

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Consultation on the proposal to designate
Rayrigg Meadow, Windermere as a bathing
water**

Summary of responses

January 2015

Introduction

Beaches and lakes that attract a large number of bathers are designated as bathing waters under the Bathing Water Directive (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.

South Lakeland District Council applied in October 2014 for Rayrigg Meadow to be designated as a bathing water. The application met the criteria set out in Defra's guidance on how to apply for new sites to be designated as bathing waters by giving detailed information about usage, facilities and local consultation.

On 24 November 2014 Defra launched an informal consultation by publishing the evidence for designation online and emailing it to key stakeholders. The consultation ran until 5 January 2015.

Analysis of responses

We received seven responses, all in support of the proposal, from:

- representatives of the Millerground Enhancement Group and Windermere and Bowness Civic Society;
- from Turning Tides, the North West bathing water partnership which includes local authorities, the Environment Agency, the water industry, environmental NGOs and commercial organisations.;
- from four private individuals.

Final decision

Windermere Rayrigg Meadow will be designated as a bathing water with effect from the 2015 bathing season.

The way forward

The Environment Agency will begin monitoring water quality at Windermere Rayrigg Meadow in the 2015 bathing season. The European Commission will be notified of the decision when the annual bathing water inventory is submitted before the beginning of the bathing season.



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

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

Email: bathingwater@defra.gsi.gov.uk