



South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
State Of The AONB Version 1.1

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Introduction	4
Metrics proposed in 2014-2019 Management Plan	5
Local indicators and headline performance against Management Plan themes.....	6
Theme 1: Landscape Character	7
Indicator 1: Area (ha.) and percentage of AONB in agri-environment schemes	7
Indicator 2: Percentage of AONB recorded as 'most tranquil'.....	8
Indicator 3: 10 x Fixed-point photographic monitoring points	9
Theme 2: Natural Resources and Climate.....	9
Theme 3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	10
Indicator 4: Percentage of SSSIs assessed as in 'favourable condition' (see map p42)	13
Indicator 5: Percentage change in woodland size and type (see map on p43)	14
Indicator 6: Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGs) in a in favourable condition (see map p44)	14
Theme 4: Historic Environment	14
Indicator 7: Number of Historic Environment Records (HER, see map p45)	16
Indicator 8: Percentage and number of heritage assets at risk	16
Indicator 9: Management and protection of archaeological features agri-environment agreements	17
Theme 5: Farming and Land Management.....	17
Indicator 10: Total annual values of agri-environment agreements	19
Indicator 11: Percentage change in farm number and size	19
Indicator 12: Percentage AONB in Environmental Stewardship (See maps p39 and p40)	20
Theme 6: Coast and Marine	20
Indicator 13: South Devon AONB bathing water quality	21
Theme 7: Rivers and Estuaries	22
Indicator 14: Status of rivers	23
Theme 8: Tourism, Access and Recreation	24

Theme 9: Planning and Sustainable Development	25
Indicator 15: Numbers of planning response requests to by the AONB Unit.....	26
Theme 10: Transport & Highways.....	27
Theme 11: Rural Economy and Tourism	28
Theme 12: Community and Culture.....	29
Indicator 16: Number of parishes/towns with approved neighbourhood plans	29
Theme 13: Awareness and Communication	30
Theme 14: Management, Organisation and Partnerships.....	31
Management Plan Glossary	40
Bibliography	46
Awareness & Communication.....	53
Management Plan Acknowledgements	54

Introduction

The South Devon AONB is a special, tranquil, beautiful landscape which is home to people and wildlife, with valuable habitats existing alongside living, working communities. This unique, diverse landscape creates an exceptional environment where rare plant, insect, bird and mammal species can flourish.

The area has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) since 1960 and forms part of the AONB protected landscape network (34 in England). The South Devon AONB Partnership brings together many national and local organisations to conserve and enhance this precious landscape.

All AONBs are required to have a statutory five-year Management Plan (produced on behalf of the Local Authorities) and this State of the AONB report provides indicators that relate to the fourteen themes in the current Management Plan (2019-2024). The indicators will be used to help determine the 'health' of the AONB, identify trends, and shape and inform the policies, objectives and indicators for future management plans.

Working with partners the AONB Unit has commented on the key policy influences and forces for change that should be considered for each management plan theme. We have attempted to interpret data, consider trends and express aspirations for the conservation and enhancement of management themes.

An AONB Unit assessment of the forces for change that impact on management themes. The landscape and its special qualities are subject to enormous pressures some of which are global natural forces that are outside of the Partnerships power to influence.

The AONB Units aspirations for the conservation and enhancement of management themes. Maintaining and enhancing the AONB can be measured by achieving positive improvements to the metrics identified in management themes. Looking after the AONB is a shared responsibility: everyone has a part to play, whether as a community group, a landowner, local authority, environmental organisation, business, or a householder.

Metrics proposed in 2014-2019 Management Plan

To track future change in the South Devon AONB, a series of metrics were proposed in the 2014-2019 Management Plan, as follows:

Ref	Measure of Change	Source
M1	Analysis of the condition of landscape and seascape.	<i>Character and Quality of England's Countryside, fixed post photography recording and Rate My View app submissions</i>
M2	Levels of tranquillity throughout the AONB.	<i>Natural England, Campaign to Protect Rural England</i>
M3	Level of compliance with water quality standards for designated bathing waters.	<i>Environment Agency</i>
M4	Level of compliance with Water Framework Directive quality standards.	<i>Environment Agency</i>
M5	Proportion of SSSI site units within the AONB assessed as in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition.	<i>Natural England</i>
M6	Extent and condition of significant habitats in the AONB.	<i>Natural England, Biodiversity Action Reporting System</i>
M7	Number of historic assets in the Heritage at Risk register.	<i>English Heritage</i>
M8	Number of Conservation Area appraisals and action plans.	<i>South Hams District Council and Torbay Council</i>
M9	Change in the length of restored and sustainably managed hedgerow.	<i>DEFRA, South Devon AONB Unit</i>
M10	Trends in Defra June Agricultural census statistics.	<i>DEFRA Agricultural Census</i>
M11	Extent of undeveloped coastline.	<i>Local Authorities, South Devon AONB Unit</i>
M12	Length of coastline in protective public ownership.	<i>South Devon AONB Unit</i>
M13	Number and geographic spread of moorings and pontoons in undeveloped estuary areas.	<i>Harbour Authorities</i>
M14	Length of undeveloped estuary shoreline.	<i>South Devon AONB Unit</i>
M15	Length of the South West Coast Path in the AONB meeting National Trail Quality Standards.	<i>South West Coast Path Team</i>
M16	Tourist bed space capacity	<i>Visit South Devon, South Hams District Council, Torbay Council</i>
M17	Change in the number of dwellings in the AONB and number of newbuild dwellings built outside of development boundaries.	<i>Local Planning Authorities</i>
M18	Number of seasonal and year round ferry services operating in the AONB.	<i>South Devon AONB Unit</i>
M19	Percentage of settlements served by a daily bus service.	<i>South Devon AONB Unit; bus operators</i>
M20	Number of AONB settlements served by village shops, pubs and post offices.	<i>AONB Local Planning Authorities</i>
M21	Percentage change in AONB residents who are economically active.	<i>Office of National Statistics</i>
M22	Percentage of parishes with up to date Parish Plans or Neighbourhood Plans in place.	<i>local authority community development services</i>
M23	Trends in Census population statistics.	<i>Census</i>
M24	The proportion of housing stock held as a second home or holiday home.	<i>Local authorities</i>
M25	Percentage of AONB residents with a demonstrable awareness and understanding of the AONB designation.	<i>South Devon AONB Unit</i>

Local indicators and headline performance against Management Plan themes

Management theme	Indicator	Local measure of change	Current SDAONB position
Landscape Character	1	Area (ha) and percentage of AONB in agri-environment schemes	53% in 2017
	2	% of AONB recorded as 'most tranquil'	52.6% recorded as tranquillity is high or very high
	3	10 Fixed-point photographic monitoring points	Part completed with limited results
Natural Resources & Climate	No local indicators are proposed		
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	4	% of SSSIs in 'favourable condition'	Biological 27.9% Geological 69% in 2018
	5	% change in woodland size and type	8.8% of the AONB is wooded.
	6	% of Regionally Important Geological Sites in a favourable condition	69%
Historic Environment	7	Number of assets on the Historic Environment Record (HERs)	Increased, mainly due to more accurate mapping techniques.
	8	% and number of assets on the heritage at risk register	No change since 2008
	9	Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Registered Park and Garden on the national 'At Risk' register.	No change since 2008
	10	Management and protection of historic features agri-environment agreements	Land under Environmental Stewardship has increased since 2014
Farm/land management	11	Percentage change in farm number and size	0% increase in number of farms, 9.7% decrease in number of largest farms, 8.7% decrease in total land area
	12	Percentage of AONB in ES	29%
Coast/Marine Environment	13	South Devon AONB bathing water quality rated excellent	12 of 18 sites
Rivers and Estuaries	14	WFD river water quality status	Overall water body and Ecological: 4 good and 10 moderate. Chemical: 13 good and 1 fail.
Tourism, Access and Recreation	No local indicators are proposed		
Planning/ Sustainable Development	15	Numbers of planning response requests to by the AONB Unit	Dec 2017 to Feb 2019 141 applications
Transport and Highways	No local indicators are proposed		
Rural Economy and Services	No local indicators are proposed		
Community and Culture	16	Number of parishes/towns with approved neighbourhood plans	2019, 6 approved
Awareness and Communication	No local indicators are proposed		
Management	No local indicators are proposed		

Theme 1: Landscape Character

The South Devon AONB has a diverse landscape ranging from windswept coastal plateaux, cliffs and beaches to river valleys and creeks, steeply sloping combes, intricate field patterns amongst rolling farmland, and settlements ranging from busy market towns to isolated farmsteads and small villages.

The European Landscape Convention provides a challenge to improve the perception, understanding and care of all landscapes through improved collaboration, better public involvement and the integration of policies and actions. The Landscape Character Assessment for South Hams records sixteen different Landscape Character Types in the AONB providing context for local policy and the management of change in order to conserve and enhance the area.

The South Devon landscape is intimately linked with the sea. Underwater topography reveals the presence of earlier watercourses and shorelines dating from times of lower sea level. Inland, watercourses and their river catchments create strong links with Dartmoor to the north where all the main AONB watercourses rise. On clear days this link with Dartmoor is even more obvious when the moor creates an impressive backdrop to the area's northerly views.

Cumulative impacts - The cumulative impact of many small scale changes is being strongly felt at a landscape scale across the South Devon AONB. Management approaches to change that respect the AONBs distinctive local character are increasingly needed to avoid further damaging cumulative impacts.

Seascape Character Assessments - The use of Seascape Character Assessments is gaining increased significance in understanding the inter-relationships between land and sea.

Development - Increased built development and car usage is likely to continue to diminish levels of tranquillity, particularly around the urban fringes to the east and west of the AONB.

Lighting- Changes to street lighting and better control over lighting provision is contributing towards reducing the spread of light pollution.

Indicator 1: Area (ha.) and percentage of AONB in agri-environment schemes

	2013	2017
Area of land (ha.)	17,909	24,761
Percentage of AONB in Environmental Stewardship ¹	72%	53%
All AONBs (England)	74%	74%

Source Defra/Natural England (Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes)

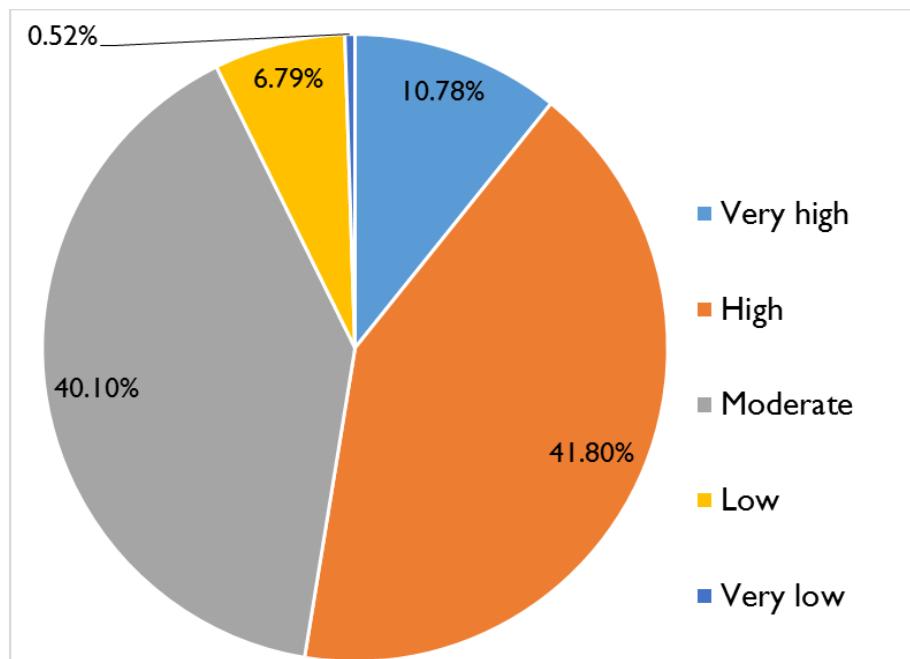
In 2016 over 74% of the South Devon AONB was identified as used for agricultural. Agri-environment schemes provide funding to the farmers to implement environmental improvements to their farming practices. This could include the introduction of wildflower edges around crops, a reduction in the percentage of hedges cut and organic farming practices.

As much land as possible is in higher tier/ level agri-environment schemes as this should result in land management that conserves and enhances the natural beauty

¹ The maps on p33 and p34 show the location of schemes in the AONB

Indicator 2: Percentage of AONB recorded as 'most tranquil'

It is likely that levels of tranquillity, particularly around the urban fringes of the AONB are being reduced due to the pressures of development and growth in car usage.



Source: National Tranquillity Mapping Data 2006 developed for the Campaign to Protect Rural England and Natural England

The 2006 National Tranquillity Mapping Data took half a kilometre squares and based on 44 different factors which add or detract from people's feelings of tranquillity created a score for each. Positive factors included seeing a 'natural' landscape, hearing birdsong and seeing the stars at night; and detracting factors included hearing constant traffic noise, seeing lots of people and urban development.

To secure as much of the AONB as possible to a very high or high tranquillity status

Indicator 3: 10 x Fixed-point photographic monitoring points

As part of the Bigger Picture project initiated in 2010 based on images taken from key vantage points throughout the AONB have been used to capture changes in the landscape. The use of a post mounted camera that can be taken from site to site ensures the same view extents are captured each time a visit is made. Each set of photographs contributes to the ‘bigger picture’ aims to help our understanding of landscape change over time.

Ten sites were selected across the AONB ensuring that each of the area’s distinctive landscape character types were included aiming to represent a mix of sites where landscape change is expected, possible and unlikely. Vantage points giving a good view of landscape features in the foreground out to around 2.5kms used as these are captured best through the fixed point technique and enable reasonable analysis of special qualities.

Viewpoints identified as part of the What Makes a View? project in 2013 have not been undertaken to the ambitious targets and so there is incomplete data available to make informed assessments of landscape change.

Theme 2: Natural Resources and Climate

Clean seas, fresh air, pure water, fertile soils and a mild climate are essential to the quality of life in the AONB. The wealth of natural resources and processes provided by our landscape sustain us. Our future prosperity and wellbeing depend on managing these resources well and adapting to the challenges of climate change.

Climate change is not just a global issue that will affect future generations in other parts of the world – it is happening now, and some of its effects can already be felt locally. DCC, TC and PCC have published Energy and Climate Change Strategies that detail local predictions, associated risks and their commitment to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and improving resilience to the changing climate.

Climate change - Climate change is already having an impact on the South Devon AONB’s special qualities and key features, especially the shoreline and intertidal habitats. However, little systematic work has been done locally on modelling how these will affect the landscape in future.

Rainfall - Winters are becoming wetter with a 5-20% increase in rainfall predicted by 2050. This, together with more extreme storm events, increases the risk of localised flooding, bypasses of wastewater treatment works and soil loss from exposed agricultural soils.

Drought - Summers are becoming drier with a 10-40% decrease in rainfall predicted by 2050 causing low river flows and potential damage to habitats and species.

Temperature rise - Average summer temperatures are predicted to be as much as 3.5°C higher by 2050. New pests and diseases like blue tongue are already being experienced and the frequency of algal blooms, deoxygenation events and fish deaths in estuaries and other water bodies has been linked to temperature rises.

Water Framework Directive - The imperative of meeting Water Framework Directive targets, and more stringent quality standards for bathing waters, are acting as powerful drivers for action and investment.

Run-off - The continuing trend of major building development up-river has the potential to increase nutrient loadings, storm water runoff rates, siltation and pollution incidents.

Pollution in estuaries - Diffuse agricultural pollution and nutrient enrichment, algal blooms, endocrine disruptors, antibiotics, medicine by-products and local pollution from boating activities (sewage, fuels and antifoulants) are all perceived to have damaging impacts on the estuaries and are threatening the viability of commercial shellfisheries.

Coastal pollution - The coastline remains vulnerable to major pollution incidents from shipping while the dumping of rubbish at sea brings litter from long distances onto the shoreline throughout the year.

Agricultural pollution - Climate change, and increased storminess, are likely to worsen soil erosion and diffuse agricultural pollution; in addition to creating difficult harvesting conditions and weather damage to cereal crops. At the same time, farmers will need to comply with increasingly stringent rules on the use and storage of fertilisers and organic manures to prevent nutrient loss into streams and rivers.

Waste Recycling - Increasingly stretching waste recycling targets are being set by government creating challenges for collection and processing. A recycling rate target of 60% by 2020 has been set by Devon County Council.

Carbon dioxide - The Climate Change Act 2008 set a legally binding target for reducing UK carbon dioxide emissions by at least 26% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

Renewable energy - The most recent UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) contains a target to produce 15% of the UK's energy demand from renewable sources by 2020.

Localised extreme weather events have caused problems such as localised flooding, bypasses of wastewater treatment works, soil loss and damage to cereal crops resulting in damage to habitats, impacts on the local farming community. Building development in water catchment areas further increases nutrient loadings, storm water runoff rates, siltation and pollution incidents. Wider regional, national and global resource issues continue to act upon the environment in and around the AONB.

To ensure that national and local resilience and mitigation measures contribute towards reducing global warming and minimise the depletion of natural resources.

Theme 3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

The area supports an outstanding and diverse range of habitats, species and geological features. Our natural environment provides a varied, colourful landscape tapestry which enriches and supports the lives of residents and visitors and underpins the tourism economy.

There are 18 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), four Special Areas of Conservation, two National Nature Reserves, three marine Special Areas of Conservation adjoin the AONB coastline. 177 County Wildlife Sites represent locally important remnant habitats and provide linkage to broader ecological networks.

There are nine Geological Conservation Review Sites and 27 County Geological Sites within and close to the AONB boundary. The part of the AONB within Torbay forms a significant part of the English Riviera Global Geopark.

The AONB has a relatively small area of woodland yet still considered as a significant component of the AONB landscape. Ria oaks fringing estuaries and rivers, hedgerow trees and orchards are particularly distinctive.

Geological features include cliff and quarry exposures of Devonian marine slates; metamorphic schists of the Start peninsula; Permian sandstones and breccias; volcanic intrusions; and reef limestones with fossils. Important landform features include drowned estuaries, shingle barrier beaches, sea cliffs and raised beaches.

The South Devon AONB is home to an extensive and rich variety of habitats and species too numerous to list in this strategy. However, the following table highlights habitats and species of particular importance that are found in South Devon, based on habitat inventories and species records. This list is not exhaustive. Species highlighted in bold are considered endemic to the South Devon AONB; and habitats highlighted in bold are particularly significant.

	Internationally Important	Of importance for South Devon
Terrestrial Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs • Dry grassland and scrubland on calcareous substrates • Coastal vegetated shingle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime grassland and heathland • Flower-rich meadows and pastures • Sand dunes • Salt marsh • Hedgerows on banks (Devon hedges) • Freshwater lagoons with marsh and reedbeds • Orchards • Oak and wet woodlands • Traditional orchards • Cereal field margins
Terrestrial Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 of the 18 British bat species including Greater Horseshoe Bat • Shore dock • Early gentian • Common otter • Large blue butterfly (reintroduction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammals including brown hare and hazel dormouse • Fish including Atlantic salmon and European eel • Butterflies and moths including pearl bordered fritillary, small blue and silver-studded blue • Insects including long horned mining bee, cuckoo bee, Mediterranean and short necked oil beetles, hornet robberfly, great green bush cricket • Ferns including southern polypody • Several rare lichen species • Flowering plants including strapwort, Deptford pink, dwarf spiked rush, field eryngo, small flowered catchfly, pennyroyal, water germander • Birds including cirl bunting, cetti's warbler, grasshopper warbler and common guillemot
Marine Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandbanks slightly covered by seawater all the time • Large shallow sheltered marine inlets • Exposed and sheltered rocky foreshores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea grass beds • Mudflats • Estuarine reedbed • Coastal and underwater caves

	Internationally Important	Of importance for South Devon
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tide swept channels within estuaries
Marine Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common dolphin • White beaked dolphin • Harbour porpoise • Leatherback turtle • Grey seal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowering plants including eelgrasses • <i>Cnidaria</i> including pink sea fan and sea-fan anemone • Basking shark • Molluscs including fan mussel and native oyster • Arthropods including European spiny lobster • Cephalopods including cuttlefish • Fish including seahorses, sea bass, Allis shad and lesser sand eel • <i>Anelida</i> including tentacled lagoon worm • Several rare red seaweeds

The only remaining UK population of the cuckoo bee *Nomada sexfasciata*, reliant on the long horned mining bee *Eucera longicornis* hangs on along a short stretch of the South Devon coast within the Prawle Point to Start Point SSSI. The soft cliffs are recognised as being one of the most important sites for solitary bees and wasps in the UK. Over 100 species have been recorded including many rare and scarce species. The high cliff coast between Bolt Head and Bolt Tail supports oil beetles including the Mediterranean oil beetle rediscovered in 2010 and the first UK record for over 100 years.

Nationally the UK has seen a 99% decline in greater horseshoe bat populations over the last 100 years, but South Devon remains one of the last important strongholds for this species and is the focus of coordinated conservation activity.

Biodiversity 2020 - The government's Biodiversity 2020 strategy continues to present a challenge to improve the quality of current sites; increase the size of sites; enhance corridors between or join up sites; create new sites; and reduce pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment.

Habitat opportunities - The South Devon National Character Area has high potential to contribute to hedgerow and lowland meadow habitat creation targets; and medium potential to contribute to traditional orchard and arable field margin habitat creation targets.

Agricultural change - Some modern agricultural practices are thought to be contributing to a continuing gradual decline of many formerly common wildlife species and their habitats. The medium sized mixed farms traditional to South Devon seem best suited to supporting biodiversity, but the future for these enterprises is uncertain. On the coastal and inland plateaux much of the agricultural land is highly productive and under competing pressures. Conversely, under-management of non-farmed areas and a reduction in overall livestock numbers are causing the gradual decline of some grassland, scrub and coastal habitats.

SSSI condition - Many AONB SSSIs remain in some form of unfavourable condition, although some of these have been assessed as recovering, typically due to appropriate management being introduced, though the impacts of this may take some time to take effect.

Fragmentation - The fragmentation of habitats has reduced the ability of less mobile species to move successfully, leading to isolation and loss.

Local wildlife sites - The extent, condition and integrity of the network of "local sites" that generally receive lower levels of protection, resources and attention continue to be of concern. The large number of sites, associated costs of re-survey and limited strategic support all present difficulties.

Climate change - As our current “climate space” moves northwards, habitats and species will be significantly affected. Some will flourish. Some will lack suitable conditions, time or space to migrate and are likely to be lost. Standing waters, floodplain and grazing marsh, saltmarsh, vegetated shingle and maritime cliffs and slopes are at particular risk from sea level rise, elevated temperatures and increased storminess.

New initiatives - A range of new initiatives is emerging to support future biodiversity work including: payment for Ecosystem Services; the key priorities of the Devon Local Nature Partnership; the recognition by the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership of the importance of a well-functioning high quality environment; and the principle of compensation for losses when damage to nature through development cannot be avoided.

Invasive species - Invasive non-native species continue to expand and alter the balance of natural biodiversity. Japanese knotweed can cause significant financial and structural damage and Himalayan balsam appears to be beyond control. In the marine environment, the sheer number and variety of invasive species and the difficulty in controlling them present real challenges for our native wildlife.

Species recording - Our knowledge of biodiversity and geodiversity continues to be over-reliant on the good-will and skill of a reducing number of specialist volunteer wildlife recorders.

Indicator 4: Percentage of SSSIs assessed as in ‘favourable condition’ (see map p42)

In England, SSSIs are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, are in private ownership and their management is a shared responsibility with Natural England.

SSSI Condition	Area within SDAONB (Ha) (2017)
Favourable	Biological 27.9% Geological 69%
Unfavourable Recovering	20%
Unfavourable No Change	1%
Unfavourable Declining	2.3%
Total area of SSSI within SDAONB	2,011 ha.

Source: Natural England

Of the 2,011 ha. of biological SSSI in the AONB, 27.9% assessed as being in a favourable condition. Just over 1% is considered to be unfavourable/no change and 2.3% unfavourable and declining. These percentages have broadly remained constant over a five-year period. In addition, there are 36 geological unit features in SSSIs. 25 are considered favourable, 2 favourable recovering with 9 not assessed.

Under the Government’s strategy for wildlife, Biodiversity 2020 Natural England has a target to ensure 50% of SSSI are in favourable and 100% are either in favourable or in favourable recovering by 2019.

Indicator 5: Percentage change in woodland size and type (see map on p43)

Of the wooded areas over 75% has been classified as broadleaved woodland.

Percentage of woodland in management	2013	2017
2,982 hectares (8.8% of the AONB) is wooded.	34%	42%

Source Forestry Commission copyright 2017

Increase the amount of woodland in management so that it exceeds the national percentage (58% in England, 2017)

The 23% increase in the uptake of Woodland Grant Schemes covering established woodlands and new plantings suggests that woodland character of the area is being maintained. However, the trend also reflects the inaccessible nature of much of the woodland in the area, located in deep coastal valleys and rias. There is a continued, general absence of hedgerow and in-field trees across the inland plateau.

Indicator 6: Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGs) in a favourable condition (see map p44)

69% of RIGs and geological SSSIs were in favourable condition in the AONB in 2017

Source DCC/TC 2017

Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGs) are designated areas that have been identified as the most important areas for geology and geomorphology outside of SSSIs. Sites are selected by locally developed criteria focusing on how the areas add to values of education, scientific study, history and aesthetics. Currently RIGs have the same protections as local Wildlife Sites and other non-statutory wildlife designations are generally protected through the planning system. As of May 2017, there were 27 RIGs within the South Devon AONB that have been designated as being of significant geological interest, these include coastlines, quarries and caves.

All RIGs and geological SSSIs in the AONB are in favourable condition

Theme 4: Historic Environment

The South Devon AONB has a real sense of time depth. A patchwork of small fields, hedge banks, green lanes, orchards and small settlements has developed over thousands of years. The AONB has been the threshold to Devon and England for millennia forming the front door for movements of people, goods and ideas. Sometimes called “deepest South Hams”, it is a cultural landscape of national significance. The long heritage of maritime, trading, farming and military activity has left a rich and diverse legacy of buildings, monuments, historic places and archaeological remains.

Prehistoric features in the AONB landscape include complex field systems, drovers' tracks and ridge ways, burial mounds, earthworks, hut circles, settlement enclosures and hill forts. Further distinctiveness in the rural landscape was added in the medieval period and later, with farmsteads, field enclosures, deer parks, rabbit warrens, quarries and country estates with designed landscapes. Recent aerial survey suggests that catch meadows were once common in the coastal valleys. The network of narrow winding lanes and turnpikes brought toll houses, stone bridges and milestones, connecting a dispersed pattern of rural villages and farmsteads.

Historic coastal features include military defences, as well as navigation marks, lighthouses, coastguard cottages, shipwrecks and ancient trading settlements. The shoreline preserves traces of human activity long since submerged by sea level rise. The estuaries feature dams, weirs, watermills, boat houses, lime kilns, castles and quays.

Well-known historic associations include the D-Day practice landings site at Slapton, the medieval castles and streets of Dartmouth, the ruined fishing village at Hallsands, the Victorian fortress on Berry Head, and the National Trust houses of Greenway, Coleton Fishacre and Overbecks.

Historic environment designations include 53 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 1293 Listed Buildings, 8 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, 39 historic Conservation Areas and four Protected Wreck sites off the AONB coastline.

Resource shortages - Levels of resources currently available for historic environment research and conservation is insufficient to meet the objectives of the South Devon AONB Management Plan and careful prioritisation is needed.

Neglect and demolition - Continuing neglect is damaging certain types of historic feature such as field barns and estuary and coastal features with no current use. Some types have been lost through demolition, such as World War II structures.

Monuments at risk - The condition of the nationally important scheduled monuments within the South Devon AONB is threatened by a number of factors including cultivation, scrub encroachment, burrowing animals and climate change.

Conversion and redevelopment - Historic features and cultural associations have been lost through conversion to other uses, such as agricultural barns, and boathouse sites on the Dart and Salcombe estuaries. Recent Government consultations on proposals to allow the reuse of farm buildings under permitted development rights could worsen the situation.

Inundation - Climate change will continue to affect coastal and estuarine archaeology, where much has already been inundated by earlier sea level rise. The remaining sites are fragile and poorly documented, and some are suffering loss and damage from storm and erosion.

Skills and labour - There is a shortage of skills and labour to undertake sensitive restoration work on historic sites. There are no active quarries supplying characteristic local building stone within the South Devon AONB.

Disconnection - The passing of the generation of people who lived in the area before the Wars, mass tourism, and suburban expansion, is weakening our cultural connection with the past.

Indicator 7: Number of Historic Environment Records (HER, see map p45)

	2013	2019	change
Number of records	5124	6297	+1173

Source Devon County Council/South West Heritage Trust

The increase in the number of records is largely a result of an archaeological aerial investigation carried out between 2016 and 2018 that was centred on the AONB. The survey area covered 564 square kilometres in Devon and Somerset, focused around the AONB, which has seen little systematic archaeological survey and where the archaeological resource was relatively poorly understood. The project consulted over seven thousand hard copy aerial photographs loaned from the Historic England Archive, as well as modern digital datasets of vertical aerial photographs.

In total, 5052 archaeological or historic sites were identified from the aerial imagery and recorded on the relevant Historic Environment Record (HER); 87% of these had not previously been recorded.

Secure as many HER records in the AONB as possible

Indicator 8: Percentage and number of heritage assets at risk

The Heritage at Risk Programme (HAR) was launched in 2008, as a way of understanding the overall state of England's historic sites. In particular, the programme identifies those sites that are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development. The list includes but is not exclusive to buildings, battlefields, monuments, parks, gardens and shipwrecks.

A total of 14 assets were identified in the Heritage at Risk Programme 2018, 11 scheduled monuments in the South Devon AONB were recorded as being at risk, together with one grade I Listed Building, 2 grade II Listed Buildings, 5 grade II* listed buildings and 1 Registered Park and Garden grade II*. Within the South Devon AONB, Historic England records show that there are 55 scheduled monuments and 1293 listed buildings (39 grade I, 59 grade II* and 1218 grade II).

Listed buildings Total 14 (% of total at risk)			
Grade I	Grade II*	Grade II	Total
5.1	8.5	0.2	0.7

Source Historic England 2018

All archaeological features are suitably protected or managed

Indicator 9: Management and protection of archaeological features agri-environment agreements

	Number of agreements	Area (ha)
2013	34	323.3
2017	33	369.7

Source Defra/Natural England (Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes, 2017)

Although there are fewer Environmental Stewardship agreements specifically for the management and protection of archaeological features, over the period the area of land under management has increased by 4.4%.

Agri-environment agreements suitably protect or manage archaeological features

Theme 5: Farming and Land Management

The patchwork landscape of small fields, hedge banks, walls, hedgerow trees, woods, orchards and farmsteads has been created by farmers and foresters over hundreds of years. Their continued work is essential in keeping the AONB a distinctive, productive, working agricultural landscape.

A wide range of public benefits and ecosystem services are provided by farmland and woods including food, fuel, fibre, recreation, wildlife habitats, genetic diversity, landscape, erosion control, flood protection, climate regulation, carbon storage, air and water purification, soil formation and nutrient recycling.

Farming makes an important contribution to the support of many features of nature conservation interest throughout the South Devon AONB. Much of the land is considered to be High Nature Value farmland, supported by low intensity farming systems which are particularly valuable for wildlife and the natural environment.

8.3% of the AONB (3142ha) is in the protective ownership of the National Trust and Woodland Trust. A significant proportion of the AONB is in the ownership of private estates including the Flete, Evans, Blackpool and Start, Strete, Sharpham, Raleigh and Duke of Somerset estates.

The South Devon cattle breed has a strong association with the AONB. Its distinctive colour mirrors the area's typically red soils. Locally distinctive varieties of apple such as Crimson King, Tommy Knight and Collegget Pippin connect the area's farming and cultural traditions to the landscape of today. The Dudley Stamp land utilisation survey of 1932 recorded a proliferation of orchards for the area, a different picture from today's remnant orchards.

South Hams has a network of 65 voluntary tree wardens with 37 of the 42 AONB parishes in the South Hams covered by active members who assist in tree protection and management. Torbay introduced a new tree warden scheme in 2007.

Agricultural change - Farming is undergoing a period of major change.

New agricultural development - Adapting to modern agricultural practices has seen the building of large new barns and industrial scale farmsteads in prominent locations, with a demand for diversification and food processing facilities, which have the potential to damage the traditional agricultural landscape.

Farming practices - The squeeze on farm profits has led to farming practices that are unsustainable and damaging both to the environment and to the long-term assets of the farms themselves. Concerns are expressed over the depletion of soil organic matter, soil compaction and erosion, diffuse pollution and the neglect of hedge banks.

Farm labour and incomes - The decline in family mixed farms is accompanied by using contractors and large equipment rather than employing manual farm labour, an ageing farming population, a shortage of new entrants to the industry, and an increasing burden of regulation and administration. Diversification enterprises are predicted to provide a greater percentage of farm business income.

Smallholdings - A continuing growth in the number of smallholdings is bringing a new wave of lifestyle owners and horse owners, some of whom lack the skills, experience and contacts for appropriate land management.

Livestock - Declines in sheep grazing and dairy numbers impact on the number of conservation grazing schemes and affect landscape character, culture and traditions.

Agri-environment funding - There is a period of uncertainty while arrangements for the new Rural Development Programme for England and environmental land management schemes are awaited. Some farmers prefer to forgo environmental stewardship grants in order to have the freedom from external constraints in managing their land.

Environmental management - For those landowners unable or unwilling to secure new Environmental Stewardship agreements when their old ones expire, there is little financial incentive to continue with their previous environmental management measures.

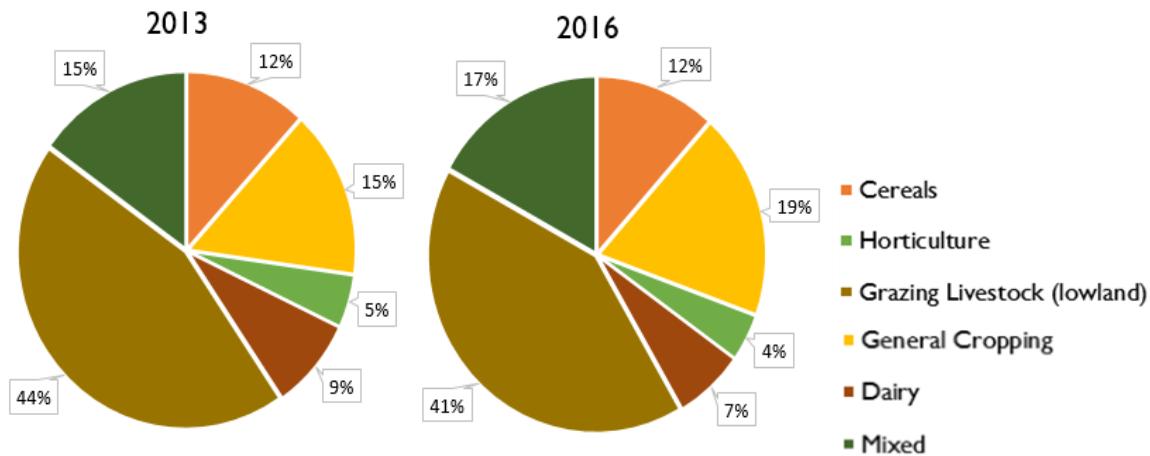
Advisory services - The array of conservation organisations, advisory services, designations and farm based initiatives represents a confusing picture for the farming community and are seen by many as lacking co-ordination and direction.

Diseases - The recent spread of plant and animal diseases represent an increased threat to business viability and the cost of precautionary measures and restocking are significant.

Market forces - World commodity prices are driving the pace of change in agriculture, and there is little that can be done at a local level to influence this.

Unmanaged woodlands - There is little incentive for owners to manage woodlands productively. Most woods in the AONB are in small units with poor road access, steep slopes and low quality timber making them generally unprofitable. There is however more scope for management to produce wood fuel, given the steady rise in demand and price paid for logs for domestic use, combined with increasing interest in the installation of biomass boilers and demand for the supply of wood chip or pellets.

Timber markets - The area meets little of its own needs for woodland produce from its own resources: most round wood is sent out of the area for processing while finished timber products are imported. Many small woodlands and orchards are in declining condition, particularly small fragmented farm woodlands subject to grazing.



Indicator 10: Total annual values of agri-environment agreements

Year	Total (£)
2018	£932,781

Source Defra/Natural England (Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes)

An increase in financial investment for agri-environment agreements is considered to enhance the AONB

Indicator 11: Percentage change in farm number and size

0% increase in number of farms, 9.7% decrease in number of largest farms, 8.7% decrease in total land area

Number of farms	2013	2016
	375	375
<5 ha	25	30
5-20 ha	91	102
20-50 ha	70	82
50-100 ha	71	75
>100 ha	88	86
Total area	29,779	27,175

Source Defra, Agricultural Survey

The numbers in each sector have remained broadly similar except for cereals/crops where the number of holdings has increased from 90 to 113.

Geographical breakdowns, that provide figures for AONB areas, are only available in years that correspond to EU Farm Structure Survey, hence the only figures available are for 2013 and 2016. Changes in sampling and methodology mean that identification of trends and direct comparisons are difficult. A number of larger agricultural buildings including cattle and grain storage facilities, have been erected across the more open plateau landscape and can be visually prominent.

Indicator 12: Percentage AONB in Environmental Stewardship (See maps p39 and p40)

Number of farms	2013	2018
Total Ha. area	17,909	9777

Source Defra, Agricultural Survey

Theme 6: Coast and Marine

Nowhere does nature appear so diverse as at the coast, revealing all of its moods from calm millpond-like seas on sunny, blue sky summer days to the power of boiling, foaming, pounding storm seas set against the inky black skies of full scale winter storms. A wild and rugged coastline, with an exceptional quality of tranquillity, are defining features of the South Devon AONB. The coast is a valuable resource for peaceful recreation and enjoyment, treasured by residents and visitors alike. Dynamic natural coastal processes constantly mould and shape it.

The coastline of the AONB measures 60 miles (97km). It incorporates the South Devon Heritage Coast which extends two miles out to sea and covers the 49 miles (75km) of coastline between Wembury Beach and Sharkham Point. 47% of the AONB has a coastal landscape character. Although the AONB boundary was drawn at the mean high water mark along the coastline, the presence of the sea was crucial to its designation. Allowing for the curvature of the earth and in good visibility, it is possible to see around 36km out to sea when standing 100 metres above sea level on cliffs like Bolberry Down. This area of inshore water is therefore particularly important to the overall character and special qualities of much of the AONB.

The coast has 68 beaches ranging from popular accessible amenity beaches to 106 smaller coves, with around 75% of these only accessible from the sea.

Along the 154km of open coastal shoreline there are over 3km of engineered coast defence structures.

Around £40m worth of fish and shellfish were landed during 2018 at Brixham, the highest total catch value of all ports in England. Plymouth was the busiest fishing port in England in terms of the volume of fish landed by UK vessels. The harbours of Dartmouth, Salcombe and other smaller sites such as Beesands also land regular catches. Recreational sea fishing from the shore is locally important.

Sea level rise - Relative sea level continues to rise and could be as much as 80cm higher by 2080. With more extreme storm events, this creates particular challenges for some coastal locations including Slapton Sands, Beesands, South Milton Sands and Challaborough, where adapting to long term coastal change will require careful management. There is continued pressure at coastal locations for infrastructure and other developments, including coast defence around individual properties.

Legislation - The implementation of the Marine and Coastal Access Act is still in progress: work on the statutory Marine Plans has only just started and the provisions for coastal open public access are not scheduled to take effect for some time.

Watersports - At a small number of beaches kitesurfing, surfing, body boarding, wind surfing, surf kayaking and other activities compete for safe launch and water space. Recreational conflicts and disturbance of tranquil areas are sometimes caused by high speed powerboats, jet skis, zapcats, microlights, powered paragliders and other light aircraft.

Development pressure - Some prominent coastal sites are spoiled by past poor quality development, compounded by intensive recreational use and erosion. There is a growing pressure for commercial activities at some coastal sites.

Marine renewables - The potential for offshore tidal current and wave energy power generation grows as technology improves and costs are reduced.

Protected areas - Completion of the marine protected area network is likely to encompass much of the marine area neighbouring the South Devon AONB. The designation programme for Marine Conservation Zones is progressing slowly and the arrangements for management and communication for these areas remain unclear.

Indicator 13: South Devon AONB bathing water quality

The beaches within the South Devon AONB attract many visitors and locals for relaxation and recreational activities. It is important that bathing sites are clean in order to protect human health and make tourists want to revisit the South Devon AONB for the economic value that they bring.

