


Bathing water profile:

Pease Bay

<p>Bathing water: Pease Bay</p>	
<p>EC bathing water ID number: UKS7616041</p>	
<p>Location of bathing water: UK/Scotland/Scottish Borders (Map1)</p>	
<p>Year of designation: 1987</p>	
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<p>Bathing water description</p>	
<p>The Pease Bay bathing water is located approximately 1.6 km to the east of the small town of Cockburnspath in the Scottish Borders. It is a sandy bay, about 600 metres long (Map 1). The beach is popular for surfing. It was designated as a bathing water in 1987.</p>	
<p>During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 5–260 metres. The beach slopes gently towards the water. For local tide information see: http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/</p>	
<p>Our monitoring point for taking water quality samples is located midway between the centre and the north western end of the designated area (Grid Ref NT 79264 71083) as shown on Map 1.</p>	
<p>Monitoring water quality</p>	
<p>Please visit our website¹ for details of the current EU water quality classification and recent results for this bathing water.</p>	
<p>During the bathing season (1 June to 15 September), designated bathing waters are monitored by SEPA for faecal indicators (bacteria) and classified according to the levels of these indicators in the water. The European standards used to classify bathing waters arise from recommendations made by the World</p>	

¹ <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/SamplingResults.aspx>

Health Organisation and are linked to human health. More information on bathing water monitoring, health and classification can be found on our [website](#)².

Risks to water quality

In general, most natural waters will be affected to some extent during and following rainfall as pollutant loads may be increased due to run-off from agricultural or urban land in the catchment. In addition, at some locations waste water discharges from combined sewer overflows, which then drain into the bathing water and can reduce water quality.

Faecal pollutants can come from human sewage, farming activities and livestock (e.g. cattle, sheep), industrial processes, surface water urban drainage, domestic animals (e.g. dogs) and wildlife (e.g. birds) and can enter bathing waters via:

- direct discharges into the marine environment at, or in the vicinity of, the beach;
- the freshwater network draining into a bathing water, which can be prone to elevated bacterial levels as a result of diffuse pollution and/or point source inputs upstream.

The potential relevant pollution sources at or near this bathing water are highlighted on Map 1.

The principal risks and source of wet weather-driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from agricultural run-off. These events are expected to last 1–2 days, depending on the duration of the rainfall, and may result in elevated bacteria levels compared to dry conditions.

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 and animal sources.

Bathing is not advisable during or following (one or two days after) rainfall. Bathing or swimming after storms, floods or heavy rainfall should be avoided as the risk of illness following short term water pollution is increased.

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

Marine waters are not at risk of overproduction of cyanobacteria.

Algae

Current information suggests that this bathing water is not at risk of a excessive growth of macroalgae (seaweed) or phytoplankton.

