

## LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

<b>CHARACTER TYPE</b> Tuckingmill valley <b>PARISH :Carn Brea</b>		<b>DATE OF ASSESSMENT:</b> <b>14/09/2020</b> <b>ASSESSORS :</b> <b>Warwick Addison,</b> <b>Peter Lee,</b> <b>Helen Parsons.</b>
<b>Character Attribute</b>	<b>Landscape reference guide</b>	<b>Your landscape description</b> <i>Record your descriptive information for each heading</i>
<b>Topography and drainage</b>	<b>What is the shape of the land?</b> - flat, shallow, steep, uniform, undulating, upland, ridge, plateau <b>Is there any water present?</b> - estuary, river, fast flowing stream, babbling brook, spring, reservoir, pond, marsh	<p>The valley is wider and U-shaped at the southern end at Brea village, gradually steepening as it goes northward.</p> <p>The Red River runs through the valley in a south - north direction, varying in depth, width and flow which has, historically, been controlled for various industrial usage. Ponds present with wild flowers, aquatic plants and insects. <b>see photographs 10, 11 below</b></p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>What elements of the character could support protected species</b> (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) <b>Does the area contain areas of 'semi natural habitat?</b> (land which is not highly modified – guidance from Cornwall Wildlife Trust)	<p>The woodland, grassland, heathland and scrub supports a variety of wildlife and plants, signage in the valley describes this. <b>see photographs 1 &amp;2</b></p> <p>No hedges visible.</p> <p>Evidence of (managed) invasive species, Japanese knotweed, at eastern extreme of valley.  <b>see photograph 12</b></p> <p>Almost all of the valley and surrounding area is highly modified and has formerly been an area of heavy mining and industry.</p>
<b>Land cover and Land Use</b>	<b>What is the vegetation cover?</b> Woodland, scrub, heather, dunes, mudflats, grassland, moorland, farmland crops <b>What is the land used for ?</b> Arable, pasture, industry, isolated farm buildings, isolated residential properties, playing field, golf course, sports pitch, caravan park, camp site etc	<p>Mainly managed woodland with some scrub.</p> <p>North end of the valley was turned into the 17 hectare, award winning, Tuckingmill Valley Park which opened in 2005, now used for recreational purposes, walkers, dog walking, horse riding etc.  <b>see photograph 13</b></p>

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Field and woodland pattern	<p><b>Where is the woodland located?</b> 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) <b>What size are the fields</b> - Small, medium, large, have hedges been removed and filed sizes increased? <b>What are the hedges made of?</b> - Cornish hedge (stone) what is the stone type? Hedgerow (no stone, all vegetation). Are they heavily managed or overgrown. <b>What is the character of the hedge?</b> - 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 located on both sides of the valley. Trees are mainly native. An exception being a large group of well - established pine trees on the east side of the park. No ancient woodland present due to historical mining and industry.  No fields present in the valley.          No visible hedges.</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><b>How are the buildings distributed?</b> Intermittent clusters, scattered, isolated <b>Age and type of buildings and their relationship with the landscape are they</b> Individual farm houses / buildings, clustered farm buildings, holiday accommodation, rural dwellings Have buildings been added, and is it possible to estimate when? <b>What are the distinctive elements of the buildings?</b> Construction stone, building style, window proportions, gate posts, front /rear gardens, nature of property boundaries</p>	<p>Buildings are mainly in the south of the valley, consisting mostly of rows of old miner’s cottages. Some larger buildings now used for businesses. On the west side of the valley are the remains of the site of the manufacture of safety fuses, invented by William Bickford. Born in Devon, January 1774. <b>see photographs 14,15,16,17</b>, Also see cornishmineimages.co.uk for detailed information. Some new builds, circa 5yrs old, south end of valley, consisting of 10 dwellings at Chapel Close. Most buildings are of granite construction, in the old ‘miner’s cottage’ style. <b>see photograph 14</b> Wesleyan chapel circa, 1843, GR 166081:041088 <b>see photographs 21 and 22</b>, granite built on a grand scale with large door and windows and is a Grade II listed building.</p>
Transport pattern :- highways and public rights of way (PROW)	<p><b>What is the character of the roads?</b> 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? <b>Describe the public rights of way</b> - 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>Minor road, Chapel Road, to the south of A3047, narrow and slightly winding with pavement only where residences are located. No verges or tree tunnels. New bridge carries Kerrier Way over Chapel Road and Red River. <b>photographs 23, 24</b> To the north is a track that runs through the park, tree tunnels on the east side, modern slate information signage. <b>see photographs 1, 2</b> 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 through a railway embankment tunnel. <b>see photographs 25 and 26</b>. Waterlogging evident south of the bridge. See also: separate ‘Floodplain at Tuckingmill’ assessment.</p>

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Historic Features	<p><b>Are there designated and none designated features in the landscape?</b> 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>The area from the pond just off Chapel road northward to the pond just off Tolgarrick road forms part of the local World Heritage Site and Conservation area.</p> <p>Wesleyan chapel as described in ‘Building Distribution’. <b>see photographs 21 and 22</b></p> <p>Old railway bridges, mine stacks and chimneys, old mine workings , revetted river banks with sleuces and an old arsenic mine are evident all along the valley floor. <b>see photographs 4, 5, 6, 7, 25, 26</b></p> <p>The arsenic chimney is a Grade II listed building.</p> <p>In the 19th century the area had 6 tin/copper mines including an arsenic and gas works. (Tuckingmill valley management report 2009 PDF, pages 21-23)</p> <p>Tuckingmill (Cornish: Melyn Droghya from the verb Troghya) was the Cornish term for a fulling mill which was where homespun cloth was dipped, cleansed and dressed.</p> <p>There is mention of a fulling mill here as early as 1250.</p> <p><b>see: Supporting Documents/ Tuckingmill and Roskear CAA.</b></p> <p><b>See also: Supporting Documents/ Tuckingmill Valley Management Plan.</b></p>
Condition	<p><b>In what state/appearance are the characteristics of the area?</b> Have areas /features become degraded</p> <p><b>Are there areas where improvements could be made to enhance the character of the area?</b></p> <p><b>How is the area managed?</b></p> <p>The management of the land will directly influence the value of the available habitat for wildlife.</p>	<p>The area is characterised by nature having re-established itself in most places, which has shaped the landscape.</p> <p>The riverbank is eroded in places, maintenance required on signage and the pond in the park which has rubbish in it. <b>see photograph 3.</b></p>
Aesthetic and sensory	<p><b>Describe the level of tranquillity</b>, calm and undisturbed, consider bird song, level of artificial noise,</p> <p><b>How is the landscape experienced?</b> exposed, intimate, noisy (if so what is the source what direction?) remote, rugged, windswept, sheltered, enclosed, uncluttered, sculptural</p> <p><b>How will the experience of the area change through the seasons?</b></p> <p>What is the predominant wind direction?</p> <p><b>What is the level of light pollution at night?</b></p>	<p>The area is calm, tranquil and undisturbed for approximately 75% of it’s length. The exceptions being; To the south, some noise from the railway and A3047 road. To the north, some noise from the A30 road at Tolvaddon. Bird song is apparent along the whole length of the valley, along with the sound of running water.</p> <p>For the most part, the landscape is sheltered with elements of calmness and peace. The park could be considered a sheltered oasis .</p> <p>The experience will change with the seasons only in wildlife and in foliage. The predominant wind direction is from the south west.</p> <p>Minor light pollution on all sides due to being surrounded by developments and roads.</p>

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<b>Distinctive features</b>	<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>Tree tunnels evident on the eastern side of the valley in the park. <b>see photos 8, 9 below</b></p> <p>Also approximately 12 very large pine trees, a few horse-chestnuts and a silver birch plantation in the same area.</p> <p>Two main power lines run across the valley, east to west, one carrying 6 cables the other carrying 3.</p> <p>Distinctive wooden stiles and modern slate signage.</p> <p>Stack at GR 165899:041555 and old arsenic mine at GR 165984:041402 in their own settings, maintained and easily accessible. Both are Grade II listed buildings. <b>see photographs 4, 5, 6 &amp; 7</b></p>
<b>Views</b>	<p><b>Are there any important vantage points?</b></p> <p>Describe the nature of the vantage point, cliff path, hilltop, and what makes the view important</p>	<p>An excellent view of the topography of the northern part of the valley/park can be enjoyed from the eastern side on the A3047 at GR 166052:041529. <b>see photographs 7 and 18</b></p> <p>Another vantage point to view the valley and surrounding areas is from Kerrier Way at GR 166178:040785, where the new bridge has created a wonderful panoramic view.</p> <p><b>see photographs 19 and 20</b></p> <p><b>NB. This view is also included in the ‘Floodplain at Tuckingmill’ assessment because the floodplain lies within Tuckingmill valley.</b></p>
<b>Key characteristics</b>	<p><b>What features stand out from completing the assessment sheet</b></p> <p>Create a set of bullet points to highlight what makes this character type distinctive, what are it’s key characteristics</p>	<p>*Quiet, tranquil and unspoilt with the sound of running water and bird song.</p> <p>*The park is, essentially, a well-managed nature reserve.</p> <p>*Numerous wide footpaths lead to many designated areas.</p> <p>*Accessibility is very good.</p> <p>*Picnic areas.</p> <p>*Designated heritage mining trail suitable for wheelchair access.</p> <p>*Surrounded by development on all sides, the area is set aside as a peaceful retreat.</p>
<b>Photographs</b>	<p>Take representative photos of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the overall character of this landscape type</li> <li>specific characteristics features of the landscape type</li> <li>notable views and vistas.</li> </ul> <p>Mark the photo location on a plan and which way you were looking when you took the photograph.</p> <p>Make a note of what element of character is the photograph illustrating.</p>	<p>Photographs have been taken and are included below.</p>



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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.#	There does not seem to be a transition, as such, because it is surrounded on all sides by roads and developments, creating a virtual basin. This makes the change between landscapes very sudden and definite.

Pressures/ forces for change and land management

acter type	Pressures for change	Land management and development considerations
	<p>1. Commercial development and extension on the eastern edge of the valley.</p> <p>2. Removal of trees</p> <p>3. Realignment of the highways</p> <p>4. Housing development which extends above the valley to the higher ground breaking the skyline</p> <p>5. Extensions and alterations to existing dwellings</p>	<p>1. Ensure that restoration projects, and new features, utilise locally occurring materials.</p> <p>2. Encourage the management of historical features and leisure facilities.</p> <p>3. 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.</p> <p>4. Encourage the management, and where appropriate, the extension of broadleaf woodlands.</p> <p>5. Avoid the widening and or straightening of characteristic narrow winding lanes, minimise damage to Cornish hedges, trees, historic bridges, and gate posts and repair and replace any features which are lost.</p> <p>6. Roads are often enclosed by trees which create vegetated tunnels. These are distinctive features of this area and can easily be damaged, or destroyed, by large vehicles.</p> <p>8. Reflect the landscape character and settlement pattern.</p>



## 1. Tuckingmill valley park signage



## 2. Tuckingmill valley park signage





**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

