

A Heritage and Cultural Strategy for the Isles of Scilly



Council of the Isles of Scilly - January 2004

Isles of Scilly Heritage and Cultural Strategy

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Isles of Scilly Heritage and Cultural Strategy

Executive summary

1. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has drawn up draft guidelines encouraging local authorities and other regionally based agencies to formulate local cultural strategies. This strategy fulfils that requirement.

It has five primary objectives:

- to quantify the essential qualities that form the unique heritage and cultural identity of the islands
 - to provide a strategic framework within which to develop action programmes
 - to assist in the prioritising of options for the application of resources
 - to provide policy objectives against which to measure progress in the delivery service across the heritage and culture sectors.
 - to assist the local community to identify with the rich heritage and traditions of Scilly and engender a sense of ownership and participation in the policy making process
- 1.2 A Heritage and Culture Strategy has been prepared for Cornwall. Scilly can integrate and capitalise on many of the initiatives identified. However, many issues that are pertinent to Scilly are under-represented in the Cornish document. A strategy reflecting the particular needs of the islands is more appropriate.
 - 1.3 In formulating a strategy for Scilly the structure of the Cornwall study has been adopted. This format highlights the cultural heritage of the islands in all its diverse forms and outlines the important role that it can play in environmental, economic and social regeneration. Inherent in this approach is the recognition of the need to promote sustainable development through an integrated appreciation of the environmental, economic and social factors. The careful utilisation of heritage and cultural assets of the islands present exciting opportunities to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of the local population. The Strategy has two parts. Part One deals with the 'Natural & Historic Environment' and Part Two with 'Contemporary Culture'.
 - 1.4 The definition of 'heritage' and 'culture', as we understand it and as it applies to Scilly is as follows:-
 - The 'heritage of Scilly' is the natural and historic environment, comprising the landform, the marine and terrestrial natural and historic landscape, the built environment including field and standing monuments and diverse flora and fauna together represent the 'heritage' of the islands.

- The 'culture' of Scilly is the way the community has evolved and developed a distinctive identity influenced by the unique environment.

1.5 This strategy complements and informs numerous other plans relating to the islands that are currently in development (see appendix II). The strategy will form a broad base to inform decisions. It does not propose detailed actions but identifies issues and priorities that need addressing. Ultimately it is intended to be an empowering strategy rather than a prescriptive document.

1.6 Much of the information presented in this strategy exists elsewhere in highly fragmented form. This document aims to develop links between sectors and to pull together disparate strands to form a coherent document. The potential for further integration and partnership working between Government Agencies and other organisations in the islands is explored with the aim of facilitating a fully integrated, holistic approach to work within the heritage and cultural sectors based on the principle of sustainability. This integrated approach will enable Scilly to compete more effectively for funding in the wider arena.

1.7 The following themes, identified through the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan development process, have an impact on aspects of the historic environment and contemporary culture of Scilly. They are therefore the recurring themes of this document. Work to address some of the concerns reflected in these themes has already been initiated, where this is the case it is identified in the main document.

- *The quality of the natural and built environment of the islands is the key to the future of Scilly and must be the driving consideration behind all decisions.*
- *Without co-ordinated land management the natural and historic environment will deteriorate making the islands less attractive to visitors.*
- *There is potential to develop initiatives such as using animals as environmental managers and encouraging agricultural diversification on the underused flower fields.*
- *There is a lack of meaningful interpretation of many aspects of the environment. This presents an opportunity for an integrated interpretation/study facility/museum that enhances the appreciation of these important assets by the community and visitors.*
- *Deterioration of building fabric and loss of traditional skills presents an opportunity to up-skill the local labour force, leading to enhanced job prospects and better quality building and repairs.*
- *Opportunities for heritage-led regeneration need to be developed, together with potential enhancement of the built environment.*
- *Increased public access and appreciation of the historic landscape and monuments should be encouraged.*

- *Lack of integrated data exchange is a problem. Informed collation of information would assist decision making*
- *There are opportunities for value added goods and niche marketing to improve the local economy and enhance the visitor experience.*
- *The lack of a flexible cultural/sports facility is detrimental to both the community and visitors. A purpose built venue would enhance the physical, social and cultural well-being of both and encourage visiting theatre, musicians, art exhibitions and sports teams from the mainland and further a-field to enrich the cultural and sporting experience of the community and visitors.*

1.8 Each asset group, that together form the 'Natural & Historic Environment' and 'Contemporary Culture' aspects of the heritage and culture of the islands, has been subjected to a SWOT analysis. This approach has identified the **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats as they relate to each element and has generated related objectives and actions. The feasibility of many of actions is being examined through the Isles of Scilly Heritage Working Group, the AONB Management Plan and other initiatives.

Isles of Scilly Heritage and Cultural Strategy.

1.0 Introduction

"England has one of the richest cultural landscapes in the world. It is an incomparable asset. It is valuable in its own right, provides the context and setting for our lives and delivers many wider social, economic and environmental benefits. It is the key to urban regeneration and important in achieving a sustainable countryside. It is essential to our future, and, like any environmental capital, we squander it at our peril"

Sir Neil Cossons- Chairman, English Heritage



Samson & Bryher from The Garrison -G. Arbery

- 1.01 Scilly has been viewed throughout history as a place apart, a mystical land far out to the west, the stuff of legends and tall tales. Some scholars seek to equate it with the Hesperides, the Isles of the Blest or the Cassiterides of classical literature, while the followers of the Arthurian legend refer to the Isles as the remnants of the Lost Land of Lyonesse. Although there is no proof to support these romantic notions the reality is just as evocative in many respects. The archipelago of some 200 granite rocks and islands situated 28 miles (45kms) south west of Lands End has an exceptional maritime environment. Its varied landform, geological, ecological and archaeological heritage contribute to a unique, holistic landscape character of national and international importance, recognised by various designations.

Eight Different Designations apply to Scilly

- *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (whole of the Isles of Scilly)*
- *Conservation Area (whole of the Isles of Scilly)*
- *Heritage Coast (whole of the Isles of Scilly)*
- *Candidate Special Area of Conservation EU Habitats Directive (SAC)*
– covers an area of 1.84km² (26,851ha of which 181.32 ha is terrestrial)
- *Special Protection Area EU Habitats Directive (SPA)*
– covers an area of 4.09km² (401.64 ha)
- *Non Statutory Marine Park – to 50 metre contour*
- *Ramsar – covers an area of 4.09km² (401.64 ha)*
- *SSSI's – 26 sites, 5 of which are geological*
– covers an area of 5.63km² (554.98 ha)

- 1.02 The sea in all its moods dominates the unique character of Scilly, when calm the Islands can appear almost tropical and the mild and the virtually frost-free environment support many exotic plants. The waters are exceptionally clear and the quality of the atmosphere, unpolluted by any significant industrial development, endows the islands with a special light whereby the colours of the sea, sand and vegetation are enhanced. The special relationship, which exists between the natural, farmed, built and historic elements in the landscape, is the key to the cultural identity of Scilly and its community.
- 1.03 This high quality environment is the finite resource that attracts visitors to the islands. Tourism is the mainstay of the economy, contributing over 85% of the islands' Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Despite the many advantages that Scilly enjoys there are other forces at work that could threaten the quality of the unique environment. The islands' very isolation and peripherality coupled with economic pressures, a high cost of living compared to the mainland, lack of affordable housing and increasing demographic imbalance in the population could adversely affect the historic and cultural identity of the islands.

Part One: The Historic Environment

1.1 The Natural Landscape.

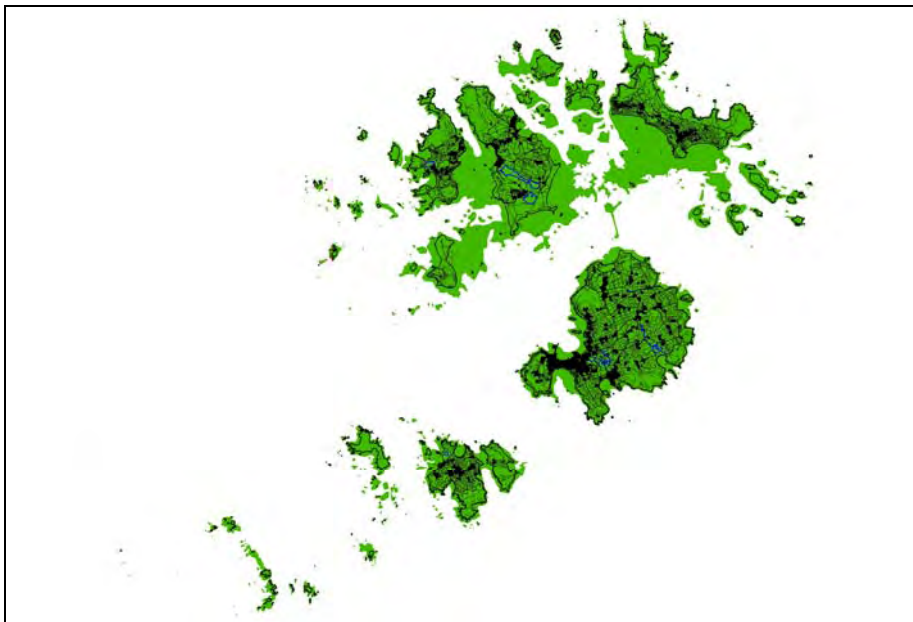
1.1.1 Geology

Legend tells us that Scilly became separated from mainland Cornwall in the times of King Arthur, around 1,500 years ago but in reality we must look back at least 10,000 years to the end of the last Ice Age. As the ice caps melted and the waters rose the granite boss that makes up the bed rock of the islands, part of the subterranean Cornubian Basolith which also forms Dartmoor, became surrounded by the sea, creating one large island approximately 17kms long by 8kms wide. Deposits of periglacial head can be found in the islands of the present archipelago while the subsoil consists of decomposed granite, known locally as ram, a brown gritty medium, often used for road surfacing and mortar.

- 1.1.2 Evidence of warmer, interglacial periods when sea levels were higher, occurs in areas of the cliff face which have raised beach deposits at 3 to 8 metres above the present sea level. Of the 26 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) on Scilly, four are designated for their geological interest and a further three are 'mixed sites' of geological and biological importance. It is thought by some that Scilly could be the Casseritides or 'tin islands' referred to by the 1st century classicist, Strabo, but there is little evidence of mineral wealth in the islands today. A 17th century tin streaming site existed at Castle Down on Tresco and some exploratory shafts were sunk on the Garrison but no commercial deposits were located. It may be that Scilly was important as a market place for minerals in early times but no industrial legacy related to mineral working can be found on Scilly and the mining culture, which is so much a part of the Cornish mainland, has little relevance here.

1.1.3 Sea Level Rise

Charles Thomas' study of sea level rise "Exploration of a Drowned Landscape" (1985) considers that by 3,000 BC the islands of present day St. Agnes, Annet and the Western Rocks had become separated from the larger, mushroom shaped island known as Ennor, which had a low lying wooded plain in the centre. Today's other islands did not begin to appear until about the 5th century AD and most would still have been joined at low water as late as the 11th century AD. The process of inundation is still ongoing and Thomas estimated that the sea level is rising at a rate of 2.1 to 2.6 mm per year. However, studies undertaken by Cornwall Archaeological Unit from 1989 to 1993 of cliff face and intertidal deposits indicate that sea-level rise here was more gradual than the Thomas model suggests. (Ratcliffe & Straker 1996) Transposition of the results of this latter work for the draft Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment suggest that the islands were largely separated at high water by the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (C.H. Johns, 2003)



Isles of Scilly, Lowest Astronomical Tide: Source- IOSWT-Ordnance Survey

1.1.4 Whatever model is accepted, it is agreed that there is an inexorable rise in sea level around the islands. This is exacerbated by the gradual downward tilt of the land surface in the islands and with the threat of global warming, these effects could be hastened. There is a real concern that the long-term future of the islands could be jeopardised and the draft AONB Management Plan identifies the need to direct funding for initiatives to study and quantify the rate of sea level rise. The Isles of Scilly Climate Change Scoping Study has been drafted by the AONB and it is hoped that the work will be taken forward in partnership with the South West Coastal Issues group. The Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment for the Isles of Scilly, commissioned by English Heritage for publication in January 2004, should also provide an overview of coastal change since the Late Upper Palaeolithic to the present day.

Coastal erosion/Global warming

Maximum height above sea level	48m (Telegraph Hill)
<i>Maximum distance to sea</i>	<i>1.5 km</i>
Sea level rise	2.1 to 2.6mm per year (Thomas) 0.3 m per century

Length of coast below HWM

57,000 metres

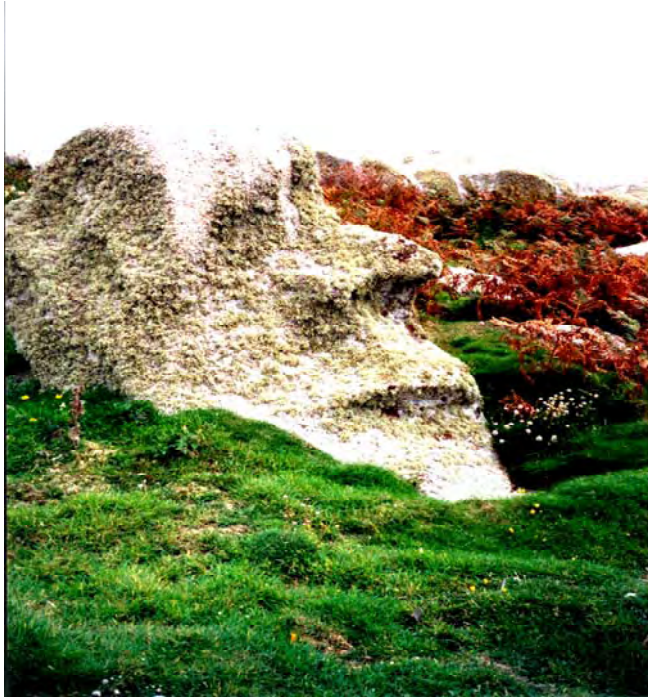
Source : CIOS



Isles of Scilly: Mean High Water Spring Tide: IoSWT Ordnance Survey

1.1.5 Sea and Shore

While the Atlantic Ocean rages on the outer perimeters of the archipelago, the shallow inner waters between the islands are calm by comparison. The 50 metre depth contour is relatively close to the north, east and south coasts which are very exposed. This change in depth exacerbates the sea swell that creates waves which, together with the prevailing south westerly winds, have sculptured the granite into fantastical shapes. In sunshine, the clear cold waters over sandy flats echo the blues, greens and turquoise of a tropical sea. Together with the empty white beaches that skirt much of the islands' shores, the changing colours of the sea are one of the great attractions of Scilly. This exceptionally beautiful landscape has been recognised nationally by its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Heritage Coast in 1975.



Rock Formation on Gugh-G.Arbery

1.1.6 Following the publication of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, the Government, through the Countryside Agency, has identified funding for the administration of AONB's. A Joint Advisory Committee of stakeholders has been formed to oversee the preparation and implementation of the statutory AONB Management Plan due to be published in March 2004. (see Appendix I) This will be a delivery vehicle for projects designed to enhance the diverse aspects of the environment of the islands and will be fully integrated with the Heritage and Cultural Strategy.

1.1.7 Water Supply

There are no rivers on Scilly but each inhabited island has a freshwater or brackish pool. Freshwater springs can be found on the majority of the islands but the water supply is mainly provided by boreholes, tapping the underground supply. The Council is the last remaining public water authority in the United Kingdom and is responsible for water supply and sewerage on St. Mary's and water supply on Bryher. Lack of potable water in periods of high demand led the Council to invest in a desalination plant to serve St. Mary's in 1992. The other inhabited islands rely on private borehole supplies, supplemented with rainwater collection tanks, where the threat of saline intrusion or other pollution factors is of ongoing concern. The Duchy have commissioned assessments of the water supply on St. Martin's and St. Agnes and a funding bid through Objective One is being sought to improve the situation on St. Agnes.

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths Unique landform/5 geological SSSI's Designation as AONB/Heritage Coast Unpolluted air/sea Sandy beaches Separateness/distinctiveness Climate</p>	<p>Weaknesses Very cold water Atlantic storms Isolation Lack of mineral wealth No interpretation of landform Limited fresh water resource</p>
<p>Opportunities <i>Use Scilly as case study for climate change</i> <i>Interpretation/study centre/material for natural environment</i> <i>Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment</i> <i>Use distinctiveness/character to guide appropriate actions</i></p>	<p>Threats <i>Sea level rise/coastal erosion</i> <i>Possible unsympathetic coastal defence schemes to combat sea level rise</i> <i>Unregulated tourism</i> <i>Inappropriate development</i> <i>Oil & other pollution incidents</i> <i>Failure/pollution of fresh water supplies.</i> <i>Unsympathetic development</i> <i>Loss of distinctive character</i></p>

Objective:-

- **Secure the distinctiveness of the exceptional natural environment of Scilly, particularly the unpolluted sea and air.**

Action:-

- **Raise public awareness of the vulnerability of the fragile natural environment and recognise the implications of global warming, unregulated tourism and the threats posed by pollution incidents.**
- **Collaborate on and encourage further studies on climate change**
- **Encourage co-ordinated environmental management and enhancement through the Joint Advisory Committee of the AONB**

1.2.0 Flora and Fauna.

1.2.1 Marine

The 50 metre depth contour defines the limits of the Isles of Scilly Voluntary Marine Park while the candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) designated under the EU Habitats Directive, together with the Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar sites confirmed in August 2001, extend some way beyond it. The unpolluted waters are a superb marine habitat, supporting a range of species probably unrivalled in north-west Europe, including the best eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) beds in southern Britain. Rare varieties of red sea weed cling to the rocks and the copious quantities of kelp available gave rise to the kelp burning industry that formed an important part of the Scilly's economy for over one hundred years and fifty years until the 19th century.

