ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET

13 September 2013

Volunteers take action to help River Kennet recovery

Following the devastating Chlorpyrifos pesticide pollution incident on the River Kennet between Marlborough and Hungerford in July, volunteers are helping the river to recover more quickly.

On 18 September, a team from Action for the River Kennet (ARK) and Savernake Flyfishers will be working alongside scientists from University College London, to move mayfly, caddisfly and freshwater shrimps from healthy stretches of river to those where the riverfly have been killed.

Charlotte Hitchmough, ARK's director explained 'This approach is experimental, usually rivers are left to recover naturally, but this takes years. Working with UCL scientists we are moving invertebrates from healthy reaches to the damaged reaches and then measuring whether they recover faster than those where nature is left to take its course.

It was volunteers who originally discovered the serious pollution, so it's great that the same people are able to join in to do something to help the river's recovery.'

Riverfly counts carried out by ARK volunteers in August already showed an increase in the invertebrate population since the pollution so, whilst realising that it will be a slow journey back to a healthy river, these first signs are encouraging.

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For more details contact Charlotte Hitchmough on 07880 515859
The team will be meeting at 1pm at Stonebridge Lane Footbridge, Marlborough on Wednesday 18 September. Media welcome.