



## Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

### Minutes of Cornwall AONB 'Online' Partnership Meeting on TEAMS – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 1pm

#### In attendance:

#### Partnership Members:

Gill Pipkin	Cornwall AONB Partnership Chairperson
Cllr Jennifer Cruse	Cornwall Council
Cllr Kate Ewert	Cornwall Council
Ann Preston-Jones	Historic England
Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher	National Farmers' Union
Rachel Knott	Natural England
Mark Camp	Visit Cornwall
Gemma Finnegan	CRCC
Justin Whitehouse	National Trust
Helen Rawe	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Sally Weston	Cornwall & West Devon World Heritage Site
Grace Twiston-Davies	ESI/University of Exeter
Elliot Hutt	CLA

#### Supporting Officers:

Mark Holmes	Cornwall Council, Environment
Ann Reynolds	Cornwall Council, Strategic Historic Environment
Davina Pritchard	Cornwall Council, Planning & Housing
Ellie Inglis-Woolcock	Cornwall Council, Planning & Housing
Emma Browning	Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager
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
Sean O'Hea	Cornwall AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes Engagement Officer

#### Apologies:

Cllr Martyn Alvey	Cornwall Council
Cathy Woolcock	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Rupert Hanbury-Tenison,	CLA/Association of Bodmin Moor Commons Landowners
Hannah Harris	Cornwall Council Transport
Robert Lacey	Cornwall Council Planning
Jim Wood	Cornwall AONB Planning Officer
Philippa Hoskin	Cornwall Council, Connectivity & Environment

		Action(s)
1	<b>Hello and 'Check in' to virtual platform</b> – everyone was welcomed to the meeting.	
2	<b>Introductions</b> – The Chairperson asked all attendees to introduce themselves.	



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3	<b>Apologies</b> – see above	
4	<b>Minutes of last meeting (1 March 2022)</b> – minutes were agreed as an accurate record. All actions had been undertaken. Emma Browning reported that there had been no response from Defra on recent Glover consultation but has been informed they received a significant number of responses which are being worked through.	
5	<p><b>Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2022-2027 – Publicity Launch</b></p> <p>Emma Browning reported the excellent and very welcome news that the new Management Plan was adopted by Cornwall Council Cabinet on 11 May 2022.</p> <p>Emma shared page 86 of the Management Plan which is Project Delivery and details the projects that the AONB Partnership are involved in or leading on. The AONB Unit will be working with partners to report and monitor how we are all working towards the objectives. The Key Performance Indicators will be reported to Defra and others to update on progress.</p> <p>Feedback is welcome from partners on how to report on progress and Emma would welcome a 1-1 meeting with partners to discuss in more detail.</p> <p>Cllr Jennifer Cruse congratulated everyone involved in preparing and producing the Plan, it is a big document so she will be taking time to read and absorb the detail.</p> <p>Emma mentioned on the Cornwall AONB website in addition to the full Management Plan, there will also be a ‘bookshelf’ style gallery where people can easily access and download specific chapters of interest/relevance.</p> <p><b>A short, abridged summary version</b> (A5 4 pages) has been produced and is about to be printed and will be on the website – it includes a QR code so people can be directed straight to the Management Plan website pages to obtain more information. Printed copies of the abridged summary will be available at the Royal Cornwall Show.</p> <p><b>Publicity Launch</b> – AONB Unit have produced a media information pack which will be circulated to Partners on 1<sup>st</sup> June in readiness for the launch on 6<sup>th</sup> June onwards when the publicity launch will commence as a run up to the Royal Cornwall Show. The media information pack includes social media content and image library. Partners were asked to prepare to share the new Management Plan with their organisations and networks to promote awareness.</p> <p>Partners mentioned the need to be mindful that info is being shared to them just ahead of the Queen’s Jubilee Bank Holiday so need to give partners and colleagues time to read and share the media pack info. It was noted that Cornwall Wildlife Trust also have a big press launch planned next week (w/c 6<sup>th</sup> June) about Helman Tor.</p>	<p>All Partners</p> <p>All Partners</p>

