Par Sands: OS map skills

The map here is a slightly enlarged 1:25,000 map showing Par Sands on the south coast of Cornwall. As the linear scale indicates, the distance between two gridlines is 1km. The symbols are the standard OS 1:25,000 symbols.

- Locate the Mean High Water (bold blue line). This is the high tide line.
- Notice that the sandy coloured area (labelled Par Sands) lies between the high tide line and Mean Low Water (low tide). The blue shaded area is always underwater.
- Above the high tide line is the beach and the sand dunes.
- The photo is an aerial photo of Par Sands





Map skills activities

Study the OS map extract and the aerial photo.

1. Study the aerial photo. Was the photo taken at high tide or low tide?

2. What are the industrial buildings at the western edge of Par Sands?

3. Measure the width of the bay along grid line 53. Give your answer to the nearest 100m.

4. Name two types of vegetation found at Y.

5. What is the road number at Z?

6. Give the 4-figure grid reference for the holiday park (location X).

7. Using the map, can you suggest two sources of sand that make up Par Sands beach?

Map skills activities

8. How does this vast area of sand explain the formation of sand dunes?

9. What is the evidence on the photo that people access the beach through the sand dunes?

10. What is the evidence on the map that part of the sand dunes has been designated as a conservation area?

11. The map below shows Par Sands in the 1950s. Compare it to the present day map and aerial photo and see what has changed. Add labels to the map below to identify the changes that have taken place since the 1950s.

