


Weekly Houghton Lock Water Quality & Bathing Water Status

Date: **10/04/2026**

E.Coli
Petrifilm (Weekly)

10/04/2026 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
N/A	0	N/A
Excellent		

E.coli Excellent bathing water quality



Rainfall 0mm last 7 days
 River Level - 0.144 on 10th April
 Cow Lane no discharges last 14 days
 RAF Wyton no discharge last 14 days

Date: **30/03/2026**

E.Coli
Lab Test (Monthly)

30/03/2026 Houghton		
Coliforms	E.coli	Enterococci
400	100	100
Excellent		

E.coli Excellent bathing water quality

Enterococci Excellent bathing water quality

Rainfall 1.10mm last 7 days
 River Level - 0.165 on 30th March
 Cow Lane no discharges last 14 days
 RAF Wyton no discharge last 14 days

Rainfall is for 24 hours before testing
 Discharges shown are last known just before testing

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	Fail
Escherichia coli (E.coli) (cfu/100 ml)	≤ 500	≤ 1000	≤ 1000	> 1000
Enterococci (cfu/100 ml)	≤ 200	≤ 400	≤ 330	> 330

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.

Date: **21/02/2026**

Phosphates & Nitrate (Monthly)

March		Key:	
21/03/2026		Nitrates - 2 mg/L	Max safe limit
Nitrates		Phosphates - 0.1 mg/L	Max safe limit

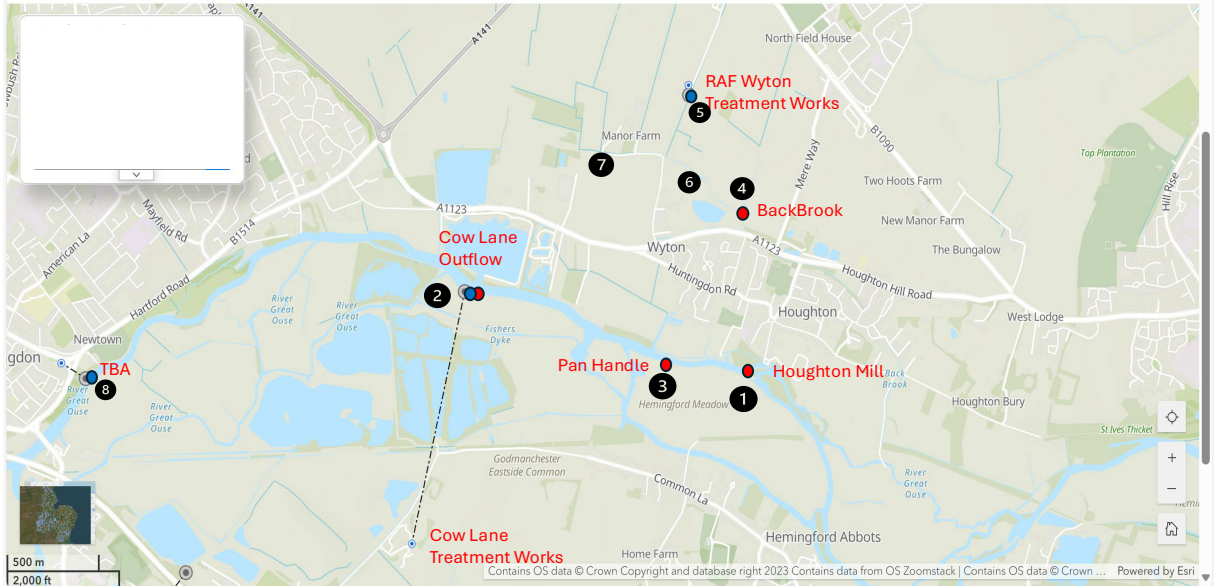
Location	Nitrates	Phosphates
Huntingdon	0.05	0.05
Hartford (outflow)	0.1	0.1
Houghton Lock	0.1	0.1
Hemingford Abbots	0.1	0.1
The Thicket	0.05	0.05
St Ives	0.1	0.1

Rainfall 1.10mm last 7 days

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.



