

## Bathing Water Profile for Kingsbarns

Kingsbarns, Scotland

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

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**Description** The Kingsbarns bathing water is located on the Fife coast east of Kingsbarns town. It is gently sloping sandy bay, about 800 metres long. The beach is popular with walkers as the Fife coastal footpath passes close by.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 20–260 metres.



<b>Site details</b>	Local authority	Fife Council
	Year of designation	1999
	Water sampling location	NO 60414 12362

### Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Kingsbarns bathing water extends to 3 km<sup>2</sup>. The area is predominantly rural (96%) with arable agriculture the major land use. Approximately 4% of the bathing water catchment is urban. The main population centre is the small town of Kingsbarns.

There are no main rivers within the bathing water catchment however the Cambo Burn is approximately 300 metres south of the bathing water.

The Strathmore and Fife area was designated as surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone in 2002.

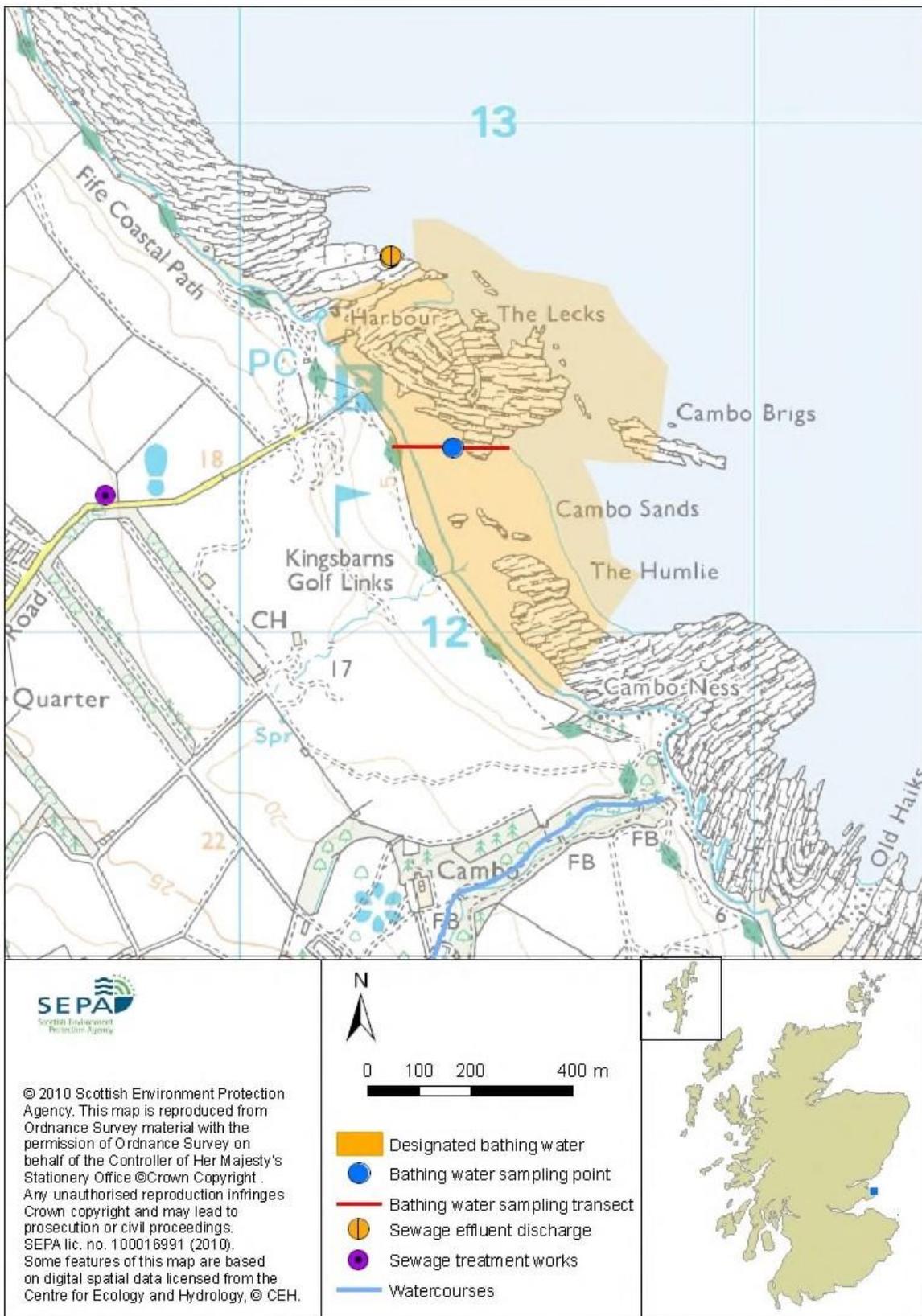
### Risks to water quality

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.

