

MAER CLIFF BEACHES

or First Cove, Maer Low Cliff Beach, Maer High Cliff Beach, Furzey Cove, Pearce's Cove & Vinegar Cove

A series of beaches between [Crooklets Beach](#), Bude and [Northcott Mouth](#) and which are all joined at low water by the wonderful stretch of sand from [Summerleaze Beach](#), Bude to [Warren Gutter Beach](#) at the northerly end of [Sandy Mouth](#), a distance of over 4kms.



Maer Low Cliff Beach looking towards Bude Breakwater

All the beaches are very accessible at low water from Crooklets Beach in the south and Northcott Mouth in the north but there are a few access points at high water from the Coast Path which runs across Maer Down which is owned by the National Trust.



The easiest point for vehicular access is Crooklets Beach - **EX23 8ND** - It is 600m from Belle Vue, the main shopping street in Bude, along Crooklets Road which runs across Summerleaze Down. There are two car parks; one has a capacity 190 cars with an overflow parking (capacity over 300



First Cove at low water



First Cove sand and stone



Path to First Cove



Path to Maer Low Cliff Beach

cars), the other (capacity over 150 cars); both are next to the beach. Alternatively Northcott Mouth can be used - **EX23 9EL** - North of Bude on the A39, take the signposted road to Poughill. Northcott Mouth is a further 3kms just beyond the Bude Holiday Park. The small National Trust car park (capacity about 60 cars) is on the left.



From the car parks at Crooklets Beach take the Coast Path to the north of the beach which is at the end of a short residential access road. Once over the stile to Maer Down the path down to First Cove is on the left after about 50m; access to the beach is fairly straightforward. A further 150m along the Coast Path and there is a rather more difficult path down to Maer Low Cliff Beach but it is well used if a steep climb back. There is no access to Maer High Cliff Beach from the Coast Path but 180m beyond there is a path down to Furzey Cove which is not difficult except for the



Pearce's Cove



Vinegar Cove

scramble down on to the beach due to rock falls; There is no cliff access to either Pearce's Cove or Vinegar Cove although these are easily accessed along the beach from Northcott Mouth except at high tide.



First Cove is fairly small and just around Wrangle Point from Crooklets Beach; it has little or no beach at high water but the higher parts of the beach are stony which gives way to a golden sand interspersed with larger rocks. It is fairly sheltered and compared to adjacent Crooklets never gets crowded.



The access point to Furzey Cove

Maer Low Cliff Beach is larger but has a small sandy and stony area of beach above high water which is divided into two sections; the smaller southerly part is cut off from the cliff path access at high water. The upper part of the beach is mostly stony with the familiar 'fingers' of rock below which then gives way to sand at low water. Maer High Cliff Beach is similar and divided into three sections at high water all of which are cut off by the tide but with Furzey Cove the best escape route. Furzey Cove itself is mixture of boulders and stones at high tide but the sand is easily accessible as the tide goes out. Pearce's Cove and Vinegar Cove are smaller and more sheltered but are cut off from the access at either Furzey Cove or Northcott Mouth at high water.



There is safety equipment above Furzey Cove but nothing at any of the other beaches. The nearest Lifeguards facilities are at [Crooklets Beach](#) and [Northcott Mouth](#). The beaches are inherently dangerous for swimming especially at low water and an ebbing tide due to unpredictable rip currents. However, when conditions lead to less of a swell and surf, swimming on a rising high tide can be considered but then only with care. Like this whole stretch of coast there is excellent surfing for all abilities. The larger rocky reefs make certain locations dangerous at



The heavily folded Maer High Cliff

certain stages of the tide. It is always best to talk to experienced locals about surfing this type of beach.



They are not snorkelling beaches but the numerous rock pools and sand pools are hugely interesting and worth exploring at low water but beware of the tides.



There are no restrictions on dogs and this applies to Northcott Mouth but there are restrictions at Crooklets Beach from Easter day until the end of September.



The nearest toilets are at Crooklets and also Northcott Mouth. Similarly, there are cafes shops and a full range of facilities at Crooklets and Bude; there is a seasonal cafe at Northcott Mouth.



Looking north from Furzey Cove



Maer Low Cliff Beach



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 126



Water quality is generally very good but Crooklets has been variable in the past due to the stream that crosses the beach. There is invariably considerable water borne litter at all these beaches along the high tide line. Despite the large numbers that frequent Crooklets Beach, once around Wrangle Point it can be very peaceful and secluded. The geology of the cliffs is the outstanding feature of this stretch of coastline as they are the only ones in Cornwall made of contorted and tilted Carboniferous Sandstone and known as 'The Bude Formation'.