

Annual Review 2022-2023

Review



Cornwall
Wildlife Trust

Creating a Cornwall
where nature thrives

Seagrass meadow



Mute swans (*Cygnus olor*)



Blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)



Peppered moth (*Biston betularia*)

Taking action to restore Cornwall's wildlife and wild places, on land and in our seas, all year round

From the Chief Executive

Having joined Cornwall Wildlife Trust in September 2022, it has been a huge privilege to visit so many of the projects and places you'll read about in this annual review. I hope it gives you a sense of the wide range of incredible work being undertaken to help nature in Cornwall to thrive once again.

In particular, I'd like to pay tribute to all the dedicated volunteers who really do make this possible, whether by improving habitat on nature reserves and other wildlife sites, serving coffee and cake to raise funds at our Open Gardens events, monitoring dormouse boxes, recording stranded cetaceans on Cornwall's shores, or in one of the many other areas of our work.

The Lawton Report (2010) called for a 'bigger, better, more joined up' approach to managing space for nature. It was great to see that Cornwall Wildlife Trust has been taking action to make this a reality in Cornwall this year with a successful appeal to purchase an additional 97 acres of land neighbouring Helman Tor, our largest nature reserve. We are now working on bold plans to improve this increasingly important area for wildlife.

This year also saw the discovery of the largest known subtidal seagrass bed in Cornwall. At over 887 acres, this finding from our St. Austell Bay Blue Carbon Mapping Project has sparked a real sense of excitement.

Alongside this, we launched the three-year Seeding Change Together project with Seasalt Cornwall to restore seagrass at our Fal-Ruan nature reserve.

None of us can live without nature: our lives are reliant on healthy soils, fresh water, diverse plants, bacteria, fungi, and animals. Furthermore, in Cornwall nature provides us with sublime beauty that can have a profoundly positive impact on our mental well-being. However, we cannot downplay the scale of the crisis which nature in Cornwall faces. If we are to reverse the decline we see all around us, we need to work together. Cornwall Wildlife Trust has been striving to empower individuals and communities to take action for nature. We are so grateful for the way in which so many people have stepped up, whether by supporting the Defend Nature campaign, joining a Your Shore group, or attending one of our learning events.

I am incredibly fortunate to have such an outstanding team at Cornwall Wildlife Trust. Alongside the many volunteers, members and supporters who do so much for wildlife in Cornwall, we have a dedicated group of staff and trustees who care passionately about our environment. I'd like to thank them all for their hard work over the past year.

Matt Walpole, Chief Executive.



European rabbit
(*Oryctolagus
cuniculus*)



Heath fritillary
(*Melitaea
athalia*)



Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)

Our work on land

There was a tremendous response to our [land purchase appeal](#), which raised £180,172 to secure an additional 97 acres of land neighbouring our Helman Tor nature reserve. This acquisition will allow more wildlife to thrive, and key species, such as beavers and large herbivores, to be introduced to create and manage important habitats.

[Upstream Thinking](#) engaged 21 farmers and landowners to enable better management and improve water quality and biodiversity; 35 acres of habitat were created, and 205 acres were restored, providing more space for nature. £58,524 of funds were secured for farmers and landowners through the South West Water Upstream Thinking Capital Grants Fund, which improves farming infrastructure and water quality.

97 acres
of additional
land secured

neighbouring Helman
Tor Nature Reserve
thanks to supporters

It was another productive and successful year in managing our 59 nature reserves. Particular highlights included: the installation of a 1km deer fence at Cabilla and Redrice Woods to enable copice regrowth; a new section of hedge being laid – with help from the Environment Agency – to give light to wildflowers and insects at Churchtown Farm; the creation of a 2.5 acre wildflower meadow at Five Acres; 13 new ponds created in West Cornwall; and 12 acres of scrub clearance work at Redmoor and Breney Common to push back the encroaching scrub and restore a more open mosaic of wet pools and dry land. All these habitats support a wide array of butterflies, dragonflies, birds, mammals and reptiles.

In addition, six new wilderness trail interpretation boards were designed and installed across Helman Tor Nature Reserve and access improvements were undertaken through the creation of a new 30-minute circular walk at our Five Acres nature reserve.

50 new dormouse boxes were installed at Breney Common by volunteers to allow monitoring of the dormouse population. Two boxes were occupied by dormice within two months – the first record of dormice on site since 2012!

