

Cornwall Catchment Partnership: Our Ambition to 2025

Working to secure a sustainable, clean water environment throughout Cornwall for people and wildlife – a responsibility shared by one and all.



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1. Introduction

Our water environment is essential to our quality of life. We need to protect and enhance rivers and groundwater as systems which means thinking about them from source to estuary, and all the places in between. The Cornwall Catchment Partnership (CCP) is committed to working collaboratively with key partners and stakeholders on priority catchment issues, working across themes to deliver integrated catchment management.

The Partnership acts as a focal point for wider strategic catchment based activity with the intention of encouraging the catchment-based approach (CaBA) in all appropriate areas of planning, development and resource management throughout Cornwall. This document sets out the path that the Cornwall Catchment Partnership intends to take and identifies **climate change** as the key cross-cutting theme with the Cornwall Catchment Partnership supporting delivery of appropriate actions at the catchment level.

2. Background

The concept of working in collaboration through catchment based partnerships is not new to Cornwall with the County being home to the Loe Pool Forum which was founded in 1996 by the National Trust.

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership was established in 2014 and collaborative working sits at the heart of the Partnership's approach as a key mechanism to better integrate decision making and 'on the ground' delivery in relation to water and the environment. Since 2014 the Partnership has established itself as a catchment focussed group, developing strategic links with the Local Nature Partnership (CIOSLNP), Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the Health and Well-being Board (HWBB) and Cornwall Council.

Through a catchment based approach, people can be brought together to decide what they want from our river catchments and the best and most sustainable way to use, manage and pay for our valuable local resources.

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership covers two management catchments, 'West Cornwall and the Fal' and 'North Cornwall, Looe, Seaton and Fowey'. Within these two management catchments there are ten operational catchments as shown in Figure 1 below.

The topography of Cornwall is such that the operational catchments are characterised by a diversity of water bodies, with 104 classified Water Framework Directive (WFD) surface water bodies all of which, due to their proximity to the sea, have an impact on coastal waters and the marine environment.

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Figure 1: Map showing Operational Catchments covered by Cornwall Catchment Partnership



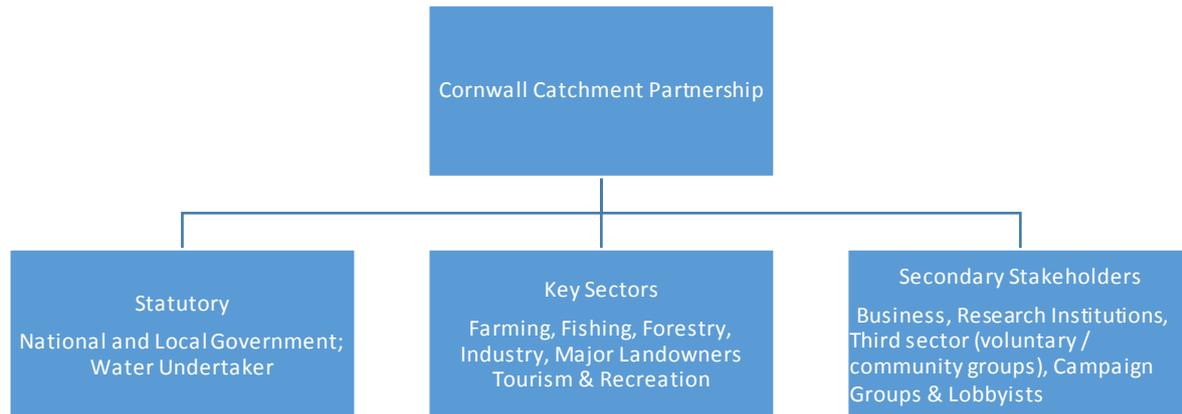
Both of the CCP's management catchments are largely rural in nature with tourism and farming of particular importance to the local economy. There are historic impacts to the water environment from mining but there are also current water quality issues, including but not limited to: slurry, chemicals and soil runoff associated with farming practices; risks associated with sewage; and runoff from urban areas. In 2019 only 26% of waterbodies were assessed as being at Good Ecological Status under the Water Framework Directive highlighting the need for more to be done to protect our rivers, lakes and coastal water bodies. Parts of the West Cornwall & Fal and North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe & Fowey management catchments are designated as Special Sites of Scientific Interest, European designated sites, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and we also have the highest proportion of designated bathing waters in England.

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership currently consists of seventeen members representing a range of different organisations and sectors across Cornwall (details of the Partnership are contained in Appendix 1). Members act to represent their sector rather than their organisation and all have an interest in and an influence over the management of Cornwall's water environment. In essence, the catchment partnership enables members to come together in a collective compromise balancing land use and engaging people to protect and enhance our water environment.

Whilst maintaining its core membership for strategic alignment the Cornwall Catchment Partnership will extend its field of influence through associate membership to ensure that its influence is far reaching and the environment is valued by business and communities.

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Figure 2: Make-up of the Catchment Partnership.



3. Strategic links

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership (CCP) works strategically across Cornwall to mainstream and embed a catchment approach to improve the water environment within the operations and activities of all stakeholders, working through its member organisations to make key plans and strategies more accessible, relevant at a local level and to align funding streams.

Through its membership, the CCP, with its focus on the water environment, has strategic links with the **Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership (CIOSLNP)** who are working to maintain the special and unique environment of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The CIOSLNP's remit is to consider the environment in its broadest sense and draws expertise from a wide range of sectors, including the environment, health and wellbeing, education, and the economy. The CIOSLNP has strong links with the economic sector, via the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnerships and the two Health and Wellbeing Boards in Cornwall.

The CCP seeks to extend its influence on these strategic partnerships acting to deliver a catchment response to climate change in Cornwall, with a specific focus on the water environment. This will be achieved through joint working with the Chair of the Local Nature Partnership who in turn has close links with the Chairs of the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Health and Well-being Boards. By taking this approach the Cornwall Catchment Partnership will ensure that its work has multiple benefits across the economic and health and well-being sectors.

The CCP also has strong ties with our neighbouring partnership, the Tamar Catchment Partnership, who have oversight of those Tamar operational catchments which fall within Cornwall. Taking this approach further, links have also been established with other partnerships across the South West and the CCP actively collaborates on regional projects such as the Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance (DCSA).

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Nationally the CCP is part of CaBA's Catchment Based Approach, one of fifty eight CaBA designated river catchment partnerships that are active across England. The CCP is also a member of The River Restoration Centre (RRC).

Key influencing strategies for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

3.1 National Framework

Since the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union there has been a raft of new legislation working its way through parliament. This includes two key pieces of legislation which, if brought into law, will influence the work of the CCP and its member organisations. These are the Environment Bill and the Agriculture Bill.

The Environment Bill 2020

The Environment Bill sets out how the Government plans to protect and improve the natural environment in the UK. It will act as one of the key vehicles for delivering the 25 Year Environment Plan and sets the domestic framework for environmental governance, helping to deliver the government's commitment to be 'the first generation to leave our environment in a better state'.

The Agriculture Bill 2020

The Agricultural Bill sets out the framework for moving away from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the introduction of a new environmental land management system (E.L.M.S), where farmers are rewarded with public money for public goods, such as improving air and water quality and providing habitats for wildlife. If introduced, E.L.M.S will be a profound change for the farming community in Cornwall and could lead to some real opportunities to deliver nature recovery. However, there are also challenges for the farming community in relation to this change, including security of funding, the level of funding received and consistency of policy changes. The CCP is committed to supporting the farming community in taking advantage of these opportunities so that natural capital can become a real part of their economic business model whilst at the same time supporting sustainable and profitable food production within a farmed environment.

