



ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET

11 November 2013

Cleaner River Kennet

Work was completed this week to re-route storm water from the main road in Hungerford away from the River Kennet and Harvey's Stream. Both the water courses and the adjacent water meadows are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest and within a Special Area of Conservation, but for years have suffered from dirty water running off the road into the protected chalk streams.

The pollution was first identified in 2008. For five years the Trustees of the Town and Manor of Hungerford have been working with partners to find a solution to the problem.

The solution, funded by Natural England, ARK (Action for the River Kennet) and the Trustees of the Town & Manor of Hungerford with the support of West Berkshire Council, connected the existing gullies into brick chambers which will in turn feed into a soak-away. This will naturally filter pollutants before they get into the river.

The scheme cost is approximately £28,000 and took only two weeks to complete.

Robert James, representing the Town and Manor of Hungerford said 'There are 27 gullies which drain into the river in the village of Eddington on the edge of Hungerford, after heavy rain the water going into the river is black with pollution from the roads. This work is an excellent step forward to protect our world-renowned chalk streams.'

Charlotte Hitchmough (ARK) said 'This is an great example of groups of people working together to solve a problem. It is everyone's responsibility to keep our rivers clean, gone are the days when we can use rivers as drains to take away dirty water and this project demonstrates how innovative solutions can work.'

Cllr Pamela Bale from West Berkshire Council said 'We are delighted to play a key role in the project. This road is an ancient Highway and historic highway rights exist to discharge drainage water into rivers, but we recognise that we have a role to play to work with partners to reduce pollution in environmentally sensitive areas.'

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For more details contact [Charlotte Hitchmough 01672 513672](mailto:Charlotte.Hitchmough@riverkennet.org)

Chairman
Hon Treasurer
Technical Adviser
Ecological Adviser
Committee

Geoffrey Findlay, Hope Cottage, Ramsbury, Wiltshire SN8 1PU
Martin Gibson, Durnsford Mill House, Mildenhall, Wiltshire SN8 2NG
John Lawson, March House, Ogbourne St George, Wiltshire SN8 1SU
Peter Marren
Richard Clarke, James Dallas, Sean Dempster, Don Harris, John Hounslow,
Kevin Light, Sir Nigel Thompson
Charlotte Hitchmough, PO Box 2919, Manton, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 4WE

Director