

**APPENDIX 4. 2 – ST AGNES LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLE – INTERMEDIATE SLOPING LAND**

<b>CHARACTER AREA : Intermediate Sloping land</b>					
<b>Character Attribute</b>	<b>Ward – Blackwater</b>	<b>Ward - Mithian</b>	<b>Ward – Mount Hawke</b>	<b>Ward - Porthtowan</b>	<b>Ward – St Agnes</b>
<p><b>Topography and drainage</b></p> <p>What is the shape of the land?</p>	<p>Gently sloping, ranging in height from 136m to 100m. There is no steep land but the highest gradients are in the south, around Blackwater, where the average gradient is approximately 1 in 10.</p>	<p>South of Mithian village the intermediate sloping land on either side of a meandering north-south ridgeline exhibits complex relatively steep folds and curves</p> <p>North of the village the land falls relatively steeply from the elevated plateau (which forms a significant proportion of this part of the ward), towards the even steeper valley sides of Perrancoombe to the east. To the west, the transition between elevated land and the steep sided valley of Trevellas Coombe is also steep.</p> <p>The exception to this unusually steep intermediate sloping land is around Trevellas, where the shallower slopes are settled with several farms.</p>	<p>Shallow sloping undulating land flanking the three plateaus that run east – west across the Mount Hawke ward. At the western end of the ward the intermediate slopes become steep valley sides.</p>	<p>Intermediate sloping land is present at Forthvean and Jollys Lane in West, at Eastcliff, At South Wheel Towan, a small area near Towan Cross, S/E at Coast Road and Atlantic Way, round to Tywarnhayle and Trevisick Farm. South at Porthtowan Farm to Mount Pleasant. This character area is in most cases part of the shallowing off of the dominant steep-sided valley form as it rises to the four elevated plateau locations.</p>	<p>Shallow and undulating in places. Occasional steeper fields. Around Beacon bottom - slope shallows off to the north. Steeply excavated large hole in the area north of Higher Bal.</p>
<p>What water is present?</p>	<p>There are two small streams in the east of the area, which are narrow, shallow and fairly fast flowing. There is also the very start of a stream in the valley formed between the two ridge lines that run approximately North and North West.</p>	<p>On the OS Explorer map a well is indicated just above the upper end of the Harmony Cot valley.</p>	<p>At Manor Parsley there is evidence of water (former mill pond). Also below Gover Farm which can extend across the road in times of heavy rain.</p>	<p>No water present.</p>	<p>There are streams present on the land between Goonbell, across Promised Land and running into the village at Water Lane, eventually out to sea. There are also parts of the stream on the transitional valley bottom at Wheel Butson. Some larger ponds on private land at Goonbell and Promised Land.</p>
<b>Data source</b>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs</i>				

<p><b>Biodiversity</b></p> <p>Does the area contain areas of 'semi natural habitat?</p> <p>What elements of the character could support protected species?</p> <p>Are there any invasive species?</p>	<p>Tree lined lanes and fields, separated by Cornish hedges, many with dense growth on top.</p> <p>Pockets of trees and verges and sheltered hedges in lower lanes could support species. There is an SSSI, Silverwell Moor at the eastern edge, one of ten similar sites around Truro comprising Carrick heaths, examples of Southern Atlantic wet heaths where clay soils give rise to the development of mosaics of wet and dry heathland vegetation types</p> <p>Japanese knotweed (map ref 731456) in railway cutting. Three cornered leek</p>	<p>The south of the ward contains semi-natural habitat on reverted land and abandoned mine workings, less so in north.</p> <p>Support for protected species possible in hedgerows with variety of plants (brambles, ferns, foxgloves, gorse, three cornered leek) and in the brambles and furze of grown-in lanes.</p> <p>Japanese Knotweed at Wheal Davey, Wheal Butson and near Silverwell Farm in south. None seen in north.</p>	<p>Close to Manor Parsley an area of degraded lowland heath is present. Close to this is a second area of heath (set immediately down slope of the Mawla Road) becoming overrun with scrub. A SSSI and County Wildlife site S.E. of Manor Parsley is designated for heathland.</p> <p>Lowland heath associated with former mining land in the west of the ward (World Heritage Site) and more generally in other locations e.g. Trenethick Mine</p> <p>Small areas of Japanese knotweed occur in several locations, notices indicate that in most cases this is regrowth on a previously 'treated area'. Himalayan Balsam may be present near Manor Parsley mill pond. Individual isolated specimens of <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> occasionally present.</p>	<p>Some semi natural habitat of gorse, bramble, heather, thrift abutting the coast path. East of village, medium/small arable and grazing fields merge with semi natural habitat towards South Wheal Towan and Towan Cross. Modified and fields at Coast Road, Arable, grazing and modified fields to the West and S/E of Atlantic Way. Rich heathland and mine dumps providing habitat at Tywarnhayle in the S/E, merging with modified and arable fields to Trevissick Farm. Overgrown Cornish hedges to most fields.</p> <p>Heathland, overgrown hedges and mine dumps.</p> <p>There are no invasive species.</p>	<p>Heathland and rough scrubland ,especially on old industrial sites at Wheal Butson and Polberro, sloping away from plateau at Towan Cross, and above Blue Hills. This offers valuable habitat to snakes, lizards, slow worms and birds.</p> <p>Marshland pockets present at Wheal Butson and Goonbell, (where orchids are evident.) Around Beacon area - more regenerating heathland on mine spoil heaps and old quarries. Some bare ground stone areas are also evident where mining has occurred, supporting adders and lizards.</p> <p>Tall trees ( sycamore, ash, holm oak and some conifers), evident at Goonbell and Water Lane in semi-wild lanes and gardens. Green lanes and old railway line offering wildlife corridors on scrubland. Invasive species....japanese knotweed and montbretia. Some ragwort nearer to coast path and an isolated pocket of rhododendron ponticum.</p>
