

## Bathing Water Profile for Lunderston Bay

Inverkip, Scotland

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

### Description

Lunderston Bay bathing water is a small shallow bay on the Firth of Clyde, looking towards Dunoon. It is close to the town of Gourock and sits within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

The small sandy beach is a popular recreation and picnic area. It benefits from free parking, a ranger service, environmental education events and various seaside activities.

National Cycle Route 75 extends from Lunderston Bay northwards along the coast to Gourock and beyond. A coastal walk goes south to Inverkip (2km).

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 20–140 metres.



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<b>Site details</b>	Local authority	Inverclyde Council
	Year of designation	2008
	Water sampling location	NS 20400 74514

### Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Lunderston Bay bathing water extends to 1.3 km<sup>2</sup>. The area is fairly hilly and gently slopes towards the bathing water. Elevation ranges from 150 metres in the east to 5 metres along the coast.

The area is predominantly rural (98%) with grassland (38%), woodland (32%) and shrub heath (27%) being the major land uses. The upland areas support mixed sheep and beef farming whilst the lowlands are mainly used for recreation. Approximately 2% of the bathing water catchment is urban. Population density within the catchment is generally low.

There are no significant rivers within this catchment, however, there are a few small burns flowing through the catchment.

The nearby Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park is within a greenbelt area and covers 108 square miles of countryside in the west of Scotland.

### **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 and treated sewage effluent.

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 potential sources of short-term faecal indicator pollution at this bathing water can originate from human or animal sources.

Map 1: Lunderston Bay bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Lunderston Bay 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.

The catchment contains a waste water treatment works, several pumping stations and combined and emergency sewer overflows which discharge at various points along the Firth of Clyde.

**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 Inverclyde Council for this bathing water.

**Contact details and information sources**

<p><b>SEPA Angus Smith Building</b>          6 Parklands Avenue          Maxim Park          Holytown          North Lanarkshire          ML1 4WQ          Tel: 01698 839000  <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk">www.sepa.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Inverclyde Council</b>          Municipal Buildings          Greenock          PA15 1LY          01475 717171 01475 712181  <a href="http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk">www.inverclyde.gov.uk</a></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>
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[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters)

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1.0	Nov 2010	
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