



**Cornwall
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty**

12 Sections - One Designation

**Minutes of Cornwall AONB Partnership Meeting – Monday 9th October 2023, 10am,
held online via TEAMS**

In attendance:

Partnership Members:

Gill Pipkin	Cornwall AONB Partnership Chairperson
Cllr Martyn Alvey	Cornwall Council
Aletha Mays	South West Coast Path Association
Emma Rosenfeld	ERCCIS
Gemma Finnegan	CRCC
Malcolm Bell	Visit Cornwall (now attending as mark Camp has retired from Visit Cornwall)
Lesley Strong	World Heritage Site team
Cathy Woolcock	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Lisa Goodall	Environment Agency
David Baker	ESI/University of Exeter
Hugh St Aubyn	Cornwall AONB Trust Chairperson (Observer only)

Supporting Officers:

Dan Cooke	Cornwall Council, Protected Landscapes Manager, Connectivity & Environment
Gwyn Williams	Cornwall Council, Public Health
Ann Reynolds	Cornwall Council Strategic Historic Environment
Ellie Inglis-Woolcock	Cornwall Council, Planning & Housing
Emma Browning	Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager
Melodie Manners	Cornwall AONB Business Development Officer
Coralie Barrow	Cornwall AONB Project Development Officer
Jim Wood	Cornwall AONB Planning Officer
Louise Barattini	Cornwall AONB Planning Officer
Karen Johns	Cornwall AONB Office & Finance Manager
Iain Rowe	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Activities Officer
Linus Firth	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Archaeological Technician Apprentice
James Richards	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Business Admin Apprentice
Sean O'Hea	Cornwall AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Engagement Officer
Iwona Brooks	Cornwall AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes Admin Officer
Richard Morris	Cornwall AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes Farm Adviser

Apologies:

Adam McKiernan	Natural England
Wesley Smyth	Natural England
Justin Whitehouse	National Trust
Zoe Smith	Westcountry Rivers Trust
Josie Pursell	Westcountry Rivers Trust

Sally Weston	Cornish Mining World Heritage Site
Ann Preston-Jones	Historic England
Jonathon Jones	Cornwall Agri-food Council
Cheryl Marriott	Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Ed Humber	NFU
Mike Ingram	FWAG South West
Philippa Hoskin	Cornwall Council, Nature Recovery Manager
Hannah Harris	Cornwall Council, Transport
Davina Pritchard	Cornwall Council, Planning & Housing
Louise Wood	Cornwall Council, Planning & Housing
Jeanette Ratcliffe	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Archaeology Officer
Duncan Anderson Margetts	CLA
Julian Gray	South West Coast Path Association
Vicky Fraser	Cornwall Council, Connectivity & Environment
Rob Lacey	Cornwall Council, Planning & Housing
Mark Holmes	Cornwall Council, Environment
Cllr Jennifer Cruse	Cornwall Council
Helen Rawe	Cornwall Heritage Trust

		Action(s)
1	Welcome and check in – everyone was welcomed to the meeting.	
2	Introductions and Apologies – the Chairperson asked all attendees to introduce themselves and apologies are listed above.	
3	Minutes of last meeting (3 July 2023) – agreed as a true and accurate record. All actions had been undertaken.	
4	Cornwall AONB Business Update – Summary	
	4.1 Signing of the Partnership Agreement - the Partnership Agreement for 2022-2027 has now been signed by all Partners and everyone was thanked for actioning this.	
	4.2 National Landscape Re-brand – Melodie confirmed the protected landscape will still be known as AONBs in law (CROW Act 2000) but will be renamed ‘National Landscape’ publicly to align and level up AONBs with National Parks. NAAONB will lead on comms of this nationally, and all local AONBs promoting awareness and making changes locally to their website, using the new logo in their communications and interpretation etc All AONBs in the country have a new logo which has been produced on behalf of NAAONB to provide a unified branding look across the AONB National Landscapes family. The Cornwall National Landscape logo is based on the current logo design as it was still felt fit for purpose and will help to maintain continuity and recognition of the branding work that has already taken place.	
	4.3 Continued recruitment of new Partnership Chairperson – Emma expressed huge thanks to Gill for continuing to lead the Partnership in the interim until a new Chairperson is recruited. Closing date is 23 Oct 2023. ➤ ACTION 01: all partners were asked to share the link to their contacts and networks: https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/chairrecruit	All Partners

