# Fish population survey report

## River Chew 2016

**This report provides a summary of results from recent fish population surveys on the River Chew between Chew Magna and Keynsham. The surveys were carried out to assess the health of the river and enable successful management of our principal fisheries.**

| | |
|---|---|
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| **Date** | 23rd March 2017 |
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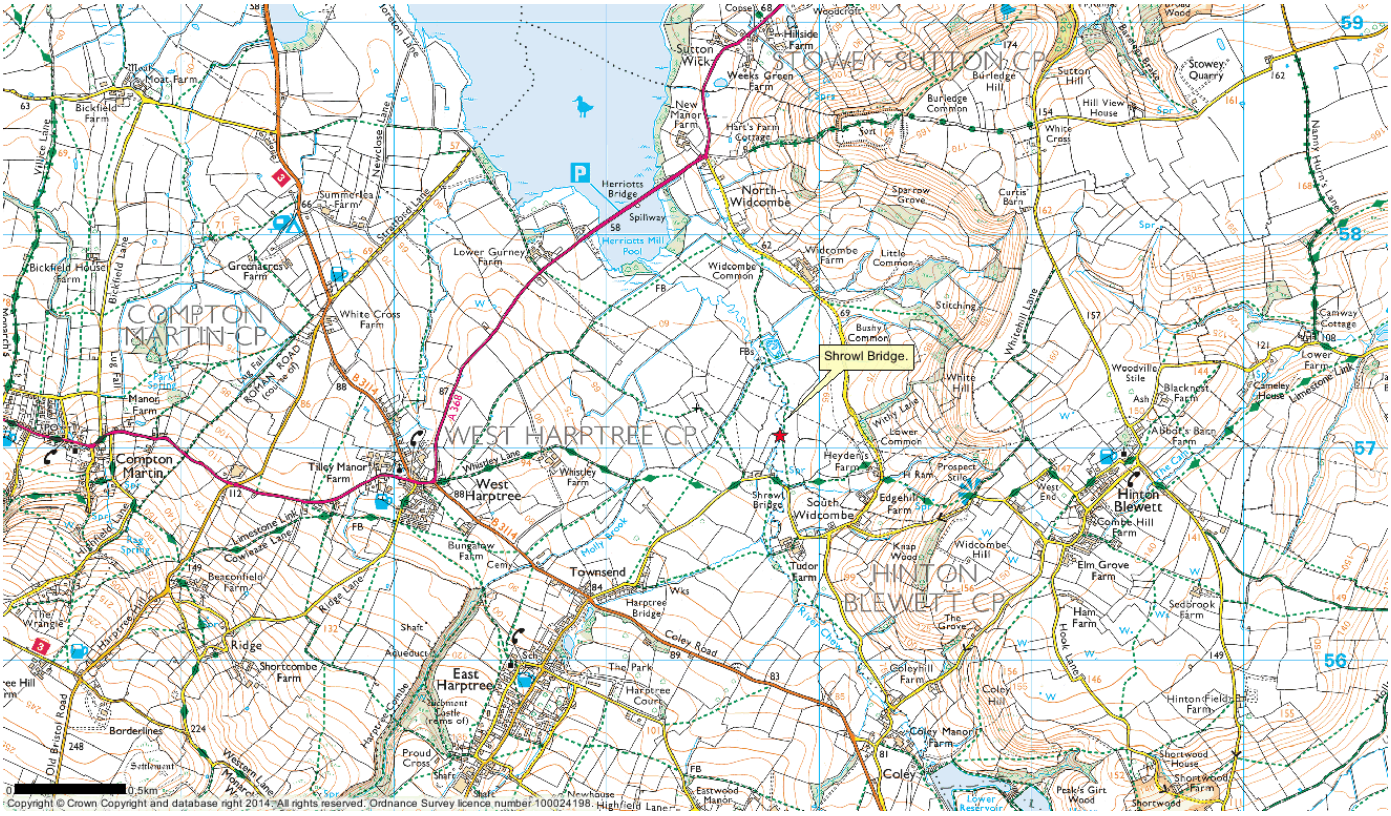
| **Sign-off date** | 6th April 2017 |

# Summary


- 5 sites on the River Chew were surveyed by the Wessex Sampling and Collection Team during July 2016;
- Shrowl Bridge and Pensford survey sites were selected as part of the Core Fish Monitoring Programme to monitor and assess the health of wild brown trout populations. All other sites covered in this report are intended for the purpose of monitoring all fish populations.
- 15 species of fish were recorded and a total of 542 fish were captured;
- Brown trout were the most widespread species, being recorded at all 5 sites;
- An average total density estimate of 22.2 fish per 100m$^2$ and biomass estimate of 1589 grams per 100m$^2$ were recorded across all sites;
- Brown trout were the most numerous species and also had the highest biomass.


# Site locations






# Survey results

## Shrowl Bridge

Shrowl Bridge is the uppermost site surveyed on the River Chew catchment.

