Historic Landscape Character Types Texts

(Developed from texts prepared in 1994 by Peter Herring for the Cornwall Landscape Character Assessment; Cornwall County Council 1996)

All of Cornwall and all of Britain is an historic landscape. Nowhere is unaffected by the actions of people, and all is also perceived, experienced and considered by people. There is nowhere in Britain that is purely natural. The famous beauty of Cornwall and Britain is to a great extent a product of human action and perception.

This historic landscape is remarkably complex, filled with structures, patterns, and communities (human and semi-natural), all overlain by varied personal and communal perceptions, interpretations and meanings. To help people develop the understanding of historic character that allows them to act with care and confidence, the British landscape is being subjected to a programme of historic landscape characterisation (HLC), in which repeating patterns or attributes are used to assign blocks of landscape to particular HLC Types.

This text provides a commentary on each of the Rough Ground Historic Landscape Character Type mapped in the 1994 Cornwall HLC, the first Historic Landscape Characterisation to be undertaken for a whole county in Britain. It is intended to help users better understand the origins and components of Cornwall's historic landscape character and the issues affecting it. The text, when used with the HLC mapping, enables the historic or cultural to be considered alongside, around and within aesthetic and ecological appreciations of landscape.

The text can also form the basis for preparation of Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPs) for the HLC Type. A HEAP, like a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), presents statements outlining current understanding of an asset, in this case aspects of the historic environment, such as an HLC Type (considering historical processes, typical archaeological, historical and semi-natural components), comments on its survival and a range of ways of valuing it, and reviews forces for change acting on it, before making a number of recommendations for actions that would safeguard the fabric and character of the asset. These recommendations could be worked up by agencies, authorities, managers and individuals into actions.

Regarding values, one of the principles of HLC is that all types have value and all can be managed or curated in ways appropriate to their character. Care has been taken to avoid ascribing absolute or inherent values to any HLC type, so that users do not consider one type to be inherently more important than another. But it is possible, and useful in various applications of the material, to consider how each Type sits within the scheme of four main heritage values (evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal) as set out within English Heritage's Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2008). The following are introductions to each of these.

Evidential value

Evidential value derives from the potential of a place, or a type of place, to yield evidence about past human activity. Physical remains of past human activity are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them. These remains are part of a record of the past that begins with traces of early humans and continues to be created and destroyed today. Their evidential value is proportionate to their potential to contribute to people's understanding of the past.

In the absence of written records, the material record, particularly archaeological deposits, provides the only source of evidence about the distant past. Age is therefore one indicator of relative evidential value, but is not paramount, since the material record is the primary source of evidence about poorly-documented aspects of any period, including the very recent.

In the following texts the notes on evidential value concentrate on the potential of our understanding of the particular HLC Type to be improved by further archaeological and historical research.

Historical value

Historical value derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place, or a type of place, to the present. It tends to be *illustrative* or *associative*. The idea of *illustrating* aspects of history or prehistory – the perception of a place as a link between past and present people – is different from purely evidential value (above). Illustration depends on visibility in a way that evidential value (for example, of buried remains) does not. Places with illustrative value will normally also have evidential value, but it may be of a different order of importance.

Illustrative value has the power to aid interpretation of the past through making connections with, and providing insights into, past communities and their activities through shared experience of a place.

The historical value of places depends upon both sound identification and direct experience of fabric or landscape that has survived from the past, but is not as easily diminished by change or partial

replacement as evidential value. The authenticity of a place indeed often lies in visible evidence of change as a result of people responding to changing circumstances. Historical values are harmed only to the extent that adaptation has obliterated or concealed them, made them illegible, although completeness does tend to strengthen illustrative value.

In the following texts the notes on historical value concentrate on the extent that there is evidence for time-depth typically visible within the HLC Type under consideration.

Communal value

Communal value derives from the meanings of a place, or a type of place, for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. Communal values are closely bound up with historical (particularly associative) and aesthetic values, but tend to have additional and specific aspects.

