



Cornwall
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

Cornwall AONB

Annual Report 2021/22



Photo: Multi-species ley being planted on Section 8 – the Lizard using a min-till cultivator and seeder

Table of Contents

	Page(s)
Foreword	2
Introduction by Partnership Manager	3
Cornwall AONB Staff Unit	3 - 4
The Cornwall AONB	5
Cornwall AONB Partnership	6
Partnership meetings	6
Cornwall AONB role in Planning	7 - 9
Delivery of Management Plan 2016-2021	10 - 15
Management Plan Review	16 - 17
Cornwall State of AONB report	18
Cornwall AONB Projects Pipeline	19 - 21
Projects	22 - 35
Cornwall Local Nature Recovery Strategy	36 - 38
Communications	39 - 42
Cornwall AONB working with other teams and Meetings attended and advice and support to community groups	43
Cornwall AONB Trust	44
National Association for AONBs and Landscapes for Life	45 - 46
Financial Summary	47 - 48

Foreword

I suspect most of us entered 2021/22 full of hope that the pandemic would wane and life could get back to normal. Instead, we have been faced with ongoing surges of infection and the cost-of-living crisis which is impacting everyone in some way.

At the same time as we are reminded about the value of blue and green space on our physical and mental health, we are warned about the damage that has been done to the environment by man and climate change. Urgent action is needed to protect landscapes, wildlife and biodiversity before it is too late. So, I am always heartened by the incredible work being done by the AONB Unit in challenging circumstances to look after our landscapes and heritage.

The key focus over the last two years has been the production of the new Five-Year Management Plan, which was a mammoth piece of work with a wide range of contributors. As well as collating all the information, there were consultation topic working group and surveys with stakeholders and the general public to ensure that the plan reflected the agenda that is important to people in Cornwall. I am delighted to say that in Spring 2022, the plan has been adopted and is now available to everyone to view and use.

During the year, the AONB Unit was chosen to run the DEFRA Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme. The AONB Unit were provided with grant funding to distribute to farms within the designation to help them help people discover and enjoy landscapes, support nature friendly, sustainable farm businesses, support nature recovery and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The projects chosen to date are innovative and demonstrate some exciting opportunities for the future.

In September, the Unit organised the Bodmin Environment Arts Science and Theatre event, appropriately given the acronym BEAST. The aim of this project was to increase access for underrepresented communities to Cornwall AONB and deliver the Art in the Landscape strategy connecting more, inclusive audiences, to nature.

Held at Colliford Lake, by kind permission of the South West Lakes Trust, this free event drew people from the surrounding area and all over Cornwall to a fun filled day of creative activities woven around landscape led experiences. There were guided walks, creative writing, a dusk safari and star gazing. Pascale Petit, a British poet based in Cornwall, created the poem 'The Beast of Bodmin Moor' for the AONB which provided a central theme for the day. Cornwall AONB worked alongside South West Lakes Trust, IntoBodmin and Bodmin Way to create a truly memorable day for people who may struggle to access nature.

As Covid continued, our partnership meetings continued online, but we have plans for in person meetings and site visits during 2022 – it will be lovely to welcome our partners in person.

Similarly, the AONB Unit continue to work remotely, but have been able to have several face-to-face meetings to strengthen the team spirit and work collaboratively and creatively.

As I write this, the country and much of Europe, has been experiencing unprecedented heat. This underlines the critical importance of working with our natural environment to try to mitigate impacts and reduce the effect of climate change where we can. The work of the AONB Unit remains central in providing guidance and leadership in this area.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Cornwall's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Gill Pipkin, Chair of the Cornwall AONB Partnership

Introduction by Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager



Emma Browning, Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager:

"I am incredibly grateful and proud of the AONB team for their hard work, commitment and team spirit. This last year has again been challenging and exciting in equal measure. This year we have welcomed new members to the growing AONB team, integrated the delivery of the Farming in Protected Landscape Programme and successfully reviewed, revised and supported the detailed design of the new digital interactive 2022 – 2027 Management Plan which we have scheduled with Cornwall Council Cabinet May 2022 for adoption. I'd like to thank the team, our partners and stakeholders and members of the public who have provided constructive comments to help shape this new management plan. This year's annual report showcases our involvement in a variety of project work and demonstrates our collective commitment to our designated landscape."

Cornwall AONB Staff Unit

We are a multi discipline, core team of 5, with a wide range of skills and expertise which supports the work of the Cornwall AONB Partnership. The Unit exists to administer and provide secretariat support to the Partnership, promote awareness of the AONB, advise on planning development and policy, enable delivery of the Management Plan and developing and sourcing funding for projects which the Unit manages its own projects and also has an enabling and partnership role with partner led projects and activities.

- Partnership Manager, Emma Browning (1FTE)
- Business Development Officer, Melodie Manners (1FTE)
- Planning Officer, Jim Wood (0.6 FTE)
- Project Development Officer, Coralie Barrow (1FTE)
- Office and Finance Manager, Karen Johns (0.8 FTE)




In addition to the Core Team, are the Projects and Programmes Teams and Volunteers:

- **Monumental Improvements Project Team** – **Natalie Haly, Programme Manager** and **Jacob Parry, Activities Officer** both work on the National Lottery Heritage Funded project. Jacob Parry also works 1 day per week on the complementary Monuments Matter ESF funded project which is a blended learning course to enable unemployed or currently inactive to gain a range of employable skills – see Projects section for more detail on this project.
- **Cornwall AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL) Programme** - this is a new Defra funded funding programme which launched in Summer 2021 - the FIPL team are **Sean O'Hea, Farm Engagement Officer**; and two **Administration Officers, Iwona Brooks and Lily Gray**. Both Iwona and Lily also provide Admin Support to other AONB projects, Monuments Matter to People and NEIRF Lizard Protected Investment Bank, respectively
- **Volunteer Planning Officer, John Sloper** – we are extremely grateful for our sterling long term volunteer - his time and expertise is invaluable in undertaking planning consultation site visits.
- **Volunteer Planning Admin – Mike Dixon**, another invaluable and willing volunteer supports our Planning Officer with recording, monitoring and evaluation of planning consultations.

Cornwall AONB Unit Team Gallery

		
Emma Browning	Jim Wood	Karen Johns

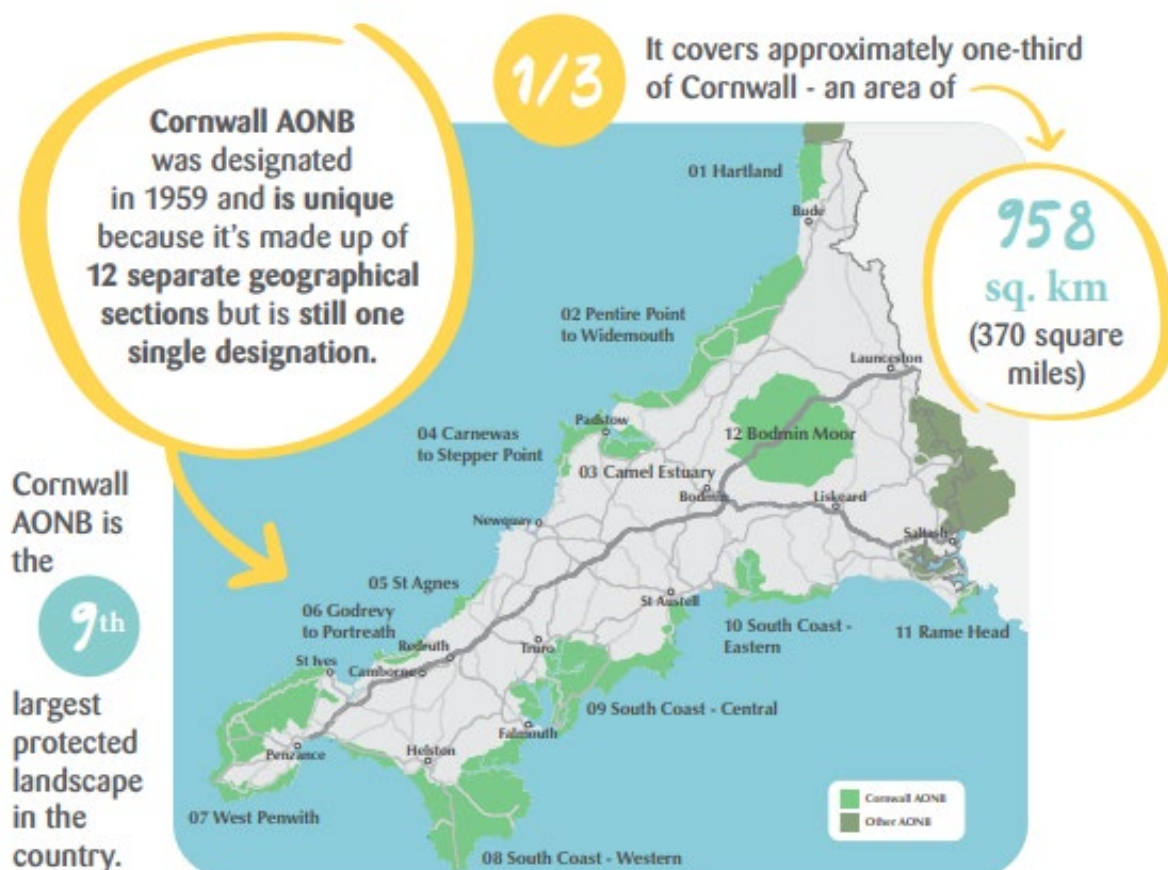
			
Melodie Manners	Coralie Barrow	Natalie Haly	Jacob Parry

		
Seán O'Hea	Iwona Brooks	Lily Gray

The Cornwall AONB

The Cornwall AONB covers approximately 27% of Cornwall and is unique as it is made up of 12 separate geographical sections, all diverse and distinctive with different management actions to conserve and enhance their individual landscape and special character.

A section of the Tamar Valley AONB is also in Cornwall but managed and administered separately. The Cornwall and Tamar Valley AONBs have a close relationship and with our other near neighbours, the Isles of Scilly and North Devon AONBs.



Map shows the 12 sections of the Cornwall AONB shaded in dark green

Cornwall AONB Partnership

The primary role of the Cornwall AONB Partnership is to plan and implement the statutory AONB Management Plan, which must be reviewed every 5 years. 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 [Cornwall AONB Partnership](#) currently consists of 20 organisations:

Cornwall Agri-food Council	Cornish Mining World Heritage Site
Cornwall Association of Local Councils	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
Cornwall Council	Fal River Cornwall
Cornwall Heritage Trust	National Farmers Union
Cornwall Rural Community Charity	National Trust
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	Natural England
Country Land and Business Association	South West Coast Path Association
Environment Agency	University of Exeter in Cornwall
Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS)	Visit Cornwall
Historic England	Westcountry Rivers Trust

Partnership meetings

Since the Covid 19 Pandemic, all Cornwall AONB Partnership meetings during 2021-22 continued to be held online via Microsoft TEAMS software. Despite partners not having the opportunity to physically meet and discuss matters face-to-face, the regular online meetings were well attended and worked extremely well, with actions and decisions still being made. In addition to key business for discussion on the agendas, primarily the Review of the Management Plan, Partners also provided presentations at meetings on various topics such as Carbon Neutral Cornwall; Cornwall Local Recovery Network Strategy; future plans of the National Trust post Covid; State of the AONB Report and the work of the Westcountry Rivers Trust.

The Partnership met online for the usual three times a year (June, October and March) to discuss and debate landscape management issues and through effective joint working delivers actions within the Management Plan. During these meetings, the Partnership sometimes visits sites in the AONB to view and discuss projects or issues with landowners and the community – but no site visits were held again this year.

The Partnership is supported by an Executive Board which meets around 3 times a year to help steer and advise on the work of the Partnership and AONB Staff Unit. Again, these meetings continued successfully online.

