

PORTHLEDDEN

This westerly facing rocky beach to the north of the much frequented Cape Cornwall stretches for over 300m to the mouth of the wonderful Kenidjack Valley with its wealth of mining remains; just above the beach is an imposing granite structure which once housed one of the largest waterwheels in Cornwall; the miners called the beach Polladan Cove. The slipway at the southern end of the beach indicates it was used by local fishermen until the 1960s. The



Porthledden looking northwards towards the Kenidjack Valley

beach has a fascinating geology, notably outcrops of pink tourmaline and granite dykes.



TR19 7NN - The National Trust car park (capacity approx. 100 cars), which is the nearest to the beach, is essentially for the Cape and [Priest's Cove](#) and is situated 1.5kms from St. Just at the end of Cape Cornwall Road. It is signposted in the centre of St. Just (12kms from Penzance on the A3071). On the opposite side of the road at the bottom of the car park is a path which runs past the ruins of St. Helen's Oratory to a gate; turn right and down the path to the slipway access. Alternatively, walk down the Kenidjack Valley from Tregaseal – **TR19 7PW**- (2kms) or along the Coast Path from the National Trust car park at Botallack – **TR19 7QQ** – (1.5kms) past the stunning Kenidjack Cliff and ancient Castle Settlement.



Access to the slipway



Fascinating geology



Looking towards Cape Cornwall



The Kenidjack part of the Beach



At low water



The slipway access



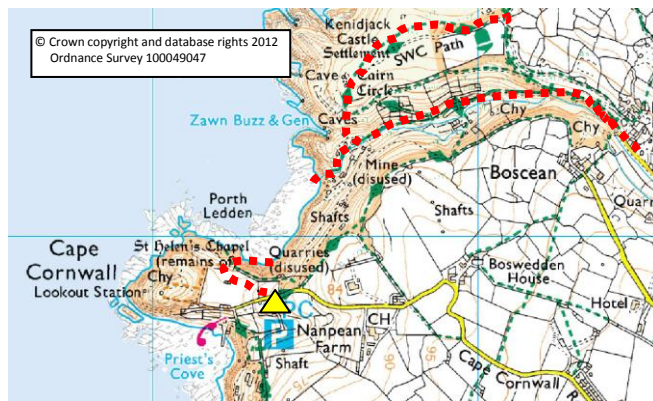
There is little or no beach at high water where there are small patches of shingle at either end. At low water large areas of rock platforms are exposed with many beautifully sculptured granite boulders of different colours and textures. The stream that flows down the Kenidjack valley crosses the beach.



There is no safety equipment. The nature of the beach is not ideal for swimming and should only be considered on a rising high tide and when the right sea conditions prevail. Local surfers use the beach but surfing is generally not recommended. Snorkelling is believed to be good when tides and lack of swell make it feasible. The abundance of rock pools are a feature of the beach.



Dogs are permitted all year. There are toilets and a cafe (selling light refreshments) in the car park that are both open usually from Easter until the end of October.



Location – Extract from OS Explorer Map 102



Water quality is believed to be good. There is no vehicular access to the slipway. It is really a beach for enthusiasts of mining history and geology.