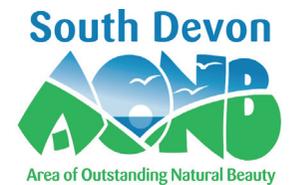




South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Statement of representation



SOUTH  
DEVON  
One of the  
AONB Family



# **Statement of representations**

## **SDAONB Management Plan 2019-2024**

### **Introduction**

DEFRA requires AONB Partnerships to prepare a Statement of Representations prior to the adoption of a Management Plan. The SDAONB Partnership Committee and staff unit is committed to ensuring that this revised Management Plan considers a consultation process engages with the local community and partners.

This Statement summarises the consultation comments received during the evolution of the draft plan, outlining details of key stakeholders and other parties involved in its preparation. By way of background, it includes a summary of consultation undertaken in the early stage of the process.

The process has involved detailed member and officer discussion, including input from the relevant local authority Officers, Partnership Committee Group members presentations of reports to local authority committee meetings, prior to the confirmation that the Councils adopt a final version.

### **Consultation and Engagement Process**

A six -week public consultation period was conducted between 17<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The document was made freely available on the SDAONB website, printed draft text only copies were available for reference in local libraries and offices. The consultation period was publicised with press releases to local media and distribution of posters advertising the consultation. Targeted emails were sent to Voluntary and Community groups in relevant local authorities. External partners were also individually invited to comment. Various social media platforms were used to promote the consultation.

## **Internal consultation/meetings**

The strategy was the subject of consideration and discussion at various internal departmental meetings and considered more widely at the SDAONB Partnership meetings.

The draft strategy was considered by South Hams District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board at its publicly accessible meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

## **SDAONB Management Plan - Press Release**



17<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Have your say:**

## **South Devon AONB Management Plan Consultation**

A new Plan is being prepared by the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership working on behalf of the areas 3 local authorities. The Plan will be in place from April 2019 to March 2024. The Draft Management Plan (2019-24) will be available for public consultation from 17<sup>th</sup> September until 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

It sets out a vision for the kind of place we want South Devon to be in years to come and crucially, some of the activities that a range of bodies and local people could take to achieve that vision.

The 2014-19 Strategy has guided the direction of the Partnership in this work over the last five years, enabling initiatives such as planning and policy development, farm support programmes, community orchards, bat monitoring, habitat improvement schemes, archaeological research, heritage projects, walks, talks and events, business advice and rural development schemes across the AONB.

The AONB Unit has been using the 'What makes South Devon special' campaign to provide people with the opportunity to comment on the existing plan at events and via online surveys and prepare for the formal consultation period.

Andy Pratt Chairman of the AONB Partnership committee said, *"This consultation is a chance for individuals to review the management plan and suggest any changes; all responses on any aspect of our plan or work will be carefully considered."*

A drop-in exhibition can be viewed in the reception of Follaton House, Totnes to view documents and provide direct feedback. Hard copies are also available at Brixham Town Hall and libraries in Torquay, Churston, Dartmouth, Kingsbridge and the Wembury Marine Centre. Alternatively it can be viewed at [Management Plan Review](#)

Comments can be sent via email: [enquiries@southdevonaonb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@southdevonaonb.org.uk) or post to: South Devon AONB, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, TQ9 5NE

**Ends**

**Ed's notes:**

The South Devon AONB Partnership has a statutory duty to review the Management Plan for the area every five years. The AONB Unit have been given delegated responsibility to produce a light touch review and are consulting on the revised draft.

This consultation is concerned with the management strategy. The Delivery Plan will be produced as a separate document and is not included here. The annexes that support the plan will be published with the final document in 2019

**Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are some of the UK's most outstanding landscapes and belong to an international Protected Landscape Family. There are 38 AONBs in England and Wales, and a further eight in Northern Ireland. For further information about the AONB Family visit [www.landscapesforlife.org.uk](http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk) \_**

**Further information:**

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**Summary of issues raised on review of the 2014-19 South Devon AONB Management Strategy**

The table below provides a summary of key issues raised to date by the South Devon AONB Partnership and key stakeholders in the draft response to internal consultations on the document and how the AONB Unit have responded to this feedback.

<b>Comments</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Light touch:</b> The SDAONB Partnership requested a light touch approach given the timing of the review and the political uncertainty surrounding Brexit and future delivery for designated landscapes	A light touch review has been undertaken. The main policies on the whole remain unchanged. The wording of some policies have been revised without altering their impact Two additional policies are proposed responding to forces for change and key policy influences.
<b>Make the strategy document smaller:</b>	The proposed draft has been created by referencing policies and text relating to the plan in supporting background and process documentation This will be available as supporting annexes to the plan.

Comments	Action
<p>The proposed draft has reduced the number of pages in the strategy document by approximately 50%.</p>	<p>Additional annexes will provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AONBs in a national context (provided by National Association for AONBs.)</li> <li>• A State of the AONB report</li> <li>• Planning Guidance document (V1)</li> <li>• Understanding special qualities document</li> <li>• SA, SEA and HRA appraisal documentation</li> <li>• A Statement of community involvement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Simplify the format:</b> The review has provided the Partnership with the opportunity to create a more policy focussed strategic plan with a clear format that is easier to read with a strategic framework for delivery.</p>	<p>The plan has been revised with the key themes renamed to Place/People and Prosperity /Communication and Management each assigned Strategic aims.</p> <p>The vision, strategic aims and key objectives have been added at the start of the plan.</p>
<p><b>Delivery Plan:</b> It has been agreed that an annual delivery plan will be produced to allow for flexibility responding to political uncertainty</p>	<p>The delivery plan will be agreed following public consultation and will be based on the approved priority actions</p>