


## Bathing water profile:

# Carrick

<p><b>Bathing water:</b> Carrick</p>	
<p><b>EC bathing water ID number:</b> UKS7616010</p>	
<p><b>Location of bathing water:</b> UK/Scotland/Dumfries and Galloway (Map1)</p>	
<p><b>Year of designation:</b> 1999</p>	

© Copyright [mendel9331](#) and licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#).

### Bathing water description

Carrick bathing water is a relatively small sandy beach that lies within Fleet Bay on the south coast of Dumfries and Galloway. The bay is about 700 metres long and 800 metres wide at the widest point. It is littered with sharp rocky outcrops (Map 1). It lies within 10 km of Kirkcudbright and Gatehouse of Fleet. It was designated as a bathing water in 1999.

This idyllic stretch of beach offers spectacular views of the Isles of Fleet and on a clear day the Isle of Man can be seen in the distance.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 0–900 metres however, as this beach sits on a transitional water, mud flats are exposed at low tide making the waters edge difficult to access in certain areas. For local tide information see <http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/>

Our monitoring point for taking water quality samples is located at the southern end of the designated area (Grid Ref NX 57495 49981) as shown on Map 1.

### Monitoring water quality

Please visit our [website](#)<sup>1</sup> for details of the current EU water quality classification and recent results for this bathing water.

During the bathing season (1 June to 15 September), designated bathing waters are monitored by SEPA

<sup>1</sup> <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/SamplingResults.aspx>

for faecal indicators (bacteria) and classified according to the levels of these indicators in the water. The European standards used to classify bathing waters arise from recommendations made by the World Health Organisation and are linked to human health. More information on bathing water monitoring, health and classification can be found on our [website](#)<sup>2</sup>.

## Risks to water quality

In general, most natural waters will be affected to some extent during and following rainfall as pollutant loads may be increased due to run-off from agricultural or urban land in the catchment. In addition, at some locations waste water discharges from combined sewer overflows, which then drain into the bathing water and can reduce water quality.

Faecal pollutants can come from human sewage, farming activities and livestock (e.g. cattle, sheep), industrial processes, surface water urban drainage, domestic animals (e.g. dogs) and wildlife (e.g. birds) and can enter bathing waters via:

- direct discharges into the marine environment at, or in the vicinity of, the beach;
- the freshwater network draining into a bathing water, which can be prone to elevated bacterial levels as a result of diffuse pollution and/or point source inputs upstream.

There are no direct discharges to the bathing water, but the Plunton Burn and Boreland Burn both enter the coastline within 2 km of the bathing water and may contribute at times to bacterial loadings therein.

The principal risks and source of wet weather driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from agricultural run-off and diffuse coastal run-off from the River Fleet and River Cree. These events are expected to last one or two days depending on the duration of the rainfall and may result in elevated bacteria levels compared to dry conditions.

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

## Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

Marine waters are not at risk of overproduction of cyanobacteria.

## Algae

Current information suggests that this bathing water may be at risk of macroalgae (seaweed) or phytoplankton overproduction, including the occasional red tide. Any such incident, whilst unsightly, is believed to be no risk to human health although fish kills may occur.

## Jellyfish

There is a possibility of increased numbers of jellyfish in the water during the summer months. This is a naturally occurring phenomenon. Although there are a few stinging species common to the UK, most are harmless. The Marine Conservation Society advises to 'look but don't touch'.

## Daily water quality forecasts

Carrick bathing water is not part of our signage network. Daily water quality predictions are not currently required for this bathing water.

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/SamplingResults.aspx>



**Map 2: Catchment draining into Carrick bathing water**



## Catchment description

The immediate catchment draining into the Carrick bathing water extends to only 600 m<sup>2</sup>. The maximum elevation within the catchment is 35 metres at Castle Hill, which lies to the east of the bathing water.

The area is almost entirely rural (99%) with agriculture the major land use. The area supports a mixture of sheep and beef farming and some dairy farming.

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

There is only one small unnamed tributary within the bathing water catchment. This enters the bathing water at Carrick Bay.

The bathing water lies entirely within the Borgue Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (Map 2). The area is used by indigenous greater black-backed and common gull colonies, Canada geese (for their late summer moult) and several species of wading birds and could potentially influence water quality at the bathing water. See Scottish Natural Heritage's [information service website](#)<sup>3</sup> for more information.

## Measures to improve bathing water quality

High quality bathing waters are important so that people can enjoy Scotland's environment safely. They are also important for Scotland's tourism industry.

Recent years have seen considerable improvements in Scotland's bathing water quality, not least due to substantial investment in the sewerage system. SEPA and our partners are fully committed to continuing to improve bathing water quality.

### Improving diffuse pollution from agricultural sources

Diffuse pollution from agricultural sources is normally the result of cumulative inputs of pollutants from several different sources on farms within the catchments draining to the bathing water. Consequently, tackling diffuse agricultural pollution requires concerted action across catchments. We will ensure this by working with farmers to raise awareness about the requirement to prevent and reduce pollution, and to help them identify appropriate actions for doing so.

To help co-ordinate our work to encourage and ensure action, SEPA participate in the [Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group](#)<sup>4</sup> (DPMAG), which is a partnership of relevant authorities, land manager representatives and voluntary organisations.

