



**NEIGHBOURHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN**



*For The Parish Of Portreath*

**LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

CONSULTATION VERSION

5 SEPTEMBER 2019



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# 1 Background to the assessment

## 1.1 Creating the Portreath Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLCA)

Portreath Parish Council realises the importance of retaining and enhancing landscape character to protect the local distinctiveness of the area. In drafting the Portreath Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), the Environment Group were aware of the increasing pressure for development and the difficulties of siting development in the most appropriate locations. It was realised that to be able to retain the distinctive local character whilst considering development, it would be vital to record the elements and features which come together to create the present landscape character of the Parish of Portreath, and its unique sense of place.

Picture of Place<sup>1</sup> has been used to help engage the community, raise awareness, invite creative input and inform the NDP process, particularly with children through work at Portreath School. The children had walked around the village in January 2019, led by an expert guide and volunteers to identify places important to them to sketch/photograph/talk about. Children were then asked to bring in their own photos, images or to draw themselves- to be inspired by. The photographs of old and new Portreath were collected and put on display in the School Hall together with other local artwork. The children then developed images of choice to be turned into printing block as part of the school - work for today. The Artwork has been collated and used in subsequent school sessions and used for NDP presentations. Children's Comments were gathered during the block printing and mono printing sessions. Audiotapes and photographs are compiled as part of the evidence base but comments of particular relevance to landscape matters featured highly. Similarly, residents of Harbour House Residential Home were consulted and opinions gathered to present a richer and balanced understanding of the neighbourhood over time.

A Portreath Parish Residents Survey was conducted in March 2019 to inform the NDP as to community views with an extremely high return rate of response. The top 5 descriptions of Portreath Parish were given as the beach, landscape, heritage and natural beauty, with

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<sup>1</sup> *Underpinning the policies that emerge in the Portreath Neighbourhood Plan, is an understanding of the Parish as a unique **Place** and how people feel about the environment they live in - what aspects are held dear, what things we might like to see change - to better inform any future development. Too often Planning Policy emerges from dry, functional analysis that fails to grasp the dislocation people can feel when they see the place they know and love changing around them. To make future policy meaningful, we explore as part of our evidence base Peoples' **Picture of the Place**, both rational and emotional to inform a richer collective understanding of what really matters.*

concerns expressed regarding change of character and the need for sustainable development. 99% of returns indicated strong belief in protecting and enhancing the natural beauty and landscape of Portreath. Furthermore, the essence of Portreath was further exemplified by the beautiful views, the cliffs, beach, harbour, iconic landmarks and mining heritage. Finally, 5 of the top 8 categories of value afforded to Portreath were the beach (87%), coastal footpath and walking (58%), natural beauty (36%), surrounding woodland (36%) and green spaces (28%). In recognition of the importance placed by the community on landscape and setting, the decision to undertake an LLCA was reinforced.

The Portreath Parish NDP Steering Group agreed that an LLCA would form part of the evidence base for the NDP, and the Environment Group was tasked with overseeing this work. The Environment Group contacted Kath Statham, Landscape Architect from Cornwall Council's Public Open Space Team to provide training on how to undertake a Local Landscape Character Assessment. Kath conducted a training session in April 2019 for a group of 14 volunteers from the Environment Group and interested members of the Parish, to provide training on how to conduct a LLCA. She also explained how LLCA could provide the evidence to underpin the policies within their Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). [L]  
[SEP]



Figure 1: LLCA Training Workshop - Portreath, April 2019

## 1.2 Purpose of LLCA

The purpose of a Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLCA) is to provide a robust evidence base, describing the character of the landscape in the Portreath Parish. This assessment can also be of use in:

- defining the elements of character which give Portreath its sense [L]  
[SEP] of place and local distinctiveness [L]  
[SEP]
- informing decisions regarding the environmental suitability of new [L]  
[SEP] development in the Parish [L]  
[SEP]

- celebrating what is important about the local landscape [SEP]
- identifying future development pressures [SEP]
- enable positive planning, objectively guiding the right development in [SEP]the right place
- contributing to the evidence base to support policy within the [SEP]Neighbourhood Development Plan [SEP]
- helping to set priorities for future land management [SEP]
- identifying features and issues of key importance to local people [SEP]

### 1.3 Public engagement in the LLCA process

A Neighbourhood Development Plan is prepared by the local community, and for this reason it was important to involve members of the Portreath Parish in the preparation of the LLCA. The NDP Steering Committee and the Environment Group will review and add local detail to the draft document. [SEP]It is intended that this report will provide a comprehensive assessment of the Portreath Parish NDP area landscape undertaken by Parish residents, which will assist in decisions on future development based on a thorough understanding of the character of the landscape.

In addition to the Parish-wide survey, a series of Public Consultation events have been undertaken most notably the World Café event on 15 June 2019. The attendees were asked to provide information on areas and features that they valued most in the Portreath landscape, by posting coloured spots onto a map showing important:

- Recreational value
- Historical interest
- Natural and Wildlife interest
- Key viewpoints

In addition, the event provided an opportunity to discuss environmental concerns and aspirations, including landscape in its broadest sense. The map responses and the results of the World Café exercise are being presented in a Complexity Mapping format. These informed the LLCA 'Pressures for Change and Land Management & Development considerations.

It is intended that the draft LLCA will be shared with the community in Oct/Nov 2019, to encourage comment and acceptance before finalizing. It is intended that a Village Character Assessment (VCA) will be undertaken in 2019. This will also form part of the

evidence base to the Portreath Parish NDP and a separate report will be prepared in due course.

The LLCA divides the Parish into 7 Landscape Types as shown in Figure 2 (a larger version can be found [Appendix 1](#) the detail of the elements and features which come together to make up the distinctive character of each landscape type are recorded with photographs in [Appendix 2](#).

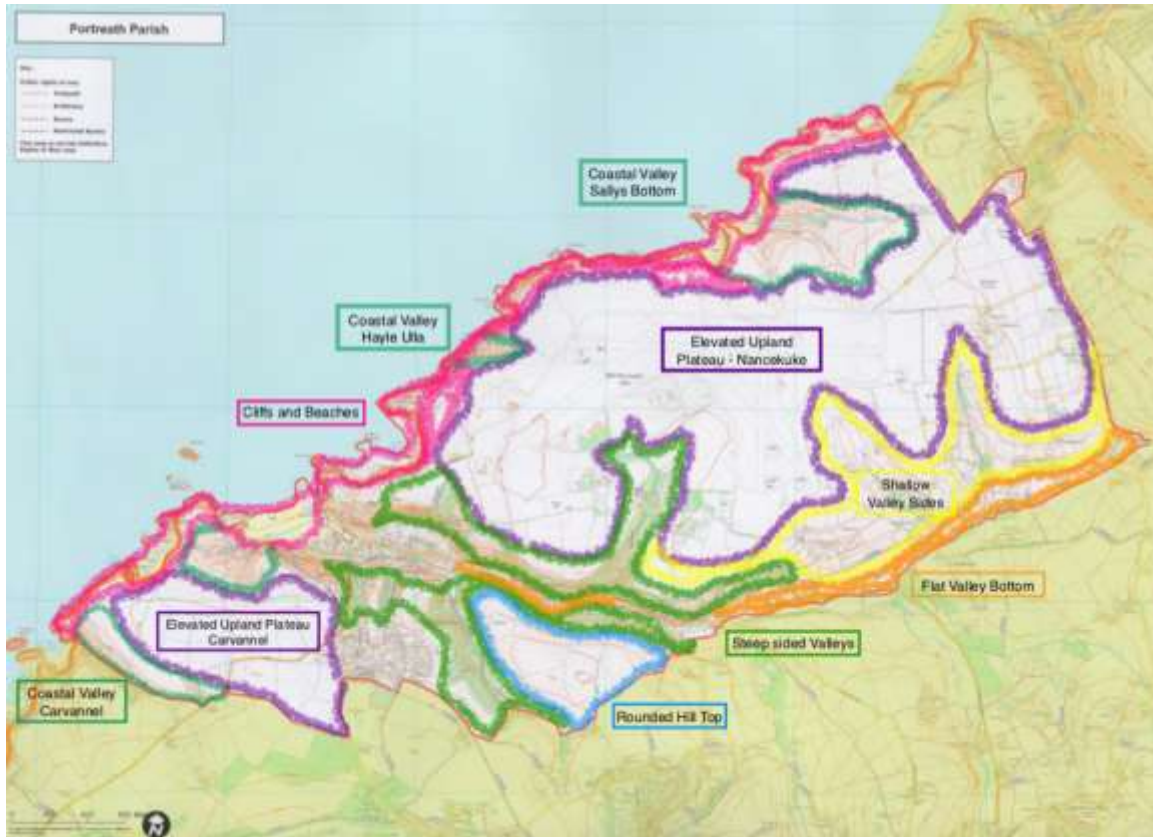


Figure 2: Landscape Type Areas – Portreath Parish

#### 1.4 What is landscape character assessment?

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

- economic value - often becoming a central factor in attracting <sup>(SEP)</sup> business and tourism,

- social and community value as an important part of people's lives, contributing to our sense of identity and well-being, and bringing enjoyment and inspiration
- environmental value as a home for wildlife and a cultural record of society's use of the land. Through landscape character assessment we can gain an understanding of what elements of the character are important and have value, to help in the decision making process.

The European Landscape Convention<sup>2</sup> defines landscape as "...an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and / or human factors" and is clear that all landscapes matter, not just those covered by designation.

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

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

There are many elements, which come together to give us the landscape we see and appreciate, illustrated by Figure 3. The landscape's physical geology and hydrology affect the soils, which are also influenced by climate, land cover and flora and fauna. The landscape is not static. Our human influence over time through land use, enclosure, cultivation and development make distinct patterns, which vary across Cornwall. As well as the physical elements, how we perceive the landscape is an important element of character. Our memories, senses and associations are all personal to use and allow us to perceive the landscape individually. So the landscape is far more than just what we see.

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<sup>2</sup> Council of Europe (2000) *European Landscape Convention*, Florence, October 2000 2 Natural England (2014)





Figure 3: Landscape Wheel (Source: Tudor, C. Natural England 2014)

### 1.5 Approach to Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) allows us to identify and describe variation in the character of the landscape, to explain unique combinations of elements and features which come together to create Portreath Parish's local distinctiveness and a sense of place.

LCA takes common headings such as topography, land cover, field pattern, historic features and describes the character of the area under these common headings. [SEP]

Prior to the preparation of this LLCA, only two levels of character assessment were used to describe the character of the Portreath Parish. At a National level, this was established in 2014, through Natural England's National Character Profile as Area 152 (Cornish Killas) and at the County level through the 2007 Cornwall Landscape Character Assessment. The Cornwall LCA 2007 provides detail of landscape character through 40 LCAs. Each of these is a geographically discrete area, which has a 'sense of place' and a distinct pattern of elements that makes one landscape considered to be different from another, each is accompanied by a detailed description of the character of the landscape. [SEP]

The Parish of Portreath is covered by two Landscape Character Areas namely CA11 – Redruth, Camborne and Gwennap, and CA28 - Reskeage Downs. However the detailed

description of the landscape character within these LCAs covers a larger area than the Parish of Portreath, and does not provide a sufficient level of detail to underpin policies relating to landscape character in a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). For this reason the Portreath NDP Steering Group wished to undertake a Local Landscape Character Assessment. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

## 1.6 Designated Areas

The western area of the Parish lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) recognised for its scenic quality. Further detail can be found in the Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2016 – 2021.

Much of the central and northeastern area of the Parish is designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). The western extremities of the Parish are also designated as Heritage Coast, and the coastal fringe is contained within the Godrevy Head to St Agnes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Much of the central and northern area of the Parish is covered by the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS) designation. Further detail can be found in the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape WHS 2013 – 2018,

Notwithstanding the importance attached by designating authorities of landscape value, An LLCA is needed to describe, in detail the special qualities of the landscape that are important to conserve and enhance at the local level, to retain the unique locally distinct sense of place. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) includes policies that require consideration of the character and special qualities of the area when making planning decisions. It requires great weight to be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks and AONBs, and to protect valued landscapes. It promotes use of LCAs and expects local plans to build on a strong environmental evidence base. Landscape is a strategic planning issue on which there is a duty for local planning authorities to cooperate. Neighbourhood Plans provide an ideal opportunity to identify, conserve and enhance landscape elements that contribute to local distinctiveness and sense of place. A Neighbourhood Plan should contain clear and logical connections between landscape evidence and related policies.

<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

This LLCA is an evidence base for community led planning. It provides a factual description of the landscape character of the parish (outside the settlements) explaining

the unique combinations of elements and features, which come together to create a sense of place and local distinctiveness. [L] [SEP]

## 1.7 Landscape Character Types

This LLCA divides the Portreath NDP area into 7 separate 'landscape types' each with its own distinct character. The boundaries of each of these landscape types have been initially determined by looking at changes in topography. The boundaries for the LCTs were more precisely defined after undertaking field inspections to assess land use and land cover more closely.

The 7 landscape types are shown in Figure 2 and [Appendix 1](#) as listed below:

- Elevated upland plateaus (shaded purple) [L] [SEP]
- Rounded hill top (shaded blue)
- Flat valley bottom (shaded orange)
- Shallow valley sides (shaded yellow)
- Coastal valleys (shaded dark green)
- Steep sided valleys (shaded mid-green)
- Cliffs and beach (shaded pink)

The landscape character of each of these 7 landscape types was gathered using field assessment records. Groups of volunteers<sup>3</sup> chose a landscape type, and went out to survey the areas. The photographs were taken at points of interest (See selection in [Appendix 2](#)). Once members of the NDP Environment Group had compiled the Draft Report, it was sent to Kath Statham, Landscape Architect, at Cornwall Council, for review and comment. [L] [SEP]

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

The landscape type descriptions record the local landscape character and also incorporate details relating to landscape, historic, and natural designations. [L] [SEP]

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<sup>3</sup> LLCA Volunteers: S Clasper, I Day, J M Eyre, P Gerrish, E Gerrish, K-M Jackson, A Krykant, R Lewis, B Mottram, H Mullin, B Terry, R Veranneman-Eyre & S Wilkinson

A visual assessment of the character has also been carried out and photographs are provided through the assessment and also within [Appendix 2](#). <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

The landscape type descriptions record factual detail only, not whether features and elements of the character are good or bad, appropriate or badly designed. This way the LLCA is an objective factual document. The detail of the more subjective aspects of the assessment, looking at what and where the local community value and feel is important in the Parish, comes through public consultation. During the World Café Day in June 2019, the community were asked to directly comment on what they valued about the Portreath Parish landscape, by adding comments and by placing coloured spots on a map of the Parish to describe what they valued under the following headings: <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

- Recreational value – where they love to spend their leisure time
- Historical interest - where there was an important historic feature, or place of cultural importance <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>
- Natural and wildlife interest - where there were important natural features, or important wildlife
- Good views - where they love to stand and admire the view Where they felt like they had ‘managed to get away from it all’

(A copy <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> of the map with the places of value marked and the responses made are included [Appendix 4](#))

## 2 The Local Landscape Character Assessment of Portreath Parish

### 2.1 Introduction

Earlier sections describe how this LLCA can create an evidence base, which will contribute to development of policies within the Portreath NDP. This Section provides the detail of the landscape character of each of the 7 landscape types. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

These landscape types’ are distinctly different areas of land, each having the same characteristics, which may occur in different areas of the Parish. By using changes in the local topography the following 7 Landscape Types have been identified, and shown in Figure 2 as:

- Elevated upland plateaus (shaded purple) <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>
- Rounded hill top(shaded blue)\
- Flat valley bottom (shaded orange)
- Shallow valley sides (shaded yellow)

- Coastal valleys (shaded dark green)
- Steep sided valleys (shaded mid-green)
- Cliffs and beach (shaded pink)

The field assessment sheets recorded details of character against headings, which are replicated from the broader Cornwall Landscape Character Assessment 2007. These headings are:

- Key Characteristics – what are the key elements and features of the landscape character type that makes it different from other areas? <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Topography and Drainage – what is the overall shape of the land and a description of any water present? <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Biodiversity – Elements of the landscape which could support protected species, their location and how they link together <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Land Cover and Land Use – What types of vegetation are found across the landscape type and what is the land used for? <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Field and Woodland Pattern – The location of trees and woodland, and whether they are designated. The scale of the field pattern, and type of field boundary. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Building distribution – Beyond the settlements, where are buildings located, and how do they relate to the landscape?
- Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way – the character of the road network, and public rights of way, footpaths, bridleways and byways. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Historic Features – Designated and non-designated features of historic importance in the Parish. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Distinctive Features – Elements and features both man-made and natural which are distinctive. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Aesthetic and Sensory – The human experience of being within the landscape type, sight, sound, smell, seasonal change. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Condition – The state and appearance of characteristics of the landscape, as well as an overall assessment. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Relationship to the adjacent land parcel – How each landscape type relates to the next landscape type, whether there is a distinct change or more of a transition from one to the next. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Views – Key vantage points where the public's attention is focussed in one direction, important vistas, and important visual links between landscape features, such as church spires, burial mounds. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character – what future development could potentially have an adverse impact on the character of the landscape. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

- Landscape Management and Development Considerations – Are there beneficial land management practices which need to be continued, or practices which could be altered to preserve or enhance the local landscape character? Consideration also with regard to positive planning for new development.

