# SoS Monitoring Results April - August 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| Sampling dates: | 19/04/26, 31/05/26, 21/06/26, 19/07/26, 19/08/26, 28/08/26. |
| Sample location(s): | S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S6a, S7, S8. Richmond treatment works. |
| Analysis location: | Richmond Town Hall. Micro lab. |
| Personnel: | Volunteers. |

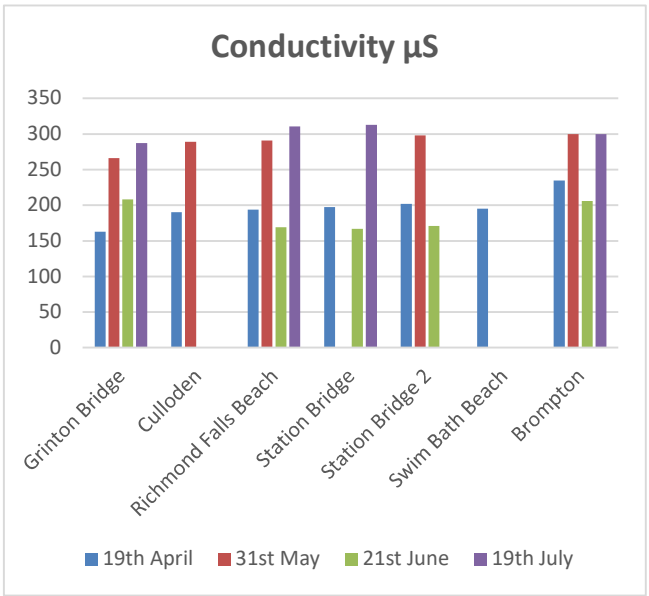
## Summary.

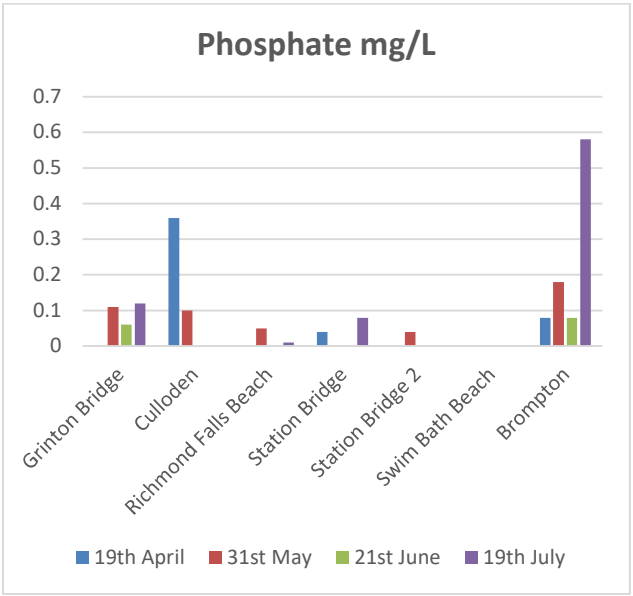
Chemical analyses show differences between the seven sites regularly monitored by SoS. Some sites vary from month to month reflecting differing river flow and farming activities while other variations are a result of sewage overflows, particularly in Richmond but also at the treatment works at Easby and Colburn.

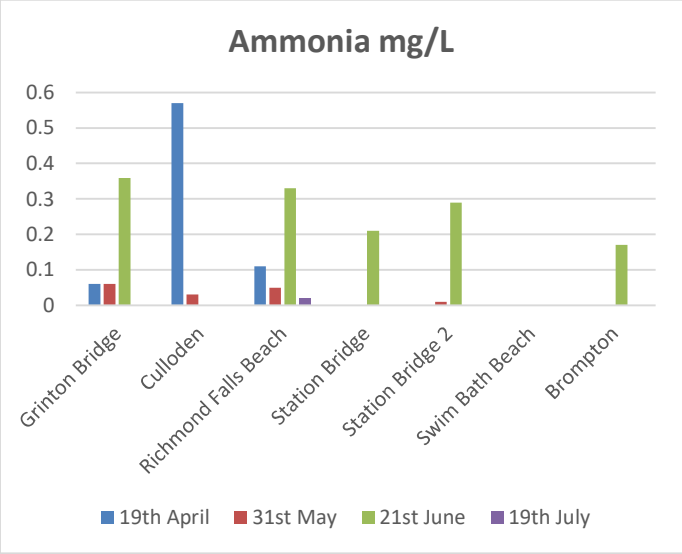
Conductivity, a measure of the dissolved salts in the river, is relatively consistent along the river but differs from month to month according to dilution by rainfall. Phosphate and ammonia, however, have consistent peaks at particular locations. Phosphate is more associated with rural areas and is higher in samples from Grinton and Brompton. Ammonia is associated with effluent release and is generally higher in Richmond urban locations but some peaks occur at other locations.

