

Friday 13th March 2020
Kingswear Village Hall



Public presentation 9.00am – 9.30am

Grant Bettinson – CITiZAN

CITiZAN collaborates with local groups to record and understand intertidal and coastal archaeology. Come and hear incredible stories, history and mystery from the Dart estuary.

Public open forum 9.35am – 9.50am

An opportunity to share your views about the South Devon AONB with the AONB Partnership Chairman and the AONB Manager.

South Devon AONB Partnership Committee meeting
10.00am–12.00pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend this session as observers.

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB Partnership Committee Meeting

to be held at

10am on Friday 13th March 2020

at

Kingswear Village Hall

Agenda & Papers



South Devon AONB Staff Unit, Follaton House, Totnes, TQ9 5NE
Telephone 01803 861384 Email enquiries@southdevonaonb.org.uk

AONB Partnership Committee Membership

Members nominated by local authorities

Devon County Council	Cllr Roger Croad Cllr Jonathan Hawkins (officer advising: Peter Chamberlain)
Plymouth City Council	Sarah Foque
South Hams District Council	Cllr Rosemary Rowe Cllr Bernard Taylor (officer advising Graham Swiss)
Torbay Council	Cllr Anne Brooks (officer advising Tracy Brooks)

Members nominated by statutory agencies

Environment Agency	Rob Price
Forestry Commission	Kate Tobin
Historic England	Ross Simmonds
Natural England	Eamon Crowe

Members co-opted by the AONB Partnership Committee

National Trust	Richard Snow
Plymouth University	John Martin (Vice Chairman)
Independent	John Green (Chairman)

Community Representatives

Amenity groups	Geoffrey Osborn
Business community	Kate Ryder
Coast and marine sector	Vacant
Community/voluntary groups	Peter Sandover
Environmental organisations (NGOs)	Ed Parr-Ferris
Landowning/farming community	Robert Steer
Parish Councils	Lynne Maurer
Tourism community	Samantha Dennis

AONB Unit staff attending

AONB Manager	Roger English
AONB Office Manager	Vanessa Gray
AONB Projects Officer	Adam Davison
AONB Community Projects Officer	Nicky Bailey

Agenda

Item 1 (5 mins)	Introductions & apologies for absence	
Item 2	Declarations of Interests	
Item 3 (5 mins)	Minutes of the last Partnership Committee meeting (6 th December 2019) for approval & any matters arising	Page 4
Item 4 (10 mins) (15 mins)	AONB Partnership matters 4a) Adoption of the refreshed South Devon AONB Planning Protocol 4b) Round-table partner updates	Page 15 Verbal
Item 5 (25 mins) (10 mins) (15 mins)	AONB Management 5a) NAAONB Colchester Declaration on Nature and Nature Recovery Networks 5b) 2020/21 draft Delivery Plan 5c) Celebrating South Devon at Sixty: 60 th Anniversary Project	Page 22 Page 27 Page 40
Item 6 (15 mins) (10 mins)	National Activity 6a) Resilient Landscapes: monitoring landscape change 6b) National Association for AONBs including Landscapes for Life 2020 Conference	To follow Verbal
Item 7 (10 mins)	For Information 7a) Current and recent key planning matters 7b) Planning update covering the last quarter 7c) Key AONB project programmes and AONB Staff Unit priorities	Page 41 Separate report to follow Page 43

Agenda timings are provided as a guide

Agenda Item 3

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH DEVON AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

HELD AT HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL
ON FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER 2019

1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Those present were:

Cllr Jonathan Hawkins	JH	Devon County Council
Peter Chamberlain	PC	Devon County Council
Cllr Bernard Taylor	BT	South Hams District Council
Graham Swiss	GS	South Hams District Council
Cllr Anne Brooks	AB	Torbay Council
Tracy Brooks	TB	Torbay Council
Eamon Crowe	EC	Natural England
John Martin	Vice-chair	Plymouth University
John Green	Chair	Independent
Geoffrey Osborn	GO	Representative: amenity groups
Robert Steer	RS	Representative: landowning and farming
Lynne Maurer	LM	Representative: parishes
Samantha Dennis	SD	Representative: tourism community
Rob Price	RP	Environment Agency
Kate Tobin	KT	Forestry Commission
Roger English	RE	AONB Manager
Adam Davison	AD	AONB Project Officer
Vanessa Gray		AONB Office Manager – minute taker

Also attending:

Tom Jones	South Hams District Council
Chris Brook	South Hams District Council
James Mason	Forestry Commission

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Rosemary Rowe	South Hams District Council
Sophie Hosking	Chief Executive, South Hams District Council
Richard Snow	National Trust
Lorna Sherriff	National Trust
Peter Sandover	Representative: community/voluntary groups
Ed Parr Ferris	Representative: environmental organisations (NGOs)

Observers

Individuals and representatives from various groups attended as observers, including representatives from South Hams Society and Dartmouth and Kingswear Society.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- 2.1 No interests were declared

3. MINUTES OF THE 14th JUNE 2019 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING FOR APPROVAL & ANY MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The notes of the last meeting were accepted as true record.

3.2 It was noted that most actions had been completed.

3.2.1 With regards to action 10, an update will be provided as part of this agenda under item 5.

3.2.2 The action to arrange a dedicated workshop on the National Marine Park proposal has not taken place. Plymouth City Council, the main lead on this project, have said that stakeholder consultations will take place in early 2020, having been delayed due to the general election.

3.2.3 In relation to action 2 regarding thistle control, Richard Snow sent an update to the meeting. There are a range of controls but if chemical control is required the current answer is glyphosate spot spray. Here is a link to guidance on the range of measures available and when to apply them:

http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/assets/pdfs/Thistle_Control_in_GrasslandLATEST.pdf

3.2.4 Work to produce an initial draft of a template letter, suitable for use to lobby Government on second home issues, will commence pre-Christmas.

4A GLOVER REVIEW PROPOSALS AND THE SOUTH DEVON AONB

The AONB Manager briefed Members on the Landscapes Review final report. The meeting Papers contained the full list of the proposals as a matrix that included the AONB Manager's assessment of whether the proposal:

- is already being delivered or planned to be delivered
- could be actioned without significant extra resources
- significant funding or capacity would be required
- requires legislation

The AONB Manager added the current relative priority for South Devon AONB (High/Medium/Low) to the matrix along with his comments.

Key points:

4a.1 The list of proposals has not been costed however some may be achievable with a Partnership decision for a change of direction. Other proposals will rely on finance and legislative changes.

4a.2 Defra are preparing information in support of the Government response to the Landscapes Review. An announcement is anticipated to be made early 2020.

4a.3 Members are encouraged to consider the South Devon AONB Partnership response. In particular to look at the list of proposals list, identifying those that could be prioritised to be taken forward straight away. The delivery plan for next financial year is currently being developed and there is some flexibility to incorporate Partnership priorities where additional funding and resource are not required.

ACTION 1 (ALL): The AONB Manager requests that Members send comments on the proposals to him. Feedback will be collated and used to commence preparing a Partnership Committee response.

4a.4 The AONB Manager invited Members to look at the areas of work where action could be taken now.

ACTION 2 (ALL): The AONB Chair invited Members to inform the AONB Manager of any projects that support any of the Glover Review Proposals.

4a.5 The Vice-chair informed Members that Plymouth University provided some evidence to the Glover Review in terms of indicators. They now have some funding to work locally with Natural England and Defra on identifying some of those indicators and their use to measure issues and improvements. Will work with National Parks and AONBs to understand the issues and will be working closely with South Devon AONB unit.

- 4a.6 The representative for tourism highlighted the key role public transport has in sustainable tourism as well as the importance of having information available to educate visitors and influence behaviour. The Tourism representative also raised the possibility of obtaining contributions from tourism businesses in the South Devon AONB. The key will be to request donations in support of defined projects to conserve and improve the area, rather than contributions to the AONB generally.

It was then:

RESOLVED:

- i. The AONB Manager invited Members to contact him, or another member of the staff unit, to aid their understanding of the Proposals how these may relate to their own area of interest; as well as to explore opportunities such as those outlined by the Tourism representative.
- ii. The AONB Response to the Glover Review Proposals will be on the agenda for the next Partnership Committee meeting to be held on Friday 13 March 2020.

4B GENERAL UPDATE FROM SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL INCLUDING PARTNERSHIPS REVIEW

Chris Brook, Director of Place and Enterprise from South Hams District Council (SHDC), underlined the close working relationship that exists between SHDC and the AONB staff unit.

Key points:

- 4b.1 SHDC is committed to continued financial support and recognises that it would need to respond to any changes that come following the Glover Review.
- 4b.2 The South Devon AONB Partnership may have become a higher priority for Councillors since declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency five months ago.
- 4b.3 The SHDC climate and biodiversity action plan will go to full Council in December. Some elements of the plan include:
- i. Strategic planning / protecting landscapes
 - ii. After initially tackling the Authority's own emissions, it moves on to examining energy and finally emissions outside of the Authority's direct control.
 - iii. Areas of close work with partners who have a role in the landscape as offsetting carbon emissions will also have a key role.
 - iv. The action plan will also inform the Devon Carbon Plan.
- 4b.4 SHDC is in the process of approving a three-year partnership contribution for the South Devon AONB Partnership.
- i. In response to this the AONB Chair explored whether there would be a service level agreement (SLA) as part of a three-year finance model. Director of Place and Enterprise, Chris Brook, confirmed where SHDC have grant funding arrangements, an SLA will be put in place using targets that reflect the submissions each partner provided the Authority.
 - ii. In response to a Partner question to illustrate the types of targets that may be put in place for the South Devon AONB Partnership, Tom Jones (Head of Placemaking) stated that there would be some key targets set. Although unable to predetermine what Councillors will require, it is likely the following areas will be key:
 - Close working between AONB and SHDC Landscape Officers
 - Timely responses to developers to encourage better design
 - Timely responses for applications going to Development Management Committee
 - SLA's for project work aligned to SHDC objectives and statutory duties
 - Business as usual targets would be likely given the potential of the Glover review and declared climate and biodiversity crisis

- iii. Cllr. Jonathan Hawkins, Member of the AONB Partnership and Executive Member of SHDC, highlighted that SHDC are seeking best value for partnership funding and wish to ensure the partners they fund are working closely with them. The ongoing climate emergency is an SHDC objective and part of the core strategy.
 - iv. Peter Chamberlain referred to the mention of Local Authority statutory duty with regard to the AONB and emphasised the importance of the SLA covering the fundamentals. The expectation is the SLA will be based around these duties.
- 4b.5 A question was raised regarding the confidential nature of the pre-application advice process at SHDC, and whether there would be a change to make this more transparent. Although this is a question for Pat Whymer, head of the Development Management service at SHDC, Chris Brook added that wherever required, pre-apps can be made available. The representative for amenity groups voiced concerns that pre-application advice could prejudice subsequent discussions. Chris Brook, SHDC, and Tracy Brooks, Torbay Council, confirmed their respective Authorities awareness of the AONB and what is required of them.

It was then:

RESOLVED:

- 4b.6 Members of the Partnership Committee and Core Funding Group to be given the opportunity to discuss proposed SLAs once known.

5A ASH DIEBACK IN DEVON – IMPLICATIONS FOR LAND MANAGEMENT

The AONB Chair welcomed Kate Tobin, Local Partnership Advisor for the South West, and James Mason, Woodland Officer for Dartmoor and South Devon, from the Forestry Commission.

Kate Tobin informed Members on ash dieback across the country and the implications for the AONB. Further detail on ash dieback was contained in the Papers for this meeting.

Key points:

- 5a.1 Ash dieback is a disease that threatens to wipe out over 90% of Britain's native ash species and is likely to cause safety issues that need to be managed by landowners.
- 5a.2 Loss of ash trees will impact wildlife and the character of the AONB.
- 5a.3 Kate Tobin referenced a suite of leaflets that have been produced on the subject.
- 5a.4 Advice is available. The Ash Dieback Resilience Forum, leading the response to Ash dieback in Devon, is a good source of information <https://www.devonashdieback.org.uk/>. Leaflets produced by the Ash Dieback Resilience Forum were brought to the meeting by Peter Chamberlain who also outlined two large areas of focus:
- Public safety risk – emphasising to act now. Key message is My tree, My responsibility
 - The Landscape and Ecological Resilience Group (LERG) is a sub-group of the Ash Dieback Resilience Forum focussing on the environmental impact of the disease.
- 5a.5 Kate highlighted a few key messages:
- i. Looking at serious loss of ash this year. Location is key, with type of soil and local climate leading to localised variations.
 - ii. Some ash trees may be resistant; retain some ash in the landscape.
 - iii. Manage trees that raise safety concerns.
 - iv. Where grown for economic purpose, potentially look at clear felling and replanting.
 - v. Where ash is for landscape and conservation purpose, thin to favour other species, retaining dead wood.
 - vi. Be proactive, take action and plan what to do now.

- 5a.6 James Mason added that where ash woodlands planted with a Forestry Commission grant, there are options available where these are suffering from ash dieback. The Forestry Commission will visit and provide guidance to the landowner with options.

5B. TREE PLANTING AND THE SOUTH DEVON AONB

Kate Tobin and James Mason from the Forestry Commission provided short presentations to Members on tree planting opportunities and action on climate change. Further information prepared by the AONB Manager was provided in the Papers.

Key points:

- 5b.1 The 25-year plan is aiming for 12% woodland cover across England by 2060.
- 5b.2 The tree health resilience strategies and clean growth strategy are pushing for more woodland cover and more diverse and healthy woodlands.
- 5b.3 Committee for climate change paper, although not current policy, is useful to see the broad brush advice on what people need to consider with woodland cover (may perhaps need to aim for double the current woodland cover level) <https://www.theccc.org.uk/>.
- 5b.4 Colchester Declaration aiming for 36,000 Ha of new woodland within AONBs.
- 5b.5 The UK Forestry Standard sets out the UK government's approach to sustainable forestry that the whole forestry sector works towards: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard>
- 5b.6 Carbon sequestration was covered, including an image illustrating the importance of soils as well as trees: trees account for 40-45% carbon sequestration and soil around 45%
https://rgsgeoggy.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/2017-01-15_10-55-06.png
- 5b.7 A document produced by Natural England on Carbon Storage by habitat was signposted:
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/1412347>
- 5b.8 60% of Local Authorities have declared a climate emergency and have started to take action; 32 are in the South West.
- 5b.9 South Devon AONB has around 9% woodland cover compared to the Devon average of just under 12% and a UK average of 13%. In Europe the average is 37%.
- 5b.10 Forest for Cornwall programme is planning 8,000 Ha, about 2% of Cornwall's land area, of new woodland by 2030 <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/grow-nature/about/forest-for-cornwall-programme/> To facilitate this they are reviewing land holdings, identifying where they can plant and encouraging others to do the same. Alongside this they are looking at planning policies to see how these enable woodland, hedgerows and trees on farms to be facilitated.
- 5b.11 James Mason showed several maps and various tools in use within the Forestry Commission.
- 5b.12 Forestry Commission tools are useful to look at climate change scenarios as well as pest and disease scenarios. For example, only five species of conifer account for 80% coverage. The tools can start to predict which species of tree will fair best in the highlighted scenarios.
- 5b.13 Maps are also produced to look at catchments and tree planting that can used for flood management and improving water quality.

Outcomes:

- 5b.14 Think about trees more resilience to disease, and also about assisted migration of trees, whilst looking after what we already have in ancient woodlands.

- 5b.15 Think about making existing woodland bigger and better. Applications for woodland made to the Forestry Commission are scored to determine the projects in higher priority areas.
- 5b.16 It was emphasised there are thresholds for tree planting where prior permission is required from the Forestry Commission. Contact Forestry Commission direct for more information.
- 5b.17 Useful maps
- Forestry Commission map browser is available online: <https://www.forestergis.com/Apps/MapBrowser/>
 - Additional data layers relevant to forestry activity not in the Forestry Commission map browser are available on Defra's Magic Map managed by Natural England: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>
 - Devon County Council has an environment viewer: <http://map.devon.gov.uk/dccviewer/>
- 5b.18 At the moment, grants are available providing up to £6,800 per hectare to plant plus an annual maintenance payment of £200 per hectare per annum for ten years. Grants will become an increasingly complex area as carbon trading is introduced. James Mason invited Members to contact him if they wish to understand what grants are available.
- 5b.19 If planning to plant over 10Ha, speak to James for assistance with your proposal and planning considerations.
- 5b.20 Peter Chamberlain informed Members that Devon County Council has launched two tree planting schemes offering:
- Free tree packs for landowners
 - Free landmark trees for parish and town councils
- Applications are taken online and the schemes are serviced by the Woodland Trust. More information: <https://www.devonashdieback.org.uk/take-action/free-tree-schemes/>

5C. CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND BIODIVERSITY CRISIS – SOUTH DEVON AONB ACTION AND OPPORTUNITIES

Peter Chamberlain, Devon County Council, provided a presentation to Members on Devon Climate Emergency and action on climate change. Further information prepared by the AONB Manager was provided in the Papers.

Key points:

- 5c.1 The Devon Climate Emergency Group <https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/> brings together a range of public, private and voluntary organisations from across Devon.
- 5c.2 The Group acts under emergency procedures under the Civil Contingencies Act. The Group has a structure with a number of elements.
- Response Group – Chief Executives and senior officers in charge of dealing with the Devon Climate Emergency, chaired by Devon County Council. Encompasses all Devon local authorities as well as large organisations with a strategic interest.
 - Tactical Group – an officer group that acts as a delivery function to support the Response Group, chaired by Devon County Council's Environment Group.
 - Net-zero Task Force - for mitigation. Fourteen volunteer specialists, chaired by Patrick Devine-Wright, producing a Devon Carbon Plan.
 - Climate Impacts Group - for adaptation
- 5c.3 Devon County Council has provided initial funding of £250,000 that facilitated the recruitment of a dedicated Project Manager, Emily Reid who started in November. Will also take on a dedicated Communications Officer.

5c.4 Principal commitments

- Lobby for change
- Review organisational carbon reduction plans within six months to meet or exceed the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change targets
- Produce and implement a Devon Carbon Plan; designed as a process to also benefit District/City/Town/Parish carbon plans.
- A review of the implications and risks of a 1.5 degree warmer world on Devon

5c.5 Identify options to reduce carbon emissions in Devon

- Call for Evidence (opened 23 October 2019, closing early January 2020)
- Youth Parliament (held 29 November 2019), fifteen schools, 75 students.
- Thematic Hearings (held in November and December 2019)

5c.6 Citizens Assembly, formed of a representative group of the people of Devon. Likely to be 75 people meeting three times over five weeks around May 2020. Options identified to reduce carbon emissions in Devon will be put to the Citizens Assembly to test the practicality, what will work, which will get buy-in from the people of Devon.

5c.7 Evidence and views will be used to finalise a draft plan that will go out to public consultation late summer 2020.

5c.8 Final plan autumn 2020.

5c.9 Responding to a question from the AONB Chair, Peter Chamberlain encouraged the South Devon AONB Partnership to endorse the Climate Emergency, something Blackdown Hills AONB have done. This was put to a vote.

It was then:

RESOLVED:

South Devon AONB Partnership endorse the Climate Emergency.

ACTION 3 (RE): The AONB Manager to endorse the Climate Emergency on behalf of Partnership.

5c.10 South Devon AONB Partnership are encouraged to look at what they can do to contribute to the process <https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/devon-climate-declaration/signatories/>

5c.11 Everyone is encouraged when purchasing goods and services to think about using suppliers that can perform the service in a way that minimises carbon impact.

5c.12 Cllr. Jonathan Hawkins thanked Peter for the presentation and his enthusiasm and asked for a copy of the presentation to take to Parish meetings. He added the importance of Devon County Council taking the lead with District, Town and Parish Councils feeding in so there is one plan for Devon.

5c.13 Kate Tobin Forestry Commission would like the Partnership to support opportunities to increase woodland cover and habitat; looking at any policies that are in place, such as planning guidance, where this could be encouraged.

5c.14 Tom Jones informed Members that South Hams District Council are feeding into the Devon Action Plan through Drew Powell. Planning policy is being led by Phil Baker. Green economy link officer is Tom Jones. Land use, carbon sequestration and biodiversity is led by Rob Sekula. The AONB Manager will be contacted in due course, in the meantime Members now have the appropriate officer name for each area.

6A. SOUTH DEVON AONB PLANNING PROTOCOL

The AONB Manager briefed Members on the work of the AONB Planning Protocol Working Group, comprising Geoffrey Osborn, the representative for amenity groups, John Graham and the AONB Manager, to revise and update the South Devon AONB Planning Protocol. An update was circulated in the meeting Papers.

Key points:

- 6a.1 The Planning Protocol is a reciprocal agreement between the AONB Partnership and the AONB's four Local Planning Authorities.
- 6a.2 The aim is to allow the AONB staff unit to focus attention on the most impactful applications and where the Local Planning Authorities most need input from the AONB staff unit.
- 6a.3 A detailed conversation has taken place with Pat Whymer, Head of Development Management at South Hams District Council
- 6a.4 Looked at good practise examples that included among others Cotswolds AONB.
 - John Mills, Cotswolds AONB Planning & Landscape Manager, drafted a new Planning Protocol that included a consultation triggers list. This has been amended and incorporated into the draft revised Planning Protocol.
- 6a.5 Initial draft of the revised Planning Protocol (circulated as an Appendix in the meeting Papers).
- 6a.6 Restructured Planning Protocol moves the assessment away from types of development to level of development and the risk associated to AONB purpose.
- 6a.7 Requires agreement from Local Planning Authorities.
- 6a.8 Members are encouraged to look at the revised draft Planning Protocol and provide the AONB Manager with their views.

It was then:

RESOLVED:

- 6a.9 The AONB Manager invited Members to contact him with their views, and those of the organisations they represent, on the revised draft Planning Protocol.
- 6a.10 The South Devon AONB Planning Protocol will be on the agenda for the next Partnership Committee meeting to be held on Friday 13 March 2020.

6B. PLYMOUTH & SW DEVON JOINT LOCAL PLAN – SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT AND CONSULTATION

Graham Swiss, South Hams District Council, briefed Members on work undertaken by Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon Councils to prepare a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in support of Joint Local Plan policies.

Key points:

- 6b.1 An update was circulated in the meeting Papers.
- 6b.2 Graham informed Members:
 - SPD does not amend policies or introduce new policies
 - SPD provides guidance and technical documents supporting implementation of the Joint Local Plan

6b.3 Currently out for public consultation.

- Members are initially directed to the Natural Environment part of the SPD, section 7.
- Members are encouraged to make comments.
- Deadline for comments is 5pm on Monday 6 January 2020.

6b.4 The AONB Manager informed Members:

- i. There are elements not currently in the SPD, such as how a mitigation hierarchy would work in particular from a Natural Beauty perspective.
- ii. The AONB Partnership consultation response will be prepared over the Christmas period. Partners are urged to highlight key issues to the AONB Manager urgently so these can be incorporated into the Partnership response.

6C. CURRENT AND RECENT KEY APPLICATIONS

The AONB Manager referred Members to the addendum to the papers that highlighted development management matters of note. In addition:

- i. Members were informed of a change of scale to application P/2017/1133 Land South of White Rock. An addendum to existing AONB advice will be provided.
- ii. 2781/18/FUL Fish Hoek and Waterside site in Dartmouth; The awaited additional bat survey and report is now available. The AONB Manager will now swiftly conclude his response as this is expected to go to Committee in January 2020.
- iii. 3612/19/FUL Telecommunication Mast West Hill Wembury Point; The AONB staff unit was consulted at pre-application stage. The AONB Manager and Donna Crabtree, South West Planning Officer for the National Trust, met with the MOD civil contractors AQUILA. All testing evidence has shown that the radar tower cannot be located elsewhere or in another position on the site. The new radar is required to maintain separation between civil and military aircraft. It is likely the application will need to be supported as it meets a safety and training need however there will be residual harm to the AONB. This will be one of the first applications to test JLP policy DEV25 and 8ix (enhancement) as there are few options available to mitigate on-site.
- iv. The AONB Manager directed Members to appeal cases of note on the addendum that show robustness of approach from SHDC Development Management as well as important comments and findings from the Inspectors.
- v. The AONB Manager also highlighted the Malvern Hills AONB appeal case in the addendum to the papers and its relevance to South Devon AONB. The dismissed appeal case is important as it addresses reasonable scale residential development in the setting of designated landscape. This is relevant to a number of locations around the South Devon AONB such as the Land South of White Rock and Land South of Townstal Road development sites.

7A. ROUND TABLE PARTNER UPDATES

7a.1 Geoffrey Osborn, representative for amenity groups

- i. Voiced concerns regarding the Fish Hoek and Waterside site AONB planning consultation response.
- ii. The AONB Manager was requested to explore the possibility of a meeting with Torbay Council. The AONB Manager and Carole Box to discuss five year land supply and implications on planning applications.

ACTION 4 (RE): Liaise with Tracy Brooks.

- iii. Thought the Annual Forum was an excellent event and congratulated the AONB Manager on having Ewan Cameron there to speak.
- iv. Ideas for South Devon AONB 60th anniversary in 2020 include focus on hedgerows and tree planting. The AONB Manager added that there are opportunities and that he should hear soon whether the Saving Devon's Treescapes bid has been successful.
- v. Happy to see the new public forum was well attended.
 - a. Suggested the start time should be moved from 9am to 10am to allow more people to attend. The AONB Chair informed Members the running and format of the forum is due to be discussed following this first event.
 - b. Requested a synopsis of the topics and concerns raised during the forum. The AONB Manager suggested a quick summary could be circulated with the minutes

ACTION 5 (CHAIR/RE):

- Look into the format and timing of the public forum
- Circulate a summary of the topics and concerns.

7a.2 Rob Price, Environment Agency

- i. Raised the River basin planning Challenges and Choices consultation and requested Members respond and encourage others too: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/challenges-and-choices/> The consultation closes 24 April 2020.

7a.3 Robert Steer, representative for landowning and farming interests

- i. Thought the Annual Forum was a very good event
- ii. Raised the issue of livestock worrying and dog attacks. Asked Members to help get the message across as we enter lambing season.
- iii. North Huish parish are concerned with planning matters generally and the current application for the addition of a manege area to existing stables.

7a.4 Samantha Dennis, representative for the tourism community

- i. Welcomes that sustainable tourism is contained in the Glover Review however has concerns this has not been picked up by tourism partnerships in Devon to date. Would welcome South Hams District Council and the AONB Partnership officially endorse a tourism body. A tourism organisation is needed to lead on the recommendations that particularly apply to the industry. Tom Jones SHDC, recently met with Jo Butler of Visit South Devon, and raised sustainable tourism.

ACTION 6 (TJ/SD): Meet to discuss

7a.5 Eamon Crowe, Natural England

- i. No statistics currently available for Countryside Stewardship however the following information for Devon and Cornwall was highlighted
 - a. Around 26 higher-tier applications of which 20 have gone through
 - b. Many hundreds of mid-tier applications have gone forward
 - c. Around 200 expiring stewardship schemes for Devon and Cornwall going through an extension exercise. This is the second time schemes have been subject to one-year extensions and is likely to continue until 2024, the likely date for the new Environmental Land Management Scheme.

ACTION 7 (EC): Supply statistics for the next Partnership Committee meeting to be held on Friday 13 March 2020.

- d. There is a facility in the schemes for woodland planting is Defra wish to steer in that direction.

7a.6 Kate Tobin, Forestry Commission

- i. Provided figures for new planting and woodland creation in the AONB
 - a. 2018/19: 11 Ha
 - b. 2019/20: 5 Ha proposed
 - c. 2020/21: 20 Ha are possible

Would like to see this increasing and highlighted the opportunities this has for conservation, landscape and economic/job creation

2020 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

The Partnership Committee agreed the following schedule of meeting dates for 2020:

- 13th March 2020, venue TBC
- 26th June 2020, venue TBC
- 27th November 2020, venue TBC

Locations and themes for meetings will be announced nearer the time.

