cornwall environmental consultants LTD

Growing Goss
Summative Assessment

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Disclosure

The information, opinion and advice which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct and the British Standard for Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development (2013). We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

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1. Project Context

1.1. Background

1.1.1. This report sets out the Summative Assessment undertaken for the Growing Goss Project, and the report is written following the Summative Assessment final report structure as set out within Appendix F of the European Regional Development Fund Summative Assessment guidance – Appendices (ref. ESIF-GN-1-034). This is a draft report, prepared for initial submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities ahead of the project's completion date in March 2023. This draft report reports on work undertaken and financial records from the project start in April 2019 to end June 2022, and predicts the likely situation at the project close (March 2023).

1.1.2. This report will be updated with the final project information within a final issue at the project close.

1.1.3. Section 1 considers the economic and policy context within which the project was designed. This section sets out the project objectives, identifies the nature of the market failure and sets out the rationale behind the delivery approach, with reference to the Logic Model for the project.

1.1.4. Each of the following sections starts with a short introduction to set out the topics that will be covered within the section, including an outline of the approach taken by any assessments.

1.2. Aim of the project

1.2.1. The Growing Goss project aims to deliver better conservation status of nationally and internationally important wetland habitats within Goss Moor National Nature Reserve (NNR) and its surroundings. This is detailed on the Logic Model for the project, which is shown in Appendix A. The project's aims will be achieved through five activities:

- Re-naturalisation of the headwaters of the River Fal
- Implementation of sustainable management of invasive willow scrub
- Development of capability to deliver conservation grazing
- Provision of practical conservation volunteering opportunities for volunteers
- Provision of improved public access throughout the site

1.2.2. The key measurement to monitor the success of the project will be based on the project outcome target:

- 577ha of land at Goss Moor in improved conservation status

1.3. Addressing market failure and policy fit

1.3.1. During the development phase of this project, market failure was interpreted, in the context of this Green Infrastructure project, to relate to the key environmental challenges and risks that have arisen as a result of historic site use. The need for the project was set out around five key issues: 1) the need to improve the condition of the SSSI, 2) safeguarding and restoring habitats for which the site has been designated as a Natura 2000 site, 3) addressing ecosystem deficiencies, 4) the lack of cycle and walking routes that are accessible to all and 5) the local community which faces significant deprivation issues; these are discussed in the following paragraphs:

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1.3.2. The site consists of 577ha of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Natura 2000 site. Natural England has assessed the condition of the SSSI to be:

- Unfavourable Declining – 392ha
- Unfavourable Recovering – 177ha
- Favourable - 3ha
- (5ha had not been classified at the time of application).

1.3.3. The project aims to reverse the declining condition trajectory to Unfavourable Recovering condition by the end of the project, enabling subsequent management to move the site towards Favourable condition. This outcome will comply with national targets for SSSI condition and local objectives set out in the adopted NNR Management Plan and contribute to the delivery of the Cornwall Biodiversity Action Plan.

1.3.4. In addition to the SSSI designation, the site is also a Natura 2000 site (Special Area of Conservation), contributing to an international network of protected sites, and there are international objectives for the site, in relation to both specific habitats and species. The habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is designated are identified within the England Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) as requiring safeguarding. One of the key habitats for which the site is designated, that will be restored is the habitat H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs. For species, the site objectives are to provide optimal conditions for a species of butterfly, the marsh fritillary. Project actions are identified as priorities in Site Improvement Plan 027 that underpins the PAF. The project activities also contribute to Aichi Global Biodiversity Targets, EU Biodiversity Strategy (Target 1 and 2) and the England Biodiversity Strategy (Outcomes 1, 3 and 4). It also delivers against UN Sustainable Development Goal, particularly Goal 15 – Life on Land.

1.3.5. Ecosystem Service deficiencies have also been identified, in that the current condition of the site (with the canalised headwaters to the River Fal) results in an increased flood risk to communities downstream. The project meets the objectives set out in the EU Water Frameworks Directive. It contributes to achieving good ecological status of downstream bodies and climate change adaptation by helping to address some of the key trends and factors influencing local flood risk in Cornwall identified in the Cornwall Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

1.3.6. There is a lack of cycle and walking routes to the site from local settlements, many of the site's existing routes are only accessible by more mobile visitors, and do not provide Access for All. There is a general lack of suitable infrastructure in the countryside that can deliver Access for All and the project contributes to these aspirations and meets the new British Standard 5709:2018 for Gaps, Gates and Styles.

1.3.7. The area surrounding Goss Moor is largely rural and local communities face many deprivation issues. Cornwall Council's Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2015) show that some neighbourhoods near the project area fall within the most deprived (worst) 10% and 20% nationally. St Dennis South is within the most deprived 20% Lower Super Output Areas in England and ranked highly (76%) in another study that analysed households at risk of poverty. It has been recognised that these issues may present barriers to members of the community engaging with, or benefiting from, the project. The project has been designed to include activities to address this. The project therefore contributes to delivering the Cornwall Inclusion Strategy, as detailed in the Cornwall Integrated Territorial Investment Strategy.

1.3.8. Policy demands for the project have also been identified, and the project has been designed to address these:

- The delivery of Priority Axis 6d, C23 indicator as set out in the Operational Programme.

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- The EU Habitats Directive, and conservation objectives for the Natura 2000 site.
- Biodiversity 2020, which seeks to halt overall biodiversity loss by 2020, our local actions will make a key contribution.
- EU Water Frameworks Directive to deliver Good Ecological Status of downstream water bodies.
- Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (specifically for thriving plants and wildlife, reducing the risks from environmental hazards, enhancing beauty, engagement with the natural environment and mitigating and adapting to climate change).
- EU Landscape Convention through enabling communities to connect with the local landscape and utilise the site as green infrastructure.
- Cornwall Inclusion and Integrated Territorial Investment Strategy by delivering local health and well-being benefits, training and upskilling opportunity to deprived rural communities and improving Access for All. This will ensure a more inclusive approach to site access and enjoyment (there are currently 75,000 visits to the site annually).

1.3.9. The project represents a strong opportunity to achieve significant gains in terms of nature conservation, ecosystem services and community benefits, and this work would not have been possible without the ERDF funding. This project has allowed Natural England to undertake several key activities to reverse the decline in habitat condition, and establish a base from which ongoing management, and a projected improvement in conservation status can be economically sustainable.

1.3.10. In light of the evidence provided, it is considered that there was a strong rationale for this project to be undertaken, and it has been designed to address several important issues resulting from a market failure.

1.4. Project design

1.4.1. The project has been designed to undertake a series of actions over a three-year period (subsequently extended to four years, following unavoidable project delivery delays), which, together will result in the desired outcome of improving the conservation status of 577ha of protected habitat.

1.4.2. A community engagement group will be established to provide a forum for conversations and feedback regarding the project.

1.4.3. The project activities have been and will be delivered using a mixture of staff, contractors and volunteers between March 2019 and March 2023 (the project was originally due to finish in March 2022, but a 1 year extension was approved, due to delays in project implementation, primarily caused by the Covid-19 pandemic).

1.4.4. Each of the project actions is outlined below:

Re-naturalise the headwaters of the River Fal

1.4.5. Historic artificial drains and canalised channels have damaged wetland habitats, and this project aims to re-naturalise these features. Restoring a naturally functioning system with year-round high water levels will protect and enhance wetlands and help retain flood water, benefitting communities downstream and contributing to climate change adaptation. Resulting slower flows and pools will trap sediments, improve water quality and create new mire habitat.

1.4.6. Specialist hydrological consultants were employed to undertake a flood risk assessment prior to the restoration work starting. This assessment detailed the best solutions and techniques to use in each section of channel.

1.4.7. Natural England provided oversight of specialist contractors to install partial 'woody debris dams' into the River Fal constructed out of living willow; the willow will take root and grow forming a permanent living dam. Heather bales have also been installed to block a ditch. The partial 'woody debris dams' let normal flows through, but during periods of high flow, they slow down the water, trapping silt and other flood debris and push water out onto natural mini floodplains recharging surrounding wetlands.

1.4.8. Leaky dams are less effective in wide canalised channels, here new meanders will be created by timber deflectors or by diverting into shallow sinuous channels. The aim will be to slow down flows, allowing the river to reconnect with its floodplain.

Implement sustainable management of invasive willow scrub

1.4.9. This action has aimed to create larger areas of open habitat and corridors connecting mosaics of wetland, wet grassland and wet woodland habitats. This will improve resilience of the site, enabling its nationally and internationally designated important species to recover and thrive. The long period of abandonment coupled with drainage interventions created perfect conditions for rapid and extensive scrub expansion. Traditional conservation management techniques cannot keep pace and are prohibitively expensive. Commercial forestry solutions are not feasible due to low timber values combined with site access issues; heavy forestry machines will cause significant damage to the site and will not be able to operate in the wet ground.

1.4.10. Growing Goss have secured sustainable management of scrub beyond the lifetime of the project by investing in new machinery, skills and techniques to cut, extract and process scrub. Scrub has been felled using a combination of manual felling with chainsaw and small lightweight excavators fitted with hydraulic shears. The felled material has been extracted using a winch line minimising the need for vehicles travelling over the wetlands.

1.4.11. Cut scrub must be disposed of, off-site to prevent this organic material smothering the biodiverse ground flora. Growing Goss will enable cleared scrub to be processed at trackside into biomass by a whole tree chipper and transported away from site in large roll on – roll off containers. This woodchip may be suitable for use as a biomass feedstock and might ultimately enable recovery of some of the disposal costs.

1.4.12. The project will significantly enhance the rate of scrub management utilising both contactors (in the first year) and Natural England's own staff with specialist machinery to remove over 40 hectares of scrub during the 10 year felling licence period.

