

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Consultation on the designation of Rayrigg Meadow, Windermere as a bathing water

November 2014

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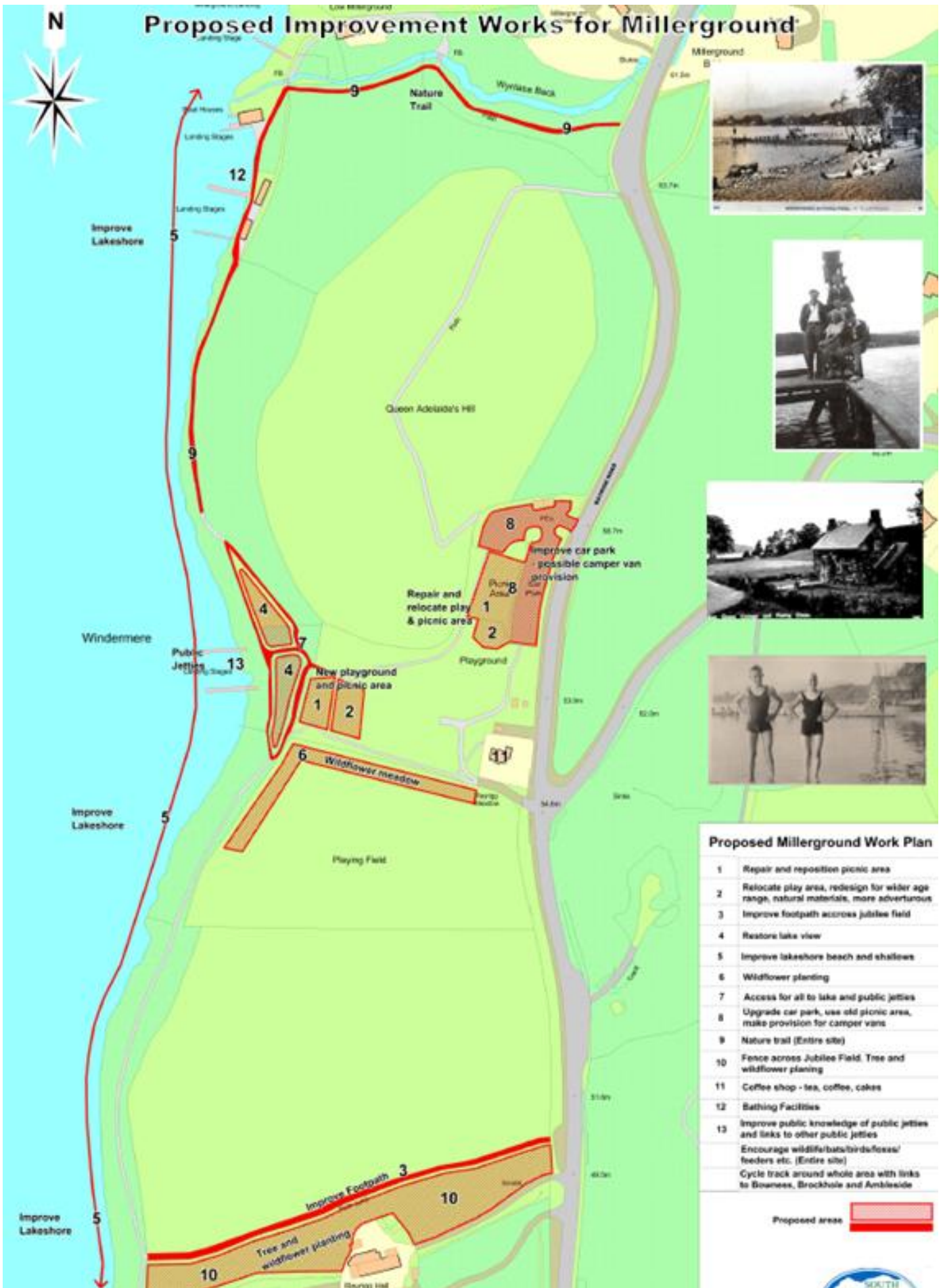
Background

