

# Salisbury & District Angling Club

## Centre for Riverfly Conservation

### River Avon - Invertebrate Survey (2015 – 2019)

As the national news has recently been somewhat dominated by reports of declines in the water quality of our rivers due to increasing levels of phosphates, silt, pesticides, herbicides and even raw sewage, it's not surprising to find a similar decline in our river invertebrate populations. Up until 2015, the Hampshire Avon was head and shoulders above other chalk streams but since then we have seen a serious decline.

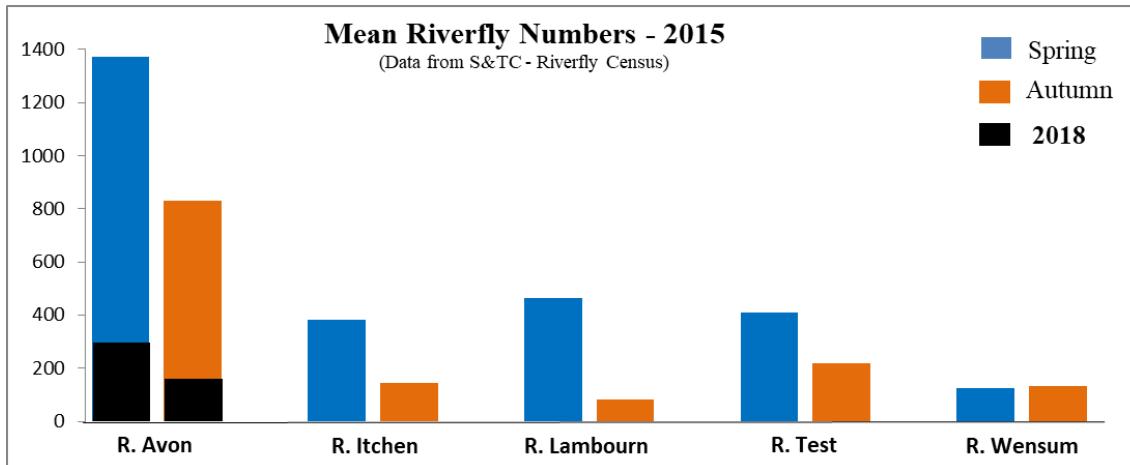


Fig. 1 – Chalk stream Riverfly populations

Full invertebrate (benchmark) samples have been taken at five sites (spring & autumn) over a five year period 2015 - 2019 by Aquascience Consultancy Ltd for Salmon & Trout Conservation and the Salisbury & District Angling Club. In 2018, two additional sites were sampled above and below Ratfyn STW (sites 3 & 4) and downstream of Amesbury STW at West Amesbury (Site 7); data from a private syndicate at Compton (Site 1) was also included.

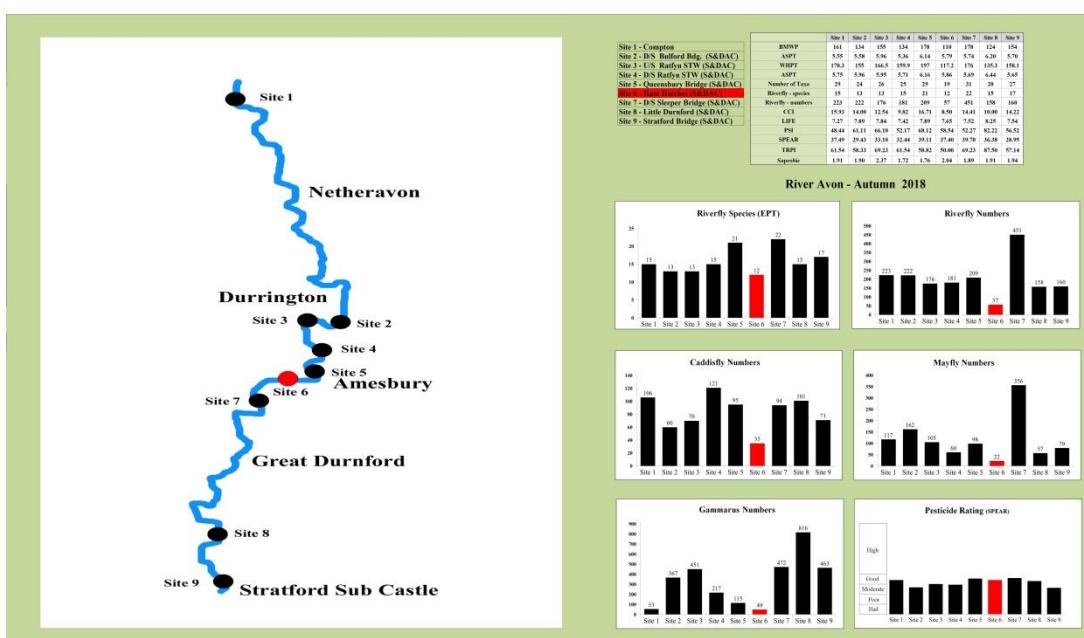
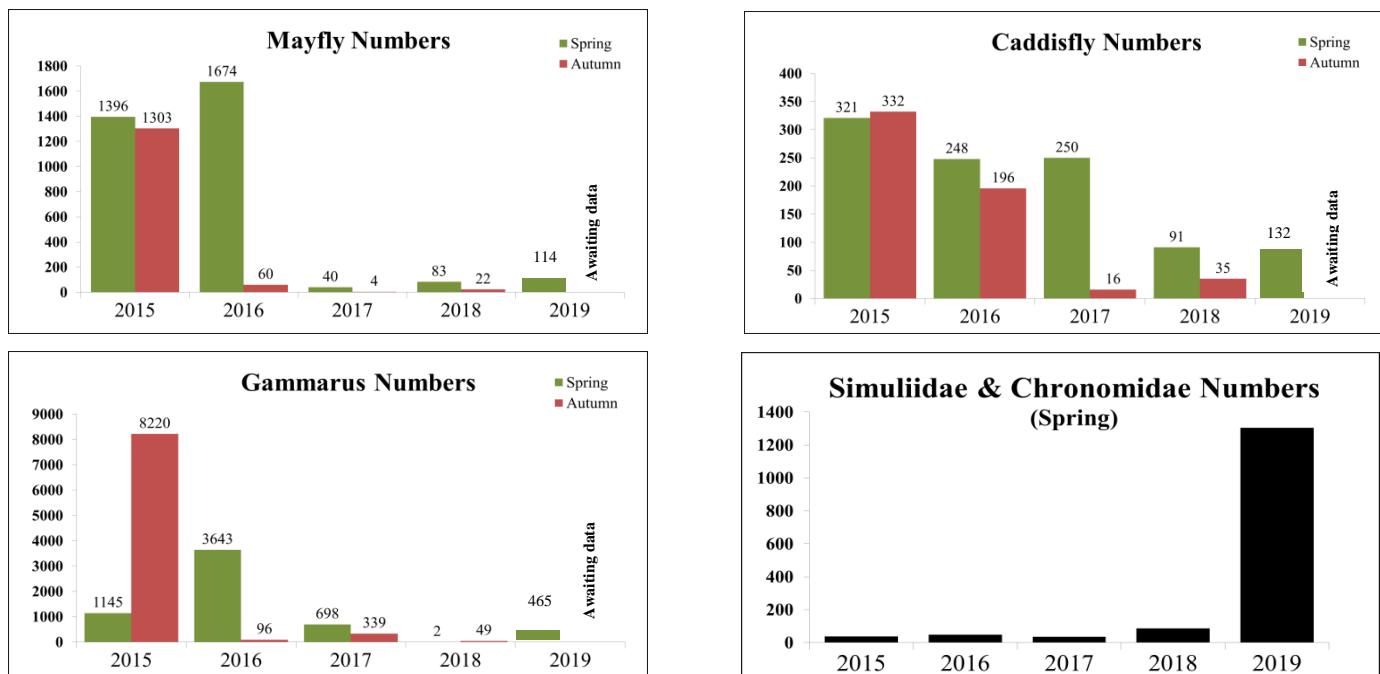


Fig 2. - River Avon sampling sites – Autumn 2018

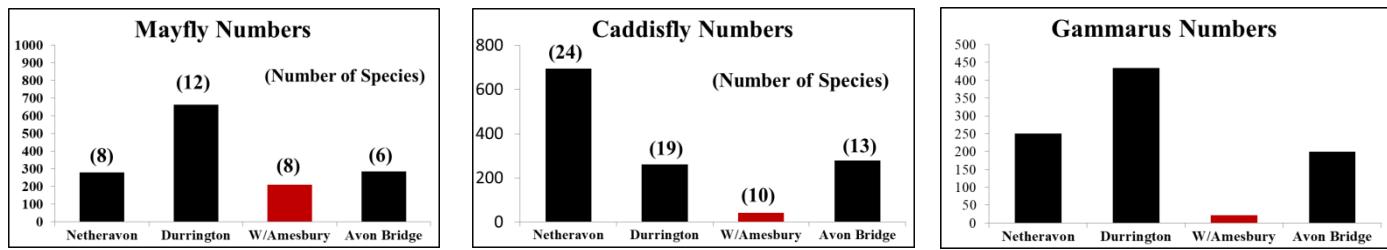
Whilst declines in Riverfly populations were recorded at all sites, this was most pronounced at Ham Hatches (Site 6); therefore this report concentrates on this site, but full data for each site is appended.

## Ham Hatches - Invertebrate data



**Fig. 3 – Spring & Autumn data at Ham Hatches.** (Data from S&TC/Aquascience/S&DAC)

Both spring and autumn data show large reductions in pollution sensitive Mayflies, Caddisflies and Gammarus. An increase in pollution tolerant Simuliidae & Chronomidae in Spring 2019 correlates with increased saprobic and reduced ASPT values indicating an increase in organic pollution (Appendix 16), and a low pesticide (SPEAR) level was recorded in autumn 2017 (Appendix 18).



**Fig. 4 - EA data (Spring 2018)**

EA invertebrate data also shows lower numbers of Mayflies, Caddisflies & Gammarus at West Amesbury (Site 7 - downstream of Ham Hatches) when compared with upstream sites.