25 Year Environment Plan

The UK government's 25 Year Environmental Plan sets out goals for improving the environment within a generation, setting the aspiration to improve the UK's air and water quality, to protect and enhance threatened plants, trees and wildlife species. The plan makes specific reference to; Clean Air, Clean and Plentiful Water, Thriving Plants and Wildlife, Environmental Hazard Risk Reduction, Sustainable and Efficient Use of Natural Resources, Enhanced Beauty, Heritage and Engagement, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Waste Reduction, Managing Exposure to Chemicals and Enhancing Biosecurity. It sets a target for clean and plentiful water in at least three quarters of the UK's waters (defined as being close to their natural state), specifies the need for land use decisions which reflect the level of current and future flood risk (and drought resilience), the importance of sustainable soils management as well as a commitment to improve bathing water quality.

The CCP supports the Government's ambition to help the natural world regain and retain good health as well as the aims of delivering cleaner air and water in our urban and rural areas, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats.

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3.2 Regional Framework

South West River Basin Management Plan (SWRBMP)

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership develops projects which support delivery of the SWRBMP, working to:

- Prevent deterioration of watercourses;
- Contribute to protected area objectives;
- Maintain and enhance water quality and habitat for ecology in and around watercourses to secure good status in the highest number of water bodies and the highest number of elements;
- Reduce wildlife impact of man-made structures in the watercourse;
- Reduce impact of diffuse and point source pollution (agriculture, domestic, industry);
- Control invasive species (Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed).

South West Flood Risk Management Plan (SWFRMP)

The SWFRMP works to a 6-year planning cycle and explains the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs, setting out how risk management authorities (Cornwall Council and Environment Agency) will work with communities to manage flood and coastal risk over the next 6 years. Measures for the SWFRMP have been developed under the following categories:

1. Prevention
2. Protection
3. Preparedness
4. Recovery & Review
5. Other

The SWFRMP is being developed alongside the South West river basin management plan so that flood defence schemes can provide wider environmental benefits. Both flood risk management and river basin planning form an important part of a collaborative and integrated approach to catchment planning for water.

3.3 Local Framework

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (FRMP)

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Cornwall sets out how Cornwall Council and its partner authorities intend to work together to manage flood risk from all sources.

The vision for the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is the creation of a resilient Cornwall, able to adapt to the challenges and opportunities of a changing climate.

The flood risk management commitment for Cornwall is to develop our natural environment to create climate change adaptation solutions that build resilient communities and encourage environmental growth.

This vision for managing flood risks in Cornwall is underpinned by six overarching and crosscutting themes:

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- A. Partnership
- B. Resilient Communities
- C. Development planning and regeneration
- D. Working with natural processes
- E. Prioritising and funding
- F. Multiple benefits

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership develops projects which support delivery of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP).

Cornwall Council's Environmental Growth Strategy

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership is overseeing the implementation of Cornwall's Environmental Growth Strategy which aims to put environmental growth at the heart of decisions and actions around increasing functions, processes, goods and services produced by the natural environment. This important strategic document will itself guide the work of Cornwall Council and its stakeholders and partners in implementing national and EU directives, including the Water Framework Directive. The Environmental Growth Strategy provides the link to Cornwall Council, the growth agenda, built environment and the economic investment.

Cornwall's Nature Recovery Network and Local Nature Recovery Strategy

An important component of environmental growth recognises the need for nature recovery. Cornwall's [State of Nature Report](#) provides evidence to show that nature is in decline in Cornwall, mirroring national trends. Agriculture and development are seen as having the greatest negative impact on Cornwall's terrestrial wildlife, whilst overfishing and pollution pose the most significant threat to our seas. The lead organisation responsible for overseeing nature recovery delivery in Cornwall is the Local Nature Partnership who are well placed to strategically map and drive forward the integration and delivery of Nature Recovery Networks due to their cross sector representation of influential organisations. The CCP have a contributory role in promoting Cornwall's Nature Recovery Network as a joined up network of catchment defined habitats where people and nature can thrive and in which a catchment based approach has an integral role.

Data, information and mapping all have important roles to play in identifying the best opportunities to deliver nature recovery in Cornwall. [Lagas](#) (Cornish for eye) is under development as an information system to support Cornwall's Environmental Growth Strategy and will form the basis of Cornwall's Nature Recovery Network. Lagas aims to assist in the development of new economic and environmental opportunities in line with Cornwall's environmental growth vision helping embrace environmental intelligence to guide businesses, planners and the public to supporting decisions relating to the protection and enhancement of our natural assets toward achieving environmental net gain.

Cornwall Council is leading one of five pilot projects across the country to launch a Local Nature Recovery Strategy that will underpin the Nature Recovery Network – a flagship element of the government's 25 Year Environment Plan. The Nature Recovery Network will benefit people and wildlife by increasing, improving and joining-up wildlife-rich sites across England.

Each Local Nature Recovery Strategy pilot will:

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- develop a set of maps which show most valuable existing sites and habitats for wildlife
- use these maps to identify opportunities for recovering nature – for wildlife, for people and as a contribution to tackling climate change and improving the environment
- bring a broad range of groups of people together to identify and agree priorities for restoring nature.

Cornwall Maritime Strategy 2019 – 2023

The Maritime Strategy for Cornwall covers the period 2012-2030 and provides a unifying and long-lasting policy framework for the planning of Cornwall's land, sea and coast. The vision for Maritime Cornwall is, by 2030:

- Cornwall has a sustainably managed maritime environment, which is well understood and known internationally as an excellent location for work, wildlife and for recreation;
- Cornwall's economy is supported by a diverse range of opportunities for ports, marine-related industries, transport and businesses, including environmental technologies;
- Cornwall has a rich and enviable maritime heritage, a healthy maritime natural environment and landscape;
- Cornwall has distinctive, well-connected communities, resilient in the face of change.

The Strategy includes an objective to 'actively work with other regulators, landowners and businesses to maintain and improve Cornwall's water quality (inland and coastal); minimise wildlife disturbance; reduce sources of litter and pollution (including noise, air and light pollution from watercraft, shipping and coastal development); and control invasive species'.

Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2016-2021

The Cornwall AONB Management Plan sets out the agenda for the management of protected landscape. It is for use by all who play a part in Cornwall's protected landscape. The current management plan is in the process of being reviewed and includes policies of interest to the work of the CCP:

- Policy IN5: Promote a catchment-based approach to soil conservation and river, estuarine and bathing water quality within the AONB, utilising the Camel, Fal, Helford and Fowey as priority catchments (building upon the Catchment Sensitive Farming Initiative and recent Upstream Thinking projects);
- Policy RCC5: Restore where appropriate, natural water management systems such as wetlands where they have previously been modified. Where appropriate within the landscape seek to re-instate or improve the management of woodland, wetland and Cornish hedges to slow water run-off and improve water quality.

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4. Outcomes and Objectives

This strategy builds on the Cornwall Catchment Partnership's 2016 Development Strategy and is focussed on taking action at a catchment level; action to improve our rivers; action to raise awareness and educate people and communities about the importance of rivers and the catchments that feed water into them.