1.2.2 Waved Heath

Many rare plants can be found such as the shore dock (*Rumex rupestris*), adder's - tongue (*Ophioglossum lusitanicum*), orange bird's foot (*Ornithopus pinnatus*) and at least eight other rarities nearly exclusive to the islands. The unpolluted air favours colonies of lichens, including rare oceanic species, found only on Scilly, Brittany and the Channel Islands. On the exposed headlands the prevailing winds have created a distinctive maritime 'waved' heathland; in the past this was grazed as common land. The reduction in grazing animals since the closure of the island's abattoir in the early 1980's has allowed invasive scrub to increase on these open headlands, threatening the integrity of the habitat. The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust has been successful in securing Heritage Lottery Funding for an English Nature sponsored 'Tomorrows Heathland Heritage' project that includes the reintroduction of animals as environmental managers. This 'Waves of Heath: Opportunities for Wildlife' project commenced in April 2003 and will run in parallel with a 'Waves of Heath: Opportunities for People', Objective One bid currently under preparation.



Gorse & Heather: Source IoSWT

1.2.3 Climate and Flowers

The maritime climate means that frost and snow are rare in Scilly and the seasonal variation in temperature is seldom more than 10°C. Rainfall is low, 82.5 mm per year but frequent sea fogs also bring moisture. During the winter months Scilly has the highest average temperatures anywhere in the UK; in summer the islands are 2-3 degrees below Mainland temperatures offering conditions for plant life unparalleled anywhere in Britain. This allows many Mediterranean and sub tropical species to flourish and naturalise throughout the islands. The mild climate has favoured the cultivation of early Narcissus, some varieties thought to have their origins in early medieval times. Flower farming, the backbone of the island's economy from the late 19th century to World War II, now only forms a small, but nevertheless crucial, element of the economy. Scilly's bulb fields have become a stronghold for many scarce and rare arable weeds which have colonised the field margins and disused flower fields, including the globally rare western ramping-fumitory (*Fumeria occidentalis*). These plants are adapted to the traditional management regime of the bulb fields and their populations would be threatened by a significant change to grassland management or scrub invasion due to abandonment. Other invasive species such as the pernicious Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), which if allowed to spread unchecked, could also threaten their survival.

1.2.4 Shelter Belts

Shelter belts of Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) and Cornish Elm (*Ulmus stricta*) were planted in the most exposed areas with Tamarisk (*Tamarix gallica*), Euonymus (*japonicus*), Pittosporum (*crassifolium*), Escallonia (*macrantha*) and Olearia (*traversii*) subdividing the small fields into even smaller bulb strips. Many of these trees, a large proportion of which were over mature, fell in the storms of 1989/1990. A project to develop a programme of replanting for landscape value is one of the recommendations of the draft AONB Management Plan. Photographs of Scilly from the mid 19th century show that tree cover was sparse until the flower industry was established. Any future tree planting should be confined to the established areas to ensure that the inherent open nature of the landscape is not compromised.

1.2.5 Birds

The hedgerows and field margins are important habitats for many species of garden birds that are becoming depleted on the Mainland, such as thrushes, robins, blackbirds, sparrows and wrens that thrive on Scilly and are particularly tame. Freshwater pools and saline lagoons on the islands are important breeding sites for waterfowl and our feathered summer visitors, also as feeding grounds for wintering birds and passerines. The steep cliffs and outer islets support important colonies of breeding sea birds, particularly Storm petrel, Lesser black-back gulls, terns, kittiwakes, fulmars and guillemots. Together with visiting shorebirds, especially those associated with the Spring and Autumn migration, Scilly is a great attraction for bird watchers who come to the islands out of season, extending the tourist season beyond the usual May to September limits.

Ringed Plover
Source:IoSWT



1.2.6 Mammals

The outer rocks are the breeding ground of the Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) while four of the UK species of whales and dolphins are seen regularly in island waters. Other oceanic cetaceans and turtles are seen occasionally, with basking sharks (*Cetorhinus maximus*) present in the summer months. Although there is paleoenvironmental evidence to support the presence of red deer, wild pig and dwarf breeds of cattle on Scilly in prehistoric times, none survive to the present day. There are no squirrels, badgers, foxes and until their introduction some fifteen years ago, no hedgehogs. There are plenty of rats and rabbits, which were introduced by the Normans. Scilly has its own species of shrew (*Crocidura suaveolens cassiteridum*), two species of bat and a number of nationally scarce invertebrates.

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths Mild climate Superb marine habitats 21 nature conservation SSSI's European designations cSAC, SPA, Ramsar Rare species of flora and fauna Climate supporting sub-tropical plants Breeding colonies of birds/passerines and over wintering birds High population of garden birds Popularity of bird watching</p>	<p>Weaknesses Declining flower industry Lack of grazing animals Inadequate interpretation facilities</p>
<p>Opportunities <i>Waves of Heath initiative.</i> <i>Integrated land management, through JAC/AONB</i> <i>Countryside Stewardship Schemes</i> <i>Interpretation centre</i> <i>Promote niche tourism markets</i> <i>Environmental education</i> <i>SPAS (Specific project for agriculture on Scilly)</i></p>	<p>Threats <i>Scrub encroachment on heathland and abandoned fields.</i> <i>Loss of habitats</i> <i>Indiscriminate tree planting</i> <i>Global warming - increase in storms</i> <i>Unregulated fishing/diving/scalloping</i></p>

Objective:-

- **Ensure that the unique environment, particularly the biodiversity of the islands, does not deteriorate through lack of sustainable management.**

Action:-

- **Support initiatives that seek to co-ordinate land management, particularly the introduction of grazing livestock, through the Joint Advisory Committee of the AONB**

1.3.0 The Historic Landscape

- 1.3.1 Most conservation area designations relate to specific core areas of historic towns and villages but in Scilly the entire islands were defined as a Conservation Area in 1975, emphasising the integration of the buildings and landscape with the need for an overarching approach to their management. Further recognition of this special environment was given in 1975 when the whole of Scilly was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coast in 1974. The Council is the only local authority in the UK to have all the area in their jurisdiction under all encompassing designations.
- 1.3.2 Each individual island has its own character and the intimate relationship between the sea and the land in each is echoed in the interdependence of the built and natural environment. The traditional buildings are linked inextricably with the landscape by their position on the sheltered slopes to gain maximum protection from the fierce salt laden winds and the use of the local granite in their construction.
- 1.3.3 Settlement Pattern
An intrinsic component of the character of the historic landscape is the pattern of settlement, fields and lanes with field boundaries. Together these reflect the evolution of the islands over 4,000 years of human impact on the land form, when the first settlers ventured across the sea from West Cornwall. Development restrictions on the islands have enabled whole landscapes to survive in a relatively unaltered state but these are now under threat from changing farming practises, increased development pressure and particularly invasive vegetation, which masks historic surface structures while their penetrating root systems are potentially damaging to underground remains.
- 1.3.4 Field Boundaries
Early prehistoric drystone walls with their associated monuments are still evident and can be traced across the exposed heathlands on each island. Even today much of the pattern of settlements and field boundaries reflect cultivation dating from prehistoric or medieval times, the older boundary walls having been supplemented over the centuries. Present day settlements and the winding lanes that connect them originate from these earlier times although the majority of the buildings date from the 19th or 20th centuries.
- 1.3.5 In the latter part of the 19th century the introduction of intensive flower farming produced narrow field strips bounded by Cornish hedges and more particularly high 'fences' of hardy species to protect the tender flowers. Both the decline in the flower industry and the decrease in grazing animals have resulted in older field boundary walls and the later hedges and fences falling into disrepair. This gives the land an air of neglect that is unattractive to visitors, impacting on the tourist industry, whilst overgrown fields, fences and tumbled walls restrict access for visitors and local residents. There is a need for a strategy to be developed encouraging the re-use of the fields without compromising the character of the field boundaries.

1.3.6 Traditional Farm Buildings

Traditional granite field barns form another significant element within the historic environment. Built of local granite they are situated within a farming landscape that has undergone relatively little change this century. Many are in prominent positions, visible over distance both from land and sea, or tucked into hillsides to gain extra protection from the prevailing winds. Some are isolated, others in small groups, either associated with a farmhouse or in small clusters at the edge of fields. Unfortunately, many of the traditional buildings are no longer suited to modern farming practices. With a finite land supply, limited infrastructure and restrictive designations that discourage new development, these underused buildings are regarded as an important resource for conversion.

1.3.7 The results of a survey of the traditional farm buildings undertaken by the Council in 1998 have gone some way to guide the future use of these historic buildings but there is still considerable pressure for conversion to residential use, either for permanent occupation or for holiday lets. Guidance contained in the survey document has endeavoured to ensure these conversions respect the character of the original buildings and their environs but inevitably the changes required to make the buildings suitable for modern living has had an impact on their character and the surrounding landscape.

1.3.8 Samson Buildings

The surviving buildings are a small representation of the innumerable small field barns and hay stores that once dotted the fields throughout Scilly. The ruined cottages and barns of Samson, forcibly evacuated between 1855 and 1861, are a rare example of an early 19th century landscape suspended in time, giving us some indication of how the Isles appeared before the flower industry supplanted subsistence agriculture. English Heritage has identified the need for funding to consolidate the Samson buildings, following a survey report conducted in 1991/92 and their inclusion on the Buildings at Risk Register.

1.3.9 There is a potential health and safety issue and threat to the preservation of this special component of the islands' heritage as the Samson buildings become more unstable and with increased land clearance under the 'Waves of Heath' project, there could be conflict between grazing animals or the public and the buildings. At present there is public open access to the buildings, which are scheduled ancient monuments. It is hoped that if funding can be secured, perhaps through a complementary Heritage Lottery Bid, a programme of consolidation and interpretation will ensure the management, public access and enhanced appreciation of the historic value of the buildings. It has been agreed with English Heritage that the first step in the process will be an update of the 1991/1992 survey and funding has been identified to facilitate the preliminary clearance and resurvey of the buildings which was undertaken in Autumn 2003.



*Richard Webber's Cottage-
Samson (G.Arbery)*

1.3.10 Tresco Abbey Garden

Within the islands' wind swept and largely treeless landscape, the creation of the sub-tropical gardens around the ancient ruins of St. Nicholas Priory on Tresco in the mid nineteenth century by Augustus Smith, are a testament to his drive and tenacity. His vision to transform bare hillside into terraced gardens has created Britain's finest outdoor Mediterranean and southern hemisphere plant collection. The garden is dynamic with each subsequent member of the Smith family making their own contribution to its development. The latest addition has been the Mediterranean Garden, created to replace an area badly damaged by storms in the early 1990's. Objective One funding has recently been secured for the development of a new purpose built visitor centre which is scheduled to be built in 2004. Tresco Abbey Garden is designated Grade I on the English Heritage Register of Historic Gardens and attracts around 45,000 visitors each year and is included in the itinerary of many cruise ships that visit the islands.



St. Nicholas Priory- Tresco Abbey Garden - HESCCC

1.3.11 Parks, Gardens and Orchards

Many of the exotic plants, which were imported to the islands to create the Abbey Garden, have become naturalised around the islands and can be found in private gardens. Within Hugh Town several small parks have been created and are maintained by the Council, notably on the former parade ground by the Town Hall, Holgates Green along the Strand and at Porthcressa Bank. Several former quarry sites and disused ram pits, particularly on St. Mary's, have been regenerated as informal gardens including a community garden at Carreg Dhu created with volunteer labour. Grant aid for future schemes to enhance the community garden could be explored through the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Rural Key Fund, set up by the Rural Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Partnership (RCP).

1.3.12 In the countryside of St. Mary's are several hamlets, many of medieval origin, with evidence of ancient orchards that would benefit from replenishment. Members of the local community have been gathering survey information for the Cornwall Orchards Project that aims to record the remnants of local species and develop a reference collection to preserve traditional varieties, such as Scilly Pearl and Ladies Finger.

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths Recognised high quality environment Protection through statutory designations Relatively low development pressure to date Attraction to visitors Tresco Abbey Garden Climate supporting subtropical plants</p>	<p>Weaknesses Limited involvement of tourist industry Resistance to managed change Neglected agricultural land and traditional buildings. Lack of interpretation facilities Lack of investment/available funding</p>
<p>Opportunities Promotion of historic environment to visitors Farm diversification Encourage qualified use of grazing animals Agri-environment schemes Intergrated land management through Waves of Heath/AONB/JAC Consolidate Samson buildings/HLF bid Replenish orchards Interpretation facility</p>	<p>Threats Increased pressure for development Continued decline of farming/active land management Pressure for inappropriate conversion of underused farm buildings Unregulated tourism</p>

Objectives:-

- **Raise the profile and improve access to and appreciation of the historic landscape for both visitors and the community.**

Action:-

- **Pursue funding for a programme of consolidation and interpretation of the ruined buildings on Samson.**
- **Support initiatives to secure funding for interpretation facilities through Objective One and other appropriate sources.**
- **Explore opportunities with community groups for funding for enhancement projects.**

1.4.0 Sites and Monuments

1.4.1 There is archaeological evidence both on land and below the present high water mark, testament to more than 4,000 years of human settlement of Scilly. Following a re-survey under the English Heritage Monuments Protection Programme, 238 historic monuments have been scheduled, a remarkable concentration for so small land mass of 16sq km, and more than many larger mainland counties. A large proportion of these scheduled sites cover extensive areas on the islands and in the case of Samson, the whole island. Many of the scheduled monuments contain several individual sites, resulting in over 900 separate 'archaeological items' as they are termed.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the Isles of Scilly.

Total No 238 -Average 7 SAM's per hectare

Bryher	23
St. Agnes	68
St. Martin's	33
St. Mary's	85
Tresco	29

Source: English Heritage

1.4.2 Threats to Monuments.

Archaeological remains are a finite and irreplaceable resource, providing evidence and for prehistoric periods, the only evidence, of the past development of our civilisation (Planning Policy Guidance 16). While the majority of monuments on Scilly are in a remarkable state of preservation, partly due to their primarily stone construction and open heathland location, they are increasingly threatened by the encroachment of invasive vegetation. On farmland, the introduction of larger tractors and other heavy farm machinery poses a threat to buried remains and the discovery of an iron age cist grave on Bryher and a fogou (subterranean passage) on St. Mary's during ploughing illustrates the vulnerability of these important remains. Until fairly recently pressure for development on Scilly has been slow but increased requirements for housing, commercial and leisure facilities could be a potential threat to the many hitherto undiscovered remains on the islands.

1.4.3 The archaeological resource tends to be overshadowed by the natural attractions of the Scillonian landscape and is rather underplayed in comparison. In a visitor survey conducted by the Council in 1996 many people were attracted to the islands by the natural environment and had developed an appreciation of the historic aspects of the islands during their stay. This in turn influences the decision to re-visit Scilly and raises the issue of the most suitable way to promote this aspect of the islands and emphasises the inter-reliance of the natural and historic landscapes. The importance of the historic environment in attracting visitors to Scilly needs to be promoted to the tourism sector. Since the survey was undertaken, the development of archaeological walks and holidays, along with lecture programmes for visitors and local people has begun to show the potential of the historic environment as a niche market which improves revenue, especially during the quieter shoulder periods.

1.4.4 Management Regimes

Eleven historic sites are in the direct guardianship of English Heritage who are responsible for their care and management; this is done through the employment of a local maintenance team but the contract is due to terminate at the end of 2003. A large proportion of monuments are on land leased by the Duchy of Cornwall to the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust who manage the ecological and archaeological interest on the unenclosed land. Formed in 1986 as the Isles of Scilly Environmental Trust, following the recommendations of The Moss Report (1985), the Trust has recently become affiliated to the national network of Wildlife Trusts. At present they have a limited professional staff resource and rely on volunteer labour to achieve their extensive land management obligations. Funding comes through the English Nature Reserves Enhancement Scheme, Countryside Stewardship and English Heritage Section 17 Management Agreements and charitable donations. The conclusion of the existing English Heritage contract arrangements on the Guardianship sites could present an exciting opportunity to integrate future maintenance contracts with other land management regimes.

1.4.5 The opening in 2000 of dedicated volunteer accommodation at the Woolpack Battery, a converted 1900 historic gun battery and the 'Waves of Heath' project will put the Trust on a more secure financial footing, enabling them to achieve their objectives. Waves of Heath, 'Opportunities for Wildlife', part of English Nature's 'Tomorrow's Heathland' project has spurred improved co-operation between the Wildlife Trust and the farming sector via Group of 43 that represents Scilly's farming community. The prospect of the reintroduction of grazing animals on both Trust and farmed land planned under the Waves of Heath project will link to the abattoir feasibility study within the Group of 43's Objective One funded 'Specific Project for Agriculture on Scilly'.

1.4.6 Prehistoric Monuments

Scilly has unique concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze Age ritual burial monuments and extensive prehistoric field systems and settlements. Inter-tidal remains are evidence that the islands were once part of a much larger land mass which began to take its present form in Mediaeval times. Ongoing coastal erosion is constantly revealing further sites and there is a need for a programme of integrated monitoring. A proposed study on climate change could be the impetus to use these cliff face sites as a bench-mark for sea level rise, potentially yielding evidence on both coastal erosion and archaeology.

1.4.7 While many of the prehistoric settlements are now under the sea, burial and ritual monuments were constructed on the higher ground. The most impressive of these are the entrance graves; over 80 have been recorded on Scilly, a higher concentration than anywhere else in the World. Some occur singly but most are found in small groups, for example, Porth Hellick Down on St. Mary's and North Hill on Samson. Excavation has revealed they were primarily used for burial with cremated bones deposited over several generations either loose or in urns. At Knackyboy Cairn on St. Martin's, the remains of over 60 individuals have been found. It is thought that the entrance graves also fulfilled a ritual purpose as a focus for social and ceremonial gatherings and may well have been markers of tribal territory. In addition there are nearly four hundred cairns, mainly in the heathland areas, many formed as a result of field clearance and associated with the early field boundaries but some contain stone box like graves known as cists with cremated remains.



Buzza Hill burial chamber, St. Mary's-G.Arbery

1.4.8 Although the writings of the 18th century antiquarians like William Borlase allude to stone circles on the islands, no obvious remains of this type of monument can be found on Scilly today. However, there are at least 8 menhirs or standing stones on the islands that are thought to have been grave markers or ritual foci. The most famous is probably the Old Man of Gugh but on St. Martin's there is the top section of a possible statue menhir on Chapel Down and a stone row in the intertidal area of Par Beach.

1.4.9 By the end of the Iron Age in Scilly individuals were no longer cremated but were buried in a crouched position within larger stone lined cists. Several such graves were discovered on St. Mary's when council housing was built near Porthcressa in the early 1950's. Many of the bodies were buried with grave goods including bronze and iron brooches, pottery and glass and amber beads. Recently a cist was found by a farmer on Bryher and excavation has yielded a unique find of an iron sword in a bronze scabbard, a bronze mirror and other artefacts, but there were scant skeletal remains. Scilly has at least two Iron Age cliff castles, one at Giant's Castle, St. Mary's and another at Shipman Head, Bryher with another possible site at Burnt Island on St. Martin's. These cliff edge defensive sites are similar to those found in Cornwall and are a coastal version of the hill fort found in other part of Britain. On Scilly they are thought to have fulfilled a ritual or meeting focus rather than purely as a fortified site.

1.4.10 Romano-Celtic

In the 1960's a remarkable collection of bronze and enamel brooches, votive pots and figurines depicting a Romano -Celtic deity was discovered on the tiny uninhabited island of Nornour after storm surges exposed a multi-period settlement site. These finds have led archaeologists to think that this site may have been a shrine to a marine goddess and could have been situated close to one of the main harbours of the larger island at this time. The origins of many of the artefacts point to contact with West Cornwall, Northern France and the Mediterranean suggesting that Scilly held an important position on the trading routes and could have had a strategic role in the early tin trade. Although Scilly was not garrisoned during the Roman occupation of mainland Britain, there is evidence of Roman influence on the islands, for example, the classical Altar discovered on St. Mary's and now displayed in the Tresco Abbey Garden. Early Christian chapels, churches and a hermitage also illustrate Scilly's early conversion to Christianity through contact with the western seaboard and the

Mediterranean.

1.4.11 Fortifications

Over the last 400 years a large and complex series of castles, forts, blockhouses, breastworks, walls and other military installations has developed, emphasising the strategic position of the islands. Scilly boasts an unrivalled sequence of fortifications; Medieval and Tudor defences; Civil War installations when Scilly was the last Royalist stronghold. Early 18th century massive defence works were commissioned and supplemented during the Napoleonic Wars; gun batteries and other innovative defence works from the turn of the 19th century, World War I flying boat stations, culminating in World War II pillboxes and airfield installations.

SWOT Analysis.

<p>Strengths <i>Comprehensive survey/records completed</i> <i>Rich archaeological resource</i> <i>Good survival of standing remains</i> <i>Little development pressure to date</i> <i>Rich maritime heritage</i> <i>Sequence of fortifications</i></p>	<p>Weaknesses <i>Data on sites not readily accessible to the public</i> <i>Maritime heritage/archaeology under appreciated/lack of recognition by tourist industry of importance & potential</i> <i>IoS Wildlife Trust underfunded</i> <i>Lack of interpretation facilities</i></p>
<p>Opportunities Promotion of archaeological/maritime heritage to visitors/community-new facility Data exchange with Cornwall County Council/English Heritage Research led projects into climate change study/monitor coastal archaeology Partnership working between farmers and environmentalists Grazing programme via 'Waves of Heath' Agri-environment schemes - Countryside Stewardship. Establishment of dedicated team to undertake integrated management of landscape, monuments & buildings</p>	<p>Threats Increased invasive vegetation obscuring/damaging sites IoSWT unable to fulfil land management obligations Retirement of EH maintenance team/deterioration of sites Increasing use of large farm machinery Increasing pressure for development</p>

Objectives:-

- **Ensure the survival of both terrestrial and subterranean archaeology through appropriate management regimes and enhance public appreciation of the historic environment both on land and under the sea.**

Actions:-

- **Explore the feasibility of establishing a local dedicated team to undertake integrated management of landscape, monuments & buildings, through the Joint Advisory Committee of the AONB**
- **Promote the importance of marine and terrestrial archaeology within the context of a co-ordinated interpretation strategy for the islands in conjunction with the Joint Advisory Committee of the AONB**
- **Support the development of a study into climate change monitoring the erosion of cliff face archaeological sites.**
- **Encourage partnership working between farmers and environmentalists to promote better land management.**

1.5.0 The Maritime Heritage

1.5.1 English Heritage Responsibility

From July 2002, under the new National Heritage Act, English Heritage assumed responsibility for marine archaeology from the low water line to the 12 mile limit around England, including submerged sites, historic wrecks and artefacts. In their policy document 'Taking to the Water', English Heritage outlines mechanisms for researching and recording designated and undesignated sites. This will add considerably to our knowledge of the maritime heritage. As a first step, Cornwall Archaeological Unit have been commissioned by English Heritage to undertake a Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment of the coastal, intertidal and submerged archaeological resource in Scilly, the draft document to be completed in January 2004.

1.5.2 Shipwrecks

The maritime heritage of Scilly includes lighthouses, daymarks, an 18th century isolation hospital, quays, kelp pits and gigsheds on land. However, the waters in and around the islands contain an astounding marine archaeological resource, as yet largely unrecorded. These waters have long been renowned as among the most hazardous in the world with numerous rocks and reefs perilously close to the surface. Inaccurate charts and the lack of precision instrumentation led many ill-fated vessels to their doom particularly before the lighthouse was built on St. Agnes in 1680 and the determination of longitude. The Admiralty commissioned the Longitude Prize, which resulted in John Harrison's invention of the chronometer in 1735, as a direct consequence of the loss of the Association in 1707 and the Protection of Wrecks Act came about following the discovery of the wreck in 1967.

1.5.3 The earliest recorded wreck was documented in 1305 and there are three Protected Wreck sites designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act with the earliest on Bartholomew Ledge, dated at c1555. However, there is still a tremendous amount of research waiting to be undertaken as "only two of the known historic wreck sites on Scilly have as yet been archaeologically surveyed and none fully excavated". (R Larn) The number of wrecks is estimated in excess of 700 ships, including the Association, the flagship of Sir Cloudisley Shovel's fleet, and the Colossus, Nelson's store ship.

However, these represent just a proportion of the possible shipwreck and aircraft remains in Scillonian waters. The recent discovery of the stern section of the Colossus, which includes a magnificent carved figure, has generated national and international interest and could form the focus of a major project to promote the maritime heritage of the islands.

1.5.4 Other related maritime discoveries reinforce the importance of the underwater resource; such as the recovery of around 100 stone anchors and 'killicks' (mooring stones) from Old Town Bay, which could be from 150 to 2,000 years old, representing the largest find of such anchor stones in the UK and possibly Europe. Although it is impossible to conclusively date the stones, Southampton University are studying their geological make up to identify the origin of the material. (R Graham & R Larn)

1.5.5 Submerged Landscape

The submerged landscape is another crucial component of the marine heritage. As it is possible that the islands only took their present form from early Medieval times following gradual inundation of a much greater landmass, the potential for the remains of settlements, field systems, burial and ritual sites in the intertidal area and underwater is incalculable. The study of submerged sites would also inform research into sea level rise, assisting in establishing the timetable of inundation. Local boatmen and divers have some knowledge of these remains but only intertidal sites have been formally identified at present.



St. Martin's, Eastern Isles & Tresco - English Nature

1.5.6 Threats to Marine Sites

Underwater sites are vulnerable to storm surges and increased turbulence through climate change could disturb and damage both wreck and other marine sites. In addition to the forces of nature, uncontrolled diving could threaten the integrity of the underwater sites and is a potential problem with the danger of sites and artefacts being lost or damaged. English Heritage is now responsible for the issue of diving licenses on Protected Wreck sites but it is extremely difficult to police activity on other sites. Local divers have been engaged by English Heritage to monitor the condition of the aft section of the important wreck of the Colossus, discovered in June 2001. In

2002, the Sea Fisheries Committee of the Council successfully restricted scalloping in Scillonian Waters to help prevent damage to the sea bed with its implications for marine life and underwater archaeology. The provision of renewable energy through the harnessing of wave and tidal power and the installation of Off-shore wind turbines, though laudable in principle, could also have implications for the historic underwater resource.

1.5.7 The Nautical Archaeological Society (NAS), based at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth, have run two training courses on Scilly, facilitated through the Lifelong Learning Programme. These courses, attended by both divers and non-divers, have taught the fundamentals of marine archaeology, surveying and conservation techniques. Responsible diving has been a major theme of the courses and initiatives like 'Diving with a Purpose' encourages divers to record finds and disseminate information rather than remove them from the site. The establishment of a local Code of Conduct for divers, fishermen and other interested parties would also help to ensure that sites are not exploited or damaged.

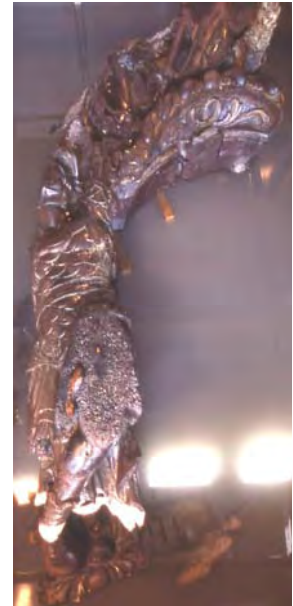
1.5.8 Promotion of the Marine Heritage

There is considerable potential for promoting the marine heritage by improved interpretation, presentation of artefacts on land and by introducing underwater trails which allow visiting divers to enjoy conducted tours of underwater sites where the main features are marked and linked. Pre-dive briefings with training and awareness programmes and discussion of the history and significance of the sites would greatly enhance appreciation while practical work, such as weed cutting, photography, measuring, plotting and survey would allow ongoing monitoring of the sites. This type of enterprise could establish Scilly as a leader in maritime archaeological training and research. (R Larn & D McBride) With advancing technology it could also be possible to establish interactive video links on land so that the underwater world can be explored and appreciated by non-divers too.

1.5.9 It has been suggested that a Maritime Archaeological Field Co-ordinator is needed to organise this type of activity and generally promote the maritime archaeology of Scilly. They would have to be a diver with the appropriate qualifications and experience, who would establish contacts with diving centres and arrange tours and courses. Such an initiative could be explored by the Heritage Working Group of the JAC and other interested parties such as the NAS to ensure a partnership approach. (R Larn & D McBride)

1.5.10 If the Maritime Heritage is to be fully appreciated it would benefit from a dedicated interpretation facility. At present there is no suitable location where marine artefacts and interpretation material can be displayed and courses for the public held. This gap has been highlighted by the recovery of the carved stern figure from the Colossus which the community are anxious to retain on Scilly. The carving is at present being kept in a tank on Tresco and Tresco Estate had expressed an interest in displaying the statue in the Valhalla museum of figureheads in Tresco Abbey Garden. However, Valhalla is exposed to the elements at present and radical alterations would be required to facilitate a properly controlled environment for the statue. The proposed new visitor centre at the Garden with its new lecture theatre and links to Valhalla could provide a venue for public courses on the maritime heritage.

1.5.11 The Receiver of Wreck has offered the figure to the Isles of Scilly Museum Association and investigations are being made by them into the cost of conserving and displaying the carving, currently a conservative estimate of around £100,000, prior to considering funding bids. While the Museum Association feel that they could comfortably accommodate the carved figure in its own climate-controlled display case, there is some apprehension if considerable more artefacts are retrieved from Colossus, which seems probable, and offered to the Museum, as the limited facilities of the present Museum building would not be adequate to store or display them all.



Stern Carving, HMS Colossus.- Mac Mace

SWOT Analysis.

<p>Strengths <i>Rich maritime heritage</i> <i>Wealth of intertidal/underwater archaeological sites</i> <i>Over 700 wreck sites</i> <i>Three Protected Wrecks</i> <i>Local professional divers/expertise</i> <i>Valhalla Museum</i> <i>Shipwreck artefacts/marine research archives in IOS Museum</i></p>	<p>Weaknesses <i>Incomplete public access to data on sites</i> <i>Lack of ability to police activities beneath low water line.</i> <i>Maritime heritage/archaeology under appreciated/lack of recognition by tourist industry of importance & potential</i> <i>Lack of climate controlled display and interpretation facilities</i></p>
<p>Opportunities Promotion of archaeological/maritime heritage to visitors/community-new facility Data exchange with Cornwall County Council/English Heritage Climate change study English Heritage take over responsibility for maritime archaeology</p>	<p>Threats Uncontrolled diving Climate change/storm surges/coastal erosion Offshore renewable energy installations Deterioration of sites/artefacts Lack of resources for English Heritage to care for maritime archaeology</p>

Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Maritime Archaeological Field Co-ordinator Code of Conduct for the protection of underwater archaeology.	
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Objectives:-

- **Ensure the survival of both terrestrial and subterranean archaeology through appropriate management regimes and enhance public appreciation of the historic environment both on land and under the sea.**

Actions:-

- **Co-operate with English Heritage on the preparation of the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment of Scilly's coastal, inter-tidal and subterranean archaeological resource.**
- **Promote the importance of marine and terrestrial archaeology within the context of a co-ordinated interpretation strategy for the islands in conjunction with the Joint Advisory Committee of the AONB**
- **Support initiatives to provide proper climate-controlled display facilities for marine and terrestrial artefacts.**
- **Work with divers, fisherman and others to develop a Code of Conduct to help control damage to underwater archaeology.**

1.6.0 The Built Heritage.

1.6.1 Listed Buildings

There are 129 buildings on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Of these listed properties 4 are Grade I and 8 are Grade II*, while some are also scheduled monuments. This illustrates the high proportion of the best quality buildings situated on the Islands, nearly 10% compared to 6% in the rest of the U.K.



The Grade I structures are all located on the Garrison on St. Mary's and include the Elizabethan Star Castle, now a hotel, with its outer bastions, the early 17th century powder magazine or Rocket House, the outer walls and the gateway. Other buildings on the Garrison such as the Gatehouse, Guardhouse and Newman House are Grade II*, as are the 16th century King Charles' Castle and Parliamentary Cromwell's Castle on Tresco. Also Grade II* listed are: St. Agnes Lighthouse, one of the first lighthouses to be built by Trinity House in 1680; the St. Martin's Daymark, built seven years later and Old Town Church, originally of Norman foundation.

18th century engraving of St. Agnes Lighthouse: HESCCC

Total Number of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest=129

Grade	Number	% in Grade in Scilly	% in Grade Uk
1 of exceptional interest & national importance	4	3.25%	2%
11* of particular interest and national importance	8	6.2%	4%
11 of special interest	117	90.6%	94%

Source: CIOS 'Conservation & Heritage' (Updated 2002)

1.6.2 Townscape

The 'capital' of the islands is Hugh Town, on St. Mary's, built on the sand bar that connects the Garrison or Hugh to the main part of the island. It has one principal street incorporating a series of small squares and a park, with several narrow streets and alleys running to the waterfront to the north and south. Old Town, the next largest settlement on the island, was the centre of secular rule in medieval times with its ancient church, quay and ruined Ennor Castle grouped around the bay. The urban area of Hugh Town has been the subject of survey undertaken by the Historic Environment Service of Cornwall County Council as part of the Cornwall and Scilly Urban Survey published in 2003. This project will assist in providing a framework for sustainable regeneration in this area, ensuring that development respects and takes advantage of local distinctive characteristics.

1.6.3 On the off-islands, small clusters of buildings rejoicing in the name of 'towns' show a pattern of development echoing the areas most sheltered from the salt laden winds and with the most fertile soil. Conversely, on the high vantage points are signal stations, watch houses and pilot lookouts associated with the days of smuggling, pilotage and conflict.

1.6.4 Local Distinctiveness

The vernacular architecture of the Islands is typified by low granite cottages once roofed with rope thatch; later 'scantle' slated with small Delabole 'peggies' bedded in lime mortar and laid in diminishing courses; with box sash windows and sturdy plank doors. Wreck wood was used extensively in buildings throughout the islands and the recent conversion of the 18th century Wesleyan Chapel on St. Mary's revealed a fine roof structure and floor joists constructed of timbers from some long forgotten ship

wreck. Some 16th and 17th century domestic buildings such as Pier House survive, together with a few elegant 18th century, early 19th century properties such as Hugh House (built as the officers' mess), Veronica Lodge, Newman House, Lyonesse and Lemon Hall on St. Mary's and Dolphin House on Tresco.

- 1.6.5 In the 19th and early 20th century the influence of the Dorrien-Smith family and the Duchy of Cornwall is evident in the development of a certain 'house-style' of robust and rather severe public buildings. On St. Mary's, these include the parish church, Town Hall and Hugh Town post office while on Tresco Abbey built by Augustus Smith, close to the ruins of the Benedictine priory is now surrounded by the famous Abbey Garden on Tresco.



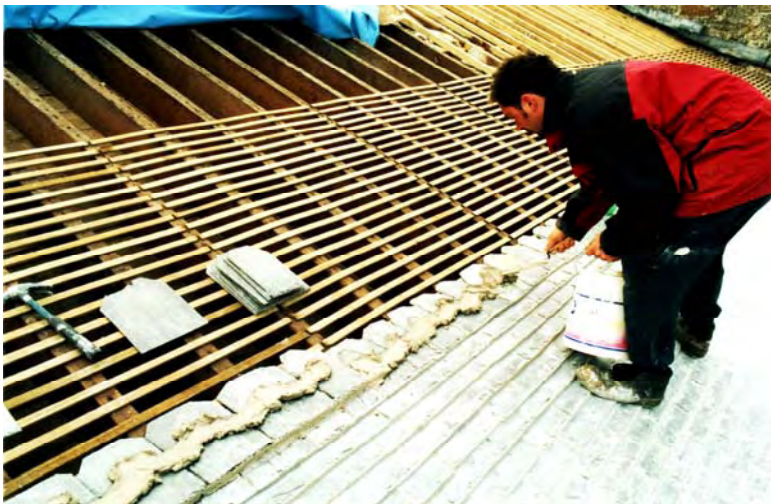
The Post Office, Hugh Street -Eric Berry

- 1.6.6 Further significant structures of this period are the first glasshouses used to produce early flowers in the initial years of the flower industry. Few of these huge timber framed buildings survive but those that remain make an important contribution to the economic and architectural heritage of the islands. Often they are attached to older granite buildings roofed with scantle slate or Bridgwater clay tiles brought over as ship's ballast. These once served as animal shelters or hay barns but were given new life as packing sheds for flowers. A survey of the farm buildings on Scilly has shown that many have become disused and fallen into disrepair, as they no longer fulfil the needs of present day farming.
- 1.6.7 The isolated nature of Scilly has of necessity, led the inhabitants to adopt a policy of make do and mend over the years. The cost of importing materials has always been a problem and there is a strong tradition of recycling materials from previous structures. Prehistoric stone saddle querns can be found in the walls of buildings at Lunnon Farm on St. Mary's, while many of the cottages at Old Town have been constructed with stone from the medieval Ennor Castle. In the past this led to pleasing eccentricities such as finding an old ship's mast or name board incorporated into the building structure.
- 1.6.8 This same philosophy now results in the introduction of less aesthetic materials such as ply, plastic sheeting, corrugated asbestos and iron. There is an argument that these materials, especially corrugated iron, have gained their own recognition as historic fabric, but their visual appeal and weathering qualities have not borne the test

of time in the same way as stone and wreck timber. The traditional skills associated with timber joinery, scantle slate roofing and stone work have also declined. This skill loss is recognised at national and regional level and English Heritage and other interested parties are developing initiatives to combat this. With the average age of builders now put at 51 there is a need to encourage the younger generation to enter the trade and develop skills.

1.6.9 Grant Aided Projects

One of the aims of the English Heritage grant funded scheme in Scilly is to support courses that revitalise traditional skills. Successful training in stone work, lime mortar and scantle slate roofing have been facilitated under the Isles of Scilly Grant Scheme, a tailor made variation of a Heritage Economic Regeneration (HER's) scheme. Further training opportunities using Objective One funding in conjunction with initiatives through the JAC of the AONB could offer considerable improvements in the quality of building on the islands and give more opportunities to local contractors.



*Scantle Slate roofing course
North Farm, St. Martin's
V.Stratton- Cornwall College*

1.6.10 The Islands, as elsewhere, experienced a development boom in the 1960's and 70's with several massed concrete, utilitarian buildings of the modernist school of architecture being built in Hugh Town. The primary and secondary school sites on St. Mary's, the Museum and Godolphin Flats are all examples of this period and today are considered by some critics to be out of context with the vernacular architecture of the islands that are characterised by the use of natural materials. Unfortunately, other unsympathetic development has occurred even quite recently, due in part to the popularity of kit built housing, which is considered to be more economical than traditional forms. This conflict between maximising floor-space and architectural quality is exacerbated by the high cost of building on the islands, mainly due to freight charges on materials that can increase costs by approximately 50%.

1.6.11 The Council is endeavouring to raise the standard of new build and additions and alterations to existing properties by preparing design guidance to supplement the new Local Plan. The introduction of an Article 4(2) Direction in 1995 has helped to control the loss of traditional features such as timber sash windows and slate roofs in the

Conservation Area. However, it is difficult to justify the additional costs to developers and private individuals, without offering some form of financial encouragement.

1.6.12 There has been a problem and some controversy over securing good quality development or sympathetic repairs due to the relatively high cost of traditional materials and labour compared to the mainland. English Heritage grant aid has gone some way towards ensuring that repairs are undertaken in a sympathetic manner but the number of buildings in need of repair far exceeds the funding available. The Isles of Scilly Grant Scheme has made a significant contribution to the regeneration initiatives of the Council, the Duchy of Cornwall and private individuals and it is important that this momentum is not lost when the scheme terminates in 2004.

1.6.13 The Isles of Scilly Urban Survey (CSUS), 2003, helps identify regeneration opportunities based around the historic character of Hugh Town. Improvements to shop-fronts within the commercial centre and streetscape enhancement by the recovery and restoration of traditional surface materials would have a positive impact on the appearance of the built up area. This would promote pride and encourage investment amongst the business community and make the commercial centre more attractive, boosting local economic confidence.

English Heritage Grant Aided Schemes: CAP & HER's

£350,000 allocated over 5 years Projects to 2002/2003

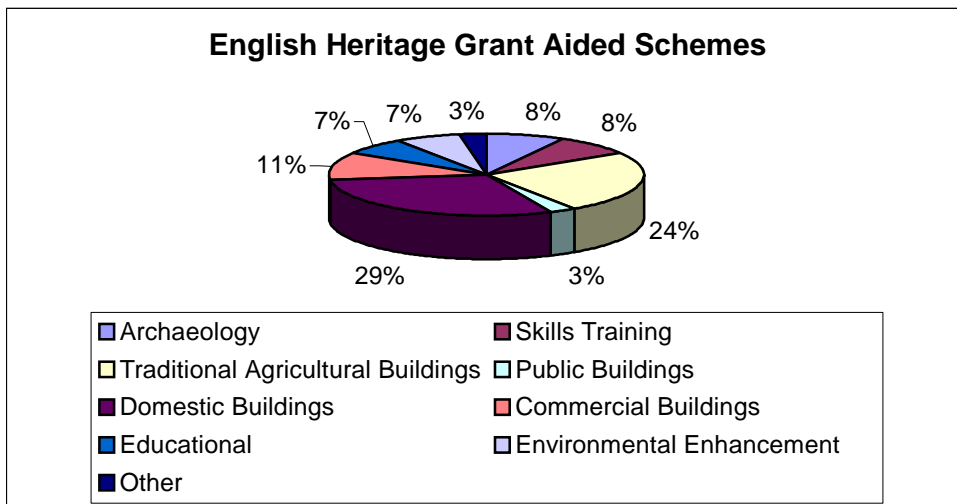
Project	No of Projects	Overall costs	Grant awarded
Archaeology	6	£37,250	£33,339
Skills training	6	£16,500	£14,797
Traditional Agricultural Buildings	18	£231,701	£53,703
Public Buildings	2	£256,588	£22,393
Domestic Buildings	22	£211,419	£87,670
Commercial Buildings	8	£124,561	£57,300
Educational	5	£13,300	£6,394
Environmental enhancement	5	£32,357	£7,083
Other	2	£160,43	£57,241
Total	74	£1,084,169	£307,779

Source:- CIOS

1.6.14 The harbour front and Porthcressa Bank have been identified as areas that would benefit from improvements but would require considerable investment to secure a

cohesive refurbishment scheme. Other parts of the built up areas of St. Mary's have suffered from the intrusive modern developments of poor architectural design using inferior materials. With sufficient funding it may be possible to replace or improve some of the more unsuitable post WWII development. The CSUS builds a good case for further funding for Hugh Town but there is still the issue of justifying funding for enhancement in the country areas of St. Mary's and on the off-islands.

1.6.15 Unfortunately, while grant aid can encourage repairs to be undertaken in a sympathetic manner, the present funding regime cannot ensure the regular maintenance of traditional buildings. It could be argued that ongoing repair programmes would have prevented much of the remedial work that is now required. A more sustainable aim is to establish a regular maintenance cycle for some of the more important historic buildings on the islands to prevent the need for major repair projects in the future. Both the Duchy and the Council have undertaken a condition survey of the building stock and it is hoped that this will enable these bodies to prioritise buildings at risk and develop a programme of repair and maintenance. Private owners also need to be persuaded that regular monitoring and maintenance of their properties will save them a lot of expense in the future.



Source: CIOS



Sandpiper Shop, Hugh Street, before and after refurbishment with English Heritage grant aid.
G. Arbery

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths <i>Relatively low development pressure</i> <i>Large percentage of listed buildings</i> <i>Attractive traditional buildings</i> <i>Small scale, intimate settlement patterns.</i> <i>Article 4 (2) Direction</i> <i>CAP/HER's scheme</i></p>	<p>Weaknesses <i>Unsympathetic 60's/70's development</i> <i>Decline in use of traditional materials/building skills</i> <i>Lack of ongoing maintenance programmes</i> <i>Lack of established design guidance</i> <i>Loss of traditional farm buildings</i></p>
<p>Opportunities Community involvement in design issues/ Design Guidance Skills training in traditional techniques Establish maintenance programmes Regeneration initiatives as a result of CSUS/Objective One Improvement in streetscape Encouraging suitable uses of traditional farm buildings</p>	<p>Threats Increased freight charges on building materials. Pressure for development-tourist related/local needs Unregulated development Loss of EH grant funding after current scheme expires in 2004 Lack of younger builders trained in traditional building skills Deterioration of historic building fabric</p>

Objectives:-

- **Preserve and enhance the traditional built environment on the islands and raise the standard of new build and alterations and additions to the existing building stock.**

Actions:-

- **Prepare a design guide as supplementary guidance to the Isles of Scilly Local Plan in conjunction with community input from the stakeholder workshops of the AONB Management Plan process.**
- **Promote opportunities to upskill the labour force, leading to enhanced job prospects and better quality buildings and repairs**
- **Develop opportunities for heritage-led regeneration and enhancement of the built environment within the framework of the Cornwall and Scilly Urban Survey.**
- **Develop long term maintenance programmes for historic buildings linked to regular condition surveys/buildings at risk records.**

1.7.0 Historical Archives

1.7.1 Early Accounts

The islands have attracted the interest of antiquarians for hundreds of years. There is a wealth of documentation on Scilly's history from references to the islands in Roman times right up to the present day. The name "Scilly" appears to have evolved from references to classical writings by Pliny and Strabo in the 1st century A.D and subsequently by Solinus and Sulpicius Severus. References to Scilly can also be found in the Norse sagas, particularly the 'Heimskringla', written by Snorri Sturluson, which relates the legend of the conversion of Olaf Trggvesson, the King of Norway, to Christianity by St. Elidius, a holy man of Scilly in the 10th century AD. A raid by Viking pirates on St. Mary's church in 1155 when valuable church plate and fittings were plundered, is also mentioned in the Orkneying Saga.

1.7.2 By the Middle Ages, when the churches in Scilly were governed from the Benedictine Abbey at Tavistock, references were appearing in ecclesiastical documents of the time and in 1114 a charter of Henry 1st confirms Tavistock's rule. 13th century documents refer to the medieval shell keep castle at Ennor, now Old Town, while accounts and other records give us an insight into the secular way of life of St. Mary's during this period. A survey was made of the islands in the mid 16th century by John Leyland who reported the decline of the castle and the churches. Francis Godolphin made his own report on the state of the islands in 1579 after he took over the lease in 1570. He sent dispatches to Queen Elizabeth I keeping her informed of the movements of the Spanish fleet, which prompted her to order the building of Star Castle in 1593.

1.7.3 During the Civil War 1642 – 1646, Scilly became one of the last strongholds of the Royalists, eventually surrendering in 1651. The journals of the governor Sir Francis Godolphin and of Lady Fanshawe, who accompanied Prince Charles, later Charles II, when he fled to Scilly, give first hand accounts of life on the islands during this troubled time, while state papers and letters relate the military operations that were underway. In 1652 a comprehensive Parliamentary Survey was undertaken with a

valuation of all the tenancies. Following the restoration of the monarchy, Scilly had some notable visitors and an account of a visit by Grand Duke Cosmo III in 1669 describes the islands and fortifications.

1.7.4 Interest in Scilly increased in the 18th century and there are several valuable accounts of the antiquities and contemporary life, particularly by the Cornish antiquarian William Borlase, who also undertook the first excavation of the entrance graves on Buzza Hill. Other observations by Heath (an officer of the Garrison), Abraham Tovey, (the Master Gunner), Graeme Spence, Henry Spry and the Rev John Troutbeck, (the chaplain of Scilly), all contribute to our knowledge of the islands. In the 19th century George Woodley's writings, excavation reports of George Bonsor and Augustus Smith and Richard Maybee's memoirs are important resources, as are early Council records.

1.7.5 Contemporary Guides

As Scilly became more popular as a tourist destination in the latter half of the 19th century guide books were published. Legends and folk customs of the islands are recounted by H.J. Whitfield and Jessie Mothersole; whilst continuing updated editions of 'The Fortunate Islands' by R.L Bowley give a good all-round introduction to the history of Scilly. General accounts of the islands Matthews, 1960, Mumford, 1967 and Grigson, 1976, among many others, are also of interest. The biennial 'Scillonian Magazine' carries articles concerned with past and current events on the islands while the bi-monthly newsletter 'Scilly Up-to-date', also contains information on the historic environment.

1.7.6 Research Publications

Several important publications dealing specifically with the history and archaeology of Scilly have resulted from formalised 20th century archaeological recording. Most notable are the works of Crawford (1927), Hencken (1932), Paul Ashbee (1974) and Charles Thomas, whose book 'Exploration of a Drowned Landscape' (1985) has prompted much discussion on sea level rise in relation to Scilly. Excavation reports include work by O'Neil, Quinnell, Dudley and Butcher with various articles appearing in the Scillonian magazine, Cornish Archaeology and Cornish Studies .

1.7.7 Other publications include; guide books by O'Neil (1949), Over (1974) and Laws (1980) on the monuments and buildings; a list of archaeological sites compiled by Vivien Russell (1980) and the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (updated in 1992). Recording projects undertaken by the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, (now Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council HESCCC) have produced several excellent publications including a popular gazetteer. The local museum and library on St. Mary's have a comprehensive reference section including many valuable and scarce books about Scilly providing a valuable resource for those wishing to further their knowledge of the islands.

1.7.8 Official Records

In addition to the above publications, we now have the benefit of the official Historic Environment Record (HER), previously known as the Sites and Monuments record (SMR), compiled by the HESCCC. While the Truro offices hold the computerised record, a hard copy of the HER is lodged with the Planning Department at the Council of the Isles of Scilly. Following English Heritage's Monument Protection Programme Survey (1994), the full documentation on all Scilly's Scheduled Ancient Monuments is also held in the Council's Planning Office where the English Heritage Field Monument Warden is based. An aim for the future is to enable all these records to be accessed electronically so that they can be constantly up-dated as more information becomes available. Ongoing discussions with the Historic Environment Service are seeking to facilitate a mutual exchange of data utilising a Geographical Information System.

1.7.9 English Heritage maintains the National Monuments Record (NMR). This is a comprehensive inventory of scheduled and unscheduled historic sites throughout England. The NMR includes a record of maritime archaeological sites comprising over 40,000 historic wrecks and submerged archaeological sites, which still represents only a small percentage of potential sites. Not only does the NMR contain the national record of historic maritime sites but it also represents the only systematically compiled record for the English Coast. English Heritage is seeking to encourage all coastal local authorities to develop the marine aspects of their own Sites and Monuments Records and for data to be exchanged between the NMR and SMR. The recently commissioned Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment of the marine archaeological resource will be of great assistance, adding 771 wrecks recorded by the NMR and UK Hydrographic Office to the Historic Environment Record (HER). However, the potential for several submerged settlements and other archaeological sites and a conservative estimate of 2-300 unrecorded wrecks in Scillonian waters, indicates that the research and recording needed to update the record would be a major task.

1.7.10 Information Resource for the Isles of Scilly (IRIS)

Many reports on various issues affecting the islands have been published in the last twenty years, including several concerned about the historic environment. These are a valuable resource for those wishing to study aspects of the islands and to integrate previous project reports into their research. Unfortunately, much of this information is dispersed or is not readily accessible and there is a need to centralise the reports. An initiative to establish an accessible computer database of key documents is being managed by the Council's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Officer. This has co-ordinated existing information on an interactive directory:- Information Resource for the Isles of Scilly (IRIS), which is available on the AONB website: www.ios.aonb.info.

1.7.11 Mapping and Photography

Early maps and charts of Scilly dating from the 16th century provide evidence of the changing face of the islands, particularly Davis (1585), Jan Robyn (1685), Collins (1689) Vertue (1721), Heath (1744) Tovey and Ginver (1779) and Edward Driver's

survey maps of 1829-33. The 1890 and 1908 editions of the Ordnance Survey maps contain a wealth of information on changing land use patterns, especially when compared with the later editions of 1963 and 1995.

