



SUSTAINABLE WOOTTON COURTENAY



Newsletter No 11, April 2024

Swimfo: Find Good Local Bathing Water

Swimfo allows you to look up details of a designated bathing water by name or location.

Water quality at designated bathing water sites in England is assessed by the Environment Agency. From May to September weekly assessments measure current water quality and at a number of sites daily pollution risk forecasts are issued. A classification for each bathing water is calculated annually, based on samples from the previous four years. These **classifications, from best to worst, are "excellent", "good", "sufficient" or "poor"**. Information about bathing water quality in other countries in the UK can be found here: [Scotland \(SEPA\)](#), [Wales \(NRW\)](#), or [Northern Ireland \(DAERA\)](#).

Water quality: samples are taken weekly between May 1st and Sept 30th

CLASSIFICATION OF OUR LOCAL BEACHES			
BEACH	YEAR		CLASSIFICATION
MINEHEAD	2023 classification	★☆☆	sufficient
	2022 classification	★★★	good
	2021 classification	★★★	good
	2019 classification	★★★	good
DUNSTER	2023 classification	■	poor
	2022 classification	■	poor
	2021 classification	★☆☆	sufficient
	2019 classification	★☆☆	sufficient
PORLOCK WEIR	2023 classification	★★★★	excellent
	2022 classification	★★★★	excellent
	2021 classification	★★★★	excellent
	2019 classification	★★★★	excellent

**Please protect our rivers, lakes and seas.
Are we contributing to the pollution problem?
Let's not put **fats, oils and grease** down our sinks!**

**SOMERSET
RECYCLES
USED
COOKING
OIL**



DORSET’S GREAT CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT SEWER BLOCKAGES



To sewage treatment works

Overflow to sea after heavy storms or when sewer is blocked



Don't Clog with FOG!

Fats, Oils and Grease known as FOG block pipes.

They mix with other food waste and wet wipes and congeal and harden in the pipe. This can block the flow of waste water causing blockages in your own home, street and even the sewage treatment works, leading to sewage overflows and beach and sea pollution.



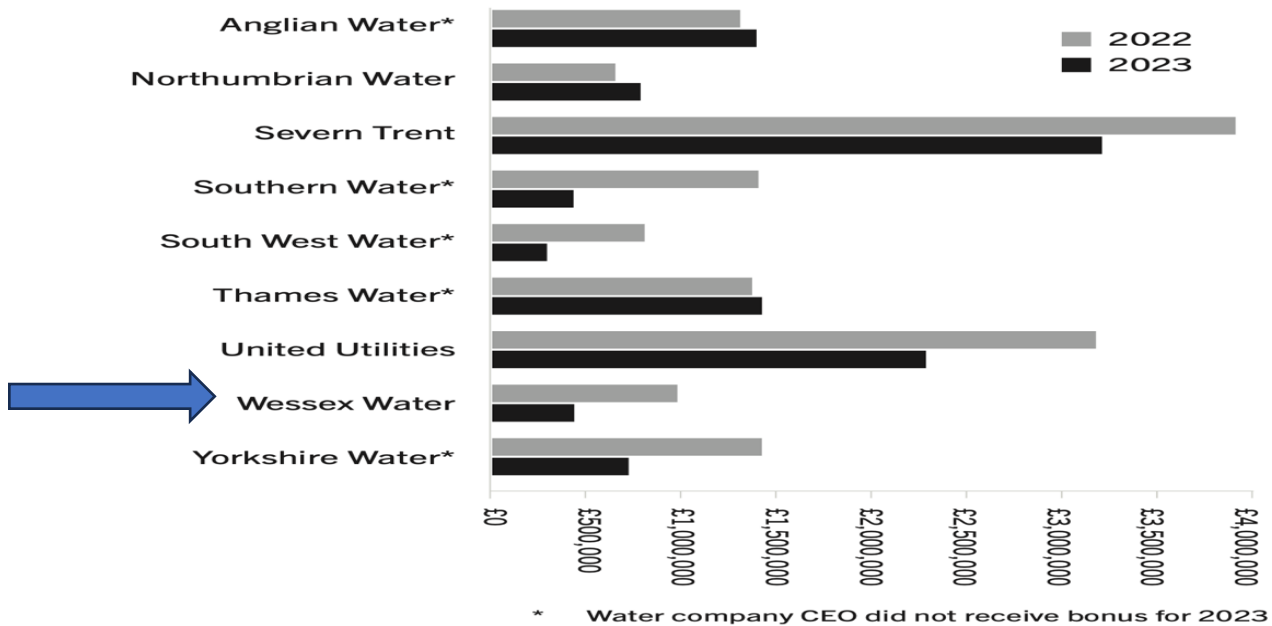
Swanage Beach

Who Owns Our Water Companies?