Develop capability for conservation grazing

1.4.13. Develop capability to deliver conservation grazing to enhance existing areas of open habitat and manage areas of habitat restored through willow scrub clearance, helping to slow the re-growth of scrub. This will also re-connect currently isolated patches of open habitat.

1.4.14. Grazing Goss Moor with hardy breeds of cattle and ponies is a traditional form of management that only came to an end relatively recently, following changes in agricultural practices. Installation of fencing by specialist fencing contractors along the external boundaries of the Moor will allow a greater number of animals to be kept on the Moor safely and ensure biosecurity of the herds both living on the Moor and the surrounding land. Traditionally, herds would have been hefted on the Moor with a stock person spending most of their time looking after the animals. Today this is not practical but Growing Goss has enabled constant livestock monitoring by using GPS tracking collars that will improve welfare and provide

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valuable data to inform future site management.

Improve volunteer opportunities and public access

1.4.15. The project will provide practical conservation volunteering opportunities for volunteers and improved countryside access trails, including provision of a new Access for All trail to be built by contractors. The new trail will offer health, well-being, recreation and leisure benefits to local communities and c. 75,000 annual visitors. In addition to enhancing the access provision at Goss Moor the new trail will also complement proposals being implemented under the A30 to St Austell link road scheme (which is currently under construction). The road scheme will provide links via a shared pedestrian/cycle path from Goss Moor to communities to the north and south, as well as the wider Clay Trails network.

1.4.16. Volunteers will be supervised and trained by experienced Natural England staff and supported by Natural England's volunteer support services. Opportunities have been offered across a range of project activities, providing volunteers with skills depending on their needs. These range from practical conservation work such as small-scale scrub removal, office activities, for example uploading species records to national datasets, or assisting with project coordination, engaging with the public or undertaking ecological monitoring surveys.

1.5. Continued relevance and consistency

1.5.1. This project has sought to deliver improved conservation status of the nationally and internationally important wetland habitats within Goss Moor National Nature Reserve (NNR) and its surroundings. At the time of project design, this internationally important site was in unfavourable condition, as set out in section 1.3.

1.5.2. It was identified that a fundamental step-change would be needed to reverse the current declining condition of 577ha of protected habitat and safeguard its future. As well as the direct issue of a designated site being in unfavourable condition, there were a range of other relevant policy and socio-economic issues which the project will help deliver alongside its main aim. For example, improvement in the condition of the site will provide a significant contribution to the optimisation of carbon management and flood resilience downstream, as well as providing a meaningful contribution to Cornwall & IOS Future Economy Strategic green and marine region aspirations. Additionally, there is the social benefit of an improvement in the visitor experience and visitor numbers, which has multiple additional advantages from improving the health of people encouraged to increase their outdoor physical activity, to increased public awareness, both of the importance of Goss Moor itself and the health of the environment in general.

1.5.3. The project was designed appropriately to achieve its objectives. The project included collection of baseline data on the features proposed to be enhanced, to inform design of the proposed interventions, as well as allowing ongoing monitoring of key indicators, to help measure delivery of the project, as well as measuring the overall success of the project.

1.5.4. The proposed interventions undertaken in the project are all well accepted and evidenced measures for achieving the desired outcomes, and therefore can reasonably be expected to result in an improvement in the condition of the designated site. For example:

- Managing large areas of scrub initially through mechanical means, and alongside this increasing the grazing capacity of the site to allow an increase in grazing animals on site, which will help to reduce the re-growth of cut scrub, and will also clear patches of vegetation in the future in a more sustainable way.

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- Making existing trails more accessible, and providing some additional accessible trails, to improve public access. Making trails more accessible by a wider range of people, and helping to encourage visitors to stick to the trails provided and minimise disturbance of potentially sensitive habitats off the trail.

1.5.5. The targets set for the project were realistic and achievable, based on information available at the time that the project was designed. The river re-naturalisation work has been delayed, this has been due to several complex reasons. The biggest of these was the Covid-19 pandemic, which delayed the completion of the baseline survey work needed to inform the modelling and design work. In addition to this, the flood risk modelling needed to consider more scenarios than originally anticipated. There was also a change to NE's organisational licence and 'framework' for undertaking work on NNRs with known populations of European Protected Species - this required a lot more baseline survey work to inform the proposed works and a separate licence application (whilst this was being developed) for the initial phase of clearance works , resulting in a further 6-7 month delay .

1.5.6. The project was delivered in a flexible manner, and this approach was vital, not least to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has affected the project since March 2020. There were several issues that arose during the project which impacted on its delivery, and the project adapted to address those issues.

1.5.7. The Covid -19 pandemic affected the project from March 2020, and this unforeseen occurrence immediately meant that much activity on site, except for that which was absolutely necessary, (such as checking livestock) had to stop immediately. The main impact of the Covid-19 impact on this project was to massively reduce the amount of volunteer work that could be carried out on site, but also caused delays to the field surveys necessary to complete the baseline studies on which the whole project would be based. Survey work was completed, but at a later date than anticipated. Volunteer activity was able to start up again in summer 2020.

1.5.8. A separate issue resulting partly from Covid, along with other global factors, was materials availability, which caused delays to the fencing works, and procurement of the machinery required for mechanical scrub removal.

1.5.9. An unpredicted issue also arose during the project, relating to the status of EPS licensing for the scrub removal, in relation to dormice. Natural England have an organisational EPS licence for dormice, which allows them to undertake activities such as scrub removal in areas of dormouse habitat for the purposes of habitat management work. However, the scale of scrub removal proposed as part of this project was deemed to be too major to be included on this organisation licence, and a project specific EPS licence needed to be obtained to allow the works to be undertaken. This caused delays to the start of scrub clearance activities, both as part of the general scrub removal, and also the scrub removal needed to allow the new livestock fencing to be installed.

1.5.10. The results of dormouse monitoring revealed more widespread presence of dormice within the site than anticipated. As a result, the proposals for mechanical scrub removal were reviewed and reduced, to balance the need for improving the conservation status of the designated site and the habitats for which the site is designated (for many of which the scrub poses a threat), with the needs of notable and European Protected Species, such as dormice, which use the scrub habitat and need linear linkages of scrub habitat through the landscape in order for populations to be in favourable conservation status.

1.6. Conclusion

1.6.1. The project was designed to meet market failures that were obvious, and particularly in relation to the

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need to reverse the unfavourable condition of the designated site to favourable. This condition has been an issue for a long time, and due to the scale of action needed could not be achieved without significant financial investment.

1.6.2. In addition to the condition of the designated sites, the needs around better access and involvement of the local community and better surface water management are also well understood, and in undertaking improvements within the site, Growing Goss will also provide off-site benefits through reduction of the risk in downstream flooding and in better coherence of local communities, and wider improved environmental awareness amongst local communities.

1.6.3. The activities proposed within the project are all well understood actions with high confidence in predicted outputs and impacts. The more complex activities around the re-naturalisation of the watercourses have been informed by detailed multi-disciplinary assessments, modelling and design.

1.6.4. It is therefore considered very likely that the project will perform well, and that it will achieve its predicted outcome (that the site will have improved conservation status) and impacts. However, the full impact of the activities will not immediately result in the predicted outcome – this will take some time to be achieved, but as Goss Moor is managed by Natural England, a governmental body, there is certainty that monitoring will be undertaken in future years, and the results of this monitoring will be publicly available.

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2. Project Progress

2.1. Introduction

2.1.1. This section reviews the progress of the project, and for this draft report, is measured based on work undertaken until end June 2022, with predictions made as to the progress that will have been made by the end of the project.

2.1.2. Progress is first assessed against project milestones, and then the output performance is measured against the project spend, to assess whether the project has met, or will meet, its targets. Any deviation from the targets is discussed.

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2.2. Progress against milestones

2.2.1. Table 1 below sets out the project milestones which were set out in the project design, and records the progress made against these milestones.

Table 1 Progress against project milestones

Ref	Milestone	Start Date	Predicted Completion Date	Progress Update	
				Actual completion dates	*Notes*
1	Project start	1 Apr 2019	N/A		
2	Recruitment of Project Manager and Finance Officer	1 Apr 2019	30 Jun 2019	01 July 19	Project Manager was recruited by 1st July 2019 Phil Bowler was acting PM from 1st April 2019
				End Sept 19	Current Project Manager moving into another role, recruiting for replacement
				04 Nov 19	Finance officer recruited
				06 Jan 20	New Project Manager recruited
				By end Sept 2021	Finance Officer left in July 21 and a new officer has been recruited to start in Q4 2021
3	Project launch event	1 Jun2019	31 Jul 2019	15 Oct 2019	Completed
4	Management of Invasive willow scrub - procurement of all specialist machinery	1 Apr 2019	31 Dec 2019	By end Sept 2020	Completed
5	Erecting of Project Signboard (temp/permanent)	1 Jun 2019	30 Mar 2022	October 2021	Temporary signs were installed Sept 2019. The permanent boards were installed October 2021
6	Re-naturalisation of headwaters of River Fal –	30 Jun 2019	30 Nov 2019	July 2020	Contract let in October 2019, start up meeting held in