11,589 trees
planted in Cornwall

through
Upstream Thinking

Upstream Thinking

Furthermore, our [Christmas Appeal](#) raised £25,416 to allow us to continue vaccinating badgers with partners ZSL and to protect other mammal species.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust managed 2,195 hectares of land and 8km of watercourses during 2022/23, across 59 nature reserves. We provided advice to 125 land managers and owners, who managed 7,200 acres of land, and spent £167,000 on water quality improvements.

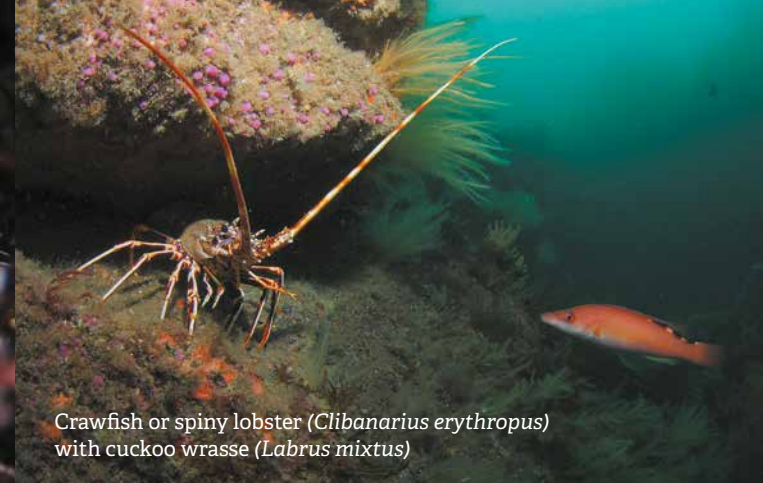
2022/23 marked the five year anniversary of [The Cornwall Beaver Project](#) with research findings prompting fresh calls for wild releases in Britain.



Common octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*)



St Piran's hermit crab (*Clibanarius erythropus*)



Crawfish or spiny lobster (*Clibanarius erythropus*) with cuckoo wrasse (*Labrus mixtus*)

Our work *at sea*

In July 2022, we launched the [Seeding Change Together](#) project, in partnership with Seasalt Cornwall, to study and restore seagrass in the Fal Estuary. The three-year project aims to reveal more about Cornwall's dwarf seagrass beds and trial restoration methods with the hope of expanding the size of the seagrass bed at the Trust's Fal-Ruan nature reserve. Furthermore, an exciting discovery of an 887-acre subtidal seagrass bed was revealed through the [St Austell Bay Blue Carbon Mapping Project](#). One of the largest known seagrass beds in the UK! And it doesn't stop there. Cornwall Wildlife Trust found dense seagrass growing at a depth of 14m in Mount's Bay – the deepest known seagrass in the UK!

887 acre
subtidal seagrass bed
discovered in St Austell Bay



Seagrass is vital for the health of our oceans and the wider planet. Not only do these underwater meadows support a diverse ecosystem but they also have the potential to store huge amounts of carbon.


2022-23 marked a successful year for collecting marine wildlife data. [Seaquest Southwest](#) surveyed 41 sites, and volunteers from [Seasearch Diving](#) completed 225 surveys and found some fantastic marine life including seahorses and rare cup corals. [Shoresearch](#) carried out SSSI surveys for Natural England in the Fal and Helford SAC, as well as developing a citizen science methodology for monitoring rocky shore fish populations and trends – trialled with two survey days at Cawsand. Data collection is vital in helping our conservation work and raising public awareness of the value of Cornwall's marine environment.

[Your Shore](#) launched two '[Charters of the Sea](#)' – Mount's Bay and the Cornwall Charter of the Sea – new initiatives which will shape the way that communities and individuals protect our coast and sea. The team also delivered 11 training courses aimed at providing skills in marine life identification

and monitoring for the local marine groups. Training was provided for 193 volunteers via these courses.

Working with Cornish fisherman and fisheries continued through the [Cornwall Good Seafood Guide](#) where 66 fisheries were rated as sustainable, and volunteers from the [Marine Strandings Network](#) attended 157 dead cetaceans stranded around Cornwall's shores.

A total of **1,910** reports of marine wildlife
were documented by **Seaquest Southwest**



A total of 1,910 reports of marine wildlife were documented by [Seaquest Southwest](#) including Risso's dolphins, common dolphins, fin whales and humpback whales.



Grey dagger moth caterpillar (*Acronicta psi*)



Fly agaric (*Amanita muscaria*)



Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Our work in the community

Over 14,000 people attended one of our 450 events throughout 2022-23, with 500 people participating in health and well-being programmes, including families and children.



