

# Social Gain from Lakes, Future Threats and Sustainable Protection for Nature

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Head of Environment – South West Lakes Trust

# Who are we?

- Charity established in 2000 dedicated to the provision of access for recreation, leisure and education to conserved landscapes in particular around inland water bodies.
- Charitable objects strongly align with the needs of the Water Industry act 1991, Code of Practice for Conservation, Access and Recreation (CAR).
- Working in partnership with SWW to deliver CAR provision
- Regular contributor to the Water Industry national CAR network
- Working locally, regionally & nationally e.g.
  - Lifton Sea Scouts, Devon Bat Group, CAST Fly Fishing Club
  - SWW, SW INNS Forum, Westcountry Rivers Trust
  - RYA, CIEEM, Angling Trust

# What do we do?



## Vision:

Our people, places and experiences we offer, will inspire this and future generations to love and benefit from the environment.

## Mission:

South West Lakes cares for natural and historic environments, providing health, social and wellbeing benefits for individuals and communities.

## By 2030:

Our managed landscapes will be abundant, diverse and connected  
Lives will be enhanced from experiencing the outdoors







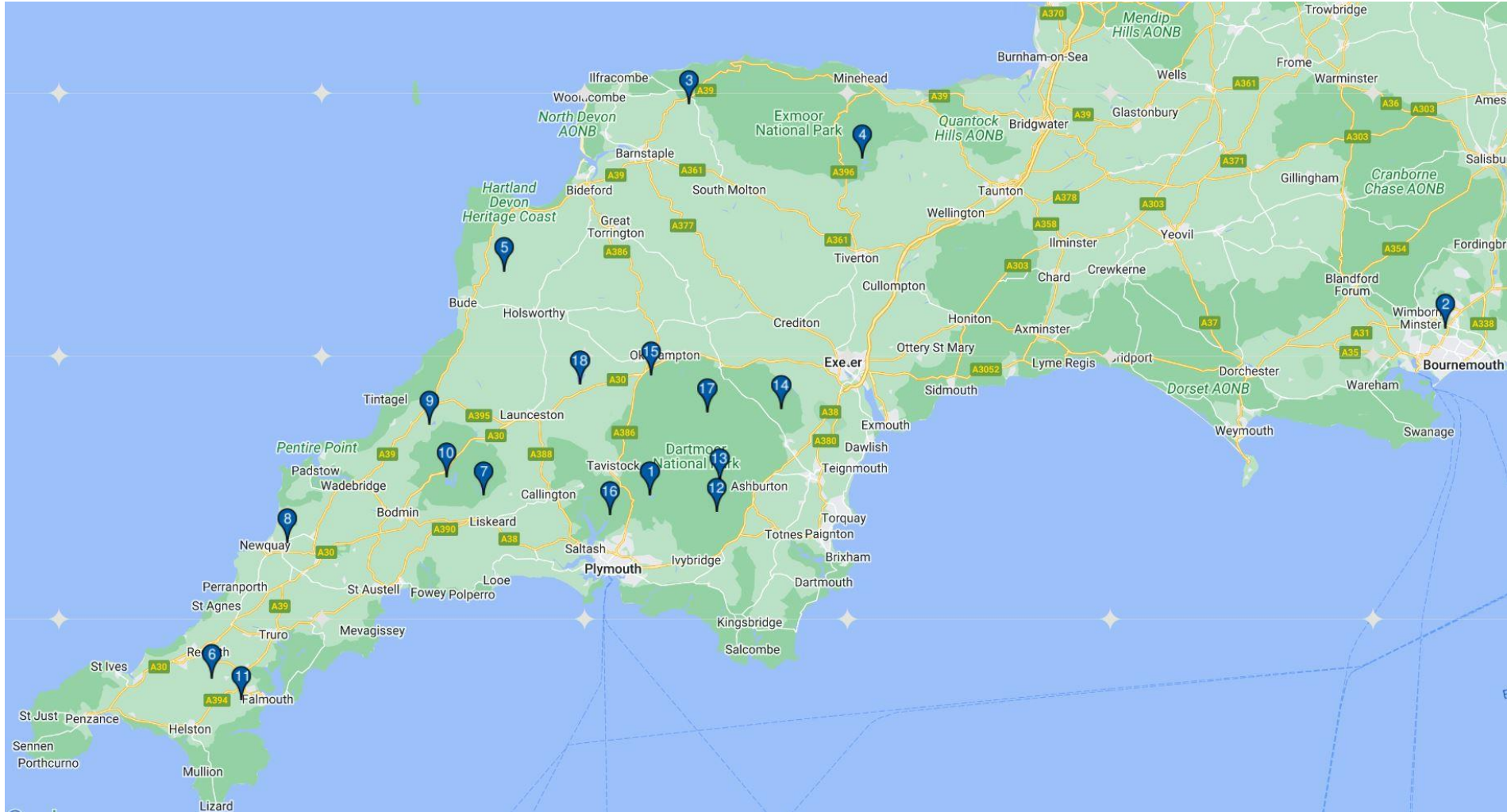
# Public Access



50 lakes,  
outdoor  
and  
historic  
spaces

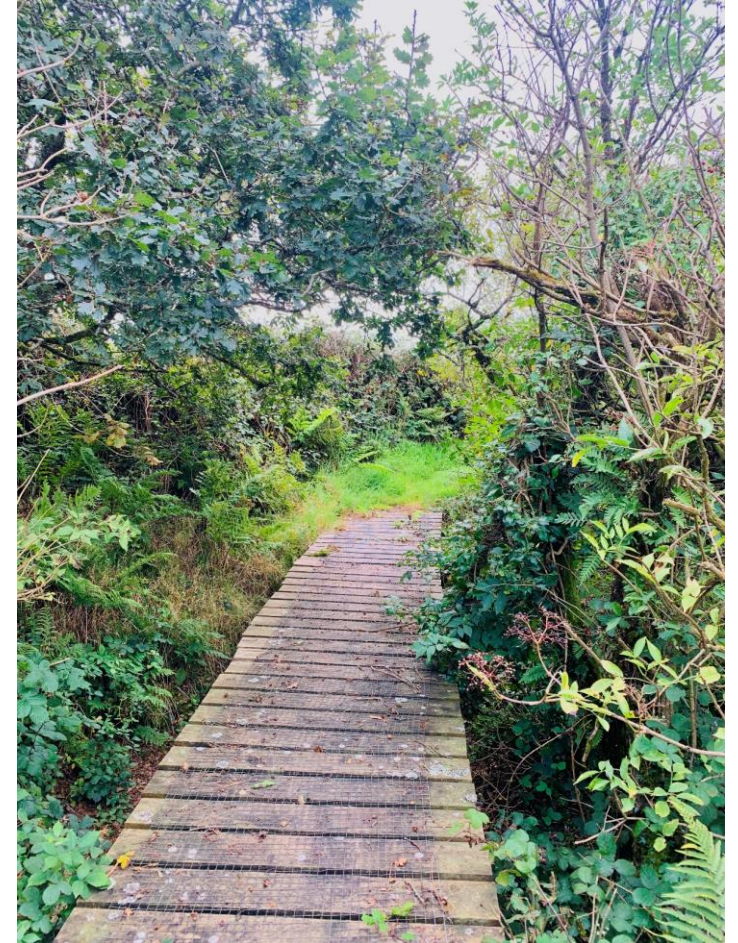
2.25m  
visitors

145km  
footpaths



# Threats

- Funding
  - Increased competition
  - Fewer funding options
- Contractors
  - Costs
  - Availability
- Conflicting interests
  - Antisocial behaviour
  - Necessary restrictions to protect the environment





