

Historic Features Assessment of the Peaks National Park

2023

Introduction

The St Helena Cloud Forest Project is a highly collaborative, multi-year project working to implement the Peaks Management plan for St Helena's Peaks National Park. The Peaks National Park (PNP) is home to the remnants of an ancient cloud forest and a globally significant area:

- It holds approximately 250 species that are found nowhere else on Earth – equating to more than one-sixth of the UK's total endemic biodiversity.
- It provides the majority of the island's annual water resource (through its 'cloud forest' role of mist capture and groundwater recharge).
- It offers a unique wilderness experience in an area that has been voted one of St Helena's 'Seven Wonders'.

Over the next five years, project works will take place within the National Park under three main pillars: Biodiversity; Water Security & Climate Change; and Socio-economic.

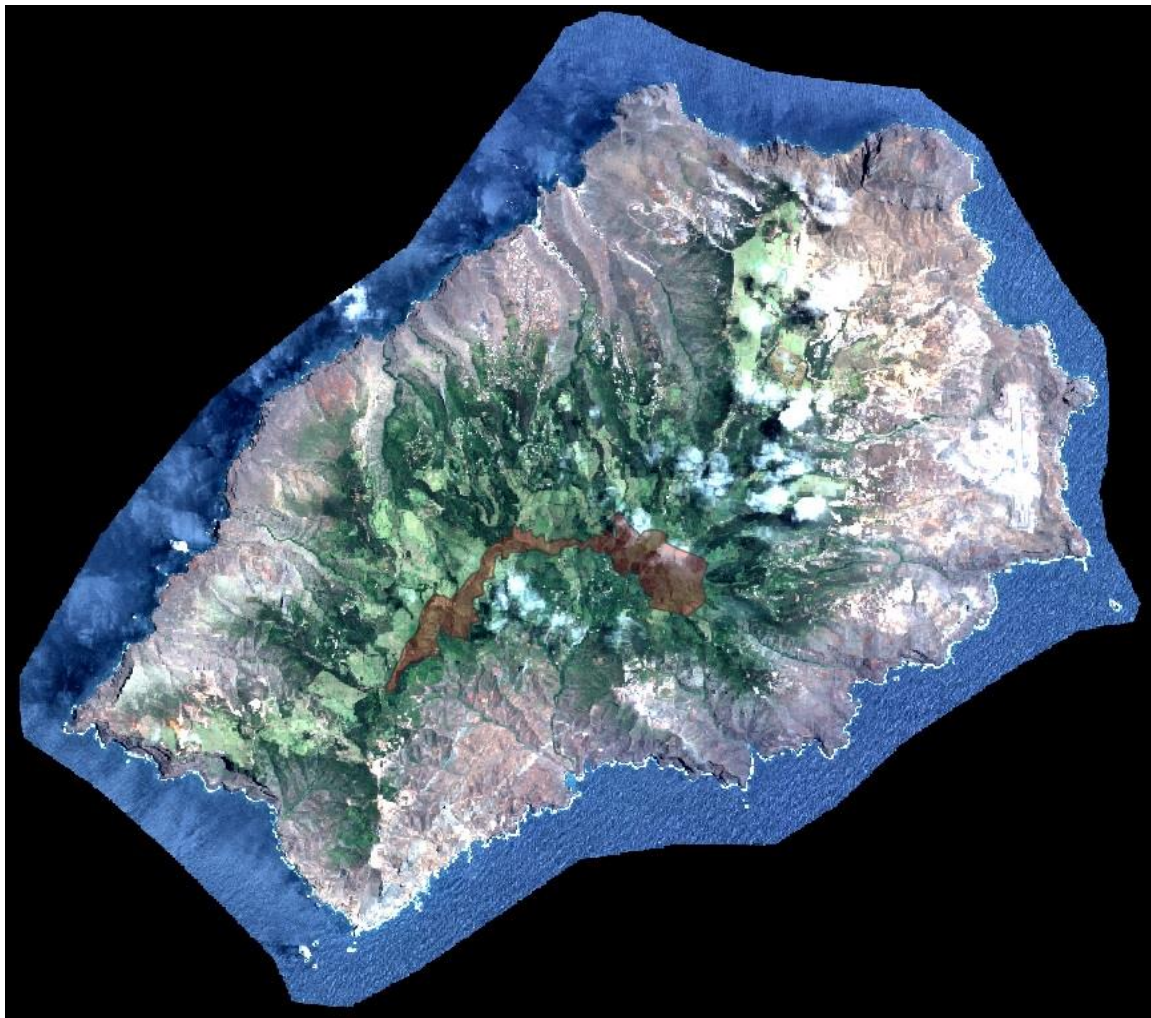


Fig 1: Location of the Peaks National Park
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The St Helena Cloud Forest Project recognises that there are historic features within the Peaks National Park and an element of the project is to ensure these assets are documented and registered within the St Helena Historic Environment Record (HER).

The St Helena Historic Environmental Record (HER) was conceived to (1) generate a baseline level of objective information illustrating the island’s historic environment; providing details of the location and nature of the various ‘Assets’ that make up that historic environment. (2) To provide information to facilitate the long-term management and protection of the significances of the islands tangible heritage and its connections to the intangible cultural landscape and (3) to make the contained information available as widely as possible.

