Dear Friend,

We hope you're taking care in these floods.

With a huge amount of rain having fallen in the catchment in the past 48 hours, this is the perfect moment to launch our new initiative to try to understand how pollution is entering the River Wye.

Introducing the Run-Off Reporter!

Any time you see soil running off a field, either on to a road or into a water course, this is pollution. Our new tool enables anyone in the catchment to quickly capture the details of a pollution event and report it to the appropriate authority.



With run-off causing more than 80% of the Wye's pollution issues according to the latest figures, we desperately need everyone's help in identifying where and how soil is entering the river and damaging the ecosystem that we all hold dear.

Afonydd Cymru has an excellent page explaining why healthy soils are crucial for healthy rivers. For starters, healthy soils hold more water, reducing flood risk.

Excessive soil entering a river smothers the gravels, destroys fish spawning grounds and changes the ecology of the river. Soil can also carry nutrients and chemicals.

A major reason that soil ends up in our rivers is through inappropriate land use, with a lack of vegetative cover.

If you see a stream which is significantly more discoloured than the receiving watercourse (as pictured below), this is a sign of excessive soil loss.

So if you see soil run-off, please take plenty of photos and report it right away via this tool - it will store all the key information and give you straightforward instructions on the quickest and most effective way to report to the Environment Agency or Natural Resources Wales, depending on whether you're in England or Wales.

https://friendsoftheriverwye.org.uk/run-off-reporter

Red Tractor

If you haven't yet written to your supermarket urging them to up their environmental standards - please do it here!

Now Red Tractor has been exposed for greenwashing, we need an assurance scheme that we can trust to protect our environment.

Megan McCubbin is supporting this vital campaign. Megan's two minute video for River Action offers a useful explainer, so please watch and share to spread the word. The supermarkets can't ignore us if we make our voices heard.



Upcoming Events

Third Annual Rivers Conference - 21st November, Hereford

Herefordshire Council is hosting its Third Annual Rivers Conference at the

Green Dragon Hotel in Hereford, with a focus on discussing solutions that could help restore the Wye. Tickets have sold out but we will report back in our next newsletter.

James Murray at Hay Winter Weekend - 29th November

Activist angler and actor James Murray will be talking about his passion for saving salmon and his connection to the Wye, whilst sharing a beautiful painting from his Creatures of Light series.

Christmas Social - 8th December, Hay

Our annual winter gathering for our citizen scientists will take place in Hay-on-Wye on the evening of Monday 8th December. There will be more details to follow, but please save the date if you'd like to join us!

With best wishes,

Friends of the River Wye