



**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**



**CORNWALL
COUNCIL**
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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

STATE OF NATURE
CORNWALL 2020

Species in decline
include:



-32%
Weasel



-51%
Badger



-28%
Skylark



-22%
Chaffinch



-67%
Wall
Butterfly

Cornwall – our land and sea:

STATE OF NATURE
CORNWALL 2020

AGRICULTURAL LAND

74.4%

WOODLAND AND SCRUB

9.9%

MOORLAND, UPLAND
& HEATHLAND

5.7%

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

5.5%

TRANSPORT

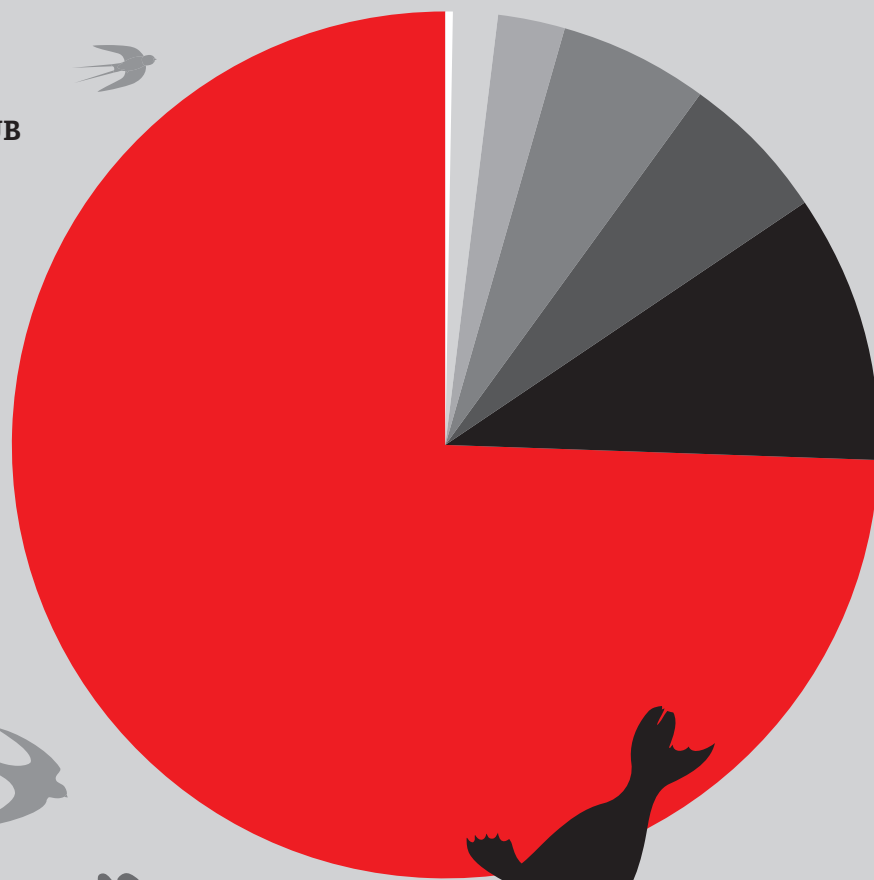
2.4%

WATERWAYS &
WETLANDS

1.8%

OTHER

0.3%



Cornwall covers
3547 km²
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

There is over
120ha
OF COASTAL
SALT MARSH

There is over
2400ha
OF MAERL
BEDS
the equivalent of
tropical reefs

Nature is under threat:

STATE OF NATURE
CORNWALL 2020

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**

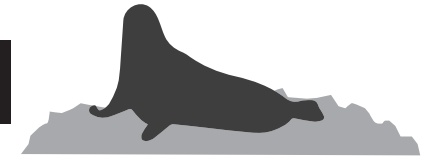
is estimated to have

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



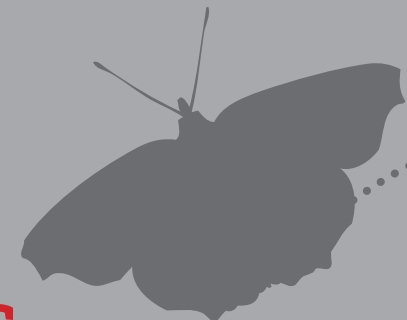
There is a

**30%
DECLINE**

in farmland bird species
in Cornwall (1994 – 2019)



Butterflies
associated with
farmland are
DECREASING



Nature is under threat:

STATE OF NATURE
CORNWALL 2020

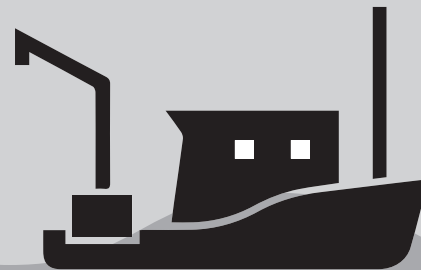
FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT



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 2020
31%
FISH LANDED (by value)
to Cornish ports **were not
recommended as sustainable**

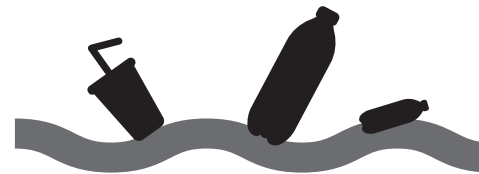


**ONLY
7%** of the **SEABED**
has measures in place
to **prevent harmful
human activity** (2019)

POLLUTION

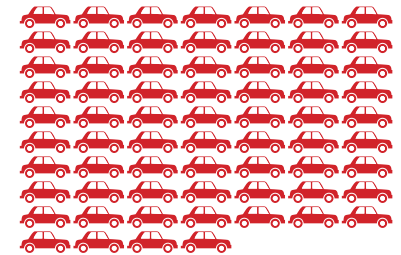
80,000 kg
RUBBISH

removed from **Cornish
beaches in 2019...**

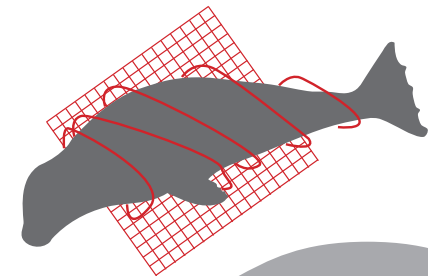


...this is equivalent to

= 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:



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**

17,000
OF PEOPLE



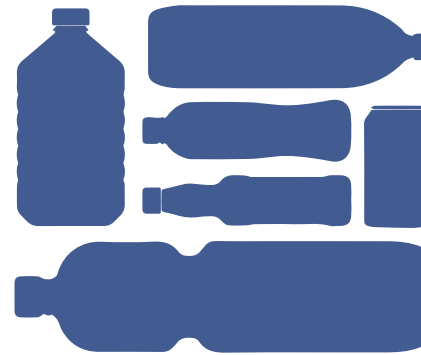
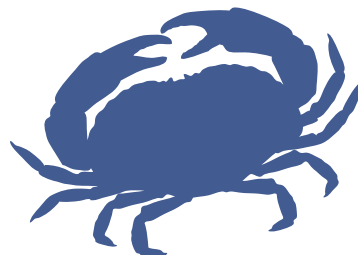
are members
of Cornwall
Wildlife Trust

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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