

Cornwall AONB Partnership

# Annual Report

# 2018 -2019

60  
years



1959 - 2019



Ranndir a Dekter  
Naturek a Vri Kernow

Cornwall  
Area of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty



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# Foreword

**Another busy year for the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty where we have successfully delivered a wide range of initiatives through partnership working; with the increasing pressures facing our fragile landscape it is reassuring to be able to report on the successful delivery of a range of projects that support the priorities for collaboration set out in the Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2016-2021.**

We are now almost half way through the Management Plan Cycle and the AONB Unit has been working hard to continue to deliver the purposes contained within the Plan. I am pleased to report that the AONB Partnership has now grown from the original 16 organisations set out in the Management Plan to 22 partners who now help to steer and implement the actions set out in the Plan.

The Partnership meets three times a year and uses the Management Plan as a framework around which to discuss delivery. 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 small team of officers that make up the Cornwall AONB Unit support the Partnership as well as successfully delivering a wide range of projects as you will see as you delve further into this Annual Report.

We continue to live in challenging times with uncertainty surrounding our future funding settlement from Defra and we wait with bated breath the outcome of the Glover Review of Designated Landscapes which is due to be released in early Autumn 2019. An update from the National Associations of AONB's considers that the collective response delivered to the Review in early 2019 was well received by Julian Glover, the author of the Review, but only time will tell whether the recommendations from the Review deliver a positive

outcome for the future of the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Cornwall AONB Trust has now been established for over two years and has already supported a range of community projects through its Environment Landscape Fund (ELF) providing grants of up to £500 to support a range of projects that help to conserve and enhance the Cornwall AONB. It has been very rewarding to see our independent Trust grow and help support the important work of the AONB Partnership and Staff Unit.



Gill Pipkin  
Chair of the Cornwall AONB Partnership



# Core Activity

## Cornwall AONB Management Plan

The Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2016-2021 was formally adopted by Cornwall Council back in May 2016. The whole plan is structured around the themes of 'People' and 'Place' and lists 26 actions for delivery by the Cornwall AONB Partnership. In addition to the actions, the Plan also includes a section on 'Strategic Policies' to direct best practice management across the whole AONB. The Plan has a chapter for each of the 12 'Local Sections' that make up the Cornwall AONB – these detail the landscape characteristics that make each section special and unique and outlining policies individual to the sections see:

[www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/management-plan](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/management-plan)

## Planning

The Cornwall AONB Partnership is a non-statutory consultee on planning matters within the AONB. This role is delivered by the AONB Unit which is typically consulted on approximately 1,750 applications within the 12 areas of the AONB each year.

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. The AONB Unit has appreciably grown this service to both better inform development proposals and to provide an income stream. 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.

The planning Position Statement and charging scheme for the Cornwall AONB Pre Application Consultation can be downloaded from

[www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/planning/](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/planning/)

## The Cornwall AONB Trust begins to blossom

The Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Trust (the Trust) was registered with the Charity Commissioners in Spring 2017 (Charity No. 1172467) as an independent Trust providing opportunities for businesses in relation to landscape and environment and for individuals to help conserve and protect the landscape and environment of the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Cornwall AONB Trust has been founded in the 21st Century to address the wide range of external pressures now faced from all directions by our fragile Cornish

landscape and environment. Five Trustees continue to lay down firm foundations to ensure the Trust is well equipped to face future demands from both fiscal and environmental pressures. September 2018 saw the official launch of the Cornwall AONB Trust at Healey's Cider Farm alongside University of Exeter Tevi Project launch. The AONB Trust also launched its Environment Landscape Fund (ELF) which seeks to enable local organisations, communities and businesses to deliver projects.

[www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/charity](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/charity)

# Projects

## First and Last - at the end of the land

It's a very exciting time for the Penwith Landscape Partnership since being awarded a stage 2 pass from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in early 2018. The project aims to achieve a **"resilient living, working Penwith landscape where farming prospers while protecting natural resources, restoring habitat connectivity and enhancing archaeological heritage; a landscape that is loved, enjoyed and supported by local communities and visitors."**

The Cornwall AONB Unit is leading on two project strands within the programme - 'That's Our Parish' will work with 11 parishes in West Penwith to deliver Local Landscape Character Assessments for their Parish. 'Outstanding Penwith' will establish a volunteer programme to work across all 13 projects that make up the Penwith Landscape Partnership.

