



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Application for designation as a bathing water

## **Annex H Tregonhawke, Whitsand Bay, Cornwall**

March 2017



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

Bathing Water team  
Defra  
Area 3D Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

Email: [bathingwater@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bathingwater@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 8026 3462

[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

## Location and facilities

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

Tregonhawke is a privately owned beach in Whitsand Bay on the south coast of Cornwall. The facilities that are available at the beach are indicated on the map:

- Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) lifeguards from May to September
- Shops or kiosks on the beach and at the top of the cliffs
- Nearby parking on the clifftop.



## 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 Tregonhawke, Cornwall Council has provided the RNLI beach usage figures between 15 May - 11 September 2015, a total of 120 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:

- 19623 beach users
- 5470 in the water
- 2120 using surfboards or water craft

This gives an average for a daily two hour survey over 120 days of:

- 164 beach users
- 46 in the water
- 18 using surfboards or water craft

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

- 3280 beach users
- 920 in the water
- 360 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.

Ten stakeholders were consulted for their views on the designation of Tregonhawke. There were five responses to the consultation.

- Three respondents supported designation.
- One respondent supported designation provided there were no water quality issues.
- One respondent supported designation provided it did not affect the dog-friendly nature of the beach.

Defra does not hold any water quality data for Tregonhawke. 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.

Whether to ban dogs from beaches is a management decision for the local authority.