

Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Planning & Development in Protected Landscapes



# Planning & Development in Protected Landscapes



The Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty comprises varied landscapes whose distinctive characters and natural beauty and unique settlements, and rural, industrial and coastal heritage are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it.

The statutory purpose of the designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and it enjoys the same levels of protection from development as National Parks within the UK.

Notwithstanding this protection, the landscapes of the AONB are shaped by and inextricably linked to the lives and vitality of the communities within them and development needs to be shaped to reflect this within the confines of the protection afforded to them.

To maintain Cornwall AONB's distinctiveness, development should contribute to the sense of place; it should respond to local historical, cultural and

landscape context and enhance and feel part of the existing settlement and landscape.

The statutory purpose of the AONB and the Development Plan and material considerations dictate that particular control is required within the designated landscape to ensure that whilst providing for the continuing vitality and social inclusion of the local communities of the AONB, particular approaches will be required to deliver development which satisfies these requirements. These approaches include a requirement for informed contextual design, and an acute appreciation of landscape capacity and sensitivity.





Responsibility for Planning Policy and Development Control within the Cornwall AONB lies with Cornwall Council.

The Cornwall AONB Management Plan comprises a material consideration in development management and in development plan making.

Cornwall AONB has a Planning Position Statement, which sets out the understanding of the Cornwall AONB Unit with regard to the roles and responsibilities of Cornwall Council (as the Local Planning Authority) and the Cornwall AONB Unit (as a non-statutory consultee) regarding planning matters affecting the Cornwall AONB.

### **Statutory Protection**

The protection afforded to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in recognition of the national importance of its natural beauty and therefore landscape character, is clarified within the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 as set out previously. Of particular importance are:

- **Section 82** which reaffirms the primary purpose of AONBs: to "conserve and enhance" natural beauty; and
- Section 85 which places a statutory duty on all 'relevant authorities' to 'have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty' of AONBs when coming to any decisions or carrying out activities relating to or affecting land within these areas. Activities and developments outside the boundaries of AONBs that have an impact within the designated area are also covered by the 'duty of regard'.

Notwithstanding the statutory duty above, all matters of Development Management (planning decisions) within the AONB must be made in accordance with the Development Plan (Cornwall Local Plan and any made Neighbourhood Development Plans) and in the light of any material considerations as set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 38 (6).

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

National planning policy is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) July 2021. This and the accompanying Planning Practice Guidance form important material considerations with regard to development management and confirm that:

- The scale and extent of development in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) should be limited.
- The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not automatically apply (where any adverse impacts would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the Framework taken as a whole) within the Cornwall AONB.
- There is a presumption that planning permission should be refused for major development in AONBs.
- Policies for protecting AONBs may mean that it is not possible to meet objectively assessed needs for housing and other development in full.
- AONBs are unlikely to be suitable areas for accommodating unmet needs arising from adjoining, non-designated, areas.





Specifically, **NPPF paragraph 174** requires that "planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); and
- Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services

Likewise, **NPPF paragraph 176** requires that:

"Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and **Areas of Outstanding Natural** Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas."



Cultural heritage is an integral component of the AONB and Chapter 16 of NPPF provides further detail on this: "Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value. These assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations".







Cadgwith boats | Sue Rowlands

NPPF paragraph 177 clarifies that permission should "be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:

- The need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy.
- The cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and
- Any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated."

Whilst the determination of what constitutes "major" development in the context of the AONB is a matter for the decision maker. Appendix ii of this plan sets out the views of the Cornwall AONB Partnership in this regard.

#### The Cornwall Local Plan

The Development Plan, which covers the 12 areas of the Cornwall AONB, includes the Cornwall Local Plan Strategic Policies 2010-2030 (adopted November 2016) and Made Neighbourhood Development Plans. The Cornwall Local Plan contains policies both specific to the designated landscape and also wider policies which would apply equally within the AONB.

**Policy 2 - Spatial Strategy** requires that development should meet the objective of the "Plan for Cornwall" in respecting and enhancing the quality of place by:

- Understanding the cultural, physical and aesthetic attributes of its location.
- Considering the impact of development on the beauty and diversity of landscape, seascape and character and setting of settlements.
- Identifying the value and sensitivity of the character and importance of landscapes; and
- Protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic landscape, heritage, cultural, biodiversity and geodiversity assets of Cornwall in recognition of their international, national and local status and in accordance with national legislation and policy.

# Policy 3 - Role and function of places requires that within the AONB or its setting, development will be supported where it is in accordance with the other policies of this plan and can demonstrate that it conserves and enhances the landscape character and natural beauty of the AONB.





Policy 7 - Housing in the countryside sets out a range of requirements with regard to the development of new homes in the countryside which includes the requirement:

- that replacement dwellings are broadly comparable to the size, scale and bulk of the dwelling being replaced and of an appropriate scale and character to their location; and
- that for the reuse of suitably constructed redundant, disused or historic buildings that are considered appropriate to retain they would lead to an enhancement to the immediate setting.

Policy 12 - Design requires that development should consider the existing context and create places with their own identity and promote local distinctiveness, being of a scale, density, layout, height and mass with a clear understanding and response to its landscape, seascape and townscape setting.

This approach is further explored and articulated in the Cornwall Design Guide which recognises the "exceptional landscape and unique industrial, rural and coastal

heritage and natural environment" reflected in the Cornwall AONB designation. It further recognises that

"Much has been lost or disturbed through inappropriate or insensitive development that has either disregarded or been oblivious to the qualities that make Cornwall an especially distinctive home. To maintain Cornwall's distinctiveness. development should contribute to the sense of place; it should respond to local historical, cultural and landscape context and enhance and feel part of the existing settlement and landscape. This can include responding to both built and natural attributes, for instance reflecting construction methods, built forms, field patterns and landscapes. It may also include retaining or enhancing key views, landscapes and buildings that provide a tangible link to Cornish culture".

Policy 23 - Natural Environment requires that:

1. "Development proposals will need to sustain local distinctiveness and character and protect and where possible enhance Cornwall's' natural environment and assets according to their international, national and local significance".

**Likewise**, at 2(a) it amplifies and expands on paragraph 176 of the NPPF and requires that "Great weight will be given to conserving the landscape and scenic beauty within or affecting the AONB. Proposals must conserve and enhance the landscape character and natural beauty of the AONB and provide only for an identified local need and be appropriately located to address the AONB's sensitivity and capacity. Proposals should be informed by and assist the delivery of the objectives of the Cornwall and Tamar Valley AONB Management Plans including the interests of those who live and/or work in them. Major development in the AONB will be refused subject to the tests of exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest as set out in national policy".

Paragraph 2.147 of the Cornwall Local Plan, which is the supporting text to policy 23, explains that "considerable guidance and evidence is available such as in particular the: Landscape Character Assessment, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan; World Heritage Site Management Plan; Conservation Area Appraisals; Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Urban Survey and the Historic

Environment Record. All of these provide important information and should be used alongside this document in making planning decisions."

**Paragraph 2.149** outlines that "Proposals for development should be informed by and respond to the natural environment in line with their status:

**Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB): When considering proposals for development within the AONB, the Council will ensure that development is in accordance with the great weight afforded to their landscape and scenic beauty in national policy and the aims and objectives of the Cornwall and Tamar AONB Management Plans and their associated supplementary planning guidance on sensitivity and capacity for housing development in the AONB. These in particular, provide guidance on what constitutes 'major' development within an AONB stating that this will depend on the local context, the scale, location and type of development proposed.

Proposals within the AONB, or those that would affect its setting will be supported where they are small scale and meet an identified local need, where landscape capacity can be demonstrated and the natural beauty of the AONB can be conserved and enhanced in accordance with Policy 23. Proposals for major development in the AONB will be refused subject to the tests of exceptional circumstances and demonstrating the development is in the public interest as set out in national policy."

Much of the planning policy within this Management Plan provides detailed interpretation and clarification of **Cornwall Local Plan Policy 23**.

There are other policies within the Cornwall Local Plan which consider the Cornwall AONB and are related, in particular, to renewable energy developments and minerals, these being Cornwall Local Plan Policies 15 and 18. Due to their very specific intent and scope these are referred to specifically in the different Policy sections of this Management Plan.

In addition to the Cornwall Local Plan, some of the made Neighbourhood Development Plans cover the areas of the AONB. They form part of the Development Plan for the purposes of Development Management decisions.

The Cornwall Council Climate Emergency Development Plan Document (DPD) will comprise part of the Development Plan once adopted.

The Cornwall AONB Management Plan is a material planning consideration for planning purposes and, as such, should be taken into account in development management decisions and the preparation, of any Neighbourhood Plans affecting the AONB.

The AONB Management Plan highlights the value and special qualities of the Cornwall AONB and sets the context for development within or affecting the AONB and/or its setting.

The Statutory Duty under the CROW Act, national planning policy and guidance, the development plan and relevant material considerations make it clear that development in the designated landscape is subject to very particular policy constraint in order to deliver the statutory purpose. They also indicate the need to take account of the designation and the reasons for it.



They provide the statutory purpose for the designation to conserve and enhance natural beauty whilst also facilitating a dynamic and functional landscape which provides both homes and work for residents and provides for social cohesion and vitality.

However, even with these policies and guidance in place, the natural beauty which led to AONBs being designated in the first place is still being undermined and lost, not least through the cumulative effect of individual developments. In order to address the issues and policy context outlined above, this Management Plan advocates an over-arching principle for development within the Cornwall AONB and its setting.





### Landscape-led development

Development within and affecting the Cornwall AONB, should be 'landscape-led'.

A 'landscape-led' approach to development, in the context of landscapes of the Cornwall AONB, is one in which development is conceived, designed, budgeted, assessed and implemented in such a way that:

- It demonstrably delivers all of the development plan policy and material consideration requirements set out previously.
- It demonstrably provides a contextual response to its specific setting within the AONB, clearly addressing locally characteristic forms of development in terms of scale, massing, form, architectural treatments, distinctiveness, respect to local heritage, biodiversity and other key attributes of the local landscape.
- It identifies and responds to the particular landscape sensitivity of the site and its setting and does not exceed the capacity of the landscape to accommodate it without adverse effects on the designated landscape.
- It does not give rise to a continuation of the cumulative erosion of landscape character which continues to blight some parts of the designated landscape
- It is consistent with, demonstrably contributes to and delivers net-benefits for the statutory purpose of AONB designation (i.e. conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB) whilst also providing for the other environmental agendas which support the statutory purpose.

In line with current best practice and policy requirements, we consider that this approach should underpin all development in the Cornwall AONB (and, where relevant, in its setting).

'Landscape-led' is not the same thing as 'landscapeconsidered'. In a landscapeconsidered scenario, landscape issues (including the purpose of designation) are just one of many competing considerations. In a landscape-led scenario, on the other hand, the objective of conserving and enhancing natural beauty underpins all stages of the development process from initial thinking through to implementation. In adopting this approach, the outcome should be an enhancement of - or 'netgain' for - the natural beauty of the Cornwall AONB and one which supports both the statutory purpose of the designation, and the statutory duty imposed by S85 of the CROW Act.



In applying a "landscape-led" approach to development within the Cornwall AONB it is necessary to consider the factors that contribute to natural beauty (following those recognised by Natural England). These include:

- Landscape character
- Landscape quality / beauty
- Scenic quality / beauty
- Tranquillity (including 'dark skies')
- Relative wildness
- Natural heritage (including 'biodiversity')
- Cultural heritage (including 'historic environment')
- Biodiversity
- Built form
- The special qualities of the Cornwall AONB Landscape

It is the unique and irreplaceable combination of many of these attributes which make the landscapes of the Cornwall AONB so special and worthy of the very highest level of protection conferred by both the Development Plan and material considerations.

This principle of "Landscape-Led" development reflects the aims and objectives of the Cornwall Design Guide which espouses "development that relates to, respects and sits well in its local context". This principle is further reinforced in the Cornwall Design Guide which states that "To maintain Cornwall's distinctiveness, development should contribute the sense of place; it should respond to the local historical, cultural and landscape context and enhance and feel part of the existing settlement and landscape". Likewise it

identifies that "Good buildings and spaces that resonate with place and setting tend to feel responsive, sensitive and relevant".

In simple terms, development which

response to and reflects the characteristics and essence of the designated landscape is likely to be supported by the policy outlined above. Whereas, that which brings alien elements, or simply takes advantage of its location within the designated landscape, is likely to be in conflict with policy constraints, at all levels.

The aims, policies and objectives of this Management Plan contain planning and development policies which are relevant to all sections of the designated landscape and these should be considered relevant to all development proposals. There are also planning policies which are specific to the different sections of the AONB and these should be consulted in regard to any development proposals within that section.

Technical Appendix i provides policy with regard to the construction of agricultural buildings and Technical Appendix ii sets out the AONB team's view of the considerations for identifying "major" development in the designated landscape. These appendices should be consulted with regard to such development proposals within the designated landscape.

Title	Planning & Development	
Intro	The Cornwall AONB is protected by statutory requirement, planning policy and material considerations which require the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the AONB landscapes. Great weight should be given to conserving the landscape and scenic beauty of the designated landscape which enjoys the same level of protection as a National Park. These policy measures apply to ensure that the characteristics that make the AONB unique and irreplaceable are maintained for future generations. Cornwall Council as the Local Planning Authority has the key role in the long-term care of the AONB landscape through the implementation of these development plan policies and particularly the Cornwall Local Plan and Climate Emergency Development Plan Document.	
Priority	People, Place, Nature and Climate Room Room Room Room Room Room Room Roo	
Aim	To ensure development conserves and enhances the local distinctiveness and natural beauty of the AONB landscapes and their settings while meeting the needs of local communities.	
	Development within the designated landscape should be demonstrably "landscape-led" to allow it to provide a contextual response to its specific setting within the AONB, clearly addressing locally characteristic forms of development in terms of scale, massing, form, architectural treatments, distinctiveness, respect to local heritage, biodiversity and other key attributes of the local landscapes.	
	Development should conserve and enhance and feel part of the existing landscape and settlement pattern and form. This can include responding to both built and natural attributes, for instance reflecting vernacular construction methods, built forms, field patterns and landscapes. It may also include retaining or enhancing key views, landscapes and buildings that provide a tangible link to Cornish culture as well as ensuring that local place names and character are understood and form part of the development proposals.	

