



River Great Ouse Valley: learning task: Geography Key stage 3

Curriculum link: understand how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments and the climate; and how human activity relies on effective functioning of natural systems

In groups of three or four, identify information from the following three texts to create a flow diagram showing human and physical processes leading to changes in the river environment leading to impact on human activity.

Youtube River Great Ouse in Bedford Gets a Clean Up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=64Tuza5rDTM>

Bedford Independent @1st October 2024

<https://www.bedfordindependent.co.uk/ofwat-fines-criticised-as-anglian-water-revealed-to-be-second-highest-polluter-in-england-and-wales/>

Ofwat fines criticised as Anglian Water revealed to be second highest polluter in England and Wales (abridged)

BedsGOVET, the local river quality testing charity, set up to monitor water quality in Bedford Borough through the Don't Lose the Ouse campaign, has called fines aimed at water companies who haven't reached improvement targets "meaningless".

Ofwat announced the fines yesterday, after not a single water company in England or Wales had done enough to repair leaks and reduce sewage spillages into waterways, missing improvement targets.

Water companies previously committed to reducing pollution incidents by 30%, but there has only been a 2% reduction...

The news comes as a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the Environment Agency by the law firm [Legal Expert](#), found that Anglian Water has recorded 65 serious water pollution incidents in the last five years – the second-highest figure in England and Wales.

The Environment Agency categorises water pollution incidents as serious if they fall into their two highest categories: major (category 1) or significant (category 2).

Serious incidents can include events that may cause fish to die, are potentially harmful to bathers or force a drinking water provider to temporarily stop abstracting water from a river.

Legal Expert's FOI also revealed that issues with containment and sewage came out on top as the leading cause of serious pollution incidents.

BedsGOVET's Alan Horn said,

"Our testing programme on the Great Ouse through Bedfordshire is about to be increased dramatically as levels of e-coli and nitrates are often at many times above so-called safety levels and are clearly potentially harmful to both humans and river life."

Earthwatch

<https://earthwatch.org.uk/blog/water-pollution-in-the-uk-the-causes-and-effects/>