



New Forest Catchment Partnership Freshwater Species Monitoring

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Freshwater Habitats Trust**

What's happening to freshwater wildlife in the New Forest?



Site surveys



Site surveys



Site surveys

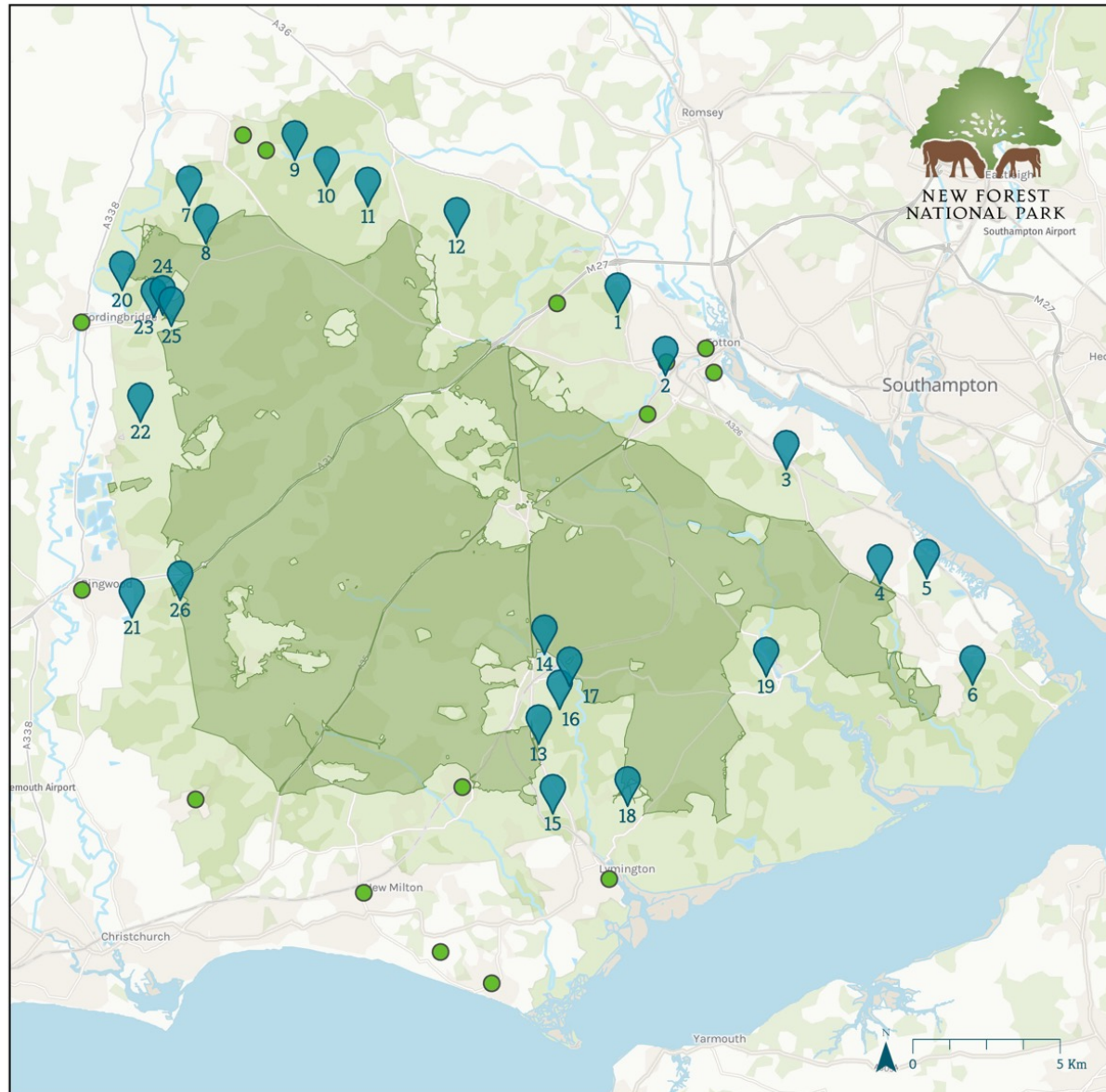
Tricholeiochiton fagesii
(Nationally Scarce caddis fly)



