



## Minutes of Cornwall AONB 'Online' Partnership Meeting on TEAMS – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 10am

### In attendance:

#### Partnership Members:

Gill Pipkin	Cornwall AONB Partnership Chairperson
Cllr Martyn Alvey	Cornwall Council
Cllr Kate Ewert	Cornwall Council
Cllr Jennifer Cruse	Cornwall Council
Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher	National Farmers' Union
Nick Lawrence	National Trust
Justin Whitehouse	National Trust
Cathy Woolcock	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Corine Dyke	Natural England
Lisa Goodall	Environment Agency
Mark Camp	Visit Cornwall
Julian Gray	South West Coast Path Association
Nick Russell	Historic England
Sally Weston	Cornwall & West Devon World Heritage Site

#### Supporting Officers:

Steve Ford	Cornwall Council, Head of Environmental Growth & Partnerships
Ann Reynolds	Cornwall Council, Historic Environment Service
Davina Pritchard	Cornwall Council, Planning
Emma Browning	Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager
Jim Wood	Cornwall AONB Planning Officer
Melodie Manners	Cornwall AONB Business Development Officer
Coralie Barrow	Cornwall AONB Project Development Officer
Karen Johns	Cornwall AONB Office & Finance Manager
Natalie Haly	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Project Manager
Jacob Parry	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Activities Officer
Lawrie Sampson	FWAG South West & Cornwall AONB Interim FiPL Farm Engagement Officer

#### Apologies:

Hannah Harris, Cornwall Council Transportation; Helen Rawe, Cornwall Heritage Trust; Louise Wood and Rob Lacey, Cornwall Council Planning; Grace Twiston-Davies, ESI - University of Exeter; Peter Marsh, Cornwall Council Environment Service; Ann Preston-Jones, Historic England; Cheryl Marriott, Cornwall Wildlife Trust; Elliot Hutt and Jimmy Scobie, CLA;

		Action(s)
1	<b>Hello and 'Check in' to virtual platform</b> – everyone was welcomed to the meeting. Emma Browning, Partnership Manager, had lost her voice, so used the chat facility to type during the meeting and the Chairperson and Unit team members led on the items.	



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2	<b>Introductions</b> – The Chairperson asked all attendees to introduce themselves.	
3	<b>Apologies</b> – see above	
4	<b>Minutes of last meeting (30 June 2021)</b> – minutes were agreed as an accurate record. All actions had been undertaken, except conversations are still ongoing with a view to meeting with Cornwall Council Planning and AONB Unit regarding speaking slot at Cornwall Council Planning Committee.	
5	<p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National Trust – future plans: by Nick Lawrence and Justin Whitehouse</b></li> </ul> <p>Nick Lawrence is Assistant Director for National Trust for the South West.</p> <p>National Trust was hit hard by the Covid pandemic, losing 20% of staff due to sites and premises being closed and less visitors overall. It provided an opportunity for the Trust to reset its food, beverage and retail offering.</p> <p>The Trust looks after places and gives them a sustainable future; look after land and nature; providing experiences to visitors to inspire and help ensure places evolve.</p> <p>The work of the National Trust fits with the context of 25 year Environment Plan; Environment Bill; ELMs; Glover Review; COP26 and Planning policy and have created environmental pledges such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by 2025 creating 25,000 hectares of new wildlife habitats</li> <li>planting &amp; establishing 20 million trees by 2030</li> </ul> <p>Nature friendly land management and a thriving coast and marine environment is the aim. 1.4 million visits to 12 houses and gardens with many more visiting coast and countryside. 196 miles of coast owned. 131,446 members of the National Trust (NT) live in Cornwall (23% of the population). 2050 volunteers working at NT places; 280 tenancies and grazing licences; 332 residential tenancies plus holiday cottages.</p> <p>Major projects and investments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvement Project is enabling over £100k of works to record and conserve Scheduled Monuments on NT land in Cornwall, most, if not all, within the AONB.</li> <li>All England Coast Path Project – improved waymarking, surfacing etc.</li> <li>Pentire Farm (in Pentire Point to Widemouth section of the AONB) over last 5 years this project has seen a big change in the way land is managed.</li> </ul> <p>Ann Reynolds asked if there are there any specific KPIs for heritage management e.g. heritage at risk sites? Nick Lawrence confirmed that each General Manager in Cornwall would include targets and objectives within their plans which would</p>	

