

DC Admin

From:
Sent: 21 August 2026 16:17
To: DC Admin
Subject: Objection to Planning Application 2026/60/91494/E, Penistone Road, Birdsedge
Attachments: Riverflys from Clayton West upstream.pdf

Categories:

I object to the above planning application on the fact that surface water drainage will be discharged directly to the River Dearne with no treatment.

I have carried out the Riverfly Sampling in the Upper Dearne Valley since 2019, with the closest sampling site being in the ancient woodland of the Upper Dearne Woods. The Riverfly Partnership provides a simple, standardised monitoring technique to supplement routine monitoring by the EA, SEPA, NRW and NIEA. There are over 10,000 sampling sites across the UK and the attached document presents a review of the Riverfly statistics to date for the Upper Dearne Valley.

The table below shows typical pollutants that may enter the River Dearne from a housing development like the one applied for.

Common Pollutants in Surface Water Drainage

Surface water drainage can carry a variety of pollutants that negatively impact water quality. These pollutants typically originate from urban areas where impervious surfaces prevent natural absorption of rainwater.

Pollutant	Source
Oil and Grease	Vehicle leaks,
Chemicals	Fertilizers, pesticides, detergents
Litter	Waste and debris from streets and public areas
Heavy Metals	Vehicle exhaust, tire wear, dust from car brakes
Nutrients	Runoff from lawns and gardens,
Sediment	Erosion from construction sites and unpaved areas

If surface water drainage goes directly to the River Dearne, the pollutants it holds can harm aquatic ecosystems by introducing harmful substances like detergents from car washing, oil, petrol, chemicals, and heavy metals into water bodies, which can smother aquatic vegetation and disrupt the balance of marine life. This contamination can lead to reduced water clarity and negatively affect fish and other organisms such as river flies (which fish feed on), that rely on clean water for survival.

On the basis of the surface water going directly to the River Dearne, I object to this application.

Report on Riverfly scores from
Claton West and upstream
on the River Dearne.

July 2026

Summary

The table below shows individual scores for the Riverfly found in the River Dearne and two of its tributaries. These are an indication of the level of pollution in the Dearne.

The sample sites are:

- Park Dike
- Upper Dearne Woods
- Clapper Bridge Denby Dale
- Baildon Dike Strick Lane
- Baildon Brook Park Gate
- Pingle Nook Meadows
- Langley Lane
- Packhorse Bridge
- Clayton West WTP1
- Clayton West WTP2

The eight targeted species are:

- Cased Caddis
- Caseless Caddis
- Mayfly
- Flat-bodied Upwings
- Blue-winged Olives
- Olives
- Stoneflies
- Freshwater Shrimps

The average RMI score (based on these ten sampling sites), for all years for the Upper Dearne is 7.

Some of the river Dearne, particularly the Upper Dearne Woods site, are quite constrained in the summer months due to there being very little flow or even no flow in the river.

Despite this, the score from the Upper Dearne woods site has averaged 10 over the years, with scores as high as 15. Lower down the river when it passes Denby Dale, Scissett and Clayton West there is more opportunity for pollutants to get into the river.