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership's shared over-arching strategic outcome is:

Water bodies will be healthy ecosystems supporting the livelihoods and lifestyles of the people of Cornwall and its wildlife, managed through collaboration between communities, government and businesses and making best use of our collective resource.

4.1 Key Outcomes to 2025

- The Cornwall Catchment Partnership will support and enable multi-functional delivery of the Defra 25 year Environment Plan, working collaboratively with partners to move Cornwall towards climate resilient catchments and a long term sustainable future.
- In recognition of the wonderful diversity of our river catchments in Cornwall, the Cornwall Catchment Partnership will seek to develop and apply universal principles for dispersed and widespread catchment improvements
- Farmers and Landowners will be well positioned to benefit from the Government's Environment Land Management Scheme (E.L.M.S.) and will be able to realise the economic opportunities presented through the transition to a natural capital approach.
- Communities will feel better connected to their water environment with improved access to nature and recreational opportunities.

4.2 Key Objectives to 2025

- We will achieve a water environment that is cleaner, healthier and managed in a way that is more resilient to floods and drought and better supports people, wildlife and the economy.
- We will embrace opportunities presented through the Environmental Land Management Scheme transition whilst recognising that this needs to become an integrated part of a profitable and productive farm business.
- We will support actions that maximise delivery and that provide the best value for money.
- We will use an evidence-based approach working with Partners to align catchment activity, supporting the delivery of real and tangible improvements on the ground for communities, wildlife and the economy, recognising the value of natural capital and

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ecosystem services. We will acknowledge evidence gaps and work to address these updating our network accordingly.

5. Themes

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership works strategically across themes which provides a focus for the Partnership's work. The Partnership strives to work in an integrated and collaborative way to support the delivery of our strategic and cross cutting themes but also to align with partner objectives, where appropriate, to maximise the co-benefits that can be achieved through partnership working and a catchment based approach.

The Partnership's themes have been developed to support a collaborative approach to delivery of the South West River Basin Management Plan, the South West Flood Risk Management Plan, Cornwall Flood Risk Management Strategy, Cornwall's Environmental Growth Strategy and the developing Cornwall Nature Recovery Plan.

Our performance will be monitored against a number of clear performance indicators which have been chosen so that they align with those used by strategic partners to provide transparency across the member organisations and other partnerships. Further information on our performance indicators can be found in the 'Measuring Success' section of this document.

5.1 Our Cross-Cutting Theme: Climate Change

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership recognises climate change as the single biggest risk facing our river catchments today and into the future. Mitigating, adapting and responding to climate change is **the** key driver behind the Partnership's work. The risk is such that mitigating the impacts of climate change (through cutting emissions and sequestration) now needs to be matched with efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change. In terms of our river catchments, this means adaptation to increased occurrence of flood, drought and wildfire with the Partnership keen to support projects which build resilience within our catchments. For instance, measures to 'slow the flow' and hold more water within our landscape are a vital component to resilience to all of these hazards.

The associated strategic need for both carbon reduction and its sequestration across the range of disciplines is another foundation relevant to all partnership objectives. The Cornwall Catchment Partnership is keen to explore the range of ways that carbon can be sequestered including, but not limited to, peatland restoration, tree planting, seagrass habitat and through good soil husbandry.

In January 2019 Cornwall Council declared a climate emergency, recognising the need for urgent action to address the climate crisis. Cornwall has an opportunity to lead the way in demonstrating what is possible but this will only happen if we work together in partnership to make change happen.

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5.2 Our Strategic Themes

Empowering landowners and communities to deliver nature recovery in Cornwall

- **Sustainable Land Management:** *improving the water quality and water quantity leaving our land.*
- **Restored and Connected Habitats:** *increasing species access to better freshwater habitats and supporting nature recovery in Cornwall*
- **Connected Communities:** *reconnecting communities with their river catchments.*

Through our three strategic themes the Cornwall Catchment Partnership will act to support project delivery in our river catchments to deliver a catchment scale response to climate change. The Partnership's focus will be on the water environment working with stakeholders, landowners, farmers and communities to support change management through a significantly challenging period so that our river catchments are managed in a way which both mitigates and allows us to adapt to climate change.

5.2.1 Sustainable Land Management

Sustainable land management is vital for healthy river catchments and as such the Cornwall Catchment Partnership is committed to promoting the rural economy and empowering landowners to take economic advantage of Environment Land Management Scheme (E.L.M.S) opportunities presented through working with natural processes (WWNPs) and natural flood management (NFM). To this end, the Partnership will keep abreast and review its approach as E.L.M.S is rolled out and evolves into its delivery phase, such as supporting the development of tools and advice for farmers to access the Sustainable Farming Incentive.

The Partnership recognises the need to ensure that the provision of public goods stacks up against the income that can be achieved through farming that land conventionally so that it can truly be considered as an important component of the whole farm business model. To this end the Partnership is exploring opportunities for 'blended' or 'stackable' finance so that farmers and landowners can receive income from more than one source for the public goods offered.

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership aims to support projects which enhance farmer and landowner knowledge, raising awareness of the potential impacts of land management practices on the health of our water bodies.

The Partnership also aspires to support and promote improved communication between farmers/landowners and their local communities to develop a catchment scale perspective towards improving water quality and achieving both flood and drought resilience.

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Key Initiatives that the Partnership supports

➤ Devon & Cornwall Soils Alliance (DCSA)

Our soils are in a perilous state with more than 40% of soils degraded. Coupled with this, the accuracy, quality and consistency of advice across Devon and Cornwall is insufficient to deal with the scale of the problem. The aim of the Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance (DCSA) is to build capacity and capability in soils advice across Devon and Cornwall. The project builds on work done through the Channel Payments for Ecosystem Services (CPES) project, to improve the articulation between advisors and regulators, and the Risk Aqua Soil (RAS) project, looking at monitoring soil water health as a way of assessing management outcomes.

➤ Upstream Thinking (UST)

South West Water, in collaboration with a group of regional conservation charities, including the Westcountry Rivers Trust and Cornwall Wildlife Trust, launched one of the largest and most innovative conservation projects in the UK, called the 'Upstream Thinking Initiative' which will deliver over £9 million worth of strategic land restoration in the Westcountry over five years. The main driver in this project is the improvement of raw water quality with UST farm advisors working with landowners to offer tailored farm advice to promote good practice and infrastructure improvements

➤ Land Hub

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership is commissioning the development of a spatial mapping tool to provide a strategic overview of the natural capital opportunities in Cornwall's river catchments. This tool will be used to communicate the strategic priorities of key organisations and support delivery on the ground through the work of farm advisors, facilitating delivery through the business decisions made by farmers and landowners. Land Hub is a top down / bottom up tool equally relevant in representing wider strategic priorities as well as those more focussed at a farm and field level.

➤ Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)

CSF is a partnership between Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England. It works with farmers and a range of other partners to improve water and air quality in high priority areas. CSF offers farmers free training, advice and support for grant applications and nationally is the largest investor in advice for water and air quality.

CSF Phase 5 will work with and support farmers through the transition in payment schemes within catchments across Cornwall to improve water and air quality and improve flood risk mitigation, water resource management and biodiversity.

Key projects/opportunities that the Partnership is keen to explore

- Develop a landowner 'dashboard' helping farmers and landowners understand what their natural capital 'offer' is in the context of the farm business, assisting Cornish

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farmers to be 'E.L.M.S ready' for the future and in their applications for the Sustainable Farming Incentive.

