



Cornwall's

Environmental Growth Strategy

# Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

[www.cornwall.gov.uk/grow-nature](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/grow-nature)  
#environmentalgrowth

CORNWALL &  
ISLES OF SCILLY  
LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP





Our vision

‘In 2065, **Cornwall’s environment** will be **naturally diverse, beautiful** and **healthy**, supporting a **thriving society, prosperous economy** and **abundance of wildlife**.’

# Table of Contents

Foreword .....	4
Developing the Monitoring and Evaluation	
Framework .....	5
Key .....	6
Overview .....	7
Land .....	9
Development .....	10
Carbon Footprint .....	11
Environmental Targets .....	12
Estuaries .....	13
Fresh Water .....	14
Marine .....	15
Getting Outdoors .....	16
Recycling .....	17
Woodland Access .....	18
Bathing Water .....	19
Carbon Storage .....	20
Marine Protected Areas .....	21
Summary .....	22
Acknowledgments .....	23

# Foreword



## Cornwall is a great place to live.

We have a green and varied countryside, whether it's the Tamar Valley, Bodmin Moor, the Roseland or West Penwith. Our coastline is second to none – rugged in the north, softer to the south, but both enjoying cliffs, beaches and estuaries. Our coastal waters host a wide range of plants and animals, including seabirds and marine mammals. Our air is some of the cleanest in Britain, and our climate mild and temperate – if occasionally a little wet.

But here in Cornwall, like the rest of the UK and beyond, we face the dual challenges of declining biodiversity through species loss, and a changing climate. We may be lucky to live in such a pleasant part of the world, but without local and focused action to meet these challenges we risk losing exactly what we treasure.

That is why, in 2015, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership, together with Cornwall Council, produced our Environmental Growth Strategy. And it is why, five years on, we are using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to see what has changed. It means we can reflect, learn lessons, and then move forward to refresh our strategy in the light of our performance so far.

The results are a mixed bag, with some real successes, not least in our ability to generate our own renewable energy to tackle climate change. Nevertheless, in terms of the natural environment there is still much to do. By using KPIs, we can measure progress and take informed action based on real data.

If the Covid-19 crisis has shown us anything, it is that a robust natural environment is essential for our good physical and mental health. Lockdown and self-isolation have shown how life is without access to our own outdoors. But it has also given us a taste of life with less noise, more detectable birdsong, fresher air and a lower carbon footprint.

We hope you find the report informative and interesting. If so please join with us in our mission to not just protect, but to enrich Cornwall's environment.



**Lord Teverson**

*Co-chair Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership*



**Prof. Kevin Gaston**

*Co-chair Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership*



**Cllr. Rob Nolan**

*Cornwall Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection*



# Developing the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework



## What is Cornwall's Environmental Growth Strategy?

Cornwall's Environmental Growth Strategy is a 50 year mission to deliver environmental growth in Cornwall, running from 2015 to 2065.

It was created as a collaboration between Cornwall Council and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership.

Environmental Growth is about increasing the amount and quality of environmental goods and services for the benefit of everyone in society. Environmental goods include things like food, fuel, water, timber and other raw materials, whilst services include pollination, climate regulation, soil formation, and waste disposal.

Environmental Growth means creating the space and conditions for more abundant, productive and healthier habitats, species and natural systems. These, in turn, improve the lives of people.

For more information about Cornwall's Environmental Growth Strategy please visit [www.cornwall.gov.uk/grow-nature](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/grow-nature).

## Why have we made this document?

To measure the success of the Environmental Growth Strategy as time goes on, we need a set of key performance indicators to monitor the state of Cornwall's environment and how Cornish residents benefit from it.

These indicators are a number of simple statistics, collected and compiled in this document for the first time, covering the period 2015-2019. We plan to reassess these indicators every five years, in line with the Environmental Growth Strategy review.

How these indicators improve or decline over the years will give us insight into what action is required to ensure the enactment of the Environmental Growth Strategy's vision.

## How were these indicators developed?

To make sure we can revisit these indicators in future years, we designed those that were based solely on data sources that are openly accessible and frequently updated.

For more details on the data analysis, please refer to the Appendix: Environmental Growth Key Performance Indicator Technical Report, 2019.

## Gaps in the knowledge.

The current suite of indicators describe the quality and accessibility of Cornwall's environmental resources. However, it lacks full representation of the state of nature in Cornwall, and how Cornwall is performing in a global context.

Cornwall Council and the Local Nature Partnership are working to address these data gaps. New indicators may be added in the future.

These key performance indicators show how  
Cornwall is...

Achieving environmental growth.

How successful are we at delivering environmental  
growth in Cornwall?



Valuing environmental growth.

How do people actively value Cornwall's environment throughout  
their lives?

Experiencing environmental growth.

How often do people have positive experiences of Cornwall's  
environment?



These indicators help us to understand how Cornwall's  
environment is changing.

This is the first time these indicators have been put together, but some of  
them are based on data that have been collected for much longer!



Improving

Change for good in  
the last three years.



no change

Not much change in  
the last three years.



degrading

Change for the worse in  
the last three years.

If the status is **baseline**, there is less  
than three years of data available.

In 2016  
Cornwall emitted

**5** tonnes

of carbon per person.

In 2018,

**21%** of Cornwall was in  
positive management,  
delivering environmental  
growth.



In 2018, **60%**  
of natural features  
proposed for new  
development sites  
were created.



In 2019,

**7%** of  
Cornwall's

inshore waters were delivering  
environmental growth.



By 2020,

**4%** of

international environmental  
targets will be  
achieved in Cornwall.



