



Reports of illness from Southwater Lake

We have been made aware of a social media post about someone catching a bug from the water within Southwater Lake; we are also aware that this post has been shared far-and-wide causing concern to some and sparking other reports about the beached area.

Earlier today Horsham District Council have provided the follow statement:

“Horsham District Council is aware of reports online stating that a number of individuals have experienced illness, potentially as a result of entering the water at the Paddling Beach at Southwater Country Park.

Currently the Council’s Environmental Health team has not received any official notifications of illness or infection from the UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England) or any regular user groups at this time.

As a precautionary measure the Paddling Beach will be closed while we monitor the situation and will release any further information if anything changes.”

Whilst operating at Southwater Lake we understand, that being a natural body of water, some natural impurities may exist in the water and these can vary with certain environmental impacts (human activity, human impurities, rainfall, heat, animals etc...).

Whilst these cannot be removed, Southwater Watersports have always taken steps to minimise the risk to our watersport clients by being aware of the risks involved, and guiding those who attend our centre.

Over the last week we have had unprecedented weather and a massive amount of people at the beach area (not swimming area); all potentially leading to increased impact on the lake- including the lake-bed being agitated, human impurities, as well as the heat potentially increasing pathogen production. This may have created an impact to the environment in the short-term; we believe, therefore, that this does not affect the body of water as a whole, or on an ongoing basis.

****To fall in line with Horsham District council, we will be postponing all activities until Monday 6th July 2026****

Those that are booked in with us in this time period, please bear with us in these tough times; as you can imagine a watersports survival counts on the water being available- we will be contacting you all soon about how to rectify this situation and we welcome your support.

Finally, as a Paddlesport community, we encourage water safety and in the recent years have had little reports of paddle-craft activity causing illness; however, if you *personally* have been part of our hire, group sessions, parties or activities and have experienced illness from the lake, then we would like to hear from you. This information will continue to paint a picture of where this has been happening and to how many people, helping Horsham District Council receive the correct information. (info@southwaterwatersports.co.uk)