

Bodmin Moor Mires and Headwaters

Bodmin Moor is a key landscape area for biodiversity in Cornwall; the aim of this project is to provide a landscape scale approach which will help to connect all the previous projects and conservation efforts within the Bodmin Moor Landscape Character Area. Agri environment schemes will be utilised to encourage farmers and commoners to manage land with biodiversity and economic gain. Recreation, education and sustainability will also be a focus for the project.

Through improving the quality of a range of BAP habitat types, and by establishing ecological networks between these priority habitats, the project will develop an ecologically resilient and varied landscape. The project will work to conserve and enhance habitat and species viability, and also to ensure that species can shift in the face of climate change.

South West Water is introducing a new scheme aimed at 'rewetting' Bodmin Moor to protect water resources for Cornwall. The scheme, called Upstream Thinking, encourages the upland moors to act as a 'sponge' during severe weather events, reducing the impact of storms further downstream. The natural filtering effect also has the benefit of delivering cleaner raw water to water treatment works and reservoirs. This partnership approach to catchment restoration will not only deliver clean raw water but also many ancillary benefits for society and nature.

The Bodmin Moor Vision is a joint agreement between agencies to ensure that landowners receive consistent advice across all of the unenclosed land on Bodmin Moor; it also aspires to reconnect all the communities that use the moor. A map has been produced showing the broad vegetation zones to aim for in the long term; it also highlights the historic resource on the moor.

The lead organisations are Natural England and South West Water, with Cornwall Wildlife Trust, RSPB and the AONB unit identified as partners.

Key BAP habitats:

- Lowland Heathland
- Upland Heathland
- Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture
- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
- Lowland Fens
- Wet Woodland
- Blanket Bog
- Ponds
- Rivers

Key BAP species include:

- Marsh fritillary
- Narrow boarded bee hawk moth
- Otter
- Greater and lesser horseshoe bats
- Salmon
- Curlew
- Reed bunting
- Grasshopper warbler
- Willow tit



Cheesewring. Photo by Jason Smith