

Bathing Water Profile for Cruden Bay

Cruden Bay, Scotland

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

Today's water quality forecast <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/Predictions.aspx>

Description Cruden Bay bathing water is situated on the east coast of Aberdeenshire. It is a long sandy bay, about 2.5 kilometres long, backed by sand dunes. The beach is popular with tourists, water sport enthusiasts and for sea fishing.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 0–200 metres. The sandy beach slopes gently towards the water.



For local tide information see:

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

Site details	Local authority	Aberdeenshire Council
	Year of designation	2019
	Water sampling location	NK 08760 35464

Catchment description

A catchment area of 61 km² drains into Cruden Bay bathing water. Its topography varies from gently rolling hills in the west to low-lying plains along the coast. The main rivers in the bathing water catchment are the Water of Cruden and the Laeca Burn. Slains Burn flows into the sea just to the north of Cruden Bay bathing water.

Agriculture is the major land use in the catchment. Most of the agricultural land supports mixed farming. The remaining land use is urban with Cruden Bay village as the main population centre.

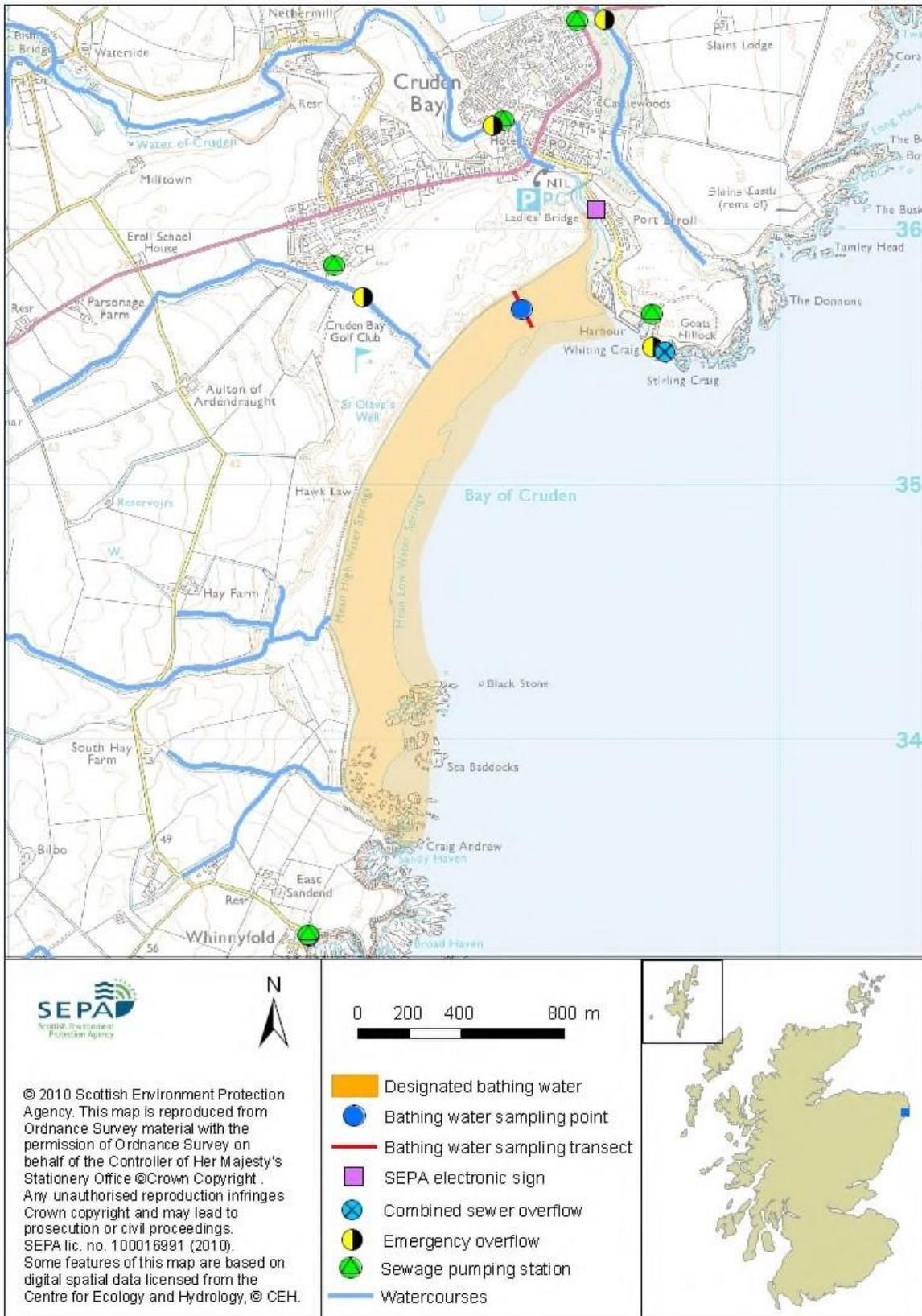
Risks to water quality

This bathing water is subject to short term pollution when heavy rainfall washes bacteria into the sea. Pollution risks include agricultural run-off and combined sewer overflows. These are highlighted on Map 1. Gulls congregating at the mouth of the Water of Cruden can also affect the water quality.

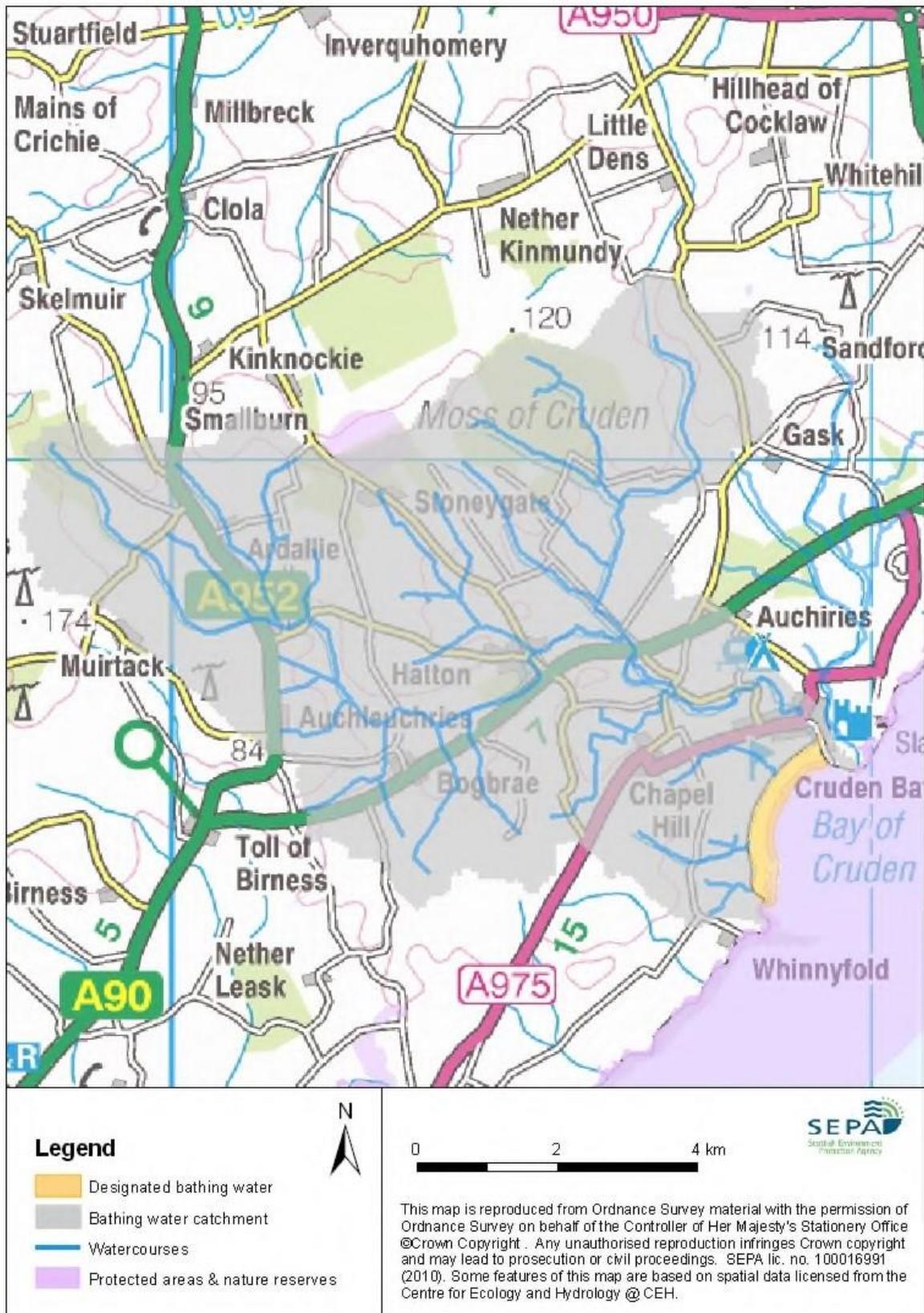
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