	<p>4.4 re-advert of MI Project manager post – first round of recruitment was not successful so the role has been readvertised and the closing date is 10 Oct 2023.</p> <p>Formal note of thanks to Natalie - Gill asked that it be recorded in the minutes that thanks be passed onto Natalie Haly, for all the great work she did for the Monumental Improvement project during her time with the AONB team.</p>	
	<p>NAAONB Annual Conference – Emma and Melodie attended the Annual Conference with staff from all AONBs and other organisations across the country. Emma and Melodie were invited to run a workshop related to AONB Trusts. It was a useful info sharing session about how to create the alignment of the Trust and AONB Team – the challenges of aligning the two organisations but also keeping them separate. Other AONBs/Trusts have experienced similar issues in the process, and some AONBs are further down the line of setting up Trusts than others.</p> <p>Cornwall Council’s Neighbourhoods Overview & Scrutiny Committee (NOSC) – Emma presented to the Committee on 5 Oct 2023 to report and update on the delivery and actions of the Management Plan 2022-2027, which is one year on in its delivery. Planning, designations and funding was all discussed. Martyn Alvey thanked Emma for an excellent report and presentation which included an in-depth question and answer session.</p> <p>➤ ACTION 02: Emma’s report and presentation be circulated with the minutes for partners’ information.</p>	AONB Team
5	<p>Presentations by Partners and Stakeholders:</p> <p>5.1 ERCCIS – Dr Emma Rosenfeld, ERCCIS Manager and Cornwall Wildlife Trust Evidence & Spatial Lead</p> <p>ERCCIS is a central resource that collects, manages and disseminates information and data.</p> <p>ERCCIS holds both species and habitat data collected by volunteers, biological recorders and across Cornwall Wildlife Trust. ERCCIS also undertake project work such as the Ancient Woodland inventory for Cornwall which is to help understand the history of Cornish Woodland. This is a national project to which ERCCIS and Cornwall is involved.</p> <p>ERCCIS is unfortunately pre-occupied with the state of nature and decline of nature, with the aim to have a recovery in nature.</p> <p>Increased coverage in a more structured way of data collection is needed in addition to the more adhoc data collection which is also taking place. So a structured monitoring scheme across Cornwall is something that is being worked on, with University of Exeter, to undertake regular, structured monitoring. One example is the Butterfly Monitoring scheme that has been recorded in some parts of Cornwall for many years, but would also benefit from a more structured approach to collecting and recording data.</p> <p>Cornwall Wildlife Trust has more than 5500 acres of land across 59 nature reserves. The aim is for these to be better managed and monitored. Some of the reserves are within the AONB. Rewilding at Helman Tor is one of the projects and ensuring required techniques and structured monitoring is in place there as a trial for other sites.</p>	

	<p>ORKS (Online Recording Kernow and Scilly) is the online data platform that is used to submit, store and share records: ORKS-Share your sightings Online wildlife Recording for Kernow & Scilly (ercis.org.uk)</p> <p>Cornwall Marine Data Hub was mentioned – the aim of the Data Hub is to act as a central location for exploring marine based digital map data for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly: Cornwall Marine Data Hub (arcgis.com)</p> <p>➤ ACTION 03 – all Partners were provided the following 3 links for their information and interest and to onward share to their networks</p> <p>ERCCIS recruiting for a Data and Evidence Officer (Structured Monitoring) – partners were asked to share the advert link https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/jobs/data-and-evidence-officer-structured-monitoring-0 and the closing date is 11th October 2023.</p> <p>There is also currently an advert for an Ancient Woodland Inventory Project Officer https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/jobs/ancient-woodland-inventory-project-officer</p> <p>Cornwall Wildlife Trust currently has a Cornish wildlife photography exhibition in Truro Cathedral which is well worth a visit https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/jobs/ancient-woodland-inventory-project-officer</p> <p>Emma Rosenfeld was thanked for her interesting presentation. The work of ERCCIS is meeting the AONB Management Plan Objective: <i>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.</i></p>	All Partners
6	<p>Round Table update– partners asked to briefly update on their work within the AONB and related to AONB Management Plan Strategy:</p> <p>SWCP, Aletha Mays – as part of this year's 50th anniversary of the SWCP celebrations over 1000 people did a relay walk along the coast path and there was a photo exhibition. The Coast Path Connectors project is going well.</p> <p>Cornwall Council, Strategic Historic Environment, Ann Reynolds – the recent Heritage Expo event was very successful, held on 2 days at Godolphin House. The first day was for students to learn more about heritage careers and obtain advice, and the second day was for general public which attracted many visitors to the groups and organisations exhibiting their stands there. Several AONB Partners had a stand there, including the Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvement Project team.</p> <p>ESI, David Baker – local nature recovery strategy work taking place with Cornwall Council and others. Starting work with farmers with the RENEW project so would welcome discussion and input from AONB partners on this. David suggested holding a seminar with the AONB for all partners and stakeholders to discuss and it was agreed this would be very beneficial.</p> <p>➤ ACTION 04: David Baker and AONB Team to progress this action.</p> <p>Cornwall Heritage Trust, Cathy Woolcock – CREST (Cornwall Rural Education & Skills Trust) is up and running with lots of volunteering taking place on sites, schools workshops with the outreach officer. CHT held their heritage event at Heligan which was also a</p>	David Baker/ AONB Team

successful and well attended event. Penwith Landscape Partnership (PLP) legacy work is continuing with the volunteers.