The detailed work undertaken by the volunteers created the factual elements of the landscape character description, but did not place a value on any single element of the landscape. People value the landscape for many different reasons, both personally and economically, and the LLCA needed to also describe what they felt was important and what they didn't want to lose in their landscape.

To understand what the Portreath Parish Community value about their landscape, the character type assessment work, and draft LLCA will be displayed at public consultation events. However an opportunity has already been given for people in the parish to directly comment on what they value about the landscape (See [Appendix 4](#)).

## **2.2 Landscape Type : Elevated Upland Plateau**

There are two areas described as Elevated Upland Plateau in Portreath Parish, namely:

1. Carvannel Downs – Comprising land at Carvannel Downs above the 78mOD contour, on the western edge of the parish The area lies between the coastal cliffs to the north-west, above the eastern side of the steep-sided Carvannel Downs Valley, bounded by the public footpath linking Carvannel Farm and Penpraze Cottages to the south, the Park Bottom to Tregea Hill road to the east and the steeper slopes of Tregea Hill and Western Hill to the north.
2. Nancekuke – Including Remote Radar Head (RRH) Portreath and Nancekuke Common above the 80m OD contour stretching from the centre to the eastern edge of the parish. It is bounded by Chapel Hill and the parish boundary with St Agnes Parish to the East, the steeper sided coastal fringe to the north west, the steeper slopes of Portreath Main Valley and Tolticken Hill to the south and the shallower gradient slopes to Cambrose to the south east.



Figure 4: Carvannel Downs looking N towards Portreath



Figure 5: Nancekuke looking towards West Wheal Towan



### 2.2.1 Key Characteristics

- Exposed, open and uncluttered.
- Frequent 360° views and general unspoilt natural beauty combined with an active agricultural landscape within and outside of RRH Portreath fenced enclosure.
- RRH Portreath infrastructure and disused airfield provides hard landscape
- Features of significant height such as radio masts and radar dome stand out disproportionately in a relatively flat landscape.
- Sense of space: big sky, orange glow at night.
- Naturally beautiful landscape open to the sea in the west, with predominately agricultural use.
- The airfield gives the impression of not merely being disused, but abandoned, derelict and purposeless in this landscape.
- Sense of space and nature
- Absence of woodland
- Farmsteads and historic features add character.
- Forms part of Portreath AGLV.
- Peaceful and quiet.

### 2.2.2 Topography and Drainage

The topography presents as an elevated and gently undulating coastal land plateau, which is a part of the same type from Godrevy to Porthtowan. At Portreath (as at Godrevy and Porthtowan and beyond) this is interrupted by the main valley and beach, hence the distinction between the two Areas 1 and 2 described above. Both areas present as typically flat or very shallow undulating topography, adjacent to the coast, lying above approximately 80m OD contour.

Flowing water does not appear to be present on the plateau but springs emerge at the peripheries into the gentle and steeper slopes and the cliffs. In Area 1, at the head of Tolticken Hill springs issue at 77m OD, which feed into a small reservoir before flowing down the hill in a stream channel. Other springs are noted at the head of the Hayle Ulla and Sallys Bottom coastal valleys at 74m OD. Springs and Issues are also found at South View farm and below Green Acres, where the water flows southwards to join the main stream at Cambrose. In Area 2 at Carvannel Farm in the west, a collection of springs, at 74m OD, feed into the stream leading down Carvannel Valley into Rekadjack Cove on the North Cliffs.



### 2.2.3 Biodiversity

Area 1 – Nancekuke contains arable or improved grassland, although much broken in continuity into smaller fields, between the old runway and concrete/tarmac/steel infrastructure of RRH Portreath. There are isolated areas of possibly Unimproved Grassland within the RRH Portreath Radio Mast enclosures and small fields to the south of the main RRH enclosure. Braken and scrub mosaic together with broad-leaved woodland abuts the south-western fringe of the area in the main Portreath and Tolticken valleys. A small area of scattered scrub on Improved Grassland can be found at the head of the valley leading to Sallys Bottom from RRH Portreath old northern runway perimeter road. A number of Cornish hedges on Nancekuke Common and surrounding fields adjacent to Tolticken Hill are included in the ERCCIS Mapping Hedges Project. Cornish hedges are likely to support protected species and provide corridors of movement/habitat continuity. Lowland heathland is a priority habitat in England which can be found in the east of the elevated upland of the Nancekuke area extending inland from the heath found on the cliffs and coastal valleys.

The field margins adjacent to boundary hedges have a similar potential. Unimproved grassland areas also offer such opportunities. The minor roads mostly have verges of similar nature and fields likewise. Wide road verges further contribute to semi-natural habitat connectivity.

Small copses and the few larger plantations of trees, although not extensive within this character type could also provide support for protected species.

Japanese Knotweed was observed at Nancekuke on private property. There may well be other locations with this and other invasive species present.



**Figure 6: Heathland and fields at north-east end of Nancekuke Plateau**

Area 2 – Carvannel Downs is also predominantly arable or improved grassland. A great many Cornish hedges are present, mostly overgrown with a variety of either wild or planted vegetation, blackthorn, holly, elder, gorse, ivy and such like. Grasses and wild flowers and plants also flourish. These hedges are recognized for their biodiversity and are included in the ERCCIS Mapping Hedges Project. Although there will be reduced biodiversity value in the arable fields, the ancient hedge boundaries will be rich in a variety of species supporting valuable habitat for many kinds of wildlife. The majority of the area north of B3301 is owned by The National Trust and is managed for conservation purposes. Lowland heath can also be found extending inland from the heathland found on the cliff and Carvannel valley.

#### **2.2.4 Land Cover and Land Use**

The Agricultural Land Classification in both areas is Grade 3 – Good to Moderate.

Area 1 – Nancekuke. The land cover is arable and improved grassland, fringed by broadleaved woodland, scrub, unimproved grassland, dry heathland, coastal grassland, with scattered bracken and scrub, according to ERCCIS Landcover habitat types 2005. The area is dominated by the RRH Portreath an air defence radar station operated by the Royal Air Force and an associated but disused Airfield. Large areas are covered in concrete/tarmac runways. Other areas appear to be fine tilled brown material (with no vegetation at the time of assessment) and put to agricultural use. The remainder outside

of the airfield is predominately farmland crops either for vegetables or livestock grazing. There are few trees across the area except small plantation extensions on to the plateau from the wooded parts of Tolticken Valley. All of the agricultural land within RRH Portreath is included in either the Natural England Entry level Stewardship, or the Countryside Stewardship scheme.

The northern and western parts of Area 1 – Nancekuke are within the Portreath AGLV, which recognises the wild and spectacular nature of the coastal cliffs and the Portreath valley woodlands. Throughout this area the Agricultural Land Classification is Grade 3 – Good to Moderate. Fields are arable or improved grassland, fringed by dry heathland, coastal grasslands and bracken. Area 1 contains with a Soilscape type 6 - freely draining slightly acid loamy low carbon soils associated with neutral and acid pastures. Some isolated farm buildings are present. The majority of the area falls within the Entry Level stewardship scheme, with a portion being included in the Countryside Stewardship at Factory Farm. There are a small number of isolated farm/residential buildings and others such as the new build residential properties on the periphery to the east at Chapel Meadow. The Porthtowan Tourist Caravan Park is similarly located adjacent to the Portreath to Porthtowan road on Chapel Hill.

Area 2- Carvannel Downs falls within the Cornwall AONB - Godrevy to Portreath Section 6 and the Cornwall Heritage Coast. ERCCIS Landcover habitat 2005 indicates either arable or improved grasslands within the fields, fringed by dry heathland, coastal grassland, scrub and broad-leaved woodland at the coast and in the slopes of Carvannel Valley to the south west, with bracken at the contact with Amy's Side Valley to the north. The eastern half of Area 2, contains a Soilscape type 6 - freely draining slightly acid loamy low carbon soils associated with neutral and acid pastures. The western half of Carvannel Downs, closer to the cliffs is Soilscape type 13 – freely draining acid loamy soils over rock having medium carbon content with acid upland pasture of grassland and rough grazing. The area contains Carvannel Farm and there are a number of residential properties close to the periphery. There are few trees and no plantations in the area. The north and western parts of the area are included in the Higher Level Stewardship scheme with the remainder in the Countryside Stewardship scheme, and the Entry Level scheme.

### **2.2.5 Field and Woodland Pattern**

There is no woodland present on either Area. There is relatively limited tree cover due to exposure and vegetation being stunted and sculptured by wind effect. Some trees are present around farm and residential buildings. Fields are mostly medium (2 to 4ha) with some large size (6 to 10ha). There is no obvious evidence of hedges being removed. The hedges are mainly Cornish stone but there are some hedgerows and earth banks. Stone

is local 'killas' and granite gateposts are frequent features. The Cornish Stone hedges are overgrown but do not appear heavily managed. A great deal of vegetation is left on them after cutting. The hedges and hedgerows often appear sculpted by exposure, with vegetation leaning in the prevailing wind direction and stonework more visible on one side than the other. Original granite gate posts are common, now with galvanised steel fittings and gates replacing the original timber and iron items.

Historically the fields in Area 1 – Nancekuke are Post-medieval Enclosed Land, which was enclosed, in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, usually from land that was previously Upland Rough Ground and other medieval commons, generally in relatively high, exposed or poorly drained parts of the county. It should be noted that much of the plateau area of Nancekuke does not have any field boundaries and is completely open

The central and eastern parts of Area 2 – Carvannel Downs fields are historically Medieval with farming settlements documented before the 17<sup>th</sup> century and whose field patterns are morphologically distinct from the generally straight-sided fields of later enclosure. The western rim is Post-medieval Land.

### **2.2.6 Building distribution**

Area 1 – Nancekuke. Outside of RRH Portreath, properties are generally scattered and limited in extent in this character type with buildings mostly confined to the periphery of the areas described and are few in number. Approximately six farmhouses of traditional stone construction with associated outbuildings of metal/concrete/other materials. There are one or two abandoned/derelict remains of farm outbuildings in fields.

Buildings vary in age and style from cottages to more modern dwellings and farm clusters within Nancekuke hamlet in the open landscape setting. Ages range from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> century. In older properties, local stone predominates with slate roofs and sash windows being a common feature.

Most of the residential buildings are of new or recent construction, usually white render or similar with slate roof and of modest size. Mostly terraced or semi detached with small gardens and parking spaces. There are two or three detached houses of more substantial size with larger gardens, again usually rendered white with maybe some stone facing and a slate roof, probably constructed in the 1970's. Property boundary treatment is usually very similar in appearance to that of the adjacent fields but often maintained at a smaller scale.

On the airfield there are some industrial type buildings of either metal or concrete construction together with various abandoned and derelict concrete structures of unknown purpose, all surrounded with 3m high concrete post, mesh and barbed wire fencing with warning signs.

Area 2 – Carvannel Downs. Carvannel Farm lies adjacent to the southern boundary of the site. Treglea Manor is located south of the B3301 at the top of Treglea Hill.

### **2.2.7 Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way**

On Area 1, Chapel Hill (Unclassified road), from Cambrose to Porthtowan, bounds the area described on the east for approximately 600m. Although relatively flat as it passes this point at the top of 'Mile Hill'/Chapel Hill, there is a long gradient up from Cambrose and then a steep decline down to Porthtowan. There are a wide variety of different walls, pavements, frontages and entrances along this road. Forthvean Road (Unclassified) rises from Chapel Hill in Porthtowan and travels west across the described area until it meets the fence to the airfield. This road is very flat and level, bounded by quite low, overgrown Cornish stone hedges, perhaps earth banks. At this point it turns back to the east as an unnamed road to meet Chapel Hill at a point further towards Cambrose. This section has slight gradients and is bounded by Cornish Stone hedges with overgrowth up to 2m high. Midway along this road is a junction with a turning to the south which meets Chapel Hill near Cambrose. This is of the same character as the other roads but with a gradient down to Cambrose. Farm tracks provide field access from Nancekuke Farm and Sunnyside Farm to the fields. There are no public rights of way crossing the Plateau or on to RRH Portreath land, with the nearest footpath being the upper stretch of footpath 223005 (New Walk) from Portreath harbour to the top of Lighthouse Hill which crosses the extreme western edge of the Area. 223002 South West Coastal Footpath follows the coast close to the northern boundary of the site. Footpath 318026 forms part of the Parish boundary to the north east, and follows the RRH Portreath fenceline to join Forthvean Road near Factory Farm.

On Area 2, the B3301 from Portreath to Hayle bisects the area described for approximately 700m. The road follows the old field boundaries. Although slightly winding, it is relatively flat at this point after a steep rise up Treglea Hill, from Portreath village, and continues flat for another 3Km towards Hayle. There are no pavements, but the South West Coast Path runs parallel a short distance away. The road is mostly lined on both sides with overgrown Cornish Hedge walls and verges up to 1m wide. Public Footpath<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>214004<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> Going east across the fields from Cot road near Penpraze Cottages to a corner of the B3301 near Carvannel Farm is old but has adequate signposts. There are several very derelict stone stiles across the Cornish Stone Hedges between the fields. The footpath is rough

underfoot with no evident maintenance nevertheless it is quite accessible. It does not appear to be used much, probably because it emerges at quite a hazardous point on Cot road with no pavement or verge and fast moving traffic. A section of the South West Coast Path.<sup>[SEP]</sup> lies to the far west of the area. It is heavily used and well signposted. The path is worn into rough ground by use with no obvious signs of maintenance apart from some barriers and warning signs of potential cliff collapse.