Annual ratings classify each site as excellent, good, sufficient or poor based on measurements taken over a period of up to four years. Out of the 18 bathing sites across the South Devon AONB that have been tested by the Environment Agency, 12 have been rated excellent and the other 6 have been rated good. 18 popular beaches are regularly monitored against Bathing Water Directive criteria.

Current water quality classification is Excellent, based on samples taken from 2015 through to 2018 - Broadsands, Breakwater Beach, St Mary's Bay, Dartmouth Castle and Sugary Cove, Blackpool Sands, Slapton Sands Monument, Slapton Sands, Torcross, Mill Bay, Salcombe North and South Sands, Thurlestone South, Challaborough and Bovisand.

Current water quality classification is Good, based on samples taken from 2015 through to 2018 - Hope Cove, Thurlestone North, Bantham, Bigbury-on-Sea South, Mothecombe and Wembury.

All sites rated as excellent within the AONB

Theme 7: Rivers and Estuaries

Five ria estuaries form a defining feature of the South Devon AONB. Their nature changes dramatically with the tide from shimmering mudflats to wide expanses of water. Intricate networks of tidal creeks branch off from the main waterways often with saltmarshes and reedbeds at their extremities. Steep oak-wooded valley sides and hedge-patterned farmland bring a characteristic fringe of trees down to the water's edge. The harbours and estuary mouths all have a long history as havens for seafarers. The wildlife of South Devon continues out of sight under the estuary waters where a wealth of hidden marine plants and animals flourishes.

The Yealm, Erme, Avon, Salcombe and Dart Estuaries together make up 5.5% of the AONB area. The only section of non-tidal main river within the AONB boundary is the middle reach of the Avon, extending inland up as far as Avonwick. With the river catchments and sources of the Yealm, Erme, Avon and Dart rising on Dartmoor, these estuaries are affected by activities upstream and outside the AONB boundary.

The estuaries are all rias formed when sea levels rose and flooded river valleys, resulting in steep sides and relatively low levels of freshwater input. The Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary is an extreme example of this with no main rivers draining into the estuary and very little freshwater input at all. The net result is that many truly marine plants and animals are found which seldom occur intertidally in estuaries elsewhere.

All of the South Devon AONB estuaries have high nature conservation importance with a variety of local, national and European protective designations.

Most AONB estuaries have Estuary Management Plans in place that reflect their individual characteristics, local partnerships and priorities for action. The South Devon AONB Estuaries Steering Group supported by the AONB Estuaries Officer provide the links to individual estuary partnerships.

The estuaries have a long maritime history with boatbuilding and repair traditions on the Dart, Salcombe and Yealm estuaries, though with a recent shift from commercial boats to recreational craft. Locally distinctive classes include the Salcombe Yawl.

Recreational boating is a prominent feature of the Dart, Salcombe and Yealm estuaries, with floating pontoons providing marina berths and facilities. Harbour Authorities manage navigation, moorings, byelaws, licensing, waste and the environment.

Along the 169kms of estuary shoreline there are over four kilometres of engineered defence structures of varying types including rock-filled gabions, concrete walls, stone walls and imported rock armour.

Commercial shellfisheries farm oysters and mussels on the Yealm, Avon, Salcombe and Dart estuaries.

Migratory salmon use the Yealm, Erme, Avon & Dart estuaries to reach spawning grounds further upstream. All AONB estuaries are designated bass nursery areas and the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority enforces a range of byelaws for the area.

At times of extreme spring high tides, strong southerly to easterly winds and heavy inland rainfall, the lowest areas of Dartmouth, Totnes, Kingsbridge, Salcombe, South Pool, Dittisham, Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo are vulnerable to tidal flooding.

Habitat squeeze - More extreme storm events and sea level rise will have a major impact on estuary infrastructure and settlements at certain locations. ‘Habitat squeeze’ is a particular issue in our steep sided estuaries, with a lack of space to accommodate the retreat of habitats against the hard built environment and steep hillsides.

Development pressures - There is significant pressure for further built development along estuary shorelines, with cumulative impacts on landscape, habitats, species and water quality, particularly via aging sewerage infrastructure of limited and increasingly inadequate capacity. Unsightly and intrusive coast defence structures have been installed at some sensitive estuary locations.

Maritime businesses - Established maritime businesses have been gradually displaced from their traditional premises, undermining the viability of essential shore-side support services and increasing pressure on other undeveloped estuary-side locations to accommodate boating uses.

Harbour infrastructure - There is strong demand for moorings and marina spaces within the estuaries and pressure on key access points. There are requirements for improved shore-side infrastructure for the fishing and mariculture sector and better launch facilities for small recreational craft.

Recreational boating - The use of canoes, kayaks and small motorised craft has been increasing in the estuaries.

Disturbance - Estuary walks and trails offer great potential for countryside access and recreation but an increasing population and the desire for more public access to and around the estuaries, including proposed coastal access provisions, has the potential to increase disturbance of sensitive wildlife.

Catchment management - The Catchment Based Approach brings the opportunity for a much more co-ordinated and strategic approach to improving rivers and estuaries by tackling issues from source to sea.

Illegal fishing - Illegal netting and poaching of fish within the estuaries is a growing concern, despite the efforts of the fisheries authorities to tackle it.

Indicator 14: Status of rivers

The Environment Agency publishes data on the status of rivers as part of the Water Framework Directive classifying them as high, good, moderate, poor or bad. In 2017, 0% in the AONB were categorised as being in either good or high status. However, this is not atypical of the river quality status in England and the classifications are stringent, with a ‘one out, all out’ level of attainment set. When the data is interrogated, it is encouraging that some ‘reasons for failure’ are improving and through targeted action, it is possible to address these failures. The Environment Agency have set a long timescale for addressing issues largely due to agricultural diffuse pollution, which explains the target of achieving good status on many of the watercourses in the area by 2027.

Water quality in the South Devon AONB is regularly monitored by the EA who with partners aim to understand existing and future problems that impact on water quality. The overall water body classification, ecology and chemical classification within or partially in the South Devon AONB was in 2016 and 14 rivers were classified as: Overall water body classification: 4 Good and 10 Moderate. Ecological classification: 4 Good and 10 Moderate. Chemical classification: 13 good and 1 fail.

The status of rivers moves from poor/ moderate to high/ good (and there is no deterioration)

Theme 8: Tourism, Access and Recreation

Around 32,000 people live in the AONB and nearly half a million people within a 30 minute drive. The AONB supports an annual multi-million pound tourism economy that employs thousands of local people. It promoted as a perfect destination for a place to unwind or get your pulse racing, in a beautiful landscape, with fantastic things to do, attractions, events and amazing food.

It provides a popular setting for traditional pursuits of walking, hiking, riding, cycling, sailing, rowing, angling, beach-going, snorkelling, surfing and bird watching, as well as a growing generation of active pursuits such as mountain biking, coasteering, diving, kayaking, rock climbing, paragliding, hang-gliding, kitesurfing and paddle boarding. These activities together make a significant contribution to the health and well-being of residents and visitors, and to the viability of services and businesses of the area.

110 km. (68 miles) of the South West Coast Path passes through the AONB. Other popular routes include the Dart Valley Trail, the Avon Estuary Walk, the Erme-Plym Trail, the Greenway Walk and the John Musgrave Heritage Trail, totalling 148km of national and regional walking routes and 384km of public rights of way (331km of public footpaths, 38km of public bridleways and 15km of byways). The 131 green lanes (unmetalled roads) are a distinctive feature of the AONB, totalling 67km. Although a reasonable network of public rights of way exists, recreational trails still have gaps and missing links. This applies to horse-riding and off-road cycling opportunities in particular.

Beaches, coastal access land (560ha), National Trust open access land (717 ha.) and twelve Woodland Trust woods (178 ha), together with nature reserves and Stewardship Scheme access agreements, are all important recreational assets.

Recreational pressures - Intense recreational pressure exceeds carrying capacity at some heavily used sites during peak periods, causing congestion, erosion, landscape degradation, damage to habitats and archaeology, and conflict between users.

Tourism trends - Climate change, fuel prices and financial conditions all indicate a potential resurgence in demand for domestic short break holidays in the medium term.

Growing demands - There is increasing demand for certain types of recreational activity, particularly safe off-road horse riding, mountain biking, adventure sports, small water borne recreational craft and motorised vehicles. These impose a greater need for maintaining infrastructure and information, and for managing safe and sustainable usage.

Maintenance costs - Cliff falls, heavy rainfall and the year-round usage of trails have increased the costs of maintaining path quality and continuity at a time of public sector spending constraint.

Disadvantaged people - Many people actively enjoy the health benefits of countryside access and recreation, but significant elements of the population do not. These include people disadvantaged by poor health or disability, lack of access to information and transport, and lack of opportunity and confidence.

Disturbance - Some noisy and intrusive recreational activities disturb the tranquillity of the AONB and spoil the enjoyment of others. Trespass, noise, disturbance of wildlife, car obstruction and the poor management of dogs continue to be a focus of concern.

Tourism sector - Continuing cuts in funding for tourism promotion, together with organisational changes in destination marketing and the switch to web-based direct advertising and bookings, have fragmented the industry and weakened its ability to promote and organise the sector effectively.

Population impacts - The growth of housing and population in the sub-region will continue to increase pressure on recreational facilities and vulnerable sites, at a time when there is shrinking funding to maintain and repair them. There have been few examples of developer contributions investing in off-site recreational infrastructure.

Theme 9: Planning and Sustainable Development

A primary reason for the creation of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty through the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was to protect the nation's finest countryside and coastlines from damaging development. Since then, the planning system has been a fundamental mechanism for maintaining the special character of AONBs.

On average, over 1000 planning applications are made each year within the AONB. In addition, applications outside the boundary can have a significant effect on the AONB. There has been an increase in residential urban expansion in the AONB influenced by the major urban centres of Plymouth and Torbay which lie tight to the boundary edge.

Development pressures - The AONB remains under intense pressure for development both inside the boundary and in the adjoining urban and rural settings. The development types currently having most impact include new housing on green field sites; large scale new farmsteads and barns in open countryside; and the conversion of business, tourism and employment land to other uses.

Housing demands - Local planning authorities are required to demonstrate a five year housing land supply. The constraints on available land mean that areas both immediately adjacent to the AONB boundary and within come under increasing pressure for development.

Urban influences - The AONB is heavily influenced by the major urban centres of Plymouth and Torbay at its western and eastern ends. Development has "spilled over" the boundary into the AONB from towns such as Brixham and Kingsbridge where the AONB boundary was drawn tightly against the urban edge.

Off-site impacts - The scale of new development in the sub-region is bringing a range of indirect impacts to its surrounding area including additional traffic, light pollution, wastewater, recreational pressures and disturbance to wildlife. The mechanisms for managing and mitigating these wider off-site environmental impacts are not working effectively.

The planning system - Changes in planning legislation, policy and procedure requires constant focus at a time of growing development pressure.

Permitted development - Some types of permitted development that fall outside the scope of the planning system are having a cumulative effect in some locations which suburbanises the countryside and erodes its distinctive character. Examples include recreational horse keeping and security lighting.

Local materials - Local building stone, thatch, cob and lime are no longer produced in the AONB and are now seldom used in new development, eroding local distinctiveness and sense of place. The character of many older settlements has been damaged by development and renovations that have not respected settlement pattern, materials or design.

Marine planning - The marine planning system is bringing an additional dimension to planning and development for the area, requiring co-ordination with the land-based planning system. Developments in inter tidal waters need to be carefully considered to avoid damage to the maritime setting of the AONB.

Coast defences - Engineered coastal defences continue to be reinforced to protect some of the area's housing is subject to regular flooding and active coastal erosion.

Shoreline development - Some forms of development can be particularly intrusive to the open skylines of the AONB.

Indicator 15: Numbers of planning response requests to by the AONB Unit

The AONB Unit responded to 141 applications in the period between Dec 2017 to Feb 2019. In respect to 'major' developments in the AONB since 2014 17 determined cases of varying sizes with a further 8 still to be determined where local need and housing numbers are being used to support the case. An additional 8 cases are listed of major development proposals located outside of the AONB that have been assessed as having significant adverse impacts on the purpose of designation. 10 applications totalling 485 dwellings were consented where local need and/or housing numbers have been used to justify exceptional circumstances.

The impact of the AONB and the high quality natural environment on house prices can be considered as a benefit as it attracts additional investment into the area. Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure to increase the amount of housing being built within the South Devon AONB. The review of planning applications is a large part of the job role of team members at the South Devon AONB staff unit. Compared before 2012, 2015-2017 saw more than 100% increase in the number of units per year built. It is still important that with the growing need for housing that the special qualities of the South Devon AONB are maintained and enhanced.

	Pre 2012		2012 - 2015		2015 - 2017	
	AONB Units per year average	Units per 1000 households	Units per year average	Units per 1000 households	Units per year average	Units per 1000 households
South Devon	82	2.61	111	3.58	198	6.38
Cornwall	82	1.02	138	1.72	386	4.82
Dorset	265	3.78	280	4.00	784	2.62

Source: An Independent Review of Housing in England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2012-2017. Commissioned by the Campaign to Protect Rural England and Landscapes for Life. Final report November 2017 Prepared by David Dixon, Neil Sinden and Tim Crabtree.

Theme 10: Transport & Highways

Taking the ferry, arriving by steam train, seeing the countryside from the top deck of an open top bus, or cycling along flower-lined winding sunken lanes, are all part of the special experience and heritage of the AONB.

Special qualities of the AONB include the intricate network of winding lanes with flower-rich hedge banks and a legacy of historic mileposts, toll houses, stone bridges and signs that together form a distinctive part of the area's character.

The highway network consists of 51km of A-road, 29km of B-road and 235km of C-road. There are 16 ferry and river cruiser services operating in the AONB, nine of which are seasonal. A further three ferry services serve locations within close proximity to the AONB boundary.

