



Historic England



# Cornish Ports and Harbours

assessing heritage significance, threats, protection and opportunities



The project aimed to establish effective methodologies for assessing the fabric, significance and character of English ports and harbours by using a study of those in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly as a pilot.

## The project was carried out in four stages:

Stage 1: A rapid review of the whole Cornish & Scillonian ports and harbours resource.

Stage 2: More detailed study of 15 selected ports and harbours.

Stage 3. Collation of results and reporting, including preparation of an Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP) for Cornwall and Scilly's ports and harbours

Stage 4. Securing protection outcomes.

# Stage 1

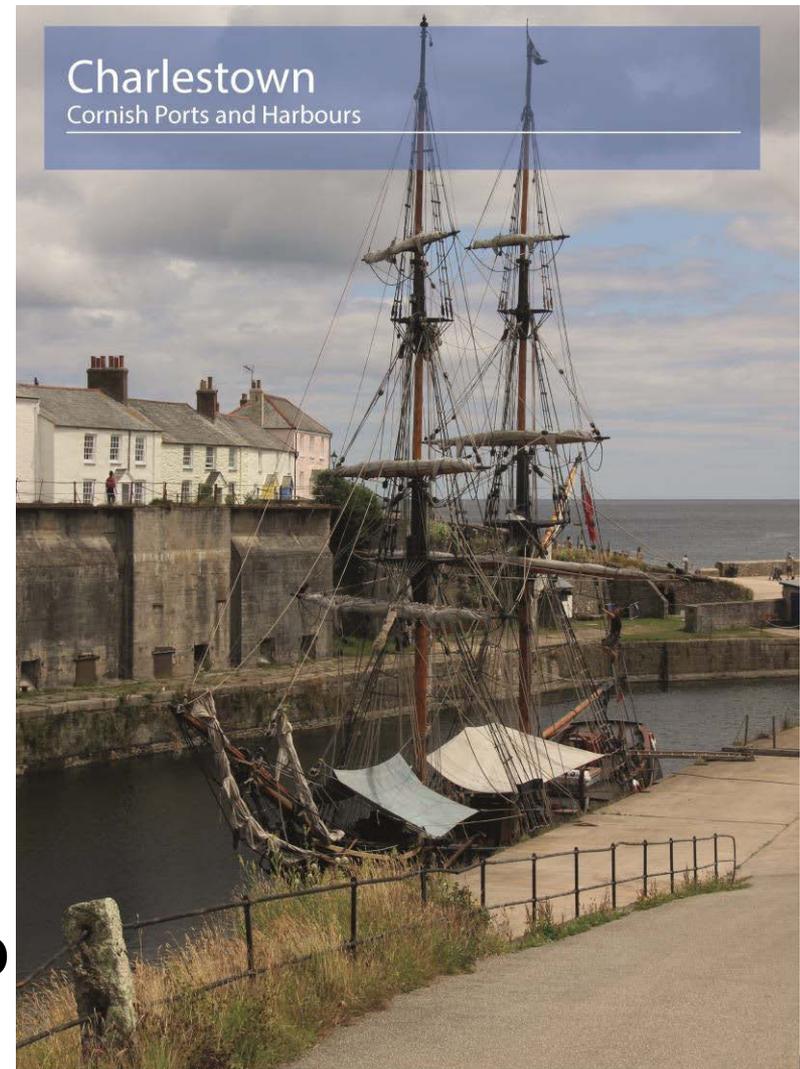
A long list of 608 Cornish and Scillonian ports and harbours was produced by querying the HER and transformed into an outline classification of sites using a number of variables — types of use, topography, chronology, scale, key components, current activity levels, associated settlement, and condition. By a process of rationality this was then reduced into nine classes: Beach; Civic provision, Commercial, Fishing, Industrial, Leisure, Local trading, Military and Multi-purpose.

## Stage 1 (continued)

Models for vulnerability and capacity to benefit from change were produced for each class and their significance assessed based on Historic England's *Conservation Principles*. Those classes most at risk and those most likely to benefit from change were then identified and a long list of potential sites for further study was produced. From this list 15 sites were selected for individual study and an updated project design was prepared for Stage 2.

