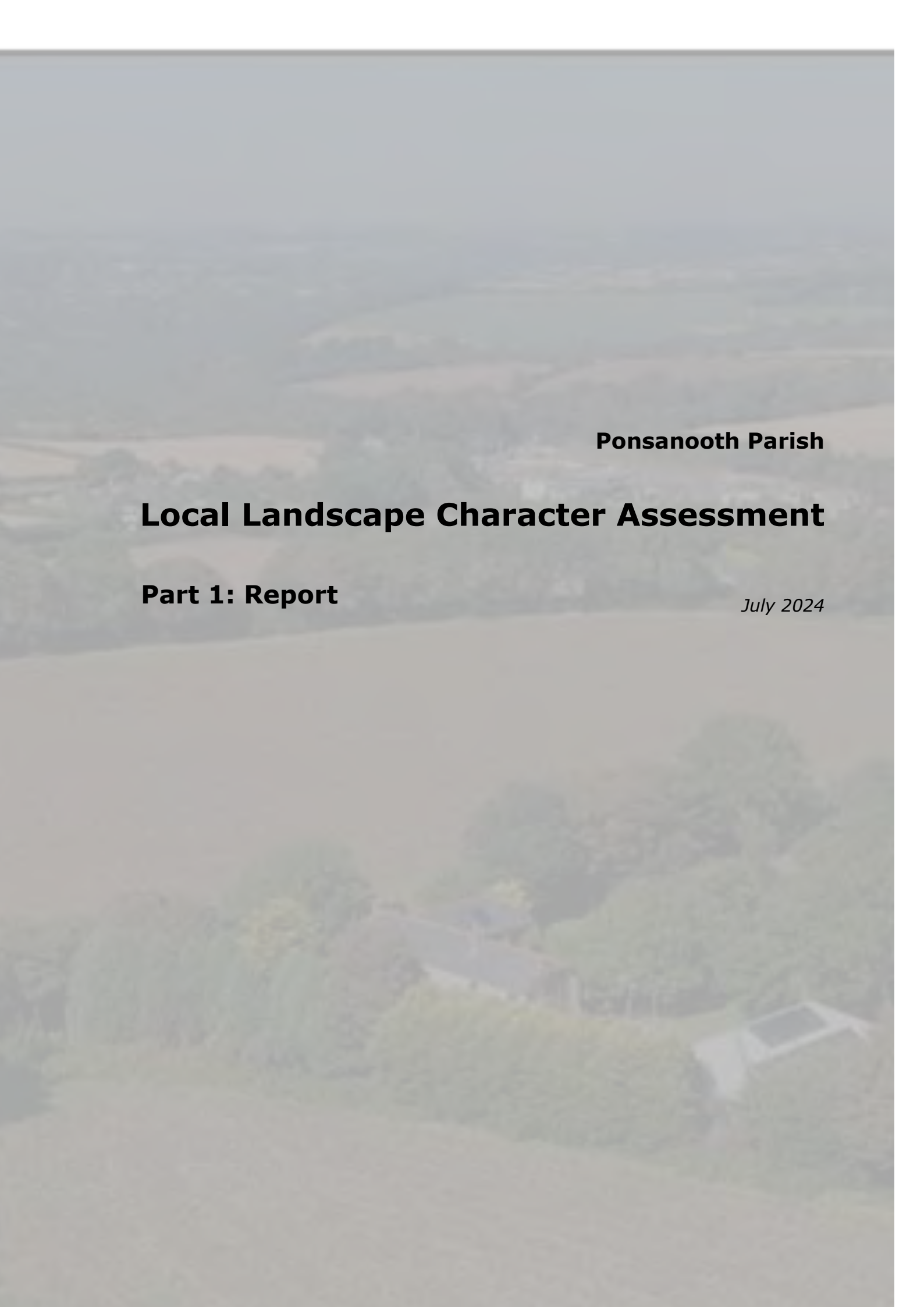


An aerial photograph of a rural landscape, showing rolling hills, fields, and a small village. The image is faded and serves as a background for the text.

Ponsanooth Parish

Local Landscape Character Assessment

Part 1: Report

July 2024

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Section 1 – Introduction and Overview

1.1 Creating the Ponsanooth Parish Local Landscape Character Assessment

1.1.1 Ponsanooth Parish Council realise the importance of retaining and enhancing landscape character to protect the local distinctiveness of the area.

1.1.2 In drafting the Ponsanooth Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), the Steering Group were aware of the increasing pressure for new development and the difficulties of siting development in the most appropriate locations. It was realised that to be able to retain the distinctive local character whilst allowing development, it would be vital to record the elements and features which come together to create the present landscape character of the Parish giving its unique sense of place. Once this detail had been gathered it would then be possible to assess how new development proposals could positively or negatively affect the local landscape.

1.1.3 The Steering Group contacted Kath Statham, Landscape Architect from Cornwall Council's Public Open Space Team, with a view to undertaking a Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLCA). Kath met with representatives of the Steering Group at various stages throughout the formulation of this LLCA guiding and explaining how a local landscape character assessment could provide the evidence to underpin the policies within their NDP.

1.1.4 The purpose of a LLCA is to provide a robust evidence base describing the character of the landscape in the Ponsanooth Parish. This assessment can also be of use in

- defining the elements of character which give Ponsanooth Parish its sense of place and local distinctiveness
- identify features, characteristics and views of key importance to local people
- celebrating what is important about the local landscape
- informing decisions regarding the environmental suitability of new development in the Parish
- identifying and managing future development pressures on our landscape
- enable positive planning, objectively guiding the right development in the right place
- contribute to the evidence base to support policy within the NDP
- help to set priorities for future land management

1.1.5 A Neighbourhood Development Plan is prepared by the local community, and for this reason it was important to involve members of the Ponsanooth Parish community in the preparation of the Local Landscape Character Assessment. The Steering Group reviewed and added local detail to the draft document.

1.1.6 The LLCA divides the Parish into 5 Landscape Character Types (LCT) as shown in the overview map below (a larger version can be found in Appendix 1). The LLCA provides detailed information on each LCT, discusses valued and protected landscapes and assets, as well as distinctiveness and landscape quality, and considers pressures, issues and management requirements. This acts as an evidence base for the NDP and has informed its policies.

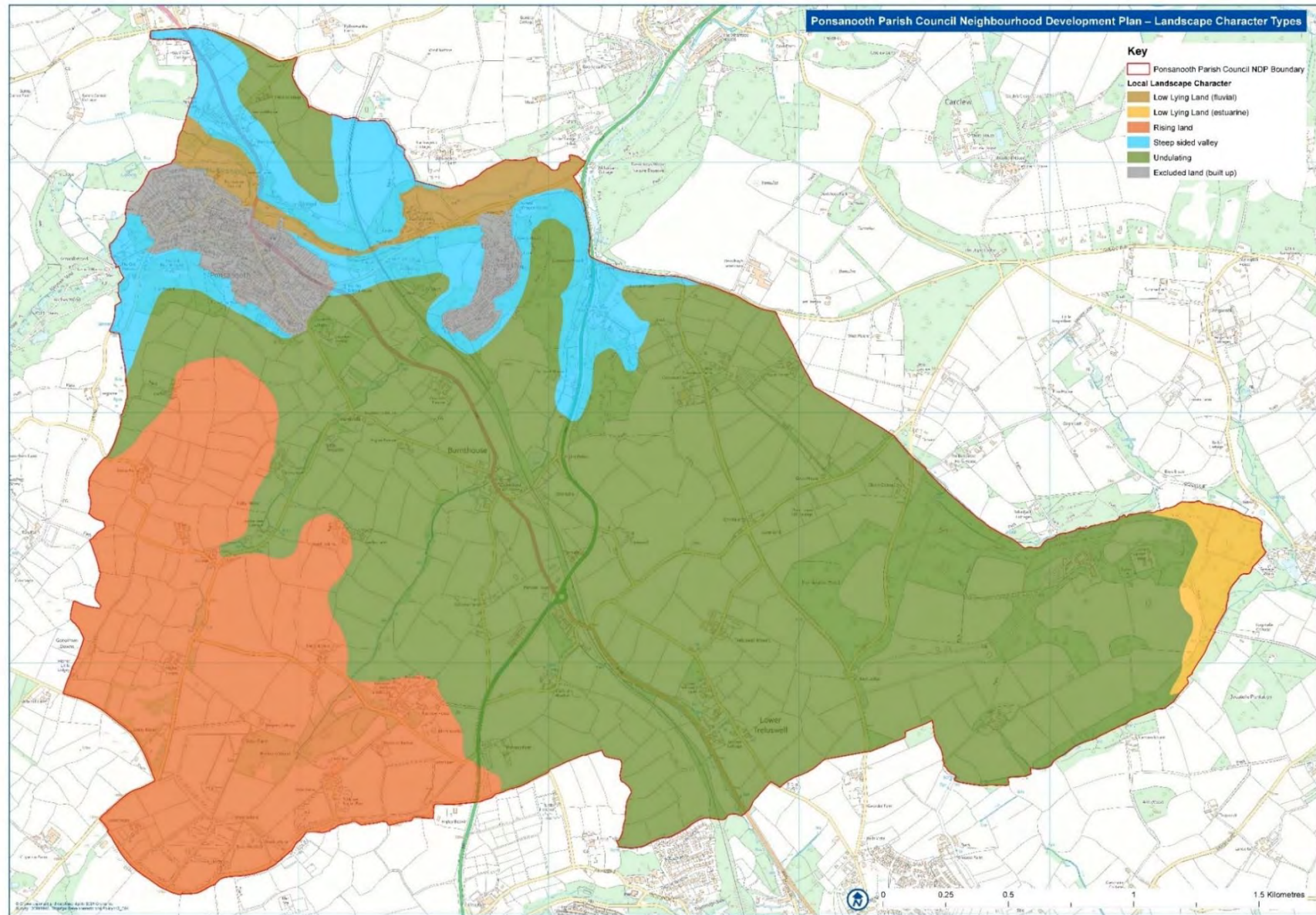


Figure 1 Overview of Landscape Character Types in Ponsanooth Parish

1.2 The Landscape Character Types (LCTs)



Figure 2 'Rising Land' landscape character type



Figure 3 'Undulating Land' landscape character type



Figure 4 'Steep Sided Valley' landscape character type



Figure 5 Low Lying Land (fluvial)' landscape character type



Figure 6 Low Lying Land (estuarine)' landscape character type

Section 2 – Landscape Character Assessment Background and Policy

2.1 What is landscape character assessment and why is it important?

2.1.1 Landscape is about the relationship between people and place and is the setting for our lives. The Cornish landscape is unique, stunning, diverse, and a major economic asset which provides

- social and community value as an important part of people's lives, contributing to our sense of identity and well-being, and bringing enjoyment and inspiration,
- environmental value as a home for wildlife and a cultural record of society's use of the land,
- economic value through its agricultural importance and the support of a variety of business and industrial uses including marine, mining, renewables, food, tourism, service and creative.

2.1.2 Through landscape character assessment we can gain an understanding of what elements of the character are important and have value, to help in the decision-making process for development proposals as well as to provide a resource for the community, for example to plan Green Infrastructure and biodiversity projects or to inform land management considerations or provide better countryside access and educational activities.

2.1.3 The European Landscape Convention¹ defines landscape as *"...an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and / or human factors"* and is clear that all landscapes matter, not just those covered by designation.

2.1.4 The landscape of Cornwall is very important to residents and visitors alike. For many years books have been written and paintings created centring on this wonderful landscape of scenic beauty, cultural heritage and high ecological value.

2.1.5 Landscape character assessment is a tool to help understand what the landscape is like today, how it has come to be like that, and how it may change in the future. Its role is to help manage change and guide development in a way that does not undermine whatever is characteristic or valued about any particular landscape.

2.1.6 There are many elements which come together to give us the landscape we see and appreciate, illustrated by the Landscape Wheel² overleaf. The landscape's physical geology and hydrology affect the soils, which are also influenced by climate, land cover and flora and fauna. The landscape is not static. Our human influence over time through land use, enclosure, cultivation and development make distinct patterns which vary across Cornwall. As well as the physical elements, how we perceive the landscape is an important element of character. Our memories, senses and associations are all personal to use and allow us to perceive the landscape individually, so the landscape is far more than just what we see.

¹ Council of Europe (2000) European Landscape Convention, Florence, October 2000

² Natural England (2014) Approach to Landscape Character Assessment

2.1.7 Landscape character assessment allows us to identify and describe variation in the character of the landscape, to explain unique combinations of elements and features which come together to create Ponsanooth Parish's local distinctiveness and a sense of place.

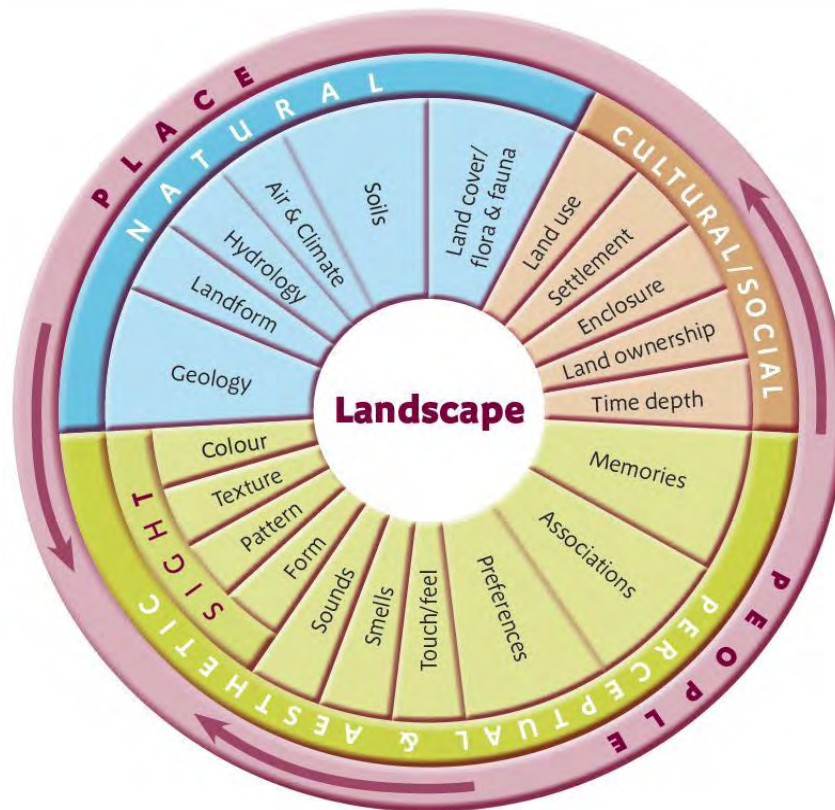


Figure 7 Landscape Character Wheel 2

2.1.8 Landscape Character Assessment takes common headings such as topography, land cover, field pattern, historic features and describes the character of the area under these common headings.

2.1.9 While LLCAs are not mandatory for NDPs, the Steering Group resolved, in discussion with Cornwall Council, that a LLCA would strengthen the NDP evidence base and support development of policies which:

- Manage development in Ponsanooth Parish, including in the St Gluvias Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and other valued landscapes.
- Protect and/or designate green space. This includes green infrastructure within and between settlements and in new development.
- Conserve and enhance heritage features, habitats and habitat networks, soils and locally distinctive features.
- Set design standards for new development, such as matching local vernacular building styles and requiring green infrastructure and wellbeing provisions.
- Consider climate change and energy related developments, including mineral working and carbon sequestration.
- Identify and allocate land suitable for new homes and businesses. This includes expansion of industrial areas.
- Plan for pedestrian and vehicular access, including for improved access to the countryside in Ponsanooth Parish by people of all ages and abilities.

2.2 Policy Context to LLCA

2.2.1 NDPs provide an ideal opportunity to include Parish specific landscape policy to identify, conserve and enhance landscape elements that contribute to local distinctiveness and sense of place. The LLCA provides the required landscape evidence and the NDP should contain clear and logical connections between landscape evidence and related policies. NDP Policies must align with and support National and Cornwall Policy. Key National and Cornwall Policy considered most relevant in the LLCA context is briefly outlined below.

