

Hi Folks,

I hope that you've been able to enjoy this glorious weather.

Firstly, thank you!!! We've done amazing ... and have started the River Rhee Monitoring with great energy and fun. Brilliant 😊. There are lots of photos [here](#). Please add more.

As those who have been actively engaged with the project so far, I wanted to share some thoughts with you for comment and discussion.

Firstly, a summary on what's been happening with Friends of the Rhee over the past couple of months. Apologies for the things I have forgotten!

- Set up
 - Various folks have purchased Lab and sampling equipment
 - Lisa has established a 'lab' for e-coli testing in her (very beautiful) shed
 - Andy created and donated a new lighter sampling device which is stored in the lab, thank you Andy.
 - Lisa Set up a Google Docs shared web site. [This link is for general access.](#)
 - Tudor arranged a meeting with Anglia Ruskin to discuss all things analytical – and making sure that the data is credible
 - Tudor met Mike Foley from Cam Valley Forum to discuss the project
 - Michelle notified the insurance co and information has been provided for River monitoring
 - Nuala and Lara drafted documentation, including SOPs and risk assessments
 - Circa 10 people have been trained in river monitoring
 - Three WhatsApp groups have been established. (1) Full group (2) Testing sub-group (3) Sampling sub-group
- Sampling and Testing
 - The group have monitored for e-coli for 4 sampling events 30 March to end April. Particular thanks to Jess and Nuala who have set the standard for solo river sampling.
 - The results are not yet statistically significant, but we can say that the River Lane stream so far seems to be relatively good quality. The river itself ranges between good and poor. The one sample from down stream of the STW was very poor quality.
- Engagement
 - Lara has engaged with Anne Millar from Cam Valley Forum regarding the data
 - The group participated in the GreatWaterBlitz and tested for phosphate and nitrate on 27 April 2025. Results are shown here <https://www.freshwaterwatch.org/pages/great-uk-waterblitz-results>
 - Lara met Steve Swain from the River Shep group. He has taken advice from Rob Mungovan and will be sampling for E-coli from the River Shep.
 - Jo Sinclair, writer and story teller, joined the group on one of the monitoring visits.
 - Lara has spoken with a number of people at Cam Catchment Partnership <https://www.rivercam.org.uk/> about what FotR are doing

- Money
 - o Haslingfield PC provided funds for the first three months of monitoring and testing
 - o Lara has approached Harston PC a few times and presented at their annual PC day. They don't seem interested in providing any funding or getting involved at this time.
 - o Lara approached Anglian Water for additional funding. AW confirmed that there is no funding for this work at this time.

And, some initial thoughts on possible next steps.

- Get a bit more organised, and have a meeting!
- Update Haslingfield PC on progress
- Think about communications. Maybe updating on the village FB page.
- Update and share thoughts with other stakeholders (Has and Harl Eco Group, PC, CVF, CCP)
- Start to think about the next stage of what we might like to do, some initial thoughts:
 - o Water quality
 - Continued sampling and testing for e-coli
 - Monitoring for turbidity
 - Connecting and encouraging groups upstream to do the same
 - o Restoring the river, initial ideas
 - Planting trees around the river.
 - Approach land owners with initial plans
 - Reinstate the footbridge and allow more water into the Jubilee wood
 - Rake back the bank in a number of places to allow easier access for wildlife

And, for information, the following possible projects were identified for this stretch of the Rhee in the chalk streams report <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/9067/greater-cambridge-chalk-streams-project-report.pdf>, as follows

Initial projects:

- Scoping of gravel placement to lead to extensive bed raising (£2k).
- Tree hinging and LWM tethering, in combination with brushwood ledge creation, to enhance flow diversity (£2k).
- Scoping of floodplain connection opportunities (£2k).
- Re-pollarding of veteran willows (£2k).
- Scoping of backwater creation and wetland projects, such as at Clock Holt, Haslingfield (£2k).

What have I missed? I'd love your input, either to the group, directly to me, or during our meeting in June or July. Pls look out on the WhatsApp group for scheduling that meeting. See you there, if not before!

Thanks very much
Love and gratitude
Lara