



# Cornwall's nationally protected Landscape



Cornwall  
Area of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty

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**06** *Godrevy to  
Portreath*

**Cornwall AONB Local Section**



# Section 06

# Godrevy to Portreath



Godrevy Island at Sunset | Georgie Ball.

### Location:

The coast of this AONB section contains some dramatic scenery and extends from north of Camborne between the higher ground of Navax Point in the west, to the lower Tregoa Hill, extending from Portreath in the east to the Red River to the south and west.

AONB Section	Area (ha)	% of total AONB area
06 Godrevy to Portreath	1,165	1.2%

- Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:**
- CA11: Redruth, Camborne and Gwennap
  - CA28: North Coast- Reskeage Downs

- Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters**
- MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay



## 06

# Special Qualities of Godrevy to Portreath

The Key Landscape Characteristics of this section of the AONB are its sheer cliffs of unstable, soft, gritty slate - constantly eroded by the unrelenting power of the Atlantic Ocean, as seen at Hell's Mouth and Hudder Cove and are referred to as 'North Cliffs'. In stark contrast, just inland, the terrain turns from coastal heath to more recently enclosed farmland and further on to a quiet wooded valley.



Thrift covered  
cliffs, Godrevy  
Mary Poad

Statement of Significance | Creating a Sense of Place

The landform is curious in that it slopes southward away from the coast to the valley of the Red River, so named from the mining waste (rich in iron oxide) that washed into it over the centuries turning it a rusty red colour. It now runs clear although the orangey traces of iron oxide can still be seen on the riverbed.

The Red River forms the boundary of the AONB on the landward side and provides a sheltered environment with deciduous and mixed woodland, which contrasts with the exposed cliff tops seen from the coastal road.

Godrevy Point marks the westerly boundary of the AONB and has much gentler westward facing slopes, which dip down to a rocky shoreline. On the small island of the Point stands the iconic Godrevy Lighthouse, built in 1859 to warn ships off the treacherous Stones Reef. The Lighthouse was fully automated in 1934 and has a range of twelve miles out to sea.





## Land Use

On the flatter land slightly further east and inland, larger scale fields of regular pattern provide a more open aspect where the Red River valley provides suitable shelter for the ancient Sessile Oak woods of Tehidy Country Park with its lakes and woodland walks, providing an attractive destination for visitors and residents alike.

The coastal plateau and landward slopes support mixed arable and pastoral farming. The mostly large, recently enclosed, rectangular fields enhance the impression of expansive openness close to the cliff tops. However, toward the mouth of the Red River anciently enclosed land with its much smaller irregularly shaped fields creates a distinct change in scale and character. The surrounding low stone Cornish hedges are clothed by rough vegetation mixed with occasional wind sculpted blackthorn and hawthorn.

Settlement is sparse and limited to scattered dwellings and a few farmhouses. The only exception being the edge of Portreath which lies just inside the AONB boundary. Small quiet lanes and tracks connect the fields and dwellings whilst the still rural B3301 provides ready access to the numerous popular small informal car park viewpoints adjacent to the cliff top coast path. At Tehidy the ornamentally designed landscape is accessible by the many footpaths associated with its current use as a popular Country Park.

Jim Wood

## Significant Landowners

- **The National Trust** manages most of the coastal land including car parks, a cafe, toilets and the access road to Godrevy Head. Coastal Heathland benefits from a Shetland ponies grazing scheme.
- **Cornwall Council** manages Tehidy Country Park providing educational and environmental activities.
- **Cornwall Council** owns and manages St Gothian Sands Local Nature Reserve on the western boundary of the Red River.





## Biodiversity & Geodiversity

High cliffs of unstable soft Devonian slate, greywakes and siltstones are sculpted into small coves, small islands and numerous rocky stacks by the relentless pounding of the Atlantic Ocean. At Hell's Mouth and Hudder Cove precipitous drops fall sheer to the rocks and surf below. The coast at Godrevy Point, however, is softer in profile with a low rocky coast backed by gentle slopes just offshore of which is the low craggy outcrop of Godrevy Island topped by its landmark white lighthouse.

An almost continuous belt of coastal heath interspersed with other coarse vegetation creates a varying texture that enhances the wildness of the abrupt cliff edge. Reaching close to these cliffs the woodland plantations of Tehidy are wind pruned to a low sloping outer edge by the salt laden winds but gradually achieve greater stature with the progressively increasing shelter of the Red River valley. In spring the sheltered partially ancient Sessile Oak woods are spectacularly carpeted with bluebells.

