

RIVER TEME (AFON TEFEIDIAD)

The Afon Tefeidiad / River Teme rises in the Kerry Hills in Powys from a small spring on Cilfaesty Hill. The river then flows south-eastward to Knighton, descending 122 metres over 1.6 kilometres of the Welsh/English border.

The Teme is the second largest tributary of the SAC designated River Severn, and is reported to be the second fastest river in the country.

For much of its course, the Teme flows through a rural catchment of Silurian and Devonian rocks. The dominant land use in this area is agriculture, with the sheep - grazed uplands of Powys in the west giving way to the softer, more fertile countryside of the English Midlands in the east.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

In recognition of its ecological value, in 1996 the Teme was designated as a nationally important Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Teme is home to a number of highly protected species, including; atlantic salmon, bullhead, twaite shad, brook lamprey, otter, white-clawed crayfish, freshwater pearl mussel and ranunculus.



European Otter



Atlantic Salmon



White-clawed Crayfish

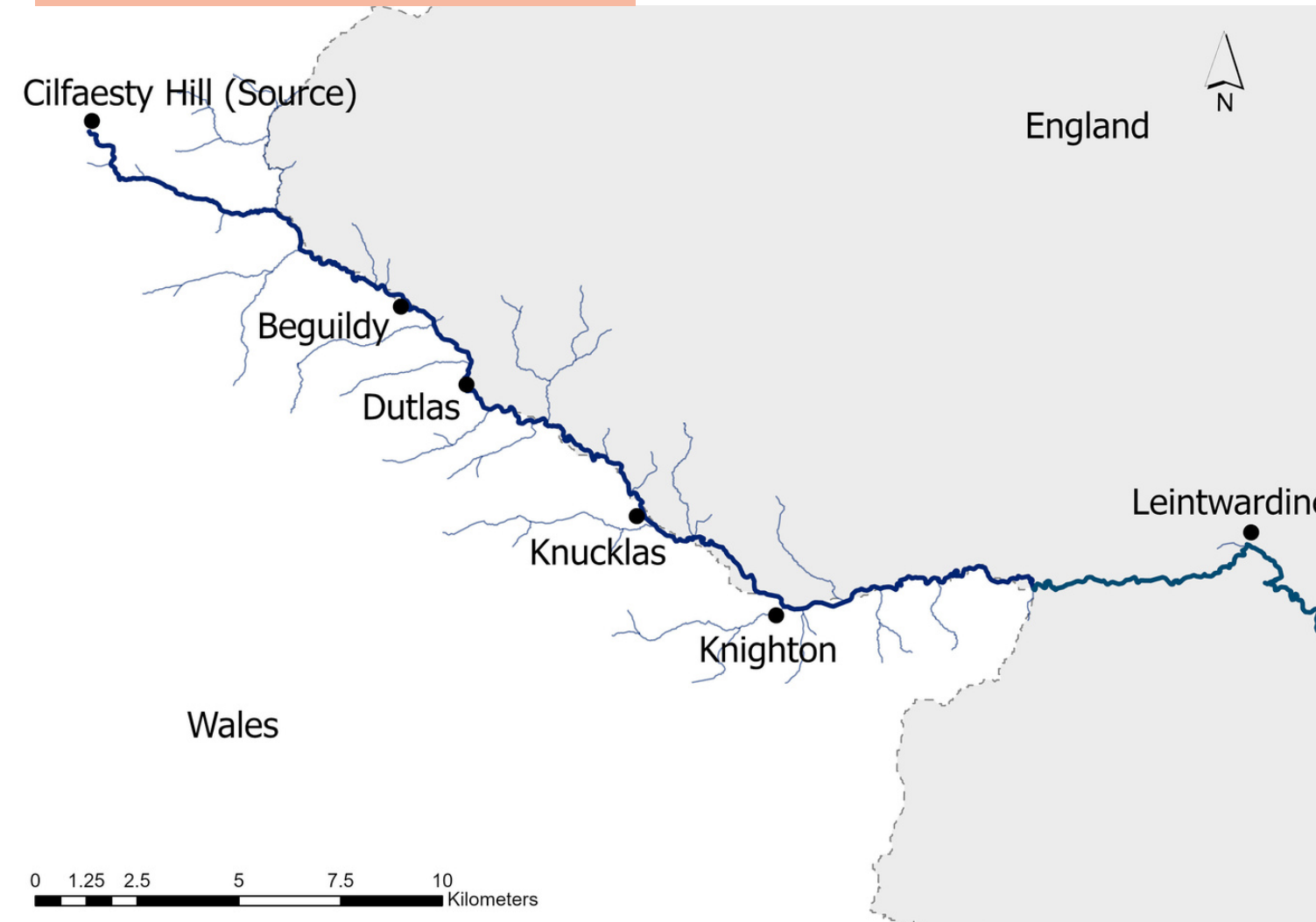


Brook Lamprey

RIVER LENGTH
130 km

CATCHMENT AREA
1648 km²

LENGTH IN WALES
30 km



FISH SPECIES

The fish communities strongly reflect the ecological changes in the river as it descends the catchment. Salmonids, including Atlantic salmon and brown trout dominate the Welsh section of the Teme, while the middle and lower reaches are more home to species such as grayling, barbel, chub and Twaite shad.

THE TEME CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

The 1,648 square kilometres of the Teme Catchment cover part of the counties of Powys, Shropshire, Herefordshire, and Worcestershire.

The Teme Catchment Partnership brings together organisations and individuals from across these counties to improve water quality and wildlife habitats in and around the river.

GOOD HEALTH

The health of our rivers is assessed using a range of ecological and chemical indicators. Under the Water Framework Directive, a river (or waterbody) can be classified as High, Good, Moderate, Poor or Bad. A High classification means it is close to natural conditions.

All 5 waterbodies in the Welsh stretch of the river Teme are in **good overall health**.

However

Of the 33 waterbodies in the English stretch of the Teme, **none** are in good overall health.

The most significant Reason for Not Achieving Good Status (RNAGS) in the river Teme is pollution from rural areas.

