

Bathing Water Profile for Pease Bay

Cockburnspath, Scotland

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

Description

The Pease Bay bathing water is located approximately 1.6 km to the east of the small town of Cockburnspath in the Scottish Borders. It is a sandy bay, about 600 metres long. The beach is popular for surfing.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 5–260 metres. The beach slopes gently towards the water.



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Site details

Local authority	Scottish Borders Council
Year of designation	1987
Water sampling location	NT 79264 71083

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Pease Bay bathing water extends to 27 km². The area is predominantly rural (99%) with agriculture the primary land use. The main population centre is the town of Cockburnspath. The nearby caravan park increases the local population during the summer months. The main rivers within the bathing water catchment are the Pease Burn and the Cockburnspath Burn.

There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) either fully or partially within the bathing water or bathing water catchment, Pease Bridge Glen and the coastal area.

The Lothian and Borders area was designated as surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone in 2002.

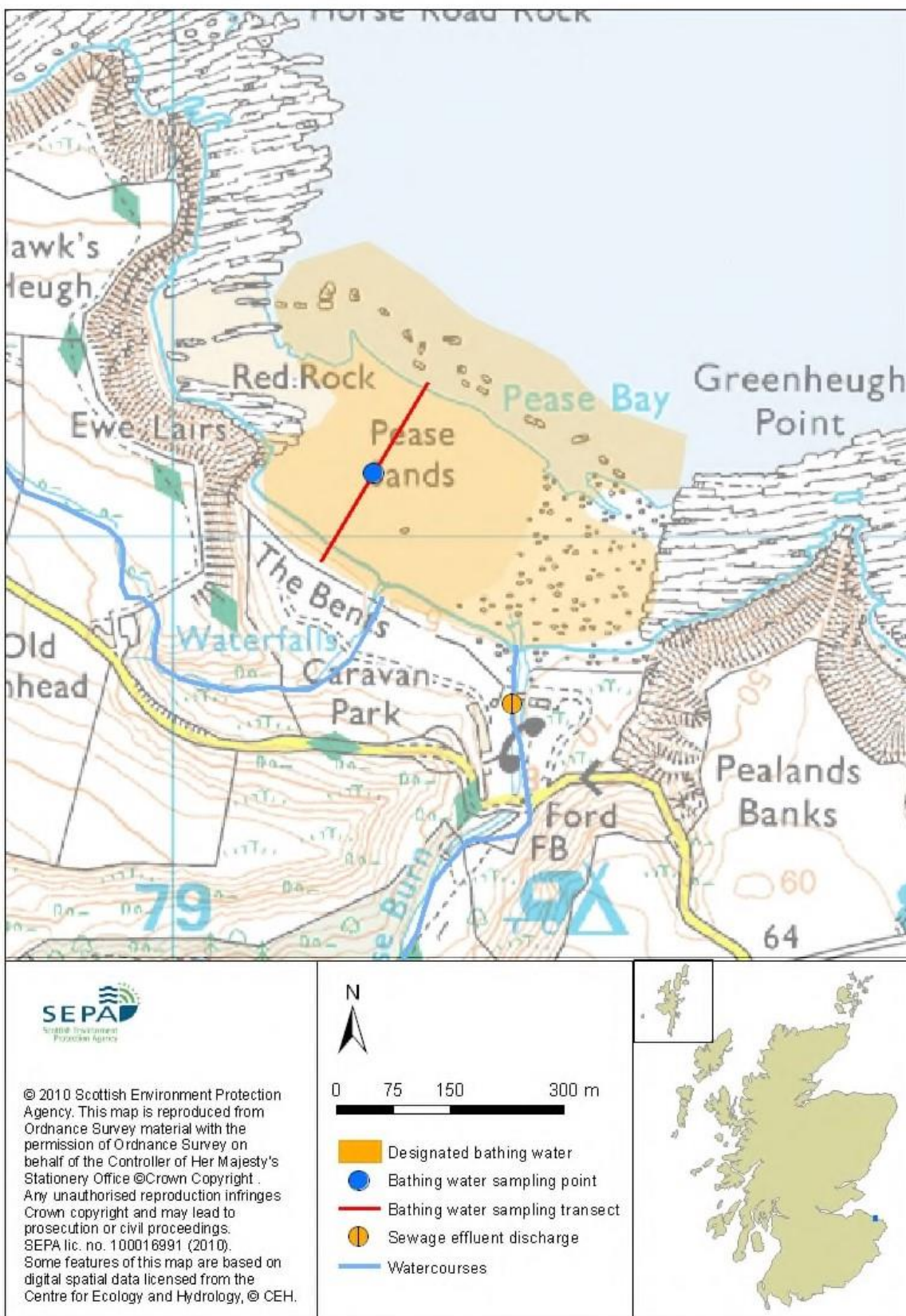
Risks to water quality

The principal risks and source of wet weather-driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from agricultural run-off.

