

2.1 Location

Higher Bojewyan and Bojewyan Stennack are located within Portherris Valley, one of the few valleys cutting up into the moorland from the narrow coastal plain west of the Penwith Moors. They lie north of St Just on the B3306 St Just to St Ives coast road between Pendeen and Morvah, and about half a mile from the sea. Both lie with Pendeen ecclesiastical parish, and St Just Civil Parish, in Penwith District.



The view from the main B3306 at Higher Bojewyan looking northwards shows improved agricultural land with the sea beyond

2.2 Landscape Setting

Ancient farming hamlets stand cheek-by-jowl with 19th century industrial settlements all along the narrow coastal plain between the high granite moorland of West Penwith and the steep coastal cliffs with their small fishing coves. They are surrounded by ancient field systems interspersed with blocks of what was formerly unenclosed common grazing, heath and moor, and cutting through the landscape are narrow, deep valleys leading down to the sea. Farming and tin working (mostly tin-streaming with some coastal cliff extraction) have been of equal importance in and around Bojewyan from at least the 16th century, together with fishing from the small local coves. Indeed this may be a pattern stretching back well into and beyond the medieval period, the density of surviving remains shows this is an area intensively settled since prehistory.



The properties at Bojewyan Stennack follow the stream along the valley floor. This photo is taken from the junction of the B3306, the engine houses at Springs Farm forming an important distant landscape feature



The Springs Farm engine houses remain a dominant landscape feature and reminder of the importance of mining in the area.

Another major source of employment, lasting until the early 20th century, was the important and extensive sequence of water powered mills ranged down the Portherras Valley and the Rose Valley north of Bojewyan.

The 'industrial' population remained very few though, and the historic settlements were able to absorb whatever pressures the expanding industry put on them until, like most of the area's industrial settlements, Bojewyan expanded suddenly in the early 19th century.

Agriculture expanded and intensified locally at the same time, partly as smallholdings were created for the part-time miners to supplement income and diet, but also as the larger farms increased in size and levels of production – this was never a purely industrial settlement area and agriculture continues to dominate the landscape today.

Following the decline of mining and milling in the late 19th century, population pressure on the settlements went into reverse. Indeed, already by the 1880's, outlying smallholdings had been abandoned, and cottages scarcely a generation old had been demolished in the village, especially in Higher Bojewyan. Up until the mid-late 20th century, both Higher Bojewyan and Bojewyan Stennack declined in population, with some marginal loss of cottages at both settlements. Higher Bojewyan in particular reverted to being primarily a farming settlement.



Stone Farm, Bojewyan Stennack, set within a wider agricultural landscape of improved moorland