

The State of Cornwall National Landscape



Tirwedd Genedhlek
Kernow

Cornwall
National Landscape

2026
REPORT

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*Cover: Hay time, Penrose estate, Lizard - Lesley Treloar

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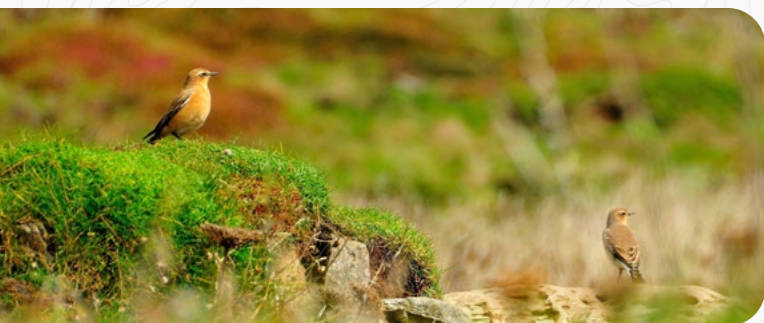
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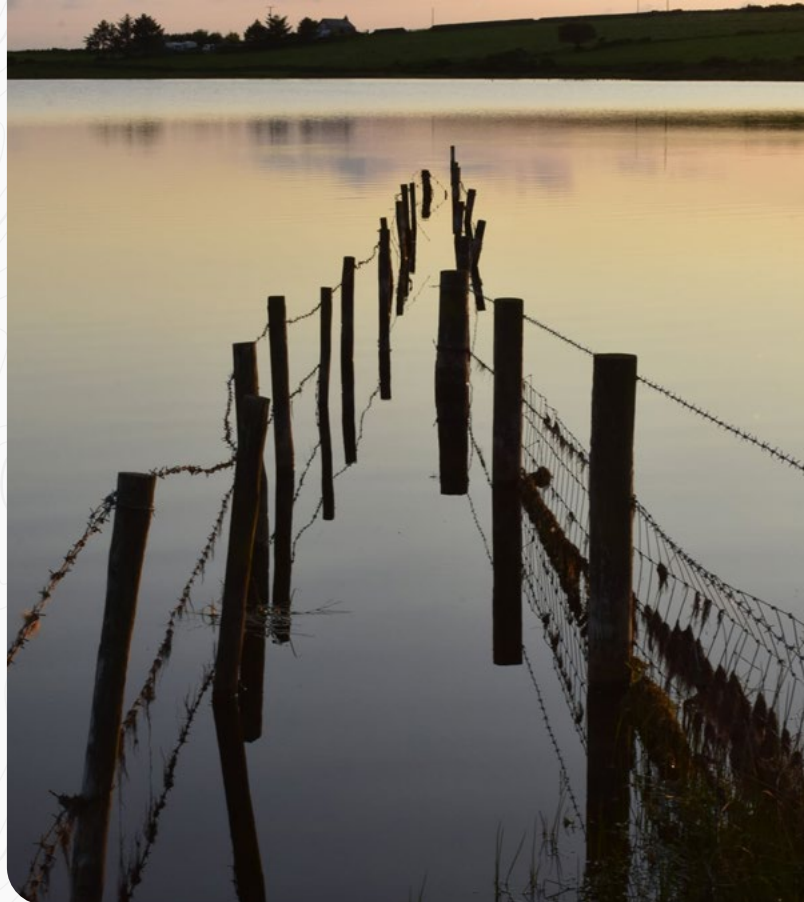
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Wheatears, Godrevy - Roy Curtis



Dozmary Pool, Bodmin Moor - John Peters

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Sunset light at Rough Tor - Myles Pinkney

Introduction

This State of the Cornwall National Landscape Report 2026 presents an updated assessment of the condition, trends and pressures shaping this nationally protected landscape. Building on the 2021 evidence base and earlier monitoring work dating back to 2007, it tracks how environmental, social and economic change is being expressed across Cornwall National Landscape's 12 sections. The report therefore does more than describe current conditions: it provides the evidence needed to understand emerging pressures, identify where change is accelerating, and support decisions that conserve and enhance natural beauty while sustaining resilient communities.

Cornwall National Landscape, comprising 12 distinct sections under a single designation, is a landscape defined by diversity, connectivity and a strong sense of place. Its natural beauty arises from the interaction of geology, habitats, land management and human activity over millennia, creating a living, working landscape of national and international importance.

The purpose of this report is to present a clear, evidence-led overview of the current state of Cornwall National Landscape across a range of environmental, social and economic themes. It reflects the priorities of the Cornwall National Landscape Management Plan (2022–2027), recognising that landscape condition, nature recovery, climate resilience and community wellbeing are closely interconnected.

The findings presented in this report are structured to capture both continuity and

change. They highlight areas of stability, such as retained landscape character and enduring cultural heritage, alongside emerging trends and pressures, including climate change, development, land use change and demographic shifts. In doing so, the report adopts a landscape-scale perspective, recognising that the condition of Cornwall National Landscape is shaped by cumulative and interrelated forces operating across multiple scales.

By bringing together this evidence, the report provides a foundation for decision-making, supporting the work of the Cornwall National Landscape Partnership, local authorities, land managers and other stakeholders. It aims to inform policy, guide future action and ensure that the primary purpose of the designation, to conserve and enhance natural beauty, continues to underpin all management of the landscape for present and future generations.

Statement of Significance

Reginald Poad - Ancient bluebell woods, Enys, Penryn

Introduction

Cornwall National Landscape is one of England's most distinctive and diverse protected landscapes, comprising a unique network of 12 geographically separate sections united under a single designation. Together, these landscapes represent a remarkable concentration of natural beauty, cultural heritage and ecological richness, extending across some of the country's most dramatic coastlines, tranquil estuaries and upland moorland.

The significance of Cornwall National Landscape lies in the interaction of geology, landscape processes, land management and human activity over millennia, which together create a landscape of exceptional character and sense of place. From the exposed Atlantic cliffs of the north coast to the sheltered wooded rias of the south, and from the

remote uplands of Bodmin Moor to the intricate patchwork of small-scale farmland bounded by Cornish hedges, the designation encapsulates a wide spectrum of landscape types within a relatively compact area.



Strangles Beach, nr Crackington Haven - Tim Knight



12 sections 1 designation



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National Landscape



Malpas boating - Matt Jessop

A landscape defined by diversity and connection

Although physically fragmented, the 12 sections share a common identity rooted in coastal influence, cultural continuity and strong landscape character. Each section contributes distinctive qualities that collectively form the national importance of the landscape.

The northern and western coastal sections, including 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point), 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth, 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point, 05 St Agnes, 06 Godrevy to Portreath and 07 West Penwith are characterised by dramatic cliffs, exposed headlands and geological complexity. These landscapes exhibit a powerful sense of wildness and remoteness, shaped by Atlantic weather systems and maritime processes. Sheer cliffs, folded rock strata, offshore stacks and narrow valleys create visually striking scenery, while extensive areas of coastal heath and grassland support important habitats for wildlife.

These areas are also defined by high levels of tranquillity and dark night skies, with limited settlement and minimal light pollution reinforcing their sense of isolation. In places such as 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) and 07 West Penwith, the landscape retains a strong perception of being largely undisturbed, contributing significantly to its natural beauty and experiential value. 12 Bodmin Moor provides a distinctive upland contrast within the designation, characterised by granite tors, open moorland, peat soils and a strong sense of remoteness.



View across Camel Estuary - Casey Leaver

Estuaries, rias and sheltered landscapes

In contrast, the central and southern sections, including 03 The Camel Estuary, 08 South Coast Western, 09 South Coast Central and 10 South Coast Eastern, are shaped by water. These landscapes are characterised by broad estuaries, tidal creeks, wooded valleys and sheltered harbours, which together create a more intimate and enclosed landscape experience.

03 The Camel Estuary offers expansive views and a strong sense of openness and tranquillity, while the Fal, Helford and Fowey rias form intricate networks of creeks and inlets, often lined with ancient woodland and historic parkland. These areas support a rich mosaic of habitats, including saltmarsh, mudflats and estuarine woodland, which are of high ecological importance.

The transition between land and sea is particularly significant in these sections, where the landscape is shaped by both natural processes and long-standing human use, including fishing, trade and transport. This close relationship between people and the marine environment continues to define the cultural and economic life of these areas.

A living cultural landscape

Cornwall National Landscape is a living, working landscape, where human activity has played a central role in shaping its character. The field patterns, settlements and heritage features visible today reflect thousands of years of land management and cultural development.

Across much of the designation, the landscape is characterised by small to medium-sized fields enclosed by Cornish hedges, many of which have origins in prehistoric or medieval land divisions. These hedges, unique to Cornwall, are both a defining visual feature and an important ecological resource, providing habitat connectivity, supporting biodiversity and contributing to landscape structure.

The cultural heritage of the Cornwall National Landscape is of international significance. Prehistoric monuments, including stone circles, barrows and field systems, are widespread, particularly in areas such as 07 West Penwith and 12 Bodmin Moor. These are complemented by later historic features, including medieval villages, churches, and the remains of the mining industry which contributed to the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.

In locations such as 05 St Agnes, 06 Godrevy to Portreath and 07 West Penwith, the landscape retains clear evidence of its industrial past, with engine houses, mine workings and associated infrastructure forming iconic and recognisable features. These elements contribute not only to the visual character of the landscape but also to its cultural identity and sense of place.



Nature, biodiversity and geological importance

Cornwall National Landscape supports a wide range of habitats and species, reflecting its varied geology, climate and land use. The interaction of land and sea, combined with a mild maritime climate, has produced diverse ecosystems of national and international importance.

Coastal habitats, including cliffs, heathland and maritime grassland, are particularly prominent, supporting species such as chough, seabirds and marine mammals. Inland, habitats range from ancient woodland in sheltered valleys to open moorland, heath and peatland on 12 Bodmin Moor. Estuarine environments provide important feeding and breeding grounds for birds and support complex intertidal ecosystems.

Section 12 Bodmin Moor represents the most extensive upland landscape within the designation, although smaller upland character areas also occur in parts of 07 West Penwith and the Lizard. It boasts open granite tors, extensive common land and sense of remoteness providing a strong contrast to the coastal sections. This area is notable for its perceived wildness, dark skies and rich archaeological record, reinforcing its distinct role within the wider landscape.

Settlement, vernacular and sense of place

Settlement patterns across the Cornwall National Landscape are typically small-scale, dispersed and closely related to the landscape. Villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads are often constructed from locally sourced materials, including slate, granite and cob, contributing to a strong sense of local distinctiveness.

In coastal areas, traditional fishing villages such as Port Isaac, Polperro and Cawsand illustrate the historic relationship between communities and the sea, while inland areas reflect agricultural traditions. The consistency of vernacular architecture and settlement form plays a crucial role in maintaining the landscape's character.

Family of Cornish Choughs - Rowena
Castillo-Nicholls



Stargazing at Lanyon Quoit - Su Bayfield

Tranquillity, dark skies and experience

A defining quality of the Cornwall National Landscape is its sense of tranquillity, remoteness and connection to nature. Many areas, particularly along the coast and in 12 Bodmin Moor, offer opportunities for quiet recreation and immersion in natural beauty.

Dark night skies are a particularly valued attribute. Parts of Cornwall National Landscape are internationally recognised for their dark skies, including Bodmin Moor International Dark Sky Landscape, West Penwith International Dark Sky Park and Dark Sky Discovery Sites at Carnewas and Bedruthan Steps and St Agnes Head. These experiential qualities are central to the landscape's value for both residents and visitors, contributing to wellbeing and quality of life.

Forces for Change

A landscape under pressure

While the Cornwall National Landscape retains many of its special qualities, it is also subject to a range of pressures, including development, visitor pressure, agricultural change and climate impacts. These pressures can lead to the gradual erosion of landscape character, biodiversity and tranquillity.

Cornwall National Landscape is subject to a range of interacting forces that are reshaping its character, condition and function. These forces operate across different spatial and temporal scales and often act cumulatively, influencing landscape quality, biodiversity and community resilience. Understanding how these forces manifest within the landscape is essential to informing effective management and policy responses.

Housing

Housing development continues to represent a key force for change within Cornwall National Landscape, reflecting wider pressures for housing delivery, changes in population, and the attractiveness of the area for second homes and tourism.

The State of the AONB report 2021 highlighted increasing development pressure, particularly within sections such as 07 West Penwith, 08 South Coast Western and 09 South Coast Central. This pattern has continued and is expected to persist, supported by recent data and national housing requirements for Cornwall., with demand for new housing, extensions, and redevelopment contributing to incremental change within settlements and the wider landscape.

Much of the change associated with housing is small-scale and cumulative, including extensions, replacement dwellings and the conversion of agricultural buildings. While individually limited in impact, these changes can alter the character, scale and density of settlements over time, particularly where they are not closely aligned with local vernacular styles and materials.

There is also evidence that housing pressure is not always linked to local need, with a proportion of development associated with second homes or holiday accommodation. This can contribute to changes in settlement function, seasonal occupancy and pressures on local services.

Houses in Cornwall cost

8.8 times

the average earnings compared
to 7.7 in England



HOUSING



21.5k ha

Peaty soils

**LAND
MANAGEMENT**

£440.5m

Daily visitor
spend (2023)



TOURISM



**Priority
habitat**

+148ha

Between 2020 & 2026

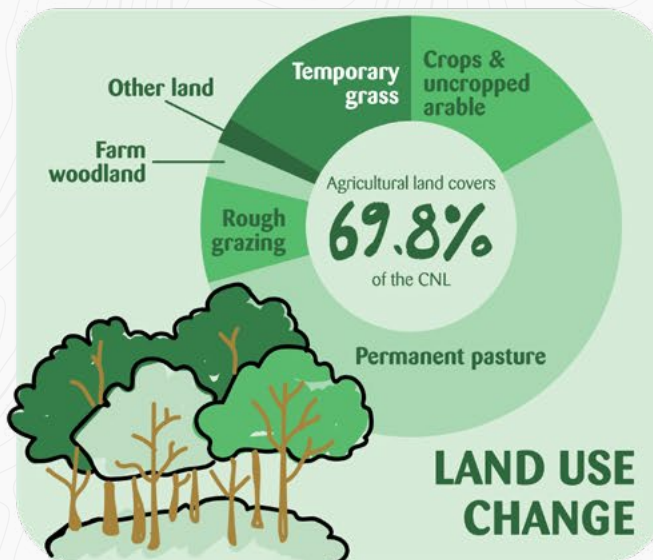
NATURE RECOVERY

**CO₂
emissions**

**84.3k
tonnes**



**CLIMATE
CHANGE**



Housing development can affect a wide range of environmental factors, including landscape character, biodiversity, tranquillity and dark skies. These impacts are particularly evident where development leads to increased light spill, the loss of traditional features, or encroachment into previously undeveloped areas. In turn, this can contribute to the gradual fragmentation of traditional farm holdings and drive changes in land management practices.

Overall, housing continues to act as a persistent and locally variable force for change, with the greatest impacts seen in areas of higher demand and accessibility, particularly in high-value locations where tourism-driven economies increase pressure for second homes and exclusive residential development, amplifying land values and intensifying landscape change.

At the time of writing, proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework are under consultation, with potential implications for housing delivery and development pressure within protected landscapes.

Tourism

Tourism is central to the identity and economy of Cornwall National Landscape, attracting high numbers of visitors drawn by its coast, heritage and natural beauty. However, the intensity and seasonality of tourism are increasingly placing pressure on the landscape. In many coastal locations, high visitor numbers are contributing to the erosion of footpaths and sensitive habitats, particularly along cliffs and dune systems where repeated trampling can damage vegetation and accelerate soil loss. These impacts are most evident in popular, easily accessible sites.

Traffic congestion is another growing concern, particularly in areas with narrow rural lanes, infrequent public transport services and limited parking capacity. Increased car use can affect both the physical condition of the landscape and the experience of tranquillity for residents and visitors. The demand for infrastructure such as car parks, signage and visitor facilities can introduce additional visual impacts, particularly where poorly integrated into the landscape. At the same time, visitor pressure can disturb wildlife in coastal, estuarine and moorland environments, especially during sensitive breeding or feeding periods, creating tensions between recreation and conservation.

Beyond physical impacts, tourism also influences the social fabric of communities within Cornwall National Landscape. Seasonal demand for accommodation, including second homes and short-term lettings, can affect housing availability and affordability for local residents. This dynamic can lead to shifts in community composition and challenge the long-term sustainability of rural settlements. While tourism remains a vital economic driver, managing its impacts in a way that sustains both landscape quality and community wellbeing is an ongoing challenge.



Coastal erosion, Gunwalloe - Matt Jessop

Loss of landscape and seascape character

The character of the Cornwall National Landscape is highly distinctive, but also sensitive to incremental change. The loss of landscape and seascape character is rarely the result of a single action; rather, it occurs through the gradual accumulation of small-scale changes that, over time, alter the visual and experiential qualities of the landscape. Development pressures, including new housing, infrastructure and tourism-related facilities, can introduce architecture, materials and layouts that are not consistent with local vernacular traditions, leading to a dilution of local distinctiveness.

In rural areas, the expansion of settlements and the introduction of suburban features such as uniform building styles, engineered boundaries and extensive lighting can disrupt the historic relationship between settlements and their surrounding landscape. On the coast, infrastructure related to recreation, transport and utilities can be particularly prominent due to the open and exposed nature of the terrain, increasing their visual impact. Seascape character is also affected by offshore developments, including renewable energy infrastructure, which can alter views and the perceived naturalness of the coastline. Emerging marine developments, including applications for offshore seaweed farming, now represent a new and evolving influence on seascape character and coastal management.

Changes in land management practices also play a significant role in shaping landscape character. The removal or deterioration of traditional features such as Cornish hedges can lead to the loss of

historic field patterns and reduce the visual texture of the landscape. Similarly, reduced management of woodland or scrub encroachment can alter key views and landscape structure.

Increasing levels of artificial light, particularly near settlements and transport routes, are beginning to erode dark night skies, which are an important component of the area's tranquillity and sense of remoteness. These combined pressures highlight the need for a carefully managed, landscape-led approach to change.

The loss of landscape and seascape character is rarely the result of a single action; it happens through the gradual accumulation of small-scale changes.

Nature recovery

Nature recovery represents both a critical challenge and a major opportunity within Cornwall National Landscape. Long-term declines in biodiversity have resulted in habitats that are often fragmented, degraded and insufficiently connected to support resilient ecosystems. This fragmentation limits the ability of species to move across the landscape, reducing ecological function and increasing vulnerability to environmental pressures such as climate change.

The pressures contributing to biodiversity loss are varied and include land use intensification, pollution, invasive species and the impacts of climate change. In many areas, the most valuable habitats are isolated and exist as small patches, reducing their effectiveness as ecological networks. This condition is compounded by pressures from recreation and development, which can further disturb or damage sensitive habitats.

At the same time, there is growing momentum around nature recovery at both national and local levels, offering opportunities to restore ecological connectivity and improve habitat condition. Initiatives such as Local Nature Recovery Strategies provide a framework for identifying priority areas and targeting interventions. Within Cornwall National Landscape, there is significant potential to enhance habitat networks, improve ecological resilience and deliver wider ecosystem benefits. However, achieving this will require coordinated action across landholdings and sectors, alongside sustained investment and long-term commitment.

Land management

Land management practices are fundamental to the character and condition of Cornwall National Landscape, with farming covering a significant proportion of the area. The way land is managed influences not only agricultural productivity but also biodiversity, landscape character and ecosystem services.

Farmers and land managers are facing a complex operating environment, with rising costs, changing subsidy regimes and increasing expectations to deliver environmental outcomes. In marginal landscapes, maintaining economically viable farming systems can be particularly challenging. This can lead to either intensification, which may impact environmental quality, or land abandonment, which can result in scrub encroachment and loss of characteristic open landscapes.

Farmers and land managers are central to sustaining the landscape's long-term integrity.

There is increasing recognition of the role of land managers as stewards of the environment, delivering a range of public benefits alongside food production. Supporting this transition requires investment in skills, advisory services and collaborative approaches. Encouraging practices that enhance soil health, improve water quality and support biodiversity, while maintaining viable farm businesses, is critical to sustaining the landscape's long-term integrity.

Land use change and multifunctional landscapes

Land use within Cornwall National Landscape is evolving in response to economic, environmental and policy drivers. There is a growing expectation that land should deliver multiple benefits, resulting in a shift towards more multifunctional landscapes. While this presents opportunities to enhance biodiversity, carbon storage and public access, it also introduces complexity and potential conflict between competing land uses.

Changes in agricultural practice are particularly significant, with some land managers transitioning towards more environmentally focused approaches, including the creation of new habitats, changes in grazing regimes, and the introduction of agroforestry. Within a landscape-led approach, these changes present important opportunities to enhance ecological function and resilience; however, they must be carefully planned and designed to reflect local landscape character, scale and pattern, ensuring that interventions contribute positively to landscape distinctiveness and sense of place.

Additionally, there is increasing pressure on land to accommodate renewable energy infrastructure, including solar arrays and wind energy, as well as development associated with economic diversification. These uses can contribute to national climate goals but may also introduce new elements into the landscape that are visually prominent or physically disruptive. Balancing the delivery of multiple benefits while maintaining the defining qualities of the landscape is therefore a key challenge for the future.

Government policy change and funding

The policy framework influencing Cornwall National Landscape is undergoing a period of significant transition. Changes to agricultural policy, environmental regulation and funding mechanisms are reshaping how land is managed and how conservation outcomes are delivered. The shift away from European Union support systems towards new domestic schemes has introduced both opportunities and uncertainty for land managers.

Emerging policies place greater emphasis on the delivery of public goods, including biodiversity enhancement, climate mitigation and improved access. While this aligns closely with the objectives of Cornwall National Landscape, the mechanisms for delivering these outcomes are still evolving. This creates uncertainty for farmers and land managers, particularly in relation to income stability and long-term planning.

At the same time, there is increasing emphasis on leveraging private investment and developing new funding models linked to natural capital and ecosystem services. While these approaches offer potential new income streams, they also require new skills, knowledge and coordination. The extent to which these policy and funding changes can be effectively implemented within the Cornwall National Landscape will have a direct influence on its future condition and resilience.

Technology in an agricultural landscape

Technological change is playing an increasingly important role in shaping agricultural practices and rural land use within Cornwall National Landscape. Advances in precision farming, digital mapping and monitoring technologies are enabling more efficient and potentially more sustainable land management. These developments have the potential to reduce inputs, improve environmental outcomes and support data-informed decision-making.

However, the adoption of new technologies can also influence landscape character. Increased mechanisation often requires larger fields and more efficient layouts, which may lead to the loss of traditional boundaries such as Cornish hedges. The introduction of new infrastructure, including renewable energy installations and telecommunications equipment, can create visual impacts, particularly in open or elevated areas where visibility is high.

Rising domestic energy demand associated with features such as electric vehicle charging, hot tubs and other high-consumption technologies is placing increasing pressure on existing electricity infrastructure, contributing to the need for network upgrades and, in some areas, the introduction of larger pylons and higher-voltage transmission lines, with associated implications for landscape character and visual amenity.

Technology can also alter the relationship between people and the land, potentially reducing the need for traditional skills and changing patterns of employment and land use. While innovation is essential for the future of agriculture, it is important that its implementation is carefully considered within the context of landscape sensitivity, ensuring that technological advancement does not come at the expense of the qualities that define Cornwall National Landscape.



Wind turbines - Matt Jessop

Climate change

Climate change is one of the most significant long-term forces affecting Cornwall National Landscape, with implications for landscape character, biodiversity, heritage, land management and community resilience.

Climate change is a multiplier of existing landscape pressures.

Cornwall Council declared a climate emergency in January 2019 and there is now a strong strategic focus on carbon neutrality, climate resilience and the use of natural systems such as wetlands, woodlands and Cornish hedges to help mitigate and adapt to change. Across the designation, changing weather patterns, rising temperatures and more frequent extreme events are likely to alter the condition and appearance of coastal, estuarine, farmed and upland landscapes, with consequences for their scenic quality, tranquillity and sense of place.

The effects of climate change are already likely to be felt most acutely in the landscapes that are naturally most exposed or sensitive. Along the coast, rising sea levels, increased storm intensity and coastal erosion have the potential to affect cliffs, coves, estuaries, access routes and historic assets, while inland changes in rainfall and temperature may influence soils, water availability and vegetation patterns. These pressures are closely linked to nature recovery, as fragmented habitats and vulnerable species are likely to become less resilient in the face of hydrological change, invasive species, pests and disease. Climate change therefore acts not only as an environmental pressure in its own right, but also as a multiplier of existing landscape and ecological pressures.

Climate change is also reshaping expectations of how land within Cornwall National Landscape should function. Farming, woodland management and habitat restoration will all need to respond to changing environmental conditions while also contributing to carbon reduction, flood resilience and ecosystem recovery. Measures introduced to address climate change, such as habitat creation, woodland expansion, changes in agricultural practice and renewable energy infrastructure, have the potential to bring positive benefits, but they may also alter landscape character, if poorly planned or insensitively located. The key challenge will be to ensure that responses to climate change are landscape-led, locally distinctive and designed to conserve and enhance the special qualities of Cornwall National Landscape.

Facts and figures

The following sections present an evidence base describing the current condition, trends and pressures across Cornwall National Landscape. Drawing together data on people and communities, heritage and sense of place, nature recovery and land management, and climate resilience and adaptation, this chapter provides a comprehensive overview of how environmental, social and economic factors interact across the landscape. The evidence highlights spatial variation between sections, identifies key pressures and opportunities, and establishes a clear baseline for understanding change. Taken together, these datasets provide a foundation for informed decision-making, helping to guide policy, management priorities and future action to conserve and enhance natural beauty, while supporting resilient communities.

Healthy People and Communities

Social and economic characteristics of Cornwall National Landscape, including population, housing, access to services and wellbeing.

Nature Recovery and Land Management

An overview of habitats, biodiversity and land management across Cornwall National Landscape.

Landscape, Heritage and Place

The distinctive character of Cornwall National Landscape, including its landscape and seascape qualities, historic environment and patterns of land use.

Climate, Adaptation and Resilience

Key climate-related pressures affecting Cornwall National Landscape, including emissions, energy, coastal change and flood risk.

Number of planning applications

2021-2025



Estimated

PLANNING &
HOUSING

121.7%
higher

Job density

Section 03

142%
highest

Section 12

30%
lowest



COMMUNITY
& ECONOMY

Agricultural land use
% of CNL

2026



2021

Estimated

FARMING
& FOOD

5.55%
less

Carbon storage
(tonnes per hectare)

Section 12

478t/ha
highest

Section 04

263t/ha
lowest



CLIMATE &
EMISSIONS

Scheduled monuments
at risk

2026



2021

HERITAGE &
CULTURE

2.83%
more

2023

Woodland cover in CNL



2013

Estimated
3.59%
more



WOODLAND &
FORESTRY

Healthy People and Communities



Beach Guardian Dune Restoration - FiPL

Introduction

This section presents evidence on the social and economic characteristics of Cornwall National Landscape, including population, housing, access to services and wellbeing. It draws on a range of datasets to understand how communities are distributed across the landscape and the challenges they face. These patterns provide important context for understanding community resilience, access to opportunity, and the relationship between people and place within the landscape.

Key findings

The indicators assessed within this theme highlight a number of consistent and interrelated patterns across Cornwall National Landscape.

- Cornwall National Landscape has a relatively small, dispersed and unevenly distributed population, with the largest concentrations in the south coast sections and 07 West Penwith, and much smaller populations in areas such as 06 Godrevy to Portreath, 05 St Agnes and 03 The Camel Estuary. This reinforces the strongly rural and coastal character of the landscape.
- **The population** profile is strongly ageing, with around 31% of residents aged 65 and over and only around 14% aged under 16. Older age profiles are particularly evident in 09 South Coast Central, 10 South Coast Eastern, 11 Rame Head, 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith, with implications for housing, care, service provision and community sustainability.
- **Life expectancy** remains relatively high and stable, with Cornwall-wide figures of 79.5 years for males and 83.6 years for females. This continues the long-term pattern of increasing longevity and contributes to the ageing demographic structure seen across Cornwall National Landscape.
- **Deprivation** is unevenly distributed across the landscape, with 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith emerging as the most deprived sections overall, while 09 South Coast Central and 05 St Agnes are among the least deprived. Income, employment, education, health and access to housing and services all vary significantly between sections, highlighting the presence of rural and coastal inequality within an otherwise attractive landscape.
- **Employment opportunities** are unevenly distributed, with the highest job density in 03 The Camel Estuary and relatively strong local employment bases in 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point, 09 South Coast Central and 11 Rame Head. In contrast, more remote areas such as 12 Bodmin Moor, 07 West Penwith and

01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) have fewer jobs relative to their working-age population, increasing reliance on commuting and external employment centres.

- **Housing pressures** remain a major issue, with significant variation in both tenure and housing use. Social housing is unevenly distributed, while second homes are concentrated in a small number of high-demand coastal areas, particularly 11 Rame Head, 03 The Camel Estuary and 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point. This reduces availability for permanent residents and contributes to community imbalance in some areas.
- **House prices** remain high and uneven, ranging from around £327,900 to £628,000 in 2025. Most sections have seen substantial price growth since 2020, reinforcing affordability pressures, particularly where high prices coincide with lower local incomes and significant levels of second home ownership.
- **Access to key services** is uneven and often limited, with many sections lacking local provision of GPs, dentists, pharmacies, opticians or fire stations. More remote areas are more dependent on travelling outside the immediate area, creating additional challenges for older residents and those without access to private transport.
- **Connectivity** by walking, cycling and public transport is generally low, particularly in more remote areas such as 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth, 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) and 07 West Penwith, reinforcing car dependency and limiting access to employment, services and social opportunities. Digital connectivity also remains uneven, with weaker broadband performance in more rural sections such as 03 The Camel Estuary, 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point and 12 Bodmin Moor.
- **Wellbeing and support** provision vary considerably across Cornwall National Landscape, with uneven levels of child poverty, limited breakfast club provision, and highly uneven access to care homes, day centres and sheltered accommodation. Loneliness is also variable, with higher levels indicated in 11 Rame Head, 09 South Coast Central and 07 West Penwith, suggesting that ageing, rural isolation and limited service access are affecting community wellbeing in some areas.
- **Tourism** makes a strong but uneven contribution to the local economy, particularly in North Cornwall and Penwith, where tourism employment accounts for around one-fifth of all jobs. While this supports local businesses and employment, it also adds pressure to housing, infrastructure and community sustainability in some parts of Cornwall National Landscape.

Overall, the people-related indicators highlight a pattern of uneven population distribution, ageing communities, affordability pressures, service accessibility challenges and variable wellbeing across Cornwall National Landscape. Together, these findings point to the need for a place-based approach that supports sustainable, inclusive and resilient communities.

Population

The population of Cornwall National Landscape is estimated at approximately 59,014 residents, based on the most recent available data. This represents a reduction compared with the previous estimate of 65,530, although differences in data sources and methodology should be taken into account when making direct comparisons. Overall, the population remains relatively small in scale and widely dispersed across the designated area.

Population distribution is uneven, reflecting the rural and coastal character of the landscape. The largest concentrations are found in the south coast sections and 07 West Penwith. In contrast, much smaller populations are present in areas such as 06 Godrevy to Portreath, 05 St Agnes, and 03 The Camel Estuary, where sections are much smaller and settlement is more limited.

Despite changes in total population, the overall settlement pattern has remained largely stable, with a significant proportion of residents concentrated in a small number of sections and relatively low densities across much of the remainder. This reinforces the rural character of Cornwall National Landscape and the continued importance of addressing issues associated with geographic isolation.

The sex profile of the population is broadly balanced, with females accounting for approximately 49–52% of residents and males 48–51% across most sections. This distribution is consistent with wider demographic patterns and reflects the slightly higher proportion of older females within the population.

The age structure continues to be a defining characteristic of Cornwall National Landscape,

with a clear skew towards older age groups. Residents aged 65 and over account for approximately 31% of the population, while those aged under 16 represent around 14%, and the working-age population (16–64) makes up just over half of all residents.

