

# Dirty Water Campaign

Taking direct action to demand clean water.

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# Dirty Water Campaign

Building an understanding of how extreme weather events directly affect our waterways and pollution levels. Taking direct action to demand clean water.

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## Wave 4

☐☐ Fri 4 – Sun 6 August

This time we're taking the campaign to local bathing spots! We'll reinforce outreach with flyers and posters giving public health information, warning signs, brown flags and Dirty Water banner drops.

☐☐ [Wave 4 Action Pack](#)

☐☐ Join our Telegram channels:

- [Broadcast channel](#)
- [Live Content and Chat](#)

☐☐ Sign up to [#dirtywater news](#)

## Contact Dirty Water

- Using their Mattermost Reception channel [here](#)
- Email: [dirtywatercampaign@proton.me](mailto:dirtywatercampaign@proton.me)

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The **Dirty Water Landing Page** links to all the Waves of actions and has all the information you need to take part in each Wave.

## Dirty Water Waves 1-3 [Action Packs](#)

**Wave 3 Ripple 1** took place at The Big One 21st-24th April

See the [Dirty Water Broadcast](#) on Telegram for info.

**Wave 3 Ripple 2** focused on the Local Elections in early May.

For easy access to take part, this is the [#VoteCleanWater Action Pack](#) with a separate link to the [A3 posters for commercial printing](#)

## Contact Dirty Water

Using their Mattermost Reception channel [here](#) or email: [dirtywatercampaign@proton.me](mailto:dirtywatercampaign@proton.me)

## Take Action

Sign up to the Dirty Water Mailing List [here](#) Sign up to the Dirty Water Telegram chat [here](#)

**Digital Rebellion Dirty Water** Wave 2

Take action from your own armchair [here](#)

- Sign up to the Digital Rebellion mailing list [here](#)
- Sign up to the Digital Rebellion Telegram chat [here](#)

## Resources

[Environmental Information and Water Companies 2015](#)

[23 June 2021 Oral evidence: Water Quality in Rivers, Environmental audit committee](#)

[18 July 2013 letter from Richard Benyon, Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries](#)

[Government Report on sewage in water by Prof. Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England, Jonson Cox, Ofwat chair and Emma Howard Boyd, Environment Agency chair. Published 27 June 2022](#)

[Government Implementation Plan for the Chalkstream Strategy 25.11.22](#)

[Deep Water Mattermost Channel Deep Water Telegram Channel](#)

[Lots of sewage news and info here on the BBC:](#)

## Maps

[Environment Agency Water Basin Catchment Areas](#)

## SAS Safer Rivers and Seas Map

[EDM Map](#) | [Storm discharge data](#) | [River health](#) | [Thames Water \(in real-time\)](#)

[Raw sewage in our rivers](#) | [The Rivers Trust monitor sewage in your local area: real-time data map](#)

[Map shows raw sewage emptied into Worcestershire rivers](#) | [Worcester News](#)

## Articles (in date order/newest at the bottom)

[11 March 2021 Hundreds of sewage leaks detected thanks to AI](#)

[31 March 2021 water firms discharged raw sewage into english waters 400000 times last year](#)

[7 Sept 2021 Sewage discharge rules eased over fears of chemical shortage](#)

[25 Oct 2021 BBC: Tory MPs defend votes after uproar over sewage proposals](#)

[22 Nov 2021 UK legal group warns of information blackout on sewage discharges](#)

[15 Feb 2022 Mirror article: Fat cat water bosses take home £15m as raw sewage rockets](#)

[13 May 2022 Sewage dumps into English rivers widespread, criminal inquiry suspects](#)

[25 Aug 2022 UK sewage turning Channel and North Sea into dumping ground, say French MEPs](#)

[27 Aug 2022 Liz Truss allowed farmers to pollute England's rivers after 'slashing red tape', say campaigners](#)

[River pollution goes unchecked as testing in England falls to 10-year low 2 Sept 2022](#)

[14 Sept 2022 'We are not going away': the volunteers fighting back against England's polluted rivers](#)

1 Oct 2022 Environment Agency knew sewage was being dumped into rivers years ago, leak reveals

3 Oct 2022 Water companies forced to cut £150m from customers bills

Protesters to take to beaches over sewage discharges into English seas 7 Oct 2022

