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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government
Consultation Document

Bathing Water Review in Wales 2017

Consultation on the identification of Traeth Glan Don Beach,
Gwynedd as a designated bathing water

Date of issue: 20 December 2016
Action required: Responses by 15 February 2017

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Overview

The aim of this consultation is to seek views about our proposal to identify Traeth Glan Don Beach, Gwynedd as a designated bathing water under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) for the 2017 bathing season.

The European Bathing Water Directive aims to protect human health by requiring Member States to identify popular bathing waters, monitor their water quality and keep bathers well informed about water quality at these identified sites. In Wales the bathing season runs from 15 May to 30 September.

One of the requirements under the Directive is for the Welsh Government to annually review the list of identified bathing waters in Wales.

How to respond

Please submit your comments by 15 February 2017, in any of the following ways:

Email: water@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Post:

Water Branch
Bathing Water Consultation
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3 NQ

If you have any queries on this consultation, please email:
water@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

Information on bathing water designation is available on the Welsh Government website. The link is below:
<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waterflooding/bathing-water-quality-and-beaches/idnewwaters/?lang=en>

Contact Details

For further information please contact us at:
Water Branch
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Email: water@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Telephone: 029 2082 5509

Data protection

How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

Introduction

Purpose of the Consultation

The aim of this consultation is to seek views about our proposal to identify Traeth Glan Don Beach as a designated bathing water under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) for the 2017 bathing season.

The Bathing Water Directive, which was transposed by the Bathing Water Regulations 2013, requires us to annually identify all popular bathing areas in Wales. The objective of the Directive is to protect bathers' health against faecal pollution by monitoring intestinal enterococci and E.coli and provide information to the public to enable them to make informed decisions about where they bathe.

Current position

There are currently 103 identified bathing waters in Wales. The water quality at these bathing waters is tested by Natural Resources Wales during the bathing season, which in Wales runs from 15 May to 30 September.

Since 2015, the way we describe bathing water quality has changed. A new system has been implemented across all EU member States, which has put in place more stringent water quality targets. The classifications are:

- excellent
- good
- sufficient
- poor

This year, 102 of the 103 identified bathing waters in Wales met the European classifications for bathing water quality with:

- 84 achieving the higher European classification of excellent
- 13 achieving good classifications
- 5 achieving sufficient
- 1 classified as poor

Since the 2016 bathing season standard symbols must be used at all identified bathing waters to represent water quality. Below is the link to the European Commission's website which contains these symbols:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/signs.htm>

Request to identify Traeth Glan Don Beach as a designated bathing water

We have received a request from Gwynedd Council for Traeth Glan Don Beach (grid reference SH 3843250) to be identified as a designated bathing water under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) for the 2017 bathing season.

Evidence and information provided by Gwynedd Council for Traeth Glan Don Beach

Traeth Glan Don Beach is located at the eastern end of the town of Pwllheli on the southern shoreline of the Llyn Peninsula. The beach lies between the northern headland of Pwllheli harbour entrance in the south to the area of the coast opposite Abererch Sands Holiday Centre in the North.

The east facing beach is approximately 2 Kilometres in length with the southern section being well sheltered from weather systems which makes this section of coastline extremely popular with young families and bathers. The coastline at the northern end is more exposed to the elements and is popular with windsurfers, water skiers, wake boarders, sailors, power boaters and kites.

Traeth Glan Don Beach is located within the 'Pen Llyn and Sarnau Special Area of Conservation' and the northern section of the beach is part of the 'Morfa Abererch Site of Special Scientific Interest'. The Llyn Coastal Path runs along the entire length of the beach towards Penychain in the north. In accordance with its statutory responsibility, Gwynedd Council and key partners have prepared a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (Natur Gwynedd) which aims to support and protect Gwynedd's biodiversity. The beach has also obtained the Green Coast Award five times in the past six seasons.

Between May and September Pwllheli Sailing Club and Pwllheli Rowing Club use a section of the coastline to hold numerous competitive events from the beach. The newly developed National Sailing Academy and Events Centre 'Plas Heli' is located directly above the beach. The Academy provides for national and international sailing events attracting thousands of extra visitors to the area every year.

The Llyn Coastal Path has recently been developed by Gwynedd Council in partnership with Natural Resources Wales and Tourism Partnership North Wales. A section of the path extends along the entire length of the upper beach, from the harbour entrance to the headland of Penychain and beyond.