2.2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)³ requires planning policies and decisions to (key points only, not exhaustive):

- contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment (Section 15, para 174) and to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity (Section 15, para 179).
- consider heritage assets through plans that should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats (Section 16, para 189 and 190).
- consider climate change and flood risk (Section 14), and to support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, including support for renewable energy and low carbon technologies, always taking account of the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures.

2.2.3 The LLCA will help to support NDP policies to align with and be in support of the NPPF policies in a way that protects and enhances the local landscape and its distinctive features, characteristics and assets.

2.2.4 In Cornwall, the Cornwall Local Plan⁴ sets out policy. Strategic Policies cover a wide range of topics relevant to the LLCA. The LLCA will provide supporting information to guide design and location of new developments in tandem with Design Codes and NDP policy. Strategic Policies set out for example (key points only, not exhaustive):

- That proposals are to maintain and respect the special character of Cornwall, recognising that all urban and rural landscapes, designated and undesignated, are important (Policy 2), respecting and enhancing the quality of place and providing solutions to current and future issues,
- The importance of the landscape for the agricultural and tourism sectors,
- The management of development in the open countryside, and emphasis on the role NDPs will play in delivery of housing requirements through identification of potential sites (Policies 3 and 7),
- The need for development to ensure Cornwall's enduring distinctiveness and maintain and enhance its distinctive natural and historic character (Policy 12),
- Requirements for wind and solar photovoltaic development, as well as for community led energy projects, for which landscape character is seen as a key driver in determining the appropriate scale and density of development (Policy 14)

³ [National Planning Policy Framework - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/617353/NPPF-2019.pdf)

⁴ [Cornwall Local Plan Strategic Policies](#)

- Strategic considerations for the natural and historic environment, including European Designated Sites, AONBs, AGLVs, Green Infrastructure and Heritage Assets (Policies 22 to 25). Policy 23 Natural Environment states that *'Development proposals will need to sustain local distinctiveness and character and protect and where possible enhance Cornwall's natural environment and assets according to their international, national and local significance. Development should be of an appropriate scale, mass and design that recognises and respects landscape character of both designated and un-designated landscapes'*.

2.3 National and Cornwall Landscape Character Assessment Information

2.3.1 National and Cornwall wide assessments are available. The detail of these assessments is high level and provides useful background to the detail provided in the LLCA.

2.3.2 Nationally, there are National Character Areas (NCA) and Ponsanooth Parish is within NCA152 Cornish Killas and NCA155 Carnmenellis. The NCA Profiles can be found online⁵⁶ and provide a high-level context for the wider area.

2.3.3 The Cornwall Landscape Character Assessment 2007 provides detail of landscape character through 40 landscape Character Areas (LCA). Each of these 40 LCAs is a geographically discrete area which has a 'sense of place' and a distinct pattern of elements that makes one landscape different from another, each is accompanied by a detailed description of the character of the landscape. The Parish of Ponsanooth is covered by three Landscape Character Areas (Figure 8).

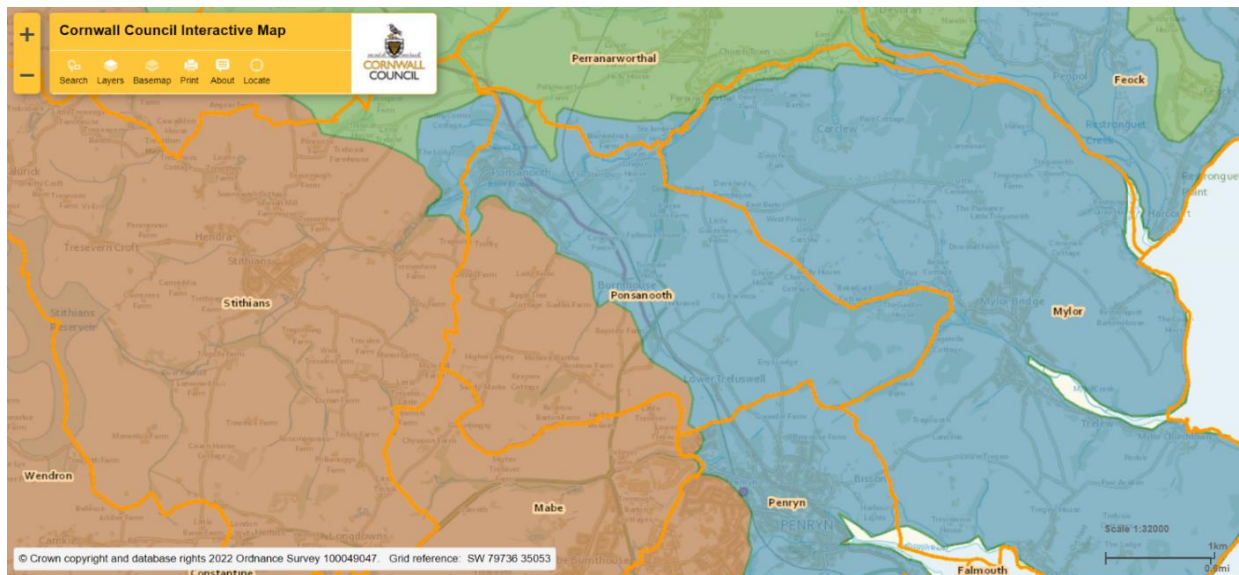


Figure 8 Cornwall Landscape Character Areas in Ponsanooth Parish

(Parish boundaries shown orange)

- CA10 – Carnmenellis – brown
- CA11 – Camborne, Redruth and Gwennap – green
- CA13 – Fal Ria, Truro and Falmouth – blue

⁵ NCA Profile:152 Cornish Killas - NE547 (naturalengland.org.uk)

⁶ NCA Profile:155 Carnmenellis - NE528 (naturalengland.org.uk)

2.4 Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLCA)

2.2.5 The LLCA is an evidence base for community led planning. It provides a factual description of the landscape character of the parish (outside the settlements) explaining the unique combinations of elements and features which come together to create a sense of place and local distinctiveness. It also provides an overview of key pressures and issues, and outlines expectations and opportunities for new developments to contribute to long-term conservation and enhancement of the landscape.

2.2.4 This LLCA describes the special qualities of the landscape which are important to conserve and enhance the unique, locally distinct sense of place in Ponsanooth Parish, building on the information contained in the National and Cornwall wide descriptions and data to support Parish specific NDP policy and decision making.

2.2.5 It also identifies pressures, opportunities and management guidelines to inform future landscape management and enhancement and to assist developers to identify appropriate landscape mitigation measures for their schemes.

Section 3 – The Local Landscape Character Assessment of Ponsanooth Parish

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Section 1 and 2 described why this Local Landscape Character Assessment was prepared and how it creates an evidence base which will contribute to development of policies within the Ponsanooth Parish NDP. This Section provides the detail of the landscape character of each of the 5 Landscape Character Types (LCTs).

3.1.2 The LCTs are distinctly different areas of land, defined by their physical attributes, for example distinguished by topography and land cover. They may share some characteristics. The differentiation results from the varying combination of factors, and distinct features and views that may be specific to an LCT.

3.1.3 By using changes in the local topography, the following 5 LCTs have been identified, and Map 1 Appendix 6.1 shows their boundaries.

- LCT1 - Rising Land (shaded orange)
- LCT2 - Undulating Land (shaded green)
- LCT3 - Steep Sided Valley (shaded blue)
- LCT4 - Low Lying (fluvial) (shaded brown)
- LCT5 - Low Lying (Estuarine) (shaded yellow)

It should be noted that a separate Heritage Assessment was prepared for the Parish, which contains much detail about historic and heritage features, and also field systems. This LLCA does not go into detail about heritage assets. It only picks out key relevant points, and reference should be made to the Heritage Assessment for full details. The LLCA should be read alongside the Heritage Assessment.

3.2 Parish Overview

3.2.1 Over half of the area of the Parish lies within the St Gluvias Area of Great Landscape Value recognised for its scenic quality. It incorporates the deeply incised wooded valley of the River Kennall, adjacent areas of ancient woodland linked by tree lined Cornish hedges and specimen trees often swathed in ivy and very valuable to wildlife including protected species. See Section 4 for further details.

3.2.2 The Kennall Valley contains the Gunpowder Works (adjacent parish of Stithians), part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site designation. The entrance to this site is in the village of Ponsanooth. The designated area extends into the older part of the village to include the Gunpowder Storage complex and other remains of premises connected to gunpowder production, labourers' cottages, water courses to provide power and the Methodist Church. For further details see Section 4 and Appendix 6.2 Map 4.

3.3 Methodology

3.3.1 The landscape character information for each of the 5 LCTs was gathered using a field assessment record. Once the draft was compiled the NDP Steering Group reviewed the document and added further local detail. Public consultation was also

used to collect additional data and ensure community input (for example during exhibitions at local events such as the Ponsanooth Fair Day).

3.3.2 The LCT descriptions record the local landscape character and also incorporate details relating to landscape, historic and natural designations and features. The mapping to support these descriptions can be found on Maps in Section 6 Appendices.

3.3.3 A visual assessment of the character including views has also been carried out and photographs are provided through the assessment.

3.3.4 The LCT descriptions primarily record factual detail, not whether features and elements of character are good or bad, appropriate or badly designed. In the Aesthetic and Sensory and to a lesser extent in the Development Pressures assessments there are more subjective words where value judgements have been made. Consideration of what the local community values and feels is important in the Parish and input from the community has been obtained through public consultation. Details of this can be found in Section 6. Other sections remain more 'neutral' and objective. This way the LLCA is an objective factual document.

3.3.5 The field assessment record uses the same headings found in the supporting descriptions for the 40 LCAs in the 2007 Landscape Character Assessment. This way there is a clear and robust link between the Cornwall-wide assessment and this more detailed local assessment. These headings are:

- **Key Characteristics** – what are the key elements and features of the landscape character type that make it different from other areas.
- **Distinctive Features** – elements and features both man-made and natural which are distinctive
- **Condition** – the state and appearance of characteristics of the landscape, as well as an overall assessment
- **Relationship to the adjacent Landscape Character Types** – how each landscape type relates to the next landscape type, whether there is a distinct change or more of a transition from one to the next.
- **Topography and Drainage** – what is the overall shape of the land and a description of any water present.
- **Land Cover, Land Use and Soils** – What types of vegetation are found across the landscape type and what is the land used for, what is the soil resource.
- **Field and Woodland Pattern** – The location of trees and woodland, and whether they are designated. The scale of the field pattern, and type of field boundary
- **Biodiversity** – Elements of the landscape which could support protected species, their location and how they link together
- **Historic Features** – designated and non-designated features of historic importance in the Parish

- **Building Distribution** – beyond the settlements, where are buildings located, and how do they relate to the landscape
- **Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way** – the character of the road network, and public rights of way, footpaths, bridleways and byways.
- **Aesthetic and Sensory** – the human experience of being within the landscape type, sight, sound, smell, seasonal change.
- **Views** – key vantage points where the public's attention is focussed in one direction, important vistas, and important visual links between landscape features, such as church spires, burial mounds.
- **Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character** – what future development could potentially have an adverse impact on the character of the landscape.
- **Landscape Management and Development Considerations** – are there beneficial land management practices which need to be continued, or practices which could be altered to preserve or enhance the local landscape character. Consideration also regarding positive planning for new development.

3.4 The Landscape Character Type Descriptions

3.4.1 The sections below detail the information gathered for the 5 LCTs that have been defined for Ponsanooth Parish. These are:

- LCT1 - Rising Land (shaded orange)
- LCT2 - Undulating Land (shaded green)
- LCT3 - Steep Sided Valley (shaded blue)
- LCT4 - Low Lying (fluvial) (shaded brown)
- LCT5 - Low Lying (Estuarine) (shaded yellow)

3.4.2 Map 1 in Appendix 6.1 shows their boundaries, and each section below includes a map extract showing the location of the relevant LCT in relation to the Parish boundary.

LCT1 - Rising Land

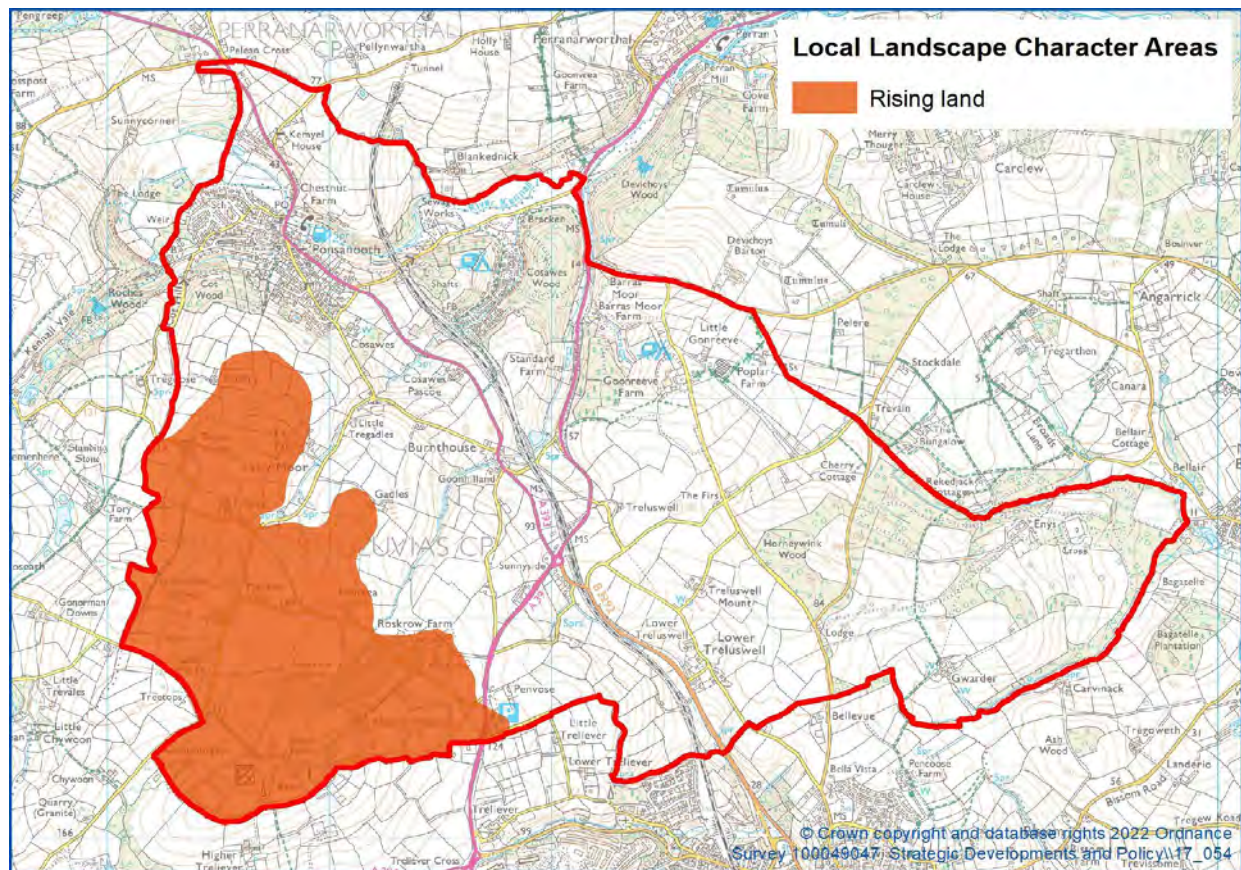


Figure 9 Location of LCT1 Rising Land within Ponsanooth Parish



Figure 10 A typical view across LCT1 'Rising Land' (Keeper's Cottage in centre, Wood Hill on right)

Key Characteristics

- Part of a gently undulating open and exposed elevated granite plateau with primarily north-eastern aspect and steeper gradients along its northern edges.
- The northern part of the LCT is part of the much larger Area of Great Landscape Value, it is more so associated with the Kennall River valley (between Laity Moor and Cot Wood)
- Rural setting of farmsteads and ancient medieval field pattern create a special small scale and tranquil character particularly in the western part of the LCT, with Cornish hedges an integral part to the character.