[www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/  
penwith-landscape-partnership](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/penwith-landscape-partnership)

[www.penwithlandscape.com/](http://www.penwithlandscape.com/)



## Project Factfile

1

Volunteer handbook and health and safety leaflet published

*A 'People and Communities' Group established to provide ongoing support for 'That's Our Parish' and 'Outstanding Penwith'*

1

Training arranged through the project which so far has included outdoor first aid training, Introduction to Archaeological Survey, Farm Bird Identification Workshop and a Cornish Hedge course

Cornwall Environmental Consultants contracted to help 11 parishes in Penwith undertake Local Landscape Character Assessments

28

Volunteer sessions held

90

people now signed up on the PLP volunteer database, with approx.

40

actively volunteering

In total

**3,000** metres

(3kms) of footpath have been improved/cleared in the first year

A total of

**87**

volunteer days,

equivalent to £4,350 and a cumulative value of **£11,700** since volunteering tasks commenced in mid-August 18

## Sites improved in 2018/19 include:

- Mulfra Vean Settlement - now a much larger site than thought.
- Mulfra Hill barrows
- Tregeseal common - Entrance grave exposed after many years. Clear around barrows and holed stones
- Chûn Castle clearance
- Bosulow Tryhyllis work to clear site now almost finished
- Mill Farm Bosigran - cleared around ancient farm site with National Trust





# Bodmin Moor peatlands restored in ambitious 3 moors project

The moors of Bodmin, Dartmoor and Exmoor hold significant regional and national deposits of peat in the form of blanket bogs and valley mires. These wetland habitats are complex ecosystems that support diverse and unique ecology of national and international importance. The demise of such wetlands across extensive swathes of the moors has resulted in changes in the moorland ecology, including the loss of iconic species such as dunlin, golden plover and curlew. The challenge is to prevent further losses and halt the decline, while improving and restoring these habitats.

The Cornwall AONB Unit has been working in partnership with South West Water, supporting the successful £2 million bid to Defra for a three-year project to restore peatland on the South West's moors. South West Water will now work in Partnership with regional and local organisations, including the Cornwall AONB, to restore 1,680 hectares of damaged peatland on Bodmin Moor, Dartmoor and Exmoor.

[www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/  
bodmin-moor-peatlands-restoration](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/bodmin-moor-peatlands-restoration)

## Project Factfile

### Sites on Bodmin Moor completed in 2018/19

Park Pitt at

20

hectares

and  
Blackadon  
Moor at

15

hectares

Total restoration aimed for on  
Bodmin Moor to March 2021  
is

128.09

hectares at a cost of

£206,825









# Historic sites in the AONB are set for a Monumental improvement!

'A Monumental Improvement' will deliver Management Plan Action N to enable us to better understand and safeguard our 'at risk' and vulnerable Scheduled Monuments working in partnership with landowners and local communities. Thanks to Historic England and a network of local conservation groups across the AONB we have significantly developed the project during 2018/19.

In March 2018, the Cornwall AONB was awarded a £9,700 grant from Historic England to develop a project to increase our understanding and awareness of the needs of our Scheduled Monuments across some of Cornwall's most outstanding landscapes. With the support of the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, four training sessions were held with Truro College Archaeology students, 'Timeseekers', Cornwall Archaeological Society, Lizard Archaeology Network, Meneage Archaeology Group, Rame Conservation Trust and Caradon Archaeology to build surveying skills and knowledge and to enable groups to shape the project. Following this work, we have prioritised 40 Monuments to be included in a funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2019 for an extensive programme of site restoration and improvement.



# Project Factfile

118

Scheduled Monuments  
visited and surveyed

40

sites prioritised with project  
partners and an outline  
programme of works costing

## Funding

£9,700

secured and invested  
by Historic England

£30,000

further secured  
from Historic England

*In Kind funding*

secured from  
Camborne School  
of Mines (surveying)  
and £1k from  
National Trust for  
Gunwalloe Cliff  
Castle

£250

secured from  
St Breward  
Community Fund

£17,346

secured via Rame  
Conservation Trust /  
Historic England

7

*Historic Sites'  
Management  
Improved*

- King Arthur's Hall
- Bodmin Moor
- Redoubts 1, 2, 3 and 5
- Maker Heights
- Stowe's Pound Bodmin
- Bearah Tor Bodmin

4

College visits held

*People involved...*

65

people  
trained  
across

4

venues

30

people volunteering across the  
AONB area from Truro College  
and 5 community groups

