

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB Partnership Committee Meeting

to be held at

10am on Friday 27th November 2020

Remote Video Meeting
via Zoom

Agenda & Papers



South Devon AONB Staff Unit, Follaton House, Totnes, TQ9 5NE
Telephone 01803 229330 Email enquiries@southdevonaonb.org.uk

AONB Partnership Committee Membership

Members nominated by local authorities

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

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

Agenda

Item 1 (5 mins)	Introductions & apologies for absence	
Item 2 (15 mins)	Public statements	
Item 3	Declarations of Interests	
Item 4 (5 mins)	Minutes of the last Partnership Committee meeting (18 th September 2020) for approval & any matters arising	Page 4
Item 5 (25 mins)	AONB Management 5a) AONB Management Plan Delivery Plan priorities for 2021-2022 and beyond	Page 12
(10 mins)	5b) Farming, environmental land management and nature recovery	Verbal
(20 mins)	5c) How the community is shaping the landscape: a cross-national case study	Page 29
(10 mins)	5d) The importance of design and potential of Design Review Panels in furthering the AONB purpose	Page 32
Item 6 (20 mins)	AONB Partnership matters 6a) Widening our audience, deepening engagement	Page 34
(15 mins)	6b) Round-table partner updates	Verbal
Item 7	For Information 7a) Current and recent key planning applications 7b) Planning update covering the last quarter 7c) Explore South Devon	Page 38 Separate report Page 39

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 VIA REMOTE VIDEO MEETING
ON FRIDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2020**

1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**Those present were:**

Cllr Roger Croad	RC	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
John Green	Chair	Independent
John Martin	Vice-chair	Plymouth University
Peter Sandover	PS	Representative: community/voluntary groups
Lynne Maurer	LM	Representative: parishes
Samantha Dennis	SD	Representative: tourism community
Roger English	RE	AONB Manager
Vanessa Gray		AONB Office Manager – minute taker

Also attending:

Doug Eltham	DE	Devon County Council
John Graham	JGm	Deputising for Geoffrey Osborn
Adam Davison	AD	AONB Project Officer

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Rosemary Rowe		South Hams District Council
Cllr Jonathan Hawkins		Devon County Council
Rob Price		Environment Agency
Eamon Crowe		Natural England
Geoffrey Osborn		Representative: amenity groups
Kate Ryder		Representative: business community
Ed Parr Ferris		Representative: environmental organisations (NGOs)

Note – Richard Snow of the National Trust was on furlough leave

Observers

Two observers attended the online meeting. Unfortunately, a third observer was unable to connect.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 No interests were declared

3. MINUTES OF THE 13th MARCH 2020 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING FOR APPROVAL & ANY MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 A correction to the notes of the last meeting is required to show John Martin attended.
- 3.2 It was noted that most actions had been completed or are progressing.
- 3.2.1 The AONB Manager confirmed Geoffrey Osborn's comments have been relayed to Pat Whymer, head of Development Management at SHDC.
 - 3.2.2 Following the March 2020 Partnership Committee meeting, Ed Parr Ferris expressed interest in joining Richard Snow, Samantha Dennis and Lynne Maurer on the small working group for Colchester Declaration activity. The initial meeting of the topic working group is anticipated to take place in October, having been deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions.
 - 3.2.3 A number of partners have been in contact to add further information to the updated Delivery Plan. It has been a challenging period with Covid-19 (Coronavirus). The AONB Manager invited partners to continue to inform the AONB project Officer of any activities pertinent to the Delivery Plan.
 - 3.2.4 An early decision was taken by the National Association for AONBs' to postpone this year's conference. The Exeter University booking has been moved to similar dates next year. The conference is likely to still be Devon focussed and current plans include using University facilities to run an online conference whilst maintaining the potential for site visits.

4A COVID-19 RELATED IMPACTS ON AONB MANAGEMENT AND ROUND TABLE PARTNER UPDATES

Covid-19 continues to have wide reaching impacts on AONB communities, businesses and partner organisations. The AONB Manager reported that the staff unit continue to progress a healthy project programme however due to Covid-19 it has been a particularly challenging period affecting the AONB landscape, its natural beauty, staff time, projects and programmes. A revised Delivery Plan was included as an addendum to the papers. In discussion:

- i. The AONB staff unit moved to working from home and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.
- ii. Funding programmes have been affected, notably National Lottery Heritage Fund. There has been a reprofiling of activities and priorities, in particular projects with a large community engagement component. Negotiations took place with funding bodies to amend schemes activities/timescales to ensure these could be delivered and ensure funding is secured.
- iii. 60th anniversary programme was significantly affected. A scaled back, socially distanced, 60@60 launch still managed to take place at Berry Head. The project is in support of Devon Young Carers with activities and challenges taking place into 2021.
- iv. A number of partners have been on furlough leave including a number of key staff at The National Trust. Many programmes of activity such as the Monument Management Scheme, elements of Life on the Edge, Wild Wembury project work, Farm facilitation programme as well as coastal change activities are being reprofiled, with some on pause, until staff have returned or funding is formally confirmed.

In the last month, the AONB staff unit have worked with partners on a range of Green Recovery Challenge Fund bids to National Lottery. Some work taking place at a national level. The papers included a restricted copy of the National Association for AONBs' offer to the nation. Local activity includes working with Buglife on the urgent work required at Prawle Point for the six banded nomad bee and long horned mining bee.

The AONB Partnership Chair asked Committee members to highlight Covid-19 related impacts.

4a.1 Samantha Dennis, representative for tourism

- i. Furloughed in March, Kingsbridge Information Centre was closed at that time; planning to reopen in October.
- ii. Spent some time at the beginning of lockdown liaising with businesses and signposting to relevant Government schemes.
- iii. There has been a very large influx of visitors to the area with businesses that reopened fully booked. There have been some pop-up offerings to fill gaps in the market however these pop-ups may not be as informed about the AONB and sustainability.

4a.2 Lynne Maurer, representative for Parish Councils

- i. Parish Councils have had an influx of information from Government and DCC.
- ii. Lockdown easing increased pressure on the AONB and did result in damage at some key sites. One example was a large fire in the Kingswear area caused by an out of control beach barbeque resulting in substantial loss of coastal woodland.
- iii. Looking to approach parish councils to donate to the Devon Young Carers project that will provide days out in the AONB with activities organised with partners exploring the AONB special qualities through activities such as stand-up paddle boarding, canoeing, surfing and snorkelling.

4a.3 Peter Sandover, representative for community/voluntary groups

- i. Involved in Neighbourhood Planning for the area. Involved in a number of groups and can see that activity has stepped up. Referendums will not take place on plans put forward until next year however plans that complete examination can still be given significant weight in the planning process.

4a.4 John Graham, deputising for the representative for amenity groups

- i. Groups have continued to function although not able to meet in person.
- ii. There was adverse publicity surrounding the initial closure of certain Dartmoor National Park car parks. Although this does not seem to have happened within the AONB, note that there is need to ensure parking remains open to visitors from outside the area, so they can explore the AONB to benefit mental health and wellbeing.

4a.5 John Martin, Vice Chair

- i. Recently put in for a BBSRC grant in support of coastal communities; the AONB Manager provided a letter of support. If successful, would enable activities in South Devon, funding staff to run citizen science activities connecting people to the coast.

4a.6 Peter Chamberlain, Devon County Council

- i. DCC refocussed activity to Covid-19 response.
- ii. Most activities continued through remote working however physical meetings and active events discontinued.
- iii. Focus is now on recovery activities through Devon Local Nature partnership

4a.7 Graham Swiss, South Hams District Council

- i. Move to agile working around four years ago has meant seamless transition to home working.
- ii. Challenging time for SHDC, with focussed activity to the Covid-19 response. This included a community response team set up to help support Members and to help support and co-ordinate efforts of local groups.
- iii. As with other local authorities, revenue streams have been impacted in particular during the initial months of lockdown.

4a.8 Cllr. Bernard Taylor, South Hams District Council

- i. Local Authorities have experienced additional financial pressures due to Covid-19, in addition to coping with high visitor numbers over the summer. Concern was expressed over possible impacts upon future budgets.

4a.9 Cllr. Anne Brooks, Torbay Council

Feedback was provided via the Chat function as a technical issue prevented Cllr. Brooks from unmuting.

- i. Well done to the AONB staff unit for a wonderful 60th launch at Berry Head. A busy day with a good piece in the Herald Express about the launch celebrations.

4a.10 The AONB Partnership Chair requested Partnership members consider the recommendations on item 4a contained in the papers, in particular the AONB Managers request for any further information on Covid-19 related impacts upon the management of South Devon AONB for use as evidence to support future green recovery work.

ACTION 1 (all): Provide any further supporting detail on Covid-19 related impacts by 18th October 2020 in order that a summary report may be used as evidence to support future green recovery work.

4B GOVERNMENT REFORMS OF THE PLANNING SYSTEM IN ENGLAND

Graham Swiss, South Hams District Council, introduced the scheduled and proposed wide-ranging reforms to the planning system in England. The main changes were highlighted in the papers.

4b.1 Of particular note

- i. Potentially the most fundamental change since the current planning system was introduced by the 1947 act.
- ii. Planning White Paper
 - Currently in the consultation period, ending on 29 October 2020.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>
- iii. Changes to the current planning system
 - The consultation period closes on 1 October 2020.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system>

4b.2 Observations and in discussion

- i. In practise, what is proposed in the planning white paper is a radical change to the planning system and intended to come in relatively quickly. In particular the proposed change to a zonal approach – allocation of areas for growth, renewal and protection.
 - a. Time and resources will be required to transition from the current system to the new one.
 - b. Zoned areas for Growth will have outline planning consent
 - Currently, under the allocation system, local authorities do some work up front to check allocated sites are broadly suitable for development with the detail taking place during the planning process.
 - Zoned areas for growth come with outline planning consent, requiring much more local authority effort up front.
 - c. As the Zoning process is front-loaded, it is unclear at this time to see how developers would fund the resources LAs' will require.
 - d. Environmental constraints also need to be considered. Currently detailed investigations take place at a later stage. For example in the case of archaeology the geophysics or digs only take place in the area the harmful impact will occur. In the new system, this would need to take place over the extent of the area zoned for growth.
- ii. Opportunities to improve the current planning system with many positives. However, the following was noted

- a. The White Paper does not contain detailed information on the proposals. For example, Zones for protection may include AONBs however sufficient account would also need to be given to the effect on AONBs, as developments outside the AONB can result in harm to it.
 - b. Professional bodies have shared concerns.
 - c. 'Locality', the agency supporting Neighbourhood Planning, has expressed concerns that although supported, Neighbourhood Plans will reduce in scope.
 - d. Development Management policies being removed from Local Plans could also impact what Neighbourhood Plans can say.
 - e. The removal of consultation at planning application stage is of concern.
- iii. Consultation period closes on 29 October 2020. Everyone is encouraged to make submissions themselves in addition to the AONB response.
 - iv. It was reported that the Planning White Paper is currently subject to a legal challenge.
 - v. The first five-year Torbay Local Plan Review is required by mid December 2020. A Local Plan Project Working Group/Board to include Members, Neighbourhood Forums and other representatives has been instigated. The first meeting has been scheduled for the first week of October and will help to steer the need and extent of the Review process under a very tight timescale.

4b.3 The AONB Partnership Chair requested Partnership members consider the recommendations on item 4b contained in the papers.

ACTION 2 (all): Highlight any specific areas of the consultations for which development of a South Devon AONB response is considered particularly important.

ACTION 3 (all): Indicate your interest in working with the AONB Manager to inform responses from the South Devon AONB unit on behalf of the Partnership to the two consultations.

4C CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY CRISIS – EMERGING INTERIM DEVON CARBON PLAN

Doug Eltham, Environment and Sustainability Policy Officer at Devon County Council, provided an update on this agenda item to Partnership members. This was followed by a short presentation from the AONB Manager.

ACTION 4 (all):

- Highlight to the AONB Manager where difficult decisions may be required together with suggestions for constructive solutions.
- Indicate your interest in working with the AONB Manager as part of a small Task and Finish group to inform a constructive response by the South Devon AONB unit on behalf of the Partnership to the Interim Carbon Plan when launched.

5A AONB PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING STRUCTURE

The AONB Chair introduced this item that reviews the Structure of the South Devon AONB Partnership Committee meetings and went through the options provided in the papers.

5a.1 Partnership members discussed the recent trial of the public presentations and statements as well as the format of meetings generally. The trial sessions took place immediately before the main Committee meeting, with attendees' welcome to stay as observers.

5a.2 In discussion

- i. To bring public statements into the main meeting.

Note, although there is an existing facility for members of the public to send in questions three weeks prior to each meeting, a minor change would be required to the constitution terms of reference for Partnership operation in order to incorporate public statements into the main meeting.

- ii. Whether to keep the public presentation element.
 - The AONB Manager mentioned the presentation could be focussed on the parish in which the meeting is being held. In 2017 at a Partnership meeting held in St Anne's Chapel, a presentation was provided that gave information on the parish of Bigbury, the importance of the AONB on the parish and the challenges being faced in the parish.
- iii. When physical meetings resume
 - Ensure observers are placed where they can hear and see presentations.
 - In addition to invitations already sent to all AONB parish councils, specifically invite the local parish Chair to the meeting.
- iv. The AONB Partnership Chair proposed to
 - i. Reformat the presentation to focus on a specific Parish, scheduled to take place prior to the start of the main meeting.
 - ii. Provide an opportunity for public statements within the main meeting agenda, to take place immediately following introductions and apologies. Session to be limited to fifteen minutes duration with each statement taking up to three minutes.

RESOLVED: Partnership Committee members agreed to the Chair's proposals.

ACTION 5 (RE): Circulate proposed amendments to the constitution terms of reference prior to the next Partnership Committee meeting.

5B. GLOVER REVIEW – DIVERSITY AND AONB GOVERNANCE

The AONB Manager went through the update provided in the papers.

- 5b.1 Two documents pertinent to this agenda item became available immediately prior to distribution of papers for the meeting. These documents came with a clear instruction that although they may be circulated to AONB Partnerships, they were not to be published. In this respect, the documents could not be included in the main papers but were distributed with them as separate addendums - 1 & 2.
- 5b.2 The AONB Manager asked Partnership members to provide feedback, in particular about how to increase diversity and broaden representation including ideas to engage younger people.

In discussion:

- An advantage of meeting remotely is the ability to involve people that would not ordinarily be able to attend physical meetings. For example, representatives from outside the AONB who visit as tourists, perhaps from Plymouth or Exeter, could attend online.
- To attract other age groups
 - Increase use of social media messaging to promote the AONB.
 - Invite a rolling representative from the colleges or schools.
- Perhaps work in partnership with the National Trust who are also seeking to engage with a more diverse audience.
- Compile a single page summary of what South Devon AONB Partnership seeks to achieve by increasing engagement and diversity. This would then be used to help people understand and feel motivated to participate.

ACTION 6 (all): Send thoughts on this to the AONB Manager. A single page summary will be prepared by the AONB Manager and the AONB Chair prior to the next meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to carry forward this topic onto next meeting agenda for further discussion.

- Annual Forum was discussed
 - An opportunity to increase public engagement. Could be a public event, for example hold in a public place. Amenity groups could put people forward to speak about the AONB at the event.
 - Look at timing and format

ACTION 7 (all): Share views on format and timing of next year's Annual Forum to the AONB Manager, to be incorporated into a white paper for the next meeting.

6A. CURRENT AND RECENT KEY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

An update on development management matters of note was circulated in the papers.

- 6a.1 The AONB Manager informed Partnership members that the last Core Funding Group meeting approved an option to bring in planning office support to year end. A number of opportunities are being explored to deliver this.
- 6a.2 The Inglewood application in Torbay has an appeal date set for January 2022.

6B. PLANNING UPDATE COVERING THE LAST SIX MONTHS

Provided as a separate report.

6b.1 In discussion

- Amenity Groups would like to see the AONB consultation response come through more quickly to help and encourage others to send in a response.
 - When asked if the additional planning resource would allow for an early indication of an AONB holding objection the AONB Manager confirmed that having additional resources allows for opportunities to do more. In straight forward scenarios the AONB response has gone in quickly however this is not always possible for example where key aspects of documentation are missing.
 - The AONB Manager reminded Partnership that he is happy to have conversations or email correspondence on planning applications.
- It was suggested that AONB Standing Advice could be helpful in the first instance with reference to AONB Planning Guidance, to include NPPF assessment of whether the application is 'major/minor' and alternative sites etc. The AONB Manager reminded Partnership members of the trial of standard responses that took place previously. There were elements that worked well but also some that did not, so this approach was withdrawn. This will be revisited in the light of the updated AONB Planning Protocol and current caseload.
- It was mentioned that at a recent Development Management Committee Meeting, the lack of an AONB response was taken as no objection. A critical point of principal as clearly set out in the AONB Planning Protocol, developed with South Hams District Council and adopted at our March 2020 Partnership meeting, is that

“the absence of a consultation response [from the AONB Unit] must not be taken to mean no objection”.

See clause e) to the section entitled Development Management Process in the March agenda papers attached and repeated below for convenience.

“The local planning authorities will:

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;”

- AONB representation on Design Review Panels, where these are formed, was suggested.
ACTION 8 (PS): Create a paper for presentation at the next meeting of the AONB Partnership Committee.

6C. AONB STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT

An update on AONB staff activity will be circulated post meeting.

NEXT MEETING AND 2021 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

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

- **NEXT MEETING**

Friday 27th November 2020, via remote video meeting

- **PROPOSED MEETING DATES 2021**

12th March 2021, via remote video meeting

25th June 2021, venue TBC

26th November 2021, venue TBC

These minutes remain as draft until approved at the next meeting of the South Devon AONB Partnership Committee.

Item 5a: AONB Delivery Plan priorities for 2021/22

Purpose

1. To provide members of the AONB Partnership Committee with advanced sight of the emerging AONB Management Plan Delivery Plan for 2021-2022 and an opportunity to shape priorities. The report introduces the context within which the delivery plan must be shaped including the principal drivers. The accompanying table (see Appendix 1 to this item) illustrates how projects and actions align with national, regional and local priorities. This item also provides an opportunity for members to update colleagues on organisational, personal or community activity in support of Management Plan objectives relevant to the conservation and enhancement of the South Devon AONB.

Background

2. The Delivery Plan is an integral part of the statutory AONB Management Plan for the national landscape and directly relates to the policies and objectives contained in the Strategy. The Delivery Plan seeks to capture planned action in support of the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the AONB. This includes but is not limited to those actions to be undertaken by:
 - A wide range of partners;
 - Organisations and communities that are members of the AONB Partnership;
 - The AONB Staff Unit, working on behalf of the Partnership.

Context

3. More than ever before the emerging Delivery Plan is less clear at this stage in the year than normal as so much depends upon repercussions of the COVID pandemic including upon public sector budgets, grant programmes and their revised priorities, partner staffing levels, project timetables where public engagement was a significant component. However a number of drivers provide a clear steer on themes and issues requiring attention:

AONB Management Plan priorities

4. Though required action was identified across all fourteen AONB Management Plan themes, the last review highlighted four themes and two over arching elements that were seen as particular priorities:
 - Biodiversity
 - Farming and Land Management
 - Coast and Marine
 - Planning and Sustainable Development
 - Conserving and Enhancing Landscape Character
 - Awareness and Communication

Defra Grant Funding Agreement

5. A new style grant funding agreement between Defra and South Hams District Council as the Partnership's accountable body on behalf of the AONB Core Funders was introduced part way through 2019/20 financial year. The legal agreement supported by a Memorandum of Agreement between Core Funding partners covers Defra's requirements for core and project funding contributions. In addition to core functions Defra priorities for 2020/21 have included:
 - activities to benefit biodiversity;
 - delivery of nature recovery;
 - working towards net zero carbon through nature-based solutions;

- supporting the needs of communities in modern Britain;
 - working in partnership strategically with other AONBs and National Parks; and
 - advocacy of the Environmental Land Management Scheme (a late addition at the end of October 2020)
6. A Defra grant funding offer letter for 2021/22 is anticipated in mid-late December 2020 at which point headline information may be provided by Defra on specific activities to be required of the AONB Staff Unit for delivery in 2021/22. At this stage the six areas listed above appear to remain highly relevant and are judged likely to be central to Defra's offer for 2021/22. Additional Green Recovery activity is also likely.

The Glover Review of Landscapes

7. The Glover Review recognised that AONB management should be strengthened with 'new purposes, powers and resources' which would provide the foundation for many of the other recommendations proposed by the report. Action on the proposals is fundamental to creating a step change in capacity to address the full range of challenges and opportunities required for effective AONB Management. Since publication of the Glover Review in September 2019 the National Association for AONBs and individual AONB services have noted a marked rise in expectations from existing and new partners along with increased demand for support and engagement. All are reporting capacity issues at this point, however AONB purposes, powers and resources remain largely as they were in 2019. In the meantime an appropriate balance must be struck to ensure action is taken to meet an array of national and local priorities including progressing aspects of the Glover review proposals that don't require additional resources or legislative changes.
8. At the time of finalising this report a number of Government announcements have recently been made on *The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution*¹ with further detail expected in the coming weeks. One particular area requiring elaboration is the reference in a press release² of the 18th November to "*New national parks and greater protections for England's iconic landscapes to improve access to nature and better protect the country's rich wildlife and biodiversity*".

Additional drivers of note

9. A wide range of additional drivers exist for action consistent with conserving and enhancing the AONB. Of particular relevance are:
- 25 Year Environment Plan
 - Climate emergency, biodiversity crisis and radical action required to meet carbon net-zero
 - Corporate priorities of Local Authority Core Funders that accord with conserving and enhancing natural beauty and Partnership funding agreements
 - Local Plans and Marine plans
 - National Association for AONBs network action and business plan
 - Natural Devon - Devon's Local Nature Partnership and prospectus
 - South Devon Catchment's Partnership Action Plan

Covid-19 pandemic

10. The current pandemic has brought into even sharper focus the importance of locally accessible greenspace and landscapes, the value of local food production and short supply chains, and the direct role of AONBs in supporting public health and wellbeing.

