

19 April 2022

By email: [clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk)



90 Fulbourn Road, Cambridge, CB1 9JN  
www.cambridge-water.co.uk  
Tel: 01223 706050

Dear Libby

Please see below our response to the queries from the Parish Council. We very much appreciate you allowing us to come and speak with yourselves on 9 February 2022 and would be happy to answer any further questions you may have

- **At tap measurements for the last 10 years.**
- **Levels at Duxford aquifer taken at the same time as the above.**
- **Clarification on why it took until July 2021 for Cambridge Water to close down the Duxford aquifer.**
- **Confirmation on what areas/villages received the water in question.** (See attached map.)

We do not routinely monitor for PFOS at customer taps as sampling is focused on the sources of supply.

In December 2020, in anticipation of forthcoming Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) guidance, we took a small number of samples at customer taps to verify the Duxford airfield blend. These results reported in January 2021, were compliant with the new guidance.

Sample No	Sampled	Results reported	Site	Sample Name	PFOS ug/l	PFOA ug/l
70079450	07/12/2020	13/01/2021	A086	Duxford Airfield (S.Mill) raw	0.2	<0.1
70079448	07/12/2020	13/01/2021	T086	Sawston Mill (D. Airfield) treated	0.2	<0.1
70079567	10/12/2020	13/01/2021	A086	Duxford Airfield (S.Mill) raw	0.2	<0.1
70079560	10/12/2020	13/01/2021	Z3	Cambridge Rural	<0.1	<0.1
70079564	10/12/2020	13/01/2021	Z3	Cambridge Rural	0.1	0.1
70079569	10/12/2020	13/01/2021	Z3	Cambridge Rural	<0.1	<0.1

In tandem with this, we engaged with our analytical contractor to develop an improved method for PFOS analysis which would give more accurate results.

Further samples taken at end April and reported in May gave the following results with one result being Tier 1 (< 0.01µg/l) and two results being just within the Tier 3 range ( 0.1µg/l to 1.0µg/l)

Sample No	Sampled	Results reported	Site	Sample Name	PFOS ug/l	PFOA ug/l
70082195	02/03/2021	18/03/2021	A086	Duxford Airfield (S.Mill) raw	0.394	0.009
70084008	25/04/2021	10/05/2021	A086	Duxford Airfield (S.Mill) raw	0.254	0.008
70084009	25/04/2021	10/05/2021	T086	Sawston Mill (D. Airfield) treated	0.305	0.010
70084003	25/04/2021	10/05/2021	Z3	Cambridge Rural	0.131	0.004
70084004	25/04/2021	10/05/2021	Z3	Cambridge Rural	<0.001	<0.001
70084005	25/04/2021	10/05/2021	Z3	Cambridge Rural	0.117	0.004

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Investigations were undertaken to better understand the complex blending arrangements within the network

Further samples were taken in May and June 2021, results shown below indicate one result within Tier 2 and one just marginally within the Tier 3 range.

Sample No	Sampled	Results reported	Site	Sample Name	PFOS ug/l	PFOA ug/l
70084986	25/05/2021	24/06/2021	A086	Duxford Airfield (S.Mill) raw	0.367	0.012
70085707	15/06/2021	22/06/2021	A086	Duxford Airfield (S.Mill) raw	0.320	0.010
70085705	15/06/2021	22/06/2021	T086	Sawston Mill (D. Airfield) treated	0.320	0.010
70085703	15/06/2021	22/06/2021	Z3	Cambridge Rural	0.107	0.004
70085708	15/06/2021	22/06/2021	Z3	Cambridge Rural	0.058	0.003

Following the receipt of the above results a meeting was arranged for all stakeholder teams to review the results received to date and the outcome of the investigations into the blending arrangements. As a result of these investigations, we concluded that, in all circumstances, we couldn't guarantee, that customer supplies could be maintained at less than 0.10µg/l, particularly at peak PFOS concentrations at Duxford Airfield/Sawston Mill. Consequently, Duxford Airfield was removed from supply on 25 June 2021. It was decided that the site would not be returned to supply until either a fully robust blend was put in place or a suitable treatment process installed.

The DWI guidance for PFOS/PFOA is based on a multi-tiered approach to the protection of water safety. It provides guidance on the levels of PFOS and PFOA that water companies should consider when fulfilling their statutory obligations to ensure the safety of drinking water.

The DWI guidance recognises that there are different guideline values in place across the world however that it considers water to be wholesome where levels of PFOS are below 0.1µg/l. This is equivalent to the top of Tier 2. The maximum level of PFOS detected at customer taps was 0.14µg/l, marginally above this and at the very lower end of the Tier 3 range. For water at Tier 3 levels (PFOS concentrations between 0.1µg/l and 1.0µg/l) operational action should be taken to reduce PFOS concentrations to below 0.1µg/l as soon as practicable and this was effected by removing the source from supply on 25 June 2021.

On 12 February 2022 we collected 40 samples in the Great Shelford and Stapleford areas. The samples were processed for PFOS and all results were reported at <0.005µg/l. These samples were collected to reassure the customers in the villages which had been detailed in the media article.

On the 19 February 2022 and 20 February 2022 a further 22 samples were collected from the wider network from villages which would have received the Duxford Airfield Source water. The samples were processed for PFOS and all results were reported at <0.005µg/l. A full sweep of samples was collected from all source waters in supply. These samples were processed for PFOS and all results were reported at <0.005µg/l.

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Libby White

In total, since the Guardian article was published, we have taken 98 samples from sources and customer taps. In all cases PFOS concentrations were  $<0.005\mu\text{g/l}$ .

Yours sincerely

**Elinor Cordiner**  
**Head of Drinking Water Quality and Compliance, Cambridge Water**