

APPENDIX 4. 3 – ST AGNES LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLE – STEEP LAND, VALLEY SIDES AND BOTTOM

CHARACTER AREA : Steep land, Valley Sides and Bottom					
Character Attribute	Ward – Mithian: Stream Valley System	Ward – Mithian: Trevellas Coombe Valley	Ward – Mount Hawke	Ward - Porthtowan	Ward – St Agnes
Topography and drainage					
What is the shape of the land?	Steep sided valley running south to north with 5 subsidiary valleys to the west with variable narrow valley bottoms	It is a steep V shaped valley with a fast flowing stream in the valley bottom. There are extensive old mine workings and spoil heaps along the length of the valley. Nearer its source the valley sides become increasingly less steep and high. For most of its lower half there is virtually no level valley floor. Higher up, the valley floor varies in width but is always narrow. Cross Coombe valley is a branch of the lower main valley and is similar in character to it.	This area consists of two steep-sided valleys and an area of flatter land where the two meet. The two valleys both have good-sized streams at their bottoms but flat land is very limited due to the steep sides. One stream flows from Gover Farm, through Park Shady, the other from Manor Parsley. In their highest reaches they flow in quite open valleys, bordered by Intermediate Sloping land. Where the two valleys come together there is much disruption from old mining and steep sides of tips alternate with flat areas on their tops. At the confluence, between the two streams, there is an expanse of flat land much disrupted by old mining. Here the streams join and continue to Porthtowan. Manor Parsley valley becomes a bowl near Wheal Basset, so that the steep sides are separated from the flat land by an area of Intermediate Sloping land. An area of steep land, near Mawla, is associated with the stream from Wheal Rose, the further side of which is out of St Agnes parish. There is no real flat land associated with this stream which runs in Intermediate Sloping land.	Steep sided valley throughout village. From valley bottom at Echo Corner, land rises steeply to East and West of village, taking in a small part of Forthvean Road. The land then levels via intermediate sloping land of limited extent. South East of village, The valley sides are very steep. A public footpath rises steeply from the valley bottom just South of the junction at Echo Corner, at the horizon, the land levels out briefly, before descending very steeply to the valley bottom at Park Shady where it levels on the South side of the stream. The land then rises steeply again through woodland to the intermediate sloping land at Trevissick Farm,	There are 2 valleys in St Agnes, both with fairly steep does and lots of evidence of mining heaps.
What water is present?	Small fast flowing stream which reaches the sea at Perranporth and arises at Silverwell Marsh with tributaries flowing down the subsidiary valleys There is a spring up the valley towards Mithian Downs. There is a pond just downstream from Mithian and a small one in Leycroft Holiday Lodges site.	In addition to the stream there is a leat at Blue Hills Tin Streams. There are old leat channels below Barkla Shop. Also there are springs at Barkla Shop and Wheal Liberty and small ponds at Barkla Shop and Wheal Butson.	Two good-sized streams join up and continue as one, out of this ward, towards Porthtowan. There are two springs, one below Banns Vale in Park Shady valley, and one in the area of Manor Parsley. They both appear from man-made adits. Above Manor Parsley there was once a mill-pond, but little if any surface water remains. A further stream runs down the parish boundary from Wheal Rose area to Mawla.	Stream present at Park Shady, Mount Hawk, Porthtowan valley road, Rose Hill, through village, down the beach and into sea	They both have streams flowing on the valley bottoms fed by small tributaries from the valley sides and isolated marsh areas.
Data source	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs</i>				

<p>Biodiversity</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>There are extensive areas of semi natural habitat along the valleys. Upstream of the railway embankment of the old Chacewater/Newquay branch line to the Silverwell track ward boundary, are woods with a Non Statutory Nature Conservation Designation.</p> <p>Part of the woods at Parc Hoskyn are a Cornwall wildlife Trust Reserve (Haymans Reserve)</p> <p>No invasive alien species seen. Some rhododendrons seen in the trees separate from settlement in Perrancoombe (Not Ponticum)</p>	<p>The whole of the valley contains semi-natural habitat Mainly gorse and heather in the lower seaward quarter of the valley.</p> <p>Higher up the valley there is a variety of flora. (Bracken, ferns, brambles, thrift, campion, English bluebells, three cornered leek, fox gloves, gorse, blackthorn hawthorn, sycamore and willow Boggy ground and dense undergrowth limits human interference. Old mine buildings are suitable bat roosts. Sunny mine waste slopes are good habitat for adders and slow worms. There are small mammal runs.