



Truro College

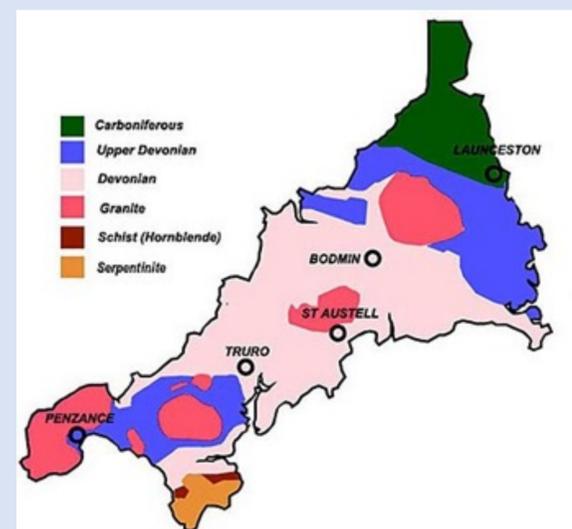
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Is there naturally occurring hydrogen in Cornwall?

Why have we asked this question?

The need to go green to protect our environment is evident. Hydrogen gas will be part of the solution, but producing it requires a huge amount of energy. It does occur naturally in rocks, and if we can find it in large enough quantities it could be part of the sustainable solution.

Cornwall may be the answer, as it has potentially hydrogen producing granite and serpentinite. Most of the world's natural hydrogen is produced by serpentinisation, and a lot of the rest by radiolysis in granite.



What have we found out?

We have concluded that the St Austell granite is the most promising site, with elevated hydrogen and lower carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. This indicates that it would be worth continuing with this research and completing more samples to gain representative data. This shows that in Cornwall hydrogen is being produced by radiolysis in the granite, possibly at Goonbarrow due to the elevated amount of radioactive material that have been discovered there in the past.