LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

CHARACTER TYPE		DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	
PARISH :Carn Brea		14/09/2020 ASSESSORS : Warwick Addison, Peter Lee, Helen Parsons.	
Character	Landscape reference guide	Your landscape description	
Attribute		Record your descriptive information for each heading	
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 	The valley is wider and U-shaped at the southern end at Brea village, gradually northward. The Red River runs through the valley in a south - north direction, varying in de has, historically, been controlled for various industrial usage. Ponds present wit plants and insects. see photographs 10, 11 below	
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 woodland, grassland, heathland and scrub supports a variety of wildlife and valley describes this. see photographs 1 &2 No hedges visible. Evidence of (managed) invasive species, Japanese knotweed, at eastern extrem see photograph 12 Almost all of the valley and surrounding area is highly modified and has former mining and industry.	
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 	Mainly managed woodland with some scrub. North end of the valley was turned into the 17 hectare, award winning, Tucking opened in 2005, now used for recreational purposes, walkers, dog walking, hor see photograph 13	

ally steepening as it goes
n depth, width and flow which with wild flowers, aquatic
and plants, signage in the
reme of valley.
nerly been an area of heavy
kingmill Valley Park which horse riding etc.

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Field and woodland pattern	 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) What size are the fields - Small, medium, large, have hedges been removed and filed sizes increased? 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. 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? 	Woodland is located on both sides of the valley. Trees are mainly native. An exception being a large group of well - established p of the park. No ancient woodland present due to historical mining and industry. No fields present in the valley. No visible hedges.
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 mainly in the south of the valley, consisting mostly of rows of old larger buildings now used for businesses. On the west side of the valley are the manufacture of safety fuses, invented by William Bickford. Born in Devon, Janu see photographs 14,15,16,17, Also see cornishmineimages.co.uk for detailed in Some new builds, circa 5yrs old, south end of valley, consisting of 10 dwellings Most buildings are of granite construction, in the old 'miner's cottage' style. se Wesleyan chapel circa, 1843, GR 166081:041088 see photographs 21 and 22, scale with large door and windows and is a Grade II listed building.
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 	Minor road, Chapel Road, to the south of A3047, narrow and slightly winding w residences are located. No verges or tree tunnels. New bridge carries Kerrier W Red River. photographs 23, 24 To the north is a track that runs through the park, tree tunnels on the east side signage. see photographs 1, 2 Well used footpath. Modern stiles in places south of the new bridge GR 166178:040785, modern gates at Brea village end, where the footpath goes embankment tunnel. see photographs 25 and 26. Waterlogging evident south See also: separate 'Floodplain at Tuckingmill' assessment.

d pine trees on the east side

ld miner's cottages. Some he remains of the site of the nuary 1774. d information. gs at Chapel Close.

see photograph 14

, granite built on a grand

g with pavement only where Way over Chapel Road and

de, modern slate information

bes through a railway th of the bridge.

Character	Landscape reference guide	Your landscape description
Attribute		Record your descriptive information for each heading
Historic	Are there designated and none designated features	The area from the pond just off Chapel road northward to the pond just off Tol
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.	the local World Heritage Site and Conservation area. Wesleyan chapel as described in 'Building Distribution'. see photographs 21 an Old railway bridges, mine stacks and chimneys, old mine workings , revetted riv an old arsenic mine are evident all along the valley floor. see photographs 4, 5 , The arsenic chimney is a Grade II listed building. In the 19th century the area had 6 tin/copper mines including an arsenic and g (Tuckingmill valley management report 2009 PDF, pages 21-23) Tuckingmill (Cornish: Melyn Droghya from the verb Troghya) was the Cornish to was where homespun cloth was dipped, cleansed and dressed. There is mention of a fulling mill here as early as 1250. see: Supporting Documents/ Tuckingmill and Roskear CAA. See also: Supporting Documents/ Tuckingmill Valley Management Plan.
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.	The area is characterised by nature having re-established itself in most places, landscape. The riverbank is eroded in places, maintenance required on signage and the po rubbish in it. see photograph 3.
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?	The area is calm, tranquil and undisturbed for approximately 75% of it's length To the south, some noise from the railway and A3047 road. To the north, some Tolvaddon. Bird song is apparent along the whole length of the valley, along wi water. For the most part, the landscape is sheltered with elements of calmness and pe considered a sheltered oasis . The experience will change with the seasons only in wildlife and in foliage. The is from the south west. Minor light pollution on all sides due to being surrounded by developments an

Tolgarrick road forms part of

and 22

river banks with sleuces and **5, 6, 7, 25, 26**

l gas works.

term for a fulling mill which

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pond in the park which has

th. The exceptions being; ne noise from the A30 road at with the sound of running

peace. The park could be

ne predominant wind direction

and roads.