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

LAB TEST (Monthly)

PETRFILM INCUBATION (Weekly)

KEY:

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

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:

Date	Coliforms	E. coli	Enterococci	Rating
Jun-24	1414	32	5	(Excellent) (Excellent)
Aug-24	1987	130	10	(Excellent) (Excellent)
Sep-24	13800	2434	370	(Poor/Fail) (Poor/Fail)
Oct-24	12000	334	58	(Excellent) (Excellent)
Nov-24	12300	2620	170	(Poor/Fail) (Poor/Fail)
Dec-24	7800	1500	N/A*	(Poor/Fail) (N/A)
Jan-25	10000	300		(Good) (Poor/Fail)
Feb-25	2600	4926	227	(Poor/Fail) (Good)
Mar-25	200	130	110	(Excellent) (Excellent)
Apr-25				
Apr-25				
Apr-25	<100	130	110	(Excellent) (Excellent)
May-25				
May-25				
May-25				
May-25	<100	130	110	(Excellent) (Excellent)
Jun-25				
Jun-25				
Jun-25	<100	130	110	(Excellent) (Excellent)
Jul-25				
Jul-25				
Jul-25				
Jul-25	<100	130	110	(Excellent) (Excellent)
Aug-25				
Aug-25				
Aug-25				
Aug-25	<100	130	110	(Excellent) (Excellent)
Sep-25				
Sep-25				
Sep-25				
Sep-25	9200	3026	150	(Poor/Fail) (Excellent)
Oct-25				
Oct-25				
Oct-25				

Date	Coliforms	E. coli	Enterococci	Rating
16/04/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
13/04/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
27/04/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
27/06/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
20/06/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
26/05/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
14/06/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
01/07/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
10/07/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
24/07/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)
26/07/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
07/08/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
14/08/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Good)
21/08/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
26/08/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
04/09/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor)
12/09/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
20/09/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Good)
22/09/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail) (Excellent)
09/10/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)
17/10/2025 Houghton	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)

Samples taken at mouth of outflow

Date	Coliforms	E. coli	Enterococci	Rating
06/04/2025 Cow Lane Outflow	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)
13/04/2025 Cow Lane Outflow	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)
27/04/2025 Cow Lane Outflow	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)
27/06/2025 Cow Lane Outflow	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)
26/05/2025 Cow Lane Outflow	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)
05/06/2025 Cow Lane Outflow	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)
10/07/2025 Cow Lane Outflow	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)
26/07/2025 Cow Lane Outflow	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)
20/09/2025 Cow Lane Outflow	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)
17/10/2025 Cow Lane	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)

Date	Coliforms	E. coli	Enterococci	Rating
06/04/2025 BackBrook	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
26/05/2025 BackBrook	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
26/07/2025 BackBrook	N/A	30	N/A	(Good)
21/08/2025 BackBrook	N/A	30	N/A	(Excellent)
17/10/2025 BackBrook	N/A	30	N/A	(Poor/Fail)

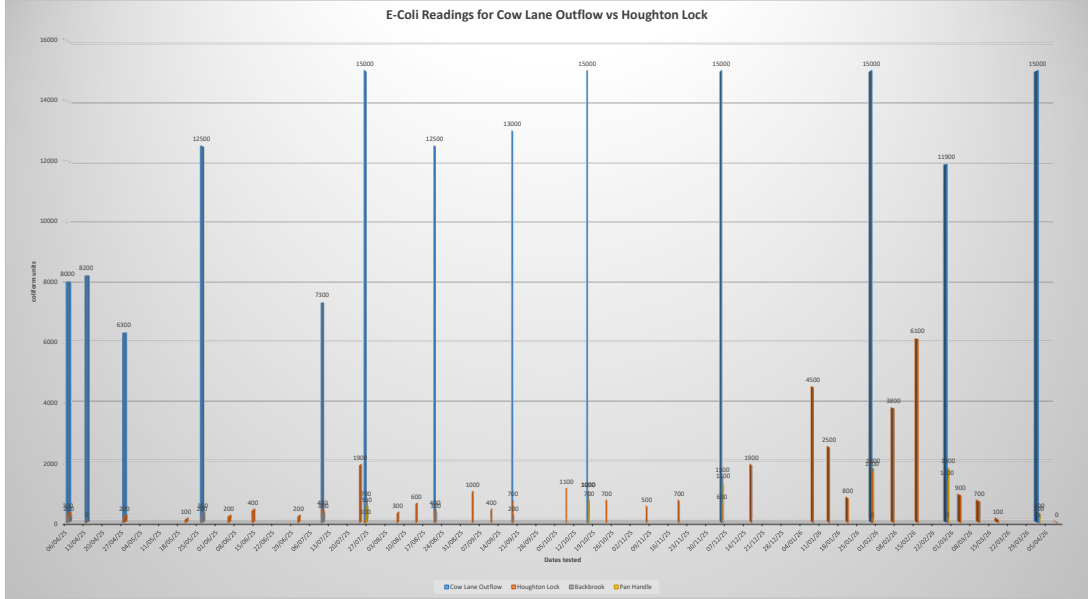
26/07/2025 Below Pan Handle (half way between cow lan outflow and Houghton Lock)