### 2.2.8 Historic Features

The airfield is the dominant element in Area 1 with few other visible historic features. The historic field pattern is recognized as a historic feature, as it has changed little since the 1875-1901 historic mapping. In addition, various sites and record points are noted as present within the area, on Heritage Gateway.

- Ref: MCO8266 Prehistoric - Iron Age/Romano British round forms an enclosure visible as a slight oval feature measuring about 50m by 60m and consisting of a slight scarp up to 0.4m in the west, and a soil mark in the east;
- Ref: MCO1030 Prehistoric – Mesolithic scatter and Neolithic cup, and marked stone finds;
- Ref: MCO3155 Prehistoric – Bronze Age barrow site, excavated and demolished during WWII;
- Ref: MCO44986 Prehistoric – Iron Age , Romano British round on Nancekuke Common;
- Ref: MCO21237 Medieval – Field system remains of extensive strip system at Nancekuke Farm;
- Ref: MCO33309 Medieval – Field system of low earth banks likely to form part of an enclosed open field system at Little Nancekuke;
- Ref: MCO39992 Post Medieval – Wheal Tye, a small 18<sup>th</sup> C copper mine;
- Ref: MCO12585 Post Medieval – Sterran and Tye Mine, part of Lushington Mine Group;
- Ref: MCO53011 Post Medieval – School built 1873 at Nancekuke Common;
- Ref: MCO26424 Post Medieval – Site of Thomas Davey’s Fuse Works (demolished) at Factory Farm;
- Ref: MCO33307 Post Medieval – Shaft near Gooden Heane Point;
- Ref: MCO33305 Modern - The RAF airfield at Nancekuke was opened in March 1941 as a forward airfield for bombing raids against French channel ports; later used as a chemical production site and then part of the Cold War defence. The airfield was officially reopened in 1980 as a radar station;
- Ref: MCO33308 Modern – Decoy Airfield. A representation of medieval field boundaries was used during WW2 to camouflage airfield runways;

- Ref: MCO56323-34 Modern – Air raid shelters. WWII air raid shelters at RAF Portreath airfield is visible on aerial photographs;
- Ref: MCO56243 – Modern – Two rows of WWII bomb stores, extant at the western edge of RRH Portreath;
- Ref: MCO55789 – Modern – Two parallel vegetation boundaries south east of Nancekuke Farm believed to be associated with a trunk main water supply;
- Ref: MCO33306 Modern – Two circular bomb craters between Lighthouse Hill and the west boundary fence of RRH Portreath;

Area 2 contains no obvious visible evidence of historic remains however the Heritage Gateway records interesting crop marks (MCO37508) and evidence of historic field systems (MCO33082) and demolished sites of WWII anti-aircraft batteries above Western Cove.

### 2.2.9 Condition

Apart from some elements of the perimeter and structures of the airfield, the appearance everywhere is of generally good condition and well maintained. An answer to the question of whether or not the airfield is viewed as a valued historical feature or a blot on the otherwise beautiful landscape is not attempted here!

Other buildings and roads are well managed.

### 2.2.10 Aesthetic and Sensory

Both Areas are generally, very calm and tranquil with low levels of occasional artificial noise. Bird song is a general feature, especially skylarks and similar, in addition to background seabird and buzzards calls.<sup>[1]</sup> The landscape feels quite windswept and exposed and elevated above the immediate surrounding slopes, valleys, cliffs and the sea. The landscape is mostly exposed, often windy, very open and uncluttered. Wind strength varies considerably with the seasons. The predominant wind direction is from the west/south west and both areas can often feel windswept and unsheltered, especially in winter. During spring and summer, different blossoms, wild flowers and production in the fields bring a spectacular seasonal contrast.<sup>[1]</sup>

Levels of light pollution are minimal over most of the area, however, lighting from the airfield and from Porthtowan, Portreath, Pool, and Redruth in cloudy conditions can cast the widespread 'orange glow' into the sky above.



### 2.2.11 Distinctive Features

In Area 1 – the most distinctive feature is the presence of RRH Portreath and the disused airfield with associated buildings and infrastructure, including masts and radar dome.

Area 2 is distinctive for its open field setting above the steeper slopes of Western Hill and Reskadjack Cove valley to the east and west respectively, with uninterrupted distant views along the coast and out to sea

### 2.2.12 Views

There are many panoramic, open and beautiful views available over the Cornish landscape and out to sea from different points in both areas. Fine examples are from the top of Carvannel Downs near to and on the South West Coast Path, looking over Portreath village, beach and harbour towards St. Agnes Head and beyond to Pentire Head in the east, and to the west, to Godrevy and St. Ives. At Nancekuke, wide views from Forthvean Road are available looking across to Carn Brea and Bassets Monument to the south, St. Agnes Head to the east, the sea and coastal landscape towards Portreath to the north.

### 2.2.13 Relationship to adjacent landscape character types

Being elevated, this Elevated Upland Plateau landscape will usually fall away to shallow slopes which in turn increase in gradient to steep sided valley. At part of Nancekuke, directly to steep sided valley to Sally's Bottom, and at the far west end of the North Cliffs area, abruptly to the cliffs and steeply into Carvannel Valley.

### 2.2.14 Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character

- Changes in agricultural practice and the traditional management and stewardship of farmland;
- Future potential change of use of RRH Portreath site;
- Increasing field sizes involving the removal of Cornish hedges
- Light pollution eroding the dark skies

### 2.2.15 Landscape Management and Development Considerations

- The nature of the high, open ground means the prominence of any development in this landscape will be significant. Detailed consideration will need to be given to the siting and design of any such development.



- On higher more exposed ground the vegetation will take longer to establish and reach a height to screen development. Large trees also may not be a characteristic of this more exposed Character Type. [L] [SEP]
- Tree planting is generally not in keeping with the character and history of this landscape type. [L] [SEP]
- Development proposals should respect the character and setting of heritage assets and landscape features [L] [SEP]
- Developments should protect local character by retaining traditional vernacular buildings and features, including farmsteads, farm buildings, cottages, outbuildings and walling. [L] [SEP]
- Alterations and extensions to dwellings should have appropriate regard to the character of the existing dwelling, in particular to ensure that the scale and design reflects the character of the original dwelling and its setting in the landscape. [L] [SEP]
- Ensure new features have appropriate regard to the local vernacular using locally occurring materials. [L] [SEP]
- Loss of traditional cottages, farmsteads and farm buildings to replacement dwellings should be exceptional, as these are heritage assets which [L] [SEP] contribute to the character of this type. Any replacements should be comparable in scale, mass and character to properties in the area and in keeping with the area's character.
- Replacement of isolated agricultural buildings with new dwellings is generally not appropriate in this landscape type
- Consider how cumulatively development (not necessarily of the same type) can have an increased impact competing with the characteristics of the landscape, and creating clutter.
- Consider how light pollution can be minimised, through appropriate design, in new development.

## 2.3 Landscape Type: Rounded Hill Tops

### 2.3.1 Key Characteristics

- Medium scale regular field pattern bounded by Cornish hedges supporting tree growth, which still provides broad views of the wider landscape. [L] [SEP]
- Rounded hill-top topography leading to steep wooded slopes on three sides.
- Surrounded by rich bio-diverse, semi-natural habitat. [L] [SEP]
- Presence of Iron Age defended settlement.
- Forms part of Portreath AGLV.
- Peaceful and quiet. [L] [SEP]

- Unspoilt and undeveloped.

SEP

### 2.3.2 Topography and Drainage

The landform, above 54m OD presents as a rounded hill top with shallow gradients falling to steep-sided valleys on three sides, with gentle slopes to the south-east ranging in height from 80m OD around Nance Farm down to 75m OD where the Hill Top joins the adjoining landscape of Steep Valley Sides.

Drainage runs from the fields on the hilltop to the north, east and west. Although there is no water present on the surface of the Hill Top, a pond has been formed in the shallow valley to the south, which in turn feeds the stream flowing through Illogan Woods



Figure 7: Looking into Rounded Hill Top from footpath across the Main Portreath Valley

### 2.3.3 Biodiversity

This area is predominantly arable or improved grassland. Vegetated hedges predominate, with some stone boundary walls dividing fields and wooded areas. These hedges are recognized for their biodiversity and are included in the ERCCIS Mapping Hedges Project. Although there will be reduced biodiversity value in the arable fields, the ancient hedge boundaries will be rich in a variety of species supporting valuable habitat for many kinds of wildlife. A significant amount of semi natural habitat of broad-leaved woodland can be

found surrounding the Iron Age defended settlement (Scheduled Monument), 550m east of Feadon Farm. Nance Wood SSSI (Natural England Ref. 1003206), comprising lowland, broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland, borders the north of the hilltop. The Portreath Valley County Wildlife Site (K12), comprising Illogan Woods forms the western boundary and forms a contiguous connection with the Nance Wood SSSI. Part of the County Wildlife Site contains ancient replanted woodland, with scrub mosaic on the edge of the Rounded Hill Top. (See Appendix 3).

There are a number of places where invasive species of laurel and rhododendron have been noted on the steeper wooded slopes leading up to the hilltop.

#### **2.3.4 Land Cover and Land Use**

The area of this landscape type is within the Portreath AGLV, which recognises the wild and spectacular nature of the coastal cliffs and the Portreath valley woodlands. The Agricultural Land Classification is Grade 3 – Good to Moderate with a Soilscape type 6 - freely draining slightly acid loamy low carbon soils associated with neutral and acid pastures and deciduous woodlands. The land cover is arable and improved grassland with a circular patch of woodland around the Iron Age settlement and woodland on the steeper slopes below.

This landscape type is within the Natural England Entry level Stewardship scheme.

#### **2.3.5 Field and Woodland Pattern**

The fields on the rounded hilltop are medium scale regular fields of Medieval Historic Character. Field boundaries are curved. The field pattern has few trees within the hedges some showing sculpting by the coastal exposure. Although, not surveyed, blackthorn, hawthorne, hazel and oak trees predominate in the hedges. The board-leaved, woodland belt surrounding the Iron Age settlement connects with the Nance Wood SSSI and ancient woodland comprising lowland, broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland, which flanks the northern rim of the hill top. The Portreath Valley County Wildlife Site containing ancient replanted woodland, with scrub mosaic forms the western boundary of the Rounded Hill Top and merges with the Nance Wood SSSI on its north-west boundary.

#### **2.3.6 Building distribution**

There are no buildings present on the Rounded Hill Top.

### 2.3.7 Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way

There are no roads crossing the Rounded Hill Top. A private farm track provides field access from Nance Farm to the fields. There are no public rights of way on the Hill Top, with the nearest footpath, from Illogan to Bridge, following the parish boundary to the east.

### 2.3.8 Historic Features

A Scheduled Ancient Monument comprising an Iron Age defended settlement, (Ref: MCO8264) situated on the upper north-facing slopes of a prominent ridge on the rounded hill top, at the end of a spur overlooking the valley which leads to Portreath. The settlement survives as a roughly oval area. It is defined by double, closely, concentric ramparts with ditches and possible annexure which are preserved differentially. The western side of the enclosure is best preserved with the ramparts clearly visible, whilst to the east the outer rampart and ditch are less clearly defined. Generally the outer rampart is up to 1.8m high and the inner rampart is up to 2.4m. The ditches are preserved as buried features.

Defended settlements are a rare monument type. They were an important element of the settlement pattern, particularly in the upland areas of Cornwall, and are integral to any study of the developing use of fortified settlements during this period. As such it is important to preserve the site, setting and landscape context and to retain the views to the sea and across the valleys in order to retain its sense of place. Other historic buildings, sites or monuments listed in Heritage Gateway are:

- Ref: MCO37450 Prehistoric – Oval ring ditch, 24m by 18m visible as cropmark west of the Iron Age settlement;
- Ref: MCO37447 Prehistoric – Two small rectilinear enclosures visible as crop marks south east of the Iron Age settlement;
- Ref: MCO37440 Prehistoric – Substantial enclosure complex visible as crop mark banks north east of Nance Farm;
- Ref: MCO37437 Early Medieval field system north west of Nance Farm;
- Ref: MCO37443 Post Medieval – Spoil heap above eastern edge of Nance Wood

### 2.3.9 Condition

The landscape is generally well managed farmland, with well managed hedge boundaries with varying degrees of vegetation cover and semi-natural woodland to the north, west and south of the boundary.

### 2.3.10 Aesthetic and Sensory

This is a very quiet, calm, undisturbed and tranquil area. Although the topography forms a rounded hill top, there is a difference in character to the north and south of the site. Despite its exposure the site is remote and distant from artificial noise. The trees within the woodland boundaries and in the field hedges provide shelter, creating an intimate enclosed landscape character. There is seasonal interest in the native trees and hedges with blossom and autumn colour and spring and summer flowers.

Low levels of light pollution at night are reduced further due to the presence of trees within the hedges.

### 2.3.11 Distinctive Features

The site of the Iron Age defended settlement and the surrounding ring of trees within a Medieval field pattern, are the distinctive features in the landscape.

### 2.3.12 Views

Long distance views from fields are partially restricted by high hedge vegetation and woodland at north- west and southern boundaries. There are open views to the west along Portreath main valley and out to sea, from the outer, western edge of the trees encircling the Iron Age defended settlement. To the southeast where the fields are larger, there are more open views across the Coastal Hinterland landscape type and out to Carn Brea.

### 2.3.13 Relationship to adjacent landscape character types

To the north, west and south the landscape character type transitions quickly to steep-sided valleys. The boundary between these two landscape types is distinctly marked on the ground by the abrupt change in gradient and the dense woodland growth. The land lying on the boundaries of this landscape type will be one of transition, exhibiting characteristics of the landscape types on either side.

To the southeast the topography gently slopes towards Illogan Churchtown in the Parish of Illogan. There is no distinct boundary to on the ground, but the transition is where the flatter land of the plateau falls to the southeast towards the Hinterland.