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Ref	Milestone	Start Date	Predicted Completion Date	Progress Update	
				Actual completion dates	*Notes*
	topographical and fish population surveys				February 2020, and initial site surveys undertaken in July 2020.
				By end Sept 2020	All required ecological baseline surveys completed.
				By end June 2021	The topographic survey is complete.
7	Trail resurfacing to extend Access for All provision	15 May 2019	30 Nov 2019	March 2022	2.5km of trails completed
8	Increased capability to deliver conservation grazing- phase 1 of fencing works	15 May 2019	30 Nov 2019	By end Sep 19	A limited amount of fencing has been constructed in areas (250m) where livestock were grazing, this has been achieved through the letting of smaller contracts.
				By end Oct 2020	Fencing works further delayed by Covid-19, the Phase 1 fencing (totalling 2861m length) was completed by October 2020.
9	Development of a volunteer work force	1 Apr 2019	30 Mar 2020	Sept 2021	A total of 31 volunteers were recruited to the project over 4 years (1 in 2019, 10 in 2020, 17 in 2021 and a further 3 in 2022). In addition to this workforce, Growing Goss engaged with Cornwall Butterfly Conservation, who deployed a number of their trained volunteers to undertake survey work and training of butterflies. Butterfly Conservation Cornwall provided 4 butterfly search days in 2020, and 10 butterfly

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Ref	Milestone	Start Date	Predicted Completion Date	Progress Update	
				Actual completion dates	*Notes*
					search days in 2021
10	Management of Invasive willow scrub – phase 1	1 Aug 2019	28 Feb 2020	Feb 2020	Haul routes and landing areas were cleared in Feb (1.65ha total) 2020.
11	Increased capability to deliver conservation grazing- phase 2 of fencing works	1 Apr 2020	30 Sep 2020	End Apr 2021	3219m fencing completed as phase 2
12	Re-naturalisation of headwaters of River Fal – hydrological survey and modelling	1 Apr 2019	24 Dec 2020	By end Dec 2020	Completed
13	Re-naturalisation of headwaters of River Fal - development of an Impact assessment and Flood risk analysis.	1 Oct 2020	24 Dec 2020	By end Sept 2021	Flood risk modelling complete; impact assessment can now be undertaken
14	Land drainage consent for River restoration and ditch blocking works	4 Jan 2021	26 Feb 2021	August 2022	The land drainage consents for woody debris and ditch blocking were obtained in August 2022
15	Management of Invasive willow scrub – phase 2	3 Aug 2020	26 Feb 2021	By end Mar 2021	First contract was let in October 2020, for cutting area of Rhododendron at Tregoss Moor scrub and along the route of the southerly pool track. This was completed in February 2021.
16	Re-naturalisation of headwaters of River Fal – completion of ditch blocking and channel restoration.	1 Mar 2021	24 Dec 2021	November 2022	Woody debris and ditch blocking were installed at the end of September and November 2022, respectively.
17	Increased capability to deliver conservation grazing- phase 3 of fencing works	1 Apr 2021	30 Sep 2021		The fencing work was completed in two phases, the third phase was not needed. Additional fencing works are

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Ref	Milestone	Start Date	Predicted Completion Date	Progress Update	
				Actual completion dates	*Notes*
					proceeding (but these are not part of the current project)
18	Project Close event	1 Sept 2021	30 Nov 2021	TBC – currently under review	
19	Management of Invasive willow scrub – phase 3	2 Aug 2021	31 Dec 2021	By end Sept 2021	4.08ha scrub clearance completed
20	Common Standards Monitoring to assess site condition	1 Jan 2021	31 Dec 2021		CSM on some interest features (marsh fritillary and vascular plants) was undertaken in 2022. This data is being reviewed and will be reported on in early 2023. Further surveys for willow tit are due to be undertaken in early 2023.
21	Summative Assessment	1Apr 2019	31 Dec 2021	By end Mar 2023	Draft Summative Assessment to be submitted by end December 2022, with final report to follow by March 2023.
22	Practical Project Completion Date	30 Mar 2023	N/A		
23	Financial Completion Date and Project Close	30 Jun 2023	N/A		

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2.3. Spend and output performance

2.3.1. Table F.1 below sets out figures on the spend and output performance. These figures have been evaluated to end June 2022, and the projection applies for the period July 2022- March 2023.

Table F.1 Standard Table Format: Spend and Output Performance

Indicator	Targets		Performance at Time of Evaluation (to end Jun 22)		Projected Performance at Project Closure		Overall Assessment
	Original	Adjusted (if relevant)	No.	% of Target	No.	% of Target	
Capital Expenditure (£)	£716,661		£579,344.39	80%	£716,661	100%	
Revenue Expenditure (£)	£634,993		£622,154.90	98%	£634,993	100%	
No. volunteers recruited	10		31	310%	31	310%	Well exceeded target for volunteer recruitment; and this is despite delays due to covid
Km of new fence installed	10.4km		6.08km	58%	6.08km	58%	Achieved just over half of the target; narrative provided in following text
Ha of invasive scrub removed	40.5ha		5.73ha + 0.25ha rhododendron (5.98ha)	15%	5.73ha + 0.25ha rhododendron (5.98ha)	15%	Only a proportion of the targeted scrub clearance was completed, see following text for narrative around this
Km of River Fal headwater and onsite connected drains improved	2.8km		1.4km (by end Sep 22)	50%	TBC	TBC	Achieved about ½ of the target; narrative provided in following text
Km of new "Access for All" trails within site	2.5km		2.5km	100%	2.5km	100%	Target met

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2.3.2. 31 volunteers were recruited, which is over 3 times the target. Volunteers add a lot of value to the site, and can undertake a range of tasks, from undertaking dormouse nest box monitoring (see photo 2 below) to day to day management of the reserve. It is expected that there will be some turnover in volunteers, but new volunteers are likely to join as others leave. In the long term, volunteers will provide a valuable resource to contribute to the sustainable continuation of the scale of action launched under the Growing Goss project.

Photo 1. Working with Cornwall Butterfly Conservation volunteers to undertake habitat assessments

Photo 2. Dormouse monitoring with volunteers at Carbis Moor – May 2021

2.3.3. The amount of fencing provided during the project has met 58% of its target length. There are several reasons for this. At the start of the project, it had been intended that grazing would be delivered through a grazier led solution, but this changed to Natural England taking in house the procurement and husbandry of livestock, which changed the dynamic of the grazing, and therefore the requirement for fencing. Additionally, the issues mentioned above regarding impacts on dormice (and some removal of dormouse habitat was required to put in the fencing), reduced the amount of fencing that was undertaken. However, this fencing has allowed Natural England to increase the amount of grazing on the site, this is helping to keep on top of scrub encroachment, and maintaining the cover of the more open habitats.

2.3.4. The map in Appendix B shows the approximate locations of the new fencing, and two photos of some of the fencing are shown below.

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Photo 3. Further section of stock fencing at Goss Moor – completed October 2020

Photo 4. Completed section of stock fencing at Goss Moor – completed October 2020

2.3.5. Approximately 5.98ha of scrub clearance has been completed during this project (c 15% of its headline target). The approximate extents of clearance are shown on the map in Appendix C, with some photos of the work shown below. The overall scrub clearance target used for the application of 40.5ha was based on the maximum amount of clearance allowed within the felling licence (to be undertaken over the next 10 years), and this was used as a maximum, not as an absolute target. The project budget intended for 18ha of scrub to be cleared over the three years of the project (6ha per year).

2.3.6. The work undertaken makes a valuable contribution to improving the habitat condition of the Natura 2000 site, by allowing the internationally important open habitats such as heath and more to increase in cover.

2.3.7. Additional scrub clearance is proposed for January 2023, and the plant that has been purchased as part of this project will ensure that Natural England have the appropriate tools to be able to carry on with scrub clearance in future years. The increased capacity for livestock grazing within the site will also help to slow down the rate at which scrub will re-grow, ensuring that cleared areas of habitat will remain that way.

2.3.8. The main reason for less scrub clearance being contracted to be undertaken related to the presence of dormice. Dormouse monitoring carried out ahead of the scrub clearance showed that dormice were much more widespread with the site than had been anticipated. As dormice need scrub habitat, and therefore, the decision was taken to remove less scrub habitat. Alongside this, changes to internal processes for dormouse licensing caused delay to the work being able to be undertaken, and it was more labour intensive, due to the need for ecological watching brief during the activity. Additionally, the Covid-19 outbreak caused delays to the scrub clearance programme.

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Photo 5. Scrub clearance – completed November 2020

Photo 6. Rhododendron clearance – completed February 2021

2.3.9. Approximately 1.5km of river channel re-naturalisation was completed by end of November 2022, this consisted of the installation of partial leaky dams in the Fal and ditch blocking, with woody debris and heather bales (as shown in the map in Appendix D).

2.3.10. The river naturalisation works have been subject to several set-backs during the course of the project, and Natural England have been providing regular updates on this in their quarterly claims reports. Initially, delays were caused by delays to the baseline site surveys at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. The work was further complicated by additional modelling and investigation being needed. The complications already discussed around dormice, and scrub clearance has also impacted on how this parcel of work is undertaken. Some of this work will now be undertaken outside of the Growing Goss project as a stand-alone piece of work, due to timescales for completion extending beyond the end of the funded project.

2.3.11. The provision of accessible trails has met its target of 2.5km, and the locations of these trails is shown on the map in Appendix E, and photos of some of the new trails are shown below.

Photo 7. Stone resurfacing at Gothers track - Goss Moor, January 2021

Photo 8. Example of stone resurfacing undertaken at Gothers track - Goss Moor, January 2021

2.4. Conclusion

2.4.1. To date (June 22, but November 22 for the river re-naturalisation works), two targets have been met or exceeded, with volunteer recruitment exceeding the target by over 300%, and the target for new accessible trails was also met.

2.4.2. Fence installation and the river re-naturalisation works have achieved approximately half of their target, whilst scrub clearance has met only approximately 15% to date (and more scrub clearance will be completed by end of March 2023).

2.4.3. The fencing, scrub clearance and river re-naturalisation works have all required a change in approach during the project, both due to the way that the project will be delivered (e.g. providing the grazing as an in-house activity rather than outsourcing to graziers) and a need to review the work that could be undertaken (eg. reducing the amount of scrub clearance in response to finding that dormice were much more widespread in the site than originally anticipated), along with delays due to Covid and internal processes.

