

Ilkley Bathing Designation Pollution

2023

The Context

- That water companies poured raw sewage [into rivers and seas 372,544 times](#) in 2021, for 2.6m hours; 301,000 times in 2022 for 1.75m hours (drought year)
- Public concern about our rivers being treated as open sewers
- We (the public) thought we were paying for our sewage to be treated!
- All of our rivers are polluted, with only 16% meeting the criteria for good ecological status and none meeting the criteria for achieving good chemical status
- The target date for 75% of English rivers to be rated as good is now [2063](#) - that's 40 years away
- Water company rationale is that 'spilling' sewage into rivers stops household flooding
- Often they refer to the Victorian sewage system
- That's OK for extreme weather but not day to day practice, and we believe it is illegal
- Britain has repeatedly been non-compliant with legislation since privatisation

Public Action

- The thousands of people making and **signing petitions**: Make reducing sewage pollution a legal requirement (155,606 people signed in 2023); Ban raw sewage discharges (111,428 in 2021); End sewage Pollution (44,689 in 2021); Stop dumping sewage into rivers (77,500) along with many local petitions e.g. To United Utilities to stop dumping raw sewage 33,290; Brighton and Hove to Southern Water 'Stop the dump' 1,648, River Usk 1612, River Avon at Bristol 5,257, Save Windamere 260,000. Renationalise the Water Industry, currently 208,000
- The hundreds of self-funded communities that are **testing and monitoring the quality of the water** using citizen science, including 120 angling clubs covering 85 rivers across 38 catchments; communities along the whole stretch of the Wharfe; 22 sites on the River Yeam; the river Kent from Staveley to Sedgwick; The Big Windamere Survey; 23 rivers with volunteers testing in Smart River Hubs.
- The 2 local communities who secured **Bathing Status** for their Rivers in 2021, the 6 who applied in 2022, the 24 (so far) who are applying this year, and the 50+ who are planning to apply next year

The money

- That water companies have accrued £54 billion debt since privatisation and that we pay on average 20% of our bill towards servicing water company debt and rewarding shareholders
- Water companies have been paying CEOs over £1.5 million in salaries per head, paying dividends internally and externally, servicing huge debts, and not investing enough in the sewage system to upgrade from a Victorian system to a 21C system. No other industry in the UK has been so lapse.

Water Industry Dividends since
privatization = £72 billion

The Story in Ilkley



It starts with children being sick and multiple sightings and reporting of foul discharge into the river



SAT 16:21

Hi Karen my daughter became very ill after swimming in the river at Burley back in July !!! She vomited over and over and over to the point it was every half an hour !!! This then led to her not going into school for 3 days and the upsetting bit was it was the last week of year 6 which meant her missing out in a trip that the teachers had planned as a surprise just got the year 6's !!! It's awful what has been put into the river I think your doing a great job bringing this to light 😊

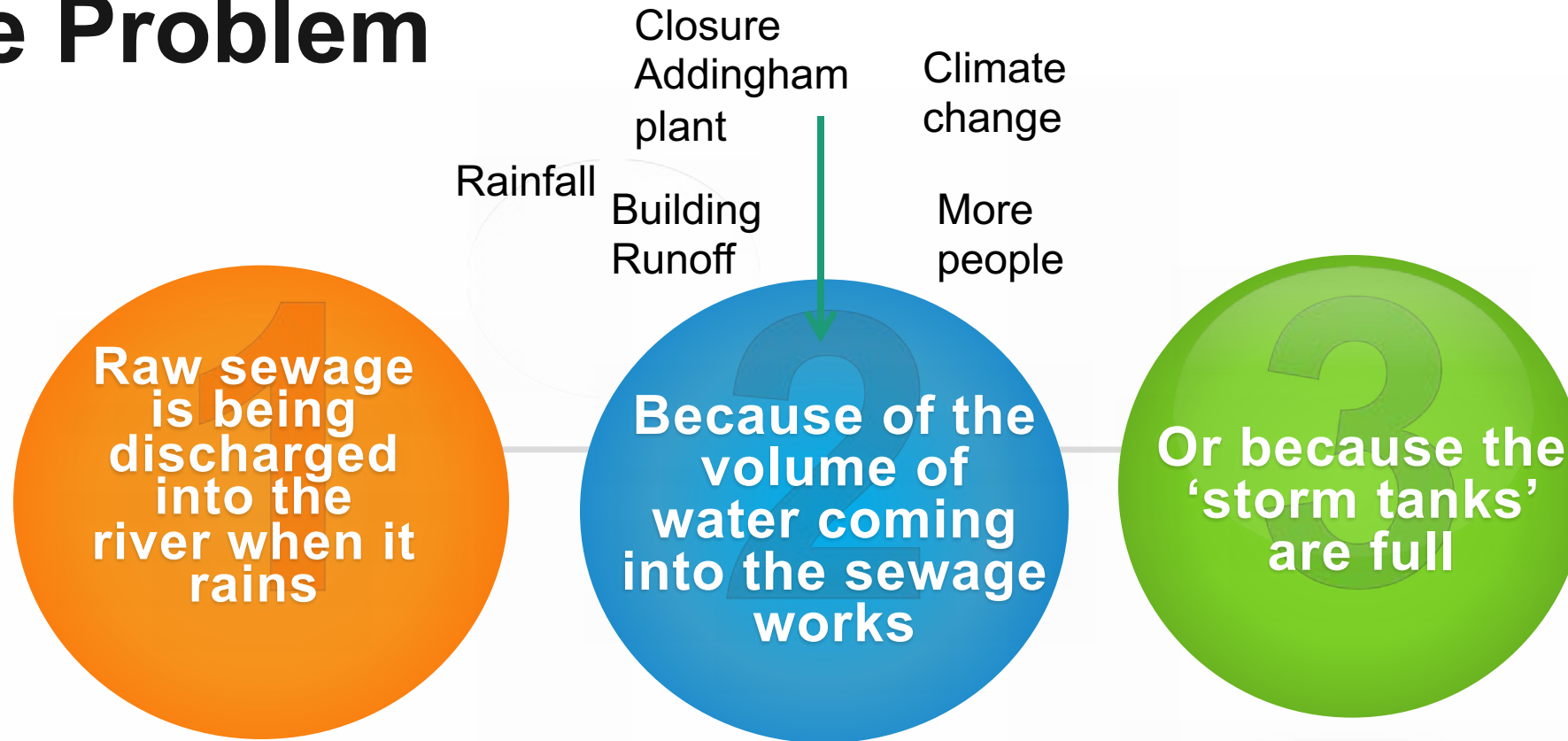
You accepted Helen's request.

I'm appalled at how many responses I've had from this. Thankyou for getting back to me, this will all help to strengthen our cars to help sort it out.

Fingers crossed for you.

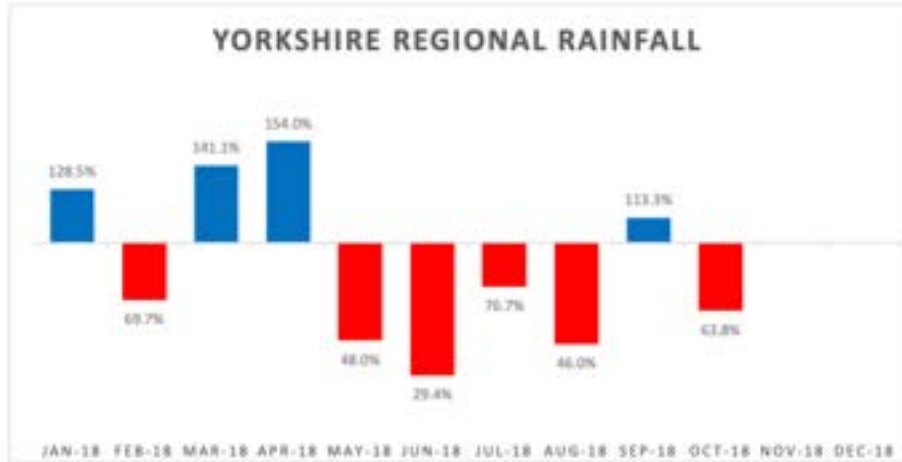


The Problem



And the limit at which this discharge is legal was set 20 years ago for storm conditions

Raw Sewage Discharges every 3 days (data from Yorkshire Water) – so they knew.....



