

## NCA 153 Bodmin Moor

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### *Overview*

Bodmin Moor is in the eastern half of Cornwall, and is surrounded by the Cornish Killas NCA. It is included within the Upland and Upland Fringe Agricultural Landscape Type, and is a remote area of granite moorland, nearly a quarter of which is unenclosed common land. Around 71% lies within the Cornwall AONB, and the south-east corner falls within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. There are areas of enclosed land within the moorland, much of which is large-scale and regular in form, but most of the enclosed land is in the sheltered valleys and off the sides of the moor, where fields are small and irregular. Farmland is dominated by pasture, but there are small areas of cultivation in the valleys and on barton farms. The settlement pattern is very dispersed, comprising farmsteads and hamlets, with hardly any settlement on the open moor. The main settlement is Camelford, a small market town on the north side of the moor. Settlements are connected by small, winding sunken lanes, but open and unenclosed where they cross the open moorland. The main road within the NCA is the A30 trunk road, a dual carriageway that bisects the moor. The area is important for the supply of water to the region, and there are several reservoirs on the moor, the largest of which is Colliford Lake. Woodland cover is low, at 7.5% of the total area, of which only around 11% is ancient woodland. The low level of woodland cover reflects the expanse of open moorland. Trees are found on the lower and more sheltered ground as both plantations and shelterbelts, and there are plantations on the eastern side of the moor, south of the A30.

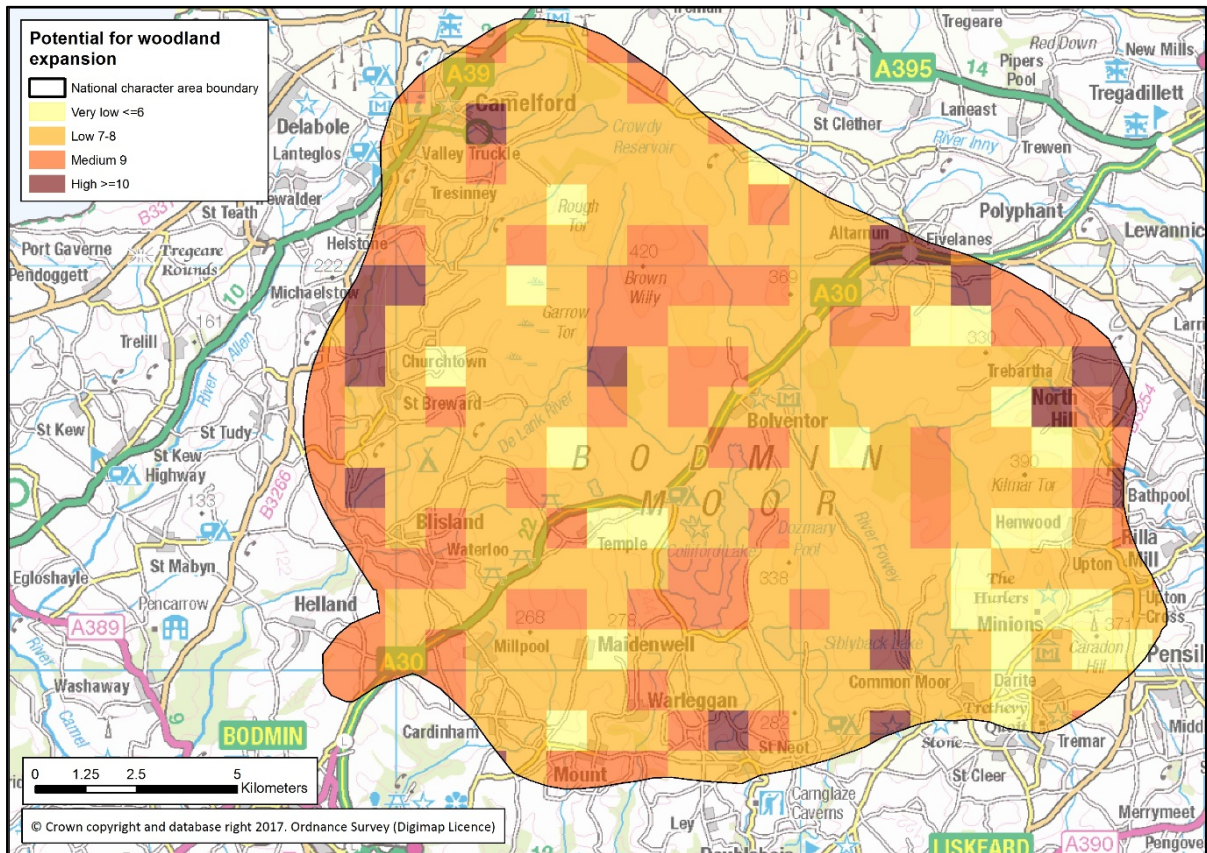
### *The Historic Environment Character*

Bodmin Moor has a remarkable level of well-preserved, multi-period archaeological remains, many of which cover extensive areas and have been protected through scheduling on a landscape scale. Monuments include Neolithic and Bronze Age cairns, barrows, standing stones, stone rows and upstanding settlement remains, as well as Iron Age and Romano-British hillforts, enclosed farmsteads and hamlets, along with relict field systems. There is also a wide range of medieval and later features, associated with the expansion and contraction of settlement and cultivation. Medieval remains include field systems, and deserted hamlets and farmsteads. The area has a high proportion of surviving late medieval and early post medieval farmhouses. Mining of tin and copper has been carried out on Bodmin from prehistory, and there are extensive early remains of tin streaming. From the 18<sup>th</sup> century, mining expanded, along with china clay extraction and granite quarrying, leading to the growth of industrial settlements on the moorland and in existing towns and villages. Many of the industrial workers combined their work with farming. The significant impact of mining on the landscape is reflected in the inclusion of the area around Caradon in the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.

### *Opportunities for Woodland Expansion*

The mapping of historic and natural environment attributes indicates a low level of potential for woodland expansion within the NCA, reflecting the open moorland character of the NCA and the extensive areas of archaeological interest. Indeed, the NCA profile recommends the removal of scrub and woodland where it affects the character and setting of archaeological sites. The profile does suggest, however, that woodland planting and regeneration could take place on valley sides, which the mapping also indicates with clusters of higher potential

on the fringes of the moor around river valleys. Planting should be avoided on the high moorland, where an open landscape should be retained and where woodland would have a major impact on the skyline.



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