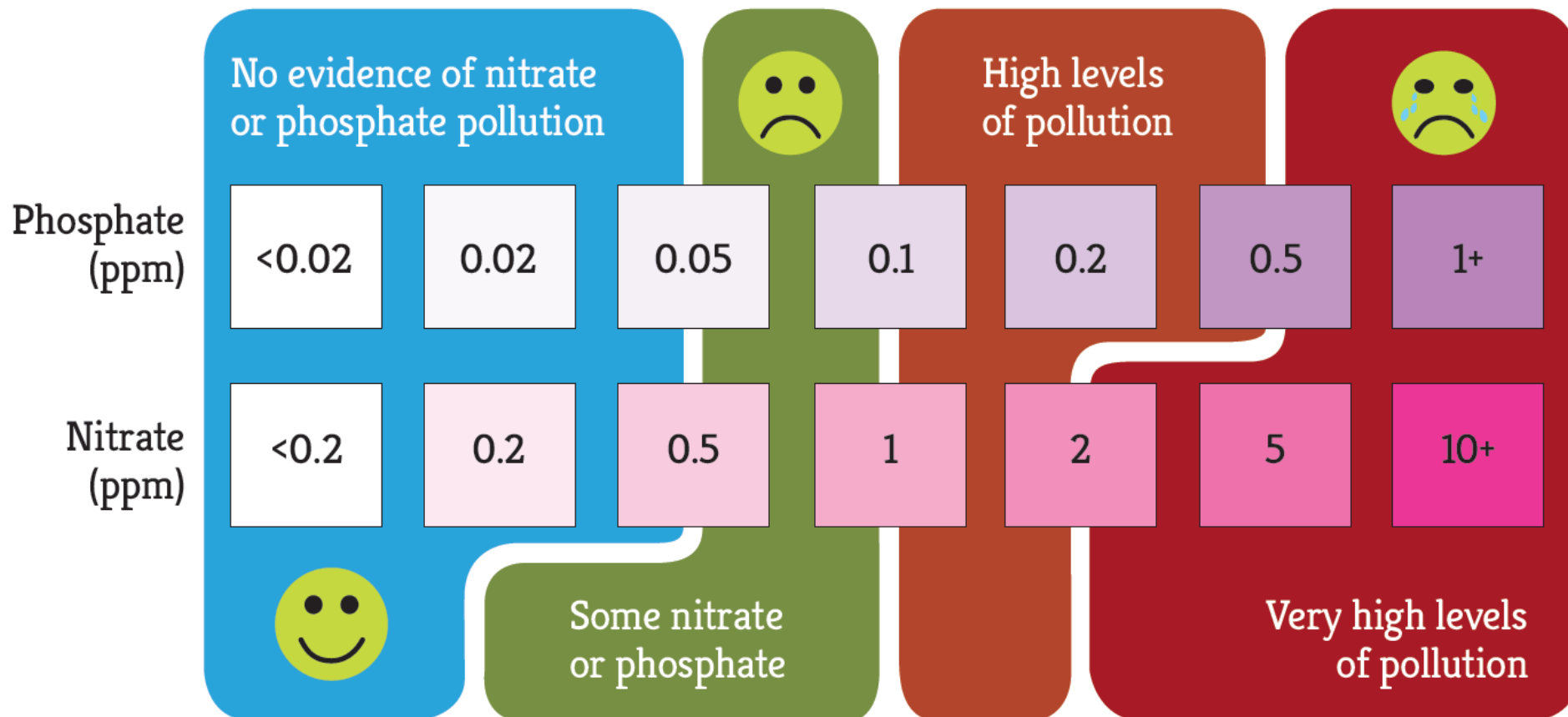


What do your results mean?

Use the diagram and information on this page to help interpret the results from your kits. Whatever you've found, please tell us about it. Your information is really important to help build a national picture of the levels of nutrient pollution in freshwaters.

See: freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/people-ponds-water



No evidence of nutrient pollution.



Congratulations! You are likely to have found a fantastic clean water habitat.

Water that's not polluted by nutrients will show little or no colour change in either test. This is great news as many animals and plants, especially rare and endangered species, need to live in water that is naturally very low in nutrients.

We really want to find out about these sites as they could be amongst the very few remaining sites, the best of the best undamaged freshwaters in England and Wales.

This information will be valuable for monitoring site condition and making decisions about site management. The next step could be to undertake a biological survey to find out which species are present. Clean water sites often support rich and interesting wildlife communities.

Evidence of some nutrient pollution.



Unfortunately you have found a site where the water is polluted by nutrients at levels that will be damaging to wildlife.

Polluted waters will still have some wildlife – but they won't have the wonderful richness of life, or rare species that live in clean water. At even these moderate levels of nutrient pollution more than half the animals and plants that should be present can be lost.

If this was your garden pond, make sure you're topping it up with rain water, rather than water from the tap (see next page).

If this is a pond in your neighbourhood, find out whether anyone is working with local farmers or the local councils to make the environment as good as it can be. It's very difficult to remove nutrients from polluted habitats, but knowing the limitations can help to guide the way sites are managed.

High or very high levels of nutrient pollution.



Oh dear, this site has high levels of nutrient pollution. Even tougher species sometimes find it hard to make a home in a site like this.

Don't give up! There may be clean unpolluted sites in your neighbourhood waiting to be found. Take another kit and look somewhere else. What about trying a different habitat like a pond or stream? Look at the website to find out if anyone has recorded a clean water site near you – worth a visit if you want to see freshwater habitats thriving with wildlife.

AND FINALLY: Some places with very low nutrient levels, may still be affected by other issues which the kits do not detect.

There's more information in our technical guide on the use and reliability of the kits – available on our website.