

Water Quality findings at Farndon

Ammonia (Phys-Chem)	Bad
Dissolved oxygen	Bad
Phosphate	Bad
Chemical	Fail
Priority hazardous substances	Fail
Mercury and Its Compounds	Fail
Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE)	Fail

What does this mean for me?

Ammonia (Phys-Chem) – Caused by Industrial waste, Municipal waste, Agricultural waste and Animal waste and excretion. The harmful effects on humans are; Skin, Eye and Respiratory Tract Irritation and Lung disease.

Dissolved oxygen – This is the amount of oxygen in the water required for plant and fish life. Over exposure by humans causes these levels to rise making it impossible for life to exist in the area.

Phosphate - High phosphorus levels can cause damage to your body. Extra phosphorus causes body changes that pull calcium out of your bones, making them weak. High phosphorus and calcium levels also lead to dangerous calcium deposits in blood vessels, lungs, eyes, and heart. Over time this can lead to increased risk of heart attack, stroke or death.

Other health risks to consider when open water swimming.

Blue–green algae – After warm, wet weather, usually in late summer, algae can multiply and a powdery, green scum (the blooms) can collect on the downwind side slow moving waters. It's obvious and unpleasant and can give you a skin rash or irritate your eyes if you bathe in it, and make you sick if you swallow it.

‘Swimmer’s itch’ (cercarial dermatitis) can be caught from contact with little snails that live on the reeds around marshy lakes and stagnant ponds. It creates a temporary but sometimes intense itching sensation that can last for up to two days. It's not common, and requires no treatment, but it's best to avoid wallowing in the bogs when outdoor swimming!

Weil’s disease – Never swim in urban rivers, particularly canals, and be particularly cautious after heavy rains. If you are concerned about water quality cover any open wound with a waterproof plaster and keep your head (eyes, nose and throat) out of the water as much as possible. If you get flu or jaundice-like symptoms three to fourteen days after swimming in high risk water ask your Doctor for a Leptospirosis test. It is simply treated with antibiotics but if left it can develop into the more serious Weil’s disease, which has been known to kill.