

48 Seton Sands



48.1 Background Information

Seton Sands/Longniddry was identified as a bathing water in 1999. In 2006, the designated area was split into two when Longniddry was designated as an identified bathing water in its own right.

Between 1999 and 2002 it achieved good quality and in 2003, for the first time, Seton Sands achieved excellent quality. In 2004 this excellent bathing water quality was maintained, but not, disappointingly in 2005 when good quality was achieved. This drop was investigated prior to and during the 2006 bathing season. Though some elevated contamination levels were found in the Canty Burn, it was not possible to determine if this was the source of the problem in 2005. The Canty burn is now sampled at the same time as bathing waters samples are collected to provide additional information should any future problems arise. Work has been carried out to eliminate overflows from dual manholes in the Canty Burn catchment.

In 2002, a new interceptor sewer was laid to convey the sewage from Longniddry to Edinburgh sewage treatment works (STW). The existing STW at Longniddry has now become a storm treatment works with a design overflow spill frequency of only once every five years. The impact of this improvement, and work partly funded by residents to convey sewage from Seton Mains to this sewerage system is best measured by the fact that the bathing water at Longniddry Bents met the excellent quality standard for the first time in 2004, despite the wet weather that year. This was maintained in 2007.

This beach was “recommended” in the 2008 good beach guide.

In March 2006 the revised Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) entered into force and was enacted in the UK by Regulations in March 2008. Key features are tighter microbiological standards to be met by 2015 and increased provision of public information.

Compliance and pollution improvement required for the designated EU Bathing Waters will be co-ordinated through the Water Framework Directive (WFD) programme of measures which will form part of the river basin management plan. The programme of measures will outline measures (actions) that are being taken to protect and improve the water environment in the river basin district. This EU designated bathing water (protected area) pollution reduction plan will identify measures relevant to this bathing water and associated water bodies that are being undertaken as part of the programme of measures.

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
n/s	n/s	Good	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent

Table 48A: Record of Compliance for Seton Sands 1997 – 2007.



Figure 48A: Map of Seton Sands designated bathing beach and surrounding local area

48.2 Results for 2007

Seton Sands Results				
Date	Total Coliforms (colonies/100ml)	Faecal Coliforms (colonies/100ml)	Faecal Streptococci (colonies/100ml)	Abnormal Weather Waiver
21052007	4	<2	4	-
01062007	40	<10	32	-
06062007	<2	<2	8	-
15062007	56	24	44	-
18062007	48	10	4	-
25062007	144	40	28	-
28062007	114	50	16	-
04072007	100	34	14	-
08072007	114	42	8	-
11072007	220	64	28	-
20072007	48	14	6	-
31072007	38	30	6	-
02082007	10	2	<2	-
07082007	80	34	8	-
15082007	230	100	36	-
20082007	800	144	94	-
22082007	110	28	8	-
29082007	26	26	<2	-
04092007	14	6	6	-
06092007	22	12	6	-
Number of Samples taken : 20				

Table 48B: Microbiological results for Seton Sands bathing water, June – September 2007

48.3 Scottish Water Assets

In 2002, a new interceptor sewer was laid to convey the sewage from Longniddry to Edinburgh STW. The existing works at Longniddry has now become a storm treatment works and pumping station with a design overflow spill frequency of only once per five years. There are a number of other pumping stations located along the Eastern Interceptor Sewer which convey sewage to Edinburgh STW.

48.4 Other Discharges

Overflows from dual manholes in the nearby Canty Burn catchments have been identified and addressed. Cockenzie power station cooling water discharges several kilometres west of the bathing water.

48.5 Agriculture

Agriculture is not considered to have any significant impact on this bathing water.

48.6 Hydrometric Network

Figure 48B shows a map of the hydrometric network of the surface water catchment area of Seton Sands bathing water.

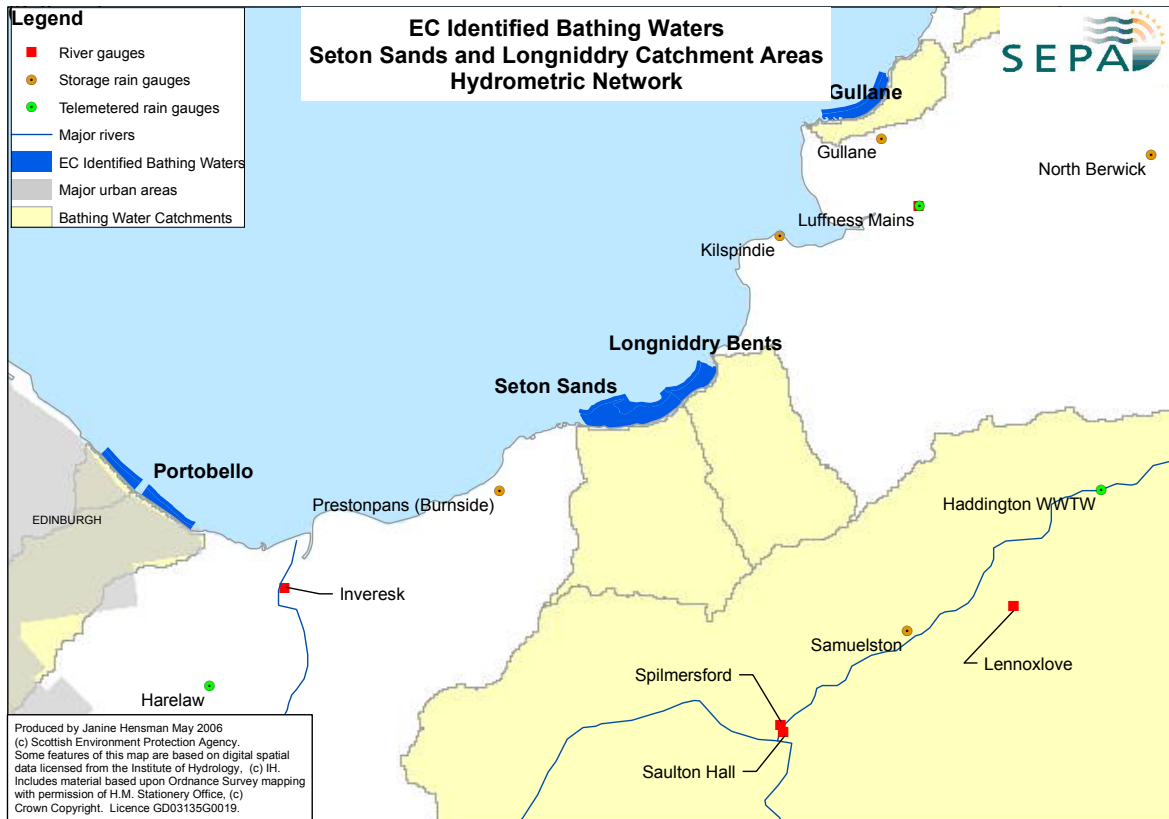


Figure 48B: Hydrometric map of Seton Sands and surrounding area

48.7 Further Investigations

Following achievement of only good quality in 2005 investigations were carried out prior to the 2006 bathing season to try to establish any potential sources of contamination likely to threaten bathing water quality. No sources were identified. Known surface water outfalls to burns flowing onto the beach are kept under surveillance during the bathing water season.

SEPA will continue to monitor these waters as per the requirements of the EC Bathing Waters Directive and will continue to ensure that all sewage discharge consent conditions are met.

48.8 Response to failure

Seton Sands has been assessed for the 2008 season as being of low risk of failing the mandatory standard.

Should there be a mandatory failure, there will be an immediate response to check all the relevant potential sources in the catchment area to confirm the reason, including follow-up microbiology sampling of the bathing water and nearby river inputs.

The regional Environmental Quality Unit will co-ordinate a response in conjunction with the local Environmental Protection and Improvement team and Environmental Science functions and post the result of the investigation and actions arising on the SEPA bathing waters internet site.