'Hot air': plans to crack down on UK water polluters dismissed as toothless 15 Oct 2022

River pollution: New phosphate rules hit thousands of planned new homes 24 October 2022

This article gives a good account of the enormous impact of dairy farms on rivers in Devon 25 Oct 2022

Massive sewage spill filmed at St Agnes beach in Cornwall 30 Oct 2022

MPs who voted for sewage: Full list of MPs who voted to continue | Politics | News | Express.co.uk Oct 27, 2021

Ministers have no idea how many beaches in England shut due to sewage | Pollution | The Guardian 6 Nov 2022

9 Nov 2022 Environment Agency Prosecutions 6% of the Level they were a Decade Ago

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria found in UK rivers close to factory farms | The Independent 22 Nov 2022

Swimming in superbugs: MRSA and E coli found in British rivers — The Bureau of Investigative Journalism (en-GB) (thebureauinvestigates.com) November 22 2022

Water companies dumping sewage during dry weather, SAS report finds 24 Nov 2022

BBC: Wild swimmers are getting sick from sewage, campaigners say 24 Nov 2022

Water chiefs blame UK government for failure to stop sewage pollution 26 Nov 2022

Government to weaken water pollution goals in 'attack on nature' 9 Dec 2022

Target date for cleaning up waterways in England is moved back by 36 years 22 Dec 2022

6 Jan Bloomberg Thames Water Sewage Maps shows pollution in London

16 Jan Moody Ratings Agency downgrades outlook for UK Water Companies

Sarah Jackson: British windsurfer says south coast like 'surfing in sewage' everyday 27 Jan 2023

Water company shareholders will need to help vulnerable customers bear the cost of living squeeze: Ofwat 27 Jan 2023

Sewage Overspills result from lack of infrastructure Imperial College 30 Jan 2023

Impending death of the River Wye 30 Jan 2023

Water firms in England urged to upgrade sewage works for new homes 31st Jan 2023

Contained in this Environment Plan is a promise to upgrade 160 wastewater treatment plans by 2027 (There are 7,078 sewage treatment works in England & Wales) 31st Jan 2023

Thames Water: Oxford City Council calls for end to water privatisation

'I do give a shit about water pollution' Therese Coffey 1st Feb 2023

Kent: Sewage pours onto street 1st Feb 2023

Water company prosecutions fall in England despite thousands of pollution warnings 1st Feb 2023

Water bills to increase by most in almost 20 years from April 1st Feb 2023

Water firms to lose public funds unless they pledge to stop UK sewage spills 1 Feb 2023

[Uk River Levels at record low](#)

[10 Mar 2023 Campaigners ask why bathing area applications are rejected?](#)

## Videos

[What Makes Up Flood Water?](#)

[Riverside](#)

[BBC Documentary on Pollutants in Welsh Rivers](#)

## Organisations

[Angling Trust](#)

[Fish Legal 'set up to protect all inland and coastal waters in the United Kingdom from pollution and other environmental damage'](#)

[River Action UK](#)

[Surfers Against Sewage](#)

[Take action | The Rivers Trust](#)

[UN Water Conference 2023 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

[Get involved with the UK's largest and most comprehensive water quality testing programme](#)

## Useful Contacts

[Deep Water: Water and Sewage companies and Telegram links - Google Docs](#)

[Water Magazine \(a freely distributed monthly publication reporting on the UK's municipal and industrial water\)](#)

**[Jenni Russell on Twitter](#)**

Columnist, The Times; contributing writer, the New York Times; book reviewer, the Sunday Times. Winner of the Orwell Prize for political journalism 2011.

“Please read; the most important piece I've written. Mass poisoning has suddenly killed off most sea life for 30 miles by the Tees. The govt claims it's natural; ind scientists warn it's [hu]manmade. The govt is desperate not to inquire too deeply as its freeport policy is at stake.” Read [here](#)

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# Resources

You can access and download additional resources from the pages in this chapter.

# Dirty Water fill-in-the-blanks poster!

Flypost your polluted waterway or coastline with this handy poster, just fill in the blanks.

Do your research to be sure the script you are adding is accurate!!!

