

LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

CHARACTER TYPE Higher level ground		DATE OF ASSESSMENT: 22/01/2021 ASSESSORS : Florence MacDonald
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	<p>This is an elevated granite plateau with high ground rolling northward.</p> <p>No water present.</p>
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>OS Map; Cornwall Council mapping; aerial photographs</i>	
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>Original Cornish hedges supporting a myriad of vegetation and wildlife. Photos 1&2</p> <p>Very few, scattered trees. Photo 3.</p> <p>No wet areas.</p> <p>Cornish hedges could support protected species, such as bats.</p> <p>No invasive species apparent.</p> <p>The high ground to the north-east of this area forms open moorland of Penventon Moor, which includes the distinctive Four Lanes Mast. From here there are impressive views. (SW 69044 39514) Photos 4, 5, 27 & 28.</p>
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>CWT notes and mapping, local knowledge, old photos, local guide books</i>	
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	<p>Mostly small to medium fields, put to arable use and some livestock grazing. (small 0 – 3 acres, medium 3 – 6 acres). See: Supporting documents/Appendices of maps/7a, 7b and 7c.</p> <p>There is very little tree coverage, except for some scattered on hedges.</p> <p>The high level grounds consists of the residential village Four Lanes and Pencoys Photos6 & 7 which is surrounded by Grade 4 arable land used for limited crop growth, grazing and horses. Photos 8,9,&10. see also: Supporting documents/Appendices of maps/4. Agricultural land classification</p> <p>There are isolated and scattered farm buildings throughout the area.</p> <p>The King George’s playing park near the local primary school, which also has a sports pitch is well used by the community. (SW 68967 38730) Photo 11</p>

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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 filed 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>No woodland present.</p> <p>Mostly small fields with a few medium sized.</p> <p>Cornish hedges made of local stone, mainly granite, with vegetation appear to be in their original positions.</p> <p>The hedges are in a natural, unmanaged state apart from the occasional cut-back by local farmers. A few trees grow within them. Footpaths lightly maintained by Cornwall Council. Some stones are loose or parts of the hedge crumbling with plants and animals using the hedgerows and some digging from mammals evident. Photo 1</p> <p>There is no buffer, the hedges form the boundaries between fields.</p>
Supporting info	OS Map; aerial photographs, CWT, agricultural land classification	

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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	Buildings are either part of the main village of Four Lanes and Pencoys or scattered intermittently throughout the area. Outside of the main village settlement, which consists of a mixture of granite houses and more modern builds, buildings mainly consist of individual farm houses and their associated out-buildings. Significant development has taken place in recent years with 22 dwellings forming Trekye close in 2016 and 32 dwellings forming Bray Rise in 2019. Mixture of housing photos 12, 13 & 14 Original farm buildings constructed of granite with slate roofs. The boundaries are, predominantly, formed by Cornish hedges.
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs, Historic Environment map, old photographs</i>	
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	The B3297 runs through the settlement north-east to south-west and the settlement is bisected by a minor road. No steep gradients present. There are a small number of verges on the B3297 at the south western extreme of the settlement. A small pavement runs along the B3297 on the north-eastern side of the village. No tree tunnels present. Footpaths off the B3297 are in good condition and well maintained with good, well defined, signage. Good examples of traditional built-in Cornish hedge stiles are evident at, and past, Penventon farm and on the opposite side of the road leading to West Carvannel farm. A variety of old, granite stiles are in place as well as stone horse grids. Photos 15, 16, 17 &18
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs, local knowledge</i>	
Historic Features	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.	Within the village is St Andrews Church, a Victorian building with graveyard behind it. There is a distinctive gap in housing opposite the church which reveals a view over open fields from where Carn Brea can be seen. Despite opposition, a successful planning application means work building houses in this gap has begun. Photo 19 Leaving Four Lanes via the B3297 leads to two more religious buildings, the Forrest Methodist Chapel and Wesley Sunday School Photos 20 & 21 . These are both surrounded by open fields of high level ground and a footpath begins next to the Chapel. There is a history of mining in the area, and although not clearly visible, the higher level ground does contain the site of South Buller Mine to the North East of Four Lanes between Deep Lane and the B3297 which runs through Four Lanes and beneath that, three, now demolished, engine houses at the corner of the South Eastern Parish boundary. Photo 22 .
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>Historic Environment maps, aerial photograph, local guide books, local knowledge</i>	

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Condition	<p>In what state/appearance are the characteristics of the area? Have areas /features become degraded</p> <p>Are there areas where improvements could be made to enhance the character of the area? How is the area managed?</p> <p>The management of the land will directly influence the value of the available habitat for wildlife.</p>	<p>The area is managed and maintained by the farming present, footpath use and Cornwall Council. Paths are accessible and clearly defined but the Cornish hedges have developed in a natural way, with some crumbling and a broad range of wildlife.</p> <p>It remains unspoiled and pleasing to the eye.</p>
Supporting info	Local knowledge	

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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</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>A calm, undisturbed and picturesque landscape, the only distraction being the B road and its accompanying traffic flow.</p> <p>The experience would change very little through the seasons as the fields are largely empty and sparse. Despite the openness of the landscape, the Cornish hedges alongside paths create an intimate feeling.</p> <p>The predominant wind direction is from the south-west. Light pollution is confined to the settlement and traffic on the B3297 and has minimal impact on enjoyment of the landscape and footpaths.</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</p> <p>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 only distractions to the eye are the TV mast at G.R. 50.209833, -5.238548 and the telecommunications mast at G.R. 50.200411, -5.233993 Photos 4, 25 & 26.</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>Due to the high level ground, spectacular views are available all around, including views of the north coast, including the sea, and of the local area. Photos 4,5, 23 & 24.</p> <p>Penventon Moor also offers magnificent views. Photos 27 & 28.</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"> ● Open fields of arable/grazing land. ● Cornish hedges. ● Granite buildings. ● Spectacular views. ● Tranquility. ● Open space around the settlement. ● Minimal tree cover. ● Semi – natural unmanaged landscape.

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Photographs	<p>Take representative photos of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the overall character of this landscape typespecific characteristics features of the landscape typenotable 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>	<p>Photographs have been taken and are included below.</p>
Relationship to the adjacent landscape character type(s)	<p>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.#</p>	<p>No appreciable change or boundary in the local landscape. The land gradually, gently rolls away towards Redruth in the north and towards Camborne in the north-west.</p>

Pressures/ forces for change and land management

C	Character type	Pressures for change	Land management and development considerations
	Higher Level Ground	<p>1. Changes in agriculture leading to increased field sizes and loss of Cornish hedges.</p> <p>2. Extension of settlement caused by development.</p> <p>3. Replacement dwellings with a different mass and character to the existing development.</p> <p>4. Accumulation of modern structures including wind turbines, overhead cables and solar arrays</p>	<p>1. Reflect the current field pattern of small and medium field sizes.</p> <p>2. Maintain Cornish hedge structures to maintain habitats.</p> <p>3. On higher more exposed ground the vegetation will take longer to establish and reach a height to screen development. Large trees also may not be a characteristic of this more exposed character type</p> <p>4. Development should stay within the existing settlement structure to avoid creeping into open countryside.</p> <p>5. Consider how cumulatively development (not necessarily of the same type) can have an increased impact competing with the characteristics of the landscape, and creating clutter</p> <p>6. Ensure new features match the local vernacular using locally occurring materials.</p> <p>7. Development should not dominate or prevent the understanding and appreciation of historic landmark features such as beacons, hilltop monuments or church towers.</p>