	<p>The AONB Unit has written an article for the next Environment page of the Cornwall weekly newspapers (8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> June) – Cornish Guardian, West Briton and the Cornishman. The AONB Unit will also be sharing the launch of the new Plan widely to other AONB stakeholders, organisations, parish/town councils, community groups, general public asking everyone to also onward circulate, share and promote.</p>	
6	<p><b>Cornwall AONB Exec Board brief summary update</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Defra AONB Core Funding Settlement 2022-23 to 2024-25</b> – Emma reported that Defra have confirmed a 3 year funding settlement to AONBs which includes an additional uplift in funding. It is very much welcomed that Cornwall Council has confirmed their commitment to the additional match funding requirement, particularly in light of the ongoing budgetary constraints Cornwall Council is facing.</p> <p><b>6.2 AONBs Climate Action Statement of Commitment, Draft Framework and Toolkit (National Association for AONBs)</b> – the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) has recently produced an AONBs Climate Action Statement of Commitment which it is asking all AONB Chairs to sign up to. 6 other Draft toolkit documents have also been produced collaboratively with the AONB teams across the Country and feedback and comments is now being sought from AONB teams.</p> <p>Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher mentioned that David Rodda's (Economic Growth) team at Cornwall Council, is working on decarbonisation in Cornwall so worth the AONB Unit linking with David and team.</p>	AONB Unit
7	<p><b>Presentation of Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvement Project – by Natalie Haly, Project Manager and Jacob Parry, Activities Officer on Successful Delivery Stage Bid for National Lottery Heritage Funding</b></p> <p>Natalie Haly and Jacob Parry provided a presentation on the Delivery Stage of the Monumental Improvement Project which runs until 2024. There are 40 sites across the AONB which run across various time periods and 35 of the sites are on the Heritage At Risk Register. Project Overview was provided including how activities will focus on Health and Well-being, particularly post Covid.</p> <p>Delivery Stage of the Project has just been launched with press releases and social media campaign by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England to celebrate the success of receiving National Lottery Heritage Funding.</p> <p>Currently recruiting for an Archaeological Officer and an Archaeological Technical Level 3 Apprentice.</p> <p>Throughout the development stage of the project, the team worked with different audiences – landowners, community groups with a heritage focus, educational institutions; and are also keen to work and reach out to some other target audiences</p>	

	<p>such as young people, children and families, younger adults, people with disabilities, people of working age and the unemployed/economically inactive.</p> <p>There are many different planned activities to reach target audiences such as walks and talks, creative writing and storytelling to share more about myths and legends of some of the sites, Historic England Heritage Schools National teacher training sessions, student site visits, College/University placements, online webinars, volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Access and interpretation improvements will be carried out at some of the sites to increase understanding and awareness.</p> <p>Cllr Cruse raised concerns on the ecology and conservation of sites when inviting people to access sites. Natalie Haly confirmed that careful consideration takes place to assess suitability of activities, access and interpretation of the individual sites, as the AONB also does when undertaking other activities etc in the AONB.</p> <p>Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher asked how many sites are within/adjacent to actively working farmland. Natalie confirmed that the team are currently meeting with all landowners to work with them and sign a landowner agreement.</p> <p>Ann Reynolds congratulated Natalie and Jacob on their immense, detailed work on the project to date, and they have the heritage partners to support their work.</p>	
8	<p><b>AONB Unit Projects and Planning Update (briefing paper attached):</b> A Briefing Paper was included in the agenda papers for Partners to read in advance and prepare any questions and feedback. The Briefing Paper included updates on the following work and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.1 Planning (Jim)</li> <li>8.2 NEIRF, Cornwall AONB Trust; Art in the Landscape '12 AONB Stories' (Melodie)</li> <li>8.3 Penwith Landscape Partnership, Bee Healthy Bee Happy; Monuments Matter (MM); Cornish Hedge Working Group (Coralie &amp; Jacob for MM)</li> <li>8.4 Monumental Improvements Project (Natalie &amp; Jacob)</li> <li>8.5 Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) (Sean)</li> <li>8.6 AONB Management Plan; Kerdroya; SW Peatland Project; Linking the Lizard; (Emma)</li> </ul> <p><b>8.1 Planning update - a proposal for floating offshore windfarm of up to four turbines to be located in Hayle Bay and using the grid infrastructure provided for Wavehub:</b> Emma Browning reported on this item as Jim Wood, AONB Planning Officer, was not able to attend the meeting. Jim Wood has asked for a new LVIA to be undertaken for the proposal. Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher asked if the turbines would be higher which Emma confirmed they would be higher.</p> <p>Given the potentially substantial change to this proposal, it will probably be appropriate to bring the outcome of the assessment back to the Partnership to</p>	

