

PORTHKERRIS

A shingle easterly facing beach that is little known about except for the diving fraternity who regard it as one of the best locations in the UK because of its proximity to the Manacles, a reef some 3kms to the south, infamous for its wrecks and excellent dives. It is a private beach with facilities for divers but there is public access. On headlands either side of the beach there are disused quarries.



View from the access road looking towards Pencra Head



TR12 6QJ - From **Porthoustock** take the steep hill on the northern side of the village; follow the narrow twisting road for 800m then turn right and continue past a MOD Radio Station and a further 1km down a steep hill there is the beach. There is a limited parking area at the top of the hill before descending to the beach where there is parking next to the MOD Observation Point. The first involves a walk (some 200m) down the access road. The parking area next to the beach is suitable for the less mobile.



Shingle Beach at low water



Divers landing



Northerly part of the beach



Shingle cove next to MOD station



It is a fine, shelving, grey shingle beach that is over 200m in length, and, with a sizeable area above high water mark. It is never crowded although at times divers and their equipment seem to be everywhere although the comradely that exists between them gives it a distinctive character.



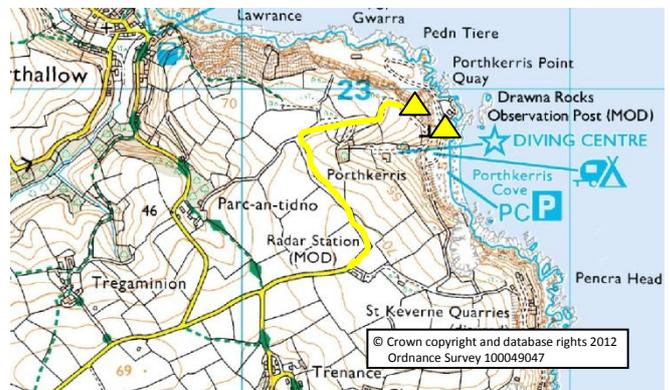
There is safety equipment but no lifeguard service. At all stages of the tide it is good for swimming when the conditions are good which can be a considerable in summer when the swell and wind are coming from a westerly direction.



It is not a surfing beach but arrangements can be made at the diving centre above the beach to launch dinghies and small craft off the beach. In addition to diving, it is an excellent beach for snorkelling with the Diving Centre able to give advice on the best places. There are rock pools at either end of the beach. The northern side of the beach at Pedn Tiere below the old quarry workings is a favourite place for fishermen who line the rocks on occasions mostly looking for mackerel.



Dogs are permitted all year. Toilets and cafe are part of the Diving Centre but can be used by the public but are closed in winter.



Location - Part of OS Explorer Map 103



Water quality is excellent. It can be a very sheltered beach with much to offer.