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Worksheets Section 2 - Environment

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**MARKET TOWNS WORKSHEETS
ENVIRONMENT WORKSHEETS**

This section contains the following worksheets:

WORKSHEET EN1

CHARACTER AND VITALITY OF THE TOWN

WORKSHEET EN2

THE COUNTRYSIDE

WORKSHEET EN3

LINKS BETWEEN TOWN AND COUNTRY

These should be answered along with the worksheets in the economic, social and transport sections. Advice on answering the worksheets is provided in the Healthcheck

Handbook.

Contact details for all national and regional organisations mentioned in these worksheets

can be found in the Directory of Contacts.

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WORKSHEET EN1

CHARACTER AND VITALITY OF THE TOWN

These questions are aimed at defining the character and vitality of the town, and identifying what aspects make the town distinctive. The quality of open space and parks

is dealt with in Worksheet S5. It would be useful to put many of the answers on a map

of the town.

If there is not sufficient information available to answer all the questions, new survey work may need to be undertaken. Advice on undertaking a townscape appraisal is given

in the Data Sources and Survey Methods Directory.

CORE QUESTIONS

Q 1 What are the main landmarks or distinctive buildings in the town? (Annotate prominent buildings or structures and note any historic or cultural associations.) This can be done either from memory or by a survey of the town.

Identify the key features that are visually or culturally important and whether these are in

good condition.

Q 2 What are the focal points in the town? (Annotate areas where people congregate such as the market, town square, parks, library, pubs, community centres.) This can be

done either from memory or by a survey of the town centre.

Identify areas where people naturally congregate in the town and whether these vary

according to time of year, day of the week or time of day.

Q 3 Is there an historic core to the town? (Annotate any Conservation Areas and where there is a concentration of listed buildings.) Information on Conservation Areas

and Listed Buildings can be obtained from the District Council and may be shown on the

Local Plan proposals map.

Identify areas with strong historic associations.

Q 4 Are there any individual and/or groups of buildings which display design, detailing or materials which give the town a distinctive character? (Annotate where these

buildings are and their key characteristics.) This can be done through a quick survey of

the town.

Identify where these buildings are their key distinguishing features.

Q 5 Are there any unattractive areas in the town? (Annotate where there are any buildings in need of repair/restoration, vacant buildings, areas of derelict land and building design unsympathetic to the local character.) This can be done through a survey

of the town, concentrating on the centre.

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Identify specific buildings or areas that are in need of attention and find out from the District Council whether there are any specific proposals to revitalise/ redevelop them.

Q 6 Are there any distinctive features which define the limits of the town, such as historic city walls, a river or a bypass? (Annotate any defining features.) This can be done through a quick survey or through the use of maps or aerial photographs.

Identify whether the boundary of the town is clearly defined.

Q 7 Are the buildings, streets and furniture in the town centre in good condition? Are there opportunities to enhance these?

Identify both areas and aspects which are in need of action.

Q 8 Are the 'main gateways' to the town centre attractive and well maintained (including train and bus stations)? Are there opportunities to enhance these?

Identify particular routes and locations in need of improvement.

Q 9 Are the main pedestrian routes between car parks and the town centre attractive, well maintained and safe to use during the day and at night?

Identify priorities for improvement.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Q 10 Are there any townscape or heritage initiatives currently underway in the town? (Find out whether initiatives e.g. Historic Economic Regeneration Scheme, Local Heritage Initiatives, Conservation Area Partnership Schemes, Historic Building Grants

are active in the town.) This information is held by the District Council where the most useful contact will be the conservation officer.

Identify areas which are to be improved.

Q 11 Is the town centre dominated by shops or are there a range of other uses which take place such as housing and employment? (Annotate the different land uses in the town centre.) This can be done through a survey of the town. The Local Plan proposal map will also provide a useful starting point.

Identify whether there is a diverse mix of uses in the town centre.

Q 12 Are there areas in the town which are over-cluttered with signs, street furniture, advertising hoardings etc? (Annotate areas where there are concentrations of signage and

street furniture.) This can be done through a quick survey of the town.

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Identify areas where signage and street furniture could be rationalised or new signage or street furniture provided.

Q 13 Are there important groups of trees which are either covered by Tree Preservation

Orders or are important to the character of the town? (Annotate the presence of important trees or groups of trees.) Information on Tree Preservation Orders is available

from the District Council.

Identify where trees add to the character of the town.

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WORKSHEET EN2

THE COUNTRYSIDE

These questions help identify the basic data required to evaluate the quality of the countryside in close proximity to the town and its sensitivity to change. It will prove useful to map many of the answers.

If there is not sufficient information available to answer the questions, it may be helpful

to undertake a landscape character assessment. Guidance on survey techniques is given

in the Data Sources and Survey Methods Directory.

CORE QUESTIONS

Q 1 What is the local countryside's distinctive character? (Identify the characteristics of the countryside e.g. is it farmed land, heathland or moorland, is it open in character or

are there small fields with hedgerows or dry stone walls, are there traditional settlements?)

A landscape character assessment may have been undertaken by the County or District

Council, or the information could be collected through a local survey.

Identify the elements that make the countryside distinctive and attractive.

Q 2 Is the landscape of high quality? (Identify areas that are of national, regional or local importance i.e. areas that are covered by national or local landscape designations or

are within a national park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.) Landscape designations should be shown on the Local Plan proposals map. Alternatively, for local

designations contact the District Council and for national designations, the Countryside

Agency.

Identify areas of high landscape quality.

Q 3 Is the countryside important for agriculture? (Identify areas of Grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.) This information may be held by the County Council or alternatively,

contact the regional branch of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

(DEFRA).

Identify areas of high quality agricultural land.

Q 4 Is the countryside important for nature conservation? (Identify areas which have national, regional or local wildlife designations, e.g. RAMSAR, Special Protection Areas,

Special Areas of Conservation, National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves, Sites of

Special Scientific Interest and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.)

Information can be obtained from the District or County Council or English Nature.

Most of these designations should be shown on the Local Plan proposals map.

Identify areas important for wildlife.

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Q 5 Are there areas of historic importance? (Identify areas with concentrations of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, historic parkland, Scheduled Ancient Monuments

[SAM], and areas of Archaeological Importance.) Information on Conservation Areas,

Listed Buildings, SAM, archaeologically-important areas and Historic Parks and Gardens

can be obtained from the District Council and some will be shown on the Local Plan proposals map. Alternatively, contact English Heritage.

Identify areas with historic or architectural importance.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Q 6 Is the countryside being actively managed? (Identify areas that are covered by

countryside management or stewardship schemes such as the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Nitrate Sensitive Areas, Habitat Scheme, Moorland Scheme, Organic Aid Scheme or Countryside Access Scheme.) Information on these schemes can be obtained from the District or County Council or by contacting the Countryside Agency or the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency.

Identify areas being actively managed to maintain and improve the environmental quality of the countryside.

Q 7 Do community groups participate in the management of the local countryside? Identify what contribution they make. Is there potential to expand that contribution?

Q 8 Are there plans for major change on the urban edge? (Identify proposals for major development or enhancement schemes such as community forest.)

Information

can be obtained from the District Council and planned changes will be shown on the Local Plan proposals map.

Identify areas on the urban fringe that may change in character.

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WORKSHEET EN3

LINKS BETWEEN TOWN AND COUNTRY

These questions are aimed at identifying the visual and physical links that exist between

the town and country. It will be useful to put many of the answers on a map. Most of the functional links between the town and country relate to the town's role as a shopping

centre and where people visit to access local services. Accessibility to services is covered

in Worksheet T2.

CORE QUESTIONS

Q 1 Are there natural or man-made features such as rivers, canals, roads or railway corridors that link the town and country? (Annotate elements that provide physical and

visual links between the country and town.) This can be done either from a local survey

or through the use of maps or aerial photographs.

Identify elements which link the town and country both physically and visually.

Q 2 Are there distinctive design elements found in both the town and the surrounding

countryside? (Identify the presence of distinctive local house types, local architectural detailing and use of local materials.) This can be done by undertaking a local, visual

survey.

Identify common features that provide visual continuity between development in the town and country and where they are to be found e.g. which villages.

Q 3 Are there any memorable views either from the town to the countryside or from the countryside of the town? (Annotate key views both from the town and of the town.)

This can be done through a visual survey.

Identify memorable views in terms of what they are views of and where the view can be

seen from e.g. the view from a town square to a distant village church or a view of the

town from a surrounding hill.

Q 4 Are historic commercial links between the town and country still apparent? (Annotate the presence of surviving features such as market halls, a corn exchange, mills,

wharves, market squares.) This can be done through a quick local survey.

Identify strong commercial associations between town and country.

Q 5 Does the character of the surrounding countryside become less distinct the closer

it gets to the town edge? (Annotate where the elements which give the countryside its distinctive character as defined in Worksheet EN2 become less distinct closer to the edge

of the town.) This can be done through a quick local survey.

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Identify areas where the quality of the countryside has been diminished by edge-of-town activities.

Q 6 How does the town sit in the landscape? Are there opportunities to enhance the urban edge by, for example, planting or even development that will make the town more

attractive?

Identify key views of the town for approach roads and identify opportunities to enhance

and manage the fringes of the town.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Q 7 Are there any long distance or locally important footpaths, cycle paths or bridleways linking town and country? (Annotate important links.) Information on footpaths, cyclepaths and bridlepaths can be obtained from the County Council, who should have a Rights of Way Officer.

Identify important recreational links between town and country.

“Gateway to Cornwall”

Saltash and Surrounding Parishes Market and Coastal Town Initiative
1st Floor, Citizens' Advice Bureau
18 Belle Vue Rd
Saltash
PL12 6ES
Tel: 01752 841263
e-mail: mcti@saltash.gov.uk

1st July 2004

Ms Janet Thomas

Dear Ms Thomas

Thank you to all who were able to attend the launch of “Gateway to Cornwall” MCTi for Saltash and PL12 Parishes on 16 June. It seemed to go well. The event has been followed up by a press release. Notes have been passed on to the Chairman, Steve Tait, prior to distribution.

Brian Pedley has asked me to let you know that the first meeting of the Environment group is on Wednesday 7th July at 7 pm at the Landulph Memorial Hall. The hall is on the left as you approach Cargreen from the crossroads at Landulph. All addressees are cordially invited to attend.

Yours sincerely

John Evans
MCTi Community Agent

“Gateway to Cornwall”

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3rd August 2004

Mr Malcolm Hocking

Dear Mr Hocking

Brian Pedley wished me to send on thanks to all who were able to attend the meeting at Landulph on 7th July. He was pleased that progress is being made.

He asked me to let you know that the next meeting of the Environment Group is on Tuesday 10th August at the British Legion Hall Tideford. All addressees are cordially invited to attend.

For information, I am copying the notes of the Community Group which met to discuss Sports and Leisure on 27th July. Comments are very welcome.

Yours sincerely

John Evans
MCTi Community Agent

TAMAR VALLEY - AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

NEWS BULLETIN – AUGUST 2004

Management Plan On-line

The Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan, that will guide the work of the AONB Service over the next 5 years, is now available to view on our website: www.tamarvalley.org.uk.

Reference copies of the document are also available at libraries and local district council offices throughout the area for the public to access.

30 new scooters available from West DEN

A wheels to work scheme in West Devon is offering thirty new scooters to loan out to young people facing difficulty getting to work.

West DEN's Getting There project helps young people aged between 16 and 25 to overcome their transport problems. This can involve a six-month loan of a lowpowered scooter, subsidised driving lessons, or oneoff emergency payments towards vehicle repairs or insurance.

The project recently received new funding of £185,500 from the Big Lottery Fund to keep the project running for a further three years and to expand into the Cornwall side of the Tamar Valley. Getting There also received £54,500 from the Countryside Agency to buy thirty new 50cc scooters.

For further details please call Wendy Mills-Hicks on 01822 618777 or email wendy@westden.co.uk.

