

## **Electrofishing Results October 27<sup>th</sup> 2022**

An electrofishing survey was carried out by Hadlow College students with 2 experienced staff on October 27<sup>th</sup> 2022. The counting of overall fish numbers and more detailed checking of trout at the bankside was carried out by members of Darent Valley Trout Fishers.

The Dairy Field beat results were as follows :

24 brown trout (all with clipped adipose fins so therefore stocked)

79 dace to 8oz, 30 chub to 2lb 8oz, 21 roach, 9 pike, 7 gudgeon, 6 perch, 1 eel 2lb, minnows.

The Preston Farm beat (excluding the S-bend above the wall at the upper section which was not covered) had the following results :

13 brown trout (of which 2 larger fish of 40 and 43 cm appeared to have intact adipose fins and may have been wild. (We have noticed that some older overwintered trout have repaired or regrown adipose fins so in these cases it is not easy to tell).

67 dace to 8oz, 23 chub to 2lb, 16 roach to 8oz, 10 pike to 7lb, 6 gudgeon, 5 perch, 5 eels to 1lb 8oz, 2 tench to 1lb, bullheads, minnows.

The Roman Villa beat (from 40yards upstream of the viaduct to the Bailey Bridge) had the following results :

15 brown trout (all with clipped adipose fins so therefore stocked)

63 chub to 2lb 8oz, 36 dace to 8 oz, 30 roach to 12oz, 27 eels to 3lb, 12 pike to 2lb, 9 perch, 1 tench, minnows

### **Overview**

The trout population was slightly higher than found last year with over the same waters with 52 brown trout compared to 24 in 2021, but considering more than 600 brown trout were stocked this season in these same beats, it is disappointing and begs the question of what happens to them. These low remaining trout numbers compare badly to results from 2019 and earlier (which did not include the Roman Villa). There were usually around 100 remaining trout or more. Bearing in mind the heat wave and very low flows in late summer, it could have been worse, as water temperatures reached levels

above 20 degrees C at times which would have been damaging or even lethal for trout. The evidence for wild trout was again disappointing with only 2 larger possibly wild trout and no trout below 10 inches. Previously at Preston Farm in particular a number of tiny young trout were found in most years in one shallow run by the Hadlow surveys and also EA surveys. Thankfully, a small number (10) of wild brown trout of 5 to 9 inches have been caught and returned this season by our members across all club waters, so all is not lost.

The coarse fish populations appear healthy with a good range of species and sizes suggesting that recruitment/spawning is being successful and that they are well suited to the habitat.

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Darent Valley Trout Fishers

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