

Bathing Water Profile for Kirkcaldy (Seafield)

Kirkcaldy, 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

Kirkcaldy (Seafield) bathing water is situated to the south of the town of Kirkcaldy in Fife. The sandy beach is approximately 600 metres long and slopes gently towards the water. The area is popular with walkers due to the close presence of the Fife Coastal Path.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 10–210 metres.



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Site details

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Local authority | Fife Council |
| Year of designation | 2008 |
| Water sampling location | NT 28105 89694 |

Catchment description

The catchment draining into Kirkcaldy (Seafield) bathing water extends to 0.5 km². Land use in the area is divided between urban (50%) and rural (50%), with arable agriculture being the major rural land use. Kirkcaldy is the main population centre in the catchment. The area also includes the disused Inveriel Quarry.

The main rivers within the bathing water catchment are the Tiel, Dronachy and Tyrie burns. The Tiel Burn discharges into the sea 100 metres north of the bathing water and the Tyrie Burn discharges to the sea 270 metres to the south of the bathing water.

The Firth of Forth is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Ramsar site and contains Special Protection Areas due to the internationally important bird populations.

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.

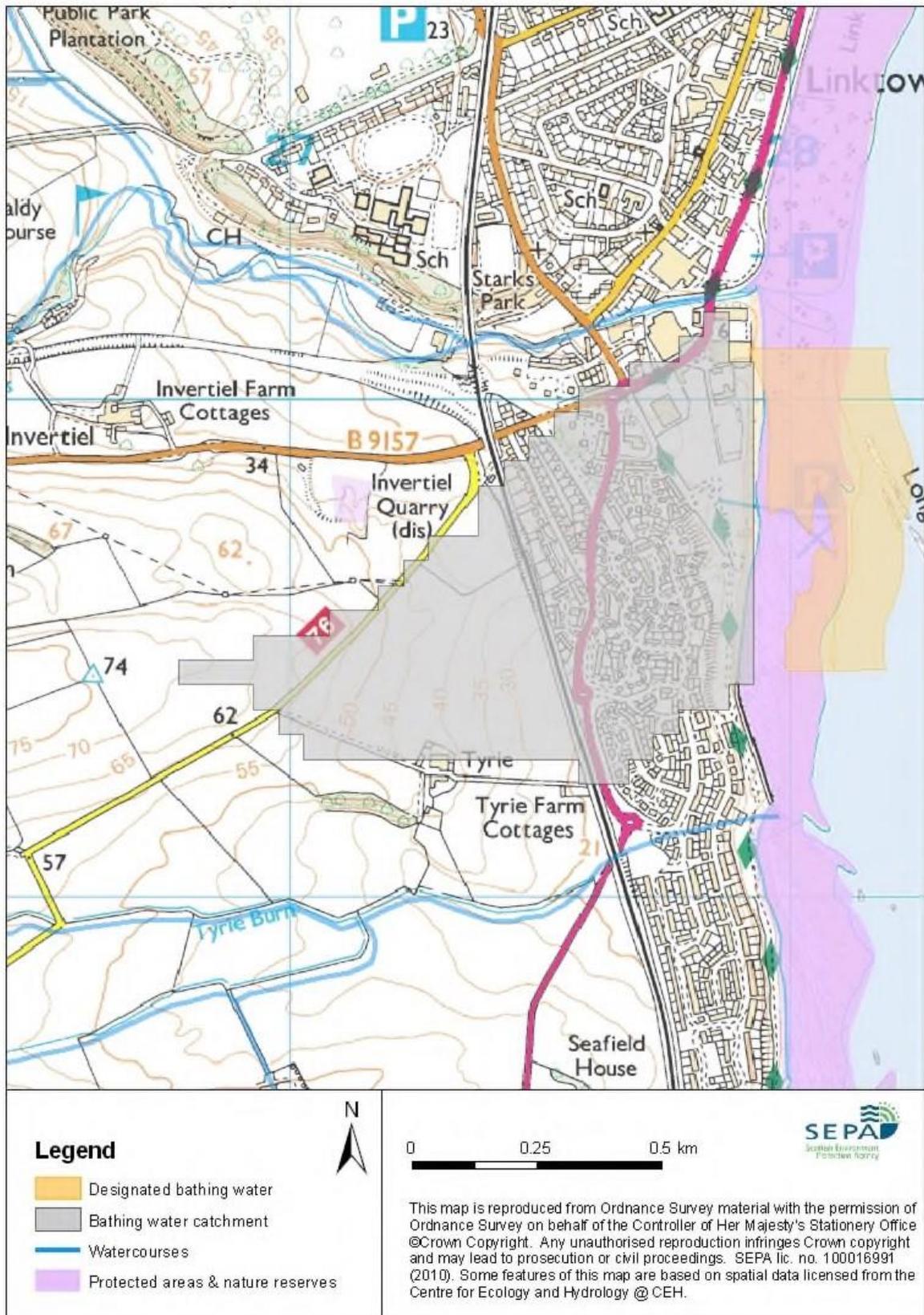
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

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

Map 1: Kirkcaldy (Seafield) bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Kirkcaldy (Seafield) bathing water



Daily water quality forecasts Water quality is forecast on a daily basis during the bathing water season (1 June to 15 September). The forecasts indicate 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 pollution from sewage and other discharges

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

Scottish Water has carried out upgrade work on sewerage assets to help improve bathing 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

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| <p>SEPA Glenrothes office</p> <p>Pentland Court The Saltire Centre Glenrothes KY6 2DA 01592 776910 www.sepa.org.uk</p> | <p>Fife Council</p> <p>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</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 | April 2013 | |
| 1.2 | March 2014 | |
| 1.3 | June 2015 | |
| 1.4 | April 2020 | |
| 1.5 | May 2023 | |