



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Application for designation as a bathing water

## **Annex E Mexico Towan, Hayle, Cornwall**

March 2017



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## Location and facilities

This Annex summarises the evidence for the designation of Mexico Towan as a bathing water.

Mexico Towan is situated on a long stretch of dunes in St Ives Bay known as The Towans, where two of the beaches are already designated as bathing waters: The Towans (Hayle) and The Towans (Godrevy). The facilities available at the Mexico Towan area are indicated on the map:

- Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) lifeguards from May - September
- Public toilets
- Shops or kiosks
- Nearby parking



## Beach usage in 2015

The figures provided by Cornwall Council were compiled by the RNLI and cover the 2015 bathing season because the figures for 2016 had not been finalised when the application was submitted. Defra's requirements for evidence of the number of bathers are explained in the main consultation document, which is available on Citizenspace. The RNLI's methodology for the counts of beach users is also explained in the consultation document.

To provide information for peak use at Mexico Towan, Cornwall Council has provided the RNLI beach usage figures between 16 May - 27 September, a total of 135 days, which means that the numbers appear higher than in the 20 day survey that is usually provided in the evidence for designation. The figures for the peak two hour period each day in the 2015 lifeguard season give an estimated total of:

- 34418 beach users
- 7089 in the water
- 1978 using surfboards or water craft

This gives an average for a daily two hour survey over 135 days of:

- 255 beach users
- 53 in the water
- 15 using surfboards or water craft

If multiplied by 20, to give a comparison with a 20 day survey, the figures are:

- 5100 beach users
- 1060 in the water
- 300 using surfboards or water craft
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## Local consultation

Between July and September 2016, Cornwall Council held individual consultations for each of the proposed bathing waters. The consultees were local County Councillors, parish councils and local stakeholders, individuals and organisations that may have an interest in the designation of the site as a bathing water. The Council also consulted the Marine Conservation Society, the RNLI, Surfers Against Sewage and Visit Cornwall for their views on all the proposals.

Eleven stakeholders were consulted for their views on the designation of Mexico Towan. There were six responses to the consultation.

- Four respondents supported designation
- One respondent stated that they had no objection to designation.
- One respondent supported designation provided there were no water quality issues

Defra does not hold any water quality data for Mexico Towan. The objective of designating a beach as a bathing water is to ensure that water quality meets the legally required standards and put improvements in place if they are needed.