

# NCA 155 Carnmenellis

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## *Overview*

Carnmenellis is a small circular area, covering a granite intrusion and surrounded by the Cornish Killas NCA. It lies within the Upland and Upland Fringe Agricultural Landscape Type. Mining and quarrying have had a significant impact on the landscape, which has left prominent waste tips and exposed rock faces, as well as industrial features such as housing, chapels and mine buildings. The significance of the area's mining heritage is reflected in the inclusion of two large areas within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. Even so, it is an agricultural landscape of rolling hills divided by small- to medium-sized fields bounded by Cornish hedges. The field pattern is regular within areas of former moorland, and is surrounded by irregular and smaller ancient enclosures. Livestock farming predominates, with a small amount of cereal production. The settlement pattern is a dispersed one of hamlets and farmsteads, including miners' cottages. There are no urban centres within the NCA, though the fringes of Camborne, Redruth and Penryn extend into the NCA. Although the A394 crosses the area, the road system is one of minor roads with many winding lanes. Woodland cover is very low, at only 6% of the total area of the NCA. Of the total woodland cover, only 2% is ancient woodland. The distribution of woodland is limited, and is located mainly on deep valley sides, with some willow carr in damp valleys. The broadleaved woodland at Troon, to the south west of Camborne, was originally part of a designed landscape around Pendarves House, but is now managed as a nature reserve.

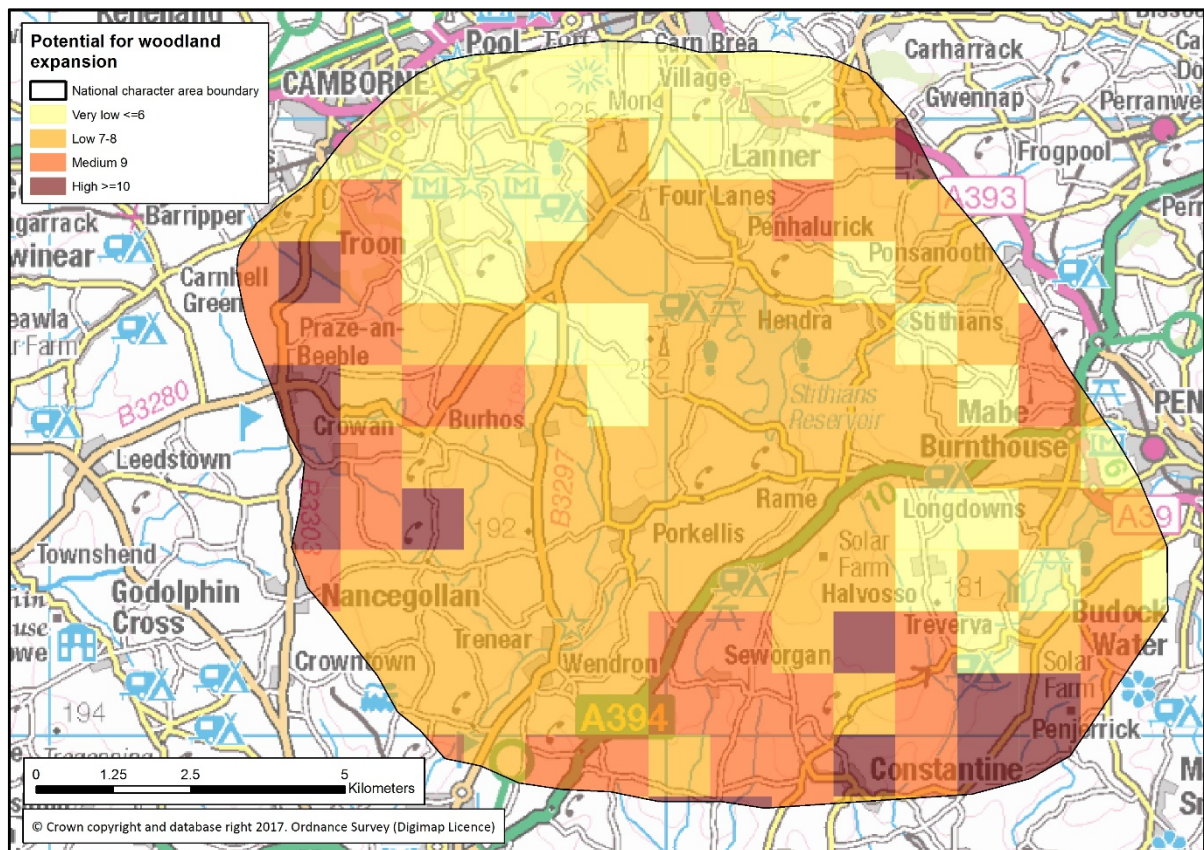
## *The Historic Environment Character*

The Carnmenellis NCA includes one of Cornwall's most significant archaeological remains, at Cran Brea. The prehistoric enclosure and settlement comprises massive stone walls and double ramparts dating to the Neolithic period, as well as finds of Bronze Age date with Iron Age reoccupation and settlement, a later medieval castle and deer park, and post medieval mining activity. Other prehistoric monuments within the NCA include standing stones, barrows and a fogou, or stone-built underground passage, dating to the Iron Age, as well as surviving prehistoric field patterns. The most visible historic environment character, however, relates to the area's importance as a mining district. There has been mineral exploitation here from prehistory. Mines extracted tin and copper particularly, but also silver and lead amongst other metals, and the area was also quarried for granite. The extractive industries grew rapidly from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, especially in the area around Camborne and Redruth, and harbours such as Penryn and Gweek developed as ports for the export of granite. A mixed miner-farmers economy developed, as industrial workers also ran smallholdings. The mining industry ended relatively early here, and many industrial remains were cleared away, though granite quarrying continued to the present. Even though many mines and other industrial buildings were cleared, its legacy can still be seen in industrial settlements and surviving engine houses, chimneys, spoil heaps and water management systems.

## *Opportunities for Woodland Expansion*

The mapping of historic and natural environment attributes indicates a low level of potential for woodland expansion within the NCA, and there are few clusters indicating good opportunities for woodland expansion. Where there is higher potential, the areas are on the edges of the NCA, around Constantine in the south and Crowan in the west, mostly around

existing woodland. The few opportunities for planting new woodland are reflected in the NCA profile, which emphasises the need to restore and manage existing woodland, particularly in valleys, rather than planting new woodland. Where the profile does suggest planting, it is around new development to filter views. Given the ancient character of much of field systems, and the importance of prehistoric and industrial archaeological remains, the opportunities for new woodland must remain very limited.



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