

Section 09

South Coast Central



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Malpas sunset
Hannah Beech

Location:

The south coast central section of the Cornwall AONB extends from Porthpean near St Austell in the east and includes the Roseland Peninsula, the Fal Ria (including the Carrick Roads upstream from Trefusis Point/ St Anthony Head) to just south of the A390 near Tresillian and west almost to Perranarworthal and beyond to the edge of Penryn.

AONB Section	Area (ha)	% of total AONB area
09 South Coast Central	15,993	16.6%

Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:

- CA11: Redruth, Camborne and Gwennap
- CA13: Fal Ria, Truro & Falmouth
- CA16: Mid Fal Plateau
- CA40: Gerrans, Veryan and Mevagissey Bays

Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters

- MCA 49: South Cornwall Coastal Waters and Estuaries

Note: The three 'South Coast' Local Sections (08, 09, 10) have split Statements of Significance to reflect the range and difference of special qualities within each of them. For this reason they will not be subdivided in the same way as the other Local Sections.

Special qualities of South Coast Central: The Fal Ria

The Key Landscape Characteristics of this section of the AONB can be described by two distinct landscape character types.

This area shares similar landscape characteristics to the Helford River and estuary as described in Section 8, South Coast Western, but on a much larger scale. The main channel is formed where the River Fal meets the open sea, this stretch of water is known as the Carrick Roads. It is broad and deep, providing shelter in its deep-water harbour for ocean going vessels. The mouth of the estuary is flanked by the historic landmarks of St Mawes Castle to the east and Pendennis Castle to the west (outside the AONB) - both important strategic fortifications guarding the Carrick Roads since the time of Henry VIII. The ria system of the Fal is more extensive with larger and more sinuous creeks than seen on the Helford and extends up to Truro at Malpas and Calenick.

On both banks of the Fal there has been a noticeable increase in the built environment with many of the original villages, established as a result of the former boat building, fishing and industrial trade now subject to further residential development namely, Flushing, Mylor Churchtown, Mylor Bridge, Restronguet Passage and Feock. The cumulative effects of this more recent development has given rise to areas



Sunset at Mylor | Ian Lewis

of suburban character occupying the setting of traditional characterful villages with the greatest development pressure on areas with coastal views.

The slopes enclosing the Carrick Roads and creeks reflect a very similar landscape to the Helford but with a lesser concentration of woodland, which is replaced by large fields of pasture and arable land extending



Common Sandpiper | Jane Lewarne

down to the shoreline. North of Feock, upstream on the River Fal and the Truro and Tresillian Rivers, the creeks extend into more folded enclosed landforms where the estuarine woodland becomes more dominant and where large private estates such as Tregothnan have parkland and woodland extending down to the water's edge.

The tidal rivers and coastal wetland provide important habitats for a wide variety of flora and fauna, with a few small villages located at the heads of the creeks such as Ruan Laniorne, Calenick Creek, Old Kea and Feock.

The ridges between the creeks are rounded with a medium-scale field pattern as evident in medieval times with farm holdings scattered throughout the area. The re-organisation of the field boundaries in the 18th and 19th century and the removal of hedge boundaries have provided a much greater sense of openness, especially on the farmland nearer to Truro and Falmouth.

The sheltered microclimate of the creeks provides perfect growing conditions for more luxuriant plant life and the fine gardens and parkland of the National Trust gardens at Trelissick contain many delicate varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers. The River Fal below Trelissick can be crossed by the King Harry Ferry, a vehicular chain ferry which has operated between the parishes of Feock and Philleigh since 1888, although there is evidence that this stretch of river has been crossed by some form of craft for centuries.

