Autumn 2026

National Trust

Lizard & Mid-Cornwall

National Trust Community Newsletter



View towards Godrevy Lighthouse

Welcome to the first newsletter from the newly formed team here at Lizard & Mid-Cornwall National Trust; it's been an exciting and busy year so far. For those I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, I'm Carly Cosh, the new General Manager for Lizard & Mid-Cornwall. I have been in post since March 2026, following the retirement of Justin Whitehouse; prior to working in this team, I was the General Manager for National Trust in West Cornwall.

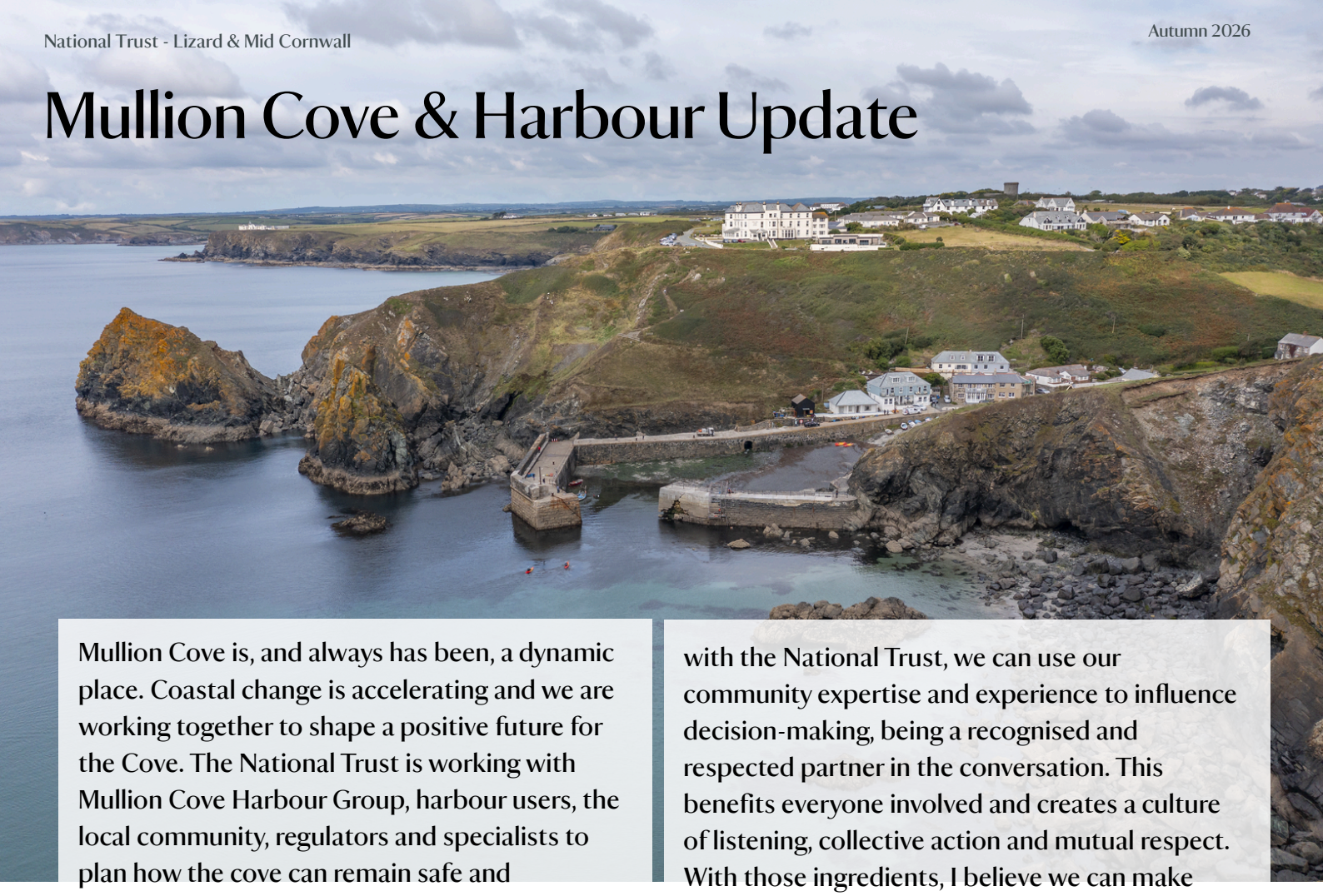
Introducing the area we look after: Following a significant organisational restructure, that came into effect in January, the former Lizard & Penrose team merged with part of a neighbouring Property Group (formerly known as Mid and South East Cornwall). Our new team, Lizard & Mid-Cornwall, look after an extraordinary stretch of Cornwall, encompassing areas in and around the Lizard Peninsula, Penrose, Porkellis and parts the north coast from Godrevy to St Agnes.

As you can imagine, bringing together teams, places and ways of working has meant a year of change. There have been staffing changes, new roles introduced, and plenty of opportunities to learn and adapt. For me personally, it has been six months of getting to know new teams, new landscapes and the many organisations and communities who care so deeply about the local area.

What has struck me most during this transition is the passion and commitment of our staff, volunteers, partners and local communities. Whether caring for nature, protecting heritage, growing climate resilience, supporting access to the countryside, or helping visitors connect with nature, history and special places, so much of what we achieve is only possible because of the strong relationships we have with the people who live, work and volunteer here. While change can be challenging, it also brings opportunities. As we continue to settle into our new property group, I'm excited about strengthening local connections, working collaboratively to ensure that the places in our care continue to thrive for everyone who enjoys them today and for future generations. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the months ahead and hope you enjoy reading about some of the fantastic work that has taken place so far this year.

- Carly Cosh, General Manager Lizard & Mid-Cornwall

Mullion Cove & Harbour Update



Mullion Cove is, and always has been, a dynamic place. Coastal change is accelerating and we are working together to shape a positive future for the Cove. The National Trust is working with Mullion Cove Harbour Group, harbour users, the local community, regulators and specialists to plan how the cove can remain safe and welcoming in the face of increasing coastal change, rising sea levels and more frequent severe storms.

Building on the work of the Harbour Study (2004-06), in March 2025 around 30 stakeholders came together for a workshop, facilitated by University College London's, Climate Action Unit. Together we explored how climate change may affect the cove and how we might respond together, helping build a shared understanding of the challenges ahead and the practical action that will be needed.

Rather than focusing on one single structure, the work considers the whole cove, including the southern and western breakwaters, northern quay, slipway, culvert and surrounding buildings. Together, we have developed adaptation pathways that identify actions needed now, alongside possible future decisions as conditions change.

'As a community, it is vital we lean into the challenges our cove faces. In collaboration with the National Trust, we can use our community expertise and experience to influence decision-making, being a recognised and respected partner in the conversation. This benefits everyone involved and creates a culture of listening, collective action and mutual respect. With those ingredients, I believe we can make positive change together.' - Jonny Pascoe, Mullion Cove Harbour Group Director

While we continue our collaborative work with Mullion Cove Harbour Group, the local community, regulators and specialists to plan how the Cove can adapt to coastal change; we also have to respond to the recent changes on the southern breakwater. Unfortunately, materials used during previous repairs are deteriorating, and recent storms have caused further damage to the aging structure. The National Trust is working on solutions to address immediate structural concerns. These works will require specialist equipment operating from a barge, which cannot safely be used in the challenging sea conditions of autumn and winter; we are working towards carrying out the emergency works in spring 2027.

For more information on our work at Mullion Cove visit: nationaltrust.org.uk/mullion-cove

Or join us for: Mullion Cove & Harbour Update - Public Meeting | Mullion Harbour, Lime Pointing Sessions

A stormy start to the year

With the extended spell of high summer temperatures this year, it may feel hard to remember the challenges that marked the start of 2026. But the year began far from the calm and settled season many had hoped for.

Storm Goretti left a trail of devastation across the Lizard, causing widespread damage in a remarkably short period of time. Before recovery efforts could fully get underway, two further named storms arrived in quick succession, bringing severe flooding, landslides, fallen trees and significant damage to buildings across the landscape.

One of the last areas to reopen was Frenchman's Creek. Thanks to support from the Ministry of Defence, a bridge that had been displaced by storm-damaged and uprooted trees was successfully repositioned, allowing the area to once again welcome visitors.

For many months, National Trust staff, volunteers and local contractors worked tirelessly to clear dangerously damaged trees and make paths safe and accessible. While essential safety work has now been completed, many fallen trees have been left in place wherever possible, recognising their important role within the woodland ecosystem.

Deadwood provides vital habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including invertebrates, fungi and birds that rely on it for shelter, nesting and breeding opportunities. Allowing these natural processes to continue helps support the rich biodiversity that makes the Lizard so special.

A huge thank you goes to everyone involved in the recovery effort, particularly the volunteers whose dedication and hard work helped restore paths and clear storm damage across the property. Their support has been invaluable in helping the landscape recover and welcoming visitors back safely.



Godrevy entrance road



MOD team at Frenchman's Creek



Penrose

Access for All improvements

Cornwall National Landscape

One of the ambitions in the National Trust's new strategy is to end unequal access to nature, beauty and history by 2050. Earlier this year, with thanks to the Cornwall National Landscape, Access for All grant, we've been able to deliver over £46,000 of access improvements at the places in our care here in Lizard & Mid Cornwall (£80,000 across all of Cornwall).