WATER COMPANY	OWNERS	PARENT COMPANY
Anglian Water	Osprey Consortium (led by 3i and Canadian and Australian pension funds)	AWG plc
Northumbrian Water	CK Infrastructure Holdings (based in Hong Kong)	Northumbrian Water Group plc
Severn Trent	Range of shareholders including Black Rock (American multinational investment company based in New York City)	Severn Trent PLC
South West Water	Range of investors including Black Rock (an American multinational investment company based in New York City)	Pennon
Southern Water	Macquarie Asset Management	Greensands Holdings
Thames Water	German Utility giant RWE	Thames Water Holdings Plc
United Utilities	Range of investors including Black Rock (an American multinational investment company based in New York City)	United Utilities Group
Wessex Water	Malaysian power company YTL Corporation.	
Yorkshire Water	Saltaire Water (based in UK)	Kelda Group



CEO take-home pay for the years ending March 2022 and March 2023.



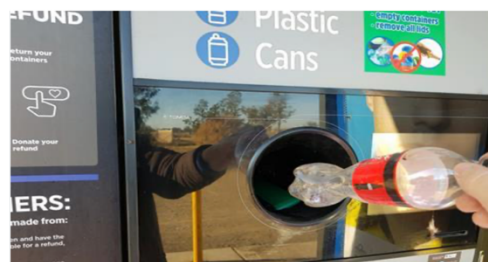


According to the International Energy Agency renewable energy is now more affordable than fossil fuels to produce. In fact, [solar power has become the most inexpensive source of electricity in the world](#) making it literally ‘cheaper to save the world than destroy it.’



They were pleased to report that renewables are forecast to make up more than one-third of the world’s power supply in 2024. The Agency also reported that Germany’s [emissions hit a 70-year low](#) last year due in part to reduced reliance on coal, which is a great sign of progress from Europe’s largest economy. The development of renewable energy is also accelerating globally – Hooray!

Ireland’s Deposit Return Scheme Goes Live!



The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is a new, nationwide money-back scheme for returning plastic drinks bottles and aluminium cans. The aim of the scheme is to incentivise people to return used drinks containers so that they can be successfully recycled into new containers. Thirteen European countries already have a DRS and Ireland’s scheme went live on February 1st this year. **Well done Ireland!**

As well as boosting recycling rates, the Deposit Return Scheme will significantly reduce the number of bottles and cans littering our streets or sent to landfill or incineration. A DRS covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland was set to be introduced in 2025 and Scotland’s scheme was previously delayed.

However, independent retailers, brands and campaigners were recently disappointed to hear that the **UK deposit return scheme (DRS), may again be delayed until 2028!!!!**

Composting Used Coffee



An estimated six million tonnes of used coffee grounds are created annually. Most go to landfill, generating methane and CO₂, the rest is incinerated for energy.

But a new study in the Journal of Chemical Technology and Biotechnology suggests that used coffee could hold the key to a pressing environmental problem: agricultural contamination.

The moist, small particles of coffee grounds are an excellent compost ingredient because of their texture and when mixed with dry and woody waste they speed up the composting process. Ensuring a balanced mix of 'wet' and 'dry' materials is the best way to achieve good compost. The nutrients contained in coffee grounds will be recycled back into the soil when finished compost is used as a mulch or dug into the soil. Any un-drunk coffee can also be added to dry material in a compost bin.

Note that the caffeine in **coffee can be toxic to dogs**. Whilst grounds that have been brewed usually contain very little caffeine, if your dog tends to eat anything going, don't spread grounds on the soil surface but instead add to the compost bin or bury in the soil. Source: GardenersWorld.com



With the help of new AI technology, Tesco conducted a trial to save 4GWh of energy and more than 835 tonnes of CO₂ throughout its refrigerated distribution network over a 21-month period. They installed AI technology into eight of their distribution centres across the UK. Under the trial, chill temperatures across Tesco's



refrigeration estate were increased by 1°C, which it said "challenged conventional practises in the sector", resulting in significant cost savings. Tesco group energy manager Rob Redfern said: "We're very proud to say that we have reduced energy consumption by an average of 10% across those distribution sites in the short period between January 2022 and September 2023, achieving a return on investment in under three months."

The news came after Tesco saw profits more than double in its full year results.



HEINZ Ketchup rolls out 100% recyclable cap that took 9 years to develop.

Heinz say that the sustainability move to introduce a 100% recyclable cap could save nearly 300 million plastic lids from landfill each year globally.



Human rights violated by Swiss inaction on climate, European Court of Human Rights rules in landmark case.

The KlimaSeniorinnen, a group of 2,400 older Swiss women, told the court that several of their rights were being violated. Because older women are more likely to die in heatwaves – which have become hotter and more common because of fossil fuels – they argued that Switzerland should do its share to stop the planet heating by the Paris agreement target of 1.5C (2.7F) above preindustrial levels.

The court ruled that Swiss authorities had not acted in time to come up with a good enough strategy to cut emissions. It also found the applicants had not had appropriate access to justice in Switzerland. The Swiss verdict opens up all 46 members of the Council of Europe (of which the UK is a member) to similar cases in national courts that they are likely to lose.