


## Bathing water profile:

# Troon (South Beach)

<p><b>Bathing water:</b> Troon (South Beach)</p>	
<p><b>EC bathing water ID number:</b> UKS7616060</p>	
<p><b>Location of bathing water:</b> UK/Scotland/North Ayrshire (Map1)</p>	
<p><b>Year of designation:</b> 1987</p>	
<p><b>Bathing water description</b></p> <p>Troon (South Beach) bathing water is located on the Ayrshire coast at the Northern most point of Ayr Bay adjacent to Troon town. The beach is approximately 2 km long and is mainly sandy with rocky outcrops at both the northern and southern ends of the bay (Map 1). The sand dunes at the southern end of beach continue along to the coastline as far as Prestwick. Troon offers spectacular views of the Ailsa Craig and Lady Isle. 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 0–320 metres. The sandy 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>Our monitoring point for taking water quality samples is located towards the Northern end of the bay and South of the war memorial (Grid Ref NS 32070 30620) as shown on Map 1.</p>	
<p><b>Monitoring water quality</b></p> <p>Please visit our <a href="#">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/>

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.

The principal risks and source of wet weather driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from surface water urban run-off. These events are expected to last 1–2 days depending on the duration of the rainfall.

Our regulatory and scientific assessment indicates that there are no significant pollution inputs to this bathing water under normal conditions.

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 overproduction of macroalgae (seaweed) or phytoplankton. However, at any time of the year and particularly after storms, a considerable amount of seaweed can become stranded on the beach. Under the right conditions accumulated seaweed can rot producing grey/black fluid. The rotting seaweed can also generate offensive odours. This is an entirely natural process.

## 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

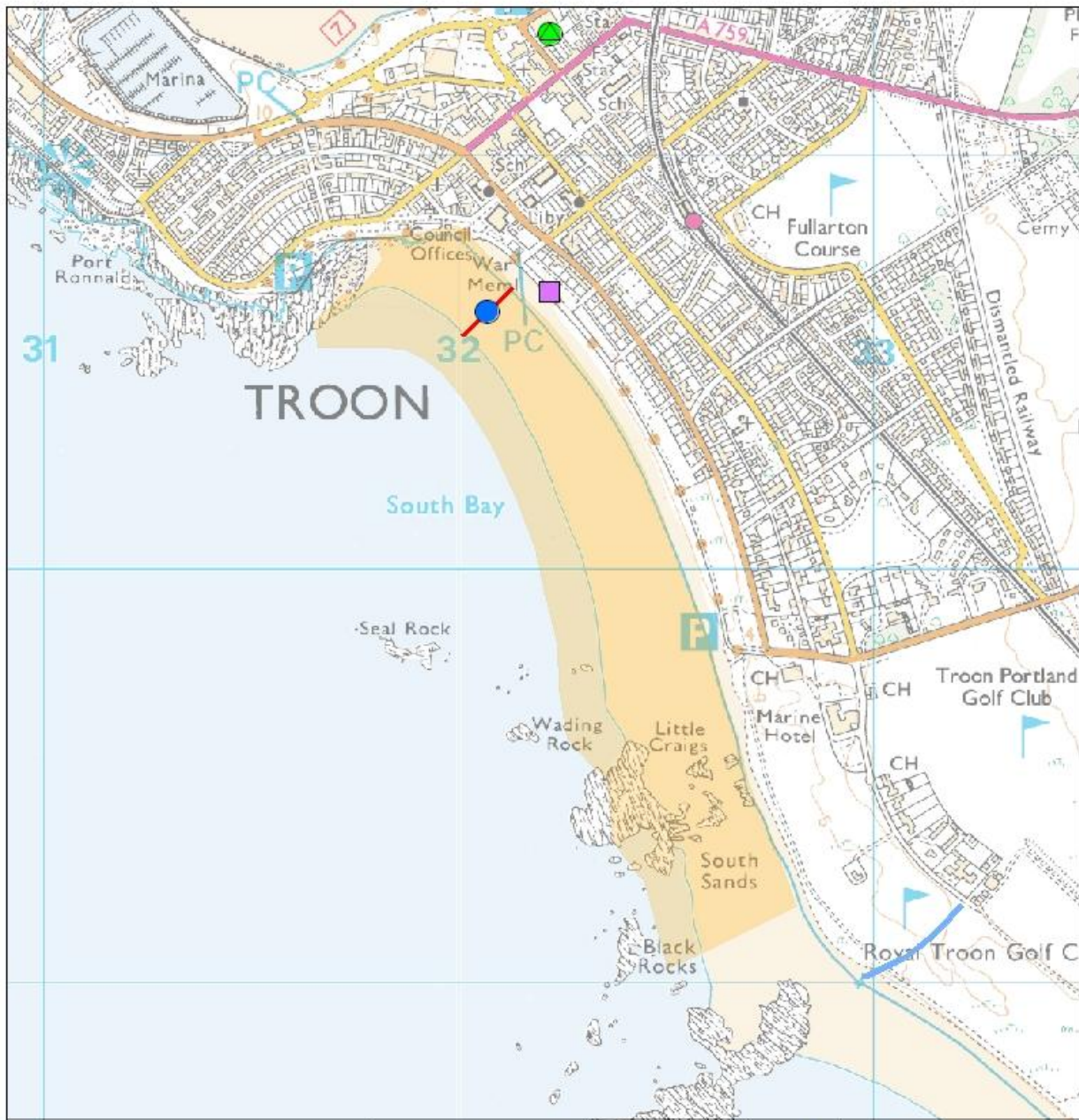
Troon (South Beach) bathing water is part of our daily water quality prediction and signage network.