The Crown Lease for the area of coast between Mean High Water and Mean Low Water is managed by Gwynedd Council. The majority of the land above MHW is owned by Gwynedd Council, though there are sections at the northern end that are in private ownership. Gwynedd Council have advised us that they have been in contact with the owners about the application to designate the beach as a bathing water.

Natural Resources Wales carry out intermittent replenishment and improvement works on the foreshore to help protect the low lying land directly behind the dunes from flooding. This work is carried out after consultation and authorisation from Gwynedd Council.

Access to the beach

The main access to the beach is by means of a concrete surfaced ramp, which leads directly onto the sandy foreshore. Access to the northern end of the beach is via numerous narrow wooden paths and steep steps which lead directly from Abererch Sands Holiday Centre these are unsuitable for wheel chairs or perambulators.

Gwynedd Council carry out daily patrols along the beach during the summer season. Access to the beach is possible at all states of the tide though areas of the beach are considerably restricted during High Water Spring tides.

A 4 KNOT speed restriction is enforced within 100 meters of the shoreline at Traeth Glan Don Beach.

Transport

Pwllheli is the principal town in the Llyn Peninsula and is served by numerous bus services. The nearest railway station to Traeth Glan Don Beach is located at Pwllheli. There is a large free car park at the northern boundary of the main beach and a small privately owned car park which is open to the public.

Beach Amenities and facilities

Public toilets are available at the Marina site, approximately 400 metres from the beach access point. Public rescue devices are also located at the beach access point. Bilingual information is provided, including, public safety and emergency advice, local hazards water quality and operator contact details.

Refuse bins are positioned above the main beach access point. Gwynedd Council, as part of the beach cleansing schedule remove litter on a daily basis from the beach between April and September, as well as from the car park and from the land surrounding the access point. Voluntary beach cleaning work also takes place throughout the year by Abererch 'Coastcare' group and by local schools.

Communications

There are reasonable mobile phone network connections at this location for Vodafone, Orange, O2 and Three networks.

Beach User Survey 2016

Gwynedd Council has provided a survey of bather and beach user numbers for the period from 23 June to 3 September 2016. The survey was carried out during peak times, including bank holiday and weekend usage.

Date	No of people on the beach	No of people In the water (bathing /paddling)	Number of boats / Personal Watercraft	No of kayakers / canoeist	No of surfers /windsurfers	No of dogs on the beach
23/06/16	15	4	2	0	0	2
25/06/16	31	11	14	0	0	9
02/07/16	34	6	4	0	0	3
03/07/16	17	2	4	0	0	3
04/07/16	7	0	1	0	1	1
07/07/16	21	7	2	1	0	6
14/07/16	31	14	8	0	0	10
12/07/16	38	11	6	1	0	9
17/07/16	70+	33	10	1	0	17
19/07/16	100+	35	12	4	0	23
21/07/16	43	10	1	0	0	6
23/07/16	75+	29	16	4	0	15
25/07/16	50+	15	8	0	0	11
27/07/16	80+	21	6	4	0	14
28/07/16	100+	23	8	1	0	14
29/07/16	23	5	2	1	0	4
30/07/16	150+	45	19	6	1	30
31/07/16	100+	40+	14	1	0	18
03/08/16	33	6	1	0	0	3
05/08/16	50+	21	16	2	0	11
06/08/16	200+	50+	34	8	0	25+
07/08/16	100+	40+	12	3	1	25
13/08/16	50+	22	21	5	0	18
15/08/16	200+	50+	40+	8	1	30+
16/08/16	200+	50+	27	11	0	25+
18/08/16	50+	13	14	0	0	15
21/08/16	34	11	9	0	0	9
22/08/16	100+	40+	31	5	0	16
24/08/16	75+	29	9	1	1	4
26/08/16	50+	19	7	1	0	14
29/08/16	150+	50+	29	11	0	35+
01/09/16	22	5	2	0	0	3
03/09/16	43	12	3	0	0	14

The Welsh Government is happy to support the proposed designation of Traeth Glan Don Beach as a bathing water for the 2017 bathing season based on the evidence and information provided by Gwynedd Council.

Responding to the consultation

We would welcome your views on the proposal to designate Traeth Glan Don Beach as a bathing water.

Response to Comments

Following the consultation period, we will give full consideration to the responses received and issue a summary of responses and a final decision on whether to designate Traeth Glan Don Beach as a bathing water for the 2017 bathing season.

Consultation Period

The consultation will run for a period of 8 weeks from 20 December 2016 to 15 February 2017.

