

Number: WG27496



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.gov.wales

Welsh Government

Consultation Document

Bathing Water Review in Wales 2016

Consultation on the designation of Aberdyfi Rural Beach, Gwynedd as a bathing water

Date of issue: 15 January 2016

Action required: Responses by 26 February 2016

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 designate Aberdyfi Rural Beach (referred to locally as 'Cemetery Beach') as a bathing water under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC).

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 designated 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 designated bathing waters in Wales.

How to respond

Please submit your comments by 26 February 2016, in any of the following ways:

Email: water@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Post:

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

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 below:

[Identification of new bathing waters](#)

Contact details

For further information:

mailbox: water@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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

Telephone: 029 20825509

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.

Contents

Purpose of the consultation	1
Request for designation	2
Evidence provided for designation	2
Responding to consultation	4
Consultation response Form	5

Purpose of the Consultation

The aim of this consultation is to seek views about our proposal to designate Aberdyfi Rural Beach (referred to locally as 'Cemetery Beach') as a bathing water under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC).

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.

Current position

There are currently 102 designated bathing waters in Wales. The water quality at designated bathing waters are tested by Natural Resources Wales during the bathing season, which in Wales, runs from 15 May to 30 September.

Whilst the overall objective of the Directive is the protection of public health, it also puts a greater emphasis on providing information to the public to enable them to make informed decisions about where they bathe.

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 new classifications aim to improve all bathing waters even further. The new classifications are:

- excellent
- good
- sufficient
- poor.

In 2015 all Wales' 102 designated bathing waters met the new stricter European classification for bathing water quality with:

- 82 achieving the higher European classification of excellent
- 16 achieving good classification
- 4 achieving sufficient.

No bathing waters in Wales were classified as poor.

From the 2016 bathing season standard symbols must be used at all designated 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 designate Aberdyfi Rural Beach

We have received a request from Gwynedd Council for Aberdyfi Rural Beach (grid reference SH 590 968) to be designated as a bathing water under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) for the 2016 bathing season.

Evidence & information provided for designation as a bathing water

Aberdyfi Rural Beach is referred to locally as 'Cemetery Beach' and is located along the western shoreline, approximately half a mile north of the mouth of the Dyfi Estuary. The southern section of this beach is backed by the Aberdyfi links golf course. The Wales Coastal Path runs directly from Aberdyfi harbour along the entire length of the beach to Tywyn in the north. Aberdyfi Rural Beach is very popular with families, in particular families with young children.

Aberdyfi is located four miles south of Tywyn and eleven miles west of Machynlleth. There are numerous bus services along the A493 and Aberdyfi is part of the Cambrian Railway line and has two stations, one near the Aberdyfi Golf Club and one at Penhelig at the eastern end.

The public can access the beach via a public footpath and wooden boardwalk/ramp that leads directly onto the beach from the public car park. Access to the beach is possible at all states of the tide, though access is considerably restricted at high water. Vehicular access to the beach for the general public is not authorised. Only Cyngor Gwynedd and Emergency Services vehicles are authorised to drive directly onto the foreshore.

The Maritime and County Parks Service has strong links with the community in Aberdyfi and regularly meet and consults with the local elected member, Community Council, RNLI, local businesses and other stakeholders on issues relating to the management of the beaches and harbour in Aberdyfi.

As Aberdyfi is a new application for designation, no applications for 'beach awards' have been submitted. Due to the varied habitats in the area, Cyngor Gwynedd and key partners have prepared a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (Natur Gwynedd). The Dyfi estuary is a designated Special Protection Area and due to the importance of the marine habitats and species, the Llyn and Sarnau area has been designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

As this site is a 'rural beach' facilities and amenities are limited, however they are available at the main Aberdyfi beach and harbour. Bilingual public safety/information and signage are provided. Due to the soft nature of the sand at this beach it prohibits the positioning of bins directly on the site. Receptacles are provided at nearby and adjacent locations including Aberdyfi Beach and the public car park. Cyngor Gwynedd harbour and beach staff as part of their duties clear the beach of any litter and waste. There is no dog exclusion area on this beach.

Beach User Survey

Cyngor Gwynedd has provided a survey of bather and beach user numbers for the period from 27 June to 5 September 2015. The counts include bank holiday and weekend usage.

Table of user numbers:

Date	No of people on the beach	No of people In the water (bathing /paddling)
27/06/2015	36	9
30/06/2015	27	6
03/07/2015	23	8
04/07/2015	41	15
09/07/2015	23	3
15/07/2015	43	16
18/07/2015	62	24
19/07/2015	50+	21
23/07/2015	50+	26
25/07/2015	100+	43
29/07/2015	50+	16
30/07/2015	100+	29
02/08/2015	100+	33
06/08/2015	50+	21
07/08/2015	100+	37
08/08//2015	200+	50+
11/08/2015	50+	21
12/08/2015	200+	50+
17/08/2015	50+	21
18/08/2015	100+	35+
24/08/2015	100+	27
27/08/2015	60+	24
29/08/2015	150+	41
30/08/2015	150+	56
05/09/2015	34	5
Total	1,949+	637+

The Welsh Government is happy to support the proposed designation of Aberdyfi Rural for the 2016 bathing season based on the evidence and information provided by Cyngor Gwynedd.

Responding to the consultation

We would welcome your views on the proposal to designate Aberdyfi Rural Beach as a bathing water.

Following the consultation period, we will give full consideration to the responses received and issue a summary of responses and a Government response.

Consultation Period

The consultation will run for a period of 6 weeks from 15 January to 26 February 2016.

Consultation Response Form

Your name:
Organisation (if applicable):
email / telephone number:
Your address:

Question: We would welcome your comments on whether Aberdyfi Rural Beach should be designated and added to the list of bathing waters under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC).

We have asked one specific question. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Please enter here:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: