

River Great Ouse Pollution Incident

13 July 2018

Community Briefing

What happened?

On Friday 29 June 2018 the Environment Agency received reports of dead fish on the River Great Ouse at Tingewick. Our officers subsequently determined that pollutants had entered the River Great Ouse at Brackley.

According to our estimates this pollution has caused the death of around 2,000 fish. This figure may be higher, however it is hard to determine as the water in the area is still discoloured. The pollution has also severely impacted the river's ecosystem (including the organisms that feed the fish population).

Current situation

We believe the pollutant has dispersed and we are not seeing any additional impact on the environment.

We are now lifting our precautionary advice for people, pets and livestock to stay out of the river between Brackley and Milton Keynes.

The hot weather may make swimming in rivers tempting. But we'd advise everyone to take a few minutes and [read this excellent advice from RoSPA \(Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents\)](#). Unsupervised swimming could carry a risk of drowning due to hidden underwater features, depth, temperature, accessibility and current. If you wish to cool down, it is better to go to a beach where there is supervision and the ability to check how clean the water is at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/>

If you spot signs of pollution stay out of the water and report it as soon as possible to our incident hotline 0800 807060.

What happens next?

As previously communicated we will complete our investigation into this pollution incident including any appropriate enforcement actions.

Now that the pollution has dispersed we will consider what steps we can take to support the rivers ecological recovery from this pollution event and will be keen to work with anglers, landowners and other interested parties to do this.

Stay informed

We will provide updates to the community and interested parties as and when we have information to share, please let us know, by reply to FBG.C&B@environment-agency.gov.uk, if you would like us to keep your email address on a distribution list for future updates on our recovery work.

You can keep up to date with Fisheries activity by following us on Twitter Follow us on @OusefishEA

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

Contact us

Questions about this incident should be directed to our National Customer Contact Centre via enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk or 03708 506 506 which will ensure your questions are tracked and responded to in a timely manner.

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