The survey site is 1.8km upstream of Chew Valley Lake into which the River Chew discharges close to Herriott's Bridge. Consisting riffle, pool and glide over a gravel substrate this makes for an ideal habitat for salmonid recruitment.

The survey was conducted by electric fishing a 120m length of river enclosed by stop nets to obtain an accurate account of numbers and species of fish present.

Brown trout (13 individuals) represented 27% of the catch but were surpassed by a naturally occurring rainbow trout population of 17 fish and 35% of the overall catch. Brook lampreys (18) were recorded along with bullheads and 3-spined sticklebacks.

| Shrowl Bridge ST5782057100<br>21/07/2016 | Minimum Length (IF) | Maximum Length (IF) | Mean Length (IF) | Numbers Caught | % of Catch by Number | Weight Caught | % of Catch by Weight |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brown / sea trout [Salmo trutta] | 82 | 238 | 138 | 13 | 27.08 | 588.61 | 26.36 |
| Rainbow trout [Oncorhynchus mykiss] | 93 | 298 | 186 | 17 | 35.42 | 1644.77 | 73.64 |
| Lamprey sp. ammocoetes [Petromyzontidae] | 80 | 140 | 113 | 18 | 37.5 | | |

All weights estimated and calculated in grams.

## Stanton Drew

Approximately 5km below Chew Valley Lake the depositing nature of the river at this location has allowed for high levels of macrophyte growth. Surveying by electric fishing is often difficult in such conditions and particularly challenging when trying to extract eels from dense, submerged macrophyte cover.

Measuring approximately 112m in length and 5.5m wide the site is predominantly a straight glide with few refuge areas for fish (other than the cover provided by the dense macrophyte growth). The site is generally open with some shade provided by marginal shrubs and a high beech tree canopy.

This was a poor catch by normal standards however, it was unusually diverse in fish species for this type of habitat. Eels (27) provided the highest catch by number whilst brown trout (5) had the highest biomass at 1,126grams representing 44.7% of the overall survey weight. Aside from minor species, other key species included dace (2), gudgeon (4),tench (1) and crucian carp (1).

| Stanton Drew ST5997063510<br>19/07/2016 | Minimum Length (IF) | Maximum Length (IF) | Mean Length (IF) | Numbers Caught | % of Catch by Number | Weight Caught | % of Catch by Weight |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brown / sea trout [Salmo trutta] | 152 | 294 | 251 | 5 | 12.2 | 1126.62 | 44.7 |
| Dace [Leuciscus leuciscus] | 155 | 159 | 157 | 2 | 4.88 | 94.94 | 3.77 |
| Crucian carp [Carassius carassius] | 114 | 114 | 114 | 1 | 2.44 | 28.59 | 1.13 |
| Gudgeon [Gobio gobio] | 105 | 127 | 115 | 4 | 9.76 | 72.78 | 2.89 |
| Tench [Tinca tinca] | 269 | 269 | 269 | 1 | 2.44 | 285.32 | 11.32 |
| European eels > elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 150 | 595 | 223 | 27 | 65.85 | 912.01 | 36.19 |
| Lamprey sp. ammocoetes [Petromyzontidae] | 100 | 100 | 100 | 1 | 2.44 | | |

All weights estimated and calculated grams.

## Pensford

The river at Pensford differs greatly from Stanton Drew, generally having higher flow conditions which is better suited for salmonid species. Deep and shallow glides over a cobble, gravel and sand substrate and with an abundance of low tree cover provides the perfect habitat for brown trout.

When combined, eel and elver catches provide the highest species count at 81 with brown trout at 78. Together both species represent over 80% of the catch by number, brown trout, alone provide nearly 80% of the catch by weight.

| Pensford ST6183863832<br>06/07/2016 | Minimum Length (IF) | Maximum Length (IF) | Mean Length (IF) | Numbers Caught | % of Catch by Number | Weight Caught | % of Catch by Weight |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brown / sea trout [Salmo trutta] | 133 | 404 | 224 | 78 | 41.27 | 13314.93 | 77.89 |
| Rainbow trout [Oncorhynchus mykiss] | 364 | 364 | 364 | 1 | 0.53 | 417.04 | 2.44 |
| Dace [Leuciscus leuciscus] | 145 | 218 | 173 | 23 | 12.17 | 1585.65 | 9.28 |
| Grayling [Thymallus thymallus] | 249 | 249 | 249 | 1 | 0.53 | 153.41 | 0.9 |
| Gudgeon [Gobio gobio] | 127 | 131 | 129 | 2 | 1.06 | 50.82 | 0.3 |
| Roach [Rutilus rutilus] | 173 | 173 | 173 | 1 | 0.53 | 81.39 | 0.48 |
| Perch [Perca fluviatilis] | 129 | 129 | 129 | 1 | 0.53 | 28.11 | 0.16 |
| European eels > elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 120 | 515 | 200 | 60 | 31.75 | 1462.57 | 8.56 |
| European elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 100 | 120 | 111 | 21 | 11.11 | | |
| Lamprey sp. ammocoetes [Petromyzontidae] | 65 | 65 | 65 | 1 | 0.53 | | |

All weights estimated and calculated in grams.

