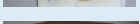


Weekly Houghton Water Quality Status

Summary: Even very low levels of E.coli still potentially pose a health risk to people in the water.

HOUGHTON LOCK	E.coli	10/09/2026 Houghton Lock			E.coli ★★★★  Excellent bathing water quality ★★★★		Rainfall 7.80mm last 7 days prior to 10/09/26 River Level - 0.153 on 10/09/26 at time of test at Brampton Sluice Cow Lane no discharges last 14 days from 31/08/26 RAF Wyton no discharge events last 14 days from 10/09/26 Hartford no discharges last 14 days from 10/09/26 Huntingdon 12 discharge events for total of 60 mins 28/08/26 - 04/09/26 Godmanchester no discharges last 14 days from 04/09/26
	Petrifilm (Weekly)	Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci			
	N/A	100	N/A				
HOUGHTON MILL	E.coli	10/09/2026 Houghton Mill			E.coli ★★★★  Excellent bathing water quality ★★★★		
	Petrifilm (Weekly)	Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci			
	N/A	200	N/A				

HOUGHTON MILL	E.Coli Lab Test (Monthly)	01/09/2026 Houghton Mill	Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci	 Excellent bathing water quality ★★★★		No rainfall prior to sampling on 22/06/26 back to 19/06/26 River Level 0.133mm on 22/06/26 at Brampton Sluice Cow Lane no discharges last 14 days from 08/05/26 RAF Wyton no discharge last 14 days from 08/05/26
			1300	<100	<100			

KEY	KEY:
	EC Bathing Water Directive 2006/7EC is reproduced below
	Excellent: E. coli ≤ 500 cfu/100 ml; Enterococci ≤ 200 cfu/100 ml
	Good: E. coli ≤ 1000 cfu/100 ml; Enterococci ≤ 400 cfu/100 ml
	Sufficient: E. coli ≤ 1000 cfu/100 ml; Enterococci ≤ 330 cfu/100 ml

EC Bathing Water Directive 2006/7EC				
Rating	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor (Fail)
Enterococci (per 100 ml)	<100	<1000	<1000	>1000
E. coli (per 100 ml)	<100	<1000	<1000	>1000

NB: While the above official key is confusing, E.Coli readings under 900 cfu/100ml is considered sufficient bathing water quality
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwa/profiles/help-understanding-data.html>

The Bathing Water Regulations classify officially designated bathing sites each year based upon the result of tests taken in the previous year.

Hanna Checkers - see Definitions tab (Weekly)	Houghton Lock Ammonia	10/09/2026	0.01 mg/L (ppm) ammonia-nitrogen (NH ₄ -N)	Rainfall 7.80mm last 7 days prior to 10/09/26 River Level - 0.153 on 10/09/26 at time of test at Brampton Sluice Cow Lane no discharges last 14 days from 31/08/26 RAF Wyton no discharge events last 14 days from 10/09/26 Hartford no discharges last 14 days from 10/09/26 Huntingdon 12 discharge events for total of 60 mins 28/08/26 - 04/09/26 Godmanchester no discharges last 14 days from 04/09/26
	Houghton Lock Phosphates	10/09/2026	0.79 mg/L phosphate (PO ₄)	
	Houghton Mill Ammonia	10/09/2026	0.02 mg/L (ppm) ammonia-nitrogen (NH ₄ -N)	
	Houghton Mill Phosphates	10/09/2026	0.79 mg/L phosphate (PO ₄)	
	Cow Lane Ammonia	06/08/2026	0.94 mg/L (ppm) ammonia-nitrogen (NH ₄ -N)	
	Cow Lane Phosphates	06/08/2026	1.37 mg/L phosphate (PO ₄)	
				Intermittent - not done every week
				Intermittent - not done every week

Phosphates & Nitrates		(Monthly) EarthWatch/FreshWater Watch tests		Rainfall 0mm last 7 days prior to 25/07/26 River Level - 0.152 on 25/07/26 at time of test at Brampton Sluice Cow Lane no discharges last 14 days from 25/07/26 RAF Wyton no discharge last 14 days from 25/07/26
July		Key:		
25/07/2026		Nitrates - 2 mg/L	Max safe limit	
Nitrates	Phosphates	Phosphates - 0.1 mg/L	Max safe limit	
1.5	0.02	Huntingdon		
2	0.02	Hartford (outflow)		
2	0.2	Houghton Lock		
2	0.2	Hemingford Abbots		
2	0.02	The Thicket		
1.5	0.02	St Ives		

DISCLAIMER: The above EC Bathing Water Directive is reproduced as a guide only. These results obtained and presented by The Great Ouse Valley Trust and their trustees & volunteers are not intended as a recommendation to swim or not to swim. These decisions are for the individual to make based on multiple factors of current conditions and to carry out their own risk assessment and due diligence.
The purpose of this report is only to provide a guide to the level of pathogens in the river and is not intended to be taken as advice on whether or not to enter the water.

NB: While the above official key is confusing, E.Coli readings under 900 cfu/100ml is considered sufficient bathing water quality
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwa/profiles/help-understanding-data.html>

The Bathing Water Regulations classify officially designated bathing sites each year based upon the result of tests taken in the previous year.

anglianwater

Services Help and Advice Environment Your Local Area

MyAccount Login

500 m

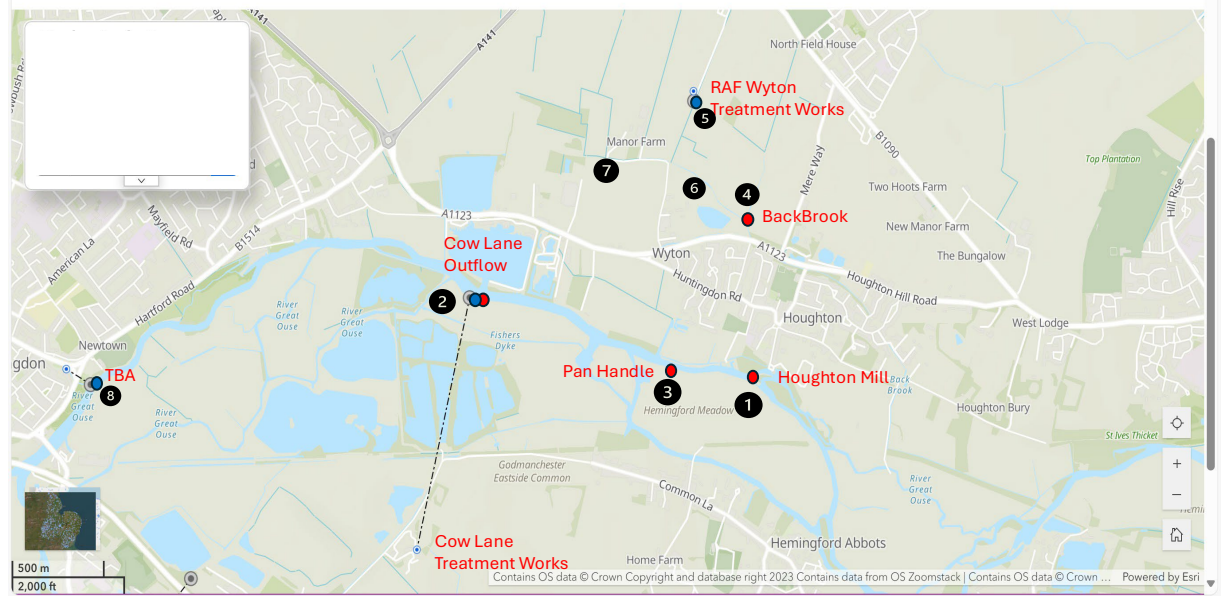
2,000 ft

Test site

Outflow

11:28

08/06/2025



Houghton E-Coli testing (Lab tests & Petrifilm Incubation historic)

LAB TEST (Monthly)



PETRIFILM INCUBATION (Weekly)



KEY: EC Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC				
Rating	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor (Fail)
Escherichia coli (cfu/100 ml)	<500	<1000	<300	>300
Intestinal enterococci (cfu/100 ml)	<200	<400	<150	>150
Inland Waters				

Excellent : E. coli ≤ 500 cfu/100 ml; Enterococci ≤ 200 cfu/100 ml
Good : E. coli ≤ 1000 cfu/100 ml; Enterococci ≤ 400 cfu/100 ml
Sufficient : E. coli ≤ 1000 cfu/100 ml; Enterococci ≤ 330 cfu/100 ml

MONTH:

17/06/2024 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
1414	366	43
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

28/08/2024 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
1987	87	13
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

28/09/2024 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
13800	2430	500
(Poor/Fail) (Poor/Fail)		

29/10/2024 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
12000	274	5
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

25/11/2024 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
12300	2630	1620
(Poor/Fail) (Poor/Fail)		

18/12/2024 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
7800	1250	N/A*
(Poor/Fail) (N/A)		

25/01/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
10200	550	87
(Good) (Poor/Fail)		

25/02/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
2600	117	227
(Poor/Fail) (Good)		

24/03/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
200		
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

06/04/2025 upstream Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

Samples taken at mouth of outflow

06/04/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	8000	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

06/04/2025 BackBrook		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

13/04/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A		N/A
(Excellent)		

13/04/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	2000	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

13/04/2025 BackBrook		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

26/05/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
<100	<50	<50
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

27/05/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

27/05/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	1100	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

27/05/2025 BackBrook		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

27/05/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
<100	<50	<50
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

27/05/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

27/05/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
<100	<50	<50
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

27/05/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

26/05/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

26/05/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<100	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

26/05/2025 BackBrook		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

27/05/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
<100	<50	<50
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

27/05/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

05/06/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

05/06/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<100	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

14/06/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

24/06/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
<100	<50	<50
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

14/06/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

01/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

01/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

10/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

10/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

10/07/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<100	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

10/07/2025 BackBrook		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

24/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

24/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

26/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
<100	<50	<50
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

26/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

26/07/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<100	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

26/07/2025 BackBrook		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Good)		

26/07/2025 Below Pen Handle (half way between cow lan outflow and Houghton Lock)		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Good)		

07/08/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

07/08/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

14/08/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Good)		

14/08/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Good)		

21/08/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

21/08/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

21/08/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<100	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

21/08/2025 BackBrook		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

26/08/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
<100	<50	<50
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

26/08/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
<100	<50	<50
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

04/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Poor)		

04/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Poor)		

11/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

11/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

20/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Good)		

20/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Good)		

20/09/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<100	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

20/09/2025 BackBrook		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	<50	N/A
(Excellent)		

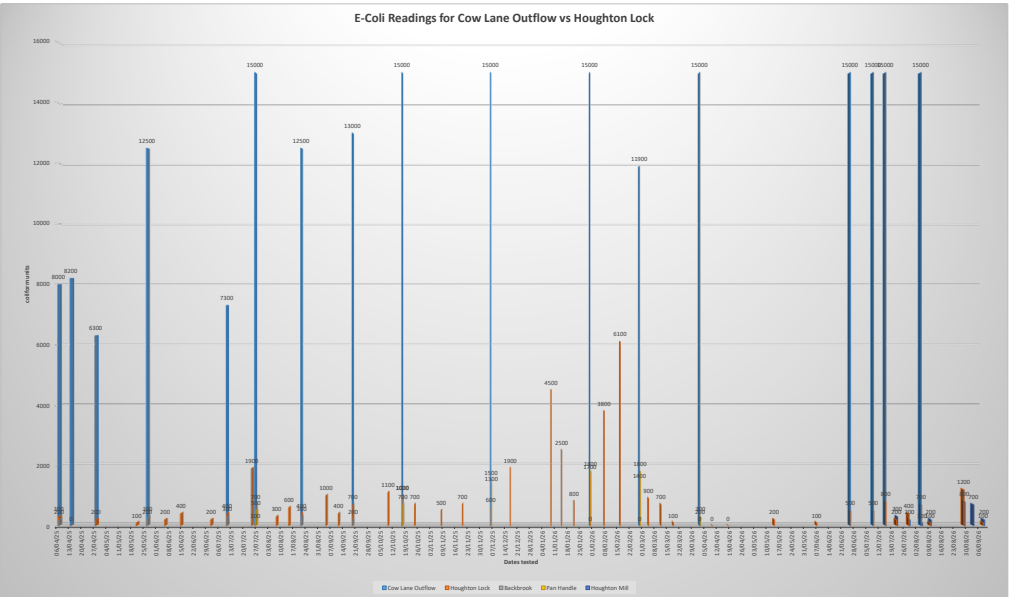
22/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
9200	<50	<50
(Poor/Fail) (Excellent)		

22/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
9200	<50	<50
(Poor/Fail) (Excellent)		

NO REGULAR TEST AS AWAY		

NO REGULAR TEST AS AWAY		

Week	Cow Lane	Houghton	Back	Post	Houghton
Outflow	n Lock	rook	Handle	Mill	
06/04/25	8200	300	200		
13/04/25	8200	0			
27/04/25	6300	200			
30/04/25		100			
26/05/25	12500	200	300		
05/06/25		200			
14/06/25		400			
01/07/25		200			
10/07/25	7300	400	300		
24/07/25		1500			
26/07/25	15000	100	700	500	
07/08/25		300			
14/08/25		600			
21/08/25	12500	400	300		
04/09/25		1000			
11/09/25		400			
19/09/25	13000	700	200		
09/10/25		1100			
17/10/25	15000	1000	1000	700	
24/10/25		700			
		500			
		700			
	15000	600	1500	1300	
		1900			
		4500			
		2500			
		800			
	15000	1700	0	1800	
		3800			
		6100			
	11900	1400	0	1800	
		900			
		700			
		100			
	15000	0	200	300	
		0			
		200			
		100			
	15000	500			
	15000	500			
	15000	800			
		200			
		400			
	15000	700			
		100			
		1200			
		700			
		100			

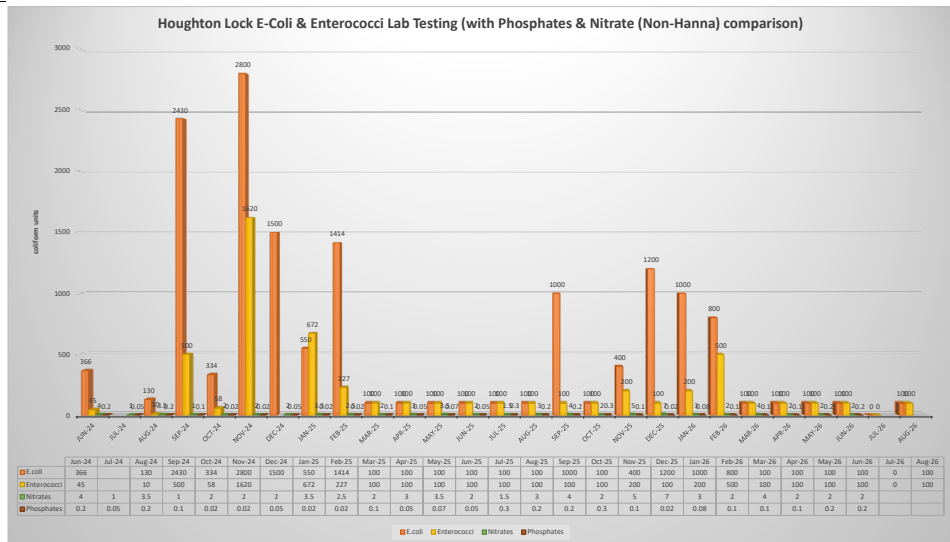


EC Testing Water Directive 2018/77EC				
Rating	Exceedance	Good	High	Very High
Exceedance	Good	High	Very High	
Good	High	Very High		
High	Very High			
Very High				

Califorms	MONTH	Loal	Enterococci	Nitrates	Phosphates
1414	Jul-24	366	45	4	0.2
1987	Aug-24	130	10	1	0.05
13800	Aug-24	2430	500	1	0.1
12000	Oct-24	334	58	2	0.02
12300	Nov-24	2800	1620	2	0.02
7800	Jan-25	550	672	3.5	0.05
10200	Jan-25	550	672	3.5	0.02
2600	Feb-25	1414	227	2.5	0.02
200	Mar-25	100	100	2	0.05
<100	Apr-25	100	100	3	0.01
<100	May-25	100	100	3.5	0.07
<100	Jun-25	100	100	2	0.05
<100	Jul-25	100	100	1.5	0.3
<100	Aug-25	100	100	3	0.2
9200	Sep-25	1000	100	4	0.2
1400	Oct-25	100	100	2	0.3
900	Nov-25	400	200	5	0.1
5900	Dec-25	1200	100	0.02	0.02
2100	Jan-26	100	200	3	0.08
3600	Feb-26	800	500	2	0.1
400	Mar-26	100	100	4	0.1
2200	Apr-26	100	100	2	0.1
100	May-26	100	100	2	0.2
<100	Jun-26	100	100	2	0.2
	Jul-26 Missed		Missed		
1300	Aug-26	100	100		

Lab testing - Pathology Management Solutions
www.pathology-management.co.uk
Laboratory in Manchester, England
Rose Mill Union St, Manchester M24 6DD

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mg/L	27/06/2026	10/07/2026	17/07/2026	23/07/2026	30/07/2026	06/08/2026	11/08/2026	30/08/2026	04/09/2026	10/09/2026	
Houghton Lock Ammonia	N/A	0.17	0.1	0.07	0.14	0.03	0.07	0.04		0.1	
Houghton Lock Phosphates	N/A	0.71	0.68	0.78	0.69	0.64	0.72	0.78		0.79	
Houghton Mill Ammonia	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.06	0.06	0.03	0.01	0.08	0.04	0.2	
Houghton Mill Phosphates	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.81	0.68	0.61	0.76	0.79	0.8	0.79	
Cow Lane Outflow Ammonia	0.67	1.62	3.34	N/A	N/A	0.94	N/A	N/A			
Cow Lane Outflow Phosphates	N/A	1.59	2.5	N/A	N/A	1.37	N/A	N/A			
Phosphates - 0.1 mg/L	Max safe limit										

Ammonia-N (NI Likely ecological significance)

<1 mg/L	Generally considered good for many rivers and sensitive aquatic life
1–3 mg/L	Often acceptable in larger rivers with good dilution, but depends on conditions
3–5 mg/L	May pose a risk in smaller or low-flow rivers, especially in warm weather
>5 mg/L	Increasing concern for aquatic ecosystems; often above permit limits for many sewage works
>10 mg/L	Potentially harmful to fish and invertebrates, depending on pH and temperature

Weekly Houghton Water Quality Status

Even very low levels of Ecoli still potentially pose a health risk to people in the water.

HOUGHTON
LOCK

E.Coli
Petrifilm
(Weekly)

11/08/2026 Houghton Lock		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	100	N/A
	(Excellent)	

E.coli



Excellent bathing
water quality



HOUGHTON
MILL

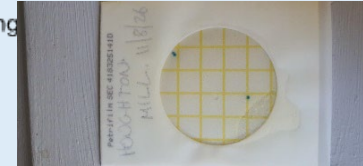
E.Coli
Petrifilm
(Weekly)

11/08/2026 Houghton Mill		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	200	N/A
	(Excellent)	

E.coli



Excellent bathing
water quality



HOUGHTON
LOCK

E.Coli
Lab Test
(Monthly)

22/06/2026 Houghton Lock		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
<100	<100	<100
	(Excellent)	(Excellent)

E.coli



Excellent bathing
water quality



Enterococci



Excellent bathing
water quality



KEY

KEY:

EC Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC is reproduced below

Excellent : E. coli ≤ 500 cfu/100 ml; Enterococci ≤ 200 cfu/100 ml

Good : E. coli ≤ 1000 cfu/100 ml; Enterococci ≤ 400 cfu/100 ml

Sufficient : E. coli ≤ 1000 cfu/100 ml; Enterococci ≤ 330 cfu/100 ml

EC Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC

Rating	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor (Fail)
Escherichia coli (cfu/100 ml)	<500	<1000	<900	>900
Intestinal enterococci (cfu/100 ml)	<200	<400	<330	>330

Inland Waters

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NB: While the above official key is confusing, E.Coli readings under 900 cfu/100ml is considered sufficient bathing water quality

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/help-understanding-data.html>

Phosphate & Nitrate Testing History-woody (Monthly Nitro-Sensor checker tests but instead using Terrestrial / Waterwatch kits that change colour)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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Coliforms

- Definition:** A broad class of bacteria found in the environment, including soil, vegetation, and water.
- Significance:** Used as an indicator of water quality and potential contamination by fecal matter.
- Types:** Includes both fecal coliforms (e.g., E. coli) and non-fecal coliforms (e.g., Enterobacter, Klebsiella).
- Testing:** Presence in water suggests the need for further testing for specific pathogens.

E. coli (Escherichia coli)

- Definition:** A specific species of fecal coliform bacteria commonly found in the intestines of humans and animals.
- Significance:** Certain strains can cause foodborne illness, while others are harmless or beneficial.
- Pathogenic Strains:** Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) like O157:H7 can cause severe illness.
- Testing:** Presence in water indicates direct fecal contamination and a higher risk of pathogens.

Enterococci

- Definition:** A genus of bacteria predominantly found in the intestines of humans and animals.
- Significance:** Used as an indicator of fecal contamination in water, particularly in marine environments.
- Types:** Includes Enterococcus faecalis and Enterococcus faecium.
- Testing:** Presence in water is a strong indicator of fecal pollution and potential pathogenic organisms.

Ammonia

Ammonia-N (NH ₃ -N) in effluent	Likely ecological significance
<1 mg/L	Generally considered good for many rivers and sensitive aquatic life
1–3 mg/L	Often acceptable in larger rivers with good dilution, but depends on conditions
3–5 mg/L	May pose a risk in smaller or low-flow rivers, especially in warm weather
>5 mg/L	Increasing concern for aquatic ecosystems; often above permit limits for many sewage works
>10 mg/L	Potentially harmful to fish and invertebrates, depending on pH and temperature

Phosphates

- < **0.03 mg/L (ppm)** phosphate is often associated with very low risk of excessive algae growth in rivers and streams.
- 0.03–0.1 mg/L** is commonly considered a moderate range.
- > **0.1 mg/L** can contribute to eutrophication (excessive algae and plant growth).
- > **0.5 mg/L** is generally regarded as high for natural rivers.

<<<Cow Lane Outflow