





# Continuing to protect Cornwall's wildlife and wild places, on land and in our seas, all year round.

## Living Landscapes...

**An ambitious plan to secure a better future for wildlife and people where nature is embedded into the heart of our lives.**

**Our Living Landscape targets are:**

A healthy suite of wildlife-rich core areas

In June, two Eurasian beavers were released into a five-acre enclosure at Woodland Valley Farm near Ladock as part of a partnership project between Chris and Janet Jones at the farm, Cornwall Wildlife Trust and Exeter University. Within days the beavers started to dam the stream and diversify the wildlife habitat in their new home. Researchers found that after just a few weeks the beaver dams had started to slow the flow of water in the stream, reducing the peak flow after heavy rainfall.

The Penwith Landscape Partnership secured a £2.5 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in December 2017. The five years of funding will enable projects involving archaeology and ancient sites, countryside access, redundant farm buildings, landscape assessment, Cornish hedging, farming and wildlife.

We supported a number of landscape scale partnership initiatives, including the Linking the Lizard project. The Trust manages two nature reserves on the Lizard and works with other landowners to coordinate management.

£50,000 was left by a generous donor as a gift in a will, with £12,000 spent at Devichoy's Wood Nature Reserve, near Penryn, on a new oak bridge and footpath to allow access into Perran Meadows and a woodland management plan which facilitated a local Community Wood fuel group to start a new coppicing cycle.

A Conservation Enhancement Scheme grant of £54,000 was used at Pendarves Wood Nature Reserve, Camborne, to:

- Clear the entire 15ha wood of rhododendron
- Repair and re-instate 675 metres of track
- Replace seven bridges
- Build 10 metres of Cornish Hedge
- Replace 55 meters of boardwalk

**57** Nature Reserves covering **2,032** hectares

A vibrant network of rivers, streams, Cornish hedges and waysides providing wildlife corridors

Our 'Wild' volunteer groups completed 730 days of hands-on conservation on farms including scything, hedge repairs and coppicing, which helped to enhance 37 hectares of semi-natural habitat. In addition, our advisers helped farmers to apply for payments to look after wildlife habitats, which has secured protection of a further 52 hectares.

**2 staff** and **20 volunteers** mapped **30,000** miles of Cornish Hedges

A project delivered by two staff and 20 volunteers to map 30,000 miles of Cornish Hedges, the first countywide mapping of the rural hedges, began. The maps created by the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) will provide a wealth of information for research, conservation and the sustainable management of wildlife and habitats.

The East Looe Catchment Project continued to give business owners and householders ways to protect their bathing water from organic pollution:

- The Yellow Fish initiative reminds shoppers that it's 'Only Rain Down the Drain' as anything else ends up in the rivers and sea
- Innovative changes to plumbing to ensure sewage does not enter surface water drains
- Food producers have pledged to dispose of fat, oil and grease to avoid the build-up of 'fatbergs' which block sewers

**A wider working countryside sympathetically managed for wildlife**

Last year our catchment-based projects supported farmers whose land drains to Drift Reservoir, River Cober, Falmouth Reservoirs, Hayle Estuary, Boleing Stream and Looe and Seaton beaches.

We expanded our work with Tregothnan estate and their tenanted farmers, providing mentoring and support for continued environmental sustainability.

Across these projects we engaged 154 farmers, resulting in positive changes to protect farmland wildlife, reducing phosphate in fertiliser, establishing buffer strips and planting species-rich pastures.

## Living Seas...

**Seas in which wildlife thrives from the top to the bottom of the ocean food-web.**

**Our Living Seas targets are:**

Threatened habitats and species that recover from past decline

This year we established that there is a resident group of 28 bottlenose dolphins that regularly use Cornish coastal waters. Research conducted into the abundance, social structure and distribution of the species in South West England used a total of 3,843 photographic records from numerous collaborators to identify that this is England's only resident population of bottlenose dolphins.

**3,843** records entered  
**192** photo-identified encounters  
**28** resident bottlenose dolphins

Cornwall Wildlife Trust continued to contribute to the effective management of Marine Conservation Zones around Cornwall and influence the choice of future sites. To date, two tranches of sites have been agreed and a third is planned.

2017 saw the worst marine strandings for 15 years along the Cornish coastline with a total of 250 animals washing up dead on our beaches. The Marine Strandings Network has a team of over 100 volunteers who record all reported strandings of marine organisms on Cornwall's coastline. Volunteers continue to develop information about the marine environment and health of marine creatures as a result of the network. An appeal was launched in January 2018 to raise funds to conduct deeper research and analysis to ensure effective action is taken to reduce these strandings.

**A natural environment that adapts well to climate change with ocean processes helping to slow climate change**

Through our Seasearch dive surveys we worked with 27 divers to collect data on 377 different species around the coast. Notably, a pair of *Felimida krohni* nudibranchs were observed near Porthkerris, the first record of this species in UK waters. Large numbers of *Palinurus elephas*, the crawfish or spiny lobster, were seen around all of Cornwall's waters.