There's much potential to improve access to the places in our care. While we can't do everything, everywhere all at once, we are doing our best to have a positive impact with the changes we make. Grants like this one, really help unlock the progress we want to make.

A huge thank you goes to the Cornwall National Landscape Team and all the local contractors, staff and volunteers invovled in delivering this work; it's a wonderful achievement that will improve access and experiences for people living in and visiting Cornwall.

End Unequal access





Sensory packs and portable hearing loops

New bicycle racks at Mullion, Poldhu and Gunwalloe





Accoustic baffling at Penrose stables cafe





Step free access at the Lizard Wireless Station, Wildlife Watchpoint and Gunwalloe toilets



Accessible seating area and service hatch at Gunwalloe Cafe and sand chairs available to borrow from spring 2027





Lizard Point archaeology

This year saw an incredibly busy and fascinating few weeks at Lizard Point, where the archaeological dig continued following last year's discovery of a historic burial site (click here for previous news on this site).

Samples taken from the remains recovered in 2025 were sent for radiocarbon dating and the results indicate that the bones likely date to the early 1720s.

The location at Lizard Point strongly suggests these remains may be the victims of a shipwreck which would date them from before the Burial of Drowned Persons Act of 1808. One possibility is that the remains are connected to the Royal Anne Galley, which was wrecked off the Lizard in 1721. Historical accounts record that more than 200 people lost their lives in the disaster, with only three survivors.

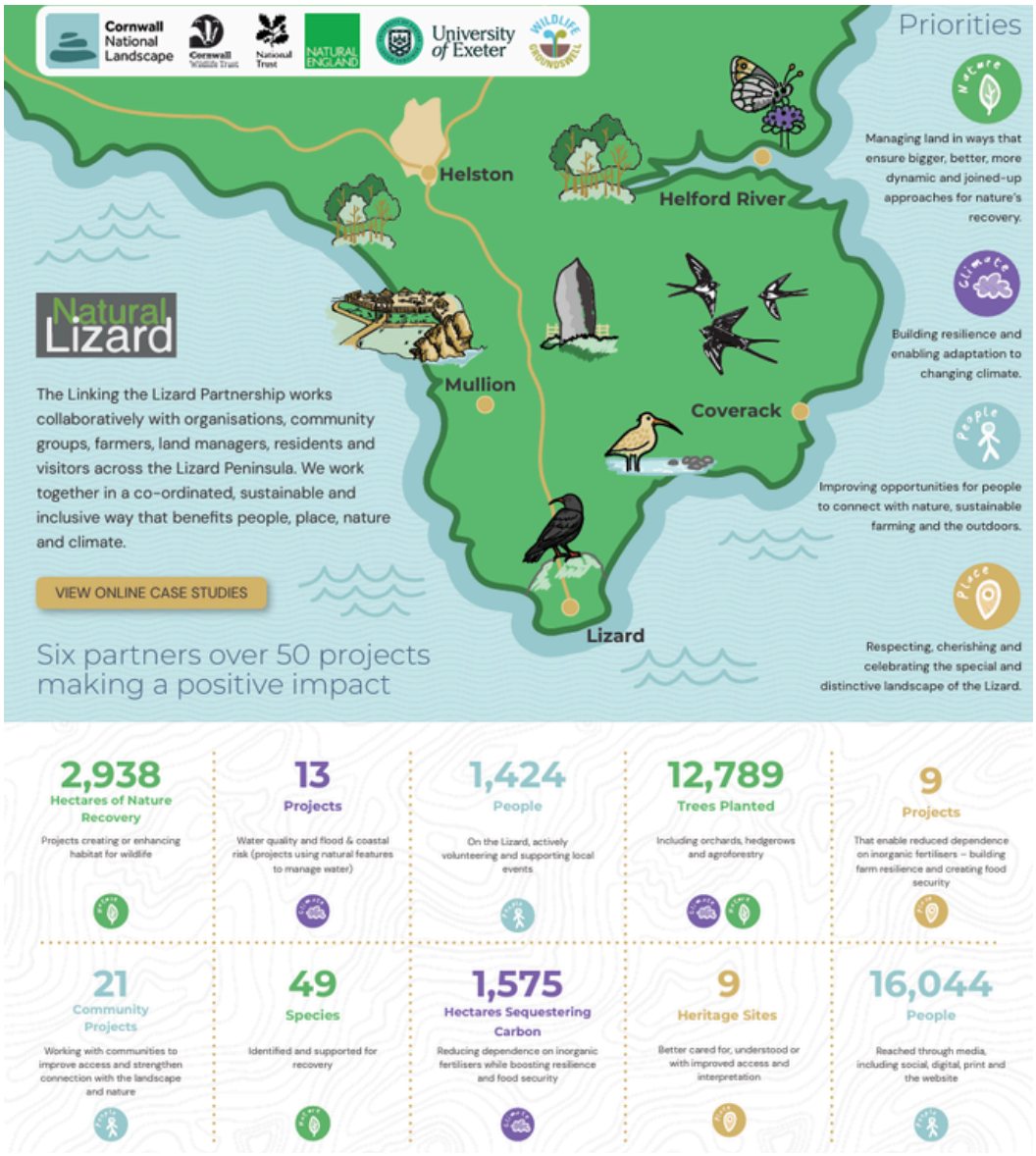
Initial eamination by an osteoarchaeologist have revealed some intriguing details about the individuals. For example, the front teeth of one person show distinctive wear patterns that may be linked to clay pipe smoking, offering a rare glimpse into everyday life during the period.

