
Scarborough
Bathing Water Update

Environment Agency Obligations – Bathing Waters

The EA does not have a public health remit for bathing waters.

EA's responsibilities:

- Bacteriological (Ecoli, IE) sampling at designated bathing waters during the bathing water season
- Annual classification of bathing water quality.
- Responding to pollution incidents
- Passing on information on bathing waters to the public and Local Authorities
- Updating and maintenance of SWIMFO website.
- Investigating water quality issues
- Working with stakeholders to improve water quality.

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Bathing Water quality - Scarborough

- Classifications are based on a 4 year rolling average:

- **Scarborough South** – history of Poor bathing water quality

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Suff	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	n/a	Suff	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

- **Scarborough North –** history of Excellent/good water quality

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Excel	Excel	Good	Good	Excel	n/a	Excel	Excel	Good	Suff	Suff

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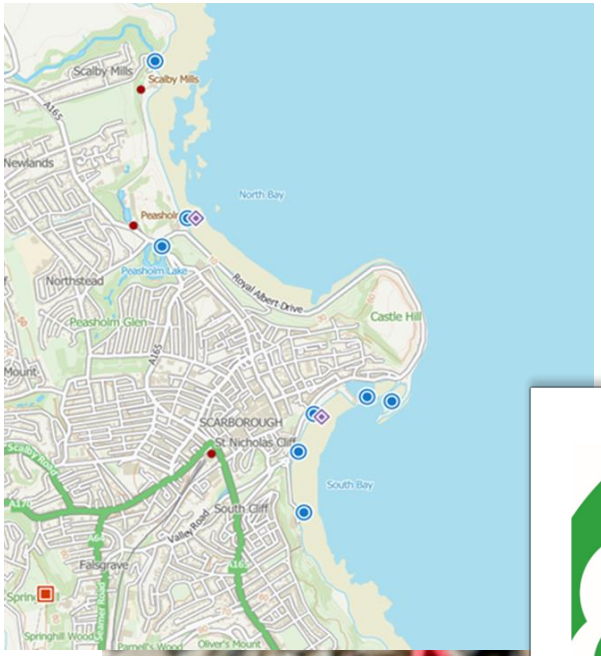
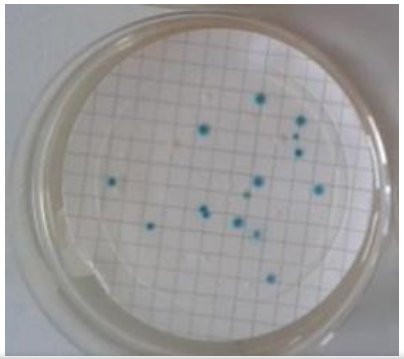
Investigations – what we know





National Laboratory Service

Science
Service
Solutions

Investigation into the bacterial communities in bathing waters and associated sites around Scarborough South Bay, 2016.

Report produced for the Integrated Environment Planning Team, Yorkshire Area

Jonathan Porter,
National Laboratory Service,
Staplake Mount,
Starcross,
Devon,
EX6 8PE.

October 2017.

Investigation into the sources of bacterial pollution at Scarborough North and South Beaches in the summer of 2024.

Aim: To better understand the factors influencing bathing water quality at Scarborough North and South beaches.

Date: November 2025

Environment Agency

Investigation outcomes – MST

Scarborough South

- Human and seabird sources of bacteria consistently present
- Occasional dogs and very occasional ruminant (cows and sheep) sources of bacteria present.
- Donkeys are not a contributor to the bacteria.

Scarborough North

- Human and seabird sources of bacteria consistently present
  - Seabird markers are in much lower concentrations compared to those found at Scarborough South
- Dogs and ruminants present on occasion

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Investigation Outcome – bacterial profiling

- A consistent input from seabirds at both Scarborough North and South
- Indication of a link between Peasholm Lake and Scarborough North only.
- Scarborough WwTW treated effluent was found at both Scarborough South and North confirming a north to south link between bays.
- McCains treated effluent found at times at both bathing waters, indicating a south to north link in addition to the north to south link.
- Indication of untreated sewage in Scalby Beck following rainfall and that bacterial species associated with the Beck are found more frequently and at higher concentrations at Scarborough North.
- there is evidence for the movement of bacteria from the sand to the bathing.
- Scarborough Harbour was not found to impact on either bathing water.

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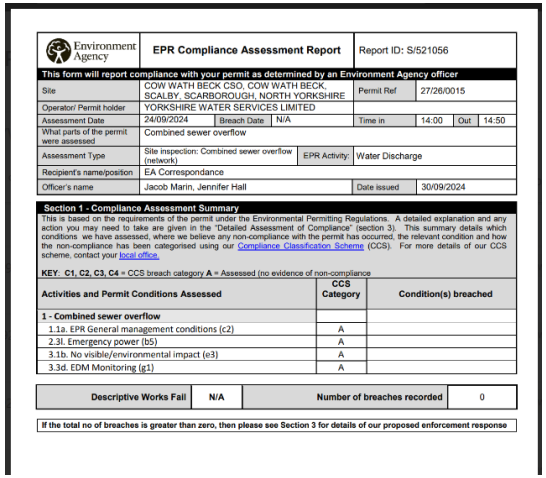
What have we been doing?
Water Industry Inspections

- In 2025 EA carried out regulatory inspections of **14** Yorkshire Water assets in Scarborough.
- Includes Sewage Pumping Stations and combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in Scalby Beck, Scarborough North and South Bays and Scarborough WwTW.
- Very few Permit breaches were noted but a number of Actions were raised with Yorkshire Water.



Environment Agency | **EPR Compliance Assessment Report** | Report ID: S/521056

This form will report compliance with your permit as determined by an Environment Agency officer

Site	COW WATH BECK CSO, COW WATH BECK, SCALBY, SCARBOROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE	Permit Ref	27/26/0015
Operator/ Permit holder	YORKSHIRE WATER SERVICES LIMITED		
Assessment Date	24/09/2024 — Breach Date: N/A	Time in	14:00 — Out: 14:50
What parts of the permit were assessed	Combined sewer overflow		
Assessment Type	Site inspection: Combined sewer overflow (network) — EPR Activity: Water Discharge		
Recipient's name/position	EA Correspondance		
Officer's name	Jacob Marin, Jennifer Hall	Date issued	30/09/2024

Section 1 - Compliance Assessment Summary

This is based on the requirements of the permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. A detailed explanation and any action you may need to take are given in the "Detailed Assessment of Compliance" (section 3). This summary details which conditions we have assessed, where we believe any non-compliance with the permit has occurred, the relevant condition and how the non-compliance has been categorised using our Compliance Classification Scheme (CCS). For more details of our CCS scheme, contact your local office.

KEY: **C1, C2, C3, C4** = CCS breach category **A** = Assessed (no evidence of non-compliance

Activities and Permit Conditions Assessed	CCS Category	Condition(s) breached
1 - Combined sewer overflow		
1.1a. EPR General management conditions (c2)	A	
2.3l. Emergency power (b5)	A	
3.1b. No visible/environmental impact (e3)	A	
3.3d. EDM Monitoring (g1)	A	

Descriptive Works Fail	**N/A**	**Number of breaches recorded**	0

If the total no of breaches is greater than zero, then please see Section 3 for details of our proposed enforcement response

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What are we planning to do?
EA Plans for 2026

Bathing Water compliance sampling starts from 15th May until 30th Sept.

Further investigations

- 5 Continuous Water Quality Monitors (Sondes):
  Scalby Beck, Cow Wath Beck and Peasholm Beck
- Potential other water quality investigative work in both Peasholm and Scalby Becks

Regulatory and Advisory Visits

- Agricultural holding inspections in Scalby Beck catchment
- Private discharge inspections (hotels/caravan sites etc)
- Yorkshire Water Permit inspections

Continued response to pollution incidents.

Continued partnership working –

Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership, Yorkshire Urban Gulls Partnership.

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What else is proposed?
AMP8 - WINEP

- 4 assets in Scarborough included in the AMP8 WINEP

TOLL HOUSE/SPS
CORNER CAFE/NO 2 CSO
WHITBY ROAD BDG/CSO
SCALBY MILLS/CSO

- All to be delivered by 31st March 2030
- All are as part of the storm overflow reduction programme. This requires assets with a discharge within 1km of a designated bathing water area to reduce spills down to 2 spills/bathing water season.
- 3 assets – reduce to 2 spills
- 1 asset to 10 spills annually….

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Questions?