</p> <p>Japanese knot weed has been present lower valley- Under control by Cornwall Council (notice displayed)</p>	<p>Most of the area consists of semi-natural habitat, either woodland, scrub or regenerating heathland on old mining areas where bracken, gorse and scrub predominates. The only exception is the fields which slope down at the top of the steep valley sides and the small amount of farmland at Wheal Basset. Much of it is already designated as County Wildlife sites or SSSIs.</p> <p>This semi-natural habitat could support endangered species. Bats have been seen in the area (some mine shafts have 'bat caps' to admit them). The streams have trout in them. There is also a disused quarry in Park Shady. Much of the lower part of both valleys is a County Wildlife Site, and the upper part of the Manor Parsley valley is an SSSI. Water Rail have been seen here.</p> <p>Above Manor Parsley there is some Japanese Knotweed near the stream in the area of the old millpond.</p>	<p>West at Rose Hill – broadleaf woodland of mainly sycamore, ash, elm, lime, hawthorn and field maple horse chestnut. Stream, ponds, Cornish hedges, Badger setts, flora & fauna. From valley bottom at Echo Corner, land changes to windswept, mine dumps, gorse, bramble heather. Village, valley sides fairly undisturbed heathland and mine dumps. Natural habitat on undisturbed valley sides South East of village. Land at Park Shady (County Wildlife Site) BAP Priority species Lowland heathland. Western gorse, bramble, bell heather, heather colonised on waste tips. Includes old meadow of improved grassland.</p> <p>Heathland streams trees, overgrown hedges, undisturbed mine waste tips.</p> <p>Three-sided leek, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese knotweed and Rhododendron</p>	<p>Heather and Gorse on the valley sides and bottoms. On the Upper reaches heavily forested, broad leaf tress and conifers. The mine waste slag heaps have pockets of heathers and gorse.</p> <p>No invasive species for the most part apart from Quay Road, where the Japanese Knot weed is a controlled eradication area.</p>
<p>Data source</p>	<p><i>CWT Wildlife notes and maps, and local knowledge</i></p>				

Land cover and Land Use					
<p>What is the land used for?</p>	<p>Downstream from Mithian are initially fields for pasture. Further downstream there are dwellings mainly on the valley floor.</p> <p>Leycroft holiday lodges occupy the side valley between Carnbargus and Blowing House.</p> <p>At Mithian is the Rose in Vale country house hotel (actually on the Perranzabuloe side of the stream)</p>	<p>Land and mine buildings at the extreme lower end of the valley and the beach car park are managed by the National Trust.</p> <p>Mining Industrial heritage in the lower half of the valley is accorded World Heritage Site status.</p> <p>Blue Hills Tin Streams is a traditional mineral processing tourist attraction. The footpath which runs along the lower two thirds of the valley is widely used by visitors to the area and locals alike.</p> <p>There are scattered dwellings mainly on the east side of the main valley sides with a number grouped alongside the road which crosses the valley at Barkla Shop and also on the north upper lip of Cross Coombe adjacent to the road .</p>	<p>There is pasture where the fields reach down onto the steep valley sides, as well as in the flat land around Wheal Basset. There are two farms, one at Manor Parsley and one at Wheal Basset, at the latter some of the old buildings have been converted into holiday accommodation.</p> <p>There are modern residential buildings on the road from Mount Hawke down to Banns Vale, with a group of older properties down there as well as on the steep road beyond. Apart from these there are just a few scattered residential buildings.</p> <p>There is evidence of old mining especially towards the confluence of the valleys, but much of this area is given over to nature with no obvious current use, though scramble bikes use some of the steep slopes for their activities.</p> <p>The Park Shady valley is much used by dog walkers and children playing, the bridleway through it is very well used. Woodland is well represented in this valley.</p> <p>There is a sewage works towards the bottom of the Park Shady valley.</p>	<p>Village centre, shops, residential properties with gardens, Village Hall, small public garden.</p> <p>East of village at Sandy Cove, Tregoyne and Towan Valley, residential properties and eco holiday properties.</p> <p>Valley bottom at Echo Corner, repair garage, cluster of residential properties.</p> <p>West of village, holiday lodges, isolated residential properties</p> <p>S/E – (Mount Hawke/Porthtowan valley road) mine stacks, mine workings, Listed Camborne School of Mines cluster, (disused). Isolated property entrance to Park Shady, private allotments, SWW Sewerage Works, Two isolated properties cut into cliffside at Park Shady.</p> <p>No farming activity in this character type.</p>	<p>Disused mining and Engine Houses, some pasture land and private gardens.</p>