- There is modern enclosed and post-medieval enclosed land with larger field sizes in the southern part of the LCT, some with fences instead of hedges.
- Fewer, stunted hedgerow trees on plateau, although LCT does retain a treed appearance in many places, likely due to its broadly north facing character away from the strongest winds and exposure to weather.
- Rural and agricultural uses dominate. Predominantly permanent pasture with some arable, silage and hay making and equine uses.
- The Roskrow area features prominent renewable energy installations including the two wind turbines and a large solar park, as well as the abbatoir with its industrial shed and ancillary structures.
- Cornish hedges and some hedgerows enclosing small fields of medieval farmland.
- No main transport routes or road corridors. Largely accessed by rural lanes and some footpaths.
- Settlement pattern of mainly dispersed farmsteads of medieval origin.
- Long views from elevated areas.

(For detail of designated land, land cover, Cornish hedges and historical and ecological information refer to Maps 4 to 15 in Appendix 6.1.)

Distinctive Features

- There are notable tree features – the two avenues / tree tunnels at Wood Hill and Tregonning Road, and the replanted and cleared ancient woodland sites.
- Renewable energy installations at Roskrow (wind and solar).
- Medieval field systems with Cornish hedges.
- Historic farmsteads.

Condition

LCT1 can be divided into the areas that have preserved their medieval field patterns and associated strongly rural character and those where enclosure and modern development define the character.

The medieval field areas are in good condition and are largely managed for grazing purposes.

The areas with strong modern influences and large field sizes have lost qualities and characteristics associated with the rest of the LCT and are managed differently, including fences instead of Cornish hedges, less trees and more activity such as renewable energy and the abbatoir. Landscape condition is eroded in places in these areas, and there are opportunities for improvement associated with these areas.

Relationship to adjacent Landscape Character Types

LCT 1 Rising Land represents the most elevated area in Ponsanooth Parish at levels of up to 171m AOD. It defines the southern edge of the Parish, visible in views from the surrounding areas towards Ponsanooth, with the two wind turbines acting as landmarks across a wide area.

Along its northern and eastern boundary, it merges into LCT2 Undulating Land slopes which form a transition between the high plateau and the Kennall River valley and Penryn estuary. The transition between the plateau and the undulating land is

defined by elevation and changing topography, slopes becoming steeper and elevations lower.

To the south and west are neighbouring parishes, where there is currently no Parish level landscape character information to coordinate with.

Although LCT1 has its unique characteristics it merges seamlessly with neighbouring Landscape Types. This is helped by the medieval farmland field pattern continuing into the undulating land LCT to the north and east, and the relatively treed appearance of both LCTs, with tree cover increasing further in the undulating land LCT.



Figure 11 Distant view over Laity Moor towards Carn Marth and St Agnes Beacon.

Rising Land in the immediate foreground merges seamlessly with Undulating Land in the centre of the picture.

Topography and Drainage

The area is part of the exposed undulating Carnmenellis granite plateau characterised by small streams radiating towards its perimeter.

It primarily gently slopes towards the north-east and south-east, from 180m AOD to the 120m contour. The 120m contour was used to delineate the extent of LCT1, as within Ponsanooth Parish it indicates a change between the higher plateau areas and the more sloping sides of the Kennal River valley.

The plateau is drained by two small streams rising from springs and marshy areas:

- One rises close to Woodhill in fields at Lidgely, flows through Laity Moor towards the Kennall.
- Another rises in Roscrow Wood and flows through Burnthouse towards the Kennall.

At these higher levels they form almost insignificant depressions but contain associated wetland vegetation.

Land Cover, Land Use and Soils

The LCT is dominated by permanent pasture contained in traditional small fields or, as at Roskrow, in more recently enclosed larger fields, with some arable and silage / hay cutting use also apparent.

The Agricultural Land Classification shows land within the LCT as primarily Grade 3, with a small area of Grade 4 at highest elevation. See Appendix 6.3 Map 12 for Parish Agricultural Land Classification. The soil resource in this LCT and the Parish generally

should be protected as a key resource for food production and biodiversity. It could be part of future carbon storage considerations in the Parish, with much of it being under grazing, and opportunities to increase the soil function for carbon storage and minimise carbon loss from the soils through management and land cover considerations.

Notable elements and characteristics of land cover and use includes:

- Mixed farming – dairy, cattle, arable. Some equine grazing uses. Silage/hay in fields.
- Abattoir at Roskrow.
- Smallholding/recreational farming.
- Renewal energy generation – wind and solar.
- Small areas of detached woodland (other than Roskrow Wood).
- Two notable larger areas of ancient replanted and ancient cleared woodland, indicating that despite the exposure to the elements there is a clear opportunity for tree planting and perhaps re-instatement of some of the ancient woodland areas in this LCT
- Colourful hedgerows - with increased tree and shrub cover where sheltered from prevailing wind and where current cutting regimes allow woody vegetation to grow taller.

There is much evidence of typical 'wild' grasses that exist in poor, dry, impoverished, shallow, sandy, acidic soil over rock, such as Yorkshire fog and sorrel.



Figure 12 Yorkshire fog and other wild grasses

Contrary to usual farming practice some of the highest land was being used to grow potatoes at time of visit (June 2019). Crop looked good and healthy. Notice crop, texture of soil and windrowed stones removed from soil at planting.



Figure 13 Crop of potatoes on 'poor' Grade 4 land

The traditional Cornish small-scale farms have been amalgamated into more economic larger units with evidence of some arable crops in support of dairying. This rationalisation has provided opportunity for 'recreational' farming, e.g. equestrian.

The two wind turbines at the highest point are a prominent feature in the landscape and can be dominant when in close proximity as well as generating notable noise and shadows, but equally provide a destination for walkers (with footpaths going under and past them) and act as a landmark in the wider landscape. Solar panels can also be prominent but are often screened and their influence on the landscape is more contained compared to the wind turbines. Also situated close by is an underground water reservoir.

Field and Woodland Pattern



Figure 14 View over Wood Hill westward towards Gonornan

In broad terms, the LCT is divided into medieval farmland to the west, as shown in Figure 14 above, and modern enclosed / post-medieval enclosed land to the east. The Historic Landscape Characterisation Map is included in Appendix 6.1 Map 2. The

medieval farmland has small to very small field sizes, in particular towards Gonorman and Cot Wood. Comparing the 1875-1901 Historic Map with the present day it is evident that very few hedges have been removed. The upper part of Roskrow Farm contains medium to large fields due to twentieth century enclosure of marginal land, some enclosed by post and wire fencing.

Boundaries are typical Cornish hedges, earth, faced with granite, covered in vegetation with some windswept bushes/trees. The Cornish hedges are substantial and often 2 to 3m tall with wide bases, some taller particularly where running along lanes. There is scope to increase tree and shrub cover on the hedges, which could often be achieved through change in management and some supplementary planting.

Roskrow Wood is an area of ancient replanted land, currently containing native trees, sycamore and some conifer, originating from early 19th century re-planting, which together with woodland at the top of Wood Hill are protected by Tree Preservation Orders, -see Appendix 6.2 Map 6. As Figure 14 shows, despite its exposure the landscape appears relatively treed. This could partially be due to the LCT being largely north facing, i.e. away from the strongest prevailing winds.

The two avenues of beech trees, at Wood Hill and at the eastern end of Tregonning Road, are remnants of a large area of woodland felled for timber following WW1 that connected with Roskrow Wood before reclamation. Because of their exposure to the elements and their planting on either side of the road they have formed distinct tree tunnels. Those at the higher level on Tregonning Road are particularly wind stunted (compare with those growing at much lower, sheltered levels within the parish. These trees are thickly coated with moss, evidence of trees on a ridge being a water shed for the frequent rain and mist that rolls across the landscape. Tree tunnels exist on Wood Hill and the eastern end of Tregonning Road and are considered distinctive features in this LCT.

There is a noticeable transition in vegetation from the higher levels to the lower levels. Effects of wind are much more evident at higher levels.



Figure 15 Moss covered stunted beech trees



Figure 16 Beech lined tree tunnel on Wood Hill

Biodiversity

The ERCCIS biodiversity and habitat information (Appendix 6.3 Maps 14-17) shows that dominant habitat in the LCT is improved grassland and some cultivated land, alongside the ancient replanted and cleared ancient woodland sites. There are some further small areas of neutral grassland. There are no BAP Habitats identified in this LCT on the maps provided. The ancient woodland sites are identified as non-statutory designations. This includes Roskrow Wood.

The permanent pasture at the higher levels together with solar panel sites, could provide habitat for certain species particularly threatened by silage cutting at 6 weekly intervals (skylarks singing on assessment visit).

The traditional Cornish hedges (mostly 2 to 3m high) are covered with herbaceous native vegetation and topped with scattered, wind-swept hawthorn, furze and occasional stunted sycamore and oak. The field hedges, with verges in some places bordering lanes, provide an important network of ecological corridors linking fragmented habitat. The areas with larger fields have a corresponding lower degree of hedge cover and resulting reduced habitat connectivity.

There is rhododendron in the woodland areas, some of which has recently been managed. Rhododendron can be invasive. Other invasives were not noted during surveys, however, this does not imply that there are none.

Biodiversity opportunities associated with this landscape are related to the semi-natural habitat of the replanted and cleared ancient woodland sites, the Cornish hedge network connecting habitats, and the fields, where management could be tailored to support various farmland and woodland animals and plants, and where hedges could be reinstated or enhanced and tree cover increased. Management towards more neutral grassland and wide meadow and / or scrub field margins associated with the Cornish hedges would benefit a range of flora and fauna. Skylarks, swallows, house martins, buzzards, bull finches, song thrushes and woodpeckers are for example well known birds that would benefit from management opportunities and can currently be observed in this landscape. Other opportunities may relate to sympathetic management of streams and their catchments, creation of wetland and pond areas, as well as increase in copses and hedgerow trees.



Figure 17 Red campion and foxgloves in hedgerow below

Historic Features

The manor at Roskrow is recorded in the Domesday Book. Today Roskrow Barton Farmhouse is Grade II listed.

The medieval field enclosure pattern associated with the historic farmsteads is notable.

For full details refer to the Heritage Assessment undertaken for the Parish.

Building Distribution

The old, scattered farmsteads are still readily recognisable by a farmhouse surrounded by traditional buildings, with more modern Dutch barns and cattle housing at further distance from the dwelling. Over the last fifty years agricultural rationalisation has resulted in selling off farmhouses and conversion/extension of outbuildings and agricultural workers' cottages into residential or holiday accommodation.

There are two hamlets. One is associated with the ancient manor at Roskrow. At Laity Moor there is a small cluster of houses around the Greek Orthodox Church.

With the exception of Roskrow Barton and buildings at Roskrow Barton Farm and Abbatoir most properties are screened by mature trees.

Older buildings are primarily constructed of local granite walls and slate roofs; with newer buildings featuring painted plaster and modern glazing. Most have extensive gardens with many featuring trees and shrubs giving screening and privacy.

Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way

The area is served by minor roads; narrow winding country lanes with passing places linking hamlets and providing access to farm lanes and off-road dwellings. The gradients are not excessive.

There are a number of PRoW in this LCT, although not an extensive network.

- Prow 1 – Top of Woodhill, past solar panels and windmills to Goonhingey to Roskrow minor road. Good condition as land recently developed for renewable energy.
- Prow 2 – footpath from Laity Moor crosses open fields towards Roskrow
- Prow 3 – higher part of track from Devas to Gonorman. Probably an old horse and cart track. Sometimes needs attention to make passage safe.

These paths are used occasionally, and use has increased during the Covid pandemic. Some paths are of poor condition, with stiles not readily maintained and often very muddy sections. There are some old granite stiles.

There are no bridge structures. Where any small stream passes under a road, this will be through a Cornish granite 'bolt' (drain).

Aesthetic and Sensory

LCT1 is amongst the most remote part of the Parish, due to its limited number of roads and footpaths and its high elevation, effectively lifting its users above the hustle and bustle of the busier areas. However, the area around Roskrow feels less remote and is busier and noisier than elsewhere in this LCT.

The aesthetic qualities of the western LCT areas are high, in line with its good condition and preserved medieval field patterns, due to the small scale, many hedges and tranquil feel, whilst there is erosion of aesthetic appearance in the Roskrow area, due to the loss of features, larger scale and modern influences.

There can be some noise carrying across from the A394 and Chywoon Quarry in some wind conditions. Many areas however feel quiet and tranquil with skylark song clearly heard in season. The sounds of different birds are a key sensory experience, varying during the season. The farm animals and farm activities add to the soundscape. Around Roskrow, the wind turbines exercise a strong impact on the local soundscape, depending on wind direction and speed. There are occasional vehicle sounds from cars, lorries and farm machinery using the lanes.

There are various scents and smells that users can experience, from that of earthiness after rain, trees and wildflower scents, the blackthorn flowers in spring, hay and silage making to those of livestock and horses. Blackberries, sloes and elderflower and berries are all edible wild plants that can be found in the LCT.

The landscape is often windy with mist and low cloud in autumn and winter. There can be beautiful views of the mist in the valley below at times. The tall Cornish hedges often limit views out and channel them along the lanes or through gates.

There is limited light pollution as there are few immediate sources of light. Major towns and larger villages are close and provide some reflected or diffused light, including Ponsanooth, Carnon Downs, Penryn and Falmouth. This however does not overly affect the dark appearance of the LCT overall, where spectacular night skies can still be observed.



Figure 18 Field trip by pupils of Kennall Vale School

On 10th June 2019 Year 6 pupils from Kennall Vale School visited a Rising Land site and recorded their experiences. Several recorded that they felt 'good', 'happy' and 'calm'.

One wrote, 'I hear the sound of birds chirping and farm machines. I smell the wet grass. I see the rolling green fields and beautiful colours of the wildflowers. I feel alive and free.'

Views (see Appendix 6.3 Map 18)

Although the LCT captures the highest elevations in the Parish, views out are still limited due to the Cornish hedges and lack of footpaths across fields. Particularly in

the western part with small field patterns, views are limited through gateways and along lanes.

There are longer views from the high ground near the wind turbines, in several directions. These can include views towards St Austell clay country, Dodman Point and Castle an Dinas. The Eddystone lighthouse can be seen on a dark night.

The most accessible vantage point in this LCA is where the footpath from Laity Moor towards Roskrow joins the road from the bottom of Wood Hill to Roskrow and from the road to Roskrow Barton, looking towards the Roseland Peninsular over Carrick Roads.

Previously there were fine views towards the Roseland Peninsular, St Just Pool, Falmouth and Carrick Roads but unfortunately these have been blocked by modern development and tree planting.



Figure 19 Views obstructed by modern development

Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character

The following pressures have been identified:

- Pressure to increase the size and extent of renewal energy generation in an elevated and exposed landscape, with potential effects on views and field patterns.
- Changes in agricultural practice resulting in further changes to the traditional management of farmland.
- Increasing field sizes involving the removal of Cornish hedges and loss of ancient field patterns.
- Felling of trees and woodland.
- Loss of interconnecting green corridors and semi natural habitat.
- Inappropriate development in and expansion of the hamlets and farmsteads leading to loss of their character.
- Construction of large agricultural or commercial building
- Light pollution eroding the dark skies.
- Loss of footpaths and stiles.

Landscape Management and Development Considerations

The following management and development considerations can help to avoid or reduce adverse effects on the landscape or could help to enhance the landscape in LCT1:

- Avoid development that erodes the key characteristics or distinctive features of LCT1 and explore mitigation measures that will help to strengthen these characteristics and features.

- Consider the exposure and prominence of development on high ground, proposals must minimise adverse effects on landscape character and views arising from the exposed location on the local and wider landscape.
- The medieval field patterns must not be eroded further by development proposals, and in areas where these patterns have already been eroded, enhancement options / putting back what has been lost should be explored.
- Preserve the character of farmsteads and hamlets and avoid unsympathetic extensions.
- Cornish hedges and trees should be preserved and enhanced with appropriate buffers and new native planting appropriate in the LCT, to maximise biodiversity net gain, climate resilience and landscape benefits.
- Development should be avoided on the former ancient woodland sites, and their restoration to native woodland should be explored as appropriate.
- Retain and enhance existing footpath connections and explore new connections where appropriate.
- There is the opportunity to provide interpretation and educational benefits in this LCT.
- Agricultural management should explore opportunities to enhance biodiversity associated with farmland, for example through appropriate management regimes avoiding bird breeding season and appropriate trimming regimes and equipment, creation of wider buffers, meadows, allowing more trees and shrubs to grow on Cornish hedges, creating copses in field corners, creating wetlands and ponds, protecting soils and maximising their carbon storage potential. The future ELM (Environmental Land Management) requirements should be explored to maximise biodiversity and climate change resilience benefits, including contributing to carbon sequestration in the Parish.

