

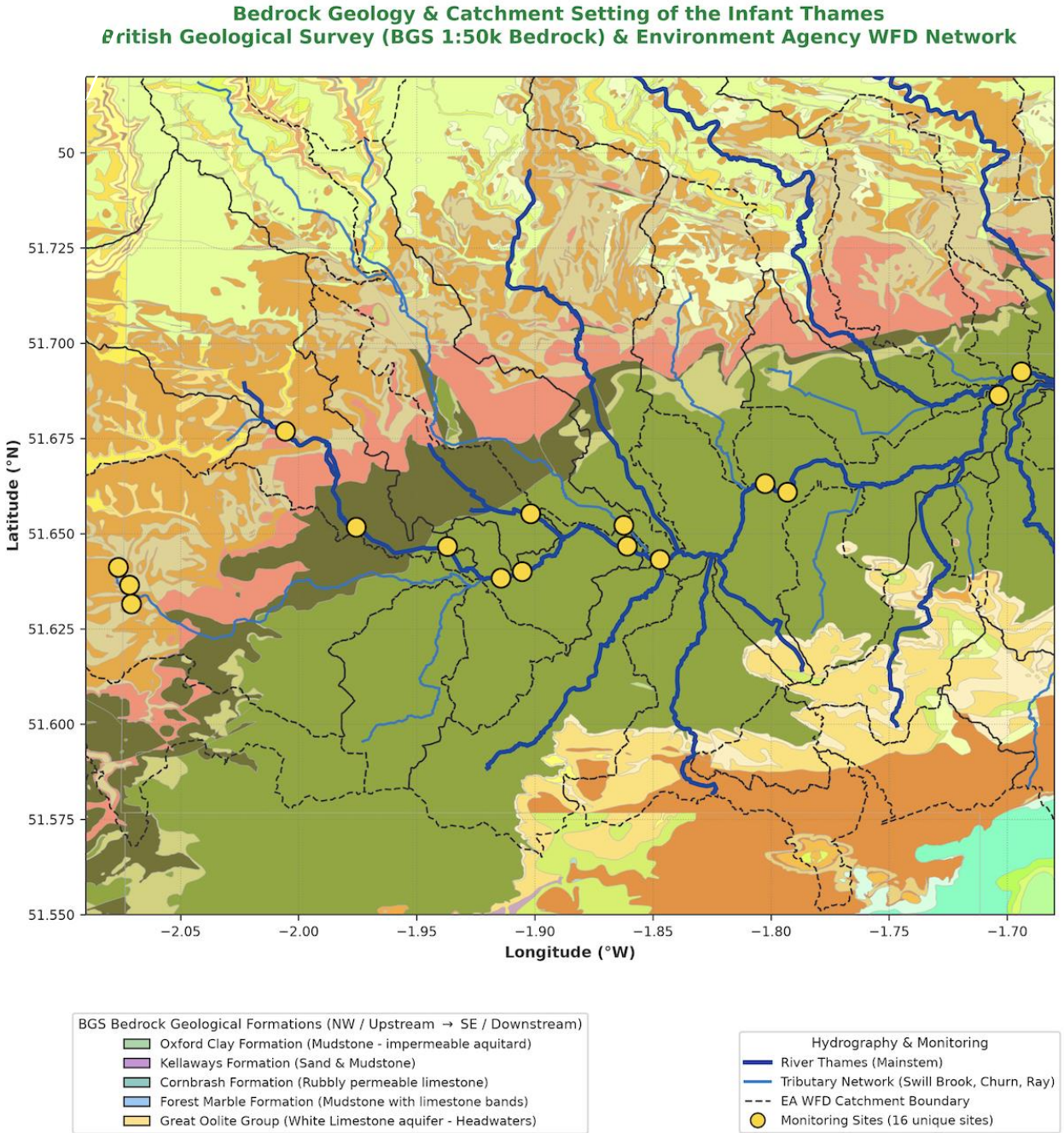
The Infant Thames Programme

Dr Ellie Pryor

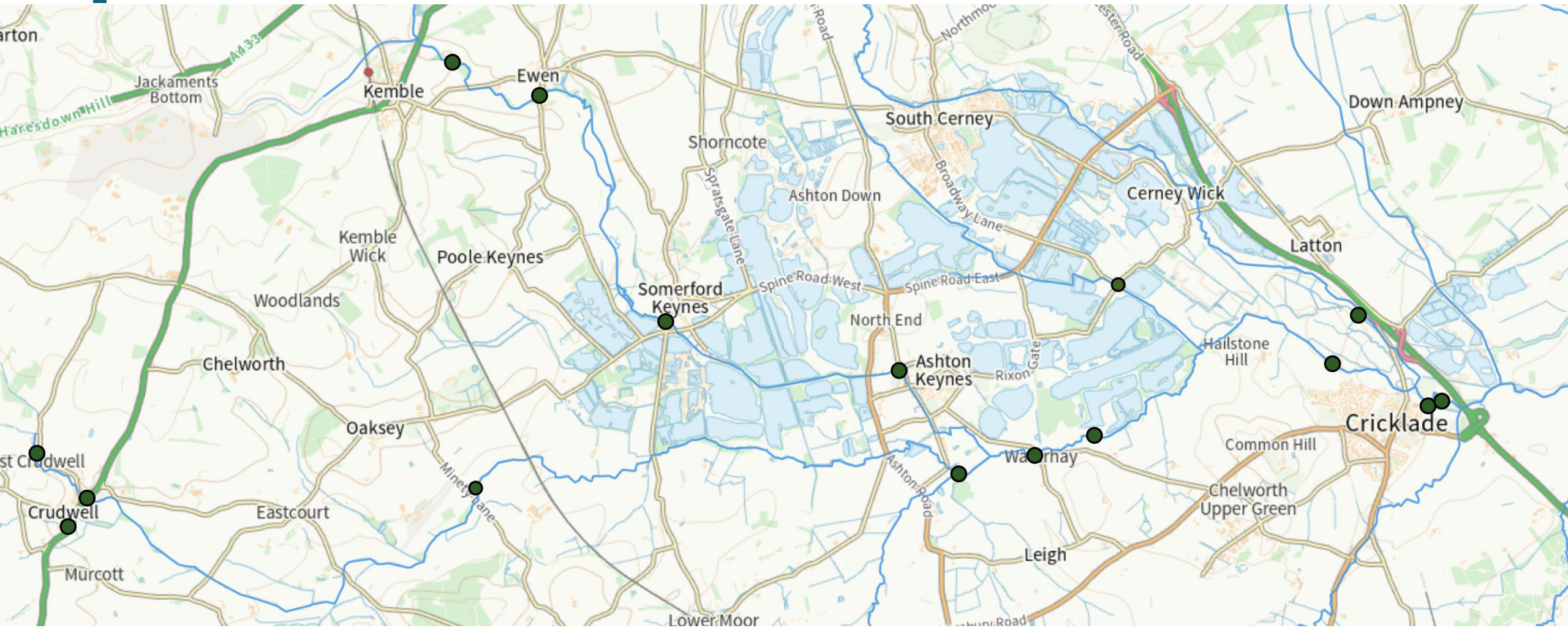
Cotswolds Rivers Trust

The Infant Thames Story

Geography and Headwaters



The area

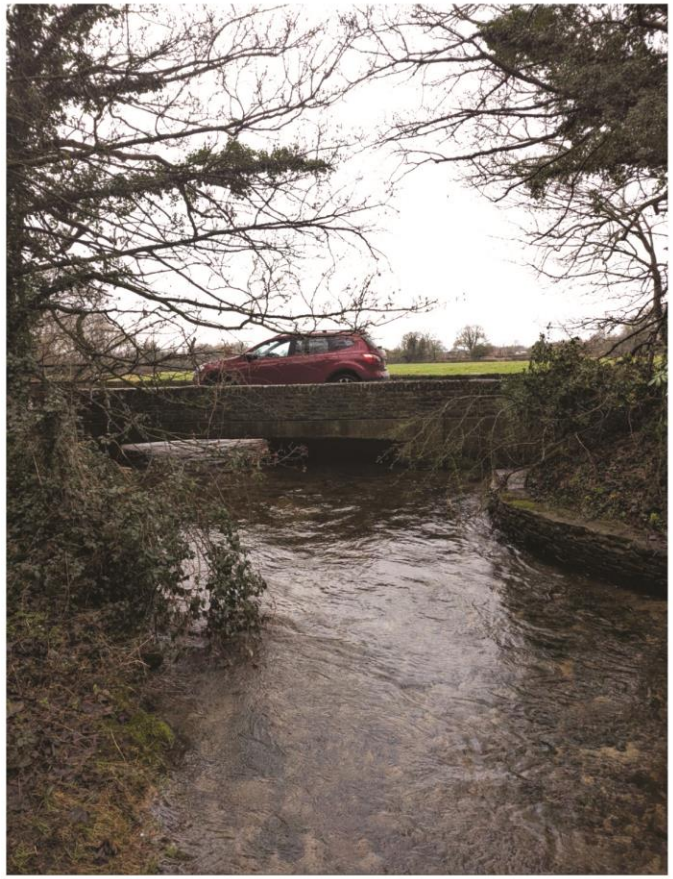

Jackaments Bottom
A433
Kemble
Ewen
Shorncote
South Cerney
Down Ampney
Ashton Down
Cerney Wick
Kemble Wick
Poole Keynes
Latton
Somerford Keynes
Spine Road West
Spine Road East
Woodlands
North End
Chelworth
Ashton Keynes
Hailstone Hill
Cricklade
Oaksey
Common Hill
Crudwell
Eastcourt
Chelworth Upper Green
Leigh
Murcott
Lower Moor

The area

- Including areas such as Kemble, Crudwell, Ashton Keynes, Cricklade to Lechlade
- Associated Upper Thames tributaries are
  - Derry Brook – bad ecological status
  - Swill Brook – moderate ecological status
  - Cerney Wick Brook – poor ecological status

- Photo monitoring
- Water quality monitoring e.g. N and P
- Riverfly monitoring
- Outfalls
- NFM work plans

