

DROUGHT

Early August 2011. In spite of some parts of the country suffering high rainfall and even floods, here in the Moss valley we have drought. Leaves are already turning to brown and falling indeed, some leaves hang on trees limp and shrivelled. Ground flora is brown and beneath hedge rows and at woodland edges it is withering some even before it has set seed. The Moss itself has almost no flow and has been reduced to a mere trickle. Ponds are suffering, water levels four foot below normal. Neverfever dam is static with no inward flow and water level is at an all time low. Numerous fish have died, presumably from lack of oxygenated water and in one day I counted 18 dead fish floating on the surface. As water levels drop, fresh water mussels are exposed, dead in the mud. The photograph below is one extracted from just down Ford, a beautiful specimen which must have been several years old. I hope it rains soon , but not before mid September because I am going to the seaside.

Keith Pascoe