Date	Coliforms	E. coli	Enterococci	Rating
26/07/2025 Below Pan Handle	N/A	30	N/A	(Good)



E-Coli Readings for Cow Lane Outflow vs Houghton Lock

Week	Cow Lane Outflow	Houghton Lock	Backbrook	Pan Handle
06/04/25	8000	300	200	200
13/04/25	8200	0		
27/04/25	6300	200		
20/05/25	100	300		
26/05/25	12500	400		
05/06/25	200	400		
14/06/25	400	200		
01/07/25	7300	400	300	
10/07/25	1900	100	700	500
26/07/25	15000	100	300	
07/08/25	300	600		
14/08/25	12500	400	300	
21/08/25	4500	1000		
04/09/25	1000	400		
11/09/25	13000	700	200	
09/10/25	1100	1000	700	
17/10/25	15000	700	1500	1300
24/10/25	500	700		
31/10/25	15000	600	1500	1300
07/11/25	1900	4500		
14/11/25	2500	800		
21/11/25	15000	1700	0	1800
28/11/25	3500	6100		
05/12/25	11900	1400	0	1800
12/12/25	900	700		
19/12/25	700	100		
26/12/25	15000	0	200	300
02/01/26	0	0		



EC	Backbrook	Pan Handle
0-100	Green	Green
100-200	Yellow	Yellow
200-500	Orange	Orange
500-1000	Red	Red
1000+	Dark Red	Dark Red

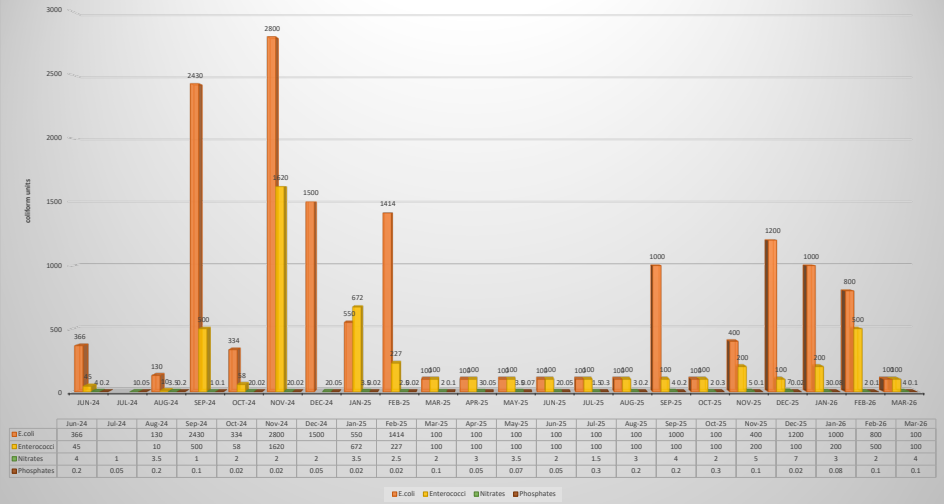
Houghton Lock Monthly Laboratory E-Coli testing & comp with N&P

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

Rating	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
Very good (90-100%)	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red
Good (80-90%)	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red
Satisfactory (70-80%)	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red
Poor (60-70%)	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red
Very poor (50-60%)	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red

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

Houghton Lock E-Coli & Enterococci Lab Testing (with Phosphates & Nitrate comparison)



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.