Recreational

Defining attributes
Late 19th and 20th century tourism and recreation features. Mainly golf courses, coastal chalet/caravan parks and theme parks. Smaller areas of recreational facilities are absorbed into other Types, particularly Settlement.

Following suggestions made in the 1998 review of HLC (Herring 1998), this Type has been subdivided into the following sub-types, and mapped as such for the Lynher Valley HLC and the north Cornish coast HLC undertaken for the Atlantic Coast and Valleys Project (Herring and Tapper 2002; Val Baker 2003).

- Golf courses
- Campsites, chalet parks etc
- Theme parks
- Car Parks

Principal historical processes
Cornwall’s tourism industry developed through the 19th century, aided by the introduction of railways. It had a largely seaside bias until the later 20th century when ‘quality’ tourism encouraged more visitors inland to ‘heritage’ sites and former industrial landscape.

Some golf courses were established in the later 19th century (Lelant, Bude, Rock, Bodmin, Falmouth and Newquay). Chalet parks were given a boost through the adaptation of Second World War huttoed camps in the 1950s and 1960s.

Typical historical and archaeological components
The chalet and caravan parks mainly comprise late 20th century standard structures served by simple concrete block ancillary buildings and tarmac or concrete drives. A few are of more interest, being early 20th century and with chalets which are almost vernacular (e.g. on riviere Towan, Phillack and Freathy Cliff, Whitsand Bay).

Theme Parks vary in form and extent, but most have late 20th century concrete block buildings and many essentially temporary features. Golf courses are usually landscaped, with many earlier historical features removed or disturbed (e.g. field boundaries). Club houses and ancillary buildings are usually modern concrete structures.

All recreation sites have extensive car parks.

Principal locations
Predominantly coastal, with dense clusters around certain stretches well-endowed with sandy beaches: Bude, Padstow-Perranporth, St Ives Bay, Mount’s Bay, Looe. Golf courses exist near most towns.

Variability
Chalet and caravan parks vary mainly in scale and type of location, not form, and most golf courses are also similar. Each theme park has its own angle.

Past interaction with other Types
Recreation sites are usually impositions on earlier HLC Types. The establishment of golf courses in particular tends to involve the removal of historic field boundaries and the dilution of the agricultural character of former farmland.

In addition recreational types can also be seen to result from the intake of rough ground; for example the golf complex at Fistral Bay (Newquay) has developed upon former dune-land.

Evidential value
Although the tourism industry has had a profound impact on the county’s recent economy, infrastructure and social structure, the potential for meaningful and relevant historical and archaeological research of the Recreation Type itself is relatively limited. Nevertheless, work on this neglected aspect of Cornwall’s history should be encouraged.
Historical value

It will usually be possible to demonstrate the gradual growth of Recreation complexes. Most chalet/caravan parks obliterate earlier historical features and golf courses fragment them, retaining strategic portions as obstacles.

Communal value

Ambivalence is perhaps more pronounced here than in any other Type. Some people have an aversion to Cornwall's Recreation sites, not just because they are seen as blots on the landscape but also because they are the physical manifestations of the annual invasion of tourists bringing unwanted values, cars and noise to the county. For many people, recreation sites represent Cornwall's real economy, and security for the future. Visitors who have enjoyed glorious Cornish summer holidays develop deep affection for these sites and for Cornwall generally.

Aesthetic value

Typically contributes significantly to Landscape Character.

Potential for amenity and education

The Type is, of course, an amenity for many people, although it also reduces the amenity value of certain stretches of coastline or areas of inland Cornwall for others.

Survival

The Type is generally active and both the Type and the components within it survive well.

Vulnerability

The Type normally receives no specific protection, although much falls within the AONB.

Forces for change

Golf courses are still being created and chalet/caravan parks expanded. Theme parks are also still being established. Within the Type, gradual refurbishment and updating threatens some early features. Constraints on conspicuous development along Cornwall's coast are beginning to exert control on the locations and forms of Recreation complexes.

Safeguarding the Type

The continued expansion of the Type should continue to be managed as a principal concern is that other Types are imposed upon and either damaged or destroyed by it. Screening (trees or shrubs) around camping and caravan parks will lessen their impact on neighbouring historic Types.

References

Cornwall County Council, 1996. Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Truro

Dudley, P, forthcoming. Goon, Hal, Cliff and Croft, west Cornwall's rough ground, Cornwall County Council, Truro

Gamble, B, 2004. Nomination of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape for inclusion on the World Heritage List, Cornwall county Council, Truro

Herring, P., 1996. The Historic Landscape Character Zones, in Cornwall County Council 1996, 139-194


Herring, P. and Tapper, B., 2002. The Lynher valley, historical and archaeological appraisal, Cornwall County Council, Truro.
Herring, P, Sharpe, A, Smith, JR and Giles, C, 2008. Bodmin Moor, an archaeological survey, volume 2, the post-medieval and industrial landscapes, English Heritage and Cornwall County Council

Highways Agency 2007. Assessing the effect of road schemes on historic landscape character, Highways Agency, Bristol


Kirkham, G, forthcoming. Managing the historic environment on the rough ground of west Cornwall, Cornwall County Council, Truro

Lister, JA, and Walker, GJ, 1986. Cornwall Inventory of Ancient Woodlands (Provisional), Nature Conservancy Council


Pett, D.E., 1998. The parks and gardens of Cornwall, Alison Hodge, Penzance