	<p>allow the Partnership to take a view on whether their position of support will be extended to the revised proposals.</p> <p><b>8.3 Cornish Hedge Working Group</b> – Coralie Barrow showed examples of the Cornish hedge mapping that has been produced so far utilising additional core AONB Defra funding. 3 sections of the AONB have been mapped and it is a vision to have all the 12 sections of the AONB mapped when possible, when funding allows.</p> <p><b>8.5 Rebecca Pow, Government Minister, is looking to visit Cornwall and FiPL projects</b> in June, which will be a great opportunity to show the Minister some projects.</p>	
9	<p><b>Round Table Updates</b> - Partners provided a brief update on their work within the AONB:</p> <p><b>Ann Reynolds, CC Historic Environment Service</b> – reported that the <b>Cornwall Heritage Strategy</b> has also just been adopted by Cornwall Council (on the same day the AONB Management Plan was adopted).</p> <p>Ann is also pleased to report that a post has been secured to support her, 'Strategic Historic Environment Officer (Rural)', which will free up her time to undertake more strategic work and increase the heritage focussed capacity with the additional resource.</p> <p><b>Davina Pritchard, Cornwall Council Planning</b> - some team members have left or about to leave as a result of the Council's cost saving restructure so this has resulted in a staff resource issue.</p> <p><b>Ellie Inglis-Woolcock – Cornwall Climate Emergency Development Plan Document (DPD)</b> will now undergo an independent examination, conducted by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p><b>Elliot Hutt, CLA</b> – mentioned the All-Party Parliamentary Group inquiry into Rural Productivity which can be found <a href="#">here</a>. A really interesting document which discusses levelling up the rural economy.</p> <p><b>Gemma Finnegan, CRCC</b> – will look to link with the AONB particularly to share the Management Plan. Also linkages with health and well-being and working with people who don't already access the landscape and it would be good to do some joint comms on sensitive visiting to the landscape/education on how to be responsible visitors to the AONB</p> <p><b>Mark Holmes, CC</b> – as Steve Ford has left the Council, Mark is currently Interim Head of Service for Environmental Partnerships and Climate Change, and as part of the Council's restructuring, this Service (which the AONBs are within) has moved to the Environment &amp; Connectivity Service within Sustainable Growth and Development Directorate.</p>	

	<p>Forest for Cornwall team has moved to the Nature Recovery Team and Cornwall AONB are working with Forest for Cornwall, particularly on FiPL schemes. Emma Browning will be joining the Forest for Cornwall Partnership Meetings so this will also provide useful linkages and joined up approaches to benefit the AONB.</p> <p><b>Mark Camp, Visit Cornwall</b> - is refreshing their website, starting on beaches so will work with the AONB Unit on this.</p> <p><b>Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher, NFU</b> – the NFU has been involved in supporting farmers regarding loss of PPS and impact on farm businesses; accessibility of the new Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) environmental scheme which involves farmers considering a range of aspects such as input costs, fertilizer, fence posts and food production and food insecurity</p> <p>Patrick also mentioned the Biogas project which is quite exciting and will play a key part in achieving the NFU’s ambition for net zero in farming by 2040 and addressing demand for more green gas.</p> <p><b>Cornwall Tourism Strategy</b> – Patrick mentioned this Strategy and will send it to Emma Browning as it will be good for the Partnership to be involved.</p> <p><b>Helen Rawe, Cornwall Heritage Trust</b> – concerned about significant numbers of second homes and the loss of communities this is causing. Gill Pipkin added that this was discussed recently at the Homes for Cornwall conference so there is awareness of the issues.</p> <p><b>Sally Weston, World Heritage Site (WHS)</b> – WHS Partnership Board review has taken place and next steps on the recommendations put forward will be discussed at the next Partnership Board.</p> <p><b>Grace Twiston-Davies, ESI/University of Exeter</b> – mentioned the RENEW project – seen link for details <a href="#">articles   Working with natural systems for sustainable futures   University of Exeter</a></p>	Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher
10	<p><b>Any other Business</b></p> <p><b>AONB Unit Recruitment</b> – Emma Browning reported that from Jan-Mar 22 the AONB Unit contracted a planning consultant, which was paid for utilising additional core funding awarded from Defra. This extra planning resource worked really well in increasing capacity resulting in the AONB responding to more planning consultations etc.</p> <p><b>Monumental Improvements (MI) Project Activities Officer</b>, Jacob Parry, is moving on from the AONB Unit to further his studies and undertake a Masters degree. Jacob was thanked for all the hard work he has undertaken for the MI project. Jacob will be leaving in Sept and his role will be advertised and it is hoped there will also be time for a handover period if possible.</p>	



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	<p><b>Amazon Smile fundraising</b> – Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher asked for more info on this. The Cornwall AONB Charity Trust has signed up to the Amazon Smile fundraising, where anyone shopping on Amazon, at no extra cost, can choose the Cornwall AONB Charity Trust and in return the Trust will receive a very small donation of the purchase price. This is small-scale fundraising opportunity but worthwhile nonetheless. Melodie will share info with the Partners again on this.</p>	AONB Unit
11	<p><b>Date &amp; Time of next meeting – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 10am – 4pm</b></p> <p>It is hoped this will be a face-to-face meeting and include a site visit/farm walk in the AONB on the Lizard</p>	All Partners