



Tregoniggie Woodland Management Plan Maps and Appendices

Prepared for Cornwall Council
June 2021

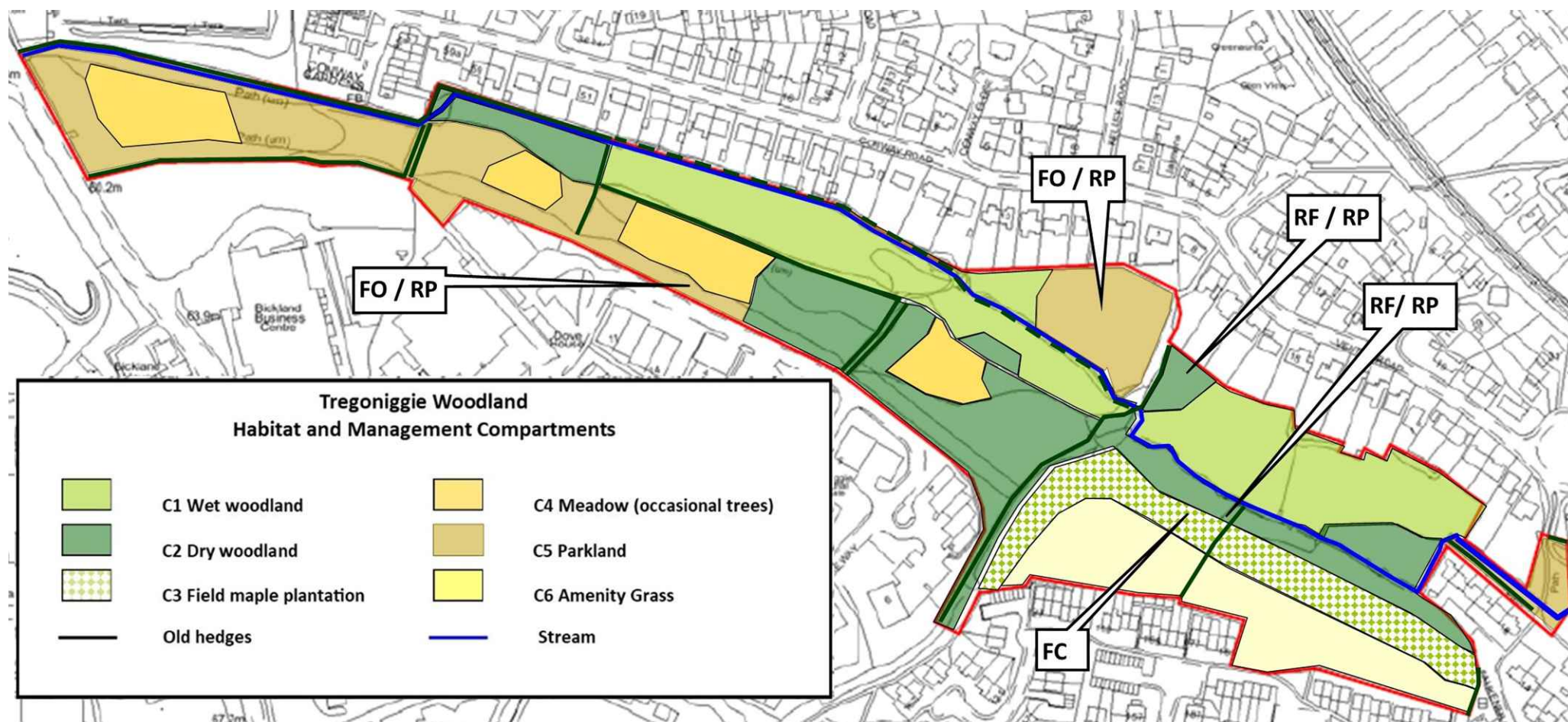
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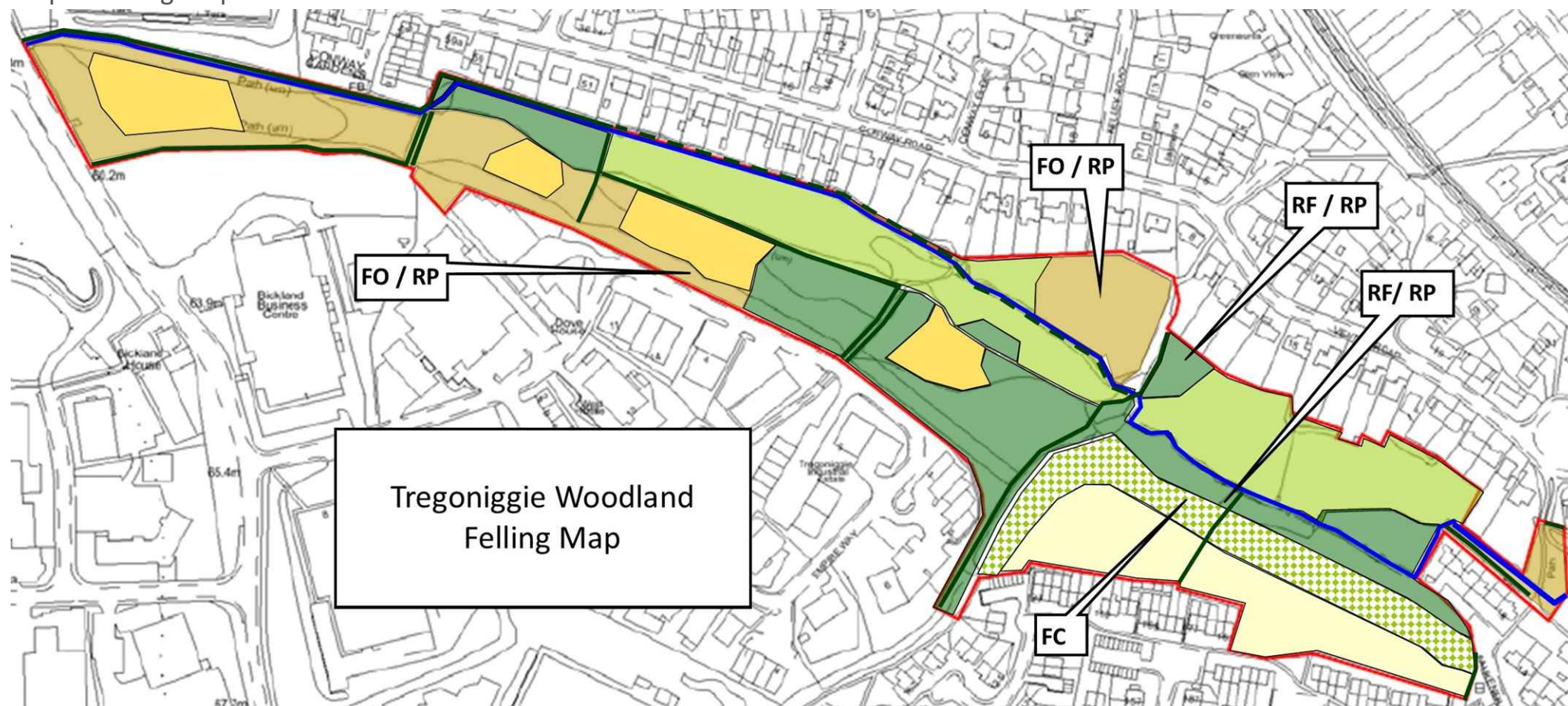
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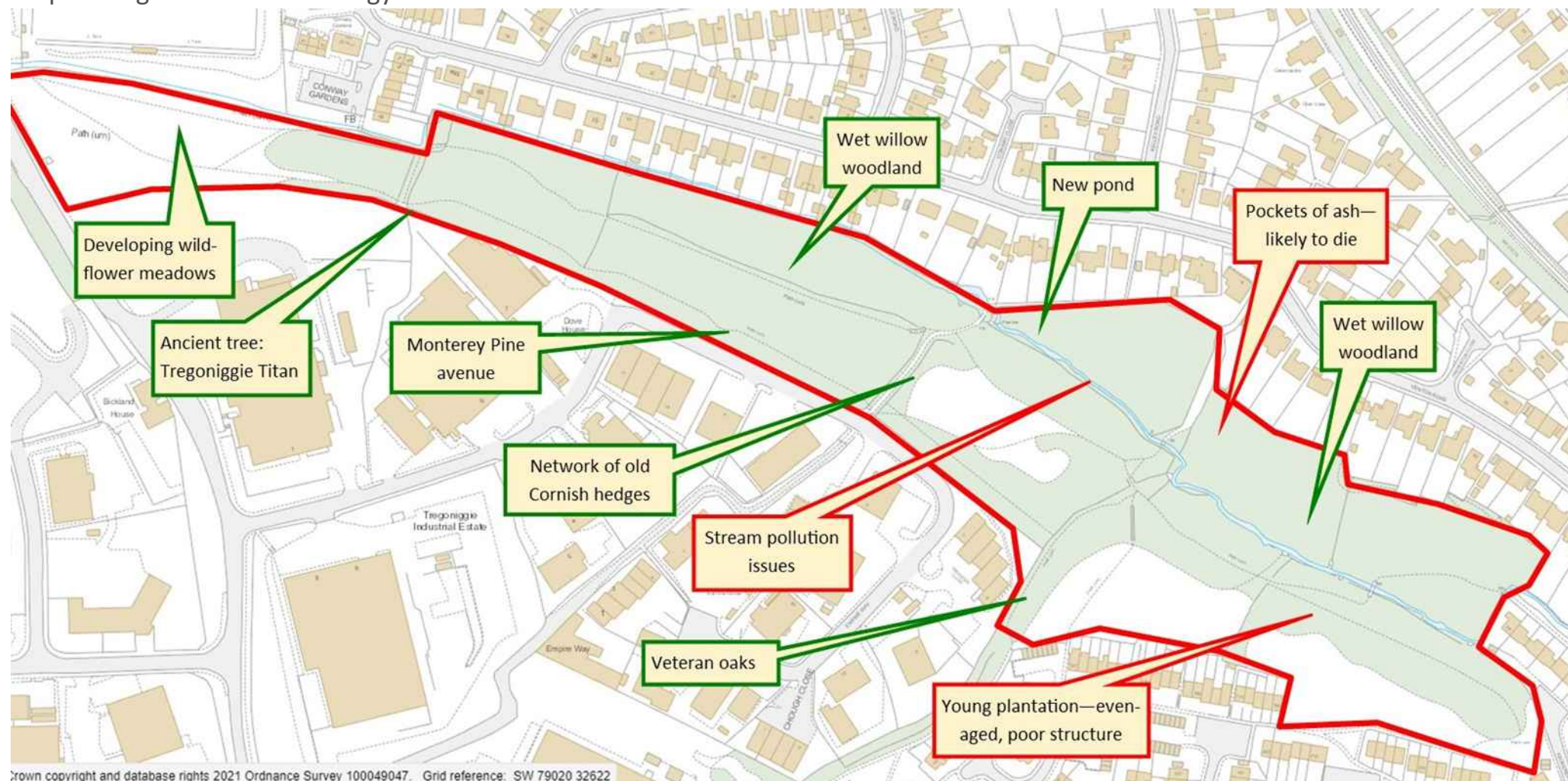
Map 1: Woodland Compartments



