

External Factsheet

Dymchurch Designated Bathing Water

March 2024

Subject

The designated bathing water at Dymchurch has a 'Sufficient' classification.

Background information

- We have a duty to monitor bathing waters, report bathing water quality, inform the public of pollution which could affect bathing waters and to investigate and identify actions to improve bathing water quality.
- On 1 December 2023, the Environment Agency published our annual bathing water classifications for every designated bathing water across the country. Amongst those given a 'Sufficient' classification was Dymchurch.
- Dymchurch was classified as 'Good' last year. This bathing water has therefore deteriorated since last year's classification.

What happens when a designated bathing water receives a 'Sufficient' Classification?

- 'Sufficient' means that the bathing water meets the strict minimum standards set out in the bathing water regulations.
- There is no advice against bathing and the beach remains open for all to enjoy.
- We want bathing waters to be of the highest quality and therefore aim to improve this classification in future years and stop any further deterioration.

What is being done to investigate pollution and improve water quality?

- We began investigating a decline in bathing water quality at Dymchurch and have prioritised our resource for further work at this bathing water this year.
- We have taken additional investigatory samples at multiple locations in the area to narrow down sources of the contamination.
- We are working in partnership with Southern Water Services (SWS) to find and eliminate any possible sources of contamination from their network, including misconnections.
- We have carried out compliance visits to regulated water company assets in the local area, including wastewater treatment works. We will continue to work with SWS to improve compliance at their assets to prevent deterioration in bathing water quality.
- Bathing water quality can also be affected by relatively small amounts of contamination. We are carrying out joint pollution prevention visits with SWS to properties and businesses in the area as part of our wider investigation into possible sources of the bacterial contamination. We are providing advice and guidance to promote appropriate drainage, prevent and rectify sources of pollution.
- We will continue working with partners to identify further actions to improve water quality.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

Where can I find further information on bathing water quality?

There are various sources of information about bathing water quality which the public can access to find out how clean their bathing water is.

Our SWIMFO website, <https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/>, shows the latest water quality sample results for all the bathing waters in England. It also shows where we have issued advice against bathing, either because of a pollution incident that we are aware of which could affect bathing water quality or because our pollution risk forecasting system has forecast that bathing water quality is likely to be reduced based on rainfall and other factors. This is like a weather forecast for beaches. Unfortunately, this service is not currently available at all bathing waters. Our website does not currently show individual discharges made by water companies.

This link takes you to the Dymchurch information page:

[Bathing water profile \(data.gov.uk\)](#)

This link takes you to the sample results page for Dymchurch:

[Bathing waters data - sample history](#)

To find out more information about water quality assessments and classifications click on this link:

[Bathing Water Quality \(data.gov.uk\)](#)

The Southern Water Beach Buoy website shows when discharges have been made to the sea in the vicinity of a bathing water. These discharges are often related to heavy rainfall. You can also check the history of a site and how many times it has discharged.

<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/water-for-life/our-bathing-waters/beachbuoy>

