

GUNWALLOE

or Gunwalloe Fishing Cove

This is the southerly end of the 4kms stretch of beach from [Porthleven](#). Facing south west it receives the full force of the Atlantic swell and all winds from a westerly and northerly direction. A very treacherous beach for bathing it often lives up to its name meaning 'Cliffs of Hell' in Cornish. It is not to be confused with Gunwalloe Church Cove, 1.5kms to the south.



The fine stretch of shingle beach with atmospheric storm clouds



TR12 7QB - From the A3083 at the southerly end of the Cudrose Airbase 3.7kms from Helston there is a road signposted to Gunwalloe. 250m beyond the hamlet turn right and after a further 250m there is a small parking area (capacity about 15 cars) close to the slipway to the beach. If the parking area is full be careful not to obstruct the road and adjacent farm. Access on to the beach is easy and suitable for the less mobile.



The southerly end of the beach



Banks of shingle



The steeply shelving shingle beach has a wide strip above high water mark. Because of the shelving there is not a vast expanse of beach exposed at low water. The shingle (pea gravel) is still used for building purposes and is taken from the beach as long as it is



Looking north towards Loe Bar



Rock formations and rock pools

dug by hand. The beach stretches for 2kms to the north where it becomes [Loe Bar](#). It is an exposed beach and great for a walk but is not ideal for families. It is possible to scramble across the rocks around Baulk Head to Park Bean Cove (250m) and even to the sandy Halzephron Cove (480m) beyond although it is not recommended because foreshore climbing abilities are required and the tides must be suitable.

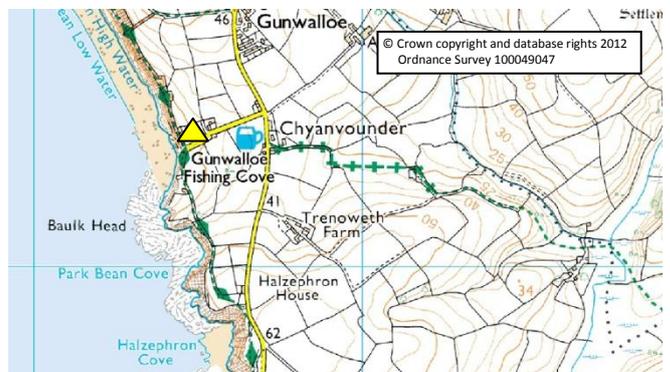


There is no rescue/safety equipment and no lifeguards. It is recognised as one of the most dangerous beaches in Cornwall to enter the water for swimming even when the conditions can look idyllic; this is due to the shelving and sand banks which cause strong currents. It is not a recognised surfing beach.

It is not a snorkelling beach but has some excellent rock pools when the tide is out; these are found on the southerly side of the beach towards Baulk Head. Diving is popular along this stretch of coast (mostly from Porthleven) due to the number of high profile historical wrecks; there is a sign above the beach about restrictions under the Protection of Wrecks Act.



It is a dog friendly beach all year. There are no toilet facilities, the nearest being at [Church Cove](#). There is a cafe above the beach which is open during the spring and summer. There is also a well known pub and restaurant 350m from the beach.



Location - Part of OS Explorer Map 103



The slipway can be used to launch small craft when conditions are suitable. Water quality is excellent. The beach never gets crowded.