



SUSTAINABLE WOOTTON COURTENAY Newsletter No 20 June 2025



Good News: The River Hannay Pollution Test Results



In April, Sustainable Wootton Courtenay took part in Great UK Waterblitz 2025 which is a citizen science project involved in testing the water quality of freshwater rivers, lakes and streams. 7978 communities across the UK surveyed 4017 freshwater sites with 66 % recording poor water quality. Check out the full report on earthwatch.org.uk

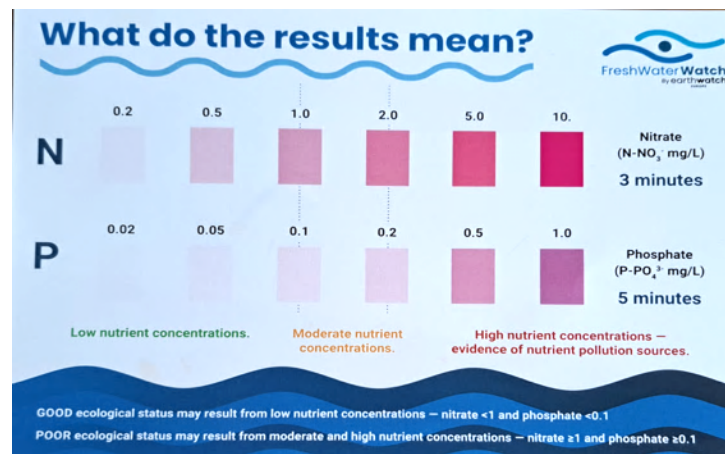


We were provided with test kits, detailed instructions and a video explaining how to carry out the survey. The River Hannay was tested for nitrates and phosphates at 5 locations in the village at :

- a) Annicombe b) Ford Farm lake c) The stream running by Crockfords. d) Mill Farm
- e) The river near the Hunt Kennels

Excessive amounts of nitrates and phosphates can lead to water pollution, affecting both aquatic life and human health. Two separate water samples were taken at each location.

We are really pleased to report that the River Hannay samples recorded very low concentrations, from 0.2 – 0.5 mg/l of nitrates and 0.02 - 0.05 mg/l of phosphates. There was a marginally higher recording at Crockfords where apparently the stream displayed discolouration earlier in the day but these results were not reflected in the samples taken lower down stream.



Many thanks to James and Rose Wilmoth, Veronica Clegg, Marion and Bill Hodgson and Sheila and Andrew Colton for granting permission to carry out the testing on their premises.



National Trust to Phase Out Single Use Cups

In the UK, 2.5 billion single use coffee cups are thrown away annually (or 7 million every day or 5000 every minute), creating waste that's harmful for nature, wildlife and the climate. This is why the National Trust is encouraging members to make the change to reusable cups. By the end of 2016 they're aiming to phase out these cups from their cafes and encouraging visitors to bring their own travel cups or enjoy a hot drink in one of their ceramic mugs.



LIGHT BULBS



Modern light bulbs are more energy efficient than the traditional incandescent bulbs. There are three types, CFL (compact fluorescent lamps), Halogen, and LEDs (light emitting diodes).

For domestic use, the most efficient and long lasting are the LEDs. These are up to 90% more efficient and are safer because they use smaller amounts of power and produce very little heat. They come in bayonet, screw and pin fittings, so check your fittings before buying. They are usually sold in two colours, daylight (cool) or warm, although they can be purchased in other colours.

Modern LEDs use less electricity than traditional bulbs and to give you some idea of the light output of LEDs we have printed below a table which compares the wattages of traditional incandescent bulbs with modern LEDs.

If you are planning external lighting around your house Exmoor National Park recommends low wattage bulbs up to 5 watts in a warm white colour. This will help to protect Exmoor Dark Skies and minimise harm to nocturnal creatures.

Traditional Watts	25	40	60	100
Modern LED Watts	4	6	10	18

Further information on electric bulbs can be obtained from the web.