The Scottish Government has also brought together nine public bodies to form [Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services](#)<sup>5</sup> (SEARS). This partnership will contribute to implementing plans for tackling diffuse pollution by providing co-ordinated education and advice to rural land managers.

Additional targeted efforts will be made to improve management of diffuse pollution within catchments identified as 'priority' catchments. These are catchments where the scale of the pollution reduction needed will require planned and targeted actions to be identified and discussed with farmers concerned. Assistance will be given in these areas to identify pollution hotspots, and one-to-one advice will be provided on following the agricultural codes of good practice, which in themselves lead to compliance with these regulations. Action in priority catchments will be phased.

Carrick is a part of the Galloway Coastal priority catchment, which has been identified as a diffuse pollution priority catchment in the first river basin cycle. There are approximately 715 farms in the Galloway catchment. Proactive one-to-one farm visits were undertaken in the catchment during May and June 2014. These visits looked to identify diffuse pollution sources and pathways by which potential pollutants could reach the water environment and impact on bathing waters. All actual and potential polluting sources were discussed with the land manager and mitigation measures agreed with them to reduce the likelihood of diffuse pollution arising from their activities and reduce the risk of bacterial pollution on water quality in the future.

Any improvements as a result of this work are likely to be seen in several years when measures identified as necessary are fully in place. Follow up visits in this catchment will continue in 2015 with work due to be completed by 2017.

<sup>3</sup> [www.snh.org.uk/snhi](http://www.snh.org.uk/snhi)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/who-is-involved-with-rbmp/dpmag/>

<sup>5</sup> [www.sears.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.sears.scotland.gov.uk)

## Improving pollution from sewage and other discharges

Most waste water collection and treatment services in Scotland are provided by Scottish Water. It has invested substantially in waste water collection and treatment provision over recent years to protect public health and the environment. Public investments in the sewerage network and in treatment works will continue to be co-ordinated through the national investment and planning process for Scottish Water, known as 'Quality and Standards'. In this catchment there is no risk to bathing water quality from Scottish Water assets.

There are no direct discharges to the bathing water or within the vicinity of the beach. There is a small private chalet development near the beach but they drain to soakaways which are well maintained.

## Improving pollution from diffuse urban sources

Urban diffuse source pollution comes from rainwater falling onto urban areas (roads, pavements, yards and roofs) becoming contaminated with pollutants on those areas, washing into surface water drains and discharging from those drains to the water environment.

Tackling this type of pollution requires substantial changes in the way urban areas are drained, and efforts to reduce the quantity of pollutants deposited on urban surfaces. Since the mid 1990s, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) have increasingly been used to drain new developments. They are designed to avoid pollution of the water environment and include permeable surfaces that allow infiltration of rainwater into the ground, slowing the rate at which it drains to the water environment and trapping and breaking down pollutants. Artificial ponds or wetlands provide a final stage of treatment. Local authorities, Scottish Water and SEPA are working together to co-ordinate efforts to tackle pollution from diffuse urban sources, incorporating SUDS into local plans and encouraging partner organisations to retrofit SUDS where possible.

There are no diffuse urban issues within the bathing water catchment.

## Responding to pollution incidents

Although rare, pollution incidents affecting bathing water quality can happen. Pollution incidents tend to be unpredictable, for example a slurry spill or sewage network failure, and can result in elevated levels of faecal indicators.

To report a possible pollution incident please use our 24 hour pollution hotline (0800 807060). In response we 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.

Whenever our routine sampling of bathing waters identifies elevated levels of faecal indicators there is an immediate response to check all relevant potential sources and major discharges in the immediate catchment, as well as our hydrometric information to determine whether the levels may be due to high river flows. Follow-up microbiology sampling is also undertaken of the bathing water and local water courses.

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](#)<sup>6</sup>.

Other pollutants at the beach may include plastics and litter. Beach users are encouraged to use the bins provided or to take litter home. Beach cleaning and litter clean-up is maintained for this bathing water by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

## Contact details and sources of more information

### SEPA Newton Stewart office

Penkiln Bridge Court  
Minnigaff  
Newton Stewart  
Dumfries and Galloway  
DG8 6AA  
01671 402 618  
[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

### Dumfries and Galloway Council

Council Offices  
English Street  
Dumfries  
DG1 2DD  
0303 333 3000  
[www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

<sup>6</sup> <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/Predictions.aspx>

**Pollution Hotline**

0800 8070 60

24 hours per day, seven days per week

**Keep Scotland Beautiful**

01786 471333

[beach@ksbscotland.org.uk](mailto:beach@ksbscotland.org.uk)[www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org)**Scottish Government**

Victoria Quay

Edinburgh

EH6 6QQ

0131 244 0396

[eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters)

Further information about the condition of our water environment and the actions needed to deliver improvement can be found in:

- the Solway Tweed river basin management plan <http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/>
- the Solway area management plan <http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/who-is-involved-with-rbmp/area-advisory-groups/solway/>

The Marine Conservation Society's Good Beach Guide: [www.goodbeachguide.co.uk](http://www.goodbeachguide.co.uk)

Blue Flag and Seaside Awards: [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/coastal](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/coastal)

<b>Version Control</b>		
<b>Version number:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Next review due:</b>
1.3	March 2013	
1.4	April 2014	
1.5	April 2015	