Commemorative and *symbolic* values reflect the meanings of a place for those who draw part of their identity from it, or have emotional links to it. Such values tend to change over time, and are not always affirmative. Some places may be important for reminding us of uncomfortable events, attitudes or periods in our history. They are important aspects of collective memory and identity, places of remembrance whose meanings should not be forgotten. In some cases, that meaning can only be understood through information and interpretation, whereas, in others, the character of the place itself tells most of the story.

Social value is associated with places that people perceive as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence. Some may be comparatively modest, acquiring communal significance through the passage of time as a result of a collective memory of stories linked to them. They tend to gain value through the resonance of past events in the present, providing reference points for a community's identity or sense of itself. They may have fulfilled a community function that has generated a deeper attachment, or shaped some aspect of community behaviour or attitudes. Social value can also be expressed on a large scale, with great time-depth, through regional and national identity.

The social values of places are not always clearly recognised by those who share them, and may only be articulated when the future of a place is threatened. They may relate to an activity that is associated with the place, rather than with its physical fabric.

In the following texts the notes on communal value concentrate on the range of perceptions that communities and individuals typically have of the HLC Type under consideration.

Aesthetic value

Aesthetic value derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place, or a type of place. Aesthetic values can be the result of the conscious *design* of a place, including artistic endeavour. Some aesthetic values are not substantially the product of formal design, but develop more or less *fortuitously* over time, as the result of a succession of responses within a particular cultural framework. They include, for example, the seemingly organic form of an urban or rural landscape; the relationship of vernacular buildings and structures and their materials to their setting; or a harmonious, expressive or dramatic quality in the juxtaposition of vernacular or industrial buildings and spaces. Many places combine these two aspects – for example, where the qualities of an already attractive landscape have been reinforced by artifice – while others may inspire awe or fear. Aesthetic values tend to be specific to a time and cultural context, but appreciation of them is not culturally exclusive.

In the following texts the notes on aesthetic value concentrate on the extent that historic character typically contributes to overall landscape character.

Rough Ground

(Text prepared in 1994/1996 and revised in 1998 and 2009 by Peter Herring).

Defining attributes

Areas of rough grassland, heathland, and open scrub, usually on the higher or more exposed ground in a locality. The principal sources used when identifying this were the 1988 LIFE habitat mapping (held by the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly) and aerial photographs. This Type can be subdivided according to its main locations, Upland and Coastal, and from the latter can also be distinguished those areas of Rough Ground on windblown sand: Dunes. The following text considers the variety in distinguishing features, typical history, components and management issues for each of these subdivisions.

Open undivided rough ground, Rough Tor, Bodmin Moor

<u>Upland Rough Ground</u>

Mostly found on granite or poorly drained and particularly exposed downland. Now distinguished mainly by habitat/ecology from surrounding enclosed or improved ground. The impact of human action is often underestimated and the Type is regularly regarded as largely 'natural' or 'wild'. In fact, it usually has the longest history of human interference/utilisation with its principal attribute, impoverished soil supporting essentially heath/scrub vegetation communities, usually being a product of prehistoric human intervention, which was maintained through medieval and early modern land use systems.

Divided rough ground, Boslow, Penwith

Four subdivisions of Upland Rough Ground can be defined (Herring 1998) and were identified in the Lynher Valley HLC (Herring and Tapper 2002) and in a more detailed review of the rough ground of west Cornwall (Dudley forthcoming):

- Upland Rough Ground which appears to have always been open, undivided by pasture boundaries and not enclosed and farmed. Often common land.
- Upland Rough Ground which is divided by long pasture boundaries. Often 'private' rough ground attached to single settlements.
- Upland Rough ground which has the remains of <u>prehistoric</u> field systems within it. These contain patterns of low stony banks and ruined structures and often have noticeably more varied vegetation communities, including more bracken. They are generally confined to the higher Moors like Bodmin Moor.
- Upland Rough ground which has the remains of <u>medieval</u> field systems within it. These contain patterns of low stony banks and ruined structures and often have noticeably more varied vegetation communities, including more bracken. They are generally confined to the higher Moors like Bodmin Moor.

Remains of prehistoric field systems, Leskernick, Bodmin Moor

Remains of medieval settlement and field systems, Garrow

Coastal Rough Ground

Unenclosed sloping ground beyond enclosed fields but above precipitous cliffs. A narrow band of land (from 50 to 800m wide) running along most stretches of the Cornish coast.

