

## Land use mapping ('Map 2' series) and historic landscape character

### Introduction

In the development of local plans there is an expectation that landscape assessments should be integrated with assessment of historic landscape character (National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 170). For the St Agnes parish LLCA assessment, Map 2 for each ward helps with this process.

The purpose of this appendix is to outline how the land use / land cover mapping allows us to describe the historic landscape character of the parish.

#### *Historic landscape character*

The land use mapping ('Map 2') complements the landform mapping ('Map 1') for each of the wards. In particular it shows current land use and land cover, such as farmland, heathland and woodland. At the same time it can serve as a map of historic landscape character. The modern, present-day landscape is also an historic landscape – it looks the way it does because of the decisions and actions of people over hundreds or even thousands of years. To help understand it, we can divide up the landscape into different 'historic landscape character types' according to the different historic processes that have made them the way they are. The various land use or land cover types shown on this mapping can also be regarded as 'historic landscape character types', in that their character today reflects their history.

### How the Map 2 land use mapping relates to the Cornwall-wide mapping of historic landscape character types

This mapping complements and develops the Cornwall-wide historic landscape character mapping.

The land use types in the Map 2 series are broadly similar to, and have been informed by, the historic landscape character types developed for Cornwall in the 1994 Cornwall Landscape Assessment, reviewed in a 2007 assessment, and shown on the Cornwall Council mapping website: <https://map.cornwall.gov.uk/website/ccmap/?zoomlevel=4&xcoord=170892&ycoord=48507&wsName=ccmap&layerName=Historic%20Landscape%20Characterisation>

The notes below give an outline of the historic dimension for each of the land use types, and also indicate how they relate to the historic landscape character (HLC) types used in the Cornwall-wide assessment.

While the mapping of most of the land use / land cover types is largely self-explanatory, and is mostly derived from the detail on current Ordnance Survey mapping and vertical aerial photography, the mapping of farmland has involved a further level of historical interpretation. Rather than just showing 'farmland', the mapping has distinguished between three main historic types:

- Farmland enclosure – medieval
- Farmland enclosure – miners' smallholdings
- Farmland enclosure – post-medieval, later enclosure up to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century

In the Cornwall-wide HLC mapping the last two types are covered by a single HLC type, 'Farmland: Post-medieval'. In this respect the St Agnes assessment expands on the Cornwall assessment. Of particular importance is the identification of the predominant areas of miners' smallholdings, as these contribute to the significance of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and its setting.

Users of the mapping should be aware that it is at a level of detail suitable for an overview of the parish, and so further review may be needed when considering the character of specific locations.

### Further information

Further information of the historic landscape character of the parish is available on the LLCA resource web pages:

- Historic environment summaries for each of the wards give an overview of designated sites, historic landscape character, and other heritage features.
- Historic environment presentation May 2016, gives an illustrated introduction to the historic landscape character of the parish.

## Land use / land cover types

### Farmland enclosure – medieval

#### Historical development

Farmland and settlement patterns of medieval origin (ie, c 1066 or earlier to c 1500) – the core areas of ancient farmland in the parish. Identified from field patterns (on modern and historic maps) and association with settlements recorded in medieval documents. (*Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Historic Landscape Character Type: **Farmland: Medieval***)

#### Description / key characteristics

In some cases the fields still have clear traces of the pattern of medieval strip fields (eg Stencoose and Mawla), but mostly in the parish the earlier pattern is less clear because of removal of field boundaries and continuing development of the field patterns. In some cases little survives of the older layout.

Fields are mostly medium sized or larger and tend to have slightly sinuous rather than straight boundaries, which are generally Cornish hedges or earth banks with managed hedgerows. A high proportion of the fields are in arable production. There are mostly fewer settlements this landscape type, but they include long-established farms and hamlets. Lanes connecting the farms are likely to be ancient, of medieval origin.

There is high potential in these areas for the survival of below-ground archaeology, as prehistoric and Roman-period settlements and fields tended to be in the same location as the medieval fields.

