

Bathing Water Profile for Luss

Luss, 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

Luss Bay is a relatively small freshwater bay of about 400 metres long situated on the midwest shore coast of Loch Lomond west of Inchlonaig Island. It is located at the conservation village of Luss and is owned by Luss Estates. The area is part of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

The sandy beach is ideal for paddling and is often used by families with young children; however, the northern portion of the beach is privately owned and is not accessible to the public.



Site details

Local authority	Argyll and Bute Council
Year of designation	1999
Water sampling location	NS 36015 93296

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the bathing water extends to 37 km². The area is mountainous with the highest peaks in the catchment being Beinn Eich at 703 metres in the north-west and Deinn Chaorach at 713 metres to the west of the bay. These two peaks form the steep valley along which Luss Water flows towards the bathing water.

The area is predominantly rural (99%) with agriculture the major land use. The catchment supports mixed sheep and cattle farming. Less than one percent of the bathing water catchment is urban. The main population centre is Luss.

The main rivers within the bathing water catchment are the Luss Water, Auchengavin Burn, Sron an La oighn Burn and Molloch Burn.

There are Special Areas of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest in the catchment.

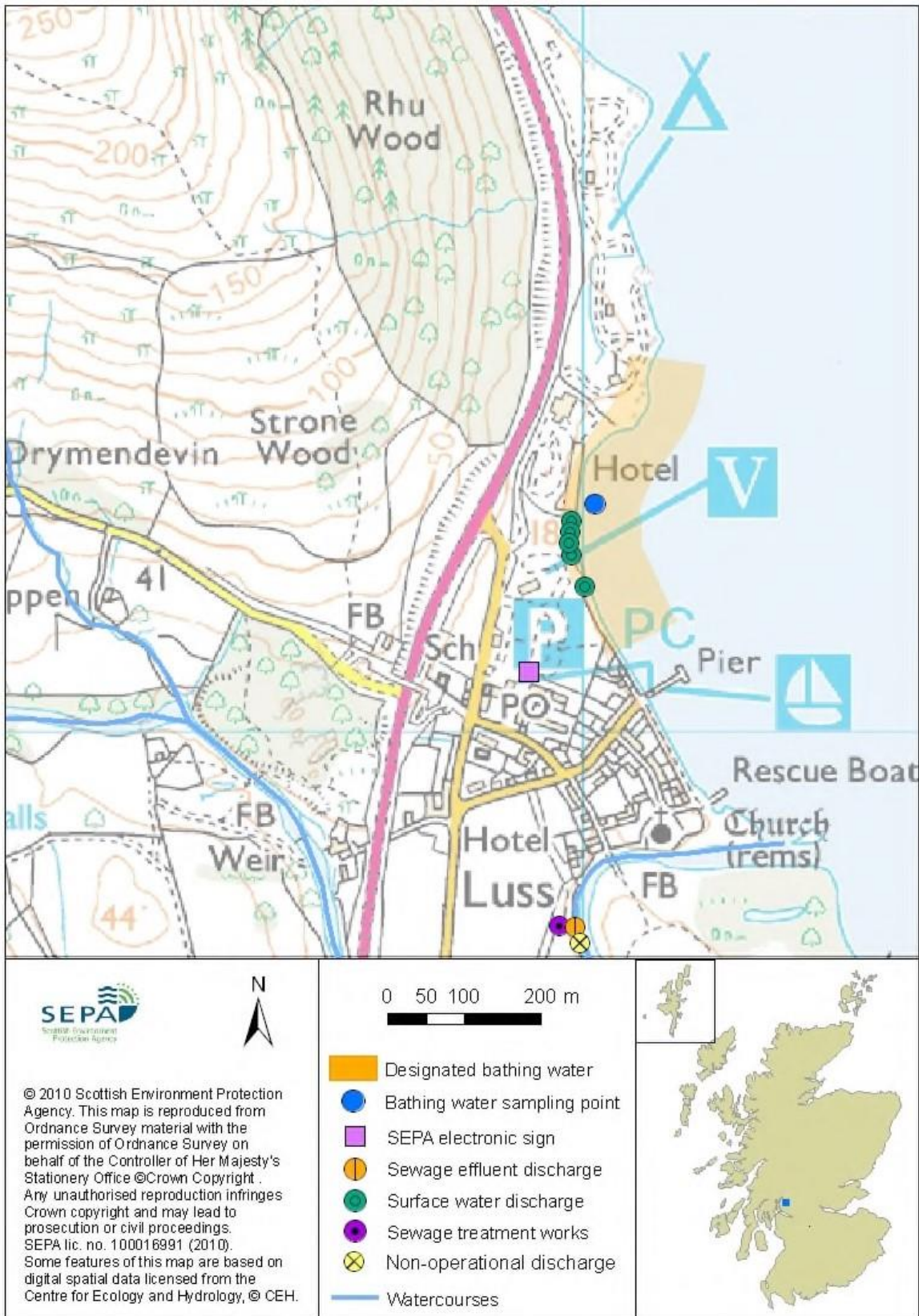
Risks to water quality

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

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 originate from animal sources, most significantly from gulls and dogs.

Map 1: Luss bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Luss 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 good 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.

SEPA has assessed the agricultural activity taking place within the catchment in 2022 and is content that agriculture does not have a significant impact on Luss bathing water.

Improving pollution from sewage and other discharges

Scottish Water provides most wastewater collection and treatment services in Scotland.

Luss sewage treatment works performs well and uses ultraviolet disinfection to treat final sewage effluent.

There are a small number of properties with private septic tanks which discharge to rivers and soakaways. The risk to the water environment from these discharges is not thought to be significant.

Most of the effluent from the caravan, campsite and local hotels is discharged into the Scottish Water sewerage network.

Small-scale forestry operations occur at two of the farms within the catchment. Luss Estates Company has been advised to follow pollution prevention methods to minimise surface water run-off from these activities.

Other Sources

Pollution from dog and gull fouling can impact Luss bathing water. Visitors can help to keep the bathing water clean by not leaving litter or feeding the gulls - this encourages them, and they can pollute the water – and if they have a dog, cleaning up any fouling.

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

In certain weather conditions, particularly warm still weather, algal blooms can form on the loch. Sometimes the blooms are formed of blue-green algae which can be harmful if swallowed and may cause skin rashes. If a blue-green algal bloom occurs the public shall be informed and advised not to bathe through signage at the loch and through the relevant local media.

Algae

Current information suggests that this bathing water is not at risk of an overproduction of filamentous algae or phytoplankton. Any such bloom, whilst unsightly, is believed to be no risk to human health although fish kills may occur.

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 Argyll and Bute Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Balloch office Carrochan Road Balloch West Dumbartonshire G83 8EG 01389 727 770 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>Argyll and Bute Council Kilmory Lochgilphead PA31 8RT 01546 602 127 enquiries@argyll-bute.gov.uk www.argyll-bute.gov.uk</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:
1.1	April 2013	
1.2	April 2014	
1.3	June 2015	
1.4	April 2020	
1.5	May 2023	