Title	Planning & Development
Policy PD-P1	All development within the AONB will be required to adopt a "landscape-led" approach as set out within this document in order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB. This approach will provide for the statutory protection of the AONB landscapes and will deliver the policy requirements that stem from this. Development proposals within the AONB landscape will be required to demonstrate a contextual understanding and response to the unique and characteristic attributes of the site and its setting and to demonstrate how the proposed development positively responds to these in conserving and enhancing the designated landscape.  Provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA from land take or changing land use.
Policy PD-P2	Development management decisions should specifically consider the cumulative effects of individual developments on the designated landscape. The addition of further individual developments and particularly replacement and redevelopment of existing dwellings and buildings and the extension of settlements will be supported where these are landscape led and do not exceed the sensitivity and capacity of their designated landscape setting and where they do not give rise to cumulative effects particularly through the inclusion of uncharacteristic contemporary elements, domestic paraphernalia and light spill. The unique historic character of many of the settlements and clusters of dwellings in the designated landscape reflect both their vernacular form and buildings and also their relationship to their landscape setting. The loss of either characteristic will be disproportionately harmful.
Policy PD-P3	The replacement and redevelopment of existing dwellings will be supported where the overall scale, density, massing, height, layout, materials and landscaping of the development appropriately responds to local character and natural beauty of the surrounding AONB landscape. Such development should be broadly comparable to the size, scale and bulk of the dwelling being replaced, and not adversely affect the character of the surrounding area.
Policy PD-P4	"Major development" should be refused in the Cornwall AONB subject to the tests set out in NPPF para 177. This Management Plan, at Appendix ii, sets out the views of the AONB Partnership as to what should be considered to constitute "major development" in the AONB.





Title	Planning & Development
Policy PD-P5	Seek to embed the statutory purposes of the AONB designation and AONB Management Plan policies, and requirement for a landscape-led approach in the all relevant Cornwall Council and other stakeholder plans, policies, strategies and programmes.
Policy PD-P6	Support appropriate characteristic green infrastructure within built development and the wider landscape, where this would follow the required landscape-led approach required for the AONB.
Policy PD-P7	Support small scale developments that enable the identified needs of local people to be met in terms of provision of affordable housing, maintaining and enhancing local community amenities and services. Housing need and affordable housing need within the AONB should be based on robust evidence of local need arising from within the AONB. The extent to which the AONB is required to accommodate objectively assessed needs arising from outside the AONB should be limited. Any such development should be in sustainable locations with good access to services where landscape capacity and opportunity to conserve and enhance the protected landscape can be demonstrated. Exception sites for affordable housing related to any settlement within the AONB should be identified in the light of a "landscape-led" comparative analysis of alternative sites to ensure that only the most appropriate sites are brought forward.  Provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA from land take or changing land use.
Policy PD-P8	Support new tourism, leisure and recreation development that conserves and enhances the diverse local landscape characteristics of the various sections of the Cornwall AONB. Development of such facilities should respond to the character, sensitivity and capacity of the designated landscape and not comprise a conspicuous uncharacteristic element harming the character, tranquillity and biodiversity of the landscape, ensuring that the scale, design, colour, and use of materials have appropriate regard to the protected landscape. Seek better integration of existing holiday sites, visitor infrastructure, and car parks in order to reduce landscape and visual impact.  Provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA from recreational disturbance.





**2**A Strategy for Cornwall AONB

**3** Forces for Change



Title	Planning & Development
Policy PD-P9	Support the sustainable management of recreational water sports, and commercial and operational maritime activities including shell fisheries and dredging in AONB estuaries and at the coast.  Recognise the potential harm to tranquillity and biodiversity from both recreational and commercial and operational maritime activity both within the enclosed waters of the designated landscape and also the marine areas which form their setting.  Support measures to conserve and enhance the AONB coast, including safeguarding currently undeveloped coastal stretches.  Provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA from recreational disturbance.
Policy PD-P10	Support appropriate landscape-led site selection and design of new telecommunication and power infrastructure. Require such development to comply with the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Network Development in England (or any successor document).
Policy PD-P11	<ul> <li>Any development in, or within the setting of, the AONB must be sustainable development that:</li> <li>maintains local distinctiveness and contributes to the sense of place; it should respond to local historical, cultural and landscape context and enhance and feel part of the existing landscape. This can include responding to both built and natural attributes, for instance using characteristic local construction methods, built forms, field patterns and landscapes. It may also include retaining or enhancing key views, landscapes and buildings that provide a tangible link to Cornish culture;</li> <li>is appropriately located, and addresses landscape sensitivity and capacity being of a scale, density, layout, height and mass with a clear understanding and response to its landscape, seascape and townscape setting;</li> <li>reflects vernacular scale and detailing avoiding the uncharacteristic introduction of large scale dwellings with very extensive glazed elevations and imposing presence; Innovation in building design within the AONB should be landscape-led providing contextually responsive in the terms set out above, provide contemporary development that is well integrated into its setting and the AONB landscape.</li> <li>is compatible with the distinctive character of the location described by the Landscape Character Assessment, with particular regard to the setting of settlements and the rural landscape;</li> </ul>





**2**A Strategy for Cornwall AONB

**3** Forces for Change 4
Aims, Policies and Objectives

**5** Monitoring

**6** Cornwall AONB: 2 Local Sections **7**Partners and Stakeholders



Title	Planning & Development	
Policy PD-P11 (continued)	<ul> <li>does not compromise the special qualities and characteristics of the AONB designation as outlined for each local section and in relevant landscape character assessments;</li> <li>maintains ecological continuity/ semi-natural corridors and gives rise to biodiversity net gain;</li> <li>supports the conservation of the historic environment as a whole, and in particular those designated heritage assets and their setting; including Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites;</li> <li>respects and does not diminish dark skies, designated or otherwise, and maintains tranquillity. Any development that leads to increase light spill will not be supported</li> <li>protects ancient woodland, trees and notable trees, other important features and semi natural habitats in order that they can contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the protected landscape.</li> <li>Particular care should be taken to ensure that development outside the AONB does not harm the natural beauty, character and special qualities of the AONB and/ or its setting or otherwise prejudice the achievement of the AONB purposes. The AONB enjoys equal protection from effects whether they result from development within or outside the designated area.</li> <li>Provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA from land take or changing land use.</li> </ul>	
Policy PD-P12	Quarrying and mineral extraction within the AONB or within its setting should conserve and enhance the landscape character and natural beauty of the area. Support the landscape restoration of existing mines and quarries, to enhance landscape character and natural beauty by seeking appropriate new planning conditions through the Review of Mineral Planning Permissions. Support existing small-scale quarries within the different sections of the CAONB, in order to allow controlled production of characteristic stone for use locally to facilitate contextually responsive development. These quarries will be required to 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.  Provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA from land take or changing land use.	







Title	Planning & Development
Policy PD-P13	Support the use of local vernacular stone and other building materials used in vernacular ways within built development and infrastructure. If necessary, by the small-scale and sensitive reworking of local quarries.
Policy PD-P14	Renewable energy technologies and associated infrastructure, both onshore and offshore, should be of a scale and design able to be accommodated within the AONB and its setting. Any such development should adopt landscape led principles to guard against landscape, visual and cumulative impacts, in accordance with the evidence base contained within the local relevant renewable policies.  Provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA from land take or changing land use.
Policy PD-P15	Built development should provide gains for biodiversity; promoting habitat retention, creation, enhancement and species protection aligned with other relevant policies.  Provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA from land take or changing land use.
Policy PD-P16	Any development within the marine, coastal and estuarine environment must take account of terrestrial and marine based planning policies and processes.  Provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA from land take or changing land use.
Policy PD-P17	Farm diversification and infrastructure will generally be supported where they provide sustainable rural businesses, enhance local distinctiveness and cultural heritage and where the development is of a scale, design and location that can be accommodated within the sensitive landscapes of the AONB.  See Appendix i.



### Planning & Development Title The conversion of existing redundant agricultural (and other similar) **Policy** buildings to form dwellings will only be supported where: **PD-P18** • The existing buildings are characteristic, historic, vernacular buildings which are recognisably an important part of the local built and landscape context; and • The existing buildings are worthy of retention in their own right; and The conversion very substantially retains the scale, character and appearance of the original building with repair generally preferred to renovation: and The conversion does not give rise to the introduction of uncharacteristic fenestration or domestication of the setting or the introduction of conspicuous domestic paraphernalia into the setting of the building. The conversion of redundant existing agricultural (and other) buildings such as pole barns, simple concrete block barns or portal frame buildings which in the absence of an agricultural use would form alien elements in the landscape will not generally be supported. Avoids impacts upon the qualifying feature of the SAC and SPA from land take or changing land use **Policy** Require the conservation and enhancement of the existing character of the local road network and particularly the minor lanes within **PD-P19** the designated landscape. The pattern and character of the roads of much of the designated landscape contributes appreciably to the character of the area, from sunken and enclosed lanes in wooded valleys to open unenclosed moorland roads. Changes to the roads and lanes in the designated landscape require particular design to ensure that their characteristic form is not lost or compromised. Widening, straightening, re-routing, kerbing and enclosure of currently unenclosed sections or the inclusion of uncharacteristic standard suburban details and particularly the proliferation of signage should be avoided. New openings to lanes through existing hedge banks or vegetation which require uncharacteristic contemporary design standards and uncharacteristic visibility splays will not be supported. Where new highway works are required these should adopt traditional approaches including locally appropriate Cornish hedge banks and where appropriate characteristic soft passing places and should reflect characteristic local landscape patterns and boundaries. The management of verges should provide opportunity for biodiversity net gain.

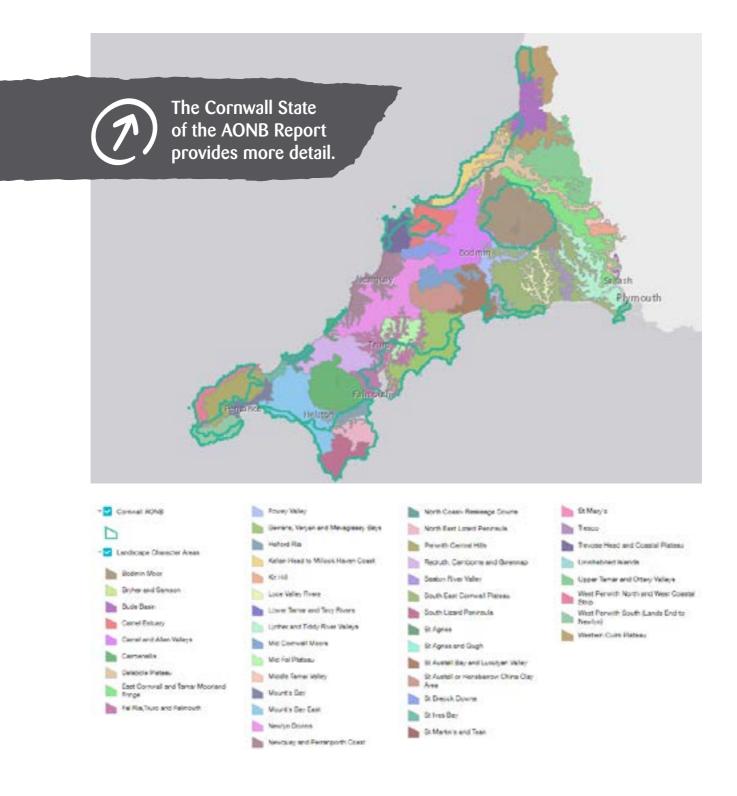


Title	Planning & Development	Time frame
Objective PD-Ob1	Support the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans by Cornwall AONB parishes, in the light of robust landscape evidence bases, promoting the conservation and enhancement of local landscape character and distinctiveness.	Long
Objective PD-Ob2	Seek opportunities to reduce and remove existing overhead power and telecommunications lines via the Ofgem Undergrounding and other programmes in order to reduce landscape and visual impact.	Long
	Where/if the overhead cables are in proximity to a Habitats site that there may be a potential impact pathway through direct land take if the undergrounding route were to transit through the Habitats site. A project-level HRA screening at application stage may therefore be necessary.	
Objective PD-Ob3	Promote a pragmatic approach for coastal communities to accommodating the effects of climate change including the relocation of infrastructure and facilities where this is compatible with the primary purpose of the designation and other policy requirements.	Long
Objective PD-Ob4	Any development should consider the relative carbon balance between the options of new build or refurbishment with a strong preference for the lowest carbon options considering the balance between embedded carbon and operational carbon emissions and preferring low carbon materials and construction methods.	Long





# Landscape Character Areas of Cornwall





### Requirements for Agricultural Buildings

The construction of new agricultural buildings represents a major investment for the farm business. This guidance is intended to provide some simple brief principles to ensure that this investment provides not only the facility required but also provides for its landscape setting and the proportionate delivery of wider environmental net gain.

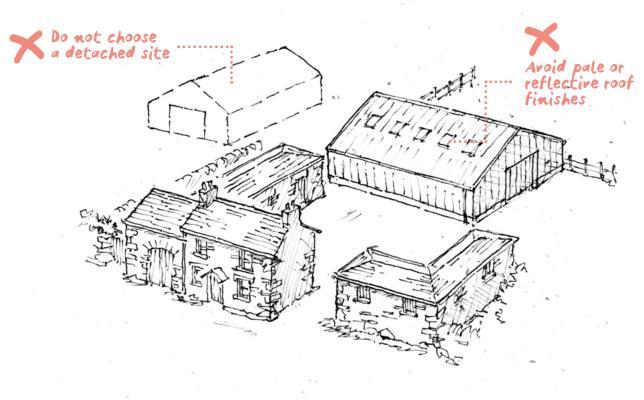
Such buildings offer the opportunity for integration into the landscape, the provision of other benefits such as water and waste management, biodiversity enhancement through appropriate planting and the potential for renewable energy generation.

Where required new agricultural buildings should be designed and sited to ensure that they do not unacceptably detract from the designated landscape.

Assimilation into the landscape can be achieved through both siting and design.

