

LAUNCESTON

Historic environment character

The visual and physical attributes for this Community Network Area (CNA) have been broadly summarised within the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Landscape Character Study (CSLCS), incorporating large areas of CA26, CA29 and CA 31 and smaller parts of CA30 CA36 and CA37. (See links at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=19002>)

Reference should be made to the relevant character area descriptions; a number of caveats must be added, however.

1. While the CSLCS landscape subdivisions are a reasonable assessment of the varying HE characteristics of the CNA, it is crucial to recognise that the historic landscapes are shared with neighbouring CNAs. Management decisions within these zones cannot be made in isolation without considering, for instance, the integrity of Bodmin Moor, less than a quarter of which is included in this CNA, but which, perhaps of all the granite areas of Cornwall, must be considered as a whole from the environmental, landscape and historic environment points of view.
2. There are broad distinctions in character. The high moor lands in the west have seen much plantation in the past, although now returning to moor; the northern area is a continuation of the mixed ancient and recently enclosed landscape of the Culm measures merging into the lands around Week St Mary; west of Launceston is an area with exceptional survival of small-scale mediaeval field and settlement patterns, long narrow fields and narrow lanes; to the south, the land merges into the mining area around Stoke Climsland/Linkinhorne/Luckett -but although locally significance, industrial remains are largely peripheral to the area- however, the legacy of the railway in Launceston is amongst the most important in the area.
3. This is the historic gateway to Cornwall; roads both north-south and east-west focus on Launceston, with a legacy of associated structures and ephemera (bridges; embankments; signs; milestones etc.).
4. Launceston is of much wider significance, to both Cornwall and Devon; a border town, isolated on its hilltop, but linked to other mediaeval centres at St Stephen and Newport; this is an iconic place with iconic views (enhanced by the broad, rolling landscape), and a sensitive landscape setting both inwards and outwards from the town.
5. The urban environment in Launceston/Newport/St Stephen's is of the greatest significance - the castle town in particular vies with many other better known in England.
6. There are some large estates, ornamented and commercial forestry (Werrington), but much less than in some other areas.
7. While the CSLCS gives a good overview of the character of these broad areas greater refinement from an HE point of view is required in dealing with site specific proposals and issues. Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) gives a much finer grain of understanding and a much more focused estimation of archaeological potential, particularly in the ancient farmlands.

Evidence base

Generally the area outside Bodmin Moor is much understudied; this increases the importance of considering HLC revisions which give a better understanding of historic landscape and archaeological potential in these more complex areas.

- ✦ Conservation Area Appraisals – Stoke Climsland, Luccombe, Altarnun, Hicks Mill, Polyphant, Polyphant. A link to these can be found at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=17377>
- ✦ Conservation Area Management Plan – Launceston. A link to these can be found at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=17377>
- ✦ Extensive Urban Survey – Launceston. Historic characterisation for regeneration A link to these can be found at <http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/>
- ✦ AONB Management Plan. See link at <http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/management-plan/climate-change-and-energy.html>
- ✦ World Heritage Site Management Plan 2005-10 See link at <http://www.cornish-mining.org.uk/pdf/downloads.htm>
- ✦ Townscape Heritage Initiative report – Launceston. A link can be found at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=17388>
- ✦ Bodmin Moor Survey: Reports 1 & 2. The [Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record](#) contains details of over 50,000 archaeological and historical sites, monuments, buildings, artefacts and landscapes. It can now be searched online via the [Heritage Gateway HG](#) For further information see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8528> . Many of the reports can be accessed as grey literature through the CC Intranet mapping pages and through the mapping link at <http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/>
- ✦ Kit Hill Management Plan Contact The [Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record](#) which contains details of over 50,000 archaeological and historical sites, monuments, buildings, artefacts and landscapes. It can now be searched online via the [Heritage Gateway HG](#)
- ✦ Scheduled monument management Surveys: many designated sites have been surveyed as part of an ongoing programme of management works. The [Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record](#) contains details of over 50,000 archaeological and historical sites, monuments, buildings, artefacts and landscapes. It can now be searched online via the [Heritage Gateway HG](#) For further information see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8528> . Many of the reports can be accessed as grey literature through the CC Intranet mapping pages and through the mapping link at <http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/>
- ✦ Historic Landscape Characterisation. See link at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=22352>

Missing Evidence

- ✦ Conservation Area appraisals
- ✦ Historic Landscape Characterisation revision

Threats

- ✦ Development in and around Launceston; threats to landscape setting and development on skyline around the outer limits

Major Buildings at Risk

- ✦ Congregational Chapel, Launceston
- ✦ 13 High Street Launceston

Projects

- ✦ Launceston streetscape
- ✦ Discovering the Extraordinary World Heritage Project

Proposed projects depending on resources

- ✦ Conservation Area designations & appraisals
- ✦ Historic Landscape Characterisation revision (priority in eastern area of Bodmin Moor)
- ✦ Council owned highway heritage assets
- ✦ Cornish Character project to look at heritage assets and local distinctiveness
- ✦