# Bathing water profile - Kingsbarns

[Bathing water classification](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/ViewResults.aspx?id=9320)

## Bathing water description

The Kingsbarns bathing water is on the Fife coast, east of Kingsbarns town. It is a gently sloping sandy bay, about 800 metres long. The beach is popular with walkers as the Fife coastal footpath passes close by. Depending on the tide, the distance to the water’s edge can vary from 20–260 metres.

Site details:

* Local authority: Fife Council
* Year of designation: 1999
* Water sampling location: NO 60414 12362

## 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 Kingsbarns bathing water catchment extends to 3 km2. The area is mainly rural (96%) with arable agriculture the major land use. Approximately 4% of the catchment is urban. The main population centre is the small town of Kingsbarns.

There are no main rivers within the catchment. However, the Cambo Burn is approximately 300 metres south of the bathing water.

The Strathmore and Fife area was designated as a surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone in 2002.

## Map 1: Kingsbarns bathing water

A section of ordinance survey map showing the designated bathing water area highlighted in yellow. 
The map shows the location of the bathing water sampling point and nearby watercourses as well as any relevant Scottish Water assets and discharges.


## Map 2: Catchment draining into Kingsbarns bathing water

A section of ordinance survey map showing the designated bathing water area highlighted in yellow and it's drainage catchment outlined in red. 
The map shows the watercourses within the catchment as well as any relevant Scottish Water assets.


# 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.

Kingsbarns sewage treatment works consists of a submerged aerated media system and sand filtration. Treated effluent is discharged to the North Sea via a long sea outfall. During the bathing season the final effluent is also subject to ultraviolet disinfection to ensure high water quality.

## 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/)

[Fife Council](https://www.fife.gov.uk/contact-us)

For information on accessing this document in an alternative format or language, please contact SEPA by emailing [equalities@sepa.org.uk](mailto:equalities@sepa.org.uk)

If you are a user of British Sign Language (BSL), the Contact Scotland BSL service gives you access to an online interpreter, enabling you to communicate with us using sign language. [contactscotland-bsl.org](http://contactscotland-bsl.org/)