Item 4a: Adoption of the refreshed South Devon AONB Planning Protocol

Purpose

1. To update members of the AONB Partnership on minor amendments made to the refreshed South Devon AONB Planning Protocol as a result of limited feedback received since the 6th December Partnership meeting. This agenda item also seeks to conclude adoption by the AONB Partnership before adoption is then sought from the four Local Planning Authorities of South Hams, Torbay, Devon and Plymouth Councils.

Background

2. Partnership members will recall that a report was brought to its 6th December Committee along with proposed text for an updated South Devon AONB Planning Protocol. Comments and feedback on the draft were subsequently sought. Since this date two responses have been received by the AONB Manager from members of the AONB Partnership. Minor modifications have been made where it was appropriate to do so.
3. South Hams District Council Development Management Committee members were consulted by the Council's Head of Development Management on the refreshed protocol.
4. Aside from bringing the Protocol up to date, two principal reasons for refreshing the protocol were
 - to reduce the quantum of consultation requests to a manageable level that better meets the current level of resourcing; and
 - focus AONB Unit input on those proposals with the greatest potential for adverse impacts on the purpose of AONB designation.
5. To date, the Government have not yet responded formally to the Glover Review proposals as they apply to AONBs and planning matters including plan-making and decision-taking. However a response is anticipated toward the end of 2020. Should an increase in funding be made available from Defra or other sources and/or consultee status and legal purposes change, one clear area of priority is to increase the AONB Unit capacity to respond to development management and strategic planning consultations.
6. As noted in the Review section of the protocol, should substantive change result from the implementation of the Designated Landscapes Review proposals, an early review of the protocol could be triggered.

Next Steps

7. Following adoption by our Partnership, the AONB Manager will work with colleagues from each of the four Local Planning Authorities: South Hams, Devon, Torbay and Plymouth Councils and the Marine Management Organisation to consider and signoff the finalised version of the Protocol.

Recommendations

8. AONB Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
 - i. Vote to formally adopt the South Devon AONB Planning Protocol
 - ii. Once adopted, request the AONB Manager to:
 - a. work with partner representatives of the four local planning authorities to adopt the updated South Devon AONB Planning Protocol
 - b. arrange for the updated South Devon AONB Planning Protocol to be added to the 'Planning' pages of the South Devon AONB website.

Appendix 1 to item 4a: Adoption of the refreshed South Devon AONB Planning Protocol

South Devon AONB Partnership DRAFT Updated Planning Protocol

Revision 2: March 2020

Context

The South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) spans four local planning authority areas. 98.02% of the AONB lies in the South Hams/Devon County administrative area; 1.95% lies in Torbay; and 0.03% lies in Plymouth City. Estuarine and inshore waters fall within the Marine Management Organisation's South Marine Plan Area and South West Marine Plan Area.

The care of the South Devon AONB is co-ordinated and overseen by a Partnership comprising local and statutory authorities, partner organisations and community representatives. An AONB Staff Unit is employed to act on behalf of the AONB Partnership, including in the development and delivery of the statutory AONB Management Plan for South Devon; and the provision of advice and consultation comments on development plans and applications for development consent.

The role of the South Devon AONB Unit in plan-making and decision-taking.

The AONB Unit, acting on behalf of the AONB Partnership, will:

- i. seek to make a positive contribution to the making and revision of development plans (local, unitary and neighbourhood plans) and marine plans relevant to the South Devon AONB;
- ii. provide constructive advice and information on AONB matters in response to requests from planning authorities;
- iii. provide comments in response to individual development management consultations for proposals that fall within the Consultation Triggers Criteria listed below. The AONB Unit will endeavour to provide a response within 28 days of the date of a consultation request or within such other period as might be agreed between the AONB Unit and the relevant local planning authority.

Consultation Triggers Criteria¹

The Local Planning Authorities will normally consult the AONB Staff Unit acting on behalf of the South Devon AONB Partnership on proposals that meet the following criteria:

Within the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

1. Major development, as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Part 1, Article (2)(1)), including housing development of 10 or more dwellings but excluding minerals and waste development (for which Criteria 3-7, below, should be applied).⁽¹⁾
2. Isolated homes in the countryside (i.e. development that meets the requirements of paragraph 79 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019)).

¹ Based on material prepared by John Mills, Cotswolds AONB Conservation Board

3. Schedule 1 development under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (EIA) Regulations 2017.⁽²⁾
4. Schedule 2 development under the EIA Regulations, including screening opinion and scoping opinion consultations. (For pre-screening, please only consult the Partnership on proposals for 10 or more dwellings under 'Urban Development Projects', and all other proposals that are above the Schedule 2 'applicable thresholds and criteria').⁽³⁾
5. EIA Schedule 2 development that the case officer, post-screening, considers likely to have significant adverse environmental effects and, therefore, requires an EIA.⁽⁴⁾
6. Cases which the case officer considers could potentially be major development in the context of paragraph 172 and footnote 55 of the NPPF 2019.^{(5),(6)}

Within or outside the South Devon AONB

7. Cases which the local planning authority case officer considers could potentially:
 - (a) have a significant adverse impact on the statutory purpose of AONB designation (to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB), including relevant EIA Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 proposals outside the AONB;⁽⁶⁾
 - (b) set an important precedent that could fundamentally affect the statutory purpose of AONB designation;⁽⁶⁾
 - (c) have cumulative significance for the South Devon AONB.

Development management cases that the AONB Partnership should not be consulted on (unless the case matches one or more of the criteria outlined above):

1. Alteration, demolition or change of use of single buildings, including household extensions and replacement buildings.

Development Management Process

The local planning authorities will:

- a) Refer relevant planning applications to the AONB Unit for comment following the Consultation Triggers Criteria, identifying those applications likely to have a significant impact on the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB at the application registration stage;
- b) For proposals that fall outside of the consultation trigger criteria, use the South Devon AONB Management Plan and Planning Guidance Annex to guide decision making on AONB matters against relevant development plan and NPPF policies.
- c) Provide access to sufficient details about submitted applications to enable informed comments to be made;
- d) Record and treat a written comment from the AONB Unit as a representation from an outside body, rather than as an internal officer comment;
- e) In cases where the AONB Unit is unable to respond to a consultation this should not be taken to mean that the Partnership does not consider there to be any (significant) adverse impacts on the purpose of AONB designation. For the avoidance of doubt, the absence of a consultation response must not be taken to mean no objection;
- f) Link and signpost as appropriate applicants requiring pre-application advice on designated landscape matters to the separate parallel paid-for service to be instigated by the South Devon AONB Partnership;

- g) Maintain appropriate levels of professional knowledge relating to designated landscape matters including within the development management, strategic planning and landscape functions of the local planning authorities;
- h) Send copies of relevant decision notices and any subsequent appeal decisions, to the AONB Unit in relation to applications it has commented on;
- i) Assist the AONB Unit in extracting and compiling monitoring data on decision-taking for reports to Defra and the South Devon AONB Partnership Committee;

AONB Unit will²:

- a) Provide a response to development management consultation requests within 28 days of the date of a request or within such other period as might be agreed between the AONB Partnership and the relevant local planning authority;
- b) Liaise with case officers, landscape specialists and other relevant specialists as appropriate;
- c) Relate comments to relevant Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plan and National Planning Policy Framework policies;
- d) Refer to relevant AONB Management Plan policies, natural beauty criteria and AONB special qualities in any comments made;
- e) Confirm that comments made are those of the AONB Unit in its professional capacity and not of the AONB Partnership collectively;
- f) Support local planning authorities in appeal cases or inquiries where AONB matters are pivotal and as workload allows;
- g) Assist with local planning authority staff and elected member training on AONB matters.
- h) Continue to direct enquiries for pre-application advice to the relevant local planning authority pre-application service;

Review

This protocol will be reviewed on or before 31 December 2022 and revised as appropriate. Should substantive change result from the implementation of the Designated Landscapes Review proposals, changes in levels of partner funding or similar, an earlier review date would be likely.

² As a small staff team, there will be occasions when the AONB Unit will be unable to respond to consultation requests due to the range of other projects, activities and casework being undertaken at any time.

Appendix 1: NOTES RELATING TO THE CONSULTATION TRIGGERS CRITERIA

The numbering of these notes relates to the bracketed numbers shown, in superscript, in the consultation triggers list above.

1. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/595/article/2/made>.

Major development, as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Part 1, Article (2)(1)), means development involving one or more of the following:

- (a) the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits;
- (b) waste development;
- (c) the provision of dwellinghouses where:
 - (i) the number of dwellinghouses to be provided is 10 or more; or
 - (ii) the development is to be carried out on a site having an area of 0.5 hectares or more and it is not known whether the development falls within sub-paragraph (c)(i);
- (d) the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 square metres or more; or
- (e) development carried out on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more.

The South Devon AONB Partnership understands that this is not the definition of major development that should be applied in the context of paragraph 172 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). As such, it is not a threshold above which there should be a presumption against granting planning permission. However, it does provide a pragmatic threshold above which it would be appropriate for local planning authorities (LPAs) to pro-actively consult the Partnership.

The exception to this rule would be for minerals and waste development. For the purposes of consulting the Partnership on such development, it would be more appropriate to apply Consultation Criteria 3-7. This is because planning applications for minerals and waste development typically relate to variations of existing planning permissions. In many cases, these variations are unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on the South Devon AONB. Also, it is unlikely that the Partnership would have capacity through the Staff Unit to comment on all planning applications that relate to such variations. However, great care is nonetheless needed to consider cumulative effects on top of existing harm, or in conjunction with other development. Criteria 3-7 should allow for an appropriate level of consultation on these issues.

2. The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 UK Statutory Instruments 2017 No. 571 Schedule 1
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/schedule/1/made>
3. The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 UK Statutory Instruments 2017 No. 571 Schedule 2
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/schedule/2/made>.

As the AONB is a 'sensitive area', *all* development proposals of a type listed in Schedule 2 that are within the AONB require screening. However, it is unlikely that the Partnership will have capacity through the Staff Unit to comment on all such proposals, hence the caveat about only consulting the Partnership on proposals for 10 or more dwellings under 'Urban Development Projects', and all other proposals that are above the Schedule 2 'applicable thresholds and criteria'.

4. Criteria 5 should be applied *after* the case officer has taken a view as to whether or not a Schedule 2 development should require an EIA.
5. Paragraph 172 of the NPPF 2019 states that '*planning permission should be refused for major development except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest*'. Footnote 55 of the NPPF explains that '*for the purposes of paragraphs 172 and 173, whether a proposal is major development is a matter for the decision maker, taking into account its nature, scale and setting, and whether it could have a significant adverse impact on the purposes for which the area has been designated*'. In most cases, given the potential for significant adverse impacts, such development is also likely to require an EIA.
6. The statutory purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. Public bodies, such as LPAs, have a statutory duty to have regard to this purpose. Landscape and scenic beauty / quality are obviously key components of natural beauty. However, natural beauty also includes other factors such as relative tranquillity (including dark skies), natural heritage (including biodiversity) and cultural heritage (including historic environment). The 'special qualities' of an AONB are also a key component of natural beauty. All of these factors should be taken into account when considering the potential impacts of a proposed development on the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB. The special qualities of the South Devon AONB are outlined on page 3 of the South Devon AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 with further detail provided in Annex 4: Understanding Special Qualities.

Appendix 2: CLARIFICATION NOTES

1. The commitment to providing a 'substantive response' within 28 days is similar to the requirements of a statutory consultee: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/consultation-and-pre-decision-matters#Statutory-consultees>. The Partnership undertakes to meet all reasonable requests within the operational limits dictated by available resources, together with levels and complexity of caseload. Where cases need to be prioritised, this will be based on an assessment of likely risk to the natural beauty of the AONB and its special qualities.
2. The AONB Partnership reserves the right to provide comment on any cases it deems could result in harm to the natural beauty of the AONB, even where the relevant local planning authority has not issued a consultation request.
3. The estuaries of the Yealm, Erme, Avon, Salcombe-Kingsbridge and Dart are included within the South Devon AONB boundary and are subject to an extensive range of additional statutory and non-statutory designations. The AONB Estuaries Officer will particularly comment on environmental matters including biodiversity and water quality impacts in addition to other natural beauty considerations.
4. Land and water within the setting of the South Devon AONB, including inshore waters that form part of the South Devon Heritage Coast, make an important contribution to maintaining the natural beauty of the AONB. This is especially the case where long views from or to the designated landscape are identified as important, or where the landscape character of land within and adjoining the designated area is complementary.³ For these reasons views of the South Devon AONB Unit should be sought on proposals and plans likely to affect the natural beauty of the designated landscape in addition to proposals within the AONB.
5. Local Planning Authorities will continue to consult the AONB Unit at an early stage during the process of revising and producing Development Plan and guidance documents affecting the AONB. Appropriate support and comment on AONB related matters will be provided from the AONB Unit acting on behalf of the South Devon AONB Partnership;
6. Support will be provided to Neighbourhood Plan groups as far as resources allow and prioritised following a risk-based approach to likely AONB harm;
7. The provision of pre-application advice falls outside the scope of this protocol. In common with other AONB Partnerships in Devon, the South Devon AONB reserves the right to offer pre-application advice from the AONB Staff Unit in accordance with a schedule of chargeable services and rates. Services and rates will as far as practicable be comparable to those offered by other Devon AONB Partnerships.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment#landscape> Paragraph: 042 Reference ID: 8-042-20190721

Item 5a: NAAONB Colchester Declaration on Nature in AONBs and Nature Recovery

Purpose

1. To introduce members of the AONB Partnership to work in support of the AONB network's Declaration on Nature formulated through the 2019 Landscapes for Life Conference held in Colchester.

Background

2. The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) consider AONBs to be Category V Protected Landscapes. A national Statement of Compliance was developed following a challenge by the IUCN to the UK Government over its management approach to AONBs, specifically its commitment to nature conservation and the priority given to nature. Defra subsequently required the AONB family to ensure delivery of landscape scale nature conservation activity in support of Outcome 1c Biodiversity 2020 strategy.
3. Chapter 2 of the government's 25 Year Environment Plan focuses on Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes. Included was an objective to:
 - *Develop a Nature recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife, and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that we have lost from our countryside.*

As well as helping wildlife thrive, the Nature Recovery Network could be designed to bring a wide range of additional benefits including climate change mitigation and adaptation; greater public enjoyment; pollination; carbon capture; water quality improvements and flood management.
4. The Glover Review concluded in September 2019 and included a selection of proposals relating to nature including:
 - *Proposal 1: National Landscapes should have a renewed mission to recover and enhance nature, and be supported and held account for delivery by a new National Landscape Service;*
 - *Proposal 2: The state of nature and natural capital in our national landscapes should be regularly and robustly assessed, informing the priorities for action;*
 - *Proposal 3: Strengthened Management Plans should set clear priorities and actions for nature recovery including but not limited to wilder areas and the response to climate change (notably tree planting and peatland restoration). Their implementation must be backed up by stronger status in law; and*
 - *Proposal 4: National landscapes should form the backbone of Nature Recovery Networks – joining things up within and beyond their boundaries.*
5. In the absence of new funding or a National Landscape Service, the National Association for AONBs, Defra, Natural England and the Wildlife Trusts are all providing leadership in this area, including enabling an approach that creates opportunities within AONBs for people to make emotional connections with Nature.

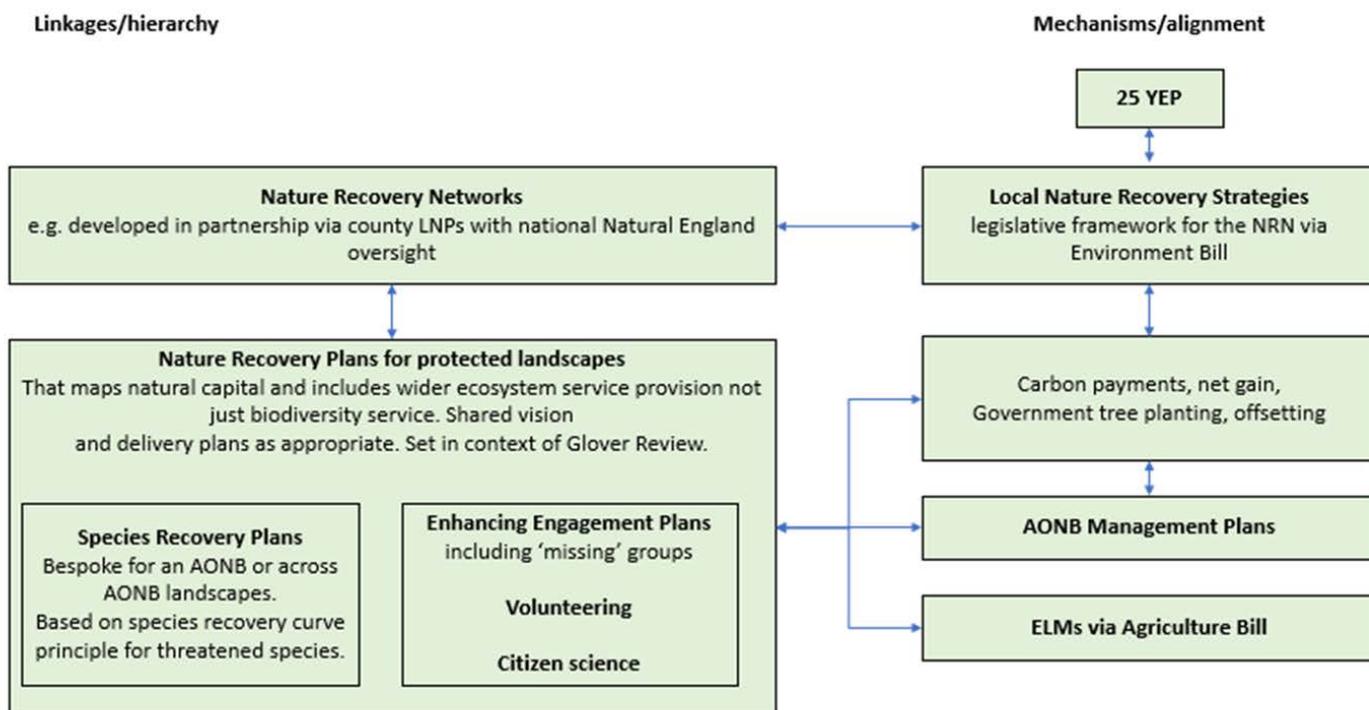
NAAONB and The AONB Network

6. Working collaboratively the National Association for AONBs, the AONB Network and its partners developed the Colchester declaration which sets out clear short, medium and long term ambitions (see Appendix 1 to this item for the full declaration). The declaration demonstrates our network's

readiness to act to redress declines in species and habitats within the context of a wider response to climate change.

- The diagram below attempts to illustrate the relationship between the different elements of the Colchester Declaration and the mechanisms/ alignment with policy, plans, programmes and drivers.

Colchester Declaration- Summary and Project Plan



Areas of current activity

- Nature Recovery Plans

These need to sit within a National framework of Nature Recovery Areas and county framework of Nature recovery Networks. More information will be provided during the Partnership meeting by Ed Parr-Ferris of Devon Wildlife Trust who is leading on the development of Devon’s Nature Recovery Network on behalf of the Devon Local Nature Partnership.

By July 2020, working collaboratively with other AONBs we expect to have made a good start in preparing a Nature Recovery Plan and a Species Action Plan for the South Devon AONB with links to the wider AONB network, using nationally and locally defined objectives and actions.

- Enhancing Engagement plans

- Funding the ambition

A National Lottery Heritage Grant bid is being developed to help support a series of national pilots and align national actions that together secure a viable future for threatened species/ assemblages across priority habitats, operate on a pan-landscape scale and create emotional connections with nature & engage new audiences.

- Species Action Plans

A landscape and ecological network-based approach is proposed rather than a single species-focussed approach. Species can also be a powerful people engagement tool and can open doors to engagement with a wide range of groups including farmers and landowners. AONB Lead Officers were presented with draft species criteria in the December 2019 via a Google Survey and initial suggestions for South Devon AONBs top 5 species were provided following set criteria. The criteria were as follows⁴:

Species criteria

In order to create national 'guidelines' for species recovery across the AONB network to enable threatened species to be taken off the national list, we have developed a draft set of criteria to discuss with Natural England. Please comment on the proposed criteria for choice of threatened species (to be filtered nationally and then ground-truthed locally in each AONB):

- *Nationally threatened, rare or scarce (IUCN, section 41) AND*
- *The area [AONB] has a major responsibility for ensuring the species survives and prospers in the British Isles AND*
- *Conservation action is required, and we know what needs doing– including site protection (especially rare or vulnerable features) and active habitat management, actions are achievable/ realistic and are not just monitoring or research AND*
- *There has been a recorded decline since the year 2000*

Subject to the above criteria, where there have been several similar species which occupy the same habitat, to prevent the list becoming too long and unfocussed, so stifling conservation action, preference has been given to those species which are:

- *Charismatic*
- *Indicators of high quality or rare habitats which support many other rare or threatened species.*
- *Not critically dependent on another species already listed.*

Other considerations:

- *Iconic species*
- *Species of economic interest*

12. Further feedback has been requested from the national working group including peer review with partners.

13. The top five species or assemblages identified by the AONB Staff Unit that best fit the criteria are considered to be:

- Seagrass
- Long horned mining bee, Six banded nomad bee, Mediterranean oil beetle
- Greater horsehoe bat and Grey long eared bat
- Cirl bunting
- Strapwort

This list was submitted to our national Colchester Declaration working group colleagues as part of the survey return completed in December 2019.

⁴ Taken from the Colchester Declaration Survey of Lead Officers, developed by the Colchester Declaration Steering Group, December 2019

Recommendations

14. AONB Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
 - i. Give their feedback on the approach
 - ii. Indicate their interest in forming a small working group to assist with developing and delivering this area of work
 - iii. Provide feedback on the top 5 species or assemblages selection for the South Devon AONB recognising the wide variety of habitats and species present in the area.

Appendix 1 to item 5a: NAAONB Colchester Declaration on Nature in AONBs



The Colchester Declaration 2019

Set against a backdrop of unprecedented concern for the future of the natural world, and intergovernmental reports that the current global response to the effects of human impact on nature is insufficient – the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty believes that now is the time to significantly increase the scale and pace of nature conservation activity in AONBs. Using our unique network and partnership model, we are making a collective Declaration on Nature in AONBs, setting out our strategy for change.

With many AONB host authorities having taken the step of declaring a Climate Emergency we are demonstrating our readiness to act to redress declines in species and habitats within the context of a wider response to climate change.

We believe

1. Natural Beauty has intrinsic value and means so much to people
2. AONBs should be places of rich, diverse and abundant wildlife
3. Nature recovery is central to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty
4. Climate change is the biggest threat to humanity and one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. Designated landscapes offer some of the most powerful solutions to the challenges of climate change
5. The network of AONBs and National Parks, their teams, partnerships, authorities and stakeholders offer a unique solution to tackling environmental challenges

We pledge By July 2020

1. To enable an approach that creates opportunities within AONBs for people to make an emotional connection with nature.
2. To prepare a Nature Recovery Plan for each AONB

By 2024

1. To embed an ecosystems services approach into all AONB Management Plans
2. To ensure all AONB management plans include meaningful measures around climate change mitigation and adaptation, including clear, measurable targets to support Net Zero

By 2030

1. That at least 200,000 ha of SSSIs in AONBs will be in favourable condition
2. That at least 100,000 ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites will have been created/ restored in AONBs to further support the natural movement of plants and animals
3. That at least 36,000 ha of new woodland will have been planted or allowed to regenerate in AONBs following the principle of the right tree in the right place
4. That, by each AONB immediately adopting a species on the threatened list and by preparing and delivering a Species Action Plan, at least thirty species relevant to AONBs will be taken off the list by 2030

We call on Westminster and Welsh Governments to provide the power and resources to make these targets achievable

Item 5b: 2020/21 draft Delivery Plan

Purpose

1. To provide South Devon AONB Partnership Committee members with a draft 2020 -2021 Delivery Plan and AONB Unit work programme showing links to the 25 YEP, Glover Review and NAAONB and Defra priorities.

Background

2. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan announced a review of Protected Landscapes in England. Julian Glover, a journalist and author, was asked to head up the Review Panel. The Glover Report, issued in September 2019, included 27 specific recommendations with an overall purpose that 'we want our national landscapes to work together with big ambitions, so they are happier, healthier, greener, more beautiful and open to everyone.' These included:
 - proposals for a renewed mission to recover and enhance nature
 - a stronger mission to connect all people with our national landscapes
 - to increase the diversity of visitors
 - improve the nation's health and well-being
 - national landscapes working for vibrant communities

The South Devon AONB working delivery plan continues to build on the plan submitted to Defra (March 2019) as part of the revised Management Plan and follows the spirit of the Glover Review findings working towards the targets set in the 25 YEP and NAAONB Colchester Declaration targets. The 2020/21 Defra funding settlement requires the Unit to deliver projects that support nature recovery, work towards net zero carbon through nature-based solutions and support the needs of communities in modern Britain.

3. The current Delivery Plan identifies the SDAONB Unit leading on 42 actions, working in partnership with 29 local projects and programmes, advocating 33 key partner projects, contributing to 23 local forums and groups on 23 projects and undertaking 23 core activities.

2020/21 Delivery Plan

The draft 2020/21 Delivery Plan reflects the direction and priorities identified in the AONB Management Plan and is strongly aligned with the 25 YEP, Glover Review, NAAONB and Defra priorities.

See Appendix 1 to this item for the draft delivery plan.

Key projects include:

Life on the Edge - A landscape scale, partnership project to involve a wider range of people in our natural heritage and empower our local communities to be part of the solution. Life on the Edge development phase application. This nature recovery and community engagement project is focused on Devon Special Species at risk on coastal fringes of South Devon AONB.

National Lottery Heritage Fund 18 month/£200K development phase application to be submitted September 2020.

- The South Devon coastal landscape is home to nationally important populations of insects and other invertebrates which without urgent action, are at risk of severe decline or even national

extinction. The project will reconnect people with nature, inspire communities to create and restore habitats for wildlife, and secure sustainable wild places for our future.

- Partners include Devon Local Nature Partnership, Buglife, Plantlife, Devon Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Devon Biodiversity Record Centre, Devon Hedge Group and Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust

A successful bid would employ a full-time Project Officer (April 2021) to develop plans, detail commitment from partners and experts, and write full application based on a total project cost of £2M (5 years delivery). The AONB Community Officer would work part-time, (post backfilled), to make early gains with established contacts and relationships.

It would create robust evidence bases, trial land management approaches and targeted species recovery interventions to confirm project hotspots and species. Plan to deliver species recovery over the project and agree plans with landowners and land managers.

Trial interventions at Prawle Point hotspot. (Site is under extreme pressure and one of the target species (the Six-banded nomad bee) is at risk of extinction within 5 years.) Early intervention will be a positive way to trial and test the project proposals, engage the local community to raise awareness, trial events and deliver volunteer workshops, training and skills share sessions.

Practical conservation improvements in Parishes and churchyards linked to B-lines will be initiated based on condition surveys and site management plans.

Prawle Point Undergrounding – Further development of the proposal for undergrounding overhead power lines to the approved Western Power Distribution (WPD) voluntary initiative for the regulatory period 2015-2023.

Detailed project costing has increased by £51,925 to £93,992 from £42,069 and continues to be accommodated in the budget allocation for the South West Protected Landscape group.

Explore South Devon – A series of interpretation panels on the ground and downloadable walks funded by the Local Action Group, through 2 grants, 1 secured by SWCPA and contacted to AONB unit for delivery and 2 awarded to AONB unit directly.

