

PAL 18 Carneglos, Altarnun, Historic Environment Action Plan



Looking NW across the upper part of Carneglos PAL with effects of recent swaling (burning of rank vegetation) in foreground (Pete Herring, April 2011).

Location, geology and topography

Centred: SX 198771

Extent: 34 ha (83 acres)

Geology

Most of the PAL is on Granite, an igneous bedrock formed between 330.9 and 272.3 million years ago during the Carboniferous and Permian periods, but the lower western part of the PAL is covered by Head, that is clay, silt, sand and gravel, a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey online viewer).

Topography

West-facing valley slope on the east bank of the River Fowey, one of a long line of undulating downlands on the side of the valley that forms a natural ridgeway running from Trekieve in the south to the Devon border at Woolley in Morwenstow in the north.

A small tor, Carneglos Tor, near the upper eastern edge of the PAL, at 310 metres (1017 feet) has substantial clitter streams to its west and south-west. Numerous moorstones on the other slopes.

Current management and structures of ownership, commoners, etc:

The whole area is privately owned land.



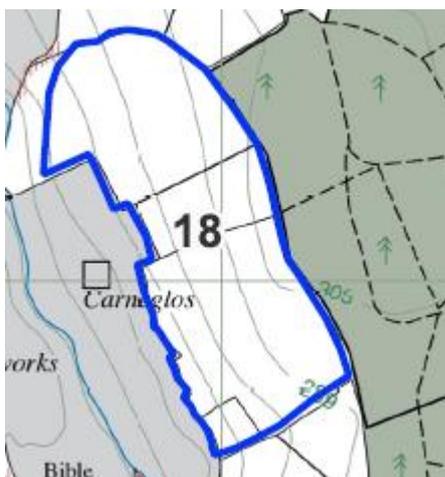
- Prehistoric field and enclosure boundaries
- Stone banks and ramparts
- Hut Circle
- ◄ Long cairn (oriented)
- Cairn/barrow
- Stone Circle
- ⊙ Henge (with stone circle)
- Stone row
- SG Stone Setting
- SI Standing stone

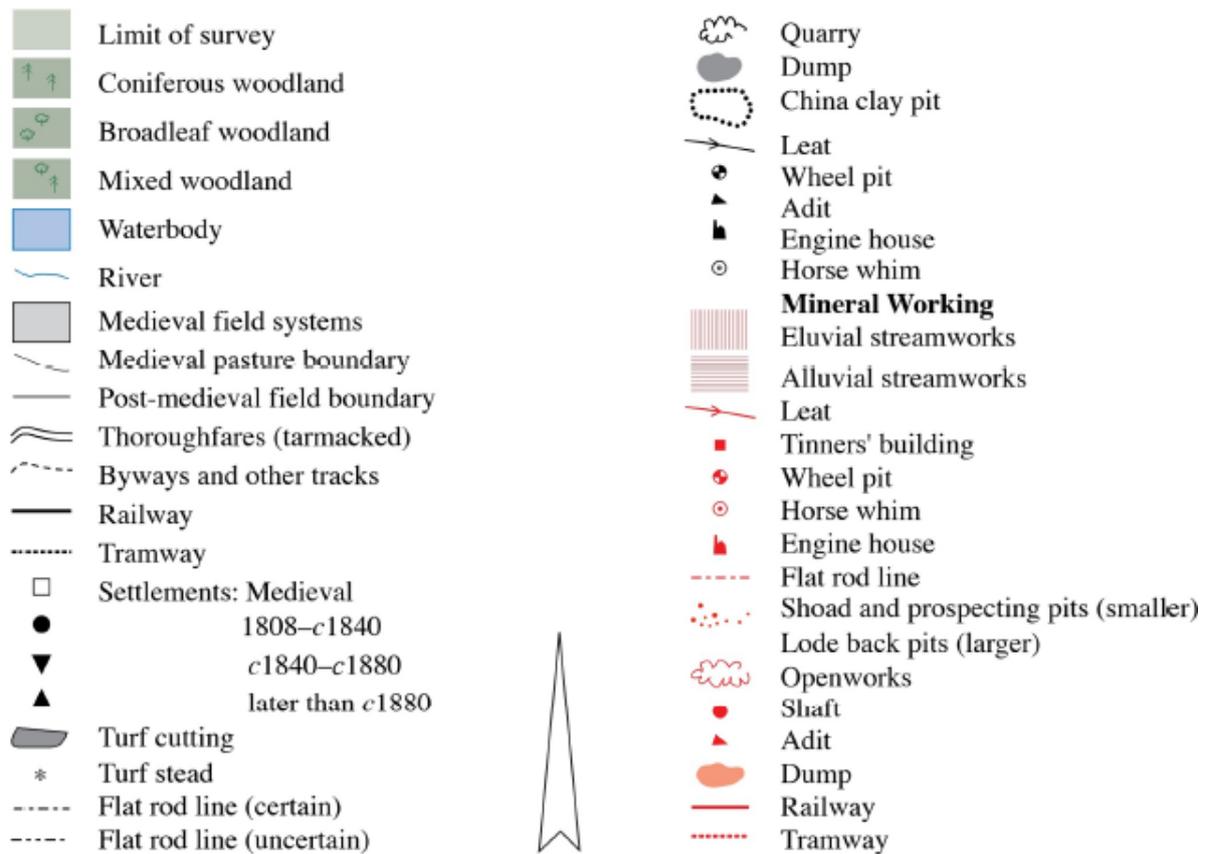
Extract from Prehistoric overview map (Johnson and Rose 1994, Map 1; reproduced with permission of Cornwall Council and Historic England).



