

[Redacted]

**From:** EIR  
**Sent:** 13 May 2026 13:02  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** [Redacted]  
**Attachments:** Islest pace data.xlsx; AMP 8 Kennett Lee Brook WINEP commitments - 11.5.26.xlsx

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information about water quality on the River Lark, which we received on 1 May 2026. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You requested:

1. When the water quality of the River Lark was last monitored
2. The result of that monitoring
3. What plans are in place to improve water quality

**EIR Response: Provision of Requested Information**

Please find attached:

- Islest pace data.xlsx
- AMP 8 Kennett Lee Brook WINEP commitments - 11.5.26.xlsx

**Item 1 and 2** is held by Anglian Water and has been provided as an attachment and below.

The data below is an extract of the EA's National Incident Recording System (NIRS) and is a record of pollution incidents they have processed and categorised from Anglian Water assets. Please note this data covers incidents from Dec 25 to Feb 26 (the most recent 3 months of data we hold). There have been two events recorded, one with no impact (cat 4) and the other with a minor impact (cat 3). The exact locations of the discharges within the Lark catchments are seen in the grid references.

EA NIRS ref	Date of incident	Location	Catchment	Grid ref	EA Water category	Discharge	Asset
2477520	15/03/2026	Worlington	Lark	TL 69140 74157	4	Sewage Materials	Rising Main
2454412	05/01/2026 15:29	Sicklesmere	Lark	TL 87682 60248	3	Sewage Materials	Sewage Treatment Works

Water quality samples were taken for these incidents. These were collected with the purpose of understanding the severity of the incident and not to assess the general quality of the watercourse. This data was taken with field kits and are not laboratory samples, therefore the data should be used with caution.

## 2477520

Date/Time	Location Type	Distance	Type	Reading
16-03-2026   10:25 AM	Point Of Entry	0	Ammonia	0.32

## 2454412

Date/Time	Location Type	Distance	Type	Reading
05-01-2026   17:16 PM	Point Of Entry	0	Turbidity	20.4
05-01-2026   17:16 PM	Point Of Entry	0	Iron	5.2
05-01-2026   17:16 PM	Point Of Entry	0	Ammonia	1.91
05-01-2026   17:16 PM	Point Of Entry	0	Dissolved Oxygen	13.52
05-01-2026   18:11 PM	Mixing Zone	25	Ammonia	0.49
05-01-2026   18:11 PM	Mixing Zone	25	Dissolved Oxygen	13.13
05-01-2026   18:11 PM	Mixing Zone	25	Iron	0.41
05-01-2026   18:11 PM	Mixing Zone	25	pH	8.3
05-01-2026   18:11 PM	Mixing Zone	25	Turbidity	6.12
05-01-2026   18:11 PM	Mixing Zone	25	Iron	0.41
05-01-2026   18:11 PM	Mixing Zone	25	pH	8.3

Information on river water quality is available on the Environment Agency website [Map Explorer | Water Quality Explorer](#)

The marina is downstream of the discharge point of Isleham Water Recycling Centre.



Isleham works is fully compliant and operating well within its discharge permit. The works treats all flows and has no storm discharge permit or Emergency overflow. Please see attached Islest pace data.xlsx showing 6 months of independent lab data showing Isleham Water Recycling Works was fully compliant with its discharge permit.

**Item 3** is held by Anglian Water, and has been provided below.

We have been working to support improvements to water quality in the Lark catchment for many years through our involvement with the CamEO Catchment Partnership, the River Lark Catchment Partnership, the Flagship chalk stream project, and delivery of our Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) obligations.

In terms of the River Lark Flagship project, from 2022–2023 the focus was on establishing partnerships, undertaking natural capital studies, and identifying key pressures and priority interventions, such as improving fish passage. In 2024, delivery began with in-channel habitat restoration (including berms, riffles and pools), delivered through a combination of WINEP-funded Anglian Water activity, Environment Agency actions, and wider partnership delivery. This was supported by the development of the Lark Catchment Restoration Plan. In early 2025, a major milestone was achieved with the construction of a fish pass at Turf Lock, restoring connectivity for species such as brown trout and eels. Since then, activity has shifted towards targeted planning and pipeline development, including a fluvial audit to prioritise future interventions, early landowner engagement at Icklingham, and potential collaboration with Rothamsted Research to undertake sediment fingerprinting to better understand sediment sources within the catchment. We have also worked with local partners as part of the Flagship project to set up a headwater farm cluster group with the aim to work with the agricultural community to make improvements to water quality in the Lark.

For our WINEP programme in the current AMP (2025–2030), we anticipate investing around £5–6 million in a number of potential restoration schemes across the Lark catchment, although many are currently at the feasibility stage. At Linnet (upstream of Bury St Edmunds), work with the National Trust at Ickworth aims to deliver catchment-scale rewetting by slowing flows, reconnecting the floodplain, and trapping sediment and nutrients, with wider flood risk benefits for the town; however, this scheme is still awaiting Environment Agency agreement. Other proposals include an ambitious enclosed beaver release at Cavenham to restore around 60 hectares of wetland and enhance natural water storage; a 1 km palaeochannel and wetland restoration at Tuddenham; and a 1 km reach restoration and floodplain reconnection on the Kennet. Overall, these projects are intended to demonstrate a range of nature-based restoration approaches, although delivery timelines remain uncertain.

Alongside restoration planning, a number of measures are being implemented to manage environmental risks, particularly around Bury St Edmunds, where there is a known summer fish kill hotspot at East Gate Weir. These include real-time water quality monitoring with automated alarms, deployment of aeration when dissolved oxygen levels drop due to low flows, and active oversight by a fisheries consultant to trigger appropriate mitigation responses. In parallel, a feasibility study is underway as part of the SPA mitigation package to investigate potential structural modifications to the weir, with the aim of improving low-flow conditions and reducing the risk of fish becoming trapped.

We have also contributed to work within the River Lark through the Ofwat Innovation Funded CaSTCo project, where the Lark, alongside the Wensum catchment, was selected as one of two case study areas. This work focused on developing a collaborative monitoring plan for water quality across the catchment, in partnership with the River Lark Catchment Partnership, and on training and upskilling citizen scientists in water quality sampling. As part of this project, Seneye has installed 16 water quality sensors across the Lark catchment, covering the main river and its tributaries. These sensors measure temperature, pH, free ammonia, dissolved oxygen and turbidity, and are currently funded to remain in place until summer 2026. This data is held by the River Lark Catchment Partnership and Anglian Water does not have access to this data.

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request an internal review, you should email [EIR@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:EIR@anglianwater.co.uk) or write to:

General Counsel, Anglian Water Services, Lancaster House, Lancaster Way, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon PE29 6XU

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this email, please contact us via [EIR@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:EIR@anglianwater.co.uk) .

Yours sincerely

**EIR Team**

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