Jellyfish

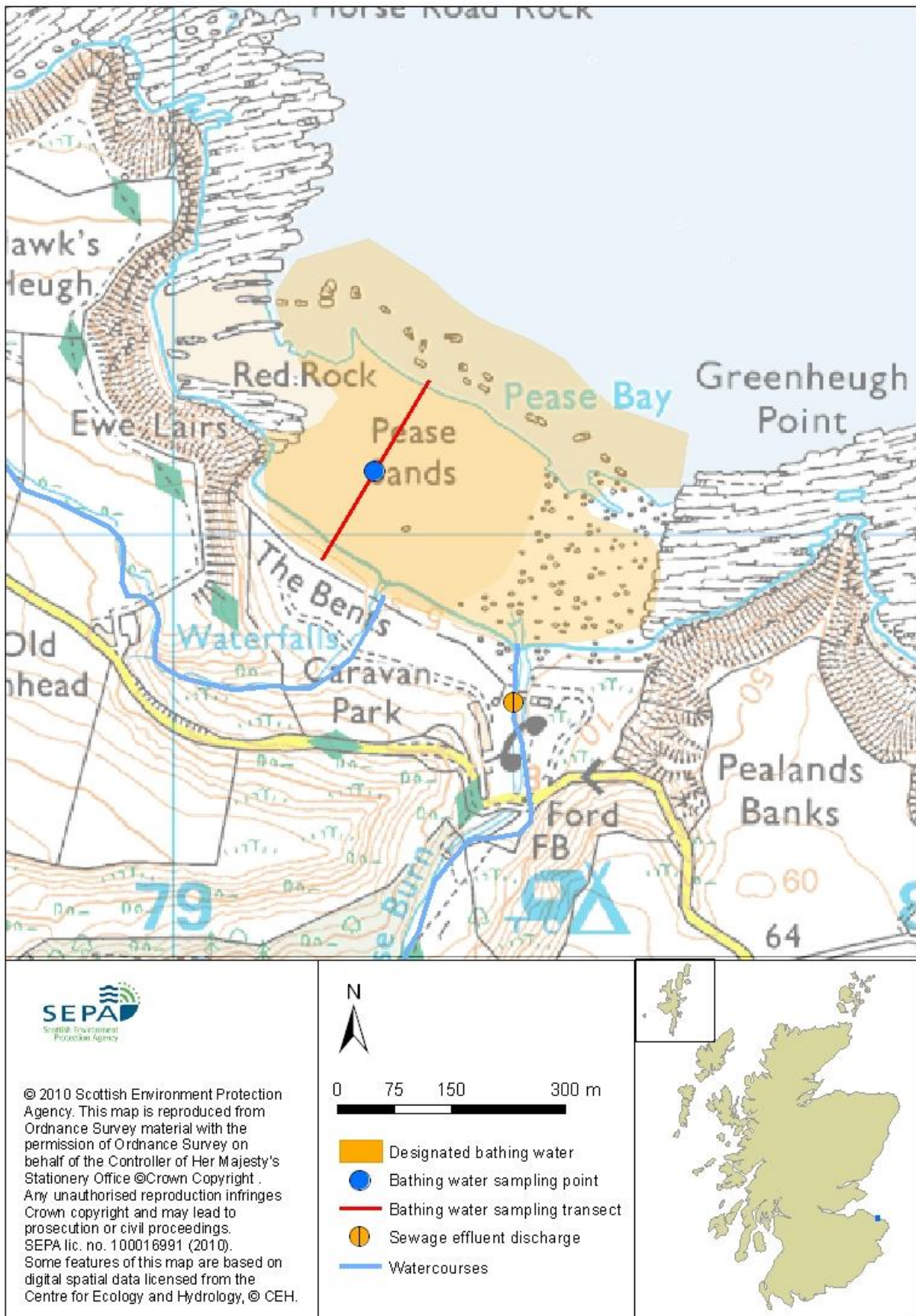
There is a possibility of increased numbers of jellyfish in the water during the summer months. This is a naturally occurring phenomenon. Although there are a few stinging species common to the UK, most are harmless. The Marine Conservation Society advises to 'look but don't touch'.

Daily water quality forecasts

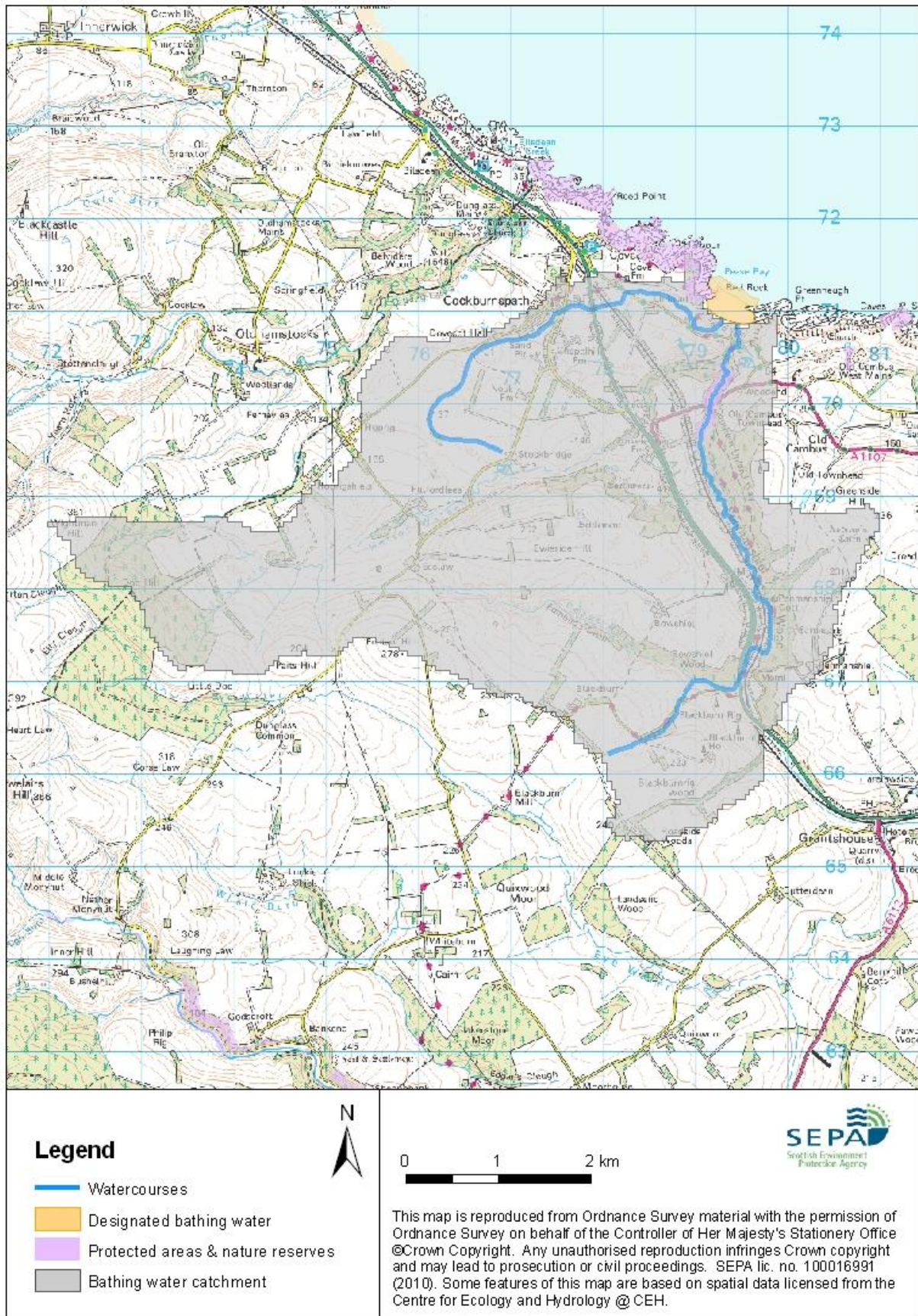
Pease Bay bathing water is not part of our signage network. Daily water quality predictions are not currently required for this bathing water.