1.7.12 Ordnance Survey, the Royal Air Force and the Admiralty have taken aerial photographs of Scilly. In 1989 a flight by Cornwall Archaeological Unit during a low spring tide also proved extremely useful. A fly-over by English Nature in 1996 has produced a set of digital images that are available to the Council if the suitable technology is acquired. This information will be invaluable in assessing the changes in vegetation patterns, especially the encroachment on historic sites and the impact on the character of the historic and natural landscape. It will also be worth investigating the potential of these digital images for monitoring the rate of coastal erosion by comparing a periodic sequence of photographs. In 2002, IoSWT carried out a vegetation survey based on the 1996 English Nature aerial photographs. Site visits were made to verify the pattern of vegetation apparent on the digital photographs. IoSWT will continue a programme of fixed-point photography and will update vegetation maps as land management work is monitored.

1.7.13 Since the early days of photography in the mid 19th century, Scilly has been fortunate in having the interest and expertise of the Gibson family who built up an impressive photographic archive over the past 150 years. The first pioneering photographs of John Gibson in 1827, followed by his son Alexander (1857-1944) and Herbert (1861-1937) are a remarkable record, documenting shipwrecks, excavations, newsworthy events and daily life in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th century. This tradition has been carried on by Alexander's son and grandson, James and Francis and now by Francis' daughter Sandra (Kyne), who is computerising the archive.

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths <i>Long tradition of accounts written of the islands</i> <i>Comprehensive up-to-date survey of SAM's.</i> <i>National Monument Record</i> <i>Historic Environment Record</i> <i>Museum archives</i> <i>Gibson photographic archive</i> <i>Internationally/nationally important collections</i></p>	<p>Weaknesses <i>Archaeological records available on Scilly are unwieldy/all hard copy at present.</i> <i>Duplication/fragmentation of effort/reports not centralised</i> <i>Maritime sites under-recorded</i> <i>Heritage under -appreciated by some sectors</i></p>
<p>Opportunities Further collation of information through IRIS Data exchange with CCC/English Heritage. Improvements in record of maritime sites-Rapid Coastal Zone</p>	<p>Threats Inability to keep information up-to-date Continued lack of integration of records Lack of a core heritage project to act as a springboard and focus</p>

Assessment Development of GIS system Public access to data through ICT Educational tourism and CUC links Improved interpretative facilities within a strategic approach (wet weather facility/ies) Maritime heritage (including Colossus)	Lack of co-ordination between the interested parties Lack of protection of the marine environment (especially in relation to wrecks, etc) Inability to maximise ICT in centralised records
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Objectives:-

- **Establish integrated data exchange to assist decision making and promote knowledge and interest in the historic resource.**

Actions:-

- **Support the continuing development of the electronic, interactive database of key information sources for Scilly (Information Resource for the Isles of Scilly – IRIS), initiated through the AONB website.**
- **Develop the technology needed to establish links through Arc View for data exchange with English Heritage/English Nature/Countryside Agency, the Historic Environment Service of Cornwall County Council and the Duchy of Cornwall. (eg. photographic/digital images/GIS-based data)**
- **Explore the potential for an integrated interpretation/study facility to enhance the community’s and visitor’s appreciation of the historic resource.**
- **Develop the marine aspects of the HER following the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment**

1.8.0 Isles of Scilly Museum

1.8.1 Founding of the Museum

The Museum is centrally located in Hugh Town on St. Mary’s and currently attracts up to 15,000 visitors each year. It is one of the few all weather facilities on the islands. The building was erected by the Council of the Isles of Scilly in 1967 with financial assistance from the Leach Trust. The two lower floors of the building were leased to the Museum Association on a peppercorn rent with the presentation of some of the artefacts funded by public subscription. The establishment of the Museum was driven by the desire to ensure that the artefacts from the Nornour excavations were not lost to the Mainland because of the lack of a suitable building on Scilly. Before then many important finds had been lodged with the British Museum in London or the Royal

Cornwall Museum in Truro. In addition to the Nornour artefacts, the Gibson's personal archaeological collection and finds from the wreck of the Association together formed the foundation of the Museum collection.

- 1.8.2 The museum is managed by the 'Isles of Scilly Museum Association' and is run by a committee and until recently, was staffed solely by volunteers. It is a non-profit making charity and is registered nationally and with the South West Museums Libraries and Archives Council (SWMLAC –formerly the Museum's Council) and receives some curatorial advice through Penlee House Museum in Penzance. The trustees are elected to posts by the Association's members and in some cases represent specialist areas. A Managing Committee of Trustees deals with the running of the Museum in conjunction with the Curator.
- 1.8.3 The enthusiasm and dedication of the Museum Association members is recognised but two years ago the Trustees felt that a change of direction was required at managerial level and laid plans to appoint a part-time paid Curator upon the retirement of the Honorary Curator in 2002. The present Curator is undertaking professional training in order to become an Associate member of the Museum's Association, which is a nationally recognised museum qualification.
- 1.8.4 As part of Phase I of DCMS Regional Hub programme, South West Hub Museums will receive major funding. This will allow resources to be deployed at Regional Hub Museum level, allowing specialists to be employed whose expertise will be available to smaller museums like the Isles of Scilly Museum within SWMLAC. The need for improved facilities for the Museum is also recognised by the Objective One Heritage Task Force.
- 1.8.5 The Museum Building
Now, over thirty years since its foundation, the Museum is reaching a stage where several issues need to be addressed. Typical of the modern design movement of the 1960s, the Museum building, with maisonettes built above, has little reference to the polite architectural style or natural materials of the surrounding buildings and forms an incongruous element in the streetscape of Church Street. (CSUS 2003) Access for the disabled consists of two stair lifts and space in the building is limited, especially for storage. Without a climate-controlled environment the Museum tends to be damp, with the basement area, where collections not on public display are housed, below sea-level and prone to flooding at Spring tides.
- 1.8.6 The deteriorating structure of the building means that general repairs and maintenance are becoming less cost effective. This is detrimental to the museum's artefacts and may soon be a factor that will prevent important new finds like the Colossus carvings or the Bryher sword and mirror being kept permanently on Scilly, despite the Museum Trustees efforts to provide a climatically controlled case for one of its most valuable exhibits. The need for constant maintenance is a major issue to be addressed and consideration needs to be given to the possibility of providing a climate-controlled building with low running costs and using building design to help control the atmosphere to provide adequate storage provision and state-of-the-art facilities for conservation, display and interpretation.



Isles of Scilly Museum, Church Street, St. Mary's- G. Arbery

1.8.7 Collections

The Museum houses several important collections as noted above, a geological collection, a library, an important audio-visual archive and produces sixteen museum publications on specific topics. A new comprehensive Museum guide is also in preparation. There is a strong emphasis on Scillonian social history, especially with the recent formation of a family history group and there is an improved natural history section. Unfortunately, a vast amount of material relating to Scilly is still scattered around the country and even abroad. Much of it is not even on display but stored away, gathering dust in the basements and storage rooms of other museums and galleries. The present museum on Scilly does not have the room or the controlled environment to house these artefacts but if improvements could be made it may be possible to recover some of these objects or have them on loan temporarily for exhibitions.

1.8.8 Potential

Despite its fine maritime and prehistoric collections the Museum does not have the resources to co-ordinate and interpret the displays to their best advantage. The emphasis tends to be on static exhibition displays and there is some resistance to the introduction of modern technology as the traditional approach appears to appeal to the majority of the present visitors to the Museum. However, there is potential to employ Information Technology to assist in the interpretation of Scillonian heritage which could widen the visitor profile, provided that it is in keeping with the well-proven low-key approach. Rotating exhibitions would stimulate interest and participation from the community, particularly through the schools and lifelong learning programmes. The CHAIN project, an initiative to provide a web based inventory and guide to Cornwall's heritage could be extended to cover the collections on Scilly or a separate project linked to the CHAIN web gateway could be developed for Scilly, subject to funding.

1.8.9 With professional staff and the revision of opening hours and entrance fees, improvements in publicity and some updating of facilities, the Museum is already

making important steps towards meeting the challenges of the 21st century. Over the past 36 years the Museum has built up firm links with local and visiting schools, also with extra-curricular youth groups and encourages local children to use the facilities of the Museum by offering a flat rate to the school but this access to the collections and archives is still not utilised to the full. There is an important opportunity to develop an educational programme with wider appeal, utilising Information Technology to enhance public appreciation, especially with the IT literate younger generation. The Museum would benefit from further resources to continue expanding its links with mainland Museums and its investigation into shared exhibition and educational programmes.

- 1.8.10 With the development of its web site the Museum is already building on international Scillonian connections and it has actively maintained an increasingly important network of national and international correspondents since its inception. The Museum actively promotes collaboration with foreign researchers and links exist with British and overseas scholars, researchers and the general public, providing the Museum with a small source of revenue. The most important aspect of these links is the exchange of information and goodwill that is generated and further resources to expand these connections would be beneficial.
- 1.8.11 The Museum's important role in preserving and promoting the historic and cultural heritage of Scilly warrants an innovative and radical approach to the pressing issues of the need for a suitable building and improvements in resources. The Heritage Working Group has agreed to investigate the viability of enhancing the existing building or providing a new building that addresses the needs of the Museum. Funding for a feasibility study is being sought from the Technical Assistance section in the Objective One Programme. However, whilst much of the attraction of the Museum comes from its low-key approach and intimate style, it is important that these qualities are not lost if facilities are enhanced.

SWOT Analysis.

<p>Strengths <i>Important collections of artefacts/photographs</i> <i>Research facilities</i> <i>Weather facility</i> <i>Central position</i> <i>Support of local community/volunteer help</i> <i>Support of local and national bodies</i> <i>Support of SWMLAC to facilitate change</i> <i>Key intimate atmosphere</i></p>	<p>Weaknesses <i>Deteriorating/damp building</i> <i>Lack of controlled environment</i> <i>Lack of space/especially storage</i> <i>Lack of funds for interpretation/publicity materials</i> <i>Limited access for disabled</i> <i>Limited ICT infrastructure.</i></p>
<p>Opportunities Promotion of maritime heritage Improved links with local schools /community Employment creation/ professional staff/work placement.</p>	<p>Threats Financial constraints/no regular funding arrangements. Damage/decay of collections due to deteriorating structure Inability to implement</p>

Feasibility study/interpretation strategy through the Heritage Working Group Enhanced facility as major visitor attraction on St. Mary's Explore international links Expand Museum archives	improvements Diminishing public interest if displays deteriorate Delays in formulating forward strategy in relation to available funding
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Objectives:-

- **Establish a first class Museum facility that will ensure the effective long term preservation and presentation of Scilly's historic and cultural resource.**

Action:-

- **Pursue funding for a feasibility study for an improved Museum facility through the Heritage Working Group.**
- **Consider initiatives to co-ordinate the presentation and interpretation of the historic resource.**

1.9.0 Other Interpretation Facilities.

1.9.1 Exhibition and Study Centres

The Longstone Heritage Centre on St. Mary's, situated in the centre of the island, is a long established exhibition centre of the historic and natural environment of the islands that has recently come under new ownership. The exhibition has been revamped and updated with hands on facilities aimed at children. The proprietors are keen to expand these aspects and possibly establish a field study centre. Other initiatives under discussion are the establishment of a field study centre at the Garrison Campsite and enhanced interpretation at Star Castle. There is an acknowledged need for better interpretation of the natural and historic marine environment and further work needs to be undertaken to find a suitable means to achieve this aim.

1.9.2 Tresco Abbey Garden Interpretation

On the Off-islands there are limited facilities for the interpretation of the historic environment. However, Tresco Abbey Garden contains several interesting historic features. Apart from the ruins of the early 12th century Benedictine priory the garden also display a 6th century early Christian gravestone, several holed stones of probably prehistoric date, a classical Roman altar and a cast iron brazier from the 17th century lighthouse on St. Agnes. Unfortunately, many of these objects are currently displayed as little more than garden ornaments as there are insufficient resources for the conservation and interpretation that is warranted.

1.9.3 Augustus Smith, the founder of the Garden, and his descendants collected these objects from around the islands. Smith also established the Valhalla exhibition to display a collection of ships' figureheads and other finds, including a cannon from the wreck of the Association, gathered from shipwrecks around the British coast. The recent recovery of the magnificent carved stern figure from the wreck of the Colossus, Nelson's store ship, which is currently held on Tresco, has prompted the formation of 'The Isles of Scilly Maritime Heritage Trust' to raise funds to enable the carving to remain on Scilly. The Receiver of Wreck has offered the stern carving to the Isles of Scilly Museum who are now investigating future funding to enable them to house this important artefact.

1.9.4 Existing on-site facilities at the Tresco Abbey Garden are relatively poor considering its importance and popularity. Listed Grade I on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest, the Garden attracts more than 45,000 visitors each year. There is also the prospect of a further increase in numbers arising from the 'Destination Southwest' initiative which aims to attract more cruise ships to Scilly and the Cornish ports, including the Gardens in their itinerary.

1.9.5 The garden has well established links with the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew and shares marketing initiatives with the Great Gardens of Cornwall, including the hugely successful Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan. In a bid to improve the visitor experience Tresco Estate has been awarded Objective One funding for a new visitor centre, incorporating interpretation, lecture theatre, shop, café, toilet facilities and improved access for the disabled. Planning permission has been granted and work scheduled to start in 2004. This will provide a long overdue, high quality resource that is appropriate for Scilly's principal visitor attraction.

1.9.6 Off-Island Interpretation Initiatives

The Farming Interest Group (FIG) on St. Martin's has recently mounted an exhibition in their new visitor centre showing aspects of the island and island life through photographs and descriptions of the historic environment. However, there is potential for more comprehensive information, possibly in the form of leaflets encouraging themed trails for the historic sites on the island. There are no facilities on either St. Agnes or Bryher at present but the communities are exploring the possibilities of establishing interpretation points on the islands, possibly at the quays or in the pubs.

1.9.7 Walks, Talks and Tours

Guided walks and bus and boat tours are available throughout the visitor season, together with talks and slide shows on various aspects of the natural and historic heritage of the islands. The quality of information varies with some tours conducted in a very light-hearted way, while those led by qualified persons, such as the "Scilly Walks", historical and archaeological holidays and walks and the "Wildlife Tours" are more professional and informative. While these tours are aimed primarily at visitors, a

community based Lifelong Learning initiative has enabled some courses to be run specifically for local residents.

1.9.8 Leaflets and Brochures

Many leaflets and brochures provide information on facilities and places of interest on Scilly but there is a certain degree of duplication on one hand and gaps in provision on the other. The Isles of Scilly Heritage Working Group, formed in April 2002, discussed the possibility of developing themed information about Scilly aimed at visitors, residents and the local school. A leaflet audit was undertaken on behalf of the Group by the AONB unit to assess what was currently provided. The response from interested organisations was high and provided 85 booklets, flyers and leaflets with the majority being of a high quality. Unfortunately, some were inaccurate or of a low standard and a set of guidelines and suggested content has been produced to guide the production of further material. The AONB unit has recently produced an information pack aimed mainly at visitors to Scilly that has been distributed to holiday accommodation and made available in the Tourist Information Centre (TIC).

1.9.9 Disabled Access

The final phase of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 will come into force in October 2004 which will cover the provision of access for the disabled in the public domain. This is an issue that needs to be addressed both in relation to transport, public buildings, visitor facilities and historic sites, educational and sports facilities. There are few registered disabled residents on Scilly but the residential population is ageing and there are significant numbers in the older age group visitor profile. Mobility problems and other restrictions are therefore likely to increase and provision for equal access for all will be essential. There is potential conflict between accessibility and the retention of historic features. Innovative solutions will be needed to resolve any conflict with the vernacular Scillonian character due to the large number of historic buildings and sites on the islands.

SWOT Analysis.

<p>Strengths <i>International renown/links between Tresco Abbey Garden and the Eden Project, Kew Gardens Valhalla exhibition.</i> <i>Interpretation centre on St. Martin's Heritage Working Group bringing together interested parties and future projects</i></p>	<p>Weaknesses <i>Lack of interpretation of historic aspects in the garden</i> <i>Lack of up to date visitor centre in the garden</i> <i>Lack of interpretation facilities on other Off-islands</i> <i>Lack of facilities/access for the disabled</i> <i>Lack of interpretation of marine environment</i></p>
<p>Opportunities New visitor/interpretation facility in Tresco Abbey Garden Interpretation points on other Off Islands Colossus spurring maritime heritage Niche tourism</p>	<p>Threats Over commercialisation of facilities Deterioration of historic features in Tresco Abbey Garden Loss of Colossus figure to a Mainland museum</p>

Longstone Centre/hands-on activities Field Study Centres Cruise ships/Destination South West.	Impact of disabled access legislation
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Objectives:-

- **Establish appropriate linked interpretation facilities on each Off-Island to promote the historic environment to the community and visitors.**

Actions:-

- **Work with the four Off-Island communities through the AONB management plan process to establish the level of interpretation appropriate for each island.**
- **Investigate possible venues for interpretation points on St. Agnes and Bryher with the local communities.**
- **Support initiatives to promote the marine environment and maritime heritage of the islands.**
- **Investigate potential implications of the Disability Discrimination Act and solutions to conflicts.**

Part II Contemporary Culture.

2.1.0 Island Distinctiveness

2.1.1 Council of the Isles of Scilly

Scilly's geographical isolation has meant that a distinctive island culture, quite separate from mainland Cornwall, has evolved. The Islanders have a fierce independence and a natural suspicion of anything imposed from outside Scilly, particularly if it has the stamp of Central Government officialdom. The Council of the Isles of Scilly, dating from 1891 and the smallest local authority in Britain, is an unitary authority, with responsibility for functions such as highways, education and a library service. It also has additional responsibility for the airport and is the only remaining public water authority in the UK. There are a total of 21 independent councillors, two representing each off-island and the remainder from St. Mary's, with all of them making decisions affecting the whole of Scilly. With only 460 households paying full council tax and another 524 second homes on half tax, the Council has a constant struggle to fulfil all its obligations to the Community.