Your Shore, with support from National Lottery Heritage Fund, engaged over 6,000 young people in Mount's Bay by working with education providers and attending 215 community engagement events, which included meetings, workshops, and public events. During **National Marine Week**, a further 14 marine events were held across Cornwall, with 413 people celebrating Cornwall's diverse marine life and raising awareness of the need to protect it.

Through **Nextdoor Nature**, Cornwall Wildlife Trust was involved in 59 different community activities, connecting with 165 people from the Redruth and Camborne areas.

The **Open Gardens** programme – attended by 2,786 people – raised £30,295.93 towards protecting Cornwall's wildlife and wild places. Twenty talks were delivered to community groups through the **Speaker Network**, and a panel discussion event welcomed 150 guests to hear about our work on **'30 by 30'**.



The Trust led on four local partnerships and coalitions around organising and campaigning, as well as supporting The Wildlife Trusts' **Defend Nature** campaign; asking members, supporters and the wider public to defend nature by contacting MPs and local councillors to voice concerns over Government proposals.



Towards the end of the year, the **Your Shore Award** was launched to educate and encourage people of all ages and abilities to take action to protect their local environment. The Your Shore Award is available to all local marine groups to facilitate engagement with young people and schools throughout Cornwall.

Wildlife highlights

2022-23

1 February
Humpback whale



1 February – Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). Several sightings of humpback whales were spotted off the coast of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. (RUPERT KIRKWOOD)

2 March – New bat boxes at Devichoys Wood. Through our Kernow Glasssa project, the team installed 20 new bat boxes at Devichoys Wood to provide more roosting and breeding opportunities for woodland bats. (CORNWALL WILDLIFE TRUST)

2 March
New bat boxes at Devichoys Wood



5 August
Nudibranch



3 June – Octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*). Huge numbers of octopus were seen along Cornwall's coastline in what experts described as a 'bumper year' for sightings. (SHANNON MORAN PHOTO)

4 August – Spider crab (*Maja brachydactyla*) gathering. Spider crab aggregations – once rare in the UK – occurred during August, carpeting the ocean floor just metres away from the shore. (MATT SLATER)

3 June
Octopus



6 September
Dormouse boxes



5 August – Nudibranch. The multi-coloured sea slug (*Babakina anadoni*) was spotted off the coast of the Isles of Scilly – making it the first confirmed record of the species in the UK! (ALLEN MURRAY)

6 September – Dormouse boxes. With the help of our fantastic Kernow Glasssa volunteers, 50 dormouse boxes were installed at Helman Tor Nature Reserve – with two adults already moving in! (LAURA SNELL)

4 August
Spider crab gathering



7 October
Devil's fingers



7 October – Devil's fingers (*Clathrus archeri*). A rare fungus, known as devil's fingers or octopus stinkhorn, was found in far East Cornwall. (JASON JONES)



Hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*)

Trustees' statement

The following is a summary of information extracted from Cornwall Wildlife Trust's unaudited consolidated accounts which comprise statements of Cornwall Wildlife Trust and its subsidiary company Cornwall Environmental Consultants for the period ended 31st March 2023.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31st March 2023

| | Unrestricted Funds (£) | Restricted Funds (£) | Total 2023 (£) | Total 2022 (£) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income from: | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 1,245,726 | 366,061 | 1,611,787 | 1,098,133 |
| Charitable activities | 765,862 | 4,190,878 | 4,956,741 | 3,300,350 |
| Other trading activities | 14,053 | - | 14,053 | 63,149 |
| Investments | 11,677 | 1,685 | 13,362 | - |
| Other | 72,894 | 6,850 | 79,744 | 299,855 |
| Consultancy income | 698,028 | - | 698,028 | 1,155,092 |
| Total income | 2,808,240 | 4,565,474 | 7,373,714 | 5,916,579 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | |
| Raising Funds | 730,735 | 54,123 | 784,858 | 569,458 |
| Charitable activities | 956,936 | 3,194,472 | 4,151,408 | 4,223,336 |
| Nature conservation | 602,947 | - | 602,947 | 806,816 |
| Total expenditure | 2,290,618 | 3,248,595 | 5,539,213 | 5,599,610 |
| Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | 517,621 | 1,316,880 | 1,834,501 | 316,969 |
| Funds at 1 April 2023 | 2,555,310 | 6,238,959 | 8,794,269 | 8,477,300 |
| Funds at 31st March 2023 | 3,066,954 | 7,555,839 | 10,622,792 | 8,794,269* |

