

Bathing Water Profile for Dhoon 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

Dhoon Bay bathing water is in a relatively small bay, about 350 metres long. It is situated on the west shore of the Dee Estuary opposite St Mary's Isle. The beach is situated close to a caravan park and is popular with holidaymakers.

The sandy beach slopes gently towards the water. The whole of the beach can be under water at high tide. At low tide, there is a sandy area for approximately 180m. 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/>



Site details

Local authority	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Year of designation	2008
Water sampling location	NX 65748 48600
EC bathing water ID	UKS7616069

Catchment description

A catchment area of 11.5 km² drains into Dhoon Bay bathing water. It is a hilly catchment with elevations of 20–50 metres along the coast and heights of approximately 130 metres in northerly parts. Mill Hall Burn and Corraford Burn drain into Dhoon Bay.

The land use supports mixed grazing and intensive dairy farming. Population density within the catchment is low with a few scattered farms and houses. Kirkcudbright town is approximately 5 km to the north east of the bathing water. A caravan park and campsite is situated close to the bathing water.

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

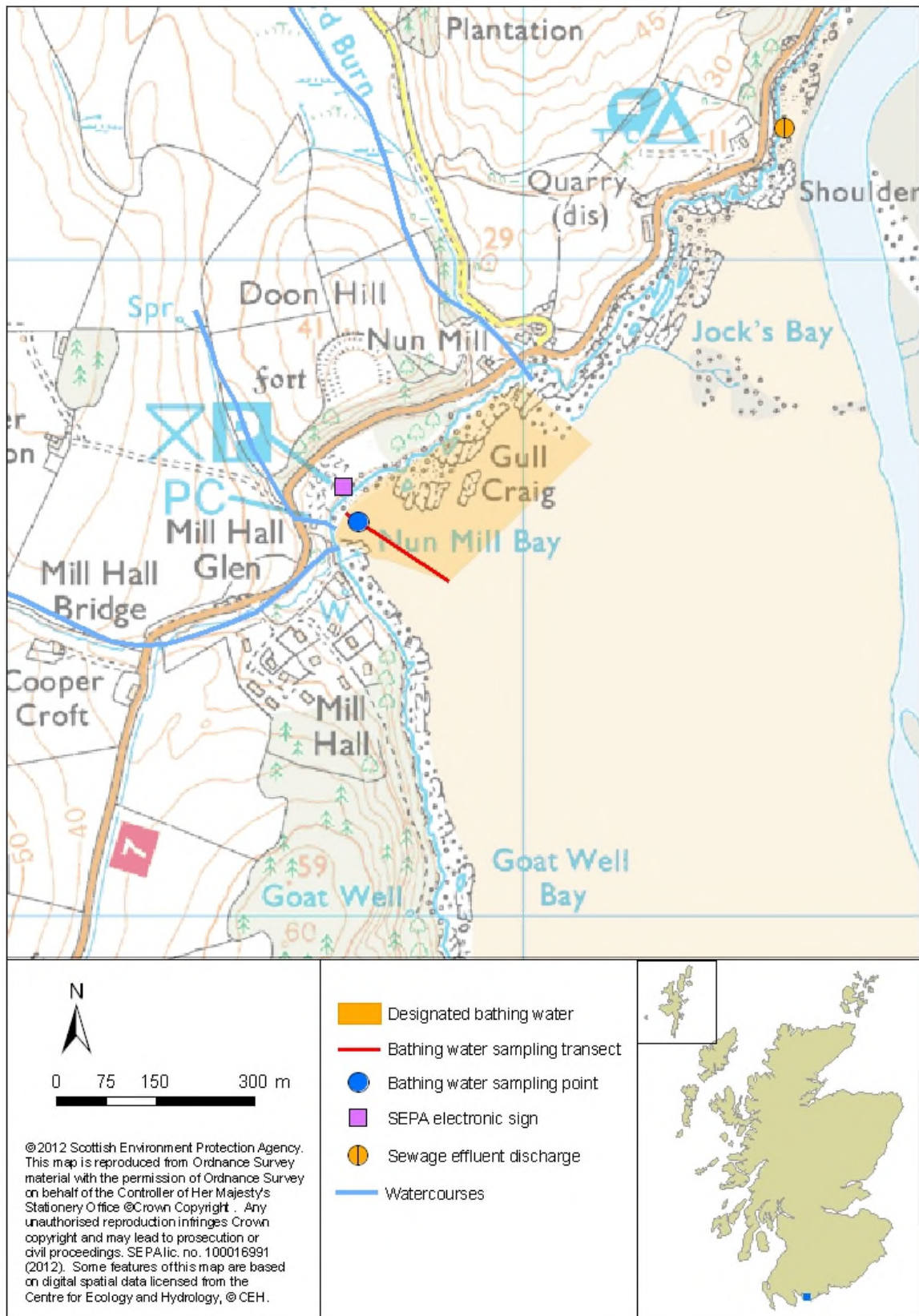
Risks to water quality

This bathing water is subject to short term pollution when heavy rainfall washes faecal material into the sea. Pollution risks include agricultural run-off and combined sewer overflows. These are highlighted on Map 1.