In 2016,

**2** of Cornwall's 8  
estuaries had a good  
or higher rating for  
wildlife.



In 2016,

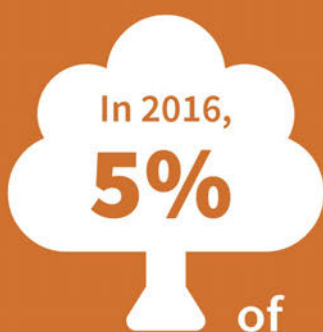
**25%** of  
Cornwall's lakes  
and rivers had a  
good rating for  
wildlife.



of Cornwall's waste collection was recycled or composted.

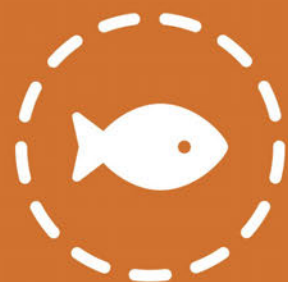


In 2017,  
**75%** of Cornish residents visited the outdoors at least once a week.



of Cornwall's carbon emissions were reabsorbed by our environment.

In 2019,  
**34%** of Cornwall's coastal waters were protected.



In 2018,  
**98%** of Cornish beaches were rated good or excellent.



# Land

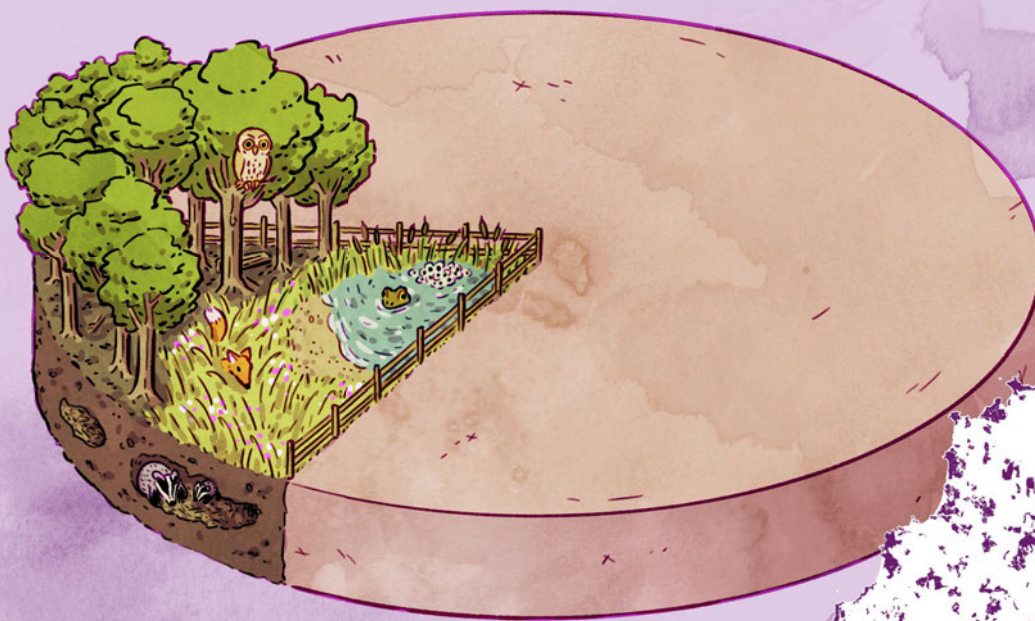


Achieving  
environmental  
growth

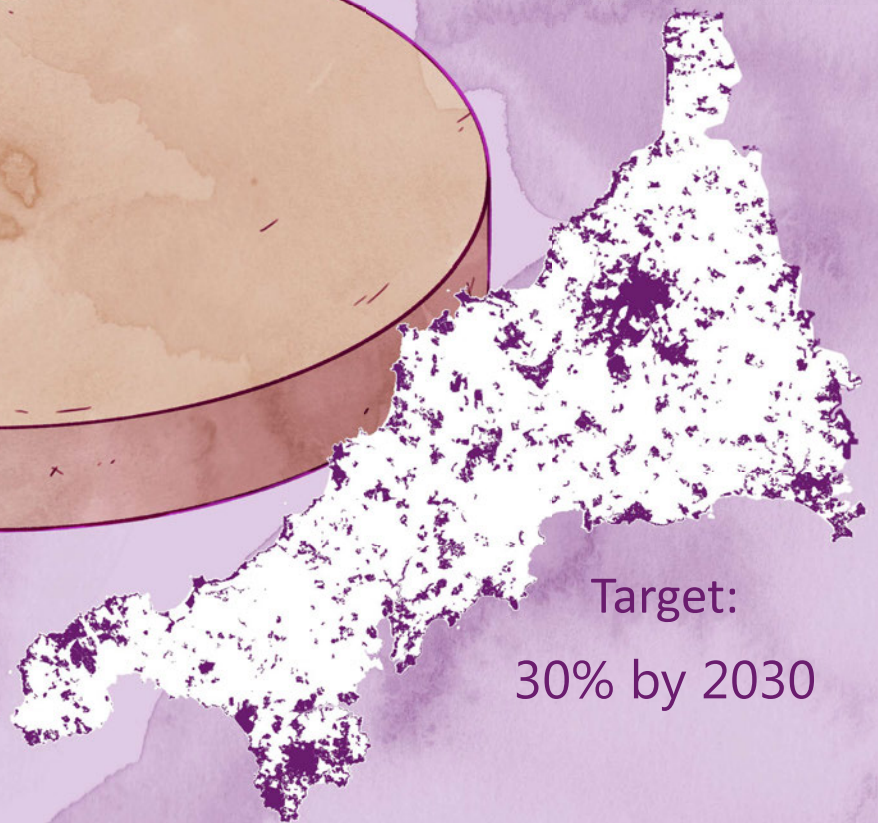
In 2018,

# 21%

of Cornwall delivered environmental  
growth.



baseline



Target:  
30% by 2030

This includes Sites of Scientific Interest, land in Higher and Mid tier Level Stewardship agri-environment schemes, land in positive ownership, local and national nature reserves, or land that is a number of these combined. Data was collected by the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and Natural England.