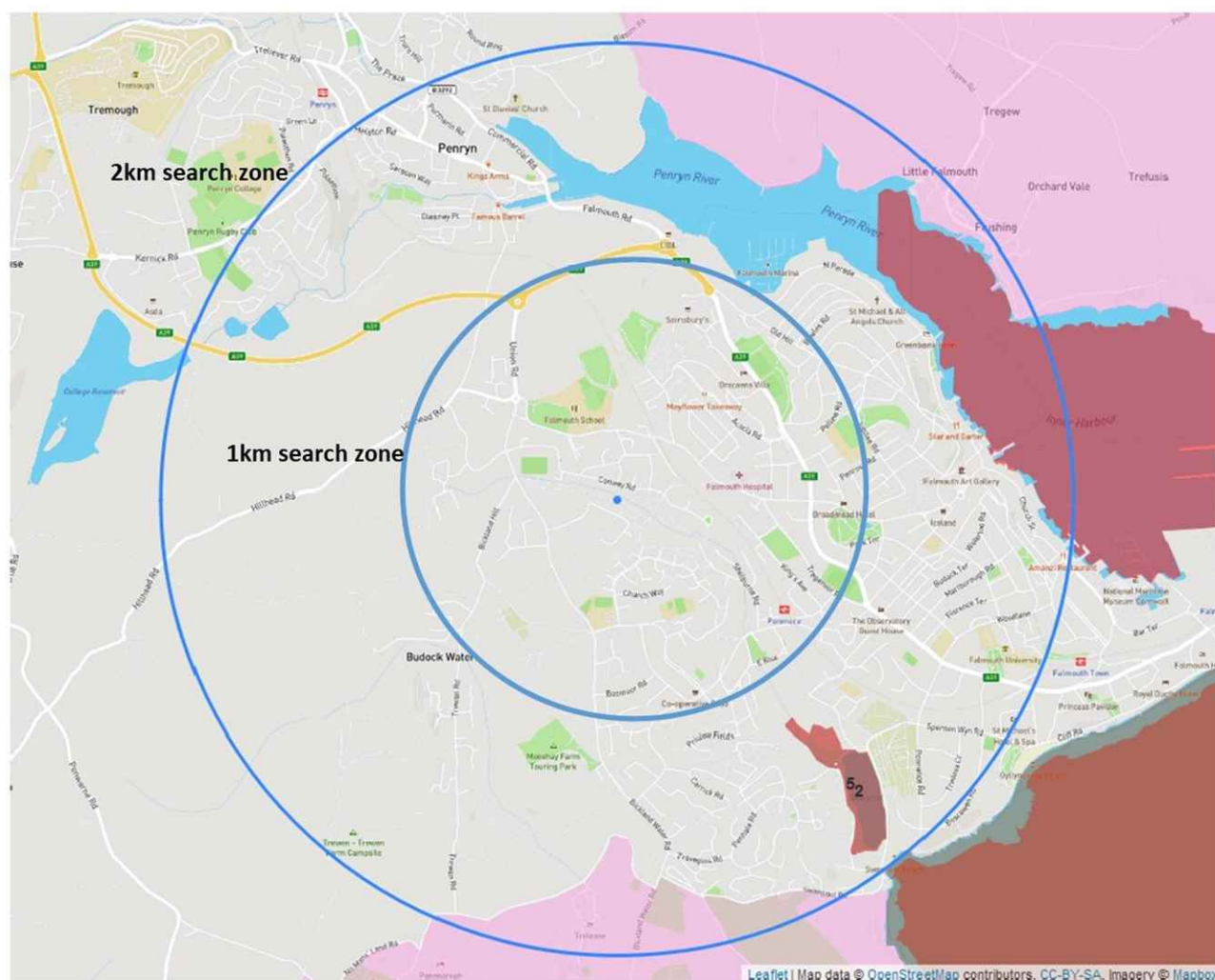
Map 2: Felling Proposals



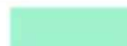
Map 3: Target Notes and Ecology



Map 4: Statutory Protected Sites (2km search radius)

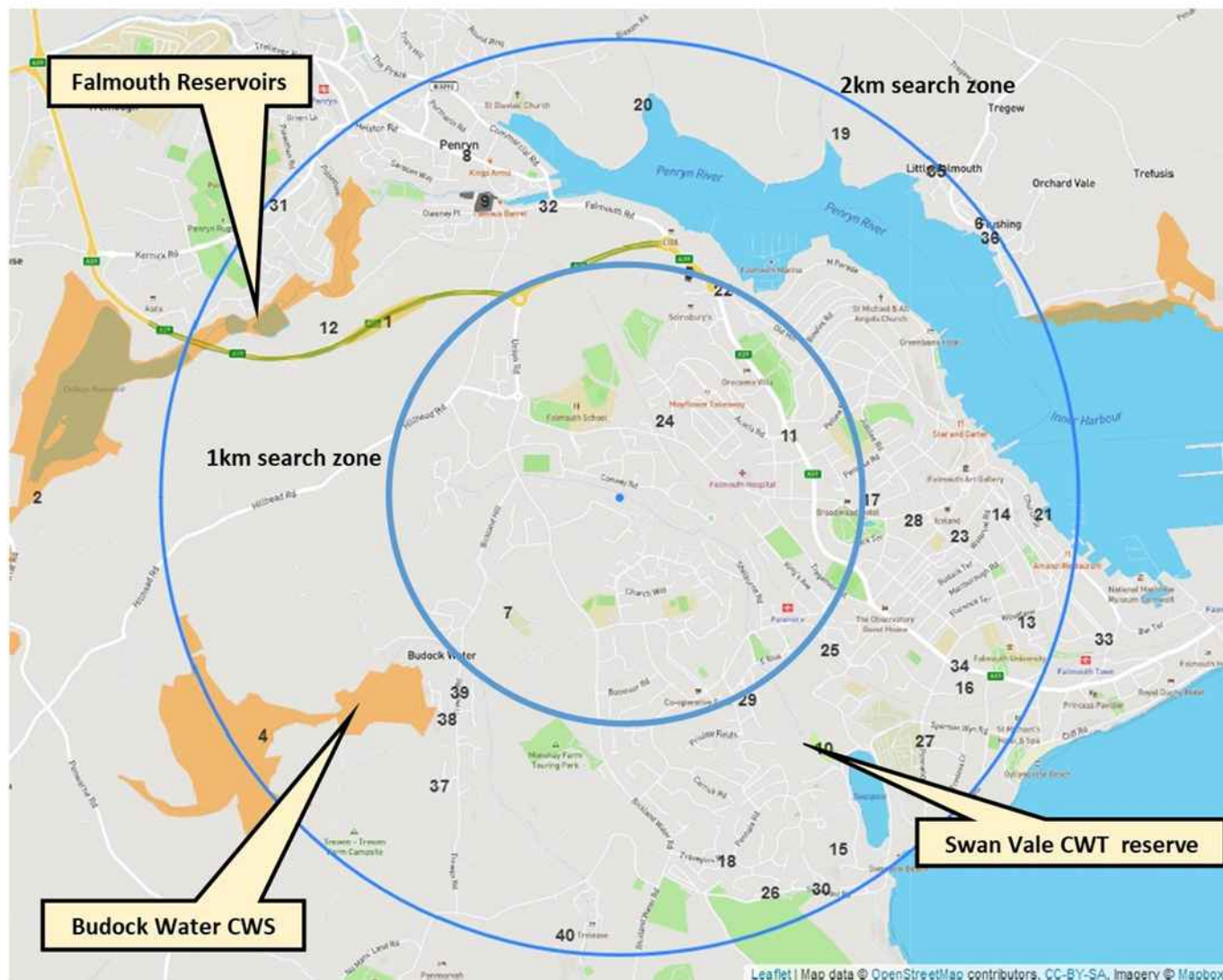


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Site Name/Designation	Colour
Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	
Swanpool Local Nature Reserve	
Fal and Helford Marine Special Area of Conservation	
Falmouth Bay and St Austell Bay Special Protection Area	
Swanpool Site of Special Scientific Interest	