For generations, local stories and traditions have spoken of where the victims of the Royal Anne Galley were buried. However, despite these accounts being passed down through the years, no confirmed burial site had ever been identified. The discovery of these remains, likely dating to the same period as the shipwreck, raises the intriguing possibility that the long-lost resting place of some of those who perished may finally have been found.

Further radiocarbon dating and detailed archaeological analysis will help establish a clearer chronology and reveal more about the sequence of events represented at the site.

The discovery has attracted significant interest, with television crews from both the BBC and Channel 4 visiting the site. The story will feature in upcoming programmes due to be broadcast early next year. The dig also provided a unique opportunity to engage with visitors. Thousands of people visiting Lizard Point, whether local or on holiday, were able to see the archaeological dig in action and learn more about the discoveries being made, creating an unforgettable connection with the area's rich maritime history.

The importance of these discoveries is such that research is expected to continue for many years, offering opportunities for collaboration with universities and specialist researchers. Every stage of the analysis will help us build a clearer picture of the people buried here and the circumstances that brought them to Lizard Point, allowing us to better understand this remarkable chapter of Cornwall's history.



Linking the Lizard

Linking the Lizard is a unique partnership bringing together organisations, community groups, farmers, landowners, residents and volunteers who all share a passion for protecting and enhancing The Lizard Peninsula.

Together, we are working to protect and enrich the unique landscape ensuring its remarkable wildlife, rich cultural heritage, stunning landscapes and accessible outdoor spaces can be enjoyed for generations to come.

The partnership includes representatives from Cornwall National Landscape, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Natural England, University of Exeter and Wildlife Groundswell. By meeting regularly and sharing expertise, we work collaboratively to tackle challenges and build on opportunities that benefit nature, climate, people and place.

By building and investing in positive relationships with neighbouring communities, groups and organisations, we can, together, create a more-connected, sustainable and welcoming future for everyone who lives in, works in, and enjoys The Lizard Peninsula.

Click on the image above to learn more



A new place to pause and enjoy

Restore nature

Visitors to Orchard Lane, near Helford village, can now enjoy a new bench, offering a peaceful spot to pause, take in the views across the Helford River and enjoy the surrounding landscape.

The bench is part of a wider project to create a space that benefits both people and wildlife. Thanks to funding from the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, fencing was installed last year to create a dedicated footpath, providing a safer alternative to walking along the road.

Along this new route, funding from Forest for Cornwall has enabled us to plant a traditional orchard and native hedgerow species, creating valuable habitat for wildlife while enhancing the experience for visitors. With support from the Meadows Team, the adjacent fields have also been sown with wildflower-rich seed mixes, helping to increase biodiversity and provide food and shelter for pollinators and other wildlife.

Together, these improvements are transforming Orchard Lane into a place where nature can flourish and people can enjoy the beauty of the Helford landscape for years to come. So next time you're passing by, why not take a seat, soak up the view and see what wildlife you can spot?



Two decades of bat monitoring at Penrose



Restore nature

Greater Horseshoe bat (Rhinolophus ferrumequinum) hibernating in cave.

©National Trust Images/Bat Conservation Trust/Hugh Clark

In July, a team of volunteers recently carried out the second and final evening of bat emergence surveys for 2026 at The Stables and Laundry Cottages, Penrose. These surveys focus on greater and lesser horseshoe bats and provide valuable data for the National Bat Monitoring Programme.

The July survey recorded healthy levels of bat activity across the site, following a similarly successful evening in June. The highest July counts came from the Stables' farrier tunnel, where volunteers observed 54 lesser horseshoe bats and 26 greater horseshoe bats. Additional activity was recorded around other areas of the site. In total, 74 greater horseshoe bats and 83 lesser horseshoe bats were counted during the survey.

These surveys have taken place annually since 1999, led by local expert Carol Williams, and have demonstrated how the two species have adapted as building conditions have changed over time. The data and observations suggest that the two horseshoe species can co-exist more successfully than was traditionally believed. Further research by Carol and Sam Smith, another local bat expert, will help us learn more about their co-habitation at The Stables.

A thermal imaging camera and static bat detector, left on site for less than two hours during the survey, revealed an impressive range of species: common and soprano pipistrelles, Nathusius' pipistrelle, barbastelle, brown long-eared bat, greater and lesser horseshoe bats, noctule and at least one Myotis species. That's at least nine species, representing more than half of all resident bat species found in the UK.

Although most UK bat species remain much rarer than they were 50 years ago, populations are now generally stable or slowly increasing due to legal protection, reduced persecution, and the safeguarding of important roost sites. The National Trust plays a vital role in this recovery, as many species, including horseshoe bats depend on historic buildings and the surrounding gardens, parks, and woodlands that the Trust conserves.

A Milestone in Morse and Marconi

January 2026 marked a remarkable milestone for the Lizard Wireless Station as volunteers, radio amateurs, and friends from near and far came together to celebrate 125 years of wireless history. With invaluable support from members of the Cornish Radio Amateur Club and a special contribution from Ian Fraser, who booked the cottage next door for the week, the month became a living tribute to Marconi's pioneering spirit

In true Marconi fashion, the team dedicated most of the first day to working in Morse code, saving voice transmissions for later. And on 23 January, a moment of pure historic resonance occurred: a successful Morse contact with GB125IOW, operated by the Isle of Wight Wireless Club. Their station was set up at the Marconi Café at Alum Bay, the very site of Marconi's first wireless station on the Isle of Wight.

It was from nearby St Catherine's, Marconi's second station, that the world's first over-the-horizon radio signals were famously sent, to the Lizard, 125 years ago. At 11:30, on 23 January, the team at the Lizard received this commemorative message:

Message from the IOWRs = Greetings from the Isle of Wight to all at the Lizard Wireless Station as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the first demonstration by Marconi of radio communication beyond the horizon. We trust those early pioneers would approve of our radio operation today = BK

A link across time, sent dot by dash, reminding us all how far those early innovators pushed the boundaries of communication. The team achieved an impressive 1,100 contacts across 64 countries. A fitting global celebration for a station that helped open the world to the possibilities of wireless communication.

Inspire millions





Making connections from the top of St Agnes Beacon



June saw Lizard Wireless Station volunteer Geoff, along with a friend, heading to the north coast to set up a portable amateur radio station on top of St Agnes Beacon.

It was for a radio contest using the amateur VHF 2m band. The 2m band is almost a line-of-sight radio frequency, which is why they headed to the top of the Beacon, some 600 feet above sea level.

The weather was good, although a tad windy! Radio conditions were not so good. They managed to contact 35 stations in various locations, including the east coast of England and the Midlands. Geoff and John said, "it was a good, enjoyable day out in a fantastic location. Thanks to Steve Sudworth for allowing us vehicle access to the top".

The photos show a couple of views from the top looking north and south, along with Geoff's friend, John.

A new property office

For more than ten years, the property team (then Lizard & Penrose) was based at Gear Farm in St Martin. While the delicious pasties and fantastic organic vegetables made it a much-loved location, the team had simply outgrown the office space and it was time to begin a new chapter.



Penrose Bunkhouse at Chyvarloe (Gunwalloe, Helston) proved to be the ideal new home. Relocating the property office to one of our own buildings made far more sense and Chyvarloe offered everything the team needed. You can find us at: Penrose Bunkhouse, Chyvarloe, Helston TR12 7PY

Skylark: a beer with nature at its heart

This summner we have seen an exciting collaboration come to fruition between the National Trust and Cornwall's Verdant Brewing Co.

Growing spring barley without chemicals or artificial fertilisers has been a key component in our transformation of Godrevy Farm from intensive brassica production to a nature-friendly farming system, where wildlife thrives alongside productive farmland.

After harvest in late summer, the barley stubbles are left over winter, providing habitat and refuge for hundreds of farmland birds, including skylarks, which overwinter in the fields, feeding in the weedy stubbles and extensive bird seed margins sown alongside the crop.

This winter, working with one of Verdant's lead brewers, 10 tonnes of our barley was arranged to be taken to the historic Warminster Maltings. In May, the ranger team joined staff at Verdant's brewery in Penryn to brew a beer.





The result of this exciting collaboration is Skylark, a 4.1% pale ale named in homage to our nature-friendly farming system and the benefits it provides for farmland birds.

The initial brew has been a great success, including a fantastic launch night at Schooners, Verdant's bar in St Agnes, where we were joined by an overwhelmingly supportive audience of National Trust staff and volunteers, colleagues from across Cornwall's conservation sector and even our MP, Perran Moon.

The beer has since been popping up in pubs from Angarrack to Darlington, giving us a brilliant - and rather different - way to engage people with the nature conservation and farming work taking place at Godrevy.

It tastes pretty good too!

Restore nature

Inspire millions



Planting for the future together at Godrevy

Restore nature

Oak trees are natural hotspots of biodiversity, supporting a whole host of species and while they're growing, the tree cages themselves offer great perching points for raptors, with a number of buzzards seen surveying the farm fields for their prey already.

The National Trust's ambition is to establish 20 million new trees by 2030:

Through this we will capture more carbon, create new and enhance existing habitats - restoring nature and growing climate resilience. Tree planting events and access to wild places also creates opportunities for people to connect with nature, landscape and their heritage.



Folk from the Lizard & Mid-Cornwall Ranger Teams



New wetlands taking shape on the Lizard

Restore nature

This autumn, work began on an exciting new wetland creation project on the Lizard, helping to restore nature and create valuable new habitats across the peninsula.

Funded by Cornwall National Landscape, the project forms part of the wider ambition to support the UK's 30 by 30 target – protecting and effectively managing 30% of land and seas for nature by 2030.

The work will focus on restoring the natural water cycle across more than 80ha of land on the edge of the Lizard National Nature Reserve, creating a mosaic of ponds, wet grassland, scrapes and other wetland habitats. These areas will provide valuable habitat for a wide range of wildlife, while also helping to slow and retain water within the landscape.

Wetlands are among our most important habitats, supporting everything from insects and amphibians to wetland plants and birds. On the Lizard, they also form an important part of the network of habitats that connects the coast with the wider countryside.

The project forms part of our new Restore Nature strategy, working with partners and neighbouring landowners to create a more connected, wildlife-rich landscape for the future. Work will get underway this autumn across three sites, with the first new wetlands beginning to take shape over the coming months.

Lizard coastal care & small wins

Working along the Lizard coastline, much of what we do as Rangers, happens quietly in the background.

Our aim is for the results of our larbour to blend well with the landscape while providing an important function for people and nature. It's often the small, practical jobs that don't get much attention, despite the hard work (and often heavy lifting) these tasks involve. Our work to maintain the coastpath and adjoining footpaths is essential in keeping the coast accessible, safe and well cared for, for people to enjoy.



Restore nature

Behind every task, there's often unseen planning and thinking for the future - take for example, a recent gate-repair on the Lizard: The original posts, having reached the end of their servicable life, had rotten-out, so we decided to use this as an opportunity to re-think the entire gate design, ensuring that it would better suit the re-introduction of grazing ponies to this stetch of coast.



We're always thinking ahead like this; balancing immediate maintenance with future conservation goals. It's all part of making sure the coastal sites in our care are managed in a way that works for wildlife, access, heritage, landscape aesthetic and resilience.

Across the Lizard, our Ranger Volunteers play a remarkable role in making so much of this happen - whether it's gate repairs, replacing steps or boardwalks, fencing work, installing waymarkers or ongoing site maintenance; their support helps keep these special places accessible and welcoming.



These jobs might seem small on their own, but together they make a year round programme of work and it's a privilege to embark on this as a team.

Summer on the Godrevy to St Agnes coast

Inspire millions

One of the great joys of being a Wildlife Engagement Volunteer at Godrevy is watching the landscape and its wildlife change through the seasons. There is no more magical time than May and June, when the coast bursts into vibrant colour, insects hum among the early summer flowers and birds and animals are busy raising their young.

Visitors love walking the Godrevy to St Agnes stretch of coastline; with a keen eye, they may be lucky enough to spot choughs, seals, peregrines, or even dolphins. But what no one can miss are the stunning floral displays. The first photo shows the rich purple of Bell Heather alongside the delicate white umbels of Wild Carrot and the bright yellow of Common Cat's-ear. The second photo features the beautiful blue-purple heads of Sheep's-bit Scabious, along with Sea Pinks (Thrift), although these soon lose their pretty colours which are best in early May.





The coast around Godrevy and North Cliffs is excellent for birdwatching, with a wide variety of seabirds, coastal species and seasonal visitors. The Wildlife Engagement Volunteers particularly enjoy watching shags as they build their nests, lay eggs and feed their growing chicks. This year the shags have been collecting nesting material from the National Trust farm and Gwithian Towans. Unfortunately, strong north-westerly winds dislodged two nests from the cliffs, but the birds quickly rebuilt them and they went on to raise chicks.