Photo Monitoring



January



April



July

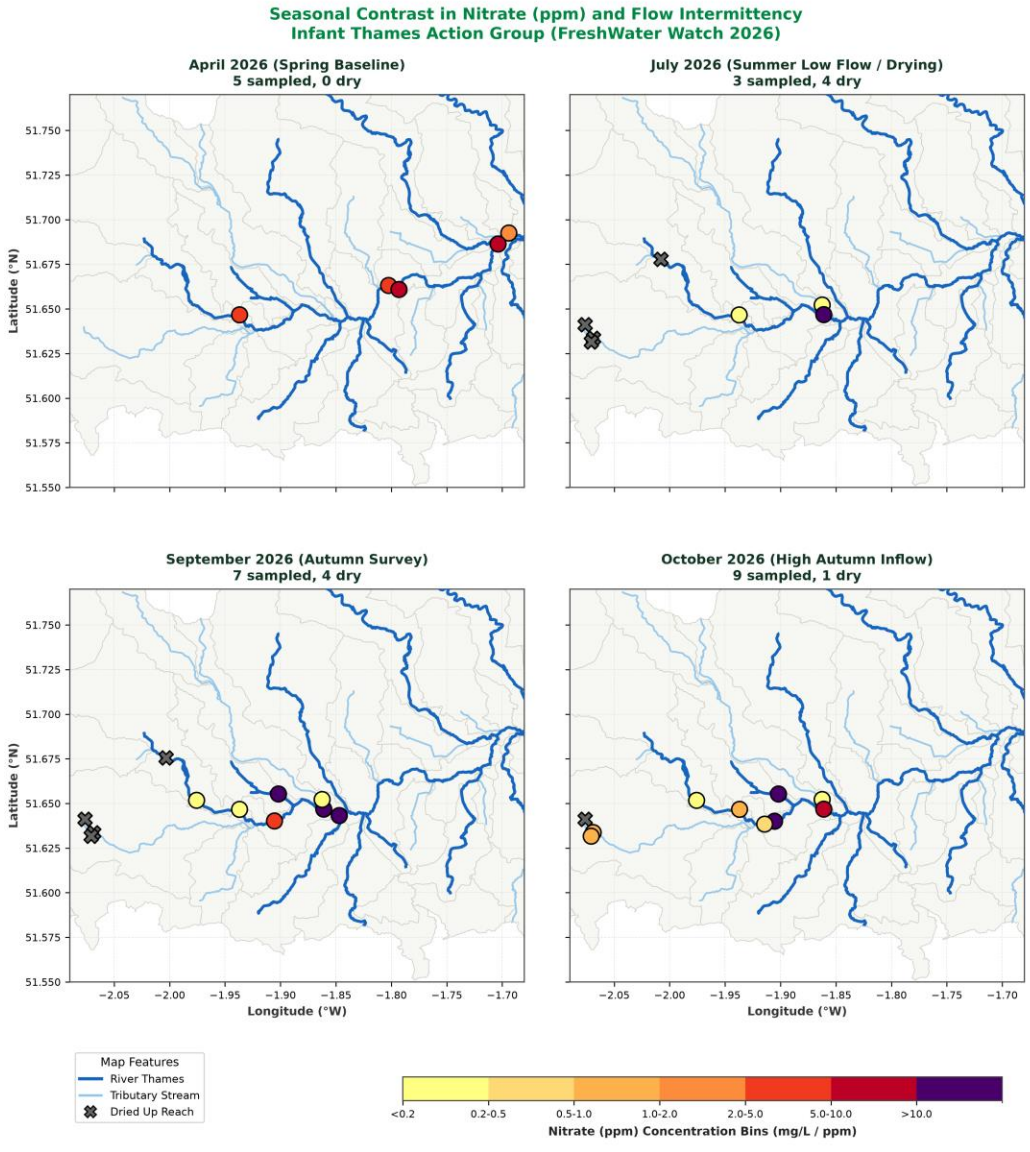
Photo Monitoring

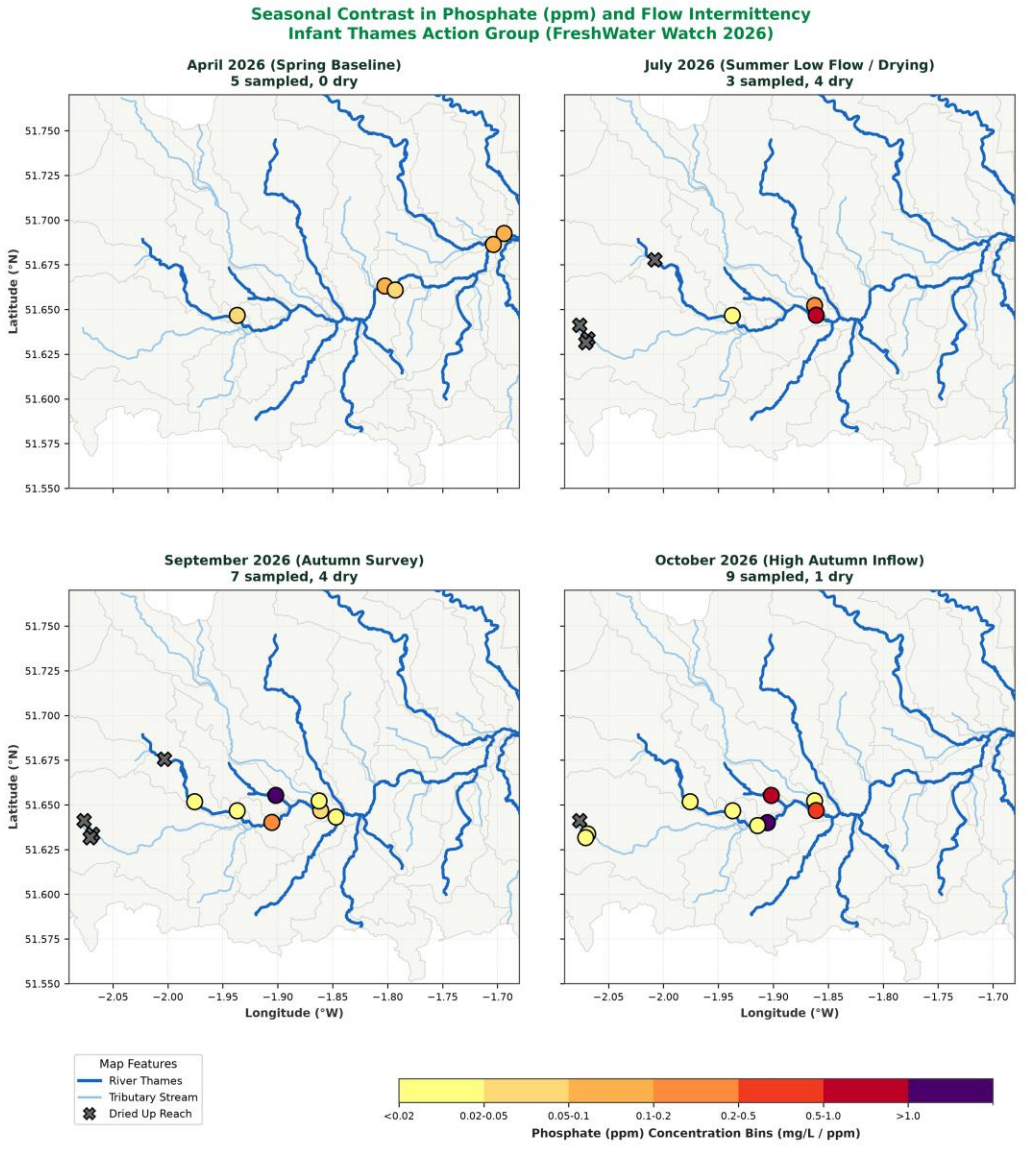


July



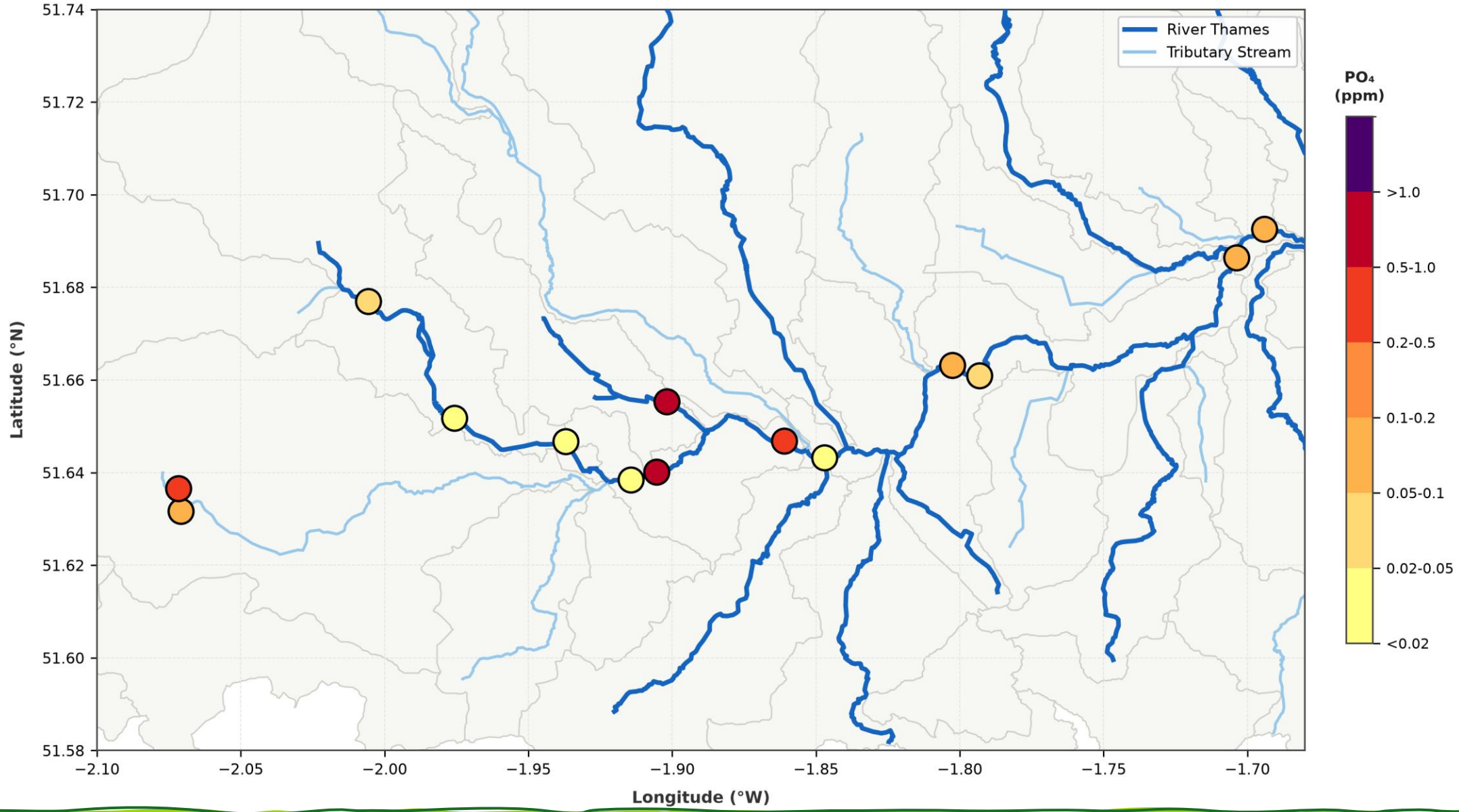
October


Seasonal Contrast in Nitrate (ppm) and Flow Intermittency
Infant Thames Action Group (FreshWater Watch 2026)
April 2026 (Spring Baseline)
5 sampled, 0 dry
July 2026 (Summer Low Flow / Drying)
3 sampled, 4 dry
September 2026 (Autumn Survey)
7 sampled, 4 dry
October 2026 (High Autumn Inflow)
9 sampled, 1 dry
Latitude (°N)
Longitude (°W)
Map Features
River Thames
Tributary Stream
Dried Up Reach
<0.2
0.2-0.5
0.5-1.0
1.0-2.0
2.0-5.0
5.0-10.0
>10.0
Nitrate (ppm) Concentration Bins (mg/L / ppm)


