



**Cornwall  
Wildlife Trust**



# STATE OF NATURE

**CORNWALL 2020**





# Since the late 80s in **CORNWALL:**



SINCE THE 1970s...



# 41%

of UK species have  
**DECLINED**



**NEARLY  
HALF**  
of terrestrial  
mammals are  
found in  
**fewer places**



**NEARLY  
HALF**  
of breeding birds  
have **declined**



**THREE  
FIFTHS**  
of butterflies  
are found in  
**fewer places**

Species in decline  
include:



**-32%**  
Weasel



**-51%**  
Badger



**-28%**  
Skylark



**-22%**  
Chaffinch



**-67%**  
Wall  
Butterfly

# Cornwall – our land and sea:

AGRICULTURAL LAND

**74.4%**

WOODLAND AND SCRUB

**9.9%**

MOORLAND, UPLAND  
& HEATHLAND

**5.7%**

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

**5.5%**

TRANSPORT

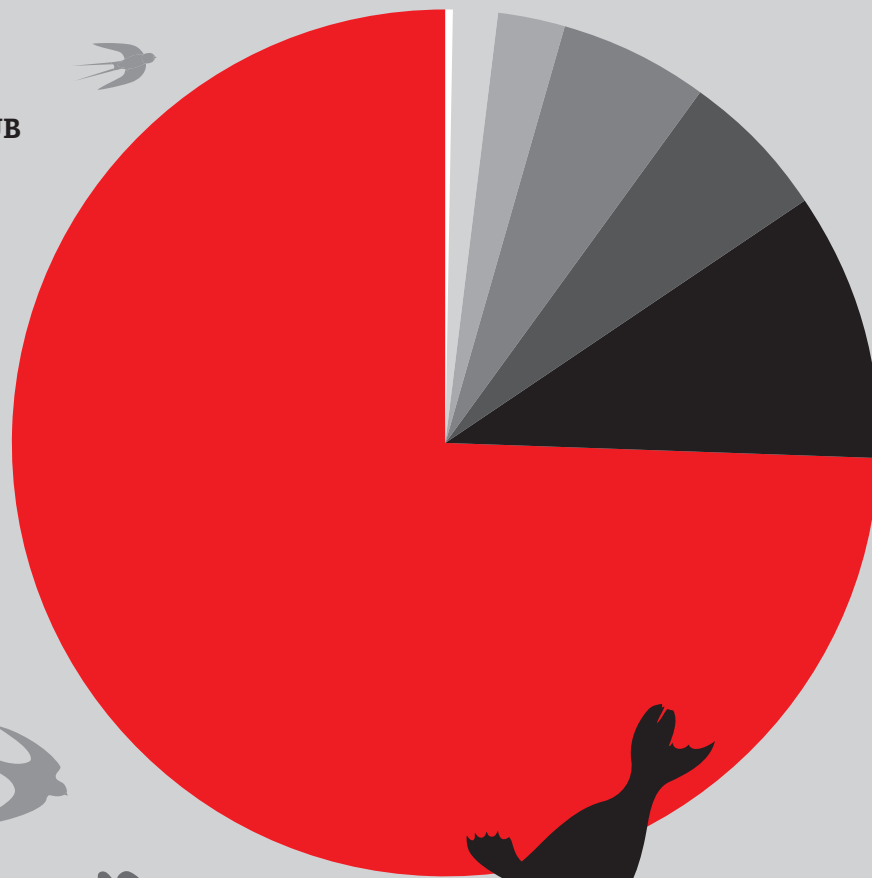
**2.4%**

WATERWAYS &  
WETLANDS

**1.8%**

OTHER

**0.3%**



Cornwall covers  
**3547 km<sup>2</sup>**  
and has  
**697 km**  
of coastline

**13%**  
of land has  
**STATUTORY  
PROTECTION**

Cornwall has more than  
**48,000 km** OF HEDGES

**1.7%**  
of land is a  
**NATURE  
RESERVE**

Ancient  
woodland  
covers  
**2%**

Rivers  
cover  
**0.3%**

**GRASSLAND** covers over  
**50%** of Cornwall -  
that's almost  
**185,500ha**



# Nature is under threat:

## CLIMATE

In the last  
**34 YEARS**  
the average number of  
**DAYS WITH FROST**  
has fallen from

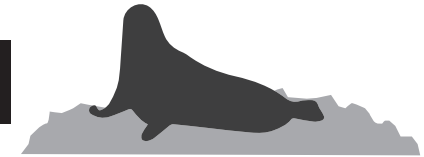
**10** DOWN TO **3**



The Kittiwake  
has seen a  
**57% DECLINE**  
in breeding pairs  
in part **due**  
to altering  
climate

## DEVELOPMENT

Cornwall's  
**(HUMAN)  
POPULATION**  
is estimated to have  
**INCREASED**  
BY OVER  
**12%**  
(2002-2019)



Reported seal  
disturbance  
has more than  
**DOUBLED**  
over the last  
**nine years**  
(2011-19)

**152km**  
of hedgerow and  
Cornish hedge **lost**

## AGRICULTURE



There is a  
**30% DECLINE**  
in farmland bird species  
in Cornwall (1994 – 2019)



**Butterflies**  
associated with  
farmland are  
**DECREASING**



# Nature is under threat:

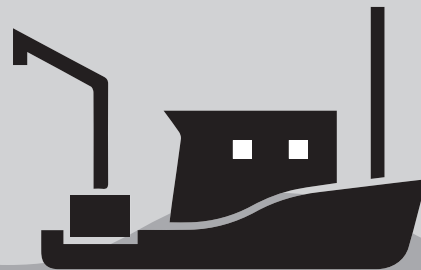
## FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT



Just **24%** OF OUR RIVERS and only **15%** OF OUR LAKES have a good status for their wildlife (2019)



**SALMON AND EEL** are in significant **DECLINE**



## FISHERIES

In 2019 **75%**  **FISH LANDED HERE** were from **unsustainably managed stocks**

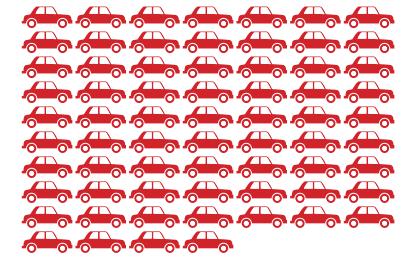
**ONLY 7%** of the **SEABED** has measures in place to **prevent harmful human activity** (2019)

## POLLUTION

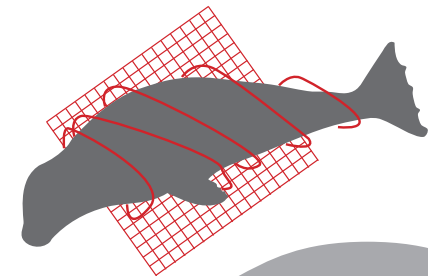
**80,000 kg** **RUBBISH** = removed from **Cornish beaches** in 2019...



...this is equivalent to **67 small cars**



**104 Seals** (2019) **entangled with marine litter**



In 2019 **27%** of reported **DOLPHIN AND SEAL STRANDINGS** showed signs of being **caught unintentionally by fishing activity**



# There is good news:



**17,000**  
OF PEOPLE



are members  
of Cornwall  
Wildlife Trust

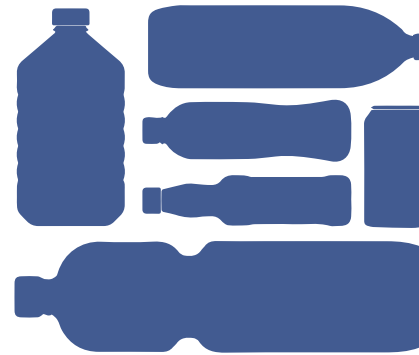
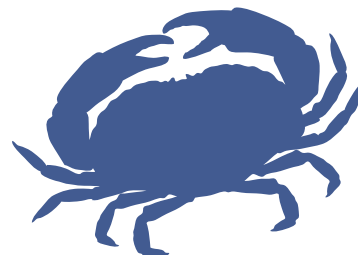
**75%**  
OF PEOPLE  
value nature  
more NOW  
than pre-COVID



**Wildlife**  
can recover  
quickly

Species, like the **Cornish chough**, are back from the **edge of local extinction**

In 2019  
**34%**  
of our inshore waters  
was within a  
**MARINE  
PROTECTED AREA**



In 2019, over  
**100,000**  
volunteer hours  
were spent removing  
plastics from our  
environment



Locally  
extinct species  
such as **water vole**,  
**cirl bunting** and  
**beaver** have been  
**REINTRODUCED**

## There are many ways to help nature...

### INDIVIDUALS



Consume responsibly – buy less and buy sustainably

### LANDOWNERS





Make space for nature on farmland, in urban areas and in gardens

### DECISION MAKERS



Put nature recovery at the heart of political and economic decision making



Together we can  
bring Nature back.  
To get the full report  
and to learn more  
about our work 

**STATE OF NATURE**  
**CORNWALL 2020**

**The State of Nature in Cornwall report is a collaboration between Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Cornwall Council and the University of Exeter. Additional contributors are detailed in the full report.**

Information shown in this document is taken from best available evidence.



**Cornwall  
Wildlife Trust**

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**CORNWALL  
COUNCIL**  
*one and all - onen hag oll*

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