

Bathing Water Profile for Mossyard

Mossyard, Scotland

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

Description

The Mossyard bathing water is a small sandy beach (about 1 km long) situated at the south-west corner of Fleet Bay on the south coast of Dumfries & Galloway. It is close to the small town of Gatehouse of Fleet. Mossyard is a privately owned beach within the boundary of Mossyard farm. It is popular with visitors to the adjacent caravan and camping park. Mossyard has a tombolo (sand bar) which links Garvellan Rocks to the mainland. The tombolo is usually exposed, even at high tide. At low tide, there is a sandy area between the shore and Garvellan Rocks.



This beach sits on a transitional water and mud flats are exposed at low tide making the water's edge difficult to access in certain areas.

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Site details

Local authority	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Year of designation	2008
Water sampling location	NX 55250 51870

Catchment description

The immediate catchment draining into the Mossyard bathing water extends to less than 1 km². The area is fairly flat with a maximum elevation of approximately 50 metres falling to around 15 metres along the coast.

The area is predominantly rural (97%) with grassland the major land use. The upland areas support mixed sheep and beef farming. Approximately 1% of the bathing water catchment is urban. At peak times, the holiday park in the catchment accommodates around 1000 people. Outside of the drainage catchment, the small town of Gatehouse of Fleet is approximately 8 km from the bathing water.

Risks to water quality

The principal risks and source of wet weather driven short term pollution at this bathing water are from agricultural run-off.

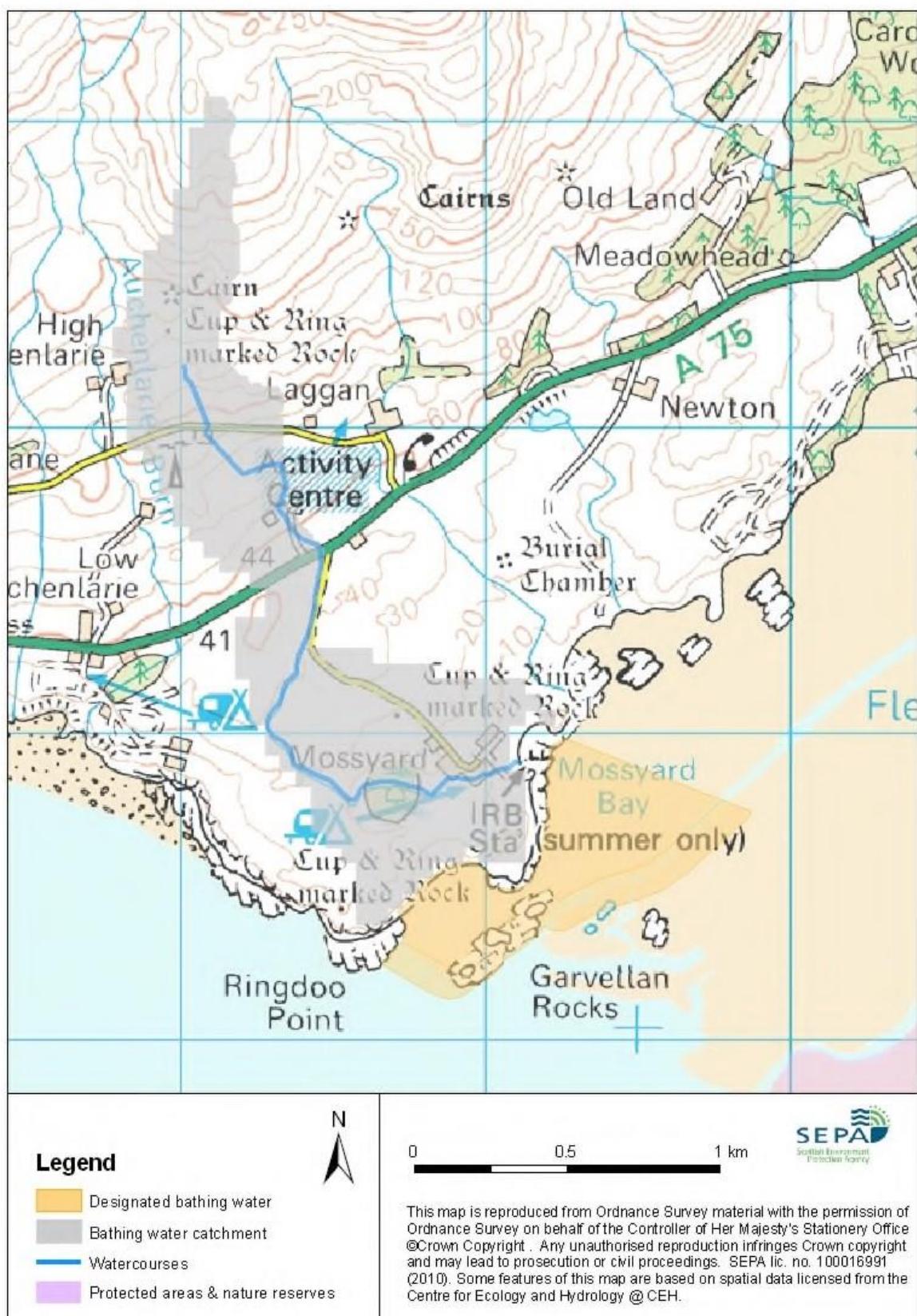
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

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

Map 1: Mossyard bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Mossyard bathing water



Improving bathing water quality

Improving diffuse pollution from agricultural sources

Diffuse pollution from agricultural sources is the result of rain driven events causing cumulative inputs of pollutants to rivers and streams.

There is potential for agricultural diffuse pollution to occur in small tributaries discharging onto the bathing beach. These are a risk to Mossyard bathing water quality, particularly during and after periods of wet weather.

Farm visits started in this catchment in 2014 and were completed in 2019. SEPA will continue to work with rural land managers in these catchments to reduce the risk of pollution to the bathing water. SEPA has observed significant changes in land manager practice and improvements which are known to reduce pollution risk. There has been significant capital expenditure resulting in many rural land managers going beyond regulatory compliance to address issues arising from their farming activities.

Improving pollution from sewage and other discharges

The nearby Auchenlarie holiday park has implemented a new private sewage treatment facility to improve discharges into Wigtown Bay. The new system includes a fine screening unit, septic tanks and reed bed.

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 Dumfries & Galloway Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

SEPA Newton Stewart office Holmpark Industrial Estate New Galloway Road Minnigaff Newton Stewart DG8 6BF T: 01671 402618 www.sepa.org.uk	Dumfries & Galloway Council Council Offices English Street Dumfries DG1 2DD 0303 333 3000 01387 260034 www.dumgal.gov.uk	Keep Scotland Beautiful 01786 471333 beach@ksbscotland.org.uk www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org
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Scottish Government

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

Version number:	Date:	Next review due:
1.3	March 2013	
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1.5	April 2015	
1.6	May 2016	
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