

Shanklin



WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

In accordance with the 2006/EC Bathing Waters Directive Shanklin 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 Shanklin is “Excellent” which means the standard is the highest, cleanest class.

Bathing water quality can be affected by the Shanklin Chine stream and storm overflows which discharge when heavy rainfall overwhelms the sewerage system. During or after periods of heavy rainfall run off from agricultural land, urban areas, and occasional discharges from storm overflows can increase the risk of reduced water quality.

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 could be affected by discharges from the Hope Beach storm overflow to the north of the beach that occur when heavy rainfall overwhelms the sewerage system. This outfall is designed to ensure that bathing water compliance is not affected. 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/>

This bathing water is subject to short term pollution. The Environment Agency makes daily pollution risk forecasts based on rainfall patterns. A pollution risk warning is issued if heavy rainfall occurs to enable bathers to avoid periods when bathing water quality may be reduced. This may last between 1-3 days. 7 warnings advising against swimming due to an increase risk of short term pollution were issued in 2019 for Shanklin bathing water. *Shanklin 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/
