

LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

CHARACTER TYPE Flood Plain at Tuckingmill PARISH : Carn Brea		DATE OF ASSESSMENT: 18/10/2020 ASSESSORS : Peter Lee and Warwick Addison
Character Attribute	Landscape reference guide	Your landscape description <i>Record your descriptive information for each heading</i>
Topography and drainage	What is the shape of the land? - flat, shallow, steep, uniform, undulating, upland, ridge, plateau Is there any water present? - estuary, river, fast flowing stream, babbling brook, spring, reservoir, pond, marsh	Flat valley bottom forming part of a U-shaped valley. The area is wet and marshy with ponds. See photographs 1 and 2. The Red River (Cornish - Koner) runs through the valley, it's source is at Bolenowe GR SW6759337844, it is 8 miles long and falls 560ft from source to sea at Godrevy. The river goes underground at Brea village screen GR SW6637940325 and emerges south of the railway embankment. There is a concrete bridge near Tuckingmill Decline, GR SW6624740489, where the flow is dramatically increased, which is the beginning of the floodplain. The floodplain ends at Chapel street screen GR SW6609040962, where the river again goes underground. see photographs 3, 4 and 5.
Biodiversity	What elements of the character could support protected species (guidance from Cornwall Wildlife Trust CWT) Are there any hedges, what are they made of and do they support vegetation, if so describe the type of vegetation? Are there any wet areas? Are there any features which could support protected species? Are there any invasive species? (refer to supporting notes) Does the area contain areas of 'semi natural habitat? (land which is not highly modified – guidance from Cornwall Wildlife Trust)	The wet area supports a wide variety of plants and wildlife, including aquatic plants and invertebrates. There is evidence of animal runs and drinking access points. see photographs 6, 7, 8 and 9. There are no hedges in this area. A small area of Japanese Knotweed was observed, consisting of a single plant. see photograph 10. There is semi-natural habitat where nature has reclaimed the land formerly used for mining and industry. see: Supporting Documents/ Carn Brea CP Wildlife resource map.
Land cover and Land Use	What is the vegetation cover? Woodland, scrub, heather, dunes, mudflats, grassland, moorland, farmland crops What is the land used for ? Arable, pasture, industry, isolated farm buildings, isolated residential properties, playing field, golf course, sports pitch, caravan park, camp site etc	This is a wet area with associated fauna and flora. see photographs 6, 7, 9 and 11. Due to the historical contamination of the area, there is a mass of gorse on the flood plain. There is evidence of mineral deposits all along the course of the riverbed. see photographs 12, 13 and 18. The area is mainly left to nature with a well-maintained trail provided for recreational purposes such as dog walking, walking/running, cycling etc. see photographs 14 and 24. This is also part of the local mining trail. Access can be gained via Brea railway embankment tunnel. see photograph 26. Please note: This area lies within the steep-sided Tuckingmill valley which has its own, separate, assessment. Although this area forms part of the valley we felt that it warrants it's own assessment due to its uniqueness within the parish.

