

Hampshire Avon DTC News flash



May 2011

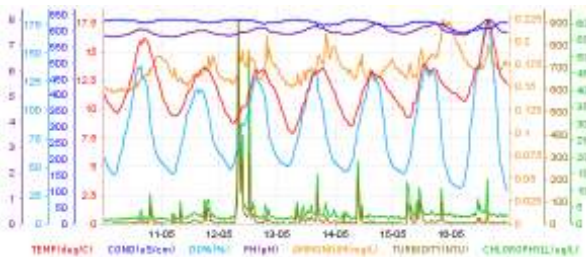
Monitoring activities

Soil drainage monitoring:

A total of 370 porous pots have been installed across the Hampshire Avon DTC target areas as a means of helping to assemble data on response to mitigation in the short-term.

Surface water monitoring:

Autosampler stations continue to yield data on a weekly basis. Some of our rivers are now dry due to the lack of rain over spring or their nature (groundwater-fed chalk streams). The autosampler and high spec stations at Ebbesbourne Wake are now dry as is the autosampler station at Kingston Deverill.



The high spec station at Ebbesbourne Wake has yielded some excellent data while it was running. This can be viewed at the project website: www.avondtc.org.uk

Tamar

Temporary autosampler stations are now in place at three of the target sites in the river Tamar catchment: Burracott bridge (river Neet), Caudworthy bridge (river Tamar) and Winnacott bridge (river Tamar). These are collecting daily water samples for nitrogen and phosphorous analysis. A weekly grab sample is also being collected for ground truthing. Full monitoring

stations will be installed in the next few weeks. We are currently waiting the granting of final permissions from the Environment Agency.

Mitigation measures

The farm baseline surveys have now begun in the target areas. So far we have had an excellent uptake of farmers agreeing to carry out the survey.

Discussions are continuing with farmers regarding candidate mitigation options for the manipulated sub-catchments and sub-catchment management plans are currently being devised and mapped to capture these options.

Knowledge Exchange

We had a site visit from Mike Dobson and John Davy-Bowker (FBA) and Neil Spencer (University of Exeter). The FBA are archiving all of the national



DTC data and Neil Spencer is part of the Avon DTC KE team at the University of Exeter. As such this was a good opportunity for them all to see the sites and appreciate the immediate pressures present. We also had time for a spot of 'river dipping' to see the sort of macro-invertebrates present!

Hampshire Avon DTC News flash



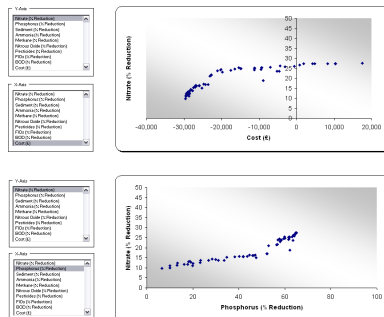
May 2011

Members of the Hampshire Avon DTC team attended the Wensum DTC second annual conference on the 20th May. This gave the Hampshire Avon team a good chance to visit the monitoring sites, meet the Wensum team and share our findings so far.



Adrian Collins recently accompanied Defra and the EA to Edinburgh for a workshop comparing approaches in the English DTC and Scottish Priority Monitored Catchments projects. The meeting was hosted by SEPA and Adrian presented on behalf of the national DTC platform, but also used some of his recent experiences working for the Catchment Sensitive Farming Programme.

The Avon DTC consortium has been busy running the FARMSCOPER tool with up to date agricultural census data and the findings will be tested in front of farmers at a KE event later this year being organised by the Avon DTC KE team from the University of Exeter. The FARMSCOPER work will be written up as a scientific publication shortly.



Imminent meetings

6th June – meeting with BGS to discuss the development of conceptual models of the hydrogeology of the Hampshire Avon DTC sub-catchments.

29th June – meeting with WCSRT and Wild Trout Trust to discuss progressing bid to Esmee Fairbairn Foundation to assist extrapolation of the DTC approach across the wider Avon catchment.