

# Help monitor water quality as a citizen scientist



THE  
WELSH DEE TRUST

**Come and help us work towards a river Dee free of pollution and full of wildlife.**

**This is a chance to have a positive impact on your local river. By pinpointing sources of pollution in the Dee catchment, we can work with landowners, businesses and industry to tailor solutions to individual causes and, site by site, eliminate pollutants entering the Dee.**

## **What will I be doing as a citizen scientist monitoring water pollution?**

You will be trained by us on how to conduct monitoring for pollution. This will be testing for phosphates and turbidity. Phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub>) occurs naturally within the river ecosystem, but in very low levels under 50 ppb. At 100 ppb the water is polluted at levels that will be damaging to wildlife. Phosphate is found in animal and human waste, cleaning chemicals, industrial runoff and fertiliser so this can be a good indicator of pollution. Turbidity is an indication of the amount of particulate material that is being carried by the water (such as clays, silts and algae). It is an important water quality parameter that can affect the clarity of water and can also indicate the presence of pollutants.

### **Where shall I monitor?**

Once trained, you will choose the area you would like to monitor. Have a look at our catchment map to see where citizen scientists are already monitoring: <https://www.welshdeetrust.com/citizen-science/>.

Ultimately, we know that the main Dee is polluted by numerous sources and long term monitoring of the main Dee will teach us little that we don't already know. By focusing on the tributaries we are far more likely to zero in on a direct cause of pollution which can then be tackled on a case-by-case basis.

### **How many sites should I monitor?**

As many as you would like but ideally 3 to 5 per tributary to start with. Try to get a good distribution across the tributary. For longer tributaries we can pair you up with another citizen scientist to improve coverage.

### **How often will I need to monitor?**

As often as you would like but we ask you to commit to a minimum of monitoring each site once a month for 3 months. After this time, we will analyse the results and provide you with feedback about pollution in your tributary.

## **How to get involved**

To express your interest in this role, please register as a Welsh Dee Trust volunteer on our volunteering platform Team Kinetic. Once registered, you will be able to register your name for the upcoming training event. You can access the Team Kinetic registration page through this link

<https://www.welshdeetrust.com/volunteer/>.