



NAG and other citizen science volunteers attended an excellent one-day training session on May 21st at Pannal Village Hall. This was organised by YDRT, with input from and the presence of Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water staff.

An Outfall Safari is a citizen science initiative designed to identify and map pollution sources in urban rivers. Volunteers survey rivers to locate outfalls—pipes discharging into the river—and assess the level of pollution. This method helps environmental organisations and water companies address urban water pollution effectively.

A fun and informative training event, attended by 19 volunteers, with:

- A theory session in the morning, including the use of Hanna tests to sample phosphates and ammonia, and of the **iNidd Operation Outfall App** to upload and share observations and results from chemical tests, followed by
- A practical session in the nearby Crimble Beck enabled us to familiarize ourselves with the practicalities of doing this citizen science in a real -life setting.

The whole group was split into small teams to do outfall safaris on different sections of Oak Beck, along its whole length. A series of

outfalls near the Hydro are pictured above, where the team I was part of was sampling.

The aim is to complete the surveys of the whole of Oak Beck, with EA and YW agreeing to respond to any concerning results as and when they are received. We intend to review the results from the project with our partners in September 2025, before moving onto other Harrogate becks including Bilton Beck and Crimple Beck.

These tributaries of the Nidd are likely sources of pollution that affect and this activity should lead to improvement in the river Nidd downstream as well as in these urban becks.

**Collaboration in Action!**