



**Cornwall
National
Landscape**
12 Sections - One Designation

Annual Report

2024 - 2025

Conserving and enhancing Natural Beauty
for the benefit of People, Place, Nature and Climate



*Photography Competition
Winner*

Last light at Port Quin
Frank Leavesley

This last year has been one of significant change, a trend which is unlikely to slow down any time soon. But it has also once again demonstrated the dedication, passion, and resilience of the Cornwall National Landscape team.

I am now a year into the role of Chair of the Cornwall National Landscape Partnership, and the one thing that has been consistent in that time is being constantly impressed with how Emma and her team have adapted to a complex and unpredictable funding landscape, increased pressures on resources, and fluid political priorities, to deliver so much in service of Cornwall's wonderful people, places, nature, and climate.

The Monumental Improvement project, primarily funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, has been a beacon of hope in showcasing innovative and inspiring ways to define our relationship with the history, heritage, and culture across our landscape.

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, funded by Defra, has also been a real success story. The team have set a marker for what a resilient Cornwall should look like in the future. Not only in terms of new trees, improved soil health, and reduced flood risk, but in building relationships between communities, farmers, and institutions that all have a role to play.

There are many other stories to share, which this report will cover in more detail. I use my remaining words to offer a deep gratitude for the Cornwall National Landscape team, as well as its wide network of partners, supporters, volunteers, and everyone who enjoys these 12 connected and unique sections that make up the Cornwall National Landscape.

Our landscape, and how we recognise our part in it, holds the blueprint for our ability to thrive in a changing world. Long may this work be resourced, respected, and celebrated.



Peter Lefort

Chair Cornwall National
Landscape (AONB)

The collective dedication of the Cornwall National Landscape Team continues to be a source of inspiration, collectively passionate, creative, adaptable and supportive with a constant drive to make a positive difference.

I'm incredibly proud of how the team have responded to additional funding opportunities and delivered successful outcomes for people, place, nature and climate with our Partners. Working in a variety of ways to convene, influence, encourage and facilitate projects that respond to; increasing access to landscape and nature, addressing natural flood management, supporting peatland restoration, reducing heritage at risk, using art to deepen connection to our landscape, raising the profile of natural beauty, recovering nature, creating interventions to increase climate resilience, supporting sustainable farm businesses, creating conditions to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities, increasing knowledge of dark skies, and connecting people with our unique and geographically diverse 12 sections across a third of Cornwall through the lens of food production and supporting systems as part of a grow local network.

We have responded to raising the profile of the new strengthened Duty (Levelling up and Regeneration Act LURA) for National Landscapes, seeking to further the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty with planning and development within the designated landscape. In addition, we have convened workshops with Partners and Stakeholders to collectively respond to the Governments' new Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) for Cornwall National Landscape, highlighting the risk and resource required to achieve those targets.



Emma Browning-Fitch

Partnership Manager
Cornwall National Landscape
(AONB)

We have welcomed new people into the team this year, the diverse skillset of the members has increased our knowledge and ability to continue to successfully deliver Projects and Programmes such as Monumental Improvement and FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes), both have been flagships for Cornwall National Landscape.

We consolidated all of our aspirations and learnings from previous projects and created a strategic approach to funding our future projects.

We have been successfully awarded National Lottery Heritage Funding (NLHF) for two new projects, Natural Beauty and the Beast & Landscape Connections: Heart of Natural Beauty (pre-development). The projects are nested to one another and overall have the potential to be transformational for our organisation, partnership and the way we can work together with the communities in all of our 12 Sections.

The intention is to be more connected and co-ordinated by unlocking the potential of co-working and co-creation towards common strategic goals and local needs, delivering the greatest impact, where the benefits are felt on all levels.



Some of the team on site visit

Monumental Improvement Project A year of fantastic achievements!

A range of engaging resources has been created to help everyone discover Cornish heritage like never before, bringing the stories, sites, and significance of the region to life in fresh and accessible ways

2896

People have taken part in events hosted or supported by the Monumental Improvement project, offering opportunities to discover, connect with, and celebrate Cornish heritage in meaningful and memorable ways.