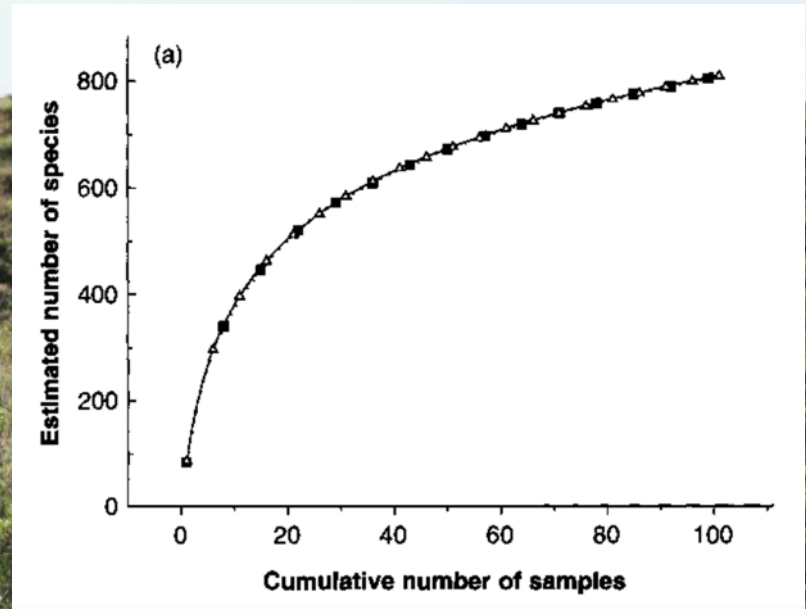
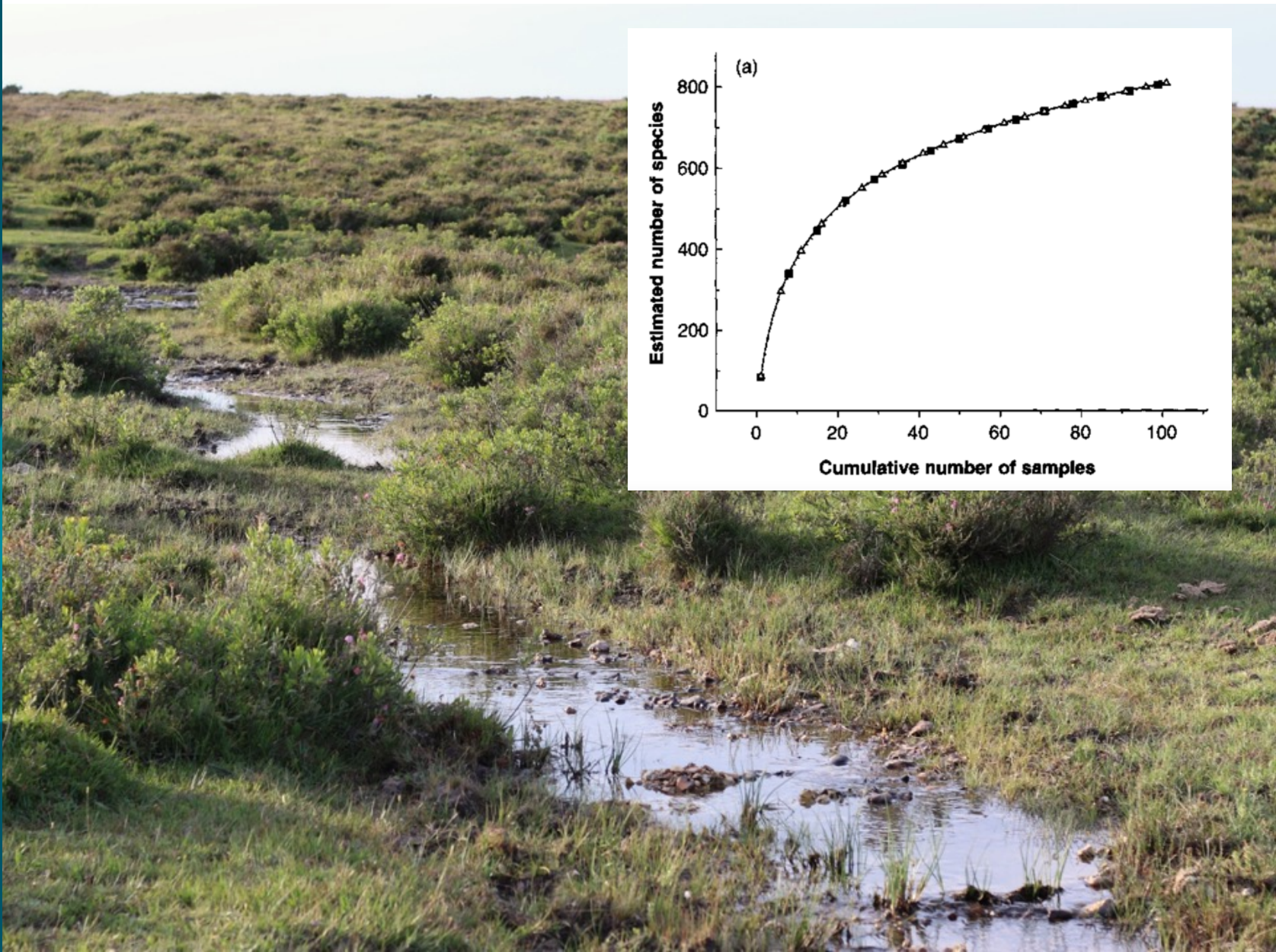
Fish eDNA survey
Stanswood Valley