21

landowners actively engaged  
in the project's feasibility

10

presentations given to community  
groups/Parish Councils

[www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/monumental-improvement](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/monumental-improvement)

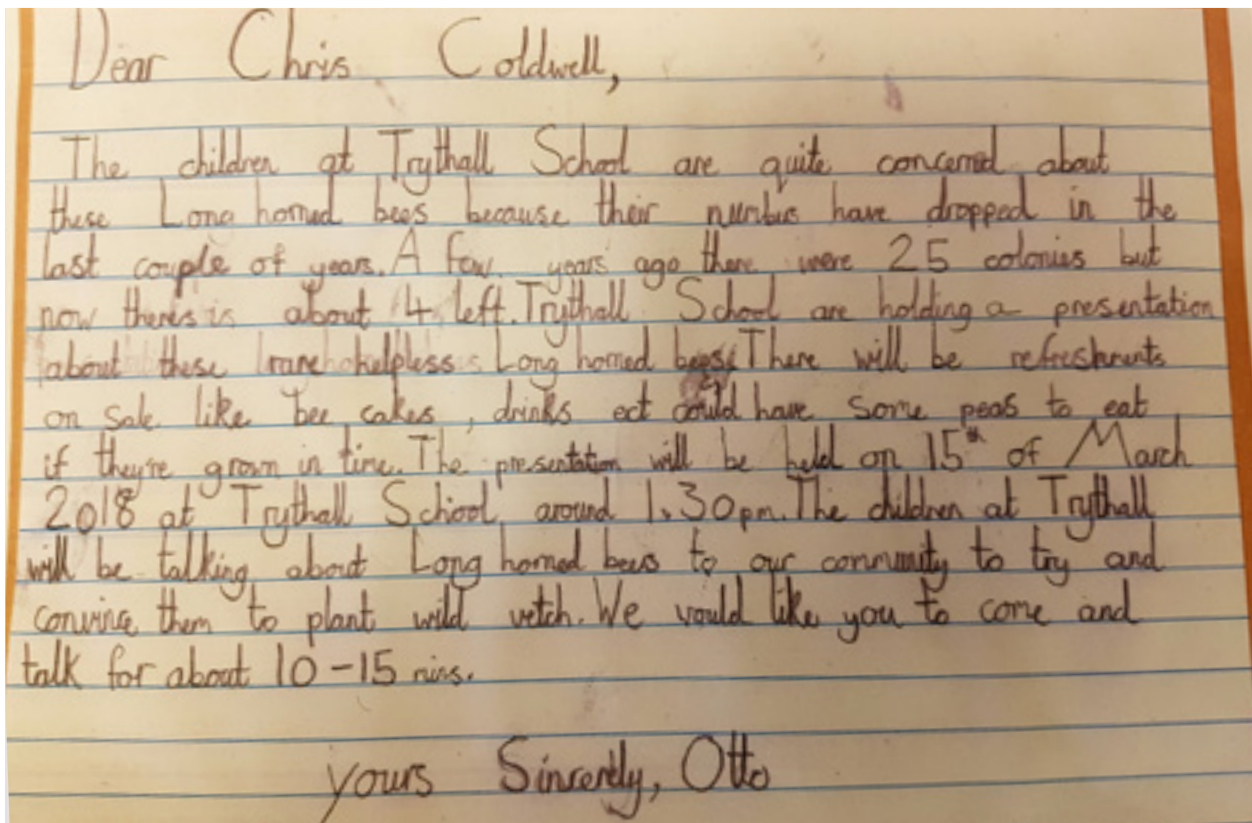




# Wheal Buzzy gets busy

Cornwall AONB is nationally significant for Bees. Our mine sites are of great importance for Solitary Bees (mining bees) in particular the bare ground and early successional grassland or heathland on the disturbed spoil of the workings. Many sites have been excluded from intensive agricultural practises, retaining their semi – natural, flower rich habitats. The National Lottery Heritage Funded (NLHF) Wheal Buzzy Project primary aim is to support our unique Bee population. We will achieve this through inspiring landowners across the AONB to make

positive management changes to improve habitat for mining (Solitary Bees). By engaging with the public to improve community space for bees, and undertake bee surveys. Wheal Buzzy is also working with Schools to make improvements in their grounds to be more Bee Friendly, developing educational resources and facilitating School and College visits to mine sites. Concurrently regularly guided Bee Healthy Walks will be facilitating visitors and locals alike to appreciate and benefit from the AONB areas.



