



Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

12 Sections - One Designation

Minutes of Cornwall AONB Partnership Meeting – Monday 30th January 2023, 10.30am, online TEAMS

In attendance:

Partnership Members:

Gill Pipkin	Cornwall AONB Partnership Chairperson
Cllr Martyn Alvey	Cornwall Council
Cllr Kate Ewert	Cornwall Council
Lawrie Sampson	FWAG
Lucy Morris	Westcountry Rivers Trust
Zoe Smith	Westcountry Rivers Trust
David Baker	ESI/University of Exeter
Adam McKiernan	Natural England
Mark Camp	Visit Cornwall
Cathy Woolcock	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Gemma Finnegan	Cornwall Rural Community Charity
Edward Humber	NFU
Justin Whitehouse	National Trust

Supporting Officers:

Mark Holmes	Cornwall Council, Environmental Partnerships & Climate Change
Ellie Inglis-Woolcock	Cornwall Council, Sustainable Growth & Development
Davina Pritchard	Cornwall Council, Sustainable Growth & Development
Colin Pringle	Cornwall Council, Environmental Growth Officer
Gwyn Williams	Cornwall Council, Public Health
Ann Reynolds	CC Strategic Historic Environment
Sally Weston	Cornish Mining World Heritage Site
Emma Browning	Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager
Melodie Manners	Cornwall AONB Business Development Officer
Jim Wood	Cornwall AONB Planning Officer
Louise Barattini	Cornwall AONB Planning Officer
Karen Johns	Cornwall AONB Office & Finance Manager
Natalie Haly	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Project Manager
Iain Rowe	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Engagement Officer
James Richards	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Business Admin Apprentice
Sean O'Hea	Cornwall AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Engagement Officer
Iwona Brooks	Cornwall AONB FiPL Admin Officer
Claire Brooks	Cornwall AONB FiPL Project Support Co-ordinator

Apologies:

Cheryl Marriott	Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Ann Preston-Jones	Historic England

Vicky Fraser	Cornwall Council, Environment & Connectivity Service Director
Coralie Barrow	Cornwall AONB Project Development Officer
Lisa Goodall	Environment Agency
Duncan Anderson-Margetts	CLA
Julian Gray	South West Coast Path Association
Aletha Mays	South West Coast Path Association
Rob Lacey	Cornwall Council, Sustainable Growth & Development
Helen Rawe	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Cllr Jennifer Cruse	Cornwall Council
Cllr Sharon Daw	Cornwall Council
Philippa Hoskin	Cornwall Council, Forest for Cornwall/Nature Recovery
Linus Firth	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements, Archaeological Technician Apprentice
Jeanette Ratcliffe	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Archaeological Officer

		Action(s)
1	Welcome and 'Check in' to virtual platform for those joining via TEAMS – everyone was welcomed to the meeting.	
2	Introductions and Apologies – The Chairperson asked all attendees to introduce themselves and apologies were noted.	
3	Minutes of last meeting (4 Oct 2022) – minutes were agreed as an accurate record. All actions had been undertaken or were underway.	
4	<p>Presentations by AONB Unit team:</p> <p>4.1 Woodland Creation Presentation and Template</p> <p>Louise Barattini reported that an increasing area of the Cornwall AONB Planning Officers work is commenting on woodland creation proposals. The AONB team held a Woodland Creation Workshop discussion with a number of stakeholders to each present and discuss. Cumulative impact of woodland planting across the landscape is something that will be considered going forward.</p> <p>Considerations include right tree, right place, importance of appraising landscape character and how woodland fits within the AONB landscape. Fal Ria was cited as an example which highlights the key landscape characteristics and key elements such as field and woodland patterns. Reviewing the local sections of the AONB Management Plan was highlighted by the AONB Planning Officers as a beneficial tool when looking at woodland creation. Landscape led approach is the key message that the AONB gave and aligns with forestry guidance so is not something new but reinforces existing guidance.</p> <p>The Woodland Creation workshop was recorded and is available on the Cornwall AONB website via https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/planning</p> <p>Edward Humber mentioned buffer strips and whether woodland buffers could support woodland proposals and new planting.</p>	