Beaches and inland lakes that attract a large number of bathers are designated as bathing waters under the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC, revised by 2006/7/EC) and water quality is tested during the bathing season, which in England runs from 15 May to 30 September. The objective is to protect bathers' health against faecal pollution by monitoring for intestinal enterococci and *E.coli*. We have not set a minimum number of bathers because there is a wide variety of beaches and bathing sites in England that attract a number of users proportionate to their size and location. By setting a minimum number we could risk excluding small beaches or inland sites that have facilities for bathing but are not used by as many people as a beach in a large resort.

South Lakeland District Council has applied for Rayrigg Meadow to be designated as a bathing water. The existing bathing water at Millerground Landing is nearby and the lakeside area that covers both sites is being developed to increase public usage. A Millerground Enhancement Group has been established, consisting of representatives from:

- Age Concern
- Cumbria Constabulary
- GoLakes
- Lake District National Park Association
- National Trust
- South Lakeland District Council
- Windermere and Bowness Civic Society
- Windermere Town Council

The Enhancement Group's work plan sets out the proposed improvement works for the site. The map shows Millerground Landing (12) and the proposed bathing water at Rayrigg Meadow (13). Improvements are planned to the lakeshore beach and shallows (5). South Lakeland District Council is carrying out the work jointly with the National Trust, Windermere Town Council and the Lake District National Park.



Usage numbers

South Lakeland District Council carried out a survey of usage during the 2014 bathing season. There was an average of 5.5 bathers per count, rising to 9 per count when people paddling are added. The numbers are set to rise in the future when work to improve the facilities and promote usage is completed.

Date	Swimmers	Paddlers	Beach users
Saturday 17 May	0	0	0
Sunday 25 May	1	0	13
Monday 26 May	0	2	35
Saturday 31 May	4	2	15
Saturday 7 June	0	0	0
Saturday 14 June	6	2	4
Saturday 28 June	28	18	70
Friday 25 July	0	0	0
Saturday 26 July	5	10	30
Sunday 27 July	0	3	15
Thursday 31 July	6	2	32
Friday 1 August	2	6	20
Saturday 2 August	10	2	15
Saturday 9 August	0	0	0
Saturday 16 August	2	3	10
Sunday 17 August	6	3	10
Saturday 23 August	20	8	40
Monday 25 August	12	6	22
Saturday 30 August	16	2	10
Monday 1 September	2	6	4
Saturday 6 September	0	2	3
Saturday 20 September	0	0	0
Totals	120	77	348

Consultation

There has been no local consultation specifically on the proposal to designate Rayrigg Meadow as a bathing water. However, during summer 2014 South Lakeland District Council consulted on the proposals for the whole site in order to inform the enhancement plan and volunteer activities: http://www.opinionsuite.com/cumbria/south-lakeland-district-council/neighbourhood-services/millerground-enhancement-proposals-survey/consult_view

The overview on the consultation hub states that Millerground Landing and Rayrigg Meadow were once a popular recreation ground and bathing/swimming area for local people and tourists, but over a number of years have become overgrown with trees and vegetation and have lost important facilities through deterioration. The Millerground Enhancement Group, which represents a range of local stakeholders that we would typically expect to be consulted on the proposal, would like to restore the site and add new facilities. We consider that designation as a bathing water fits with the Enhancement Group's proposals to improve facilities and increase usage at the site, and that the requirement for local consultation has therefore been met.

Despite current low numbers of bathers, we are happy to support this proposed designation due to the commitment to the improvements to the site by the local council and the Millerground Enhancement group. We expect to see usage rise in line with that of other inland bathing waters when this work is finalised.

Responding to this consultation

We would welcome your views on the proposal to designate Rayrigg Meadow as a bathing water. Please respond by 5 January 2015 to bathingwater@defra.gsi.gov.uk or to:

Bathing Water Team
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Area 3D Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

In your response please state:

- your view on the proposal;
- your reasons or evidence to support your view.



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

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