The semi-natural habitats here are still to a considerable extent the product of thousands of years of human activity, particularly summer grazing, turf-cutting and extractive industry. Now almost entirely neglected with very little grazing, although there have been various initiatives to reintroduce grazing to coastal rough ground in the last decade or so. Long distance coastal footpaths run through the Type which is therefore quite busy in the summer months.

Undivided coastal rough ground, North Cliffs

Five subdivisions of Coastal Rough Ground can be defined and were plotted on the northern coast east of Polzeath as part of the north Cornish coast HLC undertaken for the Atlantic Coast and Valleys Project (Val Baker 2003):

- Coastal Rough Ground (unenclosed/undivided), i.e. Coastal Rough Ground which appears to have always been open, undivided by pasture boundaries. Often common land.
- Coastal Rough Ground (enclosed/divided) Long pasture boundaries separate 'private' rough ground attached to single farmsteads.
- Coastal Rough Ground subjected to former non-agricultural land uses (usually industrial)
- Bare cliffs
- Precipitous vegetated cliffs

Divided coastal rough ground, Bosigran.

Note that the ACVP project also defined HLC types for the different forms of rough ground found in the extremely steeply sloping valleys running down to the north Cornish coast (see Val Baker 2003).

Coastal rough ground – former industrial quarries, St Keverne, Lizard

Dunes

Areas of blown sand and shell deposits along low-lying stretches of the Cornish shore, principally on the north coast. Locally called towans. Marram grass holds together the seaward sides of Dune complexes while more mixed plant communities have developed on sheltered lees and dune-pastures have developed on lower dune-slopes. As in Upland and Coastal Rough Ground, this apparently natural habitat has been influenced and affected by human activity, mainly summer grazing of farm animals, and can be regarded as semi-natural. The marram grass itself has been deliberately introduced to some Dunes to aid stability.

Within some Dunes are ruined mines (especially on the vast Perran Sands) and other now abandoned industrial complexes, the most dramatic and extensive being the explosive works at Upton Towans (near Hayle). These have altered the landform of this inherently mobile landscape. Other Dunes have and still are used for military exercises and are out-of-bounds for the public. Caravan and chalet parks and golf courses have also spread onto Dunes, considerably altering their character (as at Hayle and Bude). There are also often highly important prehistoric and medieval features and complexes buried beneath Dunes.

Dunes with military remains at Upton Towans. Hayle

Principal historical processes

Upland Rough Ground

Environmental analysis confirms that woodland cover right up to the highest slopes in most parts of Cornwall was removed by early farmers in the Neolithic and Earlier Bronze Age periods (*c*4000-1500 BC). It is now increasingly accepted that the woodland had been a more open form of wood pasture rather than continuous dense forest (see Vera 2000), but nevertheless, its loss led to soil deterioration through nutrient loss and leaching. Iron pans, formed by leaching minerals, inhibited drainage. This and relatively wet and cold climatic conditions accelerated peat formation in later prehistory. All these processes (except the climate) can be either directly attributable to human action or closely associated with it.

Once vegetation had settled into its open, heathy form, probably by *c*1500 BC, its use by farmers was mainly as extensive pastures and fuel-grounds – turf (peat) and furze. The rough ground was often organised into commons shared by several local farming communities and so maintaining an essentially open appearance, although some long pasture-dividing boundaries were created, especially in the Middle Bronze Age (mid second millennium BC), the later medieval period and in the last three or four centuries.

Upland Rough Ground was, until *c*1750, considerably more extensive; its enclosure by industrial labourers and by an expanding agricultural population in the 19th century, and its continued improvement by farmers with capital and machinery in the 20th century, has greatly reduced it (see Post-medieval Enclosed Land and Modern Enclosed Land).

