

IMPACT REVIEW 2025-2026



Cornwall
Wildlife Trust

Creating a **Cornwall**
where **nature** thrives

TOGETHER, CREATING A WILDER CORNWALL

It's my pleasure to present Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Annual Impact Review 2025-2026.

At a time when wildlife continues to face unprecedented pressures, with the UK ranked among the most nature-depleted countries in the world, it can be easy to focus on the scale of the challenge. Yet in the following pages you will see another story emerging: one of collective action, practical solutions, and hope.

Across Cornwall's land and seas, we are building momentum for nature recovery. The year saw major milestones, from releasing wild beavers and expanding seagrass restoration, to securing investment for landscape-scale conservation. This work is helping deliver the conditions that wildlife and people need to thrive.

The evidence that what we're doing is changing things continues to grow. We know that our nature reserves are becoming demonstrably better for wildlife, and that we are influencing nature recovery in more of the wider landscape. Our volunteer numbers are expanding, and we are supporting more community groups than ever before to take action for nature locally. Our voice is getting louder on issues affecting Cornwall's wildlife and wild places, and we are reaching ever greater numbers of people with our inspiring stories, informed perspectives, and targeted calls to action.

None of this can be achieved by any one organisation alone. The progress we share in these pages is the result of strong partnerships with farmers, landowners, fishers, businesses, policymakers, academics, community groups, volunteers, and supporters. By supporting local action, we are demonstrating that collaboration is one of the most powerful tools we have in addressing the nature and climate crises.

With extreme weather events such as Storm Goretti becoming more frequent, it's vital that we build resilience into our landscapes and seascapes. From creating firebreaks on our reserves and restoring wetlands, to protecting carbon rich habitats and planting trees, the impact of our work is helping nature become part of the solution, while supporting communities to adapt to the challenges ahead.

As you read this review, I hope you will see not only the breadth of work being undertaken across Cornwall Wildlife Trust, but also the shared commitment that makes it possible. There is still much to do, but together we are creating a healthier, more resilient and more wildlife-rich Cornwall for future generations.



Matt Walpole
Chief Executive

STRATEGY IN SUMMARY

Imagine a Cornwall where nature thrives, with our wildlife and wild places valued and enjoyed by all.

A Cornwall where rare and threatened habitats and species are once again a common part of our countryside, seas, and skies. Where healthy oceans, soils, rivers, wetlands, woodlands, moors, grasslands, sand dunes, and other ecosystems are valued for the vital roles they play. Where every child in Cornwall grows up with access to clean beaches and green spaces. Where we're all connecting with, benefitting from, and taking action for nature. This is our vision. But we can't achieve it alone.

To make this vision a reality, we need:



MORE SPACE FOR NATURE

– bigger, better, and more joined-up



ACTIVE NATURE RESTORATION

– not just the protection of what remains



REDUCED PRESSURE ON NATURE EVERYWHERE

– be that from development, pollution, habitat loss, intensive farming and fishing, or climate change

Our strategy focuses on informing, involving, and inspiring more people, from all spheres, to take action for nature through the following impact objectives:

1

DEMONSTRATE what is possible and **INSPIRE** others through our conservation work on the ground

2

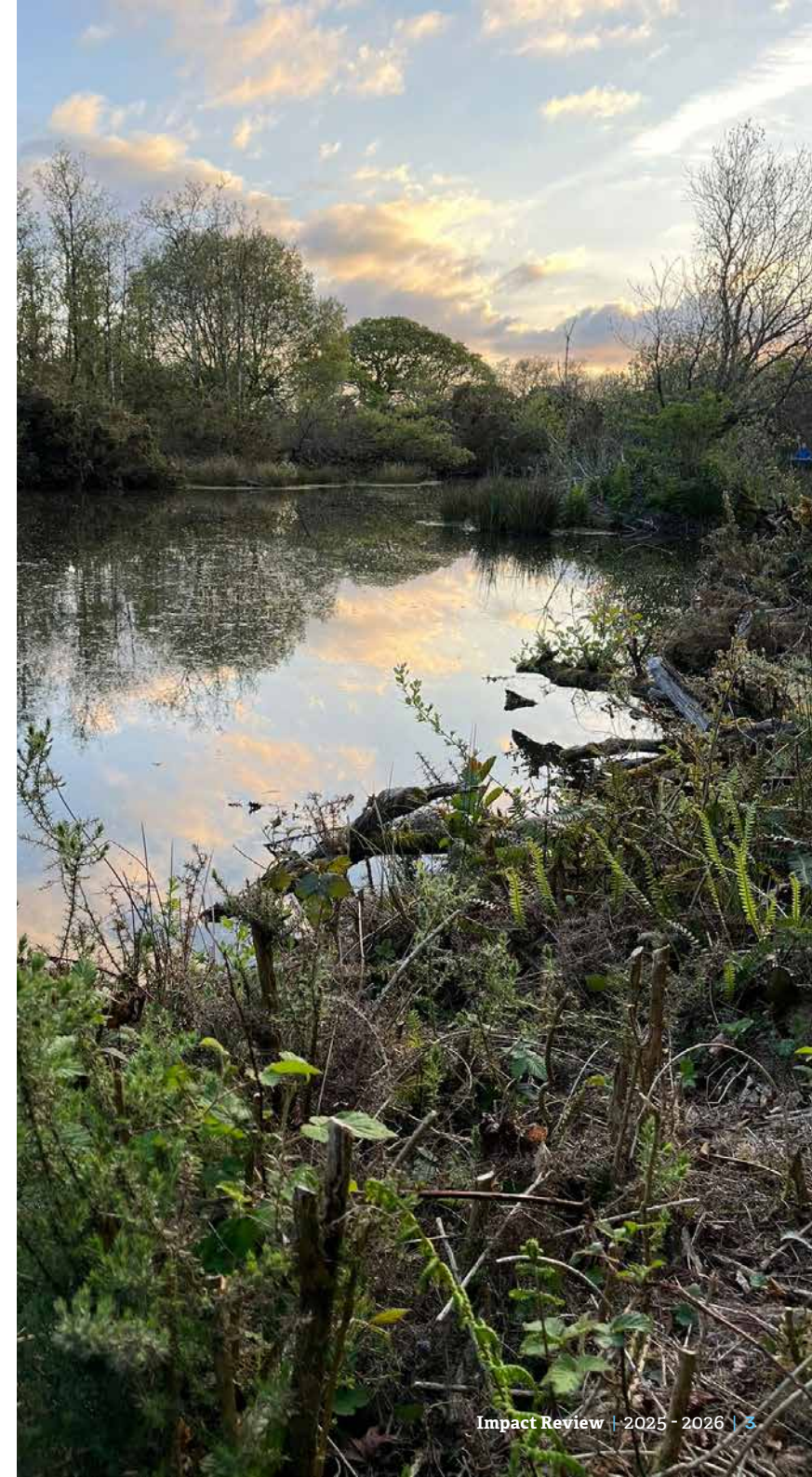
SUPPORT and **ADVISE** others on how to reduce negative pressures and create positive outcomes for nature

3

ENGAGE and **MOBILISE** individuals and groups to use their time and resources to participate in practical action

4

CAMPAIGN and **ADVOCATE**, as we use our collective voice to call for better decisions for nature



YEAR IN NUMBERS

Behind every number is action for nature. These highlights capture some of the key achievements, moments, and outcomes that shaped our work during 2025/26.