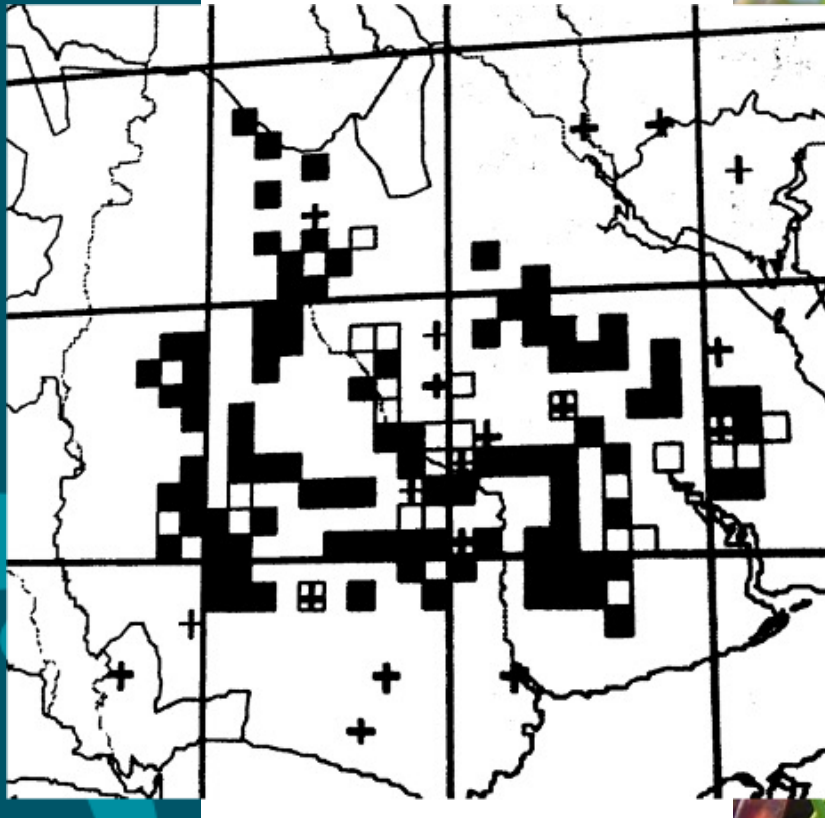
Gamma diversity – Species Survival Fund



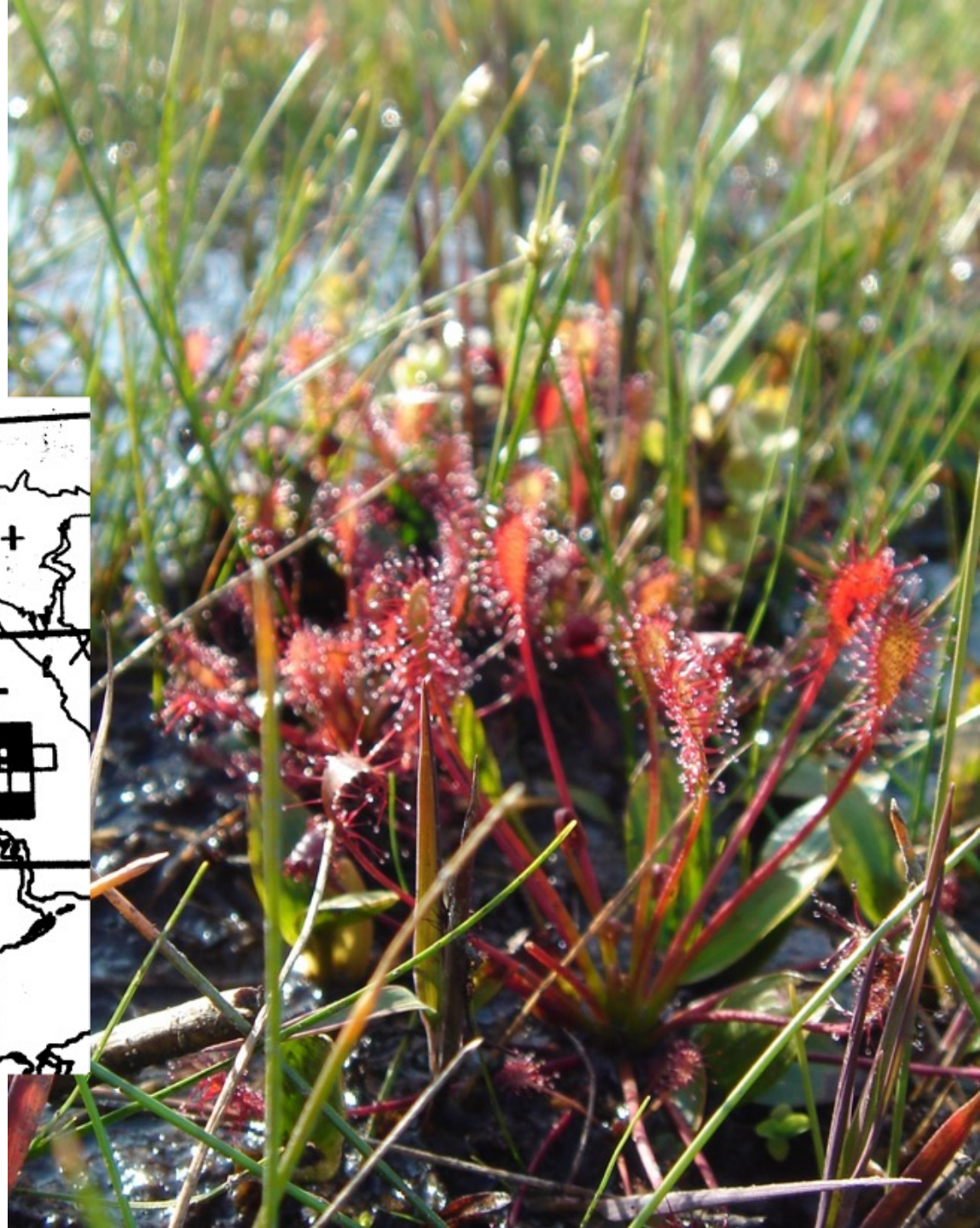
How many plots are needed?



