

INFORMATION NOTE

St Annes Bathing Waters 2022

1. The Environment Agency are responsible for implementation of the Bathing Waters Directives, monitoring and reporting on water quality and ensuring action is taken to meet the appropriate standards for the directives throughout the UK. They also regulate discharges to the aquatic environment.
2. In the last 30 years United Utilities have invested £1.5 billion improving bathing water quality across the region. More than £400 million of which has been in the last seven years, including major schemes along the Fylde coast. United Utilities provide waste water services across the North West of England.
3. Fylde Borough Council operates two controlled bathing waters one at St Anne’s Pier and the other is St Anne’s North adjacent to North Beach car park. During the bathing season 1st May to 30th September the Council are responsible for the provision of public information about the bathing waters being displayed in an easily accessible place in the vicinity of the bathing waters. This includes the provision of public information to prevent exposure to pollution during short term incidents and advise against bathing where the bathing water does not meet the sufficient standard.
4. Changes were made from 2012 with the introduction of the revised Bathing Water Directive. Under the new regulations the revised directive sets guideline standards for Escherichia coli and intestinal enterococci.
5. The new standard has four classifications: -

Excellent, Good, Sufficient, Poor.

The EU directive required member states to ensure that, by the end of the 2015 bathing season, all bathing waters were at least sufficient each year.

The table below indicates the different parameters for bathing water quality.

Parameter	Excellent	Good	Sufficient
Escherichia coli (cfu/100ml)	<250 (*)	<500 (*)	<500 (**)
Intestinal enterococci (cfu/100ml)	<100 (*)	<200 (*)	<185 (**)
(*) Based upon a 95-percentile evaluation			
(**) Based upon a 90-percentile evaluation			

cfu = colony-forming unit

E.Coli should not exceed 500cfu per 100ml based upon a 90-percentile evaluation of samples.

Intestinal enterococci should not exceed 185cfu per 100ml based upon a 90-percentile evaluation of samples.

6. In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic and associated lockdown meant the Environment Agency had to pause routine sampling in the first half of the bathing season to adhere with imposed restrictions. Once lockdown was lifted, the EA’s sampling work restarted, and a reduced set of samples was taken during the second half of the season. No classification was made in 2020 due to the reduced number of samples taken not being representative of the range of water quality across the bathing season. The limited data from 2020 will not

be used in any future classifications.

7. The Environment Agency has been working with Fylde Council again this year to make daily predictions of pollution risks at our bathing waters during the 2022 bathing season. These inform the public of increased pollution risk through signs displayed at bathing waters. These warnings are short term pollution events that have clearly identifiable causes which are not normally expected to affect bathing water quality for more than approximately 72 hours. Where pollution risk forecasts have coincided with statutory bathing water sampling and if all conditions are met there is a potential for discounting samples at the end of the season. One sample was discounted at St Anne’s North in 2022.
8. The Fylde coast has eight bathing waters, and the table below indicates the current and previous results.

Bathing water area	2015 results	2016 results	2017 results	2018 results	2019 results	2020 results	2021 results	2022 results
Fleetwood	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Cleveleys	Poor	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Bispham	Sufficient	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Blackpool North	Good	Sufficient	Good	Sufficient	Good	Good	Sufficient	Poor
Blackpool Central	Sufficient	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Sufficient
Blackpool South	Excellent (Blue Flag status)	Excellent (Blue Flag status)	Excellent (Blue Flag status)	Good	Good	Good	Good	Sufficient
St Annes North	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
St Annes Pier	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Sufficient
Southport				Good	Good	Good	Good	Sufficient



9. The Bathing Water classification for St Annes and St Annes North is classed as sufficient for 2022. The deterioration of the water quality at St Annes and St Annes North is of concern to the Council and the Environment Agency.
10. Bathing water quality can be affected by a variety of factors and that Environment Agency DNA analysis can differentiate between faecal indicators from human, cattle, sheep and birds. There is a strong indicator along the Fylde coast the data is showing seabirds and human sources.
11. The Environment Agency has identified St Annes and St Annes North as a priority bathing waters.
12. The Council has met with United Utilities and the Environment Agency to discuss how to improve the Bathing Water quality results moving forward. The actions below have been agreed –
 1. Look to review and improve the water quality data
 2. Environment Agency to carry out an investigation to establish why the Bathing Water standards have

deteriorated in a year that has seen a dry summer and as such reduced number of combined sewer overflow spills. DNA testing is required to understand better the cause, with potential sources being sheep marsh grazing and gulls. Turning Tides (part of which is Love My Beach), which is a multi-agency approach to improving bathing water, are commissioning DNA research to identify the cause of poor bathing water quality. The results from this will be used to address the cause.

3. Commission some environmental monitoring in the outfall from Fairhaven Lake.
4. Establish Multi-Agency project to desilt and improve the water quality in Liggard Brook

13. To Move Bathing Water Quality forward at Fylde a steering group has been established comprising of Councillors, Officers, United Utilities and the Environment Agency, the group will meet on a quarterly basis and deliver the actions above in point 12. In addition, a technical group will be established to better understand and interpret the bathing water data.