- Cultivation ridges
- Medieval and post-medieval field boundaries, based on the O.S. 1808 two-inch MS map, and tithe maps.
- Medieval and post-medieval field boundaries found by air and ground survey.
- Embanked enclosure
- Surviving settlement, recorded before 1540.
- Surviving settlement, recorded between 1540 and 1808.
- Deserted settlement, recorded before 1540.
- ▲ Medieval longhouse
- △ Post-medieval dwelling (abandoned)
- Other medieval structure
- Other post-medieval structure
- LANK 1278 Cornish place name, and earliest recorded date.
- Hulker 1407 English place name, and earliest recorded date.
- ⋯ Parish Boundary c. 1840

Extract from Medieval and later landscape to c1808 overview map (Johnson and Rose 1994, Map 2; reproduced with permission of Cornwall Council and Historic England).





Extract from *Post-medieval and industrial overview map* (Herring et al 2008, Map 1; reproduced with permission of Cornwall Council and Historic England).

Land use history

Pre-1748

Largely open rough ground since early prehistoric times. The survival of the stone row as a low line of stones indicates that there has been no cultivation on the higher northern slopes since the Early Bronze Age, and the three Middle Bronze Age settlements with curvilinear enclosures are limited in extent. Medieval enclosure, based on strip fields that indicate cooperation and communalism, and lazybed cultivation appear to have been largely confined to the middle and lower slopes, the rest of the land within the curving ring fence being rough grazing in hamlet commons.

Thomas Martyn's 1748 map.

Carneglos was shown as a Farm House with no lane to it, suggesting it was in open ground.

c1810 OS drawing

The Carneglos medieval strip-derived field system was shown schematically, but the area of the PAL was shown as rough grassland.

c1840 Tithe Map

The whole PAL is contained within two large blocks of home or hamlet commons, TA 1386 and 1399, Higher Downs and Lower Downs, respectively, both under Coarse Pasture, plus one rectilinear intake (TA 1398) called Down Field, whose land use was given as Coarse Pasture & Arable.