This distribution indicates a strongly ageing population, with relatively fewer younger residents and a comparatively limited working-age cohort. While earlier data used different age groupings, the overall trend remains clear: the population profile has continued to age over time rather than showing signs of rebalancing. This has important implications for service provision, housing need, and the sustainability of local communities.

Variation between sections reflects this broader trend. Areas such as 09 South Coast Central, 10 South Coast Eastern, and 11 Rame Head show particularly high proportions of older residents, indicating more advanced ageing profiles. Similar patterns are evident in 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith, where older age groups form a substantial share of the population. By contrast, sections such as 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point,

05 St Agnes, and 03 The Camel Estuary contain relatively higher proportions of younger residents, although these areas still follow the wider pattern of an ageing demographic.

Overall, the population of Cornwall National Landscape is characterised by a combination of

low density, uneven distribution, and an ageing demographic profile. These factors together shape the social and economic dynamics of the area, influencing demand for housing, access to services, and the long-term sustainability of communities.

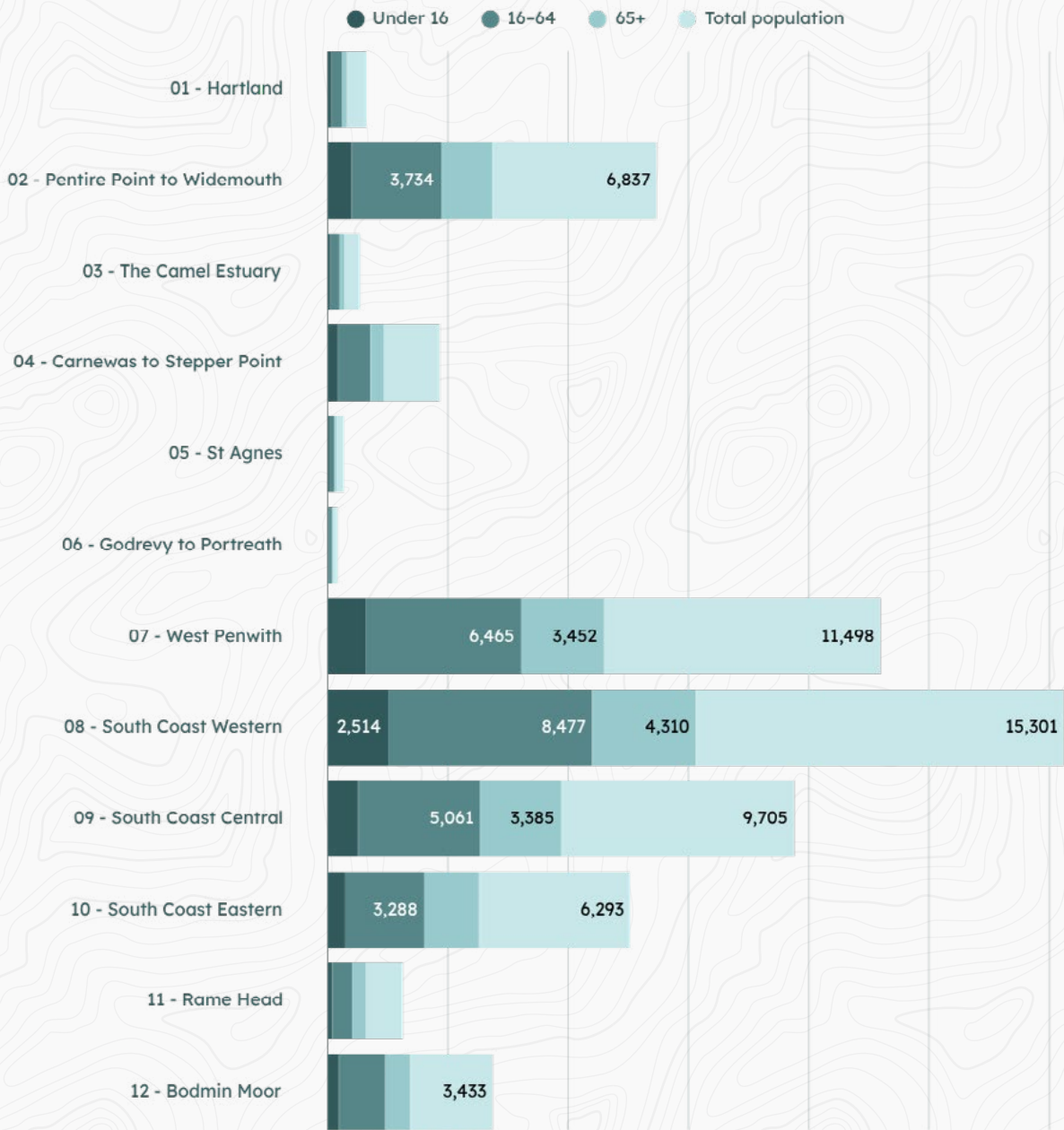


Figure 3.1.1 – Population distribution by age for Cornwall National Landscape sections - Census 2021

Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth within Cornwall National Landscape reflects the broader pattern observed across Cornwall as a whole. Based on Office for National Statistics data at local authority level, life expectancy in Cornwall is 79.5 years for males and 83.6 years for females.

These figures continue the pattern identified in the previous State of the AONB report, which also noted a gap in life expectancy between males and females and variation across Cornwall. While the earlier report presented life expectancy at Community Network Area level, highlighting differences between areas such as Camelford and 07 West Penwith, the updated Cornwall-wide figures indicate that overall life expectancy remains broadly consistent, with females continuing to live longer than males.

The gap of approximately four years between male and female life expectancy reflects national trends and contributes to the ageing demographic profile observed across Cornwall National Landscape. In particular, the higher life expectancy among females is reflected in the relatively large proportion of older women within the population, especially in sections with a high proportion of residents aged 65 and over.

Although life expectancy is not available at the level of individual Cornwall National Landscape sections, the Cornwall-wide figures provide important context for understanding changes since the previous report. Taken together, they suggest that life expectancy remains relatively high and stable, reinforcing longer-term demographic trends of an ageing population and increasing longevity within Cornwall National Landscape.



Chapel Porth - Matt Jessop

Deprivation and inequality

Overall deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation shows clear spatial variation across Cornwall National Landscape, with values ranging from 30.12% to 52.76% (lower values indicating higher levels of deprivation). 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith emerge as the most deprived sections, while 09 South Coast Central and 05 St Agnes are among the least deprived.

The smaller and less visible pockets of deprivation are dispersed across rural and coastal communities. These are often masked within otherwise affluent areas, a phenomenon described by researchers at Plymouth Marjon university as “pretty poverty” resulting in a complex socio-economic landscape that is not immediately apparent within what is perceived as a generally less deprived rural environment.

Income

Income deprivation varies across the landscape, with relatively higher deprivation in 12 Bodmin Moor, 07 West Penwith, and 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point, and lower levels in 09 South Coast Central, 05 St Agnes, and 11 Rame Head. This reflects patterns identified in the previous report, with persistent variation in household income across rural and coastal areas.

Employment

Employment deprivation shows a similar pattern, with higher levels in 07 West Penwith, 06 Godrevy to Portreath, and 08 South Coast Western, and lower levels in 09 South Coast Central and 05 St Agnes. As in the previous report, access to employment continues to vary across Cornwall National Landscape, reflecting differences in local economic opportunity.

Education, skills and training

This domain shows marked variation, with the highest deprivation in 12 Bodmin Moor and

	Section 01	Section 02	Section 03	Section 04	Section 05	Section 06	Section 07	Section 08	Section 09	Section 10	Section 11	Section 12
Index of Multiple Deprivation	30.12%	36.59%	49.15%	45.77%	51.29%	41.97%	31.87%	42.46%	52.76%	37.14%	38.87%	34.34%

Table 3.1.1 – Deprivation indicators by Cornwall National Landscape section - Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) 2025

relatively lower deprivation in 05 St Agnes and 09 South Coast Central. These contrasts reinforce findings from the previous report, with these patterns being closely linked to limited public transport provision, which can exacerbate barriers to employment, education and services.

Health deprivation and disability

Health deprivation is relatively high in several sections, particularly 10 South Coast Eastern and 06 Godrevy to Portreath, while 09 South Coast Central records comparatively lower levels. This broadly reflects the earlier report and aligns with the ageing population profile across Cornwall National Landscape.

Crime

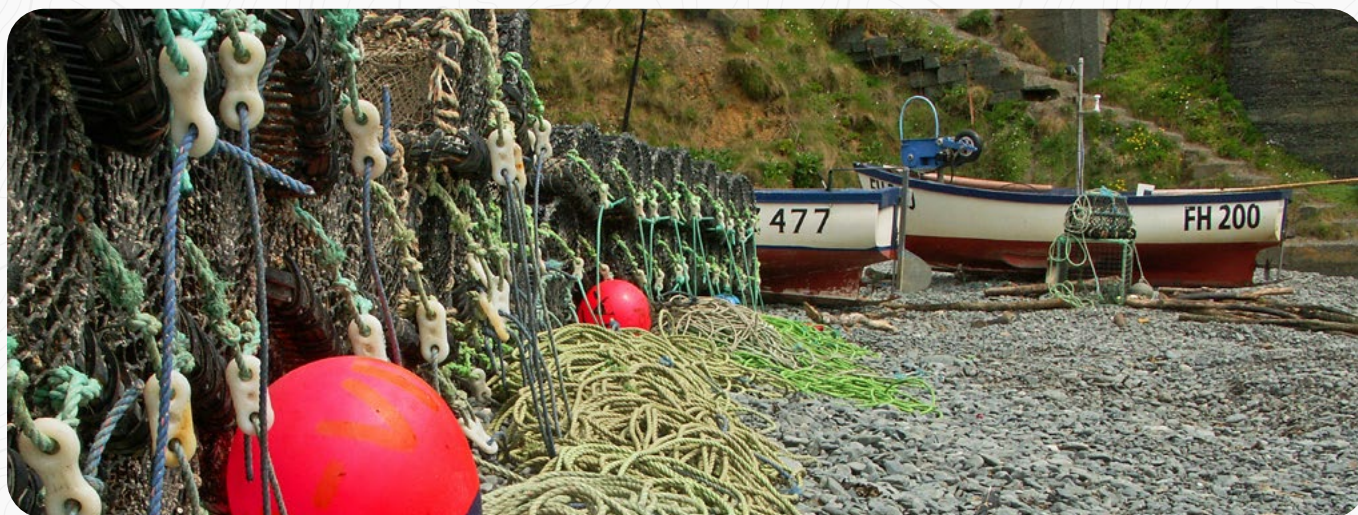
Crime rate is low across all sections, with high scores throughout the landscape. The lowest levels of crime are recorded in 12 Bodmin Moor and 09 South Coast Central, while slightly higher levels are seen in 06 Godrevy to Portreath and 10 South Coast Eastern. This confirms the findings of the previous report that crime is not a major driver of deprivation within Cornwall National Landscape.

Barriers to housing and services

This domain records the lowest values overall, indicating low levels of access to housing and services across much of the landscape. The most affected areas are 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith, with relatively lower deprivation in 06 Godrevy to Portreath and 05 St Agnes. This strongly reflects the previous report, which identified rural isolation and access to services as key issues.

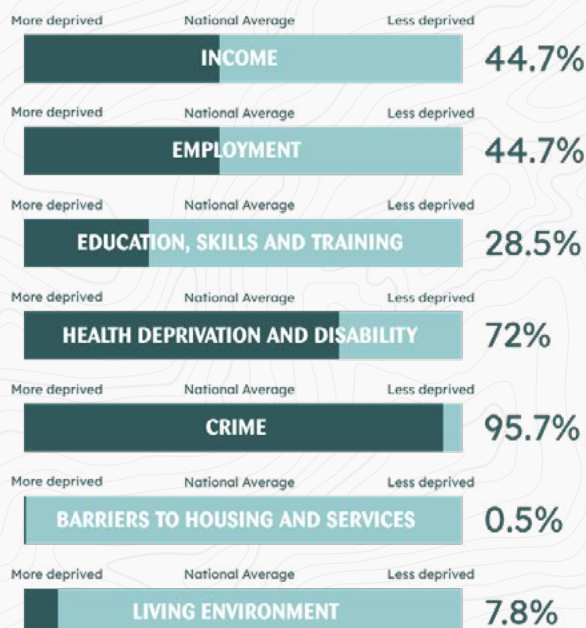
Living environment

The living environment statistic includes indicators such as housing quality, air quality, and the condition of the local built and natural environment. It varies widely, with higher deprivation in 11 Rame Head, 07 West Penwith, and 03 The Camel Estuary, and lower deprivation in 06 Godrevy to Portreath and 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth. While this domain was not separated in the previous report, it supports earlier observations of variation in environmental quality across the landscape.

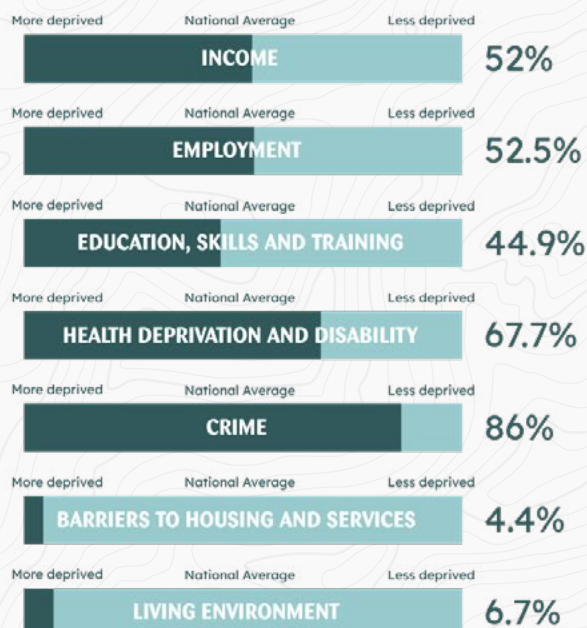


Porthoustock - David Rayner

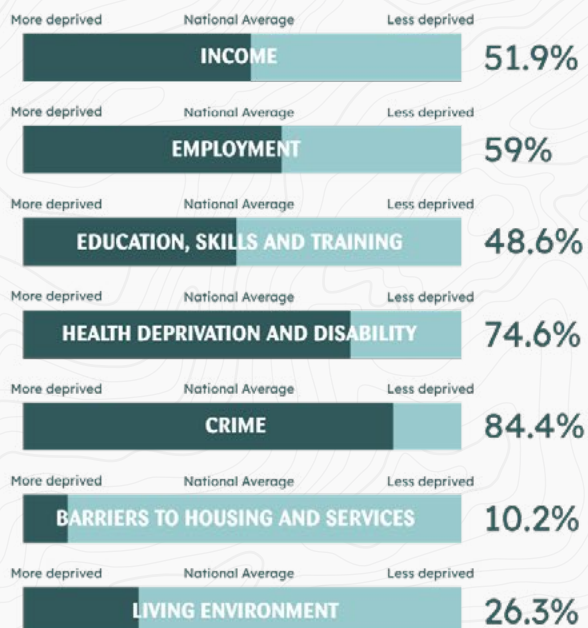
Section 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point)



Section 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth



Section 03 The Camel Estuary



Section 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point

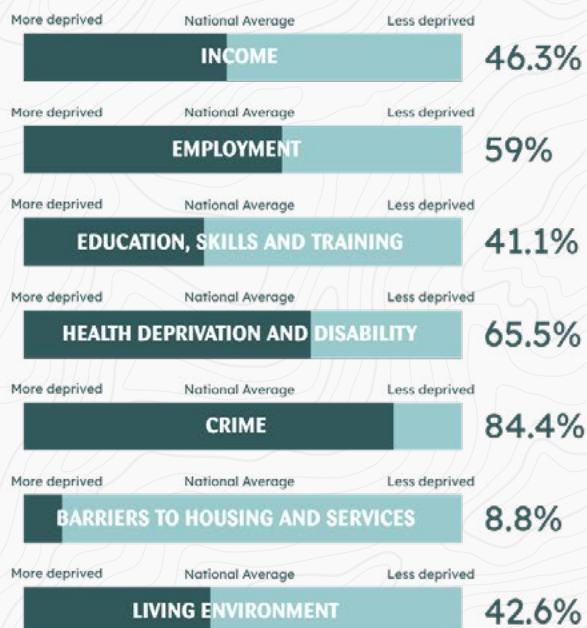
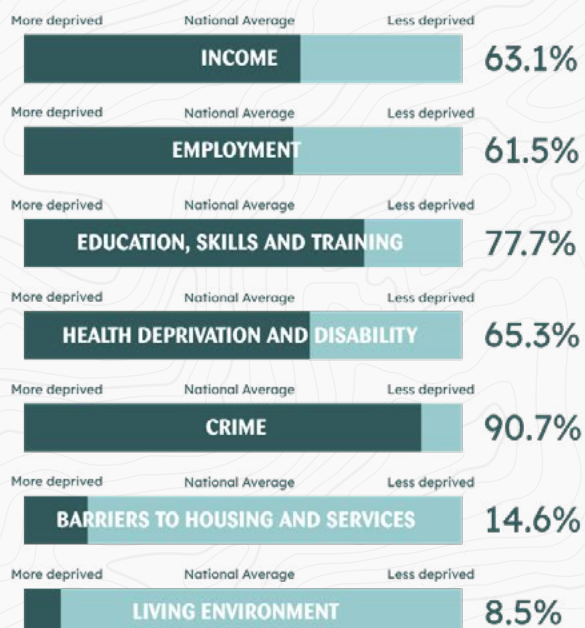
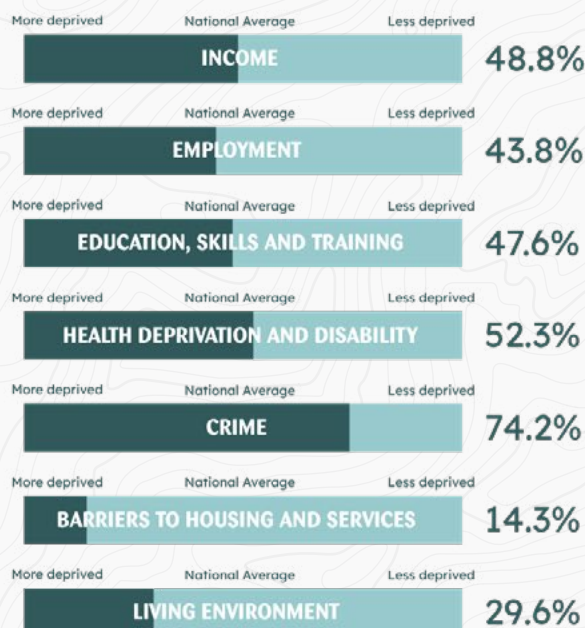


Figure 3.1.2 – Deprivation indicators by Cornwall National Landscape sections 01-04 - Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) 2025

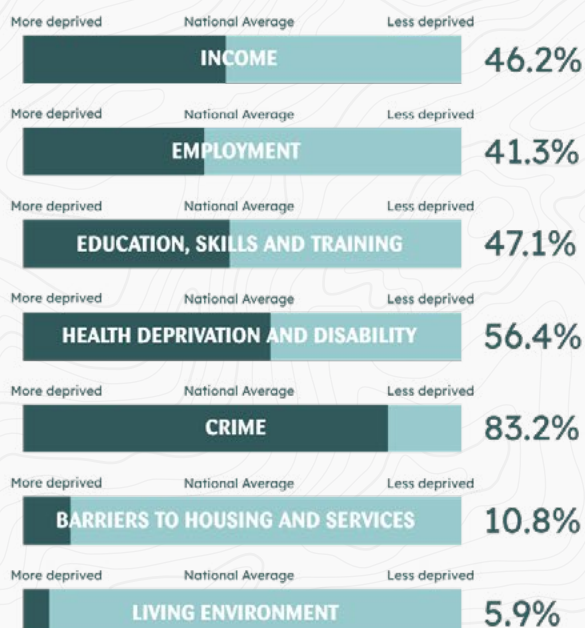
Section 05 St Agnes



Section 06 Godrevy to Portreath



Section 07 West Penwith



Section 08 South Coast Western

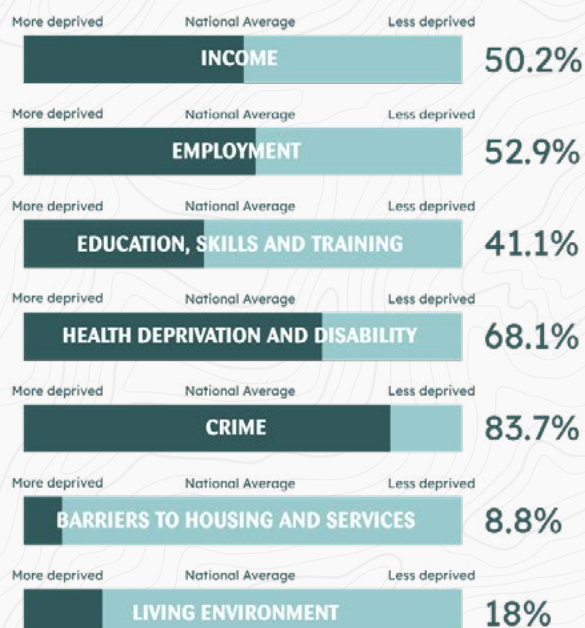
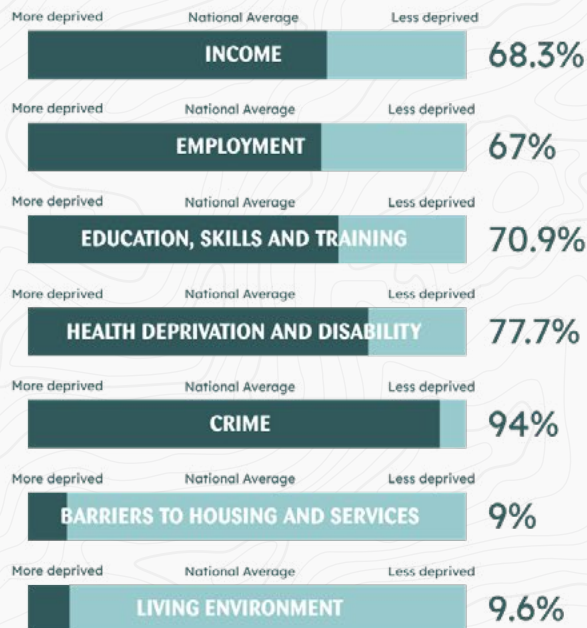
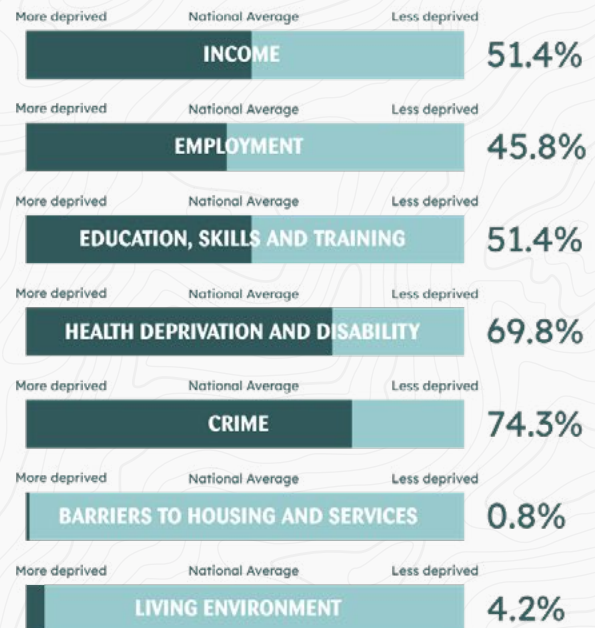


Figure 3.1.3 – Deprivation indicators by Cornwall National Landscape sections 05-08 - Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) 2025

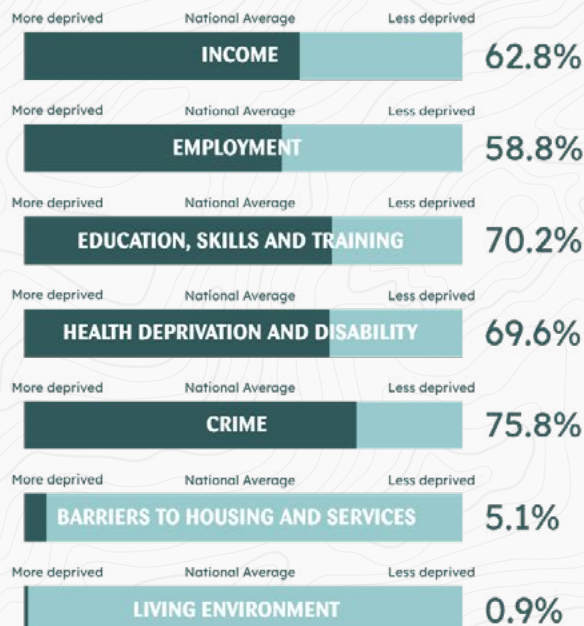
Section 09 South Coast Central



Section 10 South Coast Eastern



Section 11 Rame Head



Section 12 Bodmin Moor

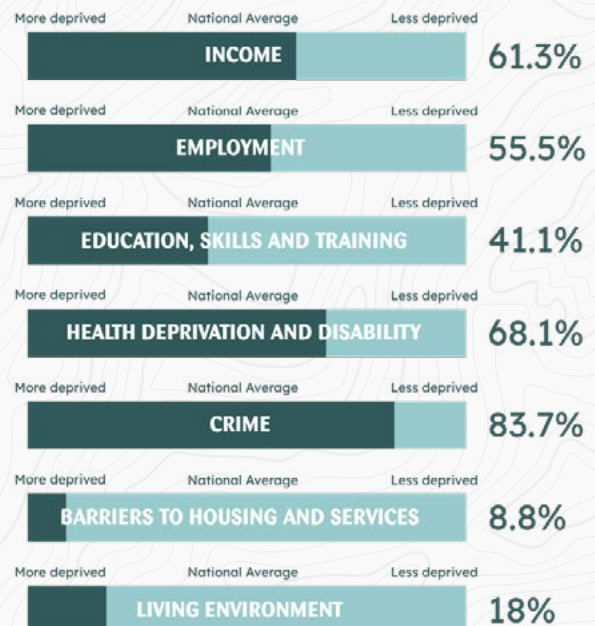


Figure 3.1.4 – Deprivation indicators by Cornwall National Landscape sections 09-12 - Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) 2025

Job density

Job density provides an indication of the availability of employment opportunities within an area by measuring the number of jobs relative to its working-age population (16–64). It reflects the concentration of jobs within each section of Cornwall National Landscape, rather than the number of residents in employment.

Across Cornwall National Landscape, job density varies widely, ranging from approximately 30% to 142%, indicating a highly uneven distribution of employment opportunities. The highest levels are recorded in 03 The Camel Estuary, where the number of jobs exceeds the resident working-age population, suggesting that the area functions as a net importer of workers. Relatively high job densities are also evident in 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point, 09 South Coast Central, and 11 Rame Head, indicating stronger local employment bases.

In contrast, lower job density is found in more remote areas, including 12 Bodmin Moor, 07 West Penwith, and 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point), where there are significantly fewer local jobs relative to the resident population. These areas are therefore more likely to be net exporters of labour, with residents travelling elsewhere for employment.

This pattern highlights a clear relationship between settlement structure, accessibility, and economic activity. Areas with larger settlements, service centres, or strong tourism economies tend to support higher job densities, while more rural and sparsely populated sections have more limited local employment provision.

Overall, job density within Cornwall National Landscape reflects a spatial imbalance in employment opportunities, with jobs concentrated in a small number of locations. This uneven distribution has important implications for commuting patterns, transport demand, and the sustainability of rural communities, reinforcing the need to consider connectivity, local economic development, and access to employment alongside population and housing dynamics.

Job density varies widely, ranging from approximately 30% to 142%, indicating a highly uneven distribution of employment opportunities.

Housing structure

The housing stock within Cornwall National Landscape varies considerably between sections, particularly in terms of tenure and the balance between primary and non-primary residences. This variation plays a key role in shaping local housing availability and community sustainability.

The proportion of social housing ranges from approximately 7% to 18%, reflecting an uneven distribution of affordable housing across the landscape. Higher levels are found in areas such as 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point and 03 The Camel Estuary, where provision is relatively greater. In contrast, lower proportions are evident in sections including 06 Godrevy to Portreath, 05 St Agnes, and 12 Bodmin Moor, where affordable housing options are more limited.

In comparison, the distribution of second homes shows much greater disparity and represents a significant influence on the housing profile in some areas. The highest concentrations are recorded in 11 Rame Head, 03 The Camel Estuary, and 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point, where second homes account for a substantial proportion of the housing stock. Other sections, including 12 Bodmin Moor and 06 Godrevy to Portreath, have much lower levels.

The housing structure of Cornwall National Landscape is characterised by uneven distribution of affordable housing and a concentration of second homes in particular locations.

This pattern highlights a clear spatial imbalance, with some coastal and high-demand areas experiencing a strong influence from non-primary residences, while others remain more reflective of local housing need. In areas with high concentrations of second homes, the availability of housing for permanent residents is likely to be reduced, contributing to pressures on local communities and limiting opportunities for younger households.

Overall, the housing structure of Cornwall National Landscape is characterised by uneven distribution of affordable housing and a concentration of second homes in particular locations. These factors combine to influence who is able to live within the landscape and have important implications for maintaining balanced and sustainable communities.

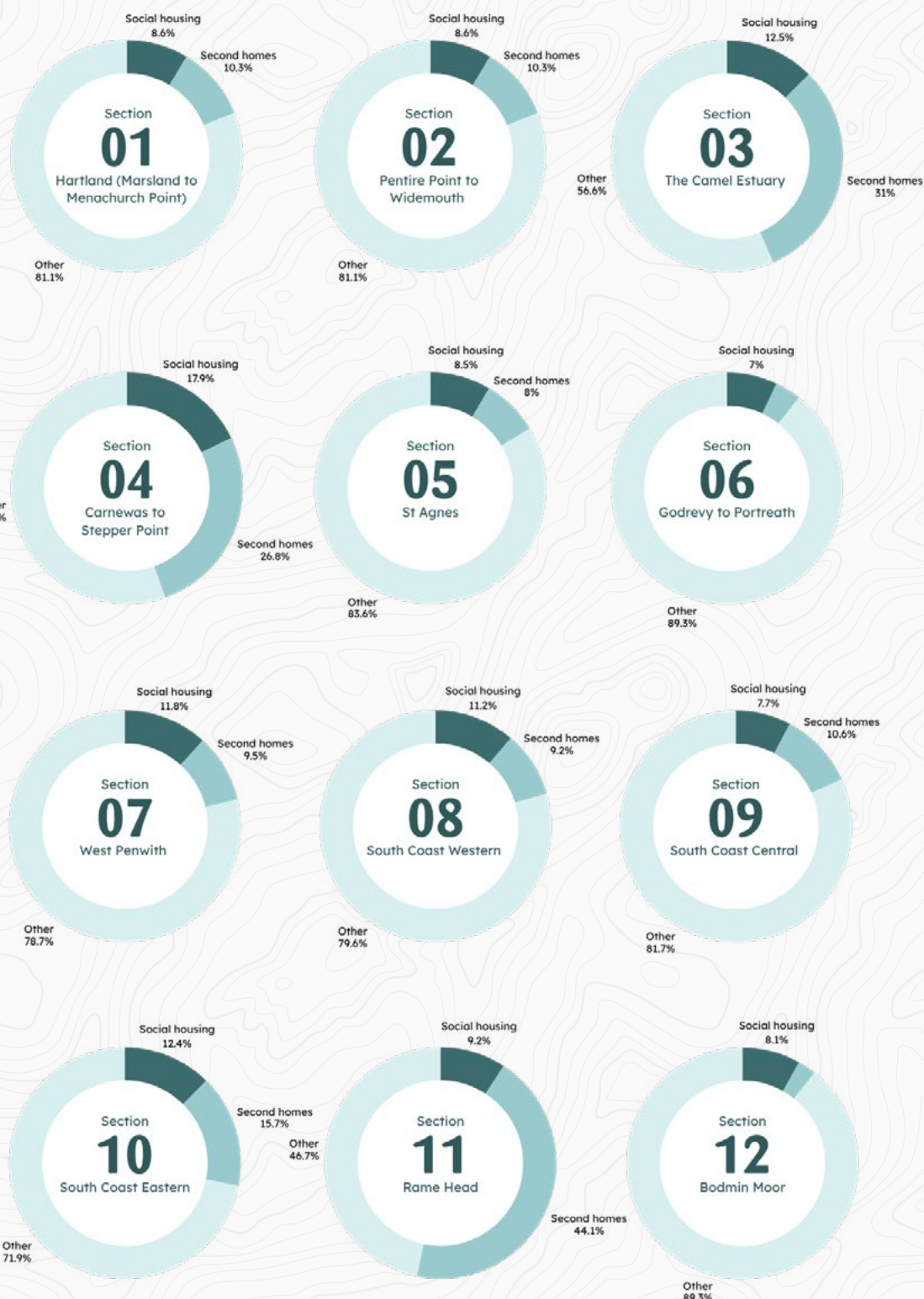


Figure 3.1.5 – Housing structure by Cornwall National Landscape section (social housing and second homes) - Census 2021

House prices

House prices within Cornwall National Landscape show significant variation between sections and reflect differences in demand, location, and local housing characteristics.

In 2025, average house prices range from approximately £327,900 to £628,000, indicating a wide disparity in affordability across the landscape.

In 2025, average house prices range from approximately £327,900 to £628,000, indicating a wide disparity in affordability across the landscape. The highest values are typically found in coastal and high-demand areas, while lower prices are more common in less accessible or less pressured locations.

Since 2020, most sections have experienced substantial increases in house prices, with particularly strong growth in areas such as 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point), 06 Godrevy to Portreath, and 05 St Agnes. This indicates sustained demand across much of Cornwall National Landscape.

However, this growth has not been uniform. Some areas, including 09 South Coast Central and 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point, have seen more recent declines, suggesting localised changes in market conditions. Despite this variation, overall price levels remain high.

These patterns point to ongoing affordability challenges, particularly where rising prices coincide with limited local incomes and high levels of second home ownership. In such areas, access to housing for permanent residents is likely to be increasingly constrained.

Overall, house prices within Cornwall National Landscape reflect strong and uneven market pressures, reinforcing concerns around affordability and highlighting the need to align housing provision more closely with local need.

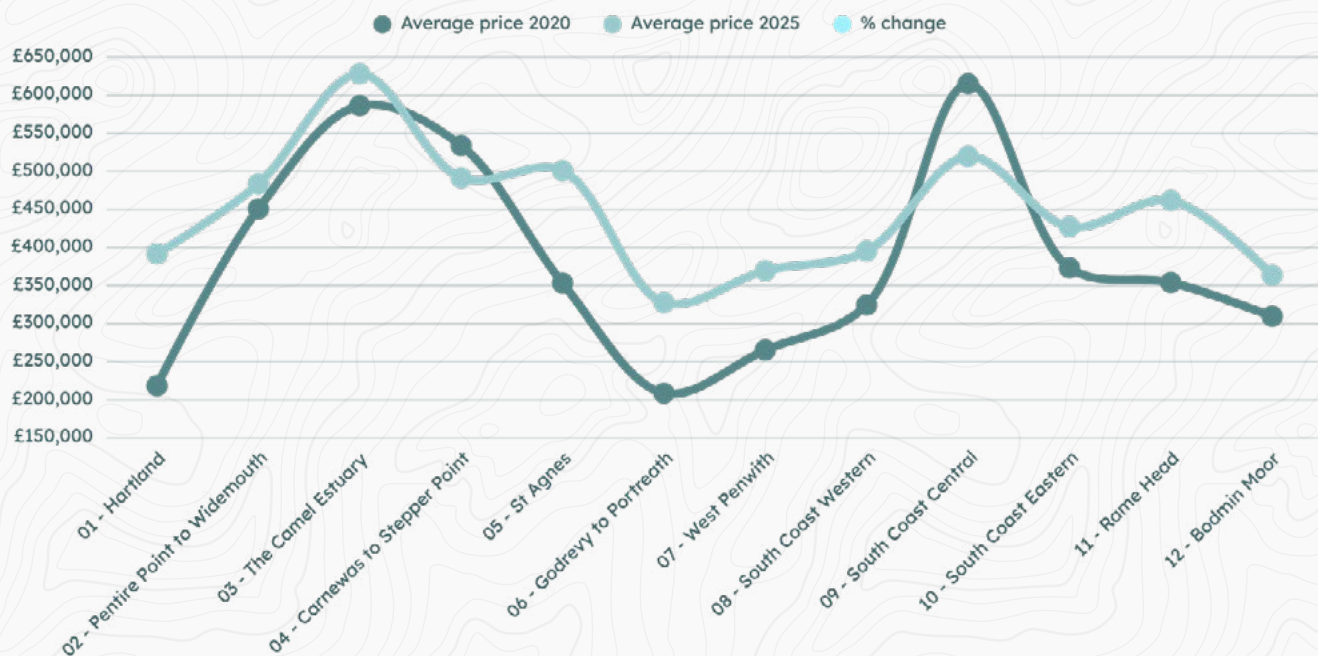
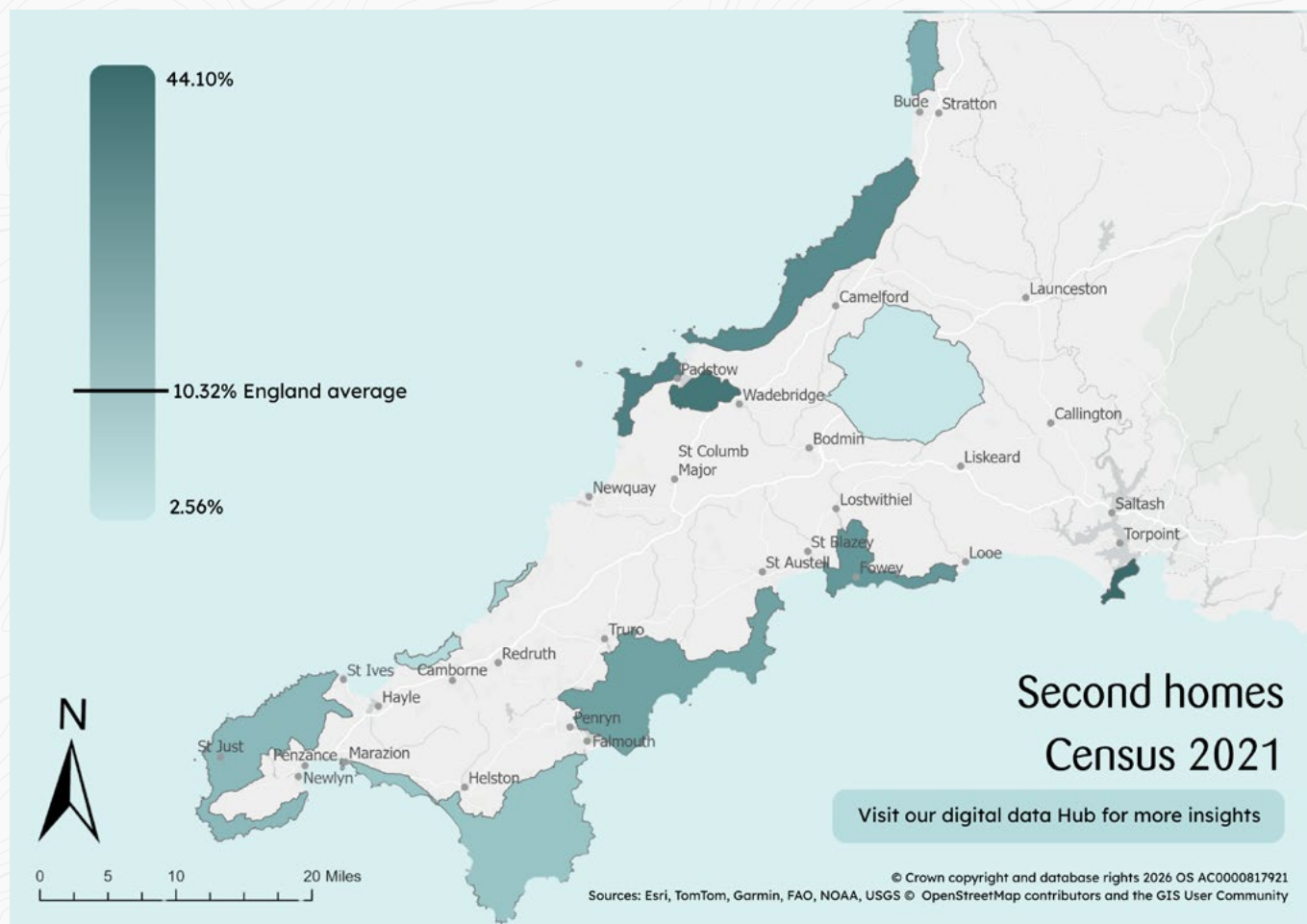


Figure 3.1.6 – Average house prices by Cornwall National Landscape section (2020–2025) and percentage change - Land Registry 2025



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Accessibility

Access to key services within Cornwall National Landscape is shaped by its rural and coastal character, resulting in uneven availability across different sections. In many areas, residents are required to travel several miles to reach essential facilities, highlighting the dispersed nature of service provision.

Distances to GP services are generally shorter than for other amenities, typically ranging from around 1 to 6 miles, indicating relatively better access to primary healthcare. However, access to other services is more limited. Distances to dentists and opticians are often greater, exceeding 10 miles in some areas, reflecting reduced local availability. Access to fire stations also varies, with distances of up to approximately 7.5 miles in certain sections.

This pattern reflects the underlying distribution of services across the landscape. Several sections, including 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point), 03 The Camel Estuary, 05 St Agnes, 06 Godrevy to Portreath, 11 Rame Head, and 12 Bodmin Moor, contain no local provision of key services such as GP practices, dentists, or fire stations. Residents in these areas are therefore reliant on facilities located outside the immediate area. In contrast, the south coast sections and 07 West Penwith contain a greater concentration of services, associated with larger populations and more established centres.

Taken together, these patterns highlight a clear spatial imbalance, with some areas benefiting from relatively good provision while others remain more isolated. In more remote and sparsely populated locations, limited access to services is likely to increase reliance on travel and may constrain access to healthcare and other essential support.

Overall, access to services within Cornwall National Landscape remains uneven and often limited, particularly outside the main population centres. This has important implications for accessibility, especially for older residents and those without access to private transport and reinforces the need to consider service provision alongside transport and connectivity when supporting sustainable communities.

Distances to dentists and opticians are often greater, exceeding 10 miles in some areas.

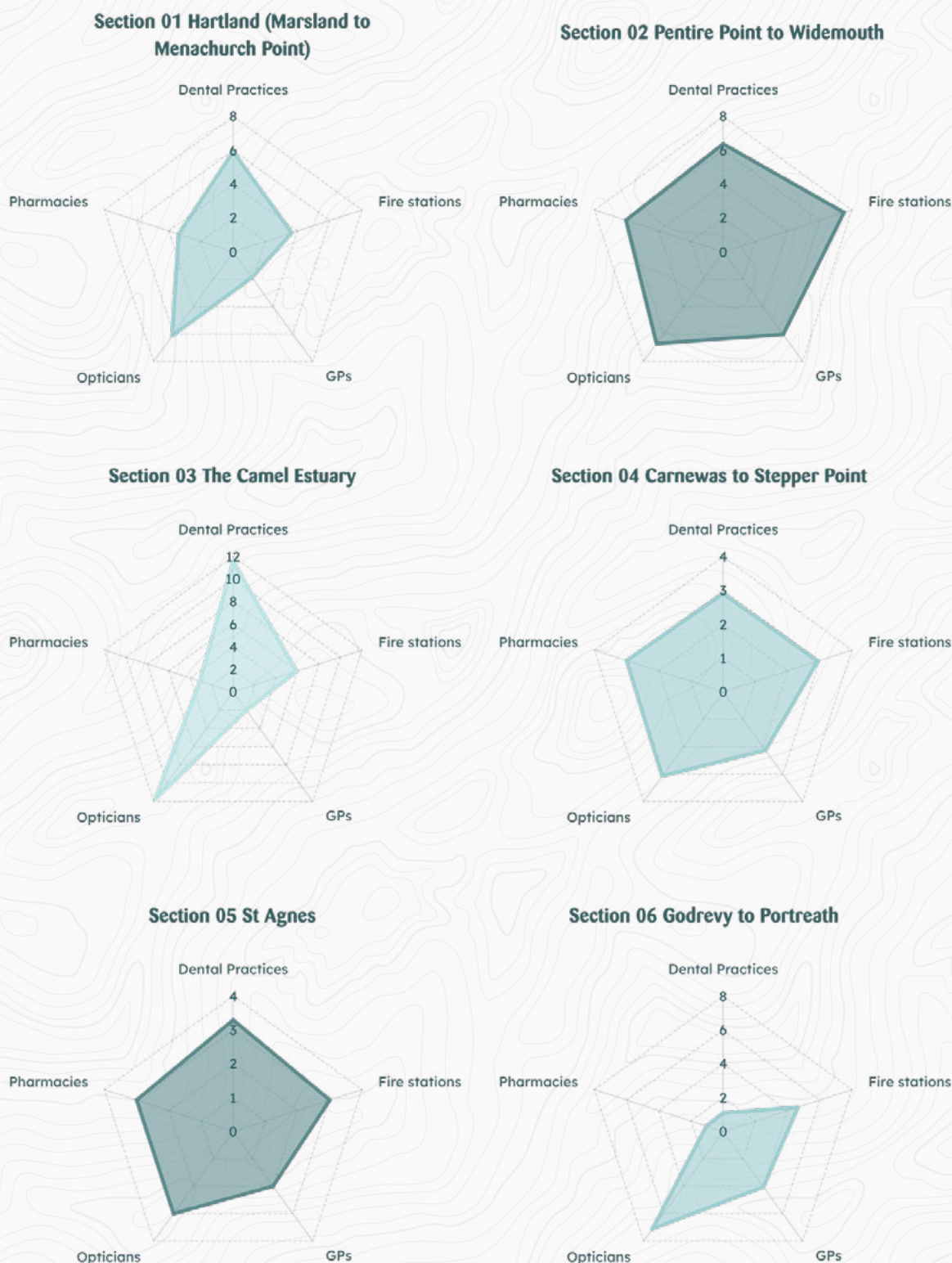


Figure 3.1.7 – Average drive distance to key services by Cornwall National Landscape section (miles) – Cornwall Council 2025



Figure 3.1.7 – Average drive distance to key services by Cornwall National Landscape section (miles) – Cornwall Council 2025

	Section 01	Section 02	Section 03	Section 04	Section 05	Section 06	Section 07	Section 08	Section 09	Section 10	Section 11	Section 12
Fire stations	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	0
Dental practices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
GPs	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	6	4	3	0	0
Opticians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pharmacies	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	0

Table 3.1.2 – Availability of key services by Cornwall National Landscape section (number of facilities) – Cornwall Council 2025



Signpost at Port Quin - Matt Jessop

Connectivity

Connectivity within Cornwall National Landscape reflects the extent to which residents can access services and destinations using walking, cycling, and public transport, rather than private vehicles. Overall, levels of connectivity are low and uneven, highlighting the limitations of non-car travel across much of the landscape.

Connectivity scores range from 1.97% to 8.94%, indicating generally limited accessibility by active travel and public transport. The lowest levels are found in more remote sections, including 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth, 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point), and 07 West Penwith, where access to services without a car is particularly restricted. These areas are therefore likely to be highly reliant on private transport.

Higher connectivity is evident in sections such as 05 St Agnes and 06 Godrevy to Portreath, where access to services and destinations by non-car modes is comparatively better. The south coast sections and 11 Rame Head also show relatively improved connectivity, reflecting their stronger links to nearby settlements and transport networks.

This pattern highlights a clear spatial divide between more accessible areas and those that are more isolated. In many rural and sparsely populated sections, the limited availability of alternative transport options reinforces dependency on private vehicles and constrains access to employment, services, and social activities.

Overall, connectivity across Cornwall National Landscape remains restricted and variable, with most areas offering limited opportunities for travel by sustainable modes. This has important implications for accessibility, particularly for those without access to a car, and reinforces the need to improve sustainable transport options and local connectivity across the landscape.

Connectivity across Cornwall National Landscape remains restricted and variable, with most areas offering limited opportunities for travel by sustainable modes.

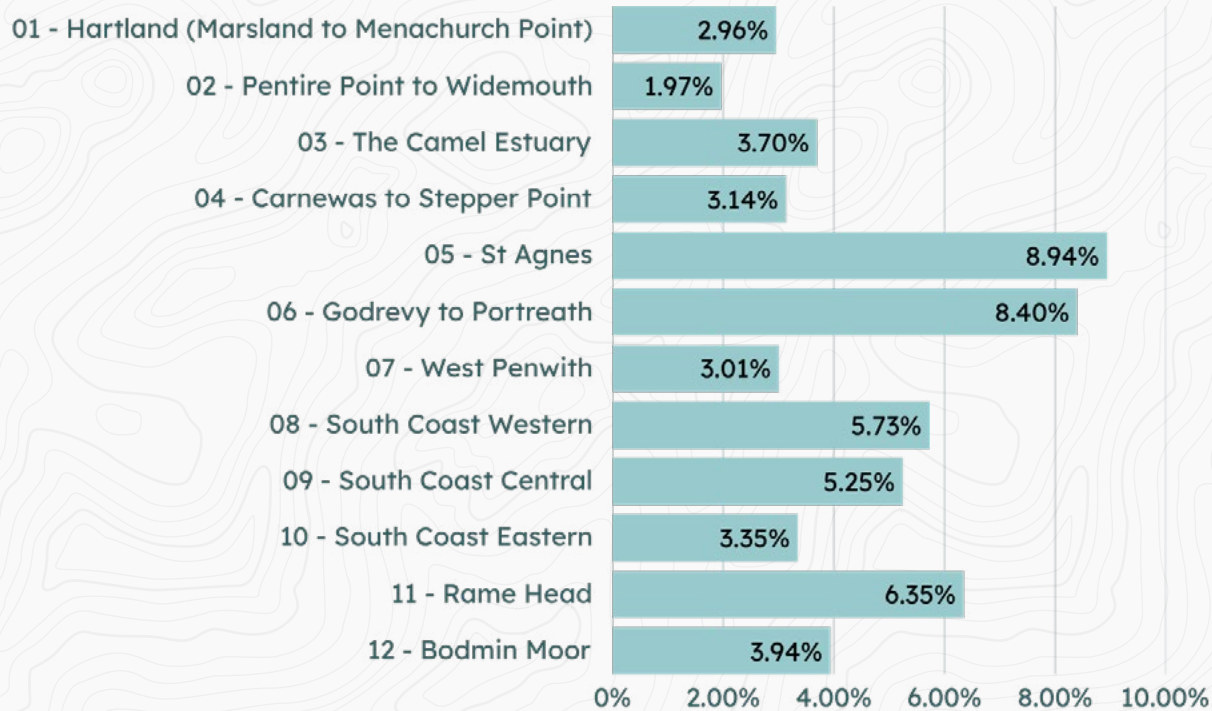
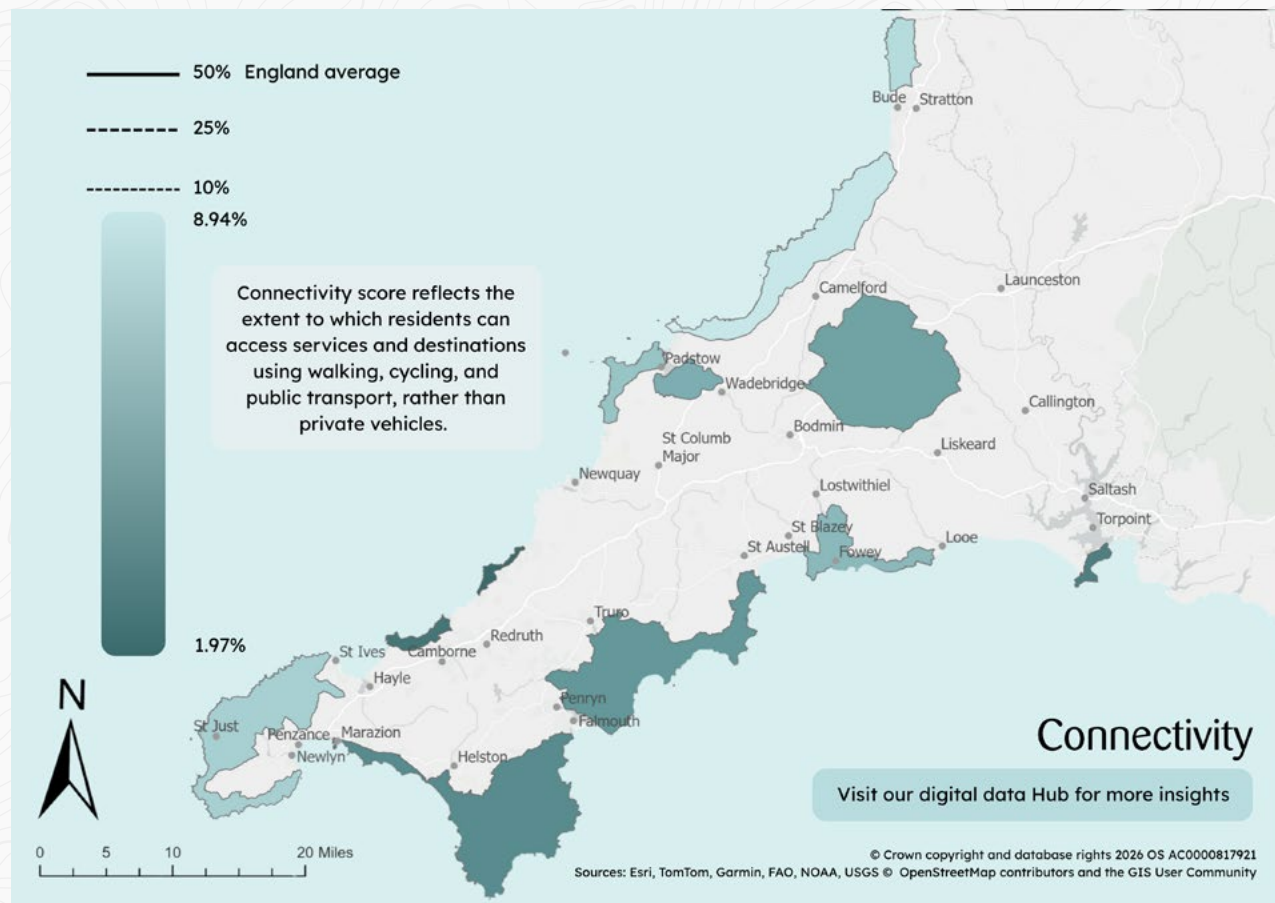


Figure 3.1.8 – Connectivity scores by Cornwall National Landscape section (%) - Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) 2025



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Digital connectivity

Digital connectivity reflects the quality of broadband infrastructure, based on average upload and download speeds available to premises. It provides an indication of how easily residents and businesses can access services, employment opportunities, and digital networks.

Across Cornwall National Landscape, digital connectivity is uneven, with scores ranging from 0.13 to 2.36. Higher levels of connectivity are concentrated in a small number of areas, including 11 Rame Head and parts of the south coast, where broadband performance is relatively stronger. Other sections, such as 06 Godrevy to Portreath and 05 St Agnes, also show moderately good levels of connectivity.

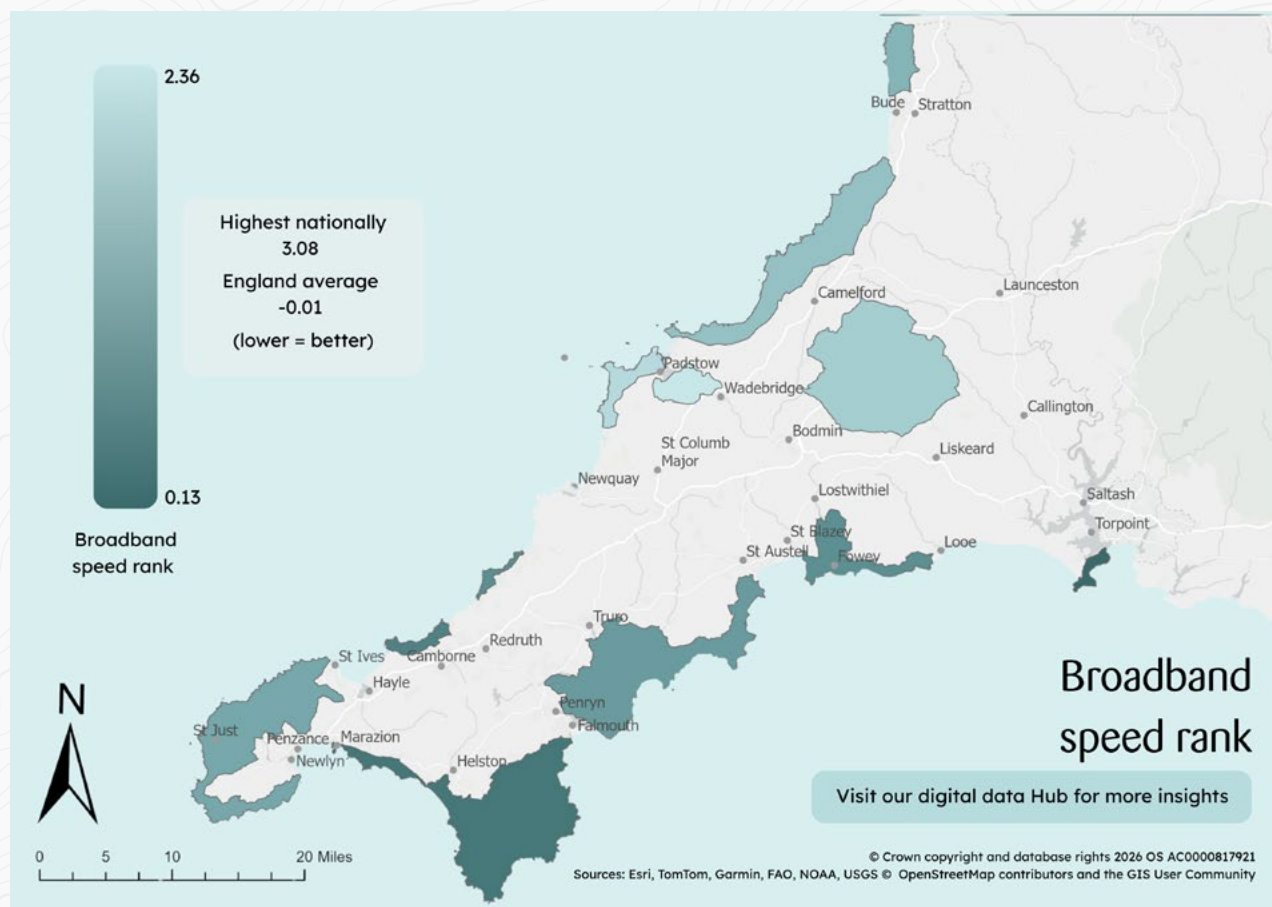
In contrast, lower levels are evident in more rural and remote areas, including 03 The Camel Estuary, 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point, and 12 Bodmin Moor, where broadband performance is comparatively limited. Similar constraints are present in other less accessible parts of the landscape, reflecting differences in infrastructure provision and geography.

This pattern highlights a clear relationship between rurality and digital access, with more remote areas generally experiencing weaker connectivity. These limitations are likely to reinforce existing challenges associated with access to services, employment, and wider opportunities, particularly where physical connectivity is also constrained.

Overall, digital connectivity across Cornwall National Landscape remains variable and, in many areas, limited, with important implications for economic activity, service accessibility, and community resilience. Improving broadband infrastructure will be an important factor in supporting more sustainable and well-connected communities.



Wildlife Groundswell community event - Matt Jessop



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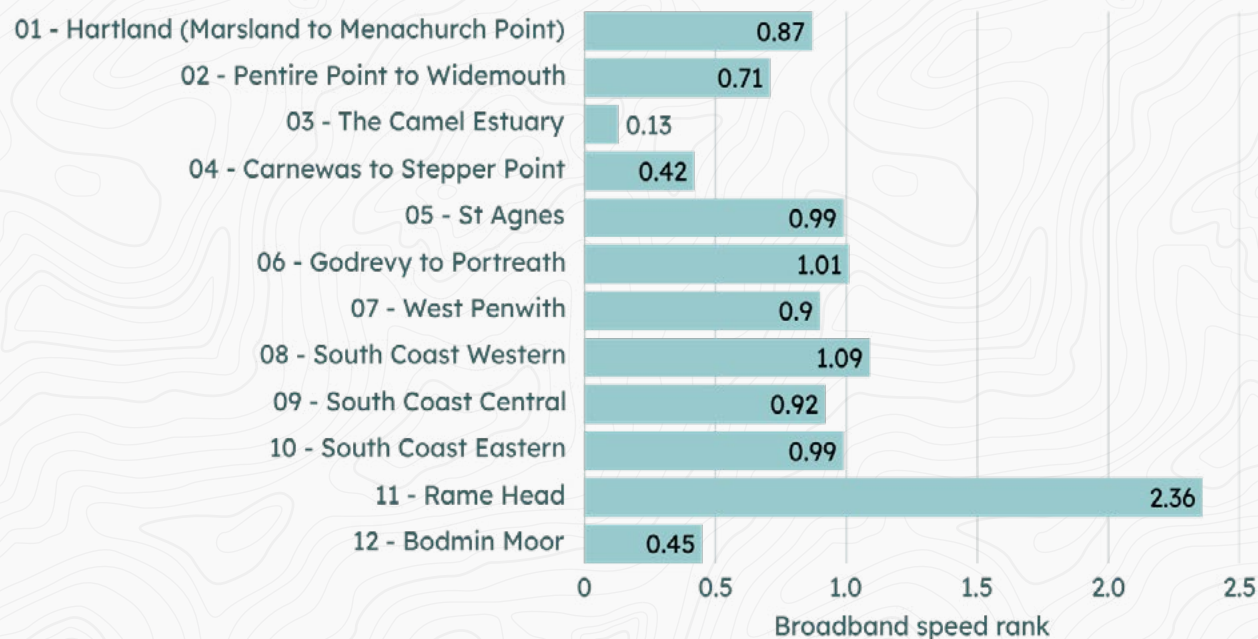


Figure 3.1.9 – Broadband performance by Cornwall National Landscape section (Broadband connectivity rank) - Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) 2025

Free school meals

Eligibility for free school meals (FSM) provides an indication of relative levels of child poverty within Cornwall National Landscape and highlights variation between sections.

Average eligibility ranges from approximately 10% to over 22%, indicating differing levels of disadvantage across the landscape. Higher levels are recorded in areas such as 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth and 09 South Coast Central, with similarly elevated rates in 10 South Coast Eastern and 07 West Penwith, suggesting relatively greater levels of child poverty. In contrast, lower eligibility is evident in sections including 12 Bodmin Moor and 08 South Coast Western.

Provision of free breakfast clubs is limited. Only a small number of schools, located in 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point, 10 South Coast Eastern, and 11 Rame Head, offer this form of support, while many areas have no provision. This lack of availability may restrict support for lower-income households, particularly in more rural sections where access to services is already constrained.

These patterns highlight a clear spatial variation in both levels of disadvantage and access to support services. Areas with higher levels of eligibility do not necessarily correspond with greater provision, indicating potential gaps in local support.

Overall, the data suggest that child poverty and associated support provision are unevenly distributed across Cornwall National Landscape. This reinforces wider patterns of rural inequality and highlights the importance of considering access to support services alongside broader socio-economic conditions.



Children on a visit to a dairy farm - FiPL

Section	No. of schools	Avg % eligible for FSM	Schools with breakfast clubs
01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point)	0	-	0
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	4	22.8%	0
03 The Camel Estuary	0	-	0
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	1	8%	1
05 St Agnes	0	-	0
06 Godrevy to Portreath	0	-	0
07 West Penwith	6	18%	0
08 South Coast Western	9	14.7%	0
09 South Coast Central	9	22%	0
10 South Coast Eastern	5	22.4%	1
11 Rame Head	1	24%	1
12 Bodmin Moor	2	10.5%	0

Table 3.1.3 – Free school meal (FSM) eligibility and provision by Cornwall National Landscape section – Cornwall Council 2025

Care and support provision

Provision of extra care accommodation, including care homes, day centres, and sheltered or supported housing, is uneven across Cornwall National Landscape, with facilities concentrated in a limited number of locations.

