

27 Fraserburgh (Philorth)



27.1 Background Information

The Fraserburgh (Philorth) EC identified bathing water is adjacent to Fraserburgh (Tiger Hill) bathing water, and makes up the other half of Fraserburgh Bay (Fig. 27A). It is an extensive, pristine sandy beach with an extensive sand dune system and lies adjacent to the waters of Philorth Local Nature Reserve. Philorth is a popular recreational, surfing and windsurfing area and also favoured by families.

There are no sewage discharges in the immediate vicinity of the bathing water. The only watercourse feeding to this bathing water is the Water of Philorth which discharges some distance to the east of the monitoring point.

Fraserburgh (Philorth) has managed to achieve excellent quality status almost every year since it was identified as a bathing water in 1999 with the exception being 2006 when it only managed to gain good quality status. However in 2007 it returned to achieving excellent status despite one exceptionally poor and unexplained result recorded on 21 August.

In March 2006 the revised Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) entered into force and was enacted in the UK by Regulations in 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
Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent

Table 27A: Record of Compliance for Fraserburgh (Philorth), 1997-2007.



Figure 27A: Map of Fraserburgh (Philorth) designated bathing beach and surrounding local area.

27.2 Results for 2007

Fraserburgh (Philorth) Results				
Date	Total Coliforms (colonies/100ml)	Faecal Coliforms (colonies/100ml)	Faecal Streptococci (colonies/100ml)	Salinity
24-May-2007	2 (G)	0 (G)	0 (G)	33.7
6-Jun-2007	21 (G)	7 (G)	2 (G)	33.9
12-Jun-2007	70 (G)	46 (G)	16 (G)	34
19-Jun-2007	2 (G)	0 (G)	0 (G)	33.3
27-Jun-2007	48 (G)	40 (G)	6 (G)	34.3
2-Jul-2007	129 (G)	76 (G)	24 (G)	33.5
6-Jul-2007	400 (G)	82 (G)	11 (G)	-
8-Jul-2007	30 (G)	6 (G)	2 (G)	-
10-Jul-2007	2 (G)	2 (G)	<2 (G)	-
20-Jul-2007	2 (G)	2 (G)	0 (G)	34.7
24-Jul-2007	18 (G)	2 (G)	5 (G)	34.7
27-Jul-2007	8 (G)	4 (G)	7 (G)	34.6
30-Jul-2007	124 (G)	124 (M)	32 (G)	31.8
2-Aug-2007	2 (G)	2 (G)	0 (G)	34.6
7-Aug-2007	64 (G)	28 (G)	4 (G)	34.6
8-Aug-2007	270 (G)	166 (M)	22 (G)	33.5
15-Aug-2007	12 (G)	4 (G)	3 (G)	33.9
21-Aug-2007	4500 (M)	1100 (M)	300	34.1
28-Aug-2007	36 (G)	8 (G)	14 (G)	34.6
4-Sep-2007	12 (G)	4 (G)	0 (G)	35.4

Table 27B: Microbiological results for Fraserburgh (Philorth) bathing beach, May-Sept 2007.

In 2006 Fraserburgh (Philorth) bathing water qualified for reduced monitoring due to its consistently high water quality results in recent years. However due to the fact it didn't quite meet guideline standards in 2006 it was sampled 20 times during the 2007 season.

27.3 Scottish Water Assets

There are no Scottish Water discharges in the vicinity of this bathing water.

27.4 Other Discharges

There are no other significant discharges within the beach catchment area.

27.5 Agriculture

Agricultural influences on the bathing water in this area are minimal.

27.6 Hydrometric Network

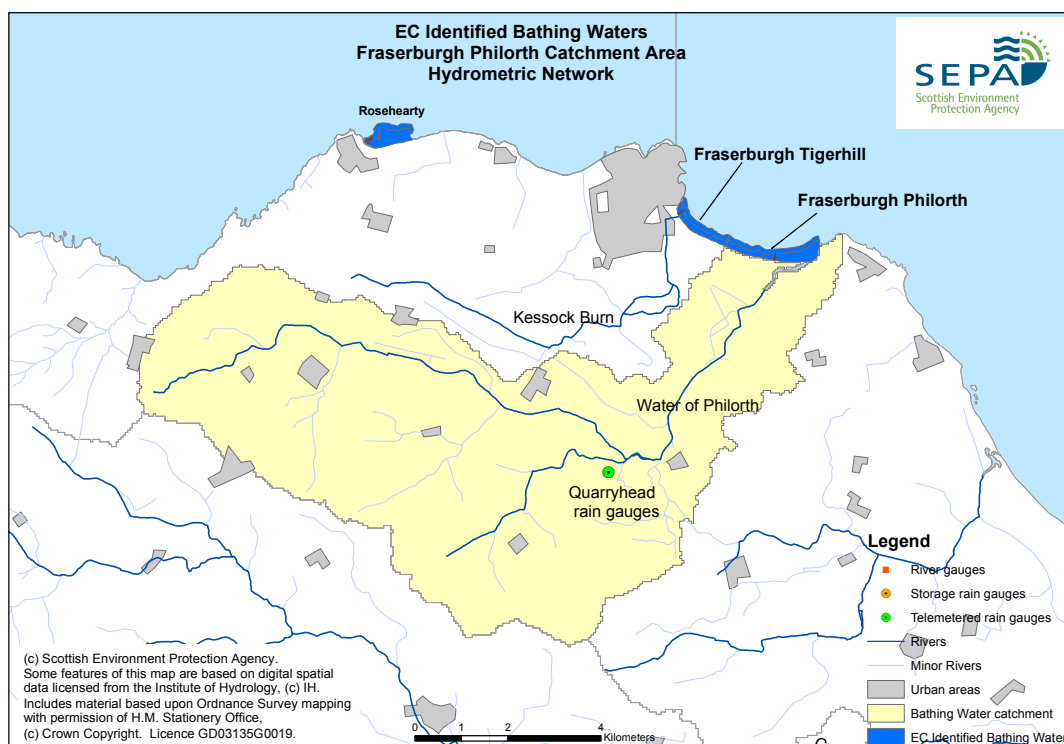


Figure 27B: Hydrometric map of Fraserburgh (Philorth) and surrounding area.

27.7 Further Investigations

Given the continued excellent quality of the bathing water at this site there are no requirements for additional investigations aimed at improving the water quality here.

27.8 Response to Failure

Fraserburgh (Philorth) beach has been assessed for the 2008 season as at low risk of failing to meet the Directive's standards, due to the limited potential pressures on water quality within its catchment combined with the overall excellent results seen at this site since monitoring began.

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, and follow-up microbiology sampling will be undertaken of the failed beach and of nearby river inputs where appropriate.

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