Clerk & RFO Victoria Burton-Davey
c/o The Art House
36 Fore Street
Praze-an-Beeble
TR14 0JX
07756 991696
clerk@stburyanlamornapaul-pc.gov.uk

BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2023 - 27

With this plan we commit to:

- protect and conserve existing biodiversity rich habitats, features, and species,
- facilitate improvement of the condition of existing areas of habitat including a map of local biodiversity rich sites,
- actively support the creation of a better, more joined up network of green space and habitats which supports biodiversity in our rural community,
- support the increase of the extent of existing habitats or range of species through restoration or expansion of habitats, green corridors, and establishment of wildflower areas,
- improve understanding, enjoyment, and connection with nature, making it accessible for all, benefitting health and wellbeing, and reducing inequalities.

The natural world is something on which we all depend.
Protecting biodiversity will benefit all of us, now and in the future.

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Our Vision for Biodiversity in St Buryan & Lamorna

By 2027 residents will know how they can access the natural environment and biodiversity areas rich in wildlife that everyone can feel connected to and will benefit from.

We must:

- Protect, restore and enhance biodiversity by facilitating creation of resilient and well-connected biodiversity rich areas, which help to tackle the impacts of climate change and support the movement of species to aid recovery as part of a nature recovery network.
- Protect our most valuable habitats and sites and facilitate positive management of nature rich areas to maximise their biodiversity value.
- Ensure our policies are robust around biodiversity, ensuring that biodiversity net gain is identified and supported as part of our planning consultee role, and that opportunities to extend or create new habitats are encouraged.
- Work with our residents, partners, landowners, volunteers, and visitors to support the thriving of nature and receive its educational, health, and wellbeing benefit.

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity (Biological Diversity) is the term used to describe the variety of all life on earth. It covers the whole range of living things including animals, trees, plants, insects, fungi and even bacteria.

Biodiversity is concerned with the interactions within and between species and the communities, habitats, and ecosystems in which they occur.

Our Biodiversity Resource:

- **Cornish Hedges**
- **Soils**
- **Biodiversity rich pockets throughout the Parish**
- **Gardens**
- **Established trees/hedges/woodland/scrub**
- **Heathland & bog**
- **Moorland**
- **Wetlands**
- **Ponds**
- **Granite Outcrops**
- **Streams**
- **Reservoir**
- **National Landscapes**
- **Dark Skies Designation - https://cornwall.uk/cornwall-dark-sky-park/**

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What is a Biodiversity Action Plan?

- A Biodiversity Action Plan guides how we will protect and support wildlife in the Parish.
- It covers priorities on local, regional, and national levels and turns them into actions.
- Is concerned with all wildlife in the Parish, not just the rare or threatened.
- It shows how supporting wildlife links to wider Cornwall Council priorities including making our environment a healthier, greener, and cleaner place and improving the quality of life for all residents.
- Helps secure the Parish's natural environment and green infrastructure for future generations.

What is included in the Biodiversity Action Plan? The Natural Environment

Green Spaces	**Blue Spaces**	**Built Environment**
Parks, gardens, trees, estates, church grounds, food growing spaces, woodlands, farms	Ponds, wetlands, streams, seashore	Green roofs, Cornish Hedges, planters, window boxes and baskets, bird and bat boxes, archaeological features, community growing areas

Statutory Duties

- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, ensures we give regards to biodiversity in the exercising of our functions, to conserving biodiversity.
- The Environment Act 2021 introduces a ten per cent biodiversity net gain requirement for new developments.
- Climate Emergency Development Plan (DPD).
- Biodiversity Net Gain duties.
- What the Environment Act means for us.
- Cornwall Nature Recovery Strategy
- The Biodiversity Action Plan is used to deliver policy and statutory requirements for biodiversity at a local level and will link with Cornwall Council's Nature Recovery Strategy when finalised.

The Biodiversity Action Plan will help provide direction to all stakeholders in St Buryan & Lomorna Parish to action, monitor and work for positive management for biodiversity. It will link with Cornwall Council's Nature Recovery Strategy.