## Example

This water is polluted with:

**RAW SEWAGE**

The responsible party is:

**WESSEX WATER**

Contact them here to register your complaint:

**info@wessexwater.co.uk**

If you are unsure about flyposting another option is to paste the poster onto cardboard and attach with string?!

**To Print** [Download yellow and black 'Fill in the blanks' WARNING poster - jpeg](#)

**To Print** [Download black & white 'Fill in the blanks' Warning poster - jpeg](#)

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# Songsheet

## **PDF version for downloading and printing [here](#)**

With thanks to Suffolk, whose MP is Therese Coffey, but you can insert your own/relevant MP surname/water authority/organisation...

### **To the tune of 'My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean'**

(soundcloud link [here](#))

The sewage flows into the river,  
The sewage flows into the sea  
The sewage flows into the [Deben] [insert own river name here, or just use word 'ocean']  
And the blame lies with Therese Covey

Bring back, bring back, oh bring back clean rivers and seas and seas,  
Bring back, bring back, oh bring back clean rivers and seas.

The runoffs as bad as the sewage,  
With pesticides killing off bees.  
They kill off aquatic invertebrates,  
And the blame lies with Therese Coffey.

Bring back, bring back, oh bring back clean rivers and seas and seas,  
Bring back, bring back, oh bring back clean rivers and seas.

### **To the tune of 'Hi Ho Silver Lining'**

(soundcloud link [here](#))

By the rivers all around the country  
You should hold your breath  
If you ever dare try to swim there  
You are risking death  
In the streams that feed the rivers  
You can count the turds  
As our sewage is no longer filtered  
While MPs ignore our words

Chorus:

And at high tide I feel like crying  
As all around our coast  
We see aquatic life is dead & dying  
And so we make this fuss  
Because it's obvious

The Tories voted for pollution  
In a solid block  
But come the next election  
They could get a shock  
Coffey, Hunt & Poulter,  
Churchill, Aldous too (Insert own MPs here)  
Suffolks Conservative MPs,  
All voted for more poo!

Chorus:

And at high tide I feel like crying  
As all around our coast  
We see the scummy crud & crap a-rising  
And so we make this fuss  
Because it's obvious

Repeat 1st Chorus

Chords for guitars/ukes:

Intro: G G

Verses: G G C C F C G D x 2

Chorus: G G7 C D G G7 C DC G G

## **We Need to Build a Better Future**

YouTube version [here](#)

[And here's Belgium singing it!](#)

We need to build a better future  
We need to wake up  
We need to wise up  
We need to open our eyes  
And do it now, now, now!  
We need to build a better future  
And we need to start right now

We're on a planet  
That has a problem We've got to solve it, get involved  
And do it now, now, now!

We need to build a better future  
And we need to start right now

Make it greener  
Make it cleaner  
Make it last, make it fast  
And do it now, now, now!  
We need to build a better future  
And we need to start right now

No point in waiting  
Or hesitating  
We must get wise, take no more lies  
And do it now, now, now!  
We need to build a better future  
And we need to start right now.

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# Poo Pouring

## **Poo Pouring**

A short video of a poo pouring action from Wave 1.

Rogers Poo Recipe!

I made some porridge, as you would for breakfast but thinner and more watery. Then thickened it up by adding white flour (in cold water) and boiling again till the right consistency achieved. Needs to run slowly down a vertical surface. Then add torn bits of kitchen paper and stir in some water based brown paint. There is plenty of scope for variations!!

## **Guidelines**

A short video of Poo Pouring over the logo of a water polluter will be great for social media!

Some good still pics along with a press release could generate local press coverage.

This action idea could also be a centerpiece for a larger event.

## **Requirements**

- Recce and rehearsal
- Video and still pics
- Press release and social media release
- Protest liaison - just in case \_ Poo pouring!

## **Clean up!**

It is vital to clean up after your point has been made to avoid any possible charge of criminal damage!

Bring water and cloths to clean up, and place a piece of carpet beneath the target to catch drippage.

## **Protest Liaison**

If police arrive or are present, have a designated person already in place, to explain your peaceful protest and assure them that protesters fully intend to clean up any mess before they leave.

