

Completing the jigsaw

Sitting between existing Trust-owned land and with stunning views over Ramsey Sound to Ramsey Island near St. Davids in Pembrokeshire, we acquired the 50-acre Treheinif site in Spring 2006 and are converting it to an organic farm. The land was very neglected with an ugly, visually intrusive, shed and a large accumulation of old machinery and junk which all had to be cleared away (and in the shed's case, demolished) before the real work could start. Since then, over 3,000 metres of stock fencing has been installed, ragwort management put in place and the land divided into coastal, semi-improved grassland and arable areas. Water troughs have also been installed and a steep sided irrigation pond is being landscaped to encourage a greater variety of wetland species. With the introduction of new paths, everyone will have the opportunity to see the restoration work as it happens.



The air of neglect has gone from this piece of Pembrokeshire

This coastal strip is grazed by the Trust's own ponies

Trehelinif coastline



There is a clear alternative



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A coastline we can all treasure

Britain's coastline has always been a fundamental part of our identity, our character and our sense of being. For many of us, it holds an inescapable attraction as somewhere to relax, recharge and reconnect with nature.

But our coast is under serious attack and continues to battle for survival against rising sea levels, climate change, erosion, pollution and inappropriate development.

The Trust recognises the huge importance of protecting and maintaining the coastline for everyone to enjoy. After launching our Neptune Coastline Campaign in 1965, with your help we have acquired over 707 miles of this precious land, against an original target of 900 miles. Although this is a significant achievement, our work is far from done.

The purchase of coastal land is more difficult than ever before. Opportunities to acquire land often require careful negotiation with landlords and discussions with the local community over long periods of time. But at the end of the day we need to be ready with the funds to buy when the chances arise.

Take a look at the four case studies and hopefully, you'll understand how, over time, the Trust can transform, protect, manage and make accessible some of the country's most valuable areas.



Encouraging native species and sympathetic farming methods is a large part of our work

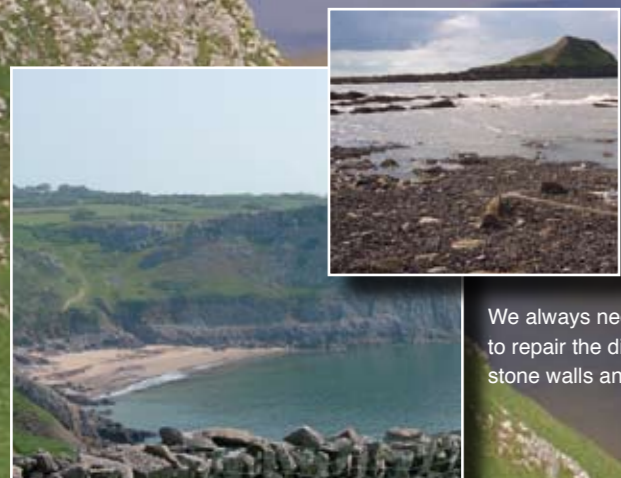


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Medieval farmland for the future

The Vile, on the beautiful Gower peninsular, is a rare example of a medieval open field system, one of only three now to be found in Wales. It's also an example of how the Trust's involvement in an area of coast progresses long after the initial acquisition. The Trust acquired its first parcel of land in the area in the 1960's but by the 1980's it was becoming obvious that the nearby medieval field system might be under threat. After overcoming many hurdles the Trust started buying the distinctive fields in 1992, a process that is still going on today.

Post acquisition our commitments at The Vile extend to repairing the stonewalls and banks that divide the field strips, ensuring that the right sort of farming is carried out and opening up new footpaths for the public to explore. Since our first purchase the Trust has gained considerable control over this part of The Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but there are still some fields in private hands and so we must remain on constant watch to ensure that if they do ever come to market we will be ready.



We always need funds to repair the distinctive stone walls and banks

The Vile

Rhossili

The pressure of 400,000 visitors presents the Trust with unique challenges

Erasing a black past

It is a staggering fact that during a period of 50 years or so, approximately 300 million tonnes of coal waste was dumped directly onto Durham's coast, creating the area's infamous 'black beaches'. Over the past twenty years, the Trust has been able to acquire around half of Durham's coastline. The beaches continue to improve for everyone to enjoy, thanks to the effects of both tide and human endeavour over the last 16 years. However, removing the waste leaves cliffs exposed to erosion from powerful tides, so our focus is now on successfully managing their retreat. In addition, after years of intensive arable farming, we are working with other organisations to recover the natural meadows and grasslands of half a century ago, all along the coast.



In the past the coal waste literally stopped the tide coming in



Durham

coastline

10 years of work has reaped fantastic results

Defending our coast, again

The Trust acquired Wembury Point and The Great Mewstone in South Devon from the Ministry of Defence in February 2006. It is a spectacular section of coastline that has always been a hugely important area for wildlife, as shown by its designation as a Special Area of Conservation. With your input on how the site should be managed in the future, we have made substantial progress in returning this former Naval gunnery training school back to its natural glory. The remaining buildings have now been removed and the tarmac road network replaced with well-surfaced paths. And as nature rapidly re-colonizes previously developed areas, Dartmoor ponies have been introduced to manage the vegetation.



Restoring the site of a disused building to a natural landscape

Wembury

point

Nature quickly re-colonizes previously developed areas