

The River Rangers

Our local River Rangers have got off to an excellent start and all those trained in ARMI (Anglers Riverfly Monitoring Initiative) have sampled their locations at least once which is great news because we're now building up a baseline river health score for the Rivelin. All the Rivelin sites have been registered and logged on the official Riverfly Partnership database (check out the registered sites on the Rivelin on the map below!). John Blewitt, who is highly experienced in riverfly monitoring is checking and validating these results, giving us the confidence that the scores entered are trustworthy and a good indicator of the river health.

There are five sites being monitored by the River Rangers and if we work our way downstream the initial results are as follows:

Cliff face downstream of the stepping stones scored 8

Glenn Bridge scored 7

Downstream of Holme Head Mill dam scored 6

We are going to be building on the riverfly invertebrate monitoring with chemical sampling of the river. RVCG provided funding to purchase an Angling Trust chemical sampling kit which John Blewitt procured at a good price.

The River Rangers agreed that we want to get the message out there to as many people as possible to keep an eye on the river and report anything untoward or of concern. The Environment Agency pollution hotline is 0800 80 70 60.

We'd love to get more local citizen scientists engaged with the River Rangers by joining our WhatsApp group and receiving our updates via email. It's a great way to ask questions about what you are seeing on the river and share experiences and in that way we learn together what good river health looks like and what we can do to protect our rivers.

The Sheffield River Rangers have created a local database too where anyone can enter records of what is seen on the river. Anyone can add observations, so please to make a note of this web address and become a citizen scientist and enter any observations

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOuRUMaenZHEwaKCO5N-q5S4CU8REkZpSSL4TDGEljpLh3uA/viewform?pli=1>

Anyone interested in joining the WhatsApp group can send an email to Jacqueline at rivelin.valley@gmail with a telephone number to add to the group. Also look out for further details as we create a Facebook page for the Sheffield River Rangers.

Jacqueline Diaz-Nieto

