

Bathing Water Profile for Dunbar (East)

Dunbar, Scotland

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

Description

The Dunbar (East) bathing water is situated next to the town of Dunbar. The designated area is a 300 metres wide sandy bay with some rocky areas. The beach is popular with families, especially due to the presence of rock pools.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 10–200 metres. The beach slopes gently towards the water. For local tide information see: <http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/index.aspx>



Site details

Local authority	East Lothian
Year of designation	1999
Water sampling location	NT 68238 78987

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Dunbar (East) bathing water extends to 3.1 km². The area is predominantly rural (83%) with agriculture the major land use. Approximately 15% of the bathing water catchment is urban. The main population centre is the town of Dunbar. Population density outside of the town is generally low.

There are no major rivers within the bathing water catchment.

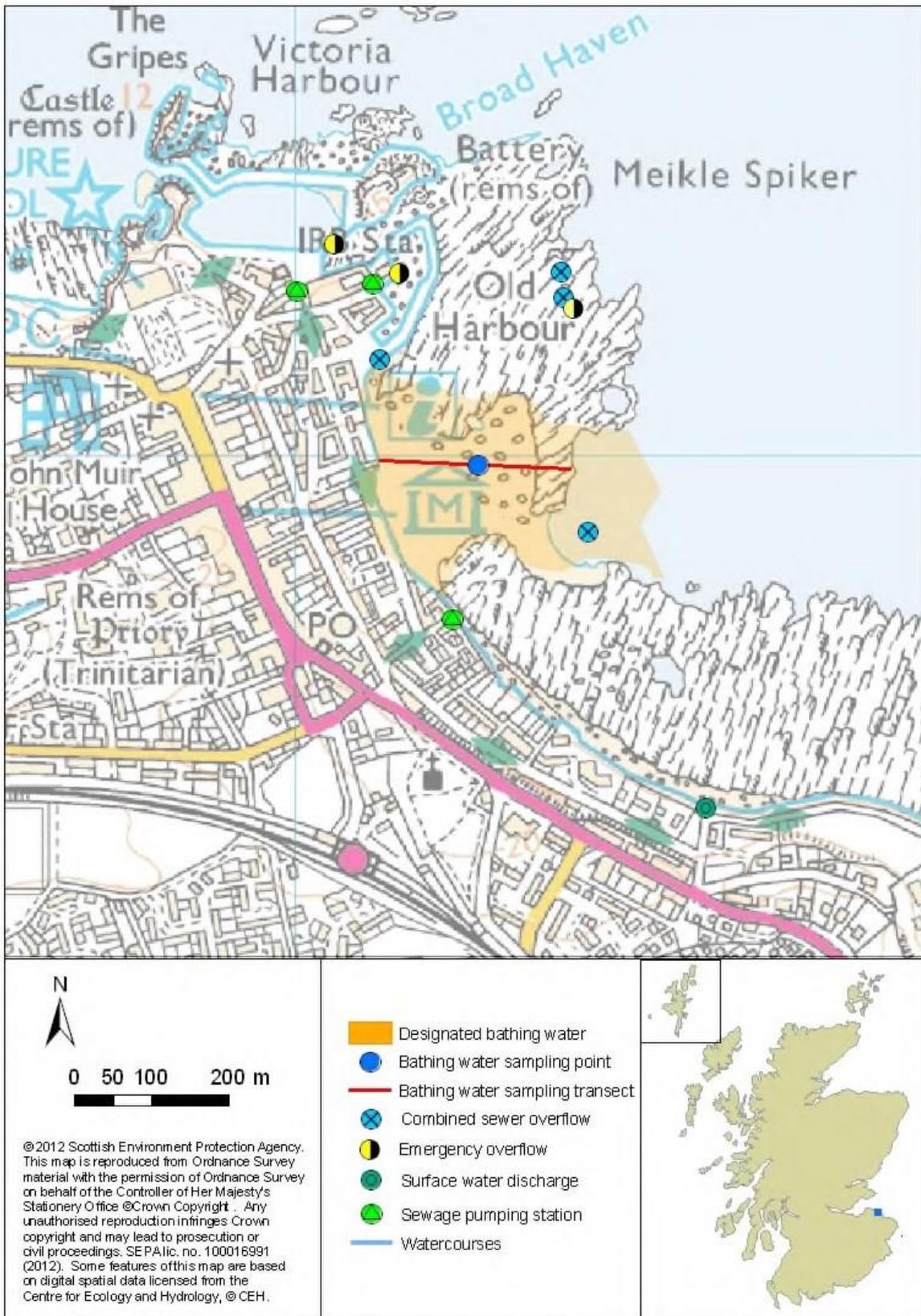
Risks to water quality

The principal risks and source of wet weather driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from combined sewer overflows.

