

Hogsmill Pollution Update

Outfall and incident updates for SERT PAVs

July 2015

Hello all,

It's been a very dry June (the driest for 53 years in the neighbouring lower Mole catchment) meaning that your observations have been invaluable. The low flows mean that the watercourses are more sensitive to pollutants but also that misconceptions are easier to trace through the sewer network. Thames Water have begun a few investigations so hopefully we'll have some results soon. It was great to meet a few of you on the Hogsmill on Wednesday, thank you for all your hard work!

Steph Illsley, Environment Officer for the Hogsmill

1. Bourne Hall Ponds stream

The source of the sewage and the heaps of toilet paper in the Bourne Hall Ponds stream has been tracked down by Thames Water. The pollution was caused by a collapsed manhole chamber blocking the sewer which caused the sewage to flow into the neighbouring surface water sewer. The chamber has now been repaired and the stream is back to normal!

2. Moor Lane

The sample that I took from the Bridge Road surface water relief sewer at Moor Lane on the Bonesgate Stream confirmed that the pollution was 'power line insulating oil'. Thames Water traced the oil along their asset to Bridge Road in Chessington where the pollution seemed to stop. I informed UK Power Networks who investigated and found that they had a cable leak in the area which was seeping into the surface water sewer and flowing into the Bonesgate. They immediately installed mitigation in the stream (see photo) and have now repaired the leak. I have sent them a warning letter for the offence.



3. West Ewell Allotments

I received a report from the Wandle Trust stating that sewage was entering the Hogsmill near West Ewell allotments. Thames Water investigated and found a blocked sewer which had caused the sewage to back up and leak out from under a manhole cover. This was flowing over the ground into a small ditch and then into the river. Thames Water have now cleared the blockage and the pollution has ceased.



4. Epsom and Ewell storm tanks

The PAV reports have not detected any pollution incidents from the storm tanks since the outfall monitoring began in January (aside from some rags on the grill at the beginning of the year which were then removed by Thames Water). This is likely to be as a result of the dry weather that we have been having so we have decided to install the water quality loggers downstream of the storm tanks later in the year when the weather becomes a bit wetter and discharges become more likely.

5. Worcester Park Road

Thames Water have begun tracing the misconnections that are polluting the Hogsmill from this outfall and have already identified two wrongly connected properties and had one rectified. There are further investigations occurring this week.



discharged to and we found that they went to the foul sewer and not the Surbiton Stream. The car wash does not have a trade effluent consent with Thames Water so they are currently organising this with the help of the Trade Effluent Officer. However there is no pollution to the watercourse from the carwash.



6. Sheephouse Way

Thames Water have also started tracing the pollution from the Sheephouse Way outfalls which have become very difficult for our PAV to access because of all of the vegetation! Our PAV has remained committed though and has been sending in photos regardless which show that these outfalls should remain a priority. Hopefully the Thames Water tracing will identify some misconnected properties soon.



8. Green Lane, New Malden

This outfall has been watched closely by our PAVs and has been found to be regularly polluted. The sewage fungus is often very thick and the ZSL Riverfly Monitoring Initiative has identified a deterioration in invertebrate populations nearby. There has been some media interest generated from my twitter account (@StephllsleyEA) in both the Surrey Comet and the Kingston Guardian. You can see the article [here](#) although there are a few minor mistakes with the report! Thames Water have begun tracing the pollution and have eliminated a few potential culprits so have narrowed down the search. Hopefully I will be able to report some good progress in the next newsletter and the RMI volunteers will see an improvement.



7. Raeburn Avenue car wash

I visited Raeburn Autos with an Environmental Health Officer from Royal Borough of Kingston council and a Trade Effluent Officer from Thames Water. We poured tracing dye into the drains around the car wash to see where they

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9. Hogsmill Sewage Works water quality monitoring

There are currently real time water quality monitors in the Hogsmill both upstream and downstream of the Hogsmill Sewage Works. This is to help inform future improvements at the works. Currently the monitors are showing some very interesting results *upstream* of the sewage works where the oxygen seems to deteriorate considerably at night. I have taken some samples to try and determine why this might be.

10. Hogsmill Steering Group

We'll be having our first Hogsmill steering group in mid August where we will be discussing priorities and projects on the river. We're also thinking about redesigning the pollution assessment form B so if you have any suggestions then please feed them back to Polly.



Investigating the outfalls together on Wednesday.

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