

**APPENDIX 3.3 - ROSELAND LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLE FOR RUAN LANIHORNE**

<b>Character Attribute</b>	<b>Elevated Upland/ Plateau/ Exposed Land</b>	<b>Intermediate Sloping Land (Undulating Farmland)</b>	<b>Steep Sided Valley</b>	<b>Valley Bottom combine with Tidal Creeks</b>	<b>Tidal Estuaries and Creeks</b>	<b>Cliff -none</b>
<b>Topography and drainage</b>	A flat though narrow, elevated plateau along which the only 'A' road on the Roseland runs through Ruan High Lanes hamlet. No evidence of natural watercourses there. Additionally parts of the road which climbs out of Ruan Laniorne in both directions are on the plateau	From a plateau leading to undulating fields descending eventually to valley bottoms draining into streams, tributaries and saltmarsh where the River Ruan and River Fal merge.	Some steep sided valleys alongside rivers or streams.		Completely flat, a wide tidal channel where the rivers Fal and Ruan meet, the Ruan bounded by saltmarsh grasses, the Fal by large important mud flats at low tide; the whole designated an SSSI, also incorporating two areas of CWT reserves and a bird hide. Village pond at head of creek managed by local volunteers.	
<b>Data source</b>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs</i>					
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Some large grass verges, Cornish hedge boundaries and small hedgerows with tree and ground cover amongst them could be linked to provide wildlife corridors. Not aware of invasive species.	There are pockets of ancient woodland, mainly beech, oak and ash, dominated by springtime primroses and bluebells. All 3 woodpecker species are present as are Tawny Owls. Badgers and Roe Deer are established. The woodland is ideal to support Spotted Flycatcher and Nuthatch. The upland fields in winter provide high tide roosts for wading birds, especially Golden Plover and Curlew (both Red data species). Barn Owls (a declining Roseland speciality) quarter the fields occasionally. In stubble fields Skylark, Finches and Yellowhammers find food and shelter.	There are pockets of ancient woodland on the valley sides, usually close to and descending to rivers. Examples of this are Ruan Wood, and the woodland valley of the Fal above Sett Bridge known as Parson's Wood. Their isolation and the density of British native trees lend themselves to protecting mammals, birds and flora, especially bluebells and primroses, usually a good indicator of ancient woodland.		Flood plain habitat for important wintering birds eg significant flocks of Wigeon, Lapwing, Golden Plover and Curlew; other passage birds including rare Blacktailed Godwits, Greenshank, Sandpipers, Mergansers; and regular Ospreys. Otters and Kingfishers breed in this inaccessible habitat; and Barn Owls are present. Numbers of Long-eared Bats hunt for insects high above the river. Some phragmites is present but this provides habitat for Reed Buntings and Sedge Warblers.	
<b>Data source</b>	<i>CWT Wildlife notes, and local knowledge</i>	<b>Environmental Mapping (Appendix 5 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity)</b>				

<b>Character Attribute</b>	<b>Elevated Upland/ Plateau/ Exposed Land</b>	<b>Intermediate Sloping Land (Undulating Farmland)</b>	<b>Steep Sided Valley</b>	<b>Valley Bottom combine with Tidal Creeks</b>	<b>Tidal Estuaries and Creeks</b>	<b>Cliff -none</b>
<b>Land cover and Land Use</b>	<p>There are a few isolated farms supporting both arable crops and pasture for sheep and cattle.</p> <p>Additionally there are small industrial units near the crossroads in Ruan High Lanes, as well as a fairly large garden centre and a specialist professional garden to visit.</p> <p>There are some isolated residential dwellings.</p> <p>However most houses are alongside or near to the village green near to the side road junctions.</p> <p>The vegetation cover is farmland</p>	<p>A mixture of lush pastoral grassland for sheep, dairy and beef cattle. Also some fields devoted to cereal crops with some variety, including daffodil bulb cultivation.</p> <p>Small isolated farms and occasional large houses are scattered around the three small hamlets which together form the parish.</p>	<p>The land abutting the woodland on the valley slopes is mainly grassland used for cattle and sheep.</p>		<p>The area provides no human land use other than for canoeing, leisure fishing, walking or relaxing!</p> <p>The mudflats grew historically as a result of silt washed down from china clay and mineral mining on the moors at the head of the Fal. It is believed to be 80' thick at the centre; hence the disused chimney and small buildings of Trelonk brickworks which used the clay in manufacture in Victorian times.</p>	
<b>Data source</b>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs, local knowledge</i>	<b>Environmental Mapping (Appendix 5 – agricultural land classification)</b>				
<b>Field and woodland pattern</b>	<p>There is, unusually, a young conifer plantation adjacent to the main road to the south of Ruan High Lanes.</p> <p>The fields vary in size but appear quite large. Hedges may have been removed in the past.</p> <p>The hedges are small but still mask views of the fields as many of them are solid Cornish hedges covered with soil and vegetation.</p> <p>There is a mixture of small trees generally.</p> <p>Isolated and exposed ridge-line trees are often wind-sculpted from west to east.</p>	<p>Woodland is located in small copses, larger ribbon strips and some medium sized woods. The trees are mainly native and mature oak, beech and ash. The woodland carpets of bluebells indicate the presence of ancient woodland.</p> <p>The fields vary considerably in size, although most are bounded by natural hedges of alder, blackthorn and ash, or Cornish hedges.</p> <p>There are several Ponds and streams.</p> <p>Wire fencing is often used to as a boundary, especially where fields are occupied by livestock</p>	<p>The woodland is usually in the lower lying land within the steep river valleys.</p> <p>The trees are mainly native and mature with woodland probably here for hundreds of years. Oak, beech and ash are the major species.</p> <p>There are also some tree stands on higher slopes but not in such density.</p> <p>There are hedgerows with significant tree cover as well which, where linked, would provide good wildlife corridors for bats, small birds and mammals.</p> <p>Hedges contain a variety of small trees; alder, blackthorn ash, holly and gorse prevail. These hedges are often supplemented by wire fencing where cattle are kept.</p>		<p>There are no trees, hedges or woodland within the creeks, but mature woodland trees descend to and flank the mudflat edges. The dominant species are beech, ash and oak, with some other native species such as alder, holly and blackthorn forming the hedges where there is adjacent farmland.</p>	
<b>Data source</b>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs, CWT Wildlife notes, and visit the area to confirm details</i>	<b>Environmental Mapping (Appendix 5 – Trees and Woodland)</b>				

<b>Character Attribute</b>	<b>Elevated Upland/ Plateau/ Exposed Land</b>	<b>Intermediate Sloping Land (Undulating Farmland)</b>	<b>Steep Sided Valley</b>	<b>Valley Bottom combine with Tidal Creeks</b>	<b>Tidal Estuaries and Creeks</b>	<b>Cliff -none</b>
<b>Settlement pattern</b>	Scattered. One significant cluster. (see above, under land use). The buildings are generally low in construction, but there is no one distinct style	Treworga is a small hamlet set midway between the plateau and the tidal estuary. There are a small number of farms, a manor house, some very old thatched houses, and some more recent individual low dwellings in this ribbon development; together with a row of current/former Council houses.	There are no settlements on the valley sides and very few farm buildings because of the steep terrain.		No settlement around the mudflats, but Ruan Laniorne is at the head of the creek. The hamlet comes up a slope from the river with its old Castle houses and ancient Parish church (13 <sup>th</sup> C.) Houses in the main have largish plots and are in scale with each other	
<b>Data source</b>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs, Historic Environment information, and visit the area to confirm details</i>	<b>Environmental Mapping (Appendix 5 – Principle Settlements)</b>				
<b>Transport pattern</b>	'A' road 30mph limit in Ruan High Lanes. Busy compared to side roads which lead off from it. 'A' road flat, quite narrow, snaking through the hamlet of Ruan High Lanes. There are no pavements or street lights. Public paths are generally well-marked and in reasonable condition. Minor roads narrow on ridgelines	The roads are all minor, narrow, many single track, without pavements, street lighting or signage. Many are difficult to negotiate having no marked edges or drainage or passing places apart from adjacent field gate openings. Meeting large farm traffic can cause problems. Often the roads are bounded by hedges 2-3 metres high on both sides for some distance. Tree tunnels are common, distinctive and beautiful. Generally the footpaths are well signed and maintained, although surprisingly few in number.	The minor road linking Ruan Chapel with Treworga hamlet has large established beech trees alongside it making for spectacular tree tunnels. The road to Tregony directly from Ruan Laniorne descends to the river through Ruan Wood, already referred to for its bluebells and primroses.		Single unclassified road borders one side of the creek near Ruan Laniorne. It is poorly drained and is covered frequently by high tides and consequently is prone to potholing. There is no pavement and only a small intermittent grass verge, maintained on a voluntary basis. However there are wild flowers such as bluebells and red campion currently in the verges.	
