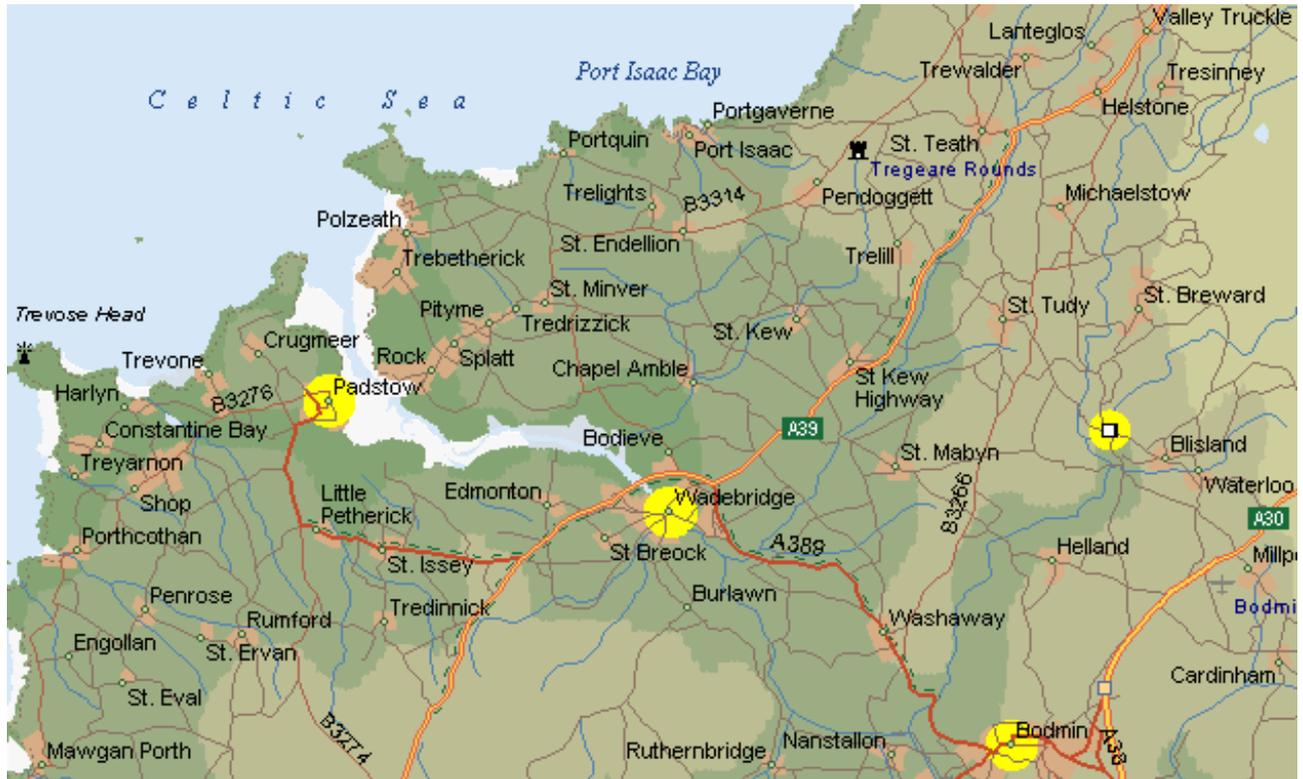


Geography Investigation into Tourism in the Camel Estuary.



THE CAMEL ESTUARY

Rock, Daymer Bay and Polzeath

Rock could hardly be less appropriately named as its popularity is largely due to the long stretches of fine sandy beaches washed by the tidal waters of the Camel estuary. Rightly acclaimed as one of the major watersports centres in Cornwall, sailing, windsurfing, water skiing, canoeing and rowing are all activities which can be carried on in the relatively calm waters of the estuary. Rock Sailing & Water Ski Club are situated on the Quay at Rock and there is a thriving sailing school and ski school both operating from further along the beach near the pontoon; boats can be hired for all water sports, as well as for fishing and bird watching. The Black Tor ferry runs from Rock to Padstow all year round during daylight hours and there is a Water Taxi available for late night "revellers". With the increase in water activities, the RNLI have now stationed a "D" Class lifeboat on the Ferry beach, providing cover in case of emergencies. The renowned St Enodoc Golf Club has two challenging courses to offer and there is scenic walking country over coastal and inland routes.

