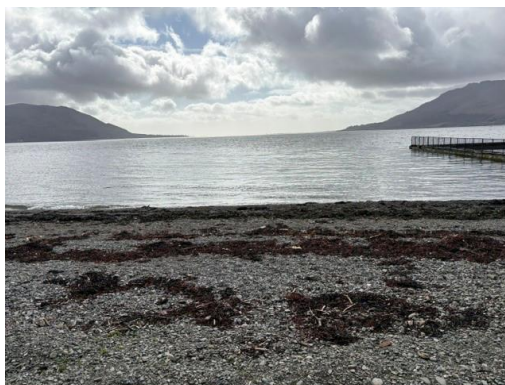


## Warrenpoint – Bathing Water Profile

Warrenpoint, Newry, 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 Warrenpoint 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** Warrenpoint bathing water is approximately 300m in length and comprised mainly of sand, although the eastern end of the beach consists more of pebbles than sand. It is backed by a sea wall and promenade with multiple access points onto the beach and bathing water, including a wheelchair ramp and steps. The immediate catchment for this bathing area is urban, with the town of Warrenpoint being directly behind the bathing water, providing extensive amenity facilities including car parks, public toilets, and a play area for children. The Newry River, which flows out into Carlingford Lough, which is an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), is located west of the bathing water. This river runs primarily through agricultural land but does pass through a number of towns, including Newry, and may indirectly affect the bathing water quality.

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

Year of designation – 2025

Water sampling location – Lat 54.09871, Long -6.24741

### **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.**

Warrenpoint wastewater treatment works is approximately 2km from the bathing water and discharges close by into Carlingford Lough. An £8 million upgrade to the works was completed in 2023 and involved an extensive programme of improvements. There are also several smaller wastewater treatment works serving the Warrenpoint area.

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

Urbanisation associated with the town of Warrenpoint which surrounds the bathing water, is a potential source of pollution, especially during or after periods of prolonged/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. Within the Warrenpoint area there are a number of wastewater pumping stations with 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 land cover within the catchment area of Warrenpoint bathing water is a mixture of grass and rough grazing, improved grassland and arable farmland and areas of woodland. 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 Warrenpoint 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.

Warrenpoint 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 plans 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)**

Warrenpoint bathing water is not at risk of a 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](tel:0800807060)

When a pollution incident is reported or pollution is found to be affecting the water quality of a bathing water, an immediate investigation is instigated. All possible sources of pollution are checked. In addition, a resample will be collected to monitor whether the beach is still polluted. Bathing waters may be 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: Newry Office, Monaghan Row, Newry, BT358DJ  
Downpatrick Office, Downshire Civic Centre, Ardglass Road, BT30 6GQ  
Email: [info@mnandd.org](mailto:info@mnandd.org)  
Phone: 0330 137 4000  
Website: [Home - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council](#)

Map 1 Warrenpoint Bathing Water



### Legend

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

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