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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government
Consultation Document

Bathing Water Review Wales 2019

Consultation on the identification of Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias, Conwy
as a designated bathing water

Date of issue: 18 January 2019
Action required: Responses 1 March 2019

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 Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias as a designated bathing water under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 for the 2019 bathing season.

The Welsh Government is required to identify popular bathing waters in Wales, 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 Regulations is for the Welsh Government to annually review and publish the list of identified bathing waters in Wales.

How to respond

Please submit your comments by 1 March 2019, in any of the following ways:

Email: water@gov.wales

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@gov.wales or telephone: 03000255509

Further information and related documents

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

Information on bathing water designation and quality in Wales is available on the Welsh Government website. The links are below:

[Bathing Water Quality in Wales 2018](#)
[Identification of Bathing Waters in Wales](#)

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g. a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government's standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data.

In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, 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. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.

You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation

If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than three years.

Your rights

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data held about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer:

Welsh Government

Cathays Park

CARDIFF

CF10 3NQ

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745 or

0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

e-mail:

Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

Introduction

Purpose of the Consultation

The aim of this consultation is to seek views about our proposal to identify Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias as a designated bathing water under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 for the 2019 bathing season.

The Bathing Water Regulations 2013 requires the Welsh Government to annually identify all popular bathing areas in Wales. The objective of the Regulations 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.

Bather numbers is the criteria which the Welsh Government will apply when considering whether it is appropriate to designate a site and in particular, to any infrastructure or facilities provided, or other measures taken to promote bathing at the site.

Current position

There are currently 104 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. Designated bathing waters are classified as excellent, good, sufficient or poor.

In 2018, all 104 identified bathing waters in Wales met the European classifications for bathing water quality.

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 Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias as a designated bathing water

We have received a request from Conwy County Borough Council for Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias (NGR 285566 379291) to be considered for designation as a bathing water under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 for the 2019 bathing season.

Evidence and information provided by Conwy County Borough Council in support of the request for designation

Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias is one of North Wales' classic Victorian seaside resorts. In recent years the beachfront at Colwyn Bay has been transformed with the multimillion pound Porth Eirias (Park by the sea) waterside development. This features a watersports centre, shops and restaurant. The Porth Eirias waterside development is fast becoming a major attraction along the North Wales coast. There's a new bistro run by Denbigh born chef Bryn Williams and a range of watersport tuition provided by Colwyn Watersports. The beach itself is the whole reason the resort exists. There is a

generous stretch of fine golden sand backed by a seawall and promenade. There is no shortage of facilities along the beachfront or in the town, which is only a few minutes' walk away.

In 2013 the beach was re-nourished with approximately 500,000 tonnes of sand. Redevelopment of the promenade and sea defences commenced in June 2013, with the latest phase completed in 2018.

Colwyn Bay Beach is great for swimming, watersports and fishing, with cycling and walking along the coastal track. The beach has been included for many years in the good beach guide. The sweep of coast from Rhos-on-Sea to Colwyn Bay and beyond has seen a major transformation with new projects and attractions breathing new life into the resort. Colwyn Bay Beach and Promenade is managed by the Harbour and Seaboard Service, Conwy County Borough Council.

Dogs are not allowed on the beach including seashore, foreshore and any slope or staircase leading to the beach from 1 May to the 30 September.

Vehicular access on to the beach by the general public is strictly prohibited. The launching of boats/personal watercraft takes place at Porth Eirias Slipway. In order to protect other beach users and bathers speed restriction and craft exclusion zones are enforced at the beach with Seaboard Inspectors carrying out intermittent land and water based patrols on an almost daily basis throughout the main summer season.

As part of the application process Conwy County Borough Council have confirmed views are being sought from local community groups and have highlighted that when Porth Eirias was developed specific design and community use facilities were put in place. The Council have also advised that the Community Councils and Tourism Department are in support of this application. User groups including Colwyn Bay Watersports have been consulted by Conwy County Borough Council.

