

Policies on Heritage and Tourism

The UK Government has recognised Cornwall's distinctiveness as an important factor in the local economy that 'underpins tourism and is a key driver that attracts other businesses to the location'. It's ratification of the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCPNM) grants Cornwall a National Minority Status as well as giving protection and support to the Cornish Language, Kernewek. Work on developing the 'Cornish Distinctivity Project' continues; its remit being to define and better understand how the unique cultural distinctiveness of Cornwall is reflected in its heritage assets and historic environment.

The general policy areas underlying parish issues on heritage and tourism are:

1. General Principles

In response to the Government's recently published (5 March 2018) draft revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which aims at de-regulating and streamlining the system with a view to promoting housing and economic growth, the Parish of St Clement supports any improvement to the planning system which aims at facilitating the prompt delivery of sustainable development but recognises that new developments should be consistent with, and make a positive contribution to, the character of St. Clement and respect the history, traditions, language and landscape of the parish

2. Protection of Historic Infrastructure

Repairs and alterations to existing historic buildings or structures should be in line with the distinctive cultural character of the parish

3. Development of heritage and tourism

The Parish of St Clement has a rich and wonderful heritage which needs to be protected for the benefit of locals, tourists and most importantly future generations. In close cooperation with such organisations as the Cornwall Archaeological Society, Cornwall Heritage Trust, Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network, the National Trust, English Heritage, Historic England and the Royal Cornwall Museum, efforts should be made to advance not only our knowledge of the history of our Parish throughout the ages but ensure access to and enjoyment of valued landscapes and heritage assets for recreation, education, and lifelong learning.

Proposals that aim to develop facilities to encourage people to enjoy the local natural and historic environment will be supported as long as there are no significant adverse impacts on the local landscape.

The following projects have been identified to underpin the policies set out above:

- a)
- b)
- c)

Snapshot of the heritage of the Parish of St Clement

The Parish of St Clement (Cornish: *Moresk*) lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that is crisscrossed by many walks that attract both locals and tourists. One of the most popular is the three mile leisurely walk along the Tresillian River from Tresillian to Malpas, via St. Clement, which not only reveals the beauty of the landscape, but perfectly illustrates the depth and importance of the heritage of St. Clement.

Starting at the c.14th century Wheel Inn in Tresillian, we discover Robert Tresilian, a local landowner, who between 1381 and 1387 was Chief Justice of the King's Bench (senior Judge in England & Wales) and learn that Coroner's inquests and sittings of the Circuit Judge were held at the Inn at various times until the early 1900s. Some 300 years later, in 1645 during the English Civil War, negotiations took place on Tresillian Bridge between Thomas Fairfax (Parliamentarian/Roundheads), who was then headquartered at the Inn, and Ralph Hopton (Royalists/Cavaliers); the outcome was the occupation of Truro by Fairfax. It is rumoured that a notch on Table 1 in the bar was created by a careless Cavalier's sword! For ghost aficionados, the Inn is said by some to be haunted: dogs, who had previously been regular visitors, suddenly started to bark at the stairs and would no longer enter the Inn.

About one hour into the walk, we enter the picturesque village of St. Clements. Its Medieval church - once the church of the royal manor of Moresk - sits on the sheltered, wooded banks of the Tresillian River. In the churchyard cemetery, lovers of the Victorian gothic novel might find intriguing the epitaph to Catharinah (John Bland's niece who died in 1784) which reads '*Beneath this tomb there lies confined a Maid that bore a villous mind in her 20th Year returned to dust to make her Portion with the just*'. Time appears to have stood still in the village - from the Holy Well first mentioned in a charter of c.1190 to a Grade II listed Telephone Kiosk dating to 1936. Ongoing restoration is hoped to restore the church so that, once again, it is not only a place of worship but the centre of village life. Surrounding the 16th century Parish Church are a number of listed buildings, including Condurrow Cottage home to Helena Sanders née Charles (1911-1997), the Cornish humanitarian, Celtic cultural activist and poet. She founded the Cornish political party *Mebyon Kernow* (The Party for Cornwall) and became its first president in 1951. For cat lovers, she is also well-known for her feline welfare efforts in Venice.

At the end of our walk, we arrive at the Heron Inn, where from the terrace you can watch the ferry boats sail between Malpas and the Roseland peninsula. For the romantic, legend has it that Tristram and Iseult crossed the river at this point (aka Tristan and Isolde). Tristram is said to have disguised himself as a leper carrying a cup for alms (he probably would have blended in well as there was a Medieval leper hospital close by at Kiggon (known from documentary evidence dated to 1308 but hospitals were already known in England from the late 11th century).

The Sites & Monuments Record for the Parish of St Clement (Annex 1) lists findspots for artefacts dating from the Neolithic to the Medieval; around 30 standing structures that range from Bronze Age barrows to the only surviving World War II mooring blocks used for the D-Day landings still in existence in the area; as well as numerous Bronze Age to Medieval cropmarks. Documentary evidence hints at either demolished or long-forgotten settlements dating from the Prehistoric to the Medieval. The Historic England database (Annex 2) lists over 40 scheduled buildings of which the Church of St Clement is a Grade I listed building.

There is so much more to uncover. The importance of archaeological work ahead of any development is highlighted by recent work on the Tregurra Valley development scheme where Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Medieval occupation has been identified around the Trevella Stream; excavations in 2012 and a watching brief in 2014 recorded a total of 483 pits, the majority of which are believed to date to the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Woodcock Corner has also yielded important finds, including Late Neolithic Grooved Ware sherds (first produced in Orkney) and an unusual slate disc engraved on both sides - one side with a distinctive chequerboard pattern; the other lozenges with arrowhead decoration (we will know more when the site report is published).