Visually the dominant landcover is mature often dense estuarine Sessile Oak woodland cloaking the slopes along the water's edge. In places this woodland is extensive and seemingly untouched by human interference despite a long history of productive management lending a timeless primeval air to the watercourses. In other parts woodland has been partially or fully cleared where occasional large fields come right to the water's edge giving a more domesticated impression. This rich and productive farmland on the rounded convex hilltops between the creeks is a mix of pastoral and extensive arable uses giving considerable seasonal changes in colour. This seasonally changing agricultural scene is set in a constant and strong framework of Cornish hedges some of which display their construction in bare stone faces whilst many others are well vegetated and lined with mature trees strongly enclosing and defining the mostly small to medium irregular fields of medieval origin.



Special Qualities of South Coast Central: The Roseland & Mevagissey to St Austell Bay

The key landscape characteristic is a ridge which separates the Roseland from the Carrick Roads, consisting of a narrow strip of land barely half a kilometre wide between Zone Point and Gerrans Bay, broadens to include a stretch of varied and scenic coastland around Veryan Bay. The core part of the Roseland includes the five parishes of St Just-in-Roseland, Veryan, Gerrans, Philleigh and Ruan Lanihorne. St Mawes is a key coastal settlement at the mouth of the Fal, now largely established on tourism, with a busy and picturesque harbour.



St Mawes
Sue Rowlands

Further north, lies the historic village of St Just-in-Roseland, characteristically positioned at the head of a small creek and dominated by its exceptional 13th century church which is said to be of 6th century origin. Further north, along the banks of the Fal, the parish of St Michael Penkevil is a much-folded landscape of wooded valleys, large parts of which are managed by the Tregothnan Estate. Along the coast to the east of St Mawes, in sheltered bays, lay the coastal settlements of Porthscatho,

Portloe and Portholland, all rooted in the pilchard fishing industry and still engaged with fishing today. The overriding sense of the Roseland is of an extremely tranquil and well-managed farmed landscape with a globally renowned, stunning coastline that extends east across Mevagissey Bay and on to St Austell Bay in the north.

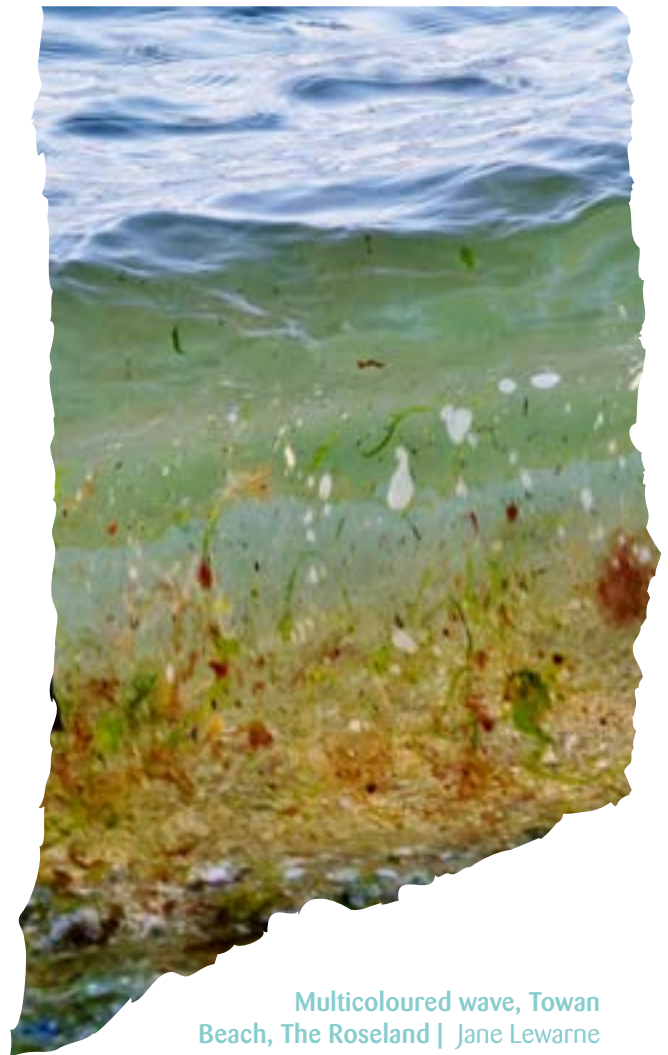
Away from the coast, aside from the church towns of Veryan and Gorran, settlement is still sparse and consists of mainly small rural hamlets and farmsteads linked by