### Farmland enclosure – miners' smallholdings

#### Historical development

Mostly established from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, as holdings comprising a few acres and a homestead carved out of areas of former heathland (or in some cases resulting from more intensive use and subdivision of medieval farmland). Identified from the 1841 tithe map, late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Ordnance Survey mapping and modern mapping. (*Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Historic Landscape Character Type: a sub-type of **Farmland: Post-medieval***)

#### Description / key characteristics

Characterised by small to medium-sized, roughly rectangular fields and a scattering of farmsteads and farm buildings, with numerous interconnecting trackways. This in many cases makes for quite an enclosed or intimate-feeling landscape, which is sometimes accentuated by the wooded character of the hedgerows (shown as **tree-lined hedgerows** on the land cover mapping). There are often also roadside cottages, individually and in rows or small terraces. There is often evidence of past industrial activity such as mine workings, shafts and spoil heaps. In some areas the origins of the enclosures as miners' smallholdings are less clear, where boundaries have been removed and

holdings amalgamated. Miners' smallholdings are an important component of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and its setting.

## **Farmland enclosure – post-medieval, later enclosure up to late 19<sup>th</sup> century**

### **Historical development**

These areas were mostly enclosed from former heathland in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the enclosures involved creation of new, large farms (eg Tywarnhayle Farm), and others took in smaller pockets of heathland in and around areas of miners' smallholdings. They have been mapped by comparing heathland areas on the 1841 tithe map with the situation on Ordnance Survey maps at the end of the century. (*Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Historic Landscape Character Type: a sub-type of **Farmland: Post-medieval***)

### **Description / key characteristics**

Typically large rectangular straight-sided fields, often in open, exposed locations with extensive views. Generally little settlement in these areas, though sometimes associated with late 19<sup>th</sup>-century farms. Field boundaries are generally Cornish hedges, often with low, wind-sculpted hedgerows, and occasionally with patches of heather. Bronze Age barrows are found in some of these elevated locations.

## **Industrial heritage – areas**

### **Historical development**

Remains of former industrial activity, particularly from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, mostly from tin and copper mining but may also include stone quarries and clay and sand pits. Industrial heritage has only been included on the land cover mapping where it is thought to be the predominating landscape characteristic. Most industrial heritage features and areas are not shown on this mapping. (*Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Historic Landscape Character Type: **Industrial: Disused***)

### **Description / key characteristics**

Areas where industrial heritage is a major characteristic of the landscape, affecting present-day land use or land cover. Includes mine workings, spoil heaps, pits and shafts, mine buildings including engine houses. An important component of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and its setting. Often regenerating with semi-natural heathland or woodland habitats.

## **Areas of industrial heritage and regenerating heathland**

As for 'Industrial heritage – individual features / areas', but where the predominant character is both heathland and industrial, as a result of the regeneration of heathland over the industrial remains. (*Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Historic Landscape Character Type: **Upland Rough Ground (relict industry)***)

## **Industrial activity – works, solar farm (SF), turbine (WT)**

Modern industrial activity, including solar farms, wind turbines, works such as Teagle.

(*Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Historic Landscape Character Type: **Industrial: Working***)

## Woodland – plantation and scrub

### Historical development

Partly because of the history of industrialisation, as well as the one-time predominance of heathland, there are hardly any ancient woodlands in the parish. Woodlands in the valleys are mostly secondary woodlands that have regenerated since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are also some 19<sup>th</sup> century plantation belts, particularly on the high ground around the B3277, and occasional small modern shelter belts of conifers, sometimes associated with clusters of development. (*Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Historic Landscape Character Types: **Plantations and Scrub**; and **Woodland (deciduous)***)

### Description / key characteristics

The secondary woodland in valleys mostly consists of native deciduous hardwoods and contributes significantly to the character of these areas. Industrial heritage features commonly survive in the woodland, and some more isolated mine workings are marked by regenerating woodland or scrub. Woodland around St Agnes village is an important part of the settlement's character. In some places, particularly in the miners' smallholdings, **tree-lined hedgerows** (also shown on the land cover mapping) give the impression of wooded areas.

The small mature 19<sup>th</sup>-century plantations around the B3277 are familiar local landmarks.

The general lack of woodland is a historical characteristic of the parish.

## Heathland

### Historical development

In prehistory and in the medieval period much of the parish was covered with heathlands, used for rough grazing and for fuel. Enclosure mostly in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries has reduced this to the areas that survive today. (*Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Historic Landscape Character Type: **Coastal Rough Ground; Upland Rough Ground; Upland Rough Ground (relict industry)***)

### Description / key characteristics

Sweeping heathland on and around the coast and on the Beacon gives a flavour of the ancient heathland landscape of the parish. As well as preserving the character of historic patterns of land use, the heathland contains many areas of significant heritage features including prehistoric sites, mine sites and WWII remains. Occasional small patches of heathland and scrub survive away from the coastal areas, usually regenerating on former mining areas.