Activity

1. Trace out the map of the camel estary above
 - a) Mark on it the towns/villages of:
Padstow, Wadebridge, Bodmin & Polzeath.
 - b) Draw in the Camel Trail
2.
 - a) Produce a small table, with the following heading: Business Type, Traditional or Tourist.
 - b) Now identify 4 business from the text above to fill in your tabel.

Daymer Bay & Trebetherick have a huge appeal to all, from the young to the not so young. This is Betjeman country and unquestionably "special" - peaceful, exhilarating and magnificent, with wide open spaces in which to be at one with nature. St Enodoc Church, once buried in the sand, is within walking distance of the beach at Daymer and is now the final resting place of Sir John Betjeman. As Polzeath is to surfers, Daymer Bay is to windsurfers - for the waves rolling up the estuary and for the calmer waters off Rock - yet there is enormous appeal too for small children with buckets and spades and "spuddling" in the rock pools. There is golf to be enjoyed at nearby St Enodoc and Roserrow and the coastal footpath between Polzeath and St Enodoc is suitable for wheelchair users - a rare chance for the less fortunate to be able to appreciate the stunning scenery of the head-lands and estuary.

Polzeath has a magnificent surfing beach known to be one of Cornwall's finest - a surfer's paradise - and there is the breathtaking scenery of the cliffs from Pentire to Port Quin offering wonderful walking country. The vast Atlantic rollers pound this safe beach making ideal sport for surfers and has a vast expanse of sand ideal for children. As well as all the usual facilities, there is a centre for a Voluntary Marine Wildlife Area initiated by North Cornwall Heritage Coast and Countryside Service, who also promote an under-standing of the area through walks, talks and beach events.

The Camel estuary, with its contrasts of remote, rugged landscape, long stretches of sandy beaches and mild climate, is rightly claimed as one of, if not the major attraction on the North Cornish coast. The tidal waters of the estuary stretch from the mouth of the estuary some five miles south towards Wadebridge and up to a mile wide between Rock and Padstow. This large inland area of calmer waters is protected from the Atlantic ocean by Stepper Point, Pentire and a sand bar at the mouth of the estuary, giving ideal conditions for all varieties of water sports.

Pleasure, fishing and bird watching trips are available from Rock and Padstow. There is a wide variety of bird life along the coast towards The Rumps with an abundance of water fowl, seabirds both resident and migratory, and the magical clowns of the sea, the puffins. Gannets and cormorants can be seen fishing, grey seals and occasionally dolphins may be spotted in the bay. The birdlife around the estuary is especially good with the Walmsley Sanctuary nearby at Amble - over 40 acres of bird sanctuary, migratory home to at least 90 species, as well as an abundance of other wildlife. Good fishing is found on the estuary for rod and line from the beach while sea fishing for mackerel, pollack and shark is also very popular.

The National Trust land at Pentire is an extensive carpet of wild flowers, at its best in the Spring. Guided walks help visitors explore and enjoy the rich network of footpaths with the most spectacular scenery and there are also circular walk leaflets for those who prefer to "go it alone". For the more energetic, tennis and squash courts are available for hire while pony trekking, cycle hire and a choice of challenging golf courses, including St Enodoc, are within easy reach. The Camel Trail, running along the route the railway took, goes alongside the estuary from Padstow, through Wadebridge, Grogley Halt to the upper reaches of the Camel at Wenford and Bodmin - a cycle route that has become a model for others to follow.



Activity

1. Produce a small A5 poster proclaiming the many activities which are supported in the Camel Estuary & surrounding countryside.
2. What does the Cornish word 'Spuddling' mean ?
3. Explain one of the ways North Cornwall Heritage Coast and Countryside Service are promoting this region.

WADEBRIDGE

Welcome to Wadebridge, one of North Cornwall's main market towns and gateway to the Camel Trail, now the third largest attraction in the whole of Cornwall. This centrally located town has much to offer visitors of all ages and interests all year round.

A Brief History

One of the earliest recorded mentions of the town of Wadebridge, was in 1313 when a market and two fairs were granted to Wade, within the manor of Pawton. At this time



the town was in two parishes, Egloshayle and St Breock, either side of the river Camel. There were also two chapels, St Michael's on the west side and King's chapel on the east. Travellers giving thanks at both sides after a safe crossing.

