

Ouse Citizen Science Training - sign up!



Concerned about the state of the river? Want to spend time with the river learning and understanding what you see? Want to take positive action for the Ouse?

We are delighted to be able to offer **FREE** community **River Ecology 101 training sessions** in April.

The course will enable you to complete a baseline river survey, access resources and monitor a stretch. Nominate a site you would like to investigate and help us build a community of knowledge & evidence with Love our Ouse and other river partners such as the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust.

The course is for one day and will run from 10am - 4pm. Attendance is required for the duration.

Available dates

Sunday 14th April 2024 - Bluebell Railway, Sheffield Park

Sunday 21st April 2024 - Linklater Pavilion, Railway Land, Lewes

Newhaven training TBC in June - we will circulate details soon

What will be included in the training


- 🔗 Basic ecology principles
- 🔗 River ecology - what a good river looks like
- 🔗 The current state of the River Ouse
- 🔗 Problems and issues around the water environment (and how to spot them)
- 🔗 How to get involved in taking action for the river
- 🔗 Comprehensive list of open data sources including water quality, water levels, species presence and more
- 🔗 How to conduct a basic river survey - including land access and basic Health & Safety and biosecurity - to add to our river map

Running order on the day

- 10.00 - 10.30 Tea, welcome and introductions (what we all want to gain from the day)
- 10.30 - 11.30 Basic principles of ecology and river catchments (inc Rights of River)
- 11.30 - 11.45 Tea break
- 11.45 - 12.30 River Ouse overview
- 12.30 - 13.30 Problems and how to spot them
- 13.30 - 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 14.15 How to get involved locally plus data and evidence
- 14.15 - 14.45 Basic river survey - incorporating what we have learnt
- 14.45 - 16.00 Visit to the riverbank - looking at what we have learnt

Part of the day will be spent in the classroom, and later in the afternoon we will venture to the riverbank (river level and weather permitting!).

What to bring

 Packed lunch (tea and coffee will be provided) - there will be a chance to purchase lunch too from nearby shops/cafe if you'd prefer.

 Notebook and pen

 Sturdy footwear (suited to wet ground if the weather dictates) and warm, waterproof clothing.

How to book your place

Email info@loveourouse.org stating:

YOUR FULL NAME

MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER


EMAIL ADDRESS

WHICH COURSE DATE/LOCATION YOU CAN ATTEND


Places are on a first come first served basis and places are subject to availability. **We will respond to confirm your place.** The course is **FREE** although we welcome donations to expand our work. You can donate on the day if you wish.


Please try to attend training nearest to your stretch of the river.


Further information:


 Training is for any adults 16yrs+. No previous experience or skills needed

 Have additional needs? Please be in contact to discuss

 The course will be delivered by Sandra Manning-Jones from Love Our Ouse. She is an experienced landscape Ecologist with a wealth of experience working with our local rivers

 If you are unable to make either date but are keen to undertake the training in Newhaven or otherwise let us know.

 We currently have limited funds to put on further training sessions so take up the opportunity while you can! We are keen to deliver more sessions for whole groups if you have funds to cover the staff time and venue. We are also keen to work with children/young people and can consider tailoring this course. Please get in touch if either of these are of interest.

 If you are from a group please allocate 1 person to attend to allow for a range of the community to take part.

We hope this will be the first of many new citizen science opportunities to enable you to learn, care for and take positive action for the river.

Thank you to Ouse Valley Climate Action and the National Lottery for supporting this project.



Pollution at Barcombe Mills. Photo: Mary Parker



Trolleys collected from the river at Willey's Bridge, Lewes