

Bathing Water Profile for Leven

Leven, Scotland

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

Description

Leven bathing water is located to the east of the town of Leven in Fife. It is a roughly 2 km long sandy beach. The beach is bordered by a promenade and a golf course.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 0–270 metres.



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Site details

Local authority	Fife Council
Year of designation	2008
Water sampling location	NO 39600 01400

Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Leven bathing water extends to 11.5 km². The area is predominantly rural (94%) with arable agriculture the major land use. Approximately 6% of the bathing water catchment is urban. The main population centres within the catchment are Leven and Kennoway.

The main river in the bathing water catchment is the Scoonie Burn.

The Firth of Forth is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Ramsar site and contains Special Protection Areas. The Strathmore and Fife area is designated as a surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

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 and 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 and animal sources.

Map 1: Leven bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Leven 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.

Levenmouth sewage treatment works operates tertiary treatment during the bathing season.

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.keepsotlandbeautiful.org</p>
<p>Scottish Government Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ</p>		

0131 244 0396 eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters

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1.0	Nov 2010	
1.1	April 2014	
1.2	June 2015	
1.3	April 2020	
1.4	May 2023	