

NR1 3JU

Anglian Water

Plumstead Public Water Supply Zone — Zone NE59

Prepared for Sample Report



Fair

Water has some concerns worth addressing

Report date	23 July 2026
Data source	DWI Annual Compliance Reports 2026
Data period	January – December 2025
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Expert summary

The Plumstead zone delivers very hard water with a reassuringly clean microbiological record and low levels of disinfection by-products. Nitrate sits at a notable 30 mg/L on average, approaching the midpoint of the legal limit, and hardness at 340 mg/L is among the highest you will encounter in England. On the safety and purity measures that matter most, the water performs well day-to-day, though a significant number of active enforcement notices from the regulator weigh on the overall picture.

Score breakdown

Component	Weight	Score	Explanation
Safety	50%	80	Nitrate averaging 30.2 mg/L and peaking at 40.1 mg/L is well within the 50 mg/L legal limit but meaningfully elevated relative to many UK supplies. Lead, arsenic,
Purity	25%	100	Coliform and E. coli failures were zero across 174 samples, trihalomethanes average just 11.4 micrograms per litre, and chlorine levels are low. There is nothing in the
Minerals	10%	75	At 340 mg/L calcium carbonate, hardness is very high and will affect appliances, surfaces, and taste. Iron reaches a maximum of 38 micrograms per litre, though
Compliance	15%	25	Forty-six active enforcement notices, spanning companywide tank inspections, nitrate at a nearby works, lead, PFAS, and microbiology, represent a serious level of

The underlying water quality parameters would produce a weighted score of approximately 76 out of 100, but the overall score has been capped at 59 to reflect the serious weight of 46 active enforcement notices currently in place against Anglian Water.

Hardness

340 mg/L CaCO₃ Very Hard



This supply is chloraminated, with free chlorine averaging below 0.12 mg/L and total chlorine at 0.67 mg/L, meaning taste impact from disinfection is minimal. Trihalomethanes average only 11.4 micrograms per litre, far below the 100 micrograms per litre limit. pH sits at a steady 7.62. The dominant quality story is hardness at 340 mg/L, which will leave scale on appliances and surfaces over time.

Key findings

Bacterial compliance

Coliform bacteria

100%

174 samples · 0 failures

E. coli

100%

174 samples · 0 failures

Full parameter breakdown

Safety parameters

Safety parameters

The parameters most closely tied to long-term health, each with a UK legal limit.

Nitrate

Legal limit: 50 mg/L

Min 7.53 · Max 40.1 mg/L · 60 samples

30.2 mg/L

Getting higher

Lead (average)

Legal limit: 10 µg/L

Min 0.16 · Max 4.32 µg/L

0.853 µg/L

Low — fine

Lead (maximum sample)

Legal limit: 10 µg/L

4.32 µg/L

Worth noting

Fluoride

Legal limit: 1.5 mg/L

0.158 mg/L

Low

Arsenic (maximum)

Legal limit: 10 µg/L

0.37 µg/L

Low — fine

Pesticides (total)

Legal limit: 0.5 µg/L (total)

Min 0 · Max 0.004 µg/L

0 µg/L

Low — fine

Nitrite

Legal limit: 0.5 mg/L

Not reported

What this means for you

Fluoride is naturally present at a modest 0.158 mg/L, well within the 1.5 mg/L legal limit. Nitrate averages 30.2 mg/L and peaks at 40.1 mg/L, comfortably below the 50 mg/L legal limit but worth noting. Lead averages just 0.853 micrograms per litre, arsenic tops out at 0.37 micrograms per litre, and pesticide levels are effectively zero, all well within legal thresholds.