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Field and woodland pattern	<p>Where is the woodland located? In sheltered areas, in hollows, open landscape, lower lying land, overlying an undulating landscape. Are the trees native? Is there ancient woodland? (existed continuously since 1600 or before)</p> <p>What size are the fields - Small, medium, large, have hedges been removed and field sizes increased?</p> <p>What are the hedges made of? - Cornish hedge (stone) what is the stone type? Hedgerow (no stone, all vegetation). Are they heavily managed or overgrown.</p> <p>What is the character of the hedge Sculpted by exposure, possibly no trees, or are there mature or larger trees Is there a buffer of vegetation to either side of the hedge, if so what type? Is the hedge fenced?</p>	<p>There is old woodland in the area, with evidence of new trees establishing themselves on the west side of the valley from the new bridge to the railway embankment. see photograph 15.</p> <p>There are no fields in this area.</p> <p>There are no hedges in this area.</p> <p>N/A.</p>
Building distribution (this looks at buildings within the character type, not the settlements themselves. The actual settlements are described in their own assessment sheet)	<p>How are the buildings distributed? Intermittent clusters, scattered, isolated</p> <p>Age and type of buildings and their relationship with the landscape are they Individual farm houses / buildings, clustered farm buildings, holiday accommodation, rural dwellings Have buildings been added, and is it possible to estimate when?</p> <p>What are the distinctive elements of the buildings? Construction stone, building style, window proportions, gate posts, front /rear gardens, nature of property boundaries</p>	<p>There are no buildings associated with this area, or signs of previous buildings.</p>
Transport pattern :- highways and public rights of way (PROW)	<p>What is the character of the roads? What is the road's class, A, B or minor? Are they straight, winding; do they have steep gradients? Are there extensive verges, pavements, characteristic tree tunnels?</p> <p>Describe the public rights of way - in good condition, well managed, overgrown, regularly used, eroded, waterlogged. Are there old/modern stiles and signage, and what is the character and condition of these</p>	<p>There are no roads within the floodplain. A minor road, Chapel Road, runs adjacent to the area on the west side and is on higher ground. see photograph 16.</p> <p>No verges, pavements or tree tunnels in the area.</p> <p>The trail running through this area is well surfaced but off-road, well-maintained, regularly used and wheelchair accessible. It forms part of the local mining trail. see photograph 14.</p>
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Historic Features	<p>Are there designated and none designated features in the landscape? monuments, burial sites, churches etc. Features will have their own setting (the space around it to allow you to appreciate the feature) record an idea of the scale of the setting which would be important to retain.</p>	<p>Due to the nature of the area, there are no historic features other than the contamination of the river. (Referred to, and known as, the "Red River") Adjacent to the floodplain, on the east side, is the Tuckingmill Decline, part of South Crofty mining complex. see photographs 22 and 23.</p>
Condition	<p>In what state/appearance are the characteristics of the area? Have areas /features become degraded Are there areas where improvements could be made to enhance the character of the area? How is the area managed? The management of the land will directly influence the value of the available habitat for wildlife.</p>	<p>The area is set aside for wildlife, nature and recreation. The trail is well managed. Continued maintenance of the trail and surrounding wetland should be supported.</p>
Aesthetic and sensory	<p>Describe the level of tranquillity, calm and undisturbed, consider bird song, level of artificial noise, How is the landscape experienced? exposed, intimate, noisy (if so what is the source what direction?) remote, rugged, windswept, sheltered, enclosed, uncluttered, sculptural How will the experience of the area change through the seasons? What is the predominant wind direction? What is the level of light pollution at night?</p>	<p>The area is predominantly calm and quiet . Depending upon the time of the day, there is minor traffic noise pollution from the adjacent Chapel Road and from Kerrier Way above. see photographs 16. Beyond the new bridge, travelling southwards, the area quickly becomes sheltered and quiet with a sense of calm and the sound of running water. see photographs 27, 28 and 29. Seasonal changes are apparent in the flora and fauna. During the winter months the flow of the river increases resulting in more flooding. see photographs 11 and 17. Light pollution is minimal and restricted to the northern end of the area. (Chapel Road)</p>
Distinctive features	<p>Features which are not designated but are locally important, could include, tree tunnels, distinctive tree(s) on a skyline, wind turbines, power lines, telecommunication masts, the local stone for construction, building types styles, stiles on footpaths, gate posts Features will have their own setting (the space around it to allow you to appreciate the feature) record an idea of the scale of the setting which would be important to retain.</p>	<p>The most significant feature of the area is the new bridge which carries Kerrier Way over the Red River and Chapel Road. The bridge is of granite construction and impressive scale. see photographs 18.</p>
Views	<p>Are there any important vantage points? Describe the nature of the vantage point, cliff path, hilltop, and what makes the view important</p>	<p>There are magnificent views of the surrounding area from Kerrier Way, on the new bridge GR SW6616640813. There are access points to the floodplain from the bridge. see photograph 20. The start of the floodplain can be viewed from the bridge at GRSW6624740489. see photograph 25.</p>

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Key characteristics	What features stand out from completing the assessment sheet Create a set of bullet points to highlight what makes this character type distinctive, what are it's key characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Waterlogged flood plain with higher water levels in winter. *Peaceful and undisturbed. *Impressive new bridge of granite construction. *Nature taking hold and re-establishing itself. *Tranquil river settings. *There is less river pollution due to closure of mines. *Unique area within the parish. *No roads within the area.
Photographs	Take representative photos of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the overall character of this landscape type • specific characteristics features of the landscape type • notable views and vistas. Mark the photo location on a plan and which way you were looking when you took the photograph. Make a note of what element of character is the photograph illustrating.	Photos have been taken and are included below.
Relationship to the adjacent landscape character type(s)	There is likely to be an area of transition between this landscape character type and the adjacent one. Character can not be tied to a line on a map. Make note here of how the landscape changes between this character type and the adjacent, and any important relationships / links.#	The adjacent landscape is the steep-sided Tuckingmill valley. The transition between the two landscapes consists of a U-shaped valley bottom with trees beginning to establish themselves on either side of the valley. see photograph 21. The exception is the area in front of the Tuckingmill Decline where a section has been levelled and a site access created. see photographs 22 and 23.