² <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/SamplingResults.aspx>

Map 1: Pease Bay bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Pease Bay bathing water



Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Pease Bay bathing water extends to 27 km². The area is predominantly rural (99%) with agriculture the primary land use. The main population centre is the town of Cockburnspath. The nearby caravan park increases the local population during the summer months.

Average summer rainfall for the region is 296 mm compared to 331 mm across Scotland as a whole. The main rivers within the bathing water catchment are the Pease Burn and the Cockburnspath Burn.

There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) either fully or partially within the bathing water or bathing water catchment, Pease Bridge Glen and the coastal area (see Scottish Natural Heritage's [information service website](#)³ for more information). These SSSIs are not believed to be a threat to bathing water quality.

The Lothian and Borders area was designated as surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone in 2002.

Measures to improve bathing water quality

High quality bathing waters are important so that people can enjoy Scotland's environment safely. They are also important for Scotland's tourism industry.

Recent years have seen considerable improvements in Scotland's bathing water quality, not least due to substantial investment in the sewerage system. SEPA and our partners are fully committed to continuing to improve bathing water quality.

Improving diffuse pollution from agricultural sources

Diffuse pollution from agricultural sources is normally the result of cumulative inputs of pollutants from several different sources on farms within the catchments draining to the bathing water. Consequently, tackling diffuse agricultural pollution requires concerted action across catchments. We will ensure this by working with farmers to raise awareness about the requirement to prevent and reduce pollution, and to help them identify appropriate actions for doing so.

To help co-ordinate our work to encourage and ensure action, SEPA participate in the [Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group](#)⁴ (DPMAG), which is a partnership of relevant authorities, land manager representatives and voluntary organisations.

The Scottish Government has also brought together nine public bodies to form [Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services](#)⁵ (SEARS). This partnership will contribute to implementing plans for tackling diffuse pollution by providing co-ordinated education and advice to rural land managers.

Additional targeted efforts will be made to improve management of diffuse pollution within catchments identified as 'priority' catchments. These are catchments where the scale of the pollution reduction needed will require planned and targeted actions to be identified and discussed with farmers concerned. Assistance will be given in these areas to identify pollution hotspots, and one-to-one advice will be provided on following the agricultural codes of good practice, which in themselves lead to compliance with these regulations. Action in priority catchments will be phased.

This area is included in the Eye Water and Pease Bay Diffuse Pollution Priority Catchment which is one of the 14 Priority Catchments in Scotland where SEPA is currently working as a part of our diffuse pollution mitigation strategy.

As part of the priority catchment work all farms in the catchment had previously been visited and both stabling and field inspections were carried out to assess compliance with the Diffuse Pollution General Binding Rules.

Significant improvements have been made by farmers in this catchment. As of 2014 the vast majority of livestock poaching issues have been resolved by either fencing and provision of alternative watering arrangements or by management to reduce the numbers of livestock having access to watercourses.