Phase 1 include 12 panels and 19 downloadable walks with enhanced content and digitally accessible routes, completed and installed. Phase 2 includes 10 panels and 19 walks with enhanced content and digitally accessible routes. In addition, funding has been secured for drone and ground filming to create a short film to promote the AONB downloadable walks.

The boards have been sited at visitor hubs and gathering points across the AONB and act as a signpost for people to explore further, stay longer and increase spend in the local area. The first 12 have been very well received and the second lot will be installed by the end of May 2020.

All 43 of our download walks have been checked by a group of 7 volunteers and this information has been used to update the routes and information. The new website will have additional content including video and audio to help show the history, wildlife and landscape features of the routes.

Saving Devon's Treescapes - The anticipated loss of nearly all Devon's ashes will have a major impact on South Devon's landscape. A range of diseases and pests threaten other trees, and climate change is expected to result in further stress. This project aims to reduce the impact of such threats and to improve resilience at a landscape scale.

The project will operate at a county-wide level, including Plymouth and Torbay, supporting the establishment and maintenance of trees outside of woodlands. This includes the establishment/growth of community tree nurseries, and of 'Landmark' trees in public open spaces.

The Marlborough area is recognised as a core area where a PROW network runs through intensive arable and dairy farming. The project aims to use green infrastructure to build connectivity at a landscape level and increasing tree cover in the farmed.

The project will contribute significantly to landscape coherence and ecological resilience, engage local communities and build volunteer skills and involvement and recognise the cultural, economic and societal values of trees in the landscape.

Wild Wembury - The delivery of the Wembury corridors and connections plan - part tied into LotE currently establishing priorities for 20/21 and working to secure additional funds to carry out works.

South Milton coastal change - Working with NT on community engagement for agreement of delivery plan for the coastal area.

Coastal Heritage project – Proof of concept work to develop a coastal heritage project based on the delivery of a monument management scheme - site works, surveys, working with volunteers, interpretation and community engagement.

Recommendations

4. AONB Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
 - i. Note the positive Partnership activity and alignment to the 25 YEP/ Glover Review and NAAONB priorities closely linked to the conservation and enhancement of AONB special qualities and Management Plan priorities
 - ii. Work closely with Partners to further populate the Delivery Plan for 2020/21
 - iii. Consider how the Partnership as a whole and as individual members wish to become more involved in the development and delivery of projects going forward.

Appendix 1 to item 5b: 2020/21 draft Delivery Plan

South Devon AONB draft Delivery Plan 2020/21

The following activity listing summarises a working Delivery Plan in support of the South Devon AONB Management Plan strategy. Further information on any of the projects or initiatives contained in this delivery plan can be obtained from the South Devon AONB staff unit office via enquiries@southdevonaonb.org.uk

PLACE			
Landscape Character			
1	Develop proposals for Prawle Point to underground overhead power lines and submit to Western Power Distribution as part of the regulatory period programme for 2015-2023	Lead	South Devon AONB/Wester Power Distribution/landowners
2	Develop proposals for undergrounding overhead power lines and submit to Western Power Distribution to be considered as part of the programme for a post 2023	Lead	South Devon AONB/Wester Power Distribution/landowners
3	Agree and deliver a natural beauty compensation package linked to AONB impacts arising from the Wembury Point 2 nd Radar scheme	Lead	South Devon AONB/SHDC
4	Develop and publish a guidance document on New Farm Buildings in Devon through collaboration with Devon Landscape Policy Group members, supported by a landscape consultant.	Partner	Devon Landscape Policy Group
5	Achieve Dark Sky Discovery Site status for qualifying areas of the AONB including educating and engaging residents and businesses	Partner	Local groups/AONB /LNP
6	Develop an approach to assessing the cumulative effects of landscape and seascape change.	Partner	Devon Landscape Policy Group/South Devon AONB
7	Develop a sustainable and affordable landscape change monitoring framework: <i>Resilient Landscapes</i>	Advocate	Natural England, University of Plymouth
Natural Resources & Climate			
8	Promote projects in the South Devon Catchments Partnership Action Plan	Lead	Westcountry Rivers Trust/ South Devon AONB
9	Facilitate and lead a programme of beach cleans with partners	Lead	South Devon AONB/local and national voluntary groups
10	Deliver the Slapton Adaptation Project in response to accelerated rates of coastal change along the A379	Partner	Slapton Line Partnership/Environment Agency/DCC/SHDC/ AONB
11	Coastal change project consultation – South Milton	Partner	AONB/National Trust

12	Complete and publish the South Devon River Catchments Strategic Plan	Partner	CaBA partnership
13	Deliver the 2019/20 Catchment Sensitive Farming programme including Nitrate Vulnerable Zone initiatives	Partner	Natural England / Environment Agency/ Westcountry Rivers Trust
14	Diffuse Water Pollution Project for the Gara catchment	Advocate	Natural England / Environment Agency/ Westcountry Rivers Trust
15	Implement a programme of infrastructure improvements under the AMP6 programme)	Advocate	South West Water
16	Implement a programme of infrastructure improvements under the AMP7 programme to begin in 2020	Advocate	South West Water
17	Implement water quality projects informed by condition assessments under the Bathing Water Directive	Advocate	Environment Agency
Biodiversity & Geodiversity			
18	Support Devon special species targeted conservation / habitat management projects e.g. Six banded nomad bee work	Lead	South Devon AONB / Buglife/ Partners
19	Deliver Life on the Edge phase 1 bid development work	Lead	South Devon AONB / Buglife/NLHF/Partners
20	Deliver South Devon Pacific Oyster Project	Lead	South Devon AONB/Natural England
21	Support the implementation of the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project through the project partnership	Lead	Projects/Devon Wildlife Trust
22	Use Open Farm Sunday, Big Day out on the farm, local Community events and AONB events to highlight the contribution farming and land management make to AONB biodiversity.	Lead	South Devon AONB/ landowners/ National Trust
23	Provide landowner advice, habitat enhancements and connectivity improvements through the Avon Valley Farm Facilitation Fund	Lead	South Devon AONB
24	Deliver a programme of Naturally Active events and activities for target groups of over 55s to reconnect people, nature and place	Lead	South Devon AONB /Connecting Actively with Nature
25	Deliver a NERC funded Collaborative Award in Science and Engineering PhD studentship using the South Devon AONB as an outdoor laboratory to better understand how pollinators act in fragmented landscapes	Lead	Exeter University/South Devon AONB
26	Develop and deliver projects identified in the Wild Wembury Opportunities Mapping project	Lead	South Devon AONB
27	Deliver Life on the Edge project work - Dependant on a successful development phase NLHF bid	Lead/ Partner	South Devon AONB / Buglife/NLHF/Partners
28	Support the implementation of the Sharpham Wild for People project	Partner	Ambios/Sharpham Estate

29	Support local engagement with the Saving Devon's Treescapes project throughout its 15 month development phase, Malborough Focus area	Partner	Devon Wildlife Trust/Partners
30	Provide estate/landowner habitat enhancement advice and connectivity improvements	Partner	South Devon AONB/Landowners
31	Deliver a biodiversity monitoring programme for Devon focussed on County Wildlife Sites and their positive conservation management	Partner	Devon County Council/ Devon Biodiversity Records Centre
32	Coordinate and deliver action to safeguard Devon's natural environment through the Devon Local Nature Partnership	Partner	South Devon AONB /LNP
33	Implement action in support of the management plans for Berry Head and Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve SSSI's	Partner	Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, Field Studies Council
34	Support the implementation of the Back from the Brink Project for Grey long eared bats through the project partnership	Partner	Devon Wildlife Trust
35	South Devon Wildlife Champions project	Partner	Devon Wildlife Trust
36	Work with partners to monitor and manage Non-native invasive species in the AONB	Partner	Devon Wildlife Trust/LNP
37	Work towards developing initiatives that respond to Ash Die Back in the AONB	Partner	Devon Wildlife Trust /Local Authorities/others
38	South Devon LON development	Advocate/Partner	National Trust
39	Support RSPB Cirl Country ELMs test and trial	Advocate/Partner	RSPB
40	Development of a South Devon AONB Nature Recovery Network map nested within a county and national framework	Advocate/Partner	LNP/Devon Wildlife Trust
41	Provide landowner advice, habitat enhancements and connectivity improvements	Advocate	DWT/ South Devon Nature Trust/South Devon AONB
42	Support the development of a Moor Meadows model in South Devon	Advocate	LNP/DWT/Avon Valley Project/others
42	Work towards meeting conservation objectives for South Devon's SSSIs and SACs	Advocate	Natural England
44	Publish guidance for the conservation and management of marine protected areas off the South Devon coast	Advocate	Natural England
45	Delivery of the Salcombe Project (Land, Outdoors & Nature programme) between Bolt Head and Bolt Tail	Advocate	National Trust
46	Review of Management Plans for Woodland trust sites in SDAONB	Advocate	Woodland Trust
47	Deliver a Woods into Management programme – to include the wooded western parts of the South Devon AONB	Advocate	Forestry Commission
48	Conservation management initiatives on National Trust tenant farmed land	Advocate	National Trust

Historic Environment			
49	Use the National Marine Plan and Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment to develop a community research and recording project	Lead	South Devon AONB/ CiTiZAN
50	Develop a volunteer led scheduled monument management programme	Lead	South Devon AONB/ English Heritage
51	Coastal Revival Fund grant to deliver the Torcross Sherman Tank restoration project	Lead	South Devon AONB/ Slapton Line Partnership
52	Support the TIDE project - developing and marketing new types of historic maritime tourist attractions	Partner	South Devon AONB/ English Heritage
53	Seek funding and action to save "at risk" monuments from further deterioration	Partner	Local Authorities /English Heritage
54	Seek funding to implement condition survey and recording work at priority English Heritage sites	Partner	Devon County Council
55	Develop a Management Plan for Bantham Ham Scheduled Ancient Monument	Advocate	Bantham Estate
56	Complete the National Mapping Programme survey of the South Devon AONB	Advocate	English Heritage/Devon County Council
57	Coastal Revival Fund – Monument relocation	Advocate	Slapton Line Partnership/ Devon County Council
Farming & Land Management			
58	Deliver a programme of education and community work to improve the links between farms, their local populations and the special qualities of the AONB	Lead	South Devon AONB
59	Deliver South Devon AONB Farmers Sounding Board meetings	Lead	South Devon AONB
60	Deliver Countryside Stewardship Facilitation support to farmers and land managers in the South Devon Avon Valley	Lead	South Devon AONB
61	Provide coordination and promote knowledge exchange amongst land management advisers active in South Devon through the South Devon Environmental Land Management Forum	Lead	South Devon AONB
62	Work with the NAAONB to develop a whole AONB network ELMS pilot offer to Defra	Partner	NAAONB
63	Support the sustainable development of the Sharpham Estate	Advocate	Ambios/Sharpham Trust
64	Support the Sharpham Wild for People project	Advocate	Ambios/Sharpham Trust
65	Support the Avon Valley Project in South Devon	Advocate	Devon Wildlife Trust
66	Provide a strategic lead on action to combat tree disease throughout the area including <i>Phytophthora</i> and <i>Chalara</i>	Advocate	Devon County Council/ Forestry Commission

67	Review Woodland Trust Management Plans in the SDAONB	Advocate	Woodland Trust
68	Support the community group management of The Grove, Churston	Advocate	Friends of Grove Woods
Coast & Marine Environment			
69	Work with partners to deliver a series of events and activities to actively promote the coast - including Big Night out on the beach	Lead	South Devon AONB
70	Dartmouth steel-piled sea walls habitat project. Local plans to identify mitigation opportunities	Lead	South Devon AONB/Exeter University
71	Develop a marine engagement project in South Devon	Partner	Devon Wildlife Trust
72	Marine Conservation Zone advocacy work	Partner	Devon County Council/ Partners
73	Develop and implement a long-term plan for South Milton Sands	Advocate	National Trust
74	Develop and implement a long-term plan for Wembury NT sites	Advocate	National Trust
75	Develop and implement a long term integrated plan for the coastline at Beesands	Advocate	South Hams District Council
76	Review of coastal management policies and procedures for Slapton Sands	Advocate	Slapton Line Partnership
Rivers & Estuaries			
77	Updating and maintaining 10 slipway information panels	Lead	South Devon AONB
78	Seagrass meadow conservation projects - swim / no boat areas	Lead	South Devon AONB
79	Implement the South Devon Catchment Partnership Year 5 work programme and seek funding for further work	Lead	South Devon AONB
80	Sea grass conservation and trialling of advanced mooring solutions	Lead	CaBA partnership
81	Develop a project and funding bid to investigate the occurrence of dinoflagellate blooms causing 'red tides' within Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary and remedial action	Partner	South Devon AONB /Exeter University
82	Work with the Community Seagrass Initiative to raise awareness of Seagrass beds in the South West of England	Partner	National Marine Aquarium

83	Develop and implement initiatives to ensure that the conservation objectives for the Salcombe-Kingsbridge SSSI are met and the site reaches and sustains favourable condition as speedily as possible	Partner	Natural England
84	The Gara - Diffuse Pollution Intervention Scheme tackling addressing diffuse pollution from rural sources	Advocate	Natural England/EA/WCRT/Landowners
PEOPLE			
Access, Recreation & Tourism			
85	Brixham / Kingswear project - deliver/support identified projects from action plan	Lead	South Devon AONB / South Hams District Council /Torbay Council/Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust
86	Produce and install interpretation boards as part of Explore South Devon Countryside project to develop and promote enhanced guided walks (audio, video and images)	Lead	South Devon AONB / South West Coast Path Association
87	Develop and produce a walking guide app. for the Explore South Devon project.	Lead	South Devon AONB / South West Coast Path Association
88	Develop and lead 'Connecting Actively to Nature projects in the SDAONB	Lead	South Devon AONB / Active Devon
89	Develop a private sector funded environmental behaviour change project based on the pilot Holiday Footprints project	Lead	South Devon AONB
90	Establish the significance, effects and appropriate solutions to human disturbance of seabirds, seals, basking sharks and cetaceans.	Partner	Dart Estuary Forum partners
91	Continued community involvement in the Rights of Way network through the Parish Paths Partnership and other related schemes	Advocate	Devon County Council/ Local parish councils
92	Implement the Green Infrastructure plan for the South Hams District identifying gaps in the provision of recreational opportunity and prioritised solutions	Advocate	South Hams District Council
Planning & Sustainable Development			
93	Update the AONB Planning Guidance document and promote the use of the document alongside Development Plan policies.	Lead	South Devon AONB
94	Provide comment and advice on significant planning applications guided by the South Devon AONB Planning Protocol	Lead	South Devon AONB
95	Assess condition of interpretation panels on the South West Coast Path and secure funding to replace / maintain as necessary	Lead	South Devon AONB
96	Develop a design guide and code to capture the South Devon vernacular and its variations across the AONB.	Lead	South Devon AONB

97	Produce guidance for Construction Environmental Management Plans in the SDAONB	Lead	South Devon AONB
98	Torbay Local Plan Review	Partner	Torbay Council/ South Devon AONB
99	Development and production of Neighbourhood Plans	Partner	Local Plan Groups/ South Devon AONB
100	Completion of Marine Plans for the South West	Advocate	Marine Management Organisation
Transport and Highways			
101	Installation of AONB village gateway signs by agreement with parish councils and highway authorities	Lead	South Devon AONB / Devon CC
102	Review, update and install ferry panels	Lead	South Devon AONB
103	Update and reprint Discover the South Devon AONB leaflet	Lead	South Devon AONB
104	Improve the operating hours of the areas seasonal ferry services	Partner	South Devon AONB/Devon County Council/Ferry operators
105	Implement a two year programme of targeted public transport service enhancements to provide better connectivity and weekend coverage	Advocate	Devon County Council
Rural Economy and Services			
106	Develop a local food, drink and produce campaign to increase awareness of the links to management and custodianship of the AONB designated landscape	Lead	South Devon AONB
107	Develop new prioritised programmes of local economic action and seek resources to support implementation	Advocate	South Devon Coastal Local Action Group
Community & Culture			
108	Subject to resources, deliver a programme of Brixham and Kingswear Peninsula Routeways and Connections projects	Lead	South Devon AONB
109	Seek funding to match and widen the Wild Wembury project to deliver community engagement in biodiversity, health and wellbeing activities.	Lead	South Devon AONB
110	Develop a pro-volunteering ethos including photographers, adopt-a-walk, event stewarding, estuary project eyes and ears reporting, survey, monitoring and care of historic environment features	Lead	South Devon AONB

111	Art in the Landscape: Connecting People to Nature. Embedding the arts into the strategic plans of the NAAONB and the AONB network that it supports.	Lead/Partner	NAAONB
112	Laurel Prize development with UK Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage and NAAONBs	Lead/Partner	NAAONB
113	Develop and deliver Connecting Actively to Nature projects to benefit the health and wellbeing of under active over-55s	Lead/Partner	South Devon AONB
114	Community housing initiatives – appropriate scale and design of affordable housing to support established local need in AONB settlements	Advocate	South Hams DC
115	Reducing plastic waste sustainably - education, working with businesses	Partner	CaBA partnership
116	Investigate and evaluate the scope, scale, impacts and potential solutions to rural gentrification throughout the South Devon AONB	Partner	University of Bologna/University of Plymouth
Working together			
Awareness, communication and organisation			
117	Delivery of public events to promote awareness and understanding of the special qualities of the South Devon AONB and specific projects	Lead	South Devon AONB
118	Provide responses to requested and relevant consultations – Regional and National	Lead	South Devon AONB
119	2020 Landscapes for Life Conference – A climate for change 7 th – 9 th May 2020 Exeter University	Partner/Advocate	South Devon AONB/Devon AONBs/NAAONBs
120	Support the Slapton Line communications programme and Adaptation Project	Partner	Slapton Line Partnership
121	Actively develop local collaborations between Devon’s AONBs, other SW Protected Landscape Forum designations and the South West Coast Path Association and Trail Partnership	Partner	National Association of AONBs/South Devon AONB
122	Actively develop opportunities for collaborative working and joint initiatives amongst England’s National Landscapes including AONBs, National Parks and National Trails	Partner	National Association of AONBs
123	Explore opportunities for the national AONB network to jointly commission projects and provide consultancy services to generate income	Partner	National Association of AONBs
The core business of the AONB Unit on behalf of the Partnership also include the following actions:			
Service and coordinate the AONB Partnership Committee			
Service and coordinate the AONB Core Funding Group			

Service and coordinate the South Devon Estuaries Partnership
Ensure the AONB Management Plan Review works collaboratively with Parishes, Neighbourhood Plan Groups and local businesses.
Develop and publish an AONB Annual Report
Organise and run the AONB Open Annual Forum
Maintain and develop the South Devon AONB website, social media, e-bulletins, press releases etc. Support and promote #Outstanding Week in SDAONB
Ensure that the AONB has a profile at relevant shows and events
Respond to consultation requests from LPAs on planning applications for significant developments
Contribute toward the development of LPAs Strategic Planning Policy
Undertake an update of images as part of Fixed Post Photography landscape monitoring programme
Provide advice to Local Authorities and other organisations on AONB duties and special qualities
Deliver a programme of community engagement activities
Provide land management advice and coordination
Produce a 3-year South Devon AONB Partnership and Staff Unit Business Plan and submit to DEFRA
Revise the operation of the South Devon AONB Partnership, working groups and support Community Representatives in liaising with their sectors
Publish an annual AONB Delivery Plan
Develop a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in support of the South Devon AONB
AONB governance - 3xAONB Partnership meetings, 2xAONB Estuaries Steering Group, 1x annual open forum
Undertake a formal review of the 2019-2024 AONB Management Plan in 2023
Develop intern post to support team and specific project delivery
Working with and contributing to the NAAONB activities, sharing advice and best practice - conference; Lead officer meetings; comms monthly telecon
Specific volunteering opportunities - e.g. walks checkers; events assistants, tied to specific projects, photographers

The AONB Unit will lead or contribute to the following groups during 2020-2021

AONB Estuaries Partnership Steering Group
Avon Estuary Conservation Forum

Brixham and Kingswear Peninsula Project Group
Dart Estuary Forum
Devon AONBs Officers group
Devon Maritime Forum
Devon Landscape Policy Group
Devon Local Nature Partnership
Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat project steering group
Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat community engagement T and F group
Landscape environment resilience group (LERG)
RSPB Cirl Country project steering group
South Devon AONB Partnership Committee
South Devon Catchments Partnership
Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary Forum
Slapton Line Partnership Steering Group
South Devon Outdoors tourism sector group
Slapton Nature Reserve Land Management Committee
South Devon Local Action Group Management Board
South Devon AONB Farmers' Sounding Board Group
Sustainability and Outdoor learning in Devon – LNP project group
Tamar Estuary Consultative Forum
Wembury Marine Centre Partnership
Wembury Voluntary Marine Conservation Area group
Yealm Estuary Management Group

Item 5c: South Devon AONB 60th celebrations

Purpose

1. To highlight South Devon AONB 60th celebrations work

Background

2. The AONB Unit has secured a NLHF bid providing £10,000 grant aid to deliver events and activities as part of celebrating the 60th anniversary of the South Devon AONB designation.

Delivery

3. The project will create opportunities for participants to meet people who live, work in and care for the AONB, take them to places they would not normally get the chance to visit and offer them a glimpse of what the area looked like in the past. Targeted groups of people, who represent a range of ages, cultures and geographical locations, will be asked what they would like see for the AONB in the next 60 years, to help us explore what our local community wants for, and from, the AONB. The work will help us understand our communities' ambition for their protected landscape and shape future Delivery Plans.
4. To inform discussion, the SDAONB Community Officer, Nicky Bailey will provide a short presentation to Partnership Committee members in the meeting outlining the celebrations.
5. As part of the project, and to tie in with the new DEFRA funding agreement, we are aiming to widen our audience through this anniversary project: ideas and suggestions for this will come from small groups workshops as part of this session

Recommendations

6. AONB Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
 - I. Note the projects for the 60th celebrations
 - II. Consider how the Partnership as a whole or as individual member wish can become involved in the development and delivery of these projects going forward.
 - III. Develop ideas for audience development

Item 7a: Current and recent key planning matters

Purpose

1. To highlight to AONB Partnership Committee members strategic planning and development management matters of particular note.

Development Management matters

2. **APP/X1165/W/20/3245011** Land to the South of White Rock Adjacent to Brixham Road (aka Inglewood) Paignton, TQ4 7BQ (Torbay LPA Reference P/2017/1133). Appeal on non-determination grounds. Outline application for residential led development of up to 373 dwellings, principle of a public house, primary school with nursery. Landscape and AONB impact matters are central to Torbay Council's reasons for refusal and Statement of Case. The appeal is to be determined by hearing on 12th May 2020.
3. **3612/19/FUL** Telecommunication Mast Wembury Point, Removal of co mount SSR antenna. Installation of replacement SSR (co-operative) radar. Comprising new steel lattice 15 metre tower, with new SSR antenna overall height 18 metre, and new ground equipment cabin. A compensation case is being prepared to address likely harm to natural beauty that would arise in the case of consent of the current proposal.
4. **MLA/2018/00506** Sustainable Seaweed Farming, Start Bay. Refused by the MMO on 27th February 2020. Reasons for refusal given as:
 - i. The proposed activities currently represent unacceptable risk to existing users of the sea; and
 - ii. The application is lacking significant amounts of detail, which must be supplied in order for an evidence-based decision to be made.
5. **0504/20/VAR plus associated applications 0529/20/FUL and 0528/20/FUL.** Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) following grant of planning consent 2161/17/OPA to enable hotel and residential accommodation switch between the Waterside and Philips building and update quay wall drawings and associated conditions
6. A full list of planning cases the AONB Unit has been involved in over the last quarter is provided for information purposes in item 7b of the agenda papers. Please note that this information was extracted from the various LPA web sites at the end of February 2020. For the most up to date information in relation to these and other applications please visit the relevant LPA planning application search pages at:
 - South Hams District Council <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/>
 - Torbay Council <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/newpublicaccess//>
 - Devon County Council <https://planning.devon.gov.uk/PlanHome.aspx>
 - Plymouth City Council <https://planning.plymouth.gov.uk/online-applications/>
 - Marine Management Organisation
https://marinelicensing.marinemanagement.org.uk/mmofox5/fox/live/MMO_PUBLIC_REGIS TER

Strategic Planning matters

South West Marine Plans consultation

7. A consultation on the draft South West Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans opened on the 14th January 2020 and closes on the 6th April. The plan includes the South Devon AONB coastline, inshore and offshore water from west of the mouth of the Dart estuary to Plymouth Sound and beyond to the Severn estuary. The plans will provide a framework to shape and inform decisions over how the areas' waters are developed, protected and improved over the next 20 years. Now in consultation draft form, the Plans become material considerations in decision-making.
8. Consultation on Local Green Space Development Plan Document Designation Criteria for the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan Plymouth Policy Area. The purpose of the consultation is to seek views on the proposed methodology and the criteria the Councils will use to assess whether or not green spaces within the Plymouth Policy Area should be formally designated as 'Local Green Spaces'. The consultation runs until 5pm on Monday 23rd March 2020 and the best way to comment is through the Plymouth City Council consultation portal <https://plymouth-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/planning/jlp/lgsdpd1>

Other related matters

9. On the 30th January 2020, the Building Better, Building Beautifully Commission published its final report entitled '*Living with Beauty: Promoting health, well-being and sustainable growth*'.⁵ The report proposes a new development and planning framework: that asks for beauty; refuses ugliness; and promotes stewardship. Though built environment focused, there are many parallels with the findings of the Designated Landscapes Review.

Recommendations

10. The Partnership Committee is recommended to:
 - i. Note recent and current levels of designated landscape development management advice required from the South Devon AONB Unit bearing in mind the draft planning protocol consultation triggers.
 - ii. Continue to alert the AONB Manager at the earliest possible opportunity to cases where designated landscape matters are pertinent and share views on live applications.

5

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/861832/Living_with_beauty_BBBBC_report.pdf

Item 7c: South Devon AONB Unit projects

Purpose

1. To highlight AONB Unit projects for 2020/21

Background

2. The draft Plan reflects the direction and priorities identified in the AONB Management Plan and is strongly aligned with the 25 YEP, Glover Review and NAAONB priorities.

South Devon AONB Unit led core and project activity for April 2020 to March 2021

3. See Appendix 2 to this item for detail
4. The Defra funding settlement for 2020/21 includes finance from a dedicated Biodiversity Fund and specifically requires the AONB to undertake activities that will benefit biodiversity. It has also been requested that the AONB delivers against:
 - Nature Recovery Network activity
 - Nature-based solutions that work towards net zero carbon
 - Support the needs of communities in modern Britain
 - Strategic partnership work with groups, including NPAs and other AONBs

The settlement also demonstrates the importance government places on the leadership needed from AONBs, particularly in meeting the challenges set out in the Designated Landscapes Review led by Julian Glover. Defra has requested that the Units work is referenced against the following themes: Conservation of the Natural Environment, Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Recreation Management and Transport, Recreation Management and Transport, Promoting Understanding, Communications and outreach, Rangers and Volunteers and Development/Planning.

