

## Chemical naturalness

In catchments containing a lot of peat, water may naturally be peat stained. This is natural and not a sign of impacted water quality. Despite being brown the water is still relatively translucent as below.



In contrast water bodies with a lot of sediment in the water are impacted either by high sediment loads from the catchment or often because the sediment is resuspended in the lake, usually either by boat traffic or carp. The water in these lakes look like the below and the water is opaque.



Lakes with excess nutrient loads often support algae, these come in various forms but often make the lake water green like the below



Algae can also grow like fine hairs and can clump together to form mats which can float on the surface. They can also cover submerged plants as below.





Some algae look more like plants, these are the stoneworts and are indicators of good water quality, stoneworts can be seen growing in abundance below.

