

Appendix A Gerrans Parish Profile

The Parish of Gerrans covers an area of 1375ha¹. Formerly the two parishes of Gerrans and St Anthony, it lies north-south along the eastern side of the Roseland peninsula.



It comprises the linked villages of Gerrans/Portscatho, the scattered farmsteads and hamlets of Bohortha, Curgurrel, Lanhay, Percuil, Rosevine and Trewithian.

¹ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>

The villages of Gerrans and Portscatho have physically merged into one, although there is local distinctiveness between them reflecting their pastoral and marine histories.

An analysis of the 2011 population data showed that there was a population of 794 of which 569 were of an age to be economically active and less than 3% were unemployed. The profile of that population showed that there are slightly less 16 to 54 year olds (46%) than there are 55 and over².

In 2011 there were 397 households in the Parish, 151 of which were single person households and 87 were occupied by three persons or more³.

History

The name *Gerrans* is believed to be derived from Gerent, an early Cornish king/saint who lived in the 8th century. There is a local legend that he was buried with a boat made of gold at Carne Beacon, near Veryan. His name was written in the Latin form of *Gerontius* by early scribes, and the name still exists today in Wales as Geraint.

St Anthony Head was always of strategic importance and had a gun battery from the early 19th century until 1957. The lighthouse at St Anthony's Head was built in 1834 to warn ships of the hazardous Manacles rocks.



In 1872 Gerrans was described a village and a parish that stands on the west side of a bay of its own name. It had a post office and contained also the hamlet of Portscatho. The population was 935 and there were 215 households. The manor belonged formerly to the bishops of Exeter. An ancient earthwork, called Dungerein, situated N of the church⁴, and communicating with the shore by a subterranean passage, is regarded as a vestige of a fort or palace of a King Gerennius.

The rocks include slate. Gerrans bay has a semicircular outline, and measures about 2½ miles across the chord. A fine specimen of a raised beach, consisting of pebbles cemented into conglomerate by oxide of iron, is on its E shore.

The living of Gerrans is a rectory in the diocese of Exeter. The church stands on an eminence, with a fine view, and contains a monument to the Hobbe family. There are chapels for Independents and Wesleyans.⁵

Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas & Listed Buildings



The Wayside Cross in St Gerrans Churchyard, Gerrans Bowling Green (see photo) and Dingerein Castle, the hill fort at Curgurrell, are scheduled ancient monuments.

The extensive conservation areas of Gerrans and Portscatho, including the area around the harbour and up the hill into Gerrans, best reflect the character and the wider setting of the villages.

Within the Parish 56 are listed buildings, including many of

² ibid

³ ibid

⁴ Located according to the Scheduled Ancient Monuments register as north west of Curgurrell Farm

⁵ Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales John Marius Wilson 1870-72

the older properties within the Conservation Areas, some of which date back to the 17th Century and the churches of St Gerrans and St Anthony. Several of the farmsteads and houses within the smaller settlements are also listed.

Local Character

The character of the Parish is complex, reflecting the wild openness of a rugged sea coast, the tranquillity of the river valley at Percuil contrasting with the business of views of shipping activity in the Carrick Roads and, in between, the plateau ridge running from St Anthony's head to Trewithen with its busy transport corridor and agricultural landscape of hedgebound open fields.



Buildings in this complex landscape have tended to reflect not only their access to local materials, but also their relationship to this diverse landscape. Outside the villages and hamlets, farmsteads are of stone and rendered cob construction with clipped slate roofs, solid squat buildings with small windows and porched doorways respecting their exposure to weather. Slates are hung on stone walls to protect against the rain and wind.

Nineteenth and early twentieth century residential buildings especially in the villages and hamlets also use stone and slate but incorporate more elaboration in design with a greater use of render on the stone walls, larger windows and open doorways exploiting views and reflecting a pride of place.

Occasional polite houses designed to be seen, such as at Place House, offer a different architecture of non-local styles designed for effect rather than function. Their seclusion from the elements allows for larger, more pretentious building styles with larger windows and grander doorways.



The Parish's villages at Gerrans and Portscatho reflect the historic relationship between the Churchtown (Gerrans) and the port of the Parish (Portscatho). Fishermens cottages and fish cellars in Portscatho and workers cottages with their agricultural barns and sheds in Gerrans contribute to the design details of residential buildings of the first half of the twentieth century.

Whilst this is also a theme in the hamlets of the Parish, there is an element of grander housing in some hamlets that reflects both local vernacular and popular twentieth century 'home counties' styles of country housing capitalising on views and aspects and providing landscape gardens.

In Gerrans and Portscatho mass residential development in the form of small estates of housing in the second half of the twentieth century has focused on single storey bungalow style housing and small two storey housing with painted render finish and concrete tile roofs.





The end of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty first century have seen the introduction of contemporary design which is respectful and reflective of its landscape setting, but which introduces materials that are not found naturally in the area, such as glass and timber cladding.



The increased commitment to sustainable life style has seen a shift from the squat low lying building of the rural vernacular buildings with their small windows and doors that reduced heat loss through location and aspect to the use of roof mounted solar panels and the introduction of heat pumps and speciality glazing to make most efficient use of energy.

Village Centre

The linked villages of Portscatho and Gerrans offer a range of services and facilities. There are two centres to the villages at The Square / Churchtown Road in Gerrans and The Square in Portscatho. Together the villages provide the following commercial facilities, including post office, butchers, general store, petrol station, estate agents and art galleries, as well as public houses and restaurants.

Village Edge

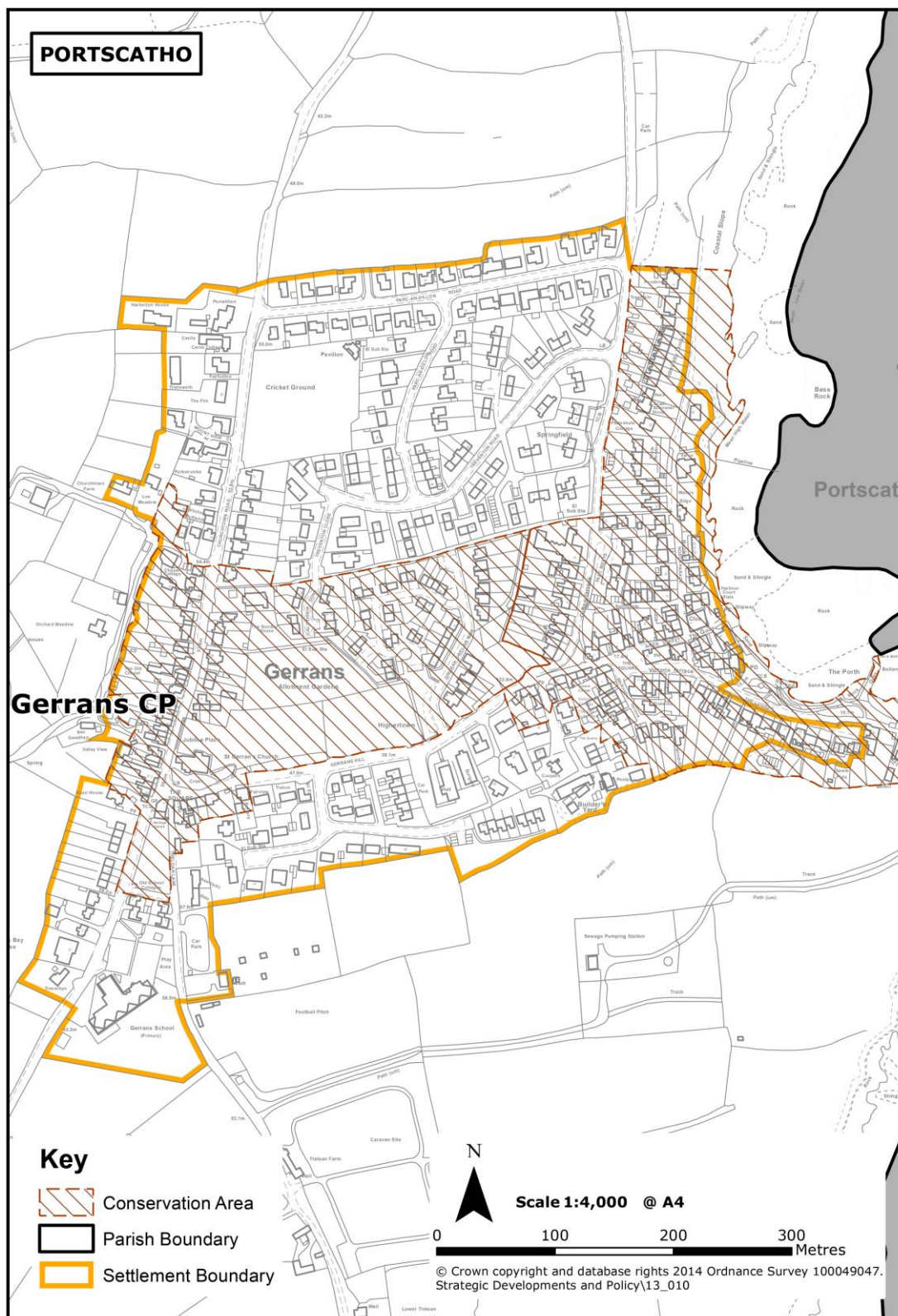
Visually the edge of the village is easily defined. The coast provides the eastern boundary from the car park on the cliffs above Porthcurnick to the dwellings at the end of the Luggar. The rear boundaries of linear development along Churchtown road provide the western edge to the village before the land falls away towards the Percuil River.



Similarly, the rear boundaries of dwellings along Parc an Dillon Road create a clear northern boundary.