# Development



Achieving  
environmental  
growth

In 2018, **60%**

of natural features proposed for  
large new Cornish development  
sites were delivered.

baseline

Wildlife features such as trees, ponds, hedges and bat boxes are often proposed in the paperwork involved in obtaining planning permission, but are not always acted on. This is the percentage of wildlife features that make it from written to reality.



# Carbon Footprint

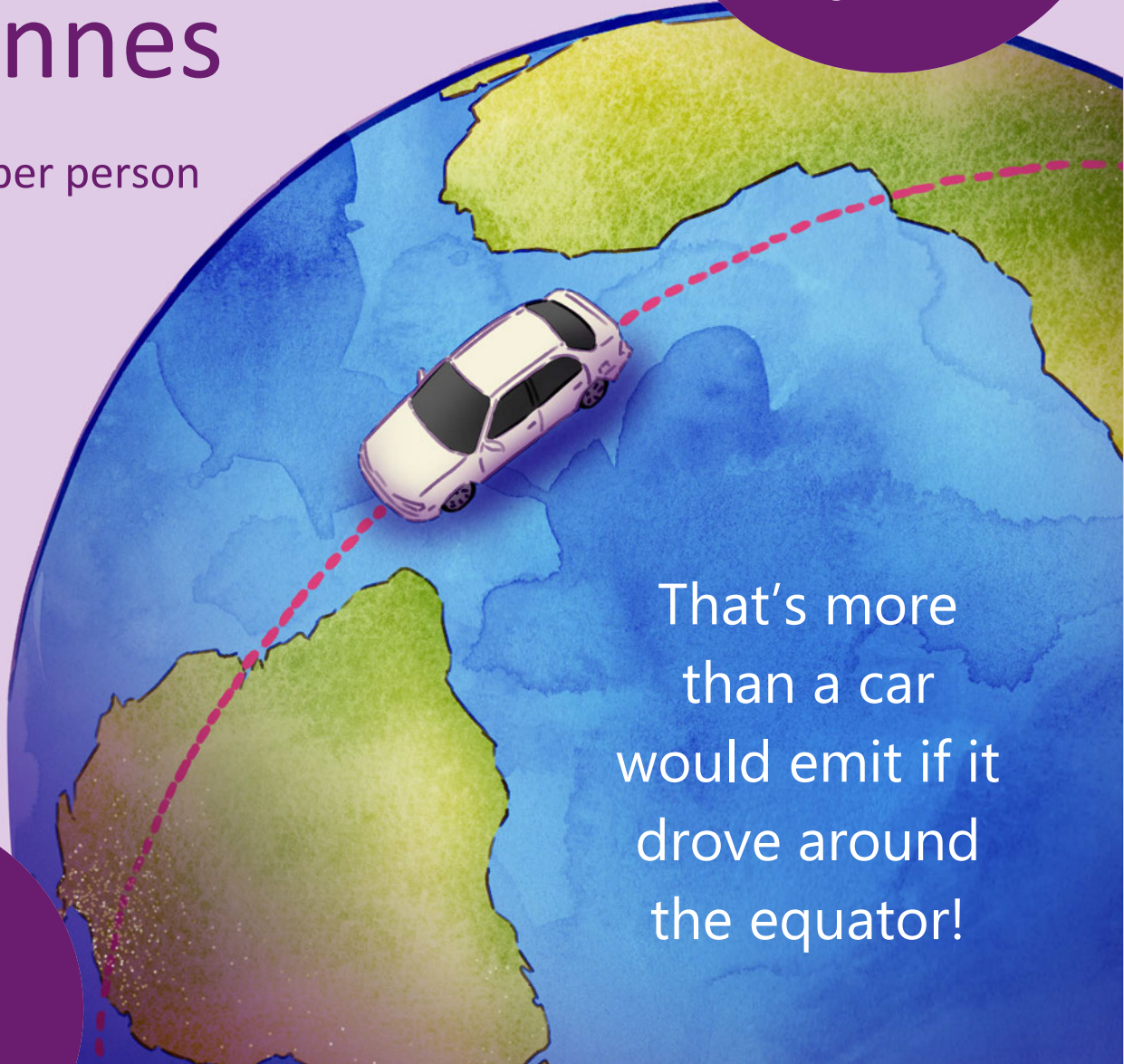


Achieving  
environmental  
growth

In 2016, Cornwall emitted

# 5 tonnes

of carbon per person



That's more  
than a car  
would emit if it  
drove around  
the equator!



improving

This is the total mass of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by industry, commercial, domestic, and transportation sources, minus the amount absorbed by Cornwall's landscape.

This estimation was calculated by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.



