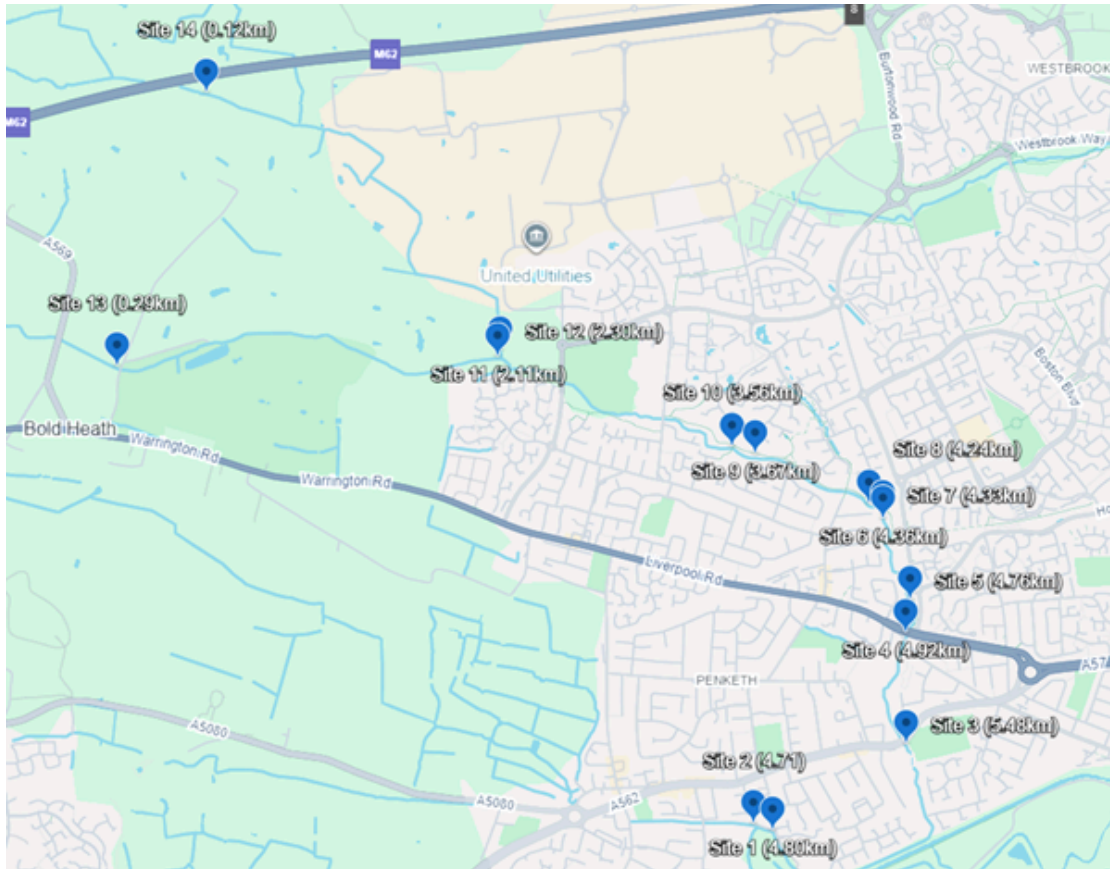


On July 15th, we held a WaterBlitz for Whittle Brook (14 sites) with the support of 14 United Utilities volunteers. We chose to investigate the Whittle Brook due to the collaboration monitoring planning group identifying the spatial gap in water quality monitoring. This has led to a collaboration between United Utilities and Mersey Rivers Trust to run WaterBlitzes, capturing a snapshot of the local waterways' water quality in West Warrington. These results will inform the focus for future habitat improvements and monitoring.



This map shows all the sample sites we visited for the WaterBlitz in July. The sites cover Whittle Brook and its main tributary Sankey Brook in West Warrington before it joins the River Mersey.

