

## Brown's Bay – Bathing Water Profile

Brown's Bay beach, County Antrim, Northern Ireland



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*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.*

Historical and Current bathing water compliance classifications for Brown's Bay can be found at – [Bathing Water Compliance](#)

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

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**Description** Brown's Bay bathing water is located on the Islandmagee peninsula, at the most northerly point of Larne Lough. Approximately 0.6km in length, it is comprised mainly of sand with a small sand dune system to the back of the beach, then a small grassy area and a main road. Facilities in the area include public toilets, car parking, and benches. There are several private houses adjacent to the western end of the bathing water. The catchment area for this bathing water consists of improved grassland and arable horticulture. A small river flows out to the sea near the centre of the bathing water.

**Site Details** Local council area – Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Year of designation – 1988

Water sampling location – Lat 54.85332, Long -5.76436

### **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.**

The major wastewater treatment facility for the greater Larne area is located 3km to the west of Brown's Bay bathing water. Wastewater receives tertiary treatment with UV disinfection as the final process. There are also two smaller wastewater treatment works within the vicinity of this bathing water.

#### **Wastewater systems in urban areas.**

Brown's Bay bathing water is in a rural setting, with no towns or villages in the catchment area, although the town and port of Larne are approximately 2km across the mouth of the Lough.

## **Rural source pollution – agriculture**

The catchment area of Brown's Bay bathing water has a significant amount of improved grassland with arable horticulture and grasses. 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.

Septic tanks also have the potential to cause localised pollution, but there is no evidence to suggest that this is impacting Brown's Bay bathing water.

## **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.

Brown's Bay 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)**

Brown's Bay 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.

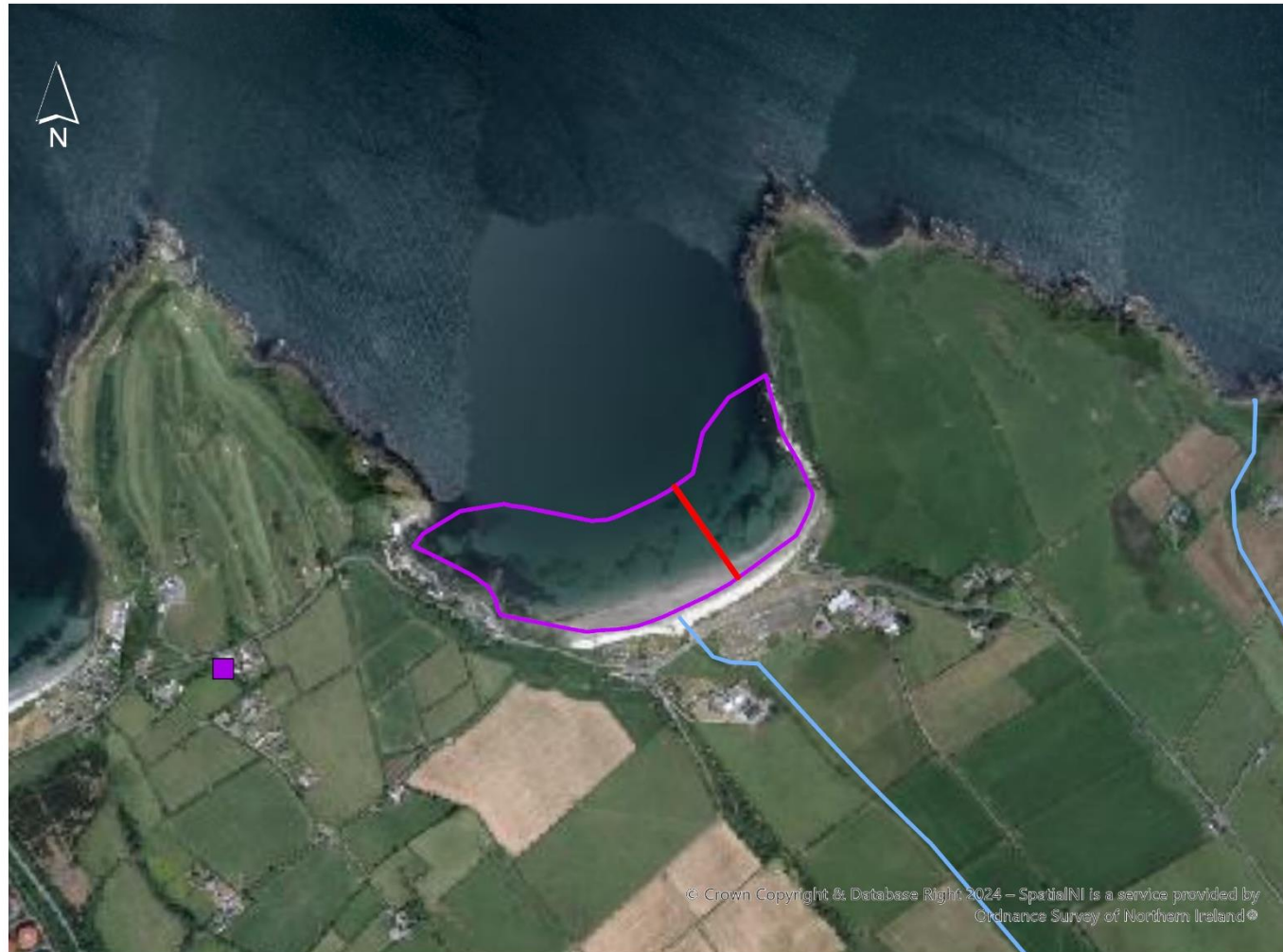
### Contact details

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](mailto:Marine.InfoRequests@daera-ni.gov.uk)  
Website: [DAERA Bathing Water Quality](#)

**Local Authority** Mid and East Antrim Borough Council  
Address: Head Office, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ  
Email: [enquiries@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@midandeastantrim.gov.uk)  
Phone: 0300 124 5000  
Website: [Mid and East Antrim Borough Council](#)

Map 1 Brown's Bay Bathing Water



### Legend

- Wastewater Treatment Works
- Brown's Bay bathing water area
- Bathing Water Sampling Transect
- Rivers

1:18,000

