

-----Original Message-----

From: xxxxxx

Sent: 11 March 2026 11:32

To: deputy clerk <[deputyclerk@ashwell.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@ashwell.gov.uk)>

Subject: Re: Ashwell Springs – Request for Clarification and Regulatory Confirmation

Good Morning Nicky

Thank you for your reply.

I have already raised the matter with Natural England and am awaiting their considered response. Additionally I am in the process of liaising with the environment agency. There are also several interested National Journalists whom are close to this cause. It is with great regret that the use of a widely accepted carcinogen is being used in such close proximity to an ancient natural spring.

But this is the choice of the parish council and as you have said (on their behalf) unfortunately stand by that decision.

Best regards

xxxx

> On 11 Mar 2026, at 11:26, deputy clerk <[deputyclerk@ashwell.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@ashwell.gov.uk)> wrote:

>

> Hi xxx,

>

> Thank you for your email.

>

> The authority responsible for the water at Ashwell Springs is the Environment Agency, rather than Ashwell Parish Council (APC). As such, monitoring or testing of the water is their responsibility.

>

> The ongoing management of the site is guided by a management plan agreed with Natural England, the authority responsible for the SSSI. This plan includes guidance for tree works, such as the removal of sycamores and elder, which are considered undesirable for this site.

>

> All contractors commissioned by the Parish Council are provided with criteria to ensure compliance with the SSSI requirements. These criteria guide their methods and risk assessments. In this case those documents were completed internally by Blue Tree. Tree contractors are selected from a list of preferred suppliers, compiled following advice from North Herts Council officers and based on their competence and experience.

>

> Additionally, any use of eco plugs is limited in effect to approximately eight weeks and does not impact surrounding vegetation.

>

> Best regards,

>

> Nicky Forrester (Deputy Clerk)

> Ashwell Parish Council

> -----Original Message-----

> From xxxxx

> Sent: 04 March 2026 11:19

> To: [clerk@ashwell.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ashwell.gov.uk); deputy clerk <[deputyclerk@ashwell.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@ashwell.gov.uk)>

> Subject: Ashwell Springs – Request for Clarification and Regulatory

> Confirmation

>

> Dear Ms Forrester,

>

> Thank you for your response regarding Ashwell Springs.

>

> I note that the Parish Council has resolved to advise members of the public not to consume water from the Springs due to potential agricultural runoff and the recent Eco Plug activity by Blue Tree.

>

> However, I am concerned that this decision appears to have been made without chemical testing for glyphosate or AMPA, and without published evidence of contamination.

>

> Given that Ashwell Springs is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), I would be grateful if the Council could clarify the following:

>

> 1. Was Natural England formally consulted prior to the Eco Plug application within one metre of the spring source?

> 2. Was consent obtained for herbicide use in proximity to the SSSI water source?

> 3. Was the Environment Agency notified of potential groundwater risk?

> 4. Did Blue Tree provide a method statement or risk assessment addressing groundwater protection?

> 5. On what evidential basis was the water deemed “unfit for consumption” in the absence of chemical testing?

>

> I fully appreciate the Council’s duty of care. However, advising against consumption without testing raises questions about both environmental protection and public reassurance.

>

> I would be grateful for copies of any relevant correspondence, risk assessments, or consents relating to this matter.