The mainly inaccessible coves provide critical habitat for grey seals, which can be readily seen from the cliff tops above.



### Key species of interest for this section;

- Grey seals
- Dartford warbler
- Golden ringed dragonfly
- Adder
- Kestrel
- Stonechat
- Spring squill
- Chough
- Guillemot
- Shag

## Culture and Heritage

The headland at Godrevy contains important archaeological remains from the Mesolithic period onwards with evidence of various settlements.

Due to its geology, coastal land here is largely free of known historic mining remains unlike the adjacent AONB sections to the east and west. It is however rich in other important archaeological features including vestiges of prehistoric settlements and fortifications. Unusually it is along the course of the Red River valley that significant early industrial archaeology is found dating from the medieval period onward and possibly far earlier.

Carvannel Cliff Castle is located on the edge of a prominent coastal cliff known as Carvannel Downs overlooking Basset's Cove, near Portreath.





## Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

- Gwinear – Gwithian Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Illogan Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Hayle – Gwithian Towans Management Plan
- Portreath Neighbourhood Development Plan is at Plan Proposal Submission

### Other Designations

- The AONB coastline is included in the Godrevy Head to St Agnes SSSI.

## Landscape Condition

- Some existing visitor development within the AONB at Godrevy and Hell’s Mouth is out of character.
- The access road to the car park at Godrevy Point is vulnerable to further coastal erosion and has the potential to be severed over the lifetime of the Plan.
- The Godrevy to Portreath section of the AONB benefits from the greatest proportion of SSSI land in ‘favourable’ condition.
- Modern development on the valley slopes rising out of Portreath and older housing around Portreath harbour impacts significantly upon the setting of the AONB on the western side of the A3301 on the western side of the valley, particularly where gaps have been filled between existing inappropriate developments on the hillside.



The Cornwall State of the AONB Report and Cornwall AONB Atlas interactive map provide more detail and insight

Wheatears, Godrevy  
Roy Curtis





**Community Network Area (CNA)** : **AONB section within CNA**  
**Camborne, Pool and Redruth** : **Godrevy to Portreath**

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** : 2015 | 34.7% : 2019 | 35.6%

**Health and Wellbeing in Camborne, Pool and Redruth (2016/2017)**

### Population

**60,986** people

**11%** of Cornwall's total population

**98.4%** white

**Life expectancy (years)**  
 78.9 male, 83 female

**Births (2015)**  
 716

**Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)**  
 +1988

### Inequalities

**14.6%** local households are fuel poor

**17.9%** local children live in low-income families

**2371** local children in receipt of free school meals

**3,900** residents claim Disability Living Allowance

**15%** of all claimants in Cornwall

### Risk Groups

**12.1%** Obesity (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**7.2%** Diabetes (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**5.7%** Chronic Kidney Disease (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**337 (17%)** residents who speak English as an additional language



**Community Network Area (CNA)** : **AONB section within CNA**  
**Hayle and St Ives** : **Godrevy to Portreath and West Penwith**

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** : 2015 | 44.0% : 2019 | 46.0%

**Health and Wellbeing in Hayle and St Ives (2016/2017)**

### Population

**26,200** people

**5%** of Cornwall's total population

**Life expectancy (years)**  
 79.8 male, 84.7 female

**Births (2015)**  
 219

**Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)**  
 +980

**98.2%** white

### Inequalities

**13%** local households are fuel poor

**14.3%** local children live in low-income families

**1270** residents claim Disability Living Allowance

**820** local children in receipt of free school meals

**5%** of all claimants in Cornwall

### Risk Groups

**12.4%** Obesity (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**6.2%** Diabetes (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**6%** Chronic Kidney Disease (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**75 (3.76%)** residents who speak English as an additional language





# 06 Godrevy to Portreath: Policies & Objectives

The policies and objectives below are applicable to this Local Section – they should, however, be read in conjunction with the Cornwall AONB Strategy Aims, Policies and Objectives which are applicable to the whole designation.