2.4.4. This project, whilst comprised of these individual target outputs, is really about the larger picture of improving conservation status of the 577ha of Goss Moor. Whilst we are awaiting the results of formal condition monitoring, the activities that have been completed are known and trusted methods with known outcomes, and the work undertaken to date will ensure that the targeted outcome, of Goss Moor having an improved conservation status, will be met, if it has not already been met.

2.4.5. The project outputs will also help to ensure that the improved condition can be maintained, and perhaps further improved into the future. This is because Natural England now have the infrastructure in place to ensure that they can continue to graze these habitats (fencing), so that the cleared scrub cannot grow back as quickly; the team and their volunteers have the equipment (and appropriate training) to be able to undertake further scrub clearance more efficiently and effectively in the future; and improved connection with the local community will help ensure that there is better awareness of the site, and a source of future volunteers for the site.

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3. Project delivery and management

3.1. Introduction

3.1.1. This section provides a more qualitative discussion on the project and how it has been implemented. In particular, external stakeholder and community engagement is discussed, and consideration is given to the horizontal principles that have been integrated into the project.

3.2. Governance and management arrangements

3.2.1. The governance and steering groups for the project are listed below in table 2, and the structure of the project team is set out below in table 3.

3.2.2. The project has been well managed, in what has proved to be challenging times. The project faced a number of challenges which meant that the timetable and scope of the project had to be adjusted on a number of occasions. Most notably, the covid-19 pandemic resulted in a lot of the project work having to be put on hold with little notice. But the project has also faced challenges around wider issues of material availability and new information on ecological constraints within the site, which required flexibility and clear decision making within the project team. The team itself also faced challenges from a high turnover of staff during the project – 5 team leaders, 2 managers, 2 project managers, 2 finance officers, 2 lead advisers and 2 reserve managers.

Table 2 Governance and Steering Groups

Governance	David Hazlehurst (NE) Olivia Tinsley, NE Team Leader covering Cornwall David Marshall, NE, Project Manager
Steering Group	David Hazlehurst (NE) Beth Tonkin (NE) Jenny Stuart (CEC) Tregothnan Estate

Table 3 Project Team

Name	Role	FTE
David Marshall	Manager for Devon and Cornwall and Project Senior Responsible officer.	0.05
David Hazlehurst	Project Manager	1
Simon Blakely	Finance Officer	0.8
Phil Bowler	Senior Adviser	0.25
Robert Thomas	Farm Manager	1
Beth Tonkin	Lead Advisor	0.5
Cerin Poland	Reserve Manager	0.6
Ashley Mather	Reserve Manager	0.6

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3.3. Engagement

3.3.1. Engagement was undertaken with key stakeholders and the wider community. Key stakeholders included: Tregothnan Estate (who own much of the land at Goss Moor), Butterfly Conservation and St.Dennis Parish Council.

3.3.2. Engagement with the wider public was also undertaken. This included social media – there is a Facebook page for Goss Moor National Nature Reserve, and a Facebook group for the Friends of Goss Moor Nature Reserve.

3.3.3. A press release about the project has been delayed due to several unavoidable and unexpected situations outside the project control, and is now being redrafted and awaiting review by the DEFRA communications team.

3.4. Project delivery

3.4.1. The project has broadly delivered its intended activities to a high standard, and is on track to meet the project outcome of the 577ha of Goss Moor being in imp[roved conservation. Some of the targets needed to be adjusted in response to wider circumstances and emerging new information, and the ability to respond to these challenges demonstrates the effective and flexible management of the project.

3.4.2. As an executive non-departmental public body, Natural England have set procedures for procurement which have been followed throughout the project.

3.4.3. All of the machinery was purchased through an EA framework and we were actively looking to use another EA framework for completion of the ditch blocking.

3.4.4. All contracts over £10,000 in value were put out to tender using the Defra e-tendering system "BRAVO", these contract opportunities are then available for any suitable contractor to apply, prospective suppliers were required to provide a written quotation in accordance with the PCR15 regulations.

3.4.5. Contracts under £10,000 in value do not require advertising, and in this case at least three suppliers were invited to provide a written quotation in accordance with the PCR15 regulations.

3.4.6. The procurement processes to be followed all have relatively long lead-in times, therefore it is vital to use early engagement to ensure that contracts can be let in good time.

3.5. Horizontal principles

3.5.1. The logic model is quite broad and wide-reaching in its assessment of the market failure and development of project objectives, which covered a wide range of benefits outside the core aim of improving the conservation status of the designated site(s) at Goss Moor. These include the social and health benefits of improved access and increased engagement with local communities; better hydrological management to reduce downstream flood risk; optimising carbon management, etc.

3.5.2. The improved access for the general public and increased engagement with volunteers will, alongside increasing inclusion, provide opportunities for people to get exercise outdoors – contributing to better health within the population and reducing pressure on the NHS. Additionally, by increasing engagement and access, this is likely to help people appreciate the importance of designated sites and natural habitats and wildlife in general, which may lead to people making more sustainable and wildlife friendly choices in their everyday life – from reducing their use of single-use plastic to supporting environmental charities.

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3.5.3. Not only will better surface water management on Goss Moor help to improve the ecological condition of the habitats and species, it will also deliver the very tangible benefit of being able to store more water, and reduce the risk of flood events downstream of the site.

3.5.4. By improving the condition of habitats on site, particularly the peatland-based habitats, the land will provide better carbon storage capacity, which is vital in the light of the climate change crisis.

3.6. Conclusion

3.6.1. This project has been unique amongst ERDF funded projects, in having a conservation focus. Additionally, the project has been delivered in challenging circumstances, with the Covid-19 pandemic having a significant impact on timescales. Overall, the project has been delivered effectively, and has been managed flexibly as was required to achieve large changes on the site.

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4. Project Outcomes and Impact

4.1. Introduction

4.1.1. Section 4 sets out the progress that the project has made towards achieving the outcomes and impacts which were set out in the logic model for the project.

4.1.2. It should be noted that the primary purpose of this project is not economic, although achievement of the project aims will have economic benefits, such as improved flood resilience resulting in reduced cost associated with flooding downstream of the site.

4.1.3. The impact of the investment will therefore primarily be environmental, but there are multiple positive economic and social impacts that will result, directly or indirectly from the positive environmental impact.

4.1.4. A qualitative description of some of the key economic impacts will be given to help illustrate the wider impacts of this project, but as the primary aim of the project is not economic, and monetisation of these benefits in a meaningful way is complex and has numerous limitations, they are not quantified.

4.1.5. As the benefits are difficult to quantify, and the primary aim of the project is not economic, Table F2 has not been completed, and the additionality is demonstrated in a qualitative manner only.

4.2. Progress in relation to the logic model

4.2.1. The predicted outcome of the logic model for this project is that the 577ha of the site has improved condition status (baseline condition is 392 ha Unfavourable Declining, 177ha Unfavourable Recovering, 3 ha Favourable and 5 ha unclassified). Even with the well tested and predictable methodologies used in this project, it is expected to take some time before there would be a measurable change in condition. At the current time, it is therefore not possible to demonstrate the outcome, but is reasonable to expect that this outcome will be achieved in the future.

4.2.2. As a governmental body, Natural England will continue to deliver the habitat management work needed to achieve this outcome. The project leaves Natural England suitably equipped to be able to continue with appropriate habitat management (i.e. they have the personnel and equipment to undertake scrub clearance effectively, and the increased cattle herd will help to slow the rate of scrub encroachment in cleared areas, helping to maintain a better balance between the scrub and the more open habitats present within the designated site.

4.2.3. Table 4 below outlines the progress made against each of the logic model impacts.

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Table 4 Progress made against logic model impacts

Logic Model Impacts	Progress Made
Extent of Natura 2000 site in favourable recovering condition	As discussed above in relation to the outcome, this cannot yet be measured, but it is reasonable to expect, given the activities undertaken, that this will be achieved relatively soon.
Improved visitor experience	There are now an additional 2.5km of more accessible trails within the site, making the site more desirable to visit and providing more visibility with the local community. There are now 31 volunteers actively involved with activities on site from habitat management to ecological monitoring. This has achieved an improved visitor experience.
Long term management interventions sustainable	The purchase of new equipment for habitat management, and the increase in the cattle herd on site will both help to ensure that the long term habitat management interventions needed to continue to improve, and then maintain the site's condition can be sustained in the long term.
Water retention on site	TBC
Clean water downstream	TBC

4.3. ERDF Programme specific results indicators

4.3.1. This project contributes 577ha to the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Territorial Investment Strategy (ITI Strategy) output indicator C023 (the local target being only 82ha), and delivers more than 30% of the ERDF national target of 1459ha.

4.4. Strategic added value

4.4.1. A number of additional activities have been able to be undertaken due to the equipment purchased and survey work completed, and several of these can now be repeated and undertaken beyond the life of the project, with limited additional cost, so these will continue to bring extra value to Goss Moor for the future.

4.4.2. These comprise:

- Radio collars for the cattle: these allow monitoring of the activity and movement of cattle across the site. This information is highly valuable, and can be used in conjunction with vegetation mapping and monitoring to study, in some detail how the cattle grazing behaviours impact the vegetation distribution and condition, and how this changes over time. In turn, this information will be valuable in designing future grazing regimes on this and other sites to achieve desired outcomes.
- Mink rafts and trail cameras: these have provided a means to monitor for otters and mink, and this equipment can be used for many years into the future to gain more information on the distribution and frequency of these species.
- The dormouse tubes and boxes have enabled a very extensive survey of several locations across Goss Moor, which has shown this species to be more widespread than previously thought, which has influenced the detailed design of this project. This survey equipment can

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continue to be monitored for years to come, using appropriately trained volunteers. This information will be fed into national and local monitoring programmes, but also would provide a valuable resource for a more detailed study of dormice (e.g. a student MSc or PhD project).