The seasonal steam train between Paignton and Kingswear is the only rail link in the AONB. The nearest mainline stations are Totnes (2km from the AONB boundary) and Ivybridge (3km). Scheduled public bus services provide daily bus connections to AONB's villages and towns although these vary with changes in operators and the market.

Vehicle trends - Traffic count data indicate that levels of car use on main AONB roads have increased.

Congestion - Intense traffic pressure, particularly in the summer months, causes congestion at certain locations and creates an intrusion into the quality of the countryside and its tranquillity.

Damage to roadsides - The degradation of roadside hedge banks and verges continues, through direct vehicle damage, the wearing of passing places, slumping, flailing, the loss of soil and stone facings, and the spread of invasive species.

Road improvements - Highway improvements from the 1960s and 1970s left a legacy of obtrusive lighting, concrete post and wire fencing, missing hedge banks and unsympathetic road alignments, while modern specifications for kerbing, signage, lining and traffic calming can have a suburbanising impact on the rural road network.

Bus services - General public reluctance and lack of confidence to use public transport undermines the viability of declining services.

Pedestrian safety - The increase in motorised traffic has rendered many rural roads unsuitable for use by walkers, horse riders and cyclists.

Large vehicles - The increasing size of freight vehicles, the narrow rural road network and the over-reliance on misleading satellite navigation instructions are leading to incidents of stuck lorries, congestion and damaged roadsides.

Network resilience - The strategic road network frequently fails as a result of even minor road traffic incidents which lead to the rapid congestion of the area's rural minor road network.

Highway maintenance - Repairing and maintaining the basic fabric of roads has been the over-riding concern of the highway authorities, absorbing most of the funding at a time of increasing constraint in public finances.

Theme 11: Rural Economy and Tourism

Forward-looking, dynamic and profitable enterprises are needed to sustain prosperity and quality of life, support the special qualities of the AONB, and contribute to its future distinctiveness. The principal economic sectors are agriculture, forestry and fishing, wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, construction, accommodation and food services, professional, scientific and technical services and human health and social work activities.

Commuting patterns indicate a strong reliance on neighbouring market towns, Plymouth, Torbay, Exeter and further afield for employment opportunities.

Levels of household deprivation (employment, education, health and housing) roughly match the regional pattern, higher levels of advanced educational qualification than the regional average and average household income slightly less than the SW average income.

Average house prices are considerably more than the South West average. Despite this, over half of all homes are owned outright, which is substantially higher than the national average.

Business premises - The high demand for residential development is causing a continued loss of business, tourism and service premises by conversion.

Employment development - A shortage of employment premises in the countryside has created a pressure for a more flexible approach to accommodate diversification and construction.

Commuting patterns - The high cost of living and below-average wages in the AONB create an obstacle to the recruitment and retention of the local workforce, particularly young people and skilled manual workers. This position also contributes toward a significant net daily commuter out-migration of high skilled workers to nearby urban centres.

Financial pressures - Higher costs of products and services, spending cuts, changes in global market forces have served to accentuate deep-rooted challenges already facing rural businesses in the area.

Skills and labour – Skill shortage and labour to maintain the traditional buildings and landscape features of the AONB.

Timber markets – Inaccessibility of the area's timber resource continue to hinder supply chain development for local woodland produce.

Essential services - Closure of essential rural services such as shops, post offices, pubs and garages are a concern. Market towns and villages, with their predominantly locally-owned shops are placed under increasing pressure.

Economic development - Local government spending cuts continue to significantly reduce the capacity of the public sector to support economic regeneration and deliver meaningful resources into the AONB.

Theme 12: Community and Culture

The AONB has a rich cultural heritage expressed through community fairs, fetes, regattas, competitions, parish activities, clubs, arts and crafts. Village life predominantly remains in good heart, centred around parish halls, community centres, churches, schools, shops and pubs. The natural beauty of the AONB contributes towards the high quality of life enjoyed by many local residents.

- There are over 32,000 people living within the South Devon AONB. The towns of Dartmouth, Salcombe and parts of Modbury and Kingsbridge, with 44 villages, 74 hamlets and many scattered farmsteads, form the settlement pattern of the AONB. The towns of Totnes and Brixham, and the urban centres of Torbay to the east and Plymouth to the west, lie close to the AONB boundary.
- In some coastal parishes nearly half the houses are second homes. In these more remote rural settlements and tourism destinations, the year round resident population is insufficient to retain essential local services and facilities.
- In the domains of health, disability, education, skills and training, crime, and the quality of outdoor environment, the AONB is ranked amongst the least deprived areas in the country; but for access to housing and services, and the provision of indoor facilities, the AONB is amongst the most deprived. Whilst the area is generally affluent, there are hidden rural pockets of deprivation.

Population change - South Devon continues to provide an attractive retirement and second home destination, and young adults are being forced to leave the area for opportunities elsewhere.

Community support - Many rural support services and community organisations are stretched and investment is needed to support repair and maintenance costs.

Rural poverty - The growth of “food banks” is one symptom of the impact of the recent economic downturn on rural poverty and deprivation.

Quality of life - A high quality of life does not extend to all. Social and cultural exclusion, poor health, poverty and isolation are still experienced, particularly amongst the elderly in hidden pockets of deprivation.

Rural knowledge - Communities are becoming increasingly divorced from land management and farming traditions, although there is an increased interest in allotment gardening and garden share schemes.

Environmental disconnection - Recent research has highlighted the growing disconnection between children and the natural environment, reflected in obesity, sedentary lifestyles, and the loss of independence and confidence in decision making.

Indicator 16: Number of parishes/towns with approved neighbourhood plans

Over the last seven years, AONB communities have responded to the opportunity to develop Neighbourhood Plans to varying degrees from enthusiastic early adopters to opting not to develop a plan. The following table summarises the current position for Neighbourhood Plan development throughout AONB Parishes and neighbourhoods. Of the 42 Town or Parish Council areas wholly or partly within the South Devon AONB, 22 are progressing or have adopted Neighbourhood Plans. The remaining 20 Parishes, all within South Hams are not currently engaged in Neighbourhood Planning. The status of Neighbourhood Plans for the Plymouth

neighbourhoods of Turnchapel, Hooe, Oreston and Mount Batten; and Goosewell are unknown. When combined, the communities and neighbourhoods listed above cover the land component of the AONB and a substantial part of its immediate landward setting.

Approved at referendum = 6	In development = 6	Designated & in early stages = 11	No active NP group = 20
Thurlestone, Newton and Noss, Malborough Ugborough, Stoke Fleming, Brixham Peninsula	Bigbury (Reg 14) Strete (Reg 16) Brixton (Reg 16) South Milton (Reg 16) Salcombe (Reg 17)	Kingswear, South Huish, Aveton Gifford, Wembury, Modbury Berry Pomeroy, Stoke Gabriel Kingston , Kingsbridge, West Alvington and Churchstow	Yealmpton, Ringmore East Portlemouth Stokenham, Slapton, Charleton Forgmore & Sherford , Loddiswell Woodleigh, North Huish, Diftord Dittisham, Cornworthy , Ashprington Blackawton Buckland-Tout-Saints Chivelstone South Pool

A complete coverage of neighbourhood plans within the AONB, driven by local communities, which contribute to conserving and enhancing the AONB

Theme 13: Awareness and Communication

While there are many individuals and groups actively involved in the AONB, with in depth knowledge of the special qualities of the area, there are gaps in awareness and communication between those who work the land, estuaries and seas, and those who enjoy it for recreation; between those who live in the AONB and those who live in the adjoining urban areas; and between those born in the area and those visiting or recently moved into it.

South Devon AONB has a well-established website with online walks and trails pages being the most popular. E-bulletins, press releases, newspaper articles, radio coverage and social media are now an integral part of AONB communication and there is an active presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Public events, activities and wider communications relating to projects are delivered by the Staff Unit each year with outputs published in the AONB Annual Report.

The AONB “brand” - The AONB designation is not an easy “brand” to communicate: South Devon does not have a clear geographical place in the public imagination or provide an obvious boundary for the AONB. Natural beauty is a difficult term to communicate effectively to different audiences, especially as most of the South Devon AONB is a cultural, working landscape shaped and managed by people.

Awareness levels - Despite concerted work to raise the profile of the AONB boundary and purpose, levels of awareness remain low. Many residents of the area, especially the young and those in adjoining urban areas, are not engaged with the AONB for a range of reasons - cultural, financial, mobility and social exclusion.

AONB Partnership - The status of the AONB Partnership Committee and Staff Unit are not clear to all and the strong partnership approach to AONB work can mask the role played by the AONB Unit.

Population turnover – In-migration bring new people with their own expectations and understanding of the area, whilst young people continue to move away taking their local perspectives with them.

Relevance of designation - The emphasis on funding essential services and economic growth is challenging the relevance and value of the AONB designation and management amongst some decision makers.

Communication themes - The other theme sections of this Management Plan have identified a range of issues requiring increased levels of awareness about heritage, farming, woodlands, estuaries, coast, marine environment and countryside recreation.

New media - Digital access continues to increase creating further opportunities for targeted communication.

Theme 14: Management, Organisation and Partnerships

The AONB Partnership Committee is a partnership of organisations and interests which works to provide a strategic lead in the conservation and enhancement of the area. While the role of preparing and monitoring the AONB Management Plan rests with the AONB Partnership Committee, the wider task of “making the Plan happen” involves a far greater range of organisations, agencies, local groups, landowners and individuals. Partnerships have been formed with a range of organisations whose activities make a significant contribution to caring for the special qualities of the South Devon AONB. Beauty. The Partnership Committees governance arrangements are set out in full in a Memorandum of Agreement, which can be viewed on the AONB website.

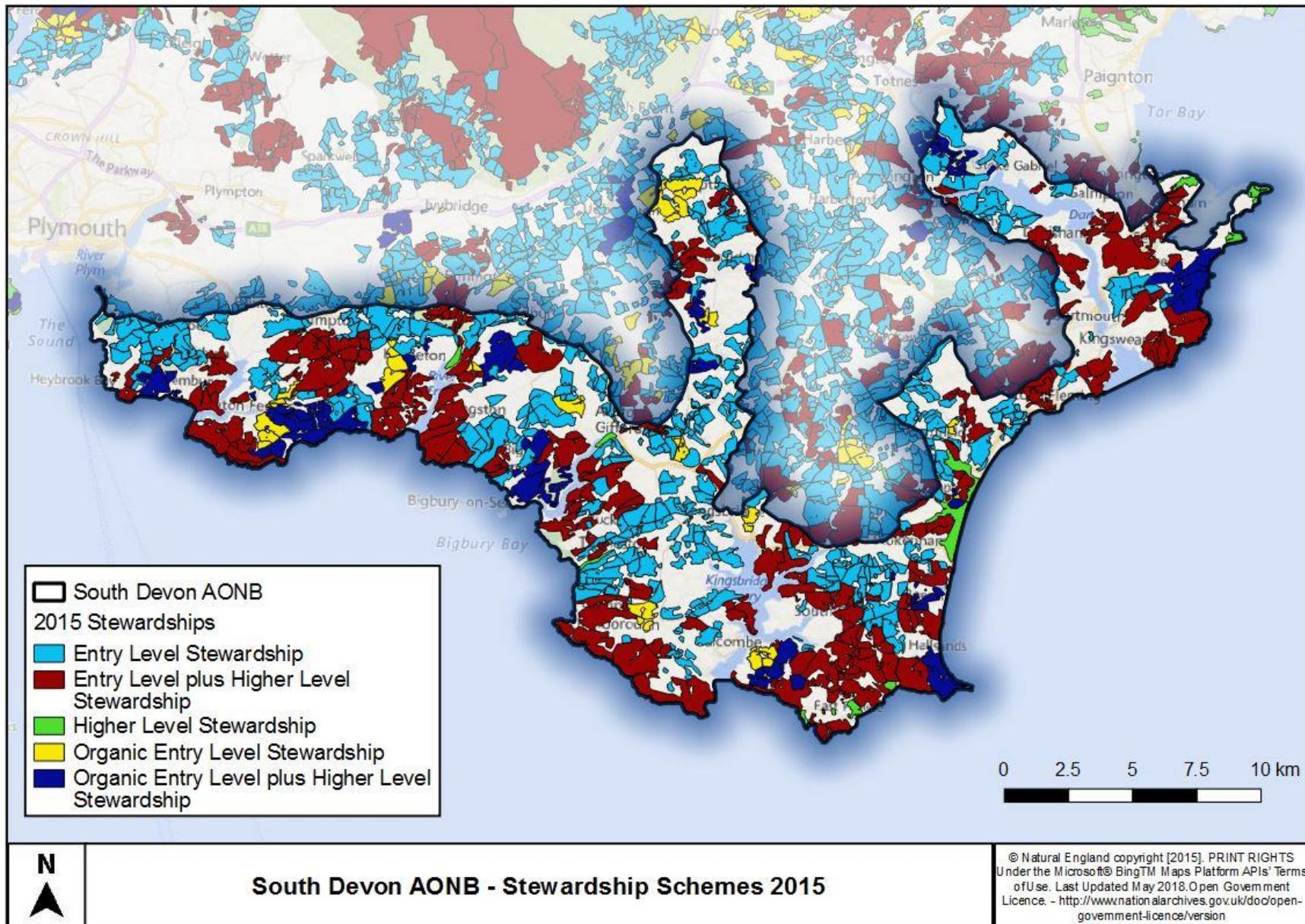
Partnership resourcing - Due to capacity issues some key partner organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to engage with local partnerships and forums.