1 DEMONSTRATE AND INSPIRE

85% of our nature reserves showing signs of recovery for wildlife

12 acres of rare temperate rainforest created

8 beavers released into the wild in Cornwall

5,700 acres on land and at sea connected through Tor to Shore

21,000 seagrass seeds planted helping revive this vital marine habitat

571 reports to our Marine Strandings Network, helping to improve our understanding and protection of Cornwall's seas

2 SUPPORT & ADVISE

70,000 acres advised on

362 land managers supported to create more space for nature

24 fishers worked with

3 ENGAGE & MOBILISE

>40,000 people engaged and inspired

1,075 registered volunteers giving their time and passion to support nature

47 Associated Groups

12,224 volunteer hours contributed for nature

4 CAMPAIGN & ADVOCATE

18,425 responses to The Wildlife Trusts' bottom trawling campaign

YEAR IN NUMBERS

Behind every number is action for nature. These highlights capture some of the key achievements, moments, and outcomes that shaped our work during 2025/26.

5 INCREASE AWARENESS

3.8 million
views on Facebook

reaching more people than ever before

19,000
new social media followers

7 HEALTHY ORGANISATION

92%
of staff

recommend Cornwall Wildlife Trust as a place to work

6 GROW RESOURCES

MORE THAN

18,000

members in the movement for a wilder Cornwall

OVER

450 gifts

to our Wild Beaver Appeal

£7.3 million

raised for nature in Cornwall

82 Wilder Business members
supporting nature recovery

£640,000

left as gifts in wills
by people who loved nature and Cornwall

8 CAPTURE EVIDENCE

1,350

early gentians

counted in sand
dune habitats

OVER

130

species of lichen
recorded at West
Muchlarnick

9,900
acres

in West Penwith had baseline UK habitat
and condition surveys completed

270,000
new records

added and verified to the ERCCIS database



MORE NATURE EVERYWHERE

MORE NATURE EVERYWHERE

This year, alongside our wider work across Cornwall, we continued to focus on the places where we can make the biggest difference for nature. By working in priority areas and establishing Local Nature Recovery Networks, alongside the people who live and work there, we are helping create more joined-up habitat, restoring damaged ecosystems and building stronger connections between people and nature.

PENWITH

Working with over 400 community stakeholders and 50 land managers, we submitted an ambitious £186 million landscape recovery proposal for West Penwith, building a long-term plan for nature recovery. Over 9,900 acres had baseline UK habitat and condition surveys completed, and 150 footpaths were surveyed as part of plans for improved and inclusive access.

At Bartinney nature reserve, a new pair of Dartford warblers was recorded on heathland recovering from the 2021 wildfire, while the discovery of a brown-banded carder bee brought the reserve's list of solitary bees and wasps to 59 species.

WHAT IS A LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY NETWORK?

For nature to bounce back we need strong, interconnected wild spaces that ensure healthy soils, clean rivers, and thriving seas. This is essentially a Local Nature Recovery Network, applying the bigger, better, and more joined-up principles at the heart of the 2010 Lawton Report to increase and improve places for nature. These are then connected by 'wildlife corridors', such as hedgerows and verges managed with nature in mind, all allowing wildlife to thrive across our landscape.

KEY TO MAP

- Priority Areas (land)
- Priority Areas (sea)
- Dunes and Towans
- National Landscapes (formerly AONB)
- Nature Reserves
- ★ Destination Reserves

THE PAR CATCHMENT AND ST AUSTELL BAY

We reintroduced beavers to Cornwall, bringing back a keystone species that will help restore natural processes, create wetlands and support a diverse range of other wildlife.

We secured £3.3 million from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for our catchment scale Tor to Shore project, to start delivering nature recovery in a truly joined-up way, on land and at sea across 5,700 acres. Our team engaged 1,760 members of the community through events and outreach, including 157 new volunteers trained in both land and sea citizen science monitoring.

MORE NATURE EVERYWHERE



DUNES

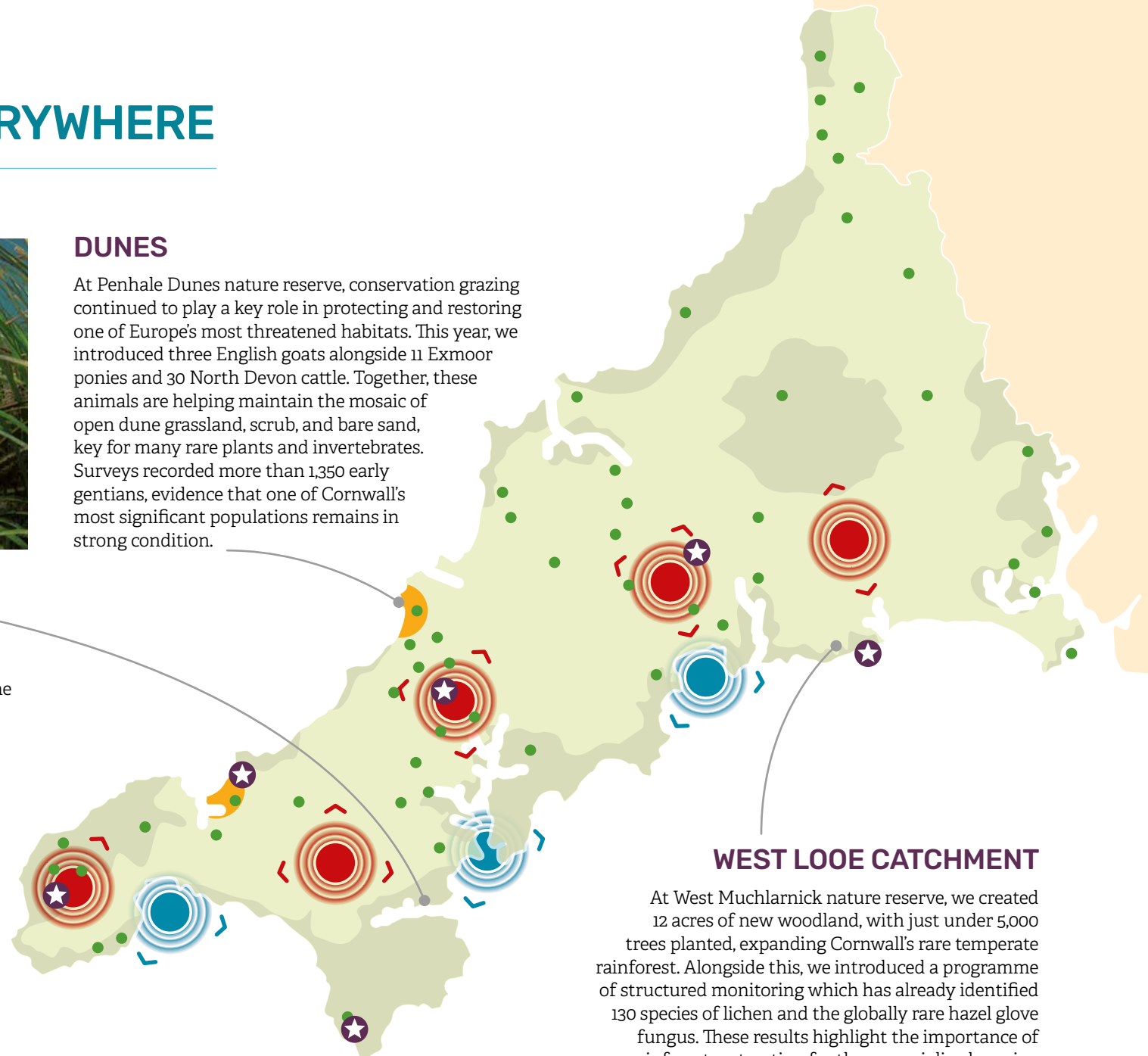
At Penhale Dunes nature reserve, conservation grazing continued to play a key role in protecting and restoring one of Europe's most threatened habitats. This year, we introduced three English goats alongside 11 Exmoor ponies and 30 North Devon cattle. Together, these animals are helping maintain the mosaic of open dune grassland, scrub, and bare sand, key for many rare plants and invertebrates. Surveys recorded more than 1,350 early gentians, evidence that one of Cornwall's most significant populations remains in strong condition.

THE FAL AND HELFORD

With funding from Cornwall Council, we established long-term monitoring of the St Mawes Bank maerl beds, ensuring ongoing evidence to help safeguard one of England's most important marine habitats for the future. On the Helford, our seagrass restoration work celebrated the successful establishment and growth of new plants, creating valuable habitat for wildlife beneath the waves.

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WEST LOOE CATCHMENT

At West Muchlarnick nature reserve, we created 12 acres of new woodland, with just under 5,000 trees planted, expanding Cornwall's rare temperate rainforest. Alongside this, we introduced a programme of structured monitoring which has already identified 130 species of lichen and the globally rare hazel glove fungus. These results highlight the importance of rainforest restoration for these specialised species.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



1 DEMONSTRATE AND INSPIRE

Through our work on nature reserves, we continue to demonstrate what effective conservation looks like in practice — showcasing how careful management and targeted restoration can create thriving habitats for wildlife and inspire others to take action.

Achieving lasting improvements often requires significant changes in management, such as reintroducing grazing to previously neglected areas, and ecological benefits can take time to emerge; the restoration work taking place across the more than 5,000 acres of land we manage is laying the foundations for continued improvement over the coming years.

This year, we have maintained over:

1,600 Acres of heathland

1,300 Acres of sand dune habitat

400 Acres of wetlands

700 Acres of grassland

400 Acres of woodland



Habitat creation and restoration are increasing the extent of wildlife-rich habitat across our reserves. At West Muchlarnick, near Looe, we planted 5,000 trees to create 12 acres of new temperate rainforest woodland. We have also expanded wetland habitat through the creation of new ponds, pools, and scrapes, helping wildlife adapt to the increasing impacts of climate change. This included:

- Creating a new third-of-an-acre pond at Windmill Farm, adding to a network of more than 30 ponds and scrapes already found at the reserve
- Installing a large pond at West Muchlarnick to enhance the damp, humid conditions needed for temperate rainforest restoration
- Creating shallow pools and scrapes at Ventongimps Moor and Allet Bog to benefit the rare plant yellow centaury.

85% of nature reserves in favourable or improving condition

We have also strengthened how we measure the impact of our conservation work. Together, the Reserves Team and ERCCIS introduced structured monitoring across three habitat types on five nature reserves: this consistent, repeatable approach is already providing valuable insights into the impact of our management.





1

DEMONSTRATE AND INSPIRE

1,877 visitors
welcomed to
Looe Island

At Penhale Dunes, monitoring across more than 250 acres of sand dune habitat is showing increases in rare plant species, such as shore dock and early gentian. At West Muchlarnick, a suite of methods has been initiated, including fixed-point photography, passive acoustic monitoring, butterfly transects, and moth trapping. Over 130 lichen species were recorded, including two rare temperate rainforest lichens, *Lobarina scrobiculata* and *Ricasolia virens*. The UK supports internationally important populations of both species, making their conservation particularly significant.

Connecting people with nature remains a key priority across our destination reserves. At Helman Tor, improvements to the Wilderness Trail, alongside new interpretation and virtual access via our website, are helping more people to experience and learn about this special landscape. We have also begun access improvements at Upton Towans and, in partnership with Cornwall Birds, opened a new bird hide at Maer Lake.

On Looe Island, wardens welcomed 1,877 visitors between Easter and the end of September. To expand opportunities for visitors to engage with the island's wildlife, we also recruited two volunteer wardens who are helping to deliver an enhanced programme of activities, launched in 2026.



DEMONSTRATE AND INSPIRE

LETTING NATURE LEAD: WILD BEAVERS RELEASED IN CORNWALL

Beavers, once native in Britain, were hunted to extinction in Britain more than 400 years ago. Their return marks a major milestone for nature recovery in Cornwall. As a keystone species, beavers create and restore wetlands through their natural behaviour; their dams transform landscapes in ways that benefit wildlife, improving water quality, slowing the flow of water, and increasing resilience to flooding and drought.

In February 2026, Cornwall Wildlife Trust released four pairs of beavers, marking an important transition from planning into delivery. This follows over a decade of work to secure the necessary licence and deliver a carefully managed reintroduction. The release reflects extensive collaboration with partners including Natural England,

Beaver Trust, and the Environment Agency, alongside engagement with local communities and stakeholders, supported by detailed evidence gathering and consultation.

At Helman Tor nature reserve, early signs of impact are already visible. The first pair, discovered in 2024, have established quickly:

- Created and influenced up to six acres of wetland
- Built nine (and counting) woody dams, slowing the water flow and reducing downstream flooding
- Supported a growing range of wildlife including herons, water rails, otters, grass snakes, deer, stoats, harvest mice, and various dragonflies and damselflies, including the nationally scarce small red damselfly.

In July 2025, wild-born beaver kits were recorded at Helman Tor, demonstrating that the site can support a breeding population. This development sits alongside the Trust's carefully managed licenced releases and demonstrates the potential for beavers and their wetland to establish and expand naturally over time.

While the releases mark a key milestone, this is the beginning of a longer-term effort, with several more pairs due to be released over the next few years. Ongoing monitoring will track how beavers shape the landscape, and how these changes support biodiversity and build resilience to climate change. Establishing a healthy, genetically sustainable population remains a core aim, ensuring beavers can thrive in Cornwall for the long-term.



2 SUPPORT AND ADVISE

By working alongside landowners, communities, fishers, and businesses across Cornwall, we are helping drive landscape-scale change for nature — providing trusted advice and practical support to restore and create habitats where they are needed most.

Our Farm Advisers and specialist conservation staff have supported farmers and other land managers across the county to put wildlife-friendly practices into action. We worked with 362 land managers, collectively caring for more than 70,000 acres of land.

One of our longest-running programmes, Upstream Thinking, entered a new five-year delivery phase this year. Strong relationships developed over more than 15 years helped maximise opportunities through the Forest for Cornwall programme, resulting in the planting of 17,500 trees this winter.

Across Cornwall's designated National Landscape areas, we worked with 18 new farms covering 3,864 acres, providing each with tailored advice and funding guidance. As a result, we restored 38 acres of species-rich grassland, helped design and install new ponds, cleared scrub to rejuvenate neglected habitats, and installed bat and barn owl boxes.

Through the Water Restoration Fund, we began work with six farms covering 1,611 acres in the West Looe River catchment, helping improve conditions within a river system currently in poor ecological condition. Working alongside neighbouring landowners and linking this activity to habitat restoration at West Muchlarnick Farm enables us to create greater impact at a landscape scale.

This year, Cornwall Environmental Consultants (CEC), Cornwall Wildlife Trust's trading subsidiary, surveyed more than 2,000 acres of land for habitat management purposes, identifying opportunities to improve habitats for organisations including Natural England, the National Trust, and private landowners.

Alongside our work on land, we continued to strengthen relationships with Cornwall's fishing communities. In January 2025, we recruited a Fisheries Partnership Officer to expand our work with the sector, and during the year we worked directly with 24 fishers to support collaborative approaches to protecting and restoring important marine habitats. Through initiatives such as the St Austell Bay Charter of the Sea, we are helping build the partnerships needed to deliver long-term marine recovery while supporting sustainable livelihoods.

