



My ref: LCA/CEC4088
Date: 23 September 2022

Consultation Invitation – 25th and 26th October 2022

2022 Cornwall Landscape Character Assessment and Areas of Great Landscape Value

I am writing to invite you to one of three consultation events being held across Cornwall to review proposals which will update the 2007 Cornwall Landscape Character Assessment and landscapes designated of value to Cornwall, the Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV).

You are one of a number of Parish and Town Council invited to send a representative to this consultation for your knowledge and appreciation of the Cornish landscape. Invitations have been sent to Cornwall Councillors, Parish and Town Councils, Cornwall Council staff working in the environment, landowners, statutory bodies, local interest groups, historic landscape specialists and landscape architects working in Cornwall. Further information on the review of Cornwall Council's Landscape Character Assessment and Areas of Great Landscape Value can be found in the attached document.

Due to the geography of Cornwall, and to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to attend, the consultation events will be held in the following three venues:

- Tuesday 25th October at 12.30pm to 3.30pm – [Hayle Rugby Club](#).
A pasty lunch will be provided, please indicate if you prefer a meat, vegetarian or vegan pasty
- Tuesday 25th October at 7pm to 9.30pm – [St Erme Community Centre](#), St Erme.
Refreshments provided
- Wednesday 26th October at 11am to 1.30pm – [Trethorne Golf Club](#), Launceston.
Refreshments provided

If you would like to come and take part in this consultation event, that Cornwall Environmental Consultants Ltd are facilitating on behalf of Cornwall Council, I would be grateful if you would indicate which venue you would prefer to attend **before Friday 7th October**, and whether you have any special requirements by email to Kathryn.Statham@cecenvironment.co.uk

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If you would like to comment on the proposals but are not able to make any one of these three events, all of the presentation material and details of how we would like you to get involved, will be live on the following link **between Wednesday 26th October and Friday 4th November:**

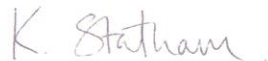
<https://cornwall-landscape-character-assessment-in-development-luc.hub.arcgis.com/>

Please send all comments relating to the consultation to me **before Monday 7th November** to Kathryn.Statham@cecenvironment.co.uk .

The completed 2022 Cornwall Landscape Character Assessment and updated Areas of Great Landscape Value will be available from the Cornwall Council web site in the Spring of 2023.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, but more importantly involving you in this important landscape character assessment and AGLV review for Cornwall.

All the best



Kathryn Statham CMLI
Senior Landscape Architect
Cornwall Environmental Consultants Ltd on behalf of Cornwall Council

Supporting information consultation on the Cornwall Landscape Character Assessment and Areas of Great Landscape Value review 2022

1. Background

- 1.1 The landscape of Cornwall is both unique and distinct, and under increasing pressure for change. Understanding the relationship between people and place, and recording what elements and features come together to create the distinctive Cornish landscape is vitally important to protect, plan and manage this landscape for the benefit of future generations.
- 1.2 The landscape of Cornwall has changed over the last 27 years since the first landscape character assessment was published in 1994. At the same time there has been an increased awareness of the landscape's importance as an asset to the Cornish economy, as well as the ecosystems services it provides, the role it plays in the Climate Change Emergency, and the beneficial effects it brings to our general health and wellbeing.
- 1.3 Through 40 Landscape Character Areas, the current [2007 Landscape Character Assessment](#) objectively describes the unique variations in landscape characteristics which combine to create the landscapes we know and love. It is an evidence base which underpins strategic and local planning as well as guides land management. Since 2007 there has been significant change in the landscape, this review will create a current and detailed record of Cornwall's landscape character to positively guide future change.
- 1.4 Presently Cornwall recognises approximately 54% of the landscape as scenically beautiful:
 - 30% Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
 - 24% Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)
- 1.5 The 1985 Cornwall Countryside Local Plan recognised landscapes of scenic importance to Cornwall when it designated 24% Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). This evidence base of Cornish landscapes of importance has not been updated since the 1995 Structure Plan review, and is out of date. This review will re-evaluate the present AGLVs to strengthen the evidence which underpins this designation of landscapes of scenic value to Cornwall.
- 1.6 As well as being vitally important to the local economy, many of the AGLVs abut the boundaries of the Cornwall and Tamar Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) further extending this national designation of scenic beauty.
- 1.7 The need to respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of Cornwall is embedded in the following Cornwall Local Plan policies:
 - Policy 2 – Spatial Planning
 - Policy 5 – Tourism
 - Policy 7 – Housing in the countryside
 - Policy 9 – Rural Exception Sites
 - Policy 23 - Natural Environment
 - Policy 24 – Historic environment
 - Policy 25 – Green Infrastructure

