

Environment Agency Water Quality Data Accessibility

Report by Rory Sanderson, Environment Agency (EA)

Summary: Concerns have been raised that the water quality data collected by the EA is not provided in a single easily accessible and understandable format that provides basic information such as annual trends.

This report:

- provides an explanation of how water quality data can be accessed
- provides an overview of the type and extent of data collected
- receive comments on how the system may be improved

1 Water quality data

- 1.1 Our water quality data is accessible and available to all and we will provide an overview of our water quality sampling programme across the Broadland catchment. This will include sample locations, parameters sampled and how we ensure our data is quality checked.

2 How you can access the data

- 2.1 We will explain how to submit data requests for specific user needs (providing raw data) and also demonstrate how to use the online reporting tool called the Catchment Data Explorer. This will include an explanation of how the results are presented.

3 How the data is used

- 3.1 We will explain that whilst data is collected and used for multiple purposes, the Catchment Data Explorer presents this in a summarised format which can be used by anyone interested in their local environment. It is also used for reporting water quality status for statutory purposes. There will be a brief explanation of how the data is used to identify actions to improve Broadland.

4 Your views on our data accessibility

- 4.1 We welcome your views on how we can make access to our data better in the future and are willing to work with partners to meet local needs.

Background papers:	None
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Broads Plan Objectives:	None
Appendices:	None