

## Bathing Water Profile for Monifieth

Monifieth, 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

Monifieth bathing water is a long, sandy beach situated on the north shore of the Firth of Tay. At low tide areas of rock and mud are exposed near the waterline. Monifieth is immediately adjacent to Monifieth town and is only 5km from Dundee.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 0-450m. The sandy beach slopes gently towards the water.



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### Site details

Local authority	Angus Council
Year of designation	2011
Water sampling location	NO 50000 32000

### Catchment description

The catchment draining into Monifieth bathing water extends to 7.1km<sup>2</sup>. The catchment is fairly low-lying with a maximum elevation of 110m at Laws Hill at the northern end of the bathing water catchment. The lower half of the catchment is predominantly urban in nature as it includes the town of Monifieth.

The only river within the bathing water catchment is the Monifieth Burn. Out with the catchment is the Dighty Water which enters the coastline 500m west of the bathing water. The Buddon Burn enters the sea just 700m to the east.

The main population centres are Monifieth and Broughty Ferry which are small towns situated along the coast, and Dundee which is 5km to the West. Population density outside of the towns is generally low.

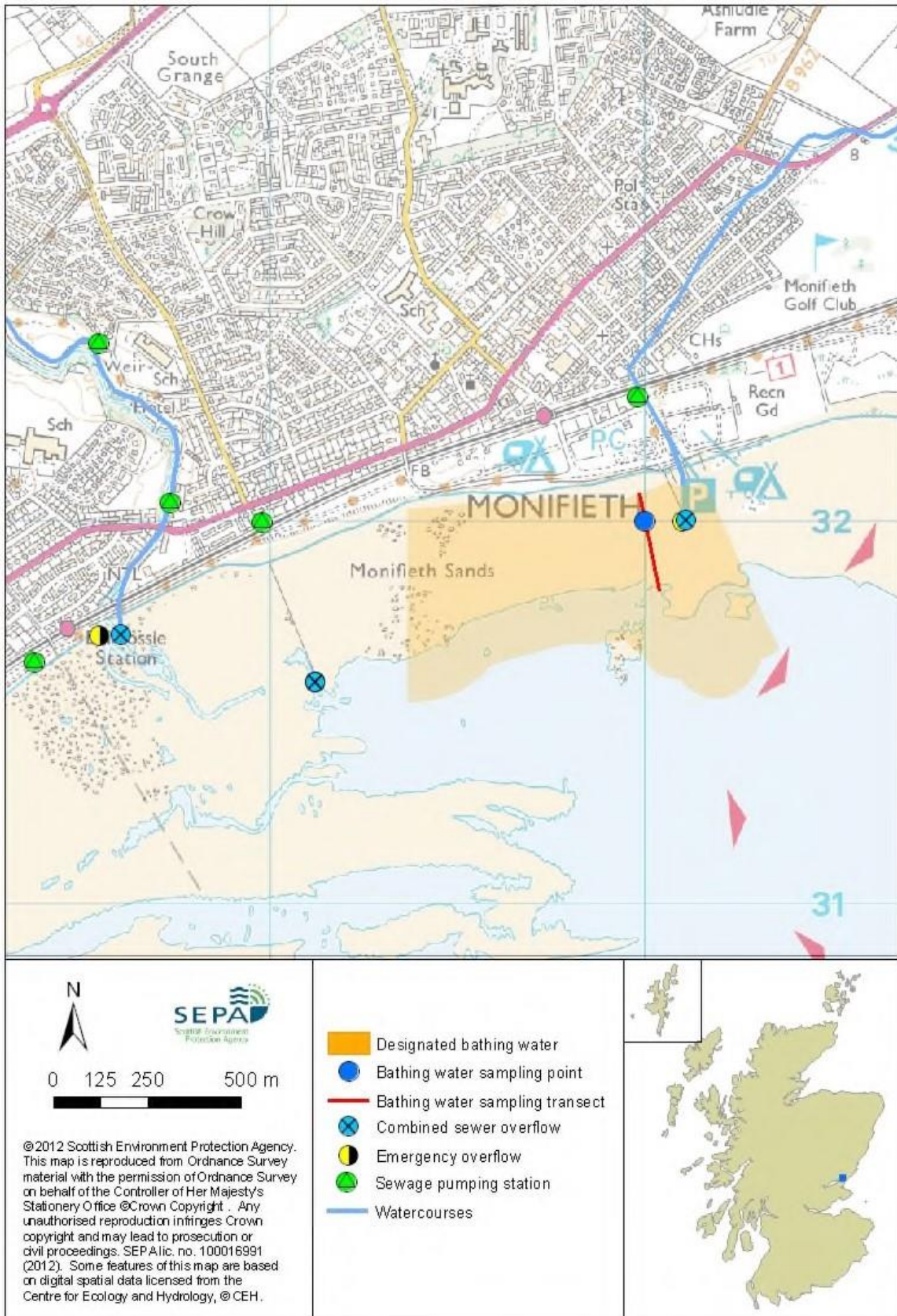
There are several protected areas either fully or partially within the designated bathing water or bathing water catchment, including a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protection Area, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Ramsar site. The Strathmore/Fife area was designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone in 2002.

### Risks to water quality

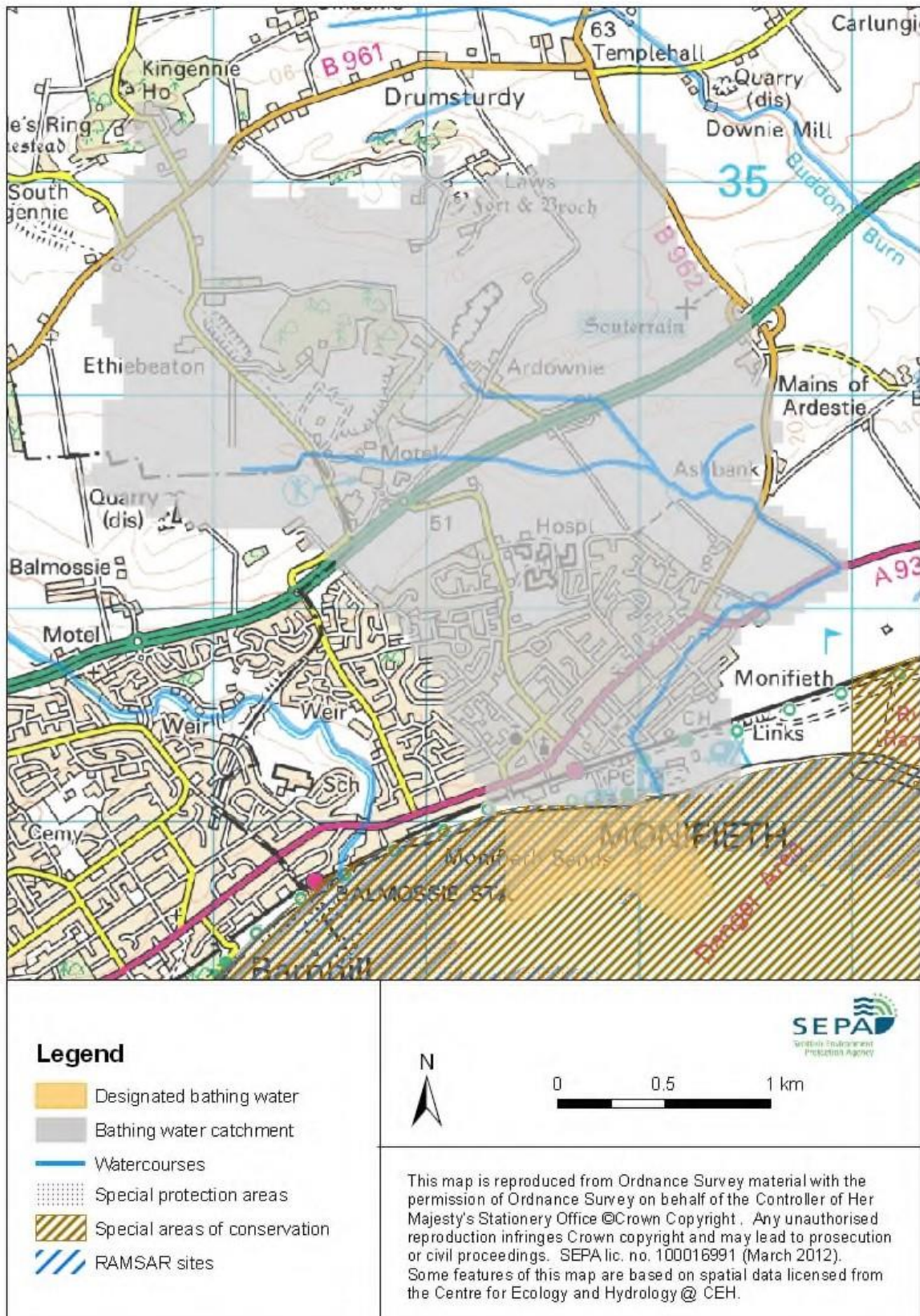
The principal risks and source of wet weather driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from surface water urban drainage, diffuse agricultural run-off and combined sewer overflows.

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: Monifieth bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Monifieth 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 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 electronic message signs 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 Dighty Water. This is a risk to the bathing water quality, particularly during and after periods of wet weather. Farm visits have been on going in the Monifieth bathing water catchment since 2015. SEPA will continue to work with rural land managers 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.

Sewage flows from the Dundee area are pumped to Hatton sewage treatment works for full treatment. There is a combined sewage overflow at Balmossie Mill pumping station which enters the Dighty Water at Panmuirfield. The village of Newbigging discharges treated effluent to upper stretches of the Buddon Burn.

There is a quarry discharge to Monifieth Burn and some private septic tanks. Under normal conditions the loadings to these burns should not impact upon the bathing water.

#### **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 Angus Council for this bathing water.

#### Contact details and information sources

<p><b>SEPA Arbroath office</b> 62 High Street Arbroath DD11 1AW 01241 874370 <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk">www.sepa.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Angus Council</b> Angus House Orchardbank Business Park Forfar DD8 1AN 08452 777 778 <a href="mailto:accessline@angus.gov.uk">accessline@angus.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.angus.gov.uk">www.angus.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>
<p><b>Scottish Government</b> Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ 0131 244 0396 <a href="mailto:eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk">eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters">www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters</a></p>		
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1.0	May 2012	
1.1	April 2014	
1.2	June 2015	
1.3	May 2016	
1.4	June 2016	
1.5	May 2017	
1.6	April 2020	
1.7	May 2023	