

Important new sampling activity in the Nidd
volunteers are doing some important sampling work
on Tuesday September 16th at The Lido.



This is part of NAG's involvement in the University of York-led AQuA project. Details [here](#). Only up to 15 volunteers are required, and NAG members have been sent a link in the NAG newsletter to sign up to a specific time slot on the 16th.

Join NAG if you want an early heads-up for taking part in future activities.

We aim to test whether volunteers using 'petrifilms' can give similar results to the laboratory methods for testing for E.coli used by the **Environment Agency (EA)**.

NAG volunteers will be given access to the EA samples taken throughout the day, and will use kit and instructions supplied by York University to put 1 mm of the river water onto small circular absorbent treated paper plates.

For your interest and information here is a link to a [full training video](#) and here is a [link to a quick video](#) covering how to set up an AQuA E. coli petrifilm.

After keeping these petrifilms warm at home for 24 hours we will count the number of E.coli colonies that grow, and report these to the AQuA project for comparison with EA and other 'official' counts.

This is an important activity before the next phase of the AQuA project starts in Spring 2026.

NAG volunteers will then sample the Nidd every three months in 20226 and 2027 for the presence of a variety of pharmaceutical and personal care products, using petrifilms and some even more sophisticated citizen science stuff.

You will have opportunities to volunteer for this in early 2026."