- Build farm advisor capacity in Cornwall through a Farm Advisory Service, with suitable skills to support whole farm delivery through farmers and landowners in key catchments to support Countryside Stewardship and E.L.M applications and ensure value for money.
- Support farmers and landowners to engage in E.L.M pilots and other projects involved in the development of E.L.M between now and its full roll-out in 2024.
- Explore 'blended' or 'stackable' finance opportunities, making the provision of public goods an attractive income opportunity for farmers and landowners.
- Develop a Citizen Science Programme for farmers and landowners to encourage in-field testing and to support sustainable land management decisions.
- Support and encourage case studies that showcase sustainable land management and regenerative farming practices as a means of developing a community of practice amongst farmers, landowners and farm advisors in Cornwall.

Outcomes that the Partnership wants to achieve

- Development of the 'Land Hub' to support delivery of strategic priorities through landowners and farmers by providing clear links between economic opportunity, natural capital and more regenerative farming techniques; supporting the Cornish farming community to be 'E.L.M.S' ready as well as to build agility to future incentive schemes
- Create a landowner forum, with strong links to those which are already established, with case studies and guidance, ensuring that there is accessible and relevant information for all sectors and scales of farming.
- Increase the number of farm advisors in Cornwall so that all farmers and landowners can access independent advice to take advantage of E.L.M.S opportunities as the new farm payment scheme is rolled out and evolves.
- Work with partners across the South West to establish, deliver and support a standardised agri-citizen science offer to farmers and landowners.
- Ensure that landowners are engaged at the start of any flood & coastal risk management or environmental projects to identify any additional opportunities or risks to delivery and to secure buy-in.

5.2.2 Restored and Connected Habitats

Habitat connectivity is an important factor in maintaining biological diversity and climate change resilience, enabling 'roll-back' as climate change affects habitats. Connectivity is a measure of the relative ease with which a typical species can move through the landscape between patches of habitat. Habitat loss and fragmentation can reduce the size of populations and hinder the movement of individuals (and individual species) between increasingly isolated populations threatening their long term viability.

There are many opportunities to create habitat if we work together in partnership; these could be through flood & coastal risk projects which increasingly look to restore natural processes as one of the solutions; through the creation of wetland habitat and tree planting

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which can have multiple benefits (reduced flood risk, improved water quality, carbon sequestration, habitat creation), through the Government's proposed Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS), amongst others.

In the context of our river catchments, river restoration is another key area of work which the catchment partnership actively supports. Projects which reconnect rivers with their floodplains can return our rivers to healthy, functioning river systems which will not only be more biodiverse but will also support adaptation to climate change.

Key Initiatives that the Partnership supports

➤ Nature Recovery Network and Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Cornwall's Nature Recovery Network has been developed in a partnership between Cornwall Council and the University of Exeter, resulting in [Lagas](#); a mapping tool bringing together the existing nature network areas and proposed corridor mapping with habitat opportunity area mapping. Through the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Lagas will be further developed to act as the Local Habitat Map required by the Environment Bill.

In addition Cornwall has been picked as one of five Local Nature Recovery Strategy pilot areas to test ways in which the recovery of landscapes and wildlife in England can be driven locally. The pilot will sit alongside Cornwall Council's Environmental Growth Strategy, Climate Change Action Plan and the Forest for Cornwall project, ensuring that the recovery of nature is prioritised alongside efforts to reduce impact on the climate.

➤ Water for Growth (W4G)

Through Water for Growth, Westcountry Rivers Trust are working with the Environment Agency, Natural England and South West Water to improve stocks of migratory fish such as salmon and sea trout in the rivers Camel and Fowey. Funded by the European Union Structural Development Fund the project aims to: improve upstream and downstream fish passage; improve in river and bankside habitat; improve spawning habitats; aim to increase numbers of juvenile salmon and sea trout.

➤ Forest for Cornwall

The Forest for Cornwall is an ambitious tree planting project, developed by Cornwall Council as part of its commitment to tackle climate change. This project is not intended as one single area of new forest but is instead aiming to increase all forms of canopy cover throughout Cornwall whilst strengthening the protection of our existing backbone of trees, woodlands and hedges. Once complete it is hoped that it will cover 8,000 hectares, equivalent to 2% of Cornwall's land area.

Forest for Cornwall is aligning with partners in Cornwall and with the Cornwall Catchment Partnership to develop tree planting opportunities which support our objective of 'climate resilient catchments'.

➤ Beaver Reintroduction

There is growing evidence that beavers provide resilience to flood, drought and wildfire. A University of Exeter study has recently shown that beavers can reduce peak flows on streams, playing a role in delivering natural flood management and reducing flood risk in

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lower order events. There has also been research carried out by the California State University showing that beaver wetland constrains wildfire and provides refuge for wildlife during fire events.

As a keystone species, it is recognized that beavers modify their environment; this can result in positive environmental and social benefits but can also have localised impacts on land management and infrastructure if not carefully managed. There is a need to ensure that beavers are not released or become established in catchments where there would be a negative impact on communities, infrastructure and land management. As such there is a desire amongst a majority of the Catchment Partnership to use a catchment based approach, working with communities and landowners to build consensus, developing management plans to reduce the risk of conflict and developing appropriate pathways for the potential expansion of wild living beavers in Cornish catchments.

Key projects/opportunities that the Partnership is keen to explore

- River Restoration Projects: Seaton Valley; White River; Sandy River, Hayle, De Lank; Camelford.
- Develop a pipeline of tree planting projects in Cornwall in partnership with Forest for Cornwall
- Develop Cornwall Catchment Partnership support for strategic beaver reintroduction projects in the Upper Par and Mevagissey catchments.
- Support and encourage case studies that showcase nature recovery, habitat creation and wildlife corridors as a means of developing a community of good practice amongst farmers, landowners and farm advisors in Cornwall.

Outcomes that the Partnership wants to achieve

- An aspiration for all of our rural streams and rivers to be 'suitably buffered' by a riparian strip, exploring financial mechanisms for this to be an economically viable option for farmers and landowners.
- Clear symbiosis of Catchment Partnership objectives integrated into Environmental Growth, Nature Recovery Strategies as well as other key projects such as Forest for Cornwall.
- Develop a clear and transparent project pipeline to support a collaborative approach to project development between both members of the Catchment Partnership and wider stakeholders.
- Create a portfolio of case studies to share good practice and learning.

5.2.3 Connected Communities

A community can be identified in a number of different ways (i.e. village, town or parish) and a typical river catchment is likely to be made up of a number of different communities. Connecting and empowering the people and communities, including landowners and farmers, who live in a particular area to the concept of 'the whole catchment' and a

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'catchment based approach' is essential if we are going to tackle issues such as climate recovery and nature recovery.

As we all know, wonderful things can happen when people come together within communities, ignited by a common cause.

A whole catchment approach also involves linking different communities within a river catchment, promoting a better shared understanding of their co-dependencies as well as their respective challenges/opportunities. Once known this can be used to develop a shared vision and can stimulate and encourage a collaborative approach toward managing and looking after the local environment.

This is a critical step in a 'whole catchment approach' which takes account of the whole area of a river catchment and the journey of water from the headwaters to the point it enters the sea.

Working collaboratively on a catchment scale is key to naturally improving water quality, managing water quantity to achieve better flood and drought resilience whilst at the same time delivering a whole range of co-benefits that include; improved biodiversity, a more sustainable environment, health & wellbeing benefit and a positive legacy. Improving communication between statutory organisations, other agencies, farmers/landowners and communities is key to stimulating a collaborative approach and making progress on a catchment scale, encouraging long-term stewardship of our river catchments.

