

Water Bodies

Indicator

Worcestershire Water Bodies- Water Framework Directive Status.

Status



Water Framework Directive Status is moderate and improving (there has been no new data since the 2010 SoE report).

Overview

River water quality is affected by many factors. These can generally be divided into point sources, which have a traceable discharge point, and diffuse sources, which cannot usually be traced back to a single discharge point. Examples of point sources include domestic and industrial waste water; examples of diffuse sources include polluted water and sediment washing off fields, recreational areas, roads and pavements. There have been big improvements in waste water discharges over recent years but pollution from diffuse sources is becoming an increasing threat.

To compare the quality of water, the Environment Agency uses Water Framework Directive (WFD) classifications. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is a new piece of European legislation which takes an approach to managing water called River Basin Management Planning, looking at the water within the wider ecosystem and taking into account the movement of water through the water cycle.

The WFD encourages everyone with an interest in water to work together to protect and improve the quality of every aspect of the water environment. It will help us improve and protect inland and coastal waters; drive wiser, sustainable use of water as a natural resource; and create better habitats for wildlife that live in and around water.

Performance

Ecological status or potential	Number of water bodies
Good	10
Moderate	56
Poor	11
Bad	5

82 river and canal water bodies fall wholly or partially within Worcestershire County representing around 700 kilometres of watercourse. 6 water bodies have been designated as 'artificial', 12 as 'heavily modified' water bodies. These water bodies must meet Good Ecological Potential (GEP). The remaining 64 'natural' water bodies are required to meet Good Ecological Status (GES).

Geographical Context

Worcestershire Water Courses do not compare very favourably with watercourses in the wider area. Within the Midlands region, 22% of watercourses are designated as good- compared to 8% within Worcestershire. Within the River Severn basin, 29% of the watercourses have a good status. Nationally, 26% of Rivers have a good status.

Actions

The largest challenge for those working to improve the quality of Worcestershire's rivers is in tackling sources of run-off from roads and fields. These diffuse sources of pollution are difficult to attribute to a single discharge point and will not be affected by the regulatory approach that has been successfully adopted to reduce the impacts of point source pollution.

Further Information

For information about river quality see the Environment Agency's [Water Quality](#) website.

For detailed information about your own area/river visit the Environment Agency's [What's in your backyard?](#) page.