

**Marine pollution is something we have all heard of, but**

**over 80% of plastic waste enters the sea via our rivers**

**Help us by joining in to clear the stretch of river you love**

**You can organise your own event by registering:** [**www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/LYMag7**](http://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/LYMag7)

**OR come along with us on one of our organised days:**

**11th June – Shrewsbury**

**12th June – Ironbridge**

**13th June – Bridgnorth**

**In order to take practical measures to reduce plastic input, it will be necessary to answer the initial questions:**

**Where does all the plastic come from? And how does it get into the sea?**

**So we have teamed up with the Marine conservation Society to record all the litter we collect and send the results back to MCS to help understand the sources of marine pollution**

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**Plastic pollution Facts!**

Plastic debris is primarily carried into the sea by large rivers with large populations along them, in the UK this is principally the Severn and the Thames.

More than 13 billion, single-use plastic bottles are sold in Britain each year, an average of 200 per person.

It takes 500-1,000 years for plastic to degrade

Plastic constitutes approximately 90 percent of all trash floating on the ocean's surface, with 46,000 pieces of plastic per square mile

At least two thirds of the world’s fish stocks are suffering from plastic ingestion.

100,000 marine creatures a year are found dead due to plastic entanglement, many more are unrecorded.

Approximately 1 million sea birds die from ingesting plastic.

44 percent of all seabird species, 22 percent of cetaceans, all sea turtle species and a growing list of fish species have been documented with plastic in or around their bodies.

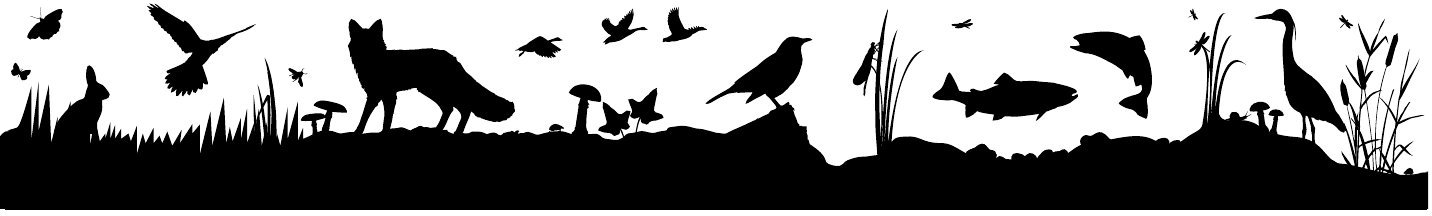
At least 8 million tons of plastic enter the oceans each year. That's similar to emptying a rubbish truck of plastic into an ocean every minute.

The Thames puts 18 tonnes of plastic into the ocean per year.

Studies show that there is a large amount of unseen subsurface or submerged plastics carried by rivers – not just the rubbish seen floating at the surface.

The Yangtze River, China, carries more plastic into the ocean than any other river. 1.5million tonnes every year.



Photo courtesy of Malcolm Brown

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