

Action Plan: Goodrington (Deterioration)



Location	Torbay, Devon					Bathing water number	24200				
Usage	Popular					Controller	Torbay Council				
Type of Bathing Water	Coastal					Designate in	1988				
Local contact- Water Quality:	Gabrielle Garland					Champion	A&R Devon				
Local contact- comms:	Sophia Ashby					Area Environment Manager	Bruce Newport				
Expected Result in 2024	Sufficient					Area	DCIS				
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Classification and % risk of failure	Sufficient (0%)	Good (0%)	Good (0%)	Good (0%)	Sufficient (0%)	Sufficient (6.2%)	Sufficient (32%)	Un-classified	Good (46%)	Good (0%)	Sufficient (0%)

Bathing Water History & Characteristics

Bathing water profile
[Bathing water profile \(data.gov.uk\)](#)

Sampling Programme
 BW statutory sample: [Goodrington Beach \(24200\)](#)
 Investigational sample: [Goodrington Stream At Beach](#)
 Investigational sample: [Goodrington Stream Car Park](#)

Local context
 The Environment Agency (EA) engage with the Torbay Council and South West Water (SWW) closely and liaise around water quality issues that could affect the bathing water.

What can affect water quality?			
Agriculture %*	Sewage%*	Urban diffuse%*	Other%*
10	30	40	20
*expert judgement based on limited evidence & information			
<p>Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The catchment is mostly urban with little agriculture input. However, in heavy rainfall run-off from further up in the catchment can affect the water quality at the bathing water. <p>Sewage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The closest Sewage Treatment works (STW) is Brokenbury STW which discharges offshore over 10 km from the bathing water. There are several storm overflows that discharge near the bathing water, which may impact the bathing water. Storm overflows may operate during heavy rainfall to protect properties from flooding. A full list alongside real-time monitoring can be found on SWW Waterfit website. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bathing water is also impacted by a variety of pollution sources including diffuse urban pollution, misconnections, and dog faeces. These sources elevate bacteria levels at the bathing water which results in a variable bathing water classification of either good or sufficient in the past several years. 			

What is being done to improve water quality?

Agriculture

- Our investigation has not found any indications of water quality issues that can be directly attributed to agricultural practices. Our investigation included a detailed analysis of water samples from various sources in the area, as well as a review of agricultural activities that may have an impact on water quality. At this time, we can confirm that there are no known issues related to agriculture that are affecting water quality, if the situation changes, we will investigate further.

Sewage

- In 2019 an EA survey using a rapid bacteria detecting machine identified very high bacteria levels in the Goodrington Stream. The source of the bacteria was traced to a manhole discharging and flowing overland to the stream. The manhole had become blocked by tree growth. The EA worked with SWW who resolved the issue.
- In 2020, as part of their Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) SWW carried out a Clennon Valley investigation, Nijhuis (on behalf of SWW) carried out additional sampling and flow monitoring within the catchment. SWW also installed metal cages at locations across the sewerage network to trap any ragging to identify misconnections. None were found.
- In March 2021 SWW completed their Clennon Valley Watercourse Misconnections Project. This did not identify any areas of concern.
- In September 2022 as part of their WINEP SWW concluded its Bathing Water Ambition Investigation at Goodrington. The investigation focused on the current understanding of water quality issues at Goodrington. It also quantifies what changes need to be made to bathing water quality to achieve at least 80% confidence of 'Good' or 'Excellent' compliance. The outcomes suggested that the most beneficial interventions are likely to be catchment management interventions and ongoing vigilance with respect to misconnections. SWW also concluded that Clennon Valley PSCSO is a contributor to bacteria loads at the bathing water. The suggested improvement will be considered in the next WINEP cycle following Ofwat's approval.
- In 2023 the EA completed a Dye Trace Survey of a holiday park in the area after a previous investigation has suggested it as a direct source of pollution. However, it was found there was no connectivity from the park sewer system to the small tributary.
- In 2023 SWW completed survey work in the area to look for area with impermeable drainage if order to identify areas for surface water separation.
- In 2023 SWW reviewed storm overflow spill from asset and found no correlation between storm spill and elevated bathing water samples.