The bridge which must have revolutionised life in the town, was built by the Reverend Lovibond in 1460 and has seventeen arches along its 320 foot length. Legend has it that it was built on wool sacks or bales but it seems more likely that this refers to the finance for the bridge coming from wool merchants and sheep farmers. From this time the town became known as Wadebridge.

The river Camel played an important part in the town's early prosperity as all manner of cargoes would have travelled by boat, roads being very poor. Guineaport is said to be so named because captains had to pay a guinea (£1.05) to moor their boats there. Building work on the Town Hall began in 1886 and it was opened on May 31st, 1888 by Sir Paul Molesworth, initially called Molesworth Hall, costing £3000 to build. The Hall was taken over by the Town Trust and finally the Parish Council. A large mural painted by Mr. V. Harvey of St Mabyn showing the bridge being built, is at the rear of the Town Hall.

Molesworth Street

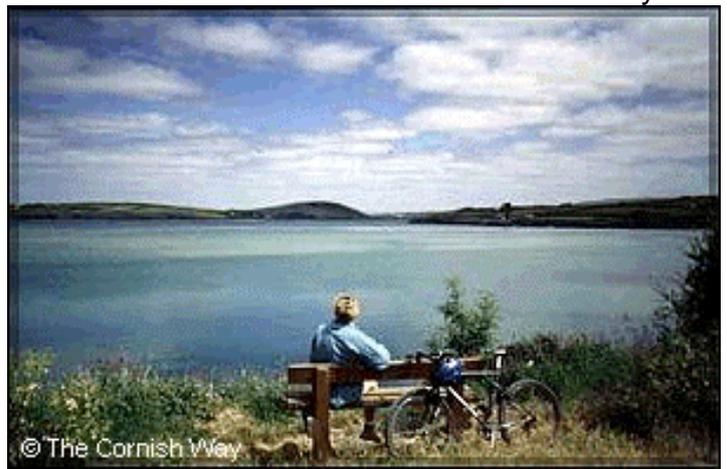
The Bodmin and Wadebridge Railway Line was opened in 1834 and was one of the first built in the world, it carried the first steam trains in Cornwall and was the first in West Britain to carry passengers. On the 13th April 1840 an excursion was run from Wadebridge to see the public execution of the Lightfoot brothers at Bodmin Gaol, they had been convicted of the murder of Mr. Neville Norway. Three trains were run for 1100 people. On the 30th January 1967 the North Cornwall line was closed for all passenger services. The route of the old railway is now known as the Camel Trail and is popular with both walkers and cyclists. Visitors can either walk to Padstow and the sea, or inland through wooded valleys to Bodmin and the moor. The new Library stands where the wagons and goods vans once stood and the old booking office and waiting room have been turned into the Betjeman Centre. The former goods shed is now used for community projects, renamed the Betty Fisher Centre.

Neither of the two principle churches are in the town, St Breock church is 13th century and stands in Nancient (holy well in Cornish). Egloshayle (church by the estuary in Cornish) church stands on low ground near the river Camel and is dedicated to St Petroc who has several other churches dedicated to him in Cornwall and Brittany. Petroc arrived in Cornwall in about the 5th century and settled in the area for a while. The church tower is 80 feet high and was a gift from the Reverend John Lovibond.

The Camel Trail

A tract of beautiful countryside for over 17 miles in total, The Trail goes from Wadebridge to Padstow and from Wadebridge to Pooley's Bridge. The

The Camel Trail



whole of the Trail is level as it used to be part of the Bodmin and Wadebridge Railway. There is also refreshments along the way and a Public House at Bodmin. Bike hire is in plentiful supply in Wadebridge with three shops including [Bridge Bike Hire](#) in Eddystone Road, at the start of the Wadebridge to Padstow stretch of the Trail. The Trail is also popular for bird watchers, with a purpose built bird hide half way between Wadebridge and Padstow.

Outdoor Sports

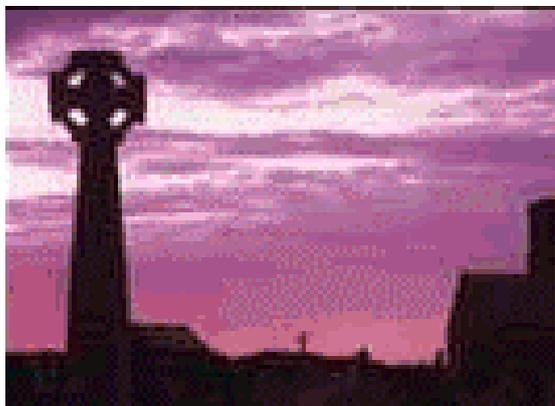
Rock is only a few miles away and offers a wide range of watersports, including sailing, water skiing, windsurfing and paracending. There are also various riding stables in the area. Four miles away is the Cornwall Karting indoor racing track at Retallack. Not to be missed are the numerous beautiful golden beaches, all along the north coast and three golf courses close by at Trevoze, Constantine and Bodmin.

