


# Bathing water profile:

## Peterhead (Lido)

<p><b>Bathing water:</b> Peterhead (Lido)</p>	
<p><b>EC bathing water ID number:</b> UKS7616042</p>	
<p><b>Location of bathing water:</b> UK/Scotland/ Aberdeenshire (Map1)</p>	
<p><b>Year of designation:</b> 1999</p>	
<p><b>Bathing water description</b></p> <p>Peterhead (Lido) bathing water is situated in Peterhead harbour on the east coast of Aberdeenshire. Its location is unusual in that it forms the shoreline of a boating marina which is itself situated within the outer harbour. The sandy beach is approximately 300 metres long (Map 1). It was designated as a bathing water in 1999.</p> <p>During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 80–150 metres. The beach slopes gently towards the water. For local tide information see: <a href="http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/">http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/</a></p> <p>This bathing water attracts a diverse range of water sports enthusiasts, with dinghy sailing in the sheltered waters of the bay particularly popular.</p> <p>The monitoring point used by SEPA for taking water quality samples is located towards the northern end of the designated area (Grid Ref NK 12489 45175) as shown on Map 1.</p>	
<p><b>Monitoring water quality</b></p> <p>Please visit our <a href="http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/SamplingResults.aspx">website</a><sup>1</sup> 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>	

<sup>1</sup> <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](#)<sup>2</sup>.

## 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. There are no direct discharges to the bathing water.

The principal risks and source of wet weather driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from surface water urban drainage and combined sewer overflows. 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 or animal sources.

## Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

Marine waters are not at risk of excessive production of cyanobacteria.

## Algae

Current information suggests that this bathing water is not at risk of excessive production 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'.