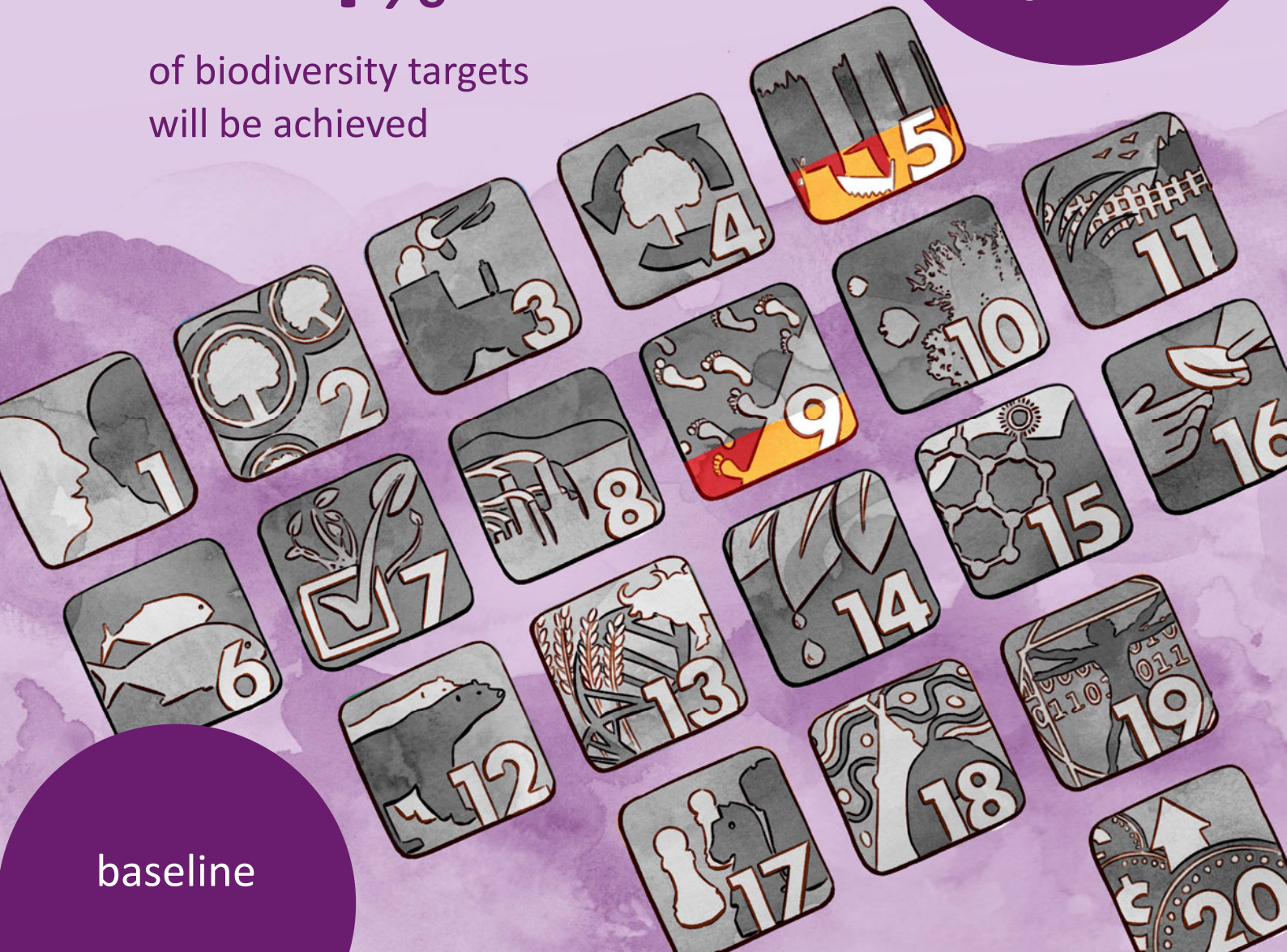
# Environmental Targets



Achieving  
environmental  
growth

By 2020, **4%**

of biodiversity targets  
will be achieved



baseline

Of 50 "Aichi" environmental targets that are applicable to Cornwall, 2 will be achieved by 2020. These targets are "the rate of loss of woodlands is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero" and "Invasive alien species identified and prioritised".



# Estuaries



Achieving  
environmental  
growth

In 2016, **2**

of Cornwall's 8 estuaries had a good or higher rating for wildlife.



degrading

On a scale of bad, poor, moderate, good and high for overall wildlife health, one estuary was rated good, and one was rated high.

Quality assessments were performed by the Environment Agency.

# Fresh Water



Achieving  
environmental  
growth

In 2016, **25%**

of Cornwall's lakes and rivers  
had a good rating for wildlife.



degrading

On a scale of bad, poor, moderate, good and high for overall wildlife health, 25% of Cornwall's lakes and rivers were rated good, although none were rated high. Quality assessments were performed by the Environment Agency.



