

Interested in becoming a River Warden?

We are setting up a River Warden scheme in the New Year to improve our knowledge of the Upper Ouse, and enable the community to play their part in the restoration of the river.

As part of this scheme, we are looking for local residents to become volunteer River Wardens. This would be a great way to get out and about and learn more about wildlife, your river and how to protect it. If you live near the river in your parish or regularly walk your dog along the river, perhaps you could become a volunteer river warden?

What is involved?

As a volunteer river warden, you would have a key role in monitoring a short stretch of your local river and reporting back information. Depending on your interests and time commitments, this can include:

- Recording wildlife and river features – information which adds to our knowledge and helps to make good decisions about managing watercourses
- Monitoring wildlife including plants, invertebrates, otters, water voles and mink – understanding trends and looking for changes
- Recording and alerting on pollution incidents – it's vital to respond quickly
- Recording invasive species particularly Himalayan Balsam and floating pennywort - so that action can be taken rapidly to deal with them
- Reporting fly tipping and littering – its unsightly and threatens people, wildlife and fisheries
- Recording localised flooding and other river issues which affect your community
- Acting as a point of contact in parishes and communities about river initiatives, raising awareness about the environment and liaising with river user groups.

How much time do I have to commit?

As a volunteer, you can commit as much or as little time as you have available, and choose what you would like to monitor, and the area that you would like to monitor, maybe working in pairs or small groups. Full training would be given to undertake surveys and monitoring, Health & Safety and to understand issues including pollution and sediment runoff. All of the necessary equipment would be provided and you would be fully supported by the Upper & Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership, and the Upper Ouse sub-catchment partnership.

Where do I sign up?

If you are interested in becoming a River Warden, please tick the box on the feedback form and provide your contact details. We will be in touch early in the New Year with further information on the scheme. If you have any further questions, please contact Karen Paterson: karen.paterson@environment-agency.gov.uk

customer service line 03706 506 506

floodline 03459 88 11 88

incident hotline 0800 80 70 60