



Action for the River Kennet

Only Rain down the Drain



A handy guide to 'yellow fish'

Action for the River Kennet— Elcot Park, Elcot Lane, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 2BG

T: 01672 512700 E: info@riverkennet.org



Summary

Drain marking/ Yellow Fish is an enjoyable, simple and low cost activity with the clear message 'Only rain down the drain!'. It raises awareness of water pollution issues and enables you to improve your local environment. It promotes positive engagement with local communities and provides opportunities to gain media interest.

It's part of an international approach to protecting the environment which involves marking drains to remind people that any waste entering them may go directly to the nearest stream, river, lake, canal, beach or bathing water, causing pollution and killing wildlife. A yellow fish symbol has become associated with storm drain marking and is useful to grab attention.

This document provides details of how to run a Drain Marking/Yellow Fish activity.



CONTENTS

Summary	2
Recruiting volunteers	4
Who is this project suitable for?	4
How to recruit a team	4
Running an activity	5
Asking permission	5
How do I know which drains to mark?	5
The right kit	5
Good marker positioning	7
Safe working	7
Other publicity	8
Risk Assessment	10
Example press release	11
Example Facebook post	12
Mapping	13
Keeping track of where you have worked	13



Recruiting volunteers

Who is this project suitable for?

Anyone can take part in drain marking. It makes an ideal activity for corporate groups, Rivers Trust volunteer groups and Duke of Edinburgh Award students. We suggest a minimum group size of 3, which can be made up from two volunteers and the group leader. This task should not be carried out by lone workers.

All volunteers will need clear instructions, the correct equipment, supervision and support.

If you are working with children, it is essential that you are very clear about who is responsible for them. If they are from a school group, or a scout group, responsibility remains with the School or the Scout group. ARK can advise on risk assessments and safe ways of working. Under 18's may join an ARK volunteer activity as long as they are accompanied by a responsible adult, who remains responsible for their behavior and welfare throughout the task.

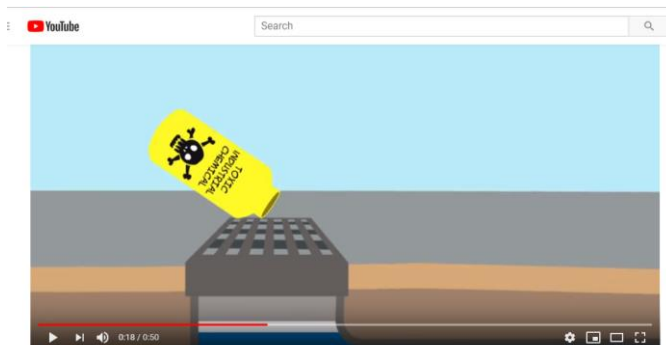
How to recruit a team

If your team isn't ready made from an existing group you'll need to advertise your activity.

- Local paper
- Social Media sites
- Existing email lists
- Local radio

This is a good You Tube description of drain marking which you can use on social media:

<https://youtu.be/KiDSsSYutiM>



Make sure you know who is coming so you can take enough kit for them. Give everyone an easy way to sign up and a clear meeting point.

Example Press Releases and Facebook posts are included at the end of this document.



Running an activity

Asking permission

You must get permission from the highway authority in the area you want to work. This can be an email and you'll be able to find the right contact through the local council Highways team.

The 1980 Highways Act states:

Unauthorised marks on highways.

(1) A person who, without either the consent of the highway authority for the highway in question or an authorisation given by or under an enactment or a reasonable excuse, paints or otherwise inscribes or affixes any picture, letter, sign or other mark upon the surface of a highway or upon any tree, structure or works on or in a highway is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding £100 or, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction under this subsection, to a fine not exceeding £200.

How do I know which drains to mark?

Road and surface water drains are designed to carry only rainwater, usually to the nearest watercourse. Allowing engine oil, cooking oil, paints, chemical wastes, detergents, dog waste, cigarette butts and litter to enter these drains causes pollution to enter the watercourse. These pollutions can range from the creation of an eyesore to the killing of fish and wildlife.

In areas with old drainage systems 'combined' sewers may take both rain water and foul waste to a sewage treatment works through one pipe. Don't worry if you are not sure, it's better to mark the drain than not to.

Your local EA should be able to let you know which parts of the catchment have the most water pollution incidents. You might decide to start there.

The right kit

DISCS

Most groups now use **drain marking discs**, rather than painted stencils. This is because:

- Better finished look
 - Less mess
 - Shorter drying time
-



- Works in almost all weathers
- Lasts longer
- Less risk of toxic paint reaching the water course

However, not all drain markers stay in place and the plastic ones don't always stand the test of time. Markers that wash off into the drain do more harm than good, so make sure each one is fixed well, using an appropriate adhesive. Aluminum discs should be considered as a good alternative to plastic.