## Compton Dando

Compton Dando, is located towards the mid/lower end of the catchment and features riffles, pools and glides as its main characteristics. The survey site below the river bridge is wide and shallow at the head deepening as the site progresses downstream to the gauging station.

In recent years salmon have spawned in the River Chew and its tributaries and during 2016 survey 30 parr were recorded in the survey catch.

Brown trout (80) were at their highest levels in recent surveys, more than double the previous high catch of 38 in 2003. Dace (58) were also above the long term average of 44 for the site, however, chub were absent on this occasion. Unlike Pensford, the Grayling population has increased to 11 from a site average of 6.

| Compton Dando ST6473064690<br>07/07/2016 | Minimum Length (IF) | Maximum Length (IF) | Mean Length (IF) | Numbers Caught | % of Catch by Number | Weight Caught | % of Catch by Weight |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brown / sea trout [Salmo trutta] | 53 | 320 | 185 | 80 | 43.01 | 7503.57 | 49.43 |
| Atlantic salmon [Salmo salar] | 56 | 181 | 128 | 30 | 16.13 | 792.79 | 5.22 |
| Dace [Leuciscus leuciscus] | 122 | 240 | 188 | 58 | 31.18 | 5212.41 | 34.34 |
| Grayling [Thymallus thymallus] | 67 | 300 | 211 | 11 | 5.91 | 1406.58 | 9.27 |
| European eels > elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 140 | 420 | 258 | 6 | 3.23 | 265.58 | 1.75 |
| Lamprey sp. ammocoetes [Petromyzontidae] | 150 | 150 | 150 | 1 | 0.54 | | |

All weights estimated and calculated in grams.

## Keynsham Park

This is the lowest site surveyed in the River Chew catchment and close to the confluence with the Bristol Avon. The sedentary river characteristics are influenced by the weir below Chew Bridge approximately 250 downstream. Too deep for wading, the survey at this site is conducted by boat over a length of approximately 100m.

The river being deeper and slower through Keynsham Park is better suited for coarse fish and is reflected in the catch. Roach, gudgeon, dace and chub were the dominant species providing approximately 90% of the total by number. Roach (39) were most numerous with an average length of 169mm, whilst chub represented 36% of the catch by weight with 27 fish weighing a total of 4,544grams.

Barbel featured in the catch for the first time with three fish between 205mm and 220mm recorded. Eels (5), brown trout (3) and perch (1) made up the remainder of the total.

| Keynsham Park ST6567068190<br>21/03/17 | Minimum Length (IF) | Maximum Length (IF) | Mean Length (IF) | Numbers Caught | % of Catch by Number | Weight Caught | % of Catch by Weight |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brown / sea trout [Salmo trutta] | 183 | 340 | 266 | 3 | 2.38 | 865.48 | 7.02 |
| Barbel [Barbus barbus] | 205 | 220 | 213 | 3 | 2.38 | 328.19 | 2.66 |
| Chub [Leuciscus cephalus] | 76 | 422 | 192 | 27 | 21.43 | 4544.66 | 36.84 |
| Dace [Leuciscus leuciscus] | 45 | 217 | 154 | 22 | 17.46 | 1311.13 | 10.63 |
| Gudgeon [Gobio gobio] | 53 | 125 | 93 | 26 | 20.63 | 268.29 | 2.17 |
| Roach [Rutilus rutilus] | 65 | 270 | 169 | 39 | 30.95 | 4272.48 | 34.63 |
| Perch [Perca fluviatilis] | 283 | 283 | 283 | 1 | 0.79 | 368.61 | 2.99 |
| European eels > elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 123 | 410 | 321 | 5 | 3.97 | 377.93 | 3.06 |

All weights estimated and calculated in grams.

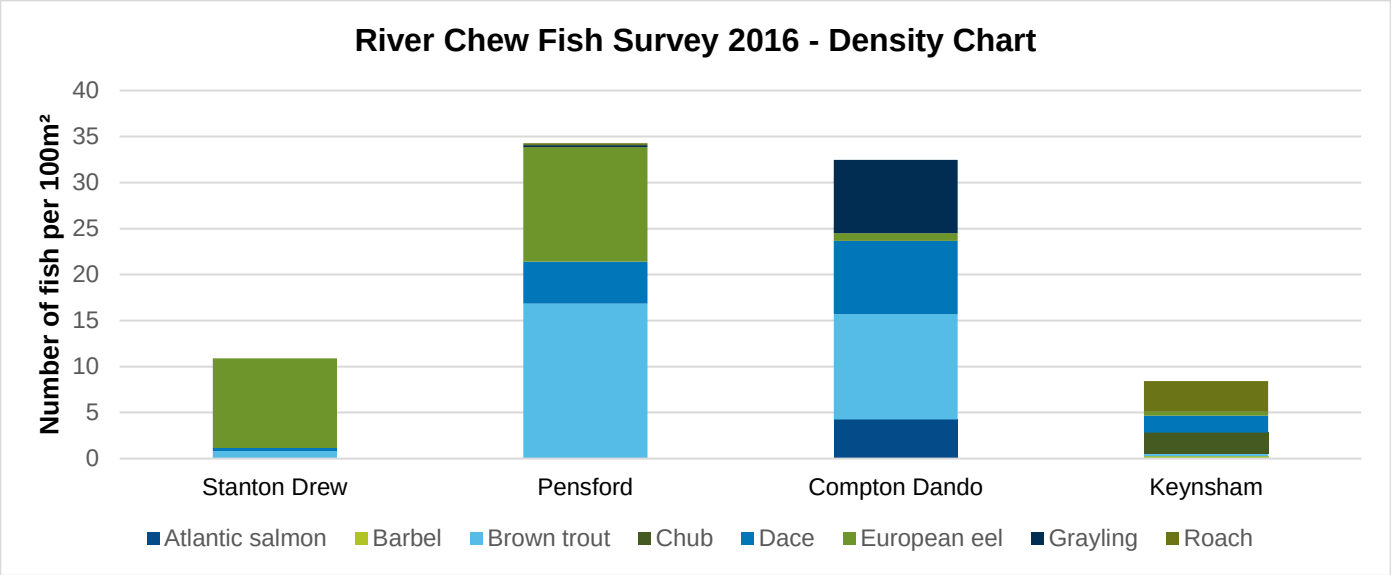
# Catch Results 2016

**Population density estimates (number of fish per 100m$^2$) and size range (min – max, mm) recorded during the survey for key species.**

| | | Shrowl Bridge | Stanton Drew | Pensford | Compton Dando | Keynsham Park |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Atlantic salmon** | Density | **0** | **0** | **0** | **4.26** | **0** |
| | Size range | **0** | **0** | **0** | **56 – 181** | **0** |
| **Barbel** | Density | 0 | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0.25** |
| | Size range | 0 | **0** | **0** | **0** | **205-220** |
| **Brown trout** | Density | **3.026** | **0.81** | **16.84** | **11.42** | **0.25** |
| | Size range | **82 - 238** | **152-294** | **133 - 404** | **53 - 320** | **183 - 340** |
| **Rainbow trout** | Density | **3.958** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| | Size range | **93 - 298** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| **Chub** | Density | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **2.33** |
| | Size range | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **76 - 422** |
| **Dace** | Density | **0** | **0.35** | **4.055** | **7.98** | **1.83** |
| | Size range | **0** | **155 - 159** | **145 – 218** | **122 - 240** | **45 - 217** |
| **European eel** | Density | **0** | **9.75** | **16.63** | **0.83** | **0.48** |
| | Size range | **0** | **150 – 595** | **100 - 515** | **140 - 420** | **123 - 410** |
| **European elvers** | Density | **0** | **0** | **4.16** | **0** | **0** |
| | Size range | **0** | **0** | **100 - 120** | **0** | **0** |
| **Grayling** | Density | **0** | **0** | **0.20** | **7.98** | **0** |
| | Size range | **0** | **0** | **249** | **67 - 300** | **0** |
| **Roach** | Density | **0** | **0** | **0.20** | **0** | **3.33** |
| | Size range | **0** | **0** | **173** | **0** | **65 - 270** |
| **Crucian Carp** | Density | **0** | **0.162** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| | Size range | **0** | **114** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| **Tench** | Density | **0** | **0.162** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| | Size range | **0** | **269** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| **Brook Lamprey** | Density | **15.598** | **0.162** | **0.198** | **0.138** | **0** |
| | Size range | **80 - 140** | **100** | **65** | **150** | **0** |

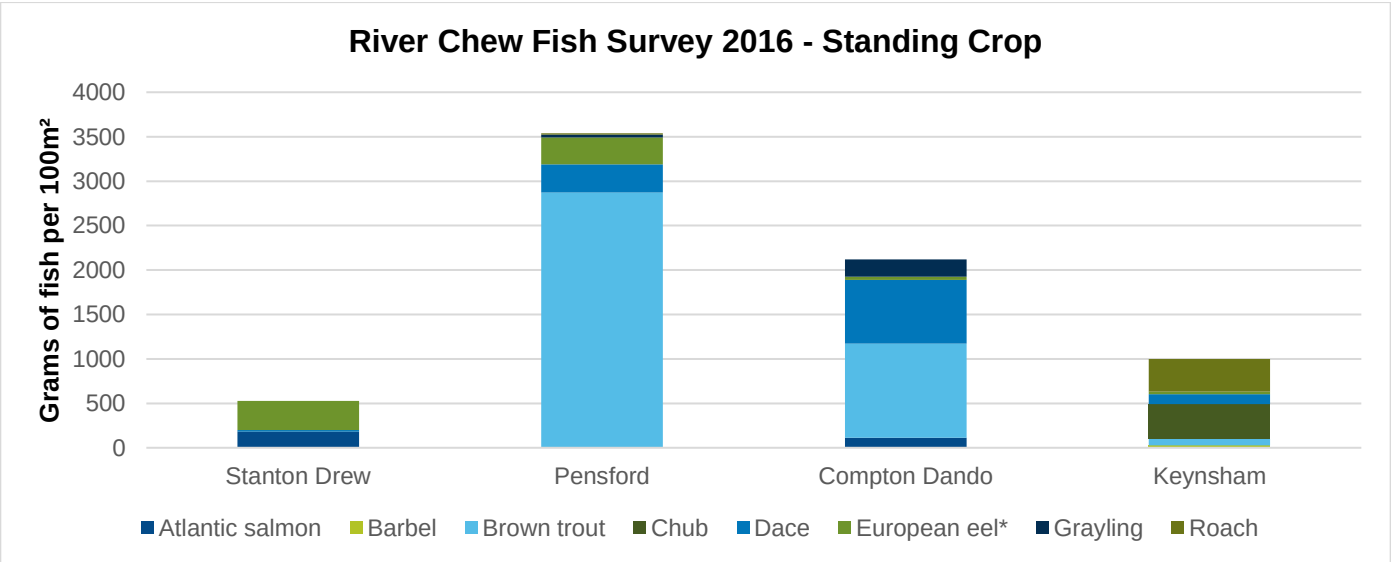
**2016**

**Population density estimates (number of fish per 100m$^2$) across all survey sites (key species).**

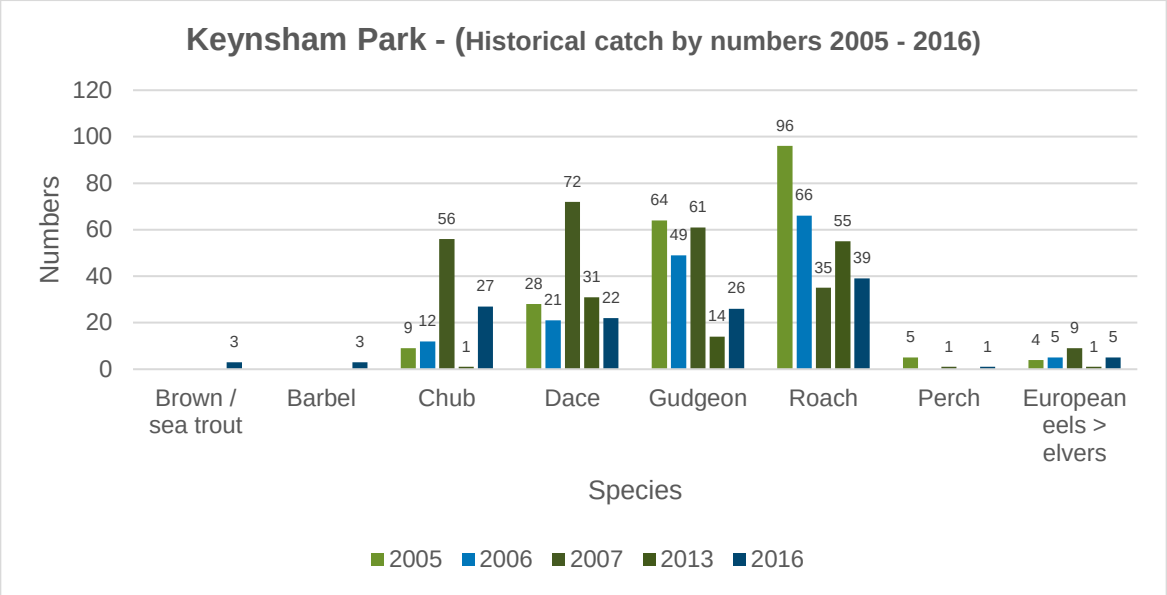



**2016**

**Population biomass estimates (grams of fish per 100m$^2$) across all survey sites (key species).**



**2005 – 2016**

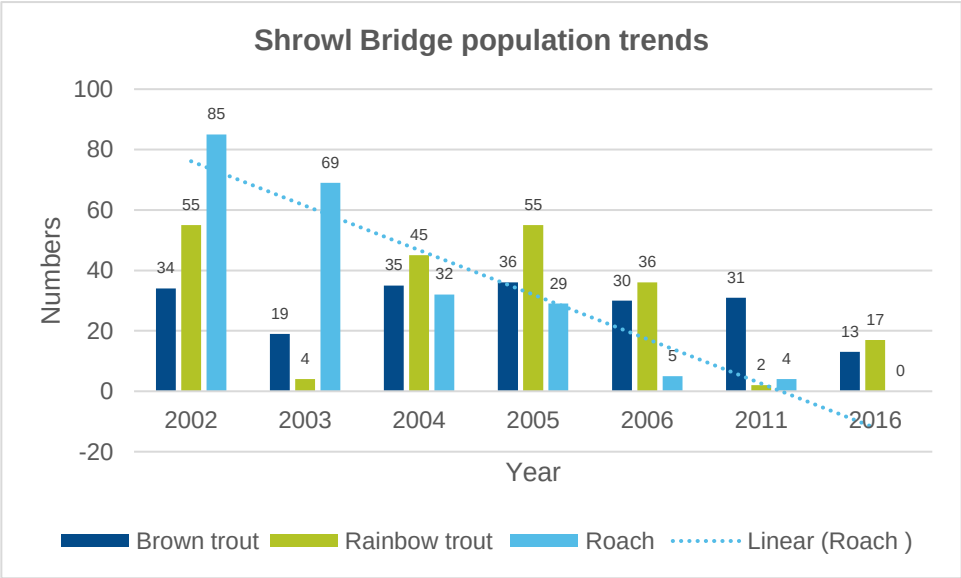



# WFD Classification

| WFD classification | | |
|---|---|---|
| Site name | Waterbody | Fish |
| **Shrowl Bridge** | **Moderate** | **Good** |

# Health of fish population

Naturally breeding rainbow trout have been observed at **Shrowl Bridge** since surveys commenced in 2002. The origins of the population are not fully understood however, stocking by angling clubs and the close proximity to Chew Valley Lake (which is stocked with rainbow trout) may have played a part. Roach, once common at his site, have been in steady decline since the first survey, the most recent survey recorded a zero count as demonstrated on the chart below.



**Historical survey data**

| Name | Shrowl Bridge (Te) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date | 07/05/2003 | 20/07/2004 | 30/06/2005 | 21/07/2016 |
| Length | 120 | 120 | 100 | 121 |
| Width | 3.7 | 3.7 | 4.9 | 3.55 |
| NGR | ST5782057100 | | | |
| Species | | | | |
| Brown / sea trout [Salmo trutta] | 19 | 35 | 36 | 13 |
| Chub [Leuciscus cephalus] | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Lamprey sp. [Petromyzontidae] | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Lamprey sp. Ammocoetes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Perch [Perca fluviatilis] | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainbow trout [Oncorhynchus mykiss] | 4 | 45 | 55 | 17 |
| Roach [Rutilus rutilus] | 69 | 32 | 29 | 0 |
| Tench [Tinca tinca] | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| **Numbers caught** | **93** | **113** | **123** | **48** |
| **Estimated density (100m²)** | **122** | **113** | **129** | **97** |
| **Estimated biomass (grams)** | **27.477** | **25.45** | **26.327** | **22.582** |
| **Estimated standing crop (grams/100m²)** | **12621.11** | **9974** | **16846.94** | **2233.38** |

Eels infrequently feature as a dominant species in surveys however, **Stanton Drew** and Pensford are exceptions in 2016. Dace, roach and gudgeon were once more prolific at this location but have been in steady decline of late. The decline may partly be attributed to a site move of approximately 40m upstream due to health and safety concerns with the lower end of the site where the water is deeper.

