



Action for the River Kennet

PRESS RELEASE

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How healthy is your soil? Free workshop for farmers and land managers

2015 is the UN International Year of the Soil, so it's a good time for farmers and land managers to ask 'how healthy is my soil'?

On **Thursday 19th March**, farm advisors from Natural England and Catchment Sensitive Farming will join Martin Wood from Earthcare to run a free workshop for anyone who manages land in the Kennet Valley.

The event is being organised in partnership with Action for the River Kennet. Charlotte Hitchmough from Action for the River Kennet said 'Healthy soils mean healthy rivers. Soil that is in good form absorbs water and reduces flood risk. Healthy soil holds on to nutrients rather than letting them wash away, and importantly, well managed soils stay in the field. Soil is the most important asset for farmers and growers, so keeping it on the field instead of washing off into watercourses is **good for farmers and good for our rivers**'.

The workshop will focus on:

- Assessing soil health
- Identifying soil compaction
- Improving soil structure
- Increasing organic matter in soil
- Reducing soil runoff and erosion

The workshop will include a farm visit to Fishers' Farm near Hungerford.

The workshop is free, and is suitable for anyone who manages land. Call 01672 513672 or email charlotte@riverkennet.org to register. The event will start at 9.30 with bacon rolls and tea at Woodlands St Mary Village Hall, RG17 1SL.

For more details contact Charlotte Hitchmough 01672 513672 or 0780 515859

<i>Chairman</i>	Dr Geoffrey Findlay, Hope Cottage, Ramsbury, Wiltshire SN8 2PU
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<i>Committee</i>	Richard Clarke, James Dallas, Sean Dempster, Don Harris, Kevin Light, Dr Rodney Owen-Jones, Sir Nigel Thompson
<i>Director</i>	Charlotte Hitchmough, PO Box 2919, Manton, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 4WE

Notes to editors: This free soil health workshop is part of a partnership project between Action for the River Kennet (ARK) and Catchment Sensitive Farming. The aim of the project is to provide support advice and information to farmers **to reduce agricultural pollution and look after the farm's biggest asset – the soil.**

Action for the River Kennet is a registered charity dedicated to protecting and restoring the River Kennet and its tributaries.

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