SCS
Supporting Citizen Science

Turning Citizen Science into Trusted Evidence

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Environment Agency

The EA's Supporting Citizen Science

SCAN ME

Since 2022 the EA has funded a national network of citizen science coordinators across England to build on and strengthen our work to support citizen science.

This is being delivered by:

- Working with partners locally and nationally to explore opportunities for collaborative catchment monitoring using citizen science.
- Using a weight-of-evidence approach to explore how citizen-science data can be used to complement EA and professional monitoring to provide a stronger evidence base.
- Using feedback from partners and communities to shape how we support citizen science.
- Focusing on water quality and water quantity monitoring

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Locally delivered, nationally strategic

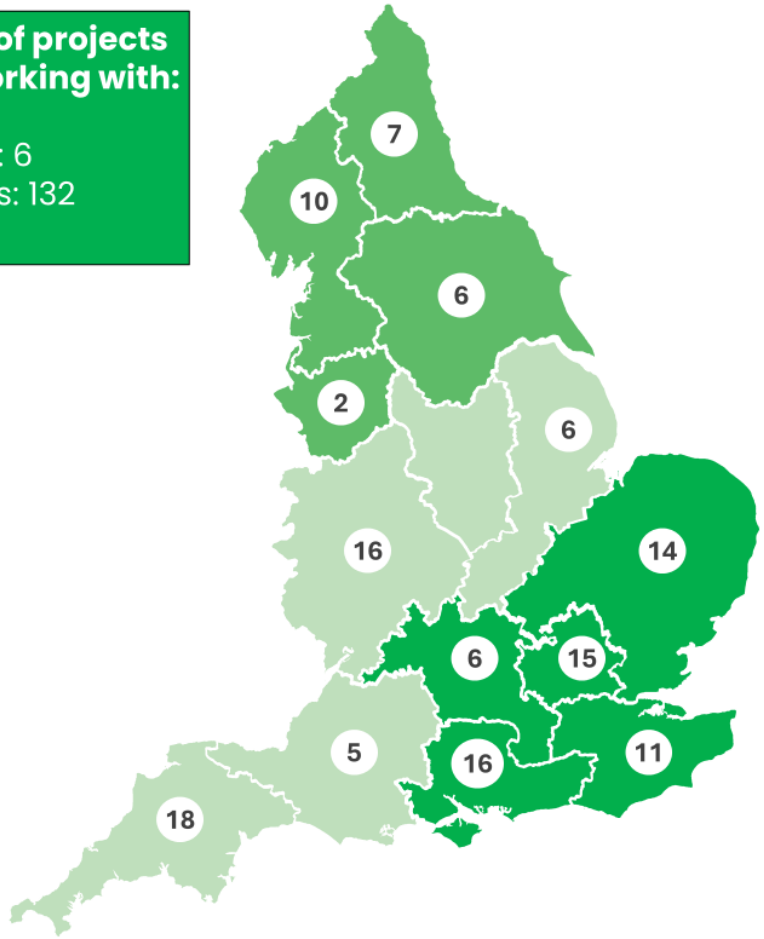






Number of projects we are working with:

Nationally: 6
In EA areas: 132
Total: 138



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Technical Advisory Framework

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Key Principles

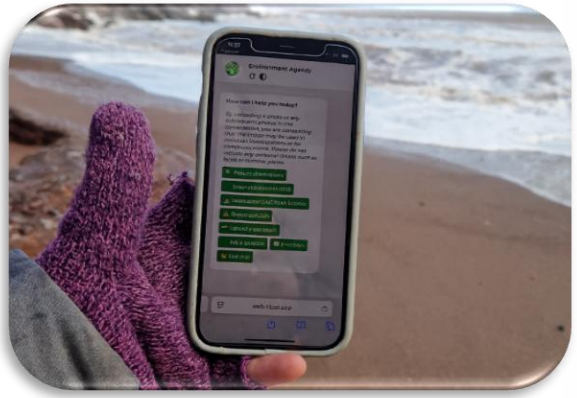


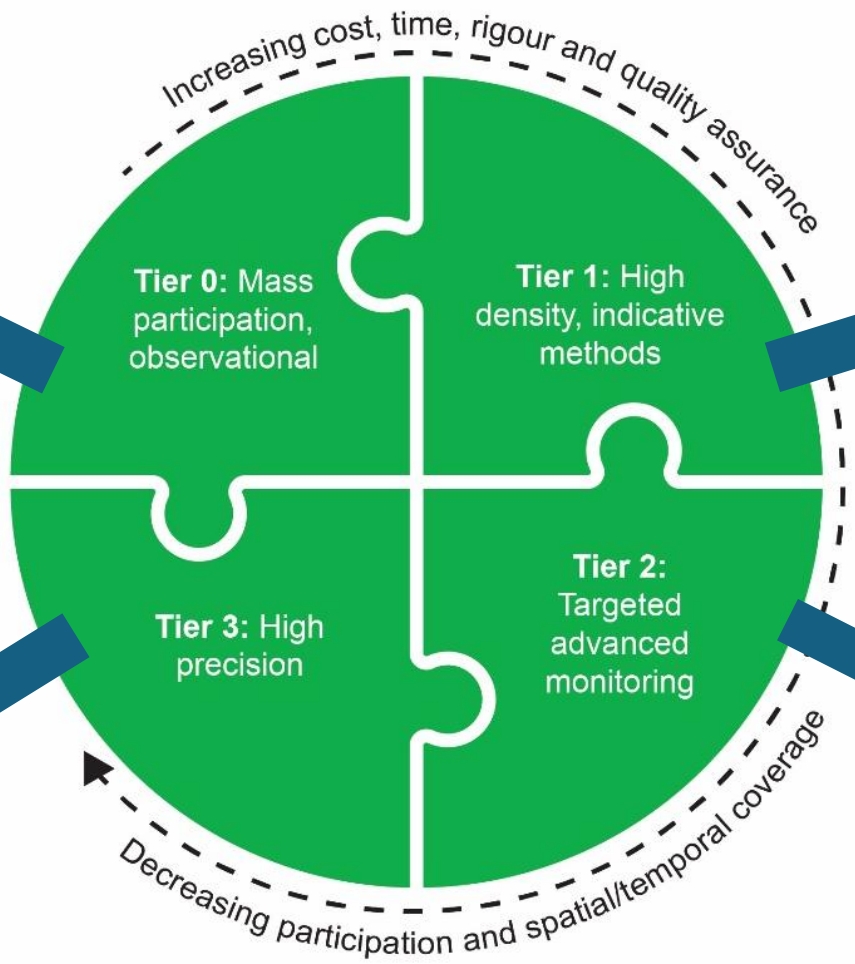
- Connect and collaborate
- Build on and learn from existing monitoring
- Define the purpose
- Develop a well-designed monitoring plan
- Follow quality control measures
- Interpret and understand your findings
- Communicate and share outcomes
- Apply outputs to actions

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Tiers of citizen science monitoring











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Tier 0

WaterWatch and BluePrint- Hello Lamp Post and Environment Agency



Outcomes

- 2,594 users engaged through 3,684 conversations
- New insights from in/out of bathing season
- 34% of users interested in getting involved in citizen science

Tier 1

Riverfly and Environment Agency

The Riverfly Partnership



Outcome:

- 10448 samples from1905 sites on 820 rivers (2025)
- Data used alongside Environment Agency biological, chemical and flow data
- Provides early warning sign of pollution and drought stress

Tier 2

Wensum catchment- EA and CaSTCo

Powered by CaSTCo People. Rivers. Resilience.

