

## WORKSHOP DETAILS

Duration: 1 day ( 09.30—17:00)

Date: Saturday 10th May 2008 (South Cumbria)  
Saturday 17th May 2008 (North Cumbria)

Location: NORTH - EA offices, Penrith  
SOUTH - FBA , Ferry Landing, Far Sawrey.

Cost: £35.00 (non-refundable)

Refreshments: Attendees are requested to bring a packed lunch.  
Tea and coffee will be provided throughout the day.

The one-day monitoring workshops, are hosted by SCRT and ERT and delivered by an accredited tutor, together with a local EA Ecological Appraisal Officer. As well as giving attendees a fascinating insight into the invertebrate community, the workshop will provide a comprehensive review of the monitoring technique and includes short presentations, practical demonstrations and active involvement by participants at the riverside. Participants receive a guide to the monitoring methodology and have a chance to try it out for themselves. There is a ratio of one tutor to six participants. Each workshop is therefore limited to 12 participants per day.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

For South Cumbria:

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ANSWERS: A=olive; B=flat bodied; C= mayfly; D= blue-winged olive;  
E=gammarus; F=stonefly

# Riverfly Partnership Cumbria

## River invertebrate monitoring scheme.

## Training workshops for anglers

### 2008



[www.riverflies.org](http://www.riverflies.org)



South  
Cumbria  
Rivers  
Trust



## BACKGROUND

The Riverfly Partnership is a network of organisations working together to further the understanding and conservation of riverfly populations.

The Partnership consists of more than 35 member organisations, including the Environment Agency (EA), the Freshwater Biological Association (FBA), the Eden Rivers Trust and South Cumbria Rivers Trust (SCRT).

The Partnership aims to address perceived declines in the abundance of river flies, in particular mayflies (Ephemeroptera), caddisflies (Trichoptera) and stoneflies (Plecoptera).

In 2007 a national programme was launched to train angling groups to monitor the water quality of their local rivers using a simple invertebrate sampling methodology. A number of angling clubs throughout Cumbria were represented at the training days and have since been collecting and sharing valuable data with the EA and the Riverfly Partnership.

## WHY GET INVOLVED?

River invertebrates are near the bottom of the food chain and are essential in ensuring good survival rates and strong recruitment of fish in our waters.

Overall abundance of invertebrates has declined as a result of a number of factors including:

- **POLLUTION** - e.g.: from accidental pollution incidents, road run-off, septic tanks and agriculture;
- **ABSTRACTION** - can lead to insufficient water resulting in overall decline of habitat;
- **BAD MANAGEMENT** - e.g.: cutting weedbeds at the wrong time of year, dredging;
- **CLIMATE CHANGE** - weather extremes such as prolonged periods of drought and flash floods causing habitat damage

Invertebrate monitoring can reveal long term trends, such as a gradual reduction in water quality due to an increase in acidity. And the sensitivity of invertebrates to water quality can act as a valuable indicator of a pollution incident, such as sheep dip entering the water. Regular monitoring of the invertebrate life in and around your beat can reveal a decline in water quality and help ensure that early action is taken to address the problem.

## ANGLERS ARE IN AN IDEAL POSITION TO MONITOR THE HEALTH OF THE WATERCOURSES THAT THEY FISH.

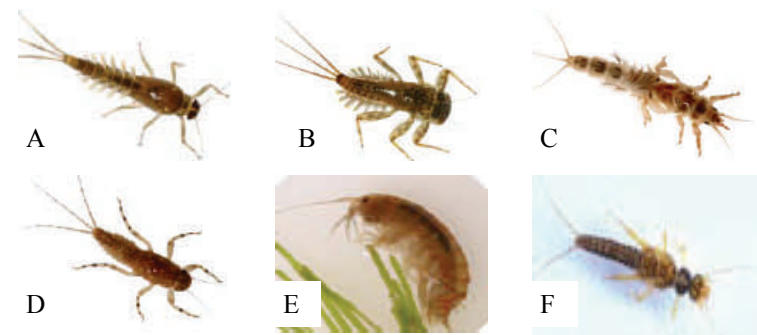
It makes sense for anglers to become involved with the scheme, as not only do they spend more time than most on the riverbanks, they also rely on a healthy invertebrate community to provide them with well conditioned fish.

This angler-driven invertebrate monitoring scheme, used alongside routine monitoring by the EA, provides a great insight into the ongoing health of the river. The Riverfly Partnership methodology is a simple yet highly effective technique designed for anglers in the field. The anglers select one or more sampling sites to monitor on a regular basis e.g. monthly and the methodology can be completed within an hour. The data collected are shared with the EA Ecology Contact. In the short term data can highlight possible pollution incidents ensuring early action can be taken and in the long term can start to build a comprehensive picture of the state of the invertebrate population throughout the county.

There are probably a number of pollution incidents that go undetected every year. Monitoring is both a deterrent to incidental polluters and helps ensure that should incidents occur early action can be taken. A number of perpetrators have already been prosecuted as a result.

Long term datasets are valuable tools in building up a picture of the effects of climatic events. For example, a decrease in invertebrates may be attributable to an increase in water temperature. These comparative data can be important tools for influencing policy making decisions at a national level.

**CAN YOU IDENTIFY ANY OF THESE? Answers on the back..**



**PLEASE SEE BACK PAGE FOR WORKSHOP DETAILS**