All were under the same ownership (Peter Hoblyn Deeble Esq) and occupier (John Brown), though no John Brown was recorded at Carneglos in the 1841 Census Returns.

c1880 OS map

Higher and Lower Down were both shown as rough grassland with a scatter of clumps of furze, while Down Field was shown as improved ground. Two of the prehistoric field boundaries were shown within Down Field.

c1906 OS map

By 1906 Down Field had reverted to rough grassland, with no furze shown.

Modern

All is rough pasture.

Historic Environment

Headlines

- Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age **stone row**.
- Probably Middle Bronze Age **roundhouse settlement with accretive curvilinear field system**.
- Probably Middle Bronze Age **roundhouse settlement with mix of curvilinear and rectilinear field systems**.
- Group of **roundhouses and ovoid enclosures**
- Patch of **lazybeds**.

Summary of main heritage assets

Prehistoric ceremonial and ritual

A Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age **stone row** (MCO18482) of at least 34 closely spaced low stones, averaging 0.15m high and not exceeding the 0.45m high tallest stone at its S end (Johnson and Rose 1994, 31-33). At N end it disappears into a boggy area so peat growth may have obscured any continuation here. It runs approximately N-S along the contour.

Prehistoric domestic and agricultural

A **probably Middle Bronze Age roundhouse settlement**, with 3 houses surviving, on the NW slopes of the PAL is associated with **two large oval enclosures or 'pounds'**, 80m by 45m and 60m by 40m. Fragmentary boundaries are attached to these enclosures (MCO20759).

A **probably Middle Bronze Age roundhouse settlement**, with nine houses associated with a fragmentary curvilinear accretive field system. Houses have internal diameters varying from 2.0m to 8.5m. Only two have possible entrances, on the ESE and SE. All contouring boundaries are lynched. An area of just over 1.0 hectare (MCO20760).

A **probably Middle Bronze Age roundhouse settlement**, with nine houses associated with 3 hectares field system is south west slope. Houses are integrated with the fields, set on lynchets and at angles where boundaries meet. Range from 3.0m to 7.0m in diameter though three have distinctly oval plans and may be early medieval transhumance huts. Small curvilinear fields (MCO20758).

Medieval

Two small blocks of parallel lynchets, defining **strip fields** 15m-20m wide containing traces of lazybeds 2.0m wide, at right angles to the lynchets, at the S end of the PAL. The S edge of the strips is formed by a hollow-way up to 1.5m deep which may be associated with medieval settlement immediately W of the PAL in the fields of Carneglos.

Industrial

No remains.

Post-medieval and modern

No remains.

Significance of landscape visibility

The stone row in particular is vulnerable to being lost to view because of the growth of scrub, and then to having stones knocked down by livestock pushing through narrow passages. The roundhouses and their associated enclosures are similarly vulnerable.

Designations

Historic Environment

Scheduled Monuments

Heritage Assets assessed as being of National Importance

This part of Bodmin Moor was not covered by English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme (MPP), undertaken in the 1990s and early 2000s.

The following sites which were assessed as satisfying the criteria for National Importance using the criteria employed by the MPP and were therefore proposed as candidates for formal assessment for Scheduling during the Evaluation of Bodmin Moor (Rose and Herring 1990) were not reviewed in the MPP.

Following the guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) these non-designated heritage assets are demonstrably of equivalent significance to Scheduled Monuments. 'Substantial harm to or loss of [these] should be wholly exceptional' (NPPF, para 206).

A Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age **stone row** (MCO18482) of at least 34 closely spaced low stones, averaging 0.15m high and not exceeding the 0.45m high tallest stone at its S end (Johnson and Rose 1994, 31-33). At N end it disappears into a boggy area so peat growth may have obscured any continuation here. It runs approximately N-S along the contour.

Prehistoric domestic and agricultural

- A Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age **stone row** (MCO18482)
- **Probably Middle Bronze Age roundhouse settlement, with two large oval enclosures or 'pounds'** (MCO20759).
- **Probably Middle Bronze Age roundhouse settlement, with curvilinear accretive field system** (MCO20760).
- **Probably Middle Bronze Age roundhouse settlement, with small curvilinear fields** (MCO20758).