The southern boundary runs from the rear of the school to the back of the Royal Standard public house before following parallel to Gerrans Hill along the rear of properties until reaching the coast at Pencabe.



Economic activity in Gerrans Parish outside the Village Centres

The 2011 census showed a huge diversity of economic activity in the Parish focused on Retail, Tourism, and Construction and negligible unemployment⁶. Economic activity is not limited to the villages, with enterprises at Percuil, Lanhay and Curgurrell and in the open countryside.

Visitor attractions apart from informal recreation and leisure include St Anthony's Head and Percuil Creek.

Community, Recreation and Leisure

Together the villages provide social and community facilities with the church, school, doctors surgery, village hall and sports facilities at either end of Gerrans village.

Beaches at Porthcurnick, Towan and Porthbean and the Cornwall Coastal path provide a range of recreational opportunities.

Transport and Car Parking

In the Parish 12% of households, that is 47 households, do not have access to a car or van⁷ yet despite this high percentage of car owners, access to the St Mawes to Truro bus service is seen as valuable to 49% of parish respondents to the Roseland Plan questionnaire.

The villages are served by a daily bus service that links St Mawes to Truro and a seasonal ferry from Place to St Mawes.

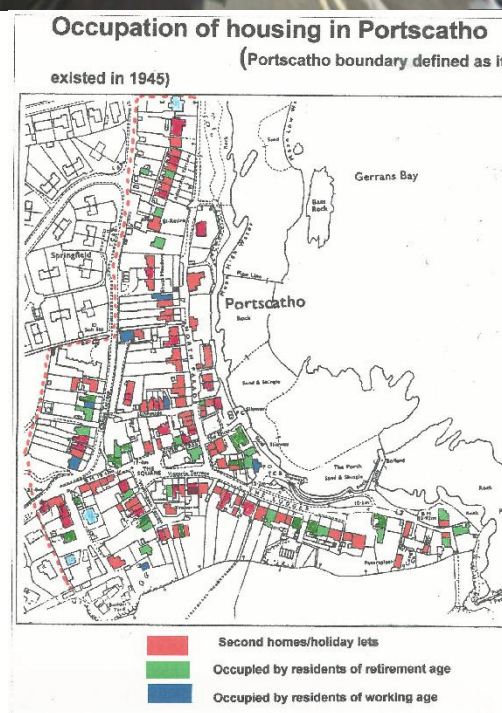
Public car parks for visitors can be found within Portscatho, Gerrans, Percuil and Towan and above Porthcurnick Beach and on St Anthony's Head. Visitors also make use of lay-bys and wide road verges to park and access beaches and other open spaces.

Housing

The original housing in Gerrans Churchtown was around the church with linear development for a short way along Churchtown Road and Gerrans Square. Twentieth century development has extended that linear development along Churchtown Road past the cricket ground and down Gerrans Hill to the doctor's surgery and village hall and along Tregassick Road as far as the School.

The historic core of Portscatho focused on The Square. River Street, the quayside Nineteenth century housing along the Luggar, reflected the attraction of the village to visitors and later twentieth century housing along North Parade and the Coast Road took advantage of views across the harbour.

The most significant housing growth occurred during the second half of the twentieth century on land between the villages behind the main roads creating small estates of houses and new links between the villages at Treventon Road and Parc an Dillon Road.



⁶ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>

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The development of housing in the twenty first century on Gerrans Hill has filled the last of the open spaces that previously separated Gerrans from Portscatho.

The 2011 census showed that, of the 397 households in the Parish, 280 lived in their own properties, with 2 living in shared ownership properties, whilst 99 households were living in rented accommodation, 47 of which were socially rented⁸.

In 2009, over 20%, and possibly as high as 50%, of the housing stock were second homes based upon an analysis of census and local tax data⁹. It is particularly high in Porthscatho, as is shown here.

Utilities

Broadband – 560 homes in the Parish has access to superfast broadband which continues to be rolled out across the Roseland¹⁰.

Energy – Access to the National electricity network is throughout the Parish and, in the absence of piped gas, many properties are dependent upon bottle gas, oil, coal and wood for heating and cooking.

Renewable Energy – Whilst there is a solar farm at Methers-Collyn Farm, renewable energy production in the Parish is predominantly through the installation of domestic solar panels.

Telephony – Access to landline communication is good through the parish, but mobile phone networks provide only patchy cover for the parish as a whole.

Waste – Whilst many properties both outside and on the fringe of the villages are dependent upon private sewerage treatment systems, there is South West Water sewerage treatment at Treloan which manages the effluent from the villages of Gerrans and Portscatho.

Waste recycling is through bi-weekly domestic and a weekly commercial collection with limited recycling facilities at Treloan Car Park

Water supplies – Drinking water is, in the main, provided through a pressurised piped water network connected to the national supply.

⁸ *ibid*

⁹ *Second Homes Central Area Cornwall Council Community Intelligence Team 2009*

¹⁰ <http://www.thisiscornwall.co.uk/11.6.2013>