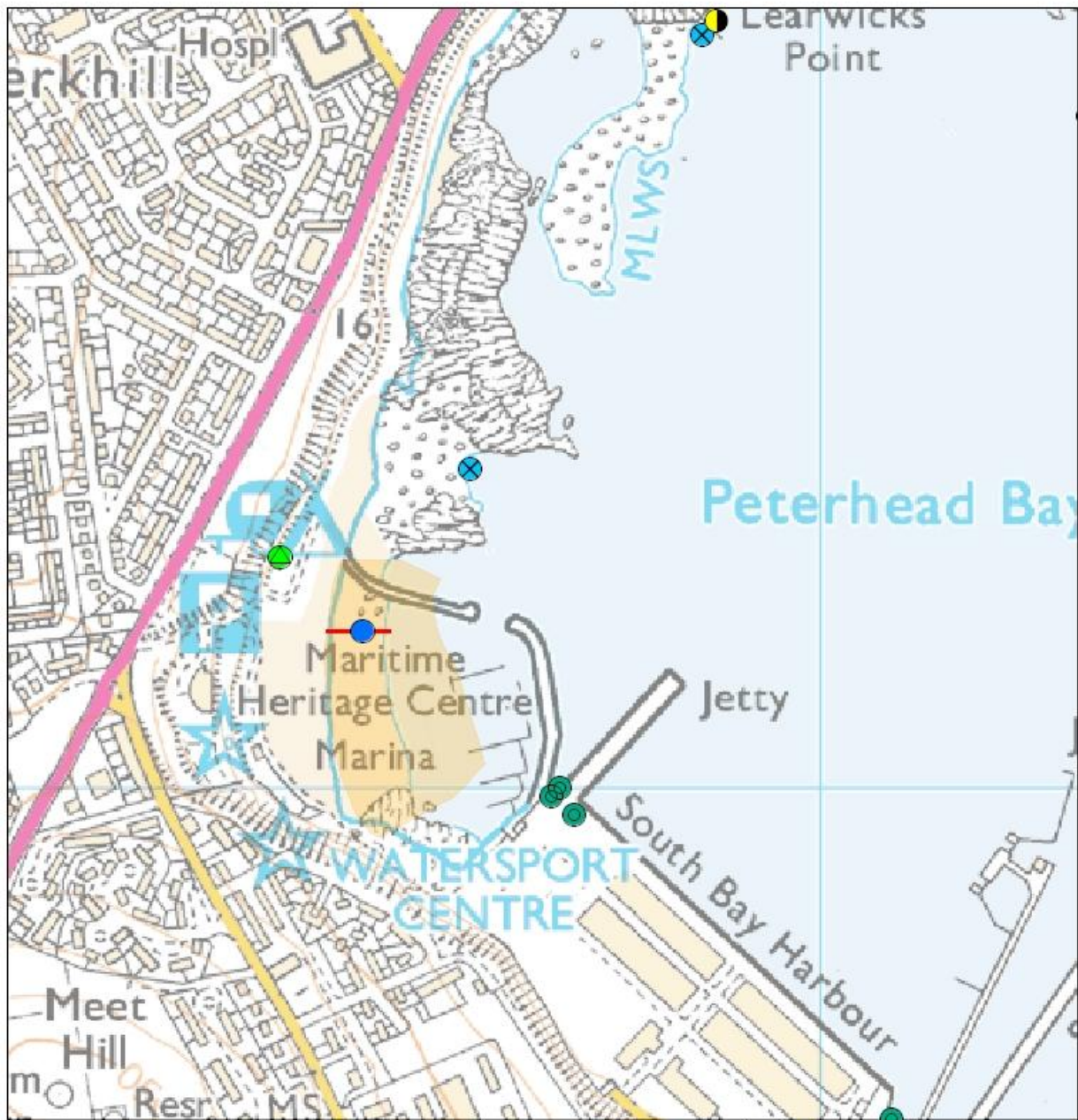
## Daily water quality forecasts

Peterhead (Lido) bathing water is not part of SEPA's signage network. Daily water quality predictions are not currently required for this bathing water.


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

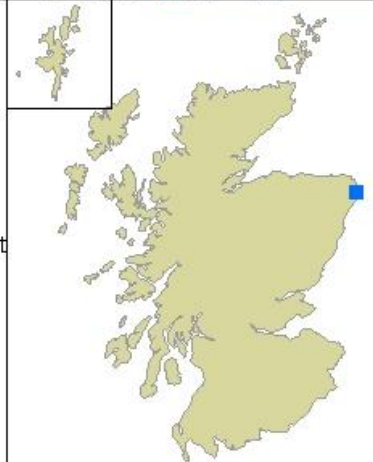
Map 1: Peterhead (Lido) bathing water



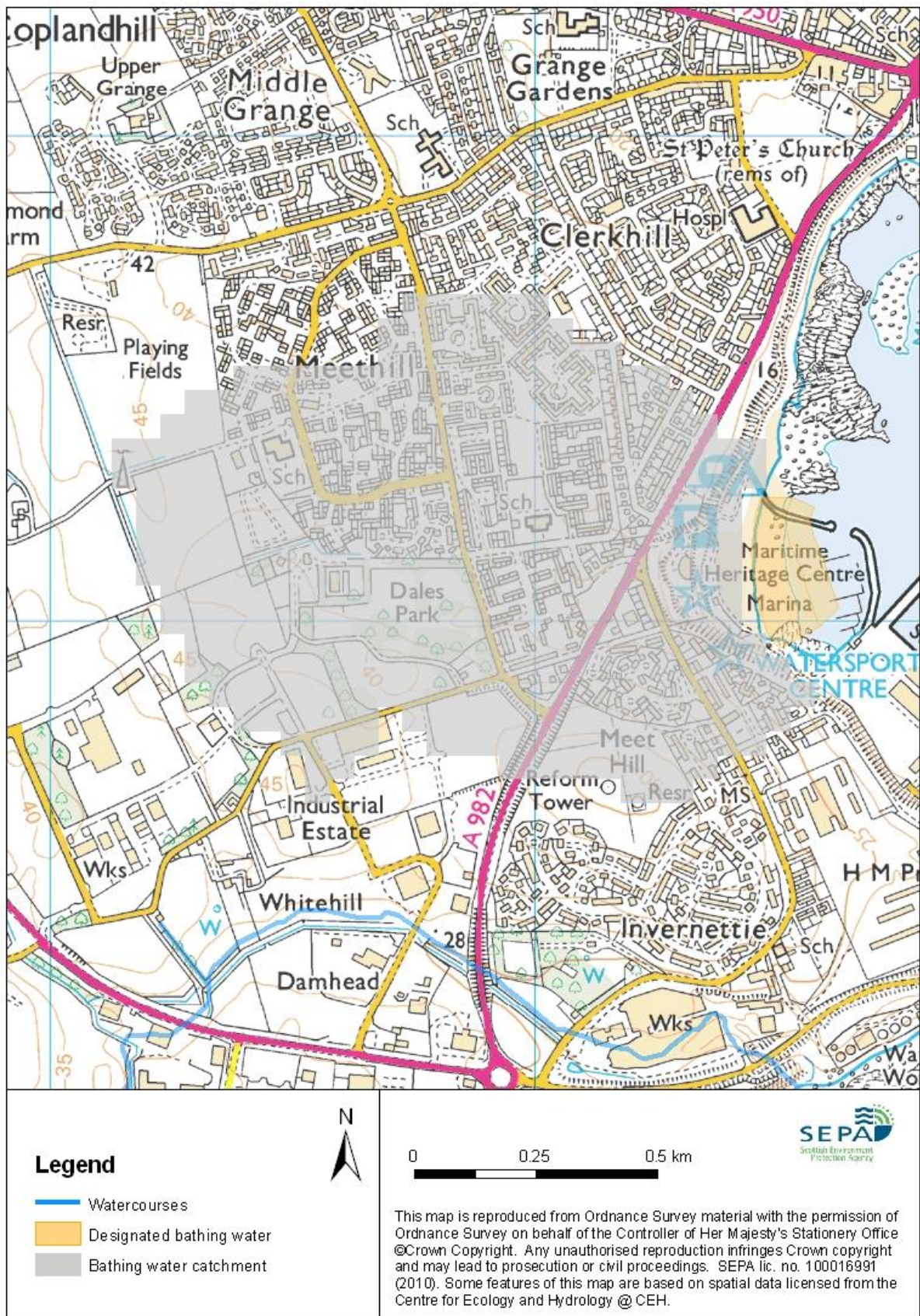
0 75 150 300 m

-  Designated bathing water
-  Bathing water sampling point
-  Bathing water sampling transect
-  Combined sewer overflow
-  Emergency overflow
-  Surface water discharge
-  Sewage pumping station
-  Watercourses