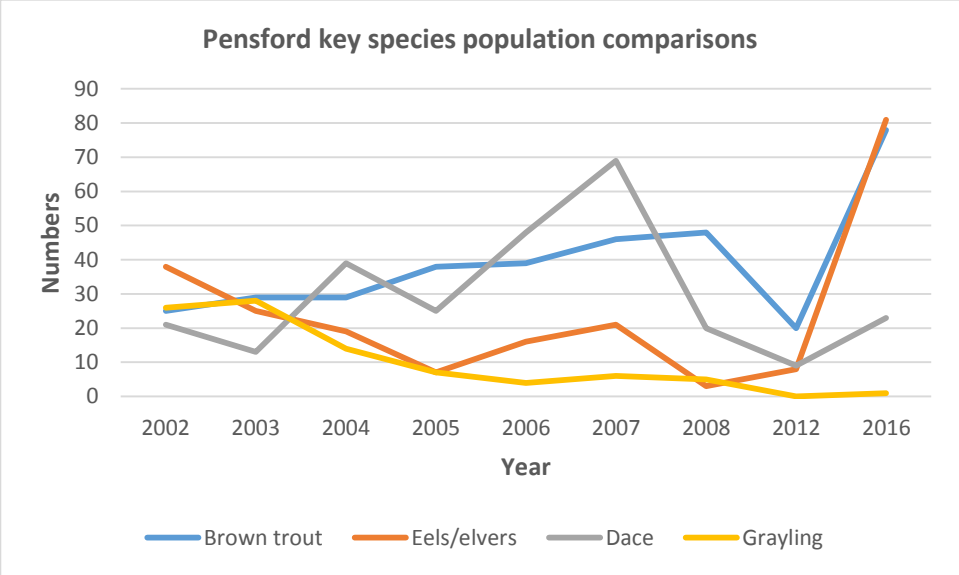
**Historical survey data**

| Name | Stanton Drew (Te) | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date | 10/08/2006 | 23/08/2007 | 31/07/2008 | 08/09/2009 | 15/07/2010 | 21/08/2012 | 23/07/2014 | 19/07/2016 |
| Length | 100 | 93 | 100 | 96.5 | 102 | 100 | 104 | 112 |
| Width | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5.25 | 6 | 5.8 | 5.5 |
| NGR | ST5997063 | T5993663538 | | | | | | |
| Species | | | | | | | | |
| 3-spined stickleback [Gasterosteus aculeatus] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 23 | 8 | 0 |
| Brown / sea trout [Salmo trutta] | 6 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 5 |
| Bullhead [Cottus gobio] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 153 | 203 | 130 | 0 |
| Dace [Leuciscus leuciscus] | 12 | 25 | 27 | 23 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| European eels > elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 14 | 13 | 7 | 25 | 5 | 40 | 10 | 27 |
| European elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Gudgeon [Gobio gobio] | 21 | 34 | 14 | 18 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 4 |
| Lampetra sp. [Lampetra] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Lamprey sp. [Petromyzontidae] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lamprey sp. ammocoetes [Petromyzontidae] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Minnow [Phoxinus phoxinus] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 23 | 104 | 0 |
| Perch [Perca fluviatilis] | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainbow trout [Oncorhynchus mykiss] | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| Roach [Rutilus rutilus] | 7 | 31 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Rudd [Scardinius erythrophthalmus] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Stone loach [Barbatula barbatula] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Tench [Tinca tinca] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Numbers caught | 64 | 107 | 74 | 85 | 253 | 314 | 279 | 41 |
| Estimated density (/100m²) | 11.5 | 28.4 | 14.5 | 18.0 | 78.6 | 77.8 | 57.5 | 12.0 |
| Estimated biomass (grams) | 6525.6 | 7538.5 | 7714.0 | 7311.6 | 1935.2 | 4426.2 | 4995.3 | 3634.9 |
| Estimated standing Crop (grams/100m²) | 1087.6 | 1621.2 | 1285.7 | 1515.4 | 361.4 | 737.7 | 828.1 | 590.1 |

Eels and brown trout dominated the species count at **Pensford** in 2016 but this has not always been the case. Dace topped the head count in 2006 and 2007 but a reduction in the count coincided with the increase in brown trout and eel. Other species have also steadily declined notably grayling, where in 2003 28 were recorded in the catch only 1 was found in 2016.

The lower Chew is stocked with triploid (sterile) brown trout and rainbow trout by angling clubs to boost catches. This tradition has been on-going for many years with a switch from diploid (fertile) to triploid stocked fish in 2015 to help retain the genetic integrity of the wild trout stocks in the river. Unlike Shrowl Bridge in the upper Chew, there is no evidence of a naturally breeding rainbow trout population in the mid/lower reaches of the catchment.

## Pensford




**Historical survey data**

| Name | Pensford (Te) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date | 09/08/2006 | 22/08/2007 | 26/08/2008 | 04/09/2012 | 06/07/2016 |
| Length | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 99 |
| Width | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 |
| NGR | ST6185063980 | | | | |
| Species | | | | | |
| Brown / sea trout [Salmo trutta] | 39 | 46 | 48 | 20 | 78 |
| Bullhead [Cottus gobio] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 0 |
| Chub [Leuciscus cephalus] | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dace [Leuciscus leuciscus] | 48 | 69 | 20 | 9 | 23 |
| European eels > elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 16 | 20 | 3 | 8 | 60 |
| European elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| Grayling [Thymallus thymallus] | 4 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Gudgeon [Gobio gobio] | 7 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Lamprey sp. ammocoetes [Petromyzontidae] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Minnow [Phoxinus phoxinus] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Perch [Perca fluviatilis] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Rainbow trout [Oncorhynchus mykiss] | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Roach [Rutilus rutilus] | 4 | 9 | 10 | 0 | 1 |
| Total Results (No) Table for Number | 119 | 155 | 89 | 95 | 189 |
| Total Results (Cs) Table for Density (/100m²) | 23.3 | 32.0 | 17.8 | 21.6 | 39.4 |
| Total Results (Cs) Table for Weight (g) | 13608.0 | 14793.6 | 12069.5 | 5137.2 | 18362.0 |
| Total Results (Cs) Table for Standing Crop (g/100m²) | 2668.2 | 2900.7 | 2366.6 | 1007.3 | 3636.8 |

**Compton Dando** has seen an increase in four key species when compared to historical records. Atlantic salmon parr were first encountered in an Environment Agency survey in 2012 and later in 2016 when 30 fish were recorded. Brown trout numbers have remained fairly constant since the first survey in 2003 however, a steep rise in 2016 saw numbers rise three fold on the previous survey in 2012. As with Pensford, the dace population peaked in 2007 however, the decline at Compton Dando has been minimal. Grayling numbers although moderate are higher than the long term average.

