

Bathing Water Profile for Brighthouse Bay

Kirkcudbright, 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 Brighthouse Bay bathing water is a small, sheltered, sandy beach interspersed with rocky outcrops. The bay is about 300 metres wide. It is situated on the south coast of Dumfries and Galloway, close to the village of Borgue. Brighthouse Bay Golf and Leisure Club is adjacent to the bay.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 0–600 metres. Mud flats are exposed at low tide making the water's edge difficult to access in certain areas. For local tide information see: <http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide>



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| Site details | Local authority | Dumfries & Galloway Council |
| | Year of designation | 1999 |
| | Water sampling location | NX 63516 45472 |

Catchment description

A catchment area of 8.4 km² drains into Brighthouse Bay bathing water. It is a hilly catchment that includes Cairniehill and the Mull of Ross to the south east of the bay. Brighthouse Burn enters the bay midway along the beach.

Agriculture is the major land use in the catchment. There are several dairy farms with the surrounding land being used as pasture. Urban land use is concentrated around the Borgue and Kirkcudbright population centres.

Average summer rainfall for the region is 356 mm compared to 331 mm across Scotland as a whole.

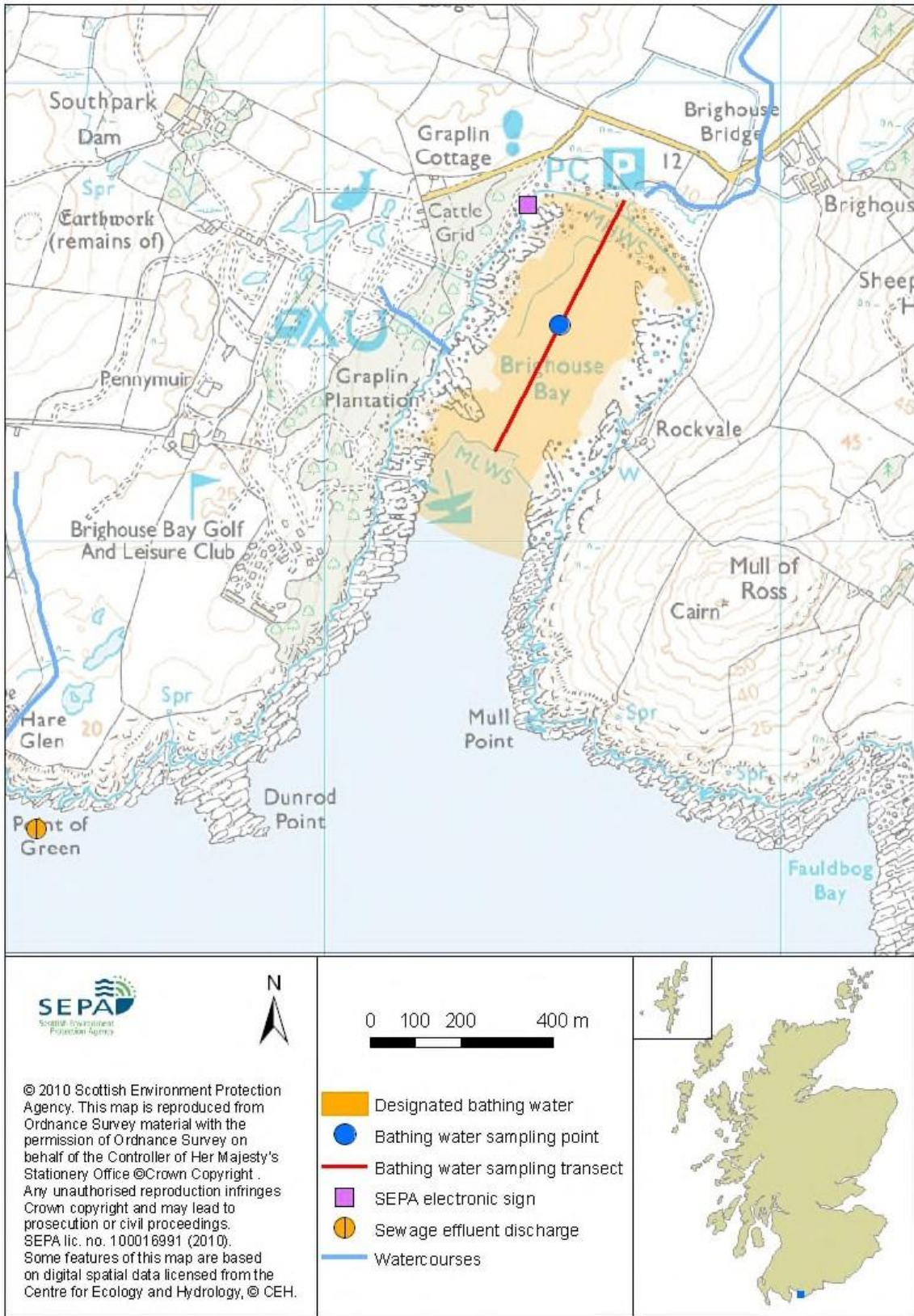
Risks to water quality

This bathing water is subject to short term pollution when heavy rainfall washes faecal material into the sea. Pollution risks include agricultural run-off.

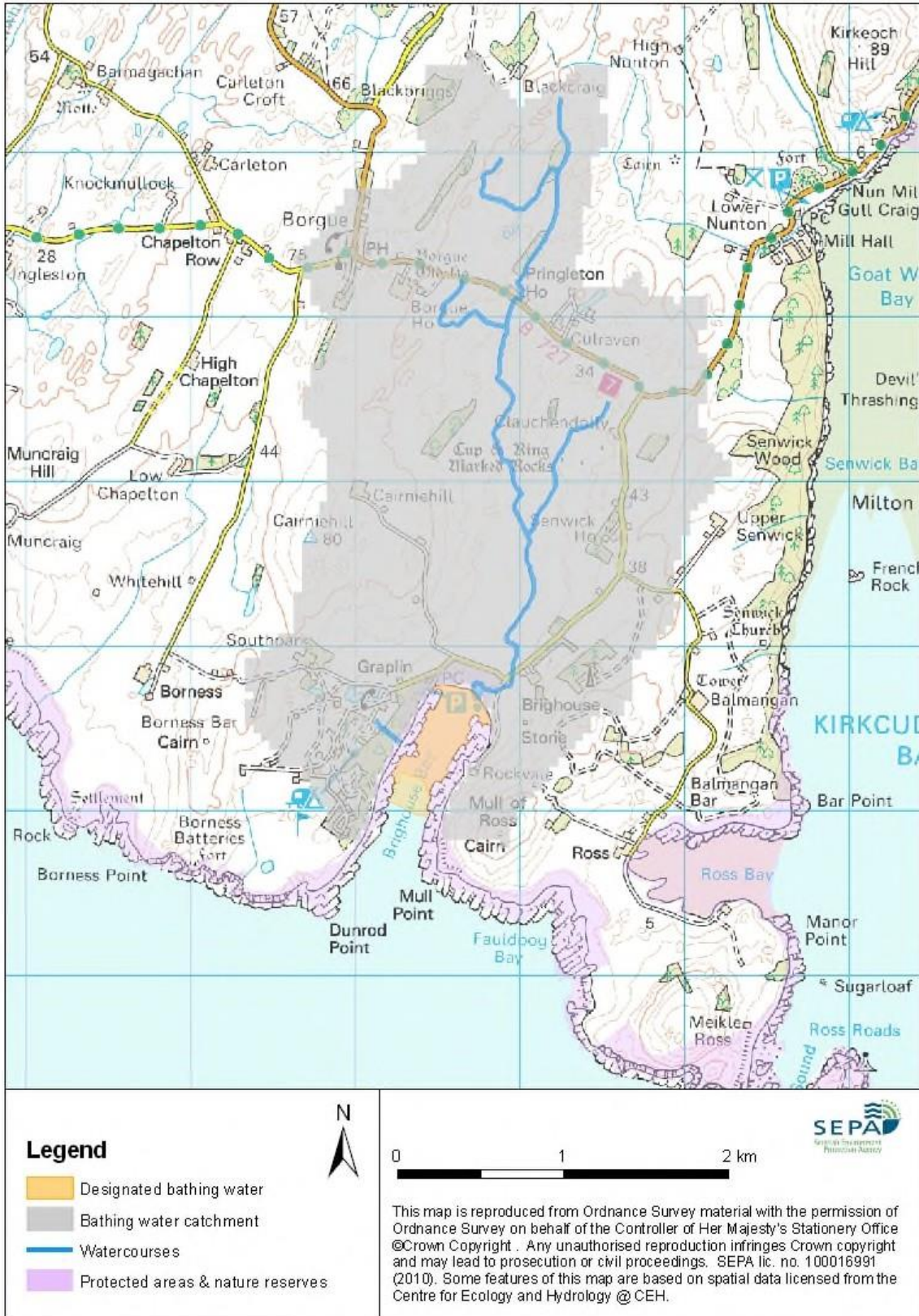
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

