

Crackington Haven - Public Information

S.O.S. Save Our Stones!



Much of the character of Crackington Haven lies in the surrounding cliffs and the pebbly ridge which backs the beach and through which the fast flowing stream tumbles. This character is being eroded; there is natural erosion caused by weather, the sea and the geology and there is unnatural erosion caused by people physically removing the beach, bit by bit, initially unnoticeable but over time drastically. Stones are being taken for gardens, walls, ballast. Whatever it is taken for, it should not be, the stones are part of our beach and should remain.



Folds in the cliffs at Crackington Haven.

Crackington Haven's Rocky History.

The Haven at Crackington has a history going back some 325 million years. It is made up of folded grey sandstones and shales which were deposited as the sands and muds of a delta slope in the Carboniferous Period. At that time, Britain lay just north of the Equator, so our rocks here are well travelled!

Pressures in the earth squeezed and compressed the rocks into the folds you can see today, and erosion after the last Ice-Age produced the coast line as it is now.

These Carboniferous rocks are so important geologically that they have been assigned a name - "the Crackington Formation" - and the Haven is the type locality for all rocks in this area of North and East Cornwall laid down in similar conditions at that time.

Natural Erosion.

The muds and shales between the sandstone beds are very soft and easily eroded by the sea, leaving the brittle sandstones to fall as blocks onto the beach. These then are tossed around by the sea to produce the pebbles we have on the beach today.



Our shingle ridge is very important to us. It

shields our cliffs from erosion and helps to prevent the sea from ingressing into the soft river deposits of the terraces and valley floor where the Surf Club, Penkena house, car park, café and shop are. It is our protector and we desperately need to keep our shingle ridge in place...



Which is why we ask you *not* to remove any of it - *not* even a single pebble.

This leaflet has been sponsored by:
Text by: Jane Anderson

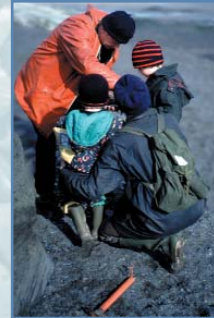


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Beach Protection.

A great stretch of North Cornwall is protected by Government Legislation as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and this includes Crackington Haven. These SSSIs are the very best and rarest sites of our national heritage of wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms. Crackington Haven is also of considerable research value, and many schools and universities visit Crackington Haven for its geology. It is an offence to remove material, see below, and prosecutions do take place.

Studying Geology at Crackington Haven.



We would also like to bring to your attention the following:

North Cornwall District Council's Coast Protection Act 1949





North Cornwall District Council's Coast Protection Order 1981

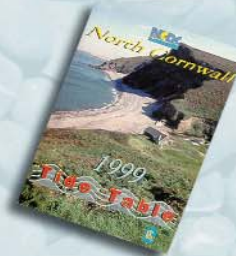
The removal of any material from any part of this foreshore is consequently prohibited.

**We are enormously proud of our Haven.
It is one of the few unspoilt Havens left in
Cornwall & it is part of the Heritage Coast.
With your help we can keep it that way.**



BEACH USERS CODE OF CONDUCT.

-  AVOID TAKING ANYTHING AWAY FROM THE BEACH - EVERYTHING HAS ITS PLACE & THERE IS A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING.
-  AVOID SITTING UNDER THE CLIFFS, THEY ARE UNSTABLE & CAN DROP ROCKS WITHOUT WARNING.
-  DON'T CLIMB CLIFFS, THEY ARE VERY UNSTABLE & EASILY BREAK AWAY.
-  DON'T SCRAMBLE AROUND THE COVES WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING THE TIDES.



**Respect our beach and enjoy it, but please don't pinch it -
we *will* prosecute.**