



Cleaning Up Your River

Guidance for new and established river action groups in Dorset

General Introductory Reading

- Understand [key issues with pollution in UK rivers via The Rivers Trust](#)
- Use Defra's [Catchment Data Explorer](#) to get EA figures on the status of your river.
- Use the [National Storm Overflow Hub](#) to find out whether a storm overflow is currently discharging, the date/time of its last discharge, and planned improvement activity.
- Look at [Swimfo's details of designated bathing waters](#) by name or location.

Local Introductory Reading

- [Dorset Catchments website](#): catchment strategies for West Dorset rivers, Poole Harbour & the Stour
- Wessex Water's [guide to Storm Overflows](#).
- Wessex Water's [Coast and Rivers Watch interactive map](#) with near real-time information about the operation of all overflows in the Wessex Water region. South West Water's WaterFit equivalent.
- Wessex Water (and South West Water) also offer information on, and tours of, local Sewage Treatment Plants, historical and planned Storm Overflow and Sewage Treatment provision.

Thinking of Starting a River Action group – or want to extend your water monitoring?

- Look at the Environment Agency's [Citizen Science Technical Advisory Framework](#) – this sets out 8 principles for Citizen Science with links to practical guidance from CaSTCo and others.
- See River Action's [River Rescue Kit](#) guide to setting up a group, water testing, funding, etc.
- Look at [The Rivers Trust website](#) for a guide to the key issues and how to take action.
- Use the [CaSTCo Knowledge Base](#) to learn about Collaborative Monitoring Planning, Data, and Monitoring Methods (biological, fish, bacteria, riverfly, physical, soil, water quality, chemicals).
- CaSTCo also has a map and established groups can join here: [Join CaSTCo](#)
- Read the excellent [Monitor's Guide to Water Quality](#).
- Read the UK's [Water Framework Directive](#) for background on river standards and regulations.
- Read [a useful guide to accessing Environment Agency Data](#).
- Read about [Environment Agency Data Sets and how to use them](#).
- Investigate pollution from [highway runoff across your catchment](#).
- See the [RiverHub data](#) on monitoring specific chemicals in rivers.
- See the [CROWD - WATER QUALITY RESOURCES guide](#).
- Add your project to the [River Action Community Map](#).

Want to volunteer to work as part of a national rivers project group?

- Become a [Westcountry Rivers Trust CSI Monitor](#).
- Become a [riverfly monitor](#).
- Take part in the Rivers Trust [Big River Watch](#).
- Volunteer via [your local Rivers Trust](#).