Coastal Rough Ground

Cornwall's cliffs have been utilised since at least the Bronze Age. Surveys have shown apparently Bronze Age cliff pasture dividing boundaries in west Cornwall and many cliff-tops have Bronze Age barrows. Many of the more dramatic Cornish headlands were isolated with ramparts and ditches in the Iron Age as 'cliff castles' but the cliffs' main use would have been as areas of summer grazing and as sources of fuel, principally furze but also, in poorly drained areas, turf (peat). These agricultural and domestic uses continued through the medieval and post-medieval periods and into the first decades of the 20th century. Until the post-medieval period, most cliffs were undivided commons.

Some cliffs were the sites of mines, especially on the north coast, or quarries. Those looking out from cliff-tops to the sea have included, from at least the 16th century, generations of military men, coastguards, excise men, smugglers, and fishermen.

Dunes

The Dunes themselves are post-glacial creations. There is still uncertainty concerning the date and rate of development but it is known that not all the Cornish dunes were created at the same time. South Cornish Dunes appear to be more recent (perhaps later medieval) than some of the major Dunes on the north coast (e.g. Iron Age and earlier inundations at Harlyn Bay, Constantine Bay, St. Enodoc and Gwithian), although even these continued to develop well into post-medieval times with medieval settlements, churches etc being overwhelmed.

An important historical feature of the development of Dunes is the succession of sand movements and stabilisation; a stabilised land surface may be used for pasture, cultivation and settlement before being sealed by a further sand blow, the surface of which may in due course become stabilised and again used for pasture, cultivation and settlement. In places (e.g. Gwithian), successive buried land surfaces with their associated settlements and fields can extend from the Early Bronze Age through to the medieval period. Evidence for the more recent episodes of use is not always obscured by sand – apparently medieval field boundaries survive at Perran Sands, isolated or ruined medieval churches at St. Enodoc, Perranzabuloe and St. Constantine.

Miners cut through Dunes to reach copper and tin lodes in the 18th and 19th centuries and an explosives manufacturer made use of the broken relief and soft ground to establish a major factory at Upton Towans in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

In the second half of the 20th century, extensive caravan and chalet parks and golf courses have been established on sand dunes around Hayle, Perranporth, west of Padstow and at Summerleaze Down, Bude on the north coast and at Praa Sands and Pentewan on the south coast. People have been attracted since the later 19th century by the long sandy beaches which edge most Dunes.

Typical historical and archaeological components

Upland Rough Ground

The semi-natural vegetation community is the most immediately visible component of this Type but there is also usually a wealth of archaeological remains, many of which may be fairly ephemeral, not making a significant impact on present landscape form. Others, however, are highly visible and catch

the eye; for instance, hill-top Bronze Age barrows, long post-medieval pasture boundaries, and areas of turf-cutting.

In Cornwall generally, prehistoric sites and complexes are generally best-preserved in Upland Rough Ground and can comprise complete Bronze Age ritual/ceremonial monuments (long barrows, chambered tombs, round barrows, stone circles, stone rows, standing stones etc) and apparently coherent groups of these. These are sometimes sufficiently well preserved to establish that certain natural features, like tors or streams, were incorporated by prehistoric people into their ritual complexes.

Transhumance huts, the shelters used by seasonal pastoralists from the long period of common grazing, survive on Bodmin Moor and there are remains of peat cutting including the little platforms the dried peat was stacked on.

More recent components include pasture boundaries, usually laid out as commons were 'privatised' in the post-medieval period. Industrial remains often survive well on Upland Rough Ground and the extensive disturbance of some tracts has inhibited later agricultural improvement. Quarries and mines form important components of certain areas of Upland Rough Ground.

There are few medieval or modern settlements and tracks and roads are usually open (not hedged).

Coastal Rough Ground

The heathy or impenetrable scrubby vegetation that dominate most cliffs has developed after several decades of neglect. Until its abandonment by farmers, vegetation would generally have been herb-rich rough grassland; the hundreds of late Victorian and early 20th century photographs taken of Cornwall's coast confirm this.

Archaeological sites on Coastal Rough Ground are generally less varied than in Upland Rough Ground, as this has always been strictly marginal land. Ritual/ceremonial sites of the Bronze Age, mainly barrows, are dotted along the coast, especially on the higher cliff-tops of the north coast. Cliff castles are mainly in the western half of the county and industrial remains are where the ores or workable slates and stone lie. All of these types of site are generally well-preserved, there having been little or no intensive activity subsequently.

