

Bathing Water Profile for Yellow Craig

North Berwick, Scotland

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

Description

Yellow Craig bathing water is located close to the town of North Berwick. It is a small sandy bay, about 700 metres long, situated beside the designated Broad Sands bathing water (Map 1).

The area is popular with families and walkers due to a nearby footpath network.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the waters edge can vary from 10–150 metres. The beach slopes gently towards the water.



Site details

Local authority	East Lothian Council
Year of designation	1987
Water sampling location	NT 51512 86091

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Yellowcraig bathing water extends to 2.1 km². The area is predominantly rural (92%) with land use split between woodland (38%), grassland (32%) and agriculture (22%). Approximately 1% of the bathing water catchment is urban. There are no towns or villages in the catchment, although a few houses are located in the centre of the catchment.

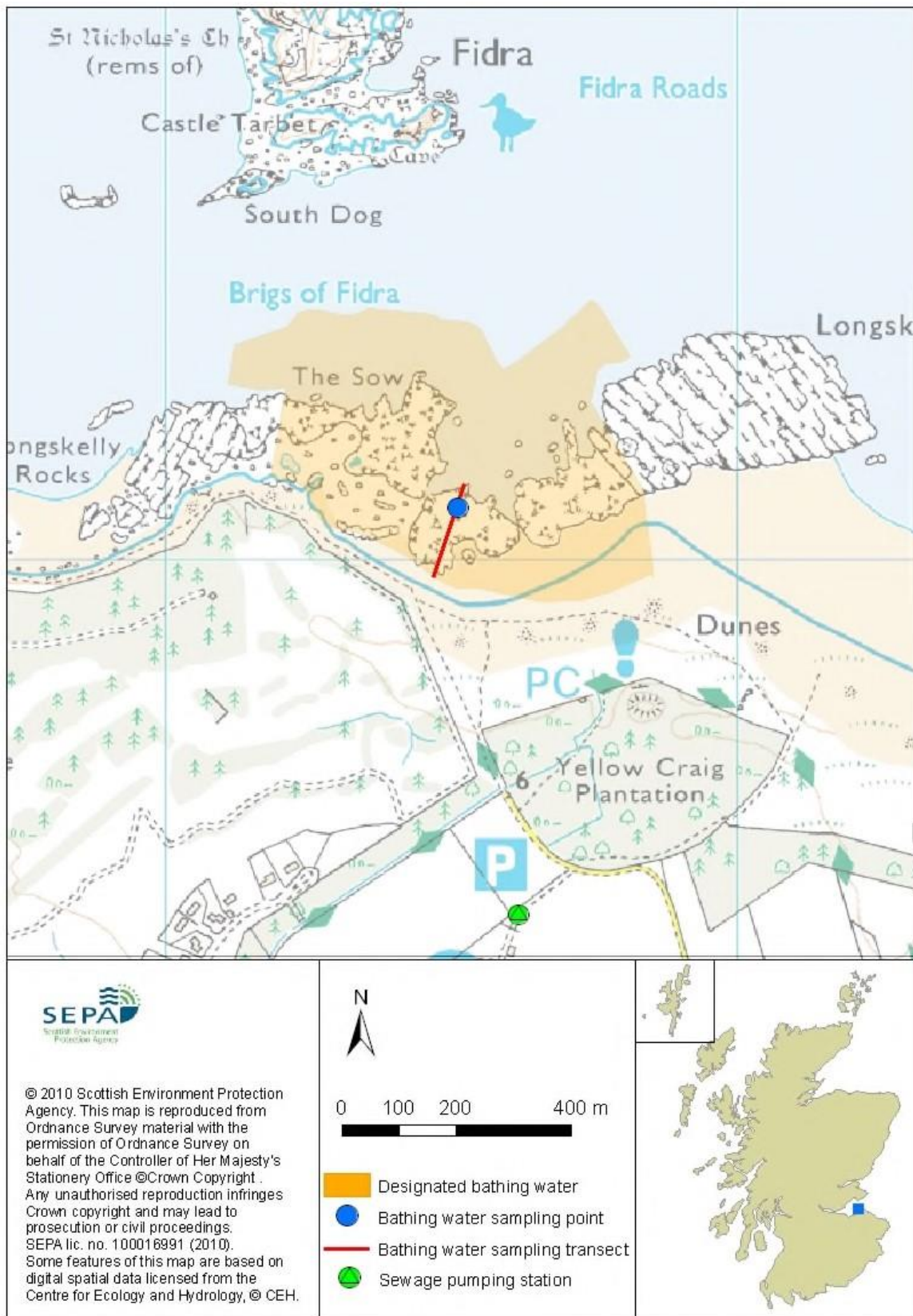
The bathing water sits within the Firth of Forth which is designated as a Special Protection Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Ramsar site (Map 2). Some of these protected areas may have the potential to influence water quality at the bathing water. This is because they are home to several internationally important bird populations. The nearby Forth Islands are also designated as a Special Protection Area due to their aggregation of breeding birds.

