

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. This is part of the [Four Rivers \(4RP\)](#) project, a three-year initiative cofounded by East Suffolk Council and Deben Climate Centre, focusing on four main rivers: the Deben, the Alde and Ore, the Waveney, and the Blyth. The aim of the project is to restore degraded ecosystems, support nature recovery and test a range of different flood alleviation measures.

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

As well as sharing the data with our community, 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 via the Marlesford village website. If you have any questions, or you are interested in joining our group, please contact me.

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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

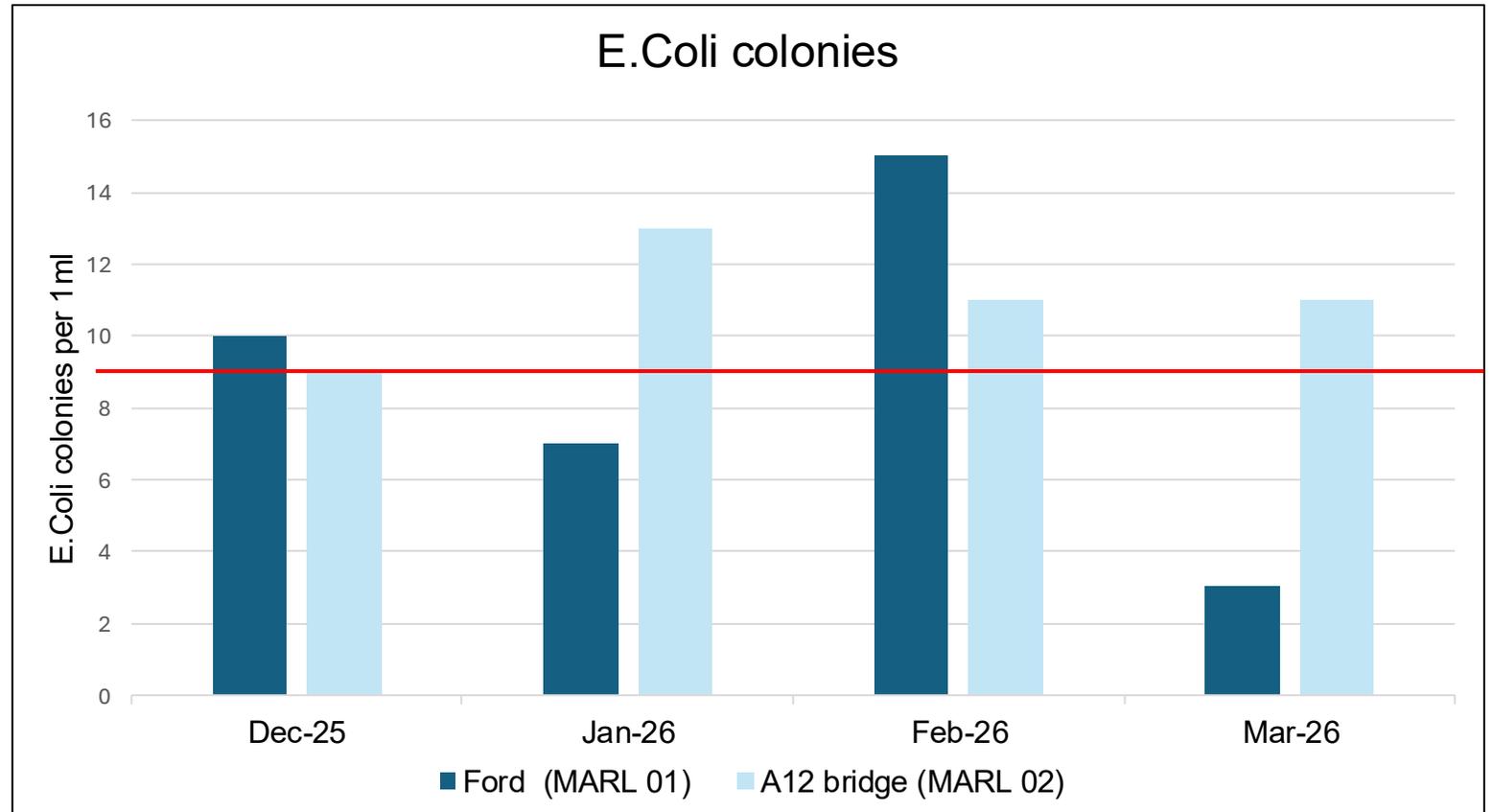
- nitrogen needed for plant growth
- main contributors – agriculture and sewage effluent
- high levels = excessive plant growth = light being blocked and lower oxygen levels → aquatic life harmed or killed

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.

