



Aquatic Ecology

Sound Science, Practical Solutions



Assessing aquatic ecology status is essential to understand the response of ecological systems to water quality and quantity.

OHES offers aquatic ecology surveys and investigations including aquatic macro-invertebrates (family and species level), macrophytes, diatoms and phytoplankton.

Our expert staff are able to assess habitats including rivers, lakes, ponds, canals, and tidal or marine environments.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires member states to protect, enhance and restore, and prevent deterioration of aquatic ecosystems.

All water bodies need to achieve good ecological status or potential under the Directive by 2015.

Source: Water Framework Directive 2000/60/E

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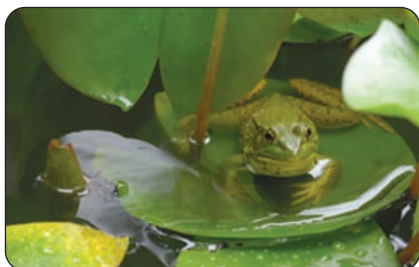


Our ecology services are employed in a wide range of situations. We are regularly called out to perform post-pollution assessments on the aquatic environment, and we offer the experience and capability to conduct detailed surveys for monitoring, environmental impact assessment, or as part of actions required under legislation such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Our services include:

- * Routine and investigative monitoring
- * Post-pollution assessments
- * Sampling, analysis and interpretation of macro-invertebrate samples using BMWP and ASPT scores for macro-invertebrates
- * Prediction and classification of macro invertebrate samples using RIVPACS and new RICT (developed for SNIFFER by CEH)
- * Sampling, analysis and interpretation of diatom samples for Trophic Diatom Index (TDI) following DARES/DALES
- * Low flow and drought impact monitoring using LIFE (Lotic Index for Flow Evaluation) methodology
- * Upland and lowland river macrophyte surveys using the Mean Trophic Rank (MTR) methodology
- * Research and development projects
- * Specialist data analysis and reporting
- * Lake phytoplankton surveys
- * Blue-green algae monitoring
- * Lake and canal nutrient analysis using Chironomid Pupal Exuvial Technique (CPET)

Please contact us if we can be of any further help. All the services we provide follow recommended Codes of Practice and national guidance.



Case study: Pollution of the River Irvine

As part of a major incident response and remediation project conducted by OHES, our ecologists were called in to conduct an extensive post-pollution assessment and recovery monitoring programme.

The loss of almost 250,000 litres of fuel oil into a tributary of the River Irvine caused an immediate and significant ecological impact.

Once the immediate impacts had been remediated, we conducted a series of surveys to investigate the longer term impacts on the ecology of the affected streams.

This involved fishery surveys in the affected reaches, and at selected control sites; aquatic macro-invertebrate sampling and analysis and an assessment of the potential impact on otter and water vole populations in the vicinity. The survey programme is ongoing.



1 The Courtyard, Denmark Street, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2AZ
T: 0870 240 3329 F: 0118 977 2147 E: info@ohes.co.uk

www.ohes.co.uk

Contact 0870 240 3329

www.ohes.co.uk