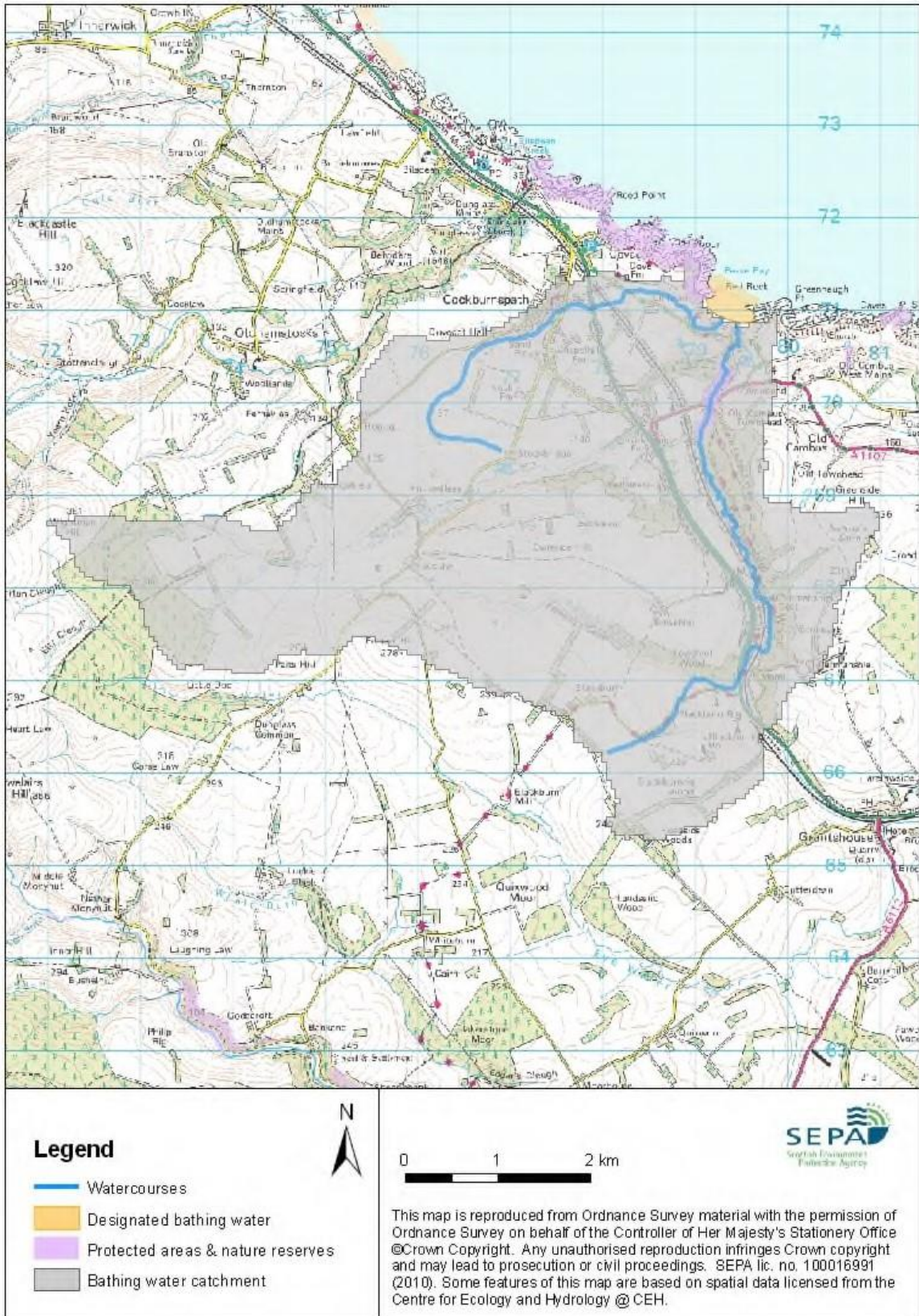
Our regulatory and scientific assessment indicates that potential sources of short-term faecal indicator pollution at this bathing water can at times originate from human and animal sources.

Bathing is not advisable during or following (one or two days after) rainfall. Bathing or swimming after storms, floods or heavy rainfall should be avoided as the risk of illness following short term water pollution is increased.

Map 1: Pease Bay bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Pease Bay bathing water



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.

Farm visits to identify diffuse pollution sources were undertaken as part of the Eye Water priority catchment work in 2012. Incidences of livestock entering watercourses were recorded and mitigation measures were agreed to address this. Large areas along watercourses were fenced off from livestock and alternative water sources provided for them. The priority catchment program is now complete.

Even though all agricultural compliance work has been completed in this bathing water catchment and all farms are in a compliant state. SEPA will continue to engage with farmers and the NFUS to remind them of good practice when applying slurries and manures and grazing livestock.

Improving pollution from sewage and other discharges

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

A new sewage treatment works became operational at Cove Village in the summer of 2002, serving Cove and Cockburnspath. Secondary treatment is provided all year around with additional UV treatment being applied during the bathing water season. The discharge location for the works is approximately 1.5 kilometres from the designated bathing water area.

In 2006, a new private sewage treatment works was installed at the caravan park near Pease Bay. This provides year round bacteriological treatment of the sewage effluent enabling high water quality standards to be achieved at the bathing water. The original outfall pipe from this sewage treatment works (to the North Sea) was replaced by a new discharge pipe to the Pease burn in 2007. Since 2009, ultraviolet treatment has also been applied to the effluent during the bathing season, further enhancing bathing water quality.

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 Scottish Borders Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Galashiels office</p> <p>Burnbrae Mossilee Road Galashiels TD1 1NF 01896 754797 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>Scottish Borders Council</p> <p>Council Headquarters Newtown St. Boswells Melrose TD6 0SA 01835 82400 www.scotborders.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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1.2	January 2013	
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