The pastures do have a few prehistoric or medieval dividing or cliff-edge walls (the latter to stop slipping stock), but most are post-medieval, the products of privatising commons.

Cliff-tops have been encroached upon by fields as farmers took their cultivated land beyond present margins. The abandoned edges of prehistoric and medieval field systems survive in good condition on some cliff-tops.

Military sites are often found on cliff-tops, from look-outs to pill-boxes, batteries to radar stations and forts. There are also look-outs and lighthouses; and fishermen built huers' huts from which to watch for shoals. Tracks, including crazily precipitous paths, led down cliffs to fishing rocks and smuggling coves.

Dunes

The semi-natural vegetation is partly created by grazing and deliberate planting. Dunes are generally rich in buried archaeological remains. These are usually well-preserved, the Dunes being non-acidic, and may date back to the Bronze Age. As such they are of the highest importance, as demonstrated by excavations at Gwithian.

Modern caravan and chalet sites dominate many Cornish Dunes but the remains of early industry are also visible and medieval churches and chapels have been revealed; that at St. Enodoc is one of the strangest, sitting in a rectangular graveyard in the middle of a modern golf course.

Industrial and early recreation sites survive well.

Principal locations

Upland Rough Ground

The most extensive areas of Upland Rough Ground are on Bodmin Moor, the flatter downlands on the serpentine of the Lizard peninsula and in West Penwith. There are, however, smaller more isolated patches throughout the granite areas of the county, including on Hinsgston Down, in the Hensbarrow area, and on the Carnmenellis and Tregonning/Godolphin granite. Smaller patches again are found on certain particularly exposed hills like St Agnes Beacon.

Coastal Rough Ground

Almost the whole of Cornwall's coast is fringed with Rough Ground although there are a few places where improved field systems come right to the edge of precipitous cliffs, and there are many interruptions for coastal settlements, recreational, military and industrial complexes.

Dunes

The most extensive Dunes are on the north coast, at Lelant, Hayle, Gwithian, Perran Sands, Constantine and Harlyn Bay, Widemouth Bay and Bude. Smaller areas on the south side are found at Whitesand Bay (Sennen), Marazion, Praa Sands, Gunwalloe, Mullion, Kennack, Pentewan and Whitesand Bay.

Variability

Upland Rough Ground

Forms of semi-natural vegetation communities vary between lands with different underlying geology and soils, notably between the granite uplands and the serpentine of the Lizard. Within these, there is also variability due to differing grazing regimes, especially between relatively heavily grazed commons and less heavily grazed privately held rough ground. The forms and patterns of archaeological remains also vary, partly due to relative marginality of the ground, and partly due to the existence of various forms of mineral and quarry material that could be extracted.

Coastal Rough Ground

As in Upland Rough Ground, the forms of semi-natural vegetation communities vary between lands with different underlying geology: granite, metamorphic, serpentine and sedimentary rocks all support different mixes. Within these, there is also variability due to differing grazing regimes; an increasing number of areas are being subjected to conservation grazing with hardy animals, reintroducing variety to cliff-scapes. Forms and patterns of structures and archaeological remains also vary, partly due to relative marginality, and partly due to the existence of various forms of mineral and quarry material that could be extracted.

Dunes

This depends to some extent on the age of the Dunes and thus the date and form of historical features both beneath and within them.

Past interaction with other Types

Upland Rough Ground

Upland Rough Ground in Cornwall contains few post-prehistoric settlements and is a Type which has been dependent on use by occupants of other neighbouring Types for the last 3000 years (since a range of forces around 1000 BC contributed to a general abandonment of the uplands as permanent settlement areas). Most notably, farmers living in the Anciently Enclosed Land used it for their summer grazing grounds and it was also a major source of fuel (turf and furze) and stone. As such it was of critical importance to traditional agricultural communities. Where close to the coast, the Upland Rough Ground was used as rough grazing in conjunction with Coastal Rough Ground and Dunes.