## Project Factfile

**Project Ecologist  
Procured**

19

talks and presentations engaging  
with a total of **311 people**

## Funding

**£56,000**

secured from  
National Lottery  
Heritage Fund,  
April 2018

### *In Kind funding*

secured from St Enodoc Golf Club (seed),  
National Trust and Jeremy McAuliffe; Mayn  
Creative (photography/video work), Kernow  
Ecology (additional grant funded time worth £5k)

64

volunteer  
days (488  
hours with 73  
volunteers)

**0.8 FTE Project  
Officer appointed**  
June 2018

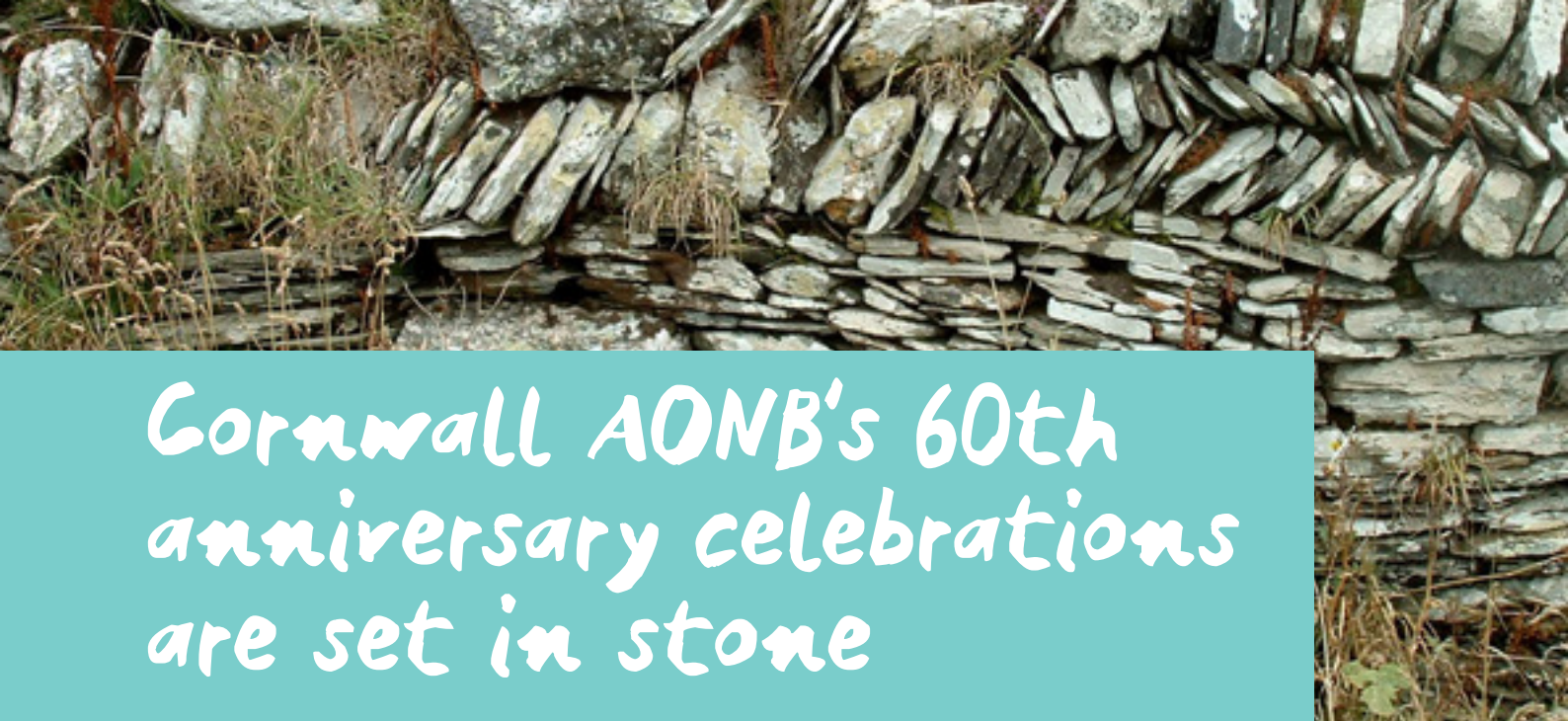
15

organised  
walks with  
**159**  
individuals

New sites added through the National Trust for  
meadow restoration to bring total restored to

