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| Designated Site Name: | River Clun SAC |
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Site Details:

From River Clun SAC citation:

The River Clun is a tributary of the River Teme, which is the second largest tributary of the River Severn, draining a hilly, predominantly rural catchment of Silurian and Devonian rocks. The site includes only the lower reaches of the river and extends upstream from the confluence with the Teme to Broadward Bridge near Marlow.

This section of the river holds a population of the freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, one of the few lowland populations left in the UK. The freshwater pearl mussel larvae attach to the gills of salmon and trout before eventually detaching and settling in the riverbed gravels where they grow to adulthood.

Reason for European Site Designation:

The Special Area for Conservation (SAC) is designated for the following features:

- S1029 Freshwater pearl mussel, *Margaritifera margaritifera*

Links to Conservation Advice:

[Conservation Objectives](#)

[Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice](#)

Nutrient Pressure(s) for which the site is unfavourable:

Nitrogen
Phosphorus

Water Quality Evidence:

Water Quality data is reported against the relevant SSSI units within the SAC.

| Unit name | SSSI Unit | Monitoring point ID | WQ Target | | WQ Monitoring Data ¹ | | Compliance with target – Pass/Fail and % reduction needed to achieve the WQ Target | |
|------------|-----------|---|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|--|------------------------------|
| | | | SRP (ug/l), annual mean | TON (mg/l) | OP, reactive as P (ug/l), mean | TON (mg/l) | SRP | TON |
| River Clun | 6 | R. Clun Confluence with R. Teme MD-20349700 | 10 | 1.5 | 39.6 | 4.01 | FAIL 75% reduction needed | FAIL 63% reduction needed |

¹Water Quality Monitoring data from EA WIMS database. Orthophosphate (OP) is a reasonable approximation to Soluble Reaction Phosphorus (SRP). TON is Total Oxidised Nitrogen. Following the rivers common standards monitoring guidance the mean of 3 years of data for the period April 2017 – March 2020 was used.

Freshwater Pearl Mussels are sensitive to changes in water quality, with nutrient enrichment impacting long term adult survival and juvenile recruitment. Recent water quality monitoring shows nutrient concentrations within the River Clun SAC to be exceeding the targets for SRP and TON. Any nutrients entering the catchment upstream of

the locations which are exceeding their nutrient targets, will make their way downstream and have the potential to further add to the current exceedance. For the River Clun, the catchment map includes the entire upstream catchment.

Additional Information:

Habitat type impacted by nutrients – Rivers and Streams

The River Clun SAC is legally underpinned by the River Teme SSSI.

SSSI interest features include:

- Invert. assemblage W114 stream & river margin
- Invert. assemblage W122 riparian sand
- Otter, *Lutra lutra*
- Population of Schedule 5 mollusc - *Margaritifera margaritifera*, Freshwater Pearl Mussel
- River supporting habitat
- Rivers and Streams
- Twait shad, *Alosa fallax*
- White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, *Austropotamobius pallipes*