34

Physical interpretation signs and way markers have been installed, bringing Cornwall's rich heritage to life with captivating stories and historic insights for visitors to explore.

7

Scheduled Monuments have been officially removed from Historic England's Heritage At-Risk Register, thanks to vital conservation work delivered through the Monumental Improvement project, partners and volunteers.

56

Volunteers have actively contributed to the Monumental Improvement project, supporting the conservation and enhancement of key Cornish heritage sites this year. Their involvement has played a vital role in safeguarding these historic places for the benefit of local communities and future visitors



Monumental Improvement Project

Discovering the past at King Arthur's Hall

In November 2024, long-awaited dating results from the 2022 excavation of King Arthur's Hall on Bodmin Moor (Section 12) finally arrived. Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) confirmed the monument was originally built 5,000–5,500 years ago in the Middle Neolithic. Radiocarbon dating of core samples from its centre revealed later activity: infilling began in the Later Prehistoric period (2,000–2,500 years ago), with further disturbances during the medieval era (500–1,000 years ago), particularly within the marshy interior



Monumental Improvement Project

Digging Into the Future: Relaunching Cornwall's Young Archaeologists' Club

The Monumental Improvement project has been, over the last twelve months, running back up the archaeology offer to young people across Cornwall. Cornwall did in the past have a very successful and vibrant Young Archaeologists' Club, which was fully supported by Cornwall Archaeological Society and affiliated under the Council for British Archaeology. The project team with amazing support from professionals right across Cornwall are on the cusp of being re-affiliated after a year of varied - geographically and content wise – activities which have been really well attended.

14 Events over the last 12 months

60 Families engaged

100 Children and young adults have attended events from Maker to the Lizard!





Year 4 was a year for ‘togetherness’. Through our larger collaborative projects, we’ve helped to write over 20 Farming with Nature business plans, we’ve delivered over 150 mentoring hours to farmers and produced a range of insightful documents to farmers to continue to use in years to come.



- £2,427,946** Total annual budget for DEFRA FiPL Access fund (to specifically support access themed projects on farms) and Historic Building Restoration Grant (HBRG)
- 400** Farmers supported
- 110** Individual projects have been supported through the funding programme since it began 4 years ago. Projects range from individual farmers setting up mob-grazing systems in order to restore compacted, unproductive land to large collaborative projects led by partner organisations such as Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Pasture for Life and Farm Wilder.



Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Bodmin Moor Hill Farming Project



Initial Project Launch Meeting held with 60+ farmers to discuss project themes.



Scrub clearance work on heritage features on Garrow Tor and East Moor common



Organised a visit to the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project for 21 Bodmin Moor farmers



Premier Archaeological Landscape review complete



Funded a trial of over 50 cattle collars on Bodmin Moor



Farm Diversification and Profitability Event hosted with local farm speakers & Chris Clark



Ecological Surveys conducted on 2 commons, assessing current status and potential interventions.

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) (2021 - 2025)



FiPL Team Day: Lanyon Quoit



Historic Buildings Restoration Grant

£967,796

of grant funding from Defra for the restoration of historic buildings.

10%

of the entire national allocation awarded to Cornwall National Landscape, recognising its heritage and allowing us to help conserve these buildings for use into the future.

3

modest projects each under £60,000

3

larger projects each over £250,000.

100%

projects completed on time.

50%

of the money was spent on labour costs which were supporting Cornish jobs and heritage skills.

Some of the vital heritage skills that have been utilised through these projects include:

- Joinery traditional roof truss design and construction, timber door and window frame build, knowledge of wood and appropriate use
- Roofing in particular Rag and Scantile slate work
- Leadwork, gutters, capping, hips and buttresses
- Stone Masonry, Walls, Buttress, capping's and lime pointing
- Conservation, innovative methods evolved to provide structural stability to old buildings

Highertown Piggery
before



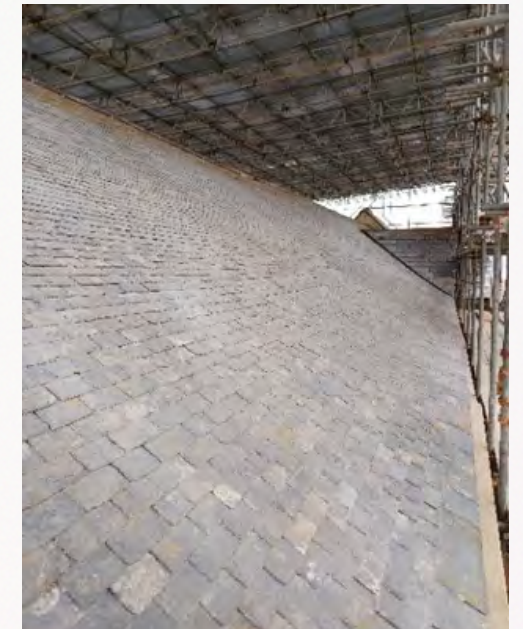
Highertown Piggery
after



Bodrugan barley barn
before



Bodrugan barley barn
after



Drolla - The Storytelling Bench

Commissioned and co-designed by the Cornwall National Landscape Team and renowned Cornish metal sculptors, the Thrussells.

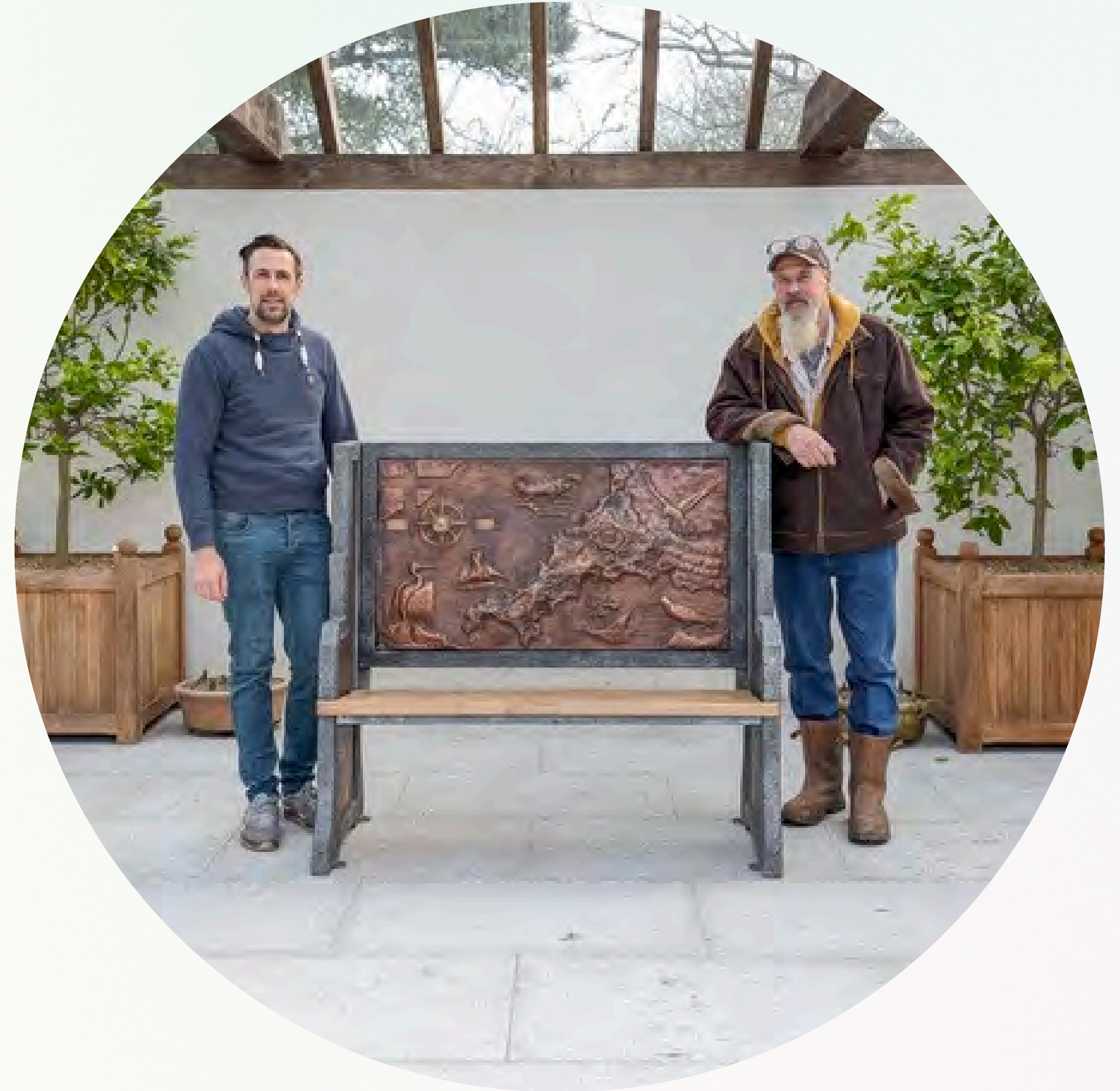
Drolla, which takes its name from the Cornish word for 'folk tale', the travelling storytelling bench is a gathering place to share stories, create connections, for health and wellbeing, for all. Promoting the importance of open, accessible green and blue spaces for leisure, health and recreation. Connecting with nature and Cornish identity.