The highest levels of provision are found in the south coast and 07 West Penwith, where a combination of care homes, day centres, and supported accommodation is available. Other sections, including parts of the south coast, provide more limited services. In contrast, many areas, including 01 Hartland (Marsland

to Menachurch Point), 03 The Camel Estuary, 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point, 05 St Agnes, 06 Godrevy to Portreath, 11 Rame Head, and 12 Bodmin Moor, have no local provision, meaning residents are reliant on facilities outside the immediate area.

This uneven distribution is reflected in travel distances to care services, which range from approximately 1 to over 7 miles. Shorter distances are associated with areas where provision is more concentrated, particularly along the south coast, while longer distances are typical of more rural and sparsely populated sections.

These patterns highlight a clear spatial imbalance, with access to care services closely linked to settlement patterns and population centres. In areas without local provision, reliance on travel may present challenges, particularly for older residents and those with limited mobility.

Overall, access to care and support within Cornwall National Landscape remains limited and uneven, despite the presence of an ageing population. This reinforces the importance of considering care infrastructure alongside housing, accessibility, and service provision in supporting sustainable and inclusive communities.

Section	Care homes	Day centres	Sheltered / extra care accommodation
01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point)	0	0	0
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	1	0	2
03 The Camel Estuary	0	0	0
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	0	0	0
05 St Agnes	0	0	0
06 Godrevy to Portreath	0	0	0
07 West Penwith	3	1	10
08 South Coast Western	4	1	15
09 South Coast Central	2	2	3
10 South Coast Eastern	1	0	3
11 Rame Head	0	0	0
12 Bodmin Moor	0	0	0

Table 3.1.4 – Care and support provision by Cornwall National Landscape section (care homes, day centres, accommodation) – Cornwall Council 2025

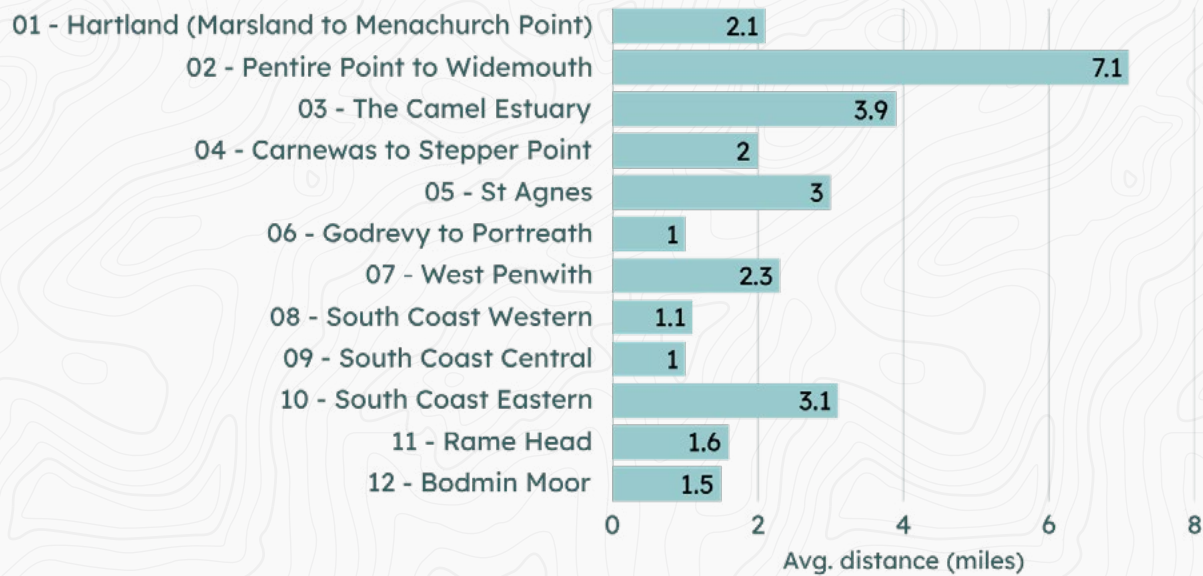


Figure 3.1.10 – Average distance to care services by Cornwall National Landscape section (miles) – Cornwall Council 2025



Swim group at Loe Beach - Jess Feldon

Loneliness

The loneliness index provides an indication of relative levels of loneliness across Cornwall National Landscape, based on GP prescribing data for conditions known to be associated with loneliness, including depression, anxiety, and insomnia. Higher values indicate higher predicted levels of loneliness, while negative values indicate lower than average levels.

Loneliness levels vary across Cornwall National Landscape, with index scores ranging from -0.70 to 1.59, indicating significant variation between sections. The highest levels of loneliness are recorded in 11 Rame Head (1.59) and 09 South Coast Central (0.82), followed by 07 West Penwith (0.63), suggesting relatively higher levels of social isolation in these areas. When compared with regional and national (0.07) benchmarks, these variations are broadly consistent with rural areas in the Southwest, where ageing populations and geographic isolation are known to influence levels of loneliness.

By contrast, lower levels of loneliness are indicated in 06 Godrevy to Portreath (-0.70) and 08 South Coast Western (-0.60), while 12 Bodmin Moor (-0.29) and 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) (-0.20) also record below-average levels.

These patterns reflect and build on the previous State of the AONB report, which identified loneliness as a potential emerging issue but did not include a direct measure. The introduction of this indicator provides new evidence that levels of loneliness are uneven across the landscape, and may be associated with factors such as ageing populations, rural isolation, and access to services identified elsewhere in this chapter.

Overall, the data indicate that wellbeing and social isolation vary across Cornwall National Landscape, with some sections experiencing higher levels

of loneliness than others. This highlights the importance of addressing social connectivity alongside physical accessibility and reinforces the need to support community resilience and wellbeing across the Cornwall National Landscape.

Section	Loneliness index
01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point)	0
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	1
03 The Camel Estuary	0
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	0
05 St Agnes	0
06 Godrevy to Portreath	0
07 West Penwith	3
08 South Coast Western	4
09 South Coast Central	2
10 South Coast Eastern	1
11 Rame Head	0
12 Bodmin Moor	0

Table 3.1.5 – Loneliness index by Cornwall National Landscape section - Office for National Statistics’ Data Science Campus /NHS /Red Cross 2019

Tourism

Tourism is a key component of the local economy within Cornwall National Landscape, contributing significantly to visitor numbers, expenditure, and employment across the area.

Visitor activity is concentrated in a number of districts that overlap with National Landscape. North Cornwall records the highest levels of activity, with substantial visitor numbers, overnight stays, and associated expenditure. Similarly, Carrick and Penwith also experience high levels of tourism activity, reflecting their role as established destinations.

Tourism-related employment forms a significant proportion of the local workforce, particularly in Penwith and North Cornwall, where it accounts for around one-fifth of all jobs. Other districts, including Caradon, Carrick, and Kerrier, also show notable levels of tourism employment, indicating the widespread influence of the visitor economy across the landscape.

This distribution highlights a clear spatial pattern, with coastal and high-profile destinations supporting the greatest levels of tourism activity and employment. In these areas, the visitor economy plays a central role in sustaining local businesses and communities. In contrast, other parts of Cornwall National Landscape are less directly reliant on tourism, reflecting differences in accessibility, location, and visitor appeal.

Overall, tourism within Cornwall National Landscape is characterised by strong but uneven economic contribution, with activity concentrated in particular areas. While it provides important support for local employment and economic vitality, this concentration also reinforces the need to balance the benefits of tourism with its wider impacts on communities, infrastructure, and housing.

North Cornwall

Staying visits	Staying nights	Staying spend	Day visits	Day visits spend	Total visitors spend	Employment	% of all employment	CNL sections
967,000	5,009,000	£355.4m	2,435,000	£106.6m	£462m	7,677	19%	01, 02, 03, 04, 12

Caradon

Staying visits	Staying nights	Staying spend	Day visits	Day visits spend	Total visitors spend	Employment	% of all employment	CNL sections
458,000	2,289,000	£154.15m	1,896,000	£81.8m	£235.9m	4,737	12%	10, 11

Carrick

Staying visits	Staying nights	Staying spend	Day visits	Day visits spend	Total visitors spend	Employment	% of all employment	CNL sections
722,000	3,561,000	£240.7m	2,317,000	£107.17m	£347.9m	6,451	11%	09, 05

Kerrier

Staying visits	Staying nights	Staying spend	Day visits	Day visits spend	Total visitors spend	Employment	% of all employment	CNL sections
424,000	2,135,000	£139m	1,905,000	£86m	£225.1m	4,381	10%	08, 06

Penwith

Staying visits	Staying nights	Staying spend	Day visits	Day visits spend	Total visitors spend	Employment	% of all employment	CNL sections
424,000	2,135,000	£139m	1,905,000	£86m	£225.1m	4,381	10%	08, 06

Table 3.1.6 – Tourism activity and employment by district within Cornwall National Landscape – Visit Cornwall 2023

Policy considerations & recommendations

The findings set out in this chapter highlight a number of interconnected challenges and opportunities across Cornwall National Landscape. The following considerations are intended to inform future planning, policy development, and management.

The following considerations include actions both within the direct influence of Cornwall National Landscape and those requiring partnership with Cornwall Council and other organisations. Cornwall National Landscape plays a key role in influencing outcomes through its Management Plan, projects, evidence base and planning input, particularly in areas such as tourism, community wellbeing and place-based change. However, many issues identified, including housing, service provision, transport and digital infrastructure, sit primarily outside its remit. In these areas, Cornwall National Landscape acts as an evidence provider and advocate, helping to inform wider policy and investment decisions while supporting outcomes that conserve natural beauty and strengthen community resilience.

Responding to an ageing population

- The strong skew towards older age groups highlights the need to plan for ageing communities across Cornwall National Landscape.
- Policy should support housing, services and infrastructure that enable older people to remain active, independent and connected within their communities.

Addressing rural inequality and deprivation

- Spatial variation in deprivation shows that disadvantage is present within Cornwall National Landscape, even where it may be less visible.

- Policy should recognise the presence of **hidden rural and coastal poverty** and respond to differences in income, employment, education, health and service access between sections.

Supporting local employment and economic resilience

- Uneven job density highlights the concentration of employment opportunities in a limited number of locations.
- Policy should support:
 - Stronger local employment opportunities in more remote areas.
 - Sustainable access to jobs and training.
 - Economic resilience that is not overly dependent on a small number of sectors.

Improving housing affordability and community balance

- High house prices, uneven social housing provision and concentrations of second homes continue to place pressure on local communities.
- Policy should support housing approaches that:
 - Prioritise local need.
 - Strengthen the supply of affordable homes.
 - Help maintain balanced, year-round communities in high-pressure coastal areas.

Improving access to services

- Distances to essential services remain a significant issue in many parts of Cornwall National Landscape.
- There is a need to consider service provision alongside settlement patterns, housing and transport, particularly for:
 - Healthcare.
 - Pharmacies and other everyday service.
 - Care and support infrastructure.

Strengthening sustainable connectivity

- Low levels of physical connectivity reinforce car dependency across much of the landscape.
- Policy should support more sustainable and inclusive connectivity through:
 - Improved public transport links.
 - Better walking and cycling access where appropriate.
 - Improved digital infrastructure in more remote areas.

Supporting wellbeing and social inclusion

- Variations in loneliness, child poverty and access to support services suggest that wellbeing is not evenly experienced across Cornwall National Landscape.
- Policy should support:
 - Community facilities and social infrastructure.
 - Targeted support in areas with higher loneliness or disadvantage.
 - Better alignment between need and provision of local support services.

Planning for care and support needs

- The uneven distribution of care homes, day centres and extra care accommodation is a concern in the context of an ageing population.
- Policy should consider care provision alongside housing, accessibility and community planning to ensure that older residents can access appropriate support locally or within reasonable travel distance.

Managing the effects of tourism on communities

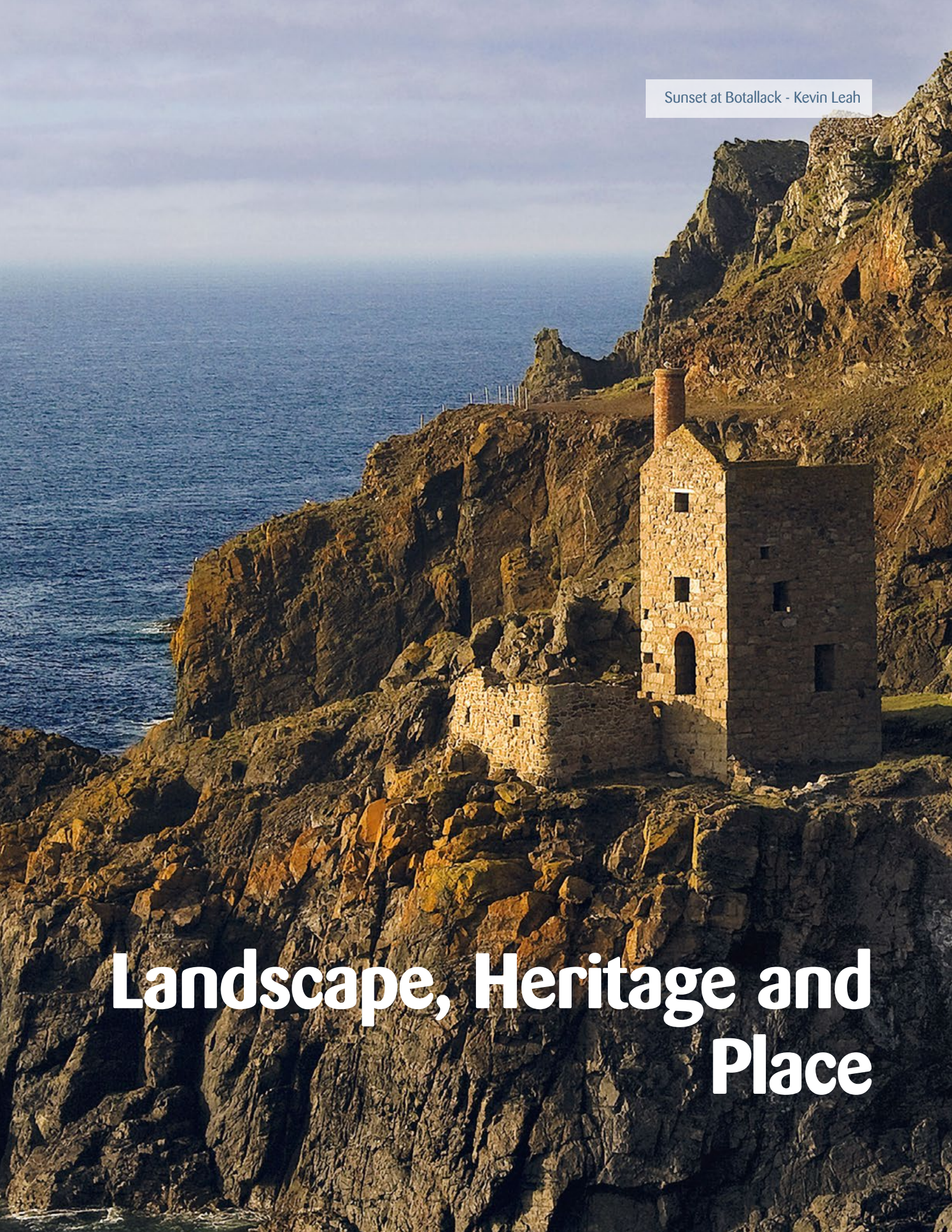
- Tourism makes an important contribution to employment and local economies, but in some areas it also intensifies pressure on housing, services and infrastructure.
- Policy should seek to balance the benefits of tourism with the needs of permanent residents and long-term community sustainability.

Overall approach

The findings emphasise the need for a **joined-up and place-based approach** to supporting people and communities within Cornwall National Landscape. Demographic change, housing affordability, service access, connectivity, wellbeing and the visitor economy are closely interrelated and should not be considered in isolation. Coordinated action across these areas will be essential to support resilient, inclusive and sustainable communities while conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of Cornwall National Landscape.



Rame Head

A photograph of a stone building, likely a lighthouse or observation post, situated on a rugged, dark rock cliff. The building is constructed from light-colored stone and features a tall, narrow chimney on its left side. It has several rectangular windows and a larger arched opening at the base. The cliff face is steep and textured, with some sparse vegetation. In the background, the deep blue sea stretches to the horizon under a soft, hazy sky, indicating a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is dramatic and scenic.

Sunset at Botallack - Kevin Leah

Landscape, Heritage and Place

Introduction

This section explores the distinctive character of Cornwall National Landscape, including its landscape and seascape qualities, historic environment and patterns of land use. It reflects both the stability of many defining features and the incremental changes shaping landscape character over time. Together, these elements define the sense of place and cultural identity that underpin the National Landscape designation.

Key findings

- **Cornwall National Landscape is characterised by a strong diversity of landscape and seascape character**, with distinct identities shaped by the interaction of geology, topography, land use and coastal processes across the twelve sections.
- **Planning activity increased sharply at the start of the 2021–2025 period before declining year on year**, suggesting that development pressure was particularly strong in the early post-pandemic years, even though application totals remained above 2020 levels by 2025.
- **Cornwall National Landscape planning input became more selective over the period**, with a lower proportion of applications receiving consultation responses or objections, although the absolute number of objections remained high, indicating a more targeted focus on proposals with the greatest potential impact on landscape character and natural beauty.
- **Public rights of way and access land remain a substantial part of public access provision**, with overall access broadly stable despite some variation in recorded network length and common land extent that is likely to reflect mapping or data changes rather than major change on the ground.
- **The extent of conservation areas, World Heritage Site coverage and most ecological designations has remained broadly stable**, indicating continuity in the spatial coverage of many of the landscape’s key environmental and heritage assets. The main exception is SSSI coverage, which increased significantly following the designation of 07 West Penwith in 2022.
- **Designations and heritage assets are unevenly distributed**, with strong concentrations in 12 Bodmin Moor, 07 West Penwith and the south coast sections, reinforcing these as particularly important areas for nature conservation, historic environment and landscape character.

- **The overall number of scheduled monuments remains stable, but the number and proportion at risk has risen slightly since 2021**, with particularly high vulnerability in smaller sections such as 11 Rame Head and 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point. Listed buildings are widely distributed and generally stable, although some local variation in assets at risk remains.
- **Agriculture continues to dominate land use within Cornwall National Landscape**, covering around 70% of the total area and remaining strongly defined by grassland and grazing systems. Farm structure remains mixed, with substantial numbers of both smaller and larger holdings.
- **Agri-environment activity remains widespread but uneven**, with higher levels of Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship in 07 West Penwith, the south coast and 12 Bodmin Moor, and lower levels in 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point), 03 The Camel Estuary, 05 St Agnes and 06 Godrevy to Portreath. Hedgerow management continues to be the dominant form of stewardship activity, underlining its central importance to landscape character.
- **Dark sky quality remains variable and strongly influenced by local conditions**, with darker skies generally recorded in more remote areas such as 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith, and lower-quality night skies closer to settlements and more developed parts of the coast.
- **Overall, the place-based indicators show a landscape of high environmental, agricultural and heritage value, but with uneven condition, vulnerability and management activity across Cornwall National Landscape**, highlighting the need for targeted, landscape-scale action that links conservation, farming, access and long-term resilience.



Foxgloves and campions over Cape Cornwall - Michelle Blaken

Landscape and seascape character

Cornwall National Landscape is defined by a diverse combination of landscape and seascape character areas, reflecting variations in geology, land use, topography and coastal processes.

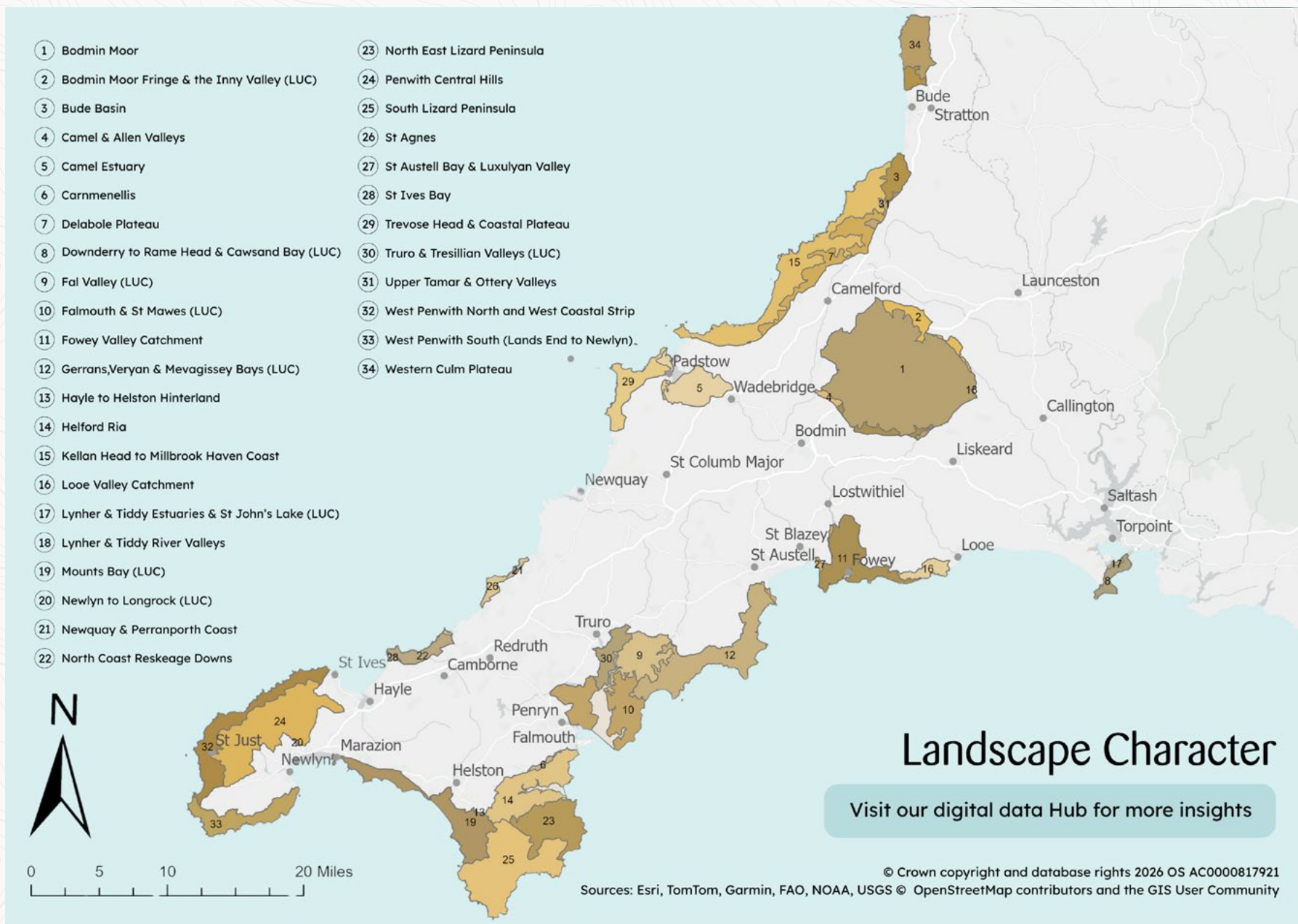
Each of the 12 sections comprises one or more Cornwall Landscape Character Areas, with coastal sections also associated with Marine Character Areas. This results in a strong and varied pattern of character across the designation, from the upland landscapes of 12 Bodmin Moor to the complex coastal and ria systems of the south coast, and the exposed cliffs and headlands of the north and west coasts.

While individual sections often contain multiple character areas, they retain distinct and recognisable identities, shaped by their combination of inland and coastal influences. The relationship between terrestrial and marine character is particularly important along the coast, where landscape and seascape interact to form cohesive and highly distinctive environments. Overall, this diversity of character underpins the special qualities of Cornwall National Landscape and contributes to its strong sense of place.

Section	Cornwall Landscape Character Areas	Marine Character Areas
01 Hartland (Marland to Menachurch Point)	CA37: Western Culm Plateau; CA38: Bude Basin	MCA 44: Hartland (Marland to Menachurch Point) to Port Isaac Bay
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	CA34: The Camel Estuary CA37: Western Culm Plateau CA38: Bude Basin CA35: Kellan Head to Millook Haven Coast CA36: Delabole Plateau	MCA 44: Hartland Marland to Menachurch Point to Port Isaac Bay MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay
03 The Camel Estuary	CA19: Trevoze Head and Coastal Plateau CA33: The Camel Estuary and Allen Valleys CA34: The Camel Estuary	MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	CA19: Trevoze Head and Coastal Plateau CA34: The Camel Estuary	MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay

Section	Cornwall Landscape Character Areas	Marine Character Areas
05 St Agnes	CA12: St Agnes CA14: Newlyn Downs	MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay
06 Godrevy to Portreath	CA11: Redruth, Camborne and Gwennap CA28: North Coast – Reskeage Downs	MCA 45: Port Gaverne Bay to St Ives Bay
07 West Penwith	CA01: West Penwith South CA02: West Penwith North and West Coastal Strip CA03: Penwith Central Hills CA04: Mount’s Bay	MCA 46: Penwith Maritime
08 South Coast Western	CA06: Mount’s Bay East CA07: South Lizard Peninsula CA08: Northeast Lizard Peninsula CA09: Helford Ria	MCA 48: Mount’s Bay and The Lizard MCA 49: South Cornwall Coastal Waters and Estuaries
09 South Coast Central	CA11: Redruth, Camborne and Gwennap CA13: Fal Ria, Truro & Falmouth CA16: Mid Fal Plateau CA40: Gerrans, Veryan and Mevagissey Bays	2 MCA 49: South Cornwall Coastal Waters and Estuaries
10 South Coast Eastern	CA21: Fowey Valley CA22: Southeast Cornwall Plateau CA39: St Austell Bay and Luxulyan Valley	MCA 49: South Cornwall Coastal Waters and Estuaries
11 Rame Head	CA22: Southeast Cornwall Plateau CA25: Lynher and Tiddy River Valleys	MCA 49: South Cornwall Coastal Waters and Estuaries
12 Bodmin Moor	CA21: Fowey Valley CA22: Southeast Cornwall Plateau CA26: East Cornwall and Tamar Moorland Fringe; CA29: Middle Tamar Valley CA32: Bodmin Moor CA33: The Camel Estuary and Allen Valleys	-

Table 4.1.1 – Landscape and Marine Character Areas by Cornwall National Landscape section



Planning and development

Number of applications

Planning application numbers within Cornwall National Landscape appear to have been substantially higher during the period 2021–2025 than in the preceding period 2017–2020. Using the estimated annual totals, application numbers averaged approximately 1,047 per year between 2017 and 2020, compared with 2,320 per year between 2021 and 2025. This suggests an increase of around 121.7% in the annual average number of applications between the two reporting periods.

The transition between the two periods is particularly marked. Application numbers rose from an estimated 1,157 in 2020 to 2,873 in 2021, an increase of approximately 148.3%. Thereafter, totals declined year on year. This represents a reduction of 31.5%, between 2021 and 2025. Even so, the 2025 total remained approximately 70.2% higher than the estimated 2020 figure.

Taken together, these figures suggest that development pressure increased sharply at the beginning of the 2021–2025 period when compared with the preceding four years, before moderating steadily over the remainder of the reporting period. The earlier State of the AONB Report identified increasing development pressure and noted that applications were particularly concentrated in South Coast Central, South Coast Western and West Penwith, which together accounted for around 65% of all applications in the preceding reporting period.

The current pattern may indicate that, while overall application numbers remained high in the early part of the 2021–2025 period, the intensity

of activity began to ease after 2021. This trend reflects the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a noticeable but uneven impact on planning activity in Cornwall. In 2020, disruption to the planning system resulted in delays to applications and decision-making processes as local authorities adapted to remote working and new procedures. This was followed in 2021 by a strong rebound in activity, particularly in householder and home improvement applications, as changing patterns of living and working drove demand for larger homes, extensions and improved domestic space.

In Cornwall, these national trends were amplified by existing housing pressures and the area's strong appeal as a rural and coastal destination. Increased demand for relocation, second homes and lifestyle changes contributed to heightened development pressure in accessible and high-value areas. However, the later easing of activity after 2021 may reflect changing economic conditions, increased build costs, shifts in the housing market, and wider changes in the planning environment.

However, lower application numbers do not necessarily equate to proportionately lower landscape impact. The scale, type and location of development remain important in determining effects on landscape character and natural beauty, and continued monitoring will be needed to establish whether this decline represents a genuine easing of development pressure or a shift towards fewer but potentially more significant proposals.

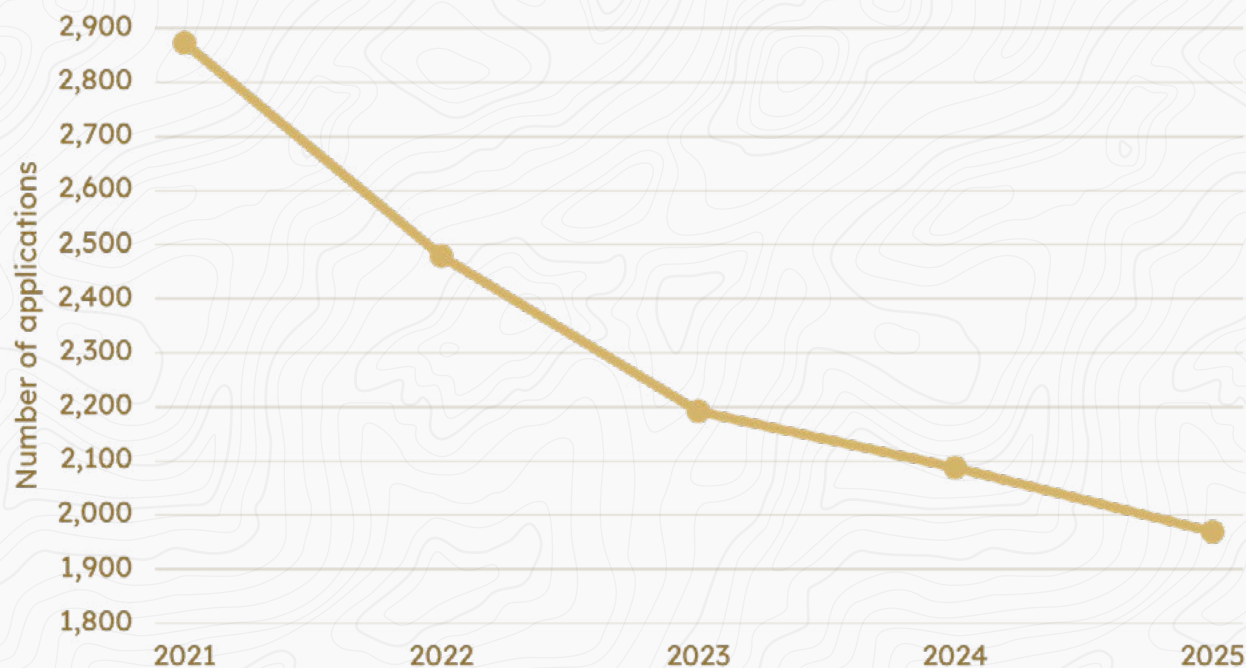


Figure 4.1.1 – Planning applications in Cornwall National Landscape (2021–2025) – Cornwall National Landscape 2025

National Landscape consultation response letters and objections

The number of formal planning responses made by Cornwall National Landscape team shows a mixed pattern when the period 2021–2025 is compared with 2017–2020.

For consultation response letters, the earlier data are incomplete, with figures only available for 2019 and 2020. In those two years, Cornwall National Landscape recorded 90 consultation response letters in 2019 and 70 consultation response letters in 2020, giving an average of 80 consultation response letters per year. By comparison, a total of 365 consultation response letters were made between 2021 and 2025, equivalent to an average

of 73 consultation response letters per year. This suggests a slight reduction in the annual number of consultation response letters made during the later period.