Annual Features

Royal Cornwall Show - June
Cornwall Folk Festival - August Bank Holiday
Eglos Craft Fayre - August
Carnival - Early August
Prime Stock Show - November
Garden Produce Association and Chrysanthemum Show - November

Walking

Wadebridge is an ideal location for keen walkers. The Camel Trail provides easy walking for young and old, with beautiful countryside all around it and the Trail being flat. For the more adventurous, Bodmin Moor is only 15 miles away and has many places of interest along with some challenging walking areas. Wadebridge is also on the famous Saints Way, a 16 mile cross country path, forged in ancient times by Celtic Saints between Padstow and Fowey. There are also spectacular coastal walks within a few miles of Wadebridge. Further details of guided walks and tours, many of them free, are available from North Cornwall's Heritage Coast and Countryside Service on 01208 - 74121.



Sports Centre

Wadebridge has a new and extensive sports centre, which includes a swimming pool. Other facilities are squash courts, weights room, café, solarium and main hall which holds various activities throughout the week.

Places of Interest

Alfred and the cakes, Bruce and the spider, the bridge on wool, these were whimsical anecdotes that we remember about people and places. So was the bridge founded on wool? It is most unlikely. It is known that facines of brushwood were used to bind wet soils together: wool might

have served the same purpose - but in comparison would have been at a tremendous cost. The suggestion that the bridge was "built on wool" means that the money used from its construction came from the wealth of the wool trade.

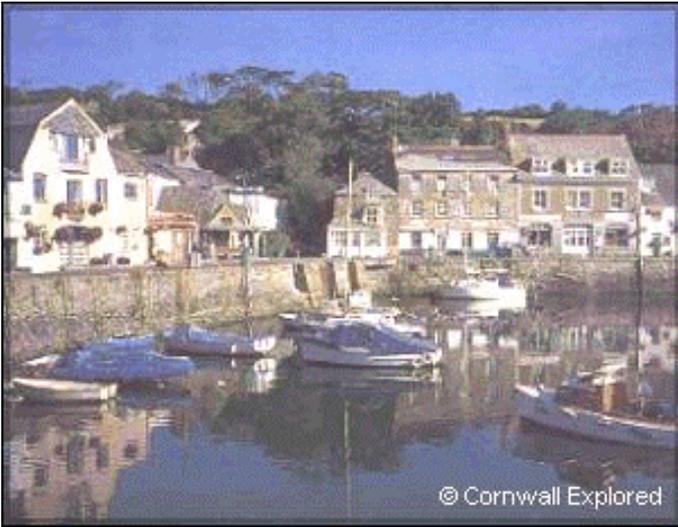
Wadebridge town also offers some of the best arts and crafts galleries and shops. Seek out some of North Cornwall's artists and craftspeople and see vibrant landscapes, beautiful furniture and pottery. In the nearby village of Egloshayle is the ["The Earl of St. Vincent"](#) a public house dating back to the 12th Century, when it was built as a boarding house for the masons who constructed the church. It was named after a former Admiral who sailed with Lord Nelson. Lovingly restored by the present owners, it is a most extraordinary pub, filled with antiques and hidden away in the old part of the tiny, picturesque village of Egloshayle, in beautiful North Cornwall, England.

Lanhydrock House and Gardens, Nr. Bodmin

Prideaux Place, Padstow - Elizabethan House and Gardens

Pencarrow, Nr. Bodmin - Georgian House

PADSTOW



The site of Padstow was well chosen by its forefathers. Settled into a narrow gully on the West side of the River Camel estuary we are well sheltered from the prevailing South - West winds and the air is balmy. The lower down the hill. the closer the huddle of buildings until they crowd together round the harbour. A heavenly jumble of houses. quays, boat slips, cafes and restaurants, gift and craft shops. a wine merchant, bookshops, holiday flats, grocers, gown shops, newsagents, accountants, estate agents, a chemist, homemade fudge shop and even a book maker. Not much of this was planned: it has happened through the years. No architect could have schemed the Padstow of today. It is the result of years of adaptation and change. of

getting the best out of local natural materials and then ingeniously adapting these buildings to fit the current needs of a friendly little harbour town. Despite the modern applications everything looks right because everything is right. and woe betide the city slicker who tries to redevelop our Padstow. We love it as it is.