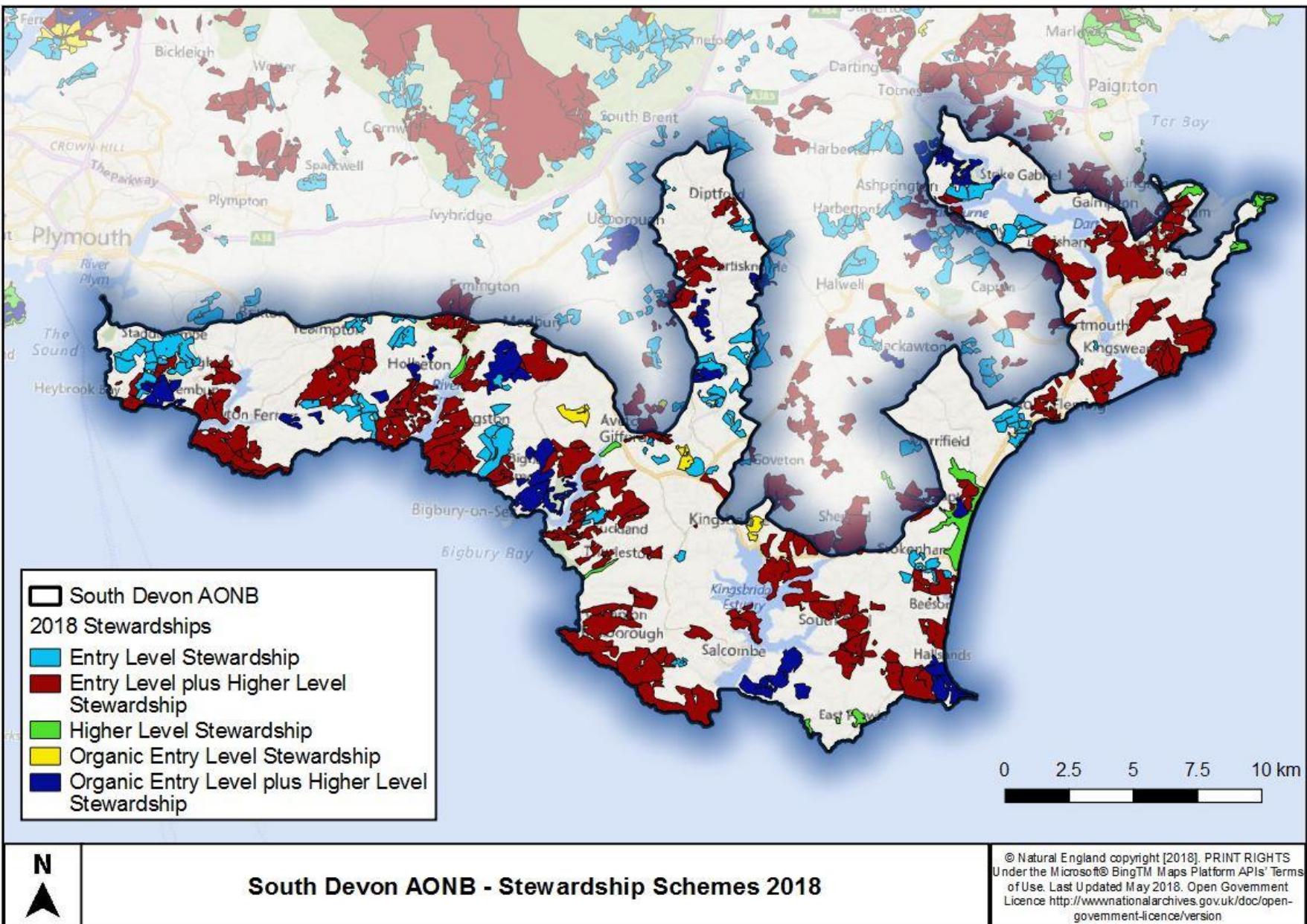
AONB funding cuts - Funding cuts to the AONB Unit budget mean that more time has to be diverted into fundraising. Project work has become more opportunistic and short term.

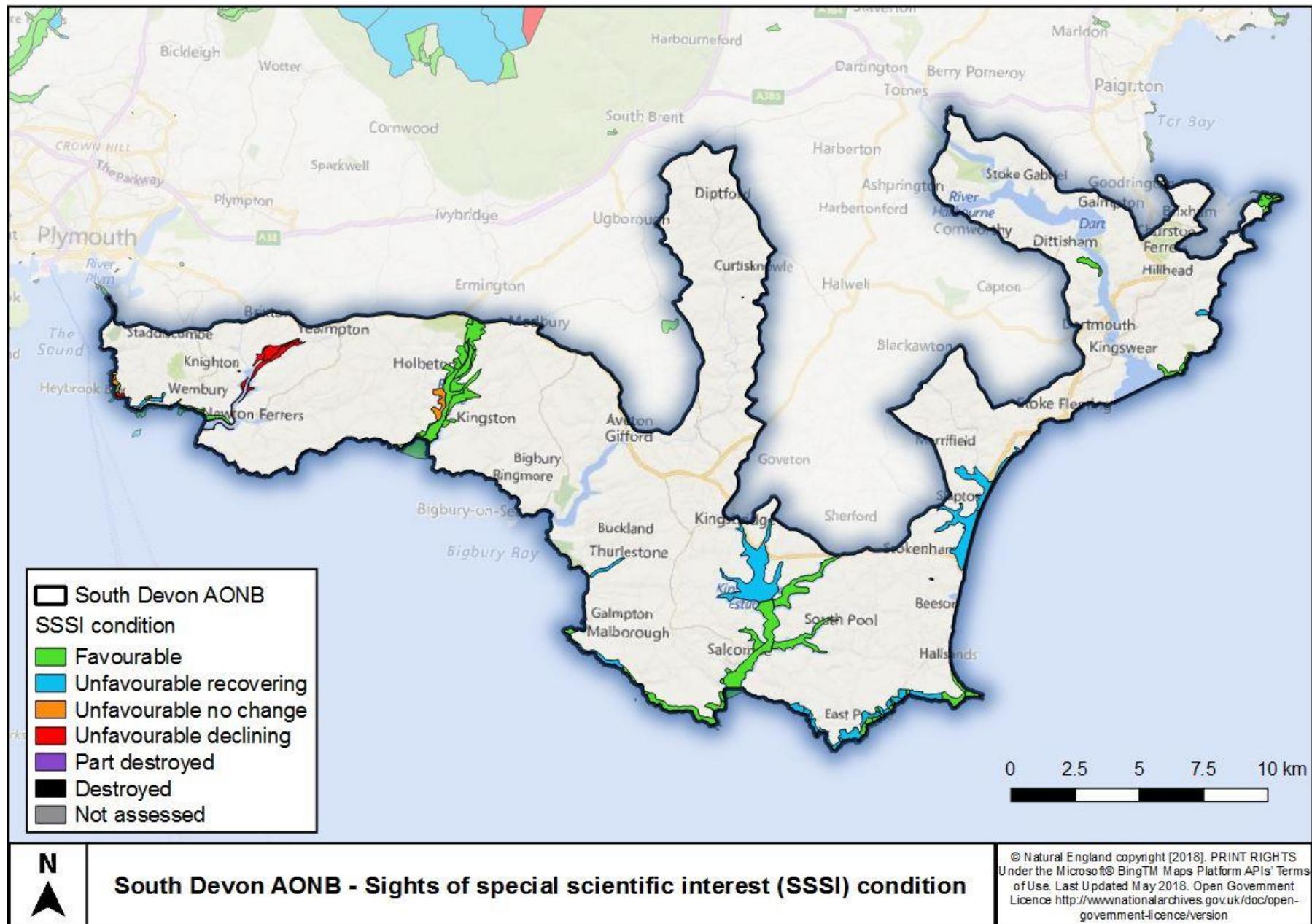
AONB boundary - The AONB boundary is regarded by some as unsatisfactory in places, as it excludes some adjoining areas of high quality landscape, while it includes other parts that have been subject to relatively recent development and may no longer merit the designation.

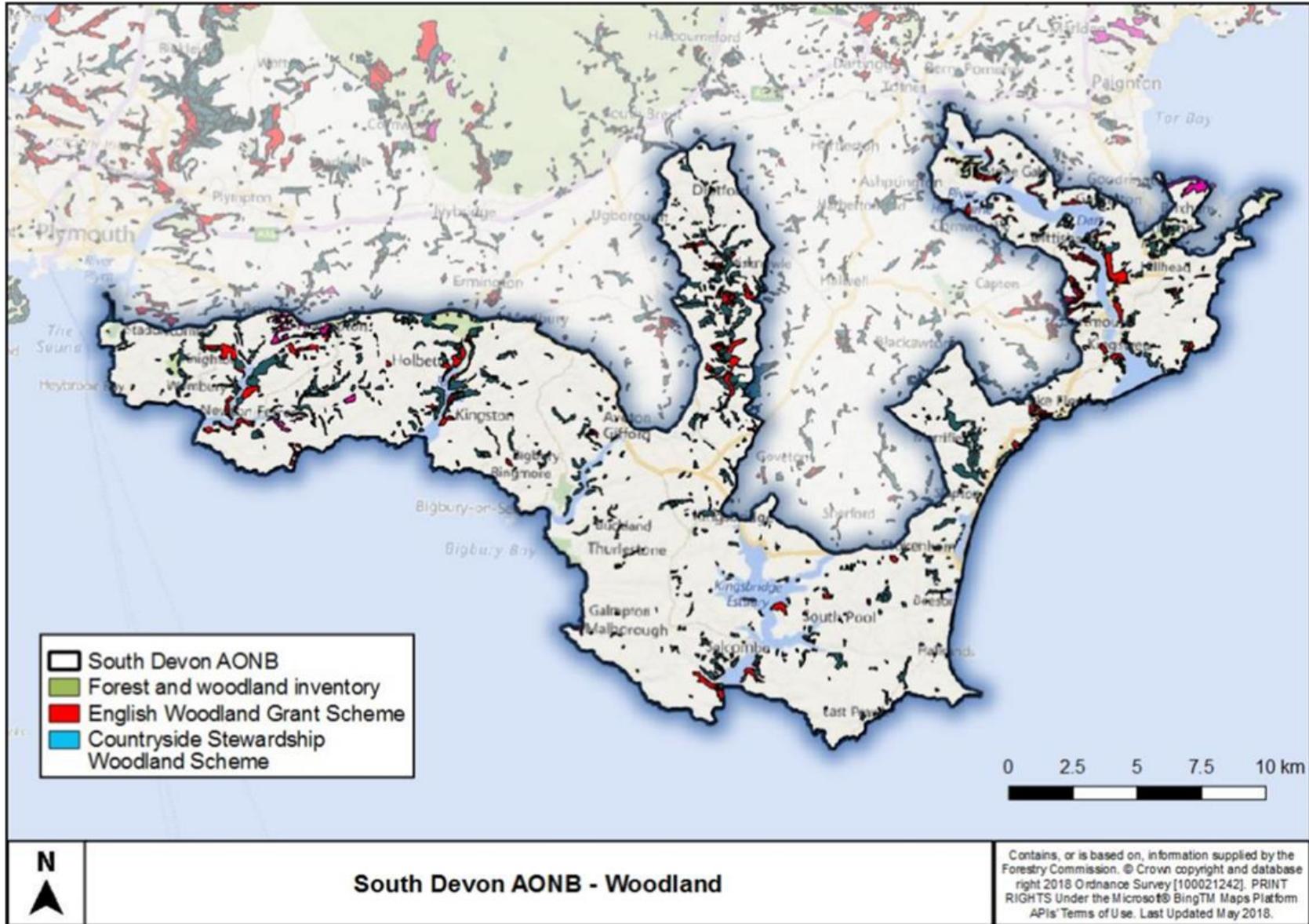
Statutory framework - Despite Defra guidance that relevant public bodies should regularly report on their compliance with the statutory duty to have regard for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB, this is seldom being done in practice. The weakness of the legislation, and the fact that AONB Plans are not in themselves legally binding, limits the ability of the AONB Partnership to influence change.