Natural environment designations:

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

NA

Special Areas of Conservation

NA

County Wildlife Site

Yes, part of NC/CN7/S7, The Upper Fowey Valley.

Cornwall Conservation Areas

NA

Other designations

Common Land

Not common land.

CROW Access Land

Yes, whole PAL.

Registered rights of way.

Footpath from Dryworks (to the SW) to Canaframe (to the NE).

Neighbourhood Development Plans

No.

Change between 2005 and 2025

(Overview derived from comparison of CCC 2005 aerial photography, available as a basemap on the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record, and the Airbus 2025 satellite imagery as viewed from Google Earth aerial photos.)

- Furze is concentrated on the two prehistoric round house settlements and unfortunately has thickened on both in the last twenty years.
- Otherwise relatively little change.
- Still largely grassland (molinia) on the higher slopes.

Issues

Spread of furze.

- Reducing the diversity of the ancient rough grasslands and their flora and fauna, including their invertebrates.
- Obscuring the more ephemeral archaeological remains.
- Will begin to cause erosion as vehicles and livestock are confined to ever narrower tracks.
- Encourage tick-borne diseases in livestock and wild fauna.

Opportunities

To better guide grazing levels on the common by closer understanding of the flora and fauna of the ancient semi-natural grasslands.

Recommendations

General approach

Retain open ancient semi-natural grassland with easy movement in all directions. Keep the important remains of the stone row and the round house settlements and their associated fields clear of furze.

Specific recommendations

- Address the growth of furze on the roundhouse settlements.
- Adjust grazing to push back the conversion to furze.
- Further archaeological recording.

Adjusting the extent of the PAL:

LIDAR has been examined. No change required to PAL extent; it includes the principal known archaeological remains at Carneglos.

References

Rose, P and Herring, P, 1990 *Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, an evaluation for the Monuments Protection Programme*, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, Truro

Appendix 1 2007 PAL text

18 Carneglos

Historic Environment

Carneglos consists of a nicely contained prehistoric landscape with elements of medieval activity. Carneglos Tor has no known archaeological significance at present, but from evidence elsewhere on the moor, it is likely that it acted as a focus for prehistoric activity.

The prehistoric settlement activity is concentrated in three areas.. Each settlement has an associated field system, in some cases consisting of low earth and stone banks creating enclosures incorporating the houses, whilst in others, the enclosures are separate from the houses. Twenty-one houses have been recorded on the hillside, the most complex settlement lying to the south.

A prehistoric stone row of at least 36 stones, some upstanding, some fallen and some buried in peat is aligned roughly north-south. This mimics the line of the Fowey Valley on the edge of which Carneglos is situated, showing the important relationship this PAL holds with the surrounding landscape of the moor. The stone row appears to incorporate a cairn and point towards a curving bank of stony rubble 25m to its south.

Field boundaries cross the PAL, forming part of the outfields of the medieval settlement of Carneglos and a further un-named longhouse settlement to the south, they serve as an excellent example of the division of land at this time.

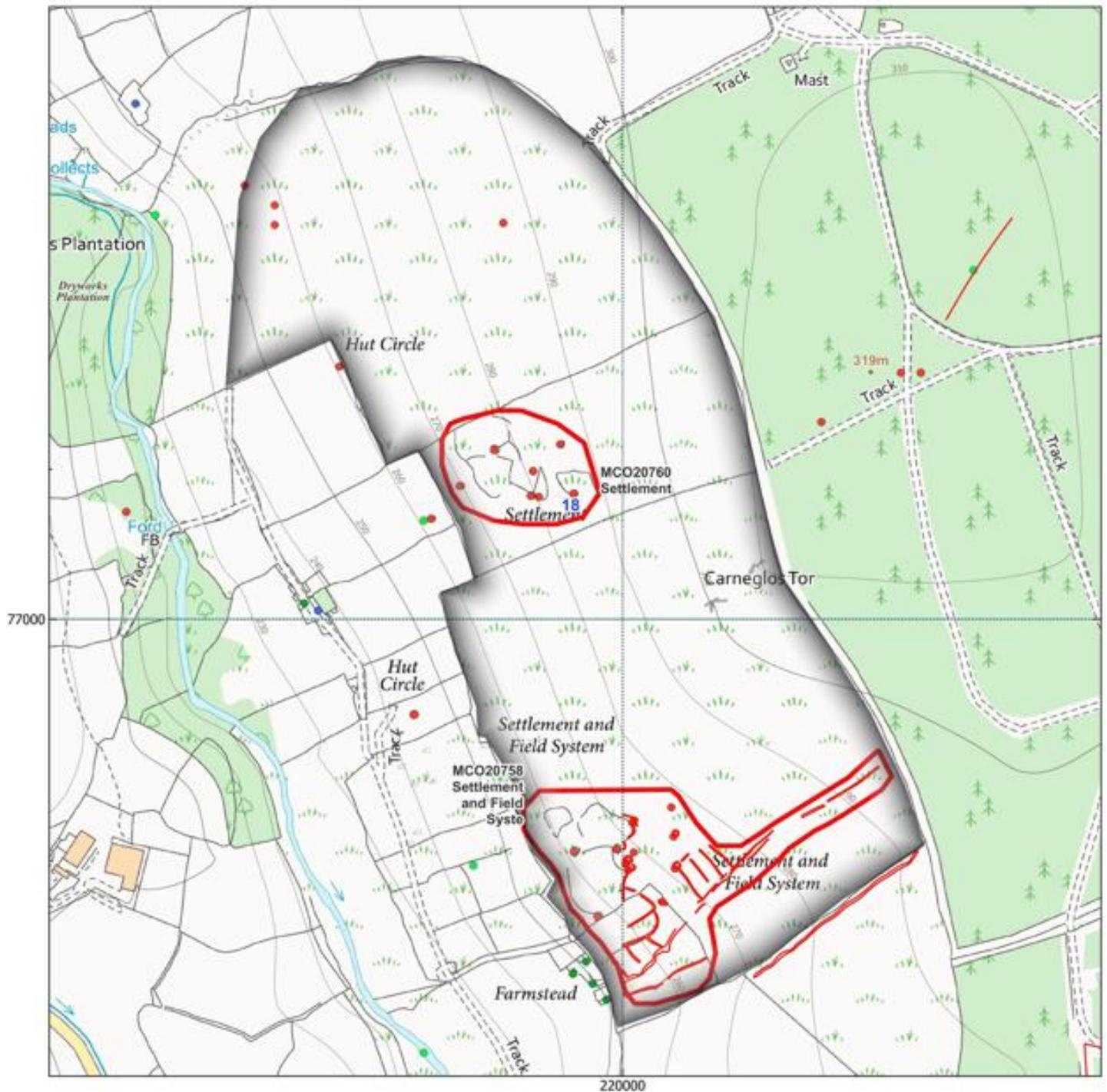
Natural Environment

Western Heath (some fragmented), Acid Grassland and Scrub

Designations

No current HE or NE designations.

Vision



- PAL Areas
- Scheduled Monuments
- Scheduled Monuments @ Risk
- Feature Groups
- Prehistoric
- Medieval
- Post Medieval
- Aerial Mapping Transcriptions
- CSHER point data
- Prehistoric
- Early Medieval
- Romano British
- Medieval
- Post Medieval
- Modern

Dominant Habitat: Western Heath Mosaic

Habitat Change: Little

Notes: Furze is concentrated on the two prehistoric round house settlements and unfortunately has thickened on both in the last twenty years.

Otherwise relatively little change.

Still largely grassland (molinia) on the higher slopes.

PAL 18 Carneglos

www.statement-heritage.com

Corwall Council

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