Risks to water quality

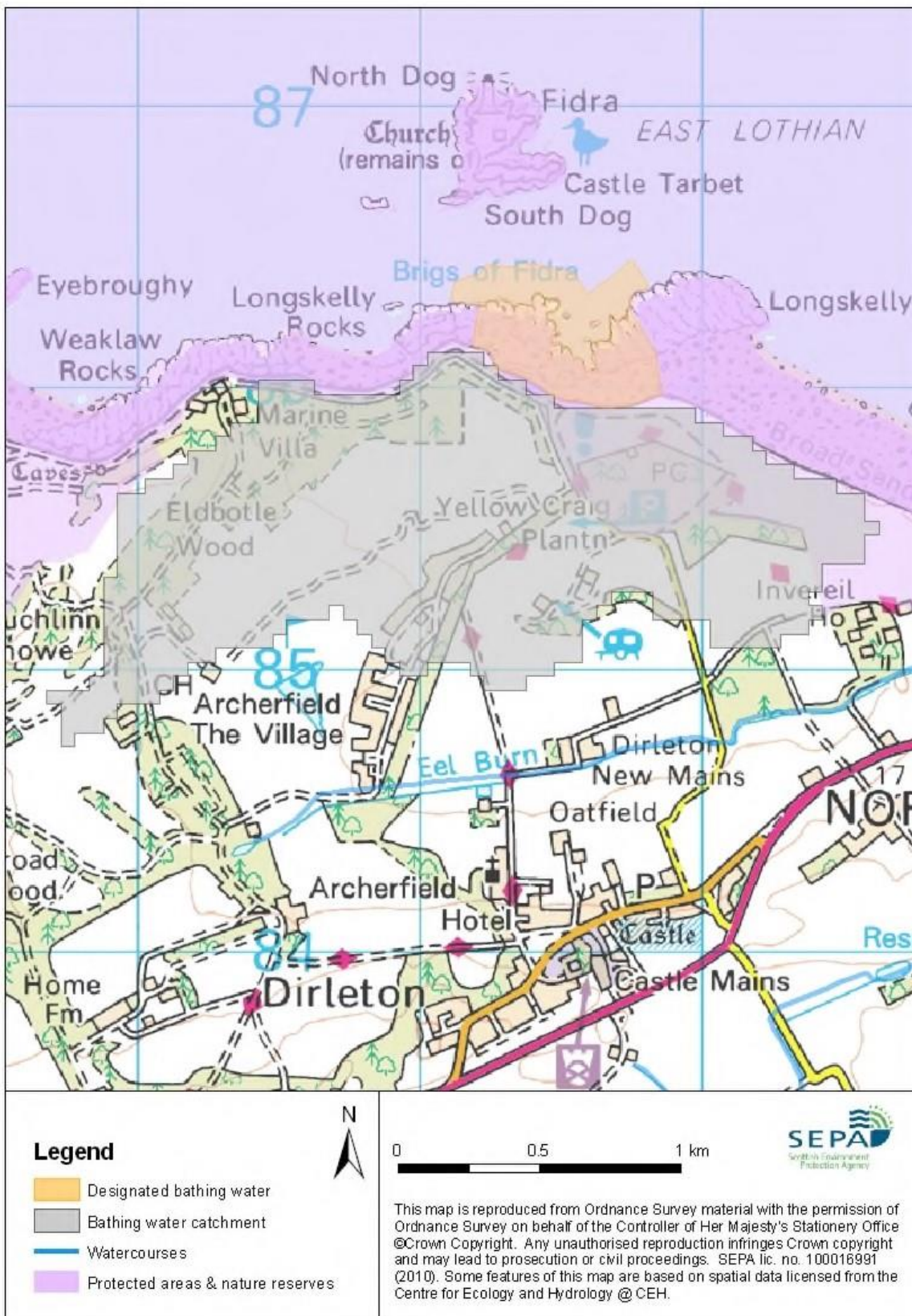
There are no direct discharges to the bathing water. Agricultural run-off from wet weather driven short term pollution is considered the principal risk at this bathing water.

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: Yellowcraig bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Yellowcraig 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.

An improvement in the bathing water quality occurred in 1999 following the diversion of sewage from Dirleton to the sewage treatment works and long sea outfall to the east of North Berwick. Previously, effluent was discharged within the bay at Yellowcraig.

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>SEPA Edinburgh office 231 Corstorphine Rd Edinburgh EH12 7AT 0131 449 7296 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>East Lothian Council John Muir House Brewery Park Haddington EH41 3HA 01620 827 827</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 eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters</p>		

Version number:	Date:	Next review due:
1.0	Dec 2009	
1.1	March 2014	
1.2	June 2015	
1.3	April 2020	
1.4	May 2023	