### In general new agricultural buildings should be sited to:

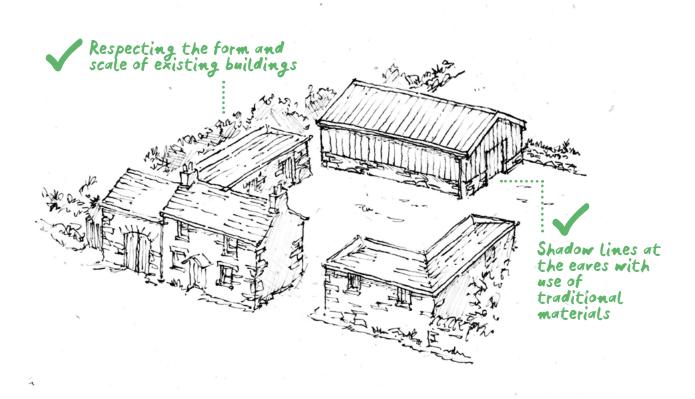
 Be closely related to existing farm buildings (avoiding obscuring existing characterful farm buildings in key views);



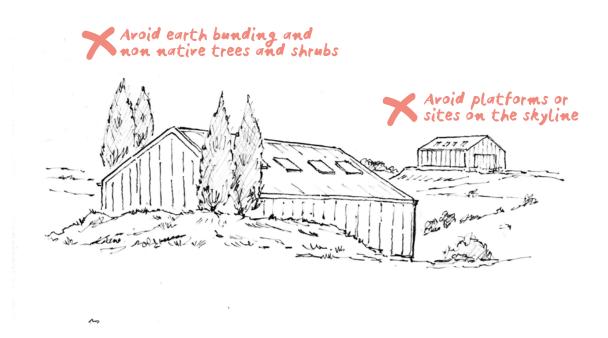




• Respect the setting of Listed Buildings and other heritage assets;

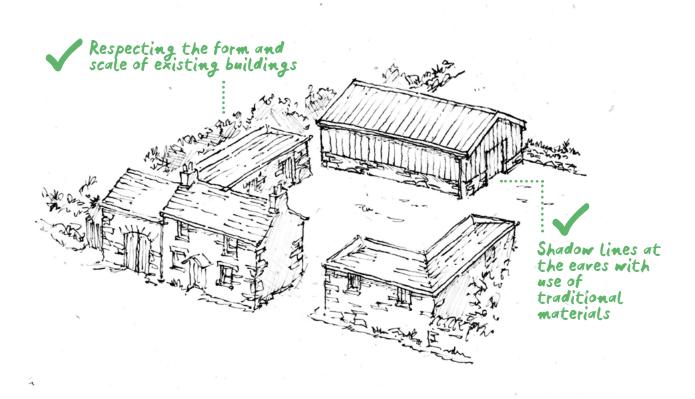


• Be accommodated within the folds of the landscape avoiding skyline locations. The sympathetic use of changes of ground levels can assist in accommodating agricultural buildings in the landscape – avoiding unnatural platforms or bunding;

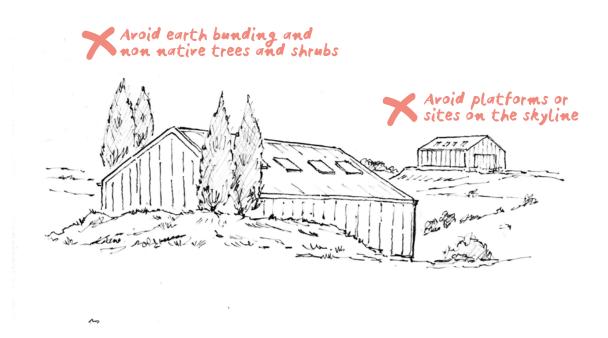




• Respect the setting of Listed Buildings and other heritage assets;

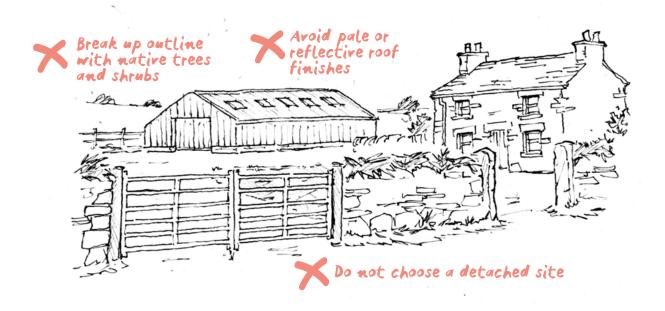


• Be accommodated within the folds of the landscape avoiding skyline locations. The sympathetic use of changes of ground levels can assist in accommodating agricultural buildings in the landscape – avoiding unnatural platforms or bunding;



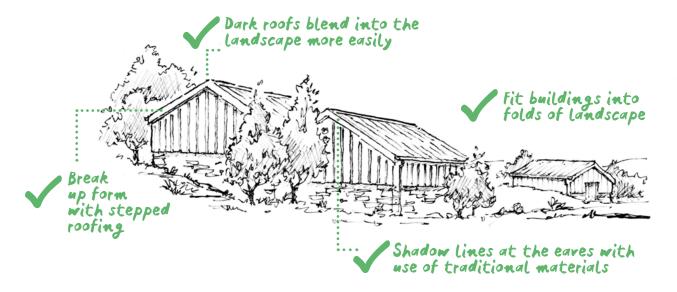


- Where possible and appropriate to be backclothed by existing woodland or field boundaries (or new woodland and field boundaries which reflect the local landscape character);
- Retain (and where appropriate reinforce) existing tree cover, Cornish hedges and field patterns; and
- Retain and re-use existing access.



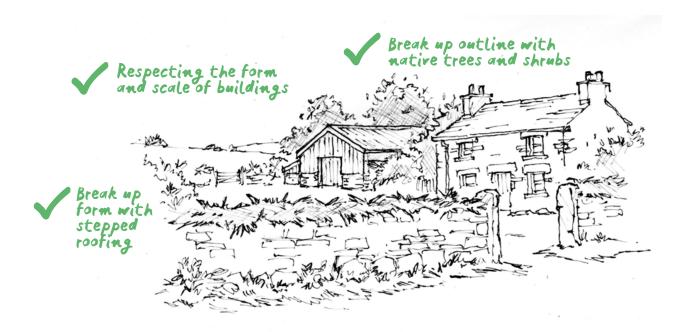
In general new agricultural buildings would be preferred to:

• Use smaller buildings in preference to larger ones. A number of smaller buildings may be more easily accommodated in the landscape than a single large building;





 Reflect the ridge and eaves height of existing farm buildings;



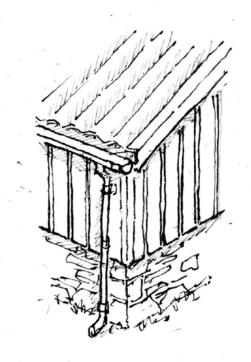
- Prefer narrow to wide building spans, breaking down large ridge runs where required;
- Use stepped roofs where appropriate to break down the scale of roofscapes;
- The use of characteristic tree planting can greatly assist the assimilation of new agricultural buildings into the landscape. Often very limited characteristic planting can provide very substantial benefit (and biodiversity net gain);
- Fibre cement is a generally preferred roofing material for its non-reflective properties, but should be preferred in darker colours (such as anthracite);
- Roof-lights should be minimised, but where required concentrated on the least visible pitch of the roof;

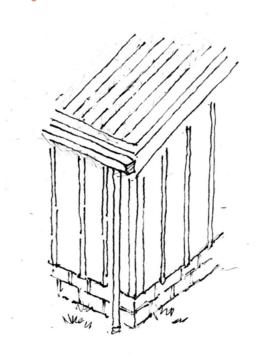
- As a result of its reflective properties profiled steel sheeting is neither the preferred material for roofs nor elevations, but where used should be dark in colour and matt finish. Fibre cement sheeting and timber finishes are typically preferred.
- Typically pre-treated (locally sourced) softwood is preferred for elevations;
- Local stone is preferred for plinth walls in preference to concrete block or concrete panel walls.
- The detailing of new agricultural buildings should provide shadow lines at eaves, above plinth walls and at doors and openings in order to break down the perception of their scale.











The construction of new agricultural buildings is often associated with new areas of hardstanding and the need for lighting. The issues related to the building such as water run-off, slurry management and light spill need to be considered.

Water run-off may provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and the roofs of new agricultural buildings may provide opportunities for the sensitive siting of solar panels on roofs.





# ii.

### **Major Development in Cornwall AONB**

'Major developments' as referred to in paragraph 177 of the National Planning Policy Framework is not defined in the Framework. The Planning Practice Guidance stating that 'whether a proposed development in these designated areas should be treated as a major development, to which the policy in paragraph 177 of the Framework applies, will be a matter for the relevant decision taker, taking into account the proposal in question and the local context'.

The AONB Partnership would regard the reference to 'major developments' in this context as differing from the definition as set out within the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. It is not a straightforward exercise to define the level at which development is considered to be 'major' as this will vary depending on the scale, location and type of development proposed, notwithstanding the extent to which harm could be mitigated. As such, it is not possible or appropriate to apply a blanket definition for what should be treated as major development in the AONB. Nevertheless, there are some key indicators that would suggest that a development is likely to be major in its effect on the landscape quality:

1. Where the scale of development is likely to have a detrimental visual impact that harms the scenic quality of the AONB, either within the AONB or in its setting.

- 2. Where the location of development would erode the special qualities and features of the area of the AONB where the development is proposed (landscape, cultural, biodiversity, tranquillity).
- **3.** Where the type of development is not directly compatible with its surroundings.
- 4. Where the development would conflict with the economic and social needs of local communities and the AONB's guiding principles of sustainable development.

Any major applications that have the potential to generate any of the above should then be considered against the following criteria:

The need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy.







The AONB Partnership would encourage the Local Planning Authority to request that any such development proposal to be accompanied by a statement of need in the context of national considerations. The impacts of permitting or refusing the development should be clearly identified, including the social, economic and environmental impacts, with specific reference to the impacts upon the natural beauty, special qualities of the AONB, and the economic and social needs of the local communities affected. Such a statement should be based upon objective assessment and clear evidence.

# The cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way.

The AONB Partnership would encourage any such development proposal to be accompanied by a report setting out a sequential approach to site selection. This should evidence the extent to which alternative sites have been assessed before the selection of sites within the AONB, and clearly identify why sites outside of the designated area could not be developed. The report should also identify and evidence why the need for the development could not be met in some other way. The report should include relevant evidence of the cost of developing outside of the AONB and any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.

The AONB Partnership would expect any such development proposal to be accompanied by a report identifying any detrimental effects upon the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities. Such a report should relate directly to the special qualities of the AONB as a whole as well as those specific to the development site.

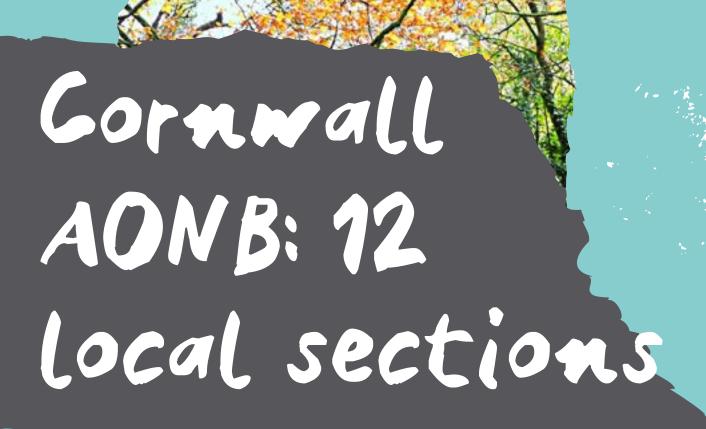
# Any mitigation identified to moderate these impacts should be:

- Clearly detailed, in line with the duty to conserve and enhance the AONB
- Compatible with the objectives of the Management Plan
- Capable of realisation through robust planning conditions or obligation



Looking towards the Dodman | Jim Wood



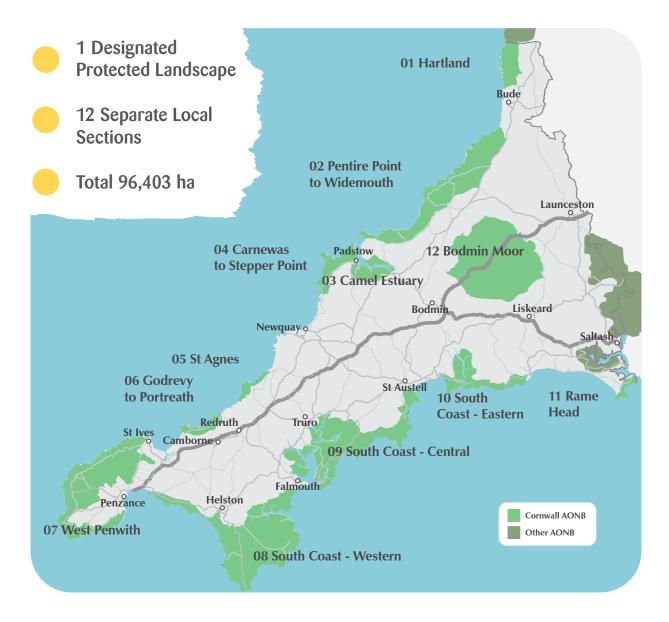




Extract from 'Beast of Bodmin' by Pascale Petit

An English reading and a Cornish translation.

### **Cornwall AONB: 12 Local Sections**



Cornwall AONB is unique, the only AONB in the UK that has 12 separate sections, 10 are coastal, 1 estuary and 1 moorland. This geographical separation creates many opportunities for the protected landscape to be integrated and connected with the whole County. Each of the 12 Local Sections are distinct and unique in their own rights, with their own local strengths and pressures.

To identify, recognise and define the diversity in our designated landscape, each of the 12 sections has its own representation in the Management Plan.

The following 12 local sections are identified in the above map, the local section detail is included here to support planning and development decisions and provide stakeholders and members of the public with local knowledge and interest that could also support local initiatives and collaboration.

Each local section has its own local policies and objectives which are locally significant and align with the strategy as a whole.

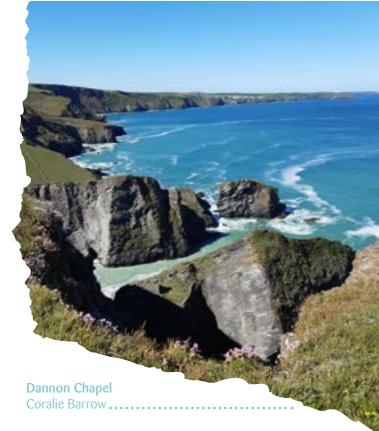
Wheal Coates mine, St Agnes | Andrew Hocking



## Section 01

# **Hartland** (Marsland to Menapoint Church)





#### Location:

This small section of the AONB runs southwards from the Devon border to just above Bude. It shares a boundary with the North Devon AONB at its eastern boundary and more or less follows the A39 trunk road (Atlantic Highway) to Menapoint Church.

