

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

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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

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

Designations

Scheduled monuments:

- Coosewartha – Iron Age or Romano-British settlement enclosures.
- Two Bronze Age barrows at Mongoose Plantation.

Listed Buildings:

- *Industrial heritage*, includes: Wheal Rose engine house; North Treskerby engine house; Wheal Ellen engine house.
- *In and around Mount Hawke village*: includes old school; Trefalghan House (Fore St); Croft Prince; Higher Croft Prince.
- *Banns Vale*: ‘Rosedale’ and bridge. *Wheal Rose*: Rose House; ‘Glenside’ (19th century house); The Old Forge. *Sevenmilestone*: milestone (1828 Truro to St Agnes turnpike). *Menagissey*: Menagissey Vean, farmhouse.

World Heritage Site:

- The WHS extends from Porthtowan into the ward as far as Manor Parsley. There are workings and dumps associated with Wheal Music, Wheal Ellen, Wheal Basset, South Ellen and Wheal Fanny, and a surviving engine house at Wheal Ellen. The WHS also includes mineworkers’ smallholdings on both sides of the valley.
- Outside the WHS, other ‘attributes’ contribute to the setting of the WHS, providing context for not only the St Agnes Mining District but also for the Gwennap District (to the south-east), and the Gwennap District: Poldice Tramroad (to the south-west). Visible remains of mine workings are mostly scattered and small scale, but there are engine houses at Wheal Rose and North Treskerby and a prominent headgear at Wheal Concord. Mining settlements and social infrastructure include the core of Mount Hawke village, more widely dispersed cottages and houses throughout the ward, the parish church, chapel and institute at Mount Hawke and further chapels at Skinners Bottom, Wheal Rose and Mawla. Mineworkers’ smallholdings are very extensive.

Settlement and field patterns

Settlements (and fields) of medieval origin:

- Mawla (first reference 1316); Stencoose (1327); Menagissey (1315); Coosewartha (1298) (fields largely reorganised); Banns (1337); Trenithick (1526); Gover (1516). Confusingly, the place now called Gover Farm was ‘Trenithick’ on the old maps, and ‘Gover’ was shown to the south of the valley (now an abandoned site).

Mining settlements (18th/19th century):

- Mount Hawke – the 19th century village consisted of Short Cross Road and Fore Street; rows of cottages; houses; school; chapel; Institute; parish church and vicarage.
- Scattered cottages, rows and houses, especially through areas of mineworkers’ smallholdings, sometimes with slightly more defined clusters, eg Wheal Rose, Towan Cross, Lower Banns, Menagissey.

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

- Wheal Rose to Skinners Bottom.
- Menagissey to Parsley.
- South and west of Mount Hawke village.
- Banns Vale and Towan Cross.

Mills:

- Lower Trenithick and Parsley.

Later 19th century enclosures:

- Fields east of Mount Hawke were enclosed from the extensive heathland of Princes Common in the later 19th century.
- Smaller areas of heathland which had survived as patches amongst and around the mineworkers' smallholdings were also enclosed at this time.

Woodland:

- Mongoose Plantation, in the extreme north-east of the ward, was established between 1841 and 1880.
- Woodland along Park Shady has mostly developed in the 20th century, though some limited areas of woodland are shown here on the 1880/1907 OS maps.
- Early medieval woodland is implied by the place-names Stencoose and Coosewartha, which include **cos** – 'wood'.

Modern housing; tourism and leisure etc:

- A large but well defined block of modern housing estates surrounds the old mining settlement of Mount Hawke; SWW sewage treatment works in valley to west of village.
- *Tourism and leisure:* Mount Hawke Skatepark; Wheal Rose Caravan and Camping Park.
- *Commercial:* along the old A30 at the southern edge of the ward there is a zone of commercial and light industrial development built over the workings of Wheal Rose (eg Mitchell and Webber; Smokey Joes, Dales; Prima Bakeries); solar panels, Gover Farm.

Other major heritage features

Railway:

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

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

Designations

Scheduled monument:

- Round at Trevissick.

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); Trevissick (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.

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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.

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