

PORTHOUSTOCK

An easterly facing shingle beach that is surrounded by the evidence of former intense quarrying activities and is now more associated with the local fishing industry. It is very accessible and popular with divers as it is the nearest public beach (with parking and the ability to launch craft) to the Manacles reef. It is known locally as Pro'stock.



A shingle beach at low water looking towards Batty's Point



TR12 6QW - From the B3293 at the centre of St.Keverne, there is a signpost to Porthoustock, a distance of a little over 1.5kms. The road runs past the access to the beach and a large informal area for parking (capacity well in excess of 200cars) at the back of the beach. Depending on the chosen parking location, little walking is required; as a result it is well suited for the less mobile.



At low water a striking shelving shingle beach, with patches of coarse sand, stretches from the old quay in the south to the now disused stone storage

and loading hoppers on the north side, a distance of 180m. At high water there is a considerable area of beach that is usually dotted with small fishing boats particularly on the northern side. Under the cliffs there a number of fisherman's huts which, might appear rather ramshackle, but give the beach a 'working' character which has disappeared in many parts of Cornwall.



There is safety equipment at the back of the beach. Unless the sea conditions dictate



Porthoustock Point



The Jetty and Quarry

otherwise, it is a good beach for swimming at high or half tide, helped by the gently shelving beach profile.



It is not a surfing beach but good for launching kayaks, sailing dinghies, diving support craft and boards for board sailing etc as trailers can be 'parked' next to the cars on the beach. It is well protected from the Atlantic swell but exposed if the wind is from the less frequent easterly quarter.



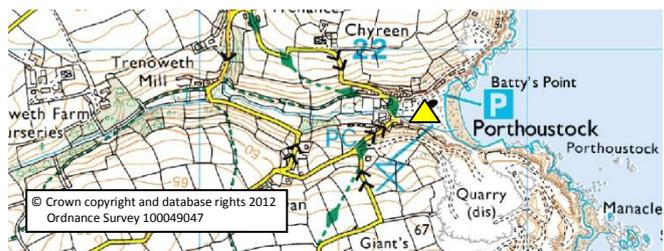
It is good for snorkelling and diving in line with other beaches along this stretch of coast but has little of note in the way of rock pools.



Views of a working fishing beach with quarrying history



Dogs are permitted all year and there are toilets behind the beach. The nearest refreshment facilities and shops are at St.Keverne.



Location - Part of OS Explorer Map 103



The water quality is excellent and the beach fairly clean. Perhaps it is not the prettiest beach but it has some unusual and distinctive qualities.