

2.0 LOCATION AND LANDSCAPE SETTING

2.1 Location

Pendeen is on the narrow coastal plain west of the Penwith Moors, north of St Just on the B3306 St Just to St Ives coast road between Trewellard and Bojewyan, and about half a mile from the sea. The village lies within Pendeen ecclesiastical parish and St. Just Civil Parish in Penwith District.



The playing field, with the village shop and carpark beyond now form the modern village centre. Views north from Carn Eanes show the close proximity of Pendeen to the sea.

2.2 Landscape Setting

Most of the settlements in the St Just Mining Area are made up of hamlets and cottage rows strung out along, or just off, the main St Just to St Ives road (the B3306), which edges the steeper slopes up to the moors. Rather than being a traditional ‘nucleated’ village, Pendeen is really a rather more closely packed collection of these typical hamlets and rows, including Crescent Place, Church Road, North Row, Higher Boscaswell and Portherras Cross.

Carn Eanes to the south, with its bracken-clad slopes of moor land and granite tors, dominates the landscape and village, forming a dramatic, ever changing backdrop reacting to the season and weather. Seen from a distance, the village, and the church especially, seem to nestle into the lower slopes of the Carn – an emphatic relationship when seen from close by the church complex.

The sea is highly visible from all around Pendeen, especially from the higher ground to the south, as is Pendeen Watch lighthouse, hinting at a closer relationship than is immediately apparent within the village – one of the earlier names for St John’s Row was Boatman’s Row.

Because there remains so much open space within the village – even along the main road – views, sometimes panoramic, play a significant role in creating a sense of place. Not only are there long vistas along the broad, gently curving road of a type not usually associated with most of the enclosed, huddled villages in the area, but the sheer sense of scale, of broad landscapes and broad skies, is ever present.

The moors and commons once extended all around Pendeen and still survive in part - Boscaswell Higher Downs and Trewellard Common to the south, Boscaswell Lower Downs and Carlartha Common to the north, Bojewyan Stennack to the east. The more anciently enclosed farmland is in a narrow strip closer to the sea – where Lower Boscaswell and Pendeen manor stand. All is now enclosed by stone walls or old Cornish hedges and put to grass or cropped, with only a few scattered and low trees, giving the impression of a fertile agricultural plain.

The relict industrial landscape is all around; the headgear of Geevor Mine, only a few fields away, can be seen from many places in the village, and there are other free-standing chimneys and old engine houses in and around the settlement. The largest and most important surviving relict mining landscape is, indeed, in the very heart of Pendeen at Higher Boscaswell.



The view south along Church Road illustrates how Carn Eanes dominates views to the south of the conservation area