

## Bathing Water Profile for Broad Sands

North Berwick, Scotland

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

### Description

The Broad Sands bathing water is located close to the town of North Berwick in East Lothian. The sandy bay, which is approximately 1.6 km long, is adjacent to Yellow Craig bathing water.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 70–300 metres. The sandy beach slopes gently towards the water. For local tide information see: <http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/index.aspx>



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### Site details

Local authority	East Lothian Council
Year of designation	2008
Water sampling location	NT 52440 85870

### Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Broad Sands bathing water extends to 7 km<sup>2</sup>. The area is predominantly rural (96%) with agriculture the major land use. Approximately 2.5% of the bathing water catchment is urban. The main urban areas are the western outskirts of North Berwick. In addition, there are several small villages and farms. There are no major watercourses within the bathing water catchment.

The bathing water is located within the Firth of Forth Site of Special Scientific Interest which is noted for its importance for over-wintering birds. The large number of birds in the area may have the potential to influence water quality at the bathing water.

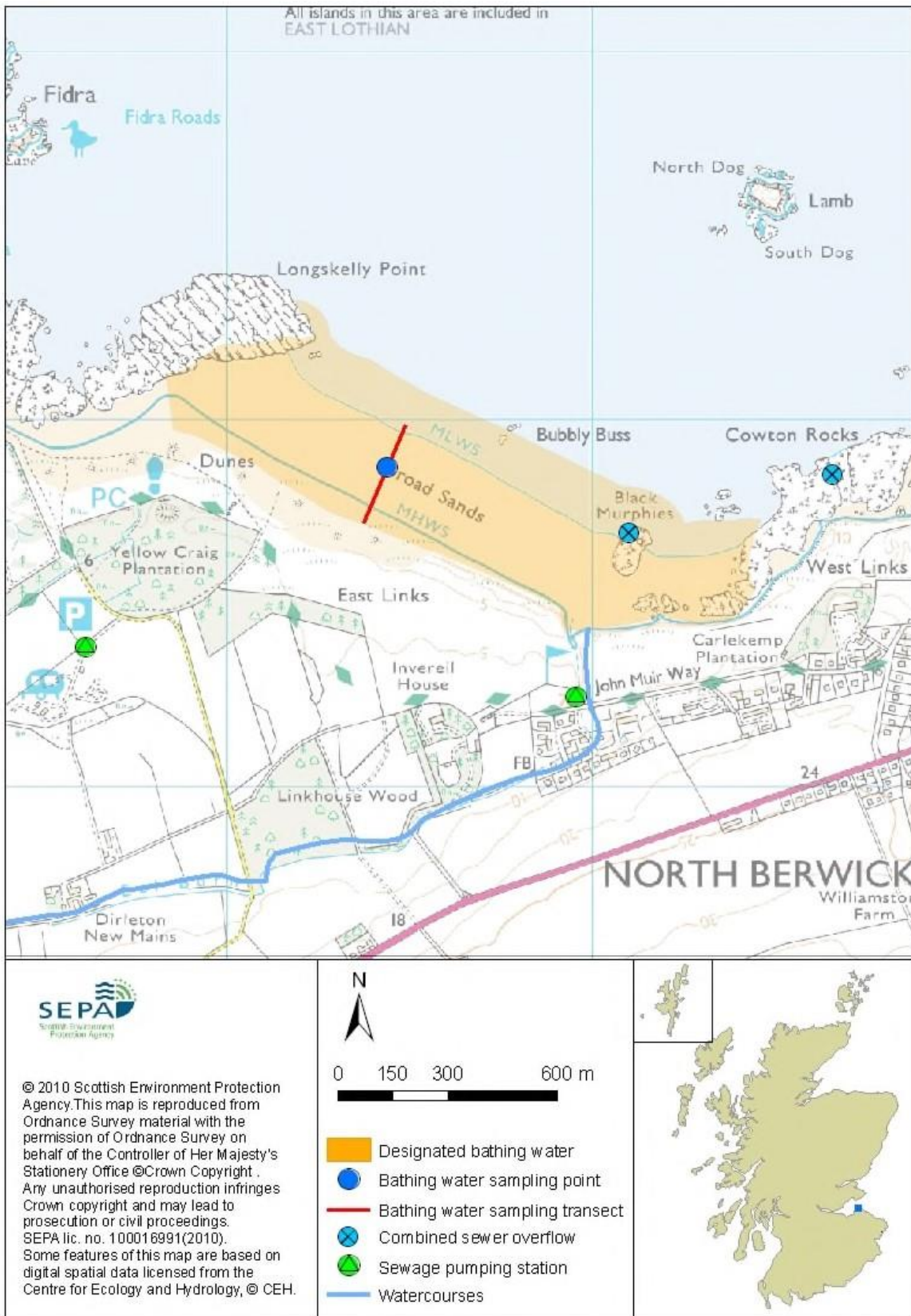
### Risks to water quality

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 there are no significant pollution inputs to this bathing water under normal situations.

Map 1: Broad Sands bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Broad Sands 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 diverted from Dirleton to the sewage treatment works and long sea outfall to the east of North Berwick.

### **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 East Lothian Council for this bathing water.

**Contact details and information sources**

<p><b>SEPA Edinburgh office</b> 231 Corstorphine Rd Edinburgh EH12 7AT 0131 449 7296 <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk">www.sepa.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>East Lothian Council</b> John Muir House Brewery Park Haddington EH41 3HA <b>01620 827 827</b></p>	<p><b>Keep Scotland Beautiful</b> 01786 471333 <a href="mailto:beach@ksbscotland.org.uk">beach@ksbscotland.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org">www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org</a></p>
<p><b>Scottish Government</b> Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ 0131 244 0396 <a href="mailto:eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk">eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters">www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters</a></p>		

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1.0	Nov 2010	
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1.2	June 2015	
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