BOOBY’S BAY

A wonderful west facing beach that is really part of Constantine Bay but is separated at high tide by a line of rocks and has its own distinct identity. It is exposed to the full force of the Atlantic swell and any winds from a westerly direction. The striking cliff land promontory of Trevose Head with its lighthouse is 700m to the north along the Coast Path.

There is rescue equipment and RNLI Lifeguards on duty from mid-May until there end of September. The beach is not for swimming because of treacherous rip currents and bathing should only be undertaken in the designated areas when the lifeguards are on duty. It is somewhat of a mecca for the experienced surfers because when there are sand banks they can produce excellent surf off the rocky point adjoining Constantine Bay, in the middle of the beach and also at the northerly end where there is a renowned right-hander. Surfing is best at low to mid tide; however, it is not for beginners due to rips and submerged rocks. It is not a snorkelling beach but at low water there is a wealth of interesting rock pools.

Dogs are permitted all year. There are no facilities, the nearest being at Constantine Bay and Harlyn Bay.

Water quality is excellent and the beach is cleaned by Cornwall Council. The ribs of a wrecked ship appear from time to time depending on levels of sand. It is a great family beach if the lack of facilities is not a problem.

PL28 8SL - On the B3276 road from Newquay to Padstow at the cross roads village of St.Merryn, take the road signposted to the Harlyn and then Trevose Head. 600m north of Mother Ivy’s Bay Holiday Park is a track on the left that after 80m leads to a car park in a field (large capacity of over 300 cars). Continue along the track for about 280m to the Coast Path and various access points down to the beach. Alternatively, there are a few roadside car parking spaces opposite the entrance to the Holiday Park which involves a walk of about 700m down the track at the end of the parking lay-by to the beach. There are also a few roadside spaces down this track but be careful with roadside parking in the whole area as the roads are private and parking restricted. Access on to the beach from the Coast Path is moderately easy and it is only a walk of about 1km from Constantine Bay across the dunes.

There is little or no sand at high water although there are patches of grey slate flat shingle backed by flattish rock platforms for sitting. As the tide recedes, an expansive flat golden sandy beach appears with sandy inlets between rocky outcrops higher up the beach.