

Sandgate Granville Parade: Report on First Year of Bathing Water Testing (2026)

Sandgate Granville Parade was designated as a Bathing Water by DEFRA on 15 May 2026, following an application made by Sandgate Parish Council in late 2025. Consequently, water samples were taken by the Environment Agency twenty times between 15 May and 30 September 2026 (the official bathing season) with the results published on [Bathing water profile](#).

The site notes that within the vicinity of the bathing water there is:

- *a river or stream intersection* - a culverted water course outfall pipe 120 metres east of the bathing water sampling point, which inputs surface water from the Sandgate catchment;
- *a surface water outfall* – which means that “reduced water quality may persist in the area adjacent to the outfall for some time after rainfall has occurred”; and
- *an emergency or storm overflow* – the Sandgate pumping station storm overflow, “Discharges occur when heavy rainfall overwhelms the sewerage system but are designed not to affect bathing water compliance”.

Nearby Bathing Waters - the closest designated bathing waters to Sandgate are:

- *Seabrook* (Battery Point) to the west - designated in 1988 with the most recent classification of Excellent, based on samples taken from 2022 through to 2025.
- *Folkestone* (Sunny Sands) to the east - also designated in 1988 with the most recent classification of Sufficient, based on samples taken from 2022 through to 2025.

Testing and Classification - the water is tested for bacterial concentrations of Intestinal Enterococci (colonies per 100ml) and Escherichia coli (colonies per 100ml). Escherichia coli (E.coli) are a group of organisms found in the intestines of animals and humans which survive for a while in the environment when excreted. Intestinal Enterococci (IE) are found in the intestines of animals and humans although some types are environmental in origin. The presence of the bacteria indicates that human or animal faeces may be present in bathing water alongside other potentially harmful organisms that could cause illness. There are four classifications for the bathing water:

- *Excellent* – the highest, cleanest water quality
- *Good* – generally good water quality
- *Sufficient* – the water meets the minimum standard
- *Poor* – the water has not met the minimum standard. Work to improve quality at Poor sites are detailed in the site’s profile.

Coastal Bathing Waters Classification	IE	EC	Percentile
	cfu/100ml		
Excellent	≤100	≤250	95th
Good	≤200	≤500	95th
Sufficient	≤185	≤500	90th
Poor	Sufficient standard not met		

The Environment Agency states that there are circumstances when a few samples are excluded from classification, either because these are highly unusual or because other measures - such as signage from local authorities - have advised bathers not to swim at the time these were taken.

The Testing at Granville Parade

The results of the twenty tests at Granville Parade are shown in the table below. The water quality was excellent for 17 of the tests, good for 2 tests and for one test the quality was poor (with very poor results). It is interesting to note that when the water at Granville Parade was poor, Seabrook and Sunny Sands both showed excellent results, showing the very local nature of the water quality.

Test	Day	Date	Month	Time	IE	EC
1	Tuesday	19	May	1004	4,800	3,100
2	Thursday	21	May	1130	<10	64
3	Friday	29	May	1058	<10	<10
4	Tuesday	2	June	1122	<10	18
5	Sunday	14	June	1525	<10	<10
6	Thursday	18	June	1003	<10	<10
7	Friday	26	June	1010	<10	<10
8	Tuesday	30	June	1208	<10	18
9	Friday	3	July	1040	<10	<10
10	Monday	13	July	1216	<10	<10
11	Friday	17	July	1020	36	<10
12	Monday	27	July	1340	<10	<10
13	Wednesday	29	July	1005	<10	18
14	Monday	10	August	1240	<10	<10
15	Thursday	13	August	1115	<10	<10
16	Monday	24	August	1310	<10	18
17	Thursday	27	August	1016	36	27
18	Tuesday	8	September	1303	110	82
19	Thursday	10	September	1016	73	18
20	Wednesday	23	September	917	120	140

Conclusion

This is the first year of testing for Granville Parade. The annual classification for a bathing water is determined by readings taken over the last four bathing seasons. The testing to date shows that most of the time the water quality at Sandgate Granville Parade is excellent, but that water quality can be adversely affected after periods of heavy rain or stormy conditions. The testing in 2026 took place during the hottest summer on record for the UK, with rainfall well below the summer average.

Susan Claris, Chair of Environment Committee, Sandgate Parish Council, 12 October 2026