

St. Helena Government Environment Management Directorate.
National Conservation Area Information sheet

A brief overview of National Conservation Areas (NCAs)

What does the term National Conservation Area mean?

Is an 'umbrella term' adopted by St. Helena to describe a range of sites that represent the very best of St. Helena's landscapes, plant, animals, landforms and heritage. They have previously been referred to as National Protected Areas.

What is the purpose of NCAs ?

- Conserve nationally important assets
- Conserve what is important to people and help create and sustain livelihoods - Allows discrete management appropriate for that area
- To conserve the environment for future generations
- To conserve ecosystem good and services (water catchments, recreational areas, etc).

So how do NCAs differ from current conservation efforts?

Currently there are lots of good examples of conservation efforts including:

- Millennium Forest – community participation in the re-creation of the former Great Wood lowland gumwood forest. Implementation of a restoration management plan
- Diana's Peaks National Park - Diana's Peak – enhancing and restoring largest area of native cloud forest – post box walk & path maintenance

The NCA's will bring together existing conservation areas under the same umbrella as well as incorporating new ones for example 'Islands' which are important seabird breeding sites.

How many NCAs are there?

There are 23 designated NCAs (listed in Table 1 below) which are split into 4 types:

- National Park – (mixture of features and can have a recreational element)
- Nature Reserve – (specific species or features)
- Important Wirebird Areas – (Wirebird populations of national and international importance)
- Historic Conservation Areas – (built heritage and archaeological sites)

They have similar purposes but the focus of what they are trying to conserve and enhance differs, see information above for a brief guide.

Where are they?

They are located across St. Helena, a copy of the map of NCAs is also available online.



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Table 1:

Name of NCA	Type of NCA	Name of NCA	Type of NCA
Sandy bay	National Park	Plantation House	Historic Conservation area
The Peaks	National Park	Longwood House	Historic Conservation area
The Barn and stone top	National Park	Napolean's tomb	Historic Conservation area
Man and Horse	Important Wirebird Area	The Briars	Historic Conservation area
Broad Bottom	Important Wirebird Area	Knollcombes	Historic Conservation area
Deadwood Plain	Important Wirebird Area	Prosperous Bay Plain	Nature Reserve
Bottom woods	Important Wirebird Area	Millenium Forest	Nature Reserve
Upper prosperous	Important Wirebird Area	Heart-shaped water fall	Nature Reserve
Heritage coast	Historic Conservation site	High hill	Nature Reserve
Jamestown	Historic Conservation site	Deep valley	Nature Reserve
Lemon valley	Historic Conservation site	Islands	Nature Reserve
High Knoll fort	Historic Conservation site		

Where can I get more information?

Email: Dr David Higgins
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or

Call 2270 or drop in to the Environmental Management Directorate at Essex House Jamestown.