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Priority Themes in the Biodiversity Action Plan

Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain means enabling biodiversity to be in a better condition than before. Developments (10 properties and over) must provide at least a 10% net gain in improved biodiversity because of the development actually taking place. These net gains will need to be retained for at least 30 years and must be held on a public register. The Biodiversity Action Plan will use Cornwall Council's standard for Biodiversity Net Gain, support net gain initiatives and ensure our policies protect and enhance habitats.

Nature, Health and Wellbeing

Increased access and contact with nature can significantly improve both physical and mental health.
With the Biodiversity Action Plan, we aim to reduce inequalities in access to green natural spaces in the Parish and provide more opportunities for residents to connect with and enjoy nature in meaningful ways.

Education and Awareness

Awareness raising within the Parish should be tied to ongoing biodiversity initiatives to maximise the message that all wildlife is important. It is widely recognised that increased knowledge leads to favourable attitudes which in turn leads to action promoting better environmental quality. To promote broader ecological understanding, including of habitats and ecological processes important to wildlife.

Nature Recovery

A nature recovery network is where wildlife sites, habitats and green spaces across the landscape are connected to give nature room to thrive. It allows plants, animals, seeds, nutrients, and water to move from place to place and enables the natural world to adapt to change. As part of the Biodiversity Action Plan, we map and work to join up a nature recovery network, working with other land managers and organisations to ensure sites are managed positively for biodiversity. A Nature Recovery Network is one of the tools/techniques to achieve Nature recovery.

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a network of parks, green spaces, gardens, woodlands, rivers, and wetlands, as well as urban greening features such as trees and green roofs, and Cornish Hedges. Green infrastructure provides habitat and food source for wildlife as well as creating green corridors, allowing wildlife to move freely and safely between different spaces. The Biodiversity Action Plan will support greening opportunities across the Parish including the creation of biodiverse green infrastructure to support climate resilience.

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Working Together: A Collaborative Approach

To enhance and improve biodiversity we need to work in partnership with residents, landowners, and the community. To support this, we have produced an action plan which will include the following targets:

- Establish a Parish Nature Action Group. This will become a driving force to ensuring the aims and objectives set out in the action plan are delivered and that the Parish's biodiversity thrives.
- Provide space on our website for an Environment page and Parish Nature Action Group page.
- Engage with landowners and provide support to encourage positive management of their spaces for biodiversity.
- Promote environmental education through our website, social media, talks and activities.
- Provide links on our website to support for residents looking to help wildlife in their own spaces, be it window boxes, gardens, or balconies.
- Promote nature, health and wellbeing on our website and social media platforms.

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THE PLAN

Education, Engagement and Access to Nature
Facilitate establishment a Parish Nature Action Group. This will become a resident led driving force to ensuring the aims and objectives set out in the action plan are delivered and that the Parish's biodiversity thrives.
Provide space on our website for an Environment page and Parish Nature Action Group page.
Engage with landowners and provide links to information that encourages and informs on positive management of their spaces for biodiversity.
Promote environmental education through our website and social media.
Develop a local network of environmental educators in the Parish, supporting training & skills sharing.
Promote and advertise self-guided wellbeing/nature walks around the Parish to residents and visitors.
Support and develop resident biodiversity monitoring projects through initiatives like the National Butterfly Count and Garden Bird Count.
Consider installing wildlife interpretation boards in sites in the Parish and/or develop an App to increase awareness of their biodiversity value.
Access biodiversity workshops and training for Councillors, Contractors, and Clerk.
Develop a food growing project/orchard/allotments in the Parish.
Secure funding to expand education and nature wellbeing provision.

Grassland and Wildflower Meadows
Publish links to guidance on the creation and management of wildflower meadows to support new meadow installations across the Parish.
Commission floral survey of grasslands in the Glebe and other sites (such as verges) and monitor biodiversity.
Identify grass areas in the Parish which could be sustainably managed as longer grass and/or pollinator strips and implement a 'No Mow' strategy to support the areas identified.