Other

- The 2019 survey also identified other locations of high bacteria that require further investigation. Follow up visits were planned for the 2020 season but were unable to happen due to Covid-19 restrictions. These visits were rescheduled for 2021.
- In 2021 the EA, Torbay Council and SWW began regular meetings to tackle pollution affecting Goodrington bathing water. These meetings led to an action plan being developed with actions assigned to each organisation. These meetings are ongoing.
- During the 2021 season we carried out additional monitoring of the Goodrington Stream alongside the bathing water monitoring. We included Microbial Source Tracking (MST) prep to the sampling giving us the opportunity to analysis for DNA marker if required.
- In 2021 Torbay Council checked the drainage arrangements at the Wildfowl lakes within Youngs Park to determine if they are impacting on water quality. This has been ruled out as a possible source as it drains to the SWW foul line.

- In August 2021 the EA installed water quality sondes in the stream to help assess any impact from a local business on water quality. This identified some areas for improvement which we will work with business owners and farmers on.
- During the 2021 season we carried out a further survey using our RapidBacti machine. We tested the “Oyster Point” water flow from the bank wall onto the Southerly end of the beach, and two flows in the stream at a Holiday Park. While all of these were low in bacteria it did identify some issues which we will be followed up.
- In 2021 Torbay Council we shared information with the EA when travellers set up sites near the watercourse. The EA sampled the area when vacated to measure and assess any impact on water quality.
- In 2022 the local authority monitored the number of dogs and birds on the bathing water to understand their effect on the bathing water classification. In 2023 Torbay Council replaced the bathing water signage to provide further information to the public.
- In 2022 we investigated the potential impact of a business upon the bathing water, and information has been passed onto the local environment officer who will follow up on the findings.
- Before the 2024 bathing season, we met with the local authority and SWW to share update and plan out action for the following year.

Summary of planned future actions

Agriculture

- No planned actions

Sewage

- As part of their own environment programme ‘Waterfit’ SWW is planning on carrying out further work in the area. Clennon Valley storm overflow already has a large storm water tank. To further reduce discharges from storm overflows, SWW are looking at opportunities upstream to stop surface water, such as rainwater and groundwater, entering the network by 2025. This helps reduce the volume of water in the network and therefore helps reduce the operation of storm overflows.
- Through the Price Review 24 we are working with SWW to build their next WINEP, there are several schemes under review and being considered by Ofwat currently that would be beneficial for the bathing water.
- SWW are completing Natural Catchment Management Plans (NCMPs) for 12 pilot catchments in Devon and Cornwall in which Goodrington is a selected catchment. The NCMPs will be based on a comprehensive evidence review and an assessment of potential risks to water quality within each catchment area. The outputs will highlight the water management issues and opportunities within the catchment and form the basis for engaging local stakeholders, partners, landowners and land managers to identify actions and opportunities for local collaboration.
- Torbay Council will be investigating and following up on reports of boats discharging waste into the bay.

Other

- We will continue to liaise with Torbay Council and SWW regularly to share data and information related to water quality at the bathing water.

- Torbay Council will be working with SWISco to gather data and information on reports of dog waste and will investigate adding a QR code to Bathing Water signage to direct public to the 'My SWISco service' App.
- During the 2024 bathing season both the local authority and the Environment Agency will collect detailed monitoring data on dog numbers at the bathing water and assessing these against bathing water data.
- During the 2024 bathing season, we will collect extra freshwater samples at various locations in addition to the standard bathing water sample. The purpose is to identify potential sources of pollution. These additional samples will be prepared for Microbial Source Tracking (MST). If we observe higher than normal levels in any sample, we will consider submitting it for MST DNA analysis, provided that resources are available.
- In 2024 the EA will be conducting a detailed walkover before the bathing season to better understand the drainage of the car park, we aim to understand whether run-off is entering the stream. We will liaise with Torbay Council on the results.
- Torbay Council will be evaluating all future planning applications in the area and consider future risks of pollution and mitigate where possible and ensure this information is shared with other stakeholders.
- Further resources would enable the EA to request full DNA analysis (MST) on elevated sample results recorded in the 2023 bathing season to understand and provide accurate sources of pollution.
- Further resources would enable, our Environment Management teams to complete a full catchment walkover to identify potential pollution pathways such as drainage systems discharging into the watercourse and land management issues such as livestock in /around watercourses.
- Currently, Land and Water teams are only resourced to attend the most serious pollution incidents and the vast majority of "minor impact" incidents go without response/attendance. Attendance can reveal the true impact of incidents as well as prevent repetition. Bathing water quality can be influenced by relatively minor incidents therefore subject to funding, additional resources to aid these incidents could be beneficial to water quality.