### **Summer Gammarus Survey**

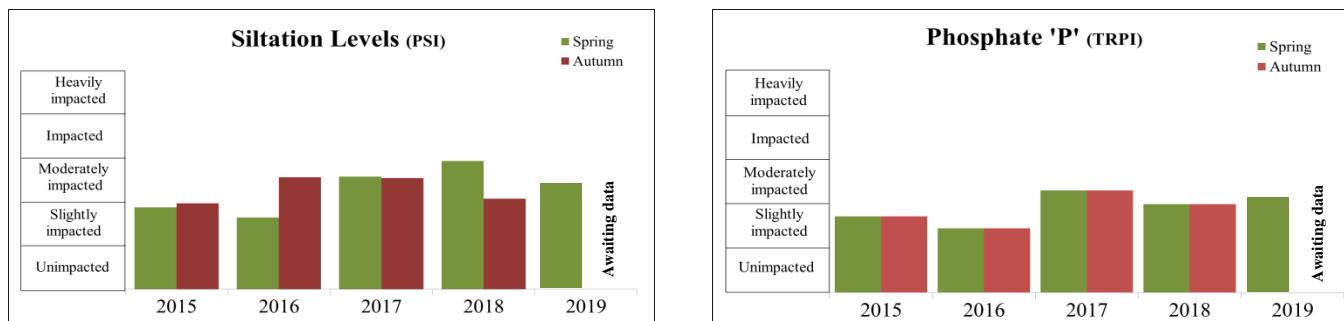
The large reductions in the Gammarus populations is of particular concern because this species is commonly used to investigate chemical stressors (review in Kunz et al., 2010). A significant number of dead Gammarus in a monthly AMI sample at Queensbury Bridge (Site 5) initiated a survey which showed low populations at Queensbury Bridge & Ham Hatches compared with a much larger population downstream at Stratford Bridge (Fig. 5).



**Fig. 5 – Summer survey of Gammarus**

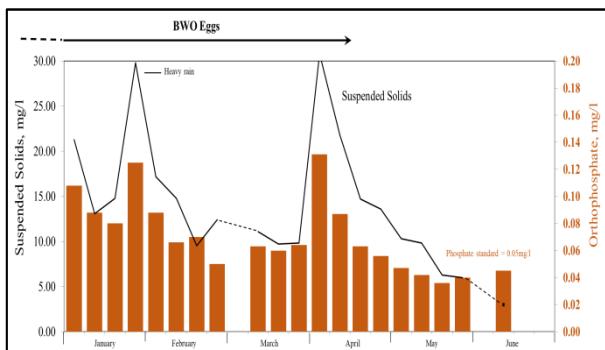
There was also an observed size difference in the larvae, with only small (juvenile) Gammarus at Queensbury Bridge whilst a full size range was present at Stratford Bridge. Juvenile Gammarus are more tolerant to pollution than mature larvae and therefore more able to survive the summer when pollution effects are at a maximum (Hobrough 1973). A Gammarus cage (Maltby 2002), placed at Queensbury Bridge loaded with mature larvae from Stratford Bridge showed losses within 9 days

### Ham Hatches - Silt & Phosphate Levels

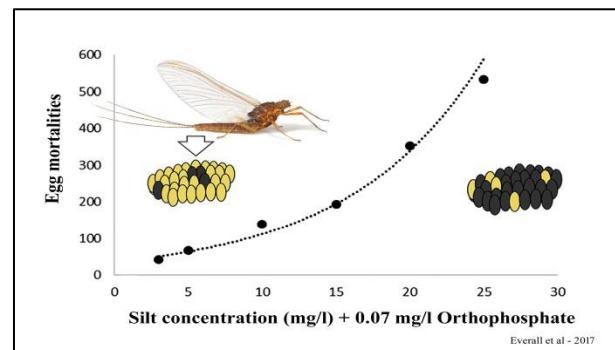


**Fig. 6 – Autumn silt (PSI) and phosphate (TRPI) levels at Ham Hatches.** (Data supplied by S&TC/Aquascience/S&DAC)

Both phosphates and fine sediments (silt) can impact on Riverfly populations (Everall et al 2017); phosphate levels in the river significantly exceed the 0.05 mg standard, and increase upstream. Silt levels are only monitored in the river at Stratford Bridge (Site 9) where high peaks have been recorded. Silt levels above 10 mg/l can deplete the eggs of the Blue Winged Olive, one of our commonest mayflies.



**Fig 7a - 2018 Silt & phosphate levels at Stratford Bridge**



**Fig. 7b - Blue Wing Olive egg losses at increasing silt levels**

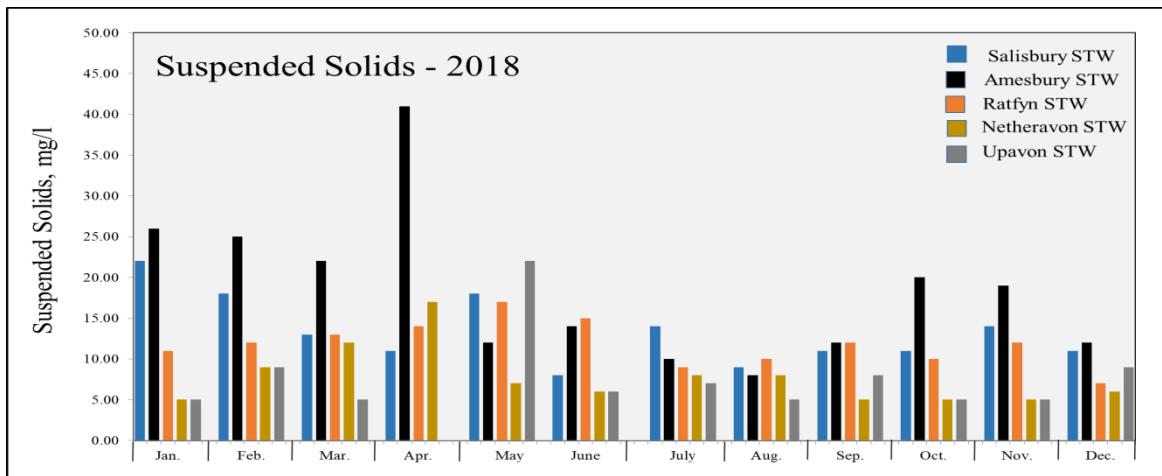


Fig. 8 – STW Suspended Solid (Silt) levels

Whilst suspended solids (silt) are not measured in the river at Site 6, levels measure at Amesbury STW greatly exceed other STW in the early and latter part of the year.

## Summary

1. Serious decline in Riverfly populations:
  - Mayfly Numbers.
  - Caddisfly numbers.
  - Gammarus numbers.
2. Low pesticide (SPEAR) signature seen at some sites.
3. Increasing silt (PSI) and phosphate (TRPI) levels.
4. Phosphate levels in the river are significantly above the 0.05 mg/l ‘standard’ for the Avon and increase upstream reaching higher levels in the upper reaches.
5. We need to know that the STW’s will be able to cope with the large (and increasing) developments in the Amesbury area without further depleting our Riverfly populations. Autumn samples will be taken at all five S&DAC sites by Aquascience Consultancy to complete the five year period

Dr Cyril Bennett MBE  
August 2019

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## References:

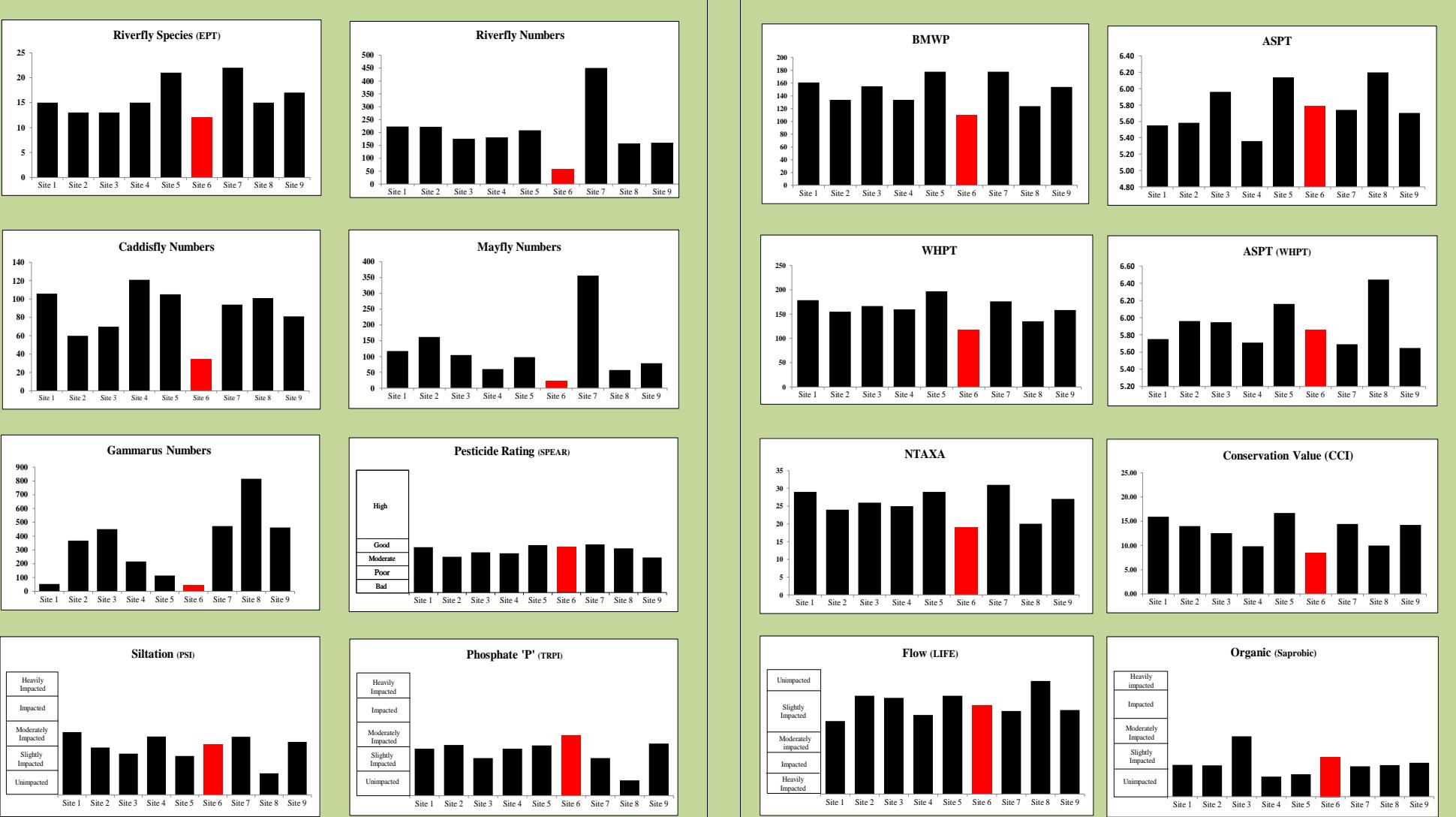
- Everall N. C., (2017). Sensitivity of the early life stages of a mayfly to fine sediment and orthophosphate levels. *Environmental Pollution* 1-11.
- Hobrough J. E. (1973). The effects of pollution on *Gammarus pulex* (L) subsp. *pulex* (Schellenberg) in the inlet streams of Rostherne Mere, Cheshire. *Hydrobiologia*, **12**, pp 13-35.
- Kunz P.Y., Kienle C., Gerhardt A. (2010). Gammarus spp. In Aquatic Ecotoxicology & Water Quality Assessment: Toward Integrated Multilevel Test. *Reviews of Environmental Contamination & Toxicology* **205**, pp 1-76.
- Maltby L., Clayton S.A., Wood R.M., McLoughlin N. (2002) Evaluation of the Gammarus pulex in situ feeding assay as a biomonitor; robustness, responsiveness, and relevance. *Environmental toxicology & Chemistry* **21** pp 361-368.



## Appendix 2 - Site Monitoring Data

### RiverAvon - Autumn 2018

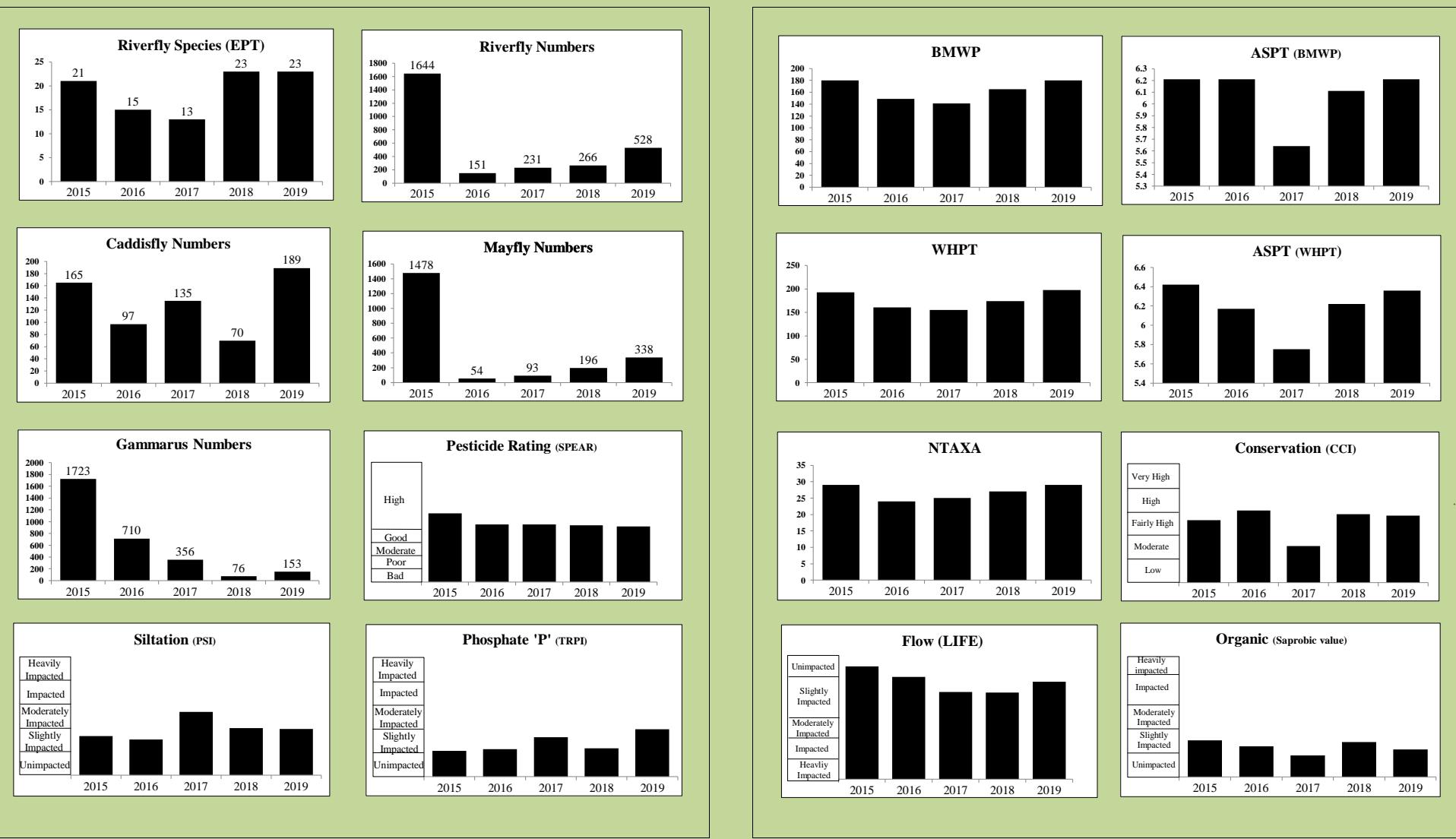
(Site 6 - Ham Hatches)





