



## **An audit of the surface water outfalls, 'Outfall Safari' in the Crane Catchment**

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Marine and Freshwater Conservation Programme

Zoological Society of London

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## Acknowledgements

The Outfall Safari programme in London is funded by Thames Water. In the Crane Catchment it has been delivered in partnership with the Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE), the Crane Valley Partnership (CVP) with support from the Environment Agency (EA) and local authorities. It would not have been possible without the dedicated citizen scientists who helped collect the data.

## Aims

The aims of the Crane Catchment Outfall Safari were to:

- Record and map the dry weather condition behaviour of surface water outfalls in the Crane catchment.
- Assess and rank the impact of the outfalls and report those that are polluting to Thames Water and the Environment Agency.
- Recruit volunteers and further engage existing volunteers in the work of the local Catchment Partnership.

## Method

46 volunteers took part in the Outfall Safari training on 29/04/2021. Surveys were completed by 01/09/2021.

A total of approximately 52km of waterways was surveyed.

A full description of the Outfall Safari method and linked resources can be accessed via the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) website: [catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/outfall-safari-guide/](https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/outfall-safari-guide/)

## Results

255 outfalls were located and assessed during the survey. 51 outfalls were allocated an impact score of  $\geq 4$  the details of which are given in **Table 1**. 8 outfalls score 10 or more.

Approximately 3km of waterways was inaccessible and could not be surveyed safely.