Objectives

- Meets action 9.3 of Peaks Implementation Plan, in recognising the historic values within the Peaks National Park
- A desktop study of the historic timeline and known features of the Peaks National Park
- Investigate unknown or unrecorded features and their historical context within the Peaks National Park
- Document and map the significant features, in line with the requirements of the HER
- Compile the information into an HER spreadsheet template for the updating of the HER
- Produce a report outlining the findings of the above assessment

Methods

Information collected was a combination of interviews with various Saint Helenian’s, some retired Peaks workers and those still presently working on the Peaks. Their knowledge obtained through passed down and first-hand experience, proved to be very valuable in gaining information on the assets. Various historical maps, photos and archival research of various written documents was also undertaken to gauge any reference to the Peaks and any context of the assets. See Appendix 1.

Historic Features and History of the Peaks National Park

Timeline:

Date	Event	Reference
1676 - 1677	St Helena had only been settled for a few years when, in November 1676, a 20-year-old Edmond Halley left Cambridge for the remote island in the South Atlantic to study the southern sky. Having set up his observatory, logically enough on a high ridge near Hutts Gate – and subsequently named Halley’s Mount. Halley, plotted 341 stars using a 5.5-foot sextant and made the first complete observations of a transit of Mercury on 7th November 1677.	Halley’s Mount, St Helena by Trevor W. Hearl, Page 1.
1678	A small Fort once existed on top of High Peak and certainly existed before the second Dutch occupation of St. Helena in 1672, but nothing seems to be known of it before then, and as far as is known there are no existing sketches.	Descriptive Guide to St. Helena by Benjamin Grant

	<p>In the Company Records for June 27th 1678, High Peak was mentioned as one of the places where outguards were kept on a day and night rotation system with a view to circumventing any further invasion attempt, the threat of which must have diminished by 1717 because it was then recorded that only one man was stationed at the Peak.</p> <p>First possible reference to the now Peaks National Park is noted in <i>History of the Garrison of St Helena</i>, whereby a Council meeting on the 27th June 1678 reviewed the position of outguards. They were formerly at five places, Rupert's, Bankses, Flagstaff, Prosperous Bay and Spragues or Lemon Valley. Another was ordered to be manned from High Peak down the ridge to Old Woman's Valley.</p> <p>The Company Records provide an account of the taking of the island by the Dutch, where High Peak is mentioned: "After overpowering the English guards at High Peak, the way to Jamestown was clear"</p>	<p>History of the Garrison of St Helena by Captain F Mulvaney.</p> <p>St Helena 500 A chronological history of the island, by Robin Gill & Percy Teale</p> <p>St Helena Records 1686 - 1835 Janisch, Page 12</p>
1700's	<p>When the island was settled in the mid-1600's, many endemic trees were cut down for fuel, timber, and industry leading to the destruction of the native forests and consequently extensive soil erosion. Early records and drawings also suggest endemic trees grew much larger than their descendants do today.</p> <p>The destruction of native habitat was facilitated through the terms of settlement of the island by the East India Company. Throughout the 1700's records show the East India Company partitioned and leased vast sizes of land (including within and around the Peak's National Park) to settlers to cultivate. To name a few, at High Peak, Thomas Goodwin was leased "10 acres", Thomas Harper "12 acres", Will Nicholls "15 acres" and Mary Hoskinson "28 acres". In 1711, Sam Vessey was leased "Cabbage Tree Land at Head of Fishers Valley", and in 1713 B. Greentree was leased "17 acres of Cabbage Tree land under Main Ridge". At Diana's Peak, John Bazett was leased "2 acres". Over time, the original settler plots were often consolidated into larger estates.</p> <p>This change from endemic habitat to use of the land for farming and cultivation has left a tangible legacy today where extensive pastureland and historic boundary markers can still be seen within and around the extent of the Peaks National Park. By the end of 1700's, there had been widespread deforestation across the island.</p>	<p>The Endemic Flora of St Helena "A Struggle for Survival"</p> <p>Saint Helena, A History of the Development of the Island.by P.L Teale,</p>
1794	<p>In a letter from the East India Company Directors to the Governor & Council on island reads:</p>	<p>St Helena Records 1686 - 1835 Janisch</p>

	<p>March 7, 1794.— “We are of opinion that encouraging the growth of wood is of the utmost consequence to this Island not only from the advantages to be derived from it as fuel but because it is well known that trees have an attractive power on the clouds especially when they pass over Hills so high as those on your Island and we are inclined to believe that the misfortunes the Island has been subject to from Drought might in some measure have been averted had the growth of wood been properly attended to.”</p>	
1800's	<p>Cabbage Tree Road. Cabbage Tree Walk the modern bridle path, or Lowe's "New Military Road", running through the Cabbage Tree lands situated at the summit of the central ridges in the vicinity of Diana's Peak. Governor Wilks planned the track as an alternative route to Longwood before the days of the "W" road. The work was executed by Lowe who took the path out on to the main road by Alarm Hill and Pledgers. This road was an important short cut between the west of the island and Longwood and was a vital link for the British in their grand plan of surveillance of Napoleon.</p>	<p>A Handbook and Gazetteer of the Island of St Helena, Kitching 1937</p> <p>Emigrants to St Helena 1898 – 1978 Tatham, G. W,</p>
1800's	<p>The naval sanatorium was established at High Peak but no trace of it remains today, unless the old school house was built on the ruins. The only reference to the Sanatorium in the local records relates to the damage caused to the fencing of the land by the sailors. The present private holding in the middle of the Government land was alienated in exchange for Newfoundland which was required as a Cinchona plantation. Des Fountain also had farm lands here during the Captivity.</p>	<p>A Handbook and Gazetteer of the Island of St Helena – Kitching 1937</p> <p>“Des Fountain” labelled on 1817 READ Map. (See READ Map on page 6)</p>
1800's	<p>The farm of *Richard Wells at the bottom of Diana's Peak, above the Hutt's Gate Road, (today known as 'Wells Gut', a key water catchment within the Peaks National Park) Richard Wells waged a perpetual war with the Government over the reservoirs and channels of the Longwood water supply, which were situated on his land. Lowe replaced these channels with lead pipes, for part of the cost of which he used the profits of the farms. On the whole Wells seems to have been badly treated. A great deal of stress has been laid on the piped water supply to Longwood. It was, however, insufficient for the troops at Deadwood who were supplied by barrels rolled along the road from Hutt's Gate.</p>	<p>A Handbook and Gazetteer of the Island of St Helena – Kitching 1937</p> <p>*“Richard Wells Farm” labelled on 1817 READ Map (See Map on page 6)</p>
1867 - 1869	<p>Governor Charles Elliot agreed the plan for the cultivation of Cinchona (<i>Cinchona pubescens</i>, <i>C. officinalis</i>, <i>C. calisaya</i> and <i>C. pahudiana</i>). Supported by the authorities at Kew, a skilled gardener J.H Chalmers was sent to lead the project. A spot near Newfoundland Cottage was fixed on, as combining the greatest number of requisite points in respect to the object</p>	<p>Report on the Chinchona plant in St Helena, July 1868 – Dec 1869 (St Helena Public Library)</p>

	for which it was chosen. At the end of the year 1869 there were 10,000 cinchona plants raised from seed and cuttings in all stages of growth.	
1874	New Zealand Flax <i>Phormium tenax</i> was introduced to St. Helena with the aim of growing and processing Flax for export. It was started with the planting of one hundred by the Colonial and Foreign Fibre Company. During 1879 up to 40 men and boys were employed to lift production.	History of the Flax Industry, St. Helena by Ken Denholm
1881	The collapse of the Flax Industry. When fibre prices slumped, the Company closed their factory and their considerable workforce became unemployed. It was a bitter disappointment to the people of St. Helena who had pinned their hopes on it being the island's economic salvation.	History of the Flax Industry, St. Helena by Ken Denholm, pg. 9
1960's	In 1907, efforts were renewed to establish a Flax industry. At its peak, Flax covered over 3,000 acres of land and the industry directly employed 300 to 400 people. The final collapse of the Flax Industry in the mid-1960's led to plantations in the lower reaches of the Peaks being claimed for pasture and forestry. The majority of the Central Ridge plantations were simply abandoned and little in the way of management was undertaken for the next three decades. By far the biggest legacy of the Flax industry is the Flax itself, which still covers large areas of the island, including the Peaks National Park. Additional tangible traces of the industry are the various Flax Mills around the Peaks National Park (although out of the boundary area) including at Fairyland, Woody Ridge and Hutts Gate.	History of the Flax Industry, St. Helena by Ken Denholm Lambdon, 2012. Flowering Plants and Ferns of St Helena.
1976	The establishment of a small conservation team (Forest Guards) within the government forestry section in 1976, led by the late Mr George Benjamin, was a significant step towards the conservation of the island's endemic flora - particularly the remaining remnants of endemic vegetation along the Central Ridge of the island.	St Helena The Peaks National Park Conservation Management Plan 2019-2024
1977	Mr George Benjamin rediscovers the previously presumed extinct St Helena Olive, on Diana's Peak.	
1984	After the re-discovery of the St Helena Ebony in 1980 by George Benjamin, Charlie Benjamin and Quentin Cronk the Overseas Development Agency (ODA) funded the employment of a team of ten men to work exclusively in conservation, with George Benjamin as its head. This project was documented as 'The Endemic Plants Propagation Programme', created to establish and manage designated protected areas such as Peak Dale and High Peak.	30 th Anniversary of the Re-discovery of the St Helena Ebony Fact Sheet – Museum of St Helena, pg. 22 Flowering plants & Ferns of St Helena by Phil Lambdon, pg. 8.

1996	The Diana's Peak National Park was launched in March 1996, encompassing the area of the three peaks; a total area of 81 hectares. It is now part of the National Conservation Areas.	
2003	St Helena Olive goes extinct.	
2008	In May of this year, the St Helena Tourist Office ran a campaign for the island to identify seven Wonders of St. Helena, with the aim to showcase seven iconic or historic places - Diana's Peak is voted as one of St Helena's 'Seven Wonders'	
2012	The Land Development Control Plan designates 23 National Conservation Areas of which the previous Diana's Peak National Park is incorporated into the Peaks National Park.	
2013	The Peaks National Park Management Development Plan is approved and implemented, and the Peaks National Park, covering an area of 291 hectares is officially opened.	
2018	Diana's Peak once again voted as one of St Helena's 'Seven Wonders'	
2021	The St Helena Cloud Forest Project is launched. Funding is secured from the UK Government Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office to undertake the St Helena Cloud Forest Project. More: https://www.sthelenatourism.com/st-helenas-cloud-forest-project/	

Maps

In addition to written documents, an important aspect of the historical record of St Helena is the published maps and views which determined (not always at all accurately) the visual perception of the island. However, historical maps are an important tool to assess changes occurring over time and to provide a window into how an era viewed the world it lived in.