We have worked with:

18 new farms
covering
3,864 acres

CEC surveyed more than:

2,000 acres
for habitat management purposes

We have restored:

38 acres
of species-rich grassland, helped design and install new ponds, cleared scrub to rejuvenate neglected habitats, and installed bat and barn owl boxes

We worked directly with:

24 fishers
to support collaborative approaches to protecting and restoring important marine habitats

2 SUPPORT AND ADVISE

NATURE-FRIENDLY FARMING IN PENWITH

In early 2026, Cornwall Wildlife Trust submitted a £186.7 million 20-year proposal, representing a major milestone for long-term nature recovery in west Cornwall.

The Penwith Landscape Recovery project demonstrates how farmers and land managers can work together to deliver nature recovery on a landscape scale.

Over two years, Cornwall Wildlife Trust has worked closely with farmers, land managers, and local communities to develop a shared vision for restoring Penwith's internationally important heathlands, wetlands, grasslands, and historic landscapes. Through one-to-one advice and engagement with more than 1,000 community stakeholders, the project has built the partnerships needed to deliver change across boundaries.

Penwith Landscape Recovery by numbers:

4,843
acres under
partnership

1,626
acres of heathland
identified for
restoration

1,589
acres of grassland
identified for
improvement

494
acres of wetland and
peatland identified
for restoration

2,718
acres of SSSI land benefiting
from habitat creation
(e.g., ponds and woodlands)
and regenerative management

1,000+
community responses
gathered

£186.7m
proposal submitted

2 SUPPORT AND ADVISE

39.7% increase in habitat units delivered with CEC support and 22.7% increase in hedgerow units, alongside enhanced canopy cover

MORE SPACE FOR NATURE

At Seaview Holiday Park, Cornwall Environmental Consultants (CEC) supported plans to extend an existing site within Cornwall's National Landscape, balancing the need for new holiday accommodation with the protection of this sensitive coastal environment.

Working closely with the client and project partners, CEC delivered an integrated ecological and landscape design from an early stage – ensuring that key features, such as mature tree belts, Cornish hedges, and coastal views, were retained and enhanced.

This collaborative approach maximised space for nature while meeting development requirements. The final proposals include strengthened habitat corridors, new tree and scrub planting, and a diverse mosaic of habitats designed to support wildlife and improve visitor experience.

The project exceeded policy expectations, delivering a 39.7% increase in habitat units and 22.7% increase in hedgerow units, alongside enhanced canopy cover.

By taking an integrated approach, CEC helped secure planning permission while creating a biodiverse, resilient landscape that benefits both people and nature.



3 ENGAGE AND MOBILISE

“You’ve gone from a dull, get up in the morning, everything is the same old thing and uneventful to something that is full of enjoyment and enthusiasm. It’s exciting, being excited isn’t something I thought I’d feel. I thought life was always going to be boring. Nature is probably the most useful for anyone that feels low in mood.”

Terri, Cornwall Wildlife Trust volunteer

3 ENGAGE AND MOBILISE

This year, we created opportunities for an estimated 40,000 people to connect with nature and to take meaningful action for its recovery. From volunteering and community conservation to campaigning, citizen science, and inspiring experiences in nature, we are helping more people play an active role in protecting Cornwall's wildlife.

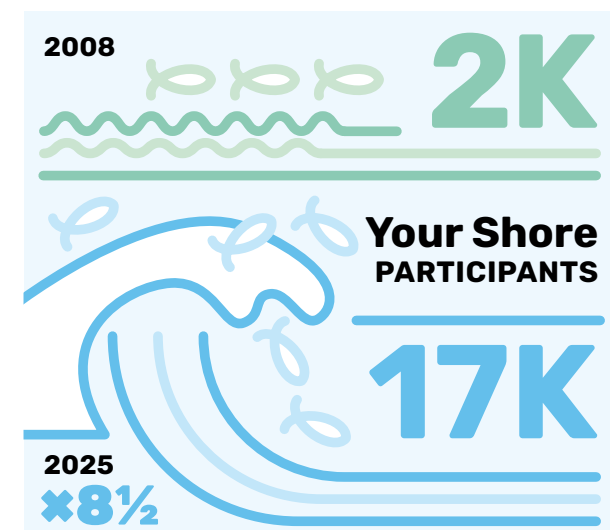
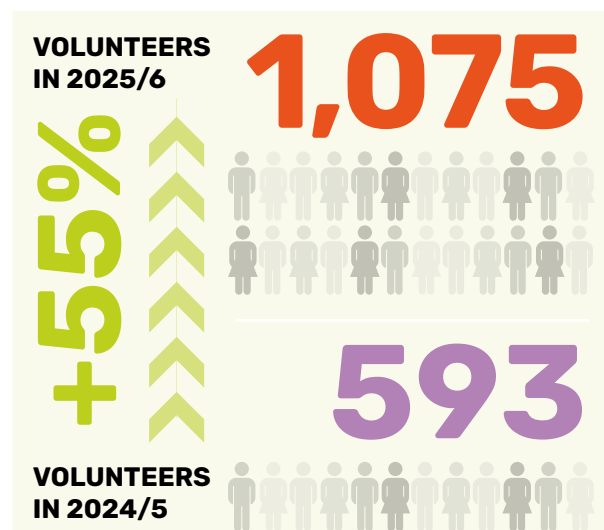
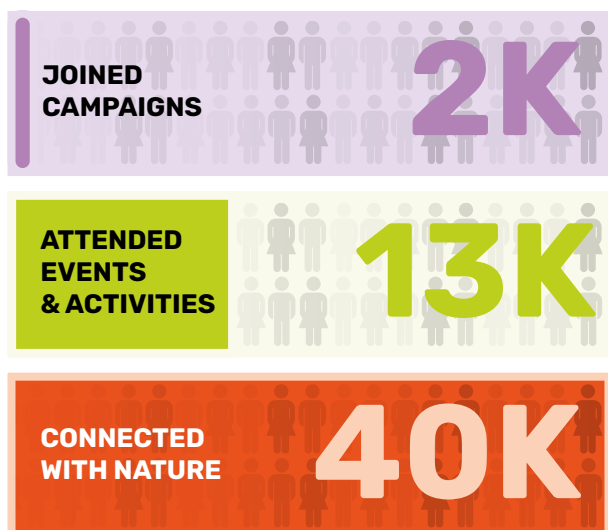
We engaged almost 13,000 people through events and activities, from glow worm walks and film screenings to rock pool rambles and beaver experiences. For many, these opportunities are the first step towards action. Nearly 2,000 supporters added their voice to our campaigns this year, helping amplify the voice of Cornwall's wildlife and wild places in local and national decision-making.

Since last year, the number of registered volunteers has almost doubled, growing from 593 to 1,075 people. Together they contributed an incredible 12,224 hours of practical habitat work and wildlife monitoring, as well as support in our offices, at events, and in the community. Almost 80% of volunteers who responded to a recent survey told us their involvement had encouraged them to take more action for nature in their own lives.

We also continued to support local groups to lead nature recovery themselves. Five new groups joined our network of Associated Groups, bringing the total to 47. These groups carry out wildlife surveys, practical conservation work, species monitoring, habitat management, and community engagement, reaching an estimated 19,000 people through local activities this year.

Our Your Shore programme shows how engagement can lead to long-term action. Since 2008, the programme has worked alongside voluntary marine conservation groups to help people discover, monitor, and protect Cornwall's seas and coastline. The number of people engaged through Your Shore has grown from 2,000 in 2008 to 17,000 in 2025. This sustained growth demonstrates the power of community-led conservation to inspire thousands of people to contribute to the protection of Cornwall's marine environment.

By creating opportunities for people to experience nature, develop skills, and take action in their communities, we are helping more people move from appreciation of nature to action for nature.



3

ENGAGE AND MOBILISE

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND CONNECTION THROUGH THE COMMUNITY WELLBEING GARDEN

The development of the Community Wellbeing Garden at Five Acres has created an accessible and welcoming space enabling more people to take action for nature. Between September 2025 and February 2026, volunteers contributed 438 hours across 15 sessions to build the garden, creating both a new nature-based wellbeing space and a strong sense of shared ownership.

Opportunities at Allet were previously constrained by a lack of sheltered, dedicated space but the garden has addressed this gap: providing an inclusive environment where people can take part in supported volunteering, build confidence, and connect with nature at their own pace. Accessibility improvements, including new pathways and parking, have been key to ensuring more people can take part.

There are already clear signs of impact, with one participant progressing from a socially prescribed group into wider Cornwall Wildlife Trust volunteering opportunities. Interest from health, wellbeing, and community organisations highlights the growing demand for accessible, nature-based activities that support wellbeing and reduce social isolation.



4 CAMPAIGN AND ADVOCATE

8 planning applications affecting County Wildlife Sites responded to. Four were refused, with impacts on wildlife cited among the reasons for refusal

Nature's future depends on the decisions made by governments, businesses, and communities. As pressures on Cornwall's wildlife continue to grow, we have strengthened our role as a trusted voice for nature, ensuring that evidence, local knowledge, and public support help shape the decisions affecting Cornwall's wildlife and wild places.

Through constructive advocacy, strategic partnerships, and public engagement, we worked to ensure that nature's interests were represented wherever key decisions were being made. We combined scientific evidence, practical conservation experience, and community insight to influence discussions, helping decision-makers understand both the challenges facing nature and the opportunities for recovery.

This year, we influenced decision-making while enabling more people to speak up for nature. We supported the Government's consultation on banning damaging fishing practices in Marine Protected Areas, with hundreds of Cornwall Wildlife Trust supporters contributing to a record-breaking response across The Wildlife Trusts movement. By providing accessible information and clear opportunities to act, we helped people raise their voices for stronger marine protection, demonstrating growing public support for nature recovery.

We also campaigned against proposals that could weaken protections for wildlife sites, including the Planning and Infrastructure Bill and its potential impact on nature.

Closer to home, we responded to eight planning applications affecting County Wildlife Sites. Four were refused, with impacts on wildlife cited among the reasons for refusal, while three remain under consideration. Together, these efforts helped safeguard important habitats in Cornwall.



PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE BILL: GIVING NATURE A VOICE

We played an active role in responding to the UK's Planning and Infrastructure Bill, working with partners across The Wildlife Trusts and the wider environmental sector to explain the Bill's implications for Cornwall and raise awareness of the risks it posed to wildlife, through media engagement, campaigns and stakeholder discussions. We also convened a roundtable bringing together MPs, developers and conservation organisations to discuss how nature recovery could be better reflected in planning decisions. Creating opportunities for constructive dialogue between sectors helped ensure that nature's needs remained part of conversations about future development.

While significant concerns remain, sustained advocacy helped secure important improvements and ensured that nature remained part of the national debate. This work reflects our ambition to be a trusted, influential and evidence-led voice for nature, connecting local experience with national policy and empowering more people to stand up for nature alongside us.

4 CAMPAIGN AND ADVOCATE

STANDING UP FOR CORNWALL'S SEAS

When the Marine Management Organisation consulted on fisheries management across offshore Marine Protected Areas, we combined scientific evidence, local knowledge, and public engagement to help shape the response for all 15 Cornish sites.

Working with fishers, communities, and partner organisations, we translated complex policy into accessible information and encouraged people to take part. The campaign generated more than 18,000 consultation responses nationally, compared with just 69 at the previous stage.

Our evidence showed that protection could increase from 3% to more than 20% of offshore waters while affecting only a small proportion of UK trawling activity, helping demonstrate that nature recovery and sustainable fisheries can go hand in hand, strengthening our role as a credible advocate for healthier seas.

Locally, the St Austell Bay Charter of the Sea continued to bring together businesses, fishers, and communities to shape a shared vision for the bay's future, with over 400 people contributing. By creating space for collaboration and shared stewardship, the Charter is helping more people play an active role in shaping the future of Cornwall's marine environment.

5 INCREASE AWARENESS

To achieve our vision of a Cornwall where nature thrives, more people need to know who we are, understand what we stand for, and feel inspired to act. In line with our 2030 Strategy for Nature Recovery in Cornwall, we continued to strengthen Cornwall Wildlife Trust's profile by reaching larger and more diverse audiences, developing a clearer and more consistent voice, and creating new opportunities for people to engage with our work.

Over the year, we focussed on building awareness that leads to action. Alongside refining how we tell stories about nature in Cornwall, we invested in content, video, and digital communications that help people understand the challenges facing wildlife, the positive change being delivered from Land's End to the Tamar, and the role they can play in supporting Cornwall's wildlife and wild places. This included evolving our Wild Cornwall magazine to create a cleaner, more contemporary, and accessible publication that better reflects Cornwall Wildlife Trust and our ambitions.

Thanks to this work, our audience continued to grow. Across key social media channels, our following increased from 103,000 to more than 122,000 people, with particularly strong growth on Instagram and LinkedIn. Our content reached millions of people: over 3.8 million on Facebook, almost one million on Instagram, and we had more than 680,000 views on TikTok. Our website engagement also remained strong at 67%.

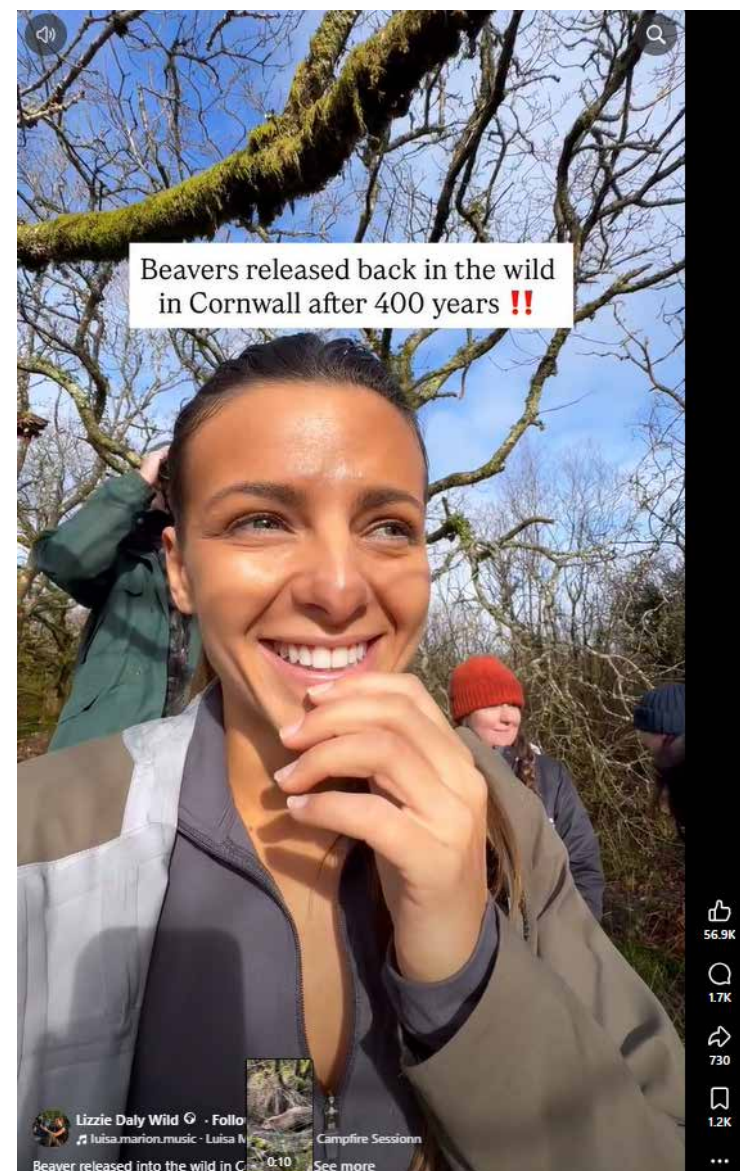
This growth reflects a deliberate shift towards more visual, engagement-led storytelling. By investing in photography, video, and impact-led communications more people engaged with nature recovery in Cornwall.

