

= Zennor Head =

Zennor Head / ˈzɛnər hɛd / is a 750 @-@ metre ( 2 @,@ 460 ft ) long promontory on the Cornish coast of England , between Pendour Cove and Porthzennor Cove . Facing the Atlantic Ocean , it lies 1 kilometre north @-@ west of the village of Zennor and 1 @.@ 6 kilometres east of the next promontory , Gurnard 's Head . The granite ( Killas ) cliffs rise over 200 feet ( 60 m ) from the sea and the highest point of the headland is 314 feet ( 96 m ) above sea level , with an Ordnance Survey triangulation station . Zennor Head is on the South West Coast Path , which follows the cliff edge closely , skirting the entire perimeter of the headland . The promontory is part of the Penwith Heritage Coast , and is the largest coastal feature in the United Kingdom that begins with the letter " Z " . It gets its name from a local saint , Senara . Zennor Head was mined for copper and tin in the Victorian Era . There is no longer any residential or commercial occupancy on the headland , but it is occupied by a variety of coastal animals and plants , such as kestrels and gorse .

= = Etymology = =

The name " Zennor Head " originates from the name of a local saint , Senara . According to local legend , Senara was thrown off a headland in Brittany in a barrel after being falsely accused of adultery by her husband and washed up on the Cornish coast , founding Zennor and giving her name to the eponymous village ( and subsequently Zennor Head , Zennor Quoit and Porthzennor Cove ) , before continuing to Ireland . The " s " changed to a " z " , an occurrence common in the West Country but rare elsewhere , and as such is the largest coastal feature in the United Kingdom to begin with the letter " Z " .

= = History = =

The headland is bordered by Cornish granite hedges , and the farming system dates from about 4000 BC , the time of the Bronze Age in Cornwall . The surrounding area and village of Zennor has been continually occupied for over 4 @,@ 000 years . Zennor Head was mined extensively for copper and tin in the 19th century , and drainage adits remain visible on the eastern side .

The promontory was donated to the National Trust in December 1953 . The Southwest Coast Path was created in 1978 , and runs along the top of Zennor Head as part of its 630 miles ( 1 @,@ 010 km ) , following the edge of the cliffs closely . Zennor in Darkness , the 1994 McKitterick Prize @-@ winning novel by Helen Dunmore , was partly set around Zennor Head . In 2009 the headland suffered flooding which affected the cliff @-@ top footpath . The promontory has been designated as part of the Penwith Heritage Coast .

= = Geography and geology = =

Zennor Head is located on the north coast of Cornwall , England , facing the Atlantic Ocean . A headland extending some 750 metres ( 2 @,@ 460 ft ) , it is surrounded by steep cliffs plunging into the sea below . It is west of the town of St Ives , and north @-@ east of the town of Penzance . The nearest human settlement is the village of Zennor , and the headland is flanked by two coves , Pendour and Porthzennor . The nearest headland is Gurnard 's Head , 1 @.@ 6 kilometres to the west . Access is from the South West Coast Path , or the B3306 road ( West Cornwall coast road ) . There is a deep inlet known as Horseback Zawn on the western side , where seabirds nest . The headland is topped by an Ordnance Survey " Trig Point " . The Killas strata , which is exposed over the majority of Zennor Head , is a sedimentary rock formation laid down in the Devonian period , between approximately 415 and 375 million years ago ( myr ) . Zennor Head is on the surface boundary of the so @-@ called " Land 's End Granite " , part of the Cornubian batholith which dates from 279 to 274 myr . However , the intrusion of the granite into the Killas strata altered it metamorphically into a shale @-@ type rock .

= = Fauna and Flora = =

Zennor Head is home to a variety of wildlife , including the re @-@ introduced Cornish choughs ( *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* ) . Grey seals ( *Halichoerus grypus* ) have been sighted off the coast . Many seabirds nest on the cliffs , especially around Horseback Zawn , including herring gulls ( *Larus argentatus* ) and fulmars ( *Fulmarus glacialis* ) . Kestrels ( *Falco tinnunculus* ) hunt inland of the shoreline .

The headland is primarily covered with grass , as well as heather ( *Calluna vulgaris* ) , bracken ( *Pteridium aquilinum* ) , thyme ( *Thymus mongolicus* ) and western gorse ( *Ulex gallii* ) . In 1962 , specimens of the comparatively rare western clover ( *Trifolium occidentale* ) were found on Zennor Head . The lichen *Dirina massiliensis* has also been found high on the acid schist cliffs on the north- , seaward @-@ side of the headland . The parasitic plant dodder ( *Cuscuta x .* ) is also found amongst the other plants . There are also typical coastal flowering plants such as kidney vetch ( *Anthyllis vulneraria* ) , sea campion ( *Silene uniflora* ) , and thrift ( *Armeria maritima* ) .

= = Gallery = =