### 2.3.14 Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character

- Changes in agricultural practice and the traditional management and stewardship of <sup>[[L]]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> farmland
- Loss of interconnecting green corridors and semi natural habitat <sup>[[L]]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

- Increasing field sizes involving the removal of Cornish hedges [L] [SEP]
- Construction of large agricultural buildings [L] [SEP]
- Accumulation of modern structures including wind turbines, [L] [SEP] overhead cables, telecommunications masts and solar arrays [L] [SEP]
- Light pollution eroding the dark skies [L] [SEP]

### 2.3.15 Landscape Management and Development Considerations

- Locating development on this prominent skyline with its distinctive historical feature should be avoided.
- The land to the northwest is within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape WHS where the land use and land cover is of significant international importance. Reference needs to be made to the attributes of this designation when considering new development. [L] [SEP]
- The Rounded Hill Top lies within the Portreath AGLV (AGLV) reflecting the importance of this landscape. The primary purpose of AGLV designation is to conserve the natural beauty of the landscape. Any proposed change of land use or development in the area must abide by relevant AGLV policies and must not negatively affect landscape character or biodiversity.
- The nature of the Rounded Hill Top area means that the prominence of any development will be greater and that impacts on the natural beauty and character of the AGLV should be avoided. [L] [SEP]
- Building construction should have appropriate regard to the character of the landscape, in particular to ensure that the scale and design does not dominate or impose on the landscape, respects the character of the setting and the principles and guidance outlined in the NDP. [L] [SEP]
- Ensure any new features match the local vernacular using locally occurring materials.
- Retain the strong field pattern of Cornish hedges and the native vegetation they support and reflect the field sizes retaining and enhancing the field pattern. [L] [SEP]
- Development should avoid the significant areas of semi-natural habitat rich in wildlife species around Nance Wood SSSI and the Portreath Valley County Wildlife Site (Illogan Woods). There is the potential for further habitat enhancement to create greater links between these areas. Consideration needs to be given to suitable buffers to these important areas for new development.
- [L] [SEP] Consider how light and sound pollution can be minimised, through appropriate design, in new development. [L] [SEP]
- Control the spread or introduction of invasive species [L] [SEP]

## 2.4 Landscape Type: Flat Valley Bottom

### 2.4.1 Key Characteristics

- Main road following the stream
- Small to medium sized field enclosures
- Areas of scrub providing semi-natural habitats
- Cornish hedges and tree lined avenues
- Birdsong
- Low density, sporadic development, ranging from terraced, semi-detached houses, to bungalows and a log cabin.
- Development set back from the main road.
- Vegetation alongside the road is a key characteristic, ranging from deciduous trees, bamboo, conifers, pockets of woodland, Cornish hedges and residential planting.

### 2.4.2 Topography and Drainage

This character type presents as flat land, with a stream running E-W along the valley bottom on the S side of the road. The stream widens on entrance into Bridge hamlet, at which point it lies just outside of the Parish area at Bridge. At Cambrose a large pond is present in a private garden.

The topography varies along an even gradient from 50m OD down to sea level, from east to west respectively.





### 2.4.3 Biodiversity

Managed and unmanaged fields are present in the Parish, with areas of scrub also evident. A small area of knotweed was identified near the bridge on the Portreath to Porthtowan road junction. There are areas of conifer planting, notably on top of the Cornish hedge at the Cambrose campsite. There was also evidence of moles in this area. The stream (outside the Parish boundary near Cambrose and Bridge) is steep sided, and hence there is no wetland present. Scrubland and unmanaged fields to the west of Bridge Industrial Estate provide a semi-natural habitat. The pond at Cambrose will also add biodiversity value.

Grassland is present, adjacent to Portreath School, on the east edge of the village. The valley bottom is bounded by woodland on either side in this area, which encroaches onto the flat land. The road leaving Portreath towards Bridge is lined by mature Cornish hedge, with a variety of vegetation, supporting wildlife through habitat, shelter provision, and forage ground. Mature conifers are located on the south side of the B3300 intermittently, where Tolticken Hill meets the B3300 towards Bridge. Stands of bamboo were also identified behind coniferous areas between Tolticken Hill and Bridge. On the B3300 east of Bridge, the road is lined with mature deciduous trees, forming a tree tunnel over the road. There are also areas of semi-natural grassland, and wooded areas situated sporadically along the valley bottom. Some species noted in Flat Valley Bottom include Japanese knotweed, conifers and bamboo.

From Bridge hamlet to the east along the valley bottom, all of the hedges are included in the ERCCIS Mapping Hedges Project.

### 2.4.4 Land Cover and Land Use

The B3300 is closely bound by mature trees for the majority of the link road between Bridge and the edge of the Parish. Bridge Industrial Estate is present, with commercial/retail uses. It is mostly lined by Cornish hedge. At sites of ribbon development along the road, verges were identified. The residential development from Portreath to Bridge consists of detached bungalows on larger plots, and a terrace of semi-detached housing. At Cambrose there is a large campsite with managed grassland and large verges. To the southeast of the road in this area is a large residential garden with a pond and mature trees. There are isolated residential properties (with larger than the average curtilage) present near Tolticken Hill. A field to the north of the B3300 has demonstrated equine use. The school field on the east edge of built areas is managed lawn. A managed field can be seen behind the entrance sign to Bridge (west of the hamlet), which is bounded by the valley slope and mature trees. Any agricultural land in the valley bottom is predominantly Grade 3, and



Soilscape type 13 – freely draining acid loamy soils over rock, with grassland and rough grazing cover.

#### **2.4.5 Field and Woodland Pattern**

A few isolated fields were identified in the Portreath to Bridge section of the valley bottom (namely by the school, and on the western approach to Bridge. Beyond the terraced housing on Penberthy road, near Tolticken Hill, heading east, there is no hedging, and mature trees, forming a tree tunnel in some areas, line the road. Residential hedging has been established around the large bungalow plots.

No woodland was present in the Bridge-Cambrose section of the Parish. The identified fields are typically small to medium, with the largest being the well-managed campsite at Cambrose. The fields in this area are bounded by valley slopes, and in some cases have been subdivided with fencing. Cornish hedges also bound some fields. There is Cornish hedging, mostly on the north side of the road, which is well managed, at the entrance to Bridge Industrial Estate. There is also semi-natural grassland to the west of Bridge Industrial Estate, which is likely to have some ecological value. Farmland is historically post-medieval.

#### **2.4.6 Building distribution**

The main settlement within this landscape type is Portreath. Portreath village is the subject of a separate Village Character Assessment. Between Portreath and Bridge, buildings are scattered on the S side of the valley. The terrace of semi-detached housing (south of the road) looks to have been built in the 1930s. Bungalows at Tolticken hill (north of the road) are in large plots, with very large front gardens and residential hedging. A distinctive timber-clad building, and out building, were identified at the west end of the isolated terraced houses. In the valley bottom area from Bridge to Cambrose there are some isolated modern residential properties with large curtilages. The industrial estate houses a cluster of commercial/industrial buildings. They are large buildings, with windows fronting the main road. There is a smallholding to the south of the B3300 opposite the industrial estate.

#### **2.4.7 Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way**

The main road leading to Portreath from Redruth is a B class road, which is quite busy, with fast traffic. The road is generally fairly straight and flat, with some gentle bends between Cambrose and Portreath. No Public Rights of Way were identified in the valley bottom, but there is a pavement in front of the isolated terrace of houses. There is a stone bridge at the Porthtown/Cambrose road junction. There is also a footpath and cycle path (Mineral Tramway Cycle Path) from the bottom of Chapel Hill, leading to Portreath village (223004).

#### 2.4.8 Historic Features

There is a tramway milestone marker near to Cambrose, made of granite. No designated monuments, burial sites or churches were located in the valley bottom, outside of Portreath and Bridge. The Bridge Inn and Tregony House (Grade II listed) are not visible from the valley bottom. The Heritage Gateway also indicates Ref. MCO54264 Post medieval milestone to the south side of B3300 and east of Bridge. Any historic buildings, sites and monuments located in the settlements are expected to be itemised in the Village Character Assessment.

#### 2.4.9 Condition

Generally less well maintained fields in land parcels, apart from Cambrose Campsite. Ecological value could be increased at the campsite through improved species diversity to create a more diverse habitat. Residential planting was well maintained, and the isolated fields between Portreath and Bridge were well managed. Verges by houses were also well maintained.

#### 2.4.10 Aesthetic and Sensory

Road noise is dominating, with little noise other than the traffic and wind. At Cambrose, birdsong and tree creaking can be heard – the areas is more tranquil. Similarly, birdsong and stream flow can be heard at the Bungalows near Tolticken Hill. The stream flow was much louder on the western approach to Bridge .

#### 2.4.11 3 Distinctive Features

There are telegraph poles at various points in the valley bottom (first identified walking west to east at the terrace of housing). Between that terrace and Tolticken Hill, there is a distinctive tree tunnel over the road, caused by heavy coverage of mature trees (Conifers to the south and deciduous woodland to the north). Conifers were also identified on the residential hedging of the bungalows at Tolticken hill.

#### 2.4.12 Views

There is a view to a tree-lined horizon, walking from Portreath. The valley slope is also clearly visible from the western approach into Bridge at Tolticken hill. At the eastern edge of the Industrial estate, looking towards Portreath the valley slopes upwards. The tree tunnel over the road is also a key view. There is a windswept tree view to the southeast towards the edge of the parish boundary to the east. The tree is outside of the parish boundary, but this distinctive view is observed from within the parish area. At Cambrose, the view of mature conifers from the public bench is distinctive. There

is also an opportunity to view the downslope of the valley, and a pond within a residential garden, from the footpath.

#### **2.4.13 Relationship to adjacent landscape character types**

The valley bottom is difficult to differentiate from other Landscape Character Types (LCT), with the Shallow Valley sides merging almost imperceptibly into the valley bottom. The valley bottom is bound by a variety of shallow valley slopes, some more gradual than others, which could potentially cause overlap between two character types.

#### **2.4.14 Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character**

- Residential Development – changes to key views. Loss of vegetation and habitat. Householder alterations changing visual aspect of LCT.
- Surface runoff and flooding – changes to stream topography, riparian stability, ecosystem, and habitat changes.
- Road widening schemes – loss of habitat, increased traffic and noise, reduction of land available for development.
- Change of use of current residential dwellings – increased traffic and noise, altered visual impact, car parking pressures,
- Further commercial and industrial growth at the Industrial Estate - increased traffic and noise, altered visual impact, car parking pressures. Risk of expansion and greater land take, and associated ecological impact.
- Loss of commercial space to residential development – changes to key views.
- Loss of vegetation and habitat. Householder alterations changing visual aspects of LCTs.
- Loss of tramway cycle path – increased traffic, safety concerns and road traffic accidents.
- Restriction of connectivity.
- Increased spread of invasive species, particularly Japanese knotweed

#### **2.4.15 Landscape Management and Development Considerations**

- Identify important views to inform NDP policies and land allocation for development.
- Environment Agency Flood defence programme continuation, incorporating Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes in development proposals, and restricting hard landscaping in developments.
- Biodiversity offsetting and net gain management plans in areas where habitat is lost.
- NDP to include policy to ensure any development proposals consider traffic, visual and amenity impacts.

- Appropriate siting of future commercial development, identification of key green gaps to avoid coalescence.
- Safeguard employment space within NDP and set land allocations for development.
- Continue working with Cornwall Council to protect the tramway, and seek opportunities for improvement and extension.
- Continued knotweed treatment programmes

## 2.5 Landscape Type: Shallow Valley Sides

### 2.5.1 Key Characteristics

- Low housing density
- Very rural setting;
- South facing
- Good potential to support biodiversity
- Peaceful and quiet. [ ]  
[ ]

[ ]  
[ ]

### 2.5.2 Topography and Drainage

Generally shallow to relatively steep, undulating land sloping away from Nancekuke Common at 86m OD, in the north to 35m OD in the south. It is bordered on its southern edge by the right bank of the stream the stream flowing from Mawla, through Laity Moor to New Portreath Road, which forms the Parish boundary with Redruth Parish.

Surface water springs and issues arise in the valley formed between Southview farm and Sunnyside Farm, with surface water flowing northwest to southeast down the valley to join the stream at the parish boundary near Cambrose. Additional springs and issues are noted in the Cuckoo Valley formed between Lower Manor Farm and Tramside Farm. Water flows almost due south to join as a tributary of the main stream on low-lying marshy land at Laity Moor. Further issues are also recorded at Mawla Hill Farm on the extreme eastern edge of the parish and to the southwest of Elm Farm.



Figure 10: Typical road and fields around Lower Manor Farm

### 2.5.3 Biodiversity

The area contains arable or improved grassland, with some broad leaved woodland along the sides of the brooks in the two valleys. Some scattered bracken on possibly Unimproved Grassland is noted in the valley lying north east of Hollow Tree Cottage, Cambrose. Marshy possibly Unimproved Grassland and patches of scrub can be found bordering broad-leaved woodland on the side of the right bank of the stream at Laity Moor. Two small patches of land containing possibly Unimproved Grassland has been recorded at Cambrose at the base of Chapel Hill.

A number of old Cornish hedges and conventional hedges and verges provide good connected habitats across the landscape type. All of the hedges are included in the ERCCIS Mapping Hedges Project. Cornish hedges are likely to support protected species and provide corridors of movement/habitat continuity. The many overgrown hedges found offer opportunities for a variety of species both protected and otherwise. Green lanes, verges and disused railway line offer similar opportunities.

The field margins adjacent to boundary hedges have a similar potential. The minor roads mostly have verges of similar nature and fields likewise. Wide road verges contribute to semi-natural habitat.

A number of small copses and the few small plantations of native trees, although not extensive within this character type could also provide support for protected species.

There are the inevitable garden trees of non-native species, particularly conifers, grown to provide privacy. No Japanese Knotweed was observed in this landscape type area.

ERCCIS identify a BAP Priority Habitat of Fens in Cuckoo Valley.



Figure 11: View from Sunnyside Farm towards RRH Portreath mast assembly

#### 2.5.4 Land Cover and Land Use

ERCCIS Landcover habitat 2005 indicates either arable or improved grasslands within the fields, with broadleaved woodland, scattered bracken, on possibly unimproved grassland, and wetland in the N-S trending valleys. Broadleaved woodland, bracken, and scrub are located behind Bridge Industrial Estate, including patches of scattered scrub or possibly unimproved grassland and scattered bracken.

The Agricultural Land Classification is predominantly Grade 3 – Good to Moderate and contains, on the upper slopes adjacent to Nancekuke Common, Soilscape type 6 - freely draining slightly acid loamy low carbon soils associated with neutral and acid pastures. On the lower slopes to the south the Soilscape changes to Type 13 – freely draining acid loamy soils over rock associated with acid upland pasture, dry heath and moor, bracken gorse and oak woodlands. There is some Grade 2 – Very Good agricultural land to the E.

Commercial crops e.g. broccoli and linseed are grown on arable land with pasture provided for cattle grazing. In addition there is a poultry farm and a cider orchard in the area. There are a small number of isolated farms/residential buildings but most residential housing is grouped at Cambrose or as ribbon development along the road between Cambrose and Elm Farm. The housing density is low. There are some tourism related businesses beside the Portreath – Porthtowan road i.e. campsites, holiday lets and a cycle hire centre.



### 2.5.5 Field and Woodland Pattern

Woodlands of any scale are very limited in this character type throughout the parish. Woodland exists in small patches often on steeper land considered unsuitable for cultivation. There is also evidence of newly planted areas, which include a high proportion of native species. Fields are either small or medium in size and there is no evidence of the creation of larger fields by removal of hedges. On the contrary some larger fields have been subdivided into smaller units with hedges or fences to give larger individual plots to existing dwellings. Cornish hedges vary from some new and well-maintained hedges to older hedges. Older hedges sometimes have stone exposed but are largely covered in vegetation. There is no obvious evidence of hedges being removed. The hedges are mainly Cornish stone but there are some hedgerows and earth banks. Stone is local 'killas' and granite gateposts are frequent features. The Cornish stone hedges are overgrown but do not appear heavily managed. <sup>L</sup><sub>SEP</sub>Original granite gateposts are common, now with galvanised steel fittings and gates replacing the original timber and iron items.

Historically the fields in the area are Post-medieval Enclosed Land, which was enclosed in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, usually from land that was previously Upland Rough Ground and other medieval commons. Field sizes vary from small to large throughout the parish. Those closer to valley sides tend to be smaller; those on higher, more level ground are larger. Fields are generally rectilinear, but also the boundaries weave with the undulations of the land.

### 2.5.6 Building distribution

Properties are generally scattered and limited in extent in this character type with buildings mostly confined to the sides of the minor roads in the area.

Buildings date from the 18th century onwards. The older buildings exhibit the more traditional use of local stone, slate and scantle roof design, with cob a frequent component. There is a more random distribution of development over the last 60 years with less connection to local vernacular or landscape setting. The newer properties are mostly bungalows. The building stock is largely well maintained and construction methods vary from traditional stone to more modern painted render finishes. There is some 'improvised' dwelling in fields where the land has been purchased as an agricultural field but is not connected to electricity and water or occupied full time.

### 2.5.7 Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way

Minor, unclassified roads traverse the area with variable gradients, some tight bends and no pavements. The area is bordered to the south by the Portreath/Porthtowan road, which gives access to limited public transport. There is the occasional 'tree tunnel' and roadside trees in exposed position are often wind sculptured. There are

no public rights of way in the area. Local farmers manage hedges with some cutting by Cornwall Council along the main road to the south. Farm tracks divide the area further to provide field access.

The Mineral Tramway Cycle track 223004 crosses east-west through the area and shares the widened footpath alongside the Portreath – Porthtowan road, until it leaves the parish to Mawla in the east. A short section of public footpath 223003 crosses the stream to the east of Laity Moor to give access to the road at Elm Farm

### **2.5.8 Historic Features**

There are very few historic or ancient features visible in the area. Various sites and record points are noted as present within the area, on Heritage Gateway.

- Ref: MCO56912 Post Medieval – Spring or Chute;
- Ref: MCO33312 & 33313 Post Medieval – Shafts
- Ref: MCO42386 Modern – Road Block at Cambrose Bridge
- Ref: MCO56305 Modern – Women’s Auxiliary Air Force Camp.

### **2.5.9 Condition**

The appearance everywhere is of generally good condition and well managed, Improvements could be made by retaining and sympathetic restoration of Cornish hedges.

### **2.5.10 Aesthetic and Sensory**

This is a quiet area with very little through traffic and low-level impact from tourism. Some of the trees show a shaping from the prevailing westerly winds. The diverse nature of wild plants means that the seasonal changes are both obvious and attractive. There is some light pollution to the south from Redruth in particular.

### **2.5.11 Distinctive Features**

This is a typical quiet, Cornish rural area. There are no particular distinctive features, rather the area itself is distinctive because of its location and settled nature.

### **2.5.12 Views**

There are views to the south and southwest across to Redruth, Carn Brea, Pool and Camborne. These views are across a landscape that is otherwise typically rural.



### 2.5.13 Relationship to adjacent landscape character types

The area is south facing and starts at the Elevated Upland Plateau of Nancekuke Common and runs down to the low lying land beyond the Portreath to Porthtowan road which marks the parish boundary.

### 2.5.14 Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character

- Changes in agricultural practice and the traditional management and stewardship of farmland;
- Increasing field sizes involving the removal of Cornish hedges;
- Extension of tourist facilities and accommodation.

### 2.5.15 Landscape Management and Development Considerations

- Development to have appropriate regard to the undulating character of the topography and should not be supported if it is out of scale or overwhelms the landscape pattern and character.
- Reflect the field sizes, retaining and enhancing the small and medium field patterns.
- Developments should protect local character by retaining traditional vernacular buildings and features, including farmsteads, farm buildings, cottages, outbuildings and walling.
- Alterations and extensions to dwellings should have appropriate regard to the character of the existing dwelling, in particular to ensure that the scale and design reflects the character of the original dwelling and its setting in the landscape.
- Loss of traditional cottages, farmsteads and farm buildings to replacement dwellings should be exceptional, as these are heritage assets, which contribute to the character of this type. Any replacements should be comparable in scale, dimension and character to properties in the area and in keeping with the area's character.
- Consider how cumulative development can have an increased impact on the characteristics of the landscape.  
Consider how light pollution can be minimised, through appropriate design in new development.

## 2.6 Landscape Type: Coastal Side Valleys (Above Amy's side, Carvannel, Hayle Ulla, Sally's Bottom)

### 2.6.1 Key Characteristics

- Contrast between the coastal side valleys and the main village valley with the wind roaring overhead

- Coastal heath ablaze with wild flowers, butterflies and birds in spring and summer
- The sound of wind, surf and bird song
- Stunning views

### 2.6.2 Topography and Drainage

The land comprises steep sided, v-shaped valleys, falling steeply to the coast and beach below. Small streams are present at the base, and small marshy areas. There are waterfalls at Carvannel and Sally's Bottom. There is also man-made ponding at Sally's Bottom. The streams in Sally's Bottom valley are fed from 'collects and issues' at the heads of the valley.



Figure 12: Amy's side Valley viewed from Lighthouse Hill



Figure 13: Carvannel Valley and coastal footpath descent



Figure 14: Hayle Ulla Valley



Figure 15: Sallys Bottom

### 2.6.3 Biodiversity

The very sheltered valley complex above Amy's side is very diverse, with scrubby trees, shrubs, heath, and restricted wetland. All coastal valleys are located within the Gordrevy Head to St Agnes SSSI. Valleys running directly to the sea have windswept coastal grassland and heath, a rare habitat in itself. There are SSSI, ERRCIS and BAP species present, including Corn Bunting and Bluebells variously at Sally's Bottom, Hayle Ulla, Amy's Side and Carvannel.

Most of the habitat is semi-natural, although the extensive property of Battery House has had non-native plantings and flower species sown.

BAP Priority habitats are present at Sally's Bottom (Lowland Heath), Hayle Ulla (Lowland Heath and Fens), the northern part of Amy's Side (Lowland Heath) and Carvannel Downs (Lowland Heath).

Some species noted in Coastal Valleys include, Corn Bunting, Skylarks, Pippits, Peregrine Falcon, Raven, Buzzard, Seagull, Jackdaw, Bluebells, Heather and Cornish Heath, Hawthorn, Willow, Royal Fern, Gorse, Bracken and Purple Loosestrife.

### 2.6.4 Land Cover and Land Use

The ERCCIS Land Cover habitat 2005 describes the coastal valleys as follows:

- Sally's Bottom –dry heathland, unimproved grassland – dry heathland mosaic, scrub and broad-leaved woodland with scattered bracken on possibly unimproved grassland as the main valley rises from the coast inland, with dry heathland, wetlands, broad-leaved woodland and possibly unimproved grassland as the N-S valley rises.

- Hayle Ulla – wetland at the base of the valley, with sides of coastal grassland leading to dry heathland to the N.
- Amy's Side – bracken leading to coastal grassland and dry heathland on the N side of the valley, with improved grassland and scrub to the S.
- Carvannel – predominantly dry heathland with wetland at the head of the waterfall, some coastal grassland with scrub and broad-leaved woodland to the head of the valley.

Land cover mainly comprises scrub and heather with a wide variety of herbs. Trees, such as Hawthorn and Willow, can be found in more sheltered areas. Royal ferns and Purple loosestrife grow near streams and wetter areas. There are also wild, and semi-wild gardens.

There has been pony grazing by the National Trust to control scrub, and open up grassland, and also manual scrub clearance in Amy's side, which is within the National Trust freehold. There is a cluster of dwellings (modern except for Smugglers Cottage) at the foot of Amy's side valley. Carvannel valley is also within National Trust freehold.

Carvannel and Amy's side are Soilscape type 13 (freely draining, acid loamy soils over rock with a habitat type of steep acid upland pastures, dry heath and moor, with typically grassland and rough grazing land cover). Hayle Ulla and Sally's Bottom are Soilscape type 6 (freely draining slightly acid loamy soils, with a habitat type of neutral and acid pastures, and deciduous woodland; acid communities such as bracken and gorse. Landcover is suitable for grassland and arable). Agricultural Land Class is 3.

### **2.6.5 Field and Woodland Pattern**

As distinct from the main valleys, there is little woodland in the coastal valleys. There are a few trees, especially on west facing slopes of the valley, above Amy's side. There is also a new stream, and a marshy area. Any field boundaries are at the top of the slope, on the Inland side.

### **2.6.6 Building distribution**

There is a cluster of buildings around Amy's side, at the bottom of the slope. Buildings present in general are a combination of private residences, second homes and holiday lets.

There have been many additions and conversions in the last 10 years. Smugglers Cottage (18<sup>th</sup> Century), and possibly a former fish cellar have been almost completely rebuilt in the last 10 years. There is a mix of architectural styles from 18<sup>th</sup> Century to modern day.



No buildings are present in any other of the coastal valleys.

There has been infill housing along Battery Hill as it descends to Amy's side, built in the last 15 years.

### **2.6.7 Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way**

The minor road on Battery Hill descends to Amy's side – it is steep and straight in character, with no verges but is bounded by Cornish hedge on the coastal side.

A PROW is present in the form of the main SW Coast Path (223002), which ascends as an embankment to the cliffs, plus another alternative route ascending steeply up the east-facing slope (223010). The roads are in good condition, except at the lower end, where there are drainage problems. Cattle straying at Carvannel Valley are causing deep puddling above the waterfall.

There is also extensive damage from mountain bikes to the S facing slope at Hayle Ulla.

### **2.6.8 Historic Features**

There is a World War II rifle range (non designated) at Sally's Bottom. In Amy's side valley Lady Basset's folly, and a chimney can be found on the west facing slopes.

There is an old quarry/disused pit at Hayle Ulla valley head.

Sally's Bottom is the site of Wheal Sally, which contains a post medieval shaft (Bottom Shaft) Ref. MCO55298, which was excavated and plugged in 1998. Other mine shafts are known to be located further up the E-W trending valley. Cornwall Council references sites of contaminated land dumps A-E. These are understood to have been analysed and remediated.

Sally's Bottom valley is part of the WHS.

### **2.6.9 Condition**

The landscape is in generally good condition, except for the cattle puddling at Carvannel and the erosion of the southern slope at Hayle Ulla, from mountain biking. The condition is largely semi-natural at all coastal valley sites.

### **2.6.10 Aesthetic and Sensory**

The areas are very tranquil when there is no wind. You can hear the sound of the surf, skylarks and pippits. There are occasional tractor or motor noises. Buzzards, ravens,

Peregrines, Seagulls and Jackdaws can also be heard overhead. The coastal valleys running straight to the sea are very exposed, windswept, bare and rugged compared with the Amy's side valley, which is sheltered and well vegetated.

The seasonal changes are dramatic, with spring flowers, gorse and heather in the summer, and the dull maroon browns and ochres of winter. Westerly winds prevail and the valleys are dark at night.

#### **2.6.11 Distinctive Features**

At Amy's side, you are out of the wind, warm and sheltered whilst the wind roars overhead.

The Carvannel stream and marshy area rushing over the cliff into a waterfall is also distinctive. The same is true at Sally's Bottom. The steps down to Porthcadjack Cove from the south-facing slope at Carvannel are also distinctive.

#### **2.6.12 Views**

There are number of important coastal valley views, including:

- At Carvannel, where the coast path turns inland, there is a view down to Porthcadjack Cove and North Cliffs coast and waterfall
- Looking down to Portreath village from halfway up the Coast Path above Amy's side
- Coastal views northeast and southwest from Sally's Bottom

#### **2.6.13 Relationship to adjacent landscape character types**

The coastal valleys blend into the cliffs and cliff top heathland with occasional pastureland running down the slope from the plateau. The Carvannel valley, and Amy's side rise to meet the elevated upland plateau of Carvannel Downs. Hayle Ulla and Sally's Bottom rise in turn to the elevated upland plateau of Nancekuke Common and RRH Portreath.

#### **2.6.14 Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character**

- Infill development, extensions and rebuilds at Amy's side and along Battery Hill, within the AONB
- Future potential change of use of RRH Portreath site

#### **2.6.15 Landscape Management and Development Considerations**

- The Amy's side building cluster (and along Battery Hill) is situated in the AONB and SSSI, specifically referred to in the AONB management plan as a threat.



- Mountain bike controls are needed at Hayle Ulla to prevent further degradation of the S facing slopes. Subsequent restoration is also required.
- The Coast path at Carvannel requires maintenance where the cattle stray (no fences, and poor maintenance)
- Pony grazing from Amy's side to Ralph's cupboard maintains the heathland habitat.

## **2.7 Landscape Type: Steep Valley sides (Main flat bottomed valley, V-shaped valleys at Illogan Woods, Glenfeadon, Tolticken and the Inclined valley)**

### **2.7.1 Key Characteristics**

- Cluster of Housing.
- Scrub/woodland haven for wildlife and walks.
- The wildness of the steep valleys (whether degraded or rich). Their naturalness creates a powerful setting for the village when viewed from above, or from the village itself.
- The ocean, framed by the steep valley sides.
- Hidden worlds, in the v-shaped valleys, sheltered from the wind and storms.
- Great diversity of wildlife.
- The wooded hillsides set Portreath apart.
- Subtle and drastic changes in the last 40 years – time to take stock.
- More upmarket new housing, facilitating the development of previously uneconomic sites.
- Unspoilt scenery (Illogan woods).
- Trees and flowers.
- Illogan Woods is a place to walk, cycle, play and be peaceful.

### **2.7.2 Topography and Drainage**

This LCT is defined by steep valley sides which include the sides of the main flat-bottomed valley, leading to Bridge from Portreath, and deep V-shaped side valleys, running parallel to the coast. Streams are present in the V-shaped valleys, ranging from babbling brooks, to small trickles of water. Several quarries, long-abandoned, grown over, or built in, are also present.

In the parish there are also a number of V-shaped steep sided valleys, namely in Illogan Woods, Glenfeadon, the Incline Valley and Tolticken Valley. The stream in Illogan woods is a babbling brook. There is a spring and pond in Glenfeadon valley, with a dammed pond in pastureland in Illogan woods.



Figure 16: Illogan Woods



Figure 17: Incline Valley

### 2.7.3 Biodiversity

In the Main Village valley sheltered deciduous woodland and scrub support a rich herb layer, including bluebells (a BAP species), nesting birds, Roe deer, Badgers and owls. Woodland scrubs, which are sunny, and south facing provide valuable shelter for a wide variety of flora and wildlife. Tawny owls, passerines, butterflies and badgers have been noted in the area. In addition the Deptford Pink, a BAP species, is also present, with a wide variety of herbs north of Portreath village on New Walk and Lighthouse Hill. The valleys include areas that were once managed, and are now semi-natural, colonised by native species. There are also woodland gardens inland. Bracken has invaded all abandoned gardens. Non-native shrubs and scrubby trees are also present sporadically, such as Spanish Bluebell. Irish Spurge is also notable at a BAP species

on the north and south slopes of the main valley, between Bridge Moor and Portreath School.