Set against the number of applications received, the reduction in consultation response letters appears more marked. Based on the available figures, approximately 6.9% of applications were commented on in 2019–2020, compared with 3.1% across 2021–2025. Within the later period, the proportion varied from 5.0% in 2022 to 1.1% in 2025, indicating that formal consultation response letters was made on a relatively small and declining share of applications over time.

The pattern for objections is different. A total of 378 objections were recorded between 2017 and 2020, equivalent to an average of 94.5 objections per year. Between 2021 and 2025, this increased to 592 objections, or an average of 118.4 objections per year. This trend may reflect the strengthened s85 Duty under LURA and more recently the increase in speculative housing developments (notably Permission in Principle applications) seeking to capitalise on Cornwall's shortfall in 5 year housing supply and the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

However, once set against the overall number of applications, the proportion of applications objected to appears to have fallen. Using the available application totals, objections were made to around 9.0% of applications in 2017–2020, compared with 5.1% across 2021–2025. This suggests that, although the number of objections increased in numerical terms, the rate of objection did not keep pace with the substantial rise in overall application numbers seen in the early part of the later reporting period.

The reduction in the proportion of applications commented on reflects a more selective approach to providing general comment, while the continued use of objections at a higher absolute level indicates that intervention remained focused

on proposals considered most likely to affect landscape character or natural beauty. In this respect, the later period may reflect both a higher overall volume of development activity and a more concentrated use of Cornwall National Landscape planning input.

The decline in both consultation responses and objections towards the end of the 2021–2025 period may also reflect factors beyond changes in planning activity alone. In particular, the capacity and resources of the Cornwall National Landscape team, alongside the breadth of its planning-related responsibilities, influence the level of formal engagement.

The team's role extends beyond planning applications to include input into a wider range of consultations and strategic processes, which require time and prioritisation. In response, a more targeted approach to casework has been adopted, focusing effort on proposals with the greatest potential impact on landscape character and natural beauty. Continued monitoring will therefore be needed to understand whether the observed decline reflects a genuine reduction in development pressure, a shift in the type of proposals coming forward, or an increasingly focused approach to planning intervention.



Port Isaac - Matt Jessop

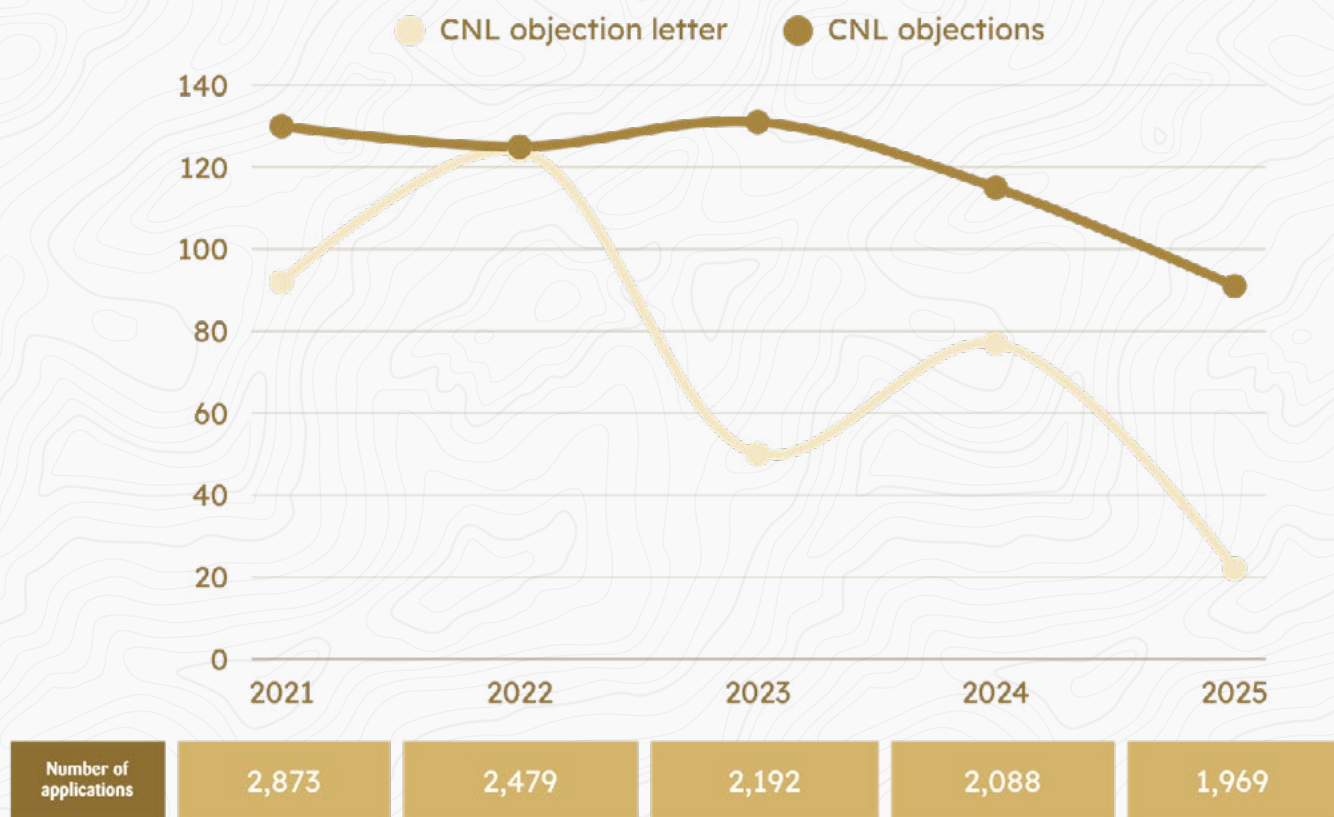


Figure 4.1.2 – Cornwall National Landscape planning responses and objections (2021-2025) – Cornwall National Landscape 2025

	Total CNL consultation response letters*	Average consultation response letters per year*	% of applications commented on*	Total CNL objections	Average objections per year	% of applications objected to
2017 - 2020	-	-	-	378	94.5	9.0%
2021 - 2025	365	73.0	3.1%	592	118.4	5.1%

Table 4.1.2 – Comparison of planning responses and objections (2017-2020 and 2021-2025) * consultation response letters data for 2017-2018 were not available. Cornwall National Landscape 2025

Public rights of way

Public rights of way continue to form an important part of access within Cornwall National Landscape, providing opportunities for recreation, tourism and engagement with the landscape.

The total recorded length of the network shows some variation over time, with an increase between 2013 and 2021 followed by a more recent decrease. The overall extent remains substantial, indicating that the network continues to support access across both coastal and inland areas.

The reduction recorded in the most recent dataset is likely to reflect a combination of mapping updates, changes in classification, or improved data accuracy, rather than a consistent trend of decline. As such, while the total recorded length has reduced, the overall accessibility of the landscape is likely to remain broadly similar.

	2013	2021	2025
Length	1,636.74km	1,666.21km	1,602km

Table 4.1.3 – Length of public rights of way in Cornwall National Landscape (2013–2025) - Cornwall Council 2025

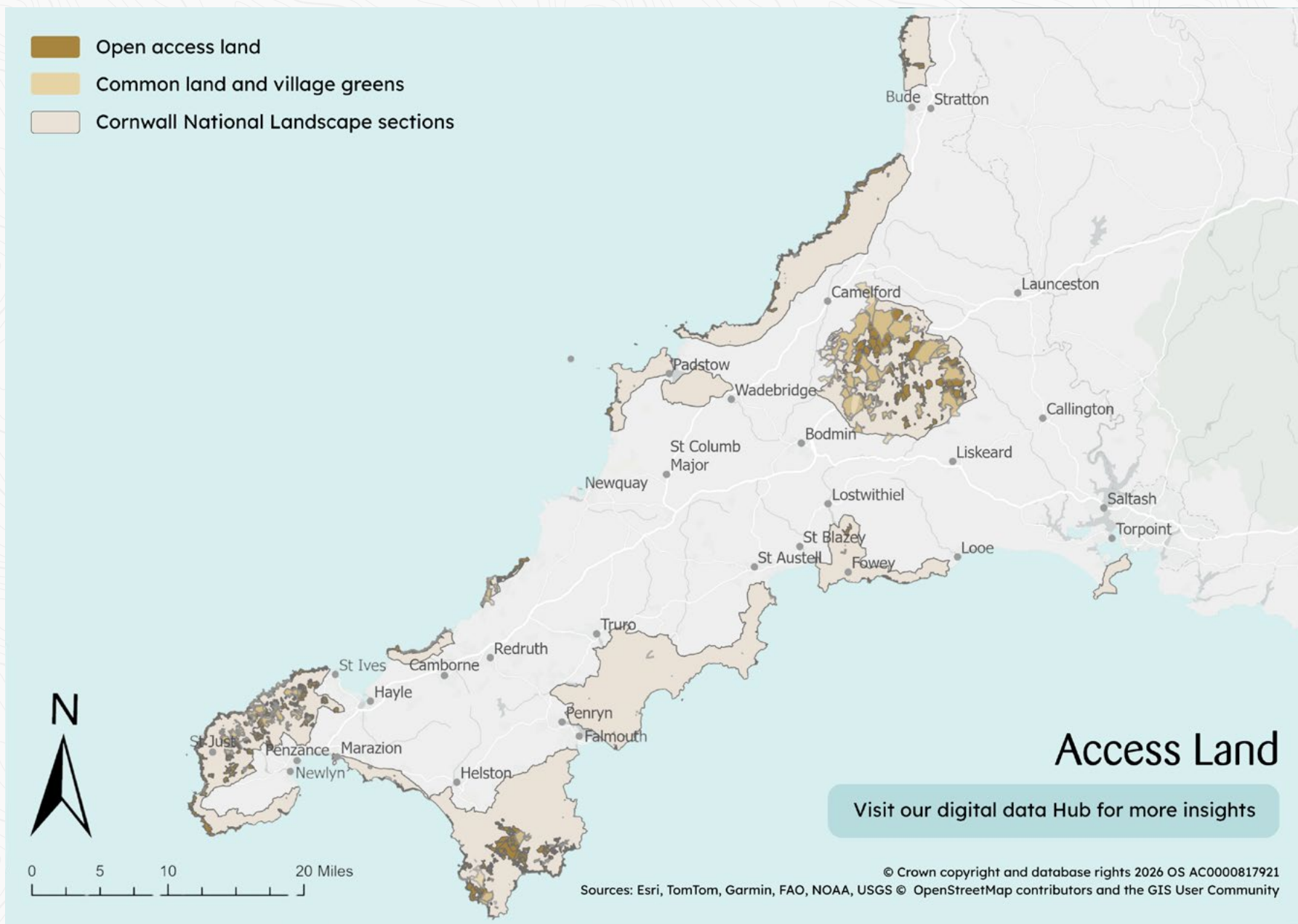
Access land

Open access land within Cornwall National Landscape has remained largely stable, increasing slightly from 16,590.73 hectares in 2020 to 16,605.00 hectares in 2025. This change of approximately 14 hectares represents a negligible increase and indicates that the overall extent of land available for public access has remained consistent over the reporting period.

In contrast, the extent of common land shows a more notable increase, rising from 6,813.90 hectares in 2020 to 8,430.85 hectares in 2025. This represents an increase of approximately 1,616.95

hectares. Given the scale of this change, it is likely to reflect updates in data recording, mapping or classification, rather than a significant change in land use on the ground.

Together, these datasets indicate that land available for public access, through both open access land and common land, remains a significant component of Cornwall National Landscape. While open access land shows clear stability, the increase in common land highlights the importance of consistent data sources when assessing change over time.



	2020	2025	Change
Access Land Area (ha)	16,590.73	16,605.00	+14.27
Common Land Area (ha)	6,813.90	8,430.85	+1,616.95

Table 4.1.4 – Access land and common land area within Cornwall National Landscape (2020–2025) – Natural England 2024

Conservation areas

Conservation area coverage within Cornwall National Landscape remained broadly unchanged between 2021 and 2026. Total coverage changed from 1,393.39ha in 2021 to 1,392.19ha in 2026, a net reduction of just 1.20ha or 0.09%. This indicates that there has been no significant overall change in the extent of conservation areas across Cornwall National Landscape during the reporting period.

The largest areas continue to be found in 12 Bodmin Moor, 10 South Coast Eastern, 07 West Penwith, 09 South Coast Central and 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth, while 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point), 05 St Agnes and 06 Godrevy to Portreath continue to record no conservation area coverage. The small differences recorded between 2021 and 2026 are likely to reflect minor adjustments in measurement, mapping or data precision rather than substantive change.



Golitha Falls - Vanessa Smith

Designations

The extent of designated sites within Cornwall National Landscape has remained broadly stable across most designation types since the previous reporting period, although some categories show modest change and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) show a more marked increase.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) covered 7,141.2ha and now cover 7,205.9ha, representing a small increase in area. National Nature Reserves (NNR) covered 2,417.97ha and now cover 2,416.6ha, indicating that the overall extent has remained effectively unchanged. County Wildlife Sites (CWS) covered 15,981.0ha and now cover 16,091.4ha, again suggesting little overall change. County Geology Sites (CGS) covered 1,457.0ha and now cover 1,375.9ha, indicating a small reduction in extent. Local Nature Reserves (LNR) covered 16.5ha and now cover 16.54ha, showing that this designation has remained essentially unchanged.

The most notable change is in SSSI coverage. SSSI land covered 12,624.17ha and now covers 15,453.5ha, an increase of 2,829.3ha. This increase reflects the addition of 07 West Penwith as SSSI in 2022.

The current pattern of designation remains unevenly distributed across Cornwall National Landscape. For SSSI, the largest areas are now in 12 Bodmin Moor (4,700.6ha), 07 West Penwith (3,709.3ha) and 08 South Coast Western (3,685.0ha), with 09 South Coast Central also containing a substantial area (1,009.7ha). SAC land is concentrated particularly in 08 South Coast Western (3,597.6ha) and 09 South Coast Central (2,043.7ha), with a further significant area in 02

Pentire Point to Widemouth (882.0ha). NNR land is almost entirely within 08 South Coast Western (2,399.4ha), with only a small additional area in 12 Bodmin Moor (17.2ha).

A similar pattern is evident for the non-statutory designations. CWS land is concentrated most strongly in 12 Bodmin Moor (7,133.8ha), followed by 07 West Penwith (3,397.2ha), 09 South Coast Central (1,472.8ha) and 08 South Coast Western (1,015.9ha). CGS land is greatest in 07 West Penwith (458.3ha), 08 South Coast Western (302.2ha) and 10 South Coast Eastern (297.9ha). LNR land is now recorded in 07 West Penwith (2.0ha), 08 South Coast Western (8.38ha), 09 South Coast Central (5.79ha) and 11 Rame Head (0.37ha).

Overall, the extent of most major ecological designations within Cornwall National Landscape has changed little, this could be due to changes in reporting/mapping. The distribution of designated land continues to be concentrated in a relatively small number of sections, particularly 12 Bodmin Moor, 07 West Penwith, and the south coast sections, underlining their importance for nature conservation within Cornwall National Landscape.

**SSSI land covered
12,624.17ha
and now covers
15,453.5ha,
an increase of
2,829.3ha.**

Designation	2021 area (ha)	2025 area (ha)	Interpretation
SAC	7,141.2	7,205.9	Broadly stable / slight increase
NNR	2,417.97	2,416.6	Essentially unchanged
SSSI	12,624.17	15,453.5	Increase reflects West Penwith being designated in 2022
CWS	15,981.0	16,091.4	Broadly stable / slight increase
CGS	1,457.0	1,375.9	Small decrease
LNR	16.5	16.54	Broadly stable / unchanged

Table 4.1.5 – Extent of ecological designations within Cornwall National Landscape – Cornwall Council 2025, Natural England 2025, ERCCIS 2025

World Heritage Sites

The extent of Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site coverage within Cornwall National Landscape has remained unchanged since the previous reporting period. Sections overlapping include 05 St Agnes, 06 Godrevy to Portreath, 07 West Penwith, 09 South Coast Central and 12 Bodmin Moor.

World Heritage Site designation was recorded previously and remains in place, with no change in extent or distribution across Cornwall National Landscape. This indicates continued recognition of the outstanding universal value of those parts of Cornwall National Landscape that fall within the designated World Heritage Site.

The absence of change suggests a continued stability in this aspect of the historic environment resource. As with other heritage designations,

this is significant in itself, as it indicates continuity in the spatial coverage of the highest level of international heritage recognition within Cornwall National Landscape.

Scheduled monuments

There are now 673 scheduled monuments within Cornwall National Landscape, of which 109 are recorded as at risk. The 'at risk' status of scheduled monuments is updated annually. Recent Monumental Improvement (MI) work by the Cornwall National Landscape team has reduced the number of monuments at risk by 10, although this progress is not fully reflected in headline figures.

This means that 16.2% of scheduled monuments within Cornwall National Landscape are currently identified as being at risk.

The total number of scheduled monuments has changed only slightly over time. There were 668 scheduled monuments in 2009, 669 in 2013, 671 in 2021, and there are now 673. The overall extent of the scheduled monument resource within Cornwall National Landscape has therefore remained broadly stable, with only a very small net increase since the previous report. The number of monuments recorded as at risk was 125 in 2013, fell to 103 in 2020, and has now risen slightly to 109.

Scheduled monuments remain unevenly distributed across Cornwall National Landscape. The largest number is recorded in 12 Bodmin Moor, which now contains 307 scheduled monuments, followed by 07 West Penwith with 164, 08 South Coast Western with 87, 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth with 34, and 09 South Coast Central with 32. At the other

end of the range, 03 The Camel Estuary contains 2 scheduled monuments, while 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) and 05 St Agnes each contain 4.

Compared with the previous report, the number of scheduled monuments is unchanged in most sections. The only increases are in 11 Rame Head, where the total rises from 9 to 10, and 12 Bodmin Moor, where it rises from 306 to 307. Elsewhere, monument numbers remain the same as in 2021.

Since the previous report, the number of monuments at risk has increased in several sections. 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth rises from 4 to 5, 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point from 3 to 4, 08 South Coast Western from 7 to 10, 09 South Coast Central from 5 to 8, and 11 Rame Head from 5 to 7. By contrast, 12 Bodmin Moor shows a reduction in the number of scheduled monuments at risk, falling from 49 to 45. In 07 West Penwith, the number at risk remains unchanged at 27.

When considered as a proportion of the total number of scheduled monuments in each section, the highest levels of risk are now recorded in 11 Rame Head, where 70.0% of monuments are at risk, and 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point, where 57.1% are at risk. 09 South Coast Central also records a relatively high proportion, at 25.0%.

By contrast, 08 South Coast Western (11.5%), 07 West Penwith (16.5%) and 12 Bodmin Moor (14.7%) contain large numbers of scheduled monuments, but lower proportions at risk.

Taken together, these figures indicate that the scheduled monument resource within Cornwall National Landscape has remained broadly stable in overall number, but that the picture for monuments at risk is more mixed. Although the total number at risk remains below the level

recorded in 2013, it has increased slightly since the previous reporting period. The concentration of monuments in 12 Bodmin Moor, 07 West Penwith and the south coast sections continues to underline the importance of those parts of Cornwall National Landscape for the historic environment, while the relatively high proportion of monuments at risk in some smaller sections suggests that vulnerability is not evenly distributed across the designation.

Section	2013 number	2013 number at risk	2021 number	2021 number at risk	2026 number	2026 number at risk
01 Hartland (Marland to Menachurch Point)	4	0	4	0	4	0
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	35	3	34	4	34	5
03 The Camel Estuary	2	0	2	0	2	0
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	7	2	7	3	7	4
05 St Agnes	4	0	4	0	4	0
06 Godrevy to Portreath	7	1	7	1	7	1
07 West Penwith	161	25	164	27	164	27
08 South Coast Western	87	5	87	7	87	10
09 South Coast Central	32	3	32	5	32	8
10 South Coast Eastern	15	0	15	2	15	2
11 Rame Head	9	5	9	5	10	7
12 Bodmin Moor	306	81	306	49	307	45
Total	669	125	671	103	673	109

Table 4.1.6 – Scheduled monuments and monuments at risk by Cornwall National Landscape section (2013, 2021 and 2026) – Historic England 2025

Listed buildings

The distribution of listed buildings within Cornwall National Landscape varies significantly between sections, reflecting differences in settlement patterns, historic development, and landscape character.

Across all sections, Grade II buildings form the overwhelming majority, consistent with national patterns. The highest concentrations are recorded in 07 West Penwith (728 Grade II buildings), 09 South Coast Central (672), and 08 South Coast Western (650), indicating a strong presence of historic built environment in these areas. Other sections, including 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth (417) and 10 South Coast Eastern (341), also show relatively high totals.

Higher-grade buildings (Grade I and Grade II*) are present in all sections but in much smaller numbers. The greatest concentrations are found in the south coast sections, particularly 09 South Coast Central (17 Grade I and 38 Grade II)* and *08 South Coast Western (14 Grade I and 37 Grade II)**, reflecting areas of higher historic and architectural significance.

The number of listed buildings at risk is generally low across the landscape, indicating that most assets are currently in stable condition. However, some variation is present. The highest number of at-risk buildings is recorded in 12 Bodmin Moor (8 total) and 11 Rame Head (6 total), followed by 09 South Coast Central (4 total) and West Penwith

(3 total). In many sections, including 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point), 03 The Camel Estuary, 05 St Agnes, and 10 South Coast Eastern, no buildings are currently recorded as at risk.

Overall, the data indicates that Cornwall National Landscape contains a substantial and widely distributed historic built environment, with concentrations in key coastal and settlement areas. While levels of buildings at risk are relatively low, the variation between sections highlights the need for continued monitoring and targeted conservation in specific locations.

The highest concentrations are recorded in West Penwith - 728 Grade II buildings.

Section	Total listed buildings	Grade I	Grade II*	Grade II	At risk
01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point)	51	2	8	41	0
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	440	6	17	417	1
03 The Camel Estuary	46	1	2	43	0
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	72	2	13	57	2
05 St Agnes	13	0	0	13	0
06 Godrevy to Portreath	8	0	0	8	0
07 West Penwith	754	4	22	728	3
08 South Coast Western	701	14	37	650	3
09 South Coast Central	727	17	38	672	4
10 South Coast Eastern	368	6	21	341	0
11 Rame Head	231	2	18	211	6
12 Bodmin Moor	285	4	7	274	8

Table 4.1.7 – Listed buildings and buildings at risk by Cornwall National Landscape section – Historic England 2025

Agricultural land use

Agriculture remains the dominant land use within Cornwall National Landscape, covering approximately 67,350 hectares, equivalent to 69.8% of the total landscape area (96,458.45 hectares).

This represents a slight reduction compared with the previous State of the AONB report, which recorded agricultural land covering approximately 73.7% of the landscape (based on 71,091 hectares). While differences in datasets and methodology should be considered, these figures suggest that agricultural land continues to account for around 70% of the total area, indicating that overall land use patterns have remained broadly consistent over time.

Land use remains strongly dominated by grassland. Permanent pasture accounts for 36,473 hectares (37.8%), supported by temporary grassland (11,051 hectares; 11.5%), meaning that nearly half of the Cornwall National Landscape (49.3%) is managed as grassland.

This pattern is consistent with the previous report, which also identified permanent grassland as the largest land use category, although earlier data indicated a slight decline in permanent grass and rough grazing. The current figures suggest that grassland systems remain the defining characteristic of land use within the landscape.

Arable land, including crops and uncropped arable land, accounts for 11,150 hectares (11.6%),

broadly reflecting the smaller but still significant contribution of cropping compared with livestock-based systems. Rough grazing accounts for 5,463 hectares (5.7%), continuing to represent a smaller but locally important land use, particularly in more marginal areas.

Overall, the structure of land use indicates a continued emphasis on grassland-based livestock farming, consistent with findings from the previous report and reflecting the predominantly rural and pastoral character of Cornwall National Landscape.

Agricultural land covers approximately 73.7% of the landscape - based on 71,091 hectares.

Farm holdings and structure

A total of 905 agricultural holdings are recorded within Cornwall National Landscape. While the previous report identified only a small change in the number of holdings between 2010 and 2016 (an increase of around 0.5%), the current figure suggests that the number of holdings remains broadly stable, although differences in datasets limit direct comparison.

The distribution of farm size shows a similar mixed structure to that identified in the previous report:

- **<5 ha: 87 holdings (9.6%)**
- **5–20 ha: 226 holdings (25.0%)**
- **20–50 ha: 206 holdings (22.8%)**
- **50–100 ha: 177 holdings (19.6%)**
- **≥100 ha: 209 holdings (23.1%)**

The previous report highlighted a trend towards increasing numbers of smaller holdings, particularly those under 5 hectares, alongside a decline in some larger farm categories. The current distribution continues to show a significant proportion of smaller and medium-sized farms

(under 50 hectares: 57.4%), alongside a substantial number of larger holdings (23.1% over 100 hectares), indicating that a mixed farm structure remains a defining characteristic.

In terms of farm type, the dominance of grazing livestock systems is consistent with earlier findings:

- **Grazing livestock (Lowland): 229 holdings (25.3%)**
- **Grazing livestock (Less Favoured Areas): 219 holdings (24.2%)**
- **General cropping: 200 holdings (22.1%)**

The previous report similarly identified grazing livestock (both lowland and less favoured areas) as the dominant farm types, reinforcing the importance of livestock-based agriculture within the landscape.



Dexter cows on herbal leys, Trembothick Farm - FiPL

Land use type	Area (ha)	% of CNL area
Crops & uncropped arable	11,150	11.6%
Temporary grass	11,051	11.5%
Permanent pasture	36,473	37.8%
Rough grazing	5,463	5.7%
Farm woodland	1,838	1.9%
Other land	1,374	1.4%
Total agricultural area	67,350	69.8%

Table 4.1.8 – Agricultural land use within Cornwall National Landscape (area and percentage of total area) - Farming Statistics, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 2025

Agri-environment management

Countryside Stewardship

Agri-environment schemes continue to support land management within Cornwall National Landscape, contributing to biodiversity, landscape character, and the maintenance of traditional features.

Countryside Stewardship activity is recorded across all sections, indicating widespread engagement, although the scale and intensity of activity vary. Higher levels of activity are evident in sections such as 07 West Penwith, 08 South Coast Western, and 09 South Coast Central, where multiple agreements and longer lengths of managed features are recorded. More moderate levels are evident in 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth,

12 Bodmin Moor, and 11 Rame Head, while relatively lower levels are recorded in 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point), 03 The Camel Estuary, 05 St Agnes, and 06 Godrevy to Portreath.

A key feature of the dataset is the prominence of hedgerow management, particularly the option:

- **BE3 – Management of hedgerows**

This option is recorded across all sections and represents the dominant form of stewardship activity, typically involving lengths of several hundred metres, with some individual agreements

exceeding one kilometre. This indicates that ongoing management of field boundaries remains a consistent feature of land management within Cornwall National Landscape.

Other hedgerow-related options are present but occur less frequently and generally over shorter lengths. These include:

- **BN4 – Earth bank restoration**
- **BN5 – Hedgerow laying**
- **BN6 – Hedgerow coppicing**
- **BN11 – New hedge planting**

These options are predominantly associated with capital works, suggesting more targeted interventions focused on restoration or creation rather than ongoing management.

Beyond hedgerows, stewardship activity includes a range of options related to:

- **Grassland management, including low-input and species-rich grassland.**

- **Grazing management, particularly livestock-based systems**
- **Habitat creation, including buffer strips and field margins.**
- **Farm infrastructure, such as fencing and water provision.**

This pattern reflects the wider agricultural structure of the landscape, which is dominated by grassland and livestock systems.

The previous State of the AONB report identified Environmental Stewardship as an important mechanism supporting land management but focused primarily on scheme uptake and overall participation. In contrast, the current data provides a more detailed indication of how land is being managed, particularly in relation to hedgerows and grassland.

Overall, the data indicate that agri-environment management within Cornwall National Landscape is widely distributed but uneven, with a clear emphasis on hedgerow management and grassland systems, reinforcing the importance of these features in maintaining landscape character.



Meadow Match - Nick Pearce, Gowildcam

Section	Relative level of activity	Dominant features
01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point)	Low	Hedgerow management (limited extent)
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	Moderate	Hedgerow management, some restoration
03 The Camel Estuary	Low	Small-scale hedgerow management
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	Moderate	Hedgerow management and restoration
05 St Agnes	Low	Limited hedgerow management
06 Godrevy to Portreath	Low	Very limited activity
07 West Penwith	High	Extensive hedgerow management and restoration
08 South Coast Western	High	Large-scale hedgerow management
09 South Coast Central	High	High intensity, longer lengths managed
10 South Coast Eastern	Moderate	Consistent hedgerow management
11 Rame Head	Moderate	Mixed management and restoration
12 Bodmin Moor	Moderate	Hedgerow management and grassland focus

Table 4.1.9 – Countryside Stewardship activity by Cornwall National Landscape section (relative level and dominant features) – Natural England 2025

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship agreements continue to support land management within Cornwall National Landscape, contributing to the maintenance of habitats, traditional farming systems, and landscape features.

Environmental Stewardship activity is present across all sections of Cornwall National Landscape, although the type and emphasis of management vary. The data shows a strong focus on grassland management, particularly the maintenance of permanent grassland with low or very low inputs, alongside the management and restoration of species-rich semi-natural grassland and grassland managed for specific environmental features. Grazing-related options are also widely represented, including support for native breeds, mixed stocking, and the management of small fields and more difficult sites. This reflects the continued importance of livestock-based farming systems across much of the landscape.

Other options are recorded less frequently but are present across a number of sections. These include management of lowland heathland, woodland and scrub, and measures such as bracken control, buffer strips and field margins. There is also some evidence of options relating to archaeological features and permissive access, which tend to reflect more localised landscape characteristics.

Variation between sections broadly reflects differences in landscape character and farming systems.

01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) shows a predominance of grassland management and grazing support, consistent with marginal farmland and smaller-scale field patterns. 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth also includes a mix of

grassland and grazing options, with some evidence of buffer strips, suggesting more mixed farming activity. 03 The Camel Estuary shows relatively limited Environmental Stewardship activity, with only a small number of grassland-based options recorded. 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point includes a similar range of grassland and grazing options, reflecting coastal and valley landscapes. 05 St Agnes and 06 Godrevy to Portreath show comparatively low levels of activity, primarily limited to grassland management.

In contrast, 07 West Penwith includes a wider range of options, including both grassland and heathland management, reflecting the presence of coastal heath and more varied habitat types. 08 South Coast West, 09 South Coast Central, and 10 South Coast Eastern all show moderate levels of activity, with a consistent emphasis on grassland management and grazing systems. 11 Rame Head includes a similar mix of options, with some additional habitat-based management. 12 Bodmin Moor shows the strongest representation of Environmental Stewardship activity, particularly in relation to extensive grassland management and grazing support, consistent with upland farming systems and larger areas of semi-natural habitat.

Overall, Environmental Stewardship within Cornwall National Landscape is characterised by a consistent focus on grassland and grazing systems, with variation between sections reflecting underlying landscape character and land use.

Section	Relative level of activity	Dominant options	Key characteristics
01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point)	Moderate	Grassland, grazing	Marginal farmland, small fields
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	Moderate	Grassland, buffer strips	Mixed farming systems
03 The Camel Estuary	Low	Grassland	Limited coverage
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	Moderate	Grassland, grazing	Coastal and valley systems
05 St Agnes	Low	Grassland	Small number of agreements
06 Godrevy to Portreath	Low	Grassland	Very limited activity
07 West Penwith	Moderate–High	Grassland, heathland	Wider habitat range
08 South Coast Western	Moderate	Grassland, grazing	Coastal grazing systems
09 South Coast Central	Moderate	Grassland	Ongoing management focus
10 South Coast Eastern	Moderate	Grassland, grazing	Consistent activity
11 Rame Head	Moderate	Grassland, grazing	Mixed lowland systems
12 Bodmin Moor	High	Grassland, grazing	Upland systems, semi-natural habitat

Table 4.1.10 – Environmental Stewardship activity by Cornwall National Landscape section (dominant management options) – Natural England 2025



Summer Milky Way from Bodmin Moor - Michael Bennett,
Caradon Observatory

Dark sky quality

Results from the CPRE Big Star Count continue to provide an indication of night sky quality across Cornwall National Landscape. The data from 2013, 2021 and 2023 shows variation between sections, with counts influenced by local factors such as settlement pattern, topography and lighting.