Cornwall AONB role in Planning

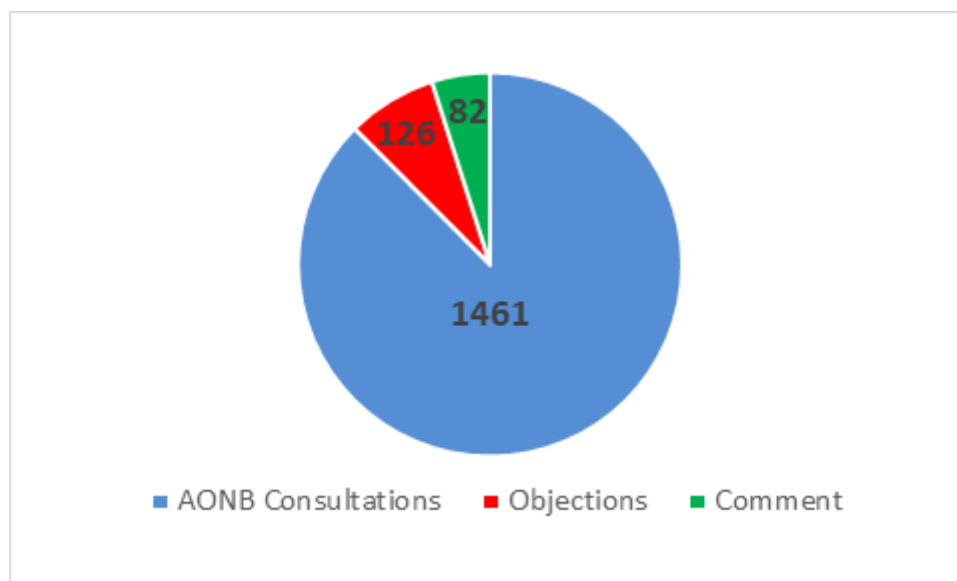
Development pressure on the AONB continues to rise.

The Cornwall AONB Partnership is a non-statutory consultee on planning matters within the AONB.

This role is delivered by the AONB Unit which was consulted on 2,346 applications in 2021 (an increase from 1,911 in 2020, 1,844 in 2019 and 1,762 in 2018) (typically approximately 50 applications per week with a maximum of 70 per week) within the 12 sections of the AONB each year.

These consultations are for development within or close to (and potentially affecting) the AONB and which require consideration to appreciate any potential effects on the statutory purpose of the designation.

The AONB Unit considered 1,461 applications (within the designated landscape) and provided objections to only 126, whilst providing comment on a further 82.



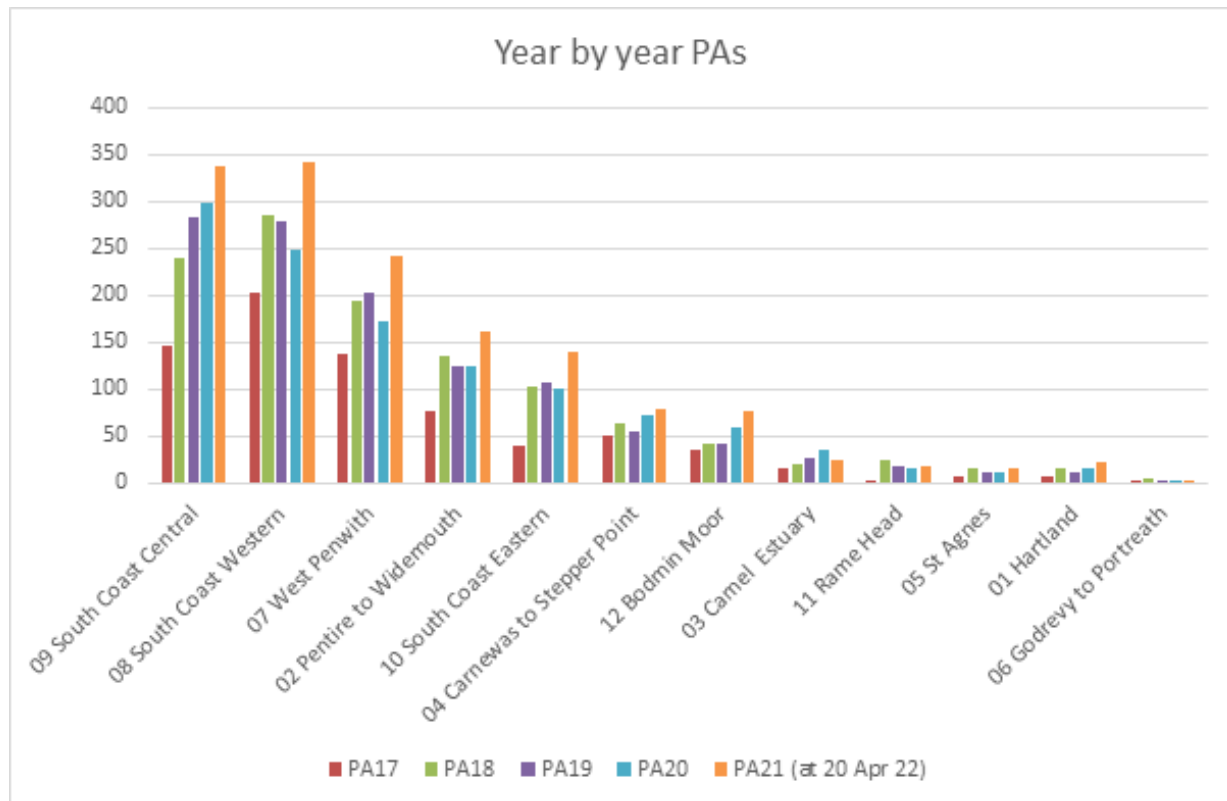
AONB Objections	Awaiting Decision	Approved	Refused	Withdrawn	Appeals		
					Awaiting	Dismissed	Allowed
126	30	41	32	19	5	1	2

AONB Comments	Awaiting Decision	Approved	Refused	Withdrawn	Appeals		
					Awaiting	Dismissed	Allowed
82	16	52	9	4	-	-	-

Based on data available at 17th May 2022

The greatest pressure of applications (and therefore development pressure) continues to be in three areas, South Coast Central, South Coast Western and West Penwith.

The year on year increase in planning applications (PAs) and development pressure across all areas of the Cornwall AONB is evident.



The cumulative effect of this level of development pressure continues to be acutely felt in those areas most affected, with some parts of the designated landscape continuing to suffer from appreciable change of character as a result of this. This change in character arises from both effects of individual developments, and from the cumulative effects of multiple developments (which may in their own right be relatively benign).

Perhaps not surprisingly the areas of greatest development pressure closely match the areas with the highest proportion of unoccupied dwellings indicating the nature of much of this development.

Whilst the AONB only covers 27% of Cornwall's land area it accounts for more than 60% of the valuable coastline and the development pressures associated with this. There is a very strong correlation between proximity to the coast and the number of applications received.

The development pressures particularly remain for "replacement" dwellings (this appears to have increased through the pandemic), areas of housing provision on the periphery of villages, individual statement homes, and many opportunistic applications.

Unauthorised development and the use of temporary campsites under the "56-day" rule (outside any Article 4 areas) continues with its attendant effects on the designated landscapes. Similarly, applications for tourist related development and agricultural diversification continue to rise.

The AONB 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.

Considerable time and effort has been committed to the Management Plan revisions, but particularly the planning section and its appendix which address the issues of agricultural buildings. The potential opportunities and issues related to increases in forestry and woodland cover in the AONB have been explored and illustrated in the new Management Plan.

The new Management Plan has introduced the concept of “landscape led” development in which development within the designated landscape is required to provide a contextual response to and reflect the characteristics and essence of the designated landscape rather than introducing alien elements or simply taking advantage of its location within the designated landscape. This new concept reflects and reinforces the existing policy protection for the designated landscape and the material considerations which influence planning decisions within it.



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. Whilst this was suspended for part of 2021 (due to resource limitations) to allow progress on the new Management Plan it has recently been resumed. This consultation continues to provide 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 this nationally designated landscape.

The Stakeholder Consultation undertaken as part of the evolution of the revised Management Plan has highlighted the imperative to re-energise engagement with Cornwall Council as the local planning authority and recent meetings have commenced this process. Training sessions for Planning Officers and Elected Members are planned as part of the promotion of the new Management Plan.

There appears to be a generally positive trend with regard to the outcomes of Appeal decisions when considering the detailed matters related to the AONB and where very site specific material considerations do not give rise to other outcomes.

The AONB Unit has continued to be actively engaged in supporting Cornwall Council in the preparation of a new Landscape Character assessment of the county. This engagement has sought to represent the importance of the AONB and its primary purpose within the landscapes of Cornwall.

The AONB Unit has been fortunate to retain the services of its two planning volunteers. Without the vital support of these two volunteers the planning work of the Unit would be appreciably limited. The Unit has also benefitted from the services of a consultant one day a week for three months to assist with the increased planning case load.

Delivery of the Management Plan (2016-2021)

This table is a consolidated summary update of progress made by the AONB Partners, stakeholders and AONB Unit against the 26 (A-Z) Actions in the [Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2016-2021](#)

Cornwall AONB - Core & Project activities	Priorities	2021 Landscape Review Glover	2016 - 2021 Managem ent Plan Action reference	Cornwall AONB 12 sections
	Delivery of Priorities	Delivery of Proposals:	Delivery of Actions:	Delivery for AONB Sections:
Cornwall AONB Management Plan Review - new plan (2022-2027) Revising during 2021 - due to be adopted 11th May 2022 'State of the AONB' monitoring report - Completed August 2021 Digital Mapping tool (AONB website) - launched August 2021	Statutory Deliverables, Nature, Climate, People, Place	Proposal 2 Proposal 3	Statutory Requirem ent	All sections
Farming in Protected Landscapes - 3-year programme. In process of building resource capacity in the team. https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/farming-in-protected-landscapes . Cornwall AONB have received 9 applications, and these have been assessed by a panel and approved We have been contacted by over 80 interested farmers and landowners to discuss and progress their own applications.	Nature, Climate, People & Place	Proposal 4, 5	K, R	All sections
Cornwall's LCA Landscape Character Assessment revision 2021 and Seascape assessment – the project work that was carried out on seascapes characterisation by CAU funded by Historic England - further review of the report is now planned to assess the data's use in the State of the AONB report. Landscape Character Assessments are under review for 2021/ 2022, Cornwall Council leading on the revision from 2007 with consultant to produce. This is due to be completed Dec 2022.	Nature, Climate, People, Place	Proposal 2	S	All
ELMS – Farming for the Nation – Opportunities for the management of Natural Capital and Ecosystem services on the Lizard (Completed) Landscape Management Framework and a Landscape specific Natural Capital prospectus produced as part of the T&T. Legacy project in development - funding application submitted to the IRF and successful.	Nature, Climate, People & Place	Proposals 2, 4, 5	K, R	Lizard Section 8
NEIRF - Cornwall AONB - Protected Landscapes Investment Bank Project (Sept 2021 - Sept 2022) - successful in receiving external funding to develop the Natural Capital Prospectus for the Lizard into an Investment Strategy (second stage of investment) due to complete September 2022	Nature, Climate, People & Place	Proposals 2, 4, 6	K, R	Lizard Section 8
ELMS Advocacy Legacy - delivering on sharing knowledge of ELM, creating farm clusters, enhancing business models for nature - Farmer Forum within Landhub digital tool - in early stages of development but will support FiPL. In negotiations with Cornwall Council to have the Farmer Forum live on the Landhub website.	Nature, Climate, People & Place	Proposal 4, 5	K, R	Various
National Pilot - Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Cornwall has been selected as a National Pilot for LNRS, Cornwall AONB are working with the local authority to deliver the objectives set by Defra/ NE - LNRS has been completed and issued to NE/ Defra.	Nature, Climate, People, Place	Proposal 2, 4	T	Various
Nature Recovery Delivery Plan - Cornwall AONB Partnership have positively supported collaboration with Cornwall Council Environment Service, to co-create and adopt a single nature recovery strategy for the county of Cornwall. As the nature recovery strategy progresses information will be shared with neighbouring AONBs in the southwest. All actions will be aligned to the NAAONB Colchester Declaration. Following on, key outcomes from the Natural Recovery Strategy will also include recommendations for on the ground delivery. Action - an investment programme is being developed for the County and Project EOIs are being collated to assess the potential for nature recovery and the value of	Nature, Climate, People, Place	Proposal 2, 4, 7	T	All 12 sections