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
<b>GP-P1</b>	Seek measures for the enhancement of the appearance of visitor developments and their setting at Godrevy and Hell’s Mouth consistent with local vernacular for example, including use of locally characteristic Cornish killas in hedging and walling and granite detailing.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-P6 LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob14 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3 RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob6 SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob5 PD-P9, PD-P14
<b>GP-P2</b>	Seek protection of undeveloped and sparsely settled rural character and open views, free of tall structures. Seek a reduction in the visual impact of overhead cables by undergrounding, for example along the B3301.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS- Ob3, LS-Ob6 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P7, PD-P11, PD-P12, PD-P18
<b>GP-P3</b>	Support the review of access to Godrevy Point in light of the anticipated future severance of the access road by the sea and restore the headland to natural coastal habitats.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR- Ob5 RSA-P2, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4





Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
<b>GP-P4</b>	Support improvement in the landscape integration of all locations used for visitor car parking including those at Godrevy and along the B3301 and North Cliffs.	<b>LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-P6</b> LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob4, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob14, (HC-Ob15) <b>RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3</b> RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob6 <b>SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6</b> SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob5
<b>GP-P5</b>	Support use of locally characteristic slate in new stiles and steps and other rights of way works in a manner consistent for example with those found near Godrevy Point in order to reinforce local character along the coast path and other footpaths. Consider new design solutions that enhance access for those with mobility impairments.	<b>LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P6, LS-Ob4</b> HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob12 <b>RSA-P1, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob4</b> HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 <b>SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2</b>
<b>GP-P6</b>	Support the growth of Portreath to meet local needs in ways that do not adversely impact the AONB and its setting and prevent further development harming the AONB through its scale, siting, design, massing and materials.	<b>LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6</b> HC-Ob1, (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob12, HC-Ob13, (HC-Ob15) <b>RSA-P1, RSA-Ob5</b> <b>SCE-P5, SCE-P6</b> PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P7, PD-P12, PD-P14
<b>GP-P7</b>	Seek the conservation and enhancement of the rural character of all lanes and roads including the B3301 through the retention of hedges, narrow winding character and low levels of signage.	<b>LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P6</b> LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 <b>NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11</b> HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12 <b>RSA-P1, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5</b> HWB-Ob5 <b>SCE-P3, SCE-P6</b> SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob5



Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
<b>GP-Ob1</b>	Increase awareness and promote a sense of connection and responsibility for the AONB among the communities of nearby settlements including Camborne, Pool, Redruth, Illogan, Hayle, and Portreath.	<b>LS-P1, LS-Ob6</b> HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob13 <b>RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P4</b> RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob4, HWB-Ob5, HWB-Ob7 SCE-Ob5, SCE-Ob6
<b>GP-Ob2</b>	Support the work of the Towans Partnership and the delivery of the objectives of the Towans Management Plan where these support the purposes of the AONB designation.	<b>LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob6</b> NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 <b>CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5</b> <b>RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-Ob1</b> HWB-Ob5 <b>SCE-P1, SCE-P3, SCE-P6</b> SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob7
<b>GP-Ob3</b>	Help to support coastal management, which promotes natural processes wherever possible and support initiatives with communities which consider the long-term future of Portreath in respect to predicted effects of sea level rise and increased storminess. Seek to support the delivery of appropriate measures to 'hold the line' and 'manage realignment' as identified in the Shoreline Management Plan, where they conserve or enhance the landscape character and natural beauty of the AONB. Conserve the undeveloped nature of the coast away from settlements.	<b>LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4</b> LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11 <b>CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5</b> (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob4, (HC-Ob15) <b>RSA-P1, RSA-Ob4</b> HWB-Ob5 <b>SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5</b>
<b>GP-Ob4</b>	Support improved connectivity into the AONB from Camborne, Pool and Redruth, through the provision of green infrastructure and sustainable transport links. Include these in any proposals for urban expansion at Camborne, Pool, Illogan, Redruth and Hayle.	<b>CCBR-P1, CCBR-O5</b> HC-O2, HC-O15 <b>RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3, RSA-P4, RSA-O1, RSA-O2, RSA-O3, RSA-O5</b> HWB-O1, HWB-O2, HWB-O3, HWB-O4, HWB-O5, HWB-O7 <b>SCE-P3, SCE-P4, SCE-P6</b> <b>SCE-O1, SCE-O3, SCE-O5, SCE-O6</b> PD-P6





# Thank you for supporting and advocating for Cornwall AONB



**Cornwall Wildlife Trust**

