

Suspected outbreak of Crayfish Plague

Please stay out of the watercourse

What's happened?

Large numbers of our native White Clawed Crayfish, which are protected and special to this area, are dying. This is very likely to be due to Crayfish Plague. Specimens have been sent away for analysis. An outbreak can last several weeks.

What can you do to help?

We are asking that you do not enter watercourses in this area.

Crayfish Plague spores can last up to 22 days on damp fishing tackle, footwear, clothes, or any machinery and could potentially spread the disease.

If you are using equipment in any river, to stop the spread of the Plague, other infectious diseases or invasive species, please as always, 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.

What is Crayfish plague?

Crayfish Plague is a water mold (fungus) that is carried mainly by American Signal Crayfish. Spores of Crayfish Plague are very infectious and can easily be transferred from infected waters by people and animals. This disease has wiped out many native populations leaving remaining natives increasingly vulnerable.

Crayfish Plague has no implications for human or other animal health.

If you see dead Crayfish please report it to our incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60

Do not handle or remove live or dead Crayfish. It is illegal to do this without a license