

Bathing Water Profile for Longniddry

Longniddry, Scotland

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

Description

The Longniddry bathing water is situated on the edge of the town of Longniddry in East Lothian. The designated area is approximately 1 km long and includes areas of sand and rocks. The western edge of the bathing water joins a second designated bathing water, Seton Sands. The beach is prized by windsurfers.



During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 20–330 metres.

Site details

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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Local authority | East Lothian Council |
| Year of designation | 2006 |
| Water sampling location | NT 43619 77170 |

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Longniddry bathing water extends to 11.5 km². The area is predominantly rural (90%) with agriculture the major land use. Approximately 9% of the bathing water catchment is urban and the main population centre is the town of Longniddry. Population density outside of the town is generally low.

There are no main rivers in the bathing water catchment but there are several small burns that flow into the bathing water itself. Gosford Burn enters the sea approximately 1.8 km to the north.

The Firth of Forth is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Ramsar site and contains Special Protection Areas (SPA). The Lothian and Borders catchment area is designated as a surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

Risks to water quality

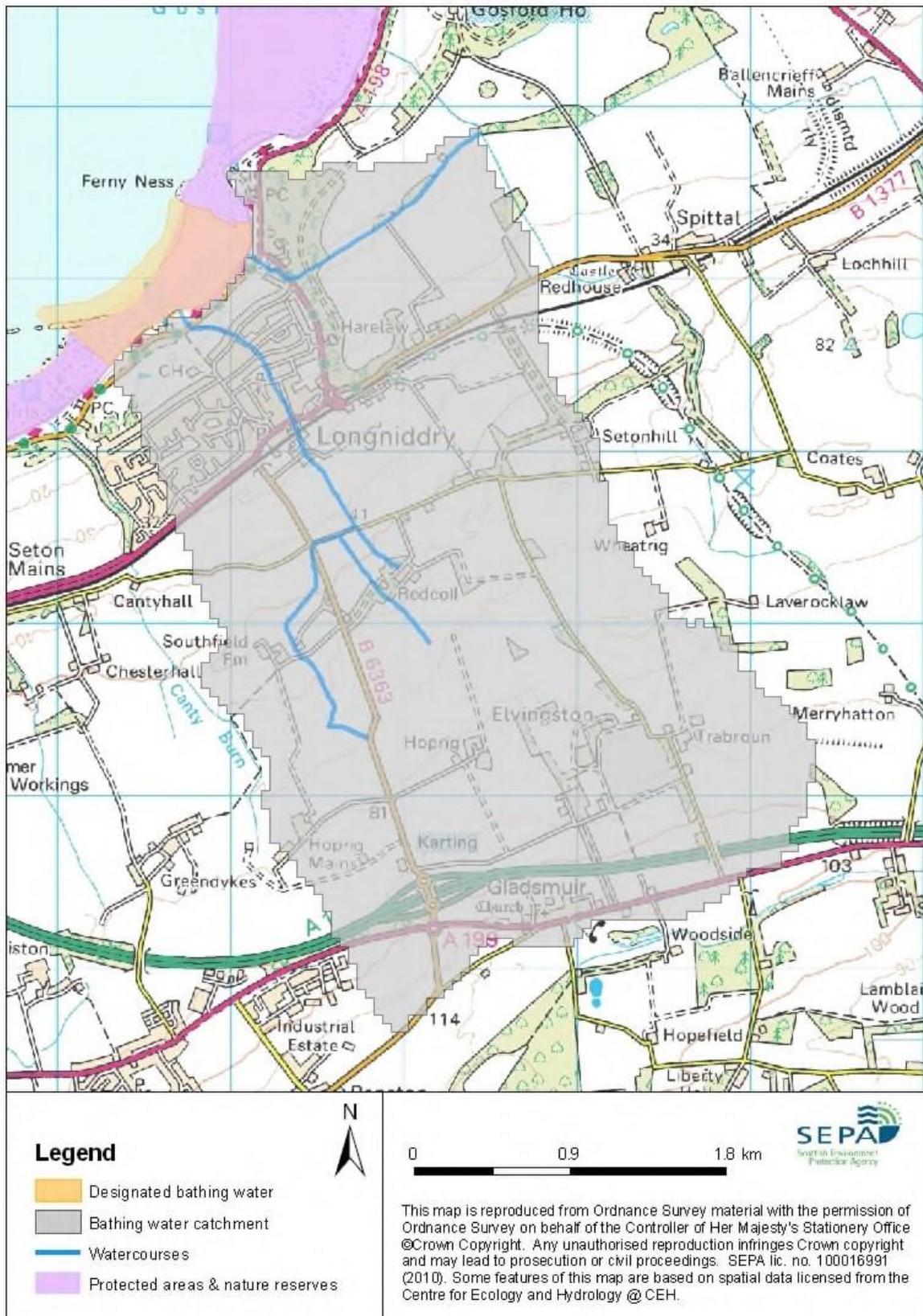
The principal risks and source of wet weather driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from combined sewer overflows.

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.**

Map 1: Longniddry bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Longniddry 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 from Longniddry is conveyed to Edinburgh sewage treatment works via a rising main. Longniddry sewage treatment works is now a transfer pumping station.

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

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| <p>SEPA Edinburgh office 231 Corstorphine Rd Edinburgh EH12 7AT 0131 449 7296 www.sepa.org.uk</p> | <p>East Lothian Council John Muir House Haddington East Lothian EH41 3HA 01620 827827 customerservices@eastlothian.gov.uk www.eastlothian.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 egcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters</p> | | |

| Version number: | Date: | Next review due: |
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