

## Bathing Water Profile for Seton Sands

Cockenzie and Port Seton, Scotland

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

**Description** Seton Sands bathing water is located to the east of the small towns of Cockenzie and Port Seton and to the north-west of Longniddry. The long, 2.2km beach slopes gently towards the water.

It is made up of sand and rocks and is popular with recreational users for pastimes such as horse riding, windsurfing and canoeing. The eastern edge of the bathing water joins Longniddry bathing water.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 0-500 metres.



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<b>Site details</b>	Local authority	East Lothian Council
	Year of designation	1999
	Water sampling location	NT 42738 76251

### Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Seton Sands bathing water extends to 14.5 km<sup>2</sup>. The area is predominantly rural (78%) with arable agriculture the major land use. Approximately 17% of the bathing water catchment is urban. There are a number of settlements either fully or partially within the catchment.

The main water course within the bathing water catchment is the Seton Burn. The Canty Burn flows past the western extent of the town of Longniddry and into the eastern end of the bathing water.

The Firth of Forth is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Ramsar site and contains Special Protection Areas due to the internationally important bird populations that it supports. The catchment of the Lothian and Borders area was designated as a surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone in 2002.

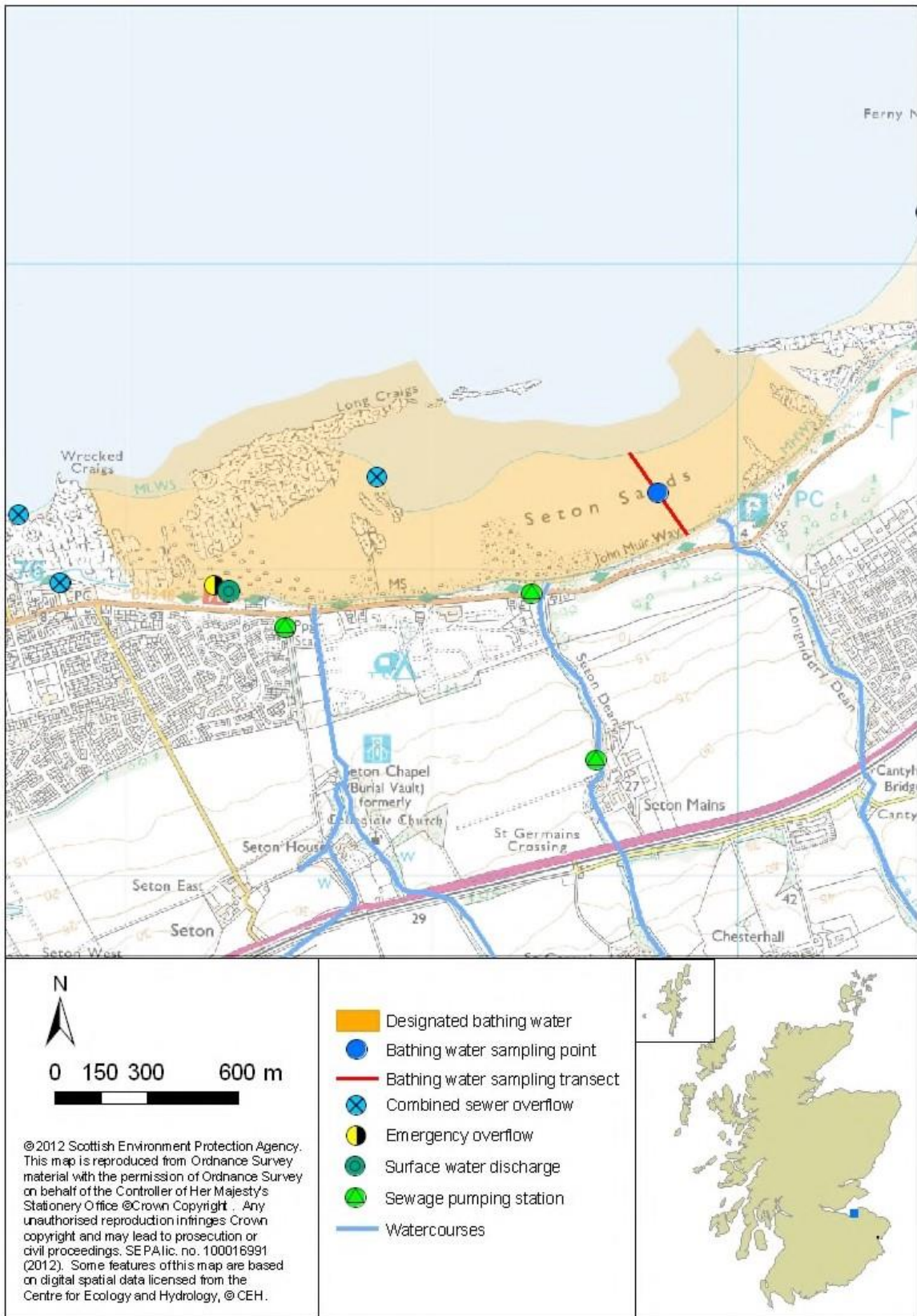
### Risks to water quality

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

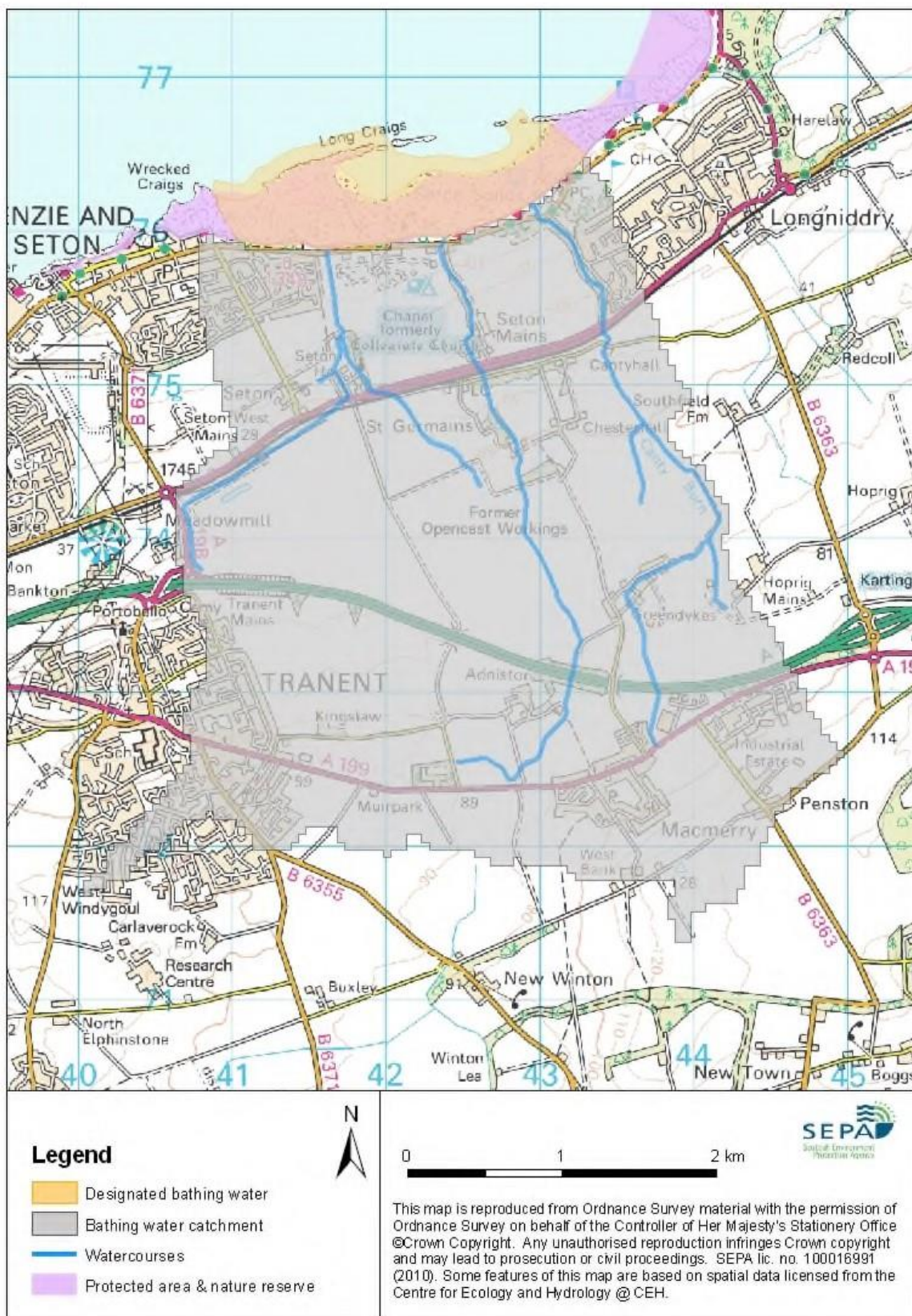
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

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 sources.

Map 1: Seton Sands bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Seton Sands 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.

In 2002, a new rising main was laid to convey sewage from Longniddry to Edinburgh sewage treatment works. The existing works at Longniddry was converted to a transfer pumping station, designed not to discharge more than three times per bathing season.

### **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

<p><b>SEPA Edinburgh office</b></p> <p>231 Corstorphine Rd Edinburgh EH12 7AT 0131 449 7296 <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk">www.sepa.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>East Lothian Council</b></p> <p>John Muir House Haddington East Lothian EH41 3HA 01620 827827 <a href="mailto:customerservices@eastlothian.gov.uk">customerservices@eastlothian.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk">www.eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Keep Scotland Beautiful</b></p> <p>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></p> <p>Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ 0131 244 0396 <a href="mailto:egcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk">egcat@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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