



Wild Beavers Get the Green Light from the Government

As you may have seen in the news, there has been a significant development in the world of beaver reintroductions since our crowdfunding campaign last year. In February, after months of speculation and doubt, the government finally gave the green light for wild beaver releases in England under license.

This is huge news and a significant change for anyone working in this space. It opens up the potential to move projects forward with renewed purpose.

But what does the move to licensed wild releases mean for us?

The reality is that It's a great opportunity, but it also presents many challenges to us as a small organisation. Under the new licences, large, ambitious projects are needed at whole catchment scales.

So anyone thinking the time is now to start releasing beavers in their back gardens, put the gloves away, that's not going to happen.

The license requires a rigorous application process involving meticulous planning to maximise the benefits of releasing beavers, minimise any negative impacts and ensure the genetic diversity of released animals.

This means a fully funded ten-year plan to support landowners in adapting to living with beavers is necessary, and we will be seeking partnerships to work with other groups and organisations to pool resources.

For now, we'll continue with our work as set out in the crowdfunding campaign and continue liaising with local landowners and groups to find the best release sites ahead of a future application.

Storyboarding and pre-production have also officially begun on our beaver film. Zac is hard at work developing the story. It's early stages, but the vision is to showcase a fun and engaging story that puts people at the heart of the beaver's return to Cornwall and their industrious benefits to our ecosystems and communities.

We'll keep you updated as things progress and we aim to start filming in the late spring/early summer.





With spring upon us, water vole activity is on the rise ahead of the new breeding season. Recent surveys at our release sites indicate that the water vole populations are doing well and that there are still no signs of American mink in these areas.

We have more water vole releases planned in September 2025 and June 2026, working in partnership with Trewithen Estate and funded by Rewilding Europe's European Wildlife Comeback Fund. We'll also be partnering with Derek Gow Consultancy for the captive breeding programme, and we're looking forward to having our volunteers, business members and partners involved during the releases.

With funding from Natural England, we have also been intensively surveying for American mink during the winter months on the Lizard Peninsula. With no mink found so far, this may provide a future opportunity to reintroduce water voles to this area.

Subject to securing further funding we are looking to expand mink surveying to every area of Cornwall to benefit water voles and other native wildlife impacted by this non-native invasive species.

Behind the scenes, we are delighted to have teamed up with Taylor Money Wealth Management, based in Falmouth, who have come on board as our first

project supporter sponsor. The generous staff at Taylor Money have chosen us as their "Charity of the Year" and had this to say about our partnership:

"Taylor Money nominates organisations to support each year, and then the team votes for Charity of the Year. We are really pleased to be able to give our support to Kernow Conservation CIC for 2025, specifically the Water Vole project. The team were keen to support a smaller organisation, and being able to help some of the smallest creatures in Cornwall is a bonus."

We're planning for more water vole releases later in 2026 and beyond. If you'd like to help us make these happen, please consider making a donation to the project [here](#).

Winter volunteering comes to a muddy and joyful end



Our winter volunteering programme ended last month with a fun day attended by our largest group of the season with 15 volunteers joining us. We were delighted to welcome groups from DowlingDodd and Groundsure Cornwall who joined some of our regular volunteers for the day. We carried river bank alterations and rounded off our willow management for the season.

We've had a really successful season of volunteering, with two sessions a month at our landowner partner water voles sites in Carnkie and the Telusback Foundation for Wildlife Conservation. We have welcomed close to 50 individual volunteers since October and it's been an absolute pleasure to meet all of you, so thank you to everyone who has come along to these days, we hope you enjoyed them and we managed to make real progress with our habitat management work at the sites.

A special shout-out goes to Hannah Dodd, who has attended every session this year as well as the wildlife garden sessions and really got stuck in no matter the weather or the mud. Thank you, Hannah!

We're taking a pause on our volunteering for now, with the nesting season in full swing we won't be doing any further willow management until later in the year.

We will be discussing future opportunities for volunteer days with our landowner partners so keep an eye out for updates and sign [up to our volunteer mailing list for more](#).