**Historical survey data**

| Name | Compton Dando (Te) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date | 08/08/2006 | 10/08/2007 | 26/08/2008 | 21/08/2012 | 07/07/2016 |
| Length | 73 | 91 | 100 | 100 | 95.6 |
| Width | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.6 |
| NGR | ST6473064690 | | | | |
| Species | | | | | |
| Atlantic salmon [Salmo salar] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 30 |
| Brown / sea trout [Salmo trutta] | 27 | 28 | 17 | 23 | 80 |
| Bullhead [Cottus gobio] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 0 |
| Chub [Leuciscus cephalus] | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| Dace [Leuciscus leuciscus] | 42 | 70 | 67 | 49 | 58 |
| European eels > elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| European elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Grayling [Thymallus thymallus] | 6 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 11 |
| Gudgeon [Gobio gobio] | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Lamprey sp. ammocoetes [Petromyzontidae] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Minnow [Phoxinus phoxinus] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Roach [Rutilus rutilus] | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Results (No) Table for Number | **91** | **113** | **97** | **163** | **186** |
| Total Results (Cs) Table for Density (/100m²) | **15.8** | **15.7** | **12.5** | **40.0** | **26.3** |
| Total Results (Cs) Table for Weight (g) | **10728.9** | **11852.3** | **9914.1** | **16770.8** | **15582.5** |
| Total Results (Cs) Table for Standing Crop (g/100m²) | **1860.4** | **1648.7** | **1254.9** | **2122.9** | **2144.7** |

Long term trends at **Keynsham Park** shows fish populations to be fairly constant throughout with occasional spikes in dace and chub in 2007. There has been a decline in the eel population over time however, the transient nature of the species may see migration throughout the catchment where access permits. The capture of barbel for the first time at this site in 2016 could be due to the stockings of the species to the lower reaches of the River Chew between 2012 and 2014 as part of programme to boost the stocks through the wider Bristol Avon catchment.

**Historical survey data**

| Name | Keynsham Park (Te) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date | 05/07/2005 | 28/07/2006 | 04/09/2007 | 16/07/2013 | 12/07/2016 |
| Length | 100 | 100 | 96 | 100 | 100 |
| Width | 12 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| NGR | ST6567068190 | | | | |
| Species | | | | | |
| 3-spined stickleback [Gasterosteus aculeatus] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Barbel [Barbus barbus] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Brown / sea trout [Salmo trutta] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Chub [Leuciscus cephalus] | 9 | 12 | 56 | 1 | 27 |
| Dace [Leuciscus leuciscus] | 28 | 21 | 72 | 31 | 22 |
| European eel [Anguilla anguilla] | 4 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| European eels > elvers [Anguilla anguilla] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Gudgeon [Gobio gobio] | 64 | 49 | 61 | 14 | 26 |
| Minnow [Phoxinus phoxinus] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 0 |
| Perch [Perca fluviatilis] | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Roach [Rutilus rutilus] | 96 | 66 | 35 | 55 | 39 |
| Stone loach [Barbatula barbatula] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Total Results (No) Table for Number | **206** | **153** | **234** | **148** | **126** |
| Total Results (Cs) Table for Density (/100m²) | **19.9** | **12.9** | **31.2** | **12.7** | **10.9** |
| Total Results (Cs) Table for Weight (g) | **10114.7** | **3973.1** | **13862.3** | **4434.8** | **12645.6** |
| Total Results (Cs) Table for Standing Crop (g/100m²) | **842.9** | **331.1** | **1312.7** | **369.6** | **1053.8** |

# Planned actions

The River Chew and its tributaries have many, large barriers to fish migration that will be impacting on fish stocks, in particular the migratory species such as European eels, Atlantic salmon and brown trout. The river also suffers from fine sediment suspension and deposition, which can impact the habitat available for fish (as well as invertebrate populations), reducing possible spawning sites for salmonid species and thus reducing recruitment of these species. In light of this, it would be important to look for project opportunities in the catchment to improve fish passage as a primary measure, whilst also looking to restore habitat in less favourable stretches. Partnership opportunities with angling clubs, local land owners and other interested groups should therefore be explored in order to develop suitable projects.

# Next survey

Summer 2019

If you would like to discuss the information presented in this report, please contact:

- Geoff Way, Sampling and Collecting Officer, Analysis and Reporting
- 03708 506 506
- enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you would like to discuss future management of this fishery, please contact:

- Jody Armitage - Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology
- 03708 506 506

- enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Before you go fishing don't forget:

- You must have a valid Environment Agency rod licence and permission from the fishery owner;
- You must comply with the fisheries byelaws;
- The coarse fish close season (15th March to 15th June inclusive) applies to all rivers, streams and drains in England and Wales but not most stillwaters. Stillwater fishery owners can still have their own close season and rules, so please check with them before setting out.

Report illegal fishing:

If you see any fishing, netting or trapping you think may be illegal, please do not tackle it yourself. Call us immediately on 0800 80 70 60 and tell us:

- Exactly where the alleged offence is taking place;
- What is happening;
- How many people are involved and their descriptions;
- The registration numbers of any vehicles involved.

If you prefer to remain report an environmental crime anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/give-information-online/.