



Cornwall
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

Cornwall AONB

Annual Report 2020/21



Redoubt 5 Scheduled Monument, Rame Head

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Foreword

The work of the AONB has never been more important than it is today as we hopefully ease out of nearly 18 months in lockdown. For so many, the natural environment has become essential to maintaining positive mental and physical wellbeing, and more people are connecting with nature when they can.

Emma and her team have worked tirelessly to ensure the projects have continued to operate throughout lockdown despite all working remotely and rarely being able to meet up or visit the places where work was taking place. Meetings and presentations have all taken place online and in the virtual world. Despite this, a huge amount of work has taken place, new connections have formed and projects have started.

In late summer, Jane Davies, Business Development Officer, retired and headed for the beauties of rural France – her energy and enthusiasm is sadly missed and we wish her well in her new life. The team welcomed Melodie Manners as the new Business Development Officer. Melodie has an impressive track record in marketing and communication working for heritage organisations across the country. She brings with her huge enthusiasm and abilities that have already made a big difference.

We also sadly lost Chris Coldwell, Project Development Officer from the team to the wilds of Scotland – we send our very best wishes and thank him for his huge input. To replace him, we have recruited Coralie Barrow, who is well known to many through her various roles in Cornwall Council and Tamar Valley AONB. Coralie oversees many of the projects and her knowledge and connections are making a big impression.


We also welcome to the team Natalie Haly and Jacob Parry who are working on the Scheduled Monuments – Monumental Improvements project, forming connections with local communities and helping protect our historic and natural environments.

Site visits have been severely impacted, but I have been fortunate enough to visit Kerdroya, the labyrinth at Colliford Lake celebrating Cornish stone hedging and our 60th Anniversary – although this has been delayed, it is looking really impressive and I can't wait to see the final result. I have also seen the peat restoration work on Bodmin Moor – the impact of this work will be long lasting in terms of biodiversity, carbon capture and water management. It is particularly impressive given the challenges of getting the equipment and materials on site and undertaking the work without damaging the existing ecosystems.

In addition, the AONB have been very much involved in the Environmental Land Management trials with farmers on the Lizard Peninsula which has led to some interesting collaborations. There are new initiatives coming into action at the moment which will help foster collaborative working to improve our environment and our communities.

I hope that one legacy of the last 18 months is a collective understanding of the value of the natural environment, its importance to our wellbeing and how we need to nurture and cherish it for future generations.

Thank you for your continued support of and interest in Cornwall's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Gill Pipkin, Chair of the Cornwall AONB Partnership

Welcome by AONB Partnership Manager



Emma Browning, Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager joined the AONB Unit on 3rd February 2020, a matter of weeks before the Covid 19 Pandemic lockdown and home-working, and says:

"I am incredibly grateful and proud of the AONB Unit for their hard work, commitment and team spirit. This last year has been challenging and exciting in equal measure. The team have proactively supported the Partnership and planning and have continued to develop and deliver on projects such as valuing natural capital with farmers, heritage, landscape, habitat restoration, pollinators and community engagement. We have supported the National Pilot – Local Nature Recovery Strategy through a joint collaboration event series to engage farmers in the creation of the strategy and raise the profile of new agri-environment schemes. This year's annual report highlights and celebrates these achievements and more and I look forward to continuing to build strong collaborations and Partnerships next year."

Cornwall AONB Staff Unit

We are a multi discipline, core team of 5, with a wide range of skills and expertise which supports the work of the Cornwall AONB Partnership. The Unit exists to administer and provide secretariat support to the Partnership, promote awareness of the AONB, advise on planning development and policy, enable delivery of the Management Plan and developing and sourcing funding for projects which the Unit manages its own projects and also has an enabling and partnership role with partner led projects and activities.

- Partnership Manager, Emma Browning (1FTE)
- Business Development Officer, Jane Davies (1FTE) until August 2020, Melodie Manners since 3rd August 2020
- Planning Officer, Jim Wood (0.6 FTE)
- Project Development Officer, Chris Coldwell (1FTE) until 5 January 2021, now Coralie Barrow since 1st March 2020
- Office and Finance Manager, Karen Johns (0.8 FTE)

In addition to the Core Team, is the Projects Team and Volunteers:

- Cornwall AONB Wheal Buzzy Project Officer, Charlotte Goodship (0.8 FTE) project managed the National Lottery Heritage Funded Wheal Buzzy pollinators Project. This project ended in October 2020 and Charlotte Goodship has now left the team.
- Volunteer Planning Officer, John Sloper – we are extremely grateful for our sterling long term volunteer - his time and expertise is invaluable in undertaking planning consultation site visits
- Volunteer Planning Admin – Mike Dixon, another invaluable and willing volunteer joined us in 2020 to support our Planning Officer with recording, monitoring and evaluation of planning consultations.
- Monumental Improvements Project Team – Natalie Haly, Programme Manager and Jacob Parry, Activities Officer both joined the Unit in October/November 2020 to work on the National Lottery Heritage Funded project. Jacob Parry also works 1 day per week on the complementary Monuments Matter ESF funded project which is a blended learning course to enable unemployed or currently inactive to gain a range of employable skills – see Projects section for more detail on this project.
- ELM Advocacy - Katherine Hampton and Harriet Cole undertook 3 months placement Internships Jan-Mar 21 and both provided incredible support to the AONB Unit's Defra and NAAONB funded ELM programme.

Staff from our partnership organisations, who join us to work collaboratively on projects, such as the [University of Exeter, Environment & Sustainability Institute's](#) Ben Phillips, Postgraduate Researcher, working on the Roadside Verges project. 2020 was the final year of the 3 year project which has culminated in detailed research and outputs which are already seeing recommended practices being implemented by Cornwall Council and other partners.

Cornwall AONB Unit Team Gallery



Emma Browning



Jane Davies



Ben Phillips



Karen Johns



Jim Wood



Charlotte Goodship



Melodie Manners



Coralie Barrow



Left to Right: Natalie Haly; Jacob Parry; Chris Coldwell



Katherine Hampton

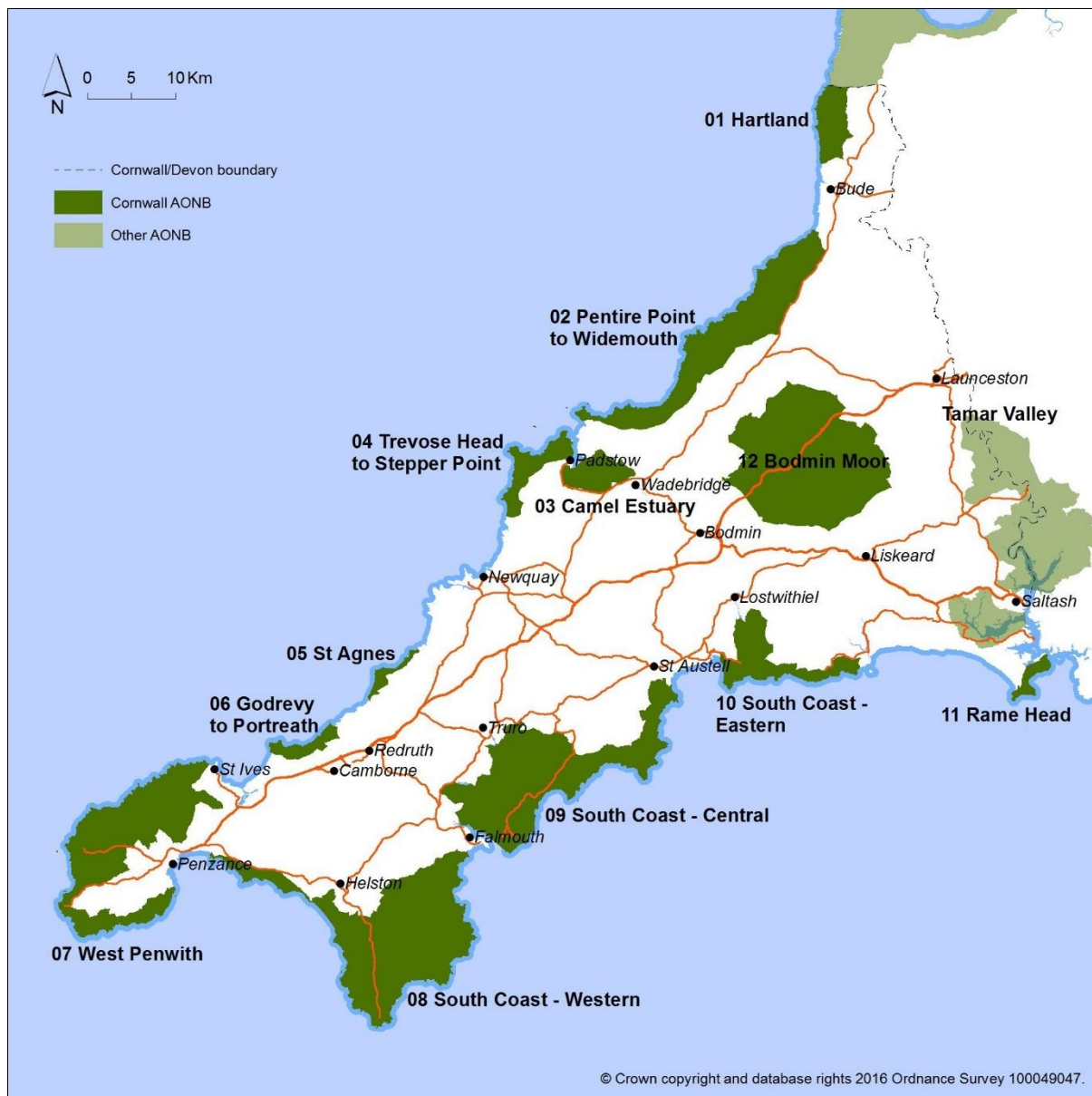


Harriet Cole

The Cornwall AONB

The Cornwall AONB covers approximately 27% of Cornwall and is unique as it is made up of 12 separate geographical sections, all diverse and distinctive with different management actions to conserve and enhance their individual landscape and special character.

A section of the Tamar Valley AONB is also in Cornwall but managed and administered separately. The Cornwall and Tamar Valley AONBs have a close relationship and with our other near neighbours, the Isles of Scilly and North Devon AONBs.



Map shows the 12 sections of the Cornwall AONB shaded in dark green

Cornwall AONB Partnership

The primary role of the Cornwall AONB Partnership is to plan and implement the statutory AONB Management Plan, which must be reviewed every 5 years. The Partnership also has an advisory role, providing advice to Cornwall Council and other organisations on issues such as planning and development and project development. The [Cornwall AONB Partnership](#) currently consists of 22 organisations:

Cornwall Agri-food Council	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
Cornwall Association of Local Councils	Fal River Cornwall
Cornwall Council	National Farmers Union
Cornwall Heritage Trust	National Trust
Cornwall Rural Community Charity	Natural England
Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Project (COAST)	Environment Agency
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	Rural Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Partnership (RCP)
Country Land and Business Association	University of Exeter in Cornwall
Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS)	VisitCornwall
Historic England	Volunteer Cornwall
Cornwall & West Devon (UNESCO) WHS	Westcountry Rivers Trust

Partnership meetings

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, all Cornwall AONB Partnership meetings during 2020-21 were held online via TEAMS software. Despite partners not having the opportunity to physically meet and discuss matters face-to-face due to the National Lockdowns and Government guidance that no gatherings were permitted, the regular online meetings were well attended and worked extremely well, with actions and decisions still being made. In addition to key business for discussion on the agendas, Partners provided presentations at meetings on various topics such as Carbon Neutral Cornwall Action Plan; Cornwall Local Recovery Network Strategy; the proposed West Penwith Moors SSSI; and Bodmin Moor Commons Landowners regarding ongoing landscape management pressures.

