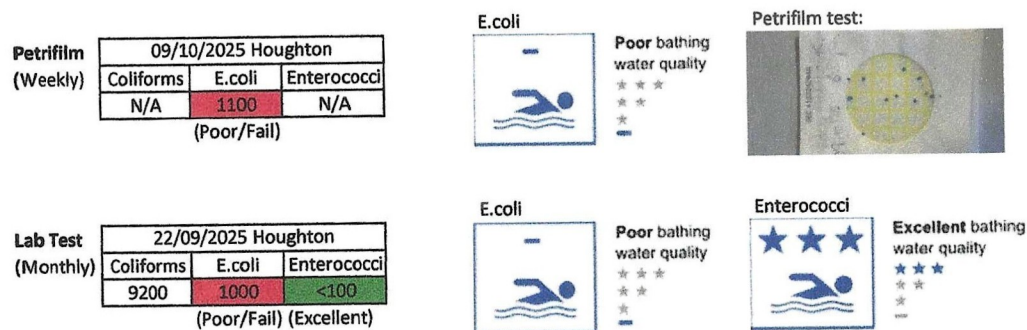


Weekly Houghton Lock Water Quality & Bathing Water Status



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

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 descisions are for the individual to make based on multiple factors of current conditions and to carry out their own risk assessment and due dilligence.

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.

Ref: 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.

Only E.coli and enterococci are formally classified, presumably because they are very different types of bacteria and so survive for different lengths of time in a given watercourse, so if either one is high it definitely indicates the presence of faecal pollution. As such, the bathing water classifications will use the lowest-ranking of the two to rank the overall bathing water. So, for example if at the end of the season, E. coli is 'poor' and Enterococci is 'excellent', the classification will be 'poor' overall.

The formal classification is based upon a statistical analysis of the results over a whole bathing season (May to September). So, for example, a slightly higher level of pollution occasionally is acceptable if there is a low level of variation over time.