



Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Minutes of Cornwall AONB Partnership Meeting – Tuesday 4th October 2022, 10am, held at Rosuick Farm, St Martin, nr Helston

In attendance:

Partnership Members:

Gill Pipkin	Cornwall AONB Partnership Chairperson
Cllr Martyn Alvey	Cornwall Councillor
Lawrie Sampson	FWAG
Aletha Mays	South West Coast Path Association
David Baker	ESI/University of Exeter (joined meeting via TEAMS)
Zoe Smith	Westcountry Rivers Trust (joined meeting via TEAMS)

Supporting Officers:

Philippa Hoskin	Cornwall Council, Forest for Cornwall/Nature Recovery
Gwyn Williams	Cornwall Council, Public Health (joined meeting via TEAMS)
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
Coralie Barrow	Cornwall AONB Project Development Officer
Karen Johns	Cornwall AONB Office & Finance Manager
Natalie Haly	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Project Manager
Iain Rowe	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Engagement Officer
Linus Firth	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements, Archaeological Technician Apprentice
Sean O’Hea	Cornwall AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Engagement Officer
Iwona Brooks	Cornwall AONB FiPL Admin Officer
Dave Oates	Farmer, Rosuick Farm

Apologies:

Cllr Jennifer Cruse	Cornwall Council
Cllr Kate Ewert	Cornwall Council
Ann Preston-Jones	Historic England
Adam McKiernan & Corine Dyke	Natural England
Sally Weston	Cornish Mining World Heritage Site
Lucy Morris	Westcountry Rivers Trust
Gemma Finnegan	Cornwall Rural Community Charity
Mark Camp	Visit Cornwall
Justin Whitehouse	National Trust
Helen Rawe	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Lisa Goodall	Environment Agency
Elliot Hutt	Country Landowners Association
Sophie Johnson	Cornwall Association of Local Councils
Vicky Fraser	Cornwall Council, Environment & Connectivity Service Director
Mark Holmes	Cornwall Council, Environmental Partnerships & Climate Change
Ann Reynolds	Cornwall Council Historic Environment
Hannah Harris	Cornwall Council Transport
Hayley Jewells & Davina Pritchard	Cornwall Council Planning

Lily Gray
Cathy Woolcock
Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher
Emma Parkman
Tamsin Daniel

Cornwall AONB FiPL Admin Officer
Cornwall Heritage Trust
National Farmers' Union
Cornish Mining World Heritage Site
Cornwall Council, Historic Environment

		Action(s)
1	Welcome and 'Check in' to virtual platform for those joining via TEAMS – everyone was welcomed to the meeting including those joining online.	
2	Introductions and Apologies – The Chairperson asked all attendees to introduce themselves. Several apologies had been received which are listed above.	
3	Minutes of last meeting (26 May 2022) – minutes were agreed as an accurate record. All actions had been undertaken or underway.	
4	<p>Presentations by AONB Unit team:</p> <p>a) Introduction to new Monumental Improvements (MI) project team Natalie Haly provided an introduction to the new projects team. The MI project has been busy recruiting over the past few weeks. Linus starts on Monday as Archaeological Technician Apprentice and an Archaeology Officer is also about to be appointed. Iain started a few weeks ago as the new Activities Officer.</p> <p>MI Celebration Event week was held in Sept. An Archaeological Excavation took place at King Arthur's Hall, St Breward. A series of video diaries were filmed during the event which Natalie showed on the screen and are available to view on the Cornwall AONB website.</p> <p>Other events included Star Gazing session, partnering with the Dark Skies Volunteer – really successful as wonderful clear skies that evening. Film workshops held and the work captured will be exhibited in Bodmin Library.</p>	
	<p>b) Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) update including case studies – Sean O'Hea, FiPL Engagement Officer provided an update on the Cornwall AONB FiPL programme. FiPL has provided an ideal opportunity for the AONB to engage with farmers and landowners and offer funding for eligible projects. FiPL is Defra funded and the programme can be tailored to local priorities in the AONB Management Plan. FiPL looks for applications that align to the main priorities of People, Place, Nature, Climate.</p> <p>Try not to fund projects where other funds are available, particularly larger schemes such as Countryside Stewardship, also able to help farmers with the application process.</p> <p>Sean showed a slide depicting the project locations in the AONB, which is currently a good spread across each of the 12 areas of the AONB.</p> <p>The presentation included Case Studies such as supporting min-till, herbal leys and cover crops, which summarised what FiPL has funded such as machinery to establish herbal leys and cover crops, soil compaction monitoring and detailed some of the outcomes.</p>	

	<p>Another Case Study focussed on Natural Flood Management where a farmer was interested in creating a pond on the farm, fencing, new orchard, also FiPL team provided help on the application form filling process to provide support to farmers.</p> <p>Farming the Hedgerows Case Study detailed where a farmer is interested in restoring hedges which had been eroded by livestock, advice and guidance provided to the farmer, a farm woodland management plan and improved areas for wildlife and new public access are some of the planned outcomes.</p> <p>There are also links with the Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvement project where scheduled monument conservation is enabled.</p> <p>Herbal leys, Cover Crops; Mob-Grazing are key elements coming through in delivering the projects.</p> <p>There is £203,337 remaining to spend in the FiPL programme for Year 2 but the team are working hard with farmers and going through the applications to prioritise to ensure the funding will be spent by 31st March 2023.</p> <p>Philippa Hoskin reported that she sits on the FiPL Panel and wanted to congratulate the FiPL team and Lawrie Sampson from the outset on the delivery of the programme and some of the projects coming through are exemplary. FiPL is seen as local delivery of agri-environment and Philippa asked if anything is being done yet on potential continuation of FiPL or similar beyond the 3rd FiPL year? Is lobbying needed? Dave Oates is aware that the Nature Friendly Farming Network is actively encouraging farmers to lobby MPs.</p> <p>Emma said that she is aware that nationally, FIPL has been very well received. NAAONB were to be in discussions with Government, and not sure if this is still continuing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sean, Emma and Philippa will meet to draft a letter for the AONB Partnership to send to the 6 Cornwall MPs. Also liaise with Dan at Tamar Valley AONB. <p>Farm Diversification Fund/Rural Prosperity Fund was mentioned – Cornwall has been awarded an additional £5million for investment in the rural area which is extra to the Shared Prosperity Fund. Martyn Alvey said it is in early stages, will be in Martyn's portfolio to be responsible for. There is no administration money that comes with it. The same Expression of Interest form will be used as is used currently for the Shared Prosperity Fund. Targeted at rural communities in general e.g. village halls, rural food manufacturers, so strictly rural but wider than just farmers. Expected to commence 1st April 2023. Martyn added that it is planned to be easily accessible by all so anyone can apply if they have a relevant project.</p>	AONB Unit/ P Hoskin
	<p>c) NEIRF Lizard Protected Landscapes Investment Bank/ New Project: The Lizard – Farm for Nature</p> <p>Melodie Manners provided a presentation on the NEIRF project. Melodie has been leading on this blended finance and private investment project of which Dave Oates, farmer at Rosuick Farm is one of the group of farmers that has been involved.</p> <p>This project has focussed on Section 08 South Coast Western, but it is planned to widen out to the other areas of the AONB. Investment ready is a long process, but upskilling and learning so far has been beneficial.</p>	