<p>What is the vegetation cover?</p>	<p>Woodland, scrub and improved and unimproved grassland. There are reed and scrub on boggy valley floors. Some Gardens associated with dwellings.</p>	<p>Coastal heathland, heather, gorse and scrub in the lower end of valley. There is scrub and some broad leaf trees mainly sycamore and willow, grown to a larger size, in the more sheltered parts of the valley.</p> <p>There is regeneration of natural habitat in many areas of mining activity. Some contaminated spoil heaps persist with little vegetative cover</p>	<p>There is quite a lot of woodland, both old, and regenerating scrub, but also almost bare areas on the mining tips. There are two farms where the valley does open out, with smallish fields of possibly unimproved grassland, and an area of old mining activity with an engine house, which is gradually being colonised by plants.</p>	<p>Village centre, East and S/E of village, windswept heathland gorse, heather, bramble, evidence of mine workings on the red/brown mine spoils on some valley sides.</p> <p>Land to West of Echo Corner broadleaf woodland of mainly sycamore, ash, elm, horse chestnut, hawthorn, field maple.</p> <p>South/East -valley sides, undisturbed windswept heathland.</p> <p>Sheltered broadleaf South facing woodland at Park Shady dominated by elm and sycamore. Vegetation cover, bell heather, heather, western gorse, scrub, dominated by bracken, gorse or blackthorn. Meadow of unimproved grassland in valley bottom. To the South/East, there is some wet willow woodland along the stream margins.</p>	<p>Woodland, scrub, Heather, Improved Grassland with wildflowers.</p>
<p>Data source</p>	<p>OS Map; aerial photographs, local knowledge</p>	<p>Environmental Mapping (Agricultural land classification)</p>			

Field and woodland pattern					
Where is the woodland located?	The woodland occurs through large stretches of the valley sides and bottoms. The trees are mainly broad leafed and a result of post industrial regeneration although some especially in the Mithian Downs valley are possibly ancient tree cover.	There are mature broad leafed trees in the sheltered parts of the valley	There is woodland on quite a lot of the valley sides, particularly the lower parts, except in the old mining areas. Some of this must be quite old as there are some very large beech trees, and also good-sized Sweet Chestnut but elsewhere it is probably only 20 th century, and even some newer plantings. Some is clearly regenerating from scrub. Towards the lower end of the Park Shady valley are some planted coniferous trees on the steep sides, but these are not doing at all well.	West of village at Rose Hill on sheltered valley sides. Broadleaf woodlands of mainly sycamore, ash, elm, lime, hawthorn, maple. Also South at Park Shady, (County Wildlife Site) dominated by sycamore and elm along river bank and climbing steeply up valley side to Trevisick Farm. Not ancient woodlands	The woodland is mainly on the valley sides and are of mixed variety. Broad leaf trees, Oak, Coniferous trees. These are post mining regeneration.
What size are the fields	There are only a few small fields, some narrow aligned with the main valley. They are poorly drained and with reeds in parts	No fields in the valley. There are small ex miner's meadows in the upper East side of the valley in the zone transitional with the intermediate landscape type.	The fields on the steep valley sides and the few in the valleys bottoms are small to medium and have retained their hedges.	At Park Shady, medium sized meadow of unimproved grassland at valley bottom, small allotments. Only hedges are at Rose Hill. Hedges have not been removed.	The fields are small and no evidence of hedges being removed
What are the hedges made of?	Cornish hedges made from local kilas stone often with a variety of plants (ferns, foxgloves, campion, ivy, brambles, broom) and mixed trees species.-Hawthorn, blackthorn, gorse, holly, elder oak ash and sycamore	Local slate kilas stone walls with vegetation cover	These are Cornish hedges, of local stone and mine waste completely covered with vegetation, including scrub and in some places quite mature trees. There seems to be no obvious management.	Cornish stone hedge at Rose Hill. Hedgerow overgrown. Recent earth mound along side of stream, Mount Hawke/Porthtown valley road to prevent flooding.	Barbed wire fencing, some Cornish Hedges that are managed and not overgrown
What is the character of the hedge?	No exposure sculpting. Many hedges crowned with mature trees. Brambles and scrub spreading from hedge margins	The vegetative cover includes small trees in the sheltered parts of the valley becoming smaller towards the top of the valley sides.	None of the hedges seem to suffer from wind pruning, even where there are mature trees. Where the hedges are in farmland there is pasture on either or both sides, in the valleys among woodland they are closely bounded by further vegetation.	West of village - tree lined. Mature trees, mainly sycamore and elm to top of Cornish stone hedge creating a tree tunnel sheltered from winds, no buffer of vegetation.	All sculptured by wind exposure.