	include heritage as a key part. Ann Reynolds added that it is useful to have information on any KPIs that NT have for particular sites which would add weight to funding bids etc. Justin or Sarah O'Brien will provide further info to Ann on this.	Justin Whitehouse
	<p>Martyn Alvey raised the issue of car parking during Covid which he felt was unhelpful in the way NT approached this e.g. at Trelissick. Car park was closed resulting in cars parking in narrow lanes to access public footpaths and other rights of way causing significant blockages. Nick Lawrence confirmed that NT teams and volunteers had to follow central NT instructions nationally but is aware of local management issues that this caused.</p> <p>Julian Gray – SWCP – said he has spoken to NT at national level regarding coastal grazing but will also contact NT locally to discuss.</p> <p>Lisa Goodall, EA – is aware she doesn't link up with NT when working up projects for funding etc so would be worthwhile doing this going forward. Justin Whitehouse and Lisa Goodall will be in contact to discuss the most appropriate NT officers for Lisa to liaise with.</p> <p>Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher, NFU – mentioned increased visitor numbers and behaviour in the countryside and the pressures it puts on local sites and farmers and landowners. Nick Lawrence said NT is keen to support what others do and work with their tenants and there is the relaunch of the national Countryside Code which will help to get the message out on the need for responsible visits in the countryside. Management of key sites and when a busy area is full, the spill off to nearby adjacent areas is something that also needs carefully managing.</p>	Justin Whitehouse / Lisa Goodall
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Draft Management Plan presentation – by Cornwall Council Design Team and Emma Browning. Including Partners opportunity for questions and discussion – Melodie will run a Menti Survey</b></li> </ul> <p>Melodie presented the draft Management Plan design that has been undertaken to date. Hannah Beech, Cornwall Council's Design Team also joined the meeting to answer any questions.</p> <p>The new Management Plan will be an online, fully interactive document. People, Place, Nature and Climate are the key aims and these themes run through the whole Plan.</p> <p>The list of Partnership organisations is included in the Plan. There is a link from each organisation to their website - Partners were asked to let the AONB Unit know if there is a preferred URL that should be linked to if different to the one already provided.</p> <p>Partners were asked to consider how easy the text appears to be – is it easy to read? clearly set out? Partners undertook a Menti survey exercise during the meeting to provide their feedback. Menti feedback provided by partners was very</p>	All



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	positive with the majority who voted said they are more likely to use the plan with the new design and interactive features.	
6	<p><b>Cornwall AONB Exec Board (9 Sept 2021) summary update:</b> The paper summarised the agreed actions for some of the key items discussed at the last AONB Exec Board meeting for Partners' awareness.</p> <p>6.1 <b>Partnership Agreement</b> – this is slowly progressing around all partners for signing – only 6 signatures obtained so far, so it would be appreciated if partners could arrange for this to be electronically signed at their earliest convenience when they receive it to expediate the process.</p>	All Partners
	6.2 <b>Management Plan public consultation</b> – the Draft Plan has been out for Stakeholder and Public consultation since 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2021. The online feedback survey closes on 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021.	
	6.3 <b>Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) update</b> – the first Cornwall AONB FiPL Grants Panel met on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2021. 4 applications were approved by the Grants Panel. There have been several enquiries from farmers and landowners interested in a possible FiPL grant.	
7	<p><b>AONB Unit Projects and Planning Update</b></p> <p>A briefing paper was included in agenda papers for partners to read in advance and prepare any questions for the AONB Unit team.</p>	
	7.1 <b>Planning including AONB speaking at Planning Committees (Gill/Jim)</b> – Jim reported that he has reached out to the South of England Designated Landscapes Group and others to obtain their feedback on how their protected landscapes engage with local planning authority committees.	
	<p>7.2 <b>IRF, Cornwall AONB Trust; BEAST Event (Melodie)</b></p> <p><b>NEIRF (Investment Readiness Fund)</b> - a Farmer Group on the Lizard is now established. Terranomics are the lead contractor for this Protected Landscape Investment Bank project.</p> <p>Melodie read the 'Best of Bodmin' poem which was the focus of the recent Cornwall AONB organised <b>BEAST (Bodmin Environment, Arts, Science, Theatre)</b> events programme at Colliford Lake. Events included Creative Writing workshops; Star Gazing; Dusk Safari walk and family friendly treasure hunt. The poem was read at the event and also translated in Cornish and will be available soon on the Cornwall AONB website.</p>	
	7.3 <b>Penwith Landscape Partnership, Bee Healthy Bee Happy; Monuments Matter (MM); Cornish Hedge Working Group (Coralie &amp; Jacob for MM)</b>	

