

PORTMELLON and Polkirt Beach

Very close to the picturesque fishing village of [Mevagissey](#), Portmellon is an underrated small sandy cove despite being somewhat overlooked by modern residential and holiday development. It faces east and can be very sheltered from the prevailing winds. It never gets too crowded as it is tidal and the nearest car parks are some distance away. Polkirt is adjacent.



Portmellon Beach at low water



PL26 6PL - From the A390 in St. Austell, take the B3273 to the centre of Mevagissey (9kms), then turn right and up Polkirt Hill and after 1km there is Portmellon. The road runs right next to the beach and then on to [Gorran Haven](#) about 3kms to the south. There is only limited roadside parking and then care needs to be taken with restrictions in spring and summer. The nearest car parking is 1.5kms at Mevagissey. The walk to the beach depends on parking distance but there is a slipway giving an easy access on to the beach.



A flat sandy beach at low water



The biggest issue is that the beach is covered at high water, although when the tide is out it is fairly large and made up fine golden sand with rocky areas on either side. Polkirt Beach can only be reached at low water by scrambling across the rocks on the northern side of Portmellon Beach. It has areas of sand but is mostly stone and rock and has private step access from properties above.



It has safety/rescue equipment and is generally regarded as safe for bathing on a rising tide although it is recommended to keep within the cove. It is not a surfing beach. Inflatables should not be used when the wind is offshore. It is good for dinghy sailing and kayaking.



It is very good for snorkelling, especially along the rocky areas on the southern side of the beach. There are a few rock pools at low water.



Dogs are permitted all year. The nearest toilets are in Mevagissey as are beach shops, cafes, restaurants and a range of other facilities. There is a pub directly opposite the slipway.



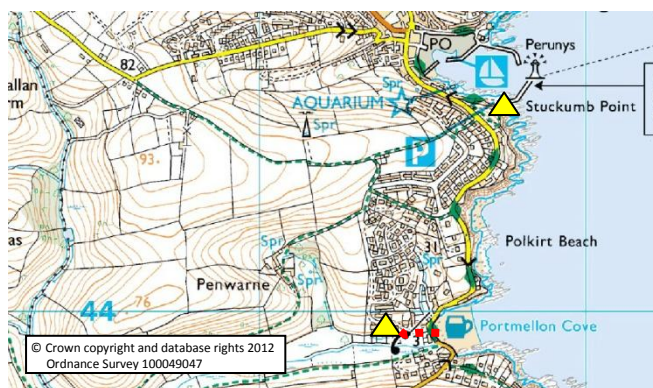
The slipway is good for launching small craft although it tends to be crowded in summer when the tide is high. Water quality is excellent. Portmellon is a good beach for water based activities and if beach facilities are not required.



Looking south from the slipway



Polkirt beach at low water



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 105