



Cornwall's nationally protected landscape



Cornwall
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

11 *Rome
Head*

Cornwall AONB Local Section



Section 11

Rame Head



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.

Sunset at
Whitsand Bay
Nicola Milden

AONB Section 11 Rame Head	Area (ha) 780	% of total AONB 0.8%	Marine Character Areas covering the coast/adjacent waters
Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CA22: South East Cornwall Plateau CA25: Lynher and Tiddy River Valleys 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCA 49: South Cornwall Coastal Waters and Estuaries



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Special Qualities of Rame Head

The Key Landscape Characteristic of this section of the AONB is Rame Head which 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 Edgcombe Country Park provide a home for a herd of some 600 wild fallow deer.



Rainbow at
Redoubt 5 Scheduled
Monument, Rame Head

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.

The only significant concentration of settlement is at Kingsand and Cawsand.

The features in both villages are the many local stone rubble-built boundary walls.

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.

Land Use

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.

Significant Landowners

- **The Mount Edgcumbe Estate**, is owned by the Edgcumbe family, and leases land and the Redoubts to The Rame Conservation Trust. Mount Edgcumbe Country park is owned and managed by Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council.

Biodiversity & Geodiversity

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.

Key species of interest for this section:

- Cirl bunting
- Whitethroat
- Bee orchid
- Bloody-nosed beetle
- Slender bird's-foot-trefoil

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.

There is support for habitat enhancement for farm birds and along coastal land. Dartmoor ponies graze the coastal rough ground to control scrub around Rame Head.



Gun placements
Redoubt 4 | Natalie Haly



Redoubt 4 | Natalie Haly

Culture and Heritage

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 estuarine features of the Tamar Valley and the 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. Rame Head was used as an Iron Age cliff castle. Archaeological finds of flint tools indicate that this area was occupied as far back as the Mesolithic period. Later Rame forts at Picklecombe, Penlee, Cawsand, Maker Heights and Edgcumbe built over hundreds of years form the western part of the most extensive and complete historic coastal defences in the UK. The 13th century church at Rame still contains a bellows operated organ.

Cornish Hedges

The hedges are low and clothed in rough vegetation with occasional windswept scrubby trees and bushes.

Other Designations

- Plymouth Sound and estuaries are designated as a European Marine Site, SAC and SPA.
- In 2021, funding was awarded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park Designation. Cornwall AONB will engage with the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park to ensure their activities align with the Cornwall AONB Management Plan.





Redoubt | Aerial

Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

- The Rame Peninsula Neighbourhood Development Plan
- There is a Maker and Rame Parish Plan.
- 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.
- Maker Heights Conservation Management Plan 2020-2025

Landscape 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.

- Suburban sprawl extension and redevelopment is cumulatively eroding the setting and character of the settlements.
- 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.
- Risks from being a dormitory area for Plymouth and ability to sustain recreational pressure from proximity to major urban centre.
- Encourage the management of hedges to allow elm and other hedge tree regeneration or, where appropriate, planting of native or locally naturalised tree species on hedges in order to restore landscape character following the impacts of Dutch Elm disease, including raising awareness that such local hedges were previously known to have more tree coverage.



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





Community Network Area (CNA) : **AONB section within CNA**
Cornwall Gateway : **Rame Head**

Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA : 2015 | 55.2% : 2019 | 55.2%

Health and Wellbeing in Rame Head (2016/2017)

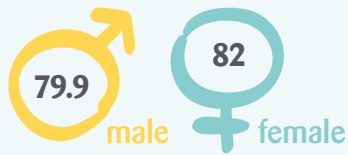


Population

33,040
people

6%
of Cornwall's total population

Life expectancy (years)



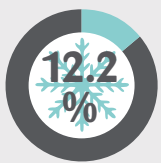
Births (2015)



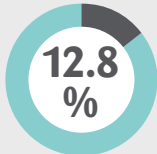
Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



Inequalities



local households are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



844 local children in receipt of free school meals

5% of

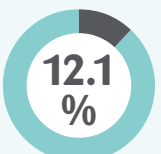
1455 residents claim Disability Living Allowance

6% of

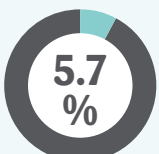
{ all claimants in Cornwall }



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)



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



11 Rame Head: 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
RH-P1	Support the development of innovative sustainable transport links to and from the Rame Peninsula. This should be based on 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-Ob6 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3, RSA-P4, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P4, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob5, SCE-Ob6

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
RH-Ob1	Promote walking opportunities across Rame Head between settlements and the South West Coast Path and support the improvement of non-car access, provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA from recreational disturbance.	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-Ob5, SCE-Ob6
RH-Ob2	Support local community aspirations for undergrounding of overhead cables in villages such as at Kingsand and Cawsand in order to reduce visual impact.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-O5? SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1 PD-P11



Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
RH-Ob3	Support improved awareness, understanding and sensitive interpretation of the extensive and wide-ranging history of this section and the role of the Rame Peninsula as a fortification at the mouth of the Tamar.	HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob10, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob13, HC-Ob14 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob3 HWB-Ob3 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5, SCE-Ob6
RH-Ob4	Support partnership action in ensuring long-term sustainability of management of the waters of Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries.	LS-P1, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob6, NRLM-Ob9 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob6
RH-Ob5	Support, through a landscape led 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4, LS-Ob5 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob6, NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4 HWB-Ob6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4



Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
RH-Ob6	<p>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, provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC and Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area from land take or changing land use.</p>	<p>LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4 NRLM-Ob9 CCBR-P1 CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6</p>



Thank you for supporting and advocating for Cornwall AONB



Cornwall Wildlife Trust

