

# CROWD: Clean Rivers Of West Dorset

CROWD Report on the River Bride/West Bay February 2026

## 1. Designation of East Beach at West Bay as a bathing water beach

The West Bay Swimmers Action Group's application to DEFRA for bathing water status for East Beach, West Bay has passed its first hurdle and now moves towards a public consultation which closes on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The consultation will take place with the public and named stakeholders such as Natural England and Swim England. This is the next step in the process to designate East Beach as a bathing water beach, and we hope to hear from Defra by 6<sup>th</sup> May. The form is really easy to fill in and takes less than two minutes here is the link:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/13-proposed-bathing-water-sites/>

We would really appreciate your support.

## 2. The River Bride Group

After being invited onto Crowd to represent the River Bride I thought that I should let the local councils know. I was invited to talk to Burton Bradstock Parish Council and from that meeting it was decided to set up a group to represent the River Bride. I then spoke at Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington Parish Council who also wanted to be part of the River Bride Group. I have also been in contact with a councillor from Long Bredy and Kingston Russell Parish Council. I am waiting to hear from Litton Cheney Parish Council. Ian Rees is also part of the group and is liaising with Dorset Wildlife Trust to provide some Riverfly monitoring training and we already have 12 people signed up. I have set up a WhatsApp group for us to share information and to provide some coordination – we have 19 members so far. Our first aim is to get a view of the state of the river, initially in terms of the water quality and then take a wider view including wildlife, etc. We will look for guidance and inspiration from the other river groups.

## 3. The Action for Justice Freshwater guide

I also attended the Action for Justice launch of their freshwater guide. I had met one of its authors, Maya Pardo, at a conference where we did a presentation on rivers. In their words:

“The *Action4Justice Legal Action Guide* provides a global perspective on addressing freshwater pollution through the law. It covers the primary causes of water contamination—ranging from agricultural runoff to manufacturing waste—and details the legal strategies available to stop polluting projects and seek remedies for affected communities. From local grassroots organizing to international human rights litigation, this document equips users with the knowledge needed to navigate the legal landscape and advocate for clean, healthy water systems.”

You can find it here:

[https://action4justice.org/legal\\_areas/freshwater-pollution/](https://action4justice.org/legal_areas/freshwater-pollution/)

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