LCT2 – Undulating Land

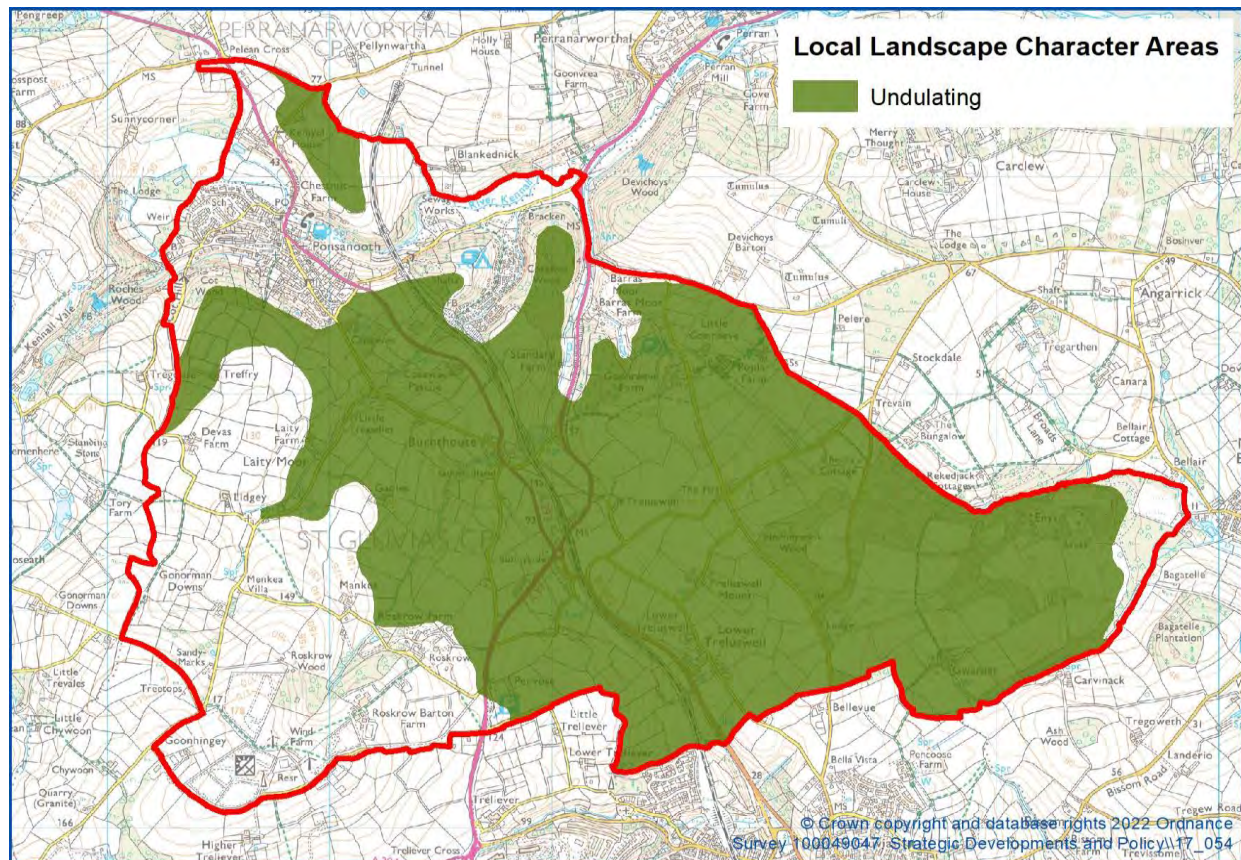


Figure 20 Location of LCT2 Undulating Land within Ponsanooth Parish



Figure 21 Undulating land at Burnhouse

Key Characteristics

- Predominantly medium and small field sizes – mix of arable, bulb growing and grazing, with a higher percentage of arable / growing land due to the better agricultural soils.

- Large areas of Medieval Farmland in central and western parts of the LCT, with post-medieval enclosed land (and pockets of modern enclosed land) and plantations dominating the eastern part of the LCT.
- Cornish hedges bounding fields and roads, often creating tree tunnels along roads and lanes and featuring mature vegetation on hedges, creating a treed appearance of the LCT.
- The area is characterized west to east, by the transition from granite to killas reflected in the style and form of the Cornish hedges (earth bank faced with stone, covered in vegetation and supporting a line of trees in varying density) and older buildings.
- Undulating landscape gently falling from southwest and west to northeast and east, from around 120m AOD to around 25m AOD, thereby affording some good views to the northeast and east, including from the old coach road. Steeper gradients along its edges where it joins LCTs 1 and 5.
- Few footpaths, landscape not readily accessible away from the roads and lanes.
- Small built-up areas with mature properties, isolated farms.
- Limited new development, with two clusters including commercial development at Treluswell, including the fuel station and garage, and small retail units in Old Brewery complex at Lower Treluswell.
- Some tourism uses including campsites, self-catering and B&B enterprises.
- Its centre is dissected by major transport corridors (A39, A393, B3292 into Penryn, railway line) that create barriers for pedestrians and animals and introduce noise over larger areas of the LCT. Feeling more tranquil along the narrow lanes and its western and eastern areas away from the transport corridors.
- Ancient Woodland at Cosawes, and plantations / parkland at Enys, famous for its bluebells in spring.

(For detail of designated land, land cover, Cornish hedges and historical and ecological information refer to Maps in Appendix 6.)

Distinctive Features

- Conspicuous tree lined old Penryn to Truro coach road.
- Cosawes Ancient Woodland.
- Enys Estate Grade II listed House and Registered Park & Garden.
- Horneywink Wood.
- Allotments at Burnthouse.
- Medieval farmland with small fields and Cornish hedges.
- Historic farmsteads and hamlets.

Condition

The area is predominantly agricultural/rural in nature, with little modern development although there is evidence of conversion of redundant farm buildings into domestic accommodation. Landscape condition is good where the Medieval Farmland and its small field patterns with Cornish hedges have been preserved. There is some erosion of condition in the enclosed farmland areas, with hedge removal, and sometimes fences.

Approx 2/3 of the LCT, its northern areas associated with the River Kennall valley, woodlands and the Enys Registered Park & Garden, are covered by the AGLV

designation, and it is proposed to include further areas of the LCT into the ALLI (see section 5). This illustrates its generally good condition and high landscape quality.

More recent development around Treluswell and Lower Treluswell create a hub of activity in the centre of the LCT, making that area less tranquil and less rural. The areas coincide with converging main transport corridors introducing movement and noise into the landscape, having a detrimental effect on its condition.

The lack of footpaths and barrier function of the main transport corridors makes this landscape less accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.

Relationship to adjacent landscape character types

LCT2 is the largest LCT in the Parish and defines much of its central areas. It merges seamlessly with adjacent Character Types. It forms much of the Parish boundaries to the south and north.

Due to parish boundary changes in May 2021, a small area of Undulating Land above the Steep Sided valley, northeast of the River Kennall with a south western aspect has been transferred to Ponsanooth Parish from Perran-ar-Worthal. The undulating landscapes can be found framing each side of the Kennall Valley and its steep slopes.



Figure 22 Undulating Land' field above area of Steep Sided Valley, northeast of River Kennall

To the southwest there is a gradual transition to the Rising Land LCT1 most noticeable by a slow decrease in number and height of trees.

The transition to Steep Sided Valley LCT3 in the north is more marked due mainly to fields being replaced by trees on land too steep for cultivation.

In the east, the border with Estuarine Low-Lying Land LCT5 is un-noticeable as it is simply a continuation of estate woodland at Enys.

Topography and Drainage

The LCT consists of primarily gently undulating agricultural land falling towards the north, east and south-east from its abutment with the Rising Land. Highest elevations are at around 120m AOD (along the boundary with LCT1 Rising Land) and lowest at around 25m AOD.

Streams that form part of the catchments of the River Kennall and the Penryn River cross this LCT as follows:

- Source of small stream in valley between Treffry and Tregoose (Stithians Parish), flowing in northerly direction towards River Kennall (parish boundary)
- Small stream, with source in LCT 1 Rising Land, flows through Laity Moor in a north-easterly direction towards River Kennall. Ponds at Laity Farm and Polventon.
- Small stream, issuing from Roscrow Wood in LCT1 Rising Land, flows in north-easterly direction, through Burnthouse (pond) before descending valley parallel with A39 towards River Kennall.
- Source of small stream in marshy land close to and southeast of Treluswell Cross which flows in south-easterly direction towards Penryn River.
- Source of small stream south of Gwarder flows north-easterly towards Mylor Creek (parish boundary).
- Source of small stream, Enys Brook, in northern woodland of Enys Estate. Flows alongside ponds in an easterly direction towards Mylor Creek (parish boundary).

Flowing water can be experienced in several walks in this LCT, as some of these streams run close to lanes or footpaths.

Land Cover, Land Use and Soils

The vegetation cover is primarily that of farmland (mix of grazing, arable and bulb growing) with some significant areas of woodland and / or plantations and parkland, including Cosawes, Horneywink and the parkland at Enys.

There are some small pockets of rough ground. The streams create habitat corridors with deciduous tree and shrub cover. Throughout the area small fields and areas have been acquired for equestrian activities.

Enys Estate is a Registered Park & Garden and covers much of the eastern area of this LCT. It is renowned for its bluebells and mature parkland trees.

There are privately run allotments at Burnthouse, adding further variety to land cover and use in this LCT.



Figure 23 Allotments between Burnthouse and Treluswell Cross



Figure 24 Enys Park



Figure 25 Recently planted orchard at Enys



Figure 26 Enys, Parc Lye, field uncultivated for centuries growing bluebells.

Recent years have seen a drastic reduction in number of dairy farms. However large parts of the LCT are still used for dairying by larger units, cattle rearing and sheep grazing, particularly in the western part of this LCT. East of the A39, on the more fertile Mylor Series land, some cereals are grown and land is used for potatoes, cauliflower and bulb/flower production.

The Agricultural Land Classification shows that higher land, southwest of the A393 is Grade 3 and that land to the northeast is Grade 2. Soils are a key resource in the Parish and this LCT features some of the higher quality soils with higher productivity. However, there is also greater erosion potential of soils associated with bulb growing and crop production on sloping fields, which can be addressed through appropriate management.

Field and Woodland Pattern

Fields in the west of the LCT are small and classed as Medieval Farmland. To the east, fields are larger (yet still of no more than medium scale) and are post-medieval or modern enclosed, with some field boundaries removed.

Most of the field hedges are lined with mature native species trees, -oak, ash reverting to hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, hazel, elder, sycamore as exposure increases.

Field pattern is relatively unchanged particularly in the western part of the LCT although much gateway widening has taken place with granite gateposts being replaced with wood or metal posts. See Appendix 6.3 and compare Maps 7-10 to notice how little field boundaries have been changed.

In places there are wide buffers of vegetation between the hedge and the road. Few verges without three-cornered leek which is smothering native species in places

This area lies to the east of the high ground of the Carnmenellis granite plateau and is therefore somewhat sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds enabling native

deciduous trees (oak, ash and some beech) to flourish. Generally, the more sheltered the area, the taller and larger the trees. Trees become smaller, sometimes stunted with increased elevation and exposure towards the west.

There are non-native species within the grounds and formal gardens of the Enys Estate. There is also rhododendron in some of the woodland. Cosawes Wood is an Ancient Woodland within this LCT.



Figure 27 Dense undergrowth of laurel and rhododendron, Enys

Further woodland east of the Ancient Woodland and at Cot Wood south of Ponsanooth is in County Wildlife Sites but not designated as Ancient Woodland. Horneywink Wood abuts Enys Estate, it is not designated, but forms a significant woodland feature in the LCT.



Figure 28 Horneywink Wood

In places these woods contain a very small number of coniferous trees with undergrowth of rhododendron and laurel in places. There are remains of coppiced

woodland north of railway line and footpath from Cosawes Pascoe to Cosawes Park Homes Estate (not far from Burnthouse).



Figure 29 Remains of coppiced woodland

A line of trees, southeast of the minor road from the top of Commercial Hill, Ponsanooth towards Town Tanna, is protected by a Tree Preservation Order -see Appendix 6.2 Map 6.

Biodiversity

Key biodiversity assets in this LCT are its woodlands and parklands, the Cornish hedge networks and the stream corridors. Furthermore, farmland, although undesignated, supports many species and offers much potential for habitat enhancement and improvements through changes in management, additional tree planting, re-instating hedges, creating wider habitat corridors and meadows, for example.

The Cosawes Ancient Woodland is also classified as an Upland Oakwood Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitat. Some of Enys Estate's open parklands are classified as BAP Priority Habitat for Lowland Wood Pastures and Parkland. Enys also features some ponds and ornamental areas, providing further habitat variety.



Figure 30 Pond in valley north of Enys house

The stream corridors often feature semi-natural habitat, so do some of the wooded areas. There are opportunities for enhancement of these corridors and assets.



Figure 31 Repaired Cornish stone hedge

There are some invasive species present in the LCT. During surveys for this LLCA, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam have been observed on the ex-Council Dump at Cosawes Pascoe. Three-cornered leek is invading the verges of most roads. Ragwort evidenced in various places, particularly at Treluswell Cross. Rhododendron is present in some woodland areas. This list is not extensive, and invasive species are likely to be present in other areas also. Invasive species management needs to form part of considerations in relation to biodiversity enhancements.

Historic Features

For details of heritage assets refer to the Heritage Assessment for the Parish. In terms of landscape, the key feature in this LCT is the Enys Estate with Registered Park & Garden status and also Grade II listed buildings.

Cosawes Barton, a small historic Cornish estate, is set in 17 acres of land adjacent to the eastern end of Ponsanooth. It consists of a Georgian farmhouse, a traditional Cornish cottage, an historic courtyard with formal house gardens with mixed woodland planted c2015, surrounded by fields.

Other historic features include listed buildings at Gadles, Cosawes Pascoe, Treluswell Mount, Lower Treluswell and Gwarder.

Further, there are some interesting roadside historical items that add to the local character, and artefacts of mining and former economic activity, although often hidden.



Figure 32 Roadside historical items at Lane End

Enys Estate

Enys Estate occupies the most eastern part of the parish with the house, including adjoining service wing, clocktower, walls and gate piers being designated Grade II by Historic England.

The buildings are set within a country estate landscape with the main house surrounded by historic dwelling and service buildings set within formal and informal gardens. Internally the main house is in poor state of repair with restoration efforts being made. There is commendable and sensitive restoration of old buildings to provide domestic dwellings and services.



Figure 33 Enys House



Figure 34 Enys, façade of restored courtyard building



Figure 35 Enys, example 2 of sympathetically restored courtyard building



Figure 36 Enys, example 3 of sympathetically restored courtyard building

(Figures 35 and 36 above courtesy of Enys Estate)



Figure 37 Enys, remains of water wheel pump and hydraulic ram used for raising water

Building distribution

This is not a developed area. Traditionally farmsteads, one or more farmhouse and ancillary buildings were dispersed throughout the area separated by between a quarter and a half mile. Following amalgamation of farms into bigger units, farmhouses and associated buildings have been sold off for country residences and building conversion to domestic dwelling. Most farms have retained at least a proportion of old, traditional buildings made of local materials but farming enterprise is now carried out from modern yards and buildings constructed in the last fifty years.

There are several hamlets, including at:

- Roskrow – old manor site with tasteful conversions of traditional buildings to domestic accommodation
- Laity Moor, Town Tanna
- Burnthouse
- Lane End
- Treluswell and Lower Treluswell

These are largely located at country road junctions, some accommodate more recent development and have slightly expanded over time from their historic origins, including accommodating some commercial uses. This includes a small number of light industrial units at Brewery Yard, Lower Treluswell.