Facilities

Facilities at the site include:

- Car parking.
- Male/Female public conveniences and showers at Porth Eirias and public conveniences across the road from the Porth Eirias building.
- Public rescue devices – Lifebuoy units with throwlines located at beach access points.
- First Aid Facilities, including public safety signage and a Defibrillator at Porth Eirias Café.
- Noticeboards displaying tidal times, beach operator details, water quality and map of 'you are here' with facilities marked on the map and environmental information.

- 2 seaboard inspectors are on duty May to September, daily litter-picking the beach and promenade.
- Recycling bins and refuse bins are provided. Voluntary beach cleaning work also takes place throughout the year by local schools and volunteers. A Surf rake is used regularly during the summer season.
- Free wi-fi is available on the beach.

Transport

Colwyn Bay is located in the middle of the North Wales coast and is one of the easiest town's to travel to whether it's by bus, train, bike or car.

By Car

The A55 coastal 'Expressway' links in with the motorway network from the North West. From the Midlands and South of England use the M6, M5 and M1. For a scenic route from the Midlands take the A5 via Shrewsbury and Llangollen.

By Bus/Coach

The National Express covers travel from most UK towns.

By Train

Direct train services run from popular North Wales Coastal destinations from most parts of Britain.

Conwy County Borough Council has provided a 2017 Beach User Survey at Annex 1.

Annex 1

Beach User Survey 2017

Conwy County Borough Council has provided a survey of bather and beach user numbers for the period from 30 April to 28 August 2017. The survey was carried out during peak times, including bank holiday and weekend usage.

Date	Swimmers	Paddlers	Other bathing site users	Verification of numbers: brief description (results of people count).
30/04/17			220	Beach users/Watersports count by Seaboard Inspector
01/05/17	50		170 plus	"
02/05/17			20	"
05/05/17	2		18	"
06/05/17			21	"
07/05/17	10		290	"
08/05/17			22	"
09/05/17			8	"
12/05/17			60	"
13/05/17			520 (Beach Event)	"
14/05/17	6		280	"
15/05/17			20	"
16/05/17			50	"
19/05/17			100 plus	"
20/05/17	2		16	"
21/05/17	4		70	"
22/05/17			10	"
25/05/17	6		260	"
26/05/17	8		310 plus	"

27/05/17	12		440 plus	“
28/05/17	85		350 plus	“
29/05/17	10		325 plus	“
03/06/17	15		460 plus	Beach users/Watersports count by Seaboard Inspector
04/06/17			170 plus	“
05/06/17			0 (poor weather)	“
06/06/17			0 (poor weather)	“
09/06/17			83	“
11/06/17	10		112	“
12/06/17	4		25	“
13/06/17			12	“
16/06/17	20 plus		85	“
18/06/17	100 plus		560 plus	“
19/06/17	40		210	“
20/06/17	15		86	“
23/06/17	0		50	“
25/06/17	10		120	“
26/06/17			55	“
30/06/17			6	“
01/07/17	15		220	Beach users/Watersports count by Seaboard Inspector
02/07/17	20 plus		360 plus	“
03/07/17			65	“
07/07/17			30	“
08/07/17	15		280 plus	“
09/07/17	20		330	“

10/07/17			25	“
13/07/17	10		175	“
14/07/17	6		320	“
16/07/17	16		345	“
17/07/17	12		220	“
18/07/17	22		220	“
21/07/17			14	“
22/07/17	20		165	“
23/07/17	30		325	“
24/07/17	30		210	“
25/07/17	50 plus		525	“
28/07/17	10		175	“
29/07/17	30		165	“
30/07/17	25		228 plus	“
31/07/17	6		100	“
06/08/17	10		150 plus	“
07/08/17	20		270 plus	“
11/08/17	20		160 plus	“
12/08/17	25		290 plus	“
20/08/17	40		340 plus	“
21/07/17	20		220 plus	
22/08/17	80		540	“
25/08/17	400		325 plus	“
26/08/17	50		420	“
27/08/17	50		450	“
28/08/17	100 plus		650 plus	“

Name and contact details of survey undertaker

Mr Trevor Foulkes, c/o Conwy Harbour Office

**Consultation
Response Form**

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email / telephone number:

Your address:

Question: What are your comments regarding the proposal to designate Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias as a bathing water for 2019 under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013?

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 here:

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: