



Department of the Environment  
and Climate Change  
HM Government of Gibraltar

# SANDY BAY

## BATHING WATER PROFILE



Sandy Bay is the smallest beach on the Eastside of Gibraltar situated to the South of Catalan Bay and adjacent to the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Special Area of Conservation. The land use surrounding the beach is solely residential and is characterised by a small beach front complex.

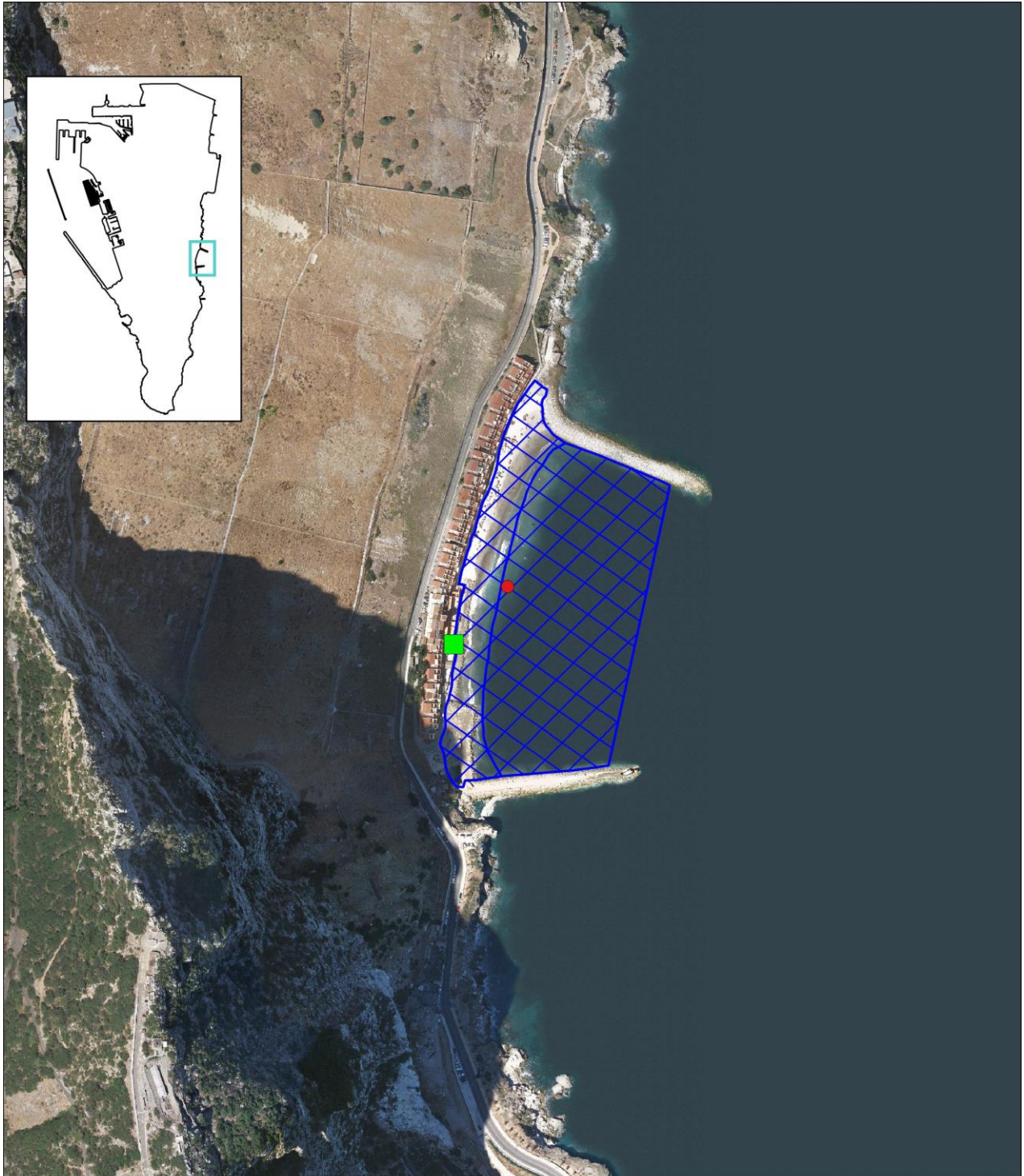
During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 5-10 metres depending on the exact location on the beach. This beach is subject to annual erosion and accretion whose dynamics vary depending on weather conditions. In order to protect the beach complex during severe weather conditions, a rock revetment has been recently placed behind the beach and additional sand is to be pumped on the beach and rock revetment prior to the commencement of the bathing season. For local tide information see: [http://www.gibraltarport.com/tidal\\_gauge.cfm](http://www.gibraltarport.com/tidal_gauge.cfm)

