

Bathing Water Profile for Aberdour (Silver Sands)

Aberdour, Scotland

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

Description

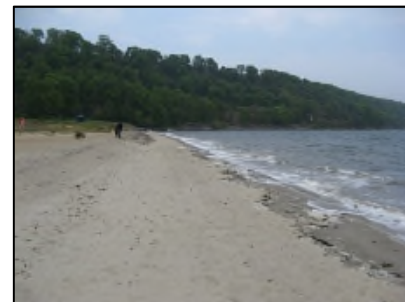
The Aberdour (Silver Sands) bathing water is situated to the east of the small town of Aberdour, on the north shore of the Firth of Forth. It is a small sandy bay approximately 600 metres long.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 10–280 metres. The beach slopes gently towards the water.

The beach is popular with walkers due to its countryside location.

For local tide information see:

<http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/index.aspx>



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Site details

Local authority	Fife Council
Year of designation	1987
Water sampling location	NT 20100 85219
EC bathing water ID	UKS761602

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Aberdour (Silver Sands) bathing water extends to 1.7 km². The area is predominantly rural (98%) with arable agriculture the major land use. Approximately 1% of the bathing water catchment is urban. There are no main population centres; however, residences within the catchment include the outskirts of Aberdour and smallholdings. The area also includes two disused quarries.

There are no sizable watercourses within the bathing water catchment.