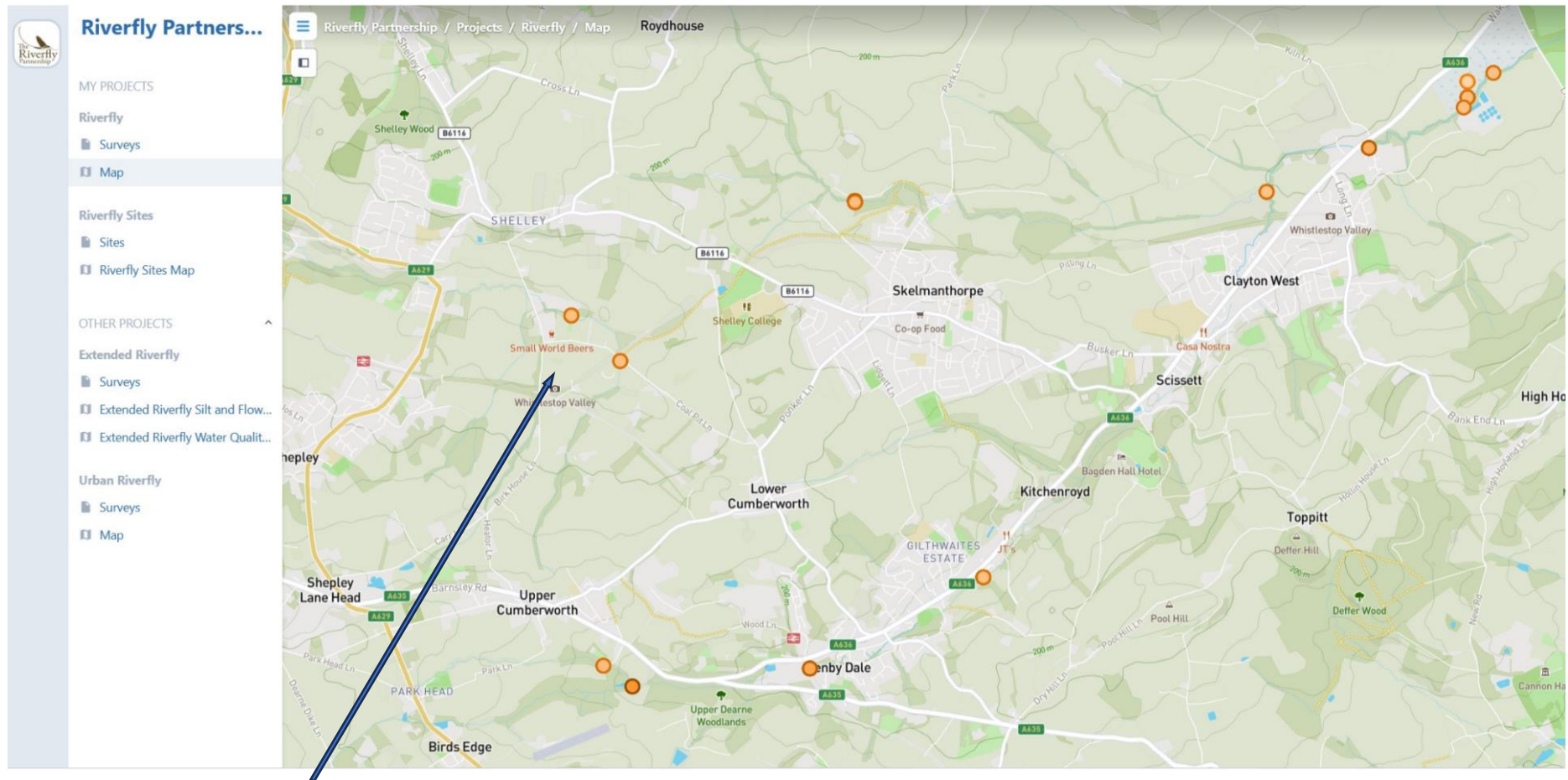
The site WTP2 is below the outlet pipe for Clayton West STW, and that has an average score of less than 5.

Table 1

Workspace	Team	Recorded: Date	River	Site	RMI Total
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	03/07/2026	Dearne	Park Dike	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	30/06/2026	Dearne	Baildon Dike, Park Gate	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	30/06/2026	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	22/06/2026	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	05/06/2026	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	05/06/2026	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	06/06/2026	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	14
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	05/06/2026	Dearne	Park Dike	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	06/05/2026	Dearne	Pingle Nook Meadows	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	01/06/2026	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	12
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	22/05/2026	Dearne	Baildon Dike, Park Gate	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	22/05/2026	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	03/05/2026	Dearne	Langley Lane	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	01/05/2026	Dearne	Park Dike	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	27/04/2026	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	27/04/2026	Dearne	Baildon Dike, Park Gate	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	27/04/2026	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	11
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	23/04/2026	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	23/04/2026	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	13/04/2026	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	22/10/2025	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	03/10/2025	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	25/09/2025	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	24/09/2025	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	3
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	13/09/2025	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	13/09/2025	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	14/08/2025	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	26/08/2025	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	2
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	26/08/2025	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	22/08/2025	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	02/08/2025	Dearne	Pingle Nook Meadows	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	31/07/2025	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	3
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	31/07/2025	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	24/07/2025	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	24/07/2025	Dearne	Langley Lane	3
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	24/07/2025	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	26/06/2025	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	26/06/2025	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	24/06/2025	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	16/06/2025	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	30/05/2025	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	30/05/2025	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	29/04/2025	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	3
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	29/04/2025	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	18/03/2025	Dearne	Pingle Nook Meadows	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	11/03/2025	Dearne	Pingle Nook Meadows	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	30/12/2024	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	30/12/2024	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	29/11/2024	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	29/11/2024	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	24/10/2024	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	23/10/2024	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	23/10/2024	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	18/04/2024	Dearne	Langley Lane	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	29/09/2024	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	23/09/2024	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	23/09/2024	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	19/09/2024	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	28/08/2024	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	2
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	28/08/2024	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	10
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	21/08/2024	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	31/07/2024	Dearne	Clapper Bridge Denby Dale	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	15/08/2024	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	15/08/2024	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	30/07/2024	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	3
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	30/07/2024	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	13/06/2024	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	30/07/2024	Dearne	Pingle Nook Meadows	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	13/07/2024	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	13/07/2024	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	10/07/2024	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	11
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	25/05/2024	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	13
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	25/06/2024	Dearne	Pingle Nook Meadows	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	25/05/2024	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	25/05/2024	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	12/04/2024	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	12/04/2024	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	10/04/2024	Dearne	Pingle Nook Meadows	12
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	01/10/2023	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	10
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	04/10/2023	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	3
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	04/10/2023	Dearne	Baildon Dike Strike Lane	3
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	18/10/2022	Dearne	Baildon Brook Park Gate	5

Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	08/08/2023	Dearne	Pingle Nook Meadows	11
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	09/05/2023	Dearne	Pingle Nook Meadows	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	18/10/2022	Dearne	Pingle Nook Meadows	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	20/09/2022	Dearne	Pingle Nook Meadows	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	16/06/2023	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	11
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	19/08/2022	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	06/06/2022	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	26/09/2021	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	10
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	27/11/2020	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	31/07/2020	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	29/05/2020	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	10
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	14/09/2019	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	04/07/2019	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	03/08/2017	Dearne	Clayton West wtp1	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	16/06/2023	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	12/10/2022	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	07/05/2021	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	22/05/2020	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	2
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	14/09/2019	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	04/07/2019	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	2
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	08/09/2018	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	2
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	03/08/2017	Dearne	Clayton West wtp2	2
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	26/09/2021	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	17/07/2021	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	13
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	22/04/2021	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	07/03/2021	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	02/01/2021	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	11
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	15/11/2020	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	8
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	12/09/2020	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	15/08/2020	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	6
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	07/06/2020	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	10
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	16/05/2020	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	10
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	04/01/2020	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	17/08/2019	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	10
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	14/07/2019	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	01/06/2019	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	25/05/2019	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	5
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	08/09/2018	Dearne	Pack Horse Bridge	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	14/07/2023	Dearne	Langley Lane	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	22/08/2022	Dearne	Langley Lane	3
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	13/11/2020	Dearne	Langley Lane	7
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	15/08/2020	Dearne	Langley Lane	4
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	26/08/2019	Dearne	Langley Lane	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	27/06/2019	Dearne	Langley Lane	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	04/07/2023	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	11/05/2023	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	15
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	15/08/2020	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	9
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	22/06/2019	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	15
Riverfly Partnership	Friends of the Dearne	11/05/2019	Dearne	Upper Dearne Woods	13
Average (all years, Upper Dearne Woods only)					10
Average score (all years)					7

Map of survey sites



Note: The two sites shown in the mid-left are not the Dearne. These are in Shepley Dike and are part of the Calder Catchment.

Key: sample sites = ●

APPENDICES

The Riverfly Partnership

The Riverfly Partnership is a dynamic network of organisations, representing anglers, conservationists, entomologists, scientists, water course managers and relevant authorities, working together to:

- protect the water quality of our rivers;
- further the understanding of riverfly populations, and;
- conserve riverfly habitats.

The Riverfly Partnership supports projects that are designed to assess the health of the UK's rivers. Volunteers are trained to become citizen scientists and join a team to monitor their local river. They detect and report serious pollution incidents and create long-term data sets.

Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (RMI)

The Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (RMI) is a citizen science project that enables trained volunteers to protect river water quality by monitoring eight pollution-sensitive invertebrates and complement the work carried out by statutory agency staff across the UK.

Anglers and local community groups are often seen as natural guardians of the river environment, because they are in an ideal position to monitor the health of the watercourses they fish in and live near. The Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (RMI — also known as the Anglers' Riverfly Monitoring Initiative, ARMI) has been pioneered by the Riverfly Partnership to provide a simple, standardised monitoring technique which groups can use to detect any severe perturbations in river water quality, and put them in direct communication with their local ecological contact at the Environment Agency (EA)/Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)/National Resources Wales (NRW)/Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).

Used alongside routine monitoring by the EA/SEPA/NRW/NIEA, this RMI scheme ensures that water quality is checked more widely, and remedial action is taken at the earliest opportunity if any severe perturbations are detected. This active monitoring also acts as a deterrent to incidental polluters. Successful schemes are underway in catchments across the UK, with data stored on our database, Cartographer. Verified data is freely available to view and download under the terms of the Open Government Licence.

Collecting

The aquatic stages of riverflies are easy to collect. Kick sampling is the most efficient method in running water, whilst in standing water a net can be swept through submerged vegetation, or the substrate can be disturbed and the net swept through the disturbed water.

Identification

Identification can be done to different levels, such as family or species. Whereas species-level identification may require lab-based study and dissections, Riverfly Partnership volunteers are trained to recognise certain general groups of riverfly larvae that are easily identifiable at the bankside, before returning them to the water. This can provide a very useful insight into the health of a river.

How the scoring system works

The counts of each riverfly taxon are converted into an 'RMI score', as per the table:

Abundance	RMI score
0	0
1-9	1
10-99	2
100-999	3
1000+	4

The RMI scores for each of the eight target invertebrates are then added together to generate an RMI score for the whole sample.