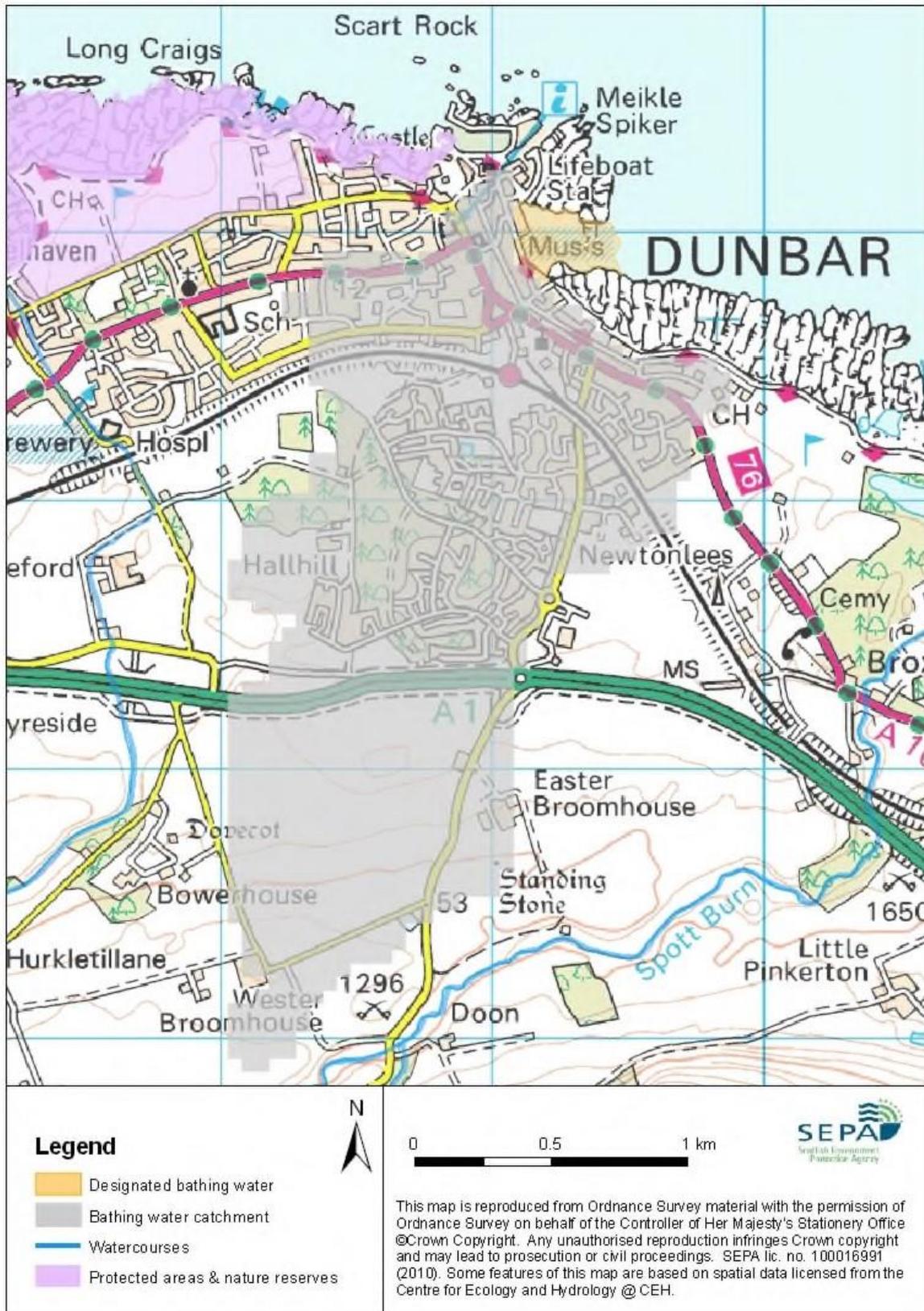
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

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

Map 1: Dunbar (East) bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Dunbar (East) 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.

Upgrades to the sewerage network in the Dunbar area include the construction of Beltonford treatment works. The works was built inland with a discharge to the Biel Water, using the existing long sea outfall as a storm overflow. Membrane technology ensures high quality effluent is achieved, further safeguarding the quality of this bathing water.

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 East Lothian Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA office</p> <p>SEPA Edinburgh office 231 Corstorphine Rd Edinburgh EH12 7AT 0131 449 729 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>East Lothian Council</p> <p>John Muir House Haddington East Lothian EH41 3HA 01620 827827 customerservices@eastlothian.gov.uk www.eastlothian.gov.uk</p>	<p>Keep Scotland Beautiful</p> <p>01786 471333 beach@ksbscotland.org.uk www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org</p>
<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>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:
1.1	May 2012	
1.2	March 2014	
1.3	June 2015	
1.4	April 2020	
1.5	April 2023	