Evenlode Catchment Partnership

West Oxfordshire Waterways Day 18.11.2022

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About the

Setup in 2014

River restoration throughout the Evenlode catchment to achieve good ecological status

Goal – Good ecological status Themes include:

- Water Quality

- Natural Flood Management

- Biodiversity, Habitat and Landscape
 - Education, Access, Recreation

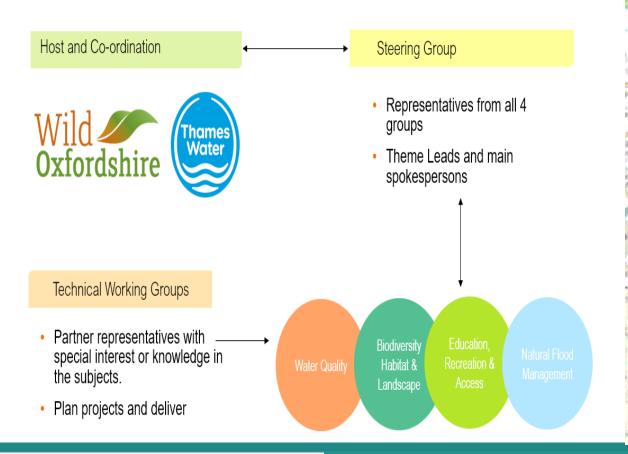


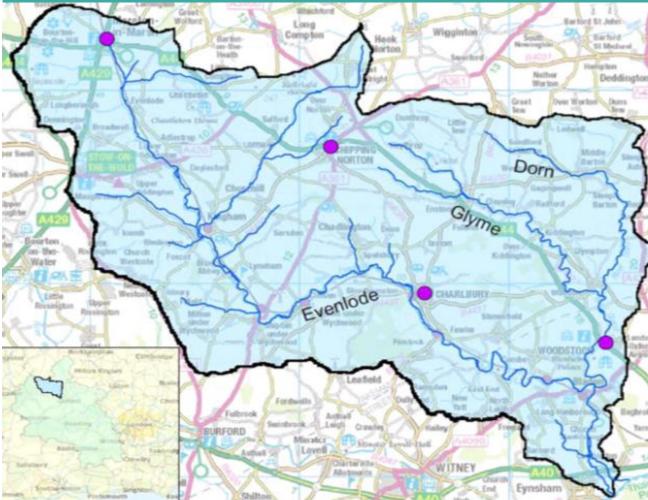
Evenlode Catchment



Catchment governance







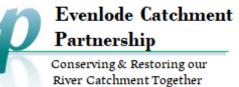


Biodiversity, habitat and landscape

Fish migration, floodplain reconnection, wetland creation







Fish migration

An "open rivers" concept and objective

ECP removed 2 small obsolete barriers in 2021/22 with more planned for 2023





Floodplain reconnection

Supporting watercourses

Aim - to make more resilient landscapes.

Supporting the natural functioning of rivers.

"Stage zero" river restoration projects to support local watercourses back to their original and historic flow regime



Floodplain reconnection to reverse the adverse impact of river dredging and widening (Burford in 1924)



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Wetland creation

Multiple benefits

Refuge for wildlife, also helping with flood risk

Collaboration with landowners

ECP has released a wetland creation scheme – several farmers have signed up



Wetland creation work at Brookend farm



River Catchment Together

Natural Flood Management

Natural Flood Management at <u>Littlestock</u> Brook, Milton under Wychwood. 2015 - 2021



D Evenlode Catchment Partnership

Natural Flood Management



FLOOD & COAST EXCELLENCE



Winner Climate Resilient Places

Littlestock Brook, Evenlode NFM Scheme

Environment Agency, Wild Oxfordshire, Bruern Estate, Milton Parish Council and the Evenlode Catchment Partnership (including HR Wallingford, UKCEH, Atkins, Windrush AEC)

Emmathema Bayd EMMA HOWARD BOYD Chair - Environment Agency





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Education, Access and Recreation