DNA tracing indicates that human sources and animal sources are contributing to faecal pollution of the bathing water.

Map 1: Brighthouse Bay bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Brighthouse Bay bathing water



Daily water quality forecasts

Water quality is forecast on a daily basis during the bathing water season (1 June to 15 September). Forecasts indicate that water quality is either acceptable 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 cumulative inputs of pollutants to rivers and streams.

The majority of the farms within the Brighthouse Bay area support dairy cows, although there are some sheep and beef farms in upland areas. Brighthouse Bay is located within the Galloway Coastal catchment. Farm visits to identify diffuse pollution sources took place in May and June 2014 and mitigation measures were agreed.

All agricultural compliance work has been completed in this bathing water catchment and all farms are in a compliant state. SEPA will continue to engage with farmers and the NFUS to remind them of good practice when applying slurries and manures and grazing livestock.

Improving pollution from other sources

MST analysis has sometimes identified human sources of pollution. Extended sampling is underway (2021 to 2022) to identify sources of this pollution and where necessary seek improvements.

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

Marine waters are not at risk of cyanobacteria overproduction.

Algae

Current information suggests that this bathing water is at risk of excessive growth of macroalgae or phytoplankton. This includes the occasional red tide. A considerable amount of macroalgae (seaweed) can become stranded on the beach, particularly after storms. This is an entirely natural phenomenon. Rotting seaweed can result in the production of a grey/black fluid and generate offensive odours.

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 SEPA's website.

SEPA will investigate whenever our sampling identifies pollution. Further sampling of the bathing water and related rivers and streams is undertaken.

Beach users are encouraged to use the bins provided or to take litter home. Beach cleaning and litter clean-up is maintained by Dumfries & Galloway Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

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| <p>SEPA Dumfries Office</p> <p>Rivers House Irongray Road Dumfries DG2 0JE Tel: 01387 720502 www.sepa.org.uk</p> | <p>Dumfries & Galloway Council</p> <p>Council Headquarters Council Offices English Street Dumfries DG1 2DD 030 33 33 3000 www.dumgal.gov.uk</p> | <p>Keep Scotland Beautiful</p> <p>01786 471333 beach@ksbscotland.org.uk www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org</p> |
| <p>Scottish Government</p> <p>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: |
|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| 1.3 | March 2013 | |
| 1.4 | March 2014 | |
| 1.5 | April 2015 | |
| 1.6 | June 2018 | |
| 1.7 | March 2019 | |
| 1.8 | April 2020 | |
| 1.9 | April 2022 | |
| 2.0 | May 2023 | |