
Report on May 2020 activity

Volunteers

We had 11 volunteers making reports during April – Thank you!

Observations

The volunteers have made 252 returns, 230 have been pollution observations (161 at regular sites and 69 at other locations) and 22 'interesting photos'.

Pollution seen

At the regular sites, pollution has been spotted at:

- Barnsley Beck (1 of 1 observations)
- Boggart Wood outfall (4/26), mainly smell and or presence of sewage fungus
- Bradford Beck at Ambler Mill (2/7)
- Bradford Beck at Leeds Rd (6/7), usually discolouration
- Bradford Beck at YMCA/Westingholme St (1/7)
- Bullgreave Beck (1/1). Also burnt out car.
- Carr Mires Beck (5/5), still a significant misconnection here
- Middlebrook at MB View (1/1)
- Outfall to Bradford Beck at Leeds Rd (6/6)
- Pitty Beck Allerton area (6/80) – we have ardent observers here!

The most significant events spotted have been at Ambler Mill and Middlebrook View.

Actions taken

Five incidents reported to the EA.

At least two reported to YW, plus one on Harden Beck. This can be hard work, takes a long time to get through, they won't give an email address for photos, ...

Matt Hill, our liaison at YW, has been pushing the investigations with their misconnections team, realising that solving these early will make it possible to spot toehrs which may be masked at present. There are 4 ongoing investigations at present. There has also been jetting work to clear blockages.

We are discussing with Matt how to investigate a particular problem of ammonium pollution on Middlebrook that their instruments have picked and is different from the misconceptions we have reported.

Best news: Aire Rivers Trust have contracted our favourite Pollution Hunter, Rob Hellowell, to go searching for pollution everywhere upstream of Apperley Bridge! He'll also work with volunteers, continue to investigate monitoring systems such as time-lapse cameras and liaise with the Environment Agency.

Next steps

Keep up the good work!

Please use the app to report even when the water is not polluted

Report severe pollution to the EA

Send in interesting photos too – who will be first to capture a kingfisher?

Interesting photos

Here are my favourites among the interesting photos submitted this month, and I declare that Nicholas Hewlett's Bullgreave Beck is the winner. No prize, just glory.



Missing manhole downstream of Briggate, by Robert Hellowell (1 of 3!)



Mallards enjoying Sam's mill weir, by Nicholas Hewlett



Grey wagtail near Poplar Rd, by Alan Keighley.



Horsetail near Pitty Beck, by Andrew Pic

