

# TOWAN BEACH

A sweeping south easterly facing, sandy and fine shingle beach which, unusually along this stretch of coastline, is backed by low friable cliffs and a small strip of sand dunes. It is owned by the National Trust.



At low water in summer looking east



**TR2 5EX** - From the A3078 to St. Mawes, at Trewithian follow the road signposted to **Portscatho** and Gerrans and then continue for 2.5kms on the road to St. Anthony Head, where at Porth Farm there is a small car park (capacity about 50 cars). Back along the road for some 30m there is a bridleway to the beach, a distance of 120m and easily accessible for the less mobile. Alternatively opposite the car park is a courtyard of buildings that also gives access to the bridleway.



The beach is over 500m long even at high water which makes it larger than often expected.



Sign to the beach



Path to the beach



Towards Killigerran Head



Rocks at low tide

It is largely sandy at high water but the gently shelving beach gives way to sand and fine shingle: at low water flat rock outcrops (covered in weed) predominate. There are rocky areas at either end of the beach.



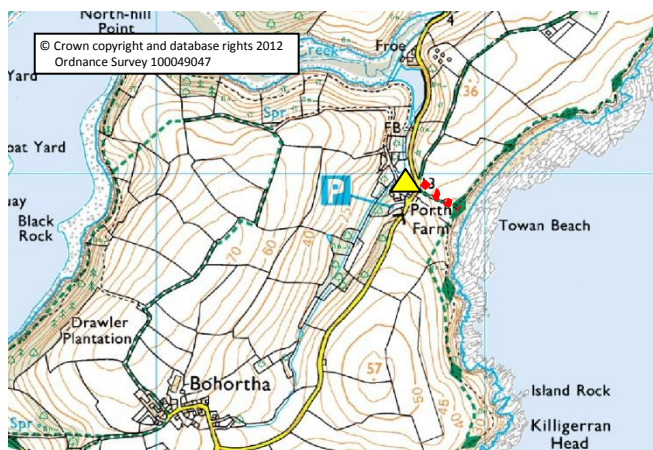
There is no safety equipment or lifeguard service but in favourable conditions it is fairly safe for swimming, especially on a rising high tide. It is not a surfing beach although when there is a swell, conditions can be right for body-boarding. The use of inflatables is not recommended unless the wind is onshore. The beach can be somewhat exposed when the wind is from an easterly direction.



The interesting rock pools at both ends of the beach are very much a feature of the beach; venturing along the foreshore towards Greb can be particularly rewarding. It is also good for snorkelling especially towards Killigerran Head.



Dogs are permitted all year. There are toilets in the group of buildings opposite the car park. The nearest cafe, pub, shops and restaurants are at Gerrans and **Portscatho**.



Location - Part of OS Explorer Map 105



It is cleaned by the National Trust and the water quality is excellent. If facilities are not required, it is a good but somewhat underrated family beach that has much to offer.