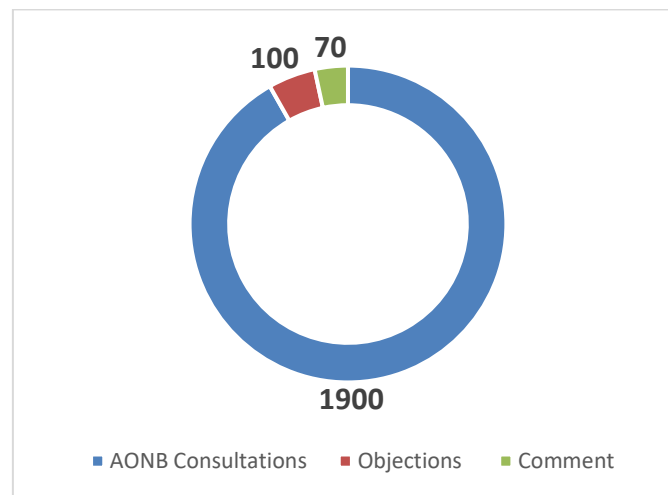
The Partnership usually meets three times a year to discuss and debate landscape management issues and through effective joint working delivers actions within the Management Plan. During these meetings, the Partnership visits sites in the AONB to view and discuss projects or issues with landowners and the community – but no site visits were held this year.

The Partnership is supported by an Executive Board which meets around 3 times a year to help steer and advise on the work of the Partnership and AONB Staff Unit. Again, these meetings continued successfully online.

Cornwall AONB role in Planning

Pressure on the AONB in terms of planning continues to rise. The Cornwall AONB Partnership is a non-statutory consultee on planning matters within the AONB. This role is delivered by the AONB Unit which was consulted on almost 1,900 applications in 2020 (an increase from 1762 in 2018 and 1844 in 2019) (typically up to 50 applications per week) within the 12 sections of the AONB each year. These consultations are for development within or close to (and potentially affecting) the AONB and which require consideration to appreciate any potential effects on the statutory purpose of the designation. The early indications for 2021 suggest that the number of consultations is again increased and may be up to 30% higher than 2020.

The AONB Unit provided objections to only 100 of the almost 1,900 applications considered and provided comment on a further 70.



AONB Objections	Approved	Refused	Withdrawn
100	33	30	18

AONB Comments	Approved	Refused	Withdrawn
70		9	3

The greatest pressure of applications (and therefore development) continues to be in three areas, West Penwith, South Coast Western and South Coast Central which account for almost 65% of applications considered by the AONB Unit. Whilst the AONB only covers 27% of Cornwall's land area it accounts for more than 60% of the valuable coastline and the development pressures associated with this. The cumulative effect of this level of development pressure is acutely felt in these areas with some parts of the designated landscape already suffering from appreciable change of character as a result of this. Perhaps not surprisingly the areas of greatest development pressure closely match the areas with the highest proportion of unoccupied dwellings indicating the nature of much of this development.

The development pressures particularly remain for "replacement" dwellings (this appears to have increased through the pandemic), areas of housing provision on the periphery of villages, individual statement homes, and many opportunistic applications.

Unauthorised development and the use of temporary campsites under the "56-day" rule (outside any Article 4 areas) appears to be increasing with its attendant effects on the designated landscapes.

The Unit continues to use the AONB [Planning Position Statement](#) which sets out the different roles and responsibilities with regard to development management within the AONB.

A key part of the role of the Unit continues to be to provide guidance to those seeking development within the AONB in advance of a formal application through a process of Pre Application Consultation. This consultation provides an opportunity for developers to understand the constraints and opportunities for development within the AONB and to assist in bringing forward appropriate development proposals that “conserve and enhance the natural beauty” of the AONB as is required by planning policy in these nationally designated landscapes. This role has been temporarily suspended to facilitate resources being focussed on the redrafting of the Management Plan.

The AONB Unit’s engagement with Cornwall Council and the Planning Advisory Service to undertake a review of planning outcomes in the AONB has stalled and the earlier work in this regard has not been completed. The Stakeholder Consultation undertaken as part of the evolution of the revised Management Plan highlights the imperative to re-energise this engagement.

There appears to be a generally positive trend with regard to the outcomes of Appeal decisions when considering the detailed matters related to the AONB and where very site specific material considerations do not give rise to other outcomes.

The AONB Unit has continued to be actively engaged in supporting Cornwall Council in policy development related to the Climate Change Emergency both within and outside the AONB whilst still representing the primary purpose of the designated landscape.

The AONB Unit has been fortunate to retain the services of its long-standing planning volunteer who undertakes site visits and provides photography to illustrate the location and context of development proposals. Likewise, the Unit has been fortunate to recruit a new planning volunteer who provides vital support recording applications and undertaking analysis of outcomes of applications to allow the planning work of the Unit to be better informed by outcomes. Without the vital support of these two volunteers the planning work of the Unit would be appreciably limited.

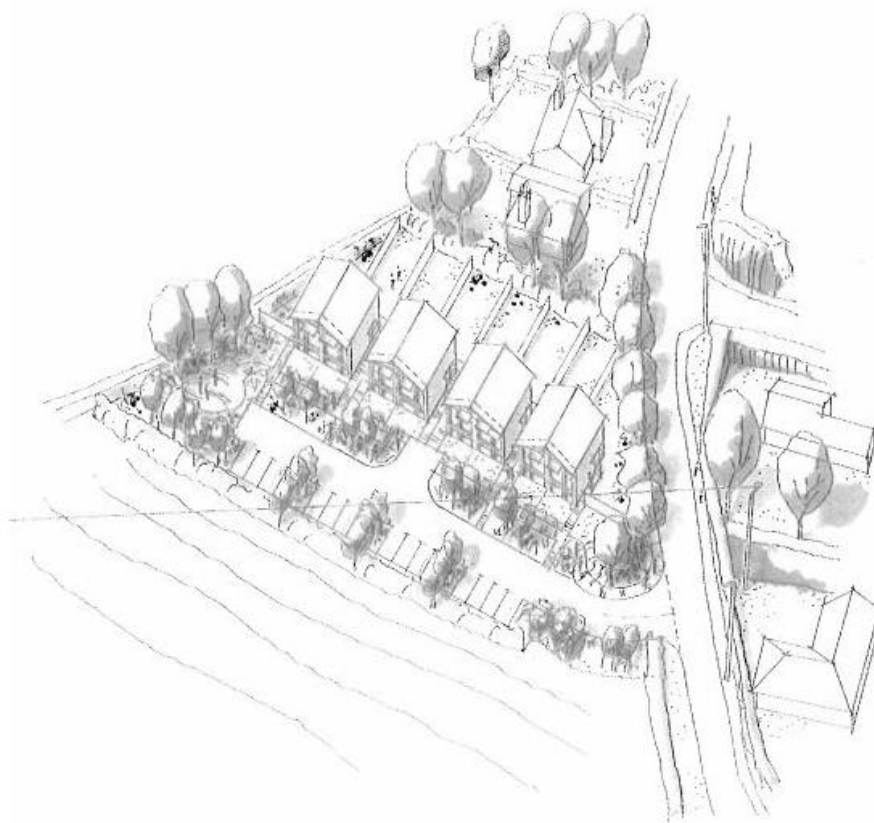


Image: Planning Design Concept

Management Plan

This table is a consolidated summary update of progress made by the AONB Partners, stakeholders and AONB Unit against the 26 (A-Z) Actions in the [Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2016-2021](#)

2020/2021	Cornwall AONB - Grant Funding 2020-2021		
Topic	Cornwall AONB Progress	2016 - 2021 Management Plan Ref: Action reference	Cornwall AONB section
	Project and Core activities	Delivery of Actions:	Location:
Nature & Beauty - Biodiversity, Nature Recovery, eco-system services	Wheal Buzzy – Improvement of habitats to benefit the Cornish mining bee - achieved further external funding during lockdown. Completed October 2020.	L, Q	AONB Wide - with focus on West Penwith, North Cornwall, and St Agnes
	Roadside Verges - Exploring the role of roadside verges and hedges for supporting biodiversity and providing further environmental benefits for the public (Ongoing - Due to complete 2021)	T	various
	National Pilot - Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Cornwall has been selected as a National Pilot for LNRS, Cornwall AONB are working with the local authority to deliver the objectives set by Defra/ NE - delivery due 2021	T	Various
	Nature Recovery Delivery Plan - Cornwall AONB Partnership have positively supported collaboration with Cornwall Council Environment Service and Tamar Valley AONB, to co-create and adopt a single nature recovery delivery plan for the county of Cornwall. As the nature recovery plan progresses information will be shared with neighbouring AONBs in the south west. All actions will be aligned to the NAAONB Colchester Declaration. Following on, key outcomes from the Natural Recovery Plan will also include recommendations for on the ground delivery. Ongoing -aim of a draft completion in 2021	T	All 12 sections
	ELMS – Farming for the Nation – Opportunities for the management of Natural Capital and Ecosystem services on the Lizard (Ongoing - Due to complete 2021)	K, R	Lizard Section 8
	ELMS Advocacy - delivering on sharing knowledge of ELM, creating farm clusters, enhancing business models for nature	K, R	Various
	Bee Happy and Be Healthy – (currently in development) – Four-year project of wildflower planting and seeding across 40ha (Ongoing – Four-year project running through to 2024) in the development stages with various partners including Buglife, University of Exeter, Active Cornwall. Partnership have been invited to submit a full application to the NLCF.	L	to be decided
	Kerdroya – Restoration and creation of Cornish hedges on a landscape scale to enrich biodiversity within the twelve local sections of CAONB (Ongoing - Due to complete 2022) - enabling works have commenced for the foundations of the labrynith.	T, O	Bodmin Moor Section 12

	Penwith Landscape Partnership – Engaging up to 300 volunteers over the length of the five-year project to support farmers and communities in enhancing biodiversity with the peninsula. – Virtual Bioblitz already delivered (15th/16th May) with over 3000 species identified. (Ongoing -Due to complete 2023). Virtual tours of the West Penwith area and development of an app to help survey and collect data on Cornish Hedges, via citizen science and landowner and farmer engagement. This will hopefully assist in assessing Natural Capital and Ecosystem service value of the Cornish hedge in the future,	T, O, Q	West Penwith
	The evaluation and review of the current management plan to assist in developing the Cornwall AONB Management Plan, due to be available 2022-2027. This will contain sustainable policies and clarity on the social, environmental and economic benefits of landscape and seascape to ensure that this is reflected in decision making at every level, supported by comprehensive information and evidence. The new Management Plan will focus on the critical importance of protecting our biodiversity in light of the major threat of future climate change over the next 10 years aligned with the ambitious targets set by our Host Authority. CAONB have been gathering datasets and documents and will be commissioning a 'State of the AONB' report to inform the new management plan.	To be completed 2021	All 12 sections
	Bodmin Moor Peatlands - Further DEFRA funded re-wetting through this project is soon to get underway at Priddacombe near Bolventor forming the final stage of the effort to re-wet 135 hectares of peat. Following a hiatus during lockdown with a number of partners being furloughed the Peatlands Partnership has reconnected and created an EOI for future funding opportunities to explore the scope for a future re-wetting project to take advantage of new funding opportunities through the Government's 25 year Environment Plan.	T	Bodmin Moor Section 12
	AONB Trust – Green Champions for Green Prosperity - Pre-Delivery. The Project will create an innovative, interactive digital hub connecting people with nature, catalysing green prosperity, creating nature opportunities improving and increasing biodiversity, jobs and training. The database and outreach initiatives will inclusively target all; increasing access to, and engagement with, protected landscapes and their surrounding areas.	T	All
	The AONB Unit are providing responses to Cornwall Council's draft Policies and Guidance documents such as, but not limited to: Biodiversity Net Gain, Climate Change DPD (draft development plan), nature recovery and planning policy. Support Cornwall Council on the Environmental Growth Strategy refresh and Forest for Cornwall initiative	D, I	All
People & Place	ELMS – Working closely with the farming community to create a farm cluster on the Lizard Peninsula providing adaptive learning opportunities on ecosystem services and natural capital due to complete 2021	K, R	Lizard Section 8
Health and Well Being	Cremyll to Cawsand Cycle route – with close proximity to the major urban sprawl of Plymouth this new cycle route encourages all ages and ethnic groups to experience the outdoors through healthy exercise whilst also re-engaging with nature. CAONB in collaboration with the Rame Conservation Trust and Parish Council and Clarrick Woods Community Interest Company accessed external funding to support this healthy and active project. completed	F	Rame section 11