Trees and Woodlands
To identify funding opportunities for woodland management and tree planting in the Parish.
Increase the dead wood and purpose built loggeries across woodland sites across the Parish.
To manage existing hedges to maximise their wildlife benefit, and plant new hedges where possible.
Undertake a valuation of the Parish's trees and identify areas suitable for tree planting.
Publish links to guidance on climate resilient and wildlife supporting trees as a reference guide for any tree planting schemes.
Work with key stakeholders to identify opportunities to create community orchards across the Parish engaging the community in their planning, planting, and maintenance.

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Parks and Open Spaces
Identify opportunities for habitat creation or enhancement of the Glebe to increase biodiversity value.
Design in wildlife friendly habitats within parks to occupy at least 30% of the area.
Establish a community growing area in the Parish.
Identify opportunities for tree planting and creating new habitats in the Parish, such as hedges and biodiversity pockets.
Review the grounds maintenance approaches such as amending mowing regimes to support biodiversity.
Work with residents to promote the importance of biodiversity by joining up with national campaigns, such as the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch, and national Butterfly Count etc.

Private Gardens
Facilitate a garden share initiative and encourage improvement these spaces for wildlife.
Engage land managers in the Parish and deliver ecological related training programme, raising awareness and improved management of Local Wildlife Sites.
Identify small plots and areas owned by Cornwall Council which can be transferred to the Parish and planted for biodiversity gain.

Nature Recovery Network
Submit funding applications to develop a pilot Nature Recovery Network in the Parish, implement plans to set a blueprint for a Parish wide Nature Recovery Network.
Work with the Parish Nature Action Groups and local stakeholders to map biodiversity pockets.
Work with the Parish Nature Action Group and local stakeholders to link biodiversity pockets together with nature corridors.
Seek funding to produce Biodiversity information signage for strategic points.
Publish links to guidance on managing historic walls, memorials, and structures for biodiversity.

Pollinator Action Plan
Publish links to bee/pollinator guidance to support planting for pollinators across the Parish; including window box, garden, and pot plant ideas.
Introduce 'pollinator' planters at the bus stop/other suitable areas to plant with pollinator friendly plants.
Access/budget for best practice habitat management workshops to Grounds Maintenance contractors.
To eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides by Parish Council contractors (Cornwall Council deals with invasive species).
Introduce and maintain a Parish map of privately owned hives. Offer guidance via the website and links to external organisations supporting this activity.

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Blue Spaces
Engage with Landowners and managers in and around the Parish to encourage bankside areas to be managed for biodiversity increase.
To ensure that new development maximises the opportunities to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of ponds, streams, and the reservoir.
To ensure that any new landscaping adjacent to watercourses is predominantly native and wildlife friendly.
To collaborate with partners to manage invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed.
Publish links to guidance on pond and water habitat management to support contractors and other landowners.

The Built Environment
Publish links to new Greening Supplementary Planning Guidance to all residents and businesses in the Parish to highlight the benefits of increased green infrastructure and opportunities for improvement.
Ensure the Greening SPD is supported through our planning consultee role: supporting living roofs and living walls, artificial nesting sites, Dark Skies initiatives, street light diming and turn off times.
Support development schemes that put more emphasis on creating and enhancing green infrastructure.
Support residents in accessing retrofit grants for heat pumps/environmentally friendly energy sources, insulation etc.
Support the Cornwall Council's commitment to ensure that biodiversity is improved, and not damaged.
Support highways colleagues with street greening initiatives that support biodiversity.

Surveying and Monitoring
Team up with local organisations to undertake a Nature Bio Blitz to help identify the breadth of biodiversity in the Parish.
Ensure all ecological records from the Parish's parks and open spaces, are submitted to Cornwall Council.
Set up wildlife and biodiversity surveying and monitoring.
Identify and establish funding streams to undertake monitoring ecological surveys.
Publish links to Citizen science monitoring programmes such as those through the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, RSPB etc.
Ensure any designated Local Wildlife Sites are visited once a year to ensure they have not been adversely impacted.
Assist the PNAG in maintaining a database of nest boxes that have been erected in the Parish.

ADOPTED JUNE 2025
REVIEW NOVEMBER 2026

@Prepared by Clerk & RFO Victoria Burton-Davey June 2025