

LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Carn Brea – Steep Sided Slope

CHARACTER TYPE: PARISH : Carn Brea		DATE OF ASSESSMENT: 04/02/2021 ASSESSOR : 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>Along the western edge of the landscape area the land steeply slopes leading down from higher level ground. Water is present particularly from the source of the Red River which follows the boundary of the Parish. Near the flowing water is also more woodland which forms part of the county wildlife site <i>Newton Moor</i>. see: Supporting documents/Carn Brea CP ERCCIS Designation Map see also: Supporting documents/K6. Newton Moor</p> <p>There are a number of springs and fast flowing streams which can be heard when walking the footpaths in this area.</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>Footpaths and field boundaries consist of traditional Cornish Hedges that are largely unmanaged, overgrown and well established and as a result provide essential habitats for many creatures and plants. Hedges contain the usual ferns, bracken, gorse trees as well as campion, wild foxgloves and worts. Photos 1, 2 & 3.</p> <p>There was evidence of mammal activity in the hedges. Photos 4 & 5.</p>
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>CWT notes and mapping, local knowledge, old photos, local guide books</i>	

<p>Land cover and Land Use</p>	<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 consists of woodland near the Red river and by Treskillard which is a non-statutory nature conservation designation and then open fields which are noticeably absent from development – very limited access via footpaths and tracks.</p> <p>Photos 6, 7, 10 &13. Carn Brea is also a non-statutory conservation designation and has some semi-natural habitat around it.</p> <p>The land is low grade agricultural land (Grade 4 and non-agricultural on the northern side of Carn Brea) and is used for grazing animals and horses rather than crop growing.</p> <p>see: Supporting documents/Appendices of maps/ 4. Agricultural land classification.</p> <p>There is very little evidence of buildings other than the occasional isolated farm settlement and is otherwise entirely made up of fields which are a mixture of sizes, mostly medium and large, with larger fields as the land rises towards higher ground and away from settlements. (Small fields 1 – 3 acres, medium fields 4 – 6 acres, large fields 6 acres and above)</p> <p>see: Supporting documents/Appendices of maps/ 7a, 7b and 7c.</p>
<p><i>Supporting info</i></p>	<p><i>OS Map; aerial photographs, local knowledge</i></p>	
<p>Field and woodland pattern</p>	<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>Woodland is found at the lower ends of slopes near water, in areas such as Bolenowe and Treskillard.</p> <p>The fields are mixed in size with larger fields being found where there is more open space between Bolenowe moor and Four Lanes. There is evidence of early medieval field boundaries between Carn Brea and the railway.</p> <p>The boundaries consist of Cornish hedges covered with unmanaged and overgrown vegetation including ferns, bracken and moss. There are small trees, mostly in the form of gorse on top of the hedges.</p> <p>Photo 9.</p>
<p><i>Supporting info</i></p>	<p><i>OS Map; aerial photographs, CWT, agricultural land classification</i></p>	

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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	<p>There are very few buildings of any kind other than a few isolated farms and cottages reached in large by narrow, unclassified roads</p> <p>The buildings are old, rural dwellings, mostly linked to farming.</p>
<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	<p>Road interference is minimal, particularly across Bolenowe Moor. Loscombe Road is a C road which crosses through the landscape type with established Cornish hedges and no pavements. The unclassified roads are narrow with no pavements and low Cornish hedges on either side. Carn Brea can be accessed by multiple footpaths and vehicular access is minimal.</p> <p>There are footpaths and bridleways with evidence of horses using them regularly. The footpaths seem maintained by usage alone and are overgrown but usable. They contain old stone stiles.</p> <p>Photos 6,7 and 8</p>
<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.	<p>On Bolenowe Moor near Four Lanes there are the sites of two prehistoric monuments consisting of the extant structure of an Iron Age roundhouse and a Bronze Age Barrow which is documented.</p> <p>There is also a worn medieval cross used as a gate post at Forest Farm where there is also a post medieval hull.</p> <p>Importantly, there is a Medieval Holy Well named Vincent's Well which is believed to have healing powers and is marked on the map. This is accessible by footpath and surrounded by woodland in a natural environment.</p> <p>There are a number of post medieval hulls in the open countryside fields. On the northern side of Carn Brea before the railway, there is evidence of medieval field boundaries.</p>

Supporting info		Historic Environment maps, aerial photograph, local guide books, local knowledge	
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?</p> <p>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 majority of land is open fields with Cornish hedges that are unmanaged and home to a variety of plants and animals. There is a natural feel that is enjoyable to be in with footpaths through patches of woodland and between Cornish hedges.</p> <p>Photos 6, 10 & 13.</p> <p>The paths are well used by walkers, tractors, horses and wild animals.</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,</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?</p> <p>What is the predominant wind direction?</p> <p>What is the level of light pollution at night?</p>	<p>The land is very quiet and empty due to the lack of settlement on the steep slopes and the sense of uninterrupted rural space. Near the Red River, the sound of water is significant. Despite the land being open, the pathways have an intimate feel due to the unmanaged nature of the tall Cornish hedges.</p> <p>During rainy periods, the paths become muddy and less easy to use. Water can gather. The predominant wind direction is from the South West and as the land transitions to Higher Level Ground there are exposed trees on hedges which are bent towards the North East.</p> <p>Photo 11.</p> <p>There is little light pollution due to the lack of settlement.</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 ancient well at Bolenowe is significant and highly regarded as a Holy Well by locals. The springs are accessible by foot and surrounded by woodland.</p>
<i>Supporting info</i>	<i>Historic Environment maps, local guide books, local knowledge</i>	
Views	<p>Are there any important vantage points?</p> <p>Describe the nature of the vantage point, cliff path, hilltop, and what makes the view important</p>	<p>Excellent View of Carn Brea on the footpath at SW 68037 38062 and SW 68086 38208 as it transitions to Higher Level Ground.</p> <p>Photo 12.</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</p> <p>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 used for grazing • Woodland and tree clusters at the lower ends of slopes • No groups of houses or significant settlements • Isolated farm buildings • Water from streams at the lower edge of slopes by Bolenowe • Cornish hedges marking field boundaries and paths • Some non-statutory nature conservation designations and semi natural habitats • Limited access via roads

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>	<p>Photos 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>On the higher side of the slopes the land tapers off to a more gentle slope as it joins Higher-Level ground. Tree coverage reduces further.</p> <p>At the lower side, the slopes tend to lead to lower ground/dips in valleys and areas where there are small settlements such as Bolenowe, Treskillard and Tregajorran. Tree cover increases and more water is visible.</p>

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 open countryside Changes in the traditional management of farmland Holiday accommodation, campsites and caravan parks Development which erodes the peace and tranquillity of this landscape Removal of trees Water based leisure activities Issues relating back to surface water runoff from fields 	<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. There are little to no settlements in this area other than isolated farms. Extensions to existing farms and isolated houses should remain in keeping with the character and relate to land use. Groups of houses would be inappropriate. 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 the removal of ancient woodland which is a characteristic feature of these sheltered valleys Encourage the management and where appropriate the extension of broad leaf woodlands Ensure development enhances the natural beauty, character and special qualities of the character of these areas Avoid development which damages or destroys the important wetland habitats

1. Cornish hedges, ferns and bracken



2. Cornish hedge



3. Campion



4 and 5. Mammal activity



6 and 7. Woodland, Footpaths and tracks



8. Stone stile next to footpath



9. Gorse on hedges



10. Woodland



11. Wind-affected trees



12. View towards Carn Brea



13. Open fields