<p><b>Data source</b></p>	<p><i>CWT Wildlife notes and maps, and local knowledge</i></p>	<p><b>Environmental Mapping (Biodiversity and Geodiversity)</b></p>			

Land cover and Land Use					
What is the land used for?	<p>The vast bulk of the land is farmland and is improved grassland used for pasture. There is some arable farming, particularly around Blackwater. Properties are mainly isolated farm buildings with a few private residences. There are riding stables at Chiverton and 'The All-Terrain Vehicle Centre' and Cornwall BMX Racing Club in Blackwater.</p>	<p>The land is mainly pasture, although on the higher ground in the south there are larger arable fields.</p> <p>There are isolated houses and farm buildings throughout the ward with some concentration in the north around the B3285.</p> <p>There are several campsites and caravan parks.</p> <p>In the south they are small caravan club sites. There is a golf driving range at Mithian Downs, which has ceased operations.</p>	<p>Some arable but principally pasture mainly for beef and dairy, with occasional sheep and pigs plus paddocks for horses.</p> <p>South of Gover Farm is the Mount Hawke Skate park, the largest indoor facility of its kind in Cornwall.</p> <p>A holiday chalet site is located west of Mount Hawke.</p>	<p>West of village at Forthvean, modified fields, small residential estate, Jollys Lane, cluster of detached residential properties, isolated residential properties, farm cluster, caravans in farmyard, Caravan Club on farmland, East of village, Dense development of detached residential properties, arable and grazing land, cluster of farm buildings, isolated properties. S/E, pine woodland and isolated property at Torvean, modified fields, dense development at Atlantic Way, returning to modified and arable fields to West and S/E of Atlantic Way, mine workings, engine house, historic cribb house and mine dumps at Tywarnhayle, merging with arable fields to Trevissick Farm. South, at Chapel Hill, Porthowan Farm with modified fields, linier detached development, modified fields to Mount Pleasant.</p>	<p>Mixed farming, mostly cattle, some sheep, on improved grassland. Many fields used for keeping horses. Some arable farming. Sand and clay pits, still active, at base of Beacon.</p> <p>Disused mine-workings and covered shafts above Chapel Porth on sloping land. Amenity use for walkers, cyclists etc around Beacon drive, Polberro, Towan Cross path and old mine working heathland. Some para gliding, model plane recreational use towards cliffs.</p> <p>Mixed housing- some ribbon development. Some mineworkers type cottages scattered and some isolated farms and farm buildings. Small businesses, caravan and camping sites, sports and recreational fields.</p>
What is the vegetation cover?	<p>Improved grassland, single low-lying moorland in the east and a few small broadleaved copses. Much of the tree growth occurs on Cornish hedges.</p>	<p>Apart from arable land the main cover is grassland.</p> <p>Small fields at the margins of the valleys have large areas of bramble and thorn invasion.</p> <p>There are woods and areas of tree growth.</p>	<p>Improved farmland with mature Cornish hedges is the predominant vegetation character. Many of the hedges are tree lined with particularly fine examples of this being evident below Menagissey.</p>	<p>West – Residential gardens, farmland, small area of heathland abutting coast path.</p> <p>East– Residential gardens, farmland merging with heathland.</p> <p>S/E small woodland of mainly pine trees at Torvean, farmland, residential gardens, further farmland to West and S/E of Atlantic Way scrub, mine spoils at Tywarnehayle merging with farmland to Trevissick Farm. South, residential gardens &amp; farmland.</p>	<p>Mainly improved grassland with some heathland, especially near old mining areas. There are also areas of thorn and bramble scrub with isolated trees. Small areas of woodland are also present, although these are fragmented pockets.</p>
<b>Data source</b>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs, local knowledge</i>	<b>Environmental Mapping (Agricultural land classification)</b>			

<b>Field and woodland pattern</b>					
Where is the woodland located?	On the lower land in the undulating landscape. Broadleaved plantations near the B3277 and to the east were planted to form windbreaks between 1841 and 1880. Species include beech, sycamore, elder, oak and holly There is a mixed plantation containing various conifers, willows and ash, which has grown up on the site of a former nursery in the west	There are broad-leafed woods of sycamore in the north near Anchor Farm and tree growth in grown-in farm tracks and sheltered hedgerows.  The woods near Anchor Farm are long-standing, whilst grown-in farm tracks are much more recent.  Coniferous trees have been planted as windbreaks around farmsteads and isolated cottages, with some patches of mixed broadleaf woodland, post-industrial and residential.	Broadleaf and Coniferous trees are associated with development at Menagissey, Mawla, Skinners Bottom and Wheal Rose.	S/E- Small, mainly pine woodland at Torvean planted approximately 1990's	Mostly scrub hedgerows, following the line of the roads. Some small pockets of scrubland on heath, particularly at Polberro. Small plantation of conifers on Beacon drive returning in on village end. Some taller trees (ash, sycamore and occasional oak), present at Wheal Butson, along the road, forming a partial green tunnel. Similar tree tunnel patterns in the smaller lanes at Goonbell, Promised Land and Water Lane. Also evident along the footpaths around the Goonbell railway line and the Wheal Fire lane area. A young stand of mixed pines and broadleaf are developing along the coast road on the transitional land at Goonlaze-These will be significant as they mature and will impact on the skyline in that area. More trees evident in the Mongoose area, particularly along the roads.