<b>Data source</b>	<i>OS Map; aerial photographs local knowledge and visit the area to confirm details</i>	<b>Environmental Mapping (Appendix 5 – Access and Rights of Way)</b>				
<b>Historic Features</b>	The village green in Ruan High Lanes acts as a focal point for the hamlet. It has probably the earliest daffodils in the district. The Hundred House was used historically as a courthouse.	The glorious view from Demain Farm of the ancient woodland clinging to the steep sided slopes of the River Fal as it falls to the saltmarsh.	The colours, especially in Spring, of fresh leaf foliage, and in Autumn, of the magnificent bronzing of the deciduous woodland tree leaves as they contrast with their setting on the valley slopes.		The old Trelonk Brickworks, although only the top of the chimney is visible. (Barn Owls have nested there) The restored Quay at the confluence of the rivers Ruan and Fal. The ancient river crossing at Sett Bridge. The magnificent tree tunnel on the road alongside the creek near to Ruan Laniorne village pond going towards the quay.	
<b>Data source</b>	<i>Use local knowledge, Historic Environment information; aerial photographs and visit the area to confirm details</i>	<b>Environmental Mapping (Appendix 5 – Heritage Designations and Historic Landscape Character Types)</b>				

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<b>Condition</b>	<p>Local volunteers keep the area of Ruan High Lanes green attractive and verges cut. Wild flowers are a joy in the early spring alongside the main road and on the minor roadsides and footpaths. However, although wild flowers and nesting birds are present they are in decline. The timing and frequency of cutting and flailing of roadside hedges and verges should be carefully considered in order to encourage the habitat for flowers and birds. The farmland is clearly well-managed.</p>	<p>Modern farming practices demand a more intensive use of fields than previously and therefore traditional methods are being lost. Fields are rarely left fallow and stubble is ploughed in after harvesting. This is possibly why there are fewer sounds in Spring of skylarks or cuckoos here, fewer insects or seeds left for finches, buntings and pipits, and consequently why the opportunistic species, such as crows, rooks, jackdaws and magpies are increasing.</p>	<p>There appears to be no obvious degrading of the valley slopes. The privacy and isolation of the valleys means they are well protected from public damage and act as a buffer for the farmland above them. There is a loss of wild flowers and nesting birds on roadside verges and hedges as a result of flailing.</p>		<p>The creeks and river have no degradation, other than changes to the banks caused by water and silt. The clearing of litter and river flotsam is managed by local volunteers. The wildlife and habitat monitoring is undertaken by English Nature, and local volunteers complete regular counts and surveys for the CWT, BTO, on mammals, birds, butterflies, moths, dragonflies, insects, etc.</p>	
<b>Data source</b>	<i>Use local knowledge and visit the area to confirm details</i>					
<b>Aesthetic and sensory</b>	<p>In the Parish Ruan High Lanes probably has the highest level of artificial noise because of its position on the main road. The landscape is quite exposed and, significantly, often feels colder than the more sheltered parts of the Parish such as Ruan Laniorne. The predominant wind direction is Southwest. Away from the light caused by vehicle headlights the light pollution is low and the night sky clarity good.</p>	<p>Usually quiet and calm, apart from the distant noise of agricultural vehicles in the fields or garden machinery or the occasional motor vehicle. The most consistently heard noise is that of RNAS Culdrose helicopters as they practise manoeuvres in the area, At night, if there is no cloud, the skies are absolutely crystal clear. Unpolluted by light it is possible to pick out stars, planets and follow satellites with the naked eye, a truly jaw-dropping sight.