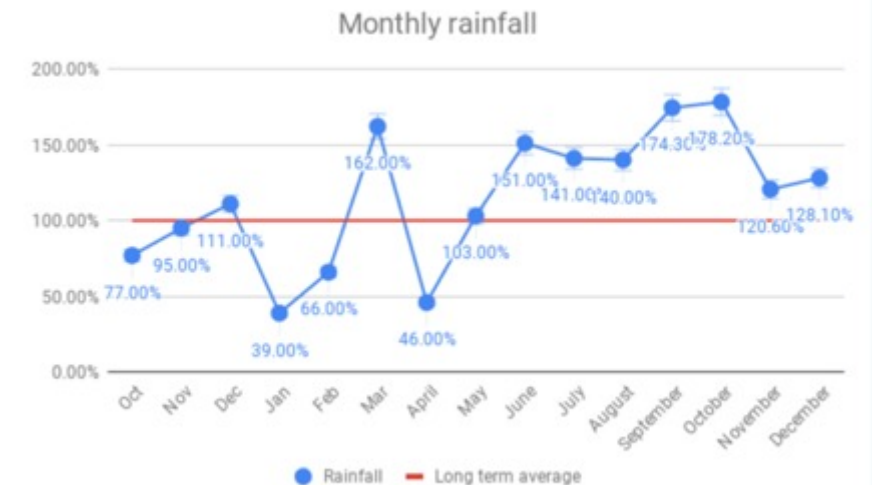
2018 - 123 days of sewage discharges

Figure 4.1: 2018 Regional rainfall as percentage of long term average (1961-1990 LTA)

2021-22
1252.75
hours over
146 days of
the year

2020 – 120 +
days of
sewage
discharges

2019 - 114
days of
sewage
discharges



ILKLEY
CLEAN RIVER
GROUP

Ilkley Clean River Group

3 Objectives

Stop

Stop YW Pumping solids into the river

Stop

Stop sewage discharge outside Storm conditions (UWWTD*)

Upgrade

Upgrade our sewage system to cope with our population and climate change

* Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

Timeline

2018

Reporting Incidents

Citizen Science Testing at Ilkley
Get the media interested

Hold agencies to account in Town Meetings with media present
Decide to apply for bathing status

2019

More Testing and meet with national EA CEO James Bevan to show the data
He says we are right – the problem is proven and needs action
Apply for BS (counting summer 2019, application submitted Sept 2019)

2nd Town Meeting July 2019

Collaborate on understanding sources of pollution – iWharfe set up with YW, Rivers Trust, EA, Addingham Environment Group

2020

3rd Town Meeting Feb 2020
National consultation on our BS application

Bathing Status application – awarded December 2020. The first BS river in England

National Media

Local Media



3RD TOWN MEETING 20TH FEBRUARY - OUR FIRST SUCCESS

Ilkley Town Meeting last night heard the welcome news from Yorkshire Water that rather than wait 5 years to investigate the solutions for Ilkley, they will start this year, and then move to implementation directly. We heard Richard Emmott, Director of Corporate Affairs said:

"It would be daft for us not to investigate.", "Rivers are changing and we need to respond.", "There is a will to get it done."

Richard said it would take a couple of weeks to firm up their position. The ICRG have written to Richard today for a timeframe, and clarity about what they will do. See the video from the meeting.



Timeline

2021

EA tests at Cromwheel – only one section of our application
Bathing Status First Year Count shows no additional visitors as a result of BS

Citizen Science Testing at Spicey Beck – to show source of pollution
Appear at Ofwat Board Seminar.
Appear at multiple agency Conferences

Visit by Ofwat CEO and Chair, EA Chair.
Meeting between YW, Ofwat, EA, our MP, Town Council to agree way forward including upgrades to CSO in BS area

Agree Signage to go up warning of pollution (it didn't so ICRG put it up) Agreed to act across whole Bathing Application Area

Witness at Environment Audit Committee UK parliament to give evidence and submission

Ilkley River assessed as Poor Water Quality upstream of STW
EA promises a permit review by December (it never happens)

Environment Bill - our MP votes with the government and against our advice. We write to all MPs providing a briefing. Our MP stops communications with Ilkley Clean River Group and we have to write to Rebecca Pow to sort it out

2021

Jack and Patrick walk Ilkley to London Litter picking and fundraising for ICRG



Ilkley River Wharfe bathing site gets 'poor' water quality rating

19 January



River Wharfe at Ilkley: Bathing waters 'not tested in right place'

24 May 2021



The River Wharfe is a popular paddling and bathing site

Sewage will flow into Ilkley river until at least 2030, says government

Yorkshire campaigners dismayed at Environment Agency's reaction to evidence of waste discharged into River Wharfe



Swimming in sewage: Ilkley River Wharfe in Yorkshire is most polluted bathing site in England, data reveals

On sunny days, hundreds of people are known to swim in the popular river but samples collected by the Environment Agency found it regularly has dangerously high levels of bacteria



MPs call for bathing rivers across England as part of anti-pollution

Water companies should each designate one area as fit for 2025, says environmental audit committee in highly critical



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Timeline

2022

Bathing Status
Classification Poor.
Signs changed to
include reference to
sewage pollution

Signs finally go up that
sat there is sewage in
the river

**Call for better signs as children fall sick after pollu
river swim in Ilkley**



YW puts in new grills
at the upstream CSO
and publishes plans to
improve upstream
CSOs

YW provides plans for
new large sewer to
take sewage away
from the upstream BS
section and starts work
in early 2023 at the
cost of £11M

**Sewage pours into wild swimming hotspot
months after bathers were warned away**

River Wharfe near Ilkley polluted by untreated sewage this week from Yorkshire Water outflow

By Olivia Ridgway, environmental correspondent
11 August 2022 - 4 days



**River Wharfe bathing spot
contaminated by sewage**



High levels of faecal bacteria were detected on a wide long section of the River Wharfe in Ilkley designated as being safe for bathing
14/08

Town meeting to
review progress and
hold agencies to
account

EA has still not
provided a permit
review for Ilkley STW

2022

The Ilkley group
supports multiple
bathing site
applications
collaborating with
SAS, and supports
campaign groups with
water testing.

**Sewage will flow into Ilkley river until at
least 2030, says government**

Yorkshire campaigners dismayed at Environment Agency's
reaction to evidence of waste discharged into River Wharfe



Timeline

2023

Work starts on the 'super sewer' for Ilkley to clean up the upstream section of the bathing site.

Our Troubled River Documentary features the Ilkley campaign

Application goes in in March 2023 for Ofwat accelerator to secure no more than 10 sewage discharges into the bathing site. In principle this is approved at £71M upgrade of STW at Ilkley and storage capacity at Addingham

Philanthropic funding secured to support campaign groups nationally with the costs of lab testing. All groups use the ICRG water testing protocol and are supported by ICRG in terms of their strategy

Public Declaration published with a coalition of leading campaign groups

FOIs submitted on behalf of all failed applicants for bathing Status to secure better guidance and clarity of decision-making from Defra

Member of the group are receiving national awards for their work leading the river campaign.

Defra issues new BS guidance. At last the threshold is known

100+ local campaign groups are now being supported by ICRG in collaboration with Wild Fish, Windrush Against Sewage, Save Windermere, Whitstable SOS, Surfers against sewage, River Action

Multiple Universities now working with us to test the source of and impact of pollution in the Wharfe - microplastics, nutrients and impact of treated sewage

Yorkshire Water boss apologises over sewage being pumped into rivers

18th May

ENVIRONMENT ILKLEY

Public Declaration for Rivers and Seas

Our rivers and seas are open sewers.

We care deeply about our rivers and seas.

Water companies must comply with, and regulators must regulate according to the 1991 Water Industry Act and the 1994 Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations which require all sewage to be treated, and for storm overflows (which discharge raw sewage) to be truly exceptional

Our Declaration

Our rivers and seas should be protected for nature, for ourselves and for future generations.

This is our declaration:

- Stop pollution for profit.
- Make our waters healthy and safe again.
- Action now not targets someone.
- Regulation that protects the victims, not the polluters.
- Now it's time for the polluters to pay

Environment

Paul Whitehouse 'angry' with sewage pollution in Yorkshire river popular with swimmers

Yorkshire Water said it is working to reduce the amount of sewage that is pumped into the River Wharfe, after it was criticised during a BBC documentary.