What size are the fields	Small to large fields. Hedges removed in larger ones – can be seen by following outline of field and remaining hedges. There are mineworker's smallholdings dating from the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> C around Blackwater and between Chiverton and Silverwell though some boundaries between these small fields have been removed. The rest of the fields were formed from heathland, enclosed between 1841 and 1880	The fields vary in size. Those adjacent to the valleys are small and those on higher, more level, ground are larger.	Fields are generally small to medium sized with larger fields present at Gover Farm near Mount Hawke and Green Acre Farm near Blackwater. Fields are generally rectilinear but hedge lines waver and contort with the undulations of the land. At Stencoose lies a remnant system of strip fields.	Fields throughout, small, medium and large. Hedges not removed, wire and wooden fencing splitting fields. Medium and small modified fields in the south at Porthtowan farm; similarly to the east of village. To the west, at Forthvean and Jolly's Lane there are medium sized arable, modified and grazing fields	Field sizes vary from large, through medium to small. Some very large arable fields at Parc Nor, ranging through to the preserved, small mineworkers field system at Goonvrea.
What are the hedges made of?	Cornish hedges made with granite and/or slate. A lot of growth on top alongside lanes and tracks. Species include hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, sycamore, ash, willow, elder, honeysuckle, willow, oak, dog roses, cotoneaster, fuchsia and ivy	The hedges are Cornish kilas hedges with vegetation, not managed, but not overgrown due to exposed location	Well vegetated Cornish hedges are the predominant field boundary many of which are tree lined with small to medium sized Oak, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Elder, Sycamore and occasionally Ash and Holly. Examples of Cornish Elm are present close to the Landsdowne Park holiday homes.	Hedges in most areas, Cornish stone, overgrown with gorse, bramble, thrift Small amount of wooden fencing in S/E and post and wire fencing in South.	Hedging is a mixture of Cornish hedge, with local stone, earth hedgerow and occasional fencing, with horse fencing evident in fields, in place of natural hedging. Few fences in Beacon area.
What is the character of the hedge?	Quite a number of mature trees have been allowed to grow on top or by the side of the hedges, particularly at the boundaries with tracks and lanes. There is little buffer in farmed fields but more, unmanaged grass, alongside lanes and tracks. The vast majority of hedges are unfenced.	Most hedges have tree growth. Species include oak, sycamore, ash, elder, black thorn, hawthorn and gorse. Growth is greatest in more sheltered situations. On higher ground trees are smaller wind sculpted and intermittent. Adjacent to hedges in small fields there is some encroachment of thorn and bramble. Additional electric fencing in fields grazed by horses. No buffer	Modern tree planting is associated with the A30 and the two slip-roads at the southern tip of the ward.	Hedges in West, East and S/E, sculptured with exposure, South, sheltered. All Cornish Stone hedges throughout this assessment area have a Buffer of vegetation to both sides. Some stunted hawthorn trees to tops of hedges in S/E. Small area of wooden fenced field in S/E and post fenced field S/E.	The hedges are sculpted by the wind in places but around the inland side of the Beacon are less so. There are small, scrubby trees amongst most hedges, predominantly thorns, sycamore, willow and occasional oak. Bramble, Blackthorn thicket, wildflower meadow or improved grassland meets most hedges.
<b>Data source</b>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs, CWT Wildlife notes, and visit the area to confirm details</i>	<b>Environmental Mapping (Trees and Woodland)</b>			

<p><b>Settlement pattern</b></p> <p>How is the development distributed?</p> <p>Age and type of buildings and their relationship with the landscape.</p> <p>What are the distinctive elements of the buildings?</p>	<p>Mainly scattered with isolated farms except for the village of Blackwater, the only dense settlement in the ward. There are a few individual private residences around the village on relatively large well screened plots</p> <p>Mainly isolated farms located within their land. There is an old chapel (now dwelling/business) near Silverwell. Highlands, near Blackwater, was built as an 18<sup>th</sup> C house and cottages and there is a row of distinctive terraced houses next to the route of the disused railway to the west.</p> <p>The vast majority of buildings in this area are finished with a cement render. Key exceptions are the listed buildings. Simla, Trecoose, Blackwater school and literary institute all use killas rubble with stone (usually granite) dressings. The Wesleyan chapel is constructed of painted rubble with brick arches over openings. All these buildings have slate roofs whereas Highlands is constructed of painted rubble and cob and has a thatched roof. Most of the pre WWII buildings have slate roofs but post-war estates in Blackwater and a very few outlying houses have clay tiles.</p>	<p>Mithian village is within a conservation area at the midpoint of the main north/south axis of the ward, in a depression leading down to the stream.</p> <p>Dwellings and farmsteads are scattered throughout the ward with concentrations at Trevellas and Mithian Downs.</p> <p>Building is mainly isolated single farms, single cottages, occasionally modern houses, and older buildings with 20<sup>th</sup> century extensions.