*2021-2022 was a 13 month financial period, to bring our financial year inline with many key donors and their reporting deadlines

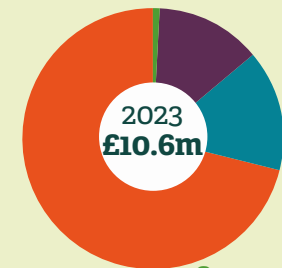
Caveat statement: At the time of print, the annual financial audit was not completed and these figures maybe subject to change within the final accounts. The financial summary shown above does not contain sufficient information to allow for the full understanding of the financial affairs of Cornwall Wildlife Trust and its subsidiary company Cornwall Environmental Consultants Ltd. For further information the fully audited financial statements should be consulted once completed, available from Cornwall Wildlife Trust or visiting our website.

BALANCE SHEET

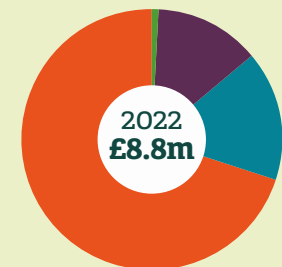
At 31st March 2023

| | The Group | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2023 (£) | 2022 (£) |
| Fixed Assets | 7,101,509 | 5,374,279 |
| Current Assets | 5,131,625 | 4,438,631 |
| Creditors due within one year | (608,601) | (892,996) |
| Net Current Assets | 4,523,024 | 3,545,635 |
| Creditors due after one year | (1,001,743) | (125,645) |
| Net Assets | 10,622,790 | 8,794,269 |
| Funds | | |
| Unrestricted funds: | | |
| General Funds | 1,481,063 | 1,176,744 |
| Designated Funds | 1,585,712 | 1,378,387 |
| Revaluation Reserve | 179 | 179 |
| Restricted funds: | 7,555,839 | 6,238,959 |
| Total Funds | 10,622,792 | 8,794,269* |

The reserves policy of Cornwall Wildlife Trust establishes an unrestricted cash reserve based on a number of risk-based analysis calculations, such as loss of key income streams and working capital. Our current calculations produce a reserve requirement of £610,000. The pie chart below demonstrates that our actual 'free' or general funds, excluding funds designated for a specific purpose, were £1,481,063 at year-end (£1,176,744 in 21/22). This level of reserves will act as an enabler for the Trusts' new strategy to 2030.



£179
Revaluation Reserve
£1,481,063
General Funds
£1,585,712
Designated Funds
£7,555,839
Restricted Funds



£179
Revaluation Reserve
£1,176,744
General Funds
£1,378,387
Designated Funds
£6,238,959
Restricted Funds

How your support helps

£1

For every **£1** Cornwall Wildlife Trust receives:

14p

14p is spent on **fundraising and publicity**, so we can raise more for wildlife

86p

86p is spent **delivering our charitable objectives** on land and at sea



Doing good, by doing business

AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF OUR WORK WITH BUSINESSES:

Our work with local businesses continued to grow throughout 2022-23 amid continued uncertainty as industry concerns shifted from the pandemic to fears over the cost of living.

Thankfully all our new corporate schemes have grown in numbers and we added a significant new corporate partnership as well as a number of high value supporters through our [Reserve Guardian](#) scheme. The [Wilder Business Network](#), our business membership scheme, also retained many of its members from the previous year as well as adding a further three new gold members.

Our Reserves Guardian programme added local businesses Whistlefish and Cornish Concrete, whilst also retaining four out of the five current guardians, taking the total number of reserve guardians to seven and generating vital funds for our work in the field. Our [Seaquest](#) project sponsors, Marraum, continued to support our work whilst also getting staff involved with a snorkel safari off Swanpool beach.

With the help of our 12 calendar sponsors, we produced our popular Wild Cornwall Calendar and this year we worked with local company Whistlefish to offer a new range of Christmas cards.

Our partnership with South West Water continued through the [Upstream Thinking](#) initiative as well as supporting our marine engagement programmes. We also continued to work with Vine House Farm, promoting their wildlife gardening products and seeds – via the website and in our Wild Cornwall magazines – in return for a percentage of their sales as income.

The most exciting news of the year was the creation of our newest and largest ever corporate partnership with popular clothing brand Seasalt. In June, '[Seeding Change Together](#)' launched – a three year partnership worth £150,000 researching innovative ways of restoring seagrass at our Fal-Ruan nature reserve. Alongside funding, we will also be working with Seasalt to help promote our work to a wider audience.

