



Cornwall  
Area of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty

Landscapes  
for life  
.org.uk

{ CORNWALL  
One of the  
AONB Family





# Contents

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 02 | Local Sections   |
| 04 | 1 Hartland   |
| 08 | 2 Pentire Point to Widemouth   |
| 13 | 3 The Camel Estuary  |
| 19 | 4 Carnewas to Stepper Point<br>(formerly Trevose Head to<br>Stepper Point) |
| 23 | 5 St Agnes   |
| 27 | 6 Godrevy to Portreath   |
| 33 | 7 West Penwith   |
| 40 | 8 South Coast Western  |
| 48 | 9 South Coast Central  |
| 54 | 10 South Coast Eastern   |
| 60 | 11 Rame Head   |
| 64 | 12 Bodmin Moor   |

# Local sections

## Purpose

The local sections detail the management principles that are specific to each of the local sections of the Cornwall AONB. The local area policies should always be read in conjunction with the policies set out in the strategic policies of the plan that address Cornwall-wide AONB management matters.

## Statements of significance

The local sections contain a statement of significance which sets out the qualities and characteristics that makes that section as a whole recognisable, distinctive and different from surrounding areas. The statement of significance will not necessarily refer to individual features but this does not mean that such features are not important or do not form a key component of the AONB landscape. The statement of significance is not a complete inventory, more a summary of the landscape character and scenic beauty of the protected landscape. The statement of significance can be used as landscape character evidence base to judge impact (or harm) to the AONB from development or other activity and as a guide to help tailor positive activity to conserve and enhance the area.

## Local policies

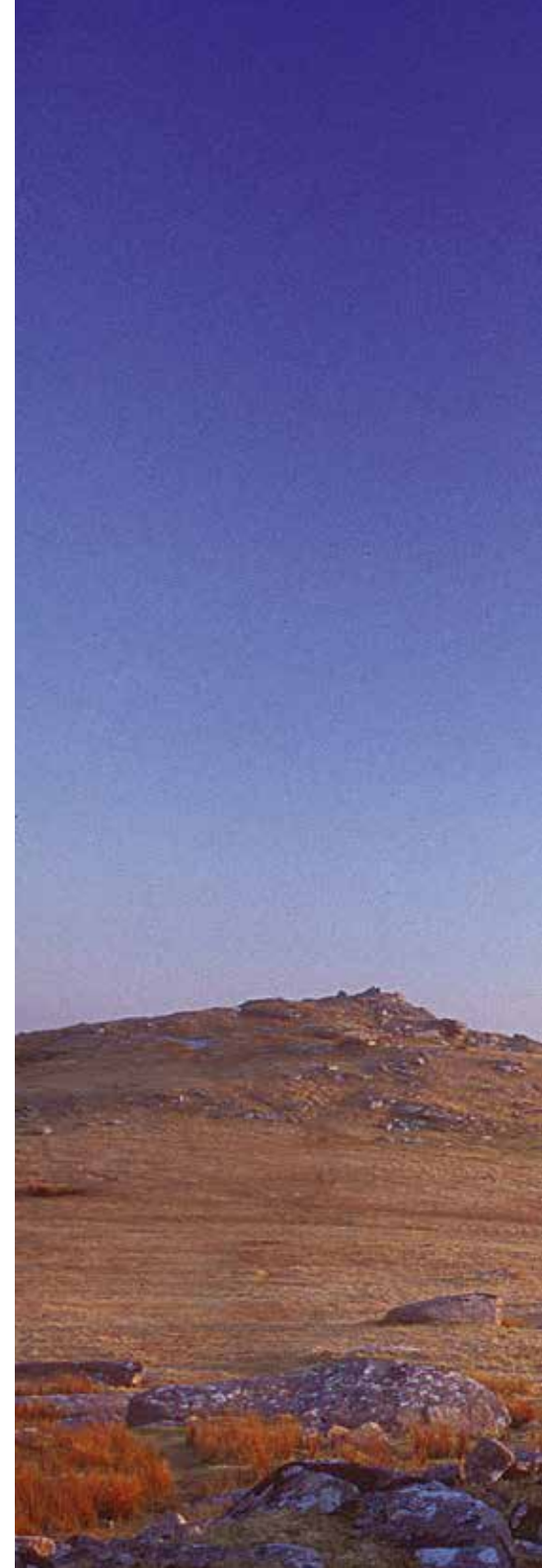
Each local section includes local policies which identify the specific management objectives that are applicable to the local section over the next five years.

The local policies are required to:

- achieve the purposes of the AONB designation;
- deliver the purposes of the AONB Management Plan;
- reflect local level detail and management needs; and
- be realistic.

The local policies can be used for a range of purposes. For example they can provide guidance and inform the assessment of development proposals in or adjoining the local section or they can promote projects and funding applications that support the purposes of the AONB designation.

Each local section identifies a number of matters that are considered to be impacting upon the condition of the special features and attributes in that particular section of the Cornwall AONB and any of the known management groups, activities and/or strategies in place for the area. The local policies will seek to address poor condition and support good management, supported by the overall strategic policies.





*Rough Tor - Tim Knight*

# 1 Hartland

## Location

This small section of the AONB runs northwards from just above Bude to the Cornwall border with Devon and has strong links with the Hartland Peninsula, which is part of the North Devon AONB. The boundary more or less follows the A39 trunk road (Atlantic Highway) and includes the coastal strip from Marsland in the north to Menachurch Point in the south.

## Extent

At approximately 2,600 hectares or just over 25.9 square kilometres it forms just under three percent of the Cornwall AONB.

## Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA37 Western Culm Plateau and CA38 Bude Basin.

## Statement of Significance

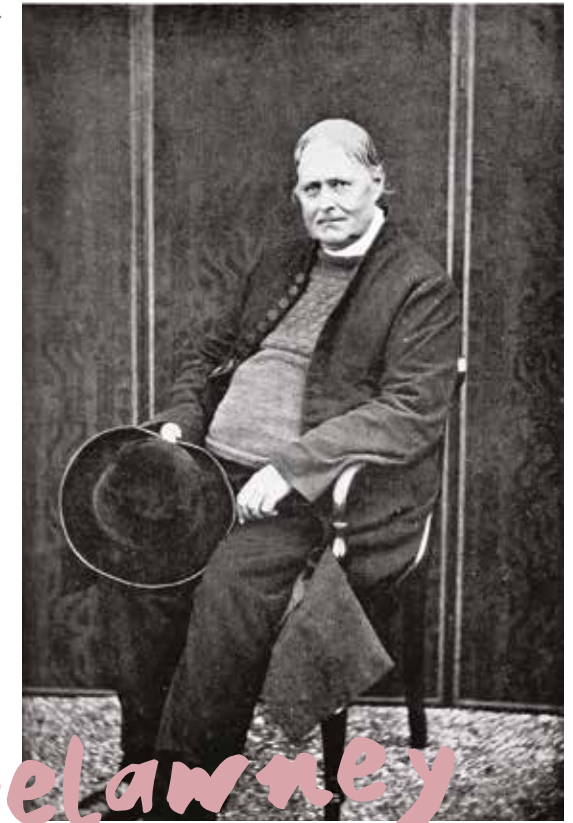
This section of the AONB is a high coastal plateau of carboniferous sandstones and slates known as the Culm Measures. The cliffs are sheer; reaching 140m in some places and are intensely folded and faulted. The sea has sculpted a striking wave-cut platform, which at low tide reveals a

rock stratum of folded and faulted ridges. These shores are punctuated occasionally by sandy coves and beaches at the mouths of stream valleys, notably at the aptly named Sandymouth. Inland, the land rises gently to a ridge of 200m and is dissected by numerous streams which form deeply incised valleys containing streams that cascade as small waterfalls onto the rocky, narrow, boulder strewn shoreline below. Coastal heathland fringes the cliff tops, particularly in the north, whilst the steep valley sides are colonised with broadleaved woodland, some ancient, as found in the Coombe and Marsland Valleys. The Culm grassland found on the unimproved wet pasturelands of the inland plateau has an acidic quality producing a unique flora, which is nationally rare.

This is a pastoral landscape with the field pattern revealing ancient enclosures. Many of the hedges have now been removed to provide access for farm machinery and larger areas of land for arable crops although further inland there is still a significant amount of dairy farming.

Small hamlets and isolated farm holdings, such as the National Trust property at Stowe Barton, make up this sparsely populated section of the Cornwall AONB and the lack of populace further emphasises its remoteness. Local slate and sandstone, together with cob and thatch, are characteristic of the homes in this area. Originally these were lime washed or slate-hung but are now more commonly rendered. Originally these were lime washed or slate-hung but are now more commonly rendered. At Morwenstow, the Norman church is built into the valley side with its tower on the seaward side. Its vicarage, notable for its many chimneys of differing styles, was once home to the late Reverend Robert Stephen Hawker who wrote Trelawney – The Song of the Western Men. A little way north from the vicarage, on a steep sided coastal cliff, sits Hawker's Hut, now owned

1.

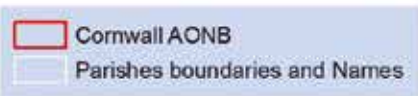


## Trelawney - The Song of the Western Men

by the National Trust where the Reverend Hawker used to compose his sermons and poetry.

Views along the coastline are breath-taking and extensive. On a clear day Lundy Island can be seen out to the northwest. Further south, the coastal plateau decreases to a much lower cliff line with views southward towards Bude.

This section of the Cornwall AONB is one of the less well known AONB areas but its dramatic coastal cliffs and unusual rock formations, together with its ancient history provides an interesting and unique landscape.



2.



1. RS Hawker - courtesy of Cornwall Archives and Local Studies Service  
2. Morwenstow Church

## Management

- The National Trust manages land specifically around the coastline at Morwenstow and from Duckpool to Sandymouth.
- Kilkhampton Parish Plan was prepared in 2003.
- Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative plans include support for the now halted 'Atlantic Coast and Valleys Project', which aimed to enhance, extend and link characteristic coastal habitats.
- The North Devon AONB Management Plan 2014-19 has been published and includes the Hartland Peninsula.
- The sustainable tourism project 'Explore the Coast' supports car free access and the provision of greater information on the North Devon AONB.
- Much of the coastline in the Hartland section of the Cornwall AONB is included in the 'Steeple Point to Marsland' SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).
- The sea off Hartland Point to Tintagel has been recently designated as a Marine Conservation Zone.

## Condition

- The Council for the Protection of Rural England's tranquillity, intrusion and night blight mapping shows Hartland to be the most 'undisturbed' section of the Cornwall AONB.
- The large structures of GCHQ Bude at Morwenstow are visually intrusive.
- The Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) report that few areas of culm grassland now remain in north Cornwall.
- Scrub and bracken encroachment affects coastal marginal land especially within the coastal valleys leading to loss of biodiversity and changes in landscape.
- Sycamore has become established in broadleaved woodlands.
- A Romano-British forge and medieval port for Kilkhampton were discovered on the beach at Duckpool in the 1980s subsequently as a result of continued erosion by the sea this notable find is now at risk and could eventually be lost.
- Dutch elm disease has had a significant impact on hedgerow elm in this area affecting habitat connectivity and landscape character.



*View to the sea near Morwenstow*



# Hartland Local Policies

- H1.01** Require all development to maintain the sparsely populated settlement pattern and tranquil characteristics of this section of the Cornwall AONB and respect local vernacular and use of materials that makes this area distinctive. Support new uses of isolated local vernacular buildings, where this can be achieved whilst maintaining character, in order to achieve their retention.
- H1.02** Support the conservation and enhancement of the undeveloped character of the coast, in order to retain its rugged and simple tranquillity.
- H1.03** Seek to maintain current low levels of light pollution in order to maintain dark night skies. (This being the most ‘undisturbed’ Cornwall AONB Section according to the Council for the Protection of Rural England’s tranquillity, intrusion and night blight mapping records).
- H1.04** Promote joint working with the North Devon AONB Partnership on the action plan for the Hartland Peninsula and the ‘Explore the Coast’ project.
- H1.05** Encourage sensitive management and explore measures to reduce and remove the establishment of Sycamores in native broadleaved woodlands for example at Coombe Valley, Stanbury, the Tidna, and Marsland Valley, in a manner that is consistent with conserving and enhancing local landscape character and biodiversity and provided regeneration can occur using natives.
- H1.06** Support a wider landscape-scale approach to extending and connecting currently fragmented, locally characteristic habitats. These include culm grassland, maritime cliff and slope, lowland heathland, species-rich grasslands and heath in coastal valleys, and the native broadleaved woodland found, for example at Coombe Valley, Stanbury, The Tidna, and Marsland Valley. Consider the small scale planting of local provenance native tree species such as Sessile Oak, Hazel and Alder to act as a future seed source for native woodland establishment where this is currently absent or sparse to assist subsequent natural regeneration.
- H1.07** Encourage measures to reduce the encroachment of scrub and bracken in the coastal marginal land and support the encouragement of culm grassland in a manner that is consistent with conserving and enhancing local landscape character and biodiversity.
- H1.08** Explore the future management requirements for the satellite dishes at GCHQ Bude, seeking opportunities to reduce their current visual impact and restore the natural landscape over the medium to long term.
- H1.09** Seek opportunities to increase the awareness and protection of the heritage of the area, in order to promote, conserve and enhance landscape character and natural beauty, for example, the links with Reverend Robert Stephen Hawker and the Romano-British forge and medieval fort at Duckpool, paying particular attention to the investigation and recording of coastal heritage features such as at Duckpool that may be impacted upon by coastal change and storms due to climate change.
- H1.10** Seek a reduction in landscape and visual impacts of tourism including better integration of holiday sites, visitor infrastructure and signage by respecting local character in external works, landscaping, site design and layout. Pay particular attention to the increase in scale, massing and associated development for example at Duckpool, Sandymouth and Morwenstow.

# 2 Pentire Point to Widemouth

## Location

The coastal strip between Pentire Point in the south and Widemouth in the north forms this section of the AONB. Inland it is bounded by the B3314 in the south and the A39 in the north.

## Extent

Approximately 11,900 hectares or 119 square kilometres this area forms just over 12 percent and is the largest section of the Cornwall AONB on the north coast. It is 30 km long and varies in width from approximately five kilometers near Boscastle to 0.5km at Pentire Point.

## Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA31 Upper Tamar and Ottery Valleys; CA33 Camel and Allen Valleys; CA34, Camel Estuary; CA35, Kellan Head to Millook Haven Coast; CA36 Delabole Plateau; CA37 Western Culm Plateau; CA38 Bude Basin.

# Statement of Significance

The coastline throughout this section is craggy with dramatic contorted cliffs and folded slates, shales and volcanic rocks with some sandstone to the north, there are also some interesting coastal features such as rocky stacks, arches, headlands, caves and blowholes interspersed with rocky coves and a few sandy beaches such as at Trebarwith Strand and Crackington Haven. The highest land at 223m is in the north at the aptly named 'High Cliff' near Tresparrett on the carboniferous sandstones and shales; the cliff line then gradually reduces in height to approximately 70-80m at Pentire Point.

Behind the coastline, the undulating coastal plateau is incised with steep sided secluded valleys and streams that flow down to sea level such as at Boscastle, Crackington Haven and Millook. The valleys extend well inland, creating a secluded landscape with small farming hamlets. The microclimate of the sheltered valleys is in sharp contrast to the open farmland exposed to the strong sea winds on the coastal plateau where there is limited tree growth. Land use tends to be mainly limited to arable and pasture inland with coastal heathland dominating the cliffs. The sheltered and relatively inaccessible coves of this section are particularly important safe habitat for Cornwall's globally significant population of grey seals.

This section of the AONB contains some important historical features, such as the unaltered and still farmed medieval open field 'stitchmeal' system of Forrabury Stiches near Boscastle. As a settlement, Boscastle is divided

into two sections, the old medieval village which evolved around Bottreaux Castle higher up the valley and the small 19th century sheltered port on the valley floor which was of strategic importance as the only sheltered harbour between Bude and Padstow. There has been considerable development over the years on the more elevated land higher up the valley as well as following on from the 2004 flood when an estimated two million tonnes of floodwater flowed down the River Valency, following a flash flood, which affected Boscastle, Rocky Valley and Crackington Haven.

The most notable historic feature along this section of the Cornwall AONB can be found at Tintagel. Here the coastline is rugged, consisting of Devonian slate and volcanic rocks of the carboniferous Tintagel group, which are folded and faulted, forming stacks and small islands. Tintagel Island with its rounded headland connected by a narrow isthmus to the main coastline contains the famous ruins of the 12th century Tintagel Castle, standing high on the cliffs, giving rise to the legend of King Arthur and providing a very popular global tourism destination.

Tintagel and Bossiney form large areas of settlement which have grown from small medieval communities to industrial villages supporting the surrounding slate quarries and have now evolved to support the ever increasing tourism trade. However, the surrounding land still tends to support small agricultural hamlets linked by narrow lanes and high hedges with a medieval pattern of enclosure. The small coastal settlement at Trebarwith, connected with the old harbour cove of Port William, is also a popular summer tourist destination.

