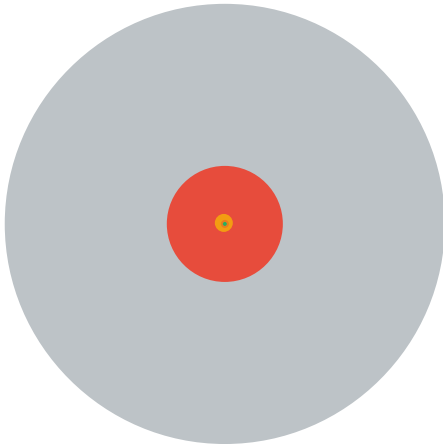


# What Is Actually Being Investigated?

Hillhouse Watch — Community Information Sheet — March 2026

There is a multi-agency investigation into contamination from the Hillhouse chemical factory. Most residents assume it covers the air, the water, and their health. This is what it actually covers.



- 10,000+ PFAS known to exist (OECD) — true total may be higher
- 697 detected in local water — limited by what methods can identify (Megson et al., 2024)
- 18 found in the investigation's own soil samples — only 1 being pursued (EA/WSP Phase 2)
- 4 found in every egg tested by the investigation — incl. PFOS, which AGC denies using
- 1 being investigated. One chemical — PFOA — out of everything above.

## Companies on the Hillhouse site

AGC	40+ other companies — including Victrex (59,000 kg fluoride to water, 2024) — not in scope
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The investigation covers one company. The site has over 40 operators sharing infrastructure and discharge points.

## Has contamination been measured?

Every chemical listed below has been officially detected in environmental sampling, reported in peer-reviewed research, or is a permitted discharge under the factory's Environment Agency permit. Nothing here is speculative.

	Air	River / surface water	Drinking water	Soil (shallow)	Soil (deep)	Ground-water	Dust	Produce / eggs	Toxicity known?
<b>PFOA</b> Group 1 carcinogen. AGC stopped using 2012.	△ STILL IN THE AIR detected 2021 20km away	△ STILL IN THE WATER 3,172x limit* detected 2023	DETECTED No UK safety limit exists	FOUND 99% of samples†	X	X	X	FOUND in eggs†	YES Group 1 carcinogen (IARC 2023)
<b>Replacement chemical</b> 783 kg/yr discharged now	FOUND in air (Cousins 2025)	FOUND 1,744 ng/L (Cousins 2025)	X	X	X	X	X	X	LIMITED Suspected fertility harm (ECHA)
<b>PFOS</b> AGC denies use (Wyre FAQ, Oct 2025)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	FOUND IN ALL EGGS (by investigation)	YES Known toxicant
<b>Other PFAS (697 detected)</b> not part of investigation	X	FOUND 697 compounds (Megson 2024)	48 tested by UU — below notification threshold	X	X	X	X	X	MOSTLY UNKNOWN No safety data
<b>New PFAS — never seen before</b> created when replacement chemical breaks down	X	FOUND (Megson 2024 / Cousins 2025)	X	X	X	X	X	X	ZERO Never studied
<b>Non-PFAS contaminants</b> cadmium, arsenic, mercury, chromium, nickel, zinc	X	SELF-REPORTED by AGC (Pollution Inventory 2024)	X	X	X	X	X	X	YES Established poisons

† The investigation says it is only looking at *historic* PFOA from air deposition (1950s–2012). But their soil measurements cannot tell when the PFOA arrived — it could be historic or current. The other 17 PFAS found in soil were incidental — they appeared on the standard lab test panel but are not being investigated. Independent researchers found PFOA still in the air (2021) and in river water at 3,172x the safety limit (2023), 9–11 years after AGC stopped using it.

**The investigation's own egg results don't fit its own scope.** The EA/Wyre investigation found PFOS in every locally produced egg it tested. AGC says it never used PFOS (Wyre Council FAQ, Oct 2025). The investigation only covers PFOA. Their own data found a chemical that doesn't fit — and nobody is investigating where it came from.

## Has anyone measured what residents have been exposed to?

	Blood testing	Health screening	Local disease rates
Any chemical. Any resident.	NONE	NONE	NONE

### How to read this grid:

- **GREEN** = Tested by the official Wyre Council / EA investigation
- **PURPLE** = Found by independent university researchers or self-reported by AGC — but *not part of the official investigation*
- **RED △** = Supposed to have stopped — but still being detected NOW (independent research)
- **ORANGE** = Some testing done, but limited or incomplete
- **RED X** = Nobody has tested this at all

Last column — Toxicity: **dark** = danger well-known | **orange** = limited data | **red** = nobody knows

Questions, sources, and what you can do: [hillhousewatch.uk](https://hillhousewatch.uk)

Prepared by a local resident from published UK data, peer-reviewed research, and official reports. Not affiliated with any agency.

\*Limit: EU Water Framework Directive EQS for PFOA in surface water (~6.5 ng/L annual average). River water figures: Cousins et al., ES&T, 2025 and Megson et al., Chemosphere, 2024. Tap water reported below drinking water threshold by United Utilities (standard PFAS panel; replacement chemical not tested).