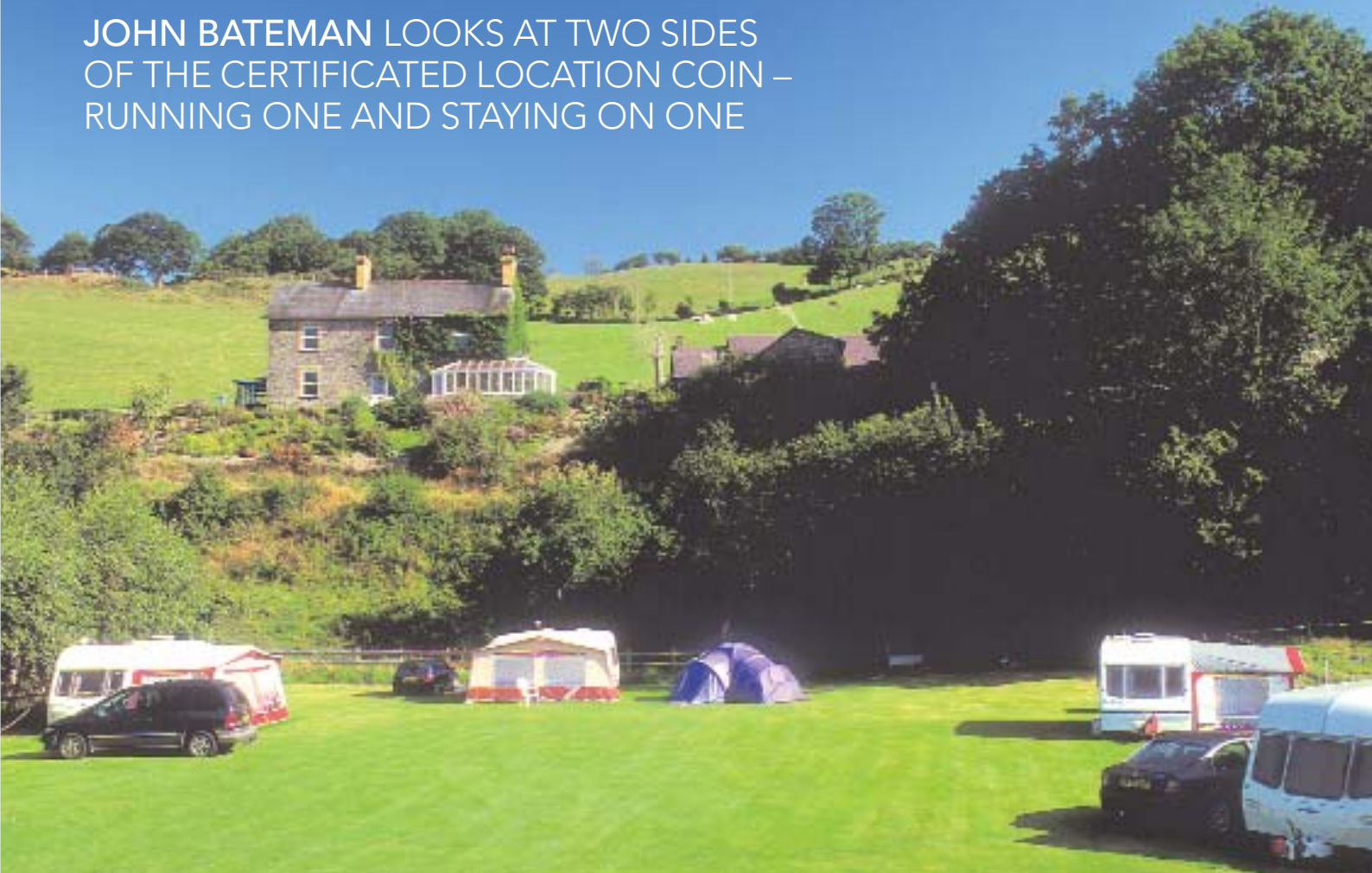


# What is a CL?

JOHN BATEMAN LOOKS AT TWO SIDES OF THE CERTIFICATED LOCATION COIN – RUNNING ONE AND STAYING ON ONE



ABOVE: Pantmawr CL, Aberystwyth

**THEY COME** in all shapes and sizes, scattered like pieces of a giant jigsaw. The completed picture shows them by the sea, high up in hills or down on the farm, tucked away in a cosy back garden or apple orchard, snoozing on a river bank or beside a tranquil lake.

Club members call them CLs (Certificated Locations). They've been formalised (licensed, supported and inspected) now for nearly 50 years, but it is informality that is the ethos of CLs, the very lifeblood of caravanning and the enduring link with the Club's traditions and its roots of a century ago.

But in a modern world of luxury caravans towed by luxury cars, what exactly is a CL?

## A CL is... TRADITION

Before the 1960 Caravan Sites Act, the Club enjoyed exemption from camping legislation and listed a large number of, generally, remote country sites and useful night halts for its members. No planning consent or public health licence was required and the common view was that, for this form of casual caravanning, the 'true caravanner' required no facilities other than 'reasonable access to more or less level ground, fresh water and good countryside'.

Legislative tightening of the noose of the 1960 Act brought CLs into existence. The spirit of small sites was retained and the Club became, and remains, one of the

organisations permitted to issue a licence, renewable annually for member-only use, with outfits limited to five for no longer than a 28-day stay.

Regular inspections were introduced to ensure acceptable standards of fresh water and toilet disposal facilities, as well as general compliance by CL licence holders.

Many owners provide much more, but the traditional spirit of touring freedom, informality and camaraderie lives on.

## A CL is... FRIENDSHIP

For Pam and Eric Peacock, from Chichester, summer caravan holidays have had one essential ingredient for the past 37 years – Cornwall, or more

specifically the river Camel where it winds its way between Wadebridge and Padstow and meets the sea.

There, overlooking the estuary from a glorious plateau, sits Trivitha Farm CL, Trevorrick (*Directory*, p297). It's a beautiful spot, and Phil and Jo Mossman, farm and CL owners, have had little problem attracting members. With its neatly-kept grass, spectacular views, easy access for boating and fishing and hook-ups, Trivitha Farm is a splendid example of the quality of Club CLs on offer.

According to the Peacocks, Phil and Jo have the magic touch. "Welcoming, friendly but not overpowering," says Eric.

The Mossmans have made many friends. "One lad had his first 11 birthdays here, returned for his 21st and now brings a new generation along," recalls Phil.

## A CL is... FAMILIES

The longest-serving site on the Club's network of 2500 CLs is Shoulthwaite Farm, Naddle (*Directory*, p301), three miles from Keswick in the beautiful Lake District. For Jim and Ruth Harrison, running a CL has become almost as much a way of life as looking after their 170-acre sheep farm.

Jim's parents set up the site in 1955 and when they retired Jim had no hesitation in carrying it on.

Family has also been important with visitors to Shoulthwaite Farm CL too. One family of several generations has been visiting the site for 45 years, while Margaret and Raymond Hepworth have links with the CL dating back to 1956.

Long-serving it may be, but the Harrisons' CL still moves with the times – hook-ups were installed four years ago.

## A CL is... FUN

A CL is a perfect base for outdoor enthusiasts. Take fishing as an example. Use the Club website search tool to hunt through hundreds of CLs from which you can pursue your angling interests – whether it's lake, river or specialist pond.

Prefer golf? There are actually CLs that are part of and run by golf clubs. Play 18 holes and your personal clubhouse (your caravan) is waiting for you.

Walkers and cyclists may think that CLs have been designed purely for them. Many sites have paths or tracks adjacent, ranging from coastal routes to cross-country trails. Some CLs have swimming pools, others have games rooms. Some are adjacent to sandy beaches or offer horse-riding... the list is endless.

## A CL is... JUST AROUND THE CORNER

And it could be yours. If you have half-an-acre of reasonably level ground and providing water and safe road access would

## INFORMATION GENERAL

If you're interested in setting up a CL, tel 01342 336792, see [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk) or write to the Estates department at East Grinstead House



not be impractical, contact the Club (see panel). We'll arrange for a Field Officer to visit and let you know whether a CL is a genuine proposition or not.

The Club would like more CLs, members would like more CLs and we're pretty sure you'll like running a CL. The Club will be happy to guide you.

## A CL is... WELL SUPPORTED

CL owners are looked after by a specialist Club team. The Estates department at East Grinstead has dedicated staff dealing with CL policies, paperwork and new applications.

Field Officers and CL Advisers provide the front-line service, setting up new sites, checking that standards are maintained and supporting CL owners with a direct link to the Club's Sussex HQ.

## A CL is... FINANCE

If you are interested in setting up a CL, inevitably there are financial implications. Good gateway access, reasonably level



ABOVE LEFT: Shoulthwaite Farm CL  
ABOVE RIGHT: Tremarkyn CL, Liskeard  
BELOW: Red Rocks Fishery, Preston

ground, pipes and taps for drinking water and rinsing, plus facilities for chemical toilet disposal add up to the basic requirements, and these need to be paid for. But this shouldn't be prohibitive.

However, if you plan hook-ups, hardstandings, a toilet, shower and other attractions, serious money can be involved. Club guidance leaflets provide practical information and Field Officer advice can be crucial with potential pitch demand and site popularity.

Pitch fees set by the owner, extra charges for showers, use of washing machines and so on will start the recouping operation once the site is up and running.

As a rough guide, however, you could be looking at something in the region of £8-10 per outfit per night, depending on facilities on offer and the area. There could also be extra income if the CL offers other products and services.

Owning a CL won't make you rich, but it can be a nice little earner – as well as very enjoyable. ■

