

The Roseland Coast to Porthpean

Key Landscape Features

The features of this area are derived from its geology of killas rocks which form the cliffs and rocky shores of the many bays and coves between the harder rocks of Nare Head, Dodman Point, and Black Head. The many south-facing sandy beaches make this area popular with tourists, particularly Pendower and Carne beaches near Veryan, Hemmick Beach near Dodman, and the dramatic Bow and Great Perhaver Beaches with their sweeps of silvery, slatey sand, near Gorran Haven.

Landscape Character

The soils derived from the mid-Devonian slates are well-drained, fertile and loamy, supporting both arable and pastoral farming. A predominantly medieval field pattern is evident, with hedges of varying height and composition. Coastal heathland covers the chamfered, steep cliffs. Woodland is concentrated in valleys, where narrow winding lanes, with many blind corners and hedgebanks, and neat slate buildings give this area an intimate character. Settlement is sparse away from the coast, with medieval Churchtowns such as Veryan and Gorran.

Built Heritage

Iron Age fortifications exist at Dodman Point, Black Head and at Veryan. A Bronze Age barrow at Carn Beacon provides a local landmark. At Caerhays, informal woodland gardens contain a 19th Century collection of mature Magnolias and Azaleas. Mevagissey is a busy and popular local harbour, whilst nearby Pentewan retains evidence of the shipment of China clay with its disused silted harbour and sluice gates.

