

## LISKEARD

### Historic environment character

The visual and physical attributes for this Community Network Area (CNA) have been broadly summarised within the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Study (CSLCS), incorporating large areas of CA32 (Bodmin Moor) and most of CA22, CA23 and CA24 and parts of CA21 and CA25. (See links at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=19002>)

Reference should be made to the relevant character area descriptions; a number of caveats must be added, however.

1. While the CSLCS landscape subdivisions are a reasonable assessment of the varying HE characteristics of the CNA, it is crucial to recognise that the historic landscapes are shared with neighbouring CNAs. Management decisions within these zones cannot be made in isolation without considering, for instance, the integrity of Bodmin Moor, about a quarter of which is included in this CNA, but which, perhaps of all the granite areas of Cornwall, must be considered as a whole from the environmental, landscape and historic environment points of view.
2. There are broad distinctions in character which override the CSLCS boundaries. The high moor lands in the north are largely empty of settlement, but full of archaeological remains; these lands, and the slopes to the south, are more altered by C19 industrial activity than most of Bodmin Moor, quarrying and mining, together with associated railways and villages, but significant prehistoric and early mediaeval sites on the moors and lower slopes testify to their ancient settlement.
3. To the south is the rolling countryside stretching to the coast, very wealthy farmland, and a concentration of large 'Barton' farms (demesne land farmed directly by manorial lords, where agricultural improvement over the centuries has eroded underlying medieval patterns. There is scattered industrial areas - Herodsfoot, Menheniot, and St Neot.
4. This area is deeply cut by the long river valleys - Fowey, Looe, Seaton, which provide transport routes (road, rail, tidal river, canal - with all the associated buildings, viaducts, engineering, quays, limekilns etc.). Large, mediaeval villages tend to be concentrated close to the valleys - Pelynt, Menheniot, and St Neot.
5. Liskeard itself stands at the point the river valleys, the rich farmland, the communication routes and the moorland edge lands all meet; one of Cornwall's oldest urban and market centres it has significant historic buildings and townscape, and its setting on its hilltop overlooking wide tranches of landscape is an important characteristic.
6. Other significant urban townscapes are to be found in Looe, one of Cornwall's best preserved medieval/early post medieval towns; Polperro and St Cleer.
7. The coastal zone, aside from the important estuarine character along the Looe Rivers, is more developed than adjoining areas, both historically for fishing and trading ports (Polypro, Looe, Seaton), and for tourism -although it has not seen the intensity of development or exploitation associated with the north Cornish

coast, and retains much inaccessible and undeveloped coast.

8. While the CSLCS gives a good 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. Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) gives a much finer grain of understanding and a much more focused estimation of archaeological potential, particularly in these ancient landscapes much altered by industry (north) and intensive farming (south), but where in both areas the underlying structure remains mediaeval or earlier.

## Evidence base

Generally the area outside Bodmin Moor and the urban centres is much understudied; this increases the importance of considering HLC revisions which give a better understanding of historic landscape and archaeological potential in these more complex areas.

- ⤴ Historic Industrial Settlement Surveys - Looe, St Cleer, Darite, Tremar, Minions, Crow's Nest .A link to these can be found at <http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/>
- ⤴ Conservation Area Appraisal – Looe, Polperro. A link to these can be found at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=17377>
- ⤴ Conservation Area Management Plan – Looe. A link to these can be found at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=17377>
- ⤴ Extensive Urban Survey – Liskeard. A link to these can be found at <http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/>
- ⤴ Fowey Estuary audit. 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/>
- ⤴ AONB Management Plan See link at <http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/management-plan/climate-change-and-energy.html>
- ⤴ World Heritage Site Management Plan 2005-10. See link at <http://www.cornish-mining.org.uk/pdf/downloads.htm>
- ⤴ Bodmin Moor Survey: Reports 1 & 2 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/>
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- ⤴ Caradon Hill Project reports The [Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record](#)

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- ✦ Historic Landscape Characterisation. See link at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=22352>

### **Missing Evidence**

- ✦ Conservation Area appraisals
- ✦ Historic Landscape Characterisation revision
- ✦ Looe estuary audit
- ✦ industrial activity and legacy outside World Heritage Site areas

### **Threats**

- ✦ Development in and around Liskeard - threats to landscape setting and development on skyline around the outer limits (as also Looe)
- ✦ publicly-owned asset transfer Sea-level rise

### **Major Buildings at Risk**

- ✦ Limekilns; estuarine quays etc.
- ✦ Looe railway historic infrastructure
- ✦ ports and harbours
- ✦ Lamelion hospital, Liskeard
- ✦ Looe shop fronts

### **Projects**

- ✦ Discovering the Extraordinary World Heritage Project

### **Proposed projects depending on resources**

- ✦ Conservation Area designations & appraisals
- ✦ Ports, harbours, quays etc. projects
- ✦ Looe estuary audit
- ✦ urban grant schemes
- ✦ Higher Level Stewardship schemes schemes
- ✦ Historic Landscape Characterisation revision

- ✦ History and survival of non- World Heritage Site industries
- ✦ Council owned highway heritage assets
- ✦ Cornish Character project to look at heritage assets and local distinctiveness
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