AONB Section Area (ha) % of total AONB area 01 Hartland 2,601 2.7%

Cornwall's Landscape Character Areas:

CA37: Western Culm Plateau
 CA38: Bude Basin

Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters

MCA 44: Hartland Point to Port Isaac Bay

01

# **Special Qualities of Hartland** (Marsland to Menapoint Church)

The Key Landscape Characteristic of 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.

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 and grassland mosaics fringe 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.

Views along the coastline are breathtaking and extensive. The dramatic coastal cliffs and unusual rock formations, together with its ancient history, provides an interesting and unique landscape.

Small hamlets and isolated farm holdings 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.

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 and the visually intrusive GCHQ at Morwenstow.



#### Land Use

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

### **Significant Landowners**

 The National Trust manages land specifically around the coastline at Morwenstow and from Duckpool to Sandymouth.

### **Biodiversity & Geodiversity**

The key habitat types in this Section include culm grassland, maritime cliff and slope, lowland heathland, species-rich grasslands, heath in coastal valleys and native broadleaved woodland.

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.

# Key species of interest for this section:

- Peregrine
- Rare lichens
- Atlantic woodlands
- Bryophyte
- Chough

### **Culture and Heritage**

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

A Romano-British fort and medieval port for Kilkhampton was discovered on the beach at Duckpool in the 1980s.

# Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plan

- Support joint working with the North Devon AONB Partnership on the actions for the Hartland Peninsula
- Kilkhampton have a Parish Plan

### Other Designations

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) and SAC (Special Area of Conservation). The sea off Hartland Point to Tintagel is designated as a Marine Conservation Zone.



### **Landscape 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 Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) report that few areas of culm grassland now remain in north Cornwall.
- Bracken encroachment affects coastal marginal land especially within the coastal valleys leading to loss of biodiversity and changes in landscape character.
- Sycamore has become established in broadleaved woodlands.

- The large structures of GCHQ Bude at Morwenstow are visually intrusive.
- Coastal erosion poses a significant risk to heritage features and coastal communities, potentially resulting in them being lost.
- Dutch elm disease has had a significant impact on hedgerow elm in this area affecting habitat connectivity and landscape character.





**Community Network Area** (CNA)

**AONB** section within CNA

Bude

Hartland and Pentire Point to Widemouth

**Index of Multiple Deprivation** Percentile by CNA

2015 2019

43.3% 42.2%



**Population**Health and Wellbeing in **Bude** (2016/2017)

17,486 people

Life expectancy (years)



**Births** (2015)



Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



Cornwall's total population 98.6% white



### Inequalities

Health and Wellbeing in Bude



of Bude's households \*\* are fuel poor



of Bude's children live in low-income families



715

**Bude residents claim Disability Living Allowance** 



of Cornwall's total population



### Risk Groups Health and Wellbeing in Bude



### **Obesity**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



### **Diabetes**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



language



### **Chronic Kidney Disease**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

# 01 Hartland: Policies & Objectives

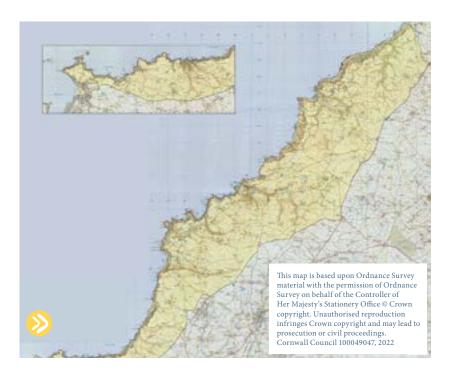
The policies and objectives below are applicable to this Local Section – they should, however, be read in conjunction with the Cornwall AONB Strategy Aims, Policies and Objectives which are applicable to the whole designation.

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
H-P1	Require all development to support the conservation and enhancement of the undeveloped character of the coast, in order to retain its rugged and simple tranquillity, maintaining the sparsely populated settlement pattern and tranquil characteristics of this section of the Cornwall AONB. Respect local vernacular, scale and use of materials that makes this area distinctive.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS- Ob3, LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob4 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-P3, RSA-P4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P7, PD-P12, PD-P14, PD-P18
H-P2	Seek to maintain current low levels of light pollution in order to maintain dark night skies.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P2, PD-P12
н-Р3	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, but not limited to, Duckpool, Sandymouth and Morwenstow.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob8 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2 SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P9

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
H-Ob1	Support 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, paying particular attention to those that may be impacted upon by coastal change.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-P6 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4, LS-Ob5, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob10 CCBR-Ob4 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob3, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob6, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob10, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob13, HC-Ob14 RSA-P3, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob4 SCE-P2, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5
H-Ob2	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.	LS-P1, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4, LS-Ob5 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4
H-Ob3	Encourage sensitive management and potential removal of Sycamores in native broadleaved woodlands in a manner that is consistent with conserving and enhancing local landscape character, and biodiversity, and provided regeneration can occur using native species. Particularly at Coombe Valley, Stanbury, The Tidna, and Marsland Valley.	LS-P1 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob5 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5 CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob3 SCE-Ob2

## Section 02

## 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.

AONB Section Area (ha) % of total AONB area 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth 11,879 12.3%

## **Cornwall's Landscape Character Areas:**

- CA34: Camel Estuary CA37: Western Culm Plateau CA38: Bude Basin
- CA35: Kellan Head to Millook Haven Coast CA36: Delabole Plateau

## Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters

- MCA 44: Hartland Point to Port Isaac Bay
- MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay

## Special Qualities of Pentire Point to Widemouth

The Key Landscape Characteristic of this section of the AONB is the coastline, which 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. 'High Cliff' near Tresparrett, at 223m, is the highest sheer drop cliff in Cornwall and is formed from 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.

There has been considerable development over the years on the more elevated land higher up the valley, in spite of the Boscastle flood in 2004 when an estimated two million tonnes of floodwater flowed down the River Valency. The storm also affected Rocky Valley and Crackington Haven.

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 Treknow 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.

Boscastle | Florence Davidson



#### Land Use

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. Inland is mainly limited to arable and pasture with coastal heathland dominating the cliffs.

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 not many settlements, other than a few scattered farm holdings, with the exception of Port Isaac and Port Gaverne in the west which are popular visitor destinations as is the small coastal settlement at Trebarwith, connected with the old harbour cove of Port William.

**Significant Landowners** 

- 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.
- **Historic England** manages Tintagel Castle as a tourism destination.
- Active quarrying operations are controlled under the Review of Mineral Planning Permissions

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 everincreasing 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.

### **Biodiversity & Geodiversity**

- There is a noticeable lack of tree cover due to exposure to coastal winds in this section.
- Coastal heathland is a significant component of this area with rough and scrubby land leading inwards from the coast.
- The sheltered and relatively inaccessible coves of this section are particularly important safe habitat for Cornwall's globally significant population of grey seals.
- Some steep valley sides typically have less intensive management and support a range of developing woodland, scrub or rough ground habitats.



### Key species of interest for this section:

- Puffin
- Chough
- Guillemot
- Corn **Bunting**
- Razorbill
- Greater
- Horseshoe Bat

### Culture and Heritage

The most notable historic feature along this section 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. The Castle is linked to the legend of King Arthur and provides a very popular global tourism destination.

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.

Towards the extreme west of the section are the remains of an Iron Age cliff castle.

This Section is famous for Thomas Hardy and the Doc Martin series which brings significant economic benefit.

#### Cornish Hedge

The generally treeless and sparsely vegetated Cornish hedges are often built with tightly packed alternating diagonal slate courses, locally called 'curzy way'. There are remarkable survivals of Medieval open field strip farming some of which are still in active management, as at Forrabury, whilst others are preserved within later field patterns.

### Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plan

- St Kew have a Parish Plan
- St Endellion Neighbourhood Development Plan
- St Gennys have been designated for a Neighbourhood Development Plan
- St Minver Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Tintagel have been designated for Neighbourhood Development Plan
- 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.

## Other Designations

The offshore area from 'Hartland Point to Tintagel' has been designated as a Marine Conservation Zone.

The coast from Trebarwith to Widemouth is a designated SSSI and SAC.

#### **Landscape Condition**

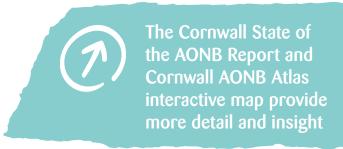
• There has been a departure from the local settlement pattern, vernacular and use of local materials in recent housing development in Boscastle and Tintagel and other locations and these detract from the heritage character of the settlements. The continued extension of these settlements and the unsympathetic redevelopment of existing dwellings continues to cumulatively erode the character of both the settlements and the wider landscape. Development pressure from Polzeath has the potential to impact upon the AONB and its setting.



Boscastle Harbour | Andrew Dunshee

 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 and other local road improvements related to recent development 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.
- Bracken encroachment is a significant issue within coastal valleys leading to loss of biodiversity and change in the landscape character.
- Loss of hedgerow elm due to disease has impacted on habitat connectivity and landscape character in certain parts of this section of the AONB.
- Port Isaac and Port Gaverne experience traffic congestion during peak periods on narrow lanes.



**Community Network Area** (CNA) Bude

**AONB** section within CNA

Hartland and Pentire Point to Widemouth

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 43.3%

2019 | 42.2%



## Population Health and Wellbeing

in **Bude** (2016/2017)

Life expectancy (years)



17,486 people

Cornwall's total population



Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



98.6% white

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Camelford

**AONB** section within CNA

Bodmin Moor and **Pentire Point to Widemouth** 

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 38.6%

2019 | 38.6%



81.2

**Population**Health and Wellbeing in **Camelford** (2016/2017)

Life expectancy (years)



**Births** (2015)



12,837 people

Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



Cornwall's total population



**Community Network Area** (CNA) Wadebridge & Padstow

**AONB** section within CNA

Pentire Point to Widemouth, Camel Estuary, and Trevose Head to Stepper Point

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 46.9%

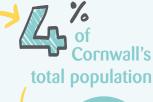
2019 | 51.5%



## Population

Health and Wellbeing in Wade**bridge & Padstow** (2016/2017)

20,614 people



Life expectancy (years)



**Births** (2015)



Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



98.6% white

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Bude

#### **AONB** section within CNA

Hartland and Pentire Point to Widemouth



Inequalities (2016/2017)

Health and Wellbeing in Bude



households \*\*
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families

local children in receipt of

free school meals



% of



residents claim
Disability Living Allowance



all claimants in Cornwall

Community Network Area (CNA)
Camelford

**AONB** section within CNA

Bodmin Moor and Pentire Point to Widemouth



Inequalities (2016/2017)

Health and Wellbeing in Camelford



local
households
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



local children in receipt of

free school meals



**575** 

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance



all claimants in Cornwall

Community Network Area (CNA) Wadebridge & Padstow

**AONB** section within CNA

**Pentire Point to Widemouth**, Camel Estuary, and Trevose Head to Stepper Point



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



local \*\*
households \*\*
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



free school meals



all claimants in Cornwall

725

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance





**Community Network Area** (CNA) Bude

**AONB section within CNA**Hartland and **Pentire Point to Widemouth** 



Risk Groups Health and Wellbeing in Bude



Obesity (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



Diabetes (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Camelford

**AONB section within CNA**Bodmin Moor and **Pentire Point to Widemouth** 



Risk Groups

Health and Wellbeing in **Camelford** 



**Obesity** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



**Diabetes** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

Community Network Area (CNA) Wadebridge & Padstow

AONB section within CNA
Pentire Point to Widemouth, Camel Estuary,

and Trevose Head to Stepper Point



Risk Groups

Health and Wellbeing in Wadebridge & Padstow



**Obesity** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



Diabetes

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

# 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth: 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
PPW-P1	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, or any additional workings sought.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob12 CCBR-Ob3 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3 PD-P13, PD-P14
PPW-P2	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 and patterns of local materials and hedging styles in highways work.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11 CCBR-P1 HC-Ob4, HC-Ob8 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P5, SCE-P6 PD-P20

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
PPW-P3	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM- Ob5, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob4 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-P3 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P3, PD-P7, PD-P12, PD-P18
PPW-P4	Ensure that settlement growth to address local needs in Polzeath enhances the settlement edge, conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the setting of the AONB. Ensure that the undeveloped coast between Polzeath, the southwestern end of the section, and the setting of 'The Rumps', is protected. Support new uses for isolated vernacular buildings where this can be achieved whilst maintaining their character and setting in order to facilitate their retention.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11 CCBR-Ob4 HC-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3 SCE-P2, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P6, PD-P7, PD-P8, PD-P12, PD-P16, PD-P18
PPW-P5	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 and Trewethett.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3 RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2 SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P6
PPW-P6	Seek to improve the management of traffic, parking and vehicular access in this section, including through the promotion of car free options	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, 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-Ob1, SCE-Ob5

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
PPW-Ob1	Support initiatives for undergrounding visually intrusive wirescapes, for example at Port Isaac and Tintagel.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1 PD-P11
PPW-Ob2	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, and native valley broadleaved woodland found in various sections for example (but not limited to) in the Valency Valley, Millook Woods, Crackington Haven and St Nectan's Glen.	LS-P1, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3 NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob3 SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4
PPW-Ob3	Support the encouragement of culm grassland in a manner that is consistent with conserving and enhancing local landscape character and biodiversity on coastal marginal land.	LS-P1, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3 NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4 SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4
PPW-Ob4	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 HC-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
PPW-Ob5	Support the improvement of the management of important seal sites between Beeny Sisters and Buckator, bringing them back into favourable condition for seals.	NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob9
PPW-Ob6	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.	LS-P1, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4, LS-Ob5 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3 SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob5
PPW-Ob7	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.	LS-P1 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob5 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5 CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob3 SCE-Ob2



## Section 03 Camel Estuary



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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.



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

## **Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:**

- CA19: Trevose 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

# **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.



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 multiuse 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
- Lapwing
- Wigeon
- 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.



## 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.



**Community Network Area** (CNA) **Wadebridge & Padstow** 

#### **AONB** section within CNA

Pentire Point to Widemouth, **Camel Estuary**, and Trevose 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

Life expectancy (years)



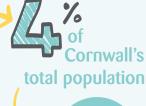
**Births** (2015)



**20,614** people

**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)









## Inequalities



local \*\*households \*\*are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



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)



residents who speak English as an additional language



(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

# 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
СЕ-РЗ	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

## Section 04

# **Carnewas to Stepper Point**





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

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

## **Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:**

CA19: Trevose Head and Coastal Plateau
 CA34: Camel Estuary

Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters

MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay

# **Special Qualities of Carnewas to Stepper Point**

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 Trevose 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.

