



Cornwall
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

'Tir Teg' Cornwall AONB latest e-news - April 2020

(Tir Teg is Cornish for 'Beautiful Land' and the name of our e-newsletter)

A very warm hello from the Cornwall AONB Unit team, we hope you're all safe at home, where possible, and keeping well in these unprecedented times of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Whilst the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) landscape is still looking stunning, particularly in the recent sunny weather we've been having, you may only be able to view it from afar and appreciate glimpses of distant views at present. Following Government guidance, unless you are lucky enough to live within one of the twelve sections of the Cornwall AONB and can get out and about and [explore it](#) on foot or cycle as part of your single daily exercise, then access is restricted as (even a very short journey) by car to the AONB is unfortunately not permitted at the present time of lockdown. In the meantime, you can keep a look at our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for photos of the AONB landscape.

Farms and Footpaths: We also all need to think about the farmers and landowners who are the custodians of the AONB landscape, and if you're out on the footpaths and Public Rights of Way – both in or out of the AONB – please remember to follow [The Countryside Code](#) and keep your distance especially when walking near farmsteads.

Health & Well-being: However, getting out and about in our natural surroundings to take our daily exercise on our doorsteps is vitally important to our physical and mental health and well-being, so just because you're not in the Cornwall AONB, a daily break to stretch your legs and get some fresh air away from your home and garden or balcony is very much worthwhile.

AONB Unit Staff Team: have been working at home for the past few weeks, and have been extremely busy with current work priorities such as sorting year end finance; writing the Cornwall AONB Partnership Business Plan and funding forecast for Defra for 2020/21; planning development consultations are still flooding into the inbox so consultation responses continue (with the caveat that advice is currently being given without a site visit taking place); discussions and initial reprofiling of immediate way forward measures on Wheal Buzzy pollinators project, Monumental Improvements scheduled monuments project, Kerdroya labyrinth project and the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) Test & Trials Farming for the Nation project on the Lizard. The AONB Unit team continue to keep in contact with each other via phone, regular Skype meetings and WhatsApp.

Please keep in contact with us via our emails or ring our direct dial telephone numbers and leave a brief message and contact number and we'll call you back:

<p>Emma Browning - Partnership Manager emma.browning@cornwall.gov.uk or 01872 322350 Jane Davies - Development Officer jane.davies@cornwall.gov.uk or 01872 323998 Jim Wood - Planning Officer jim.wood@cornwall.gov.uk or 01872 322310 Chris Coldwell - Project Development Officer chris.coldwell@cornwall.gov.uk or 01872 327482 Charlotte Goodship - Wheal Buzzy Project Officer charlotte.goodship@cornwall.gov.uk or 01872 322307 Karen Johns - Office and Finance Manager karen.johns@cornwall.gov.uk or 01872 322350</p>
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The Cornwall AONB Partnership: meeting scheduled for 24th March 2020 was cancelled due to no gatherings to be held and the need for social distancing, and the previous one scheduled for 12th December 2019 was also postponed as it clashed with the General Election! So it has already been a long time (Sept 2019) since the AONB Partnership members



last convened together for a round table discussion or site visit! But we continue to have phone discussions, video conferences and email exchanges with our partners regarding projects and other partnership business.

Cornwall AONB project activities: as you will appreciate many of the project activities have been put on hold as they involve input from our very dedicated band of volunteers and in line with Government guidelines, we want to ensure we keep everyone safe and well so that when our normal services are resumed we will once again be able to deliver a wide range of projects that benefit the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Here's an update on what we have been up to over the last few months:

Commenced January 2020 - Defra's Farming for the Nation - Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) – Test Trials on the Lizard

The Cornwall AONB trial is part of a larger trial being run by the National Association of AONBs (NAAONB) called 'Farming for the Nation'. We are one of 10 AONBs in the national trial. Farming for the Nation has some broad objectives which it will report on to Defra. Our work on the Lizard will specifically test three out of the six national objectives.

Farming for the Nation Strategic objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National objectives & local priorities	Monitoring, verification & payment triggers
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrated Land Management Plans	Testing guidance
		Self-assessed indicators for success	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluating collaboration

The Cornwall AONB Trial on the Lizard is based on the establishment of a 'farm cluster' that can work together and with the agencies to better understanding the Lizard's natural capital and ecosystem services. The goods and services nature (natural capital) provides are called 'ecosystem services' which are commonly defined as *"the benefits people obtain from ecosystems"*.

Ecosystem services are often categorised into provisioning, cultural, regulating and supporting services. Provisioning services are the goods and services we physically gather from nature such as food and timber. Cultural services describe the effects of contact with nature on human wellbeing such as recreational opportunities and aesthetic values including related health benefits. When nature has an indirect effect on our wellbeing for example by improving air quality, mitigating the impacts of climate change or reducing the risk of flooding then we describe such services as regulating services. Supporting services such as pollination or soil formation, support the provision of all other ecosystem services we are directly benefiting from.

The Lizard trial will establish a farm 'cluster' to better understand the strengths and opportunities for the management of natural capital and ecosystem services of the Lizard to meet Defra's six key objectives for the new Environmental Land Management Scheme.

Defra's six priorities for the ELMS

- clean and plentiful water
- clean air
- protection from and mitigation of environmental hazards
- mitigation of and adaptation to climate change
- thriving plants and wildlife
- beauty, heritage and engagement



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Covid 19 update: instead of face to face farmer's workshops, we are now starting to hold virtual meetings with farmers and the consultants involved in this ELMS work.

Monumental Improvement

Our Monumental Improvement project is designed to tackle the massive scale of 'At Risk' and vulnerable scheduled monuments across the AONB. Thanks to the Penwith Landscape Partnership, (Cornwall Wildlife Trust – Lead Partner), work is already underway to tackle at risk sites in West Penwith. The Monumental Improvement Project is looking to help stabilise 40 sites at risk and vulnerable across 10 of our 12 sections from Kilkhampton to Rame Head and across to St Agnes and right down to the Lizard.



Redoubt 4 at Maker Heights, Rame Head

The local community and voluntary sector have already risen to the challenge and we have been forming partnerships to work with over 70 groups, organisations and landowners across this vast area.

In addition during 2019 we secured all of our funding for the first development phase of the project, which, once the current Covid-19 crisis has passed, will enable us to survey these 40 sites and run events and activities for local people and our visitors to enjoy and appreciate these special places as well as lend a hand to stabilise them, learning new skills and making new friends in to the bargain.

Thanks to our funders the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England, the Cornwall Heritage Trust, Cornwall Council, the National Trust and the Cornwall Archaeological Society; the many groups who are supporting the project with their time in kind including Meneage Archaeological Group, TimeSeekers, the Cornwall Archaeological Society, Rame Conservation Trust, St Gerrans and Porthscatho Old Cornwall Society, Truro College, the University of Exeter, the Lizard Archaeological Network and the University of Falmouth and our archaeological consultants the Cornwall Archaeological Unit.

Before the impact of Covid-19, with the help of the above we have already cleared three sites at Kynance Gate, Dingerein Castle and Trebarveth as well as supported the Rame Conservation Trust to carry out emergency stabilisation works to a further two.



Volunteers from St Gerrans and Porthscatho Old Cornwall Society, Truro College and Falmouth University celebrating the clearance of the defensive ditch at Dingerein Castle on the Roseland

Wheal Buzzy

Wheal Buzzy is our pollinator project focussing on work to offset the massive decline in solitary bees in Cornwall since the Second World War. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, it aims to support local communities and schools to be at the forefront of this effort, working mainly in West Penwith, North Cornwall and the north-west of the Lizard.

