

# Interim Report on Snorkel Survey for Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) in the River Allow (Upper Blackwater SAC)



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## **Introduction:**

The Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM) is a scheduled species under the Wildlife Act and is also listed in the appendices to the Habitats & Species Directive [92/43/EEC]. The effect of these legislative provisions is to give protection to both the animal and its habitat. One consequence is that any action that might have an adverse effect upon the mussel can only be carried out under license. This includes mussel survey work (or any other form of research on mussels), which can cause damage to the mussels.

## **Objectives:**

- To do an absolute count of the population of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the Allow River
- Correlate locations of Pearl Mussels to substrate, river stage and other environmental factors relating to river habitats

## **Methodology:**

Survey of FPM can only be carried out under license and it should be noted that survey without license would be construed as an illegal act, with potential implications in the event that survey results become the subject of legal proceedings. Applicants for Stage 1 and Stage 2 survey licences must be able to demonstrate a good understanding of *Margaritifera* ecology and a competency to survey (Anon, 2004).

## **Discussion:**

To date (18/092013) a total of 22.8km of the Allow River have been surveyed.

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