narrow winding lanes. At narrow junctions, traditional black and white cast iron directional fingerposts echo a bygone era. In the Gorran High Lanes/ Mevagissey hinterland, an extensive area of fields bounded by modern concrete walls mark out the former extent of the Heligan estate, incompatible with this rural landscape. Along the coast, there are many small fishing villages such as the attractive historic village of Mevagissey, once the centre of Cornwall's pilchard fishing industry, which still retains its working harbour. Many of the old buildings in the village are constructed of cob and slate and bear testimony to a time when the large shoals of pilchards were the livelihood of the whole village. Nowadays Mevagissey is a popular tourist destination and commuter village for both St Austell and Truro.

From Mevagissey, the coast extends northward into St Austell Bay, past historic Pentewan, a small medieval fishing village, which, with its harbour, grew to be a significant port for the china clay industry. The AONB extends towards to Porthpean, just below St Austell, following the Pentewan trail, which runs adjacent to the White River, so named because of its milky appearance due to china clay sediments.

Woodland occurs on steep valley sides, alongside streams and in valley bottoms often in combination with other valuable wetland habitats such as fens and rush pasture strengthening these ribbons of semi natural vegetation that weave through the agricultural land.

The soils in this section of the AONB are derived from mid-Devonian slates and are well-drained and fertile providing perfect conditions for both arable and pastoral farming. Many of the medium scale fields



Multicoloured wave, Towan Beach, The Roseland | Jane Lewarne

are of medieval in origin with irregular boundaries ranging from bare stonewalls near the coast to broad and well vegetated hedges in the sheltered wooded valleys. Where streams flow along the valley floors there are valuable wetland habitats consisting of fens and rushes providing perfect conditions for a wide range of flora and fauna. Many of the stream valleys meet the coast where they terminate in sandy coves and beaches on the south coast such as Pendower Beach, Portholland and Caerhays.



Swan family, Ruan Laniorne | Roy Curtis

The geology along this stretch of the AONB consists of softer killas rocks, which form the cliffs and rocky shores of many of the bays and coves located between the harder basalt and dolerite rocks of Nare Head, Dodman Point and Black Head. The major headlands form promontories at over 100m above sea level whilst inland the landscape takes on a gentler undulating character.

There are many features of interest along this coast ranging from the historic Iron Age fortifications at Dodman Point, Black Head and Veryan to the large Bronze Age barrow at Carne Beacon, near Veryan. Country estates and ornamental parklands such as at Caerhays and Heligan have taken advantage of the sheltered valleys.

The majority of woodland in this area is congruous with the lush woodland gardens of Heligan and Caerhays, and concentrated in the valleys, where it is dominated by oak and beech with sycamore and a few remaining elms. On the plateau, trees occur more frequently on Cornish hedges, as well as small groups around farm buildings. Few trees are found on the coast due to exposure and grazing pressure. Also characteristic in this section are groups of Monterey pines.

Significant Landowners

- **The National Trust** manages significant and extensive sites around the coast of the Fal Ria at Trelissick, Turnaware Point near St Mawes and at St Anthony Head as well as Portscatho, Gerrans Bay, Nare Head, Dodman Point, land near Gorran Haven and Black Head.
- **The Lost Gardens of Heligan** near Mevagissey is a highly popular restored 19th century botanical garden managed by the Heligan Estate. Whist the gardens at Caerhays, managed by the Caerhays Estate, house the national collection of magnolias.

Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

- Parish Plans are in place at Feock, Gorran and St Ewe and the Roseland Neighbourhood Development Plan is now in place. The Roseland Plan covers the five parishes of St Just, Gerrans, Veryan, Ruan Lanihorne and Pilleigh.
- The local group 'Wild Roseland' has been established to deliver biodiversity projects flowing from the recent Roseland Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- Mevagissey Neighbourhood Development Plan

Other Designations

- Fal oysters are registered as a Protected Designation of Origin.
- The Helford and Fal Estuaries are a SAC for their shallow inlets and bays; the designation also covers saltmarshes, intertidal mudflats and sub tidal sandbanks.
- Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay is a Special Protection Area (SPA)

Landscape Condition

- Holiday sites around Mevagissey, Gorran Haven, Pentewan and elsewhere throughout the area are unnecessarily intrusive by their location, layout and design.
- The design and scale of some modern development, for example on the fringes of Falmouth, Malpas, St Mawes, Mevagissey and other waterside and coastal settlements, is intrusive. The increasing engulfing of traditional villages by suburban development eroding the characteristic settings.
- Replacement dwellings on creek sides, particularly around Restrouguet, Mylor and St Just Parish have had adverse visual and character impact due to increase of scale, poor design and inappropriate use of nonvernacular materials. In addition, the cumulative effects of this type of development erode character.
- There is poor or non-existent footpath access around much of the Fal Ria and Carrick Roads.
- Change of use is taking place on some prime agricultural farmland e.g. to equine grazing and woodland.
- Native deciduous woodlands of the Fal Ria and sheltered local valleys throughout the Roseland to Porthpean are generally unmanaged and in places fragmented.
- In parts of this section of the AONB there was significant loss to disease of hedgerow elm trees with impact on habitat connectivity and landscape character and ash dieback is likely to continue the trend of tree loss.



Looking towards
the Dodman | Jim Wood

**Key species of interest
for this section:**

- Great northern and black-throated diver
- Slavonian grebe
- Cirl bunting
- Kittiwake
- Guillemot
- Shag
- Black-necked grebe

- Cumulative change of character of many of the villages on the western shores of the Carrick Roads into suburban character around traditional village cores. There are particular development pressures on all areas with coastal views.
- The character of many of the settlements is being rapidly eroded through extension of settlements, redevelopment of existing dwellings and uncharacteristic design of enlarged and imposing coastal properties.



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

Community Network Area (CNA)
Falmouth & Penryn

AONB section within CNA
South Coast Central and South Coast Western

Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA | 2015 | 54.2% | 2019 | 58.1%



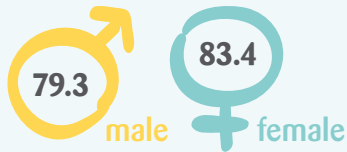
Population

Health and Wellbeing in
Falmouth & Penryn (2016/2017)

45,270
people

8% of
Cornwall's
total population

Life expectancy (years)



Births (2015)



Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



97.5%
white

Community Network Area (CNA)
St Austell & Mevagissey

AONB section within CNA
South Coast Central

Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA | 2015 | 44.0% | 2019 | 47.5%



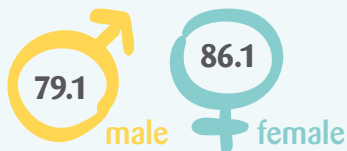
Population

Health and Wellbeing in
St Austell & Mevagissey (2016/2017)

32,608
people

6% of
Cornwall's
total population

Life expectancy (years)



Births (2015)



Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



98.4%
white

Community Network Area (CNA)
Truro & The Roseland

AONB section within CNA
South Coast Central

Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA | 2015 | 54.1% | 2019 | 56.3%



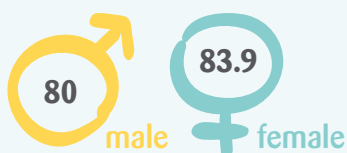
Population

Health and Wellbeing in
Truro & The Roseland (2016/2017)