Key Points

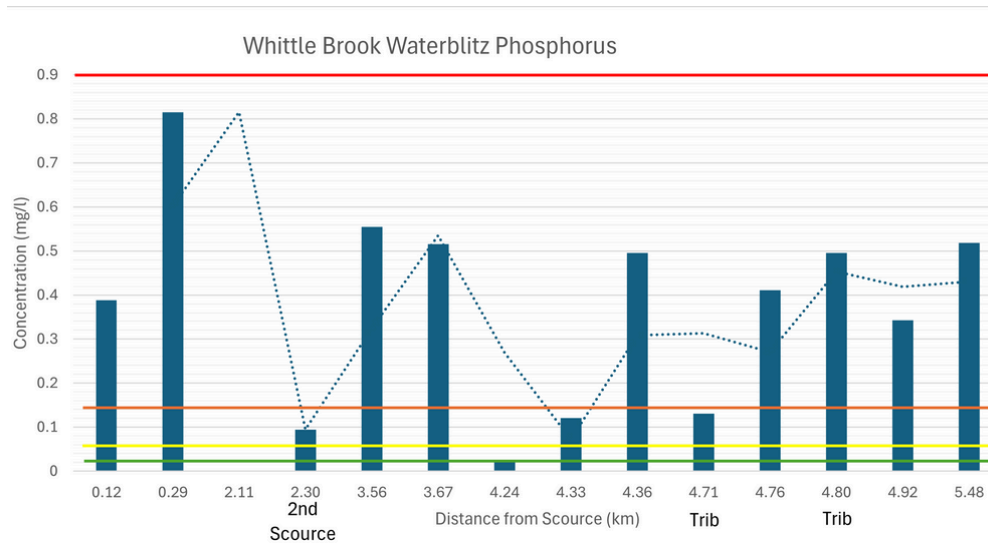
- This is linked to collaborative monitoring efforts
- Surveys will be repeated to confirm the reliability of these results
- The Sankey Brook (Trib) is where ammonia levels are classified as 'Bad' WFD status, and requires more investigation
- The increase between 0.12km and 0.29km in phosphate would be good to investigate to see if there is point source pollution.



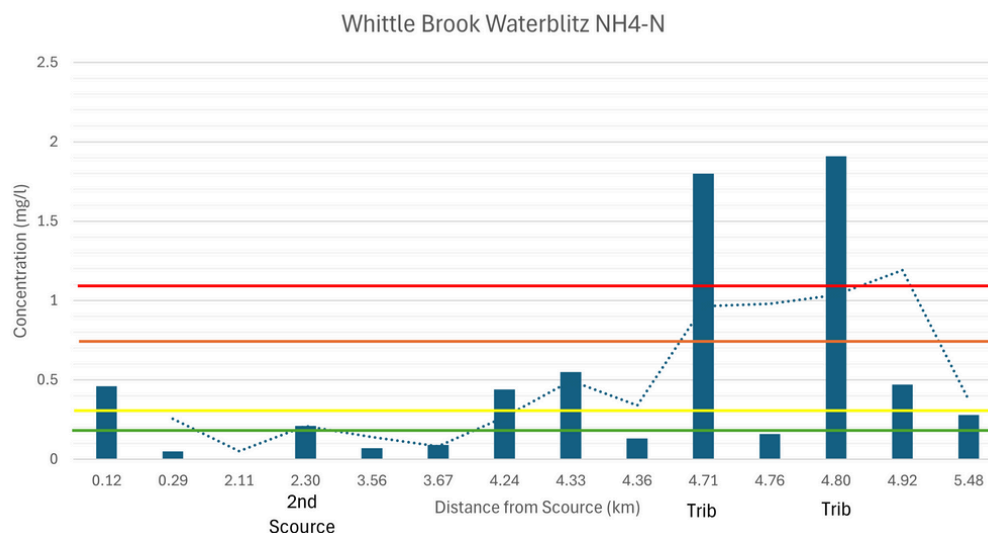


Water Quality

We tested the water for reactive phosphorus levels using Hanna Pocket Phosphate/ Ammonium Checkers, to identify areas for future projects in the Lower Mersey catchment, which helped the MRT team pinpoint potential sources of phosphate pollution, which can affect river health. This has sparked interest in the ammonia levels in Sankey Brook, and a search for phosphate pollution sources around Whittle Brook's source.



Our WaterBlitz data showed that the tributary was higher in ammonia (showing results within the 'bad' range of the WFD standards) than the main river channel. While the phosphate typically remains classified within the 'poor' WFD status.



What's Next?

Thanks to our amazing volunteers, we accomplished all this in a very short period! You have helped us gather a wide-scale snapshot of the catchment health. The sites were chosen based on accessibility to the Whittle Brook and Sankey Brook. We plan to repeat this WaterBlitz to confirm the reliability of this survey's results.

We will use your feedback to refine MRT's approach and aim to continue WaterBlitzes throughout the Mersey Catchment next year. Eventually, we will build up a catchment-wide dataset for the Mersey Catchment as a whole and identify priority areas for our improvement works.

To get involved in more events or additional training, visit [Mersey Rivers Trust - Home](https://www.merseyrivers.org/) or follow us on [Eventbrite](#) and our social channels.