

## Colwell



### WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

In accordance with the 2006/EC Bathing Waters Directive Colwell is a designated Bathing Water. The Environment Agency is responsible for monitoring water quality and publishing this data on line. Additionally the Isle of Wight Council must ensure that each location displays the necessary information so that the general public can make an informed decision as to where to bathe, swim or paddle.

A classification for bathing waters is calculated annually, based on all of the samples from the previous four years. The classification for Colwell is “Excellent” which means the standard is the highest, cleanest class.

The majority of sewers in England are “combined sewers” and carry both sewage and surface water from roofs and drains. A storm overflow operates during heavy rainfall when the sewerage system becomes overwhelmed by the amount of surface water. The overflow prevents sewage from backing up pipes and flooding properties and gardens. An emergency overflow will only operate infrequently, for example due to pump failure or blockage in the sewerage system.

This bathing water is affected by the Colwell Chine storm overflow and Monks Lane storm overflow, at the north end of the bay. The overflows can discharge when heavy rainfall overwhelms the sewerage system but they are designed not to affect bathing water compliance. This bathing water is included in the Surfers Against Sewage “Safer Seas Service”. This service can alert you to Combined Storm Sewer Overflow discharges via a phone App and in addition, it includes the Environment Agency Pollution Risk Forecast warnings. Further details of the service can be found at - <http://www.sas.org.uk/safer-seas-service/>

Heavy rain falling on pavements and roads often flows into surface water drains or highway drains, ending up in local rivers and ultimately the sea. The quality of bathing water may be adversely affected as a result of such events.

*Colwell bathing water is monitored by the Environment Agency from May to September... The full details for this bathing water, its catchment, information on all potential pollution sources and how they are managed can be viewed at [www.environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/](http://www.environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/)*