

Bathing Water Profile for Collieston

Collieston, Scotland

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

Description

Collieston bathing water is a small sandy bay surrounded by the former fishing village of Collieston and its harbour. It is situated on the east coast of Aberdeenshire and lies between Cruden Bay to the North and Newburgh to the South.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 0 to 100m. The sandy beach slopes gently towards the water. For local tide information see: <http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/index.aspx>.



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Site details

Local authority	Aberdeenshire Council
Year of designation	2014
Water sampling location	NK 04080 28530

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Collieston bathing water extends to 0.225km². The majority of the catchment is flat lying land. Collieston bathing water is in a small sandy bay within a coastline of steep cliffs and rocky outcrops.

Sandy Loch and the small burn to the north of the village drain into the bathing water beach.

The area is rural (95% rural, 5% suburban) with arable and horticulture as the major land use, followed by heather grassland (66% and 15% of the catchment respectively). The main population centre is within the small village of Collieston.

Risks to water quality

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

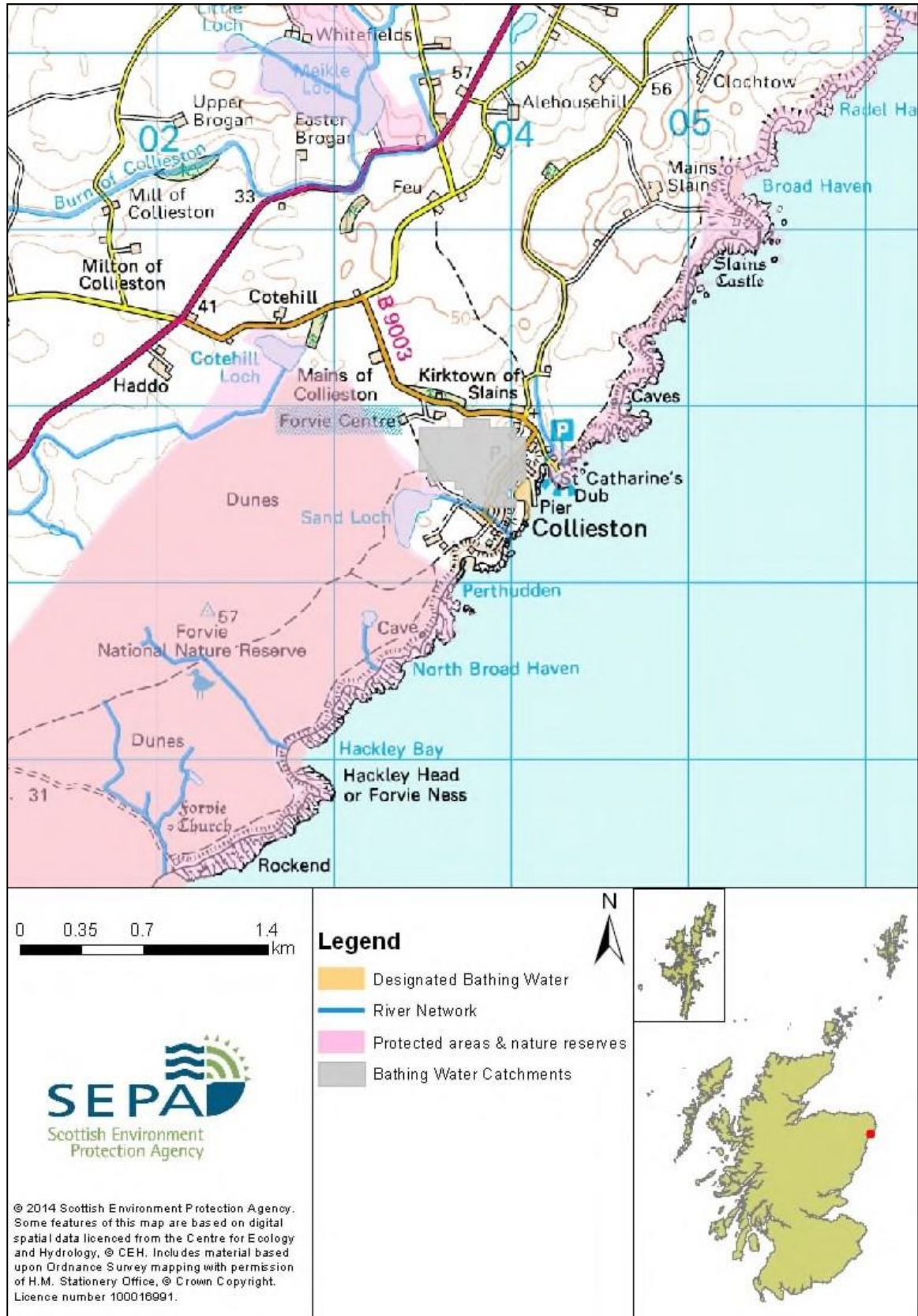
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

Our regulatory and scientific assessment indicates that there are no significant pollution inputs to this bathing water under normal conditions.

Map 1: Collieston bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Collieston 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 were undertaken in the Buchan Coastal catchment during 2015. These visits looked to identify diffuse pollution sources and pathways. Mitigation measures were agreed with land managers to reduce the risk of bacterial pollution on water quality.

SEPA has observed significant changes in land management practice within the catchments. SEPA will continue to work with the farmers in these catchments to reduce the risk of pollution to 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 Aberdeenshire Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Fraserburgh office</p> <p>Shaw House Mid Street Fraserburgh AB43 9JN 01346 510502 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Council</p> <p>Woodhill House Westburn Road Aberdeen AB16 5GB 08456 081207 www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Keep Scotland Beautiful</p> <p>01786 471333 beach@ksbscotland.org.uk www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org</p>
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Scottish Government

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

0131 244 0396 eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.ukwww.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters

Version number:	Date:	Next review due:
1.0	May 2015	
1.1	April 2020	
1.2	May 2023	