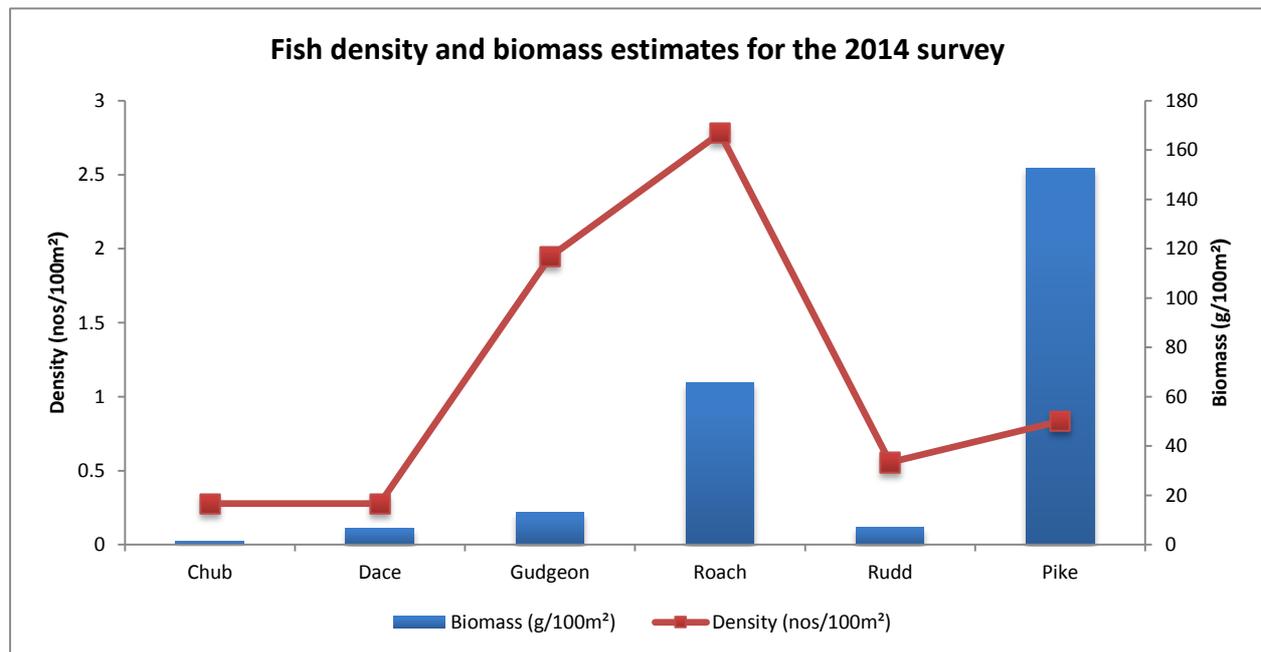


## THAMES WEST FISHERIES SURVEY REPORT

MAIN FACTS	
<b>DATE:</b>	08/05/2014
<b>WATER:</b>	Cuttle Brook
<b>SITE:</b>	Upstream St Joseph's School
<b>NFPD Ref:</b>	54512
<b>U/S NGR:</b>	SP7023405743
<b>D/S NGR:</b>	SP7021805836
<b>SURVEY LENGTH (m):</b>	116
<b>AVERAGE WIDTH (m):</b>	3.1
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	Water Framework Directive Investigative Monitoring
<b>METHOD:</b>	PDC Electric fishing
<b>SPECIES:</b>	Bullhead, chub, dace, gudgeon, pike, roach, rudd and stone loach.



### SUMMARY

This survey report is part of the Environment Agency's National Monitoring Programme, which aims to establish the current structure of fish communities in England, in order to successfully manage fish populations and identify long term changes in their composition and abundance. Wading, using catch depletion strategy and pulsed direct current electric fishing, was used between stop nets to survey the site. The size of the watercourse, in terms of width and depth, along with good water clarity, means that electric fishing efficiency was high for all species.

The predominantly silt and clay based substrate made it quite difficult for the team to move within the channel. However the relatively slow flow of the brook meant this did not impact on the catch efficiency of the survey.

After concluding the main survey, the team continued to survey upstream of the designated site. From this they observed a number of roach, similar to the size caught previously, alongside two or three chub approximately 250mm in length.

### Total number and largest (mm) fish captured during the survey

Cuttle Brook – Upstream St Joseph’s School May-14		
	Number	Largest
<b>Bullhead</b>	10-99	N/A
<b>Chub</b>	1	75mm
<b>Dace</b>	1	128mm
<b>Gudgeon</b>	7	105mm
<b>Pike</b>	3	335mm
<b>Roach</b>	10	162mm
<b>Rudd</b>	2	98mm
<b>Stone Loach</b>	10-99	N/A

### Minor Species

Due to the often high numbers of minor species found during surveys, such as bullhead, minnow and stone loach, these species are not caught, but recorded as an estimated abundance. As precise numbers and lengths are not collected, estimates cannot be calculated for biomass and densities, and are therefore not included in the analysis.

### Conclusions

- The rudd caught are not expected to be found in a brook environment, they are likely to have originated from adjacent ponds and have been washed in to the brook during periods of high flows.
- Often fish can be found congregating in deeper pools; however this was not the case on this particular occasion, as fish were dispersed throughout the survey site.

The information contained in this report represents a summary assessment of the fish population based on results from our routine monitoring programme. It is not designed to be a comprehensive assessment and should further detail or analysis be required please contact the name provided at the end of this report.

**For more information contact:**  
**Name:** Sam Harrison  
**Team:** Sampling and Collection  
**Email:** samuel.harrison@environment-agency.gov.uk