# Marine

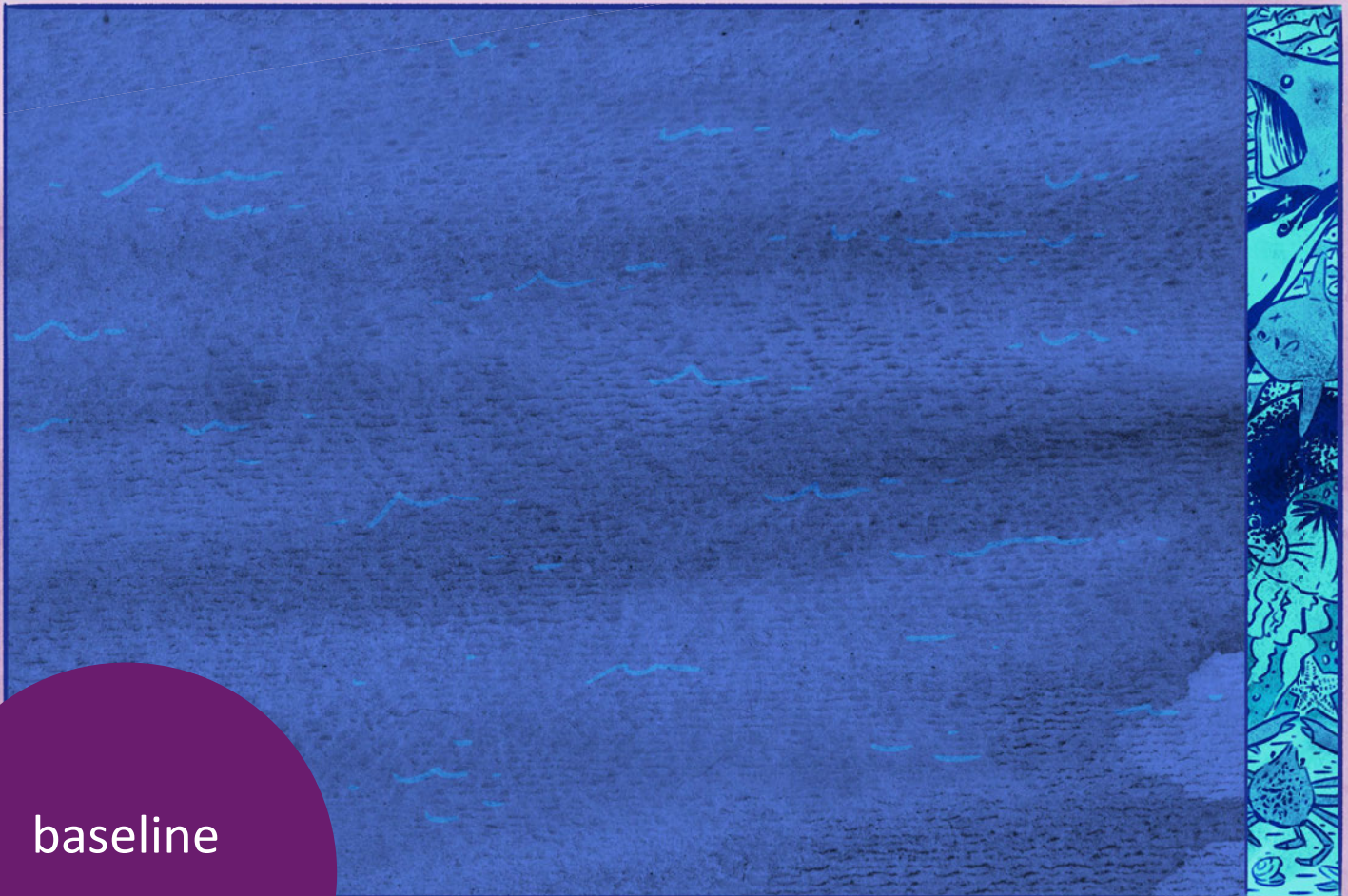


Achieving  
environmental  
growth

In 2019,

7%

of Cornwall's inshore sea bed was  
delivering environmental growth.



This is the percentage of Cornwall's inshore area that has management measures in place to prevent harmful human activity.

This figure was produced by Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

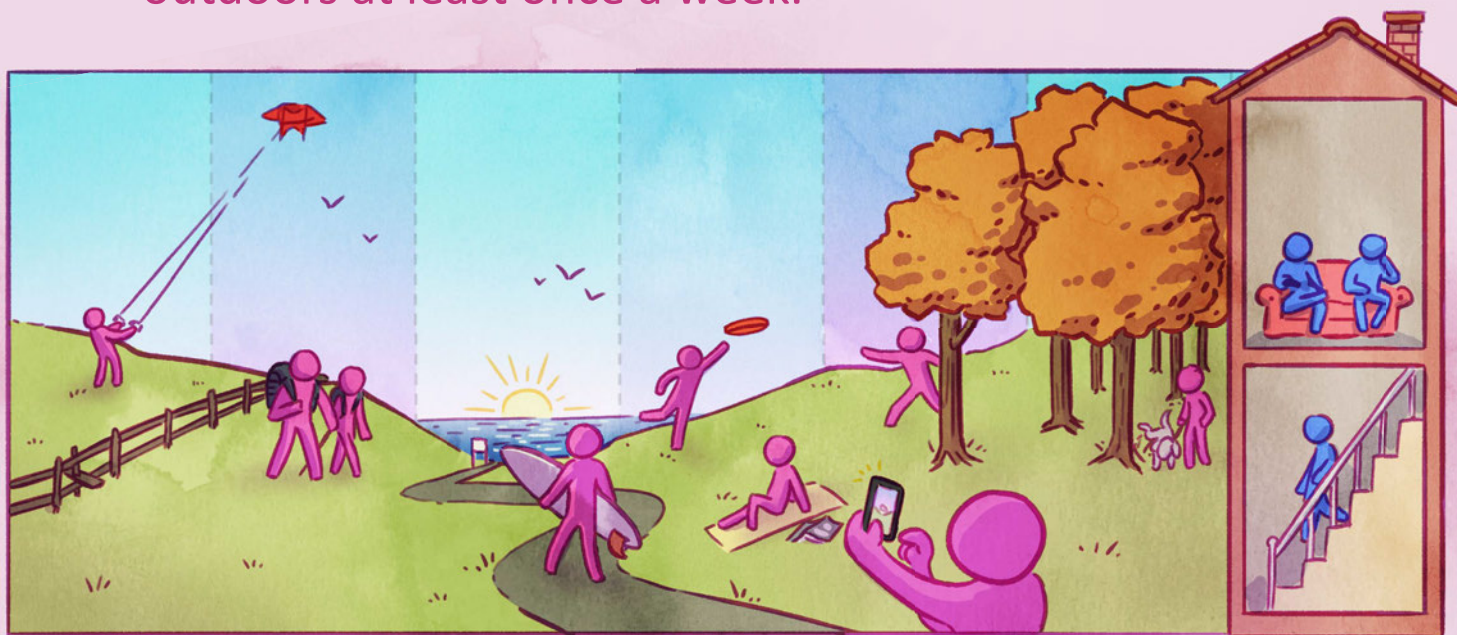
# Getting Outdoors



Experiencing  
environmental  
growth

In 2017, **75%**

of Cornish residents visited the  
outdoors at least once a week.



no change

For this indicator, 'outdoor visits' does not include routine trips (e.g. shopping) or visits to one's own garden. This figure is produced from answers to Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey.