## Stage 2

The 15 ports and harbours selected for Stage 2 study were: Bude, Charlestown, Duckpool, Fowey, Hayle, Higher Town Quay and Old Quay, St Martin's (Scilly), Kilcobben Cove, Lerryn, Newlyn, Penberth Cove, Penzance, Portreath, St Mary's Harbour (Scilly), Truro and Wacker Quay.



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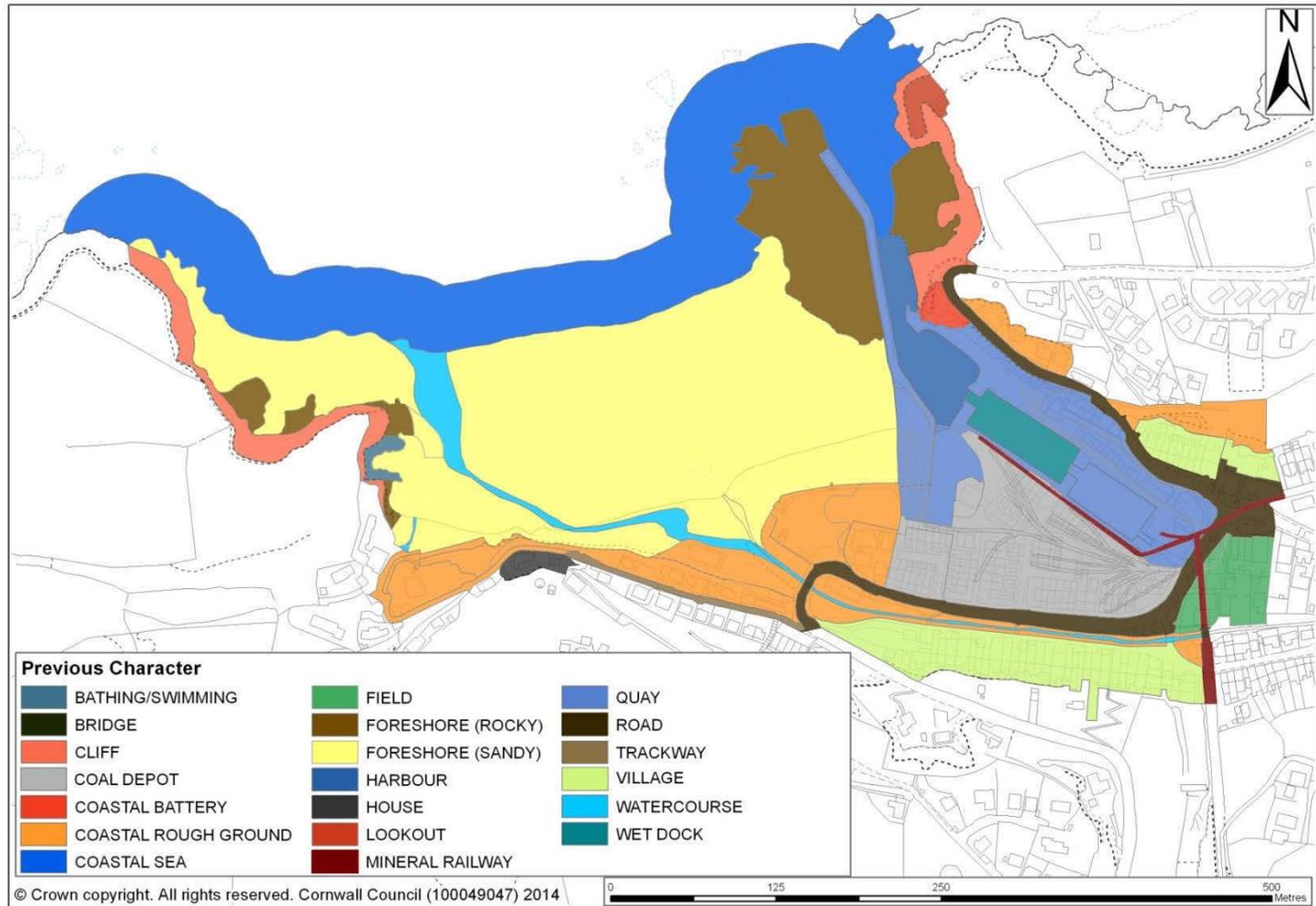


CORNWALL  
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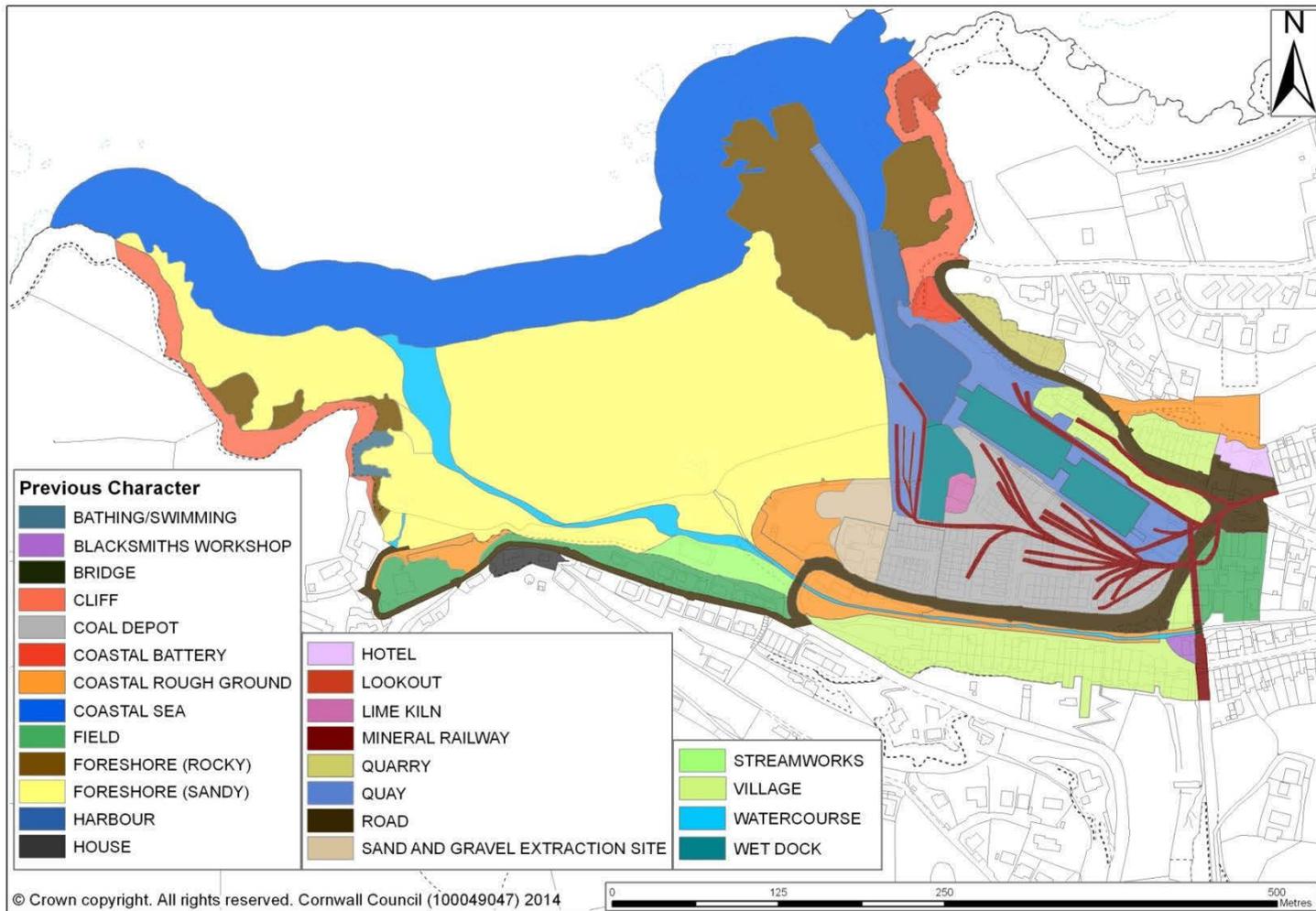
## Stage 2 (continued)

Characterisation was undertaken of each port/harbour at scale of 1:2,500 to be viewed at the same scale with minimum polygon size of 0.1 ha. Three previous time-slices were created for each port, predominantly based on the following sources, where available — 1940s RAF vertical photographs, c1907 2nd Edition OS mapping, c1880 1st Edition OS mapping and c1840 Tithe mapping.

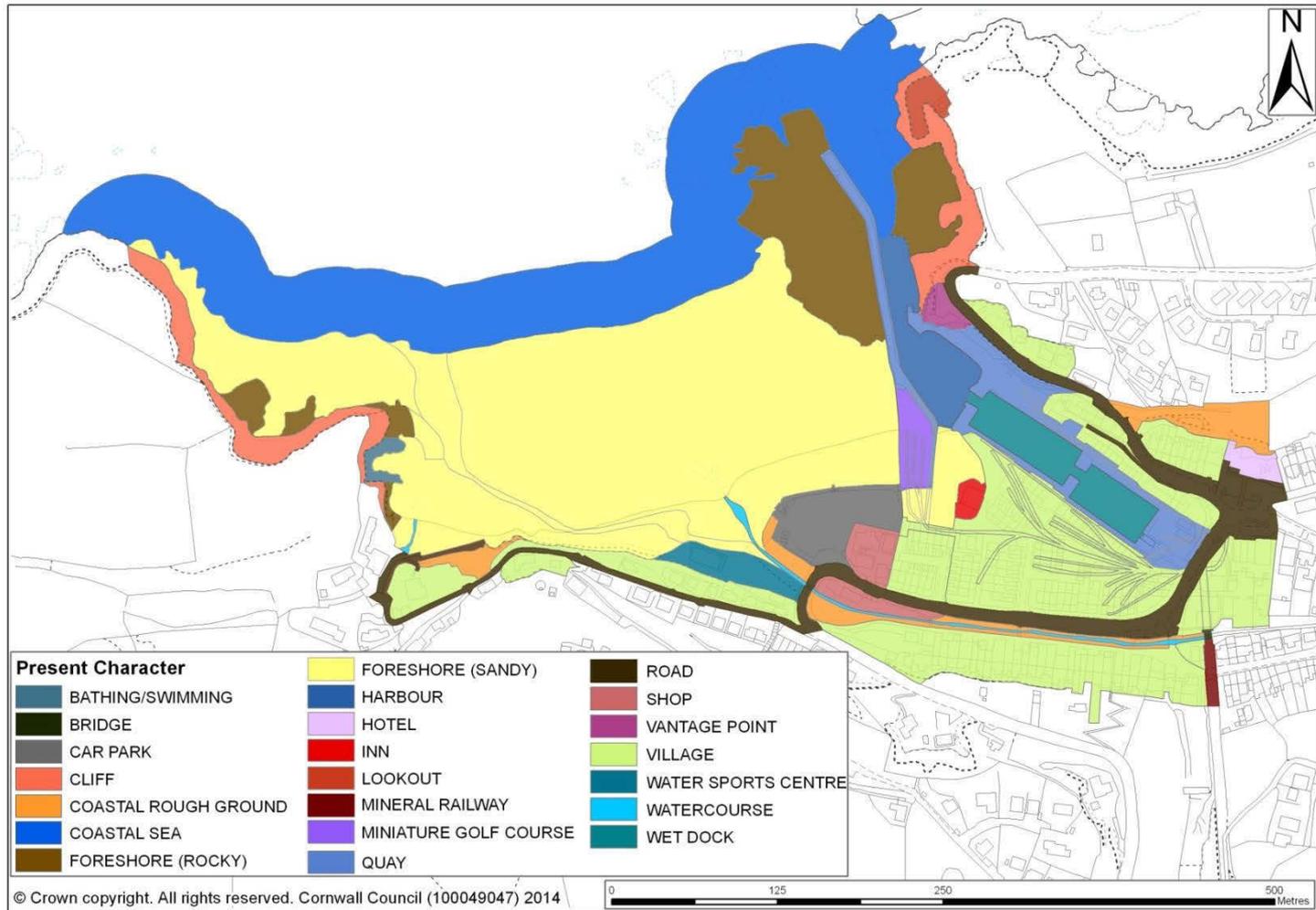
# Early 19<sup>th</sup> century previous character map for Portreath showing characterisation to Sub-Type level



