

Blackwater Ward – historic environment information for the St Agnes parish Local Landscape Character Assessment

Designations

Scheduled monument:

- Two Burrows – Bronze Age barrows.

Listed Buildings:

- *In and around Blackwater village:* School; Chapel; Institute and War Memorial; ‘Simla’ and ‘Trecoose’.
- *To west:* milestone on former A30; ‘Sunbeams’ (19th cent cottage, childhood home of John Passmore Edwards).
- *To east:* ‘Highlands’ (18th cent house and cottages, East Hill); Mithian Church (1861), Vicarage and Schoolroom; milestone (on 1828 Truro to St Agnes turnpike, six mile stone).

World Heritage Site:

- Blackwater Ward is not part of the WHS but it contributes to the setting of the WHS, both the St Agnes Mining District and the Gwennap District, which lies immediately to the south. Relevant WHS ‘attributes’ are: mining settlements and social infrastructure (in particular Blackwater village, chapel and Institute; Mithian Church); and mineworkers’ smallholdings.

Settlement and field patterns

Settlements (and fields) of medieval origin:

- There are no documented medieval settlements in Blackwater Ward, which at that time would have been an area of heathland.

Mining settlements (18th/19th century):

- Blackwater village, and other cottages and houses in the vicinity.

Mineworkers’ smallholdings (18th/19th century):

- Around Blackwater village (to west, north and east; much altered around Grove Farm).
- North of Mithian Church, along the eastern edge of the ward (though much altered since the 19th century).

Later 19th century enclosures:

- A large part of the ward is the former heathland of Prince’s Common, enclosed as farmland between 1841 and 1880. Includes large straight-sided fields of Tywarnhayle Farm, and plantations of the same date.

Woodland:

- Plantations around Tywarnhayle Farm were established between 1841 and 1880.

Modern housing; tourism and leisure etc:

- *Housing:* Tightly defined area of modern housing development around ‘old’ Blackwater village.
- *Leisure and tourism:* Chiverton Caravan and Touring Park; Chiverton Riding Centre; ATV centre.
- *Commercial:* Teagle Machinery Ltd; Hawkins Motors; Wheal Briton depot; wind turbines south-east of Tywarnhayle Farm.

Other major heritage features

Railway:

- The line of the Chacewater to Newquay railway (1903–1963) runs north–south through the western part of the ward.

Associations with John Passmore Edwards:

- JPE's association with Blackwater, his birthplace, is an important aspect of the parish's heritage. His childhood home is thought to be 'Sunbeams' (Listed Building description) and he donated the Literary Institute.

Further information

Note: this outline provides only a basic summary, to inform the LLCA. For more comprehensive information on sites, monuments and buildings consult the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record, available online on Cornwall Council's mapping site – (to find this on www.cornwall.gov.uk/ select 'M' on the 'A to Z of services', and then select 'Mapping'). Information on the historic environment can be found on the 'Historical' and 'Landscape assessment' layers.

Historic Ordnance Survey mapping (1880/1913) can be found online on the National Library of Scotland website: <http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/index.html>