

2.0 LOCATION AND LANDSCAPE SETTING

2.1 Location

Botallack and Truthwall are located on the narrow coastal plain west of the Penwith Moors on the extreme west coast of Cornwall, less than a mile north of St Just and less than a mile from the sea. They are within St. Just parish in Penwith District.

2.2 Landscape Setting

The sea is never far away in Botallack and Truthwall – it sits at the end of lanes, is glimpsed from the main road and provides a dramatic backdrop to the engine houses that line the horizon to the west.



The engine houses that line the cliffs, for example, seen here across Botallack Moor, are dominant landscape features and are crucial to the setting of the Conservation Area. The house in the foreground, probably at least early 19th century in date, is the most westerly property within the Conservation Area

The significance of the villages' relationship with their industrial and pre-industrial landscape is perhaps greater here than almost anywhere else in the area and the setting of the village and the Conservation Area is as critical as its internal character and appearance. There is a contrast between the areas east and west of the main road. To the east, Truthwall's fossilised medieval field pattern is still in good condition, while to the west the old common land has become overgrown and the mining landscape (itself re-worked and distorted by late 20th century re-working of mine waste dumps) buried beneath a tangle of brambles.

The pattern of old hedges and enclosure boundaries within Botallack links it directly to the wider landscape. This is especially true of the old manorial boundary, which continues further east as an access lane to the moors and is an important landscape feature.

But it is the industrial landscape that dominates, both forming the setting to and permeating the Conservation Area. Distant views from the villages, and from the higher land to the east, look out across the disturbed ground and small fields of old moor-land grazing and mine-working, over the relatively low huddle of roofs, past what is now green farmland, to the disused or ruinous mine buildings along the coast, with the sea and Scilly Isles beyond. Few other buildings stand out in this view - perhaps Botallack Manor the exception.

The rich local mining history and landscape, while well recorded as industrial archaeology, are only now beginning to be valued in terms of amenity and scenic interest, but there is a long way to go beyond appreciating the majestic chimneys and large buildings of the mines themselves to appreciating the waste grounds and loose landscape associated with them. Parknoweth, for instance, acts very much like an informal amenity area for Botallack/Truthwall; this and other old mining ground sets the scene for the topography, texture and feel of the conservation area, and even forms the only discernible barrier between its constituent parts.



The remains of mine stacks from the Wheal Chase Lode can be seen in the improved agricultural landscape east of Botallack Manor Farm. Cresswell Terrace can be seen to the right, with the Carnyorth settlement and the West Penwith Moors beyond