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership aims to encourage long term stewardship of local areas of the catchment and provide wider benefits that result in improvements near to where people live in particular for:

- a. Community engagement and educational value/awareness
- b. Access and enjoyment of the local countryside and greenspace
- c. Communities involved and empowered.

➤ **Health Benefits of the Natural Environment**

Many people feel that spending time outdoors does them good mentally and physically. There is now a growing body of evidence which explains how people can benefit from contact with the natural world particularly the water related environments around rivers beaches and lakes.

There has been a rise in the prominence of social prescribing, where clinicians have recognised the therapeutic benefits of spending time outdoors. Prescribed activities in the natural environment such as those associated with citizen science offer potential opportunities to expand supportive catchment activity into a whole range of different communities.

Evidence suggests that a healthy environment is linked to a healthy population with the reverse also being true; an unhealthy environment is linked to a less healthy population. Investing in a healthy environment moves us toward better health for all, reducing strain on the NHS. It is increasingly clear that environmental improvement positively impacts both economic and social bottom lines.

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➤ **Flooding and Health**

Flooding can have serious health effects, particularly on mental health. Physical health impacts are less common, but they can include shock, respiratory infections, high blood pressure and stomach upsets. Floods are a greater risk to health if the water contains faecal matter or other contaminants. Studies have demonstrated links between depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and a higher prevalence in people who have experienced a flood.

➤ **Covid Recovery**

As and when England manages its way out of the current Coronavirus situation, the Cornwall Catchment Partnership will be in a position to structure its approach to potentially contribute to and deliver a range of co-benefits. More specifically under the Wider Determinants of Health banner this relates to both physical and mental wellbeing and their association with access to nature. Additionally there will be opportunities presented by our wider objectives with respect to training and reskilling for the challenges ahead. This will most likely manifest itself in new ways of working going forward, The Catchment Partnership needs to position itself to adjust working methods to maximise this opportunity both for the forums objectives that of our partners as well as the wider society in our catchment areas.

Key projects/opportunities that the Partnership is keen to explore

- Develop Citizen Science schemes in line with CaBA's Catchment Monitoring Co-operative and build capacity in Cornwall's communities i.e. Riverfly & Freshwater Watch.
- Work with relevant clinical and volunteer sector partners to develop catchment related health and wellbeing opportunities through Citizen Science.
- Develop a strong partnership approach across the public, private and third sectors with community links with related initiatives i.e. Forest for Cornwall and Nature Recovery, European Centre for Environment & Human Health (ECEHH) Blue Health Research Projects.
- Strengthen links between health and the environment to create more benefits to local communities through project delivery i.e. active travel projects, social prescribing.
- Endorse and support projects that build sector capacity through training and education
- Educate communities i.e. in what constitutes good soil management
- Work with communities to increase knowledge of where food comes from and the true cost of food production so that they can better understand the pressures faced by farming businesses in Cornwall.

Outcomes that the Partnership wants to achieve

- Cornwall Catchment Partnership is a key member of a Regional South West Citizen Science Forum
- Cornwall Catchment Partnership is working to standardised Citizen Science approaches and methodologies as set out by CaBA's Monitoring Co-operative.

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- Cornwall Catchment Partnership has an established engagement methodology through organisations such as the Cornwall Community Flood Forum.
- Cornwall Catchment Partnership works collaboratively with, and contributes to, the range of relevant data sets across Cornwall (ERCCIS, Lagas, etc) to promote and embed an evidence-based approach.
- Ensure that communities are engaged at the start of any Flood & Coastal Risk Management or environmental projects to identify any additional opportunities or risks to delivery and to secure buy-in.
- Create a portfolio of case studies to share good practice and learning

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6. Our Catchments

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership is responsible for two Water Framework Directive (WFD) Management Catchments: West Cornwall & the Fal; and North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe & Fowey. Both of these management catchments include a number of operational catchments and the Partnership works to support and coordinate water focussed activity within these catchments.

West Cornwall & the Fal



Current priority challenges



Sediment runoff and diffuse nutrient & pesticide pollution is impacting freshwater and marine environments as well as contributing to surface water flooding.



An increase in drought & flood events alongside abstraction and development pressures are impacting people and wildlife



With Cornwall's growing population, wastewater discharges are impacting our rivers, bathing waters and shellfish waters

Partnership future priority challenges



Pollution from agriculture and rural areas.



Changes to the natural flow and water levels.



Invasive non-native species.

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Success highlights 2016 – 2021



The Long Rock Coastal Improvements Project has given Marazion Marsh a new lease of life. As the largest area of reed marsh in Cornwall, Marazion Marsh is designated as a Special Protection Area and Site of Special Scientific Interest. Restricted freshwater input and siltation has been threatening the habitat and rare bird species. New structures have been installed to help control water levels within the marsh. Sediment and targeted

areas of reeds and old willow have also been removed to create open water channels. Catchment Sensitive Farming has also been working with landowners to reduce the input of sediment and nutrients into the marsh through improved land management.

The Devon & Cornwall Soils Alliance (DCSA) is also a great example of collaboration. Extending across the wider South West Peninsula, DCSA is a strategically important project targeting sediment run off and promoting good soil health and aims to build and reinforce “on farm” soil advisor capacity across the whole region.

The West Cornwall & Fal catchment has benefited from South West Water’s Upstream Thinking (UST) 2, a catchment management programme targeting the Cober, Drift and Falmouth Reservoirs Catchments. UST is designed to combat deterioration in soil, nutrient and water management in the farmed landscape, targeting catchments where there are abstractions for drinking water supply. The project offers farm advice and grants to support improvements to farm infrastructure.

The West Cornwall and the Fal catchment has also benefited from Catchment Sensitive Farming Project in the Drift, Marazion, Cober and Porthluney catchments, offering farm advice, Countryside Stewardship land management and capital grant support.

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North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe & Fowey



Current priority challenges



Sediment runoff and diffuse nutrient & pesticide pollution is impacting freshwater and marine environments as well as contributing to surface water flooding.



An increase in drought & flood events alongside abstraction and development pressures are impacting people and wildlife



With Cornwall's growing population, wastewater discharges are impacting our rivers, bathing waters and shellfish waters

Partnership future priority challenges



Pollution from agriculture and rural areas.



Changes to the natural flow and water levels.



Invasive non-native species.

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Success highlights 2016 – 2021



Water for Growth is a flagship partnership project in the North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe & Fowey catchment, delivering natural capital investment and removing barriers to fish migration on the rivers Camel and Fowey. One of the standout moments for this European funded project was the removal of Keybridge Weir and Grogley Gauging Station on the River Camel in 2019/2020 which opened up the river for migratory fish and

improved riparian habitat in a Special Area of Conservation.

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership is keen to develop and support projects which look to re-naturalise rivers and reconnect them to their floodplain. The Hessenford River Restoration Project is a brilliant example of how this can be done by working collaboratively with partners, and in this case, taking advantage of works to protect critical road infrastructure to also secure environmental improvements. This project has proven to be a pathfinder in cost effectively underwriting critical infrastructure investment whilst also addressing the longer term challenges of climate change and nature recovery.

The catchment benefits from South West Water's Upstream Thinking (UST) 2, a catchment management programme targeting the Fowey. UST is designed to combat deterioration in soil, nutrient and water management in the farmed landscape, targeting catchments where there are abstractions for drinking water supply. The project offers farm advice and grants to support improvements to farm infrastructure.

The North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe and Fowey catchment has also benefited from the Catchment Sensitive Farming Project in the Porth, River Camel and tributaries and Issey Brook, Valency, Strat, East and West Looe, Seaton and Pont Pill catchments, offering farm advice, Countryside Stewardship land management and capital grant support.

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7. Delivery Plan

Cornwall Catchment Partnership supports collaborative projects which deliver multiple benefits; reducing flood risk, improving water quality, protecting water resources; increasing bio-diversity richness; carbon sequestration; clean drinking water; nature recovery; increased access to nature; healthy lifestyles.

The CCP intends to use the 'Decision Wheel' developed by Cornwall Council to support projects which are collaborative and cross-functional in nature and which contribute to the Partnership's vision and objectives. Not all of the elements included within the Decision Wheel will be represented in each project and some have more relevance to the Partnership's work than others but this will be reflected in the weighting that each element is attributed within the scoring.

If a project is brought to the Partnership for endorsement which is singular in its objectives, feedback will be provided to the project lead who can then consider how it can be further developed. It is hoped that this approach will support the development of projects in collaboration, ensuring that any funding achieves the greatest outcome for the water environment, wildlife, people and communities.

Decision Wheel



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The Cornwall Catchment Partnership recognises the importance of working with the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership (CIOSLNP), Cornwall Local Enterprise Partnership and Health & Wellbeing Board to ensure that relevant catchment projects are shared when funding opportunities arise, for instance the Shared Prosperity Fund which is anticipated to replace the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

To support this approach there is an aspiration to develop an environment focussed project pipeline for Cornwall, overseen by the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership and with the Cornwall Catchment Partnership being the 'go to' Partnership for those projects which relate to the water environment. A sub-group of the Local Nature Partnership would oversee this pipeline supported by a working group with representatives from across the partnerships and organisations who are involved in developing environmental projects. This will facilitate the development of 'shovel ready' projects, helping to prioritise projects for funding. This will also help to ensure that projects are aligned, will avoid duplication and will add weight to funding applications through the Local Nature Partnership's endorsement.

There are a number of projects which the Cornwall Catchment Partnership are currently supporting. Some of these projects already have funding secured and others are still in development. An overview of our project pipeline across the two management catchments is included below.

Supported Projects

• Confident

Enhancement/no deterioration measures in 2020-2025 Water Industry National Environment Programme

Reason for measure: Control or manage point source discharges

Delivery mechanism: Confirmed water industry programme 2020-2025

Location: Further information can be found on the [WINEP page of the .gov.uk website](#)

• Confident

Upstream Thinking 3: working with farmers and landowners in 5 catchments to improve water quality and benefit nature.

Reason for measure: Control or manage rural diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: Confirmed water industry programme 2019-23

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Location: Drift catchment, Cober catchment, Fowey catchment Stithians Reservoir, Argal Reservoir and College Reservoir.

• **Confident**

Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance - strategic development of soils advisory capacity

Reason for measure: Control or manage rural diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: EU funding

Location: Devon & Cornwall

• **Confident**

Par Improvement Programme: Linked to StARR, delivering habitat creation, fish passage improvements and natural flood management.

Reason for measure: Manage modified habitats

Delivery mechanism: Water Environment Investment Fund

Location: Par & St Blazey Catchment

• **Confident**

South West Peatland Partnership - peatland restoration on Bodmin Moor.

Reason for measure: Control or manage rural diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: Shared Prosperity Fund

Location: Bodmin Moor

• **Confident**

Water for Growth (W4G) - natural capital investment scheme.

Reason for measure: Manage modified habitats

Delivery mechanism: EU funding

Location: Camel & Fowey Catchments

• **Confident**

Bude flood defence, adaptation and river restoration project

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Reason for measure: Manage modified habitats

Delivery mechanism: EA Flood/coastal risk management programme

Location: Lower River Strat.

• **Confident**

Hayle River Banks: Building on the natural flood management approach piloted in Mousehole and renaturalising the river

Reason for measure: Control or manage regulated flows

Delivery mechanism: EA Flood/coastal risk management programme

Location: River Hayle

• **Confident**

Linking the Truro Flood & Coastal Risk Strategy with partner aspirations for tree planting, wetlands creation & natural flood management.

Reason for measure: Control or manage regulated flows

Delivery mechanism: Flood and coastal risk management programme

Location: River Kenwyn and River Allen

• **Confident**

Land Hub - spatial mapping tool to link strategic need with potential economic opportunities for farming community.

Reason for measure: Control or manage rural diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: Other local funding

Location: Cornwall-wide initiative

• **Confident**

Making Space for Sand: an innovative approach to coastal management.

Reason for Measure: Control or manage regulated flows

Delivery mechanism: Innovation Resilience Fund

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Location: Coastal locations around Cornwall

What needs to change to improve certainty of delivery? Successful funding application to Innovation Resilience Fund.

• Confident

Catchment Sensitive Farming Phase 5: Working with farmers and landowners to improve water, air quality, flood risk mitigation, water resource management and biodiversity

Reason for measure: Control or manage rural diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: Defra funded programme 2021-25

Location: West Cornwall and the Fal (Drift, Marazion, Cober and Porthluney) and North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe and Fowey (Porth, River Camel and tributaries and Issey Brook, Valency, Strat, East and West Looe, Seaton and Pont Pill).

• Less certain

Mevagissey Source to Sea: Trialling innovative catchment solutions to reduce fluvial and coastal flood risk

Reason for Measure: Control or manage regulated flows

Delivery mechanism: Funding to be identified.

Location: Mevagissey catchment

What needs to change to improve certainty of delivery? Successful funding application.

• Less certain

Hessenford River Restoration Project design to underwrite critical infrastructure whilst delivering co benefits

Reason for Measure: Manage modified habitats

Delivery mechanism: Other local funding

Location: Seaton River

What needs to change to improve certainty of delivery? A joint approach from Cornwall Council and Environment Agency to secure funding.

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- **Less certain**

Ridgeway Wetlands 2: Trialling a catchment based approach in catchments affected by critical road infrastructure

Reason for Measure: Control or manage urban diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: Funding to be identified

Location: GB108048002390, GB108048002400, GB108048002380, GB108048002350, GB108048002370

What needs to change to improve certainty of delivery? New lead partner and successful funding application.

- **Less certain**

Camel Nutrient Trading - on-farm integrated constructed wetlands providing nutrient credits for potential developments

Reason for Measure: Control or manage urban diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Location: Camel river catchment

What needs to change to improve certainty of delivery? Successful funding application to Shared Prosperity Fund.

- **Less certain**

Helman Tor re-wilding project incorporating controlled beaver re-introduction

Reason for Measure: Control or manage regulated flows

Delivery mechanism: UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Location: Bokiddick Stream

What needs to change to improve certainty of delivery? Successful funding application to Shared Prosperity Fund.

- **Less certain**

Restoration of the River Fowey: Duchy Estate led project exploring river restoration and habitat creation opportunities

Reason for Measure: Control or manage regulated flows

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Delivery mechanism: Other local funding

Location: Fowey river catchment

What needs to change to improve certainty of delivery? Strong partnership approach between Environment Agency and Duchy Estate to secure funding.