Bedruthan Steps | Julie Taylor

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.

#### 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, Trevose 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.



Pereguine 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.



#### **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.



**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

Life expectancy (years)

85.9 male female

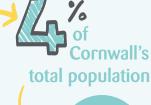
**Births** (2015)



**20,614** people

**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)









80.2

## Inequalities



households \*\*
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



local children in receipt of

free school meals



all claimants



residents claim
Disability Living Allowance







## Risk Groups



Obesity (% of resid

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



**Diabetes** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

## 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS- Ob3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-O9, NRLM-O11, NRLM-O13 CCBR-P1 CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob4 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3 RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-P7 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5 PD-P12, PD-P18
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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P4 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P9
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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P2, PD-P12

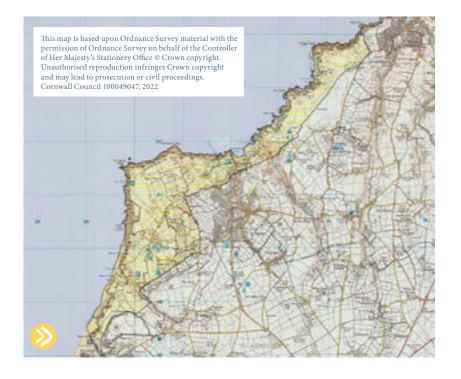
Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
CSP-Ob1	Support a local partnership approach including the local community, parish councils, farmers, landowners, stakeholders and agencies to better manage the competing demands that impact on the rich natural environment and natural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

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

## Section 05 St Agnes





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.

**Chapel Porth** Hannah Beech .

% of total AONB area **AONB Section** Area (ha) 05 St Agnes 0.7% 627

**Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:** 

• CA12: St Agnes • CA14: Newlyn Downs

Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters

MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay

## **Special Qualities of St Agnes**

The Key Landscape Characteristic of this section of the AONB is the dominant 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 90m 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 general character and attraction of this area is its open and exposed landscape with very limited tree cover except in narrow valleys, where it forms an important part of the landscape character. The openness of the clifftop landscape reveals extensive areas of coastal 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.

Clusters of houses which once housed miners and their families shelter in the coastal valleys and have a rough appearance that complements the derelict engine houses. The conversion of buildings formerly related to the mining landscape and redevelopment of other buildings and

structures is beginning to erode the local landscape character. At Trevaunance Cove the huge granite blocks of a long-ruined harbour are revealed at low tide lying scattered across the shore. Typical local building materials include killas walling, slate roofs and granite detailing.

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.

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.

#### Land Use

Fields are mainly small rectilinear improved pasture reflecting historic miner's smallholdings. They are archetypical of the mining landscapes of Cornwall and a distinctive element of the field pattern in this area. Between the fields and across open heathland numerous old mining tracks are still in use providing a network of informal access.

**Significant Landowners** 

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.

**Biodiversity & Geodiversity** 

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'.

Whilst there is a marked absence of trees in exposed areas, scrub and broadleaved woodland is developing along streams. Drainage from some old mine workings forms pools that support a wealth of wildlife. On the coastal slopes at the north edge of Porthtowan windblown sand including broken seashells supports lime-loving flowering plants that

contrast with the heathland vegetation of more acidic soils.

## Key species of interest for this section:

- Solitary (mining) bees
- Adder
- Common lizard
- Peregrine
- Green hairstreak
- Grey seal
- Cornish gorse
- Bell heather



## **Culture and Heritage**

Whilst the mining industry has carved its shape on the historic landscape of St Agnes, there are other historic remains including The St Agnes Beacon, 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 west of Trevellas.

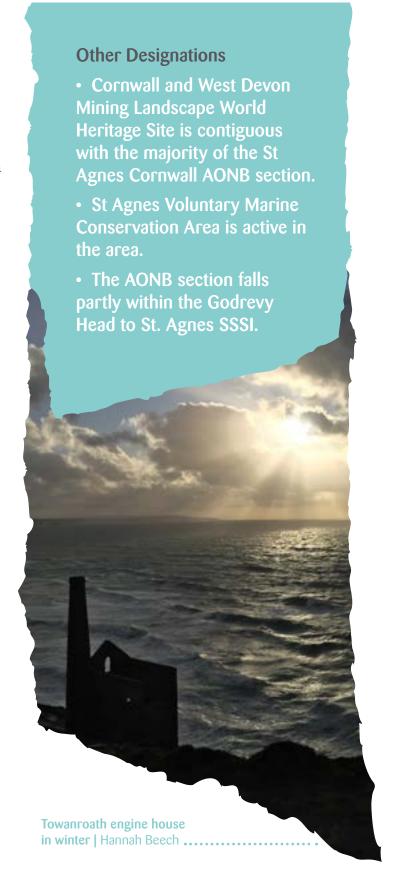
The harbour, constructed in 1798, supported a fishing industry and allowed for the export of copper ore and the import of coal from south Wales for the smelters at the mines and later, during the 19th century, as a hub for pilchard fishing. Piles of huge granite blocks in Trevaunance Cove, visible at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

Every year in May, the Bolster festival takes place on the stunning cliffs at Chapel Porth beach. It tells the tale of the Giant Bolster who, having ravaged the locality and terrified the locals, is finally brought to 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.

The Cornish hedges which criss-cross the land consist mainly of rubble stone from local killas which incorporate unweathered, mineralised mine spoil, providing a valuable habitat for both native flora and fauna.

## Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

- St Agnes Neighbourhood Development Plan
- A St Agnes Conservation Area Appraisal (conservation and enhancement of local settlement character) has been produced.
- Perranzabuloe Parish Council prepared a Management Strategy for Cligga Head



#### **Landscape Condition**

- Existing and more recent development above both sides of the beach at Porthtowan is out of character as is some 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 vernacular built form and is now beginning to impact upon the AONB.
- 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.
- Footpath erosion on coastal heathland from overuse of unmarked routes at Trevellas Coombe, Chapel Porth and Porthtowan.
- Coastal heathland in varying condition with some areas displaying serial succession of scrub vegetation

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



**Community Network Area** (CNA) St Agnes & Perranporth

AONB section within CNA St Agnes

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 49.1%

2019 | 50.0%

**Health and Wellbeing in St Agnes & Perranporth** (2016/2017)



Population

**Births** (2015)

17,693 people

of Cornwall's total population

Life expectancy (years)

78.9 83.7 female

177

**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)







## Inequalities





local children live in low-income families

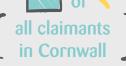


690

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance









## Risk Groups



Obesity (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



**Diabetes**(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



2.9 %

**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

speak English as an additional language

## 05 St Agnes: 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
SA-P1	Require all new development including replacement dwellings, to be "landscape-led" to respond appropriately to the sensitivity and capacity of the landscape by conserving and enhancing the landscape character and natural beauty of the area. This needs to include consideration of cumulative and scale of replacement dwellings. It should also preclude extensions and encroachment.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob15 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P4 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P9, PD-P12, PD-P14, PD-P18
SA-P2	Seek the restoration and enhancement of the expansive openness of the coastal plateau and Beacon to keep free from intrusive development and tall structures. 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob6, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-Ob4 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob15 RSA-P1, RSA-P2 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, 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
SA-P3	Protect 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS- Ob3, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob11, NRLM-Ob13 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob15 RSA-Ob1 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4 PD-P18
SA-P4	Encourage the sympathetic management of Perranporth Airfield, for example by improvement of boundary features and sensitive siting and design of airfield infrastructure.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1 PD-P1, PD-P12
SA-P5	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	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob15 RSA-P1, RSA-P2 RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P9
SA-P6	Require particular consideration of the adverse cumulative effects of development of both replacement and new dwellings and the expansion of characteristic villages into their protected setting and settlement pattern. The unique historic character of many of these settlements reflects both their vernacular form and buildings and also their relationship to their landscape setting. The loss of either characteristic will be disproportionately harmful.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob15 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P7, PD-12

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
SA-Ob1	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-P6 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob6, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob14, HC-Ob15 RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob3 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2
SA-Ob2	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-P6 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4 HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob14, HC-Ob15 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4
SA-Ob3	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.	NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob9 CCBR-Ob4 RSA-Ob3 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB- Ob3, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4?
SA-Ob4	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4 RSA-P1

## Section 06 Godrevy to Portreath





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.



**AONB Section** 06 Godrevy to Portreath

Area (ha) 1,165

% of total AONB area

#### **Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:**

- CA11: Redruth, Camborne and Gwennap
- CA28: North Coast- Reskeage Downs

Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters

MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay

# **Special Qualities of Godrevy to Portreath**

The Key Landscape Characteristics of this section of the AONB are 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 and are referred to as 'North Cliffs'. 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 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 of 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.

#### Land Use

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.

The coastal plateau and landward slopes support mixed arable and pastoral farming. The mostly large, recently enclosed, rectangular fields enhance the impression of expansive openness close to the cliff tops. However, toward the mouth of the Red River anciently enclosed land with its much smaller irregularly shaped fields creates a distinct change in scale and character. The surrounding low stone Cornish hedges are clothed by rough vegetation mixed with occasional wind sculpted blackthorn and hawthorn.

Settlement is sparse and limited to scattered dwellings and a few farmhouses. The only exception being the edge of Portreath which lies just inside the AONB boundary. Small quiet lanes and tracks connect the fields and dwellings whilst the still rural B3301 provides ready access to the numerous popular small informal car park viewpoints adjacent to the cliff top coast path. At Tehidy the ornamentally designed landscape is accessible by the many footpaths associated with its current use as a popular Country Park.

#### **Significant Landowners**

- 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.
- Cornwall Council manages Tehidy Country Park providing educational and environmental activities.
- Cornwall Council owns and manages St Gothian Sands Local Nature Reserve on the western boundary of the Red River.



Jim Wood

#### **Biodiversity & Geodiversity**

High cliffs of unstable soft Devonian slate, greywakes and siltstones are sculpted into small coves, small islands and numerous rocky stacks by the relentless pounding of the Atlantic Ocean. At Hell's Mouth and Hudder Cove precipitous drops fall sheer to the rocks and surf below. The coast at Godrevy Point, however, is softer in profile with a low rocky coast backed by gentle slopes just offshore of which is the low craggy outcrop of Godrevy Island topped by its landmark white lighthouse.

An almost continuous belt of coastal heath interspersed with other coarse vegetation creates a varying texture that enhances the wildness of the abrupt cliff edge.

Reaching close to these cliffs the woodland plantations of Tehidy are wind pruned to a low sloping outer edge by the salt laden winds but gradually achieve greater stature with the progressively increasing shelter of the Red River valley. In spring the sheltered partially ancient Sessile Oak woods are spectacularly carpeted with bluebells.

The mainly inaccessible coves provide critical habitat for grey seals, which can be readily seen from the cliff tops above.



## Key species of interest for this section;

- Grey seals
- Dartford warbler
- Golden ringed dragonfly
- Adder
- Kestrel
- Stonechat
- Spring squill
- Chough
- Guillemot
- Shag

#### **Culture and Heritage**

The headland at Godrevy contains important archaeological remains from the Mesolithic period onwards with evidence of various settlements.

Due to its geology, coastal land here is largely free of known historic mining remains unlike the adjacent AONB sections to the east and west. It is however rich in other important archaeological features including vestiges of prehistoric settlements and fortifications. Unusually it is along the course of the Red River valley that significant early industrial archaeology is found dating from the medieval period onward and possibly far earlier.

Carvannel Cliff Castle is located on the edge of a prominent coastal cliff known as Carvannel Downs overlooking Basset's Cove, near Portreath.

## Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

- Gwinear Gwithian Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Illogan Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Hayle Gwithian Towans Management Plan
- Portreath Neighbourhood Development Plan is at Plan Proposal Submission

#### Other Designations

 The AONB coastline is included in the Godrevy Head to St Agnes SSSI.

#### **Landscape 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 Godrevy to Portreath section of the AONB benefits from the greatest proportion of SSSI land in 'favourable' condition.
- 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.



**Community Network Area** (CNA) Camborne, Pool and Redruth

AONB section within CNA Godrevy to Portreath

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

**2015 | 3**4.7%

2019 | 35.6%

**Health and Wellbeing in Camborne, Pool and Redruth** (2016/2017)



Population

••••

60,986 people

of
Cornwall's
total population

Life expectancy (years)

Births (2015) **716** 

**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)









## Inequalities





local children live in low-income families





residents claim
Disability Living Allowance



all claimants in Cornwall



## Risk Groups



Obesity (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



**Diabetes**(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Hayle and St Ives

**AONB** section within CNA

Godrevy to Portreath and West Penwith

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 44.0%

2019 | 46.0%

**Health and Wellbeing in Hayle and St Ives** (2016/2017)



Population

26,200 people

of Cornwall's total population

Life expectancy (years)

84.7

female

Births (2015)
219

**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)







79.8

## Inequalities





local children live in low-income families



**5**% of



residents claim
Disability Living Allowance



all claimants in Cornwall



## Risk Groups



Obesity (% of residents on the Chronic

Disease Register)

6.2 %

**Diabetes**(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



6 9/0

### **Chronic Kidney Disease**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

residents who speak English as an additional language

# **O6 Godrevy to Portreath: 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
GP-P1	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-P6 LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob14 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3 RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob6 SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob5 PD-P9, PD-P14
GP-P2	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS- Ob3, LS-Ob6 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P7, PD-P11, PD-P12, PD-P18
GP-P3	Support the review of access to Godrevy Point in light of the anticipated future severance of the access road by the sea and restore the headland to natural coastal habitats.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 RSA-P2, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
GP-P4	Support improvement in the landscape integration of all locations used for visitor car parking including those at Godrevy and along the B3301 and North Cliffs.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-P6 LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob4, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob14, (HC-Ob15) RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3 RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob6 SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob5
GP-P5	Support 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P6, LS-Ob4 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob12 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB- Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2
GP-P6	Support the growth of Portreath to meet local needs in ways that do not adversely impact the AONB and its setting and prevent further development harming the AONB through its scale, siting, design, massing and materials.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6 HC-Ob1, (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob12, HC-Ob13, (HC-Ob15) RSA-P1, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P5, SCE-P6 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P7, PD-P12, PD-P14
GP-P7	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P6 LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob5

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
GP-Ob1	Increase awareness and promote a sense of connection and responsibility for the AONB among the communities of nearby settlements including Camborne, Pool, Redruth, Illogan, Hayle, and Portreath.	LS-P1, LS-Ob6 HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob13 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P4 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob4, HWB-Ob5, HWB-Ob7 SCE-Ob5, SCE-Ob6
GP-Ob2	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-Ob1 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P1, SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob7
GP-Ob3	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob4, (HC-Ob15) RSA-P1, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5
GP-Ob4	Support improved 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 and Hayle.	CCBR-P1, CCBR-O5 HC-O2, HC-O15 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3, RSA-P4, RSA-O1, RSA-O2, RSA-O3, RSA-O5 HWB-O1, HWB-O2, HWB-O3, HWB-O4, HWB-O5, HWB-O7 SCE-P3, SCE-P4, SCE-P6 SCE-O1, SCE-O3, SCE-O5, SCE-O6 PD-P6

"the spaces betweet my paws are tussocks where skylarks hatch

Extract from 'Beast of Bodmin' by Pascale Petit

**A** An English reading and a Cornish translation.

## Section 07 West Penwith





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.