# Conservation

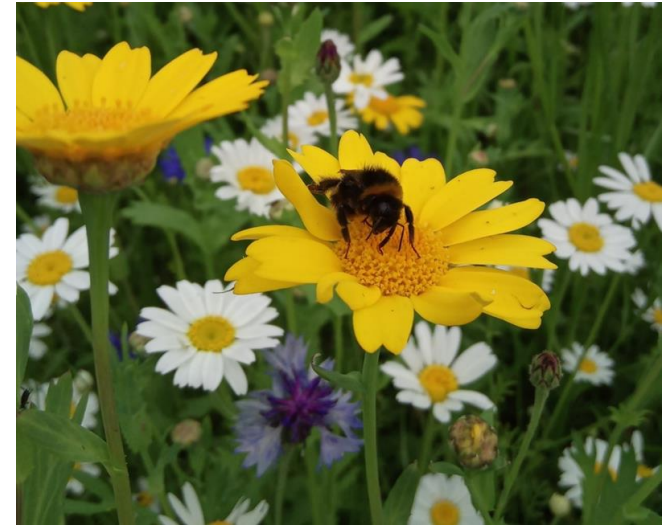
- Invasive Species and Biosecurity
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Dartmoor Green Recovery
- Biodiversity Enhancements

- County Wildlife Sites
- HLS
- Forestry



# Threats

- Pests and diseases
- INNS
- Climate change
- Weather
- Agri schemes
- Funding
- Anti-social behaviour
  - Fencing damage
  - Fly grazing
  - Dogs off leads





# Recreation

- 130,800 active visits
  - 20,000 on water activities
  - 500 young people at kids clubs
  - Wimbleball
    - 30 schools
    - 72 home educated young people
- NCS (National Citizen Service)
  - Providing away from home experiences for 16-17yr olds



# Threats



## Covid

- Behavioural change
  - Some negative
  - Long term
- Benefits??
  - New audiences
  - Volunteers

## Economy

- Limited public expendable income
  - Free/cheap days out
- Alternative entertainment
- Rising costs

# Access

- Miles without stiles
- Dark skies hub
- Grow Friends of South West Lakes





# Diversification

- Transition to mixed broadleaf
- Continue commercial where feasible – mixed Spp
- Diversify forestry interests
- Involve all aspects of organisation
- Coppicing
  - Courses
- Rural skills
- Training
  - In-house
  - CIEEM training provider
- Agro-forestry

# Research

- Invasive signal crayfish
  - Novel trapping
  - Bathymetric & side scan sonar surveys
  - Detection dogs
- Crassula
  - Hot water trials
  - CABI – biological control
  - Native plant competitor



# Conservation

- Wildlife surveys
- Path maintenance
- Swim building
- Tree planting & clearance
- Litter picking
- INNS management
- NCS programme
- Archaeological works
- Leaky dams!