Several campaigns demonstrated the impact of this approach. Our wild beaver releases generated national attention, with influencer-led content reaching more than two million people and coverage by The Wildlife Trusts resulting in their most successful Instagram post ever. Wildlife stories featuring leatherback turtles, orcas, and fin whales generated significant reach and engagement, bringing Cornwall's wildlife to audiences far beyond the county.

In addition, partnerships helped us engage people who may not traditionally connect with conservation organisations. Our sold-out film night with Verdant Brewing Co attracted new audiences, with the film selection connecting surf culture and trail running with a love of nature, creating an accessible and engaging entry point for people less familiar with our work.

By continuing to develop our voice, embrace new channels, and build meaningful partnerships, we are strengthening Cornwall Wildlife Trust's position as a trusted advocate for nature and inspiring a broader, more diverse movement to take action for wildlife in Cornwall.

18% increase in followers across key social media channels



6 GROW RESOURCES

Delivering nature's recovery at the scale Cornwall needs is only possible with the collective support of individuals, communities, businesses, and funders who believe in a wilder future and support our work financially. Our 2030 strategy focuses on strengthening established income streams while developing new ones, ensuring we remain financially resilient and able to invest in nature despite a challenging external environment.

At almost £7.5m, total income remained strong and significantly higher than the £5.87 million achieved in 2023-2024 (the financial year prior to the launch of our 2030 Strategy for Nature Recovery in Cornwall).

Our community of more than 18,000 members (across over 11,500 memberships) continues to stand up for nature, contributing £793k to protect and restore Cornwall's wildlife and wild places, £43k more than last year. While our supporters have shown exceptional loyalty, reflected in a consistently high retention rate, recruiting new members has proved challenging in the tough economic climate. Recognising the importance of our members, we've continued to grow this area, diversifying recruitment methods and implementing volunteer-led thank you calls to welcome new members to the movement.

We are deeply grateful to those who have chosen to leave a gift in their Will, helping secure a lasting future for Cornwall's wildlife. In 2025-2026, legacy income exceeded £640k - one of our strongest years to date. Gift in Wills fund vital work on land and at sea, while also providing the flexibility to unlock further grant funding through match-funding arrangements.

Support from trusts, foundations, statutory organisations, and other grant-making organisations remained strong, and included a multi-million-pound commitment from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, one of our largest ever. This funding is for Tor to Shore, a project to restore nature across land and sea from Helman Tor to St Austell Bay.

Commercial activity also played an important role in supporting both delivery and long-term resilience. Cornwall Environmental Consultants (CEC), our environmental consultancy, generated over £385k in profit, while helping ensure development across Cornwall is planned and delivered in ways that protect and enhance wildlife. We also invested in a new role to explore and develop commercial opportunities, including improving visitor experiences and increasing income from our nature reserves.

Together, these diverse income streams are helping us build a more resilient organisation - one that is better equipped to deliver lasting impact for nature across Cornwall.

£7.5 million
total income for 2025-2026

More than
18,000 members

Members contributed
£793,000
to protect and restore Cornwall's
wildlife and wild places

Legacy income exceeded
£640,000

CEC generated over
£385,000

CEC generated over £385,000 in profit,
while supporting development across
Cornwall to protect and enhance wildlife.

7 ENSURE A HEALTHY ORGANISATION

Our ability to deliver meaningful change for nature depends on being a resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking organisation.

Over the past year, Cornwall Wildlife Trust has continued to strengthen these foundations — embedding shared values, improving our working environment, investing in leadership and wellbeing, and ensuring our people feel connected to our mission.

Following earlier energy efficiency improvements across the site, this year marked a significant step forward in the transformation of our headquarters at Five Acres, Allet. Work began on a major redevelopment that will bring staff and operations together in a more joined-up, efficient, and welcoming space. Through the refurbishment of existing buildings and the addition of a new central hub arranged around a shared courtyard, the project is creating an environment that supports collaboration, strengthens partnerships, and provides a better experience for visitors, volunteers, and stakeholders.

Sustainability has been central to this transformation: for example, the decision to reuse existing buildings improves the site whilst reducing the environmental impact of new construction and works with the natural layout of Five Acres nature reserve. Careful planning, supported by Cornwall Environmental Consultants, has also ensured that works minimise disruption to local wildlife, including the timing of groundworks and the installation of bat boxes.

Importantly, these investments are matched by a strong and positive workplace culture. Staff feedback remains consistently high, with 92% recommending the Trust as an employer, 91% reporting enjoyment and fulfilment in their roles, and 92% clear on how their work contributes to our wider strategy. These results reflect our ongoing focus on wellbeing, collaboration, and creating a positive, purpose-driven culture.

As part of our ongoing commitment to equality and inclusion, we established a new EDI Panel last year to guide and challenge our work. We also joined a Pride event in Truro for the first time, strengthening our visibility and connection with diverse communities across Cornwall. Elsewhere, we expanded our management training programme, strengthening leadership across the organisation. We also brought colleagues together at a successful all-staff away day at our temperate rainforest project site, allowing teams to connect, learn, and feel inspired by our work and this unique landscape.

Together, these improvements are creating a stronger, more connected organisation — equipped to deliver sustained impact for Cornwall's wildlife and wild places.



Staff feedback remains high, with:

92% recommending the Trust as an employer

91% reporting enjoyment and fulfilment in their roles

92% clear on how their work contributes to our wider strategy



8 CAPTURE EVIDENCE

270,000 records added (and verified) to our Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS)

To understand the impact of our work and guide future action, over the past year we've moved from largely ad hoc monitoring to a more structured and consistent programme across our reserves and wider landscape. This approach enables us to better track changes over time.

We are now contributing more consistently to national datasets, including through the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS), ensuring that the data we collect locally helps to inform conservation at a regional and national scale.

Our monitoring now spans a wide range of habitats and species. From lowland meadows, and heathland to wetlands, rivers, and woodlands, we're using a combination of traditional field surveys and new technologies to detect trends, identify priorities, and inform how sites are managed.

Innovative approaches like drone surveys are providing high-resolution imagery of our reserves, allowing us to map habitats and monitor change at scale, with visual evidence of transformations, particularly in dynamic landscapes such as beaver wetlands.

Specialist surveys, such as those focused on temperate rainforest habitats and priority species, are helping to build our understanding of some of Cornwall's most important and vulnerable ecosystems.

Early results are already encouraging. This year, monitoring has allowed us to identify positive changes across a number of sites, including increases in rare plant species such as heath lobelia, confirmation of breeding willow tits, and the rapid increase of species in new wetland habitats, including dragonflies, damselflies, and wading birds. While long-term trends take time to emerge, this structured approach puts us in a strong position to demonstrate how quickly nature can recover.