- The butterfly monitoring has also revealed new and unexpected records for the site, and this can also be continued into the future, with appropriately trained volunteer surveyors.
- These data sources and the continued monitoring will all feed into the new management plan, to form the long-term legacy of the Growing Goss Project.

4.5. Conclusion

4.5.1. The project is not primarily economic, and although the single project outcome is measurable, it is not measurable within the timescale of the project. The steps taken as part of this project have been planned to put the site on track to achieve the outcome of the 577ha of Goss Moor SAC as having improved conservation status (measured from the baseline of being in unfavourable conservation status). However, this single outcome is complex and many factors will impact on how long it will take for the conservation status to be measurably improved.

4.5.2. The question 'has it made a difference?' is therefore answered by qualitatively assessing the impact of the activities undertaken as part of the project. The activities undertaken as part of the project are well-used and accepted habitat management methods, that offer a credible approach to achieving the desired improvement in conservation status of the habitat types present within the site. We can therefore reasonably expect that the measures undertaken as part of this project will ensure that the SAC will move towards better conservation status.

4.5.3. Subjectively, the project manager David Hazlehurst is confident that as things stand now, most of the site is moving towards Unfavourable Recovering condition, through this is to be confirmed on receipt of the first sets of condition assessment survey results (due in the first quarter of 2023).

4.5.4. The fencing installed has resulted in being able to graze more livestock on Goss Moor, which will help to slow and reduce the spread of scrub that has been cut back, as well as providing a sustainable approach to scrub control in the future. Cattle will browse on scrub, so on a small scale will help to provide a dynamic habitat mosaic that will change over time, maintaining a balance of more open and more scrubby habitats within the site. The impact of the grazing can be monitored through a combination of the cattle collars tracking cattle movements and behaviours and botanical monitoring, which will help to refine the approach taken to grazing in order to direct the impacts of the grazing to achieve the long-term desired outcomes.

4.5.5. The scrub removal will have made a difference by increasing the cover of nationally and international important open habitats, such as heathland and lowland fens, which are the habitats for which the SSSI and SAC was designated.

4.5.6. There has been an increase in volunteers, and this will help provide additional resource to undertake key activities such as ecological monitoring and habitat management activities.

4.5.7. The new trails have been provided and offer a more accessible route for a wider range of people than was catered for by the existing trails. The new trails also offer more choice for routes around the site, and will link into other networks of paths and trails in the wider landscape, including existing public rights of way and new trail networks being provided as part of a nearby road construction scheme.

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5. Project Value for Money

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. This project does not have a primarily economic purpose, as it relates to a nature conservation project. Value for money is therefore assessed in terms of how the project has delivered the targeted outcome of an improvement in condition of the Natura 2000 site, which is measurable.

5.2. Assessment

5.2.1. Fundamentally, this project is fully expected to contribute 577ha of Natura 2000 land in improving condition. This far exceeds the local Cornwall and Isles of Scilly target of 82ha and will provide more than 30% of the ERDF national target of 1459ha.

5.2.2. The ERDF application for this project included a table summarising the contracts to be procured, including their anticipated value. This table is included in Appendix F to this report, and the actual values of each contract has been added to this table, to show where the money has been spent.

5.2.3. To the end of June 2022, the total spend has been £763,363, compared to the total anticipated value of £810,368 by project close (end March 2023). Some further work, mainly relating the river naturalisation works will be undertaken in the first quarter of 2023, and these figures will be updated at the project close.

5.2.4. As can be seen from the table in Appendix F, some of the contracts have come in under budget, or have needed to have their scope reduced due to external factors, whereas other contracts have gone over the anticipated values due to factors including increased costs, extra items of work being required to enable the contracts, etc.

5.3. Conclusion

5.3.1. Although we are awaiting the results of condition assessment for the site, and the improvement in condition cannot yet be demonstrated in this way, the activities undertaken all utilise known and well tested approaches to habitat management which it can be certain will provide the required improvement in condition.

5.3.2. Therefore, in light of the project being projected to come in on the budget as set out within the ERDF application, it can be concluded that the project has provided value for money as assessed in the funding application.

5.3.3. The benefits of this project will continue past the life of this specific project, as the local Natural England team at Goss Moor now have the infrastructure, equipment and people in place to be able to continue with sustainable management of the habitats and species on site in order to ensure that the habitat condition is maintained at an improved status, and it is possible that further improvements to habitat condition may be achievable as part of this investment.

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6. Conclusions and lessons learnt

6.1.1. The ultimate aim of the Growing Goss project has been to improve the condition of 577ha of a nationally and internationally important site. The activities undertaken: scrub clearance, re-naturalisation of the upper Fal, fencing to increase the grazing pressure on the land (to help slow down scrub re-growth) and improving volunteer opportunities and public access are all well tested measures to help achieve the overall aim.

6.1.2. Alongside the main aim, the project will also provide a range of other benefits such as reducing flood risk downstream, improving health in the local population and improving the sites ability to store carbon.

6.1.3. The project has had to be managed flexibly, partly to take into account the outcomes of initial baseline surveys, which would then guide the detailed design of project elements, and in response to external factors such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

6.1.4. External stakeholders and the wider local community have been involved throughout the project.

6.1.5. The investment as part of this project has included the provision of new equipment, and training of personnel, which will help ensure that the activities undertaken during the project (such as scrub clearance and grazing) can be continued into the future so that the condition of the designated sites continues to improve.

6.1.6. One lesson learnt is that the type of machinery that Natural England purchased for scrub clearance does not work quite in the way that they had hoped, so with the benefit of hindsight, they may have chosen slightly different equipment.

6.1.7. The project manager is confident that the project has already improved the site's condition, though the results of monitoring are awaited to confirm this, and it is possible that measurable improvement in condition may not be immediately apparent from the monitoring results.

6.1.8. With all this in mind, and the fact that the project is projected to come in on budget, this project can be considered to providing value for money.

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7. List of Appendices

A. Growing Goss Logic Model

B. Location map of fencing works

C. Location map of scrub clearance

D. Location maps of leaky dams installed

E. Trail locations map

F. Contract Values Summary: Predicted vs. actual

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A. Growing Goss Logic Model

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Project

Growing Goss

Click on the arrows to navigate around the model. Tables can be edited directly in the model. To edit free text, click Edit under each title

Context

Edit

Goss Moor SAC is an internationally important Natura 2000 wetland habitat in an Unfavourable condition and a stronghold for internationally important marsh fritillary butterfly on the brink of local extinction. Previous industrial surfacing mining has led to unsustainable hydrology and site management issues and a site that continues and will continue to decline. Lack of large scale funding is constraining the restoration step change that is needed. The project, if successful will deliver 3.5 x the target for the Less Developed Regions as set out in Investment Priority 6d. The project will also provide health and well-being benefits by upgrading the route into the centre of the site to 'Access for all' standards and also providing volunteering opportunities.

Market Failure Assessment

Edit

Social: Without the project there will be less visitors and they will have poor quality experience. Better 'Access for all' and volunteering opportunities will help deliver Cornwall's Inclusion Strategy. Economic: Optimising carbon management, investing in infrastructure and better management of the regions environmental assets will help deliver Cornwall & IOS Future Economy Strategic 'green and marine' region aspirations. Better hydrological management will help reduce flooding to nearby communities. Environment: Without the project N2K habitat and species will continue to decline and lead to local extinction. UK has a specials responsibility for both H7140 transitional mores and quaking bogs and marsh fritillary butterfly (both Habitat & species Directive interests). Current level of funding/staffing is totally inadequate to tackle the scale of the issues.

Project Objectives

Edit

To enhance the resilience and capability of Goss Moor to deliver important ecosystem services including: Favourable biodiversity condition, clean water, flood prevention, carbon storage alongside educational, skills and recreational opportunities.

Rationale

Edit

Existence of a finance gap. The project will deliver solutions towards the underlying causes of Unfavourable condition of the Natura 2000 site. The approach of using external assistance for the large scale and complex work coupled with purchasing machinery, additional staff and upskilling and attracting more volunteers to undertake the finer scale work provides effective and longer term efficiencies. Better skills and machinery will also ensure better long term sustainable management of the site.