## Appendix 4 - Site 2 (Spring Data)

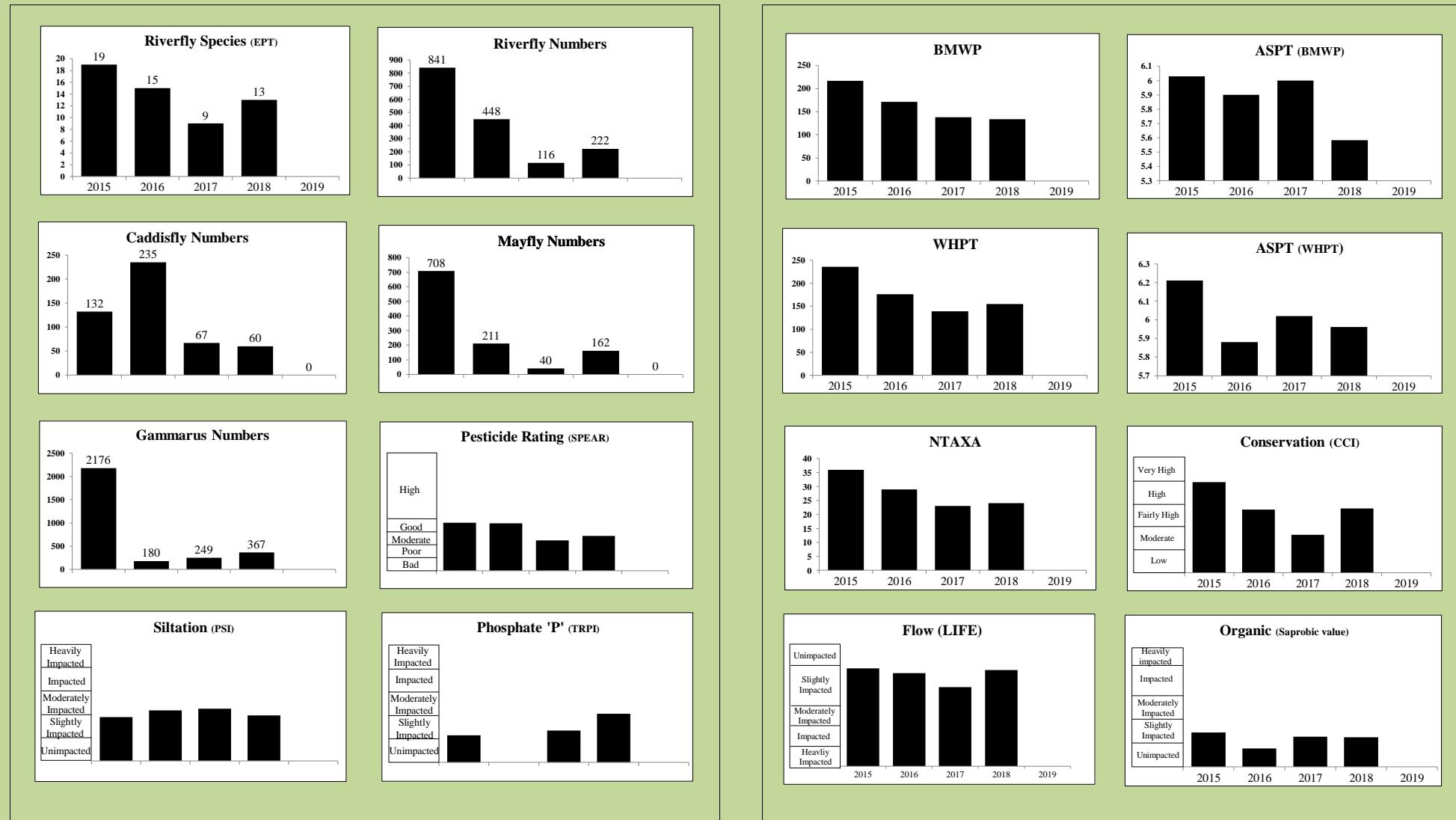
### River Avon - Stonehenge Spring





## Appendix 6 - Site 2 (Autumn Data)

### River Avon - Stonehenge Autumn



## Appendix 7 - Site 3 (Spring & Autumn Inverts)

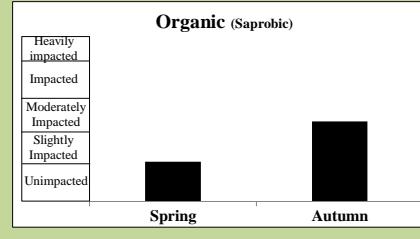
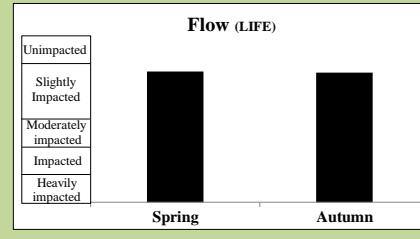
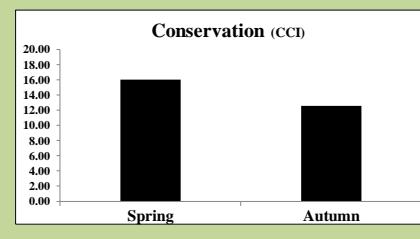
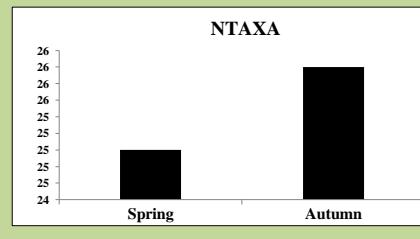
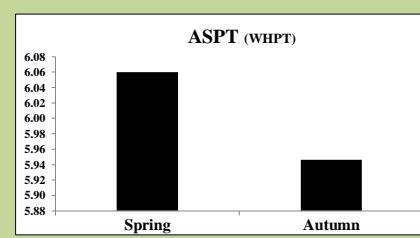
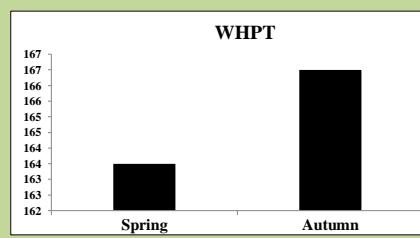
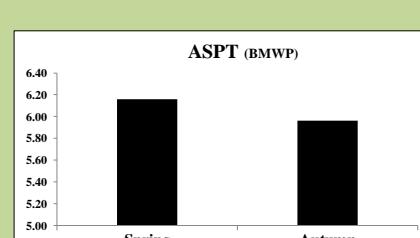
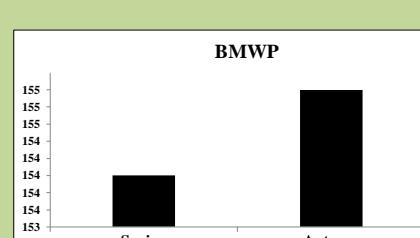
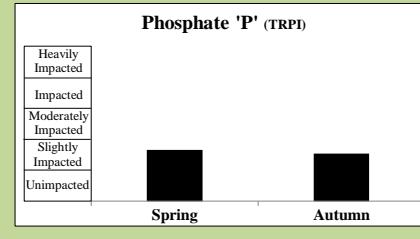
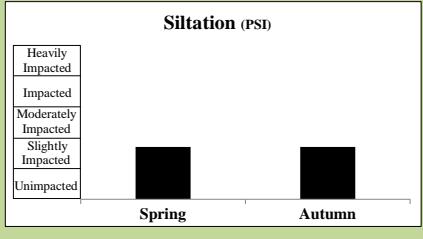
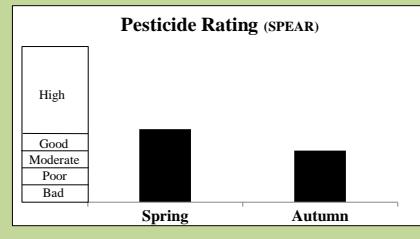
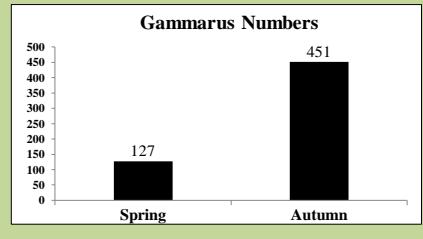
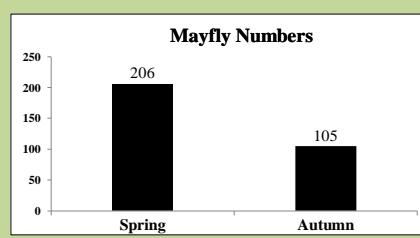
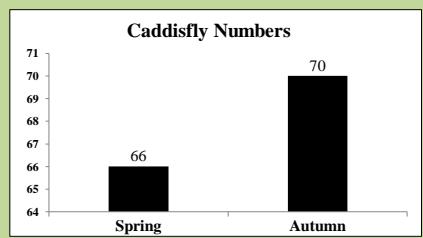
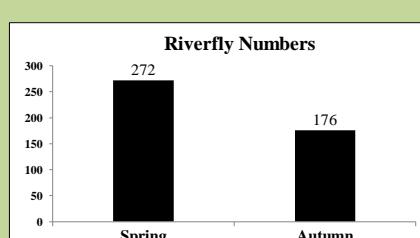
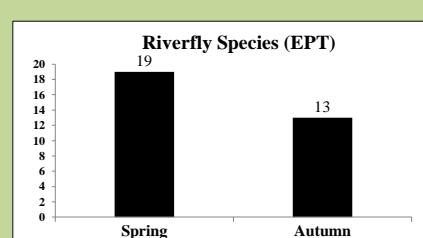
Caddisflies			Mayflies			Biometrics		
	Spring	Autumn		Spring	Autumn		Spring	Autumn
<i>Silo nigricornis</i>	2	9	<i>Ephemera danica</i>	69	1	BMWWP	154	155
<i>Agapetus</i>	7	35	<i>Baetis scambus</i>	0	76	ASPT	6.16	5.96
<i>Lepidostoma hirtum</i>	4	0	<i>Baetis rhodani</i>	79	22	WHPT	164	166.5
<i>Atripsodes cinereus</i>	3	0	<i>Serratella ignita</i>	4	4	ASPT	6.06	5.95
<i>Sericostoma personatum</i>	14	2	<i>Heptagenia sulphurea</i>	5	2	Number of Taxa	25	26
<i>Halesus radiatus</i>	1	0	<i>Caenis rivulorum</i>	49	0	Riverfly - species	19	13
<i>Limnephilus lunatus</i>	3	0				Riverfly - numbers	272	176
<i>Melampophylax mucoreus</i>	1	0				CCI	16.00	12.54
<i>Potamophlax latipennis</i>	5	0				LIFE	7.86	7.84
<i>Hydroptila</i>	8	12				PSI	66.00	66.10
<i>Anabolia nervosa</i>	5	0				SPEAR	46.72	33.10
<i>Hydropsyche siltalai</i>	8	0				TRPI	66.67	69.23
<i>Hydropsyche pellucidula</i>	2	5				Saprobic	1.88	2.37
<i>Hydropsyche contubernalis</i>	0	4						
<i>Rhyacophila dorsalis</i>	0	3						
<i>Polycentropus flavomaculatus</i>								
<i>Psychomyia pusilla</i>	3	0						
Stoneflies			True Flies			Molluscs		
	Spring	Autumn		Spring	Autumn		Spring	Autumn
<i>Leuctra</i>		1	<i>Simulium</i>	44	4831	<b>Molluscs</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Autumn</b>
			<i>Tanytarsini</i>	18	6	<i>Theodoxus fluviatilis</i>	0	1
			<i>Orthocladiinae</i>	8	25	<i>Bithynia tentaculata</i>	0	0
			<i>Dixa</i>	0	3	<i>Lymnaea pereger</i>	0	3
			<i>Dicranota</i>	0	1	<i>Gyraulus albus</i>	0	9
			<i>Hemmerodromia</i>	1	0	<i>Anisus vortex</i>	0	5
			<i>Lispe</i>	1	0	<i>Sphaeriidae</i>	0	0
						<i>Pisidium</i>	10	0
						<i>Physa fontinalis</i>	0	3
						<i>Ancylus fluviatilis</i>	1	8
						<i>Valvata piscinalis</i>	1	0
						<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	1	28
						<i>Lispe</i>	1	0
Beetles & Bugs			Alderfly			Leeches & Worms		
	Spring	Autumn		Spring	Autumn		Spring	Autumn
<i>Elmis aenea</i>	56	147	<i>Alderfly</i>			<b>Leeches &amp; Worms</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Autumn</b>
<i>Oulimnius tuberculatus</i>	0	12	<i>Sialis</i>			<i>Helobdella stagnalis</i>	0	1
<i>Limnius volckmari</i>	1	23				<i>Glossiphonia complanata</i>	3	1
<i>Halophilidae</i>	0	1						
<i>Nymphula stagnata</i>	0	1						
<i>Sigara</i>	0	1						
<i>Gyrinus</i>	0	2						
Damsels & Dragons			Crustaceans			Oligochaeta		
	Spring	Autumn		Spring	Autumn		Spring	Autumn
<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	0	1	<i>Gammarus pulex</i>	127	451		6	0
			<i>Asellus aquaticus</i>					
			<i>Asellus meridianus</i>					



**River Avon - U/S Ratfyn STW**  
**Spring & Autumn - 2018**

## Appendix 8 - Site 3 (Spring & Autumn Data)

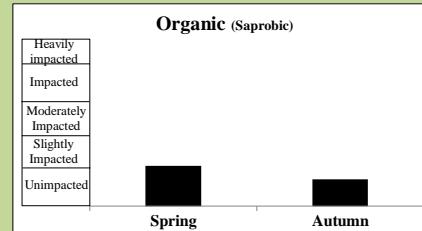
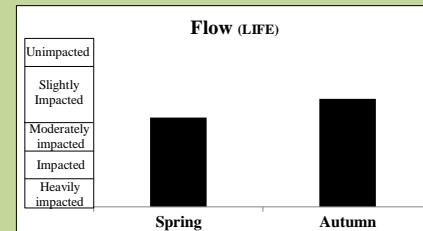
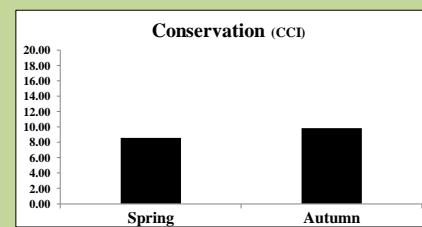
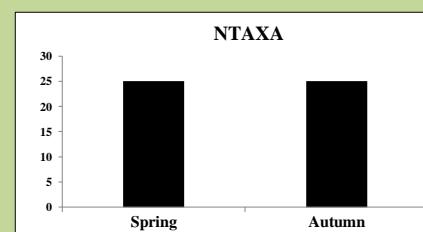
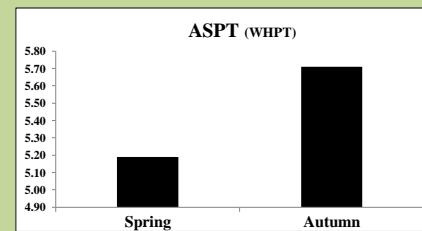
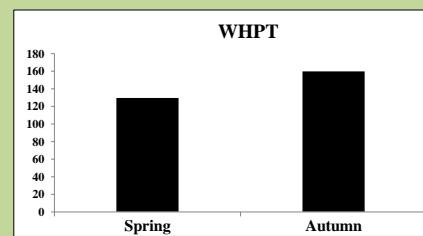
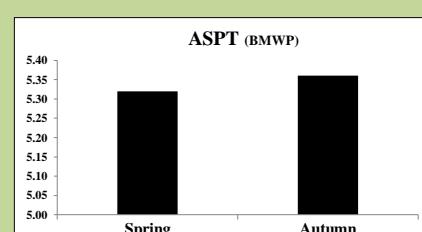
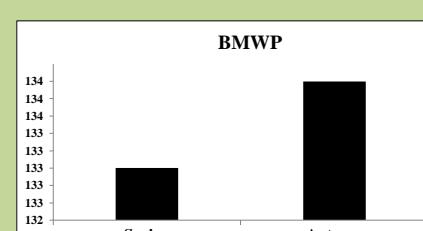
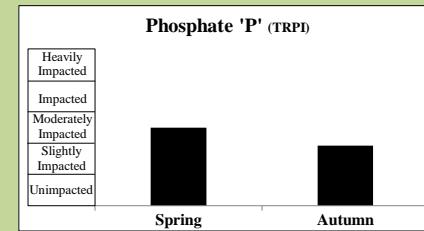
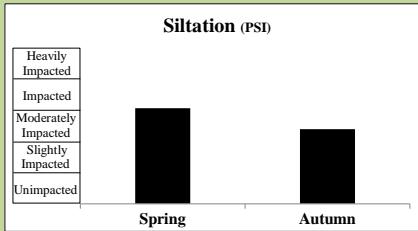
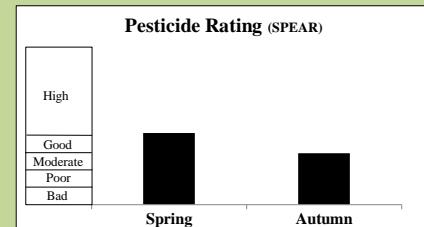
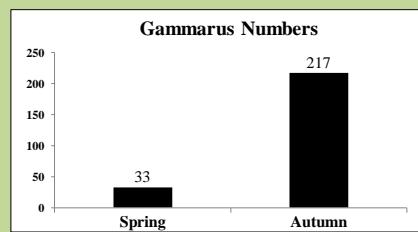
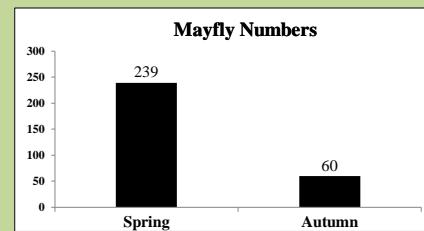
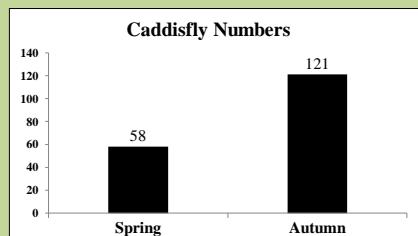
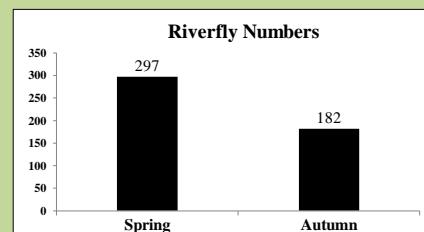
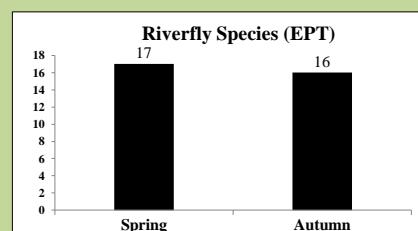
### River Avon - U/S Ratfyn STW





