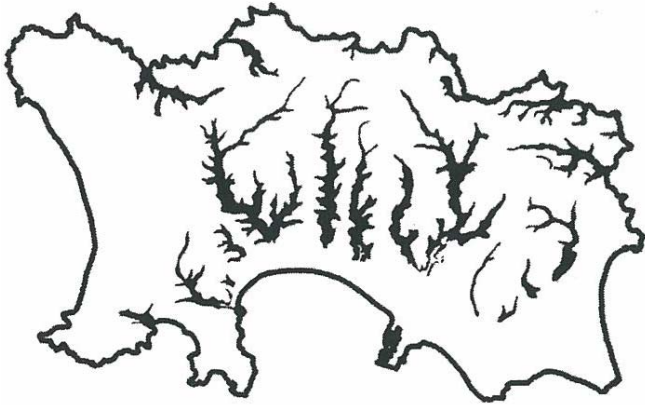


## CHARACTERTYPE D: ENCLOSED VALLEYS

LOCATION	CHARACTER AREAS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• D1 Main Interior Valleys</li><li>• D2 Eastern Valleys</li><li>• D3 St. Brelade Valley</li><li>• D4 North Coast Valleys</li><li>• D5 St. Martin's Valleys</li></ul>

### NATURAL INFLUENCES

The valleys which dissect the plateau introduce great variety and diversity into the character of the interior of the Island. It is believed that fault lines originating some 500-270 million years ago influenced the alignment of the inland valleys, which were subsequently cut by streams flowing in the tundra conditions of the last ice age. Drift deposits overlies the solid geology and Head material, derived from the loess of the plateau surface, mantles the valley sides with peat and alluvial deposits on the valley floor. Outcrops of solid rock forming vertical sides, textured by running water and rich lichen growth, are a particularly attractive and distinctive feature of many of the valleys. The deep incised landform of the lower end of the valleys becomes progressively more open towards the valley heads in the interior of the Island.

All the inland valleys contain open water courses, and many include an interlinked system of wet meadows some of which are still traditionally managed by summer grazing. The freshwater streams and associated wet grassland provide important habitats. Virtually all the Island's broadleaved woodland occurs on the sides of the enclosed valleys, where the land is too steep to have been cleared for farming. The species composition of the woodland is very variable with Jersey's woods being characterised by blocks of single species, growing in close proximity, the most widespread being oak and sweet chestnut, ash, hazel, sycamore and beech. A wealth of woodland plants flourish in the shade and shelter of the valleys including many species that are uncommon or rare in the British Isles. They also support Jersey's population of woodland breeding birds as well as providing refuge and feeding for passage migrants and winter visitors.

The differences in land cover, with open meadows and woodland create an interwoven patchwork of light and shade which combined with the distinctive topography forge an intimate and complex character.

## CULTURAL INFLUENCES

The wooded valleys, although completely modified in their woodland structure by humans, are the last vestiges of the dense woodland which would once have covered the whole of the interior. Pressure for wood in such a small and densely populated Island has always been great and it is likely that all has been cleared at some point, and only small fragments are considered to be of ancient origin. Evidence of woodland history is scarce and management practices widespread in England such as the coppicing of hazel and sweet chestnut appear to have been absent from the Island. Today, the woodland is characterised by even-aged fifty year old stands derived from extensive felling during the German occupation.

The interlinked system of wet meadows which line many of the valley floors were formed as a result of damming and flooding in the Middle Ages. The wet grassland has a long history of grazing with the system of tethering negating the need for fencing and creating the characteristic patchwork of open areas within the enclosed woodland. This continuity of management has also enhanced floristic diversity of the meadows. Most of the valley sides also have a long continuity of farming on the slopes above the wooded valley sides, and are characterised by a chain of *côtils* along the upper edges. The juxtaposition of these intensively managed fields abutting the woodland edge is part of the distinctive character of the enclosed valleys, although with the decline of hand labour in the potato industry many of the *côtils* have subsequently developed through to woodland.

A particular feature of the built environment of the valleys is the concentration of mills. The water mills were vital to the functioning of the feudal system and were located on the twelve main streams. The mills were active from the eleventh to the nineteenth century and some were pressed back into action during the German Occupation. Their main function was grinding corn, but other mills were engaged in grinding malt and at a later date making sugar from cane.

The growth of mass tourism and the increase in the residential population in the twentieth century has resulted in a huge demand for water. This had a dramatic effect on the valleys and water storage reservoirs have been created in virtually all of the valleys. A particular feature of recent years is the farm irrigation reservoirs constructed in the more open valley heads. Today, the valleys are highly valued for their variety and intimate, enclosed character, and for qualities of peacefulness and seclusion. The woodlands, in particular have increasing importance as a recreation resource.

**Character Areas:** The inland valleys of Jersey, although possessing essential similarities in terms of topography and landcover, are all very different and each has their own distinctive character. To reflect this variation, the valleys have been sub-divided into five character areas.

## D: ENCLOSED VALLEYS

### EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES, ATTRIBUTES AND SERVICES

ATTRIBUTES AND SERVICES	REASON WHY IMPORTANT	SCALE OF IMPORTANCE	TREND/THREAT	RECREAT-ABLE
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#### FEATURE: BROADLEAVED WOODLAND

Woodland habitat	Biodiversity	Channel Islands (for birds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of woodland area to development e.g. reservoirs &amp; impact of storm damage.</li> <li>Slight increase in woodland at edges as some cõtils come out of agriculture.</li> <li>Decline in habitat quality with impact of Dutch elm disease and increased dominance of sycamore.</li> <li>Disturbance from intensive recreational use, road traffic.</li> <li>Over-zealous land management e.g. around reservoirs.</li> <li>Habitat quality will be enhanced as 'even-aged' structure created by wartime felling becomes more diverse over time.</li> </ul>	Yes but it would take at least 50 years to recreate a similar character.
Public access	Recreation	Island-wide	Increasing opportunities for public access along new footpath networks within woodland	Yes
Special part of Jersey's local character	Sense of place	Island-wide	Part of distinctive character of sharp woodland edge contrasting with steep agricultural cõtils has been blurred as edges scrub up	Yes

#### FEATURE: INCISED TOPOGRAPHY

Enclosure/shelter	Sense of place	Island-wide	Changes in topography have arisen from development e.g. reservoir construction including both large scale and small farm reservoirs. Some areas in the valley heads have been levelled and drained for agriculture	No
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#### No FEATURE: VALLEY PEATS AND ALLUVIUM

Palaeo-environmental resource	Archaeology	Island-wide	Drying out from excessive water abstraction	No
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ATTRIBUTES AND SERVICES	REASON WHY IMPORTANT	SCALE OF IMPORTANCE	TREND/THREAT	RECREAT-ABLE
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#### FEATURE: MILLS

Vernacular architecture	Sense of place/ cultural history	Island-wide	Many mill buildings have been lost plus some inappropriate conversions. Some good examples restored and conserved	No
Water features (mills, leats and ponds)	Sense of place/ cultural history and biodiversity	Island-wide	Leats and ponds have been cultural infilled/become overgrown and their value as landscape features/habitats has been lost	Yes

#### FEATURE: WET MEADOWS

Water meadows and damp grassland	Biodiversity	Island-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drying out due to excessive groundwater abstraction</li> <li>• Drainage and 'improvement' for agriculture, including decline in traditional management and intensification of grazing regimes</li> <li>• Impact of agricultural run-off and pollution</li> <li>• Loss of distinctive wetland flora and fauna</li> </ul>	No
Landscape features	Sense of place	Island-wide	Loss of distinctive feature of open wet, rushy grassland grazed by tethered Jersey cattle	Yes

#### FEATURE: FRESHWATER STREAMS

Freshwater habitat and 'humid' streamside environment of mosses/ferns/lichens etc	Biodiversity	Island-wide	Excessive waterground abstracted has reduced the flow of streams, while pollution (agricultural run-off) has had an impact on water quality	Yes
Landscape feature & local character	Sense of place	Island-wide	Some channelling of streams along artificial/straightened watercourses	Yes

