

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

Designations

Scheduled monuments:

- Tubby's Head Iron Age cliff castle
- Bolster Bank linear earthwork
- Bronze Age barrows: on the Beacon (one is scheduled, 3 others are not); at Ropewalk Farm (5); and at Hurlingbarrow.
- St Agnes' chapel at Chapel Porth (earthworks).
- Wheal Kitty, 20th century tin dressing floors.

Listed Buildings:

- *Industrial heritage*, includes: chimney at Polberro Mine (east of Higher Bal); Turnavore engine house; Wheal Friendly engine house and building; engine houses etc at Wheal Coates; Great Charlotte engine house (bob wall); Charlotte United engine house; Wheal Kitty engine house (Sara's Shaft) and chimney; Gooninnis engine house and chimney; West Wheal Kitty engine house and chimney (in village).
- *In and around St Agnes conservation area*: numerous listed buildings, including: the parish church; much of Churchtown; Stippy Stappy; Coastguard Cottages; British Road school; Church Hall; Methodist Church; Miners and Mechanics Institute; Railway Inn; milestone (Vicarage Road); cottages on Rosemundy Hill; Rosemundy House; Chapel of Rest (museum); Penwinnick Farm; 11-12 Goonown.
- *Trevaunance / Quay Road*: Trevaunance Manor; Little Orchard Cottage; Driftwood Spars; several cottages in Quay Road.
- *Mongoose/Goonvrea area*: guidepost at Higher Goonvrea; Mongoose House; four houses in Mongoose conservation area (Mongoose Villa; Briar Cottages; The Old Inn Cottage; Rose Cottage).
- *Others*: Goonglaze Cottages; 'Fow Goth' and 'Wren's Nest' (Goonown Lane); Fern Villa (Water Lane; Gooninnis Farmhouse and Cottage; 'Trevenys' (Barkla Shop); bridge at Wheal Butson; Presingol Farm; nos. 2,3 and 4 Goonbell

Conservation Areas

- St Agnes. (St Agnes conservation area is described in a Conservation Area Appraisal, 2008).
- Mongoose.

World Heritage Site:

- Much of the ward is within the WHS. Aspects which contribute especially to the value of the WHS are the many mine workings, engine houses and dressing floors, the extensive areas of mineworkers' smallholdings, and the mining settlement of St Agnes, together with its social infrastructure of church, chapels and Institute. Mining transport is represented by the remains of the harbour at Trevaunance, with associated buildings and structures.
- Principal areas of mines, mine workings and dressing floors in the WHS include: Wheal Charlotte engine houses and workings; Chapel Porth and Chapel Coombe dressing floors; Wheal Coates engine houses and workings; workings on the Beacon, especially across the southern end; workings and engine houses at Polberro, Trevaunance mine, and across to Wheal Luna at Trevaunance Cove; Turnavore engine house; Wheal Friendly, engine house, mine buildings and workings; Wheal Kitty engine house, chimney and dressing floors; West Wheal Kitty engine house and chimney; Gooninnis engine house and chimney.
- Outside the WHS, some further 'attributes' contribute to the setting of the WHS: more scattered mine workings, for example west of Wheal Butson, and the remains of Jericho Stamps (now under scrub); and some mineworkers' smallholdings around Mongoose.

Settlement and field patterns

Settlements (and fields) of medieval origin:

- Bolster (first reference 1398); Penwinnick (1286); Presingol (1337); Mongoose (1302); Vellanoweth (1337) (above Jericho Stamps, now abandoned); St Agnes/Breannick (1201); Trevaunance (1302); Chytodden (an area north of Churchtown) (1345).

Mining settlements (18th/19th century):

- St Agnes – the 18th/19th-century village comprised Churchtown, Vicarage, Peterville, Rosemundy, British Road, with hotels and inns, chapels, church, cemeteries and the Institute; Rosemundy House is the nearest local equivalent to the ‘great houses’ of the Cornish mining aristocracy.
- Outliers to St Agnes village: *Trevaunance Cove and Quay Road* – harbour, harbour buildings and structures, fish cellars, mine dressing floors, cottages; *Goonown and Goonbell* – linear settlements with more scattered 18th/19th-century cottages, cottage rows, houses and chapels.
- Scattered cottages, cottage rows and houses, especially through areas of mineworkers’ smallholdings, sometimes with slightly more defined clusters, eg Higher Bal (plus chapel); Mongoose (plus chapel).

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

- New Downs and west of St Agnes Beacon.
- Higher Bal.
- Goonvrea.
- Mongoose.
- Goonown and Goonbell, Gooninnis and Goonlaze.
- Small areas at Wheal Kitty and Polberro.

Later 19th century enclosures:

- Fields south of Goonbell, towards Hurlingbarrow and beyond, were enclosed from the extensive heathland of Princes Common in the later 19th century.
- Mongoose Downs, west of Mongoose, was enclosed at this time and also some areas around the Beacon and south-east of Wheal Kitty.

Heathland

- Historic heathland (often with mining remains) forms a very important component of the ward, including St Agnes Beacon and extensive coastal tracts.

Woodland:

- Very little woodland is shown on the 1880/1907 OS maps (eg an area north of Stippy Stappy); most of the still limited woodland has grown since then.
- Some early medieval woodland is implied by the place-names Mongoose (including **cos** – ‘wood’) and Presingol (**prys + an + coll** – ‘copse of hazel trees’).

Modern housing; tourism and leisure etc:

- *Housing*: major expansion of St Agnes village with housing estates on all sides (except south-east); infilling and minor estate developments at Goonown and Goonbell. Some housing on the cliffs at Polberro.
- *Leisure and tourism*: sports fields at Polberro; Little Orchard Village; Beacon Caravan Club site; Chapel Porth Caravan Park; the development of leisure and tourism is reflected in the character of Trevaunance Cove, eg Driftwood Spars, shops and café, RNLI, beach huts, car parks, public conveniences. Car park and café at Chapel Porth.

Other major heritage features

Railway:

- The line of the Chacewater to Newquay railway (1903–1963) runs through the ward, including Wheal Liberty viaduct, bridges, St Agnes Station, railway embankments, and railings (at Goonbell Halt).

World War II sites:

- 'Cameron Camp' at St Agnes Head – 10th Light Anti-Aircraft practice camp (Royal Artillery), reused for housing in the 1950s. The few visible remains include the sentry post and the bases for the Bofors guns at St Agnes Head.
- Radar station on St Agnes Beacon (northern end), including concrete building platforms.
- Royal Observer Corps post at Hurlingbarrow (and Cold War bunker)

Maritime heritage:

- Trevaunance harbour; wreck sites (including boiler of SS Eltham, 1928, at Chapel Porth); Coastguard sites – Coastguard cottages in the village, remains of lookout on the north end of the Beacon, National Coastwatch station at St Agnes Head; coastal features with associated stories and place-names.

Folklore sites:

- Sites associated with St Agnes and the Giant Bolster – St Agnes' chapel and holy well, St Agnes' footprint / the Giant's footprint, Chapel Porth caves and Towanwroath shaft, St Agnes Beacon.

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>