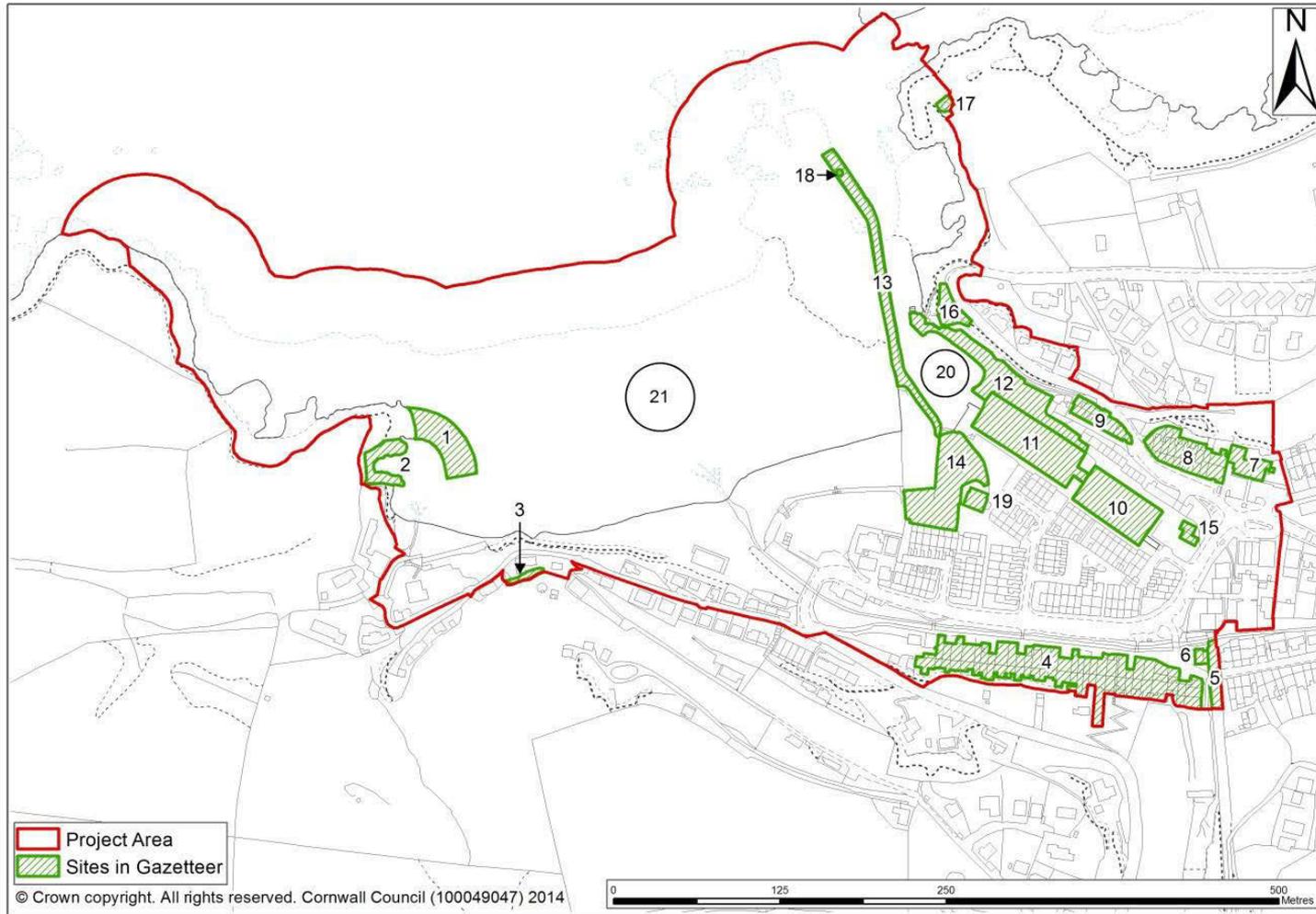
# Late 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20<sup>th</sup> century previous character map for Portreath showing characterisation to Sub-Type level



