

Consultation on the proposal to designate Shoreham beach as a bathing water

Summary of responses

April 2014

1. Introduction

1.1 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.

1.2 Adur District Council applied in October 2013 for Shoreham beach 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.

1.3 On 20 November 2013 Defra launched an informal consultation by publishing the evidence for dedesignation on the website and emailing it to key stakeholders. The consultation ran until 3 January 2014.

2. Analysis of responses

Two responses were received: one from Southern Water supplying information about its assets in the area but not commenting on the application and one from Marine Conservation Society supporting designation as a bathing water.

3. Final decision

Shoreham will be designated as a bathing water with effect from the 2014 bathing season.

4. The way forward

The Environment Agency will begin monitoring water quality at Shoreham in the 2014 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.

Annex A – List of respondents

- Marine Conservation Society
- Southern Water