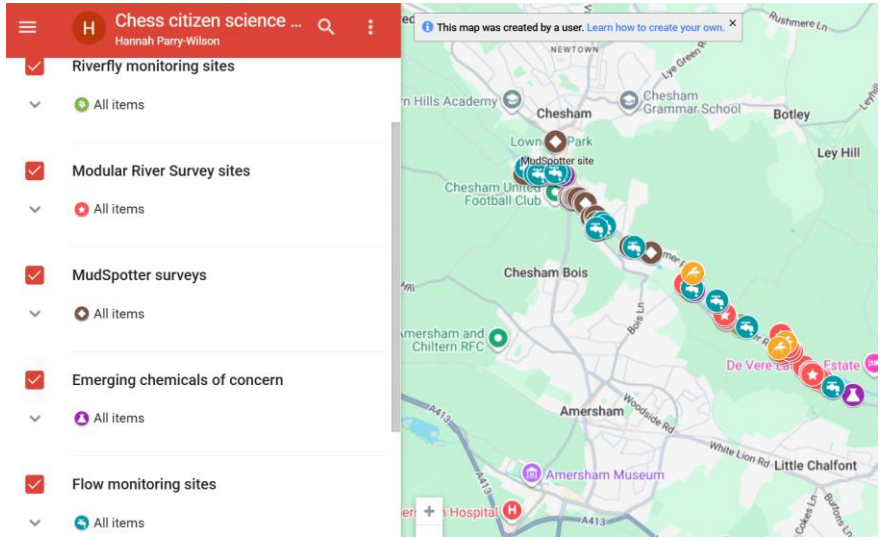


Outcomes

- 124 weeks of robust, validated data through expert support and oversight
- Successful weight of evidence approach: data + local knowledge + expertise, informing Environment Agency investigations

Tier 3

River Chess Smarter Water Catchment



Outcome:

- Survey data directly supports geomorphology, restoration, fisheries planning, pollution tracking and hydrometry within the Environment Agency.

Thank you

Where to find more information



Home / Environment Agency Water Hub / Citizen Science - Working together!

Citizen Science - Working together!

Your environment needs you!

Citizen science is 'the collection of data and information by communities for scientific purposes'. You can help provide invaluable data and evidence about our water environment. If you're not already involved, you could make a big difference by joining us.

Supporting Citizen Science spotlight

Find out the latest highlight from Supporting Citizen Science. This section will update monthly.

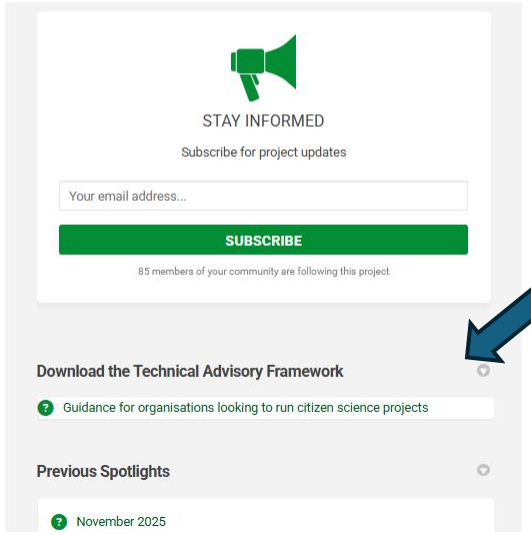
February 2026

Supporting Citizen Science is launching BluePrint, a national interactive tool that enables anyone visiting a river, lake, stream or beach to share real time observations about water use and conditions. Developed with Hello Lamp Post, BluePrint builds on the success of the WaterWatch pilot, which gathered over 3,500 conversations at five bathing water sites. The improved platform now offers nationwide coverage and provides users with live information on pollution risk, weather, river levels and bathing water status by drawing data from Swimfo, National River Gauge Archive and Met Office.

BluePrint will run from February to July 2026, helping us better understand how and when people use watercourses throughout and beyond the bathing water season. The data collected will supplement our existing monitoring and support future planning and investigations.

Anyone can get involved here https://api.hlpst.app/qr/agent/2277/?db=uk.





[Supporting Citizen Science Water Hub page]

[Technical Advisory Framework]