## Appendix 10 - Site 4 (Spring & Autumn Data)

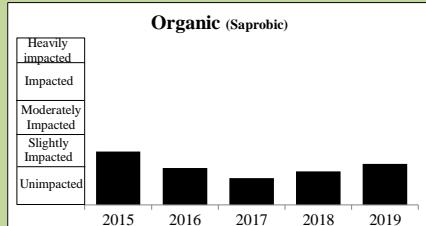
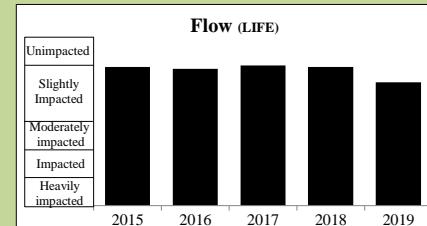
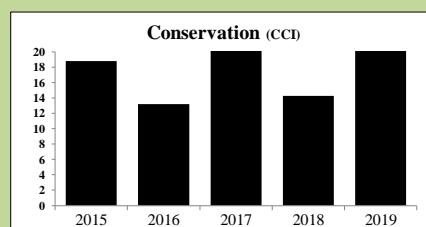
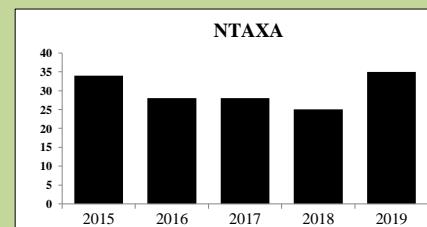
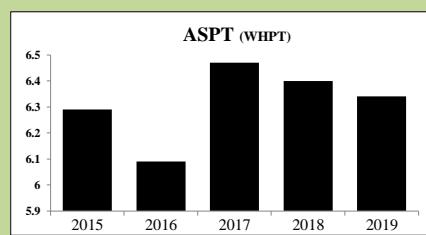
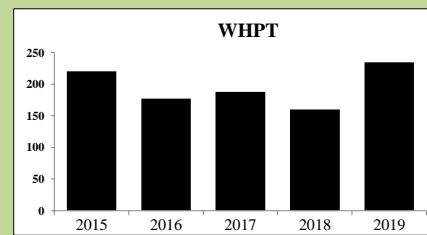
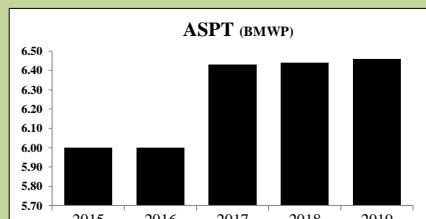
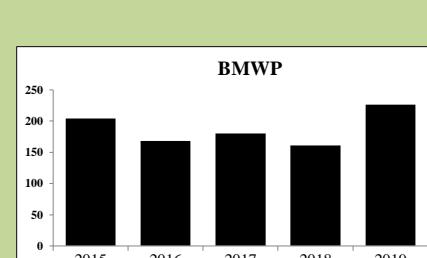
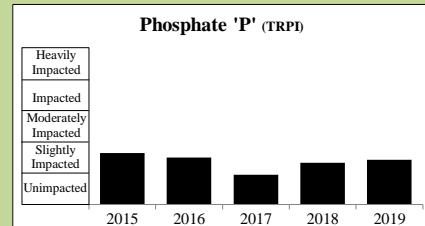
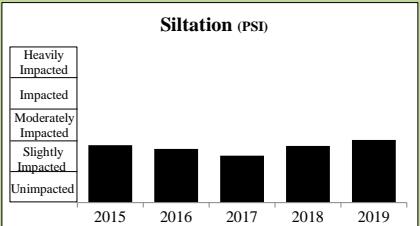
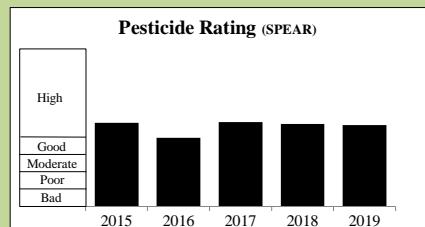
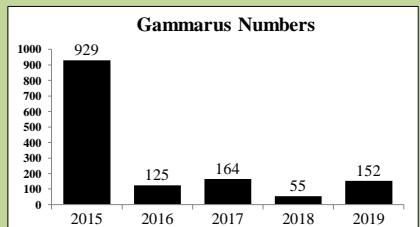
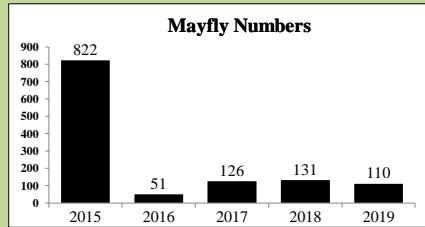
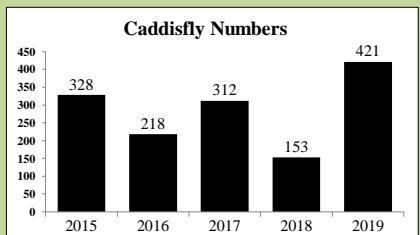
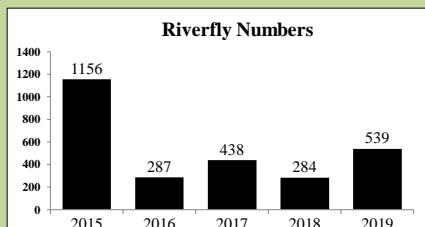
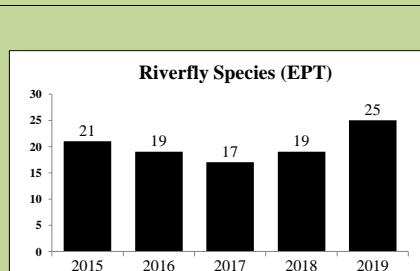
### River Avon - D/S Ratfyn STW





