

LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

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| CHARACTER TYPE : Tolskithy valley PARISH : Carn Bea | | DATE OF ASSESSMENT: 09/09/2020 ASSESSORS : Warwick Addison Peter Lee Helen Parsons |
| 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 | Steep sided valley, which varies in width and depth. A water course runs through the valley towards the North Coast. It varies in width, depth and flow. It is overgrown in places and there are concrete tubes used as crossing places. There are signs of contamination at the South end. |
| 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) | Well established Cornish hedges with a variety of plants and trees At the South end of the valley is a wide bog/marshy area with plant and insect life. GR 169135:040824 See photographs 1, 2 below. The valley supports an abundance of trees such as ash, sycamore, silver birch, sloe, sweet chestnut and plants such as red campion, yellow vetch, mosses, lichens etc. Protected species such as bluebells, primroses, dog violets. Invasive species include Japanese knotweed and rhododendron. The valley supports numerous insects, birds, butterflies such as orange tip and specklewood, and is a large stretch of semi-natural habitat which forms a green corridor. There is evidence of rabbits, deer and is the habitat of a greater spotted woodpecker See photographs of flora and fauna # 3, 4 and 26 - 31 below. |
| 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 | There are gently sloping fields on the north side of West Trevingey and on the west side of Trevingey Road, GR SW6841, there is evidence of previous cultivation but now lie fallow See photographs 5, 6, 7 The valley has a wide variety of scrub, bushes and trees throughout. Some woodland at the Northern end but not apparently managed. Apart from new development at Crembling well (see photographs 11,12), the land is mainly used for recreational purposes with a few isolated residential properties and farm buildings. Horse riding, walking, dog walking and cycling being examples of how people experience the valley. see photograph 31 (Eric) |

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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>A large area of woodland GR SW6842 consists of mostly mature, native trees. See photographs 8, 9 There is one Tree Preservation Order in this area, please see the details in image number 32 below.</p> <p>A combination of small, medium and large fields* can be found on the West side of the valley. Some are cleared but not cultivated and it was noted that some had been increased. GR SW6841. *Up to 3 acres = Small, 3-6 acres = Medium, over 6 acres = Large. see: Supporting Documents/ Appendices of Maps/ 7a, 7b & 7c.</p> <p>Stone hedges predominantly divide fields and in one case, used as a dwelling boundary. Hedges are mostly overgrown, unmanaged and left to nature. Some trees grow within the hedges but are few are far between. No buffers are present.</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>Isolated dwellings at both Northern and Southern ends. There are two settlements, Carn Brea Village and Cremling Wells. The isolated dwellings consist mainly of traditional build with granite walls and slate roofs. Most have been renovated and could be considered, at one time, as farm buildings or miner's cottages. See photograph 10</p> <p>Carn Brea Village has a number of buildings, which are used as holiday homes and a number of miners cottages in traditional build. Some of the infill dwellings are of modern construction.</p> <p>The new building development is modern in construction and is not in keeping with surrounding traditionally built dwellings, although it has been sympathetically planted with trees and shrubs . New development is separated from the valley by a large, grey concrete retaining wall. See photographs 11, 12</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>Carn Brea Village – most roads are no wider than 4 meters across</p> <p>A3047 crosses the valley and is classified as a main road, GR 168749:041778. See photograph 25 A30 crosses over a viaduct and is a trunk road GR 168087:042436. See photograph 24</p> <p>The valley is served by a number of tracks and footpaths. Some are well maintained but others are unmade, uneven and subject to flooding. In places they are overgrown. Around the watercourse the banks have some erosion.</p> <p>There is evidence of a 'V' shaped stile at the Southern end of the valley but has concrete rather than granite post and a one step stile at the entrance of the woodland.</p> <p>Roads in the new development are paved and have good surfaces with street lighting.</p> |

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|------------------------------|--|--|
| 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>Carn Brea Wesleyan Chapel 1870 – no longer used as a place of worship GR168846:041398. Toll House at Blowinghouse built 1843, reconstructed 1864 GR168698:041763 See photographs 13, 14</p> <p>Chimney Stack – Cremling Well GR 168361:041979. See photograph 15</p> <p>Tolskithy Lane – old mine buildings and walls, opposite these buildings is a large man made water stream cut into valley floor, in places 6feet deep, densely overgrown with a waterfall. Stamps chimney-Wheal Agar Mine circa 1870 GR168039:042062. See Tolskithy Valley Archeology Assessment Report No 1993 ROJ8 Point 1). See photograph 16</p> <p>Remains of 7 arsenic calciner flues GR168043:042364. 3 Chimney stacks built circa 1800 GR168032:042548 See photographs 17, 18.</p> <p>Evidence of settling tanks, overgrown GR168259:043130.</p> <p>Further reference is made in the 1993 Cornwall Archaeological Unit Assessment which can be found here: https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/</p> |
| Condition | 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>The area is under-managed although most of the footpaths/tracks are reasonably accessible. Over-management could decrease the appeal of the valley and have a detrimental effect on much of the wildlife and plants. Further management of Japanese knotweed could enhance the landscape.</p> <p>The valley is contaminated with mining waste. Water bank has some erosion which exposes mining waste. See photographs 19, 20, 21, 22</p> |
| Aesthetic and sensory | 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>The valley is very tranquil in most areas.</p> <p>It is well used by local people, they obviously value this quiet valley as an important amenity area, and as a treasured parcel of local wildscape.</p> <p>Noise pollution is noticeable from the A30 and the A3047, although this does not detract from the relatively peaceful surroundings. Birdsong can be heard most of the time as well as running water.</p> <p>Seasonal changes enhance the valley and there is very little light pollution.</p> <p>The valley supports recreational experiences for walkers, cycling, dog walkers, horse riding and wildlife spotting.</p> |

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| Views | Are there any important vantage points? Describe the nature of the vantage point, cliff path, hilltop, and what makes the view important | <p>From Grenifer road GR 167689:042292 A panoramic view of Carn Brea and it's monument and castle.</p> <p>A transmission mast (Four Lanes) is also visible at the Southern end, along with Carn Brea and it's monument and castle.</p> <p>From the 3 stacks/chimneys GR168032:042548 there is a view across the valley, which gives an overview of the shape of the valley.</p> <p>See photographs 23, 24</p> |
| 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 | <p>*Tranquility, biodiversity, with the sound of running water and bird song.</p> <p>*Steep slopes formed by mining waste heaps, now mostly overgrown and form part of the natural landscape.</p> <p>*Undisturbed landscape. An oasis for recreational use.</p> <p>*Historical remains, now mostly overgrown with trees and fauna.</p> <p>*Historical buildings easily accessible and well maintained.</p> <p>The valley is a green corridor of semi-natural habitat.</p> |
| 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. | <p>Photographs have been taken and are included below.</p> |
| 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 cannot 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>Transition occurs at the Southern end of the valley where it begins to flatten and carries through to the next parish.</p> <p>The valley separates into 4 distinctive areas. Starting at the Southern end, they comprise of a boggy/marsh area, derelict areas from mining, which are contaminated, woodland areas and 2 settlements – Carn Brea Village and Cremling Wells – a new housing development.</p> <p>On the top of the west side of the valley it transitions into a thin strip of woodland before opening into the adjacent landscape of rolling land, consisting of fields and cornish hedges. This forms an accessible corridor for an array of wildlife.</p> |

Pressures/ forces for change and land management

| Character type | Pressures for change | Land management and development considerations |
|----------------|--|---|
| | <div><div>1.</div><div>Further housing development.</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>Removal of trees.</div></div> <div><div>3.</div><div>Realignment of the highways.</div></div> <div><div>4.</div><div>Housing development which extends above the valley to the higher ground breaking the skyline.</div></div> <div><div>5.</div><div>Extensions and alterations to existing dwellings.</div></div> <div><div>6.</div><div>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.</div></div> <div><div>7.</div><div>Increased light pollution eroding the dark skies.</div></div> <div><div>8.</div><div>Increase in holiday accommodation, camp sites and caravan parks</div></div> <div><div>9.</div><div>Development which erodes the peace and tranquillity of this landscape</div></div> <div><div>10.</div><div>Issues relating back to surface water runoff from fields and mine waste heaps.</div></div> <div><div>11.</div><div>Visitor access and car parking.</div></div> | <div><div>1.</div><div>Any future building development within the valley could change the whole character of the unspoilt valley with the loss of plants and wildlife.</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>The stream should be further managed, the banks are being eroded by the force of water. This is destroying access to the current footpath.</div></div> <div><div>3.</div><div>Alterations and extensions to properties 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.</div></div> <div><div>4.</div><div>Encourage the management and where appropriate the extension of broadleaf woodlands.</div></div> <div><div>5.</div><div>Avoid the widening and or straightening of characteristic narrow winding lanes, minimise damage to Cornish hedges, trees, and repair and replace any features which are lost.</div></div> <div><div>6.</div><div>Roads are often enclosed by trees which create vegetated tunnels. These are distinctive features of the area and can easily be damaged or destroyed by large vehicles.</div></div> <div><div>7.</div><div>Ensure new features match the local vernacular using locally occurring materials.</div></div> <div><div>8.</div><div>Reflect the landscape character and settlement pattern.</div></div> |

1. GR 169135:040824 Marshy area, W.Trevingey



2. GR 169135:040824 Marshy area, W.Trevingey



3. Myrtle (Periwinkle) W.Trevingey



4. W.Trevingey bluebells



5. Fields at W.Trevingey



6. Fields at W.Trevingey



7. Fields N.W. of Carn Brea village



8. Tolskithy Woodland GR SW6842



9. Tolskithy woodland GR SW6842 (a deer can be seen in the centre of the photo)



10. Typical buildings, Carn Brea



11. New development at Tolskithy



12. Concrete retaining wall separating new development from Tolskithy valley



13. Carn Brea Wesleyan Chapel GR168846:041398



14. Toll house, Blowinghouse GR168698:041763



15. Stack at Crembling Well GR 168361:041979



16. Stack at Stamps lane GR168039:042062



17. Arsenic calcinar flues Tolskithy valley GR168043:042364



18. "3 stacks" top of west side of Tolskithy valley GR168032:042548



19. Tolskithy valley footpath



20. Japanese knotweed is in various locations throughout the valley



21. Tolskithy knotweed management program



22. River bed and bank erosion, Tolskithy valley



23. View from Grenifer road looking south



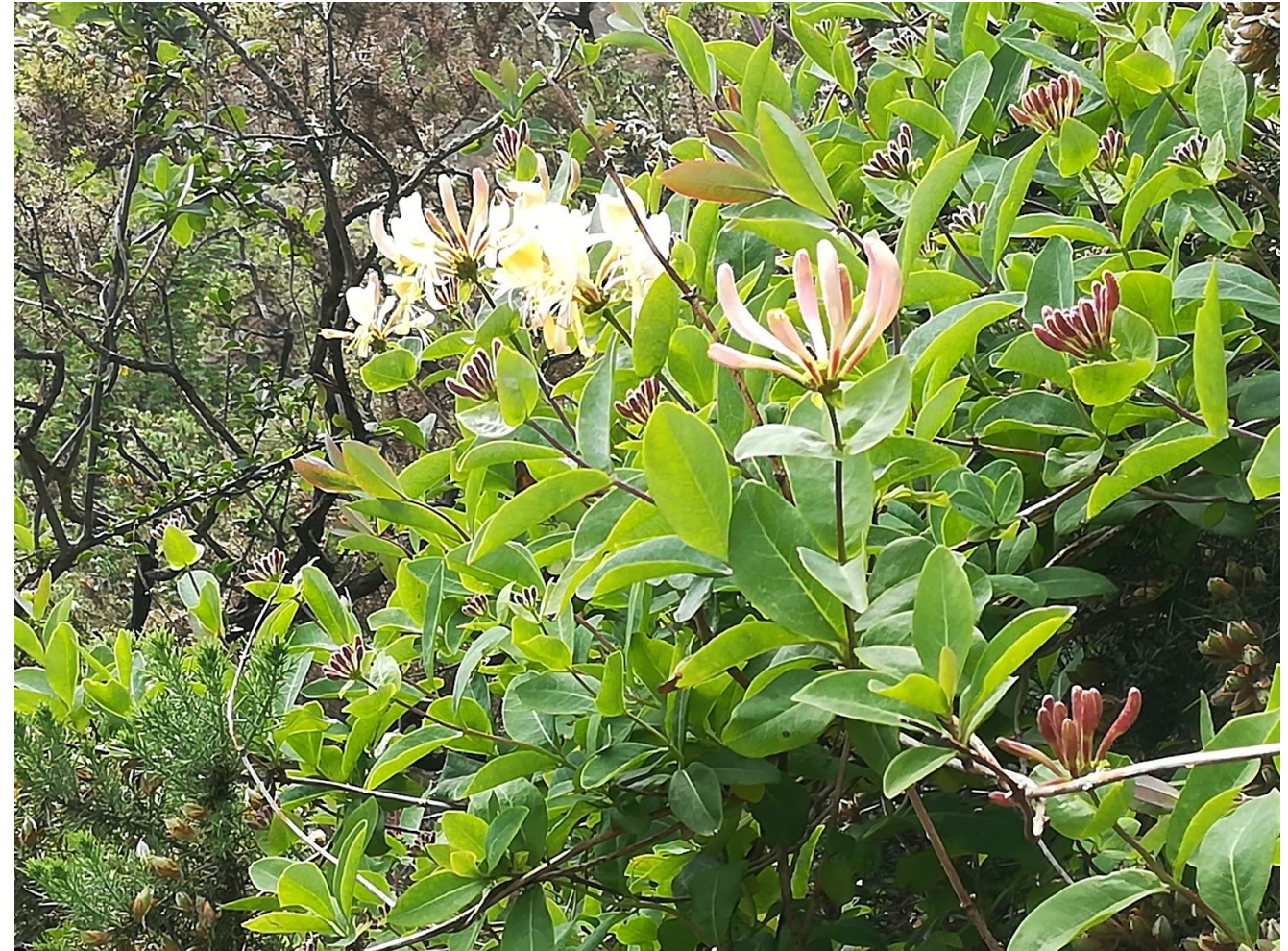
24. View south from “3 stacks” across Tolskithy valley toward Carn Brea, the castle and telecomms mast



25. A3047 crosses the valley



26. Honeysuckle, Tolskithy valley



27. Campion, Tolskithy valley



28. Forget me not and Red Clover, Tolskithy valley



29. Holly, Tolskithy valley



30. Silver Birch, Tolskithy valley



31. Eric the dog, cooling off in the stream, Tolskithy valley



32. Tree Preservation Order in Carn Brea Village.