Data source	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs, CWT Wildlife notes, and visit the area to confirm details</i>				
	Environmental Mapping (Trees and Woodland)				

<p>Settlement pattern</p> <p>How is the development distributed?</p> <p>Age and type of buildings and their relationship with the landscape are they</p> <p>What are the distinctive elements of the buildings?</p>	<p>From Mithian upwards there are very few scattered cottages. There are miners cottages at the lower end of Mithian village.</p> <p>From the area of Harmony Cot valley down-stream and in the sub valley above Leycroft holiday lodges, houses are scattered along the valley floors. There are many dwellings, mainly bungalows in strip development between the stream and road below Carnbargus(actually on the Perranzabuloe side of the valley floor)</p> <p>The buildings vary between small traditional cottages, large modern houses and bungalows (below Carnbargus on the Perranzabuloe side)</p> <p>Older buildings are largely of granite and local stone. Harmony Cot has a largely thatched roof. Newer buildings are built with a variety of modern materials. Pitched roofs predominate. Gardens associated with modern style houses are large.</p>	<p>There are scattered dwellings mainly on the east side of the valley sides with a number grouped alongside the road which crosses the valley at Barkla Shop. Also small groups at Wheal Liberty and Wheal Butson and on the upper valley side of Cross Coombe adjacent to the road.</p> <p>Scattered traditional cottages associated with miners smallholdings and converted farm buildings. Some later bungalows. Modern dwellings near Wheal Liberty Viaduct and at Barkla Shop, adjacent to the stream.</p> <p>Largely of traditional stone walls with pitched roofs. Later bungalows have rendered block walls. A cottage just west of the stream (on St Agnes ward side) has a thatched roof.</p>	<p>There is scattered development down the road from Mount Hawke towards Banns Vale. There is a small hamlet at Banns Vale in the higher part of the Park Shady valley, of several cottages and a smallholding, and the buildings continue up the hill the other side. There are two farms with a collection of buildings. Apart from these there are just a few scattered buildings.</p> <p>The dwellings down the road from Mount Hawke are mostly modern, the hamlet in the valley at Banns Vale includes good stone built cottages and houses, and the buildings continuing up the other side are variable, most being old but much altered. Near Manor Parsley, above the farm on the valley bottom are several cottages, of stone/slate. And lower down this valley a couple of cottages are set into the hillside directly above the road, one of which has been modernised.</p> <p>The two farms have a varied range of buildings including stone/slate farmhouses and cottages. The farm at Manor Parsley has two very large corrugated modern barns in addition to the traditional buildings.</p>	<p>Village – linier development, several clusters of properties, isolated, scattered</p> <p>Village – linier developments, some detached individual styles, mainly 20th century. Some 19th century properties centre of village, row of 18th century cottages, including recently improved former mill cottage. Linier terraced development of 20th century properties at Sandy Cove, cluster of 21st century wooden properties in valley at Tregoyne leading to 21st century eco holiday properties. At Echo Corner, repair garage, cluster of 20th century properties with some extensions. West of village, Modern eco holiday lodges at Rose Hill (built 2007). Isolated 19th century properties in woodland to both sides of road. Porthtowan/Mount Hawke valley road. Isolated Listed Camborne School of Mines cluster, (disused) possibly 19th century. Entrance to Park Shady, isolated wooden dwelling in woodland, built approximately 1990s. Two isolated, South facing cottages cut into cliffside above Park Shady, 19th century, extension presently taking place to one of properties. SWW Sewerage works.</p> <p>Local stone. Wooden eco lodges, wooden dwelling various window styles. Roofs mainly slate or tile, 18th century mill cottages recently replaced windows with UPVC, turret top to property centre of village. Grass roofs to holiday lodges. Some granite posts. Domestic front gardens. Plot boundaries.</p>	<p>Very intermittent clusters consisting of 3 or 4 cottages in Chapel Porth. Quay Road however over the years have become linier building.</p> <p>A range of Gothic Style, Cornish thatched cottages, Cornish cottages with slate roofs and 1960 onwards bungalows. Extensions to Cornish Cottages of UPVC conservatories from roughly 1970 onwards.</p> <p>Local stone, slate, wood and UPVC Windows, Granite Gate Posts and Cornish hedges</p>
<p>Data source</p>	<p><i>OS Map; aerial photographs, Historic Environment information, and visit the area to confirm details</i></p> <p>Environmental Mapping (Principle Settlements)</p>				

Transport pattern					
<p>What is the character of the roads?</p> <p>Describe the public rights of way</p> <p>Are the roads and paths part of the historic field pattern?</p> <p>Are there bridges?</p>	<p>There is a minor road along the lower west side of the valley from the Harmony Cot valley downwards. The road is single track with places where vehicles can pass. It follows the slope of the valley. There are tree tunnels in parts and no pavements. The road across the main valley from Lovely Vale up Harmony Cot valley crosses the stream by a ford with a concrete footbridge adjacent. The minor road through Mithian village crosses the stream by a stone bridge at Rose in Vale.</p> <p>Between Mithian and Harmony Cot valley there is a footpath. Parts are in good condition but there is evidence that it easily becomes waterlogged. There are wooden logs laid on the ground for stepping on where the ground is muddy. In one place a stone wall runs at right angles to the path. There are protruding stones provided to help in crossing it. The wall is high with no hand supports and a potential hazard. Further on the path is particularly narrow. The signage for this path is good.</p> <p>There are the starts of paths to Little Trevellas from the valleys. The path starting near Leycroft has a good sign, but those at Paradise Farm next to Harmony Cot, at Carnbargus and from Perrancoombe to Anchor Farm do not.