SURFACE PREPARATION

The surface should be clean and as dry as possible.

Use a brush (ideally a **wire brush** and a **fat paintbrush**, like a fence painting brush) to make sure your surface is clear of fine grit.

If you use a good adhesive the surface does not have to be totally dry.

ADHESIVE

Use a good **All Weather Grab Adhesive**, applied with a **caulk gun**. We have used Evostick 'Sticks like sh*t Turbo' with success but other products are available. Take the COSHH form with you. Apply the adhesive in a spiral motion from the centre towards the edge. Then press down firmly until the adhesive reaches the edge of the disc. Make sure that water can't get in underneath the disc.

There is a good YouTube video of how to apply a drain marker here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_kXp_z4iFAI

PPE

All volunteers must wear high visibility vests.

Old clothing is recommended in case adhesive gets on to clothes (it doesn't wash off).

The adhesive is not a highly toxic product, but it can be messy. Wear disposable protective latex/vinyl/nitrile gloves.



Good marker positioning

Markers must be visible, not present a trip hazard and be safe to adhere. Usually the best place is between the curb and the drain, or on the side face of the curb. Don't place markers on top of curbstones, where they may create a trip hazard.



Figure 1 Photo of marker on side of curb next to drain (NB this example would be improved by putting the disc higher up so that the whole back of the disc is directly in contact with the stone.).

Safe working

The event organizer will select roads with less traffic and slower traffic speeds. It is critical that no-one is put at risk from vehicle collision. **Always work in groups of two or three people. Before starting work agree who has responsibility for marking drains, and who is responsible for looking out for cars.** These are clearly defined roles and ensure that everyone is safe. Work from the pavement. Never work alone, always in group of two or three. There must be a clear briefing from the event leader before anyone starts work, and all participants must 'sign in' to show that they have understood the briefing.



Other publicity

To get your message 'Only Rain down the Drain' to the widest audience, you might distribute leaflets, business cards or door hangers.

Here are some examples.

Have you seen this
yellow fish?



Rainwater Only
Drains to River

Drains are for rainwater only.

Anything else can pollute river water and harm wildlife.


Action for the River Kennet's volunteers are marking drains in this area to remind people to think about what they put down the drains.



Keep our river clean—only rain down the drain.



Figure 2 Example flyer



Have you seen this...



YELLOW FISH

 River Kennet www.riverkennet.org

Drains leading into the River Kennet have been marked with the **Yellow Fish**.

Allowing oils, paint, chemicals, detergents and even litter to enter drains can have **severe effects** on the local ecosystem.

DRAINS ARE NOT BINS

Take responsibility and look after your **local environment**.



Figure 3 Example business cards



Hello!

Did you notice the storm drain marker in your neighborhood?



Here's the story...

Stormwater runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows, it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and deposit them into a storm sewer system or waterbody. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

The stencil or marker is a neighborhood reminder of what you can do to help clean up Albany County waterways.

Learn how to prevent storm water pollution. (Flip the doorhanger!)

To stencil a storm drain in your municipality, learn about your local stormwater management program; or report an illegal discharge, contact your local municipality. To learn about Stormwater Coalition, contact swcoalition@albanycounty.com

The outreach and education program is sponsored by the Stormwater Coalition of Albany County. Coalition members include the Cities of Albany, Catskill, and Westerlo; Towns of Ballston Spa, Catskill, and New Scotland; the Village of Catskill, Green Island, Normans, and Westerlo; Albany County; and SUNY Albany. Supporters include Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Capital District Regional Planning Commission.



Become a solution to water pollution!

Only Rain Down the Drain!

POLLUTANTS IN STORM DRAINS **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

Motor oil, anti-freeze, transmission fluid

Dispose of household hazardous waste, used auto fluids, and batteries at designated collection or recycling locations. Repair auto leaks.

Yard waste

Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.

Pet waste

Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash or by flushing.

Paints and solvents

Clean paint brushes in the sink, not out doors. Contact your local municipality find out dates and places to properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program.

Pesticides and fertilizers

Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and not when rain is forecast.

Construction debris, excessive dirt and gravel

Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris like concrete and mortar.

Detergent

Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface.



