



Cornwall's nationally protected landscape



Cornwall
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

03 *Comel Estuary*

Cornwall AONB Local Section



Section 03

Camel Estuary



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Camel Estuary | Edward Treverton

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.

AONB Section	Area (ha)	% of total AONB area
03 Camel Estuary	2,468	2.6%

Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:

- CA19: Trevoze Head and Coastal Plateau
- CA33: Camel and Allen Valleys
- CA34: Camel Estuary

Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters

- MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay





03

Special Qualities of the Camel Estuary

The Key Landscape Characteristic of this section of the AONB is defined by its distinct, gentle, undulating land sloping 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.



Camel Estuary,
walking Padstow to
Wadebridge | Casey Leaver

Statement of Significance | Creating a Sense of Place

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.

On the south side of the estuary the disused railway has provided a perfect setting for the Camel Trail, a popular cycle and multi-use route which runs 18 miles from Padstow to Bodmin Moor and sees over 500,000 users per year, appreciating this scenic and tranquil landscape.



Land Use

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. 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.

Key species of interest for this section;

- Golden plover
- Wigeon
- Lapwing
- Otter

Cornish Hedges

Cornish hedges enclose many of the fields, built of local slate and on exposed sections the hedges reveal the characteristic herringbone pattern.

Significant Landowners

- The 18-mile long multi-use Camel Trail is managed and maintained by Cornwall Council.

Biodiversity & Geodiversity

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 Petherick 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.



Camel Estuary | Jim Wood





Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

- St Minver Neighbourhood Development Plan
- St Kew Parish Plan
- Padstow Neighbourhood Development Plan is pre-submission
- Wadebridge Neighbourhood Development Plan is pre-submission
- The Camel Estuary Management Plan was published by the Padstow Harbour Commissioners on behalf of the users of the estuary.

Landscape Condition

- Development pressure from Padstow, Rock, Wadebridge and Splatt (all outside the AONB) has the potential to impact upon the AONB and its setting.
- The Council for the Protection of Rural England’s (CPRE) 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.
- Erosion of the character of the estuary through development along the rising ground of both sides of the estuary.
- Some historic Cornish hedges have been replaced by wire fencing although some of this is from the division of former downland and loss of woodland.



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



Community Network Area (CNA)
Wadebridge & Padstow

AONB section within CNA
Pentire Point to Widemouth, **Camel Estuary**,
and Trevoze Head to Stepper Point

Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA : 2015 | 46.9% : 2019 | 51.5%

Health and Wellbeing in Wadebridge & Padstow (2016/2017)

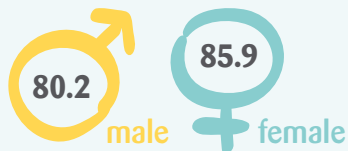


Population

20,614 people

4% of Cornwall's total population

Life expectancy (years)



Births (2015)



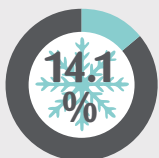
Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



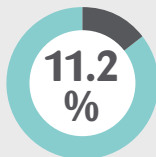
98.6% white



Inequalities



local households are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



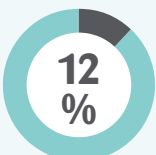
401 local children in receipt of free school meals

725 residents claim Disability Living Allowance

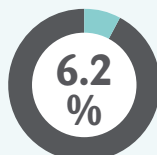
3% of all claimants in Cornwall



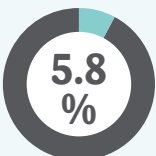
Risk Groups



Obesity (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



Diabetes (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



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

33 (1.66%) residents who speak English as an additional language





03 Camel Estuary: Policies & Objectives

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

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
CE-P1	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11 CCBR-P1 HC-Ob8 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P5, SCE-P6 PD-P20
CE-P2	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.	LS-P1, LS-P3 NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob8 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA- Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P20



Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
CE-P3	Support the co-ordinated management of the activities taking place on the Camel Trail and other recreational facilities to ensure that they do not detract from tranquillity or visual amenity, to the benefit of all users.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3 LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob8, NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob5, HWB-Ob7 SCE-P3, SCE-P4, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob5
CE-P4	Require 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11 CCBR-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-P3 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P4, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob5 PD-P10
CE-P5	Support an improvement in car free access options including foot, cycle, bus and ferry around the estuary, for example the continuation of the existing ferry link between Padstow and Rock.	LS-Ob6 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3, RSA-P4, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob4, HWB-Ob5, HWB-Ob7 SCE-P3 SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob5



Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
CE-P6	Consider settlement growth to Rock, Splatt, Padstow and Wadebridge to ensure that it conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Camel Estuary and does not adversely impact upon the AONB or its setting.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob4 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2 SCE-P2, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P7, PD-P12
CE-P7	Limit spread of uncharacteristic development of replacement dwellings and commercial development including hotels and caravan parks.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob4 RSA-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P9, PD-P12, PD-P18



Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
CE-Ob1	Support proposals which enhance protection for important habitats and species around the estuary	LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob6, NRLM-Ob7, NRLM-Ob8, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob7
CE-Ob2	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	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4, LS-Ob5 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob6, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob4
CE-Ob3	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob1 CCBR-Ob1 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1



Thank you for supporting and advocating for Cornwall AONB



Cornwall Wildlife Trust