The 2023 data includes a greater number of survey locations than in previous years, providing a wider spatial coverage across the designation. Higher star counts are generally recorded in more remote areas, particularly in the designated areas of West Penwith and Bodmin Moor, while lower counts are recorded in areas closer to settlements and along more developed sections of the coast.

Across the south coast sections, results remain mixed, with a range of star counts recorded at different locations. In some cases, more recent

data show both higher and lower values within the same section, reflecting localised variations in light conditions rather than consistent change across the whole area.

Overall, the data indicate that dark sky quality across Cornwall National Landscape remains variable but locally distinct, broadly reflecting the distribution of light pollution and confirming patterns identified in the previous report.

Section	Number of stars counted (2013)	Number of stars counted (2021)	Number of stars counted (2023)
01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point)	-	-	11 (Woodford)
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	10 (Boscastle)	12 (Pendoggett)	16 (Port Isaac); 21 (Pendoggett)
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	48 (Padstow)	5 (St Merryn)	25 (Wadebridge – adjacent)
07 West Penwith	28 (St Just)	-	36 (Nance); 31 (Porthmeor); 23 (Morvah); 20 (Carnyorth); 11 (Boswednack); 10 (St Levan); 9 (Escalls)
08 South Coast Western	-	4 (St Keverne); 18 (Traboe)	8 (Marazion); 13 (Porthleven); 71 (Cury); 11 (Mullion); 4 (St Keverne)
09 South Coast Central	26 (Mylor Bridge)	31 (St Ewe); 20 (Carclew); 20 (Philleigh); 20 (Portholland); 10 (St Clement)	8 (St Just in Roseland); 12 (Trewithian); 15 (Treworga); 15 (Tregenna)
10 South Coast Eastern	18 (Fowey)	-	17 (Par – adjacent)
11 Rame Head	-	-	83 (Millbrook – adjacent)
12 Bodmin Moor	10 (Blisland); 16 (Porthallow)	-	24 (Gonamena)

Table 4.1.11 – Dark sky quality across Cornwall National Landscape by section (2013, 2021 and 2023 star counts) – CPRE 2023

Policy considerations & recommendations

The findings set out in this chapter highlight a number of interconnected challenges and opportunities across Cornwall National Landscape. The following considerations are intended to inform future planning, policy development, and management.

Conserving landscape and seascape character

The strong diversity of landscape and seascape character is a defining quality of Cornwall National Landscape and should remain central to planning and land management decisions.

Policy should continue to recognise the importance of relationships between inland landscapes and adjoining seascapes, particularly in coastal sections.

Managing development pressure

The sharp rise in planning applications after 2020, followed by a gradual decline, indicates the need for continued monitoring of development pressure and its effects on landscape character and natural beauty.

Policy should support a robust landscape-led approach to development management, recognising that fewer applications do not necessarily mean lower impact.

Supporting effective planning intervention

The more selective pattern of consultation responses and objections suggests increasing prioritisation of planning casework.

There is a need to ensure that sufficient capacity remains in place to respond to proposals with the greatest potential to affect Cornwall National Landscape.

Protecting access and recreation

Public rights of way, access land and common land remain important to recreation, tourism and public enjoyment of Cornwall National Landscape.

Policy should support continued protection, maintenance and enhancement of access networks, while improving consistency in the monitoring of change over time.

Reinforcing core areas of environmental and heritage value

12 Bodmin Moor, 07 West Penwith and the south coast sections contain strong concentrations of designated sites and heritage assets and should be recognised as core landscapes for coordinated action.

Policy should encourage integrated management that brings together biodiversity, historic environment and land use objectives.

Targeting heritage at risk

Although the overall number of scheduled monuments and listed buildings remains stable, vulnerability is increasing in some locations, especially 11 Rame Head, 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point and parts of the south coast.

Policy should support proactive monitoring and targeted conservation to reduce risk and prevent further deterioration.

Supporting sustainable agriculture and stewardship

Agriculture remains fundamental to the character of Cornwall National Landscape, especially grassland and livestock systems.

Future policy should support sustainable farming systems, strengthen alignment between environmental funding and landscape outcomes, and encourage broader uptake in areas with lower levels of agri-environment activity.

Maintaining and enhancing hedgerow networks

Hedgerow management is the most widespread form of stewardship activity and remains central to landscape character, biodiversity and connectivity.

Policy should support ongoing maintenance, restoration of degraded hedges and creation of new hedgerows where appropriate.

Protecting dark skies

Dark sky quality is an important but locally variable element of natural beauty within Cornwall National Landscape.

Policy should protect darker areas such as 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith, while promoting sensitive lighting design in more developed locations.

Overall approach

The findings emphasise the need for a joined-up and place-based approach to managing the environmental, agricultural, recreational and historic assets of Cornwall National Landscape. Landscape character, heritage condition, farming, stewardship, access and development pressure are closely interrelated and should not be considered in isolation. Coordinated action across these areas will be essential to conserve and enhance the distinct character, resilience and natural beauty of Cornwall National Landscape.

Peregrine at Carnewas - John Johnson



Nature Recovery and Land Management

Introduction

This section provides an overview of habitats, biodiversity and land management across Cornwall National Landscape. It reflects a significantly expanded evidence base, informed by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, which have improved understanding of habitat types, condition, extent and opportunities for restoration. This enhanced knowledge supports a more targeted and landscape-scale approach to nature recovery, recognising the importance of connectivity, land use and long-term stewardship in strengthening ecological resilience.

Key findings

- Farming in Protected Landscapes funding is supporting a broad range of outcomes across Cornwall National Landscape, with the greatest share directed towards agroecological farming, followed by wildlife rich habitat creation and priority species. Delivery is unevenly distributed, with the highest levels of activity in 08 South Coast Western, 09 South Coast Central, 07 West Penwith and 12 Bodmin Moor.
- Woodland cover has remained broadly stable, with a slight overall increase between 2013 and 2023, rising from around 7,723 hectares to just under 8,000 hectares. Broadleaved woodland remains dominant and has increased gradually, while conifer woodland has declined, indicating a gradual shift in woodland composition alongside continued active management.
- Ancient woodland extent has remained stable over time, with only limited change between 2007 and 2024. There has been a slight increase in ancient and semi-natural woodland and a small decline in ancient, replanted woodland, suggesting only modest compositional change overall.
- Trees outside woodland are a widespread and important feature of Cornwall National Landscape, particularly in 08 South Coast Western, 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith. They make a major contribution to landscape character, ecological connectivity, carbon storage, shade and shelter, soil protection and water management.
- Priority habitats remain broadly consistent in their overall distribution, with lowland heathland, deciduous woodland and maritime cliff and slope continuing to represent the largest habitat types. Some changes are evident between 2020 and 2026, including

increases in deciduous woodland, upland heathland and some wetland habitats, and declines in lowland heathland, maritime cliff and slope, blanket bog and fragmented heath.

- The Local Nature Recovery Strategy provides a new spatial framework for nature recovery across Cornwall National Landscape, identifying the greatest opportunities in trees, scrub and woodland, nature-rich grassland, heath and moor mosaics, coastal wild belt, intertidal habitats, and rivers and wetlands. This adds a more forward-looking and strategic dimension to habitat planning and investment.
- Peaty soils are highly concentrated in a small number of sections, particularly 12 Bodmin Moor, with smaller but still notable areas in 07 West Penwith and 08 South Coast Western.

Although not widespread across the whole landscape, these soils represent a significant resource for carbon storage, water regulation and habitat provision.

- Traditional orchards remain limited in extent but locally important, with the largest areas concentrated in the south coast sections. Total orchard area has increased slightly since 2020, although overall coverage remains small and unevenly distributed.
- River ecological condition is variable but predominantly moderate, with relatively few rivers achieving good ecological status and some localised areas of poorer condition. 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith contain a higher proportion of rivers in good condition, while poorer status is more evident in 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth, 03 The Camel Estuary and 06 Godrevy to Portreath.

Overall approach

Overall, the place-based indicators show a landscape with strong environmental assets but uneven condition and opportunity across Cornwall National Landscape. Woodland, habitats, peat, river systems and trees outside woodland all play an important role in landscape character and ecological function, while the LNRS provides a clearer framework for targeting future restoration and enhancement.

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (FiPL) is a part of DEFRA's Agricultural Transition Plan. It has been developed by DEFRA and is administered locally by the Protected Landscapes around England.

Funding delivered through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme supports a wide range of projects across Cornwall National Landscape, contributing to environmental outcomes, community engagement and sustainable land management. The distribution of funding continues to be weighted towards agroecological farming (28%), followed by wildlife rich habitat creation and priority species (23%). Smaller but important proportions are directed towards education & wellbeing, farm business support, community growing, heritage, access, water quality and commoners support, reflecting a broad and multi-functional programme of delivery.

The highest levels of activity are recorded in 08 South Coast Western (46 projects), 09 South Coast Central (39 projects) and 07 West Penwith (38 projects), with 12 Bodmin Moor (21 projects) also showing a strong level of engagement. Moderate levels of activity are evident in 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth (8 projects), 06 Godrevy to Portreath (7 projects), 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) (6 projects) and 11 Rame Head (6 projects). In contrast, lower numbers of projects are recorded in sections such as 03 The Camel Estuary (2 projects), 05 St Agnes (2 projects) and 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point (4 projects).

This variation reflects differences in section size, farm structure, and engagement with the programme across Cornwall National Landscape.

Sections with higher numbers of projects broadly correspond to the larger sections, that in turn have more extensive agricultural land and active land management.

Overall, the data demonstrates that FiPL funding is supporting a wide range of objectives, with a strong focus on nature recovery and sustainable land management, while also contributing to climate resilience, access, heritage and community outcomes across the landscape.

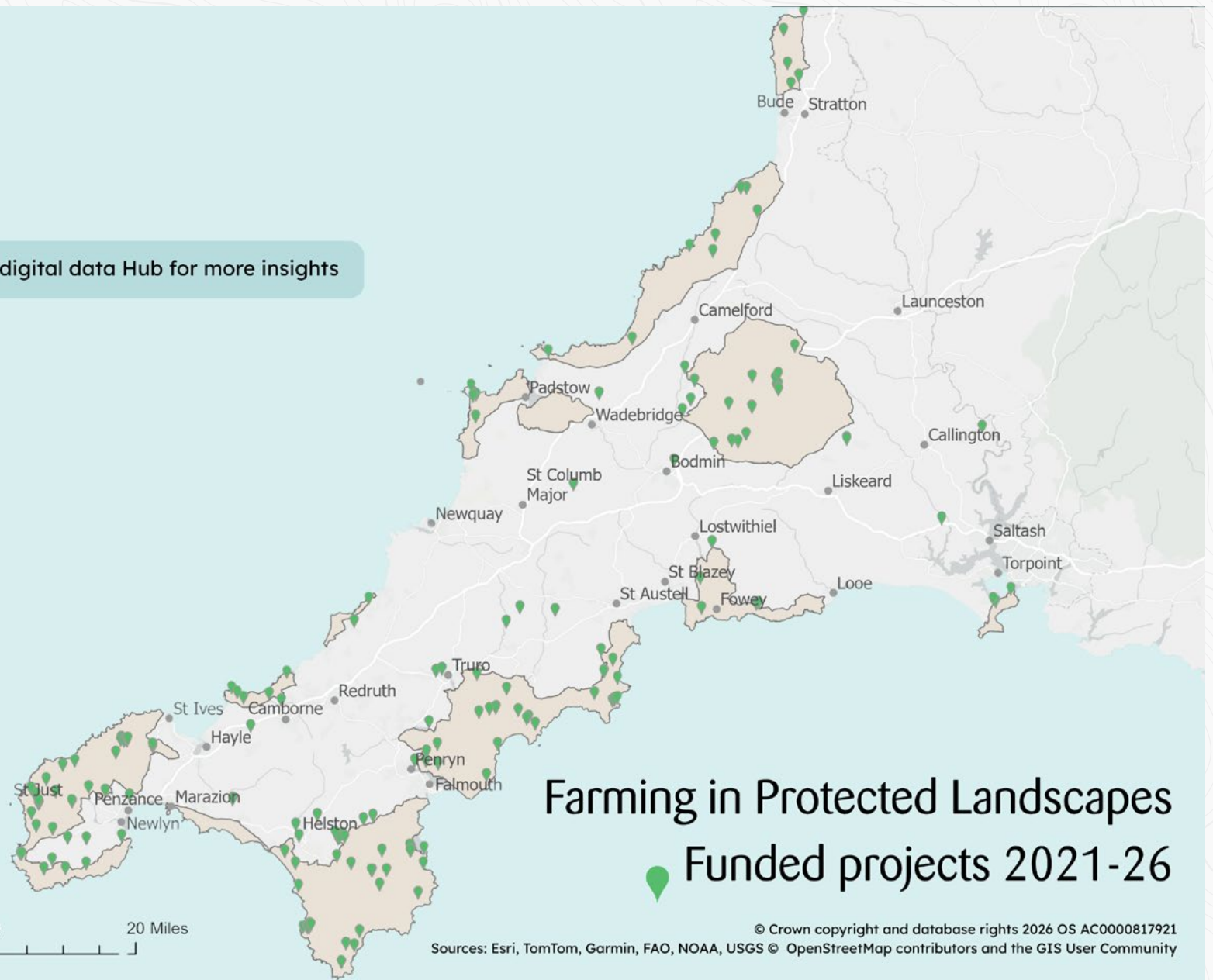
Section	No. of projects
01 Hartland (Hartland to Menachurch Point)	6
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	8
03 The Camel Estuary	2
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	4
05 St Agnes	2
06 Godrevy to Portreath	7
07 West Penwith	38
08 South Coast Western	46
09 South Coast Central	39
10 South Coast Eastern	5
11 Rame Head	6
12 Bodmin Moor	21

Table 5.1.1 – Number of Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) projects in Cornwall National Landscape section – Cornwall National Landscape 2025

Visit our digital data Hub for more insights



0 5 10 20 Miles



Farming in Protected Landscapes

Funded projects 2021-26

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Woodland

Woodland cover within Cornwall National Landscape has remained broadly stable between 2013 and 2023, increasing slightly from approximately 7,723 hectares to just under 8,000 hectares. Broadleaved woodland continues to dominate and has shown a gradual increase over this period, while conifer woodland has declined, indicating a shift in woodland composition towards more native and semi-natural types. Mixed woodland categories remain limited in extent, and other classifications such as shrub, low-density woodland and assumed woodland show only minor variation. Increases in areas of young trees and land classed as felled or prepared for planting suggest ongoing management activity, reflecting continuous cycles of felling, restocking and regeneration.

Since 2021, the Forest for Cornwall initiative has contributed to these trends, with approximately 491,984 trees planted in areas that intersect with Cornwall National Landscape. While this represents a relatively modest addition in terms of overall woodland extent, it supports the observed increase in broadleaved cover and young tree categories, and contributes to longer-term objectives around woodland creation, habitat connectivity and climate resilience.

Overall, the data indicates that woodland within Cornwall National Landscape has remained consistent in overall extent, with gradual changes in composition and continued active management.



Autumn colour, Ethy wood, Lerryn - Roy Curtis

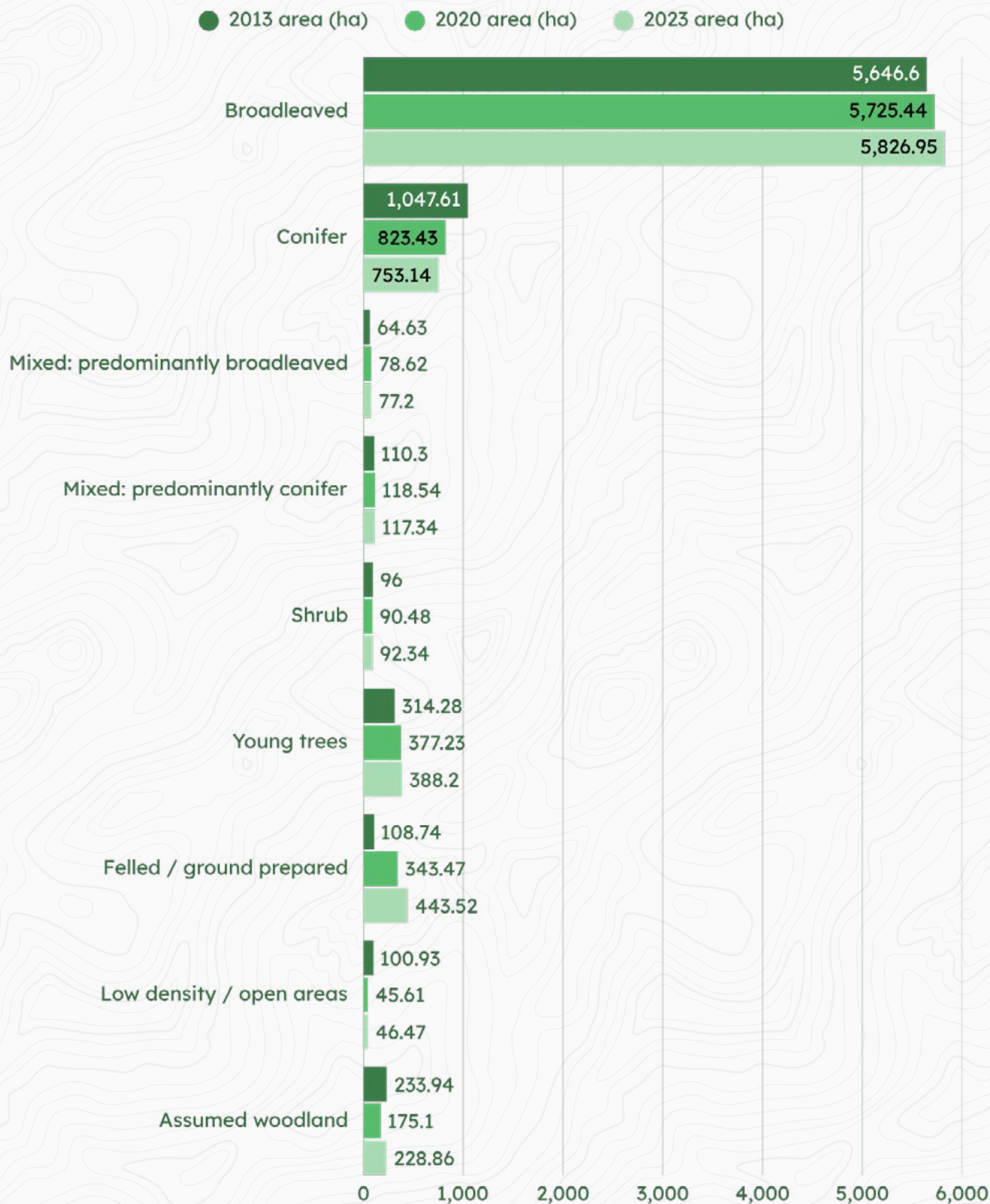


Figure 5.1.1 – Woodland extent within Cornwall National Landscape (2013–2023) - Natural England 2025

Ancient woodland

The extent of ancient woodland within Cornwall National Landscape has remained broadly stable over time, with only minor variation between 2007 and 2024. Total ancient woodland area has shown a slight overall increase, from approximately 1,349 hectares in 2007 to just over 1,352 hectares in 2024.

Ancient and semi-natural woodland has increased slightly across the period, while the area of ancient, replanted woodland has declined marginally. These

changes indicate a small shift towards a greater proportion of semi-natural woodland, although the overall balance between the two types remains broadly consistent.

Overall, the data indicates that ancient woodland within Cornwall National Landscape has remained stable in extent, with only limited changes in composition over time.

	2007 area (ha)	2012 area (ha)	2021 area (ha)	2024 area (ha)
Ancient and semi-natural woodland	862.11	861.80	882.77	881.32
Ancient, replanted woodland	487.17	489.09	471.36	470.72
Total	1,349.28	1,350.89	1,354.13	1,352.04

Table 5.1.2 – Ancient woodland extent within Cornwall National Landscape (2007–2024) - Woodland Trust via ERCCIS 2025

Overall, the data indicates that ancient woodland within Cornwall National Landscape has remained stable in extent.

Trees outside woodland

Trees outside woodland form an important component of the landscape within Cornwall National Landscape, including individual trees, small groups, and small areas of woodland located outside mapped woodland blocks.

The data shows that lone trees are the most numerous features across all sections, followed by groups of trees, with small woodland areas occurring less frequently. Higher concentrations are evident in sections such as 08 South Coast Western, 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith, while lower numbers are recorded in more constrained or coastal sections such as 05 St Agnes and 06 Godrevy to Portreath. This variation reflects differences in field size, land management, and landscape character.

Trees outside woodland make a significant contribution to landscape character, particularly within farmed landscapes where they are often associated with field boundaries, hedgerows and farmsteads. They are a key feature of the traditional field patterns that define much of Cornwall National Landscape and help to reinforce local distinctiveness at both local and wider landscape scales.

These features also play an important ecological role. They provide habitat for a range of species and act as stepping stones between larger areas of woodland, supporting connectivity across the landscape. In areas where woodland cover is more limited, trees outside woodland can form an important part of the wider ecological network.

In addition, trees outside woodland contribute to carbon storage, shade and shelter for livestock, and help to reduce soil erosion and

improve water management. As such, they represent a multifunctional element of the landscape, supporting both environmental and agricultural systems.



Tree above Mylor yacht harbour - Ian Lewis

Section	Lone trees	Groups of trees	Small woodland
01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point)	2,937	1,422	89
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	15,028	7,634	802
03 The Camel Estuary	2,841	1,694	219
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	3,197	1,839	109
05 St Agnes	957	344	28
06 Godrevy to Portreath	955	484	39
07 West Penwith	20,747	7,307	632
08 South Coast Western	30,250	15,925	2,446
09 South Coast Central	23,009	12,241	1,757
10 South Coast Eastern	7,783	3,435	549
11 Rame Head	1,556	719	74
12 Bodmin Moor	29,239	8,669	1,324

Table 5.1.3 – Trees outside woodland by Cornwall National Landscape section (lone trees, groups and small woodland) - Forest Research Agency 2022

Overall, trees outside woodland are a widespread and integral feature of Cornwall National Landscape, contributing to both its ecological function and its characteristic appearance.

Priority habitats

The extent and distribution of priority habitats within Cornwall National Landscape remain broadly consistent with those reported previously, with lowland heathland, deciduous woodland, and maritime cliff and slope continuing to represent the largest habitat types.

Changes between 2020 and 2026 are generally limited, although some variation is evident between habitat types. Deciduous woodland and upland heathland show increases in area, while lowland heathland and maritime cliff and slope show slight reductions. Grass moorland has declined, while good quality semi-improved grassland and lowland meadows show increases.

More notable changes are clear in some smaller habitat types. Areas of upland flushes, fens and swamps, lowland fens, and lowland dry acid grassland have increased, while fragmented heath and blanket bog show reductions. These changes may reflect differences in classification, survey methods, or changes in habitat condition and management.

Habitat type	2020 area (ha)	2026 area (ha)
Lowland heathland	5,178.65	5,027.77
Deciduous woodland	5,164.37	5,314.29
Maritime cliff and slope	3,662.40	3,384.68
Upland heathland	2,988.03	3,648.65

Habitat type	2020 area (ha)	2026 area (ha)
Grass moorland	2,935.23	2,368.15
No main habitat (additional present)	1,128.62	999.36
Mudflats	850.29	849.05
Good quality semi-improved grassland	644.62	760.63
Blanket bog	451.82	307.34
Fragmented heath	365.73	131.64
Coastal sand dunes	216.65	163.50
Upland flushes, fens and swamps	141.15	499.90
Lowland fens	106.89	172.96
Lowland dry acid grassland	106.79	195.60
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	79.30	132.67
Coastal saltmarsh	66.37	90.82
Traditional orchard	65.72	73.68
Lowland meadows	36.08	212.25
Calaminarian grassland	19.64	20.81
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	15.80	15.69
Upland hay meadow	9.93	9.79
Lowland calcareous grassland	9.71	9.76
Saline lagoons	7.42	7.56
Reedbeds	1.89	4.90

Table 5.1.4 – Priority habitat extent within Cornwall National Landscape – Natural England 2025

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new addition since the previous State of the AONB report and provide a spatial framework for identifying opportunities for habitat creation, enhancement and improved ecological connectivity.

The data identifies areas across Cornwall National Landscape where action to support nature recovery is likely to deliver the greatest benefit. The largest opportunity areas are associated with trees, scrub and woodland, nature rich grassland, and heath and moor mosaics, alongside extensive opportunities within the coastal wild belt. Opportunities are also identified for intertidal habitats and river and wetland systems, reflecting the importance of both coastal and freshwater environments.

The LNRS moves beyond describing existing habitat and instead highlights where future change could be targeted, supporting more joined-up ecological networks across the landscape. It identifies potential to expand, buffer and connect habitats, particularly in areas currently fragmented or under pressure.

As this is a new dataset, there is no direct comparison with the previous report. Monitoring will need to focus on the delivery of these opportunity areas over time, including the extent to which they are taken forward through land management schemes, habitat creation and restoration activity. This may include tracking changes in habitat extent, condition and connectivity, and how closely these align with LNRS priorities.

Overall, the LNRS provides a forward-looking and strategic framework for nature recovery within Cornwall National Landscape, complementing existing habitat data and supporting more targeted management and investment.

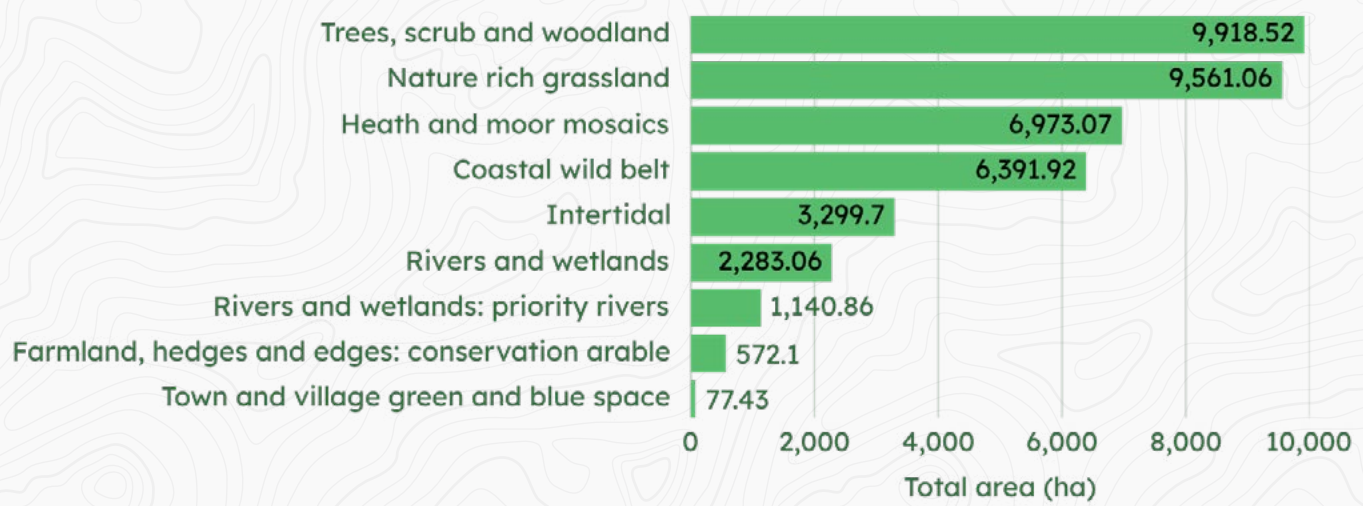
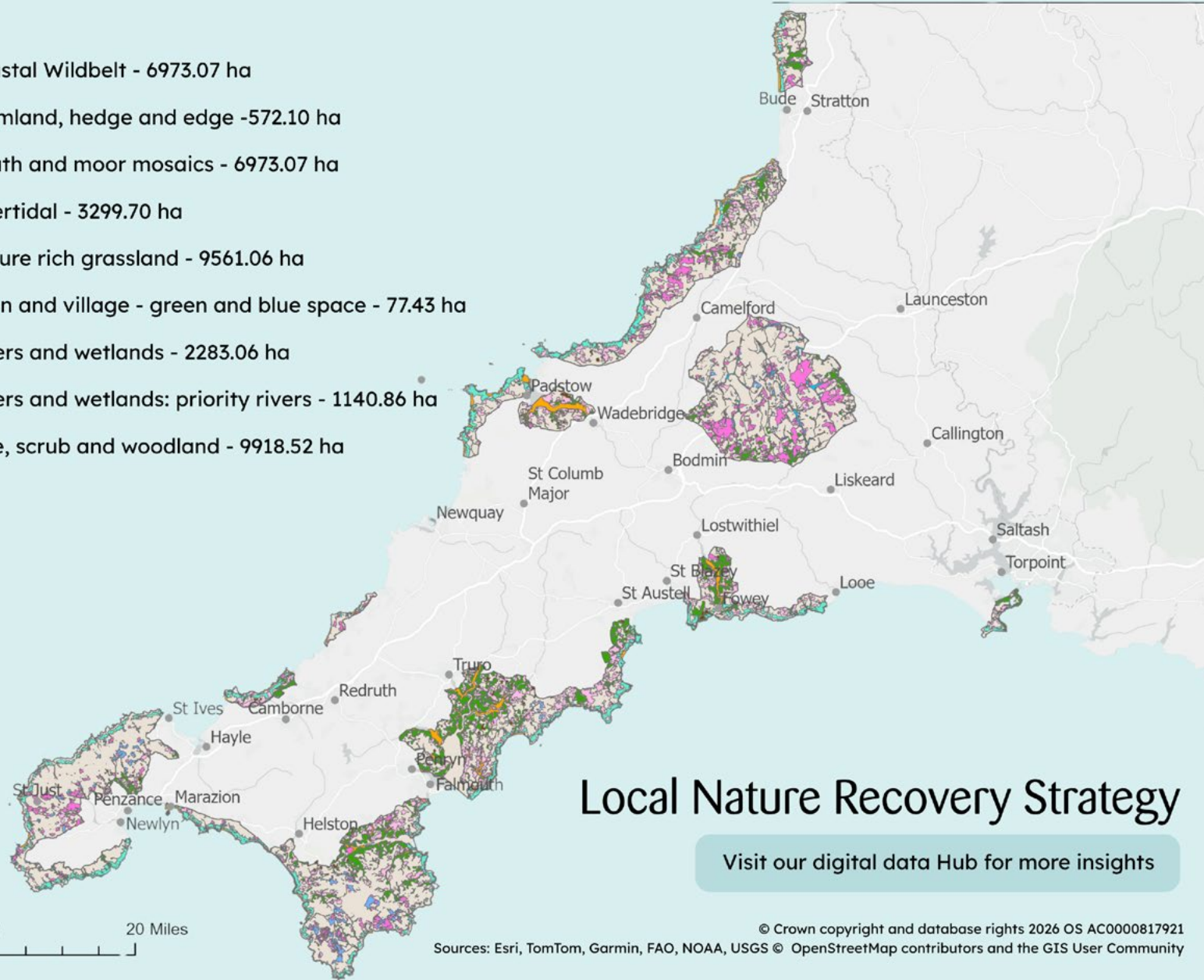


Figure 5.1.2 – Local Nature Recovery Strategy opportunity areas within Cornwall National Landscape (habitat types and extent) – Cornwall Council 2025

- Coastal Wildbelt - 6973.07 ha
- Farmland, hedge and edge - 572.10 ha
- Heath and moor mosaics - 6973.07 ha
- Intertidal - 3299.70 ha
- Nature rich grassland - 9561.06 ha
- Town and village - green and blue space - 77.43 ha
- Rivers and wetlands - 2283.06 ha
- Rivers and wetlands: priority rivers - 1140.86 ha
- Tree, scrub and woodland - 9918.52 ha



0 5 10 20 Miles



Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Visit our digital data Hub for more insights

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Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS © OpenStreetMap contributors and the GIS User Community

Peaty soils

Peaty soils within Cornwall National Landscape are strongly concentrated in a small number of sections, with the vast majority occurring in 12 Bodmin Moor. Smaller but notable areas are also present in 07 West Penwith and 08 South Coast Western, while other sections contain very limited or no recorded peat soils.

