

## Bathing Water Profile for Thorntonloch

Dunbar, Scotland

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

### Description

Thorntonloch bathing water is situated approximately 8 km to the south-east of Dunbar in East Lothian. It is a 1 km long sandy beach which slopes gently towards the water. The area is popular with anglers and surfers.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 0–250 metres. The sandy beach slopes gently towards the water.



### Site details

Local authority	East Lothian Council
Year of designation	1999
Water sampling location	NT 75384 74410

### Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Thorntonloch bathing water extends to 16 km<sup>2</sup>. The area is predominantly rural (99%) with grassland the major land use. Approximately 1% of the bathing water catchment is urban. There is no main population centre but there are farms and smallholdings scattered throughout the catchment. The main river within the bathing water catchment is the Thornton Burn (also known as Thurston Mains Burn).

There is one Site of Special Scientific Interest within the Thorntonloch bathing water catchment, Lammermuir Deans. It is designated due to the presence of scarce and declining habitats.

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

### 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.

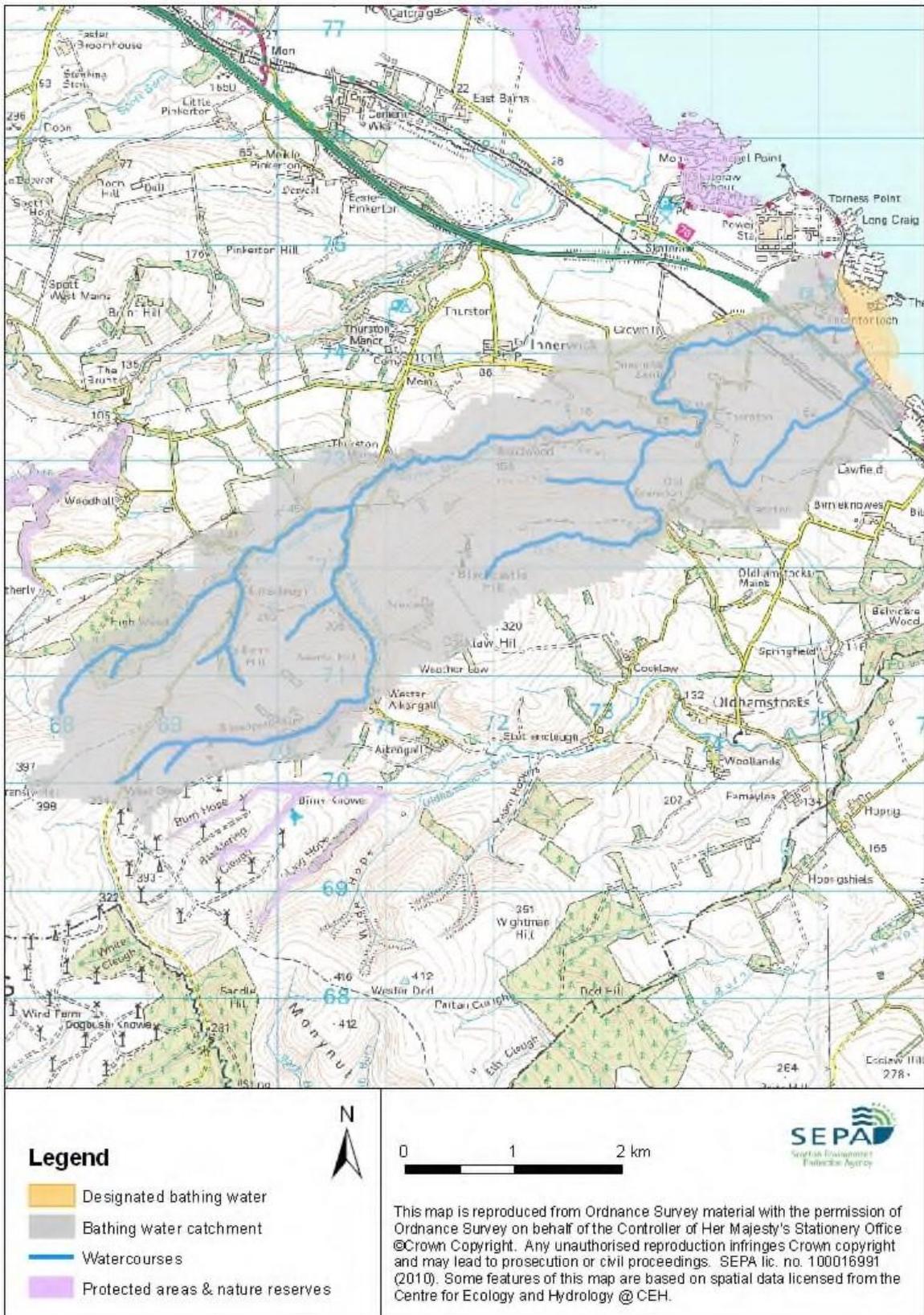
There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

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

Map 1: Thorntonloch bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Thorntonloch 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.

There are no other significant discharges likely to threaten the quality of this bathing water.

**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 East Lothian Council for this bathing water.

**Contact details and information sources**

<p><b>SEPA office</b> SEPA Edinburgh office 231 Corstorphine Rd Edinburgh EH12 7AT 0131 449 7296 <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk">www.sepa.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>East Lothian Council</b> John Muir House Brewery Park Haddington EH41 3HA 01620 827 827</p>	<p><b>Keep Scotland Beautiful</b> 01786 471333 <a href="mailto:beach@ksbscotland.org.uk">beach@ksbscotland.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org">www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org</a></p>
<p><b>Scottish Government</b> Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ</p>		

0131 244 0396 [eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters)

Version number:	Date:	Next review due:
1.0	Nov 2010	
1.1	March 2014	
1.2	June 2015	
1.3	April 2020	
1.4	May 2023	