Figure 38 Burnthouse is a small hamlet on the A393 with origins in small, clustered smallholdings and the requirements of previous industry

Most dwellings enjoy gardens to front and rear bounded by a Cornish hedge or fencing. There is evidence of modern kitchen/bathroom extensions, and plastic double glazing. There are some bungalows, chiefly around Treluswell. Most buildings however, are traditional two-storey Cornish cottages and houses. There is also a Park Home site at Cosawes.

Buildings constructed in the first part of the twentieth century and earlier are built using granite with slate roofs.



Figure 39 Stone quarried on site for new build at Town Tanna



Figure 40 New build at Town Tanna

More modern constructions are mostly of plastered concrete with slate or tile roofs.

Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way

There are two main trunk roads in this area. The A39 runs north to south through the centre of the parish from Truro to Falmouth. The A393 connects from Redruth, through the village of Ponsanooth and runs parallel to the Truro to Falmouth railway line as it approaches Treluswell roundabout (new architectural roundabout).



Figure 41 Railway line and A393 running parallel to each other towards Burnthouse

Whilst not classified as a trunk road, the B3293 runs from the A39 (Treluswell Roundabout) into Penryn and is dualled in places, thereby having the character of a trunk road.

These main roads have verges in places that are maintained by trimming annually in line with highways maintenance requirements, focused on road safety. This limits their biodiversity value. The minor roads are predominantly edged with Cornish hedges supporting grass, wildflowers and native plants and trees. In places, particularly between Treluswell Cross and Enys, there are surprisingly wide verges. A particular example of this is found on the 'old road' that connected Truro to Penryn where the hedges are set well back from the edge of the road.

There are very few footpaths in this LCT. Access is via the narrow, winding, tree-lined lanes, often through tree tunnels which are one of the features of the area.

Aesthetic and Sensory

Whilst the rural setting of undulating farmland is predominant, the main road corridors and railway add noise and movement to this landscape reducing its tranquility in places. Trees in the area muffle man-made sound, the road noise however can travel along and up valleys and can be heard for some distance in places.

The enclosed fields are generally of an eastern aspect; some are sheltered from the prevailing wind from the west with trees providing further shelter. The area can feel pleasantly sheltered and enclosed.

The seasonal experience is consistent with the normal four seasons in an area dominated by deciduous trees and livestock being housed in winter.

Recreational walking and riding is via the narrow lanes as there are no bridleways and extremely few footpaths.

There is medium level light pollution from surrounding towns and villages, and from lit road infrastructure such as at Treluswell.



Figure 42 Tree tunnel near Treluswell

Views (see Appendix 6.3 Map 18)

There are few distant views as the skyline is mostly obstructed by trees but an exception to this is the view from the road from the A39 and areas near Roskrow looking south-east towards Penryn/Falmouth and Carrick Roads. There are also some views over the northern landscapes towards Carnon Downs and over the River Kennall Valley and the A393 from the old Falmouth Road at Higher Pascoe.



Figure 43 View towards Falmouth and Carrick Roads from Roskrow

Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character

- Removal of trees, including almost unnoticeable ‘nibbling’ away of single trees and at edges woodland.
- Changes in agricultural practice reducing management input -field rationalisation, intensification, new structures and diversification.
- Increasing field sizes involving the removal of Cornish hedges
- Construction of large agricultural or commercial buildings – permitted development rights where farm buildings can be erected in open countryside.
- Loss of interconnecting green corridors and semi natural habitat.
- Development pressure within and on the edges of settlements.
- Incremental change to dwellings and development out of scale and not in keeping with setting or the vernacular.
- Light pollution eroding the dark skies

Landscape Management and Development Considerations

- All landscape management must consider the importance of the scenic quality of the area.
- Any development must not impact on biodiversity, valued landscape character or views.
- Ensure all management and development supports policies to prevent any development that is out of character or scale and negatively affects the AGLV or ALLI.
- Consider the nature of the setting. 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.

- Avoid the removal of mature trees and woodland wherever possible. This is a main characteristic feature of this area
- Encourage the management and where appropriate the extension of broadleaf woodlands.
- Avoid the widening and or straightening of characteristic narrow winding lanes, minimise damage to Cornish hedges, trees, historic bridges, and gateposts and repair and replace any features which are lost.
- Ensure new features integrate with the local vernacular using locally occurring materials
- Reflect the landscape character and settlement pattern.
- Consider the importance of trees to landscape character and the significant benefit they provide in combatting climate change and providing ecosystem services.
- Identify corners of fields and under-utilised land for tree planting to combat climate change.
- Conserve historic features and gardens, providing information and supporting access to funding.
- Control the spread or introduction of invasive species.
- Landowners seem to recognize the importance of not trimming hedges and verges before wildflowers have set seed and young birds have fledged.
- Isolated fields and areas that have become uneconomic to continue in agricultural use or have no use are reverting to 'scrub'. Consideration could be given as to how this land could be of greatest benefit to the natural environment.

LCT3 - Steep Sided Valley

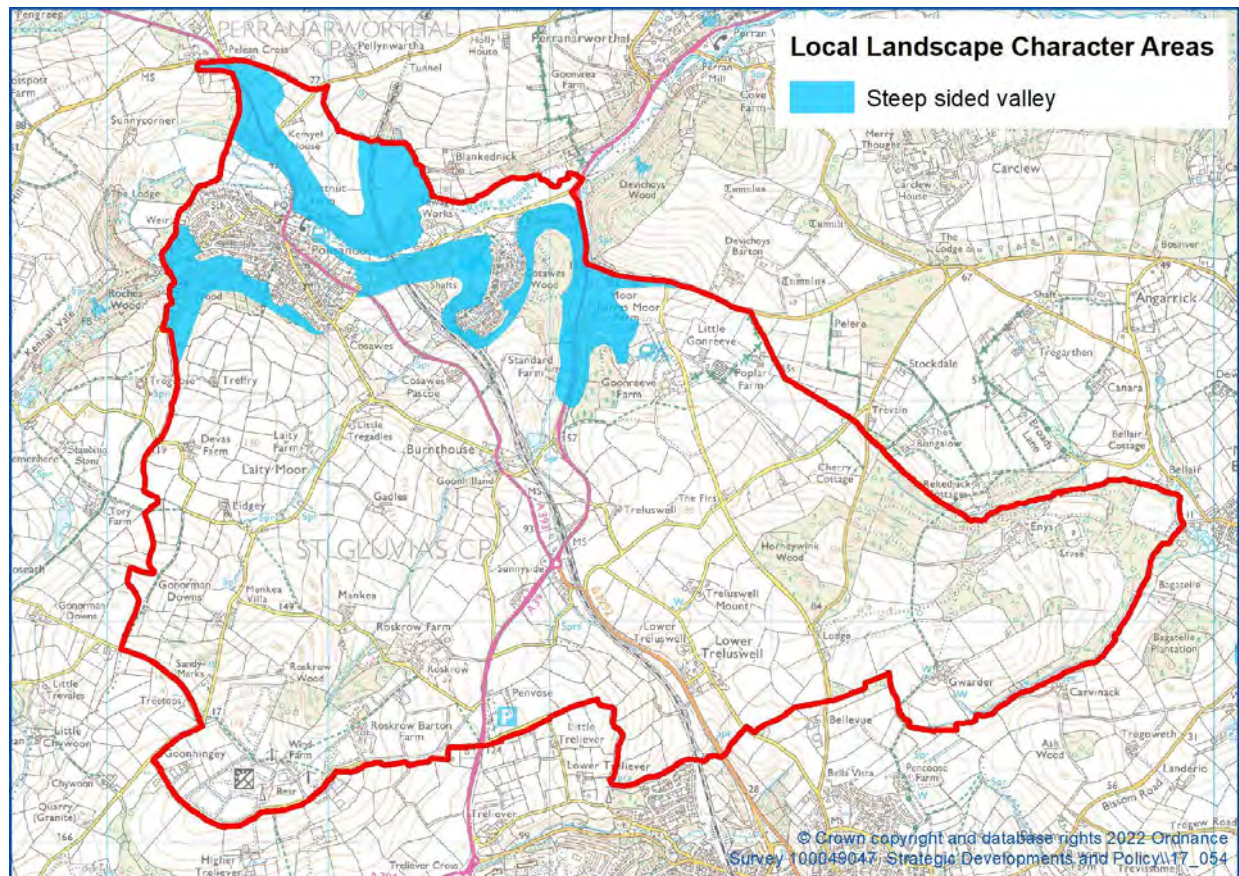


Figure 44 LCT3 Steep Sided Valley extent



Figure 45 Kennall Valley as river flows under the listed road bridge in Ponsanooth, with viaduct in the background

Key Characteristics

- Steep sided, tree filled valley sides providing the setting for the village of Ponsanooth and context to many fine views from the village across and along the valley, interspersed by fields with Cornish hedges particularly towards the higher elevations.
- Wholly covered by the Area of Great Landscape Value designation typified by areas of woodland, with connecting corridors of trees growing on Cornish hedges.
- Crossed by a number of key transport corridors (A39, A393 and Falmouth to Truro railway line) introducing movement and noise in some parts of this LCT.
- Limited number of buildings / properties – relatively unsettled except some properties along the A393.
- Not readily accessible.

Distinctive Features

- The railway viaduct including the piers of Brunel's original bridge over the wooded Kennall Valley is a distinctive feature.
- Woodland and trees on steep slopes.
- Some mining relics near Cosawes and Cot Wood / Kennall Vale.

Condition

The woodland areas and trees provide a strong landscape framework for this LCT. They are not generally managed for commercial forestry but are looked after by local landowners as required. The woodlands and trees also frame the main roads and lanes providing strong character. Ash dieback and future tree diseases could have substantial effects on this LCT.

Fields and Cornish hedges are well maintained. Overall, the landscape is considered of good condition, slight changes in management could increase tree cover and biodiversity in the higher elevations improving its condition further.



Figure 46 The Truro to Falmouth railway line viaduct, original Brunel bridge piers visible underneath.

Relationship to adjacent landscape character type

There is a notable change in topography between LCT2 'Undulating Land' and LCT3 'Steep Sided Valley', in contours becoming much steeper and inaccessible, although over a transitional area at the higher elevations. It is a transition characterised by fewer fields (less suitable for agriculture on steeper slopes) and an increase in size and density of trees.

The steep sided valley bottoms out in the low-lying fluvial land (LCT4) alongside the River Kennall, where the land changes quite abruptly from steep slopes to flatter land, which is part of the River Kennall floodplains and transport corridors. LCTs 3 and 4 form together the River Kennall Valley, a distinct feature of the Parish.

Topography and Drainage

This LCT frames the River Kennall corridor, with the land falling steeply in primarily a north-easterly direction from the 100m contour near Kennall Vale Nature Reserve to the 5m contour at Stickenbridge / A39 corridor. This makes for some very steep slopes and dense contour lines throughout much of this LCT, which is an integral part of its character.

The aspect of fall is in a more northerly direction from Treluswell to Stickenbridge. Due to parish boundary changes in May 2021, a small area of Steep Sided valley, northeast of the River Kennall with a southwestern aspect has been transferred to Ponsanooth Parish from Perran-ar-Worthal.

The large and rapid fall of the River Kennall has historically provided a reliable quantity of water to power local industry for centuries. Although not in the designated

area, the river in Kennall Vale is the source of leats that run through Ponsanooth and in the past provided power for a variety of mills.

Although mills have ceased, the leat still runs along the approximately 50m contour before running underground through the centre of the village exiting into the River Kennall. There are traces of man-made, historic leats running from Sunny Corner towards Vale View and previous factories/industries.

The two small streams that have their source in LCT1 'Rising Land' run through this area in a north easterly direction in their associated valley before joining the Kennall River. Another has its source in low, marshy ground between Treffry and Tregoose.

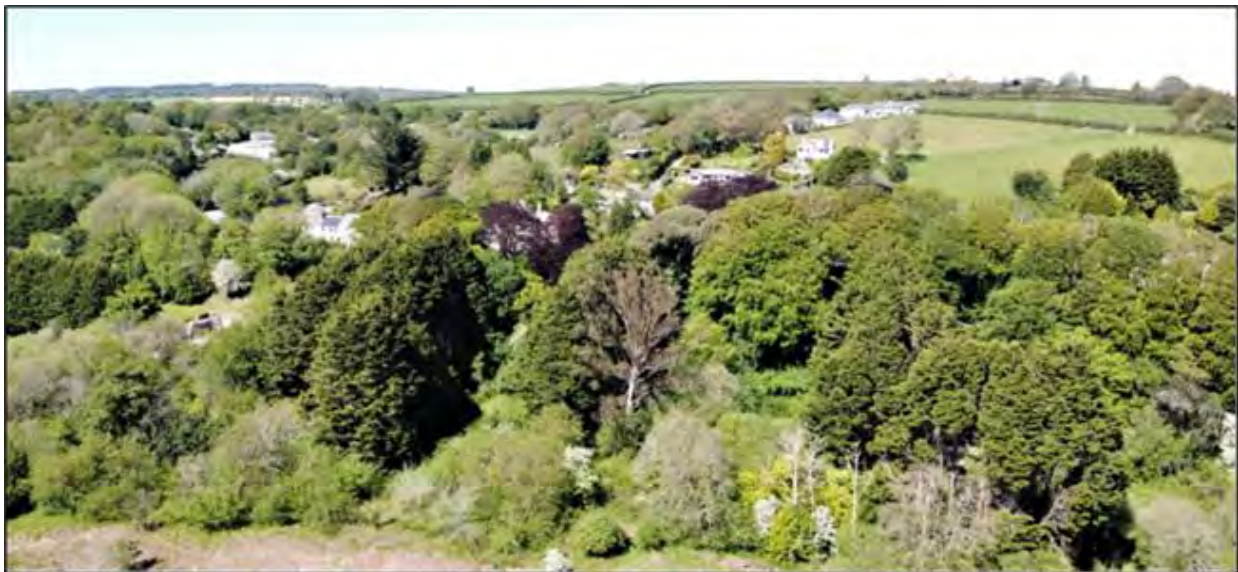


Figure 47 Small area of 'Steep Sided Valley transferred to Ponsanooth Parish from Perran-ar-Worthal

Biodiversity

LCT3 together with LCT4 forms an important habitat corridor through the Parish, linking it from west to east along the Kennall River and to adjacent networks of hedges, trees and other woodlands. The importance of this corridor is emphasised by the presence of County Wildlife Sites designations at Cot Wood and Cosawes Wood, as well as Cosawes Wood also being a designated Ancient Woodland. The woodlands are spanning LCTs 2 and 3. Cosawes Wood is also classified as Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat Upland Oakwood.

The Wildlife Resource Map (see Appendix 6.3) illustrates how the designated and non-designated semi-natural woodlands create a habitat corridor through the Parish, along the river valley. The importance of this corridor is increased through it transitioning across Parish boundaries, thereby forming a wider landscape feature of trans-Parish importance, linking to the Fal River estuary.

Amongst commonly recorded birds in this landscape type are Buzzards, Ravens, Bats, Tawny Owls, Sparrow Hawks, Rooks, Jackdaws, Green Woodpeckers.



Figure 48 Tree tunnel, Cot Hill, Ponsanooth

Land Cover, Land Use and Soils

There are very few fields; some small permanent pastures bordering the A393 between Ponsanooth and Pelyn Cross and an area used for caravans/camping in association with Cosawes Park Homes. By far the greater part of the LCT is covered by woodland as the gradient of the land is too steep for agricultural use and the whole LCT is part of a larger designated Area of Great Landscape Value.

Soils are largely classed as Grade 3 agricultural land, with Grade 3B in steeper areas to the north. Soil erosion is controlled through the woodland cover. Where soils maybe exposed through land cover disturbance, they would be subject to greater erosion risk due to the steep gradients.

Field and Woodland Pattern

With the relative lack of agricultural fields in this LCT, there is largely no defined field pattern. Woodland blocks are comparatively large. The Historic Landscape Character (see Appendix 6.1) shows much of the LCT as plantations, scrub and woodland. The agricultural areas along its higher elevations are classed as Medieval Farmland or Post-Medieval Enclosed Land, with medium sized fields. Hedges are 'Cornish' in structure often with mature trees and bushes growing in them or on top of them.

There is man-made mining disturbance adjacent to Cosawes Wood, where the former Magdalen Mines would have been operated. There is also some quarrying evidence at the southeastern edge of Ponsanooth.

