

Bathing Water Profile for Ganavan Bay

Ganavan, Scotland

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

Description

Ganavan Bay bathing water is located to the north of Oban. It is approximately 300 metres in length. The designated area consists of two sandy beaches, separated by a jetty. The beaches provide excellent views of the Isle of Mull, Isle of Lismore and the surrounding area.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 20–150 metres.

For local tide information see:

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



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Site details

Local authority	Argyll and Bute
Year of designation	1999
Water sampling location	NM 86200 32813

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Ganavan Bay bathing water extends to just over 1 km². It is a fairly low-lying catchment comprising of small hills. Cnoc Carnach, in the south of the catchment, is the highest point at approximately 130 metres. There are no major rivers within the bathing water catchment. However there are small streams discharging to the sea at the northern end and midpoint of the bathing water.

The area is predominantly rural (97%) with grassland the major land use. The upland areas support some sheep farming. The remaining 3% of the area is made up of rock and sediment. Population density within the catchment is generally low. South of the bathing water is an area of private housing. Oban town lies to the south of Ganavan Bay.

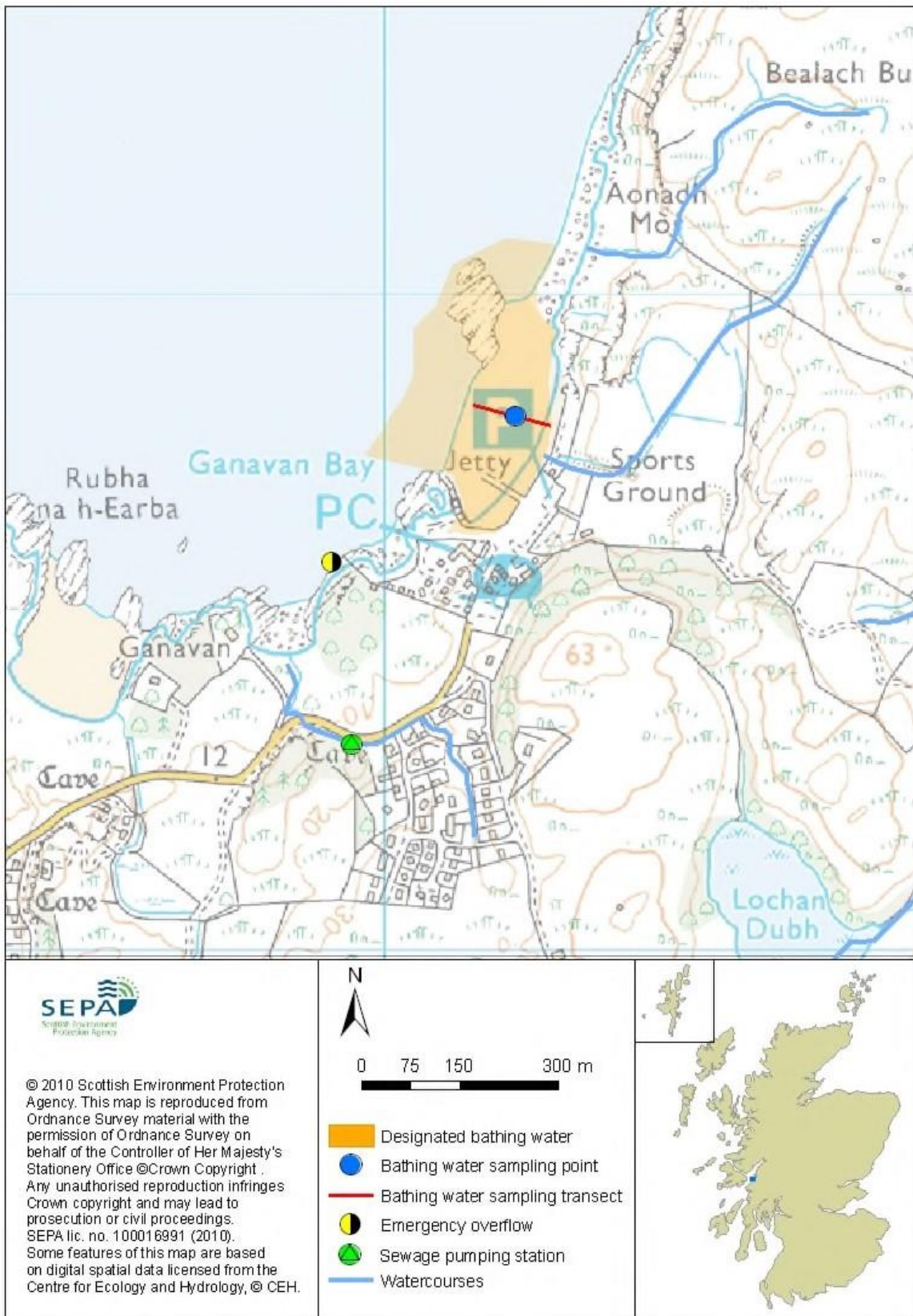
Risks to water quality

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: Ganavan Bay bathing water



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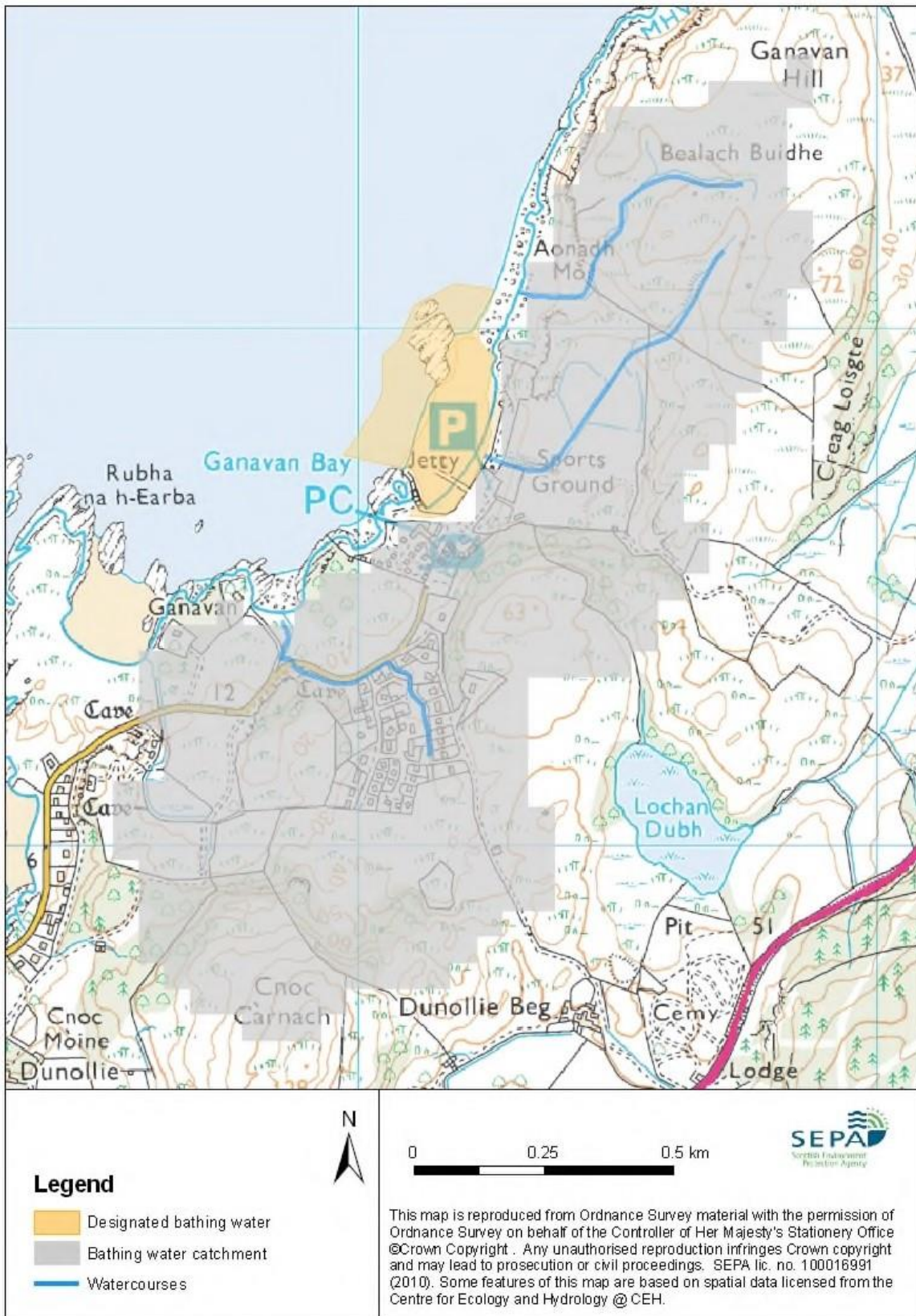
0 75 150 300 m



- Designated bathing water
- Bathing water sampling point
- Bathing water sampling transect
- Emergency overflow
- Sewage pumping station
- Watercourses



Map 2: Catchment draining into Ganavan Bay bathing water



Improving bathing water quality

Improving diffuse pollution from agricultural sources

The Ganavan catchment is part of the Firth of Lorn Coastal catchment. Work in this catchment is due to be completed by 2021.

Improving pollution from sewage and other discharges

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

Sewage is pumped from Ganavan village to Oban sewage treatment works.

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 Argyll and Bute Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Lochgilphead office</p> <p>Kilbrandon House Manse Brae Lochgilphead Argyll PA31 8QX 01546 602876 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>Argyll and Bute Council</p> <p>Kilmory Lochgilphead Argyll PA31 8RT 01546 602127 enquiries@argyll-bute.gov.uk www.argyll-bute.gov.uk</p>	<p>Keep Scotland Beautiful</p> <p>01786 471333 beach@ksbscotland.org.uk www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org</p>
<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>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	Oct 2010	
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1.3	April 2020	
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