*Table 1. General description of Sandy Bay & monitoring point*

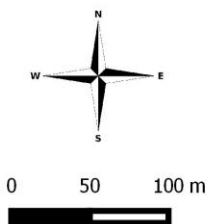
| <b>NAME OF THE PARAMETER</b>                                  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Bathing Water ID</b>                                       | UKGIB30  |
| <b>Bathing Water Name</b>                                     | Sandy Bay  |
| <b>Short Bathing Water Name</b>                               | Sandy Bay  |
| <b>Name of the competent authority</b>                        | Department the Environment & Climate Change  |
| <b>Contact information of the competent authority</b>         | Tel: (00350) 200 48450<br>Email: info.environment@gibraltar.gov.gi                     |
| <b>Bathing water profile last reviewed on</b>                 | 1st August 2016  |
| <b>Next review of Bathing water profile</b>                   | 1st August 2019  |
| <b>Reasons for review</b>                                     | Directive requires bathing water classified as sufficient to be reviewed every 3 years |
| <b>Beach publicly or privately operated</b>                   | Publicly operated  |
| <b>Member state</b>   | United Kingdom   |
| <b>Province, Region, etc.</b>                                 | Gibraltar  |
| <b>Municipality</b>   | Gibraltar  |
| <b>Name of the river, lake, transitional water or coastal</b> | Gibraltar  |
| <b>Location within member state</b>                           | See Figure 1   |
| <b>Pair of coordinates of the monitoring point</b>            | Long: 28 ° 93'24" Lat: 400 ° 10'12"  |
| <b>Frame of reference for the coordinates</b>                 | WGS84  |

The chosen monitoring point at Sandy Bay is illustrated in Figure 1 below. The representative point is located in the middle of the beach although bathers frequent the entirety of the length of the bathing area demarcated. Known sources of pollution could originate from the North and South of the beach making the chosen point the ideal monitoring location.

*Figure 1. Sandy Bay location, extent, bathing water monitoring point & catchment map.*



## Sandy Bay Bathing Water & Catchment



### Legend

- Bathing Water Monitoring Points
- Pumping Station Overflow
- Defined Beach Extent



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*Table 2. Physical and geographical characteristics of Sandy Bay.*

| NAME OF THE PARAMETER   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Description of the beach</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> muddy<br><input type="checkbox"/> marshy<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sandy<br><input type="checkbox"/> rocky  |
| <b>Structure of the riparian Zone</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> natural<br><input type="checkbox"/> semi-natural<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>modified</u><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>other</u> : Coastal shoreline reinforced with rock revetment |
| <b>Length of the beach</b>  | Approx. 265meters   |
| <b>Medium depth of the bathing water</b>  | 2 meters  |
| <b>Maximum depth of the bathing water</b>   | 6 meters  |
| <b>Bathrooms, showers, toilets</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> bathrooms<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>showers (during bathing season)</u><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>toilets (during bathing season)</u>  |
| <b>Waste disposal</b>   | Waste collection and recycling facilities are available at the beach.   |
| <b>Admittance for dogs</b>  | Dogs are not allowed on the beach.  |
| <b>Other activities than bathing</b>  | Fishing (restricted during certain times of the year and with a valid fishing license), snorkelling, surfing (restricted during certain times of the year ) & canoeing.   |
| <b>Maximum daily number of bathers during high season and best weather conditions</b> | 400   |

