

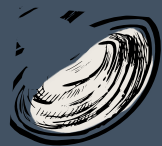
AFON EDEN

Afon Eden is a small tributary river located in Gwynedd, North Wales. From it's source near Pont Y Grible, the Afon Eden flows south for 10km before joining the larger Afon Mawddach at Y Ganllwyd. Much of the catchment lies within the Eryri National Park and consists of a combination of semi-natural habitats, low intensity sheep and beef cattle farming, and forestry.

Afon Eden is designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and is home to one of the last remaining populations of the Freshwater pearl mussel in Wales. As an oligotrophic river, with few nutrient inputs, it is a primary habitat for the critically endangered freshwater pearl mussel and its host fishes, salmonids.

SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

to protect designated species and habitats:



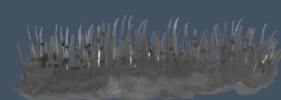
Freshwater Pearl Mussel



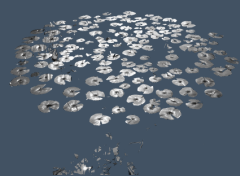
European Otter



Atlantic Salmon



Active raised bog



Floating water-plantain



The aim is to achieve a favourable conservation status for these species and habitats, which means that they are able to thrive sustainably. **Currently, none of them are in a favourable status, except floating water-plantain.**



CATCHMENT AREA

30 km²

LENGTH

10 km

RIVER SOURCE

Pont Y Grible

RIVER HEALTH



The health of our rivers is assessed using a range of ecological and chemical indicators. Under the Water Framework Directive, a river can be classified as High, Good, Moderate, Poor or Bad. High means close to natural conditions.

- The **upper Afon Eden** is in **moderate** overall health
- The **lower Afon Eden** is in **good** overall health

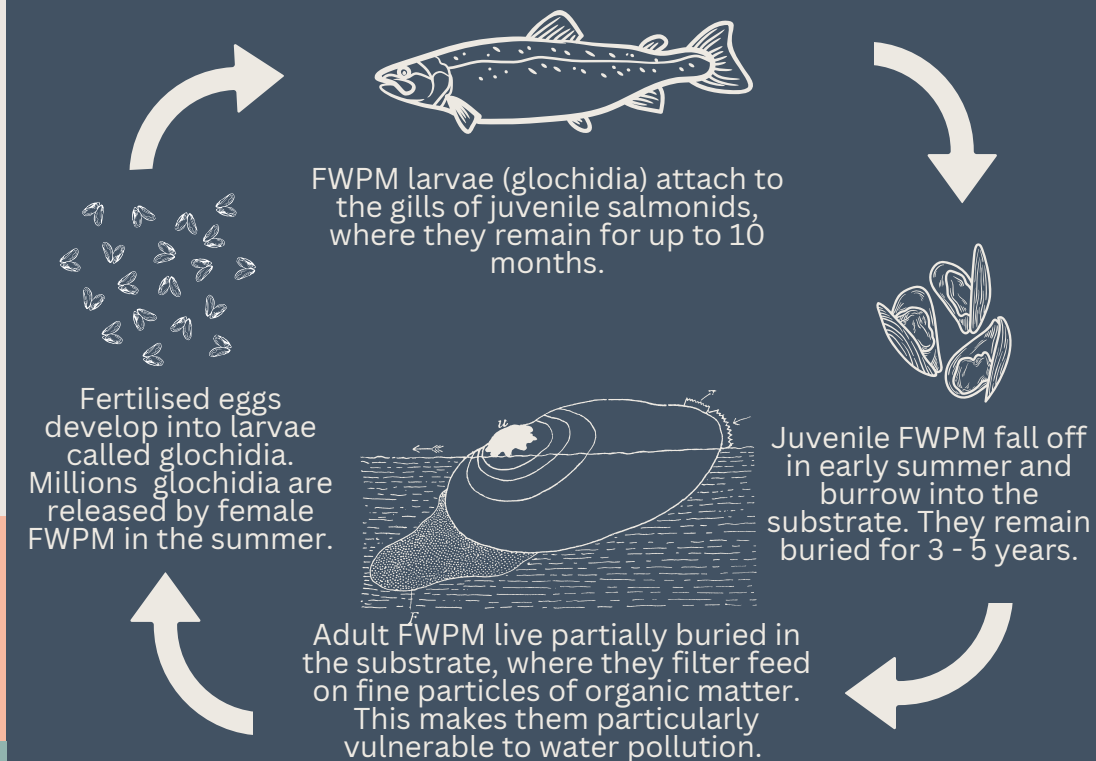
FRESHWATER PEARL MUSSEL

Scientific name: *Margaritifera margaritifera*

The freshwater pearl mussel is an endangered species of mollusc, found in clean, nutrient poor low-calcium rivers. They are incredibly rare and found in only a few river systems in the UK.

Afon Eden contains the largest known population of freshwater pearl mussels surviving in Wales. Although once widespread throughout the catchment, the population is now almost entirely confined to one section of the river. The adult population of FWPM in Afon Eden is estimated to be 1500 individuals.

Lifecycle of a FWPM



NORTH WALES RIVERS TRUST PEARL MUSSEL PROJECT

NWRT's project is designed to help protect the endangered Pearl Mussel population through a series of habitat restoration work.

This work will compliment NRW efforts to reintroduce juvenile species further downstream.

Head to the NWRT website to find out more