The project has been running since May 2018 and since then we have: -

- Improved nearly 49ha of land with project partners to benefit solitary bees, which has significantly exceeded our National Lottery Heritage Fund grant outcome target of 22ha
- Held 44 awareness events or talks to date against an outcome target of 56
- We have delivered 79 walks as part of the project, which is well on the way to our outcome target of 100 walks but the weekly Bee Healthy Walks have been suspended for the present time due to Covid 19
- Completed our Education Resource Pack, which is now with the Cornwall Council Design Team for finalising prior to uploading to our website and launching with our project partners and schools.
- Delivered 52 volunteer sessions in conjunction with our partners, which has significantly exceeded our outcome target of 30 sessions throughout the project's life
- Achieved our target of 8 Bee conservation sessions, including the identification of individual species and habitat types to partners, the general public and youth groups.



Tamsin Daniel, London and the South Regional Committee Member from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, helping pupils from Trythall School to plant wildflower plugs at a site at St Loy in West Penwith (photo Becky Baker)

Wheal Buzzy Covid 19 update: our outside work and group activities may have come to an unforeseen pause right now. However, the work of Wheal Buzzy continues, over the last few days we've been looking at ways people can still actively take part in the project whilst under restriction. The impact we've made to date has seen emails coming in with pictures of bees' people have seen whilst out in their gardens, or on a daily walk within their local



area, which is great to see. So much so that we're encouraging people to spot nature whilst outdoors, even in areas outside of the AONB. Why not find time every day to disconnect from the news to connect to nature? Time spent in nature has been shown to reduce feelings of anxiety, blood pressure, worry, stress and increase creativity and focus.

We want your pictures of bees, where you saw them, and if you want to have a go at identifying them even better. Either send them to Charlotte.Goodship@cornwall.gov.uk or share them to social media with the #WhealBuzzy.

To inspire you here's a couple of examples. One from, an amazing volunteer at Steeple Woodlands



... I went for a walk on Saturday and the entire length of roadside wall of Una, Carbis Bay is buzzing with what I think must be mining bees. They were smaller than the usual bees and crawling in and out of hundreds of tiny holes in the stone hedge. If you're able to take a walk along there it's certainly something to see!



Another from a walk in an Urban area of this Bumble Bee in the heart of Falmouth

Kerdroya

Kerdroya is Golden Tree Productions winning bid to celebrate both the Diamond Jubilee of the Cornwall AONB as well as the Cornish hedge. The project has two components: -



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- The now completed Community Heritage Project match funded by a successful National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant of £59,000 and funding from the Cornwall Heritage Trust
- The creation of an iconic, hedged labyrinth at Colliford Lake on land managed by the South West Lakes Trust on behalf of South West Water. This larger element is match funded by Cornwall Council as part of the regeneration package for South East Cornwall and in principle approval from Highways England with a successful award from the Arts Council for artwork and digital interpretation.

During 2019, the Community Heritage Project was successfully delivered, which restored 12 short sections of hedge in each of our 12 AONB sections, working with local schools and communities in each area.

Now in the last few weeks funding has been secured from the National Lottery Community Fund for a second phase of this work that includes delivering 62 training places, further school engagement and hedge restoration in all 12 AONB sections and a programme of storytelling walks. Golden Tree are also in the process of engaging an artist(s) to develop a central piece of art for the Kedroya site. Planning consent for Kedroya was also secured in October 2019. See more info and photos on our website <https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/kerdroya>



A section of restored hedge at Pigshill and Clarrick Woodlands, Rame Head, with one of the 12 commissioned plaques produced by the Thrussells, the Bodmin Moor based metalwork artists

Finally, as residents, friends and supporters of the Cornwall AONB, you're all part of the AONB community in Cornwall and we want you to make sure you all look after yourselves during these unfamiliar times and don't forget you can still keep in touch with us by email or telephone via the AONB team emails or direct dial numbers detailed earlier in this e-news or via our general enquiries contacts:

Email: info@cornwall.aonb.gov.uk **Tel:** 01872 322350 (leave a message) **Website:** www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cornwall.aonb/> **Twitter:** @CornwallAONB <https://twitter.com/CornwallAONB>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cornwallaonb/>