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936567/10_POINT_PLAN_BOOKLET.pdf

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-national-parks-and-thousands-of-green-jobs-under-plans-to-build-back-greener>

11. In addition to being subject to successful funding bids, many of the projects in the draft plan are dependent upon the involvement of partners, communities, businesses, visitors etc, that continue to be substantially affected by COVID-19 impacts and changing restrictions. More than ever before a substantial degree of flexibility will be required in order to navigate the next 12 months whilst achieving meaningful outcomes and impact in support of our AONB primary purpose. Defras' expectations re rural economy / post covid recovery.

The natural beauty of the South Devon AONB

12. The diversity of the South Devon AONB landscape is captured in the AONB Management Plan and the special qualities used to summarise the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB. This wide array of factors in itself requires an exceptionally multi-disciplinary approach to AONB management and requires collaborative partnership and project working to scale up from a small staff team. This is an evolved model of AONB management and a best fit for the level of resourcing currently available.

Other considerations

13. At the September 2020 meeting of the Partnership following a discussion of AONB Staff Unit workload, the Chairman asked the Amenity Groups Community Representative to prepare a paper for consideration. The resulting paper authored by John Graham on behalf of the South Devon AONB Amenity Groups is included within the agenda pack (Annex 1 to this report) and can be read in conjunction with this agenda item. Members of the AONB Partnership Committee representing other interests are invited to share their own views on priorities for AONB Management.

Project pipeline

14. A significant proportion of AONB Management Plan activity is achieved through projects and collaborative working. This approach is proven to catalyse partners action, attract external funding, generate income and other resources. 35% of the current AONB Staff Unit's capacity is entirely funded through projects and an increasing amount of earned income is required to unlock Defra funding for core AONB work. A portfolio of small, medium and where feasible large scale projects are developed and delivered using a project pipeline approach to ensure a continual flow of initiatives to address priorities. In any one year the mix and overall scale of activities will be different but will contain items in different stages of development, planning , awaiting funding, inception, delivery or at wrap-up and evaluation.
15. For the 2021/22 delivery plan, where funding or resources to deliver a particular action are as yet unsecured this is noted, including that an action's delivery is subject to the outcome of funding bids.

Next steps and future updates

16. In its current form the delivery plan includes 16 core activities, 43 projects that the Staff Unit will lead on, 29 projects and activity that the Staff Unit is a partner in and 25 other partner projects that are recognised as being key to conserving and enhancing the South Devon AONB. It also references contributions to 20 local forums and groups that enable the coordinated management of the area. Further work to develop the delivery plan will take place over the next few months with a finalised version available via the AONB website from April 2021.
17. The Delivery Plan will continue to be updated annually to ensure it remains relevant and flexible reflecting partner activity and shaping the work of the Staff Unit. While a central element of delivery must be focused upon clear priorities, future iterations of the delivery plan toward the latter end of the Management Plan period will need to evaluate and address objectives against which little or no

action has been possible to date. It remains important to enable the Staff Unit to respond at pace to new challenges and opportunities, and in doing so to adapt, innovate, engage, and inspire.

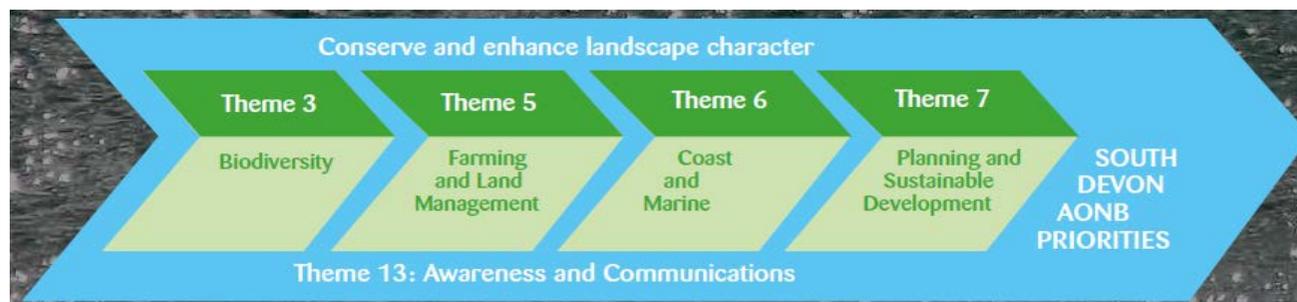
Recommendations

18. Partnership Committee members are recommended to:

- i. Note the context within which the emerging Delivery Plan for 2021/22 is being prepared and offer their views on the project list recognising it is not meant to be exhaustive;
- ii. Highlight key partner projects that should be added to the Delivery Plan;
- iii. Highlight actions considered to be of particularly high priority.

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

South Devon AONB draft Delivery Plan 2021/22



An annual update to the Delivery Plan is an integral part of the statutory South Devon AONB Management Plan. This document sets out the emerging actions for 2021/2022. For those items the AONB Staff Unit is anticipated to lead or partner, an illustration is provided of the action’s alignment with the strategic aims of key documents and drivers including the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan and Glover Review proposals. Further work is required to gather information from partners before the Delivery Plan is finalised for 2021/22

At this point in the year the funding picture for 2021/22 is not yet clear. * Actions prefaced with an asterisk highlight that these are subject fully or in part to the outcomes of funding bids.

A	Management Plan and Estuary Management Plan	Project or action meets Management Plan objectives and policies
B	Core funder priorities	Delivers against the Defra A-K task list and other identified priorities
C1	National Landscape Review	Theme 1- Landscapes Alive for Nature and Beauty
C2		Theme 2- Landscapes for Everyone
C3		Theme 3 - Living in Landscapes
C4		Theme 4 - More Special Places
C5		Theme 5 - New Ways of Working
D	25 Year Environment Plan	Aligns with the plan for England’s natural environment from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra).
E	Local Planning documents and Marine Plans	Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan, Torbay Council Local Plan and South and South West Marine Plans

F	Corporate priorities that accord with conserving and enhancing natural beauty	Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, Plymouth City and Torbay Council
G	National Association for AONBs (NAAONB)	Contributes to the delivery of the Colchester Declaration and Nature Recovery Plans
H	South Devon Catchment Partnership Action Plan	Contributes towards the delivery of the South Devon Catchment Partnership Action Plan
I	Devon’s Local Nature Partnership	Project meets the 3 core aims of the Partnership - To protect and improve Devon’s natural environment, grow Devon’s green economy and reconnect Devon’s people with nature

PLACE			
Landscape Character			
			Policies / priorities
1*	Develop pipeline proposals for undergrounding overhead power lines and submit to Western Power Distribution as part of the new regulatory period	Lead	A/B/C4/D/E
2*	Develop a proposal at East Prawle for undergrounding overhead power lines and submit to Western Power Distribution as part of the regulatory period 2015-2023	Lead	A/B/C4/D/E
3	Guidance document on New Farm Buildings in Devon	Lead/ <i>Devon Landscape Policy Group</i>	A/B/F/I
4*	Working towards Dark Sky Discovery Site status in the AONB	Advocate/ <i>South Devon AONB/ local groups</i>	
Natural Resources & Climate			
5	Promote South Devon Catchments Partnership and support the delivery of Action Plan projects	Co-Lead	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/H/I
6	Facilitate and lead beach cleans and foreshore surveys with partners	Lead/ <i>Partners</i>	A/B/C3/D/E/F/H/I

7	Support the development of Local Authority Climate and Biodiversity Strategies and Blue Carbon Plans	Partner/ <i>Local Authorities</i>	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G/I
8	Support the development and delivery of Local Authority Infrastructure Plans	Partner/ <i>Local Authorities</i>	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G/I
9	Support delivery of the Slapton Line Adaptation Project responding to accelerated rates of coastal change along the Slapton Line (A379)	Partner/ <i>Slapton Line Partnership</i>	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G/I
10	Secure on farm resource protection improvements through Catchment Sensitive Farming work in the SDAONB including Nitrate Vulnerable Zone initiatives	Advocate/ <i>Natural England / Environment Agency/ West Country Rivers Trust</i>	
11	Till the Coast is Clear work on the SDAONB coastline	Advocate/ <i>Till the Coast is Clear</i>	
12	Embed the use of nature-based and 'blue carbon' solutions and actions through delivery of the Devon Carbon Plan	Advocate/ <i>Local Authorities</i>	
13	Complete a programme of environmental improvements to South West Water infrastructure	Advocate/ <i>South West Water</i>	
14	Deliver a package of water quality projects informed by condition assessments against Bathing Water Directive, Shellfish Growing Waters and non-designated water sports areas standards	Advocate/ <i>Natural England/Environment Agency/ South Devon AONB</i>	
Biodiversity and Geodiversity			
15	Develop and deliver a Nature Recovery Plan for the South Devon AONB	Lead	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
16	Update and resubmit an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the "Life on the Edge" project taking account of new programme requirements when the fund opens again	Lead	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/I
17*	Complete phase 1 bid development work for "Life on the Edge" project	Lead	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/I
18*	Work with landowners to influence land management changes at Prawle Point in support of targeted invertebrate conservation to support critically at risk species	Lead	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/I

19*	Support volunteers in the continuation of targeted Pacific Oyster control work and with other wider partners seek resources for a further project phase	Lead	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
20*	Develop and deliver projects identified in the Wild Wembury project	Lead/ <i>Environment Agency</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
21*	Devon special species targeted conservation / habitat management projects	Partner/ <i>Devon Local Nature Partnership</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
22	Natural Environment Research Council funded Collaborative Award in Science and Engineering PhD studentship. Using AONB as an outdoor laboratory to better understand how pollinators act in fragmented landscapes	Partner/ <i>Exeter University</i>	A/B/C5/D/E/F/G/I
23	Support local engagement with the Saving Devon's Treescapes project in the South Devon priority focus area	Partner/ <i>Devon Wildlife Trust/Partners</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/I
24*	Provide estate/landowner habitat enhancement advice and connectivity improvements	Partner/ <i>Estate and landowners</i>	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G/H/I
25	Deliver a biodiversity monitoring programme for Devon focussed on County Wildlife Sites encouraging their positive conservation management	Partner/ <i>Devon Local Nature Partnership</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
26	Deliver action through the Devon Local Nature Partnership in support of the seven priority themes identified in its prospectus	Partner	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
27	Create a statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Devon	Partner/ <i>Devon Local Nature Partnership</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
28	Implement action in support of the management plans for Berry Head and Slapton Ley National Nature Reserves	Partner/ <i>Natural England/Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust/ Wild Planet Trust</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
29*	Support the development of whole estate management plans	Partner/ <i>Estate and landowners</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/I
30	Work with partners to prevent, monitor and manage invasive non-native species in the AONB	Partner/ <i>Devon Local Nature Partnership</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
31	Develop initiatives that respond to Ash Die Back in the SDAONB	Partner/ <i>Local Environment Resilience Group</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/I

