

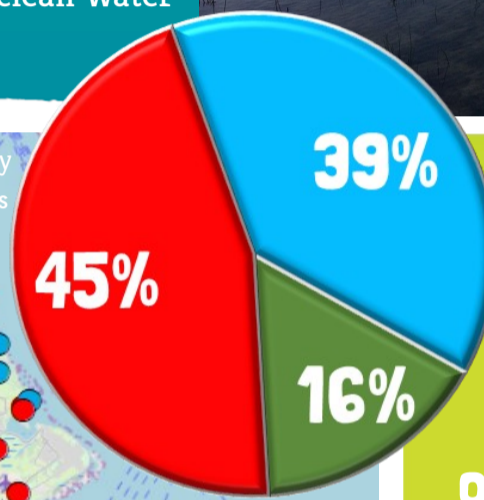
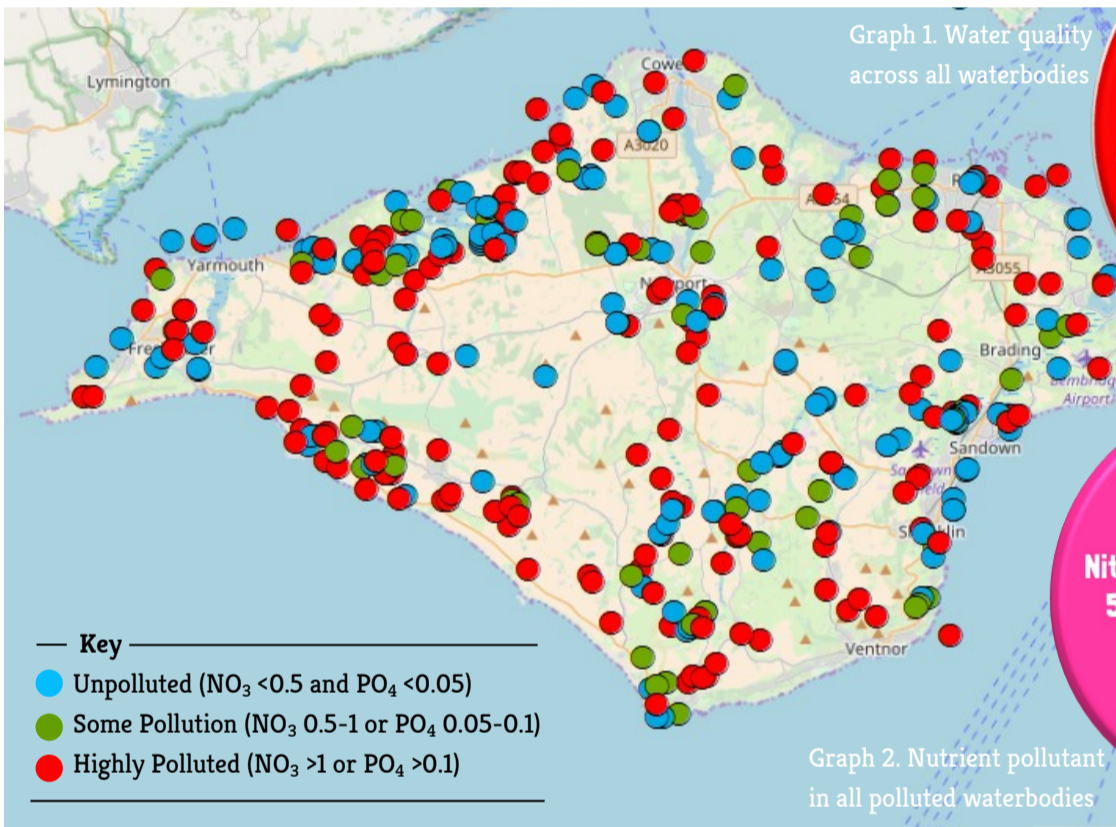
# Isle of Wight Water Blitz

