



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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13 Feb 2026

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on the proposal to designate 13 new sites as bathing waters

I am writing to invite your views on 13 applications to designate new sites as bathing waters under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 (the 'Regulations'), as amended in 2025. The proposed sites are:

- Little Shore, Amble, Northumberland
- Newton Noss, Devon
- Canvey Island Foreshore, Essex
- Sandgate Granville Parade Beach, Kent
- Queen Elizabeth Gardens Salisbury, Wiltshire
- East Beach at West Bay, Bridport, Dorset
- Pangbourne Meadow, Berkshire
- River Fowey in Lostwithiel, Cornwall
- River Swale in Richmond, Yorkshire
- Falcon Meadow, Bungay, Suffolk
- River Thames at Ham and Kingston, Greater London
- New Brighton Beach (East), Merseyside
- River Dee, Sandy Lane, Chester, Cheshire

Through this consultation, Defra is seeking as wide a range of views as possible as to whether the 13 proposed sites should be added to the list of designated bathing waters in England, in line with the criteria and evidence requirements set out in both the 'Regulations' and published guidance: [Bathing waters: apply to designate or de-designate - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bathing-waters-apply-to-designate-or-de-designate).

As well as asking respondents whether they agree, disagree or are neutral about a proposed designation, we are also asking questions about the facilities or infrastructure at

or near each site. This could include things like, for example, parking or changing facilities, or infrastructure such as water company assets or farming infrastructure.

The following documents can be found on Defra's consultation website:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/13-proposed-bathing-water-sites>

- Link to the consultation document
- Link to guidance on the designation of bathing waters
- Link to the bathing waters GOV.UK page

We welcome your views and comments on the applications. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact:

Bathing Waters Team
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
2 Marsham Street
Seacole Building
London
SW1P 4DF

email: bathingwater@defra.gov.uk

tel: 03459 33 55 77

Should you have any questions about the consultation, please contact us at bathingwater@defra.gov.uk.

Responses

To submit your consultation response, you can

- complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an online consultation tool);
- respond to the Bathing Waters Team by email to bathingwater@defra.gov.uk;
- respond by post to the Bathing Waters Team at the address above.

Responses should be received by 23 March 2026.

Consultation criteria

This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>

Confidentiality and data protection

This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and, where relevant, who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes. These are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you provide as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully,

The Bathing Waters Team

T: 03459 33 55 77
bathingwater@defra.gov.uk