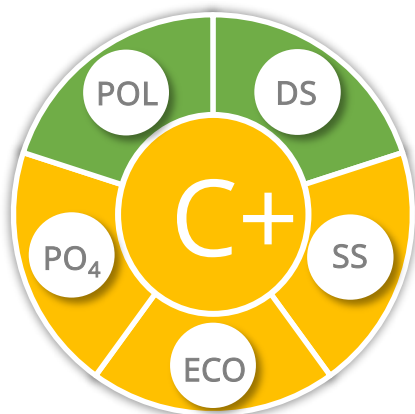


# Westcountry CSI Scorecard 2020

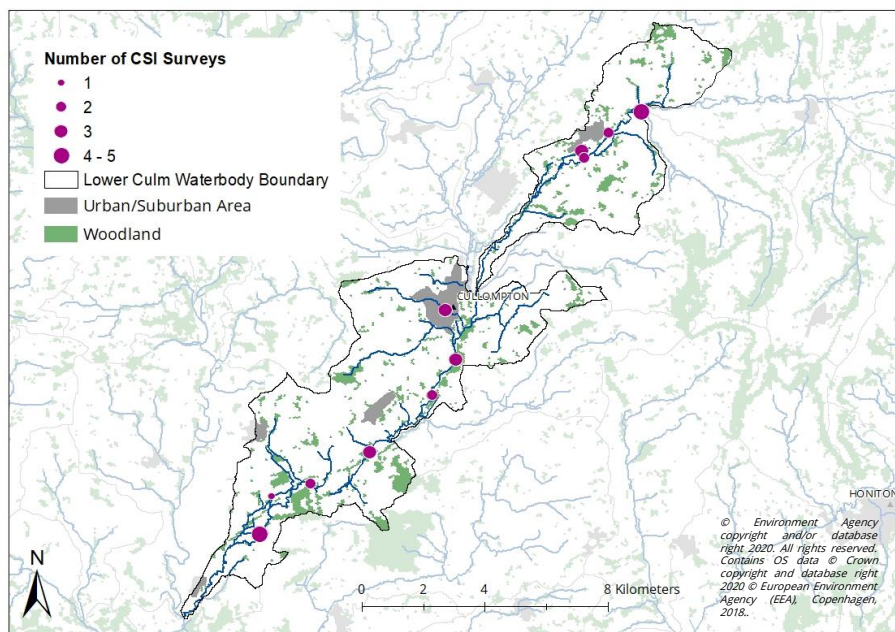
## Lower Culm, East Devon



### River Health Scale

A	Excellent
B	Good
C	Fair
D	Poor
E	Very Poor

The overall score for the catchment is based on a year's data, collected at all sites in the **Lower Culm** waterbody. It is calculated from the observations and water quality results attained during a Westcountry Citizen Science Investigation (CSI) survey. A waterbody has to have at least 12 samples taken over the year for it to qualify for a scorecard.



### LOWER CULM 2020

# 57%

## Overall grade



DS

**Dissolved Solids** are measured using a handheld TDS meter. DS increase as a result of natural and anthropogenic inputs of things like chemicals, slurry, sewage or salts into the waterbody.

ECO

The **Ecology** score is calculated from wildlife and problem plants spotted. Wildlife spotted near a river, indicates that the river is supporting a healthy food chain. Problem plants reduce this score as they can cause issues for the biodiversity of the watercourse by shading out other plant species.

SS

**Suspended Solids or Turbidity** is measured using a turbidity tube. SS increase as a result of increased soil erosion, mine discharge and road runoff. An increase in SS reduces water clarity, making it difficult for aquatic organisms to survive.

PO<sub>4</sub>

**Phosphate** (PO<sub>4</sub>) is a vital nutrient for the healthy growth of all organisms and is found in natural and artificial fertilisers, sewage and industrial wastes. Natural levels are very low and thus any measurable phosphate observed is likely due to anthropogenic influences such as misconnections, farm runoff or industrial discharge. PO<sub>4</sub> is measured using strips which turn blue in the presence of phosphate.

POL

The **Pollution** score is calculated from the observations of pollution sources and evidence of recent pollution (e.g. litter or oil). These give an indication of the pollution pressures on that watercourse.

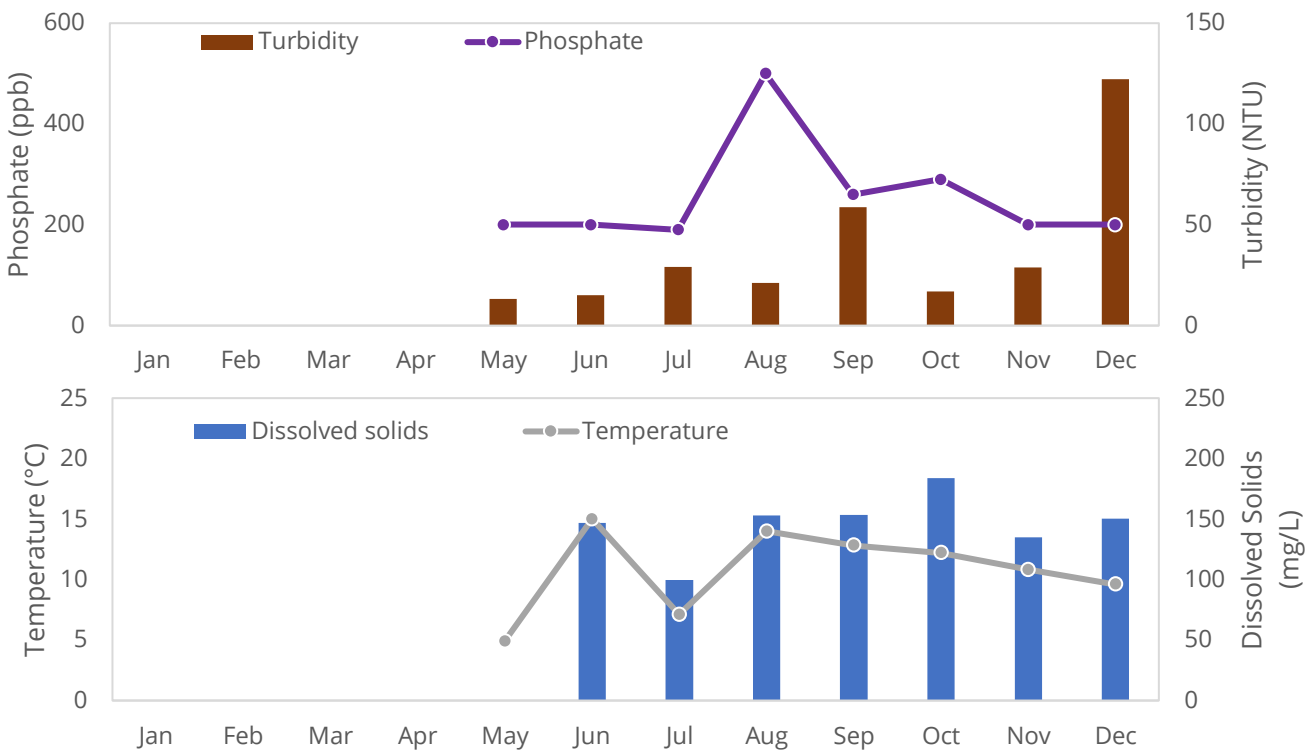
## Catchment Summary

The **Lower Culm** waterbody is located in **East Devon** with its main centre of population being **Cullompton**. There are **ten** sample points and **eight** active samplers in this waterbody, with **31** Westcountry CSI surveys taken in total during **2020**.

The predominant land use within 50m of these sites **grassland or pasture** (20) and **agriculture** (16), **urban residential** (8), **parkland/gardens** (8), **woodland** (6) and **industrial/commercial** (3). The bankside ecosystem varies between **trees or shrubs** (24), **grass** (18), **impermeable surface** (6) and **bare earth** (2).

There have been frequent observations of the problem plant **Himalayan balsam** (10) and wildlife sightings of **fish** (4), **dragonflies/damselflies** (2), a **heron**. Aquatic invertebrates and multiple species of bird have also been spotted during surveys. The pollution pressure come from **road runoff** (7), **soil runoff** (2), **collapsed riverbank** (2), **cattle/stock access to river** (2), **inactive outfall** (2) and **farm runoff (slurry silage)** (1). Observations of recent pollution come from **foam** (13), **litter** (3) and **smothering algae** (1).

## Water Quality Test Results



## How to Use This Scorecard

The Westcountry CSI scorecards are produced to visualise the data collected by the volunteers across the Westcountry and to give an idea of the health of our rivers and streams. Due to the nature of the scheme and the COVID 19 lockdown, there are gaps in the data. It should be noted that none of the sites across the catchment were sampled more than 12 times. Numbers in brackets in the catchment summary indicate the number of sightings of each species observed throughout the year.

## Become a Westcountry Citizen Science Investigator!

Join Westcountry CSI and help to monitor a river or stream in your local area. To find out more and get in touch, visit our website:

[wrt.org.uk/project/become-a-citizen-scientist/](http://wrt.org.uk/project/become-a-citizen-scientist/) or email us at [csi@wrt.org.uk](mailto:csi@wrt.org.uk).



## About Westcountry Rivers Trust

The Westcountry Rivers Trust is an environmental charity (Charity no. 1135007, Company no. 06545646) established in 1995 to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments in the Westcountry and to advance the education of the public in the management of water.

