

Dodman from
watch house

PATHWAYS & QUARRIES

People experience this stretch of the coast largely by tramping along the South West Coast Path, a long-distance route way originally used by Excise Men observing and moving quickly to interrupt smuggling activity.

Here and there along the cliffs we encounter former quarries, surviving as irregular cuttings, usually hard to penetrate now, being so overgrown. Most would have yielded stone for local building and hedging, but it is possible that some quarries produced limestone used in the kilns at the two Porthollands and at Porthluney. Quarries generally lie beyond the valuable farmland and are on steep slopes where cuttings driven in on the level could most efficiently work into the target rock. It is also possible that coastal quarries were conveniently placed in relation to harbours and hards from which stone could have been exported. Dating of the quarries is uncertain. As they are industrial it is tempting to see them as fairly modern, but some of Cornwall's earliest building stone quarries are along such cliff sides.

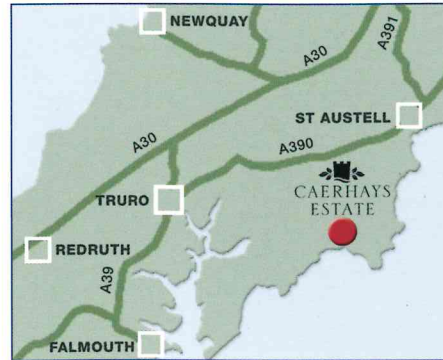
Farming was also linked to the coast through the carting to the land of sea sand and seaweed to sweeten and manure the soil, and, of course, through the use of the little ports of Portholland and Porthluney as places from which to send produce around to the larger coastal or estuary towns of Truro, Falmouth and Mevagissey.

It is not known to what extent other resources along this coast were exploited, but elsewhere in Cornwall shellfish were harvested from the intertidal zone, eggs and squabs (fledglings) from the nests of sea-birds and samphire (a fleshy umbelliferous plant used for pickles and to flavour fish dishes) and mussels from rocky outcrops. All were, at various times, important for local economies and the methods employed to reach and take them were often risky.

MILITARY

Most military activity along this coast has been defensive, concerned with responding to invasion threats, and has consequently been focussed on the beaches, and on beacon fires on headlands. Occasionally you will hear the booms of Naval guns practicing on the Dodman naval firing range in the Channel. Similar exercises would have been heard off this coast during the Second World War.

DIRECTIONS TO CAERHAYS ESTATE



From Truro: first turning right off the A390 after Grampond (signposted to Tregony and St Mawes) then follow signposts to Caerhays.

From St Mawes & King Harry Ferry: take right turning from A3078 (signposted to Veryan) and next turning left signposted to Caerhays.

From St Austell: first turning after the end of Sticker by-pass (signposted to Tregony - B3287) turn right at first junction and then follow signposts to Caerhays.

From Mevagissey: head for Gorran Churchtown and look for signpost to Caerhays at Gorran High Lanes.

ACTIVITIES

- Gardens
- House Tours
- Accommodation - Serviced
- Accommodation - Self Catering
- Corporate or Business Meetings
- Film and Photographic Locations
- Product Launches
- Weddings
- Parties & Celebrations
- Pampering or Activity Breaks
- Garden Breaks
- Agricultural and Educational Visits
- Nurseries and Mail Order Plants
- Beach

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CAERHAYS CASTLE
ST AUSTELL CORNWALL

THE COAST



CAERHAYS
ESTATE



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