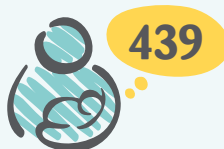
45,797
people

8% of
Cornwall's
total population

Life expectancy (years)



Births (2015)



Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



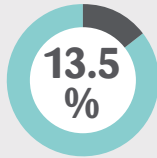
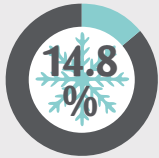
97.3%
white

Community Network Area (CNA)
Falmouth & Penryn

AONB section within CNA
South Coast Central and South Coast Western



Inequalities Health and Wellbeing
in Falmouth & Penryn (2016/2017)



1705 residents claim Disability Living Allowance

7% of all claimants in Cornwall

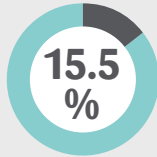
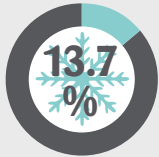


Community Network Area (CNA)
St Austell & Mevagissey

AONB section within CNA
South Coast Central



Inequalities Health and Wellbeing
in St Austell & Mevagissey (2016/2017)



1495 residents claim Disability Living Allowance

6% of all claimants in Cornwall

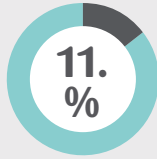
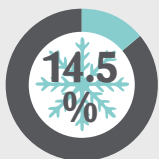


Community Network Area (CNA)
Truro & The Roseland

AONB section within CNA
South Coast Central



Inequalities Health and Wellbeing
in Truro & The Roseland (2016/2017)



1795 residents claim Disability Living Allowance

7% of all claimants in Cornwall



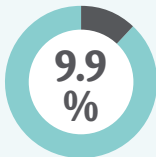
Community Network Area (CNA)
Falmouth & Penryn

AONB section within CNA
South Coast Central and South Coast Western

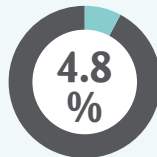


Risk Groups

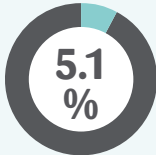
Health and Wellbeing
in Falmouth & Penryn



Obesity
(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



Diabetes
(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



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



residents who speak **English** as an additional language

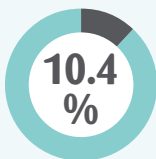
Community Network Area (CNA)
St Austell & Mevagissey

AONB section within CNA
South Coast Central

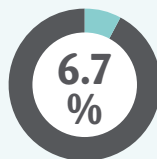


Risk Groups

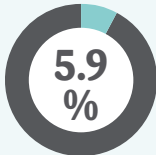
Health and Wellbeing
in St Austell & Mevagissey



Obesity
(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



Diabetes
(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



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



residents who speak **English** as an additional language

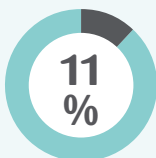
Community Network Area (CNA)
Truro & The Roseland

AONB section within CNA
South Coast Central

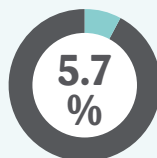


Risk Groups

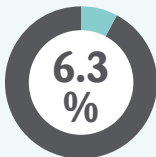
Health and Wellbeing
in Truro & The Roseland



Obesity
(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



Diabetes
(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



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



residents who speak **English** as an additional language

09 South Coast Central: 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
SCC-P1	Prevent further cumulative landscape and visual impact from individual developments on local character and tranquillity for example along the shores and slopes of the Fal Ria and creek side, waterside and coastal settlements. Require all new development, including replacement dwellings, to respond appropriately to the sensitivity and capacity of the landscape and to reflect the traditional and characteristic built form and context.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob12 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P12, PD-P17
SCC-P2	Require the active consideration of landscape and visual impacts on the AONB landscape around the Fal Ria, Carrick Roads and associated creeks from increasing or changing patterns of water-based access, leisure and commercial activity and their related infrastructure such as moorings, jetties, car parks, yards and slipways associated with individual dwellings. Recognising the cumulative impacts of existing and further development.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-O6 NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob5