1. Cornish hedge and evidence of mammals



2. Cornish hedge



3. Sparse trees



4. Four Lanes mast



5. View from Four Lanes mast



6. Four Lanes residential village



7. Pencoys



8. High level fields



9. Fields and View from Pencoys to Carn Brea



10. Grazing



11. King George's Playing Field – Four Lanes



12,13 and 14 – Types of housing in Four Lanes





15, 16, 17 & 18 – Stiles

19. Gap in housing opposite St Andrew's Church

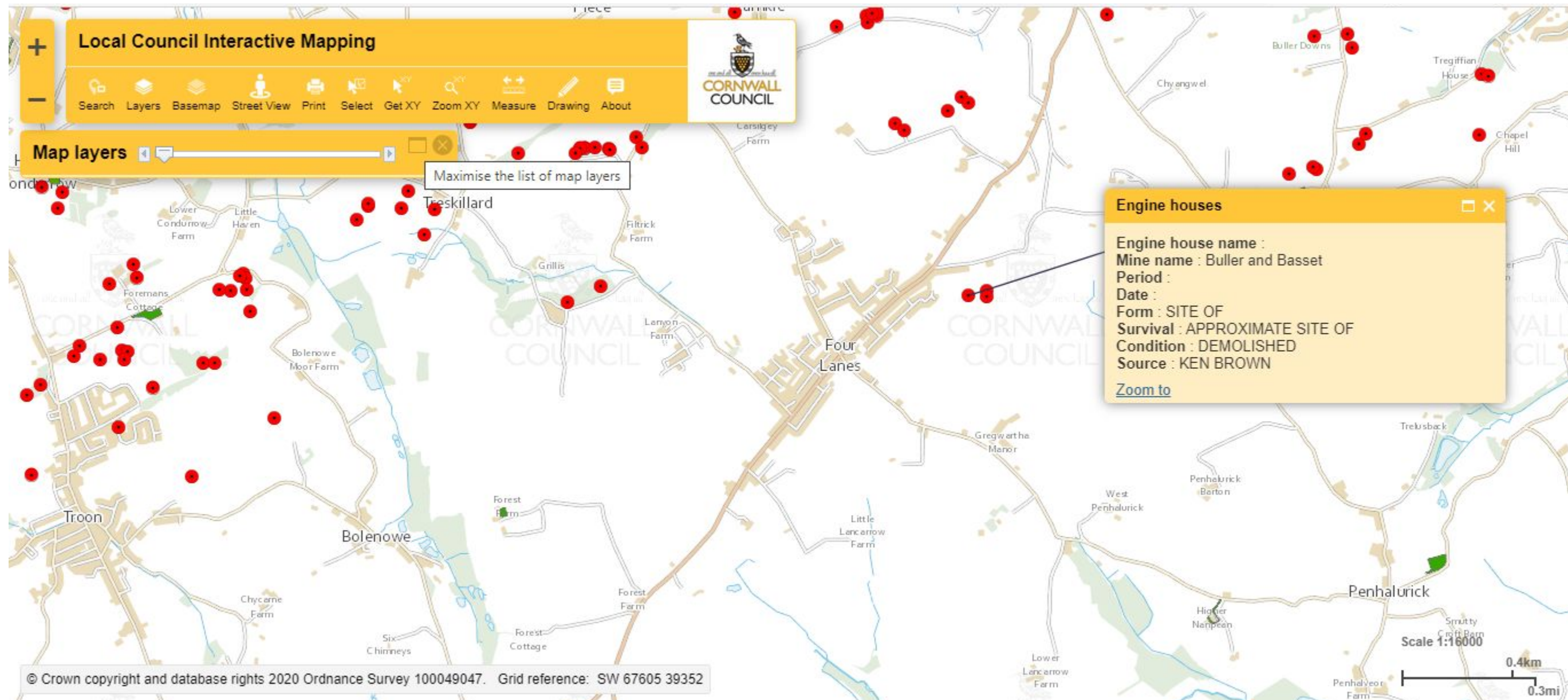
20. Wesleyan Sunday School and surrounding fields



21 . Methodist Chapel, footpath and fields



22. Engine houses



23 and 24. Views toward the north coast from higher level ground



25 and 26. Television and telecommunications masts



27. View North East from Penventon Moor



28. View West from Penventon Moor

