

# Isles of Scilly

## Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

### Delivery Plan 2015-2020



Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust



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Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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# The Isles of Scilly AONB Delivery Plan, 2015-2020

## Introduction

This delivery plan has been developed from the Isles of Scilly AONB Management Plan which sets out the strategic direction for the Isles of Scilly AONB and AONB Partnership from 2015-2020.

## Landscape, Biodiversity and Geodiversity

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
<b>Objective 1:</b> Support and develop landscape management practices that conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in the AONB	Conservation grazing programme on 237 hectares on the inhabited islands by 2020	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Natural England Duchy of Cornwall Tresco Estate	Dependant on HLS funding.
	At least 3 new applications to the new of programme of Countryside Stewardship by 2020.	Natural England (L) Farmers' and Growers' Initiative Duchy of Cornwall	Farmers' and Growers' Initiative due to disband 2014
	Support NE in improving the conditions of the features in the Natura 2000 site as detailed in the Site Improvement Plan for the Isles of Scilly Complex as part of the Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000.	Natural England (L) IFCA RSPB All AONB Partners	
<b>Objective 2:</b> Ensure that conservation and enhancement of landscape, wildlife and geology underpin understanding and appreciation of the AONB environment whilst having regard to the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.	Coordinate and deliver 10 educational activities per year for residents and visitors to enhance appreciation and understanding of AONB's special features.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Council of the Isles of Scilly Islands' Partnership Tresco Estate	Activities will increase knowledge of the AONB's special features and will improve understanding of habitat protection and conservation of the natural and built environment. A result of this will be improved public awareness of and involvement in actions to help protect, preserve and enhance the features and integrity of the European sites and associated sensitive areas.
	Support 10 community action days per year to enhance residents and visitors appreciation and understanding of the AONB's special features.		
	Development of new brochures, leaflets, IT, update interpretation panels and install new ones where appropriate to enhance understanding and appreciation of the AONB landscape.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Islands' Partnership Tresco Estate Duchy of Cornwall	The importance of preserving the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites will be a focus of this activity.



AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
	Improve physical access for all to the landscape on the inhabited islands via footpath improvement and maintenance programme	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Isles of Scilly Farmers' and Growers' Initiative Duchy of Cornwall Tresco Estate	The footpaths on the islands are permissive rights of way and not formal rights of way. Management of the footpaths and the maintenance schedule for these (overseen by the Wildlife Trust) and will reduce public disturbance of habitats and manage any impact of excessive activity related to people visiting sites.  Access to the uninhabited islands is restricted and visits are monitored and controlled by the Wildlife Trust.
	Promote the special features of the AONB designation and the work of the AONB Partnership by:  Facebook and Twitter Updates.  Addition of AONB page on all Partner websites.  Articles in local publications	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) All AONB Partners.	This will highlight the work by the AONB Partnership and the importance of conserving and enhancing the special features and sites of the AONB designation.
	Support NE in improving the conditions of the features in the Natura 2000 site as detailed in the Site Improvement Plan for the Isles of Scilly Complex as part of the Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000.	Natural England (L) IFCA RSPB All AONB Partners	

## Marine Environment

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
<b>Objective 3:</b> Ensure that marine planning secures the conservation and enhancement of Scilly's diverse and distinctive marine wildlife and habitats.	Ensure continuation of Marine Protected Area working group by:  Arranging at least 5 meetings per year with MPA working group.  Ensure that Marine Planning forms part of the group's remit.	IFCA (L) Natural England Council of the Isles of Scilly Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust Duchy of Cornwall RSPB	While the AONB designation only extends to low mean water, the marine character of the designated landscape is an essential component of the area's natural beauty. The sea defines islands and their communities of flora, fauna and people. The special qualities of the AONB include the islands' maritime context, character and history.

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
	Feedback on progress by IFCA at AONB Executive Group meetings to ensure that the AONB Partnership is involved in aspects of marine planning.	IFCA (L) Natural England Council of the Isles of Scilly Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust Duchy of Cornwall RSPB	As above
<b>Objective 4:</b> Increase residents' and visitors' awareness, understanding and enjoyment of Scilly's marine environment <i>in a manner that is consistent with and supports achievement of the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.</i>	Deliver 10 education activities per year for residents and visitors to enhance local resident and visitor understanding of the AONB's special features.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Natural England IFCA RSPB Council of the Isles of Scilly Tresco Estate	This will highlight the work by the AONB Partnership and the importance of conserving and enhancing the special features and sites of the area.
	Support 10 community action days per year to enhance local resident and visitor understanding and appreciation of the AONB's special features.		
	Development of new brochures, leaflets, IT, update interpretation panels and install new ones where appropriate to enhance residents and visitor appreciation of the AONB landscape.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Islands' Partnership Natural England IFCA RSPB Tresco Estate	
	Promote the special features of the marine environment and the work of the AONB Partnership through:  Facebook and Twitter Updates.  Articles in local publications	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) All AONB Partners.	
<b>Objective 5:</b> Conserve and enhance Scilly's marine environment as an economic, cultural and social resource bringing benefit to the Islands' communities.	Support and deliver training for stakeholders (e.g. tourism businesses) to enhance stakeholder understanding and appreciation of the marine environment and how this can be applied to improve their business whilst protecting the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Islands' Partnership Council of the Isles of Scilly Tresco Estate	Training for stakeholders and business improvement will emphasise the special features of the marine environment and highlight the necessary actions required to prevent harm to biodiversity by disturbance of habitats and the importance of the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.

