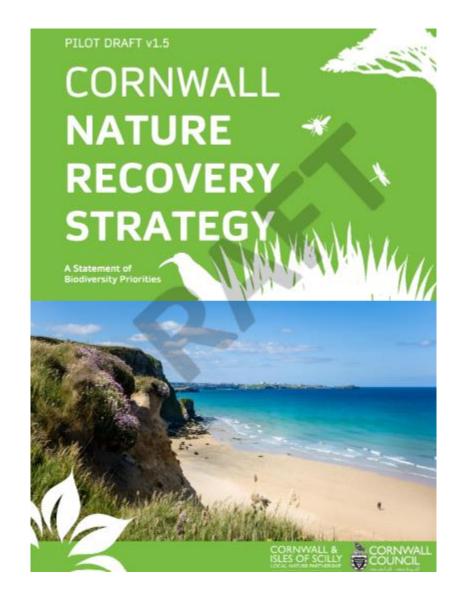
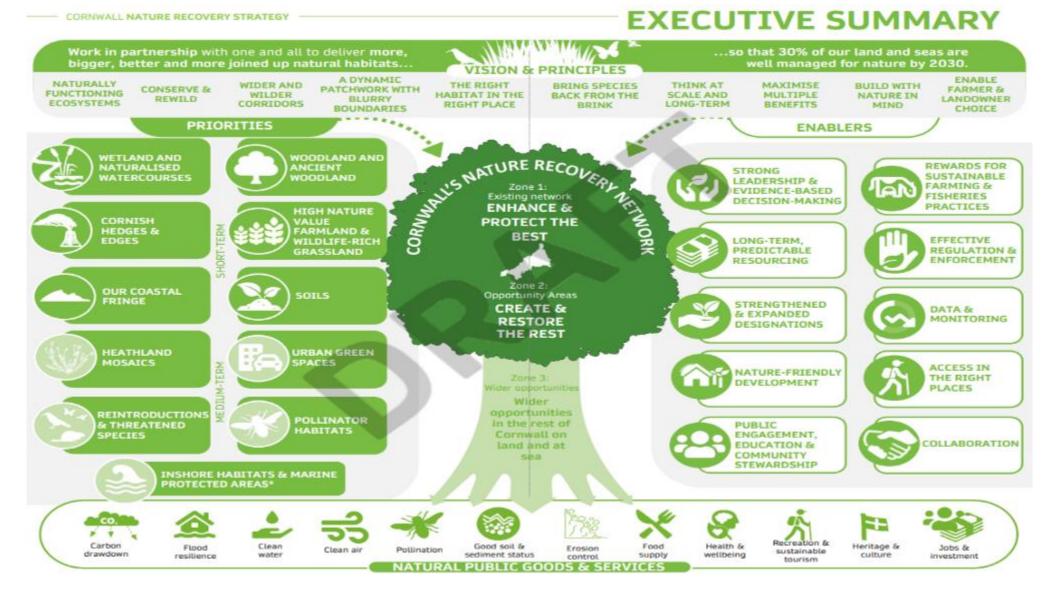


Chance to create a strategic framework for collaboration and delivery. Defra pilot.













# NATURE IN CORNWALL

Cornwall is almost an island - a peninsula extending out into the Atlantic, and distinguished from the rest of the country by the river Tamar to the east.

Nowhere in Cornwall is further than 24km from the coast. This yields an ecology that is intimately bound with the sea – and a maritime climate of cool summers, the gulf stream, mild winters, strong saity winds, and above average rainfall. It boasts a varied geology, diverse soils, and a wide range of habitats and species as a result – from towars to tors, marshland to moortland, and our iconic Chough. Consequently, many areas an nationally and globally important conservation sites.

There are around 350,000 hectares of land in Cornwall (depending on the tide), and almost 200,000 hectares more of estuarine, intertidat and marine habitats in the three miles out to sea. Cornwall hosts diverse habitats shaped by our history- from rugged grassy coasts and intertidal wetlands, to the wild expanses of moons and heaths, or the less natural settings of urban parkland and hedge-bound farmland. With the wildlife they host, they make Cornwall a special and unique place.