</p> <p>There are paths across the stream between Mithian converted Chapel and Mill Pool (concrete footbridge) and at Park Hoskyn (supports vehicular traffic) The path up from Parc Hoskyn westwards to Acorn Cottage is steep with muddy patches in winter.</p> <p>Bridges as above</p>	<p>B 3285 St Agnes to Perranporth road crosses the stream by a stone bridge. It winds as it descends the valley sides. At Wheal Butson Farm the stream is crossed by the minor Goonbell road by a stone bridge. Nearest to the beach there is a steep winding surfaced but unfenced track. It is narrow and at Cross Coombe limited to 6ft 3ins.</p> <p>There is a well used footpath from the Blue Hills Tin Streams to Wheal Liberty. This path is immediately adjacent to and eroded by the stream in places. In winter it is liable to flooding. There are areas of muddy going except in the driest of weather. Crossing the valley is a bridleway with a good surface from Wheal Joy. Also a steep path up to Mount May. There is also a path running down from the minor, Mithian Downs to Wheal Butson road alongside a large deep wooded trench (surface mine working) to cross the stream by a wooden footbridge and pass under the Eastern side of the viaduct towards Rope-walk Farm. Signage is good.</p> <p>Road bridges carry the roads that cross the valley. There are footbridges for the paths that cross the stream.</p>	<p>A minor lane crosses Park Shady valley at Banns at an angle, with steep gradients on both sides. Unclassified road in the Manor Parsley valley runs along the steep slope giving rise to a drop into the valley on one side and a high retaining bank/Cornish hedge on the other. At the Porthtowan end, a steep and winding road rises out of the flat area of mining round Wheal Ellen towards Mount Hawke. At Manor Parsley a minor lane leads up steeply to Menagissey. None of the lanes or roads has verge or pavement.</p> <p>Bridleway through Park Shady valley from Banns Vale is extremely muddy in places in wet weather. Cornish hedges on the lower side eroded with diversions off the path. No management evident. This would have been an old route. A footpath leads from Banns towards Gover. From below Banns Vale, a footpath begins with 9 steep stones steps towards Mount Hawke. Probably an old path, rather overgrown higher up, cut off from a field by barbed wire. Bridleway on western side of valley, leads steeply up to Trevissick Farm, it is well-used, rough and stony. Nearby footpath diagonally up steep slope towards Mount Hawke is well-used but in very poor condition (water erosion). Footpath branching off to Manor Parsley road across old mine workings is in good condition and well-used. At Manor Parsley a less well used footpath up the hillside to the west is overgrown and crosses the stream with no bridge. Above Manor Parsley, steep bridleway towards Mawla lane is wide and in reasonable condition. Footpath leading from the road near Manor Parsley following the stream up its valley, is not signposted, and appears not to exist at all.</p> <p>There is an old bridge at Banns Vale on the minor lane, an improved bridge on the road near the confluence, and a similar one on the road at Manor Parsley. On the bridleway a simple bridge of stone slabs with no handrail.</p>	<p>Village, road minor, winding in centre of village, intermittent pavements. Several minor roads leading from main village road to properties. Sunken lane towards T-junction. West - B road, winding, steep gradients, intermittent verges, very limited pavements. Characteristic move from open/windswept valley bottom to sheltered tree tunnel of mainly sycamore, ash, horse chestnut, lime, hawthorn, field maple. East - B road rises steeply, cut out into cliff side winding and windswept. No verges, trees or pavements. South/East - Porthtowan/Mount Hawke valley road. Minor road, winding in places, no pavements, no verges.</p> <p>Village, PROW behind properties, regularly used, good condition. PROW from Sandy lane to Coast Road, some tarmac, some uneven track, regularly used. Public Footpath signs for both. West - PROW, approx 100 yards, overgrown, no signage. South/East - PROW starts at valley bottom approximately 200mtrs from T-junction at Echo Corner, rising to Tywarnhayle Mine at the top of the steep sided valley. Path is narrow and uneven, No signage. Track through Park Shady fairly straight, single track, can be muddy after rain. Single track splits from main track to left side of valley, rising moderately to two properties above the valley bottom, cut into cliffside. Valley bottom track regularly used by walker's and vehicles. Bridleway sign at entrance to Park Shady. Paths on all valley sides part of mining industry.</p> <p>Modern vehicular bridge, centre of village over stream. Modern vehicular bridge over stream to properties, centre of village.</p>	<p>Minor road with no pavements in Quay Valley and small pavement in places on the Chapel Porth Valley. In Chapel Porth, a minor road, steep and winding and an American Road believed to be constructed in WW2 for tank traffic.</p> <p>Regularly used with signs of erosion. Good Public Right of Way Signage.</p> <p>The roads and paths are part of the historic field pattern.</p> <p>Rustic pedestrian bridges on the valley bottoms</p>
Data source	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs local knowledge and visit the area to confirm details</i>	Environmental Mapping (Access and Rights of Way)			

<p>Historic Features</p> <p>Are there features in the landscape?</p> <p>The features will have their own setting.</p>	<p>There are surface mine workings in the valley above the embankment. The blowing house in Perrancoombe is converted to a dwelling. There is a dried leat parallel to the road above the blowing house. Below this are converted mill buildings. The old water mill just downstream from Mithian is now a ruin. A disused railway embankment runs across the valley upstream from Mithian. It is covered in regenerated mature trees. The stream runs through a culvert at its mid-point. There are the remains of old terraced paths running along the lower sides of the upper valley. Harmony Cot is significant for its association with painter John Opie (1761-1807).</p> <p>The enclosed nature of the valleys is their distinctive feature.</p>	<p>There are mine surface remains and shafts in the lower valley, at Wheal liberty and wheal butson. There are old roofless engine houses and chimneys at the extreme lower end of the valley.</p> <p>The dominant feature of the upper valley is the large Viaduct which carried the old Chacewater to Newquay branch line from one side of the valley to the other.</p> <p>Near the narrow road at Cross Coombe are several large prominent pines with smaller stunted trees further down the valley exposed to wind from the sea.</p> <p>The viaduct is most impressive when seen from below. Fences prevent access to the track bed</p>	<p>There are a lot of old mine tips and shafts on the south of the lowest part of the Park Shady valley, and the extremely steep areas where mining has occurred associated with these. There are more tips on the upper side of the road which runs up the Manor Parsley valley.</p> <p>The area around the confluence is dominated by disturbed ground associated with old mining and a listed engine house with chimney (Wheal Ellen). The engine house is quite a feature, set off by the extensive mine workings around it.</p> <p>The bridleway through Park Shady is a feature in its own right as it is clearly an old route. The old Beech trees here are also a surprising feature for this area of Cornwall. And along here there are some good tree tunnels along the bridleway. Not far down the Park Shady valley there is a square opening in the bank beside the bridleway, which is definitely man-made and has water issuing from it. It is known locally as the 'Fairy Grove' and in recent years has been hung with ribbons etc. This may just be a spring, or possibly a mine adit. There is a similar opening in the hillside just west of Manor Parsley, again with water issuing from it, but is not at all prominent although close to the footpath there.</p> <p>There is a characterful cottage at Manor Parsley with attached buildings some of which are in need of repair, this group seems to be part of an old mill.</p>	<p>Industrial heritage in abundance. Mine dumps, shafts, chimney stacks, capped mine shafts, disused miner's tracks, School of Mines, (disused).</p> <p>No ancient sites, barrows or enclosures. No places associated with folk lore or local stories have currently been identified. Tree tunnels West at Rose Hill of mainly sycamore, ash, elm, horse chestnut, hawthorn, lime and field maple, and S/E at Park Shady of mainly sycamore and ash, also distinctive trees on skyline at Park Shady</p> <p>The setting on the Porthtowan/ Mount Hawke valley road is teaming with history from the mining industry. The historic mining industry in this WHS must be protected, together with habitat and miner's pathways, and the overall setting.</p>	<p>Mine dumps, shaft entrances, engine houses, chimneys and disused mining buildings.</p> <p>Remains of a WW2 American Road at Chapel Port Valley</p> <p>Some tree tunnels in places on pathways and parts of the road in Quay Valley</p>
<p>Data source</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>Environmental Mapping (Heritage Designations and Historic Landscape Character Types)</p>			

Condition					
In what state/appearance are the characteristics of the area?	The ribbon settlement area in Perrancoombe is generally well maintained. The valley bottom near Mithian has poor drainage. Two derelict cottages upstream from the railway embankment have trees growing from within their walls.	Regeneration from industrial wasteland, returning to natural habitat with preserved chimneys and a roofless engine house in the lower valley. The surfaced but unfenced track down to Trevellas Porth is in poor condition with many deep potholes.	The areas where there are trees and scrub are improving with time, though the very steep slopes associated with old mining still have very little vegetation. There seems to be no active management of the woodland and scrub areas, though most of the fields are looking in good condition and some may be unimproved grassland. The bridleway through the Park Shady valley is bounded by stone-based Cornish hedges, but these become degraded further down the valley.	West side of valley on Porthtowan/Mount Hawke road untouched and natural except for old miner's tracks. Trees at Park Shady and Rose Hill, in good condition. Appearance of broadleaf tree tunnels and woodlands in this otherwise windswept environment, make the areas characteristic and important to retain. The woodland at Rose Hill provides a beautiful, tree tunnel entrance to the village.	The area is full of disused mining workings and associated buildings and as such the landscape is quite barren.
Are there areas where improvements could be made to enhance the character of the area?	The public footpath between Mithian and Harmony Cot valley would benefit from work to improve the surface. The wall with protruding stone stops is hazardous.	Some maintenance work has been done on the long valley bottom footpath but it needs considerable up grading to enhance its all weather potential.	On the steep mining slopes at the bottom of the Park Shady valley there was evidence of plantations of conifers, some of which are shortly to be removed according to a WPD notice on the path up to Mount Hawke. This can only be an improvement as they are not natural to the area and are not thriving. There is an area in the woodland part way up the Park Shady valley which has become quite degraded probably due to people/children/dog walkers playing in the stream etc. It is here that the Cornish hedges have also become degraded. It is difficult to see how this could be improved without losing the 'wild' character of the area. However, the condition of the footpaths and the bridleway through Park Shady needs to be improved. Further improvement to the group of old mill buildings at Manor Parsley would help preserve a very characterful feature.	There are very few broadleaf woodlands in Cornwall (3%) it is important to retain, protect and manage these woodlands. The disused School of Mines building is in need of attention and restoration. Improving/updating TPO order to protect all trees at Park Shady and Rose Hill. This would in turn, protect the natural wildlife habitats of both areas.	