## Historic Environment and Culture

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
<b>Objective 6:</b> Support activities that conserve and enhance the historic environment and heritage assets.	Maintain the physical historic environment on the Islands (including access) by:  Supporting the work of the community archaeology group by providing tools and access to land.  Continue programme of conservation grazing near scheduled ancient monuments where it improves access and enhances and conserves features.  Support outcomes and AONB Partnership work via social media and articles in local publications.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) English Heritage Natural England Tresco Estate Islands' Partnership	A Conservation Area Appraisal is being completed for the inhabited islands.
<b>Objective 7:</b> Ensure that the special qualities of the Islands' historic and cultural environment are better understood and valued.	Development of new brochures, leaflets, IT, update interpretation panels and install new ones where appropriate to enhance understanding and appreciation of the AONB's special qualities.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) English Heritage Natural England Islands' Partnership Tresco Estate Council of the Isles of Scilly	A result of this will be improved public awareness of and involvement in actions to help protect, preserve and enhance the features and integrity of the European sites and associated sensitive areas.

## Access, Enjoyment and Understanding

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
<b>Objective 8:</b> Increase residents' and visitors' awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the distinctive and exceptional landscape, seascape, habitats and historic environment of the Isles of Scilly AONB in a manner that is consistent with achieving the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.	Deliver 10 education activities per year for residents and visitors to enhance understanding and appreciation of the AONB's special qualities.  Support 10 community action days per year to enhance local resident and visitor understanding and appreciation of the AONB's special qualities.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Islands' Partnership Tresco Estate	Activities will increase knowledge of the AONB's special features and will improve understanding of habitat protection and conservation of the natural and built environment. A result of this will be improved public awareness of actions to help protect, preserve and enhance the features and integrity of the European sites and associated sensitive areas.

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
	Promote the special features of the AONB landscape and work of the AONB Partnership through effective communication i.e. social media and local publications.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) All AONB Partners	A result of this will be improved public awareness of actions to help protect, preserve and enhance the features and integrity of the European sites and associated sensitive areas.
	Improve physical access for all to the landscape via footpath improvement and maintenance programme.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Isles of Scilly Farmers' and Growers' Initiative Duchy of Cornwall	The footpaths on the islands are permissive rights of way and not formal rights of way. Management of the footpaths and the maintenance schedule for these (overseen by the Wildlife Trust) and will reduce public disturbance of habitats and manage any impact of any excessive activity from visitors to sites or features.

## Community

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
<b>Objective 9:</b> Provide the Islands' communities with opportunities to actively engage in conservation, enhancement and celebration of the AONB's special qualities including nurturing the islands' strong sense of place and tranquillity.	Support 10 community action days per year to ensure that the community actively engages in the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's special features.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L)	A result of this will be improved public awareness of and involvement in actions to help protect, preserve and enhance the features and integrity of the European sites and associated sensitive areas.
	Organise two Community Forums per year to allow for community input into AONB delivery*	Council of the Isles of Scilly (L) All AONB Partners	
<b>Objective 10:</b> Ensure that local communities, groups and individuals have access to educational opportunities that support and celebrate the purposes of AONB designation.	Support and deliver training events for stakeholders (e.g. tourism businesses)	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Natural England IFCA RSPB Council of the Isles of Scilly Tresco Estate Islands' Partnership	A result of this will be improved public awareness of and understanding of the actions necessary to help protect, preserve and enhance the features and integrity of the European sites and associated sensitive areas.

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
<b>Objective 11:</b> Promote the work of the AONB Partnership through a variety of media including gateway signage, AONB website, social media, press, radio and events and highlighting opportunities to work with the Partnership to secure the purposes of the various designations.	Promote the AONB's special features and the work of the AONB Partnership. Updates via Twitter and Facebook. Update in Scilly Now and Then. Communicate with Radio Scilly. Ensure AONB signage at Island gateways. Promote at events, such as island fetes.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) All AONB Partners	This will highlight the work by the AONB Partnership and the importance of conserving and enhancing the special features and sites of the area.

## Tourism and the Local Economy

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
<b>Objective 12:</b> Ensure that tourism, business and other economic activities conserve, enhance and promote the Islands' special qualities in a manner that protects the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.	Make sustainability, low carbon and local sourcing standard in all tourism businesses by:  Running and organising 5 workshops.  Support local businesses by utilising funding for domestic scale renewable and energy saving initiatives.	Islands' Partnership (L) Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust Council of the Isles of Scilly Tresco Estate Duchy of Cornwall	These actions will help reduce climate change.  Visitor numbers to the islands have been steadily decreasing since 2003. The aim is to halt this decline. The objectives in this delivery plan will mitigate against any increase in visitor numbers having a negative impact on the AONB.
	Increase training opportunities by:  Delivering 5 training events for stakeholders (e.g. tourism businesses)	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Islands' Partnership Tresco Estate	Visitor numbers to the islands have been steadily decreasing since 2003. The aim is to halt this decline. By providing the training this objective will help protect the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites and associated sensitive areas. This will also help mitigate against any negative impact an increase in visitor numbers could have on the AONB.