	<p>Practical and natural side of the project has been possible with help of the consultants – Gain Consultancy and University of Exeter as well as the lead consultancy, Terranomics.</p> <p>The CAONB Trust potentially acting as an intermediary or facilitator has been investigated as part for the project to see if the Trust could and is ready to take on the role and the necessary procedures and upskilling that would be required to enable that.</p> <p>Advice provided during the project has supplemented the advice available through agri-environment. Landscape Management Framework has been developed. One of the findings of the project is that for every £1 of investment there would be a £3 return on ecosystem goods and services.</p> <p>The project worked with Forestry Commission and Soil Association. Woodland Carbon Code was looked into as a good money earner, but currently new woodland creation would mean taking farmland out of production which wasn't feasible. But there are benefits of such schemes as agro-forestry and others which will be looked into.</p> <p>Legacy of the project – successful bid for Seedcorn Funding has resulted in funding provided by Natural England. The Seedcorn funding will be used for a desktop study and a practical stage such as sowing 8 hectares of herbal leys seed and this project is also working with FiPL. The Seedcorn funding – Lizard Farm for Nature project runs until 31 March 2023.</p> <p>NEIRF project is complex, and not easy to understand so Melodie has been working on how to report on this on the website to give information on the overview, aims and objectives and a video and also all the outputs of the project will be added to the website.</p> <p>Explaining and getting across the ethics of carbon for example is important to portray and get the message across that it is not just about generating large income.</p> <p>➤ Gwyn raised the opportunity of collaborating and working with Public Health to help work with farmers who are often isolated or suffering mental health – FiPL team would be keen to work together on this.</p> <p>Martyn Alvey said he is aware that the Council's Animal Health team (Jonathan McCulloch) is pulling together a mental health group to work with the wider farming community so</p> <p>➤ Would be useful for Gwyn to link in with the Animal Health team.</p>	<p>AONB Unit/ Public Health</p> <p>Public Health</p>
	<p>d) Cornwall AONB Trust – new Chairperson – Melodie reported that the current Chairperson of the independent Charity Trust has stepped down. The role has been advertised and hope to report on a new Chairperson being appointed very soon.</p>	
5	<p>Cornwall AONB Exec Board brief summary update</p> <p>5.1 Defra AONB Core Additional Funding – Access – Defra has offered additional funding AONBs to spend by 31 March 2023, then no funding in Year 2, but funding again will be offered in Year 3 (2024/25). In tight timescale £76,000 has been offered to spend on Capital access projects and the AONB Unit team has submitted their project proposals on 9 Sept but not heard anything further from Defra yet.</p>	

	<p>5.2 Landscapes Review – Defra undertook a large consultation earlier in the year and a lot of responses were received. Defra have split into different sub groups to discuss different elements, and the NAAONB has been involved in reporting on Defra’s discussions by producing a prospectus which is now with AONBs for information and will also be sent to the Secretary of State. So this is ongoing.</p> <p>5.3 Partnership Agreement – was for 21/22 and the Exec Board has been asked to look at the current Agreement to see if any additional information or context needs to be added.</p> <p>5.4 Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) application – this fund is aimed at creating jobs and improving skill-sets: the AONB Unit intends to apply for funding for job roles in the AONB Unit: 2 Volunteer co-ordinators, 1 business admin, 1 archaeological apprenticeship role; and a communication/social media and engagement role, this will be submitted at the beginning of next financial year. Also looking at working up an application for improvements and maintenance of the Minions former mining heritage building on Bodmin Moor as a visitor centre etc.</p>	
6	<p>Presentations/Updates by Partners:</p> <p>a) Open Spaces Partnership – Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher, NFU Patrick was unwell and sent apologies. Emma mentioned the OS Partnership which was set up during Covid where the group got together to discuss wild camping, other anti-social issues, and the group has been reformed recently as the Open Spaces Partnership which is a group of a range of partners led by the Police to discuss issues which will highlight any similar issues and key issues happening in several areas in Cornwall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Open Spaces Partnership to be on the agenda for the next Partnership meeting so Patrick can talk further about this. ➤ Would be useful for Cornwall Council to be represented on the OS Partnership if it isn’t already, particularly for the operational teams responsible for sites. <p>Marine and Coastal code group – Philippa mentioned this similar group. ERCCIS has developed a database to monitor marine wildlife crime and issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Action – Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher and Emma Browning to take to next Open Spaces meeting <p>Natalie mentioned the heritage reporting group that has a rep in areas of Cornwall that report and discuss any crime to heritage features, sites etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ AONB Unit will link this group to the other groups to raise awareness they all exist to promote working together. <p>b) Local Nature Recovery Strategy and new funding for farmers/landowners via Forest for Cornwall - Philippa Hoskin, Cornwall Council – Philippa provided a presentation. Last year Cornwall Council declared an Ecological Emergency in parity with the declared Climate Emergency and recognised the seriousness that Councillors etc need to be aware of, showing the commitment by Cornwall Council.</p> <p>Nature is in crisis in Cornwall, rates of extinctions, loss of habitats. The UK is one of the most nature depleted places in the world. State of Nature report was commissioned a few years ago and sadly Cornwall’s stats are mirroring the trends of the UK in the loss and</p>	<p>P Aubrey-Fletcher</p> <p>AONB Unit/ P Hoskin</p> <p>P Aubrey-Fletcher/ AONB Unit</p> <p>AONB Unit</p>

	<p>declining species and habitats. State of Nature report is on the Cornwall Wildlife Trust website.</p> <p>Environmental Key Performance Indicators have been published. The protection of the landscape with the various designations is helping, but Cornwall needs to grow nature. 80% of land in Cornwall is farmed so there is huge opportunity for nature friendly farming.</p> <p>Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) were brought in and Cornwall has prepared one and it has been developed with the communities and people of Cornwall to enable ownership rather than it just being a top down Strategy.</p> <p>Spatial allocations for nature is included in the Climate Emergency DPD.</p> <p>The baseline data showed 20.7% of land was well managed for nature in 2018 and the target is 30%</p> <p>The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership (LNP) is responsible for the LNRS.</p> <p>Forest for Cornwall – Philippa highlighted ‘Our Offer to You and Landowners’ is the 3 year plan: Woodland Creation Partnership - £2.45m to facilitate canopy creation; Trees and Woodland fund £1.67m to plant 235Ha across 125 sites (free consultancy, grant applications and tree funding); Agroforestry Exemplar Projects – full funding for variety of projects, £778k for 10 projects with a target of 150Ha.</p> <p>Encourage anyone interested to Express an Interest through ‘contact us’ page of Forest for Cornwall website pages and the team will get in touch as soon as they can.</p> <p>KPIs – Sean O’Hea mentioned that he had recently met with Nature Recovery team to discuss KPIs for FiPL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cornwall AONB and Nature Recovery and Forest for Cornwall to ensure there is an integrated approach and joint working on all the KPIs. ➤ David Baker, ESI mentioned a new project/initiative and will be good for David to provide a presentation on this at a future AONB Partnership meeting. <p>Cornwall AONB Unit has recently joined as a representative on the Forest for Cornwall Partnership attending their meetings.</p>	<p>AONB Unit/ P Hoskin</p> <p>AONB Unit/ D Baker</p>
	<p>c) Cornwall Farmland Bird project – Lawrie Sampson, FWAG provided a presentation. It is a 2 year project, running until 2023 and funded through Steel Charitable Trust and is helping farmers to understand what wildlife is using their land. Volunteer bird surveyors are trained to collect data on participating farms; volunteers meet farmers and conduct surveys; survey data is used by Lawrie to give conservation advice.</p> <p>The vision of the project is a network of farmers, bird watchers and advisors that contribute to knowledge about what birds use our landscapes and land management actions that benefit them.</p>	

	<p>3 Training and advisory events had been held, 2 bird surveys completed on each of 15 farms with 82 species recorded in total. Advisory reports and visits being completed and bespoke voluntary bird conservation plans being prepared for farms.</p> <p>Some farms have been applying for Countryside Stewardship applications and Lawrie has been able to help offer advice on that.</p> <p>One farmer so far has connected with Cornwall Barn Owls Project to have a nest box installed.</p> <p>➤ Dave Oates mentioned working with Lawrie and the National Trust and they will discuss further.</p>	Dave Oates/ L Sampson
	<p>d) Coast Path Connections Project – Aletha Mays, South West Coast Path Association</p> <p>This is a new 2 year project, £220,000 National Lottery Funded project, and is about bringing coastal walking to new audiences. There will be a project officer working 4 days per week in the Cornwall Hub. Recruit and train volunteers who will act as walk leaders, points of contact, helping to bring people out and about onto the coast path, showing them the nature and heritage and experience the coast path can offer.</p> <p>Couch to Coast was a project encouraging over 55s to build up their walking of the coast path, working with other partners such as Wildlife Trust. The new Coast Path Connections project is a follow on from the Couch to Coast.</p> <p>➤ The AONB Unit and South West Coast Path Association will link up to discuss joint working and awareness raising opportunities.</p> <p>Gwyn Williams asked if South West Coast Path have linked with Active Cornwall? Aletha is aware that South West Coast Path has been working with Active Devon on the Couch to Coast project so is sure they will.</p> <p>➤ Gwyn will also let Natalie Haly know the contact for Active Cornwall as Natalie not been able to get in touch with them.</p>	<p>AONB Unit/ SWCPA</p> <p>G Williams</p>
7	<p>AONB Unit Projects and Planning Update - briefing paper included with the agenda papers – the following matters were raised/discussed:</p> <p>7.1 Planning (Jim and Louise) – Jim welcomed Louise, who joined the AONB Unit team in August, which means there is now a full time equivalent planning resource for the AONB.</p> <p>Louise worked for Dartmoor National Park for 15 years in development management and also involved in determining applications.</p> <p>Jim also formally asked his thanks are noted on record to the 2 planning volunteers, John Sloper and Mike Dixon who both provide great support with planning site visits and planning admin.</p> <p>Meudon Hotel development has been refused which the AONB raised objection to. The Rame Head agricultural building – appeal was dismissed recently.</p>	

	<p>Dave Oates mentioned planning permission for farmers wanting to create ponds as it is not included within permitted development. It is often more expensive for farmers to obtain planning permission than the amount of funding received for the creation of the pond.</p> <p>➤ Philippa Hoskin will raise with the LNP as they often raise such issues up the line to ask questions.</p> <p>7.2 NEIRF, Cornwall AONB Trust; Art in the Landscape (Melodie) – no further update</p> <p>7.3 Penwith Landscape Partnership, Bee Healthy Bee Happy; Monuments Matter (MM); Cornish Hedge Working Group (Coralie)</p> <p>That's Our Parish project is now moving forward as Kath Statham (formerly CC) has now become involved in this in her new role with Cornwall Environmental Consultants so this is positive news.</p> <p>The Monuments Matter programme has been challenging particularly to recruit people onto the course but it has also been very worthwhile to those that have joined and attend the course to hear their feedback and how beneficial they have found it.</p> <p>7.4 Monumental Improvements Project (Natalie) – no further update</p> <p>7.5 Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) (Sean) - no further update</p> <p>7.6 AONB Management Plan; Kerdroya; SW Peatland Project; Linking the Lizard (Emma)</p> <p>State of the AONB Report – this was contracted to Land Use Consultants and produced as part of the Management Plan Review process and Emma is pleased to announce that LUC submitted it for a Landscape Institute Award and it has been shortlisted which is good news.</p>	P Hoskin
8	<p>Round Table</p> <p>This will be an opportunity for Partners to briefly provide an update on their work within the AONB related to AONB Management Plan actions.</p> <p>A 'dashboard' will be developed by Emma Browning so partners can update on progress against Management Plan actions in future.</p> <p>Martyn Alvey reported that he has noticed people referring to the new Management Plan so they are aware of it and making reference to it, but it is still an advisory document. Jim confirmed they are discussing with Cornwall Council Planning Officers with a view to making it SPD.</p>	
9	Any other Business – none.	
10	Date & Time of next meeting – Monday 30th January 2023, 10.30-12.30 online TEAMS	All Partners