



Cornwall's nationally protected landscape



Cornwall
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

Strategy



Strategy for Cornwall AONB

**“I am the hazel and oak woods
that once costumed the moor..”**

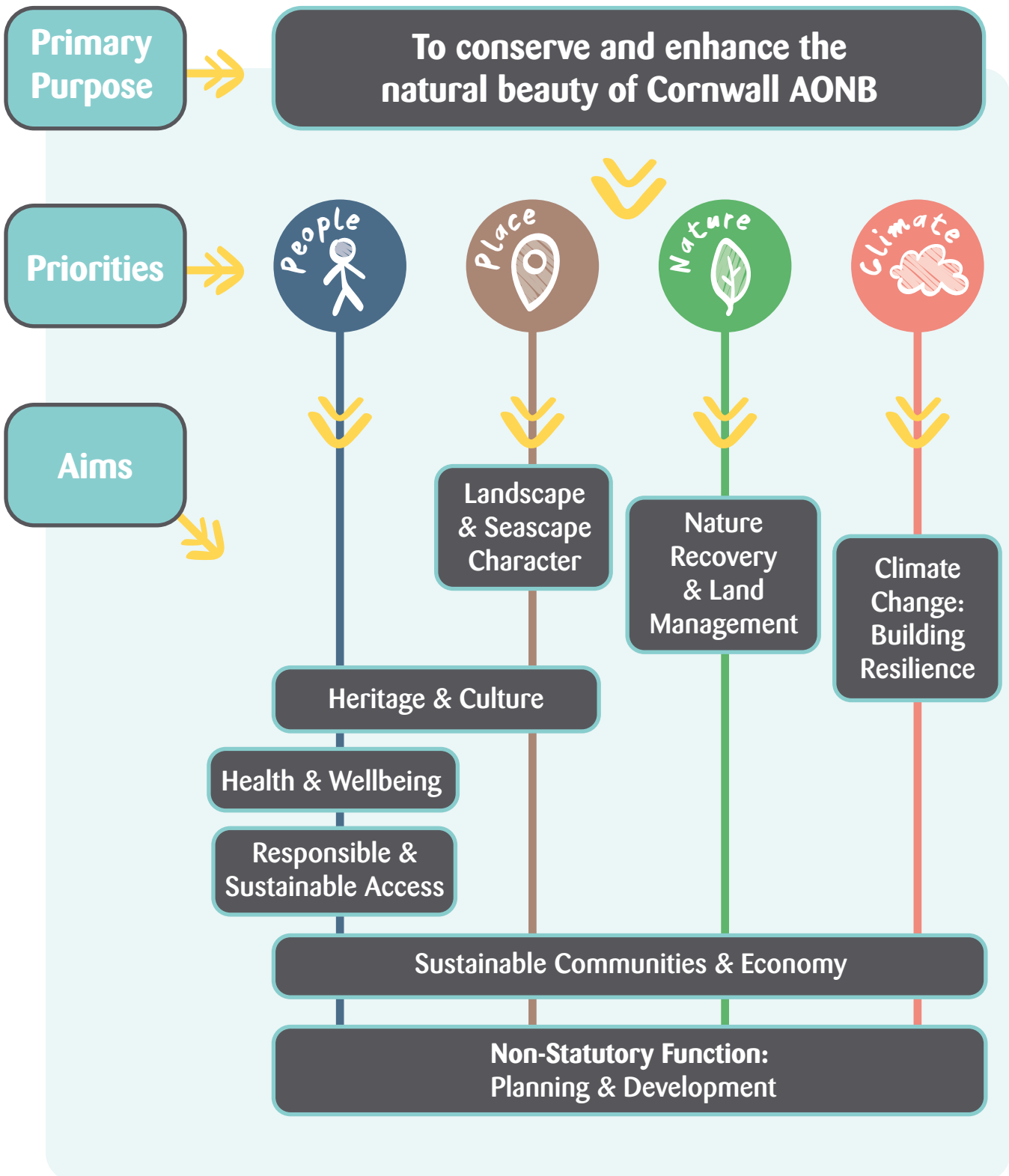
Extract from ‘Beast of Bodmin’ by Pascale Petit

 [An English reading](#) and a [Cornish translation](#).





Cornwall AONB Strategy





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Cornwall AONB Partnership Wheel



Cornwall AONB | 12 Sections | 8 Aims | 20 Partners



Aligning with Global, National and Local Strategies

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

It is important to frame the Cornwall AONB Strategy in the context of international, national, regional and local priorities and goals.

Any reader, decision maker and user should be able to attribute and align their contributions and efforts to goals set at a global through to a local scale. Please see table on the following page.



Porth Chapel beach,
Porthcurno | Caleb Giddens



How the Cornwall AONB is aligned with global, national and local targets and goals.