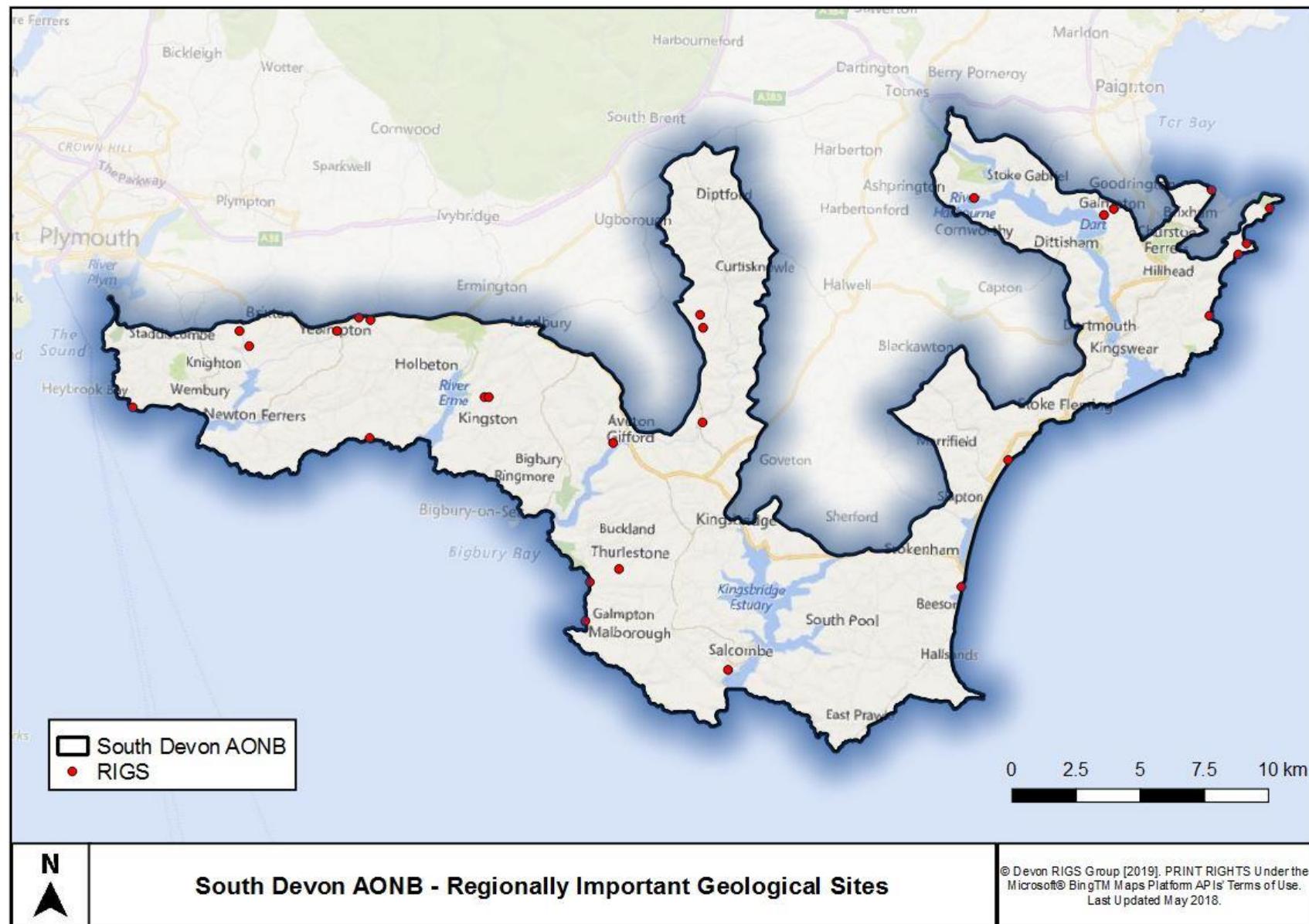
Scale of operation - The increasing emphasis on collaborative working at a strategic scale such as through Local Nature Partnerships and the Catchment-Based Approach is welcome but it could draw the AONB Unit increasingly into extending its work outside the AONB boundary.

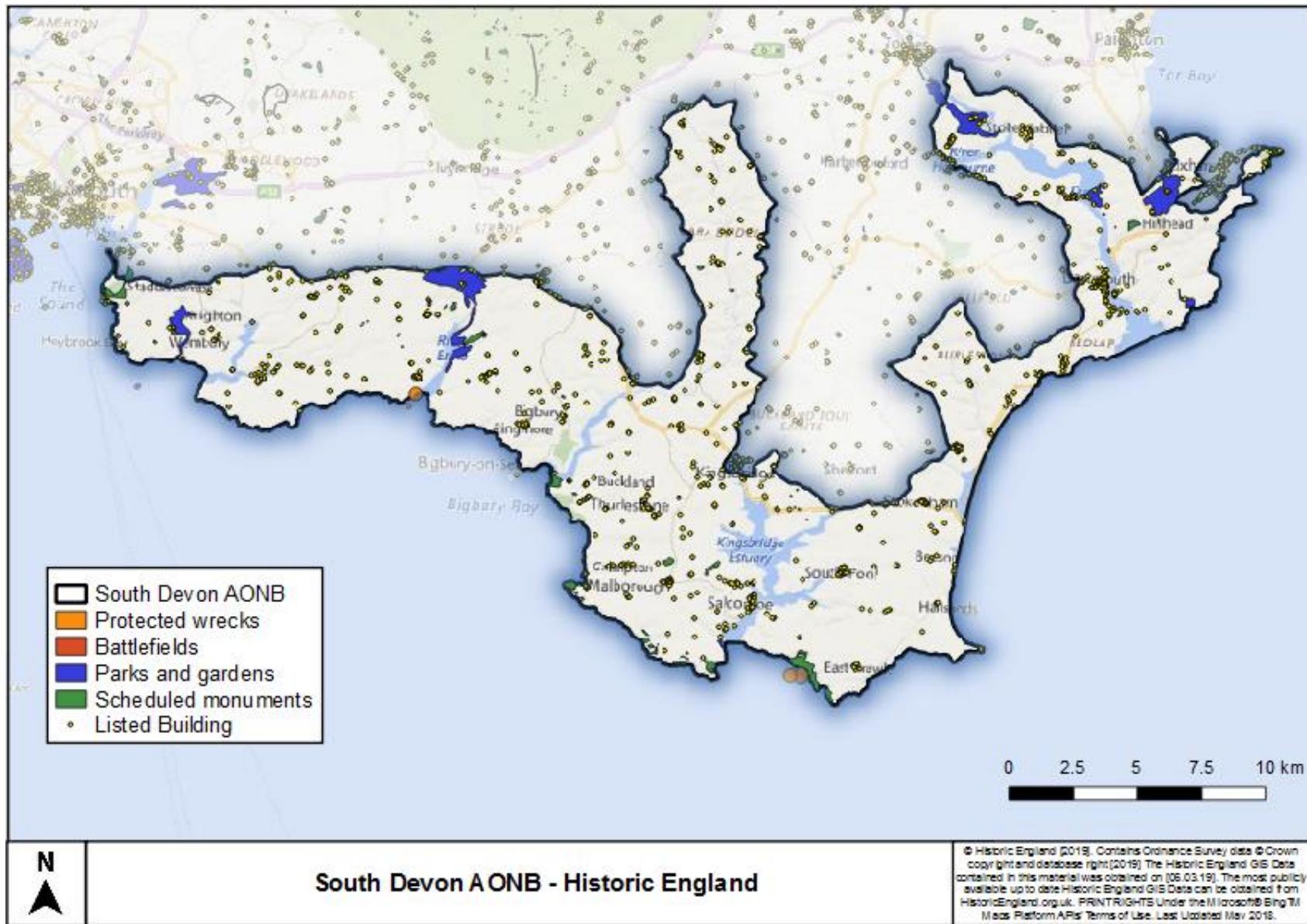


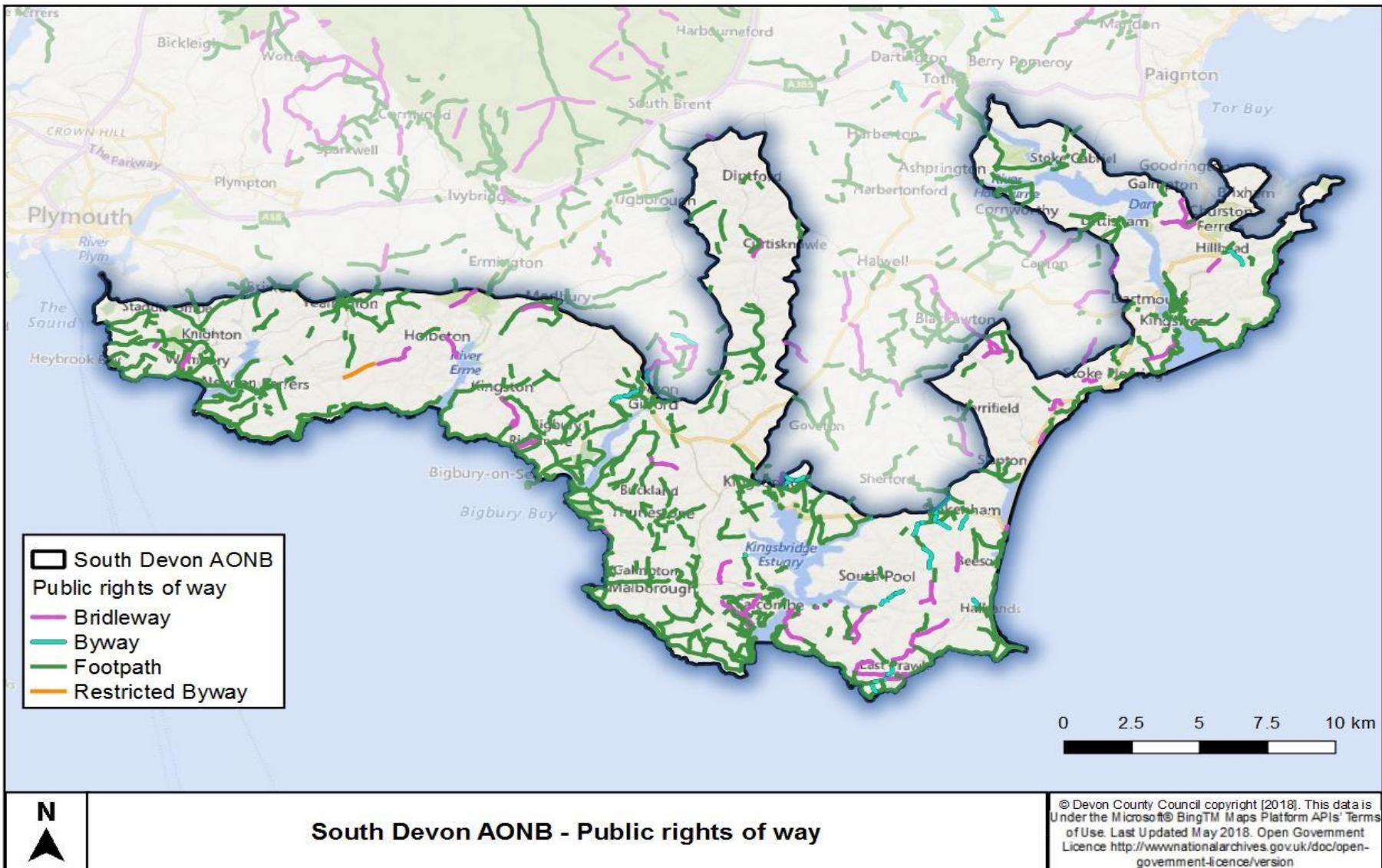












Management Plan Glossary

Affordable housing – housing provided for rent or sale at a price level which can be sustained by local people in housing need.

Ancient Tree Forum (ATF) – Founded in 1993 by a group of enthusiasts who came together to discuss ancient and veteran trees and their management. Also records distribution of ancient, veteran and other ‘special’ trees in the landscape.

Ancient woodland – defined as land that has been continually wooded since at least 1600AD. From 1600, planting of woodland became more common, so woodland that pre-dates this is more likely to have grown up naturally. Some ancient woods may even link back to the original wildwood that covered the UK around 10,000 years ago. Also, Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW).

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – designated landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding it is in the nation’s interest to safeguard them by law.

Biodiversity – the common term for ‘biological diversity’, the range of plant and animal species present in an area.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) – Action Plans concerned with protecting biodiversity, from international to national and local levels.

Biomass – living matter, for example plant material, vegetation or agricultural waste, used as a fuel or energy source.

BREXIT – the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (EU).

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) – a programme that aims to develop measures to tackle diffuse water pollution from agriculture.

Catchment Management Plans - plans to benefit whole water catchment areas by working in partnership with individuals and organisations. Records state of water quality, habitats and species, impacts and issues to be addressed.

Category V Protected Landscapes – refers to category of lived-in landscapes in the United Nations list of protected areas. These areas are characterised by their scenic beauty.

Clean Air Strategy 2018 – Draft DEFRA strategy open for public consultation until 14 August 2018. Outlines government ambitions relating to reducing air pollution in the round, making our air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy.

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) – European-wide policy that supports agriculture through price support, market management and measures to improve the agricultural industry.

Community Infrastructure Levy - a levy that local authorities in England and Wales can choose to charge on new developments in their area (Aug 2013).

Community Interest Company (CIC) - a special type of limited company, which exists to benefit the community rather than private shareholders.

Conservation Area – an area of special architectural or historic interest, with a character or appearance considered desirable to preserve or enhance.

Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 – provides protection to European animals and plants.

Cordiale - a cross border (South West England and North West France) Interreg IVa protected landscapes project working on sustainable landscape management that ran

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) - confirms the significance of AONBs. Section 85 places a statutory duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function in relation to, or affecting, land within an AONB.

County Geological Site (CGS) – non-statutory designation used to identify some of the most significant areas for geology and Earth heritage. They underpin and expand the network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are of county or regional importance in their own right (previously referred to as Regionally Important Geological Sites).

CRoW Act – Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - confirmed the significance of AONBs. Section 85 places a statutory (legal) duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function in relation to, or affecting land within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. www.defra.gov.uk/wildlifecountryside/cl/index.htm

Department for Environment , Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) – the Government department responsible for dealing with environmental issues, agriculture, food and rural affairs.

Designed Landscape – an area of land, which has been modified by people for primarily aesthetic effect. The term is used by historians to denote sites such as gardens, parks, cemeteries and wider estates.

Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project – 5 year Heritage Lottery Funded project led by Devon Wildlife Trust. The Tamar Valley AONB is one of the project partners.

Devon Special Species lists – long list of species known to be rare in Devon and short list of species for which Devon has a particular responsibility.

Ecological Network - an ecological network is a joined-up group of natural and semi- natural habitats which is managed with the objective of maintaining or restoring ecological function, in order to conserve biodiversity. Ecological networks are provided as a response to biodiversity decline and aim to provide a connected collection of refuges for wildlife. These networks are the basic natural infrastructure that will begin to enable biodiversity to recover from recent declines and help to protect socially and economically important ecosystem goods and services.

Ecosystem Services - The range of public goods and services derived from the natural environment.

English Woodland Grant Scheme – grants for woodland management, improvement, creation, planning and assessment administered through the Forestry Commission.

Entry Level Scheme (ELS) – Entry Level of Environmental Stewardship (ES), an agri-environment scheme launched in 2005 where land managers receive payment for simple, effective environmental management.

Environment Agency – the principal environmental regulator in England and Wales, relating to pollution, waste and the water environment.

