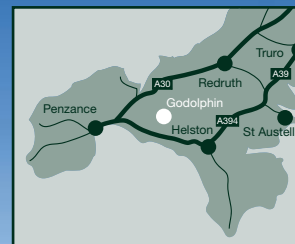




to discover
us save Godolphin



Between Helston and Penzance, not far from St Michael's Mount, you will find Godolphin, one of Cornwall's most beautiful and romantic old houses, lying hidden at the heart of its 550-acre estate. The Trust has owned the estate since 2000, and is delighted to have recently bought the house itself along with its important garden.

We urgently need your support to ensure that this precious and atmospheric house, along with the ancient buildings and gardens that surround it, survive to delight and inspire generations to come. So please give whatever you can afford to safeguard the future of Godolphin.

Photographs courtesy of: The National Trust/Aerial-Cam; The National Trust/Graeme Norways; Country Life Picture Library; The Royal Institution of Cornwall; Paul Raeside and RH Advertising.



 THE NATIONAL TRUST

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Step inside
how you can help



Godolphin House has had a remarkable past. Now you can help protect its future

Some places have a very special energy to them; an atmosphere of stillness and peace, a sense of the past being alive, so close you can almost touch it. Godolphin House is one of these places.

Godolphin has an illustrious and fascinating history, and is of significant cultural and architectural interest. Its ancient walls chronicle the rise of the Godolphin family, and distinctive features such as the colonnade of Tuscan pillars on the North Range, and the medieval gardens to the east are testament to the wealth and inspiration of its owners.

But, although the ambience remains, the fabric of the house has suffered the destructive effects of time and lack of attention. Godolphin House is an important and romantic part of Cornwall's history. Please help us to keep it safe.



Whilst the exterior of Godolphin appears sound the interior reveals the true extent of the work ahead.

The Godolghan family, landowners since the 12th Century, buys the mineral rich land that was originally the Domesday manor of Trescau, and builds a small castle, establishing the new manor of Godolghan.

14th Century



Chisel-edged prehistoric mining implement made from bronze dating from around 1200BC, discovered on the Godolphin Estate. (Illustration from W.C. Borlase's Naenia Cornubia, 1872.)

Early in the century, the walled gardens are extended, then in around 1595, Sir Francis Godolphin commissions the build of an impressive stable block against the garden's north wall.

16th Century



Sir Francis Godolphin (From the Bridgeman Art Library)

The Godolphins move to London where Sidney, the 1st Earl of Godolphin, became Queen Anne's First Lord of the Treasury (effectively Prime Minister). The house is left empty and uncared for.

18th Century



Sir Sidney Godolphin, 1st Earl of Godolphin (From the Bridgeman Art Library)



Godolphin in 1915 (From an article in Country Life)

By now Godolphin is little more than a run-down farm with a remarkable history. Sydney Schofield, the son of American impressionist painter Elmer Schofield, buys the house in 1937, and begins the huge task of rescue and renovation.

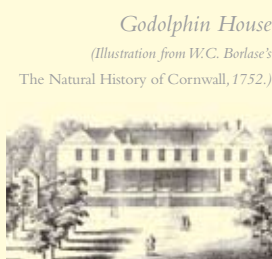
20th Century



Godolphin Coat of Arms

15th Century

The castle is demolished and a new style of house is constructed by John Godolghan to reflect the family's increasing wealth and social status.



Godolphin House (Illustration from W.C. Borlase's The Natural History of Cornwall, 1752.)

17th Century

The high point for the house came in the 1630s, when Sir Francis Godolphin III commissioned an unknown architect to design the remarkable colonnaded North Range and the house is recorded as the largest in Cornwall.



19th Century

Godolphin, now just a farmhouse, continues to deteriorate, although many of its ancient features are preserved, as they lay undisturbed.

Godolphin House 2007



21st Century

The Trust buys the 550-acre Godolphin estate in 2000, and subsequently purchases Godolphin house and garden in 2007. A new chapter in the restoration of Godolphin now begins.

We need to dig deep for the oldest garden in the country

One of the most remarkable things about Godolphin is its garden. Believed to be the oldest surviving formal garden in the country, and possibly in Europe, it has numerous elements and features that have survived virtually intact from the medieval period thanks to centuries of neglect by Godolphin's absent owners.

Now Grade I listed, there are three distinct garden areas, each displaying original features that are typical of the time of their creation: from the simple grass areas of the courtyards, and the enclosed privy garden known as the King's Garden, to the East Garden with its granite-faced fishponds and raised walkways that would have overlooked bowling greens, parterres and orchards.

With your helping hand, this extraordinary garden, this precious fragment of a long forgotten world, will survive and be brought to life once more.