

**Character Area 3: The Harbour**

*This sheet summarises the comprehensive assessments of character and regeneration opportunities in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the report.*

**Character summary**

Widely perceived as the heart of the town, the harbour is a critically important part of St Ives. Still continuing as a place of work, the active fishing fleet and other craft add much to the authentic character of the area. The robust granite pier, its two lighthouses and the popular family beach form an important part of the town. The surrounding buildings have been changed dramatically, and often not sensitively, reflecting the changing role of the harbour now St Ives' busiest tourist focal point.

**Issues**

- The historic character of the area has been diluted through insensitive conversion and incremental degradation of historic buildings
- Maintaining the balance between the 'working harbour' and the 'tourist harbour' is important for retaining its historic character
- High traffic levels mar the enjoyment of this special historic area
- Public realm is cluttered, confused and uncoordinated, undermining the quality of the place

**Regeneration opportunities**

- Conserve and protect historic buildings and architectural integrity
- Strike a balance between retaining and strengthening the harbour as a viable place of work and safeguarding its historic fabric and enabling public enjoyment of it
- Reduce the level and impact of traffic in the harbour area
- Improve the public realm and general streetscape



The harbour, packed with activity, fishing, boating, commerce, tourism, sightseeing and a popular family beach.

The Island forms an impressive green backdrop behind the rising elevations of the Down'long area.  
(Photographs: Charles Winpenny, Cornwall CAM.)



The robust harbour arm and its two lighthouses are important landmark features



Buildings in the area have greatly changed in character with the addition of added windows, balconies, shop fronts and canopies



There is potential for enhancement of the area through improvements in the public realm.

**Character area 3:  
The Harbour**

- Character area boundary
- Conservation Area
- Article 4 Direction
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building
- Other Significant Building
- Historic Plot
- Registered park and garden
- Important green space & gardens

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Historic Environment Service  
Environment and Heritage  
Cornwall County Council  
(01872) 323603  
hes@cornwall.gov.uk