	Wheal Buzzy - Delivery of 56 engagement events throughout the duration of the project: 100 Bee Healthy walks within the AONB, 15 schools engaged on the planting scheme, 53 volunteer days plus a Solitary Bee Education Resource Pack produced to support schools, teachers and parents. Evaluation and monitoring report drafted. project completion due October 2020	G	AONB Wide - with focus on West Penwith, North Cornwall, and St Agnes
	West Penwith Dark Skies Initiative – providing advice and support to this new initiative currently under submission to the International Dark Skies Committee. This initiative will enable engagement of members of the public from child to adulthood in a range of activities to provide a fuller understanding of the importance of maintaining dark skies to protect our nocturnal species and gain an insight into the composition of the night skies. Ongoing beyond this financial year.	G, Q	West Penwith
	The AONB is currently collaborating with the Local Planning Authority on a Planning Strategy for the future and the impact of climate change and the need for affordable local houses for local people. The AONB currently provides advice and support on renewable energy resource development but as a non-statutory consultee our influence is limited and a much fuller involvement in future to avert potential development pressures within the AONB would be welcomed although currently this is not within our gift ongoing.	D	All 12 sections
	Kerdroya – Community engagement and Cornish hedge restoration – with the serious decline in biodiversity, Cornish hedges function as a reservoir for tens of thousands of species of insects plus 600 species of flowering plants. The project will provide apprenticeship opportunities to young people who are interested in preserving the ancient craft of Cornish hedge building. This will follow on from the work carried out in 2019 where a series of talks on the history of Cornish hedges were given to communities throughout the CAONB and the onsite work carried out with school children and the community demonstrating the construction of the ancient Cornish hedge under the instruction of Master Hedgers and the foundations are due to be in by the end of 2022.	T, O	All 12 sections
	Bee Happy Bee Healthy – Following an expression of interest to the National Lottery Community Fund for a £440,000 bid for a four-year pollinator project, this project was encouraged in April 2020. However unfortunately this coincided with the focus on the funding response to Covid-19, that caused a halt to all main funding programmes by the Community Fund. We are hopeful that the full application process can re-start in late October with our partners Buglife, the University of Exeter and the Active Cornwall Partnership. Cornwall Council's Countryside Team have also recently expressed an interest in being involved as a project partner. The project will work in partnership with Active Cornwall and MIND Cornwall and will deliver activity programmes with 600 beneficiaries over its anticipated four- year timescale. The partnership were unsuccessful with applying to the Green Recovery Fund in September 2020 but have now been selected to submit full application to the NLCF March 2021.	L	to be decided
	AONB currently working with the environmental growth team in Cornwall Council to identify areas in Cornwall through a mapping opportunities project at a landscape scale developed by University of Exeter which will highlight areas identified for potential growth considering social, environmental and economic factors likely to impact upon the conservation and enhancement of the landscape within Cornwall.	S	All sections (land only)

	<p>Monumental Improvement - The project is founded on community and volunteer engagement that includes a vast partnership of 79 groups, landowners and organisations across the 10 sections of the AONB. To date through feasibility and initial development the project has trained 65 community volunteers in surveying skills, delivered 8 community volunteer clearance days on the Lizard, Bodmin Moor, the Roseland and Rame Head involving 169 volunteers from age 11 to 82. In addition, the project has enlisted 7 student volunteers from Falmouth and Exeter Universities and delivered five seminars and site visits for Truro College and two for Falmouth University students to date. During the project lifetime we expect to train 150 community volunteers, including 40 through a 24-48-week Volunteer Development Programme at Maker Heights subject to a current CLLD Full Grant application. The latter will blend environmental and archaeological skills with basic education provision through a partnership with Adult Education and the Cornwall Archaeological Unit. Following a two-stage bidding process, we have been informed verbally that our Community Led Local Development Grant £70,279 bid for the project has been successful at the SE Cornwall Local Action Board. This will provide funding to deliver a one day a week Development Programme for residents of Liskeard, Torpoint and Saltash based at Maker Heights in our Rame Head section in partnership with the Rame Conservation Trust, Adult Education, Cornwall Archaeological Unit and Samaritans. The project will run for 2 years from November 2020 and cover the cost of a making the Activities Officer post full-time. In addition to providing training, skills development and wellbeing benefits the project will continue our efforts with local partners to stabilise Redoubts 4 and 5.</p>	M, N, X, Q	Rame Head, St Agnes, South Coast Eastern, South Coast Central, South Coast Western, Bodmin Moor, Godrevy to Portreath, Carnewas to Stepper Point, Pentire to Widemouth Bay and Hartland - 40 scheduled monument sites across these 10 sections
	<p>Maker Way - This project has developed from the Monumental Improvement project with local partners (Rame Conservation Trust, Pigshill Woodlands, Mount Edgcumbe Country Park) and seeks to connect the scheduled monument sites of Rame with Mount Edgcumbe Country Park and the Cremyll Ferry to Plymouth, providing a facility for local people and visitors to bring increased tourism to this quieter part of Cornwall's "Forgotten Corner".</p> <p>A Rural Development Programme bid for £70,312 through the Rural Tourism strand was encouraged and submitted and are now awaiting a result. A further bid for £50,000 for this project is being made for Community Infrastructure Levy to Cornwall Council which was unfortunately not selected.</p> <p>The project has generated strong local support including from businesses, many of whom see it as a vehicle to generate increased footfall. A recent project survey found that 96% of respondents said they would be encouraged to visit Maker's historic redoubts if the Maker Way was implemented.</p> <p>The funding if successful will pay for path improvements, signage and virtual reality interpretation.</p>		Rame Head Section 11
	<p>Working with independent AONB Trust established for 2 years, Trustees have managed an ELF Environmental Landscape Fund to support local businesses (ongoing) - AONB Trust has been unable to progress during lockdown however they are meeting in October to revive the Trust and make future plans. There is a plan now to re-initiate the Trust in March 2021. Several ELF applications have been received and there is hope to support these initiatives.</p>	U	All sections
	<p>Cornwall Council Historic Environment – Historic Environment Local Distinctiveness Study - not yet launched but it has been circulated at a consultation stage and workshops are to be held.</p>	E	All sections

	Cornwall Council is keen to arrange a Hedge Summit in the New Year.		
	Tours have been held with CC Historic Environment and Historic England around sites in Cornwall that may fit into Heritage Action Zones and High Streets Action Zones.	M	All sections
	Cornish hedges – there is so much interest in hedges and desire for adequate protection. New Frontiers – a Cornwall Council project will include the Cornish hedge. Definition of Cornish Hedges and Hedgerows needs consideration and clarification. A Cornish Hedge project team with Partners has restarted since January 2021 with the ambition to fund a project to raise awareness, conserve and enhance the Cornish Hedge.	M	All sections
	Penwith Landscape Partnership - 11 Local Parishes throughout West Penwith will work with 'That's Our Parish' which will involve parish volunteers taking part in landscape survey work to identify landscape character including heritage, nature and cultural characteristics within the parish. 'Outstanding Penwith' will recruit a total of 300 volunteers across the life of the Landscape Partnership who will be responsible for providing a range of support across all 13 projects within the Landscape Partnership.	T, O, Q	West Penwith
	Neighbourhood Plans – The LA have not been able to provide consistent and meaningful input to Neighbourhood Plans following the sudden and sad loss of the lead on this aspect of our work last March. The LA have now reappointed to the post, with a March start, and hope to be able to resume this work on a more constant footing from that point.	A	All
	Landscape Character and Seascape assessment – the project work that was carried out on seascapes characterisation by CAU funded by Historic England - further review of the report is now planned to assess the data's use in the State of the AONB report.	S	All
	Project for built development best practice –this was the responsibility of someone who sadly passed away and has not been progressed. A new member of the team has been recruited to progress.	V	TBC
	Supporting PK Porthcurno Community become a plastic free community - attendance planned at the steering group meetings to show support and provide advice.	U	West Penwith
	Supporting PK Porthcurno on an event post covid to showcase Dark Skies in support of the West Penwith Dark Sky Park application of which both the AONB and PK Porthcurno are on the Steering group	U	West Penwith

Cornwall AONB Management Plan Review

The AONB Management Plan is a statutory document which has to be reviewed every 5 years. The AONB Unit undertakes the Review on behalf of the local authority, Cornwall Council, in liaison with the Cornwall AONB Partnership. The Review process of the current Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2016-2021 commenced in 2020 and the AONB Unit have worked hard this year to engage with partners, stakeholders and the public to receive feedback to help shape and form the new content.

An initial Public Consultation Survey was undertaken in the Autumn 2020 together with a series of themed Stakeholder Topic Discussion Group online meetings to discuss and debate the key issues of Marine, Rivers, Farming, Food, Community, Heritage, Transport and Access, Planning and Development, Nature Recovery, Tourism, Climate Change and more, which all play a significant role in the Cornwall AONB landscape, seascape and communities.

The public consultation and stakeholder meetings provided local knowledge for managing landscape and sustainable development within the AONB communities and any specific landscape issues and pressures in the 12 local sections of the Cornwall AONB.

All feedback and comments will now help the AONB Unit to write the Draft Plan which is planned to be out for Public Consultation in the summer 2021. More details and latest info: <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/aonb-management-plan-review>.



The current 2016-2021 Management Plan remains valid during this review period. Following a consultation with the AONB Partnership and key stakeholders the review period will be extended to enable the AONB Partnership to reflect on Covid-19, to account for government's response to the Landscape Review in a more considered way and to ensure that the approach to public consultation is planned in a sensitive and inclusive manner which can be dynamic to changing restrictions. The new Management Plan will be published in 2022 once it has been reported to Cornwall Council Cabinet and approved and adopted.

State of the Cornwall AONB Report

In 2007, the Cornwall AONB pioneered the first landscape monitoring project in the UK. A report published in 2008 set out the detailed methodology and baseline information to instigate the programme of landscape monitoring throughout and included an analysis of landscape change, as well as a consideration of additional trends impacting on the landscapes of the AONB. The second study formed the primary evidence base for the current AONB Management Plan (2016-2021) helping to shape its policies and actions. The current AONB Management Plan (2016-2021) is in the process of being reviewed and is a timely opportunity to re-


visit the baseline information collected during the last study. This facilitates a continuation of landscape change analysis which began in 2007. The new State of the AONB report 2021 also seeks to capture new trends impacting on the landscapes of the AONB including those associated with climate change and the push in nature recovery.

Throughout 2020 and continuing into much of 2021, the Coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact upon people's lives and the economy. As the UK was plunged into numerous lockdowns to help tackle the virus, there has been an increased awareness around the value of our landscapes and nature, and the positive effects they can have on our mental wellbeing. It has also shone a light on the importance of our protected landscapes, and for these to be accessible landscapes to all. There is a need for the Cornwall AONB to continue to be managed appropriately in order to maintain and enhance the qualities that make it special whilst meeting the needs for those who use and enjoy it. It is therefore important that an up-to-date picture of the current state of this nationally designated landscape is produced to facilitate future management.

Land Use Consultants (LUC) are producing the State of the AONB Report which will also be supported by an online mapping tool known as the 'Cornwall AONB Atlas 2021'. This resource will display the spatial data that has been collected to inform this study and is presented interactively.

