

Bodinnick ~ Fowey Vehicle Ferry

Welcome to the Bodinnick Vehicle Ferry - a crossing with over 600 years of history! In the 14th century, the ferry belonged to the Manor of Bodinnick and formed a vital link for those travelling through Cornwall, one of three ancient routes to run east to west. Crossing into the county from Plymouth travellers would follow the hilltop road past Looe before arriving at Bodinnick to take the ferry to Fowey and continue their journey through Cornwall. The first bridge over the River Fowey is not until Lostwithiel, 6.2 miles further upstream, making the journey around the river a much longer one.



Bodinnick Slipway 1831.

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The ferry from this time would have been similar to a catamaran with two wooden hulls joined by a wooden deck and two men with long sweeps, or oars, would have rowed the vessel back and forth across the river. The ferry would have had to carry horses and other animals as well as people and by the 17th century it would have been carrying horse and carts. There would also have been a small boat for ferrying passengers back and forth. Both ferries ran to the Riverside Slipway in Fowey (this slip can be seen to the left of Caffa Mill). The move to the Caffa Mill slip took place in 1976. The schedule to the right shows the charges for crossing in 1887.

The Schedule before referred to

Four wheel Carriages with two horses	- 6
Wagon	- 5
Two wheel Chaise or Gig one or two horses	- 1 6
One man and horse loaded	- 3
One man and horse not loaded	- 2
Foot Passengers (incl. resident in Fowey or Larkspoe Parish)	- 1
Foot Passengers (resident in Fowey or Larkspoe Parish)	- 5
Shop each 1/2 or per score	- 10
Bullocks each	- 4
Calf	- 2
Dog	- 2
Grain, Corn 24 Gallons or per score	- 10



Early postcard showing motor cars on the ferry, C1920.

It was not until the 20th century that major changes were made to the ferry, until the mid 1920's, it remained a simple floating platform rowed by two men. With the introduction of the motor car the then owner began using a diesel powered passenger boat to propel the platform across the river. The platform could carry two cars and the owner produced postcards to publicise use of the ferry by cars.

The ferry continued to be propelled by a tug boat until the 1990's when the ferry you are onboard today was built by the current owners. There are two ferries, Jenack and Gellan, both capable of carrying 15 cars and up to 100 passengers when fully crewed.