Connwall benefits from various forms of statutory environmental protection on land and at sea, along with our Cornwall and Tamar Valley Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) cover around a third of our landcover – with Cornwall AONB split into 12 Sections, and Tamar Valley AONB forming a large part of our border with Devon.

Farmiand is a vital feature of Corrivall's rural heritage, community and economy. Making up three quarters of land use, it covers semi-natural habitats like woodland and heath, man-made features like orchards and ponds, and is dominated by tilled and cultivated fields with boundary ditches and hedges. Cornish hedges ar an incredible network of natural highways that define our landscape.

Comwall boasts a rich variety of features across its rugged and rolling intand terrain. Undulating plateaus are scattered with small copses, rocky outcrops, and mineral-rich old mines and quarries across the rolling moortand spine and beyond. And it is surrounded by a coastal fringe of extensive unimproved grassland and heath, rocky cliffs, dynamic dunes, sandy beaches, shettered coves and dramatic headlands.



A network of wetlands, watercourses and estuaries from the Red River to the Fal also establish an intimate link between land and sea. Often arising high on the moorland as fast streams, they meander through much of the county. On their short journey to the sea they carve deep valleys and flood plains which boast a variety of reedbed, wet willow carr, marsh, saltmarsh, mudflat and ancient woodland habitats. Diverse wetlands of grasses, fens, mosses and rushes also host many birds and vital insect species; from red damselfly to the marsh fribillary butterfly.

North Cornwall has a more open character; with high exposed cliffs, a general lack of tree cover, and more rugged wind-swept terrain – and distinctive culm grassland in the east. The Camel, Gannel and Hayle rivers bear evershifting sandbanks at their mouths. And North Cornwalt's rich mosaic of semi-natural habitats is home to iconic species such as seals, bats, otters, cirl bunting, Plymouth pear and shore dock.

The south of Cornwall exhibits more gently rolling scenery, gentler cliffs, and deep estuarine habitats or drowned valleys rivers – with many steep rias home to broadleaved woodland and rich wetlands. Its milder climate is also marked by large, tush gardens with often frost-tender plants in its sheltered inlets.

Mineral rich, Cornwall's long history of mining means that we also enjoy many important habitats within post-industrial sites too. These nature-rich former mines and quarries are not just important aspects of our heritage, but also hotbeds of evolution as species mutate to flourish in their metal-rich habitats – and home to distinctive liverworts, hornworts and mosses.

The value for nature of less natural spaces for wildlife is also witnessed in the potential of urban 'green infrastructure' like our parks and wildflower-rich verges. Cornwall also retains an abundance of historical features intertwined with the natural landscape, including parks such as Caerhays and Lanhydrock. Similarly, its irregular medieval field patterns still define the layout of Cornish hedges – a green network that is a haven for insects, birds and small mammals.

Our marine waters and our seabed are also an ecological hotspot, and linking us to the distinctive ecosystem of the Isles of Scilly. These waters host a rich mix of habitats like seagrass and keip beds. It is also home to diverse species – from large migratory fish and shellfish, to seafans, jellyfish, seahorses, basking sharks, molluscs and large mammals like dolphins. Our ancient maert beds are also the Cornish equivalent of a coral reef.

13



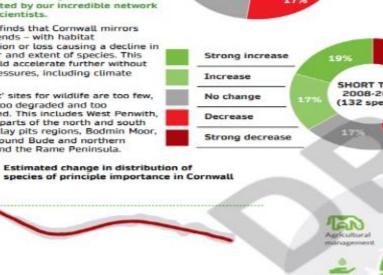
#### CORNWALL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

### THE STATE **OF NATURE**

Nature in Cornwall is not as healthy as it seems, with many areas a green desert with little value for wildlife. Cornwall's first State of Nature report (Appendix 1) highlights key trends for our species and habitats within a generation. It uses data collected by our incredible network of citizen scientists.

The report finds that Cornwall mirrors national trends - with habitat fragmentation or loss causing a decline in the number and extent of species. This decline could accelerate further without tackling pressures, including climate change.

The 'richest' sites for wildlife are too few, too small, too degraded and too disconnected. This includes West Penwith, the Lizard, parts of the north and south coast, the clay pits regions, Bodmin Moor, the area around Bude and northern Cornwall, and the Rame Peninsula.



2020

0 1990 2000 2010 Each new generation perceives

the situation in which they were raised as normal. These shifting baselines suppress our perception of environmental degradation and lower our ambition. These graphs show information from a relatively limited time-span.





Climate change -**Urbanisation** IVERS OF CHAP Freshwater management

Pollution

Woodland

management



# 79%

named to del



erage decline in abundance for indicator species in the UK since 1970

# 0 of 20

### Nearly half

# 93%





Nearly half



# Three fifths



20

19

150

100



### **CORNWALL'S VIEWS ON NATURE RECOVERY**

In the engagement on 'The Cornwall We Want' in 2020, one of the most common themes was 'A cleaner, greener Cornwall with more space for nature' - and many saw tackling climate change and protecting the environment as their number one priority for the future.

Around 700 residents also engaged with us in late 2020 through our nature recovery surveys and workshops, including individuals, farmers, other businesses and organisations. The survey told us that...



### **BEST IMPROVE NATURE LOCALLY?**



#### I CARE MOST ABOUT NATURE BECAUSE ...

	t has its own intrinsic value
	t protects Cornwall from natural hazards like flooding and pollution
	t is important for our mental health and wellbeing
	t is important for Cornwall's heritage and sense of dentity
	t is important for our physical health and keeping ictive
	t is beautiful
	t provides Cornwall with goods and services (e.g. food ind raw materials)
1	t is important for education and skills
i	t is important for Cornwall's jobs and businesses
	t matters to me spiritually

### I would like nature in Cornwall to be...

fundamental importance in a resilient and successful Cornwall Wilder and less groomed Not something that exists "over there, or on the outside" but is invited in, given space, and

People who agreed or strongly agreed that nature has been important for... Physical Mental wellbeing wellbeing 94% 96% According to Cornwall Wildlife Trust's July 2020 Nature In Lockdown Survey

CO

22

Helping nature and wildlife to thrive was the most popular answer to our online climate change survey in 2019 on how Cornwall Council could help Cornwall



#### CORNWALL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

### CORNWALL'S NATURE NETWORK

This section outlines a range of broad opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up. These are opportunities that all of us can contribute to - including our land managers, farmers, communities and public bodies. We have distinguished two broad measures that can be undertaken for each opportunity - to 'Enhance & Protect' or 'Create & Restore'. We already have a network of nature-rich sites that we need to enhance and protect as a springboard for wider recovery. But we need to go further in creating and restoring more sites, extending them and connecting them with corridors to reverse the local decline in nature.

Our prototype mapping system Lagas (Cornish for 'eye') was developed in partnership with the University of Exeter. It identifies existing and opportunity areas for some of the major habitat types. The next iteration will cover more priority opportunities as we work towards our adoption of the strategy.

The maps identify areas to create or restore habitat that will deliver the greatest biodiversity and ecosystem service benefits. There will be a palette of options for most places, so the maps are just a starting point rather than a prescription. Creating the right habitat in the right place ultimately requires sitespecific assessment and steer from landowners.





CORNWALL'S NATURE RECOVERY AMBITION We want to work in partnership with one and all playing a role to deliver more, bigger, better and more joined up natural habitats – so that at least 30% of our land & seas are well managed or left for nature by 2030.

34

#### NATURE RECOVERY PRINCIPLES

Nature recovery projects should aim to satisfy the following principles:



#### NATURALLY FUNCTIONING ECOSYSTEMS

Work with natural processes and cycles – including making space for rivers to meander and coasts to evolve, and reducing inputs of pollutants.

#### CONSERVE & REWILD

Protect our most valuable places and buffer them as a springboard for recovery, and consider a mix of approaches spanning the spectrum from sustained active management to unmanaged natural regeneration of wilder sites.

#### WIDER AND WILDER CORRIDORS

Make our habitats less fragmented with a continuous network of green and blue corridors & stepping stones that allow species to move and migrate.

#### A DYNAMIC PATCHWORK WITH BLURRY BOUNDARIES

Create edges, diverse structure and a patchwork system of habitats; and enable scruffy transitional boundaries like scrub between them that can shift and adapt.

#### THE RIGHT HABITAT IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Ensure that created and restored habitats occupy the most climate resilient and ecologically suitable sites, and they aren't to the detriment of other quality habitats or species.

#### BRING SPECIES BACK FROM THE BRINK

Consider the reintroduction of keystone species lost to Cornwall, and enable at risk species which can flourish to be more abundant and less disturbed – with patchworks of habitats that support their whole lifecycle.

#### THINK AT SCALE AND LONG-TERM

Consider implications and opportunities beyond the site, seek opportunities to collaborate, and plan to enable long-term stewardship for permanent change and effective monitoring (including through citizen scientists).

#### MAXIMISE MULTIPLE BENEFITS

Deliver nature-based solutions for wider benefits, to enable landscapes to be well managed or left to naturally draw down carbon, improve water and soil quality, limit flood and pollution risks, and serve wider health & wellbeing outcomes.

#### **BUILD WITH NATURE IN MIND**

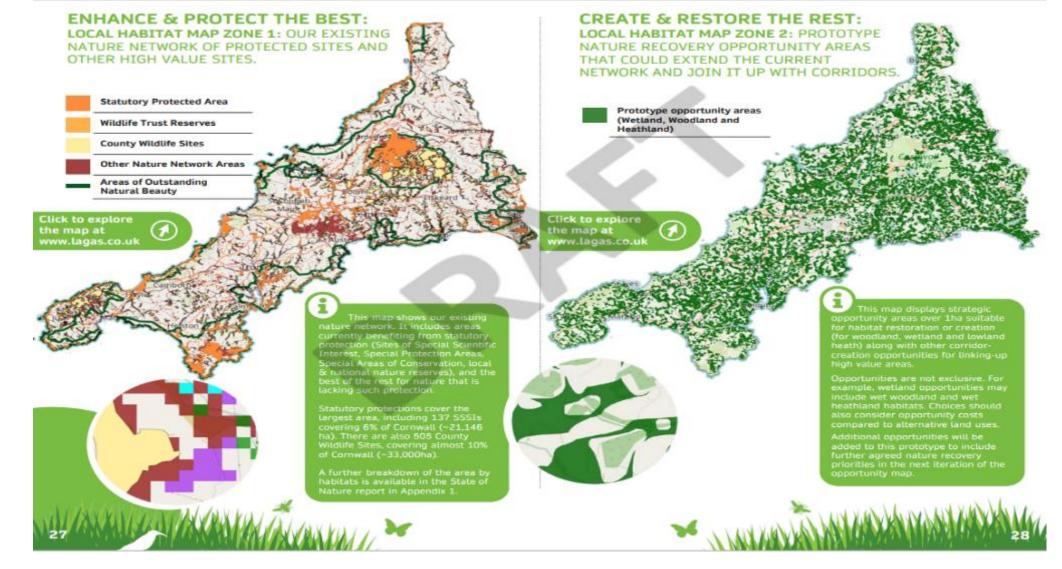
Integrate nature into the built environment, including green infrastructure and sustainable drainage that is sustained long-term – and make space for nature to naturally adapt to a changing climate alongside settlements.

#### ENABLE FARMER & LANDOWNER CHOICE

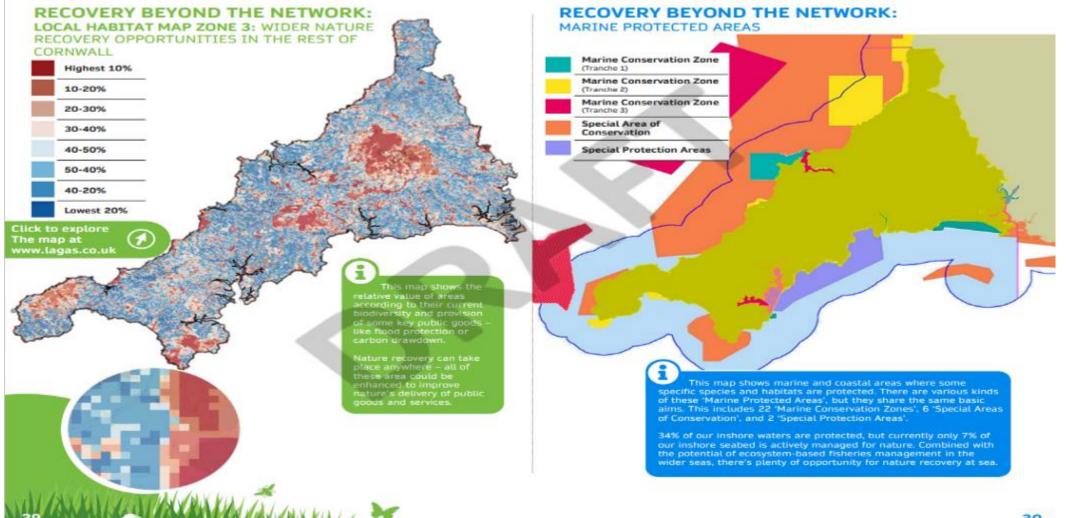
Empower farmers & landowners to make informed choices based on their circumstances and site-specific assessments with a palette of evidence-based options.











Dorset



### HEATHLAND

land and infertile soil. This is ideal for heathland plants (predominantly heather), which support many distinctive plants, reptiles, birds, lichens and insects. But heathland has been other land uses or natural grassland; and heathland species. especially breeding birds, are vulnerable to recreational

moorland and coastal fringe with colour. The largely treeless character of open landscapes in Penwith, Bodmin Moor and our coastal fringe yields acidic and low fertility soils, especially in our commonly characterises the stunning landscapes of our old mining and quarry sites. There is



- 1. Conserve, restore and connect fragmented heathland.
- 2. Boost the biodiversity of specialist heathland plant and animal species and their ability for climate-resilient migration, especially to support rare and at-risk birds, reptiles, and insects.
- 3. Manage the landscape mosaic of habitats, with space for natural regeneration but limiting excessive scrub, bracken, exotic plant and forestry encroachment in established sites.
- 4. Pre-emptively limit threats such as wildfires and atmospheric pollutants

**Click to explore** the map at www.lagas.co.uk



**Highest suitability** 

Good suitability Medium suitability

Existing heathland





EXAMPLE ACTIONS

This might be achieved through a mix of approaches,

- including, but not limited to: Large-scale restoration, including at old mine or
- quarry sites Further joining up and conserving the connectedness
- of the coastal fringe
- Creating space for heathland to expand inland Seasonally limit access to sites identified as important
- for breeding birds
- Pollinator-focused projects
- Projects to increase species abundance or support threatened species that can thrive.
- Grazing management, including on moorland and coastal areas.
- Naturalistic grazing, such as through the reintroduction of wild or semi-wild herbivores (e.g. cattle, Exmoor Ponies, or Bison)

#### Where can you take action?

Our map shows the best opportunity areas. There will be a palette of options for most places, so these maps are a guide - not prescriptions. Creating the right habitat in the right place ultimately requires site-specific assessment for what works best on your land.



#### NATURE RELEWARY PLAN (01/1 2028 -

INSPIRATION We can all get involved in naturals recovery, and there's planty of inspirational activity

underway locally which could be replicated and scaled up to deliver on our embilitions. Cormanuscrons and residents to increditive work for natives, whether in their amountairs, where or writes. Here are and a few approximation area samples. There partnershaps of public horses, to community-jed partnerships and farm-lavel action

### Calstock Flood Defence Scheme

#### **farazion Marsh**

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#### Upstream Thinking

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### FARMERS. FORESTERS & LAND MANAGERS

### options which regist be available to you. Have a bit of what space to they releved your fore the maps on Lages to identify the stepic opportunities on your land. Prior again spectration and logarity and new observations, and are table land-through the prior based. In gain a service in a strength of the prior base or table, in the contrast strength of the prior based of the service is a service protocol and an analysis of the service is a service protocol and an analysis of the service is a service protocol and an analysis of the service is a service protocol and an analysis of the service is a service protocol and an analysis of the service is a service protocol and an analysis. The service protocol and the service is a service protocol and an analysis of the service protocol and the service of the service protocol and the service of the service protocol and the service. ess your site to understand which ortunities will work best for your land. Posticians when helps wire year lengt. The reput is again to be plud quicks. participation and back stars your service concepts upper to respect upper participation of the participation of the capital participation of the participation of the rest had out a what is a starting. Checker your call, spatientary, and we along a survey of plantaria and weblick where to the same operation of the same and weblick where to the same operation of the same operation of the same and weblick where the same and the same operation of the same operation of the same and the same is to first a survey operation. ide how you want the land to be managed future and explore capital and revenue ling opportunities such as through Future mes funds. Consider I and the car incorporate repeterative practices into your bay do-day. Manifolments and whether nos possis out funding for mature magnetic projects. Also explains whether there are any collaborative class for their early replacing will your mighteens for landscape scale projects.

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tart to develop your land managem nd apply for funding.

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### PLANNERS & DEVELOPERS

ZONE 1

ZONE 2

#### BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

Biodiversity Net Dain is designed to ensure that development where success as a measurably percentation than beforshand. Comvet Council a emapy using this for resion development. The ODIRA Blockwarshy Matric measures and scores the quality of healitats to determine whether a net gain is sufficient. Our Nature Recovery Network const held to pirect cavalabreent away from higher value land, and direct offsets for developments in costs 3 towards nature recovery projects in the network.

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20HE 3 - Our current nature retwork - this includes around 25% of land in Control 8, 00TRA Matrix NACOUNT AND

2016. 8 - major opportunities for return - a further 200, of tang where there are the peet opportunities for creating, restaring and anking Zona 1 areas, DEFRA. NETROC Multipler 1.1

2046 3 - the ungest area of Corrwsil, Within this area development with the expected to continue to provide a net gain for theorem and contribute positively to nature recovery, DEFRA Hepric Nutsiplier 1

66

The sames are based around the net gain ranks on the Protetype Legas Messing Parist, with opportunity even to be further reflect to that we rise isolatish reduct allocations or priority broachs. These posterity are likely to support development by providing a clear acts for avoidance, retrigation and contains roadon for impacts on the wildlife. Where not gate cannot be achieved an you is a fast result there will be a factorial name by tasupport projects identified as nature receivery priorities by the strategy. This will be further carified by the Breft Damadi Climate Principle y SPD which will ented the priorities of the Local Nature Recovery Natwork in site choice, desire and layout.

### PUBLIC BODIES





### BUSINESSES Caparty Site offering you. 1 Find the instantization for collection in a second processing in Contract Collection in the contract of the collection of the collectio Party is not shown on the recent **1** -Wiper and a final to ensure part part and explains the mean part by to say what is investigated by your analysis of statements may be taken one can consider on the task shows a strategies between tasks. The part was strategies repeated by the excellence tasks are best the assessed by consult for any state of the tasks the best task and the Consult for any state on the task of the tasks that tasks the Consult for any state of the tasks.

**COMMUNITIES &** 

Konstantsing you coefficially, the strategy should uncell available patients of cations which might be available to you. Materia det stratet

Read the strategy to understand the opportunities and priorities for nature recovery

Explore the maps on Legas to identify the strategic opportunities in your community.

Entire scar percent de detail actes and see whet terms on your det look loost de la seconomiently Ary you in the entrolog with an entered aran apportantly are of Whot is a descent in position practical different waters, equator prought there mays are a starting guide, not a precipiter - are any may want to policy experturities over if

Assess your community spaces to understand which opportunities will work best for you.

Evaluate what part suits your commanity and evaluate if you have suitable prevention of some set of the set may what to your als wath a <u>totax proper</u> to develop a your propert, chase a may grave, or engage your local totar or parters Council.

Decide what project you want to pursue and explore funding opportunities such as our Gro Nature Seed Fund.

Develop an action plan for hervito residentities opports index and values and calculations is your or within your community. Take guidance from our within necessly carringes, candidant hav your projects regist to attend toor in the using terms, and minit calculation you a could inconfor its particle implicit with accid calculations. 999 70



# LNRS – a process for engagement, an opportunity to frame intent and accelerate delivery

- •Engagement public, landowners, stakeholders
- •Baseline and evidence
- •Clear priorities
- •Clear targets
- •Focus on strategic enabling actions
- Spatial considerations
- Landscapes and species
- Urban and rural
- Marine included