By Nathan Hyde

Published 18th May 2023, 10:00 AM



New sewer to halve river discharges, Yorkshire Water says

12th May



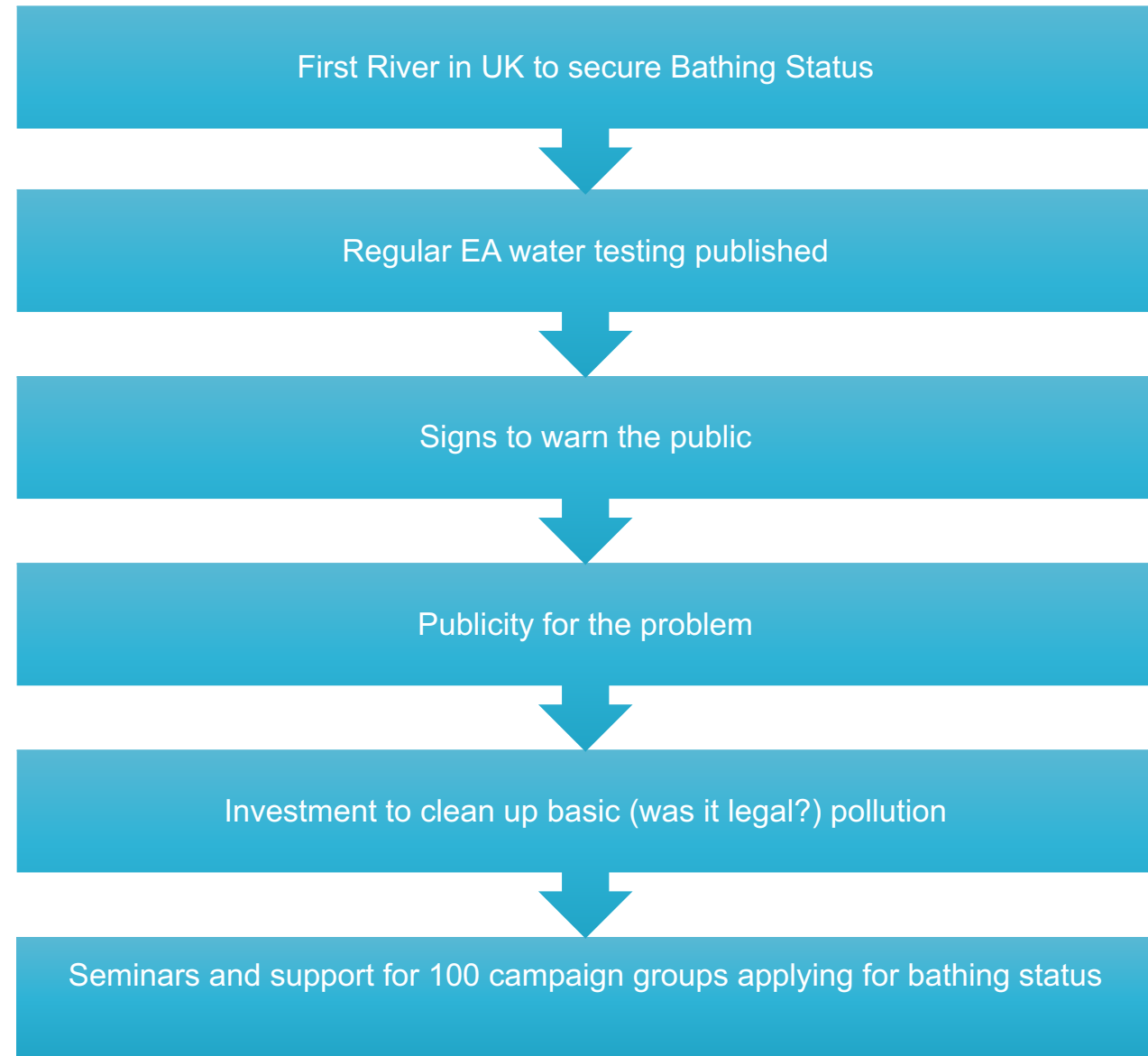
A concrete reinforced tunneling machine is being used to lay a new 2,000mm (20ft) sewer under the A63 in Beag.

Second phase of new Ilkley sewer begins



What we have achieved

Bathing Status

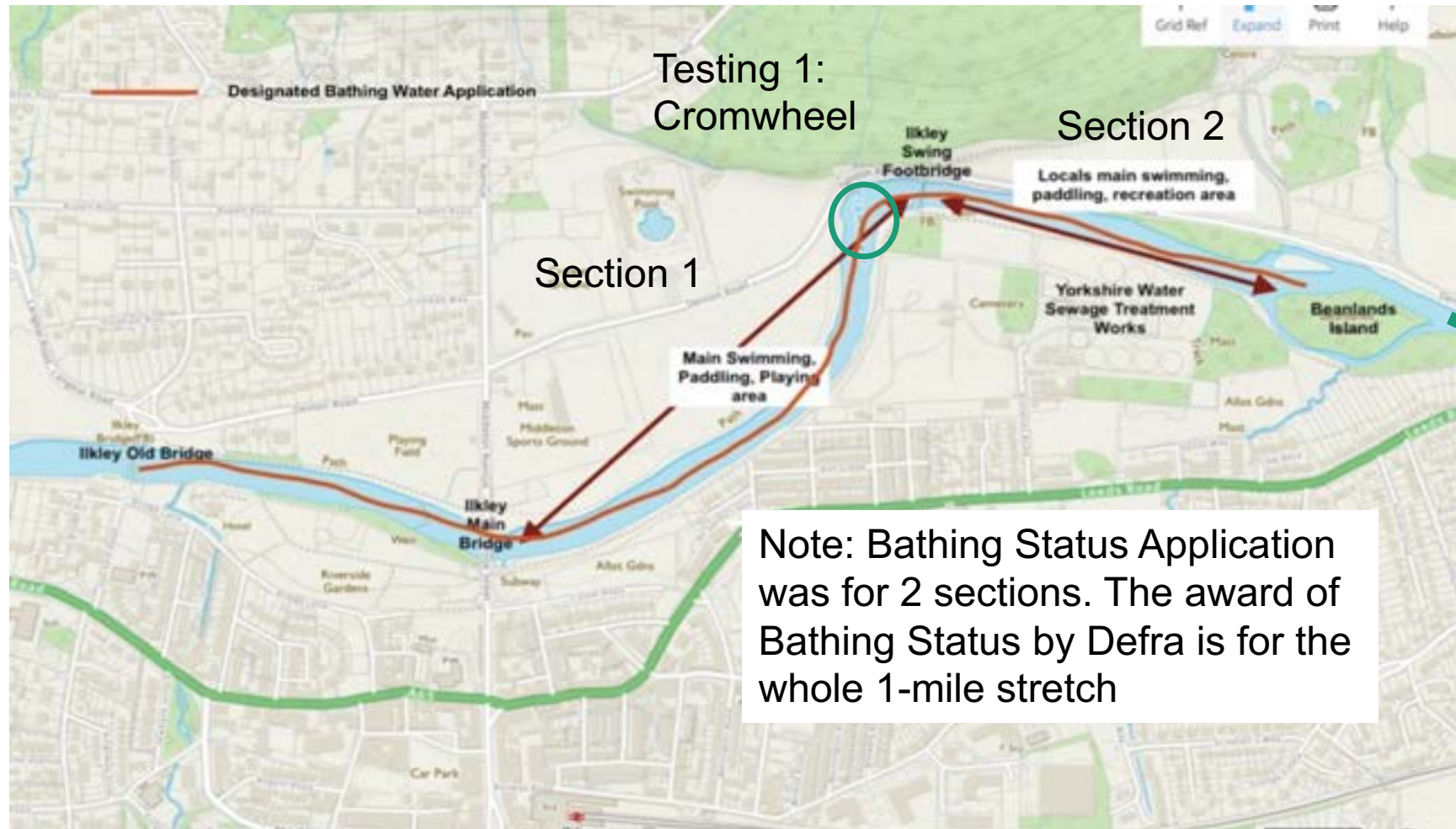


The Bathing Season 15 May to 30 September.



Our Bathing Application demonstrated that on hot sunny days over 1000 people use the river at Ilkley for recreation

Ilkley Bathing Designation

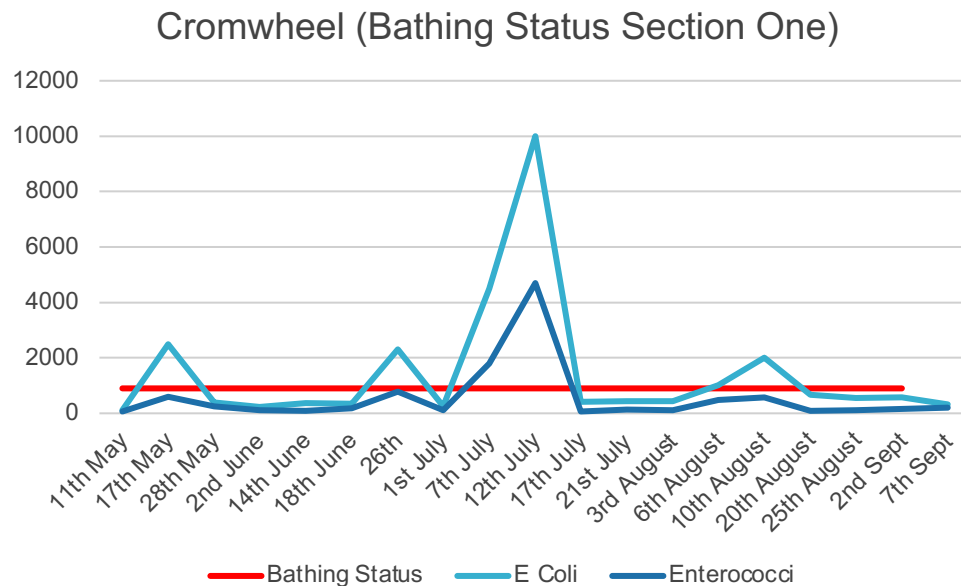


Testing 2: Stepping Stones below the designation.

Note the EA has always had (investigation) in its title for this site to make it clear it is not a classification point. Even though our application for designation was for the whole stretch, and our agreement (chaired by Ofwat) in June 2020 was that the whole stretch would be approached in the spirit of the application.