In January 2025 the bench took up residence in outdoor space for 3 months at Trebah Garden (Section 08 of the Cornwall National Landscape). The bench was situated in an area of the Garden where visitors could gain free access to the bench to admire it, sit and relax on it, soak in the view and take some mindfulness time to reflect and enjoy the surrounding nature. During 2025 and beyond, the bench will continue on its tour of the 12 sections of the Cornwall National Landscape.

“The bench welcomed with a hug, over here it beckoned. Its beauty was for all to see
handmade a thing of beauty. Practical and perfect”

“Wonderful magical object and idea” “So glad we came and saw it”

“A beautiful day in the sun, watching robins chase each other and the calm clear waves
breaking on the beach”



[Find out more and watch a short video on the making of the bench](#)

Access for All Update

Cornwall National Landscape Team were awarded £90,976 Access for All funding by DEFRA to support partner projects aligned with our Management Plan. Small grants helped unlock delivery, attract match funding, engage volunteers, and realise long-standing goals.

These projects are breaking down barriers to access the protected landscape—physically and digitally—so everyone can enjoy them. We’re proud to have funded a range of initiatives;

- Cornwall Heritage Trust**

Spend a Penny’ is a mobile, accessible compost toilet in a horse trailer, serving sites across West Penwith. It’s improving access for volunteers and school groups visiting historic locations.
- National Trust, Penrose**

New wider bridges with gentle ramps built, using high quality local and long lasting materials.
- National Trust, Helford Orchard**

23 new way-markers and 4 benches installed to help visitors rest, reflect and find less visited areas, highlighting interesting features around the new community orchard.
- Clean Cornwall**

Purchased specialist litter-picking equipment, including all-terrain wheelchairs and extra-long litter pickers enabling everyone, regardless of physical ability, to take part.
- Cornish Mining World Heritage Site**

Improved digital access to information and facilities so visitors can plan ahead and obtain details on alternative suitable sites.
- West Penwith Dark Skies Park Partnership**

Purchased a Seestar S50 smart telescope to use at night skies events to inspire more people to appreciate dark skies