Inputs

What	Value
Staff- existing	2.25 FTE
Staff- New	1.8 FTE
ERDF Grant	£1.05 million (77%)
Match funding from NE	£0.32 million (23%)
Capital interventions including: surve	£716,000
Revenue including: publicity and eve	£648,000

Activities

What
Renaturalise River Fal headwaters and rewetting of habitat within site
Management of invasive scrub
Conservation grazing
Improved volunteer opportunties/skills
Inclusive access improvements

Outputs

What	Value
Increase in ability and number of volunteers	10 new volunteers
New fences to facilitate grazing	10.4 km
Removal of invasive scrub	40.5 ha
River Fal headwater and onsite drains improved	2.8 km
Increase in Access for All trails	2.5km

Outcomes

ID	Intended Outcome	How is it Measured?	Level	Baseline	Actual
1	Surface area of land with improved conservation status	Deliverable output - 577ha	Project		
2					
3					
4					
5					

Intended Impacts

What
Extent of N2K site in favourable recovering condition
Improved visitor experience and associated heath and wellbeing benefits
Longterm management interventions are sustainable
Water retention on site
Clean water downstream

B. Location map of fencing works

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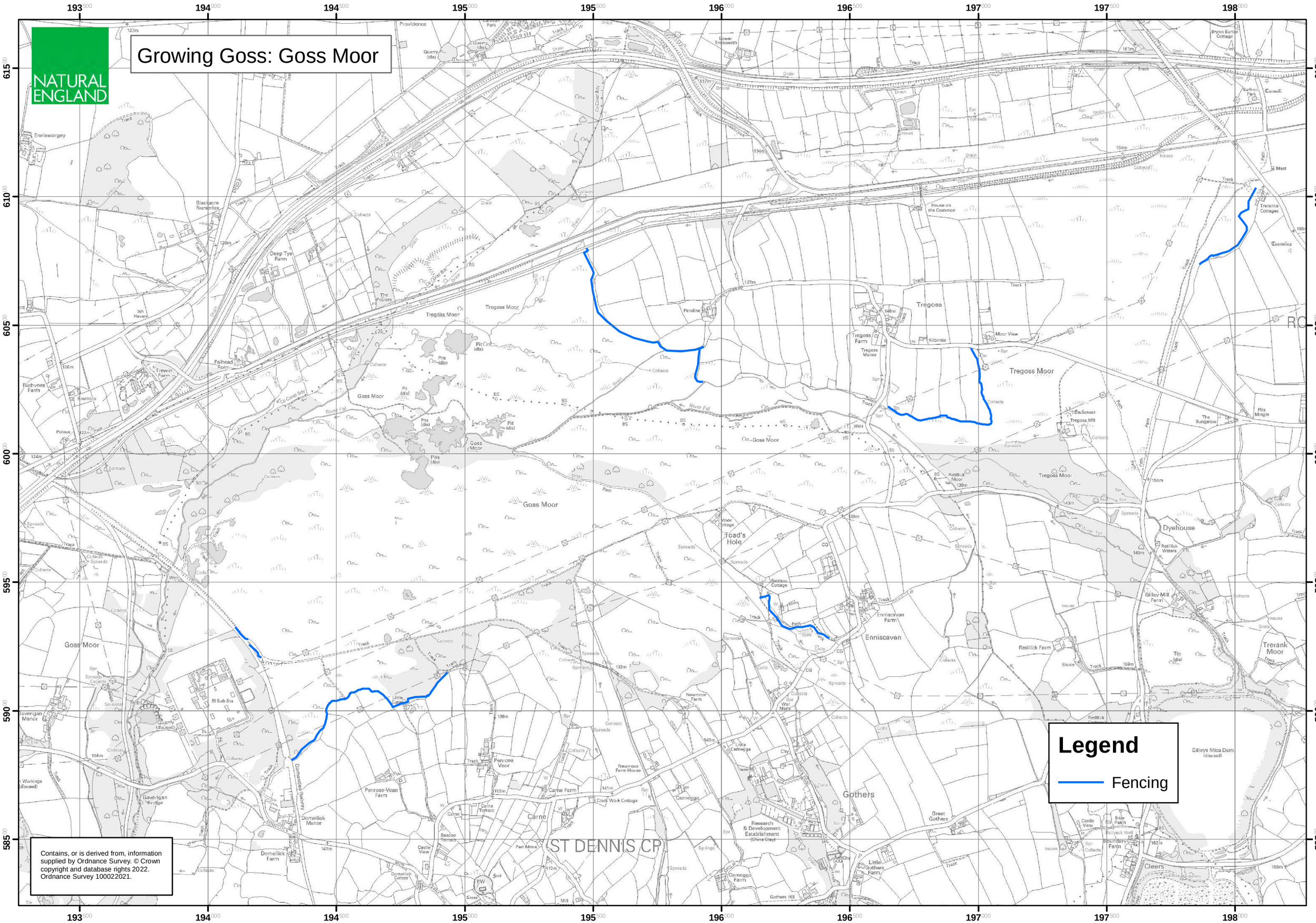
Growing Goss: Goss Moor



C. Location map of scrub clearance

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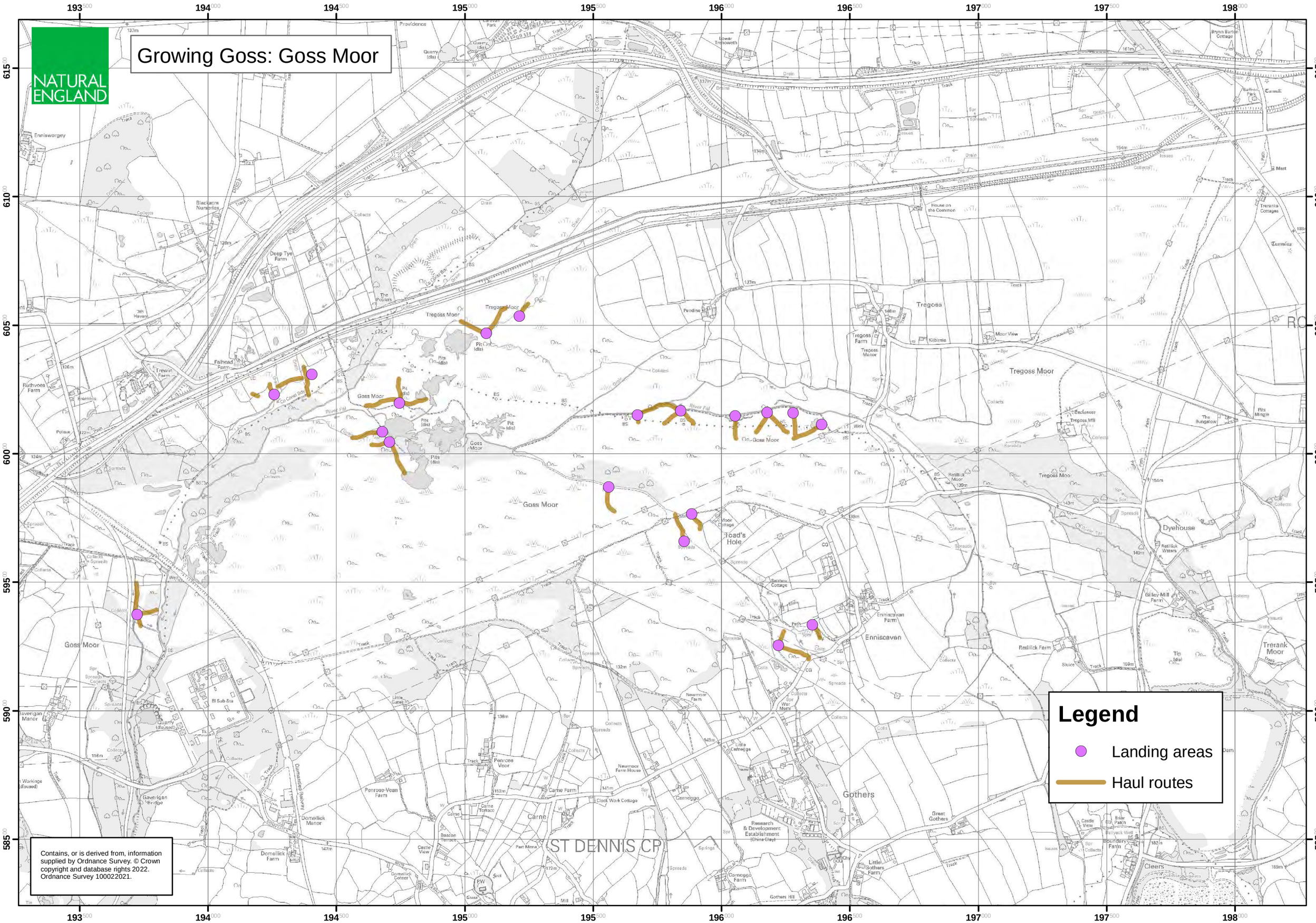
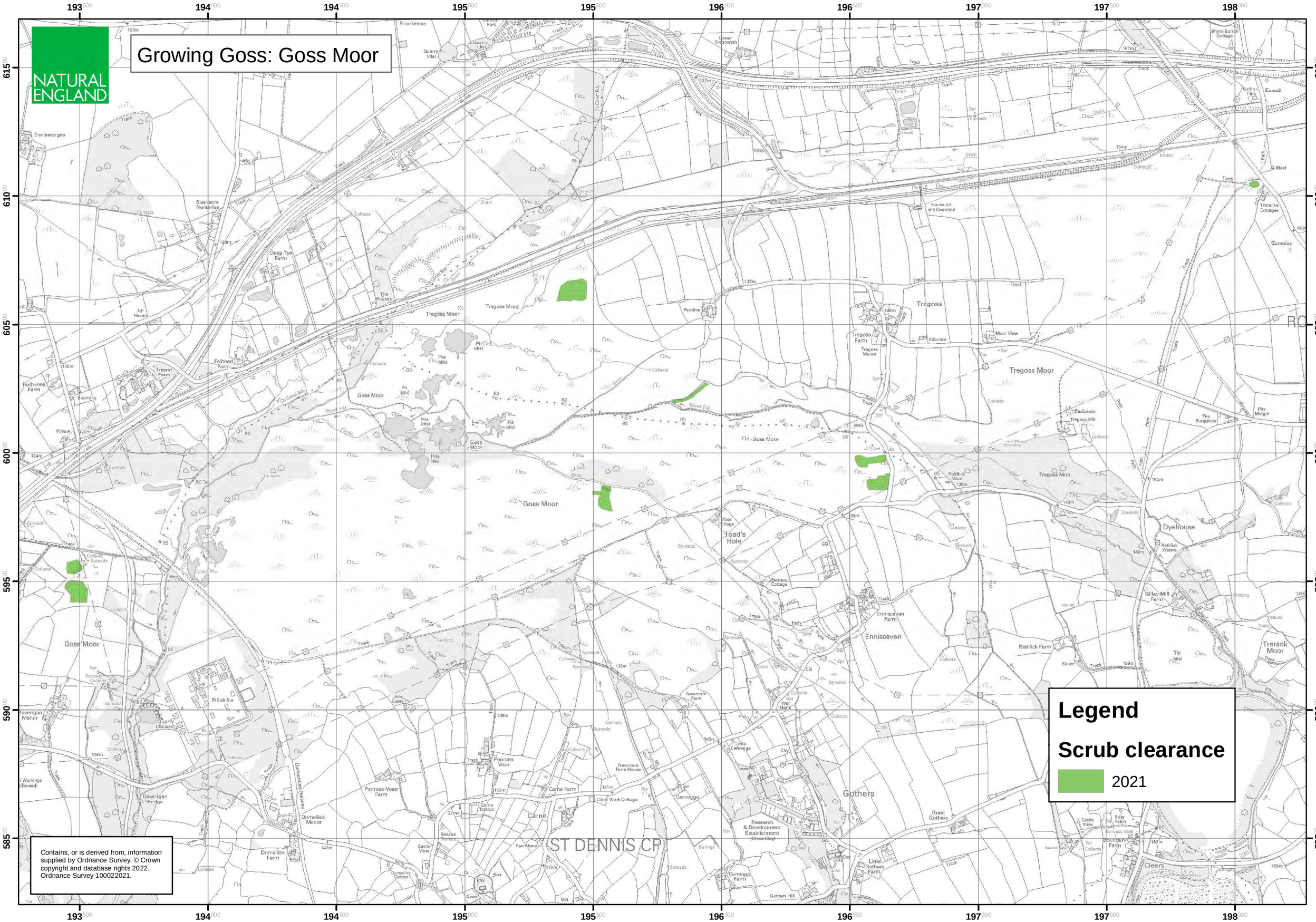
Growing Goss: Goss Moor