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Map 2: Catchment draining into Peterhead (Lido) bathing water



## Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Peterhead (Lido) bathing water extends to 1 km<sup>2</sup>. The catchment varies little in topography with elevations ranging from 45 metres in the west to an average of 5 metres along the coast. Average summer rainfall for the region is 267mm compared to 331 mm across Scotland as a whole. There are no main rivers within the bathing water catchment.

The area is predominantly urban (65%) with some rural areas (30%) mainly in the south and west. The main population centre is the town of Peterhead, which is located within 500 metres of the bathing water. The area immediately outside of the catchment includes some intensive and large-scale commercial and industrial activity in Peterhead Bay including industrial activity within 500 metres of the bathing water. The harbour is used by fishing vessels, many of which discharge hold water to the harbour area (Map 2).

There are no protected areas within the bathing water catchment. The Peterhead (Lido) bathing water is located in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

## 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](#)<sup>3</sup> (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](#)<sup>4</sup> (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.

There are no farms within the bathing water immediate catchment and no rivers draining directly to the bathing water. No diffuse agricultural pollution issues have been identified in relation to the bathing water.

The wider bathing water catchment is within the Buchan Coastal priority catchment. Proactive one-to-one farm visits were undertaken in the catchment during 2014. These visits looked to identify diffuse pollution sources and pathways by which potential pollutants could reach the water environment and impact on bath waters. All actual and potential polluting sources identified were discussed with the land manager and mitigation measures agreed with them to reduce the likelihood of diffuse pollution arising from their activities and reduce the risk of bacterial pollution on water quality in the future.

The bathing water catchment sits within a nitrate vulnerable zone and as such will already have measures in place to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. For further information visit the Scottish Government's [website](#)<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/who-is-involved-with-rbmp/dpmag/>

<sup>4</sup> [www.sears.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.sears.scotland.gov.uk)

## 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'.

In 2001, a new sewage treatment works was commissioned for Peterhead. This works gives the previously untreated effluent full biological treatment and discharges via a long sea outfall in Sandford Bay, to the south of the bathing water.

Further improvements to the sewerage infrastructure in the area were completed in 2003. These improvements included the upgrading of several combined sewer overflows that discharge in the vicinity of the bathing water and the increasing of storage capacity at three pumping stations in the area to reduce the frequency of spills from their combined sewage overflows. An improved telemetry system is now in place at the larger of these pumping stations and further upgrades to this pumping station are planned under Scottish Water's current Quality and Standards programme.

Discharges from the main pumping station to Peterhead bay are now only permitted under wet weather or emergency conditions. New pumps, control panels and a power supply were installed at the pumping station in 2009. There are two other combined sewer/emergency overflows near the bathing water, one just beyond the marina and the second at the northern edge of Peterhead Bay. These overflows could potentially affect the bathing water quality.

These improvements to the local sewerage system have led to a significant reduction in the level of faecal indicators in the Peterhead (Lido) bathing water under normal conditions. There are now no continuous discharges of sewage in the immediate vicinity of the bathing water.

## 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.

There are no rivers in the catchment draining to the Peterhead (Lido) bathing water. Surface water run-off from the urban area, mainly from the combined sewer overflows that drain the urban area, could potentially affect the 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](#)<sup>6</sup>.

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 Aberdeenshire Council.

## Contact details and sources of more information

### SEPA Fraserburgh office

Shaw House  
Mid Street  
Fraserburgh  
AB43 9JN  
01346 510502  
[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

### Aberdeenshire Council

Woodhill House  
Westburn Road  
Aberdeen  
Aberdeenshire  
AB16 5GB  
08456 081207  
[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

### Pollution Hotline

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

### Keep Scotland Beautiful

01786 471333  
[beach@ksbscotland.org.uk](mailto:beach@ksbscotland.org.uk)  
[www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org)

### Scottish Government

Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ  
0131 244 0396  
[egcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:egcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters)

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

Good Beach Guide: [www.goodbeachguide.co.uk](http://www.goodbeachguide.co.uk)

Blue Flag and Seaside Awards: [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/coastal](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/coastal)

## Version Control

Version number:	Date:	Next review due:
1.0	September 2010	
1.1	March 2014	
1.2	April 2015	

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