accessible bridge



portable toilet



way marker signs



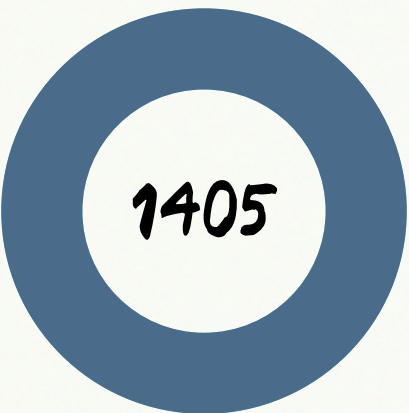
litter picking equipment

Planning and Development in 2024

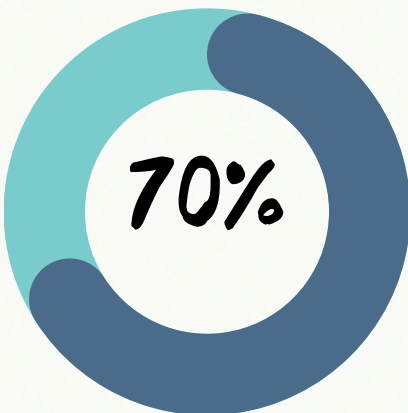
The Cornwall National Landscape Partnership is a non-statutory consultee on planning matters within the designated landscape. This is as set out in the [management plan](#) and is delivered by the Cornwall National Landscape planning team.

Development planning pressure continues, although lower than for 2023, and appreciably lower than the peak of 2021. Typically 30 applications each week within or close to the Cornwall National Landscape require review to appreciate any potential effects on the statutory purpose of the protected landscape. We provide consultation responses to those development proposals which are likely to give rise to unacceptable effects on the designated landscape and its statutory purpose.

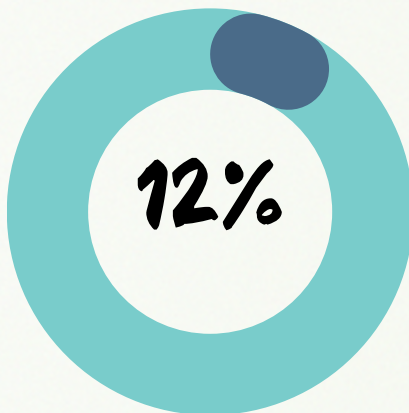
We continue to see considerable workload (approximately one scheme per week) related to woodland and forestry proposals within the designated landscape and meet collectively as a wider internal team to assess projects through all stages of assessment process, with the assistance of an external consultant (funded by Forest for Cornwall) for projects brought forward by Forest for Cornwall. We provide responses to a large number of consultation requests from National Grid in connection with changes to the local transmission network often in the light of redevelopment proposals. Unfortunately, the consenting of these development proposals and subsequent improvements to the electricity network are not considered in tandem giving rise to cumulative effects in the designated landscape.



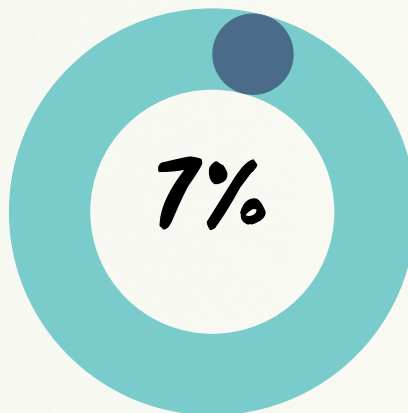
Planning Applications
Consulted On



954 within the
designated landscape



118 Objected To



67 Commented On














Eqv. 1 x Full Time Planning Consultant



The small village of Portloe nestled in its setting - credit John Sloper

Cornwall National Landscape Management Plan







Monitoring & Measuring performance

Key Performance Themes	Key Performance Indicators	5 Year Target 2022 - 2027	Priority	Year 3 Achieved	Achievement to date
1. Land where natural beauty has been conserved or enhanced through the work of the AONB and in support of Cornwall's Nature Recovery Network	Hectares of habitat conserved or enhanced for biodiversity	400	<div>   </div>	330	3017
	Length (metres) of Cornish Hedges conserved or enhanced (managed, gapped-up, extended or restored)	4000	<div>    </div>	33	13114
	Area of new habitat created (Ha)	200	<div>   </div>	317	1626
	Number of new habitat connections created	300	<div>   </div>	6	45
	Number of small- scale initiatives to improve for nature	50	<div>  </div>	35	168
	Number of Ha restored for carbon sequestration	400	<div>  </div>	345	5876

The final column shows cumulative achievement since the 2022 Management Plan adoption. Green indicates targets met or exceeded; amber shows progress underway. The table highlights strong delivery by the Team and Partnership. Insights from this performance will inform target-setting for the next five-year Management Plan review.