Educating residents and visitors about the Evenlode catchment

- 3 education and outreach officers in partnership with Cotswold National Landscape
- Engaging schools about the Evenlode
- Engaging universities and the public on the work of the ECP

Inspiring and collaborating with teachers for self sustaining education



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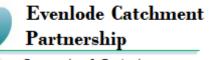


Water Quality

The Evenlode is broken



Sewage litter in a tree on the River Glyme at Woodstock which features in the report. Thames Water could not find this when we reported it in May 2021 despite it being clearly visible from the sewage outfall. We helped them to locate it. Then they claimed it could not be linked to Woodstock Sewage Works until we pointed out the wet wipe hanging out of the outfall.. pipe.



Monitoring

Long-term engagement with Citizen Science

- Water Quality sub-group
- Chaired by Earthwatch Europe
- Citizen Science Coordinator
- FreshWater Watch





Monitoring

Evenlode water pollution causing concern

Fat chance of safe water for Britain's wild swimmers

The UK has persistently refused to comply with the European Commission's bathing water directive, writes Charlie Hopkins



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The Observer

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Best of Today

Podcast

Swimming in sewage: how can we stop UK water firms dumping human waste in our rivers and seas?



Sorry, this episode is not currently available

Why is sewage ending up in our waterways?

Stowmen



River Catchment Together



What's In Our Water? On ITV Tonight, 28th October, 7:30pm Reported DE CROWLEY

Reporter JOE CROWLEY Presenter JULIE ETCHINGHAM

ITV documentary tonight highlights pollution in River Windrush

UK government's sewage spills strategy is 'cruel joke', say critics

Lib Dems say investment will end up on customers' bills and public will be paying for executives' bonuses





ckinghamshire to April.

charges is a "cruel joke", op the pollution.

ced that water companies

Using FreshWater Watch

Citizen science: affordable and accessible
25+ scientific publications to validate methods









Monitoring: monthly FreshWater Watch

Citizen Scientists monitoring more that EA

In 2022:

- 55 volunteers registered
- 330 FreshWater Watch surveys

In comparison:57 Environment Agency phosphate samples

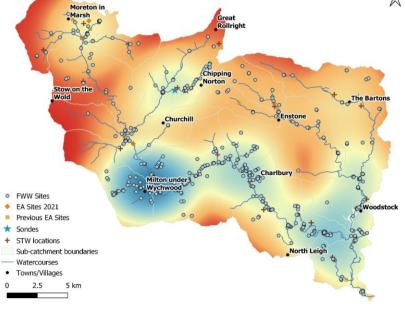






Water Quality Sampling Locations, Evenlode

Blue – more samples Red – less samples



Monitoring: WaterBlitz

Citizen Scientists collect a snapshot of water quality in the catchment

- Summer and Autumn Evenlode WaterBlitzes
- 115 participants total
- Wide coverage in two weekends





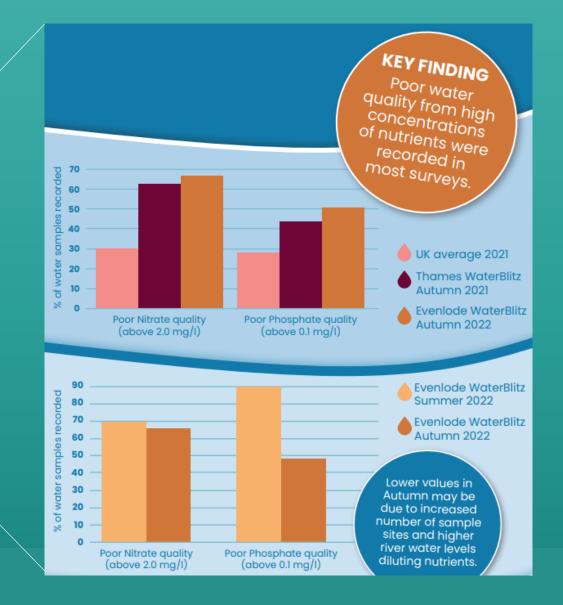
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Monitoring: WaterBlitz