Cornwall AONB Project Pipeline

The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) put out a call for potential projects to be put forward for future funding. The Cornwall AONB Unit worked with AONB Partnership organisations to provide a list of potential projects to be considered and will continue to work with partners to develop the projects as appropriate. The project ideas are detailed below and also includes whether an Expression of Interest (EOI) has been made to date.

Cornwall AONB Project Pipeline		
Projects	EOI? Y/N	Description
 Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty		
AONB Champions for Green Prosperity	√ Yes - CAON B Trust	Champions for Green Prosperity is a project to create an innovative, interactive digital hub connecting people with nature and catalysing green recovery. The project will increase access to nature, enable learning and training, and improve mental health and wellbeing inclusive of all communities, whilst linking businesses, experts, community interest groups, visitors, individuals, farmers, charities and producers. The project will create a virtual database, which outreach capabilities and initiatives, within the 12 Cornwall AONB sections whilst linking across the county, mindfully targeting areas of economic deprivation, BAME communities and working alongside other protected landscapes to provide increased and under-represented access to green spaces. The project will create a database, existing as a virtual and physical hub, of experts and advocates to promote the Cornwall AONB Trust and the benefits to all therein. This project will enable intelligent connection between businesses and experts across the areas of green recovery, land management, sustainability, social and corporate responsibility, carbon capture and more, communities. Areas of economic deprivation in Cornwall would be particularly targeted, including those with limited access to nature and BAME communities, and key community interest groups and volunteers.
Wheal Buzzy 2	√ yes - CAONB	Project Objectives - improvement of 50 hectares of habitat to benefit Cornish Mining Bees, through engagement with private landowners, community groups and larger landowners such as the National Trust. Production of site surveys and management recommendations. Delivery of engagement events throughout the duration of the project: Bee Healthy walks within all 12 sections of the AONB, schools engaged on the planting scheme, volunteer days plus a refreshed version of the Solitary Bee Education Resource Pack produced to support schools, teachers and parents. Job Creation Fixed Term. 1 x Project Officer 1 x Activities Officer

Cornish Hedges - Natural Capital and ecosystem services valuing	√ yes - CAONB	<p>Opportunity to gather data on the Natural Capital and ecosystem service value of Cornish Hedges.</p> <p>Commission a ground survey of types of ecosystem services, assessing the levels of quality of hedges, low medium and high (for example) which includes parameters of identified qualities and services and measure the total value per km of low, medium and high quality hedge. This approach could be ground truthed around Cornwall and (with reasonable assumptions) extrapolated to assess the overall Cornish offer in ecosystem services and by valuing it in £ per household to demonstrate the economic side of the offer. This data could also be used to focus in regionally around Cornwall and identify which areas demonstrate the high quality low degradation v's Low quality high degradation. The second phase could offer the improvement of the latter with community groups, landowners, farmers and Cornish hedgers to train up people in the technical skills and awareness of biodiversity, heritage and culture. This process would be digitally mapped and recorded as a legacy project for continual improvement by creating a permanent Cornish Hedge Team (this could be part of ELMS and Farmer group) This could also lead to the Cornish Hedge being assigned a higher level of protection and status by Historic England and Natural England as a holistic and unique area of Cornwall that underpins cultural and ecological priorities for the region and nationally.</p>
Cornwall Grow Local	√ yes - CAONB	<p>Replicating Tamar Valley Grow Local Model Linking with TEVI/ Slow Food UK and other farmers in the AONB and use the AONB app as a delivery mechanism for this. Beginning in one section of the Cornwall AONB with the proposal to roll this out section by section. We would then use the app to 'connect' the sections with local producers/ consumers to increase viability and access to local produce. The project would recruit to lead on this project and potentially link with the university for joint research opportunities.</p>
Maker Heights - Redoubt 4 The Jewel of Rame Head	√ yes - CAONB	<p>Redoubt 4 is a Scheduled Ancient Monument on the Rame Peninsula (AONB) as part of the Monumental Improvement Project Redoubt 4 was identified as a key site at risk and has been selected as one of 40 sites to improve for heritage, biodiversity and the community. Redoubt 4 is located on the edge of the beautiful south-east coast of Cornwall with breathtaking views from the fort walls across Plymouth Sound and Kingsand Bay. Part of a stunning historic structure, there is an opportunity to invest further at this site. It has the potential to be valuable from an economic, environment and social perspective. Suggested three phase approach:</p> <p>Phase 1 - a Feasibility Study with Historic England to determine what use is likely to be acceptable in both a listed building and scheduled monument combined (£20,000)</p> <p>Phase 2 - Stabilisation of the entire site (£440,000)</p> <p>Phase 3 - Based on the feasibility study recommendations could lead to a potential multi purpose site offering a location for film makers, theatre productions, restaurant, cafe, hotel, wedding venue, conservation/ night safaris with partners of the Carrick and Pigshill woodlands - connecting people with nature, astronomy and dark skies evenings, yoga retreat, education talks, gallery space for onsite art studios (£value to be confirmed)</p>

Peatland Restoration	√ Contributed to PP EOI as a supporter	The Peatland Partnership is led by the SWW (the AONB are a Partner) and successfully re-wetted and restored peatland on the three moors (Bodmin, Exmoor and Dartmoor). There is more scope for peatland restoration in Cornwall. There is an opportunity to invest in this partnership' and support an even greater extent of restoration on: Bodmin Moor including the connecting habitats that support it and the catchments that it feeds and other moorland areas such as West Penwith. Scope to develop training linked to the re-wetting techniques and extend the scope to include the west Penwith Moors.
Bee healthy Bee happy	√ yes - CAONB	Bee Happy Bee Healthy will deliver nature conservation and restoration whilst connecting people with nature. We will enable the recovery of local pollinator populations by creating and restoring wildflower habitats, and utilise this work as a vehicle to reconnect people with nature, and improve the mental health and wellbeing of our communities.
Creating Sustainable Connections <i>Connecting Sections of the AONB using Sustainable Transport</i>	√ yes - CAONB	Linking the 12 sections of the AONB using sustainable transport, promotion of routes, types of transport, destination experience, digital promotion and links to the CAONB app for interaction and engagement. Sustrans and CC are leading sustainable links in Cornwall, this project would focus on collaboration with these partners and use for promoting the AONB's protected landscape as a sustainable visitor experience across the County.
F.Y.I - Farm.Yarn.Info Cornwall Farmer/ Land Manager Networking Forum	Defra Funded	To fund activity to support the advocacy and communication of Countryside Stewardship (CS) and Environment Land Management (ELM) schemes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity to engage farmers and land manager and development of new farm clusters • Feedback from farmers and land managers on the ELMS programme and how the enhancement of nature will be incorporated into their business models. There is an opportunity to develop a digital forum/ legacy output following the ELMS Lizard Test & Trials for farmers and land managers with content provided by key partners and stakeholders.
Nature Recovery - Roadside Verges	UoE pHd	The research project (in partnership with the University of Exeter) is exploring the role of roadside verges and hedges for supporting biodiversity and providing further environmental benefits for people (e.g. carbon storage, improving air quality, providing access to nature). The project is producing academic outputs (2 papers so far, and 3 more forthcoming), which have been covered in local and national media, magazine articles and blog posts, and resulted in email enquiries and provision of guidance on road verge management. The project has also included engagement with people and organisations working on road verge management locally (e.g. attending workshops with, and presenting the research to, Cornwall Council and Cormac) and nationally (e.g. workshops and discussions with Plantlife, Butterfly Conservation and Natural England, and co-producing a report and academic paper with Buglife on enhancing road verges for pollinator conservation). Currently this is a research project at University of Exeter. In March 2021 Ben Phillips will be producing a recommendation paper to the AONB to advise on some realistic approaches to initiate the findings within the AONB. The idea will most likely focus on supporting an empowering community groups/ conservation groups adopting small sections of verge to manage for biodiversity.

Cornwall AONB Food Trail	New	As a second phase following on from Cornwall Grow Local Project, the Cornwall AONB Food Trail would replicate other example models to create a tour/ walk/ awareness experience all centred on Cornish food producers with a digital support function
AONB Cam - Digital Visual Connection	New	An opportunity to digitally connect people to the landscape by purchasing and fixing cameras at positions around the AONB. The footage would be shared from around the 12 sections of the AONB connecting people with nature from their homes, reaching those people that are restricted to their homes and inspiring others to venture out and explore the landscape physically. The Camera footage could also be used as intelligence gathering for natural processes and nature recovery if positioned in the appropriate places, these could serve other teams within CC and within the AONB partnership.
AONB Way Markers	New	Mapping Way Marker locations, identifying locations for new way markers and raising funds to install more. Publishing the locations and raising awareness of AONB
AONB Retreat	New	Focusing on offering a package to private companies post Covid to retreat in Cornwall, team building event AONB organise and co-ordinate with various volunteer opportunities related to Climate Change, Nature Recovery, Farming, meeting CSR commitments for the businesses, and investment for projects in the AONB
AONB Gardens	New	Small scale project called 'AONB Gardens' a member of the public gets in touch and would like some ideas/ inspiration to improve their garden for nature. We provide the advice, perhaps a drawing and if they complete it we visit and award an AONB Gardens plaque to place in their garden? It is a way of us growing nature from the ground up in our AONB communities -empowering people to connect nature on their own land.
Culture Connection - Cornwall AONB Art Trail	New	<p>This project will create an art trail through Section 6 of the Cornwall AONB, connecting people to nature and landscape in an interactive, sensory and educational way.</p> <p>The Cornwall AONB will engage local artists to create a series of art installations to feature at different locations around the Godrevy to Portreath section, mainly in and around Tehidy Country Park. An interactive trail will be developed via the existing AONB app which will encourage visitors to seek out each installation in the area and explore the landscape, heritage and wildlife of the AONB along the way. This section has been selected due to its proximity to some of the most deprived areas of Cornwall, most in need of an economic boost through increasing visitor numbers and work opportunities.</p>
Bodmin Moor, Colliford Lake pedestrian and cycle link	New	The Dualling of the A30 at Bodmin Moor and a new road overbridge at Temple has presented an opportunity for a new North- South pedestrian and cycle link across Bodmin Moor linked to the Kerdroya Labyrinth Project at Colliford Lake. The new public access project will support the development of low impact sustainable green tourism helping to better connect the remote and dispersed communities on Bodmin Moor; supporting the development of healthier and more active lifestyles and enabling new business opportunities and business diversification.

Art in the Landscape	N (Arts Funding to be applied for)	A cultural outreach event, tying in multiple objectives from AONB Management Plan, Art in the Landscape Strategy NAAONB and Cornish poet Pascale Petit winning the Laurel Prize. Bridging the gap between day and night the event will include many ways to engage local communities, schools groups and stakeholders in art and Cornish culture. To include; poetry readings, history, heritage and nature in the landscape we are situated, food served by FEAST, Rogue Theatre Production, Dusk nature safari and star-gazing.
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Projects

Farming for the Nation: Lizard Test Trials

The National Association of AONBs offered the opportunity for Protected Landscapes to be used as ‘test beds’ for the new Defra schemes, examining a post Brexit mechanism to support farmers and landowners and demonstrate the added value an AONB designation can bring.

Cornwall AONB was one of 12 AONBs throughout England to be selected to take part in the Defra Test Trials for the new Environmental Land Management scheme (ELMs).

The Test Trial is being conducting in Section 08 of Cornwall AONB, specifically the Lizard Peninsula, because it covers a manageable geographical area to test and trial how objectives can be set for the provision of public goods in a rural farming landscape whilst also demonstrating how farmers, landowners and land managers can work collaboratively to deliver the objectives of the ELMs.

Test Trial Dates: February 2020 - June 2021 inclusive

Funding: Defra £67,400

Biodiversity: The Lizard has seen significant investment in land management advice and yet both its heritage features and biodiversity continue to decline. This project examines how Defra’s Future Schemes (ELM – Environment Land Management) can use a fuller understanding of natural capital, and ecosystem services, to provide a positive change for the biodiversity and heritage of the Lizard Peninsula, whilst also delivering wider multiple benefits for local communities.

