



From the Team

A huge welcome to the Autumn 2021 Riverfly Partnership Newsletter - what an unusual year it has been for us all. Since our last issue in September 2019, we have seen the onset of a global pandemic, several periods of lockdown, and unimaginable losses. We hope that you, our valued volunteers, and your families have kept well during this time, and our heartfelt condolences go to anyone that has lost a loved one to Covid-19. We cannot thank you enough for your continued efforts and support toward the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative in such unprecedented circumstances. Despite the pandemic, our volunteers have persevered to deliver some amazing results.

In this issue:

- From the Team
- ARMI in Lockdown
- Online Training
- Extended and Urban Riverfly Launch Update
- New Features

From January 2020 to July 2021, you have:

- Uploaded **3778** records to the ARMI database.
- Captured information from **757** sites, in **349** rivers, across **105** catchments.
- Highlighted **197** trigger level breaches.



We are absolutely thrilled with this progress and cannot thank you enough! Keep up the fantastic work.

During the pandemic, we have been convening with hub coordinators and tutors to deliver our training in a way that is safe and accessible for all. If you completed your training this year, you would know that a large portion of the theory material was delivered online, along with the end-of-study test. This format has worked very well, with over 500 tests being taken since the online material was released. We would like to thank all of our coordinators and tutors for their flexibility and continued enthusiasm while running with this new format! Read more on page 2.

At the end of this Summer, Ben Fitch sadly left his position as Riverfly Project Manager. After 7 years with Riverflies, we know many of you will be as sorry to see him go as we are. Ben was keen to express his gratitude to each and every person who has been involved in ARMI, the Riverfly Partnership and Riverfly Plus over the years. Having met so many wonderful and committed people in his time, he has decided to stay on as a Riverfly volunteer. Thank you Ben for all your hard work. Alex Domenge has now undertaken the role of Riverfly Partnership Coordinator, and is joined in this role by Naomi Lumsden. Naomi is a keen bug-enthusiast, and is excited to be a part of the team!



Riverfly Monitoring Initiative in Lockdown

While a national lockdown halted the invertebrate monitoring efforts of the Environment Agency, the guidelines set out by the government for Covid-19 did allow our volunteers to continue surveying, if they felt comfortable to do so. We were amazed to find that between 16th March and 31st August 2020, our volunteers collected **886 records** from 183 different rivers. This data not only filled gaps in Environment Agency monitoring, but also identified 36 trigger breaches in that time. You can now view our [storymap](#) of monitoring during this period.



Online ARMI Training

The online option for training was released at the end of May this year and we have received some [good feedback](#). To date the video has been watched 750 times, and the test has been completed 534 times by 397 people. The theory guide is available to all trained monitors. We are glad to have been able to provide a new item in the toolkit for all our ARMI participants.

The guide, methodology and testing was completed with the help of many partners; monitors, agency contacts and tutors all of whom played an integral role. We wish to give special thanks to Alan Dickson, Stuart Crofts, Simon Stebbings, Katherine Ryan, Rebecca Lewis, James Morgan and Judith Milner.



ARMI Monitoring Method: Kicksampling and Identification

▲ Tutor Stuart Crofts in the ARMI online training video.

Urban Riverfly Update

We are gearing up to release the Urban Riverfly in Spring. In preparation for this we will be reviewing our data to find areas that will be well suited to [Urban Riverfly](#). These will be waterways with sites that have trigger levels at 5 or lower, or groups that only record baetid and gammarus. Urban Riverfly training will cover ARMI training, so in the future new groups will be able to get started with both ARMI and Urban Riverfly should they wish to.

We thank Nicola Edgar of the Environment Agency who came up with the idea and developed the methodology and scheme alongside Jess Andrews of the Environment Agency.

◀ Urban Riverfly Scheme Pilot volunteers. Photo: Nicola Edgar

Extended Riverfly Update

We hope to have the [Extended Riverfly](#) option available this coming Spring. The [ID Chart](#) has been released, at £10 per copy, and we are happy to say it been very popular so far. The guide has been designed as a stand-alone item that allows for bankside identification of 33 groups, and some evaluations based on what you find. A pilot was conducted earlier this month, and the online training option is being finalised.