NATURAL ENGLAND



Growing Goss: Goss Moor



D. Location map of leaky dams installed

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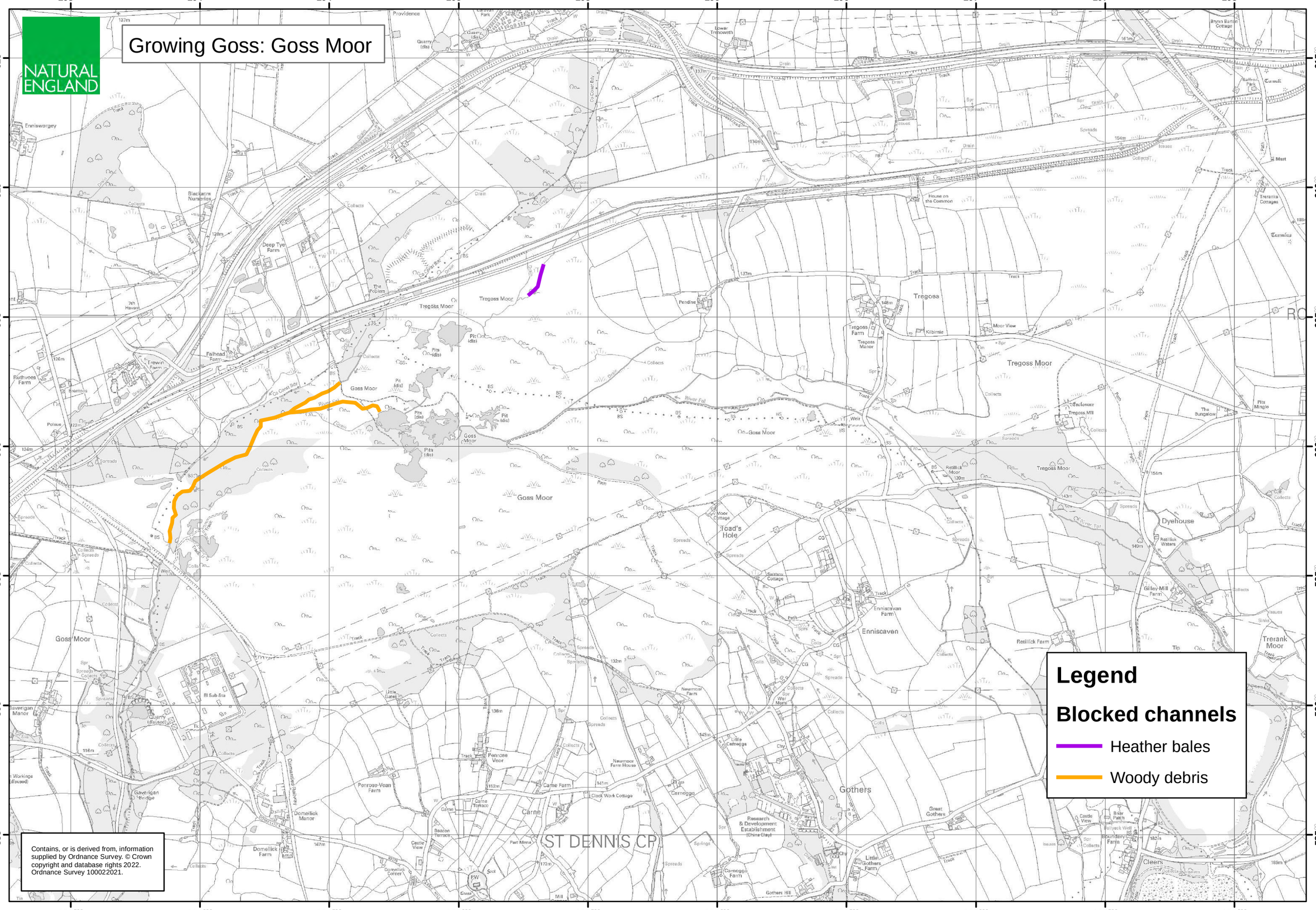
Growing Goss: Goss Moor

NATURAL ENGLAND



E. Trail locations map

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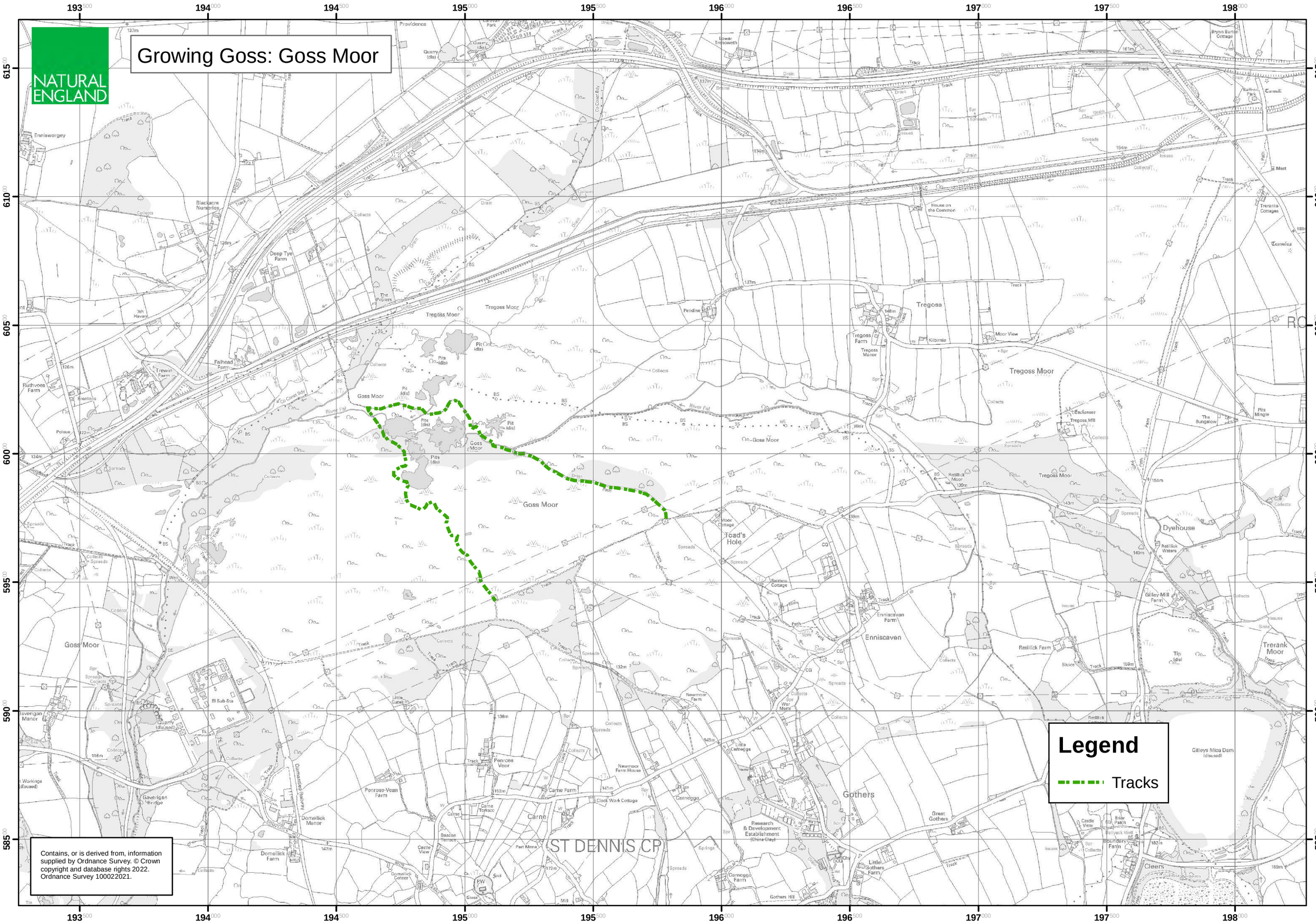
Growing Goss: Goss Moor



