

# DEADMAN'S COVE and Greenbank Cove

In the centre of 'North Cliffs', the stretch of coastline between [Gwithian](#) and [Portreath](#) known as Reskajeage Downs, these two north facing coves are at the base of some spectacular cliffs that are over 80m high. Access to both Coves is difficult and should not be contemplated by anyone that is not confident of negotiating the narrow and at times steep routes down to the beaches. At low water it is possible to walk along the foreshore to both Coves from [Basset's Cove](#) which is some 700m east of Greenbank Cove.



Deadman's Cove at low water with long winter shadows

Deadman's Cove is the smaller and more westerly of the two Coves which are about 250m apart.



**TR14 OJG** - On the B3301 from Portreath to Hayle, there are 3 National Trust parking areas (close together) next to the road 4kms from the centre of Portreath. The most easterly of the parking areas (capacity about 20 cars), which is right next to the cliff edge, is the best for both Coves. There is a public footpath down to Deadman's Cove from the Coast Path (next to the car park). The path is narrow and steep in places and at the bottom a recent cliff fall has taken away the path and it means negotiating down loose rocky scree to rocks above the beach. To get to Greenbank Cove means walking along the Coast Path for nearly 400m east of the car park and there is



Access above Deadman's Cove      Deadman's Cove



Greenbank Cove in winter



Access path to Greenbank Cove

a narrow path on the cliff edge which winds torturously down to the beach and is only advisable for those with a sure footing as at one place the path is next to a sheer drop to the beach. At Deadman's Cove it is possible to walk along the foreshore at low water to an unnamed sandy cove immediately to the west and then on to Derrick Cove (750m), a narrow sandy inlet but beware of the tides.



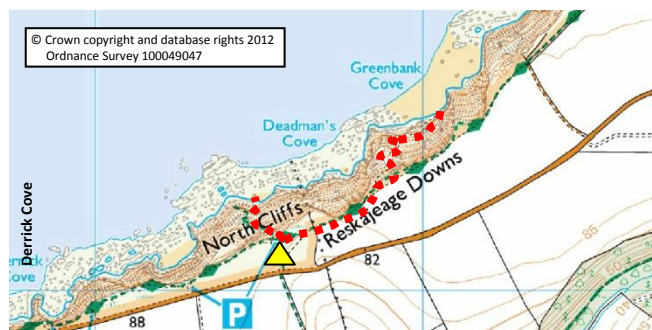
Greenbank has a large area of sand which goes down to low water whereas Deadman's Cove only has a small area of sand which turns to rocky ledges and boulders at low water. There is no beach at either Cove at high water. They are exposed and in shade for much of the day even in summer.



There is no rescue/safety equipment at either beach. Even in calm conditions it is not advisable to swim because of strong currents. Despite good surf, getting a board down to either Cove is not practical. They are not snorkelling beaches but there are many rock pools.



There are no restrictions on dogs. The nearest toilets and other facilities are at [Portreath](#) although there is a seasonal cafe at Hell's Mouth 1.4kms west of the parking area.



Location – Part of Explorer Map 104



Water quality is believed to be good except after periods of heavy rain. Both beaches have a somewhat sinister feel about them partly because they face north although on a summer day can be quite exhilarating.