

Bathing Water Profile for Carrick

Kirkcudbright, Scotland

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

Description

Carrick bathing water is a relatively small sandy beach that lies on the south coast of Dumfries and Galloway. It lies within 10 km of Kirkcudbright and Gatehouse of Fleet.

The bay is approximately 700 metres long and 800 metres. It is littered with sharp rocky outcrops.



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 water's edge difficult to access in certain areas.

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For local tide information see <http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide>

Site details	Local authority	Dumfries and Galloway Council
	Year of designation	1999
	Water sampling location	NX 57495 49981

Catchment description

The immediate catchment draining into the Carrick bathing water extends to only 600 m². 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.

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

The bathing water lies within the Borgue Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest. The area is used by birds and could potentially influence water quality at the bathing water.

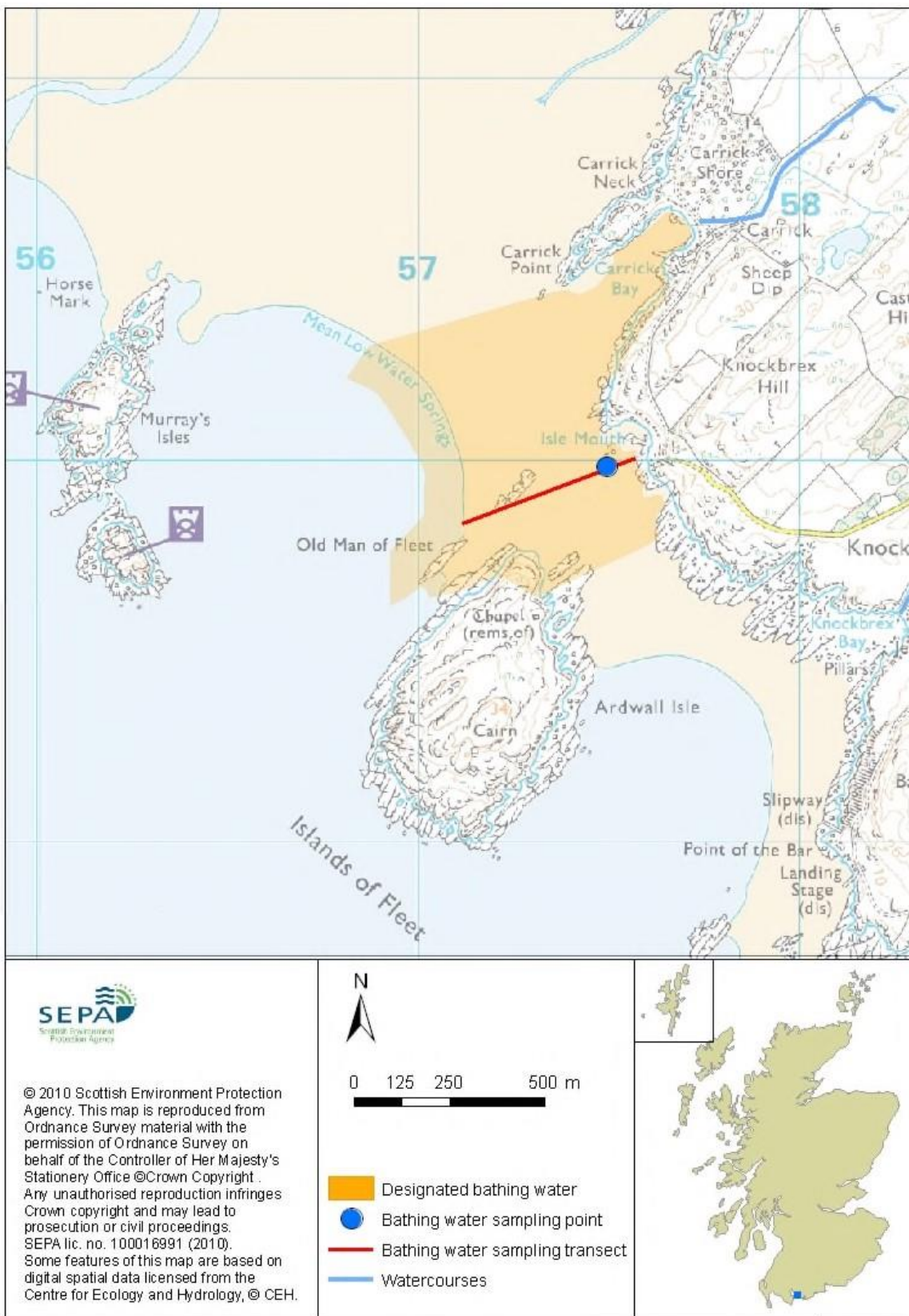
Risks to water quality

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.

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: Carrick bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Carrick 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 Galloway catchment during 2014. 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.

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 sewage and other discharges

Scottish Water provides most waste water collection and treatment services in Scotland.

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.

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 Dumfries & Galloway Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Newton Stewart office Holmpark Industrial Estate New Galloway Road Minnigaff Newton Stewart DG8 6BF Tel: 01671 402618 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>Dumfries and Galloway Council Council Offices English Street Dumfries DG1 2DD 0303 333 3000 www.dumgal.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>		
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