

[REDACTED]

From: Clerk - Walmer Town Council <clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk>
Sent: 16 January 2026 11:57
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Bathing Water Quality
Attachments: Water Results-Walmer Beach Testing 2025..pdf

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Hi [REDACTED]

Hi have attached the results of the 4 tests we carried out. We tested all four off Walmer Castle (which is not a designated bathing area the only one in this area is outside of Walmer and members were keen to test in Walmer). Samples were collected one day before the analysis date. We tested in April and October as the EA testing does not include these months. We have allocated a budget to continue this testing next year. I'm not sure what the requirements of the EA would be for sampling to be considered but based on what we heard at our discussions with Southern Water it would probably have to be taken off Deal Castle beach as the designated bathing area as the EA only produce results from that location.

We have written to Emma Reynold MP about the need for expanded testing to include other areas and other pollutants as the current regime is only designed to protect humans within where it can be proved that around 100 bathers per day use the water during peak periods.

We have also written to Matthew Pennycock MP regarding water companies role in planning currently legislation water companies are only statutory consultees on applications relating to the extraction of shale oil or gas within England and on local plans and development orders. Dover District Council have made the water companies non statutory consultees on major developments (defined as residential development of between 10 or more dwellings, a residential development on a site area of 0.5 ha or more and the number of dwellings is unknown, a development of floorspace of 1,000 sq. m or more or a development on sites over 1 ha or more), this will be on the local authority to make this decision.

Currently the content of the water companies' response to a planning application is limited to advising whether there is a pipeline to which the development can connect. This is under the right to connect (S106 of the Water Industry Act 1991). This does not allow for comment about the network capacity and lack of advanced notice. The Independent Water Commission report picks this up in paragraph 215 and suggests a review of the right to connect should be undertaken by the Government.

Recommendation 72 of the Independent Water Commission report covering both issues states that **“The role of water companies in the planning process in England should be strengthened to ensure they sufficient sight and influence over upcoming developments. The ‘Right to Connect’ should be reviewed.”**

The full summary report can be viewed here -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/687d4eeb9b1337e9a7726bdc/Independent_Water_Commission_-_Summary_Report.pdf

If there is anything else I can do to help please let me know.

Regards

[REDACTED]
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clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk
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From: [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Sent: 16 January 2026 11:28
To: Clerk - Walmer Town Council <clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk>
Subject: Bathing Water Quality

Hi [REDACTED]

Great to catch up with you earlier today.

As discussed if you have any information you are able to share regarding your independent bathing water sampling I would be really grateful.

Look forward to hearing back from you

Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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REPORT Littering and Dog Fouling
E: envcrime@dover.gov.uk
W: www.dover.gov.uk



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Water Quality Results Certificate



Client Name: Walmer Town Council

Water Body Name: Walmer Coast near Walmer Castle

Certificate Reference: TSBN2357898

Analysis Start Date: 16/04/2025

Report Date: 18/04/2025

Analysis Results – Microbiology

Sample 1

Test/Unit	Result	EC Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) (For inland waters)
E. coli (no/100 ml)	2	Pass Excellent
Enterococci (no/100 ml)	>100	Pass Excellent

Sample 2

Test/Unit	Result	EC Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) (For inland waters)
E. coli (no/100 ml)	2	Pass Excellent
Enterococci (no/100 ml)	>100	Pass Excellent

The testing results in this certificate relate only to the samples described above. Unless otherwise stated, all results are expressed on an as received basis. All analysis was carried out in UKAS accredited laboratory.

Please visit www.swim-safety.co.uk/results-guidance/ for more info on results thresholds.

Water Quality Results Certificate



Client Name: Walmer Town Council
Water Body Name: Walmer Coast near Walmer Castle

Certificate Reference: TSBN2436392
Analysis Start Date: 18/07/2025
Report Date: 20/07/2025

Analysis Results – Microbiology

Sample 1

Test/Unit	Result	EC Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) (For coastal waters)
E. coli (no/100 ml)	1	Pass Excellent
Enterococci (no/100 ml)	14	Pass Excellent

Sample 2

Test/Unit	Result	EC Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) (For coastal waters)
E. coli (no/100 ml)	0	Pass Excellent
Enterococci (no/100 ml)	13	Pass Excellent

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Please visit www.swim-safety.co.uk/results-guidance/ for more info on results thresholds.