Communities: Farmers and stakeholders on Lizard Peninsula (South Coast Western)

Forward Look: Two of three outputs have been completed; *Landscape Management Framework* and *Natural Capital Prospectus*. The final output *Individual Farm Action Plans* and the final report will be submitted to Defra at project completion.

More info: cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/lizard-test-trial-farming-for-the-nation



David Oates – Rosuick Organic Farm

ELM Advocacy: Defra and National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) grant funded AONBs throughout the Country to undertake Environmental Land Management (ELM) advocacy and engagement work with farmers. Between October 2020 and March 2021 this short-term project's objectives were:

- 1: Develop new and existing relationships.
- 2: Increase engagement in and understanding of agri-environment schemes, particularly Countryside Stewardship, in the lead-up to the launch of the Environmental Land Management Scheme.
- 3: Create new farmer clusters.

Funding: Defra £5,202; National Association for AONBs £2,000

Biodiversity: To deliver ELM Advocacy the Cornwall AONB Unit worked collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to maximise what we could achieve. We took on two ELM Advocacy Interns. We worked with the Local Nature Recovery team to produce two virtual events called 'Growing Greener'. We developed the Farmer Forum, launching in July 2021, in collaboration with partners forming a legacy action which supports Farming in Protected Landscapes.

Communities: We created farmer engagement across the 12 Sections of Cornwall AONB using innovative, and predominantly digital methods. We worked with partners from FWAG SW and NFU to understand farming in these locations and how farm clusters/ collaborations might be possible.

Forward Look: Legacy from this project will be developed into the Farmer Forum, which will align with the Land Hub and assist in the delivery of Farming in Protected Landscapes. The two virtual conferences are available to watch-again.

More info: cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/elm-advocacy

Growing Greener

Shaping the future of ELM and Nature Recovery

A two-part series

Register
online

Virtual Conference

Thursday 25 February 2021

Setting the scene with a series of pre-recorded interviews and discussions including: updates from three of the Cornwall ELM Test and Trials, insights from farm cluster and commoners' collaborations around the country, where to access further ELM information and the new local nature recovery pilot. The one-hour digital conference will be live from 7pm. The event is free to attend, register online: cornwall-aonb.gov.uk

For all those who register in advance they will be entered into a raffle to win £500 of prizes.

Interactive Workshop

Thursday 4 March 2021

The interactive workshop is your opportunity to contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in Cornwall, and feed into how this should help develop the ELM components. We will discuss your environmental priorities and how associated funding and support should be targeted towards farming in Cornwall. Brought to you by Cornwall AONB, Cornwall Council Local Nature Recovery Pilot, Natural England. The event is free to attend, register online: cornwall-aonb.gov.uk

Hosted by



Cornwall
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty



CORNWALL
COUNCIL
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CORNWALL &
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NATURAL
ENGLAND

Growing Greener Conference

Penwith Landscape Partnership (PLP) – the Cornwall AONB is a joint delivery partner on two projects – ‘[Outstanding Penwith](#)’ and ‘[That’s Our Parish](#)’. The PLP is a programme led by our partners Cornwall Wildlife Trust and consists of 13 individual projects set out in the Local Character Action Plan (LCAP).

Outstanding Penwith aims to recruit and train 300 volunteers over the 5 year life of the PLP programme. The volunteers will be available to work across all 13 projects that make up the PLP. To date 258 people signed up on the volunteer database with 1,249 days of volunteers’ time contributed. 278 volunteers took part in 34 training events.

That’s Our Parish aims to encourage local residents to become more aware of their heritage and what should be protected and recorded in the future. The project will support a number of rural parishes within Penwith to carry out Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLCA) surveys of their local cultural and historical heritage, and biodiversity. The compiled assessments will be readily available to parishes to safeguard, plan and manage heritage, landscape and historic character and local distinctiveness for the future. 11 Parishes were originally targeted to take part in the Project over the 5 years p however this has been reduced to 6 parishes in light of difficulties that the Project has faced.

Funding: National Lottery Heritage Fund £2.5 million 5-year project 2017-2022. AONB core funding 2020/21 £14,240 plus substantial staff time in-kind time to support two members of the PLP staff working on our joint delivery projects. In addition, attending monthly Executive Board meetings and quarterly Board meetings to represent the interests of the Cornwall AONB.

Biodiversity: Both projects contain an element of conservation and enhancement for the landscape of West Penwith and many of the volunteers engaged in ‘Outstanding Penwith’ are involved with the full range of projects within the Partnership. Whilst residents who are engaged with ‘That’s Our Parish’ will have the opportunity to record the flora and fauna specific to their parish. £40k as a conservative valuation of time spent on biodiversity for Outstanding Penwith.

Communities: West Penwith

Forward Look: 5-year project ending in 2022

More Info: <https://www.penwithlandscape.com/>



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Photographer Simon Cook 03-888

West Penwith landscape

Cornwall AONB student placements and projects

Throughout the past year, the Cornwall AONB Unit have been supporting a wide range of student projects and placements.

Since early 2021, three students from Truro and Penwith College have been assisting the Monumental Improvement projects Senior Archaeologist in undertaking a desktop assessment of Castle Dore Hillfort and Perranporth Airfield. The students have been researching the history of the sites, their previous uses and past management practices, and their findings are directly supporting the creation of the management plans for the scheduled monuments, with each student receiving a credit in the report.

The Monumental Improvement project team have also taken part in Falmouth Universities BA Television 'agency content brief' programme for second year students. The aim of the programme is for students to answer a creative brief from a 'client' and then work with them to deliver the content. Monumental Improvement sent a brief for a marketing piece to sit on our website and across social media. Three students worked together to create a series of social media 15 second clips which showcase the scheduled monuments, and which can be used to help promote awareness of their location and history. These are currently in the final round of edits and then will be used on the AONB socials.

In March 2021, the Cornwall AONB Unit also took on an MSc Environmental Consultancy student from Plymouth University on a placement four-day placement for 8 weeks. The student supported various projects around the AONB including Monumental Improvement, and Monuments Matter to People. This placement has now been extended to run throughout the summer months 1 day a week.

It has been a pleasure working with all of the students this year and we are incredibly grateful for their support.

Funding: In kind AONB Staff time to meet the tutors and students and support the various projects.

Biodiversity: Students gained an understanding of the Cornwall AONB and the different elements that make the landscape and heritage so special.

Communities: Higher education within Cornwall and Devon.

Forward Look: The Cornwall AONB is committed to supporting student placements where possible. In addition, the Monumental Improvement project will continue to expand its links with local universities and colleges and will be looking to support a wider range of students during the development phase of the project from March 2022, funding allowing.



Carne Beacon, South Coast Central AONB section

Plantlife Project – Building Resilience in South West Woodlands for lichens and bryophytes

The South West's veteran woodlands are of international importance for the rare mosses and lichens that thrive in the mild climate of the Atlantic coast and form globally rare temperate rainforests with an abundance of special wildlife. Atlantic woodland is a habitat challenged by immediate environmental and management issues. This influential three and a half year NLHF funded project partnership is being led by Plantlife, with the Cornwall AONB providing its services as a support partner alongside Dartmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor National Park Authority, the National Trust, the Woodland Trust, the Quantock Hills AONB, Tamar Valley AONB, Devon Biodiversity Records Centre, the South West Lakes Trust, British Bryological Society, the British Lichen Society and Natural England.

Funding: In kind match through staff time

Biodiversity: To manage and protect ancient woodlands that provide the perfect habitat for rare lichens and mosses.

Communities: Public engagement is at the heart of 'Building Resilience' with an ambitious approach to reach at least 17,000 people with citizen science, an innovative programme to engage local communities and expert woodland management at the most critical sites. Put simply, more people learning about and enjoying these ancient woodlands is the most effective way to safeguard them for the future.

Forward Look: The project will run through to 2021

More Info (web link) <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/conservation-projects/woodland>



Kerdroya: is being delivered by our partners Golden Tree Productions with the financial and in-kind support of the AONB and Cornwall Council to celebrate both the Cornwall AONB Diamond Anniversary 1959-2019 as well as to celebrate the humble Cornish Hedge.

The project has two components - the Community Heritage Project that delivered 12 sections of restored hedge in each of the 12 AONB sections during 2019 plus the Kerdroya Landscape scale hedged Labyrinth on Bodmin Moor at Colliford Lake, based on the redundant area of car parking alongside the improved toilet facilities provided by SW Lakes Trust.

Construction of the Kerdroya labyrinth started in 2020 and the Master Hedger has also begun construction of the Cornish hedges within the Labyrinth and construction will continue through to 21/22.

Funding: £35,000 in total (all years) from Cornwall AONB, £59,000 National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), £250,000 Cornwall Council, Arts Council £120,000, Feast £15,000, Cornwall Heritage Trust £4,800, NLHF Round 2 £98,000. Golden Tree have initiated the Hedge Pledge, where people can pay a fee (make their pledge) in return for owning a stretch of the hedge [Join the Hedge Pledge - Golden Tree Productions](#)

Biodiversity: The project will stabilise 12 sections of traditional hedge for wildlife and create 0.1 hectares of new species rich grassland on the hedged labyrinth site at Colliford Lake.

Communities: all 12 sections of the Cornwall AONB

Forward Look: Hedging construction will continue to take place during 2021

[More Info \(web link\)](#)



Construction begins on building of the Labyrinth

A Monumental Improvement: In 2018, Historic England funded feasibility work to identify at risk scheduled monuments within the Cornwall AONB. 40 priority sites were identified and a successful development stage funding application was made to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to identify the works needed to stabilise the monuments. Across the lifespan of the project (upon successful allocation of delivery stage funding), we are looking to build up a strong support group of community partners and volunteers and will be training them to look after the archaeological and ecological needs of the monuments. Through developing an activity and events programme and an interpretation plan, the project is looking to tackle the current limited understanding of scheduled monuments as sites of national archaeological significance and increase engagement and access to the sites.

The 40 monuments are located in 10 of the 12 sections of the AONB and are owned by the National Trust, Cornwall Council, Natural England, Forrabury and Minster Parish Council, Perranzabuloe Parish Council, the Duchy of Cornwall and several private landowners who all see the project as important to help them safeguard and manage these sites on completion of the project through the development of collaboratively prepared Management Plans.

Funding: Development stage funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in January 2020, with match funding from Cornwall Council, Historic England, National Trust, Cornwall Heritage Trust, Cornwall Archaeological Society and the Rame Conservation Trust. During development stage, we are grateful to have received a generous amount of in-kind time and support from our volunteers and partners, including the Meneage Archaeology Group, Cornwall Archaeological Society, Rame Conservation Trust, TimeSeekers, Old Cornwall Society and Truro College.

Funding for the delivery stage of the project has been secured from Cornwall Council and Historic England, and fundraising work is ongoing ahead of the delivery stage application in November 2021.

Biodiversity: Ecological assessments of the scheduled monuments are currently underway to conduct a Habitat Walkover Survey and a Constraints Map of each site.

Communities: in 10 of the 12 AONB sections (except West Penwith and Camel Estuary).

Forward Look: We are continuing to deliver a series of taster events for the project to gather feedback which will feed into the delivery stage application. If successful, the delivery stage will provide another 2 years of project funding, allowing Monumental Improvement to implement the necessary stabilisation work to the monuments and deliver a wide ranging events and activities programme and interpretation plan which will upskill local communities and engage more people in heritage. [More Info \(web link\).](#)



Truro College and Adult Education students receive survey training from Cornwall Archaeological Society at Castle Dore Hillfort

Monuments Matter to People

Monuments Matter to People is a project designed to help unemployed or inactive people from Liskeard, Torpoint or Saltash get back into work, training or education. Hosted at Maker Heights, South East Cornwall, this project is being run by Cornwall AONB and partners Rame Conservation Trust, Adult Education, Samaritans and Cornwall Archaeological Unit. Participants take part in Adult Education Basic Skills Training in the morning, and conservation themed volunteering and activities in the afternoon.