This year also marks an important step forward in how we work. With data being collected more consistently, we're bringing together staff, volunteers, and partners for a coordinated approach. Our volunteers are playing an increasingly important role, including contributions to national monitoring schemes and leading on local surveys.

By strengthening our evidence base, we are not only improving how we manage our own land, but also providing the insight needed to influence wider conservation action. This work is helping to ensure that decisions about Cornwall's environment are informed by robust, long-term data.

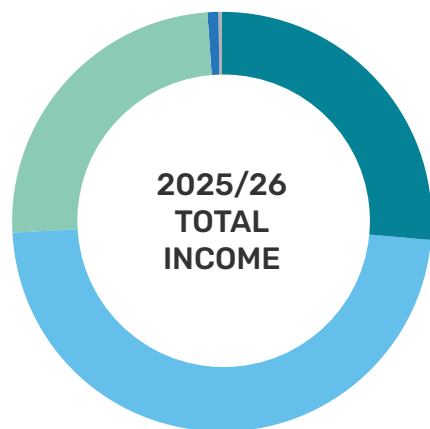


SUMMARY OF FINANCES



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

The following summarises income and expenditure for Cornwall Wildlife Trust (including our subsidiary company, Cornwall Environmental Consultants) for the 2025/26 financial year. Further information can be found in our 2025/26 annual accounts.



TOTAL INCOME

- Donations and legacies
- Charitable activities
- Other trading activities
- Investments
- Other

2025/26

1,983,633

3,574,007

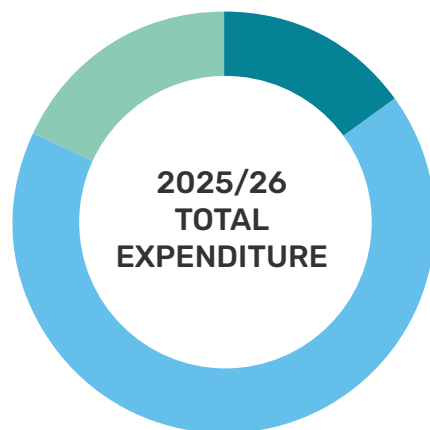
1,847,305

69,054

4,168

TOTAL

7,478,167



TOTAL EXPENDITURE

- Raising funds
- Land and sea
- CEC

2025/26

1,012,756

4,554,790

1,082,316

TOTAL

6,649,862

**1.6
million**

in general reserves
against a target of £864,000
This provides resource to
**invest further in our
2030 strategy for nature
recovery in Cornwall.**

FOR EVERY
£1.00 spent
85p is spent on **work
directly for nature**

47p is spent on
**programme
work on land
and sea**

22p is spent
managing and
**improving our
nature reserves**

47p

22p



15p

16p

15p is spent
**fundraising,
raising awareness,
and encouraging
people to take
action for wildlife**

16p is spent
**delivering Cornwall
Environmental
Consultants,
benefitting nature**

A group of five people are hiking away from the camera on a dirt path in a forest. The person on the far left wears a brown parka, a striped beanie, and green boots. Next to them is a person in a dark blue jacket and black pants, with a blue hair tie. In the center, a person wears a green parka, a red beanie, and a large green backpack. To their right is a person in a dark jacket and grey pants. On the far right, a person with blonde hair wears a dark jacket. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small stones. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting autumn or winter. The text "LOOKING AHEAD" is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

**LOOKING
AHEAD**

LOOKING AHEAD

As we enter the third year of our 2030 Strategy for Nature Recovery in Cornwall, the coming year will provide an important opportunity to reflect and take stock. We will undertake a mid-strategy review to assess the progress we have made, understand where we are having the greatest impact, and ensure our priorities remain focused on achieving the ambitious outcomes we set ourselves. While there is still much to do, we have built strong foundations and are increasingly seeing the scale of change that is possible when people come together on behalf of nature.

Following the successful release of beavers into the Par river catchment at Helman Tor, we will release a further five pairs into the neighbouring upper Fowey river catchment and begin identifying future locations for their wider re-establishment across Cornwall. We will take the next steps in restoring temperate rainforest at West Muchlarnick, combining habitat creation with opportunities for natural regeneration and exploring how this pioneering project can grow further across the landscape.

Working with farmers and landowners will remain central to our ambitions. We expect to secure a successful outcome for the Penwith Landscape Recovery project, unlocking significant investment for nature-friendly land management across one of Cornwall's most important landscapes. At the same time, we will continue supporting farmers throughout the county, helping to increase the area of land managed for nature while strengthening our understanding of the impact this work is having.

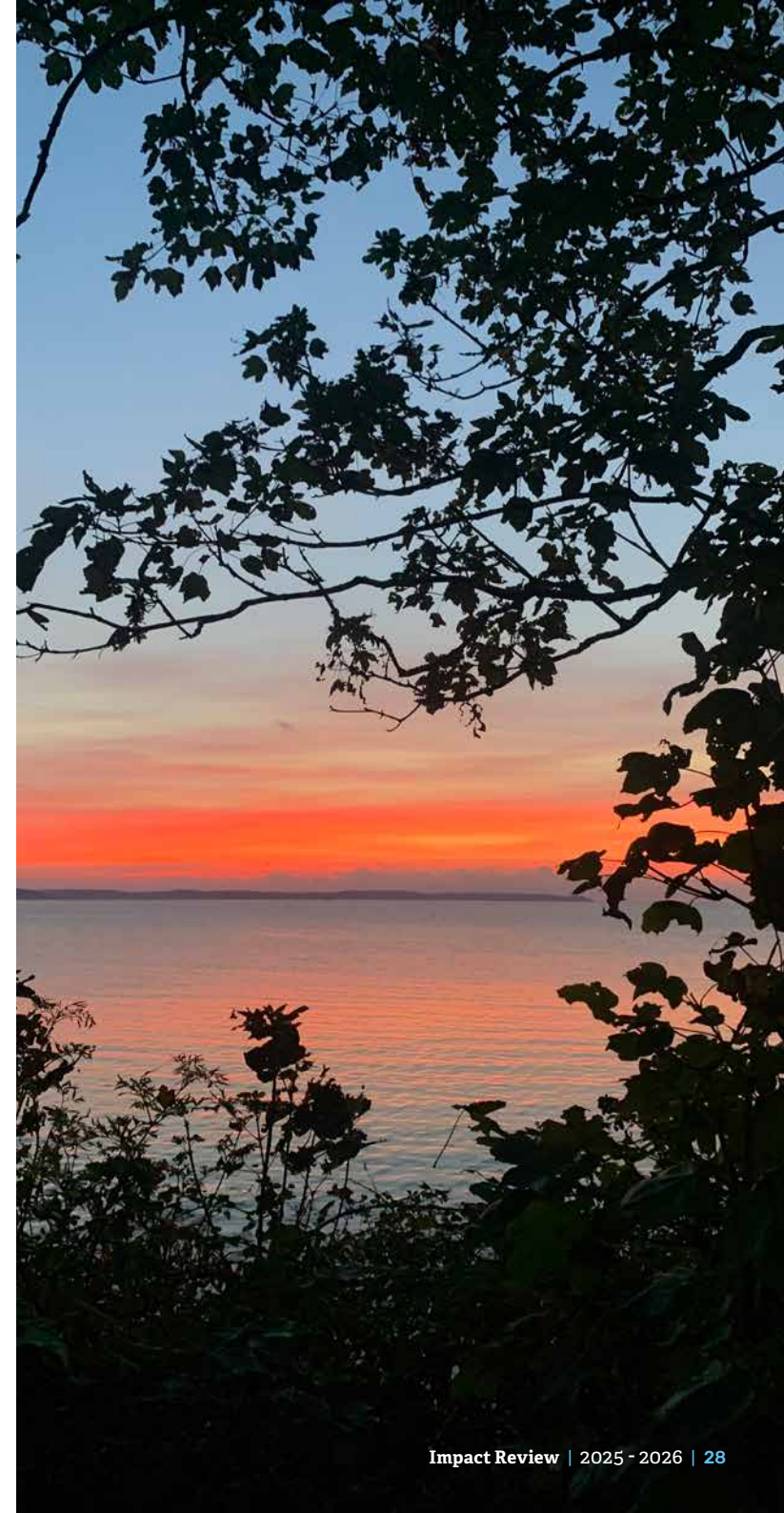
In our seas, we will build on the momentum of recent years by expanding seagrass restoration