Full parameter breakdown

Purity & mineral parameters

Purity parameters

Chlorine (average)

Typical UK range: 0.1–0.5 mg/L
Max 0.45 mg/L

0.12 mg/L

Normal

THMs (trihalomethanes)

Legal limit: 100 µg/L
Min 1.6 · Max 18.2 µg/L

11.4 µg/L

Low

pH (acidity)

Legal range: 6.5–9.5
Min 7.24 · Max 7.97

7.62

Ideal range

Bromate (maximum)

Legal limit: 10 µg/L

1.38 µg/L

Low

Aluminium

Legal limit: 200 µg/L

Not reported

Turbidity (clarity)

Legal limit: 4 NTU

Not reported

Mineral parameters

Hardness

23.7 °Clark · 19.3 °dH · 34 °f · 3.4 mmol/L

340 mg/L CaCO₃

Very Hard

Calcium

136 mg/L

Measured

Iron (maximum)

Legal limit: 200 µg/L

38 µg/L

Low

Copper (maximum)

Legal limit: 2 mg/L

0.054 mg/L

Low

Manganese

Legal limit: 50 µg/L

Not reported

Sodium

Legal limit: 200 mg/L

Not reported

Nickel (maximum)

Legal limit: 20 µg/L

1.51 µg/L

Low

Conductivity

Legal limit: 2500 µS/cm

Not reported

Recommendations

Based on your water quality data

Recommended for your postcode

The two standout characteristics of this zone are its exceptional hardness at 340 mg/L and its moderately elevated nitrate averaging 30 mg/L, together with a range of active enforcement notices. These factors shape the recommendations below.



Water softener

Your water measures 340 mg/L CaCO₃ (very hard). An ion-exchange softener protects boilers, appliances and bathrooms from limescale and typically pays for itself in hard-water areas through lower energy and maintenance costs.



Reverse osmosis or activated carbon filter

Anglian Water has an active enforcement notice covering PFAS or related improvements. Reverse osmosis and quality activated-carbon filters are the most effective home treatments for reducing PFAS while the company completes its improvement programme.



Reverse osmosis filter

Nitrate in your zone averages 30.2 mg/L — legal, but on the higher side. A reverse osmosis system removes nitrates effectively if you want an extra margin, particularly for households with bottle-fed infants.

What very hard water means for you

Kettles & appliances

At 340 mg/L, limescale will build up quickly in kettles and washing machines, shortening their working life and reducing

Boiler & heating

Heating systems and boiler components face a real risk of scale accumulation at this hardness level, which can reduce

Skin & hair

Very hard water can leave skin feeling tight or dry after washing, and may make some hair feel less manageable,

Taste

The high mineral content gives the water a distinctly full, slightly chalky taste that some people find satisfying but

Cleaning & soap

Soap and detergent lather less freely in very hard water, so you may find yourself using more washing-up liquid,

Hardness unit conversions

Softener and appliance specifications quote hardness in different units — here is your water in all of them.

mg/L CaCO ₃ (ppm)	340
Clark degrees (°Clark)	23.7
German degrees (°dH)	19.3
French degrees (°f)	34
Millimoles per litre (mmol/L)	3.40

About this report

NR1 3JU — Report MTW-RPT-NR13JU-20260723

About your local supply

Anglian Water serves one of England's driest and most agriculturally intensive regions, drawing heavily on chalk and limestone aquifers across Norfolk and the wider East Anglia area. These ancient chalk formations naturally dissolve calcium and magnesium as water percolates through them, producing the pronounced hardness of 340 mg/L seen here. The same agricultural landscape also contributes to elevated nitrate levels in groundwater over time.

About MyTapWater

MyTapWater is a free public tool that makes UK water quality data accessible to everyone. We aggregate data from all 21 water companies into a single postcode lookup, covering 1.8 million UK postcodes and more than 1,300 water supply zones.

Data source

All data in this report comes from official annual compliance reports published by UK water companies under the Drinking Water Inspectorate's regulatory framework. Data period: January – December 2025. Values are as reported by Anglian Water for supply zone NE59 (Plumstead Public Water Supply Zone).

Disclaimer

This report is for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical or health advice. All UK tap water meets legal safety standards. The water quality scores and ratings reflect quality relative to ideal ranges — not safety. If you have specific health concerns, please consult a qualified health professional.

Contact

Questions about this report? Email hello@mytapwater.co.uk

Check any UK postcode free at mytapwater.co.uk