</p> <p>Buildings are mostly local stone, some rendered, some both, mostly slate roofs, with occasional thatch.</p>	<p>Development is distributed mainly as hamlets or clusters e.g. Mawla, Wheal Rose, Menagissey, Skinners Bottom, with scattered developments based around farms and remnants of the mining industry e.g. 'count houses' and converted industrial buildings such as the engine house at Wheal Rose (once part of North Treskerby Mine). There is a concentration of miners' smallholdings here.</p> <p>Much of the modern commercial / industrial area at the south of the ward between Wheal Rose and the former Apex Garage, utilises former mining land.</p> <p>Local stone typically features in the buildings of the farmsteads laced with a mixture of modern materials in extensions, modernisations and on roofs. Many cottage extensions are evident. Gateposts are often of granite but gate hangings can be fixed into large boulders built into the Cornish hedge, more modern gates use either timber or galvanized steel gate-posts.</p>	<p>West at Forthvean, and Jollys lane, clusters, scattered, isolated. East, dense, scattered, clustered, S/E scattered, dense towards the South at Chapel Hill, linear, Porthtowan Farm in its own grounds.</p> <p>West, Forthvean Road, Cul-de-sac of 20<sup>th</sup> century residential properties, B&amp;B Hotel. Jollys Lane, cluster of 20<sup>th</sup> century detached properties 2 stone cottages date back to 1749, possibly mining cottages. Cluster of farm buildings, local stone. Isolated 19<sup>th</sup> century property improved 1990s, two 21<sup>st</sup> century properties.</p> <p>East, dense development of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century properties, numerous extensions over recent years. Isolated 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 19<sup>th</sup> century properties, including an old Forge, Towan Farm cluster.</p> <p>S/E, isolated Torvean, Trevissick Farm (1337) 20<sup>th</sup> century properties at Atlantic Way and new development under construction, farm cluster West of Atlantic Way. South, at Chapel Hill, small cluster of 19<sup>th</sup> century mining cottages, linear development of detached 20<sup>th</sup> century properties, some extensions to properties and some new 21<sup>st</sup> century builds, Listed Porthtowan House and 19<sup>th</sup> century Chapel on the Hill.</p> <p>In all areas, local stone for construction of older properties, some with original windows, gate posts etc, slate roofs. Farm clusters of local stone and wooden barns.</p>	<p>Very mixed housing, mostly ribbon development along the roads with mineworkers' cottages and traditional farms evident.</p> <p>Many cob and local stone with slate and scantle roof design-These are scattered throughout this area. Mongoose and Higher Bal are independent historic Hamlets. There is more random development over the last 60 years - many being bungalows, some mundic, on large green plots. There appears to be a trend, in modern houses, to be large and with little garden area. There is a small settlement of residential caravans at Wheal Butson.</p> <p>New development ongoing at Chapel Porth with "eco homes/holiday lets."</p> <p>Local stone, used in older cottages, but a mixture of materials in more modern housing, including large expanses of glass, timber and concrete weather boarding, unrelated to traditional styles. Land-use shows a move away from gardens towards hardstanding, tarmac and slabbing.</p>
<p><b>Data source</b></p>	<p><i>OS Map; aerial photographs, Historic Environment information, and visit the area to confirm details</i></p>	<p><b>Environmental Mapping (Principle Settlements)</b></p>			

<b>Transport pattern</b>					
What is the character of the roads?	The roads are minor. The continuations of those radiating out from Chiverton Cross on the elevated plateau are relatively straight with small verges but there is some considerable hedge growth alongside the road running North towards Mithian. The lanes around Blackwater and particularly those lower lying and winding, towards Silverwell, have taller hedge growth with trees.	The B3285 from St Agnes to Perranporth has a steep winding course across Jericho Valley and transects contours obliquely along the rest of its course in common with other minor roads.  Apart from the B3285, the roads are narrow, sometimes single track with passing places.	Unclassified roads apart from a small section of the A30 at the southernmost tip of the Mount Hawke ward close to the Plume of Feathers inn. Some verges are notably wide.	West – Minor road at Forthvean, rising moderately, straight, extensive verges, no pavements, At Jollys Lane, minor single track road rises moderately, winding, then straightening as it becomes an uneven track. East – Minor roads, to properties on Eastcliff, no through roads, minor single track road leading to Coast Road no pavements, intermittent verges. S/E B road at Coast Road, Atlantic Way, minor roads and pavements to all properties, South at Chapel Hill, B road, straight. Some verges, no pavements.	Minor roads prevail in the area, with some unmade tracks taking traffic to isolated areas of housing. Small lanes connect Goonown/Goonbell and the village centre, (historical mining routes on foot.) Also connecting Goonbell chapel to the village. No steep roads, mostly gentle gradients and in good condition. The rough tracks are in less good condition as they are not maintained by county highways. There are some tree tunnels beginning to merge in the aforementioned lanes and on the road to Wheal Butson. There are very few pavements throughout.