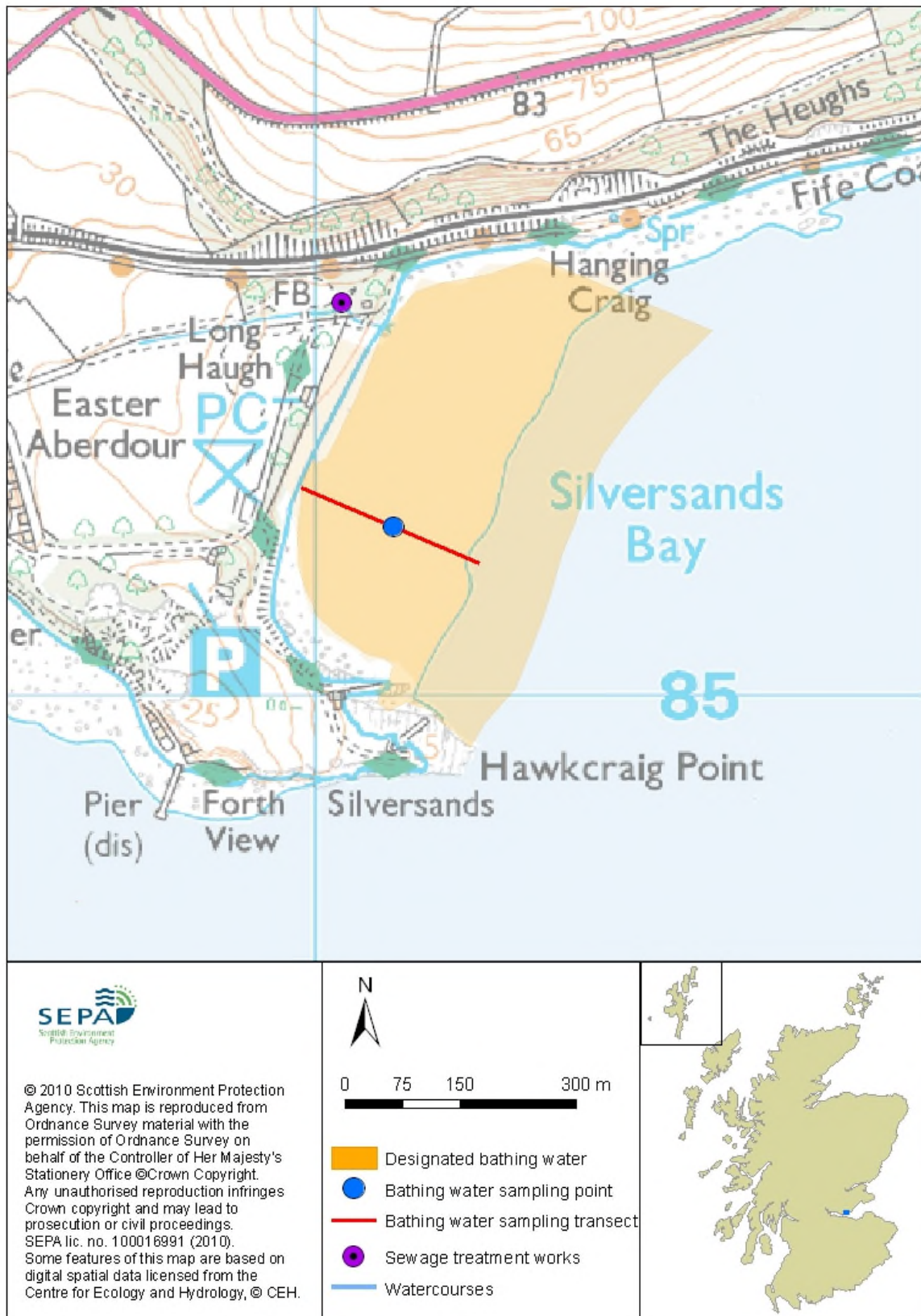
Risks to water quality

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

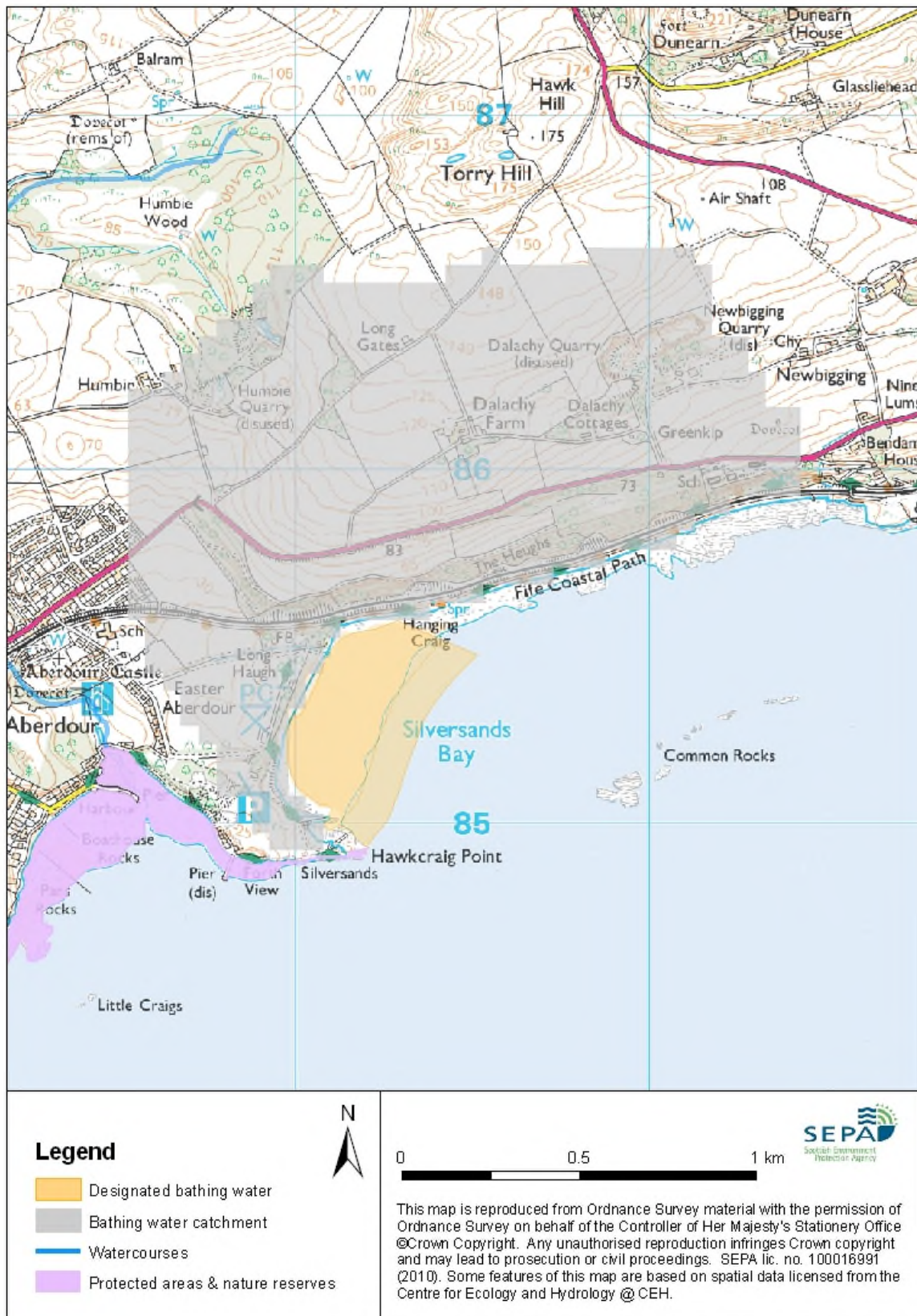
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

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

Map 1: Aberdour (Silver Sands) bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Aberdour (Silver 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.

Sewage from Dalgety Bay town is diverted to Dunfermline sewage treatment works. This removes a potential risk to 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 Fife Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

SEPA office SEPA Glenrothes office Pentland Court The Saltire Centre Glenrothes KY6 2DA 01592 776910 www.sepa.org.uk	Fife Council Fife House North Street Glenrothes KY7 5LT 08451 55 00 00 fife.council@fife.gov.uk www.fife.gov.uk	Keep Scotland Beautiful 01786 471333 beach@ksbscotland.org.uk www.keeptscotlandbeautiful.org
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Scottish Government

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www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters

Version number:	Date:	Next review due:
1.0	Nov 2010	
1.1	March 2014	
1.2	June 2015	
1.3	April 2020	