In the Inland V-shaped valleys there is sheltered deciduous woodland, and streams with marshy areas. Cornish hedges made of local stone support herbs, and large trees. Ponds support a number of species, and BAP species like Bluebells are also present. Nance semi natural Ancient woodland is a SSSI. The woodland is now semi-natural, and designated as Country Wildlife Sites. The Cherry Laurel, an invasive species, is also present. There is generally good connectivity between the Nature Conservation designated sites and the semi-natural habitat, throughout the valleys.

At the upper fringes on the north side of the main valley, below the elevated upland plateau is an Entry Level Stewardship site. Those hedges forming the outer boundary of the woodlands in the main and V-shaped valleys are included within the ERCCIS Mapping Hedges Project. Areas of scrub are recorded on the north side of the main valley, together with Bracken, between Tolticken valley and Lighthouse Hill. There are also areas of arable land and improved grassland in the transition area between the steep sided main valley and the elevated upland plateau. Some species noted in steep sided valleys include, Badgers, Roe Deer, Foxes, Passerines, Tawny Owl, Deptford Pinks, Sycamore, Horse Chestnut, Goat Willow, Sloe, Ash, Oak, Cherry Laurel, Golden Saxifrage, Marsh Marigold, Bluebell, Spanish Bluebell, Three cornered leak, Irish Spurge, Gorse and Bracken.



Figure 18: Bluebells in Illogan Woods



Figure 19: Deptford Pink on New Walk

#### 2.7.4 Land Cover and Land Use

Land cover includes large areas of scrub and woodland on the north slope of the Main Village valley. The scrub is inaccessible other than via PROWs. The woodland has become an extension of the play area of Greenfield Park. Gardens and housing are also present.

The main vegetation cover on the south slope is degraded scrub, abandoned gardens, and extensive bracken at the coastal end, becoming more densely wooded beyond the incline, with terraced gardens dotted with sheds and gazebos. At the coastal end the north slope is privately owned but not used. Inland, gardens give way to scrub and woodland upslope.

In the V-shaped valleys deciduous woodland is present, with a rich herb layer, is present. Marsh vegetation is present at the edges of ponds. The areas are mainly given over to recreational and wildlife use, except for the upper slopes, where residential clusters can be found.

Historically the valley sides have been classified as historic deciduous woodland, plantations and scrub and upland rough ground. Soilscape type 13 predominates – freely draining acid loamy soils over rock suited to grassland and rough grazing. Upper valley slopes are Soilscape type 6 – freely draining, slightly acid loamy soils suitable for arable and grassland coverage with neutral and acid pastures and deciduous woodland, having acid communities such as bracken and gorse in the uplands.

#### 2.7.5 Field and Woodland Pattern

Woodland is largely located on the lower slope, consisting mostly of native trees, including Holme Oak, Sycamore and Wyche Elm.



On the south valley slope, there is no woodland, until further inland, where it is more sheltered. Scrubby trees and shrubs are present in an abandoned quarry. Garden boundaries are made from local stone, but are very degraded, and collapsed in many cases, becoming overgrown mounds.

In the V-shaped valleys, sheltered areas give way to rough pasture on the east-facing higher slopes. The woodland is mostly native. There are also overgrown Cornish hedges of local stone. These are largely neglected with little management. Except on PROW there is usually a buffer of vegetation on either side of hedging.

### **2.7.6 Building distribution**

On the north side of the valley there is a housing cluster between the bend of Lighthouse Hill from the bottom of the slope to the plateau edge, mostly of Post War and modern age. The Gazebo, a stone lookout, is considered an important landscape feature.

There is also a small housing cluster including Sunny Corner Terrace, Dove Farm and Cottage, mostly of early 19<sup>th</sup> Century age. Some isolated modern properties are also present on the coastal side of Lighthouse Hill.

On the south side of the main valley, there is a cluster of housing along Green Lane, which is largely pre war bungalows and large modern houses. There are also properties lining Battery Hill on both sides, including pre-war chalets, bungalows, semi-detached houses, with modern infill and replacements. The properties constructed on Green Lane have encroached on the old skyline at the top of the valley in a number of sections. The older chalets and bungalows are wooden.

In the V-shaped valleys, buildings are usually clustered on upper slopes, as they merge into the plateau. These generally comprise modern bungalows, terraces, and recreational chalets. The only buildings with a particular relationship with the landscape are the old farm buildings and house at Gwel-an-Mor. Property boundaries in this area tend not to be individual, but more of the cluster as a whole, except for the isolated building cluster above the Incline, where there is extensive land ownership. An exhaustive description of building character is included in the VCA.

### **2.7.7 Transport Pattern: Roads and Public Rights of Way**

On the north side of the valley, there is a minor unclassified road, going up Lighthouse Hill, which is steep with one bend. It is bounded on the coastal side by a rebuilt harbour wall, and old property walls and verges, which are overgrown and wild. The inland side is bordered by a tended front garden with modern walls.

New Walk, a PROW (no. 223005), is a gentle diagonal climb up the slope. It is in good condition, with signs and 3 seats. Youth, dog walkers, strollers and naturalists regularly use New Walk.

On the south side of the main valley, Green Lane, a minor access road, gently slopes down from the plateau edge. Tregea Hill (B3301) is a very steep road with one major bend, which steeply traverses the valley side.

On the south side of the main valley, there is also a PROW running from the end of Green Lane to Battery Hill (223009). It is well used and in good conditions. There is also a Zig Zag path that crosses from Tregea Hill to Tregea Terrace. There is also a small path from Green Lane to Tregea Hill. These latter paths are not very well maintained, as they are little used, since they begin and end at Tregea Hill, which is very busy with traffic.

The metalled brow of the road at upper Tregea Hill is perched on the edge of the steep slopes of the Incline valley, with low, or no roadside barriers. There is a minor access road on the slopes of Glenfeadon to the Hillside development, which is very steep and straight.

There are also PROWS, including a major bridleway through Illogan Woods (223008), which links Illogan and Portreath. There is also a multi-use trail through Glenfeadon, linking Gwel-an-Mor holiday chalets, and Portreath village (223006). The trail is well used, and is part of the Mining Trail network. There are also non-designated side trails in both Illogan Woods and Glenfeadon, which are well used. These indicate some waterlogging, and downslope slippage, with fallen trees, and poor signage and boundaries.

### **2.7.8 Historic Features**

On the north side of the valley, the Gazebo (an old lookout that was part of the now-demolished Rockaway stone house) is an important historic feature, where the Greenslade family once lived. There is also a World War II pill box at the end of a farm track off New Walk, at the top of the slope (Ref. MCO33303). It is very overgrown and access is difficult.

On the south side of the valley, is the incline that linked the Portreath Branch line to Portreath harbour – it is Grade II listed, and part of the WHS (Ref. MCO48373) .

The crenulations on Battery House, the site of the old fort, old cannon, lookout and access steps are historical features of note. The World War II radio hut is also notable.

There is an old granite cider press in Illogan Woods. There is also an old spring, and brick housing and pond at Glenfeadon. Granite gateposts and cattle grid are also present in Illogan Woods, as are remains of earlier tin streaming. At the Incline can be found remains of low 18<sup>th</sup> Century first Railway Terrace.

There are numerous historical buildings, sites and monuments within Portreath village, which will be dealt with in the VCA. However, Heritage Gateway gives those lying outside of the settlement as follows:

- Ref. MCO37451 Early medieval-field boundary in Nance wood (west side)
- Ref. MCO42773 Modern tank trap wall at N end of Illogan Wood

### **2.7.9 Condition**

On the north side of the main valley, the wooded area above Greenfield Park is becoming eroded, via children's play. Verge trimming timing is also critical to support and maintain butterfly and nesting bird populations and the Deptford Pink.

On the south side of the main valley, the coastal end is very degraded and barren, with sporadic dwellings. The inland part of the valley is green, with well-tended gardens, and many shrubs and trees.

In the V-shaped valleys, the woodlands are generally wild, except for the Incline valley, where significant tree felling has cleared the whole valley, up to the remains of Railway Terrace.

PROW boundaries are poorly maintained in places.

Traffic and residential development in the last 40 years have changed the nature of the area, but the woods remain in good condition, and are an important wildlife area.

The woodland at Tolticken is totally wild and unmanaged.

### **2.7.10 Aesthetic and Sensory**

On the north side of the main valley, some areas are open, exposed and noisy, along the road, whilst others, such as along New Walk are tranquil and intimate. In this area, there is no traffic noise, and plentiful birdsong. The area is very sheltered, and seasonal changes are dramatic, ranging from bare Winter trees, colourful Spring and Summer flowers and Old Man's Beard in Autumn. Predominantly winds are westerly's, and the area is sheltered from these. There is low-level light pollution along the PROW, but much higher levels on the main road.



On the south side of the main valley, Tregua Hill is very noisy with traffic. Green Lane, and the PROWs are also quiet. This side of the main valley is very exposed and windswept, becoming sheltered as more gardens with trees are established. Intrusive parking along Tregua Hill can lead to traffic bottlenecks. Seasonal changes are dramatic from brown dead bracken to green in the spring and summer. Westerly winds predominate, and can be very damaging in the spring.

The V-shaped valleys are mainly havens of undisturbed calm, despite their popularity. There are generally intimate, sheltered and enclosed, except for the Incline valley, which is now open, bare, and covered with fallen trees and brush. The seasonal changes are dramatic – bare in winter, flowery in spring, green in summer, and colourful in autumn, with the dead leaves to scuff underfoot. The valleys are dark at night, except for Incline valley, with car headlights.

### 2.7.11 Distinctive Features

The most distinctive feature in the valleys is the dense woodland backdrop.

On the north side of the main valley there is a distinctive tree tunnel along New Walk.

On the south side, the skyline development is intrusive, including power lines. The Incline is distinctive, as is Battery House, overlooking the beach.

In the V-shaped valleys, there are a number of distinctive features. There is an old granite cider press in Illogan Woods. There is also an old spring, and brick housing and pond at Glenfeadon. Granite gateposts and cattle grids are also present in Illogan Woods, as are remains of earlier tin streaming. At the Incline can be found remains of low 18<sup>th</sup> Century first Railway Terrace. There is also a picnic area above Glenfeadon, approached by a steep woodland trail, and old granite style.

In an old quarry there is a dank pond, which fascinates local children, and which they tell stories about. In Illogan Woods there is a well-loved rope swing.

In Tolticken valley there is the remains of an old brickworks by the stream.

### 2.7.12 Views

The public have identified numerous important views into steep-sided valleys from upper elevations. A number of key, panoramic views, are given as follows:

- Overlooking the harbour, beach and cliffs from the bend in Lighthouse Hill
- Views from New Walk looking towards the sea
- Views from New Walk looking back towards the village

- Views from Green Lane after the last house of the main housing cluster towards the harbour and beach – slightly marred by overhead cables
- Descending Tregea Hill at the bend – the beach vista opens dramatically
- Views of the opposite valley side from the lower end of Green Lane gives scenes of Portreath in its steep valley setting.
- Views looking to the village, the harbour and beach from Glenfeadon.

### 2.7.13 Relationship to adjacent landscape character types [L] [SEP]

The north valley slope eases as it meets the elevated upland plateau, which is farmed, and hence fenced. This occurs as field boundaries are met. [L]  
[SEP]

The south valley steep side changes to a plateau, and the slope eases towards the top. Residential properties overlap the transition. There is a very abrupt transition at the bottom of the slope, where property boundaries run long and thin up the steep valley side.

In the V-shaped valleys, where slopes ease as they merge with the plateau or rounded hills, is a critical area, favoured by housing, because of the panoramic views. Lower valley sides merge together and contain the stream. There is no flat valley bottom in these areas. At Tolticken Hill valley the woods, and absence of human intervention ends abruptly at the hill top (plateau), which is a completely managed landscaped.

As you move up the valley sides in Illogan Woods, they flatten and the extent of the wooded area gradually diminishes towards the rounded hilltop above.

On the extreme west side of the main valley, the valley sides open out to the beach and coastal cliffs. On the east, near Tolticken Hill valley, the steep valley sides start to form a flat valley bottom.

### 2.7.14 Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character

- Infill housing
- Housing modernisation and expansion
- Demolition and rebuild of houses
- Replacement of old wood chalets and older bungalows with much bigger, multi storied dwellings for second homes and holiday lets.
- Residential and holiday chalets on upper slopes, which merge with the plateau
- Tree clearance in Incline Valley.

### **2.7.15 Landscape Management and Development Considerations**

- Skyline development, infill housing, and any extension of existing clusters should be avoided. No more isolated properties should be developed.
- Infill and skyline development on Green Lane and Battery Hill should be avoided as they are within the AONB, and identified in the current AONB Management Plan.
- Vegetation trimming along New Walk should be outside of the nesting period (March-end June) because of nesting birds and butterflies, and a wonderful wildflower display.
- Management is needed to support BAP species, such as the Deptford Pinks. Previous re-wilding schemes, and avoiding verge cutting, increased numbers, but these have now been outcompeted by other species.
- Need to encourage native shrub planting on open valley S side to encourage biodiversity at the coastal end.
- Woodland clearance should be controlled. All the woods except in the Incline Valley are TPO areas, SSSIs or CWS. The TPO area could be extended to Incline Valley to prevent further clearance and destruction of old Railway Terrace remains.

## **2.8 Landscape Type: Cliffs and Beaches**

### **2.8.1 Key Characteristics**

- Rugged natural environment of the coast path, with heathland and sea cliffs
- Sheer, dramatic drops with swooping birds, wildflowers, especially squill
- The beach with its sand, shingle, stream, and amazing colours of the sea
- Vulnerable to rockfalls and erosion affecting stability

### **2.8.2 Topography and Drainage**

The land is comprised of steep cliff sides, with undulating open heathland and scrub. There are sea defence/granite blocks on Smugglers' (west) side of the beach with bankside beach gabions. There are 3 streams running down the Cliffsides (at Carvannel, Hayle Ulla and Sally's Bottom). There are 2 streams feeding the beach – the stream at Smuggler's side dries up in the summer, if there is a dry spell.



Figure 20: Panorama at Sallys Bottom

### 2.8.3 Biodiversity

The whole of the cliffs and beach are within the Godrevy Head to St Agnes SSSI. The stone hedges, gorse and heather banks provide a good potential habitat for wildflowers, birds, insects and invertebrates. The boggy, marshy areas around the streams running off the hills support wild watercress.

The cliffs are home to a number of sea birds, including chough, peregrine falcon, fulmar/kittiwake, and also to adders. A number of invasive species can be noted on the cliffs, including an area of Japanese knotweed by Lighthouse Hill car park, and various sites of Montbretia and Three-cornered leek. The BAP species Corn Bunting is found at Sally's Bottom, Western Hill, and Carvannel Valley, with Bluebells near Hayle Ulla and Sally's Bottom, and Razorbill also recorded near Gullyn Rock.

ERCCIS BAP Priority habitats indicate lowland heath predominating throughout the coastal section of the Parish.

The cliffs and beach can generally be considered semi-natural habitat, with heathland, vegetated sea cliffs, coastal scrub, rockpools, the harbour and the marine environment.

Some species noted in the Cliffs and Beaches include Gorse, Heather, Watercress, Chough, Peregrine Falcons, Fulmar, Adders, Japanese knotweed, Montbretia, Three-cornered leek, Squill and Cornish Gentian

### 2.8.4 Land Cover and Land Use

The ERCCIS Land cover habitat 2005 indicates Coastal with a mix of dry heathland, coastal grassland, scrub, wetland (Sally's Bottom, Carvannel, Hayle Ulla) with some scattered dry heathland, with coastal intertidal habitat at the beaches. The main observed vegetation cover comprises heather, gorse, squill and grassland. The National Trust-managed coastal footpath is also a major feature.

