



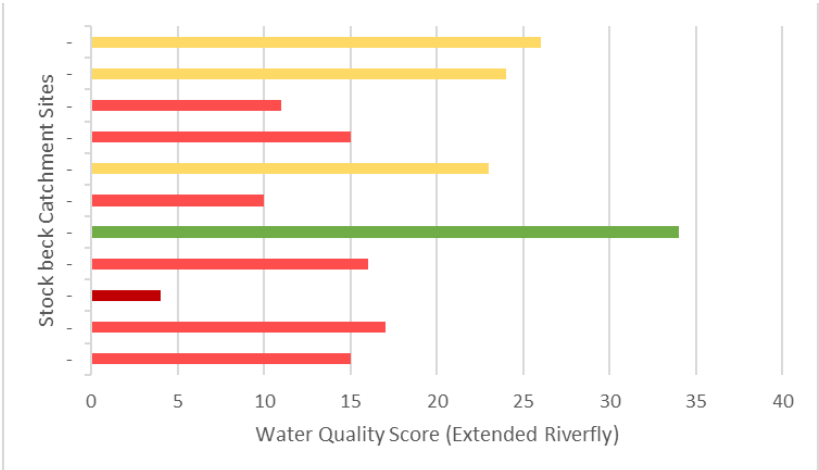
Stock beck RiverBlitz

Overview

On Sunday 10th September we held a fantastic RiverBlitz event in the Stock beck catchment, collecting water chemistry, habitat quality and biological community data across 11 freshwater sites. With the help from over 20 wonderful volunteers, we collated a comprehensive picture of water quality across the catchment, the results of which will inform focus for farm advice work and habitat improvements in the area.

Water Quality (Biological)

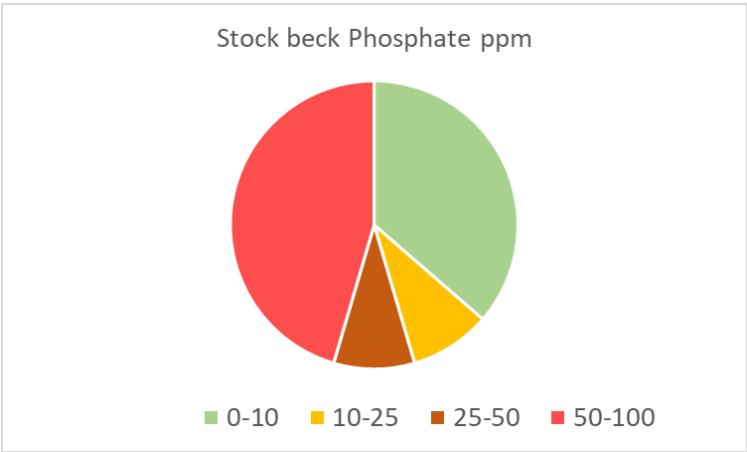
Our volunteers performed 3-minute kick samples at each sites and identified all invertebrates to an Extended Riverfly standard. This allowed an accurate interpretation of Water Quality. From the graph (right), we can see the majority of sites in the Stock beck catchment scored 'moderate' to 'poor' water quality, with just one site being 'good'.



Across the sites, our most abundant group was **freshwater snails**, our rarest groups were **limpets**, **green drake's** (mayfly), and **non-gilled caseless caddisflies**. And the highest scoring group found were **stoneflies**.

Water Chemistry

As well as invertebrates, we tested water for orthophosphate levels (Part per Million). The results confirmed present Environment Agency data, showing Stock beck has high phosphate content, with most sites exceeding the Water Framework Directive threshold of 0.1. And allows RRT to pinpoint potential sources of Phosphate pollution for monitoring.



Habitat quality

The data collected relating habitat features across the catchment showed over **50% of sites had livestock access**, and **30% with poached riverbanks**. Land use data collected on the day reaffirms Stock beck has high proportions of agricultural land use. Issues with bank erosion, Himalayan balsam presence, and lack of wooded river corridors were also highlighted.

