



Parish Clerk
Barcombe Parish Council
Upper Morgans
Shortbridge Road
Piltown
TN22 3XA

4th January 2024

Citizen Science Opportunities - River Ouse Catchment

Dear Julia,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust (OART) regarding the expansion of our citizen science programme. The projects (detailed below) offer communities the opportunity to monitor and protect their local environment as part of our network of volunteer River Rangers.

The data collected will assist in identifying priority areas for enhancement, enable us to detect and act quickly to environmental pressures and pollution events, and protect the river from Invasive Non-Native Species. Full training and support will be given, and all equipment provided. In return our River Rangers benefit from engaging with nature, learning new skills, meeting new people, and from the satisfaction of making a real difference.

Biological (invertebrate) Sampling

Different freshwater invertebrates have different tolerances to the impacts of pollution making them a key indicator of river health. Monitoring consists of taking a sample from the river using a net, identifying what is captured and recording the results. This is an excellent opportunity to play a part in monitoring the biological health of the local river.

Water Quality Testing

Using a combination of digital handheld instruments, test strips and visual tools we will train volunteers to measure water quality parameters such as phosphate, dissolved oxygen, nitrate and water clarity, helping us to target engagement and build a clearer picture of pollution pressures.

Sea Trout Watch

Often described as the 'Jewel in the Crown' of the River Ouse, this enigmatic species spends most of the year at sea, but between November and March return to their birthplace to spawn. The annual Sea Trout Watch records the success of this spawning through monitoring of known locations and has been ongoing since 2005. This long term monitoring provides an early warning to decreases in numbers and is undertaken between November and February each year.

Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust Ltd
The Old Saw Shed
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Parham Park, Greatham Lane, Parham
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Registered Charity No: 1082447





Preventing Plastic Pollution

Removing plastic (and other waste) from rivers, streams, and banks is important in maintaining healthy environments. Through organised litter picks we will train people to assess the types, brands and accumulation rate of litter. We then share this data with local retailers, encouraging them to address the problem at source.

Invasive Non-Native Species

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are plants or animals which have established and spread outside their natural range and are widely accepted as the biggest threat to global biodiversity. Our investigations suggest that there are already 46 INNS within the Ouse catchment, and a further 127 'watchlist' species which are closing in. To prevent new species entering and limit the spread of those already here, we are looking for help in monitoring dispersal pathways from neighbouring catchments and buffer zones around protected sites, and assistance in removing these from the area through organised events.

OART staff will coordinate the establishment of River Ranger hubs, organising induction and training events for each project in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. So if anyone is interested in volunteering in any of the above projects, all they need to do is email jo.owens@oart.org.uk stating which project interests them and we will organise everything from there!

We would be most grateful if you could share this information with your community to help everybody have the opportunity to take action for nature.

Many thanks and kind regards

Jo Owens
Catchment Officer – River Ouse