Cover types include vegetated sea cliffs, maritime heathland, improved grassland and arable conservation management areas, controlled by the National Trust.

There are also farmed fields for dairy, livestock (sheep and cattle), and arable farming (cereals and vegetables). Agricultural land classification type 3 predominates.

The other main land use is leisure and tourism, particularly walkers. There is also local industry, with commercial fishing from Portreath harbour.

Soilscape type 6 predominates, with some Soilscape type 13.

The coastal waters off Portreath area also designated as a SAC for Marine components.

The western extremities of the cliffs and shoreline are also designated as Heritage Coast, and the coastal fringe is contained within the Godrevy Head to St Agnes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

#### **2.8.5 Field and Woodland Pattern**

No woodland or field patterns are present on the cliffs or beach.

#### **2.8.6 Building distribution**

Military buildings are associated with RRH Portreath. There are also a number of isolated mine workings along the cliffs, dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Residential properties are mainly located on the village edge, with views overlooking the historic harbour. The properties in the village fronting the beach are mainly modern (20<sup>th</sup> century). The SW coast path follows the boundary of RRH Portreath.

#### **2.8.7 Public Access: Roads and Public Rights of Way**

There are no roads along the cliffs outside of the minor roads to Smugglers' Cove and Lighthouse Hill.

The SW Coast Path 'New Walk' PROW joins at Lighthouse Hill. The SW Coast Path is well used and well maintained, with modern signage and wooden gates. 'New Walk' is seasonally managed by Portreath Parish Council. Two sections of the SW Coast Path have been diverted, due to coastal erosion.

### 2.8.8 Historic Features

The coastal section between Sally's Bottom and Tobban Horse is within the WHS, as is the section of the coast between Portreath beach and Horse Rock. There is an old settlement on Battery Hill. The Pepperpot on the cliff overlooks the harbour and beach. The harbour itself is an historic feature, as is Dead Man's Hut (a lookout on the lower harbour), and the Finger pier. Additionally, Portreath Beach hosts a petrified forest, which is occasionally exposed.

Heritage Gateway indicates the following buildings, sites and monuments on the coastal fringe:

- Ref. MCO 55293, 55295, 55296, 55297 & 55300 Post-medieval Sterran and Tye mine shafts and mine workings
- Ref. MCO55298, 55299 Post-medieval Wheal Sally Shaft and mine workings
- MCO33307 Post -medieval shaft at Gooden Heane Point (links with drainage tunnel beneath)
- MCO56243 Modern bomb stores at Nancekuke
- MCO26419 Post -medieval daymark (the Pepperpot)
- MCO33304 Post-medieval building remains
- MCO57925 19<sup>th</sup> Century hut at end of Pier (Monkey Hut)
- MCO58900 Post-medieval pilots' lookout (Dead Man's Hut)
- MCO26418 Post-medieval battery platform
- MCO4723 Post-medieval Portreath Harbour
- MCO58902 Post-medieval Slipway
- MCO42767 Modern beach defence (WWII concrete anti-tank wall)
- MCO28705 Pre-historic submarine forest
- MCO26432 Post-medieval baths (Lady Bassett's rock cut baths)
- MCO54064 Post-medieval remains of 1713 quay
- MCO4889 Post-medieval quay late 18<sup>th</sup> Century
- MCO33083 Modern coastguard station (Western Hill)
- MCO29761 Pre-historic Iron Age cliff castle (Tregea Head)
- MCO42774 Modern anti-aircraft battery site
- MCO54000 Post-medieval rock cut steps (Porth-Cadjack Cove)

There are many other building sites and monuments adjacent to the coast in the village of Portreath, which will be dealt with separately under the VCA.

### 2.8.9 Condition

The Cliffside vegetation is generally in good condition, as Shetland Ponies, managed by the National Trust, keep the scrub at bay, and the National Trust manages the SW coast path. The harbour sea wall has recently been repaired, following destruction during the storms. The beach gabions were also repaired.

Cornwall Council and Portreath Improvements Committee own the Beach. During the holiday season, there are serious problems with litter, and there is a reliance on volunteers and community good will, to clean the beach.

The car park at the top of Lighthouse Hill needs improvement, and the road going up Lighthouse Hill has a significant litter problem.

#### **2.8.10 Aesthetic and Sensory**

The cliffs are abundant in wildlife and botanical interest. The beach and harbour have varying levels of man-made noise. The cliffs give a mixture of exposed and sheltered, rugged and windswept vistas, with dramatic, breath-taking drops.

There is a continual seasonal change of flowering plants. The beach is in constant use throughout the year, with the quietest time being after Easter once the seasonal dog ban comes into force. There is no light pollution on the cliffs, and an ever-changing wind direction.

#### **2.8.11 Distinctive Features**

Local distinctive features include a telephone mast on Lighthouse Hill, the radar Globe on the cliffs, wooden National Trust gates, and wooden National Trust signposts.

The beach is host to walkers, holidaymakers, surfers, bodyboarders, kayakers and other water users.

There are three designated County Geological Sites within this landscape type, namely Porth-Cadjack Cove K/5, Portreath K/21 and Kerriack Cove K/13.

#### **2.8.12 Views**

There are number of important cliff and beach views, identified by the public, particularly from Western Hill, Battery Hill, Reskadjack and along the coast path to Porthtowan including:

- From Battery Hill, elevated views over the whole village, beach, harbour, Gull Rock and North Cliffs, up to Trevose Head
- From the Pepperpot views from the seats facing Godrevy coastline/North Cliffs
- From Battery Hill pull in, there is a view including Gull Rock, the beach and the harbour.



### **2.8.13 Relationship to adjacent landscape character types**

The road dissects the village from the beach. The coastal path is fenced or walled, and a diverted path strays onto an arable field at Carvannel Farm. On the North cliff side, RRH Portreath on the elevated upland plateau, with secure metal fencing and warning signage, skirts the coastal path. To the east are various coastal valleys incised into the cliffs. To the west of Portreath the coastal landscape type rises to meet the upland elevated plateau of Carvannel Downs. From Portreath main beach, the settlement of Portreath abuts with the main valley extending due east.

### **2.8.14 Development Pressure affecting Landscape Character**

- Housing development further encroaching into the AONB and spoiling the wild character of the cliffs
- Coastal erosion causing further rock falls to jeopardise the SW Coastal path and coastal habitat
- Infrastructure and housing developments encroaching onto the beach
- Loss of harbour wall and increased flood risk to beach and village

### **2.8.15 Landscape Management and Development Considerations**

- Limit further development in the AONB, WHS and AGLV to preserve the natural character and special importance of the coastal landscape.
- Avoid locating any development on prominent skylines, particularly those with distinctive historic, aesthetic or cultural features, due to the open and high nature of the coast which provides extensive panoramic views of the surroundings.
- Preserve key views and viewpoints from popular tourist, scenic routes and settlements.
- Avoid creation and migration of access tracks on rough coastal ground.
- Maintain the harbour wall and reef to preserve the surf break and one of the best body boarding waves in the country.
- Protect the beach and coastal infrastructure to afford continued protection from storm surges and flooding.
- Protect and maintain the SW Coast Path and linking routes.

## 3 Landscape Designations - Cornish AONB and WHS

### 3.1 Implications for protection of landscape character in Portreath Parish



The Parish is protected under two designations of national significance in terms of conservation of landscape character. Land to the northeast of the Parish at Wheal Sally and West Wheal Towan, the Harbour, the Tramway and in the centre of Portreath falls within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscapes WHS, which is the largest in the UK. The cultural significance of this designation is deemed so exceptional that it transcends national boundaries and is of importance to all of humanity both present and future generations. The UK Government protects WHS in two ways. Firstly individual buildings, monuments, gardens and landscapes are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, and secondly through the UK spatial planning system under the provision of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. All of the land to the west of Portreath Beach, south and west of Treglea Hill and west of Portreath – Park Bottom Road in the Portreath Parish lies within the AONB. Both designations give significant protection to landscape character. The AONB has a similar level of protection as National Parks, and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a duty on all relevant authorities when discharging any function affecting land within an AONB to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty.

#### 3.1.1 Cornish Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

AONB status has a key role to play in protecting landscape character in Portreath Parish. The AONB Management Plan states that 'Landscape is more than just the sum of its parts. It is a sense of place. It is the combination of the physical environment and how we experience it that gives an area unique character.'

The 20-year vision of the AONB Management Plan is that "The status of the Cornwall AONB as a nationally and internationally important protected landscape, with equal status and protection to that of a National Park, is recognised by all. The landscape characteristics that combine to give the Cornwall AONB its natural beauty, unique identity and sense of place are fully understood. The AONB landscape is conserved and enhanced at every opportunity through effective partnership, achieving environmental growth, reversing losses of natural capital, biodiversity and heritage and improving resilience to climate change. A landscape that is accessible and appreciated by everyone. Communities and businesses in Cornwall are underpinned by a protected landscape that provides prosperity, good health and a high quality of life. They understand the value of the Cornwall AONB and take advantage of the opportunities it provides, whilst reinvesting in the landscape in order to sustain these benefits long term."

The AONB Management Plan 2016-2021 lays out a series of policies covering the entire AONB area in Cornwall. Specific Policies are also provided to add further detail to the overall policies for each of the 12 local management areas. The AONB management plan for Godrevy to Portreath area emphasizes in the Local Section Statement of Significance that the Godrevy to Portreath section of the AONB benefits from the greatest proportion of SSSI land in 'favourable' condition and modern development on the valley slopes rising out of Portreath and older housing around Portreath Harbour impacts significantly on the setting of the AONB on the western side of the B3301 on the western side of the valley, particularly where gaps have been filled between existing inappropriate development on the hillside. <sup>[11]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Local management principles for this area address many of the specific threats to Landscape Character in Portreath Parish, including:

- a. AONB Policy GP6.02 'Encourage better connectivity into the AONB from Camborne, Pool and Redruth through the provision of green infrastructure and sustainable transport links'. <sup>[11]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- b. AONB Policy GP6.03 'Seek protection of undeveloped and sparsely settled rural character and open views, free of tall structures. Seek a reduction of the visual impact of overhead cables by undergrounding'.
- c. AONB Policy GP6.04. 'Seek conservation and enhancement of the rural character of all lanes and roads ... through the retention of hedges, narrow winding character and low levels of signage'.
- d. AONB Policy GP6.12. 'Help to support coastal management, which promotes natural processes where ever possible and support initiatives with communities which consider the long term future of Portreath in respect to predicted effects of sea-level rise and increased storminess. Seek to support the delivery of appropriate measures to 'hold the line' and 'manage realignment' as identified in the Shoreline Management Plan where they conserve or enhance the landscape character and natural beauty of the AONB. Conserve the undeveloped nature of the coast away from settlements'.
- e. AONB Policy GP6.13 'Encourage the growth of Portreath to meet local needs in ways that do not adversely impact on the AONB and its setting. Guard against cumulative impacts of development on the valley side, west of the B3301, within the AONB including the infilling of gaps between existing individual dwellings, which are themselves already adversely impacting upon the AONB in terms of scale, siting, design, massing and materials.'

### **3.1.2 Cornwall and Devon World Heritage Site (WHS)**

WHS status also has a key role to play in protecting landscape character in the village centre, and to the northeast part of the Parish. The WHS is a series of 10 areas across

Cornwall and West Devon conserving the distinctive pattern of buildings, monuments, and sites, which together form the coherent series of distinctive cultural landscapes created by the industrialisation of hard rock mining processes in the period 1700 to 1914. The WHS's priority is the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for which the area was designated. In common with the AONB the designation does not mean that change is unwelcome, but that it needs to be carefully managed, where possible avoiding adverse impacts and ensuring opportunities for positive improvement.

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

The parish of Portreath lies within two WHS Areas, namely A5iii Portreath Harbour, and Sally's Bottom, within the St Agnes Mining District A7 where the key characteristics include the harbour itself which was a port for export of locally worked minerals and import of coal from Wales, and Wheal Sally, at Sally's bottom, and Sterran and Tye mine on the cliff top, part of West Wheal Towan. [L] [SEP]

The setting of the WHS must also have protection from adverse impacts, which affect the Outstanding Universal Value and the criteria under which it was inscribed in the WHS List. [L] [SEP]

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

- a. Policy P2 – All relevant strategic planning documents should make provision for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the Site and its setting [L] [SEP]
- b. Policy P7 – There is a presumption against the removal of historic mine waste within the site [L] [SEP]
- c. Policy P8 – Developments outside the Site that will adversely affect its OUV will be resisted [L] [SEP]
- d. Policy C2 – New development should add to the quality and distinctiveness of the Site by being of high quality design and respectful of setting [L] [SEP]
- e. Policy C5 - Landscape, nature conservation and agri-environment management regimes should have regard for the authenticity and values of the Site [L] [SEP]
- f. Policy C7 – The historic character and its distinctiveness of the Cornwall and West Devon mining landscape should be maintained [L] [SEP]
- g. Policy C8 – Traditional materials and skills should be encouraged in the maintenance of the authentic historic fabric within the Site.

### 3.1.3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

In addition to the AONB and WHS designations that apply to Portreath parish, Nance Wood is protected as a SSSI. It is listed for Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Lowland Woodland. Consent would be required from Natural England if any activities were to be considered within the SSSI.

### 3.1.4 Special Area of Conservation (SAC-Marine Components)

The coastal waters off Portreath area also designated as a SAC for Marine components. Habitats and species of European interest will be protected, in this area as a result.

### 3.1.5 Shoreline management plan

Portreath and its surrounding coastline is unique, with coastal landscapes and seascapes that have been shaped by natural processes over geological timescales. Evolution of the shoreline is usually gradual but occasionally rapid and dramatic and it always involves change of some kind, but change also represents a threat to some coastal communities. Rates of erosion and incidents of flooding are expected to increase by the end of this century, because of increasing storms and rising sea levels brought about by climate change.

The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner. The two most important aims are:

- To reduce the threat of flooding and coastal erosion to people and their property.
- To deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefit, consistent with the Government's sustainable development principles.

Portreath named as a priority location. At Portreath, the frontage will come under increasing pressure from sea level rise, with threat of coastal squeeze. This could lead to narrowing of the intertidal area with subsequent beach lowering, increasing pressure on defences and risk of structure failure. It is unlikely therefore to be in the best long-term interests of the community to continue to hold the line indefinitely. Some element of realignment in the medium to long term is suggested for the beach frontage and this should be coordinated with planning for future maintenance of the Finger Pier.

A combination of hold the line and managed realignment is to be employed at Portreath, to manage the process of adaptation to climate change whilst at the same time giving adequate provision of defence to the significant heritage assets which are

present. Any realignment must take account of the World Heritage Site designation, which covers Tregea Terrace as well as the pier and harbour.

Priority Actions for Portreath:

- Pier condition assessment and economic benefits study
- Wave climate study & monitoring
- Cliff and beach monitoring
- Community adaptation strategy to climate change
- Local Development Framework to identify Portreath as a Coastal Change Management Area

At Portreath, the events storms and flooding in 2014 highlight the problem anticipated for the area in the longer term and reinforce the need to establish a longer-term plan for the area.

