



Risk Assessment : Par Beach

Compiled by: Denzil Williams

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Location: Par Beach, St Austell Bay

Date of Activity: Ongoing

Activity: Kitesurfing on the sea and launching and landing of LEI kites on land.

Location background information:

Par Beach lies at the North East corner of St Austell Bay and is ideally suited to pick up winds from the SSE to South Westerly direction with South winds being direct onshore. Par Harbour lies to the West of Par Beach, which is used for the Local clay industry which is on the decline so sea traffic from the harbour is very little and will only move on the high tide mark anyway.

Cliffs lie to the east of Par beach with another small cove Polkerris around the corner and then the coast line carry's on due south for 1.5 miles out to Gribben Head.

Access to the beach is through Par Beach Sands holiday Park which through the winter months is free to park in but during the summer there is a small fee during the daytime. There are toilets located roughly in the middle of the beach with disabled toilets available. The Beach has a gentle slope so is quite shallow most of the time making it ideal for beginners combined with an easy going small swell. The beach is sandy at all stages of the tide and can be ridden at any tide height. At low tide Killyvarder Rock becomes visible it could pose a obstacle but is very apparent with a 20 foot high warning post sited on top so it is highly visible.

There is a small river that flows out from the West end of the beach and this has a rock boundary to keep its path, again this is highly visible at most states of tide except at high where the rocks can be hidden just under the surface, the path of the river flows out from the west side and ends close to Killyvarder Rock. First time users to the beach should be notified of this river path but once known should not pose any danger also the river is too small to give any danger from current flow.

Par beach is not patrolled by any lifeguards so all safety should be taken into account especially around swimmers as there is no defined swimming area so everyone is free to go where they please. This beach is one of the few that allow dog owners to exercise their pets so take care with launching/landing kites near them and watch your step as well.

Wind Directions: Par beach works best in a southerly wind which is direct onshore, you can sail in a SW wind but at any tide higher than mid tide then the wind tends to be more gusty from having to travel across the harbour. SSE winds are fine but SE winds tend to also be gusty from the Gribben headland obstructing the way. At a very low tide you could get away with a wind from the West but it will be short lived as the tide can travel quite rapidly being a shallow shelved beach.

Northerly direction winds blow off shore at Par, very flat water will be produced but the wind would be extremely gusty and holely, you could take advantage with a rescue boat but you would be better off going to a beach that takes advantage of North winds.

Who is at Risk: Kite Flyer and other kitesurfers. All third party beach and water users and pets.

Risk Control Measures:

Location	Risk	Control Measure
<p>Par Beach</p>	<p>KiteLines Can cause acerations if grabbed or someone is hit by them at speed</p>	<p>Launching and landing of kites to be done with assistance from an experienced kitesurfer. Solo launch and landing should be conducted with extreme care and vigilance for other beach users. Kite killer, safety leash system to be checked and fully functional. Ample space should be left between each kite flyer. At least two line lengths.</p>
	<p>Kite lines can be entangled with seaweed and cause erratic flying of kite or even failure of depower. Kitesurfer can slip on seaweed and lose control of kite</p>	<p>After heavy storms Par beach can have large deposits of seaweed on the beach and also in the water. If in the water the kitesurfer must be aware of consequences if kite dropped into the water as entangles lines can cause loss of control. Try to find a clear location without floating weed.</p>
	<p>Risk of collision with other water users or entanglement</p>	<p>All kitesurfers to know and understand the 'rules of the road' or right of way to avoid collisions.</p>

		<p>Kitesurfers entering the water have priority.</p> <p>No kitesurfing anywhere near swimmers or other water users.</p>
	<p>Kites: Can be heavy and cause injury if hitting someone at high speed</p>	<p>It is important to secure the kite well when not in use. The mixture of small pebbles and sand on the beach can cause the kites to 'skid' if not weighed down sufficiently on the beach.</p> <p>Ample space to be left between each flyer and they must watch out for people and animals in the flying zone.</p> <p>Horses use this beach occasionally, so either land kites or hold kites still in neutral zone if animals appear in the flying area.</p> <p>All kitesurfers must use a safety leash system.</p>
	<p>Board: If the rider is hit by their board it can cause an injury. A loose board may create a hazard to other water users.</p>	<p>Helmets should be worn by all kitesurfers, especially in waves to prevent head injuries.</p>
	<p>Launching surface: Can pose a risk to the kite flyer when on land especially when launching. Tripping on stones or damaging feet when dragged by the kite can cause the flyer to lose</p>	<p>After heavy storms seaweed can pile up on the beach and in the water. Care should be taken when launching the kite to ensure the seaweed does not foul the lines and the flyer does not slip on it.</p>

	concentration or control.	
	Windsurfers and other kite surfers: Possible collision with other water users	The kitesurfer must however keep a look out for windsurfers and other kitesurfers and follow the 'rules of the road'
	People on the shoreline: Risk of collision	Kitesurfers must keep vigilant for people wandering into their downwind flying area and either land their kite or take it to the neutral zone until they have passed.
	Swimmers: Risk of collisions	Swimmers rarely come into the area used for kitesurfing however if a swimmer is encountered then the kite should be moved to the neutral zone to avoid collision and stop their movement until the water user has passed.
	Killyvarder Rock at low tide: Risk of collision with submerged rocks	There is a reef at low tide that can be exposed. Local knowledge should be sought out for its location or kitesurf at low tide so that the reef is more visible. Do not kite too close to the reef up wind of it as loss of the board may cause the kitesurfer to drift onto the reef.
	Waves: Risk of losing control of the kite when flyer caught by shore break.	Kitesurfers must assess the conditions and only enter the water in conditions they are comfortable in and must wear appropriate safety equipment.

		Risk of damage or loss of kite if dropped in the shore break
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Par Beach Map

