



Press Release

Hope for more protection from sewage pollution

28th October 2021

The rivers in the Kennet catchment are at the forefront of the problem of untreated sewage discharged into our rivers. In 2020 sewage treatment works including Marlborough, Burghfield and Stratfield Mortimer discharged untreated sewage for more than a third of the year into the River Kennet, Burfield Brook and Clayhill Brook, and these are just three examples.

After a massive public outcry, government announced yesterday that they will introduce a new duty enshrined in law to ensure water companies secure a progressive reduction in the adverse impacts of discharges from storm overflows.

Charlotte Hitchmough, Director of ARK said 'We await the detail of what this means for the rivers in the Kennet catchment, but thank you to everyone who added their voice to a call for change. I am meeting Danny Kruger, MP for Devizes again this week and will continue to work to ensure our rivers are protected.'

Meanwhile there are things that everyone can do to ease the situation, one of these is to keep rainwater out of the sewer network by building a rain garden or a rain water planter. **ARK are running free workshops online and in person and you can find out more on our website or at Rain Garden UK.**

ENDS

Notes to Editor

Action for the River Kennet is a charity dedicated to protecting and improving the rivers in the Kennet catchment, they are proud members of **The Rivers Trust**.



Action for the River Kennet

Rain Garden UK is a project run by Action for the River Kennet and funded by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Thames Water.

A **map of sewage discharges** can be found here: <https://www.therivertrust.org/key-issues/sewage-in-rivers>

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