

Bathing Water Profile for Elie (Ruby Bay)

Elie, Scotland

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

Description

Elie (Ruby Bay) bathing water is located on the north coast of the Firth of Forth. It is a sheltered, sandy bay of approximately 0.3 km in length. The bay is a popular place to view wildlife and birds.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 0–200 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	Fife Council
Year of designation	1999
Water sampling location	NT 49500 99500

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Elie (Ruby Bay) bathing water extends to 0.1 km². The area is predominantly rural (86%) with grassland the major land use. Approximately 14% of the bathing water catchment is urban. There are no main population centres within the catchment and population density is generally low.

There are no major rivers within the bathing water catchment.

There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within or near to the bathing water or catchment. Firth of Forth is designated as a SSSI due to the internationally important bird population. Kilconquhar Loch is designated as a SSSI due to its importance for birds and habitat. These bird populations have the potential to influence water quality at 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 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: Elie (Ruby Bay) bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Elie (Ruby Bay) 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.

Elie sewage treatment works has a septic tank and long sea outfall. Scottish Water has carried out improvement works at South Street, Earlsferry and Harbour pumping stations.

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 Fife Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Glenrothes office Pentland Court The Saltire centre Glenrothes KY6 2DA 01592 776910 www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>Fife Council Fife House North Street Glenrothes Fife KY7 5LT 08451 55 00 00 fife.council@fife.gov.uk www.fife.gov.uk</p>	<p>Keep Scotland Beautiful 01786 471333 beach@ksbscotland.org.uk www.keeptscotlandbeautiful.org</p>
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Scottish Government

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