Describe the public rights of way	Bridleways clear but with fly tipping (sofa) There are only 2 footpaths in the ward, both running uphill from Blackwater village. There are signs at three of the four ends of the paths but no intermediate signage. Neither path seems regularly used and parts on both are overgrown. The more westerly path connects properties on a roughly North South line through the village and is a track at either end. The more easterly path runs through farmland, some of which has been ploughed, forcing the route of the path to the field edge.	To the south, there are a number of old mine tracks in fair condition. One runs the length of the southern ward boundary through to Mount Hawke. The tracks are not identified on the OS map as 'rights of way', but clearly must be as footpaths emanate from them with no other access or egress.  The ward footpaths are mostly in good condition, and part of the field pattern, skirting fields.  Several signs are missing:- At the B3285 end of the path from Mithian Village (Piggy Lane), at Little Trevellas and at Paradise Farm near Harmony Cot.	The footpath from Banns Vale to Mount Hawke is probably an old track and becomes overgrown and cut off from a field by barbed wire making it unusable due to insufficient room between the hedge and an electric fence. The footpath from the steep slope out of Park Shady towards Mount Hawke is well-used but in very poor condition (water erosion). Footpath leading from the road near Manor Parsley following the stream up its valley towards Menagissey Farm is not signposted and appears not to exist at all.	West – PROW leading from Jollys Lane to coastal path, regularly used, no stiles, small, possibly private sign. Path uneven but good condition. East, footpaths on heathland, leading to coastal path, uneven, can be muddy after rain. S/E, Bridleway sign, tarmac single track, (grass in middle) leading to Trevissick Farm, good condition, regularly used by vehicles and walker's. PROW to West of Atlantic way leading to Tywarnhayle in the S/E, good condition. Bridleway sign. No stiles. There are no PROWS in South at Chapel Hill.	Public footpaths are green and a little overgrown in places, but generally well maintained. With the exception of the stretch on the Goonbell/Wheal Fire railway path which becomes very boggy in winter. There are some traditional stone and granite stiles across country between Goonbell and Promised Land. Signage is generally in good condition but some repairs needed on the "Gold Path" at Parc Nor.
Are the roads and paths part of the historic field pattern	The small lane running North towards Silverwell connected miners' smallholdings as did a number of tracks around Blackwater.	The angled footpath north of the track east of Silverwell Farm marked on the OS map no longer exists and would lead to a now grown-in track. The field is currently in use for crops.	A footpath from the south east corner of Mount Hawke village to Coosewartha Farm and beyond to the road near Bridge Farm appears to have become completely overgrown at either end. Between Mawla and Stencoose is a 'Track' which serves as the centre path for the remnant strip-fields. This route is not on the definitive rights of way map but clearly serves as both bridleway and footpath.	Path leading to Coast Path in East, part of historic mining industry.	
Are there bridges?	One bridge over disused railway at the south west tip of the ward. Stream channelled under road, no obvious bridge.	There are stone bridges at Barkla Shop and Wheal Butson. At Mithian Downs, the road runs over two bridges over the course of the disused Chacewater Newquay branch line at the far end of the Wheal Liberty viaduct.  There is a single slab granite footbridge where the path from Silverwell Farm crosses the Mithian stream adjacent to a ford.  Old stone bridge over stream at Wheal Butson	No bridges.	No bridges in any of the locations.	Bridges present at Wheal Butson and over the dismantled railway at Goonbell. The bridge at Railway yard also has railings still in existence. On the transitional land, between this ward and Mithian, is the railway viaduct over the valley at Wheal Liberty.
<b>Data source</b>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs local knowledge and visit the area to confirm details</i>	<b>Environmental Mapping (Access and Rights of Way)</b>			

<p><b>Historic Features</b></p> <p>Are there features in the landscape?</p> <p>The features will have their own setting.</p>	<p>A former chapel near Silverwell, now house/business Wesleyan chapel in Blackwater Mining sites are mapped but not visible now. Some smaller fields which were mineworker's smallholdings of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> C still exist around Blackwater and between Chiverton and Silverwell A disused railway runs along the western boundary of the ward. There is limited evidence of its former route now. Many cuttings have been filled and land incorporated into farmland. Tree tunnel near Silverwell.</p> <p>The stone built listed buildings in Blackwater stand out in their surroundings. Their prominence and individual contributions to the village scene illustrates the importance of protecting their setting.</p>	<p>There are mine dumps and shafts at a number of sites, mainly at Wheal Butson and Wheal Davey, Higher Trevellas Farm and Trevellas Downs.</p> <p>Many old mine tracks well-used, but not identified on Definitive Footpath Map</p> <p>Railway remains – Wheal Liberty viaduct and partial track bed, and bridges where it runs under the road.</p> <p>Prehistoric barrow/tumulus near Wheal Davey</p> <p>Occasional tree tunnels throughout the ward.</p> <p>Landmark pines at junction with upper Cross Coombe Valley, otherwise no obvious distinctive trees</p> <p>Wheal Liberty viaduct is low-lying relative to this area and best seen from the adjacent minor road.</p>	<p>Undulations of an ancient 'round' (Scheduled Ancient Monument) are visible as a slightly rougher grazed field west of Coosewartha Farm.</p> <p>The Victorian Chapel at Mawla with its red brick gothic arches is a distinctive feature of the hamlet.</p> <p>Tree tunnels exist on the Mawla road above Manor Parsley and to a small extent at Manor Parsley itself. Tree tunnels may also be found at Skinners Bottom, Wheal Rose and in Splatt Lane / Penhall Lane just north of Mount Hawke.</p> <p>Engine house and also old forge at Wheal Rose.