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Planned improvement actions (funded)

	Action description	Owner	Expected completion date (month/year)	Cost (£)	Funding source	Expected outcome	Expected impact on classification
Agriculture							
There are no planned agricultural actions in the catchment							
Sewage							
1.	SWW Waterfit Programme (Surface Water Separation)	SWW	12/2025	n/s	Waterfit	Reduce spill frequency of storm overflows	Unknown
2.	Natural Catchment Management Plans	SWW	06/2024	n/a	SWW	assessment of potential risks to water quality	Unknown
3.	Follow up on reports of discharge by private boat users	Torbay Council	10/2024	n/a	Torbay Council	Reduce sources of pollution	Unknown
Other							
3.	Data & knowledge sharing at regular meetings between EA, SWW and Torbay Council	EA/Torbay Council/SWW & others	Ongoing	n/a	EA/Torbay Council/SWW	Improved understanding of pollution sources and improved water quality	Unknown
4.	Dog waste data gathering campaign	Torbay Council/SWISco	10/2024	Unknown	Torbay Council	Informed public & improved water quality	Unknown
5.	Data gathering on Dog usage at the bathing water in 2024 bathing season	EA/ Torbay Council	10/2024	Unknown	EA/Torbay Council	Improved understanding	Unknown
6.	2 FTE Walkover and dye of tanks and Sewer Line in the catchment to understand drainage in the car park and lower Stream	EA	05/2024	n/a	EA Local monitoring commission	Improve understanding of sources of pollution affecting the BW	Unknown
7.	Review future planning application to understand risk to bathing water quality and mitigate where possible	Torbay Council	Ongoing	n/a	Torbay Council	Proactively manage sources of pollution	Unknown

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8.	Additional Freshwater monitoring in the 2024 bathing season at 3 locations with MST prep.	EA (A&R)	10/2024	n/a	EA	Improve sources of pollution	Unknown
9.	MST prep added to the statutory bathing sample	EA	10/2024	n/a	EA Local monitoring Commission	Improve understanding of potential pollution sources	Unknown

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Planned improvement actions (subject to securing funding)

	Action description	Owner	Projected completion date (month/year)	Cost (£)	Potential funding source	Projected outcome	Projected impact on classification
Agriculture							
There are no planned agricultural actions in the catchment.							
Sewage							
1.	WINEP 2025-2030	SWW	2025-2030	Unknown	SWW (WINEP)	Reducing storm overflow spills and reducing sources of pollution	Unknown
Other							
2.	Requesting full MST analysis on four elevated sample results from the 2023 bathing season.	EA/SWW/Torbay Council	Unconfirmed	£85 for each DNA marker per sample (£800 for all markers) <i>Unconfirmed cost based on limited information</i>	Unknown	Improved understanding	Unknown
3.	Requesting full MST analysis on elevated sample results in the 2024 bathing season	EA	Unconfirmed	£85 for each DNA marker per sample (£800 for all markers) <i>Unconfirmed cost based on limited information</i>	Unknown	Improved understanding	Unknown
4.	Catchment walkovers generally focusing on potential pollution pathways such as drainage systems discharging into the watercourse and land	EA	Unconfirmed	n/a	Unknown	Improve understanding of pollution sources	Unknown

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	management issues such as livestock in /around watercourses						
5.	Reactive response to pollution incidents or elevated monitoring results. Currently Land and Water teams are only resourced to attend the most serious pollution incidents and the vast majority of “minor impact” incidents go without response/attendance. Attendance can reveal the true impact of incidents as well as preventing repetition. Bathing water quality can be influenced by relatively minor incidents.	EA	Ongoing for Cat 1 and 2. Unconfirmed for Cat 3.	n/a	Unknown	Reactive response to pollution incidents	Unknown

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Planned engagement

	Engagement description	Owner	Completion date (month year) (if applicable)	Cost (£) (if applicable)	Funding source (if applicable)	Expected outcome
1.	Pollution Risk Forecasting	EA and Torbay Council	Ongoing	n/a	EA and Torbay Council	Informed public and potentially improved compliance
2.	Beachwise Partnerships	EA/LA/SW W/Others	Pre & Post Season	n/a	Beachwise/SWW/EA	Increase knowledge between stakeholders
3.	Public engagement campaign to reduce dog faeces pollution	Torbay Council	Ongoing	n/a	Torbay Council	Informed public & improved water quality
4.	Communication & education to boat users re-emptying of sea toilets in the bay	Torbay Council	Ongoing	n/a	Torbay Council	Informed public & potentially improved water quality

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