32	Support the development of a Moor Meadows model in South Devon	Partner/ <i>Moor Meadows/Devon Environment Council grant</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/I
33	Deliver the “ <i>Sharpham Wild for People</i> ” rewilding project on the Home Farm element of the Sharpham Estate	Advocate/ <i>Ambios/Sharpham Trust</i>	
34*	Meet the conservation objectives for SSSIs and SACs throughout the AONB	Advocate/ <i>Natural England/Partners</i>	
35	Publish guidance for the conservation and management of marine protected areas within the AONB and off the South Devon coast	Advocate/ <i>Natural England/Partners</i>	
36	Develop a Nature Recovery Network for Devon including access to mapping and data	Advocate/ <i>National Association of AONBs/ Devon Wildlife Trust</i>	
37	Woodland Trust management programme in the SDAONB	Advocate/ <i>Woodland Trust</i>	
38	Conservation management on National Trust tenanted farmed land	Advocate/ <i>National Trust/Natural England</i>	
Historic environment			
39	Deliver Phase one of a Monument Management Scheme focused upon South Devon Coastal Heritage at Bolt Head/Bolt Tail and the Dart Defences cluster	Lead/ <i>Historic England, National Trust, SWCP and local landowners</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/I
40	Apply for a development phase Heritage at Risk grant focusing on Hillforts, signalling stations and Bantham Ham	Lead/ <i>Historic England, National Trust, SWCP and local landowners</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/I
41	Deliver a scheduled monument management programme engaging community volunteers to assist with monitoring coastal heritage at risk	Lead/ <i>CITIZAN and South Devon Coastal Heritage scheme</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G
42	Develop a community research and recording project as part of the CITIZAN project	Partner/ <i>Museum of London Archaeology</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/I
43*	Develop a Management Plan for Bantham Ham Scheduled Ancient Monument	Partner/ <i>Historic England and local landowners</i>	A/B/C4/D/E/F/G

44	Deliver actions in support of the Torbay Heritage Strategy	Advocate/ <i>Torbay Council</i>	
45	Relocate Slapton Monument funded by the Coastal Revival Fund	Advocate/ <i>Slapton Line Partnership/Devon County Council</i>	
46	Develop and market new types of historic maritime tourist attractions	Advocate/ <i>TIDE Project</i>	
Farming & Land Management			
47	Deliver advocacy work for the Environmental Land Management scheme to AONB farmers and land managers	Lead	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G/I
48	Deliver South Devon AONB Farmers Sounding Board meetings	Lead	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G/H/I
49	Deliver the Year 6 programme of landowner advice, habitat enhancements and connectivity improvements through Countryside Stewardship Facilitation support in the South Devon Avon Valley	Lead	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G/H/I
50	Use National agricultural campaigns, local community and AONB events to highlight the contribution farming and land management make to biodiversity	Lead	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
51*	Facilitate cross-sector collaboration to deliver sustainable and appropriate woodland creation	Partner/ <i>Forestry Commission</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
52	Avon Valley Project working with landowners in the AONB to restore and reconnect wildlife habitat	Advocate/ <i>Devon Wildlife Trust</i>	
53	Management of South Efford Marsh nature reserve	Advocate/ <i>Devon Wildlife Trust</i>	
Coast & Marine Environment			
54	Work with partners to deliver a series of events and activities to actively promote the coast	Lead	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/H/I
55	Deliver Marine Conservation Zone advocacy	Partner/ <i>Natural England, Marine Management Organisation and partners</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/H/I

56	Wembury Marine Centre and education programme	Partner/ <i>Devon Wildlife Trust/Partners</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/H/I
57	Developing long-term plans for South Milton Sands and Wembury	Advocate/ <i>National Trust</i>	
58	Coastal management policies and procedures for Slapton Sands	Advocate/ <i>Slapton Line Partnership</i>	
59	Development of a Plymouth Sound National Marine Park	Advocate/ <i>Plymouth City Council/partners</i>	
Rivers & Estuaries			
60	Implement the South Devon Catchment Partnership Year 5 work programme and seek funding for further work	Lead/Co-host	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/H/I
61	Updating and maintaining 10 slipway information panels	Lead	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/H/I
62*	Develop and deliver Seagrass meadow conservation projects including advanced mooring and marker buoy solutions in the AONB	Lead	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
63	Facilitate effective joint working and understanding across the Catchment Partnership to help achieve water and soil targets.	Lead/Co-host	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I
64*	Develop and implement conservation objectives for estuarine Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserves to sustain favourable condition status	Partner	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/H/I
PEOPLE			
Access, Recreation & Tourism			
65*	Brixham/Kingswear project – co-deliver/support identified projects from action plan	Lead/Partner/ <i>Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust/National Trust/LA partners</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G
66	Establish the significance, effects and appropriate solutions to reduce disturbance of seabirds, seals, basking sharks and cetaceans through enforcement and awareness raising	Partner/ <i>Harbour authorities/Devon Wildlife Trust</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/H/I

67	Parish Paths Partnership and other schemes encouraging community involvement in the AONB Rights of Way network	Advocate/ <i>Local Authorities, wards and Parish Councils</i>	
68*	Local Authority Public open space improvements across the SDAONB	Advocate/ <i>Local Authorities, wards and Parish Councils</i>	
69*	Local Authority Green Infrastructure improvements in the SDAONB	Advocate/ <i>Local Authorities, wards and Parish Councils</i>	
70*	Deliver improvements Torbay Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan delivery	Advocate/ <i>Torbay Council</i>	
71	Primrose Trail Group undertaking feasibility work on the Primrose Trail	Advocate/ <i>Primrose Trail Group</i>	
Planning & Sustainable Development			
72	Respond to planning applications following the agreed SDAONB Planning Protocol	Lead	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G
73	Update the planning guidance document for the South Devon AONB	Lead	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G
74	Trial and evaluate 'standing advice' relevant to the most common forms of development experienced in the protected landscape	Lead/ <i>Local Planning Authorities/Private sector</i>	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G/I
75	Develop a design guide to capture the variations in positive vernacular across the AONB	Lead/ <i>Local Planning Authorities/Neighbourhood Plan Groups/Private sector</i>	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G
76	Produce guidance for Construction Environmental Management Plans in the SDAONB	Lead	A/B/C3/D/E/F/G
77	Support the development of Neighbourhood Plans within the SDAONB	Partner/ <i>Local Authorities</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F
78	Work with local authorities in the development of a consistent approach to net gain across Devon – linked to Nature Recovery Network targets	Partner/ <i>Local Authorities</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/I
79	Engage with the Torbay Local Plan Review	Partner/ <i>Torbay Council</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/I
80	Community housing initiatives working towards appropriate scale and design of affordable housing to support established local need in AONB settlements	Partner/ <i>Local Authorities</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G

Transport and Highways			
81*	Install AONB gateway signs by agreement with parish councils and highway authorities	Lead	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G
82	Maintain and update the ferry panels at crossing points of the South West Coast Path on SDAONB estuaries	Lead	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/H
83	Update and reprint the Discover South Devon AONB leaflet	Lead	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/I
84	Develop and implement pilot approaches to roadside verge management to improve their nature conservation value	Lead/ <i>Local Planning Authorities/Private sector</i>	A/B/C1/D/E/F/G/I
Rural Economy and Services			
85*	Develop initiatives including local food and drink campaigns to increase awareness of the SDAONB amongst business, residents and visitors	Lead	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/I
86*	Produce an educational package for Bantham Estate aimed at schools and visitors	Partner / <i>Bantham Estate</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/I
Community & Culture			
87	Further develop of volunteering opportunities including photographers, adopt-a-walk, event stewarding, wildlife monitoring, beach cleans and Invasive Non Native Species management	Lead	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/H/I
88*	Develop and deliver a targeted programme of community, biodiversity and landscape projects in Wembury Parish through the Wild Wembury project	Lead/ <i>Wembury Environment group and Wembury Parish Council</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/H/I
89	Support Chivelstone Church community and renovation group in delivery of their National Heritage Lottery Project	Lead/ <i>Chivelstone Church community and renovation group</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/I
90	Complete the National Heritage Lottery Project funded South Devon @ 60 project	Lead	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/I
91*	Work in partnership with others to develop opportunities for engaging a wider and more diverse audience including missing groups	Lead	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/H/I
92*	Develop art in the landscape opportunities in project delivery to support the engagement of new audiences	Partner/ <i>National Association of AONBs</i>	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/I

PARTNERSHIP

Awareness, communication and organisation			
93	Promote awareness and understanding of the South Devon AONB, its special qualities, Partnership and work of the Staff Unit	Lead	A/B/C2/D/E/F/G/I
94	Further develop the South Devon AONB website, adding additional online walks, e-commerce and functionality to accept donations	Lead	A/B/C5/D/G
95	Provide responses to relevant Regional and National consultations	Lead	A/B/C5/D/E/F/G/H
96	Development of a national landscapes brand for AONBs	Partner/ <i>National Association of AONBs</i>	A/B/C5/D/G
97	Slapton Line communications programme	Partner/ <i>Slapton Line Partnership</i>	A/B/C4/D/E/F/G/H
The core business of the AONB Unit on behalf of the Partnership			
Publish an annual update to the AONB Delivery Plan			
AONB governance – 4x Core Funding Group meetings, 3x AONB Partnership meetings, 2x AONB Estuaries Steering Group meetings, 1x annual public open forum			
Service and coordinate the AONB Core Funding Group			
Service and coordinate the AONB Partnership Committee			
Service and coordinate the South Devon Estuaries Partnership & their individual Estuary Forums			
Develop and publish an AONB Annual Report			
Organise and provide an AONB Open Annual Forum event			
Maintain and develop the South Devon AONB website, social media, e-bulletins, press releases etc. Support and promote Landscapes for Life week and the National Moment campaign in SDAONB			
Ensure that the AONB has a profile at relevant shows and events			
Respond to consultation requests from Local Planning Authorities on planning applications in accordance with the AONB Planning Protocol			
Contribute toward the development of Local Strategic Planning Policy			

Monitor AONB landscape condition including through updating Fixed Post Photography monitoring images
Deliver a programme of community engagement activities
Seek trustees and work towards the development of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Establish a 'Friends of the AONB' group
Collaborate in NAAONB activities, sharing advice and best practice nationally and regionally
The AONB Unit will lead or contribute to the following groups during 2021-22
AONB Estuaries Partnership Steering Group
Avon Estuary Conservation Forum
Brixham and Kingswear Peninsula Project Group
Dart Estuary Forum
South Devon AONB Partnership Committee
South Devon Catchments Partnership
South Devon Farm and Land Management Forum
Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary Conservation Forum
South Devon AONB Farmers' Sounding Board Group
Yealm Estuary Management Group
Devon AONB Managers Group
Devon Invasive Species Initiative
Devon Maritime Forum
Devon Landscape Policy Group
Devon Local Nature Partnership
Naturally Healthy/ Active Devon

Slapton Line Partnership Steering Group
Slapton Nature Reserve Land Management Committee
South Devon Local Action Group Management Board
Sustainability and Outdoor Learning in Devon
Tamar Estuary Consultative Forum
Wembury Marine Centre Partnership
Wembury Marine Conservation Area and Wembury Project Working Group

Theme		Key policy objective
Place	Landscape Character	To improve coordination and influence the management of landscape features ensuring they are maintained, enhanced, understood and appreciated.
	Natural resources & climate	To support the sustainable management of natural resources in the AONB and its setting.
	Biodiversity & geodiversity	To conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological assets so that they are bigger, better and more connected in the landscape.
	Historic environment	To conserve and enhance the AONB's historic features and distinctive vernacular buildings as part of a living and working landscape ensuring mechanisms are in place to secure their continued long term management and care.
	Farming & land management	To help and support the farming and land management sector conserve and enhance the AONB.
	Coast & Marine	To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, special qualities and natural processes of the AONB's coastline and neighbouring areas of sea.
	Rivers and Estuaries	To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, special qualities and natural processes of the AONB's rivers and estuaries.
People	Tourism, Access & Recreation	To ensure tourism, access and recreation develop at sustainable levels whilst maintaining and contributing to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB
	Planning & Sustainable Development	To use planning policy and the mitigation hierarchy to conserve and enhance AONB special qualities for compatible sustainable development.
	Transport & Highways	Reduce the impact of transport networks and services on the environment, landscape character and enjoyment of the AONB.

