

## 53 North Berwick (Milsey Bay)



### 53.1 Background Information

The identified bathing water at North Berwick (Milsey Bay) has achieved excellent quality since 2000. Bathing water quality greatly improved after the commissioning of the sewage treatment works (STW) and long sea outfall in 1995, although SEPA was disappointed that the guideline values were not achieved until after 1999.

Investigative surveys by SEPA prior to the 2000 bathing season identified two significant sewage sources that could affect water quality at Milsey Bay. These were brought to the attention of Scottish Water for remediation. As a consequence, in 2000 North Berwick (Milsey Bay) achieved a guideline pass for the first time. To further highlight the improvement in bathing water quality, this very high standard has been maintained since then.

In the early part of the 2004 bathing season, slightly elevated bacterial levels were observed in the Milsey Bay bathing water. SEPA investigative sampling found a small leak from the STW high level overflow. Scottish Water found this to be a result of faulty bleed valve seals. As a result of these investigations, remedial action was carried out to remedy the situation and thus ensured that guideline water quality was maintained. The same problem also occurred in 2002. To prevent recurrence, any future leaks are now returned to the inlet rather than to the overflow channel. These leaks and discharges illustrate the need for ongoing vigilance. This is particularly true with bathing waters that have freshwater inputs and storm sewage infrastructure nearby.

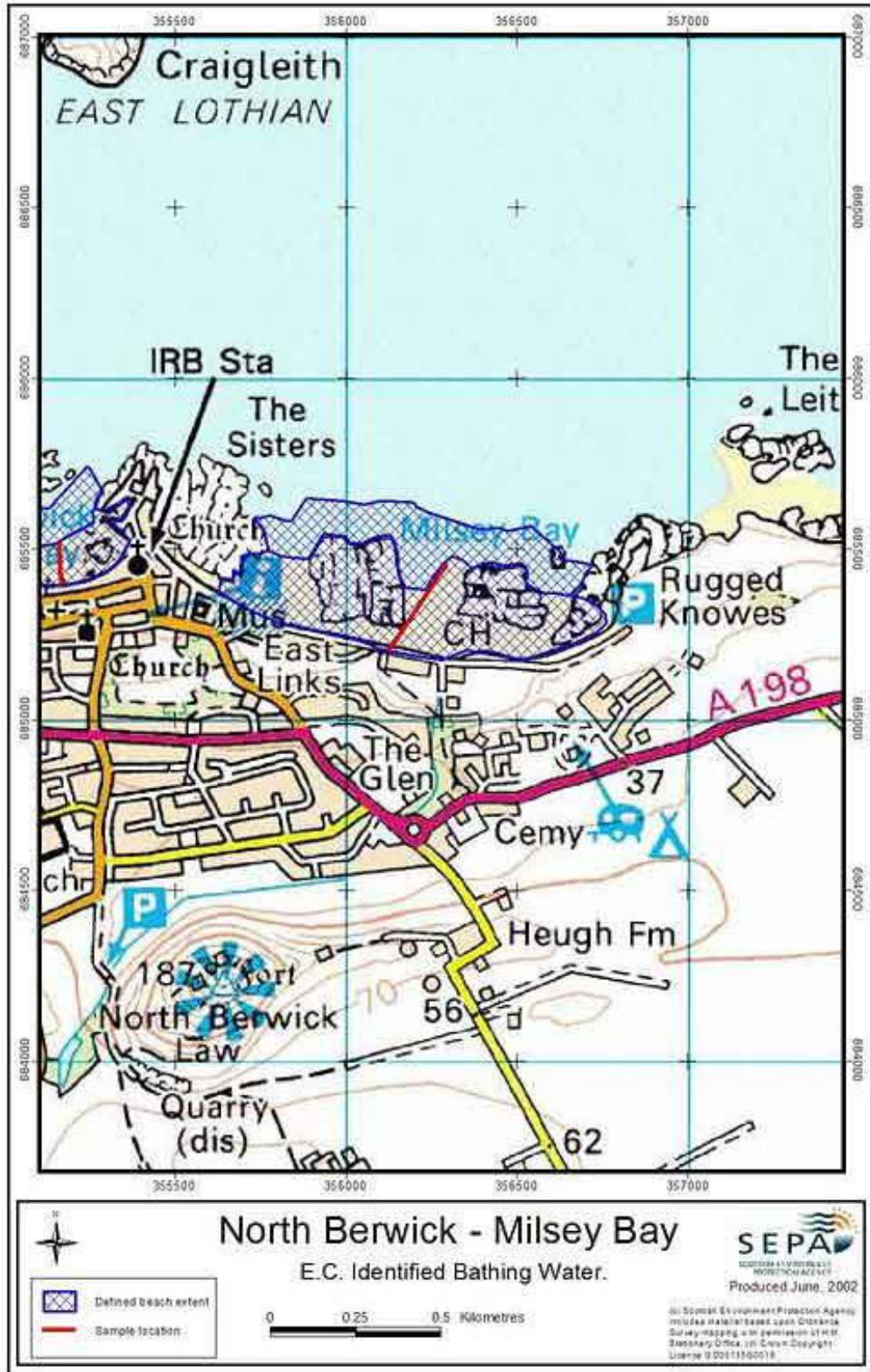
In March 2006 the revised Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) entered into force and was enacted in the UK by Regulations in March 2008. Key features are tighter microbiological standards to be met by 2015 and increased provision of public information.

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
Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**Table 53A:** Record of Compliance for North Berwick (Milsey Bay), 1997– 2007.



**Figure 53A:** Map of North Berwick (Milsey Bay) designated bathing beach and surrounding local area

### 53.2 Results for 2007

North Berwick (Milsey Bay) Results				
Date	Total Coliforms (colonies/100ml)	Faecal Coliforms (colonies/100ml)	Faecal Streptococci (colonies/100ml)	Abnormal Weather Waiver
29052007	200	52	8	-
04062007	42	24	18	-
11062007	14	6	2	-
19062007	74	74	14	-
26062007	500	90	48	-
28062007	4	<2	2	-
05072007	2	2	<2	-
07072007	14	2	8	-
10072007	4	2	2	-
16072007	3600	1300	127	-
18072007	32	32	10	-
30072007	120	96	2	-
08082007	4	4	<2	-
13082007	52	48	30	-
16082007	64	8	12	-
23082007	30	8	<2	-
28082007	198	106	44	-
30082007	44	44	36	-
03092007	20	20	2	-
05092007	16	16	4	-
Number of Samples taken : 20				

**Table 53B:** Microbiological results for North Berwick (Milsey Bay) bathing water, June – September 2007

### 53.3 Scottish Water Assets

North Berwick STW and long sea outfall were commissioned in 1995. Improved pump operation at the works has ensured that excellent status continues.

### 53.4 Other Discharges

No other significant discharges are considered likely to threaten the quality of this bathing water

### 53.5 Agriculture

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

### 53.6 Hydrometric Network

Figure 53B shows a map of the hydrometric network of the surface water catchment area of North Berwick (Milnsey Bay) bathing water.

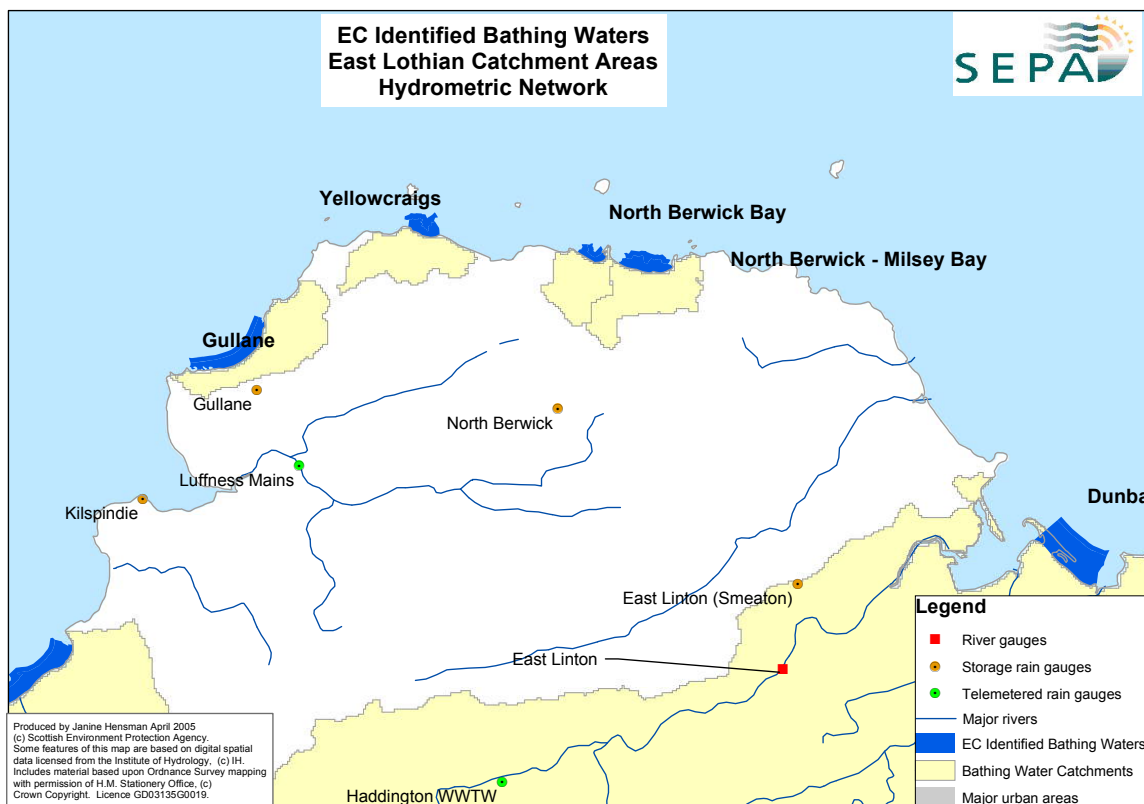


Figure 53B: Hydrometric map of North Berwick (Milnsey Bay) and surrounding area

### 53.7 Further Investigations

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.

### 53.8 Response to Failure

North Berwick (Milnsey Bay) 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.