The loss of large areas of Upland Rough Ground to enclosure in the last 300 years has greatly diminished the impact of the once coherent mixed agriculture landscape on the present Cornish countryside. A great deal of the Post-medieval and Modern Enclosed Land Types have been taken from Upland Rough Ground and their distribution indicates the previous extent of summer grazing; many parishes whose land is now wholly enclosed once contained significant amounts of Upland Rough Ground.

Coastal Rough Ground

Pasture dividing and cliff-edge boundaries survive well, as do the various industrial, military, coastguard and fishing complexes. Their various components can be easily and clearly related to each other.

Like Upland Rough Ground, the land use in Coastal Rough Ground was normally dependent on that in other neighbouring Types, principally Aciently and Post-Medieval Enclosed Land. As summer grazing and fuel grounds, the cliffs formed an essential element of the mixed farming landscape often alongside Upland Rough Ground. Some coastal farms, such as those in Zennor, were ribbon-shaped to ensure that they possessed a share of both upland and cliff-top grazing as well as arable land.

The watchers who used cliff-tops passed messages along to neighbouring military installations, to neighbouring coastguards, Excise Men etc or to local seine fishing boat crews. Many of their sites survive and these flickering communications can be reconstructed in the minds of imaginative visitors.

Tracks which led out from enclosed land onto the cliffs, linking cow and sheep, furze cutter, copper miner and slate cutter to their homes inland still survive.

Dunes

Dunes overwhelmed some areas of Anciently Enclosed Land and then became the summer grazing ground for farms in other areas. The relationship between these Types was until the early 20th century

close and this can still be appreciated as the boundaries between them are soft and blurred. Recreation areas are often directly superimposed onto Dunes.

Evidential value

Upland Rough Ground

Great potential for further research. Archaeological and historical studies of remains will yield much valuable information, as will palaeo-environmental work, particularly that investigating the ancient pollen preserved in bogs. More work could be done on the long-term relationship of Upland Rough Ground with Anciently Enclosed Land. This could be seen as a model for sustainable future relations.

Coastal Rough Ground

Recent surveys of National Trust and Cornwall Wildlife Trust coastal properties have increased our knowledge of the history and archaeology of this Type considerably. There are, however, long stretches for which documentation is sketchy. As for Upland Rough Ground, there is good potential for a better understanding of historic relationships between Coastal Rough Ground and Anciently Enclosed Land informing more sustainable future land use.

Survey, excavation and analysis of the well-preserved archaeological sites will yield valuable information about past land use. Coastal peat bogs do exist and palaeo-environmental information will survive.

Dunes

Archaeological sites within Dunes possess considerable potential. Dunes are likely to contain the best-preserved prehistoric and medieval settlements in lowland Cornwall and to have the best survival of bones, both animal and human. Study of dune formation and local environmental/climate history is important as is study of the more recent use made of Dunes by local farming communities. The Gwithian Dunes were subjected to detailed archaeological excavation in the 1950s; key aspects have recently been published (Nowakowski *et al* 2008). Palaeo-environmental work has been undertaken on some Dunes.

Historical value

In most Cornish areas of Upland Rough Ground, there are palimpsests of the remains of up to 6000 years of human activity with the increasingly extensive use of uplands, from arable to rough grazing to (in some cases) relative neglect, ensuring the survival of most of the remains of previous episodes.

Coastal Rough Ground

As for Upland Rough Ground, survival of remains from the earliest period of use (at least the Bronze Age) is generally good because subsequent use has usually been extensive and non-destructive.

Dunes

This is often difficult to establish as Dune surfaces have changed so often. Surviving features tend to be isolated and unrelated except when in industrial/recreational complexes. Excavations reveal earlier phases and sand blows reveal sections showing layers of old land surfaces interspersed with layers of sand; vividly demonstrating time-depth.

Medieval churches and chapels give an insight into the existence of a different earlier landscape, now buried.

Communal value

Upland Rough Ground

Upland Rough Ground dominates the areas where it survives and the historical components, principally the semi-natural vegetation, are fundamental to its overall and particular appearance. Upland Rough Ground makes a larger contribution to local and wider perceptions of areas of Cornwall than any other Type. Changes to this Type tend to be met with greater concern than changes elsewhere.