	Rural Economy and Services	To develop a sustainable rural economy that benefits from the South Devon AONB brand and asset; and actively contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB.
	Community and Culture	To provide improved access to resilient services, facilities and active participation in community and landscape related social enterprise
Partnership	Awareness and Communication	To increase awareness of the South Devon AONB and its special qualities, the purpose of its designation, the role of the Partnership and range of ways to get involved.
	Management, Organisation & Partnerships	To use the Management Plan strategy, policies and delivery plan to direct strategic leadership in the delivery of tangible benefits to the landscape, communities and economy of the AONB.

Item 5c: How the community is shaping the landscape: a cross-national case study - South Devon case study site

Purpose

1. To introduce Partnership Committee members to research work being undertaken by Hanna Elisabet Åberg a PhD Candidate from the Planning and Regeneration Research Group at University of Bologna collaborating with the University of Plymouth in support of the RURITAGE (Heritage for Rural Regeneration) project. The South Devon AONB is benefitting from Hanna's examination of the way in which changing rural communities over time shape our valued landscape and how those changes are perceived. The project's outputs including findings, methodology, data and toolkit will contribute to the evidence base for developing policy responses and interventions. Applications are likely to include the next AONB management plan review, design guide, AONB planning guidance, neighbourhood plans, local plans and place making strategies

Background

2. The impact of human communities has always influenced and shaped the landscape. The purpose of this project is to look at how shifting structures within the community, that often manifest in high land prices, in-migration and second homes in the more scenic and accessible parts of the rural landscape, effectively influence surroundings over time.
3. Even a superficial analysis of the spatial patterns suggests that rural areas with certain environmental and/or other geographical qualities around Europe have become associated with rapid socio-economic development. While these shifts processes are not negative per se, rather sought for in a rural context, they do impact surrounding landscapes. With the help of a comparative study across Europe, as these changes are not unique to a specific locale, the project intends to foresee when positive regeneration turns into a perceived negative shift.
4. It should be noted that landscapes not primarily designated for scientists to study and for planners and decision-makers to manage, they are more importantly, for local inhabitants to live in, value and retain a sense of home in. The project aspires to understand the landscape changes in South Devon AONB through the eyes of its inhabitants.

Context

5. For the last decades, work around the globe (particular focus in Europe and North America) have demonstrated shifts in rural communities often motivated by a search for rural lifestyles. Although, often pointing at particularities in place, the outcomes are often the same such as, studies have explored the migration of middle-class migrants into specific locales, and the resultant changes to the locale's physical appearance, social status and socio-demographic composition³.
6. Owing to the typically urban focus of the studies, an area's physical appearance has often related to housing. Landscape changes due to above mentioned processes are notably absent⁴. This project will use the European Landscape Convention definition of landscape: *...an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and / or human factors*⁵.

³ e.g. Phillips, 1993, 2004; 2005a, 2005b; Smith, 2002; Stockdale, 2010; Sutherland, 2012, 2019

⁴ Sutherland, 2019; Argent et al., 2009

⁵ Council of Europe 2000a, Ch. I, Art. 1a

7. The South Devon AONB with its natural beauty and high amenity functions offers a high life quality to its inhabitants, however this might not extend to all. Many of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan groups emerging in South Devon AONB are directly responding to the growing pressures for housing⁶. In many respects, the South Devon AONB communities are shifting structure as young people find it difficult to afford housing local wages may be low and the high living costs⁷.
8. To further understand the changing landscapes, and our relationship to them; how to better tackle uncontrolled growth and encourage positive development, there is a need to understand where and why rural development turns into something perceived as negative, and further how-to better steer changes.

Project steps

9. Define indicators for measuring and assessing characteristics of socio-economic development over time based on academic case studies.
10. Develop a methodology for measuring landscape change over time based on the well-established Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and with the help of tools such as My CultRural toolkit, developed by the University of Plymouth.
11. Combine the two sets up quantitative and qualitative data for drawing parallels between socio-economic development and changes in the landscape.

Applying project methodology

12. The project methodology will be applied to a comparative cross-national study in three different rural areas engaging local stakeholders and authorities: South Devon AONB (UK), Gotland (Sweden), and Bruuiu (Romania).
13. All case studies are situated in rural European areas. They have all shown increased external interest in the last 60-10 years, manifesting in increasing land prices and in-migration

Project outputs

14. The project aims to translate the methodology into a tool for predicting landscape change: defining when positive regeneration processes shift into something experienced as negative by communities.
15. Based on the tools, develop guidelines with forward-looking actions to better steer the effects of these processes in rural landscapes.

Societal impacts

16. Empower and assist communities in the South Devon AONB to conserve and enhance their landscape by offering accessible tools for monitoring and evaluating landscape change beyond the project's lifetime.
17. Stimulate positive solutions and interventions for inclusion in neighbourhood plans, local plans, place making strategies, design guides and AONB planning guidance.
18. Provide a practically and academically repeatable methodology for comparative studies in the field of rural planning. This will comply and contribute to achieve the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically goal '11. Sustainable Cities & Communities' and '15. Life on land'.

⁶ An Independent Review of Housing In England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2012-2017

⁷ Management plan South Devon AONB

19. Feed into the next State of the AONB report and AONB Management Plan for 2024-29.

Next steps

20. Refine the approach to consultation including use of terminology and technical content.
21. Develop contacts and arrange meetings to gather different perspectives on local landscape change from a wide range of community groups throughout the AONB.
22. Develop questionnaires, workshops and a programme of activities for partners and local communities to participate in.

Recommendations

23. AONB Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
 - i. Endorse the approach and recognise the value of this study;
 - ii. Offer support throughout the project and assistance in disseminating and participating in surveys and events.

Authored by Hanna Elisabet Åberg, for 27 November 2020
Project lifetime: Nov. 2019 - Oct. 2022

Item 5d: The importance of design and potential of Design Review Panels in furthering the AONB purpose

Purpose

1. To receive a report from Peter Sandover, AONB Community Representative for voluntary groups active in the South Devon AONB, on the role of design review panels and the potential for AONB Staff Unit participation in these.

Background

2. Concerns have been raised by the AONB staff team over the ongoing resources required to comment proactively on current and emerging planning applications affecting the AONB. In the past year (Annual Report 2019) 73 formal responses have been made on applications to SHDC and TC affecting the AONB. Staff input is therefore significant. A number of these applications include major housing and waterside developments. Members of the AONB Partnership have also commented on the need for more timely and proactive contributions on sensitive developments.
3. Obtaining the role of 'statutory consultee status' as recommended by the Glover Review will formalise the input of the AONB in the planning process and help to secure more resources for the task, however it will not reduce the importance of early involvement.
4. To help reduce workload I would recommend that the AONB is represented and actively participates in an independent design review (hosted by the Local Planning Authority) of any development within or affecting the AONB. Such reviews are normally held pre-application and can therefore help ensure guidance is proactive and that an emerging design follows sound design principles, the AONB Planning Guidance and respects its 'context'. this means demonstrating:

'An understanding of the context, history and the cultural characteristics of a site, neighbourhood and region influences the location, siting and design of new developments. It means they are well grounded in their locality and more likely to be acceptable to existing communities. Creating a positive sense of place helps to foster a sense of belonging and contributes to well-being, inclusion and community cohesion.'

The National Design Guide 2019 MHCLG, drawing on the advice of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission.

Design Review Panels

5. The idea of holding independent and impartial design reviews during the statutory development control process is an established tool for evaluating the quality of significant and sensitive developments across the UK. It is a tried and tested method of ensuring the highest possible quality of development and is specifically referenced in the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

'Local planning authorities should ensure that they have access to, and make appropriate use of, tools and processes for assessing and improving the design of development. These include workshops to engage the local community, design advice and review arrangements, and assessment frameworks such as Building for Life. These are of most benefit if used as early as possible in the evolution of schemes, and are particularly important for significant projects such as large scale housing and mixed use developments. In assessing applications, local planning authorities should

have regard to the outcome from these processes, including any recommendations made by design review panels.'

NPPF 2019 para. 128

6. Depending on the significance of such projects there is an informal hierarchy of national, regional and local panels. Most Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) host a panel including Torbay. In the past South Hams District Council (SHDC) periodically held a panel (the Conservation and Design Review Panel) though this has not met for at least 5 years. More recently the Architecture Centre for Devon and Cornwall (ACD+C) were appointed by SHDC to provide design review services based primarily on the need to service design code reviews for Sherford New Community. The appointment does include for 'normal' reviews, across the district, however none have been held to date.
7. Involvement in design review panels will not remove the need for making representations on planning applications however they are less likely to be as time consuming, as noted above the LPA should have regard for the recommendations of a panel when determining an application.

Recommendations

8. AONB Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
 - i. Encourage Torbay Council and South Hams District Council to support design reviews on all projects within or affecting the AONB;
 - ii. South Devon AONB Unit is asked to be invited as an advisor to all the above design reviews;
 - iii. Encourage South Hams District Council to hold more frequent design review panels for all types of significant projects.

Peter Sandover

2nd October 2020

Item 6a: Widening our audience, deepening engagement

Purpose

1. To introduce AONB Partnership members to the audience development and community engagement approach that underpins AONB Unit work and explore options for an alternative approach to the 2021 AONB Annual Forum.