F. Contract Values Summary: Predicted vs. actual

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Ref.	Anticipated value of the contract (Highest value first)	Actual Value	Will the contract only be used to provide works, supplies or services to the Project?	Description of works, supplies or services that will be provided under the contract	Comments on any significant departure from anticipated contract value or description of works, supplies or services undertaken	What procurement process do you anticipate using to select the supplier?	Where will the contract opportunity be advertised?	What processes will be put in place to collect appropriate records to demonstrate compliance in the event of an audit or other investigation
1	£250,817	£210,720	Yes (Capital)	Specialist plant and machinery to enable scrub removal: Lot 1: A four wheel drive tractor and ancillary equipment. Lot 2: Crane fed wood chipper to enable low value timber to be processed into biomass grade woodchip. Lot 3: Woodchip storage and transportation bins. Lot 4: Double drum forestry winch to enable timber extraction for inaccessible areas.	These items came in under budget. For the PCR approval was given to move the savings from this contract into the general capital pot.	It is proposed to use an Environment Agency Framework available for all Defra Bodies to call off. If this cannot be sourced through the Framework, then an Open Tender in accordance with PCR15 regulations will be undertaken.	Framework N/A Or Defra e-tendering system – BRAVO; Government Contracts Finder website and; OJEU	Procurement will be in accordance with Natural England/Defra procurement principles and procedures. The Project Manager and Finance Officer will ensure compliance with ERDF funding and procurement requirements. The Project Manager will also oversee overall project delivery including record keeping drawing on NE's experience of managing previous EU Funds. BRAVO has its own online audit trail. Our SSCL (Shared Services Connect Ltd) Standard Operating Platform also provides an online audit trail.
2	£133,875	£67,656.65 (Capital) £164.62 (Revenue)	Yes (Capital/Revenue)	Scrub management, contractors to clear 18ha of young willow scrub. Phase 1: Remove a total of 6 ha in the autumn winter season 2019/20 Phase 2: Remove a total of 6 ha in the autumn winter season 2020/2021 Phase 3: Remove a total of 6 ha in the autumn of 2021	There was underspend on this contract, largely due to the need to reduce the amount of scrub clearance undertaken (5.73 ha general scrub + 0.25ha rhododendron). There were two main reasons for this reduction, mainly relating to the change in internal organisational procedures around dormouse licensing, but also reacting to the dormouse monitoring, which found that dormice were more widespread than originally understood, and therefore reducing the impact on dormice. Additionally, there were delays at the start of the project, due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Further scrub clearance will be completed in Jan 23 as part of the preparations for two new channels to be created.	It is proposed to use a Natural England Framework or the Environment Agency Framework for such operations under mini competition rules	Defra e-tendering system – BRAVO; Government to specified suppliers on the Framework	As above

Ref.	Anticipated value of the contract (Highest value first)	Actual Value	Will the contract only be used to provide works, supplies or services to the Project?	Description of works, supplies or services that will be provided under the contract	Comments on any significant departure from anticipated contract value or description of works, supplies or services undertaken	What procurement process do you anticipate using to select the supplier?	Where will the contract opportunity be advertised?	What processes will be put in place to collect appropriate records to demonstrate compliance in the event of an audit or other investigation
3	£123,600	£66,498 (Capital) £4,344 (Revenue)	Yes (Capital/Revenue)	Contractors to restore 2.06km of previously canalised sections of the River Fal. Civil Engineering Work.	This project is still at the detailed design phase because of the complexity and additional modelling required etc. These costs relate to some of the site preparation and pieces of work like the archaeological survey and topo surveys etc.	It is proposed to use a Natural England Framework or the Environment Agency Framework for such operations under mini competition rules	Defra e-tendering system – BRAVO; Government to specified suppliers on the Framework	As above
4	£99,222	£95,464	Yes (Capital)	Boundary fencing, contractors to erect 10.44km of fencing to provide secure external boundaries needed to facilitate enhanced grazing. Phase 1: Erect 3.48km of fencing in the spring and summer of 2019 Phase 2: Erect 3.48km of fencing in the spring and summer of 2020 Phase 3: Erect 3.48km of fencing in the spring and summer of 2021	This contract came in close to the predicted price, but only delivered approx 6km of the total target of 10.44km. The price for the work increased due to materials prices increasing, and there were also additional costs relating to utility searches and ecological watching brief for dormice.	It is proposed to use a Natural England Framework or the Environment Agency Framework for such operations under mini competition rules	Defra e-tendering system – BRAVO; Government to specified suppliers on the Framework	As above
5	£46,000	£117,505	Yes (Capital)	Hydrological contractors to carry out hydrological survey and modelling; topographical survey; and fish population survey to inform Impact Assessment and Flood Risk Analysis for the restoration of the River Fal.	This cost increase occurred due to project delays, caused by the complexity which was more than orginally anticipated and covid. The orginal pricing provided by the contractor detailed that 238 days of work would be needed. The pricing had to be revised to 418 days - an increase of 180 days or an incrrease of 75.6 %. While the day rates remained the same, additional tasks and days of work had to be added to the contract.	It is proposed to use a Natural England Framework under mini competition rules	Defra e-tendering system – BRAVO; Government e-tendering portal, to specified suppliers on the Framework	As above.
6	£23,760	£45,792	Yes (Capital)	Construction of 2.5 km of Access for All trail.	The work was a lot more complex than orginally anticipated, primarily the amount of material and labour required was underestimated.	Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Defra e-tendering system – BRAVO; Government Contracts Finder	As above
7	£15,000	£4,780	Yes (Revenue)	Hire a 360 excavator to assist with scrub clearance operations		Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Defra e-tendering system – BRAVO; Government Contracts Finder	As above

Ref.	Anticipated value of the contract (Highest value first)	Actual Value	Will the contract only be used to provide works, supplies or services to the Project?	Description of works, supplies or services that will be provided under the contract	Comments on any significant departure from anticipated contract value or description of works, supplies or services undertaken	What procurement process do you anticipate using to select the supplier?	Where will the contract opportunity be advertised?	What processes will be put in place to collect appropriate records to demonstrate compliance in the event of an audit or other investigation
8	£13,792	n/a	Yes (Revenue)	Maintenance and operating costs of all new equipment		Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Defra e-tendering system – BRAVO; Government Contracts Finder	As above
9	£13,260	£15,633	Yes (Revenue)	Free ranging pony grazing - animal welfare of 26 Moorland ponies over the 3 years of the project.		Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Defra e-tendering system – BRAVO; Government Contracts Finder	As above
10	£12,888	£44,639	Yes (Capital)	750 metres of ditch blocking, leaky dam every 25 metres.	Because of contractor availability Natural England only managed to get one contractor to tender and the work took longer than orginally anticipated.	Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Defra e-tendering system – BRAVO; Government Contracts Finder	As above
11	£11,280	£4,843	Yes (Revenue)	Cattle GPS tracking collars		Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Defra e-tendering system – BRAVO; Government Contracts Finder	As above
12	£10,000	£9,906	Yes (Revenue)	Develop summative assessment methodology and project evaluation.		Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Advertising not required.	As above
13	£8,000	£8,280	Yes (Revenue)	New woodchip bedding to cater for livestock herds over winter.		Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Advertising not required.	As above
14	£7,500	£22,148.60 (Capital) £26,487 (Revenue)	Yes (Capital/Revenue)	Monitoring to ensure scrub clearance works avoid disturbance to Dormice.	Additional cost due to change in internal processes regarding EPS licensing and new information on distribution of dormouse across the site, which mean that more monitoring and mitigation was required than originally anticipated	Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Advertising not required.	As above
15	£6,296	£13,272	Yes (Revenue)	Competency based training in chainsaw use for 9 volunteers	This includes cost for items 15, 16 & 17 (total predicted cost £18,296), so overall saving	Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Advertising not required.	As above

Ref.	Anticipated value of the contract (Highest value first)	Actual Value	Will the contract only be used to provide works, supplies or services to the Project?	Description of works, supplies or services that will be provided under the contract	Comments on any significant departure from anticipated contract value or description of works, supplies or services undertaken	What procurement process do you anticipate using to select the supplier?	Where will the contract opportunity be advertised?	What processes will be put in place to collect appropriate records to demonstrate compliance in the event of an audit or other investigation
16	£6,000	n/a see ref 15 - procured together	Yes (Revenue)	Competency based training in the use of forestry high lead winches 6 people	n/a see ref 15	Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Advertising not required.	As above
17	£6,000	n/a see ref 15 - procured together	Yes (Revenue)	Competency based training in the use of crane fed wood chippers 6 people	n/a see ref 15	Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Advertising not required.	As above
18	£6,000	£730	Yes (Revenue)	Design and production of two on-site interpretation boards		Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Advertising not required.	As above
19	£6,000	£2,200	Yes (Revenue)	Aerial image survey and analysis at the start and end of the project.	This work will now be completed inhouse and the analysis will be completed during the post project period.	Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Advertising not required.	As above
20	£4,000	£4,278	Yes (Revenue)	Volunteers tools and associated PPE.		Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Advertising not required.	As above
21	£3,078	£2,568	Yes (Revenue)	Discharge consent fee to discharge treated farm yard run off into the River Fal.		Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Advertising not required.	As above
22	£3,000	£1,310	Yes (Revenue)	Project launch and close event-venue/refreshments.	Close event still to be arranged	Invite at least 3 suppliers to provide written quotation in accordance with PCR15 regulations. Use of framework contract if available.	Advertising not required.	As above
23	£1,000	n/a	Yes (Revenue)	Advertising and associated costs for the recruitment for Project Delivery Manager and Finance officer		Direct award	Advertising not required.	As above
TOTAL value	**£810,368**	**£763,363**						

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