How is the area managed?	Up stream from the rail embankment the trees are unmanaged and going through a normal cycle of growth and decay. Wildlife conservation is acknowledged by designations.	Some management by National Trust lower end.	There seems to be no active management of any of the areas in this category, except for the fields at Wheal Basset Farm, but even these may be unimproved grassland.	Cornwall Council manage mining remains. Some trees protected by TPO order. But appropriate management should be in place.	Natural regeneration process could be encouraged. Semi managed in parts, some path maintenance and signage. Well look after gardens and driveways in Quay Valley.
Data source	<i>Use local knowledge and visit the area to confirm details</i>				

<p>Aesthetic and sensory</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>Calm undisturbed and tranquil becoming more marked higher up the valley. Birdsong prominent. Skylarks heard near Coldharbour.</p> <p>The valleys are sheltered and enclosed. Passage through the woods on old paths is hampered by fallen trees</p> <p>Loss of leaves in the winter. Heavy water flow in the winter with local flooding. The prevailing wind is from the south West. It is sheltered from all winds.</p> <p>There is minimal light pollution in the middle course of the main valley increasing slightly both upstream and downstream.</p>	<p>Very tranquil, calm and peaceful. Bird song. Occasional noise from small planes using the airfield and from traffic when near Barkla Shop</p> <p>Exposed on beach end but more sheltered up the valley. Intimate.</p> <p>Prevailing wind is from the South West. Flooding in winter can affect access to parts of the valley</p> <p>Minimal light pollution.</p>	<p>The Park Shady valley feels secluded and undisturbed on the whole, with plenty of bird song and no artificial noise. The Buzzard's call is often heard, and bats are around at night. It is appropriately designated as a wildlife site. The Manor Parsley valley gives much the same feeling in spite of the road running along it, the occasional traffic barely noticed. Even the old mine workings at Wheal Ellen feel 'undisturbed' although clearly the area was the very opposite in the past!</p> <p>The valleys are so sheltered and enclosed that they feel quite intimate. The old mine workings at Wheal Ellen give a feeling of space and history after the enclosed wooded valleys. The whole area has a feel of reversion to nature.</p> <p>Where there is tree and scrub cover the look of the area will change with the seasons and give wider views when the leaves are off the trees. The valleys seem to be very sheltered, certainly the trees and hedges show no tendency to lean away from the wind. Almost certainly the predominant wind will be up the valleys. The area of mine waste at the confluence may be most affected as the steep narrow valley from Porthtowan must channel the winds.</p> <p>The only light pollution will be in the open area around the confluence of the valleys, and then only on cloudy nights with the reflection by the clouds of the lights of Redruth.</p>	<p>Village centre, noisy, busy in summer, Away from centre of village - some traffic noise. Extensive bird song in woodland areas at Rose Hill and Park Shady. S/E of village, sound of birds and stream on Porthtowan/Mount Hawke valley road, area encapsulated by historic environment. Park Shady, sheltered, very tranquil, sound of river/birds, occasional car, some artificial noise from SWW sewerage works.</p> <p>Village, noisy hustle & bustle in summer. East of village -exposed, windswept noise of wind, sea, traffic. West - sheltered. Enclosed by trees. Traffic noise S/E Mount Hawk/Porthtowan valley road, some traffic noise, otherwise, feeling of remoteness, contrasting with hustle & bustle of village. Park Shady, peaceful, sheltered.</p> <p>Village, quiet in winter, some traffic noise, sound of wind and sea, (often extreme gales) Tree cover diminishes at Rose Hill and Park Shady in winter, various colours to valley sides throughout the year, yellow gorse, pink thrift, purple heather. Predominant wind direction, S/W Summer N/W Winter</p> <p>Downward lighting around village. No lighting from Echo Corner.</p>	<p>Very tranquil;, calm, bird song and stream noise's, depending on the season traffic noise particularly in Quay Road.</p> <p>Remote and exposed and windswept.</p> <p>Experience is fairly consistent, only traffic noise is determined by the seasons</p> <p>Minimal as there are no street lights in either valley.</p>
<p>Data source</p>	<p><i>Use local knowledge and visit the area to confirm details</i></p>				

<p>Distinctive features</p> <p>Specific features.</p> <p>The features will have their own setting.</p>	<p>There are tree tunnels along the road between Harmony Cot Valley and Carnbargus.</p> <p>The Railway embankment is impressive because of its height and steepness. From the lay of the land and tree cover. It is only appreciated from close by.</p>	<p>There are historically important relics of an industrial mining past throughout the valley</p> <p>Leat feeding the Blue Hills tin mine tourist attraction.</p> <p>Wheal Liberty Viaduct is impressive when seen from below but is often obscured by the lie of the land and tree cover in the valley.</p> <p>From Mithian Downs upwards the valley is difficult to access due to vegetation growth in the valley and surrounding field margins.</p>	<p>The valley sides on the whole have no particular distinctive features, it is a landscape of nature, which is distinctive in its own right. The real distinctiveness is given by these steep valley sides, so that the valleys feel really enclosed. The area of the old mine workings could also be classified as distinctive, with bare stone exposed in the tips and steep areas.