Coastal Rough Ground

Much visited, mainly via the South West Coast Path, and much loved. Most people would probably be surprised to learn how much human activity took place on the Cornish cliffs up to the early 20th century. As the boundary between the sea and the land, the Coastal Rough Ground has considerable psychological and mythic meaning and value for historically-aware Cornish people. Buildings and structures relating to watching the sea (lighthouses, huers' huts, military installations etc) dot the cliff-line and long, now usually overgrown, pasture boundaries rush down the steep slopes to the cliff-edge.

Observant visitors will always be able to see some historic features, even on the wildest, most windswept stretch.

Dunes

Dunes are often regarded as exciting wildernesses often tainted by modern caravan/chalet/golf course developments. Relatively few people appreciate how the Dunes once fitted into local farming economies or were the sites of industrial enterprises.

Aesthetic value

Upland and Coastal Rough Ground and Dunes all contribute greatly to the present landscape character of their parts of Cornwall. Archaeological components within them are often particularly attractive and evocative.

Potential for amenity and education

Upland Rough Ground

Considerable potential. Walkers and riders already make wide use of Cornwall's various uplands. Many visit the more famous and accessible archaeological sites.

Educational potential is also great, not just through studying historical sites and features and semi-natural habitats, and the relationships of this Type with other parts of Cornwall, but also through the liberating experience of moving around relatively unenclosed and unimproved countryside.

Coastal Rough Ground

Great. There are very few unspectacular Cornish cliffs. The semi-natural vegetation is itself of interest to many people, supporting insects, birds and mammals. Many people visit the more famous archaeological sites and could be encouraged, where safe, to visit more. Footpaths lead onto cliffs from inland farms, demonstrating the links between Coastal Rough Ground and other parts of Cornwall.

Dunes

Good. Recreation has thus far used Dunes mainly as adjuncts to desirable beaches or as bunker-filled golf courses but there is potential for encouraging the appreciation of the Dunes themselves; their flora and some of the industrial and earlier sites within them (as is happening, for example, at Upton Towans explosives works near Hayle).

Survival

Upland Rough Ground

Archaeological features survive well because the Type has been used increasingly extensively through time. Subsequent land use tends not to have damaged or destroyed earlier features. Archaeological remains are generally well preserved, but in areas no long grazed they can be overgrown with gorse, scrub, secondary woodland, etc, all of which can damage below-ground remains through the action of roots and rhizomes. The loss of so much Upland Rough Ground in the last 2-300 years to Post-medieval and Modern Enclosed Land has had a major impact on a once much more extensive historical and archaeological resource.

Coastal Rough Ground

Generally good as most cliffs have been difficult to improve agriculturally but as the cliffs are increasingly neglected, many archaeological sites are becoming obscured and potentially also damaged by dense vegetation.

Dunes

Apart from recreation and industrial complexes, there have been few damaging developments in Dunes and features therefore generally survive well.

Vulnerability

Upland Rough Ground

Most blocks of Upland Rough Ground are protected by various designations. Many are within the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; most contain extensive SSSIs. Many farms containing Upland Rough Ground have signed up for Agri-Environment schemes.

Coastal Rough Ground

Subject to numerous protective designations. Long stretches are SSSIs, much (approximately one-third of Cornwall's coastline) is either owned by or covenanted to the National Trust, and most falls within the AONB.

Dunes

Widely protected as SSSIs due to their ecological value. Many Dunes also fall within the AONB or other designated areas and some are owned by the National Trust.

Forces for change

The continuing reduction in farming population and consequent amalgamations of holdings has far-reaching implications. Structures, boundaries and traditional practices become redundant as regimes become more specialised and intensive, leaving marginal and extensively worked areas, such as Rough Ground, vulnerable to neglect. On the other hand the principle of cross compliance in which environmental gains are sought in exchange for the Single Farm Payment (that has replaced production subsidies) is encouraging farmers to care for aspects of the natural and historic environment on their land. Agri-environment programmes such as Environmental Stewardship are also major forces for change although aspects of the prescriptions for these are designed at the national scale and can lead to locally inappropriate regimes and recommendations.

