



New group aims to conserve and enhance the Roseland

David Hall Wild Roseland Group



THE WILD ROSELAND GROUP has just been formed to help record, protect and enhance the natural environment of this unique part of Cornwall.

This initiative by local residents grew out of the Roseland Neighbourhood Development Plan, which has been adopted by the residents of five local Parishes and Cornwall Council.

Their vision for the future is conserving and enhancing the area's character and distinctiveness for a sustainable future.

Policy LA5 of the plan specifically focuses on conserving and enhancing nature and biodiversity.

During the public consultation for the Roseland Plan, residents and visitors said how much they valued the beauty

and character of the area. Its trees, flora and fauna, lanes and footpaths, coastline and rivers are all integral to its special lifestyle and the local economy.

This is recognised by several national and European designations. Most of the Roseland is within the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Much of the River Fal tributary and estuary habitat is a designated site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and is part of the Fal and Helford Special Area of Conservation, which also includes the Gerrans Bay SSSI. Gerrans Bay is being assessed as a potential special protection area (SPA) for its wintering seabirds.

To ensure this policy is put into practice, the Group was formed to assess and monitor what we have on the Roseland – its natural capital - find out what initiatives and activities are already happening and plan how we can resource and implement further initiatives so that

residents' wishes can be achieved.

The Group has begun with two practical projects:

The first is part of an initiative for "making homes for nature" and involves the Roseland primary schools making barn owl boxes for local buildings.

Further initiatives under this scheme are planned with the financial support of the Cornwall AONB.

The second project will involve identifying spaces in each parish where species-rich wildflower areas can be enhanced by introducing appropriate plants and better management. spaces, field and woodland edges, highway verges, community green spaces and alongside footpaths, and then working with the owners to develop their biodiversity.

This will look amazing, develop the area's reputation for visitors, and benefit insect populations enormously, which will, in turn, increase pollination of

flowers and crops.

Other projects in their initial stages are:

- mapping the natural habitats of the Roseland;
- survey and assessment of hedgerows;
- training for interested residents on how to use the Online Wildlife Recording Kernow And Scilly (Orks) system; and producing practical information and educational materials on where best to see nature on the Roseland.

Initial grant funding for these activities has been generously provided by Cornwall Council, St Mawes Pier & Harbour Company, Roseland Online and the Cornwall AONB.

The Wild Roseland Group is looking for volunteers with relevant interests and skills, as well as further funding to support its activities. If you can help, email us at: wildroselandgroup@gmail.com

From left, bluebells; the path to Pendower Beach; a common blue butterfly; a goldcrest.
Pictures by Sarah Vandome