Throughout the bathing season we display daily water quality predictions on the electronic message sign (Map 1). These water quality predictions are also available on our [website](#)<sup>3</sup> or via the Beachline phone number (08452 30 30 98).

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

<sup>3</sup> <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/Predictions.aspx>







Map 1: Troon (South Beach) bathing water

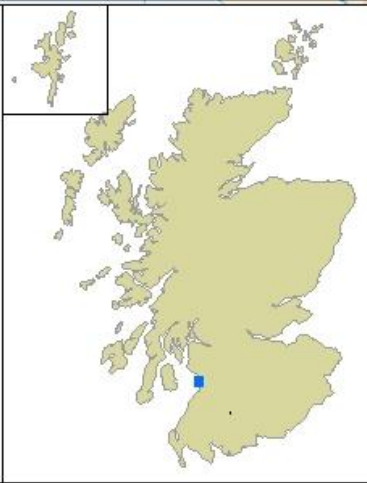


0 150 300 600 m

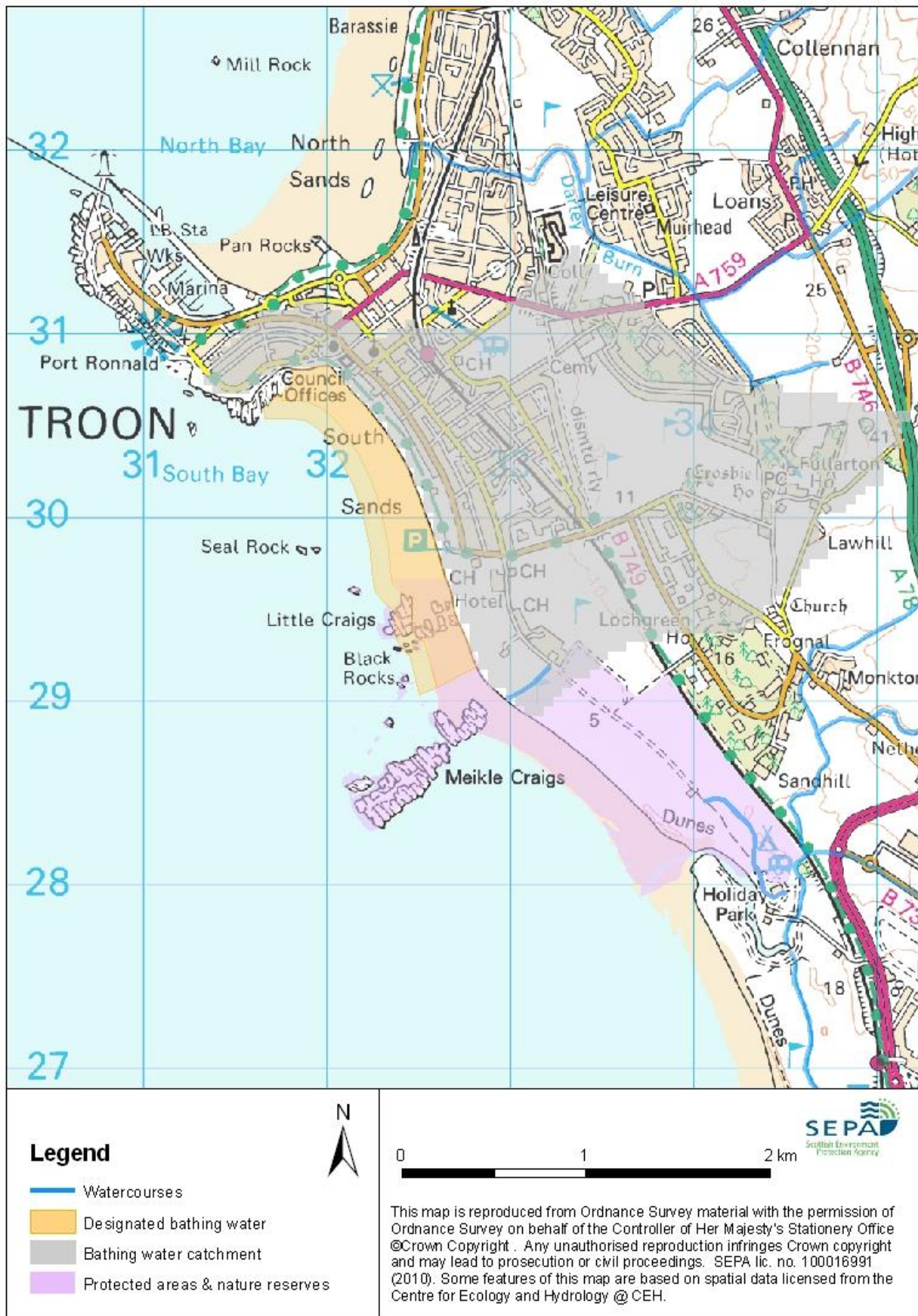


© 2010 Scottish Environment Protection Agency. This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Any unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. SEPA lic. no. 100016991 (2010). Some features of this map are based on digital spatial data licensed from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, © CEH.

-  Designated bathing water
-  Bathing water sampling point
-  Bathing water sampling transect
-  SEPA electronic sign
-  Sewage pumping station
-  Watercourses



Map 2: Catchment draining into Troon (South Beach) bathing water



## Catchment description

The catchment draining into Troon (South Beach) bathing water extends to 4.3 km<sup>2</sup>. The catchment is fairly low-lying with a maximum elevation of 30 metres in the east. The area is a mixture of urban (50%) and rural (50%) land use. The area close to the beach is mainly urban while the surrounding area is primarily grassland. Troon town is immediately adjacent to the bathing water, and is the main population centre within the catchment (Map 2).

Average summer rainfall for the region is 392 mm compared to 331 mm across Scotland as a whole.

There are no direct freshwater inputs into the designated bathing water, but the Pow Burn discharges to sea to the south of the bathing water and the Darley Burn into Troon's north bay. These burns may be prone to elevated bacterial levels as a result of diffuse pollution upstream during periods of wet weather but are not thought to have a significant affect on the bathing water.

The southern end of the Troon bathing water has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for several important biological features:

- The fixed sand dunes and the dune grassland and scrub at Royal Troon golf course which are botanically rich and diverse, and are the best example of this habitat type in the country.
- The sandy beach and rocky outcrops are of significance for the numbers of passage/wintering wildfowl and waders, particularly curlew. Meikle Craigs is also an important gull roost and moulting area for eider ducks and supports a large number of wading birds during the summer months.

