
Frenchman's Bay [NT 389 661]

Coast and cliff section

Owned by National Trust

Only coastal section exposing Yellow Sands; good exposures of the Concretionary Limestone Formation. Superb views.

Proposed action Incorporate in Trail. Offer training to National Trust staff and voluntary wardens.

Existing designations SSSI GCR

Existing on site interpretation Board describing the geology from viewpoint [NZ 3921 6629]

Major geodiversity interest Yellow Sands Formation to Concretionary Limestone Formation well exposed in cliffs.

Biodiversity interest None

Other heritage links None

Additional comment This is some of the best geological interpretation in the area, but does not appear to form part of a co-ordinated set. Many people may not reach as far as this on their walks.

GREAT CARE NEEDED WITH TIDES IF ATTEMPTING TO REACH SECTION FROM THE BEACH

Date of photography 2008

(Photo 14) Frenchman's Bay.

[References](#)



FRENCHMAN'S BAY

and included beach behind you, if the tide goes in, leaves the bay through across the Taper Bay (down beach) as all that

This delightful bay, once popular with smugglers, gained its name from a French ship which ran aground here in the 17th century. At one time a sandy bay, it was popular with visitors, being accessible by wooden steps long since lost to the sea.

From Great Desert to Tropical!

All the rocks you see here were formed million years ago, in the Permian Period (a time the Equator)

The bay was formed as the sea rose, sea level. This left the harder rock, around tropical sea, in water at a desert rate.

The upper part of the limestone here, called the Bandy Formation by geologists, is eroded because there was an underwater beach on the side of the sea 240 million years ago.

The Head of Frenchman's Bay

The top 2000 of rock in the cliff is Carboniferous Limestone, formed about 240 million years ago.



The soft yellow rock you can see is the first of a desert and about 240 million years old.

As the desert was flooded a warm, shallow tropical sea was formed about 240 million years ago. The thin, Mad Stone, coloured grey and black, was partly formed by the bodies of dead sea creatures and the silt they lived on building up on the sea bed.



(Photo 14) Frenchman's Bay.