

ST BLAZEY, FOWEY & LOSTWITHIEL

Historic environment character

The visual and physical attributes for this Community Network Area (CNA) have been summarised within the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Study (CSLCS), incorporating most of CA39, and parts of CA20, CA21 (most of this is within the CNA) and CA22. (See links at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=19002>)

The summary descriptions within the CSLCS give a broad-brush analysis of historic character and landscape, but with the following caveats:

1. It is crucial to recognise that the historic landscapes of this diverse area are shared with neighbouring CNAs. Management decisions within these zones cannot be made in isolation without considering the effects on those adjoining areas - in particular the sprawling development around Par and St Blazey is to be related to St Austell; the upper Fowey cannot be considered as a distinct historic place or landscape from the lower reaches of the valley within this CNA, and much of the northern part is an extension of the Goss Moor /Redmoor areas, which should be the subject of integrated designation and management proposals.
2. Most of the CNA is an area of 'conservative' farming landscapes, dominated by anciently enclosed land, medieval field systems (increasingly under threat as large farms and large estates remove hedges and amalgamate fields), scattered settlements with just a few larger villages, and several large, old-established estates with houses and parks (Boconnoc, Menabilly, Lanhydrock extends into this area).
3. Larger historic settlements are concentrated in the Fowey Valley, Fowey, Polruan, Golant, St Sampson, Lostwithiel form a concentration of medieval settlements of great significance. Urban townscapes are of at least national significance in Fowey and Lostwithiel.
4. As a major route into the hinterland of Cornwall, and as a major barrier to be crossed by east-west communication routes, the Fowey valley has outstanding range of historic sites along a continuous time-range, hill forts (Castle Dore), rare Roman sites (Uzella by Restormel), mediaeval sites (Restormel castle, Lostwithiel); Civil War battle sites (Braddock, Lostwithiel), bridges, gentry estates etc. The historic landscape sensitivity is second to none, with complex non-tangible heritage values and relationships (e.g. Restormel - park - landscape - Lostwithiel, a setting of immense importance).
5. In contrast, the Par-Tywardreath area appears to be a formless urban sprawl, but still contains important historic sites -Tywardreath priory, the old core of St Blazey for instance - and outstanding industrial heritage. The archaeology and built remains of transport - roads, bridges, railways, viaducts, tramways, leats, and harbours is of great significance in this CNA.
6. Luxulyan valley should be seen as starting at Par, running into the higher ground above Luxulyan, a unique integration of industrial heritage and green spaces
7. The coastal zone is not by and large very accessible, because of marshes, cliffs

and landed estates (Menabilly) - there are few landing places on the open coast (Polkerris) - most activity is along the estuarine quays and harbours.

8. While the CSLCS gives a reasonable overview of the character of these broad areas, greater refinement from an HE point of view is required in dealing with site specific proposals and issues. HLC revision would be particularly useful in throughout the area, likely to reveal a greater complexity of field and settlement patterns and archaeological potential based on the long time-depth associated with such Anciently Enclosed Land.

Evidence base

- ⤴ Historic Industrial Settlement Surveys - Luxulyan; St Blazey, A link to these can be found at <http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/>
- ⤴ Conservation Area Appraisal – Fowey, Tywardreath, Polkerris. A link to these can be found at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=17377>
- ⤴ Conservation Area Management Plan – Fowey, Polkerris. A link to these can be found at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=17377>
- ⤴ Other urban studies – Lostwithiel. Contact the [Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record](#) which contains details of over 50,000 archaeological and historical sites, monuments, buildings, artefacts and landscapes. It can now be searched online via the [Heritage Gateway HG](#) For further information see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8528>
- ⤴ Garden studies and management plans - Restormel; Boconnoc, Ethy, Tregrehan. The [Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record](#) contains details of over 50,000 archaeological and historical sites, monuments, buildings, artefacts and landscapes. It can now be searched online via the [Heritage Gateway HG](#) For further information see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8528> . Many of the reports can be accessed as grey literature through the CC Intranet mapping pages and through the mapping link at <http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/>
- ⤴ World Heritage Site Management Plan 2005-10 See link at <http://www.cornish-mining.org.uk/pdf/downloads.htm>
- ⤴ AONB Management Plan See link at <http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/management-plan/climate-change-and-energy.html>
- ⤴ Luxulyan Valley Management Plan. The [Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record](#) contains details of over 50,000 archaeological and historical sites, monuments, buildings, artefacts and landscapes. It can now be searched online via the [Heritage Gateway HG](#) For further information see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8528> . Many of the reports can be accessed as grey literature through the CC Intranet mapping pages and through the mapping link at <http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/>
- ⤴ Fowey Valley audit. Contact the [Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record](#) which contains details of over 50,000 archaeological and historical sites, monuments, buildings, artefacts and landscapes. It can now be searched online via the [Heritage Gateway HG](#) For further information see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8528>

- ✦ National Trust Surveys: a number of NT properties in this area have received detailed archaeological and landscape surveys
- ✦ Historic Landscape Characterisation. See link at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=22352>

Missing Evidence

- ✦ Conservation Area designations -
- ✦ Conservation Area appraisals -
- ✦ Industrial heritage assessments/management plans of areas outside WHS (Fowey Valley - Iron, clay, quarrying, tin streaming etc.)
- ✦ Garden studies and management plans

Threats

- ✦ development in and around St Austell, including that affecting its wider landscape and historic context and setting
- ✦ sea level change affecting harbours and landing places (Polkerris)

Major Heritage at Risk

- ✦ St Blazey Engine sheds
- ✦ Duchy palace
- ✦ Par docks
- ✦ Clay dries and chimneys
- ✦ Charleston Leat
- ✦ Civil war battle sites (Tywardreath)

Current Projects

- ✦ Higher Level Stewardship schemes
- ✦ Luxulyan valley Management Plan and condition survey of the Viaduct
- ✦ Discovering the Extraordinary World Heritage Project

Proposed projects depending on resources

- ✦ Conservation Area designation/studies
- ✦ Higher Level Stewardship schemes
- ✦ Ports and Harbours project , quays and landing places
- ✦ recording of maritime features as part of Coastal zone assessment
- ✦ Buildings at Risk management

- ✦ Historic Landscape Characterisation revision
- ✦ Cornwall Council owned green (historic) spaces/relict industrial landscapes
- ✦ Parks and gardens studies
- ✦ HLF grant aided project for Luxulyan Valley and viaduct
- ✦ Industrial heritage assessments/management plans
- ✦ Council owned highway heritage assets
- ✦ Cornish Character project to look at heritage assets and local distinctiveness
- ✦