Data from ERCCIS

Map 5: Non-statutory Sites



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Site Name/Designation	Colour
Beacon Hill Cutting County Geological Site	
Falmouth Reservoirs County Wildlife Site	
Flushing Beach County Wildlife Site	
Budock Water County Wildlife Site	
Monument (15581, 29226, 31866, 32953, CO1083)	
Swan Vale Cornwall Wildlife Trust Reserve	
Roadside Earth Geological Site (334, 335)	

Data from ERCCIS

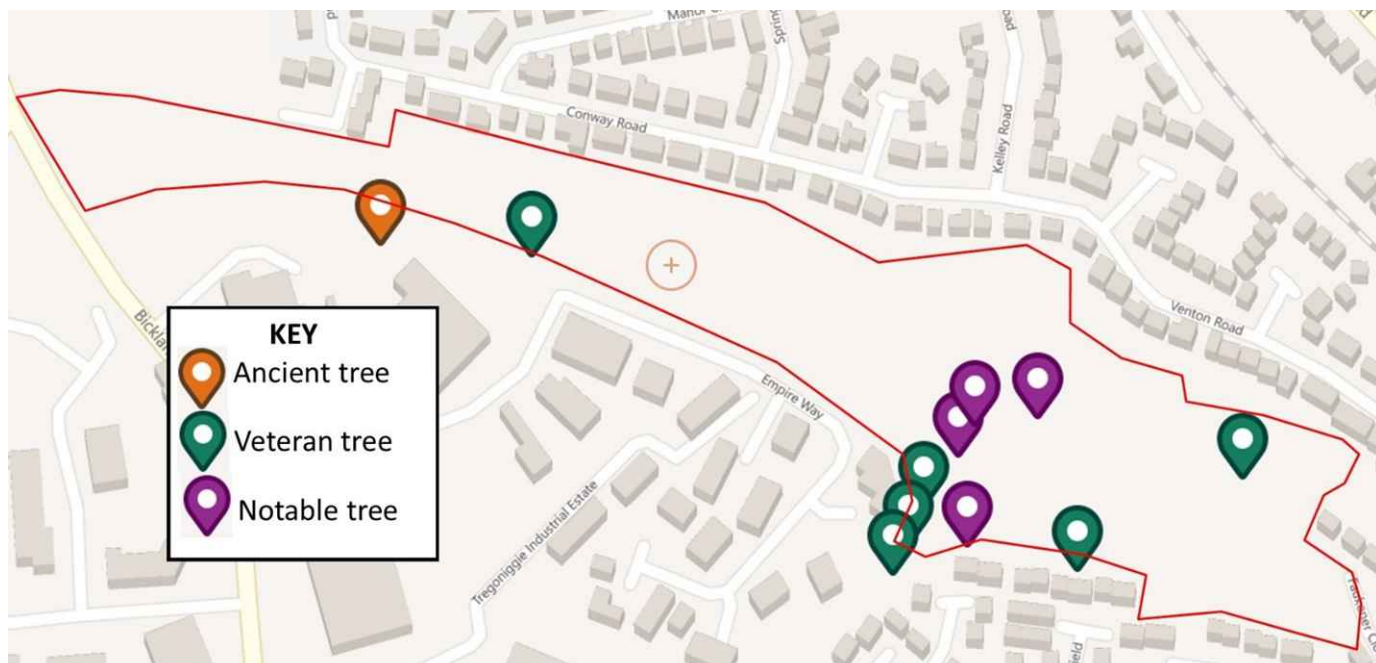
Map 6: Tree Preservation Orders



Source: Cornwall Council

There are a number of individual boundary trees with tree preservation orders placed on them. In addition, the large majority of the woodland is covered by an area TPO, reference number C1/59 made in 1966. The full designation is available online at:
https://map.cornwall.gov.uk/reports_TPO/C1_59.pdf

Map 7: Ancient and Veteran Trees



Ancient and veteran tree map (from <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>)

The veteran and ancient trees on site are found in association with the old hedges and field boundaries, and thus form part of compartment 8. They are however listed separately here because they have a special significance both for wildlife and culturally. Nine veteran and one ancient tree have been recorded on the site. These are seven sessile oaks, one holly, one ash and a goat willow that has spread layered and rooted outwards over a wide area within the wet woodland.

Veteran trees are particularly important for the wide range of other species they support. This includes fungi, epiphytes, insects and associated feeding birds. Bats may also roost in the hollows. Hollow trees are also attractive places for young children to hide and play.

The ancient ash, known locally as the Tregonigie Titan, has been coppiced many times in the past and the tree has spread sideways taking over the historic hedge. Several decades ago the coppicing regime lapsed allowing many stems to grow out. The original trunk base can still be seen as a hollow shell in the centre and displays aerial roots with new epicormic growth.

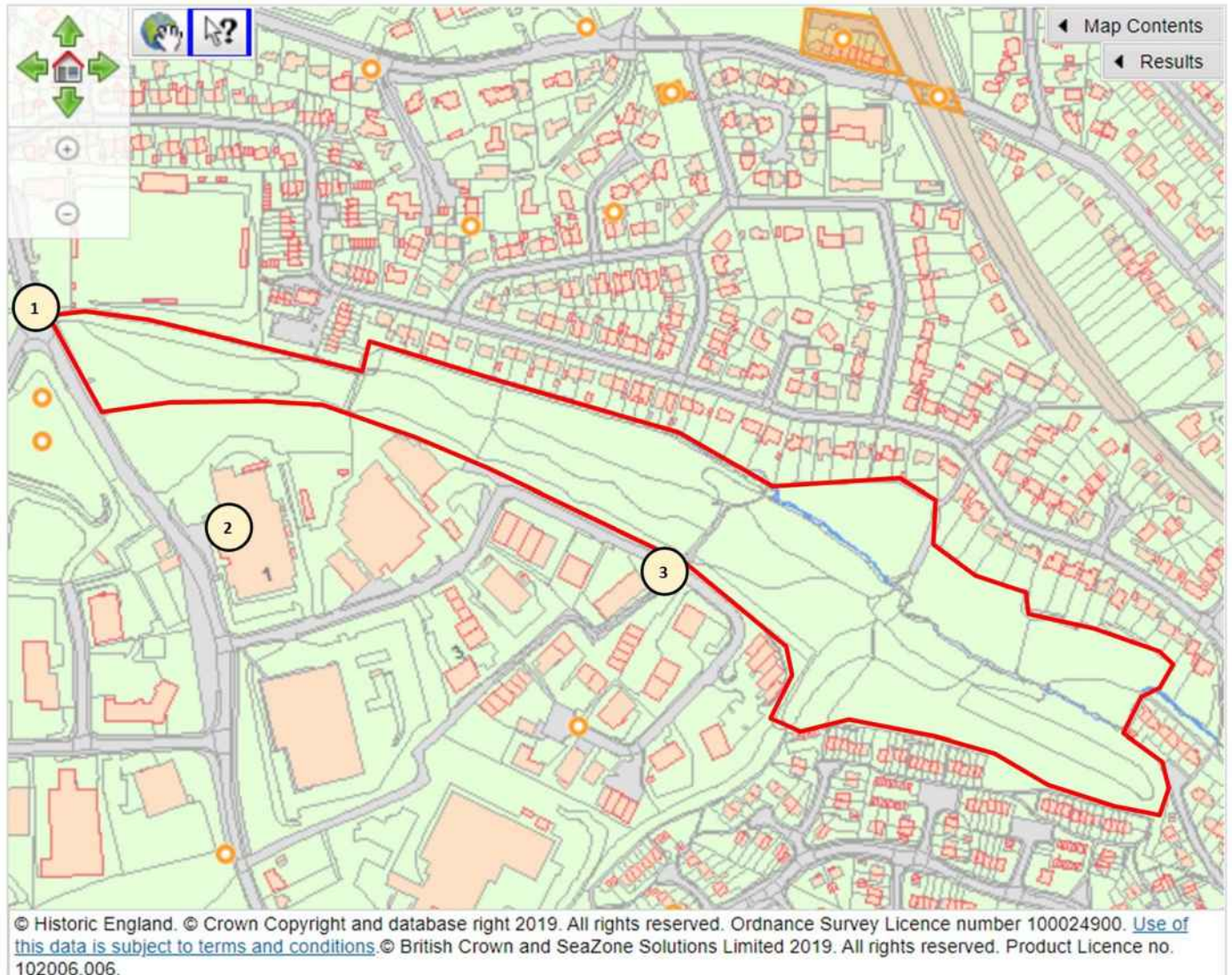


The Tregoniggie Titan (NGR SW 788 329)



Veteran oak trees (NGR SW 792 327)

