

River Great Ouse Pollution Incident

28 September 2018

Community Briefing

This update provides information about the recovery work needed following the pollution incident which affected the River Great Ouse between Brackley and Thornton from the 29 June 2018.

Current situation and next steps

Whilst recovery from this pollution incident remains a priority for us, this update is limited as we continue to undertake our investigation and to monitor the state of the river.

Enforcement investigation

Our ongoing investigation is looking at whether criminal offences have been committed; this has to be conducted to the standards required for such investigations. We are also looking at the company potentially involved. Consequently there are constraints on what we can release publicly at this time.

Environmental monitoring

We have conducted extensive monitoring and have now received laboratory analysis of the samples taken from the river at the time of the incident. Our sampling helps to assess the impact of the incident on water quality, fish and invertebrates and these form part of our investigation. At this time we are not able to release details of these as they may be used as evidence. We do not believe that there is any ongoing impact and that chemicals involved have now dispersed/degraded.

River recovery

We continue to conduct further surveys of the river to determine the recovery of the ecosystems. A recent survey within a section of the river indicated that invertebrate populations are recovering. We will consider fish restocking once we are confident that the invertebrate levels within the river can support a fish population.

Partnership working

We are grateful for the offers of support for the future recovery process that we continue to receive from individuals and organisations. We are now making arrangements to hold a community event in Buckingham in November 2018, we will publish details in October.

Stay informed

Please let us know if you are able to support recovery efforts, or if you would like us to keep your email address on this distribution list (for future updates on our recovery work) by emailing FBG.C&B@environment-agency.gov.uk. Please note, if you ask us to keep you informed we will retain your email address only for the duration of this work.

You can keep up to date with fisheries activity by following us on Twitter @OusefishEA.

Next update due by 25 October 2018

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88