## Appendix 12 - Site 5 (Spring – Data)

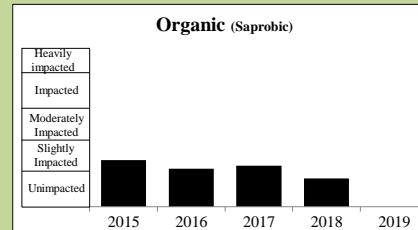
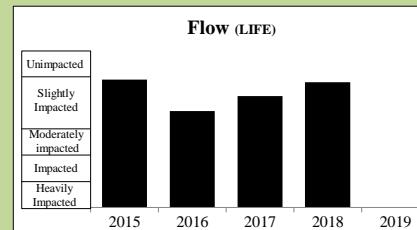
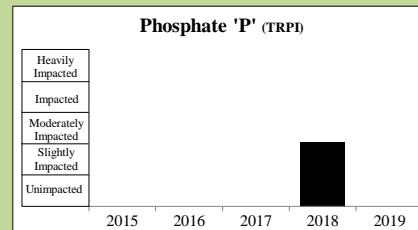
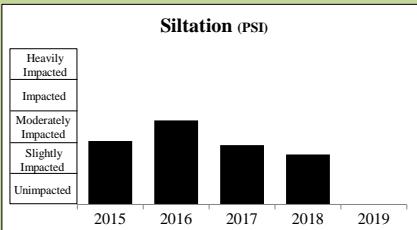
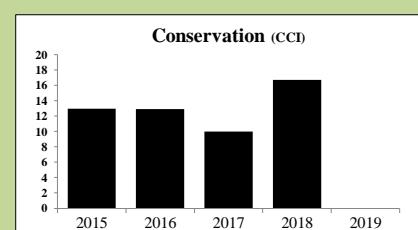
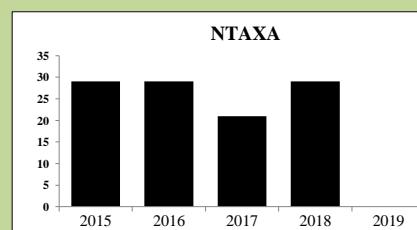
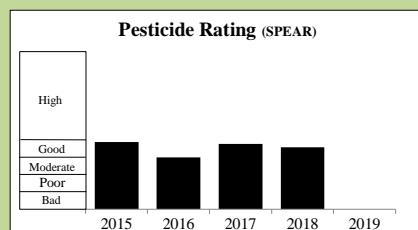
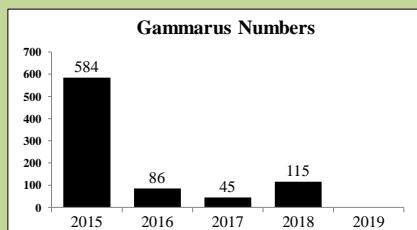
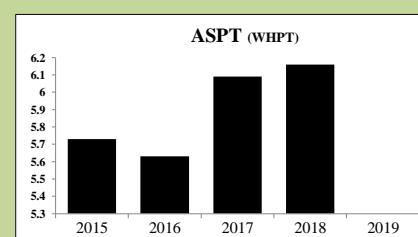
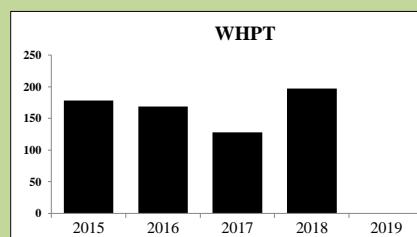
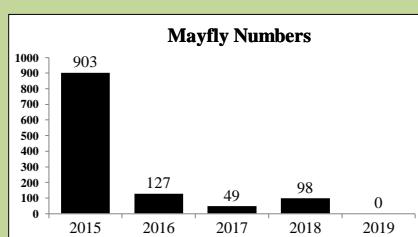
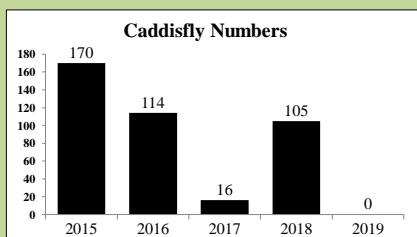
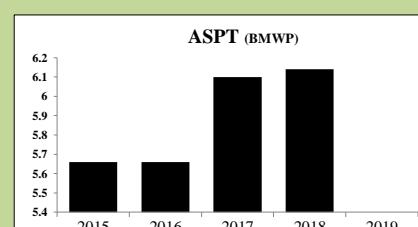
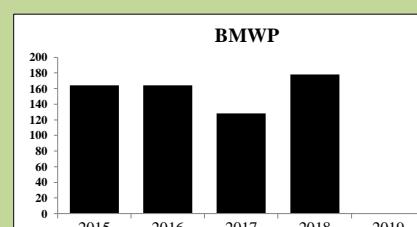
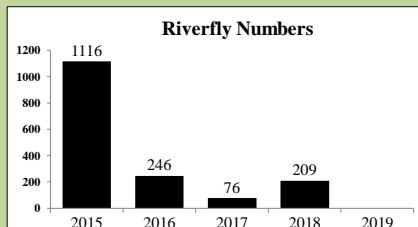
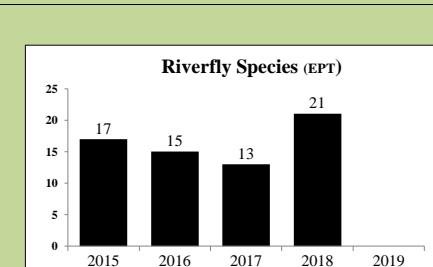
### River Avon - Queensbury Bridge Spring





## Appendix 14 - Site 5 (Autumn Data)

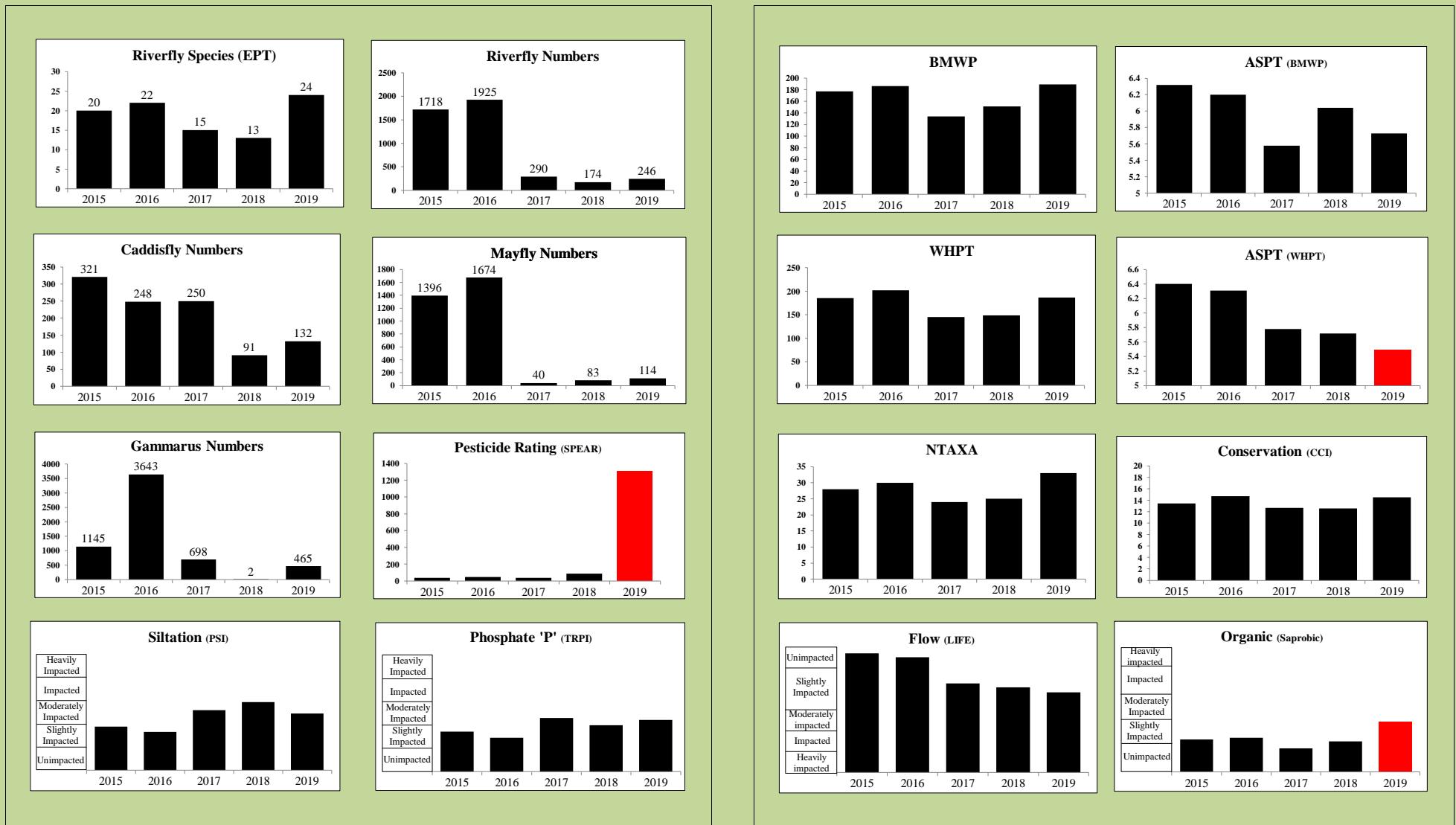
### River Avon - Queensbury Bridge Autumn