DNA tracing indicates that human sources and animal sources are contributing to faecal pollution of the bathing water.

Map 1: Cruden Bay bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Cruden Bay bathing water



Daily water quality forecasts

Water quality is forecast on a daily basis during the bathing season (1 June to 15 September). Forecasts indicate that water quality is either acceptable or poor. Warnings against bathing are advised when poor water quality is forecast. This is because there is an increased risk to bathers' health from water pollution.

Forecasts are communicated via an electronic message sign at the beach, SEPA's website, mobile website and Beachline (03000 996699).

Improving bathing water quality

Improving diffuse pollution from agricultural sources

Diffuse pollution from agricultural sources is the result of rain driven events causing cumulative inputs of pollutants to rivers and streams.

There is potential for agricultural diffuse pollution to occur in the in the Water of Cruden, Laeca Burn and Slains Burn. This is a risk to Cruden Bay's bathing water quality, particularly during wet weather periods.

Farm visits were undertaken in the Buchan Coastal catchment during 2015. These visits looked to identify diffuse pollution sources and pathways. Mitigation measures were agreed with land managers to reduce the risk of bacterial pollution on water quality.

SEPA has observed significant changes in land management practice within the catchments. SEPA will continue to work with the farmers in these catchments to reduce the risk of pollution to the bathing water.

Improving pollution from sewage and other discharges

Scottish Water provides most waste water collection and treatment services in Scotland. Improvements to the sewerage system have led to a significant reduction in faecal pollutants at Cruden Bay.

Since 2003, sewage from Cruden Bay village is pumped to Peterhead sewage treatment works. A short sea sewage outfall to the bay was removed at the same time. Investment at Hatton sewage treatment works in 2009 has reduced bacterial loading to the Water of Cruden. Several septic tank discharges to the Water of Cruden were removed and replaced by a soakaway in 2006.

A Scottish Water study indicated that no further improvement to their sewerage assets is required in relation to Cruden Bay water quality.

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 SEPA’s website.

SEPA will investigate whenever our sampling identifies pollution. Further sampling of the bathing water and related rivers and streams is undertaken.

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

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Fraserburgh office Shaw House Mid Street Fraserburgh AB43 9JN 01346 510502 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Council Woodhill House Westburn Road Aberdeen Aberdeenshire AB16 5GB 08456 081207 www.aberdeenshire.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>		

Version number:	Date:	Next review due:
1.1	April 2013	
1.2	May 2014	
1.3	April 2015	
1.4	May 2016	
1.5	May 2017	
1.6	June 2018	
1.7	March 2019	
1.8	April 2020	
1.9	May 2023	