Please see Scottish Natural Heritage's [information service website](#)<sup>4</sup> for further information about these protected areas.

The Scottish Government has designated the southern part of the catchment as a greenbelt area.

## 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>5</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>6</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

<sup>4</sup> [www.snh.org.uk/snhi](http://www.snh.org.uk/snhi)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/who-is-involved-with-rbmp/dpmag/>

<sup>6</sup> [www.sears.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.sears.scotland.gov.uk)

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 significant agricultural activities ongoing in this catchment.

### **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'.

Improvements to the sewerage system have led to a significant reduction in the level of faecal indicators in the Troon (South Beach) bathing water under normal conditions.

A recent Scottish Water study has predicted that there are no public sewerage assets which are likely to prevent this bathing water achieving the revised Bathing Waters Directive standards. The study has concluded that improvements to Scottish Water assets are not required.

There are no authorised private discharges that are considered to pose a threat to the water quality of this 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.

The Darley Burn which flows into North Bay at Barassie is not known to be significantly affected by run-off from the urban area through which it runs.

### **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>7</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 South Ayrshire Council.

<sup>7</sup> <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/Predictions.aspx>

## Contact details and sources of more information

### SEPA Ayr office

31 Miller Road  
Ayr  
KA7 2AX  
01292 294000  
01292 611130  
[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

### South Ayrshire Council

Burns House  
Burns Statue Square  
Ayr  
KA7 1UT  
01292 618222  
[environmental.health@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)  
[www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

### Pollution Hotline

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

### 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)

### Keep Scotland Beautiful

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

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

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:
1.1	April 2013	
1.2	April 2014	
1.3	June 2015	