We also had a great year in donations with over £44,000 being received from businesses to support our projects throughout the year.

OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Corporate Partners:

Seasalt
South West Water
Vine House Farm

Reserve Guardians:

Rowe Farming – Sponsors of
Pendarves Wood Nature Reserve

Southern England Farms
– Sponsors of *St. Erth Pitts
Nature Reserve*

Green and Blue – Sponsors of
Nansmellyn Marsh Nature Reserve

Cornish Lithium – Sponsors of
Bissoe Valley Nature Reserve

St. Austell Brewery – Sponsors
of *Ropehaven Cliff Nature Reserve*

Cornish Concrete – Sponsors of
Bissoe Valley Nature Reserve

Whistlefish – Sponsors of *Upton
Towans Nature Reserve*

Project Sponsors:

Marraum
Sponsors of Seaquest Southwest

Wilder Business Network

GOLD:

Bosinver
Cornish Horizons
Kurt and Caroline Jackson Ltd
John Fowler Holidays
St. Tinney Farm Holidays
Pengelly Retreat
Wildanet
The Woodland Collection

SILVER:

Trago Mills
Southwestern Distilleries
Helman Tor Cottages
Medicanna
St. Auburn Estate

BRONZE:

Koru Kayaking
Stay In Cornwall
HolidayCottages.co.uk
Imerys Minerals Limited
Trevalgan Touring Park
Hendra TC and CP Ltd
Inlight Beauty
Watergate Bay Hotel
Railholiday Ltd
Sykes Cottages
Cher Varya Group Ltd
Budock Vean Hotel
Ekopod
Forever Cornwall
Carley's of Cornwall Ltd
Lower Marsh Farm
Quick Move Now
Big Domain
RRL LLP
Degembris Farmhouse & Cottages
Sun Haven Holiday Park
Penmarlam Holiday Park
Padstow Holiday Village
Higher Culloden Farm
Tregothnan Estate
Lower Treave Caravan and
Camping Park
Tregoad Holiday Park
A M S Instrumentation & Control
The Park Cornwall
Hotel Tresanton Ltd
Treloy Touring Park
Vickery Holman
Sandoe & Sons
St Austell Printing Company
Mother Ivey's Bay Holiday Park
Uneeka
The Nare Hotel Company Ltd
Tehidy Holiday Park
The Greenbank Hotel
Paradise Park
Cornwall CLT Ltd
Pocketful of Stones Distillers

Jon Tremaine Ltd
CPMR Ltd
Trewan Hall
Boscastle Farms Shop and Cafe
White Acres Holiday Park by
Parkdean Resorts
Crossley Hill Chartered Surveyors
Rosehill Lodges
mYcard
Stephens Scown
Forest Holidays, Deerpark
Edhen Vets
Sailflags
Silverlake Design Ltd
St. Ives Bay Holiday Park
Atropos
Carnglaze Caverns
Volunteer Cornwall
HPB Dunloe Manor
Trevarth Holiday Park
Doyle Clayton
Tredarrup Farm
Tracey Dockeree Sewing and
Design Studio

Calendar Sponsors:

Classic Cottages
Aspects Holidays (sister
company Classic Cottages)
Robinson Reed Layton
PSP Insurance & Financial
Solutions
Southern England Farms
Silverlake Design
Under The Canopy
Seasalt
St. Eval
Paradise Park
Chelonia
Cornovill Silver

Christmas Card Sponsors

Whistlefish

Cornwall Environmental Consultants (CEC)



CEC had another strong year in 2022-23, turning over in excess of three quarters of a million pounds and generating a profit of £109,000 of unrestricted funds for Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

CEC are specialists in the fields of ecology, landscape and habitat creation, and in 2022-23 worked on more than 400 projects across Cornwall. The restructured team works across **householder** scale projects (e.g. extensions, barn conversions, loft conversions), **developer and land owner** projects, and **large infrastructure** scale projects.



Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

Increasingly, CEC are working on more **non development** projects as the need to assess existing habitats and how they may be enhanced is looked at by various clients. In 2022-23 such projects included those for National Trust, Natural England, FERA (the Food and Environment Research Agency), Cornwall Council and of course Cornwall Wildlife Trust themselves.

Development clients continued to be important too, with projects varying from bat surveys in single dwellings to some of Cornwall's larger projects, such as the new Langarth Garden Village outside Truro.

