



# Cornwall's nationally protected landscape



Cornwall  
Area of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty

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# *Nature Recovery*



# Nature Recovery – Environment Act 2021

## 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.

Silver studded blue  
butterfly | Bob Morgan

### 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 ran from September 2020 to May 2021. Over 700 local stakeholders 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 is now drafting 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 (Appendix viii) 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.

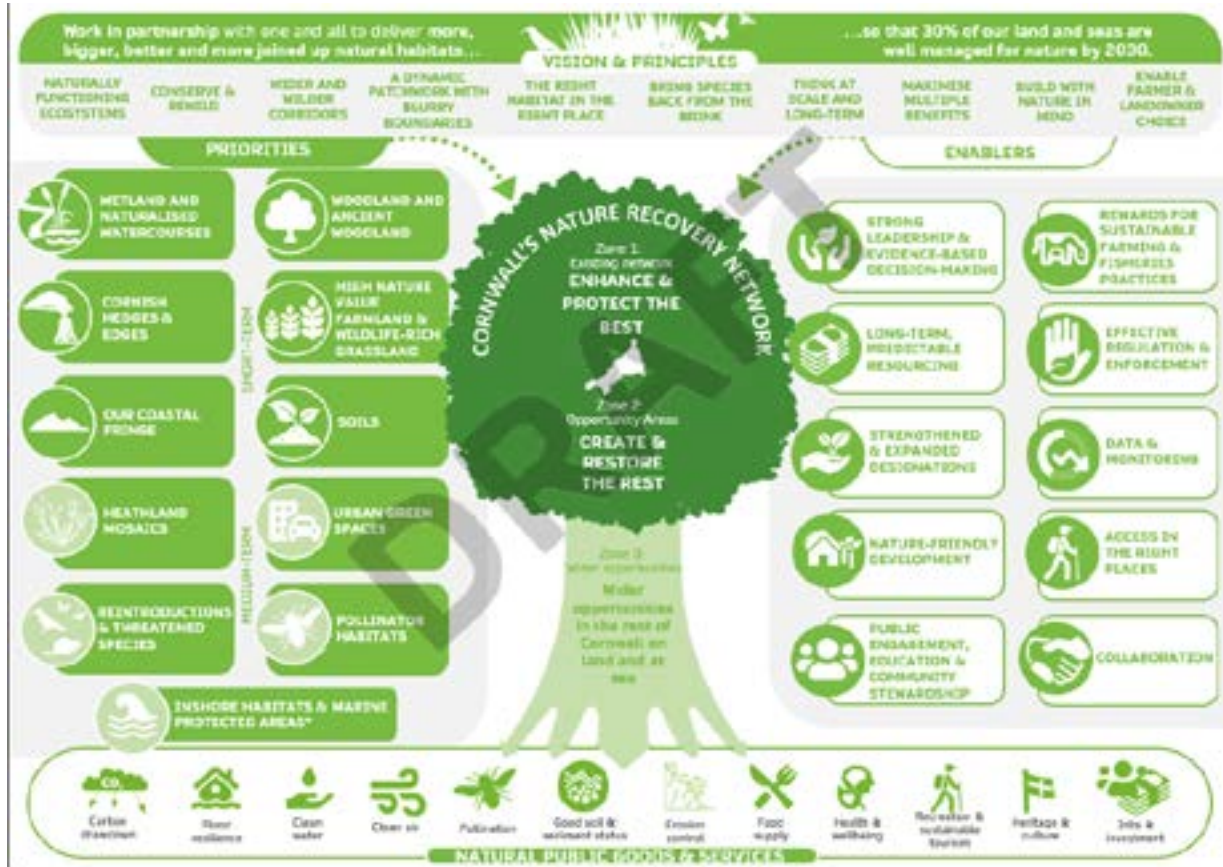
As a result, Cornwall AONB was heavily involved in the Cornwall Nature Recovery Pilot, including:

- 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?

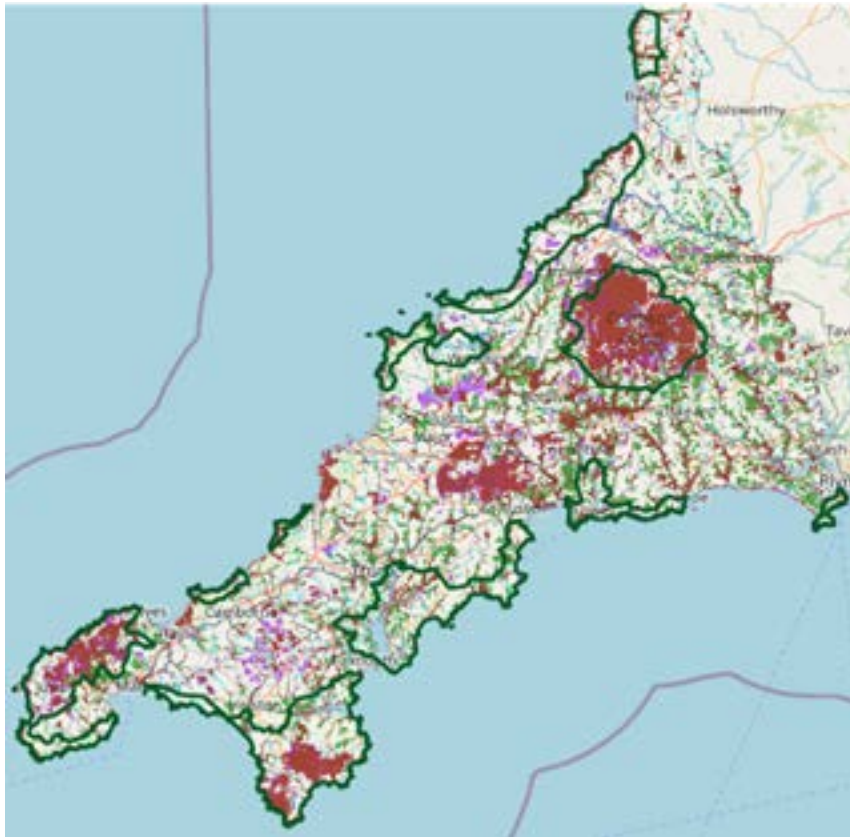


The draft strategy sets out a vision that we will:

**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, Appendix vii, 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](#).


Wheatears | Roy Curtis

### Where next?

The Environment Act became law in November 2021, and we are now awaiting the statutory guidance from Defra. Once this is available, we will work with Cornwall Council on the next phase of consultation and engagement to refine the final version of the Cornwall LNRS for adoption in 2022.





Title	Nature Recovery & Land Management		Time frame
Intro	<p>Cornwall’s natural environment is foundational to our health, prosperity, identity and heritage. It is globally renowned for its beautiful land and seascapes and their unique history. But nature is highly fragile, and not as healthy as it might seem. It is being destroyed at an historically unprecedented rate, with 41% of species having declined in the UK since 1970, Cornwall reflects these trends. Nature Recovery and Land Management goes hand in hand in order to restore Natural Capital assets and improving ecosystem services. Delivering climate solutions and increasing biodiversity aligned with 30 by 30 target will be at the forefront of the AONB’s agenda through projects and initiatives.</p>		
Priority	<p><b>Nature</b></p>		
Aim	<p>Protect, conserve and enhance the natural resources of Cornwall’s AONB, through an integrated approach to sustainable land-management which supports biodiversity conservation, habitat connectivity, enhances ecosystem-services supporting natures resilience to climate change. Work collaboratively to invest in natural capital, reversing the current decline of biodiversity through projects and future schemes which take an ecosystem services approach through Agri and agro-environmental targets.</p>		
Policy NRLM P1	<p>Create and support opportunities to deliver local nature recovery, alongside partner organisations, conserving and enhancing existing habitat and increasing nature connections.</p>		
Policy NRLM P2	<p>Support the monitoring of SSSIs and SAC features within ecologically appropriate intervals in order to maintain those in favourable condition. Support the restoration of those in currently unfavourable condition in order to bring them into favourable condition aligning with the aims and objectives of the Colchester Declaration and Local Nature Recovery Strategy.</p>		