It is true that time and tide wait for no man but it is also true that here in Padstow they do seem to wait that little bit longer. Everything moves slower. The traffic, because it cannot do any other, and the people, because their lives are governed so much more by the tides, the seasons of the year and the farming calendar. It will become obvious to our visitors that we Padstonians have discovered that rushing about simply does not do anyone any good. Some of us here would like the whole world to slow down to our pace but we know that this cannot be. Instead of this, we invite our visitors to share with us the slowing down - if only for a couple of weeks, and you will find that you are drawn towards it as if by an invisible magnet. Folk always have time to stand and stare into the harbour scene and Padstow is no exception. There are seats all around and it is a favourite place for locals and visitors alike. The long seat beside the shelter on the corner of North Quay is called

the Long Ligger and this is the traditional meeting place for Padstonians. Here the old boys of the town hold court. swap yarns and generally watch the world go by. Try to set aside some of your holiday to share our heritage. Visit our dear little museum which is not a huge tomb of a place. but a small room set aside to house some our modest historic treasures. Come to church. sit quietly awhile and reflect upon the history of Padstow. Somehow the church in a small seafaring town reflects life's chequered pattern so much more. Spare a moment of thought for the wives and mothers of yesteryear who prayed for the safe return of their absent menfolk. Of the joy that would be released at the end of a long voyage safely concluded. Of the deep numb grief of women folk who waited day after day! week after week, for a long overdue ship. You will be warmly welcomed at services here. The Methodist Chapel in the middle of the town and the modern Catholic Church hold out equally welcoming arms.

History

Padstow has a long and ancient history dating back to well before the birth of Christ, for around 2500 BC people travelling from Brittany to



Ireland used the Fowey/Camel valleys on their journeys. During recent years this ancient path, known as The Saints Way, has been re-opened, making it possible for walkers to trace the footsteps of those early travelers. It is believed that this track continued to be used during Roman times, as some evidence of Roman settlement has been found in the area.

Shortly after 2000BC the Beaker folk settled around the coast of Cornwall, and remains of their ancient burial chambers can still be seen at Harlyn Bay. Much later, during the 1st century BC, Venetian settlers arrived from Brittany, building forts on the coastal headlands. and it is likely that Padstow was a centre of population at that time. However it was with the arrival of St. Petroc in the 6th century AD that Padstow really began to develop. He spent 30 years in Padstow, during which time he founded a monastery here. and remains of old Celtic crosses all still to be found in the area. The monastery and church were destroyed by the Danes in 981 AD and the monastery was transferred to Bodmin, when Padstow came under the control of the Priory of Bodmin. A second church was built to replace the one destroyed by the Danes, of which only the base of the tower now remains, and the present church was built between 1420 and 1450. In medieval times, Padstow was granted the right of Sanctuary by King Athelstan, which enabled criminals to remain safe from arrest, and this continued until the time of the Reformation. At that time trading continued with Brittany and Ireland and a Guild of St. Petroc was set up by traders in Padstow. Their headquarters was thought possibly to have been in Abbey House, which can be seen over-looking the harbour on North Quay and which is now a private residence.



During the Reformation the church's control of Padstow ceased when the ownership of the land was transferred to the Prideaux family. Prideaux Place, built on the site of the former Barton of the Monks of Bodmin, was completed in the 16th century and has one of the oldest deer parks in the country. This house is still occupied by descendants of the Prideaux family, and is open to the public on some afternoons. Sir Walter Raleigh lived in Padstow when he was Warden of Cornwall, and his Court House on Riverside was the central office for the collection of dues and taxes. Although his Courthouse

and cottage still remain, they are now private residences and are not open to the public.