European Landscape Convention - also known as the Florence Convention, after the city where the convention was adopted - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European cooperation on landscape issues. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscape.

European Marine Sites (EMS) - collectively describes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) that are covered by tidal waters and protect some of our most important marine and coastal habitats and species of European importance.

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) South West - seeks to support, enthuse & inspire fellow farmers to value the environmental assets on their land & use them to secure sustainable & profitable businesses for the future.

Feature of Conservation Importance (FOCI) - A habitat or species that is rare, threatened or declining in our waters.

Forestry Commission - the government department responsible for the protection and expansion of England and Scotland forests and woodlands.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - a legal framework that sets guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information of individuals within the European Union (EU).

Geodiversity – may be defined as the natural range (diversity) of geological features (rocks, minerals, fossils, structures), geomorphological features (landforms and processes) and soil features that make up the landscape.

Geological Conservation Review – founded in 1977 to identify those sites of national and international importance needed to show all the key scientific elements of the Earth heritage of Britain.

Green Infrastructure - is a strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. (Blue Infrastructure - if aquatic ecosystems are involved).

Glover Review/Protected Landscape review 2018 – DEFRA , nearly 70 years after National Parks and AONBs were first established, this review will ensure designated landscapes are fit for purpose.

Habitat – the place where a particular animal or plant lives, or the wider interaction of plants and animals that are found together.

Habitat Regulations Assessment - The purpose of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is to identify any aspects of the emerging Local Plan that would have the potential to cause a likely significant effect on Natura 2000 or European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites), (either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects), and to identify appropriate avoidance and mitigation strategies where such effects were identified.

Heritage at Risk (HAR) - a dynamic picture of the health of England's heritage published annually by Historic England as a list of those sites most at risk of being lost through neglect, decay or inappropriate development.

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) – the National Lottery distributor responsible for giving grants to projects, which conserve and enable people to learn about and be involved in their heritage.

High Nature Value Farming – this concept developed from a growing recognition that the conservation of biodiversity in Europe depends on the continuation of low-intensity farming systems.

Higher Level Scheme (HLS) – Higher Level of Environmental Stewardship (ES), an agri-environment scheme launched in 2005 where land managers receive payment for more complex management of specific types of landscape and features considered particularly valuable.

Historic England (HE)- the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment (formerly English Heritage).

Historic Environment Record (HER) – a system for recording information about the historic environment, such as archaeological sites and finds, designated sites, historic landscapes, historic buildings and other features in the landscape. These records were previously known as Sites and Monuments Records (SMR).

Historic Landscape Analysis – in-depth analysis, usually at a parish scale, of the historic landscape as it appears today underneath the buildings and infrastructure of today. It draws on Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and other historic area studies, but will involve fieldwork and further, usually archival, research.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) – analysis of the countryside looking at the land uses and historical influences which have created modern components of the landscape.

Indicators – ways of quantifying and measuring the impact of policy objectives. In this Plan, primary indicators refer to readily available data held by organisations and secondary indicators, which will require new research or additional analysis.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - assesses the scientific, technical and socioeconomic information relevant for the understanding of the risk of human-induced climate change.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - the World Conservation Union. IUCN Category V protected landscape – Protected Landscape/Seascape protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation. Area of land, with coast and sea as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural value, and often with high biological diversity. Safeguarding the integrity of this traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of such an area.

Landscape Character Area (LCA) - areas which share similar landscape characteristics. These areas represent the next scale down from the large national areas and give an overview of how landscapes change across the country.

Landscape Character Assessment - a tool to understand and articulate the character of the landscape; identify the features that give a locality its ‘sense of place’; and pinpoints what makes it different from neighbouring areas. The assessments are county wide and identify Landscape Character Areas, which are amalgamated from smaller Landscape Description Units.

Landscape Description Unit (LDU) - the building blocks of landscape character studies and the base unit for the construction of the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). The areas have been mapped using nationally available information on physiographic, ground type, land cover and cultural pattern. Local data on biodiversity and the historic landscape will be added to the LDU descriptions to give further local detailing. LDUs are the smallest unit in landscape characterisation studies, although their sizes vary depending on the uniformity of the landscape in a given place.

Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) - a grant scheme that forms an important part of National Grid’s Visual Impact Provision project. The overall objective of the scheme is to reduce the landscape and visual impact of National Grid’s existing electricity infrastructure and enhance the quality of the affected designated landscapes.

Landscape Monitoring Units (LMU) - suitably sized areas of common landscape character identified to enable change to be monitored over time. The identification of LMUs is based on the information contained within Landscape Character Assessment.

Lidar - a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with laser light and analysing the reflected light. Lidar is popularly known as a technology used to make high resolution maps.

Listed Buildings – buildings of special architectural or historic interest listed by the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Local Development Framework (LDF) – a written statement and proposals map formulating the district planning authority’s detailed policies for the development and use of land in its area.

Local Enterprise Partnership – in 2011 the Government invited local councils and businesses to set up voluntary partnerships to help strengthen local economies and set out local economic priorities. The HoTSW is relevant to South Devon

Local Nature Partnership (LNP)- partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment. Setting up LNPs was one of the commitments Defra made in the Natural Environment White Paper 2011.

Local Nature Reserve – a statutory designation offering people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

Local Planning Authority (LPA) - the local authority or council that is empowered by law to exercise statutory town planning functions for a particular area of the United Kingdom.

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) - a type of marine protected area, existing alongside European marine sites, SSSIs and Ramsar sites to form an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive - outlines a transparent, legislative framework for an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities, which supports the sustainable use of marine goods and services.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) - a document written between parties to cooperate on an agreed upon project or meet an agreed objective. The purpose of an MOA is to have a written understanding of the agreement between parties.

National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) - formed in 1998 as an independent organisation to act on behalf of AONBs in England and Wales.

National Bat Monitoring Programme – annual bat surveys undertaken by volunteers, run by the Bat Conservation Trust.

National Character Areas - 159 distinct natural areas defined by Natural England. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.

National Forest Inventory – accurate, up-to-date information about the size, distribution, composition and condition of our forests and woodlands, delivered by the Forestry Commission.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications (2018).

National Nature Reserve (NNR) - areas where wildlife comes first – established to protect most important sites of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain. The majority have some form of public access.

Natural England (NE) – the Government's adviser on the natural environment for England. Its remit is to ensure the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations.

Neighbourhood Plan - A plan prepared by a parish council or neighbourhood forum for a designated neighbourhood area. In law this is described as a neighbourhood development plan in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) – Interim name for the next round of agri-environment schemes to be delivered through the Rural Development Programme for England, rolled out in 2015. **Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)** – ancient woodland sites currently under coniferous plantation.

Orthostat - A large slab-like stone that has been artificially set upright. They are often prehistoric stones that constitute part of larger structures.

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) - identified by locally developed criteria, are the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land. RIGS are selected in a different way to Earth science SSSIs, which are chosen on a national basis. RIGS are selected on a local or regional basis using four nationally agreed criteria. Nationally important geological sites are protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Registered Parks & Gardens - the English Heritage ‘Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England’, established in 1983, currently identifies over 1,600 sites assessed to be of national importance.

Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) – Government funding programme for projects to improve agriculture, the environment and rural life. Runs from 2014-2020.

Scheduled Monument – a protected archaeological site or historic building of national importance (also Scheduled Ancient Monument).

Single Payment Scheme – the principal agricultural subsidy scheme in the European Union. Subsidies are not linked to production and environmentally friendly farming practices are better acknowledged and rewarded.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – areas designated by Natural England or its predecessors as being of special interest because of their flora, fauna, geomorphological or physiographical features.

South West Protected Landscapes Forum – informal association that encouraged networking and exchange of information and ideas between the AONBs and National Parks in the south-west region. This has now merged with the National Association for AONBs.

South West Marine Management Organisation Plan (SWMMO) - The south west marine plan areas includes the south west inshore and south west offshore marine plan areas including the tidal estuaries.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive providing statutory protection for habitats and species of European importance.

Special Protection Area (SPA) - designated under the European Birds Directive because of their importance to birds. **Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEOs)** – Aspirational opportunities for action identified in the National Character Area Priorities.

Special Qualities - AONBs are designated solely for their landscape qualities, for the purpose of conserving and enhancing their natural beauty. Designation under the provisions of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act is to secure their permanent protection against development that would damage their special qualities. The AONBs special qualities are listed in the AONB Management Plan.

Staddle stone- used as supporting bases for granaries, hayricks, game larders, etc. The staddle stones lifted the granaries above the ground thereby protecting the stored grain from vermin and water seepage.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - the purpose of an SEA is to ensure that land-use plans and programmes, that are likely to have significant effects on the environment are subjected to a strategic level (high and overarching) assessment of options and alternative courses of action during plan preparation in order to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects.

Sustainability - as defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development as 'development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

Tranquillity – the quality of calm experienced in places with mainly natural features and activities, free from disturbance from man-made ones (as defined by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England).

Tree Health Resilience Strategy 2018 – DEFRA strategy explaining how the government will work with others to protect England's tree population from pest and disease threats.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) – "created in 1945 order to respond to the firm belief of nations, forged by two world wars in less than a generation, that political and economic agreements are not enough to build a lasting peace". One of their beliefs is to build "intercultural understanding: through protection of heritage and support for cultural diversity". UNESCO created the idea of World Heritage to protect sites of outstanding universal value and inscribe World Heritage Status.

Water Framework Directive (WFD) – part of UK law, the WFD provides an opportunity to plan and deliver a better water environment, focusing on ecology, through a management planning cycle.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 - the principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain.

World Heritage Site (WHS) - a place (such as a forest, mountain, lake, island, desert, monument, building, complex or city) that is listed by UNESCO as of special cultural or physical significance.

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Access Recreation & Tourism

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: Coastal Access (Natural England, 2008)

Climate change and tourism in the South of England (Government Office Southwest, 2007)

Enjoying water: a strategy for water based recreation in the South West 2009 – 2014 (Environment Agency, 2009)

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Working with Planning: A Good Practice Guide (South West Protected Landscape Forum, 2004)

Local Development Framework Briefing Papers: Landscape Protection and Enhancement (Devon County Council, 2007)

Local Development Framework Briefing Paper: Devon Travel Strategy (Devon County Council, 2006)

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South Hams Local Development Framework: Annual Monitoring Report (South Hams District Council, 2006)

South West Regional Implementation Plan 2007 – 2013 (Rural Development Programme for England, 2006)

South West Regional Sustainable Development Indicators Factsheet (Defra, 2008)

Land Use Change statistics (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2008)

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (Department of Communities and Local Government, 2008)

Summary of Questionnaire survey of planning activity across the SW AONBs (Southwest Protected Landscape Forum, 2004)

Land Use Change Indicators for Protected Areas (University of Sheffield, 2007)

Torbay Green Space Strategy (Torbay Council, 2007)

Transport & Highways

Local Development Framework Briefing Paper: Local Transport Plan (Devon County Council, 2006)

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HoTSW Productivity Strategy (2018)

Exploration of the relationship between locality foods and landscape character (Land Use Consultants in association with Carol Trewin and Laura Mason for the Countryside Agency, 2006)

State of the Devon Economy (Devon County Council, 2007)

Rural challenges, local solutions: Building on the Rural Delivery Pathfinders in England (Defra, 2007)

South West of England Sustainable Farming & Food Delivery Plan 2008 – 2011: Changing Landscapes, Changing Outlooks (South West Chamber of Rural Enterprise, 2008)

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Connecting actively to nature project (DCC, 2018)

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AONB Management

Countryside Quality Counts: Analysis for the AONBs of England (University of Nottingham, 2009)

Protocol for the involvement in AONB Management Planning by Natural England and Defra (Natural England and Defra, 2008)

Preparing for Management Plan Review (National Association of AONBs, 2007)

Awareness & Communication

Survey of Public Attitudes and Behaviours toward the Environment (Defra, 2014)

Measuring Performance

AONB National Performance Indicators (NAAONBs 2018)

Land use change indicators for protected areas (Natural England, 2007)

State of the Environment (Devon LNP, Dec 2017)

Examples that support policy definitions and priorities	
	Examples of features, services and activity
NatRes/P5	This includes the reuse of locally distinctive building materials.
NatRes/P6	Examples of initiatives include energy usage and carbon dioxide emissions, and increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable heat and power sources particularly from local woodfuel supply chains.
BioGeo/P3	the creation, enhancement or planned “migration” of habitats which are under threat from human activity, climate change or sea level rise, using the Devon Nature Map and its Strategic Nature Areas as guidance.
BioGeo/P6	Land includes farmland, private gardens, community spaces and publicly owned land.
Hist/P2	Due to the number and extent of designated and non-designated historic features and the age and complexity of the field, road and settlement pattern.
Hist/P8	catchment sensitive farming, habitat improvement projects, river improvement projects
LanMan/P2	High Nature Value farmland and woodland is a term used to describe these areas
LanMan/P4	historic environment and geodiversity features, habitats and species of importance, local breeds of livestock and varieties of plants, and traditional working farmstead buildings.
Acc/P2	coastal, estuary and riverside trails and green lanes
Trans/P1	lighting, signage and verge management
Trans/P6	cycle routes, safe pedestrian paths between villages, park and ride schemes, hopper buses, community transport schemes, bus priority measures and ferry services

Comm/P2	energy efficiency and generation, sustainable building and renovation, allotment gardening, community woodland and orchard projects and alternative transport options to the private car.
Lan/P5	protection against intrusive energy generation, transmission and communications infrastructure; external lighting that creates night time scenic intrusion; and visually dominating buildings that are inconsistent with landscape character.
BioGeo/P2	Priority species could include legally protected species, species of principal importance and other significant species for South Devon AONB.

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