Empowering freshwater communities

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Short Name

Empowering freshwater communities

Formal Name

Empowering Underserved Communities through Freshwater Citizen Science

Contact Person Isobel Johnson

Institution/Organisation

Severn Rivers Trust

Website

https://www.severnriverstrust.com/

Social Media



<u>@severnrivers.trust</u>



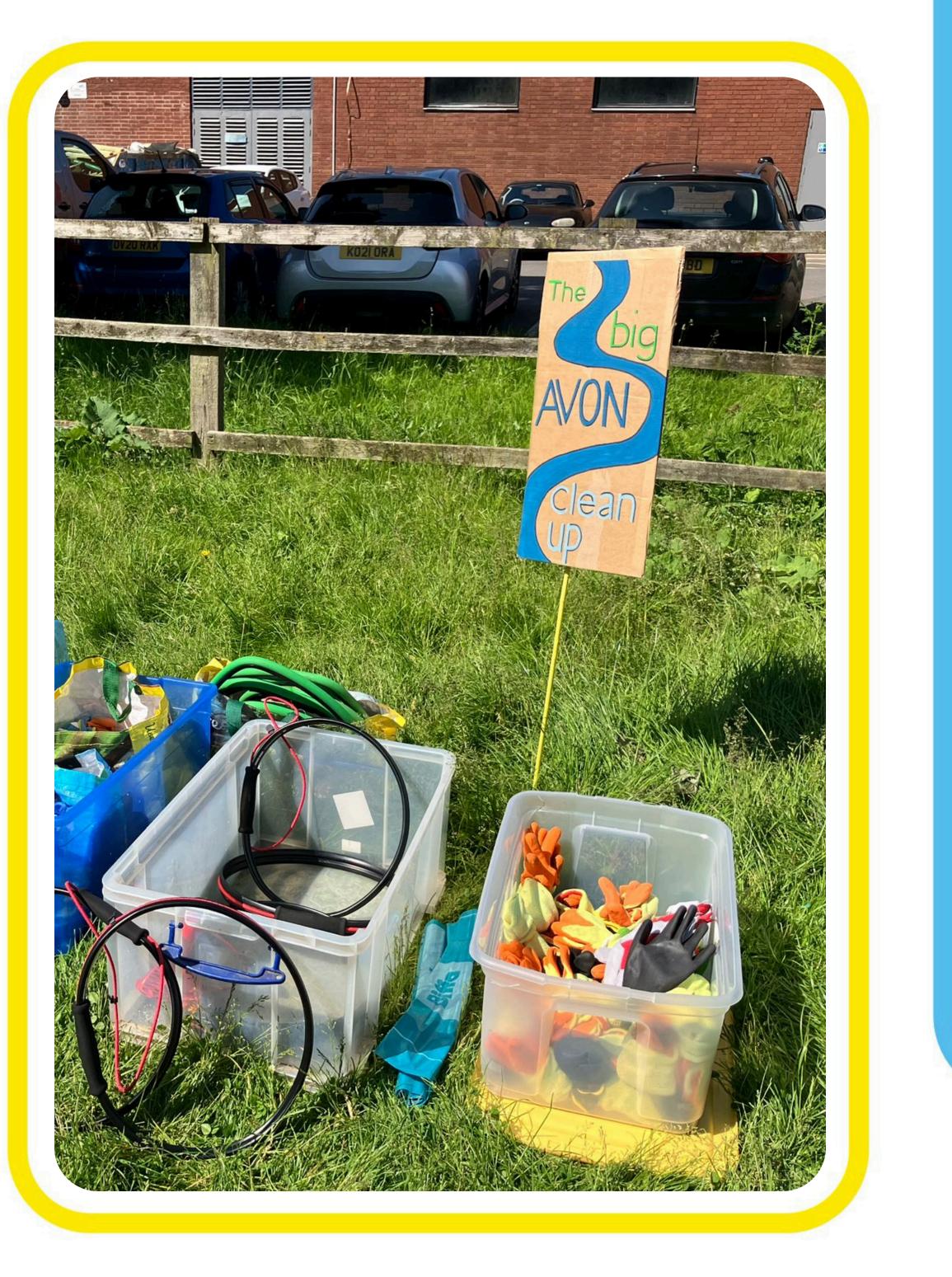
<u>@severnrivers</u>



<u>@severn-rivers-trust</u>

<u>@severnrivers</u>

Citizen science allows us to connect communities with their environment in a meaningful, inclusive, and empowering way



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Summary

This project brings communities and rivers closer together through inclusive, hands-on environmental action. Focusing on Coventry, we will support underrepresented groups; particularly those from low-income, ethnically diverse, neurodivergent, and urban backgrounds, to become citizen scientists, monitoring the health of the River Severn tributaries. Volunteers will be trained to use low-cost sensors, take water samples, and visualise data using a bespoke dashboard.

By working closely with researchers in environmental chemistry, data science, and social science, we will explore how community-collected data compares with lab analysis and how it can be made more accessible and impactful. Co-designed workshops will build confidence in data interpretation and freshwater literacy, and community needs will shape every stage of the work.

This project will develop a scalable, inclusive model for citizen science, deepen public engagement with rivers, and create lasting pathways into environmental volunteering; helping to make river conservation more representative, trusted, and future-facing.

