

The History of NCI St Agnes Head

2nd Oct 1926 – New building erected for HM Coastguard to replace older building at St Agnes Beacon which had been in use since 25th March 1914. Landlord Mr George Coulter Hancock. Ground Rent £5 per annum.

HM Coastguard – Constant Communications – Coastal Communication Circuit (telephone) to Perranporth and Newquay Coastguard to east and Portreath Coastguard to west. Later to Godrevy lighthouse. Telephone Exchange circuit fitted 3rd March 1927. Telephone number St Agnes 20.

13th March 1940 – Sleeping hut – wooden extension completed

4th Aug 1940 – Observation telephone fitted to communicate with Royal Observer Corps, Truro

14th Nov 1940 – Protection shelter completed including installation of concrete roof over lookout

2nd Dec 1940 – Telephone fitted in shelter

22nd Sep 1942 – Radio Telephone installed by Marconi's. Copper disk aerial on east wall.

1st Jul 1951 – Watch reduced to occasional lookout and bad and thick weather watch 1972 April – Aerial for bantam radios fitted, later replaced by Westminster Radios

1982/3 – Scanner, barometer and wind speed indicator obtained from local funding – aerial extended by 8 feet

24th May 1990 – Used for last incident as communications base

25th May 1990 – Ceremonial lowering of Coastguard ensign

31st May 1990 – Final closure – operational equipment removed. Flagstaff removed for erection at office/coast rescue store, British Road, St Agnes

Nov 1990 – Building handed to Carrick District Council as present ground landlord

Feb 1994 – Building leased to radio amateurs 2004 – Radio amateurs give up lease – Building empty

June 2006 – Area around St Agnes Head and building gifted to National Trust by Carrick District Council

Aug 2006 – Lease granted to National Coastwatch Institution. St Agnes Head Station Group formed at same time.

Apr 2007 – Watches commenced by National Coastwatch, on Saturdays and Sundays 8.00am to 8.00pm

3rd Sep 2007 – Equipment removed and building vacated by Coastwatch pending refurbishment by National Trust

Jan 2008 – Due to discovery of mundic block in the walls and the unsafe condition of the building the National Trust take the decision to demolish existing building and replace with new structure

June 2008 – Planning permission granted 2008 Sept – Old building knocked down and erection of replacement commenced.

19th Jan 2009 – Handover of keys to National Coastwatch of new building

02 June 2010 – QAVS awarded to St Agnes Head 2015 improvement to battery charging system by addition of roof mounted wind turbine

April 2020 reduction in operating hours due to Covid 19 prior to total lockdown and closure before re commencing single manned watches later in year.

2021 fully operational albeit on reduced watches (0800 – 1700 daily). 48 watchkeepers and 11 trainees awaiting start of training on 1st July.