#### FEATURE: NARROW, WINDING LANES

Network of routes (public access)	Recreation	Island-wide	Designation of Green Lanes has provided an additional recreation resource	Yes
Landscape feature (leafy lanes, lichen covered granite walls) – local character	Sense of place	Island-wide	Road widening, kerbing, erosion/damage to roadside banks, verges and walls have had an adverse impact	Yes

ATTRIBUTES AND SERVICES	REASON WHY IMPORTANT	SCALE OF IMPORTANCE	TREND/THREAT	RECREATABLE
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#### FEATURE: STEEP CÔTILS ON VALLEY SIDES

Agricultural land (earliest land for potatoes crop)	Local economy	Island-wide	Decline in manual labour has led to many steep fields coming out of agricultural production and scrubbing up	Yes
Landscape feature	Sense of place	Island-wide	Scrubbing up and overtopping of walls with bracken and gorse. Loss of contrast between steep walled cõtils and woodland edge	Yes

#### FEATURE: SECLUSION, PEACEFULNESS AND TRANQUILITY

Local character	Sense of place	Island-wide	Impact of roads, traffic & development are all threats	No
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### EVALUATION

The enclosed valleys contain a large number of important environmental features, although the majority of these apart from the wetland and woodland habitats are of no more than Island-wide/ local importance, and many are substitutable. Nevertheless, together these features create a very special sense of place and combine to forge an intimate and varied character. The valleys retain special qualities of seclusion, peacefulness and tranquillity.

The most vulnerable features of the enclosed valley are the freshwater and wetland habitats which are under great threat. The special character of the enclosed valleys is also being eroded by changes in agricultural management and development, particularly the construction of large scale reservoirs.

### MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The priorities for the character type are:

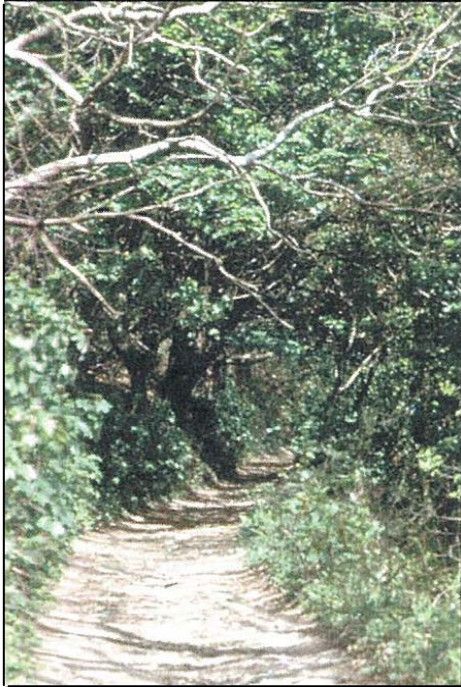
- Management of existing woodland and areas of scrub regenerating on agricultural land to enhance habitat value.
- Management of wet meadows, ideally by reinstating traditional grazing regimes, to maintain and enhance habitat value.
- An Island-wide study of groundwater abstraction and impact on stream flow is required.
- Environmental improvements around existing reservoirs should be undertaken to enhance local character. No further large scale reservoir construction (underground or open) in the valleys should be permitted.

- Maintenance of some of steep cõtils in agricultural production to provide contrast with the woodland areas.
- Restoration and management of field boundaries. Conservation and management of roadside walls, banques and verges.

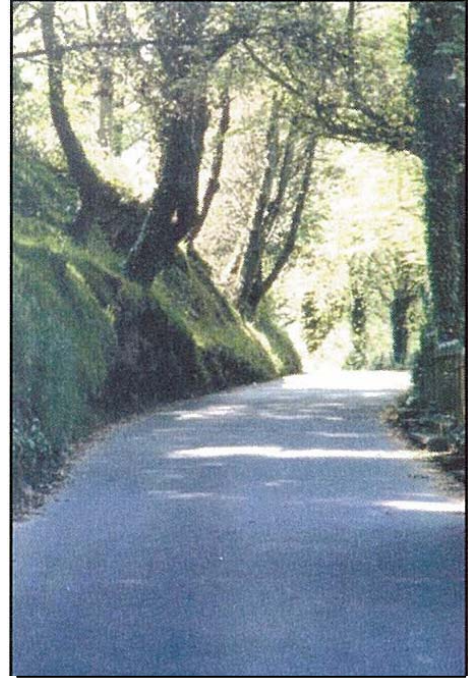
## **LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE**

Jersey's enclosed valleys must have the highest levels of protection. The small scale, intimate character of the valleys means that there is very limited capacity to accept any new development.

## CHARACTER TYPE D: ENCLOSED VALLEYS



Many of the valleys offer good public access allowing the peaceful, intimate character and patterns of light and shade to be appreciated.



The majority of the Island's broad-leaved woodland occurs on the steep valley sides. The narrowing winding lanes are a distinctive feature.



Lichen and fern clad pink granite walls are characteristic features of the interior valleys.



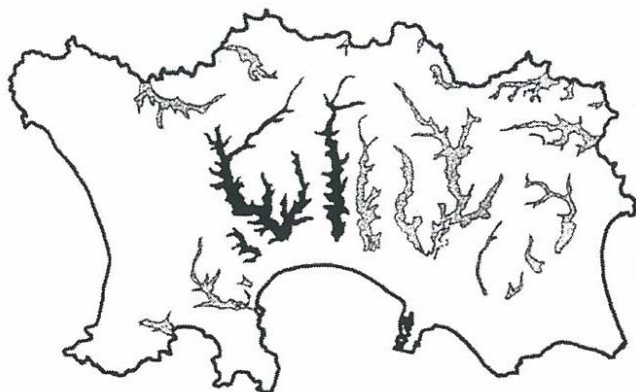
The freshwater streams and associated wet grassland provide important habitats. Many of the flower rich, grazed meadows of the wet valley bottoms are proposed Biological SSI.





## CHARACTER AREA D1: MAIN INTERIOR VALLEYS

### LOCATION



This character area comprises the four valleys which cut across the interior of the Island emerging to the sea at St. Aubin's Bay. They include Waterworks Valley and St. Peter's Valley which are the broadest and longest and the shorter valleys of Beaumont and St. Aubin's to the west.

### NATURAL INFLUENCES

**Geology and Soils:** The deep valleys cut through the solid geology of the Jersey Shale Formation. They are overlain with deposits of head on the valley sides and alluvium and peats on the valley floor. There are no proposed Geological SSI in the main interior valleys.

**Landform:** The main interior valleys run southwards dissecting the interior plateau. They are the longest of all valleys with comparatively wide floors and a complex branching structure. Towards the valley heads, the topography becomes less steep and opens out into little more than a shallow depression. To the south, the valleys are deeply incised and where they cut through the escarpment a sheer face of the underlying rock is exposed, creating a dramatic entrance to the valleys from the more developed coastal plain.

**Land Cover and Nature Conservation:** The broader valleys of St. Peter and St. Lawrence are clothed with extensive areas of woodland on the steep side slopes and are characterised by stands of oak, sweet chestnut with hazel and alder along the streams. The woodland of St. Peter's Valley is particularly important in terms of biodiversity and all are important for woodland birds. Thinner bands of woodland are also present in the shorter valleys at Beaumont and St. Aubin. On the upper slopes some agricultural c tils remain, although many have been abandoned and encroached on by bracken and scrub so that, at least visually, they now form part of the woodland area. Thick hedges with mature oak trees characterise the boundaries of these fields. The wide valley floors of St. Peter and Waterworks include important interlinked areas of wet meadow which are proposed Biological SSI and both main valleys contain open water within reservoirs. These secluded areas of open water also have a particular value for birds.