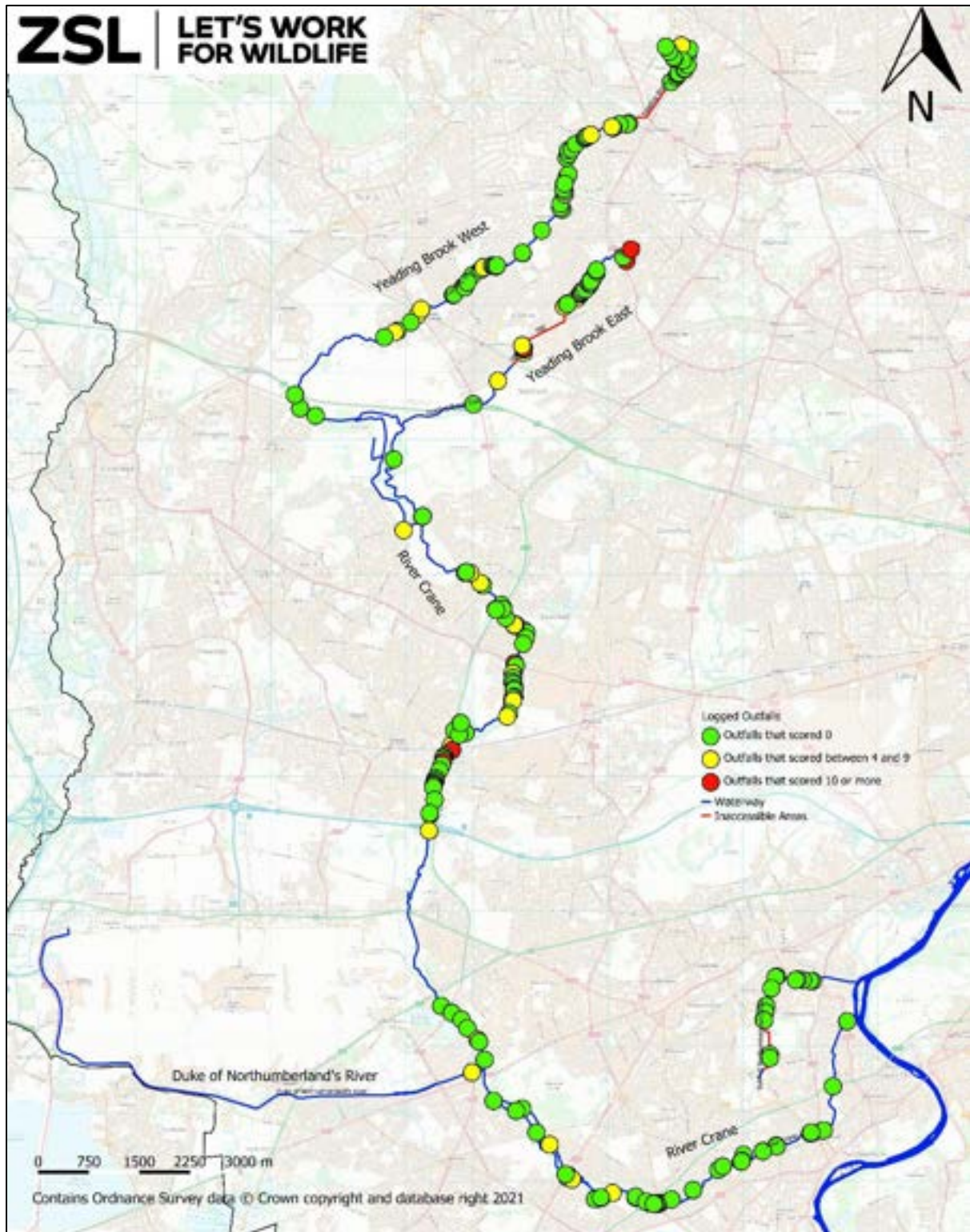


Figure 1: Results of the 2021 Crane Catchment Outfall Safari

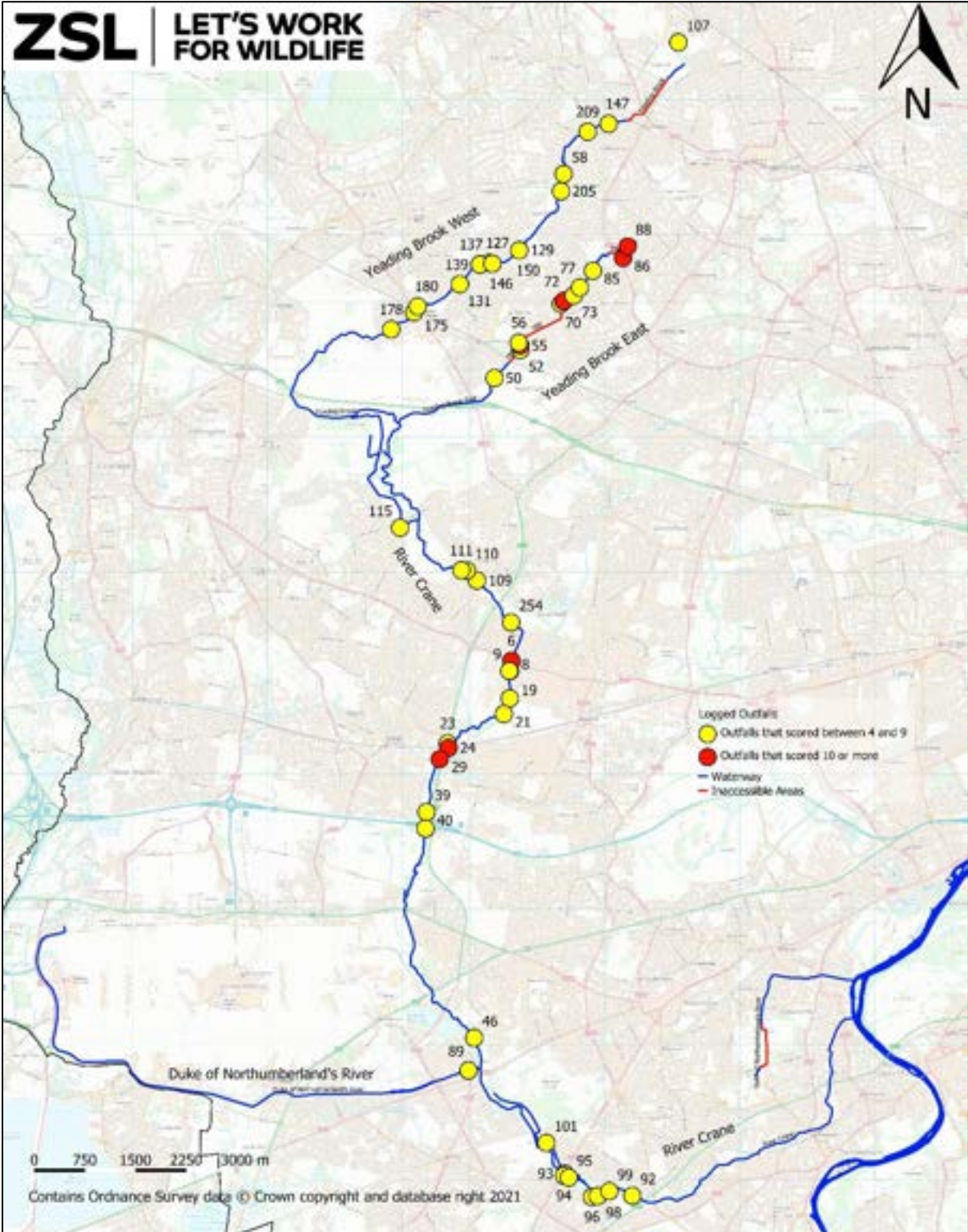


Figure 2: Outfalls that scored 4 or more during the 2021 Crane Outfall Safari

## Pollution Reports from the river

On 26/09/2021 pollution in the Yeading Brook East was reported to both Thames Water and the Environment Agency.

- Thames Water incident ref: 10826634429
- Environment Agency incident ref: 1986368

The pollution was evident upstream of the combined sewer overflow at Field End Road – ID number 71 and 72. Sewage fungus extended downstream of the culvert at Civic Way, ID number 55. The brook was also badly affected downstream of the railway culvert with sewage fungus still in evidence close to where the Yeading Brook East flows past the Polish War Memorial (TQ11038452).



*Figure 1: Complete covering of sewage fungus recorded at Field End footbridge, South Park Way, Ruislip, HA4 6UN*

## Discussion

This report presents an audit of how outfalls, within the surveyed area, were behaving during the survey. Some outfalls pollute intermittently and may not have been detected as a problem during the survey.

The outfall assessment method is based on evidence, such as a build up of sewage fungus, that can be washed away after rain. Normally surveys are completed in four to six weeks but because of the very wet summer surveys were delayed and only completed in late August/early September. The small ditch tributary that runs behind houses at Brook Drive,