Bathing Status Data 2021

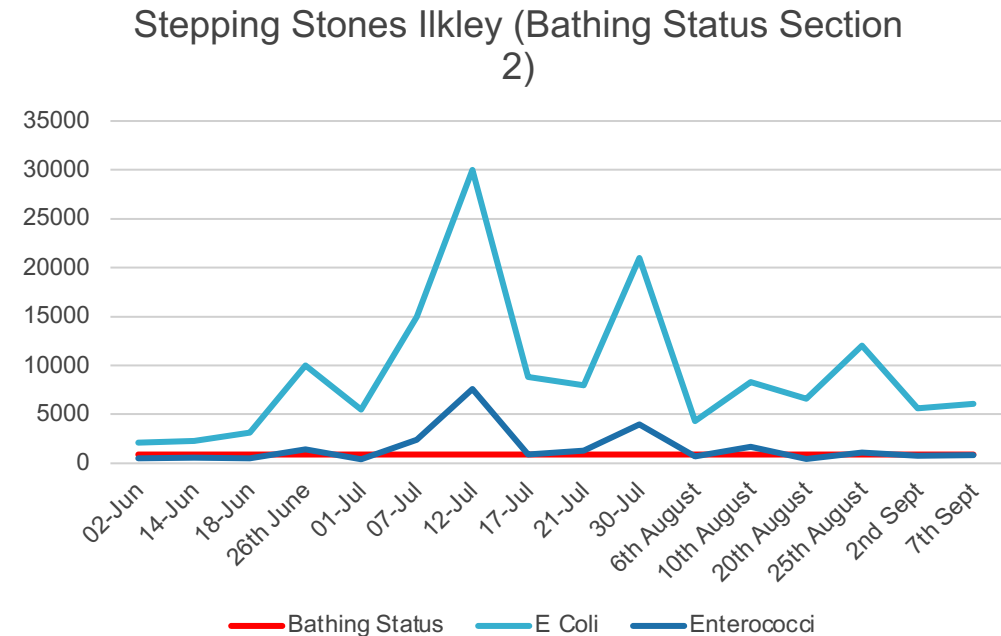
Wharfe at Ilkley Bathing Status Section One
Main Bridge to the Swing Bridge
'Cromwheel' testing site



Section 1 data (Cromwheel)

https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?_search=Ilkley&site=uke1200-08901

Wharfe at Ilkley Bathing Status Section Two
Swing Bridge to Beanlands Island
'Stepping Stones' testing site



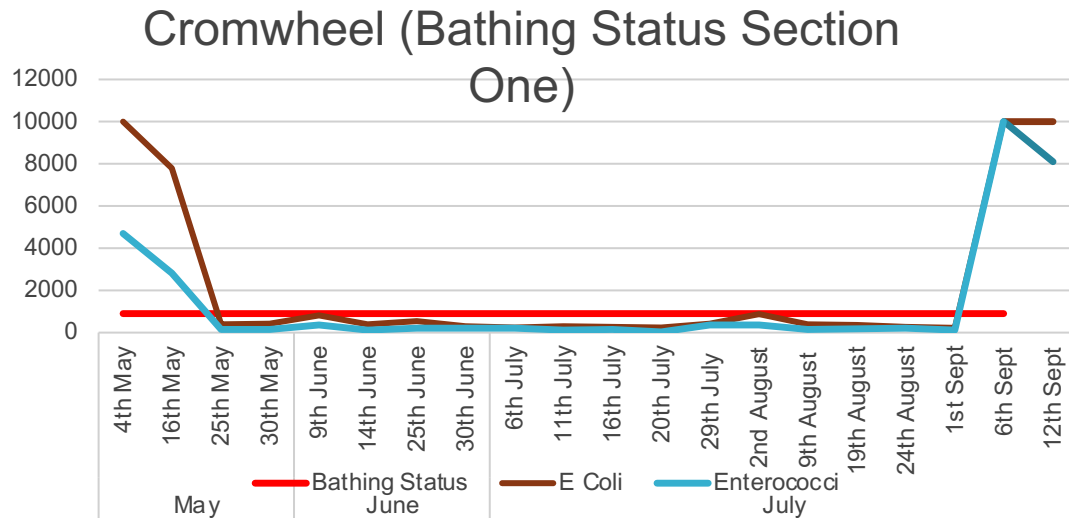
Section 2 data for Beanlands

here https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?_search=Ilkley&site=uke1200-08902

Note Sufficient water quality for paddling, playing and swimming id 900cfus (red line on graphs)

Bathing Status Data 2022

Wharfe at Ilkley Bathing Status Section One
Main Bridge to the Swing Bridge
'Cromwheel' testing site

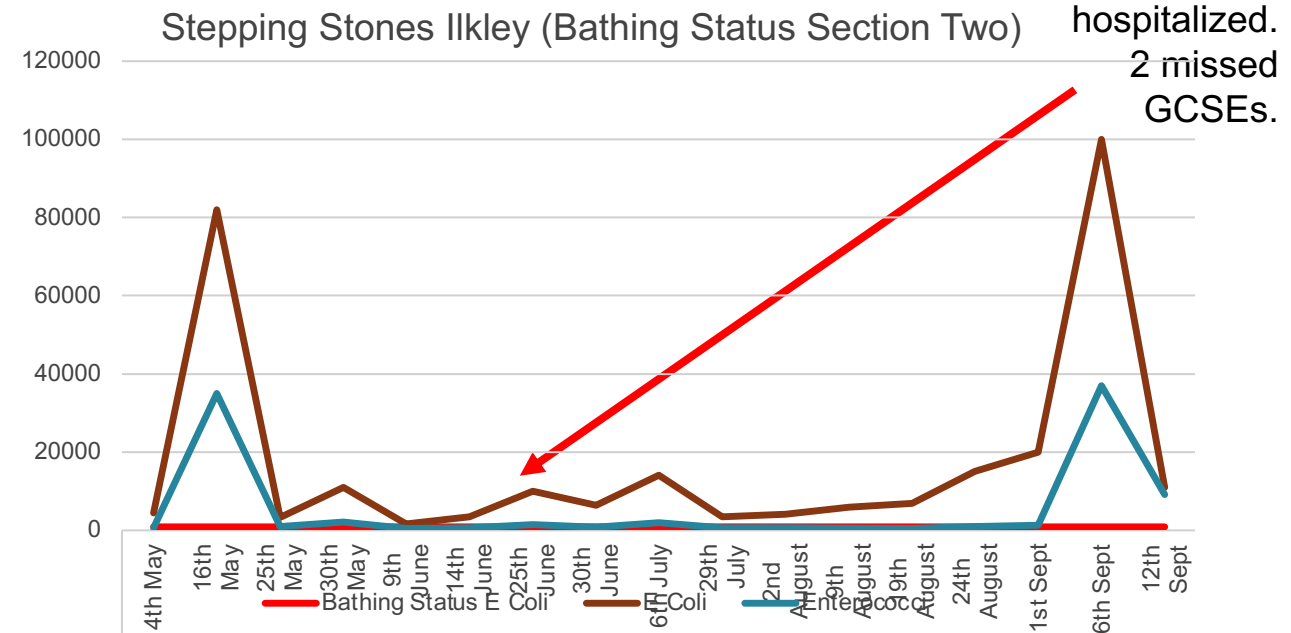


Note scale to 12,000

Section 1 data (Cromwheel)

https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?_search=Ilkley&site=uke4100-08901

Wharfe at Ilkley Bathing Status Section Two
Swing Bridge to Beanlands Island
'Stepping Stones' testing site



Note scale to 100,000

Section 2 data for

Beanlands https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?_search=Ilkley&site=uke4100-08902

Note Sufficient water quality for paddling, playing and swimming id 900cfus (red line on graphs)

Note re stepping stones

“This site is not a designated bathing water and will not be given a water quality classification. Samples are being collected to provide water quality information to the public.”

Sewage in water - a growing public health problem

“storm overflows act as a safety release valve but were intended only for exceptional circumstances when the public would be unlikely to be using rivers.

After the Environment Agency required the water industry to install monitors on overflows, data shows that their use is now not exceptional. In some cases, up to 200 discharges a year are occurring. This is obviously unacceptable on public health grounds. Whilst zero discharges are technically achievable the cost of this may not be justified; to reduce the frequency down to genuine storms should however be a minimum expectation. It certainly is the expectation of the great majority of the public, including those who do not themselves use rivers recreationally as measured by polling data. Nobody wants a child to ingest human faeces.”

A joint opinion piece from Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England, Jonson Cox, Ofwat chair and Emma Howard Boyd, Environment Agency chair.

Signs

- The section of the river located downstream of the suspension bridge is currently contaminated with sewage, and Bathing Water compliance monitoring is not carried out along this section. This part of the river is located downstream of regular untreated discharges from Ilkley Sewage Treatment Works. You are advised not to enter the river for any reason, e.g. paddling, swimming etc, until further notice.

And also to put up signs downstream of the river up to Beanlands island with similar wording:

- This part of the river is located downstream of regular untreated discharges from Ilkley Sewage Treatment Works. You are advised not to enter the river for any reason.

River Wharfe Suspension Bridge, Ilkley

Poor Water Quality
The most recent
classification is Poor,
based on samples
taken from 2021

*** Excellent
** Good
* Sufficient
- Poor



Bathing is
not advised



River Wharfe water quality below suspension bridge, Ilkley

The section of the river located downstream of the suspension bridge is currently **contaminated with sewage**, and Bathing Water compliance monitoring is not carried out along this section. This part of the river is located downstream of regular untreated discharges from Ilkley Sewage Treatment Works. **You are advised not to enter the river for any reason.**

For more information the full details for this stretch of water, its catchment, information on all potential pollution sources and how they are managed can be viewed on the environment agency website or by scanning this QR code.