## **Recce and rehearsal**

Practice your pouring ceremony beforehand to be sure it goes right. Most targets will be vertical so practice pouring onto a vertical surface. Use a receptacle such as a squishy plastic bottle to pour from.

Survey the Pouring target beforehand to plan your theatrics, and also to be sure it will cause no lasting damage.

Important Warning - be aware that Poo Pouring on a permeable surface, such as stone, could cause long lasting stains, impossible to clean off on the day. Avoid permeable surfaces due to the possibility of inadvertently causing 'criminal damage'!

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# Dirty Water Scrubbers

Send your own clean up crew?

This style theatrical action idea was developed for dirty banks.

Your local issue around water pollution may have a target suitable for a visit from Dirty Water Scrubbers, maybe with the addition of water pollution themed props?

Bring placards / banners relevant to your local issue. Messaging - **'CLEAN UP YOUR ACT'**.

Take good photos and send them out with a press release.

## Here's the basics

Dirty Scrubbers outfit. (All genders):

Plain leggings and tops, headscarf, curlers, heavy makeup, rubber gloves, filter tipped cigarettes!

Props: cleaning equipment, ideally colourful- if there's a choice then green gold or leopard print!

## If you want the full monty with scripts and useful links for resources

## How to be a Dirty Scrubber

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# Useful Publications

- [Environmental Information and Water Companies 2015](#)
- [23 June 2021 Oral evidence: Water Quality in Rivers, Environmental audit committee](#)
- [18 July 2013 letter from Richard Benyon, Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries](#)
- [Government Report on sewage in water by Prof. Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England, Jonson Cox, Ofwat chair and Emma Howard Boyd, Environment Agency chair. Published 27 June 2022](#)
- [Government Implementation Plan for the Chalkstream Strategy 25.11.22](#)
- [after Paul Whitehouse's 'Our Troubled Waters' aired on BBC2 on Sunday 5 March, DEFRA issued a statement](#)

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# Maps

## Maps

- [Environment Agency Water Basin Catchment Areas](#)
- [SAS Safer Rivers and Seas Map](#)
- [EDM Map | Storm discharge data | River health | Thames Water \(in real-time\)](#)
- [Raw sewage in our rivers | The Rivers Trust monitor sewage in your local area: real-time data map](#)
- [Map shows raw sewage emptied into Worcestershire rivers | Worcester News](#)

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# Newspaper Articles

Articles (in date order/newest at the bottom)

- 31 March 2021 water firms discharged raw sewage into english waters 400000 times last year
- 7 Sept 2021 Sewage discharge rules eased over fears of chemical shortage
- 22 Nov 2021 UK legal group warns of information blackout on sewage discharges
- 13 May 2022 Sewage dumps into English rivers widespread, criminal inquiry suspects
- 25 Aug 2022 UK sewage turning Channel and North Sea into dumping ground, say French MEPs
- 27 Aug 2022 Liz Truss allowed farmers to pollute England's rivers after 'slashing red tape', say campaigners
- River pollution goes unchecked as testing in England falls to 10-year low 2 Sept 2022
- 14 Sept 2022 'We are not going away': the volunteers fighting back against England's polluted rivers
- Environment Agency knew sewage was being dumped into rivers years ago, leak reveals 1 Oct 2022
- Water companies forced to cut £150m from customers bills 3rd Oct 2022
- Protesters to take to beaches over sewage discharges into English seas 7 Oct 2022

- 'Hot air': plans to crack down on UK water polluters dismissed as toothless 15 Oct 2022
- River pollution: New phosphate rules hit thousands of planned new homes 24 October 2022
- This article gives a good account of the enormous impact of dairy farms on rivers in Devon 25 Oct 2022
- Massive sewage spill filmed at St Agnes beach in Cornwall 30 Oct 2022
- MPs who voted for sewage: Full list of MPs who voted to continue | Politics | News | Express.co.uk Oct 27, 2021
- Ministers have no idea how many beaches in England shut due to sewage | Pollution | The Guardian 6 Nov 2022
- 9 Nov 2022 Environment Agency Prosecutions 6% of the Level they were a Decade Ago
- Antibiotic-resistant bacteria found in UK rivers close to factory farms | The Independent 22 Nov 2022
- Swimming in superbugs: MRSA and E coli found in British rivers — The Bureau of Investigative Journalism (en-GB) (thebureauinvestigates.com) November 22 2022
- Water companies dumping sewage during dry weather, SAS report finds 24 Nov 2022
- Water chiefs blame UK government for failure to stop sewage pollution 26 Nov 2022
- Government to weaken water pollution goals in 'attack on nature 9 Dec 2022
- Target date for cleaning up waterways in England is moved back by 36 years 22 Dec 2022

