

POLTESCO

or Carleon Cove & Little Cove

The two small coves at Poltesco, Carleon Cove and Little Cove, might at first sight not appear the most attractive, but Carleon Cove is steeped in the industrial history of the Serpentine Industry, which was so important to this part of the Lizard Peninsula. Poltesco is owned by the National Trust.



Carleon Cove with the former Serpentine works in the foreground



TR12 7LR - Take the A3083 road from Helston to the Lizard. 12kms south of Helston or 3½kms north of Lizard village there is a turning signposted to Ruan Minor. At the school in the centre of the village turn left down Poltesco Lane and after 1.3kms down a steep hill there is a parking area (capacity about 15 cars). There are two ways to walk to the coves; either continue through the car park and along a track which joins the Coast Path then turn right and down to Carleon Cove (400m); or, from the car park, cross the stream over the bridge and follow



Remains of Serpentine Works



Path to the Coves



Carleon Cove stony beach



Little Cove

the path to the main Cove (350m).



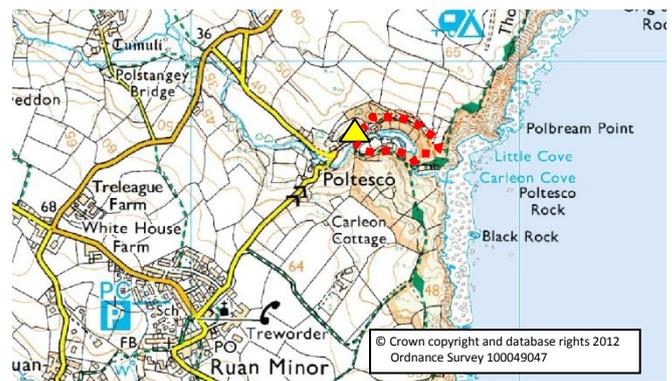
Carleon Cove has a large pool where the stream meets the beach and is a mixture of shingle, stone and rock and sometimes there is sand at low water in summer. The colourful serpentine shingle is quite wonderful. Little Cove, which is very similar, can only be reached at low water by scrambling around the foreshore (50m) to the east of the main beach.



There is no safety equipment. It is reasonably safe for swimming on a rising tide but entry into the water is easier at high water. It is not a surfing beach. There is excellent snorkelling on a higher tide especially around Black Rock and Poltesco Rock just offshore. There are rock pools on either side of both Coves.



Dogs are allowed all year. There are no facilities at all, the nearest being at either **Cadgwith** (2kms) or **Kennack Sands** (2kms).



Location - Part of Explorer Map 102



The sea water quality is excellent although the stream and the pool are unknown. Poltesco was the site of a pilchard fishery and processing plant and later a water-powered factory for working serpentine was operational from 1866 to 1893. Next to the three-storey warehouse stands a round capstan house, which was used to haul fishing boats up the shingle beach. Poltesco with its wooded valley and stream is quite a magical place.