	<p>Lawrie Sampson asked about canopy cover woodland and Jim confirmed that the thresholds should be included in the EIA and Forestry Commission would be able to clarify the detail.</p> <p>4.2 Cornwall AONB Planning Position Statement</p> <p>Louise Barattini reported that the Planning Position Statement needs to be updated. It essentially identified the Cornwall AONB Unit approach to planning policy and outlines the role and responsibility on Cornwall Council Planning as LPA and Cornwall AONB Unit as a consultee. Louise confirmed the structure, content and position of the statement is not really changing, the PPS is just being updated with technical references to align and bring it up to date with the new AONB Management Plan and subtle changes in the Regional Planning Framework.</p> <p>The tracked changes were included in the Agenda paper, and Partners were asked to let Jim and Louise know of any changes or comments.</p> <p>Edward Humber mentioned 6.2 regarding agriculture and recreational need and he would welcome opportunity to speak to his colleagues at NFU and then feedback to Jim and Louise.</p> <p>Justin Whitehouse – will liaise with the National Trust Planning Officer and confirm if they have any comments</p> <p>Gwyn Williams – will provide links to Jim and Louise on the benefits of health.</p> <p>4.3 Inclusion Research</p> <p>Melodie Manners presented this item stating that the Cornwall AONB is working with the Tamar Valley AONB in this research project which is looking at underserved groups accessing the landscape. A specialist local Cornwall consultant has been commissioned to undertake the work, utilising the additional Defra Access ‘Removing Barriers’ funding. The consultant will produce a blue print and methodology and will include a calendar of events to raise the profile of the AONB and start communicating better with underserved groups. The consultant will produce training for both AONB teams and Partners. Commitment to Action will be produced with an evaluation of each.</p> <p>The research work will include looking at current signage and interpretation that is already available and working well, community groups that exist and are effective. A toolkit will be produced which will act as a checklist to show how and what is being done to help underserved groups access the landscape.</p> <p>4.4 Bee Mindful</p> <p>Iain Rowe provided an update on this project, which is all about bees, people, monuments and landscape – a suite of projects to benefit health and wellbeing and the key AONB Management Plan themes of people, place, nature and climate.</p> <p>Bee Mindful is a pilot which has been funded by FiPL, and the project is running with the group of participants that were undertaking the Monuments Matter to People course which ended in 2022. Bee Mindful takes place at Maker Heights, Rame Head. It provides volunteer work programme and vegetation management skills, mindfulness</p>	<p>All</p> <p>E Humber</p> <p>J Whitehouse</p> <p>G Williams</p>
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	<p>activity sessions to support participants. Clearance works tasks takes place around scheduled monuments and a harvest mouse nest has been found, which is a first recording on this site so already learnt and seeing benefits from the initial conservation habitat management taking place.</p> <p>Many outputs and outcomes so far including 250 wild daffodil bulbs planted, yellow rattle seed sown, 4 mindfulness sessions held.</p> <p>Cllr Kate Ewert conveyed her thanks as this project is great and it is highly valued locally for the work taking place.</p> <p>Gwyn Williams offered any support of health and wellbeing outputs that she can provide for the project – Iain Rowe welcomed this, particularly as a legacy once Bee Mindful project has ended and will speak to Gwyn to follow up. Gwyn also mentioned Healthy Cornwall mental health training that is available that may be useful to participants and she will share the link to this training.</p> <p>4.5 Monumental Improvements Activities Plan – Iain Rowe provided a presentation with slides of some of the events taking place. Working in Partnership with Penwith Landscape Partnership volunteers and borrowing their bank of tools was one of the activities that took place at Goonhilly barrows. This was a hand tool training session on use of the tools, their maintenance and health and safety when onsite. Further hand tool training sessions are planned.</p> <p>Geophysical surveys taking place on sites such as Veyan Castle and Carn Beacon, 2 of the Monumental Improvement scheduled monument sites.</p> <p>There are Teacher Training Sessions planned in February and March – this is free training which will explore how teachers can capitalise on their local area for curriculum based studies and training and includes visits to local prehistoric sites.</p> <p>There is other training planned, talks to groups (both in person and online) and walks.</p> <p>4.6 Cornwall AONB Website transition – Melodie Manners provided a presentation to summarise the work of the website transition that is taking place. The website is currently hosted on Squarespace platform and will be moving to Word Press, which has greater functionality and control over template design options and will provide increased access digitally. The new website format will align with the colour and style of the new Management Plan.</p>	<p>G Williams/ I Rowe</p> <p>G Williams</p>
5	<p>AONB Unit Projects and Planning Update – a briefing paper was included with the agenda papers to provide an update on the work and activities that have taken place on the following projects and work streams:</p> <p>5.1 AONB Management Plan; AONB Monitoring; AONB Business Plan; Defra Additional Access Fund; Landscapes Review; NA AONB CEO Site Visit; SW Peatland Project; Linking the Lizard Partnership; Fal & Helford SAC Management Forum; Kerdroya (Emma)</p> <p>5.2 Planning (Jim and Louise)</p> <p>5.3 NEIRF, Cornwall AONB Trust; Art in the Landscape (Melodie)</p> <p>5.4 Penwith Landscape Partnership, Bee Healthy Bee Happy; Monuments Matter (MM); Cornish Hedge Working Group (Coralie)</p> <p>5.5 Monumental Improvements Project (Natalie)</p> <p>5.6 Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) (Sean)</p>	