# Present character map for Portreath showing characterisation to Sub-Type level



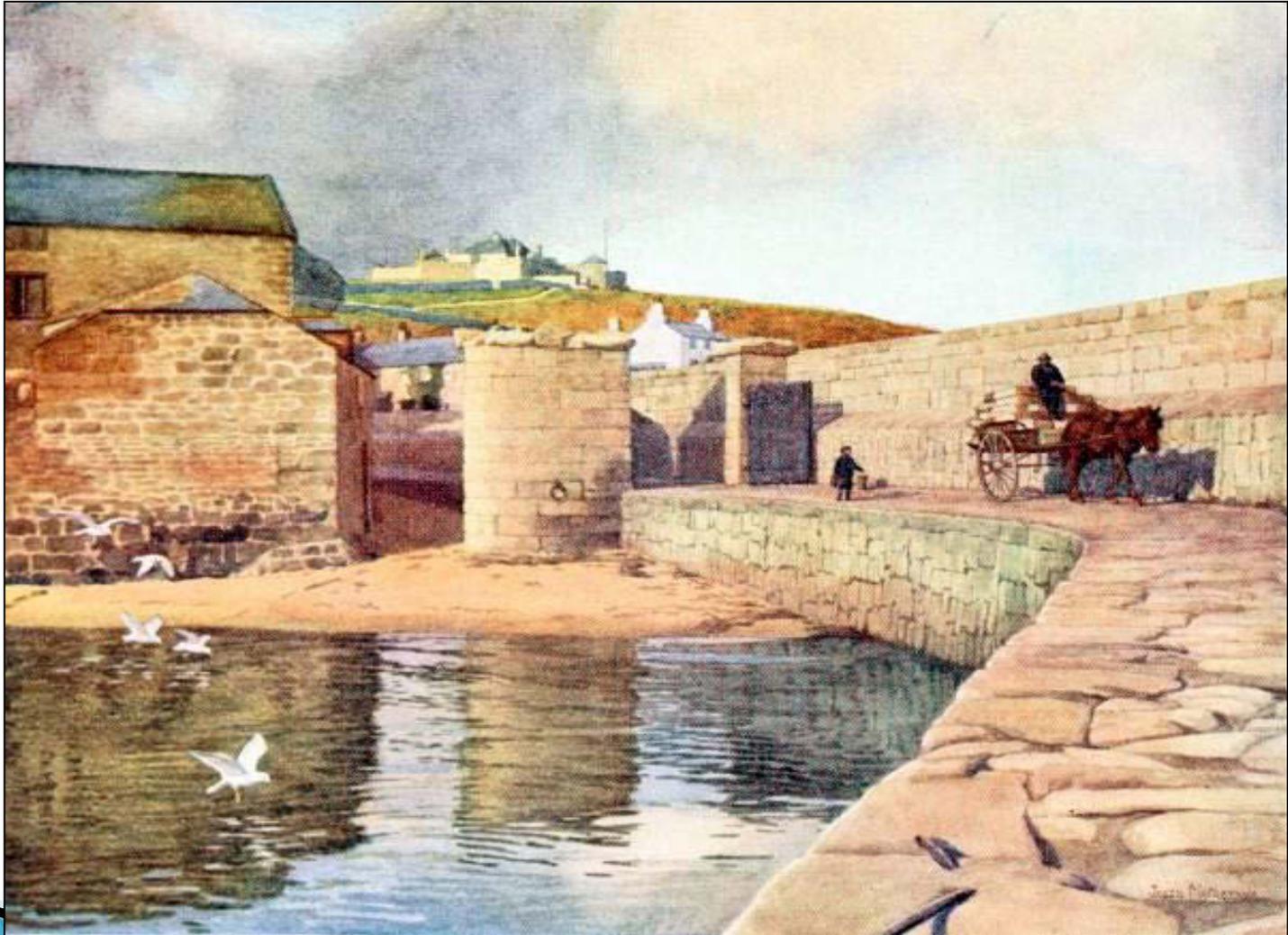
# Fieldwork was undertaken to assess typical components



# Application of Historic England's Conservation Values

- ▶ *Conservation Principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment*, containing Historic England's framework and guidance for assessing the range of values pertaining to the historic environment was published in 2008. It describes a range of heritage values which enables the significance of assets to be established systematically, with the four main 'heritage values' being Evidential, Historical, Aesthetic and Communal.

Evidential value derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity





Historical value derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative

Aesthetic value derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place



Communal value derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.



