



## Participant Information Leaflet

### Anonymous survey

**Study Title:** Citizen Science: “Know your river” – Rivers as a resource for all

**“Know your river” team**

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#### Introduction

You are invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish.

Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

#### Who is organising and funding the study?

This project is organised by research staff at the University of Warwick, School of Life Sciences, as part of the programme Enhancing Research Culture funded by the University of Warwick.

#### What is the study about?

This part of the project aims at understanding the use of rivers by the general public for recreational activities and to raise awareness on the pollution status of rivers in England and potential risks to human health, in particular antimicrobial resistance. Using anonymous surveys, we aim to develop an understanding of human usage of rivers as a cultural resource. This information will be integrated in ongoing studies investigating water quality in relation to sewage pollution of rivers in England and further enhanced by analysis of river/stream water samples collected by the public through a citizen science approach (if you would also like to be part of the project by collecting a water sample for analysis, please visit our website for further information). The survey results will contribute to the development of correlation analysis between river usage and risks to human health from polluted water. This study will be used to form a platform which can inform stake holders and the public about the current status of our knowledge concerning the public health risks posed by polluted rivers, in particular in relation to antibiotics and sewage pollution and antibiotic resistant pathogens.

### **What would taking part involve?**

Participants will only be required to fill an online anonymous survey which will take approximately 8 minutes.

### **Do I have to take part?**

No. Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You can also choose to withdraw your participation without giving a reason by closing your internet browser before submission of the survey. After submission, your responses cannot be withdrawn as they are collected anonymously and cannot be identified.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part in this study?**

Your participation will allow to gather insightful knowledge on river usage and pollution perception from the public. Based on the results from this study, we aim to build a platform for discussion of the current status of important environmental resources such as rivers with third party organisations and develop public awareness and interest in the science of ecosystem analysis as well as giving ownership to the fight against pollution of our environment.

### **Expenses and payments**

Participation is voluntary and free. No payment or reimbursement will be provided.

### **Will my taking part be kept confidential?**

Data submitted through the online survey will be collected anonymously (IP address or other identifiable data will not be collected). Data will be kept confidential and only accessed by members of the research team at University of Warwick for data analysis. Research anonymous data will be kept for 3 years after the project end.

### **What will happen to the data collected about me?**

As a publicly-funded organisation, the University of Warwick have to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information from people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, such as this, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the research study.

We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. We are committed to protecting the rights of individuals in line with data protection legislation. The software Qualtrics used for survey collection will act as data processor.

No identifiable data will be collected from you as part of this study. This means that once your responses have been submitted to the research team, it will not be possible to withdraw this data as your individual responses cannot be identified.

### **Data Sharing**

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. The University of Warwick has in place policies and procedures to keep your data safe.

This data may also be used for future research, including impact activities following review and approval by an independent Research Ethics Committee and subject to your consent at the outset of this research project.

For further information, please refer to the University of Warwick Research Privacy Notice which is available here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/idc/dataprotection/privacynotices/researchprivacynotice> or by contacting the Legal and Compliance Team at [GDPR@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:GDPR@warwick.ac.uk).

### **What will happen if I don't want to carry on being part of the study?**

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You can also choose to withdraw your participation without giving a reason by closing your internet browser before submission of the survey. After submission, your responses cannot be withdrawn as they are collected anonymously and cannot be identified.

### **What will happen to the results of the study?**

Results will be shared publicly through reports, talks, scientific journal publications, presentation at scientific conferences, social media posts, project website updates and discussion with other interested third-party organisations such as local organizations and non-governmental organizations.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the University of Warwick's Biomedical & Scientific Research Ethics Committee (BSREC): **90/21-22**

### **Who should I contact if I want further information?**

Please contact the "Know your river" team at this email address: [KnowYourRiver@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:KnowYourRiver@warwick.ac.uk)

### **Who should I contact if I wish to make a complaint?**

Any complaint about the way you have been dealt with during the study or any possible harm you might have suffered will be addressed. Please address your complaint to the person below, who is a senior University of Warwick official entirely independent of this study:

#### **Head of Research Governance**

Research & Impact Services

University House

University of Warwick

Coventry

CV4 8UW

Email: [researchgovernance@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:researchgovernance@warwick.ac.uk)

Tel: 02476 575733

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter: [DPO@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:DPO@warwick.ac.uk).

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

**Thank you for taking the time to read this Participant Information Leaflet**