

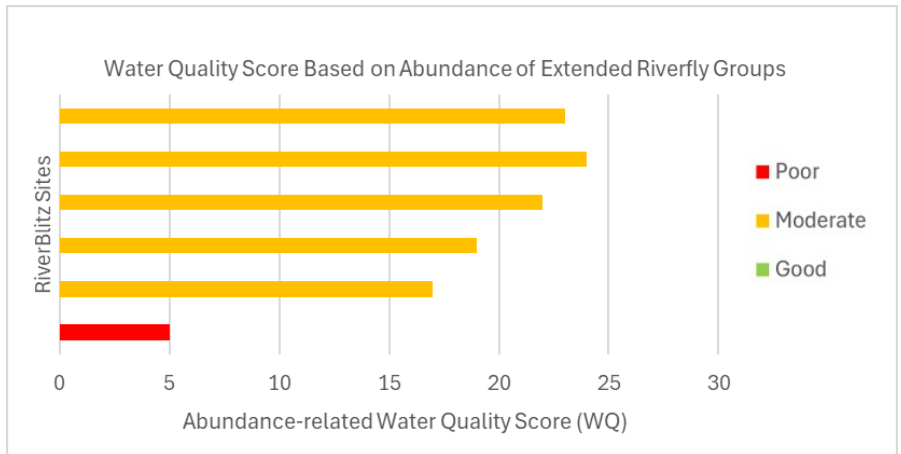
# Trawden Brook RiverBlitz

## Overview

On Saturday 24th August we held a fantastic RiverBlitz event in the Trawden Brook Ribble catchment, collecting water chemistry, habitat quality and biological community data across 6 freshwater sites. With the help from 6 wonderful volunteers, we collated a comprehensive picture of water quality across the catchment, the results of which will inform focus for farm advice work, habitat improvements and further monitoring.

## Water Quality (Biological)

Our volunteers performed 3-minute kick samples at each site and identified all invertebrates to an Extended Riverfly standard. This gives a good indication of water quality (WQ). From the graph (right), we can see the majority of sites in the Trawden Brook catchment scored 'Moderate' water quality (WQ < 15-25). RiverBlitz results can prompt investigative monitoring to identify issues at sites with poor scores.



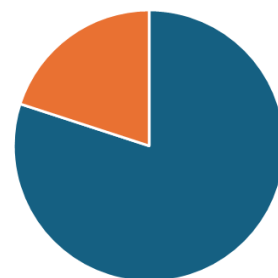
**Note: Scoring grades are arbitrary, and derived from comparison of scores gained on the day. Note also that the site numbers have purposefully not been revealed.**

Across the sites, our most abundant macroinvertebrate group was **Flatbodied Mayflies**, our rarest group were **Hood Case-maker caddisfly**. And the highest scoring group found were **Stoneflies**.

## Water Quality (Chemistry)

As well as invertebrates, we tested water at 5 out of 6 sites for reactive phosphorus levels using Hanna Pocket Phosphate Checkers. This helps the RRT team to pinpoint potential sources of phosphate pollution, which can cause issues for river health. Our RiverBlitz data showed 80% of sites tested on the day 'passed', as their phosphate levels were under the threshold that the Water Framework Directive deems to be unacceptable.

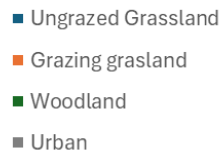
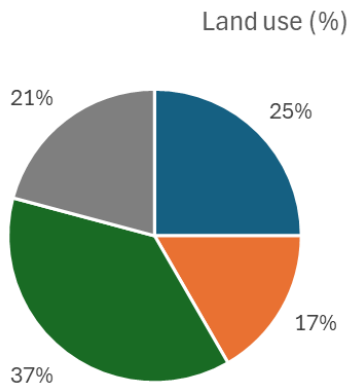
Reactive Phosphorus Concentrations (mg/l) using Hanna Pocket Checker