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?site=uka1200-08901>



DANGER
Deep Water



BEWARE
Strong current



**SUBMERGED
HAZARD**

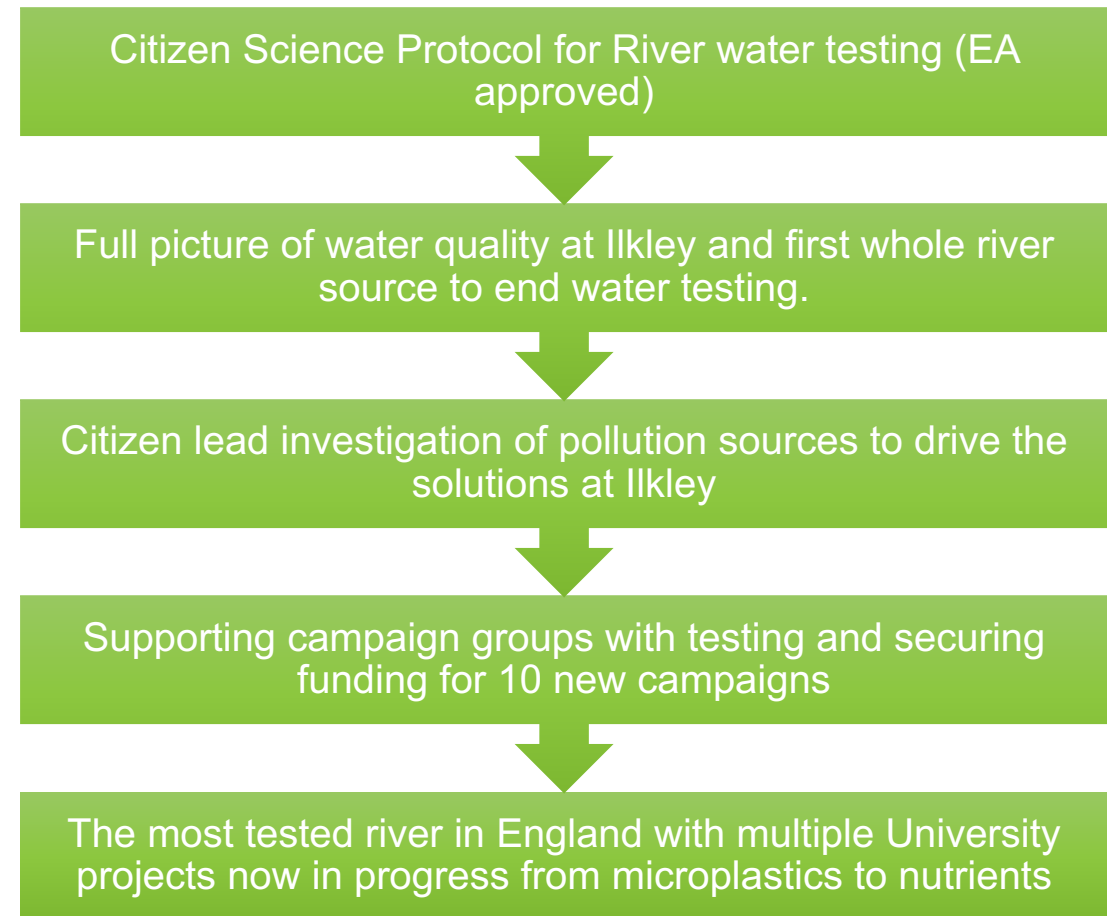


**No Diving or
Jumping**

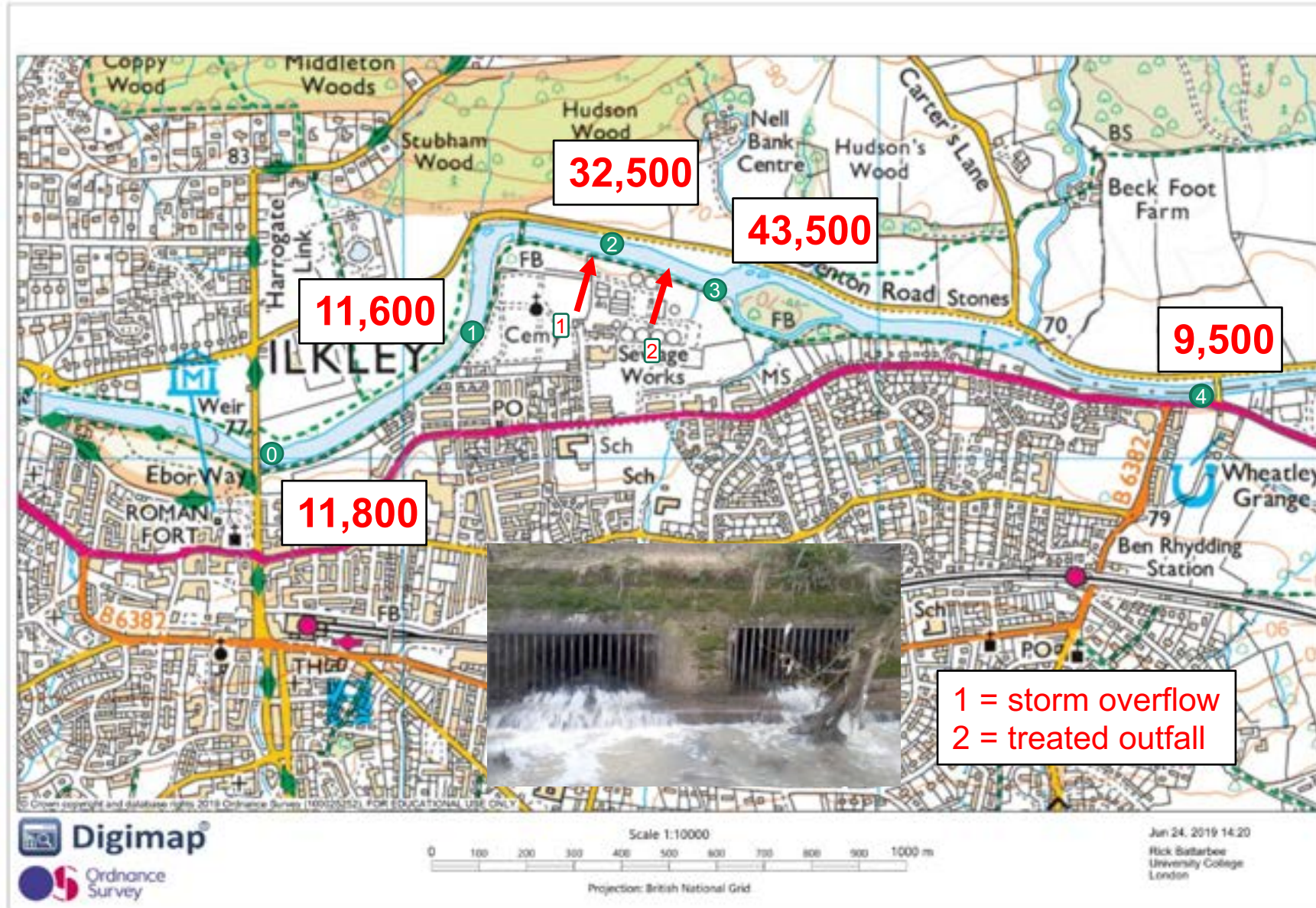


**ILKLEY
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GROUP**

What We Have Achieved Water Testing



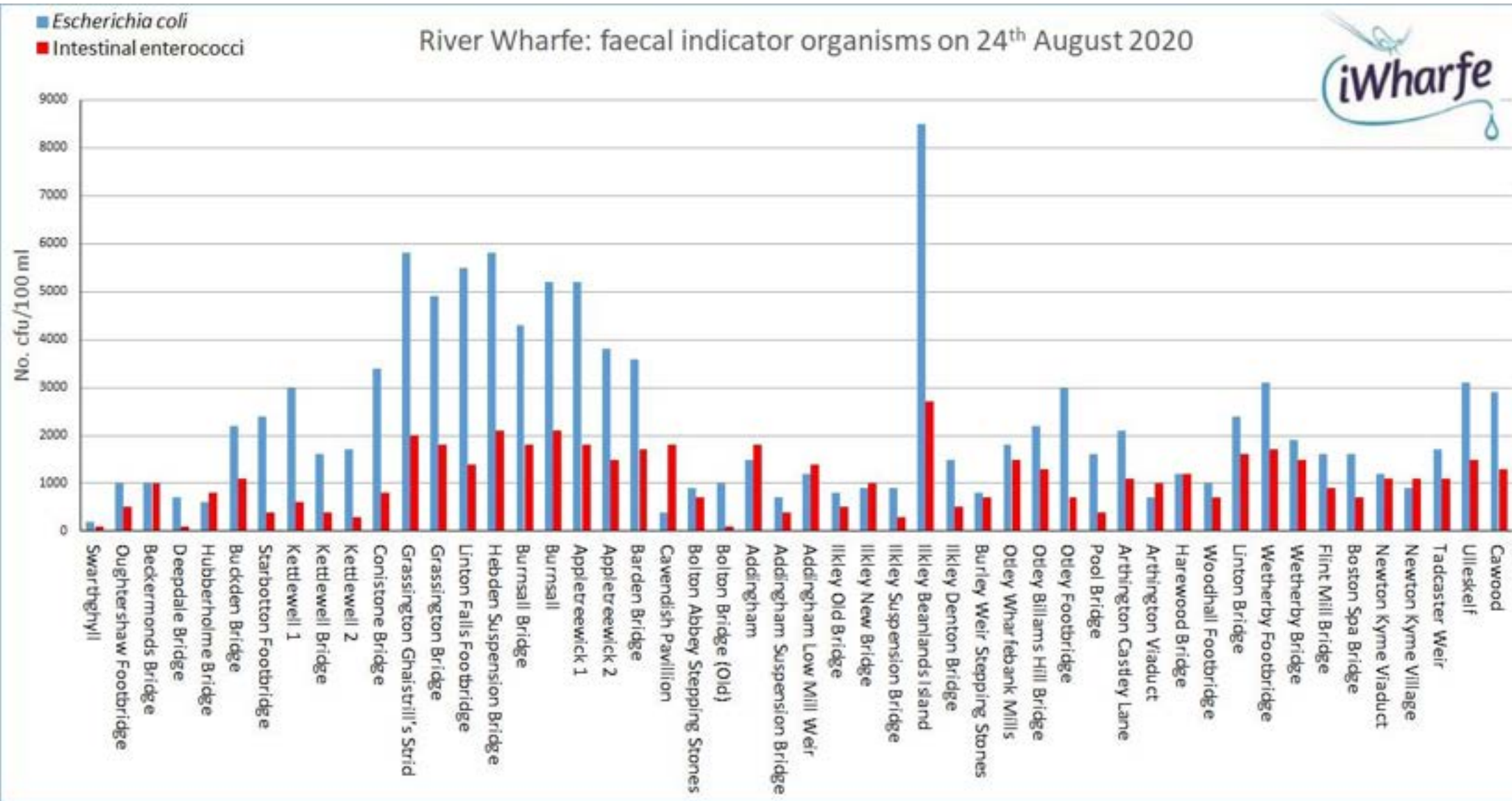
Ilkley Wharfe: *E. coli* (cfu/100 ml) during high flow and a spill (13th June 2019)

