



**National
Trust**

Parking Charges and Pay and Display in West Cornwall

The National Trust, a conservation charity that looks after special places forever and for everyone has cared for Botallack, Cape Cornwall and Levant for many years and they're growing in popularity. These places are part of the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site for their spectacular landscape and their historic significance. We know through car counters that in 2015 Cape Cornwall had 56,000 cars, or 101,000 people, Botallack had 32,000 cars and 96,000 people and Levant had 37,000 cars and 111,000 people. So over 300,000 people a year visit these places. That causes considerable wear and tear to roads, paths and the wider environment and litter. We want to do the basics well, keeping the path's open and accessible, providing clean toilet facilities, maintaining road surfaces, keeping the area free of litter, and this requires ongoing investment and staff and volunteer time.

In addition there's the proactive conservation work we undertake. At Levant Fields we're managing the habitat to encourage local wildflowers and birds, forsaking a rental income to improve the place for nature. At Trease where we were given the United Boscaswell Mine site we've invested over £200,000 in decontamination and consolidation of the remains. This important mining site, part of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site, was at risk of being lost forever without this work. In the West Cornwall area alone we have invested around £825,000 in conservation projects and maintenance in 2016. Over the next two years we plan to invest another £2.2 million. We're committed to caring for this beautiful historic landscape, but we need support to do it.

We're putting in pay and display machines at all three sites, as part of a national initiative to generate more income for conversation on the coast and in the countryside. This has two tangible benefits. The first is that there is direct income from the charges for conservation work at these three sites, although currently priced at just £1 for an hour we feel the cost is reasonable. The second is that as National Trust Members park free it encourages people to join, which also generates income for these sites as we receive a contribution based on the number of members signing up and visiting. All the money collected will go directly into local conservation work to make sure everyone can enjoy the Tin Coast forever.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Levant as a Special Case

We've had some feedback that suggests Levant ought to be treated as a special case and exempt from charges. This centres on its various designations and the terrible tragedy that happened on site in 1919 when it was a working mine and thirty one miners lost their lives. Levant is a very special place, but as a conservation charity we are lucky enough to care for many places that are World Heritage Sites, AONB's, SSSI's etc. These places still, perhaps especially, require care and that requires investment. The tragedy however does mark Levant out and descendants of the miners who lost their lives still visit. We don't want to prevent this from happening and so parking and visiting will be free at Levant for descendants of those involved in the 1919 disaster.

The Appearance of the Machines

The other concern we've heard is that the machines are urban and municipal in appearance and not suitable for such a special landscape. In choosing the machines we need a degree of functionality, resistance to environmental conditions, the ability to be maintained and proven reliability. Therefore they are the type that are seen in many car parks, whether in city centres, on the coast or in the countryside. They are generally surrounded by parked cars. We try and group the signage required alongside them and keep the impact in the car park meaning the wider landscape is as unspoiled as possible. However, these places are now for people to visit and they require a degree of infrastructure to support this.

Caring for the Tin Coast

We hope the parking charges will be respected and that visitors will contribute to the work we do. We're hugely grateful to our members who directly support the conservation of these special places and to our staff and volunteers who look after them day to day. Without these people and the contributions of time and money they give, we wouldn't be able to look after them forever, for everyone.

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