The earliest map which labels Diana's Peak is possibly the **Read Map** of 1817 (See below)



Fig 2: Read Map of 1817 – Diana’s Peak

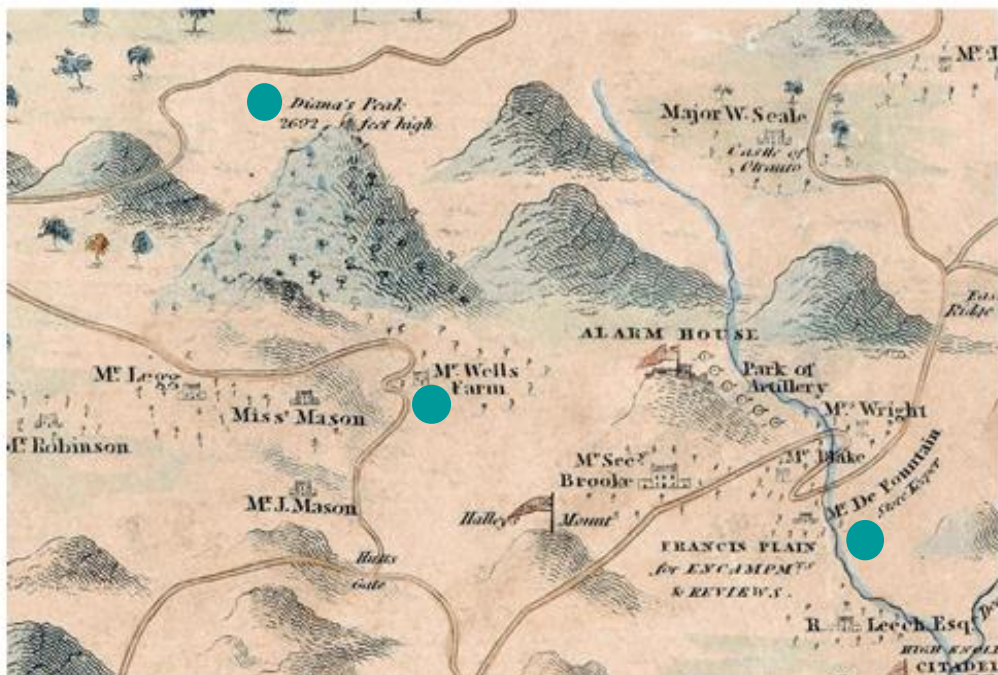


Fig 3: Close up of READ Map 1817 – Diana’s Peak, Mr Wells Farm & Mr De(s) Fountain

Names of the Peaks

Mount Actaeon & Cuckold's eventually appeared on later maps, but the sequence of names of the sequence described by George W. Mellis 1825-1836, from the west Cuckold's Point, Diana's Peak and Mount Actaeon. This reflects local usage and is used here. Lands and Planning and the Tourist Office on the other hand accept the current May 2020 edition of the Ordinance survey map from west Actaeon, Diana's Peak and Cuckold's Point.

No reference has been found as to how they came to be named, nor any community or official acceptance of these names until they appear on maps and in writings about the island. However, if you ask a St Helenian today regarding the origin of the names, you will most likely be told "the names are based on Greek Mythology"

The three names – Diana, Actaeon and Cuck(h)old in relation to each other.

The Greek myth of Diana and Actaeon can be found within Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. The tale recounts the unfortunate fate of a young hunter named Actaeon, who was the grandson of Cadmus, and his encounter with chaste Diana, goddess of the hunt. The latter is nude and enjoying a bath in a spring with help from her escort of nymphs when the mortal man unwittingly stumbles upon the scene. The nymphs scream in surprise and attempt to cover Diana, who, in a fit of embarrassed fury, splashes water upon Actaeon. He is transformed into a deer with a dappled hide and long antlers, robbed of his ability to speak, and thereafter promptly flees in fear. It is not long, however, before his fellow hunters and his own hounds track him down and kill him, failing to recognize their friend.

Ovid. Metamorphoses. Trans. A.D. Melville. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986. (Wikipedia)



2022 – Diana's Peak, St Helena National Trust

Palmer Map

Major Edmund Palmer was a Royal Artillery Officer of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. He resided on St Helena for 6 years with a detachment from the Royal Artillery, who had a presence here since the Crown took over the island in 1836. Palmer was a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society and one can only assume an engineer, trained cartographer, or surveyor. He completed the "Military sketch of the island of St. Helena" and presented his findings to the Royal Geographic Society in 1859 along with a short paper describing the island of St Helena. His map is an important one as it shows geographical features and other information at a much higher level of detail than any previous maps of St Helena. It was later revised and enlarged by the Royal Engineers in 1872 to provide even more detail and serves as a key reference for understanding St Helena in the 1800s. The map would have been used by the British War Office to aid in their administration and support of the Armed Forces on St Helena.

The images below (Fig 4, 5 & 6) show the Palmer Map overlaid with the Peaks National Park boundary line. The key and well-known areas within the Peaks National Park are clearly visible – Diana's Peak, Mount Actaeon, Cuckhold's Point, Cabbage Tree Road, Nursery, Newfoundland, High Peak and the Depot.

