



Risk Assessment

Compiled by: Lawrence Smith
Date Compiled: 1 February 2009

Location: Marazion Beach, Mounts bay

Date of Activity: Ongoing

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

Location background information:

Marazion Beach lies at the North Eastern point of Mounts Bay and is ideally suited to pick up the prevailing South Westerly winds giving a very good cross onshore wind direction. Swell height can be variable with small chop up to head high waves. The reefs offshore closer to St Michaels Mount can sometimes provide good cover from any swell that enters the bay for relatively flat water. At low tide the bottom is sandy however at higher tides the beach turns into gravel and pebbles. There is a hidden reef that can become exposed at extreme low tide (indicated on the accompanying map) that kitesurfers need to be aware of.

Kitesurfing should be conducted a minimum of 1-2 hours after high tide to ensure there is enough beach and be stopped 1-2 hour before high tide depending on whether it is spring or neap tides. At higher tides there can sometimes be a bit of shore break as the waves land on the inclined section of beach.

There is a seawall running along the top of some of the beach with a road directly behind the wall. The seawall can produce a bit of downwind turbulence and so care must be taken when flying kites close to the wall. It is advisable that beginners stay in the area to the east of the seawall in front of the small dunes and not kitesurf in front of the seawall especially when the wind is onshore.



There is a red and yellow flagged RNLI patrolled area to the East of Red River for bathers and no kiting activity should encroach close to this area.

Wind Directions: Works best in SW winds. Southerly winds can have a little turbulence induced by St Michaels Mount close to the Red River end of the beach. SE winds can be affected by the venturi condition caused by the wind passing through the gap between St Michaels Mount and the Town of Marazion. This sometimes causes gusty wind. Westerly winds can be a little gusty at times due to wind effect from Penzance. Easterly winds are to be avoided, as they are usually very gusty and strong. In S or SE wind directions then kitesurfing in front of the seawall will give the cleanest wind HOWEVER, kitesurfers must not kite here close to high tide and maintain at least 2 line lengths of clear down wind space between them and the seawall when launching and landing.

Northerly direction winds blow offshore at Marazion. They do produce very flat water conditions but these can only be taken advantage of with the use of a rescue boat.

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
Marazion Beach	<p>Kite Lines: Can cause lacerations 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.</p> <p>Kite killer, safety leash system to be checked and fully functional.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Kitesurfer can slip on seaweed and lose control of kite</p>	<p>After heavy storms Marazion 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 the flagged swim zones or to the East of Red River.</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>



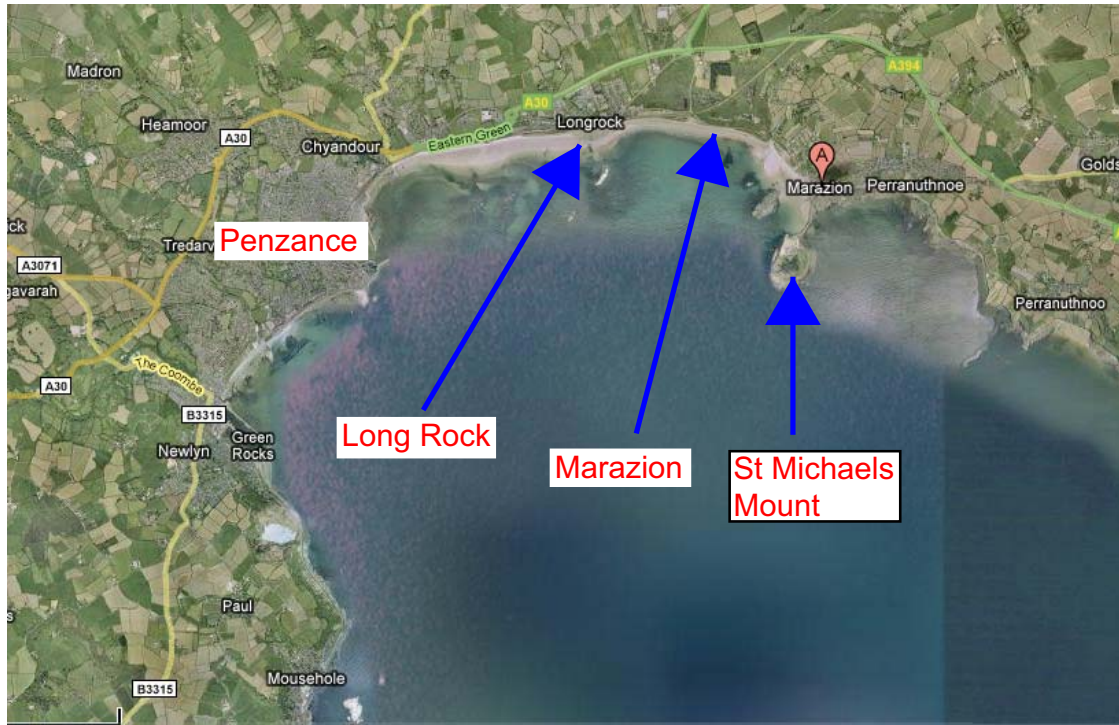
	<p>Board: If the rider is hit by their board it can cause an injury. A loose board may create a hazard to other water users.</p>	<p>Helmets should be worn by all kitesurfers, especially in waves to prevent head injuries.</p>
	<p>Launching surface: Can pose a risk to the kite flyer when on land especially when launching. Tripping on stones or damaging feet when dragged by the kite can cause the flyer to lose concentration or control.</p>	<p>If possible kites should be launched on the sandy area of the beach at lower tides to ensure secure footing.</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>
	<p>Windsurfers and other kite surfers: Possible collision with other water users</p>	<p>If windsurfers are present they are usually confined to deeper water to the West. The kitesurfer must however keep a look out for windsurfers and other kitesurfers and follow the 'rules of the road'</p>
	<p>People on the shoreline: Risk of collision</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Swimmers: Risk of collisions</p>	<p>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.</p>



	<p>Reef at low tide: Risk of collision with submerged rocks</p>	<p>There is a reef at low tide that can be exposed (shown on map). 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.</p>
	<p>Waves: Risk of losing control of the kite when flyer caught by shore break.</p>	<p>Marazion can experience large swell and waves. Kitesurfers must assess the conditions and only enter the water in conditions they are comfortable in and must wear appropriate safety equipment.</p> <p>There is a large shore break in heavy swells at higher tide and it can be hazardous to enter or exit the sea in these conditions. It is therefore better to wait to kitesurf until lower tide.</p>
	<p>Risk of damage or loss of kite if dropped in the shore break</p>	<p>If a kite is dropped in the shore break it is often very difficult to re-launch so the kitesurfer should be ready to flag the kite out and pack down.</p>

Marazion Beach teaching location

Mounts bay:



Marazion Beach and St Michaels Mount:

