



## **29 March 2021 – CSI COVID-19 UPDATE**

We are delighted to announce that following the lifting of the 'stay at home' order, volunteers will be able to resume full Westcountry CSI surveys - including water testing - from today 29 March 2021.

It is important to adhere to the Government's current Coronavirus restrictions which include staying local as much as possible, minimising the number of journeys you make, staying 2m apart from anyone who is not in your household and not meeting in groups of more than 6 from any number of households.

Please be mindful of others when carrying out your surveys and consider wearing a face-covering if sampling from a narrow footpath where social distancing might be compromised.

Thanks so much for your patience over the last few months, and thanks to those of you that have been able to submit observational surveys in that time.

## CSI COVID-19 JANUARY 2021 UPDATE

Following the announcement on Monday 4 January by the Prime Minister we have updated our guidance for volunteers undertaking Westcountry CSI river surveys and water quality testing.

Currently, we are not proposing to include CSI surveys under the volunteering/reasonable excuse for leaving home guidelines.

Please refrain from undertaking full CSI surveys during lockdown, the additional time taken to perform the water quality tests increases the risk to you and others by extending the time spent outside beyond the minimum. It is important to spend time outside if you can - in line with government guidance - as we know there are huge benefits to connecting with nature, especially in these winter months.

If you have a river, stream, lake or pond in your community - and can get to it on foot or by bike - then please consider regular visits there during lockdown - these are typically havens for wildlife and can be especially rewarding to spend time near.

Observational surveys of rivers and streams are something that you may choose to do while undertaking your daily exercise. We value your help in keeping an eye on our waterbodies currently.

Please do continue to log any observations you make (photos and notes) via the Cartographer site - it will be valuable to have a record of our collective ability to safeguard our rivers under these difficult circumstances.

If we all do our bit, and the current restrictions have the desired effect, then there will still be plenty of time to log full surveys later in 2021.

Thanks very much for your help – stay safe and well.

### **Westcountry Rivers Trust**

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