Map 8: Heritage Records

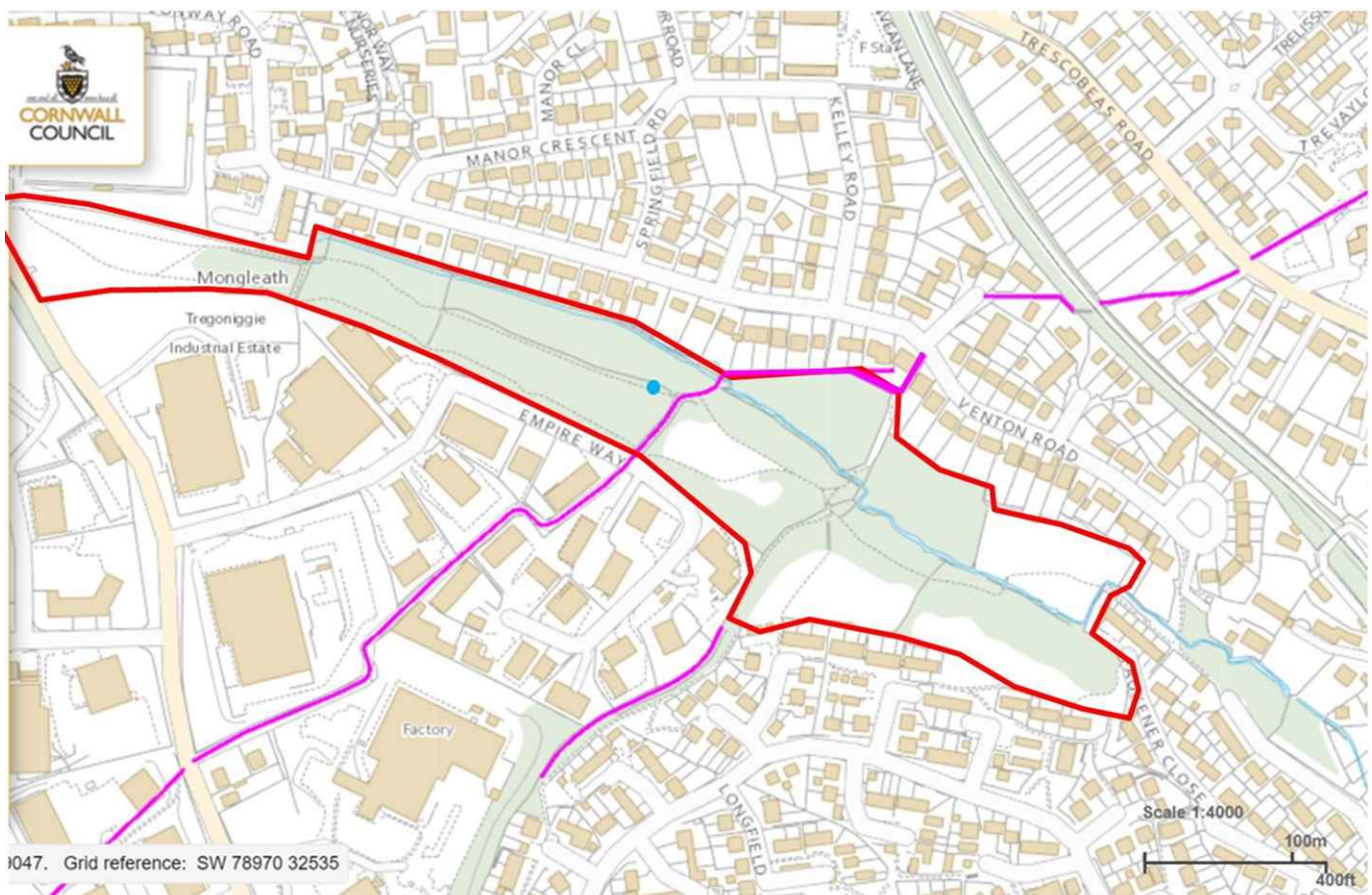


Source: Heritage Gateway (see also appendix 3 for site history)

1. Guidestone, Bickland Water Road, by Falmouth Town football ground, opposite turn to Budock Water, On an unclassified road, E side, by hedge at back of footpath. Carved stone post, erected by the parish, 19th century. Inscription reads: // MAW / NAN / 1828 //. Milestone Society National ID: CW_MAW01X. Last record: 2013. (See www.milestonesociety.co.uk)
2. A curvilinear ditched field boundary is visible as a cropmark on vertical aerial photographs taken in 1951 (p1). It appears to fit into the field pattern marked on the 1st edition OS map of the area and is therefore considered likely to be medieval (or earlier) in origin. Much of this field system has been destroyed, the site now lying under the Tregoniggie Industrial Estate.
3. Site of a demolished pillbox with only concrete foundation still remaining.

Map 9: Public Rights of Way

- One public footpath crosses the woodland on a south west to north east axis.
- A second public footpath leads up to one of the main woodland entrances.
- A much larger series of permissive footpaths exist through the woodland (see appendix 5)



Key

Site Location: outlined in red



Public Footpaths

Source: Cornwall Council

Map 10: Works funded through Making Space for Nature Project

See next page.

Appendix 2: Compartment Descriptions

Compartment 1: Wet Willow Woodland (1.6 hectares)

The wet woodland follows the stream valley and is mainly dominated by Willow (*Salix caprea*). The sub-compartment adjacent to The Nursery has more alder, while the area north of the stream, within the old nursery area, has been planted with some poplars. The soils have a high organic content and are waterlogged for much of the year. Other trees and shrubs are found within the compartment, notably clumps of hazel (*Corylus avellana*). There is an interesting groundflora, with Montbretia common and reflected the previous use of the land as slightly more formal parkland. The southern section of this compartment is perhaps the best area ecologically, with Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudocorus*) occurring, with Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) also common.



Willow woodland



Alder woodland

Future Management

- Generally low level with minimum intervention
- There are options for installing a new pond or ponds, making use of the high water table. In a woodland setting, leaf litter will fall into the pond and it will silt up and need periodic clearance
- Continue to monitor pollution of watercourse and seek remedial action from South West Water and the Environment Agency.

Compartment 2: Dry Woodland (1.6 hectares)

This compartment is more natural woodland that may have been typical of the local area. The older trees are found on the old hedge banks, but this compartment has a good mix of taller timber trees, notably ash (but also sycamore, beech and alder). There are also areas of older shrubs such as hazel and more open areas that have been planted with a diverse mix of native trees. Occasional non-native parkland trees intrude, including *Aesculus x carnea*. Recent planting of native species has been undertaken in small clearings, which adds further interest. Together this provides a diverse pleasing mix of both species and woodland structure.



Mixed woodland with major ash component

Future Management

- Fell ash when required for safety reasons.
- Allow woodland to regenerate naturally. Consider replanting of small coupes.
- Continue current practice of halo thinning around older veteran trees
- Continue small scale coppicing of hazel understorey (below felling licence limits)
- Loss of ash trees and other essential safety work is expected to provide the only major requirement for felling in this compartment.

Compartment 3: Field Maple Plantation (0.6 hectares)

This is an area planted with Field Maple in the 1970s, which is now even aged, unthinned and with few other trees present. The groundflora is also suffering from trampling through much of the compartment, a mixture of dogs and also walkers taking informal routes through and from the adjacent amenity grassland area.



Future Management

- Coppicing around the edges and thinning throughout would benefit the development of a woodland understorey and improved groundflora.
- Brash from coppicing could also be used to reduce trampling pressures in this area.

Compartment 4: Meadows (0.8 hectares)

Large areas of the open parkland are now being managed as a wildflower meadow, with a reduced cutting regime and removal of arisings. Some additional supplementary removal of turf and sowing of wildflower seeds is intended to accelerate this change. This compartment is open ground in terms of woodland management and included here to ensure full coverage of the site and compatibility with other plans for the whole woodland.



Future Management

- Continue to develop as wildflower meadows, possibly with mowing of verges or specific paths.

Compartment 5: Parkland (1.9 hectares)

The parkland origin of Tregoniggy Woods is important, and retaining a mix of woodland, amenity planting and open spaces is important to provide the amenity currently enjoyed by so many local residents. This reflects the site history and also provides a range of habitats for wildlife and areas for recreational use, including football, picnics and organised events. Areas of wildflower meadow blend into parkland with individual specimen trees, which in turn blend into more wooded areas. A network of old field boundaries, with older trees adds further interest and diversity.

Some recent projects have included:

- Sowing wildflower mixes into the meadow areas, with funding and support from the Making Space for Nature Project.
- Hedge laying
- Hedge planting, near the old nursery
- A small pond has also been dug and allowed to develop in the old nursery area
- Following felling of a group of Lawson's Cypress a major art installation is underway
- Path improvements have been undertaken.



Old field boundary left, planted amenity wood (right), wildflower meadow (ahead, distance)



Monterey Pine avenue, Empire Way

Future Woodland Management

- Continue current management regime, with relatively low intervention.
- Wildflower meadow areas to be cut twice per annum (spring and late summer/autumn) with arisings left on site in the composting bins that have been built by the Friends of Tregoniggle Woodland). There is a 15 year maintenance requirement built into the funding of recent improvement works undertaken with support from the Making Space for Nature project.
- Safety works, including felling of ash as required.
- Replanting of areas subject to felling, to maintain a dynamic balance for the site.
- Replanting species choice to have a major element of native species, to optimise ecological value.
- Commence a phased plan to thin Monterey Pines and replant, to ensure continuity of this important landscape feature

Compartment 6: Amenity Grassland (0.6 hectares)

The grassland area off Longfield is currently regularly mown as short improved amenity grassland and is used for informal ball games. There are also old oak trees within this area and longer vegetation around the perimeter.

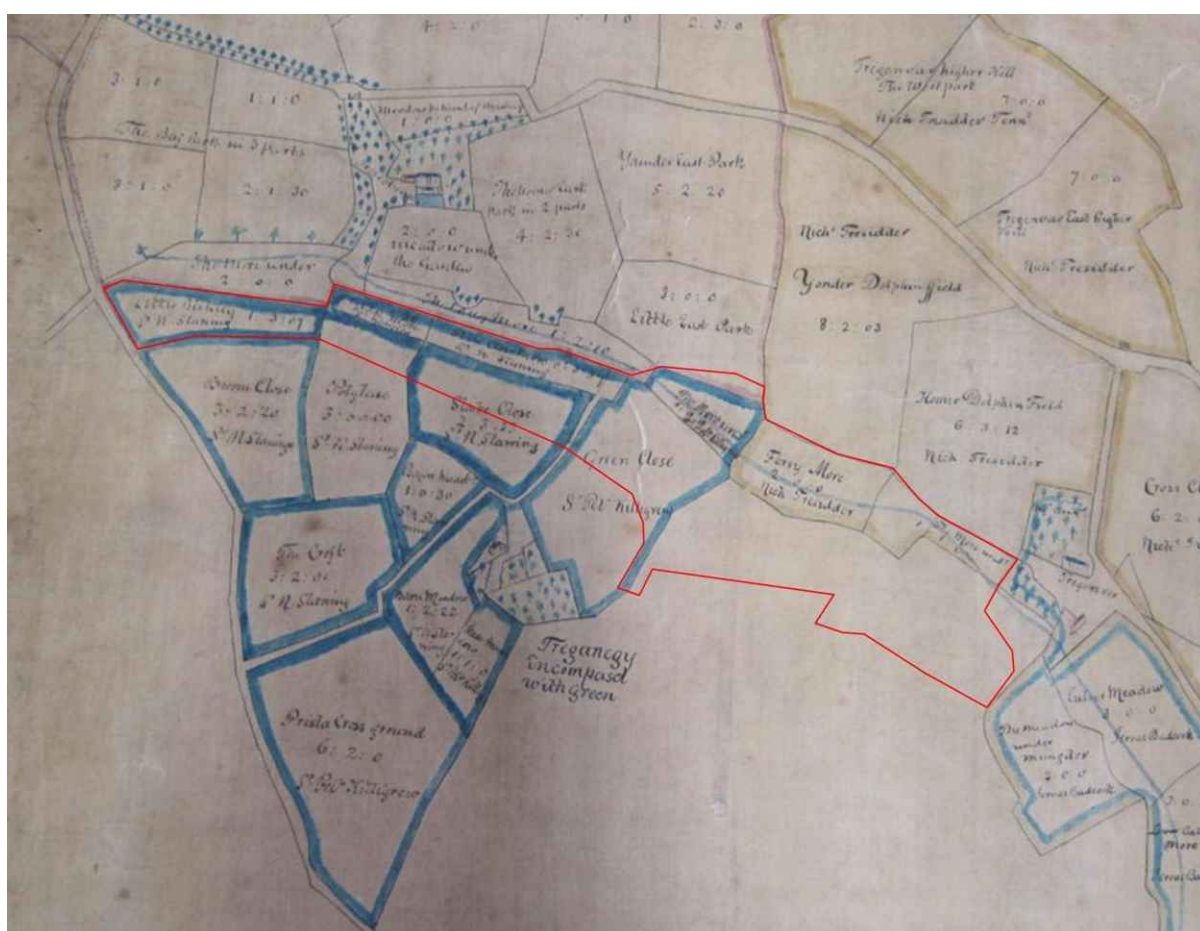


Future Woodland Management

- Protect and retain old oaks

Appendix 3: History and Heritage

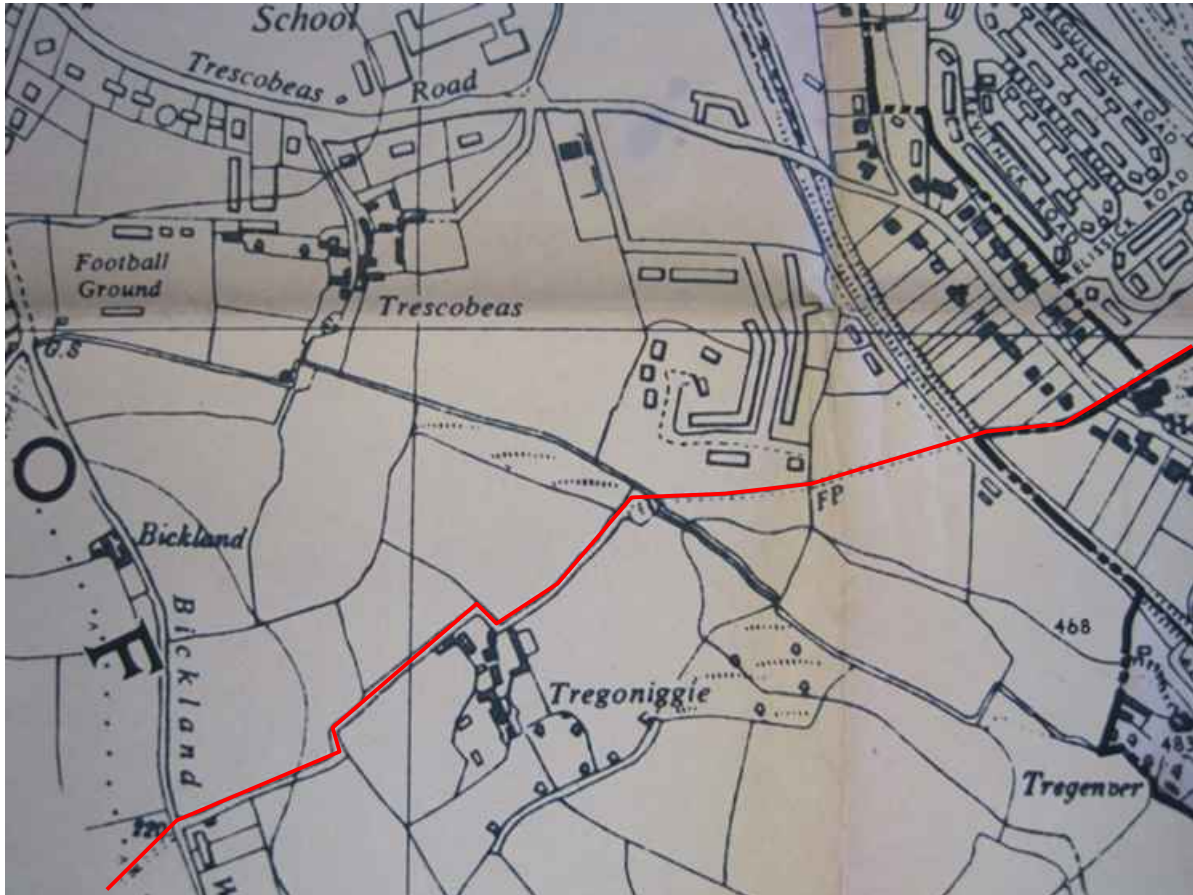
The first historical records for the local area relate to two medieval settlements. Tregonver is believed to be an early medieval settlement, first recorded in 1336, while the Barton of Trescobeas was reputedly a medieval mansion (pre1540). Both names survive in current road names (Trescobeas Road and Tregonver Villas). Both lie to the north of the current woodland and also appear on a map dating from 1690, the Smithick map held by Cornwall Records Office, part of which is shown in the figure below. This map also shows “Treganegy encompassed with garden”, most likely a farmhouse, to the south of the current woodland. This is the first record of Tregoniggle.



1690 map (current woodland outlined in red)

At this time, as part of the Tregoniggle Estate, the land was probably largely comprised of permanent pasture bounded by traditional Cornish hedging. The sloping nature of the land and the poorly drained lower parts adjacent to Bickland Stream limited the productivity of the land to grazing by cattle for the most part. Some of the field patterns evident on this map remain on the ground to this day. Within the area of this management plan, the boundaries remain visible as small stone-faced Cornish hedge banks with a range of mature oak trees, with old hazel stools also present.

The area is traversed by an ancient trackway which formerly connected Falmouth to Budock.



1900 Ordnance Survey Map (ancient trackway highlighted in red)

In the late 1950's, Tregoniggle Farm and associated land was sold to the local authority, Falmouth Borough Council. This led to the building of housing to the north of the woodland in the 1960s (Conway Road and Venton Road). Then in the 1970's further housing was built to the southwest (Longfield), as well as an industrial estate (Tregoniggle Industrial Estate).

The ribbon of former farmland lying between these developments was adopted as a public open space and a programme of landscaping undertaken, which included the planting of many specimen trees, both native and exotic, and areas of open meadow retained for amenity and recreational purposes. This work was led by Don Hoyle, and also an occasional presenter on regional television. An area of around 0.5 hectare was also designated as a nursery for the propagation of trees for planting in Tregoniggle Woodland and elsewhere in parks and open spaces around Falmouth. This area became commonly known as "the greenbelt" at that time.

Successive local government re-organisations led to the passing of the land to first Carrick District Council in 1974 and then Cornwall Council in 2009.



The Friends of Tregoniggie Woodland were formed in 2013 and have since played an active role in the protection and management of the site. Works on site has included a wide range of access and ecological enhancement works. The Friends also prepared a woodland management plan in 2016, which has guided subsequent work and also fundraising efforts. This plan draws on research undertaken for that plan and priorities agreed at that time.

References

Tregonver

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MCO17272&resourceID=1020

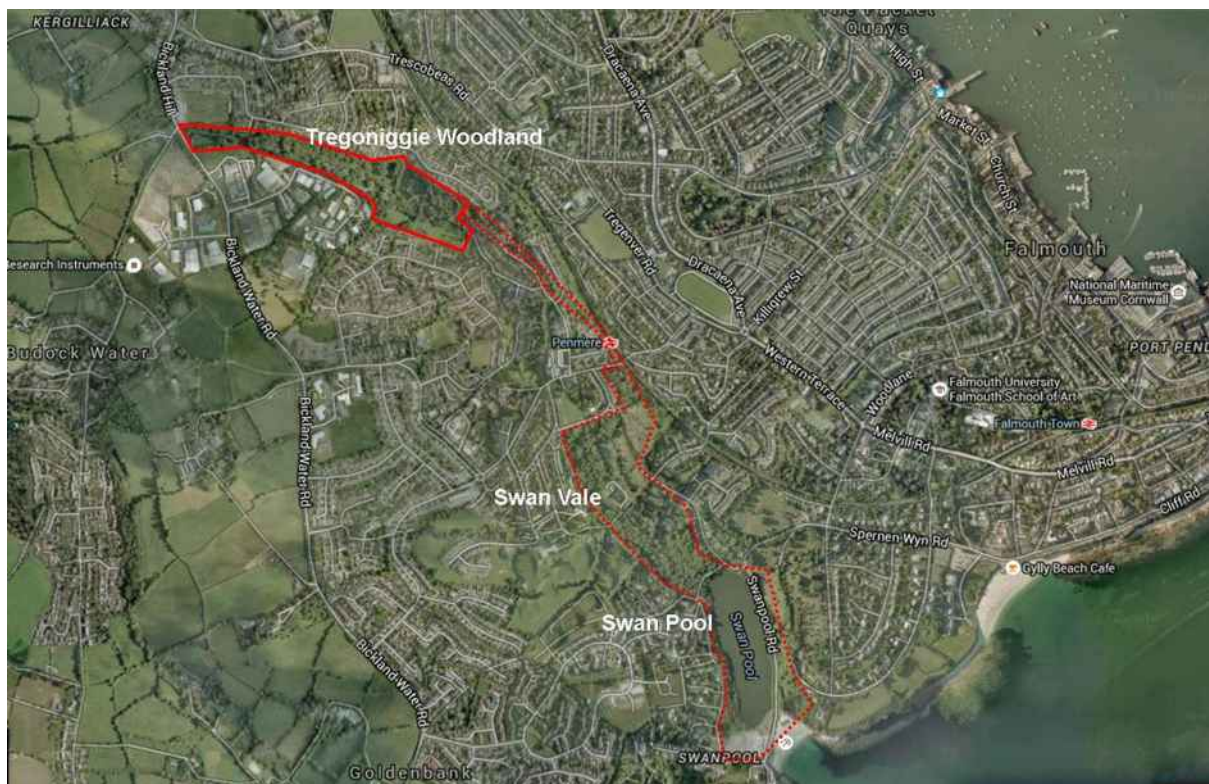
1690 map

Appendix 4: Falmouth Green Corridor

<https://falmouthgreencorridor.org.uk/>

The Falmouth Green Corridor comprises the woodlands, habitats, ecosystem and green spaces which border the Bickland Stream as it flows from its source at Kergilliack to its outlet at Swanpool Beach. The corridor follows the stream through Tregoniggie Woodland, Prislow Woods, Swanvale Nature Reserve, around Swanpool and finally to its output at Swanpool Beach. The walk can be accessed at various points, and work is still in progress with the aim to make it possible to walk the corridor through green and natural spaces, with only small sections being on roads or through built up areas.

A Falmouth Green Corridor Forum was established in 2019 to help co-ordinate management of these sites. The Forum was established by three community conservation groups active along the green corridor, these being, Friends of Tregoniggie Woodland, Prislow Woods Community Project and Swanpool Forum. These groups felt that a parent or “overarching” group was necessary to help coordinate their activities and to address matters which require a “whole corridor” perspective, such as pollution monitoring, protection from inappropriate developments, education/awareness programmes, etc. Members of these groups have been joined in the Forum by representatives from Cornwall Council, Falmouth Town Council, Cormac, Environment Agency, South West Water, Falmouth Civic Society, Falmouth Allotments Association, Cornwall Wildlife Trust and individuals with interests and expertise in nature conservation.



The green corridor is also reflected in the masterplan for housing development on Lower Kergilliack Farm, to the west of Bickland Water Road, which is now in active development. The developer, Persimmon Homes, has sponsored the recent art project promoted by the Friends of Tregonigge Woodland.



**Green corridor continuation in proposed housing development
Lower Kergilliack Farm (Tregonigge on right)**

Green infrastructure has an increasingly important role in planning and is now recognised as very important in the quality of life for residents. Tregonigge Woodland is a prime example and deserving of high protection and properly resourced management.

At national level green infrastructure is promoted by Natural England, who have produced guidelines to support and encourage local implementation.

The Cornwall Green Infrastructure Plan (2012) promotes a “vision is for a strategically planned and delivered green network throughout Cornwall, comprising high quality green spaces, green corridors and other environmental features delivering a wide range of ecosystems services for the benefit of all. We believe that everyone in Cornwall should have local access to good quality natural green spaces close to where they live”. The green infrastructure is valued for:

- To provide access to the natural environment
- For opportunities for physical activity, healthy lifestyles and improved well-being
- To provide places for community food growing
- For economic benefits



- To maintain Cornwall's ecological resources
- For the management of water resources
- To help adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change
- For high quality built and natural landscapes
- To promote sustainable transport opportunities
- To provide places and routes for recreational activities such as cycling, fishing, boating, horse riding, walking and play
- To improve links to facilities and services

The Cornwall Local Plan has adopted the principles of the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Cornwall, and also recognises that Cornwall's natural environment is a key driver for tourism, the County's most important economic sector. Supporting this plan is a Town Framework for Penryn and Falmouth and also an Allocation Document. The main proposals from this are shown on the map on the next page.

Cornwall Council have categorised Tregoniggle as a Countryside Site (Natural Spaces). Its importance is ranked as a Neighbourhood 1 Greenspace. This is the more important of two neighbourhood designations, recognising Tregoniggle as being of strategic local importance. The local importance is based on the large majority of visitors being local residents.

A Falmouth Neighbourhood Plan (2020 to 2030) has also been prepared and is awaiting formal adoption. This includes an Environment and Open Space Strategy with Tregoniggle Woods at the heart of the Falmouth Green Corridor.

References

Cornwall Council (2012) A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Cornwall

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/3623031/Designed-Green-Infrastructure-Strat.pdf>

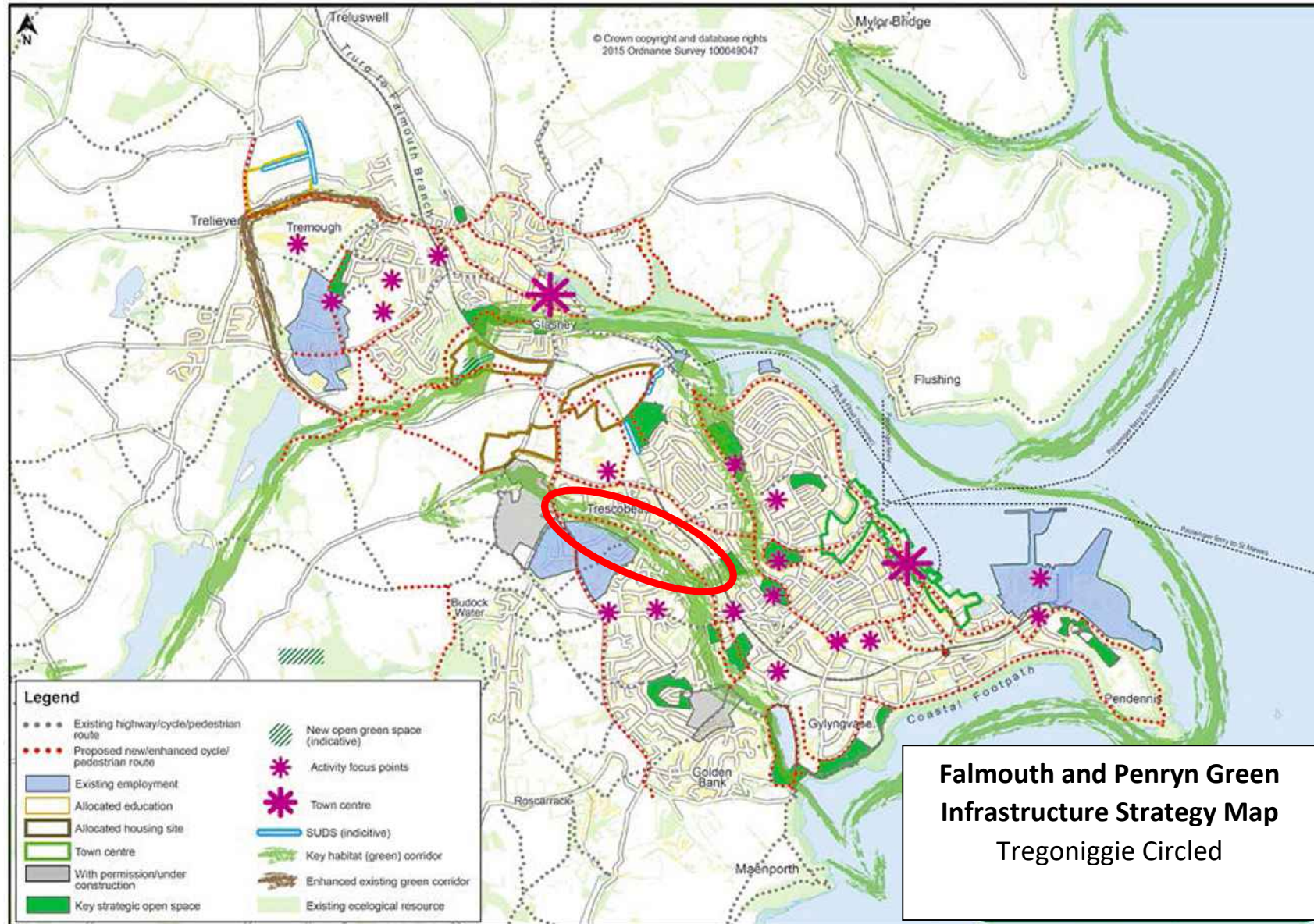
Falmouth Area Coastal Communities Team (2016) Coastal Communities Fund proposal: Falmouth Green Corridor

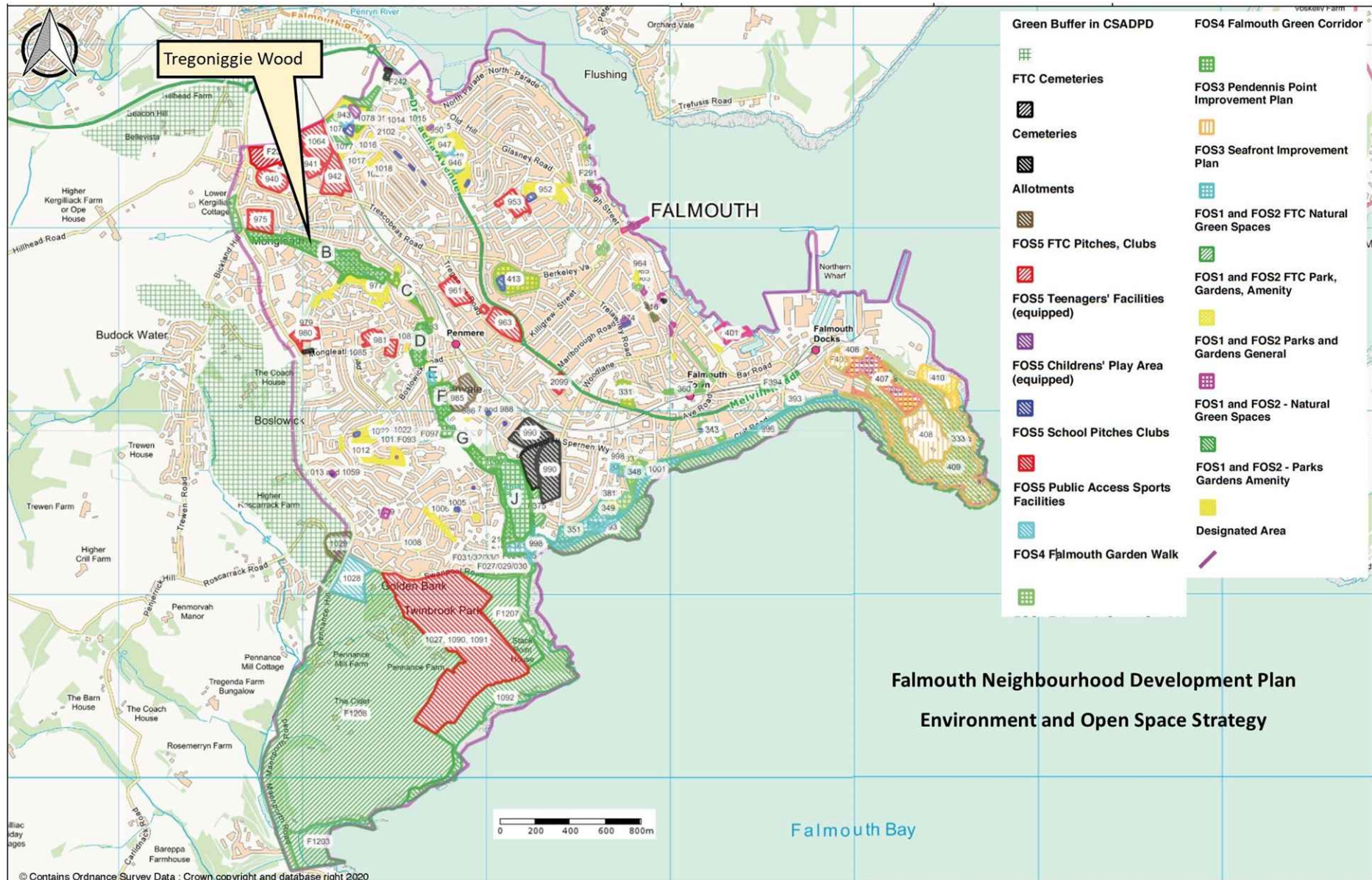
Falmouth Neighbourhood Development Plan 2020 to 2030

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/43259073/falmouth-neighbourhood-development-plan-post-examination-version-optimized-003-reduced-size.pdf>

Natural England (2009) Green Infrastructure Guidance

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033>





Appendix 5: Recreation and Public Use

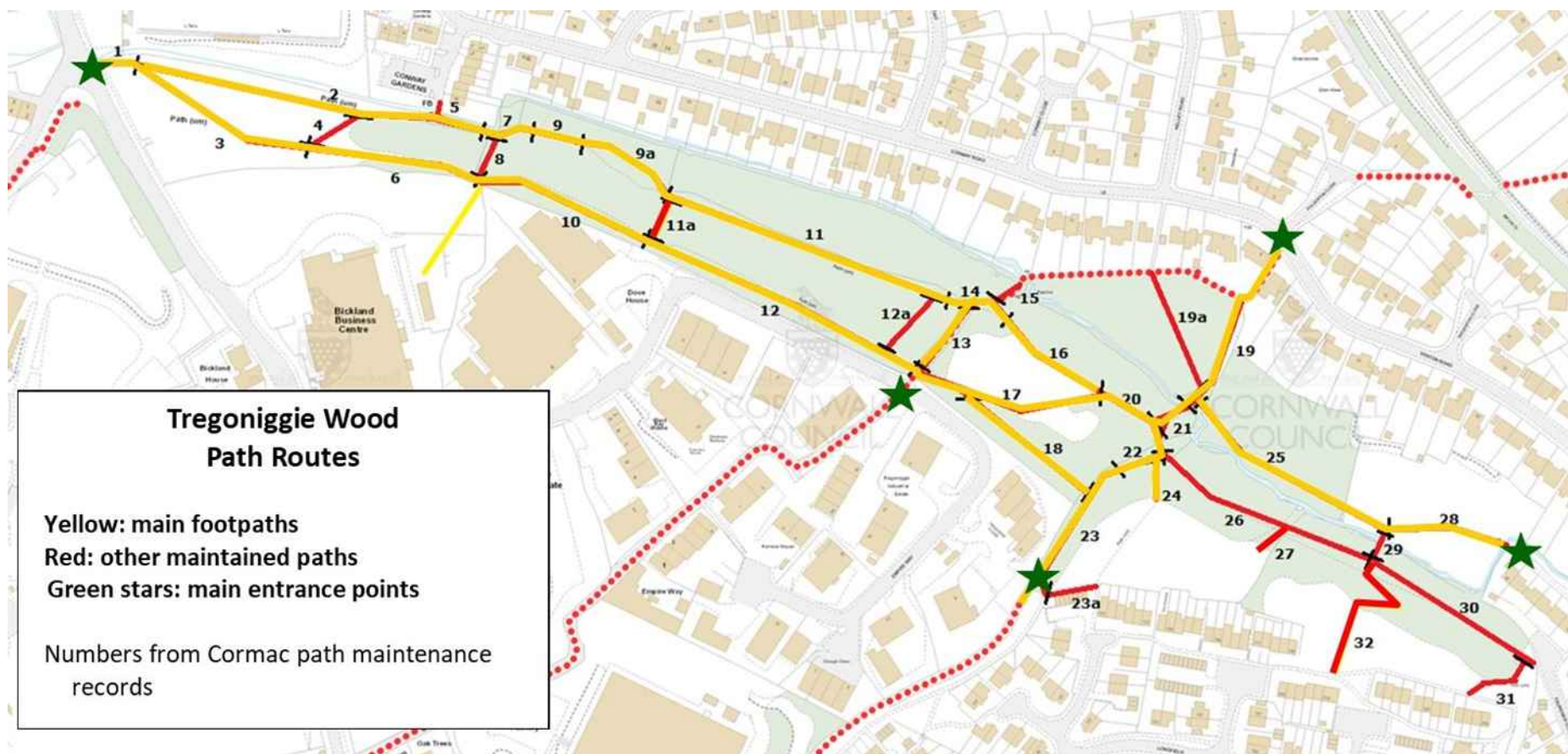
The woodland is well used by a number of groups. These include:

- Local residents of all ages walking in the wood for relaxation, often accompanied by pre-school age children or dogs.
- Local residents using the wood as a local through route, particularly noticeable on the to and from school runs.
- Occasional local events, which include events organised by the Friends of Tregoniggle Woods. This has included some nature study events, volunteer work parties and a local produce sale.
- Use for health and fitness, a growing number of individuals and groups are using the woodland for jogging, cycling and sports exercise.
- Local schools and Falmouth University use the woodland for nature based outdoor activities and projects.

Footpath Network

The current public rights of way are provided on map 9. There are many other surfaced and regularly used paths through the woodland. Plans for a shared cycle route through the woodland have recently been dropped by Cornwall Council. Increasing use by walkers and narrow pinch points at the entrance and exit threatened too many conflicts and safety issues.

The Friends have undertaken many footpath improvements to the network including accessibility improvements removing steps. These were prioritised in the 2016 management plan and locations are shown on the following plan.



Map of Footpaths and Shared Use Routes (updated from Friends of Tregoniggle Woodland Management Plan)

Seating and Interpretation

Three interpretation panels with maps are installed on site and are well used. There is a notice board at a central location which provides information about recent or current projects. Consideration could be given to improved signage at the entrances, many of which are currently under-stated and hemmed in for example the main entrance from Venton Road. An attractive sign would form a positive welcome to the woodland.

