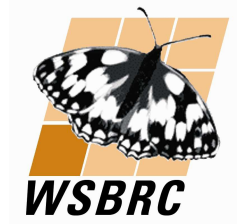




# Wiltshire Wildlife Trust River Monitoring Scheme Newsletter



May 2011

Dear River Monitors,

Firstly, a belated welcome to the 2011 monitoring season. I would like to extend my appreciation to you all for the support that I have received since my appointment as RMS Coordinator. It is taking me some time to get to grips with the role fully, being limited to one day per week, and I do appreciate your continued patience.

Many thanks to all of you that are sending me regular data, and, for those of you that have not yet done so please forward it to me at your earliest convenience. I hope to recruit a volunteer shortly who will assist with data entry and data administration, which should provide greater continuity for the Monitoring Scheme and, more importantly, for all of you.

In this newsletter you will find: details of our upcoming volunteer celebration event, up-to-date incident reporting procedure guidelines, a *Dikerogammarus villosus* update, and, details about the STOP THE SPREAD campaign.

Please read on and do send me your comments, thoughts or queries regarding the scheme, or, ideas for future development.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ben



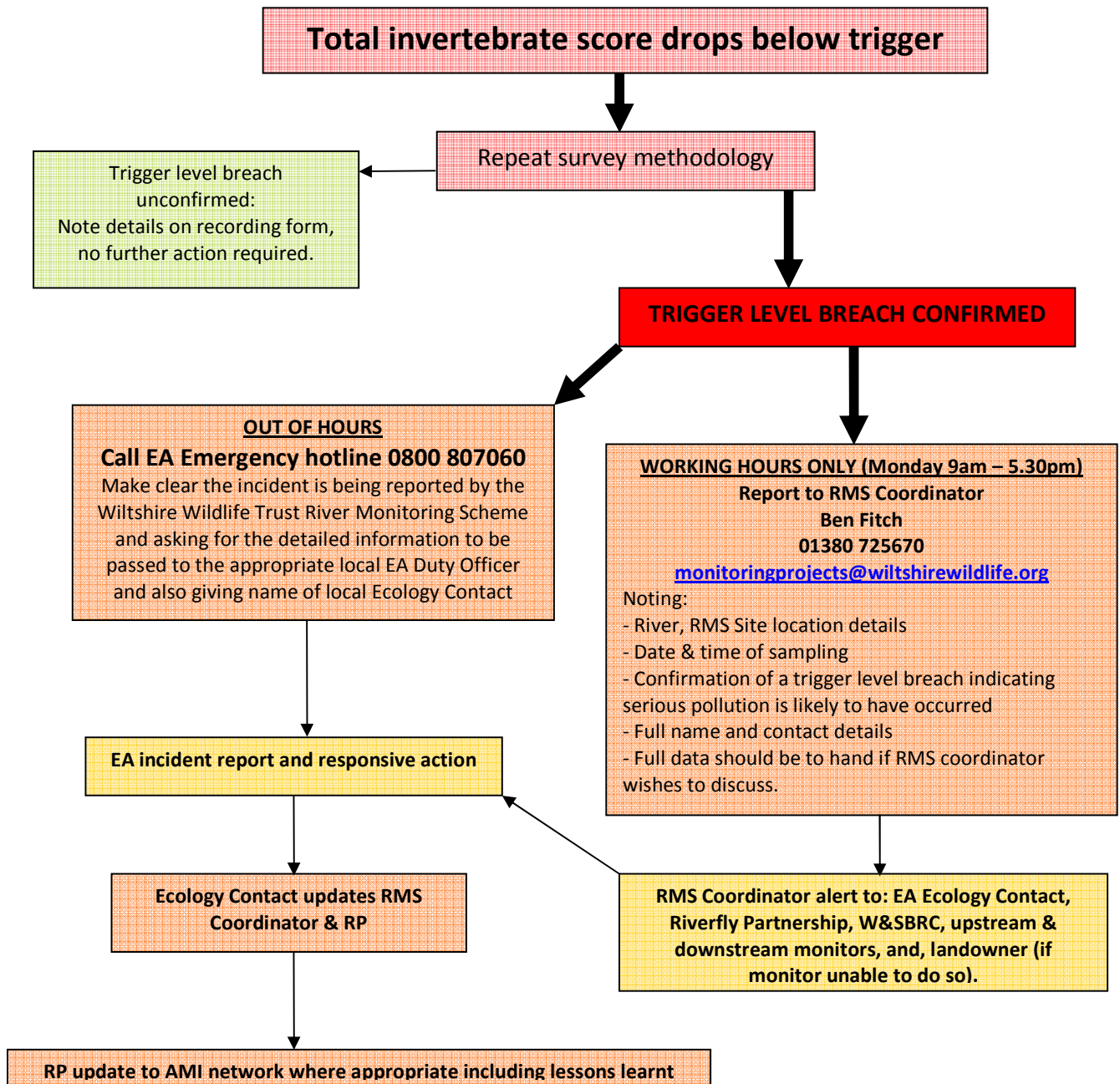
River Nadder, Chisenbury © Barry Craske/WWT