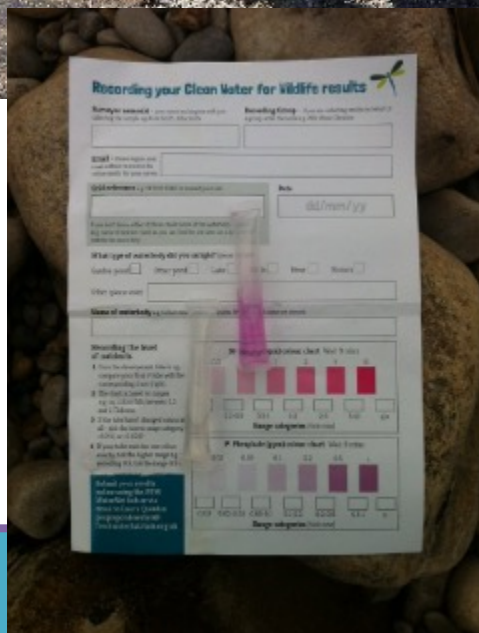
Priority species mapping



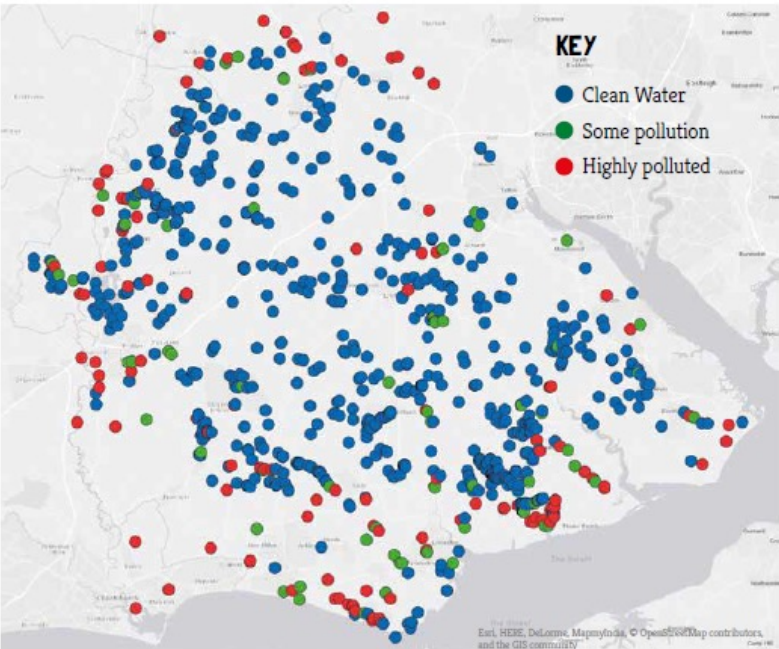
*Hampshire Rare Plant
Register*



New Forest Water Blitz



New Forest National Park

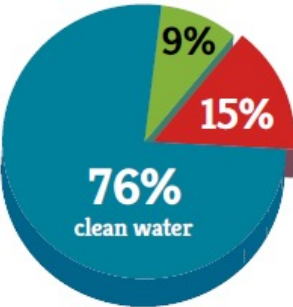


Unlike the rest of lowland England and Wales, the New Forest National Park is a landscape dominated by clean unpolluted freshwater habitats. Over three quarters of the sites (76%) showed no evidence of nutrient pollution.

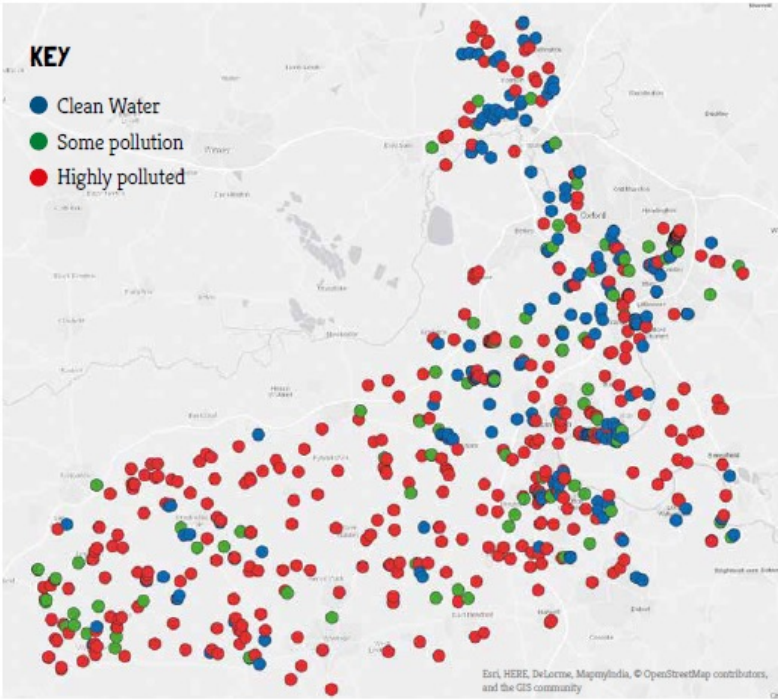
The 'open forest', the area of semi-natural habitats and uncultivated land in the core of the Forest produced 72% of the clean water samples, whilst the intensively farmed and urban areas on the edge of the Forest were dominated by polluted samples.

This is the first time any information on water quality within the New Forest has been collected at a landscape scale and it's now easy to see why this unique landscape supports some of the richest and rarest freshwater wildlife in the UK and Europe.

Proportion of clean water and polluted habitats in the New Forest



Ock Catchment

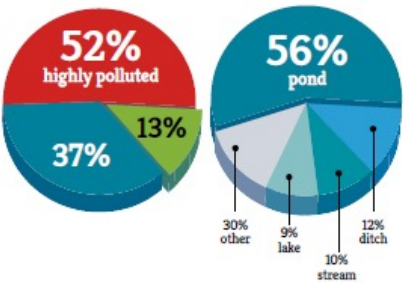


Typical of the urban and rural landscapes we sampled in England and Wales, the Ock Catchment's freshwater habitats suffered from both nitrate and phosphate pollution – 13% had some pollution and 52% were highly polluted.

The clean freshwaters (37%) had a patchy distribution, and were located in semi-natural habitats like woodland, fens and meadows.

The results of the survey demonstrate the importance of ponds and smaller running waters to provide clean water habitats in otherwise polluted landscapes – 56% of clean water habitats were ponds.

Proportion of clean water and polluted habitats in the Ock Catchment and the proportion of habitats which were found to have clean water



WaterBlitz 2022/3

- Clean
- Some pollution
- High pollution



■ Clean ■ Some ■ High



■ Pond ■ Lake
■ Ditch ■ River
■ Stream ■ Other