Title	Nature Recovery & Land Management	Time frame
Objective NRLM-Ob1	Improve understanding of the natural capital and ecosystem services of Cornwall AONB. Promote and identify investment, vehicles and opportunities.	Long
Objective NRLM-Ob2	Support opportunities to further understand the state of the AONB's biodiversity and geodiversity resource, including mitigation to avoid recreational impacts upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA.	Long
Objective NRLM-Ob3	Take a strategic, landscape-led, approach to the delivery of the Nature Recovery Network, supporting the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cornwall.	Short/ Medium
Objective NRLM-Ob4	Support landowners, land managers and local communities in the delivery of environmental land management initiatives to increase natural capital, ecosystem services and biodiversity.	Short/ Medium
Objective NRLM-Ob5	Support a catchment-based approach to soil conservation and river, estuarine and bathing water quality within the AONB, to reduce flood risk and improve catchment resilience, including mitigation to avoid water quality impacts upon the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA.	Long
Objective NRLM-Ob6	Support opportunities to control and monitor terrestrial and aquatic invasive.	Long
Objective NRLM-Ob7	Support measures to reduce litter and waste within the AONB and beyond the boundaries.	Long
Objective NRLM-Ob8	Support management initiatives from marine and coastal organisations where they align with the Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code.	Short/ Medium
Objective NRLM-Ob9	Support the appropriate management of Cornish hedges and road verges to encourage wildflowers and pollinators. Raise the profile of the Cornish hedge and its role in ecosystem services.	Short





Title	Nature Recovery & Land Management	Time frame
Objective NRLM-Ob10	Support opportunities to enhance dark skies and conserve the nocturnal environment. Support initiatives which reduce artificial light and increase awareness of the impacts on the nocturnal environment.	Short/ Medium
Objective NRLM-Ob11	Support opportunities to increase wildlife-rich habitats, including those for pollinators, birds and ecosystem engineers. Support reintroduction of locally extinct species aligned to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Short/ Medium
Objective NRLM-Ob12	Support land management initiatives which promote nature friendly farming and soil health as part of a profitable farm business.	Short/ Medium
Objective NRLM-Ob13	Identify opportunities to understand the geological and geomorphological features and processes of the AONB to achieve more benefits for people and nature.	Medium/ Long





# Thank you for supporting and advocating for Cornwall AONB

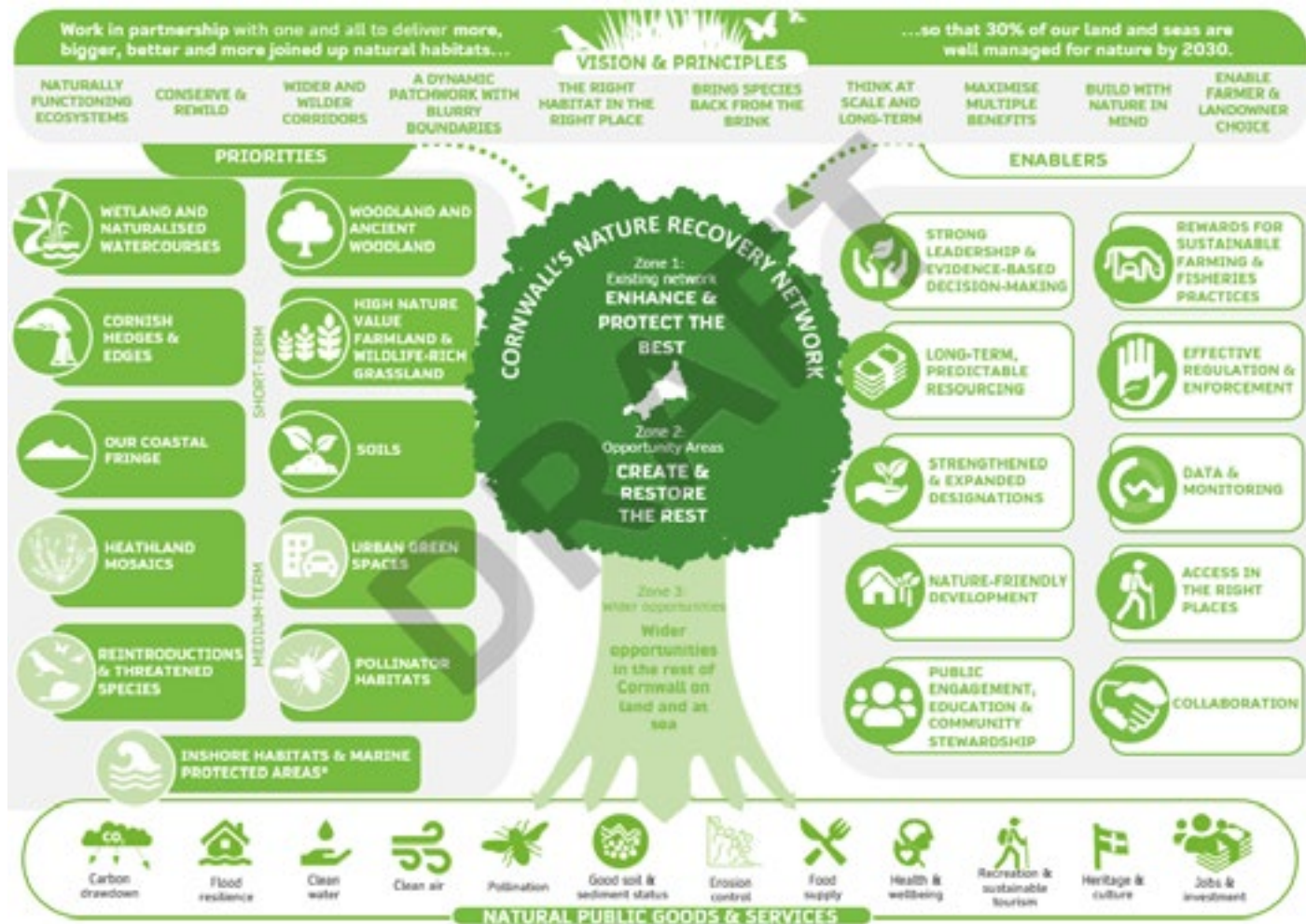


**Cornwall Wildlife Trust**



# vii.

## Local Nature Recovery Strategy



### Visit:

- » <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/nature-recovery-plan-overview>
- » <https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/state-nature-cornwall-2020-report>

Peregrine falcon at Carnewas | John Johnson





## viii.

# Colchester Declaration



### The Colchester Declaration 2019

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 believes that now is the time to significantly increase the scale and pace of nature conservation activity in AONBs. Using our unique network and partnership model, we are making a collective Declaration on Nature in AONBs, setting out our strategy for change.

With many AONB host authorities having taken the step of declaring a Climate Emergency we are demonstrating our readiness to act to redress declines in species and habitats within the context of a wider response to climate change.

#### We believe

1. Natural Beauty has intrinsic value and means so much to people
2. AONBs should be places of rich, diverse and abundant wildlife
3. Nature recovery is central to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty
4. Climate change is the biggest threat to humanity and one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. Designated landscapes offer some of the most powerful solutions to the challenges of climate change
5. The network of AONBs and National Parks, their teams, partnerships, authorities and stakeholders offer a unique solution to tackling environmental challenges

#### We pledge

##### By July 2020

1. To enable an approach that creates opportunities within AONBs for people to make an emotional connection with nature.
2. To prepare a Nature Recovery Plan for each AONB

##### By 2024

1. To embed an ecosystems services approach into all AONB Management Plans
2. To ensure all AONB management plans include meaningful measures around climate change mitigation and adaptation, including clear, measurable targets to support Net Zero

##### By 2030

1. That at least 200,000 ha of SSSIs in AONBs will be in favourable condition
2. That at least 100,000 ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites will have been created/ restored in AONBs to further support the natural movement of plants and animals
3. That at least 36,000 ha of new woodland will have been planted or allowed to regenerate in AONBs following the principle of the right tree in the right place
4. That, by each AONB immediately adopting a species on the threatened list and by preparing and delivering a Species Action Plan, at least thirty species relevant to AONBs will be taken off the list by 2030

We call on Westminster and Welsh Governments to provide the power and resources to make these targets achievable