SOME GOOD NEWS: Significant Plastic Bag Reduction



British shops and shoppers have significantly cut the use of plastic bags on the high street and in supermarkets but by contrast, plastic packaging for online purchases remains very common. In a physical shop, whatever size, retailers must now, by law, charge a minimum price for a single use carrier bag. Since that charge was introduced **the number of plastic bags used dropped sharply, down 98% from an estimated 8 billion in 2013 (130 per person)**. However there is no such charge when it comes to packaging for online purchases which account for over a quarter of all retail sales. **Online fashion firms delivered more than 900 million plastic bags to UK shoppers last year!** The vast majority are not recycled. Some retailers have been driving the change as recyclable packaging is now readily available. **Argos and Asos say that their mailing bags contain at least 80% recyclable content. Amazon stopped single use delivery bags in 2022 and now all it's delivery bags, envelopes and boxes are 100% recyclable**

Council Short of Funds? Check out Rotherham's Savings

Rotherham Council has planted 8 miles of wild flower verges **saving £25K in mowing costs!**



Calling All Small Businesses: IKEA Offering Free Help



For small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), sustainability can seem out of reach. It requires climate expertise, time and access to resources. Together with non-profit initiative SME Climate Hub, [IKEA is offering free help](#) to support businesses and the environment.(click on the link for further information).

The global retailer has ambitious climate goals and has made significant progress, and is now looking to bring some of this experience to SMEs. By offering access to free tools, training and resources, IKEA hopes to help businesses to [reduce their emissions](#) and build greater resilience for the future.

SMEs account for around 90% of businesses globally and are responsible for an estimated 64% of global emissions, according to the International Labour Organisation.

An engineer has solved Kenya's waste problem, turning plastic garbage into bricks that are 5 times stronger than concrete. She's planning to use these bricks to create low-cost housing for impoverished Kenyans.



Waste Company re-homes 250,000 Items



Staff at a reuse shop are celebrating after distributing more than 250,000 items.

The products are sold at affordable prices or donated by Bristol Waste Company as part of a wider mission to reduce the amount it discards.

Everything from electronics to furniture have been re-homed from three sites at Avonmouth, Hartcliffe and St Phillips since the scheme started in 2020.

Some of the proceeds generated go towards local charities, with St Peter's Hospice so far receiving around £40,000.

"We hear stories every day from our customers about how affordable our prices are and how we've helped them" said Judith Gordon, Shop Manager at the Avonmouth Reuse Shop. "I had a mother tell me that she was able to completely redo her son's room with furniture and items from the shop."

"We're currently selling between 7,000 and 8,000 items every month and it's only getting bigger as awareness of the Reuse Shops keeps growing," said Ms Boydon. **Bristol Waste says it re-homed 80,000 items in 2024 alone.**



Why have Mars, Nestle, Mondelez(Cadburys) Walmart and others left the US Plastics Pact?

The US Plastics Pact brings together businesses and organisations, with the aim of eliminating the plastics we don't need and innovating to ensure the plastics we do need are reusable, recyclable or compostable. The pact is one of the world's largest frameworks for addressing [the problem of plastic waste](#), with a specific focus on the fast-moving



consumer goods industry. However, there has been a mass exodus of some of its most prominent members, including Walmart, Mondelez, Mars, Nestlé and L'Oréal USA.

The departure of several high-profile companies represents a hammer blow to the pact's aims, raising questions about the US corporate world's commitment to packaging sustainability.

Sir David Attenborough's Natural World Abandoned Fishing Net Story



Italian diver Enzo Mallorca was diving off the coast near Syracuse, accompanied by his daughter Rossana. Suddenly, he felt something gently touch his back under the water. When he turned around he saw a dolphin, but it clearly wasn't there to play, it was trying to communicate something.

The dolphin plunged into the depths, and Enzo followed. About 15 metres deep, he discovered another dolphin trapped in an abandoned fishing net and fighting for its life. Enzo called his daughter to pass him a diving knife and quickly managed to free the animal. The dolphin, exhausted and close to drowning, emitted a scream, something Enzo would later describe as almost human.

A dolphin can only hold its breath for about ten minutes, and this one was close to its limit. They helped it to surface, where shortly after it gave birth to a calf, while the other dolphin, the father, swam around in the water.

Then, he swam to Enzo, touched his cheek in a gesture that resembled a grateful kiss, and disappeared with his family into the sea. After the experience Enzo reflected with the following words: "Until man learns to respect nature and understand the language of animals, he will never realize his rightful place on Earth".



"If we and the rest of the back-boned animals were to disappear overnight, the rest of the world would get on pretty well.

But if the invertebrates were to disappear, the world's ecosystems would collapse."

~ Sir David Attenborough ~