CEC continues to enjoy positive relationships with long standing clients such as Natural England, the National Trust and Cornwall Council, all of whom value CEC's expert input from an experienced team of staff who work with Cornwall Wildlife Trust's strategic aims in mind.

To support the restructured shape of CEC, and ensure that the depth of environmental knowledge in the team continues to grow, CEC recruited three new, early-career ecologists, each of whom bring approximately three years' ecological consultancy experience. CEC now has the largest team of ecologists in Cornwall and the largest team of experienced and licensed bat workers in the South West.

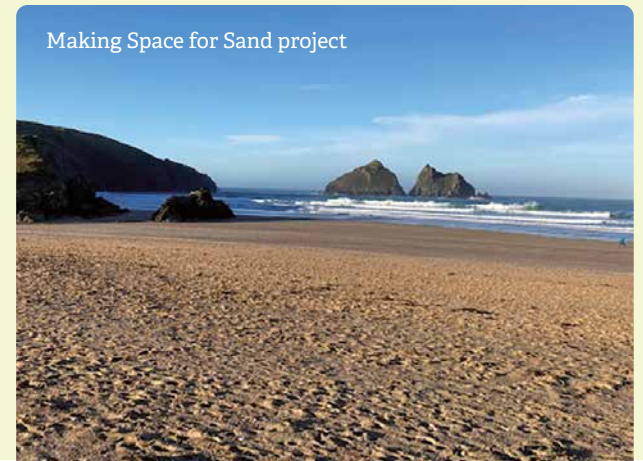
As a result, CEC has been able to work proactively to help strengthen the national offer of the Wildlife Trust Consultancies (WTC). Increasingly WTC are pitching alongside the largest consultancies, using a single wildlife trust to lead work but bringing in other Wildlife Trust Consultancies to help deliver projects across several counties.

The landscape department continued to work on a variety of development projects including those for holiday parks, a cycle hub, and residential schemes, as well as several non development projects such as the **That's Our Parish project for the Penwith Landscape Partnership**, and a Landscape Character Assessment for Cornwall Council.

Increasingly clients are appreciating CEC's joined up approach to ecology and landscape, where teams work together to deliver cohesive advice for clients who want to create beautiful and biodiverse schemes. With Biodiversity Net Gain and Canopy Cover becoming increasingly important in the determination of planning applications clients are really seeing the value of this approach.

2022-23 included the continuation of the **Making Space for Sand** project, one of 25 projects funded by Defra through the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FRCIP) as part of the £200 million Flood and Coastal Innovation Programmes that are being managed by the Environment Agency. The project aims to encourage the sustainable use and development of the coastal fringe and provide state-of-the-art assessments of Cornwall's past, present and future beach dune systems in order to visualise future coastal change. This exciting project involved an initial ecological assessment in the winter of 2022, and further work will be needed in the next financial year.

Making Space for Sand project



Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isle of Scilly (ERCCIS)

ERCCIS is Cornwall's accredited Local Environment Record Centre, which collects, manages and disseminates information about the biological and geological state of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

ERCCIS is also the evidence and digital mapping department for Cornwall Wildlife Trust, providing support in data collection, management and mapping to aid project delivery across the Trust.

ERCCIS makes biological and habitat information easily accessible for decision-making, conservation management, education, research and public benefit. Much of the data managed is provided by expert volunteers.



Common frog (*Rana temporaria*)



Pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*)

In the last year ERCCIS has been involved in many key projects including:

- Further developing [The Cornwall Coastal Data Hub](#)
- Continuing the Natural England funded [Ancient Woodland Inventory update for Cornwall project](#).
- Digitising the [County Wildlife Sites](#) and [County Geology Sites](#) information held in the ERCCIS library
- Improving the data management of Cornwall Wildlife Trust's [Sequest Southwest](#) project data



ERCCIS has been working with colleagues at the University of Exeter to understand the extent of structured monitoring in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

We are developing a plan to improve monitoring across the region and on our own reserves. We will utilise national monitoring schemes, volunteer recorders and technology in the field to better understand the state of Cornish nature.8



Silver-washed fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*)



European beaver (*Castor fiber*)

Projects and partnerships include:



**CORNWALL
GOOD
SEAFOOD
GUIDE**



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



KERNOW**GLASSA**

Keskowethyans Tirwedd Pennwydh
Penwith Landscape Partnership



Your ongoing
support means
we can continue
to create a **Cornwall**
where **nature** thrives



Four-spotted chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*)

Annual • 2022-2023 Review

Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Five Acres, Allet, Truro,
Cornwall TR4 9DJ

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info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk



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



Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)