

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

Designations

Scheduled monument:

- Round at Trevisick.

Listed Buildings:

- *Industrial heritage* includes: Wheal Lushington engine house; mine chimney at Echo Corner (South Wheal Towan); mine buildings, engine houses and chimneys at Tywarnhayle Mine;
- *Other listings:* guide post opposite Beach Road; Porthtowan House (Chapel Hill).

World Heritage Site:

- Most of the ward is part of the WHS. Mine sites are particularly important here, with extensive mine workings and dumps in many places, as well as mine buildings. Other WHS ‘attributes’ within the Ward include: mining settlements and social infrastructure; and mineworkers’ smallholdings.

Settlement and field patterns

Settlements (and fields) of medieval origin:

- Towan (first reference 1284); Trevisick (1337).

Mining settlements (18th/19th century):

- Small cluster of 19th century houses and chapel on Chapel Hill; a few 19th century houses in Porthtowan (including a former mill).

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

- A small area around Rose Hill and Chapel Hill, partly built over in the 20th century.

Later 19th century enclosures:

- On hills above either side of Tywarnhayle Mine, enclosed from former heathland.

Heathland

- Historic heathland (often with mining remains) forms a very important component of the ward, dominating the character of the valley and the coast.

Woodland:

- The limited amount of woodland in the ward, mostly in valleys such as at Rose Hill and Park Shady, has developed almost entirely since the time of the OS 1880/1907 mapping, which shows very little woodland.

Modern housing; tourism and leisure etc:

- The modern settlement of Porthtowan has developed in five separate blocks: Chapel Hill/ Rose Hill; Atlantic Way; Sandy Road; East Cliff; and Beach Road/ West Cliff. The development of beach-based leisure and tourism is reflected in buildings such as the Surf Lifesaving Hut, the Blue, holiday apartments, beach shop, car park and public conveniences.

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>