2. The 2007 Landscape Character Assessment

2.1 The current assessment identifies 40 landscape Character Areas (CA) within Cornwall and 5 for the Isles of Scilly based on their component Landscape Descriptions Units (LDU) and is an evidence base document which:

- underpins both policies within the Cornwall Local Plan, and Neighbourhood Development Plans
- is the character baseline assessment for the emerging Cornwall Renewable Energy Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (CRELSA) which provides a strategy for accommodating future renewable energy generation infrastructure in the landscape of Cornwall as part of the Climate Change Development Plan Document
- supports policies within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan
- is considered in the determination of all major planning applications and planning appeals refused on landscape grounds
- provides local landscape character detail to guide development to retain and create new green areas/spaces, hedges, trees, ensuring development retains/introduces natural corridors both for wildlife but also community health and wellbeing
- provides details of landscape character to inform and feed into the Nature Recovery work currently being undertaken by Cornwall Council
- will inform the Forest for Cornwall planting areas, guiding new woodland to ensure it is best integrated to further enhance the Cornish landscape.

2.2 Landscape Character Areas (CA) are 40 geographically discrete areas which have their own 'sense of place' and are unique to a specific area of Cornwall. They represent the next scale down from the larger National Character Areas¹ and their boundaries are identified from the constituent smaller Landscape Description Units (LDU).

2.3 Each CA is supported by an area specific description which provides detail of the character under a series of attribute headings.

2.4 Landscape Description Units (LDU) are the building blocks of the landscape character study and form the base unit for the construction of the CAs. They are defined on the basis of mapped national and local data describing:

- physiography and ground type, which together encapsulate the underlying natural dimension of the landscape;
- landcover, reflecting surface vegetation
- cultural pattern
- historic landscape
- biodiversity

¹ Natural England

3. 2022 Review

This review will create the third character assessment for Cornwall to underpin policy within the Local Plan and Neighborhood Development Plans, and to be a strategic document to inform and guide future landscape change. The review looks at both the 2007 Landscape Character Assessment and the 1995 Areas of Great Landscape Value.

4. 2022 Landscape Character Assessment

The 2022 landscape Character assessment will replace the 2007 assessment, and will then continue to be an up to date evidence base for those areas listed under 2.1 above.

4.1 Cornwall Character Areas (CCAs) – will replace the previous 40 CAs, with 45 CCAs which like their predecessors are also geographically discrete areas which have their own 'sense of place'. The difference is they are now more readily identifiable as areas of Cornwall, subdividing some of the very large 2007 CAs, and having a much more defined local landscape relationship.

4.2 Landscape Character Types (LCTs) – will be 18 new descriptions of separate types of landscape character which can be found across Cornwall. These 18 'Types' will come together in different combinations to create the 45 CCAs, and describe a finer grain of character detail. These LCTs will replace the previous LDUs which will no longer be used.

5. 2022 Areas of Great Landscape Value

5.1 The AGLV character descriptions in the 1995 Technical Paper contained little detail and guidance for future development or land management. The 2022 review will:

- through objective criteria determine which areas of Cornwall will be designated as AGLVs
- examine the present AGLV boundaries to determine whether they need to be amended
- potentially propose new areas of the landscape to be covered by this designation of Cornish landscape value
- provide a greater level of character description, and more detailed guidelines for each AGLV.