



Cornwall's nationally protected landscape



Cornwall
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

04 *Carnewas to
Stepper Point*

Cornwall AONB Local Section



Section 04

Carnewas to Stepper Point



Location:

This section of the AONB is on the north coast, running south from Stepper Point near Padstow and the mouth of the Camel Estuary to Bedruthan. It is bounded to the east by the B3276 running inland between Porthcothan and Padstow.

Storm at
Bedruthan Steps
Matt Menhenett

AONB Section	Area (ha)	% of total AONB area
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	2,365	2.6%

Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:

- CA19: Trevoze Head and Coastal Plateau
- CA34: Camel Estuary

Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters

- MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay



04

Special Qualities of Carnewas to Stepper Point

Statement of Significance | *Creating a Sense of Place*

The Key Landscape Characteristics of this section of the AONB are the variety of coastal scenery due to the diverse geology including hard greenstones, which form the elevated headlands as seen at Trevoze Head and Stepper Point. 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 iconic cliffs at Bedruthan Steps with its craggy rock stacks.

The peaceful and wild nature found in this section of the AONB, reflected in the modest character of Porthcothan and Harlyn, 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 by ferns, wildflowers, grasses and brambles.



Bedruthan Steps | Julie Taylor



Land Use

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.

Significant Landowners

- The National Trust manages the west facing coastal land at Porthcothan Bay, Park Head, Trevoze Head and Bedruthan Steps.

Biodiversity & Geodiversity

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.

Key species of interest for this section;

- Corn bunting
- Kittiwake
- Skylark
- Thrift
- Wheatear
- Chough

Culture and Heritage

There is evidence of prehistoric features in this section which add diversity and form to the landscape. These include dramatic cliff castles south of Treyarnon Bay and barrows on Catacleuse Point. There are examples of Romano-British rounds (settlements) and 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.

Cornish Hedges

In many locations the sparsely vegetated slate Cornish hedges display the characteristic 'Jack and Jane' herringbone pattern of alternating diagonal courses. Tamarisk, whose soft appearance belies its toughness against salt laden sea winds, tops many hedges near the coast creating shelter in an otherwise unremittingly exposed environment.

Peregrine falcon at Carnewas | John Johnson





Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

- Padstow Neighbourhood Development Plan is pre-submission
- St Merryn Neighbourhood Development Plan is being prepared

Other Designations

- The Bedruthan Steps to Park Head SSSI includes a significant part of the AONB coast.
- Carnewas was awarded 'Dark Sky Discovery' status in recognition of the lack of light pollution in this area.



Porthcothan Bay
Richard Higgins

Landscape Condition

- Some locally characteristic and protected habitats are fragmented.
- The sand dunes at Constantine are subject to scrub encroachment
- Larger scale farming compacts 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.
- 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.
- This section of the AONB is one of the few where communities along this section of coast, including Porthcothan, Harlyn, Mother Ivey's Bay and Treyarnon, have avoided significant commercial development.
- Expansion of visitor facilities at some of the more popular coastal locations impacts upon the peace and tranquillity of the area.



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 **Carnewas to Stepper Point**

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

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

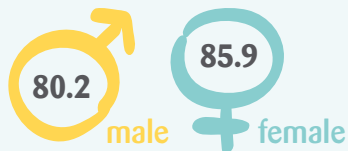


Population

20,614 people

4% of Cornwall's total population

Life expectancy (years)



Births (2015)



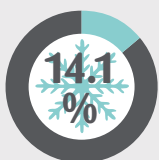
Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



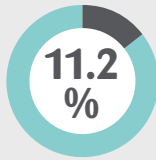
98.6% white



Inequalities



local households are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



401 local children in receipt of free school meals

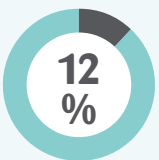
725 residents claim Disability Living Allowance

3% of

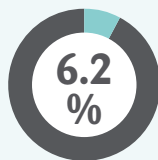
2% of all claimants in Cornwall



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





04 Carnewas to Stepper Point: 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
CSP-P1	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	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-P4 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P20
CSP-P2	Seek the conservation and enhancement of the undeveloped character of the coast throughout this section and including all settlements and keep free from uncharacteristic intrusive development and tall structures, recognising the risk of cumulative effects of individual replacement dwellings.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS- Ob3, LS-Ob4, LS-Ob5, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11 CCBR-Ob4 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob14 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P7, PD-P12, PD-P18



Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
CSP-P3	Encourage the enhancement of the coast and settlements around Constantine Bay, St Merryn, Mother Ivey’s Bay, Harlyn, Porthcothan, Treyarnon and Trevone, towards having a more undeveloped character.	<p>LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob6</p> <p>NRLM-O9, NRLM-O11, NRLM-O13</p> <p>CCBR-P1</p> <p>CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob4</p> <p>HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11</p> <p>RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3</p> <p>RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5</p> <p>HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob5</p> <p>SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-P7</p> <p>SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5</p> <p>PD-P12, PD-P18</p>
CSP-P4	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, landscape capacity and sensitivity in external works, landscaping, and site design for example at Mother Ivey’s Bay, Harlyn, Porthcothan and Treyarnon.	<p>LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6</p> <p>NRLM-Ob11</p> <p>HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11</p> <p>RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P4</p> <p>RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5</p> <p>SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5</p> <p>PD-P9</p>
CSP-P5	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.	<p>LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-Ob6</p> <p>NRLM-Ob11</p> <p>RSA-P1, RSA-Ob5</p> <p>HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5</p> <p>SCE-P3, SCE-P6</p> <p>SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5</p> <p>PD-P2, PD-P12</p>



Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
<p>CSP-Ob1</p>	<p>Support a local partnership approach including the local community, parish councils, farmers, landowners, stakeholders and agencies to better manage the competing demands that impact on the rich natural environment and natural beauty of the section.</p>	<p>LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P5, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4, LS-Ob5, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob6, NRLM-Ob8, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob13 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P4, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5, SCE-Ob6, SCE-Ob7</p>
<p>CSP-Ob2</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>LS-P1, LS-P2 NRLM-Ob9 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 SCE-P6</p>



Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
CSP-Ob3	Seek improved management of coastal habitats via appropriate measures such as grazing.	LS-P1, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4
CSP-Ob4	Support, through a landscape scale approach, measures to restore and connect local 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.	LS-P1, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4

St Constantine's Chapel
Jacob Parry





Thank you for supporting and advocating for Cornwall AONB



Cornwall Wildlife Trust