**4,850 Volunteer  
hours**





# Leading the Way

- AQUA Biosecurity Accreditation
  - First gold awards in UK
  - 32 lakes accredited
- Volunteer Site Guardians
  - Eyes and ears on the ground
- Offer volunteers similar mandatory training as paid employees + role specific training
- Trail sites for new technology
  - Receive data in return



# Recreation

- Focus on local community
- NCS – further development
- Encourage more young people into fishing





# A special THANK YOU

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our supporters, partners, volunteers and Friends for helping us to achieve so much during this impactful year. We are very grateful to you, and we look forward to continuing to build on our work in the future.



## PATRONS

- Cairns Boston
- Keith Bungay
- David Robertson
- Peter Briens
- Roger Preston

## PARTNERS

- South West Water
- Bournemouth Water
- Dartmoor National Park Authority
- Exmoor National Park Authority
- National Citizen Service Trust



## FUNDERS

- Friends of South West Lakes Trust
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Exmoor National Park Authority
- Hinkley Tourism Action Partnership
- Angling Trust
- The Clare Milne Trust
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- South West Water

## WORKING WITH: PUBLIC ACCESS

- Avon and Somerset Police (Rural crime initiatives)
- Countryside Mobility South West
- Devon and Cornwall Police (Rural crime initiatives)
- Devon County Council
- Golden Tree Productions
- Somerset Council
- The Ramblers
- UK and Ireland Lakes Network
- Visitor Safety Group

## WORKING WITH: CONSERVATION

- Amphibian and Reptile Groups UK
- Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
- Bodmin Moor Commons Council
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- Bristol Zoological Society
- Bumblebee Conservation Trust
- Butterfly Conservation
- CABI
- Camel Catchment Partnership
- Community Environmental Educational Therapy CIC (CEET)
- Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership
- Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Federation for Biological Recorders
- Cornwall Area of Outstanding National Beauty
- Cornwall Bat Group
- Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society
- Cornwall Catchment Partnership
- Cornwall Invasive Species Forum
- Cornwall Reptile and Amphibian Group
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- Dartmoor Preservation Association
- Devon Bat Group
- Devon Invasive Species Initiative
- Devon Local Nature Partnership
- Devon Reptile and Amphibian Group
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Natural Flood Management Group
- Duchy of Cornwall
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- Forestry England
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Historic England
- Institute of Zoology
- Natural England
- Plantlife
- RSPB
- Sheepstor Commoners' Association
- Somerset Bat Group
- Stour Valley Park Partnership
- South West Invasive Species Forum
- Tamar Catchment Partnership
- Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding National Beauty
- Water UK Conservation, Access and Recreation (CAR) Forum
- Water UK Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Forum
- Westcountry Rivers Trust
- Woodland Trust
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

## WORKING WITH: RECREATION AND EDUCATION

- Adventure Activity Licensing Authority (AALA)
- Active Cornwall
- Angling Trust
- British Canoeing
- British Float Tube Association
- Calvert Trust Exmoor
- Cornwall Council
- Falmouth Marine School
- Forest for Cornwall Partnership
- Ingeus
- Park Run
- Royal Yachting Association
- Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership
- The Scout Association
- Wessex Water
- Wheelyboat Trust

## COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CLUBS DELIVERING AT THE LAKES

- Boscastle and Crackington Gig Club
- British Model Flying Association
- Burrator Fly Fishers Association
- CAST Fly Fishing Club
- Christchurch and District Model Flying Club
- Christchurch Rowing Club
- Clovelly Gig Club
- Cornwall Rowing Association
- Dorset Ultimate Canoe Kayak Squad
- Exeter University
- Exmoor Canoe Club
- Greenbank Falmouth Rowing Club
- Kennick Fly Fishers Association
- Lifton Sea Scouts
- Lighthouse Community Centre
- North Devon Radio Sailing Club
- Petroc College and Bideford Canoe Club
- Poole Radio Yacht Club
- Portreath Gig Club
- Porlock Gig Rowing
- Queens College
- Ringwood and District Anglers Association
- Roadford Lake Sailing Club
- Roadford Rowing Club
- South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- Torridge Fly Fishing Club
- Trelawney Rowing Club
- Upper Tamar Lake Sailing Club
- West Cornwall Radio Sailing Club
- Wild Vibes (Fitness Wild)
- Wild Yoga Cornwall
- Wimborne and District Angling Club
- Wimblesail Sailing Club
- Wimblesail Rowing Club
- Woodland Wellness
- Yenworthy Lodge





# South West Lakes Trust



We believe  
engaging with the  
natural  
environment  
enables people to  
grow.



It's your outdoors  
– come and  
explore.