Background

2. As an AONB unit we recognise the importance of engaging our communities in meaningful and enjoyable ways. For them to understand the importance of the AONB as a protected landscape, and then to value it, they must make a personal connection to that place which is long-lasting and significant. By making this connection, they can become active participants in the protection of the landscape and enjoy it in sustainable ways. This approach has been well documented by the Nature Connectedness Research Group at the University of Derby.
3. The communities we engage with cannot be limited by the people who are resident within the boundary of the AONB, they are much more far reaching than this. They can include:
 - Communities of interest – non-geographical but brought together by common interest – this can be pastimes, hobbies, activities, concerns
 - People who work within the AONB
 - People who visit the AONB for recreation on day trips – roughly within a 30 mile ‘day trip’ or ‘travel to recreate’ area
 - People who visit the AONB from further afield, within the UK for short stays
 - People who visit from further afield for longer stays, within the UK and from overseas
 - Virtual communities – this in particular is a growing area since the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions and has no geographical limit
4. Within these communities, there are further subgroups, split by age, gender, interests, work, as well as geography.
5. We need to make sure that we are doing our very best to provide opportunities for as many of these people as possible, to make connections with, and benefit from, the AONB. And indeed, in the Glover review, it was pointed out most strongly that the protected landscapes of England are a national asset and should be available to any individual who wishes to access them. This includes those groups that are currently missing from our engagement work for a variety of different reasons.

Our approach

6. Over the last 10 years, our approach to community engagement has evolved. Long gone are the days of putting on events to the general public and ‘seeing who turns up’. We recognised after a period of monitoring and evaluation, that this was not meeting our aims and objectives, and was not cost effective.
7. We moved to a more meaningful model of community engagement which takes participants on a journey: some people will move up through the tiers of participation, and become less passive and more active in their engagement, whilst others may choose to engage at a lower level. For communities to be able to competently and confidently feed in their views about the protected

landscape, or take actions which can benefit the protected landscape, they need to be engaged in and connected to that landscape, with a good understanding of the value and benefits that it brings.

8. Helping communities to do this, and to take that journey, is a main objective of our community engagement.
9. We use the themes of
 - Explore
 - Discover
 - Understand
 - Share

to design ways for people to participate in fun and enjoyable experiences which help them to be better connected to the protected landscape. We design the activities for targeted communities or ensure they are open to anyone to join in. As people become more active in their engagement, so the activities change, moving towards advocacy and active volunteering.

Having been using this model now for over 8 years we know that it is a tried and tested method which gives us good results as well as being enjoyable and meaningful for the participants. Feedback is overwhelmingly positive and continually evolving the approach enables it to stay current and relevant.

10. Examples of feedback we have collected from participants in different community engagement projects include:
 - *I do think you appreciate it (the landscape) a bit more when you know more about it (participant)*
 - *I think we are all inclined to take our beautiful landscape for granted as it is on the doorstep, but the project made me appreciate it even more. (resident)*
 - *The landscape of Wembury is hugely important to me and my family – it's the main reason we are here! It is everything to me and my family. (Parent)*

Within this model we can design different activities and events which target different groups of people and meet our objectives. Examples include:

Explore	AONB led events within a public programme, linked to areas of work within our delivery plan and delivering on management plan themes. Often used as a gateway to further project work or general introduction to the AONB
Discover	Delving deeper and making personal connections with the landscape. This could be physically out on the ground, using tools such as geocaches or the downloadable walks to encourage self-led exploration of the AONB. It could be designed activities for targeted groups such as Estuary Quests for families, heritage trails or landscape art.
Understand	Themed expert led series of events and activities on certain subjects such as coastal heritage, farming or traditional buildings. It can also be bounded by a geographical area. For example - a series of activities designed to engage as many of a small community as possible, to understand more about their parish and how it has changed and evolved over time, and how they can influence this in the future. This

can link into parish planning and help them engage better with development of neighbourhood plans.

Share

Opportunities for communities to have an impact on their local landscape, through active participation, such as volunteering, taking part in local landscape improvements, helping to monitor heritage sites. It could involve them joining local groups which benefit the AONB such as community orchard groups parish councils or local history groups and using their enthusiasm and understanding to advocate the AONB and help make a difference.

11. We must recognise that we are engaging people not only in their work roles, but as part of their home and leisure time, and these activities must be enjoyable. Taking part in community activities in the outdoors are excellent tools for growing community cohesiveness and capacity as well as having far reaching and evidenced benefits to people's health and wellbeing.
12. We often use arts as a tool to engage people and attract new audiences. It is also a fantastic tool to help people make an emotional connection to the landscape. Evidence from the University of Derby nature connectedness research group shows the importance of this connection. They have shown that that improving people's connection to nature, we can bring about associated benefits in wellbeing and conservation behaviour. The work has created a new population measure – Nature Connection Index (NCI) -that has demonstrated that if people assess themselves as 76 % or greater connected to nature, they are far more likely to be active in their concern for landscape and resultant increase in well-being.
13. It has been shown that just 20% of people who engage with the environment in an educative activity, for example academic work and degrees, will go on to develop positive environmental actions. In contrast 80% of people who make an emotional connection to nature or the environment will go on to develop positive environmental actions.

Delivery

14. There is of course, always something we can do better or different, and we do actively seek out up-to-date training, new tools and resources. We collaborate with local partners or colleagues from within the AONB network to strive to continuously improve our approach, as well as share what we have learned ourselves. We have a good track record of community engagement within the AONB network and have case studies of our projects on the Landscapes for Life website as examples of good practice.
15. We are limited by the resources from within the team. It is part of everyone's remit to engage communities of the AONB, but it is the principle role of the AONB Community Projects Officer. This post is not core funded and external funding must be secured to deliver these projects. It is a fragile delivery mechanism yet a core one for the unit and the delivery of our management plan.
16. We have been very successful at pulling in grants for projects within the AONB unit and there are often requirements for the project applications to have a significant level of community engagement.
17. Some areas where we have targeted project development, such as at the fringes of the AONB in Brixham / Kingswear Peninsula and Wembury where the landscape is under pressure, we have been

able to secure large amounts of funding for delivery of landscape enhancement and improvement projects with community engagement.

The Annual Forum

18. Within the SDAONB constitution, it states that we should arrange an annual community conference, for members of community groups, organisations and the general public. Dates and arrangements will be made by the Partnership committee and the Conference will provide the opportunity for a wider exchange of information and views about the AONB and its management, and progress with the implementation of the AONB Management Plan. The Conference will discuss and recommend actions and priorities for AONB Management.
19. We suggest that that through our experience of community engagement, it is not always possible for one event to meet the needs of all of these people. We suggest trialling a community conference in 2021 for partners, peers, community groups and organisations working with the AONB unit to deliver the aims and objectives of the management plan. Part of the conference will be for partners and groups to present how the work they have undertaken and have planned is helping to deliver all themes of the AONB management plan and the primary purpose of conserving and enhancing the AONB.
20. John Graham on behalf of the South Devon AONB Amenity Groups community of interest has authored a paper (provided as an Annex 2 in the agenda pack) entitled Generating local support that shares an Amenity Groups view on the Annual Forum and related matters.
21. AONB Partnership Committee members are requested to discuss and feedback:
 - i. The primary audience for the event
 - ii. Ideas for who to invite to attend;
 - iii. Ideas for who to invite to present;
 - iv. How to target groups or organisations who do not normally engage;
 - v. How to ensure we represent the diversity of our audiences;
 - vi. Possible format for the event including start time and duration;
 - vii. Possible time of year to hold the event.

It should be borne in mind that some degree of COVID related restrictions are likely to remain in place well into 2021 and various permutations may need to be considered if in-person events are not possible.

Recommendations

22. AONB Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
 - i. Provide feedback on the questions posed in relation to the AONB Annual Forum to enable advanced planning to commence
 - ii. Share any other constructive observations and feedback related to widening audiences

Item 7a: Current Planning related activity of note

Purpose

1. To highlight to AONB Partnership Committee members planning related activity of note including development management applications.

Live applications of particular note

2. **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.
This application is nearing conclusion with South Hams DC minded to conditionally approve the revised proposal subject to securing a s106 legal agreement for a natural beauty compensation package worth £114,000.
3. **3320/20/FUL** Land at West End Garage, Main Rd, Salcombe. Proposed residential development comprising 27 dwellings with associated amenities and infrastructure.
4. **P/2020/0480** Site adjacent to Brixham Cricket Club, 83 North Boundary Road, Brixham TQ5 8LH. Outdoor football pitch for sports and recreational use.
5. **3161/20/FUL & 3164/20/FUL** Land at SX 675 511, Trehele Cross, Modbury. Proposed agricultural buildings for poultry.
6. A full list of planning cases the AONB Unit has been involved in over the last three-month period is provided for information purposes within Item 6b.

Appeal cases of note affecting the South Devon AONB

7. AONB Partnership Committee members will recall that the appeal case **APP/X1165/W/20/3245011** relating to P/2017/1133 Land to The South Of White Rock, Paignton has been delayed. The appeal relates to an outline application for residential led development of up to 373 dwellings, principle of a public house, primary school with nursery. The Inquiry is now scheduled to begin on the 12th January 2021 with preparation of supporting Statements of Common Ground and Proofs of Evidence well underway. The AONB Manager is supporting Torbay Council's appeal team on this case and providing expert witness input on natural beauty matters.

Recommendations

8. The Partnership Committee is recommended to:
 - i. Continue to alert the AONB Manager at the earliest possible opportunity to cases where protected landscape matters are pertinent and share views on live applications.

Item 7c: Explore South Devon

Purpose

1. To highlight to AONB Partnership Committee members a highly valued externally funded programme of work known as 'Explore South Devon' undertaken through project activity over the last few years with the involvement and support of partners.

Background

2. In 2006 the AONB invested in establishing a series of online circular walks. Since this date, the popularity of walking for leisure and walking based tourism has grown substantially with all age groups expressing an interest in walking holidays from 16 years old upwards. Businesses have also identified the benefits of catering for walkers by offering drying rooms, facilities for dogs and packed lunches. Walking holidays are often taken out of season increasing the potential for extending the season for Bed and Breakfast establishments, Farmhouse accommodation, Pubs and Cafes.
3. The redevelopment of the South Devon AONB website as a mobile responsive site meant that the walks pages needed updating to fit with the new design and needed new content to help us reach new audiences.
4. We also recognised that the provision of online walks could help us to bring economic benefits by encouraging people to stay longer in an area whilst exploring on foot and increase spend in the local facilities, to plan return visits and to extend the tourist season.
5. Walking also offers our residents and communities a way to access nature on their doorsteps and make lasting and strong connections to their landscapes, as well as providing huge, evidenced benefits to their mental and physical health and wellbeing
6. This year we have seen that access to the outdoors for exercise and leisure has been even more important with restrictions and lockdowns as a result of the coronavirus.

The Project

7. The project was split into two phases - Explore South Devon Coast (which ran from 2018-19), which we developed in partnership with the South West Coast Path Association (SWCPA) and Explore South Devon Countryside (which ran from 2019-20). We received funding from the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group to deliver these projects. The Coastal project was administered by the SWCPA and the Countryside one directly through the AONB unit.
8. We designed and produced a set of information boards at key sites throughout the AONB where visitors and walkers would arrive at a 'gateway' site. These boards then had simple maps and ideas for short, medium, and longer walks which could be done from that point, with QR codes to access them. In addition, we produced digital content for the walks pages on the website. These included google maps-based walking route maps, route directions, audio clips and some films and slideshows. There were also newly designed walks PDFs which could be downloaded if the user did not want to use the information direct from their device.