### CULTURAL INFLUENCES

**Archaeology and Past Land Use:** These wider valleys support the most extensive areas of wood land and are the only ones for which there is evidence of past management. At the top of St. Peter's Valley willow beds were cut for basket work and for the manufacture of lobster pots, with branches of white

willow from Waterworks Valley being used for heavier work in the base of the baskets. In 1789 a 280 ton vessel was built from oak grown in the parish of St. Lawrence which encompasses the main interior valleys. The wide valley floors of St. Peter and St. Lawrence also contain significant areas of wet grassland. These meadows were traditionally grazed by tethered cattle and the practice still persists in some areas. The flooding of water meadows to improve fertility is known to have been in practice from at least the eighteenth century. This century St. Peter's Valley has seen a major change with an underground hospital and an extensive network of tunnels being hewn out of the rocks during the German Occupation.

**Settlement and Building Character:** When the Island began to be fully exploited in the Medieval period the interior valleys were not favoured for settlement but were valued for their streams which were used to power the long chains of mills which lined the valley bottoms. There were five mills in St. Peter's Valley and seven in Waterworks Valley. These were controlled by the Island's nobles and settlement would have been discouraged as it would have put extra demands on the water supply. By the time of the Duke of Richmond Map (1795) there was some settlement in the interior valleys which tended to be at the northern tops of the valleys and at the head of tributary valleys. In the twentieth century more houses have been built along the roads which follow the valley bottoms. Many of the mills survive only as place names but some are intact, for example Quetivel Mill in St. Peter's Valley which has been restored.

**Current Land Use and Management:** The broad valley floors, each with a road, provide an important connection between the south coast and St. Aubin's Bay and the settlements in the north and west of the Island. The lanes and roads are lined with attractive stone walls covered in mosses, lichens and liverworts and are themselves a distinctive feature, as they wind through the tunnel-like darkness of the valley floor and emerge into the open meadow areas. This century many of the cõtils on the upper valley sides have been abandoned and reverted to woodland. On those that remain, the thick boundary hedges are an important landscape feature. Post-war expansion of the Island's population and tourist industry has seen the construction of the reservoirs which are now a feature, particularly of Waterworks Valley. In recent years the valleys of St. Peter and St. Lawrence have become increasingly valued as a recreational resource and a number of public footpaths have been created. The valleys also contain a number of tourist attractions.

#### **ESSENTIAL CHARACTER**

- broad, long valleys running southwards, through the Jersey Shale Formation and, emerging to the sea on St. Aubin's Bay. The valleys are characterised by a complex branched structure with many tributaries;
- deeply incised landform which cuts through the coastal escarpment creating a dramatic entrance to the valleys from the developed south coastal plain;
- extensive areas of broadleaved woodland (oak and sycamore) clothe the steeper valley sides with considerable public access via footpaths;

- include two proposed Biological SSI's: Woodland in St. Peter's Valley and wetland in Waterworks Valley. All the valleys are of Channel Islands importance for woodland birds;
- the open valley floors contain some of Jersey's most distinctive vernacular architecture including several mill buildings and associated systems of mill leats and wet meadows;
- all provide the routes for roads and reservoirs are prominent, particularly in Waterworks Valley;
- 'secret' , peaceful, tranquil and intimate character.

## SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

CHARACTERTYPE	CHARACTER AREA
<b>D: Enclosed Valleys</b>	<b>D I: Main Interior Valleys</b>
<b>Broadleaved Woodland</b>	<p>These wide valleys contain some of the most extensive areas of woodland. Part of St. Peter's is a proposed SSI. The woodlands have particularly good public access including several newly created footpaths.</p>
<b>Incised Topography</b>	<p>The main interior valleys have a very distinctive topography, with a complex branched structure which creates their special intimate character.</p>
<b>Peats and Alluvium</b>	<p>The wide valley floor of St. Peter's Valley supports a considerable thickness of alluvium and peat beneath the wet meadows, providing a very important palaeo-environmental resource.</p>
<b>Mills and Associated Water Features</b>	<p>Within these valleys are some of best preserved mill features, e.g. Le Moulin de Quetivel in St. Peter which is open to the public.</p>
<b>Wet Meadows</b>	<p>Some meadows are being managed under traditional grazing regimes and are the best remaining examples of this type of habitat in the Island. Also a very important landscape feature visible from roads.</p>
<b>Reservoirs</b>	<p>The older and smaller reservoirs contained within these valleys 'fit' the landscape and also provide a habitat e.g. for kingfisher.</p>

## **Streams**

Long streams with many tributaries are characteristic. Stone lined channels are a special feature.

## **Narrow, Winding Lanes**

The complex network of lanes which dip in and out of the tributary arms of the valleys are characteristic. Roadside walls clad with moss, liverwort and lichen are a special feature.

## **Steep Côtils**

In the interior valleys many of the former arable côtils have reverted to bracken and scrub and are merging with the woodland.

## **Seclusion, Peacefulness and Tranquillity**

In the main valleys, the presence of roads has had an impact on these special qualities. These accessible valleys are also subject to the most intensive recreational use.

## **EVALUATION**

**Integrity of Character:** The main interior valleys contain some of the best conserved and most characteristic features of the enclosed valleys (e.g. woodlands, mill buildings, wet meadows and woodland). Their value is enhanced in that they have good public access allowing features to be displayed and interpreted to the public. Overall, the main interior valleys have a strong positive, intact character and include many valuable environmental features which together combine to create a very special sense of place. The intimate juxtaposition of small arable côtils on upper slopes, woodland on middle slopes and wet grassland on the valley floor is a special feature and parts of the valleys have qualities of seclusion, peacefulness and tranquillity. They should be conserved and enhanced.

### **Key Environmental Capital**

The key environmental capital of the character area is represented by:

- Extensive broadleaved woodland habitat including the proposed woodland SSI in St. Peter's Valley.
- The palaeo-environmental resource of the underlying peats.
- Vernacular architecture of watermills and associated features of mill leats and water meadows.
- Floristically diverse wet meadows including the wetland SSI in Waterworks Valley.
- The freshwater streams and their associated habitats.

### **Threats to Local Character**

- Scrubbing up of abandoned agricultural land leading to loss of contrast between the steep arable côtils and the woodland edge.

- Decline in woodland habitat quality with the loss of elm and increasing dominance of sycamore.
- The presence of main roads and intensive recreation intrudes on peacefulness and tranquillity.
- Damage to the sensitive habitats as a result of intensive recreation uses.
- Damage to roadside walls, verges and edges leading to loss of important habitats and small scale landscape features, as a result of increased traffic and roadside widening and kerbing.
- Deterioration in quality and loss in extent in the area of wet meadows due to agricultural improvement/pollution, decline in traditional management (cattle grazing), plus drying out as a result increased abstraction and lower groundwater levels.
- Excessive groundwater abstraction and increasing on-stream water storage in the upper part of the catchment leading to low flows in the valley streams.
- Construction of small irrigation reservoirs in the upper tributaries which are poorly designed in terms of local landscape 'fit' and potential value as habitats.

## MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

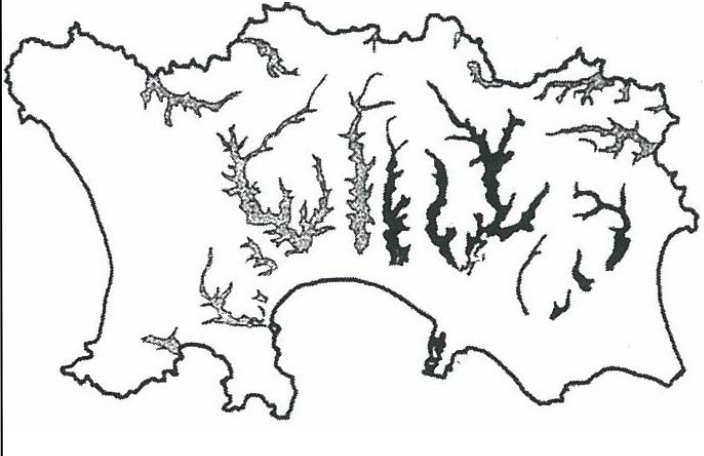
- **Detailed assessment of woodland/agricultural interface** to determine appropriate management of cõtils. Some agricultural cõtils should be retained and managed as landscape features. The field boundaries are a priority for hedgerow planting and management.
- **Confirm proposed woodland SSI and promote sensitive woodland management** throughout to enhance habitat quality.
- **Confirm proposed wet meadow SSI and instigate appropriate management**, ideally under traditional grazing regimes and allow for the establishment of buffer zones to limit the effects of pollution run-off and groundwater abstraction.
- **Monitor and ensure maintenance of adequate water flows** within the streams.
- **Consider opportunities to extend passive recreational access and interpretation**, in particular to create better footpath links with the urban areas on the coastal plain (e.g. link to existing footpath at Beaumont). The creation of more circular routes using National Trust land and the Green Lane network is also recommended. Management will be required to prevent access by motorbikes and control access for mountain bikers and horseriders.
- **Monitor condition of verges, walls and edges** and prevent further roadside widening or kerbing.

