

## **Citizen Science Frequently Asked Questions – August 2022**

### **How will the Environment Agency be using and working with the Citizen Science data?**

We will be analysing the data and will include this in our Wye Quarterly Reports from May 2022 onwards. We now have access to all groups data and will be working this year on encouraging groups by showing what we are doing with the data.

### **Would having one Epicollect database that all Wye Citizen Science groups can feed into be advantageous?**

There could be significant advantages to having only one database for the Wye Catchment, but it is for the individual groups to agree this.

### **What work is happening nationally with Citizen Science?**

There is a movement for working with Citizen Science data across the Environment Agency nationally. The Environment Agency is collaborating in with the Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo), a £7.1 million Ofwat funded project. There are eight demonstrator projects nationally. Working together to monitor at a catchment scale is an area still in development.

### **Which monitoring methods are best to use?**

Following the Cardiff University workshop in 2021, the consensus was the Hanna meters were preferable, although we remember that some groups had concerns, which will be further explored. We will be able to advise better as we understand the data more.

### **Is it best to sample more in fewer places or more widespread?**

This depends on what each of the groups wish to concentrate on but as we analyse more data over a longer period, we will be able to explore this in our Wye Quarterly Reports and give feedback and advice.

### **Should we include other environmental recordings when we are data collecting? (e.g., photography, observations, etc.)**

Guidance to what to include is discussed in the Citizen Science documentation/training guidance written by Cardiff University for the Wye Citizen Science Project. Bank photography taken at the same places at different times are useful for Natural Resource Wales to help understand vegetation development and bank erosion. During our first analysis of the Citizen Science data for the Wye Quarterly Report we will consider if this is of additional use to the Environment Agency as well.

### **Is nitrogen and ammonia a significant problem across England outside of Herefordshire? Should we be collecting this data too?**

We will cover this aspect in our Wye quarterly report and any recommendations that come out of our analysis will be filled with citizen science.

### **What should each Citizen Science group fundraise for?**

This will be for your group to determine but mainly it may be for specific kit. Once we have started analysing the data that has already been collected, then we will be able to advise further.

**Where can Citizen Scientists collect data?**

We appreciate data collected throughout the catchment to gain a holistic view of the current situation. Wherever possible, sampling locations will be agreed in advance and coordinated through a Citizen Science group or network. Please ensure that you have gained the permission of the landowner before accessing sampling sites, however.

**Who owns the data once collected and submitted?**

The data continues to be your property even once submitted to the Environment Agency.