

Bathing Water Profile for Arbroath (West Links)

Arbroath, Scotland

Current water classification <https://www2.sepa.org.uk/BathingWaters/Classifications.aspx>

Description

The Arbroath (West Links) bathing water is a 1.3 km sandy bay situated to the south west of the town of Arbroath in Angus. The beach is popular due to the provision of a coastal footpath and close proximity of a recreational area.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 20–200 metres. The sandy beach slopes gently towards the water. For local tide information see:

<http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/index.aspx>



Site details

Local authority	Angus Council
Year of designation	1987
Water sampling location	NO 6351 3998

Catchment description

The catchment draining into Arbroath (West Links) bathing water extends to 44 km². It varies in topography from low-lying areas along the coast to low hills in the west. The catchment is predominantly rural (96%) with arable agriculture the major land use. There is also some beef and sheep farming in the area. Approximately 4% of the bathing water catchment is urban; the main urban area being the town of Arbroath. There are also a number of other small settlements within the catchment.

The main rivers within the bathing water catchment are the Elliot Water, the Geordies Burn and Brothock Water.

The Elliot Links Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated for its sand dunes, is located within the bathing water catchment. The Strathmore/Fife area was designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone in 2002.

Risks to water quality

The principal risks and source of wet weather driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from combined sewer overflows.

There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

Our regulatory and scientific assessment indicates that potential sources of short-term faecal indicator pollution at this bathing water can originate from human or animal sources

Map 1: Arbroath (West Links) bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Arbroath (West Links) bathing water



Improving bathing water quality

Improving pollution from sewage and other discharges

Scottish Water provides most waste water collection and treatment services in Scotland.

Sewage is pumped to Hatton sewage treatment works. Inchcape pumping station provides storage for storm sewage storage. There are combined sewage overflows and/or emergency overflows at four other smaller pumping stations in the area.

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

Marine waters are not at risk of cyanobacteria overproduction.

Algae

Current information suggests that this bathing water is not at risk of excessive growth of macroalgae (seaweed) or phytoplankton.

Jellyfish

There is a possibility of increased numbers of jellyfish in the water during summer months. This is a naturally occurring phenomenon. Most species common to the UK are harmless. The Marine Conservation Society advises to 'look but don't touch'.

Responding to pollution incidents

Please use our 24 hour hotline (0800 80 70 60) to report pollution. SEPA will investigate the incident and contact other relevant organisations. That may include Scottish Ministers, Scottish Water, the local authority and the relevant health board. Where necessary, measures will be put in place to resolve the problem.

If beach users or bathers are considered to be at risk, the local authority will warn the public by erecting signs at the bathing water. Information will also be available on our website.

SEPA will investigate whenever our sampling identifies pollution.

Beach users are encouraged to use the bins provided or to take litter home. Beach cleaning and litter clean-up is maintained by Angus Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Arbroath office 62 High Street Arbroath DD11 1AW 01241 874370 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>Angus Council Angus House Orchardbank Business Park Forfar DD8 1AP 08452 777 778 accessline@angus.gov.uk www.angus.gov.uk</p>	<p>Keep Scotland Beautiful 01786 471333 beach@ksbscotland.org.uk www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org</p>
<p>Scottish Government Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ 0131 244 0396 eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters</p>		

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1.0	Nov 2010	
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