The project started officially in November but due to the Covid pandemic we weren't able to start delivering with participants until 28th April 2021. Up until March we were busy building a network of community groups, outreach organisations and social prescribers to help recruit people onto the course.

Funding: This project is funded by the European Social Fund.

Biodiversity: When volunteers complete work with the Rame Conservation Trust, they are often helping to record wildlife, enhance biodiversity and built habitats around the Rame Head section of Cornwall AONB.

Communities: This project is run in the Rame Head Section of Cornwall AONB.

Forward Look: Looking forward, the project will continue with its recruitment and will aim to benefit the lives of 40 participants by November 2022.

More info: <https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/monuments-matter-to-people>



Peatland Partnership – Bodmin Moor

This partnership based and delivered project is re-wetting 125 hectares of degraded peat on Bodmin Moor as part of a SW Moors Partnership Programme with Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks and the Exmoor Mires Partnership working with local landowners, the Environment Agency, the RSPB, SW Lakes Trust and Westcountry Rivers Trust.

This phase is now almost complete and SWW will be looking for funding opportunities to continue this vital work in 2021 and beyond.

Funding: led by our partner, South West Water and funded by Defra to the value of £400,000 on Bodmin Moor

Biodiversity: The project will make a huge contribution to carbon management and supporting improved biodiversity with mosses and ponding water encouraging new wader, dragonfly and frog habitats.

Communities: Bodmin Moor

Forward Look: more funding with Defra and Natural England

[More Info \(web link\)](#)



Re-wetting on Bodmin Moor

Wheal Buzzy Pollinators Project: - since May 2018 the Wheal Buzzy Project has in part been delivering Action L of the 2016 -2021 Management Plan “To deliver a Landscape scale project to benefit pollinators...”

Since October 2019 we have achieved the following milestones:

- Approximately 49ha of land improved, exceeding the NLHF grant approved delivery of 22ha
- Delivered 90% of our engagement events including some via conferencing platforms such as Zoom
- Held 86 walks as a part of our Bee Healthy Walks commitment
- Launched our [Solitary Bee Education Pack and Resource Pack](#) which are available online
- In conjunction with our partners held 54 volunteer events, equating approximately 98 volunteer days between them
- Delivered 8 separate Bee Conservation sessions to partners, general public and youth groups

Funding: Initial funding obtained in 2018 from National Lottery Heritage Fund of £56,000, which was fully spent and claimed by the end of the project in Oct 2020. £11,000 from Cornwall AONB Core Defra funding for project lifetime. During 2020, the project was pleased to receive £500 from Cornwall Councillor Sue James Community Chest Fund and £1500 from St Just Town Council which enabled further walks, planting etc to take place in St Just area.

Biodiversity: Wheal Buzzy has been working to increase habitat and awareness for the plight of the Cornish Population of Solitary Bees. Through providing specialist site surveys and management recommendations, to increase areas of fodder (wildflower meadows), knowledge and Cornish sourced and grown wildflower plugs. We also commissioned a specialist Buff Banded Mining Bee survey to discover more about this elusive solitary bee.

Communities: Community Groups worked with include:

- Bosavern Community Farm
- Steeple Woodland LNR
- Porthleven Environmental Group
- various U3A groups
- Several WI groups
- Trythall School and other key schools located in the project area
- various Parish and Town Councils
- other environmental groups

Forward Look: The Wheal Buzzy Project drew to a close in its current format in October 2020. See [Final Evaluation Report](#). Various legacy projects have been founded including our community work in St Just, the Solitary Bee Education and Resource pack and the ongoing work undertaken by key partners in the project. Work for pollinators will continue in the upcoming Bee Happy Bee Healthy Project



[More Info Web Link](#)

Community planting day with pupils from Trythall and St Levan Primary Schools & volunteers from the local community

Roadside Verges – The research project (in partnership with the University of Exeter) is exploring the role of roadside verges and hedges for supporting biodiversity and providing further environmental benefits for people (e.g. carbon storage, improving air quality, providing access to nature).

Funding: £1,000 Defra core AONB budget contribution for 2020/21; £14,553/year stipend + £4,400/year tuition fees for 3.5 years (2017-2021) + £11,000 research training support from the Natural Environment Research Council.

Biodiversity: The project has produced seven academic papers, which have been covered in local and national media, magazine articles and blog posts, and resulted in email enquiries and provision of guidance on managing road verge for nature conservation.

Communities: The project has also included engagement with people and organisations working on road verge management locally in Cornwall (e.g. attending workshops with, and presenting the research to Cornwall Council and Cormac) and nationally (e.g. workshops and discussions with Plantlife, Butterfly Conservation and Natural England, and co-producing a report and academic paper with Buglife on enhancing road verges for pollinator conservation).

Forward Look: The final part of the project will focus on producing papers, reports and other outputs, disseminating the research, and working with the AONB to translate the findings into proposals for future steps.

[More Info \(web link\)](#)



Roadside verge

Bee Happy Bee Healthy Cornwall AONB, Buglife, Active Cornwall and the University of Exeter have joined forces to develop Bee Happy Bee Healthy, where community-based conservation plans to safeguard Cornwall's incredible pollinators and help reconnect people with nature.

Funding: Proposed £440k project total with 5k funding committed from CAONB to be delivered over 4 years through application to National Lottery Community Fund.

Biodiversity: The Bee Happy Bee Healthy project proposes to improve 40 hectares of public land for pollinators.

Communities: The project aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of our communities, particularly those disadvantaged communities that are in close proximity to AONB designated areas, that have higher than average levels of mental ill-health and or have low levels of physical activity.

Forward Look: The National Lottery Community Fund have confirmed the project can proceed to the next stage of submission. All queries raised by the Lottery need to be answered satisfactorily with accompanying evidence of need, which will be taken to the committee for a decision later in 2021.



Leaf Cutter Bee/Paddy Saunders

Cornwall's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Co-developing Cornwall's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are plans for supporting nature in local areas. They will identify local priorities and the most strategic places to support nature recovery in order to enhance biodiversity and wider ecosystem services. They consist of:

- a map of the most valuable areas and the best opportunity areas for nature
- a statement of local priorities for improving nature

The strategies are statutory requirements of local areas under the Environment Act, which must be developed and reported on by local 'Responsible Authorities' – which in Cornwall will be Cornwall Council.

They will help guide future investment for nature, identify spatial allocations for nature, guide the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain in planning, and help direct the future for environmental land management funding.

Cornwall's Nature Recovery Pilot

Cornwall was chosen by Government as one of only 5 places in the country to be a '[Nature Recovery Pilot](#)' to develop a draft LNRS. The pilot was led by Cornwall Council, and the draft strategy was co-created with Cornwall AONB and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership.

The pilot started in September 2020 and runs until May 2021. Over 700 local stakeholders have generously shared their views to help shape the draft – including environment experts, farmers and the general public.

You can read [Defra's reflections on the pilots](#). Government will draft statutory guidance for the production of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, drawing on the lessons from the pilot.

Cornwall AONB's role in the pilot

The National Association of AONB's Colchester Declaration pledged to act to redress declines in species and habitats, including a commitment to prepare Nature Recovery Plan's for each AONB.



In June 2020, Cornwall AONB's Partnership Meeting agreed to co-create the Cornwall Nature Recovery Strategy with Cornwall Council as part of the Nature Recovery Pilot. In doing so, we are helping to ensure that Cornwall has an effective, joined-up approach to nature recovery covering our AONB and surrounding areas. This will help to embed our own priorities as an AONB within an integrated statutory plan for all of Cornwall, which will enable us to collectively attract funding based on whole-place priorities, and ensuring simpler strategic direction for stakeholders through a single plan.



As a result, Cornwall AONB was heavily involved in the Cornwall Nature Recovery Pilot, including:

- Cornwall AONB's Partnership Manager was a member of the pilot steering group, providing guidance and feedback on the process and draft strategy.
- The wider Cornwall AONB Partnership helped to shape the content through a workshop in December 2020, and through participating in the pilot surveys.
- Cornwall AONB also supported a public engagement event at the Local Nature Partnership's annual conference, co-organised a two 'Growing Greener' events to engage farmers in the process, and helped to promote engagement events through social media and the press.
- We have since begun testing how the LNRS can be embedded by integrating it within our evaluation process for administering Farming in Protected Landscapes funding.

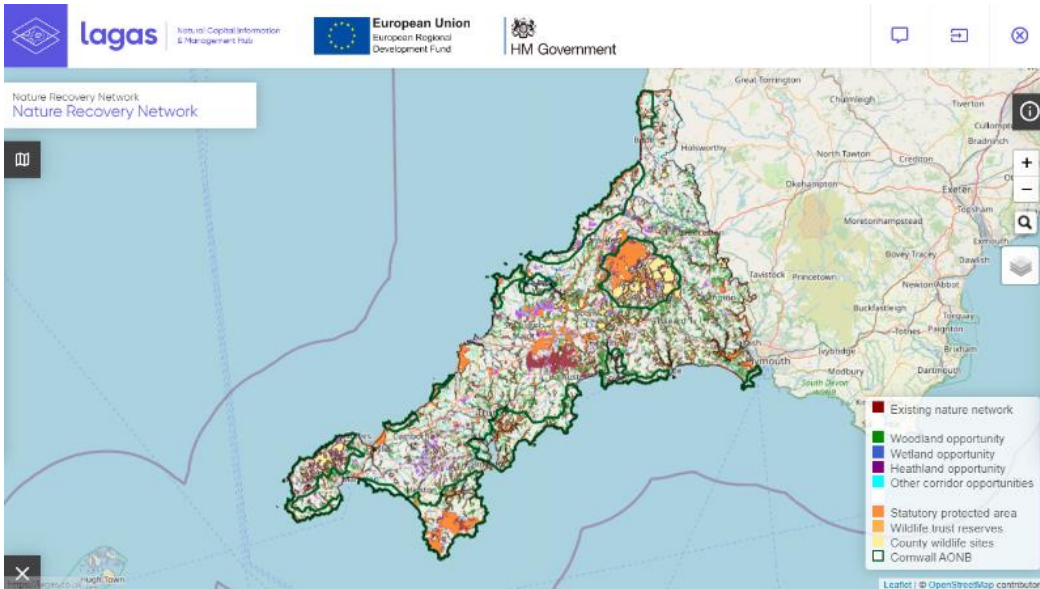
What is in Cornwall's draft LNRS?

The draft strategy sets out a vision that we will:

Work in partnership with one and all to deliver more, bigger, better and more joined up natural habitats so that 30% of our land and seas are well managed for nature by 2030.

The draft strategy outlines:

- 10 principles
- 6 short-term priorities
- 5 medium-term priorities
- 10 enablers
- A prototype Nature Recovery Network



The prototype Cornwall Nature Recovery Network comprises two areas:

- Zone 1 comprising current protected and high value areas where we need to enhance and protect the best (~25% of Cornwall);
- Zone 2 opportunity areas where we can create and restore the rest (~15% of Cornwall).
- The strategy also highlights wider opportunities outside the network in Zone 3.

You can read the draft strategy and view the engagement events again [here](#). The prototype map is available on the [Lagas](#) mapping platform - [Lagas - Natural Capital Information & Management Hub](#)

Communications

Environment page weekly articles – the AONB Unit continues to co-ordinate the

Environment page articles in the weekly Cornwall newspapers which are printed in the West Briton, Cornish Guardian and The Cornishman. Articles are written by a range of the Cornwall AONB Partnership organisations and wider Cornwall AONB stakeholders and community groups as well as the AONB Unit. The AONB logo appears on the page each week with the strapline 'Environment page, co-ordinated by the Cornwall AONB Unit' so it provides excellent publicity for the AONB. Topics covered during 2020/21 included: Wheal Buzzy Solitary Bees Education Pack; Upstream Thinking in the Fowey Catchment; Wildlife in Lockdown; Getting back on the water (Fal & Helford Estuary) post lockdown; Environmental Land Management Test & Trials on the Lizard Peninsula; Nature Friendly Farming & Growing Greener and Westcountry River Trust's Citizen Science River Keepers initiative.

Readership circulation figures for the 3 newspapers were: Cornish Guardian 4,525; Cornishman 4,137; West Briton 7,142

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 **CORNISH GUARDIAN** 29

ENVIRONMENT COLUMN, CO-ORDINATED BY THE CORNWALL AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY UNIT

Dramatic coasts and ancient history offer an interesting and unique AONB landscape



AT the beginning of lockdown, when we were all not able to get out into the AONB landscape as much as we would have liked, we promised to bring the 12 separate sections that make up the Cornwall AONB to this Environment page over the coming months so you can get a snapshot of each area while you're in your living room, kitchen or wherever reading the newspaper.

This week we're focusing on Hartland. This small section of the Cornwall AONB runs northwards from just above Bude to the Cornwall border with Devon and has strong links with the Hartland peninsula, which is part of the separately managed and administered North Devon AONB.

The boundary more or less follows the A39 trunk road (Atlantic Highway) and includes the coastal strip from Marsland in the north to Menachurch Point in the south.

At approximately 2,600 hectares, or just over 25.9 square kilometres, the Hartland section forms just under 3% of the Cornwall AONB.

This section of the AONB is a high coastal plateau of carboniferous sandstones and slates known as the Culm Measures. The cliffs are sheer, reaching 140m in some places, and are intensely folded and faulted. The



sea has sculpted a striking wave-cut platform, which at low tide reveals a rock stratum of folded and faulted ridges. These shores are punctuated occasionally by sandy coves and beaches at the mouths of stream valleys, notably at the aptly named Sandymouth.

Inland, the land rises gently to a ridge of 200m and is dissected by numerous streams which form deeply incised valleys containing streams that cascade as small waterfalls on to the rocky, narrow, boulder-strewn shoreline below.

Coastal heathland fringes the clifftops, particularly in the north, while the steep valley sides are colonised with broadleaved woodland, some ancient, as found in the

Coombe and Marsland Valleys. The Culm grassland found on the unimproved wet pasturelands of the inland plateau has an acidic quality producing a unique flora, which is nationally rare.

This is a pastoral landscape with the field pattern revealing ancient enclosures. Many of the hedges have now been removed to provide access for farm machinery and larger areas of land for arable crops, although further inland there is still a significant amount of dairy farming.

Small hamlets and isolated farm holdings, such as the National Trust property at Stowe Barton, make up this sparsely populated section of the Cornwall AONB and the lack of populace further emphasises its

remoteness. Local slate and sandstone, together with cob and thatch, are characteristic of the homes in this area. Originally these were lime-washed or slate-hung but are now more commonly rendered.

At Morwenstow, the Norman church is built into the valley side, with its tower on the seaward side. Its vicarage, notable for its many chimneys of differing styles, was once home to the late Reverend Robert Stephen Hawker who wrote Trelawny – The Song of the Western Men.

A little way north from the vicarage, on a steep-sided coastal cliff, sits Hawker's Hut, now owned by the National Trust, where the Reverend Hawker used to compose his sermons and poetry.

Views along the coastline are breathtaking and extensive. On a clear day Lundy Island can be seen out to the northwest. Further south, the coastal plateau decreases to a much lower cliff line with views southward towards Bude.

This section of the Cornwall AONB is one of the less well known AONB areas, but its dramatic coastal cliffs and unusual rock formations, together with its ancient history, provides an interesting and unique landscape.

There are 46 AONBs throughout the UK. Once a year the 'AONB Family' jointly celebrates the UK's outstanding landscapes. We call it Landscapes for Life Week, because we're committed to our iconic national landscapes for ever, and those landscapes are so much more

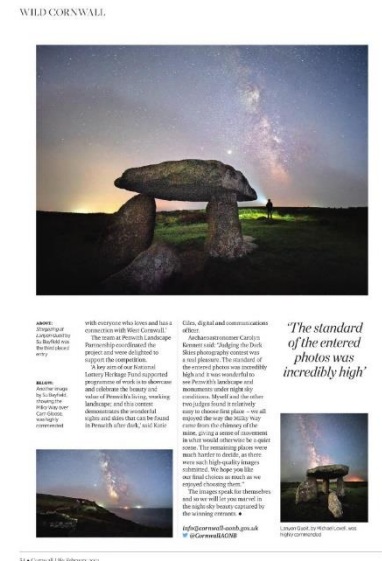
than a view – they are landscapes for living. They are a place for nature – which AONB partnerships are actively working to conserve and enhance. They are a place for industry – they are the living, breathing factory floor of our British food industry. They are a place of tranquillity, rootedness and wellbeing, treasured by generations of people seeking peace, exercise and leisure; truly our Natural Health Service.

Landscapes for Life Week is September 19 to 27, the AONB Family's week (and a bit)-long programme of events to help people reconnect with nature by enjoying and being inspired by the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). There understandably won't be as many events as previous years but some AONBs are still arranging online events.

The week launches at 2pm this Saturday with the 'National Moment', which last year saw AONB teams and their communities out in the landscape actively participating in events such as the sand art labyrinth that the Cornwall AONB organised on Porthcurnick Beach, Portscatho.

This year we're inviting people to share their #MyNationalLandscapes. It can be a photo of their garden, back yard, local green space or favourite place or view in the AONB landscape, so please feel free to join in and celebrate these special, prized, iconic landscapes we call AONBs by sharing any photos on social media and include the hashtag #MyNationalLandscapes

Cornwall Life magazine monthly article: each month Cornwall AONB Unit provide a magazine article for Cornwall Life. This is an opportunity to showcase the twelve Local Sections of the AONB by incorporating useful information about the AONB into articles such as Seeing Stars – a look at Dark Skies, On the Water, Monuments Matter to People and Spring.



E-newsletter – Tir Teg (Cornish for 'beautiful land'): 5 latest e-news updates

circulated via email throughout the year to over 1000 of our AONB supporters which include Parish and Town Councils, community groups and organisations, interested individuals, Cornwall Councillors, AONB Trustees and Business Supporters, AONB Partnership members and wider AONB stakeholders. Latest news includes information on our projects, activities and online events, Management Plan consultation, job and volunteering opportunities and news from our partners and community groups.

Website – the Cornwall AONB website www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk continues to be a useful resource for anyone wanting to find out more about the work of the AONB Unit and Partnership, location of the 12 separate sections that make up the Cornwall AONB, with 'explore' pages so visitors and locals can find out more, details of our 'projects' and 'planning' pages being popular. The website continued to be regularly updated throughout the year to promote the work of the AONB Unit and our partners activities.

Between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021 there were 33,061 new users and page views 76,125 representing a small increase of 10% and 33% respectively. Where did these users go when they visited the website? This chart shows the top 10 landing pages, and the top 10 landing pages where social media has been the tool to convert:

Landing Page	Acquisition			Behaviour		
	Sessions	% New Sessions	New Users	Bounce Rate	Pages/Session	Avg. Session Duration
	41,217 % of Total: 100.00% (41,217)	80.23% Avg for View: 80.21% (0.03%)	33,070 % of Total: 100.03% (33,061)	70.56% Avg for View: 70.56% (0.00%)	1.85 Avg for View: 1.85 (0.00%)	00:01:19 Avg for View: 00:01:19 (0.00%)
1. /	8,858 (21.49%)	80.37%	7,119 (21.53%)	52.78%	2.55	00:01:52
2. /westpenwith	5,423 (13.16%)	90.54%	4,910 (14.85%)	86.83%	1.33	00:00:34
3. /ramehead	3,006 (7.29%)	89.55%	2,692 (8.14%)	87.09%	1.29	00:00:40
4. /bodminmoor	2,190 (5.31%)	89.63%	1,963 (5.94%)	86.71%	1.32	00:00:46
5. /map-of-cornwall	1,930 (4.68%)	79.59%	1,536 (4.64%)	39.33%	2.89	00:02:04
6. /kerdroya	1,752 (4.25%)	84.53%	1,481 (4.48%)	82.88%	1.45	00:00:58
7. /camelestantuary	1,380 (3.35%)	92.97%	1,283 (3.88%)	88.77%	1.25	00:00:28
8. /work-for-us	1,284 (3.12%)	73.05%	938 (2.84%)	23.52%	2.51	00:01:52
9. /management-plan	1,043 (2.53%)	51.20%	534 (1.61%)	61.07%	1.98	00:02:47
10. /project-development-officer	867 (2.10%)	84.89%	736 (2.23%)	90.08%	1.16	00:00:32

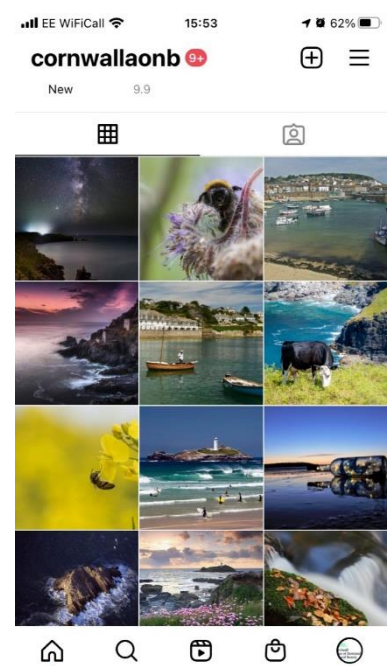
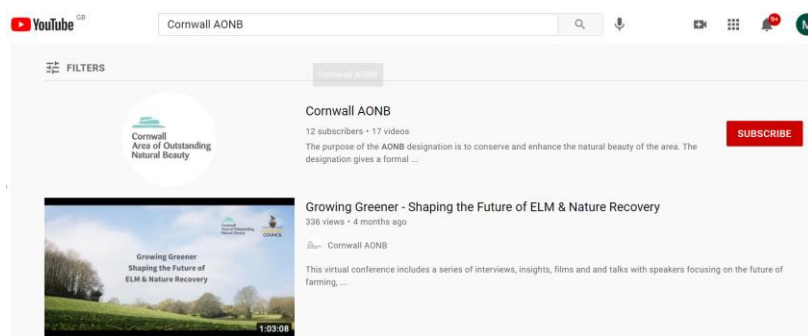
Shared URL	Sessions	Page Views	Avg
1. www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/project-development-officer	517 (17.61%)	580 (15.34%)	
2. www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/blog/2021/1/6/a-monumental-improvement-project-update	173 (5.89%)	263 (6.95%)	
3. www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/blog/2021/1/6/monumental-improvement-st-agnes-beacon-and-carne-beacon	140 (4.77%)	144 (3.81%)	
4. www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/cornwall-aonb-business-development-officer	123 (4.19%)	137 (3.62%)	
5. www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/	116 (3.95%)	322 (8.51%)	
6. www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/monumental-improvements-project-team	116 (3.95%)	141 (3.73%)	
7. www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/cornwall-aonb-events/2021/2/10/a-monumental-improvement-improving-community-health-education-and-wellbeing-through-heritage	115 (3.92%)	133 (3.52%)	
8. www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/cornwall-aonb-events	92 (3.13%)	120 (3.17%)	
9. www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/internships-2021	74 (2.52%)	89 (2.35%)	
10. www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/wheal-buzzy-1	69 (2.35%)	111 (2.93%)	

Cornwall AONB App

The App is free to download from Android or Apple devices and provides information on what there is to see and do in each of the 12 sections of the Cornwall AONB. Search 'Cornwall AONB' on your Android or Apple device and install for free.

