



the River Restoration Centre

Working to restore and enhance our rivers

Technical Advice

River Habitat Survey in Wales

Analysis for Area Statements 2018

KEY INFO

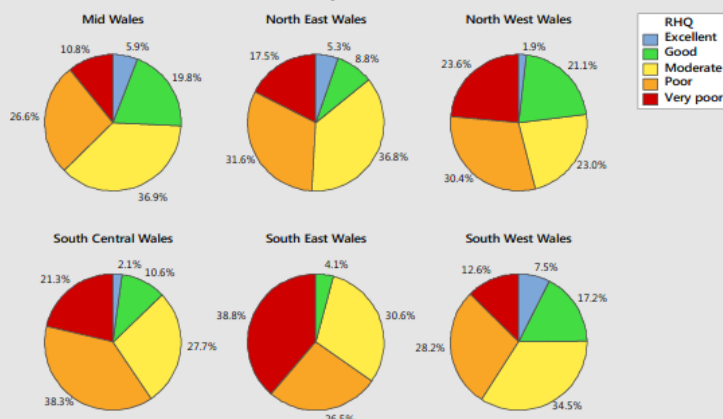
Date: July 2018

Client: Natural Resources Wales

Type: River Habitat Survey

Themes: Habitat condition, diversity, connectivity

River Habitat Quality in Welsh Areas



Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are required to prepare and publish 'Area Statements' of the 6 areas making up the county, to help implement the natural resources policy for Wales. NRW collaborated with RRC and Bournemouth University to produce these Area statements. This involved data analysis and interpretation using information from the 2007-8 repeat baseline River Habitat Surveys (RHS) undertaken across the country. The report aimed to compare sites in England and Wales, and sites in the 6 welsh areas. These sites were analysed to determine the areas with the highest environmental quality based on fluvial information, land use and vegetation cover.

The image above shows the River Habitat Quality class distribution in the 6 Welsh statement areas in the 2007-8 baseline survey of the river network. The majority of areas show moderate (yellow), poor (orange) and very poor (red) conditions, with the South-West Wales region showing the largest proportion of sites in excellent (blue) condition.

The results showed Wales generally has higher levels of habitat quality, naturalness, diversity and habitat quality, and lower levels of engineering than England. Tables, graphs and charts were used to compare the statistics across the county, and help communicate the impacts and pressures to stakeholders.

This approach to habitat quality analysis shows how RHS data from the repeat baseline survey can be used to produce summary statistics and identify opportunities for protection, enhancement and restoration in Wales.

[Click here to read the full article](#) including information on the types of pressures on Welsh rivers such as bank poaching, culverts and bridges, and engineering including resectioning and reinforcement.