Helpful websites:
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8468.html

Figure 4 Example door hanger



Risk Assessment

Risk assessment for Drain Marking		Location (to describe to emergency services)				Address, postcode,		
Event Date	1 January 2019							
First aider(s)	Name	Mobile no.						
	Name	Mobile no.						
	Name	Mobile no.						
Event Leader	Name	Mobile no.						
Activity	Hazard	Risk likelihood	Who/What	Severity	Control	Training	Emergency Action	Reviewed on day
Road crossing	Vehicle collision	Low	Volunteers	High	High vis.,	Event briefing	First Aid, 999	
Working by road	Vehicle collision	Low	Volunteers	High	High vis. Group working	No lone working	First Aid, 999	
Posting flyers	slips, trips, falls	Low	Volunteers	Low		Sensible care, problems to event leader.		
Working by road and posting flyers	Verbal abuse	Low	Volunteers	Low	High vis,	Avoid confrontation, refer any problems to task leader.	First Aid, 999	
Drain marking	All weather Adhesive	Low	Volunteers	Low	Briefing		Refer to task leader	
Drain marking	Property damage	Low	Property	Low	Protective gloves, low odour product	Clear instructions, correct products.	COSHH data sheet, take product with you if medical advice required	
Drain marking	Pollution	Low	Water course	Low	Event briefing	Care not to touch property with sticky hands, replace lids.	Wipes/cloth to clear overspill	
Drain marking	Weather	Medium	Activity	Low	Event briefing	Clear instructions, correct products.	Check markers have adhered before leaving site	
					Fore cast & assessment	Explain at briefing, in heavy rain/ice adhesive won't work	Abandon session if necessary	





Example press release



Action for the River Kennet

15 January 2018

Yellow fish come to Reading

Drains around Reading are getting a new look – to help stop river pollution. A team of volunteers will be marking drains to remind everyone ‘only rain down the drain’.

Action for the River Kennet Project Officer Martin Kent said ‘It’s easy to forget that most of our road drains go straight to the river, so anything we put down them, from cigarette butts to dog waste or old paint, just ends up in the river doing permanent harm to wildlife.’

‘We need people to come and give us a hand. It’s a great way to meet new friends and have some fun doing something really worthwhile. You can join in for a day, or just a few hours – it’s up to you.’

Action for the River Kennet are running a series of Yellow Fish Days, on Friday 25 January, Friday 1 February, Thursday 7 February, Wednesday 13 February, Friday 22 February and Saturday 2 March at various locations in and around Reading. The first is at Southcote on Friday 25 January starting at 10am.

To see a full list of dates and locations visit www.riverkennet.org/events. To book your place to join in, get in touch with Martin Kent . Martin.Kent@riverkennet.org or 07850 450695.



Action for the River Kennet, Elcot Park, Elcot Lane, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 2BG

Registered charity number: 1120725 www.riverkennet.org email: charlotte@riverkennet.org



Example Facebook post

enda.pdf x f (2) ARK - Action for the River Kennet x +

/riverkennet/

ARK - Action for the River Kennet

Page | Inbox | Events | Notifications | Insights | Publishing To... | More

Settings | Help

Sign Up

Promote Website

Community

Suggest Edits

Related Pages

- The Roebuck Inn, Marl... Pub Like
- Dans Restaurant Restaurant Like
- The White Horse Book... Bookstore Like

Pages Liked by This Page

- Protect Rhode Island Brook Trout
- Print Image
- Wiltshire Life

English (US) · Polski · Español · Português (Brasil) · Français (France)

Information about Page Insights Data
Privacy · Terms · Advertising · Ad Choices · Cookies · More

Facebook © 2019

ARK - Action for the River Kennet
@riverkennet

Home | About | Photos | Events | Videos | Posts | Services | Shop | Notes | Offers | Jobs | Community | Info and Ads | Promote | Manage Promotions

Liked | Following | Share

With a forecast of no rain and rising temperatures for next week Friday, why not come along to Southcote Linear Park for the first Yellow Fish event of 2019. Any time you could spare would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteer Day
Friday 25th January 10am–3pm
Help us protect the River Kennet
Yellow Fish campaign

Meet at Southcote Linear Park, Brunel Rd, Reading, RG30 3JH

To book your place and for more details contact:
ARK Project Officer Martin Kent
martin.kent@riverkennet.org
07850450695

**ONLY RAIN
DOWN THE DRAIN**

We need your help to mark storm drains to raise awareness of pollution entering our rivers, reminding everyone that only rain should go down the drain. All welcome, whether you can spare an hour or a whole day.

www.facebook.com/riverkennet

2,216 People Reached | 64 Engagements | Boost Post

Figure 5 Example Facebook Post



Mapping

Keeping track of where you have worked

Keep a record of where you have worked.

ARK use Epi-collect. It's a free app, straightforward to set up and easy for volunteers to use as they are working. It creates a GIS layer automatically so you can keep track of where your drains are marked. An example output is below:

