

PAL 22 Caradon Hill, St Cleer and Linkinhorne, Historic Environment Action Plan



Location, geology and topography

Centred: SX 171707

Extent: 309 ha (764 acres)

Geology

The bedrock geology of the main part of the hill is granite of the Bodmin Moor Formation, formed between 330.9 and 272.3 million years ago in the Carboniferous and Permian periods and superficial deposits on the eastern side are boulder spreads and head (clay, silt, sand and gravel), formed in the Quaternary period, 2.5 million years ago to the present (BGS Online Viewer).

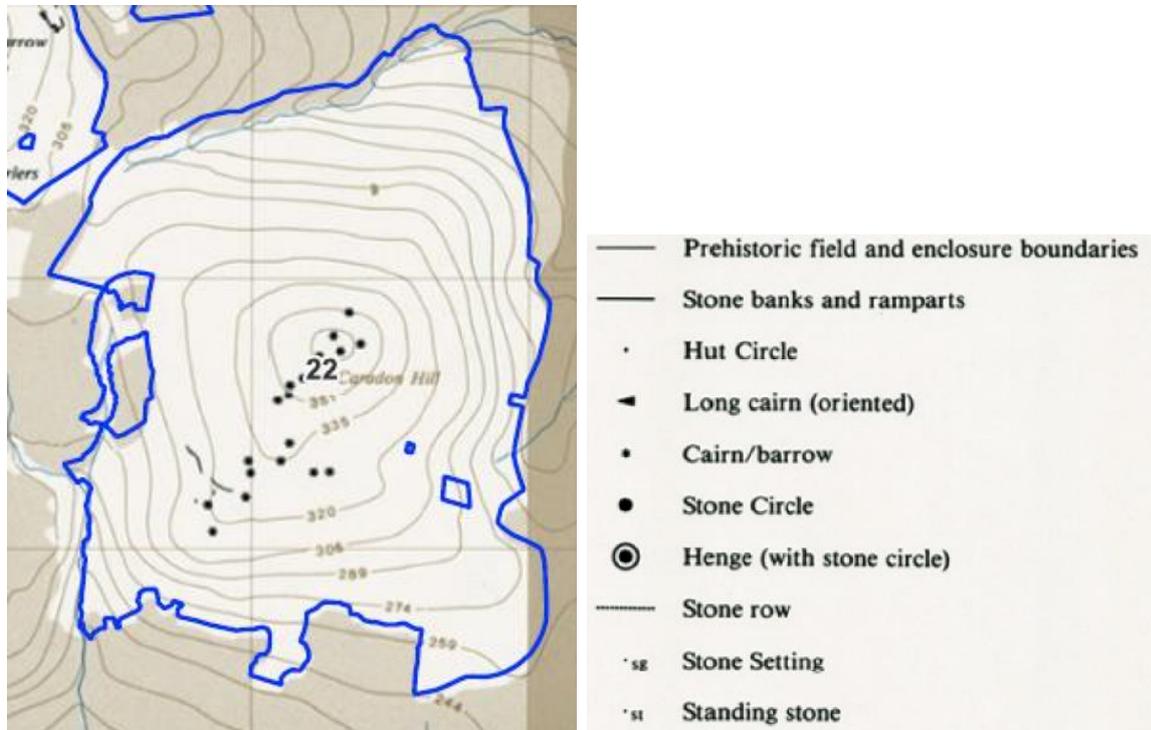
The southern side of the hill is Brendon Formation, hornfelsed slate, hornfelsed siltstone and hornfelsed sandstone. Metamorphic bedrock formed between 346.7 and 329 million years ago during the Carboniferous period.

Topography

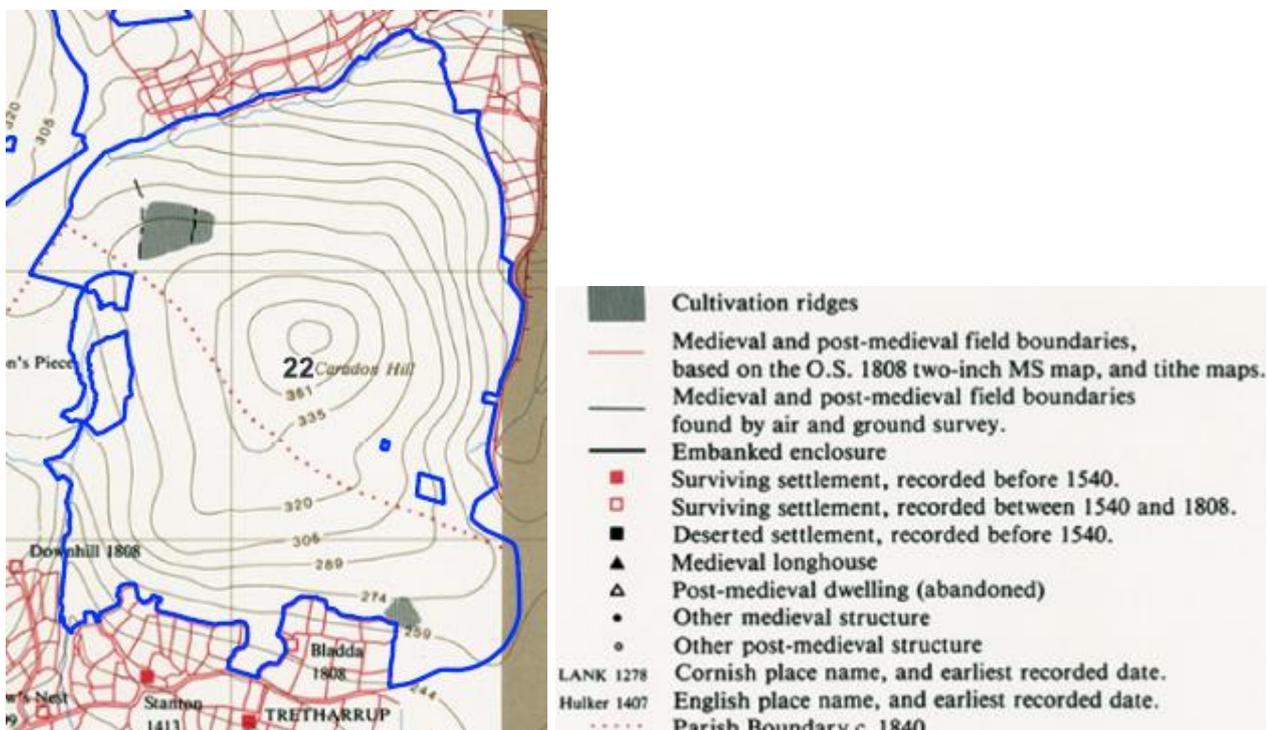
A large lump of a hill with a rounded square base and a gently rounded summit plateau and variably steep sides, steepest on the E and N sides and in the SW corner where the South and West Caradon Mines have also affected local topography through cuts

and dumps. The hill reaches 370 metres (1214 feet), one of the highest peaks on the Moor, and thus cuts off views to the SE of it.

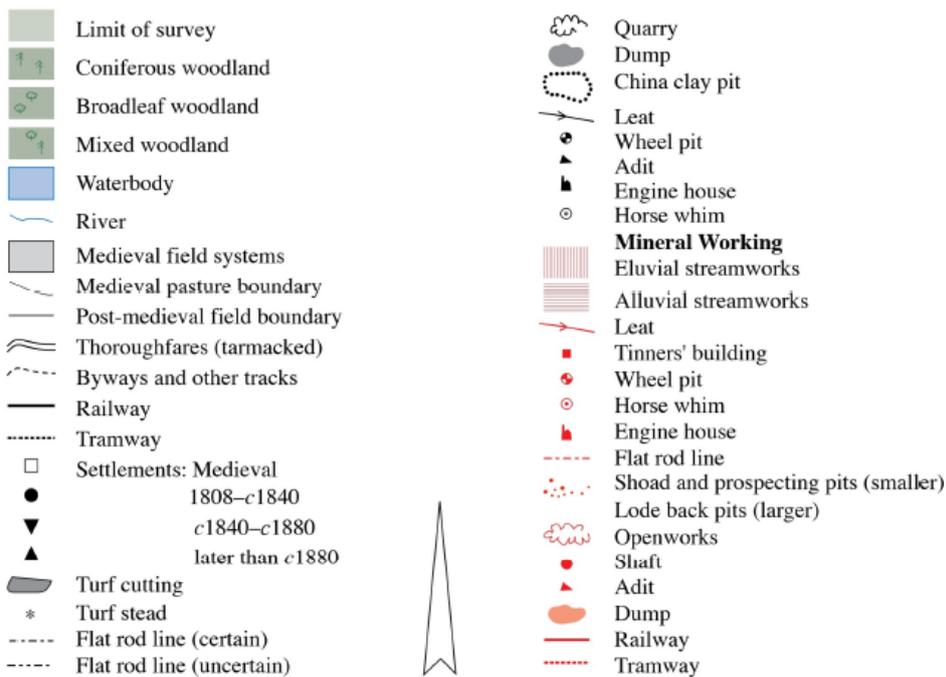
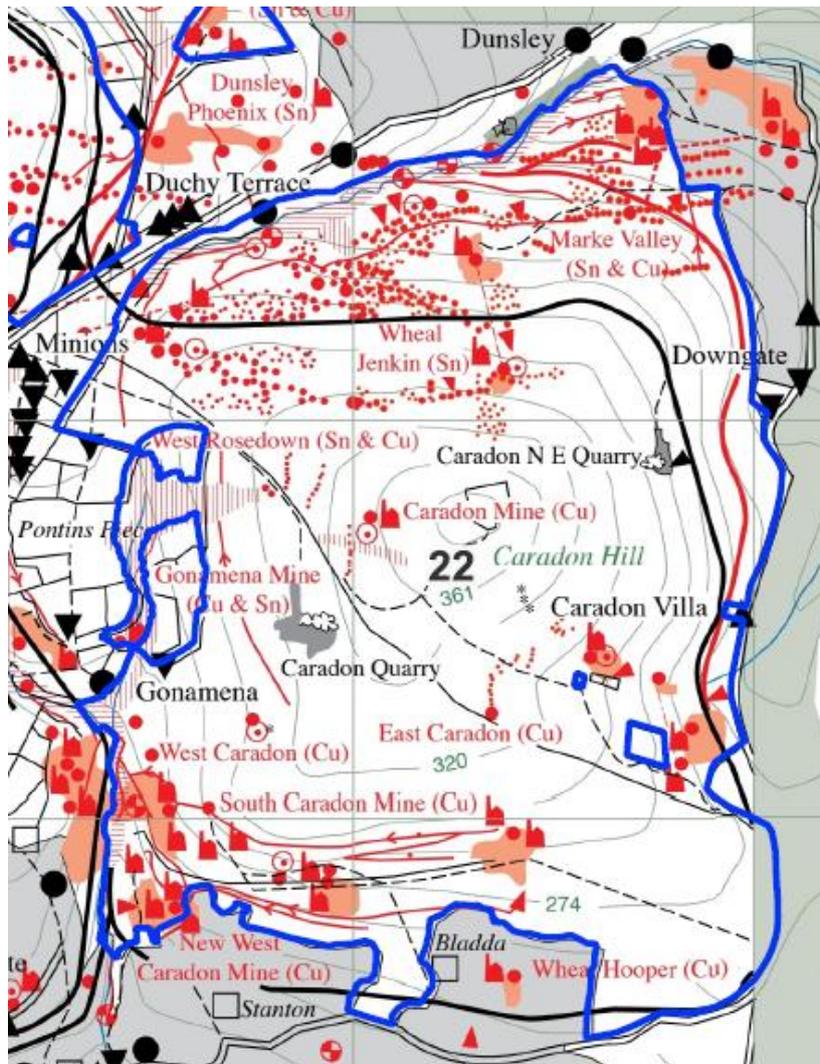
A largely dry hill, though a small stream rises on the lower E slopes (Tokenbury) and the Gonamena stream runs alongside the SW edge of the PAL.



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



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

A possibly early neolithic hilltop enclosure was probably used for gatherings of a large community. Later, in the Early Bronze Age, its stony banks were dismantled and the stone reused in a line of large cairns, ritual and burial monuments.

The place-name is derived from *Carn* (Cornish for rock outcrop) and Down, English for grazed uplands. The hybrid name was in place by 1066 (in Domesday Book).

Two blocks of common were and still are separated by an ancient parochial, manorial and hundredal boundary: St Cleer, Rosecraddock and West Wivelshire to the south-west and Linkinhorne, Caradon and East Wivelshire to the north-east. The boundary is likely to be early medieval and possibly considerably earlier, perhaps extending back into the Iron Age, if Prof Charles Thomas' suggestion that Cornish hundreds are that old is correct (Thomas 1964).

There are archaeological remains of later medieval fields, probably temporarily used outfields, but they may have been the result of just a few summers' use and for the rest of its prehistory and history the hill is likely to have been used as rough grazing land, operated as commons, from at least as early as the early medieval period and probably through prehistory, from the Neolithic period. There are several small transhumance huts, presumed to be early medieval, on the hill.

Thomas Martyn's 1748 map.

Shown as open ground with an unhedged lane following the ancient boundary. Tin mining shown on lower NE slope.

c1810 OS drawing

Shown as open ground with a loose scatter of cairns on summit. Tin works on W slopes is the Gonamena eluvial streamworks.

c1840 Tithe Map

The Linkinhorne map has the NE half of Caradon as 'Caradon Common, owned and occupied by SB Mark, and with the setts of three mines, Wheal Jenkin, Greta Caradon and Caradon Common delineated on its lower northern slopes.

The St Cleer map shows South Caradon Downs (409 acres) of Pasture, owned by Rev George Poole Norris and in the hands of 'Tenants in Common'.

So both sides of the hill were common, one called it but apparently in private hands, the other called a Downs and stated to be a common.

c1880 OS map

Called Caradon Hill and shown as predominantly coarse grassland on the higher slopes, with densest furze shown to the SW and on the lower E slopes. Mines important: South and East Caradon copper mines. And the Liskeard and Caradon Railway circles around most of the hill.

c1906 OS map

Much more furze shown, on all slopes. Wheal Jenkin tin mine established on lower N slopes.

Historic Environment

Caradon is most famous for its post-medieval industry, and especially the Caradon copper and tin mines but it also has an important group of large Early Bronze Age cairns at its summit and a recently identified hilltop enclosure of possible Early Neolithic date. Prehistoric settlements and fields and medieval outfields and pasture boundaries, including the boundary separating Rosecraddock and Caradon manors and St Cleer and Linkinhorne parishes. Nineteenth and twentieth century granite quarrying and telecommunications are also important. There are also industrial tramways and railways and tracks.

Headlines

- Possible Early Neolithic tor enclosure on summit.
- Large linear group of Early Bronze Age hilltop cairns.
- Early Medieval transhumance hut(s) on higher E slopes.
- Medieval pasture boundary divided the hill between Rosecraddock and Caradon manors and St Cleer and Linkinhorne parishes.
- Medieval strip fields, containing extensive ridge and furrow of lazybeds on most slopes of the hill, reaching the highest on the southern side.
- Eluvial streamworks on lower western slope near Gonamena, and on N slopes at Caradon Coombe.
- Shode and lode-back pits on lower N slope of hill.
- South and East Caradon Mines on southern slopes of the hill.
- Liskeard and Caradon Railway
- Victorian boundstones on mine setts.

Summary of main heritage assets

Prehistoric ceremonial and ritual

- **Hilltop enclosure** circles the summit following the contour (MCO67135). Identified from Lidar and confirmed on the ground. Stony bank to 3.5m wide, best preserved when furthest from the cairns (below) suggesting it was robbed for the cairns.
- Group of 13 **Early Bronze Age cairns and barrows** running NE to SW at the summit of the hill (MCO4088). Following the axis of the hill for 450m. All are in poor condition, having been robbed and mutilated; would have been a conspicuous feature. The cairns are all large, ranging from 14m to 30m in diameter and from 0.3m to 1.8m high. Original forms is difficult to establish, but some are of platform type, and a few have traces of kerbs. Further cairns lie immediately to the SSW, on a southerly spur of the hill

Prehistoric domestic and agricultural

- No remains.

Medieval

- **Early Medieval transhumance huts** on the eastern and southern slopes of Caradon Hill (MCO20703; MCO20704; MCO20705; MCO22230; MCO22232; MCO24330; MCO24332; MCO24331; MCO24333).
- Medieval **strip field system** (MCO20701) on lower NE slope of Caradon Hill.
- Pattern of apparently medieval fields on the lower east slopes (MCO38935).

- Several areas of ridging, remnants of **lazybeds**, on SE slopes (MCO22259; MCO38904).
- Strip fields with lazybeds on lower S slope of Caradon (MCO37032).



Possible transhumance hut on high western slope of Caradon (Pete Herring, March 2025).

Industrial

- Site of Clanacombe Stream mineworks, probably a **streamworks**, on lower N slope (MCO38611).
- Caradon Coombe **streamwork** cutting on lower NE slope of the hill (MCO38896).
- Gonamena **eluvial streamworks** with broad and deep cutting with complex patterns of dumps on lower W slope of Caradon Hill (MCO24323).
- **Prospecting pits** on lower E slope (MCO38856).
- **Lode-back working** for tin on the lower E slope (MCO38851).
- **Lode-back working** for tin on the lower NE slope (MCO38852).
- **Wheal Jenkin 19th century tin mine** on the lower NW slope of Caradon Hill (MCO13001). **Engine houses** for **pumping** (MCO52683) and **winding** (MCO52684) and **dressing floors**, as well as an **adit** (MCO58724).
- **West Rosedown mine** (MCO12782) with two collapsed pumping **engine houses**, a winding engine, a **shaft pumped via flat-rod**, and an **adit**.
- **Marke Valley 19th century copper and tin mine**. Shafts pumped using **waterwheels** before **steam engines** were installed for **pumping and winding**.
- **South Caradon Mine** (MCO12519) operated from 1833 to 1870, and re-opened between 1883 and 1890, the richest and deepest of the Caradon group, with engine houses, shafts, horse engine platforms, and other structures.
- **East Caradon Mine** (MCO12029), copper mine on lower SE slope of Caradon Hill, opened in 1853.
- **Caradon Quarry**, granite **dimension stone quarry** (MCO38936).
- **Granite quarry** on eastern mid-slopes of Caradon Hill (MCO38901).



The four nearest sheep are grazing a horse-engine platform with a central melior stone adjacent to the fenced shaft beyond; part of South Caradon mine (Pete Herring, March 2025).



Dumps of East Caradon copper mine; sheep would have also grazed the downs when the mines were operational in the 19th century (Pete Herring, March 2025).

Post-medieval and modern

- **Post-medieval fields** on the lower N slopes (MCO21216); large early 19th century enclosure subdivided by parallel banks, oriented N-S. Overlain by mining activity.
- **Post-medieval boundary stones** of East Caradon Mine on the E slope (MCO58202-58206).
- **Post-medieval boundary stones** of Marke Valley Mine on the NE slope (MCO58220-58223).
- **Turf steads** on the lower NW slope of Caradon Hill (MCO38898).
- **Telecommunications mast** and associated buildings in a later 20th century TV station.

Significance of landscape visibility

The probably Neolithic hilltop enclosure is defined by a low stony bank on its NW side and a relatively slight earthwork elsewhere. This is partially covered by bracken in the summer and autumn. The loose line of Bronze Age cairns is also partially overgrown in the summer. Both the early enclosure and then the cairns would have been significant features of the summit when viewed from nearby on the moor (but not from the hill's own convex slopes), and from afar. It appears possible that the Hurlers circles were laid out for viewing both Stowe's Hill and Caradon Hill.

The remains of historic mining, especially the engine houses of the Caradon copper mines and the Wh Jenkin and Marke Valley mines are eye catchers today, as is the western granite quarry, and of course so are the two tall telecommunications masts, the tallest with its stack of red lights allowing Caradon to be identified at night from large parts of Cornwall.

Because of those masts and the rather lumpen nature of the hill (compared with the tor topped elegance of other high hills on the Moor), Caradon has tended to be disregarded by lovers of the Moor – though those with affection for the SE part of Cornwall enjoy the glorious views over it that can be had from the summit (which can be reached by car). The recent discovery of the early prehistoric hilltop enclosure may contribute to a reassessment of the visual significance of the hill.

The continued expansion of furze and bracken cover is submerging archaeological remains on Caradon – the hilltop enclosure disappears under bracken for half the year and even the more substantial remains of mines and quarrying are becoming lost in vegetation.

Designations

Historic Environment

World Heritage Site

The whole of the Caradon Hill PAL lies within A9 the Caradon Mining District part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.

Scheduled Monuments

- **NHLE 1011687** **Banked cairn 125m NNE of Caradon Hill summit**
- **NHLE 1011700** **Embanked platform cairn 47m NW of Caradon Hill summit**
- **NHLE 1011724** **Ring cairn 77m E of Caradon Hill summit**
- **NHLE 1015972** **Round cairn 15m SSE of Caradon Hill summit**
- **NHLE 1011810** **Two cairns, centred 82m and 110m SW of Caradon Hill summit**
- **NHLE 1011775** **Banked cairn 175m SW of Caradon Hill summit**
- **NHLE 1011821** **Round cairn 230m SW of Caradon Hill summit**
- **NHLE 1020940** **Prehistoric round cairn on Caradon Hill, 520m north west of Heather House**
- **NHLE 1020941** **Prehistoric platform cairn on Caradon Hill, 550m north west of Heather House**
- **NHLE 1011822** **Round cairn with peripheral berm 402m SSW of Caradon Hill summit**

- NHLE 1011840 Round cairn 527m SSW of Caradon Hill summit
- NHLE 1011825 Round cairn 480m SSW of Caradon Hill summit
- NHLE 1011824 Round cairn 472m SSW of Caradon Hill summit
- NHLE 1020939 Prehistoric round cairn on Caradon Hill, 310m west of Heather House
- NHLE 1011844 Round cairn 557m SSW of Caradon Hill summit
- NHLE 1011793 Tor cairn with adjacent sub-rectangular hut 650m SSW of Caradon Hill summit
- NHLE 1011774 Round cairn 740m SSW of Caradon Hill summit
- NHLE 1011784 Round cairn and shelters 812m SSW of Caradon Hill summit
- NHLE 1011900 Two adjacent transhumance huts on Caradon Hill, 450m north of East Caradon Farm
- NHLE 1020051 Early post-medieval tin streamwork at Gonamena
- NHLE 1020942 Medieval and post-medieval tin and copper mines with medieval field system on the middle and lower northern slopes of Caradon Hill
- NHLE 1020614 South Caradon 19th century copper mine

Heritage Assets assessed as being of National Importance

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).

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).

- **Eluvial tin streamworks with leats and 2 dams** and **Gerrard Types B and D** dumps and several **drainage channels**, on northern slope of 'Sand Hill' to SW of Fox Tor (MCO23760)

Natural environment designations:

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Part of SSSI 1007180, 'Crow's Nest' is in the SW corner of the PAL, being concentrated on the spoil heaps of South and West Caradon mines.

Special Areas of Conservation

The same area that is an SSSI is also within the 'Phoenix United Mine and Crow's Nest' SAC, code UK0030238.

County Wildlife Site

The remainder of the PAL (i.e. not in the SSSI and SAC) is in CN7/S16, 'Caradon Moor'.

Cornwall Conservation Areas

The whole PAL lies within the Minions Conservation Area; as yet there is no Conservation Area Appraisal.

Other designations

Common Land

The NE half is CL107, 'Caradon Hill'; and the SW half is CL159 'Fore Down'.

CROW Access Land

Yes, whole PAL.

Registered rights of way.

None.

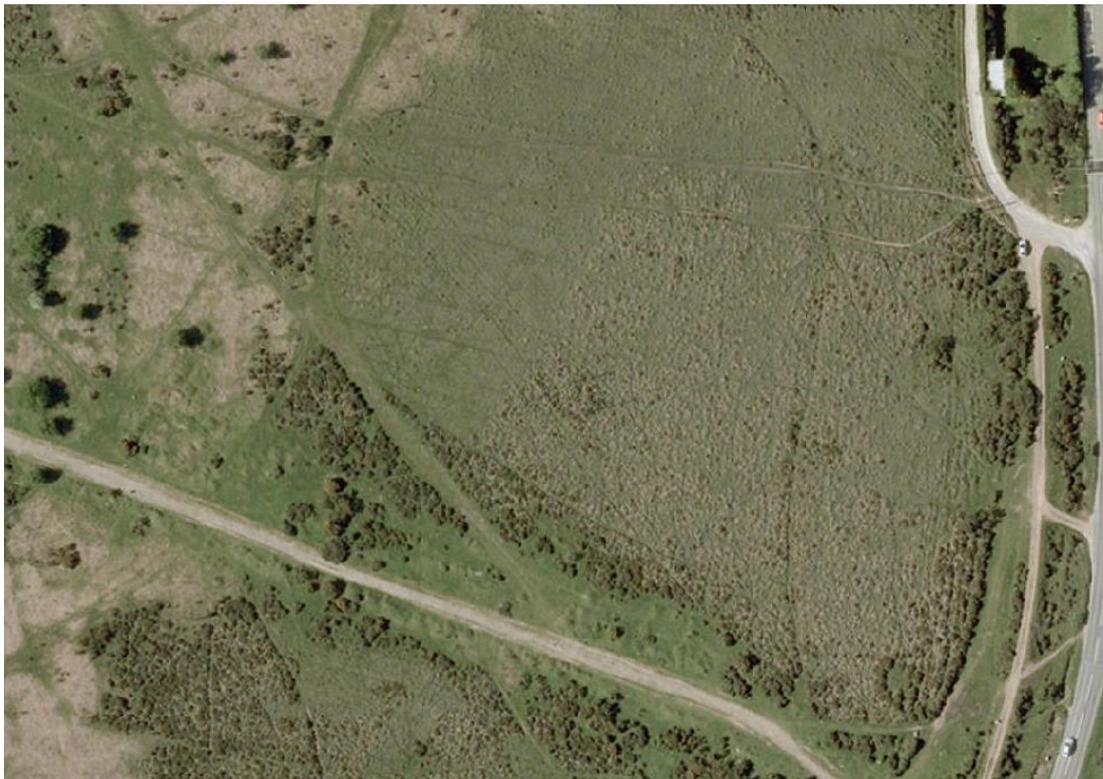
Neighbourhood Development Plans

St Cleer was made in 2020; Linkinhorne in 2022.

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.)

- Very little change in the extents of bracken and furze, except for a significant incursion of furze on the SE slopes, south of East Caradon Mine, into an area previously dominated by grassland.
- Reducing signs of heath fires over the period, contained in places by farmers' tracks.