% of total AONB area **AONB Section** Area (ha) 07 West Penwith 13,762

#### **Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:**

- CA01: West Penwith South (Lands' End to Newlyn)
- CA02: West Penwith North and West Coastal Strip
- CA03: Penwith Central Hills CA04: Mount's Bay

**Marine Character** Areas covering the coast/adjacent waters

• MCA 46: Penwith Maritime

# Special Qualities of West Penwith

The Key Landscape Characteristic of West Penwith is 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'.



Sunset at Crown Houses, Botallack James Reed

This is a historic landscape of unique, sparse, open, coastal moorland which offers a complete contrast to the lush, enclosed, subtropical valleys of the south coast. 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 Chapel 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 Porthmeor Beach at St Ives to the mining landscapes of 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.

#### Land Use

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

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



places becomes characteristically narrow and winding. 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 Age cliff castles. This wild landscape has a powerful sense of place largely due to the (apparent) absence of 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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. 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 into 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. There is a distinctive and regular pattern of narrow linear valleys with small streams running north-west to south-east draining towards Mount's 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.

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.

#### Significant Landowners

- Historic England manages the ancient Iron Age settlement of Chysauster
- 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

#### **Biodiversity & Geodiversity**

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

Whitesand Bay 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.

## Key species of interest for this section;

- Basking sharks
- Nightjar
- Grasshopper warbler
- Dolphin

#### **Culture and Heritage**

When you walk the dramatic and ancient landscape of West Penwith, you walk in the footsteps of giants. Myths and legends across the ages can be found in the magical scenery. From the Lost Lands of Lyonesse and the City of Atlantis to the prophecies of Merlin and the beauty of the Mermaid of Zennor.

Tom Bawcock's Eve is a celebration of the heroic actions of one fisherman in Mousehole and further festivals recognise the incredible heritage of the landscape and its communities.

West Penwith has inspired artists across the centuries. From 1880-1940 the Lamorna Society, part of Newlyn School, was prolific in the production of art and culture. Artists and writers included Derek Tangye, The Minack Chronicles, Sir Alfred J Munnings, modernist painter John Tunnard, Lamorna Birch and Laura and Harold Knight. This period dramatised in the novel Summer in February, and also turned into a film of the same name. More recently, contemporary artist Kurt Jackson has his studio and gallery in St Just.

The granite cliffs provide 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. Culture and heritage has also inspired innovation. Porthcurno is home to the Museum of Global Communications, PK as it is known in telegraphic code, owes its unique heritage to the arrival of the first undersea telegraph cable in 1870 which stretched out from under the sea-bed at Porthcurno Beach.

#### **Cornish Hedges**

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.

## Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

- St Ives Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Ludgvan Neighbourhood Development Plan
- St Just-in-Penwith Development Plan

#### Other Designations

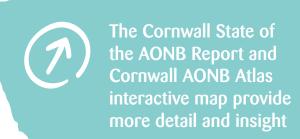
- The Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site designation includes sites at Geevor, Botallack and Levant along the western coast.
- The area along the west Penwith coast from Land's End in the south, extending past Cape Cornwall to just east of Gurnards Head is an SAC.
- The sea at Land's End (Runnel Stone) is a Marine Conservation Zone.
- West Penwith has been designated an International Dark Sky Park (2021)
- Parish Plans exist for: St Levan, Zennor, St Buryan, Sancreed, Sennen and Madron.
- Working with local businesses and residents, PK Porthcurno are leading on the Porthcurno community becoming a plastic free community.
- 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.

 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.

#### **Landscape Condition**

- Large areas of the valleys are now colonised by invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and bracken with many mineshafts hidden beneath.
- 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 Land's End Airport has the potential for visual impacts and impacts on landscape character and tranquillity



**Community Network Area** (CNA) Hayle and St Ives

**AONB** section within CNA

Godrevy to Portreath and West Penwith

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 44.0%

2019 | 46.0%

**Health and Wellbeing in Hayle and St Ives** (2016/2017)



Population

C-1 C(1-10

**26,200** people

of Cornwall's total population

Life expectancy (years)

**Births** (2015)

**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



79.8 Male 84.7 female







## Inequalities





local children live in low-income families



1270

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance



all claimants in Cornwall



## Risk Groups



Obesity

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



**Diabetes** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



### **Chronic Kidney Disease**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**Community Network Area** (CNA) West Penwith

**AONB** section within CNA

West Penwith and South Coast Western

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 32.2%

2019 | 32.6%

### **Health and Wellbeing in West Penwith** (2016/2017)



## Population

tion

of Cornwall's total population

Life expectancy (years)

83 male female

**Births** (2015)



**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)

39,983







**78** 

## Inequalities



households \*\*
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



local children in receipt of

free school meals



all claiman

2340

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance





## Risk Groups



Obesity
(% of residents

on the Chronic Disease Register)



**Diabetes** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

# 07 West Penwith: 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.

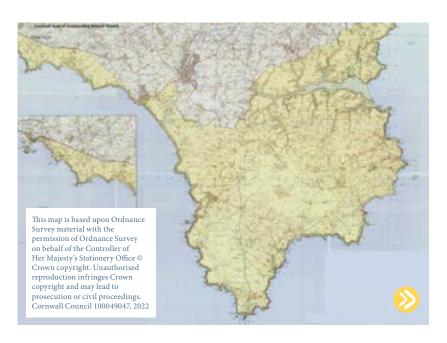
Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
WP-P1	Protect the wild, open, exposed and undeveloped character of the North Coast. Support coastal heathland restoration.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob4 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob15 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P12, PD-P18
WP-P2	Support the sympathetic operation and progressive restoration of Castle-an-Dinas quarry, and others, 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM- Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob12 CCBR-Ob3 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE- Ob2, SCE-Ob3 PD-P13, PD-P14
WP-P3	Ensure that development at Land's End Airport has appropriate regard to the rural character of the area and tranquillity is maintained.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1 PD-P1, PD-P12

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
WP-P4	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 or additional openings to lanes through existing hedge banks introducing contemporary design standards and requiring appreciable uncharacteristic visibility splays.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P6 LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob4, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob15 RSA-P1, RSA-P4, RSA-P5 RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob5 PD-P20
WP-P5	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.	LS-P1, LS-P4 NRLM-Ob9 HC-Ob4 HWB-Ob6 SCE-P2, SCE-P4, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-P7, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3 PD-P10
WP-P6	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-P6 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob10 HC-Ob1, (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob4, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob10, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob14, (HC-Ob15) RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
WP-P7	Support integrated projects and take opportunities though planning to stabilise and repair engine houses and other mining structures that are significant in the landscape throughout the Section	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-P6 LS-Ob4 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob6, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob13, HC-Ob14, HC-Ob15 RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob3 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2 PD-P12
WP-P8	Support measures to safeguard and restore the Grade II listed quay at Lamorna in a manner that supports the purposes of the AONB designation	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P6 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob14 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2
WP-P9	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. Support measures to address visitor pressure/ traffic at key destinations within West Penwith	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P6 LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob11 (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11, (HC-Ob15) RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P4, RSA-P5, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P9
WP-P10	Support aspirations for West Penwith to be recognised as an International Dark Sky Park through seeking to limit light pollution arising through development	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3 LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob11 (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob4, (HC-Ob15) RSA-P1 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob5, SCE-Ob6 PD-P2, PD-12

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
WP-Ob1	Support the sensitive management of well-used footpath routes and their setting.	LS-P1, LS-P3, LS-P6 LS-Ob6 RSA-P1, RSA-P2 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob5
WP-Ob2	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob5 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob6, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob10, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob13, HC-Ob13, HC-Ob14, HC-Ob15? RSA-P1, RSA-Ob1 HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4
WP-Ob3	Support 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob3 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob12 CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob3 SCE-O1, SCE-O2, SCE-O3

## Section 08 South Coast Western





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.



**AONB Section** Area (ha) % of total AONB area 08 South Coast Western 20.0% 19,258

### **Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:**

- CA06: Mount's Bay East CA07: South Lizard Peninsula
- CA08: North East Lizard Peninsula CA09: Helford Ria

### Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters

- MCA 48: Mount's Bay and The Lizard
- MCA 49: South Cornwall Coastal Waters and Estuaries

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

## Special Qualities of South Coast Western: St Michael's Mount to Halzephron Cliff

The key landscape characteristics of the coastal landscape in this area of the AONB is a soft profile. It 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 forms 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. From St Michael's Mount to the Helford Estuary and The Lizard 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



St Michael's Mount | Laura Foulds Moody

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 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 forming part of the National Trust owned Penrose Estate.

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.



## Special Qualities of South Coast Western: The Lizard Peninsula

The key landscape characteristics of the Lizard coast are tall cliffs with small coves beneath. It 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 and these become more extensive north-eastwards to the head of the Helford Estuary. The elevated south west plateau of the Lizard Peninsula is underlain with serpentine as can be seen from the outcrops at Kynance Cove. The landform to the east 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 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/ plateau 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.



Cadgwith boats | Sue Rowlands



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 received the first over-the-horizon radio signal, paving the way for the first transatlantic signal to be sent from Poldhu Cove on the west coast of the Lizard in 1901. 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 presence of the existing windfarm at Goonhilly is a conspicuous landmark within the oftenflat Lizard landscape. It is accompanied by a solar farm which is all but invisible as a result of the combination of the flat topography and the enclosing vegetation.

## Special Qualities of South Coast Western: The Helford River

The key landscape characteristics of this area is 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 were 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. This landscape is characterised by more modest traditional built forms than those to the north of the river.



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 seaward opening of the Helford River is marked by Nare Point to the south and Rosemullion Head to 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 and higher, has a diversity of woodland species including mature ilex oaks and Monterey pines.

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 landscape still retaining the traditional settlement pattern of scattered rural farming hamlets. Some, like Manaccan and St Martin, with medieval churches at their heart. At the mouth of the estuary, St Anthony Church nestles in the shelter of Dennis Head, defended by prominent earthworks in both the Iron Age and English Civil War. 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. The recent and ongoing development at the boatyard which dominates the head of the creek has the potential to change its character.

# **Special Qualities of South Coast Western**

The following information is relevant to all three 'South Coast Western' local sections: St Michael's Mount to Halzephron Cliff; the Lizard Peninsula; and the Helford River.



## Key species of interest for this section:

- Chough
- Grayling butterfly
- Cornish heath
- Dyer's greenweed
- Chamomile

St Michael's Mount Julie Taylor

## Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

- Porthleven Neighbourhood Plan is under examination
- Perranuthnoe Neighbourhood Plan is pre-submission
- Mawnan Neighbourhood Development Plan is Plan Proposal Submission
- Parish Plans exist for; Cury, Grade Ruan, St Keverne, Manaccan and St Anthony, Mawnan and Mawgan-in-Meneage
- 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.
- The Linking the Lizard Partnership has established a landscape scale and coordinated approach to landscape and habitat management between the relevant partnership agencies and extending the National Nature Reserve.

• Lizard Peninsula Heritage Trust aims to contribute to the natural, historic and man-made environments of the Lizard Peninsula, with the twin aims of seeking their protection and enhancement.

#### **Landscape 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 (outside the AONB) 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 and throughout the area have had negative visual and character impacts. The cumulative effects of these changes are often particularly erosive of the wider landscape character and natural beauty
- 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.

## **Other Designations**

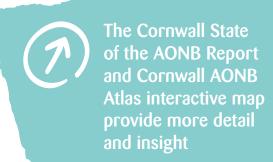
- The Helford Voluntary
   Marine Conservation Area was designated in 1987.
- This section contains the Lizard and the Fal & Helford Special Areas for Conservation and many SSSI's including Goonhilly Downs SSSI.
- The Helford and Fal Estuaries are designated Special Area of Conservation for their shallow 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.

#### **Significant Landowners**

- The National Trust manages significant land and property around the coast from St Michael's Mount, Rinsey, Penrose Estate, Mullion and Poldhu, Predannack and Kynance, Lizard Point, Cadgwith to Poltesco and Coverack as well as the land to the south and north of the Helford. The National Trust grazing schemes exist to tackle scrub encroachment on coastal heathland.
- 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.
- Natural England, alongside Cornwall Wildlife Trust, National Trust and Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society, manage the Lizard National Nature Reserve which includes much of Goonhilly Downs.
- **Trelowarren** is a large private estate on the Lizard.

- Potential proposals for a super quarry including a breakwater at Dean Quarry could give rise to significant effects 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 beech, sycamore and other species have become more dominant in the natural regeneration of woodland.
- Significant loss through disease of hedgerow elm trees impacting on habitat connectivity and landscape character. Increasing incidents of Ash Die Back are starting to have a dramatic impact on the landscape and wildlife connectivity.
- Additional conifer plantations on the Lizard have resulted in adverse visual and character impacts upon the landscape



#### **AONB** section within CNA

South Coast Central and South Coast Western

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 54.2%

2019 | 58.1%



## Population

Health and Wellbeing in **Falmouth & Penryn** (2016/2017) 45,270 o of people Cornwall's total population

Life expectancy (years)

**Births** (2015)

2013-Dec 2016)

Deaths (Dec







**Community Network Area** (CNA) West Penwith

**AONB** section within CNA

West Penwith and South Coast Western

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 32.2%

2019 | 32.6%



**Population**Health and Wellbeing in West Penwith (2016/2017)

39,983 people

cornwall's

Life expectancy (years)

**Births** (2015)

Deaths (Dec





**78** male female



**Community Network Area** (CNA) Helston & The Lizard

**AONB** section within CNA **South Coast Western** 

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 46.9%

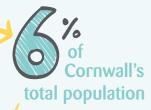
2019 | 51.5%



## Population

Health and Wellbeing in Helston & The Lizard (2016/2017)

34,035 people



Life expectancy (years)

**Births** (2015)

Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



80.9 ▶ female



**AONB** section within CNA

South Coast Central and South Coast Western



Inequalities Health and Wellbeing

in Falmouth & Penryn (2016/2017)



local \*\*
households \*\*
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families

children in receipt of free school meals

s i

all claimants in Cornwall

1705

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance

**Community Network Area** (CNA) West Penwith

**AONB** section within CNA

West Penwith and South Coast Western



Inequalities Health and Wellbeing

in West Penwith (2016/2017)



households \*\*
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



2340

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance

all claimants in Cornwall

local

free school meals

children in receipt of

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Helston & The Lizard

AONB section within CNA South Coast Western



Inequalities Health and Wellbeing

in Helston & The Lizard (2016/2017)



households \*\*
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



1380

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance



all claimants in Cornwall

#### **AONB** section within CNA

South Coast Central and South Coast Western



## Risk Groups

Health and Wellbeing in Falmouth & Penryn



## Obesity

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



#### **Diabetes**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



## **Chronic Kidney Disease**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**Community Network Area** (CNA) West Penwith

**AONB** section within CNA

West Penwith and South Coast Western



## Risk Groups

Health and Wellbeing in West Penwith



#### **Obesity**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



#### **Diabetes**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



## **Chronic Kidney Disease**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Helston & The Lizard

**AONB** section within CNA **South Coast Western** 



## Risk Groups

Health and Wellbeing in **Helston & The Lizard** 



#### **Obesity**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



#### **Diabetes**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



## **Chronic Kidney Disease**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

# 08 South Coast Western: 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
SCW-P1	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 (outside the AONB). Ensure that the ongoing and future proposals for alternative uses/redevelopment of the Earth Station do not have an adverse visual or landscape character impact and bring social and economic benefits to the local community.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3 LS-Ob5 NRLM-Ob11 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3 PD-P1. PD-P2, PD-P11, PD-P12
SCW-P2	Any new proposals for mineral extraction and quarrying, such as at Dean Quarry, that adversely impact upon the scenic beauty, special qualities, landscape character and tranquillity of this section of the AONB, and the Manacles Marine Conservation Zone, will not be supported.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3 LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob12 CCBR-Ob3 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3 PD-P13
SCW-P3	Support 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3 LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob12 CCBR-Ob3 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3 PD-P13

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
SCW-P4	Support the characteristic inclusion of local materials and vernacular design in new development, public realm, highways work, and public rights of way infrastructure using granite, serpentine, gabbro and schists as appropriate to reflect the varied geodiversity of this section.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P6, LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob12, (HC-Ob15) RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2 PD-P14
SCW-P5	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 requirement for and provision of further car parks which might be damaging to the designated landscape and that any increase to access conserves and enhances natural beauty. Also, provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the Fal & Helford SAC from recreational disturbance.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9 CCBR-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB- Ob3, HWB-Ob4, HWB-Ob5, HWB-Ob7 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5
SCW-P6	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, provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the Fal & Helford SAC from recreational disturbance.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9 CCBR-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB- Ob3, HWB-Ob4, HWB-Ob5, HWB-Ob7 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5
SCW-P7	Support the continuation of small-scale sustainable fisheries in order to maintain community vibrancy providing that it 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).	LS-P1, LS-P4 NRLM-Ob9 HC-Ob4 HWB-Ob6 SCE-P2, SCE-P4, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-P7, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3 PD-P10

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
SCW-P8	Support the conservation and positive management of mining features that are outside of the World Heritage Site, south of the A394 around Perranuthnoe, Rosudgeon, Kennegy, Praa Sands and Porthleven.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-P6 LS-Ob4 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob6, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob13, HC-Ob14, (HC-Ob15) RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob3 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2
SCW-P9	Support 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P6 LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11, NRLM-Ob12 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob8 RSA-P1, RSA-P2 RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob5 PD-P9
SCW-P10	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	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob5 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 RSA-Ob1 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4
SCW-P11	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11 (HC-Ob15) RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P4, RSA-P5, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P9

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
SCW-Ob1	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1 PD-P11
SCW-Ob2	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, 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-Ob9, NRLM-Ob10, NRLM-Ob11, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1 CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR- Ob3, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob3, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob6, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob10, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob13, HC-Ob14 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3, RSA-P4, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB- Ob3, HWB-Ob4, HWB-Ob5, HWB-Ob7 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P4, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-P7 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob6



Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
SCW-Ob3	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. Mullion Cove, 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 HC-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5
SCW-Ob4	Support the work of the Loe Pool Forum and encourage measures to improve water and habitat quality at Loe Pool and in the Helford	NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob6, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob12 CCBR-Ob4 RSA-Ob3 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4 SCE-Ob6
SCW-Ob5	Support measures to improve water and habitat quality in the Helford by supporting measures to reduce run off and nitrate input.	NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob6, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-O1, CCBR-O2, CCBR-O3, CCBR-O4, CCBR-O5 HWB-Ob5 SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
SCW-Ob6	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.	NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob9 CCBR-Ob4 RSA-Ob3 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob4?



## Section 09 South Coast Central



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#### 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.



% of total AONB area **AONB Section** Area (ha) 16.6% 09 South Coast Central 15.993

## **Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:**

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

## Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters

MCA 49: South Cornwall Coastal Waters and Estuaries

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

# **Special qualities of South Coast Central: The Fal Ria**

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

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

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



Sunset at Mylor | Ian Lewis

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

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



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 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 reorganisation of the field boundaries in the 18th and 19th century and the removal of hedge boundaries have provided a much greater sense of openness, especially on the farmland nearer to Truro and Falmouth.

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

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



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

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



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 Penkevil is a much-folded landscape of wooded valleys, large parts of which are managed by the Tregothnan Estate. Along the coast to the east of St Mawes, in sheltered bays, lay the coastal settlements of Porthscatho,

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

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

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

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

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



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



Swan family, Ruan Lanihorne | Roy Curtis

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

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

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

#### Significant Landowners

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

## Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

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

#### Other Designations

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

#### **Landscape Condition**

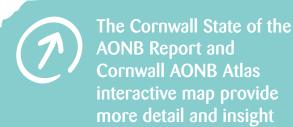
- Holiday sites around Mevagissey, Gorran Haven, Pentewan and elsewhere throughout the area are unnecessarily intrusive by their location, layout and design.
- The design and scale of some modern development, for example on the fringes of Falmouth, Malpas, St Mawes, Mevagissey and other waterside and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



## Key species of interest for this section:

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

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



**AONB** section within CNA

South Coast Central and South Coast Western

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 54.2%

2019 | 58.1%



79.3

## Population

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

45,270 % of Cornwall's total population

Life expectancy (years)

Births (2015)
391

**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)





male female

St Austell & Mevagissey

**Community Network Area** (CNA)

AONB section within CNA South Coast Central

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 44.0%

2019 | 47.5%



79.1

## Population

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

32,608
people
Cornwall's
total population

Life expectancy (years)

86.1 generale

**Births** (2015)

328

**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



98.4% white

Community Network Area (CNA)

Truro & The Roseland

**AONB** section within CNA

**South Coast Central** 

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 54.1%

2019 | 56.3%



## Population

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

**45,797** people



Life expectancy (years)



**Births** (2015)



**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



97.3% white

**AONB** section within CNA

South Coast Central and South Coast Western



Inequalities Health and Wellbeing

in Falmouth & Penryn (2016/2017)



local \*\*
households \*\*
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families

local children in receipt of free school meals



\ \ \ a

1705

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance

~ 7% of

all claimants in Cornwall

Community Network Area (CNA)
St Austell & Mevagissey

AONB section within CNA South Coast Central



Inequalities Health and Wellbeing

in St Austell & Mevagissey (2016/2017)



households \*\*
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families

children in receipt of free school meals

5% /

1495

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance

 $\rightarrow$  6

all claimants in Cornwall

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Truro & The Roseland

**AONB** section within CNA **South Coast Central** 



Inequalities Health and Wellbeing

in Truro & The Roseland (2016/2017)



households \*\*
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families

local children in receipt of free school meals





## AONB section within CNA South Coast Central and South Coast Western



## Risk Groups

Health and Wellbeing in Falmouth & Penryn



## Obesity (% of resident

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



#### **Diabetes**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



## **Chronic Kidney Disease**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**Community Network Area** (CNA) St Austell & Mevagissey

AONB section within CNA South Coast Central



## Risk Groups

Health and Wellbeing in St Austell & Mevagissey



#### **Obesity**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



#### **Diabetes**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



## **Chronic Kidney Disease**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Truro & The Roseland

**AONB** section within CNA **South Coast Central** 



## Risk Groups

Health and Wellbeing in Truro & The Roseland



#### **Obesity**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



#### **Diabetes**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



## **Chronic Kidney Disease**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

# 09 South Coast Central: Policies & Objectives

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Section 10 South Coast Eastern



#### 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 Portloe on the outskirts of west Looe. As with the South Coast Central section, South Coast Eastern 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 Portloe. 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.



**AONB Section** 

10 South Coast Eastern

Area (ha) 4.630

% of total AONB

4.8%

## **Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:**

 CA21: Fowey Valley
 CA22: South East Cornwall Plateau • CA39: St Austell Bay and Luxulyan Valley

Marine Character Areas covering the coast/adjacent waters

 MCA 49: South Cornwall Coastal Waters and Estuaries **Note:** The three 'South Coast' Local Sections (08, 09, 10) have split Statements of Significance to reflect the range and difference of special qualities within each of them. For this reason they will not be subdivided in the same way as the other Local Sections.

## **Special Qualities of South Coast Eastern: Fowey Ria**

The Key Landscape Characteristics of this section of the AONB can be split into two distinct areas: Fowey Ria and Polperro Coast. 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.



Jim Wood

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 in between, forms the promontory of Gribbin Head, with its beacon and distinctive red and white daymark.

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 4th centuries BC until the 1st century 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. St Catherine's Chapel and St Saviour's Chapel dominate the views on the east of the 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.

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 half 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. As of 2021, aggregate is also now being exported from Fowey. This is a secondary material, produced as a byproduct from the china clay mining process which is being reprocessed and marketed as a building material. It is being shipped to the southeast of England for building and infrastructure projects.

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 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 water's 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.

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 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.

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.

## **Special Qualities of South Coast Eastern: The Polperro Coast**

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.

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.

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.

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.



Wagtail | John Stather

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. 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.

## Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

- Fowey Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Fowey Estuary Management Plan is a non-statutory document containing guidelines to inform and guide current and future management of the estuary.
- Lanteglos Neighbourhood Development Plan is at referendum
- Polperro and Lansallos 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.
- Friends of Fowey Estuary provide a focus for voluntary activities for the conservation of the estuary.

## Key species of interest for this section:

- Fulmar
- Little egret
- Kittiwake
- Great black backed gull
- Small-leaved elm

#### Other Designations

- Lantic Bay, Polruan to Polperro (SSSI and SAC designation)
- Pont Pill Marine Conservation
   Zone

#### **Landscape Condition**

- Some recent development at Fowey,
   Polruan and Polperro extends outside characteristic settlement patterns.
- 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.
- Significant removal of Cornish hedges has taken place due to agricultural land improvement.
- In parts of this section, there has been significant loss of hedgerow elm due to disease, which has impacted on habitat connectivity and landscape character.



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

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Liskeard & Looe

**AONB** section within CNA

South Coast Eastern and Bodmin Moor

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

**2015** | 38.0%

2019 | 39.0%

**Health and Wellbeing in Liskeard & Looe** (2016/2017)



Population

31,456 people

ornwall's total population

Life expectancy (years)

**Births** (2015)

Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)











## Inequalities





local children live in low-income families



1515

residents claim **Disability Living Allowance** 





## Risk Groups



**Obesity** (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



**Diabetes** (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language

**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



**Community Network Area** (CNA) St Blazey, Fowey & Lostwithiel

**AONB section within CNA South Coast Eastern** 

Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA

2015 | 44.2%

2019 | 48.3%

Health and Wellbeing in St Blazey, Fowey & Lostwithiel (2016/2017)



## Population

.....

19,620 people



Life expectancy (years)

Births (2015)
193

2013-Dec 2016)

Deaths (Dec







## Inequalities



local children in receipt of

free school meals



households \*\*
are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



850

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance



of all claimants in Cornwall



## Risk Groups



Obesity
(% of resid

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



Diabetes

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

# 10 South Coast Eastern: 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
L-SCE-P1	Require 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob5 PD-P10, PD-P17
L-SCE-P2	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 and further afield.	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

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
L-SCE-P3	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2 LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob3, NLRM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob6, NRLM-Ob8, NRLM-Ob9, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1 CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob11, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob13, HC-Ob14 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3, RSA-P4, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob4, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P4, SCE-P5, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob5, SCE-Ob6?, SCE-Ob7
L-SCE-P4	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2 NRLM-O9 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 SCE-P6, SCE-Ob6?
L-SCE-P5	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.	HC-Ob1, HC-Ob3, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob8 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5, SCE-Ob6?

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
L-SCE-P6	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, provided that this does not impact upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA from recreational disturbance.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-Ob6 NRLM-Ob9 CCBR-Ob4 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P3 RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4 HWB-Ob1, HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob4, HWB-Ob5, HWB-Ob7 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5
L-SCE-P7	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.	LS-P1, LS-P4 NRLM-Ob9 HC-Ob4 HWB-Ob6 SCE-P2, SCE-P4, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-P7 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob3 PD-P10
L-SCE-P8	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 Portloe. 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.	LS-P1 LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P4, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob4
L-SCE-P9	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 including at Polruan, along the coast, and around Polperro.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob6 NRLM-O11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob11 RSA-P1, RSA-P2 RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-O1, SCE-O5 PD-P9

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
L-SCE-P10	Require particular consideration of effects on landscape character of new areas of housing within the settings of Fowey and Polruan and elsewhere eroding their settings and recognising the harmful effects on the designated landscape of some areas of recent residential development. Seek to retain the special character of the legible historic development pattern of the Fowey and other settlements, recognising the harmful effects of contemporary development which interrupts and masks this pattern. Respect the particular landscape character and tranquillity of the area east of Polruan and ensure that development within this area and its coastal setting does not detract from this.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6 NRLM-Ob11 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob12 SCE-P2, SCE-P3, SCE-P5, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P1, PD-P2, PD-P3, PD-P7, PD-P12

## Section 11

## Rame Head





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 Edgcumbe Country Park as well as the 18th century fortifications at Maker Heights, Penlee Point and the picturesque villages of Kingsand and Cawsand.