Also labelled are various areas outside the boundary line, which were significant homes and farmlands, namely Fairyland, Mount Pleasant, Peak Dale, Wranghams and Rock Mount.

Interesting historical fact; In Fig 5, there is a site named Cole's Rock.

The St Helena Records 1721 – 1722, records the account of John Coles of Sandy Bay (owner of the estate now called Fairy Land) was murdered in April 1721, "in a hollow place under the side of one part of the Main Ridge near to a place called or known by the name of Feather Bed Hill, by his slave Sultan" (i.e. near the spot now called "Coales' Rock.")



Fig 4: QGIS image of the Peaks National Park with Palmer Map overlay and the Full Peaks National Park boundary line.

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Fig 5: Close up QGIS image of the Peaks National Park with Palmer Map overlay and the Peaks National Park boundary line. Cabbage Tree Road, Mount Actaeon, Diana's Peak, Cuckhold's Point, Newfoundland & Nursery.
 © CNES 2014, Distribution Airbus DS / Spot Image

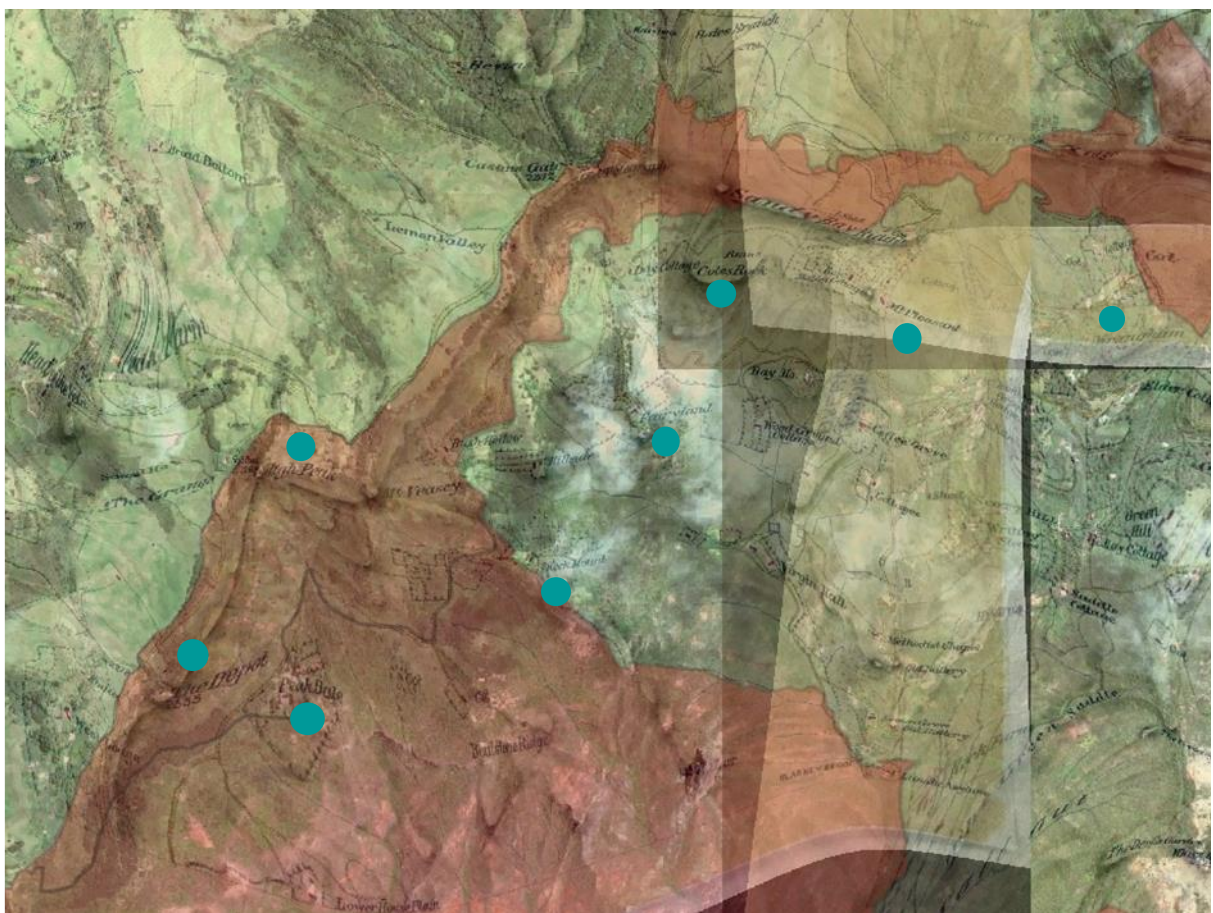


Fig 6: Close up QGIS image of the Peaks National Park with Palmer Map overlay and the Peaks National Park boundary line. The Depot, High Peak, Peak Dale, Rock Mount, Fairy Land, Cole's Rock, Mount Pleasant & Wranghams.
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List of Assets Currently in the Historical Environmental Register

The following are assets that are located within and very near to the Peaks National Park.

