

Bathing Water Profile for Troon (South Beach)

Troon, Scotland

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

Today's water quality forecast <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/Predictions.aspx>

Description

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. 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. 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.



Site details

Local authority	South Ayrshire Council
Year of designation	1987
Water sampling location	NS 32070 30620

Catchment description

The catchment draining into Troon (South Beach) bathing water extends to 4.3 km². 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.

There are no direct freshwater inputs into the designated bathing water. 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. They are not thought to have a significant effect on the bathing water.

The southern end of the Troon bathing water has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Risks to water quality

The principal risks and source of wet weather driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from surface water urban run-off. Our regulatory and scientific assessment indicates that there are no significant pollution inputs to this bathing water under normal conditions.

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.**

Map 1: Troon (South Beach) bathing water



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



Daily water quality forecasts

Water quality is forecast on a daily basis during the bathing water season (1 June to 15 September). The forecasts indicate water quality is either acceptable or poor. Warnings against bathing are advised when poor water quality is forecast. This is because there is an increased risk to bathers' health from water pollution. Forecasts are communicated via electronic message signs at the beach, SEPA's website, mobile website and Beachline (03000 996699).

Improving bathing water quality

Improving pollution from sewage and other discharges

Scottish Water provides most waste water collection and treatment services in Scotland.

Improvements to the sewerage system have led to a significant reduction in the level of faecal indicators in the Troon (South Beach) 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 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'.

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 South Ayrshire Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

<p>SEPA Ayr office</p> <p>31 Miller Road</p> <p>Ayr</p> <p>KA7 2AX</p> <p>01292 294000</p> <p>01292 611130</p> <p>www.sepa.org.uk</p>	<p>South Ayrshire Council</p> <p>Burns House</p> <p>Burns Statue Square</p> <p>Ayr</p> <p>KA7 1UT</p> <p>01292 618222</p> <p>https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/</p>	<p>Keep Scotland Beautiful</p> <p>01786 471333</p> <p>beach@ksbscotland.org.uk</p> <p>www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org</p>
<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ</p> <p>0131 244 0396</p> <p>eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters</p>		
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