# Bathing water profile - Seacliff

[Bathing water classification](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/ViewResults.aspx?id=4403)

## Bathing water description

Seacliff bathing water is situated to the north of the small village of Seacliff in East Lothian. The sandy bay is about 700m long and is popular with families, surfers and horse riders.

The beach slopes gently towards the water and depending on the tide, there can be 10-200 metres of beach before the water’s edge.

Site details:

* Local authority: East Lothian Council
* Year of designation: 2008
* Water sampling location: NT 6050 8460

## 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.

## Catchment description

The immediate catchment draining into Seacliff bathing water is very small and extends to only 0.2 km2. The area is predominantly rural (64%) with agriculture the major land use. Approximately 26% of the bathing water catchment is urban comprising of small holdings and roads.

The Firth of Forth is a designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Ramsar site and a Special Protection Area (SPA) due to the internationally important bird populations it supports. The Lothian and Borders area was designated as a surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone in 2002.

## Map 1: Seacliff bathing water



## Map 2: Catchment draining into Seacliff bathing water



# Improving bathing water quality

## Sewage

Whilst Scottish Water provides most water water collection and treatment services in Scotland, there are no Scottish Water assets in the vicinity of this bathing water.

There are no other significant sewage discharges likely to threaten the quality of this bathing water at this location.

## 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/contact)

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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/)