## (25th Nov- 20th Dec 2017)

### The survey

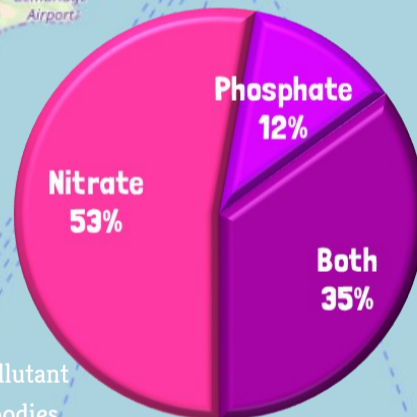
The Isle of Wight Water Blitz was the first ever island wide survey of water quality across all type of freshwater habitat (ponds, streams, ditches, rivers and more). The aim of the survey was to find freshwater, free from pollution, where wildlife can thrive and to reveal the extent of nutrient pollution impacting the freshwater landscape. Volunteers used quick kits to measure the levels of two widespread nutrient pollutants, nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) and phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub>).

The blitz was part of Clean Water for Wildlife, a Heritage Lottery Funded nationwide survey to raise awareness of the critical importance of clean water for freshwater wildlife.



**39%**  
of freshwater was unpolluted

The majority of 'clean' water (65%) was found in the standing waterbodies (ponds & lakes). Very few streams and rivers were found to be free of nutrient pollution.



Graph 2. Nutrient pollutant in all polluted waterbodies

Graph 3. Category of nutrient pollution according to waterbody type

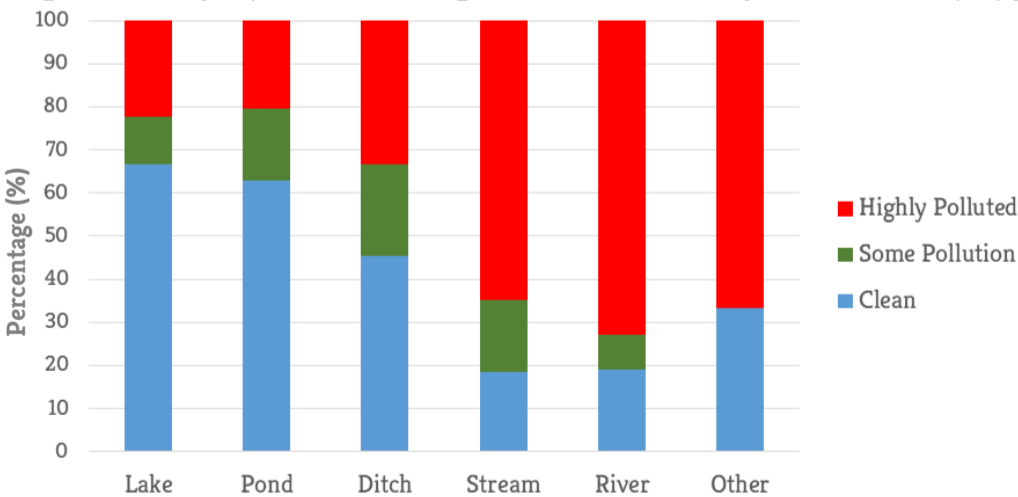


Table 1. Level of nutrient pollution

| Waterbody type | Clean (unpolluted) | Some Pollution | Highly Polluted |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Lake           | 6                  | 1              | 2               |
| Pond           | 95                 | 25             | 31              |
| Ditch          | 15                 | 7              | 11              |
| Stream         | 31                 | 28             | 109             |
| River          | 7                  | 3              | 27              |
| Other          | 1                  | 0              | 2               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>155</b>         | <b>64</b>      | <b>182</b>      |

### The findings

Results showed that the clean water is concentrated in the standing waterbodies, the ponds and lakes. Much like most areas of lowland Britain, the majority of streams and rivers, suffer serious nutrient pollution. This is not surprising because the river networks drain water from large areas of land with multiple sources of pollution from urban and agricultural areas, whilst many ponds and smaller headwater streams and ditches can collect water from locally clean sources. As a result, there is clean water in streams rising in woodland and other semi-natural habitats, and also in ponds and pools in nature reserves.

For more information please visit

[www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/clean-water](http://www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/clean-water)