During the last year 711 casual sightings were submitted to Seasearch through the ORKS website, of 22 different species of marine mammal, shark and ocean sunfish. Trained volunteers also collected 248 hours of effort based survey data from 31 different sites around Cornwall during surveys conducted by Seasearch.

**711** sightings of **22** different species from **31** sites with **248** hours of survey effort

Use of the sea's resources is environmentally sustainable

Our online sustainable seafood resource, the Cornwall Good Seafood Guide ([www.cornwallgoodseafoodguide.org.uk](http://www.cornwallgoodseafoodguide.org.uk)), continued to be popular with over 90,000 hits to the website and 69 businesses signing up as supporters of the scheme, pledging to provide at least two fish from the Good Seafood Guide recommended list on their menus or fish counters.

**People appreciate, understand and value the sea for the many ways in which it supports our quality of life**

The Your Shore Beach Rangers project has gone from strength to strength, with development and support of new and existing local marine groups in Cornwall. As part of Your Shore Beach Rangers, 577 young people undertook training to become Beach Rangers.

We have increased the number of youth engagement events throughout the Your Shore Network and the delivery of the Beach Rangers Academy, in partnership with Cornwall College.

This year, 211 different events were run through the project, engaging 5,183 members of local communities and 4,227 young people between 11 and 24 years old.

A worrying 129 cases of disturbance were reported to the Cornwall Disturbance Hotline between March 2017 and February 2018; 106 involving seals, 18 involving birds and 5 involving dolphins.

The Cornwall Marine and Coastal group responded to each case and produced positive education material on how to watch wildlife safely.

## Inspiring People...

**Engaging and inspiring our members, local people and those visiting Cornwall to support our efforts and take action for wildlife and the natural environment.**

**Our Inspiring People targets are:**

Provide a diverse range of opportunities for people to learn about, experience and get involved in Living Seas and Living Landscapes programmes

**16,693** individual members and **3,956** child members

Our Charity Supporter team attended 240 events and venues around Cornwall, up from 210 last year. We continued to be active at events hosted at high profile locations including Trebah Garden and Royal Cornwall Show.

Engaging events in the community this year included:

- Hosting the UK Premiere of Ian McCarthy's award-winning film 'Wild Cornwall – Out on the Edge' to sell-out crowds
- The annual Race for Wildlife which had a record attendance this year
- Our Open Gardens scheme saw gardens opening throughout Cornwall on behalf of the Trust raise a record-breaking £12,995

The Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS), hosted by the Trust, continued to promote and improve the Online Recording in Kernow and Scilly (ORKS) system. We are currently developing user-friendly ORKS smartphone apps which allow records to be entered at the point of sighting. Over 22,000 wildlife records were entered on ORKS, contributing to nearly a quarter of the biological records entered to ERCCIS in the past year. ORKS now has 38 local wildlife and Cornish recording groups using their own recording pages.

The Wildlife Information Service continues to be the first point of call for anyone wanting to enquire about wildlife in Cornwall, giving access to the Trust's expert advice and the wealth of wildlife and earth science information over the phone or by email.

Neighbourhood Development Plans are devised at a parish-level and when completed and voted on by the local community they become part of the strategic development plan for the area, helping to steer future development. Cornwall Wildlife Trust continued to work with local communities to help make sure opportunities to protect and enhance wildlife are maximised through those plans.

During the year, we launched two appeals which have received great support from the public. As well as much needed funds, the appeals have also received messages of support from around the world. During the Marine Strandings Appeal, people shared their own personal stories and experiences of witnessing strandings on their local shorelines.

**£8,456** raised for the Protecting Cornwall's Mammals Appeal  
**£11,223** raised for the Marine Strandings Appeal

Seasearch ran 57 events through the project in 2017/18, engaging with 1,489 people and training 84 new Seasearch Volunteers.

**Expand our work with young people to inspire the next generation with the wonders and importance of Cornwall's wildlife and wild places**

Fox Club held 83 events across the year, up from 60 the previous year. Events this year included pond dipping, bee-home making, welly wading, seal school and bird-box making. All events are made possible by volunteers, with 50 helping out and leading throughout this year.

**Fox Club - inspiring children throughout the year:**

**1,272** children took part  
**400** at 30th Anniversary Rainbow event  
**150** at Wildlife Celebration  
**200** at Polzeath Marine Discovery Day

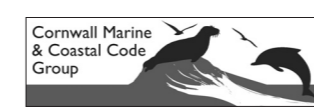
Over 550 parents and guardians accompanied children to our family events.

We continued to engage with educational organisations, receiving Wild Cornwall magazine article contributions from Cornwall College students and welcoming volunteers from Falmouth & Exeter Students' Union's Generation Wild and Exeter University's Business Studies course.

Projects and partnerships include:



Keskowethyans Tirwedd Penwydh  
Penwith Landscape Partnership



**Photo credits:** Terry Dunstan, Michelle Blaken, David Lidstone, Jo Clegg, John Beedle, Anita Shepherd, Adrian Langdon, George Karbus, Claire Lewis, Adrian Langdon, Bob Sharples and Chris Robins. All photographs along the top are featured in the 2019 Cornwall Wildlife Trust Calendar.