

could have been growing for up to three years, undiscovered because it had not caused disruption in the wider sewage network. # In a statement that revealed the fatberg's existence on Tuesday, Mr. Roantree said it showed that waste problems were not just an issue for cities, but could be seen " right here in our coastal towns. " # But a company spokeswoman also gave several reasons The Esplanade might have been particularly hospitable to a fatberg. # Sidmouth hosts an influx of tourists every summer, she said, many of whom seek out fish and chips -- traditionally deep-fried -- in restaurants and shops with a sea view. # She added that the sewer beneath The Esplanade was large, allowing a fatberg to gather bulk without causing the sort of problems that would lead to it being found and destroyed. # As news of this unwanted gift for the new year traveled on social media, some Sidmouth residents spoke of an unpleasant odor that was coming from the town's drains. # " Wonder how the Fatberg is doing today -- did wonder what the smell was on Sunday as I walked along the front, " Paul Denning wrote in a Facebook post. # " The drains in town have smelt for ages, " Susan Perryman commented, while Wendy Brooks, another Sidmouth resident, added that " the beach by Bedford Steps smells of sewage. " # Stuart Hughes, a Sidmouth council member who had previously expressed concerns about the town's sewage pumping station, according to an article in The Sidmouth Herald, received news of the fatberg with concern. # " This isn't the first time that something like this has happened, " Mr. Hughes said in an email on Tuesday, adding