Osprey network grows

We have added two more osprey nest platforms this year, growing our network from five to seven platforms across Cornwall. In addition to our platform close to the Tamar, we now have several clusters further west, all in remote locations on private land.

We are very grateful to the landowners who have helped us with this project. Suitable locations for these platforms are hard to come by and require very particular conditions to be in the right place. So we're very lucky to have a group of landowners who aren't just willing but have the ideal locations for our nest platforms.

Ospreys are returning to the UK at the moment and are already taking up their regular nests in locations across the country. While we think this nesting season is too soon for our nest platforms to attract any ospreys, we will keep a close eye on our cameras to see if any birds take an interest.

We have more telegraph poles incoming and more locations to install them, but unfortunately, funding is running low for this project. This is why we're looking for [bespoke project sponsorships](#). If you're interested in sponsoring an osprey platform, either as a business or an individual, [get in touch](#).

If you'd like to donate to this project, you can do so [here](#).



Wildlife Garden Project winds down for now...

After ten months of gardening, our involvement in the Ponsanooth Community Wildlife Garden is over for now as the initial project funding has ended.

We've thoroughly enjoyed leading this project since last April, and the garden has transformed thanks to the hard work and input from everyone who has given up their time to volunteer.

In the last couple of months, volunteers have planted sessile oak, rowan, alder buckthorn and hawthorn. We've planted guelder rose shrubs, dog roses and

apple trees as well.

Last but not least, the final big job of the project was to re-establish a functioning wildlife pond by digging out the existing one which was failing to hold sufficient water and being overrun by reeds. It was quite a task and couldn't have been done without the hard work of the volunteers who came and helped dig out the pond and its edges.

For now, we've handed the project over to the parish council and left them with a guide for volunteers. We've [published the guide on our website](#) so if you want to think about how to manage a wildlife garden of your own or how to establish a wildflower meadow feel free to use it.

And we must say a huge thanks to Lou at [Plant Life Creative](#) for the beautiful map design!

We're hopeful of more funding in the future, so watch this space for updates, but in the meantime, if you'd like to volunteer at the garden, please send an email to ponsanoothpc@gmail.com to register your interest or [fill in this form to register](#).



Sponsor a Project



We are seeking headline sponsors and supporter sponsors for all of our projects. Headline sponsorships are our top-tier opportunities, with one available for each of our major projects, which will align your brand directly alongside ours in all project communications and marketing.

Supporter sponsors are more bespoke, with different projects requiring different funding, but all come with an opportunity to align your brand with our project.

Could you sponsor an individual osprey nest platform, for example?

If you're interested in supporting our projects directly by becoming a headline or supporter sponsor, [get in touch to discuss](#).

Wild News

New Business Members!

A warm welcome to our latest Wild Kernow business members!

Taylor Money Wealth Management is our latest Wild Kernow Platinum Member. We're honoured to have been chosen by its staff as their chosen '[Charity of the](#)

[Year](#)', in addition to sponsoring our Water Vole Project, Taylor Money has taken a place as our latest Platinum Member.

We have two new Silver Members, with Falmouth Harbour coming onboard as an Osprey Project Supporter and Ecological Lighting Solutions joining just last week as our latest Silver Member.

Phillip Whear Windows and Conservatories are our latest Bronze Member.

And a huge thank you to AMS Instrumentation and Control, Berryman's Bakery and Lovat Parks for renewing for another year.

Thank you all for your ongoing support!

Find out about business memberships
here

With thanks to our Wild Kernow Business Members



Our Wild Kernow Platinum Members

Prune Harris

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Equin

Taylor Money



Our Wild Kernow Gold Members

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Assentech
SDS Sustainability and
Engineering
Consultants
Phillip Wear
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Conservatories

With thanks to our Wild Kernow Members

Carol Hurst & Mike Hurst	Samantha Cardew
Karen Clissold	Simon Evans
Philip C. Hills & Ann James	Tristan Moyle
Ian Penny	Catherine Lorigan
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Brigit Strawbridge & Robert Howard	Mathi Pitman, Claudia Pitman &
Jilayne Rickards	Dominique Pitman
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Kelvin Archer	and more!

Kernow Conservation

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