# Bathing water profile – Dunbar (East)

[Bathing water classification](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/ViewResults.aspx?id=4575)

## Bathing water description

The Dunbar (East) bathing water is near the town of Dunbar. It is a 300 metres wide sandy bay with some rocky areas. The beach is popular with families, especially due to the presence of rock pools. Depending on the tide, the distance to the water’s edge can vary from 10–200 metres. The beach slopes gently towards the water.

Site details:

* Local authority: East Lothian Council
* Year of designation: 1999
* Water sampling location: NT 68238 78987

## Risks to water quality

This bathing water is at risk of short term pollution following heavy rainfall. Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall due to the risk to bathers’ health from water pollution.

Pollution risks include sewer overflows.

## Catchment description

The Dunbar (East) bathing water catchment extends to 3.1 km2. The area is mainly rural (83%) with agriculture the major land use. Approximately 15% of the catchment is urban. The main population centre is the town of Dunbar. Population density outside of the town is generally low.

There are no major rivers within the bathing water catchment.

## Map 1: Dunbar (East) bathing water



## Map 2: Catchment draining into Dunbar (East) bathing water



# Improving bathing water quality

## Sewage

[Scottish Water](https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/Your-Home/Your-Waste-Water) provides most waste water collection and treatment services in Scotland.

Sewage from this area is treated at Beltonford sewage treatment works before being discharged to the Biel Water.

Several combined sewer overflows (CSO) discharge locations are nearby. These may discharge and impact the bathing water during heavy rainfall. There are also emergency overflows (EOs)

## Agriculture

There are no impacts from agriculture affecting this bathing water.

## Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), algae and jellyfish

Marine waters are not at risk of cyanobacteria overproduction. This bathing water is not at risk of excessive growth of macroalgae (seaweed) or phytoplankton.

The possibility of increased jellyfish numbers in the water during summer months is a naturally occurring phenomenon. Most species common to the UK are harmless; the Marine Conservation Society advises to ‘look but don’t touch’.

## Pollution incidents

Pollution can be reported [via our website online form](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/environmentalevents) or by calling our 24 hours a day Pollution Hotline number **0800 80 70 60**

If pollution is reported to us, or identified by our routine water quality monitoring program, we will investigate and where necessary work with others to remediate. We may contact other relevant organisations including the local authority, that local health board, Scottish Water and Scottish Ministers.

If there is a risk to human health the local authority is responsible for placing signs at the bathing water. Information will also be available on our website.

Everyone can help to keep the bathing water clean:

* If you visit the beach with your dog clear up any fouling
* Don’t leave litter or feed birds - this encourages unnatural behaviour, and they can pollute the water
* At home, don’t flush wipes or other inappropriate items as these can block pipes and cause sewage spills

## Contact details and information sources

[SEPA bathing waters homepage](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/)

[SEPA rainfall data](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/rainfall/)

[Scottish Government protected waters homepage](https://www.gov.scot/policies/water/protected-waters/)

[East Lothian Council](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210560/your_council/12319/contact_us)

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