Surveying the Birds of Devon Great Consols

Ollie Richings (summer volunteer for Tamar Valley AONB Service) has begun work on surveying the birds in the Tamar Valley. Here he tells of his progress on Devon Great Consols so far...

'Devon Great Consols has a great diversity of habitats including heath land, coniferous and broad-leaved woodland. These habitats can support a great diversity of bird life, including some very rare species. However, the bird population of Devon Great Consols is chronically under-recorded. It is my intention to rectify this over the next month.

So far, I have researched all of the current bird records of the site (a very short task!), and begun to survey the site itself. This involves walking around the site at different times of day with a pair of binoculars and a notebook. I am recording the species present, and the number of individuals sighted. I also hope to map the distribution of species present, and compare that to the habitat zones. This work is of great importance, as there is the potential for the site to support some of Britain's rarest birds. Barn Owls are certainly present on the site. There are records of Goshawk and Nightjar at the site, possibly breeding. The heath land areas could potentially support Skylark, Woodlark and Tree Pipit. Coniferous woodland could support Siskin, Goldcrest and, potentially, Firecrest as breeding populations. All three species of breeding British woodpeckers have been reported from the site. A lot of these birds have suffered worrying declines over the past couple of decades, and identifying new sites for these species is a key component of conserving these species.'

Job Vacancy

A new position, to be based at the Tamar Valley AONB Service office on Cotehele Quay, and hosted by Caradon District Council, has been created to link woodlands, landscapes and people.

The position of Project Manager is a 3-year post with a salary of between £24,000 and £25,407pa, working 37 hours a week.

The project aims to stimulate the forestry supply chain by focussing on the 'pull' factors of the woodland economy – timber procurement, markets and products. The project will particularly work within the Plymouth sub region linking with Dartmoor National Park and AONBs in South Devon and Tamar Valley.

The Project Manager will be a varied job requiring a multitude of different talents and strengths. These may include marketing, good interpersonal skills, project management and an understanding of business. Knowledge of the forestry and woodland sector and a relevant degree would be an advantage.

For an application pack please call 01579 341245 (24 hour answer phone). Closing date for applications: 31st August, 12 noon. Interviews will be held 16th September.

Tamar Valley Artists Open their Studios

The 'Drawn to the Valley' project – a group of artists inspired by the Tamar Valley, who have been working together to exhibit a variety of work since January – is going from strength to strength.

A sculpture exhibition is still on show at Mount Edgcumbe Garden, until 30th September.

The Horn of Plenty, near Tavistock, is also exhibiting a selection of 2D and 3D work. The house was open to the public on 24th August to view the work on show. The exhibition will remain there until 13th September where it can be enjoyed by diners and guests of the Horn of Plenty.

Between 4th and 12th September, many artists throughout the Valley will be opening their studios to the public. For details of the Open Studios event, please call 01579 351681 for your free brochure.

Tamar Valley Veteran Trees – Barking up the right tree!

With the enthusiastic and appreciated input of a team of dedicated volunteer surveyors, almost 100 trees have now been nominated as potential veteran trees. These have now been logged into a database and mapped, allowing for straightforward analysis and to determine the geographical spread. So far, the majority of nominated trees are on the Cornish side of the AONB, whilst 44% of them are Oak trees. Other interesting statistics include:

- 23% of trees have a circumference of between 421 and 600 centimetres
- 71% of trees are alive (thankfully!)
- 32% of trees are to be found in hedgerows
- 42% of trees are maidens

It is hoped that volunteers will continue to nominate trees in their locality, with a particular lack of nominations in the parishes of Bickleigh, Buckland Monachorum, Gulworthy and Sydenham Damerel. For more details, please contact Stephen Russell on 01579 351348.

Invasive Plants – The Aliens are amongst us...

...but not in quite so great numbers! The Hogweed and Knotweed Control Programme, in conjunction with the Environment Agency, English Nature and The Silvanus Trust continues to make steady progress in the surveying and treatment of the problem plants throughout the Tamar and Tavy catchments.

Responsibility for the eradication of such plants rests with the landowner, but it is hoped that this project will act as a catalyst for landowners facing up to their responsibilities and to undertake effective treatment of this "growing problem" in the future.

For more details, please contact Stephen Russell on 01579 351348.

Dates for your Diary

Here is a selection of events taking place throughout the Tamar Valley during September. For further details please see centre pages of Tamar Valley News or visit www.tamarvalley.org.uk and click on events. Booking is essential for all events.

4th – 5th September, 11:00am – 4:00pm
A Tudor Experience
Venue: Cotehele (The National Trust)
Tel: 01579 351346
Organiser: The National Trust

5th September, 3:20pm
Jazz Featuring the Select Four

Venue: Tamar Valley Line Train:
Plymouth to Gunnislake and back
Tel: 01752 233094
Organiser: Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership

10th September, 1:00pm – 5:00pm (approx)
River Cruise (Calstock-Weir Head-Morwellham-
Calstock)
Tel: 01822 833331
Organiser: Calstock Ferry & Motor Launch Company

11th September, 3:00pm
Dive-Clean, Devils Point
Venue: Devils Point, Stonehouse (Plymouth Sound
candidate Special Area of Conservation)
Tel: 01752 362113/07766462273

11th September, 6:30pm
Bats at Lockeridge
Venue: Lockeridge Farm, Bere Alston
Tel: 01579 351681
Organiser: Tamar Valley AONB Service

12th September, 1:00pm – 5:00pm
Devon Great Consols Walk
Tel: 01579 351681
Organiser: Tamar Valley AONB Service

15th September, 2:30pm
Port Eliot Estate Walk
Venue: Port Eliot Estate, St Germans
Tel: 01579 351681
Organiser: Tamar Valley AONB Service

17th September, 6:45pm
Bats at Capel Tor (nr Horsebridge)
Tel: 01579 351681
Organiser: Tamar Valley AONB Service

18th September, 2:00 – 5:00pm
Explore Cargreen
Tel: 01579 351681
Organiser: Tamar Valley AONB Service

18th – 19th September, 10:30am – 5:00pm
Country Days
Venue: Buckland Abbey
Tel: 01822 853607
Organiser: The National Trust

Keep In Touch...

Tel: 01579 351681 Fax: 01579 351681 Email: info@tamarvalley.org.uk Web: www.tamarvalley.org.uk
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"Gateway to Cornwall"

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16th November 2004

Mrs Patricia Barnes

Dear Mrs Barnes

On behalf of Brian Pedley, Group Leader, may I invite you to the next meeting of the MCTi Environment Group at the Guildhall (Tamar Room) on Tuesday 23rd November at 7.00 pm. We need to complete the Countryside Agency worksheet questionnaires as far as possible and then to look at the Strengths / Weaknesses / Opportunities / Threats for the PL12 area and its community.

We are very grateful for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

John Evans
Community Agent

"Gateway to Cornwall"

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5th October 2004

Mrs Patricia Barnes

Dear Mrs Barnes

Brian Pedley has asked me to let you know the next Environment Group meeting is at 7.45 pm on Tuesday 12th October in the Tamar Room in the Guildhall Saltash. As in previous meetings the Environment topics include the environment (built & natural), healthy & vibrant villages and links between town & country.

I do hope you can come. We also hope to have a representative from AONB and other groups.

Yours sincerely

John Evans
Community Agent

P.S. I enclose some literature about the MCTi

RSPB South West England Regional Office

The RSPB
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Exeter
Devon
EX1 1NT
United Kingdom
Tel: 01392 432691

Could I invite you or a representative from the RSPB to the next meeting of our Environment Group at 7pm on Thursday 16 September in the Tamar Room at the Guildhall, Lower Fore St, Saltash.

As I briefly mentioned when we met we are in the initial stages of the MCTi process involving local research to answer Health Check questionnaires in the 4 main topic areas as suggested in the Countryside Agencies publications provided for MCTi groups, and also to identify the direction the community may wish to go in the future. The Environment topics include the environment (built & natural), healthy & vibrant villages and links between town & country.

Your support would be very much valued.