Character Attribute	Landscape reference guide	Your landscape description Record your descriptive information for each heading
Distinctive features	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.	Tree tunnels evident on the eastern side of the valley in the park. see photos & Also approximately 12 very large pine trees, a few horse-chestnuts and a silver area. Two main power lines run across the valley, east to west, one carrying 6 cables Distinctive wooden stiles and modern slate signage. Stack at GR 165899:041555 and old arsenic mine at GR 165984:041402 in thei and easily accessible. Both are Grade II listed buildings. see photographs 4, 5,
Views	Are there any important vantage points? Describe the nature of the vantage point, cliff path, hilltop, and what makes the view important	An excellent view of the topography of the northern part of the valley/park ca eastern side on the A3047 at GR 166052:041529. see photographs 7 and 18 Another vantage point to view the valley and surrounding areas is from Kerrier GR 166178:040785, where the new bridge has created a wonderful panoramic see photographs 19 and 20 NB. This view is also included in the 'Floodplain at Tuckingmill' assessment b within Tuckingmill valley.
Key characteristic	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	 *Quiet, tranquil and unspoilt with the sound of running water and bird song. *The park is, essentially, a well-managed nature reserve. *Numerous wide footpaths lead to many designated areas. *Accessibility is very good. *Picnic areas. *Designated heritage mining trail suitable for wheelchair access. *Surrounded by development on all sides, the area is set aside as a peaceful reserved.
Photographs	 Take representative photos of 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. 	Photographs have been taken and are included below.

8, 9 below	
er birch plantation in the same	
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an be enjoyed from the	
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ic view.	
because the floodplain lies	
retreat.	

Character Attribute		Your landscape description Record your descriptive information for each heading
Relationship to the adjacent landscape character type(s)	landscape character type and the adjacent one. Character can not be tied to a line on a map. Make note here of how	There does not seem to be a transition, as such, because it is surrounded on a developments, creating a virtual basin. This makes the change between landso definite.

Pressures/ forces for change and land management

acter type	Pressures for change	Land management and development considerations
	1. Commercial development and extension on the eastern edge of the valley.	1. Ensure that restoration projects, and new features, utilise loc
		2. Encourage the management of historical features and leisure
	2. Removal of trees	3. Alterations and extensions to dwellings should have appropri-
	3. Realignment of the highways	existing dwelling, in particular to ensure that the scale and design original dwelling and its setting in the landscape.
	4. Housing development which extends above the valley to the higher ground breaking the skyline	4. Encourage the management, and where appropriate, the exte
	5. Extensions and alterations to existing dwellings	5. Avoid the widening and or straightening of characteristic narr to Cornish hedges, trees, historic bridges, and gate posts and re are lost.
		6. Roads are often enclosed by trees which create vegetated tur of this area and can easily be damaged, or destroyed, by large v
		8. Reflect the landscape character and settlement pattern.

all sides by roads and dscapes very sudden and

locally occurring materials.

re facilities.

priate regard to the character of the sign respects the character of the

xtension of broadleaf woodlands.

arrow winding lanes, minimise damage repair and replace any features which

unnels. These are distinctive features evenicles.

1. Tuckingmill valley park signage

2. Tuckingmill valley park signage

& SCRUB

brooms and as a bedding material for anima Around the edges of the heathland and throughout the Park there are the areas of scrub. There are two main species here, European gorse, also known as furze or whin and blackberry. While gorse flowers all year round, in mid-summer when the yellow flowers are at their most dense, their coconut scent can be smelt while walking along the paths. These two plants form thick impenetrable masses that provide safe nesting sites for small birds. Robins, blue and great tits and wrens can all be seen along the edges of the



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Scattered throughout the scrub are buddleia bushes. This native of China has become well established in the UK and is often called butterfly bush because of the attraction that flowers have for butterflies.

For

This site is being managed to encourage lowland heath on the embankments. Heath is an internationally scarce habitat. Cornwall is an internationally scarce nabilat. Comwain's the second most important area in the British Isles for Iowland heath, holding 11% of the UK total. Heathland contains low growing woody shrubs - here the main plant is heather, which is easily recognised in late summer by its purple flowers. A wide variety of animal and insect species rely on this habitat. In early times man relied on heather as fuel, for thatching shelters, making brushes and

that overwinters as an adult, as opposed to in the pupal or larval stage. Adults hibernate in outbuildings, hollow trees and garden sheds. It may be seen every month of the year, the adults occasionally taking to the wing during milder periods

The rec admiral butterfly migrates northwards to breed in the British Isles from southern Europe and North Africa. The red admiral is thought to derive its name from reference to its 'admirable' beauty rather than from any naval connection.

in the winter months.