## Appendix 16 - Site 6 (Spring Data)

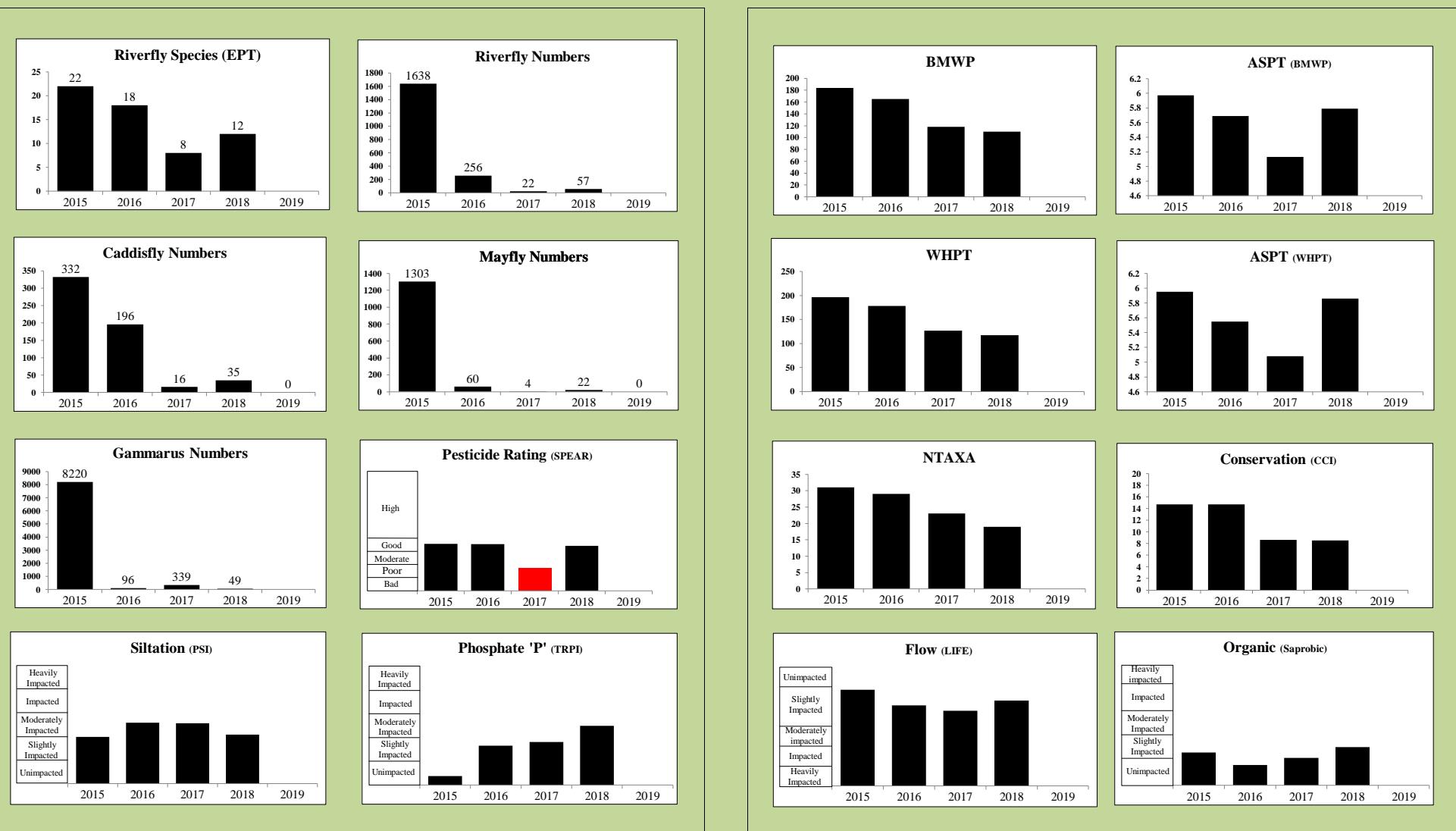
### River Avon - Ham Hatches Spring





## Appendix 18 - Site 6 (Autumn Data)

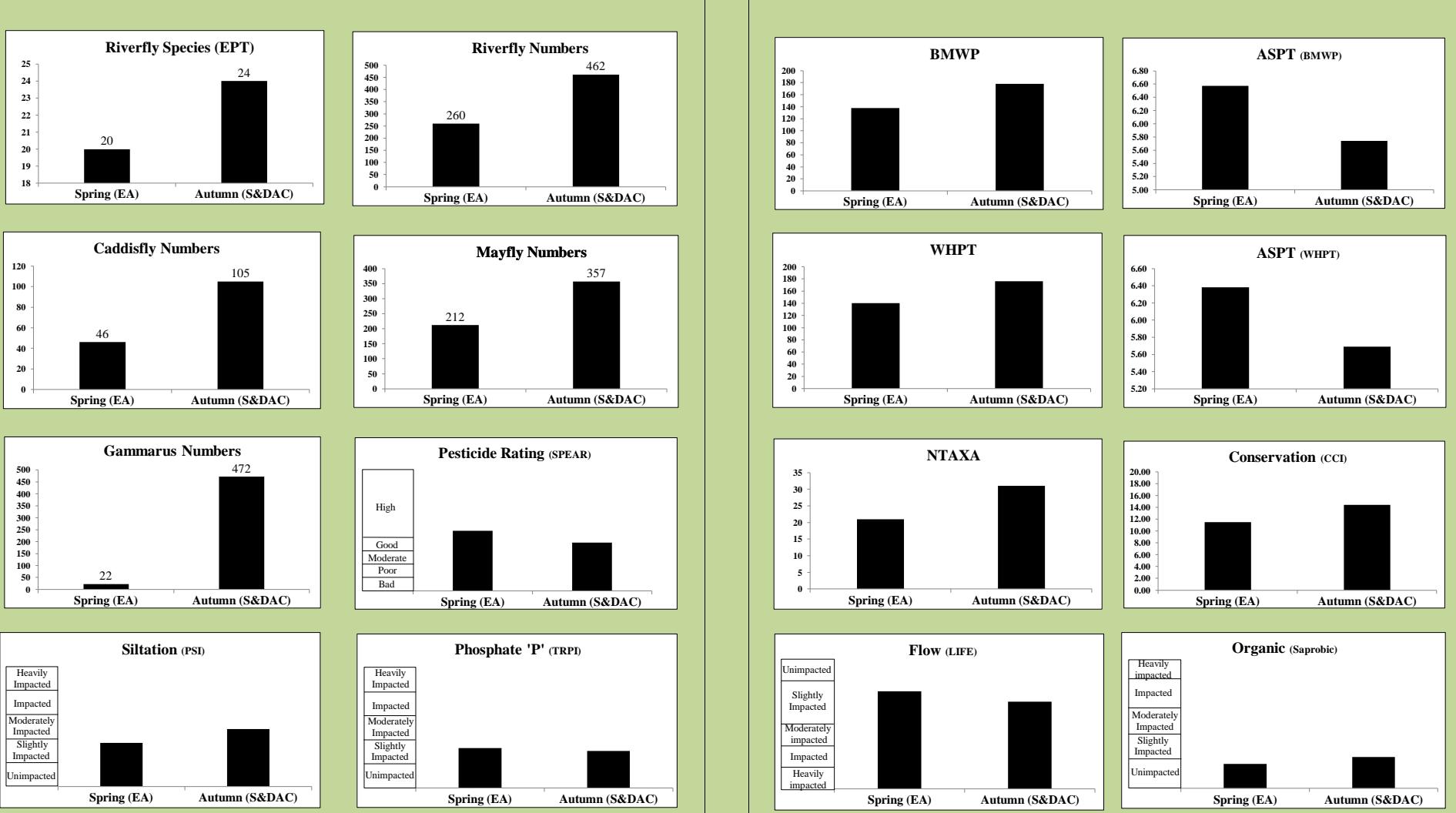
### River Avon - Ham Hatches Autumn





## Appendix 20 - Site 7 (Spring & Autumn Data)

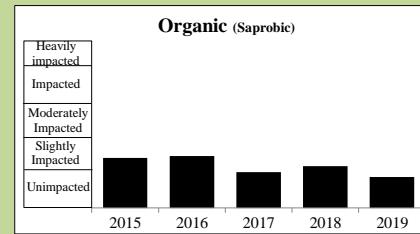
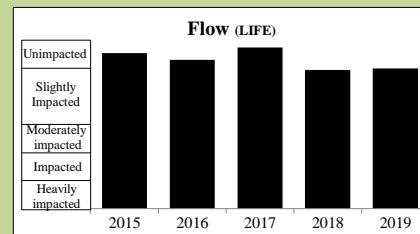
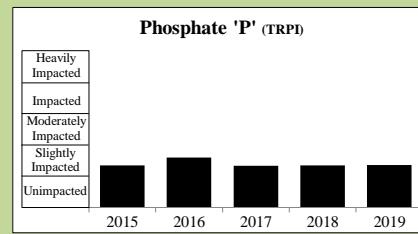
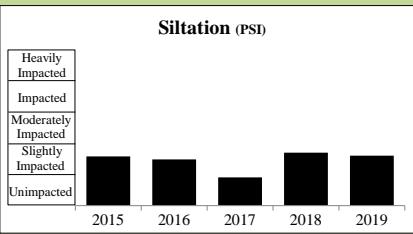
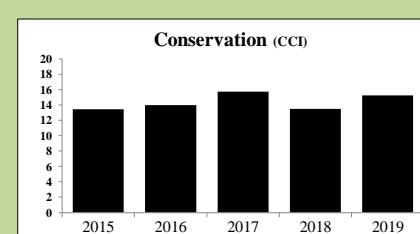
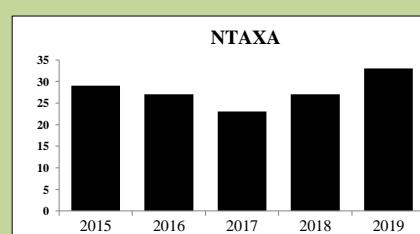
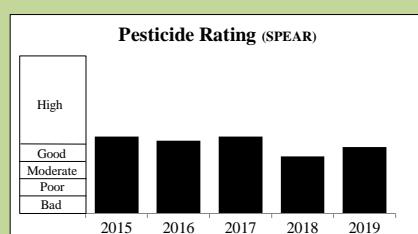
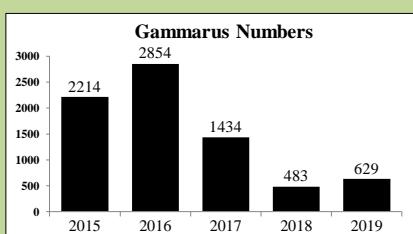
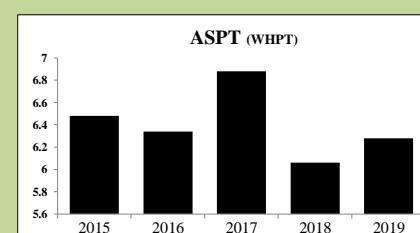
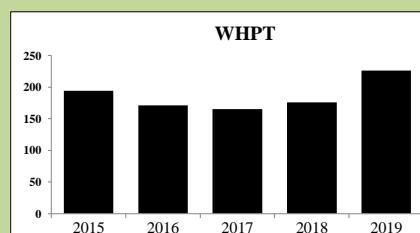
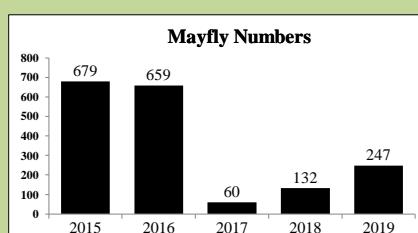
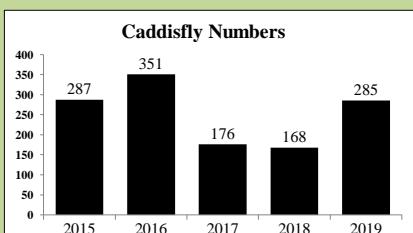
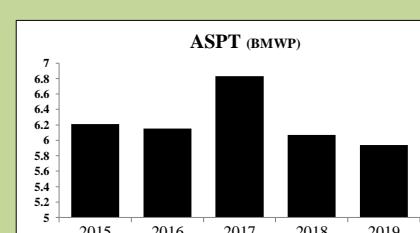
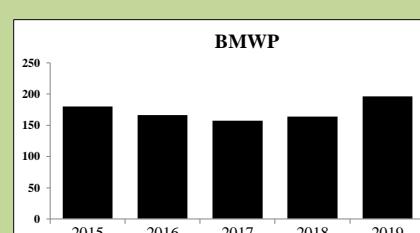
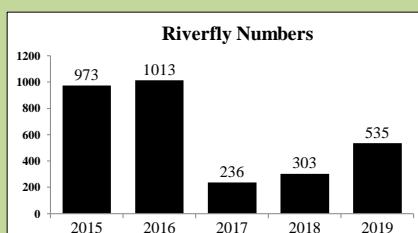
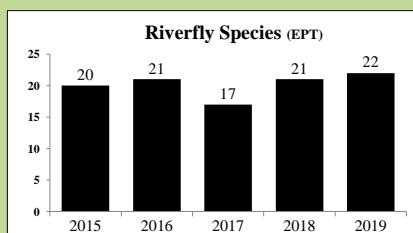
### River Avon - D/S Sleeper Bridge Spring & Autumn - 2018