accessible only through a London Borough of Harrow locked gate, has yet to be surveyed. It will be checked during dry weather later in the year and any pollution reported to Thames Water.

There is some level of subjectivity when assessing an outfall, which can lead to inconsistencies in the impact scores. This issue is addressed in the training by running through the assessment method several times, but this rarely eliminates the problem entirely. A review of the submitted outfall records resulted in several scores being amended based on the photos and descriptions provided. Photo ID number 252 was unable to be reviewed as the photos did not upload properly. Photo ID number 110 was not able to be photographed due to heavy plant growth obscuring the outfall, but the volunteer noted that this outfall has been investigated by Thames Water and the Environment Agency in the past and the pollution appears to be ongoing.





To comply with Government COVID guidelines the training for the Crane Outfall Safari was run virtually. In person training is preferred as it allows volunteers to meet each other and form a more cohesive group which helps with the subsequent coordination of the survey.



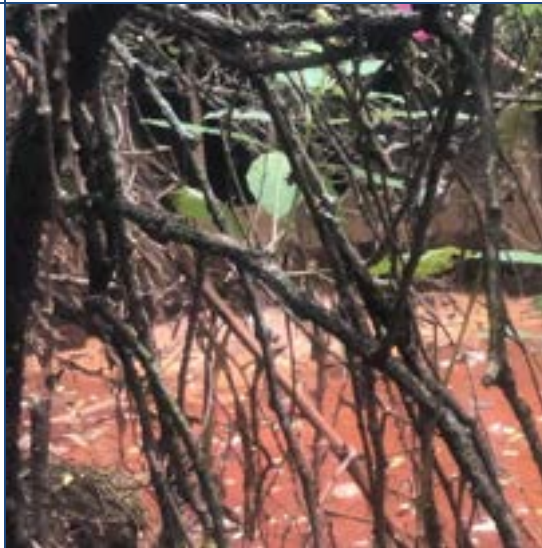

A comparison of the 2016 and 2021 Outfall Safari dataset and a description of the remediation action delivered by Thames Water in the years between will be undertaken as part of the Smarter Water Catchment Programme. In addition, the data collected on the distribution of Invasive Non-Native plant species in this Outfall Safari will be reported separately, also as part of the Smarter Water Catchment Programme.