# Recycling



Experiencing  
environmental  
growth

In 2017,

# 34%

of Cornwall's waste  
collection was recycled  
or composted.



baseline

Waste collected from kerbsides or household waste recycling centres are sent for either recycling, compost, or disposal.

Cornwall Council records the tonnage of waste collected and where it goes.

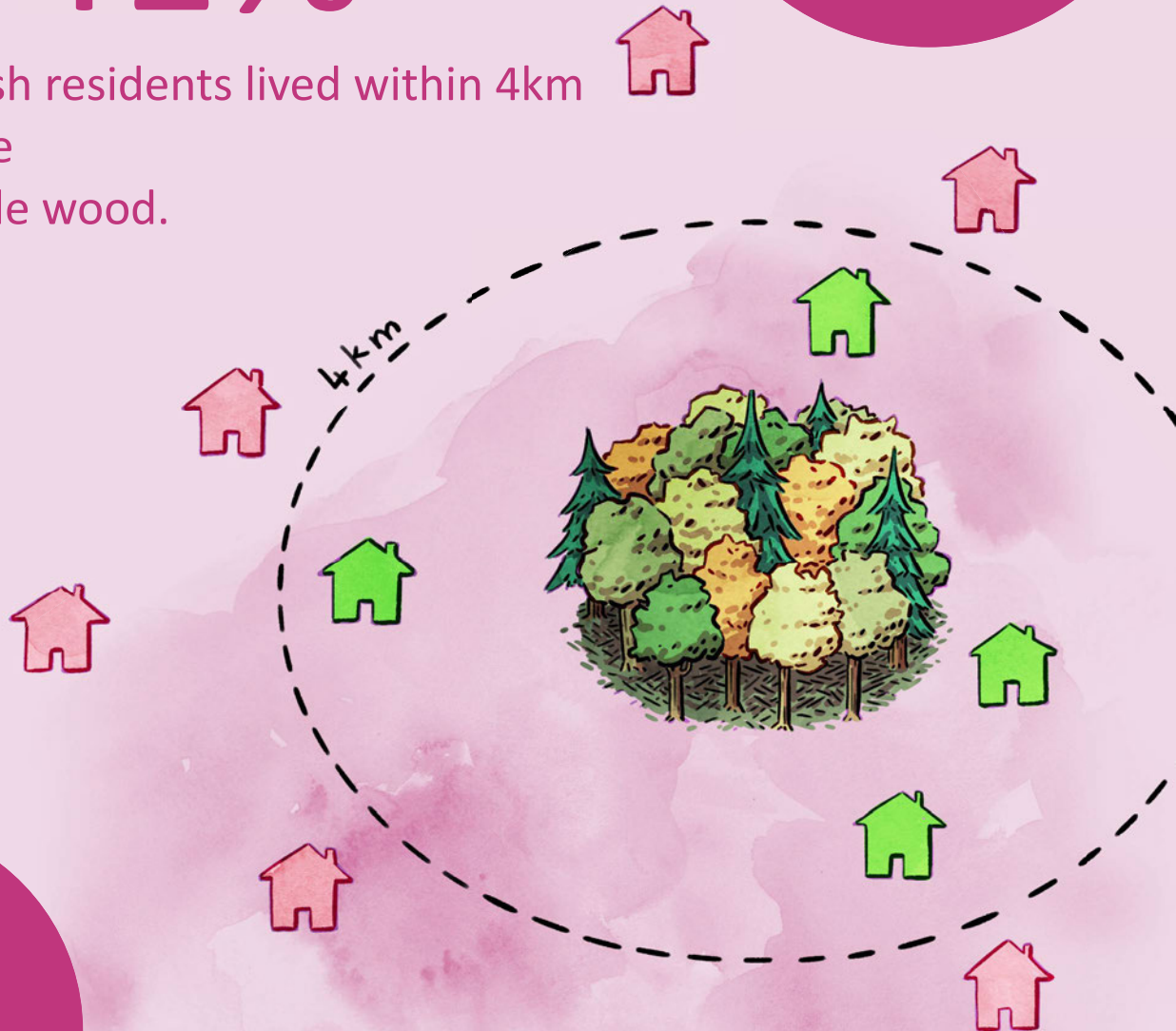
# Woodland Access



Experiencing  
environmental

In 2016, **41%**

of Cornish residents lived within 4km  
of a large  
accessible wood.



baseline

This includes woods 20 hectares or larger that are permissively accessible to the general public for recreation.

This figure was produced by the Woodland Trust.

