

Appendix C Ruan Lanihorne Parish Profile

The Parish of Ruan Lanihorne covers an area of 927 ha¹.



It comprises the village of Ruan Lanihorne, the hamlets of Ruan Highlanes, Treworga, Trelonk and Trevillas and a handful of scattered farmsteads.

An analysis of the 2011 population data showed that there was a population of 280, of which 180 were of an age to be economically active and less than 4% were unemployed. The profile of that population showed that there is an equal number of 16 to 54 year olds and those aged 55 and over².

In 2011 there were 106 households in the Parish, 27 of which were single person households and 60 were occupied by three persons or more³.

¹ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>

² *ibid*

³ *ibid*

History

In 1872 Ruan Laniorne was described as a parish on the River Fal, at the head of a creek of Falmouth harbour. 'It has a post-office and a quay used for the landing of coal, timber, slate, and other commodities; and it contains the hamlet of Highlanes, where petty sessions are held. The population in 1851 was 410, falling to 325 in 1861 in 74 households'.⁴

It was recorded that the property was divided among a few. A castle of the Arc-decknes was here.



The church is a massive structure, built in 1321, with a tower; and contains a monument to Whittaker the antiquary, who was rector. There were a Wesleyan chapel and a village school.

Ruan Laniorne is a settlement which has experienced a shrinkage of importance and size from medieval times to the present rather than the reverse. This could be attributed to the silting up of the Ruan river which was its main connection to Tregony, Truro and the coast.

In the 12th century it was the seat of the Lerkedekne family who were the Sheriffs of Cornwall and, reflecting this important role, they fortified their manor which stood on the land below where the Kings Head pub now stands.

This family may have also had a private charitable concern giving home to lepers at Sheepstall, situated on the Ruan to Tregony road and now known as Porters, adjoining Veryan Parish.

Between the 18th and 19th centuries coal, timber and other goods were brought up the river to Ruan Laniorne on barges and also on ships of 80-100 tonnes, as Tregony could no longer be used as a port, and lime was taken away.

The building names in the village indicate an historic settlement well-organised to support its inhabitants: there was a school, almshouses (Pedlars Row), smithy and mill.

⁴ Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales John Marius Wilson 1870-72

Listed Buildings

Within the Parish there are 24 listed buildings and structures, including St Rumon Church, Sett Bridge, a red 20th century telephone box and several of the farmsteads.

Local Character

Historically the inhabitants have lived by the farming calendar. Modern tourism has gained a slight foothold through a number of holiday properties. The character of the Parish reflects both a strong relationship with the openness of the valley of the River Fal, giving the Parish a predominantly northern aspect, and the upland plateau areas of agricultural landscape with hedgebound open fields. Ruan Parish lies along the banks of the Ruan and Fal rivers where they meet on the Saltings near the Quay and Sett Bridge. It is now a quiet backwater and nature reserve; a haven for wildlife resulting in a tranquil and peaceful environment.

The character of the older buildings is depicted by the use of stone from a local quarry in Ruan Woods. Buildings in this landscape have tended to reflect not only their access to local materials but also their relationship to the landscape. Outside the villages and hamlets, farmsteads are of stone and rendered cob construction with clipped slate and occasionally thatched roofs, solid squat buildings with small windows and porched doorways respecting their exposure to weather. Slates are often hung on stone walls to protect against the rain and wind.



Nineteenth and early twentieth century residential buildings, especially in the villages and hamlets, also use stone and slate but incorporate more elaboration in design with a greater use of render on the stone walls, larger windows and open doorways exploiting views and reflecting a pride of place.

The parish village of Ruan Lanihorne has a western aspect overlooking the River Fal where the quay would have formed the focus for the economic activity of the village. Goods brought into the quay recorded as coal, timber and slate would have influenced the materials used and the design of buildings in the Parish.

Farmstead settlements with their workers' cottages, agricultural barns and sheds contribute to the design details of residential buildings of the first half of the twentieth century. There is little distinctive building design in the Parish that does not reflect this

There is little 20th century housing in the Parish, most development being the redevelopment or conversion of existing buildings.

Village Character

The parish village of Ruan Lanihorne is centred around the church, the public house and the village well. It overlooks the Ruan riverside where there is the Reading Room. Other than the public house there is no commercial activity in the village.



Economic activity in the Parish outside the Village centres

The A3078 which forms the boundary of the parish with the adjoining parish of Veryan has linear development at Ruan Highlanes where there is an hotel and a garden centre.

The 2011 census showed a diversity of economic activity in the Parish focused on Agriculture, Tourism, Care and Social services and Professional, Scientific and Technical services and negligible unemployment⁵.

Housing

The housing is focused in the village of Ruan Lanihorne and the hamlets of Treworga and Ruan Highlanes.

The 2011 census showed that, of the 106 households in the Parish, 81 lived in their own properties, whilst 19 households were living in rented accommodation, 9 of which were socially rented⁶.

In 2009 16% - 20% of the housing stock was second homes based upon an analysis of census and local tax data⁷.

Community, Recreation and Leisure

Ruan has become a close knit community with the formation of the Ruan Social Group which organises events such as the annual fete and Harvest Supper. The focus is the Ruan Reading Room which has been refurbished in recent years.

There are also local walks and a chance to enjoy tranquil surroundings. Access to the water at the quay side allows for use of the River Fal by canoes downstream into the Carrick Roads and upstream to Sett Bridge.

Transport and Car Parking

In the Parish 8% of households, that is 9 households, do not have access to a car or van⁸ yet despite this high percentage of car owners, access to the St Mawes to Truro bus service at Ruan Highlanes is seen as valuable to 33% of parish respondents to the Roseland Plan questionnaire.

The Roseland Community Bus available throughout the year provides local shopping trips and excursions.

⁵ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>

⁶ Ibid

⁷ *Second Homes Central Area* Cornwall Council Community Intelligence Team 2009

⁸ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>

There are no public car parks in the Parish.

Utilities

Broadband - Superfast broadband continues to be rolled out across the Roseland.

Energy – Access to the National electricity network is throughout the Parish and, in the absence of piped gas, many properties are dependent upon bottle gas, oil, coal and wood for heating and cooking.

Renewable Energy - Renewable energy production is predominantly through the installation of domestic solar panels.

Telephony – Access to landline communication is good through the Parish, but mobile phone networks provide only patchy cover for the parish as a whole.

Waste – Sewerage.

Waste recycling both commercially and domestically is through bi-weekly collection and there are no collection points within the Parish.

Water supplies – Drinking water is, in the main, provided through a pressurised piped water network connected to the national supply. There are a number of private wells but these do not provide water for human consumption.