</p>	<p>Mainly quiet and undisturbed apart from the noise of tractors and agricultural machinery. Some occasional disturbance from gunfire or hunting during the season, but that is usually minimal. Valley sides both ironically sheltered and exposed depending on the wind direction. It usually comes from the south west but much colder drier winds do on occasion come from the east. Each of the seasons creates its own attractive distinctiveness. The level of light pollution is low as the valleys are away from sources of light themselves.</p>		<p>Undisturbed and quiet, with just the noise of water and wind punctuated by plaintive birdsong. A serene place of quality which has a profound effect on many who visit it. Alongside the road the beauty of primroses, celandine, bluebells, red campion and stitchwort are a delight to behold in Spring. Its wide open and expansive skies, its unbroken ridgeline and the vista of the river and marsh with no signs of the past century give it a sense of timelessness and peace. There is no light pollution leading to a clarity of starlight hard to match on cloudless nights.</p>	
<b>Data source</b>	<i>Use local knowledge and visit the area to confirm details</i>					

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<b>Distinctive features</b>	The distinctive features are the views to both northwest and southeast.	There are no wind turbines, solar farms or high pylon electricity lines to be seen. Therefore the viewing of ridge lines is uninterrupted, an important characteristic of the Roseland. The recent construction of very large agricultural buildings, predominantly on the skyline, is of some concern aesthetically.	Power lines across the valleys are low in comparison to the norm. There are no significant distinctive features other than those already described.		Ancient Sett Bridge. Saltmarsh. Restored Quay. Old Brickworks chimney top. Tree tunnels. Village pond. Wild flowers in the verges, hedges and boundaries.	
<b>Data source</b>	<i>Use local knowledge, Historic Environment information</i>	<b>Environmental Mapping (Appendix 5 – Heritage Designations and Biodiversity and Geodiversity)</b>				
<b>Views</b>	Views northwest from Ruan High Lanes village green down the undulating farmland towards Treworga and the Fal and northeast over the steep-sided valley towards Veryan. Views down the tree-lined valley of the Fal from Demain Farm ridge	Coronation Terrace, Treworga towards Philleigh; ancient farmland of Trenestral and Ardevora Manor House. Wide panorama and the river Fal above King Harry Ferry. (much of this view is within Philleigh Parish.)	A superb view of the hanging woodland valley of the Upper Fal can be seen from the road above Ruan Laniorne, looking down from Demain Farm top gateway.		The Old Quay. Views downstream. Sett Bridge. Views both downstream and upstream.	
<b>Data source</b>	<i>OS Map; Use local knowledge</i>					
<b>Key characteristics</b>	The far reaching panoramic views.	Predominantly agricultural land with pockets of mature native woodland. Far reaching views.	The way in which farming has adapted to the steep contours of the fields without destroying the woodland which creates such an outstanding piece of countryside		The effect of the creek merging into the river below Sett Bridge. The dominance of nature as opposed to man. The beauty of the area, wild flowers, trees, hedges and unscarred views. The calmness, stillness and quiet	
<b>Relationship to the adjacent assessment area(s)</b>	The upland plateau area changes very quickly to undulating farmland and valleys on the two minor roads leading from the main road in Ruan High Lanes, one heading to Treworga and Philleigh, and the other to Ruan Laniorne.	The transition from upland plateau to undulating intermediate land is pronounced. Throughout the Parish it is noticeable that the two Character Types immediately abut one another.	There is no distinct boundary between the steep valleys and the undulating farmland above. However there is an obvious dividing line at the bottom of the valleys where the woodland inevitably reaches the water's edge, creating a classic demarcation line.		The tidal creek is bordered by the adjacent Character Type of undulating land leading upwards eventually towards the plateau. The border of undulation and the creek types is very clear.	