Cornwall's growing population of choughs delight wildlife lovers visiting the area. We see fewer of them at Godrevy during the breeding season as they don't nest here, but visitors are sometimes treated to their distinctive "cheow-cheow" call and a close fly-by. As summer turns to autumn, they become more frequent on the headland, foraging for insects in the short grass and along the cliffs.



While wildlife remains abundant along this coastline, dolphin sightings in St Ives Bay appear to be down compared with previous years. This is based on observations from the Welcome Team and ourselves rather than formal surveys – it's possible that we've simply missed the best days! Dolphins are still being seen regularly elsewhere with regular sightings also down on the south coast. Whatever the ebb and flo nature unfolds, sea watching from the North Coast remains an absolute joy.

All photographs by Jeremy Gilson and taken on a long lens with no wildlife disturbance

The Painted Lady strikes again



Like the Painted Lady butterflies that we see on the wing, Volunteer Becky is often seen skirting the coastline, in all winds and all weathers.

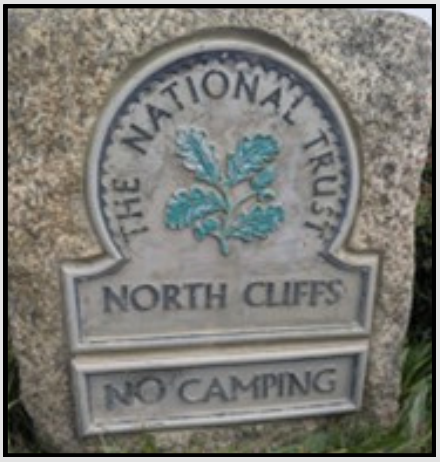
In a flash of red here and there, she darts about the places in our care adding colour wherever she goes.

Before



After











Volunteer Becky is out and about across the North coast tirelessly working to refresh these iconic omega signs.

Becky is a long-standing member of our Coast and Countryside volunteer group, and like a few of our members, she takes on extra roles like this, giving up more of her time to improve the places we look after.

It makes such a difference to entrance ways, helping people feel welcome along their journey through coast and countryside.

Another exmaple of the important and varied roles our dedicated volunteers undertake. Thanks Becky, and thanks to all our incredible volunteers; your time, knowledge and skills make a huge difference to people, place, nature, history and climate and we're very proud and honoured to work alongside you.

Inspire millions

End Unequal access

Swim walks - a new pilot project



July and August marked the exciting launch of a Swim Walks pilot in Cornwall, bringing together the much-loved success of our Group Walks programme with the refreshing adventure of supported wild swimming. Delivered in partnership with local swim provider The Cornish Kelpie, the pilot is designed to help more people connect with nature, boost wellbeing and grow confidence in outdoor activities in a fun, welcoming and supportive environment.



National Trust Walk leaders

The first Lizard session took place on a warm day, where participants enjoyed a walk around the beautiful Frenchman's Creek before heading to Penarvon Cove for a refreshing sea swim. The atmosphere was full of encouragement, laughter and a real sense of achievement as eight participants took part in the event, supported by two volunteer walk leaders and swim coach Sarah from The Cornish Kelpie.

Over the coming months, the pilot will continue to deliver more Swim Walks, with a particular focus on engaging underserved audiences who face barriers to participation, including people experiencing social isolation, mental health challenges or low confidence in outdoor spaces. These sessions provide a safe,

friendly and inclusive introduction to wild swimming, with experienced leaders, professional guidance and thorough safety briefings helping participants feel supported every step of the way.

The pilot plays an important role in supporting our ambitions to Inspire Millions and End Unequal Access, while also adding variety to our existing walking offer. By learning from people's experiences and feedback throughout the pilot, we hope to strengthen the programme and open the door to exciting new opportunities in the future.

If you've ever been curious about sea swimming but weren't sure where to begin, or if you'd like to build your confidence in the water while enjoying the company of others and the beauty of the coast, keep an eye on our walks programme. With more Swim Walks planned on the Lizard soon, there will be plenty of opportunities to take the plunge and experience all the benefits for yourself.







Walk with us

Our volunteer walk leaders host a wide variety of walks, offering a great opportunity to join us for some fresh air and time in nature. The walks are free and they are open to everyone, regardless of walking experience or ability

For further details please click on the headings to visit the websites below:

Penrose walks

Lizard walks

North coast walks

Did you know that some moths migrate?

Poltesco recently featured on Springwatch in a fascinating film celebrating the UK's incredible moth species. The film followed naturalist Humphrey Keeper, whose knowledge and passion for moths helped bring these often-overlooked insects into the spotlight.

Filmed on the Lizard at Poltesco last month, the feature highlighted the diversity and importance of moths, which play a vital role in our ecosystems as pollinators and as a food source for other wildlife.

