

# GWENVER

or Gwynver

At the northern end of Whitsand Bay, Gwenver is an extension to the larger beach of [Sennen](#) at low water but regarded by local people as a wonderful sandy beach in its own right. It faces due west and renowned for being one of the best surfing beaches in Cornwall. It is likely that its name is derived from 'Gwynevere' from the Arthurian legend.



View of the Beach from the parking area at Trevedra Cliff.



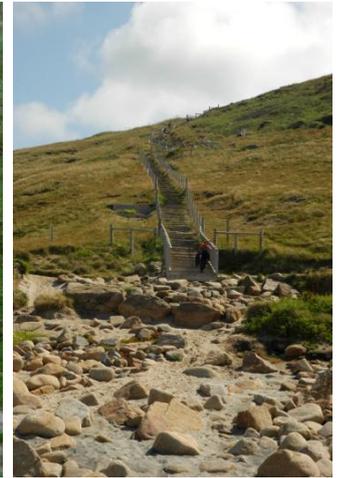
**TR19 6JB** - There is a small privately run parking area which is approached along a minor surfaced road 500m from the A30 (2kms east of Sennen) which leads to Tregiffian. There is parking for some 40 cars in the parking area (closed at 8pm) which has spectacular views over the Bay. There is also parking for some 12 cars to the side of the approach road. At the height of summer, when the surfing conditions are good, parking can be a problem. The steps are fenced to prevent trampling on the fragile sand dune system either side of the path. There is a good information board located on the way



White sand, blue sky, turquoise sea



Steps fenced to protect dunes



Steps lead to a stony beachhead

down to the beach which explains the conservation issues.



There is access to the beach from the car park down a lengthy flight of granite steps over 300m in length. When the car park is closed, there is a signed public footpath from the road. Although straightforward, the steep climb back to the top of the cliff could be demanding for the less able.



Sculptured granite stones and boulders



At high water the beach is approximately 250m in length with areas of unbroken sand and beautifully rounded granite stones and boulders which are an essential feature of the coastline in the far west of Cornwall. The amount of sand at high water will vary according to the seasons and weather conditions although in summer there is usually a wide bank of dry sand. A magnificent white, shell based calcareous sandy beach is exposed at low water.



There is safety equipment based at the beachhead all year and lifeguards are on duty from May to September. The lifeguards are based at facilities to the south of the beach access point. Useful

information is posted on the RNLI notice board which is located on the way down to the beach.



The Lifeguard lookout



Autumnal scene



Views of a magical beach



It is a dangerous beach for swimming due to rip currents, swell, surf and beach profile and should not be contemplated unless the lifeguards are on duty and only then in the designated area.



It is very popular with surfers, particularly in summer when there is a small to medium swell, but is not so good in winter due to its exposure to the full force of the Atlantic. It is a beach break and the shifting sandbanks usually lead to good quality waves; it is best from low to mid-tide. There are strong rip currents towards Aire Point.



It is unsuitable for snorkelling and diving. There are some sand based pools at low water at either end of the beach but they are not a feature of the beach.



Dogs are permitted all year although the beach is patrolled by the local dog warden when possible.



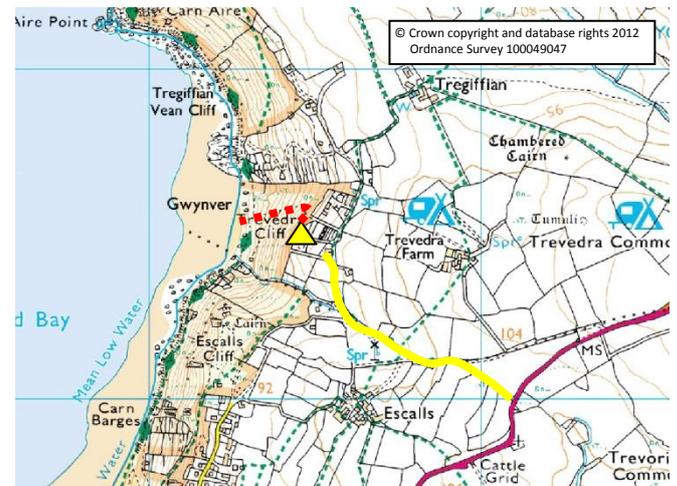
The designated area for bathing



There are no toilets or other facilities although they are available at [Sennen](#). However, this involves a lengthy walk of 1.5km along the sand (and only at low water) and is not recommended because of the tides, although the Coast Path is an alternative.



The privately owned beach is not cleaned but is generally good despite some obvious water borne litter above high water mark. The water quality (measured at Sennen) is excellent. There are no facilities for rubbish.



Location - Part of OS Explorer Map 102



View towards the Longships



Rock Samphire above HWM



With views to the Isles of Scilly on a clear day, Gwynver can be quite magical, especially on a late summer evening with a setting sun disappearing over the horizon. The Longships Lighthouse and the rocks that grounded the infamous Torey Canyon in 1967 can be seen in the distance. Of note is the Sea Beet and Rock Samphire, both of which are edible, which can be found at the back of the beach amongst the rocks. It does not get as crowded as Sennen.