

Bathing water profile:

Yellow Craig

<p>Bathing water: Yellow Craig</p>	
<p>EC bathing water ID number: UKS7616063</p>	
<p>Location of bathing water: UK/Scotland/East Lothian (Map1)</p>	
<p>Year of designation: 1987</p>	
<p>Description of the bathing water</p> <p>Yellow Craig bathing water is located close to the small town of North Berwick on the Firth of Forth. It is a small sandy bay, about 700 metres long. Yellow Craig is situated beside the designated Broad Sands bathing water (Map 1). The area is popular with families and walkers due to a nearby footpath network. It was designated as a bathing water in 1987.</p> <p>During high and low tides the approximate distance to the waters edge can vary from 10–150 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 at the centre of the designated area (Grid Ref NT 51512 86091) 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/>

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 runoff 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.

There are no direct discharges to the bathing water. It is considered likely that the principal risks at this bathing water arise from diffuse inputs. The potential effect of seabird related contamination is undergoing further investigation.

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

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

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

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 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

Yellow Craig bathing water is not part of SEPA's signage network. Daily water quality predictions are not currently required for this bathing water.

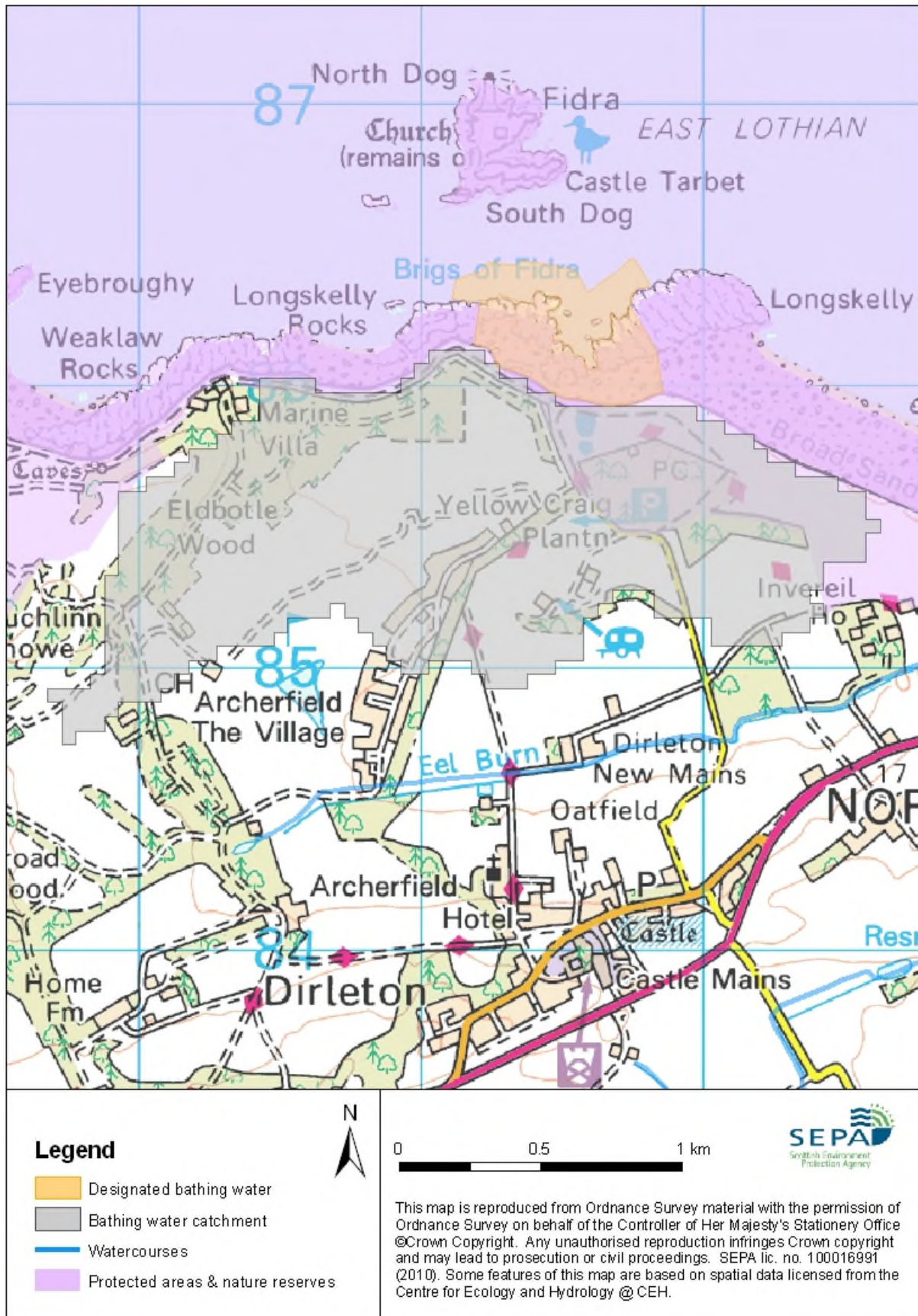
² <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/SamplingResults.aspx>

Map 1: Yellow Craig bathing water



	<p>N</p> 	
<p>© 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.</p>	<p>0 100 200 400 m</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Designated bathing water  Bathing water sampling point  Bathing water sampling transect  Sewage pumping station 	

Map 2: Catchment draining into Yellow Craig bathing water



Catchment description

The catchment draining into the Yellow Craig bathing water extends to 2.1 km². The area is predominantly rural (92%) with land use split between woodland (38%), grassland (32%) and agriculture (22%). Approximately 1% of the bathing water catchment is urban. There are no towns or villages in the catchment, although a few houses are located in the centre of the catchment.

Average summer rainfall for the region is 296 mm compared to 331 mm across Scotland as a whole.

There are no significant freshwater inputs within or near bathing water catchment that could impact on bacteriological quality at the bathing water.

The bathing water sits within the Firth of Forth which is designated as a Special Protection Area a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Ramsar site (Map 2). Some of these protected areas may have the potential to influence water quality at the bathing water, as they are home to several internationally important bird populations. The nearby Forth Islands are also designated as a SPA due to their aggregation of breeding birds. For more information on these protected areas see <http://www.snh.org.uk/snhi/>.

The Lothian and Borders area was designated as a 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

Agriculture is not considered to have a significant effect on this bathing water.

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'.

An improvement in the bathing water quality occurred in 1999 following the diversion of sewage from Dirleton to the sewage treatment works and long sea outfall to the east of North Berwick. Before this upgrade, effluent was discharged within the bay at Yellow Craig.

Improving pollution from diffuse urban sources

Diffuse urban pollution is not considered to impact 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](#)³.

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 for this bathing water is maintained by East Lothian Council.

Contact details and sources of more information

SEPA Edinburgh office

Clearwater House
Heriot Watt Research Park
Avenue North
Riccarton
Edinburgh
EH14 4AP
0131 449 7296
www.sepa.org.uk

East Lothian Council

John Muir House
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 3HA
01620 827827
customerservices@eastlothian.gov.uk
www.eastlothian.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
eqcat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters

Keep Scotland Beautiful

01786 471333
beach@ksbscotland.org.uk
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 Forth area management plan <http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/who-is-involved-with-rbmp/area-advisory-groups/forth/>

Good Beach Guide: www.goodbeachguide.co.uk

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

Version Control		
Version number:	Date:	Next review due:
1.0	Dec 2009	
1.1	March 2014	
1.2	June 2015	
1.3	May 2016	

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