Cornwall Council, Martyn Alvey - LNP and LNRS consultation is still open – via Let's Talk Cornwall so anyone can contribute to that consultation [A Nature Recovery Strategy for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly | Let's Talk Cornwall](#), also the LAEP consultation call for evidence for any partners and residents to provide a response [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Area Energy Plan | Let's Talk Cornwall](#)

Cornwall Council, Protected Landscapes Manager, Dan Cooke - looking at funding and asset management across the Cornwall AONB, Tamar Valley AONB, WHS and Council's Heritage Service. The Countryside Services have put in a bid to Good Growth funding. Tamar Valley AONB team are now starting their Management Plan review and will be looking to benefit from the experience/info share with Cornwall AONB team on this. Storage space has been secured for Cornwall AONB and WHS to have a shared space for storage of events kit, display boards etc

CRCC, Gemma Finnegan – at the recent Inclusion Cornwall AGM a presentation was given on the Inclusion Research project that the AONB had funded. There was a sensory video as part of that presentation which worked well and it was a great piece of work.

Cornwall AONB Trust, Hugh St Aubyn – the Trust is focusing on developing its business strategy with refreshed business plan to be in a better position going forward with a revised vision for the Trust. Hugh will present this further at a future AONB Partnership meeting.

Environment Agency, Lisa Goodall – involved in Natural Flood Management project in Mousehole, working with Cornwall Wildlife Trust. Also a project in Mevagissey looking at flood management with opportunity for habitat creation. Both these are supporting the delivery of the AONB Management Plan 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.*

CC Public Health, Gwyn Williams, reminder to all Partners encouraged to undertake the Mental Health First Aid training courses, which are offered at a very reasonable subsidised rate – these can be booked via [Mental Health First Aid \(MHFA\) - Healthy Cornwall](#) and there are also some free places for farmers – contact Gwyn.Williams@cornwall.gov.uk.

There is also a 'Green Upskilling' funding opportunity for any partners not already aware of it via the Good Growth funding programme <https://ciosgoodgrowth.com/funding-opportunity/green-upskilling/>

The Annual Report from Director of CC Public Health – includes an environmental section which looks at environmental factors such as air pollution.

World Heritage Site, Lesley Strong, Stakeholder Engagement Officer – only been in post for a few weeks. Attended the Heritage Expo and Heligan CHT heritage event. Just run a photo quiz and Cornish Distinctiveness work taking place now.

Visit Cornwall, Malcolm Bell – new Visit Cornwall website still being completed as now changed providers etc.

Following a review of tourism structures in England the Government agreed to the establishment of around 40 Local Visitor Economy Partnerships, which would form the

	<p>backbone of a national portfolio of organisations to support the marketing and development of tourism going forward.</p> <p>Visit Cornwall led a partnership to apply for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to be approved as one of the new Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP). The bid was successful in May 2023 and now the work starts to form the governance and operational arrangements. Malcolm Bell stated that the protected landscapes would need to be represented on the new body.</p> <p>Manchester have created a business improvement district for tourism, charging tourists £1 which goes into the business plan. This is something that is at no cost to businesses, and it is something that Cornwall is considering in its regenerative tourism aims.</p>	
7	<p>Presentations by AONB Team:</p> <p>a) Project Pipeline and Heat Map – Coralie has been developing a process and system/criteria for projects to get them ready and worked up for potential funding opportunities and also a way to review/assess partner projects that come forward. A spreadsheet and scoring matrix has been developed, which considers Management Plan actions and business plan resources.</p> <p>The idea of a Heat Map is also being worked up to visually show where in the AONB there are currently projects, where there are opportunities for the AONB to work in other sections of the AONB.</p> <p>LINC and LNP project submissions have also recently been submitted for funding – outcome awaited on those.</p>	
8	<p>AONB Team Projects and Planning Update – a briefing paper had been circulated with the agenda papers.</p> <p>8.1 Emma – Partnership Manager update – in September, Defra provided an opportunity to bid for Access funding which was not expected in Year 2. The AONB team have submitted a bid for funding via a tight deadline and outcome is awaited.</p> <p>8.2 Melodie – Comms and Projects</p> <p>8.3 Coralie - Projects</p> <p>8.4 Emma and Coralie – Monumental Improvements Project</p> <p>8.5 Sean – Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) – Sean added to his report to say he has a nature conservation career background so Richard Morris’ farming background will provide a good additional resource to the FiPL team and advice to farmers.</p> <p>➤ ACTION 05 - Any collaboration of FiPL projects from partners is welcomed – any partners to contact Sean to discuss</p> <p>8.6 Jim and Louise – Planning – thanked the 2 volunteers that help with the admin and site visits, their work is invaluable. Duty of Regard under Section 85 of the CROW Act – this is being changed to a Duty to Further, but no details known on this as yet, with the definition etc, and Defra and Natural England will be issuing guidance.</p>	All Partners
9	Any Other Business - none	

10	Date of next meetings - Tuesday 30 th April 2024 - online TEAMS Tuesday 2 nd July 2024 – all day in-person event in the AONB landscape	All
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