South and west of Trebarwith the AONB landscape narrows and consists of steep seaward sloping cliffs dissected by short streams, which form 'V' shaped valleys. There are few settlements, other than a few scattered farm holdings in the north. In contrast, the communities of Port Isaac and Port Gaverne in the west continue to attract many visitors who have been inspired to visit by a popular television series, bringing inevitable traffic congestion during peak periods on narrow lanes.

Slate is the characteristic local building and hedging material, varying from the mid hues of Delabole slate to the darker shades sourced at Trebarwith. The local slate industry led to the expansion of some villages such as Treknock and Trewarmett and the numerous small-scale disused historic slate quarries are now a feature of the coastal landscape although slate quarrying operations continue within and close to the AONB at a small number of sites.

There is a noticeable lack of tree cover due to the exposure to coastal winds in this section. Land use is mainly agricultural grazing in small to medium sized fields of medieval origin although modern farming practice has resulted in some larger fields being created as can be seen on land behind Port Quin. Coastal heathland is a significant component of this area with rough and scrubby land leading inwards from the coast. At Rumps Point towards the extreme west of the section are the remains of an Iron Age cliff castle. This is a quiet and unspoilt area with much of the coastal land under the management of the National Trust and despite the inevitable impact of tourism on the coastal landscape this section of the AONB still retains its unspoilt rural character.



## Management

- The National Trust manages significant stretches of the coast from Pentire Head to Port Quin and the Rocky Valley in the west and from Crackington Haven to Dizzard in the east.
- Parish Plans exist for St Endellion and St Kew.
- St Endellion, St Gennys, St Minver Lowlands and Highlands and Tintagel are all in the process of preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- Following the extensive damage incurred by the 2004 flood, Boscastle has been redeveloped using mostly locally characteristic building materials of local slate killas.
- Active quarrying operations are controlled under the Review of Mineral Planning Permissions (ROMPS).
- Some of the steeper valleys have suffered from less intensive management resulting in a range of developing woodland, scrub and rough ground habitats.
- Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative plans include protection and extension of coastal rough ground habitats.
- The RSPB promote land management to support the Corn Bunting.
- The 'Atlantic Coast and Valleys' project, which has now halted, proposed rough grazing of cliff tops and valley sides around Trebarwith to support a traditional farming landscape and the restoration of habitats favourable for the return of the large blue butterfly.
- The Polzeath Voluntary Marine Conservation Area (VMCA) seeks to raise awareness, enjoyment and interest in the marine environment including the intertidal habitats and splash zone.
- The offshore area from 'Hartland Point to Tintagel' has recently been designated as a Marine Conservation Zone.
- The coast from Trebarwith to Widemouth is a designated SSSI.
- A coastal communities team has now formed at St. Endellion to support regeneration projects in the area.
- Historic England manages Tintagel Castle as a tourism destination.

Valleys and  
cliff castles

## Condition

- There has been a departure from the local settlement pattern, vernacular and use of local materials in recent housing development in Boscastle and Tintagel. Development pressure from Polzeath has the potential to impact upon the AONB and its setting.
- Wind farms, including the one at Delabole, which is outside the AONB, alongside individual turbines, are clearly visible and have a negative landscape, visual and cumulative impact on the AONB landscape.
- Unsympathetic restoration of former working quarries in the area has resulted in unnecessary landscape and visual impacts.
- Some major roads have taken on suburban characteristics in their detailing.
- Overhead wires are visually intrusive especially in the historic settlements of Port Isaac and Tintagel.
- Lack of management of broadleaved woodland on many of the steep sided valleys has resulted in sycamore colonisation e.g. at Millook, Crackington and St Nectan's Glen.
- Japanese knotweed is prevalent in Rocky Valley and other valley systems.
- Scrub and bracken encroachment is a significant issue within coastal valleys leading to loss of biodiversity and change in the landscape.
- Loss of hedgerow elm due to disease has impacted on habitat connectivity and landscape character in certain parts of this section of the AONB.

1.



1. Beach cave at Tintagel  
2. Tintagel Castle

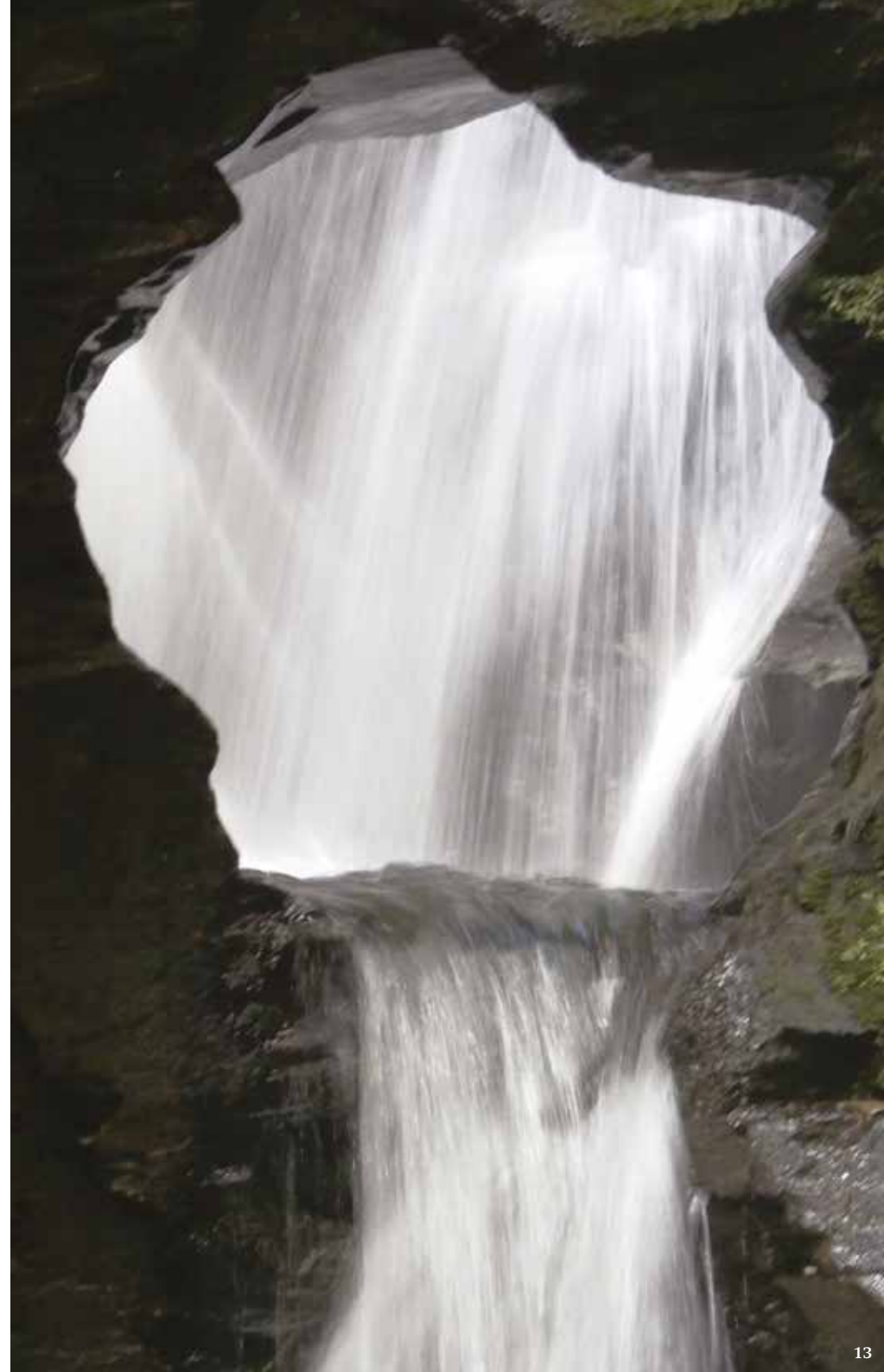
2.



# Pentire Point to Widemouth Local Policies

- PPW2.01** Support small-scale existing slate quarries such as at Trebarwith, in order to allow controlled production for use in local works provided that these respect landscape character, topography and vegetation in their operation and restoration and minimise short and long term landscape and visual impacts. Support further measures to protect and enhance environmental and landscape quality when existing quarrying permissions are reviewed.
- PPW2.02** Seek better landscape integration of the A39, B3314, B3263, and other major roads with their rural AONB setting by improved planting design and management, reducing the impact of signage and lighting, use of non-intrusive methods of traffic calming and characteristic use of local materials and hedging styles in highways work.
- PPW2.03** Support initiatives for undergrounding visually intrusive wirescapes, for example at Port Isaac and Tintagel.
- PPW2.04** Seek conservation and enhancement of the undeveloped character of the coast; for example Witches Cauldron to Port Quin Bay, around High Cliff and around Dizzard in order to retain rugged and simple tranquillity and promote the enhancement of other parts of coast for example around Tintagel, Boscastle and Port Isaac such that they return to having a more undeveloped character.
- PPW2.05** Support a landscape scale approach to extending and connecting currently fragmented locally characteristic habitats. These include maritime cliffs and slopes, lowland heathland, lowland meadows, coastal native woodland, as at Dizzard, and native valley broadleaved woodland found for example in the Valency Valley, Millook Woods, Crackington Haven and St Nectan's Glen. Consider small scale planting of local provenance native tree species such as Sessile Oak, Hazel and Alder to act as a future seed source for native woodland establishment where this is currently absent or sparse to assist subsequent natural regeneration.
- PPW2.06** Encourage sensitive management and explore measures to arrest the establishment of sycamores in native broadleaved woodlands for example around Millook and Crackington, in a manner that is consistent with conserving and enhancing local landscape character and biodiversity and provided this can be achieved using natives.
- PPW2.07** Encourage measures to reduce the encroachment of scrub and bracken on coastal marginal land and support the encouragement of culm grassland in a manner that is consistent with conserving and enhancing local landscape character and biodiversity.
- PPW2.08** Help to support coastal management, which promotes natural processes wherever possible and support initiatives with communities which consider the long term future of the coast 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.

- PPW2.09** Ensure that settlement growth to address local needs in Polzeath enhances the settlement edge and conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the AONB. Ensure that the undeveloped coast between Polzeath and the southwestern end of the section and the setting of ‘The Rumps’ is protected. Support new uses of isolated local vernacular buildings, where this can be achieved whilst maintaining character, in order to achieve their retention.
- PPW2.10** Seek a reduction of landscape and visual impacts of tourism including better integration of existing holiday sites, visitor infrastructure, car parks and signage. Pay particular attention to the increase in scale, massing, associated development and respecting local character in external works, landscaping, site design and layout at Polzeath, Tintagel, Bossiney, Trewethett, and near Widemouth.
- PPW2.11** Seek to improve the management of important seal sites between Beeny Sisters and Buckator, bringing them back into favourable condition for seals.
- PPW2.12** Seek to improve the management of traffic, parking and vehicular access in this section, including through the promotion of car free options.



# 3 Camel Estuary

## Location

This AONB section includes the Camel Estuary and runs west from Wadebridge to Padstow and the adjacent land. It is bounded by the A389 and A39 to the south and west, and the B3314 to the northeast and extends almost as far north as the edge of Rock, Splatt and Tredrizzick.

## Extent

Covering an area of almost 2,500 hectares or 24.6 square kilometres it forms just over 2.5 percent of the Cornwall AONB.

## Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA19 Trevoze Head and Coastal Plateau; CA33 Camel and Allen Valleys; 34 Camel Estuary.

# Statement of Significance

This relatively small section of the Cornwall AONB is defined by its distinct landscape where the gentle undulating land slopes down into the broad Camel Valley. The Camel Estuary is approximately one kilometre wide between Padstow and Rock and stretches inland for around seven kilometres where it narrows significantly at Wadebridge but remains tidal for several kilometres beyond.

The slate bedrock is exposed in low cliffs along the shore of the estuary. At low tide, mud and sandbanks become clearly visible. Within the more sheltered side waters such as Little Pertherick and Pinkson Creeks and at the convergence of the Rivers Amble and Camel, the mud flats are colonised with reeds and salt marsh vegetation, providing a perfect habitat for a variety of wildlife such as over-wintering wildfowl and waders. On the north side of the estuary, the distinctive landmark of Cant Hill is easily recognisable as the land rises sharply into a prominent rounded and steep sided hill, formed as a result of the underlying igneous rock.

Away from the tourist 'hot spots' the Camel Estuary forms a tranquil and intimate landscape with creeks and tributary valleys where many small woodlands colonise the gentle slopes. Common species found here include willow; poplar, oak and hawthorn intermixed with gorse. In contrast, the more open areas are exposed to the coastal winds so woodland and hedgerows become much less common. At its widest point,

the Camel Estuary provides extensive views towards the sea and a feeling of expansiveness where, on clear days land and sky combine.

The Camel Estuary is primarily a mixed agricultural landscape and whilst there is a pattern of small irregular enclosures of medieval origin, larger fields tend to be found north of Cant Hill and at Trewornan on the River Amble. Cornish hedges enclose many of the fields, built of local slate and on exposed sections the hedges reveal the characteristic herringbone pattern. The long history of human habitation is indicated





by this area having one of the highest densities of recorded crop mark sites in Cornwall, many being Romano-British rounds (settlements). Overall, this is a sparsely populated landscape consisting of farmsteads and hamlets in typical medieval style where grey slate is the dominant building material.

On the south side of the estuary the disused railway has provided a perfect setting for the Camel Trail, a popular cycle trail which runs from Padstow to Wadebridge and inland following the valley through to Bodmin, much used and very popular with visitors and locals alike who can appreciate this scenic and tranquil landscape all year round.



## Management

- St Minver, St Kew and Padstow Parish Plans together with Wadebridge Town Plan have been prepared.
- A Neighbourhood Development Plan is currently being prepared for the St Minver Lowlands and Highlands.
- The 18-mile long multi-use Camel Trail is managed and maintained by Cornwall Council.
- The aims of the Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative include: Coast to Coast to link river and valley habitats including native broadleaved woodlands and wetlands from the Camel to the Fowey Estuary via river valleys around Bodmin Moor in order to reinforce wildlife corridors. The local aims are to extend and enhance the Amble Marshes.
- The Amble Marshes SSSI, Water Level Management Plan (WLMP) is being implemented in a partnership between landowners, the Environment Agency and Natural England via agri-environment schemes and in consultation with the local community. The objective is to restore and enhance habitat conditions for wading birds during winter and the breeding season.
- Whilst the Camel River and Valley outside the AONB is designated a Special Area of Conservation, the Estuary does not have such protection.
- The Camel Estuary Initiative, established in 1994, aims to enhance and maintain the natural quality of the Camel by co-ordinating effort and promoting wise use of the resource.
- The Camel Estuary Management Plan was published by the Padstow Harbour Commissioners on behalf of the users of the estuary.
- A Camel Valley Estuary Advisory Group has been established with representative from bodies with a legal responsibility for the estuary.



## Condition

- The Council for the Protection of Rural England's tranquillity, intrusion and night blight mapping shows the most 'disturbed' (least tranquil) section of the AONB is the Camel Estuary. This is due to the proximity of major roads including the A389, B3314 and the A39 (Atlantic Highway), which lies partially within the AONB along with the more urban settlements of Padstow, Rock and Wadebridge.
- Some historic Cornish hedges have been replaced by wire fencing although some of this is from the division of former downland.
- Many of the broadleaved woodlands are unmanaged and there has been a significant loss of hedgerow elm trees due to disease, which in turn has impacted on habitat connectivity and landscape character.
- Development pressure from Padstow, Rock and Splatt has the potential to impact upon the AONB and its setting.



1. Camel Estuary - Frances Toorawa  
2. Cant Hill from Camel Trail

2.





*Camel Estuary - Barry Willis*

# Camel Estuary Local Policies

- 
- CE3.01 Seek reduction of impacts on landscape character and tranquillity from major roads such as the A39, A389 and B3314 by for example reduction in street lighting, reduction in signage, less intensive management of roadside vegetation, non-intrusive methods of traffic calming and local hedging styles and materials in highway works.
  - CE3.02 Seek retention of the quiet rural character of small lanes such as those leading from settlement edges and off major roads to the edge of the estuary.
  - CE3.03 Promote the co-ordinated management of the activities taking place on the Camel Trail to ensure that they do not detract from tranquillity or visual amenity, to the benefit of all users.
  - CE3.04 Support the continued reversion to marshland in the upper reaches of the Camel Estuary, for example at Amble Marshes, where drainage and agricultural improvement has taken place in order to restore to favourable condition this locally characteristic and significant habitat in the context of a landscape scale approach to the enhancement of locally significant Biodiversity Action Plan habitats.
  - CE3.05 Support proposals to enhance protection for important habitats and species around the estuary.
  - CE3.06 Seek to protect mature trees surrounding settlements for example at Padstow, Rock, Splatt and Wadebridge in order to conserve their contribution to local landscape character.
  - CE3.07 Encourage the active consideration of the landscape and visual impacts around the Camel Estuary of increasing or changing patterns of water based access, leisure and commercial activity and related infrastructure.
  - CE3.08 Support sustainable water based travel around the estuary, for example the continuation of the existing ferry link between Padstow and Rock.
  - CE3.09 Support settlement growth to Rock, Splatt and Padstow that addresses local need, enhances the settlement edge and conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Camel Estuary and does not adversely impact upon the AONB or its setting.

# 4 Carnewas to Stepper Point

*The name of this section has been changed from the Management Plan 2011-2016 to better reflect its geography and was formerly called Trevoze Head to Stepper Point.*

## Location

This section of the AONB is situated on the north coast and extends from the rocky coast of Carnewas Point and Bedruthan Steps, north to Trevoze Head and west to Stepper Point on the west side of Padstow Bay. The section then turns south and hugs the mouth of the Camel Estuary to the very edge of Padstow. It is bounded inland to the east by the B3276 to just north of Porthcothan.

## Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA19 Trevoze Head and Coastal Plateau; CA34 Camel Estuary.

## Extent

This area extends to approximately 2,400 hectares or just over 23 square kilometres and forms 2.5 percent of the Cornwall AONB.

*Stepper Point near Padstow - Rose Cross*

# Statement of Significance

The variety of coastal scenery in this section is due to the diverse geology including hard greenstones, which form the elevated headlands as seen at Trevoze Head and Stepper Point. These headlands stand slightly above the level of the farmland. The more easily eroded slates and shales back the bays and coves between the headlands as can be seen at Harlyn Bay, Trevone, Treyarnon and Mother Ivey's Bay. There are extensive coastal sand dunes at Constantine Bay. At Stepper Point, the coast curves inland towards Padstow, past the secluded Hawker's Cove and further sand dunes at Tregirls Beach, forming the western side of the expansive mouth of the Camel Estuary. The landscape here is softer, in sharp contrast to the imposing and indented cliffs of the much-photographed iconic Cornish cliffscape at Bedruthan Steps with its craggy rock stacks.

The landscape pattern is comprised of mainly medium sized fields with characteristic stands of tamarisk atop Cornish hedges, following the medieval enclosure system. The fields here are a mix of arable land and pasture. Closer to the coast, the coastal heathland has been incorporated into the field system to provide larger areas for arable farming. This in turn has produced an exaggerated openness and confined semi-natural habitats to much smaller areas along the cliffs. At Bedruthan, a more substantial area of coastal heathland has been preserved which has enhanced the rugged qualities originally found on this stretch of the AONB coastline. The sandhills on the upper slopes of Stepper Point and behind Hawker's Cove, Harbour Cove and St George's Cove are covered with alkaline grassland retaining a suitable habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna.

The peaceful and wild nature found in this section of the AONB is interrupted sharply in places by recreational activity. The busy beaches of Harlyn, Treyarnon and



Constantine Bay are very popular for surfing and other water based activities, whilst the sand dunes at Constantine Bay are managed for golf. Prideaux Place with its grand Elizabethan Manor House and grounds on the very edge of this section of the AONB is registered as historic parkland and provides tranquillity in contrast to the flurry of outdoor activity towards the coast.

The slate geology of the area is reflected in the character of the housing. Many of the buildings from cottages to Victorian villas are built of slate and many of the surrounding stonewalls are predominantly slate built in the herringbone pattern of alternating diagonal courses so typical of the area. The walls that edge the lanes cut through solid bedrock, exposing the silvery slate have become colonised with ferns, wildflowers, grasses and brambles.

There is evidence in this section of prehistoric features ranging from cliff castles to barrows as well as examples of Romano-British rounds (settlements). Many of the small settlements in this area have place names beginning with 'tre' (meaning a farmstead or settlement) indicating early medieval origin and associated with the medieval enclosure pattern as seen in the landscape of this section of the Cornwall AONB.



Craggy rugged coast  
and  
silvery slates



## Management

- The National Trust manages west facing coastal land at Porthcothan Bay, Park Head and Bedruthan Steps.
- Padstow Town Plan and St Merryn Parish Plan have been prepared.
- The Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative aims to support RSPB targets for management to support farmland birds and Higher Level Stewardship is currently targeted at arable and grassland management to favour Corn Bunting.
- The Bedruthan Steps to Park Head SSSI includes a significant part of the AONB coast.
- Carnewas has recently been awarded 'Dark Sky Discovery' status in reflection of the lack of light pollution in this area.

## Condition

- Some holiday and visitor developments and infrastructure are intrusive by their location and design.
- Large influx of summer visitors arriving by car and commercial touring vehicles resulting in congested narrow lanes and pressure on sensitive habitats.
- Porthcothan is one of the few bay communities along this section of coast that has avoided significant commercial development.
- Some locally characteristic and protected habitats are fragmented.
- The sand dunes at Constantine are subject to scrub encroachment.
- Larger scale farming can compact the landscape increasing soil run off into the sea in adverse weather conditions.
- Lack of coastal grazing (as seen at Porthcothan) is allowing scrub encroachment and loss of biodiversity.
- Expansion of visitor facilities at some of the more popular coastal locations impacts upon the peace and tranquillity of the area.



# Carnewas to Stepper Point Local Policies

- CSP4.01 Seek restoration of the quiet rural character of locally distinctive lanes, by reduced signage, lighting, noise and by traffic reduction measures, for example, better routing for touring coaches and commercial vehicles and seek a reduction in car parking provision close to the coast.
- CSP4.02 Seek the conservation and enhancement of the undeveloped character of the coast at Bedruthan Steps, Porthcothan Bay, Stepper Point and Park Head and keep free from intrusive development and tall structures.
- CSP4.03 Encourage the enhancement of the coast around Constantine Bay, St Merryn, Mother Ivey's Bay, Harlyn, Treyarnon and Trevone, towards having a more undeveloped character.
- CSP4.04 Support a local partnership approach including the local community, parish councils, farmers, land owners, stakeholders and agencies to better manage the competing demands that impact on the rich natural environment and natural beauty of the section.
- CSP4.05 Support, through a landscape scale approach, measures to restore and connect locally significant BAP habitats and to increase their protection from visitor pressures. These include: reed beds and rivers; lowland meadows; coastal heath and rough ground; maritime cliffs and slopes; lowland heathland and coastal sand dunes such as at Constantine Bay.
- CSP4.06 Support the continuation and appreciation of surf culture in the area at Constantine Bay and Harlyn. Support associated proposals that can be sensitively accommodated into the landscape and that conserve and enhance the landscape character and natural beauty of the area.
- CSP4.07 Help to support coastal management, which promotes natural processes wherever possible and support initiatives with communities that consider the long-term future of coastal areas e.g. Harlyn Bay 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 'managed realignment' as identified in the shoreline management plan where they conserve or enhance the landscape character and natural beauty of the AONB.
- CSP4.08 Seek improved management of coastal habitats via appropriate measures such as grazing.
- CSP4.09 Seek a reduction of landscape, car parking and visual impacts of tourism including better integration of existing holiday sites and visitor infrastructure. Have regard to increase in scale, massing, associated development and respecting local character in external works, landscaping, and site design for example at Mother Ivey's Bay, Harlyn and Treyarnon.
- CSP4.10 Seek to maintain the current low levels of light pollution across the section, in order to maintain dark night skies and to support the 'Dark Sky Discovery' area at Carnewas.

# 5 St. Agnes

## Location

This section of the AONB is situated on the north Cornwall coast and forms a narrow strip of land just half a kilometre wide at its most northerly point broadening to a kilometre wide at St Agnes Beacon and stretches from the southern edge of Perranporth to the north-eastern edge of Porthtowan.

## Extent

The total area of this coastal strip is approximately 6.3 square kilometres; this is the smallest section of the AONB and is dominated by the famous St Agnes Beacon.

## Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA12 St Agnes; CA14 Newlyn Downs; CA15 Newquay and Perranporth Coast.

# Statement of Significance

The dominant feature of this area is large granite intrusion that forms the distinctive St Agnes Beacon, which rises from the surrounding undulating coastal plateau (formed of slate killas) to a height of approximately 90 metres

above sea level. The plateau itself is dissected by small streams flowing to the north coast and outcrops of craggy grey cliffs that slant away from the sea with wide expanses of sandy beach revealed at low tide.

The underlying geology is coursed with rich mineral veins that gave rise to extensive mining during the 17th, 18th and 19th century, an industry which thrived on the strength of the high quality tin, copper, lead and iron available in the St Agnes area. Local tradition boasts that 'St Agnes produced the finest tin in Cornwall'.

A new harbour constructed in 1798 supported a fishing industry and allowed for the export of copper ore and the import of coal from south Wales for the smelters at the mines and later, during the 19th century, as a hub for pilchard fishing. Piles of huge granite blocks in Trevaunance Cove, visible at low tide are all that remains now of the old harbour which collapsed in a storm in the early 1900s.

Many remnants of the former mining industry including engine houses, chimneys, spoil heaps and shafts are scattered across the coastal landscape. Large expanses of rocky bare ground, stained rust red with iron ore still exist at Cligga Head, Trevaunance Cove, Wheal Kitty, Higher Bal and atop Mulgram Hill, overlooking Chapel Porth. The Wheal Coates engine house, poised on the edge of the heathland-clad coastal slope above Chapel Porth is viewed against breath-taking expansive coastal views and is widely recognised as an iconic image of the Cornish coast.

The general character and attraction of this area is its open and exposed landscape with very limited tree cover. The openness of the cliff-top landscape reveals extensive areas of coastal

St Agnes Beacon - Alan Barker



heathland that are exposed to the worst of weathers, this being further evidenced by the windblown heather. Areas that were previously disturbed by mining activity are now colonised by this heathland, which provides a contrast with the complex pattern of regular but small-scale enclosures of former miner's smallholdings so typical of the mining landscapes of Cornwall.

Between the fields and across the heathland there are numerous old mining tracks, which are still in regular use providing a network of informal access paths. The Cornish hedges which criss-cross the land consist mainly of rubble stone from local killas with mineralised mine spoil, providing a valuable habitat for both native flora and fauna.

Whilst the mining industry has carved its shape on the historic landscape of St Agnes, there are other historic remains including ancient burial mounds, which date back to the Bronze Age as well as the Bolster Bank earthwork providing evidence of an early Iron Age settlement. More recent 20th century activity includes the runways and dispersal point of the World War II airfield on the cliff tops east of Trevellas.

Nowadays, St Agnes is a hotspot for landscape inspired arts and craft (and craft ales) and the village has many shops and galleries whose wares reflect the exceptional nature of the AONB landscape, coast and seascape. Every year in May, the Bolster festival takes place on the stunning cliffs at St Agnes' Chapel Porth beach. It tells the tale of the Giant Bolster who, having ravaged the locality and terrified the locals, is finally brought his comeuppance by a fair village maiden. In addition, the St Agnes Carnival is the highlight of the village social calendar with fancy dress abound, dating back well over a hundred years, to the time when the village streets would have been lined with miners and fishermen, bal-maidens and fishwives.

# Streets lined with miners, fishermen, fishwives and bal-maidens



## Management

- The National Trust manages St Agnes Beacon, plus a coastal strip from Tubby's Head through to Wheal Coates, Chapel Coombe and Wheal Charlotte north of Porthtowan.
- St Agnes Parish are in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- Perranzabuloe Parish Council prepared a Management Strategy for Cligga Head with the AONB Unit in 2009.
- Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscapes World Heritage Site is contiguous with the majority of this Cornwall AONB section.
- A St Agnes Conservation Area Appraisal (conservation and enhancement of local settlement character) has been produced.
- Much of the heathland and historic features are within land covered by the Higher Level Stewardship agri-environment scheme.
- St Agnes Voluntary Marine Conservation Area was established in 1997.
- The AONB area falls partially within the Godrevy Head to St. Agnes SSSI.

## Condition

- Existing and more recent development on the north side of the beach at Porthtowan is out of character as is more recent development at Trevaunance Cove (materials used, scale, massing and design).
- Property development at St Agnes has extended beyond the local characteristic valley settlement pattern and is now beginning to impact upon the setting of the AONB.
- Overhead power lines are intrusive in locations such as St Agnes Beacon, around Beacon Drive and towards the coast at Chapel Porth.
- Perranporth airfield (partially in the AONB) includes visually intrusive features and can impact upon the tranquillity of the area.
- Instability of some existing mining structures resulting in progressive deterioration.
- Evidence of fly tipping, 'off-roading' and general anti-social behaviour at Cligga Head.
- Footpath erosion on coastal heathland from over use of unmarked routes at Trevellas Coombe, Chapel Porth and Porthtowan.
- Re-established broadleaved woodland in sheltered valleys dominated by sycamore in the absence of local native tree seed sources.
- Coastal heathland in varying condition with some areas displaying serial succession of scrub vegetation.



St Agnes, Chapel Porth

# St Agnes Local Policies

- 
- SA5.01 Support measures to visually enhance existing development and car parking, for example at Porthtowan and Trevaunance Cove so that this becomes more in keeping with local character in materials, scale and design. Require all new development, including replacement dwellings, to respond appropriately to the sensitivity and capacity of the landscape by conserving and enhancing the landscape character and natural beauty of the area.
  - SA5.02 Support initiatives to conserve engine houses, other mining structures and features and smallholders field patterns that are significant in the historic mining landscape. Important sites include Wheal Kitty, Wheal Charlotte, Polberro, Blue Hills and Wheal Coates.
  - SA5.03 Seek a reduction in the visual impact of overhead cables by undergrounding for example across the Beacon and around Beacon Drive.
  - SA5.04 Seek the restoration and enhancement of the expansive openness of the coastal plateau and Beacon to keep free from intrusive development and tall structures.
  - SA5.05 Support measures to minimise footpath erosion of coastal heathland and soils at the north edge of Porthtowan, around Chapel Porth, Trevellas Coombe and Cligga Head.
  - SA5.06 Effectively manage anti-social behaviour and impacts at Cligga Head, such as fly tipping and off-road vehicle use.
  - SA5.07 Seek protection of the setting of St Agnes Beacon by conserving the extent and character of the surrounding farmland for example between it and the existing settlement edge of St Agnes, Goonvrea and smaller groupings of dwellings, in order to protect the landscape integrity of this key landscape feature.
  - SA5.08 Encourage the sympathetic management of Perranporth Airfield, for example by improvement of boundary features and sensitive siting and design of airfield infrastructure.
  - SA5.09 Support the integrated management of historic landscape and habitats building on existing National Trust, World Heritage Site and Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative aims. These habitats include: lowland meadows, post-industrial habitats, maritime cliff and slopes, lowland heathland and native broadleaved valley woodlands.
  - SA5.10 Support the St. Agnes Marine Conservation Group and the continuation of the St. Agnes Voluntary Marine Conservation Area to protect and conserve; raise awareness and increase understanding; and encourage education and research of the St. Agnes marine environment.
  - SA5.11 Seek a reduction in landscape and visual impacts of tourism including better integration at existing holiday sites, caravan parks, holiday infrastructure, signage and car parks. Have particular regard to the increase in scale, massing and associated development and respecting local character in external works, landscaping, site design and layout at Trevellas Coombe, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes Head, Cligga Head and Chapel Porth.

# 6 Godrevy to Portreath

Also known as 'North Cliffs'

## 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 Tregea Hill, extending from Portreath in the east to the Red River to the south and west.

## Extent

The total area is approximately 650 hectares (just under 6.47 square kilometres) and constitutes one percent of the Cornwall AONB.

## Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA11 Redruth Camborne and Gwennap; CA 28 North Coast – Reskeadge Downs.

# Statement of Significance

Locally, this stretch is referred to as 'North Cliffs' and is best known for 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. In stark contrast, just inland, the terrain turns from coastal heath to more recently enclosed farmland and further on to a quiet wooded valley. The mainly inaccessible coves provide critical habitat for grey seals, which can be readily seen from the cliff tops above.

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 off 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.

The headland at Godrevy contains important archaeological remains from the Mesolithic

period onwards with evidence of various settlements.

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.



1.

## Management

- 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.
- Gwinear-Gwithian and Illogan are currently in the process of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- Cornwall Council manages Tehidy Country Park providing educational and environmental activities.
- The Towans Partnership provides a forum to discuss and address local issues including those within the AONB.
- Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative aims to link up non-designated sites (broadleaved valley woodlands).
- The AONB coastline is included in the Godrevy Head to St Agnes SSSI.
- Cornwall Council owns and manages St Gothian Sands Local Nature Reserve on the western boundary of the Red River.



2.



1. Hell's Mouth
2. Tehidy Country Park

## Condition

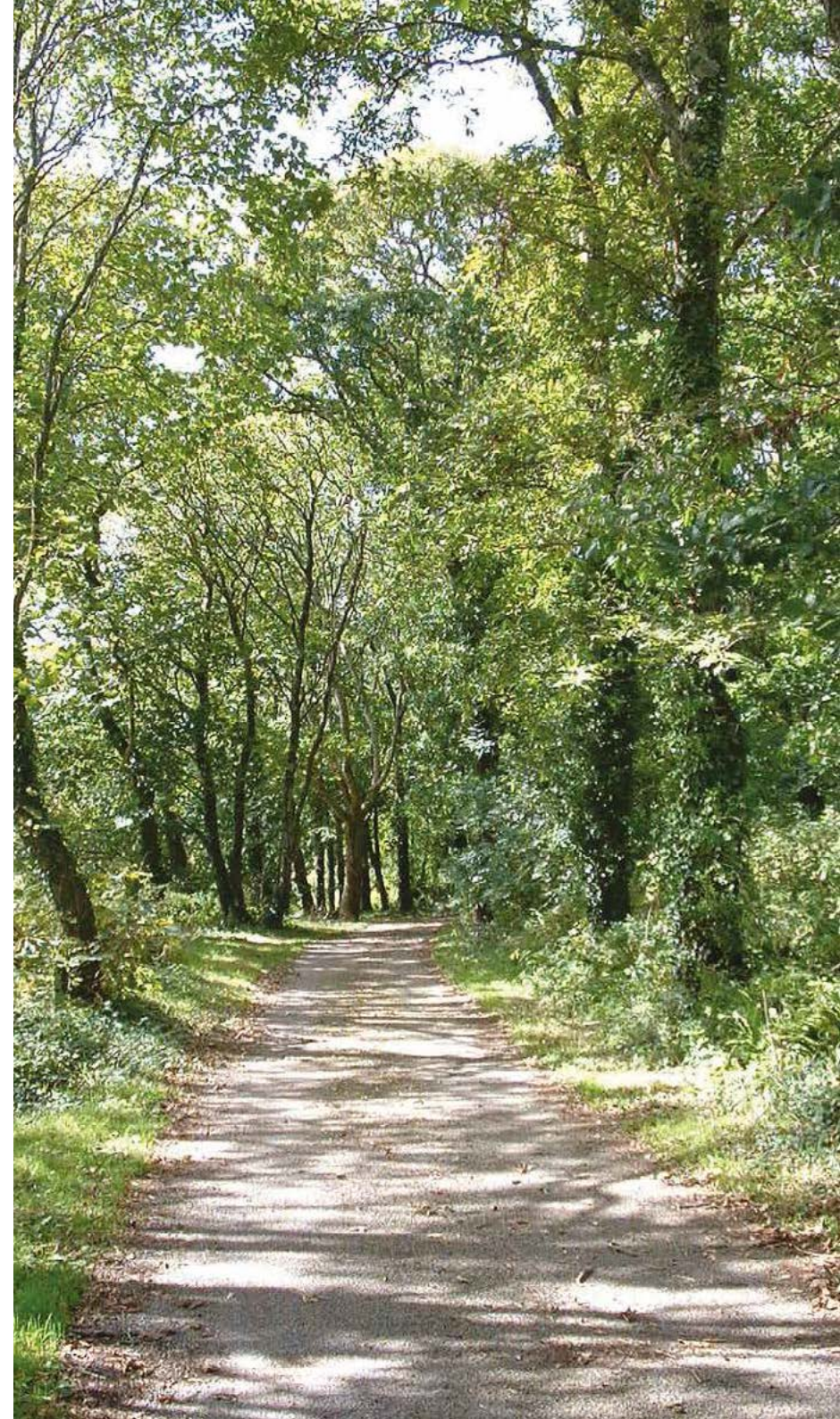
- Some existing visitor development within the AONB at Godrevy and Hell's Mouth is out of character.
- The access road to the car park at Godrevy Point is vulnerable to further coastal erosion and has the potential to be severed over the lifetime of the Plan.
- The Red River Valley outside the Tehidy Country Park requires effective management to avoid colonisation by sycamore.
- The Godrevy to Portreath section of the AONB benefits from the greatest proportion of SSSI land in 'favourable' condition.
- Invasive scrub growth on coastal rough ground.
- 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.



1.

1. Male, female and juvenile seals near Godrevy - Sue Sayer [www.cornwallsealgroup.co.uk](http://www.cornwallsealgroup.co.uk)  
2. Tehidy Woods

2.





# Godrevy to Portreath Local Policies

- GP6.01 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.
- GP6.02 Encourage better 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 (CPIR) and Hayle.
- GP6.03 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.
- GP6.04 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.
- GP6.05 Support the removal of the car park at Godrevy Point in the light of the anticipated future severance of the access road by the sea and restore the headland to natural coastal habitats.
- GP6.06 Seek improvement in the landscape integration of all locations used for visitor car parking including those at Godrevy and along the B3301 and North Cliffs.
- GP6.07 Seek 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.
- GP6.08 Increase awareness and promote a sense of ownership and responsibility for the AONB among the communities of nearby settlements including Camborne, Pool, Redruth, Illogan, Hayle, and Portreath.
- GP6.09 Support measures to reduce anti-social behaviour such as littering, fly tipping, camping, fires and dumping of cars at coastal car parks such as Tehidy North Cliffs, Godrevy and smaller informal parking along the B3301.
- GP6.10 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.
- GP6.11 Encourage measures to sensitively manage the seal haul at Godrevy, balancing people’s enjoyment and education against disturbance to the seals, working with the Cornwall Seal Group.
- GP6.12 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.
- GP6.13 Encourage the growth of Portreath to meet local needs in ways that do not adversely impact upon the AONB and its setting. Guard against cumulative impacts of development on the valley side, west of the A3301, within the AONB including the infilling of gaps between existing individual dwellings, which are themselves already adversely impacting upon the AONB in terms of scale, siting, design, massing and materials.



*Godrevy Lighthouse - Ben Church*

# Unrelenting power of the Atlantic



# 7 West Penwith

## Location

This section of the AONB includes the most westerly stretch of the Cornwall peninsula, extending from the western edge of St Ives around Cape Cornwall and inland to include the central Penwith Hills (also referred to as the downs or moors). From Sennen Cove and Land's End the AONB narrows and the A30 forms the inland boundary. On the south coast of the Peninsula, the AONB remains mostly south of the B3315 extending east to Penlee Point on the Penzance side of the coastal village of Mousehole.

## Extent

Covering approximately 14,000 hectares or just less than 139 square kilometres, West Penwith forms 15 percent of the overall designated area of the Cornwall AONB.

## Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA01 West Penwith South (Land's End to Newlyn); CA02 West Penwith North and West Coastal Strip; CA03 Penwith Central Hills; CA04 Mount's Bay.

# Statement of Significance

The ancient landscapes of West Penwith have a unique character, shaped by its granite geology and geographical position at the end of the land – exposed to the full force of the Atlantic Ocean. The hard granite coastline has been sculpted by wind and weather into a sequence of headlands punctuated by substantial cliff chasms or 'zawns'. The Penwith Central Hills, locally known as the Penwith Downs, form a granite spine along the northern part of the peninsula, stretching in an arc from Trencrom and Rosewall Hills (237m) in the east, to the highest mid-point of Watch Croft (252m) near Morvah, diminishing at the small rounded hill of Carn Brea in the west. Further west, the AONB boundary narrows, as it rounds the very tip of the Peninsula, past Sennen and Land's End, then hugs the coast south of the A3315 and is comprised of the more sheltered landscapes that address Mounts Bay.

The north coast of West Penwith comprises a series of headlands and coves that form a continuous sequence from Carrick Du, west of Pothmeor Beach at St Ives to the mining landscapes of the Pendeen and St Just. Here, the coastal plateau forms a narrow shelf-like band that gently slopes toward the cliffs, bordered and defined at its inland edge by the sharp transition to the steep sides of the Central Hills. The Central Hills offer shelter to the mainland area of Cornwall beyond West Penwith by providing a barrier to the worst of the Atlantic storms; the open elevated moorland is interspersed with outcrops of granite such as Zennor Carn, Carn Galva and Rosewall Hill whilst the small hill of Trencrom, topped with tors forms an

outlier to the east. The moorland vegetation consists of western heath intermixed with gorse, hawkweeds, scabious and fine grasses. By contrast the areas of wet heath are populated with purple moor grass, cross leaved heath and western gorse.

The north coast is particularly distinctive for its intricate network of tiny irregular pasture fields bound by granite Cornish hedges, which are prehistoric in origin and deemed by many to be among the oldest surviving man-made structures that have been in continuous use for their original purpose since they were made, many being older than the Egyptian pyramids. Cornish hedges in West Penwith have a construction markedly different from elsewhere in Cornwall. Large granite boulders, or "grounders" act as a foundation for irregular upper courses of varying sizes of weathered granite taken straight from the surface of the moor. Some have little vegetation other than perhaps a sparse topping whilst others support windswept and gnarled thorn bushes.

Apart from scattered farmsteads, the two small north coast villages of Zennor and Morvah provide easy access to the popular routes of the South West Coast Path, the Tinner's Way and the Coffin Trail. Smaller hamlets are found along the dramatic and stunning coast road, the B3305, such as at Rosemergy and Porthmeor. The main road through these places becomes characteristically narrow and winding. Zennor, with its 13th Century pub and Church, museum and association with the legend of the mermaid of Zennor is a popular tourist destination.

Further west, a linear pattern of housing, mostly

terraced cottages has developed along the coastal road such as at Pendeen and Trewellard, with the older medieval town of St Just with its twin squares providing most local facilities. The traditional buildings, houses and farmsteads are of local vernacular, granite construction.

The archaeological interest in West Penwith is of international importance. The range of archaeological relics ranging from Neolithic quoits (tombs), standing stones from the Bronze Age such as the stone circle at Tregeseal and the well-known 'Men-an-Tol' near Carn Galva, bear testament to early human settlement together with the notable remains from the Romano-British period at Chysauster, near Nancledra and Carn Euny to the extreme west of the Central Hills. The rocky headland at Gurnard's Head and Bosigran also provide evidence of Iron Age cliff castles. This wild landscape has a powerful sense of place largely due to the absence of 21st century pressures and provides inspiration for many writers and artists.

The whole area is famed for its past of hard metal mining, particularly on the north coast from the Cot Valley at St Just and at Pendeen where relics of the mining industry are very evident. Here, the prehistoric fields are littered with redundant mine buildings old waste heaps and fenced off shafts, a legacy of the 19th Century. Just outside Pendeen lies Geevor Tin Mine, which is preserved as a working mine and is a key tourist site. This area forms the core of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site in Penwith. The Cot and Kenidjack valleys form breaks in the otherwise elevated coastline with both valleys revealing extensive evidence of the former mining industry.



Lanyon Quoit - Alberto Bonomini

Large areas of these valleys are now colonised by invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and bracken with many mineshafts hidden beneath.

North of Land's End is the popular Whitesand Bay stretching for one mile between the headlands of Pedn-mên-du and Aire Point. At high tide the beach, a popular surf spot, is divided into two with Sennen Cove beach to the south and Gwynver beach to the north bounded by 38 hectares of stabilised sand dunes. The dunes contain the only British population of a shield bug which was first recorded in 1864 and is associated with sparsely vegetated areas of loose sand.

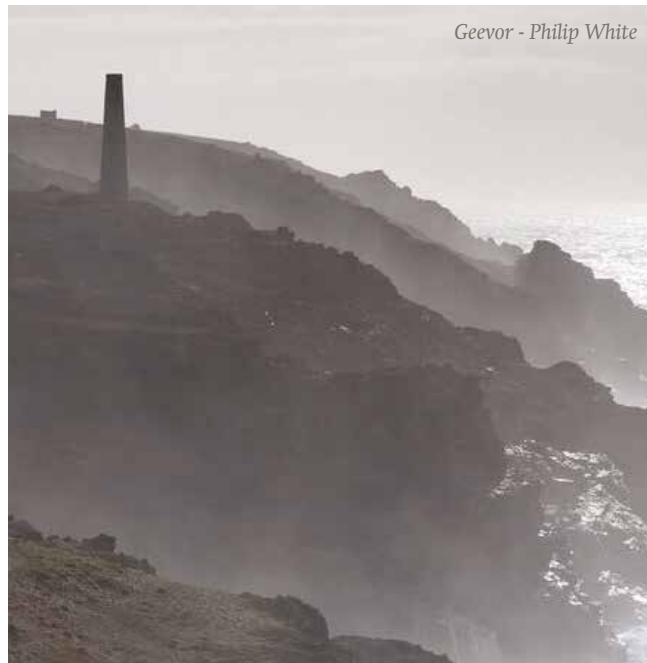
A short walk west out of Sennen, past accessible granite cliffs, a popular spot for climbers, brings you to the actual Land's End, otherwise known as The Peal where a finger of sharp, craggy granite called the Longships dips in to the sea where is mounted the Longships unmanned lighthouse. The western exposure of jointed granite cliffs from Land's End to Gwennap Head is the most westerly point of England.

Apart from the prominent tourist facility at Land's End, visitor infrastructure past Sennen is low-key, although the Land's End Airport has recently undergone some expansion. Upland areas are almost devoid of settlement with most dwellings built in the sheltered south east of the downs.

The south coast of the peninsula is undulating but still has a rugged and indented coastline with many headlands and small coves with slipways providing access for fishing boats such as at Porthgwarra, Penberth and Lamorna Cove. The granite cliffs provides a dramatic setting for the open-air Minack Theatre set on the

headland high above Porthcurno beach with its impressive backdrop of Mounts Bay and the distinctive silhouette of Logan Rock. There is a distinctive and regular pattern of narrow linear valleys with small streams running north-west to south-east draining towards Mounts Bay.

On the sheltered cliff land between Mousehole and Lamorna, remnant small horticultural fields grow daffodils and potatoes. These fields date back to the late 19th century and were cultivated to take advantage of the low sun angles to hasten the growing season. Many of the field boundaries have now been removed to provide access for modern planting and harvesting machinery, resulting in the historic character of the small irregular field system being largely erased. The largest settlement in this area is Mousehole, a very popular tourist destination where summer visitors flock to see its historic working fishing harbour and its cluster of granite cottages along winding narrow streets providing a picture postcard setting.



## Management

- Stage 1 of the Penwith Landscapes Partnership Scheme has been agreed by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project aims to support the farming and tourism economy of the area via improvements to the management, access and interpretation of the cultural and natural heritage of Penwith.
- The National Trust manages significant and extensive coastal and inland properties around Zennor, St Levan and St Just including many of the coastal mining features.
- St Ives and Ludgvan are preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- Parish Plans exist for: St Levan, Zennor, St Buryan, Sancreed, Sennen and Madron.
- The Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site designation includes sites at Geevor, Botallack and Levant along the western coast.
- Active granite quarrying operations in elevated land at Castle-an-Dinas and operations at Penlee quarry (close to the AONB at Newlyn) are controlled under the Review of Mineral Planning Permissions.
- The St Just Heritage Area Regeneration Project has led to the successful physical regeneration of St Just town centre and stabilisation of selected prominent historic mine buildings and sites of interest.
- Countryside Stewardship in 2016 replaces Entry and Higher Level Stewardship schemes

which replaced the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). The way the agri schemes are targeted and low uptake in Penwith could leave important habitats and historic features unmanaged.

- Natural England has prepared a ‘vision for the Moors and other related land in West Penwith’, Cornwall to secure agreement between stakeholders and agencies on integrated management of habitats and historic landscapes whilst maintaining the downs as a grazed landscape.
- The Wild Penwith initiative promoted by Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) is a landscape scale initiative for a management of a variety of habitats and for enhancing water quality across West Penwith.
- Cornwall Council’s Historic Environment Service publications, *The Archaeology of the Moors, Downs and Heaths of West Cornwall* and *Managing the historic environment on West Cornwall’s rough ground*, provide excellent guides.
- A Special Area of Conservation has been proposed for the area along the west Penwith coast from Lands End in the south, extending past Cape Cornwall to just east of Gurnards Head. The designation is proposed for the submerged reefs.
- Historic England manages the ancient Iron Age settlement of Chysauster.
- The sea at Land’s End (Running Stone) has recently been designated a Marine Conservation Zone.

- A Coastal Communities Team has now been formed at Porthcurno to support regeneration projects in the area.

## Condition

- Whilst the majority of visitor infrastructure is low-key, that at Sennen and particularly Land’s End is visually intrusive.
- Castle-an-Dinas quarry supplies granite for road aggregate and hedging and has a significant visual impact on the horizon. Although operations are largely screened from external views there are still some unnatural landforms associated with tipping and stock piling.
- Some historic mining structures remain un-stabilised and are at risk of further deterioration namely; Rosewall and Ransom, Wheal Sisters, Ding Dong, Gurnard’s Head, Wheal Hearle, Leswidden chimney, Speare Consols, Carnyorth, Wheal Call, Cot Valley, Portheras, Porthmeor, Bosigran, Wheal Cleveland and Rosevale.
- Some of the infrastructure developed through the St Just Heritage Area Regeneration project has suffered from vandalism and resources for ongoing maintenance is a problem.
- In the south, some agricultural land has seen localised but significant change in layout to create efficiencies in farming through the removal of historic field hedges.
- Scrub encroachment on the moors with serial succession to bracken and woody vegetation is widespread and particularly evident at Rosewall Hill and Carn Galver impeding local access.
- Lack of woodland management along stream valleys has resulted in sycamore encroachment.
- In southern parts of west Penwith there has been significant loss of hedgerow elm due to disease resulting in loss of habitat and landscape character.
- The Grade II listed quay at Lamorna was significantly damaged during the 2014 winter storms and requires urgent attention and investment to prevent further deterioration.
- Further development of the Lands End Airport has the potential for visual impacts and impacts on landscape character and tranquility.

# West Penwith Local Policies

- WP7.01** Encourage coastal heathland restoration, for example at Sennen and Land's End.
- WP7.02** Support the sensitive management of well-used footpath routes, for example at Land's End and Sennen, and encourage the sensitive restoration and increase in use of the Tinner's Way.
- WP7.03** Encourage the sympathetic operation and progressive restoration of Castle-an-Dinas quarry in a manner that respects local landscape character, includes appropriate vegetation, appropriate final landform and permanent restoration of completed areas at the earliest possible stages. Support further measures to protect and enhance environmental and landscape quality when existing quarrying permissions are reviewed.
- WP7.04** Encourage the sympathetic management of Land's End Airport and ensure that development has appropriate regard to the rural character of the area and tranquillity is maintained.
- WP7.05** Seek the conservation and enhancement of the existing rural character of the B3306 and other roads in this area via sensitive design and minimal use/ decluttering of highway infrastructure. Discourage widening, straightening, re-routing, kerbing and enclosure of currently unenclosed sections.
- WP7.06** Improve traffic management on the coast road between St Just and St Ives (B3306), focusing on the promotion of sustainable modes of travel through West Penwith that encourage people to visit places along the route, instead of just driving through.
- WP7.07** Support an integrated approach to pro-active management of access on open access land, with the full involvement of landowners, stakeholders including the local community, users, Cornwall Council and other relevant public bodies to ensure a long term strategy for access management, built upon consensus.
- WP7.08** Support consideration of access improvements along old drove routes and tracks across the Penwith Downs, in a manner that respects these route's historic origins and local landscape character based on stakeholder and community support.
- WP7.09** Support the continuation of small-scale sustainable fisheries in order to conserve community vibrancy and the character of local coves such as at Porthgwarra, Lamorna, Penberth and Cape Cornwall.
- WP7.10** Seek the strongest possible recognition and protection of the ancient prehistoric field systems bound by granite Cornish hedges as valuable historic landscape features and support their ongoing conservation and management.
- WP7.11** Support integrated projects and take opportunities though planning to stabilise and repair engine houses and other mining structures that are significant in the landscape such as at Rosewall and Ransom, Wheal Sisters, Ding Dong, Gurnard's Head, Wheal Hearle, Leswidden chimney, Spearne Consols, Carnyorth, Wheal Call, Cot Valley, Portheras, Porthmeor, Bosigran, Wheal Cleveland, Rosevale, Geevor and Botallack.



# Wild dramatic landscape - powerful sense of place



- WP7.12** Support integrated management of the biodiversity and the historic landscapes of the Penwith Downs (also known as Penwith Moors) based on stakeholder and community support, through the Heritage Lottery Fund 'First and Last' - Penwith Landscapes Partnership Scheme.
- WP7.13** Encourage the productive management of woodlands for example at Lamorna, St Loy and Penberth valleys in a manner that is consistent with conserving and enhancing local landscape character and biodiversity.
- WP7.14** Encourage measures to safeguard and restore the Grade II listed quay at Lamorna in a manner that supports the purposes of the AONB designation.
- WP7.15** Provide full support to the Penwith Landscapes Partnerships Scheme to deliver a resilient living, working Penwith landscape where farming prospers while protecting natural resources, restoring habitat connectivity and enhancing archaeological heritage and ensure resources for project delivery.
- WP7.16** Seek a reduction in landscape and visual impact of tourism including better integration of existing holiday sites, visitor infrastructure, car parks and signage. For example infrastructure at Land's End and the car parks along the B3306 and at Sennen.
- WP7.17** Seek to promote neighbourhood planning as an approach to managing development in West Penwith, with the full engagement of towns and Parishes.

# 8 South Coast Western

## St Michael's Mount to the Helford Estuary and The Lizard

### Location

This section of the AONB is large, wide-ranging and diverse, extending from Marazion in the west to the outskirts of Falmouth (Maenporth) in the east and includes the entire Lizard Peninsula and the Helford Estuary.

### Extent

This is the second largest section of the Cornwall AONB comprising an area of 192 square kilometres (19,300 hectares).

### Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA04 Mount's Bay; CA06 Mount's Bay East; CA09 Helford Ria; CA07 South Lizard peninsula; CA08 North East Lizard Peninsula; CA09 Helford Ria; CA10 Carmenellis.

# Statement of Significance

Whilst this section of the Cornwall AONB is extensive, it falls into three distinct landscape areas and can be described separately notwithstanding that collectively the three areas form the South Coast Western section.

## St Michael's Mount to Halzephron Cliff

The coastal landscape in this area of the AONB has a soft profile and benefits from the protection offered by the Penwith peninsula against the full force of the Atlantic storms. The iconic rocky granite intrusion of St Michael's Mount dominates Mount's Bay with its cobbled granite causeway leading out to the Mount at low tide.

The coastline stretching east is low-lying with earthy cliffs of 'head' (periglacial debris); the coastal strip provides evidence of previous much higher sea levels with a much-eroded and softened cliff line lying inland of the coastal fields. The rich soils around Marazion and Perranuthnoe support a wide range of arable crops in medium and large fields with many hedges of tamarisk. Further east the land rises and form steep cliffs of metamorphosed Devonian slate, veined with quartz. Cudden Point is a significant coastal landmark whilst Trewavas Head and Rinsey Head are distinctive for outcroppings of granite with the derelict mine engine houses forming eerie silhouettes perched on the cliff top as the sea mist rolls in.

Between the rocky headlands are some fine stretches of popular south facing sandy beaches such as Praa Sands, Porthleven Sands and Gunwalloe beach. Pengersick Castle can be found between the villages of Germoe and Praa Sands; a fortified tower house dating back to the early 16th century, although documentary evidence exists that the site has been occupied by a castle since the 13th century. The castle is now a grade one listed building and rests on the site of a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Farmland in this area is of medium sized fields with irregular boundaries that are typical of early enclosure mixed with other more recently enclosed larger straight sided fields that exaggerate a sense of openness, as seen on the larger arable fields close to Porthleven. To the south east of Porthleven there is an extensive shingle beach forming the unique Loe Bar, which is backed by the waters of Loe Pool a freshwater lake fed by the waters of the River Cober. Loe Pool is an important freshwater coastal habitat with reed beds and sheltered woodlands stretching inland with fertile cultivated farmland on the surrounding valley slopes.

Many of the settlements around this area are linear in nature having evolved from hamlets at crossroads with small inns. Granite and slate killas are typical local building materials and settlements are linked by a network of many small lanes. Some more modern intrusive development has occurred in places. Porthleven forms the largest settlement having changed from a post-medieval fishing village to become a mineral port in the 19th century. Modern housing development has extended the

village in recent times and has now spread up the rounded hillsides behind the harbour. Other recent housing development can also be seen at Praa Sands and Perranuthnoe as well as in some of the small fishing coves. Praa Sands, with its wide sandy beach and popular beach bar is a tourist hotspot, popular with surfers. Due to its popularity with tourists, this section of coastline supports many touring caravan and camping sites significantly changing the character of the landscape in the summer months.

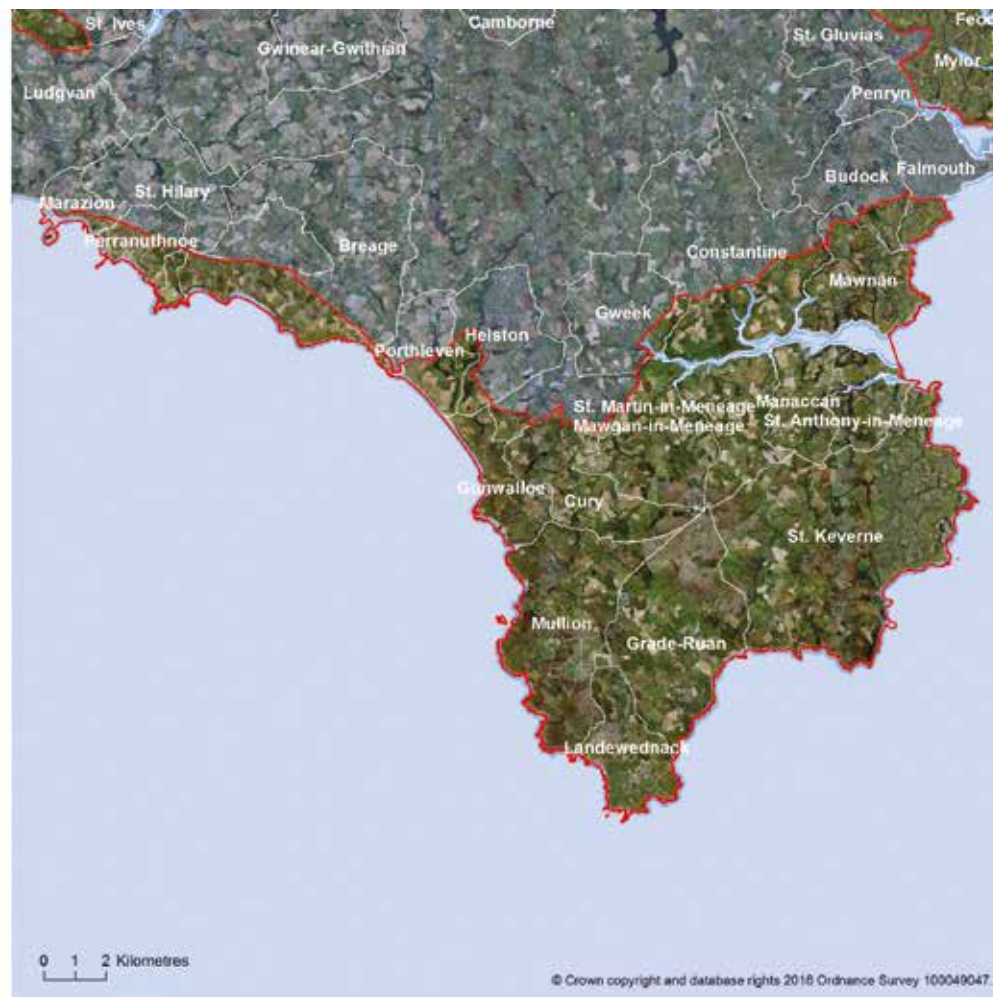


Cornwall AONB  
 Parishes boundaries and Names

## The Lizard Peninsula

The Lizard coast is comprised of tall cliffs with small coves beneath and is the most southerly point of mainland Britain where the distinctive towers of the Lizard Lighthouse warn of the hazardous waters off Lizard Point.

The geological variations of this peninsula have resulted in complex landforms. Inland of Gunwalloe and Mullion Cove there is a soft, undulating landscape spread over Devonian rocks with farmsteads and small hamlets interspersed with streams which reach the coast at Church Cove and Poldhu Cove. There are small pockets of woodlands on farms, which form a transition north-eastwards to the head of the Helford Estuary, which has a much more extensively wooded landscape. The elevated southeast plateau of the Lizard Peninsula is underlain with serpentine as can be seen from the outcrops at Kynance Cove. The landform to the west falls gently on the gabbro and hornblende schists toward the coast and is permeated with small streams, which have formed sheltered valleys along weaknesses in the rock.



The most southerly point of mainland Britain

The combination of geology, mild oceanic climate conditions and its southerly location has led to the development of a unique range of habitats with many rare species of local and national importance. There are significant areas of heathland/upland rough ground across Goonhilly Downs and on the west coast that are critically important from both historic and biodiversity perspectives. The Lizard National Nature Reserve stretches across nearly 2,000 hectares of the peninsula. The heathland, coastal cliff vegetation and temporary ponds are of international importance and accommodate a broad diversity of wildlife which thrives here, including especially rare and unusual plants. The wild, open nature of these expansive habitats is emphasised by the lack of tree cover with the exception of those found in the sheltered valleys and coves. Agricultural land is mainly pasture with some horticulture within small irregular enclosures of medieval origin, bounded by Cornish hedges, together with some larger, more regular fields of more recently enclosed land as the upland rough ground has been nibbled away.

Settlement is concentrated along the coast with villages such as Lizard Village, Coverack and Cadgwith which became established as fishing villages in late medieval times and in the 19th century when there was a buoyant pilchard fishing industry, nowadays, fishing tends to concentrate on crab and lobster. These villages are very popular with summer tourists providing a welcome seasonal boost to the local economy.

On the cliffs from Lowland Point to Porthallow are several large stone quarries

where excavations into the cliffs have significantly transformed the landscape of the area. The disused quarries have generally revegetated forming part of the cliff landscape although the possibility of future reworking exists due to long standing minerals permissions.

The Lizard has a strong sense of human history and evidence of long term human habitation in this area dates back to the Bronze Age. The upland rough ground at the coast and at Goonhilly Downs has a large concentration of ritual monuments, cairns, barrows and standing stones. In more recent times, this section has had a strong connection with the development of modern communications. The National Trust-owned Marconi Wireless Station at Lizard Point was where Guglielmo Marconi sent the world's first wireless broadcast. In another first for communications the BT Earth Station at Goonhilly is famed for receiving the first ever trans-Atlantic satellite TV images in 1962.

## The Helford River

A marked contrast to the landscape of the Lizard Peninsula, the Helford River is an area of great individual character and tranquil beauty. Rounded landforms slope to deep, narrow valleys with dense woodland of predominately sessile oak and it is one of the few places in England where the ancient woodland meets the sea. The romanticism and ambience of the river with its hidden creeks provided a perfect setting for the famous Daphne Du Maurier novel, Frenchman's Creek.

The Helford River forms a ria (drowned river valley) which resulted from the rise in sea level following the last Ice Age. The network of small creeks extends the river system for several kilometres inland. At high tide, the water reaches up to the very edges of the oak woodland whilst at low tide the exposed greyish mud completely transforms the scene as at Polwheveral and Port Navas creeks, providing a haven for wading birds and wildlife.

Settlements on the northern side tend to be concentrated around Helford Passage where there is an eclectic mix of both modern and traditional property. The river and its creeks present a considerable barrier to traffic from the north and south and the only link is by passenger ferry from Helford Passage to Helford Village.

The landscape on the southern side of the river has a quite different character from the north; the south tends to be more remote due to the natural river barrier and in recent years has seen less development retaining the parkland landscape of the Trelowarren Estate and other ancient farms.

As a result of the sheltered aspect of this landscape it provides the perfect growing conditions and climate for the exotic collections of trees and plants found at the large gardens of Trebah, Glendurgan and Bosloe including, rhododendron, camellias, magnolias, tree ferns and palms further contributing to the special sense of place experienced when visiting the Helford landscape. The stony National Trust-owned beach at Durgan is an excellent place to launch a canoe and explore the river.

The seaward opening of the Helford River is marked by Nare Point on the south and Rosemullion Head on the north. The shallow angled cliffs of the river mouth exposed to the open sea of Falmouth Bay continue to support areas of coastal heathland whilst the steeper cliff face near Mawnan Church provides a perfect habitat for mature ilex oaks and the more prominent higher ground to Monterey pines further adding to the diversity of woodland species found in this attractive landscape.

Although there are no large settlements within the Helford River area there are many scattered smaller ones with villages clustered around the creek heads and crossroads such as at Mawnan Smith. The village of Gweek at the head of the Helford Estuary was once an ancient tin mining port possibly used during the early Iron Age.

*St Michael's Mount - Alan Barker*





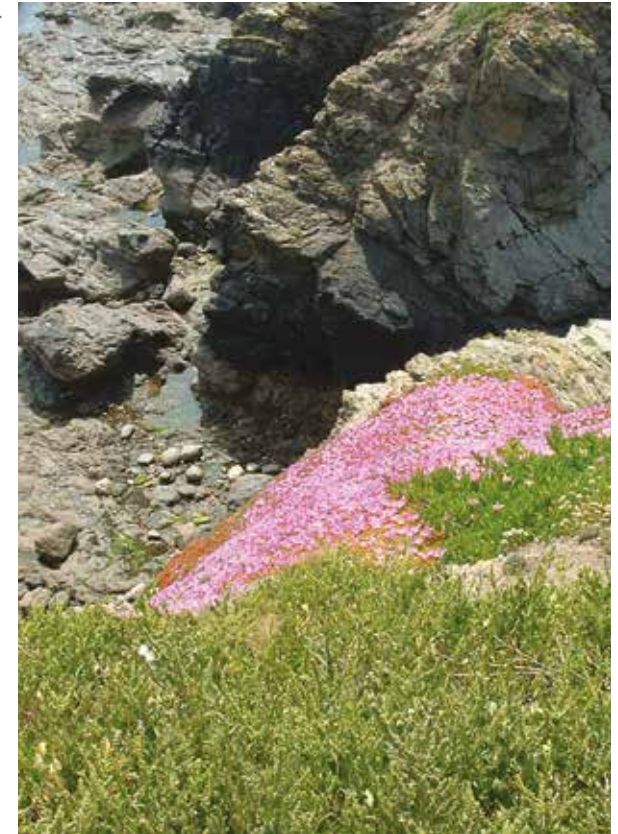
## Management

- National Trust manages significant land and property around the coast from St Michael's Mount, Rinsey, Penrose, Mullion and Poldhu, Predannack and Kynance, Lizard Point, Cadgwith to Poltesco and Coverack as well as the north side of the Helford. National Trust grazing schemes exist to tackle scrub encroachment on coastal heathland.
- The Loe Pool Forum (LPF) is an environmental partnership working to improve water quality and reduce flood risk in the River Cober catchment. Recent work with South West Water on upstream thinking within the Cober catchment have had a good influence and are improving water quality at Loe Pool.
- Porthleven Town Council and Perranuthnoe Parish Council are current preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- Parish Plans exist for; Cury, Grade Ruan, St Keverne, Manaccan and St Anthony, Mawnan and Mawgan-in-Meneage.
- Active quarrying operations are controlled under the terms of updated planning conditions approved under the 'Review of Mineral Planning Permissions'.
- The Linking the Lizard Partnership seeks to establish a landscape scale and co-ordinated approach to landscape and habitat management between the relevant partnership agencies and aims to extend the National Nature Reserve.
- This section contains the Lizard and the Fal & Helford Special Areas for Conservation and many SSSI's including Goonhilly Downs SSSI.
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust own and manage Windmill Farm Local Nature Reserve and have recently restored the historic stone windmill structure to include a small interpretation centre and viewing platform.
- Lizard Peninsula Heritage Trust has undertaken a survey of roadside heritage assets (milestones, fingerposts etc).
- Natural England manage the Lizard National Nature Reserve which includes much of Goonhilly Downs.
- Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative aims to include support for the Linking the Lizard Partnership and 'All of the Coast' habitat enhancements for birds.
- The Helford and Fal Estuaries are a recently designated Special Area of Conservation for their shallow inlets and bays; the designation also covers saltmarshes, intertidal mudflats and sub tidal sandbanks.
- The Manacles Marine Conservation Zone was designated in 2013 with two new MCZ's, The Western Channel, a large offshore area south east of the Lizard Peninsula and Mounts Bay both designated in 2016.
- The Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Area was designated in 1987.
- The Lizard coast from Gunwalloe Fishing Cove around Lizard Point to Carrick Luz near Kennack Cove is also a proposed candidate for Special Area of Conservation status in respect of the submerged reefs.
- The Welcome to 'Wild Lizard' tourism group champions sustainable tourism that promotes nature as key USP for the Lizard.

## Condition

- The satellite dishes and buildings at Goonhilly and the larger replacement wind turbines installed at Bonython wind farm have a far reaching visual impact across the local section and in particular impact upon the wild, remote and upland nature of Goonhilly Downs.
- The light pollution associated with Goonhilly Earth Station and RNAS Culdrose adversely impacts upon the tranquillity of the area.
- Airspace activities associated with RNAS Culdrose have significant impacts upon the enjoyment and tranquillity of the section.
- Recent housing developments and the replacement of individual dwellings at Porthleven and Perranuthnoe have had negative visual and character impacts.
- Caravan sites near the coast tend to be visually intrusive due to lay out and poor site design such as near Kennack Sands.
- Large-scale quarrying operations between Dean Point and Porthallow are poorly integrated into the surrounding landscape with potential future pressures anticipated on tranquillity, scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, flora and the adjoining Marine Conservation Zone.
- Future proposals for a super quarry including a breakwater at Dean Quarry have the potential for significant impacts upon the AONB.
- Future climate change effects such as rising sea levels could affect local harbours, fisheries and beaches such as Porthleven, Mullion, Gweek, Cadgwith and Coverack.
- Loe Pool is affected by 'run-off' from surrounding farmland as well as seasonal water level changes from the Helston flood alleviation scheme.
- Ancient sessile oak woodlands around Helford have fallen out of productive and economic management and sycamore has become more dominant in the natural regeneration of woodland.
- Significant loss through disease of hedgerow elm trees impacting on habitat connectivity and landscape character.
- Additional conifer plantations on the Lizard have resulted in adverse visual and character impacts upon the landscape.

2.



1. Goonhilly Downs - Sophie Hartfield  
2. Lizard Point  
3. Kynance Cafe



3.

# South Coast Western Local Policies

- SCW8.01 Seek, wherever possible, a reduction in the visual and landscape impact of the dishes, associated infrastructure and light pollution at the Goonhilly Earth Station and light pollution from RNAS Culdrose. Ensure that the proposals for alternative uses/ redevelopment of the Earth Station do not have an adverse impact visual or landscape character impacts and bring social and economic benefits to the local community.
- SCW8.02 Ensure that any new proposals for mineral extraction and quarrying, such as at Dean Quarry, do not adversely impact upon the scenic beauty, special qualities, landscape character and tranquillity of this section of the AONB and the Manacles Marine Conservation Zone.
- SCW8.03 Seek improved phased and final restoration at West of England quarry to final landforms and vegetation communities consistent with local landscape character including at the earliest possible stages, permanent, appropriate restoration along coast path routes and completed working areas. Support further measures to protect and enhance environmental quality when existing quarrying permissions are reviewed.
- SCW8.04 Encourage characteristic inclusion of local materials and vernacular design in new development, public realm, highways works and public rights of way infrastructure using granite, serpentine, gabbro and schists as appropriate to reflect the varied geodiversity of this section.
- SCW8.05 Seek a reduction in the visual impact of overhead cables by undergrounding in affected villages for example Porthleven, Mullion, St Keverne, Lizard, Gweek and Cury.
- SCW8.06 Support appropriate improvements to footpath access around the Helford River and its creeks with respect to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, provided that this does not encourage an increase in traffic levels or the provision of further car parks and that this conserves and enhances natural beauty. Support the Lizard pilot of the One Public Transport system for Cornwall as part of the devolution deal in order to reduce car usage.
- SCW8.07 Support appropriate improvements to coastal footpath access between Godrevy Cove and Porthallow provided that this respects local landscape character and conserves and enhances natural beauty.
- SCW8.08 Support the Linking the Lizard Partnership in its initiatives to integrate land management, farming and the conservation of biodiversity and historic environment together with the promotion of a vibrant local rural economy and community and support the complementary work of the 'Welcome to Wild Lizard' group who promote sustainable nature based tourism on the Lizard.
- SCW8.09 Support the continuation of small scale sustainable fisheries in order to maintain community vibrancy providing that enhances local character and conserves natural assets, for example at local coves such as at Porthleven, Mullion, Cadgwith, Coverack, Porthoustock, Porthallow and within the creeks of the Helford Estuary (provided that this does not impact upon the special features of the Special Area of Conservation).
- SCW8.10 Help to support coastal management which promotes natural processes wherever possible and support initiatives with communities which consider the long term future and value of coastal areas e.g. Marazion, Mounts Bay, Porthleven, Loe Bar, Praa Sands, Gweek, Cadgwith, Coverack, and Maenporth in respect to predicted effects of sea level rise and increased storminess. Seek to support the delivery of appropriate measures to hold the line where infrastructure such as sewage outfalls and roads need to be protected. 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 in this section.



- SCW8.11 Encourage the conservation and positive management of mining features that are outside of the World Heritage Site, south of the A394 around Perranuthnoe, Rosudgeon, Kenegy, Praa Sands and Porthleven.
- SCW8.12 Seek enhancement of the wider setting of St Michael's Mount including sea front car parking by design changes to layout, location, minimising infrastructure, enhanced boundary treatments, characteristic use of local materials in external works and appropriate vegetation.
- SCW8.13 Support the work of the Loe Pool Forum and encourage measures to improve water and habitat quality at Loe Pool by improved management of nutrients from diffuse pollution sources in the Cober catchment and the improved management of effluent from Helston and RNAS Culdrose sewage treatment works.
- SCW8.14 Support measures to improve water and habitat quality in the Helford by encouraging measures to reduce run off and nitrate input and improve the management of sewage.
- SCW8.15 Support conservation and enhancement of the character of the open heathland plateau including reduction of visual and landscape impacts from existing conifer plantations on Goonhilly Downs consistent with best practice. Where possible, this should be achieved by felling with restoration to open habitats balanced with equal or greater productive woodland creation using appropriate sites and species selected with regard to landscape character.
- SCW8.16 Support measures to extend the Lizard National Nature Reserve to incorporate County Wildlife Sites and National Trust and Cornwall Wildlife Trust holdings to increase the protection of the important habitats, species and geology across the Lizard.
- SCW8.17 Support the Helford Marine Conservation Group and the continuation of the Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Area to encourage engagement and involvement in enjoyment and sensitive use of the Helford Estuary Special Area of Conservation.
- SCW8.18 Seek reduction of landscape and visual impacts of tourism including better integration of existing holiday sites, visitor infrastructure, car parks and signage. Pay particular attention to respecting local character in external works, landscaping and site design and have particular regard to increase in scale, massing and cumulative development for example at Marazion, Perranuthnoe, Porthleven, Praa Sands, Mullion and Kennack Sands.
- SCW8.19 Take an inclusive approach to raising awareness of AONB issues on the Lizard that involves all the major stakeholders.



Coverack Harbour – Andrew Trenoweth

# 9 South Coast Central

## The Fal Ria and the Roseland

### 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.

### Extent

Covering an area of approximately 16,000 hectares or just less than 160 square kilometres, this area forms just over 16 percent of the entire Cornwall AONB.

### Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA 11 Redruth, Camborne and Gwennap; CA13 Fal Ria, Truro and Falmouth; CA16 Mid Fal Plateau; CA40 Gerrans, Veryan and Mevagissey Bays.

# Statement of Significance

There are two distinct landscape character types in this section of the AONB, the Fal Ria and the Roseland and whilst they are both complementary to each other, will be described separately below.

### The Fal Ria

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 seas, 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 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 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 Lanihorne, Calenick Creek, Old Kea and Feock. The villages on the eastern side of the ria retain the character of earlier settlements having developed around quays such as at Cowlands and St Just in Roseland.

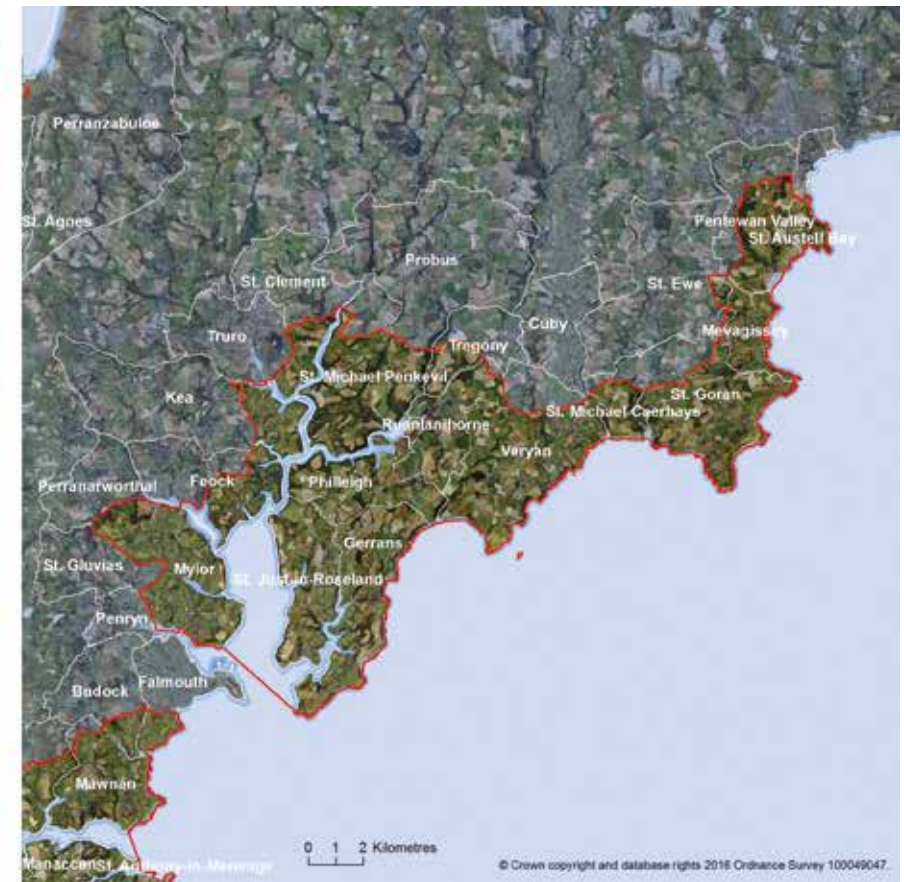
The ridges between the creeks are rounded with a medium-scale field pattern as evident in medieval times with farm holdings scattered throughout the area. The re-organisation of the field boundaries in the 18th and 19th century and the removal of hedge boundaries have provided a much greater sense of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

The sheltered microclimate of the creeks provide perfect growing conditions for more luxuriant plant life and the fine gardens and parkland of the National Trust gardens at Treliassick contain many delicate varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers. The River Fal below Treliassick 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. On the very rare occasion when the King Harry Ferry is not running the alternative route is a 42 km detour by road via the city of Truro.

## The Roseland & Mevagissey to St Austell Bay

The ridge which separates the Roseland from the Carrick Roads consists of a narrow strip of land barely half a kilometre wide between Zone Point and Gerrans Bay broadening 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. Further north, lays 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 in 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.



Mevagissey Inner Harbour - Graham Walker

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 more gentle undulating character.

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 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.

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. 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. 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.

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.



1. King Harry Ferry  
2. St Mawes Castle  
3. Lost Gardens of Heligan - Barnacle & Bird



## Management

- The National Trust manages significant and extensive sites around the coast of the Fal Ria at Trelassick, 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.
- 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 Laniorne and Philleigh. Mevagissey Parish Council is also preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- The Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative promotes 'All of the Coast' improvement for bird life and catchment area farming.
- The Helford and Fal Estuaries are a recently designated Special Area of Conservation for their shallow inlets and bays; the designation also covers saltmarshes, intertidal mudflats and sub tidal sandbanks.
- 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.
- Fal oysters are registered as a Protected Designation of Origin.
- Natural England consulted on the potential Special Protection Area (pSPA) for Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay in 2014.
- The local group 'Wild Roseland' has been established to deliver biodiversity projects flowing from the recent Roseland Neighbourhood Development Plan.

## Condition

- Holiday sites around Mevagissey, Gorran Haven and Pentewan 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.
- Replacement dwellings on creek sides, particularly around Restronguet, Mylor and St Just Parish have had adverse visual and character impact due to increase of scale, poor design and inappropriate use of non-vernacular materials.
- 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.

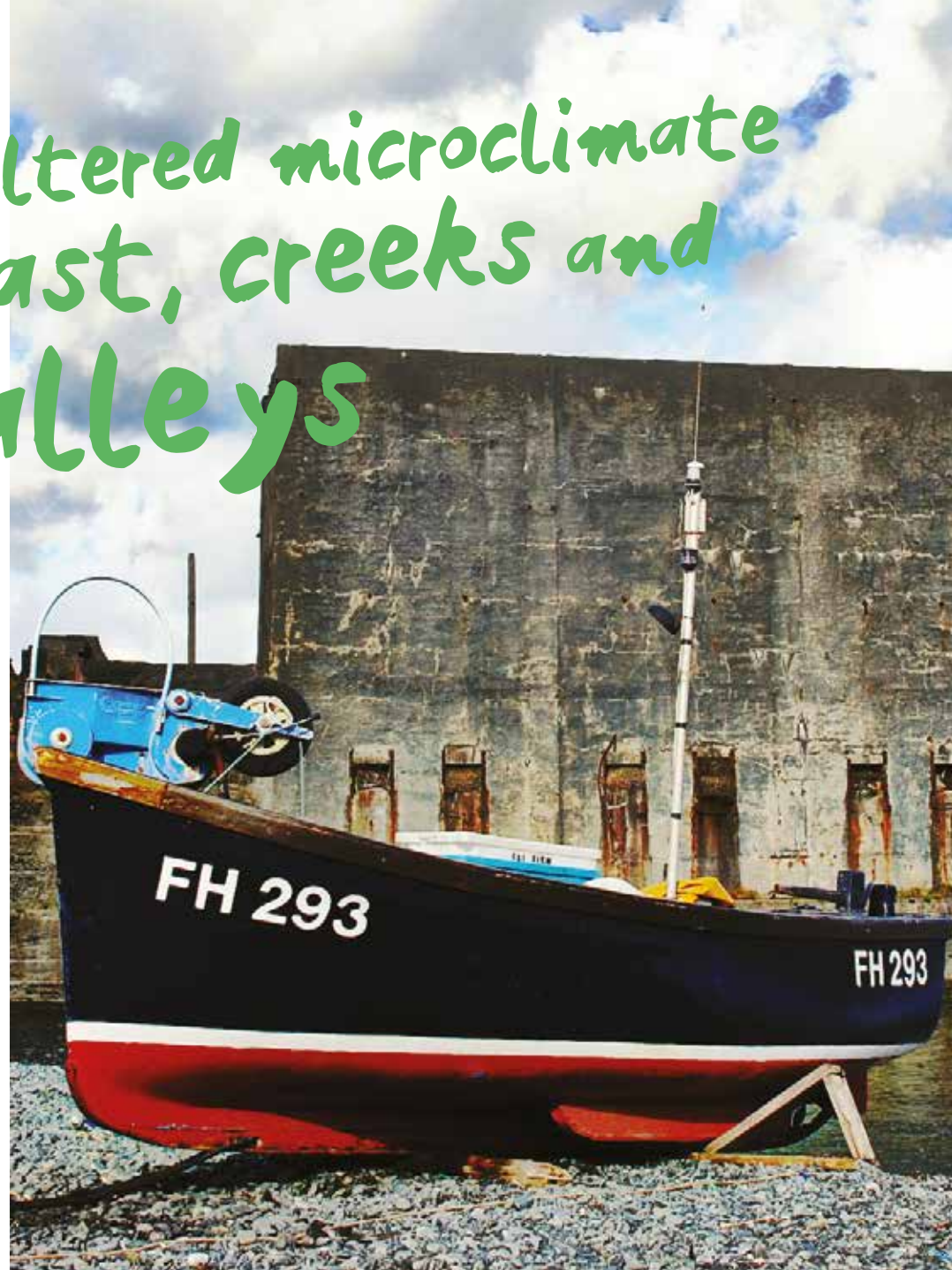
# South Coast Central Local Policies

- SCC9.01** Require consideration of the 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.
- SCC9.02** Promote 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.
- SCC9.03** Support 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, in particular supporting the Roseland pilot of the One Public Transport system for Cornwall as part of the devolution deal.
- SCC9.04** 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.
- SCC9.05** 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. 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.
- SCC9.06** Seek 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.
- SCC9.07** 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.
- SCC9.08** 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.
- SCC9.09** Support the use of the evidence base and policies in the Roseland Neighbourhood Development Plan to inform the preparation and consideration of

development proposals across the Roseland and support the use of other NDP's coming forward across South Coast Central, once adopted.

- SCC9.10** 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.
- SCC9.11** 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.
- SCC9.12** Support the continuation of small-scale, sustainable fisheries, such as 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.
- SCC9.13** 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 such as at Mevagissey, Gorran Haven and Pentewan.

# Sheltered microclimate coast, creeks and valleys



*Porthoustock - Hector Jourdan*

# 10 South Coast Eastern

## Fowey Ria and Polperro Coast

### Location

This section of the AONB consists of the Fowey Ria and its tributaries and extends south of Lostwithiel, west of Fowey over Gribbin Head to the coast near Par Sands and eastwards to Portlooe on the outskirts of west Looe. As with the South Coast Central section of the AONB, South Coast Eastern also has two distinct landscape character types, the River Fowey, which is primarily a ria landscape, and the open coastal areas that extend eastwards from Polruan to Portlooe. The coastal section also includes a small area of land west of Gribbin Head facing on to St Austell Bay and takes in the small coastal settlement of Polkerris.

### Extent

Covering an area of 4,600 hectares or just less than 29 square kilometres, it forms just under five percent of the Cornwall AONB.

### Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA 21 Fowey Valley; CA22 South East Cornwall Plateau; CA30 St Austell Bay and Luxulyan Valley.

# Statement of Significance

## Polkerris, Gribbin Head and the Fowey Ria

The approach to this section of the Cornwall AONB sees a marked change in character from that of the industrial, china clay related landscape of Par Docks and the busy nature of the holiday park at Par Sands in the setting of the AONB. East of Par Beach, the landform rises steeply marking the boundary of the AONB section. This elevated location, of the western headland of the Fowey Estuary offers extensive panoramic views inland along the Fowey Ria, across the adjacent Par Sands, across the St Austell and Mevagissey Bays and across to the distant coastline of the Roseland.

Stream valleys incise the coast east of Par, the first of these being home to the little village of Polkerris, with its intimate sandy beach and harbour. The Menabilly Valley, penetrating deep inland, forms its own small network of tributary stream valleys and the high ground inbetween, forms the promontory of Gribbin Head, with its beacon and distinctive red and white daymark. The Fowey area and particularly Menabilly, has deep cultural associations, not least because of its link to the famous writer, Daphne du Maurier, who lived at Point Neptune, near Readymoney Cove and at Menabilly (in Menabilly House). However the area also inspired the works of Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, Kenneth Grahame and Leo Walmsley. Each year Fowey hosts the Fowey Festival

of Words and Music, which is a significant cultural event in Cornwall's calendar.

The AONB landscape on the western slopes of the Fowey bordered by the B3269 offers glimpsed views of the estuary. Castle Dore on the ridge top above Golant is a well-preserved example of Iron Age defensive earthworks reputedly linked with the early kings of Cornwall. It was occupied between the fourth and first centuries BC and rebuilt around 50AD after the Roman Invasion of Britain.

Fowey has long been a strategic post with the fortification of St Catherine's Castle situated on the top of St Catherine's Point at the entrance to the River Fowey estuary. The castle was built by Henry VIII as an artillery fort to protect the estuary from the threat of a French invasion and the site also contains the remains of a prehistoric cliff fortification. The relics of 15th century blockhouses can also be found at both Fowey and Polruan. The larger settlements of the main town of Fowey and the villages of Polruan and Bodinnick cluster on the steep slopes on both sides of the ria and are connected by both a vehicle ferry from Bodinnick to Fowey and a passenger ferry from Polruan to Fowey. The main building material here is killas, reflecting the local geology, but a wide range of finishes and materials are used. Slate is the main roofing material.

The area around the Fowey River has steep enclosed slopes ending abruptly at the water's edge with gradients of 1:3 plummeting some 120 metres. Similar to the Fal and Helford, the creeks extend inland dissecting the landform with rounded exposed areas intermixed with a large



expanse of oak woodland. These woodlands are part of a medieval working landscape when the wood was used for fuel, charcoal, coppice wood and timber and the undergrowth would have been utilised for grazing with the oak bark providing an important component for the tanning industry. Much of this woodland has now fallen out of management.

The steep slopes surrounding the Fowey Ria give a strong sense of enclosure that is strengthened by the surrounding expanses of sessile oak woodland, much of it ancient, that embrace the estuary, clothing the shoreline and extending up the valley sides. Higher up the slopes and over the exposed rolling ridges are medium sized mixed arable and pasture fields with irregular boundaries indicating medieval origins. However, the dramatically varying gradients make the overall field pattern difficult to discern from most vantage points. In exposed higher ground and away from the creeks there are few trees although lower down some Cornish hedges support belts of trees that extend like fingers up the slopes from the main woodlands. On some slopes vineyards have been established adding a new texture amongst the more traditional agricultural uses. Designed ornamental landscapes occur for example the remains of Hall Walk at Bodinnick and Tivoli Gardens at Lerryn and exotic ornamental planting is a feature of some waters edges and settlements. Fowey is Cornish for 'river of beech trees', however these are more characteristic further upstream in the Bodmin Moor section of the AONB and it is on the heart of the moor that the river Fowey rises. Indeed, Bodmin Moor was formerly known as Fowey Moor.



Parishes boundaries and Names  
Cornwall AONB



The three largest creeks namely the Lerryn, Penpoll and Pont Pill all join the eastern side of the River Fowey. The upper sections of these creeks are, in the main, un-navigable due to the build-up of silt and mud and now provide important wildlife habitats. Lower down the creeks, summer sailors moor a wide range of yachts and boats along the river course, whilst closer to the coast, larger sea-going vessels navigate upstream to Fowey to load their cargo at the china clay rail terminus, an important activity within the locality. Around three quarters of a million tonnes of china clay is exported from Fowey annually. The product serves the paper industry in Norway, Sweden and Finland. It also supplies the ceramics industry in Egypt, Italy, Portugal and many other countries.

Away from the river valley much of the settlement tends to be scattered with rural farms and occasional small hamlets such as St Veep and Lanteglos high on the ridgeway. Access to much of the AONB, away from the main settlements, is restricted to a few small lanes and tracks and is best explored on foot.

## The Polperro Coast

Heading east, the coastline is characterised by its strong rolling landform with rounded convex slopes falling into incised valleys. Much of the open land on the ridges is generally in excess of 100 metres and is dissected by short coastal streams emerging at West Coombe, East Coombe, Polperro, Porthallow and Port Nadler. Due to the exposed nature of this coastal landscape there are few trees other than the larger valley running inland from Polperro to Crumplehorn, here there are areas of mixed and deciduous woodland, benefiting from the sheltered environment.

The cliffs are distinctive for their chamfered profile, covered in scrub, and a wide range of rough vegetation intermixed with wildflowers and grasses, providing important habitats for a range of wildlife. Between Black Bottle Rock in the west and Pencarrow Head in the east is the white sand and shingle beach of Lantic Bay, only accessible from the South West Coast Path.

Much of the land along this section of the AONB is in agricultural use with a mix of arable and pastoral farming in a medieval field enclosure system with medium sized fields. The narrow lane network connecting the farms with small hamlets are enclosed by high Cornish hedges of slate which are well vegetated and give the appearance of grassy banks. There are few villages along this section of the coast other than the small settlement of Lansallos Churchtown clustered around the head of a small valley leading down to Lantivet Bay and further east the much larger settlement of Polperro, a picturesque fishing village of slate cottages perched on steep sided slopes huddled around the sheltered historic harbour with its museum of fishing and smuggling, housed in an old fish processing house.

Due to the sparsely populated landscape and limited accessibility, much of this section of the AONB remains relatively free from development pressures, attracting mainly visitors who walk the South West Coastal Path.



Polperro Harbour

## Management

- The National Trust manages significant land around the Fowey Ria and along the coast. A pony-grazing scheme exists on coastal rough ground to control scrub.
- The Woodland Trust owns and manages Lantyan and Milltown woods.
- St Sampson, Lansallos, Lanlivery and Lanteglos Parish Plans and the Fowey Town Plan have been prepared.
- Fowey Town Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- The Fowey Estuary Partnership provides holistic management of the estuary, balancing tourism, commerce and leisure interests. It is run by the Fowey Harbour Commissioners bringing together a number of regulatory bodies, NGO's and interested parties on the basis of voluntary co-operation.
- The Fowey Estuary Management Plan 2012-2017 is a non-statutory document containing guidelines to inform and guide current and future management of the estuary.
- Lantic Bay is designated as a Special Area of Conservation.
- The Fowey Estuary Voluntary Marine Conservation Area (VMCA) prepared by the Fowey Estuary Partnership includes many of the important habitats in the upper reaches of the estuary.

- Friends of Fowey Estuary provide a focus for voluntary activities for the conservation of the estuary.
- Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative aims to include the 'Coast to Coast' linking of native broadleaved woodland and other river valley habitats from Fowey to the Camel Estuary via the periphery of Bodmin Moor.

## Condition

- Some recent development at Fowey, Polruan and Polperro extends outside characteristic settlement patterns.
- Some public realm and traffic management works in Fowey lack sensitivity to local character.
- Par Docks and its associated derelict infrastructure are visually intrusive on the setting of the AONB and provide opportunity to enhance the setting through redevelopment.
- Native broadleaved woodlands of the Fowey Ria are largely unmanaged.
- Many ancient broadleaved woodland sites have been planted with conifers resulting in fragmented habitat continuity.
- Unmanaged regeneration of scrub and woodland in coastal valleys between Polruan and Portlooe has, in places, allowed the establishment of non-native species.

Oak woodland embracing the estuary

# South Coast Eastern Local Policies

- SCE10.01 Promote the active consideration of landscape and visual impacts around the Fowey Ria, harbour and creeks of increasing or changing patterns of water based access, leisure and commercial activity and related infrastructure such as moorings, jetties, car parks and yards.
- SCE10.02 Support the further development of sustainable water based travel, integrated with other initiatives in South Coast Central AONB section that build on the existing ferry links between Fowey and Bodinnick and Fowey and Polruan.
- SCE10.03 Support the work of the Fowey Estuary Partnership in its aim to stimulate an appropriate balance between competing demands placed on the Fowey Estuary through shared information, co-operation and action, including seeking opportunities to implement the Fowey Estuary Management Plan and to support the continuation of the Upper Fowey and Point Pill Voluntary Marine Conservation Area designation.
- SCE10.04 Support communication of the implications of the Shoreline Management Plan to creek side and coastal communities within this section such as Polkerris, Lerryn and Golant in order to open an early dialogue about sea level rise and coastal change.
- SCE10.05 Support the wealth of cultural heritage around the Fowey and particularly its literary heritage, including the continued success of the Fowey Festival of Music and Words.
- SCE10.06 Support appropriate improvements to footpath access around the Fowey Ria and its creeks with respect to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provided that this does not encourage an increase in traffic levels or the provision of further car parks and that this conserves and enhances the natural beauty.
- SCE10.07 Support the continuation of small-scale, sustainable fisheries in order to maintain community vibrancy providing that this enhances local character and conserves natural assets, such as at Polperro, provided that this does not have adverse impact upon the Lantic Bay Special Area of Conservation.
- SCE10.08 Support the management and extension of sessile oak woodlands at the Fowey Ria and local valleys at Polridmouth, West and East Coombe, Polperro, Porthallow and Portlooe. Consider opportunities for planting of local provenance native tree species such as sessile oak, hazel and alder to act as a future seed source for native woodland establishment where this is currently absent or sparse to assist appropriate subsequent natural regeneration.
- SCE10.09 Seek a reduction in landscape and visual impacts of tourism including better integration of holiday sites, visitor infrastructure, car parks and signage. Have regard to the increase in scale, massing, cumulative development and respecting local character in external works, landscaping, site design and layout at Polruan, along the coast and around Polperro.
- SCE10.10 Seek the sensitive redevelopment of Par Docks in ways which enhance the setting of the AONB and celebrate the mining heritage at the western edge of this section.



# 11 Rame Head

Known as ‘Cornwall’s forgotten corner’

## Location

Situated in the extreme southeast of the Cornwall AONB, Rame Head is situated in a strategic position overlooking the mouth of the river Tamar, Plymouth Sound and the open sea of the English Channel. The section includes the 800-acre Mount Edgumbe Country Park as well as the 18th century fortifications at Maker Heights, Penlee Point and the picturesque villages of Kingsand and Cawsand.

## Extent

This is the second smallest section at just 7.8 square kilometres forming one percent of the overall area of the Cornwall AONB.

## Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA 22 South East Cornwall Plateau; CA25 Lyhner and Tiddy River Valleys.

# Statement of Significance

Rame Head itself forms a southerly point at the extreme east of Whitsand Bay, which sweeps in a wide arch west to Portwrinkle. Behind the headland, the steep slope of a narrow winding valley almost severs Rame Head from the rest of the peninsula.

The contrast between the urban sprawl of Plymouth stretching eastwards across Plymouth Sound, which is connected to the AONB by the passenger ferry at Cremyll, could not be more different from this quiet wooded corner of the Cornwall AONB. Woodlands line the coastal tracks between Cawsand and Penlee Point and the extensive woodland enclosure of Mount Edgumbe Country Park provide a home for a herd of some 600 wild fallow deer.

Geologically, this is an area of significant interest, the beach at Cawsand is formed of rhyolite, the only surviving remains of the volcanic material that erupted above Cornwall’s intruded granites some 270 to 290 million years ago. In addition, the red sandstone further north is the only evidence in Cornwall of ensuing desert conditions. The rocks seen from the walk between Rame Head and Penlee Point are slate from a sequence known as the Dartmouth Group dating back to the Lower Devonian period and at 400 million years are some of the oldest rocks in Cornwall.

The only significant concentration of settlement is at Kingsand and Cawsand. The two villages are surrounded by mature trees and separated only by a small headland on which sits Cawsand Fort, built of stone in the 1860s and recently converted to flats. These small fishing villages are tightly clustered around the two beaches that still provide landing points for small craft adding vitality and interest. The buildings are varied in form but united by their tight relationship to the narrow streets that run at right angles away from the sea. Kingsand is the larger of the two villages. The variety of building materials reflect the varied local geology including rhyolite (a purple volcanic stone), distinctive red sandstone, and slates along with slate hanging, painted render and some brick. Prominent features in both villages are the many local stone rubble built boundary walls.

Until boundary changes in 1844 Kingsand was in Devon however Cawsand was always in Cornwall, with a small stream marking the border. The distinctive red sandstone Institute building with its clock tower at Kingsand was built on the seafront to commemorate the coronation of George V and was severely damaged in the winter storms of 2014. It has since been repaired but the incident demonstrated the vulnerability of these settlements to the impact of climate change.

Despite being one of the Cornwall's AONB's smallest sections, this area is also incredibly complex. Small pockets of irregular medieval-derived fields, larger fields as a result of 20th century amalgamations of the old enclosures, 20th century WWII placements, ridge top trees and parkland of the Mount Edgcumbe Estate and patches of coastal heathland and scrub all contribute to the diverse pattern of land use.

Mount Edgcumbe House and Country Park occupies a significant proportion of this section of the AONB with many ornamental trees and shrubs incorporated into the more formal garden areas which were commenced circa.1750 and were predominately influenced by Italian, French and English garden designs. In contrast, the surrounding parkland provides a more open aspect as it runs down to the Cremyll ferry, which dates back to the 13th century as a means of ferrying passengers across the water to Plymouth.

The conical hill of Rame Head, with its medieval chapel on top, forms a prominent landmark with a widely visible and distinctive silhouette. From the exposed cliffs, the ridge top and Rame Head, the panoramic views take in the coast, the busy shipping lanes of the English Channel, the complex of estuarial features of the Tamar Valley

and the vast urban expanse of the city of Plymouth with its cranes and naval shipyards seen across the broad waters of Plymouth Sound. The strategic position of Rame Head overlooking Plymouth sound is evidenced by the frequency of visible military fortifications in particular from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries such as at Maker Heights, Picklecombe and Penlee Point.

There can be no doubt that this area is steeped in history, much of it surrounding the Edgcumbe family seat. It appears the headland was so named in the 14th century as a result of its resemblance to a ram's head and archaeological finds of flint tools indicate that this area was occupied as far back as the Mesolithic period. Evidence also exists of 10th century Viking longships anchoring off Cawsand and the Spanish Armada sailing past the militia at Cawsand before being forced back out to sea due to inclement weather.



Rame Head Lookout

## Management

- The Mount Edgumbe Estate, which includes Rame Head, is jointly owned and managed by Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council.
- The Rame Peninsula Neighbourhood Development Plan is currently being prepared, covering the parishes of Maker with Rame, Shevioc, Millbrook, Antony and St John.
- There is a Maker and Rame Parish Plan.
- A Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Agreement now covers Mount Edgumbe Estate.
- The Plymouth Green Infrastructure Strategy includes access to Mount Edgumbe and the Rame Peninsula.
- The Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum coordinates all activities on the water and promotes integrated management through an agreed management plan.
- A coastal communities team has been formed to develop water access links to the Rame Peninsula.
- Dartmoor ponies graze the coastal rough ground to control scrub around Rame Head.
- The Cornwall Biodiversity Action Plan supports habitat enhancement for farm birds and along coastal land.
- Plymouth Sound and Estuaries are designated as a European Marine Site, Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area.

## Condition

- Some of the more recent development at Kingsand and Cawsand is not sympathetic to the character of these small villages and the public car parks lack design consideration with regard to the surroundings.
- The narrow streets of both Kingsand and Cawsand are regularly congested with visitor traffic.
- Due to the narrow roads on the Rame Peninsula there tends to be regular traffic congestion at the height of the visitor season.
- Overhead wires are intrusive in both Kingsand and Cawsand.
- Some coastal rough ground is subject to increasing scrub encroachment.
- Removal of Cornish hedges for agricultural efficiency has fragmented some of the wildlife corridors and pattern of the landscape.

1.



Spanish Armada  
sailing past the  
militia at Cawsand

1. Rame Head  
2. Kingsand Bay



# Rame Head Local Policies

- RH11.01** Support the development of innovative sustainable transport links to and from the Rame Peninsula. This should include car free options, building on its location at the mouth of the Tamar Estuary, particularly seeking opportunities to develop sustainable water based transport. Schemes should consider landscape and visual impacts and be designed and implemented in a manner that conserves and enhances the AONB.
- RH11.02** Promote walking opportunities across Rame Head between settlements and the South West Coast Path and support the improvement of non-car access.
- RH11.03** Support measures to ensure the continued viability of the Mount Edgcumbe Estate (such as sensitive measures to increase visitor numbers and employment opportunities) so that public access and enjoyment of the estate can continue.
- RH11.04** Support local community aspirations for undergrounding of overhead cables in villages such as at Kingsand and Cawsand in order to reduce visual clutter.
- RH11.05** Support improved awareness, understanding and sensitive interpretation of the extensive and wide ranging history of this area and the role of the Rame Peninsula as a fortification at the mouth of the Tamar.
- RH11.06** Support the integrated management and partnership action of the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum in ensuring long-term sustainability in the management of the waters of Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries.
- RH11.07** Support, through a landscape scale approach, the appropriate management, extension and linking of locally characteristic habitats. These include coastal heathland, farm hedges, parkland and broadleaved native inland and coastal woodland.
- RH11.08** Help to support coastal management which promotes natural processes wherever possible and support initiatives with the communities of Kingsand and Cawsand which consider the long term future 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.

2.



# 12 Bodmin Moor

Historically known as Fowey Moor

## Location

This is the largest section of land in the AONB and includes both open and enclosed moorland, bisected northeast to southwest by the main A30 trunk road. It extends to Davidstow Moor in the north, Upton Cross in the east, St Neot in the south and Tresarrett in the west.

## Extent

Bodmin Moor extends to 21,000 hectares or 207 square kilometres and is larger in its own right than many of the 45 other AONBs in the UK. It makes up over one fifth of the whole of the Cornwall AONB.

## Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Assessment 2005-2007

Character Areas: CA 21 Fowey Valley; CA22 South East Cornwall Plateau; CA25 Lyhner and Tiddy River valleys; CA26 East Cornwall and Tamar Moorland Fringe; CA32 Bodmin Moor; CA33 Camel and Allen Valleys.

# Statement of Significance

Bodmin Moor is a distinctive upland, created from the underlying granite mass and is the largest of several granite intrusions that penetrate the slate killas bedrock along the spine of Cornwall. The highest point of the moor is in the northwest at Brown Willy a peak of 420 metres. Across the valley, the slightly lower Roughtor hosts the remains of a 12th century medieval chapel and together, they represent the highest points of land in Cornwall. The moor provides expansive and breath-taking views, including towards other sections of the Cornwall AONB on the north coast. The surrounding moorland is gently undulating with frequent, prominent tors (rounded hills capped with a granite outcrop). The naturally formed Cheesewring tor has given its name to an internationally recognised geological category of tor and is an oft-used iconic image of moorland Cornwall. The tors provide a distinctive silhouette against an extensive skyline, further emphasised by the lack of manmade structures and intrusive development.

The uplands of Bodmin Moor are extensively covered with open moorland consisting mainly of coarse grassland, wetland and wet heathland, which includes scrub, bracken and gorse. Much of the northern section of the Moor is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The peaty soil is generally poor with high acid content which in turn has a significant influence on vegetation providing a suitable environment for acid

grassland, heather, gorse and bracken, grazed by small flocks of sheep, together with small herds of cattle and moorland ponies. In the valleys at the edge of the moor there are large areas of peat and blanket bog. Due to its exposed nature, Bodmin Moor is frequently subjected to high winds and rain blown in from the Atlantic and this in turn has influenced the type of vegetation. Many streams and small rivers traverse the Moor having penetrated weaknesses in the granite and eventually cascade into shallow falls at the edge of the granite shelf. Golitha Falls are a prime example of this type of geological feature, where the river Fowey tumbles down a series of low waterfalls bounded by large mounds of lichen covered granite and runs through an ancient wooded valley of sessile oak and ash - a complete contrast to the barren moor upstream. The area surrounding Golitha Falls is rich in flora and fauna and is one of the three National Nature Reserves in Cornwall.

Bodmin Moor is hugely important historically. The open moorland reveals historic relics such as long cairns and hilltop enclosures from the Neolithic period. In addition, evidence of Bronze Age activity can be found in a ritual and domestic landscape of hut circles, barrows, cairns and stone circles, the most notable being the famous Hurlers Stone Circles near Minions. In some areas, the land has never been enclosed, although around the stony remains of prehistoric roundhouses and medieval long houses, remnants of ancient field boundaries can be clearly seen. Significant numbers of surviving holy wells and stone crosses are poignant reminders of the enduring importance of religion in

the history of Bodmin Moor's communities. Some of the older granite quarries make a positive contribution to the landscape for example at Carbilly Tor and Bearah Tor, and particularly the historic stone finger dumps. Partially flooded china clay workings occur at Lower Hawkstor, Parson's Pit and Stannon Pit where this product of weathered granite has been found close to the surface. Prominent engine houses and mining structures, especially in the south east of the moor near Caradon Hill and at Minions, are a reminder of Cornwall and Bodmin Moor's once great mining industry. The bleak central hamlet of Bolventor (named after a 'bold venture' to recover tin from moorland streams) is home to the Jamaica Inn, made world famous by the writings of Daphne du Maurier.

Human settlement across the moor is sparse. A small number of lonely granite farms can be found hunkering down below the brow of the hills on the exposed moor itself. Whereas the valleys on the edge of the moor provide sheltered hollows better suited for farming practice and village settlement such as St Breward, St Neot and St Cleer.

Other significant features of Bodmin Moor include the two reservoirs of Colliford Lake and Siblyback Lake. These large expanses of water provide dramatic and very changeable seasonal contrasts from sparkling azure on bright summer day to drab, grey and eerie in the winter. The smaller Dozmary Pool, close to Colliford Lake, is famous for the association with the legend of Excalibur and one of the places mooted to be home to the Lady of the Lake. Dozmary is the largest and most notable of the many pools found across the moor. The overall sense of wilderness on



Parishes boundaries and Names  
Cornwall AONB



Bodmin Moor still endures, despite thousands of years of human intervention; it remains one of the few places in Cornwall where you can enjoy complete peace, quiet and tranquillity, being particularly important for its dark night skies.

# Sense of wilderness still endures



## Management

- Much of the moorland is registered common land, subject to management under the Commons Act 2006.
  - Much of the moorland is registered open access land governed by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000.
  - The Bodmin Moor Commons Council was legally established under the Commons Act 2006 in 2015 and aims to better manage animal welfare and anti-social behaviour on the moor as well as wider land management issues.
  - The Bodmin Moor Parishes Network seek to pursue the following objectives; to foster and promote vitality and viability of the area; to regenerate the local economy; generate support for sustainable social, recreational and environmental initiatives; consolidate all relevant organisations and individuals to work in partnership and act as the consultative body for economic, social and environmental regeneration of the area.
  - Parish Plans exist for St Neot, St Breward, Blisland, St Cleer and Linkinhorne.
  - The National Trust own land at Roughtor.
  - Active quarrying operations are controlled under the Review of Mineral Planning Permissions – quarrying under existing planning permissions at Parsons Park Pit, Stannon Pit (china clay) and Tor Down Quarry (granite) will not be resumed following the making of Prohibition Orders.
  - Parts of the south-eastern part of the Moor around Minions and Caradon Hill are designated as part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site.
  - The ‘Vision for Bodmin Moor’ seeks to establish a plan for shared agreement between agencies, landowners and commoners for the management of habitats and historic landscapes of unenclosed land within the moorland line only.
  - The Caradon Hill Project now ended sought to work with the community, schools, local farmers and commoners to conserve the natural and historic landscape.
  - Some conifer plantations approaching maturity will be subject to applications for felling.
- ### Condition
- Large scale china clay extraction at Parson’s Pit and adjacent to the AONB at Stannon Pit has ceased and parts of both sites restored.
  - Increased visitor numbers at popular locations such as Golitha Falls and Minions have led to footpath and ground erosion.
  - Some historic mining structures remain un-stabilised including the two engine houses at Sharptor and other structures at Wheal Bray and Phoenix.
  - Further dualling of the A30 across the moor at Temple is taking place in 2016 and will result in a continuous dual carriageway across the AONB.
  - Some aspects of the A30 are visually intrusive on the moorland setting such as the use of coloured tarmac, signage and detailing.
  - Broadleaved woodland in stream valleys is largely unmanaged.
  - A number of old hedges have deteriorated from lack of maintenance and barbed wire stock fencing has been erected alongside.
  - Some existing conifer plantations are visually intrusive due to their design and location.
  - The moor remains relatively free of tall structures. However wind turbines towards the north coast outside of the AONB are a detractor.

# Bodmin Moor Local Policies

- BM12.01** Support the Bodmin Moor Commons Council in the coordinated management of the commons and resolution of commons issues.
- BM12.02** Support landowners and managers in achieving a landscape scale approach the integrated management of natural, historic and geologically significant landscapes and the restoration of moorland habitats and ecosystem services across the moor and seek to achieve consensus on long-term management objectives.
- BM12.03** Seek improved restoration of china clay workings at Lower Hawkstor, Parson's Pit, and Stannon Pit in keeping with the local landform, soils and vegetation communities of their moorland setting. Support further measures to protect and enhance environmental quality when existing quarrying permissions are reviewed.
- BM12.04** Seek to ensure that alterations and improvements to the A30 integrates with its wider moorland setting for example, vegetation consistent with moorland habitats, native rock exposures, local style Cornish hedges, unenclosed boundaries, appropriate use of local granite, the retention of current positive rural aspects such as unlit sections and the reduction to the minimum necessary of highway signage, lighting and markings.
- BM12.05** Seek conservation and enhancement of the character of the small scale rural road network through the use of local stone and local styles in the maintenance and repair of roadside hedges, retention of characteristically unenclosed moorland lanes, utilising locally characteristic soft passing places and banks for traffic management and avoiding hard engineering works and excess signage for example at Lady Down and Manor Common.
- BM12.06** Seek improved integration into the landscape of existing visitor facilities and car parks such as at Golitha Falls, Minions and Roughtor Road in order to reduce their existing landscape and visual impacts.
- BM12.07** Support landowners and the Bodmin Moor Commons Council in the pro-active management of access on open access land, with the full involvement of commoners, moor users, Cornwall Council and other relevant bodies.
- BM12.08** Encourage projects that combine supporting and enabling the community, schools, landowners, commoners and farmers in conserving the natural and historic landscape, with providing education and training and that seek conservation of significant historic features such as mining structures at Sharptor, Wheal Bray and Phoenix.
- BM12.09** Seek a reduction in the visual impact of existing conifer plantations for example at Priddacombe, Hawkstor, Bolventor, Halvana, Smallacombe and Roughtor consistent with established best practice. Seek opportunities for this to be achieved by productive felling with restoration to open habitats balanced with greater productive woodland creation at appropriate local sites in the vicinity order in order to conserve and enhance the open moorland landscape and also protect the economic resource.
- BM12.10** Seek to maintain current low levels of light pollution in order to maintain the dark night skies over the moor and support initiatives to designate Bodmin Moor as an important area for dark skies provided this is supported by landowners, the Commons Council and Parishes.



Rough Tor under Stormy Sky - Lynda Murnaghan

## The Cornwall AONB Partnership

The Cornwall AONB is managed by a Partnership of 16 organisations:



# Cornwall AONB Unit

01872 322350

[info@cornwall-aonb.gov.uk](mailto:info@cornwall-aonb.gov.uk)

[www.cornwallaonb.org.uk](http://www.cornwallaonb.org.uk)



WORLD  
LAND  
TRUST™

[www.carbonbalancedpaper.com](http://www.carbonbalancedpaper.com)  
CBP0003042504163716

500 of these brochures were printed using vegetable based inks on Cocoon Offset, a 100% recycled FSC paper which is carbon balanced. By using Cocoon Offset rather than a non-recycled paper, the environmental impact was reduced through: 194kg diverted from landfill, 323kg carbon saved, land preserved 2713sq. metres, 4045 litres less water used, 373kWh less energy used and 316kg less wood used.

Carbon balancing by The World Land Trust tackles climate change through projects that both offset carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and conserve biodiversity.

Through land purchase of ecologically important standing forests under threat of clearance,

carbon is locked that would otherwise be released. These protected forests are then able to continue absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. Referred to as REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation), this is now recognised as one the most cost-effective and swiftest ways to arrest the rise in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and global warming effects.

Created by Leap, a Cornwall based design studio that believes in designing with purpose and creating work that matters: [leap.uk.net](http://leap.uk.net)  
A certified B Corp: [bcorporation.uk](http://bcorporation.uk)

Calculations are based on a comparison between the recycled paper used versus a virgin fibre paper according to the latest European BREF data available.