Recommendations

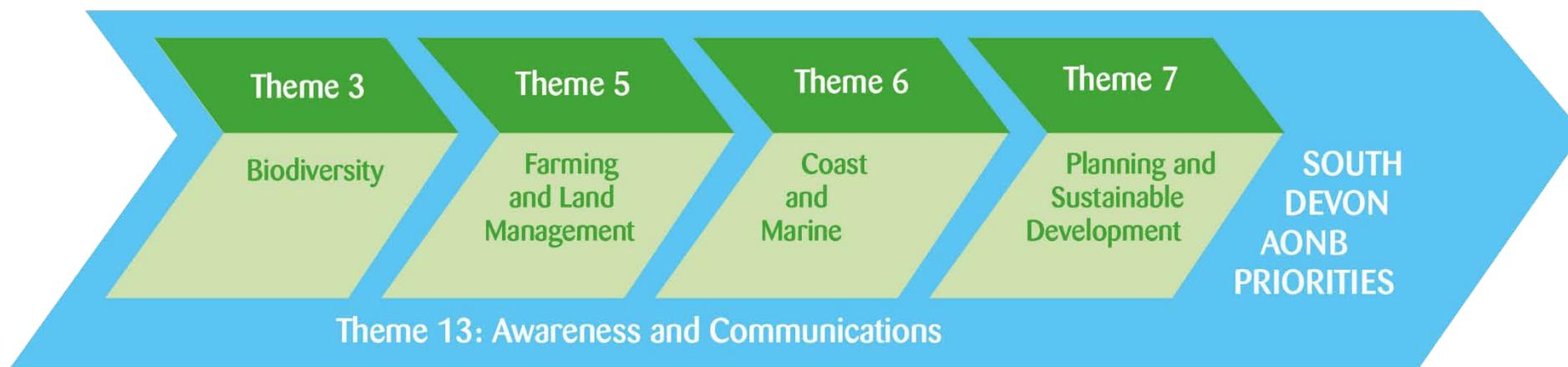
5. AONB Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
 - Note the AONB Unit key projects for 2020/21
 - Consider how the Partnership as a whole or as individual member wish can become involved in the development and delivery of these projects going forward.

Appendix 1 to item 7c: Key AONB project programmes and AONB Staff Unit priorities

South Devon AONB Unit led core and project activity in support of the South Devon AONB Delivery Plan for April 2020 to March 2021

The AONB Management Plan and operating model of the South Devon AONB Partnership is one founded on shared responsibility and joint action. The Management Plan directly relates to the strategic aims of the Defra 25 Year Environment Plan, Landscapes Review (Glover Review) and NAAONB priorities.

The AONB Partnership focus areas reflect current issues by prioritising projects that deliver benefits to land management, biodiversity, planning and those based on estuaries and the coast. Communication and wider education activities are also essential actions for the team. Priority themes aside, the AONB Staff Unit will work with partners to respond to all the themes in the plan taking advantage of funding opportunities where appropriate.



This table aligns the South Devon AONB Unit Action Plan and work priorities for April 2020 to March 2021 with Glover Review chapters. The Glover Review made 27 headline proposals in 5 areas to make landscapes greener, more beautiful and open to everyone.

1: Landscapes Alive for Nature and Beauty	2: Landscapes for Everyone	3: Living in Landscapes	4: More Special Places	5: New Ways of Working
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Action	Timetabled quarterly	Planned outputs	Expected outcomes	Glover review
Current Actions to be completed				
As CaBA co-hosts complete and publish the Strategy and Action Plan for the South Devon River Catchments		Produce an online Strategy and Action Plan document	Promote the SDCP, generate new membership, support a pro-volunteering ethos and drive projects towards delivery	2
Updated Planning Protocol between the South Devon AONB Partnership and the four Local Planning Authorities / Marine Management Organisation		A jointly agreed approach to roles, responsibilities and consultation triggers for the production of development plans and assessment of applications for development.	Transparency of process. Decision-taking and plan-making that conserves and enhances natural beauty. Targeted use of the limited South Devon AONB planning resource.	5
Conclude work to update the South Devon AONB website, including a responsive design for effective use on mobile devices		Launch new Website	Increased website use from mobile device users	2
Produce panels to interpret the historic environment, sand dunes and hay meadow of Bantham Ham		Interpretation panels to be sited at Bantham Ham	Improved visitor experience and knowledge of nature conservation	2
Develop and submit proposals for undergrounding overhead power lines to the approved Western Power Distribution (WPD) voluntary initiative for the regulatory period 2015-2023 and beyond		To provide the SWPLG with a project pipeline	Landscape character enhancement in the SDAONB	4
Deliver the Explore South Devon countryside project in partnership with South Devon Local Action Group		Complete installation of all interpretation panels, enhanced content for online walks and drone footage for production of a film for website	Improved visitor experience and knowledge of heritage and nature conservation	2

Action	Timetabled quarterly	Planned outputs	Expected outcomes	Glover review
Promote the 2019 – 2024 AONB Management Plan		Various communication channels	Raised awareness of the AONB designation and policy framework	2
Manage the Torcross Sherman Tank restoration element of the Coastal Revival Fund grant on behalf of Slapton Line project		Hard landscaping improvements and tank refurbishment	A more resilient local feature	2
Programmed actions to be continued				
Develop full application against allocation to underground low voltage powerlines at Prawle Point, as part of the Western Power Distribution and the South West protected landscapes programme		Underground 1km of wirescape at Prawle Point	Landscape character improvement	1
Maintain the AONB communications programme		Produce AONB e-bulletins, website, social media feeds, press releases, etc.	Raised awareness of the designation	1
Update and maintain slipway/ferry panels along the AONB coast and estuaries		Maintenance, updating and replacement of existing panels x10	Informed coast path and ferry crossing users	2
Maintain and promote the AONB geocache network		Maintenance of facility	Public recreational facility upkeep	2
Hold informative AONB exhibitions at selected events and shows connected with the 2020/21 project programme		6x AONB exhibition days	Raised awareness of the South Devon AONB	2
Deliver projects and activity as set out in the South Devon AONB Estuaries Management Plan		Promote projects in the South Devon Catchments Partnership Action Plan	Support a pro-volunteering ethos with practical improvement projects in the Yealm, Erme, Avon, Salcombe-Kingsbridge and Dart estuaries	1
Wembury Marine Centre partnership working		Attend management meetings and contribute to delivery of outreach programme with Partners	Improved Partnership working	2
Support the implementation of the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project through the project partnership. Finishes in Oct 2020		Attend steering group and task and finish groups	Improved conservation status of South Devon GHB populations	1

Action	Timetabled quarterly	Planned outputs	Expected outcomes	Glover review
Implement the fifth year of the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation programme in the Avon Valley, with a consortium of local groups and 87+ member farmers		Provide landowner advice, habitat enhancements and connectivity improvements. Delivery of relevant workshops and training sessions	Increased nature recovery through improved land management for biodiversity	1
Complete the Bees in the South Devon Landscape project		Supported NERC funded research project with Exeter University and PhD student	Create a more robust scientific baseline to support future biodiversity projects	1
Support 'Bee behaviour in dim light' research using the SDAONB as an outdoor laboratory		Complete year 3 of the BBSRC SW Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership	Better understand the effects of artificial lighting on foraging behaviour in our South Devon	1
Deliver a programme of activities linked to key AONB messages and detailed in the South Devon AONB Communications Plan		Provide engagement opportunities for local people and visitors	Engaging people with nature and landscape	2
Working in partnership with the AONB Parishes, continue the rollout and installation programme of AONB Gateway signs		AONB Gateway/Village signs installed for a further 2 Parishes	Increased Parish ownership and awareness of the South Devon AONB designation	2
Provide annual information about the AONB and a programme of events		Develop and print the 2020 South Devon AONB 'Explorer' publication	Increase the understanding and enjoyment of AONB special qualities	2
Undertake 10 AONB Fixed Point Photography locations followed by an analysis of landscape change within the views		Complete 10 FPP exercises in 20/21	Provide monitoring of landscape condition	3
Complete a gap analysis of protected landscape monitoring activity to update SoR		Complete and update SoR	Provide data to monitor landscape change	3
Service and coordinate the AONB Partnership Committee, AONB Core Funding Group and AONB Estuaries Partnership		Provide agendas and reports, develop and publish an AONB Annual Report, organise and run and AONB Open Annual Forum	Provide Partnership Committee governance support	4
Support the St Sylvester's Church, Chivelstone NLHF renovation group to engage the local community and deliver events		Provide contracted support in the engagement of local people and interpret the history and significance of the church in the AONB landscape	Partnership work to secure significant NLHF grant	2
Facilitate and lead a programme of beach cleans		Provide engagement opportunities for people	Education and raising awareness of plastic pollution and contribute to cleaner beaches	2
Support local agricultural events		Partnership work to support Lambing Live, Big Day out on the farm	Highlight the contribution farming and land management make to AONB biodiversity and the natural capital/ecosystems services	1

Action	Timetabled quarterly	Planned outputs	Expected outcomes	Glover review
Deliver the South Devon element of the Pacific Oyster Citizen Science Project		Map the population density of this invasive non-native species around SDAONB estuary shores	Understand the ecology of Pacific Oysters and initiate the control of theme on local estuaries	1
Provide advice to Local Authorities, public bodies and other organisations on s85 CROW Act and AONB duty of regard and South Devon AONB special qualities		Engage with Local Authority colleagues, public bodies and other organisations	Clearer understanding of the SDASONB vision and Management Plan distinguishing it from adjacent countryside	1
Provide advice to Local Authorities, public bodies and other organisations on estuarine & marine ecology		Engage with Local Authority colleagues, public bodies and other organisations	Enhanced conservation of estuarine & marine environments in the SDAONB	1
Support the development and delivery of CITiZAN (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network) – South Devon Rivers Discovery Programme		Year1 of the 3 year project	Coastal and estuarine historic environment community research and recording supporting a pro-volunteering ethos	2
Contribute AONB Unit staff time to 25 Partnerships		See list of partnerships below	Provide substantive delivery mechanisms for AONB Management Plan priorities.	3
New actions to be started				
Deliver a 60th anniversary programme for the AONB		Deliver requirements of the NLHF £10k grant	Engage people with the local landscape	2
Lead on the development of a LotE development phase application with partners		Submit NLHF Stage 1 application in September 2020	Secure £200k NHLF grant aid for the LotE development phase	1
Use the Wembury Corridors and Connections Project Plan to develop projects and Deliver an initial phase of Wild Wembury project to address priorities.		Work with partners to deliver biodiversity focussed projects	Contribute towards sustainable community involvement in Wembury	1
Seek resources to deliver priority access projects identified through the Kingswear-Brixham Routeways and Connections programme.		Work with partners to deliver costed schemes	Improved access in Kingswear-Brixham	2
Develop and submit proposals for undergrounding overhead power lines to the approved Western Power Distribution (WPD)		Support project pipeline	Landscape character enhancement	1

Action	Timetabled quarterly	Planned outputs	Expected outcomes	Glover review
voluntary initiative for the regulatory period 2015-2023				
Develop a local food, drink and produce campaign		Work with partners to deliver local food, drink and produce campaign	Increase awareness of the links to management and custodianship of the AONB designated landscape	2
Support the delivery of the CiTiZAN Project in the SDAONB		Support the delivery of the CiTiZAN Project	Add to the historic environment record for the AONB and develop volunteer skills, survey and recording effort for the historic environment.	2
Deliver a Y2 CAN project		Work with CAN to develop a funded project in the SDAONB	Actively connect the over 55s to nature in the SDAONB	2
Develop and deliver a monument management scheme for identified Scheduled Ancient Monuments at risk in South Devon		Work with Historic England to develop a project	Take SAMs off the 'at risk' register	2
Develop a coastal heritage project		Explore possible partnership working with National Trust, arts organisations, SWCPA and funders	Better understanding of heritage assets on the SDAONB coast	2
Develop a vision for coastal management in the South Milton and bordering parishes		Work with communities around South Milton Sands on behalf of the National Trust	Manage coastal change	2
Art in the Landscape: Connecting People to Nature. Embedding the arts into the strategic plans of the NAAONB and the AONB network that it supports.		Working with NAAONBs	Engage people with the local landscape	
Laurel Prize development with UK Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage and NAAONBs		Working with NAAONBs	Engage people with the local landscape	2
Strategic development				
Seek match funding for the implementation of further phases of the Wild Wembury project maximising the impact of funding already secured.		Apply for grant aid from various sources to support secured funding	Engage people with the local landscape	1

Action	Timetabled quarterly	Planned outputs	Expected outcomes	Glover review
Secure external funding for AONB Partnership projects and activities.		Secure developer contributions, including Section 106 and CIL payments for AONB Partnership projects and activities		
Work with NAAONB, Arts Council and other appropriate funding bodies to develop Arts projects		Develop and deliver a collaborative Arts Programme	Engage people with the landscape	2
RURITAGE – Heritage for Rural Regeneration project		Secure SDAONB as a Replicator site	Develop, implement and monitor AONB as a large scale demonstration projects for rural regeneration	2
Work with Winchester University, Plymouth University and Dorset AONB on the development phase of a five year ‘Significant Spaces’ project, to Plymouth National Marine Park proposal		Evaluate and map the contributions the SDAONB makes to health and well-being.	Better understand the importance of protected landscapes as part of the health and well-being agenda	1
Input into Torbay Arts and Heritage Strategy		Support the development of the Plymouth National Marine Park	Create a new designated area	5
Input into the development of emerging Neighbourhood Plans		Support the development of the Torbay Arts and Heritage Strategy	Engage people with the SDAONB landscape	2
		Support the development of emerging Neighbourhood Plans in SDAONB	Engage people with the SDAONB landscape	2
Actions relating to the operation of the South Devon AONB Partnership				
Support Partnership Committee meetings in 2020		13 th March/26 th June/27 th November 2021 TBC	Support AONB governance	
Hold at least two meetings of the AONB Core Funding Group		Core Funding Group 02/10/20 other dates TBC	Support AONB governance	
Hold two meetings of the South Devon AONB Estuaries Partnership Steering Group		South Devon AONB Estuaries Partnership Steering Group 13/05/20 other dates TBC	Support Estuaries Partnership governance	
Hold a 2020 AONB Public Open Forum.		Venue TBC	Provide access to AONB governance	
Update the AONB Partnership’s Business Strategy document		Review and revise the existing document		
Update the five-year income generation strategy for consideration and adoption by the AONB Partnership		Review and revise the existing document		

