

Emails from Mark Cannon between the Angling Trust and Richard Aylard at TW:

Dear All

Update below from Thames, Richard Aylard, forwarded by Mark Lloyd, thanks.

Mark

From: markcannon3@hotmail.com
To: mark.lloyd@anglingtrust.net
Date: Tue, 18 Mar 2014 21:32:05 +0000

Dear Mark

Thank you for that, yes preventing re-occurrence would be very desirable and the post event review will be interesting! We do have a lot of concerns especially over the capacity of Slough STW.

Yes we have had exceptional rain but the un - treated effluent release into our streams started around 12th January

(first report 19th Jan) significantly prior to peak rain fall and ground water levels in this area.

In fact the water quality discharge was notably poor on many occasions last year and with increase housing in Slough I guess demand will get higher.

So yes we would like this to never happen again, but history makes us skeptical. We would also like re-assurance and information on the day-day water quality and for this to be available on-going.

One thing I think our community feel most strongly about is that if there should be another need to storm release effluent into the Thames, then it is NOT via the miles of streams and ditches that run through Eton Wick turning them into open sewers!

Richard mentions Roundmoor & Boveney ditch but these also link into Cress Brook and Colenorton Ditch and have been affected as well, possibly also Common Ditch.

Hopefully we will see some positive results, thank you.

Best Regards

Mark

From: Mark.Lloyd@Anglingtrust.net
To: markcannon3@hotmail.com
Date: Tue, 18 Mar 2014 12:10:08 +0000

Dear Mark,

Please see below an update from Thames Water.

It does sound as if things may be about to improve, but realise that this is cold comfort.

We will certainly take them up on the post-event review and talk to them about what can be done to prevent re-occurrence.

All best wishes

Mark

From: Richard Aylard [mailto:richard.aylard@thameswater.co.uk]
Sent: 18 March 2014 09:11
To: Mark Lloyd
Cc: Mark Owen; Howard Brett
Subject: RE: Pollution, Boveney / Roundmore Ditch

Mark,

Apologies that this has been slightly delayed but the situation is at last starting to change now that we have a spell of dry weather, which is definitely to everyone's advantage. From our perspective, things are now improving.

I've previously noted that the rainfall over the previous few months has been truly exceptional. Until very recently, Slough STW has continued to receive very high influent flows, and although the works - in our view - is performing as well as can be expected, this does mean that the continuing excess flows beyond the full treatment capacity have received limited treatment prior to discharge. We have recognised the adverse impact that this had on the Roundmoor & Boveney Ditches and aeration has been in place to try and keep dissolved oxygen concentrations elevated.

At the moment, and with the cessation of the heavy rainfall, the ingress of both surface and groundwater into the sewerage system has eased, to the point where we are now able to fully treat all incoming flows and begin to address the retained storm tank flows. We also have the agreement of the EA to empty and treat the contents of the Roundmoor ditch, and this is due to begin imminently.

We are investigating with the EA how we can best tackle the condition of the Boveney Ditch without causing damage to the substrate. When we have an agreed plan I'll be pleased to update you further, and my earlier offer of a post-event review still holds good.

Regards

Richard

From: Mark Lloyd [mailto:Mark.Lloyd@Anglingtrust.net]
Sent: 11 March 2014 11:50
To: Richard Aylard

Cc: Alex Harrison; Mark Owen
Subject: RE: Pollution, Boveney / Roundmore Ditch

Dear Richard,

I would be grateful if you could give me a proper update on this as you indicated last week.

We have been sent a number of pictures of dead fish and other wildlife.

I look forward to hearing from you soon,

Many thanks

Mark

From: Richard Aylard [<mailto:richard.aylard@thameswater.co.uk>]
Sent: 04 March 2014 09:22
To: Mark Lloyd
Cc: Alex Harrison; Mark Owen
Subject: RE: Pollution, Boveney / Roundmore Ditch

Mark

I will get back to you with a proper update but I very much suspect that the problem is simply that groundwater levels are so high that the flows into the works are still well above the amount we can treat.

Regards

Richard

From: Mark Lloyd [<mailto:Mark.Lloyd@Anglingtrust.net>]
Sent: 04 March 2014 09:02
To: Richard Aylard
Subject: RE: Pollution, Boveney / Roundmore Ditch

Dear Richard,

Further to our previous exchange on this I had this message from a local resident yesterday:

“Pollution is still pumping out into our stream, looks like EA still licencing them to do it.... We've had mention of clean up afterwards by Thames Water but no end in sight yet. Obviously since my last contact the local focus here went to the extreme flooding problems in Datchet & Wraysbury , understandable and I believe all EA staff were seconded to flooding.

Water levels are normal now (have been for nearly two weeks) but still raw effluent pumping in.”

Can you let me know why this hasn't been resolved yet and when it will be?

Many thanks

Mark

From: Richard Aylard [<mailto:richard.aylard@thameswater.co.uk>]
Sent: 31 January 2014 18:04
To: Mark Lloyd
Subject: RE: Pollution, Boveney / Roundmore Ditch

Mark

The problem is that the works is completely overloaded due to the heavy and sustained rainfall (which has been genuinely exceptional) This means that we now have groundwater flooding to add to the fluvial flooding and excess surface water run off. That means levels of incoming flows stay exceptionally high even when it hasn't been raining. I understand the call for 'emergency measures' but it is very difficult to see what could be done for a works of this size.

I can confirm that the works has been treating more than its designed flow to full treatment throughout. Once that is exceeded we use the storm tanks and when those are full we have no alternative but to discharge in line with our storm consent. We are now trying to increase the treated flows a bit further, in order to reduce storm discharges, but as you know we can only go so far or treated effluent standards will drop.

Until very recently DO standards were holding up well, but they recently began to drop and we have deployed aerators. We will of course look at clean up options as soon as flows have dropped, and also take a careful look at the possible build up of silt in the effluent channel.

The additional rain we are getting as I write, and the whole lot more we seem likely to get over the weekend, will provide some short term additional dilution but we will continue to monitor the situation closely. And of course we have been in close touch with the EA throughout.

I can't answer the questions about the Jubilee River, except to say that, as a flood relief scheme, summer flows will be minimal and therefore possibly not well suited for treated effluent.

Do let me know if you get any more of these and I will do my best to help. I wish I had a magic wand.

Best wishes

Richard

From: Mark Lloyd [<mailto:Mark.Lloyd@Anglingtrust.net>]
Sent: 31 January 2014 12:10

To: Richard Aylard

Subject: FW: Pollution, Boveney / Roundmore Ditch

Hi Richard,

When it rains, it pours...

I've been contacted by one of our members about this situation referred to below (and in the attached).

If you can do anything to grease the wheels towards a rapid solution that would be much appreciated.

All best wishes