This distribution reflects underlying geology and landscape character, with peat soils typically associated with upland and wetland environments, including moorland and areas of poor drainage. The dominance of peat on 12 Bodmin Moor is consistent with its role as a key upland landscape within Cornwall National Landscape.

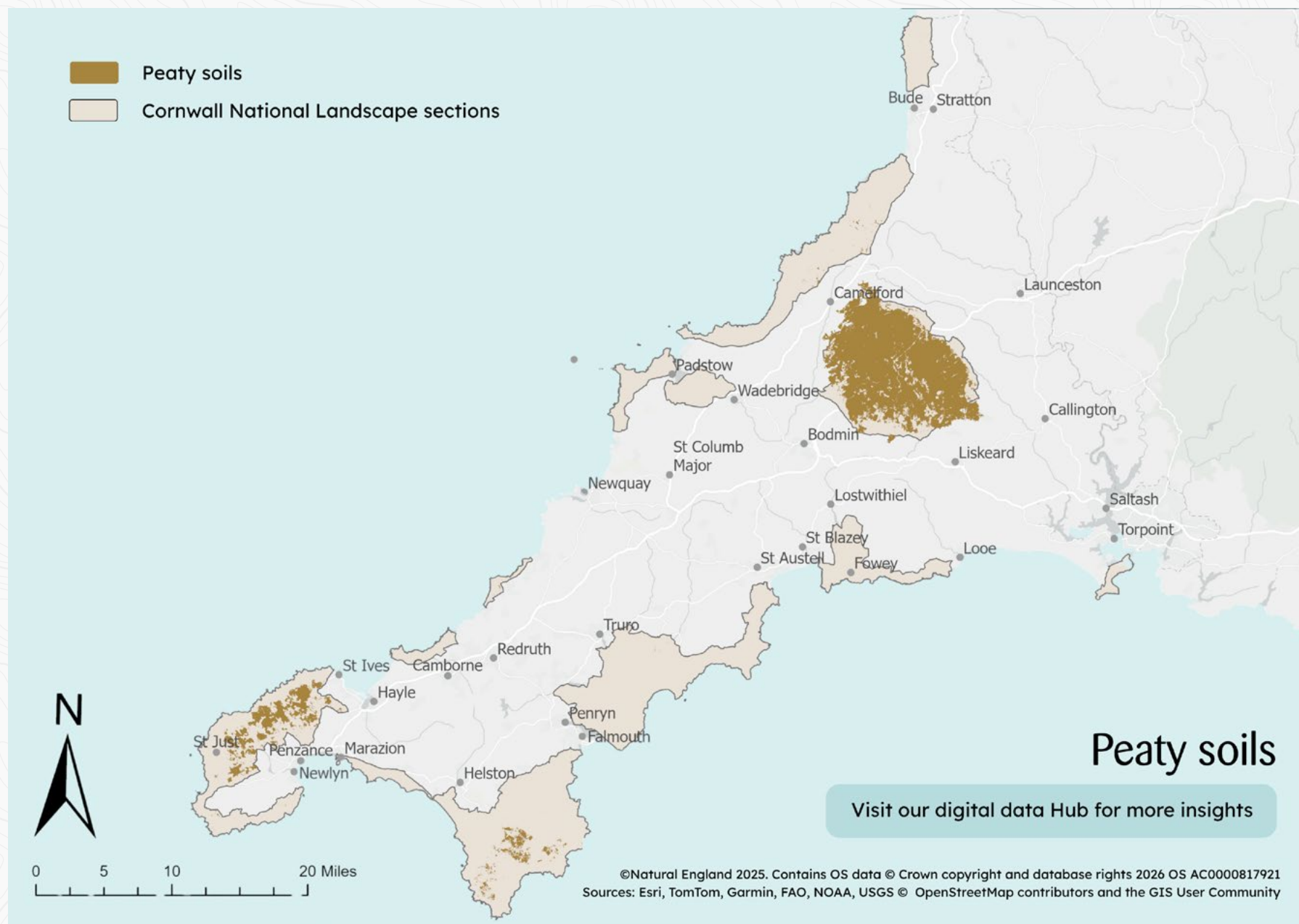
Peaty soils are particularly important for carbon storage, water regulation and habitat provision,

supporting habitats such as blanket bog and wet heath. As such, they form a key component of the wider nature recovery network, particularly in relation to climate regulation and biodiversity.

Overall, the data show that while peat soils are not widely distributed across all sections, they represent a significant and locally important resource, concentrated in areas of high environmental value.

Section	Area of peaty soils (ha)
01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point)	1.31
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	68.63
03 The Camel Estuary	2.10
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	0.00
05 St Agnes	5.29
06 Godrevy to Portreath	0.00
07 West Penwith	2,705.67
08 South Coast Western	812.39
09 South Coast Central	4.45
10 South Coast Eastern	0.00
11 Rame Head	0.00
12 Bodmin Moor	17,920.93

Table 5.1.5 – Peaty soils within Cornwall National Landscape by section (area in hectares) – Natural England 2016



Traditional orchards

Traditional orchards within Cornwall National Landscape remain limited in extent but are concentrated within the south coast sections. The largest areas continue to be found in 08 South Coast Western, 09 South Coast Central, and 10 South Coast Eastern, with relatively small areas recorded elsewhere.

Comparison between 2020 and 2026 shows a slight overall increase in orchard area, with the total rising from approximately 65.7 hectares to just over 70 hectares. The most notable increase is

in 08 South Coast Western, while 09 South Coast Central and 10 South Coast Eastern remain broadly consistent. Other sections show only small changes, with several continuing to have very limited or no recorded orchard coverage.

Overall, the data indicate that traditional orchards remain a small but locally important habitat, strongly associated with the more sheltered and settled landscapes of the southern sections of Cornwall National Landscape.

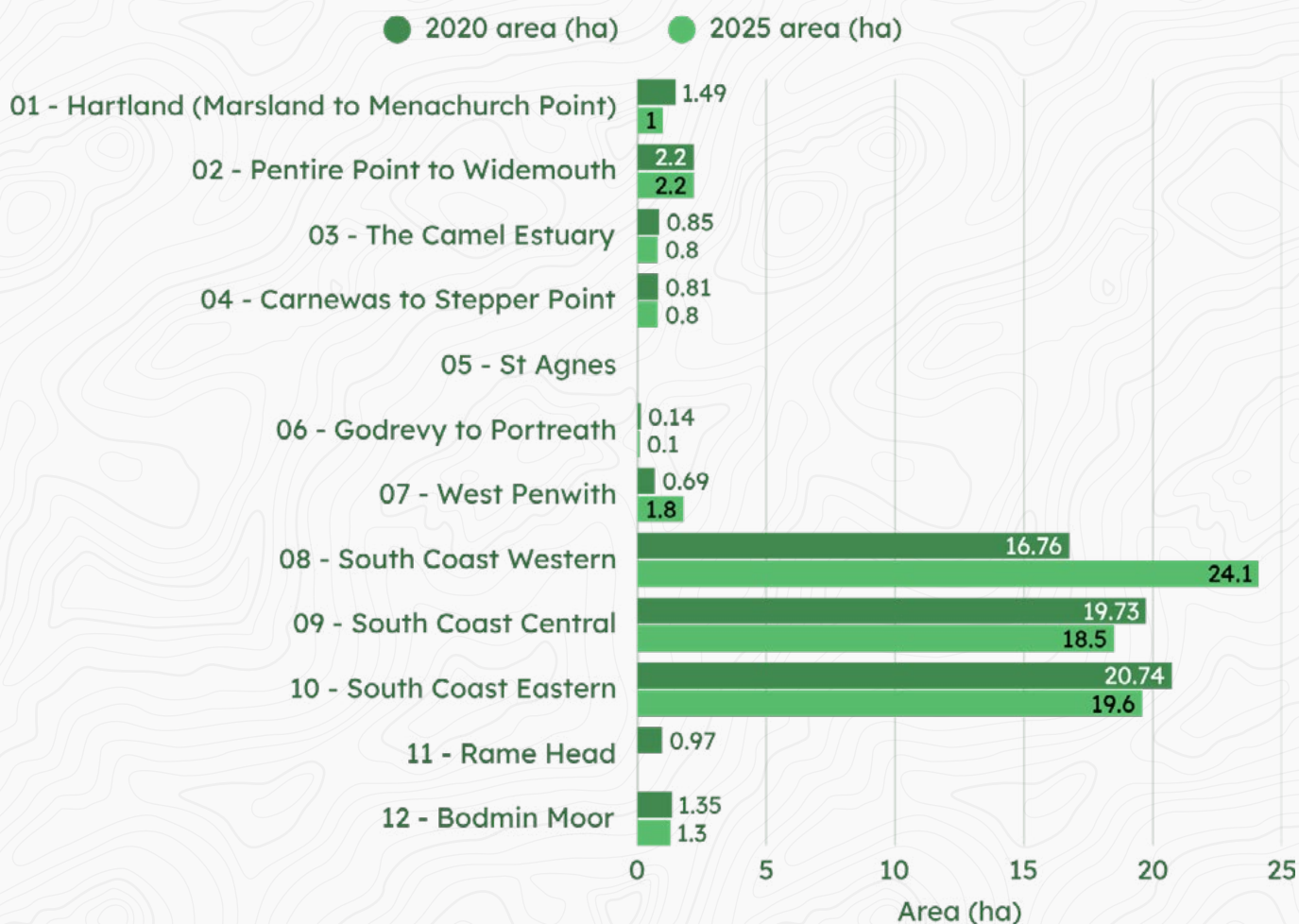


Figure 5.1.3 – Traditional orchards within Cornwall National Landscape (2020 and 2026 comparison) - Natural England 2025

Rivers and ecological condition

The ecological condition of rivers within Cornwall National Landscape shows a predominance of moderate status, with fewer rivers classified as either good or poor. This pattern is consistent across most sections, although there is some variation in distribution.

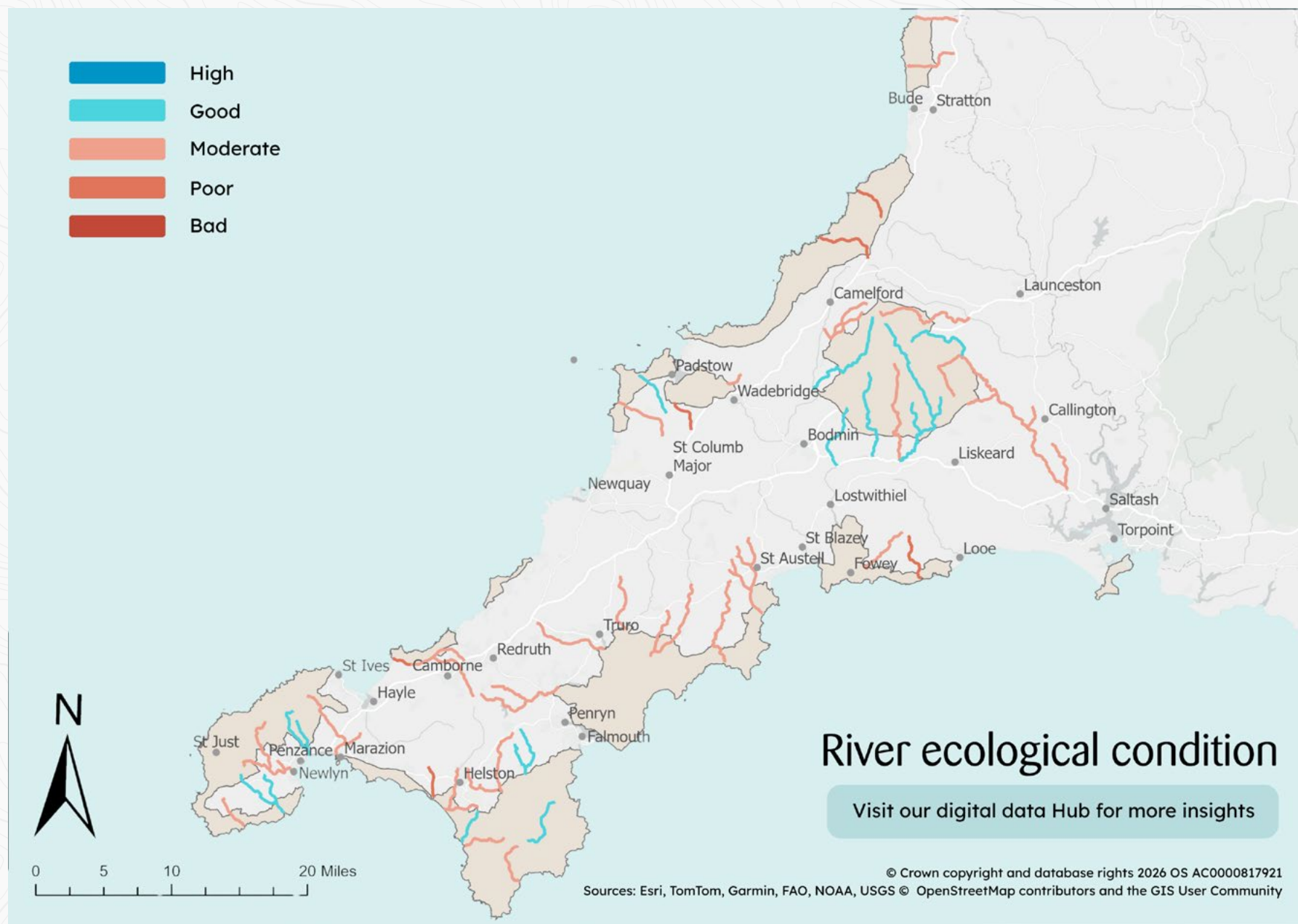
Sections such as 09 South Coast Central and 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) are characterised entirely by rivers in moderate condition, while 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith show a higher proportion of rivers achieving good status. In contrast, poorer ecological condition is more evident in sections including 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth, 03 The Camel Estuary, and 06 Godrevy to Portreath, where some watercourses are classified as poor.

The south coast sections show a mixed picture, with generally moderate condition but some variation between individual rivers. The relatively higher number of rivers in these sections reflects the presence of multiple small catchments flowing into coastal and estuarine systems.

Overall, the data indicates that river condition within Cornwall National Landscape is variable but largely moderate, with relatively few rivers achieving good ecological status and some localised areas of poorer condition.

Section	Number of rivers	Good	Moderate	Poor
01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point)	2	0	2	0
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	2	0	0	2
03 The Camel Estuary	2	0	1	1
04 Carnewas to Stepper Point	2	1	1	0
05 St Agnes	0	-	-	-
06 Godrevy to Portreath	2	0	1	1
07 West Penwith	6	2	4	0
08 South Coast Western	10	3	6	1
09 South Coast Central	6	0	6	0
10 South Coast Eastern	2	0	1	1
11 Rame Head	0	-	-	-
12 Bodmin Moor	10	5	5	0

Table 5.1.6 – River ecological condition within Cornwall National Landscape by section (status and number of water bodies) – Environment Agency 2025



Policy considerations & recommendations

The findings set out in this chapter highlight a number of interconnected challenges and opportunities across Cornwall National Landscape. The following considerations are intended to inform future planning, policy development, and management.

Supporting integrated land management

- The broad spread of Farming in Protected Landscapes activity highlights the value of **integrated land management** that delivers environmental, farming, heritage and community outcomes together.
- Policy should continue to support programmes that enable land managers to deliver multiple public benefits across Cornwall National Landscape.

Delivering nature recovery at scale

- The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) provides a clear spatial framework for future action.
- Priority should be given to delivering habitat creation, restoration and connectivity in identified opportunity areas, particularly for:
 - Woodland
 - Grassland
 - Heath and moorland
 - Coastal and wetland habitats

Strengthening ecological connectivity

- Habitats are unevenly distributed and often fragmented across Cornwall National Landscape.
- There is a need to improve connectivity across the landscape through:
 - Woodland expansion
 - Hedgerow networks
 - River corridors and wetland systems
- In addition, greater emphasis should be placed on strengthening transition zones between habitats, particularly between designated sites and more fragmented or nature-poor areas, to increase ecological permeability across the landscape.
- This approach will support species movement, enhance habitat connectivity, and improve overall ecosystem resilience.

Enhancing woodland quality and resilience

- Woodland cover is stable but changing in composition.

- Policy should support:
 - Increased broadleaved and semi-natural woodland
 - Restoration of ancient woodland
 - Sustainable woodland management
- This will improve biodiversity, resilience and long-term condition.

Protecting trees outside woodland

- Trees outside woodland make a significant contribution to landscape character and ecological networks.
- There is a need to:
 - Retain and manage hedgerow and field trees
 - Support planting and regeneration
- These features are critical in farmed landscapes with lower woodland cover.

Safeguarding priority habitats

- While overall habitat extent is stable, some important habitats are declining or fragmented.
- Priority should be given to:
 - Restoring degraded habitats such as blanket bog and fragmented heath
 - Maintaining improvements in grassland and wetland habitats

- Targeted action is needed where habitats are most vulnerable.

Peatland protection and climate regulation

- Peaty soils are highly concentrated, particularly on Bodmin Moor.
- These areas should be prioritised for:
 - Protection from degradation
 - Restoration of hydrology and vegetation
- This will support carbon storage, water management and biodiversity.

Improving river condition

- Most rivers are in moderate condition, with few achieving good status.
- A catchment-based approach is needed to:
 - Reduce diffuse pollution
 - Improve water quality
 - Restore natural river processes
- This is particularly important in areas with poorer ecological status.

Supporting nature-friendly farming

- Agriculture is central to land management across the landscape.

- Policy should:
 - Align agri-environment schemes with LNRS priorities
 - Support habitat creation and enhancement within farm systems.
 - Improve biodiversity outcomes alongside production.
- This will help integrate nature recovery with working landscapes.

Protecting and enhancing locally distinctive habitats

- Some habitats, such as traditional orchards, are small in extent but locally important.
- These should be supported through:
 - Conservation and restoration initiatives
 - Targeted funding and advice
- This helps maintain local distinctiveness and cultural value.

Overall approach

The findings emphasise the need for a joined-up and landscape-scale approach to nature recovery within Cornwall National Landscape. Key issues, including habitat condition, connectivity, land management, water quality, and climate resilience, are closely interrelated and should not be considered in isolation.

Coordinated action across these areas will be essential to deliver meaningful nature recovery, strengthen ecological networks, and conserve and enhance the natural character of Cornwall National Landscape. This includes promoting multi-functional land use approaches, including regenerative farming, which deliver integrated benefits for climate resilience, sustainable food production and nature recovery, ensuring that land management supports multiple outcomes across the landscape.

Improving data, monitoring and evidence

- Some changes in habitat extent may reflect data or classification differences.
- There is a need to:
 - Strengthen monitoring frameworks.
 - Track changes in extent, condition and connectivity over time.
- This will support more effective decision-making.

Taking a targeted spatial approach

- Natural assets are unevenly distributed, with key concentrations in areas such as 12 Bodmin Moor, 07 West Penwith and the south coast.
- Policy should prioritise these areas while also addressing gaps in ecological networks elsewhere.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Storm Clouds - Matt Jessop

Introduction

This section examines the key climate-related pressures affecting Cornwall National Landscape, including emissions, energy, coastal change and flood risk. It considers how climate change is influencing both natural systems and human activity, and the implications for the long-term condition and resilience of the landscape. The evidence highlights the importance of adapting to changing conditions while supporting sustainable land management and ecosystem health.

Key findings

The key findings from indicators monitored under this theme are as follows:

- Renewable energy development within Cornwall National Landscape remains limited, with very few schemes approved in recent years and most provision continuing to be small-scale and site-based rather than strategic or commercial.
- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure has expanded and is now recorded across all sections, although provision remains uneven and stronger in more accessible and populated areas. Changes in data sources mean direct comparison over time should be treated with caution.
- Greenhouse gas emissions are unevenly distributed across the landscape, with higher levels in sections such as 03 The Camel Estuary, 11 Rame Head and 09 South Coast Central, and lower levels in more rural areas including 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) and 12 Bodmin Moor. Methane is linked more strongly to agricultural activity, while NO₂ is associated mainly with transport-related sources.
- Carbon storage varies significantly across Cornwall National Landscape, with the highest levels in 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith. Across all sections, below-ground carbon accounts for the vast majority of storage, highlighting the importance of soils and semi-natural habitats in the landscape's carbon function.
- Shoreline management is predominantly process-led, with No Active Intervention forming the main policy across much of the coast and more active approaches limited to locations where assets or infrastructure require protection. This overall pattern remains broadly consistent between 2055 and 2105.
- Coastal erosion is projected to be uneven and dynamic, with the greatest change expected in

03 The Camel Estuary and increasing exposure in sections such as 07 West Penwith and 08 South Coast Western over time, while other areas remain comparatively more stable.

- Flooding between 2020 and 2024 was recurrent and spatially concentrated, with the highest number of events recorded in 09 South Coast Central, followed by 10 South Coast Eastern. Flooding is driven mainly by coastal processes, particularly overtopping and channel capacity exceedance, although rivers and drainage systems also contribute.

- Storms and water scarcity are increasingly important climate pressures, with around 20 named storms affecting Cornwall since 2016 and the 2022–2023 hosepipe ban marking the first such restriction since 1996. Together, these trends highlight the growing influence of climate variability on landscape condition, infrastructure, livelihoods and community resilience.



Wind turbines - Matt Jessop

Wind and solar

Renewable energy development within Cornwall National Landscape remains limited in both scale and frequency, with only a small number of schemes approved in recent years.

Between 2021 and 2025, a single wind energy development was approved, comprising a small-scale domestic turbine, alongside an associated solar array at the same location. This reflects a continued emphasis on site-based, low-capacity generation, rather than larger commercial schemes.

This pattern is consistent with longer-term trends. Earlier data shows similarly low levels of activity, with only one wind development approved between 2017 and 2020, and very limited solar provision over that period. Only one larger-scale solar scheme is recorded within the dataset, approved in 2011, indicating that substantial renewable energy development has been rare within the landscape.

Taken together, these patterns highlight that renewable energy development within Cornwall National Landscape is sporadic and generally small-scale, with little evidence of strategic or commercial deployment. This reflects the environmental sensitivities and planning constraints associated with the designation, alongside a focus on localised energy generation.

Overall, renewable energy provision remains modest and highly localised, suggesting that while opportunities for small-scale installations are being realised, the wider rollout of renewable infrastructure has been limited.



Community Roots Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project, Porthtowan - photo Cornwall Council

EV charging

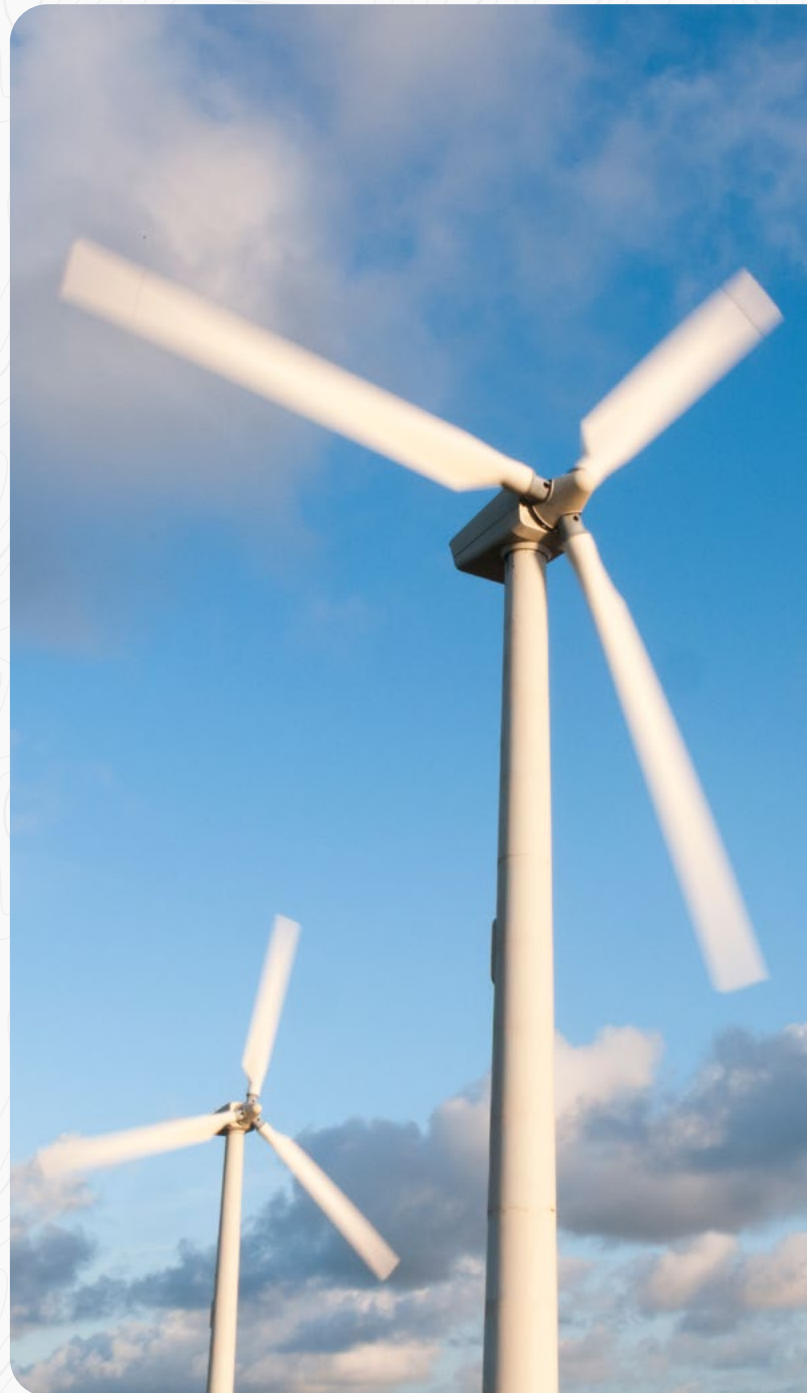
Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure within Cornwall National Landscape has expanded in coverage, although differences in data sources limit direct comparison over time.

In 2021, a total of 33 charging points were recorded, with provision described as limited and uneven, and several sections lacking any infrastructure. By 2026, charging provision is recorded across all sections, with a total of 210 charging points. Higher levels of provision are concentrated in areas such as 03 The Camel Estuary and the south coast, while more rural sections continue to show lower levels.

However, these figures are not directly comparable, reflecting differences in data sources and coverage. Earlier figures were based on publicly accessible infrastructure, while the updated dataset includes residential charging points, meaning the apparent increase reflects both expanded provision and improved data capture.

Despite this, the data indicates a clear shift towards wider spatial coverage, with no sections now lacking provision. This suggests improved accessibility to charging infrastructure, although the extent of publicly available provision remains uncertain.

Overall, EV charging infrastructure appears to be growing but unevenly distributed, with stronger provision in more accessible and populated areas. Continued monitoring using a consistent methodology will be important to enable reliable assessment of future trends and support the transition to low-carbon transport.



Wind turbines - Matt Jessop

Emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions within Cornwall National Landscape are unevenly distributed, reflecting differences in land use, settlement patterns, and economic activity. Emissions are presented as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) per hectare, enabling comparison of emissions intensity across the landscape.

CO₂ emissions show the greatest variation, ranging from 0.34 t/ha in 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) to 1.67 t/ha in 11 Rame Head, with similarly elevated levels in 03 The Camel Estuary and 09 South Coast Central. Lower values are evident in more rural and sparsely populated areas, including 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) and 12 Bodmin Moor, indicating a clear relationship between emissions intensity and factors such as population density, transport activity, and tourism pressure.

Methane emissions are more evenly distributed, although some variation is apparent, with values ranging from 0.03–0.04 t/ha in sections such as 05 St Agnes and 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point, to higher levels in 03 The Camel Estuary, 07 West Penwith, and 10 South Coast Eastern. This pattern is likely linked to agricultural activity, particularly livestock-related emissions, which remain an important component of the rural economy.

NO₂ emissions show comparatively limited variation, ranging from 0.004 to 0.015 t/ha. Higher levels are recorded in 03 The Camel Estuary and 11 Rame Head, while lower values are found in more rural sections, reflecting differences in transport intensity and localised emission sources.

Taken together, these patterns reveal a consistent spatial structure, with certain sections recording

higher emissions intensity across multiple gases. This suggests that emissions are influenced by a combination of underlying factors, including land use, accessibility, and economic activity.

Overall, greenhouse gas emissions within Cornwall National Landscape are spatially concentrated in specific areas, with implications for how emissions reduction measures are targeted. A place-based approach, recognising local conditions and drivers, will be important in supporting effective climate action across the landscape.

Methane emissions: higher levels in the 03 The Camel Estuary, 07 West Penwith, and 10 South Coast Eastern. This pattern is likely linked to agricultural activity.

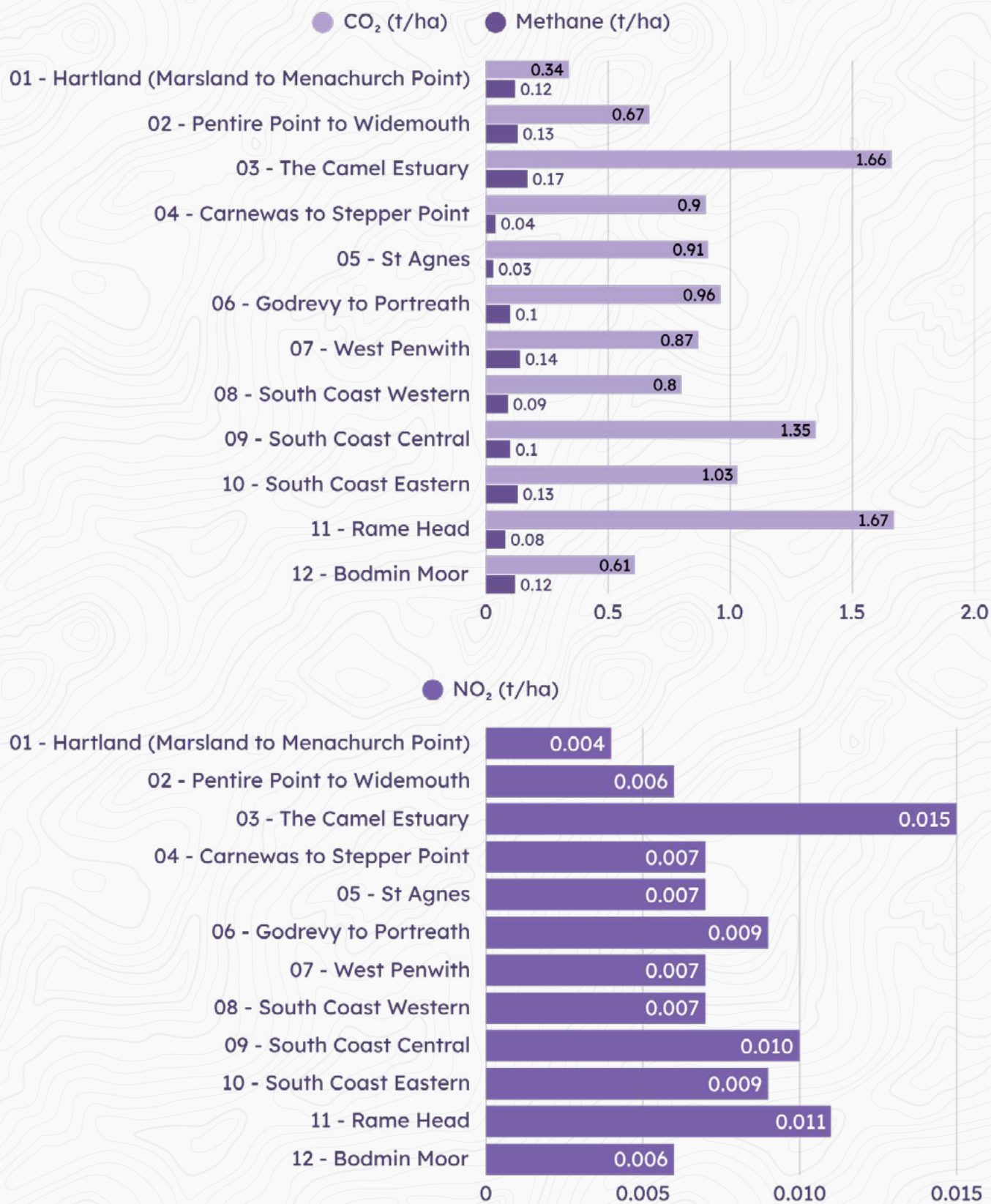


Figure 6.1.1 – Greenhouse gas emissions within Cornwall National Landscape by section (CO₂, methane and NO₂) - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero 2025

Carbon sequestration

Carbon storage within Cornwall National Landscape is unevenly distributed, reflecting differences in land cover, soil type, and vegetation. Carbon is stored both below-ground (primarily in soils) and above-ground (in vegetation), with the majority held in below-ground reserves.