Council Tax Base

Council Tax 2002/3 Band D £827.96 (inc. police precept)

Total properties	1119
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Exempt properties (no revenue)	14
Properties with 25% discount (single occupancy)	231
Properties with 50% discount (second homes)	524
Properties on full rate	460
Disabled Reduction	0
Properties occupied by people on income support	30

Source :- CIOS

2.1.2 There are certain connections with Cornwall, particularly with Health provision but the Islands have also developed direct contacts and partnerships with Government bodies and agencies to enable service delivery. Scilly's long established trade links and seafaring legacy have resulted in well-established interaction with the wider world so that the islands have developed a cosmopolitan outlook. The Council strives to highlight the uniqueness of Scilly's position and to ensure that Government policy at Central and regional level recognises the special circumstances of the island community.

2.1.3 Population

Many of the place names on Scilly have their roots in the Cornish language there is little affinity among the present inhabitants with the ancient Cornish language or indeed the Celtic tradition, despite the first settlers on the islands probably originating from West Cornwall in prehistory. Scillonians do not consider themselves to be Cornish and the mixed population of the islands is evidence of continual trade nationally and internationally, belied also by the relatively sophisticated accents to be heard. Nearly all the inhabitants of the islands, be they old Scillonians or relative newcomers, develop a fierce protectiveness towards any perceived threats to the island's unique qualities. Without the mining legacy so important to Cornish culture, the traditional life of the islands has been based primarily on the sea with the established industries of shipbuilding, fishing and pilotage dominating and since the mid 19th century, flower farming supplanting subsistence agriculture.

Isles of Scilly Population

Year	2001	1991	1981
Males	1072	990	-
Females	1081	1059	-
Total	2153	2049	1946

Source :-National Census 2001/1991/1981

2.1.4 The permanent population of the islands has risen gradually to just over 2,000 during the last twenty years with approximately 1,600 on St. Mary's, the largest island. During

the peak summer holiday period the population is more than doubled by visitors. Apart from freehold areas in Hugh Town and some other pockets of land on St. Mary's, the islands are owned by the Duchy of Cornwall. The island of Tresco is let on a long lease to the Dorrien- Smith family, while the remaining enclosed land is leased to farm tenants with the majority on a full repair and insurance lease. Residential properties are either let privately or by the Duchy, Council and Housing Associations. The unenclosed land is let to the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, who are responsible for land management in these areas.

Land Management on the Isles of Scilly: Total Land area 16Km².

Type	Area	Occupants	Management mechanisms
Farm Land	473.5	Duchy farm tenants	CCS
Unenclosed Land inc.intertidal areas	1846ha	IOSWT	CCS/RES/WoHeath
Tresco & non -IoSWT islands	298ha	Tresco Estate	CCS/WoH
Built up areas	54ha	CIOI/Duchy/Private owners	

Source IOSWT.



Total IOSWT Land (60% of Lowest astronomical Tide)- Source IOSWT

2.1.5 The majority of old Scillonian families can only trace their association with the islands back to the 17th century, when their ancestors came to Scilly during the Civil War. Nevertheless, they are fiercely proud of their credentials and only consider that families with at least 'three generations under the sod' can be called Scillonians. Successive out migration of the local population and the continual influx of people wishing to settle from the Mainland, especially those who now come to retire, puts these Scillonians in the minority. It is said that only those who are born on Scilly can call themselves islanders and individuals who have lived here for many years can only claim to be residents.

2.1.6 St. Mary's

The dilution of the native Scillonian population is predictably most noticeable on St. Mary's where the availability of freehold property has allowed more inward migration. As the largest island, St. Mary's is the centre of administration, health provision, banking and has the largest number of pubs and shops, all of which are patronised by off-islanders on the weekly shopping trip. The harbour is full of local and visiting craft in the Summer and is the hub of services to the off islands and the berth of the Scillonian III passenger ferry from Penzance. The helicopter and fixed wing aircraft share the facilities of the small airport. The atmosphere of the bustling streets of Hugh Town, overlooked by the fortifications of the Garrison, is now more akin with the Mainland, but the pace of life is still remarkably quiet and slow compared to most other UK commercial centres. Away from Hugh Town the smaller hamlets have a more rural air and at Holy Vale you could almost believe you were not on an island. However, the sea and weather still dominate the activities of the population.

2.1.7 The Off-Islands

Some residents and visitors consider that St. Mary's is too busy and prefer the off-islands that have been less affected by modern trends and retain more of the characteristics of a remote island community. Despite having to contend with the additional restrictions that their small size, population and separateness impose, these are also dynamic communities

2.1.8 Tresco

Tresco in particular has a markedly individual atmosphere generated by the way it is run as a private estate by the Dorrien-Smith family. The island is marketed as a sophisticated, unspoilt island paradise with no vehicles apart from electric buggies, tractors and bicycles. Very few of the indigenous islanders remain on Tresco as affluent Mainlanders occupy most of the properties administered by Tresco Estate on a timeshare basis. The remainder are mainly occupied by the 140 or so resident estate employees and their families working to service the Island Hotel, New Inn, timeshare cottages, Tresco Abbey Garden and to manage the land. More wooded than the other off islands and with the Grade I registered Abbey Garden and two large freshwater pools, Tresco gives the impression of a managed landscape. However,

there are still parts of the island, noticeably Castle Down to the north, which are as untamed as other parts of Scilly.

2.1.9 Bryher

Both Bryher and St. Agnes vie for the honour of being the most unspoilt and traditional of the islands. Both promote their quiet isolation and rugged scenery as their main asset. Bryher, meaning 'land of the hills' is the smallest of the inhabited islands but is also the most varied. The eastern and southern shore is sheltered with shallow seas and sand flats stretching out towards Tresco and Samson, while the northern and western parts are wild and rugged with rocky bays open to the full force of the Atlantic. In rough weather the awe inspiring seas crash into the aptly named 'Hell Bay' on the north-west coast, from which the newly refurbished hotel takes its name.

2.1.10 St. Agnes

St. Agnes, the derivation of its very name 'Ekenes' is thought to translate as 'off-island', has always been the most separate of the group geographically and historically. The most south-westerly inhabited area of land in the British Isles, St. Agnes and its subsidiary islet of Gugh are wild and virtually treeless, with mainly rocky shores looking out towards the menacing tangle of the Western Rocks. The people of Agnes or 'Turks', had the reputation for being the most unscrupulous wreckers and smugglers in Scilly and were supposed to be short and dark, descended from Turkish or possibly Spanish seamen wrecked there. The population of about 90 includes several branches of the Hicks family who still farm on the island, supplementing their income with low key guest houses, a campsite and several holiday lets. Today, of all the off islands St. Agnes tries to maintain the air of a traditional farming community and has no hotel.

2.1.11 St. Martin's

St. Martin's is a long narrow island with a central ridge that has spectacular white beaches and turquoise seas fringing the north and south coast. The sheltered south facing slopes, with their narrow strip flower fields and compact settlements are markedly different from the wild heathland areas of Chapel Down, White Island and the north facing coastal fringe. The inhabitants of St. Martin's, traditionally known as Ginnicks were said to be the most independent of the off-islanders. Today the diminishing number of local families has been boosted to about 100 by younger people who originally came to work at the St. Martin's hotel and decided to stay. This has led to a more progressive attitude compared to some of the other islands, with new ventures such as a bakery, winery and two art and craft galleries now flourishing.



St. Martin's Bakery, Higher Town- G. Arbery

2.1.12 Living in a Small Community

Inevitably there are inter-island and intra-island tensions as in every small community where everyone knows each other's business. The friendly face of the islands that visitors appreciate does hide some animosity and personal problems can seem magnified. With such a small resident population it is difficult to remain anonymous and living on Scilly means you will probably be on speaking terms with more people than on the Mainland. There is a perception among some off-islanders that they are not kept as informed of developments or included in decision making as the residents of St. Mary's but it is also true to say that many are not particularly interested in the affairs of St. Mary's. It is not uncommon for Off-Islanders to visit St. Mary's only when they need health care or to travel to the mainland, while some St. Mary's residents confess to never having been to any of the off-islands.

2.1.13 Sometimes the intimacy of the islands can lead to a feeling of claustrophobia and some people feel it is necessary to have a break away so that any tensions can be seen in perspective. However, these tensions are minimal compared with the benefits; the general lack of crime on Scilly, the community spirit and concern for each other's welfare that is prevalent amongst the majority of the population. For many, living in the superb environment is more than enough compensation for the minor irritations of daily life.

2.1.14 Housing

Approximately one third of the residential properties on the islands are either second homes or holiday lets. Despite the efforts of the Council to lobby Government for exemption, Scilly is still subject to the Government's 'right to buy' legislation which has led to the depletion of the Council's housing stock. Some discussion has also taken

place regarding the introduction of the need for regulation under the Planning laws to restrict second homes but to no avail to date. The attraction of owning a home on Scilly by affluent, early retired buyers from the Mainland is driving house prices well beyond the reach of local people.

2.1.15 The Council operates a policy that any new residential property must only be for those who fulfil a strict local needs criteria. However, with an acutely finite land resource, a high degree of part time/seasonal/ below average wage employment and lack of secure well paid employment opportunities, many locals will never be in a position to own or even rent their own home. This has the potential to lead to a greater imbalance in the community as young people are forced to move from the islands, leaving older non wage earners predominating. This is likely to have serious consequences for educational, health and other facilities and could lead to a loss of cultural vibrancy that depends on a balance between ages and skills in the population.

2.1.16 Education

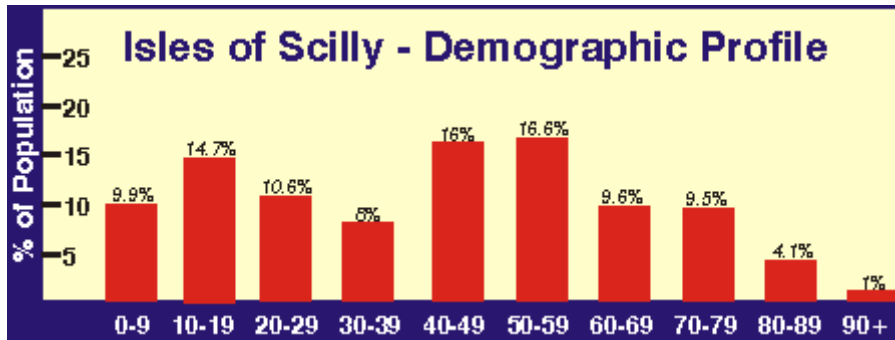
Island children are educated on Scilly up to the age of 16. The Five Islands School, which federated in 2002, is made up of four primary school bases; one on each island except for Bryher where the pupils travel daily to Tresco school. The secondary school base is on St. Mary's, with off-island children staying during the week at the Mundesley boarding house. Although the teacher/pupil ratio is high, the lack of affordable housing in recent years and the lack of promotional opportunities have made it difficult to recruit and retain experienced teaching staff. The total number of pupils attending the Five Islands School was 269 as of May 2002 compared with 283 in Jan 2000 showing that (based on previous figures) numbers have declined by 14% in the last 6 years.

Breakdown as follows: -

Secondary School	119	
Carn Gwaval site	113	}
Tresco site	23	}Primary
St. Martins site	7	}
St. Agnes	9	}

2.1.17 The majority of pupils continue their education beyond 16 and this is only available on the Mainland with funding through the Learning Skills Council. As Scilly is an independent LEA, children can have the pick of any Mainland college although links have developed with particular areas, notably Cornwall, Devon, Shropshire and Sussex, especially with those colleges that can offer boarding facilities and are sensitive to the needs of the island youngsters. Inevitably, the islands suffer a gap in the 16 to 18 age group during term time and with many youngsters going on to further education this can extend to 23. With few professional opportunities on the islands,

the majority of young people who further their education find employment on the Mainland to gain experience and many of them do not return to live on Scilly. However, a significant number of graduates do return to Scilly and take up comparatively low skilled/paid jobs, often in family run businesses in the flower or tourist industries so they can stay on the islands they love.



69% of the population aged over 16 are economically active (79% of men and 60% women).
 Source: Census 2001

2.1.18 A community-based Adult Learning programme, the Learning Isles, with Phases 1 & 2 funded through the Objective One European Social Fund, has been extremely well supported by local residents with over 400 learners taking courses on diverse practical and academic subjects since it began in 2000/2001. This represents 25% of the adult population of the islands, one of the highest figures nationally. This high take up probably reflects the limited winter activities available on Scilly and the impact on the community has been significant. Each Off-Island has a Learning Centre with an IT link so that the more isolated communities can take advantage of this initiative.

2.1.19 Funding through the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) for Early Years education and childcare provision has also increased opportunities for children and parents alike. An implementation plan is also being prepared which aims to create the foundation for delivering objectives under the Transforming Youth initiative supported by the Government Office of the South West (GoSW). By establishing partners, policies and objectives to deliver the Youth Service with trained staff, the young people of Scilly will be better prepared to face the challenges of the Mainland and for citizenship on the islands.

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths <i>Independent attitude</i> <i>Individual character of each island</i> <i>Community interest in adult</i></p>	<p>Weaknesses <i>Lack of affordable housing for locals</i> <i>Large number of second homes</i> <i>Seasonal/low paid employment</i> <i>No post16 education</i></p>
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<p><i>learning</i> <i>Low crime rate</i></p>	
<p>Opportunities Boost higher skilled employment opportunities Local needs housing provision Adult Learning programme to promote heritage Early years education Transforming Youth Implementation Plan</p>	<p>Threats Loss of distinctive culture/introduction of mainland values Loss of shops/particularly in the off-season. Loss of young people/ Predomination of incoming retired leading to loss of services & cultural mix</p>

Objectives:-

- **Maintain a balanced, sustainable community that recognises the unique island situation and the distinctive character of each separate island.**

Action:-

- **Encourage appropriate economic and cultural development that recognises and respects the individual character of the islands.**
- **Work with the island community to identify opportunities for local needs housing development within the context of the Isles of Scilly Local Plan.**
- **Support the Learning Centres on each island and encourage the local community to discover their heritage through educational/discovery events.**

2.2.0 Tourism and Transport

2.2.1 Early Travel and Tourism

Tourism is the main driving force influencing the present day culture of the islands. Its role as the mainstay of the economy, (in excess of 85% of Scilly’s GDP) and the reliance of the community on visitors to support the transport system indicates that any significant drop in visitor numbers would be disastrous for the lifestyle of the local population. From the few intrepid travellers whose curiosity tempted them to brave the uncomfortable sea voyage to the Isles of Scilly in the early 19th century on the weekly packet from Penzance, the numbers of visitors each ‘season’ has now increased to an average of 120,000. The lack of a reliable form of transport to the islands discouraged visitors in the early days of tourism, however, today it is the number of visitors that now ensures regular sea and air communications for the local community, both with the Mainland and inter-island. However, the cost of passenger and freight transport to Scilly is high compared to other UK islands and inter-island transport is erratic outside the tourist season for local inhabitants.

Tourism on Scilly

Tourism accounts for about 85% of the local economy = £60million annually

Visitor Trends

Year	Numbers
1999	117,658
2000	114,946
2001	115,184
2002	122,721
2003	123,959

Source: CIOS

2.2.2 Transport Costs

Unlike the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, the Isles of Scilly do not receive central government funding to support transport links. There is a widespread perception that people living on the Isles of Scilly are, by virtue of residing there, wealthy individuals. However, many residents have low incomes in comparison to the Mainland due to low paid seasonal employment and high travel costs are a real disadvantage for local people. Although the Steamship Company and from 2004, British International, have introduced a discounted 'travel club' scheme for residents, fares still compare unfavourably with many other air and sea journeys in the British Isles over comparable distances.

Government Subsidised Fares in the Scottish Islands

Kirkwall to North Ronaldsay (35 miles)– by air - £24 single, by sea - £5.40.

Wick to Kirkwall (30 miles) - by air - £39 single

Scrabster to Stomness (25 miles) - by sea-£16.50

Source: -Moving On- IoS Transport Strategy

Cornwall to Scilly Fare Structure for 2004

Penwith to St. Mary's	BIH (33 miles)	Skybus (28 miles)	Scillonian (42 miles)
Normal return	£122	£108	£78
Travel Club return	£ 92	£ 76 *	£30*

* 2003 prices

Source: BIH/IoS Steamship Co

2.2.3 In 2002, the Council of the Isles of Scilly, with funding from the Countryside Agency, appointed consultants to develop an Isles of Scilly Transport Strategy to inform and influence decision makers regarding transport issues and to make recommendations for improving accessibility and transport infrastructure. This strategy has been approved and a Route Partnership, comprising the Council of the Isles of Scilly/Isles of Scilly Steamship Co/British International Helicopters/Duchy of Cornwall/Cornwall County Council and Penwith District Council has been formed to seek a solution to improving the lifeline sealink. Funding for Stage 1 Technical Investigations and Appraisals is being secured for St. Mary's Harbour and has already been secured for

Penzance to explore “Route Options”. Such major infrastructure projects are subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, taking into account natural and historic environment. There will need to be some compromise between environmental benefits of a capital scheme and the need to maintain lifeline transport links to support the economy and community.

Mainland Travel

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Scillonian	45200	43236	42485	41192	47664
British Int.	51430	53660	53186	59109	53948
Skybus	21028	18050	19513	22420	22347
Totals	117658	114946	115184	122721	123959

Source CIOS

2.2.4 Visitor Appeal

Scilly boasts a virtually crime free environment and together with the relative lack of traffic, especially on the off-islands, gives the islands a particularly laid back, nostalgic appeal. The general air of bonhomie and freedom from the stressful pressures of the Mainland is particularly welcoming to visitors and is an intangible quality that needs to be safeguarded. Many visitors return year after year but there is a danger if the older age profile of the visitor increases that future tourist numbers will drop so it is important that younger people are encouraged to discover Scilly’s charms. A Tourist Champion, funded through Objective One, has been recruited by the Council to develop more tourism that brings the utmost benefits to the islands without compromising the special environment or the viability of the community. Initiatives to encourage Green Tourism are being explored through the JAC of the AONB.

