

The Thames Water for Wildlife project

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As you'll probably know a lot of Britain's wildlife is under threat – and this is especially true of life in freshwater: in our ponds, streams, rivers and lakes.

For freshwaters the biggest single threat is from pollution, which is shockingly pervasive. Although we know something about the water quality in the major rivers, a mosaic of ponds, small lakes and miles of ditches, streams and headwaters remain largely unmonitored. Places that support most freshwater wildlife. To reverse the decline in freshwater wildlife we are trying to find out where the remaining high quality, unpolluted freshwaters still survive, and the extent of pollution in the rest. By doing this we can protect the best places for wildlife, and try to clean up elsewhere.

Can you help us?

To find the best and most unpolluted freshwater we're running the Thames Water for Wildlife project, a new volunteer survey which aims to build up a picture of water quality and nutrient pollution across the Thames region: in this case throughout the catchment of the River Ock.

We are contacting you and other local parish councils in this area to see if you can help us to uncover both the special freshwater sites and the true extent of pollution using our free, quick and simple water testing kits. The water testing kits will tell you whether your local ponds, streams or rivers are affected by two very widespread pollutants - nitrate and phosphate - that pose a major risk to freshwater life. Both are completely invisible to the naked eye – the new test kits allows you to detect them in 5 minutes or so without an expensive laboratory test.

Use our kits to learn more about the beautiful and unique sites in your area. You may find you have a freshwater treasure on you doorstep! As well as gathering vital information which can help to change the way we manage our landscape for freshwater wildlife, you can use the results to help conserve your favourite spots by incorporating them into management plans or to lobby for further protection.

The project is funded by Thames Water, the UK's largest water supplier, and the Heritage Lottery Fund. If you are interested in taking part or for more information please send me an email, contact me directly by phone (details below) or see our website:

www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/thameswaterforwildlife

Yours sincerely Hannah Worker
Thames Water for Wildlife Project Assistant
The Freshwater Habitats Trust
hworker@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk
07741495682

Thames Water for Wildlife - Kit demonstration sessions (24th & 31st March)

I recently got in contact about our new project Thames Water for Wildlife. This is a quick email to let you know about two short water testing kit demonstration sessions we will be holding on Thursday the 24th and Thursday 31st March. Over the course of the session we will give an overview of the project and its aims. We will demonstrate our free, quick and simple water testing kits and then you will be able to try them out to see if it is something that might be of interest to your parish council.

The session will last around 35-45 minutes and we will meet in the Abingdon Tesco carpark (Marcham Rd, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1TU) to use the kits on the nearby river. You will be able to use the kits in the field and see what our project is all about.

If you are interested in attending either of the dates please just let me know.

[Thames Water for Wildlife](#) aims to discover the best and most unpolluted freshwaters, detect the true extent of nutrient pollution and help to monitor some of the wildlife that depends on clean water. Please see our [website](#) for more information.

Many thanks

Hannah

Hannah Worker

Thames Water for Wildlife Project Assistant

Freshwater Habitats Trust

07741495682

www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk