

Weekly Houghton Water Quality Status

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

[illegible]

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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/bwg/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

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RAF Wyton Treatment Works

BackBrook

Cow Lane Outflow

Pan Handle

Houghton Mill

Cow Lane Treatment Works

TBA

North Field House

Manor Farm

Two Hoots Farm

New Manor Farm

The Bungalow

West Lodge

Houghton Bury

Hemington

Home Farm

Hemington Abbots

Godmanchester Eastside Common

Common La

Huntingdon Rd

Houghton Hill Road

Mere Way

A1123

A141

BI514

Mayfield Rd

American La

Newtown

St Ives Thicket

Top Plantation

Hill Rise

River Great Ouse

Fishers Dyke

500 m

2,000 ft

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Test site

Outflow

11:28 08/06/2025

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

KEY:

LAB TEST (Monthly)



PETRIFILM INCUBATION (Weekly)



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				

MONTH:

17/06/2024 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
1414	366	45
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

28/08/2024 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
1987	150	10
(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	334	53
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

25/11/2024 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
12300	2800	1620
(Poor/Fail) (Poor/Fail)		

16/12/2024 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
7800	1500	N/A*
(Poor/Fail) (N/A)		

25/01/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
10200	550	672
(Good) (Poor/Fail)		

25/02/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
2600	1414	227
(Poor/Fail) (Good)		

24/03/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
200	100	<100
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

26/04/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
<100	<100	<100
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

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

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

28/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
<100	<100	<100
(Excellent) (Excellent)		

14/08/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	600	N/A
(Good)		

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

04/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	1000	N/A
(Poor)		

22/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
9200	1000	<100
(Poor/Fail) (Excellent)		

NO REGULAR TEST AS AWAY		

06/04/2025 upstream Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	300	N/A
(Excellent)		

13/04/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	0	N/A
(Excellent)		

27/04/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	200	N/A
(Excellent)		

27/04/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	200	N/A
(Excellent)		

20/05/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	0	N/A
(Excellent)		

26/05/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	200	N/A
(Excellent)		

05/06/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	200	N/A
(Excellent)		

01/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	200	N/A
(Excellent)		

10/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	400	N/A
(Excellent)		

24/07/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	1900	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

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

07/08/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	300	N/A
(Excellent)		

21/08/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	400	N/A
(Excellent)		

20/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	700	N/A
(Good)		

11/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	400	N/A
(Excellent)		

20/09/2025 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	700	N/A
(Good)		

Samples taken at mouth of outflow

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

13/04/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	8200	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

27/04/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	6300	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

26/05/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	12000	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

05/06/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	15000	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

10/07/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	7300	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

26/07/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	15000	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

21/08/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	12500	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

20/09/2025 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	12500	N/A
(Poor/Fail)		

06/04/2025 BackBrook		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	200	N/A
(Excellent)		

26/05/2025 BackBrook		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	300	N/A
(Excellent)		

26/07/2025 BackBrook		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	700	N/A
(Good)		

26/07/2025 Below Pan Handle (half way between cow lan outflow and Houghton Lock)		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	500	N/A
(Good)		

[illegible]

Jul-26

30/07/2026 Houghton Lock		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	400	N/A
[Excellent]		

30/07/2026 Houghton Mill		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	300	N/A
[Excellent]		

Aug-26

06/08/2026 Houghton Lock		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	700	N/A
[Good]		

06/08/2026 Houghton Mill		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	100	N/A
[Excellent]		

06/08/2026 Cow Lane Outflow		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	>15000	N/A
[Poor/Fail]		

Aug-26

11/08/2026 Houghton Lock		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	100	N/A
[Excellent]		

11/08/2026 Houghton Mill		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	200	N/A
[Excellent]		

Aug-26

30/08/2026 Houghton Lock		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	1200	N/A
[Poor/Fail]		

30/08/2026 Houghton Mill		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	800	N/A
[Good]		

Sep-26

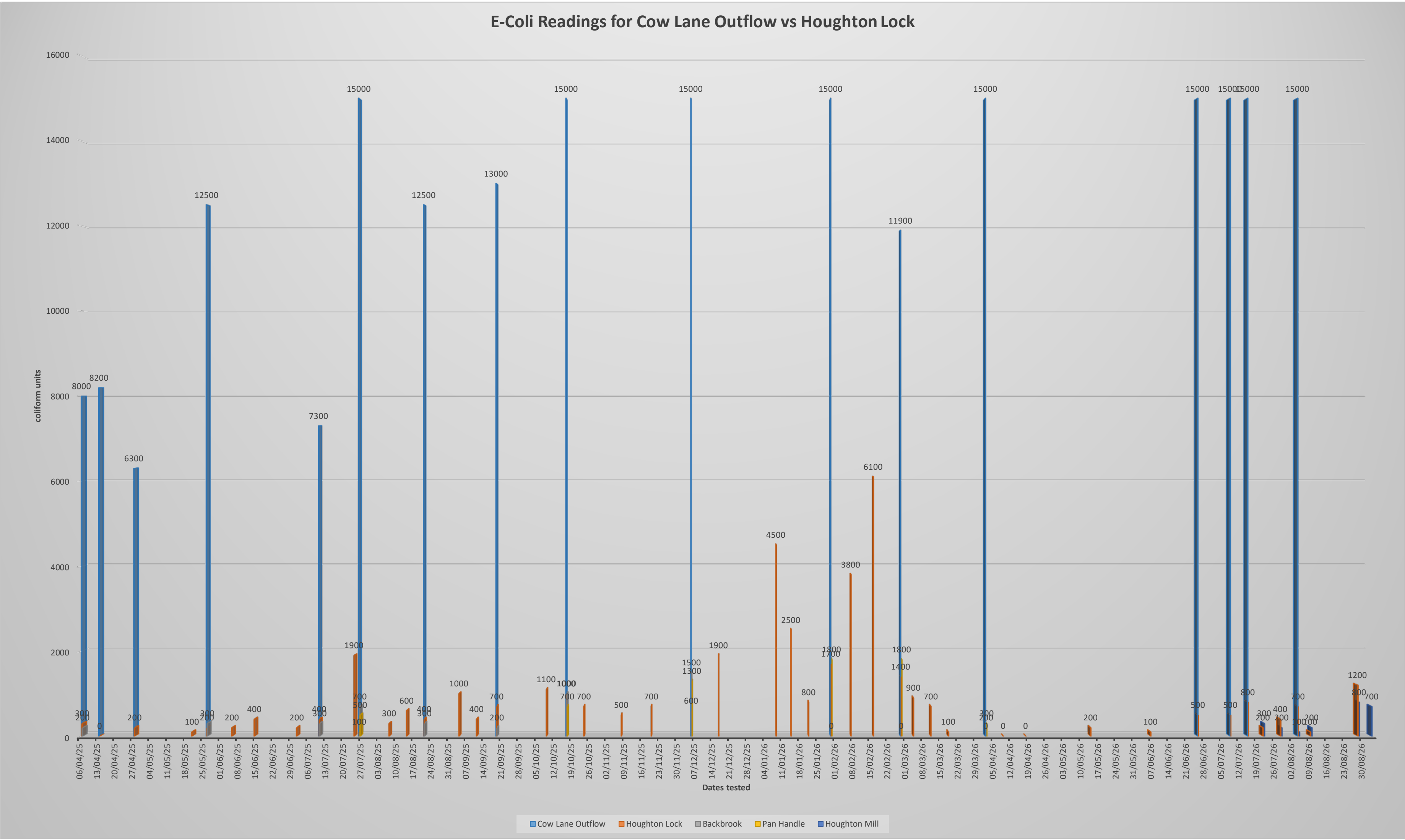
01/08/2026 Houghton Mill		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
1300	<100	<100
[Excellent] [Excellent]		

04/09/2026 Houghton Mill		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	700	N/A
[Good]		

Just past					
Week	Cow Lane Outflow	Houghton Lock	Backbrook	Pan Handle	Houghton Mill
06/04/25	8000	300	200		
13/04/25	8200	0			
27/04/25	6300	200			
20/05/25		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		1900			
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			
#####		0			
#####		200			
#####		100			
#####	15000	500			
#####	15000	500			
#####		800			
#####		200			
#####		400			
#####	15000	700			
#####		100			
#####		1200			
#####					

EC Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC				
Rating	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor (Fail)
Escherichia coli (E.coli) (100 ml)	<500	<1000	<100	>100
Intestinal enterococci (E.coli) (100 ml)	<200	<400	<10	>10

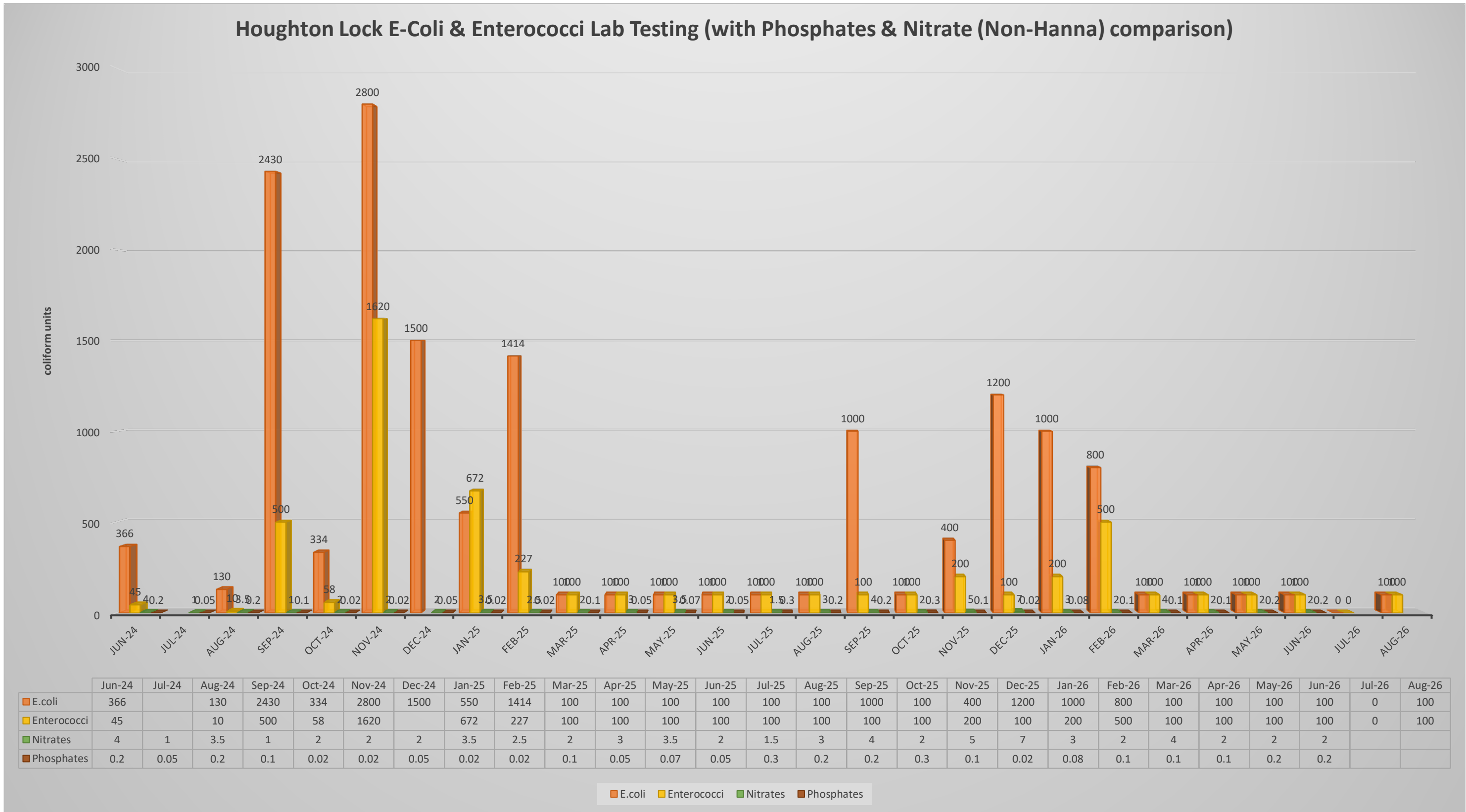
Island Waters



Houghton Lock Monthly Laboratory E-Coli testing & comp with N&Ph					
Coliforms	MONTH:	E.coli	Enterococci	Nitrates	Phosphates
1414	Jun-24	366	45	4	0.2
	Jul-24			1	0.05
1987	Aug-24	130	10	3.5	0.2
13800	Sep-24	2430	500	1	0.1
12000	Oct-24	334	58	2	0.02
12300	Nov-24	2800	1620	2	0.02
7800	Dec-24	1500		2	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	0.1
<100	Apr-25	100	100	3	0.05
<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	7	0.02
2200	Jan-26	1000	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
1300	Jul-26	Missed	Missed		
	Aug-26	100	100		

EC Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC				
Rating	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor (Fails)
Escherichia coli (cfu/100 ml)	<500	<1000	<900	>900
Intestinal enterococci (cfu/100 ml)	<200	<400	<330	>330

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



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		
Houghton Lock Ammonia	N/A	0.17	0.1	0.07	0.14	0.03	0.07	0.04			
Houghton Lock Phosphates	N/A	0.71	0.68	0.78	0.69	0.64	0.72	0.78			
Houghton Mill Ammonia	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.06	0.06	0.03	0.01	0.08	0.04		
Houghton Mill Phosphates	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.81	0.68	0.61	0.76	0.79	0.8		
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	
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Ammonia-N (NH₃) 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

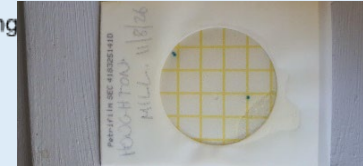
E.Coli
Petrifilm
(Weekly)

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>

[illegible]

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