

# All of the coast

Although an ambitious project to cover ‘all of the coast’ of Cornwall, this has been identified as an important area for biodiversity. There are already a lot of projects happening along the coast, it is however unclear how this activity is contributing to BAP targets. To link these current conservation projects and to improve the monitoring could have huge social, economic and biodiversity gains for Cornwall.

The large project area is based on the coastal Strategic Nature Area, and will require a multi disciplinary, varied approach dependent on location. The focus of the project will be to identify opportunities to link, buffer, or expand areas of habitat which are currently protected by designation (SSSI, SAC etc) or at locations vulnerable to fragmentation or loss. The project will aim to work alongside or fill in the gaps of existing conservation projects/partnerships to ensure there is no duplication of effort to benefit this nationally important landscape. A huge amount of work has been done already in terms of restoring neglected cliff-land habitats and encouraging reversion of cliff-tops, much of it on NT land with agri-environment scheme funding. This includes initiatives such as the Chough Partnership and the Atlantic Coasts & Valley Project.

The first stage of this project will be a mapping exercise. Delivery will be via farmer advice, agri environment scheme targeting, RSPB projects and involvement of local landowners and communities. Through improving the quality of a range of BAP habitat types, and by establishing ecological networks between these priority habitats, the project aims to develop an ecologically resilient and varied landscape. The project will work to conserve and enhance habitat and species viability, both as a prerequisite to long-term survival, and also to ensure that species can shift and follow their necessary climate space. Re-creation of BAP habitat behind the coast will enable roll back as the coast erodes through predicted increased storminess and sea level rise and has the potential to improve carbon storage in these soils.

The main lead organisations will be the RSPB and Natural England, with the National Trust and Cornwall Wildlife Trust identified as partners. Meetings have been held to develop this project further and to identify partnership work areas that would support all projects and facilitate delivery.

## Key BAP habitats:

- Maritime Cliff and Slopes
- Coastal Sand Dunes
- Lowland Heathland
- Arable Field Margins
- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland
- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Coastal Saltmarsh
- Intertidal Mudflats
- Coastal Vegetated Shingle
- Saline Lagoons
- Reedbeds

## Key BAP species include:

- Birds – aquatic warbler, corn bunting, ciril bunting, hen harrier (wintering), house sparrow, nightjar, linnet, reed bunting, skylark, yellowhammer, herring gull, bittern, black-tailed godwit, balearic shearwater, roseate tern.
- Butterflies - small-pearl-bordered fritillary, large blue, silver studded blue, grayling
- Vascular plants - early meadow grass, perennial century, slender birdsfoot trefoil, western ramping fumitory, small-flowered catchfly, wild asparagus, pale dog-violet
- Lower plants - golden-haired lichen, pitted frillwort
- Bees - brown-banded carder bee, shrill-carder bee, long-horned bee
- Beetles - black oil beetle and violet oil beetle
- Flies - hornet robberfly



Coast near St Agnes. Photo By Sheila McCann-Downes