Neglect and reduction of summer grazing leads to habitat impoverishment through the domination of certain vegetation types which also obscure archaeological features. Roots of shrubs and trees and rhizomes of bracken will adversely affect below-ground remains. Semi-natural communities (plants, insects, birds and mammals) that are, to an extent, culturally defined are also simplified and distorted by the reduction or suspension of grazing. Historical associations of particular species with particular places, such as the golden plover on parts of Bodmin Moor, are consequently threatened, in the same way that the chough and the Large Blue butterfly both became temporarily extinct on Cornwall's coasts when grazing ceased in the twentieth century.

With large areas of Cornwall's rough ground owned by either environmental bodies or agencies (National Trust, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Cornwall Heritage Trust, Natural England, etc) or large estates that have entered into agreements with Natural England, and much of the remainder in the hands of farmers who have also entered into Environmental Stewardship, most is now subject to some form of formal management planning.

Climate change may be expected to impact on rough ground. Some species may be expected to struggle while others, like European gorse and bracken, thrive, leading to changes in balance of established mosaics of land cover. If summers become hotter and drier then peat may dry out with consequences for land cover (and for currently waterlogged and therefore well-preserved remains), and there may be greater risk of summer fires.

As well as the direct impacts of climate change there are those that develop as agencies and individuals respond to its threats. In addition to installing renewable energy complexes on rough ground, these may include capital works and changes in land use designed to improve the performance of rough ground in relation to carbon release and carbon storage. Analyses of the broadly defined but carefully measured ecosystem services that particular semi-natural habitats may provide can stimulate alterations in management that affect other aspects of these places, such as the cultural, archaeological and agricultural. For example, peat, found largely in Rough Ground, is important for holding carbon; one way of reducing the speed of climate change may be to manage rough ground primarily to maximise the carbon-storage service its peat provides, over-riding other more traditional ways of managing rough ground.

Upland Rough Ground

Continued agricultural improvement, especially at the edges of Upland Rough Ground, can be expected. Road schemes and other developments do not entirely avoid the Type. The growth of historically and ecologically aware interest groups and the steady appreciation by farmers and landowners of the ways that the wider community values the uplands is a positive force for conservation.

Coastal Rough Ground

There are few forces for negative change beyond a minimal encroachment by farmers and an expansion onto certain cliffs of recreation facilities (e.g. caravan/chalet parks). The use of cliffs by long-distance walkers will continue to increase and so the place will become more widely valued; there are some problems of erosion that require careful management to contain.

Dunes

The main threat to Dunes appears to be from the expansion of recreation facilities. Most Dunes are now fairly stable, thanks to the planting of marram grass. There is little likelihood of loss to agricultural expansion, road provision or housing.

Safeguarding the Type.

Upland Rough Ground

Grazing is important for maintaining the variety of semi-natural communities and keeping archaeological remains visible for people to explore and undamaged by roots and rhizomes. Further agricultural improvement should be actively discouraged, at the same time as more sustainable (generally traditional) land use and management is encouraged. Hedges and walls should be repaired/maintained, but not wholly rebuilt (as dismantling damages or destroys their fabric). Lanes should be kept open and bracken and European gorse domination reduced.

Agri-environmental schemes could be of considerable benefit to local farming communities as well as to the highly important habitats and archaeological remains there. Loss of Upland Rough Ground to road schemes, conifer plantations, reservoirs, and other developments should be resisted. The values of Upland Rough Ground should be always in mind when considering applications for quarries, mines or china-clay workings to either open or expand.

Coastal Rough Ground

Reintroduction of summer grazing to recreate variety of land cover and the open character of Cornish coastal rough ground. The National Trust and Natural England have been reintroducing cliff grazing with good results over stretches of its coast and other bodies should be encouraged to follow suit. Further loss of Coastal Rough Ground to agriculture (e.g. ploughing to cliff-edges), recreation and other development should be resisted.

Dunes

Historical and archaeological sites can be more closely studied and carefully presented as a means of raising awareness of the historical element of what is often perceived to be a natural environment. The combined ecological and historical significance of Dunes should be borne in mind when considering expansion of recreation sites or developments and presumptions should be made in favour of conserving these very important places. Continued monitoring of Dunes is also important; particularly the prevention of erosion.

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