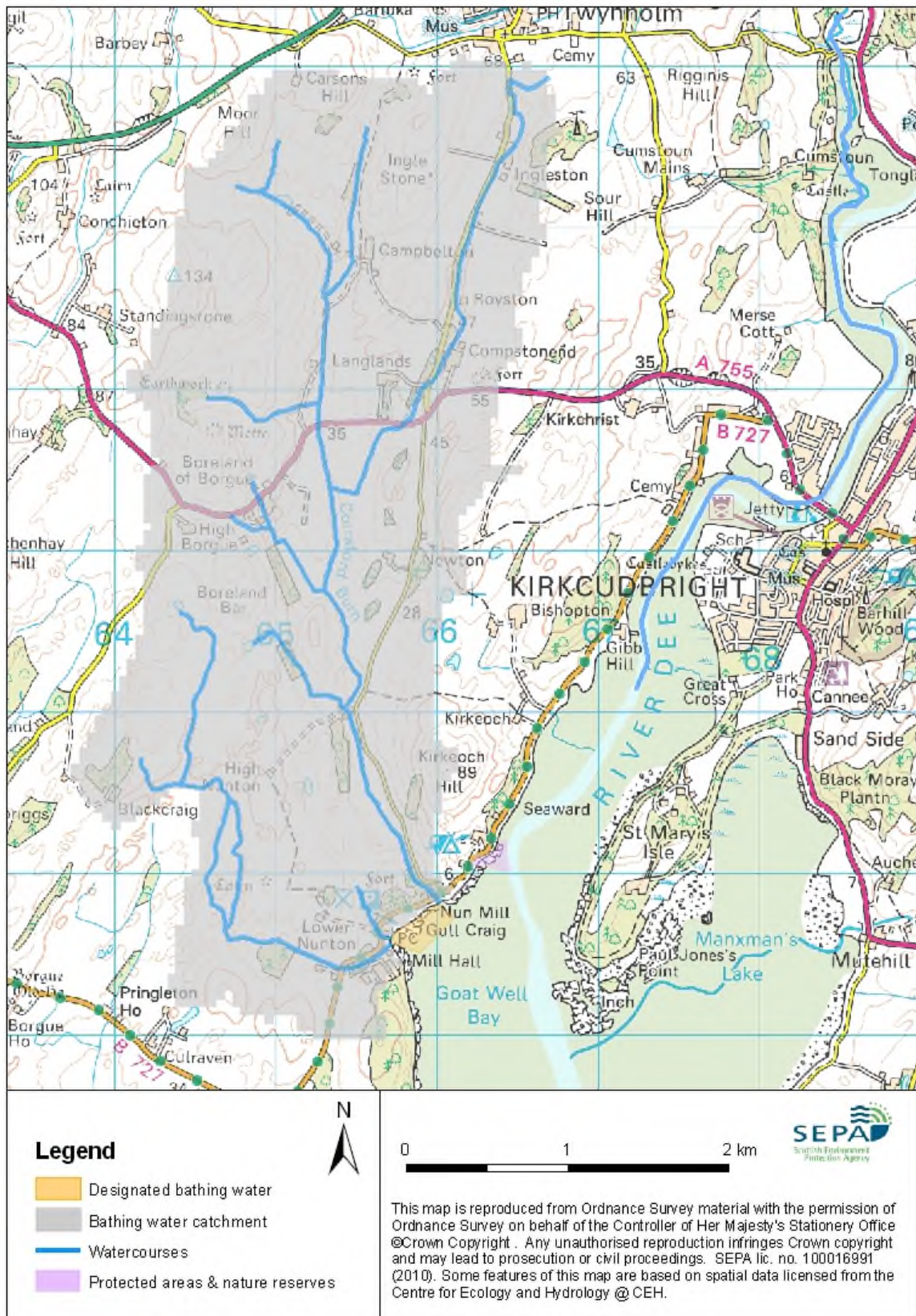
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

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

Map 1: Dhoon Bay bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Dhoon 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. This is thought to be an issue in the Mill Hall Burn and Corraford Burn. In addition, the River Dee and its extensive catchment is a potential source of diffuse pollution.

Dhoon Bay is located within the Stewarty Coastal catchment. The majority of the farms within the Dhoon Bay area support dairy cows although there are some sheep and beef farms in upland areas. Farms visits took place in the Stewarty Coastal catchment in 2014. These visits looked to identify diffuse pollution sources. Mitigation measures were agreed with land managers to reduce the likelihood of diffuse pollution. Farm revisits took place in 2016 to check that mitigation measures were implemented.

Improving pollution from sewage and other discharges

Scottish Water provides most waste water collection and treatment services in Scotland. Kirkcudbright sewage treatment works was upgraded in 2007. The discharge from the works is now transferred to a discharge point 9 km away.

SEPA is investigating the impact of septic tanks and private sewage treatment works on water quality.

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 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

<p>SEPA Dumfries Office Rivers House Irongray Road Dumfries DG2 0JE 01387 720502 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>Dumfries & Galloway Council Council Headquarters Council Offices English Street Dumfries DG1 2DD 030 33 33 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>		

Version number:	Date:	Next review due:
1.3	March 2013	
1.4	April 2014	
1.5	May 2015	
1.6	May 2016	
1.7	June 2018	
1.8	March 2019	
1.9	April 2020	