

Bathing Water Profile for Kinghorn (Harbour Beach)

Kinghorn, 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

The Kinghorn (Harbour Beach) bathing water is situated adjacent to the town of Kinghorn. The beach is a mixture of sand and rock pools and cliffs. It is about 500 metres long.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 0m to 210m. The beach slopes gently towards the water. For local tide information see:

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



Site details

Local authority	Fife Council	Year of designation	2008
Water sampling Location	NT 27125 86697		

Catchment description

A catchment area of 2 km² drains into Kinghorn (Harbour Beach) bathing water. Kinghorn Burn and Lady Burn are the main watercourses within the bathing water catchment.

The area is predominantly rural with grassland the major land use. Urban land used is concentrated around Kinghorn town.

Average summer rainfall for the region is 296 mm compared to 331 mm across Scotland as a whole.

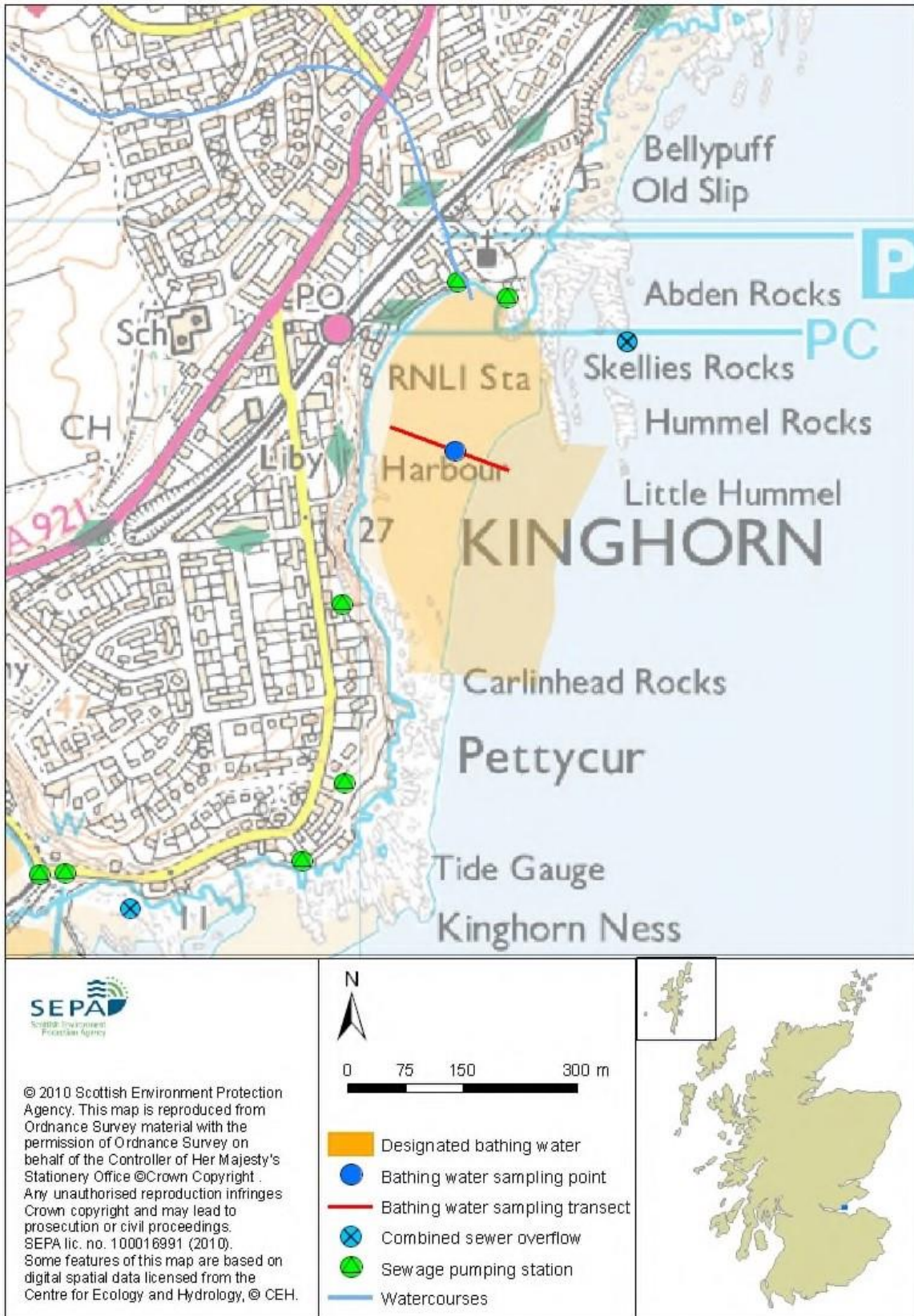
Risks to water quality

This bathing water is subject to short term pollution when heavy rainfall results in high bacterial concentrations. Pollution risks include combined sewer overflows and treated sewage effluent. These are highlighted on Map 1.

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 other animal sources are contributing to faecal pollution of the bathing water.

Map 1: Kinghorn (Harbour Beach) bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Kinghorn (Harbour Beach) bathing water



Daily water quality forecasts

Water quality is forecast on a daily basis during the bathing water season (1 June to 15 September). The 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 pollution from sewage and other discharges

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

Bleaching Hill combined sewage overflow (CSO), which discharges to the Lady Burn, a tributary of the main Kinghorn Burn, was indicated by Scottish Water studies as a key pollution source. This was closed off in September 2018 in order to prevent spilling and ensure there were no discharges. Scottish Water spent around £700,000 to complete these engineering works well in time for the start of the 2019 bathing season.

Sampling in the Lady Burn up to 2020 indicated continued high counts of bacteria from human sources. Scottish Water continue to support investigations into the source of these high counts.

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 SEPA's 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. 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 Fife Council for this bathing water.

Keep Scotland Beautiful’s “My Beach Your Beach” campaign to help keep beaches and bathing waters clean for all to enjoy is underway at this location.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Glenrothes office Pentland Court The Saltire Centre Glenrothes KY6 2DA 01592 776910 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>Fife Council Fife House North Street Glenrothes KY7 5LT 08451 55 00 00 fife.council@fife.gov.uk www.fife.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:
1.0	Nov 2010	
1.1	March 2014	
1.2	May 2015	
1.3	May 2017	
1.4	June 2018	
1.5	March 2019	
1.6	April 2020	
1.7	April 2022	
1.8	May 2023	