

LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Carn Brea – Gently Sloping

CHARACTER TYPE: Gently Sloping PARISH : Carn Brea		DATE OF ASSESSMENT: 22/02/2021 ASSESSOR :Florence MacDonald
Character Attribute	Landscape reference guide	Your landscape description
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	<p>The land undulates gently in a broad basin between the steep slopes leading to Carn Brea and Four Lanes respectively. Photo 1.</p> <p>Some water gathers in rainier weather with large puddles and marshy areas. The source of the Red River, which follows the boundary of the Parish, is adjacent to Bolenowe. There are lots of gullies present along Cornish hedges that were used to manage the drainage of fields. Photo 2, 3 and 4. Near the flowing water is also more woodland which forms part of the county wildlife site <i>Newton Moor</i>. At the edge of the Parish boundaries there are also flood zones near rivers, particularly on the western side.</p> <p>see: Supporting documents/Appendices of maps/ 5. Flood zones 2&3.</p>
	<i>Supporting info</i> OS Map; Cornwall Council mapping; aerial photographs	
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)	<p>There is a lot of natural coverage consisting of ferns, bracken, pockets of trees, with established Cornish hedges providing the majority of field boundaries, interspersed with outcrops of granite. These are surrounded by/covered with bracken, blackberries, brambles, and heather. Photos 5, 6 and 7.</p> <p>Birds (sparrows, goldfinches and swifts) bumblebees of different varieties and butterflies were seen as well as evidence of mammals such as rabbits. See Photos 8 and 9.</p> <p>Hedges are interspersed with trees, with more visible in lower areas of land. Marshy wet areas exist in lower areas with willow trees growing nearby. See photos 10 and 11.</p> <p>Invasive species of Japanese knotweed and bindweed were visible. See photo 6.</p> <p>Carn Brea is a designated Conservation Area and a significant portion of the Parish and this land type is designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value called Carnmenellis.</p> <p>see: Supporting documents/ Appendices of maps/ 1. Areas of great landscape value - Carmenellis</p> <p>Two County Wildlife sites exist in Gently Sloping: The Southern side of Carn Brea (Lowland Heathland) and Newton Moor (wet woodland and lowland fens)</p> <p>see:Supporting documents/ Carn Brea CP ERCCIS Designations map & Supporting documents/ K6. Newton Moor CWS & K7. Carn Brea CWS</p> <p>A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) exists just north of Carnkie: West Cornwall Bryophytes.</p> <p>see: Supporting documents/ Appendices of maps/ 3. SSSI West Cornwall Bryophytes & Supporting documents/ West Cornwall Bryophytes SSSI</p>
	<i>Supporting info</i> CWT notes and mapping, local knowledge, old photos, local guide books	

Land cover and Land Use	<p>What is the vegetation cover? Woodland, scrub, heather, dunes, mudflats, grassland, moorland, farmland crops</p> <p>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</p>	<p>The land is a mixture of low grade (Grade 4) agricultural land, with small grazing fields/paddocks, mining landscape, scrub land and residential settlements. The land has predominantly been used for mining and agriculture and has a number of farms scattered throughout. Engine houses dominate the landscape. See photos 12, 13, 14 and 15.</p> <p>The Great Flat Lode and mining trails covers a large area of the Gently Sloping landscape south of Carn Brea which is a popular area for walking, cycling, horse riding and dog walking. There is a popular pub in Piece which has ample car parking and excellent views.</p>
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs, local knowledge</i>	
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?</p> <p>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</p> <p>Is there a buffer of vegetation to either side of the hedge, if so what type? Is the hedge fenced?</p>	<p>The Cornish hedges are very well established, consisting of local stone and covered in grass, brambles, bracken and in some areas gorse. The hedges are generally unmanaged and have developed naturally. See Photos 3 & 4 and 16 & 17. Field types etc are already detailed above.</p> <p>Most fields are small or medium sized fields. (small 0 – 3 acres, medium 3 – 6 acres) see: Supporting documents/ Appendices of maps/ 7a, 7b & 7c.</p> <p>More significant clusters of trees were evident in lower areas, such as Treskillard. Photo 10.</p> <p>There is no ancient woodland.</p>
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs, CWT, agricultural land classification</i>	

Character Attribute	Landscape reference guide	Your landscape description <i>Record your descriptive information for each heading</i>
Building distribution (this looks at buildings within the character type, not the settlements themselves. The actual settlements are described in their own assessment sheet)	How are the buildings distributed? Intermittent clusters, scattered, isolated 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? What are the distinctive elements of the buildings? Construction stone, building style, window proportions, gate posts, front /rear gardens, nature of property boundaries	<p>Carnkie is a linear village, however the area surrounding the village consists mainly of individual isolated properties. The majority of the properties are built of local stone and those that have been rendered and painted are all light colour tones.</p> <p>Higher Carnkie includes a more modern bungalow development located at the top of the area. These properties are a mixture of render and stone finish. Those painted are cream/white in colour. The individual older properties in Higher Carnkie are mainly granite finishes as these are harder wearing, reflecting the harsher weather conditions in that region.</p> <p>Brea Village also sits on the Parish border with Camborne on the North West edge with the Red River passing through it at the boundary. Carnkie and Brea are both mining villages with buildings consisting of granite residential homes.</p> <p>There are a number of much smaller settlements. Bowling Green consists of a small cluster of houses – mainly stone frontages with render finished extensions. Property boundaries are edged with dry stone walls. Wheal Frances has fewer properties. Treskillard and Piece consist of old (c.1850) granite terraced houses on one side of the road, facing fields and larger farmsteads or more recent houses with land.</p> <p>Areas of housing generally follow the work of mining and are in line with numerous engine houses. See Photo 18.</p>
Supporting info	OS Map; aerial photographs, Historic Environment map, old photographs	
Transport pattern :- highways and public rights of way (PROW)	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? 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>The C road, Loscombe road and unclassified road, Loscombe Lane run through the Gently Sloping landscape with numerous Public Rights Of Way leading from them.</p> <p>Loscombe road is a well used route for cars between Four Lanes and Pool, whereas Loscombe Lane is quieter and is popular with walkers, joggers and dog walkers as it leads to the Great Flat Load and has less traffic on it. Most other roads in the area are unclassified.</p> <p>The minor road leading from Carnkie village to Carn Brea Castle & monument starts as tarmac then as the road swings up the hill and around to the right it changes to a single track, consisting of dirt and gravel forming uneven terrain. This makes access hampered and will deter visitors with unsuitable vehicles from visiting.</p> <p>The minor road leading to Wheal Francis is maintained by Cornwall Council and is a tarmac road. There is a well sign posted and properly maintained car park. Multiple bridleways are accessible and well used.</p> <p>see: Supporting documents/ Appendices of maps/ 6. Public Rights Of Way</p>
Supporting info	OS Map; aerial photographs, local knowledge	

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>At the top of Carn Brea there is a 90ft monument built in the memory of Frances Basset, Lord de Dunsterville in 1836, and Carn Brea castle, currently run as a restaurant. This area of Carn Brea is a World Heritage site. Wheal Frances, as stated above, forms part of the Great Flat Lode mining trail and the Wheal Frances Engine House is also a scheduled monument. A 3rd scheduled monument exists at Higher Treskillard Farm opposite Sea View Terrace near Piece which is a wayside cross on Whitecross Hill. Photo 19, 20 & 21.</p>
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>Historic Environment maps, aerial photograph, local guide books, local knowledge</i>	
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 majority of the habitat on the south side of Carn Brea is self regulating. Assisted by the local agriculture grazing and hedges being maintained by landowners as well as tourists will keep the footpaths trodden thus preventing regrowth.</p> <p>Wheal Frances has a noticeably more managed appearance, with signage and tourist information being visible. Photos 22, 23 & 24. The derelict mine buildings are in generally good condition, minus roofs and windows. Some metal gratings over mine shafts.</p>
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>Local knowledge</i>	

Character Attribute	Landscape reference guide	Your landscape description <i>Record your descriptive information for each heading</i>
Aesthetic and sensory	<p>Describe the level of tranquillity, calm and undisturbed, consider bird song, level of artificial noise,</p> <p>How is the landscape experienced? exposed, intimate, noisy (if so what is the source what direction?) remote, rugged, windswept, sheltered, enclosed, uncluttered, sculptural</p> <p>How will the experience of the area change through the seasons? What is the predominant wind direction?</p> <p>What is the level of light pollution at night?</p>	<p>The area has a quiet ambience, although distant road noise from the A30 road could be heard when the wind was in the right direction. Bird song and insect noise could also be heard. Can see for miles on a clear sunny day from the top area by the granite outcrop.</p> <p>Being a coastal area, the visibility can be poor due to fog/mizzle. This is a remote and exposed headland so can be subjected to frequent windy conditions.</p> <p>In the summer months it is a very green area, interspersed with purple heather and yellow gorse. In the winter this will be more brown.</p>
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>Local knowledge</i>	
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</p> <p>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 Four Lanes Transmitter (SW 69035 39458) is a very dominant feature located on the opposite hillside to the south of Carn Brea surrounded by 200 acres of open fields with a range of footpaths that lead to and from Four Lanes and the Great Flat Lode. There are also telegraph poles spread intermittently throughout the area.</p>
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>Historic Environment maps, local guide books, local knowledge</i>	
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>On a clear day Carn Marth, St Agnes Beacon, Falmouth and St Ives can be seen from the Carn Brea headland (SW 68326 40708) making it a great vantage point to see the World Heritage mining area.</p>
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>OS Map; local guide books, local knowledge</i>	
Key characteristics	<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlements are, on the whole, old (mid 19th Century) and built up around mine workings and made of local granite. • Great historical significance reflected in the plethora of mine shafts and buildings dispersed throughout this area. • It is an important wildlife area with a mixture of lowland moor and wetland with protected species including the West Cornwall Bryophytes SSSI. • Traditional water management features stand out as gullies are built next to Cornish stone hedges to allow water run-off. • The area has many footpaths and bridleways including the mineral tramways and Great Flat Lode which are enjoyed by locals and visitors. • Boundaries marked with Cornish hedges. • There is a semi-natural, unmanaged feel to the area which is enjoyable to be in and connect with the past and the landscape.

Photographs	<p>Take representative photos of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the overall character of this landscape type specific characteristics features of the landscape type notable views and vistas. <p>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.</p>	Photographs 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 height/ steepness of the slope to the North Side of Carn Brea headland prevents development. The more gently sloping south side leads to the use for agriculture (grazing) and tourism and links more to well used footpaths. Surrounding steep sided slopes have significantly less tree coverage and water evidence.

Pressures/ forces for change and land management

Character type	Pressures for change	Land management and development considerations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increased field sizes involving the removal of Cornish hedges Housing development which extends into the higher ground breaking the skyline, Changes in the traditional management of farmland Replacement dwellings, where existing detached properties are replaced with larger buildings which are of a different scale and mass to the character of the properties in the area. Holiday accommodation, camp sites and caravan parks Development which erodes the peace and tranquillity of this landscape Development increasing traffic on minor roads and losing the distinction between smaller settlements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid development which does not follow the undulating character of the topography or is out of scale or overwhelms the landscape pattern and character. Reflect the field sizes retaining and enhancing the small and medium field pattern Alterations and extensions to dwellings should have appropriate regard to the character of the existing dwelling, in particular to ensure that the scale and design respects the character of the original dwelling and its setting in the landscape. Consider how cumulatively development (not necessarily of the same type) can have an increased impact on the characteristics of the landscape Retain the strong field pattern of Cornish hedges, reflecting the local character of granite stone vegetated with native shrubs and trees Reflect the landscape character and settlement pattern, without increasing the prominence of new development in this character type Avoid development that would put increased levels of traffic on minor and single track roads. Development must maintain gaps between smaller settlements e.g. Between Bowling green, piece and Carnkie.

1. Undulating land looking towards Newton moor.



2. Water gathering on lower areas of the Great Flat Lode.



3 & 4. Water gullies by Cornish Hedges



5. natural landscape with heather, bracken and long grass



6. Hedges with trees, ferns and Japanese knotweed



7. Field boundaries with ferns, gorse and brambles.



8. Peacock Butterfly



9. rabbit or small mammal tracks.



