

River Great Ouse Pollution Incident

3 May 2019

Community Briefing

Current situation and next steps

Recovery and restoration

The recovery of the River Great Ouse between Brackley and Thornton remains one of our priorities. We will be carrying out fish surveys, to understand the current situation and the impact of recent fish stocking, at Buckingham, downstream of Wolverton Mill, Mill Farm Gayhurst, Passenham and Thornborough Mill during May and June.

A recent fish survey established that between 12 and 15 brook Lamprey (see picture on the right) are spawning at Thornborough weir, it's possible that these fish avoided the main pollution by being resident in small tributaries through the affected length.

A report from a small fishing match at Bourton Road, Buckingham stated: "catches were of the recently stocked chublets, 2 minnows and a crayfish were also caught".



Partnership working

We have been working with Buckingham Town Council and the Rivers Trust to establish a network of River Wardens. Some funding had been secured via the Town Council to fund a part-time officer to co-ordinate the River Warden volunteer scheme and we would also need to find an organisation to host the officer role.

However, despite this, volunteers continue to demonstrate their commitment to the cause, attending the first of a series meetings (1 May) to find out more about the River Warden role from The Parks Trust in Milton Keynes.

We are also working the Wild Trout Trust to arrange an informative and practical day specifically for landowners on the Great Ouse between Brackley and Buckingham. The workshop will involve an overview of the importance of river restoration and the benefits, we'll look at a case study site and participate in a live practical exercise to achieve some restoration by the end of the day. This event will be by invitation only, we are looking for a small number of landowners with an appetite to deliver work to improve the river in this area. Anyone interested should contact us via FBG.C&B@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Stay informed

Keep up-to-date with this restoration and other projects by liking our Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology Facebook page www.facebook.com/OuseFishEA/ or follow us on Twitter [@OuseFishEA](https://twitter.com/OuseFishEA).

To add your contact details to this distribution list please email FBG.C&B@environment-agency.gov.uk

Next update due by 26 July 2019

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