### **3.2 County Geological Sites**

The County Geological sites in Portreath Parish are Porth-Cadjack Cove K/5, Portreath K/21 and Kerriack Cove K/13. These are recognised by Local Authorities as an established feature of the statutory planning process in Cornwall but unlike may other site designations these have no legal protection.

### **3.3 County Wildlife Sites**

The Portreath Valley County Wildlife Site (K12), is similarly recognised, and has no legal protection afforded.

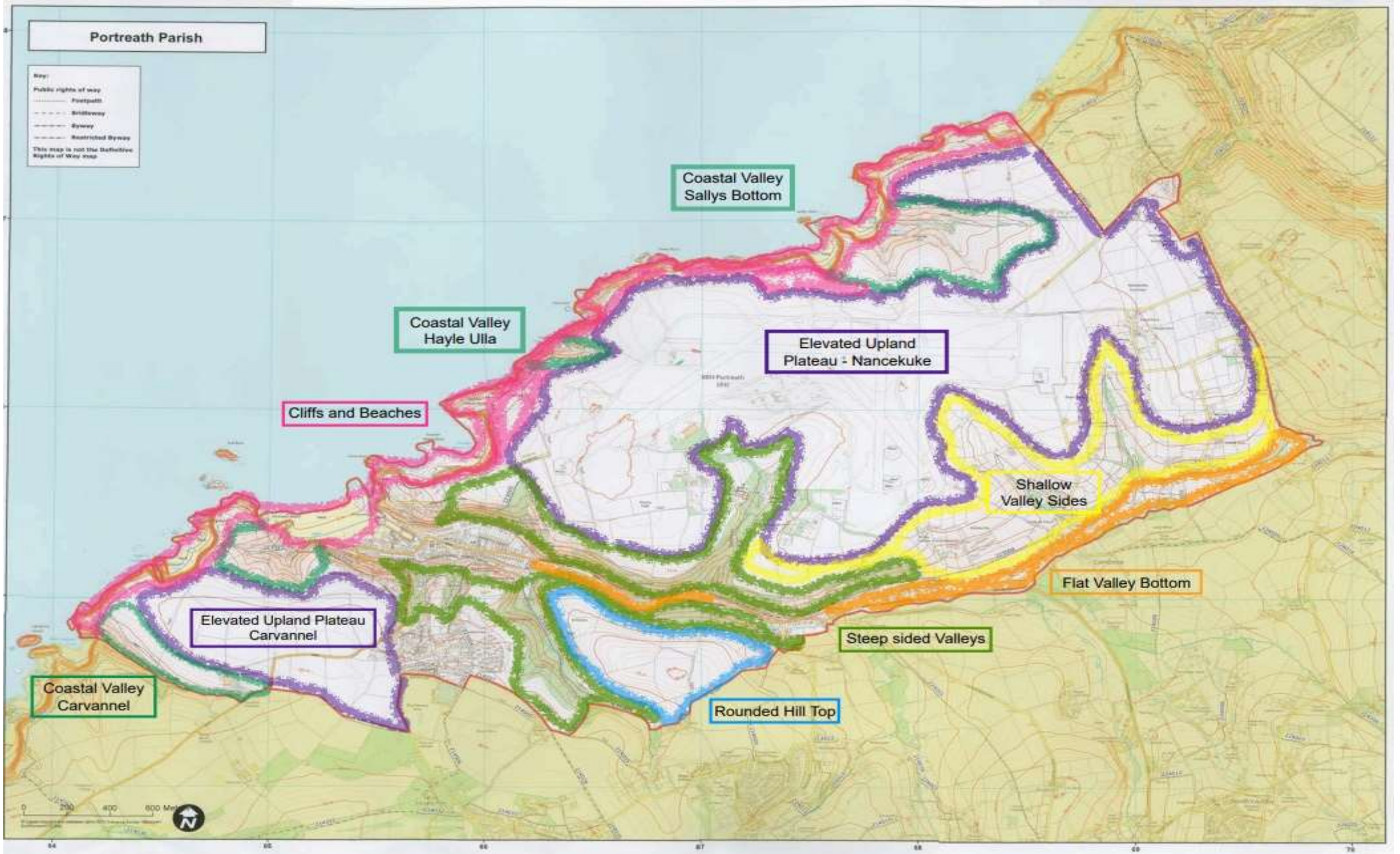
## **4 Village Character Assessment (VCA) and Edge of Settlement Assessment**

In parallel to the LLCA, a second group of Parish volunteers, with guidance from Colette Beckham, Gain Environmental and Landscape Consultancy, will be preparing a Village Character Assessment (VCA) for Portreath, and the other local settlements, which will include the built environment, architecture and community considerations. This will include an initial Edge of Settlement assessment for the same settlements contained in the VCA, to identify the settlement boundary, and identify areas that may be more acceptable for any future development plans.

# **Appendix 1**

## **Landscape Character Types Map**





## **Appendix 2**

### **Photographs**



Rounded Hill Tops



On New Walk footpath looking W



Panorama of Portreath from New Walk



On New Walk Footpath looking to Nance Hill Fort



View to Gwel an Mor from New Walk



View of the Square in Portreath from New Walk



View along Portreath Valley Looking SE



Shallow Valley Sides



South of Nancekuke looking SW



Above Southview Farm



Lower Manor Farm area



Typical post-medieval field pattern above Cambrose



View across head of Cuckoo Valley



Sunnyside Farm



Flat Valley Bottom



Bamboo and Tree Tunnel towards Bridge Industrial Estate



Road Bridge and Cambrose Junction with Eucalyptus



Verges and skyline towards Bridge and Tolticken Hill



Conifer hedge looking towards Bridge



Verge at Cambrose and Conifer Stand, looking towards Porthtowan



Isolated terrace, looking towards Bridge



## Steep Valley Sides



N side main valley, wood to arable land and MOD from Picnic area



View from New Walk to the sea



Zig Zags on S main valley looking towards village



View from Glenfeadon valley to the sea



Incline valley below Belerion



Illogan Woods



## Coastal Valleys



Carvannel valley, farm and scrub



Amy's side main valley and panorama



Mountain bike damage at Hayle Ulla



Sally's Bottom Panorama



Deptford Pink at New Walk



Above Sally's Bottom Panorama



Cliffs and Beaches



Battery Hill



Heathland on coastal fringe



Looking to sea from Porth Cadjack Cove



Sunset and the Pepper Pot



Orchids on the cliff near the Coast path



Dartmoor Ponies on Western Hill

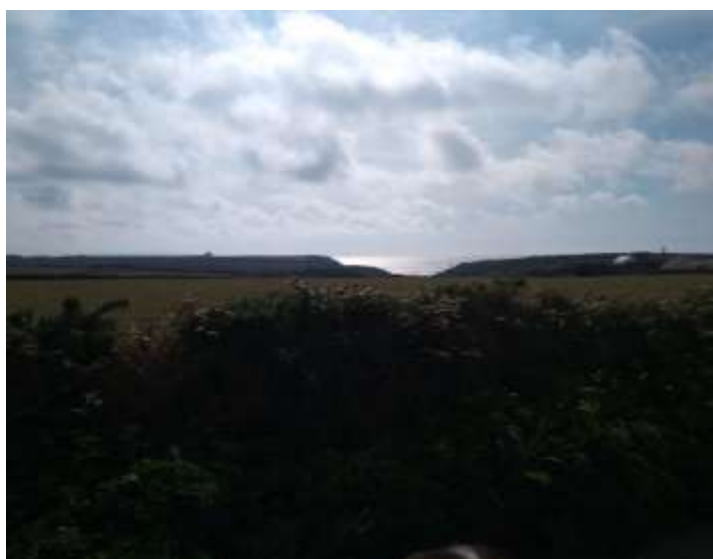
Upland Plateau



Carvannel Downs looking towards Portreath



Carvannel Downs looking toward Carn Brea



Nancekuke Looking towards West Wheal Towan



Cornish Hedge at Nancekuke



Looking into RRH Portreath through the fence



Nancekuke looking towards Chapel Meadows




## **Appendix 3**

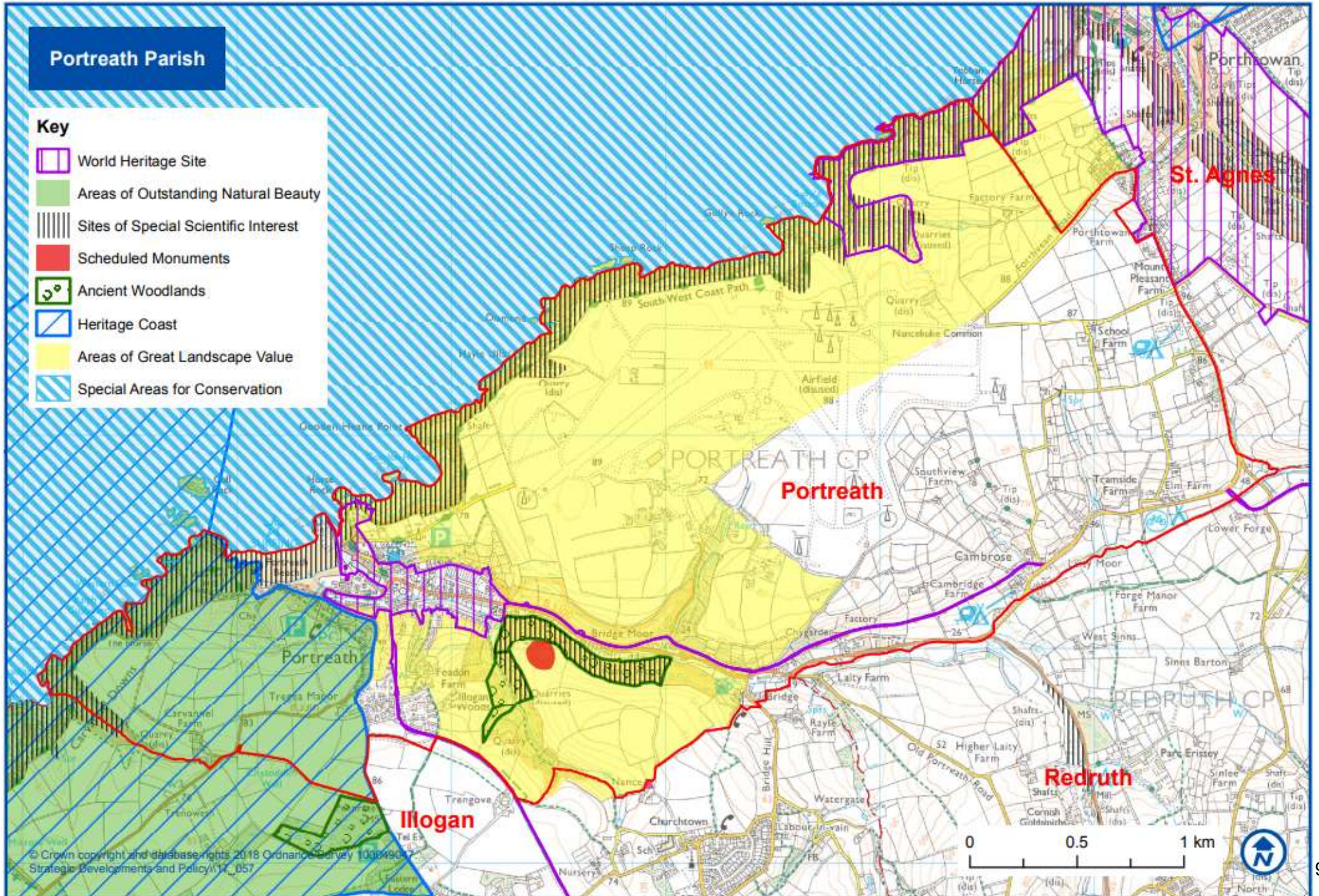
### **Environmental Designations Map**



# Portreath Parish

## Key

-  World Heritage Site
-  Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Sites of Special Scientific Interest
-  Scheduled Monuments
-  Ancient Woodlands
-  Heritage Coast
-  Areas of Great Landscape Value
-  Special Areas for Conservation





## **Appendix 4**

### **World Café Spot Map June 2019 with numbered observations**



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Strategic Developments and Policy 012 067

### What makes the landscape of Portreath important?

Tell us why you value your landscape.

What makes the place special for you and where do you love to go?

You can:

- Simply put a coloured spot straight onto the map to show where your important places are using the different colours below to show different things that you value.
- Give us more detail by filling in a sheet to tell us about your special places, with a corresponding numbered spot placed on the map.
- Use as many spots as you need to tell us all of the places you love, which makes the Parish of Portreath special for you.

-  **Recreational value** - place a spot where you like to spend your leisure time.
-  **Historical interest** - place a spot where you know there is an important historic feature, or place of historic importance.
-  **Natural and wildlife interest** - place a spot where you know there are important natural features, or important wildlife.
-  **Local views** - place a spot where you love to stand and admire the view.



## What makes the landscape of Portreath important?

Tell us why you value your landscape.

What makes the place special for you and where do you love to go?

You can

- Simply put a coloured spot straight onto the map to show where your important places are using the different colours below to show different things that you value,
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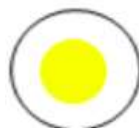
**Recreational value** – place a spot where you love to spend your leisure time



**Historical interest** - place a spot where you know there is an important historic feature, or place of cultural importance



**Natural and wildlife interest** - place a spot where you know there are important natural features, or important wildlife



**Good views** - place a spot where you love to stand and admire the view



## Numbered Observations correlating to World Café Spot Map June 2019

1. Fab view overlooking beach and harbour
2. Fab view for motorists descending Treglea Hill overlooking the bay and fab view for pedestrians at top of the Zig Zags
3. Sea bird colonies – kittiwakes, shags, fulmars
4. Nance Round – Neolithic site
5. Portreath Tramway – great historic value and cross Cornwall walk/ride
6. SW Coast Path
7. Moto-racing 4 times a year
8. Sally's Bottom
9. LHS of beach at low tide
10. Historical – The Incline
11. The War memorial
12. The old harbour wall where the coal etc. was stored
13. Great walk up to Gwel-an-Mor – good cardiac workout
14. Excellent view
15. Unusual picnic table – see if you can find it!
16. Bluebell wonder in spring
17. New Walk lovely walk to North Cliffs with rare Deptford Pink flowers
18. Good for dog walking and fresh air!
19. Lovely view from lower down the cliff path to Porth Cadjack
20. Peregrine falcons live here, you can see ravens as well
21. Protect the beach
22. Playing in the stream, with my friends and boats on the beach (Lowen, 4 years)
23. Great place for pre-school to visit – safe, lots of wildlife
24. The Incline Bridge hidden with trees – it's the sloping bridge over the river – rare, historical
25. Gull Rock- surf club ritual to swim out
26. Wood's swing – a ritual for most village children
27. Lovely views to Sally's Bottom and the sea
28. Views over the heather-covered cliffs to the sea
29. Looking S from Nancekuke to Carn Brea
30. Offshore adventures on kayak and other water craft
31. West Wheal Towan and Sally's Bottom mining heritage