

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council



CRAYFISH DEATHS IN WATERCOURSES IN THIS AREA

The Environment Agency is investigating the deaths of our rare protected native white clawed Crayfish in three locations across the Severn and Wye river catchment. We expect this to be confirmed as Crayfish Plague which is very infectious for Crayfish.

White clawed Crayfish look like miniature lobsters, they hide away under rocks and logs during the day, and emerge during the night to eat. They are our largest freshwater invertebrate and the few remaining populations are very vulnerable to this disease and face local extinction. Crayfish Plague is a species specific disease and has no implications for human or other animal health.

Dead white clawed Crayfish have been seen in

The River Redlake, Shropshire

White Clawed Crayfish maybe infected, but apparently healthy, and continue to die for several weeks in these locations therefore an outbreak of Crayfish Plague can last for several weeks. The disease can be transferred to White Clawed Crayfish via water and mud on damp clothes, footwear, bike tyres, fishing or boating equipment or any machinery. The Crayfish Plague pathogens can live for 22 days on damp clothes or equipment.

We are asking everyone to help us limit the risk of future deaths of this endangered species by staying out of watercourses in this area.

If you are using equipment in any river, to stop the spread of the Plague, other infectious diseases or invasive species, please follow these steps:

- Clean off any mud or vegetation and remove any standing water.
 - Either thoroughly dry the equipment, preferably in sunlight making sure all nooks and crannies are dry
- OR**
- Treat with a disinfectant capable of killing fungal spores.
 - If you or your dog goes into a stream, do not go into another stream on the same day.

IF YOU SEE DEAD CRAYFISH PLEASE REPORT IT TO THE INCIDENT HOTLINE: 0800 807060

**DO NOT HANDLE OR REMOVE LIVE OR DEAD CRAYFISH.
IT IS ILLEGAL TO DO THIS WITHOUT A LICENSE.**