

BOSCASTLE

People flock to this small picturesque harbour and village for its charm and not for its rather small and uninteresting beach which is both sides of the harbour walls and dissected by the River Valency that flows down the valley and through the harbour and most well known for the notorious floods of 2004. The harbour was originally built in 1584 in a narrow rocky inlet sheltered by Willapark headland to the west and Penally Point to the east. As it was the only significant harbour along this stretch of coast it was important for importing coal and limestone and exporting slate and local produce; nowadays it is a fishing harbour owned by the National Trust.



Outside the Harbour



Within the Harbour

which is in the valley bottom next to the river. There is no roadside parking in the summer months. The main village of Boscastle is on the hill to the south of the valley. From the car park it is a 500m walk along the southern side of the River to get to the foreshore.



There is no beach/foreshore at high tide. When the tide recedes out of the inlet there is a part sandy and stony beach although within the harbour there is usually a number of boats moored up on the sand which reduces the area. In the rocky area outside the harbour on the southern side of the inlet is a natural bathing pool in the rocks.



Rescue equipment is located above the harbour. Swimming within the harbour on an incoming tide can be fairly safe but is not recommended. The usual north coast swell makes conditions outside the harbour unsuitable and quite dangerous on an ebbing tide. The inlet is not suitable for surfing but in calm conditions snorkelling is possible. There are a few rock pools.



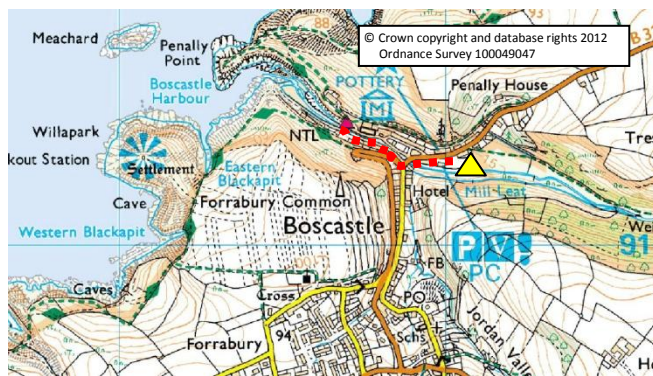
There are no restrictions on dogs. The toilets are at the entrance to the car park and include facilities for the disabled. There are cafes, small shops, restaurants and pubs close by.



The small sandy beach within the harbour walls at low water



PL35 OHE - It is 8kms from the A39 at Camelford along the B3266. From the east and the A39 (south of Bude) take the B3263 2kms south of Wainhouse Corner. There is only one car park (capacity 100 cars plus an overflow area for 170 cars)



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 111



The slipway can be used to launch kayaks and similar small craft. Water quality in the Harbour depends on the very variable quality of the river. Boscastle in Cornish is 'Kastell Bosterel'.



Slipway to the harbour



Shell fishing