Action	Timetabled quarterly	Planned outputs	Expected outcomes	Glover review
Monetise select areas of knowledge and services provided by the South Devon AONB Staff Unit		Create an earned income stream	Create a mechanism for generating new sources of funding.	
Work towards establishing a South Devon AONB Trust (CIO)		Decide on a suitable model, contact potential trustees engage HR/solicitors	Create a mechanism for generating, holding and distributing new sources of funding.	
Develop a local business membership scheme		Decide on a suitable model, contact potential business membership	Build stronger relationships between the management of the special qualities of the AONB landscape and local economic activity.	
Actions related to landscape related planning advice				
Produce a NPPF policy update amendment to the South Devon AONB Planning Guidance document		Upload an on-line update/addendum	Provide a current policy reference for LA DM officers and others	1
Update Version 1 of the South Devon AONB Planning Guidance document		Revise, consult on and re-publish the South Devon AONB Planning Guidance	Provide specific current policy reference and guidance for planners, developers and the public	1
Support the development the development of the draft Plymouth and South West Devon Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)		draft Plymouth and South West Devon Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Provides further detail that contributes towards policies that conserve and enhance the AONB	1
Develop and publish a design guide for natural and built environment in the AONB		Partnership project development with SHDC and the private sector	Drive up standards of design and respect for AONB natural beauty and special qualities in development proposals	1
Develop, consult and implement a service offer and rates for pre-application advice to operate alongside Local Planning authorities and statutory agencies		Published service Income generation	Improved protected landscape advice provided early on in the planning process to developers and agents	1
Respond to planning applications where there is the potential for significant harm		Follow the Planning Protocol guidance	Protected landscape advice as part of the planning process to developers and agents	1
Provide input during the development of Marine Plans, Local Plans, and Neighbourhood Plans		Respond to consultation opportunities	Protected landscape advice as part of the consultation process	1
Respond to government and other consultations on relevant policy and legislation		Respond to government and other consultations on relevant policy and legislation	Protected landscape advice as part of the consultation process	1

Action	Timetabled quarterly	Planned outputs	Expected outcomes	Glover review
Develop and publish a Construction Environmental Management Plan guide for natural and built environment in the AONB		Produce and upload an online guidance note/document	Improved protected landscape advice provided early on in the planning process to developers	1
Evaluate the performance and effectiveness of Landscape and Ecology Management Plans connected with consented developments throughout the South Devon AONB and its setting		Develop a project brief and rationale for MSc/PhD student work	Assessment of local LEMP examples	1
Consider AONB impacts arising from the Wembury Point 2nd Radar scheme		Agree and deliver a natural beauty compensation package	Additional funding raised to invest in natural beauty enhancements at Wembury	1

Partnership working - The AONB Unit will lead or contribute to the following partnership groups during 2020/21	
Partnership name	Partnership lead organisation
National Association of AONBs – National Conference, Chairman and Lead Officer meetings and other workshops	NAAONB
South West Protected Landscape Forum	SWPLF
Devon AONB Managers' group	DCC
S Devon AONB Core Funding Group	SDAONB
S Devon AONB Partnership Committee	SDAONB
Devon Maritime Forum	DCC
Devon Landscape Policy Group	DCC
South Devon Conservation Advisors Forum	SDAONB
Devon Birds Reserve Management Group	DBs
AONB Estuaries Partnership Steering Group	SDAONB
Tamar Estuary Consultative Forum	TECF
Avon Estuary Conservation Forum	SDAONB
Yealm Estuary Management Group	SDAONB
Dart Estuary Forum	SDAONB
Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary Forum	SDAONB
Slapton Line Partnership Steering Group	SDAONB
Slapton Nature Reserve Land Management Committee	SLFC
Wembury Marine Centre Partnership	SDAONB

Wembury Voluntary Marine Conservation Area group	VMCA
South Devon Local Action Group Management Board	DR
Brixham and Kingswear Peninsula Project Group	SDAONB
South Devon Catchments' Partnership	AONB/WRT
South Devon Outdoors tourism sector group	SDAONB
Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat project steering group	DWT
Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat community engagement Task and Finish group	DWT
Devon Great Horseshoe Bat habitats and land management Task & Finish group	DWT
South Devon Farm and Land Management Forum	SDAONB
South Devon AONB Farmers' Sounding Board Group	SDAONB
Avon Valley Farm Facilitation Group	SDAONB
Sustainability and Outdoor learning in Devon	Devon LNP

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB Partnership Planning Update

13 March 2020



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Three Month Summary of Development Management Activity

Purpose

1. This report provides a brief update on development management activity since the December 2019 AONB Partnership meeting pertinent to the South Devon AONB.

Key Activity

Planning Caseload

2. Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have formally consulted the AONB Unit on 14 applications between 1st December 2019 and 29th February 2020, totalling 69 to date for the year 2019/2020.

Summary of activity:

- 20 completed responses that LPAs have determined
- 6 completed responses that LPAs are yet to determine
- 27 responses currently in development
- 8 pre-applications responded / in development

Note that the 34 applications with completed responses and an LPA decision as at the December PCM are considered closed and are not reported again in the table below. Wording in **bold** appeared on the last planning update, with any changes/updates noted in normal text.

3. The following table summarises the planning caseload:

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
20 Applications - LPA decision made					
3217/18/FUL	Land adjacent to Mothecombe School House, Beach & Car Park Retain storage building and recycling/litter bins on land adjacent to beach, replace car park hut and alter tea house	Conditional approval		N	Minimal visual impact to the AONB
4332/17/FUL	Dolphin Shipyard Mill Lane to Stoke Gabriel Road Brixham New quay wall and hardstanding, replace boat shed, refurbish buildings and extend of pontoons READVERTISED	Conditional approval	Initial holding objection	Y	Mitigation approach to foreshore loss agreed
0692/19/VAR	Land West of Belle Hill Kingsbridge Application for removal or variation of conditions 3, 5, 18 and 23	Conditional approval		N In setting	
0787/19/ARM	Applegate Park Land off Belle Hill Kingsbridge Approval of reserved matters	Conditional approval		N	
2030/19/FUL	Dinahs Side Dittisham Increase in quay wall and new slipway	Conditional approval		N	MMO consultation MLA/2019/00300
2417/19/FUL	Coombe Chalet Shady Lane Stoke Fleming Erection of two replacement residential units	Withdrawn		N	
2352/19/OPA	Land At Sx 694 478 Churchfield Aveton Gifford Outline application with all matters reserved for 5-10 residential dwellings	Withdrawn		N/Y	

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
2736/19/HHO	25 Sandquay Cottage Coombe Road Dartmouth Rear dormer and adjacent roof terrace	Conditional approval		N	Below consultation threshold
3002/19/HHO	Cockleridge Bigbury On Sea Extension, alterations and refurbishment to the existing property, garage and boat store	Conditional approval		N	
3035/19/FUL	Beaufort Beadon Road Salcombe Subdivision of dwelling to form additional dwelling	Refusal		N	Below consultation threshold
3255/19/FUL	57 Barnabas House Above Town Dartmouth Replacement dwelling	Conditional approval		N	Below consultation threshold
3422/19/FUL	Land at SX821420 nr. Old Abattoir Torcross Erection of 2no. semi detached dwellings and 2no. semi detached bungalows	Refusal	Objection	N	Joint response with landscape officer.
2103/18/OPA	Land at SX 549 521 Popplestone Park Brixton Outline application with all matters reserved for 10 units	Withdrawn		N in setting	
3627/19/ARM	Land at SX857508, Townstal Road Dartmouth Approval of reserved matters for layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for 116 dwellings	Conditional approval		N in setting	Following outline approval 15_51/1710/14/0 (Appeal APP/K1128/W/15/3039104)
3477/19/FUL	Bigbury Cottage Bigbury Provision of an agricultural building	Withdrawn		N	
3893/19/VAR	Wembury Reservoir Variation of condition 2	Conditional approval		N	
4049/19/VAR	Ashbys Salcombe Road Malborough Variation of condition 2	Conditional approval		N	
P/2019/0267	Land West of Brixham Road Paignton Section 73 application to vary condition P1: Amendments to plans of permission P/2013/1229	Appeal withdrawn		N	
19/00990/FUL	Land At Bovisand Road Staddiscombe Plymouth Conversion of two barns to 2 no. dwellings	Refused	Y Objection	N	Located in the Plymouth LPA area of Staddiscombe
P/2017/1133	Land To The South Of White Rock, Paignton Outline application for residential led development of up to 373 dwellings, principle of a public house, primary school with nursery.	Refused	Y Objection	N in setting	Appeal in progress APP/X1165/W/20/3245011
9 Applications - Response submitted - LPA still to determine					
1288/18/OPA	Former National Shire Horse Centre, Dunstone Yealmpton Re-develop former Shire Horse Centre with 25no. new dwellings READVERTISED		Objection	Y	Discussion with DM officer ongoing Previous objection stands Extension to 14.6.19
3041/18/HHO	Tamarinda, Yealm View Road, Newton Ferrers New boathouse (Resubmission of 4421/17/HHO)		Objection	N	Appeal in progress APP/K1128/W/20/3245187
1735/18/FUL	Waterhead Brake Kingswear Construct 9 dwellings & 4 apartments		Objection	Y	Verbal advice given to case officer
1944/18/FUL	Land adjacent to Higher Gabberwell House Kingston Erection of dwelling		Objection	Y	Joint response led by SHDC Landscape Specialist

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
4180/18/FUL	Land East of B3196 Loddiswell Creation of an equestrian livery facility including erection of barn, menage, associated works and change of use of land		Objection	N	Discussion with SHDC landscape specialist resulting in Objection
1140/19/FUL	Waterside Curlew Drive West Charleton Estuary Shoreline Erosion Defences		Objection	N	Re-advertised, revised plan received
2781/18/FUL	Fish Hoek and Waterside, Dartmouth Alter and extend 2 dwellings and erect 10 new dwellings including refurb slipway, landing steps and provision of floating pontoon		Objection	N	Consulted on 12.9.18 Further information required prior to AONB response. Case Officer aware and awaiting AONB response. Additional bat information awaited
3964/18/HHO	The Boathouse South Town Dartmouth READVERTISEMENT (Additional plan) Construct external lift, bridge link and other works		Objection	N	Joint response through SHDC Landscape Specialist
2167/19/FUL	Gara Rock Hotel East Portlemouth READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans received) 5 additional holiday units within Gara Rock Resort		Objection	N	Application re-advertised, number of units reduced from 8
24 Applications - Responses in development					
2496/18/ARM	Land West of Collaton Cross Reserved matters			Y	Under consideration Revised plans submitted
3669/18/VAR	Land At Sx 739 438 Derby Road Kingsbridge Variation of condition 7 (approved plans)			Y	
4210/18/SCR	Land at Gnaton Farm Yealmpton Proposed cable route for Creacombe solar farm			N	Application awaiting finalisation of legal agreement
P/2019/0173	Land South of Yalberton Road (Yannon's Farm) Paignton Reserved matters application, applications P/2014/0983/MOA and P/2018/0977, for the construction of 192 dwellings and associated infrastructure.			N In setting	This is a reserved matters application in the setting of the AONB
0936/19/ARM	Land at SX 857 508 adjacent to Townstal Road West of Dartmouth Approval of reserved matter of outline approval for layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for 240 dwellings & details reserved by conditions 6, 7, 8, 9 & 12			N	
P/2019/0594	39 Wall Park Road, Brixham Construction of three dwellings			N	
2450/19/VAR	Bar Lodge Sharpitor Salcombe Variation of condition 2			N	
3149/19/FUL	Plantation House Bennett Road Salcombe Demolish building and construct new dwelling			N	Retrospective application
2758/19/ARM	Land Adjacent Parsonage Farm Newton Ferrers Approval of reserved matters			N	
3251/19/FUL	Holly House Towns Lane Loddiswell New detached single storey dwelling and double garage			N	
3186/19/VAR	Park House Baptist Lane Salcombe Variation of condition 2			N	

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
3450/19/ARM	Field at SX662475 nr. Holwell Farm St Anns Chapel Approval of reserved matters for the development of 9no. dwellings			N	Following outline approval 4097/16/OPA (APP/K1128/W/17/3182100) Joint response with landscape officer.
3612/19/FUL	Telecommunication Mast Wembury Point Removal of co mount SSR antenna. Installation of replacement SSR (co-operative) radar. Comprising new steel lattice 15 metre tower, with new SSR antenna overall height 18 metre, and new ground equipment cabin.			Y	In the event of approval, a compensation package has been requested recognising harm to natural beauty.
3908/19/FUL	Trehear Kellaton Replacement dwelling			N	
3651/19/FUL	Heathfield Reservoir Slapton Proposed conversion of former water tank to dwelling			N	Re-advertised, revised plans received
P/2019/1307	Torbay Business Park, Paignton Construction of two commercial Units			N	
2070/19/FUL	Frogmore Orchard Ashprington Provision of dwelling			N	
3911/19/FUL	Land at Blanksmill Old Coach Road Malborough Application for general purpose agricultural building		Holding objection	N	
1720/19/FUL	Thurlestone Hotel, Thurlestone Erection of 10 self-contained holiday lets, re-site Badminton Court and additional restaurant			N	Re-advertised, revised description
3376/19/FUL	Cottage Hotel Hope Cove Provision of 2 stores to the rear of existing lobster pot building.			N	Verbal advise provided
0227/20/FUL	Bantham Estate Yard Bantham Erect new Estate & Harbour office plus grant temporary 18-month consent for continued use of land for siting of portacabins			N	
0276/20/FUL	Follets Farm Diptford Gara Bridge Totnes Proposed 15.97m monopole plus 77sqm compound			N	
0265/20/ARM	Field to Rear of Green Park Way Chillington Approval of reserved matters			N in setting	Resubmission of 3193/18/ARM
0504/20/VAR	Noss Marina Bridge Road Kingswear Variation of condition 2 to enable hotel and residential accommodation switch between the Waterside and Philips building; update quay wall drawings and associated conditions			Y	

Recommendations

4. The Partnership Committee is recommended to:

- i. Note the level of resource commitment currently applied to the type of development management consultations, bearing in mind emerging planning protocol, in addition to strategic planning across the local planning authority areas and keep this under review.
- ii. Continue to provide early notification of significant planning matters to the AONB Manager to enable timely and appropriate action to be taken.