## Appendix 22 - Site 8 (Spring Data)

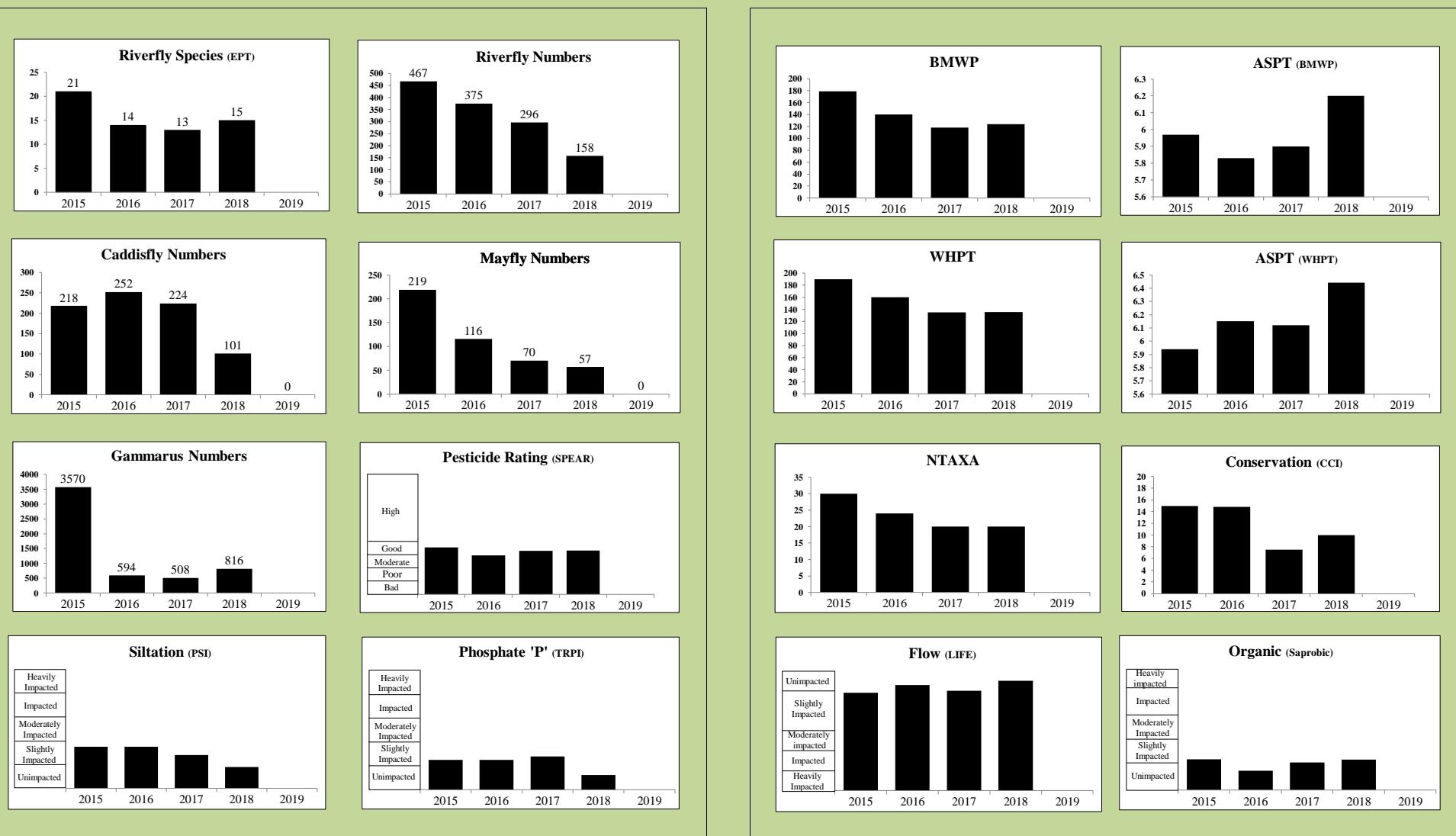
### River Avon - Beat 18 Spring





## Appendix 24 - Site 8 (Autumn Data)

### River Avon - Beat 18 Autumn



## Appendix 25 - Site 9 (Spring Inverts)

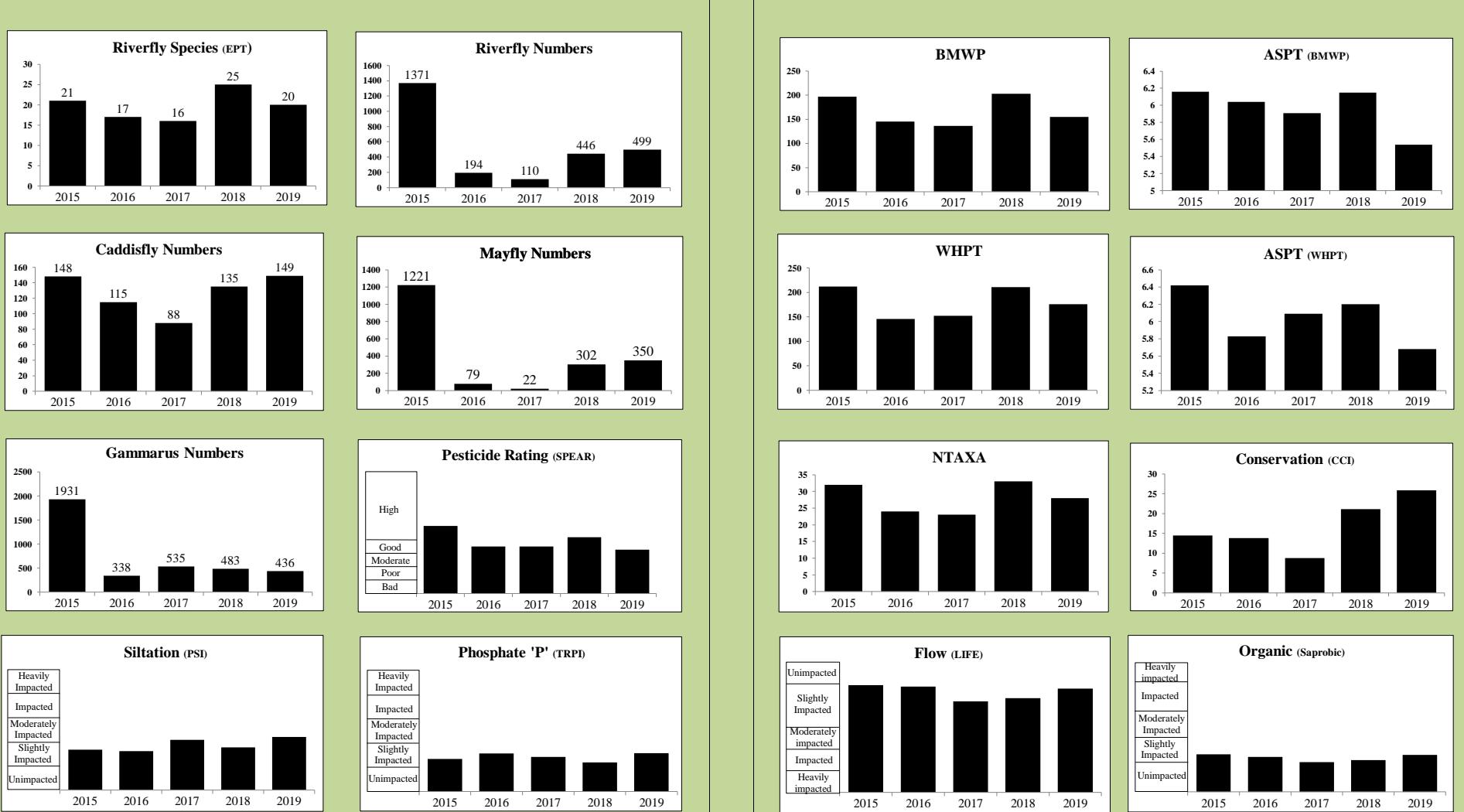
Caddisflies		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Mayflies		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	True Flies		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Biometrics		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Silo nigricornis	1	0	0	1	0		Ephemera danica	29	22	16	54	18		Simulium ornatum	245	67	1	27	79	BMW P	197	145	136	203	155		
Cheumatopsyche lepida	0	25	5	59	29		Baetis	847	0	4	212	0		Chironomidae	37	16	8	0	0	ASPT	6.16	6.04	5.91	6.15	5.54		
Athripsodes bilineatus	0	2	0	0	0		Baetis rhodani	0	6	0	0	201		Orthocladiinae	0	0	0	13	26	WHPT	212	146	152	211	176		
Athripsodes cinereus	0	1	0	10	0		Baetis muticus	0	0	0	5	6		Tanytarsini	0	8	2	0	51	ASPT	6.42	5.83	6.09	6.20	5.68		
Mystacides nigra	0	0	1	0	0		Baetis niger	0	0	0	2	0		Tanypodinae	0	4	0	2	0	Number of Taxa	32	24	23	33	28		
Mystacides azurea	5	0	1	0	1		Baetis scambus	0	0	0	0	45		Dicranota	3	0	0	1	0	Riverfly - species	21	17	16	25	20		
Sericostoma personatum	34	26	29	13	44		Caenis rivulorum	5	0	0	0	25		Antocha	0	0	6	5	2	Riverfly - numbers	1371	194	110	446	499		
Limnephilus lunatus	0	1	5	0	0		Caenis luctuosa	4	0	0	11	0		Tabanidae	1	0	0	0	0	CCI	14.44	13.77	8.75	21.14	25.88		
Limnephilus	0	0	0	1	0		Caenis horaria	2	0	0	0	0		Oxycrexa pygmaea	0	1	0	0	0	LIFE	7.97	7.94	7.60	7.67	7.89		
Brachycentrus subnubilus	0	0	0	1	0		Serratella ignita	284	49	2	13	21		Ceratopogonidae	0	0	0	0	2	PSI	66.67	67.8	58.49	64.71	56.00		
Halesus radiatus	0	0	0	1	10		Ecdyonurus dispar	8	0	0	0	0		Oxycrexa analis	0	0	0	0	2	SPEAR	55.28	38.34	38.35	45.96	35.95		
Lepidostoma hirtum	6	12	2	4	8		Heptagenia sulphurea	42	2	0	5	34		TRPI	73.08	68.42	71.43	75.86	68.18								
Hydroptila	3	0	17	7	5								Saprobic	1.98	1.94	1.86	1.89	1.97									
Agapetus fuscipes	7	0	1	18	2																						
Drusus annulatus	6	4	3	4	0																						
Chaetopteryx villosa	2	1	0	0	0																						
Potamophylax	0	0	0	0	1																						
Potamophylax latipennis	0	1	0	0	0																						
Potamophylax cingulatus	0	2	0	0	0																						
Melampophylax mucoreus	0	0	0	0	5																						
Anabolia nervosa	26	0	1	3	4																						
Hydropsyche	15	0	0	0	0																						
Hydropsyche siltalai	26	22	5	3	26																						
Rhyacophila dorsalis	17	8	2	2	1																						
Hydropsyche pellucidula	0	10	16	6	13																						
Hydropsyche contubernialis	0	0	0	2	0																						
Psychomyia pusilla	0	0	0	6	0																						
Damsels & Dragons		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Beetles & Bugs		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Alderfly		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Leeches & Worms		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Calopteryx virgo	0	2	0	1	0		Elmis aenea	268	16	56	38	30		Sialis						Glossiphonia complanata	0	0	3	3	4		
Calopteryx splendens	1	0	1	0	0		Limnius volckmari	96	11	61	59	45							Helobdella stagnalis	0	0	6	1	0			



**River Avon - Stratford Bridge**  
**Spring**

## Appendix 26 - Site 9 (Spring Data)

### River Avon - Stratford Bridge Spring





## Appendix 28 - Site 9 (Autumn Data)

### River Avon - Stratford Bridge Autumn

