

Truro Development – Growth Point

Truro has become a natural focus for growth in Cornwall, with sites like the Hospital and Truro College all adding to the area to provide an economically vibrant city. The challenge for Truro and its community is to manage growth in a way that adds value to the city.

Truro and the surrounding landscape still support a wide range of different green infrastructure which varies from formal urban parks to Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) of international importance. It is also known to support a wide range of European protected species including dormice, otters and at least 11 species of bats. The Truro and Threemilestone area is one of several important areas of high biodiversity value that radiate from Truro outwards. The river valleys and Halbullock Moor Cornwall Wildlife Trust Reserve are also of high value, and the unmapped hedgerow systems support good areas of BAP habitat. These high-value habitats are connected to other habitats of importance within the wider landscape around Truro such as the estuarine SAC and Nansavallan Woods.

It is key that the biodiversity value of this area is fully recognised by strategic documents including a detailed Green Infrastructure Strategy; which is being developed as part of the City Framework for Truro and Threemilestone. The Truro Green Infrastructure Strategy draft sets out the Council's aspirations to protect manage and improve the natural and cultural environmental setting of Truro and Threemilestone as growth occurs. It establishes a vision for how the City should relate to its setting and describes how the main proposals of

the strategy can be delivered. The main delivery mechanism is through the planning system both strategic and development. It is essential that the principles of Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9) produce good planning design which ensures the continued high biodiversity value of the site, examples can be found in the Biodiversity and Geological Conservation Planning Good Practise Guidance for Cornwall (2007)¹².

The lead organisations are Cornwall Council, Natural England, Cornwall Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency.

Key BAP habitats:

- Hedgerows
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Wet Woodland
- Wood-Pasture and Parkland
- Lowland Fens

Key BAP species:

- Bats
- Otters
- Hedgehog
- Dormouse
- House sparrow
- Slow worm
- Grass snake
- Adder
- Invertebrates



Coosebean. Photo by Steve Hartgroves, Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service

¹²www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/conservation/Planning_advice_cornwall_wildlife