2.2.5 Tourist Accommodation

Visitors have a wide ranging choice of holiday accommodation on Scilly, from the luxury hotels of Tresco, Bryher, St. Martin’s and St. Mary’s to camping facilities on all the islands except Tresco. There is increasing pressure from some hoteliers to develop a modern luxury hotel on St. Mary’s as the older hotels in Hugh Town are on constrained sites that make expansion or upgrading problematical. Finding a suitable site for such a venture will require an environmental impact assessment to ensure that the least damage is done to the fragile environment.

2.2.6 Many visitors prefer the flexibility of self-catering accommodation and many properties on Scilly are let out as visitor accommodation. Some of these properties are owned and managed from the Mainland and with many of the occupants bringing their

supplies with them, this element makes only a limited contribution to the islands' economy. The Council run Tourist Board encourages proprietors in the holiday trade to upgrade their facilities and the demands of the West Country Tourist Board to maintain accepted national standards puts further demands on accommodation on Scilly, sometimes resulting in 'improvements' that are unsympathetic to the character of historic buildings or their surroundings.

2.2.7 Many farm holdings are supported by visitor lets, either in converted traditional farm buildings or in timber chalets built mainly in the 1970's. Several of these chalets now need replacing and a new Scillonian 'vernacular style' of lightweight structure is being put forward as an alternative. This presents an opportunity to review the design and siting of these structures and ensure that the replacement buildings contribute to, rather than detract from, the character of the landscape.

2.2.8 Seasonal Changes

The needs of the visitor dominate the life of the islands, for example, building work is at its height in the winter so that it does not disrupt the visitor season. Many of the shops specialise in tourist gifts and clothing and often close during the winter months, whilst those that remain open operate on reduced hours. While this is also true of some holiday destinations on the Mainland, this has a particular impact on the islands where the population does not have the option of travelling to a nearby town to do their daily shopping. At the end of October when the bulk of visitor activity is over and the islands revert back to the local population, the relief of the residents is almost palpable. The school year includes an extended Autumn half term break in recognition of the fact that this is the time when many islanders take their annual holiday.

2.2.9 The first sailing of the Scillonian passenger ferry in the Spring heralds the onset of the visitor season which lasts from mid March to the end of October. Bird watchers, dominating in the first and last month are attracted by the chance to see rare migrant birds. St. Mary's Quay becomes a hive of activity with visitors arriving and departing while others jostle to find the best seats on the inter-island tripper boats plying their trade. The sleepy islands of the winter months are transformed by the crowds of tourists that on any one day can double the local population. Whilst there is a finite number of bed spaces available for visitors to stay, the number of day trippers is particularly governed by the capacity of the Scillonian, the number of visiting cruise ships and private yachts and available seats on the plane or helicopter.

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths <i>High proportion of return visitors</i> <i>Bird watching extends visitor season</i> <i>Many day visitors</i> <i>Visitors attracted by natural beauty of Scilly –help maintain the special environment and viability of transport links</i> <i>Variety of tourist accommodation</i></p>	<p>Weaknesses <i>Reliance on visitors to support transport links/shops/entertainment</i> <i>Inadequacy of transport infrastructure on Scilly & Penzance</i> <i>High cost of transport</i> <i>Lack of choice in retail market/too many gift shops.</i> <i>Erratic transport in winter</i> <i>Lack of appreciation of contribution of</i></p>
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	<i>environmental quality to economy</i>
Opportunities Niche market tourism/wildlife/history Tourist Champion Transport Strategy/Route Partnership Green Tourism Improve design/siting of tourist accommodation	Threats Negative environmental impacts of upgrading transport infrastructure Reduction in visitors/aging profile of visitors Unregulated tourism/ unsympathetic tourist related development Loss of shops/particularly in the off-season. Lack of resources to upgrade facilities

Objectives:-

- **Encourage tourism that brings the utmost benefits to the islands without compromising the special environment or the viability of the community.**
- **Maintain affordable transport links with the Mainland to support the viability of the community.**

Action:-

- **Work with the Tourism Champion to promote the quality of the environment as a visitor attraction.**
- **Encourage upgraded tourist accommodation that respects the character and appearance of the fragile Scillonian environment.**
- **Support the efforts of the Route Partnership in seeking funding for Stage 1 Technical Investigations & Appraisals for improved and affordable transport links between Scilly and the Mainland.**

2.3.0 Sport and Leisure

2.3.1 Festivals and Traditions

Many of the old customs have died out, such as the harvest festivals termed 'Nicla Thies'; Gravel Night, on Shrove Tuesday, when small boys threw stones at windows to elicit pancakes; the Good Friday ritual of floating paper boats on the water; Tar Barrel Night at Midsummer and Ringing Tide on November 5th and Guise-dancers, men dressed as women and vice-versa, who could be seen in the lead up to Christmas (now metamorphosed into the New Year fancy dress revellers). School children still perform a May Day ceremony on the islands and many visitors enjoy sharing this age-old ritual which of all the activities still retains its relevance to the local community. There is usually a carnival on the August Bank Holiday but interest in this appears to

be diminishing. Following the success of the Mazey Day revival in Penzance it would be worth exploring the possibility of resurrecting some of these old traditions. The Good Friday ritual could be linked with either a maritime festival or regatta or perhaps incorporated in the Round the Island sailing race held in August.

- 2.3.2 Today, at Christmas, volunteers make a huge effort to ensure that Hugh Town is decked out with Christmas lights and carol singing around the Christmas tree, supplied by the Duchy, in the little park in the centre of Hugh Town is a well attended event. Each island has its own Christmas traditions. On St. Martin's in particular locals begin carol singing at Higher Town on Christmas Eve, gathering more people on their way through the island until everyone ends up at a party at the Seven Stones Inn in Lower Town.
- 2.3.3 Although many of these traditions undoubtedly have their origins in Pagan beliefs, there is no obvious following of alternative religions such as Wicca which is popular in Cornwall. Methodism is strong on the islands with vibrant congregations on St. Mary's and St. Martin's. The Church of England churches on each island are part of one parish with the incumbent resident on St. Mary's and ministering to them all. There is also a Roman Catholic Chapel on St. Mary's and a small active community of Jehovah's Witnesses.

2.3.4 Radio Scilly

In October 1999 a freelance broadcaster based in Pembrokeshire, aware of successful small-scale community radio stations elsewhere in the UK, launched the first broadcast of Radio Scilly. This initial broadcast, lasting 17 days, proved so popular that further services were conducted in the summer of 2001 and over the Christmas period of that year and there are plans for its return in Summer 2004. Supported solely by advertising from local and Cornish businesses Radio Scilly has provided a vehicle for up to 40 island residents to produce and present their own radio programmes covering a wide spectrum of music and other subjects of interest.

- 2.3.5 Funding is now being sought to enable Radio Scilly to have a permanent studio so that it can operate as a FM local radio service for 3 months each summer and if advertising revenue is sufficient for an additional month in the winter. At other times the station would broadcast as an automated internet-only service with local volunteer presenters. The studio facilities would also be available to local people, clubs and schools as a recording facility. One of the main barriers to continued broadcasting is the prohibitive cost of the Royalty Licence which is a standard fee that does not reflect the small number of potential listeners on Scilly. Petitioning through the Ofcom regulatory body to initiate pro-rata licences based on catchment area population could enable Radio Scilly to broadcast on a permanent basis.

2.3.6 Bird Watching

Bird watching is popular amongst many residents and the number of rare passerines visiting the islands in spring and autumn encourages large numbers of 'birders' or

`twitchers' from the Mainland and further afield. Large groups of people armed with CB's and expensive telescopic equipment congregate wherever a rare bird is spotted. The RSPB is active on the islands and have a regular presence on the Scillonian encouraging those travelling to watch and identify birds. There is also an Isles of Scilly Bird Group that runs the daily bird log held at the Scillonian Club in October. The extra income which the bird watching fraternity generates at the beginning and end of the season makes an important contribution to the islands' economy, encouraging hotels and guest houses to stay open longer, the inter-island boats to run and ensuring the shops , pubs and restaurants continue to trade.

Sport on Scilly

2.3.7 Gig Racing

There are opportunities to participate in diverse sporting activities on the islands, some of which bring in a considerable amount of revenue. Water based sports are popular with sailing, canoeing, windsurfing and diving available for both residents and visitors. Scilly is also the home of the annual World Pilot Gig Racing Championships that attracts gigs from all over Cornwall and more recently from as far afield as the Faroe Islands, Holland and America with around ninety gigs competing in 2003. This has become a major May event with accommodation booked to capacity at a relatively quiet period of the year, especially on St. Mary's. The revenue generated by visiting gig crews, their families and supporters for the pubs, restaurants and other businesses on the islands is a welcome boost to the economy.

2.3.8 Gig racing as a sport has evolved from when island pilots competed to win the job of guiding sailing ships through the treacherous waters around the islands and four 19th century Scillonian gigs are still raced today. The legends of their seafaring exploits and the innumerable wrecks around the islands are part of the great maritime tradition of Scilly that is still very much alive today. The wrecks, the clear waters surrounding the islands and the marine habitat, are a great attraction for divers with both island - based and visiting diving schools contributing to Scilly's tourism economy. (see section on Maritime Heritage)



Pilot Gig Bonnet-built 1830 -S Watt.

2.3.9 Terrestrial Sports

Terrestrial sports enjoyed by locals and visitors include football, rugby, cricket, tennis, squash, badminton and golf. The latter attracts an annual celebrity golf tournament at the spectacular cliff-top 9 hole course, while visiting football and cricket teams also boost the revenue of the islands. The novelty of the convivial atmosphere of the unique small-scale island environment encourages regular return visits and many participants extend their stay and bring their families with them. The islands boast the smallest football league in the country with two teams, the Woolpack Wanderers and Garrison Gunners, playing through the winter season. Inter-island cricket is very popular with a strong tradition of friendly rivalry dating back before World War I. Each year since 1932 a group from the Mainland calling themselves the 'Mal de Mers' visit the islands to play local teams at a variety of sports, a tradition broken only during World War II.

2.3.10 St. Mary's has two playing fields, one at the Garrison with adjacent public tennis courts shared with the school and another at the Carn Gwaval primary school site in Old Town. The latter is an informal space and has been earmarked for the location of a sports centre with associated all weather pitch. A feasibility study has been prepared and planning permission granted for a sports venue but a bid for funding from Sport England was unsuccessful as all their grant has been allocated. A skate boarding area has recently been established in the field and a children's playground to replace that previously sited at Porthcressa is also proposed there. Apart from Bryher, each Off-Island has a cricket pitch while St. Martin's also has a tennis court and bowling green nearby, the result of a generous legacy and is now seeking funding for a new community hall. Tresco has plans for a new cricket and football pitch close to the new community hall and already has a well-equipped children's playground.

2.3.11 Several hotels have either an indoor or outdoor swimming pool for the use of hotel residents. St. Mary's has a small outdoor pool at Normandy for community use by swimming clubs and general use by the public at weekends during the Summer. An indoor gym, established at Carn Thomas on St. Mary's in 2000 with funding through the DfES (Department for Education and Skills) has proved extremely popular, especially with locals. The recent approval of a part time, three year Community Sports Development Officer to co-ordinate the improvement facilities, funded through the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Sports Action Zone's Magnet Fund is another initiative to boost sports participation on Scilly. Scilly is also included in the Cornwall Primary Care Trust's Health Action Zone, with the aim of promoting health and well-being for all sectors of the community and five projects to enhance quality of life are currently being funded.

2.3.12 Walking and Cycling

With only 9 miles of metalled road on St. Mary's, visitors are actively discouraged from bringing their cars. Walking and cycling are the most popular activities on Scilly for visitors and many residents. There are no formal rights of way on the islands; all the footpaths are 'permissive' paths ultimately under the jurisdiction of the Duchy of Cornwall although the majority are managed by the IoSWT or individual tenant farmers. There is a comprehensive network of coastal paths and tracks and paths to most sites of interest, although some of the lesser known tend to become overgrown. Many are on land leased to the IoSWT and a great deal of their labour is expended in keeping the paths clear or re-routing them to avoid coastal erosion. The Trust has

received some funding through the European 5b programme for footpath maintenance but this remains an ongoing issue.

2.3.13 Many visitors enjoy exploring the islands by bicycle and there are hire facilities on St. Mary's, Tresco and St. Martin's. Unfortunately, some visitors and residents cycle on the footpaths causing conflict with walkers and problems of erosion. Horse riding is also popular and this has led to some problems with horses riding too close to archaeological sites. However, the IoSWT now have a voluntary horse riding officer and permit scheme to monitor activities and minimise damage. Unfortunately, the local riding school on St. Mary's has recently closed which has led to a gap in provision for residents and visitors but a new initiative is in preparation.

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths <i>Distinctive culture/home grown entertainment</i> <i>Successful gig racing championships/water based sports</i> <i>Bird watching extends visitor season</i> <i>Local sporting clubs/football/golf/sailing etc</i></p>	<p>Weaknesses <i>Lack of wet weather facilities & performance space/dry sports facilities</i> <i>Reliance on visitors to support transport links/shops/entertainment</i> <i>Lack of opportunity to exchange cultural/sport experience with the mainland.</i></p>
<p>Opportunities Multi purpose sport/entertainment facility .Festival development for music/maritime/flowers Radio Scilly/Community radio Sport Action Zone/Health Action Zone Community Sports Development Officer Horse riding permit scheme</p>	<p>Threats Mainland competition to hold events such as the World Gig Championships due to cost of getting to and staying on Scilly Lack of resources to upgrade facilities Deterioration in well being of community through lack of resources for sport and leisure</p>

Objectives:-

- **Maintain a healthy, balanced community on the islands by encouraging appropriate facilities for participation in sport and recreation.**

Actions:-

- **Explore the viability of a flexible sports multifunctional sport/cultural centre**
- **Encourage links and partnerships within the Islands and the Mainland to promote opportunities for participation in recreational activities.**

2.4.0 Arts and Crafts

2.4.1 Scilly in the Media

The solitude and beauty of the islands has inspired many authors to stay and write, especially about Scilly and its history. Film makers are also attracted, especially by the wildlife, and Scilly has been the location for two feature films in the past. However, the logistical problems of catering for a large film crew on the islands has so far deterred the industry from using them as the setting for a large scale production. Television programmes and news items about Scilly have increased markedly over the last few years, many featuring the more whimsical side of life in a small island community. The media is an important vehicle for raising the profile of the heritage and culture of the islands and a recent Time Team programme featured the wreck of the Colossus. However, it is crucial that the media's interest is directed in a way that benefits the islands.

2.4.2. Creative Skills

The beautiful land and seascapes and the incredible quality of the light attracts many artists to the islands, together with potters, jewellers and other craftspeople. Studios, galleries and craft shops can be found throughout Scilly and are making a significant contribution to the island economy. There is an opportunity to work in partnership with Creative Kernow, an Objective One funded project in Cornwall to develop our own distinctive Isles of Scilly marketing initiative. West Cornwall boasts a concentration of craftspeople second only to the London area and Creative Kernow promises a range

of benefits including establishing a centre of excellence, running master classes, setting up bulk material/equipment purchase and encouraging exchange. They have now employed a crafts development officer which will be beneficial to Scilly.

2.4.3 The Objective One funded Creative Skills Consortium is up and running and island artists and craftspeople are already benefiting from assistance towards individual skills building and providing business training. A complementary Arts and Crafts Initiative would enable the formation of a Scilly 'mark', on-line sales, joint marketing and the development of the association. It would also provide stronger linkage with niche tourism being developed through the Tourism Champion targeting discerning customers, particular visitors. A group of the island's artists and crafts people are investigating networking, marketing, training and business support opportunities. A new Studios and Workshops brochure has been produced. In the longer term a marketing plan and promotional publications are being developed for 2004.

2.4.4 The formation of a Scilly 'mark' would enable island crafts people to retain their own identity distinct from Cornwall while participating in skills building and marketing initiatives to reach a wider customer base. Encouragement is needed to establish other complimentary crafts with cultural significance to the islands, especially traditional skills that are part of island life such as boat building and the construction of lobster pots. These skills are of interest to visitors and would benefit from support. There is also a possibility of linking the activity to an audio -visual archive at the Museum.

2.4.5 Theatre and Cinema

When the season is in full swing, many activities are geared towards providing entertainment for visitors. Slide shows on local wildlife, history and island life have become an integral part of any holiday on Scilly, fulfilling an important part in interpreting and educating people about the islands. The amateur Theatre Club put on a summer play while fringe events are also staged on the Off-Islands. Musical events are provided by the Scillonian Entertainers, the Choral Society and other smaller bands and ensembles. In January, the amateur pantomime, often penned by a local writer, is the main entertainment event of the winter. More visitors are coming to the islands for the New Year celebrations, which are gaining a national reputation.



New Year revellers-scillyonline

2.4.6 Occasionally, theatre and operatic groups come from the Mainland giving both visitors and residents a chance to enjoy professional theatre. Recently, theatre workshops with the Theatre Club and schools run in conjunction with the Hall for Cornwall have

also proved popular. There is potential to increase these opportunities and particularly to enable the schools to participate in a much wider cultural experience.

