

52 North Berwick (West)



52.1 Background Information

SEPA and its predecessor have sampled North Berwick (West) since the 1970s, though 1999 was its first year as an identified bathing water.

Prior to 1995, when the North Berwick sewage treatment works (STW) scheme was completed North Berwick (West) frequently failed to meet required quality standards. While bathing water quality improved markedly after this date, there have still been occasional problems with the sewage collection and treatment infrastructure. The reason for the slight reduction in quality in 2004 was probably related to a local sewage contamination incident being flushed through to the beach by water from a burst water main, which was revealed and tracked down by SEPA and Scottish Waters' monitoring work. Remedial action promptly taken by Scottish Water should ensure this does not recur, and in 2005 North Berwick (West) returned to excellent status, which was maintained in 2006.

It was disappointing that, in 2007, North Berwick (West) met the mandatory (good) standard and not the excellent standard – albeit with the narrowest of margin. This was partly due to a pump failure at North Berwick STW on 15 July 2007 which caused backing up in the main sewers and surcharging onto the beach. SEPA served an enforcement notice on Scottish Water requiring it to investigate the cause of the problem and to take action to resolve this. Scottish Water took very prompt action to deal with this problem and has put in place measures to prevent any recurrence.

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
Poor	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good

Table 52A: Record of Compliance for North Berwick (West), 1997 – 2007.

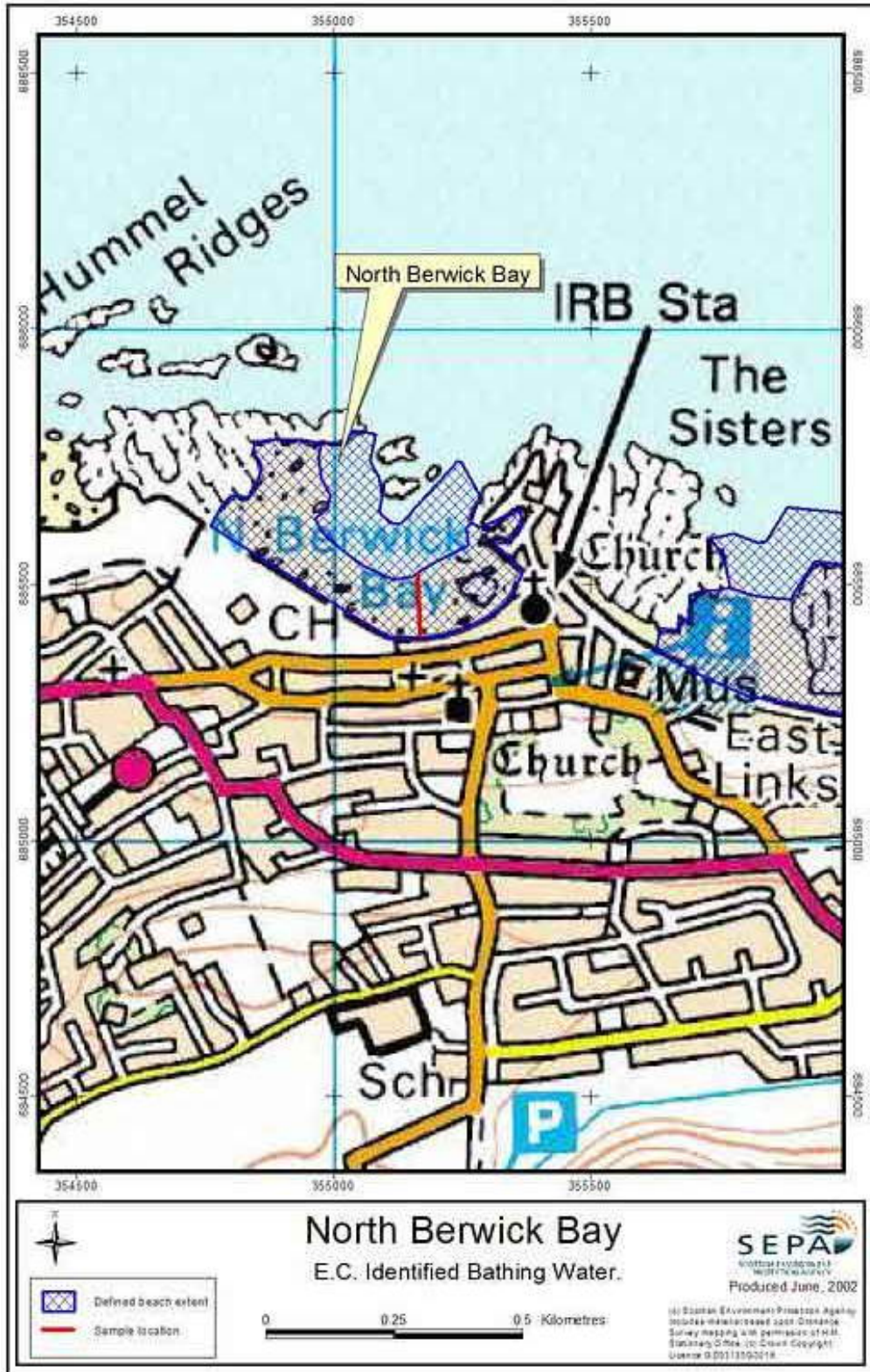


Figure 52A: Map of North Berwick (West) designated bathing beach and surrounding local area

52.2 Results for 2007

North Berwick (West) Results				
Date	Total Coliforms (colonies/100ml)	Faecal Coliforms (colonies/100ml)	Faecal Streptococci (colonies/100ml)	Abnormal Weather Waiver
29052007	700	172	110	-
04062007	42	22	34	-
11062007	66	50	2	-
19062007	28	4	2	-
26062007	1000	300	118	-
28062007	52	18	54	-
05072007	12	12	10	-
07072007	70	66	44	-
10072007	70	56	22	-
16072007	>15000	>15000	>1500	-
18072007	300	100	26	-
30072007	700	400	151	-
08082007	18	16	10	-
13082007	62	32	24	-
16082007	14	8	6	-
23082007	2	2	<2	-
28082007	50	26	6	-
30082007	86	12	6	-
03092007	86	60	<2	-
05092007	16	16	10	-
Number of Samples taken : 20				

Table 52B: Microbiological results for North Berwick (West) bathing water, June – September 2007

52.3 Scottish Water Assets

North Berwick STW and long sea outfall were commissioned in 1995. There is a combined sewer overflow (CSO) to the east of the bathing water.

52.4 Other Discharges

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

52.5 Agriculture

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

52.6 Hydrometric Network

Figure 52B shows a map of the hydrometric network of the surface water catchment area of North Berwick (West) bathing water.

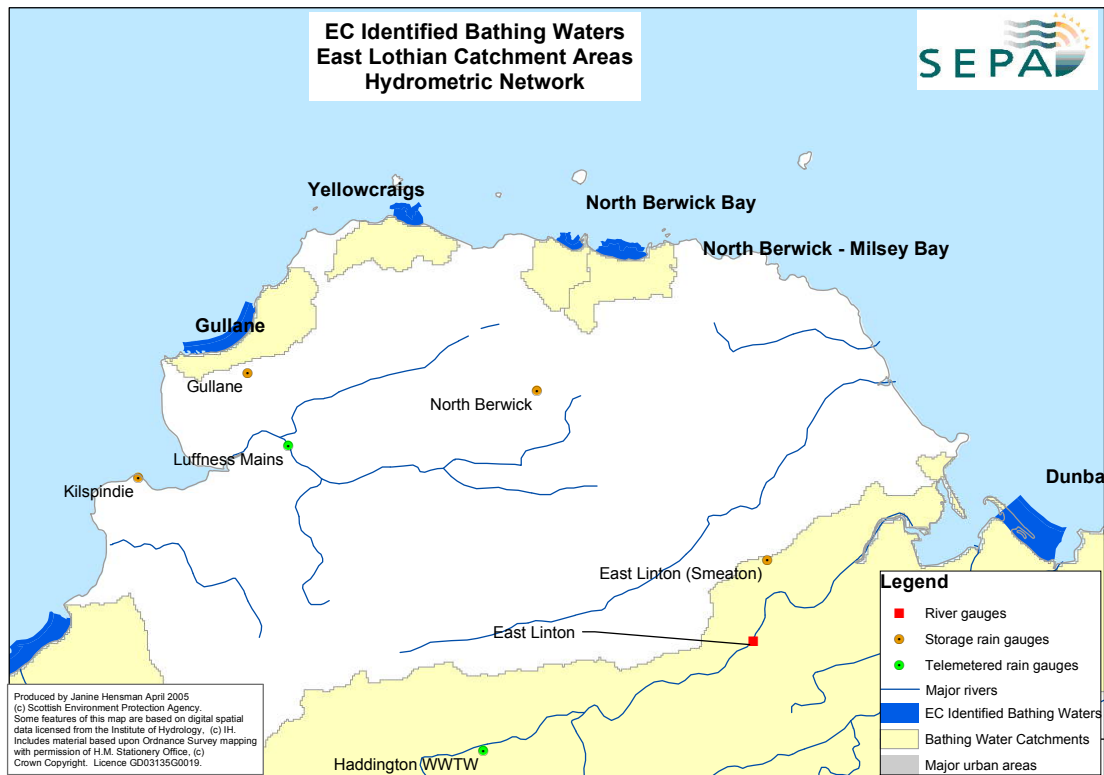


Figure 52B: Hydrometric map of North Berwick (West) and surrounding area

52.7 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.

52.8 Response to Failure

North Berwick (West) has been assessed for the 2008 season as being of medium 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.