

## Bathing Water Profile for Coldingham

Coldingham, Scotland

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

### Description

Coldingham bathing water is situated approximately 1km to the northeast of the town of Coldingham. The beach is a sandy bay about 200 metres long, sheltered by rocky outcrops at either end. It is popular with swimmers, surfers and wildlife enthusiasts.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 30–160 metres. The sandy beach slopes gently towards the water. For local tide information see:

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



### Site details

Local authority	Scottish Borders Council
Year of designation	1999
Water sampling location	NT 91769 66557

### Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Coldingham bathing water extends to 9 km<sup>2</sup>. The area is predominantly rural (98%) with arable agriculture and grassland the major land use. Approximately 2% of the bathing water catchment is urban. The main population centre is the town of Coldingham with population density outside of the towns generally low.

The Milldown Burn flows into the sea approximately 100 metres south of the bathing water.

There are several protected areas either fully or partially within the bathing water catchment including a Special Area of Conservation, a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The breeding bird population at St Abbs Head to Fast Castle SPA has the potential to influence bathing water quality.

### 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.

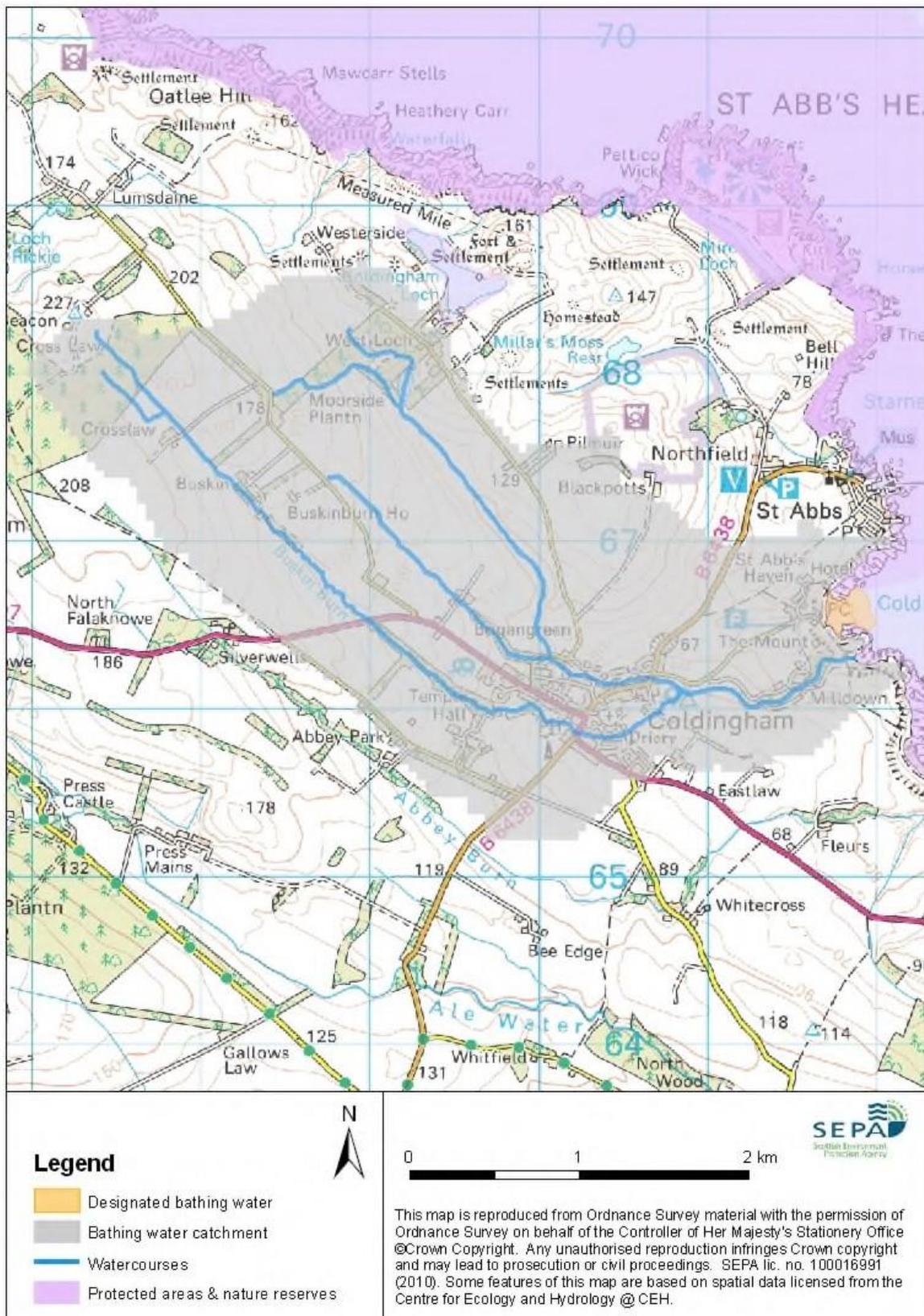
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

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

Map 1: Coldingham bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Coldingham 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 Coldingham is collected and pumped to Eyemouth sewage treatment works before being discharged to the North Sea.

**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 Scottish Borders Council for this bathing water.

**Contact details and information sources**

<p><b>SEPA Galashiels office</b></p> <p>Burnbrae Mossilee Road Galashiels TD1 1NF 01896 754797 <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk">www.sepa.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Scottish Borders Council</b></p> <p>Council Headquarters Newton St. Boswells Melrose TD6 0SA 01835 824000 <a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk">www.scotborders.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Keep Scotland Beautiful</b></p> <p>01786 471333 <a href="mailto:beach@ksbscotland.org.uk">beach@ksbscotland.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org">www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org</a></p>
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**Scottish Government**

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