

a sensory guide to Par beach and docks

1820s

Work began to create Par harbour by J.T. Treffry enabling him to export the copper from his mines. A breakwater enclosed 36 acres of harbour which was capable of taking up to about 50 vessels of about 200 tonnes each.

1840s

The harbour was completed in 1840. The harbour became important for china clay after 1842.

1850s

In 1858 **15,154 tonnes** of china clay were shipped from Par. Par docks included a lead smelter, a granite dressing yard, sawmills, shipbuilding yard and a candle factory.

1880s

A brickworks was also established after 1880.

1960s

The site was redeveloped to make way for modern china clay processing equipment. The old factories were demolished.

1980s

By 1987 Par handled **700,000 tonnes** of china clay.

2000s

China clay stopped being exported in 2008.

future?

There is a plan to regenerate part of the harbour for housing, employment, leisure and recreation.

A clay tale

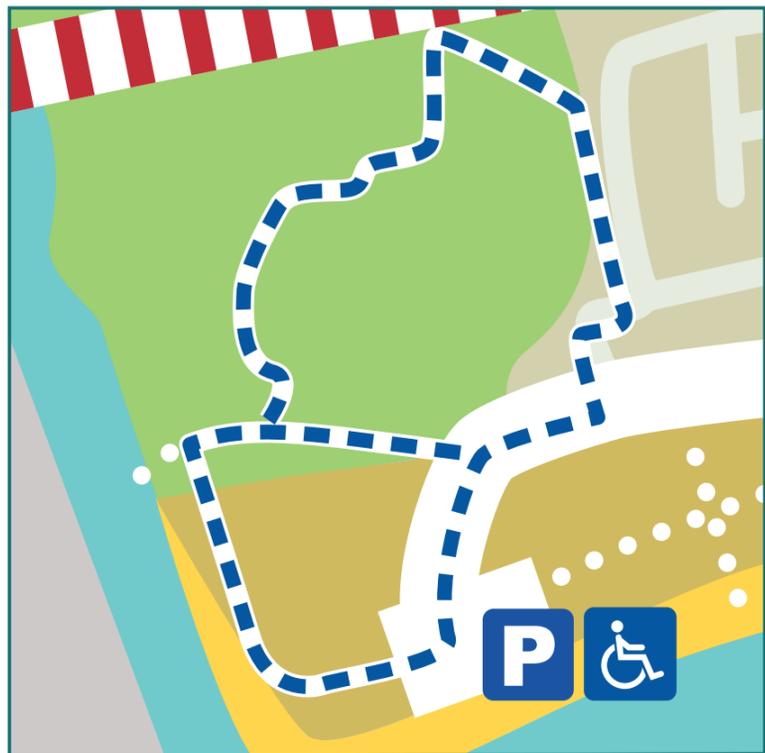
// Then he'd come home and he'd stand outside the back door, we had this little tiny bungalow overlooking the estuary, and take everything off, because he was covered, all you could see was little red eyes, the rest was white. So he'd take everything off and then come in and have a bath. We used to have things like bacon suet pudding for supper with onions in white sauce, that was one of our favourites because we could make it with about an ounce of bacon, we were very good at economising in those days, yet he needed it, he was hungry! //



Par docks were the gateway for Cornish china clay to reach the rest of the world. The china clay was shipped out of the tidal harbour of Par to destinations around England like Runcorn, Liverpool and London for the paper mills and potteries. It was sent further afield across Europe to places like Belgium, France, Spain and the Scandinavian countries for the paper mills, and to ports around the Mediterranean.

Today the clay loaded from Par is taken by road in containers and some is taken to bigger British ports for shipping worldwide. At its height Par docks shipped 700,000 tonnes of china clay in 1987.

China clay is still a very important material found in many everyday products such as paper coating, medicines, paint and toothpaste!



There is a signed route around part of the nature reserve that is accessible to wheelchair users and pushchairs.



The sound of seabirds mixes with the industry of the docks.



Explore the textures of the dunes - the waving grasses, the sand, the shells.

Salty sea spray on a windy day or a tasty picnic on the beach - food tastes better outdoors.

The lake and the birds that visit bring their own smells and sounds to the nature reserve.

Look across the bay to see the china clay journey from the clay pits and tips to the docks.