### Contact details

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**Table 1 – Details and photos of outfalls with an impact score of ≥4**

Photo ID Number	Location Details	NGR	Bank Side	Impact score	Photo 1	Photo 2
6	Outfall hidden by plant growth Behind 2 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, UB4 0JJ	TQ 11620 80681	Right	10		
8	Behind Monier Redland Ltd, The Broadway, 1-3 Uxbridge Road, UB4 0NN	TQ 11600 80531	Left	8		

9	Behind Monier Redland Ltd, The Broadway, 1-3 Uxbridge Road, UB4 ONN	TQ 11589 80532	Left	6		
19	Behind Trinity Data Centres, Springfield Industrial Estate Near Hayes & Yeading United Football Club, UB4 0SL	TQ 11597 80126	Right	4		










21	<p>Outfall was heard but not seen, oil slick observed</p> <p>At southeast corner of Hayes &amp; Yeading United Football Club, UB4 0SL</p>	TQ 11508 79892	Left	6		
23	<p>Between the railway line and Pump Lane, to the east of the A312</p> <p>The Parkway, Hounslow, Southall, UB3 3NF</p>	TQ 10675 79456	Right	6		





24	<p>Between the railway line and North Hyde Gardens, to the east of the A312</p> <p>The Parkway, Hounslow, Southall, UB3 3NF</p>	TQ 10688 79391	Left	12		
29	<p>To the west of A312</p> <p>Near Vodafone RMC house, North Hyde Gardens, Hayes, UB3 4QR</p>	TQ 10559 79225	Right	16		




39	Cranford Park north of the M4, near Roseville Road  The Parkway, UB2 5QX	TQ 10362 78441	Right	8		
40	The Crane in Cranford Park, just south of the M4 junction 3  UB3 4RA	TQ 10347 78197	Left	6		

46	<p>Donkey Woods</p> <p>Behind SR Technics, London Logistics Centre, 675 River Gardens, Feltham, TW14 0RB</p>	TQ 11069 75095	Left	6		
50	<p>Behind Bourne Primary School, Cedar Avenue, Hillingdon, HA46UJ</p>	TQ 11369 84870	Right	4		




51	Behind Pets at Home, Unit B, Victoria Road, Ruislip, HA4 0LN	TQ 11752 85288	Left	4		
54	Between Pets at Home and Argos/Homebase, Victoria Retail Park, Victoria Road, Ruislip, HA4 0LN	TQ 11751 85354	Right	20		





55	Just next to turn of into Victoria Retail Park, Victoria Road, Ruislip, HA4 0LN	TQ 11729 85395	Left	4		
57	Streamside Open Space, near 26 Southbourne Close, Pinner, HA5 5BA	TQ 12394 87894	Right	4		

69	Just upstream of road bridge, behind 727 Field End Road, Harrow, Ruilisp, HA4 0RJ	TQ 12353 85971	Right	8		
70	Behind 32 Thistledene Avenue, Harrow, HA2 9HL	TQ 12394 86009	Right	20		

71	Behind 32 Thistledene Avenue, Harrow, HA2 9HL	TQ 12397 86014	Right	20		
72	Behind 82 Stuart Avenue, Harrow, HA2 9AZ	TQ 12543 86093	Right	6		






76	Behind 39 Leamington Crescent, Harrow, HA2 9HH	TQ 12634 86212	Right	4		
84	Next to St Andrew's Church, 89 Malvern Avenue, Harrow, HA2 9ER	TQ 12828 86460	Right	6		




85	Between Newton Close and 15 Jasmine Gardens, Harrow, HA2 9DE	TQ 13275 86650	Left	16		
87	North side of Newton Farm Ecology Park (next to allotments), Rayners Lane, Harrow, HA2 9DA	TQ 13342 86820	Left	12		

