

Fladbury Water Quality

In November 2021 several matches on both banks and below Jubilee Bridge blanked.

The Secretary asked Glyn Marshall of Worcester AA to measure water quality who recorded a Phosphate level of 0.86mg/l & in December he measured 0.91 mg/l. The EA informed the Society that they regularly measure a value of 0.1mg/l at Jubilee Bridge.

A Phosphate level of 0.1mg/l is generally accepted as a typical & acceptable Phosphate level for a natural River.

The Society raised a concern with the Environmental Agency (EA) and we learnt that the EA were overseeing a sewage treatment plant upgrade at Wood Norton retirement home. Apparently over 200 residents had moved in around 2016 without upgrading the sewage treatment plant.

The Society learnt that Glyn Marshall was fronting an Angling Trust pilot scheme (WQMN) in the Severn Trent catchment area encouraging clubs to measure water quality. The Society began measuring water quality at Fladbury in May 2022 supplying Phosphate, Electrical Conductivity and Nitrate results via Epicollect5, a mobile App.

Andy Hammerton the Societies Bailiff offered to complete the monthly testing and we started putting results onto the Society website on a spreadsheet and graphically.

In June 2022 residents had seen our results & become concerned especially after three lads swimming at Pershore became ill, Wychavon County Council were made aware. A Fladbury councillor requested a copy of the Societies results. The residents formed an Action Group supported by GirlingAS who are now measuring water quality upstream & downstream of Fladbury.

While Nitrate levels have never been a concern, Phosphate measurements have remained very high since the Society's measurements began in early 2022.

High levels of Phosphate can be directly attributed to (1) influx from the water companies & (2) washed off farmland in times of spate. However, if the latter was the case we would be also be recording high levels of Nitrates. These high levels of nutrients have caused the explosion of weed growth witnessed during the 2024 & 2025 seasons.

The Society continues to monitor water quality at Fladbury Jubilee Bridge, during this period there has been an explosion of awareness but very little action to resolve the issue.