

PRIEST'S COVE

(or Cape Cornwall)

This is a small shingle and rocky beach that nestles beneath Cape Cornwall with an active fishing slipway and a number of traditional fishing huts. In 1987, the 'Heinz' food company donated the Cape, including the Cove, to the National Trust.



The Cove from the Coast path



TR19 7NN - The car park (capacity approx. 100 cars) for the Cape and the Cove 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). There is a short path with steps (100m) to the slipway and the beach.



It has been described as an attractive fishing cove but is not a particularly attractive beach. It faces south-west and can be surprisingly sheltered for such an exposed location. There is a small area of shingle at high water. At low water there is a fairly large area of stones, shingle and rock platforms, and, a small man-made pool makes an ideal place for children to swim.



There is safety equipment above the beach.



The slipway & fishing huts



The beach & Brisons offshore



The man-made pool



Steps down to the beach



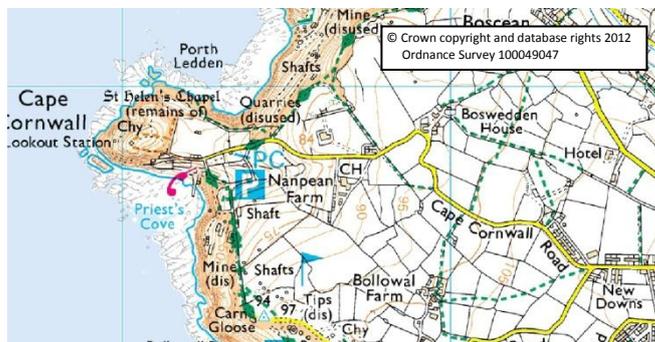
At high water when conditions are favourable many locals swim in the Cove but care needs to be taken because of notorious currents around the Cape. There is an annual swimming race from the Cove to the Brisons, which are rocky outcrops 1.2kms off shore. Despite its exposure to the Atlantis swell, surfing is not recommended.



Conditions are usually not conducive for snorkelling but during very quiet periods it can be good at high tide. The Cove is littered with rock pools of interest.



Dogs are permitted all year. There are toilets and a cafe (selling light refreshments) in the car park that are open usually from Easter until the end of October. The nearest pubs, restaurants and shops are in St. Just. There is no public right of way access to the slipway.



Location - Extract from OS Explorer Map 102



It is a clean beach and water quality is good. It is worth a walk up to the old mining chimney at the Cape which has breathtaking views along the coast. In the field opposite the car park is the remains of the early Christian St. Helen's Oratory.