Southwater Lake Water Quality process

Southwater Watersports Ltd are aware of the information becoming more prevalent in the media about the quality of water and we aim to use this document to outline the mitigating steps we have taken to safeguard our users.
Grahame Moss has 27 years' experience working within the Paddlesport community and understand the risks related to participation.
Most recently, we are aware of outlets from companies pumping sewage in to certain areas of open water, however, Southwater Lake does not have any inlet for this to happen.
Because of this wider information, the rumours about water quality created in June 2026 and the need for transparent information, we have undertaken research and guidance about those elements that impact water quality to make the following water-testing process.

Copies of the test results and research documents can be provided upon request.

Recent Laboratory tests (July 2026/ Sept 2026) show that the water quality at Southwater Lake meets 'Excellent' according to the 'The Bathing Regulations' 2013.

Our continuation plan is as follows:

At beginning of each March:	Lab test: https://wildswimmingtests.co.uk/product/microbiology-bacteria-kit that provides base line information establishing the cfu/100ml. For example, '180 cfu/100ml E. coli'. This will provide guidance to the quality of the water at the beginning of the season.
Strip testing:	When the environmental impacts reach 'Increased Risk Conditions'. (see below) These detect Coliform and Non-Coliform Bacteria at 1000 cfu/100ml

Increased Risk Conditions that require strip testing:

	Increased Risk Conditions
Water temperature	- Extended periods of high heat increasing water temperature.
Animal Presence	- Increased animal presence than usual for rats, swans, coots etc...
Human Impact	- Estimated 200+ people attending the lake's beached area.
Medical Conditions	- Those with severe health conditions.
Rainfall	- Excessive rainfall that creates flow channels or increases water levels on a short period of time.
Long periods of stagnant water	- Witnessing of algae on the water