



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Application for designation as a bathing water

Annex F Northcott Mouth, Cornwall

March 2017



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Location and facilities

Northcott Mouth beach is situated to the north of Bude in Cornwall. This Annex summarises the evidence in support of its designation as a bathing water.

The facilities at the beach are:

- Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) lifeguards in July and August
- Café at the cliff top
- Parking nearby



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 and in the guidance on applying for a new bathing water designation, which is available on Citizenspace. The RNLI's methodology for its counts of beach users is also explained in the consultation document.

To provide information for peak use at Northcott Mouth, Cornwall Council has provided the RNLI beach usage figures between 4 July - 28 August, a total of 56 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:

- 14120 beach users
- 3694 in the water
- 395 using surfboards or water craft

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

- 252 beach users
- 66 in the water
- 7 using surfboards or water craft

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

- 5040 beach users
- 1320 in the water
- 140 using surfboards or water craft

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.

Twelve stakeholders were consulted for their views on the designation of Northcott Mouth. There were three responses to the consultation.

- Two respondents supported designation
- One respondent supported designation provided there were no water quality issues.

Defra does not hold any water quality data for Northcott Mouth. 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.