

PORTHERAS COVE

Set in a wild, rugged and windswept stretch of 'granitic' coastline, this sandy, northerly facing beach is a real find. Located at the confluence of two valleys it is dominated by high cliffs; it is owned by the Duchy of Cornwall. It is a good spot to watch seals.



At low water with long autumnal shadows cast over the beach



TR19 7TU - The easiest way to get to Portheras is from the B3306, 500m west of Morvah, at Rose Valley, take the narrow road signposted Lower Chypraze. After 500m by the farm is a field for car parking (30+cars capacity). There is a delightful walk of 500m down the valley along the public footpath, which involves crossing the stream with access on to the beach not suitable for the less mobile. Alternatively, there is a car park next to Pendeen Lighthouse (30+cars capacity) and the beach is a walk, of 1km along the Coast Path in an easterly direction: again access on to the beach would not be easy for some.



Path to the beach



Path across the stream



Remains of the 'Alacrity'



Strip of sand above high water



Being over 280m in length at high water, it is the only beach of any size along this magnificent coastline. It is made up of wonderful coarse white sand; it has a truly remote feel about it and can appear dark and even mystical at times echoing the surrounding landscape.



There is safety equipment at the access to the beach. Care needs to be taken in the deep sand as the sharp remains of the wreck of the *Alacrity*, a small cargo ship which grounded in 1963, are still buried and often exposed. Swimming is not recommended, especially at low water, (despite information on some websites to the contrary) because of the strong rip currents.



The beach profile often results in a heavy surf. It is exposed to the Atlantic swell but the wind is often cross-shore leading to a quality shorebreak, especially at high water. Conditions are generally unsuitable for diving and snorkelling and there are only a few rock pools at the western end of the beach.



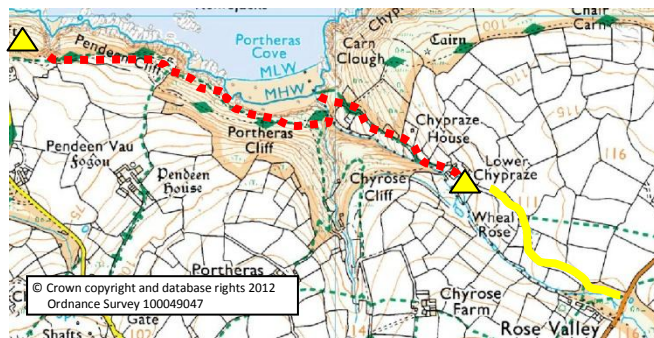
Towards Pendeen Watch



Rounded granite boulders



Dogs are allowed all year. There are no facilities at all although refreshments can be found at Manor Farm some 800m towards Pendeen along the Coast Path and public footpath.



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 102



The sea quality is excellent but the stream unknown. Overall it is a very special beach in a very special location.