</p> <p>At the confluence, the distinctiveness is in the typical old mine workings and in particular the engine house of Wheal Ellen which dominates this area. The bowl around Wheal Basset Farm is so different to the rest of the area, being a green 'oasis' of small fields and tree-lined Cornish hedges. A pair of distinctive strangely-shaped trees form part of the skyline towards Mount Hawke.</p> <p>The old stone steps at the beginning of one of the footpaths, mentioned above, should be noted, in addition to many of the features already mentioned in the Historic Features section.</p>	<p>18th century old mill cottages, local stone, centre of village, turret to property in village, power lines to all properties.</p> <p>East – small telecommunications mast on Coast Road, power lines to properties.</p> <p>West - tree tunnel, power lines to properties.</p> <p>South East - chimney stack, mine dumps, Listed School of Mines, Two South facing 19th century isolated properties – power lines to properties. Most of area in WHS.</p> <p>No stiles.</p> <p>Some granite gate posts. Important to retain, improve and protect tree tunnel at Rose Hill and Park Shady, and to Maintain and protect mining heritage,</p>	<p>Listed buildings/houses using local stone and thatch. Engine Houses in their own space and surroundings.</p> <p>Big slag heaps.</p> <p>Tree tunnels</p> <p>Power lines and telecommunication poles in the Quay Road valley and a SWW pumping station.</p>
<p>Data source</p>		<p>Environmental Mapping (Heritage Designations and Biodiversity and Geodiversity)</p>			
<p>Views</p> <p>Are there any important vantage points?</p>	<p>No real vantage points in the valley</p>	<p>Views out to sea to Bawden Rocks and Trevaunance Cove from the car park at Trevellas Porth.</p> <p>Also from the car park there is a good view of the opposite (West) valley wall with its diagonal rough steep track used as a hill climb section on the Easter London to Lands End motor rally.</p> <p>Otherwise the sight line is limited by the lie of the land and tree growth.</p>	<p>With so much woodland on the steep slopes there are no views in these areas. Climbing up towards Mount Hawke on the footpath there is a very good viewpoint as it turns to go more directly uphill and here there is a good view down the lower part of the valley and into the area of old mine workings at the confluence and the secluded bowl at Wheal Basset Farm. This is so different to the rest of the valleys that is quite a surprise to discover it.</p>	<p>Various vantage points around Porthtowan.</p> <p>Vantage points at pull-ins on Coast Road, views of village, cliffs, beach, sea. Beautiful views of tree tunnels at Rose Hill and Park Shady.</p> <p>Magnificent views from horizon at Tywarnhayle, South to Carn Brea, NNW to St Agnes Beacon, W to coast.</p>	<p>The valley sides are mainly wooded and the valley bottoms in both valleys have views to the beaches and cliffs.</p>
<p>Data source</p>		<p><i>OS Map; Use local knowledge</i></p>			
<p>Key characteristics</p> <p>What features stand out from completing the assessment sheet as being a key characteristic of the area?</p>	<p>Largely wooded valley system with ribbon and sporadic development in its lower one third and relatively undisturbed natural habitat in the rest.</p>	<p>Narrow valley with fast flowing stream with mining relics prominent in the valley nearest the sea with dense tree and scrub cover higher up. Wheal Liberty Viaduct is impressive when seen close by from below.</p>	<p>What stands out is the naturalness and wildness of these areas, be they woodland, scrub or regenerating old mining areas. It is, on the whole, a green landscape, and feels changeless. A combination of mining and agriculture. The area's key characteristic is how unspoiled it is; with no active management it is simply being left to do its own thing, and on the whole feels wild and undisturbed. Even the old mining areas are gradually being reclaimed by nature.</p>	<p>Historic character of area, distinctive historic features, extreme importance of protection of habitat and woodlands. The beautiful views and vantage points. The tree tunnels at Rose Hill and Park Shady, creating a beautiful setting to an otherwise rugged, windswept landscape.</p>	

<p>Relationship to the adjacent assessment area(s)</p>	<p>The fields both medieval and old miners holdings on the margins of the valley system are themselves quite steep and given over largely to horse pasture.</p> <p>Ribbon development on the Perranzabuloe side of the stream from Carnbargus down extends to Perranporth.</p>	<p>Narrow valley with fast flowing stream with mining relics prominent in the valley nearest the sea with dense tree and scrub cover higher up. Wheal Liberty Viaduct is impressive when seen close by from below.</p>	<p>The deep valleys are bordered on their upper sides by a quite sharp transition to Intermediate Sloping land. At their upper ends they are more open and bounded by Intermediate Sloping land. On the northern side towards the bottom of the Park Shady valley the steep, mostly bare, slopes are actually in the Porthtowan ward, and the information will need to be integrated with this ward. The flat land at the confluence of the two streams suddenly changes again to the north, to a very steep valley with mostly bare hillsides which are in the Porthtowan ward.</p>	<p>The transition between this landscape character and the adjacent area is abrupt where cliff and beach are concerned. The boundary between this character area and the intermediate sloping area is very sinuous, and due to the relative steepness of the intermediate sloping land as it rises to the plateau areas, the transition is less clear.</p>	
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