



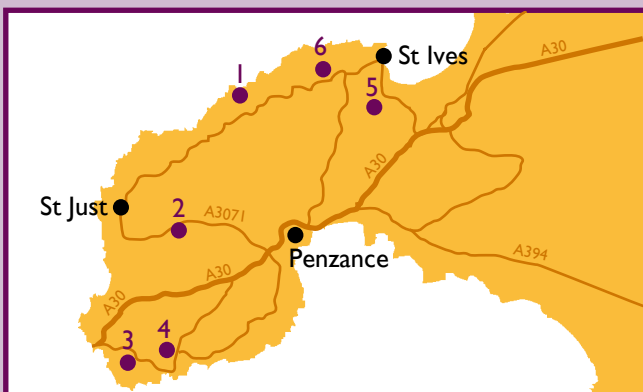
How to get to Baker's Pit

By Bus: Bus services run from Penzance, St Ives and Truro to Nanclédra. Once in Nanclédra follow the local rights of way to the Reserve, using an OS map.

By car: From the A30 at Crowlas, turn west on the B3309 and continue to the T-junction with B3311 at the top of the hill. Turn right and continue until the road drops into Nanclédra. At the bottom turn left to Georgia, before a narrow bridge leads into the village. A few hundred yards further on, turn left, then left again (sign-posted to Georgia). Pass Georgia Farm and follow the road, which becomes a track. There is a pull-in on the righthand side, with room for two or three cars.

Other heathland sites in west Cornwall

If you have enjoyed visiting Baker's Pit, why not explore some of the other local heathland sites? The following sites have been supported by the HEATH project and are accessible to visitors. Grid references are supplied for the car park nearest each site using the Ordnance Survey's Explorer 102 'Land's End' map.



1. Carn Galver. Owned by the National Trust. Grid ref: SW 4210 3640
2. Chapel Carn Brea. Owned by the National Trust. Grid ref: SW 4480 3945
3. Roskestal/Ardensawah. Private ownership. Grid ref: SW 3710 2175
4. Treen Cliff. Owned by the National Trust. Grid ref: SW 3950 2295
5. Trecrom Hill. Owned by the National Trust. Grid ref: SW 5175 3590
6. Rosewall Hill. Owned by the National Trust. Grid ref: SW 4880 3945

the **HEATH** project

The HEATH Project (Heathland, Environment, Agriculture, Tourism and Heritage) is funded by the European Interreg programme and the Heritage Lottery Fund and is administered in Cornwall by Natural England. In Cornwall the project covers 58 sites encompassing over 3,500 ha, on the Lizard, in West Penwith and St Agnes. It hopes to rejuvenate heathlands by reconnecting with sites, advocating good land management techniques, encouraging local community involvement and promoting heathlands as a valuable resource.

The Countryside Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Project partners:



Supported by:



For more information on this and other nature reserves please contact:

Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Five Acres, Allet, Truro TR4 9DJ.
Tel: (01872) 273939.
Website: www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk



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Heathland self guided trails

Baker's Pit



Welcome to Baker's Pit Nature Reserve

Baker's Pit is a fascinating place with a wealth of wildlife and archaeological features. This large reserve, most recently a china clay works, was gifted to Cornwall Wildlife Trust in 2000 by Imerys. The reserve consists of heathland, some areas of pasture managed by local farmers and open water, created by flooding of the disused clay pits.

This leaflet shows what you might see as you follow the Baker's Pit self guided trail waymarkers around the reserve.

The trail shown inside should take between one and two hours to complete.

The trail paths are clearly defined but the ground is uneven, often very muddy and slippery in places, so suitable footwear should be worn. The trail also passes through kissing gates and over stiles.

Please be aware that cattle are often present on the site during the summer and early autumn months.



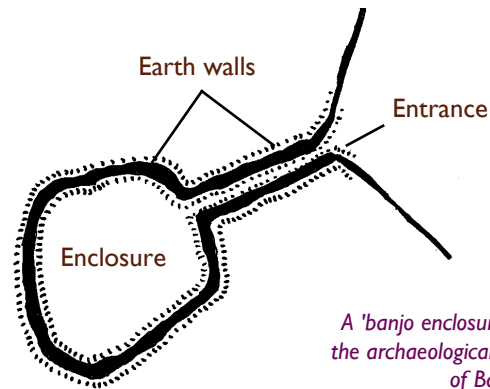
The flooded china clay pit.

Archaeology



As with many heathland sites in Penwith, Baker's Pit has an amazing array of archaeological remains.

Archaeologists have found the remains of 18 Bronze Age roundhouses, the homes of people who farmed here 4000 years ago. In the same area, and dating from the Iron Age (800BC - 43AD), is the only example in Cornwall of a 'banjo enclosure' (see diagram below), with access via a narrow 'funnel'. Overlying these prehistoric remains are narrow medieval strip fields and the obvious holloways (slightly sunken tracks bounded on either side by banks), also likely to date to medieval times.



A 'banjo enclosure' one of the archaeological features of Baker's Pit.

The wonderfully preserved china clay works at Baker's Pit dates to the mid-1800s and in a relatively small area allows you to follow the entire process from the initial quarrying (winning) of the raw material all the way through to the final product, dried china clay.

The clay was packed onto horse-drawn carts for transport to Penzance docks.



The 19th century engine house.

Land management

Most lowland heathlands have been created through a mixture of climatic, geological and in particular human activity dating back to prehistoric times. Since their creation, lowland heathlands have played an essential part in the economy of rural communities in Cornwall, providing extensive grazing and domestic fuel in the form of peat and furze, together with bracken for animal bedding and stone for building.

These uses declined in the 20th century with the result that many of these rough ground areas have become deserted and overgrown with bracken, dense heather, furze and other scrub to the detriment of wildlife and people.

Grazing and small scale controlled burning is vital to the health and rejuvenation of heathland. It restricts the level of scrub invasion and creates a mosaic of ecological niches for plants and animals, making heathlands rich in wildlife.



Heathland in flower



Cutting fire breaks



Scrub cutting



Burning



Cattle grazing