2.4.7 Entertainment events take place in various venues, mainly on St. Mary's. The Town Hall, built in 1897 as a market hall, has the largest stage and auditorium but has limited capacity, no fixed seating, few back stage facilities and is in urgent need of refurbishment. The Parish Church, Methodist Church, the school hall and various other venues are used but all have limitations, particularly regarding access for the disabled. Many of the existing venues are historic buildings and it is possible that there will be difficulty in meeting standards for disabled access without compromising the character of the buildings. The lack of a flexible performance space restricts the scope of both local and visiting groups to enliven the cultural experience of the community and visitors. A recent audit of community halls has been a first step towards determining the viability of a flexible multi-functional cultural centre.

2.4.8 Many visitors do not expect to find cinemas and leisure centres on the islands and are content with the home-spun entertainment on offer. However, there is an increasing demand for more mainstream facilities both from visitors and residents alike. A small scale venture 'Scillodian Cinema', showing mainly classic films on a small screen in the Methodist Church Hall, was a valiant attempt to bring some alternative entertainment to the islands but this has now ceased. At present all weather activities are few and there is justification for a multi-purpose facility that could provide for sport and other recreational pursuits providing this meets the needs of the islands and is appropriate in scale. There is scope for a complementary investigation to explore the practicality of an adaptable performance area for use by local groups and visiting professionals, incorporating a cinema alongside facilities for sports activities.

2.4.9 Music.

The pubs form the hub of entertainment for a large proportion of the local population and visitors. There is an active live music scene, especially in the summer and there is a great deal of musical talent on the islands. A local festival held in late August, Camel Rock, has been a showcase for local groups to perform, along with an opportunity to bring in other talents from the Mainland. It was not staged in 2002/3 because of lack of financial backing which will be required to make it viable in the future. The Five Islands School is also nurturing the musical talent of the young people on the islands with the help of musicians within the community but there is a need to expand links with the mainland and further afield to widen experience and exposure to other cultures.

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths <i>Distinctive culture/home grown entertainment</i> <i>Talented resident & visiting artists/craftspeople/musicians</i></p>	<p>Weaknesses <i>Lack of all weather facilities/performance space/dry sports facilities</i> <i>Reliance on visitors to support transport links/shops/entertainment</i> <i>Lack of opportunity to exchange</i></p>
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	<i>cultural/sport experience with the mainland.</i>
Opportunities Multi purpose sport/entertainment facility Arts and Crafts marketing initiatives Festival development for music/maritime/flowers Tourist Champion/niche marketing Develop cultural links with Mainland	Threats Reduction in visitors Lack of funding to support events/develop venues Failure of venues to comply with disabled access requirements.

Objectives:-

- **Maintain a balanced, sustainable community on the islands by encouraging appropriate economic and cultural development that respects and recognises the unique environment.**

Action:-

- **Work with the Creative Skills Consortium to promote further training for artists and craftspeople.**
- **As partners with Cornwall Arts Marketing, work to develop a marketing plan for arts and crafts, including the development of a Scillonian trademark.**
- **Liaise with Creative Kernow and other appropriate bodies to encourage an interchange of experience and expertise in the performing arts.**
- **Investigate the viability of a flexible multi-functional cultural centre and /or enhance existing facilities.**

2.5.0 Agriculture & Horticulture

2.5.1 The Flower Industry

Although agriculture and horticulture is now a subsidiary element in the Scillonian culture and economy it still has an important part to play and its influence has shaped the present landscape of the islands. The transition from subsistence mixed farming to a dominant horticulture industry during the 19th century with attendant shelter belt planting and the creation of narrow bulb strip fields has formed a distinctive pattern of farmed landscape unique to the islands. Scilly flower growers were among the pioneers in the history of commercial narcissus production and the 130 year old industry has shaped not only the landscape but the culture and image of the Isles. The heyday of the flower industry occurred in the late 19th and first half of the 20th century while an enforced curb on flower growing during World War II started a decline from which the farmers have never completely



recovered. In more recent decades cheaper imports from other areas that can compete with economies of scale, more reliable weather conditions and economical transport has made it difficult for Scilly to maintain its lead in this field.

Traditional narcissi varieties, St. Mary's- A Bayton

2.5.2 Diversification

The accelerating decline in the flower industry is a major threat to the environment and culture of Scilly and without support many flower growers will struggle to stay economically viable. While pinks and other varieties are grown in some quantity, narcissus remain the major flower crop, worth some £1.5 million per annum, being ideally suited to the climate and benefiting from considerable local experience and expertise in production and marketing gained over many years. A pressing problem is the lack of land available to enable sufficient crop rotation to maintain soil fertility and minimise the risk of disease. This is exacerbated by current farm tenure arrangements which prevent active growers utilising currently underused fields. Without more land being available the opportunities to diversify into other crops is limited as a reduction in narcissus production would prejudice the existing marketing effort. Although moves towards other forms of diversification present opportunities to increase the contribution to the economy through market gardening and the production of value added goods such as honey, herbs, salad crops, unusual flower varieties and other specialised goods, this would be best achieved in co-ordination with sustained support of the core element of the narcissus crop. (Trenoweth Horticultural Centre Ltd)

2.5.3 The farmers have formed a co-operative called the 'Group of 43' to explore opportunities for the future and they have successfully secured Objective One funding for the 'Specific Project for Agriculture on Scilly'. This includes a campaign to improve flower marketing and further develop existing successful marketing initiatives such as Scent from Scilly and Scented Narcissus. Apparently a flower festival or exhibition of all the different varieties of flowers grown used to be held early in the year in the Town Hall until about a decade ago. This was the first flower show in the Royal Horticultural Society's calendar and attracted many growers interested in the new varieties being developed. Given the popularity of the flower festival held each year in Old Town Church it would be worth considering whether to stage a similar event again. Although the narcissus are a winter flower crop and are finished before the main visitor season a flower show could be the focus for a niche market at a relatively quiet period of the year.

2.5.4 Traditionally, many farmers have divided the year into 'we do flowers in the winter and we do visitors in the summer' with the majority of farm holdings having units of visitor accommodation. In the 1970's many farmers erected timber chalets and more recently converted farm buildings for letting to supplement farm incomes. The timber chalets are now coming to the end of their lifespan and there will be a demand for more substantial replacements to meet the higher expectations of the discerning visitor. The

form that these replacements will take is an issue which needs to be addressed within the design guidance required to inform the policies of the new Local Plan. It is also important to ensure that any new visitor accommodation permitted on farm holdings is firmly linked to supporting land management. In the past some farmers have capitalised on establishing holiday lets, gaining a lucrative income from visitors at the expense of active cultivation.

2.5.5 Grazing Animals

In former years many farmers grazed livestock on the heathland areas of the islands but grazing animals have declined markedly with the only substantial herds of beef cattle being reared on Tresco and at Borough Farm, St. Mary's. The closure of the island abattoir, which did not comply with EU regulations and the dairy in the 1990's, further discouraged the keeping of animals. A feasibility study into re-establishing a new abattoir and dairy facility on the islands through the Group of 43's 'Specific Project for Agriculture on Scilly' has dismissed the re-establishment of the dairy as unviable due to limited support from the farming community and efforts are now concentrated on a new abattoir. The IoSWT is also exploring various options to re-establish grazing regimes through the 'Waves of Heath', heathland regeneration project in partnership with the farming community.

2.5.6 Value Added Goods

There is a perceived market for high quality meat products on Scilly and the establishment of an abattoir on the islands would assist in this promotion which could bear an exclusive Scillonian trademark. The success of a local brewery, 'Ales of Scilly' established on St. Mary's in 2001 and the development of St. Martin's winery and specialist fare using local produce, marketed at the award winning St. Martin's Bakery, indicate the enormous potential for locally branded goods. An AONB driven initiative, financed by New Opportunities Fund 'Seed' grant, is enabling the production of a directory of local producers and outlets which should be ready for the next visitor season.

2.5.7 Agri-Environment Schemes

Several farmers on the islands and the IoSWT have entered into the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, 'Scillies Special Project', following the preparation of the 'Isles of Scilly Historic Landscape Assessment' in 1996. (Land Use Consultants) This has encouraged land management which benefits landscape character, wildlife habitats and historic features but relatively low rates of subsidies has limited the impact of the scheme. However, it is hoped that more substantial benefits will accrue following the fundamental reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) adopted by European Union ministers in June 2003. Unfortunately, as Scilly's main crop of flowers is not eligible for subsidy it is not yet clear how the islands will gain from the new single farm payment schemes but if there is a way that they could be tailored to the specific situation on the islands there are potentially significant environmental benefits to be gained. (Draft AONB Management Plan 2003)

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths <i>New bakery/brewery/winery</i> <i>Well established flower/bulb industry</i> <i>Established horticultural research facility</i> <i>Postal flower service (Scent from Scilly)</i></p>	<p>Weaknesses <i>Closure of abattoir/dairy</i> <i>Decline in agriculture/horticulture</i> <i>Limited land area</i> <i>High freight charges/low value product</i></p>
<p>Opportunities CAP reforms Niche market tourism Value added goods Farm diversification/AONB project Isles of Scilly food and drink directory Boost employment opportunities Festival development for music/maritime/flowers SPAS (Specific Project for Agriculture on Scilly)/Red meat & dairy/new abattoir Waves of Heath/liaison between IoSWT & farmers.</p>	<p>Threats Competition from Mainland growers Failure to prove economic case and secure funding for new abattoir/dairy Deterioration of land due to closure of farms Lack of opportunities to diversify</p>

Objectives:-

- **Maintain a viable agricultural and horticultural industry that will contribute to the economy and appropriate management of the environment.**

Actions:-

- **Support initiatives for farm diversification and the feasibility study for the re-establishment of the abattoir.**
- **Support local businesses in ventures to produce value added goods.**
- **Investigate re-establishing a flower festival and other initiatives to support the horticultural industry.**

3.00 Summary

3.1. This examination of the different aspects that contribute to the heritage and culture of the Isles of Scilly show clearly that the islands have distinctive assets which set them apart from the Mainland. The Scillonian environment and culture need to be viewed in an holistic way and be seen as the central theme to inform future decision-making. It is also apparent that several themes are emerging that are common to all sectors of

the cultural heritage of the islands, demonstrating the need for an overarching approach which ensures the integration of any action (see executive summary)

- 3.2 Any action plans that evolve from the opportunities identified in the strategy must be formulated with local input and community involvement, tailored towards the specific needs of the islands. To avoid duplication of effort, the community consultation process during the preparation of the AONB management plan has been utilised to gather relevant feedback. All subsequent actions will need to be finely balanced to ensure that the environment is enhanced and sustained by the benefits that additional funding resources could bring without compromising the unique personality of Scilly.
- 3.3 Action plans will be developed in co-ordination with the partners and recommendations of the AONB Management Plan and Isles of Scilly Integrated Area Plan, due to be revised for 2004 –2006. An evaluation and monitoring procedure will be built into each yearly action programme to ensure effective delivery.

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Membership Of The Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) of the Isles of Scilly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty(AONB).

AONBs are administered by the local authorities within the designated area. The Isles of Scilly AONB is therefore administered by the Council for the Isles of Scilly. The work of the AONB unit is guided by a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) -

The Isles of Scilly AONB Joint Advisory Committee

The Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is a partnership of local and national organisations which guides the work of the AONB officer in the preparation of the Isles of Scilly AONB Management Plan.

The membership of this Group includes: -

- **The Council of the Isles of Scilly**
A unitary authority with the powers of a District and County Council. The 21-member council is responsible for education, housing, waste management, fire services, the airport, water, highways, environmental health, planning, social services, tourism, coastal defences, sea fisheries, economic development and emergency planning.
- **The Countryside Agency**
A statutory body created in April 1999 by the merger of the Countryside Commission and Rural Development Agency, to provide an integrated approach to issues facing England's countryside and rural communities.
- **Department of Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)**
The Government Department of Food and Rural Affairs aims to ensure sustainable development and bring a better quality of life including a better environment, economic prosperity and thriving economies and communities in rural areas.
- **Duchy of Cornwall**
Created in 1337 by Edward III for his son Edward, the Black Prince, the Duchy is one of the largest and oldest landed estates in Britain. The Duke of Cornwall is, by charter, the eldest surviving son of the monarch, and heir to the throne. Acts of Parliament regulate the Duchy to ensure its efficient running. The majority of the Isles of Scilly are owned by the Duchy and leased to individuals under a range of tenancy agreements.
- **English Heritage**
The Government's lead body and official adviser for the historic environment in England, responsible for the protection of the country's best historic buildings, landscapes and archaeological sites.

- **English Nature**
The Statutory adviser to the Government on nature conservation in England, providing advice and assistance on nature conservation; designating Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's); managing National and Marine Nature Reserves; supporting and undertaking research; implementing international conventions and EC directives on nature conservation; implementing a share of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and other functions.
- **Isles of Scilly Tourism Association**
A voluntary association representing all aspects of tourism in the Isles.
- **Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust**
Formed in 1985, the Trust became a Wildlife Trust in July 2001 under the umbrella of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation. The Trust aims to conserve the terrestrial and marine habitats and wildlife and rich heritage; and further public education, co-ordinate research, information and interpretative services on this range of features. The Trust holds the lease from the Duchy of Cornwall for most of the unenclosed land on Scilly.
- **National Farmers' Union**
The nationwide organisation representing and protecting the interests of farmers and growers in all aspects of farming. Members of the Isles of Scilly branch of the NFU and other farmers and growers manage much of the land within the islands.
- **Tresco Estate**
Tresco Estate is the trading name of the Island of Tresco, leased by the Dorrien-Smith family and their ancestors since 1834.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (the "CROW" Act)

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, has very important implications for AONBs.

Part I of the act deals with access to the countryside.

Part II covers Public Rights of Way and Road Traffic

Part III deals with Nature Conservation and Wildlife Protection

Part IV deals with Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Part IV of the Act:

consolidates earlier legislation concerning designation of new AONBs

places a duty on all public bodies to have regard to the purposes of AONBs

sets out the process for creating and powers of Conservation Boards

creates statutory responsibility for the Boards and local authorities to produce management plans.

Appendix II

Legislative Framework/ Other Documents.

The Cultural and Heritage Strategy for Scilly will compliment and inform the ongoing preparation of other strategic plans relating to Scilly. These are:

Power of Place – English Heritage

Key message:- the historic environment is a vital resource – an asset that plays an indispensable role in the sustainable long-term renewal, prosperity and well-being of our nation.

The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future - DCMS

Key message:-

The Government looks to a future in which:

- public interest in the historic environment is matched by firm leadership, effective partnerships and the development of sound knowledge base from which to develop policies;
- the full potential of the historic environment as a learning resource is realised;
- the historic environment is accessible to everybody and is seen as something with which the whole of society can identify and engage;
- the historic environment is protected and sustained for the benefit of our own and future generations;
- the historic environment's importance as an economic asset is skilfully harnessed.

Regional Planning Guidance for the South West 2001 (RPG10)

Overall Aim:- To support communities that are economically prosperous, have decent homes at affordable prices, safeguard the countryside, enjoy a well designed, accessible and pleasant living and working environment and are effectively and fairly governed with a strong sense of community.

Isles of Scilly Landscape Assessment

Overall Aim:- To raise awareness of the importance of the AONB and to guide those responsible for developing and implementing relevant policies for the area.

AONB Management Plan

Shared Vision:- The Isles of Scilly AONB is recognised as a centre of environmental excellence with organisations and the local community working together to:-

- Conserve and sensitively manage the beauty, tranquillity and sense of peace within the island landscape.
- Conserve and promote the natural and historic and marine environment enabling it to be well understood, respected, safeguarded and accessible.

- Support an economy offering diverse opportunities and access to a wide range of services sustaining a local community that is intrinsic to the careful management of the islands environment.

CIOS Local Plan

Overall Aim:- Viable resident communities on the five inhabited islands, with sufficient housing, employment, transport and social facilities to meet their aspirations and needs whilst maintaining and enhancing the islands' outstanding environment.

On the Edge:- Isles of Scilly Investment Plan

The Objective One Integrated Area Plan

CIOS Economic Development Strategy

Overall Aim:- To improve the economic base of the Isles of Scilly through appropriate sustainable development, in order to maintain the islands' communities while protecting and enhancing the unique nature of the Scillonian environment.

CIOS Corporate Performance Plan 2002 comprising :-

- I.O.S Community Plan
- Best Value Performance Plan
- Corporate Plan

Overall aim:- To maintain and improve the quality of life of the islands' communities by the provision of services on a value for money basis.

The Isles of Scilly Community Strategy

Overall aim:- (to be confirmed)

Adult Learning Plan

Mission statement:-

- To deliver excellent learning opportunities to meet local need and interest as well as following national priorities
- To offer quality, value for money courses and to encourage learners to progress according to their individual need.
- To be responsive to the special nature of the islands and to offer innovative means of delivering learning in the unique local environment
- To ensure that all staff employed to deliver courses are appropriately qualified, motivated and have good training and personal development opportunities
- To offer individual support based on careful assessment to students with special needs
- To offer equal access and opportunity to all adult learners on the islands.
- To develop links between learning and increased employment opportunities.

Isles of Scilly Transport Strategy `Moving On`

Overall aim:- develop a strategy for sustainable transport for the Isles of Scilly.

Isles of Scilly Tourism Strategy

Overall aim:- To be innovative and creative in all that we undertake, to ensure that tourism remains at the forefront of Scillonian economy and prosperity. To achieve synergy and coherency in our marketing activity, so that tourism is developed in a positive, vibrant and above all, sustainable manner.

Council of the Isles of Scilly Sport Development Plan

Overall aim:- To provide opportunities for the Isles of Scilly to develop and encourage increased participation in sport and recreation, and enable the community to improve healthy lifestyles.

Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust Habitats Management Plan

Overall aim: To set out the best management for the land the Trust leases in order to achieve nature conservation objectives