

NAG Answers to the three questions

- 1. What is your organisation's plan for the Nidd for the next 5 years (and beyond)?**
- 2. What in your view are the key knowledge gaps or other constraints that limit your actions to improve the health of the Nidd?**
- 3. What do you think that people in this room can do to work with other stakeholders to improve the Nidd?**

1. NAG aims for a Cleaner Nidd, Fit for Life.

We intend to:

Continue to support our volunteers in monitoring and improving the river, complementing the work of EA, YW, NYC etc.

Campaign for improved laws and regulatory actions concerning river pollution

Take part in research projects to ensure long term focus on a wild, healthy river Nidd

Make us all aware of the beauty of (as well as the threats to) the river Nidd

Grow our volunteer base to increase those organizing as well as taking direct practical actions

2. We don't know enough about the river Nidd, and what pollutes it
Nidd stakeholders understand some of the 'patchwork' picture, but don't always share their knowledge in a timely and understandable way, or work together for a better Nidd

e.g. Which are the major pollution sources and how do we harness the different organisations' activities to get the best (or even an improved) ecological and human health in and around the Nidd.

While human sewage in the Nidd undoubtedly causes a threat to human health, what is the influence of agricultural practices, of urban pollution, of domestic and commercial practices (e.g. misconnections) and of relatively new threats (forever chemicals, pharmaceuticals etc.)?

Where is a balanced approach led from? Not just talking - planned and funded integrated actions?

Where is the citizen in all this? We are stakeholders too and often know a lot about the Nidd that is invisible to other major stakeholders.

3. Get involved.

Work together, hard

Share information (not just data)

Dig into the detail

Agree on a Nidd catchment Plan and help deliver it

Don't take no for an answer – we can have an improved river Nidd – we just have to understand what's wrong and help get it put right.

What has Nidd Action Group done since 2022?

Working to reduce pollution, building on our major 2023 iNidd survey with, for example:

- Continuing Riverfly and WQMN sampling
- Taking part in Outfall Safaris in a YDRT-led project on Oak and Bilton beck, resulting in EA and YW responses to improve Harrogate Becks water quality
- Being one of 9 Citizen Science groups in Yorkshire taking part in AQuA, a University of York-led research project

Maintaining ‘critical friend’ relationships with EA, YW and other stakeholders, and scrutinising stakeholders’ plans and actions

Campaigning for change at a National and Regional level;

- Hosting a Resilient Water Systems meeting in Knaresborough as preparation of The People’s Commission Report
- Responding to the Cunliffe Commission Report and the Government White Paper (January 2026)
- Being an active member of Sewage Campaign Network, Lobbies at Westminster (March 2026)

Encouraging the appreciation of the Nidd as beautiful and central to our lives, through:

- Work with EA and YDRT on the Hello Lampost ‘intelligent signage’ project
- Held a Riverkin ‘Floating Seminar’ in May 2025 to consider river ‘rights’
- Involvement in Media and face to face activities about the Nidd
- Volunteer focused activities, such as arranging training for volunteers (with partners YDRT and others)
- NAG newsletter to members (165)
- NAG Website and Facebook
- NAG Committee meetings
- Seeking volunteers to help organize our work, as well as taking part in the ‘welly’ work.