Seasonal Contrast in Phosphate (ppm) and Flow Intermittency
Infant Thames Action Group (FreshWater Watch 2026)
April 2026 (Spring Baseline)
5 sampled, 0 dry
July 2026 (Summer Low Flow / Drying)
3 sampled, 4 dry
September 2026 (Autumn Survey)
7 sampled, 4 dry
October 2026 (High Autumn Inflow)
9 sampled, 1 dry
Latitude (°N)
Longitude (°W)
Map Features
River Thames
Tributary Stream
Dried Up Reach
<0.02
0.02-0.05
0.05-0.1
0.1-0.2
0.2-0.5
0.5-1.0
>1.0
Phosphate (ppm) Concentration Bins (mg/L / ppm)

Mean Phosphate (PO_4) across Infant Thames Monitoring Sites

FreshWater Watch 2026 | Strategic Evidence Partnership (SEP) Citizen Science Monitoring



Pollution









Sites removed from Oct25 High Priority List

Nature-based solutions across the catchment

Upstream → *Downstream*

Soils, hedges and buffer strips

Help rain soak in instead of running off

Leaky dams and field bunds

Hold water back for a few hours during a storm

Floodplains and wetlands

Give water room to spread, and store it for drier months



Beavers

Dams reduced peak flows at four monitored sites in England

What we need

- More volunteers for water sampling/riverfly/outfalls!
  - Riverfly training course Spring 2027
- Work on the Derry Brook – any landowners around Minety?
- Event on 3rd April 2027 in Ashton Keynes

- Email me at: **ellie.pryor@cotswoldsriverstrust.org**