6	<p>Presentations/Updates by Partners:</p> <p>6.1 RENEW project – by David Baker, ESI</p> <p>Renewing biodiversity through a people-in-nature approach. Funded by NERC, it is a 5 year programme and a collaboration between the University of Exeter and the National Trust. It is a huge project with 4 main themes. The RENEW programme will develop solutions to the renewal of biodiversity in the context of a changing environment.</p> <p>Understanding why communities aren't involved in nature; Changing things on the ground, giving guidance on land management to maximise biodiversity on the ground; Developing new tools to help the process in this improved way of working</p> <p>Several partners including RSPB, Natural England, Forestry England, NFU, Duchy of Cornwall, most of which are major data holders and the RENEW will bring all this data together into a huge database and mapping of current biodiversity.</p> <p>Objectives include how to integrate tools re planning; speaking to land managers and farmers to understand the factors that determine whether they are likely to uptake</p> <p>Renewal action plans will be designed working with farmer and land manager groups</p> <p>Habitat needs to be bigger, better and joined up.</p> <p>https://Renewbiodiversity.org.uk for more info</p> <p>Zoe Smith said they do similar work at Westcountry Rivers Trust but in a lower tech way. Zoe can put David in touch with any land managers in the team. Also the AONB Unit will meet with David to discuss linkages with AONB work and Emma Browning will arrange a meeting to also include Pip Hoskin regarding the Nature Recovery Network work.</p>	<p>Z Smith/ D Baker</p> <p>E Browning</p>
	<p>6.2 Cornwall Heritage Trust presentation – by Cathy Woolcock, CEO</p> <p>Cornwall Heritage Trust (CHT) was established in 1985. It is a Membership organisation, an independent charity, Trustee led and does not receive any external funding or part of a wider organisation. Based at Krowji in Redruth, 10 staff (many part-time).</p> <p>There is a heritage grant scheme, 98 projects have been funded in the last 5 years. All funded through Cornwall Heritage Trust. Offer bursaries for students to help pay for buses to enable travel out to the CHT sites.</p> <p>7 historic sites (Cornwall Heritage Trust owned) and manage 7 other sites for English Heritage. Treffry Viaduct and Caer Bran Hillfort are both on the Heritage at Risk register</p> <p>During the Covid lockdown CHT worked on a Recovery plan and will now work to evolve the Business Development Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caer Bran was purchased by CHT last year and aim to acquire more sites. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHT focusses on membership, volunteering, fundraising and heritage promotion • Members get free access to English Heritage sites • Countryside Ranger role has just been advertised. • Ecological Surveys of sites have recently been commissioned 	
7	<p>Round Table Partners were each asked to briefly update on their work within the AONB related to AONB Management Plan actions.</p> <p>Ann Reynolds, CC Historic Environment – working with Guild of Cornish Hedgers and Guild Craft Association to ascertain how many hedges there are, how they do hedging, working full time or just part of their role to build up a list of active crafters and current skills set. Guild of Cornish Hedgers are looking at whether Cornish hedges needs to be on their red list of skills. Let's Talk Cornwall survey will be available very soon.</p> <p>Colin Pringle, Cornwall Council – has just joined the Nature Recovery team and will be working on the project portfolio</p> <p>Edward Humber, NFU – involved in the new Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) Scheme announcement and how the changes are being dealt with by farmers.</p> <p>Ellie Inglis Woollock, Cornwall Council Planning & Sustainable Development – Climate Emergency Plan has been found sound by the Planning inspectorate and will now be reported for adoption by Cornwall Council.</p> <p>Gemma Finnegan, CRCC – mentioned the Tin Coast project</p> <p>Gwyn Williams, Cornwall Council Public Health – met with AONB Unit team members and has offered free Mental Health first aid training places to some FiPL farmer grant recipients. Healthy Cornwall training courses are available to anyone – please see https://www.healthycornwall.org.uk/training/workshops/ and onward share. Orange button scheme that has been launched by Cornwall Council to raise awareness of where people can get signposted for help with their mental health.</p> <p>Lawrie Sampson, FWAG – mentioned Forest for Cornwall working up agro forestry exemplar projects which are located in some of the AONB local sections. Farmland Bird Project - the bird surveys taking place on farms. Helping with Mid Tier applications</p> <p>Lucy Morris, Westcountry Rivers Trust – Transformer project that looks at nutrient neutrality in the River Camel. Citizen Scientific project is ongoing and keen to work with other AONB Partners to collaborate.</p> <p>Mark Camp, VisitCornwall – Malcolm Bell has stood down as CEO but is Chair of the Visit Cornwall Board. Emphasis on smaller businesses is the focus of the Board. Visit Cornwall website is being finalised and will include plenty of Cornwall AONB links.</p> <p>Mark Holmes, Cornwall Council Environmental Partnerships and Climate Change – LNP study to look at regulatory actions and responsibilities – evidence based info is being gathered regarding enforcement and this will be out soon</p>	

	<p>Sally Weston, WHS – currently doing reporting, responding to planning enquiries and involved on Council owned sites. Enys Men film: go and see it – the WHS will benefit from people attending the screenings</p> <p>Justin Whitehouse, National Trust – MI project work underway, FIPL work underway, Nick Lawrence, National Trust Assistant Director, South West is retiring later this year, has been involved in the AONB for several years.</p>	
8	<p>Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager Update – paper was circulated with the agenda papers.</p> <p>8.1 AONB Business Plan and Financial Forecasting – Business Plan will be reported to the next Exec Board meeting.</p> <p>8.2 Partnership Agreement – looking to update this and a swifter circulation of all partners signing the document. Partnership Agreement will be a 4 year Agreement to align with the Management Plan.</p> <p>8.3 Annual Report 2022/23 – will commence work on this soon and planning for circulation in May/June.</p>	
9	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) – an infographic had recently been produced collaboratively by Cornwall, Tamar and Isles of Scilly AONBs to provide data and stats of some key achievements of FiPL so far. It includes links to several farm case studies on the website for further information of projects supported to date.</p> <p>Request for Environment page articles from Partners - for new members that might not be aware, Karen Johns in the Cornwall AONB team, coordinates the weekly Environment page which features in the 3 Cornwall newspapers – West Briton, Cornish Guardian and Cornishman. Provides an excellent opportunity to share and showcase work taking place with AONB partners and AONB Unit projects and initiatives.</p> <p>Articles vary each week from 500 to 900 words with photos, mostly it is a full page so provides great publicity and awareness raising to readers. Weekly article so will be great to schedule in articles from more partners during the year and Karen will be in touch with partners to arrange.</p> <p>Cornwall AONB Podcast series - Melodie Manners mentioned the Podcast series which was recently launched in the run up to Christmas and is continuing and would be pleased to meet with partners and record a podcast.</p>	<p>K Johns</p> <p>All</p>
10	<p>Date & Time of next meetings</p> <p>26th April 2023, 2pm, online TEAMS</p> <p>3rd July 2023 – all day – in AONB and site visit – venue to be confirmed</p> <p>9th October 2023, 10am, online TEAMS</p>	