New seating has been introduced in several locations including informal seating on felled logs and new benches. Further consideration will be given in a review by the Friends group.

Friends of Tregoniggle Woodland

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WoodlandFriends>)

The Friends of Tregoniggle Woodland was established in December 2013, with the assistance from Cormac, with the aim to encourage community support to assist with the management and improvement of the woodland. The group is very active and successful, with a following of 671 members on their Facebook page (June 2021).

Enhancement works in the wood have included clearing back vegetation from footpaths, tree planting and installing signage and interpretation boards. The Friends have also campaigned for environmental improvements, undertaken fundraising and have started a programme of wider community engagement.

Recent successful projects have included:

- Fundraising and delivering a woodland management plan in 2016.
- The Friends have entered into a licence with Cornwall Council to undertake management work and a range of community and volunteer events in the woodland.
- The creation of a pond and hedge planting to create a new nature area with accessible dipping platform.
- The provision of entirely new footpaths, plus upgrading and maintenance of existing footpaths.
- Raising funds for and developing a community art project, including planting of native flowering trees, to replace an area of felled Lawson's Cypress.
- Working with the Making Space for Nature project to create wildflower planting, repair a Cornish hedge and plant additional native trees.



Ongoing art installation and tree planting, to replace felled Lawson's Cypress

Making Space for Nature

This project has worked closely with the Friends of Tregoniggle Woodland on a number of projects, providing funding and technical support. The projects are summarised on Map 10 in appendix 1 of this plan. Funding requirements include a fifteen year programme of maintenance.

Wider Management Plan

The Friends and partners Cornwall Council and Cormac intend to update the wider Tregoniggle Woodland Management Plan 2016-21 in the summer of 2021. This will incorporate the objectives of this Forestry based plan and the wider objectives needed for the management of this public amenity space and fuller engagement with the wider community.

Appendix 5: Tree Safety

Tregoniggle Woodland is a diverse site with a range of woodland and parkland. While many trees date from the park creation in the 1960s there are also many older and veteran trees, adding further complexities to the site management. Regular safety inspections are undertaken by Cormac and Cornwall Council and this leads to frequent reactive and preventative tree surgery work.

There are several areas with some ash trees, which are expected to die as a result of infection by ash dieback disease, which has now spread to West Cornwall. However, the proportion of ash is quite low, and the loss of these trees will have a limited impact on the overall woodland landscape. At present the planned management is to monitor and respond as and when crown dieback increases and begins to pose a safety risk. When works are required they will be relatively small scale and can be managed through normal processes, with most of the wood being retained on site as dead wood, brash habitat piles, or chipped in more open areas.

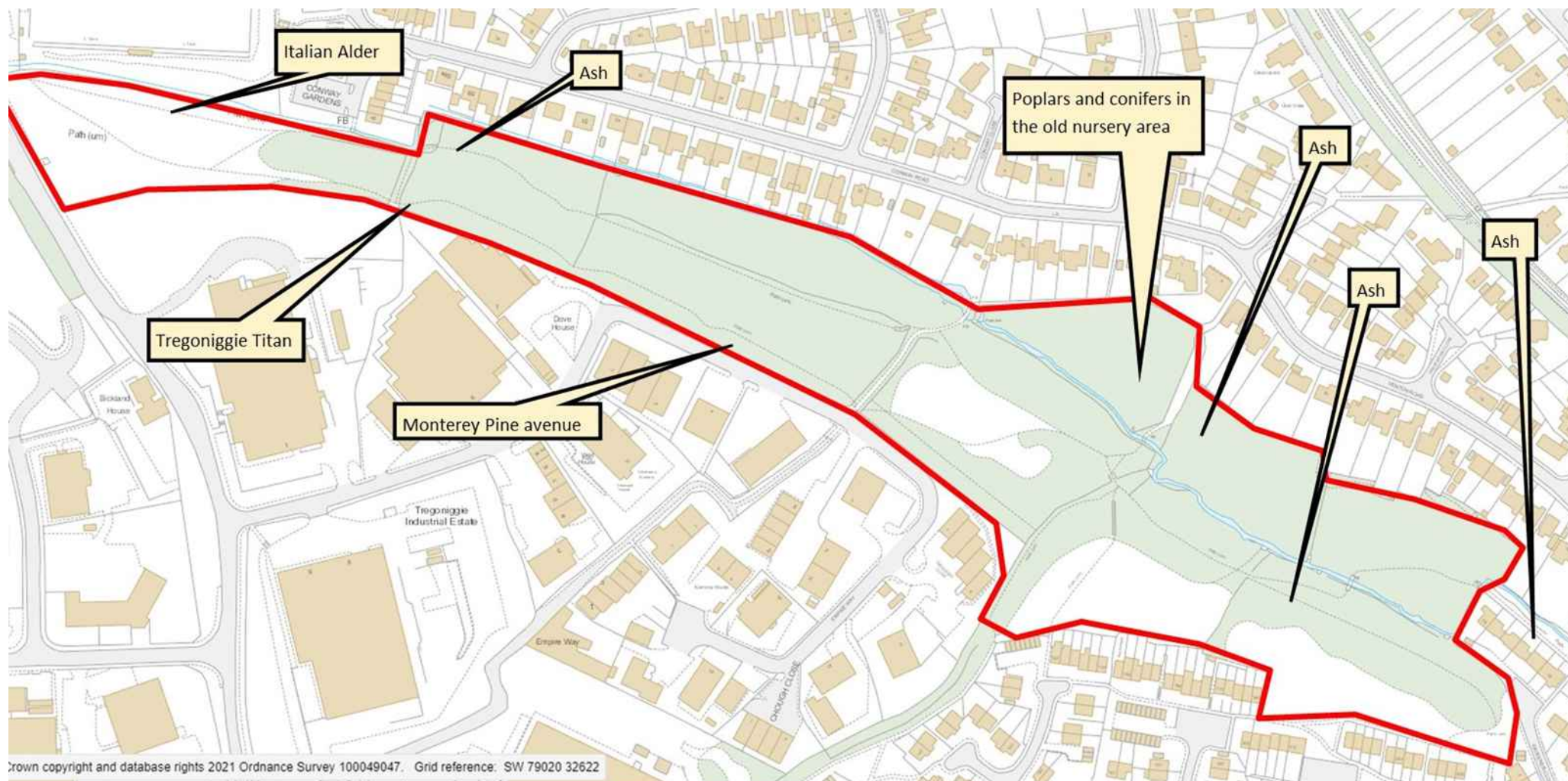
The second area of tree safety is giving consideration to shorter lived trees planted in the 1960s. Thus a number of Italian Alder have required felling in recent years, and some mature poplars in the old nursery area are likely to require attention soon. The avenue of mature Monterey Pines along Empire Way have also had regular attention, with some losses and major branch failures. For these trees, reaching maturity or even the end of their safe lives then it is important to plan ahead, undertake phased felling work and replant as required. This is to maintain a dynamic balance in a living changing wood, and essential to sustainably manage a well-used wood in such an urban location.

Likely safety works over the next ten years include:

- Limited areas of ash, mainly in the dry woodland, notably near the heavily used Venton Road entrance and south east of here (compartment 1). Recommend felling as a safety measure.
- Other individual ash trees throughout the wood: monitor and fell as required. Felling needs to be timely, as the trees become dangerous for chain-saw operators if left to die.
- A semi-mature ash in an old stream hedge is close to housing and must be carefully monitored.
- The ancient ash tree (the Tregoniggle Titan) is extremely valuable culturally and ecologically and should be monitored and retained as long as possible. Tree surgery work should aim to retain the tree as long as possible. Even as a dead standing bole it will continue to have value as a dead wood habitat for a range of fungi and invertebrates. Preventative maintenance to retain the tree as long as possible should include halo thinning, to reduce competition from adjacent trees and potentially a phased gentle crown reduction of some limbs.
- Avenue of Monterey Pines along also requires monitoring and some safety felling work. Replant to maintain as a landscape feature.
- Poplars and conifers in the old nursery area are nearing the end of their life.
- Small scale works to maintain the current footpath network will be required, responding to growth over paths and occasional storm damage.

Allowance for these works has been included within the calculated felling volumes. However, volumes and timings will be determined by the ongoing monitoring programme.

Cornwall Countryside Team and Cormac will ensure all planned safety works are notified to the Friends of Tregoniggle Woodland, to enable the local community and residents are kept informed, through word of mouth, Facebook and on-site notices as required.



Areas of potential tree safety work / planned felling and replanting



Monterey Pines to monitor



Ash to monitor

Appendix 6: Mensuration

Carbon Mensuration

Stocked Area	7.1ha	including all park and grasslands			
		Standing Timber Volume Cubic metres over bark	Total Biomass in Oven Dry Tonnes	Total Carbon Tonnes	Tonnes of CO2
Woodland	Compartment				
Tregoniggie	Woodland	1944.33	1315.16	657.58	2410.69
	Parkland	511.00	299.82	149.91	549.65
	Hedge	166.84	95.32	47.66	174.76
				0.00	0.00
Total		2622.17	1710.30	855.15	3134.98

Detailed mensuration data available in a separate excel spreadsheet.

Felling Licence Volumes

First estimate for plan of operations and felling licence purposes:

Ash	55 cubic metres
Monterey Pine / MC	75 cubic metres
Coppicing field maple	5 cubic metres
Other broadleaves	35 cubic metres

TOTAL 170 cubic metres (over ten years)

Additional safety works can be undertaken by either separate permission, or within regulations that allow felling of dead dying or dangerous trees. Note, however, the area tree preservation order and the need to be compliant with that.