Pressures/ forces for change and land management

Character type	Pressures for change	Land management and development considerations
Flood Plain at Tuckingmill	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A pressure for change in this area could be the resumption of mining which could include the exploration for Lithium and other precious metals. 2. Increased light pollution from nearby roads or new development. 3. Realignment of nearby roads and tracks. 4. Issues relating to water run-off from nearby industry. 5. Visitor access and car parking. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The strict management of mining effluent and waste to be controlled to ensure that natural water-courses are not contaminated. 2. Due to the location, size and accessibility of the area, housing development is unlikely to be considered. 3. Continued management of mining trails and wet areas should be encouraged. 4. Advanced techniques in the refining of precious metals must be adhered to.

1. Looking south over the valley. Showing the prevalence of gorse.



2. Wet, marshy area



3. River emerging from railway embankment



4. Red River running adjacent to Chapel Street, where it goes underground



5. Greatly increased flow of river



6, 7, and 8. Wildlife, flora and fauna.

6.



7.



8.



9. Evidence of animal drinking behaviour



10. Japanese Knotweed



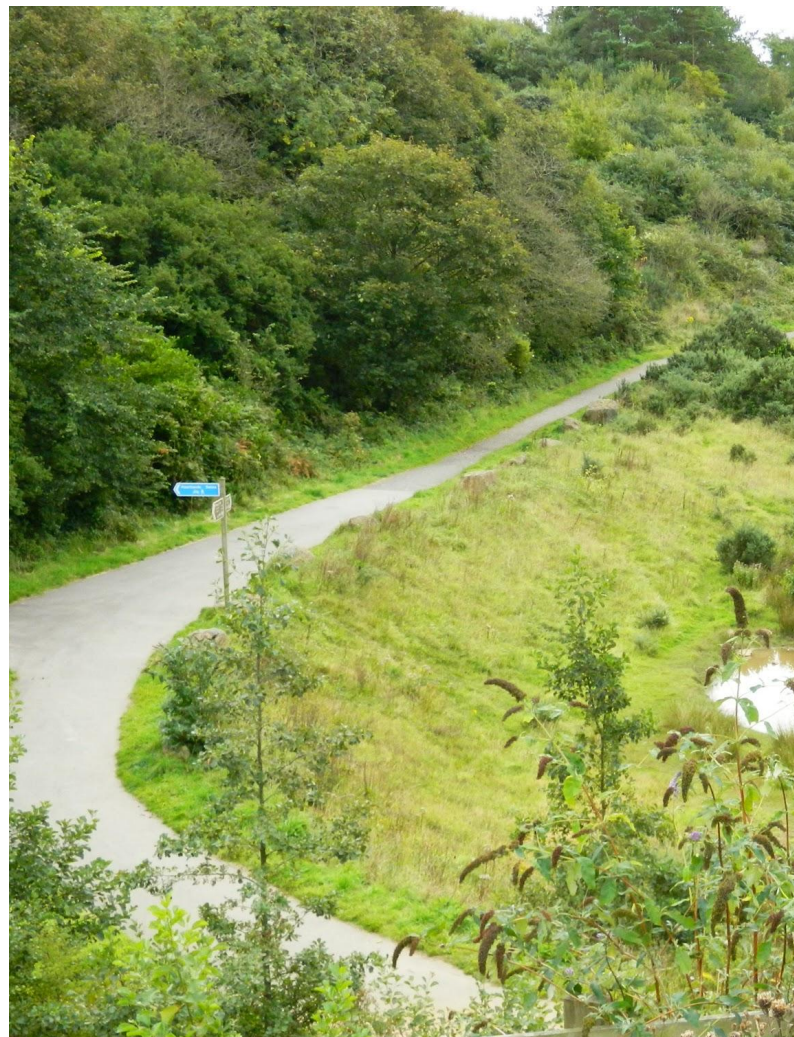
11. Yellow Flag Iris



12 and 13 Mineral deposits evident



14. Looking south, mining trail on the east side



15. Trees, flora and fauna, looking south



16. Chapel road on the west side



17. Autumnal change



18. The new bridge at Kerrier Way.



20. View south from Kerrier Way



21. Steep side of valley with trees establishing themselves



22. The entrance to the Tuckingmill Decline



23. An aerial photograph of the area surrounding the Tuckingmill Decline



24. A dog enjoying himself



25. A view north from concrete bridge



26. Entry to floodplain from Brea village.



27. Tranquil setting



28. Tranquil setting



29. Tranquil setting