# Principal forces for change

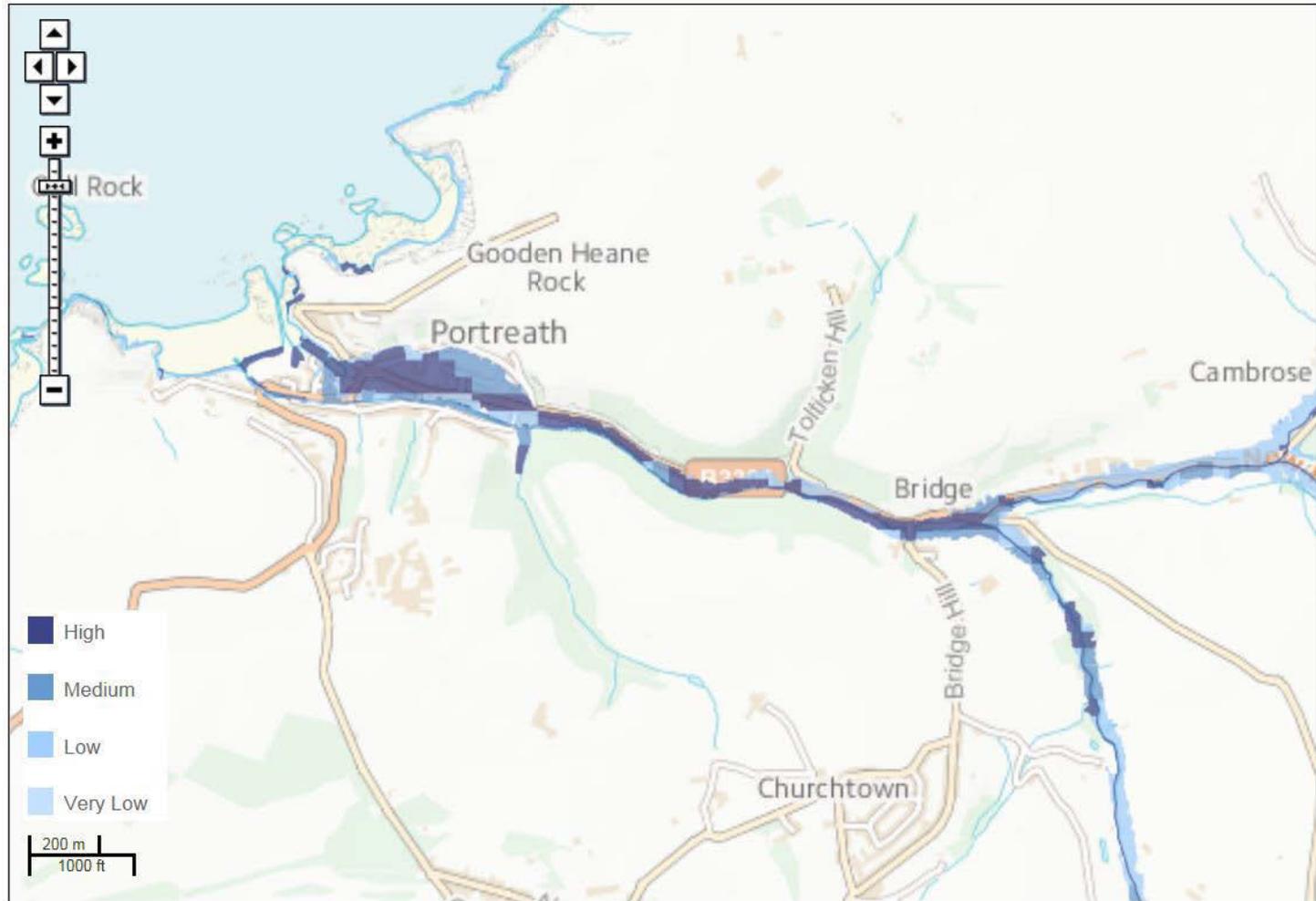
The natural effects which accompany climate change, increased storminess, sea level rise, siltation of estuaries.

Anthropogenic – expansion, intensification or change of use, changes in method and scale of use or function, repair and restoration of elements of complexes, other forms of successional use of buildings and structures, settlement expansion, developmental responses to climate change, reduction or cessation of use, dredging.

# Natural forces for change



# Risk of flooding from rivers and sea at Portreath

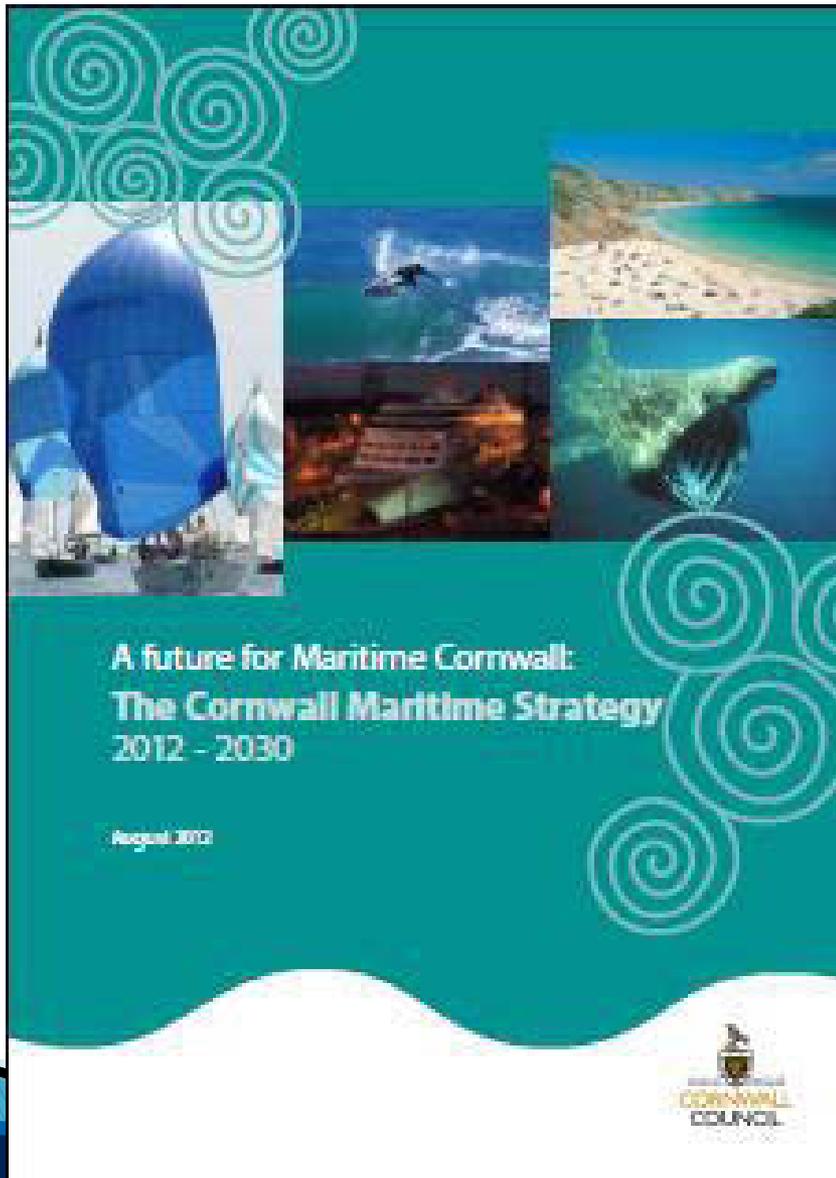


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# Anthropogenic forces for change



# Opportunities :The Cornwall Maritime Strategy



# Opportunities: historic character as positive asset



# Opportunities: restoration of heritage assets



# Opportunities; potential for heritage-led tourism



# Cornish Ports and Harbours:

assessing heritage significance, threats, protection and opportunities



Stage 3 collating results  
and reporting  
including an Historic  
Environment Action Plan  
for Cornwall and Scilly's  
ports and harbours

## Stage 4 Securing protection outcomes

Step 1: Prepare a gazetteer of sites and features that are candidates for consideration by Historic England's Designation Department. This step will also include formal discussion with relevant members of Historic England's Designation Department to reduce the gazetteer's long list to a short list of designation candidates.

## Stage 4: Securing protection outcomes (continued)

- ▶ Step 2: For each shortlisted site text from the project report will be used for the History and Description sections of Consultation Reports for further consultation with the LPA.
- ▶ Step 3: Following consultation with the LPA, a series of management recommendations can be drawn up. For sites in LPA ownership (and those which are part of the holdings of the National Trust) the recommendations can be directed towards particular sites and features.

## Stage 4 Securing protection outcomes (continued)

Step 4: The assessment of significance, character, threats, opportunities and condition which formed important parts of this project can be reviewed to draw out key messages for those drawing up various forms of policy (e.g. Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans) and strategy, whether related to planning change, conservation or maintenance, guiding the design of change, or taking opportunities to extend or improve presentation of the history, significance and value of ports and harbours.

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