

Bathing Water Profile for Culzean

Maidens, Scotland

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

Description

Culzean is a very small, attractive beach at the south-west edge of Culzean Country Park. To the south is the village of Maidens and to the north-east are the dramatic cliffs and rocky shore of the country park, which are noted for their wildlife.

During high and low tides, the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 20–100 metres. For local tide information see <http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/>



Site details

Local authority	South Ayrshire Council
Year of designation	2008
Water sampling location	NS 22041 09681

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Culzean bathing water very small and extends to just over 1 km². The area is largely parkland. Of the bathing water catchment, 88% is rural and 9% is urban. There are no towns or villages within the catchment so population density is low. The nearest village to the catchment is Maidens, approximately 1 km south of the bathing water. The remaining 3% of the catchment is made up of standing water and rocks.

There are no major rivers within the bathing water catchment. There is a small unnamed burn which flows on to the beach via the swan pond.

Part of the catchment is within the Maidens to Doonfoot Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is designated on both biological and geological grounds. From the Heads of Ayr to Culzean, there are several rich intertidal areas where the cliffs are home to breeding ravens and one of the few colonies of fulmars in Ayrshire.

Risks to water quality

The principal risks and source of wet weather driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from bird populations.

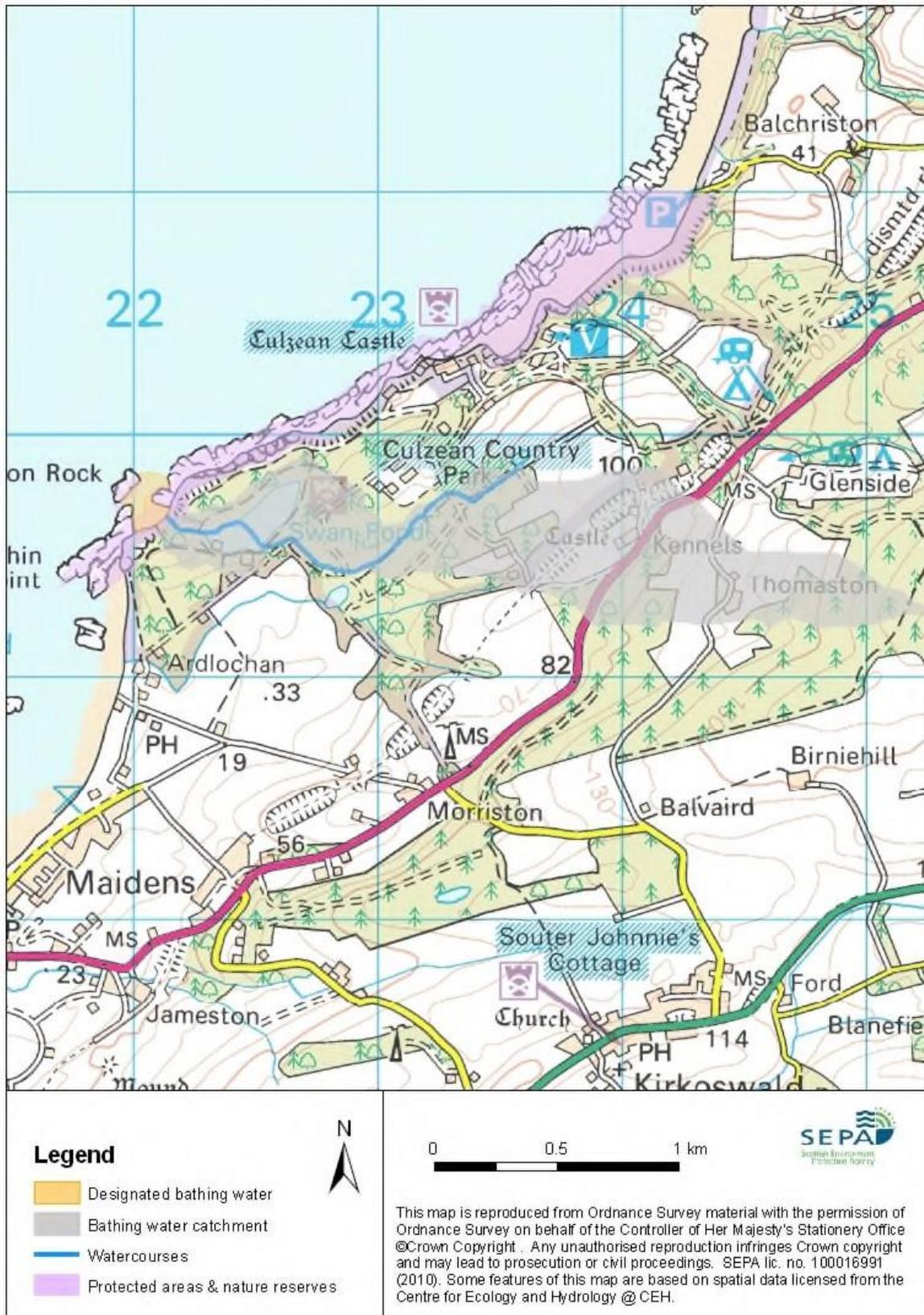
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

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

Map 1: Culzean bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Culzean 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.

Work with land managers to reduce diffuse pollution in the South Ayrshire Coastal catchment is due to be completed by 2027.

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 overproduction of macroalgae (seaweed) or phytoplankton. However, at any time of the year and particularly after storms, a considerable amount of seaweed can become stranded on the beach. Under the right conditions accumulated seaweed can rot producing grey/black fluid. The rotting seaweed can also generate offensive odours. This is an entirely natural process.

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 South Ayrshire Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Ayr office 31 Miller Road Ayr Ayrshire KA7 2AX 01292 294000 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>South Ayrshire Council Burns House Burns Statue Square Ayr KA7 1UT 01292 618222 environmental.health@south-ayrshire.gov.uk www.south-ayrshire.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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