Social Media

Channel	Current Users	% Increase
Facebook	2720 Followers	31%
Instagram	1125 Followers	275%
Twitter	4572 Followers	14%
LinkedIn	139 Followers	22%
YouTube	12 Subscribers Significant water list for virtual conferences	200%



Others: Cornwall Council Environment Service Newsletter the AONB Unit team provided news items and project updates for the Council's Environment Service staff newsletter that was circulated quarterly to provide info sharing and greater awareness of everything staff including the independent 'AONB Unit' are busy being involved with on behalf of the residents, visitors and communities throughout the Duchy.

Cornwall AONB and Tamar Valley AONB teams some of the staff from both teams managed a social distanced meet up in October 2020, in between Lockdowns. An opportunity to share information and learn more about projects.



Kerdorya site visit, Bodmin Moor



Site visit in the Tamar Valley AONB

During 2020/21 the AONB Unit attended regular meetings and provided advice and support to the following community groups and organisations:

- Cornwall AONB Trust
- Wild Roseland
- Helford Marine Conservation Group
- Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Technical Panel
- Penwith Landscapes Partnership Board and Executive Committee
- West Penwith Dark Skies Initiative Group
- Linking the Lizard Partnership
- Porthcurno Plastic Free Community Steering Group
- Bodmin Moor Working Group
- Cornish hedge Working Group
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy National Pilot



The Cornwall AONB Trust is an independent body that functions to benefit the aims and objectives of the Cornwall AONB Partnership and Cornwall AONB Management Plan. The Trust operates an Environment Landscape Fund (ELF) grant fund whose purpose is to enable local communities and organisations to carry out complimentary projects which would also meet the Objects of the Trust and make a difference to the Cornwall AONB by promoting and achieving sustainable environment and landscape improvements to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.

The Cornwall AONB Unit's Business Development Officer, provides full business management support to the [Cornwall AONB Independent Trust](#), which includes an independent Business Supporters scheme and administering the ELF. The Trust has four appointed trustees and two 'ex-officio' trustees (the trustee role is conferred on the role of Chair of the AONB Partnership and the AONB Partnership Manager).

From April 2020 until January 2021, the Trust was placed in 'hibernation' due to the Pandemic. Since its return to full function we have awarded 3 ELF grants to local organisations and submitted 4 funding bids, two of which have been unsuccessful and two are awaiting updates, to funding bodies to allow the Trust to deliver more.

The AONB Unit provides support including:

- Ongoing advice and support to the Cornwall AONB Trust
- Managing all HSBC Trust Banking and Charity Commission requirements
- Identifying and engaging future Business Supporters
- Organising events on behalf of the Trust
- Actively contributing at Trust meetings including Cornwall AONB Office & Finance Manager providing secretariat for taking minutes of meetings
- Actioning development work identified by the Trustees
- Managing the independent Environment Landscape Fund (ELF) providing grants of up to £500 to community and business organisations with projects that deliver on the conservation and enhancement of the Cornwall AONB
- Providing the Annual Return and Chairman's report to the Charity Commission
- Submitting Funding Bids to secure additional monies and future-proof the Trust



The National Association for AONBs and 'Landscapes for Life'

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are some of the UK's most outstanding landscapes and belong to an international Protected Landscape Family. There are 38 AONBs in England and Wales, and a further 8 in Northern Ireland. For further information about the AONB Family visit

www.landscapesforlife.org.uk

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) is the umbrella charity for the AONBs in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland and works to develop the network of ambitious AONB partnerships with a strong collective voice, working collaboratively to deliver shared objectives. It has the principles of sustainable development at its core, and this is reflected in everything they do.

The NAAONB undertakes lobbying, enables collaborative working, responding to consultations such as the Glover Review of Designated Landscapes, co-ordinates the AONB family forum which exists to share ideas and best practice amongst all AONB staff across the country, holds topic groups, training programmes and regular meetings of AONB Lead Officers and Chair's.

Colchester Declaration: The National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) Annual Conference held at the University of Essex in Colchester in July 2019, culminated in the Cornwall AONB becoming one of the signatories to the [Colchester Declaration](#). Set against a backdrop of unprecedented concern for the future of the natural world and intergovernmental reports that the current global response to the effects of human impact on nature is insufficient – the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty recognised that the time is right to significantly increase the scale and pace of nature conservation activity in AONBs. Using our unique network and partnership model the NAAONB made a collective Declaration on Nature in AONBs and set out a strategy for change and calling upon Westminster and the Welsh Governments to provide the power and resources to make these targets achievable.

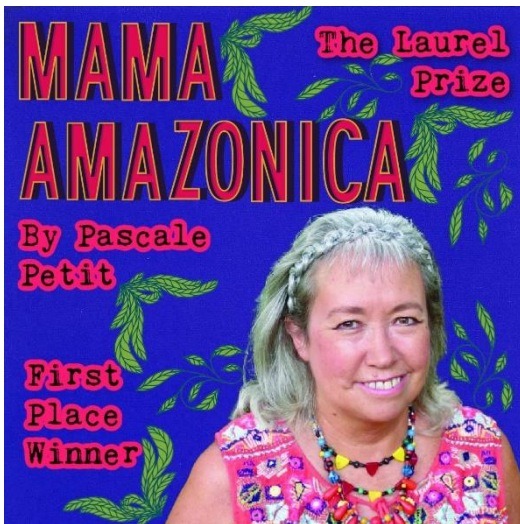
The Colchester Declaration covers the period from 2020 to 2030 and makes an ambitious pledge with regard to the Climate Change Emergency and our readiness to act to redress the ongoing decline in species and habitats within the context of a wider response to climate change.

Landscapes for Life Week: is an annual national celebration of AONBs. The Cornwall AONB joins other AONBs across the UK every September to celebrate it's annual 'Landscapes for Life week' which ran from 19th to 27th September 2020. This year's event was different from previous years. Normally AONBs up and down the country would be organising events, activities, walks and get together to celebrate the beauty of our landscapes, the health and wellbeing benefits they bring, and the fun we can all have spending time in the countryside.

With social distancing restrictions, the Cornwall AONB used social media to focus on a different theme each day, within the overarching theme of #MyNationalLandscapes. People were encouraged to engage and promote their special green space by sharing photos of their gardens, local parks and local AONB sites.



The Laurel Poem Prize: The Laurel Prize is Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage's brainchild and aims to recognise poetry with an environmental theme at a time when we need nature more than ever; but find it under threat. After commissioning a poem, *Fugitives*, by Armitage in 2019, the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) partnered with the Poetry School and the Poet Laureate again, awarding £500 poet in residence opportunities to the top three shortlisted poets. Armitage himself also funds the prize with the £5,000 honorarium he receives annually from the Queen.



www.thelaurelprize.com

The Cornwall AONB Partnership were among the AONBs who sponsored The Laurel Prize and were delighted to discover that the 2020 winner resides on Bodmin Moor, section 12 of the Cornwall AONB. Pascale won the accolade with her *'Mama Amazonica'* poem.

Following this, the Cornwall AONB Unit have now asked Pascale Petit to write a poem to showcase and celebrate the winning of the Laurel Prize. Pascale has chosen to write about Bodmin Moor because she lives "in a deep rainforested valley of the Lynher River, just under the south east corner of the moor. During lockdown, she frequently walked up to Twelve Men's Moor to Kilmar Tor, picnicking with her husband in a skylark valley. She says 'the whole moor is like a giant shield glittering with gorse, dragonfly-haunted rockpools, bog asphodels, spotted marsh orchids, heights starred with tormentil, guarded by stonechats and wheatears, up to where the formations are shaped like fertility goddesses and the trees are sacred rowans. It's a more challenging landscape in winter, but she'll keep walking up there, taking notes, while her husband photographs the birds.'"

Cornwall AONB Key Performance Indicators 2020/21

At the end of each financial year, the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB), requests Key Performance Indicators report from all AONBs. This is a summary of the Cornwall AONB data collated.

1. Land where natural beauty has been conserved or enhanced through the work of AONB Teams

Apr '20 to Mar '21

a) Hectares of habitat conserved or enhanced for biodiversity	86.2
b) Hectares of land conserved for geodiversity	0.0
c) Hectares of land where the heritage asset condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced	55.0
d) Hectares of landscape enhanced via the removal of overhead cables	0.0
TOTAL hectares of land where natural beauty conserved or enhanced through work of AONB Teams	141.1

2. Heritage assets where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced through the work of AONB Teams

Apr '20 to Mar '21

a) Number of SMs where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced	50.0
b) Number of other designated sites where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced	0.0
c) Number of non-designated heritage assets where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced	0.0
TOTAL number of heritage assets where condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced through work of AONB Teams	50.0

3. People directly engaged through the work of AONB Teams

Apr '20 to Mar '21

a) Number of volunteers	37.0
b) Attendance at events convened / organised by AONB Teams	917.0
c) Number of young people (<18yo) engaged with via school visits, activities, etc.	20.0
d) Number of farmers/land managers engaged with	380.0
e) Number of people engaged with via activities linked to the Health & Wellbeing agenda	91.0
f) Number of members of the public engaged with during Management Plan review	63.0
g) Number of people engaged with via AONB promotional publications –eNews, Mailchimp distributions, etc.	67167.0
TOTAL number of people engaged with through work of AONB Teams	68675.0

4. Partnerships / initiatives influenced by the AONB Team to deliver AONB Management Plan objectives

Apr '20 to Mar '21

a) Number of partnerships where the AONB Team is part of the project / team / steering group lead	5.0
b) Number of partnerships where the AONB Team is a supporting partner	7.0
TOTAL number of partnerships / initiatives influenced by AONB Teams	12.0

5. Strategies, plans, policy, guidance documents, development and land management schemes appraised or developed by AONB Teams

Apr '20 to Mar '21

a) Number of strategies, plans, policy or guidance documents appraised or developed by the AONB Team	3.0
b) Number of Major 'development schemes' appraised – LPA planning applications	1.0
c) Number of non-Major 'development schemes' appraised – LPA planning applications	1210.0
d) Number of other 'development schemes' appraised – Highways, Environment Agency, BT, DNO, private sector, etc.	14.0
e) Number of National Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) appraised	0.0
f) Number of 'land management schemes' appraised – woodland management, Catchment Sensitive Farming, Countryside Stewardship, Natural Flood Management, etc.	0.0
TOTAL number appraised or developed by AONB Teams	1228.0

6. Total value of work delivered directly or secured by the work of AONB Teams

Apr '20 to Mar '21

a) Amount of Defra funding spent (Core funding)	188403.0
b) Amount of Local Authority funding spent (Core funding)	55000.0
c) Amount of non-Local Authority funding spent (Core funding)	0.0
d) Value of other 'external' grants or contributions spent for projects/non-core activity	103592.2
e) Value of external projects substantially influenced / generated by the AONB Team	16740.0
f) Value of volunteer days	61225.0
TOTAL value of work delivered directly or secured by work of AONB Teams	424960.2


Financial Summary 2020/21

Core costs	£
Salaries	187,806
Travel and subsistence	3,363
Training	0
Health & Safety	500
Advertising	1,246
Professional fees	344
Pension deficit	4,797
Recruitment advertising	1,674
Staff costs total	199,730
Accommodation, back-office costs/equipment	10,840
Printing and photocopying	60
Stationery and consumables	61
IT hardware/software	913
Office Costs total	11,874
Partnership & Exec Board meetings	0
National Assn of AONBs	3,356
Management Plan	15,037
Communications inc. Website/App costs	1,020
Total Core Costs	231,017

Projects	
Cornwall AONB Trust	7,000
Roadside Verges	1,000
Monuments Matter	1,000
Penwith Landscape Partnership	14,240
Projects total	23,240
Total expenditure	254,257

Income	£
Defra	188,403
Cornwall Council	55,000
National Trust	0
Planning pre-app consultation advice	2,925
Total Income	246,328
Match funding and Grant funding shortfall - drawn from reserves for balance	7,929
TOTAL	254,257




 "THE ECONOMY is a
 WHOLLY owned subsidiary
 of the Environment.
NOT the other WAY around"
 Gaylord Nelson

US senator
 FOUNDER OF EARTH DAY