funding potentially required to deliver. Call for EOIs announced February 2022 by Local Nature Partnership.				
<p>SW Peatland Partnership (Bodmin Moor and West Penwith) - South West Water/ South West have secured £9m funding Awarded by Natural England's Nature for Climate Peatland Restoration scheme (August 2021), the funding was secured by South West Water on behalf of the South West Peatland Partnership and will help restore 2,634 hectares of damaged peatland in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, saving a total of 652,625 tonnes of CO2 equivalent throughout the SW. Part of this funding will deliver peatland restoration on Bodmin Moor and West Penwith over the next 4 years. Cornwall AONB have committed to support in-kind time to the project and already assisting with recruitment and interviews for the education and engagement officer post</p>	<p>Nature, Climate, People & Place</p>	<p>Proposal 3, 4</p>	<p>T</p>	<p>Bodmin Moor Section 12</p>
<p>Bee Happy and Be Healthy – Following an expression of interest to the National Lottery Community Fund for a £440,000 bid for a four-year pollinator project, this project was encouraged in April 2020. However unfortunately this coincided with the focus on the funding response to Covid-19, that caused a halt to all main funding programmes by the Community Fund.</p> <p>We are hopeful that the full application process can re-start in late October with our partners Buglife, the University of Exeter and the Active Cornwall Partnership. Cornwall Council's Countryside Team have also recently expressed an interest in being involved as a project partner. The project will work in partnership with Active Cornwall and MIND Cornwall and will deliver activity programmes with 600 beneficiaries over its anticipated four- year timescale. The partnership were unsuccessful with applying to the Green Recovery Fund in September 2020 but have now been selected to submit full application to the NLCF. The NLCF have been very supportive of the project and the partnership are building up to a full application submission. Due to the level of demand on all partners and limited resource availability the application submission to NLCF will likely be delayed until after Christmas. Update, a further meeting with NLCF found that the focus of the project needed realigning again with NLCF focuses, less conservation more target social prescribing where the need exists. We have responded to this by going back to research again before the project focus is presented again to NLCF. The funding available is less than the original submission over 2 years ago and now in the region of £50,000. Expected that the research part will be complete by May 2022.</p>	<p>Nature, Climate, People & Place</p>	<p>Proposal 2, 4, 7, 10</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>to be decided</p>
<p>AONB Trust - Green Champions for Green Prosperity - Pre-Delivery. The Project will create an innovative, interactive digital hub connecting people with nature, catalysing green prosperity, creating nature opportunities improving and increasing biodiversity, jobs and training. The database and outreach initiatives will inclusively target all; increasing access to, and engagement with, protected landscapes and their surrounding areas. Champions in each section of the AONB will be invaluable to network and connect people together and with the landscape either in person or digitally. This project is an ambition of the AONB and will continue to look for funding streams that meet the criteria of the funder.</p>	<p>Nature, Climate, People, Place</p>	<p>Proposal 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15</p>	<p>T</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Roadside Verges - Biodiversity - Exploring the role of roadside verges and hedges for supporting biodiversity and providing further environmental benefits for the public. Full report received from PhD student and project complete July 2021- https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/roadside-verges-project - completed 2021.</p>	<p>Nature & Climate</p>	<p>Proposal 2, 4</p>	<p>T</p>	<p>various</p>
<p>Kerdroya – Restoration and creation of Cornish hedges on a landscape scale. Creating a 57m labyrinth from Cornish Hedge to celebrate Cornish culture, sense of place, enhance and increase biodiversity, highlight and celebrate the twelve local sections of CAONB (Ongoing - Due to complete 2022) - enabling works have commenced for the foundations of the labyrinth. Community engagement and Cornish hedge restoration – with the serious decline in biodiversity, Cornish hedges function as a reservoir for tens of thousands of species of insects plus 600 species of flowering plants. The project will provide apprenticeship opportunities to young people who are interested in preserving the ancient craft of Cornish hedge building. This will follow on from the work carried out in 2019 where a series of talks on the history of Cornish hedges were given to communities</p>	<p>Nature, Climate, People & Place</p>	<p>Proposal 4, 7, 10, 11, 12</p>	<p>T, O</p>	<p>Bodmin Moor Section 12</p>

throughout the CAONB and the onsite work carried out with school children and the community demonstrating the construction of the ancient Cornish hedge under the instruction of Master Hedgers and the foundations are due to be in by the end of 2022.				
Penwith Landscape Partnership – Outstanding Penwith and That’s our Parish are two of the 13 PLP projects. 3 years in to a 5 year project. Delivering on various outputs for landscape character, volunteering, Cornish culture, heritage, community and volunteer engagement, creating connections and farmers clusters. Last year, engaging up to 300 volunteers over the length of the five-year project to support farmers and communities in enhancing biodiversity with the peninsula. – Virtual Bioblitz already delivered (15th/16th May) with over 3000 species identified. (Ongoing -Due to complete 2023). Virtual tours of the West Penwith area and development of an app to help survey and collect data on Cornish Hedges, via citizen science and landowner and farmer engagement. This will hopefully assist in assessing Natural Capital and Ecosystem service value of the Cornish hedge in the future. The contractor Golden Tree are applying for further funding to complete the project, an AONB celebration event is expected on completion. Ongoing to 2022.	Nature, Climate, People & Place	Proposal 4, 7, 10, 11	T, O, Q	West Penwith
West Penwith Dark Skies Park Initiative – providing advice and support to this new initiative currently under submission to the International Dark Skies Committee. This initiative will enable engagement of members of the public from child to adulthood in a range of activities to provide a fuller understanding of the importance of maintaining dark skies to protect our nocturnal species and gain an insight into the composition of the night skies. Ongoing beyond this financial year. West Penwith received its International Dark Sky Park Designation in December 2021. Cornwall AONB will continue to support the designation lead group.	Nature, Climate, People & Place	Proposal 7, 8, 10, 17	G, Q	West Penwith
Supporting Cornish organisation PK Porthcurno on Dark Skies Exhibition Gallery in support of the West Penwith Dark Sky Park application of which both the AONB and PK Porthcurno are on the Steering group. Completed 2021.	Nature, Climate, People & Place	Proposal 7, 8, 10, 17	U	West Penwith
Monumental Improvement - In 2020 the Cornwall AONB launched the Monumental Improvement project, an initiative to help stabilise 40 Scheduled Monuments across 10 of the 12 AONB sections which are listed on Historic England’s Heritage at Risk register or classified as vulnerable. This ambitious project aims to tackle the current limited understanding of Scheduled Monuments in Cornwall as sites of national archaeological significance. The 40 sites span over 4,000 years of Cornish history, with some Scheduled Monuments predating the pyramids. Working with landowners, partners and local communities, the project will help to stabilise these important heritage sites to ensure that they can be enjoyed by future generations. The project is founded on community and volunteer engagement that includes a vast partnership of 79 groups, landowners and organisations across the 10 sections of the AONB. To date through feasibility and initial development the project has trained 65 community volunteers in surveying skills, delivered 8 community volunteer clearance days on the Lizard, Bodmin Moor, the Roseland and Rame Head involving 169 volunteers from age 11 to 82. The project will be commissioning an ecological survey on each of the sites to ensure species present are protected and opportunities to increase biodiversity are actioned. Update: the project team submitted their draft final documents for the full submission to the Lottery and have received detailed feedback. The final submission was submitted to NLHF on 30th November for a decision to be made on the delivery stage of the project. The team are presenting to NHLF on 3rd March 2022 and a decision on the delivery stage funding is due to be made 31st March 2022	Nature, Climate, People & Place	Proposal 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 17	M, N, X, Q	Rame Head, St Agnes, South Coast Eastern, South Coast Central, South Coast Western, Bodmin Moor, Godrevy to Portreath , Carnewas to Stepper Point, Pentire to Widemouth Bay and Hartland - 40 scheduled monument sites

				across these 10 sections
<p>Maker Way - This project has developed from the Monumental Improvement project with local partners (Rame Conservation Trust, Pigshill Woodlands, Mount Edgcumbe Country Park and seeks to connect the scheduled monument sites of Rame with Mount Edgcumbe Country Park and the Cremyll Ferry to Plymouth, providing a guide for local people and visitors to bring increased tourism to this quieter part of Cornwall's "Forgotten Corner". This project has been reviewed and decided that it can be delivered locally rather than apply for specific funding. There is an opportunity for FiPL funding for part of it and further discussions are to be planned this year. Conversations will continue with the FiPL team, and also with the new Plymouth Sound National Marine Park Project, there is a collaborative opportunity to link the ideas behind Maker Way with wider ambitions.</p>	Nature, People, Place	Proposal 7, 10, 12, 14, 17	M, N, X, Q	Rame Head Section 11
<p>Monuments Matter to People - March 2021 we are launching Monuments Matter to People, an exciting new project which will offer 40 residents of Torpoint, Saltash and Liskeard the opportunity to join a free, varied educational programme at Maker Heights, in the Rame Head section of the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The course will run for two years and will offer participants the chance to complete up to 48 weeks of learning in English, Maths and IT. The project will also give participants a chance to gain heritage skills and will contribute to the vital task of protecting and maintaining the Scheduled Monuments of Maker Heights. This course will give participants the chance to be involved in conserving Cornish landscapes, all while:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaining education, training and life skills Improving health and wellbeing Making long-lasting connections to people and places <p>Monuments Matter forms part of the Cornwall AONB's wider Monumental Improvement project which is aiming to help stabilise 40 scheduled monuments selected which are sites of national archaeological importance. The project is now running with participants attending every week and benefiting from the skills and outdoor volunteering. Uptake is lower than hoped and the team are working hard to address the potential barriers as well as publicising the project locally. The uptake has continued to be difficult and this has been found by many other organisations in similar field. The project officers are discussing options which may require a reprofile as a result. Project Partners are engaged with potential ideas to support the project. project will be completed by end 2022.</p>	Nature, People, Place	Proposal 7, 10, 11, 17	M, N, X, Q	Rame Head Section 12

<p>Cornwall AONB Trust - Trustees have managed an ELF Environmental Landscape Fund to support local businesses (ongoing) - AONB Trust has been unable to progress during lockdown however they are meeting in October to revive the Trust and make future plans. There is a plan now to re-initiate the Trust in March 2021. Several ELF applications have been received and there is hope to support these initiatives. The Trust has been re-initiated and has committed to 3 new ELF applications, the Trust have also match funded a Cornwall AONB event call BEAST which was delivered during landscapes for life week</p>	<p>Nature, Climate, People, Place</p>	<p>Proposal 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 17</p>	<p>U</p>	<p>All sections</p>
<p>Cornish Hedges – there is so much interest in hedges and desire for adequate protection. Definition of Cornish Hedges and Hedgerows needs consideration and clarification. A Cornish Hedge Working Group project team with Partners has restarted since January 2021 with the ambition to fund a project to raise awareness, conserve and enhance the Cornish Hedge. Cornwall Council Historic Environment – Historic Environment Local Distinctiveness Study - not yet launched but it has been circulated at a consultation stage and workshops are to be held. Cornwall AONB have commissioned illustrations of the Cornish Hedge to demonstrate the ecosystem services they provide. These illustrations now feature in the new management plan and have been shown to Natural England and DEFRA. It is very important the Cornish Hedge is Nationally recognised in relation to payments for future agri-environment schemes and biodiversity Net Gain.</p>	<p>Nature, Climate, People, Place</p>	<p>Proposal 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 17</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>All sections</p>
<p>Cornish Community become a plastic free community -Supporting PK Porthcurno attendance planned at the steering group meetings to show support and provide advice. Following the extremely busy summer Cornwall AONB teamed up with PK Porthcurno and completed a beach clean on the 31st August. The results were published in our local newspapers and social media. Porthcurno Community received their Surfers Against Sewage accreditation as a plastic free community in Feb 2022.</p>	<p>Nature, Climate, People, Place</p>	<p>Proposal 10</p>	<p>U</p>	<p>West Penwith</p>
<p>Art in the Landscape event - BEAST (Bodmin, Environment, Arts, Science & Theatre) Event series celebrating landscapes for life week 22-26th September - https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/beast Poetry and outdoor event at Bodmin Moor in the planning stage to link with the 5 ways to well being through engagement with arts, nature, dark skies. This event series was delivered over 3 days on Bodmin Moor, Colliford Lake. Over 3 days 12 separate events were delivered for the local community to attend (a community bus was provided), these events included - poetry readings, creative writing workshops, guided walks, dusk safaris, star gazing and a treasure hunt. These events provided those from an economically deprived area and those with challenges that would otherwise prevent them from experiencing the outdoors the opportunity to experience nature through arts and culture. We were supported in kind and financially by South West Lakes Trust, Bodmin Way, Into Bodmin and the Cornwall AONB Trust. It was a very successful and we are processing the feedback. We hope to make this an annual event and take it on a variation tour around other sections of the AONB. We are developing a legacy project based on the creation of 12 stories for the 12 sections of the AONB to connect people with the landscape and nature through arts and culture.</p>	<p>Nature, Climate, People, Place</p>	<p>Proposals 7, 8, 9, 10, 17</p>		<p>Section 12</p>
<p>Cornwall AONB Project Pipeline for funding investment - a project pipeline and several EOIs have been written and submitted for consideration and collaboration with Partners and Organisations. This will be a live pipeline and reviewed throughout the year. The projects cover the priorities nature, climate, people and place and is aligned with the Local Nature Recovery investment programme lead by Local Nature Partnership.</p>	<p>Nature, Climate, People, Place</p>	<p>Proposals 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17</p>		<p>All</p>
<p>The AONB Unit will be providing responses to Cornwall Council's draft Policies and Guidance documents such as, but not limited to: Climate change, Nature Recovery etc ongoing</p>	<p>Nature, Climate, People, Place</p>	<p>Proposal 6</p>	<p>D, I</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>The AONB currently provides advice and support on renewable energy resource development but as a non-statutory consultee our influence is limited and a much fuller involvement in future to avert potential</p>	<p>Climate, People, Place</p>	<p>Proposal 6</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>All 12 sections</p>