## **LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE**

**Capacity:** There is very limited capacity to accept any further development and it is recommended that the interior valleys should have a high level of protection.

**Guidance:** Further development in this area should be restricted to small scale extensions and renewals to existing buildings. Capacity for change is limited to developments to enhance the recreational value of the area, for example creation of new footpath routes, or small scale, well screened car parking areas.

## CHARACTER AREA D2: EASTERN VALLEYS

<p><b>LOCATION</b></p> 	<p>These valleys cut through the eastern part of the interior plateau. They include La Vallee des Vaux, Grands Vaux, Le Val Aume (Swiss Valley), La Vallee de Bellozanne (Fern Valley) and Queen's Valley.</p>
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### NATURAL INFLUENCES

**Geology:** The eastern valleys cut through the harder volcanic rocks of andesite and rhyolite. They are overlain by deposits of head material with some areas of solid rocks exposed on the steepest sections. Fairly good quality soils mantle the sides while the valley floors contain waterlogged peat and alluvial deposits. There are no proposed geological SSI within the eastern valleys.

**Landform:** These valleys like the main interior valleys run southwards dissecting the plateau. The long valleys are narrower and slightly shallower than those to the west which cut through the softer rocks of the Jersey shale. Queen's Valley to the east is unusual in that it runs parallel to the escarpment and is separated from the coastal plain by only a narrow spur of land.

**Land Cover and Nature Conservation:** The valley sides contain woodland characterised by oak and sycamore with hazel, interspersed with areas of farmland. The woodland here occurs within relatively thin fragmented blocks compared to the extensive woodland clothing the valleys sides of St. Peter and St. Lawrence. The seclusion from disturbance afforded by the lack of public access means that the woods have considerable ornithological interest and are important sites for breeding woodland species. In the wider upper reaches the land cover includes open areas of pasture, often drained or improved but with small remnants areas of wet, rushy grassland in the tributary heads and floristically rich wet meadows on the valley floor. One exceptionally rich area has been identified as a proposed Biological SSI. Both the lower parts of Grand Vaux and Queen's Valley have been dammed and flooded and form open waterbodies which have limited nature conservation value.

### CULTURAL INFLUENCES

**Archaeology and Past Land Use:** There is very little evidence for past land use management, although woodland management and water meadow management are likely to have been common to all the valleys. A long chain of watermills lined the valley of La Vallee des Vaux and Grands Vaux, with single mills also found in Fern Valley and Le Val Aume. The valleys were enclosed for orchard planting in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, although the marshy floors of the larger valleys remained open.

**Settlement and Building Character:** In 1795 the Duke of Richmond map indicated that in common with the other main valleys settlement was very limited. Post 1800 the valleys of La Vallee des Vaux and Grands Vaux have been developed in tandem with the growth of St. Helier. Their closer proximity to the town, gives them a more urban- suburban character at their southern, lower end where the valleys are occupied by relatively modern housing developments and extensive gardens. Here, species such as bamboo, hydrangea, gunnera and cypress suppress the natural character of the wooded valleys. In Bellozanne, the valley which lies to the west, a number of large industrial plants occupy the southern end of the valley. By comparison Swiss Valley, and the other valleys to the east are largely undeveloped, with very little public access and retain a rural character.

**Current Use and Management:** To the north, once away from the more developed edge of St. Helier these valleys have a rural appearance forming part of the surrounding farming system. Enclosure on the valley sides is provided by thick hedges which include mature oak trees, blackthorn, hawthorn and arable cõtils are characteristic of the steeper areas. By comparison, the shallower valley heads are mainly improved pasture enclosed by hedges which include a high proportion of willow and alder.

Unlike the valleys to the west, the main roads, here, tend to run along the ridgelines as opposed to the valley floor. The absence of roads means that these valleys have a more secluded, quiet character. In the view from the roads running parallel along the ridges, their presence is signalled only by a slight dip in the topography. This 'secret' quality is enhanced by the fact that there is very little public access, although a new footpath has recently been created in part of Fern Valley and in Queen's Valley. A major change in character has occurred in the last ten years in Queen's Valley which has been flooded to create a large water storage reservoir.

#### **ESSENTIAL CHARACTER**

- relatively narrow southward running valleys which cut through the harder underlying volcanic rocks, less steep and incised than the valleys to the west, with shallow, open valley heads with wet, rushy pastures;
- thin bands of broadleaved woodland in Vallee des Vaux and Grands Vaux, and Bellozane but otherwise largely open, with arable land and pasture;
- remnant areas of floristically rich wet meadow on some valley floors, with one identified as a proposed SSI. Woodlands are valuable for woodland breeding birds, most being of Channel Island's importance;
- development and garden planting imparts a more suburban-urban character to the lower parts of the valleys near St. Helier;
- very limited public access with roads along the valley floors confined to the lower more developed parts of the larger valleys and few public footpaths;
- includes Queens Valley which runs parallel to the escarpment and has recently been flooded to create a large reservoir;
- secluded 'secret' character with special qualities of tranquillity.



## SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

CHARACTER TYPE	CHARACTER AREA
<b>D: Enclosed Valleys</b>	<b>D2: Eastern Valleys</b>
<b>Broadleaved Woodland</b>	Thin bands of woodland occur in the larger valleys, which have value for woodland birds. There is very little public access.
<b>Incised Topography</b>	The eastern valleys are less incised than the main interior valleys. In Queen's Valley the landform is concealed by the reservoir.
<b>Peats and Alluvium</b>	Deep deposits of peat have been investigated in Queens Valley (now flooded). No analysis has been undertaken in the other valleys, the narrow valley floors contain less extensive deposits.
<b>Mills and Associated Water Features</b>	No evidence remains today, although remnant water meadows occur in the larger valleys.
<b>Wet Meadows</b>	One area proposed as a Biological SSI.
<b>Streams Characteristic feature</b>	Narrow, Winding Lanes; these are not a feature of the eastern valleys where lanes tends to cut across the valley heads but do not follow the valley floor.
<b>Steep Côtils</b>	Characteristic feature.
<b>Seclusion, Peacefulness and Tranquillity</b>	Particularly in the absence of main roads.

## EVALUATION

**Integrity of Character:** The Eastern Valleys contain most of the environmental features that characterise the enclosed valleys. A particular and overriding feature, derived from the absence of roads, is their seclusion, peacefulness and tranquillity. For the most part they have an intact, rural character. The area is however vulnerable to change. The most drastic development in recent years being the flooding of Queen's Valley which has altered the traditional local character. The Eastern Valleys should be conserved and enhanced.

## Key Environmental Capital

The key environmental capital of the character area is represented by:

- Remnant areas of floristically rich wet meadows on the valley floors including the proposed Wetland SSI.
- Secluded broadleaved woodland and the freshwater streams and associated habitats.
- Peaceful, tranquil character.

## Threats to Local Character

- Deterioration in quality and loss in extent in the area of wet meadows due to agricultural improvement/pollution, decline in traditional management (cattle grazing), plus drying out as a result increased abstraction and lower groundwater levels.
- The scrubbing up of abandoned agricultural land leading to loss of contrast between the steep arable cōtils and the woodland edge.
- Decline in woodland habitat quality with the loss of elm and increasing dominance of sycamore.
- Excessive groundwater abstraction plus increasing on-stream water storage in the upper part of the catchment leading to low flows in the valley streams.
- Construction of small irrigation reservoirs in the upper tributaries which are poorly designed in terms of local landscape 'fit' and potential value as habitats.
- Inappropriate management around the reservoir sides in Queen's Valley, where much of the natural vegetation has been removed and the slopes maintained as mown grass with ornamental trees and shrubs.

## MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

This section should be read in conjunction with the general management guidelines identified for the Character Type: Enclosed Valleys. All these general management guidelines apply. In addition the following are recommended:

- **Increase provision for public access and quiet recreation** - opportunities to create a chain of informal linear and circular footpaths out from the town through the valleys should be sought. The special qualities of seclusion and tranquillity which characterise these valleys should be conserved and intensive recreational uses should not be permitted.
- **Woodland Management to enhance habitat diversity** - the woodlands in the lower part of the valley, adjacent to St. Helier, are in danger of losing their natural character as more ornamental species become established. These species should be monitored and removed where they become invasive.

- **Queen's Valley Reservoir** - promote more sensitive planting and management on the land held by Jersey Waterworks Company. Ideally to involve native woodland planting, using species characteristic of these eastern valleys and grassland managed under a low intensity regime (grazing). Treatments to the 'hard ' edges of the reservoir could be incorporated to increase habitat diversity and enhance the value of the waterbody for birds.

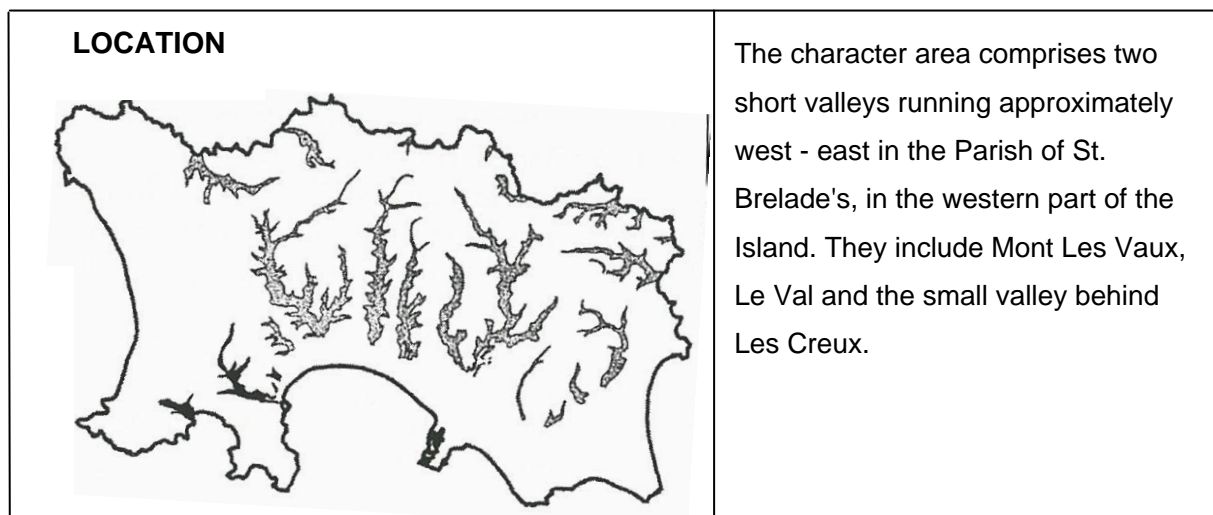
## **LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE**

**Capacity:** There is very limited capacity to accept any new development and it is recommended that the Eastern Valleys should have high levels of protection.

**Guidance:** The only developments that can be justified in this area are small scale renewals or extensions to existing buildings. The undisturbed, tranquil character of these valleys must be retained and large scale infrastructure projects such as reservoir construction or new/widened roads should be discouraged.



## CHARACTER AREA D3: ST. BRELADE'S VALLEYS



### NATURAL INFLUENCES

**Geology:** These valleys cut through the Jersey Shale (Mont Les Vaux) and the south-east granite (Le Val). They are not covered by superficial drift deposits, although they possess a similar soil cover as the other valleys. Outcrops of solid rock, on the steep sides are a distinguishing feature. There are no Geological Conservation SSI.

**Landform:** Steep sided valleys climbing relatively quickly up from the coast. Unlike the other valleys on the south coast they emerge directly to the sea rather than onto the wide coastal plain. The upper reaches of Mont le Vaux begins as a shallow depression in the hinterland of the western plateau and run eastwards, gradually deepening towards the sea, at St. Aubins Bay. Le Val runs from Les Quennevais into St. Brelade's Bay and has a comparatively wide, flat valley floor.

**Land Cover and Nature Conservation:** The valleys sides are predominantly wooded, lacking the intimate mix of agriculture and woodland found within many of the other valleys. Semi-natural deciduous woodlands have been extended by Victorian plantings including Monterey pine, Monterey cypress and Holm oak. The presence of these evergreen species create essential similarities in character between the two valleys differentiating them from other valleys on the Island. The extensive woodland of St. Brelade, both in the valleys and along the escarpment, provides one of the strongholds for the red squirrel population, with the pines being particularly important for providing cover and shelter. Mont Les Vaux is known to provide an important habitat for breeding woodland birds including lesser spotted woodpeckers as well as migrants and winter visitors. Grey herons can frequently be found at the small reservoir midway along the valley. Le Val is a smaller secluded valley, containing pasture and meadows on the wide valley floor, and mixed oak woodland, with pines and other coniferous species on the steep sides.

### CULTURAL INFLUENCES

**Archaeology and Past Land Use:** There is little evidence of early land use and no Archaeological SSI, although they are likely to have a similar history as the other valleys on the Island. Evidence exists for a watermill at the lower end of Mont Les Vaux. St. Brelade's Church, with its distinctive saddleback-

steeple nestles at the foot of Le Val, in a very picturesque wooded setting. Alongside is the Fisherman's Chapel while out on the headland immediately to the south is Le Coleron a small coastal battery dating to the eighteenth century.

Mont Les Vaux provided the route for a railway, built in the late nineteenth century, connecting St. Aubin to Corbière. The main cultural artefacts in the valley relate to the railway line and include a tunnel through the valley side. This was subsequently used by the Germans in the Second World War as an ammunition store, and an extensive underground complex was excavated at the entrance to the valley, similar to that found in St. Peter's Valley.

**Settlement and Building Character:** The Duke of Richmond Map of 1795 indicates that settlement has already begun to spread out from the harbour at St. Aubin into the shelter of the southern part of Mont Les Vaux, with sparse scattered settlement also on the wide floor of Le Val. Unlike the long valleys of the interior the streams in these short valleys did not have such strategic importance for powering water mills, and the floors would have been more suitable for development. This trend has continued in Mont Les Vaux where a main road has been built along the flanks of the southern part of the valley and one of its tributaries providing access to the new urban areas on the plateau. Linear development follows the road route. By comparison, Le Val has no through road and remains relatively undeveloped.

**Current Use and Management:** In Mont Les Vaux the former railway line has been converted into the 'Corbière Walk'. This linear walkway with its mown embankments and flanking avenue of pines is popular with walkers and cyclists and is the dominant feature in the upper part of the valley where recreation is the main land use. The Val retains a quieter, secluded rural character with limited public access.

#### **ESSENTIAL CHARACTER**

- short steep valleys running west east and emerging directly to the sea at St. Aubin and St. Brelade's Bay;
- predominantly wooded with semi-natural broadleaved woodland interplanted with ornamental species, notably pine and cypress during the nineteenth century;
- a habitat for a variety of woodland breeding birds and a stronghold for the red squirrel population;
- areas of pasture and wet meadow line the slightly wider floor at Le Val (although none designated as SSI);
- the entrance to Le Val provides a picturesque wooded setting for St. Brelade's church;
- steep roads climb up the tributary arms of the valleys to the development on the plateau;
- Mont les Vaux formerly provided the route for the St. Aubin - Corbière railway. The Corbière Walk along the route of the line is now an important recreational 'greenway'.

## SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

CHARACTER TYPE	CHARACTER AREA
<b>D: Enclosed Valleys</b>	<b>D3: St. Brelade's Valleys</b>
<b>Broadleaved Woodland</b>	Characteristic, although interspersed with coniferous plantings.
<b>Incised Topography</b>	Short, steep valleys.
<b>Peats and Alluvium</b>	Peat deposits are not extensive.
<b>Mills and Associated Water Features</b>	None remain.
<b>Wet Meadows</b>	Characteristic.
<b>Streams</b>	Characteristic.
<b>Narrow, Winding Lanes</b>	These are not a feature of the short valleys. Steep main roads climb out of the tributary arms. There are no lanes.
<b>Steep Côtils</b>	Not characteristic.
<b>Seclusion, Peacefulness and Tranquillity</b>	Away from the main roads, in the upper reaches of the valleys.

## EVALUATION

**Integrity of Character:** The St. Brelade's valleys have a distinct local identity derived in particular from their ornamental, coniferous woodland cover. Away from the main roads which dominate the lower part of Le Val and Mont les Vaux, the valleys have an intact, undisturbed rural character that should be conserved and enhanced.

### Key Environmental Capital

The St. Brelade's valleys do not contain any key features of environmental capital in the form of SSI designated woodlands, meadows or important archaeological or geological sites. Nevertheless, they have a special local character and identity. The woodlands are, in addition, a stronghold for the Island's population of red squirrels.

### Threats to Local Character

The St. Brelade's valleys are vulnerable to all the changes that affect the valleys in general including:

- Reduction in woodland habitat quality with the increasing dominance of invasive species and loss of the distinctive coniferous/ornamental component as these plantations reach the end of their natural life;
- Deterioration in the quality and loss of wet meadows on the valley floor;
- Low flows in the valley streams;

- Further encroachment of development in association with the main roads at the foot of the valleys. This includes linear development along the roadsides as well as more subtle changes such as incremental road widening and erosion of verges/roadside walls;
- Loss of secluded/tranquil character.

## MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

This section should be read in conjunction with the general management guidelines identified for the Character Type: Enclosed Valleys. In addition the following are recommended:

- **Creation of new opportunities of recreation and public access** - These valleys, which are in close proximity to urban areas and tourism centres of St. Aubin and St. Brelade, offer great potential for enhanced public access and quiet recreation, building on the success of the popular Corbière Walk. A particular opportunity is presented by Le Val, where there is no public access at present. An informal footpath here could link the development on the plateau at Red Houses to the St. Brelade's Bay and the south-west coastal footpath. The special qualities of seclusion and tranquillity which characterise these valleys should be conserved and intensive recreational uses should not be permitted. Any new footpaths should be informal in style and design in keeping with the rural surroundings, requiring little more than vegetation clearance and waymarking. A more formal route as exists along the Corbière Walk will not be appropriate in Le Val.
- **Woodland Management** - Very little is known about the woodland in this area and the origin of the coniferous plantings which characterise the woodland in the lower part of the valley. Further study may be required to ascertain appropriate management options for these woodlands in order to maintain and enhance habitat diversity. A priority will be to extend and link up these somewhat isolated woodlands which provide an important habitat for red squirrel. This will ideally involve thickening hedgerows and new copse planting within the adjacent agricultural land, forming part of character area E8.

## LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE

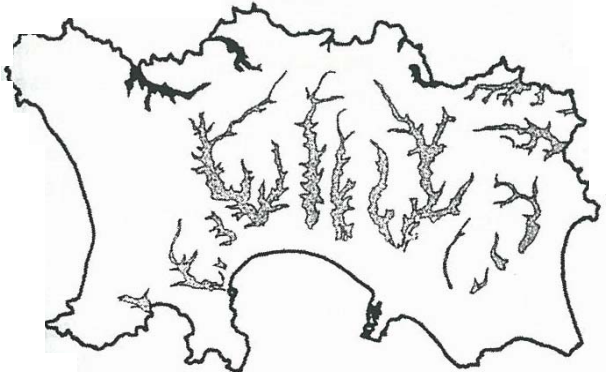
**Capacity:** The St. Brelade's Valleys have very limited capacity to accept any new development and it is recommended that they should have high levels of protection.

**Guidance:** The only developments that can be justified in this area are small scale renewals or extensions to existing buildings. There is no scope for extending the urban area of St. Aubin or infilling/extending linear development along the roads which climb up the lower part of Mont Les Vaux and the northern tributary arm of Le Val. The undisturbed, tranquil character of these valleys must be retained and large scale infrastructure projects such as construction of new reservoirs, or new/widened road schemes should be discouraged.



## CHARACTER AREA D4: NORTH COAST VALLEYS

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<p><b>LOCATION</b></p> 	<p>The character area embraces the small valleys which run down the short northern watershed through gaps in the cliffs to a small cove or inlet on the north coast. They include Les Vaux de Lecq, Mourier Valley, the woodland at Egypt and the short valley backing Bouley Bay. Other smaller valleys and damp hollows on the north coast have been subsumed within the surrounding north coast heath land character area</p>
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### NATURAL INFLUENCES

**Geology and Soils:** The valleys cut through the hard igneous and volcanic rocks (granites and rhyolites) that underlie the north coast. Deposits of head material mantle the valley sides although sections of exposed rock, often with a rich covering of lichens are a distinctive and attractive feature of the character area. The valley sides and floor are covered by the typical complex of valley soils. There are no proposed geological conservation SSIs.

**Landform:** Generally, short steep and narrow, although there is considerable variation between individual valleys. Les Vaux de Lecq is the longest and widest, with two arms of the valley meeting at the sandy bay at Grève de Lecq. Mourier Valley, by contrast, is a steep narrow valley running down to a small inlet on the cliffs, while the valleys at Egypt and Bouley Bay are much shorter, just backing the coastline.

**Land Cover and Nature Conservation:** The north coast valleys are thickly wooded with oak, sweet chestnut, Holm oak and sycamore, while the moist, shady stream sides are luxuriantly vegetated. Water dropwort, hemp agrimony and a variety of ferns thrive in the humid environment, while in the springtime wild daffodils provide a subtle splash of colour. These coastal secluded woodlands are important for breeding woodland birds and also provide a refuge for arriving migrants. The woodlands have a high nature conservation value and include three proposed Biological SSI at Vaux de Lecq, Egypt and Bouley Bay. There are considerable differences between the valleys, Vaux de Lecq, which is the longest contains the most extensive area of woodland, although the wider valley floor is open and includes areas of marsh and damp grassland. The valley terminates at Grève de Lecq, in a thin band of sand dunes. Mourier Valley is filled with scrub, bracken and gorse towards the sea merging into the surrounding heathland, while to the south a narrow band of oak woodland clothes the valley sides. The valleys at Egypt and Bouley Bay are by contrast, much smaller and densely wooded. Egypt also includes an important area of marsh vegetation.

### CULTURAL INFLUENCES

**Archaeology and Past Land Use:** There are very few records of past land use and management

within these more remote valleys. A watermill still stands at Grève de Lecq which dates to at least 1700 and is possibly of Medieval origin. Mills are also recorded in Mourier Valley.

Vaux de Lecq breaches the towering wall of the north coast cliffs and provides a vulnerable entry point into the interior of the Island which has been successively defended in response to the threat of invasion. The Jersey Tower is almost certainly the oldest of the surviving coastal towers and today creates a very distinctive landmark. On the eastern edge of the valley stand the barrack, built in early nineteenth century by the Board of Ordinance of the British Government. The barracks are now in the care of the National Trust and have recently been restored and house the North Coast Visitor Centre.

**Settlement and Building Character:** Along the north coast the valleys provide shelter from the tearing winds that strike this very exposed area and historically provided a location for settlement, particularly in the upper reaches of the tributaries. Most valleys, however, remain comparatively undeveloped except for Mourier Valley. Here, the upper branches contain substantial linear residential development, with associated gardens and horse paddocks, some of which have been created from small cõtils. Elsewhere development is limited to the coastal edge at the foot of the valleys at Grève de Lecq and Bouley Bay.