Total carbon storage ranges from approximately 263 to 478 t/ha, indicating substantial variation across the landscape. The highest levels are recorded in 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith, with elevated values also evident in 05 St Agnes. These areas are likely to reflect the presence of peat soils, semi-natural habitats, and lower-intensity land management.

Lower levels of carbon storage are found in sections such as 04 Carnewas to Stepper Point and 06 Godrevy to Portreath, with other areas, including parts of the south coast, also showing comparatively reduced totals. This contrast highlights the influence of habitat extent and land use on carbon storage capacity.

Across all sections, below-ground carbon dominates, typically accounting for over 90% of total storage.

Across all sections, below-ground carbon dominates, typically accounting for over 90% of total storage. Above-ground carbon forms a smaller but more variable component, with higher levels in areas such as 11 Rame Head and 09 South Coast Central, indicating greater woodland or vegetative cover.

Taken together, these patterns emphasise the role of natural habitats and soils in regulating carbon within Cornwall National Landscape. While some sections contribute more significantly to overall storage, all areas play a role in maintaining the landscape's carbon function.

Overall, Cornwall National Landscape acts as an important carbon store, with particular sections providing disproportionately high levels of storage. This highlights the landscape's contribution to climate change mitigation and reinforces the importance of protecting and enhancing key habitats as part of a long-term, climate-focused management approach.

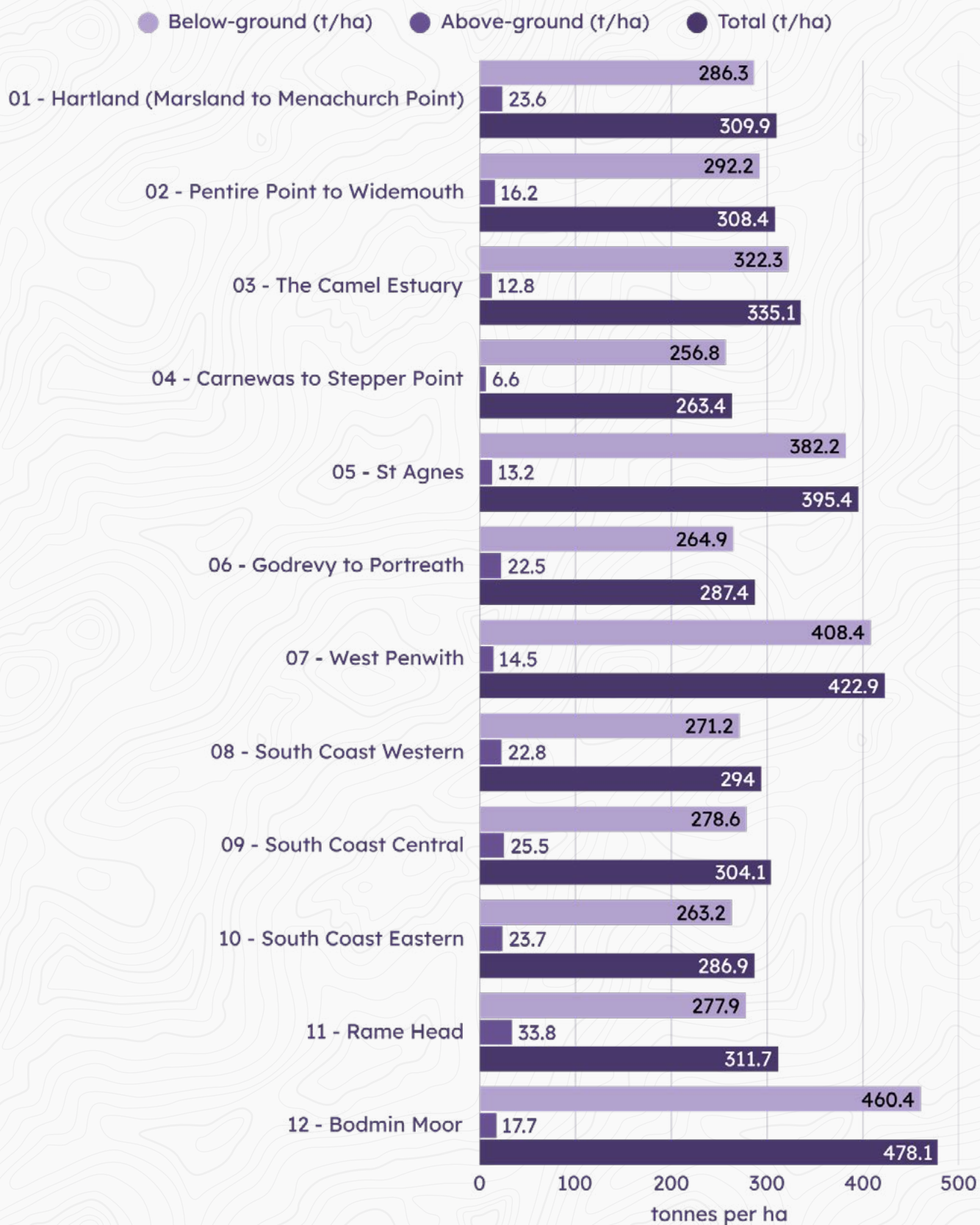
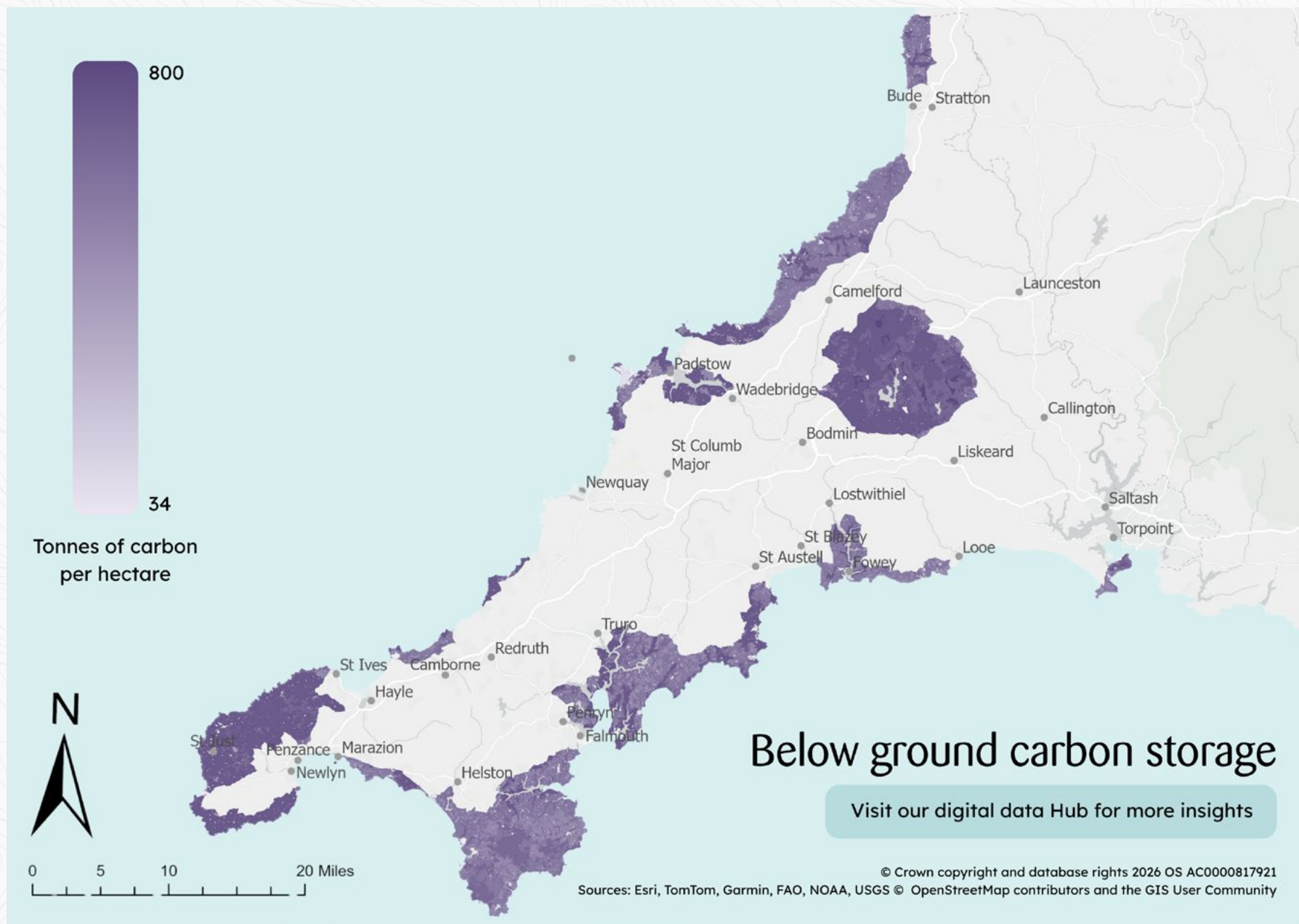
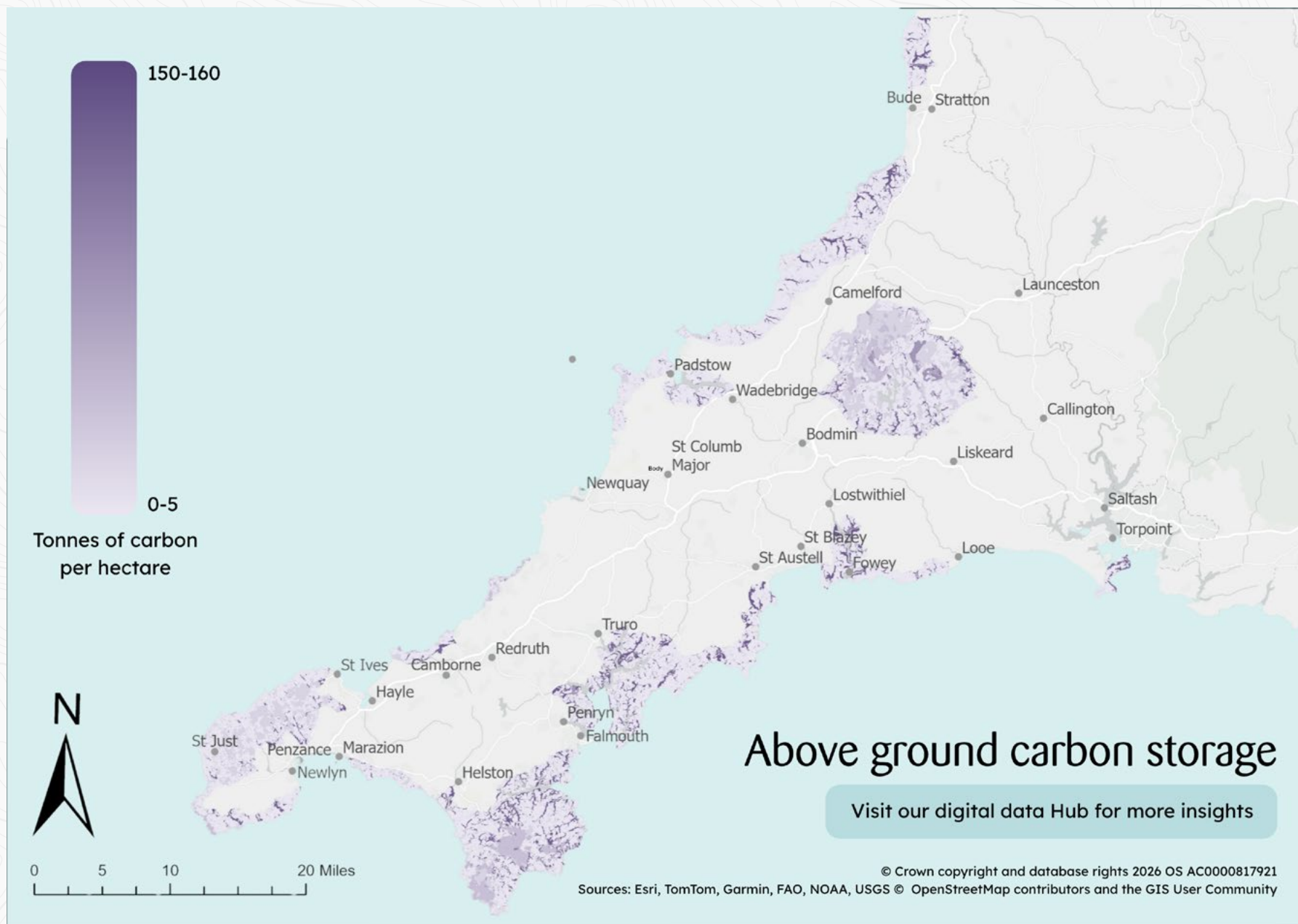


Figure 6.1.2 – Carbon storage within Cornwall National Landscape by section (above- and below-ground carbon) – Natural England 2024





Shoreline management policies

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) policies set out how coastlines within Cornwall National Landscape are expected to be managed over the medium and long term, balancing the needs of communities, infrastructure, and natural processes.

Across the landscape, the predominant approach is No Active Intervention (NAI), reflecting the largely undeveloped and natural character of the coastline. This approach is widely applied in areas such as 07 West Penwith and parts of the south coast, where coastal change is generally allowed to proceed through natural processes rather than engineered defences.

More active approaches are applied selectively. Hold the Line (HTL) policies are concentrated in locations with existing settlements, infrastructure, or key assets, including sections of the north coast, 03 The Camel Estuary, and parts of the south coast. Although limited in extent, these areas play an important role in supporting communities and maintaining critical infrastructure.

Managed Realignment (MR) is used more sparingly, typically in short, targeted stretches where allowing controlled change is considered

more sustainable than maintaining fixed defences. This reflects an increasingly adaptive approach to coastal management in areas where long-term protection may not be viable.

The distribution of policies remains broadly consistent between 2055 and 2105, indicating that the overall strategic approach is not expected to change significantly over time. The continued predominance of No Active Intervention highlights a long-term reliance on natural coastal processes as a defining feature of management across Cornwall National Landscape.

Taken together, shoreline management is characterised by a process-led and adaptive approach, with intervention focused on specific locations where protection is required. This balance reflects both the environmental value of the coastline and the practical challenges of managing coastal change over the long term.



Godrevy Towans - Ian French



Dollar Cove, the Lizard - Matt Jessop

Coastal erosion

Coastal erosion within Cornwall National Landscape reflects the ongoing influence of coastal processes and climate change and is expected to change over time under a current management scenario.

By 2055, erosion is projected to show a highly uneven spatial pattern, with estimated land loss ranging from less than 1 metre to over 20 metres. The most pronounced change is expected in 03 The Camel Estuary, significantly exceeding other sections. Elevated levels are also evident along parts of the north coast and eastern south coast, while areas such as 11 Rame Head and 01 Hartland (Marsland to Menachurch Point) show comparatively lower exposure.

Looking ahead to 2105, this overall pattern is expected to persist, although several sections show increasing levels of erosion. In particular, areas such as 07 West Penwith and 08 South Coast Western are projected to experience more substantial change, indicating growing exposure to coastal processes. Elsewhere, increases are more moderate, and a small number of sections remain relatively stable, highlighting differences in the rate and intensity of change across the landscape.

These projections underline the importance of coastal dynamics as a defining influence, particularly in exposed coastal and estuarine environments. Increasing erosion in some areas is likely to reflect the combined effects of sea level rise and changing coastal conditions, while relative stability elsewhere suggests more localised variation.

Taken together, coastal erosion within Cornwall National Landscape is both uneven and dynamic, with some areas facing significant long-term change while others are less affected. This has important implications for landscape character, habitats, infrastructure, and access, and reinforces the need for ongoing monitoring and adaptive, long-term management.

Flood risk and historic events

Recorded flood events between 2020-2024 indicate that flooding is a recurring and spatially uneven issue within Cornwall National Landscape, with a strong concentration of incidents linked to coastal processes.

Most recorded events are associated with sea flooding, particularly through overtopping of coastal defences and exceedance of channel capacity along undefended coastlines. This reflects the exposure of many sections to coastal processes and storm events. Inland sources, including main rivers, ordinary watercourses, and drainage systems, also contribute to flooding, although less frequently.

Flooding is concentrated in a small number of sections, with 09 South Coast Central recording the highest number of incidents. Repeated events in this area across 2020, 2023, and 2024 suggest a location of sustained flood risk. Elevated levels of activity are also recorded in 10 South Coast Eastern, while other affected areas including 02 Pentire Point to Widemouth, 08 South Coast Western, and 07 West Penwith experience lower but still notable levels of flooding.

The timing of events suggests clustering during specific periods, notably in 2020 and 2023, which may correspond to storm events or prolonged rainfall. More recent records, including 2024, indicate that flood risk remains ongoing.

These patterns highlight the interaction between coastal and inland flood processes, with coastal flooding acting as the dominant influence. The recurrence of events in specific areas further indicates that flood risk is persistent rather than isolated.

Taken together, flood risk within Cornwall National Landscape is both concentrated and recurrent, with particular emphasis on coastal sections. This has important implications for communities, infrastructure, and landscape resilience, and reinforces the need for ongoing monitoring and adaptive management in response to climate change and sea level rise.

The primary causes of flooding include:

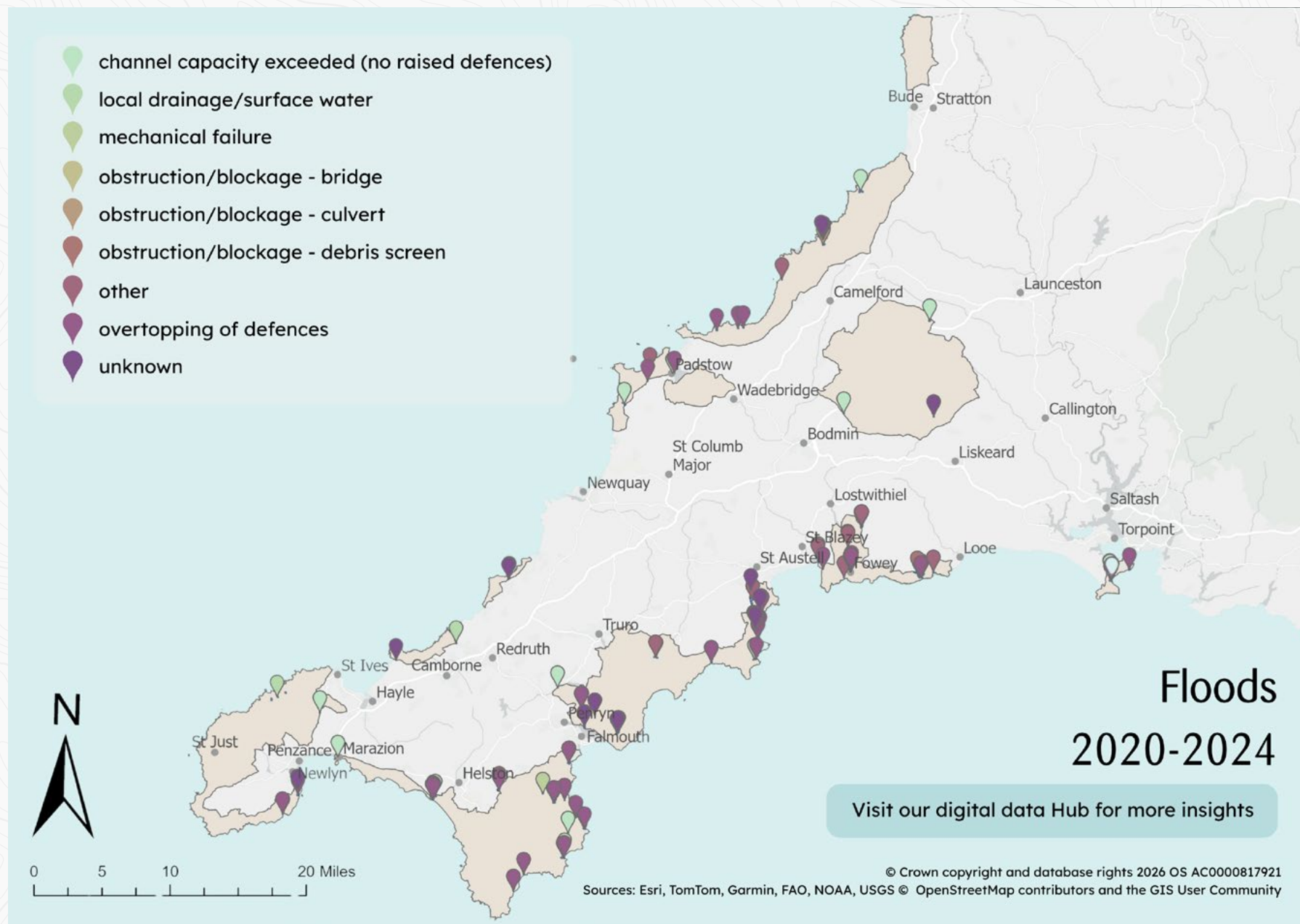
- Overtopping of coastal defences, particularly during storm events
- Channel capacity being exceeded, especially along natural or undefended coastlines.
- Local drainage and surface water issues, affecting both coastal and inland locations.

Section	No. of events	Dominant source	Main causes
02 Pentire Point to Widemouth	5	Sea	Channel capacity exceeded; overtopping
07 West Penwith	1	Watercourse	Overtopping
08 South Coast Western	2	Sea	Channel capacity exceeded; river overflow
09 South Coast Central	18	Sea	Overtopping: channel capacity exceeded; drainage
10 South Coast Eastern	6	Sea	Overtopping: channel capacity exceeded; drainage
11 Rame Head	1	Main river	Channel capacity exceeded

Table 6.1.1 – Flood events within Cornwall National Landscape by section (source, frequency and cause) – Cornwall Council 2025



Fowey - Prawny / Pixabay



Storms

Records of named storms affecting Cornwall since 2016 highlight a sustained pattern of frequent and sometimes high-intensity events impacting Cornwall National Landscape. Around 20 storms have been recorded over this period, with wind speeds commonly between 60 and 85 mph, and more extreme events such as Storm Goretti in January 2026 reaching 100 mph. Storm activity also shows signs of clustering within single seasons and increasing variability in timing, including events occurring during summer and early autumn months.

Storm	Date	Max wind speed
Angus	20-Nov-16	81 mph
Ophelia	16-Oct-17	80 mph
Brian	21-Oct-17	55 mph
Callum	12-Oct-18	74 mph
Erik	08-Feb-19	60+ mph
Freya	03-Mar-19	80 mph
Gareth	12–13 Mar 19	60+ mph
Atiyah	8–9 Dec 19	73 mph
Ellen	19–21 Aug 20	58–69 mph
Alex	02-Oct-20	65 mph
Evert	29–30 Jul 21	75 mph
Eunice	18-Feb-22	80+ mph
Agnes	27-Sep-23	54 mph
Antoni	05-Aug-23	60–65 mph
Ciarán	02-Nov-23	75–85 mph
Henk	02-Jan-24	80 mph
Kathleen	06-Apr-24	70 mph
Éowyn	24-Jan-25	85 mph
Goretti	8–9 Jan 26	100 mph
Chandra	26–27 Jan 26	70–80 mph

These storms exert wide-ranging and interconnected pressures across the landscape. Physical impacts include coastal erosion, damage to woodland and loss of characteristic features such as Cornish hedges, affecting landscape character and local distinctiveness. At the same time, infrastructure is frequently disrupted, with impacts on transport, power supply and coastal access, particularly in exposed and rural locations. The economic effects are significant, especially for tourism, agriculture and land-based industries, where storm damage, recovery costs and disrupted access can reduce income and increase financial strain. Communities are also affected through service disruption, temporary isolation and reduced access to outdoor space, with implications for health and wellbeing, particularly where events are repeated.

Overall, the frequency, intensity and cumulative nature of these storm events reinforce their role as a key driver of change within Cornwall National Landscape, highlighting the need for continued monitoring and a coordinated approach to strengthening resilience across landscapes, infrastructure and communities.

Table 6.1.3 – Major storm events affecting Cornwall
– Met Office 2026



Reed beds, Gunwalloe - Matt Jessop

Water scarcity

Periods of prolonged dry weather have also emerged as a notable aspect of recent climate trends affecting Cornwall National Landscape. South West Water confirmed through a Freedom of Information response that, prior to 2022, the last temporary use ban (hosepipe ban) in the region had not occurred since 1996. In contrast, a ban affecting the Cornwall (Colliford/Tamar) area was introduced on 23 August 2022 and remained in place until 25 September 2023, lasting approximately 13 months (398 days).

The duration and extent of this restriction highlight the increasing pressure on water resources, reflecting extended periods of low rainfall and higher temperatures. Such conditions have implications for landscape character, including stress on vegetation, reduced water levels in rivers and reservoirs, and potential impacts on habitats and species dependent on consistent water availability.

These pressures also affect agricultural productivity and land management practices, contributing to economic strain, while restrictions on water use can impact tourism and recreational activities. In addition, prolonged dry conditions and associated restrictions may influence health and wellbeing, particularly where access to green spaces is affected or where communities experience heightened concern about water security.

Overall, the re-emergence of long-duration hosepipe bans after more than two decades reinforces the growing influence of climate variability within Cornwall National Landscape and underlines the importance of sustainable water management and climate adaptation measures.

Policy considerations & recommendations

The findings set out in this chapter highlight a number of interconnected challenges and opportunities across Cornwall National Landscape. The following considerations are intended to inform future planning, policy development and management.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

- Spatial variation in emissions highlights the importance of a place-based approach to emissions reduction.
- Policy should recognise the different drivers of emissions across rural, coastal and more developed areas, enabling more targeted and effective interventions.

Supporting low-carbon energy transition

- The limited scale of renewable energy development suggests scope to support appropriately sited small-scale renewable infrastructure within Cornwall National Landscape.
- This should balance the need for decarbonisation with the protection of landscape character, natural beauty and local distinctiveness.

Improving low-carbon transport infrastructure

- Expansion of EV charging infrastructure remains uneven across the landscape, despite wider overall coverage.
- There is a need to improve access to low-carbon transport options, particularly in more rural and less accessible sections.

Protecting and enhancing carbon stores

- Significant carbon storage is associated with areas such as 12 Bodmin Moor and 07 West Penwith, which should be prioritised for protection and enhancement.
- Policy should support the conservation and restoration of carbon-rich habitats, including peat soils and semi-natural landscapes.

Prioritising soil conservation

- The dominance of below-ground carbon storage reinforces the importance of soil health and soil conservation across Cornwall National Landscape.
- Policy should support land management practices that:
 - Prevent soil degradation and erosion
 - Maintain and enhance soil carbon
 - Improve wider ecosystem resilience.

Strengthening water resilience

- The re-emergence of prolonged water restrictions highlights the need to improve water resilience in response to drought risk.
- Policy should support measures that improve water retention and regulation, including:
 - On-farm water storage
 - Wetland creation
 - Peatland and catchment restoration.

Managing coastal change and adaptation

- The predominance of No Active Intervention policies reflects reliance on natural coastal processes across much of the coastline.
- There is a need to balance this approach with the protection of communities, infrastructure and access routes, particularly in more vulnerable coastal locations.

Planning for coastal erosion and flood risk

- Projected coastal erosion, particularly in 03 The Camel Estuary, 07 West Penwith and 08 South Coast Western, highlights the need for long-term adaptation planning.
- The concentration of flood events in sections such as 09 South Coast Central and 10 South Coast Eastern indicates the need for improved understanding of the interaction between:
 - Coastal flooding
 - Fluvial processes
 - Surface water and drainage.



Storm damage, the Lizard - Matt Jessop

Responding to storms and extreme weather

- The frequency and cumulative effects of named storms highlight the need to strengthen landscape, infrastructure and community resilience.
- Policy should support ongoing monitoring, preparedness and adaptation to more frequent and intense storm events.

Integrating climate mitigation and adaptation

- Climate-related issues, including emissions, carbon storage, coastal change, flooding, storms and water scarcity, are closely interconnected.
- A more integrated approach is needed to ensure that mitigation and adaptation are addressed together across Cornwall National Landscape.

Overall approach

The findings emphasise the need for a joined-up and landscape-scale approach to climate change within Cornwall National Landscape. Emissions reduction, carbon storage, water resilience, coastal change, flood risk and land management are closely interrelated and should not be considered in isolation. Coordinated action across these areas will be essential to support both climate mitigation and adaptation while conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and resilience of Cornwall National Landscape.

Conclusion

The 2026 State of the Cornwall National Landscape Report demonstrates that Cornwall National Landscape continues to retain many of the qualities that underpin its national importance. Its landscapes remain diverse and distinctive, with a rich cultural heritage and a wide range of habitats that contribute to both ecological value and sense of place.

However, the evidence presented also highlights a landscape under increasing and often interconnected pressure. Climate change, development, tourism, changing land management practices and socio-economic factors are collectively shaping the condition, character and function of the landscape. These pressures are rarely isolated; instead, they act cumulatively, contributing to gradual but potentially significant change over time.

Across the themes assessed, several consistent patterns emerge. These include strong spatial variation between sections, reflecting the fragmented nature of the designation, alongside shared challenges such as an ageing population, uneven access to services, housing affordability pressures and the need for greater ecological connectivity. At the same time, there are clear opportunities, particularly through nature recovery, climate adaptation and more integrated approaches to land management, to strengthen resilience and enhance landscape quality.

The findings reinforce the importance of a joined-up, landscape-led approach to management, as set out in the Management Plan. This requires collaboration across sectors and boundaries, recognising the interdependence of people, place, nature and climate. Targeted action will be necessary to address localised pressures, while maintaining a strategic overview that supports the long-term integrity of the Cornwall National Landscape.

Looking ahead, continued monitoring will be essential to track change, evaluate outcomes and respond effectively to emerging challenges. The evidence presented in this report provides a strong basis for this ongoing work, but its value ultimately lies in how it is used to inform action.

Ensuring that Cornwall National Landscape remains a place of outstanding natural beauty, resilient, distinctive and valued, will depend on sustained commitment, adaptive management and strong partnership working. By building on the insights set out in this report, there is a clear opportunity to protect and enhance the landscape for the benefit of both current and future generations.

This report, produced 2026 by the Cornwall National Landscape team, uses the most recent available data from each source, as referenced in the text. The report is an output from Landscape Connections Cornwall: The Heart of Natural Beauty project, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Visit our [data hub](#) for more insights.

About Cornwall National Landscape

Cornwall National Landscape is a legally protected landscape, whose distinctive character and natural beauty are safeguarded in the national interest. We are still in law a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). National Landscapes have the same protection as a National Park. Cornwall National Landscape covers 12 distinct Sections—around one-third of Cornwall. Designated in 1959, it is vital to Cornwall's economy, environment and community wellbeing. The Cornwall National Landscape Partnership, comprising 22 organisations, delivers a five-year Management Plan (currently 2022–2027) focused on people, place, nature and climate. The Plan aims to conserve and enhance Cornwall's exceptional landscapes for current and future generations. [Cornwall National Landscape website](#)



**Tirwedh Genedhlek
Kernow**
**Cornwall
National Landscape**



About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund is the largest funder for the UK's heritage. Using money raised by National Lottery players we support projects that connect people and communities to heritage. Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. From historic buildings, our industrial legacy and the natural environment, to collections, traditions, stories and more. Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past.

Landscape Connections Cornwall: The Heart of Natural Beauty project is made possible with [The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#), with thanks to National Lottery players. [The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) is investing £150million over 10 years to support large-scale projects that revive landscapes, support nature recovery and enhance the connections between people and wildlife across the UK.

heritagefund.org.uk