

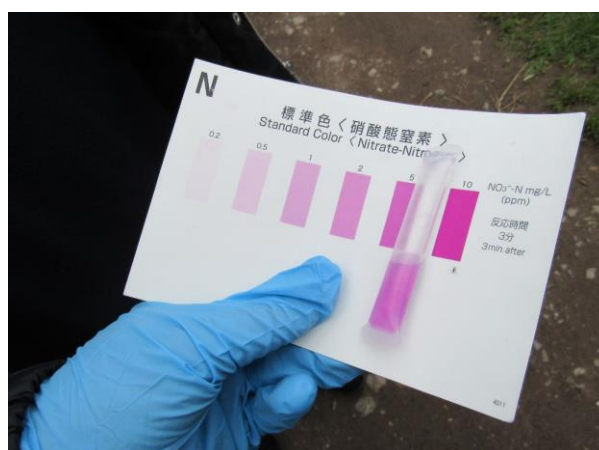
Funding Report for The Nineveh Trust – April 2023

Thank you for the generous donation of £5,692 towards our FreshWater Watch programme. This past year, your support has helped us to provide valuable tools and knowledge to our network of community groups who are taking action to clean up their local freshwater bodies.

FreshWater Watch (FWW) is a global citizen science initiative where communities monitor and protect their local freshwater. We train people to measure the health of their local rivers, lakes and freshwater bodies. FWW has grown to support **14,000 citizen scientists** in collecting **34,000+ datasets**. The resulting data provides the evidence for agencies, river basin managers, local government and industries to improve water quality locally through increased knowledge and a shared responsibility.



Severn Water Watch group members made up of Paddlers and Waterways users



Nitrate testing using FWW kit

Severn Water Watch

Through your support, **two new community groups** in the UK have joined FWW. The first group **Severn Water Watch** is a local group made up of **9 members** who are Paddlers and Waterways users, aiming to clean up the **River Severn** at Jackfield, Ironbridge. FWW has empowered the group lead, Zoey Rowe, to become a champion for her local community by spreading awareness of river pollution through media outlets.



Zoey recently appeared on **ITV News** (shown in all regions) to talk about the dangers of river pollution for rowers and water users and how monitoring can give a clearer picture of the water quality. Her group monitors the local river twice weekly, testing nitrate and phosphate levels.

“As a paddler it was interesting for me to understand the data, and what pollutants could potentially be in the water. I’ve been on the river for nearly 40 years and in time I’ve been focused on the clarity of the river and the general cleanliness of the river. It’s a lot more dirty and we get sick. I had an eye infection last year, a lot of us get physically sick from being in the water.” Zoey, Group Leader

Through monitoring so far, our FWW analysis shows that the River Severn has ‘moderate’ ecological status. Moderate turbidity levels can impair aquatic biodiversity by reducing the light available to underwater biota. This moderate turbidity level indicates that land use activities in the catchment (e.g. agriculture, construction etc.) could have an impact on the waterbody.



A new community group getting stuck into monitoring the River Waveney in Suffolk

Zoey’s passion for her local river is inspiring and shows us the power of citizen science in giving water users the knowledge to become ambassadors and have a greater impact beyond their local community. We have already seen this impact through an influx of interest from nationwide community groups who are now on our waiting list to join FWW.

Uzmaston Boulston Slebech Community Water Watch

Your funding also enabled us to expand FWW to Wales by creating our first Welsh group called **Uzmaston Boulston Slebech Community Water Watch**. The group is made up of 25 members aiming to clean up the Millin Brook.

“This brook has been identified by Natural Resources Wales as one of the most polluted waterways in Pembrokeshire and actions have been initiated by NRW and the local authorities to try and tackle this. Local people are especially keen to see an improvement in water quality but also to better understand the sources of the problems and find solutions.” Linda, Group Leader

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances last year, the group leader was not able to get her group up and running last year. She has the FWW kits and has been trained, and is set to start monitoring this year. We will provide The Nineveh Trust with an update on this group's progress in due course.

FreshWater Watch at 10: A decade of people-powered freshwater science

In 2022, we achieved 10 years of FWW and celebrated our citizen scientists and their impact so far. We hosted a free webinar highlighting our achievements and demonstrating our global impact - available to view [here](#).

We also recently surveyed our network of groups and found that 70% of groups are taking action to improve their local waterbodies, including advocacy, campaigning and working with farmers.

Next Steps

We look forward to engaging further with The Nineveh Trust to see how we can build on our success to reach more community groups, and encourage them to take action and begin to improve the health of their local freshwater. Thank you once again for your generous support of this citizen science project. We rely on your generosity to continue our work.