Woodlands are sheltered in the valley and grow taller compared to the higher more exposed areas of the Parish. They include fine specimen of beech and oak. Cosawes Wood is also a designated Ancient Woodland and classed as Upland Oakwood priority habitat.

There are Tree Preservation Orders on trees at Vale View and nearby on the A393 – see Appendix 6.2.

Building Distribution

The LCT includes very little built form but provides the setting for the built-up areas of Ponsanooth and Cosawes Park Homes.

There are some buildings along the A393 north of Ponsanooth (Vale View and row of cottages to the east of the A393), and along the A39 between Stickenbridge and Treluswell. This includes a small site containing a café and a few commercial units on site of previous garden centre and nursery at Barras Moor east of the A39.

Industrial buildings north of the road at the bottom of Frog Hill are in the adjacent LCT4.

Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way

The Landscape Character Type has been carved up by rail and road developments but the pre-existing pattern of narrow lanes can be traced. Road sections and lanes within this LCT feature significant gradients.

The A39 runs up the wooded valley from Stickenbridge to Treluswell. The A393 connects from the A39 at Treluswell through Ponsanooth to Redruth and crosses this LCT on its exit out of Ponsanooth up the hill at Vale View towards Five Lanes Cross at the top of the village.

The spectacular viaduct carries the Truro- Falmouth railway over Kennall Valley but is not publicly accessible otherwise. The local land Frog Hill passes under it at a steep gradient.

There are some short sections of footpaths within this LCT. These are either ending in dead ends or requiring crossing of busy roads and have steep sections. Accessibility by foot in this LCT is considered limited and there is room for improvements:

- Footpath 227007 runs from near Green Dragon House (entrance to Cosawes Park) through woods to A39, where it has no designated crossing point.
- Footpath 227008 runs from the A393 near Cosawes Pascoe, it then crosses bridges over the new and old railway line, runs alongside and in between these towards exit at Cosawes Park Homes Estate.
- Footpath 227009 runs out of the village from Chapel Hill further up the hill into a dead end at a Laity Farm field.

Historic Features

In the western part of Cosawes Wood, near the south-east end of the viaduct is the site of Magdalen Chapel. It's uncertain whether any remains are recognisable.

In the woods northeast of the viaduct is the site of Magdalen Mine. The area is densely overgrown and very dangerous with unfenced shafts and adits. It is on private land and not publicly accessible.

There is a Gunpowder Magazine within this LCT that forms part of the wider Kennall Vale WHS. The Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site extends into the centre of the village and includes old industrial buildings and features including the Chapel and terraces of houses.

Halfway up the hill towards Redruth and south west of the A393, just down the slope of the steep sided valley, are footprint remains of 18-19 century cloth production mills. Vale View House (listed), the manager's home, still stands as do a row of employee's cottages. For fuller details refer to the Heritage Assessment undertaken for the Parish.

Aesthetic and Sensory

Despite much of the area being near major communication links, due to the valleys and screening of sound and sight by many trees, it is possible to experience peace and tranquillity. The wind direction can have a strong influence on this, at times causing traffic noise being audible much further into this LCT. Cosawes Park Homes, in its secluded valley, is particularly quiet.

The natural progression of the seasons in woodland brings their individual colours and sounds, particularly the sound of birdsong in spring and the sound of wind in the trees during storms.

Due to the largely undeveloped and wooded nature of this LCT, light pollution within is limited. Light pollution is greater where the LCT borders the village and lit sections of transport corridors, and to some degree at Cosawes Park.

Views (see Appendix 6.3 Map 18)

Most views in this LCT are restricted by a treed skyline, considerably different to far reaching views from higher land in the Parish, creating an enclosed wooded character. View vantage points are largely limited to 'looking up' at trees and the viaduct. The skyline is therefore largely dominated by a tree outline. Figure 49 below shows the wooded slopes for the setting of the village



Figure 49 Ponsanooth village situated on steep sided valley side, nestled under tree-lined skyline

Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character

- Pressure to use greenfield sites.
- Development requiring felling of trees or alteration to Cornish hedges.
- Development not screened by trees or extending above skyline
- Development which is incremental or out of scale and character and dominates the surrounding properties or landscape.
- Suburbanisation of the rural character by cutting roadside verges and planting non-native species in a rural setting.

Landscape Management and Development Considerations

- All landscape management and development must consider the importance of the scenic quality of the area and not adversely affect the Area of Great Landscape Value.
- Avoid the removal of mature trees and woodland wherever possible. This is a main characteristic feature of this area.
- Consider the importance of trees to landscape character, and the significant benefit they provide in combatting climate change and the ecosystem services they provide. Where possible look to increase plantings with the benefits provided.
- Consider the character and scale of any development so that it does not have a detrimental impact on views, biodiversity or valued landscape character.
- Consider the nature of the setting. Alterations and extensions to dwellings should have appropriate regard to the character of the existing dwelling, in particular to ensure that the scale, design and materials used respect the character of the original and its setting in the landscape.
- Avoid development where it is perceived as a prominent element on the skyline.
- Develop design guidance to avoid incremental change to both landscape and dwellings.

- Manage the historic features of the World Heritage Site in particular and improve interpretation.
- Consider provision of footway access and exit to the village of Ponsanooth possibly connecting with other pathway networks (at present non-existent other than use of busy, dangerous roads).
- Consider how light and sound pollution can be minimised, through appropriate design, in new development.
- Control the spread or introduction of invasive species.

LCT4 - Low Lying Land (fluvial)

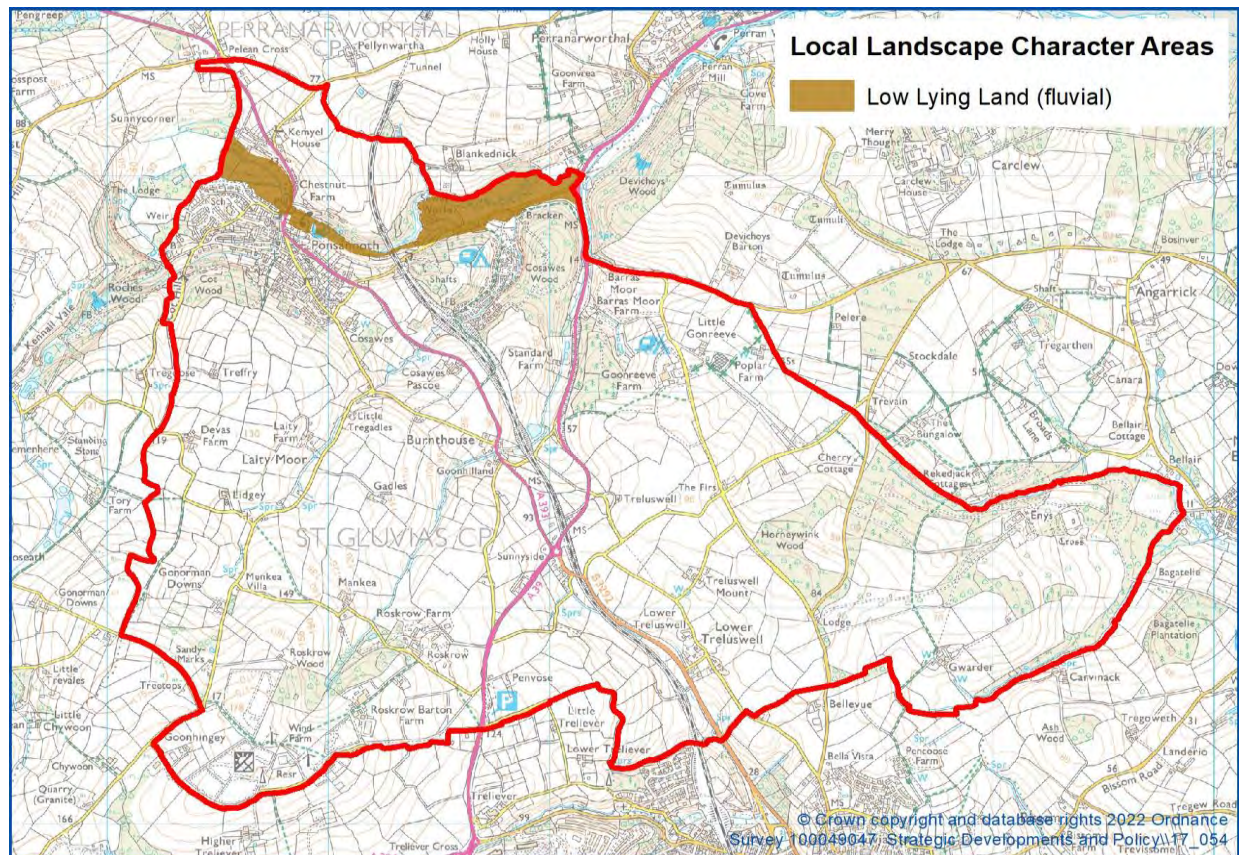


Figure 50 LCT4 Low Lying Land (fluvial) extent



Figure 51 Low Lying Land (fluvial)'

Key Characteristics

- Flat land in bottom of valley formed by the River Kennall, narrowed where it passes under the viaduct.

- Small fields, primarily amenity land as isolated from farms.
- Mature trees developed fully without effects of gales and salt laden winds stunting or affecting pattern of growth.
- River contained by man-made walls through some sections in the village.
- Framed by the village of Ponsanooth and the steep sided valleys in LCT3.
- Some commercial and utility development (sewage treatment) at the viaduct works, hidden in the valley and surrounded by trees.

Distinctive Features

- Railway viaduct and piers of earlier bridge.
- Ponsanooth Playing Field.
- Historic bridge over river in the village of Ponsanooth (A393).
- The river valley itself is a key distinctive feature defining the landscape in Ponsanooth Parish.

Condition

The LCT is wholly within the Area of Great Landscape Value, emphasising its importance for the character of the Parish.

The land and trees are well kept in general. The recreational use of some fields means grass is closely trimmed in places, but there are meadows as well.

There is regular trimming of the hedges of the minor road from Frog Hill to Stickenbridge.

The invasive plant tricorned leek is present, along with some rhododendron in places.

Viaduct Works is a small commercial site with the sewage works close by, both well screened. The commercial site is in places deteriorating, and some investment could help to strengthen its future potential to support economic growth in the village.

The river is partially restrained by man-made walls in the village, but otherwise has natural edges with trees and shrubs.

Relationship to adjacent landscape character types

LCT3 and LCT4 are inextricably linked and together form the distinct River Kennall valley landscape. Trees are a major feature in the valley, with the steep valley sides in LCT3 framing the more open land with specimen trees in LCT4. The river valley can be overlooked from some places in LCTs 1 and 2, and from within the village.

Topography and Drainage

The land is part of the Kennall River flood plain formed over millennia following the fall of the river from the northwestern corner of the Ponsanooth Playing Field, 25m OD to Stickenbridge, 7m OD, where the river passes under the A39 road.

The adjacent LCTs are part of the River Kennall catchment, and therefore have the potential to influence its water quality and floodplain conditions. Sustainable

catchment area, floodplain and river management is key to retaining this high quality LCT in good condition in the long-term.



Figure 52 River Kennall towards Stickenbridge

Biodiversity

The area does not include any wildlife designations. However, the Wildlife Resource Map, Appendix 6.3 Map 17, shows it as semi-natural habitat, providing an important wildlife corridor and biodiversity asset in the Parish. The river supports for example otters, trout, various bat species, dippers and yellow wagtails, all species that rely on this specific linear river habitat.

Long-term sustainable management of the river corridor, its floodplain and catchment areas would ensure that these qualities can be retained and improved, making this a key biodiversity asset in the Parish.

Land Cover, Land Use and Soils

Despite the relatively small size of this LCT, its land uses are surprisingly varied, in a setting of primarily grassland with trees in the floodplain and along the river:

- Ponsanooth Playing Field is situated in the east of the area.
- Gardens associated with dwellings on the fringe of Ponsanooth.
- Derelict, damp, riverside meadows associated with Chestnut Farm.
- Commercial premises including micro-breweries at Viaduct Works, the old industrial/mining site east of the viaduct.
- Sewage treatment works.
- The privately owned land towards the east is used as amenity grassland by visitors to and residents in Cosawes Park.

The Agricultural Land Classification shows the soils largely as Grade 3. This may be surprising due to the floodplain nature of much of the area, but likely explained by

the lack of longer flooding (the river is fast flowing and does not generally form deposits in the floodplain) and the underlying granite-based soils, creating a stony and permeable soil.

Field and Woodland Pattern

The flat areas to the west and east are linked by a more wooded and narrower section. Generally, the riverbanks have trees and shrubs growing alongside them. The very low elevation and adjacent steep slopes provide shelter enabling trees to grow to height and maturity. There is a small area of woodland surrounding the viaduct, providing screening to the commercial uses.

The western and eastern open areas are partially used for recreation or associated with parkland, with a well kept and managed character. Field sizes, where apparent, are small. There are small unmanaged areas along the river corridor and some areas of tall herbaceous growth.

The historic land characterisation map shows a range of classifications matching the varied uses identified previously. Classifications range from Medieval Farmland (eastern floodplain areas) to post-medieval enclosed land (playing field and adjacent areas to the west), plantations and scrub (central area around viaduct) and industrial workings (viaduct works and sewage works).

Building Distribution

Whilst largely undeveloped, there are some buildings of various uses and forms such as:

- New pre-school and sports building on the playing field (2020).
- Small derelict smallholding, Chestnut Farm, between A393 and R. Kennall north of Ponsanooth Bridge.
- Domestic accommodation riverside Brook Villa (1816 date stone), granite with slate roof, west of Ponsanooth Bridge.
- Viaduct Works, dwelling close by and the sewage works are of modern construction

Gardens associated with residential development in Ponsanooth form the southern edge of the LCT in the west.

Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way

The A393 crosses the area on Ponsanooth Bridge (Grade II listed). The drains through this land need to be sufficient and in proper working order to prevent flooding at the Post office as a low point in the village.

The minor road from Ponsanooth to Stickenbridge passes through this area from the Viaduct Works to its junction with the A39 near Stickenbridge.

Two footpaths are accessed from this road:

- Path 227007 along the edge of Cosawes Wood towards the A39.
- Path 227008 through Cosawes Park towards the A393.

Both paths end on busy roads and would benefit from improvements of crossings / accessibility.

There is public access to the playing field in Ponsanooth but other amenity land is in private ownership.



Figure 53 Granite steps to footpath from Cosawes Park Homes entrance that runs eastward at the

Historic Features

There are no heritage designations within this LCT other than the listed bridge over the river in the village.

There are traces and remnants of man-made historic watercourses (leats) that used to provide waterpower to old industrial works at the mines and workings, including up to Perran Foundry, utilising the fast-flowing nature of the river.

The viaduct and the old piers are key historic features in this LCT with a defining influence on its character, although appear to be not designated.

There are old buildings associated with former mills converted to modern industrial or domestic premises in Mill Yard, at the southern edge of this LCT.



Figure 54 Remains of old leat course providing water for the industry at Perran-ar-Worthal, near entrance to Blankednick Farm

Aesthetic and Sensory

This is primarily a sheltered, intimate landscape defined by the River Kennall.

There is a background 'buzz' from traffic on the main roads near both ends of the area but it is soon muffled by the trees enabling a sense of tranquillity and peace. Because of its enclosed nature bird song resonates through the valley, including the evocative sound of owls at night, and song trushes, blackbirds, robins and wrens in the day.

The seasonal changes are varied from the changes in deciduous trees to the roadside hedge vegetation and associated flowers and the meadows and tall herbaceous strips in the floodplain. The river itself contributes to the seasonal changes by being a tame and ambling water in the summer, and sometimes ferocious water flow in winter, with the associated roaring of fast flowing water of granite boulders and the stony riverbed. This can also result in changes to the riverbanks over time.

Views (see Appendix 6.3 Map 18)

Views in general are restricted by trees and to looking up the short distance to the skyline, consisting again mostly of treelines or dwelling outline over the village of Ponsanooth. However, looking up or down the length of the valley, magnificent views of the railway viaduct within its setting are possible from some locations.