**Current Use and Management:** Steep walled or hedged arable cõtils on the upper slopes are characteristic feature particularly on the eastern side of the valleys, which are sunnier and provide early land for potatoes. Many are still in use, although some have been abandoned and are beginning to scrub up with gorse, bramble and bracken. The main valleys provide the routes for roads which touch the edge of the coast and the wooded backdrop provides a fine setting for the bays at Grève de Lecq and Bouley Bay which are popular tourist destinations. Apart from a short stretch of footpath developed by the National Trust, behind Bouley Bay and the coastal path at Egypt, there is virtually no public access into the valleys and their attractions are largely bypassed on route to the coastal coves and inlets. Small reservoirs have been constructed in most of the valleys and in Les Vaux de Lecq these include a number of underground water storage reservoirs.

#### **ESSENTIAL CHARACTER**

- short, steep narrow valleys that cut through the hard igneous and volcanic rocks through gaps in the cliff to a cove or inlet on the north coast;
- luxuriantly wooded with oak, sweet chestnut. Holm oak and sycamore, of great nature conservation value including three areas proposed as Biological SSI. Of value for woodland breeding birds and a refuge for arriving migrants;
- shady, moist, humid and sheltered environment in which mosses, lichens and ferns thrive on the tree trunks and exposed rock faces;
- Vaux de Lecq which descends to the sandy bay at Grève de Lecq include a narrow band of sand dunes at the mouth;
- includes steep arable cõtils on the upper, east facing valley sides which create sharp contrast with the woodland in these small scale, intimate valleys. Many still in use for early

potato production, with some abandoned and developing a cover of gorse and bracken;

- Vaux de Lecq which breaches the towering wall of the north coast cliffs includes a large number of fortifications at the valley entrance including the Jersey Round Tower and Barracks;
- contain some tourist development at the coastal end (Grève de Lecq and Bouley Bay) and some residential development (Mourier). Only Egypt is entirely undeveloped;
- provide the routes for roads to the north coast, although there is very little other public access into the valleys.

## SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

CHARACTER TYPE	CHARACTER AREA
<b>D: Enclosed Valleys</b>	<b>D4: North Coast Valleys</b>
<b>Broadleaved Woodland</b>	Characteristic species composition
<b>Incised Topography</b>	Characteristic, although underground reservoirs in Vaux de Lecq alter the natural landform.
<b>Peats and Alluvium</b>	Not an extensive feature of these short, narrow valleys.
<b>Mills and Associated Water Features</b>	One restored watermill, possibly of Medieval origin, remains at the foot of Vaux de Lecq.
<b>Wet Meadows</b>	Marsh is a feature of the woodland at Egypt and damp grassland can be found along the wider valley floor of Vaux de Lecq.
<b>Streams</b>	Characteristic.
<b>Narrow, Winding Lanes</b>	Not a feature. Main roads can be found in Vaux de Lecq and the valley at Bouley Bay.
<b>Steep Côtils</b>	These are a characteristic feature of the sunny east facing upper slopes.
<b>Seclusion, Peacefulness and Tranquillity</b>	The more remote north coast valleys, possess these special qualities, although they are impinged on by the roads and development.

## EVALUATION

**Integrity of Character:** The North Coast Valleys have a distinctive local character and identity derived from the remote location; luxuriant woodland cover and steep edges composed of heath land and small cõtils. The valleys cut through the sheer wall of the north coast cliffs which is in contrast to other valleys which emerge to the lower coastal plain and bays of the south and west coasts. They have an intact, positive character which should be conserved and enhanced.

### Key Environmental Capital

- The North Coast Valleys contain some of the most important woodland habitats on the Island and include three areas proposed as Biological SSI which also incorporate important areas of wet grassland and marshland on the valley floor.
- The secluded tranquil character derived from their 'remote' location on the north coast is a special environmental feature.

### Threats to Local Character

- Invasion of sycamore and other non-native species within the semi-natural woodlands.
- Abandonment of arable cõtils, with developing scrub blurring the sharp woodland/agricultural interface.
- The unnatural landform created by the reservoirs and the associated ornamental planting in Vaux de Lecq is particularly discordant in the context of the wilder, remote character of the north coast.
- In the upper part of Mourier Valley the substantial residential development, with associated gardens and horse paddocks with a variety of fence and wire boundaries, interspersed with abandoned cõtils imparts a more suburban 'fringe' character.
- In Vaux de Lecq, the wide roads in both branches of the valley and the traffic that they carry, particularly in summer, impinges on the remote, tranquil quality.
- At Grève de Lecq at the foot of the valley the woodland terminates abruptly at the edge of a large formal car park which covers the whole width of the valley and extends down to the small area of dunes at the coastal edge. Jersey's oldest coastal tower now lies stranded in the middle of the car park. The large expanse of tarmac has a very high visual impact particularly in the view from the important Iron Age site on the adjacent headland. The car park completely obliterates the natural character of the valley.

## MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

This section should be read in conjunction with the general management guidelines identified for the Character Type: Enclosed Valleys. The following apply specifically to the North Coast Valleys:

- **Confirm Biological SSI** at Egypt, Vaux de Lecq and Bouley Bay and instigate appropriate management to maintain/enhance habitat diversity woodland, including removal of invasive species.
- **The abandoned cõtils on the high land towards the coastal edge are a target for restoration/management as acid grassland/heathland.** This would help extend the area of heathland inland from the extreme north coast edge.
- **Investigate opportunities for extending the footpath network within the valleys.** The woodland at Vaux de Lecq is the prime target. The area is already an important visitor destination with a variety of attractions/interpretation centre/car park etc at the foot of the valley, although there is virtually no public access into the wood itself. There is an opportunity here to create circular walks and loops through the woodland linking into the north coast footpath. Recreation management to control potentially damaging uses (mountain biking and motorcycling) will be required.
- **Promote more appropriate management around the covered and open reservoirs** in the valleys. To include use of native grass seed mixes, with appropriate low intensity management, native tree and shrub planting, removal of some more ornamental species and small scale treatments of the reservoir edges to enhance their value for birds.
- **Landscape re-instatement in the upper part of Mourier Valley**, involving restoration of walled boundaries, and developing management options for abandoned cõtils (e.g. scrub/woodland cover or acid grassland/heathland). These proposals would need to be implemented in conjunction with the residential occupiers who appear to be the main landholders rather than through an agri-environment scheme.
- **A major environmental enhancement opportunity is presented at Grève de Lecq.** Options include relocation of a smaller car park to a less sensitive area, or redesign of a less formal car park with appropriate low key surfacing and tree and shrub planting to provide a measure of screening. Measures should also seek to extend/enhance the small area of dunes. Visitor management is required to create a route between the car park and beach to prevent trampling of the dunes.

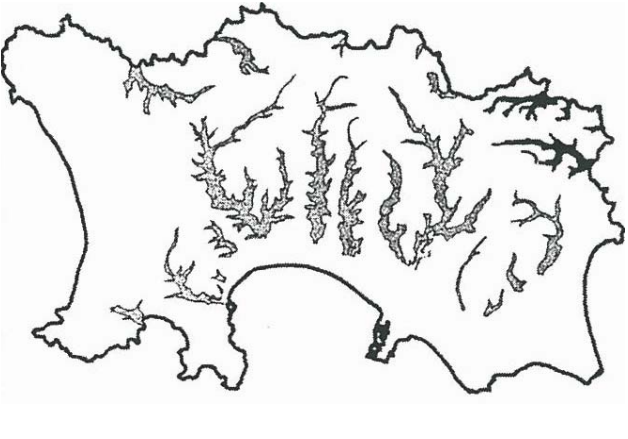
## **LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE**

**Capacity:** There is no capacity to accept any new development and it is recommended that the North Coast Valleys should be given high levels of protection.

**Guidance:** The only developments that can be justified in this area are small scale renewals or extensions to existing buildings and these will need careful attention to scale and design. There is no scope for extending or infilling residential development within Mourier Valley. Grève de Lecq has no capacity for further tourism development, unless appropriate development could achieve the major environmental enhancements outlined above. The undisturbed, tranquil character of these valleys must be retained.

