# Norfolk pirates paddle against sewage pollution in spirited river protest



Norfolk's waterways are about to come alive with a spirited protest against sewage pollution, uniquely themed with a pirate twist. Organised by the Norfolk Paddle Meetup (NPMU), participants will don pirate attire as they take to the River Yare and River Wensum in a campaign dubbed "Pirates Against Poo." This event is part of a broader nationwide effort spearheaded by Surfers Against Sewage, which aims to bring attention to the alarming levels of sewage being dumped into the UK’s rivers and seas.

The protest is set to launch from Whitlingham Country Park in Trowse on Saturday, 18th May 2024, at 11am. Leading the charge is Darren Reeve, better known as Captain Baldie and hailed as "Norfolk’s only verified pirate." Speaking about the initiative, Captain Baldie stated, “We’ll be taking to the water dressed as Pirates Against Poo to bring a bit of fun to a serious issue: the ongoing sewage pollution in our rivers and seas.” The flotilla, made up of paddleboarders, kayakers, and canoers, will pause at Riverside for refreshments before making their return journey.

This playful yet poignant gathering highlights a critical environmental issue. Surfers Against Sewage has long been campaigning against the environmental damage wreaked by untreated sewage. The charity’s initiatives aim not only to raise awareness but also to galvanise public support for concrete action against water pollution. The protests are increasingly gaining traction across the UK, with similar events taking place in cities such as Falmouth, Brighton, and Scarborough, urging both the government and water companies to address the ongoing sewage scandal.

Recent reports indicate a rising tide of public frustration regarding the quality of the water. Health risks associated with contaminated waters have heightened concerns for recreational users and communities reliant on clean waterways. In the past, idyllic beaches have suffered from poor water quality, as highlighted by surfer Darren Veal’s protest at East Runton beach. Following his campaign, efforts led to an upgrade of the water quality to 'excellent,' moving it closer to regaining its Blue Flag status, a symbolic recognition that underscores the importance of clean seas for future generations.

The upcoming paddle-out protests, which will occur in various locations, also set ambitious goals: participants are urged to call for a 90% reduction in all sewage discharges by 2030. Surfers Against Sewage is committed to mobilising public action, providing necessary resources and updates for individuals keen to join in these demonstrations. The movement aims to transform public dissatisfaction into robust advocacy, demanding accountability from water companies and regulators for the health of the nation’s waterways.

As participants prepare to paddle for a cause dressed in pirate garb, their aim is clear: to fight for cleaner rivers and seas while also fostering a sense of community and fun. It is a rallying cry that resonates far beyond the playful costumes, representing a united front against pollution that threatens both public health and treasured natural resources.

The spirit of activism blended with creativity not only lightens the tone of a serious issue but also galvanises community engagement, encouraging citizens to voice their concerns and demand the changes required for a healthier, greener future.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25154612.pirates-take-norwich-waterways-anti-pollution-protest/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.sas.org.uk/water-quality/our-water-quality-campaigns/paddleoutprotest/> - Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) is organizing nationwide Paddle-Out Protests on Saturday, 18th May 2024, to demand an end to sewage pollution in UK waters. Participants are encouraged to join these protests to highlight the environmental damage caused by untreated sewage being dumped into UK waters. The campaign aims to turn public frustration into action, urging water companies, regulators, and the government to address the sewage scandal. SAS provides resources and updates for those interested in participating in these protests.
3. <https://www.sas.org.uk/updates/sas-paddle-out-what-you-need-to-know/> - SAS outlines the details for the upcoming Paddle-Out Protests, emphasizing the need for public participation to combat sewage pollution. The protests are scheduled across various UK locations, including Bedford, Ballyronan, Saltburn, Edinburgh, and others. SAS calls for individuals to bring appropriate clothing, water, and placards to the events. The organization demands an end to sewage discharges in bathing waters and a 90% reduction of all sewage discharges by 2030. The protests aim to demonstrate public support for cleaner rivers and oceans.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/may/18/clean-water-protesters-sewage-seas-rivers-uk-water-companies> - The Guardian reports on widespread protests across the UK against sewage pollution in seas and rivers. Organized by Surfers Against Sewage, these protests saw participants in various locations, including Falmouth, Brighton, and Scarborough, demanding action from water companies and the government. Protesters highlighted the health risks associated with polluted waters and called for an end to sewage discharges. The article underscores the growing public concern over water quality and the environmental impact of sewage pollution.
5. <https://www.sas.org.uk/updates/paddle-out-gallery-waves-of-change/> - SAS shares a gallery of photos from the Paddle-Out Protests held on 18th May 2024, showcasing the widespread participation across the UK. The protests took place in over 30 locations, including Falmouth, Brighton, Bedford, Scarborough, and Plymouth. The images capture the diverse groups of people, including surfers, kayakers, and families, coming together to demand an end to sewage pollution. The gallery highlights the collective effort to raise awareness and advocate for cleaner waterways.
6. <https://www.northnorfolknews.co.uk/news/23983857.east-runton-surfers-pledge-end-sewage-pollution-beach/> - North Norfolk News reports on surfer Darren Veal's protest against sewage pollution at East Runton beach. After the beach lost its Blue Flag status due to water quality issues, Veal displayed a surfboard protest to demand cleaner waters. The Environment Agency later upgraded the water quality to 'excellent,' bringing the beach closer to regaining its Blue Flag status. Veal emphasizes the importance of clean water for future generations and expresses concern over the impact of pollution on local tourism.
7. <https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2024/05/15/surfers-to-stage-a-paddle-out-protest-against-sewage-pollution/> - Brighton and Hove News reports on the upcoming paddle-out protest organized by Surfers Against Sewage at Brighton's West Pier. Scheduled for Saturday, 18th May 2024, the protest aims to call for an end to sewage pollution in UK waters. Olympic gold medalist Dame Kelly Holmes is expected to join the protesters. The article highlights the increasing public concern over water quality and the health risks associated with polluted waters, emphasizing the need for action from water companies and the government.