River Sid Catchment Group

Earthwatch Europe Great UK WaterBlitz Results, April 2025 & Sept 2024

Introduction

The UK WaterBlitz is a national biannual event when volunteers test the nutrient levels their local waterbodies. Both phosphates and nitrates are assessed. These nutrients are essential for all plants and animals but when excessive amounts reach our water courses they can damage aquatic life. The rapid growth of algae reduces light levels and amount of oxygen available to animals from trout to shrimp and mayflies.

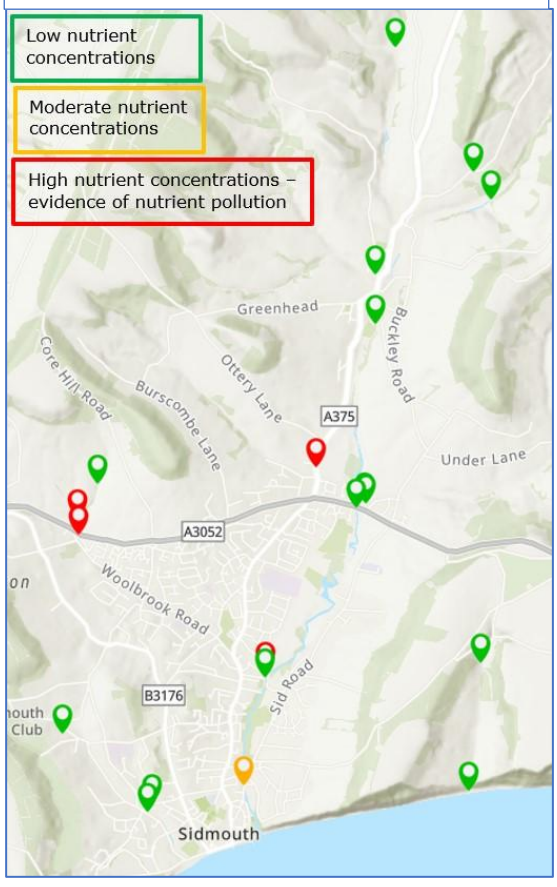
Results for the Sid valley and Streams to the East in April 2025

12 volunteers monitored in the Sid valley, Salcombe Regis Stream and Weston Combe. Maps and data for Sept '24 and April '25 are shown below. Some monitoring sites remained the same but additional sites were added in 2025.

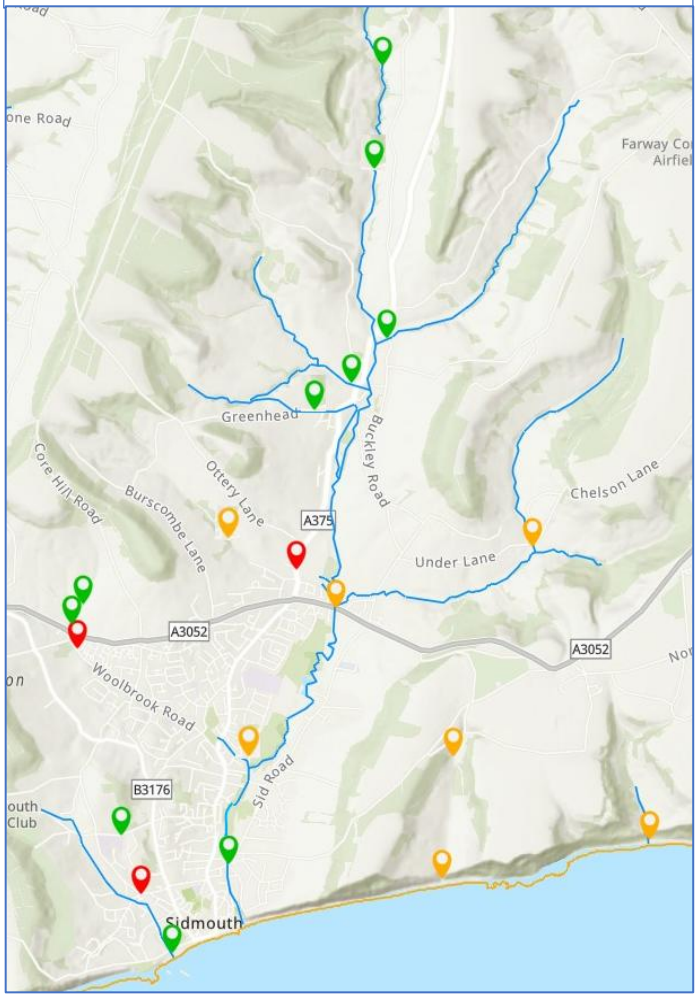
Low and moderate nutrient levels were the norm in the area with high nutrients found in lower Burscombe Brook, the Woolbrook at Stowford and Knowle Stream which emerges in an open culvert in Cotmaton Road. Sources of this nutrient pollution need to be identified. Burscombe Brook and Woolbrook add nutrients to the Sid and when water levels were low last summer nutrients became concentrated resulting in excessive algal growth in the lower reaches of the Sid.

