



ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET

## PRESS RELEASE

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### River Kennet inspires garden at RHS Hampton Court Flower Show

Wiltshire's River Kennet is the inspiration behind WWF-UK's show garden at the Hampton Court Flower Show this year. Built to celebrate WWF's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the garden showcases the beauty and fragility of England's chalk streams.

Earlier this year Action for the River Kennet invited garden designer Fiona Stephenson to see the Kennet and explain what plants and animals make up the wildlife of a chalk stream, and Fiona has built a garden inspired by her visit.

Fiona's garden depicts a classic chalk stream, which flows away down a giant plug hole.

The River Kennet and the UK's other chalk streams are very special places. They support a thriving diversity of wildlife and a place for people to relax and unwind. They also supply our fresh water, and face increasing pressure as the human population grows.

The aquifer that feeds the River Kennet is heavily abstracted for water to supply Swindon as well as the towns and villages along the Kennet Valley. The garden at Hampton Court will raise awareness of the issues of water abstraction and encourage people to value every drop.

Charlotte Hitchmough, ARK's director, said 'ARK has been working with WWF-UK on their 'Rivers on the Edge' campaign for the last two years, and the garden is a very exciting part of this project.'

WWF-UK funded the information panels and the entrance sign at the Stonebridge Lane Wild River Reserve in Marlborough.

The RHS Hampton Court Flower Show runs from 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July.

For more details contact: 07880 515859.

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Chairman	Geoffrey Findlay, Hope Cottage, Ramsbury, Wiltshire, SN8 2LU
Hon. Treasurer	Martin Gibson, Durnsford Mill House, Mildenhall, Wiltshire, SN8 2NG
Technical Adviser	John Lawson, March House, Ogbourne St George, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1SU
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Committee	Richard Clarke, James Dallas, Sean Dempster, John Hounslow, Kevin Light.
<b>Director</b>	<b>Charlotte Hitchmough, PO Box 2919, Manton, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 4WE</b>