Asset No	Asset Name	Historical Significance	Current Status
10334	Ruin	Flax industry buildings, a large industrial building, mid to late 20th century.	Derelict.
10335	Road Bank	Boundary feature, a cob-built bank, constructed in sections. Period of construction unknown.	Stable.
10336	Road Bank	Boundary feature, a cob-built bank, constructed in sections. Period of construction unknown.	Stable.
10434	Fairyland Flax Mill	Part of the relics of the flax industry. Mostly mid-20th century though the earlier sections could be 18th century in origin	Derelict.
10437	Rock Mount House	Possibly 19th century in origin.	The building has been restored using traditional building materials and techniques and is now privately owned and rented on short-term basis.
10439	Boundary Road	A significant boundary feature. A traditional style, once common on the island, but being lost to redevelopment and cement repairs.	Unknown.
10440	Peak Dale Farm	Part of the farm of John Des Fountain who was the largest land owner of the Napoleonic period.	The building has been partly restored, but presently vacant.
10441	Shed (Peak Dale Farm)	Ancillary structure related to the house.	Unknown.
10537	Thorn Cottage	A crown colony dwelling site, probably 19th century in origin though has been altered.	Occupied.
10545	Mount Pleasant	A moderately high-status East India Company period dwelling.	
10551	Rose Cottage	A once finely constructed house of unusual plan form. EIC period	Ruin.
10553	St Helena & the Cross Church	A religious structure built in 1951.	Still in use.

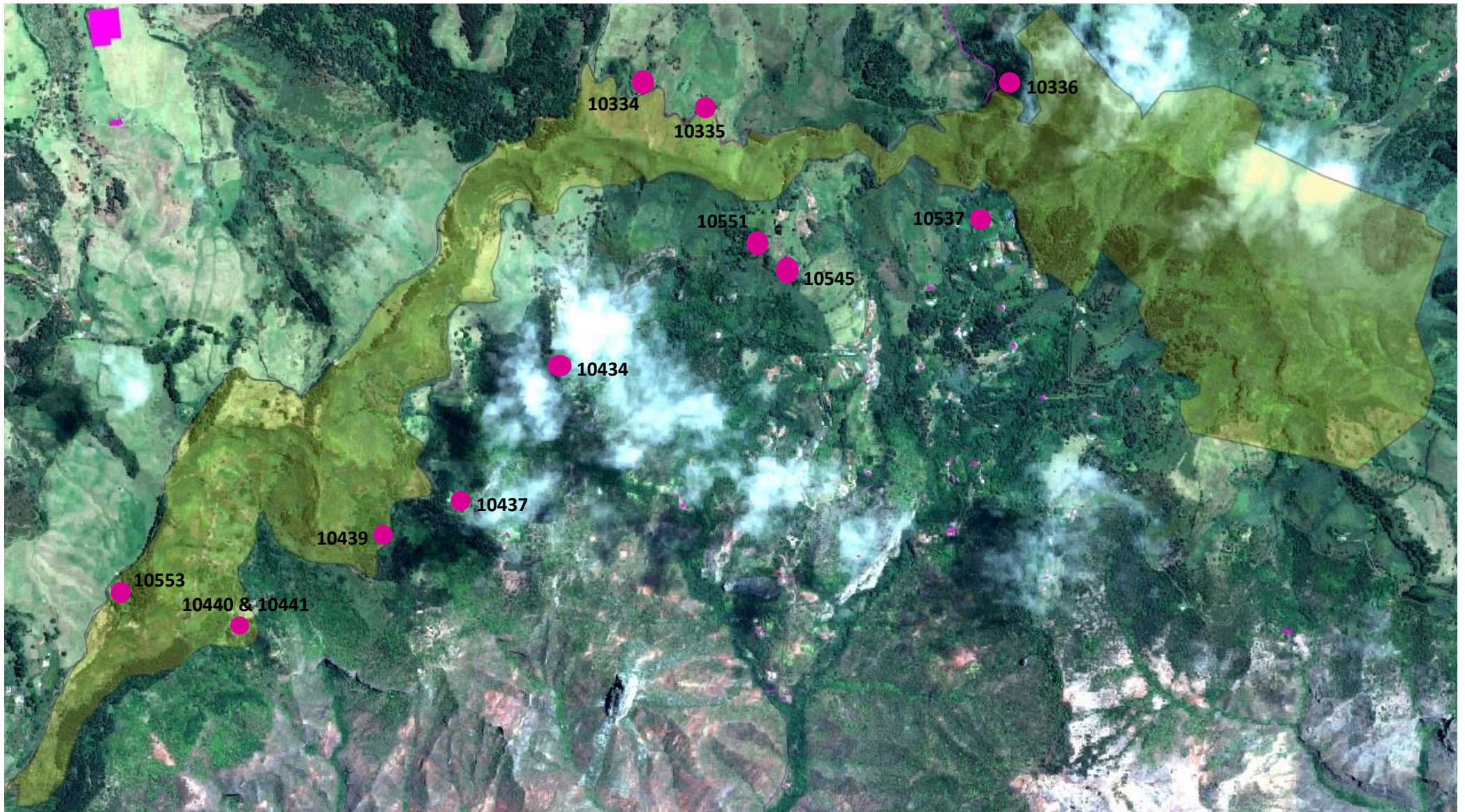


Fig 7: QGIS image of the Peaks National Park with boundary line, displaying assets as per above table.
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CONCLUSION

While, the Peaks National Park is best known primarily as a natural conservation area for the island's endemic plant and natural wildlife, investing in the exploration and preservation of historical features was also recognised as a valuable element of the Cloud Forest Project.