³ www.snh.org.uk/snhi

⁴ <http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/who-is-involved-with-rbmp/dpmag/>

⁵ www.sears.scotland.gov.uk

The first re-visits to non-compliant farms were made following their one-to-one visits undertaken prior to the 2014 bathing water season. Significant change was observed in the catchment with large areas of water course now successfully fenced off and alternative livestock drinking water provided, thereby removing livestock access to the Eye water and its tributaries. Some outstanding work is still needed on a couple of units.

Improving pollution from sewage and other discharges

Most waste water collection and treatment services in Scotland are provided by Scottish Water. It has invested substantially in waste water collection and treatment provision over recent years to protect public health and the environment. Public investments in the sewerage network and in treatment works will continue to be co-ordinated through the national investment and planning process for Scottish Water, known as 'Quality and Standards'.

A new sewage treatment works became operational at Cove Village in the summer of 2002, serving Cove and Cockburnspath. Secondary treatment is provided all year around with additional UV treatment being applied during the bathing water season. The discharge location for the works is approximately 1.5 kilometres from the designated bathing water area.

In 2006, a new private sewage treatment works was installed at the caravan park near Pease Bay. This provides year round bacteriological treatment of the sewage effluent enabling high water quality standards to be achieved at the bathing water. The original outfall pipe from this sewage treatment works (to the North Sea) was replaced by a new discharge pipe to the Pease burn in 2007. Since 2009 ultraviolet treatment has also been applied to the effluent during the bathing season, further enhancing bathing water quality.

Improving pollution from diffuse urban sources

Urban diffuse source pollution comes from rainwater falling onto urban areas (roads, pavements, yards and roofs) becoming contaminated with pollutants on those areas, washing into surface water drains and discharging from those drains to the water environment.

Tackling this type of pollution requires substantial changes in the way urban areas are drained, and efforts to reduce the quantity of pollutants deposited on urban surfaces. Since the mid 1990s, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) have increasingly been used to drain new developments. They are designed to avoid pollution of the water environment and include permeable surfaces that allow infiltration of rainwater into the ground, slowing the rate at which it drains to the water environment and trapping and breaking down pollutants. Artificial ponds or wetlands provide a final stage of treatment. Local authorities, Scottish Water and SEPA are working together to co-ordinate efforts to tackle pollution from diffuse urban sources, incorporating SUDS into local plans and encouraging partner organisations to retrofit SUDS where possible.

Diffuse urban pollution is not considered to affect this bathing water.

Responding to pollution incidents

Although rare, pollution incidents affecting bathing water quality can happen. Pollution incidents tend to be unpredictable, for example a slurry spill or sewage network failure, and can result in elevated levels of faecal indicators.

To report a possible pollution incident please use our 24 hour pollution hotline (0800 807060). In response we 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.

Whenever our routine sampling of bathing waters identifies elevated levels of faecal indicators there is an immediate response to check all relevant potential sources and major discharges in the immediate catchment, as well as our hydrometric information to determine whether the levels may be due to high river

flows. Follow-up microbiology sampling is also undertaken of the bathing water and local water courses. 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](#)⁶.

Other pollutants at the beach may include plastics and litter Beach users are encouraged to use the bins provided or to take litter home. Beach cleaning and litter clean-up is maintained for this bathing water by Scottish Borders Council.

Contact details and sources of more information

SEPA Galashiels office

Burnbrae
Mossilee Road
Galashiels
TD1 1NF
01896 754797
www.sepa.org.uk

Scottish Borders Council

Council Headquarters
Newtown St. Boswells
Melrose
TD6 0SA
01835 82400
www.scotborders.gov.uk

Pollution Hotline

0800 80 70 60
24 hours per day, 7 days per week

Keep Scotland Beautiful

01786 471333
beach@ksbScotland.org.uk
www.keepsScotlandbeautiful.org

Scottish Government

Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ
0131 244 0396
eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathing_waters

Further information about the condition of our water environment and the actions needed to deliver improvement can be found in:

- the Scotland river basin management plan <http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/>
- the Forth area management plan <http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/who-is-involved-with-rbmp/area-advisory-groups/forth/>

The Marine Conservation Society's Good Beach Guide: www.goodbeachguide.co.uk

Blue Flag and Seaside Awards: www.keepsScotlandbeautiful.org/coastal

Version Control

Version number:	Date:	Next review due:
1.2	January 2013	
1.3	April 2014	
1.4	April 2015	

⁶ <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/Predictions.aspx>