## **Volunteer Celebration Event**

As a thank you, to those involved with the water projects at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, you are invited to half a day based around the River Nadder at Burcombe, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011, 10am—1pm. **R.S.V.P:** Samantha Bull or Ben Fitch, (01380) 725670, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Elm Tree Court, Long Street, Devizes, SN10 1NJ. Please R.S.V.P. as soon as possible, places are strictly limited.

## Incident Reporting Procedure

In the event of a suspected pollution event it is essential that every River Monitor follows the correct reporting procedure. I appreciate that most of you are already familiar with the procedure and I hope that most of you will never have to implement it but, please take a few moments to look over the flow chart below and keep a copy in a convenient place. Thank you for continuing to provide an invaluable early warning system to protect the Wiltshire water environment.



## Invasive Non-Native 'Killer' Shrimp - Update

*Dikerogammarus villosus*, commonly known as Invasive shrimp, has been found at three locations in the UK, to date:

- **Grafham Water** in Cambridgeshire;
- **Cardiff Bay** in South Wales;
- **Eglwys Nynydd Reservoir** in Port Talbot, South Wales.

This invasive shrimp kills a range of native species such as shrimp, young fish and insect larvae, often leaving them uneaten. It tends to dominate the habitats it invades, sometimes causing the extinction of native species; though it does not appear to have an impact upon larger fish.

The EA are undertaking further tests to establish if *D. villosus* is more widespread. In the meantime it is important to continue to monitor for the shrimp in riverine and other water systems in Wiltshire.

If you think you have found this species:

1. Check with the identification details on the **GB non-native species secretariat website**
2. If you think it may be *D. villosus*, **email a photograph to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology** for identification.
3. Contact a person that is attached to the relevant water site, i.e. river keeper, landowner, member of staff, your AMI coordinator, and, please keep me informed too (Environment Agency, 2011).

For help with identification follow this EA link:

**Killer Shrimp wanted poster (PDF, 299KB);**  
and see size comparison diagram below.



© NNSS

## STOP THE SPREAD

As you are all no doubt aware some non-native plant and animal species can have a severely detrimental effect upon native British species, habitats and ecosystems. The Government launched their 'Stop the Spread' campaign in March this year, which encourages all water users to follow three simple steps, to prevent the spread of aquatic non-native species.

### **When leaving the water:**

1. Check your equipment and clothing for living organisms;
2. Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly;
3. Dry all equipment and clothing.



STOP THE SPREAD © Crown copyright

## Thanks

Thank you as always to all of our project partners, including: the Wessex Chalk Streams Project, WSBRC, EA, Wessex Water, and, the Riverfly Partnership. Special thanks to: the River Monitoring Scheme Volunteers and AMI group coordinators for their data and time which makes this whole scheme possible.

## Contact us

Email: [monitoringprojects@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:monitoringprojects@wiltshirewildlife.org)

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