How safe is my swim?

River Lim Action

This is a simple guide for how to check the quality of your bathing water before you swim. The SAS and SWW Waterfit apps are widely used by bathers, but which is best, and why do they sometimes differ in information?

How to check bathing water quality

- Start with the SAS app. Their information is provided by SWW, however they are more cautious than the Waterfit app, leaving their alerts up for 48 hours (recommended by the WHO).
- If there is a red alert on Waterfit, then SAS will have a red alert too.
- So if SWW discharge sewage from the outflow at Monmouth beach, (the only one publicised for alerts) **for longer than a ten minute duration**, then a red pin at Lyme Regis will appear on the Waterfit map.
- This red pin remains on their map for only 12.5 hours and then will change back to blue (to allow a full tidal cycle). Meanwhile, the red warning cross on the SAS map will remain for another 36 hours.
- The levels of E Coli + present will depend on the length of the sewage discharge, tide, drift and weather conditions.
- Make an assessment before you swim and take precautions during and afterwards. You should report any illnesses or infections you think might be caused by your swim. The SAS app has a link for this.
- Sign up to the SAS app and you get active alerts sent to your phone. A red warning cross will last for 48 hours.
- However, Waterfit is passive …. you have to look it up and check. A red marker on their map will only stay for 12.5 hours.

Hopefully this makes it easier to decide when to swim!

Extra Info

- If you look on the Waterfit map and click on the red pin for Lyme Regis, click on 'More Information about this beach', and you can find out if and when a current discharge started …. and when it finished. An amber alert is then kept up on this beach view for 24 hours. Unfortunately, you can't view a history of sewage spills on this beach level, only the ongoing or the last one.