Figure 55 Viaduct from southeast



Figure 56 An evening view across LCT4 from the local road near the junction with the A39 at Stickenbridge

Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character

- Pressure to use greenfield sites.
- Development requiring felling of trees, alteration to Cornish hedges or anything that detracts from the Area of Great Landscape Value.
- Development that obscures or detracts from inherited views.
- Development which is not screened by trees or extends above skyline.
- Development which is out of scale and character and dominates the surrounding properties or landscape.
- Suburbanisation of the rural character by cutting roadside verges and planting non-native species in a rural setting.
- Infrastructure capacity to cope with development.
- Manage or control invasive non-native species.

Landscape Management and Development Considerations

- All landscape management and development must consider the importance of the scenic quality of the area and not adversely affect the Area of Great Landscape Value.
- Avoid the removal of mature trees and woodland wherever possible. This is a main characteristic feature of this area.
- Encourage the management and where appropriate the extension of broadleaf woodlands.
- Consider the importance of trees to landscape character and the significant benefit they provide in combatting climate change and providing ecosystem services.

- Consider the character and scale of any development so that it does not have a detrimental impact on views, skyline, biodiversity or valued landscape character.
- Consider the nature of the setting. 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 and its setting in the landscape
- Ensure new features integrate with the local vernacular using locally occurring materials reflecting the landscape character and settlement pattern.
- Develop design guidance for new developments.
- Manage the historic features of the World Heritage Site in particular and improve interpretation if possible.
- Manage run off following heavy rainfall to prevent flooding in low lying parts of Ponsanooth.
- Closely monitor and manage SWW effluent discharge into River Kennall.

LCT5 - Low Lying Land (estuarine)

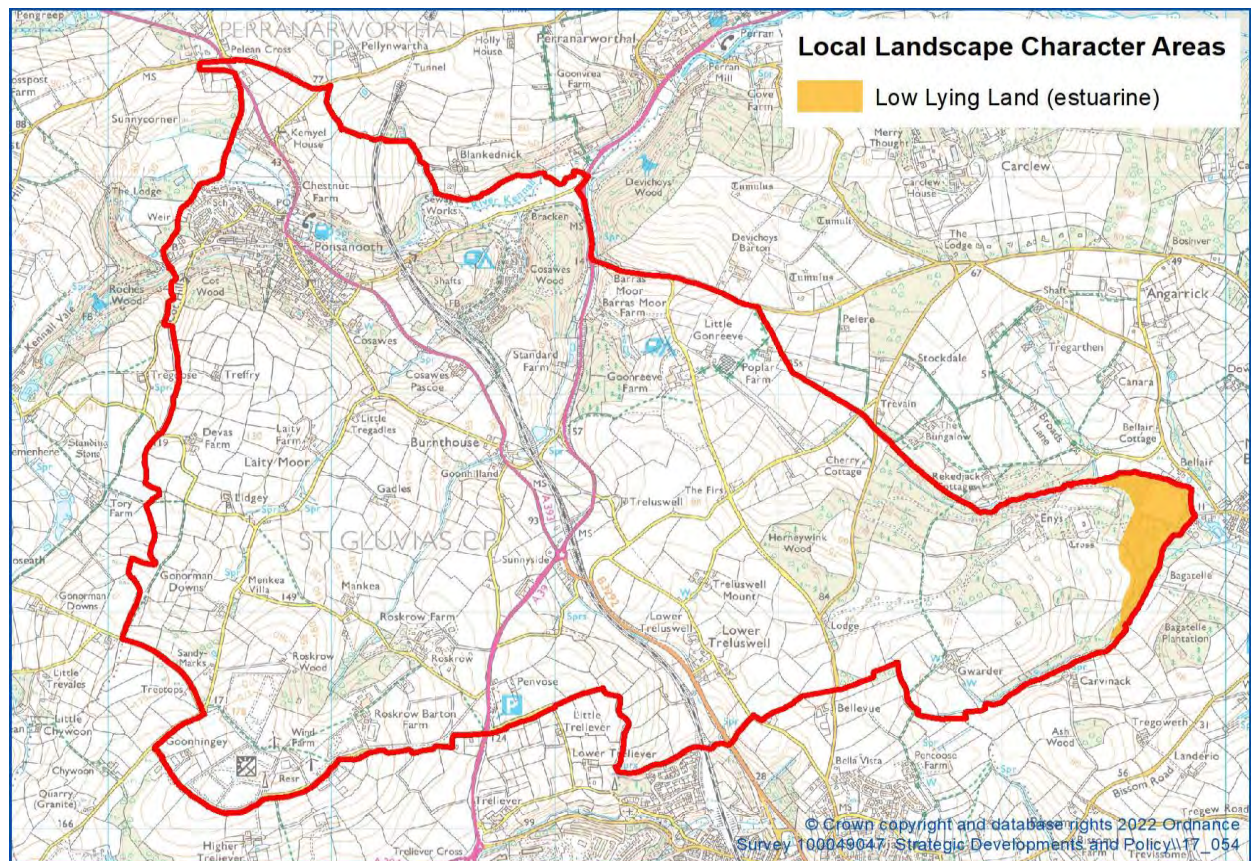


Figure 57 LCT5 Low Lying Land Estuarine extent



Figure 58 Area of Low Land woodland at the bottom of Enys Estate viewed from the north

Key Characteristics

- Peripheral boundary area of the estuarine landscapes to the east and south, which are outside the Parish
- In a transitional area between parkland and estuary, reflecting more characteristics of the parkland rather than the estuary
- Wooded and wet area
- Low gently sloping land

Distinctive Features

- Enys Registered Park & Garden
- Woodland that has been unmanaged therefore feeling natural and wild

Condition

This being a very small peripheral part of the estuary landscapes to the east and south, it is not truly representative of the estuary landscapes and feels more so part of the adjacent parkland as a boundary of it. The woodland is however unmanaged, which does create a link to the wilder, more natural estuary landscapes, compared to managed parkland. There are opportunities of habitat enhancement through rewilding and letting natural processes take over. The LCT is part of the AGLV.

Relationship to adjacent landscape character types

The small part of the LCT included in the Parish is bounded by trees/woodland and lowland meadows into which it merges seamlessly. It is peripheral and transitional, binding together the parkland and estuarine landscapes and defining their boundaries. The small area of this LCT in the Parish feels enclosed and is not widely visible.

Topography and Drainage

This small area of land gently slopes towards the east from 20m AOD to 12m AOD as it falls towards the Truro-Fal Ria at Mylor Bridge. The small Enys Brook flows from Enys Ponds along the northeastern boundary. A very small stream originating south of Gwarder flows in northeast direction, delineating the southeastern boundary of the Parish.



Figure 59 Drainage channel containing stagnant water

As the land descends the marshy nature increases with some ditches at lowest level containing orange sediment in stagnant water in places despite the field visit undertaken in very dry weather, indicating that some of the land is waterlogged.

Biodiversity

Whilst this small parcel of land forming the edge of a much wider estuarine landscape does not contain any biodiversity designations, it is shown as semi-natural habitat on the wildlife resource map and forms an important link between the parklands and estuarine landscapes. Its unmanaged and wet condition adds to its wildlife value.

Land Cover, Land Use and Soils

This is a largely unmanaged area at the eastern end of Enys Estate, partially part of the Registered Park & Garden. It is largely wooded.

There is a small area of tall oak, beech and small number of pines, all with few side branches. Some have blown over and in various stages of decay. Other areas include wet woodland and scrub. Where there is dense tree canopy the ground is largely bare. There is some holly and seedling rhododendron, the latter needs to be controlled to avoid it becoming dominant.

The agricultural land classification shows the area as being largely Grade 4 – poor agricultural land, which corresponds to its clayey and waterlogged nature.



Figure 60 Fallen trees – fallen and standing deadwood is an important habitat component of natural



Figure 61 Wet woodland, goat willow, scrub, rushes and reeds in places

Field and Woodland Pattern

There are no fields apparent, the area has been taken over by woodland. Any hedges that may have formed part of older field patterns have been absorbed into the woodland.

Whilst the Historic Landscape Characterisation map shows a field in the northeast of the LCT as Post-Medieval Enclosed Land, this is not currently apparent on the ground, and now forms part of the woodland. Most of the area is shown as Plantations & Scrub on the Historic Landscape characterisation map.

The LCT is buffered by lowland meadows and more woodland, as well as the ornamental parkland at Enys.

Building distribution

There are no buildings within the small part of this LCT that is within the Parish.

Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way

There are no roads or Public Rights of Way within the small part of this LCT that is within the Parish. With the land being part of the Enys Estate there are private tracks in the woodland.

Historic Features

The eastern end of Enys Registered Park & Garden covers a large part of this LCT within the Parish.

Aesthetic and Sensory

Being a peripheral area without any roads and buildings, it is tranquil, but not far from Mylor Bridge with some associated sounds travelling across. There is much bird song in spring due to the parkland and woodland nature.

Views

Because of its low-level situation there are no views to surrounding countryside. Views are limited to flora and fauna within the LCT and into the adjacent parkland.

Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character

- The area is immediately adjoining the western outskirt of Mylor Bridge village with possible requirement to increase settlement edge boundary.
- Reinstatement and reclamation of estate land could have detrimental effect on biodiversity and habitat.
- The situation and topography of this Land Character Type renders it unsuitable for development.

Landscape Management and Development Considerations

- Prevent any activity that may pose a risk to biodiversity or protected species.
- Promote awareness that so-called waste or wilderness sites can become valued biodiverse wildlife habitat

- Careful management of estate reinstatement to preserve or provide a net environmental gain.
- Avoid the creation of access tracks.
- Prevent the introduction of invasive species.

Section 4 – Valued and Protected Landscapes in Ponsanooth Parish

4.1 Landscape Value

4.1.1 Section 3 provided a detailed description of landscape character in Ponsanooth Parish, including its key characteristics, distinct features and condition. Landscape character in the Parish is distinct and varied, valued throughout. The specific combination of LCTs and their individual character result in the distinct landscape that defines our Parish.

4.1.2 Landscape character forms the basis for the quality and sustainability of life in the Parish and is a resource for its people, including residents, visitors, farmers, employers. The landscape supports health & wellbeing, biodiversity and prosperity. It has evolved over thousands of years and will continue to evolve in future.

4.1.3 Some of the landscapes in the Parish are protected as outlined below. Protected landscapes generally have stronger key characteristics and more distinct features than those that are unprotected.

4.1.4 This does not imply that unprotected landscapes are less valued, and indeed some of the unprotected landscapes are for example more accessible and still contribute to landscape character. Landscapes outside any of the protected areas are likely to require enhancement and restoration in line with key characteristics and distinctive features, further deterioration of condition and quality should be avoided.

4.1.5 All landscapes in the Parish are valued.

4.2 Protection of Landscape in Ponsanooth Parish

4.2.1 Significant areas of the parish are protected under landscape, heritage and biodiversity designations, as summarised below.

4.2.2 The northern half of the Parish lies within the landscape designation of St Gluvias Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). AGLVs are areas of high landscape quality with strong distinctive characteristics which make them particularly sensitive to development. Within AGLVs the primary objective is conservation and enhancement of their landscape quality and individual character. The conservation of natural beauty and amenity is to be given particular emphasis in considering proposals for development and the management of change.

4.2.3 Heritage designations are discussed in detail in the Heritage Assessment for the Parish, including several listed buildings and features. Appendix 6.2 Map 4 shows the heritage designations present in the Parish.

4.2.4 A small area of land containing the gunpowder storage magazine and extending into the centre of the village of Ponsanooth falls within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscapes World Heritage Site (WHS), the largest WHS in the UK. The cultural significance of this designation is deemed so exceptional that it transcends national boundaries and is of importance to all of humanity both present and future generations.

4.2.5 The UK Government protects WHS in two ways. Firstly, individual buildings, monuments, gardens and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, and secondly through the UK spatial planning system under the provision of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

4.2.6 At landscape scale, in addition to the WHS, there is a Registered Park & Garden (RPG) in Ponsanooth Parish – Enys Estate. RPGs are of particular heritage significance, forming an important, distinctive and much cherished part of our inheritance. A register of sites is maintained by Historic England.

4.2.7 Biodiversity designations include Ancient Woodland sites and County Wildlife Sites associated with woodlands. The presence of these designations emphasises the importance of woodlands and trees as part of the landscape character in Ponsanooth Parish. Appendix 6.3 includes a series of Maps (14–17) showing the biodiversity information at Parish scale in 2021.



Figure 62 Parkland at Enys Registered Park & Garden

4.3 Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)

4.3.1 The northern half of the Parish is designated as an AGLV, with the AGLV extending further north and west beyond the Parish boundaries. AGLVs are defined in the Cornwall Local Plan as areas of high landscape quality with strong and distinctive characteristics which make them particularly sensitive to development. The primary objective of AGLVs is conservation and enhancement of their landscape quality and individual character.

4.3.2 The AGLV description states⁷: *"The St Gluvias AGLV is centred around the village of Ponsanooth and the wooded valley of the River Kennall in its northern part. It encompasses neighbouring large estate landscapes in its southern part. The main river valley is deep and thickly treed, with the key feature the Kennall Vale woodland west of Ponsanooth. On the rising ground the landscape becomes more open with well farmed fields divided by well-grown substantial hedges and hedgerow trees. There is a general air of richness that is emphasised by the substantial plantings of*

⁷ Cornwall Structure Plan, Technical Paper No. 7 (1995)

beech, introduced by the estates, that have developed on the higher ground both to the northwest and south east of the main valley.

The area provides an extension of the AONB by taking in the estate landscapes of Enys on its periphery and the well-drained northern bank of the Norway valley along to the Carnon Valley. It includes the existing lands of Pengreep and Burncoose."

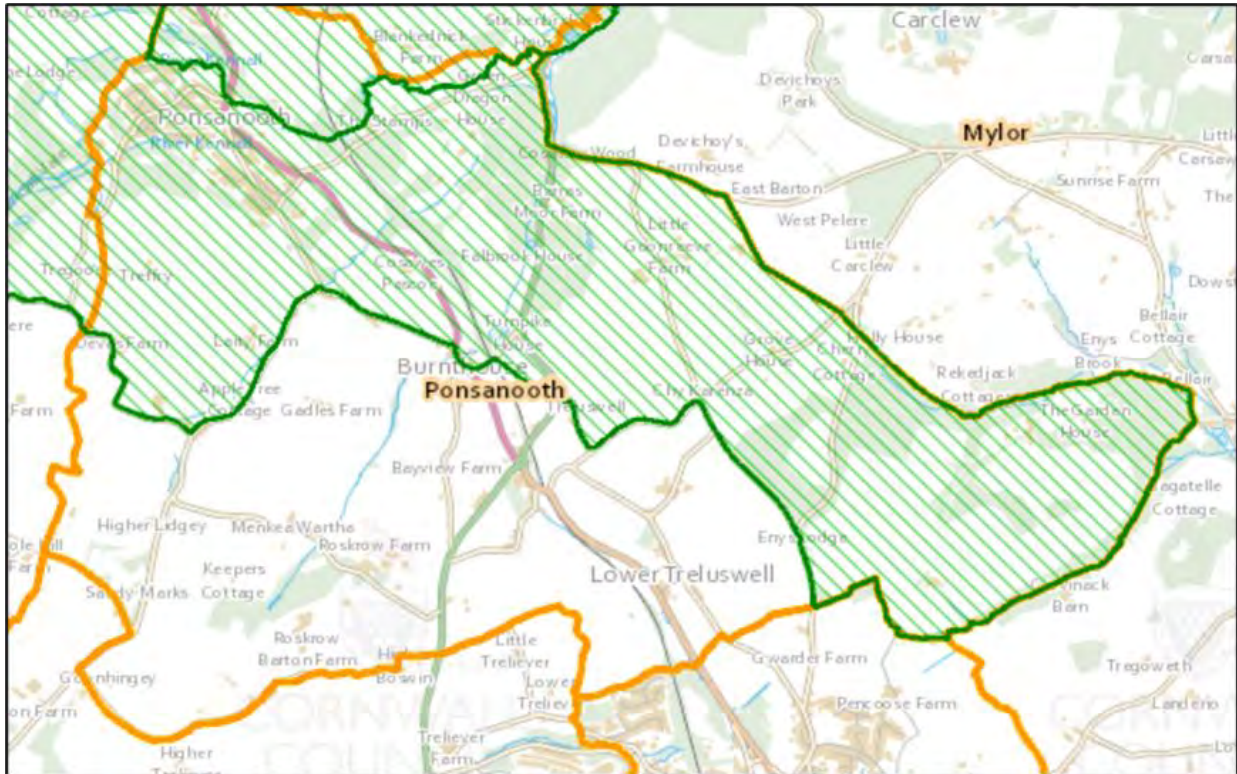


Figure 63 Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)

4.3.3 Although the above paper was drawn up over 25 years ago the AGLV description is still relevant and the AGLV has helped to provide protection to the Parish landscape emphasising its quality and importance at local scale.