**47.67** hectares

[www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/wheal-buzzy](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/wheal-buzzy)



# Cornwall AONB's 60th anniversary celebrations are set in stone

Kerdroya is Golden Tree Production's successful bid to the Cornwall AONB's commission to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Cornwall AONB in 2019. Kerdroya is designed to celebrate the role of the Cornish hedge in the AONB landscape, involving our local communities and delivering training and tourism benefits. The finale of Kerdroya will be the construction, in 2020, of an amazing Labyrinth sited on Bodmin Moor, built from all of the different types of stone and pattern of Cornish Hedge that we find across Cornwall.

The Kerdroya Community Hedge Project embraces all 12 sections of the Cornwall AONB and consists of a 12-site trail of restored hedges, which will encourage local people and visitors to explore all 12 sections of the Cornwall AONB from Rame Head and Hartland in the east of the Duchy to West Penwith in the far west of the UK and the Lizard (South Coast Western) in the south. The Kerdroya project is designed with and for our local communities to deliver increased use, enjoyment and appreciation of the outstanding landscapes of Cornwall to improve the health and well-being of local people and our visitors.

## Project Factfile

### Funding

**£59,300** secured from National Lottery Heritage Fund

**£200,000**  
secured in principle from Highways England

**£250,000**  
secured in principle from Cornwall Council

**10** people actively involved through the Quarterly Stakeholder Group

**7** landowners/Property Managers involved to-date on the 12 sites

**Kerdroya Community Hedge Project**

**Manager** appointed by GoldenTree





[www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/kerdroya](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/kerdroya)

[goldentree.org.uk/portfolios/kerdroya-cornish-hedge-community-heritage-project/](http://goldentree.org.uk/portfolios/kerdroya-cornish-hedge-community-heritage-project/)





# Supporting sustainable routes into the AONB from Cremyll and Plymouth

Working with our partners Cornwall Council and Sustrans, who undertook a feasibility study in summer 2017 to develop a network of cycle routes in SE Cornwall including a route from Looe to Cremyll Quay, we have been supporting efforts to secure funding for part of this route. In March our expression of interest for an initial section of this route between Cremyll Quay and Cawsand/Kingsand was encouraged for a full application. This bid is in partnership with Cornwall Council and has been developed with the support of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, the Rame Conservation Trust and Deviock Parish Council. The route will connect the historic Cremyll Ferry through Mount Edgcumbe Country Park to Cawsand/Kingsand, encouraging visitors from Plymouth to explore more of the Rame Head section of the AONB as well as supporting sustainable transport links for local residents. A decision on the full application should be made in June 2019.



# Around the Partnership

## AONBs are under review

During summer and autumn 2018, the Cornwall AONB Partnership held a series of workshops to produce its evidence to the Government's 'Glover Review of Designated Landscapes'. Among the main asks from the Partnership were increased planning protections, greater resourcing and an increased focus on supporting biodiversity.

[www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/blog/2019/2/1/the-glover-review-of-designated-landscapes](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/blog/2019/2/1/the-glover-review-of-designated-landscapes)

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## Plantlife - Building Resilience in South West Atlantic Woodlands



This influential three and a half year HLF funded project partnership is being led by Plantlife, with the Cornwall AONB a supporting 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.

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.

[www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/building-resilience-in-south-west-woodlands](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/building-resilience-in-south-west-woodlands)

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## Butterfly Conservation - All the Moor Butterflies



The Cornwall AONB Partnership is a supporting partner and match funder of this National Lottery Heritage Funded project to understand and support populations of fritillary butterflies and the 'Narrow Bordered Bee Hawkmoth' on Bodmin Moor, Dartmoor and Exmoor.

Through effective monitoring of larval webs through staff and volunteers, Butterfly Conservation has doubled the number of known Marsh Fritillary colonies on Bodmin Moor. Habitat enhancement works have been delivered by volunteers on a former Marsh Fritillary site and in early 2019, larvae had recolonised after an absence of 12 years.



Volunteers have also carried out habitat management works on five Pearl-bordered Fritillary sites. This work has improved the habitat condition of these sites and helped create good working relationships with the landowners. This work has delivered large improvements to the Pearl-bordered Fritillary habitat and there are signs that the butterfly numbers are increasing as a result.