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
<b>Objective 13:</b> Conserve and enhance the AONB's natural and historic environment and ecosystem services as an economic, cultural and social resource bringing benefit to the Islands' communities.	Complete scoping report on the development of a year round visitor interpretation centre.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Council of the Isles of Scilly Duchy of Cornwall Islands' Partnership	An ultimate aim for the islands tourism industry is to increase visitors in the off-peak seasons. The islands have a limited capacity for visitors due to constraints in bed space on the islands and availability of transport to the islands. The capacity is already reached in peak season, so maximum levels of footfall and disturbance to sites and features would not increase. Increased education about the protection, preservation and enhancement of the features and integrity of the European sites and associated sensitive areas along with continued management of access to them will help mitigate against any negative impact a total annual increase in visitor numbers could have on the AONB.
	Develop a "Friends of the Isles of Scilly Scheme" to generate income and support for the AONB Partnership.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Islands' Partnership Tresco Estate	

## Land Use, Agriculture and Landscape Management

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
<b>Objective 14:</b> Support land use practices that conserve and enhance the AONB landscape and its special qualities	Aim to have at least 23 farm holdings receiving Agri- environment payment by 2020.	Natural England (L) Farmers' and Growers' Initiative Duchy of Cornwall Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust	Farmers' and Growers' Initiative due to disband 2014.
	Support the development of a green-waste composting scheme for St Mary's by 2018.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L) Council of the Isles of Scilly Duchy of Cornwall Farmers' and Growers' Initiative	



AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
<b>Objective 15:</b> Ensure that land use practices that contribute to environmental conservation and enhancement underpin better understanding and appreciation of the AONB landscape.	Support the work of farmers' and growers' to enhance the environment through education through social media and local publications.	Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (L)	Farmers' and Growers' Initiative due to disband 2014.
	Develop training opportunities and skills development in sustainable/ environmental farming practices.	Farmers' and Growers' Initiative (L) Duchy of Cornwall Islands' Partnership Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust	
<b>Objective 16:</b> Sustainable agriculture and horticulture contribute positively to local food security, economic vitality and protection of the special features of the AONB landscape.	Support the development of local food production, wood-fuel and forestry initiatives, and those which contribute sustainably to the AONB landscape by:  Scope funding opportunities available to deliver a wide range of projects for the agricultural sector.  Demonstrate the value of better collaboration to individual businesses and the overall economy by:  Supporting processing facilities for farmers', growers'.  Encouraging shared use of equipment and faculties.  Supporting joint marketing and sales campaigns.  Creating incentives for collaboration.  Encouraging community owned enterprises and community owned assets.  Encouraging year-round food production.	Farmers' and Growers' Initiative (L) Duchy of Cornwall Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust Council of the Isles of Scilly	Farmers' and Growers' Initiative due to disband 2014.

## Development and Infrastructure

AONB Objective	Action	Key Partners (L=Lead)	Comments
<b>Objective 17:</b> Ensure that development does not adversely affect the AONB designation and, wherever possible, enhances the special qualities of the AONB.	Ensure that the AONB Partnership is appropriately consulted on all planning applications, policy and strategy affecting the AONB designation through updates at AONB Executive Group meetings.	Council of the Isles of Scilly (L) Duchy of Cornwall	A robust system is in place within the Council's planning department to ensure all planning applications take account of the islands' designations.
	Ensure that due regard is given to the AONB designation in all aspects of Local Authority functions (Section 85 of Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW Act) 2000).	Council of the Isles of Scilly (L) AONB Executive Group	
	Council of the Isles of Scilly to report yearly to the AONB Executive Group.		
	Update the Isles of Scilly Local Plan by 2020.	Council of the Isles of Scilly (L)	
<b>Objective 18:</b> Ensure that all Infrastructure and Development contributes positively and sustainably to the AONB designation.	Upgrade Island Infrastructure (sewerage, water, waste) to comply with Environmental legislation by: Installing upgrades to sewerage systems on all inhabited Islands by 2020. Delivering a new recycling centre and waste transfer station on St Mary's by 2020. Making upgrades to water supply infrastructure by 2020.  Support development of micro-scale (domestic and community) renewable energy development that conserve and enhance the AONB by: Developing a programme of energy efficiency in domestic, public and commercial buildings that conserve and enhance the AONB by 2020. Encouraging the delivery of domestic and community scale renewable energy projects that conserve and enhance the AONB by 2020.	Council of the Isles of Scilly (L) Duchy of Cornwall Tresco Estate Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust	