

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

Designations

Scheduled monuments:

- World War II fighter pens and defences etc at the former RAF Perranporth airfield.
- Bronze Age barrow south of Wheal Davey / north-east of Cornubia Farm.

Listed Buildings:

- *Industrial heritage*, includes: chimneys and engine houses at Trevellas Coombe / Blue Hills Mine.
- *In Mithian village*: includes Old Post Office and Whitewalls Cottage; Tuckaway Thatch; Miners Arms Inn; Manor House Cottage and the Old Manor House; and Rose-in-Vale.
- *To the north*: bridge at Blue Hills; Trevellas Manor Farm; Mithian Cottage (next to school); Harmony Cot.
- *To the south*: Lowertown (18th cent farmhouse, south of Wheal Liberty viaduct); bridge at Wheal Butson.

Conservation area:

- Mithian.

Protected wreck:

- *The Hanover*, Hanover Cove.

World Heritage Site:

- The ward includes part of the WHS, which here largely coincides with the areas of heathland along the coast and up Trevellas Coombe. The significance of the WHS here mostly resides in the extensive mine workings and dressing floors, including mine buildings and workings in Trevellas Coombe and at Blue Hills mine, the working dressing floors (and visitor attraction) at Blue Hills Tin, and mine workings on the cliff, such as Wheal Prudence. There is also a small area of mineworkers' smallholdings and cottages at Cross Coombe.
- Outside the WHS, other 'attributes' contribute to the setting of the WHS – scattered mines and workings, eg East Blue Hills Mine (east of Trevellas Manor) and Wheal Butson / Wheal Davey; Jericho Stamps (now under scrub – and just in St Agnes ward); mining settlements and social infrastructure, including chapels at Trevellas and Mithian, the Institute at Mithian, and dispersed cottages and houses at Trevellas; extensive mineworkers' smallholdings, for example Trevellas Downs and Mithian Downs. Trevellas Manor and Rose-in-Vale are the best local equivalent of the 'great houses' of mining families.

Settlement and field patterns

Settlements (and fields) of medieval origin:

- Mithian (first reference 1201); Trewartha (1550); Trenoweth (1341); Trevellas (1202).

Mining settlements (18th/19th century):

- Scattered cottages, rows and houses, chapel and smithy, form a dispersed mining settlement at Trevellas / Trevellas Downs.
- Mithian – a hamlet of medieval origin, but also a 19th century mining settlement?

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

- Cross Coombe.
- Trevellas Downs.
- Barkla Shop to Wheal Butson, along the valley side.
- Mithian Downs to Whitestreet.

Mills:

- North of Blowinghouse; and north of Mithian (remains of).

Later 19th century enclosures:

- Fields at the southern end of the ward (south of Wheal Davey) were enclosed from heathland in the later 19th century. Some remaining areas of heathland at Trevellas Downs were also enclosed as farmland at this time.

Heathland:

- Historic heathland (often with mining remains) survives extensively along the coast and in Trevellas Coombe.

Woodland:

- Woodland in the valleys marking the eastern and western edges of the ward has almost entirely developed since the time of the OS 1880/1907 maps, when much less was shown.

Modern housing; tourism and leisure etc:

- *Housing:* modern housing developments are mostly small in scale.
- *Tourism and leisure:* Perran View holiday park (on site of RAF base); Leycroft Valley; a number of caravan and camping sites (Blue Hills; Polgarth; Trevellas Manor); Perranporth Airfield.

Other major heritage features

Railway:

- The line of the Chacewater to Newquay railway (1903–1963) runs east-west through the central part of the ward; includes Wheal Liberty Viaduct.

World War II sites:

- The layout of RAF Perranporth (1941–1945 airfield) largely survives and some of its components are scheduled monuments. Outlying parts of the site have taken on other uses, eg Perran View holiday park (airfield site no. 2), and Nissen huts incorporated in a nearby farm (airfield site no. 4).

Harmony Cot:

- Significant for its associations with painter John Opie (1761–1807).

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>