2025 CCC aerial photography, showing SE slope dominated by grass but with tell-tale texture of young furze plants pushing through.



March 2025 Airbus, via Google Earth, showing significant furze incursion on SE slopes, and (rust coloured) the bracken on the slopes above.

Issues

Spread of furze and bracken.

- 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 Lamlevy medieval hamlet and its fields clear of furze.

Specific recommendations

- Address the growth of furze on the most significant mining remains.

- And the bracken on the summit enclosure, especially on its NW side.
- Adjust grazing to push back the conversion to furze.

Further archaeological recording.

- The summit enclosure will be surveyed by the Caradon Archaeology Group in Spring 2025, but further investigation to establish its date (by OSL dating) would be proposed.

Adjusting the extent of the PAL:

LIDAR has been examined. No change required to PAL extent; it includes the principal known archaeological remains on Caradon Hill.

References

Appendix 1 2007 PAL text

22 Caradon Hill

Historic Environment

This PAL is a landscape of international importance, is well visited and is visible for miles around, being a prominent Cornish landmark, topped by the modern TV mast.

Two significant groups of prehistoric cairns are on Caradon Hill, one on the summit and the other on a spur to the south west. The summit group consists of ten to twelve cairns. They are arranged in a 450m long south west to north east line which follows the axis of the hill. The cairns are all large, ranging from 14m to 30m in diameter and from 0.3m to 1.8m high. A number appear to have been of platform type, and a couple have traces of a kerb. The spur group consists of ten cairns. The cairns in this group vary in diameter from only 6.0m to 34m. The majority appear to have been simple flat topped mounds, but two have dished tops which may have been an original feature; and two are tor cairns, one with a kerb and the other with a central structure, possibly a cist. The cairns appear to have a visual and axial relationship with the stone circles and stone row in the St Cleer Commons PAL, and appear as skyline features from the south-south east. Visual sightlines to the north west and south are therefore particularly important.

As on so many Bodmin Moor hills, there are several small early medieval transhumance huts, reminding us that the hill has been grazed for hundreds, if not thousands of years. Encroachments by arable farmers have been rare, but there are remains of later medieval outfield strips low on the north-eastern slopes and a manorial and parochial boundary, rebuilt as a stock-proof drystone wall, but now tumbling, crosses the hill from north west to south east.

The industrial features which cover the whole of the PAL are of global importance, reflected in their World Heritage Site (WHS) status. Nowhere else within the WHS are such extensive mining remains found that date from such a limited period of operation (1840-90). South Caradon Mine was the richest and deepest of the local copper mines, producing nearly 850,000 tons of ore in 19 years alone. Engine houses, such as the one at Jope's Shaft (1862; subsequently the site of the last man-engine to be built in Cornwall in 1872) and at Holman's Shaft (1875), form distinctive landmarks. The massive waste tips on both sides of the Seaton valley (West and South Caradon Mine) and on the southern flanks of Caradon Hill are a striking testament to the scale of operations beneath the moorland landscape. South Caradon mine's well-preserved cobbled dressing floor can still be seen in the valley floor.

The success of this mine led to the development of others all over the hill, although some earlier working had previously taken place on the hill. Given the lack of pressure for development on the area, the mining remains survive largely untouched and include the dismantled Liskeard and Caradon Railway, associated tramways, engine houses, shafts, adits, spoil heaps, lode-back workings, prospecting pits, leats, dressing floors and stamping mills. There are tin mines at Wheal Jenkin and Marke Valley on the northern slopes of the hill.

The PAL was also an area of extremely productive and extensive streamworking during the medieval and post-medieval periods when its alluvial and eluvial tin ore was mined. The most striking of these is Gonamena streamworks. A north-south channel, considered to have formed the initial phase of the streamwork, extends 675m following the eluvial deposit in the trough along the hill's western foot. An

eastward extension from the north of the channel tapers in width and depth over its 260m length to follow eluvial deposits over the parent lodes and possibly exploit upper levels of the lodes by cutting an open trench along them.

Remains of stone-splitting are found across the hill and there are important granite quarries on its east and west sides. The modern age has important remains in the form of the TV masts and their associated infrastructure, and a covered reservoir on the high southern slopes.

Natural Environment

Acid Grassland

Notified Features:-

Population of Schedule 8 moss - Cornish Path-moss (*Ditrichum cornubicum*).

Designations

The PAL is within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site and a Conservation Area.