*Table 3. Name and codes of the river basin district.*

| NAME OF THE PARAMETER               |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>River Basin District ID</b>      | UKGIB17   |
| <b>River Basin District Name</b>    | Gibraltar |
| <b>River Basin District SUID</b>    | n/a       |
| <b>River Basin District SU Name</b> | n/a       |
| <b>Water Body ID</b>                | UKGIB6903 |
| <b>Water Body Name</b>              | Gibraltar |
| <b>National Water Unit ID</b>       | n/a       |
| <b>National Water Unit Name</b>     | n/a       |



### *Historical data*

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In Gibraltar, the bathing season lasts six and a half months from the 15<sup>th</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October although the greatest number of bathers occur during mid-June to mid-September.

Bathing water standards are set in the EC Directive 2006/7/EC. The bathing water monitoring programme is based on weekly samples taken throughout the bathing season. Sandy Bay has consistently met the mandatory values set by the Bathing Water Directives.

Recent and historical results of the bathing water programme at Sandy Bay are available online from the Gibraltar Environmental Agency website at:

[http://www.environmental-agency.gi/environmental\\_monitoring.htm](http://www.environmental-agency.gi/environmental_monitoring.htm)

In addition to the requirements of the revised Bathing Water Directive numerous quality elements are being used to assess the status of coastal waters in the immediate vicinity of Sandy Bay. These quality elements include physical, biological and chemical parameters in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

A comprehensive overview and results of the monitoring carried out to date is available online from the Department of the Environment's website [<https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/water>]. The coastal monitoring programme has been augmented to include the obligations of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC).

### *Identification and assessment of causes of pollution that might affect bathing waters*

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The coastal waters in the vicinity of storm water overflows can see changes in water quality during periods of heavy rainfall especially where these serve as combined sewer overflows. The resultant flows could have an effect on bathing water compliance predominantly due to faecal pollution. The climatic conditions in Gibraltar can be described as Mediterranean/subtropical and therefore periods of heavy rainfall are infrequent during the bathing season in Gibraltar.

The potential relevant pollution source at Sandy Bay is highlighted in Figure 1 and consists of a pumping station overflow. The pumping station has recently been fitted with an overflow tank to prevent any discharge soaking into the beach during intense rainfall events. The principal risk is therefore short-term faecal pollution following a period of intense rainfall during the bathing season. The effects of which would last no longer than 1-2 days after the period of rainfall. This risk has been significantly reduced following the construction of the overflow tank. There are no surface watercourses within close proximity of Sandy Bay.

It is worth pointing out that Sandy Bay is located south of the border with Spain (La Linea) where there exists a number of combined sewer overflows and a sewage treatment discharge within approximately 3km north of Eastern Beach that could cause transboundary impacts. Such short term pollution events would be highlighted by the bathing water monitoring programme.

*Proliferation of cyanobacteria, macro-algae and/or other marine species*

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Macroalgae and phytoplankton are an integral part of the marine ecosystem. Excess populations can nevertheless result in a deterioration of bathing water quality especially in the case of phytoplankton blooms.

Ongoing monitoring suggests that Sandy Bay is not subject to excess macroalgae or phytoplankton. Phytoplankton numbers do increase naturally during the spring and autumn but not in numbers large enough to be considered as a threat to bathing water quality.

There is a possibility of increased numbers of jellyfish in the water particularly during the summer months. This is a naturally occurring phenomenon. Although there are a few stinging species common to the Gibraltar, most are harmless and bathers are not allowed to swim when jellyfish numbers pose a risk to bathers.

**About this document:**

This document was produced in August 2016. Any feedback or comments on the profile should be sent to [info.environment@gibraltar.gov.gi](mailto:info.environment@gibraltar.gov.gi)