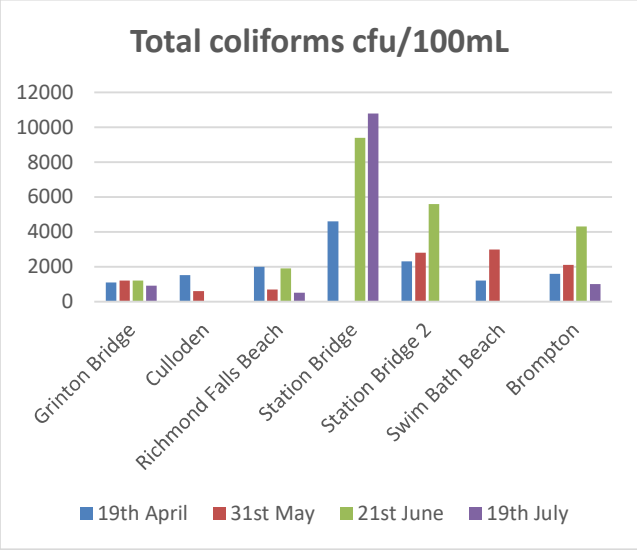
Coliforms, and *E. coli* specifically, indicate sewage release with particularly high levels at the two station bridge sampling sites and at Brompton. Richmond Falls beach generally has low levels of phosphate and *E. coli* but variable levels of ammonia suggesting occasional local release of effluent.

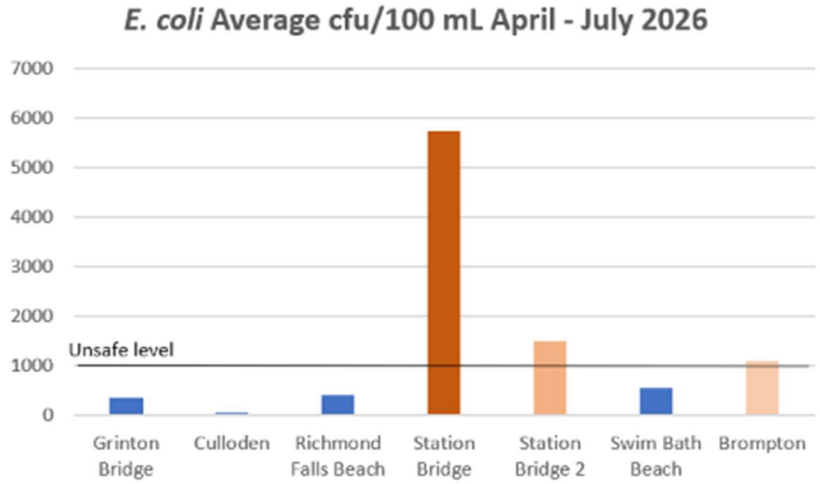
Graphs show measured levels between April and July 2026 but have gaps where particular sites were not sampled in certain months or have readings below the sensitivity of the measurement and are recorded as 0.






In addition, samples from Richmond sewage treatment works were assessed and found to have high levels of ammonia, phosphate and potentially pathogenic bacteria, particularly *E. coli* and *Pseudomonas*. Although this will be diluted in the river it has an impact on the levels at Brompton, particularly when river levels are low.

| Richmond Treatment Works | Ammonia mg per litre | Phosphate mg per litre | Total Coliforms per 100mL | Total *E. coli* cfu per 100mL | *Pseudomonas* cfu per 100 ml |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16/04/26 | - | - | 240,000 | 94,000 | 39,500 |
| 19/04/26 | - | - | 300,000 | 92,000 | - |
| 21/06/26 | 16.4 | 20 | 140,000 | 90,000 | - |
| 19/07/26 | 10.2 | 17.2 | 236,000 | 118,000 | - |
| 19/08/26 | 18.0 | 16.2 | 628,000 | 266,000 | - |
| 28/08/26 | 17.0 | 21.1 | 480,000 | 164,000 | - |