United Utilities Response

14. In addition United Utilities have provided the following update -

We're committed to improving natural landscapes across the North West. We have invested significantly to reduce the impact that wastewater has on the natural environment and our long-term ambition is to eliminate pollution incidents. One way that we are looking to meet this ambition is through management of storm overflows. Storm overflows are an important part of the sewerage network and include combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and storm tank discharges. They act as a pressure relief valve when there is too much rainfall, allowing rain water, mixed with sewage, to rise inside the sewer and eventually enter a separate pipe which flows into a river or the sea. Sewers operate this way to help prevent the flooding of streets, homes and businesses.

Many people have told us they do not like the idea of untreated sewage going into our rivers and seas, no matter how diluted. We agree. However, it will take many years to change how excess rainfall is managed, especially in our region. We have a long history of investment in reducing spill frequency, with £1.2bn invested up to 2020. But we're going further:

- Between 2020 and 2025, we will invest a further £230m. This includes enhancements to 29 storm overflows that will improve 184km of river and result in 10,000 fewer hours of spilling.
- We already planned to conduct 195 investigations by 2025 to better understand high spilling overflows to inform spill reduction schemes for future investment. Through the sector's Green Recovery programme, we will investigate a further 300 overflows.
- We have invested over £1m in a new data system to help us analyse over 500 million rows of data. We formed a new multi-disciplinary team including 12 new recruits to examine the data to better target our efforts to reduce spill frequency.
- The Environment Agency estimates that storm overflows lead to around 30 per cent of river and sea pollution in the North West, with water quality in the natural environment affected by rain running off highways and farm land and private drainage being incorrectly connected. We are committed to improving the water environment and working with partners like the Rivers Trust and the RSPB to tackle these issues.
- We want to work with river and beach users, regulators and politicians to plan how we can reduce the need for these overflows. We will continue to work with stakeholders across our water catchment areas to set clear environmental and social objectives for improving water quality.
- We'll also be launching a near-real time portal showing spill locations during 2023 to allow our customers and stakeholders the ability to access this data when they want to.

Appendix 1

St Annes North Bathing Water 2022

NO	Sample taken	escherichia coli colonies/100ml	intestinal enterococci colonies/100ml
190	04/05/2022	10	10
191	04/05/2022	10	10
192	16/05/2022	8400	730
193	19/05/2022	160	110
194	29/05/2022	18	10
195	31/05/2022	27	10
196	13/06/2022	91	10
197	17/06/2022	290	290
198	26/06/2022	36	27
199	28/06/2022	10	10
200	04/07/2022	10	10
201	14/07/2022	130	160
202	15/07/2022	330	340
203	26/07/2022	91	82
204	29/07/2022	45	10
205	02/08/2022	110	27
206	02/08/2022	27	10
207	12/08/2022	350	160
208	18/08/2022	55	45
209	26/08/2022	91	18
210	30/08/2022	10	10
211	09/09/2022	400	64

St Annes North Bathing Water 2021

NO	Sample taken	escherichia coli colonies/100ml	intestinal enterococci colonies/100ml
170	10/05/2021	860	380
171	18/05/2021	10	10
172	25/05/2021	2300	1500
173	28/05/2021	10	10
174	06/06/2021	10	10
175	11/06/2021	180	350
176	14/06/2021	18	10
177	25/06/2021	91	150
178	29/06/2021	27	18
179	07/07/2021	27	10
180	13/07/2021	45	36
181	22/07/2021	45	10
182	25/07/2021	27	18
183	28/07/2021	430	120
184	06/08/2021	64	100
185	10/08/2021	1200	210
186	12/08/2021	450	680
187	23/08/2021	55	18
188	26/08/2021	10	10
189	06/09/2021	10	55

St Annes Pier Bathing Water 2022

NO	Sample taken	escherichia coli colonies/100ml	intestinal enterococci colonies/100ml
190	04/05/2022	10	10
191	16/05/2022	770	290
192	19/05/2022	82	18

193	29/05/2022	10	10
194	31/05/2022	10	10
195	13/06/2022	110	64
196	17/06/2022	560	91
197	26/06/2022	10	10
198	28/06/2022	27	10
199	04/07/2022	10	10
200	14/07/2022	200	120
201	15/07/2022	1400	380
202	26/07/2022	73	18
203	29/07/2022	45	18
204	02/08/2022	110	27
205	12/08/2022	580	10
206	18/08/2022	45	18
207	26/08/2022	660	73
208	30/08/2022	120	110
209	09/09/2022	91	55

St Annes Pier Bathing Water 2021

NO	Sample taken	escherichia coli colonies/100ml	intestinal enterococci colonies/100ml
170	10/05/2021	210	63
171	18/05/2021	10	10
172	25/05/2021	2400	430
173	28/05/2021	10	10
174	06/06/2021	10	10
175	11/06/2021	10	10
176	14/06/2021	10	10
177	25/06/2021	82	18
178	29/06/2021	10	10
179	07/07/2021	27	10
180	13/07/2021	18	10
181	22/07/2021	10	10
182	25/07/2021	73	10
183	28/07/2021	580	130
184	06/08/2021	150	91
185	10/08/2021	160	82
186	12/08/2021	450	36
187	23/08/2021	45	10
188	26/08/2021	18	10
189	06/09/2021	55	55

FURTHER INFORMATION - Contact: Darren Bell Head of Technical Services

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