- **Less certain**

NATUREBASE – Camel nature-based solutions to tackle soils loss/sediment

Reason for Measure: Control or manage rural diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: Water Environment Investment Fund

Location: Camel River Catchment

What needs to change to improve certainty of delivery? Successful WEIF funding application for capital and revenue monies.

- **Less certain**

Citizen Science Initiative to improve community health & wellbeing through empowerment

Reason for Measure: Control or manage rural diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: Other local funding

Location: Cornwall

What needs to change to improve certainty of delivery? Strong partnership approach supported by the Environment Agency.

- **Less certain**

Cornwall Trees Project: catchment based woodland creation in partnership with Forest for Cornwall

Reason for Measure: Control or manage regulated flows

Delivery mechanism: Water Environment Investment Fund

Location: Cornwall

What needs to change to improve certainty of delivery? Successful multi-year WEIF funding application starting 22/23.

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- **Less certain**

Water for Growth 2 - extend the natural capital investment scheme to further catchments

Reason for Measure: Manage modified habitats

Delivery mechanism: UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Location: North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe and Fowey

What needs to change to improve certainty of delivery? Successful funding application to Shared Prosperity Fund.

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8. Measuring Success

We are committed to measuring the success of the projects which we support at the catchment level. The most transparent way that we can do this is through the use of indicators linked to the delivery of our strategic outcome:

Water bodies will be healthy ecosystems supporting the livelihoods and lifestyles of the people of Cornwall and its wildlife, managed through collaboration between communities, government and businesses and making best use of our collective resource.

It is important to recognise that there are a number of indicators which are already tracked by individual organisations but which are also relevant in terms of measuring the Cornwall Catchment Partnership's performance. Whilst the Partnership is not the responsible body when it comes to tracking these indicators, we are committed to working in an integrated way and will develop and support projects which will contribute to these indicators.

The table below provides an overview of the indicators which are relevant to the Partnership but which are already being reported against by other organisations.

Indicator	Responsible Body for indicator	Reporting Mechanism
Number of WFD waterbodies achieving good ecological status.	Environment Agency	Water Framework Directive reporting
Number of WFD waterbodies where there has been a one class improvement from 2021 to 2026.	Environment Agency	Water Framework Directive reporting
Kms of waterbody enhanced	Environment Agency	EA2025 Creating a Better Plan
Area of woodland in Cornwall.	Cornwall Council / Defra	Forest for Cornwall / 25 YEP reporting
Restored or created habitat (ha).	Environment Agency	EA2025 Creating a Better Plan
Extent of protected areas (terrestrial).	Natural England	Natural England Action Plan
Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Natural England	Natural England Action Plan
% of Cornish residents visiting the outdoors at least once a week	Cornwall Council	Environmental Growth Strategy reporting
Number of properties at risk of surface water flooding.	Environment Agency	EA2025 Creating a Better Plan

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Amount of carbon (tonnes) emitted in Cornwall (per person)	Cornwall Council	Environmental Growth Strategy reporting
% Cornwall's carbon emissions reabsorbed by our landscape	Cornwall Council	Environmental Growth Strategy reporting
% of land delivering environmental growth	Cornwall Council	Environmental Growth Strategy reporting

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership is also piloting an approach of developing and tracking a series of indicators which are of specific interest to the Partnership. These will be tracked on an annual basis to support delivery of our strategic objectives and are linked to our three strategic themes. Some of these indicators require an innovative approach to allow for reliable tracking and as such they will be reviewed in April 2022.

Overarching Indicators:

- Number of projects or initiatives in Cornwall where the CCP has been able to support a successful bid by a CCP partner organisation for external funding or other external resources, to deliver a project which aligns the outcomes the CCP wants to achieve.
- Number of CCP supported projects delivering at least three of the following benefits: water quality improvements, habitat restoration/creation; reduced flood risk; carbon sequestration, sustainable abstraction; improved fish passage; health and wellbeing.
- Number of FDGiA (flood defence grant in aid) projects incorporating natural flood management interventions and/or habitat creation.

Sustainable Land Management Indicators:

- Number of funding opportunities advertised on Land Hub.
- Number of farmers and landowners signed up to receive notifications from Land Hub.
- Number of farm advisor (FTE) in Cornwall offering 'free to user' and independent advice.

Restored and Connected Habitats Indicator:

- Area of riparian habitat (Ha) (*requires a pilot approach*)
- Number of beaver reintroductions, both fenced and unfenced.

Connected Communities Indicator:

- Proportion of CCP supported projects which include:
 - Upfront engagement with communities;
 - Citizen science;
 - Improved access to green & blue spaces
 - A green / social prescribing offer.

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9. Glossary of Terms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BPS	Basic Payment Scheme
CaBA	Catchment Based Approach
CAP	Common Agricultural Payment
CBI	Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative
CCP	Cornwall Catchment Partnership
CC	Cornwall Council
CCFF	Cornwall Community Flood Forum
CCS	Countryside Stewardship Scheme
CEC	Cornwall Environmental Consultants
CLA	Country Landowners Association
CPES	Channel Payments for Ecosystem Services
CS	Citizen Science
CSF	Catchment Sensitive Farming
CWT	Cornwall Wildlife Trust
DEFRA	Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs
DCSA	Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance
EA	Environment Agency
ECEHH	European Centre for Environment and Human Health
EDF	Environment Designated Funds
EGS	Environmental Growth Strategy
ELMS	Environmental Land Management Schemes
ERCCIS	Environmental Record Centre for Cornwall and IOS
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
FCRM	Flood and Coastal Risk Management
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

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HE	Highways England
HWB	Health and Wellbeing
HWBB	Health and Wellbeing Board
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LNP	Local Nature Partnership
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
NE	Natural England
NFM	Natural Flood Management
NFU	National Farmers Union
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
RPA	Rural Payments Agency
RRC	River Restoration Centre
RT	Rivers Trust
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SWRBMP	South West River Basin Management Plan
SWW	South West Water
UoE	University of Exeter
UoP	University of Plymouth
UST	Upstream Thinking
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WRT	Westcountry Rivers Trust

Cornwall Catchment Partnership: Our Ambition to 2025

Appendix 1: Cornwall Catchment Partnership Membership

Table 1: Members of the Cornwall Catchment Partnership as at October 2020

Organisation	Catchment Driver
South West Water (SWW)	Local Water Company
Natural England (NE)	The Government's adviser for the natural environment in England. Natural England's purpose is to help conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.
Environment Agency (EA)	WFD Implementation, Water Quality, Flood Risk Management, watercourse and wetland biodiversity
Cornwall Council (CC)	Local Planning Authority, Flood Risk Management.
National Farmers Union (NFU)	Represent the interests of approx. 50% of Farmers in Cornwall
Countryside Landowners Association (CLA)	Large Landowning interests
Duchy Forestry	Represents Forestry interests
Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT)	CaBA Host and experienced delivery organisation
Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)	A partnership between Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England. It works with farmers and a range of other partners to improve water and air quality in high priority areas. CSF offers farmers free training, advice and support for grant applications.

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Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)	Experienced delivery organisation
Cormac (invited to join).	
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	Host of CCP and experienced delivery organisation. Carolyn Cadman Chief Executive of Cornwall Wildlife Trust is Chair of the Cornwall Catchment Partnership and provides link to Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership for which she has a role as Vice Chair.
Cornwall AONB	Key Partner
Imerys	Industry Lead
Cornwall Community Flood Forum	Link to Communities
Highways England	Manage the strategic road network in England
Cornwall Beaver Group	
Tamar Catchment Partnership	Strategic link to the work of our neighbouring catchment partnership.

Associate Members

Organisation	Catchment Driver
Wheal Jane	Deep Mining Heritage with experience of ameliorating the impacts of historical mining pollution
Visit Cornwall	Represent tourism sector in Cornwall
IFCA	Represent fishing and shellfish interests

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Appendix 2: Cornwall Catchment Partnership Terms of Reference

Background

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership was first formed in 2014 and is a group of statutory bodies and key stakeholders collaborating toward the shared vision of improving the quality of waterbodies in Cornwall through taking a whole catchment approach.

The Partnership plays a key role in supporting the co-ordination of project planning, developing funding bids and supporting project delivery across the partners (and beyond).

Taking a whole catchment approach the Cornwall Catchment Partnership is interested in projects that promote, underwrite and improve the environmental, social and economic health of Cornish river systems and water bodies.

The Partnership supports projects which deliver a range of mutually beneficial outcomes such as habitat creation/restoration, carbon sequestration and reduced flood risk. Working collaboratively in partnership maximises the benefits, achieving greater efficiencies and often achieving a better return on any investment.

Whole River Catchments in Cornwall

(Source ERCCIS CWT)



Excepting Tamar which has its own Partnership

Scope

The main aims of The Cornwall Catchment Partnership are as follows:

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- To bring together relevant organisations to conserve and improve the health of the water environment of Cornish river catchments.
- The Catchment Partnership works at the catchment level with statutory bodies and key stakeholder organisations to agree strategic priorities for the catchment(s) and support their delivery.
- The Catchment Partnership will support The Environment Agency in developing an appropriate River Basin Management Plan, as required under The Water Framework Directive.
- The Catchment Partnership maintains the primary right to recommend and support actions across Cornish catchments as per the Cornwall Catchment Partnership's strategic priorities.
- The Catchment Partnership supports the adjacent Tamar Catchment Partnership through the sharing of information and activity prioritisation wherever possible and when practical.
- To encourage the coordination and collaboration of GIS experts, data scientists, amateur scientists (citizen science) and social scientists engaged in catchment/water related research and data collection.
- To provide an interface between environmental research/data holders and policy/operations.
- To work collaboratively to achieve collective compromise when organisational perspectives may be different.
- To validate catchment projects where required.

Membership:

Core Members will regularly meet to agree actions and monitor progress. Other representatives will be invited as and when the need arises.

Core members:

- Cornwall Council
- Environment Agency
- South West Water
- Natural England / CSF
- Highways England
- Duchy of Cornwall (Forestry Lead)
- University of Exeter (Academic Link)
- National Farmers Union
- Country Landowners Association
- Cornwall Community Flood Forum
- Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- Westcountry Rivers Trust
- National Trust
- Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
- Cormac
- Imerys (Industry lead)
- Cornwall AONB
- Cornwall Beaver Trust
- Tamar Catchment Partnership Representative

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CCP will develop Associate Membership Status to cover organisations who are not part of the core group but whom have an interest in aspects of the Catchment Agenda. The Partnership will develop a method of engaging with this wider group on an annual basis.

Specific Task and Finish sub groups will be formed as and when needed.

Frequency of Meetings:

Quarterly

Task and Finish Groups or exceptional meetings may be organised as necessary.

Reporting mechanism:

- Minutes of the meetings will be produced by The Cornwall Catchment Partnership Co-ordinator and shared with members of the group.
- The group will maintain contact with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership (LNP) and will provide regular reports to the LNP.
- The outputs of the group will be shared regularly with stakeholders, with an annual update at the Cornwall Community Flood Forum and Local Nature Partnership conference.
- other partner media as appropriate.

Expected Outputs:

- Enhancements to the Catchment Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: technical and non-technical
- Development of Catchment related Key Performance Indicators objective reporting on a regular frequency
- Working with CaBA's Citizen Science Co-operative to develop CSi in support of catchment and related projects
- Using collaborative working and partnerships to aid decision-making and project development

Undertaking:

Members will:

- Represent their sector;
- Be an advocate of the group and liaise with other interested parties in their respective organisation/sector;
- Attend two meetings per year;
- Notify of apologies prior to meetings or send a replacement from your organisation;
- Appreciate the significance of the initiative for all stakeholders and represent their interests;
- Be genuinely interested in the initiative and the outcomes being pursued;
- Have a broad understanding of project management issues and the approach being adopted.

Values and behaviours:

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As individuals we will:

- Recognise each other's worth and acknowledge each other's contributions both within the group and with our external clients and stakeholders;
- Actively embrace and value the input and collaboration of colleagues;
- Foster a culture of information, knowledge and skill-sharing between our respective organisations;
- Support each other to resolve difficulties;
- Communicate in an open and honest manner;
- Give feedback and ask questions in a constructive manner;
- Always demonstrate professional behaviours to our colleagues and stakeholders; and
- Always demonstrate a genuine desire for the best collective outcomes.

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Appendix 3: Delivery Plan

Spreadsheet to be added once discussed and approved by CCP members.

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Appendix 4: Evidence

The CCP are committed to using an evidence-based approach to inform its work. There are a number of different data sources available to the CCP.

1. Nationally consistent evidence base:

CaBA data package for our catchment: There are over 100 data layers available for our river catchments, identifying the spatial pattern of opportunities; issues, characteristics and the possible sources of the issues. This weight of evidence is being improved by collecting local datasets and working with local organisations in the catchment. This data coupled with 'Local Evidence' and 'Priority Places' below provide the weight of evidence required to deliver projects which will benefit the lives of people and wildlife living in this the catchment.

2. Local evidence:

In addition to the national datasets available in the CaBA data package and via government open data initiatives, local data and evidence (including modelling) is used by members of the CCP to help pinpoint issues, identify solutions and monitor outcomes in our catchments.

3. Priority places

There are a number of resources available to support the concept of prioritising actions in certain places or catchments, commonly referred to as taking a 'place-based approach'. These include:

Catchment Data Explorer: Central to the CaBA planning process and can be used to help identify where the issues are and the likely causes.

EA Bathing Water Explorer: Used to identify whether runoff from a river catchment influences bathing water quality and compliance with the Bathing Water Directive.

Catchment Flood Management Plan: Check planned actions for reducing flood risk in particular river catchments in order to identify opportunities to create multi-benefit actions, and to identify opportunities to add flood risk benefits to other planned projects.

Countryside Stewardship Statements of Priorities: Identify where Natural England has identified water quality or flooding as a priority issue for allocation of countryside stewardship grants.

EA Local evidence reviews and prioritisation tool: Understand where the Environment Agency has prioritised waterbodies for future Grant in Aid funding, where actions will provide WFD, Flood risk, Biodiversity and other benefits.

Nature Recovery Network / Lagas: Developing mapping tool which identifies priority places for nature recovery. It will be used to inform Biodiversity Net Gain spatial planning.

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Local Authority spatial plan: Identify where green infrastructure measures could be targeted, and funded from infrastructure levy, to provide flood risk, water quality, biodiversity and recreational benefits.

Water company asset management plan: Understand where the priorities are for the water company and identify opportunities for partnership working.

Many organisations are currently looking to prioritise where they spend money and undertake actions to provide the best outcome for their particular objectives. The best way to make use of these different prioritisation tools and plans is to use them in combination to identify areas of the catchment, and possible projects, which will provide benefits to multiple partners, as this will provide a strong business case for future funding bids.