## CHARACTER AREA D5: ST. MARTIN'S VALLEYS

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<p><b>LOCATION</b></p> 	<p>The character area comprises the wooded valleys in the Parish of St. Martin in the north-east corner of the Island. They include St. Catherine's Valley, Rozel Valley and a number of smaller valleys and tributaries.</p>
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### NATURAL INFLUENCES

**Geology and Soils:** These deep valleys cut through the softer sedimentary rocks of the Rozel Conglomerates. The drift deposits of head material which characterise the slopes of other valleys are absent and as a consequence soils are poorer with thin soil of the Noirmont series mantling the sides and a narrow band of alluvium on the valley floor. There are no proposed geological conservation SSIs.

**Landform:** Deep, steep valleys running in an easterly direction, directly to the sea at Rozel Bay and St. Catherine's Bay. They possess a complex, branching structure with numerous side tributaries.

**Land Cover and Nature Conservation:** The valley floors of St. Martin are almost wholly wooded with arable cõtils on the steep sides. The woodlands are the most mature in the Island and relatively uneven in age having escaped clear felling during the period of German Occupation. Parts of the woodland in St. Catherine's Valley have been identified as being the only areas of ancient woodland on the Island. They can be distinguished by their species composition which includes oak, hazel, ash and beech with medlar and wild cherry in the understorey, as well as alder and willow thickets on the damper valley floor. The valleys are sheltered from the winds which blow from the south and west, and have developed a luxuriant undergrowth of ferns, mosses, lichens and liverworts along the stream sides. The woodlands include areas of wet meadows along the valley floor and these are also of exceptionally high quality.

The valleys contain the largest areas of contiguous woodland on the Island and are particularly important for nature conservation. St. Catherine's Valley supports more species than any other wood in Jersey and is a proposed Biological SSI. As well as the common woodland bird species, St. Catherine's is considered to be the most likely location for future nesting of sparrow hawk, which has not bred on the Island in recent years. A wide variety of small mammals as well as invertebrates, particularly butterflies, are found in the valley and these north-east woodlands support a thriving population of red squirrel.

## CULTURAL INFLUENCES

**Archaeology and Past Land Use:** There are few records of past land use and management within these valleys, although there is evidence of a watermill at the foot of St. Catherine's Valley. It is likely that the poorer soils and the more remote location meant that these woodlands have never come under the intense pressures for clearance and agricultural management exerted on the valleys in the central part of the Island.

Holm oak, rhododendron, cupressus and Scots pine are evidence of Victorian plantings and Rozel Valley contains some unusual species attributed to Samuel William Curtis, editor of

**Settlement and Building Character Character:** The attractive village and harbour of Rozel nestles at the foot of Rozel Valley. These more remote valleys are otherwise notable for the absence of development which is limited to very scattered settlement and hotel development in one of the southern tributaries of Rozel Valley.

**Current Use and Management:** St. Catherine's Valley contains an extensive network of footpaths, including the Perquage path which leads from St. Martin's Church down to the bay. Large numbers of people use the wood for recreation, although despite high usage the woodland retains a peaceful secluded character. By comparison, Rozel woods are entirely in private ownership and access is limited to the Green Lane which runs through one of its smaller tributary valleys. The steep upper valley sides are characterised by small cõtils which are still intensely cultivated and provide the earliest potato crop on the Island.

### ESSENTIAL CHARACTER

- deep valleys cutting through the softer sedimentary rocks of the Rozel conglomerates;
- the valley floors are almost wholly wooded with areas of damp meadows. The west meadow in St. Catherine's Valley is of exceptionally high quality in terms of biodiversity (included in the proposed SSI);
- the valleys emerge directly to the sea at Rozel Bay and St. Catherine's Bay and provide a scenic backdrop for the attractive village of Rozel;
- the woodlands are the most mature on the Island, with a characteristic species composition including oak, beech, ash with hazel, medlar and wild cherry. The woodlands within St. Catherine's Valley are thought to be of ancient origin and are identified as a proposed Biological SSI. Of great importance for woodland breeding birds and support a thriving population of red squirrel;
- include some unusual and more exotic species towards the entrance of the valley, forming part of nineteenth century amenity plantings;
- retain a remote, peaceful and secluded character.



## SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

CHARACTERTYPE	CHARACTER AREA
<b>D: Enclosed Valleys</b>	<b>D5: St. Martin's Valleys</b>
<b>Broadleaved Woodland</b>	The valleys contain the most mature woodland on the Island, some of which is considered to be ancient woodland.
<b>Incised Topography</b>	Characteristic feature.
<b>Peats and Alluvium</b>	Peat deposits are not extensive.
<b>Mills and Associated Water Features</b>	None remain.
<b>Wet Meadows</b>	The wet meadow in St. Catherine's Valley is considered to be worthy of SSI designation in its own right.
<b>Streams</b>	Characteristic feature.
<b>Narrow, Winding Lanes</b>	These valleys are distinguished by the absence of roads and lanes.
<b>Steep Côtils</b>	The steep côtils of Rozel and St. Catherine's provide the earliest potato crop in the Island.
<b>Seclusion, Peacefulness and Tranquillity</b>	The more remote location, absence of development and roads means that these valleys are the most secluded and tranquil.

## EVALUATION

**Integrity of Character:** The St. Martin's Valleys contain among the best examples of environmental features that characterise the valleys and they have a very strong positive, intact character. These features include a large area of contiguous mature woodland, including the only area of ancient woodland on the Island and a large woodland SSI. These are of highest importance in the Island-wide context and in the case of the ancient woodland are non-recreatable. The wet meadows along the valley floor are of exceptionally high quality with very high biodiversity, having escaped the worst effects of pollution and drying out which threaten the meadows of the more developed valleys in the central part of the Island.

The St. Martin's Valleys are therefore of great value for their intactness and integrity, representing what many of the inland valleys would have looked like before clearance. Added to this the location of the valleys in the north-eastern corner of the Island, the complete absence of roads and the scale of the woodland area creates a degree of remoteness, seclusion and tranquillity that is not found in the valleys in the central part of the Island. They are, however, vulnerable to many of the changes that affect the valleys in general. The emphasis should be on conservation and enhancement of local character.

## Key Environmental Capital

- Large areas of contiguous mature woodland habitat, including the only area of ancient woodland on the Island which is included within the large woodland SSI in St. Catherine's Valley.
- An exceptionally high quality wet meadow within St. Catherine's Valley which is included within the larger woodland SSI.
- The secluded tranquil character derived from their 'remote' location and the absence of roads and development is a special environmental feature.

## Threats to Local Character

- Invasion of sycamore and other non-native species within the semi-natural woodlands.
- Deterioration in quality of the wet meadows, due to agricultural improvement, pollution and lack of appropriate management.
- The increasing use of the woodlands for intensive recreation including motorcycling and mountain biking.

## MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

This section should be read in conjunction with the general management guidelines identified for the Character Type: Enclosed Valleys. The following apply specifically to the St. Martin's Valleys:

- **Confirm Biological SSI for St. Catherine's Valley** and instigate appropriate management to maintain/enhance habitat diversity of the woodland and wet meadow.
- **Investigate woodland composition in Rozel Valley**, including the Victorian plantings and need for management/replanting to retain as an historic feature (potential value as an arboretum?). Promote appropriate management to enhance habitat diversity within the remainder of the woodland.
- **Management for Red Squirrels** within both woodlands implement proposals arising from the current Red Squirrel Survey. The surrounding agricultural land (Character Area E3) will be a target for extending woodland out of the valleys by thickening hedgerow boundaries and new copse planting.
- **Undertake recreation management** to control damaging uses (mountain biking and motorcycling) within these very vulnerable woodlands. Investigate options for extending opportunities for quiet, informal recreation in Rozel Woods. The southern tributary where there is already a Green Lane and adjacent car parking is a target location.

## **LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE**

**Capacity:** There is no capacity to accept any new development and it is recommended that this area should have high levels of protection.

**Guidance:** The St. Martin's valleys are characterised by the virtual absence of development and should remain undeveloped. Development to the south of Rozel village which would impinge on the wooded backdrop should be discouraged and it is important that further new development should not occur along the Green Lane that runs through this Valley.