and beginning native oyster recovery in the Fal Estuary. We will also strengthen collaboration beyond Cornwall. Working with our national body the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts and four other county wildlife trusts, we will build a partnership for marine recovery stretching along England's south coast from Cornwall to Sussex. These initiatives will contribute to healthier, more resilient marine ecosystems that benefit both wildlife and coastal communities.

So that more people can experience the benefits of nature and play a role in its recovery, we will create new opportunities for engagement at our nature reserves, expand activities at Looe Island, and establish a new community hub at Crenney Farm as part of the Tor to Shore project. We will continue to develop our work around nature connectedness and wellbeing, ensuring that more people can access and enjoy nature as part of their everyday lives.

The year ahead will see the completion of the renovation of our headquarters, creating exciting opportunities to strengthen our connection with the public through a new visitor centre and expanded programme of events. Together with partners across Cornwall, we will continue to support the delivery of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Recovery Strategy, helping to turn shared ambitions into meaningful action on the ground.

As ever, none of this would be possible without the commitment of our members, supporters, donors, funders, volunteers and staff. Their passion, generosity and belief in a wilder Cornwall give us confidence that, together, we can continue to accelerate nature's recovery and make lasting progress towards our vision for 2030.



THANK YOU

We extend our sincere thanks to our volunteers, members, supporters, and all those who have contributed to our work to create a Cornwall where nature thrives. Your support has enabled us to protect more land for nature, restore and create vital habitats, strengthen the voice for Cornwall's wildlife, and help thousands of people connect with the natural world

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all the businesses who supported our work over the past year, including Reserve Guardians, project sponsors, members of our Wilder Business network, and businesses who took part in Wild Work days. We're especially grateful to **Seasalt, St Eval, Sunhouse Creative, Vision IFP**, and **Cornish Orchards** for their phenomenal support.

FUNDING PARTNERS

Much of what we do would not be possible without the organisations, charitable trusts, and people who generously provide grants to our work, including **The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Rewilding Britain, The Norman Family Charitable Trust, Cornwall Council's Community Levelling Up Programme via Good Growth, Species Survival Fund administered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Defra, Coastal Partnerships Network, Natural England, the Environment Agency, National Lottery Community Fund, Cornwall National Landscape, The Swire Charitable Trust, The Razey Family Trust, The Golden Bottle Trust**, and **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**

STATUTORY PARTNERS

Throughout 2025/26, statutory partners, including local and national government bodies, contributed funding, advice, and information to assist our work, such as **Cornwall Council, The Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Cornwall National Landscapes, Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Marine Management Organisation**, and **National Landscapes**.

PROJECT PARTNERS

We can achieve more for nature through collaborating with and delivering on behalf of others, including **Woodland Valley Farm, Cornwall Birds, Plantlife, Farm Cornwall, Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change, Seasearch, South West Water, the University of Plymouth, the University of Exeter, Cornwall Climate Care, the National Trust, the Duchy of Cornwall, the Woodland Trust, Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust, the Sensory Trust, the Beaver Trust, Fowey Rivers Association, Westcountry Rivers Trust, Young People Cornwall, the Ocean Conservation Trust, ZSL, the Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code Group**, and the various community and special interest groups associated with Cornwall Wildlife Trust that are taking action for nature, as well as organisations and partnerships working through the **Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership**, the **Cornwall Catchment Partnership** and the **Marine and Coastal Partnership**.

WILDLIFE PATRONS

Our Wildlife Patrons are a dedicated membership community whose generosity provides vital, flexible funding, complementing the support of our wider membership and helping us take decisive action for nature across Cornwall. In 2025/26, their support helped restore habitats, protect species, respond to emerging challenges and explore new approaches, bringing us closer to a wilder Cornwall where wildlife can thrive. Thank you for your continued commitment and the difference you make.

THOSE WHO REMEMBERED CORNWALL WILDLIFE TRUST IN THEIR WILLS

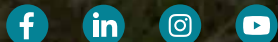
Gifts in Wills are a meaningful way to support the future of Cornwall's wildlife, helping ensure our landscapes, seas and species can recover and thrive for generations to come. These lasting gifts provide vital funding for long-term conservation, habitat restoration and action when it's needed most. We are deeply grateful to everyone who chooses to remember nature in this special way. Your legacy will make a lasting difference.



Cornwall Wildlife Trust

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"With your help, it's been a year of real impact across Cornwall, restoring and protecting nature on land and at sea. That progress gives us hope and momentum to achieve even greater change in the year ahead."

Oliver Blount, Chair of Cornwall Wildlife Trust



Cornwall Wildlife Trust is a registered charity formed in 1962 by a group of volunteers who were passionate about Cornwall's natural environment and wanted to safeguard it for future generations.

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 214929

COVER IMAGE: BEAVER RELEASE, HELMAN TOR: BEAVER TRUST | PAGE 2 - MIDDLE AMBLE MARSH NATURE RESERVE: ADRIAN LANGDON | PAGE 3 - BEAVER IMPACTS: SUE MANSFIELD | PAGE 6 - VIEW TOWARDS PENHALE NATURE RESERVE: BEN WATKINS | PAGE 8 - SEAGRASS: BEN OAKES
PAGE 9 - FRITILLARY SILVER WASHED: GILL FISHER | PAGE 10 - TREE PLANTING: SIMON DOBSON | PAGE 11 - EARLY GENTIAN AT PENHALE DUNES: JON CRIPPS | PAGE 12 - BEAVER RELEASE, HELMAN TOR: BEAVER TRUST | PAGE 13 - TREE PLANTING PROJECT, PAR RIVER CATCHMENT: GWEN MAGGS
PAGE 14 - BELTED GALLOWAY, JON HAWKINS | PAGE 18 - COMMUNITY GARDEN: BECKS PAYNE | PAGE 19 - ROUNDTABLE EVENT: FAYE TREFFRY | PAGE 20 - KELP HABITAT, ST AUSTELL BAY: MATT SLATER | PAGE 21 - LIZZIE DALY: INSTAGRAM | PAGE 22 - SEA SWIM, CARBIS BAY: BULL & WOLF
PAGE 23 - SITE MEETING, FIVE ACRES: ROB KELLOW, PRIDE MARCH: CORNWALL WILDLIFE TRUST | PAGE 24 - WILLOW TIT: HARRY HOGG | PAGE 25 - BARN OWLETS: ADRIAN LANGDON | PAGE 27 - SPECIES SURVIVAL FUND GROUP: CORNWALL WILDLIFE TRUST
PAGE 28 - SUNSET, LOOE ISLAND: ESME PLUNKETT | PAGE 30 - GUIDED WALK: BECKS PAYNE | CREATIVE LOUJONESDESIGN.COM