Global	National	National	National	Local	Aims, policies and objectives
	 Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs HM Gov: 25 yr Environment Plan	Landscapes Review	Colchester Declaration Appendix viii	Cornwall Strategies	 Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
3. Good health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment 	Landscapes for Everyone	To enable an approach that creates opportunities within AONBs for people to make an emotional connection with nature.	Health & Wellbeing Strategy Heritage Strategy WHS Management Plan	Health & Wellbeing Heritage & Culture Recovering Nature & Land Management
6. Clean water and sanitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean and plentiful water Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards 	Landscapes Alive for Nature & Beauty		Climate Change Action Plan Environmental Growth Strategy Nature Recovery Strategy	Recovering Nature & Land Management
7. Affordable and clean energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently 	Living in Landscapes		Climate Change Action Plan	Planning & Development Climate Change: Building Resilience Landscape & Seascape
11. Sustainable cities and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently 	Landscapes for Everyone		LEP Strategy	Responsible & Sustainable Access Heritage & Culture
12. Responsible consumption and production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently 	Landscapes for Everyone Living Landscapes		Nature Recovery Strategy Climate Change Action Plan	Sustainable Economy & Communities Recovering Nature & Land Management
13. Climate Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently 	Landscapes for Everyone Living Landscapes	To ensure all AONB management plans include meaningful measures around climate change mitigation and adaptation, including clear, measurable targets to support Net Zero.	Climate Change Action Plan Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Climate Change: Building Resilience
14. Life below water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean and plentiful water Thriving plants and wildlife Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards 	Living in Landscapes		Environmental Growth Strategy Nature Recovery Strategy State Of Nature	Landscape & Seascape Recovering Nature & Land Management
15. Life on land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thriving plants and wildlife Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards Local nature recovery 	Landscapes Alive for Nature & Beauty	To prepare a Nature Recovery Plan for each AONB To embed an ecosystems services approach into all AONB Management Plans	Environmental Growth Strategy CIOS Nature Recovery Strategy State Of Nature	Landscape & Seascape Recovering Nature & Land Management



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Priorities: People, Place, Nature & Climate

**“I could be an immortal leopard
in a deep-frozen forest”**

Extract from ‘Beast of Bodmin’
by Pascale Petit





People

Communities in the Cornwall AONB live entirely outside the main towns, within villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads, dispersed throughout the landscape.

It's a mixed picture for communities in the AONB with areas of extreme wealth and also extreme deprivation. Second home ownership is a huge issue and the continued viability and prosperity of small rural communities is a real challenge. Many of the communities within the AONB have their roots in the primary economic sectors of farming, forestry, mining and fishing, although the main economic activities within the AONB are now tourism and hospitality. The special qualities of the landscape of the Cornwall AONB is a key driver of Cornwall's economy and the main attraction for Cornwall's visitors.

The Cornwall AONB has a rich culture, both past and present, that contributes greatly to local distinctiveness. The stunning landscapes of the AONB are celebrated in the works of authors, artists and performances by theatre companies.

The historic environment contributes to local identity and wellbeing and that both local communities and visitors visit all sections of the AONB to experience and enjoy its heritage from prehistoric landscapes and features to mining remains and glorious parks and gardens.

Cornish food and drink continue to be synonymous with quality and supply high-end markets in Cornwall and further afield. Although the brand of 'Cornwall' remains strong, built upon the natural beauty of the landscape and its produce, there is further opportunity for the AONB designation to add value.

The Cornwall AONB continues to require investment, of both money and time. It is vital to connect local communities and visitors with the protected landscape to mutually benefit both people and place. In addition, there is a huge opportunity to encourage private investment in order to support a robust and sustainable economy into the future.



Sennen | Jim Wood





Place

The Cornwall AONB is unique and special. The beauty and character of the AONB is primarily owed to the stewardship of generations of farmers and landowners.

Traditional farm buildings of local stone and slate add greatly to the farmed landscape. Intricate small pasture fields bounded by Cornish hedges, hardy cattle and ponies on the moorland and traditional bulbs and vegetable horticulture are distinctive elements, maintained due to the actions of our land managers.

With the greatest proportion of land in the AONB used for farming, changes in farming and land management practices are having a profound effect upon the landscape, biodiversity and heritage. The farmed landscape in the Cornwall AONB still retains much of its Cornish identity, kept alive by a relative lack of large scale, intensive agricultural practices and the skills of local land managers. The challenge is to support sustainable farming so farmers can continue to effectively steward the landscape and improve environmental conditions. The semi-natural habitats, rolling farmland, wild uplands, sheltered estuaries, rivers, and the varied coastline and coastal landscape, of the Cornwall AONB are 'natural capital' assets that provide carbon storage, crop pollination, flood control, places to connect with nature, and habitat for wildlife to thrive and creating a sense of place. It is essential for Cornwall and society to appreciate, understand and value its unique and diverse character and reinvest in this precious resource in order to continue to conserve and enhance it for future generations.

