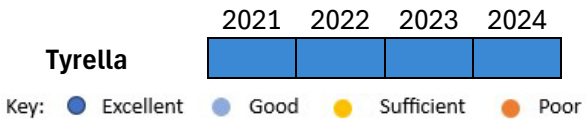
Tyrella – Bathing Water Profile

Tyrella beach, County Down, Northern Ireland



Bathing Water Profiles are designed to help the public make an informed choice before bathing, providing detailed information on the physical characteristics of each bathing water as well as assessing the pollution risk to each site. They are a requirement of The Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 and are reviewed in line with these regulations.

Current bathing water classification for Tyrella can be found at - Bathing Water Classification

There are currently no daily water quality predictions (forecasts) available at Tyrella.

There is general advice not to bathe during or up to 48hrs after heavy or prolonged rainfall.

Description Tyrella bathing water is situated on the north eastern end of Dundrum Bay, is approximately 2km in length and comprised mostly of sand with a rocky shoreline at each end. The beach is backed by a sand dune system and there are two groynes located across the bathing area. Although the immediate catchment area for this bathing water is rural, there are several farms, private houses, and holiday homes in the area. Facilities within the vicinity of the bathing water include public toilets and a car park at a small amenity centre. Two minor rivers enter the bathing water, one at the eastern end and one close to the main access point onto the beach.

The wider area is contained within the Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB) and the Murlough Special Area for Conservation (SAC). Tyrella bathing water and sand dunes are within the Tyrella and Minerstown Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI).

Site Details Local council area – Newry Mourne and Down District Council

Year of designation – 1988

Water sampling location – Lat 54.25212, Long -5.74345

Potential Pollution and measures to reduce impact on site:

The potential sources of pollution have been split into three categories; wastewater (sewage) treatment works discharges, wastewater systems in urban areas and rural source pollution, including agriculture. DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division work with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and other departments to identify and resolve sources of pollution.

Wastewater (sewage) treatment works discharges.

Tyrella bathing water is located in a rural area. There is no municipal wastewater system. Housing within the immediate vicinity of the bathing water is served by private septic tanks. Septic tanks have the potential to cause localised pollution, but there is no evidence to suggest that this is impacting Tyrella bathing water.

All sewerage systems must be appropriately maintained if nuisance and pollution are to be avoided.

Wastewater systems in urban areas.

Tyrella bathing water is located in a rural area. There is no municipal wastewater system.

Rural source pollution – agriculture

Most of the land cover within the catchment area of Tyrella bathing water is improved grassland and arable horticulture. Areas within the catchment where agriculture is the dominant land use may be subject to inputs from chemical fertilisers and organic wastes. Prolonged periods of rainfall can cause surface runoff of these organic wastes, such as animal slurries, contributing to the bacteria content in the water environment.

The two rivers which enter the bathing water flow through this agricultural environment and may influence the water quality.

Other potential sources of pollution.

- Dogs
- Horses
- Litter
- Fly tipping

Management measures:

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017, take an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. River Basin Management Plans (RPMP) are produced which detail all of Northern Ireland's water quality objectives and a programme of measures to achieve these objectives. Within these 'Programme of Measures' in each River Basin Management Plan are a number of measures which relate directly to the protection of bathing waters.

Tyrella bathing water is located in the North Eastern River Basin District. You can find more information about the North Eastern River Basin Management Plan below:

Draft 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plan for Northern Ireland 2021-2027

Within the River Basin Management Plan programme of measures there are several schemes to address sources of pollution:

- Nutrients Action Programme (NAP) 2019-2022
- Knowledge Advisory Service (KAS)
- Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS)
- Soil Nutrient Health Scheme (SNHS)

Macro-algae, phytoplankton, and cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

Tyrella bathing water is not at risk of proliferation of macro-algae, phytoplankton, or cyanobacteria (blue-green algae).

What should I do if I see a pollution incident?

If you see a water pollution incident, you should immediately contact NIEA through the **24 hr** Emergency Water Pollution Hotline:

Phone: 0800 807060

When pollution is reported or found to be affecting the water quality of a bathing water, an immediate investigation is instigated. All possible sources of pollution are checked and the bathing water is monitored until the effects of the incident have passed. During this time, bathing waters may be temporarily closed (by local authority or controlling body) until the water quality has improved and levels of bacteria are within mandatory standards.

Contact details

For general information about bathing waters:

DAERA
Marine and Fisheries Division
17 Antrim Road, Tonagh, Lisburn, BT28 3AL
Email: Marine.InfoRequests@daera-ni.gov.uk
Website: DAERA Bathing Water Quality

Local Authority
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Address: Downpatrick Office, Downshire Civic Centre, Ardglass Road, BT30 6GQ
Newry Office, Monaghan Row, Newry, BT35 8DJ
Email: info@mnandd.org
Phone: 0330 137 4000
Website: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Map 1 Tyrella Bathing Water