **18th February at 12:30 - 1:30pm.**

Luisa Orsini, Co- Founder of Water Daphne Solutions. will be discussing 'Nature-Based Solutions: How Daphne Water Solutions is Fighting Water Chemical Pollution'

[Join us live on Zoom](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82804215904>

Head to <https://www.youtube.com/@Evenlode>  to watch all previous episodes.

News from the Riverbank newsletter

News

[🔗 WASP and local MP Charlie Maynard go to High Court - WASP Blog](#)

[🔗 Thames Water appeals against limit on bill rises - BBC](#)

[🔗 Thames Water is under scrutiny from OFWAT following its failure to deliver over 100 environmental improvement schemes on time - Business Live](#)

[🔗 sewagemap.co.uk now includes all of England, check it out HERE](#)

2025 Testing Dates

Please make sure you **save these dates** for this years testing weekends, as I will not be sending out reminders past March.

Remember testing day is always on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

February 16th

March 16th

⚠️ April 27th This is to align with the Great UK WaterBlitz, not the usual 3rd Sunday of the month.

May 18th

June 15th

July 20th

August 17th

Sept 21st

October 19th

November 16th

December 21st

As always, any data you collect between the Friday and Monday of the testing weekend will be used in next months newsletter (last one). If you cannot sample during this time then please don't worry. All data collected anytime is still valuable.

Please do get in touch with your questions and news to

water@earthwatch.org.uk.

We hope to see you out on a riverbank very soon.

With warmest wishes and thanks for all that you do,



News from the Riverbank newsletter

Sam, Laura, and The FreshWater Watch Team