Dark night skies are a special quality of the AONB and contribute to the areas sense of tranquillity and remoteness. A combination of clear night skies and low levels of light pollution make Cornwall one of the best places in the country for stargazing. However, views of the stars are at threat from increasing volumes of light pollution caused by artificial light.

Cornwall AONB is also rich in heritage assets and heritage coastline. The AONB has one of the highest concentrations of archaeological features and contains some of the most ancient landscapes in Europe. The ancient field boundaries and Cornish hedges of West Penwith, in particular, some have been dated back to the time of the pyramids and still in use for their original purpose. The use of the land by people - from prehistoric and medieval to industrial mining throughout the AONB is still extremely evident and identifiable.

The AONB's cultural heritage and heritage assets, including their settings, are of international and national significance. The Cornish Mining World Heritage Site is found in five of the AONB sections.

Access to this culturally rich and diverse landscape must be inclusive, sensitive and sustainably managed. It is the combination of the landscape and its cultural use over history that has given rise to the unique mosaic of natural and built form, landuse and landscape character that form the very reason for the designation.



Nature

Set against a backdrop of unprecedented concern for the future of the natural world and ecological crisis, 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.

Cornwall Council our host authority has declared an ecological emergency having already taken the step of declaring a Climate Emergency. The Cornwall AONB are demonstrating our readiness to act within the context of a wider response to climate change.

Cornwall is a peninsula extending out into the Atlantic and boundaries the River Tamar to the east. Nowhere in Cornwall is further than 24km from the coast.

This yields an ecology that is intimately bound with the sea and a maritime climate of cool summers, mild winters, strong salty winds and above average rainfall, influenced by the gulf stream. It therefore boasts a varied geology, diverse soils and a wide range of habitats and species. Consequently, many areas are nationally and globally important conservation sites.

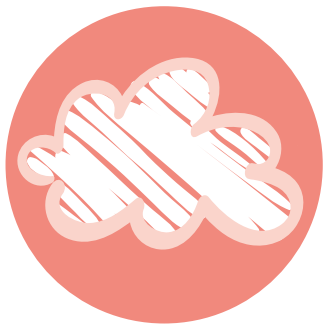
There are around 350,000 ha of land in Cornwall (depending on the tide), and almost 200,000 ha more, of estuarine, intertidal and marine habitats in the three miles out to sea. Cornwall hosts diverse habitats shaped by our history, which make Cornwall a special and unique place. From rugged granite coasts to lush estuaries and parklands, to open moors punctuated by prehistoric monuments and mine engine houses, the AONB encapsulates remarkable variety in its habitats.

Nature in Cornwall is not as healthy as it seems, with many areas a green desert with little value for wildlife. Cornwall's first State of Nature report 2020 highlights key trends for our species and habitats within a generation.

The report finds that Cornwall mirrors national trends with habitat fragmentation or loss causing a decline in the number and extent of species. This decline could accelerate further without tackling pressures, including climate change.

The 'richest' sites for wildlife are too few, too small, too degraded and too disconnected. Nature Recovery must take place to restore and reverse this ecological decline.





Climate

The climate emergency is the defining challenge of our time. In January 2019, Cornwall Council declared a climate emergency, recognising the need for urgent action to address the climate crisis.



Trevoze Head
Lighthouse | Sue Rowlands

The world is changing, and we need to change with it. The impacts of climate change are being felt all over the world, including more extreme temperatures, threats to wildlife, loss of food sources and more. Cornwall has experienced unprecedented flooding in recent years. Many of these changes are directly linked to increased levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, causing global temperatures to rise.

The impacts of this change could lead to increased damages to our economy, society and the environment, setting Cornwall back as we struggle to repair and compensate for the damages likely to occur. Climate change also poses threats to Cornwall AONB’s cultural heritage and heritage assets, including historic landscape and seascape. This is not a unique problem for Cornwall, it is on a global scale and will have far reaching consequences on how we maintain stability and generate growth and sustainability across all sectors.

Building Resilience to climate change in Cornwall has three main approaches:

Resilient Communities - Communities in Cornwall are supported to adapt to a changing climate through a participatory approach to risk management and by improving their capacity to respond.

Nature Based Solutions - Cornwall has a range of habitats that can support the transition to a ‘softer’ engineering approach to climate change adaption and mitigation

Sustainable Coastline - Cornwall’s coastline is managed to reduce vulnerability, raise awareness of the importance of this unique environment and remain a source of opportunity for coastal communities.

Cornwall Council’s emerging Climate Emergency Development Planning Document (DPD), in particular policies C1 Climate Change Principles; G1 Green Infrastructure Design and Maintenance; G2 Biodiversity Net Gain; G3 Canopy, are of particular importance relative to the broader strategic approach which Cornwall Council are developing.



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Thank you for supporting and advocating for Cornwall AONB



**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**



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