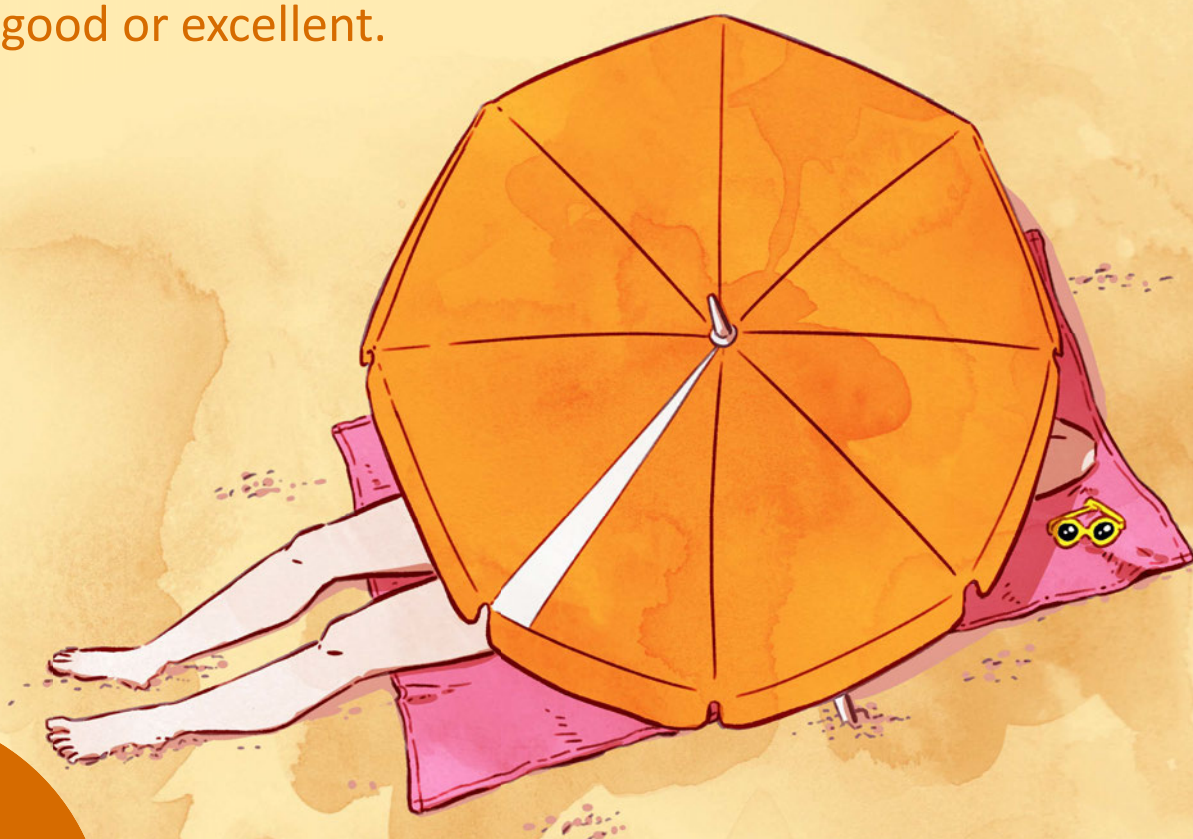
# Bathing Water



Valuing  
environmental  
growth

In 2018, **98%**

of Cornish bathing waters were  
rated good or excellent.



no change

On a scale of poor, sufficient, good and excellent for bathing water cleanliness, 98% of Cornwall's designated bathing waters were rated good or excellent. Quality assessments were performed by the Environment Agency.



# Carbon Storage



Valuing  
environmental  
growth

In 2016, **5%**

of Cornwall's carbon  
emissions were  
reabsorbed by our  
environment.



improving

This is the percentage of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by industry, commercial, domestic, and transportation sources, that were reabsorbed by Cornwall's natural environment, farmland, and forestry. This estimation was calculated by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.