The Need

9. 2017 day visits survey – Visit Britain showed
 - That there were 147 million tourism day visits for the South West, which lasted 3 hours or longer which accounted for a spend of £4,146 million

- Within the top 5 activities, those describing their visit as 'Explore the area' came to 133m visits spending £3,502m. There were also 141m visits described as 'Outdoor activities' spending £2,550m
 - Visits to village/countryside destinations were dominated by one activity (39% of respondents). This was 'outdoor leisure activities' (walking, cycling, etc.)
 - 21% of all day visits in UK are for walking
 - 87% of day visitors to villages, countryside and coast have travelled less than 20 miles from home. Better promotion of these routes will attract visitors to stay in the area for longer and staycators from other parts of Devon for instance to come out for day trips
10. English Riviera Visitor Survey 2016 survey found that 80% of visitors go on a short walk (up to 2 miles), and 36% go for a longer walk (2 mile +). This has increased since the previous survey undertaken in 2012 when 72% undertook a short walk and 28% longer walk. Our chosen walks take this into account and offer a selection of shorter and longer routes accordingly.
11. Visit Totnes identified that most people visiting the TIC in 2017 were asking for a map and / or walk information (29% of all visits).
12. South West Coast Path tourism workshop found that 34% of 16-34 year and 33% of 45-65 year olds are interested in walking holidays.

Funding

13. Project funding secured

i. Spent directly through the AONB budget

Community Projects Officer staff time	£17,900
Contractor - research	£5,000
Design (22 x boards and 38 x walks PDFs)	£10,568
Board production and delivery (x10)	£6,664
Installation of boards (x10)	£1,350
Four short films showcasing the AONB to different audiences	£3,100

Total £44,582

- ii. In addition, the production and installation of the remaining 12 boards was paid for directly by the SWCPA with their grant funding.

Outputs

14. Key numbers

- 22 information and map boards have been installed at key visitor gateway points around the AONB. This includes car parks and businesses
- 38 walks have been updated and published on our website. We have plans to complete another 14 walks before the end of the financial year
- 4 short films have been produced which focus on different audiences and age ranges. They showcase the beautiful landscape of the AONB and will be used on the website to promote walks. There are also a set of very short clips which will be used for social media platforms
- The routes and information for the walks were all checked by a team of newly recruited volunteers who did an amazing job to make sure that all 44 walks were up to date and

correct, as well as helping us to develop some new ones. The 7 volunteers put in a total of approximately 47 days with a value of £7050

15. Google analytics on our website, which was relaunched at the end of March 2020 show:
- 109,147 page views with the highest number of visits on a day being 27th October (during half term) and the next highest being 2nd August. This shows that we are still getting high website visits during the 'shoulder season'
 - Accessing the site – 12% of all users went straight in on the walks page, the second highest with the first being the home page. The highest visited page on a second click was the walks page with 45.5%
 - Age of audience - 61% of all users were under 35 with 27.5% being 18-24
 - 56% of users accessed the site via a mobile phone, 35% on a desktop and just 9% on a tablet

Outcomes

16. This project delivered elements of the South Devon AONB management plan, which was produced with widespread consultation and community involvement. The plan identifies the need to provide better information about the local area, and in particular walking opportunities for both visitors and residents through the provision of new interpretation panels at sites with high footfall, supported with detailed information being available digitally.
- i. Theme 3 Biodiversity and Geodiversity
 - BioGeo/P5 Reconnecting People and Wildlife
 - ii. Theme 4 Historic Environment
 - Hist/P3 Public Access
 - iii. Theme 6 Coast and Marine
 - Mar/P5 Sustainable Recreational Management
 - iv. Theme 8 Tourism, Access and Recreation
 - Acc/P1 Sustainable Tourism
 - Acc/P2 Popular Sites – recreational infrastructure and information
 - Acc/P3 Co-ordinated information and interpretation
 - Acc/P7 Recreation, Leisure and Sports - quiet enjoyment of the AONB
 - Acc/P8 Naturally Healthy
 - v. Theme 11 Rural Economy and Services
 - Econ/P1 Rural Economy
 - vi. Theme 12 Community and Culture
 - Comm/P1 Special Qualities
 - Comm/P2 Sustainable Lifestyles
 - vii. Theme 13 Awareness and Communication
 - Aware/P1 AONB Awareness
 - Aware/P3 Goods and Services
17. The project also delivers on the Green Infrastructure plan for Torbay and South Hams. The network of cycling, walking and riding trails is an important component of the South Ham's green infrastructure providing access to green and blue spaces, commuter and recreational routes and potential wildlife corridors. "Improving Access to Green and Blue Spaces and Supporting Healthy Lifestyles. To improve access to green and blue spaces and support healthy lifestyles through: the provision of new green and blue spaces; improved accessibility to existing green and blue spaces;

and linking of green and blue spaces through provision of multi-use paths. The focus will be on areas deficient in existing green and blue space provision.” South Hams Green Infrastructure plan

18. The circular walks on the AONB website are its most visited pages with more than half of these page views being from mobile devices either smart phones or tablets. This demonstrates the demand for good quality walk information in a mobile friendly format. The google map walk format will mean that the route can be downloaded to a mobile device for easy to follow navigation.

Further opportunities

- Continue the updating of the remaining 14 walks and upload them to the website
- Work with access groups to look at suitability of the walks we have, and identify possible new ones, for people with access difficulties. Work with landowners and the PROW team to assess if these barriers could be removed or alternatives sought
- Further promote the online walks to new audiences working with tourism, health and business partners
- Work with sustainable transport providers to encourage links with the online walk provision. Identify suitable sites at the transport hubs to install further information boards. Seek funding for this
- Produce a set of short easy access walks and use them to encourage people to begin walking more in the countryside, then direct to new and longer walks as a stepping stones approach
- Continue working with the South West Coast Path team to promote walks and development of a future app
- Support the new walks volunteers and encourage them to provide ongoing walks checking and assistance with new routes

Links

- Walks pages on our website www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/walks
- Example of walks page showing route map, downloadable PDF, audio themed overview of the walk and audio walking guide www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/portfolio_page/the-avon-estuary/
- Project page showing images of boards www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/projects/explore-south-devon/

Recommendations

19. AONB Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
- i. Note the breadth of the Explore South Devon programme, links to AONB Management Plan priorities, high level of usage, opportunities for further development, value during and beyond COVID-19 times.

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB Partnership Committee Meeting

to be held at

10am on Friday 27th November 2020

Remote Video Meeting
via Zoom

Papers Annex 1 - Agenda Item 5a



South Devon AONB Staff Unit, Follaton House, Totnes, TQ9 5NE
Telephone 01803 229330 Email enquiries@southdevonaonb.org.uk

Annex 1 - Item 5a: AONB Management Plan Delivery Plan priorities for 2021-2022 and beyond

Amenity Group Paper - STAFF UNIT WORKLOAD

(Paper requested by the chair of the Partnership Committee for its meeting on 27 November 2020.)

The Partnership Committee is asked to request of the Core Funding Group an urgent review of the composition and workload of the AONB management unit.

The papers for the 18 September Partnership Committee meeting included a core and project activity report for the period April 2020 to March 2021. It listed 82 activities. In addition it listed 16 partnership groups of which it is the leader and 14 others to which it contributes.

This is surely unsustainable: bad for the health of the staff and in the end unproductive for the AONB, because the unit is simply reduced to servicing bureaucracy, with little time or energy for inspiration or leadership in the core aim of conserving and promoting the landscape.

The overload has no doubt come about through a commendable desire to give help to any organisation which asks for it, but it is also attributable to the proliferation of committees, partnerships, forums, working groups, citizens' assemblies, centres of expertise, programmes, reviews, action plans, priorities, targets, and other initiatives set up (many with overlapping aims) by central government, local government, charities and other organisations. The thicket of words and catch-phrases that this produces makes documents such as the Partnership Committee minutes, for instance, of very limited interest to those outside the system.

The AONB Unit needs to be helped in freeing itself from the demands of other organisations. Councils in particular should surely try to take this load off the shoulders of field workers, and groups should be supported only where they can make a direct contribution to the future of the AONB - such as could be discerned after, say, 5 years have passed.

Against the test of whether they enhance the AONB or help to conserve it for the future, some activities in the activity report come out much better than others. Taking for instance the first two pages, there is clear benefit in:

- undergrounding power lines at East Prawle (item 5)
- ditto at Prawle Point (9)
- exhibitions at shows and events (13)
- and, perhaps, panels on Bantham Ham (4)

but much less in:

- the Torcross tank (8)

and there seems to be no obvious reason why scarce AONB resources should be devoted to:

- a strategy and action plan for South Devon River Catchments (1) (EA?)
- the Explore South Devon countryside project (6) (DCC?)
- Wembury Marine Centre (15) (DWT?)
- Bees in the South Devon Landscape (18) (DWT?)
- bee behaviour in dim light research (19) (BBSRC?)

(In the last two cases there is really no specific connection with SDAONB - bees need help everywhere.)

However, much the greatest threat to the SDAONB lies in development, and planning is clearly taking up an excessive amount of the time of the AONB Manager in particular. He needs the help of a part-time planning officer, even if it means less project work. But if the relationship between the AONB Manager and the LPAs could be re-thought, much of his time could be saved.

The use of the AONB Manager as an LPA planning officer, which may involve site and other meetings with applicants and council officers, must be very time-consuming. The LPAs have landscape officers who are qualified to assess applications for their acceptability in a designated landscape in accordance with policy, and it is the LPA which alone is responsible for getting that right. The AONB Manager should only have to state which policies and which parts of the planning guidance he thinks apply and to give a recommendation for publication on the LPA's website. He should do this as soon as possible after the publication of the application, and not be involved further unless the planning officer is minded, in the light of changes made since the AONB representation, to recommend a decision which goes against that representation. The AONB Manager shouldn't be involved in the negotiation, and certainly shouldn't be at the beck and call of applicants.

Early submission of a representation has another advantage, in that it helps members of the public who are concerned about an application, whether for or against, to know whether their views are supported by policy. This encourages and helps them to make better informed representations.

It would also help if, as has been requested many times, applications in the AONB could be marked as such in advertisements, in site notices and on websites. The Core Funding Group is asked particularly to press for this change.

John Graham
On behalf of South Devon Amenity Groups
5 November 2020

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB Partnership Committee Meeting

to be held at

10am on Friday 27th November 2020

Remote Video Meeting
via Zoom

Papers Annex 2 - Agenda Item 6a



South Devon AONB Staff Unit, Follaton House, Totnes, TQ9 5NE
Telephone 01803 229330 Email enquiries@southdevonaonb.org.uk

Annex 2 - Item 6a: Widening our audience, deepening engagement

Amenity Group Paper - GENERATING LOCAL SUPPORT

(Paper requested by the chair of the Partnership Committee for its meeting on 27 November 2020.)

Over time the Partnership has become involved in many projects and initiatives involving the use of the countryside. But the overarching aim of the whole Partnership must be the conservation of the landscape for future generations: in the words of the Management Plan “to ensure that the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is conserved, managed and enhanced to support and benefit present and future generations”.