Water Quality Results Certificate



Client Name: Walmer Town Council
Water Body Name: Walmer Coast near Walmer Castle

Certificate Reference: TSBN2473008
Analysis Start Date: 28/08/2025
Report Date: 30/08/2025

Analysis Results – Microbiology

Sample 1

Test/Unit	Result	EC Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) (For coastal waters)
E. coli (no/100 ml)	3	Pass Excellent
Enterococci (no/100 ml)	17	Pass Excellent

Sample 2

Test/Unit	Result	EC Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) (For coastal waters)
E. coli (no/100 ml)	4	Pass Excellent
Enterococci (no/100 ml)	51	Pass Excellent

The testing results in this certificate relate only to the samples described above. Unless otherwise stated, all results are expressed on an as received basis. All analysis was carried out in UKAS accredited laboratory.

Please visit www.swim-safety.co.uk/results-guidance/ for more info on results thresholds.

Water Quality Results Certificate



Client Name: Walmer Town Council

Water Body Name: Walmer Coast near Walmer Castle

Certificate Reference: TSBN2514252

Analysis Start Date: 14/10/2025

Report Date: 16/10/2025

Analysis Results – Microbiology

Sample 1

Test/Unit	Result	EC Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) (For coastal waters)
E. coli (no/100 ml)	2	Pass Excellent
Enterococci (no/100 ml)	5	Pass Excellent

Sample 2

Test/Unit	Result	EC Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) (For coastal waters)
E. coli (no/100 ml)	0	Pass Excellent
Enterococci (no/100 ml)	4	Pass Excellent

The testing results in this certificate relate only to the samples described above. Unless otherwise stated, all results are expressed on an as received basis. All analysis was carried out in UKAS accredited laboratory.

Please visit www.swim-safety.co.uk/results-guidance/ for more info on results thresholds.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 January 2026 13:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: New Romney and Littlestone Shadow sampling

Hi both

I spoke with a member of the EP team at Folkestone & Hythe District Council, but they were not familiar with the sampling activity and directed me to the parish council.

I then contacted New Romney Town Council, who signposted me to Councillor [REDACTED] and provided the link below, which outlines the shadow sampling they carried out during the 2024 bathing water season:

[Water Quality Sampling Information - New Romney Town Council](#)

I have since spoken with Councillor [REDACTED]. He explained that the purpose of the shadow sampling was to verify the Environment Agency's published results. The sampling was undertaken by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They completed a risk assessment and followed all relevant bathing water regulations and WHO guidance, using an accredited laboratory. Samples were taken from the designated bathing water sampling point and from an additional point 500 metres down the coast as a control.

Councillor [REDACTED] reported that their results showed a reasonable correlation with the EA's findings. As a result, they did not undertake further sampling during the 2025 bathing water season. Their results were shared with the EA; however, as expected and consistent with the information we outlined in last week's responses to questions and motions, the EA could not include these results in their annual bathing water classifications.

He also noted that Sandgate Parish Council conducts its own sampling, as detailed in the [Sandgate Beach Sea Water Bathing Quality Testing Report 2024 - Sandgate Parish Council](#).

I hope this provides sufficient information on shadow sampling, alongside my previous email regarding Walmer Parish Council's approach. Please let me know if you need anything further.

Kindest Regards

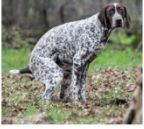
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Environmental Protection & Crime Manager
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REPORT Littering and Dog Fouling

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Questions from Members

Question Number	Question From:	Cllr S B Blair	CMT Member:	[REDACTED]
1	Question To:	Cllr K Mills, Leader of the Council	Prepare Answer:	[REDACTED]
	Question	“During the council meeting on 14th July 2025, I raised the possibility of the council conducting its own water quality testing at Deal Pier. I suggested this not just outside the testing window but all year and alongside the Environment Agency’s tests as a control. I ask the Leader of the council if this has this been implemented?”		
	Answer:	<p>No. The bathing water season is set in law as 15 May to 30 September. Although DEFRA has consulted on potential changes, no amendments have been introduced.</p> <p>The Environment Agency (EA), as the competent statutory authority, uses only its own samples for annual bathing water classifications and already undertakes verification sampling around the designated point. Third-party results may inform investigations but cannot be used for formal classification.</p> <p>The council supports efforts to monitor bathing water quality but recognises the limitations of sampling: sea conditions change rapidly, water quality can vary significantly over short distances and timescales, and laboratory results take time to process, meaning they cannot provide real-time accuracy.</p> <p>The council does not currently have the budget, equipment or trained staff required to replicate or expand on the EA’s statutory testing. However, we continue to work proactively to protect local bathing water quality and to hold responsible bodies to account. This work has contributed to Deal’s bathing water returning to a <i>Good</i> classification.</p>		