88	Underneath River Gardens Road Bridge, 16A River Gardens, Feltham, TW14 0RE	TQ 10984 74612	Left	4		
91	In Crane Park upstream of Great Chertsey Road, near 38 Woodlawn Crescent, Twickenham, TW2 6BD	TQ 13411 72756	Left	6		

92	Crane Park, just downstream of Hanworth Road, Twickenham, TW4 5NX	TQ 12412 73083	Left	4		
93	Crane Park, just downstream of Hanworth Road, Twickenham, TW4 5NX	TQ 12398 73054	Right	4		

94	Crane Park, behind 37 Saxon Avenue, Feltham, TW13 5JJ	TQ 12471 73026	Right	6		
95	Crane Park, near Saxon Avenue, Feltham, TW13 5NA	TQ 12815 72738	Right	4		



97	Crane Park, near 2 Hill Grove, Feltham, TW13 5QT	TQ 12898 72751	Right	6		
98	Crane Park, under overhanging trees Near 49 Ellerman Avenue, Twickenham, TW2 6AA	TQ 13072 72824	Right	4		

100	To the southwest of the Royal Mail Jubilee Mail Centre, Godfrey Way, Feltham, Hounslow, TW4 5XX	TQ 12137 73540	Left	6		
108	Upstream of road bridge, near Aroma, 171 Yeading Lane, Hayes, UB4 0ES	TQ 11110 81872	Left	6		

109	<p>Downstream of Shakespeare Avenue footbridge</p> <p>Near 5<sup>th</sup> Hayes (Barnhill) Scout Group, Arden Close, Hayes, UB4 9AG</p>	TQ 10963 82018	Left	4		
110	UB4 9HP	TQ 10879 82024	Left	4	MISSING PHOTOS	





114	<p>Opposite Hayes RFC and behind 168 Raynton Drive, Hayes, UB4 8BH</p> <p>Outfall runs into a ditch which run parallel to Kingshill Avenue for 100m</p>	TQ 09971 82653	Right	8		
126	<p>50m downstream of Queens Walk road bridge</p> <p>Behind 177 Torcross Road, Ruislip, HA4 0TG</p>	TQ 11284 86575	Left	4		

128	Just downstream of Field End Road, between allotments and Venue 5, 446 Field End Road, Ruislip, HA4 9PD	TQ 11737 86765	Right	4		
130	Behind 42 Whitby Road, Ruislip, HA4 9DT	TQ 10855 86260	Left	4		

136	Behind 53 Torcross Road, Ruislip, HA4 0TB	TQ 11152 86556	Right	4		
138	Behind 52 Northumberland Road, North Harrow, HA2 7RE	TQ 11152 86552	Right	4		

145	Behind 208A Whitby Road, Ruislip, HA4 9DY	TQ 11338 86566	Left	6		
146	Under Queens Walk road bridge, 191 Queens Walk, Ruislip, HA4 0NP	TQ 13061 88637	Right	6		

149	Just downstream of Field End Road, between allotments and Venue 5, 446 Field End Road, Ruislip, HA4 9PD	TQ 11736 86762	Right	4		
173	Between 115 Clyfford Road and RAF Northolt, Ruislip, HA4 6PX	TQ 10175 85843	Right	4		

176	Between 21 Lea Crescent and RAF Northolt, Ruislip, HA4 6PN	TQ 09839 85591	Right	4		
178	Just north of Central Line, within Ruislip Gardens near the station playground, HA4 6LT	TQ 10232 85933	Right	4		

203	Just downstream of railway bridge, nest to Roxbourne playground, 2 Trescoe Gardens, Harrow, HA2 9TB	TQ 12355 87638	Right	4	
207	Under the road bridge at Rayners Lane, next to 501 Rayners Lane, Pinner, HA5 5HX	TQ 12750 88519	Right	4	

252	Under footbridge to Brookside Road  Next to Brookside Children's Playground, Hayes, UB4 0PL	TQ 11615 81250	Right	6	MISSING PHOTOS	
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