



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Number: [WG53958](#)**

Welsh Government

Consultation – summary of responses

Consultation on the identification of Swing Bridge Llandeilo as a bathing water

March 2026

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd / This document is also available in Welsh  
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh

## **Overview**

This document contains responses to Consultation reference WG53958:

The Welsh Government consulted on a proposal to designate Swing Bridge, Llandeilo as a bathing water under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013. This consultation ran from 2 February 2026 to 23 February 2026.

Respondents were asked whether they supported the proposed designation of Swing Bridge, Llandeilo for the 2026 bathing season and to provide any evidence or reasoning. This proposal is considered under the 2013 Bathing Water Regulations as these regulations are in force until the 31 March 2026.

This document summarises the responses received to this consultation and explains how the Welsh Government has considered them. It does not comment on individual submissions.

## **Context of bathing water designation**

The purpose of the Bathing Water Regulations is to protect public health through monitoring and classifying bathing water quality. Designated bathing waters are monitored by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) during each bathing season for *Escherichia coli* and *Intestinal enterococci*, two bacteria that pose a risk to human health.

At the end of each bathing season, sites are classified based on their monitoring results as excellent, good, sufficient, or poor. Throughout the season, NRW publishes bathing water quality monitoring results on its website. This enables bathers to understand the water quality they may encounter, make informed decisions about where to swim, and identify areas where improvements in water quality are needed.

## **Action Required**

This document is for information only.

## **Further information and related documents**

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

## **Contact details**

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### **Additional copies**

This summary of responses and copies of all the consultation documentation are published in electronic form only and can be accessed on the Welsh Government's website.

Link to the consultation documentation: [Bathing Water Designation 2026 | GOV.WALES](#)

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## Introduction

This document summarises responses to the Welsh Government’s consultation on designating Swing Bridge, Llandeilo as a bathing water. It also outlines the Welsh Government’s response and intended next steps.

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the proposed designation and to provide supporting evidence.

## Summary of Responses to consultation:

The consultation received 62 responses. Of these, 57 were received via the online portal and a further 5 responses were received directly via email.

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Individuals	57
Regulators	1
Water companies	1
Town Council/ local Councillor/Community Council	1
Professional Bodies	
Local water using clubs and organisations	1
Non-government environmental body	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>

\*A full list of responding organisations is included at Annex A

A thematic analysis identified the following overarching themes:

- Strong public support for designation of Swing Bridge, Llandeilo
- High and seasonal recreational use, with evidence of sustained use over multiple years
- Perceived public health, safety and water-quality benefits, particularly given limited alternative local facilities

- Support for regular water-quality monitoring, with expectations that designation would improve oversight
- Concerns raised regarding access, safety and environmental constraints, including landownership and protected site designations
- Divergent views on bather numbers and evidence
- Mixed views on facilities and site management, including litter, toilets and lifesaving equipment
- No significant Welsh-language impacts identified, with a clear preference for bilingual signage

### Swing Bridge Llandeilo

The consultation generated a substantial number of responses, with the majority expressing support for the designation of Swing Bridge, Llandeilo as a bathing water for the 2026 season. Respondents frequently described the site as a long-established and well-used local bathing and recreation area, particularly during warmer months, with evidence of sustained and intergenerational use over many years. Support was commonly linked to anticipated public health, safety and wellbeing benefits, particularly in the context of limited alternative local swimming facilities. Many respondents emphasised that designation was viewed primarily as a means of enabling regular water-quality monitoring, improving safety information and providing reassurance to those already using the site, rather than actively promoting increased use.

Most respondents considered the bather-number data presented to provide a broadly accurate picture of how the site is used, often citing personal observation, local knowledge and photographic evidence. However, a minority questioned whether the figures reflected unique individuals or repeated visits, and whether survey days fully represented typical conditions. Views on facilities and site management were mixed: while some respondents considered nearby town facilities sufficient, others raised concerns regarding litter, the lack of toilets, the absence of lifesaving equipment and the need for clearer arrangements for site management should designation proceed.

A number of concerns were also raised, particularly by landowner, representative bodies and statutory consultees. These included access arrangements across private land, potential trespass, safety risks associated with river conditions, anti-social behaviour, impacts on farming operations and biosecurity, and environmental sensitivities given the site's location within a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation. Natural Resources Wales highlighted the need for appropriate consents and further assessment to ensure no adverse effects on protected features, while Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water raised concerns regarding feasibility, noting that modelling indicates the site would be likely to be classified as 'Poor' if designated, with limited scope for improvement through water company interventions alone.

### Other related issues

Responses did not raise any substantive new issues beyond those already identified elsewhere in the consultation. Instead, respondents largely reiterated existing themes, particularly in relation to safety, litter management, access and environmental protection. Many respondents indicated that they had no additional issues to raise, while others used this section to suggest practical measures, seek clarification on implementation, or comment on the wider policy context, rather than to express opposition to the proposed designation.

### View on the impact on Welsh Language

Responses suggest that the proposals are not expected to have an adverse impact on the Welsh language. The prevailing view was that existing bilingual practice and patterns of community use would continue, with some respondents identifying neutral or minor positive effects through increased social interaction, provided that bilingual signage and inclusivity are maintained.

### **Government Response**

The decision whether to designate Swing Bridge, Llandeilo will be made under the current Regulations. That is the 2013 Bathing Water Regulations as these regulations are in force until the 31 March 2026.

In considering whether to designate a bathing water, the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 require the Welsh Government to assess whether there is an expectation of a large number of bathers. This assessment is informed by survey evidence of current use, views provided through public consultation, together with consideration of historical patterns of use, available infrastructure, and any measures intended to promote bathing. Each proposed site has been assessed on its own merits against these criteria.

Some respondents raised issues outside the scope of the Regulations, relating to broader environmental concerns, water quality, and site-specific safety matters. While these issues are important, they fall within other legislative and regulatory frameworks, which remain unaffected by the bathing water designation process.

The consultation evidence provides sufficient support Swing Bridge, Llandeilo attracts a large number of bathers within the meaning of the Regulations. Welsh Ministers have therefore decided to designate the site as a bathing water for the 2026 bathing season.

### Next Steps

Welsh Ministers will inform Natural Resources Wales (NRW) of the decision to designate Swing Bridge, Llandeilo as a bathing water for the 2026 bathing season and will ask NRW to prepare the required bathing water profile. NRW will also establish a monitoring programme for the site, with sampling commencing from May 2026.

The bathing water profile will describe the site and its surrounding catchment. They will identify the rivers and streams that feed into the bathing water, outline potential

sources of pollution and the measures in place to manage them, and provide information on compliance with bathing water quality standards. NRW will work collaboratively with partners, including water companies, the agricultural sector and local authorities, to identify and address any water quality issues.

During the bathing season, the relevant local authority must ensure that detailed information about each bathing water is displayed in an accessible location near the site. This must include up to date monitoring results and any public health information required under the Regulations.

The designation of a bathing water will not amend, alter or supersede any existing legal protections, obligations or regulatory requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, relevant environmental, conservation and land use legislation, ensuring that current legal standards, duties and obligations remain fully in effect. Additionally, any existing responsibilities of private and public individuals, entities and corporate bodies, as established under applicable law, will remain unchanged by the designation.

#### Annex A – List of Responding Organisations:

This list of responding organisations is not exhaustive and includes only those that chose to declare an organisational affiliation. Some responses may have been submitted by individuals who are members of these organisations and therefore may not represent the organisation's official position. The list also excludes respondents who requested confidentiality or did not provide an organisation name.

- Surfers Against Sewage
- NFU Cymru
- Natural Resources Wales
- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
- A number of individual responses