This Historic Features Assessment, has revealed there are various significant assets within the Peaks National Park. Although there are not many tangible features remaining today, valuable archival records, historical maps, accounts and local knowledge, has created a timeframe and insight into its varied and important historical usage.

The timeline has shown that from the early days of settlement, much of the land within and around the Peaks National Park was leased as farming land and this undoubtedly contributed to the destruction of many of the endemic flora and fauna.

It also held a small military presence, with the existence of a Fort at High Peak and in later years the various pathways throughout the Peaks were vital travel links in the surveillance of Napoleon and day to day movements.

In the late 1800's two initiatives were introduced to create an exporting trade for the island. The first being the cultivation of Cinchona plant in 1867 and the second and most successful was the Flax Industry, which operated over 60 years and ended in the 1960's.

It is from this period onwards, that the island became more aware of the severe environmental and habitual damage that had occurred over the centuries and has since been working towards its restoration, emphasising its cultural value as well as its global environmental significance.

In April 2023, access was restricted to several areas within the Peaks National Park, due to the potential spread of multiple plant pathogens that were identified.

Although, potential restoration recommendations have been suggested as practically possible (in Appendix 3) further exploration and investigations are required to collect added data and evaluate the conditions of specific known assets.

The HER has now been updated to reflect the information gathered in Appendix 3.



2023 – S M-Wade, Mount Actaeon overlooking Sandy Bay

APPENDIX 1 – References & Data Sources

- Denholm K. 2006, A History of the Flax Industry 1874 -1966: St Helena National Trust
- Denholm K. 2017, South Atlantic Fortress: St Helena National Trust
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- St Helena Government, St Helena The Peaks National Park Conservation Management Plan 2019-2024
- Tatham G W. Emigrants to St Helena 1898 – 1978: Unpublished
- Teale, P L. 1972, Saint Helena A History of The Development of The Island Vol 2-3: University of Natal
- Weaver B, 2002, Early Views and Maps of St Helena 1596 – 1814: School of Geology and Geophysics University of Oklahoma: Unpublished

APPENDIX 2

Draft interpretation text (for future leaflets, signage) covering key dates of the historical timeline and features:

The Peaks National Park is best known primarily as a natural conservation area for the islands endemic plant and natural wildlife. However, like most of St Helena, this now protected area also bears historical features from the early days of settlement and military presence.

The island was settled in 1659 and due to its significance as a trading station for the East India Company (EIC), it also contained a heavy military presence.

Although there are not many tangible features remaining today within the Peaks National Park, archival records, historical maps and accounts have created an insight into its varied and important historical usage.

From the 1600's through to the early 1800's, much of the land within and around the Peaks National Park was leased as farming land and as a result many of the endemic flora and fauna were destroyed.

The military also were stationed here, records indicate that a "small fort once existed on High Peak" and "out guards were kept on a day and night rotation"

The Peaks was also a shortcut route for islanders between the west of the island to the east. This is evident from the remnants of the various pathways throughout the Peaks. These paths were certainly a vital link for the British in their grand plan of surveillance of Napoleon, namely Cabbage Tree Road.

In the late 1800's two initiatives were introduced to create an exporting trade for the island. The first being the cultivation of Cinchona plant in 1867. A nursery was established near Newfoundland Cottage - located below the trail to Diana's Peak. Although the location of the cottage is known, it is uncertain if any physical traces of the Cottage remains.

The second and the most successful was the Flax Industry. At its peak, flax covered over 3,000 acres of land and the industry directly employed 300 to 400 people. The industry collapsed in 1960, but by far its biggest legacy is the flax itself, which still covers large areas of the Peaks National Park.

A few Historical Features to look out for within the Peaks National Park:

- **The Norfolk Pines** on top of Mounts' Actaeon & Cuckholds
(Distinctive in appearance, Norfolk pines were usually planted as landmarks to assist sailing ships gain their bearings)
- **Cannon below Mount Actaeon**
A signal gun, where at that height would have been heard island-wide. The carriage it now sits in, was built in the 1990s.
- **Chinese Baths**
Known as the Chinese baths (due to a Chinese insignia inscribed on the stone - sadly no longer visible) Essentially a water trough for animals and a bath for birds, it possibly was a water stop of for islanders and military travelling the path.
- **Halley's Mount Observatory**
Named after the astronomer Edmond Halley who visited in 1677, to make observations of the southern skies and the transit of the planet mercury.

Appendix 3

Information compiled into St Helena HER spreadsheet for updating the HER.

Asset 10969

NAME: Cannon below Mount Actaeon **PARCEL:** DPRR0170 **GPS Coordinates:** 211068.0,8232320.3

DESCRIPTION: A four pounder iron signal gun of approximately 3in (80mm) calibre. the only markings are its weight - 7 - 3 - ? (cwt -qtr.- lbs), hundredweight, quarter and pounds. Total approximate weight 400kg and approximate length is 6ft long.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: A signal gun, where at that height would have been heard island wide. The carriage it now sits in, was built in the 1990s.

RESTORATION RECOMENDATIONS: Clearing of the overgrown foliage (If possible) base to be replaced by a replica and cannon to be applied with a coating and sealing preservative.



Asset 10970

NAME: Gate Post, Taylor's Gate **PARCEL:** DPRR0170 **GPS Coordinates:** 210643.91,8232437.96

DESCRIPTION: A single iron post with a narrow form.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: Boundary feature, the gate was used to keep cattle on the lower side of Taylor's. Also possibly indicating Lower Taylors from Upper Taylors.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS: No recommendations.



Asset 10971

NAME: Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) on Cuckold's **PARCEL:** DPRR0170

GPS Coordinates: 211117.3,8231910.1

DESCRIPTION: Norfolk Island pine is an evergreen coniferous species of tree which will grow to a mature height of 150 to 200 feet (50 – 65 m) tall, with straight vertical trunks and symmetrical branches, the bark is grey-brown exfoliating in fine scales. The local name used to describe the needle like leaves is “Monkey Tails”.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: Distinctive in appearance, Norfolk pines were usually planted as landmarks and in this case, it was planted on the Island’s highest landmarks (One also at Actaeon) to help sailing ships gain their bearings.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS: No recommendations.



Asset 10972

NAME: Norfolk Island Pine Tree on Mount Actaeon **PARCEL:** DPRR0170

GPS Coordinates: 210782.3,8232295.2

DESCRIPTION: Smaller in stature than the tree on Cuckhold’s, the Norfolk Island pine is an evergreen coniferous species of tree which will grow to a mature height of 150 to 200 feet (50 – 65 m) tall, with straight vertical trunks and symmetrical branches, the bark is grey-brown exfoliating in fine scales. The local name used to describe the needle like leaves is “Monkey Tails”.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: Distinctive in appearance, Norfolk pines were usually planted as landmarks and in this case, it was planted on the Island’s highest landmarks (One also at Cuckhold’s) to help sailing ships gain their bearings.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS: No recommendations.



Asset 10973

NAME: Newfoundland Cottage **PARCEL:** DPRR0170

GPS Coordinates: Unknown.

DESCRIPTION: Unknown. The location is presently extremely overgrown, more investigation is required.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: From information given, it is thought that 3 stone buildings were once on this location. All 3 were built from stone that already existed on site. It is believed to have been a family dwelling, but date of construction is unknown. However, the *Report on the experiment of establishing the Chinchona plant in St Helena, July 1868 – Dec 1869*, states; *the decision was resolved to fix upon a spot near “Newfoundland Cottage” and a workman was stationed at the location to occupy the cottage to take charge of the young plants.* Therefore, from this, we can establish its existence and utilisation during this time period.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS: First priority would be clearance of the pathway to the location, in order to assess the condition of the site.



Asset 10974

NAME: Path leading to Elle's Point and Rock Rose **PARCEL:** DPRR0170 **GPS Coordinates:** Unknown.

DESCRIPTION: Unknown. Outline is still visible - Further investigation is required.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: One of many paths that were once used to access the peaks.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS: Clearance of the pathway if practically possible.



Asset: 10975

NAME: Path from Wrangham's **PARCEL:** DPRR0170 **GPS Coordinates:** Unknown.

DESCRIPTION: Unknown. Outline is still visible - Further investigation is required.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: One of many paths that were once used to access the peaks.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS: Clearance of the pathway if practically possible.



Asset 10976

NAME: Chinese Baths **PARCEL:** SBW0150

GPS Coordinates: 207257.8,8231350.3

DESCRIPTION: A long thin shallow pool cut out of the rock.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: Essentially a water trough for animals and a bath for birds. Although primary known as the Chinese baths (due to a Chinese insignia inscribed on the stone - sadly no longer visible) and also suggested, that it was cut by Chinese labourers. They have also been referred to as the Portuguese baths – reason unknown.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS: Clear the surrounding foliage, so the feature can be more visible.



Asset 10977

NAME: Farming area Lower Taylor's **PARCEL:** DPRR0170 **GPS Coordinates:** unknown.

DESCRIPTION: Further investigation required.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: Once used as farming and grazing land for cattle. Presently being cleared and ground cover being planted.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS: Land is currently being cleared for future re-planting.



Asset 10978

NAME: Halley's Mount Observatory **PARCEL:** DPRR0204

GPS Coordinates: 211038.6,8233403.0

DESCRIPTION: The observatory location has been enclosed with a cemented stone wall and a later addition of a framed wooden shelter has been erected. An encased stone plaque with the following engraving *"The Site of the observatory of Edmond Halley. He came to catalogue the stars of the southern hemisphere 1677 – 1678"*.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: Named after the astronomer Edmond Halley who visited in 1677, to make observations of the southern skies and the transit of the planet mercury.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS: On site visit required to make recommendations.



Appendix 3

Historical Pictures



1900 – Central Peaks (photographer unknown)



1900 - E L Jackson, Flax drying.



1900 – Mount Actaeon (photographer unknown)



1942 Moss - The Peaks and Arnos Vale



1942 - Cabbage tree on Diana's Peak (photographer unknown)



1940s - Neil Fantom Flickr 009 Flax cut for collection



1961 - Bob Johnson - Flax being cut



**Flax cultivation and the extraction of the raw fibre forms along the central ridges
Image taken from Colonial Reports St Helena 1947-1952-53**



**1970 - The site of Halley's Observatory, partly cleared
(By kind permission of The National Geographical Magazine)**



Tommy George descending trail from Diana's Peak (Date and Photographer unknown)



1980 – Heseltine, The late Mr George Benjamin BEM



Photograph (Date and Photographer Unknown) Courtesy of Tracey Williams