

Since the 19 January 2014, the Environment Agency has received 20 reports of pollution incidents in the Eton Wick area from members of the public.

The pollution came from the nearby sewage treatment works and has affected 3km of the Roundmoor Ditch and Boveney Ditch from Chippenham to its confluence with the River Thames.

Thames Water Utilities Limited are responsible for any instances of pollution which result from their operations. Our role is to regulate businesses to ensure their operations do not have a detrimental effect on the environment.

Environment Agency Officers have visited the site several times to investigate these reports and to assess the environmental impact. During these investigations we found six dead fish as well as sewage fungus on the river bed and sewer debris on the banks. However, once the pollution stops, sewage fungus will disappear quickly.

We've collected samples and water quality readings and have installed water quality loggers that continuously monitor the impact on water quality downstream of the sewage treatment works.

On 28 February 2014, Thames Water Utilities Limited wrote to customers explaining that due to the exceptional and prolonged adverse weather conditions, dilute sewage had been discharged into the watercourse.

We're currently investigating the legality of the discharge as it was made under storm conditions and will discuss our findings with local stakeholders once our investigations are complete.

We've been in daily contact with Thames Water Utilities Limited and have advised them on methods to increase oxygen levels in the watercourses; this will reduce the environmental impact of the ongoing discharge. We will be carrying out invertebrate and fish surveys when conditions are appropriate.

We take pollution incidents seriously and consider enforcement action in line with our enforcement and sanctions guidance. This is available on our website at [Environment Agency - Enforcement](#).

Pollution incidents and fish in distress can be reported to us on our free 24 hour incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

If you have public health concerns, please contact the Environmental Health Department of your Local Authority. If you have concerns about wildlife in distress please report this to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).