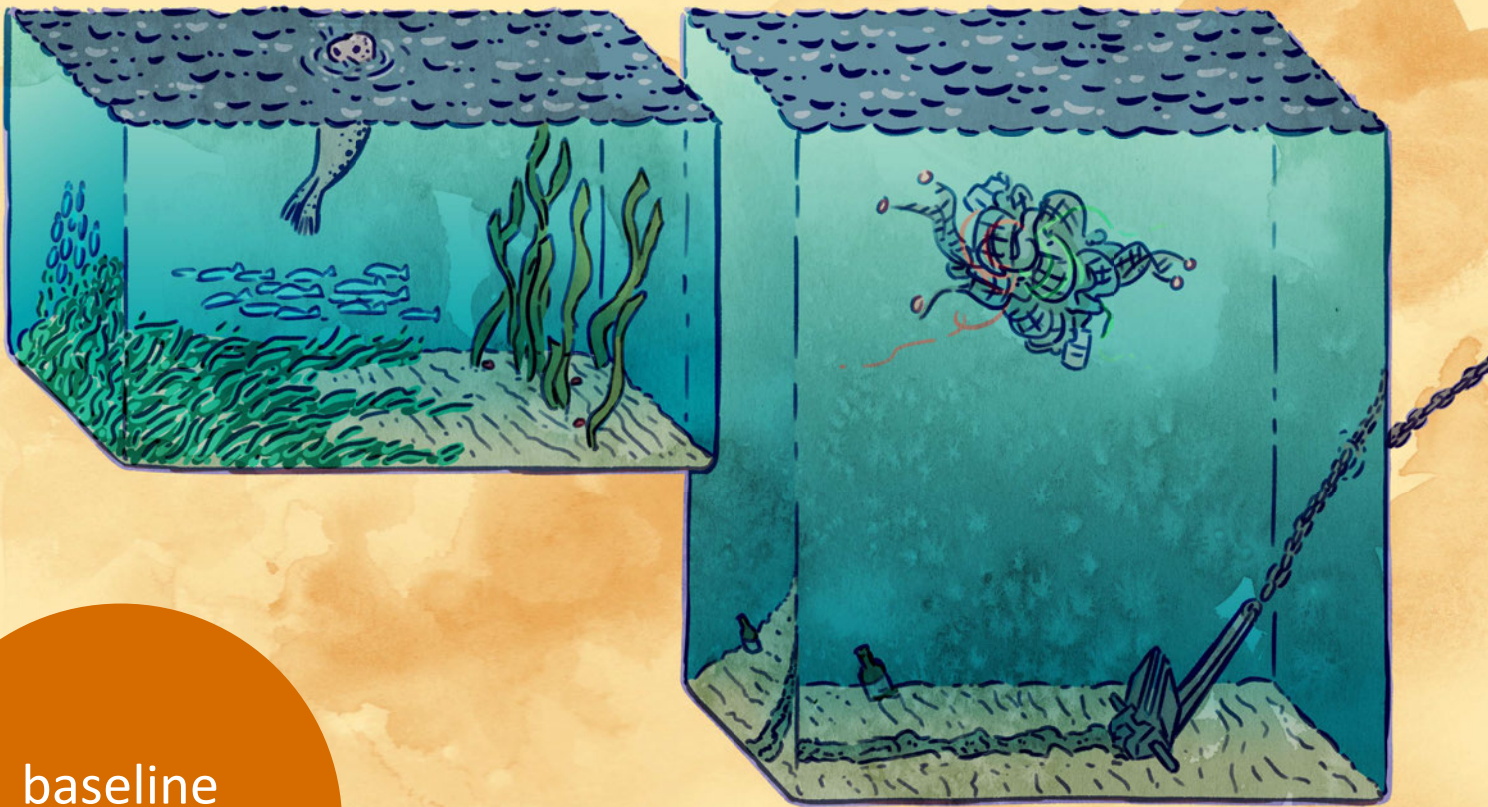
# Marine Protected Areas

In 2019,

34%

of Cornwall's coastal waters was within  
a designated protected area

Valuing  
environmental  
growth



baseline

This is the percentage of Cornwall's inshore area that is within a Marine Protected Area, including Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Marine Conservation Zones.

This figure was produced by Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

Indicator Summary		Who is gathering the data?	How often are data released?	What's the history of this indicator?
Land	In 2018, 21% of Cornwall was in positive management, delivering environmental growth.	Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and Natural England	Annually	No previous data
Development	In 2018, 60% of natural features proposed for new Cornish development sites were delivered.	Cornwall Council	Annually	No previous data
Carbon Footprint	In 2016, Cornwall emitted 5 tonnes of carbon per person	The Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy	Annually	<b>2016</b> - 5.1 <b>2015</b> - 5.4 <b>2014</b> - 5.8 <b>2013</b> - 6.2
Environmental Targets	By 2020, 4% of environmental targets will be achieved.	Cornwall Council	Every 5 years	No previous data
Estuaries	In 2016, 2 out of Cornwall's 8 estuaries had good or higher rating for wildlife.	Environment Agency	Every 3 years	<b>2016</b> - 2 <b>2015</b> - 2 <b>2014</b> - 3 <b>2013</b> - 3
Fresh Water	In 2016, 25% of Cornwall's lakes and rivers had a good rating for wildlife.	Environment Agency	Every 3 Years	<b>2016</b> - 25% <b>2015</b> - 22% <b>2014</b> - 21% <b>2013</b> - 32%
Marine	In 2019, 7% of Cornwall's coastal waters are under environmental growth.	Plymouth Marine Laboratory	Annually	No previous data
Getting Outdoors	In 2017, 75% of Cornish residents visited the outdoors at least once a week.	Natural England	Annually	<b>2017</b> - 75% <b>2016</b> - 81% <b>2015</b> - 68% <b>2014</b> - 76%
Recycling	In 2017, 34% of Cornwall's waste collection was recycled or composted.	Cornwall Council	Annually	<b>2017</b> - 34% <b>2016</b> - 32% <b>2015</b> - 31%
Woodland Access	In 2016, 41% of Cornish residents lived within 4km of a large wood.	Woodland Trust	Every 2-3 years	<b>2016</b> - 41% <b>2012</b> - 41% <b>2009</b> - 39% <b>2001</b> - 47%
Bathing Water	In 2018, 98% of Cornish beaches were rated good or excellent.	Environment Agency	Annually	<b>2018</b> - 98% <b>2017</b> - 96% <b>2016</b> - 96% <b>2015</b> - 94%
Carbon Storage	In 2016, 5% of Cornwall's carbon emissions were reabsorbed by our environment.	The Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy	Annually	<b>2016</b> - 4.9 <b>2015</b> - 4.6 <b>2014</b> - 4.1 <b>2013</b> - 3.7
Marine Protection	In 2019, 34% of Cornwall's coastal waters are protected.	Plymouth Marine Laboratory	Annually	No previous data

# Acknowledgements



**Analyst, author and illustrator** — Nicholas Tucker

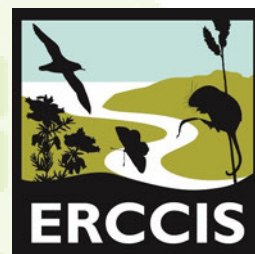
nicholas.griffin.tucker@gmail.com

**Presentational supervisor** — Philippa Hoskin, Environmental Service, Cornwall Council

**Statistical supervisor** — Ilya MacClean, University of Exeter

**Additional input** — Kevin Gaston, University of Exeter

**Technical support** — Martin Goodall, ERCCIS



Recording  
Mapping  
Informing

PML

Plymouth Marine  
Laboratory



Cornwall  
Wildlife Trust





Nature does **a lot for us...**  
do what you can for nature...



## More information

If you would like more information on Cornwall's Environmental Growth Strategy please visit

**[www.cornwall.gov.uk/grow-nature](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/grow-nature)**



If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:

Cornwall Council, County Hall, Treyew Road,  
Truro TR1 3AY

telephone: 0300 1234 100

email: [enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk)

[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)