

Canvey Island Town Council
admin@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

Date 3 July 2025

Dear Sir or Madam

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE – Canvey Lake, Canvey Island

I would like to confirm that the sample analysed on 2 July 2025 from Canvey Lake for algal analysis has shown that a bloom of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) is present and is at levels above the threshold for toxicity. The cell count was estimated at 2.5 million cells per ml (for reference, the warning threshold is 20,000 cells per ml) and consists of *Anabaena* sp (Predominant), *Microcystis* sp, *Gomphosphaeria* sp, *Oscillatoria* sp.

The sample was taken from the lee shore where the algae would probably be at their highest concentration. This is not necessarily representative of conditions in the whole water body. You are recommended to make regular inspections to check for scum formation.

Many waters are susceptible to problems with blue-green algae, typically between June and November. Once algal numbers are high, the bloom is likely to persist throughout the season, declining only at the onset of winter weather conditions.

You are encouraged to take whatever steps you consider necessary to inform users of your water of these statements. If you need further advice on health matters, you should contact your local Environmental Health Officer.

Yours sincerely

Tim Poulding – Senior Environment Officer – Water Quality | EM | Essex Land & Water team
Environment Agency | 020302 58544
Environment Management

See www.gov.uk for more details
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/algal-blooms-advice-for-the-public-and-landowners/algal-blooms-advice-for-the-public-and-landowners>