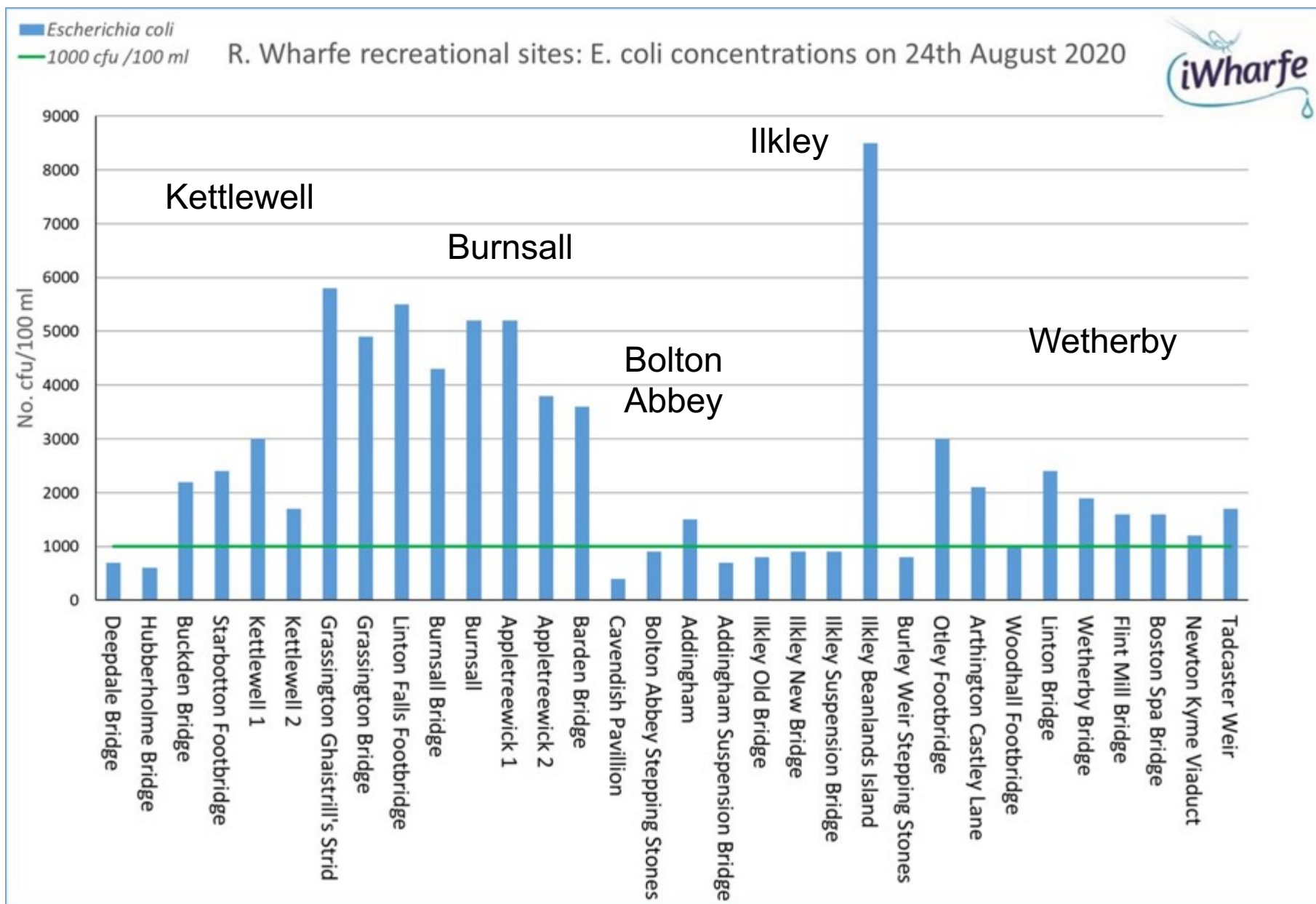


Ilkley Wharfe: *E. coli* (cfu/100 ml) during low flow (10th July 2019)



River Wharfe: faecal indicator organisms on 24th August 2020



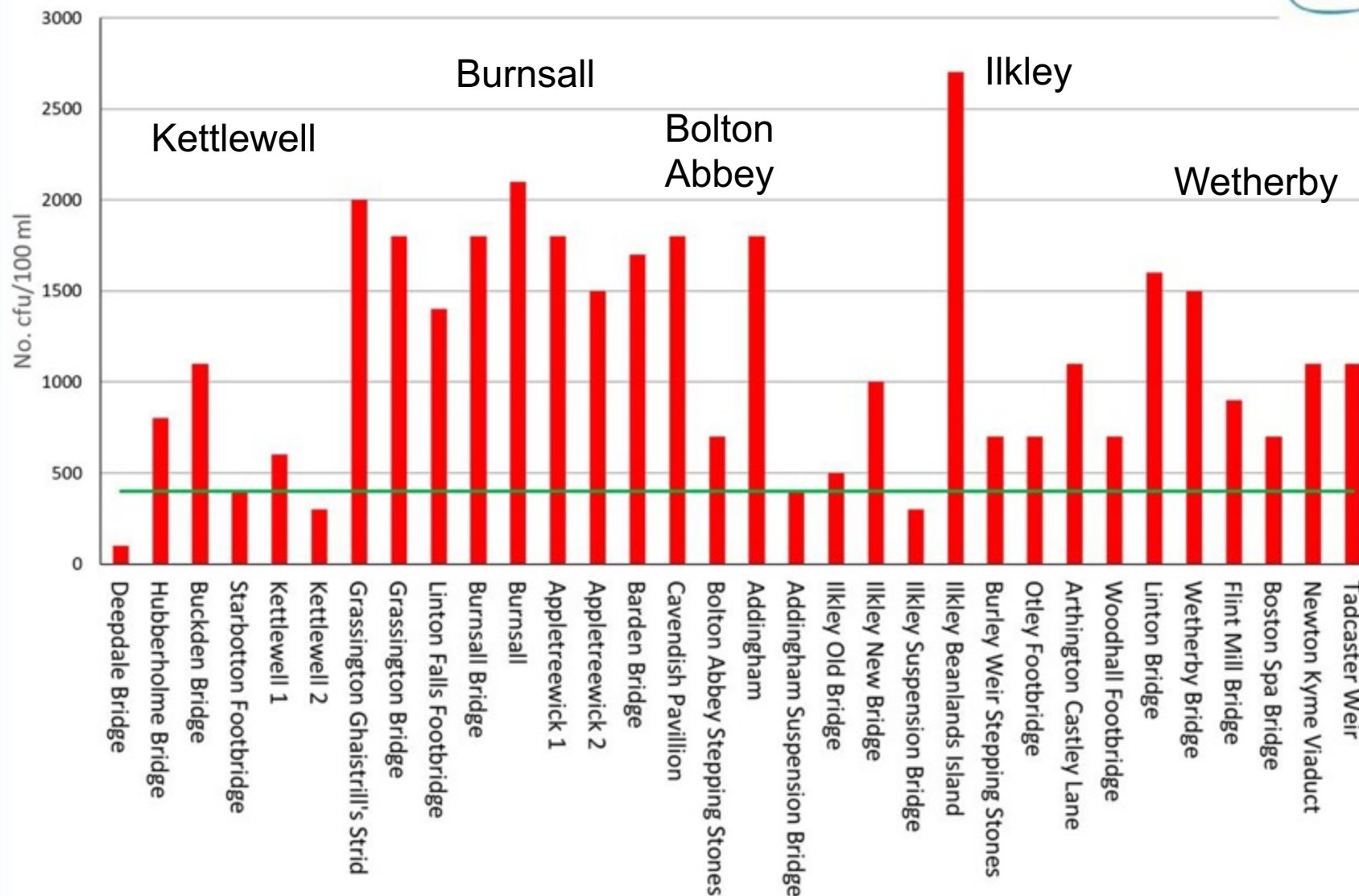


32 popular bathing beaches, were included in the sampling programme.