</p> <p>World Heritage Site at the western end of the ward towards the Porthtowan valley gradually becomes evident as obvious signs of mining become more frequent and widespread.</p>	<p>West - South View Farm, 19<sup>th</sup> century, 2 x 18<sup>th</sup> century cottages, East, old Forge cottage, S/E Trevissick Farm (1337) and Scheduled monument Round at Trevissick, mine workings, spoil heaps, engine house, cribb house at Tywarnhayle. South at Chapel Hill, 19<sup>th</sup> century miner's cottages, Chapel on the Hill, Listed Porthtowan Farm.</p> <p>There are no tree tunnels, or distinctive trees on skyline in any location.</p> <p>It is extremely important to retain and protect features from the historic mining industry, cottages of local stone, protect the area surrounding the Scheduled monument Round at Trevissick.</p>	<p>Much evidence of mining heritage with historic mine workings at Polberro and Wheal Butson, also on the south side of the Beacon. There are chimneys at Polberro and Gooninnis mines on the descent from the coast road into the village. Converted mine buildings at Pol Minor. Old chapel buildings at Goonbell, Higher Bal and Mingoose. Railway bridges and evidence of trackways remain at Goonbell and the Wheal Liberty viaduct on the Newquay/Chacewater line. Traditional mineworkers/smallholders fields still in evidence at Goonvrea and Goonbell. Listed buildings at Goonbell, Goonown and Mingoose - plus the bridge at Wheal Butson and Polberro chimney. Cameron Camp, found below on the seaward side of the Beacon...a WW2 historical site with visual building, including sentry box, and some fencing. Beacon Quarry, supplying clay and sand, is still in operation. Views to Wheal Charlotte in distance from path at Towan Cross on transitional sloping land.</p>
<p><b>Data source</b></p>	<p><i>Use local knowledge, Historic Environment information-Historic Landscape Character Assessment, Heritage Designations; aerial photographs and visit the area to confirm details</i></p>	<p><b>Environmental Mapping (Heritage Designations and Historic Landscape Character Types)</b></p>			
<p><b>Condition</b></p> <p>In what state/appearance are the characteristics of the area?</p> <p>Are there areas where improvements could be made to enhance the character of the area?</p> <p>How is the area managed?</p>	<p>Road verges and public rights of way suffer from fly tipping to a very noticeable extent. Watercourses alongside Cornish hedges are kept clear but where dug out all the earth/rocks are piled up on existing hedges.</p> <p>Rubbish collection on a regular basis, a simple management strategy, would enhance the area significantly.</p> <p>Fields are actively farmed and well managed. There is evidence of hedge cutting around some farms but a key characteristic of this area is that vegetation on many hedges has been allowed to grow tall. This management regime has benefits for biodiversity, habitat creation and visual variety and should be encouraged.</p>	<p>The surface of the roads is poor in places with broken margins on the stretch between Silverwell Farm and Mithian Downs.</p> <p>In heavy rain there is partial flooding of the road at Silverwell Farm.</p> <p>The area is mostly well-kept, but not particularly managed. The exposed location limits vegetation, but the limited agricultural use and sparsity of development encourages wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Some of the former mining land has been reclaimed (e.g. one area serves as a subsoil processing site and working area for a local haulage contractor). Land condition generally is both encouraging for agriculture and wildlife.</p> <p>Addressing invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and Rhododendron may be beneficial.</p> <p>Many hedges are overly trimmed and larger fields could include wild field margins.</p>	<p>West, East, S/E &amp; South – farmland well maintained, PROWS in good condition. Housing in all areas being improved or new build. Gardens in all areas, well maintained, Cornish Hedges overgrown creating small habitats.</p> <p>There are no obvious improvements to be made in any location.</p> <p>All areas of farm land West, East, S/E and South, managed by farmers. Heathland, in East, managed by National Trust, fairly undisturbed habitat. Engine house and historic features in S/E managed by Cornwall Council.</p>	<p>Generally well cared for with isolated pockets of dumped rubbish, poor fencing and farming remnants. Some evidence of black plastic in the countryside.</p> <p>Footpath on Goonbell railway needs better drainage. Paths managed by both County and Parish councils and private landowners. Condition of some buildings in the Beacon area deteriorating due to rain damage, leading to collapse of walls.</p> <p>Some areas managed by the National Trust or farmers at New Downs and Higher Bal.</p>
<p><b>Data source</b></p>	<p><i>Use local knowledge and visit the area to confirm details</i></p>				

<p><b>Aesthetic and sensory</b></p> <p>Describe the level of tranquillity,</p> <p>How is the landscape experienced?</p> <p>How will the experience of the area change through the seasons?</p> <p>What is the level of light pollution at night?</p>	<p>Birdsong, distant traffic though this is more noticeable closer to the B3277 and particularly the A30. Tranquil lanes.</p> <p>Sheltered spots, enclosed and very quiet in leafy lanes around Silverwell. A bit more open but with some tall hedgerows giving shelter on Blackwater village edges. There is more noise here from the A30. The higher Western fringes are more exposed and windswept with less shelter.</p> <p>Trees, flora and seasonal farming The predominant wind direction is South west.</p> <p>Very low in the immediate area but can be affected by nearby towns, particularly in cloudy conditions. The A30 contributes noise but no significant light pollution.</p>	<p>Calm, undisturbed, bird song, no artificial noise other than occasional vehicle.</p> <p>The landscape is windswept and uncluttered, with some sculpting of trees by prevailing south-westerly wind.</p> <p>Wind exposure more prominent in winter, otherwise very little change. Loss of leaf cover in autumn &amp; winter, swallows and swifts in spring &amp; summer</p> <p>South-westerly</p> <p>Low levels of light pollution. There is some effect from lighting at Chiverton roundabout (now improved by LED light) and from Mithian School, otherwise very little generated in area.