

CLEAN UP THE RIVER KENT: PROTOCOL FOR COLLECTING RIVER WATER SAMPLES

1. What are we doing?

- We are collecting river water for lab analysis of the level of faecal bacteria in the water.
- The pilot study included 6 locations on the River Kent – Staveley Recreation Ground, Beckmickle Ing Wood, Burneside Millennium Green, Sandy Bottoms, Hawes Bridge and Sedgwick.
- Through the summer we will continue to sample from these sites and perhaps in a few other places too.

2. How do we do this?

- We collect the samples in small bottles provided by the lab, pre-labelled with location and date, time to be added when samples collected.
- We can either:
 - Collect the sample from the bank using a sampling bottle on a rope – hold on to end of rope, but don't wrap round hand in case the bottle gets caught
 - Drop the bottle from downstream parapet of bridge.
- Fill labelled sample bottle to neck, screw lid tight, and add time to label.
- Take a photo of person taking the sample (make sure camera shows date if possible).
- We also record the same details on a paper log plus weather conditions.
- We will also record the depth of the river and recent rainfall so that we have a comprehensive picture.
- The samples then need to be delivered, with a "Chain of Custody" form to the lab and be plated out within 24 hours.

3. What kit will be provided?

- A sampling bottle to collect samples from the river – this is encased in a bike bottle holder using duct tape, with an attached lead weight, and around 8m climbing rope – the water is then decanted into the pre-labelled bottle for the lab
- A cool bag for the samples
- Two ice blocks
- Two ice bags
- Water flagon of tap water to rinse collection bottle/rope/weight after each sample is collected
- A pair of scissors or a knife
- Hand sanitiser
- Basic First Aid kit
- A CRKC t-shirt and a lanyard to identify you as a volunteer
- Copies of a flyer about CRKC and a survey for you to hand out.

LOCATIONS

Staveley Recreation Ground 54 22 34 7 N / 2 48 45 5 W

Beckmickle Ing Wood 54 22 27 0 N / 2 47 36 4 W

Burneside Millennium Park 54 35 44 0 N / 2 76 11 5 W

Sandy Bottoms 54 34 22 4 N / 2 74 55 3 W

Hawes Bridge 54 29 6 16 N / 2 74 92 4 W

Sedgwick 54 28 23 5 N / 2 75 61 3 W

Plus possibly some additional locations during Summer 2022