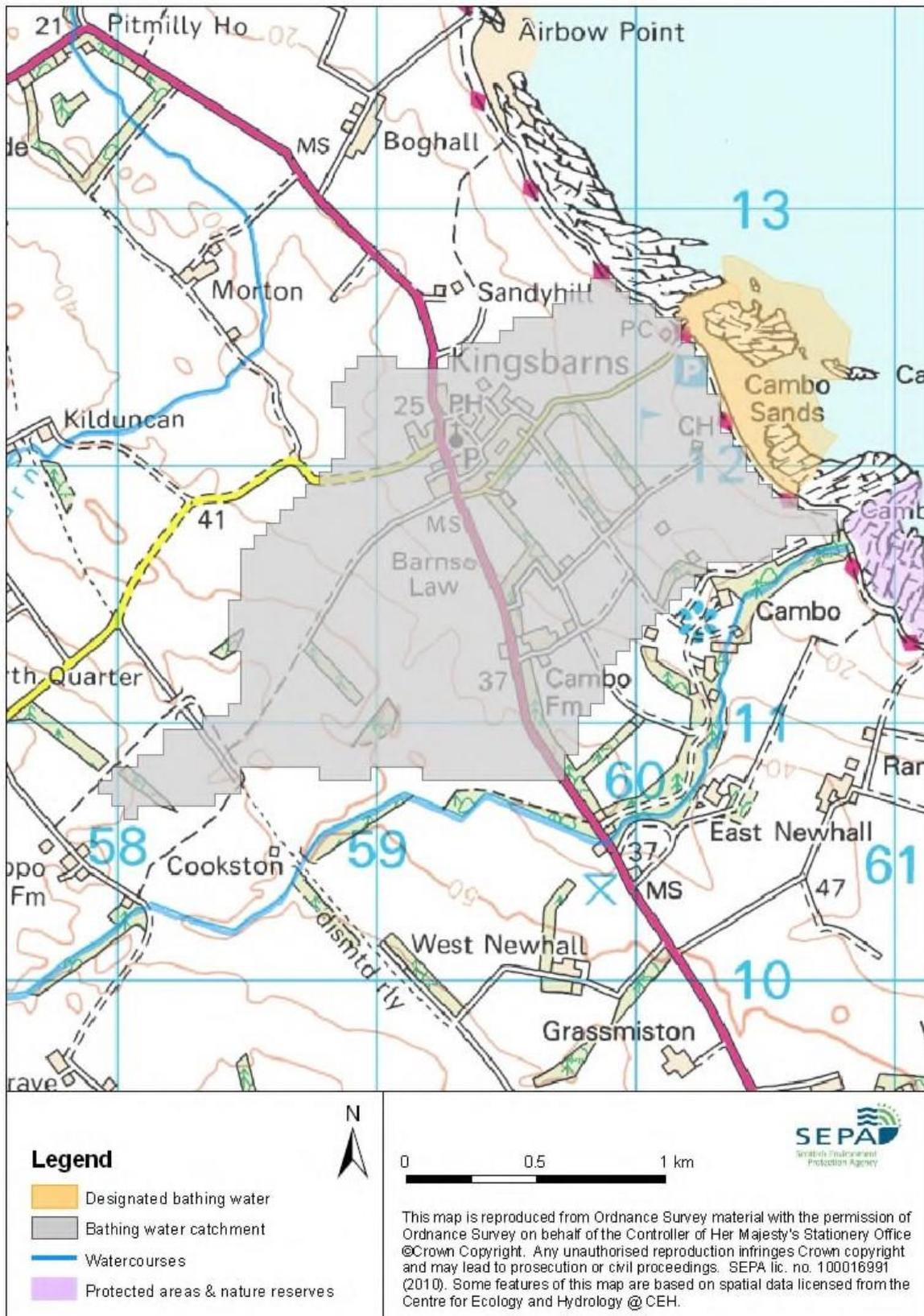
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

Our regulatory and scientific assessment indicates that potential sources of short-term faecal indicator pollution at this bathing water can originate from human and animal sources.

Map 1: Kingsbarns bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Kingsbarns 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.

Kingsbarns sewage treatment works consists of a submerged aerated media system and sand filtration. During the bathing season the final effluent is also subject to ultraviolet disinfection to ensure high 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 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><b>SEPA Glenrothes office</b></p> <p>Pentland Court The Saltire Centre Glenrothes KY6 2DA 01592 776910 <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk">www.sepa.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Fife Council</b></p> <p>Fife House North Street Glenrothes Fife KY7 5LT 08451 55 00 00 <a href="mailto:fife.council@fife.gov.uk">fife.council@fife.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.fife.gov.uk">www.fife.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Keep Scotland Beautiful</b></p> <p>01786 471333 <a href="mailto:beach@ksbscotland.org.uk">beach@ksbscotland.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org">www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org</a></p>
<p><b>Scottish Government</b></p> <p>Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ 0131 244 0396 <a href="mailto:eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk">eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters">www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters</a></p>		
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1.0	Nov 2010	
1.1	March 2014	
1.2	June 2015	
1.3	April 2020	
1.4	May 2023	