That cannot be achieved if the people who live and work in it, and who have most control over what happens in it, don't appreciate it. They need to know about it and be proud of it.

Sadly this is not always the case at present. Very few are aware of which land is designated, so most don't know whether they live in the AONB or not. There is even less knowledge of how and why AONBs came about, so there is ignorance on the obligation to past and future generations. There is little understanding of our duty to look after the AONB for the benefit of the whole nation.

Dartmoor is obviously a more distinctive and noteworthy landscape than the SDAONB, but that doesn't by any means account for the very different levels of pride and ownership that the residents of the two places feel.

Regrettably, this shows in the care we take of the public space within the AONB: litter, trashed verges; scruffy or excessive signage; excessive lighting; inappropriate or unfinished building activity whether authorised or not. The place is undeniably becoming less rather than more attractive.

We have the means, through our own efforts or through our councillors, to raise standards - including standards in development, wherein lies much the greatest threat to the future of the AONB. We need to encourage people to be more vocal, making better use of planning consultation services and ensuring that the councillors who make decisions don't lose sight of the AONB purpose. It might actually be that fewer bad applications would come forward if there were a greater understanding of the permanent harm to the AONB that they would do.

There are a number of steps that the Partnership could take to improve residents' identification with the AONB:

1. The annual forum for 2021 should be aimed directly and exclusively at local people who haven't yet come into contact with the AONB and probably won't do so through the displays presently provided at shows and events, which are likely to be attended by people of a fairly uniform type and where there are many competing attractions. However the format might be similar: a marquee which people could enter and leave at will, in a prominent place where they will encounter it without necessarily intending to do so: Kingsbridge market place might be a good start but if the format succeeds it could be repeated in the other towns in the AONB. A good time, Covid permitting, would be early summer on a weekend during the school term, so the event would be quite separate from, but in a sense preparatory to, the 60th anniversary celebrations. The marquee should contain photographs, maps and display boards giving factual information - no talks but plenty of badged Partnership members to engage with. Local groups should be asked to help with this, but only if they offer experience or knowledge which is very specifically relevant to the AONB: walking, cycling, canoeing, wild swimming, local history,

conservation, art, photography, wildlife are possible topics. The interests of children and young people should be catered for.

2. The forum would be a good opportunity to canvas membership for a 'Friends of the South Devon AONB' group. Google shows that there are many such bodies in other AONBs around the country, and there is particular emphasis on it in the East Devon AONB, where the Friends are called Ambassadors.
3. Possibly in conjunction with the above, parish and town councils whose areas are totally or partially in the designated area should be asked to nominate a member to act as a contact with the Community Representative for Parishes on the Partnership Committee, and as a source of information on the AONB.
4. Before the annual forum people should be able to learn whether they live in the designated area: an OS map on the website at a scale which would enable individual houses to be identified.
5. More gateway AONB signs should be erected, and where these cannot yet be installed, small badges on village signs.
6. And the LPAs should make the very small contribution of ensuring that planning applications in the AONB are marked as such in advertisements and on their websites.
7. The SDAONB website should give more information on the origins of AONBs, and the reasons for their creation.

John Graham,
On behalf of South Devon Amenity Groups

6 November 2020

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB Partnership Committee Meeting

to be held at

10am on Friday 27th November 2020

Remote Video Meeting
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Papers Annex 3 - Agenda Item 7b
Planning Update



Annex 3 – Item 7b: Summary of Development Management and other Planning Activity

Purpose

1. This report provides a brief update on Local planning authority development management consultations since the September 2020 AONB Partnership meeting pertinent to the South Devon AONB.

Key Activity

Planning Caseload

2. Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) formally consulted the AONB Unit on 47 applications to date for the year 2020/2021.

Summary of activity:

- 20 cases that LPAs have determined
- 10 completed responses on cases that LPAs are yet to determine
- 23 cases under consideration with responses currently in development
- 3 pre-applications responded to / responses in development
- Informal pre-application advice was provided to two Community Housing Initiative groups during the last three month period.
- 3 Neighbourhood Plan groups supported and formal consultation responses provided / in development

Note that the 24 applications with completed responses and an LPA decision as at the September PCM are treated as closed and are not reported again in the table below. Wording in 'normal' text signifies this appeared on the last planning update, with any changes/updates noted in '**bold**' text.

3. The following table lists the planning cases relevant to the three month period:

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
20 Applications - LPA decision made					
DCC/4183/2020	Steer Point Quarry, Steer Point Road, Brixton Variation of condition 4 (to extend the temporary permission) of planning permission DCC/3638/2014 for Importation of inert waste	Conditional approval	No objection	Y	
P/2019/0594	39 Wall Park Road, Brixham Construction of three dwellings	Approved On 15.09 Decision notice awaited		N	Revised plans submitted 05.08.2020
3186/19/VAR	Park House Baptist Lane Salcombe Variation of condition 2	Withdrawn		N	Revised plans submitted
0265/20/ARM	Field to Rear of Green Park Way Chillington Approval of reserved matters	Refusal		N in setting	Application re-advertised Resubmission of 3193/18/ARM
0848/20/FUL	Gerston Point Gerston Farm West Alvington Change of use - land to domestic use with carport and storage building	Refusal		N	Retrospective application Resubmission of 0042/19/FUL
2299/20/FUL	Land at SX 694 467 Bridgend Watermeadow Kingsbridge Provision of parking/yard area, engineering works for restoration of ponds, wetland, landscaping	Conditional approval		N	Part retrospective

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
2351/20/HHO	Flat 2 19 South Town Dartmouth Garden shed and walkway	Conditional approval		N	
2436/20/HHO	1 East Park Kernborough Erection of deck area on roof of garage	Refusal		N	Retrospective application
2493/20/HHO	Watersedge South Pool New doors, rooflights and internal alterations to existing garage	Conditional approval		N	
2555/20/VAR	Rockledge Devon Road Salcombe Application for variation of condition 2	Conditional approval		N	Relates to planning permission 0926/20/FUL
2698/20/FUL	Dart Lea Swannaton Road Dartmouth Replacement dwelling	Conditional approval		N	
MLA/2019/00502	La Crevette (Halftide House) seawall plinth Construct new seawall	Granted with conditions		N	Completed
MLA/2020/00171	Mill Bay Lane, East Portlemouth Landslip	Granted with conditions		N	Completed
P/2020/0682	15 Copythorne Road, Brixham Construction of dwelling within curtilage of property	Refusal		N	
20/01184/FUL	Land At Bovisand Road Staddiscombe Plymouth Conversion of two barns to 2 dwellings	Refusal	Objection	N	Re-submission 19/00990/FUL
2749/20/HHO	The Ferry Cottage Fore Street Salcombe New steps bolted to South East boundary wall to provide estuary access	Withdrawn	Objection	N	
2365/20/HHO	Coombe Quay Warfleet Road Dartmouth Single storey rear extension	Refusal		N	
2544/20/FUL	Ferrydown 23b Fore Street Salcombe External works to terrace	Conditional approval		N	
3033/20/HHO	Gleaan 1 Yealm View Road Newton Ferrers Raise floor level plus external ramp access	Conditional approval		N	Part retrospective
3214/20/PIP	Land at Sx 495 490 adjacent to Renney Road Heybrook Bay Construct single storey ecological house	Refusal		N	
10 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	Case Officer awaiting resubmission from applicants. Previous in principle objection to residential stands

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
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 Revised plans received Nov 20
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
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. Revisions awaited
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.		Holding Objection	Y	In the event of approval, a compensation package has been requested proportionate to level of natural beauty harm. Extension to 27.11.20
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		Holding objection	N	
2556/20/FUL	Springfield East Charleton Engineering works to create camping and caravanning site		Objection	N	Retrospective application
2895/20/HHO	Tacket Wood House Tacketwood Kingsbridge Ground floor extension, convert garage, orangery extension, greenhouse, first floor hipped roof extension, swimming pool		No objection - subject to conditions		
3125/20/HHO	1 The Point Noss Mayo Timber steps to access lower sections of riverside garden		No objection - subject to conditions		
23 Applications - Responses in development					
3669/18/VAR	Land At Sx 739 438 Derby Road Kingsbridge Variation of condition 7 (approved plans)			N	
4210/18/SCR	Land at Gnaton Farm Yealmpton Proposed cable route for Creacombe solar farm			N	Application awaiting finalisation of legal agreement
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	Extension of time agreed to 31.12.20 Must be considered alongside other related applications and consents. Advice on additional viewpoints provided.
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. Revised plans submitted
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	

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
0761/20/OPA	Vicarage Park Land North of Westentown Kingston 12 new houses		Objection	Y	Resubmission of 4068/17/OPA
0868/20/ARM	Development Site SX612502 North Of Church Hill Holbeton Application for approval of reserved matters construct 14 dwellings			N	Following outline approval 25/1720/15/O; resubmission of 0127/19/ARM
1067/20/OPA	West Prawle Farm East Portlemouth Provision of an agricultural workers dwelling			N	Extension to 10.7.20
1770/20/FUL	Land at Lower Mill Park West Alvington General purpose agricultural building			N	
2089/20/FUL	Fish Hoek South Town Dartmouth Alter and extend 2 dwellings and erect 2 new dwellings			N	Related to withdrawn application no. 2781/18/FUL
2377/20/FUL	Boone Hill House Mount Boone Hill Dartmouth Replacement dwelling			N	Extension to 30.11.20
2542/20/FUL	Greenhay Beeson Kingsbridge Replacement dwelling and double garage			N	Extension to 30.11.20
2554/20/FUL	Land at College Way College Way Dartmouth Erection of a detached dwelling and annex			N	
4158/19/FUL	Development Site At Sx 734 439, Land to Northwest of junction between Ropewalk and Kingsway Park Ropewalk Kingsbridge 15 dwellings			N	
P/2020/0480	Site Adjacent to Brixham Cricket Club Outdoor football pitch for sports and recreational use			N	
2832/20/FUL	Development Site At Sx 8773 5172 College Way Dartmouth Erection of 9 flats				
1203/20/FUL	2 Moulton Moor Moulton Road Salcombe Loft conversion				READVERTISEMENT - Amended Applicant Details Extension to 25.11.20
1921/20/VAR	Half Tide House Ravensbury Drive Warfleet Dartmouth Variation of condition 2 (Replacement dwelling)				Planning consent 15/2388/14/F Extension of 1 week from receipt of further information
2345/20/HHO	Penveron The Level Dittisham Roof terrace decking and balustrade works				
2192/20/VAR	Stoke Gabriel Boating Association Clubhouse Removal or variation of conditions 4 (restricted use) and 11 (no vehicular access)		Objection		Original planning consent 52/1473/15/F
3208/20/FUL	Gara Rock Hotel East Portlemouth Sub-division of three apartments to six apartments				
3320/20/FUL	Land at West End Garage Main Road Salcombe Residential development of 27 dwellings				
2828/20/FUL	Barby Lodge Cleveland Drive Bigbury On Sea Replacement dwelling				

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 the recently updated AONB Planning Protocol (adopted March 2020), in addition to strategic and neighbourhood planning demand across the local planning authority areas. 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.