# Beachgoer encounters venomous adder at Porth Wen



A beachgoer in Anglesey experienced an unexpected encounter with nature while exploring the picturesque Porth Wen beach. Lewis Perrin Williams was enjoying the scenic beauty around the abandoned Victorian brickworks when a venomous adder fell from the cliffside vegetation and landed on the rocks below. The incident occurred amidst the early onset of warmer weather, which has prompted these snakes to emerge from hibernation in search of sunlight.

Speaking to Wales Online, Lewis recounted the startling moment: "I was just standing on the beach when I saw it fall down from the undergrowth overhanging a small cliff," he explained. After observing the snake swimming through rockpools, he aided the adder by using a plank to return it to the safety of the underbrush.

The coastal site, rich in history, closed in 1949 and is designated as a scheduled monument by Cadw, reflecting its cultural significance. Its ancient kilns, towering chimneys, and decaying machinery have attracted tourists and nature enthusiasts alike. Despite being technically private property, Porth Wen has garnered considerable attention on social media, even earning the title of the "most Instagrammable hidden beach" in Wales.

However, the recent footage of the snake swimming has sparked considerable debate online. Many potential visitors have expressed their apprehension about encountering an adder, Britain’s only venomous snake, while visiting the beach. Social media reactions have ranged from shock to fear, with individuals expressing trepidation about the possibility of an encounter. “Jesus Christ, you've just stopped me from exploring,” one user commented, while another stated, “Omg noooo, I'd run, massive that.” Another beachgoer from Cardiff succinctly encapsulated the concern, exclaiming: “Omg they can \*@£%and#%@ swim! ?”

Adders are typically found basking in areas such as heathland and woodlands, but their ability to navigate rocky coastal environments has now come into question. The sighting of snakes swimming is relatively rare but does occur under certain circumstances, primarily for defensive purposes or when they are in search of new habitats. The presence of adders has prompted discussions on the safety of swimming in the area, with one Bangor resident resolutely declaring, “That's it. I am never swimming in that water again.”

Porth Wen's unique setting offers calm waters ideal for swimming and sea kayaking, complemented by its tranquil cove. However, encounters with adders remain infrequent. The NHS advises anyone who suffers a snake bite to seek medical assistance, whilst veterinarians stress the same for dog bites. The odds of a significant reaction to an adder bite are relatively low, with only about 30% of bites leading to serious symptoms, which are usually manageable with treatment. Nonetheless, these incidents do possess the potential for severe consequences, and concerns about snakes linger, despite statistical data indicating that bees and wasps are responsible for 60 times more fatalities in England and Wales than adders.

In light of the recent encounter, one local from Caernarfon shared her reaction: “Great shots but I'd die.” Another observer reassured her, stating, “Probably not, even if one bit you,” highlighting that while discomfort and pain from an adder bite are possible, it is typically not life-threatening.

As Porth Wen continues to attract visitors intrigued by its history and natural beauty, the balance between enjoying the outdoors and being cautious of local wildlife remains a pertinent discussion among those frequenting the area.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.nationalworld.com/news/uk/traeth-porth-wen-beach-wales-poisonous-snake-spotted-swimming-at-popular-beach-in-anglesey-5069831> - This article supports the claim about Lewis Perrin Williams encountering an adder at Porth Wen beach in Anglesey, and the snake's subsequent removal using a plank.
2. <https://www.nationalworld.com/news/uk/traeth-porth-wen-beach-wales-poisonous-snake-spotted-swimming-at-popular-beach-in-anglesey-5069831> - It also highlights concerns over adder sightings in the area, including the rare occurrence of snakes swimming and reactions from potential visitors.
3. <https://www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/northwales/porth-wen-brickworks> - This URL details Porth Wen's status as a scheduled monument, reflecting its cultural significance and historical importance, which attracts tourists and nature enthusiasts.
4. <https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/100239528804439/porth-wen-beach/> - This social media platform showcases Porth Wen as an Instagrammable destination, aligning with its 'most Instagrammable hidden beach' title in Wales and the attention it garners online.
5. <https://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/a82/snake-id-leaflet.pdf> - This piece supports general information about adders, such as their habitats and behaviors, including their presence in heathlands and woodlands, and occasional swimming for defensive purposes.
6. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/snake-bites/> - It provides guidance on the medical response to snake bites, including the advice to seek immediate medical attention if bitten and the relative rarity of severe reactions.
7. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/poisonous-snake-leaves-tourists-horrified-31365952> - Please view link - unable to able to access data