National results can be found on the Great UK WaterBlitz website.
The more comprehensive the data the more likely it is that the government will take additional action to protect our rivers.

September 2024



April 2025



The table below shows the detailed results from the Sid Valley monitoring.

Site	Sept 2024			April 2025	
	Nitrate	Phosphate		Nitrate	Phosphate
River Sid – Plyford				0.2-0.5	0.02-0.05
River Sid – Ash Holdings Ford	0.5-1	0.02-0.05		0.5-1	<0.02
Sand Goyle feeding into **Roncombe** Stream	1.0-2.0	0.02-0.05			
Roncombe Stream, Sand	0.5-1	0.05-0.1			
Roncombe Stream, Buckley Rd Bridge	0.5-1	0.05-0.1		0.5-1	0.02-0.05
Lincombe stream, alongside village hall	0.2-0.5	0.02-0.05		0.2-0.5	0.02-0.05
Filcombe stream, Sidbury				0.5-1	0.02-0.05
River Sid - Millenium field, Sidbury	0.5-1	0.05-0.1		0.5-1	0.05-0.1
Burscombe Brook above Brook Farm				1.0-2.0	0.05-0.1
Burscombe Brook, under A375 Sidford	1.0-2.0	0.2-0.5		2.0-5.0	0.5-1
Snod at Harcombe				1.0-2.0	0.05-0.1
And Brook (feeds into lower **Snod**)	0.5-1	0.05-0.1			
Snod below Packhorse Bridge	0.2-0.5	0.02-0.05		1.0-2.0	0.02-0.05
Woolbrook, Core Hill East bifurcation	<0.2	<0.02		0.2-0.5	0.02-0.05
Woolbrook, Core Hill West bifurcation	1-2	0.2-0.5		0.5-1	0.05-0.1
Woolbrook at Stowford	1-2	0.2-0.5		1.0-2.0	0.2-0.5
Woolbrook at confluence with River Sid	2-5	0.2-0.5		1.0-2.0	0.1-0.2
River Sid at Gilchrist Field				0.5-1	0.05-0.1
River Sid at Lymebourne	1-2	0.05-0.1			
River Sid at Sidmouth Ford	1.2	0.1-0.2			
River Sid at School Weir				0.5-1	0.05-0.1
Muttersmoor stream (drains into (**Bickwell Brook**)	0.2-0.5	0.02-0.05			
Knowle Stream Cotmaton Rd (into **Bickwell Brook)**	0.5-1	0.1-0.2		2.0-5.0	0.05-0.1
Broadway Culvert (drains into **Bickwell Brook**)				0.5-1	0.05-0.1
Bickwell Brook in Glen Goyle	0.2-0.5	0.1-0.2			
Bickwell Brook at beach				0.5-1	0.05-0.1
Upper **Salcombe Regis** Stream	1.0-2.0	<0.02		0.5 – 1.0	0.1-0.2
Salcombe Regis Mouth	0.5-1	0.05-0.1		0.5 – 1.0	0.1-0.2
Weston Combe at Westernmouth				1.0-2.0	0.02-0.05

Low nutrient concentrations

Moderate nutrient concentrations

High nutrient concentrations - evidence of nutrient pollution sources

Many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed.