

# Linking The Lizard

The Lizard Peninsula, the most southerly part of the British mainland, is a place apart, where a combination of the mild maritime climate and complex and unique geology has produced an area with a distinctive character. It includes some habitats and species which are confined solely to The Lizard, and others which are extremely rare nationally.

Whilst much of this natural and historic heritage still remains, some elements of the peninsula's environmental interest have been lost or degraded in the past through inappropriate development, agricultural improvement and drainage, or through changes in management and scrub invasion. Also, as the climate continues to warm, maybe by as much as +2°C by 2050<sup>11</sup>, the best prospect for maintaining assets such as wildlife and resources on which we all depend, is by working at the larger scale rather than simply managing small sites in isolation from each other.

The main aims of the project are

- To restore, link, and extend the area of wildlife habitat across The Lizard, to safeguard and enhance its position as one of the most important wildlife areas in the country.
- To enhance access in many forms and enjoyment of the outdoors for all, the local community and visitors
- To encourage involvement of local people in all aspects of the project.
- To promote farming and land management on the peninsula which provides clean water and conserves healthy soils.

- To conserve, enhance and interpret the distinctive landscape and rich cultural heritage of the Lizard AONB.
- To support activity that benefits the local rural economy.
- To improve resilience to climate change impacts, and promote carbon storage in soils and vegetation.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and Natural England are already working together. It is now intended to approach the National Farmers Union and AONB team as natural partners with a direct interest to join the Working Group. A wide range of other organisations and individuals will also be invited to get involved if they wish as the project develops.

## Key BAP Habitats:

- Maritime Cliff and Slopes
- Lowland Heathland
- Arable Field Margins
- Ponds
- Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

## Key BAP species:

- Wild asparagus
- Juniper
- Pygmy rush
- Pillwort
- Lizard crystalwort
- Butterflies
- Bats (greater and lesser horseshoe)



The Lizard. Photo by MOD

<sup>11</sup><http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk>