



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Application for designation as a bathing water

## **Annex G South Fistral, Newquay, Cornwall**

March 2017



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# Location and facilities

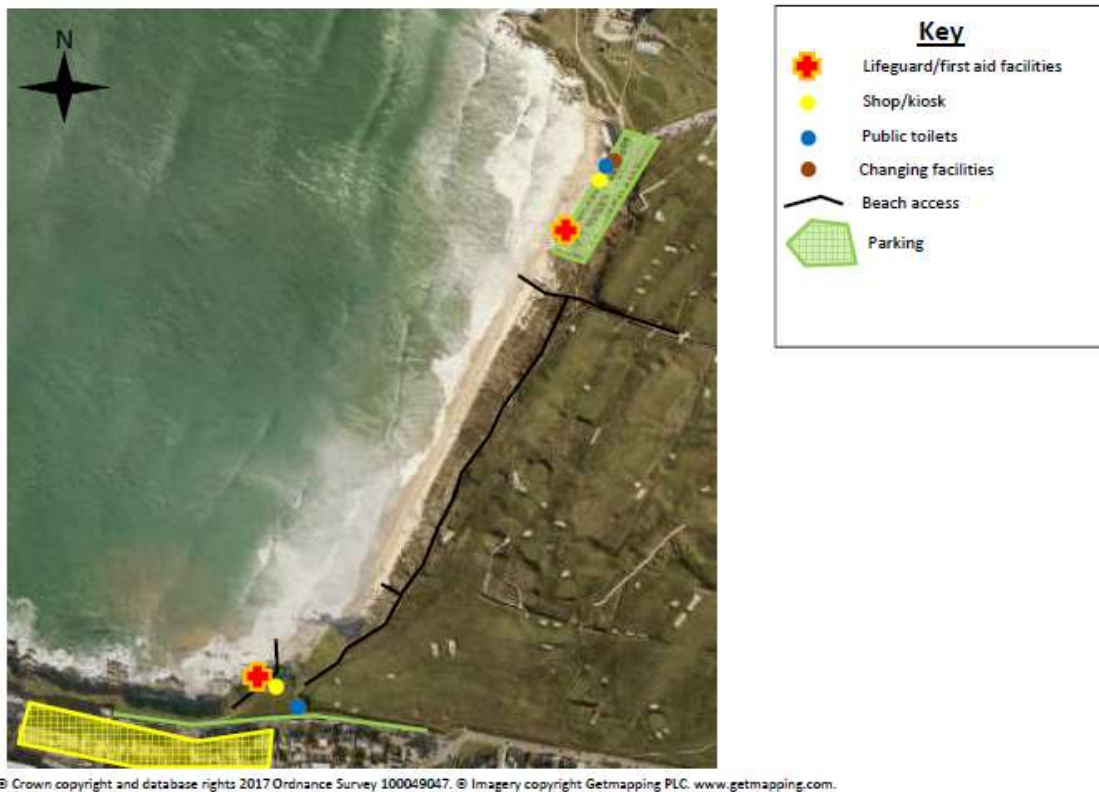
This Annex summarises the evidence for the designation of South Fistral as a bathing water.

Fistral beach in Newquay is approximately 950m long and is designated as a bathing water with the sampling point located at the northern end of the beach, as indicated on the map in the Environment Agency bathing water profile:

[http://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?\\_search=fistral&site=ukk3106-32200](http://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?_search=fistral&site=ukk3106-32200) Cornwall Council has applied for the southern part of the beach, which has its own lifeguards and facilities, to be designated separately as a bathing water.

Newquay is a busy resort with a wide range of shops, restaurants and cafes. The facilities that are available at the south of Fistral beach are indicated on the map.

- Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) lifeguards from July to September
- Public toilets
- Shops and cafes



# 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 headcounts of beach users is also explained in the consultation document.

As evidence for peak usage at South Fistral, Cornwall Council has provided the RNLI beach usage figures between 4 July - 4 September 2015, a total of 63 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 between these dates give an estimated total of:

- 22805 beach users
- 4965 in the water
- 8200 using surfboards or water craft

This gives an average for a daily two hour survey over 63 days of:

- 362 beach users
- 79 in the water
- 130 using surfboards or water craft

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

- 7240 beach users
- 1580 in the water
- 2600 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.

Fourteen stakeholders were consulted for their views on the designation of South Fistral. There were five responses to the consultation.

- Three respondents supported designation
- One respondent supported designation provided there were no water quality issues
- One consultee commented on the lifeguarding arrangements but did not express a view on designation

Defra does not hold any water quality data for South Fistral. 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.