

Water Testing Results (Draft June 2024)

Holbrook Parish Council agreed to provide funding for water testing for E Coli at sites around the Shotley peninsular, undertaken by volunteers. Guidance was obtained from the Deben Climate Action Group who have undertaken similar testing on sites on the river Deben. 5 sites on the Shotley peninsular were identified: Lower Holbrook and Harkstead on the Stour, Pin Mill and Woolverstone on the Orwell and Shotley Gate. Samples were taken weekly in November and December 2023 and 2 weekly from April 2024, to continue until October 2024. Sites were chosen based on their use by the public for swimming and water sports. Where possible samples were collected on the rising tide near to high tide.

Multiple factors contribute to the presence of E Coli including discharge of sewage into waterways, UV light and water algae levels, turbulence due to tides and wind disturbing sediment, contamination by livestock, public and discharge from boats, water flow volume and temperature. Levels can also change abruptly over short periods of time.

Thresholds for water quality standards as recommended by the Environment Agency are shown below. The thresholds are different depending on whether the water is coastal or inland. Where the results are poor this is deemed unfit for bathing. I have made the assumption that our waters are inland rather than coastal.

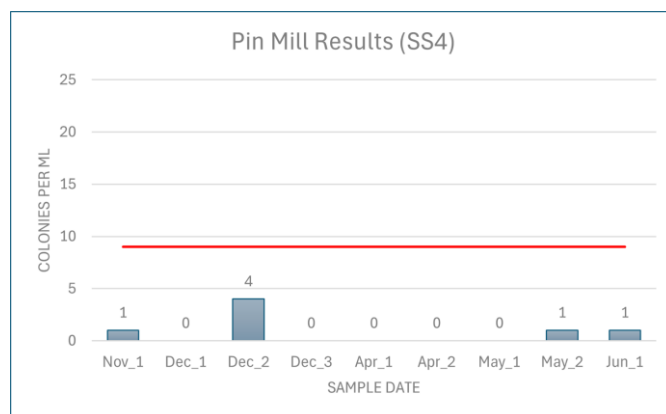
Standards for water Quality:

Coastal:

Standard	E Coli colonies per ml
Excellent	<2.5
Good	<5
Sufficient	<5
Poor	>5

Inland

Standard	E Coli colonies per ml
Excellent	<5
Good	<5
Sufficient	<9
Poor	>9



Summary

Shotley and Pin Mill have had low levels of E Coli in all samples,