



RIVERFLY PARTNERSHIP

RIVER INVERTEBRATE MONITORING FOR ANGLERS & RIVER CUSTODIANS



Shill Brook

**Bampton Library, Old Grammer School, Church View,
Bampton, Oxfordshire, OX18 2NE**



Windrush Catchment
PARTNERSHIP

One-day Workshop Information & Agenda

An innovative partnership to help conserve river environments

Local communities can become the natural guardians of the river environment and are in an ideal position to monitor the health of their watercourses by using the riverflies. The Riverfly Partnership¹ spearheads an initiative to allow communities and anglers to take action that will help conserve the river environment. This initiative provides a simple monitoring technique which participants can use to detect any severe changes in river water quality and puts them in direct communication with the Ecology Contact of the Environment Agency (EA) or Natural Resources Wales (NRW). This monitoring scheme, used alongside routine monitoring by the EA / NRW, will ensure that water quality is checked more widely and action is taken at the earliest opportunity should any severe changes in the environment be detected. Riverfly Partnership tutors deliver one-day workshops to fishing clubs and other organisations committed to establishing a group to monitor their local waters.

Background

The Riverfly Partnership, in collaboration with local organisations, is working to help protect the water quality of watercourses and conserve their riverfly populations. The Riverfly Partnership includes many organisations committed to furthering the understanding and conservation of riverfly populations. The monitoring initiative has been developed over a number of years building on work pioneered by Dr Cyril Bennett on the River Wey in the 1980s; through workshops delivered by the John Spedan Lewis Trust for the Advancement of the Natural Science on the River Test and workshops coordinated by the Natural History Museum / Natural England partnership workshops involving the Riverfly Recording Schemes (for Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera). Following the Riverfly Conference held in November 2004 at The Natural History Museum, the initiative was taken forward in collaboration with the Environment Agency in a new pilot phase. The national launch of the initiative took place at the Riverfly Partnership Conference *How good is your river?* on March 8 2007 at Natural History Museum in London. For further information see www.riverflies.org. To date the **Cotswolds Rivers Trust** has trained almost 300 individuals to sample river invertebrates and currently monitor over 75 sites on 26 different rivers and streams and the Cotswolds and Upper Thames catchment.

One-day monitoring workshop

The one-day monitoring workshops, are hosted by a regional coordinator from a local fishing club or rivers trust and delivered by an accredited tutor, together with a local EA/NRW Ecology Contact. The workshop provides a comprehensive review of the monitoring technique and includes short presentations, practical demonstrations and active involvement by participants at the riverside, as outlined in the timetable below. Participants receive the guide to the monitoring methodology *River invertebrate monitoring for anglers* published by the Field Studies Council and have chance to try it out for themselves.

Supported by a comprehensive written guide to the methodology and post-workshop support from the tutors, clubs and organisations are shown how to establish monitoring groups and register sampling sites with their local EA/NRW Ecology Contact.

Riverfly Partnership Workshop Coordinators:

Partnership Co-ordinator: Trine Bregstein
RP Accredited Tutor: **Tony Bostock MBE** (Acting Chief Executive – **Cotswolds Rivers Trust**)

www.riverflies.org for more information on the Riverfly Partnership.

www.cotswoldsriverstrust.com for more information on the Cotswolds Rivers Trust.

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Wednesday 20th September 2023

Workshop Timetable



9.30	Welcome	Monitoring Group Coordinator Riverfly Tutor
	Health and Safety	Riverfly Tutor
9.45	Introduction to <i>Cotswolds Rivers Trust</i> & monitoring	Riverfly Tutor
10.30	The target groups– Life history & ecology Ephemeroptera: Up-winged flies Trichoptera: Caddisflies or sedges Plecoptera: Stoneflies <i>Gammarus</i> : Freshwater Shrimp	Riverfly Tutor
11.00	Field work: Practical session at the river Collecting, sorting and recording the sample	All

12.30 - 13.15 Lunch

Please bring a packed lunch

13.15	Field work continued <i>To demonstrate life-cycles, adult flies will be collected from vegetation and matched to the larval species if time allows.</i>	All
14.00	Fieldwork and data overview	All
15.00	Establishing a monitoring programme	Riverfly Tutor Monitoring Group Coordinator
15.15	Further identification	Riverfly Tutor Monitoring Group Coordinator
15.30	Questions, Summary and Feedback	All

16.00 **Finish**