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
SCC-P3	Require an improvement in car-free access options including, foot, cycle, bus and boat for example from Truro, Falmouth and Penryn in a manner that conserves and enhances the AONB, building on the good work of the Fal River Partnership and Fal River Links.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-Ob6 HC-O11 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3, RSA-P4, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob4, HWB-Ob5, HWB-Ob7 SCE-P3, SCE-P4, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob5, SCE-Ob6
SCC-P4	Support appropriate improvements to footpath access around the Carrick Roads and its creeks with respect to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 where this does not encourage an increase in traffic levels or the provision of further car parks in the area, provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the Fal & Helford SAC from recreational disturbance.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9 CCBR-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob4, HWB-Ob5, HWB-Ob7 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5
SCC-P5	Support management of visitor car parking in quiet and remote tranquil rural areas in the Fal Ria and throughout the Roseland, up to Porthpean, so that levels of use do not increase. Resist additional parking provision as part of visitor proposals preferring and requiring sustainable transport arrangements. Reduce visual impacts by use of carefully located unobtrusive small scale dispersed rural car parks set back from the coast for example as managed by the National Trust at Vault Bay and Dodman Point.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-Ob6 HC-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-P4, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P9

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
SCC-P6	Require protection of the landscape setting of key landmarks such as St Mawes Castle, St Anthony's Lighthouse and others from negative impacts by new development including housing and lighting and seek enhancement of their settings	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob14 RSA-P1 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P7, PD-P12, PD-P18
SCC-P7	Help to support coastal management which promotes natural processes wherever possible and support initiatives with communities which consider the long term future of coastal areas e.g. Falmouth, St Mawes, Mevagissey, Mylor, Devoran, Penryn and Flushing 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4 NRLM-Ob9 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6
SCC-P8	Ensure that the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the AONB is fully taken into account in development proposals for expansion of Truro, Falmouth and Penryn and at smaller settlements in order to retain the character of the Fal Ria landscape. Particular care should be taken to ensure that no development is permitted inside or outside the AONB, which would damage its natural beauty, character and special qualities.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob4 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob6 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P7, PD-P8, PD-P12, PD-P16
SCC-P9	Support the continuation of small-scale, sustainable fisheries, including at Mevagissey and Portscatho, which enhance local character and communities and conserve natural assets. Support local cultural fisheries in the Fal Estuary such as traditional oyster fisheries, which do not impact upon the special features of the Special Area of Conservation.	LS-P1, LS-P4 NRLM-Ob9 HC-Ob4 HWB-Ob6 SCE-P2, SCE-P4, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-P7 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3 PD-P10

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
SCC-P10	Seek a reduction in landscape and visual impacts of tourism including better integration of existing holiday sites, visitor infrastructure, car parks and signage. Pay particular attention to increase in scale, massing and cumulative development and respect local character in external works, landscaping, site design and layout including at Mevagissey, Gorran Haven and Pentewan.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-P2 RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P9

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
SCC-Ob1	Support the management and extension of sessile oak woodlands around the Fal and its tributaries and in the inland and coastal valleys of the Roseland. Consider opportunities for planting of local provenance native tree species such as sessile oak, hazel and alder to increase estuarine woodland cover and act as a future seed source where this is currently absent or sparse to assist subsequent natural regeneration.	LS-P1 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3 HWB-O5 SCE-P4, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob4
SCC-Ob2	Support the continued success of festivals that promote and interpret the AONB's special qualities, characteristics and culture. For example, the Fal River Festival, Mevagissey Feast Week, Fal Oyster Festival, The St Mawes Fish Festival and the Fal Autumn Walking Festival	HC-Ob3, HC-Ob4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5, SCE-Ob6