If you hear a sewing machine like sound in the afternoon or evening, it is likely to be a great green bush-cricket. At up to two inches long it can appear fearsome but it is completely harmless to humans. It feeds on a mixture of grasses and insects.

Mammals such as badgers and foxes may be seen in the valley.

The painted lady is a but to Britain in the spring from North Africa. It lays eggs on thistles, nettles and other plants, which give rise to further generations in the sun autumn

Peacock butterfiles emerge in July and can be seen basking and feeding on the brambles and

-dloia.



Between July and Septemi for the golden-ringed dragonfly. This is one of the largest British dragonflies, the size, combined with its contrasting yellow and black markings make it easy to identify. Although it will have spent its larval stage a stream, sometimes for up to 5 years, it will feed over the heathland areas, catching

other insects on the wing.

Along the edges of heathland and scrub you will see foxgloves. inside a flower you will see the long yellow/white anthers along the roof of the flower, which hold the pollen. When insects such as bumble-bees enter the flower to feed on the nectar, their backs rub on these and collect the pollen. When the bee has finished feeding it will go on to another flower taking the pollen with it thus fertilising the next plant.

One of the earliest bees to emerge after winter is the white-tailed buniste-bee. It has two bands of yellow and a white tail. Because it has a short tongue, when feeding on long narrow flowers, it will drill a small hole through the base of the flower to reach the nectar.



Ash is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "spear (aesc.) The wood is tough and itexible and wate the first choice for spears and arrows. Seasoned ash has a remarkable capacity to be steamed and bent and still retain its strength.

Around the edges of the woodlands are areas of grassland. The edge of the woodland is very important for wildlife, offering both the shelter of the woodland and the wide variety of food plants on its fringe. Birds are able to shelter in the trees and feed in the grass. The speckled wood butterfly likes shady areas dappled with sunshine. The caterpillar feeds pon various grasses.

n June and July the southern marsh orchid an be seen flowering in the grassland areas. This probably the most common orchid in Cornwall d grows in marshes, wet heaths and along road

Orchi

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woodland floor. Within the grasslands are many flowering plants. One family of plants is particularly abundant. If you look carefully you can find five different clovers; white clover, red clover, bird's-foot-trefoil, large bird's-foot-trefoil and spotted medick. These all have leaves with three leaflets. Clovers are important for several butterflies that can be seen at

Buzzard

Tuckingmill Valley.

The common blue butterfly occurs in variety of grassy habitats where the food ant of the catemillar, bird's-foot-trefoil, is ound. The male is easily recognised by the blue colour of the wings, while the female is rowner



The dingy Skip as is a small brown an grey butterfly. It is found in rough grassland habitats where the food plant of the caterpillar bird's-foot-trefoil, is found. It is a species which is declining in number but it can be found on this site from the end of April until early June. It was first recorded at this site by the Kerrier Conservation Crew, a volume environmental group, who actively manage and monitor the area for wildlife

There is limited ground vegetation below the trees as they block out too much light for many plants to grow. One plant that does is hart's tongue, a fern that does indeed look like a tongue.

By managing the woodland, selectively thinning the canopy and allowing more light to reach the ground it is hoped to encourage further plant life on the



Kerr - Sorth U3A - Bird watching group have identified the following birds within the valley be ween August 2002 - January 200

Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Robin, Blackbird, Coaltit, Bluetit, Greattit, Dunnock, Wood Pigeon, Magpie, Jackdaw, Crow, Wren, Goldcrest, Siskin, Song Thrush, Bullfinch, Pied Wagtail, Herring Gull and Buzzard.



3. Tuckingmill valley park pond, in need of cleaning and maintaining

4. Tuckingmill valley park old arsenic mine GR 165984:041402

5. Tuckingmill valley old arsenic mine GR 165984:041402

6. Tuckingmill valley view inc stack at GR 165899:041555



7. Tuckingmill valley view inc stack at GR 165899:041555 from A3047

8. Tuckingmill valley footpath with tree tunnel





9. Tuckingmill valley footpath with tree tunnel





12. Japanese knotweed in Tuckingmill valley



13. Tuckingmill valley park entrance

14. Old miner's cottages in Tuckingmill



15. Old Bickford Smith fuse factory, now used by local businesses

16. Bickford Smith sign, Tuckingmill



17. Old Bickford Smith building, Tuckingmill

18. View from A3047 across Tuckingmill valley



19. View north from Kerrier way

20. View south from Kerrier way



21 and 22. Wesleyan chapel, Tuckingmill circa 1843







23 and 24. New bridge carrying Kerrier way over Chapel Road and Red River

25 and 26. Pedestrian tunnel through railway embankment in Brea. GR 166323:040398



