

The DEFRA/EA Designation of The Knaresborough Lido Bathing Water Announcement



The Lido

The Lido's bathing water has been confirmed as **POOR**, as is Wetherby, and Ilkley (continuing).

[What are this year's bathing water classifications? – Creating a better place](#)

The National Results

The headline is the high percentages of sites that are good or excellent bathing quality nationally. They do make it clear that while 95% of coastal sites are in this category, **only 53% of inland sites are.**

18 of the 27 new bathing sites nationally are classified as POOR, while they quote that across Yorkshire 60% of sites are Good or are Excellent

They do acknowledge that the latest figures are worse than previously because of the 27 newly designated sites, but then say *'the new sites have not been managed for bathing before, and it takes time to understand and tackle the sources of pollution'*

I am glad that they will be 'managed for bathing purposes', beyond putting up 'do not bathe' signs. but the EA should have been monitoring the safety to humans of the Nidd and other rivers as part of their responsibility 'to protect and enhance the environment' [environment agency aims - Search](#)

[NAG accepts that EA doesn't have sufficient resources and political independence to do that at the moment]

When you look at Swimfo [Bathing water quality](#) I can't see **any** inland Yorkshire sites on the map that have acceptable bathing water classifications

Of the **Yorkshire coastal sites**, Scarborough South and Bridlington South remain **POOR** since 2021

So what now?

YW say that action plans are in place for bathing sites failing 'sufficient' – like The Lido

NAG

- is aware of the YW 2025-2030 business plan, currently awaiting acceptance (final settlement) by OFWAT,
- has yet to be able to meet formally with EA or YW to discuss those plans in detail, and to see in what ways citizen scientists might critique and take part in those plans.
- is a member of a national campaign group <https://www.sewagecampaignnetwork.org.uk/> is critical of the Water Special Measures Bill and has views on the new Independent Water Commission announced recently by DEFRA.
- supports attempts to strengthen regulation systemically, but high-sounding aims don't get the job done without **political conviction** and **resources** to tackle the problems that we know are there in the Nidd.
- will play its part to get real sustained improvement in the Nidd, with local and regional stakeholders.
- intends to critically review the actions taken by major stakeholders over the next few years that affect the Nidd, and 'call out' any slow or ineffective interventions.
- will work with others to improve our knowledge of how, what and where pollution gets into our rivers, and what steps we can all take to improve the rivers and becks.

NAG hopes and expects many local volunteers to be involved again in 2025 so that we have a Cleaner Nidd – Fit for Life

David Clayden

NAG Chair

26 November 2024