Cornwall National Landscape Management Plan

Monitoring & Measuring performance

Key Performance Themes	Key Performance Indicators	5 Year Target 2022 - 2027	Priority	Year 3 Achieved	Achievement to date
2. Cultural Heritage assets where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced through the work of AONB	Number of SMs where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced	60	<div>  <div>Place</div> </div>	16	49
	Number of heritage assets (non-scheduled) where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced	100	<div>  <div>Place</div> </div>	2	10
	Number of cultural heritage features better interpreted or understood	60	<div>  <div>Place</div> </div>	42	136
3. People engaged through the work of the AONB Partnership	Number of volunteers	180	<div>  <div>People</div> </div>	833	2802
	Attendance at events convened / organised by AONB Team	4400	<div>  <div>People</div> </div>	1857	4942
	Number of young people (<18yo) engaged with	120	<div>  <div>People</div> </div>	356	1340

















Cornwall National Landscape Management Plan

Monitoring & Measuring performance

Key Performance Themes	Key Performance Indicators	5 Year Target 2022 - 2027	Priority	Year 3 Achieved	Achievement to date
3. People engaged through the work of the AONB Partnership	Number of farmers/land managers engaged with	1000	 People	374	1028
	Number of people engaged with Health & Wellbeing activities	530	 People	224	858
	Number of people engaged with via AONB publications; Tier Teg, Environment Page, Cornwall Life, Voice	250000	 People	166298	179615
	Number of people engaged through social prescribing	100	 People	16	66
	Number of people engaged with the AONB from under represented groups	200	 People	26	141
	Number of people engaged through social media	50000	 People	16700	75452














Cornwall National Landscape Management Plan

Monitoring & Measuring performance

Key Performance Themes	Key Performance Indicators	5 Year Target 2022 - 2027	Priority	Year 3 Achieved	Achievement to date
3. People engaged through the work of the AONB Partnership	Number of community groups engaged	70	<div>  <div>People</div> </div>	28	92
	Number of Schools and Youth groups engaged	30	<div>  <div>People</div> </div>	43	117
	Number of attendees at training sessions or workshops	400	<div>  <div>People</div> </div>	122	1515
	Number of AONB waymarkers, & visual plaques	20	<div>  <div>People</div> <div>  <div>Place</div> </div> </div>	48	120
	Number of ELF grants issued by the AONB Trust	12	<div>  <div>People</div> <div>  <div>Place</div> <div>  <div>Nature</div> </div> <div>  <div>Climate</div> </div> </div> </div>	0	3
	Number of art & culture events	60	<div>  <div>People</div> <div>  <div>Place</div> <div>  <div>Nature</div> </div> </div> </div>	35	278
	Number of people engaged in climate change initiatives	400	<div>  <div>People</div> <div>  <div>Place</div> <div>  <div>Nature</div> </div> <div>  <div>Climate</div> </div> </div> </div>	382	502

Cornwall National Landscape Management Plan

Monitoring & Measuring performance

Key Performance Themes	Key Performance Indicators	5 Year Target 2022 - 2027	Priority	Year 3 Achieved	Achievement to date
4. Partnerships / initiatives influenced by the AONB to deliver AONB Management Plan objectives	Number of partnerships where the AONB Team is part of the project / team / steering group lead	8	 	12	41
	Number of partnerships where the AONB Team is a supporting partner	12	 	11	18
5. Total value of work delivered directly or secured by the work of AONB	Value (£) of externally funded projects substantially influenced / generated by the AONB Team	684,000	   	2863714	5406612
	Value of volunteer days: professional skills £150, SemiProfessional £100, Unskilled £50	150,000		155400	514616
6. Natural Capital and ecosystem services appraisal by the AONB	Sections of the AONB where natural capital is recorded or further understood	3	   	9	26

Planning	Planning Measure	2024 Numbers Recorded	Planning Measure	2024 Numbers Recorded
7. Development and land management schemes appraised or developed by the AONB	Number of Major ‘development schemes’ appraised – LPA planning applications	1	Number of National Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) appraised	0
	Number of non-Major ‘development schemes’ appraised – LPA planning applications	1415 (of which 461 outside the AONB)	Number of other ‘development schemes’ appraised – Highways, Environment Agency, BT, DNO, private sector, etc.	14 MMO Licensing applications 26 Western Power/National Grid
	Number of applications received	1415	Number of ‘land management schemes’ appraised – eg. woodland management	42 Forest creation/felling licences/woodland management plans
	Number commented on	189		
	Number in which AONB concerns were listed as a reason for refusal (or even approval)	22		
	Number of appeal decisions which uphold AONB consultation response	4 (number we have recorded)		
	AONB specific policies included in NDPs	We do not have the resources to analyse the presence of designated landscape policies within NDPs.		
	Pre Apps provided	1	*Planning Measures recorded to analyse trends over time, externally driven therefore no targets set	

Cornwall National Landscape Financial Summary 2024/25

Income £	
Defra	216,017
Cornwall Council	66,331
National Trust	2,000
Unrestricted income/ Project management and project development costs income	28,232
TOTAL INCOME	312,580

Expenditure £	
Staff costs	292,421
Office costs	11,362
National Landscapes Assn contribution	3,075
Management Plan/Comms costs	623
Project contribution to The Heart of Natural Beauty Project	5,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	312,481
Final Balance paid into reserves	99

Additional Core Income & Expenditure

Defra awarded additional core grant funding for 2024/25. £120,921.57 Revenue funding and £120,921.57 Capital funding which was very welcome news for the team, Partnership and protected landscape. This enabled the recruitment of additional fixed term staff and funding to support core functions and projects.

Cornwall National Landscape Financial Summary 2024/25

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Programme

Income/Expenditure		£
Defra - FiPL Revenue and Capital Grant Programme		£1,259,198
Defra - Access Projects Revenue budget		£123,528
Defra - Historic Buildings Restoration Grant - Revenue		£77,424
Defra - Historic Buildings Restoration Grant - Capital		£967,796
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENDITURE		£2,427,946

Monumental Improvement Project

Income/Expenditure		£
National Lottery Heritage Fund		£348,938.98
Historic England		£36,634
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENDITURE		£385,572.98

Access for All Capital Funding

Defra awarded ‘Access for All’ Capital funding for 2024/25 of £90,976. This was awarded as small grants project funding to several Cornwall National Landscape Partnership organisations to improve and increase access to the Cornwall National Landscape, either physically or digitally to benefit Access for All, making it easier for more people to enjoy our protected landscape (see details of some of the projects on page 13)



Cornwall National Landscape Trust

This has been a year of developing the work started during the pandemic to both re-brand the Trust, and make it future-fit to deliver on its objectives.

The Trust has welcomed two new trustees; Mark Chanter and Greg Borne. Mark has extensive experience in law, is a Council Member at the Royal Cornwall Show and a Trustee at Cornwall Museums. Greg is a leading academic expert in Sustainable Development and multi-stakeholder initiatives where business and the public sector work together. Peter Lefort, the Chair of Cornwall National Landscape Partnership, has also joined the Trust as an ex-officio Trustee.

The Trust has been investigating interesting applications for funding alongside continuing work on the business plan and the imminent re-launch of the business supporters scheme.

It was also a unanimous decision to re-start the Environmental Landscape Fund and the Trust is delighted to be supporting both Bolankan Cabin in creating wild meadows whilst increasing pollinators and Cabilla Cornwall in their mission to restore a Cornish rainforest. Please do get in contact if you are interested in contributing to the Trust in time or resources.

Many thanks, Hugh



Hugh St Aubyn

Chair Cornwall National Landscape Trust

Cornwall National Landscape Trust is a CIO operating independently to Cornwall National Landscape with its values aligned.



Our Partners



