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EV10

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EV17

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Villager praised for oil warning

Leak from tank spotted in river

By Patrick Lowman

A QUICK-THINKING resident has been praised after her rapid response to an oil leak in a Suffolk river prevented a possible threat to wildfowl and rare otters.

The unnamed villager in Great Bradley, near Haverhill, contacted the Environment Agency after spotting an estimated 1,000 litres of oil seeping into the River Stour. An Agency spokesman confirmed about 2km of the river was polluted when a domestic heating tank leaked into the water - but there was no evidence of the spillage effecting wildfowl.

Environment Agency spokesman Garry Philp said: "There didn't appear to be any wildfowl in the river - so from that point of view, there wasn't a great deal of damage to the river."

He added: "At about 8am on Thursday, we had a report of a strong oil odour in the River Stour at Great Bradley.

"We went to the site to investigate and we traced the leak into the village. We then conducted house-to-house inquiries to ascertain where the leak had come from. We found it had come from a bottom of a metal oil tank which had become rusty. We're really grateful to members of the public who report these incidents so promptly. It helps us to do all that we can as quickly as possible to minimise the impact on the environment."

Resident Helen Smith, who noticed the spill while walking her dog, said: "I saw an oily substance in the river but I didn't realise it was



SOAK UP: Booms across the River Stour

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