

## Cranfield Bay – Bathing Water Profile

Cranfield beach, County Down, 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 Cranfield 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** Located at the mouth of Carlingford Lough this bathing water is approximately 1.5km in length and comprised mostly of sand and pebbles. The bathing water is surrounded by a number of caravan parks. A sea wall protects the car park, children’s play area and public toilets. The area is popular for water-based activities and the beach is zoned to accommodate bathers and boat users. This bathing water is located at the foot of the Mourne Mountains, within the Mournes Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Mournes and Slieve Croob Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). Carlingford Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) adjoins the western end of the bathing water and the area immediately to the west of the bathing water is designated a Special Protection Area and RAMSAR site. The immediate catchment for this bathing area is rural.

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

Year of designation – 1988

Water sampling location – Lat 54.02977, Long -6.07223

### **Potential Pollution and measures to reduce impact on bathing water:**

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.**

Inland from the caravan parks and amenity area is a small wastewater treatment works which serves the wider Cranfield area. Screened effluent is discharged at sea some 300m offshore, outside of the bathing water area.

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

The urbanisation associated with the surrounding caravan and holiday parks is a potential source of pollution, especially during and after periods of prolonged or heavy rainfall.

In the event of prolonged/heavy rainfall the wastewater system may become overwhelmed leading to an overflow/discharge of wastewater. **This is why there is general advice not to bathe during or up to 48 hours after prolonged/heavy rainfall.**

The collection and treatment of wastewater has the potential to cause pollution as all combined collection systems are designed to overflow in periods of extreme wet weather or following failure of the system. This prevents overflows into residential properties, Cranfield Bay area has a number of wastewater pumping stations and associated emergency overflows, highlighted on Map 1.

There is also the potential for misconnections between the sewer system and surface drains, which may allow untreated wastewater to enter the water environment. Misconnections are not obvious, but when these become apparent NIEA pursues them as pollution incidents.

### **Rural source pollution – agriculture**

The majority of land cover within the catchment area of Cranfield Bay bathing water is improved grassland, neutral grass, and dense dwarf shrub heathland. 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.

### **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.

Cranfield Bay bathing water is located in the Neagh Bann River Basin District. You can find more information about the Neagh Bann 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)**

Cranfield 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** 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](mailto:info@mnandd.org)  
Phone: 0330 137 4000  
Website: [Newry, Mourne and Down District Council](#)

Map 1 Cranfield Bay Bathing Water



### Legend

- Wastewater Pumping Station
- Wastewater Treatment Works
- Cranfield Bay bathing water area
- Bathing Water Sampling Transect
- Rivers

1:28,000

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Kilometres