Results show widespread 'poor' water quality

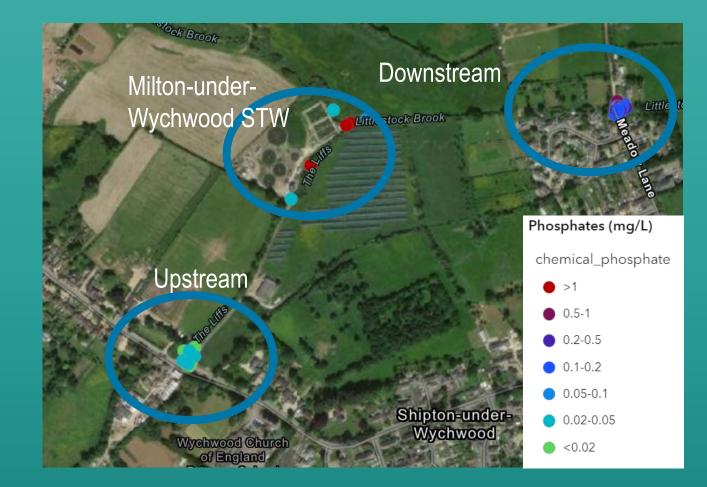
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Monitoring: Point-source Pollution



Sewage Treatment Work
Moderate quality upstream
0.02 - 0.05 mg/L PO₄

Poor quality downstream
0.2 - 0.5 mg/L PO₄

Recommended limit:
0.1 mg/L PO₄

Water Framework Directive





Monitoring: Pollution Events



Before and after a sewage spill at Milton Under Wychwood

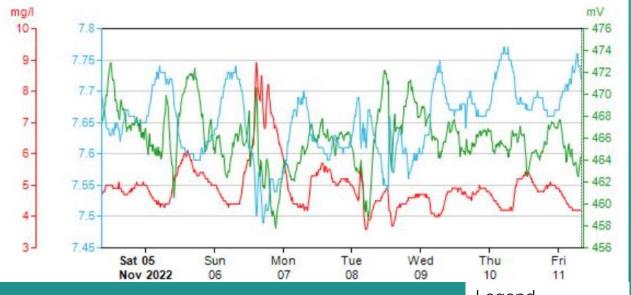


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Sondes

Water Chemistry measurements every 15 minutes



Water Chemistry, Downstream of Milton-under-Wychwood Sewage Treatment Works 10 11 <u>Legend</u> pH (blue) redox (green) NH₄ (red)







Focused Research

Guy Mercer:

• combining FreshWater Watch data with other measurements (e.g. sondes)

Thames 21:

 faecal indicators near Sewage Treatment Works

Evenlode Catchment Partnership Conserving & Restoring our River Catchment Together





Where we are what we know





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WINEP (Water Industry National Environmental Programme)

ECP have been involved in WINEP, a Water Industry process looking at improving their environmental performance through sewage network upgrades

Its emerging that Sewage Treatment Works upgrades are not big enough or fast enough

Local knowledge has been incredibly vital. Water Industry models haven't reflected tourism or future housing developments



Evenlode Catchment Partnership

Conserving & Restoring our River Catchment Together



The dirty Evenlode at the town of Charlbury

Farming

Farming is doing its bit on the Evenlode

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) gives impetus for farmers to do better

Environmental Land Management scheme (ELMs) is promising but its unclear



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Conserving & Restoring our River Catchment Together Nutrient retention pond to reduce farming impact

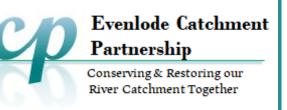
Summary



- ECP aims to achieve good ecological quality
 - Water quality
 - Natural flood management
 - Biodiversity, habitat, landscape
 - Education, access, recreation

 Citizen Scientists monitor phosphate more frequently than EA

Overload of water pollution





Call to action



Improve Sewage Treatment
 Works infrastructure

- Increasing population
- Climate change
- Continue catchment-scale collaboration
- Utilise Citizen Science data
- Share voices with MPs and Councillors







Any questions?



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