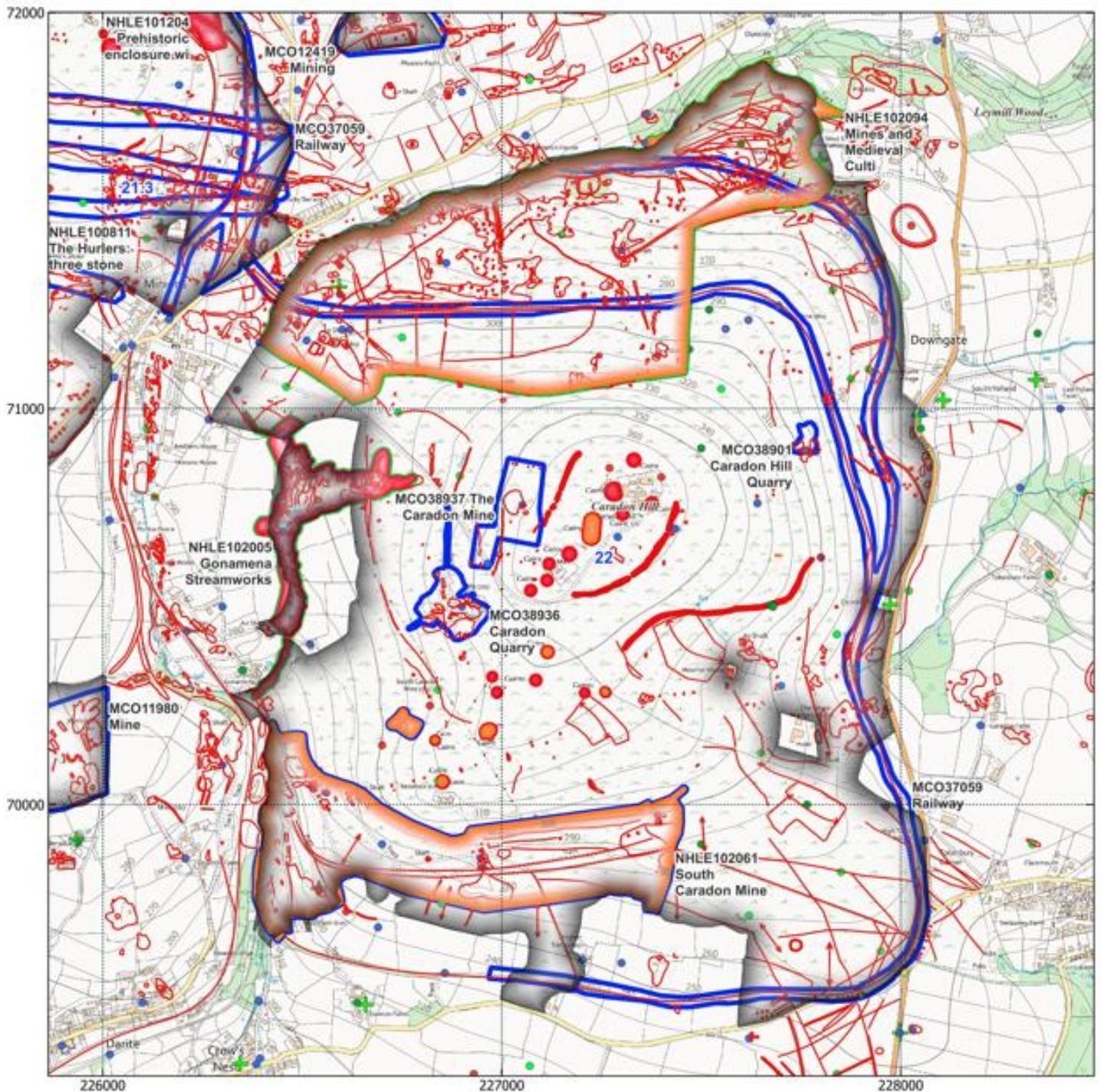
Some of the mining remains are Listed Buildings.

Two areas of mining are Scheduled Monuments, as are Gonamena streamworks. Nineteen of the cairns are Scheduled, along with two transhumance huts. (Nos. 15032, 15039 to 15052, 15163, 15554, 15583 to 15585).

Crow's Nest SSSI



The rounded-edged plateau of Caradon Hill from the north-west, from Craddock Moor. The recently discovered early prehistoric enclosure is roughly ovoid in plan and encloses both telecommunications masts (Pete Herring, July 2020).



- 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 has significantly encroached on SE slopes south of East Caradon Mine, replacing grassland. Signs of heath fires have reduced, contained by farmers' tracks.

PAL 22 Caradon Hill

www.statement-heritage.com

Cornwall Council

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AC000817921

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