[butterfly-conservation.org/our-work/conservation-projects/england/all-the-moor-butterflies](https://butterfly-conservation.org/our-work/conservation-projects/england/all-the-moor-butterflies)



## West Country Rivers Trust – Water for Growth

Through Water for Growth (W4G), Westcountry Rivers Trust and its partners are working to improve stocks of migratory fish such as salmon and sea trout in the rivers Camel and Fowey in Cornwall. The aim of W4G is to improve upstream and downstream fish passage, in river and bankside environments, and spawning habitats resulting in an increase of juvenile salmon and sea trout.

Successes so far include the completion of fish passage improvements to four barriers in Cornwall AONB catchments helping to reopen access to pristine spawning grounds and restore natural river function. Proposals for improvements at a further four barriers are in development. The project has also developed a 'Fish Pass' app for anglers which enables easy licensing and records live data on fish catches. W4G is funded by the European Union Structural Development Fund and in partnership with the Environment Agency, Natural England, and South West Water.

[wrt.org.uk/project/water-for-growth/](http://wrt.org.uk/project/water-for-growth/)

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## King Arthur's Hall gets a renovation



Commissioned by Historic England, Cornwall Archaeological Unit undertook a programme of conservation work on six 'at risk' Scheduled Monuments in Cornwall between July 2018 and March 2019, including at King Arthur's Hall, one of the most impressive monuments on Bodmin Moor.

Owing to severe erosion in the past, the site was fenced off to prevent erosion and grazing within the fenced area was managed successfully for many years. But diminishing stock numbers over the last ten years has led to the monument becoming very overgrown and the large granite slabs lining the interior mostly masked by scrub.

Two sessions of scrub clearance were carried out with help from the Cornwall AONB team, TimeSeekers, Cornwall Archaeological Society, Cornwall Strategic Historic Environment, Natural England and Cornwall Archaeological Unit. Altogether seventeen people attended the first session and fourteen the second, resulting in almost all scrub being cleared from the banks.

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## 80 Year Old St Mawes Ferry gets a Dazzling New Paint Job



Fal River Cornwall have commissioned local artist Kleiner Shames to transform an 80 year old ferry into an extraordinary floating work of art. The new paint job, which will be revealed and launched during Fal River Festival is said to be inspired by 'Dazzle Camouflage' of the First World War. Unlike other forms of camouflage, 'dazzle' is characterised by brilliant, glaring geometric patterns and was used on warships to confuse the enemy, making it difficult to estimate a target's range, speed and direction.

The striking new dazzle ferry and accompanying on-board exhibition will reveal and celebrate many

surprising layers of wartime history associated with the river, and the St Mawes Ferry itself. Built in 1939, The May Queen (commonly known as The St Mawes Ferry) celebrates her 80th Birthday in 2019. The new work of art will also pay homage to the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings and the critical role of the River Fal as an embarkation for thousands of troops, armour, equipment and supplies to the battlefields of Northern France.

The Dazzle Ferry project was supported by FEAST, Arts Council England and Cornwall Council.

[www.falriver.co.uk/dazzleferry](http://www.falriver.co.uk/dazzleferry)

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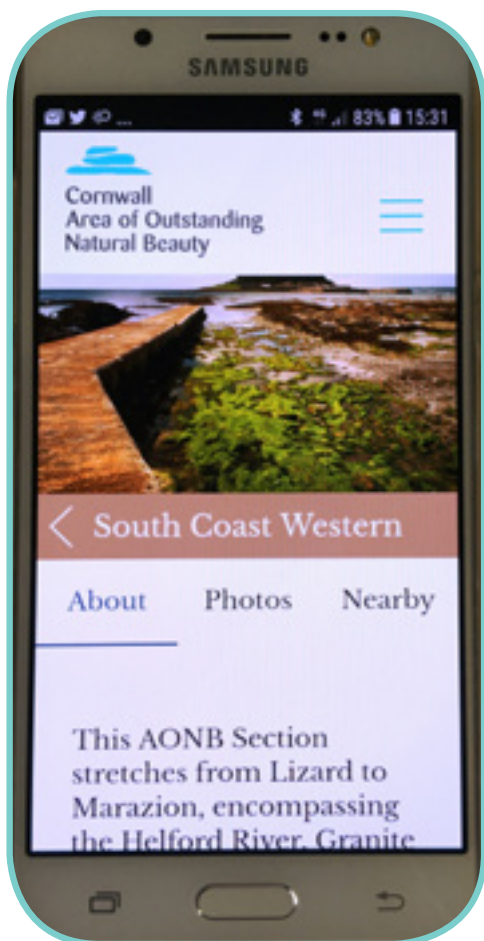


# Communications

## Communication is key

The team have been busy through the year communicating the special qualities of the protected landscape and helping to promote the great work from the wider Partnership. The Unit has continued to curate our weekly 'Environment News', a half page spread in the West Briton, The Cornishman and Cornish Guardian and have contributed a monthly article in Cornwall Life magazine. Twitter followers have topped the 3.5k mark and close to 2k on Cornwall AONB Facebook. This year an Instagram account was also added which is steadily building support. The team have also added a new 'projects' section to the website. The public receive regular updates on activity through our regular 'Latest News' blog and our e-news 'Tir Teg'.

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## Cornwall AONB goes digital with a new app

Officially launched on 5th November 2018, the Cornwall AONB App is available for both Android and Apple i mobile devices. The App automatically links to both the Cornwall AONB website and the Visit Cornwall website where both visitors and residents can access useful information relating to the twelve local sections of the Cornwall AONB, what to do and where to stay. The App continues to be developed with new updated information being regularly updated. The App aims to promote the Cornwall AONB and engage new and existing audiences on this new platform as well as assisting members of the public who may be planning to visit Cornwall.

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## Website continues to grow

The Cornwall AONB team continue to improve and develop the information on the website <https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/>. Between 01 April 2018 and 18 March 2019 the website received 26.4K visits from 28.2K individuals, up 22% from the same period on 2017/18.

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## Students look at the AONB through a different lens

2018/19 is the second year we have worked with the final year students studying the BA Applied Media Course at Truro and Penwith College. Each year as a final assignment, the students are invited to attend a client brief, they then have to go away and produce a piece of work that meets the client's requirements. This year, in light of the 60th Anniversary of the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty the students were encouraged to research and utilise a range of photographic methods to portray a 21st century vision of the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



## Annual Conference focuses on farming

The Cornwall AONB hosted its 2018 conference, 'The Future of the Farmed Environment in Cornwall' on 14th April at the Royal Cornwall Showground in Wadebridge. The focus of the event was on discussing the future of agriculture post-Brexit, with a packed programme of speakers in the morning, followed by a series of case study visits to farms across North Cornwall in the afternoon. It was a busy and very successful day with over 190 delegates attending.



The keynote morning speakers began with George Eustice MP, then Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who talked about the government's 25 year Environment Plan and the future of farm payments that will move to a system of payments for farms contributing to public goods such as biodiversity, beauty, carbon storage and water management.

[www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/  
blog/2018/5/1/the-future-of-the-farmed-  
environment-in-cornwall](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/blog/2018/5/1/the-future-of-the-farmed-environment-in-cornwall)



*During 18/19 the Cornwall AONB Unit provided advice and support to the following groups:*

- Cornwall AONB Trust
  - Wild Roseland
  - Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Association
  - Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Technical Panel
  - People and Communities Group – Penwith Landscape Partnership
  - Predannack Airfield Nature Conservation Group
  - Predannack Nature Conservation working with RNAS Culdrose to support the conservation works at Predannack Airfield.
  - Woodmeet
  - Penwith Landscape Partnership Executive Committee
  - Cornwall Tree Canopy Action Group
  - West Penwith Dark Skies Initiative
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# Financial Summary

AONB 2018/19

## Core Costs

Salaries	£173,637
Sub T and S and Training	£11,060
Staff costs total including T & S and Training	£184,697
Accommodation/office equipment	£10,613
Office costs subtotal	£12,051
Partnerships running costs subtotal	£4,973
Communications	£31,615
<b>Total Core Expenditure</b>	<b>£233,336</b>

## Projects

Wheal Buzzy	£6,000
Bodmin Moor Peatlands	£10,000
Penwith Landscape Partnership	£14,240
<b>Projects Subtotal</b>	<b>£30,240</b>

<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£263,576</b>
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## Income

Defra	£182,660
Cornwall Council	£55,000
National Trust	£1,800
Planning	£2,125
Previous Year's unmatched accruals	£161

## Total Income

£241,747



“THE ECONOMY is a  
WHOLLY owned subsidiary  
of the Environment,  
NOT the other WAY around”

Gaylord Nelson

US senator  
FOUNDER OF EARTH DAY

# Notes

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