**AONB Section** 11 Rame Head

Area (ha) 780

% of total AONB 0.8%

Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:

- CA22: South East Cornwall Plateau
- CA25: Lynher and Tiddy River Valleys

Marine Character Areas covering the coast/adjacent waters

 MCA 49: South Cornwall Coastal Waters and Estuaries

## **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 Edgcumbe Country Park provide a home for a herd of some 600 wild fallow deer.



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, which includes Rame Head, is jointly 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.





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 Edgcumbe 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) Cornwall Gateway

**AONB** section within CNA Rame Head

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 55.2%

2019 | 55.2%

**Health and Wellbeing in Rame Head** (2016/2017)



Population

**Births** (2015)

271

Deaths (Dec

33,040

people

Cornwall's total population











## Inequalities



households are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



free school meals





residents claim **Disability Living Allowance** 







## Risk Groups



#### **Obesity**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



#### **Diabetes**

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



#### **Chronic Kidney Disease**

## 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.

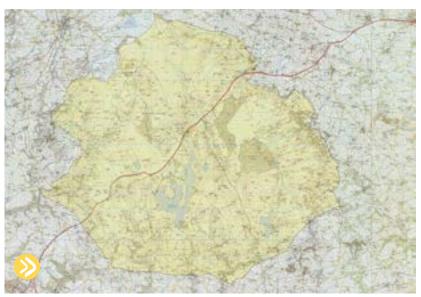
Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
RH-P1	Support the development of innovative sustainable transport links to and from the Rame Peninsula. This should be based on car free options, building on its location at the mouth of the Tamar Estuary, particularly seeking opportunities 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 &

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 wideranging 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 <b>RSA-P1,</b> 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-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob4 HWB-Ob6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
RH-Ob6	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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4 NRLM-Ob9 CCBR-P1 CCBR-Ob4, CCBR-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6

## Section 12 **Bodmin Moor**



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#### **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.



**AONB Section** Area (ha) 12 Bodmin Moor 20.878

% of total AONB area

21.7%

#### **Cornwall Landscape Character Areas:**

- CA21: Fowey Valley CA22: South East Cornwall Plateau
- CA26: East Cornwall and Tamar Moorland Fringe CA29: Middle Tamar Valley • CA32: Bodmin Moor • CA33: Camel and Allen Valleys

Marine Character Areas covering the coast / adjacent waters

## **Special Qualities**of Bodmin Moor

The Key Landscape Characteristics of this section of the AONB is a distinctive upland landscape which is created from the underlying granite mass, 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 420m. 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 often-used iconic image of moorland Cornwall. The tors provide a distinctive silhouette against an extensive skyline, further emphasised by the lack of man-made structures and intrusive development.

#### Land Use

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 three reservoirs: Colliford Lake, Crowdy Reservoir and Siblyback Lake. These large expanses of water provide dramatic and very changeable seasonal contrasts from sparkling azure on a bright summer day to drab, grey and eerie in the winter. The smaller Dozmary Pool, close to Colliford Lake, is the largest and most notable of the many pools found across the moor. The overall sense of wilderness on 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.

Extensive, unenclosed high moorland is grazed by hardy weather-beaten cattle, sheep and ponies according to historic laws governing common land. This grazing

#### **Significant Landowners**

- The National Trust own land at Roughtor
- Much of the moorland is **registered common land,** subject to management under the Commons Act 2006.

plays an essential role in controlling scrub thereby maintaining the distinctive openness of this landscape. In parts the moor has never been enclosed. In other areas, past efforts at enclosure are long abandoned leaving enigmatic vestiges of past attempts to tame the land. Edging the open moorland, larger fields show enduring recent enclosure whilst nestling in sheltered folds at lower levels anciently enclosed farmland is recognisable by its smaller fields with irregular boundaries. This long historic process of attempts to tame the open moor has created a fascinating texture of intermingling pockets of commons and enclosures that distinguishes Bodmin Moor from most other upland landscapes.

#### **Biodiversity & Geodiversity**

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 (SSSI). 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.

The deep river valleys around the edges of the moor support luxuriant broadleaved woodland adding to the enclosed intimacy of these locations. Stately mature Beech trees are especially characteristic of the Fowey valley (Fowey means 'River of Beech Trees' in Cornish). Isolated modern conifer plantations however add a dark and sombre contrast to the open moorland. Gorse and bracken add to the roughness of the unimproved acid grassland of some commons whilst at the heads of streams on higher ground between hills poor drainage and substantial rainfall create a rich and interesting patchwork of fens, wetlands, quaking bogs and other valuable habitats emphasising the sense of remote exposure.

Golitha Falls is a 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.

#### **Cornish Hedges**

Almost all enclosed fields are semiimproved pasture for livestock grazing and there is little arable farmland. Cornish hedges and retaining banks are constructed of the ubiquitous ever-present weathered local granite taken directly from the surface of the moor. High up the hedges are often of bare stone, at most supporting just a sparse turf topping or maybe a few gnarled and wind sculpted hawthorns, whilst at lower sheltered locations they support dense walls of mature Beech and native broadleaved trees such as Sessile Oak and Hazel.

Some old hedges are deteriorating from long term lack of maintenance leading in places to the erecting of barbed wire fencing alongside.

## Key species of interest for this section:

- Fritillary butterflies (pearl, small pearl and marsh)
- Cuckoo
- Redstart
- Nationally rare liverworts (Greater Copperwort)
- Bog plants (bog bean, round-leaved sundew)
- Wintering Golden Plover
- Snipe
- Curlew
- Lapwing
- Whinchat



#### **Culture and Heritage**

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 southeast 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.

To celebrate 60 years of the Cornwall AONB designation and 4,000 years of the humble Cornish hedge, a permanent piece of public art has been created at Colliford Lake. Kerdroya is a 56m diameter classical labyrinth built of Cornish stone hedging celebrating the aesthetics of distinct hedging styles from 12 Cornish locations. At the very heart of Kerdroya, a 10m circular space opens out to breathtaking views across the moorland and lake. Here you will find a one-off specially commissioned artwork funded by Arts Council England and created by Thrussells, which augments and deepens the Kerdroya experience.

### Other Designations

- SSSI & National Nature Reserve (NNR), International Dark Sky Park (IDSP).
- 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.



From Rough Tor to Garrow Tor | Matt Menhenett

## Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans

- Blisland Neighbourhood Development Plan is designated
- St Cleer Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Parish Plans exist for St Neot, St Breward, Blisland, St Cleer and Linkinhorne.

- The Bodmin Moor Development and Communication plan was created in Partnership with the AONB and representatives of the Bodmin Moor Working Group.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 combat anti-social behaviour on the moor as well as wider land management issues.
- 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.



#### **Landscape 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 have been 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.
- Some aspects of the A30 are visually intrusive intrude on the moorland setting such as the use of coloured tarmac, signage, advertising hoardings and detailing. Traffic noise locally erodes tranquillity.
- 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.



**Community Network Area** (CNA) **Bodmin** 

**AONB** section within CNA **Bodmin Moor** 

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 35.8%

2019 | 36.7%

**Health and Wellbeing in Bodmin** (2016/2017)



## Population

20,351 people

Cornwall's

total population

Life expectancy (years)

**Births** (2015)

**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)











## Inequalities





local children live in low-income families



receipt of

free school meals



1010

residents claim **Disability Living Allowance** 







## 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

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Camelford

**AONB** section within CNA

**Bodmin Moor** and Pentire Point to Widemouth

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 38.6%

2019 | 38.6%

#### **Health and Wellbeing in Camelford** (2016/2017)



Life expectancy (years)

## Population

**Births** (2015)

133

12,837 people

**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



of
Cornwall's
total population





81.2

### Inequalities



households \*\*
are fuel poor

**female** 



local children live in low-income families



free school meals





residents claim
Disability Living Allowance



claimants in Cornwall



## Risk Groups



Obesity
(% of residents
on the Chronic
Disease Register)



**Diabetes**(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



7.4 %

**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)

residents who speak English as an additional language

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Caradon

**AONB** section within CNA **Bodmin Moor** 

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

**2015** | 49.0%

2019 | 48.0%

**Health and Wellbeing in Caradon** (2016/2017)



Life expectancy (years)

**female** 

Population

**Births** (2015)



17,962 people

Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)









80.4

## Inequalities





local children live in low-income families



receipt of

free school meals





residents claim **Disability Living Allowance** 



claimants in Cornwall



## Risk Groups



Obesity (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



**Diabetes** (% of residents on the Chronic **Disease Register)** 



residents who speak English as an additional language



**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Launceston

**AONB** section within CNA **Bodmin Moor** 

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

2015 | 40.9%

2019 | 40.9%

**Health and Wellbeing in Launceston** (2016/2017)



Population

....

19,660 of Cornwall's total population

Life expectancy (years)

tpectancy (years)

**Births** (2015)

**Deaths** (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)









## Inequalities





local children live in low-income families



845

residents claim
Disability Living Allowance



of all claimants in Cornwall



## Risk Groups



Obesity (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



**Diabetes**(% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



residents who speak English as an additional language



**Chronic Kidney Disease** 

**Community Network Area** (CNA) Liskeard & Looe

**AONB** section within CNA

South Coast Eastern and Bodmin Moor

**Index of Multiple Deprivation Percentile by CNA** 

**2015** | 38.0%

2019 | 39.0%

**Health and Wellbeing in Liskeard & Looe** (2016/2017)



Population

Life expectancy (years)



**Births** (2015)



31,456 people

Deaths (Dec 2013-Dec 2016)



Cornwall's

total population





### Inequalities



are fuel poor



local children live in low-income families



receipt of

free school meals





residents claim **Disability Living Allowance** 





## Risk Groups



Obesity (% of residents on the Chronic Disease Register)



**Diabetes** (% of residents on the Chronic **Disease Register)** 



residents who speak English as an additional language



## 12 Bodmin Moor: 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
BM-P1	Support 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 whilst respecting local history and heritage. Support further measures to protect and enhance environmental quality, and increase biodiversity, when existing quarrying permissions are reviewed.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P4, LS-P6 LS-Ob4 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob2, NRLM-Ob5 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob3 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob12 SCE-P4, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3 PD-P13
BM-P2	Require 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.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, LS-P6, LS-Ob4, LS-Ob6 (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob4, (HC-Ob15) RSA-P1, RSA-O4 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P9
ВМ-Р3	Seek a reduction in the visual impact of existing conifer plantations for example at Priddacombe, Hawkstor, Bolventor, Halvana, Smallacoombe 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.	LS-P1, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob2, LS-Ob3, LS-Ob5 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob6, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3 SCE-P4, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob3, SCE-Ob4

Policy	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
BM-P4	Seek to maintain current low levels of light pollution on Bodmin Moor in reflection of an International Dark Sky Reserve.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3 NRLM-Ob11 (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob4, (HC-Ob15) RSA-P1 HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6, SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob5 PD-P2, PD-12
BM-P5	Support sustainable transport initiatives where these realise a reduction in motorised vehicle access giving rise to parking and other concerns. Support initiatives to discourage unsanctioned use of motor vehicles and motorcycles other than where expressly permitted.	LS-P1, LS-P3, LS-Ob6 RSA-P1, RSA-P2, RSA-P4 SCE-P3, SCE-Ob5

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
BM-Ob1	Support the Bodmin Moor Commons Council in the coordinated management of the commons and resolution of commons issues. Support stakeholders in the proactive management of access on open access land.	LS-P1, LS-P4, LS-Ob1, LS-Ob3 NRLM-Ob1, NRLM-Ob3, NRLM-Ob5, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob5 HC-Ob1, (HC-Ob2), HC-Ob4, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob12, (HC-Ob15) RSA-P1, RSA-O1, RSA-O2 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob6

Objective	Detail	References to the main aims, policies & objectives
BM-Ob2	Support landowners and managers in achieving a landscape scale approach the integrated management of natural, historic and geologically significant landscapes. Any restoration of moorland habitats should seek to improve ecosystem services and benefit species diversity. across the moor and seek to achieve consensus on long-term management objectives.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, 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-Ob11, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob5 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob6, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob10, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob14, HC-Ob15 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5
BM-Ob3	Support projects that enable the community, schools, landowners, commoners and farmers to conserve the natural and historic landscape, provide education and training, and seek conservation of significant historic features such as, mining structures at Sharptor, Wheal Bray, Phoenix and others.	LS-P1, LS-P2, LS-P3, LS-P4, 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-Ob11, NRLM-Ob12, NRLM-Ob13 CCBR-P1, CCBR-Ob1, CCBR-Ob2, CCBR-Ob3, CCBR-Ob5 HC-Ob1, HC-Ob2, HC-Ob4, HC-Ob6, HC-Ob7, HC-Ob8, HC-Ob9, HC-Ob10, HC-Ob12, HC-Ob14, HC-Ob15 RSA-P1, RSA-Ob1, RSA-Ob2, RSA-Ob3, RSA-Ob4, RSA-Ob5 HWB-Ob2, HWB-Ob3, HWB-Ob5 SCE-P3, SCE-P6 SCE-Ob1, SCE-Ob2, SCE-Ob4, SCE-Ob5, SCE-Ob6?

#### **Charity Mission**

The Charity's mission is to support and develop a network of ambitious AONB partnerships with a strong collective voice.

Through the NAAONB, the following highlevel objectives have been adopted as the common national purpose of the AONB Family:

 Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, ensuring they can meet the challenges of the future,

- Support the economic and social wellbeing of local communities in ways which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty,
- Promote public understanding and enjoyment of the nature and culture of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and encourage people to take action for their conservation,
- Value, sustain, and promote the benefits that the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty provide for society, including clean air and water, food, carbon storage and other services vital to the nation's health and well-being.

#### **Cornwall AONB Trust**

- A charitable trust with the ability to access external funds
- 2. An independent and impartial body capable of operating outside the confines of Public Sector rules and regulations



An interface between residents, businesses and visitors of/to Cornwall and the AONB

The other main function of the Trust - to raise awareness and promote the Cornwall AONB and support the AONB Unit in an independent capacity.

# Thank you for supporting and advocating for Gornwall AONB







