- 6 Jan Bloomberg Thams Water Sewage Maps shows pollution in London
  - 16 Jan Moody Ratings Agency downgrades outlook for UK Water Companies
  - Sarah Jackson: British windsurfer says south coast like 'surfing in sewage' everyday 27 Jan 2023
  - Water company shareholders will need to help vulnerable customers bear the cost of living squeeze: Ofwat 27 Jan 2023
  - Sewage Overspills result from lack of infrastructure Imperial College 30 Jan 2023
  - Impending death of the River Wye 30 Jan 2023
  - Water firms in England urged to upgrade sewage works for new homes 31st Jan 2023
  - Contained in this Environment Plan is a promise to upgrade 160 wastewater treatment plants by 2027 (There are 7,078 sewage treatment works in England & Wales) 31st Jan 2023
  - Thames Water: Oxford City Council calls for end to water privatisation
  - 'I do give a shit about water pollution' Therese Coffey 1st Feb 2023
  - Kent: Sewage pours onto street 1st Feb 2023
  - Water company prosecutions fall in England despite thousands of pollution warnings 1st Feb 2023
  - Water bills to increase by most in almost 20 years from April 1st Feb 2023
  - Water firms to lose public funds unless they pledge to stop UK sewage spills 1 Feb 2023
  - Halifax MP writes to Yorkshire Water about appalling pollution of River Calder
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# Other Useful Bits for Resource

**Feargal Sharkey on Twitter** For all the latest information about what the water companies and the UK government are doing about our waterways and seas, we do recommend that you follow Feargal Sharkey on twitter [here](#)

## **Jenni Russell on Twitter**

Columnist, The Times; contributing writer, the New York Times; book reviewer, the Sunday Times. Winner of the Orwell Prize for political journalism 2011.

“Please read; the most important piece I've written. Mass poisoning has suddenly killed off most sea life for 30 miles by the Tees. The govt claims it's natural; ind scientists warn it's [hu]manmade. The govt is desperate not to inquire too deeply as its freeport policy is at stake.” Read [here](#)

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This is quite interesting - was posted by rebels near River Wey

[![RIVERWEYFACTSsmall.jpg](https://rebeltoolkit.extinctionrebellion.uk/uploads/images/gallery/2023-03/scaled-1680-/RIVERWEYFACTSsmall.jpg)](https://rebeltoolkit.extinctionrebellion.uk/uploads/images/gallery/2023-03/RIVERWEYFACTSsmall.jpg)

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# Poo Tea Party

## Wivellers (XR Wiveliscombe) Poo Party

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**River Creatures Party by Taunton's River Tone but Raw Sewage in the Water turns it into a Poo Party - YouTube**

### Brief Action Plan for Sharing

**Location** - busy park, Saturday morning, polluted River Tone in background.

**Props and Costumes** - long table so we can all sit behind, in shot. Tablecloth smeared in sewage with banner "Stop the Poo-lution" and "crockery" which is bits of old plastic taken from the river plus "Crisis, What Crisis?" tea-pot.

Guests are wearing animal heads and human colourful clothing to match their creature.

**Workshop on how to make animal heads being run on Wednesday 1st March on Zoom, with local artist Jenni Dutton, all welcome! (link to follow)**

Also at the party are citizen scientists in hazmat suits (under a fiver at builders merchants) with clip boards, testing the river water in jugs on table, which animals are drinking.

### Soundtrack

**Swimming In It by Beans on Toast** - perfect length and really added something. Whilst it's playing - creatures dance around table, drink lots of river water, eat turd and poo cakes and gradually all die. Citizen scientists express angst and grief. Final scene is a tableau of dead creatures, debris and banners.

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Resources

# Dirty Water - Art & Design Assets

You can find all the Dirty Water assets for the different Waves [here](#)