

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Briesener See is a lake situated around 8km east of Lübben in the western extension of the Lieberose Plateau.

The elongated oval, trough-shaped basin of Briesener See has a surface area of 56ha. Due to the fall in the level of the lake it has lost around a quarter of its original surface area. The vegetation-free sandy areas around the lake and the grassy areas, primarily on the eastern shore, mark the original extent of the water surface area. With an average depth of just 1.7m, Briesener See is very flat. The deepest part (3.8m) is located in the northern half of the lake. The lake is mainly well mixed. Temperature layering only occurs temporarily.

A drainage channel, which runs through the “Briesener Luch” Nature Protection Area just 200m to the east, flows into the lake. This channel appears not to carry water for most of the time. The catchment area of Briesener See is very small at just 1.9km². It is almost entirely forested (80%).

With its white sandy beaches, Briesener See is a popular recreation area. At the southern part of the eastern shore there is a camping site. At the southern tip there is a bungalow estate.

By Brandenburg standards, Briesener See, which is monitored by the State Office for Environment as part of a long-term environmental programme, has very soft water, which is low in lime and with a low buffering capacity. The nutrients content is low and the water is clear. In 2003 the water still tended to be cloudy and brownish, probably because the lake received water containing humic material from the nearby “Briesener Luch” Nature Protection Area, but possibly also from the mineralised reed peat from the dried-up reed beds around the shore. In 2008 this colouring was no longer observed.

The reed bed at Briesener See is only poorly developed, despite the flat shore area. The reduction in the level of the lake, together with the intensive use for recreation, can be seen as the causes for this. Briesener See is conspicuously lacking in underwater plants, despite its comparatively high level of water transparency. This may be related to the low level of water hardness.

The “Briesensee” bathing area, which is tested every four weeks by the local office for health as per the Brandenburg Bathing Water Regulations, there were no exceedances of single values of the microbiological parameters e.coli and intestinal enterococci. Blooms of blue-green algae have not been observed.

Text: Kerstin Wöbbcke, enviteam office

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