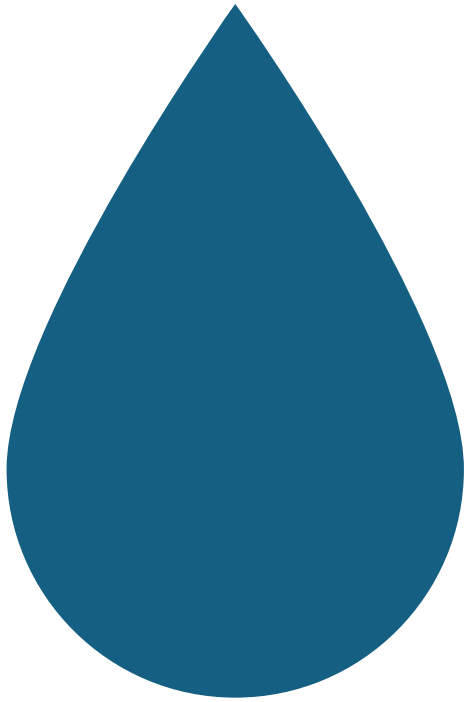

The River Ore Water Quality Project

Marlesford

Introduction

We are a group of volunteers who are regularly testing the River Ore to monitor levels of E.coli bacteria, phosphates, ammonia and nitrates at eight locations along the river at Saxtead, Framlingham, Marlesford and Blaxhall.

We hope that our work will lead to a healthier river and improved biodiversity for the benefit of our wildlife and our residents.

As well as sharing the data with local residents, it is shared with the Deben Climate Centre who, in turn, report to the relevant authorities such as the Environment Agency and Anglian Water. Collating this data will allow us to identify trends in the quality of the water flowing through Marlesford and provide leverage to use with these authorities should any concerns arise.

Each month, we will report and share the results of the testing with local residents via the Marlesford village website. If you have any questions, or you are interested in joining our group, please contact me.

Pip Headlam
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Further information

Phosphates

- naturally occurring minerals found in human and animal waste
- help plant growth
- large quantities = more algae and less oxygen → harm or death to aquatic life

Nitrates

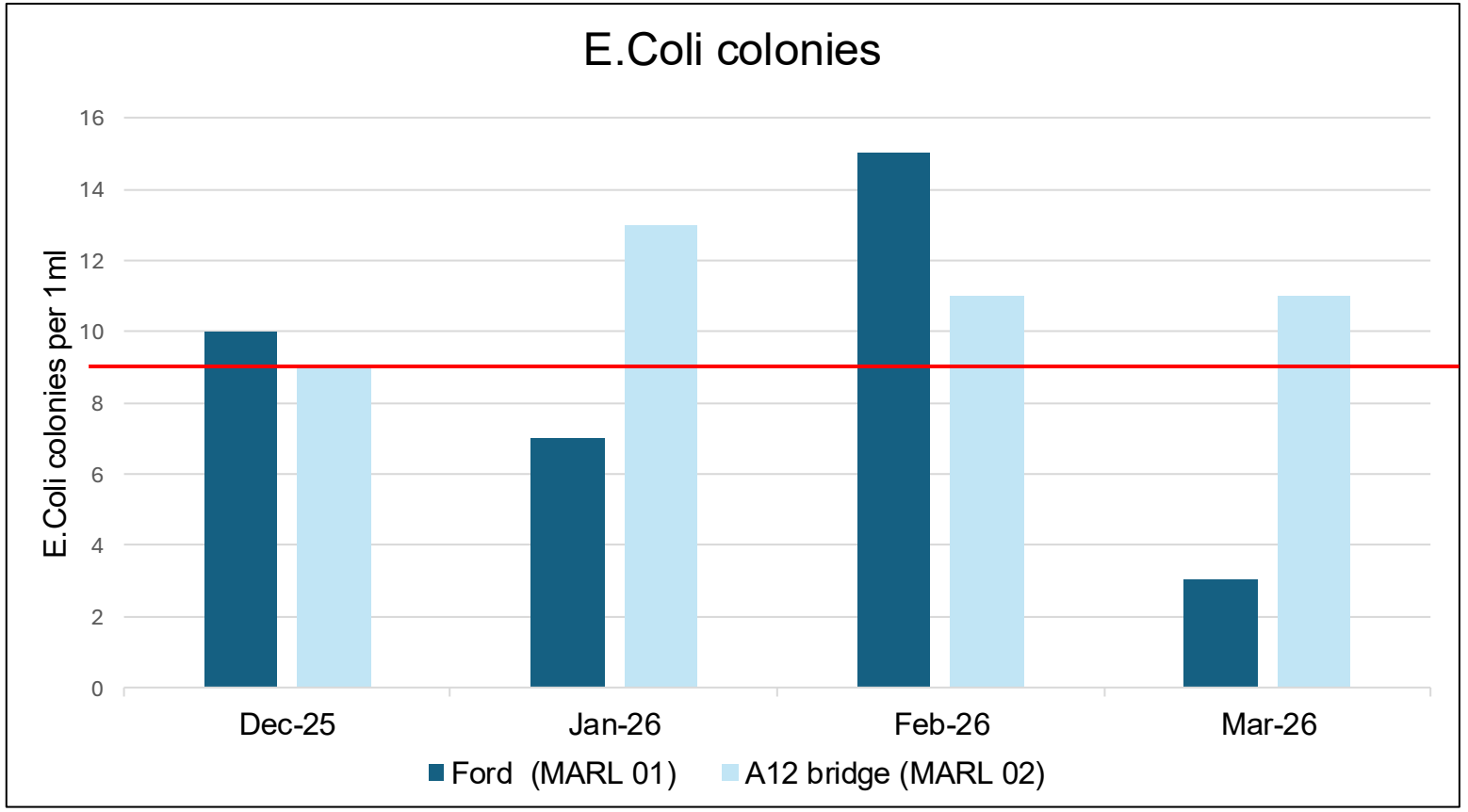
- nitrogen needed for plant growth
- main contributors – agriculture and sewage effluent
- high levels = excessive plant growth = light being blocked and lower oxygen levels → aquatic life harmed or killed

Ammonia

- occurs naturally in rivers
- excreted by animals and produced when organic matter rots
- discharged into rivers, e.g. via treated effluent, fertilisers, etc.
- higher quantities indicate pollution

E.Coli River Ore – Marlesford sites

Environment Agency guideline for safe bathing in inland waters is 9 colonies per 1ml maximum.



Phosphate River Ore – Marlesford sites

Natural England considers a ‘healthy river’ as having a maximum of 0.1mg of phosphates per litre.