It was fantastic to see Poltesco showcased on national television and to share the amazing wildlife found across our landscapes with a wider audience. You can watch it here... www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0npn1kp





Inspire millions



Celebrating 50 years of butterfly monitoring on the Lizard

Last year, 2025, marked the 50th season of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, making it one of the longest-running invertebrate surveys in the world.

Restore nature

Images: Dan, Butterfly Survey Volunteer

Over those years, volunteers have walked nearly a million miles, completing 715,000 surveys and recording more than 41 million butterflies!

Today, the scheme monitors over 3,000 sites across the UK, each of which is surveyed weekly between the beginning of April and the end of September.

One of the longest-running and most consistently surveyed transects in Cornwall is the Kynance & Caerthillian transect, the most southerly in mainland Britain. An exposed coastal site, it often starts the season slowly, with only a few butterflies recorded each week. Numbers then gradually increase throughout the spring until mid-summer, when it can be difficult to keep up with counting and recording them!

In 2025, three volunteers carried out 26 surveys between them and logged a total of 876 butterflies – the highest annual total ever recorded on our transect. The most frequently recorded species were meadow browns (206), closely followed by gatekeepers (203), with common blues coming third (145).

One survey in mid-July produced the highest single count of the year, with 184 butterflies recorded.

Two new transects have been established on the Lizard this year, one at Vellan Head and another at Kynance Cliff, and we are looking for new volunteers to help with surveys. If you have good butterfly identification skills and would like to make a valuable contribution to the data collected on these important indicator species, please contact Jerry (Cornwall's County Butterfly Recorder) at records@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk. Full support will be provided, including guidance on the survey methodology.

Conducting butterfly surveys has to be one of the most enjoyable and rewarding ways to contribute to scientific knowledge!

Inspire millions

Royal Cornwall Show

Another Royal Cornwall Show came and went and it was a privilege to be involved in helping run one of the National Trust stands again this year.

The Royal Cornwall Show is a fantastic opportunity to share stories about the places in our care, and bring our work to life for visitors. This year we were delighted to co-host a stand with partners including Countryside Mobility and Healthy Cornwall.

Visitors enjoyed a range of hands-on activities, from testing their senses with mystery smell boxes to creating their own bunting, helping spark conversations and engage people of all ages with the work we do.

While we were disappointed that Saturday's show had to be cancelled due to the weather, particularly as we were due to co-host the main stand with Cornwall Rural Community Charity, we greatly appreciated everyone's flexibility and positive team spirit.



Jess & Lydia from the Lizard & Mid-Cornwall team

Cornwall's Ocean plastic pollution



The Bottle Top Chain installation offers a powerful visualisation of the scale of marine plastic pollution. Created by Claire Wallerstein in collaboration with the Cornish Plastic Pollution Coalition, the artwork is made from over 65,000 plastic bottle tops, each one collected by volunteers from beaches across Cornwall.

We are also delighted to have been donated a section of the original Bottle Top Chain, which is now on display at the Wildlife Watchpoint, Lizard Point, helping to bring this important environmental story to visitors at Lizard Point. The current display has also brought back memories of an earlier chapter in this project.

The Bottle Top Chain, has an inspiring connection with the Lizard. During the winter of 2014/15, watchpoint and beach clean volunteers Mac and Marion joined organiser Claire in collecting bottle tops from beaches around the Lizard as part of a wider county effort to highlight marine plastic pollution.

After collection, volunteers painstakingly perforated and strung the tops into two-metre lengths, which were then delivered to Truro before being assembled into a chain in Rame. The full installation eventually stretched over one kilometre, creating a striking physical representation of the scale of plastic waste in our oceans. It was later taken to London to protest to DEFRA, helping to raise awareness at a national level.

This work also contributed to the formation of the Cornish Plastic Pollution Coalition, of which the National Trust is now a listed member through its connection with the Wildlife Trust.

Restore nature

Contact us
National Trust Lizard & Mid-Cornwall

Penrose Bunkhouse
Chyvarloe
Helston
TR12 7PY
01326 222170

Newsletter editors

Jess Driver
Visitor Experience Officer
Jessica.Driver1@nationaltrust.org.uk

Lydia Allt
Community, Participation & Volunteering Coordinator
lydia.allt@nationaltrust.org.uk

Cat Lee
Community, Participation & Volunteering Manager
Catherine.lee@nationaltrust.org.uk

…with contributions from the whole Lizard & Mid-Cornwall National Trust Team

What do the National Trust do:

People & Nature thriving. Our new strategy sets out our aims and ambitions for the next decade and beyond. You can read more here.

Restore nature

To restore nature – not just on National Trust land, but everywhere

End Unequal access

To end unequal access to nature, beauty and history

Inspire millions

To inspire millions more people to care and take action