Padstow's importance as a port developed from earliest times and in 1565 Sir John Hawkins took shelter here while returning from the West Indies, as did Sir Martin Frobisher while returning from his search for the North West Passage to China in 1577. At that time Padstow was well used as a fishing port, and during the 17th century, when mining in Cornwall was expanding, shipments of copper ore were made to Bristol and slates were exported, many of them from the Camel quarry. By the 19th century a number of ship-building yards had been established, and the Padstow Museum houses a collection of tools from that time. At that time the fishing industry was at its height, when pilchards

were

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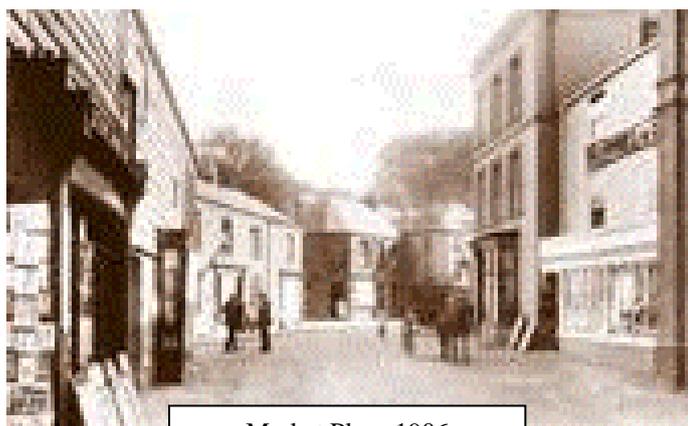
Sadly



landed and cured here, and cured fish of many types, as well as wheat, barley, oats, cheese and minerals were being exported. A considerable variety of goods was also imported from Ireland, France, Wales, Scandinavia and Russia. The first lifeboat was stationed at Padstow prior to 1827 when improvements began to be made to the port in an effort to make it safer. By 1899 the railway arrived, which helped the port and also marked the beginning of the tourist industry. This century has seen a decline in the

fishing industry, which was further affected when the railway closed, but over recent years this seems to be recovering and there are also signs of a small return to commercial shipping. Padstow has retained some of its ancient traditions, the most notable being its May Day Festival to mark the coming of summer, which originated in an ancient fertility rite. At Christmas the traditional Padstow

carols are sung in the streets of the town. These are unique to Padstow and date back at least to the 18th century.



Market Place 1906

Bodmin

Being the former County town of Cornwall, Bodmin can boast numerous interesting buildings, such as the the Turret Clock, marking the site of the ancient Butter Market, the Assize Hall, Shire House and of course the notorious Bodmin Gaol.

Towering above the town on Bodmin Beacon stands the 144 ft obelisk to Lt.-Gen. Sir Walter Raleigh Gilbert (1785-1853) - descendant of the Elizabethan sailors Raleigh and Gilbert - commemorating his distinguished services in India.

In the mainly 15th century church of St Petroc, the largest in Cornwall (with remains of monastery and priory) is St Petroc's Casket (c1170)

The barracks of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry are now the Regimental Museum, where the regiment's history is told through maps, uniforms, dioramas, paintings and one of the finest collections of small arms and machine guns.

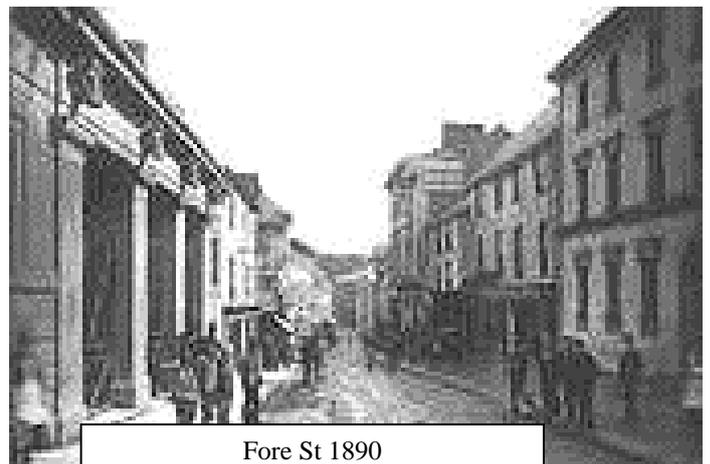
Bodmin Town Museum is situated on Mount Folly approximately 100 yards from the main car park. Recently refurbished, the museum tells the history of the town from the earliest times up until the end of the second world war.



Cornwall Tourist Board

Bodmin and Wenford
Railway
Bodmin Gaol
Bodmin Moor
Camel Trail
Cardinham Woods
Nature Trails
Lanhydrock (National
Trust)
Pencarrow House

Local attractions include:



Fore St 1890