

Lower Itchen WCSRT temperature loggers (2015)

Ten new WCSRT temperature loggers were deployed in 2015 on the Itchen below Twyford in collaboration with fisheries and riparian owners. Loggers recorded every 15 minutes from the start of July until the end of September.

The daily pattern of warming/cooling at each site on hot days will be examined aiming to check for anomalies in the natural downstream sequence of rising river temperature. Potential influences include: slow-flowing diversion channels, groundwater upwelling, reaches with extensive tree-shading, water abstraction at Otterbourne and treated sewage discharge at Chickenhall.

WCSRT loggers have recorded summer river temperatures in Itchen Stoke, Winchester (Durngate) and Twyford since 2011 (http://www.wcsrt.org.uk/Temperature_Data), data from the new sites will be appearing soon on our website. The Environment Agency run long-term main river temperature loggers at flow gauging stations (e.g., Easton, Highbridge and Allbrook) and from 2014 have installed three visual display temperature loggers further downstream.

WCSRT would like to acknowledge the important collaboration provided by Bishopstoke Fishing Club, John Unsworth of Bishopstoke, Stanford Meadows Fishery and Lower Itchen Fishery, plus help, advice and encouragement from Chris Pearson and Jim Glasspool. Kerry Sims (EA Fisheries Technical Specialist) kindly supplied information on the current EA river temperature logging locations.

Jon Bass

Our map of WCSRT Itchen loggers shows average and maximum river temperatures recorded over a short period (1-5 July) when England experienced its record air temperature of 36.5°C at Heathrow.