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Wales



Designated Bathing Waters - Vale of Glamorgan Scrutiny Committee June 2026

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Bathing Water Monitoring & Classification

- Water quality at designated bathing water sites in Wales is assessed by Natural Resources Wales.
- From 1st May to 30th September, regular assessments measure current water quality, and at a few sites daily pollution risk forecasts are issued.
- Analysed for presence of faecal indicator bacteria - E.coli and Intestinal Enterococci
- Annual ratings classify each site as excellent, good, sufficient or poor based on monitoring taken over a four-year period.



Bathing Water Classifications Vale of Glamorgan 2025

Description	2025 classification	2024 classification
Penarth Beach	GOOD	GOOD
Jackson's Bay Barry Island	GOOD	GOOD
Whitmore Bay Barry Island	GOOD	GOOD
Cold Knap Barry	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Watch House Bay	POOR	SUFFICIENT
Col-Huw Beach (Llantwit Major)	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Southerndown	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Ogmore-By-Sea	POOR	POOR
Fontygary Bay <i>*New designation/</i>	Classification will follow 2026 season	

- Classifications published by Welsh Government in the Autumn following the bathing season
- Three 'Excellent' beaches in Vale of Glamorgan
- Majority of beaches consistent in classification
- Jacksons Bay is now Good from Sufficient two years ago, previously at risk
- Watch House Bay & Ogmore by Sea both classified as 'Poor'
- Fontygary Bay is newly designated for 2026

Pollution Risk Forecasting – Whitmore Bay & Jackson's Bay



What's going on at Barry Island's Beaches this Summer?

The Vale of Glamorgan Council and Natural Resources Wales are working together on a project to develop a model to forecast the water quality at Whitmore Bay and Jackson's Bay on Barry Island.

You may notice people brightly coloured waterproof suits carrying bottles and poles in the water - like these guys...

All summer the Centre for Research into Environment & Health will be taking sea water samples that will be used in the model.

The sampling data will be used to develop statistical models to give a forecast of bathing water quality at both beaches.

In future bathing water seasons, the forecast from the models will be used to let people know the predicted water quality at the beach on a given day.

More info can be found here:



Whitmore Bay



Jackson's Bay



- **Phase 1** - Develop water quality prediction models; completed in 2024 - Programme of monitoring followed by development of the prediction model based on key catchment variables
- **Phase 2** - Automate process of running the models using software/machine learning – 2025-2026
- Partnership working between NRW, Shared Regulatory Services & Vale of Glamorgan
- Electronic variable message signs at the beaches will display predicted water quality & online - hourly 8am – 8pm, May-Sept
- Aim for system operational during 2026 season

GOOD WATER QUALITY
PREDICTED FOR THE NEXT
HOUR

RHAGWELIR ANSAWDD DŴR DA
AM YR AWR NESAF

Updated hourly between 8am - 8pm / Diwedderir bob awr rhwng 8am ac 8pm



South Central Bathing Waters Project

- Watch House Bay & Ogmore by Sea bathing waters designated in 2023; both classified as 'poor' water quality
- Poor status initiates a requirement in the Bathing Water Regulations to seek to identify & address causes of pollution
- This pilot project, funded by Welsh Government will run through to March 2027
- We recognise bathing water quality is important for public health and wellbeing, as well as for local communities and the economy



South Central Bathing Waters Project

- Key will be inviting stakeholders (including LA's, SRS & DCWW) to join a catchment partnership: *listen to people, understand their concerns and work together to bring positive change*
- Immediate focus is on bathing water quality, this project is also intended to look at wider catchment resilience. *What happens on the upper reaches of a water body can impact lower down the catchment.*
- Integrated approach which also looks at wider issues – multiple sources of pollution e.g. misconnections, agricultural related sources, antiquated infrastructure, Non-sewered Sanitation Systems.



South Central Bathing Waters Project

- Evidence – Looking at existing data, gaps in knowledge, how do we fill them: *Additional resource for investigations, officers out in catchments looking for sources of pollution*
- Goal – to resolve bathing waters issues and ensure compliance with Bathing water regulations, recognising not a short-term fix, but looking for short and medium term wins along the way
- Goal - Long term legacy of an active catchment partnership

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Any Questions?