4.3.4 The main settlement in this section of the AGLV, Ponsanooth, is a picturesque village situated in the valley on the northwestern border. It contains some remains of 18th and 19th century industrial buildings, including the listed Kennall Gunpowder Magazine, disused and restored water driven mills and is dominated by the 1843 Methodist Chapel, the third on the site and listed Grade II* now on the Historic England 'At Risk' register.



Figure 64 Ponsanooth Village tucked into the River Kennall Valley



Figure 65 Cosawes Park Homes situated in the small, steep sided valley running to the north-east

4.3.5 The AGLV further accommodates a secondary settlement, Cosawes Park Homes, situated in the sheltered and secluded valley between the east and west sections of Cosawes Wood, contains well over 100 homes, is tucked away out of sight from most directions, is very well landscaped and maintained.

4.3.6 In other areas, settlement pattern is one of dispersed farmsteads and hamlets as discussed in the LCT descriptions, and Enys Estate with its buildings takes up the eastern part of the AGLV.

4.3.7 Key features of the AGLV in addition to the River Kennall valley and the settlements are the woodlands and undulating landscapes. It is dissected by the main transport corridors of the A39, A393 and railway line, with noise and movement altering the sensual qualities along these corridors, with noise sometimes travelling along and up the valley slopes.

4.3.8 Sympathetic restoration of both outbuildings, gardens and woodlands has been carried out at Enys Estate. Removal of disease transmitting *Rhododendron ponticum* will help secure the future of native species.

4.3.9 The AGLV includes areas of post medieval and modern enclosed farmland, where there could be future opportunities to restore hedges and former field patterns.

4.3.10 The overall character of the landscape and environment has been maintained and is highly valued. The designation has provided an important level of protection and well-being, providing areas of seclusion and intimacy whilst surrounded by attributes of the natural world.

4.4 Proposed Area of Local Landscape Importance (ALLI)

4.4.1 Having undertaken the LLCA, it was evident that there are landscapes with feature high quality characteristics which are valued by the local community, and which are recognised as equivalent to the landscape quality in the existing Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV).

4.4.2 The findings of the LLCA exercise, together with the observations and opinions expressed within the community (see Appendix 6.4) has therefore provided a clear mandate to reconsider the landscape qualities within our Parish and assess the robustness of the spatial extent of the existing AGLV designation. This designation was drawn up in 1995 and since that time there have been many changes at the national and local policy level, although it is noted that the fundamental qualities of the landscape in this area have not altered significantly although the characteristics

do not follow man-made features such as roads which the AGLV designation currently does.

4.4.3 It was noted that the particular characteristics of the 'LCT2 Undulating Land' (which makes up a large part of the existing AGLV) extend much further westwards and southwards, and indeed other criteria such as topography, drainage, field and woodland pattern, building distribution are all broadly comparable in the adjacent areas. For these reasons and following consultation with the Landscape Officer in Cornwall Council, it is proposed to extend the designated area to encompass the totality of LCT2 Undulating Area and some of the LCT1 Rising Land so that the level of policy protection is comparable to the AGLV.

4.4.4 Since the commencement of this Assessment Cornwall Council also undertook an assessment of the existing AGLV boundaries, with the result that a broadly identical area is proposed to be a 2023 candidate Area of Great Landscape Value. Although the small medieval fields on Gonorman Downs and the woodland at Roscrow are not included in this, the trees at Wood Hill and Roscrow are already highly valued which can be seen in their Tree Preservation Order status. It is therefore felt expedient to accept the proposal to give this area the enhanced protection of an AGLV as shown in Figure 66 below.

4.4.5 In procedural terms we understand that the Cornwall Council's candidate AGLV boundary would only be adopted at the time that the emerging Cornwall Local Plan Review is complete, which may take place after the adoption of this Neighbourhood Plan. Further, referring to a candidate AGLV in an adopted plan may cause uncertainty in decision making. For these reasons we have given the proposed designation in this Plan the name 'Area of Local Landscape Importance' (ALLI) and is shown below.

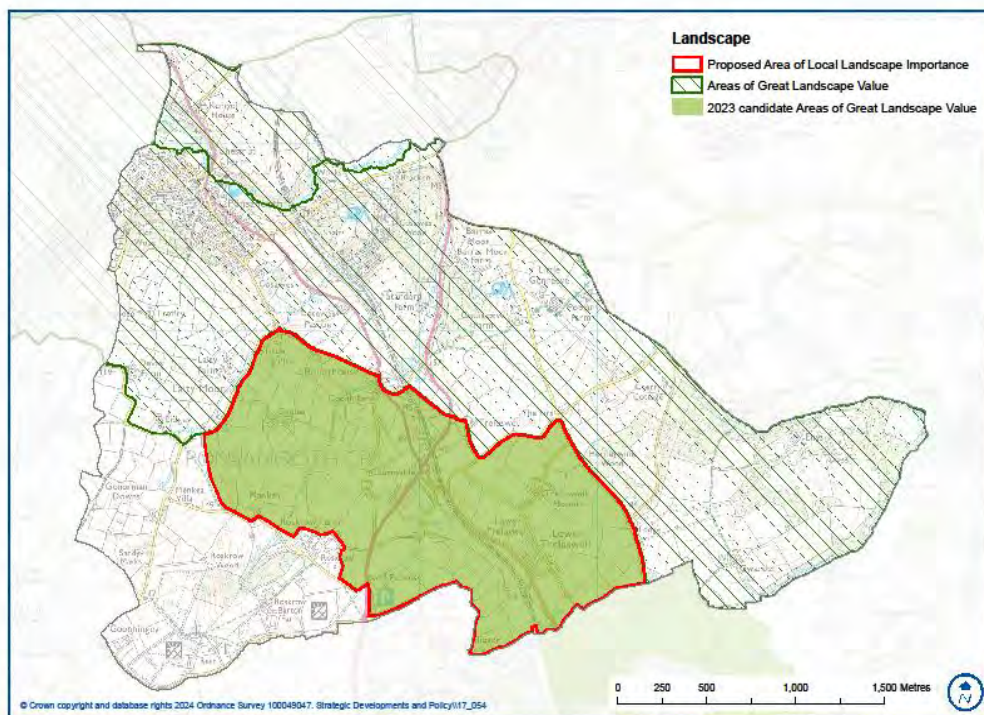


Figure 66 The Area of Local Landscape Importance which incorporates the 2023 candidate Area of Great Landscape Value

4.4.6 Similar to the AGLV, protection and enhancement of landscape character will be particularly important in the ALLI, with new developments required to show how the vision is supported, key characteristics and distinctive features are preserved and enhanced, and the condition and quality of the landscape is not diminished. The new designation will also help to support measures of enhancement and restoration of quality along the main transport corridors.

Figures 67 to 69 below provide impressions of the high quality of the landscape within the proposed ALLI.



Figure 67 Undulating Land - Area of Local Landscape Importance that also forms part of the Candidate AGLV



Figure 68 Undulating Land - Area of Local landscape Importance that also forms part of the Candidate AGLV



Figure 69 Undulating Land - Area of Local Landscape Importance that also forms part of the Candidate AGLV

4.5 Cornwall and Devon World Heritage Site (WHS)



Figure 70 The setting of the gunpowder magazines in the area of trees in centre of picture

4.5.1 Only a very small part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS), Kennall Vale (A6iii), falls within the scope of this assessment. The main area of Kennall Vale WHS with its distinct industrial mills, water courses and relics of gunpowder manufacturing are located in Stithians Parish immediately adjacent to and accessed from Ponsanooth Parish. The area of this designation in Ponsanooth Parish is largely in 'Excluded Land (Built up)' in Ponsanooth village and is reported on in detail in the Heritage Assessment. The Kennall Vale WHS nevertheless provides an important setting to the village of Ponsanooth and its adjacent landscapes, through its wooded appearance. Vice versa, development in the Parish will have to consider any potential effects on its setting.



Figure 71 One of three gunpowder magazines

4.5.2 WHS status also has a key role to play in protecting landscape character. The WHS is made up of 10 areas across Cornwall and West Devon conserving the distinctive pattern of buildings, monuments, and sites which together form the coherent series of distinctive cultural landscapes created by the industrialisation of hard rock mining processes in the period 1700 to 1914. The WHS's priority is the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for which the area was designated. The designation does not mean that change is unwelcome, but that is

needs to be carefully managed, where possible avoiding adverse impacts and ensuring opportunities for positive improvement.

4.5.3 The OUV is expressed in the 10 areas through a series of 'attributes, and protection of the attributes should be a key consideration in the management of the WHS, particularly in spatial planning and management decisions.

4.5.4 World Heritage Site, Kennall Vale (A6iii) is part of the Gwennap Mining District and is described as providing one of very few surviving examples of a large 19th century gunpowder manufacturing complex to retain its overall integrity of layout with an unusually complete range of reasonably well-preserved features. This includes the walled gunpowder storage area with its three magazines.

4.5.5 The gunpowder works, operated by the Kennall Gunpowder Company, was licenced in 1811-12 to manufacture explosives for mining and quarrying. The company reached its peak of production in about 1875, supplying most west Cornish mines then operating, and having an extensive trade further afield. However, decline rapidly followed with the collapse of the Cornish mining industries and the replacement of gunpowder with nitro-glycerine based high explosives.

4.5.6 It is important to also consider protection of the setting of the WHS. Identification of the setting can include the area within which developments would have a visual influence upon the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and existing physical assets that are linked to it, historically or spatially.

4.5.7 The setting of the WHS must also have protection from adverse impacts which affect the Outstanding Universal Value and the criteria under which it was inscribed in the World Heritage List.

4.5.8 The WHS Management Plan lays out a series of policies covering the entire WHS in Cornwall and West Devon these include:

- a. Policy P2 – All relevant strategic planning documents should make provision for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the Site and its setting.
- b. Policy P3 – planning authorities should ensure that new development protects, conserves and enhances the Site and its setting.
- c. Policy P8 – Developments outside the Site that will adversely affect its OUV will be resisted.
- d. Policy C2 – New development should add to the quality and distinctiveness of the Site by being of high-quality design and respectful of setting.
- e. Policy C5 - Landscape, nature conservation and agri-environment management regimes should have regard for the authenticity and values of the Site.
- f. Policy C7 – The historic character and its distinctiveness of the Cornwall and West Devon mining landscape should be maintained.
- g. Policy C8 – Traditional materials and skills should be encouraged in the maintenance of the authentic historic fabric within the Site.

Section 5 – Relationship between the Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLCA) and the Ponsanooth Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

The relationship between the LLCA and NDP is threefold:

- The LLCA acts as **evidence base** for the NDP in relation to landscape related policies.
- The LLCA sets out a **vision and aims for the landscape of Ponsanooth Parish**, which should inform NDP policies as well as act as a guide to developers for their proposals
- The LLCA shows **protected areas** within the Parish, which need to be reflected in NDP policy, and the **proposed ALLI designation** will only come into being through implementation via the NDP process.

These three key areas are discussed in turn below.

5.1 Evidence Base

5.1.1 Landscape and the environment were two of the subjects most valued and commented on in the consultations carried out as part of the development of the Ponsanooth NDP. The LLCA and its appendices provide a strong evidence base for landscape and environmental policies in the NDP.

5.1.2 The LLCA also sets out development pressures and development management considerations for each LCT, many of which are applicable across the Parish and across a range of developments.

5.2 Future State of Landscape Vision and Aims

5.2.1 The LLCA sets out the vision for the future state of the landscape in Ponsanooth Parish, alongside identifying key characteristics, distinct features, and management measures. This provides detailed information for developers to inform their proposals, thereby supporting them to comply with NDP policy and enabling them to develop proposals that support the landscape vision.

5.2.2 The vision for the future state of our landscape is:

Ponsanooth Parish has a high quality, biodiverse and productive landscape that supports healthy and sustainable living for many generations to come. Our landscape is valued by its residents, employers and visitors. It is cared for to conserve and enhance its key characteristics and distinctive features. All users of the landscape including developers will be working to address and counter-act adverse pressures on its quality and condition and to increase landscape resilience considering the climate change and biodiversity emergencies.

5.2.3 The above landscape vision compliments and supports the overall NDP vision, which is:

Creating a vibrant and sustainable future for the communities in Ponsanooth Parish whilst respecting their unique character, safeguarding our natural environment and valuing our heritage.

The key aims to be achieved through policy in the NDP in relation to landscape are identified as follows:

- **Retain and enhance the key characteristics and distinct features of the landscape.**
- **Strengthen the network of woodlands, trees and Cornish hedges, and enhance the quality and diversity of existing woodlands and hedges.**
- **Protect the historic landscape character.**
- **Create a resilient landscape that can adapt to climate change.**
- **Protect and enhance our soils and water resources as the foundation for all habitats, food production and landscape character.**
- **Enhance the value of our landscape for health & wellbeing, through a better footpath network and management of noise and light pollution, as well as through education and interpretation.**
- **Work to reduce the barrier effect of the main transport corridors on accessibility and connectivity, for humans as well as for wildlife.**
- **Enhance the biodiversity value of our landscape, including habitat connectivity and diversity.**
- **Manage invasive species.**
- **Work with farmers to manage the landscape to help addressing the climate change and biodiversity emergencies, including carbon sequestration, better and more habitats, better habitat connectivity and more trees, less soil erosion, better access through more and better maintained footpaths.**

5.2.4 Where development and change are necessary, the highest priority should be given to ensuring that it is carried out in a way that protects or, where appropriate, enhances or restores the landscape and is in line with the vision and aims identified above. Developers should provide detailed information setting out how this is being achieved.

5.3 Designated Areas

5.3.1 The northern half of the parish is already designated as an 'Area of Great Landscape Value'. The NDP LLCA community surveys have identified a highly valued further area in the Parish which is seen as particularly significant for local people and worthy of protection from development that would detract from its quality.

5.3.2 The LLCA therefore proposes a new landscape designation of Area of Local Landscape Importance (ALLI), which would be implemented into policy through the NDP process (see Section 4 for more detail).

5.4 Further Work recommended to compliment LLCA

The LLCA work determined that the following pieces of work would be useful to complete in future:

- **Parish Canopy Plan** – a plan to survey existing canopy / trees and define opportunities to increase canopy cover in the Parish, including looking at issues of species in relation to climate change adaptation, carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancements, as well as investigating if there is an opportunity to re-instate previously cleared Ancient Woodland areas in the Parish and how to develop the existing woodlands into more diverse woodlands.
- **Parish Biodiversity Plan** – a plan to identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancements including defining target species and habitats, habitat corridors and enhancements of existing corridors, and further survey needs, building on the information provided by ERCCIS to inform the LLCA work. To include calculations of potential Biodiversity Netgain Opportunities. Could be used to inform and direct offsite mitigation from local developments and may be a source of potential income (selling of BNG units).
- **Parish Public Rights of Way Improvements Plan** – survey of existing paths and their condition, working with landowners and the Council to improve existing and introduce new rights of way, options to improve crossing points at main transport corridors, circular routes for varying abilities and ages, better cycling provisions.
- **Carbon Sequestration Capacity Study** – to include soils and vegetation, looking at how the Parish can maximise these opportunities including in view of future funding opportunities that may be generated through these measures.
- **Farm Mapping** – overview of farms, their current extents, what is being produced, tenanted or owned, conversions, diversification etc, to be able to monitor in future and work with farmers more effectively to help with landscape improvements

All of the above will require separate funding, surveys and landowner engagement including working with local farmers. It is suggested that as a first step a scoping exercise and drafting of briefs for each of these additional elements would be required, followed by sourcing funding and then engaging consultants and working with volunteers to move these forwards.

LLCA ends.