</p>	<p>Generally tranquil with bird song. Summer season traffic and heightened activity will change this a little.</p> <p>The road running past Coosewartha Farm offers long views over a slight bowl between contiguous intermediate slopes which, together with long views west through tree lined hedges below Menagissey, gives an overall feeling of lost world charm.</p> <p>A succession of hedgerow blooms both at tree height and verge level delight the senses in spring. Leafless trees in winter provide more open visual access to Cornish hedges.</p> <p>No light pollution within the area but occasional reflections of streetlights from Redruth and A30 on the underside of clouds.</p>	<p>West, sheltered, some traffic noise, lawn mowers etc in residential areas– track towards coastal path, calm, turning to windswept, undisturbed, birdsong, roar of sea &amp; wind. East, exposed, tourists in summer, (most properties holiday lets) but reasonably quiet, occasional car. Path to coast at Towan Cross, quiet, calm, bird song no artificial noise. S/E Coast Road traffic noise, bridle way to Trevissick farm, quiet, calm, occasional car. Bridle way to Tywarnhayle, calm, quiet, rugged, bird song, sheltered, turning to windswept within a short distance. South, traffic noise, bird song.</p> <p>West, sheltered, some noise from garden's &amp; traffic. Track to coastal path calm, turning to windswept. East, exposed, windswept, sculptured. S/E, moves from windswept at Coast Road to sheltered at Trevissick Farm and Atlantic Way, to exposed, windswept, sculptured and rugged at Tywarnhayle. South at Chapel Hill, sheltered, S/E of Mount Pleasant, windswept. West, away from coast, sheltered throughout the seasons, track to coast sheltered, moving to extreme winds in winter. East, extremely exposed, sculptured, holiday trade very limited in winter making it very quiet. S/E, moves from windswept at Coast Road, to sheltered at Trevissick Farm and Atlantic Way, to exposed, windswept and sculptured at Tywarnhayle in Winter. South, sheltered throughout seasons at Chapel Hill, Windswept at Mount Pleasant. Wind direction – S/W Summer N/W Winter.</p> <p>West - minimal lighting. East – security lighting to some properties, S/E, some downward street lighting at Atlantic Way. South, some security lighting to properties.</p>	<p>Mostly quiet, unless road traffic or farm machinery is present. Very tranquil across country around the areas between Goonbell, Promised Land, Goonown and Water Lane. Mongoose very quiet, although this road is used as a "rat run" to the Porthtowan road. This area is generally more sheltered than some in the parish, feeling rural and intimate with lush vegetation and offers more diverse habitats- such as taller trees and willow/marsh areas.</p> <p>The more sheltered areas remain similar seasonally, but as tree cover is lost in winter, the sw wind can be strongly felt. On the seaward side of the Beacon, the conditions can be extreme through the winter, experiencing high winds and driving rain. The heathland areas change in colour and become more colourful in the landscape as the heather and gorse flower in the summer months.</p> <p>Light pollution in the area is low on the outer edges of the village, particularly at the top end of Goonown, Goonbell and Mongoose, where there is no street lighting. Also the area around Beacon drive is minimal, almost "dark sky", light from further villages and towns can be experienced.</p>
<p><b>Data source</b></p>	<p><i>Use local knowledge and visit the area to confirm details</i></p>				



<p><b>Distinctive features</b></p> <p>Specific features.</p> <p>The features will have their own setting.</p>	<p>At its upper levels the area has an attractive openness with a wide sky and views to the horizons, including a glimpse of the sea in a few locations. This contrasts with the sheltered tree lined lanes around Blackwater and towards Silverwell.</p> <p>Pylons are viewed from most of the ward.</p> <p>There are three listed mile posts. There are five listed buildings around Blackwater village. Those constructed of stone stand out.</p> <p>Granite gate posts</p>	<p>Wheal Liberty viaduct on disused Chacewater to Newquay rail line</p> <p>Mithian Parish Church tower (outside area) visible</p> <p>from southern boundary of ward</p> <p>Distant wind turbines</p> <p>Medium-sized turbine at Wrinklers Farm</p> <p>Occasional trees on skyline at various locations</p> <p>Cornish Hedges</p> <p>Granite gateposts on most fields</p> <p>Well-used mine tracks</p> <p>Conservation Village with well used traditional central</p> <p>Village pub and listed buildings</p>	<p>Tree-lined hedges give the appearance of woodland in the longer views along the slopes.</p> <p>A small wind turbine is present east of Basset Farm.</p> <p>Cornish hedges are individually distinctive in their construction and collectively distinctive in the undulating naturalistic way they enclose the land.</p> <p>Masonry walls either side of Gover Hill are an unusual feature.</p>	<p>Power lines to all properties throughout assessment area. West, South View Farm and outbuildings cluster. Buildings of local stone,</p> <p>East, Towan Farm. S/E, Trevissick Farm, (1337), overgrown Cornish hedges, mine spoils, engine house and cribb house.</p> <p>South at Chapel Hill, Listed Porthtowan Farm, local stone miner's cottages, Chapel on the Hill.</p> <p>Farm clusters and old buildings should retain historic features. Scheduled monument Round at Trevissick Farm, historic mine workings should be protected and retained.</p>	<p>There are several tree tunnels, or developing tunnels, in this area, which is uncommon in this ward. There are listed buildings, but other than Polberro chimney, they do not stand out particularly in the landscape. The exception to this is "Fow Goth" in Goonown Lane, which is uncommonly thatched, as is the cottage at the top of Goonbell. There are also the two chapel buildings at Goonbell and Higher Bal.</p> <p>The sentry box and building remains on Cameron Camp are protected, and the whole area maintains an essence of war-time history.</p> <p>There are some granite and stone stiles in existence between Goonbell and Goonown and around the Mongoose farming areas.</p> <p>Wind turbines are present in the landscape, as are telecommunication masts and power lines.</p> <p>There are some traditional mineworker's cottages and farmsteads scattered amongst more modern housing.</p> <p>New developments are growing on the edge of the village, very visible from the road, with some very large houses within them.</p>