10. Trees in hedges in lower lying Treskillard with water gully.



11. Willow trees growing by water at lower levels of the Great Flat Lode.



12. Engine house.



13. Mining landscape Great Flat Lode.



14. Scrubland



15. Residential Settlements



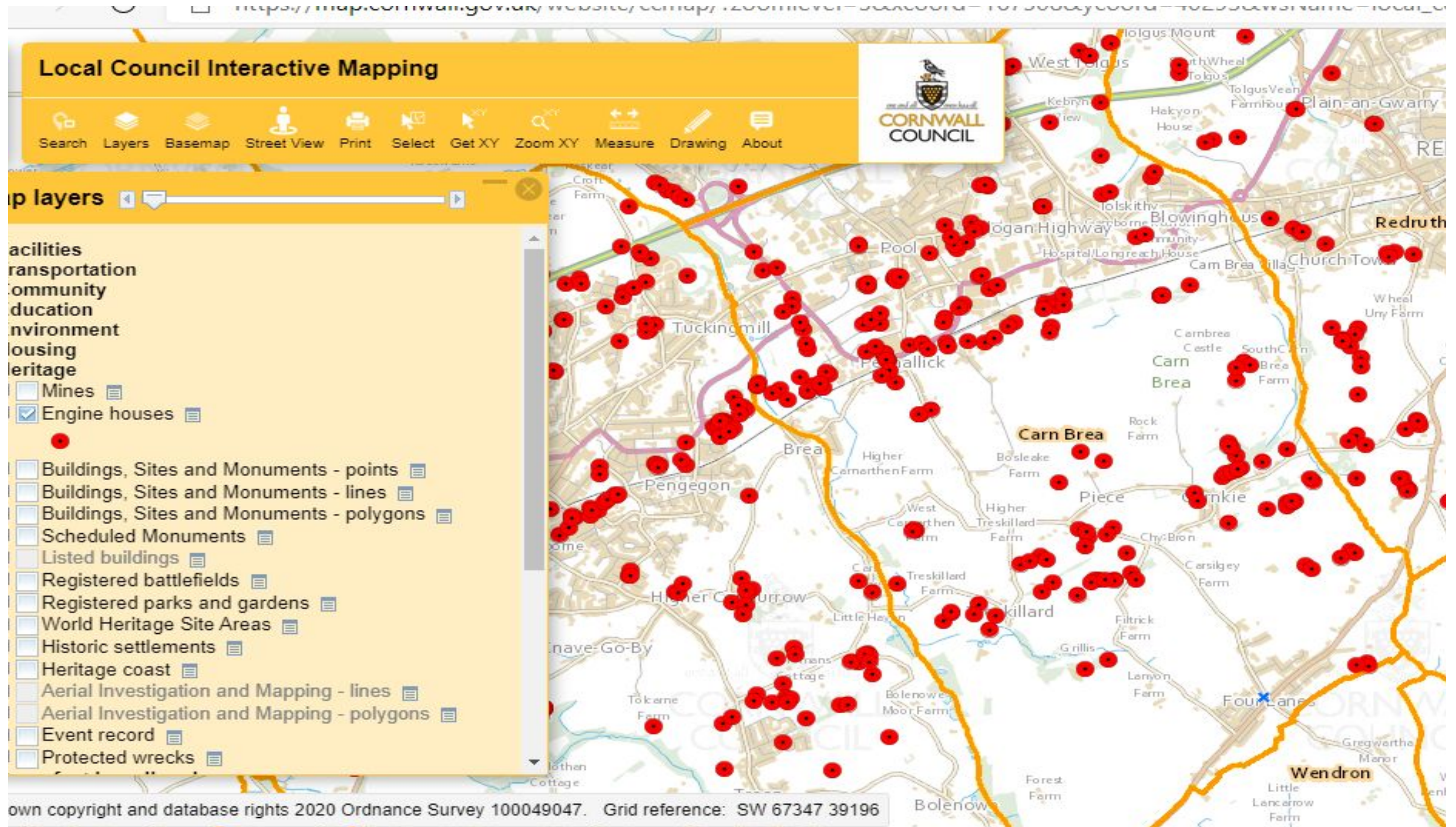
16. Traditional Cornish Hedge



17. Modern Cornish hedge



18. Engine Houses in line with settlements



19. Bassett monument.



20. Wheal Frances Engine House



21. Wayside cross at Whitecross hill



22, 23 & 24. Managed land and signage around Wheal Francis.

