



## Field Findings: Osprey Platform Sites and Water Vole Signs

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### Osprey Platforms Aplenty

Following on from our hugely successful crowdfunding campaign, we have been working hard to **identify optimal places** to install platforms that we hope ospreys will use to nest on in the coming years. Being sensitive to disturbance,

ospreys need space away from human activity, therefore it takes a bit of time to identify the best places.

Working with local landowners, we have currently identified five **sites** on which to install platforms, including this **old high seat** (pictured below), which was originally used for shooting deer but will now be restored to help nature!

In consultation with landowners, we have decided that the best time to install the platforms will be **spring next year**, when the ground has dried out. Until then, we can focus our efforts on finding further suitable sites.



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## **Trelusback Farm Water Voles**

Since releasing a further 80+ water voles at the Trelusback Foundation conservation site in June, we are beginning to see the **population rapidly re-establish** itself into the wider landscape.



Our camera trap footage and field monitoring has led to us finding a large amount of field signs, such as the discarded food on the platform in the picture below, and we have also found evidence of the **water voles spreading**.

**Two further sites now have confirmed breeding** of water voles, and a small number of droppings were also discovered at a **third site** later in the year, so we have high hopes that breeding will take place there next year. This network of breeding sites creates a '**metapopulation**' - a regional group of connected populations of a species - which will help to secure the viability of the overall water vole population in the area.

We're delighted with the progress so far and are very grateful to everyone who has supported the project.



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## Cober Valley Water Voles

Our second reintroduction site saw its first cohort of around 100 water voles released in September, and early signs indicate the **population is faring well**.

Regular monitoring at the site is uncovering **consistent field signs**, such as droppings and discarded food remnants, which show that the water voles have settled well into their new surroundings.

With the help of other local landowners in the valley, we have also been regularly surveying for signs of American mink, one of the main reasons that water voles became extinct locally in the 1990s.

So far, we haven't found any evidence of this invasive species, but we will **remain vigilant** to give the new water vole population the best chance of quickly re-establishing in this area.



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## Wild News

We are trying to secure funding for **more water vole reintroductions** next September. Stay tuned for following updates this winter!

We are also actively applying and looking for funding to start **new projects**. Current research leads include red kites, white storks, white letter hairstreaks, and rewilding gardens. If you have any project ideas or funding leads for us, do send them in: [alana.scott@kernowconservation.org](mailto:alana.scott@kernowconservation.org)

We have recently had a **change in directorship**. Sophie Jackson has resigned due to academic and work commitments, but she has been replaced by our new director, **Joe Marshall**! Joe had been volunteering with us for over a year prior to becoming director, mostly helping with social media and camera trapping. Joe is a nature lover with a business background, and will be a great asset to our team, helping with our memberships, partnerships, communications, and fundraising.

**Cornish Horizons** have joined us as a business member, whilst **Holiday Cottages Cornwall** have renewed their membership. We thank you for your support!

Looking for a last minute gift in time for the holiday season? We have recently launched our **gift memberships**, which you can buy for other nature lovers. They will then be able to redeem an individual, couples, or family 1-year membership.

[Buy our gift memberships here!](#)

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