development pressures within the AONB would be welcomed although currently this is not within our gift ongoing.				
Neighbourhood Plans – The LA have not been able to provide consistent and meaningful input to Neighbourhood Plans following the sudden and sad loss of the lead on this aspect of our work last March. The LA have now reappointed to the post, with a March 2021 start and hope to be able to resume this work on a more constant footing from that point. Unfortunately the person still has not been appointed and LA aim for a new person in the new financial year.	Nature, Climate, People, Place	Proposal 6	A	All

Review of Cornwall AONB Management Plan

The Cornwall AONB Management Plan is a statutory document. It is Cornwall Council's duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to produce the Management Plan and review it every five years and have a duty of regard for the AONB's Statutory Purpose, to Conserve and Enhance Natural Beauty. The Management Plan sets out the purpose, priorities, policies, aims, objectives, delivery and monitoring by which Cornwall's protected landscape should be managed. In order to review the management plan various stages and steps are required to be completed to ensure that appropriate consultation, engagement and analysis have been applied. The entire process of completing an AONB management plan review requires extensive resource and time by the AONB team, to project manage and deliver the final plan, which takes in the region of 18 months to complete.

The plan is subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Assessment, Sustainable Environment Assessment (SEA) Screening Assessment and potentially a full Sustainability Appraisal if recommended by the Statutory Body, Natural England. Natural England also required to be officially consulted on the result of the HRA Screening Assessment and their response should show agreement with the results of the HRA before the plan is formally adopted. Cornwall Council require for a Comprehensive Impact Assessment to be applied to the management plan which is a process of evaluating the plan's approach to the environmental, social, equality and inclusivity. The product, a decision wheel is assessed by an independent Cornwall Council panel and feedback will be provided before approval. Cornwall Council will formally engage with the AONB Management Plan through a Democratic Services System, the plan will be presented and discussed with various Cabinet members, corporate groups, legal, finance before it is presented to full Cabinet, where it will be presented and adopted for the next 5 years.

Summary of the Milestones - Cornwall AONB Management Plan:

- **August 2020** Commissioned, and project managed the 'Cornwall State of the AONB' Report
- **September 2020** Cornwall AONB initiated the Management Plan Review period. It was decided that an early consultation period with stakeholders, partners and the public would provide early intelligence to help shape and form the review and revision of the management plan. The Cornwall AONB approached the consultation in three different ways:
 - Public Consultation
 - Topic Working Groups
 - Stakeholder & Partner Survey
- **January 2021** initial Consultation completed
- **Feb – July 2021** The feedback and comments were analysed and used to rewrite the Draft management plan which were issued to the Exec Board and Partnership prior to the next phase of Consultation. SEA Assessment Initiated. HRA Screening Assessment initiated
- **August – October 2021** The Draft Plan was issued out for a Stakeholder and Public Consultation - Public and Stakeholder Consultation Survey, Individual feedback with the Local Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England, Cornwall Council Planning and Policy team, Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust.

The State of the AONB Report completed

HRA Screening Assessment Report issued to Natural England, feedback and Official response received.

Initiated the design process of the management plan

- **October 2021** The consultation closed
- **November 2021** – February 2022 Analysis of feedback and applying changes to the draft management plan.

Draft designed management plan presented to the Partnership Meeting for discussion and feedback
Further designed management plan presented to the Cornwall AONB Executive Board

Finalised all design aspects of the management plan and draft uploaded to the AONB website to test functionality Cornwall Council Decision Wheel Comprehensive Impact Assessment completed.

Final check of SEA assessment of policies and objectives progressed and completed

- **February – April 2022** Issue final management plan to Cornwall AONB Executive Board and Partnership Present management plan to Cornwall Council's demographic services, various meetings with corporate, legal, finance and Cabinet members



Value and Importance of the Cornish hedge illustrations are included in the Management Plan 2022-2027 – Illustration by James Innerdale – above illustration depicts hedge provides livestock barrier, shade and shelter

State of the Cornwall AONB Report

The Cornwall State of the AONB report is a long-term monitoring programme of landscape condition (established in 2007 with 3 phases completed), analysing specific indicators that demonstrate the condition of the AONB. These indicators are structured under themes (listed below) which align with the aims of the new draft version of the AONB Management Plan (referenced):

- 1 Landscape & Seascape Character
- 2 Planning & Development
- 3 Farming & Food (Nature Recovery & Land Management)
- 4 Woodland & Forestry (Nature Recovery & Land Management)
- 5 Biodiversity & Geodiversity (Nature Recovery & Land Management)
- 6 Nature Recovery (Nature Recovery & Land Management)
- 7 Heritage & Culture
- 8 Community & Economy (Sustainable Communities and Economy)
- 9 Health & Wellbeing
- 10 Transport & Access (Responsible & Sustainable Access)
- 11 Tourism & Recreation (Responsible & Sustainable Access)
- 12 Climate Change (Climate Change: Building Resilience)

Land Use Consultants (LUC) have produced with detailed support from the AONB Team, the [State of the AONB Report](#) which also has an online mapping tool known as the 'Cornwall AONB Atlas 2021'. This resource displays the spatial data that has been collected to inform this study and is presented interactively on the [Cornwall AONB website](#)



Cornish Hedge illustration – James Innerdale

Cornwall AONB Project Pipeline

The Cornwall AONB Unit has started work on refining projects proposals to deliver the Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2022-2027 priorities for the next five years. A consultant was brought in funded through the Defra top up grant, to research and review existing projects across Cornwall. This research has developed the Bee Happy Bee Healthy project concept into a suit of Pollinator and Health and Wellbeing themed projects. The project ideas are detailed below.

Projects	EOI? Submitted for funding? Y/N	Description
AONB Champions for Green Prosperity	✓ Yes - CAONB Trust	<p>Champions for Green Prosperity is a project to create an innovative, interactive digital hub connecting people with nature and catalysing green recovery. The project will increase access to nature, enable learning and training, and improve mental health and wellbeing inclusive of all communities, whilst linking businesses, experts, community interest groups, visitors, individuals, farmers, charities and producers. The project will create a virtual database, which outreach capabilities and initiatives, within the 12 Cornwall AONB sections whilst linking across the county, mindfully targeting areas of economic deprivation, BAME communities and working alongside other protected landscapes to provide increased and under-represented access to green spaces. The project will create a database, existing as a virtual and physical hub, of experts and advocates to promote the Cornwall AONB Trust and the benefits to all therein. This project will enable intelligent connection between businesses and experts across the areas of green recovery, land management, sustainability, social and corporate responsibility, carbon capture and more, communities. Areas of economic deprivation in Cornwall would be particularly targeted, including those with limited access to nature and BAME communities, and key community interest groups and volunteers.</p>

<p>Cornish Hedges - Natural Capital and ecosystem services valuing</p>	<p>√ yes - CAONB</p>	<p>Opportunity to gather data on the Natural Capital and ecosystem service value of Cornish Hedges.</p> <p>Commission a ground survey of types of ecosystem services, assessing the levels of quality of hedges, low medium and high (for example) which includes parameters of identified qualities and services and measure the total value per km of low, medium and high quality hedge. This approach could be ground truthed around Cornwall and (with reasonable assumptions) extrapolated to assess the overall Cornish offer in ecosystem services and by valuing it in £ per household to demonstrate the economic side of the offer. This data could also be used to focus in regionally around Cornwall and identify which areas demonstrate the high quality low degradation v/s Low quality high degradation. The second phase could offer the improvement of the latter with community groups, landowners, farmers and Cornish hedgers to train up people in the technical skills and awareness of biodiversity, heritage and culture. This process would be digitally mapped and recorded as a legacy project for continual improvement by creating a permanent Cornish Hedge Partnership. This could also lead to the Cornish Hedge being assigned a higher level of protection and status by Historic England and Natural England as a holistic and unique area of Cornwall that underpins cultural and ecological priorities for the region and nationally.</p>
<p>Bee Happy Bee Mindful</p>	<p>New</p>	<p>Cornwall has higher than average rates of people self-harming and one of the highest rates of suicide in the country, this project will develop a network of Bee Mindful spaces across Cornwall where calm natural spaces will restore and nourish both people and pollinators.</p> <p>In these quiet spaces participants will be encouraged to be soothed by bird song, the sounds of breeze in the trees and the buzz of insects, through this connection with nature the project will raise awareness of the needs of pollinating insects and empower participants to make a difference, where they will undertake conservation action to aid people's and nature's recovery. This gentle kind of silence will encourage observation and appreciation, enabling visitors to better value our green spaces and understand their responsibility to protect them.</p>
<p>Bee Happy Grow Local</p>	<p>New</p>	<p>Bee Happy Growing, aims to tackle some of the real challenges of the moment, farming resilience, food insecurity and nature recovery. The project aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support farm business resilience and transition to agroecological farming systems • Tackle the climate and ecological crises through good soil management and increased biodiversity • Tackle the health epidemics relating to poor nutrition through food prescribing • Address the cost of living crises by supporting people to buy and cook cheaper food, releasing more of their income for energy costs

Bee Connected	New	Linking the 12 sections of the AONB using sustainable transport, promotion of routes, types of transport, destination experience, digital promotion and links to the CAONB app for interaction and engagement. This project would focus on collaboration with partners and use for promoting the AONB's protected landscape as a sustainable visitor experience across the County.
Bee Together Places	New	Bee Together Places, is a concept where publicly accessible spaces are used to bring communities to come together to learn, conserve and celebrate the natural heritage and wildlife of an area. The project is planned to be AONB wide, and is currently looking for potential locations for delivery, to include Pollinator friendly car parks, Bee bus stops, Bee village-gateway verges to support biodiversity and providing further environmental benefits for people (e.g. carbon storage, improving air quality, providing access to nature).
AONB Cam - Digital Visual Connection		An opportunity to digitally connect people to the landscape by purchasing and fixing cameras at positions around the AONB. The footage would be shared from around the 12 sections of the AONB connecting people with nature from their homes, reaching those people that are restricted to their homes and inspiring others to venture out and explore the landscape physically. The Camera footage could also be used as intelligence gathering for natural processes and nature recovery if positioned in the appropriate places, these could serve other teams within Cornwall Council and within the AONB Partnership.
AONB Way Markers		Mapping Way Marker locations, identifying locations for new way markers and raising funds to install more. Publishing the locations and raising awareness of AONB

Projects

Protected Landscape Investment Bank: NEIRF Project

In September 2021, Cornwall AONB was awarded funding from the Environment Agency's Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) to research realising a potential £15.8m private investment in Section 08 South Coast Western, Cornwall AONB. This is a feasibility study to structure the project for development and financing considering the protected landscape for private investment, and review opportunities for blended finance. **Test Trial Dates:** September 2021 – September 2022 inclusive

With the phased reduction of basic payments for farmers and landowners and new environmental land management schemes being developed to eventually replace Countryside Stewardship, there is a need to support farmers and landowners in Cornwall AONB to maintain and grow sustainable farm businesses. In recent studies, Cornwall AONB identified a significant risk of losing the current provision of public goods – or ecosystem service benefits - which includes clean and plentiful water, clean air, protection from and mitigation of environmental hazards, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, thriving plants and wildlife, and beauty, heritage and engagement. These ecosystem service benefits are generated under existing schemes and there is a threat to the protected landscapes of large-scale landscape change if payment levels are not increased to cover losses from the Basic Payment Scheme. Our key objectives in this project are to identify opportunities, assess barriers and risks to buyers and sellers and create a strategy for Cornwall AONB to use across all 12 Sections of the AONB – and beyond those boundaries. We are also working with Cornwall AONB Trust, the protected landscape charity, to see if it may work to facilitate funds.

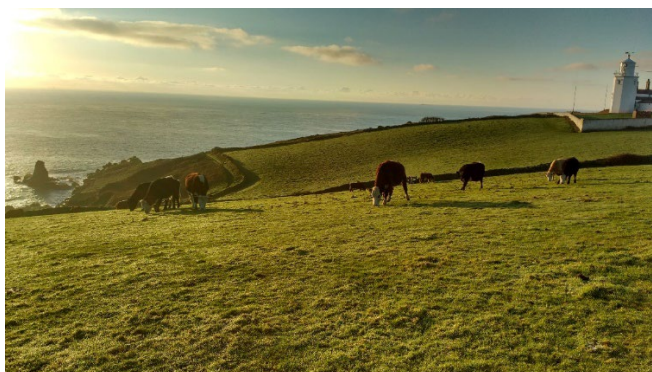
Funding: Environment Agency £99,500

Biodiversity: This project looks at how private investment or blended finance might help to secure and increase ecosystem services. We are exploring different types of private investment, which could include; businesses offsetting their externalities, corporate social responsibility, biodiversity net gain, philanthropy and investors seeking financial return, and would allow farmers and landowners to increase the ecosystem service benefits that their land offers, to the benefit of all. This might include more regenerative farming options, increase in Cornish hedge creation/ gapping up, new educational opportunities for local schools and groups, tree-planting, cover crops and herbal leys, natural flood management in upper catchments and more. These ecosystem service benefits would all support and enhance a sustainable farm business and food production. This would also conserve and enhance habitat for nature and landscape recovery, without compromising landscape character.

Communities: Farmers and stakeholders on Lizard Peninsula (South Coast Western)

Forward Look: Project is set to conclude in September 2022 when Outputs and Final reports will be shared.

More info: <https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/protected-landscape-investment-bank>



Farm on the Lizard Peninsula

BEAST Bodmin, Environment, Arts, Science, and Theatre event

“My breath is the wind that whips your face and cradles the kestrel”

Created to connect people with nature using art in the landscape, BEAST began with a chance opportunity ...

In September 2020 poet Pascale Petit won the inaugural Laurel Prize. Established by Simon Armitage, Poet Laureate, The Laurel Prize is an annual award for the best collection of nature or environmental poetry to highlight the climate crisis and raise awareness of the challenges and potential solutions at this critical point in our planet’s life. Pascale’s commission was to write a poem for Cornwall AONB. The poem was inspired by the landscape near to where Pascale lives; Section 12 Bodmin Moor. The poem ‘Beast of Bodmin’, became the central theme that weaved a landscape-led series of creative experiences which took place at the end of September 2021.

Cornwall AONB, along with partners South West Lakes Trust, IntoBodmin, Bodmin Way and Cornwall AONB Trust, hosted a series of free, creative and nature-focused events for the local community. These included Guided Walks, Creative Writing Workshops, Dusk Safaris, Star Gazing and an Archaeological Treasure Hunt.

Sustainable travel was encouraged, as much as possible, throughout the events – and with the support of Cornwall AONB Trust and volunteer driver John Pearn, a free community bus service was provided.

The events took place at Colliford Lake, situated on Bodmin Moor and offered a great blend of open moorland and accessible facilities for workshops. The combination of atmospheric weather, poetry and nature provided opportunities for participants to experience the protected landscape and see it in different ways.

“A very nice time, with the three days I did get to know the lake very well indeed. I saw the lake in its three moods and enjoyed every bit of it and Saturday, well that again was a day. One moment there then gone again it was like someone drawing a curtain for certain scenes. Then the treasure hunt was the greatest thing...” BEAST participant

Art and culture programmes, such as **BEAST**, can be used as structured steps for people to engage with the landscape in a sensitive and meaningful way, leading to pro-environmental behaviour, an appreciation of the natural beauty and help with Nature Recovery.

Cornwall AONB would that to thank all event partners, creative artists, facilitators, experts and volunteers who contributed to bringing **BEAST** to life. Special thanks go to Bodmin Asda, Cornwall Cllr Jennifer Cruse and Cornwall AONB Trust who kindly provided donations and funding to support the event.

Funding: £2500

Communities: Section 12 Bodmin Moor, this project aimed to increase access to the protected landscape and increase connection to Cornish heritage and culture. As well as live events the poem was recorded as a video in English and Cornish and has been shared widely as part of the legacy of the event.

The poem was distributed to all the local parishes working alongside community groups, including IntoBodmin and Bodmin Way to increase engagement with the landscape digitally.

Forward Look: Using the legacy of BEAST we are creating two further Art in the Landscape events in 2022: 12 stories for 12 sections and Discover Tehidy.

More info: <https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/beast>



Above: James Innerdale Illustration from the BEAST poem
Below: Treasure Hunt and BEAST pawprint



Penwith Landscape Partnership (PLP) – the Cornwall AONB is a joint delivery partner on two projects – ‘[Outstanding Penwith](#)’ and ‘[That’s Our Parish](#)’. The PLP is a programme led by our partners Cornwall Wildlife Trust and consists of 13 individual projects set out in the Local Character Action Plan (LCAP).

That’s Our Parish aims to encourage local residents to become more aware of their heritage and what should be protected and recorded in the future. The project is supporting a number of rural parishes within Penwith to carry out Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLCA) surveys of their local cultural and historical heritage, and biodiversity. The compiled assessments will be readily available to parishes to safeguard, plan and manage heritage, landscape and historic character and local distinctiveness for the future. 11 Parishes were originally targeted to take part in the Project over the 5 years, however this has been reduced to 6 parishes in light of difficulties that the Project has faced.

Funding: National Lottery Heritage Fund £2.5 million 5-year project 2017-2022. AONB core funding 2021/22 £14,240 plus substantial staff time in-kind time to support two members of the PLP staff working on our joint delivery projects. In addition, attending monthly Executive Board meetings and quarterly Board meetings to represent the interests of the Cornwall AONB.

Biodiversity: Both projects contain an element of conservation and enhancement for the landscape of West Penwith and many of the volunteers engaged in ‘Outstanding Penwith’ are involved with the full range of projects within the Partnership. Whilst residents who are engaged with ‘That’s Our Parish’ will have the opportunity to record the flora and fauna specific to their parish. £40k as a conservative valuation of time spent on biodiversity for Outstanding Penwith.

Communities: West Penwith

Forward Look: 5-year project ending in 2023 after an extension was awarded post Covid lockdown.

More Info: <https://www.penwithlandscape.com/>



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Simon Cook 03-889

West Penwith landscape

Cornwall AONB student placements and projects

Throughout the past year, the Cornwall AONB Unit have been supporting a wide range of student projects and placements through the Monumental Improvement project.

We facilitated 3 student placements from Truro College's Bsc History and Archaeology degree to assist with an archaeological desktop assessment of Perranporth Airfield and Castle Dore, both of which are Scheduled Monuments included in the project. Of the students who volunteered with us, all said they had gained new skills, learnt about local heritage and would recommend the experience to others.

In March 2021, the Cornwall AONB Unit also took on Emily Baker, an MSc Environmental Consultancy student from Plymouth University on a four-day-a-week placement for an initial 8 weeks. Emily spent her placement supporting the various projects around the AONB including Monumental Improvement, and Monuments Matter to People.

Impressed with Emily's hard work and dedication, when her initial placement came to an end, the Monumental Improvement project team were able to offer her a paid summer internship to support the creation of site-specific profiles for each of the 40 Scheduled Monuments which would become part of our delivery stage National Lottery Heritage Fund application.

Several of the students who undertook placements with us have already reported positive outcomes, including 3 progressing into full time work, and one student received a 1st class grade on a module conducted through the project.

"I have learned so much from you guys and gained so much confidence in myself and my work. I can honestly say that my student placement-turned-volunteering-turned-internship has been the highlight of my MSc and I'm so grateful for the...experience you have given me" Emily Baker, Plymouth University

Funding: In kind AONB Staff time to meet the tutors and students and support the various projects.

Biodiversity: Students gained an understanding of the Cornwall AONB and the different elements that make the landscape and heritage so special.

Communities: Higher education within Cornwall and Devon.

Forward Look: The Cornwall AONB is committed to supporting student placements where possible. In addition, the Monumental Improvement project will continue to expand its links with local universities and colleges and will be looking to support a wider range of students during the delivery stage of the project 2022-2024.



Carne Beacon, South Coast Central AONB section

Plantlife Project – Building Resilience in South West Woodlands for lichens and bryophytes

The South West's veteran woodlands are of international importance for the rare mosses and lichens that thrive in the mild climate of the Atlantic coast and form globally rare temperate rainforests with an abundance of special wildlife. Atlantic woodland is a habitat challenged by immediate environmental and management issues. This influential three and a half year NLHF funded project partnership is being led by Plantlife, with the Cornwall AONB providing its services as a support 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.

Funding: In kind match through staff time

Biodiversity: To manage and protect ancient woodlands that provide the perfect habitat for rare lichens and mosses.

Communities: 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.

Forward Look: The project will run through to 2022

More Info (web link) <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/conservation-projects/woodland>



Kerdroya is being delivered by our partners Golden Tree Productions with the financial and in-kind support of the AONB and Cornwall Council to celebrate both the Cornwall AONB Diamond Anniversary 1959-2019 as well as to celebrate the humble Cornish Hedge.

The project has two components - the Community Heritage Project that delivered 12 sections of restored hedge in each of the 12 AONB sections during 2019 plus the Kerdroya Landscape scale hedged Labyrinth on Bodmin Moor at Colliford Lake, based on the redundant area of car parking alongside the improved toilet facilities provided by SW Lakes Trust.

Construction of the Kerdroya labyrinth started in 2020 and the Master Hedger has also begun construction of the Cornish hedges within the Labyrinth and construction will continue through to 2023.

Funding: £35,000 in total (all years) from Cornwall AONB, £59,000 National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), £250,000 Cornwall Council, Arts Council £120,000, Feast £15,000, Cornwall Heritage Trust £4,800, NLHF Round 2 £98,000. Golden Tree have initiated the Hedge Pledge, where people can pay a fee (make their pledge) in return for owning a stretch of the hedge [Join the Hedge Pledge - Golden Tree Productions](#)

Biodiversity: The project will stabilise 12 sections of traditional hedge for wildlife and create 0.1 hectares of new species rich grassland on the hedged labyrinth site at Colliford Lake.

Communities: all 12 sections of the Cornwall AONB

Forward Look: During 2022 community work and training will continue, ahead of construction re-starting on site in Spring 2023, with an expected completion date of the project in Autumn 2023.

[More Info \(web link\)](#)



Kerdroya aerial view with moorland – Ebb & Flow Media

Monumental Improvement

The Monumental Improvement project is aiming to ensure that 40 Scheduled Monuments within the Cornwall AONB are better identified, supported and enjoyed by a wider range of visitors by 2024. 35 of the 40 sites are currently on the Heritage at Risk register, whilst the remaining 5 are classified as vulnerable, the main threats being erosion, unchecked vegetation, flooding and poor identification. The Monuments are also ecologically significant, with 16 located in Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a further 12 in European Designated sites which have the highest levels of protection in the UK.

In order to achieve the projects mission statement, it has been split into two phases – the [development stage](#) and the delivery stage. In 2019, the Cornwall AONB were awarded funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to commence the development stage, with match funding from Cornwall Council, Historic England, National Trust, Cornwall Heritage Trust, Cornwall Archaeological Society and the Rame Conservation Trust. Commencing in January 2021 and concluding in December 2021, the development stage saw the project team work with a range of specialists, partners, stakeholders, community groups and volunteers to test and trial a wide-ranging activity programme; undertake extensive archaeological, ecological and accessibility assessments of the sites; develop a structured Interpretation Plan and commence audience development. More info see [Development Stage Evaluation Report](#)

The project faced unprecedented global events during the two-year development stage, however, it has nonetheless delivered substantially against its agreed objectives. The project team also worked incredibly hard to draw together a delivery stage funding application which adapted the project to meet the demands from a changed world, focusing on how it can support health and wellbeing in the county. The funding application was submitted in November 2021, and after a successful committee visit in February 2022, the project was awarded just under £500k for the delivery phase which is due to run from 2022 until 2024.

The delivery stage of the Monumental Improvement project will raise awareness and improve understanding of Cornish heritage, bringing these heritage features back into better management by removing as many of the Monuments as possible from the Heritage at Risk register. The project will also be providing training for local volunteers to help care for the sites in the future to ensure that the project has a legacy beyond 2024. Through an extensive activity programme and increased interpretation, it will also connect provide skill development, create 5 jobs and improve the health and wellbeing of local communities.

This project has been designed to deliver on 7 of the AONB Management Plan 2022-2027's policies and 21 objectives, as well as delivering on Cornwall Council's Heritage Strategy, NLHF 9 outcomes for heritage and Historic England 3 national priorities.

Funding: Development stage funding was secured from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in January 2020, with match funding from Cornwall Council, Historic England, National Trust, Cornwall Heritage Trust, Cornwall Archaeological Society and the Rame Conservation Trust. The development stage ran from January 2020 until December 2021.

Throughout the development stage, the project team secured £105,176 worth of in-kind funding against a target of £85,114. This was largely provided by our project partners, volunteers and community groups including the Meneage Archaeology Group, Cornwall Archaeological Society, Rame Conservation Trust, TimeSeekers, Old Cornwall Society and Truro College.

In March 2022, the Cornwall AONB successfully secured just under £500k of funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund towards the delivery stage of the project which will take place between 2022 and 2024. The project has also secured match funding from Cornwall Council, Historic England, Cornwall AONB, National Trust and Cornwall Heritage Trust, totalling just under £750k. Combined with expected in-kind contributions, the project is anticipating a total contribution of just under £1m.

Biodiversity: Ecological assessments of the Scheduled Monuments including a Habitat Walkover Survey and creation of a Constraints Map for each site to help inform the management plans for the Monuments.

The delivery stage of the project includes provision to improve habitats for birds, bats and pollinators at 26 of the 40 Scheduled Monuments, and further plans for further specialist surveys and HRA assessments at delivery stage. In addition, we will be creating 8 x ecology toolbox information sheets and 4 x identification sheets for plants that are of conservation concern which will be made accessible to community volunteers throughout and past the end of the project to ensure ecology is protected during future conservation works.

Communities: in 10 of the 12 AONB sections (except West Penwith and Camel Estuary).

Forward Look: The Monumental Improvement project commenced the delivery stage of the project in March 2022, with the project launch planned for May 2022. Until 2024, the project will be delivering over 250 activities as part of our wide-ranging activity programme aiming to connect people to heritage in the AONB. We will also be commencing recruitment for an Archaeological Officer, Archaeological technician Level 3 apprentice and Business Administrative Apprentice in 2022, as well as procurement for the necessary access, archaeology, ecology, evaluation, interpretation and vegetation contractors required. [To find out more about the delivery stage of the project and to see our upcoming event, please click here.](#)

Monumental Improvement Measurable Outcomes by 2024

 Foster a more sustainable future for 40 Scheduled Monuments	 Remove up to 25 Monuments from the Heritage at Risk Register
 Prevent the decline of 5 Scheduled Monuments onto the Heritage at Risk Register	 Ensure the 10 Scheduled Monuments facing irreversible loss are better understood and documented
 Train and support 200 existing and new community volunteers	 Update the Historic Environment Records for 40 Scheduled Monuments
 Invest over £70k to increase physical and virtual access to the sites	 Create an online platform to explore the Monuments via the Cornwall AONB website
 Improve habitats at 26 sites for birds, bats and pollinators	 Deliver over 250 activities
 Positively impact the health and wellbeing of over 300 local people	 Train over 80 primary school staff to utilise Scheduled Monuments in curriculum delivery
 Engage with over 100 Undergraduate students through placements and site visits	 4 toolkits will be available to volunteers to survey and maintain Monuments
 Engage with 65 organisations to deliver the project	 Create 3 jobs and 2 apprenticeships

Monuments Matter to People

Monuments Matter to People is a project designed to help unemployed or inactive people from Liskeard, Torpoint or Saltash get back into work, training or education. Hosted at Maker Heights, South East Cornwall, this project is being run by Cornwall AONB and partners Rame Conservation Trust, Adult Education, Samaritans and Cornwall Archaeological Unit. Participants take part in Adult Education Basic Skills Training at local centres, and conservation and heritage themed volunteering, and creative activities at Maker Heights.

The project covers all participants expenses including travel to the sessions, lunch, childcare and any safety equipment such as work boots participants might require. The activity sessions started in April 2021, and the travel expenses have proven essential to overcoming barriers to engagement for residents from Saltash and Liskeard.

Funding: This project is funded by the European Social Fund.

Biodiversity: When volunteers complete work with the Rame Conservation Trust, they are often helping to record wildlife, learning about biodiversity and building new habitats such as a pond, bat boxes and bee logs.

Communities: This project is run in the Rame Head Section of Cornwall AONB.

Forward Look: Looking forward, the project will continue with its recruitment and will aim to benefit the lives of 31 participants by November 2022.

More info: <https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/monuments-matter-to-people>



Monuments Matter to People wreath making workshop using foliage collected from the Monumental Improvement Project Site 13 – Redoubt 4

South West Peatland Partnership – Bodmin Moor

South West Water were awarded by Natural England's Nature for Climate Peatland Restoration scheme, the funding on behalf of the South West Peatland Partnership and will help restore 2,634 hectares of damaged peatland in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, saving a total of 652,625 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

A partnership of local and regional organisations in the South West, the South West Peatland Partnership secured the vital funding for a four-year project to protect the natural environment by restoring peatland, making it more resilient to climate change.

The project will support the government's climate and environment commitments, focussing on helping the rewetting of extensive areas of damaged peatlands. The work will reduce carbon emissions, restore the ecosystems that support the recovery of associated wildlife and their habitats. It will also improve the quality and quantity of water leaving the peatlands, protect our historic environment and work with farmers and connect people with nature.

The total cost of the project is £13 million and will see significant match funding through South West Water's Green Recovery programme, the Duchy of Cornwall and the National Trust.

Funding: lead partner, South West Water and funded by Natural England to the value of £13 million with significant match funding through South West Water's Green Recovery programme, the Duchy of Cornwall and the National Trust. in the Southwest, with a part of this funding delivering on Bodmin Moor and West Penwith.

Biodiversity: The project will make a huge contribution to carbon management and supporting improved biodiversity.

Communities: Bodmin Moor & West Penwith

Forward Look: Project delivery, Cornwall AONB are a supporting partner, have to date supported the project delivery team with the project recruitment process

More Info (web link) [£9m Feat for Peat – The Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty \(cornwall-aonb.gov.uk\)](https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk)



Re-wetting on Bodmin Moor

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

In May 2021, Cornwall AONB were offered the opportunity to run a Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme along with all the other Protected Landscapes (AONB's and National Parks) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Designed and funded by DEFRA this would be the first post-Brexit domestic agricultural grant scheme. It is different to other schemes, like Countryside Stewardship for example, in that DEFRA have passed grant funding on to an intermediary body (the Protected Landscape) who in turn distribute grants to landowners and managers. A 'National Framework' has been produced by DEFRA to set the boundaries of what the scheme can fund, but within this framework each Protected Landscape is free to administer the scheme according to local priorities.

The programme provides funding for projects which deliver outcomes towards at least one of the four priority themes of People, Place, Nature and Climate. Landowners and land managers apply to Cornwall AONB for grant funding which is approved and administered locally, with Cornwall AONB in turn claiming the allocated funding from DEFRA. As well as programme funding to pass onto farmers and other land managers, the programme funds administrative support and project officer time to provide advice and guidance to applicants. This has enabled the AONB unit to employ two administrators – Lily Gray, who also supports the NEIRF Project, and Iwona Brooks who also supports the Monuments Matter project. The funding has also enabled a Farm Engagement Officer to be employed, Seán O’Hea, who’s primary purpose is to advise and guide applicants to help them to submit eligible applications which meet the programme priorities. Applications are assessed by a Local Assessment Panel (LAP) on an 8-weekly basis, which is made up of local representatives from a range of relevant bodies, bringing in expertise across the programme themes. The scheme has been well received locally and nationally both for the support it provides to applicants before and during application, and for the fact that funding can be obtained for a range of different projects and items which aren’t provided for elsewhere. As long as the core National Framework is adhered to there is scope for a good deal of creativity in the projects put forward for funding.

The programme is delivering multiple outcomes for the Cornwall AONB Management Plan. Case studies of some of the projects funded so far can be found on the Cornwall AONB website [CAONB FiPL Case Studies](#)

Funding: FiPL is DEFRA funded over a three-year period, commenced 2021/22 and ends in March 2024. Total programme funding over this period, including administration and advice and guidance is £1.6 million.

Biodiversity: 'Nature' is one of the four FiPL priorities, in common with the Cornwall AONB Management Plan. Many of the projects already funded, as well as those proposed deliver for biodiversity by creating and enhancing wildlife habitats and connecting habitats together. Many of the projects deliver for wildlife even if this isn't their primary purpose, for example farm resilience projects supporting cover crops and herbal leys improve habitats in productive agricultural systems.

Communities: all 12 sections of the Cornwall AONB

Forward Look: Whilst the FiPL funding is due to end on 31st March 2024, there are encouraging early signs that the scheme might be extended in some way. The positive feedback ministers and DEFRA staff are receiving is, anecdotally, making FiPL a scheme that they are pleased with and would want to continue. The scheme has enabled the unit to build new and wide ranging relationships across the agricultural sector, building a strong network for future project delivery and collaboration.

Further information about FiPL can be found here: [CAONB FiPL](#)



FiPL Beneficiary Ben Thomas – funding supported equipment for mob-grazing in section 12 – Bodmin Moor.

Bee Happy Bee Healthy

Cornwall AONB, Buglife, Active Cornwall and the University of Exeter joined forces to develop Bee Happy Bee Healthy, where community-based conservation plans to safeguard Cornwall's incredible pollinators and help reconnect people with nature. Following the appointment of a new National Lottery mentor, Cornwall AONB were asked to re-define target audiences, review existing National Lottery and health and wellbeing projects in the area to ensure no overlap and resubmit our proposals with a significant change in funding ask from the National Lottery. Following some re-development work funded by the Defra top up, Bee Happy Bee Healthy has been broken down into a series of projects with different audiences that all sit within the Bee Happy Bee Healthy umbrella. (see project pipeline list earlier in this Annual Report)

Funding: Currently being reviewed but total ask from the National Lottery is not to exceed £50,000 per annum. Project proposals to be delivered over next 4 years through an updated application to National Lottery Community Fund.

Biodiversity: The Bee Happy Bee Healthy project proposes to improve public land for pollinators.

Communities: The project aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of our communities, particularly those disadvantaged communities that are in close proximity to AONB designated areas, that have higher than average levels of mental ill-health and or have low levels of physical activity.

Forward Look: All queries raised by the Lottery need to be answered satisfactorily with accompanying evidence of need, which will be taken to the committee for a decision later in 2022.



Black headed mining bee/Paddy Saunders

Cornwall's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Co-developing Cornwall's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are plans for supporting nature in local areas. They will identify local priorities and the most strategic places to support nature recovery in order to enhance biodiversity and wider ecosystem services. They consist of:

- a map of the most valuable areas and the best opportunity areas for nature
- a statement of local priorities for improving nature

The strategies are statutory requirements of local areas under the Environment Act, which must be developed and reported on by local 'Responsible Authorities' – which in Cornwall will be Cornwall Council.

They will help guide future investment for nature, identify spatial allocations for nature, guide the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain in planning, and help direct the future for environmental land management funding.

Cornwall's Nature Recovery Pilot

Cornwall was chosen by Government as one of only 5 places in the country to be a '[Nature Recovery Pilot](#)' to develop a draft LNRS. The pilot was led by Cornwall Council, and the draft strategy was co-created with Cornwall AONB and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership.

The pilot started in September 2020 and ran until May 2021. Over 700 local stakeholders have generously shared their views to help shape the draft – including environment experts, farmers and the general public.

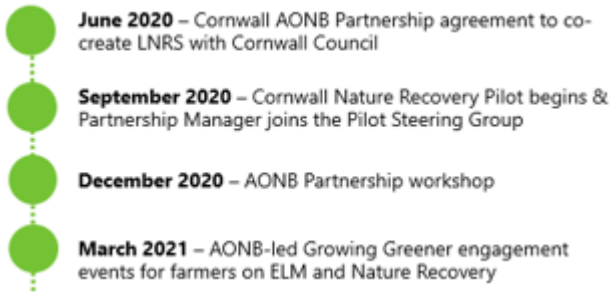
You can read [Defra's reflections on the pilots](#). Government will draft statutory guidance for the production of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, drawing on the lessons from the pilot.

Cornwall AONB's role in the pilot

The National Association of AONB's Colchester Declaration pledged to act to redress declines in species and habitats, including a commitment to prepare Nature Recovery Plan's for each AONB.



In June 2020, Cornwall AONB's Partnership Meeting agreed to co-create the Cornwall Nature Recovery Strategy with Cornwall Council as part of the Nature Recovery Pilot. In doing so, we are helping to ensure that Cornwall has an effective, joined-up approach to nature recovery covering our AONB and surrounding areas. This will help to embed our own priorities as an AONB within an integrated statutory plan for all of Cornwall, which will enable us to collectively attract funding based on whole-place priorities, and ensuring simpler strategic direction for stakeholders through a single plan.



As a result, Cornwall AONB was heavily involved in the Cornwall Nature Recovery Pilot, including:

- Cornwall AONB’s Partnership Manager was a member of the pilot steering group, providing guidance and feedback on the process and draft strategy.
- The wider Cornwall AONB Partnership helped to shape the content through a workshop in December 2020, and through participating in the pilot surveys.
- Cornwall AONB also supported a public engagement event at the Local Nature Partnership’s annual conference, co-organised a two ‘Growing Greener’ events to engage farmers in the process, and helped to promote engagement events through social media and the press.
- We have since begun testing how the LNRS can be embedded by integrating it within our evaluation process for administering Farming in Protected Landscapes funding.

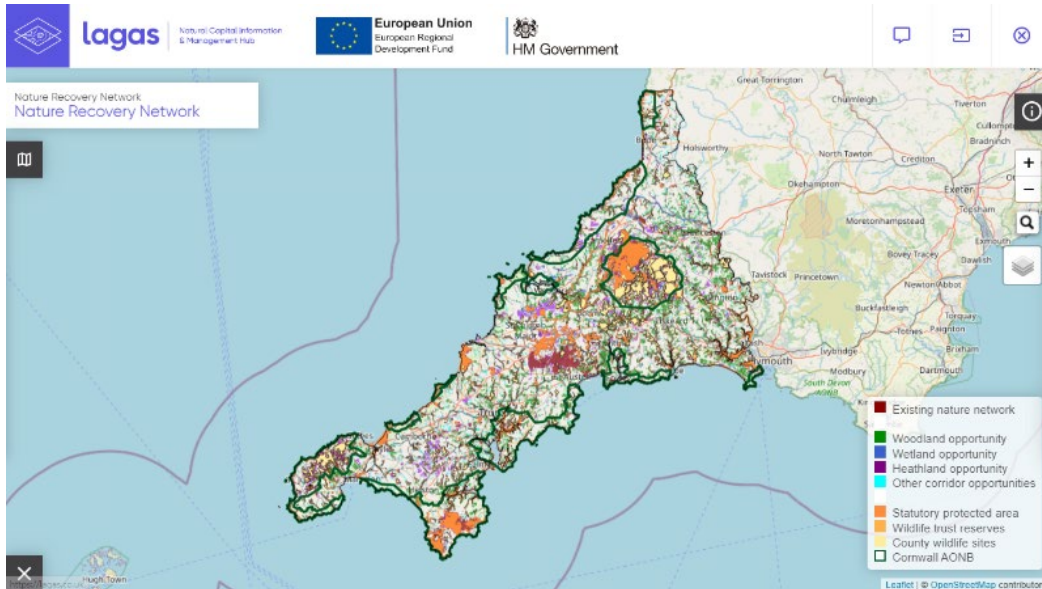
What is in Cornwall’s draft LNRS?

The draft strategy sets out a vision that we will:

Work in partnership with one and all to deliver more, bigger, better and more joined up natural habitats so that 30% of our land and seas are well managed for nature by 2030.

The draft strategy outlines:

- 10 principles
- 6 short-term priorities
- 5 medium-term priorities
- 10 enablers
- A prototype Nature Recovery Network



The prototype Cornwall Nature Recovery Network comprises two areas:

- Zone 1 comprising current protected and high value areas where we need to enhance and protect the best (~25% of Cornwall);
- Zone 2 opportunity areas where we can create and restore the rest (~15% of Cornwall).
- The strategy also highlights wider opportunities outside the network in Zone 3.

You can read the draft strategy and view the engagement events again [here](#). The prototype map is available on the [Lagas](#) mapping platform - [Lagas - Natural Capital Information & Management Hub](#)

Communications

Environment page weekly articles – the AONB Unit continues to co-ordinate the Environment page articles in the weekly Cornwall newspapers which are printed in the West Briton, Cornish Guardian and The Cornishman. Articles are written by a range of the Cornwall AONB Partnership organisations and wider Cornwall AONB stakeholders and community groups as well as the AONB Unit team. The AONB logo appears on the page each week with the strapline ‘Environment page, co-ordinated by the Cornwall AONB Unit’ so it provides excellent publicity for the AONB. Topics covered during 2021/22 included: World Heritage Day; Cornwall Heritage Trust purchase of Caer Bran (depicted below); PK Porthcurno Plastic Free Community; Local Nature Partnership Pledge for Nature; South West Coast Path economic health and wellbeing valuation; Growing Greener nature recovery; Westcountry Rivers Trust life-long love of rivers; and Rock Pool ramblings.

34 CORNISH GUARDIAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

ENVIRONMENT COLUMN, CO-ORDINATED BY THE CORNWALL AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY UNIT



Caer Bran, a multi-age hillfort site near Sancreed, in West Penwith, contains archaeological remains from both the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods.

Heritage trust purchases hillfort to preserve ancient site and educate future generations

by CORNWALL HERITAGE TRUST

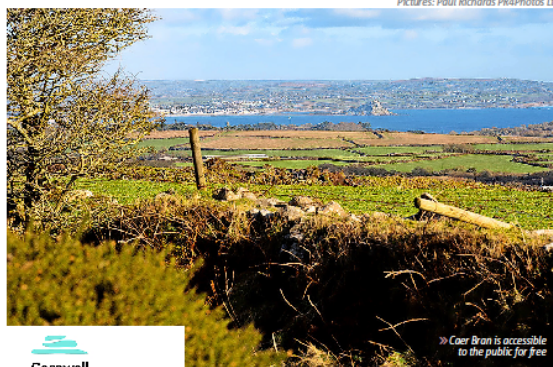
Pictures: Paul Richards P64Photos Ltd

THIS week we bring you a good news story from Cornwall Heritage Trust, one of the 20 organisations that make up the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership. Cornwall Heritage Trust is proud to have purchased Caer Bran – an important multi-age hillfort site near Sancreed, which contains archaeological remains from both the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods. The purchase allows the trust to protect the nine-hectare site from possible development and intensive agricultural use, recognising its importance as a site of unique Cornish heritage.

CEO Cathy Woolcock said: “We are excited to have been able to add Caer Bran to the collection of sites across Cornwall that we manage and protect and which are all accessible by the public for free.

“Cornwall Heritage Trust seeks to preserve and strengthen Cornwall’s heritage and educate current and future generations about the heritage significance of the landscapes we live in; Caer Bran will help us to do this.”

Traditionally considered to be an Iron Age enclosure, recent research



Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

shows that Caer Bran actually had origins in the Bronze Age, with the construction of three ring cairns set

within a hilltop enclosure. These can still be viewed at the site. Re-enclosure of the monument took place in the Iron Age with a more substantial bank and ditch, and this continuity shows the importance of Caer Bran

to the people of the local area. Caer is Cornish for fort, and Bran means raven but, Caer Bran could also mean the “fort of Bran,” which is a reference to Bran the blessed, a mythological Celtic king.

“We are excited to have been able to add Caer Bran to the collection of sites across Cornwall that we manage

Cathy Woolcock, CEO Cornwall Heritage Trust

CHT chairman Lt Col Richard Trant said: “Caer Bran is a property which, as an example of Iron Age presence in Cornwall, has great archaeological importance. Equally it gives sanctuary to some wonderful flora and fauna, our natural heritage, that the trust will also protect and nurture. Caer Bran is a jewel of a site which complements our adjacent sites in West Penwith.”

Cornwall Heritage Trust already owns neighbouring Sancreed Beacon, and manages the nearby ancient village of Cam Bamy.

These sites are freely open to the public and more information about them can be found at www.cornwallheritagetrust.org/visit

Caer Bran can be visited at TR20 8QZ. Map Reference: SW 4074 2903.

Cornwall Life magazine monthly article: each month the Cornwall AONB Unit writes a magazine article for Cornwall Life. This is an opportunity to showcase the twelve Local Sections of the AONB by incorporating useful, informative and topical information about the AONB into articles.



Cornwall AONB Photo Competition – We ran our popular photo competition again this year in collaboration with Cornwall Life magazine. ‘Celebrating Nature in Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’ was the theme as we wanted to showcase the importance of the connection to nature that many of us experienced in 2020 and encouraged photographers to capture images or submit images they had taken during 2020, which celebrate nature in the 12 Sections of the Cornwall AONB. The competition ran from May to September 2021. 98 photos were entered into the competition. Cornwall Life magazine editor helped judge the entries and winning photos were showcased in the Cornwall Life magazine along with the photographers winning some great prizes which included an annual subscription to the magazine.





First Place winner - Cornish Choughs perching on Wheal Coates Engine house chimney St Agnes – photo credit: Lisa MacLeod

E-newsletter - Tir Teg (Cornish for 'beautiful land'): 6 latest e-news updates

circulated via email throughout the year to just over 1000 of our AONB supporters which include Parish and Town Councils, community groups and organisations, interested individuals, Cornwall Councillors, AONB Trustees and Business Supporters, AONB Partnership members and wider AONB stakeholders. Latest news included information on our projects, activities and events, Management Plan consultation, job vacancies and news from our partnership organisations.

Website – the Cornwall AONB website www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk continues to be a useful resource for anyone wanting to find out more about the work of the AONB Unit and Partnership, location of the 12 separate sections that make up the Cornwall AONB, with ‘explore’ pages so visitors and locals can find out more, details of our ‘projects’ and ‘planning’ pages being popular. The website continued to be regularly updated throughout the year to promote the work of the AONB Unit and our partners activities.

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022 there were **35,532** new users and page views **78,277** representing a small increase of 9.2% and 2.8% respectively. Where did these users go when they visited the website? This chart shows the top 10 landing pages:

Page		Page Views	% Page Views
1. /		10,969	14.01%
2. /ramehead		6,108	7.80%
3. /kerdroya		5,747	7.34%
4. /map-of-cornwall		5,541	7.08%
5. /westpenwith		4,886	6.24%
6. /bodminmoor		3,808	4.86%
7. /management-plan		2,646	3.38%
8. /camelestuary		1,870	2.39%
9. /planning		1,791	2.29%
10. /projects-2		1,655	2.11%

[view full report](#)

Cornwall AONB App

The Cornwall AONB App is free to download from Android or Apple devices and provides information on what there is to see and do in each of the 12 sections of the Cornwall AONB. Search ‘Cornwall AONB’ on your Android or Apple device and install for free.

Social Media

Channel	Current Users	% Increase
Facebook	3052 Followers	12%
Instagram	1351 Followers	20%
Twitter	4862 Followers	6%
LinkedIn	187 Followers	34%
YouTube	17 Subscribers	41%

Monumental Improvement Social Media

Throughout the development stage of the Monumental Improvement project, the team posted regular communications via the Cornwall AONB’s social media channels with 20 Instagram posts, 51 Facebook posts and 48 Twitter posts. Our project evaluation surveys found that the majority of our event attendees found out about upcoming activities via our social media posts, thereby highlighting the importance of this medium in helping to raise awareness of the project. On Facebook, Monumental Improvement was one of Cornwall AONB’s most engaging themes, with project posts receiving more link clicks than around 90% of other AONB Facebook posts and stories. Additionally, our top Facebook 5 posts reached more people than 80% of Cornwall AONB’s average reach for their recent stories or posts. The image below shows the top Monumental Improvement Facebook post which was shared by 15 people/organisations and had a reach of 2,619 people.

The screenshot shows a Facebook post titled "A MONUMENTAL IMPROVEMENT Interpretation Survey". The post includes a blue "Boost post" button at the top. The main text reads: "We want to hear from you! The Monumental Improvement project is developi...". Below the text, it shows the date "October 20, 2021 at 1:30 PM" and the ID "2107207306092913". The "Interactions" section displays "36 reactions", "11 comments", and "15 shares". The image for the post features a scenic view of a coastline with the text "A MONUMENTAL IMPROVEMENT Interpretation Survey" overlaid. At the bottom of the image, there are logos for various partners including Cornwall Council, Historic England, and the European Union.

Performance

Reach ⓘ

Total
2,619

Worst Best

This post reached more people than **85%** of your 50 most recent Facebook posts and stories.

Reach 2,619

Reactions, comments and shares ⓘ

Total
62

○

Reactions 36
 Comments 11
 Shares 15

Results ⓘ

Total
106

Worst Best

This post received more link clicks than **92%** of your 50 most recent Facebook posts and stories.

Link clicks 106

The project will continue to utilise the AONB social media channels during the delivery stage of the project to share project updates and event information.

Cornwall AONB working with other teams

With the development stage of the Monumental Improvement project concluding in December 2021, and the delivery stage not due to commence until March 2022, the project team chose to undertake secondments 2 days a week from January-March 2022 in order to make some budget savings and connect with other teams in similar fields in Cornwall.

Monumental Improvement Project Manager, Natalie, undertook a secondment with the Tamar Valley AONB, helping to look into Customer Relationship Management solution, as well as supporting other initiatives within the AONB including interpretation and evaluation. This secondment really helped to forge stronger working partnerships between the Tamar Valley AONB and Cornwall AONB and has seen the teams linking together to share learnings and best practice across a wide array of work.

Monumental Improvement Activities Officer, Jacob, undertook his secondment with Cornwall Council's Forest for Cornwall team to help and provide additional support to their team. Jacob worked on streamlining the process through which the Forest for Cornwall team collect tree planting data from the Partnership Forum. In addition, Jacob consulted with farmers and landowners on new planting opportunities, updated the Forest for Cornwall database, and helped to plant trees at several new woodlands during the course of his secondment. This has established a connection between the Forest for Cornwall team and the AONB, creating new opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration.

During 2021/22 the AONB Unit attended regular meetings and provided advice and support to the following community groups and organisations:

- Cornwall AONB Trust
- Wild Roseland
- Helford Marine Conservation Group
- Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Technical Panel
- Penwith Landscapes Partnership Board and Executive Committee
- West Penwith Dark Skies Initiative Group
- Linking the Lizard Partnership
- Porthcurno Plastic Free Community Steering Group
- Bodmin Moor Working Group
- Cornish hedge Working Group
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy National Pilot
- Cornwall Catchment Partnership
- Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership Steering Group
- Groundswell – Lizard group



The Cornwall AONB Trust is an independent body that functions to benefit the aims and objectives of the Cornwall AONB Partnership and Cornwall AONB Management Plan. The Trust operates an Environment Landscape Fund (ELF) grant fund whose purpose is to enable local communities and organisations to carry out complimentary projects which would also meet the Objects of the Trust and make a difference to the Cornwall AONB by promoting and achieving sustainable environment and landscape improvements to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.

The Cornwall AONB Unit's Business Development Officer, provides full business management support to the [Cornwall AONB Independent Trust](#), which includes an independent Business Supporters scheme and administering the ELF. The Trust has four appointed trustees and two 'ex-officio' trustees (the trustee role is conferred on the role of Chair of the AONB Partnership and the AONB Partnership Manager).

In September 2021 Cornwall AONB Trust was part of the successful bid to the Environment Agency's Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund. The Trust is supporting the AONB Unit in the project and working with conservation finance experts, Terranomics Ltd, to explore its role in private investment in the protected landscape.

In this financial year the Trust has awarded three ELF Grants and has received five applications. The Trust has also supported the Cornwall AONB Unit's BEAST event.

Cornwall AONB Trust has set up [EasyFundraising](#) and [Amazon Smile](#) to increase digital donations.

The Trust has also begun actively re-engaging with existing Business Supporters and targeting new ones.

The AONB Unit provides support including:

- Ongoing advice and support to the Cornwall AONB Trust
- Managing all HSBC Trust Banking and Charity Commission requirements
- Identifying and engaging future Business Supporters
- Organising events on behalf of the Trust
- Actively contributing at Trust meetings including Cornwall AONB Office & Finance Manager providing secretariat for taking minutes of meetings
- Actioning development work identified by the Trustees
- Managing the independent Environment Landscape Fund (ELF) providing grants of up to £500 to community and business organisations with projects that deliver on the conservation and enhancement of the Cornwall AONB
- Providing the Annual Return and Chairman's report to the Charity Commission
- Submitting Funding Bids to secure additional monies and future-proof the Trust

The National Association for AONBs and 'Landscapes for Life'

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are some of the UK's most outstanding landscapes and belong to an international Protected Landscape Family. There are 38 AONBs in England and Wales, and a further 8 in Northern Ireland. For further information about the AONB Family visit

www.landscapesforlife.org.uk

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) is the umbrella charity for the AONBs in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland and works to develop the network of ambitious AONB partnerships with a strong collective voice, working collaboratively to deliver shared objectives. It has the principles of sustainable development at its core, and this is reflected in everything they do.

The NAAONB undertakes lobbying, enables collaborative working, responding to consultations such as the Glover Review of Designated Landscapes, co-ordinates the AONB family forum which exists to share ideas and best practice amongst all AONB staff across the country, holds topic groups, training programmes and regular meetings of AONB Lead Officers and Chair's.

Colchester Declaration: The National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) Annual Conference held at the University of Essex in Colchester in July 2019, culminated in the Cornwall AONB becoming one of the signatories to the [Colchester Declaration](#). Set against a backdrop of unprecedented concern for the future of the natural world and intergovernmental reports that the current global response to the effects of human impact on nature is insufficient – the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty recognised that the time is right to significantly increase the scale and pace of nature conservation activity in AONBs. Using our unique network and partnership model the NAAONB made a collective Declaration on Nature in AONBs and set out a strategy for change and calling upon Westminster and the Welsh Governments to provide the power and resources to make these targets achievable.

The Colchester Declaration covers the period from 2020 to 2030 and makes an ambitious pledge with regard to the Climate Change Emergency and our readiness to act to redress the ongoing decline in species and habitats within the context of a wider response to climate change.


Landscapes for Life Week: is an annual national celebration of AONBs. The Cornwall AONB joins other AONBs across the UK every September to celebrate it's annual 'Landscapes for Life week' which ran from 18 – 27 Sept, 2021. This year Cornwall AONB created an immersive Art in the Landscape event, BEAST, which took place in Section 12, Bodmin Moor.



The Laurel Poem Prize: The Laurel Prize is Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage’s brainchild and aims to recognise poetry with a nature or environmental theme at a time when we need nature more than ever; but find it under threat. After commissioning a poem, *Fugitives*, by Armitage in 2019, the UK’s Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) partnered with the Poetry School and the Poet Laureate again, in this Annual Award for the best collection of nature or environmental poetry to highlight the climate crisis and raise awareness of the challenges and potential solutions at this critical point in our planet’s life. Armitage donates his annual Laureate Honorarium of £5,000. More info: www.thelaurelprize.com

The Cornwall AONB Partnership are among the AONBs who sponsor the annual Laurel Prize and were delighted to discover that the 2020 winner resides on Bodmin Moor, section 12 of the Cornwall AONB. Pascale Petit won the accolade with her *‘Mama Amazonica’* poem.

Following this, the Cornwall AONB Unit asked Pascale Petit to write a poem to showcase and celebrate the winning of the Laurel Prize. Pascale wrote *‘Beast of Bodmin Moor’* because she lives “in a deep rainforested valley of the Lynher River, just under the south east corner of the moor.

 <p>Beast of Bodmin - Cornwall AONB</p>	<p><i>Audio visual versions of the Beast of Bodmin Moor poem have been created as both an English reading and Cornish Translation and are available on YouTube:</i></p> <p>Beast of Bodmin, Pascale Petit: https://youtu.be/fXVV7fwJuGU Cornish version: https://youtu.be/QxraGIMjY64</p>
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Refreshing the NAAONB's and Historic England Joint Statement

In 2021, Natalie Haly, Monumental Improvement Project Manager, joined the National Association of AONB’s working group to help update its joint statement with Historic England. This statement acts as a declaration of intent between over 30 AONB’s and Historic England to work together to conserve and enhance the historic environment of our protected landscapes. Recognising that heritage sites are fundamental to the character of our AONB’s and have a significant role to play in helping to promote positive health and wellbeing, as well as their ability to help support local economies by creating jobs and attracting people to live and work in these areas.

The working group met regularly throughout 2021 to update the existing joint statement, and with 34 AONB’s now signed up, including the Cornwall AONB, the revised version is due for release in late 2022. It is hoped that this will generate a renewed joint effort to conserve and enhance our historic environment and many future opportunities for collaboration locally and nationally.

Financial Summary 2021/22

Core costs	£
Salaries	185,390
Travel and subsistence	4,376
Training	1,941
Professional fees	379
Cornwall Council Pension deficit	4,797
Staff costs total	196,883
Accommodation, back-office costs/equipment	10,532
Printing and photocopying	38
Stationery and consumables	115
IT hardware/software	309
Office Costs total	10,994
Partnership & Exec Board meetings (online only)	0
National Assn of AONBs	3,486
Management Plan Review inc Design costs	13,499
Communications inc. Website/App costs	1,172
Total Core Costs	226,034
Projects	£
BEAST	2,611
Bee Healthy Bee Happy	5,000
Monuments Matter	3,319
Penwith Landscape Partnership	14,240
Projects total	25,170
Total expenditure	251,204

Income	£
Defra (*see note below)	188,403
Cornwall Council	56,000
National Trust	1,800
Planning pre-app consultation advice	675
Total Income	246,878
Grant funding, Match funding and income shortfall - drawn from reserves for balance	4,326
TOTAL	251,204

*NB: Defra awarded additional ‘top up’ core funding of £35,992 in January 2022, which was separate to the initial £188,403 grant offer and enabled additional spend on projects, planning support, equipment and training



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

Gaylord Nelson

US senator
FOUNDER OF EARTH DAY

Thank you for supporting and advocating for Cornwall AONB

