

# ANGLERS' RIVERFLY MONITORING INITIATIVE



Helping detect pollution incidents & monitor river health using citizen science.



The Angler's Riverfly Monitoring Initiative project (ARMI) is a citizen science initiative run by the Riverfly Partnership. The initiative works with community groups and other, in partnership with the relevant statutory body in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Community volunteers are trained to monitor eight groups of freshwater invertebrates on a monthly basis to check for severe changes in water quality i.e. pollution incidents. There are between 1000–1500 community volunteers monitoring over 750 river sites throughout the UK on a monthly basis. The data is available for the statutory bodies and biological record centres and many pollution incidents have been detected by ARMI volunteers and reported to the relevant body; for example the River Kennet. The initiative has grown since its launch in 2007 and there are now more than 100 ARMI communities, and other groups.

There are currently 20 regional hubs offering training and funding support to local groups and there is a focus to develop a complete network of hubs across the UK.

The Test & Itchen Catchment Partnership, particularly through the Test & Itchen Association and TARCA, are working to develop a comprehensive network of volunteers monitoring riverfly activity throughout the catchment.

Since 2009, the Test & Itchen Association has trained and equipped 45 ARMI monitors and TARCA also have a number of volunteers currently active on the Anton, Bourne Rivulet and Pilhill Brook. The Test & Itchen Catchment Partnership are helping to co-ordinate existing monitoring activity as well as expanding coverage of the initiative to other areas of the catchment.

ARMI volunteers are now able to input and share data online on the Riverfly partnership's new web-based system. The Catchment Partnership is also helping volunteers make use of the new online platform so that data can be shared amongst the catchment's ARMI network and wider interested parties.

For more information please contact Jacqui Williams (Test & Itchen Association) administrator@testanditchen.co.uk or visit <http://www.riverflies.org>