

Bathing Water Profile for Dores

Dores, Scotland

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

Description

Dores bathing water is situated on the north-east shore of Loch Ness in the Highlands. One of only three inland bathing waters in Scotland, it is a relatively small bay. It is adjacent to the small village of Dores. It was designated as a bathing water in 1999.

The gravel/sandy beach slopes towards the water. The beach is very popular with tourists, particular in the summer season.



Site details

Local authority	Highland Council
Year of designation	1999
Water sampling location	NH 59671 35000

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Dores bathing water extends to 5 km². The catchment is steep in topography ranging from hills in the south and east to the lower lying parts along the loch.

The main rivers within the bathing water catchment are the Allt a' Mhinisteir and Dores Burn. The Allt a' Mhinisteir is the only water course feeding directly to the designated bathing water. The Dores Burn flows in just beyond the eastern end of the bathing area.

The area is predominantly rural (98%), of which 41% is woodland, 15% is grassland and 32% heath. The area supports mixed farming. There is no urban development within the bathing water catchment. Outside of the catchment, the closest population centre is the village of Dores. The village of Drumnadrochit is 10 km to the south-west of the bathing water on the western side of Loch Ness and the City of Inverness is 10 km to the north-east of 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, combined sewer overflows and treated sewage effluent.

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 potential sources of short-term faecal indicator pollution at this bathing water can originate from human or animal sources.

Map 1: Dores bathing water



0 75 150 300 m

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- Designated bathing water
- Bathing water sampling point
- Bathing water sampling transect
- Sewage effluent discharge
- Combined sewer overflow
- Emergency overflow
- Sewage treatment works
- Watercourses



Map 2: Catchment draining into Dores 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.

There is potential for agricultural diffuse pollution to occur in the River Ness. This is a risk to Dores bathing water quality, particularly during periods of wet weather. SEPA has worked with farmers in the area to promote good agricultural practices. Work to address diffuse pollution issues is expected to be completed by 2027.

Improving pollution from sewage and other discharges

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

The public sewerage system in Dores village picks up many septic tanks that previously discharged to burns and Loch Ness. The septic tank serving the village of Dores discharges via an extended outfall into Loch Ness.

There are isolated septic tanks in the catchment that have the potential to affect water quality at Dores bathing water.

Improving pollution from diffuse urban sources

Urban diffuse source pollution comes from contaminated rainwater discharging to rivers and streams.

SEPA, local authorities and Scottish Water are working together to tackle urban diffuse pollution. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) have been incorporated into local plans and partner organisations have been encouraged to retrofit SUDS where possible.

Allt a' Mhinisteir burn is known to be impacted by surface water run-off from the residential area through which it runs.

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

In certain weather conditions, particularly warm still weather, algal blooms can form on the Loch. Sometimes the blooms are formed of blue-green algae which can be harmful if swallowed and may cause skin rashes. If a blue-green algal bloom occurs, the public shall be informed and advised not to bathe through signage at the loch and through the relevant local media.

Algae

Current information suggests that this bathing water is not at risk of an overproduction of filamentous algae or phytoplankton. Any such bloom, whilst unsightly, is believed to be no risk to human health although fish kills may occur.

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 Highland Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Dingwall office Graesser House Fodderty Way Dingwall Business Park Dingwall IV15 9XB 01349 862021 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>Highland Council Glenurquhart Road Inverness IV3 5NX 01349 886606 service.point@highland.gov.uk www.highland.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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