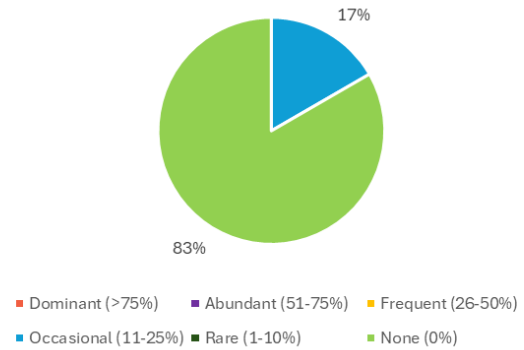
■ Pass (P < 0.1mg/l) ■ Fail (P > 0.1mg/l)

## Habitat Quality

The data collected relating to habitat features across the catchment confirmed high proportions of **woodland**, the **most predominant land use (37%)**, followed by **ungrazed grassland (25%)**, urban (21%), and grazing grassland (17%). Some issues with bank erosion were suggested with **33% of sites having earth cliffs**, however, no sites had 'poached' banks, and livestock were only able to access the river at one site. Additionally, **66% of sites noted tree presence on both banksides** and positively, **Himalayan balsam was absent at 83% of sites (0% coverage)**.

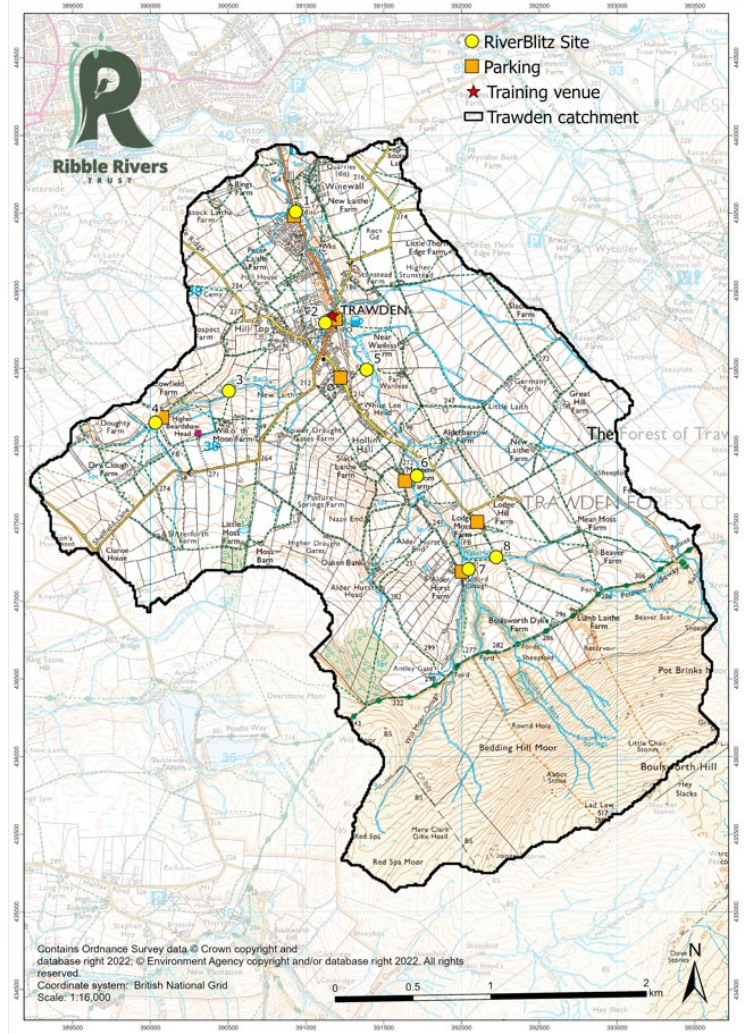


Himalayan Balsam Presence (%)



### What's next?

RiverBlitzes have proven an effective method to capture a wide-scale snapshot of catchment health, with sites being strategically located to collect data from multiple tributaries. All this in a very short period of time thanks to our amazing volunteers! We have been refining the RiverBlitz methodology after each event, with input from volunteer feedback, and aim to continue RiverBlitz events throughout the year. Eventually, building up a catchment-wide dataset for the Ribble catchment as a whole, identifying priority areas for our improvement works.



If you would like to get involved in more events, visit [ribbletrust.org.uk](http://ribbletrust.org.uk) or follow us on our social channels.



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