On the day in question most had concentrations of faecal bacteria above the limit considered safe for swimming

Intestinal enterococci
400 cfu /100 ml

R. Wharfe recreational sites : intestinal enterococci on 24th August 2020



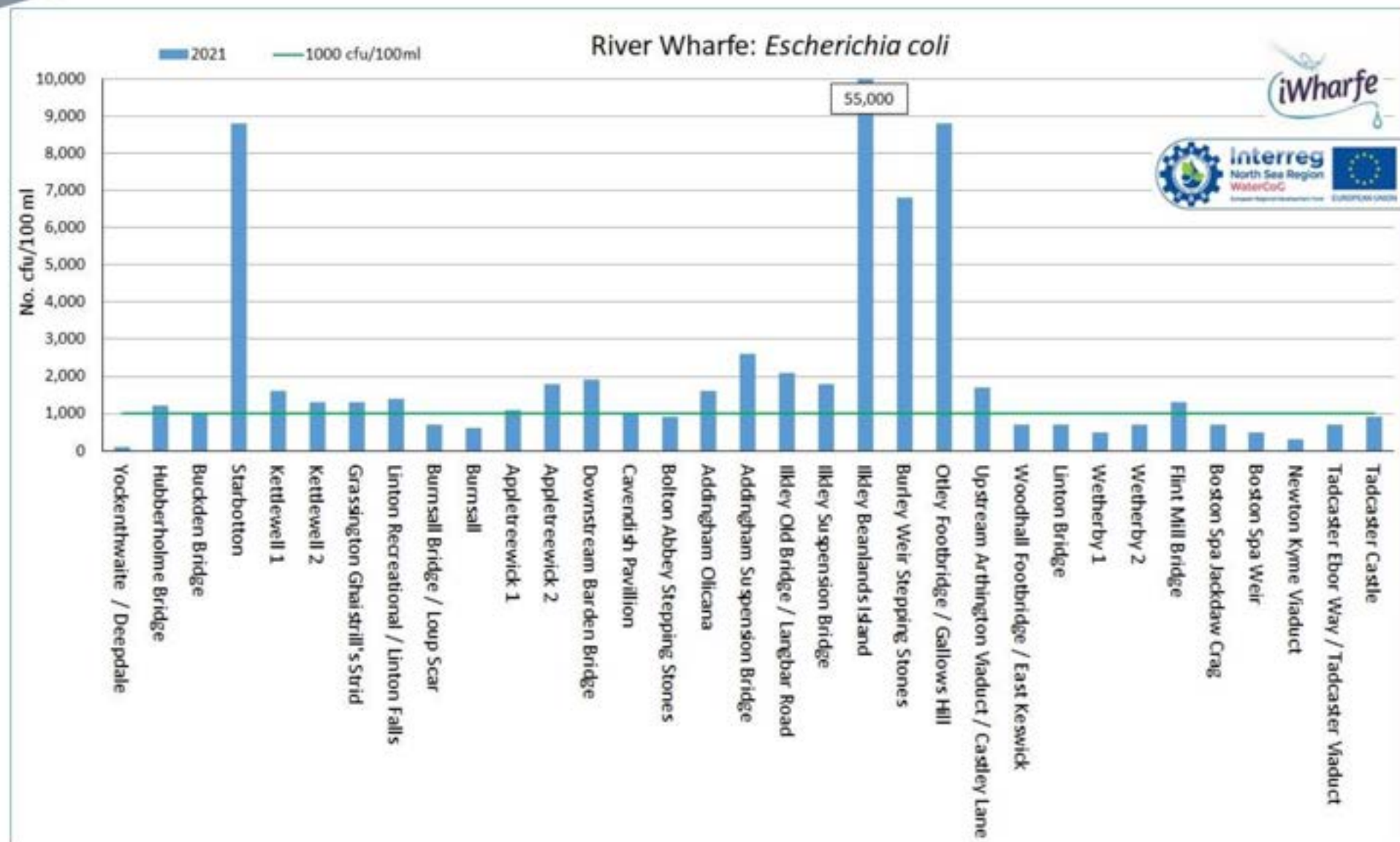


Figure 2. *E. coli* concentrations for recreational sites (or closeby proxy site) on August 23rd, 2021. The horizontal green line represents the upper boundary (1000 cfu/100 ml) for a good quality bathing water were this value to be the 95 percentile of a series of samples taken across the bathing water season

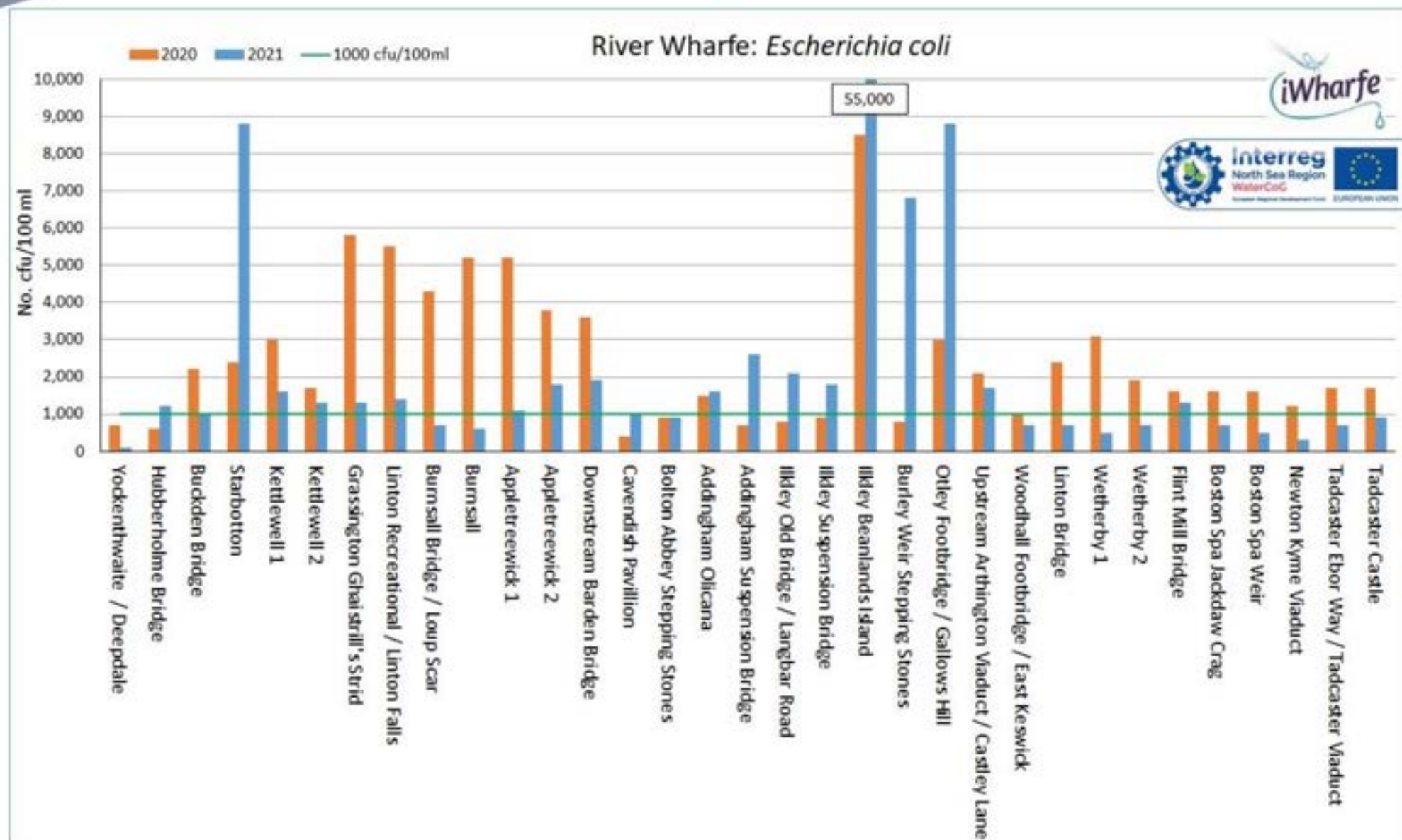


Figure 3. *E. coli* concentrations for recreational sites (or their close by proxy) for August 24th 2020 (orange bars) and August 23rd 2021 (blue bars). The horizontal green line represents the upper boundary (1000 cfu/100 ml) for a good quality bathing water were this value to be the 95 percentile of a series of samples taken across the bathing water season

What we have achieved

Accountability



Owen Wells, telling the Ofwat delegation about the FoIM modifications to Ilkley Tarn

Visits from Ofwat Chair and CEO, EA Chairs



Town Meetings to deliver accountability to our regulators (EA, Ofwat) our providers (YW) and our representatives (Cllrs and MP)



Publicity to continue that accountability, including presenting evidence at Environment Select Committee 2021



Changes to the Ofwat regulatory process in part as a result of our campaign with more engagement of local communities



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Make it Public

2ND TOWN MEETING 11TH JULY

Look North News reporting our meeting



LOOK NORTH REPORTING OUR MEETING

See the 2nd Town Meeting [page](#)

RSA
21st century enlightenment



Protecting The Wharfe &
Ilkley Environment

**THE SOLUTION
IS LESS
POLLUTION.
ILKLEY TOWN
MEETING**

With Yorkshire Water, Environment
Agency, John Grogan MP

7TH FEBRUARY 2019 5.30 - 7.30PM
ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ilkleytownenvironmentmeeting.eventbrite.co.uk



Environment Audit Committee 2021

Defra Webinar on Bathing Status Policy for Rivers



Environmental Audit Committee @CommonsEAC · Apr 21, 2021

Replying to @CommonsEAC

Prof Becky Malby: "A spillage is what you do with a cup of tea. Not when you discharge raw sewage for days and days and days. The language used tone it down."

watch live at bit.ly/32vkGXg |
#waterquality #rivers



You and Becky Malby

Supporting 40 local campaign groups testing and applying for bathing Status

Working in a national coalition with the key campaign organisations and groups

Awarded Funding from Esmée Fairburn Foundation to support Media and Comms across the UK

In the Local and National Press

In the Build up - 2020

Sewage will flow into Ilkley river until at least 2030, says government

Yorkshire campaigners dismayed at Environment Agency's reaction to evidence of waste discharged into River Wharfe



From the EA 'Any solutions chosen would ultimately be included in PR29 and delivered through AMP5 which would run from 2030 to 2035' Link to Guardian Article [here](#)

If you are shocked by this come to our Town Meeting Thursday 20th at 5.45pm at Ilkley Grammar School register [here](#)

Push for bathing water quality hailed as 'game changer' for UK rivers

Environment Agency have called for more funding to help public authorities with swimming



THE GUARDIAN

6th Feb

I swam 31 rivers in 31 days and survived, but we need a clean-up

Millions swim in open water and outdoor pools in the UK and we must push for better water standards



THE GUARDIAN

7th Feb

Ilkley pushes for bathing area status to protect river 'used as open sewer'

Ilkley campaigners have spotlighted on water board practices of discharging untreated sewage into rivers



THE GUARDIAN 20TH JAN 2020

Swimmers on way to a dip in first certified clean river



THE TIMES 20TH JAN 2020

The Wharfe in Ilkley could become the first river in the country to be designated for clean water swimming



YORKSHIRE POST 21st Jan 2020

UK's first river bathing spot in Ilkley

People have been able to bathe in the River Wharfe in Ilkley since a swimming area was designated in 2019



THE GUARDIAN 8TH AUGUST

Click to add text

River Wharfe in Ilkley a step closer to securing bathing water status



ITV NEWS

Click to add text

River Wharfe: First official UK bathing water spot set to be declared

The right to bathe in the River Wharfe in Ilkley is set to be declared



THE TELEGRAPH 7TH AUGUST

Wharfe river in Yorkshire could soon be first judged suitable for a swim



THE TIMES 8TH AUGUST

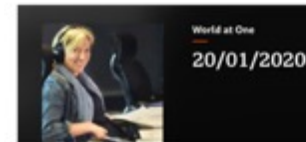


The One Show March 10th

Wild swimming means chilblains and E.coli

Jeremy Clarkson

EVEN JEREMY IS GETTING IN ON THE ACT



WORLD AT ONE

20th Jan 2020 at 36.10s into the programme you can listen [here](#)

Philip Byrne @byrnephilbyrne · Feb 11
Put forward a proposal for my Private Members Bill today, as the Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill, with intention to prevent discharge of untreated sewage, making a major impact in cleaning up Britain's rivers & watercourses. Link forward to introducing it on floor of the House in July



LEGISLATION ON ITS WAY?

Pollution: no river in England is safe for swimming

Watchdog 'leaves water companies free to pollute'



Families taking to the water during hot weather may have been unaware that storms have overwhelmed the country's sewage network, leading to the release of raw waste



Yorkshire Post 21st Feb

Victory for Ilkley campaigners as Yorkshire Water agree to stop dumping sewage in the River Wharfe

THE GUARDIAN 18TH JULY

Ilkley river group accuse environment ministers of blocking bathing application

Whole town wants designated status for River Wharfe and Defra is stalling, say campaigners



Look North 22nd July 2020 - Yorkshire Water says Bathing Status would trigger investment in the sewage system at Ilkley and Addingham



Opinion
The Guardian view on river swimming: stuck in the mud
Editorial

THE GUARDIAN EDITORIAL

Sunday 26th January

"There are strong economic as well as environmental arguments for promoting domestic tourism and regular exercise. Germany has 38 designated swimming rivers, Italy 73 and France 573. Led by the pioneers of Ilkley, the UK should paddle fast to catch up."

ILKLEY SECURES FIRST UK RIVER BATHING STATUS - 22nd DECEMBER 2020



[Guardian](#)



[The Times](#)



[BBC News](#)



[ITV Online News](#)



[Yorkshire Post](#)



[Ilkley Gazette](#)



[Bradford Telegraph and Argus](#)

River Wharfe at Ilkley: Bathing waters 'not tested in right place'

© 20 May



The River Wharfe is a popular paddling and bathing site

December 2020 –
August 2021



‘People were paddling among human waste’: the local campaign that sparked a battle against UK river pollution

When Ilkley locals spotted sewage running into the River Wharfe, they assumed an error had been made. Instead they discovered a shocking reality: that raw sewage is dumped into Britain's rivers hundreds of times a year.

By Sarah Wilson

Tuesday, 13th July 2021, 11:58 am

Updated Wednesday, 14th July 2021, 1:43 pm



Swimming in sewage: Ilkley River Wharfe in Yorkshire is most polluted bathing site in England, data reveals

EXCLUSIVE

On sunny days, hundreds of people are known to swim in the popular river but samples collected by the Environment Agency found it regularly has dangerously high levels of bacteria

Call for better signs as children fall sick after polluted river swim in Ilkley

29th June



Ilkley river group criticises Government in sewage row

29th October 2021



2021-2022

Water in UK's first official bathing river to be designated poor-quality

Yorkshire Water says it is committed to improving River Wharfe as swimming season approaches



Environment Bill – our MP votes with the government and advises the government. We are disappointed the government are not taking steps to improve the river. We will be all MPs providing a Clean River Group and we have communications with likely to sort it out. We have to write to Rebecca Pow to sort it out.

Sewage pollution still swimming hotspot months after bathers were warned away

River Wharfe near Ilkley polluted by untreated sewage this week from Yorkshire Water outflow

By Olivia Redwood, environmental correspondent
22 August 2021 – 4:30pm



Today in Focus
Water

What's gone wrong with England's water?

More untreated sewage is being pumped into England's seas and rivers than ever before. Sandra Laville follows the money to find out who is responsible

● How to listen to podcasts: everything you need to know

The Guardian

00:00:00

00:26

Swimming in sewage: Ilkley River Wharfe in Yorkshire is most polluted bathing site in England, data reveals

EXCLUSIVE

On sunny days, hundreds of people are known to swim in the popular river but samples collected by the Environment Agency found it regularly has dangerously high levels of bacteria



River Wharfe bathing spot contaminated by sewage



High levels of faecal bacteria were detected on a mile-long section of the River Wharfe in Ilkley designated as being safe for bathing
ALAMY



The regulators come
and visit



Owen Wells, telling the Ofwat delegation about the FoIM modifications to Ilkley Tarn

Seeking Compensation

In 2021-22 Yorkshire Water discharged sewage and household water into the river at Ilkley for 1252.75 hours over 146 days of the year. In previous years this has been 2018 – 123 days, and 2019 -114, 2020- 120. For over 1/3rd of the year untreated sewage is being discharged into the Wharfe at Ilkley. For that duration Ilkley residents have been paying for sewerage that was not being provided

14% x 4 years = 50% of one year's Sewerage bill

Seeking Compensation

A Yorkshire Water spokesman said: "We understand the growing interest in our network in Ilkley, particularly due to the newly designated bathing water in the town, and have committed £13m to help improve water quality. Our networks in Ilkley operate in line with environmental permits set out by the Environment Agency. We will not be issuing refunds to customers in the town."

What we have achieved

Solutions!

Yorkshire Water outlines £13m infrastructure investment to improve River Wharfe



£11 M Investment from Yorkshire Water to clean up upstream of the STW



Proposals to upgrade the STW to clean up the river at Ilkley and downstream at circa £71M now being progressed through Ofwat Accelerator – spades in ground 2026

What We Have Achieved

National Network of Campaign Groups all calling for the same change



Public Declaration for Rivers and Seas

Our rivers and seas are open sewers.

We care deeply about our rivers and seas.

Water companies must comply with, and regulators must regulate according to the 1991 Water Industry Act and the 1994 Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations which require all sewage to be treated, and for storm overflows (which discharge raw sewage) to only operate in truly exceptional circumstances.

Our Declaration

Our rivers and seas should be protected for nature, for ourselves and for future generations.

This is our declaration:

- Stop pollution for profit.
- Make our waters healthy and safe again.
- Action now not targets sometime.
- Regulation that protects the victims, not the polluters.
- Now it's time for the polluters to pay



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Campaigning to protect the
River Wharfe from pollution
and to ensure a river fit for
people and wildlife.