## Military

### Historical development

Only one area has been mapped as 'Military' – the former RAF Perranporth, now Perranporth Airfield. (In terms of its current character, 'Airfield' rather than 'Military' might be equally appropriate.) Other significant WWII remains in the parish are not shown on the mapping as they are not predominant landscape features. (*Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Historic Landscape Character Type: **Military***)

### Description / key characteristics

Historic features at RAF Perranporth / Perranporth Airfield include runways and perimeter tracks, blast pens, Battle HQ and other buildings and platforms. Wide open spaces and extensive views are part of the character of this area. South of the airfield some associated structures survive in smallholdings.

Remains elsewhere in the parish include the WWII radar station on the Beacon, traces of the light anti-aircraft gun training camp on St Agnes head, and a roadway in Chapel Combe.

## Leisure facilities (caravan sites, riding schools etc)

A scatter of modern facilities across the parish, generally on a small scale. (*Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Historic Landscape Character Type: **Recreational***)

## Settlements

The main built-up areas have been shown on the land cover maps as unshaded areas edged in red (not indicated on the map keys); these are the principal villages of Blackwater, Mount Hawke, Porthtowan and St Agnes (including Trevaunance, Wheal Kitty, Goonown and Goonbell). Some of the smaller built-up areas are shown shaded in blue, including the village of Mithian and the hamlets of Menagissey, Mawla and Wheal Rose. (Note: An area shown between Wheal Rose and the A30 is partly settlement, partly commercial/industrial activity). (*Cornwall Landscape Assessment, Historic Landscape Character Types: **Settlement: 20C**; and **Settlement: older core (pre-1907)***)

Blackwater, Mount Hawke and St Agnes have their origins as mining settlements, with 18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup>-century cores (including houses, miners' cottages, chapels and other public buildings) surrounded by or infilled with modern housing developments. The historic mining settlements are an important component of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and its setting.

Mithian and Mongoose (both conservation areas) retain their character as rural villages or hamlets, with little modern development.

Porthtowan's dispersed blocks of settlement are predominantly modern housing, but with a scatter of older buildings and historic fabric adding significantly to local character. The coastal setting, surrounding heathland valleys, and industrial heritage are key aspects of Porthtowan's character.

Smaller settlements – smaller or less well-defined hamlets, scattered cottages etc – are incorporated within the various land use types within which they fall.

The Landform mapping also shows settlements, distinguishing villages, hamlets and farmsteads.

## Other landscape features

Within the main land cover types, some individual landscape features have also been noted: (This mapping is more indicative than definitive.)

- Tree-lined hedgerow
- Landscape and heritage features – church spires, chapels, barrows, WWII artefacts (black circles). (Not included on the Mithian and St Agnes maps)
- Industrial heritage – individual features. (Only shown in a few cases.)
- Farms (purple circles) (named farms). Includes farms of medieval origin, some miners' smallholdings which continue as farms, and other 19<sup>th</sup>-century and later farms.

## **Note: some adjustments to the Map 2 mapping**

While Map 2 provides a good overview of the historic landscape character of the parish, there are a few cases where the need for some fine tuning has been identified. These changes will be included in any revisions to the mapping, for example if a digital version is produced.

### **Mithian ward**

- A large block of '19<sup>th</sup> century farmland' shown south of Trevellas Manor Farm should all be 'medieval farmland'.
- South of Mithian the 'medieval farmland' should extend to include the first two small blocks of 19<sup>th</sup> century farmland to the south.

### **Mount Hawke ward**

There are several small areas which should be mapped as **miners' smallholdings**:

- Two small areas east of Stencoose shown as medieval farmland, but also cross-hatched like miners' smallholdings.
- Likewise a block north east of Stencoose, shown dark green and cross-hatched.
- Two patches west of Mount Hawke, shown dark green.
- A small patch on the north-east edge of Mount Hawke (south of a tree-lined hedgerow).

North of the Gover solar farm, 3 fields shown as medieval farmland should be later 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure.

Wheal Rose and the strip along the old A30, all shown as a hamlet (blue). The eastern part would be better shown as 'industrial activity'.

### **Porthtowan ward**

At Towan, the north-westernmost part of the medieval farmland should be 'Farmland enclosure – 20<sup>th</sup> century'.

### **St Agnes ward**

- A block south east of Mongoose shown as dark green and cross-hatched should be shown as miners' smallholdings.
- A small area north west of Bolster shown dark green and cross-hatched should be just dark green (Farmland – medieval).
- The Bolster bank is shown purple ('industrial'). 'Tree-lined hedgerow' would be more appropriate.