	<p><b>Bee Happy Bee Healthy</b> is still being worked up as a project bid to National Lottery which may not be submitted until 2022.</p> <p><b>Monuments Matter project</b> – a blended learning project which includes a Rame Conservation Trust volunteer co-ordinator who leads on conservation management on site to provide students with practical and educational skills. Still looking to recruit more students – Cllr Kate Ewert happy to help promote this to encourage others to join the course – Jacob will re-email details to her.</p> <p>Currently developing an activity programme which will include pottery making workshop, seed gathering, archaeological training.</p>	Jacob Parry
	<p><b>7.4 Monumental Improvements Project (Natalie &amp; Jacob)</b></p> <p>The project team met with the National Lottery Heritage Fund on 9 September to receive feedback on their draft delivery stage application. Required revisions will now be made including taking on board learnings from the development stage of the project and the team will be submitting their finalised delivery stage lottery application on 29 November 2021.</p>	
	<p><b>7.5 Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL); AONB Management Plan; State of the AONB Report; Kerdroya; Linking the Lizard; Bodmin Moor Peatlands (Emma)</b></p> <p>The report in the agenda papers provided a summary of these work streams and projects. FiPL, AONB Management Plan and State of the AONB Report were also included in other items on the agenda and in these minutes.</p>	
8	<p><b>Presentation on State of the AONB report and AONB Atlas: by Sally Marshall, Land Use Consultants (LUC)</b></p>	
	<p>Sally Marshall, provided a background on the project that LUC have been working on with the Cornwall AONB this year and the previous monitoring undertaken with the AONB since 2007.</p> <p>State of the AONB reporting is clear evidence on the current state of the protected landscape. Understanding the forces for change acting upon it. Data and information is gathered against monitoring indicators. The report sets a baseline to easily monitor change in 5 year cycles (to coincide with Management Plan reviews). It can also provide an opportunity to include the community in activities including data collection through citizen science etc. It is also very timely that it is taking place during 2021 following Covid and Brexit and changes related to those factors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 1 in 2007 a detailed methodology and baseline information</li> <li>• Interactive AONB Atlas in 2010 which supplemented the Phase 1 study which at the time was ground-breaking, the Cornwall AONB was leading the way and won an award by the Landscape Institute</li> <li>• Phase 2 in 2013 included an analysis of landscape change since the Phase 1 Study</li> </ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 3 and new Atlas 2021 has been undertaken this year. It was to produce evidence based information to monitor change since the previous 2013 study.</li> </ul> <p>New themes of climate change, nature recovery, tourism and recreation and health and well-being have been included this year.</p> <p>There are a number of different monitoring indicator themes, planning and development; farming and food; woodland and forestry etc</p> <p>Sally Marshall thanked Emma Browning for her help in gathering and collecting the data with partners. It is appreciated it is not always easy obtaining the data.</p> <p>Data is then collated and audited to ensure fit for purpose and relevant to provide a list of monitoring indicators.</p> <p>Key findings summarised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63% of the AONB experienced the darkest level of skies</li> <li>West Penwith recorded the most stars counted in CPRE's Big Star count 2021</li> <li>Energy from major onshore developments has almost doubled since 2013</li> <li>Coniferous forestry has significantly decreased by 21.4%</li> <li>Tree canopy covers 6.8% of the AONBs total area (largest coverage is in South Coast Central section)</li> <li>Cornwall's biodiversity is declining at a faster rate than the UK average</li> </ul> <p>Sally Marshall also provided a brief overview of the Cornwall AONB Atlas 2021 which is available via <a href="https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/management-plan">Management Plan — The Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (cornwall-aonb.gov.uk)</a>. The different layers of data can be toggled on and off. Partners were encouraged to have a look at the Atlas to view the detailed data available.</p>	
9	<b>Any other Business</b> - none	
10	<b>Date &amp; Time of next meeting</b> – 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022, 2pm	All