We wish to thank John Davy-Bowker of the FBA, Angus Menzies of the Dorset Wildlife Trust, Richard Chadd of the Environment Agency, Will Bartle of the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project and Phoebe Shaw Stewart of ZSL who created the training material and methodology.



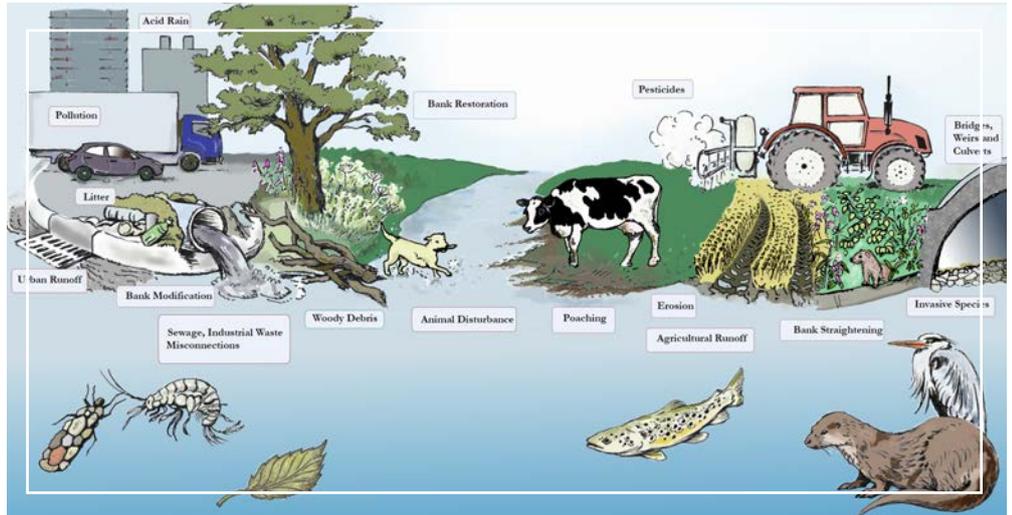
The Extended ID Chart is available now. Photo: Mark Battista. ▶



New Features

We have been working to provide you with great new features over at the [Riverflies website](#). Recently launched, the [Riverfly Plus interactive](#) page gives an insight into the factors that affect river health, both positively and negatively, and introduces the projects within the Riverfly Plus family that deal with these factors.

Riverfly Plus



We have also uploaded an up to date [trigger level setting guide](#) for the benefit of our coordinators and keen volunteers. You can now also find the option to 'Enter a Site' under the coordinator menu on the website - this is a quick and easy option for getting accepted sites put into the database.

Richard Chadd



It is with deep sadness that we must inform you that one of the great supporters of the Riverfly Partnership, Richard Chadd, has died. Richard had initially started out undertaking training as a medical doctor but quickly realised that the natural world was more his thing. Richard worked as a biologist for the Environment Agency's Eastern Region. He was an expert freshwater ecologist and taxonomist who freely and cheerfully lent his expertise to specialists and non-specialists alike – he was passionate about training and encouraging people and students in freshwater ecology. He quickly saw the strength and potential of the Riverfly Partnership in enabling citizen scientists to provide robust evidence on water quality through the Anglers' Riverfly Monitoring Initiative and worked endlessly within the Environment Agency to promote the use of citizen science and the Riverfly initiative. He was an active member of the Riverfly Partnership Board, who kept the project to a high scientific standard, and was able to provide a vital perspective on how ARMI could be viewed with advantage by the Environment Agency. Most recently he put his energies into the development of the Extended Riverfly Scheme, which he trialled with volunteers in Lincolnshire, and guided it forward for its launch to the wider Riverfly community next year. Richard will be sorely missed by all of us, but his legacy will continue through the activities of ARMI volunteers drawing on the knowledge that he contributed.