

CHURCH COVE

A small stony cove on the easterly side of the Lizard close to Lizard Village and should not be confused with Church Cove Gunwalloe which is on the westerly side of the Lizard, north of Mullion. The road down to the Cove past the delightful St. Winwalau's Church and picturesque thatched cottages is better than the Cove itself which is dominated by an unsightly sewage pipe. Former fish cellars and boat houses above the Cove are now residential properties.



The easterly facing Cove at low water



TR12 7PH - On the A3083 from Helston at the entrance to Lizard village fork left and follow the signs to Church Cove; after about 900m, just below the Church, is a small parking area (capacity 10 to 12 cars) but it is not possible to park on the narrow road nearer the Cove. It is a 350m walk down the road to the Cove and the steep slipway on to the beach.



There is no beach at high water but as the tide



Slipway above the beach



The mouth of the inlet



View from the cliff looking north

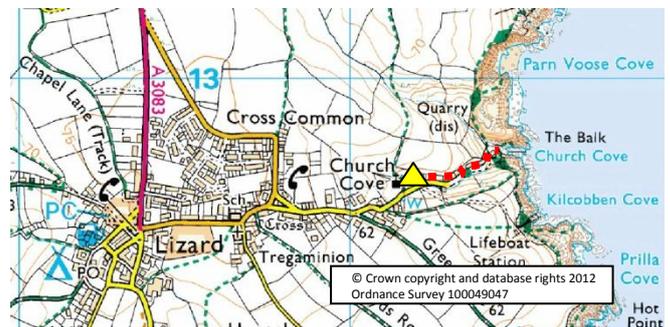
recedes a mostly stony beach appears which can have patches of yellow sand at times but this depends on the weather conditions. The tide goes out to the mouth of the inlet some 50m from the slipway. The inlet is only about 25m wide and is dominated by the serpentine cliffs either side which can make it appear very dark on occasions. A small amount of shell fishing is still undertaken from the Cove so that in summer there are usually a number of boats at the top of the slipway.



There is no safety/rescue equipment. The Cove can be good for swimming on a rising tide but care needs to be taken with submerged rocks; it is not advisable to swim at low water beyond the mouth of the inlet due to occasional strong currents. It is not a surfing beach. There is some good snorkelling south of the Cove to Kilkobben Cove and the Lifeboat slipway and also northwards beyond the point called 'The Balk' to the sandy Parn Voose Cove which is only accessible from the water. There are a few rock pools.



There are no restrictions on dogs. The nearest toilets, shops, cafes pubs and other facilities are at Lizard Village 1.1kms away.



Location - Part of OS Explorer Map 103



It is possible to launch small craft from the slipway but any vehicles (and trailers) need to be parked in the car park. Sea water quality is unknown including the effects of the outfall. Also the quality of streams that cross the beach are unknown. A number of disused serpentine quarries in the valley serve as a reminder of a once thriving local industry.