<p><b>Data source</b></p>	<p><i>Use local knowledge, Historic Environment information</i></p>	<p><b>Environmental Mapping (Heritage Designations and Biodiversity and Geodiversity)</b></p>			
<p><b>Views</b></p> <p>Are there any important vantage points?</p>	<p>Views are more restricted as the land is lower and hedges tend to have been allowed to grow taller. There are views upwards over fields to the higher plateau and along tree-lined lanes. There are good open views to the south from parts of the minor road above Blackwater and to Redruth and the south west from the minor road running close to the western boundary.</p>	<p>Wheal Davey – ridgeline views to St Agnes village and Beacon.</p> <p>Wheal Joy, which lies in the narrow strip of intermediate land between Jericho Valley and the plateau, provides views to St Agnes village and the Beacon and along the west side of the lower half of the valley.</p> <p>Wheal Joy Cottage, with its dominant pine trees, is a prominent feature when seen from across the valley.</p> <p>Land which lies on the higher slopes of the stream valleys provides outstanding scenic views across the valleys to open countryside beyond. In places obscured by hedges, but clear through gaps e.g. Gateways. One such vantage point is the grassed bank between the roads at their junction above Wheal Liberty.</p>	<p>The slopes below Coosewartha provide views towards the tree lined hedges and small fields towards Skinners Bottom and also towards the fine examples of tree lined hedges below Menagissey.</p>	<p>Important vantage points are East, at Eastcliff, along coast towards St Ives and inland to Mount Pleasant, S/E at Coast Road, views along coast line to St Ives in the West and the Beacon in the N/E, cliffs, beach and village. Tywarnhayle inland to Carn Brea, seaward, woodland, cliffs and sea.</p>	<p>Unique view from the road at Wheal Butson towards the St Austell clay pits.</p> <p>Extensive views along the North coast of the sea and coastal settlements and general topography from the ridgeline road at Beacon Drive and paths along excavated dump.</p> <p>Extensive views from Towan Cross sloping land to Wheal Coates, the Beacon and the coast.</p>
<p><b>Data source</b></p>	<p><i>OS Map; Use local knowledge</i></p>				

<p><b>Key characteristics</b></p> <p>What features stand out from completing the assessment sheet as being a key characteristic of the area?</p>	<p>This is an area of very scattered settlements connected by minor roads. These, and surrounding fields, are bounded by Cornish hedges, which away from the higher land have tall growth on top or trees alongside, giving the sense of a less open landscape.</p>	<p>In the south, the predominant characteristic is elevated farmland. All rural – no settlement other than scattered farms and small collections of dwellings.</p> <p>The over-riding character is undulating terrain sloping steeply into the valleys.</p> <p>Settlement tends to be close to the roads.</p> <p>Grazing of horses is prominent in the smaller marginal fields.</p> <p>Mithian village is in a conservation area, with listed buildings of medieval origin.</p>	<p>Tree lined hedges; Small or medium sized fields enclosed by undulating naturalised Cornish hedges; Strip field remnant at Stencoose; Engine house at Wheal Rose; Modern industrial / commercial area near Wheal Rose.</p>	<p>Throughout assessment area, features that stand out are, overgrown hedges, providing habitat, Listed or 18<sup>th</sup>/ 19<sup>th</sup> century properties of local stone, magnificent coastal and inland views, and, mine spoils, the iconic Tywarnhayle Mine and cribb house,.</p>	<p>Some open, expansive landscape with outstanding views across country, (little development), far-reaching- out to sea. The Beacon itself is seen dominant in the surrounding landscape and identifies the village's uniqueness amongst the North coast villages.</p> <p>Regenerating heathland and scrub on spoil heaps and quarries makes for important wildlife habitat.</p> <p>The tree tunnelled roads in the more sheltered areas offer diversity in topography and habitat, as most of the area is exposed, open and harsh.</p> <p>The smaller roads and access points to the village and coast maintain a limitation on traffic flow and types of vehicles that can access the village, enhancing the feeling of remoteness that parts of the village can still offer residents and visitors alike.</p>
<p><b>Relationship to the adjacent assessment area(s)</b></p>	<p>Looking upwards to the plateau, fields open out and there are fewer trees. To the North two valleys deepen. To the east the land rises again and there are wind turbines on the horizon. To the south the land drops towards the A30 and there are extensive views. To the west and north west there is a continuation of the landscape though there is a greater variation in height.</p>	<p>There is little distinction between this landscape and areas of plateau in the south and with the land in Blackwater ward over the boundary.</p> <p>The transition to the valleys is by small steep fields often overgrown with brambles and scrub.</p> <p>The airfield perimeter with grassland forms the main transitional zone in the north.</p> <p>Near the cliffs the miners' fields give way to coarse grass and cliff-top heather.</p>	<p>Miners' smallholdings link with those of the Blackwater ward to the east. The larger enclosures east of Mount Hawke link with those of the Mithian ward to the north-east. The mining World Heritage Site extends further westward into the Porthtowan ward.</p>	<p>The transition between the above landscape characters and adjacent areas are: West – steep valley sides at Rose hill and cliffs and beach. East – Track to top of valley joins main coast road at plateau, and valley bottom in village.</p>	<p>Transition between high plateau and sloping terrain offers continuity with outstanding views, particularly around the Beacon. It also maintains an overall rural feel to the periphery of St. Agnes village and surrounds.</p> <p>At Towan Cross transitional land falls away steeply into Chapel Porth valley.</p> <p>Other transitional areas lead directly into the village and more built up areas. Small pockets of open land e.g. - Wheal Kitty fields, allow for an open aspect, with unique views to historical and industrial landscape.</p>