

CROWD: Clean Rivers Of West Dorset

Email from Fiona White (Environment Agency) after our meeting with her on 8th August

Dear Andrew, Dana, Julie, Lee, Peter, John and Ian,

It was lovely to meet you all yesterday. As promised, please find attached a [copy of our presentation](#) and a [document with the links to the websites where you can view the data collected by the Environment Agency](#) and the website that offers training in data analysis and interpretation.

I have also attached a “[P information sheet for citizen scientists](#)” which I hope you will find helpful. This was produced for citizen scientists on the River Wye, but contains some useful information pertinent for your rivers too. This includes a comparison of three phosphate test kits, including the Hanna egg that we discussed. Different rivers have different targets of phosphorus set depending on alkalinity and altitude. The standards for rivers can be found in Table 5 in page 18 of [The Water Framework Directive \(Standards and Classification\) Directions \(England and Wales\) 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) (these standards aren't very citizen science friendly I'm afraid).

I took away a few questions and speaking to a few colleagues have the following answers:

Monitoring of marine outfalls

We no longer monitor the sea outfalls. Wessex Water monitor the final effluent from their sewage treatment works and supply this data to us. It is available to view on the EA Water Quality Archive (i.e. Open WIMS Data).

The timing and duration (not volume) of storm sewage spills from sea outfalls is recorded by Wessex Water and reported to us in summary form on an annual basis. This data is also available online: [Event Duration Monitoring - Storm Overflows - Annual Returns - data.gov.uk](#).

E.coli testing and the monitoring of coliforms

The EA does not measure these anymore as they were found not to be a useful indicator.

Would it be worth the group purchasing a SONDE and if so where would be useful to deploy?

Having chatted with a few colleagues, we are a bit concerned that this would end up being disproportionately expensive for the group. SONDES require regular maintenance, servicing and calibration in order to maintain data accuracy, which ends up costing quite a lot. In our area we are allocated a set number of Sondes that are returned and exchanged monthly to ensure the accuracy of the data collected. The information collected is used to help inform where our Environment Management team should focus some of their resource, as well as helping us to gather an overall picture of what is happening in a particular area. It can be challenging to suitably resource all investigations arising from these Sonde deployments and other citizen science activities, such as Riverfly, can prove to be more effective in enabling us to take action.

We would be very interested in supporting Riverfly monitoring on your rivers and can help advise where would be helpful to monitor. Please do let us know when you are ready for some input and support.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to meet you all and tell you more about our work.

Best wishes, Fiona