

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB Partnership Committee Meeting

to be held at

10am on Friday 12th March 2021

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

Members nominated by statutory agencies

Environment Agency	Rob Price
Forestry Commission	Jon Burgess (whilst Kate Tobin seconded)
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 Chair)
Independent	John Green (Chair)

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

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 (27 th November 2020) for approval & any matters arising	Page 4
Item 5 (15 mins) (15 mins) (5 mins) (15 mins)	AONB Management 5a) South Devon AONB Tourism trends, challenges and opportunities – now for information 5b) Future Farming in South Devon 5c) Water Framework Directive – an update 5d) South Devon AONB / Dartmoor National Park collaborative working 5e) The Primrose Trail	Page 12 Page 15 Page 21 Verbal Page 22
Item 6 (15 mins) (5 mins) (15 mins)	AONB Partnership matters 6a) Chairmanship, election of Community Representatives and Annual Forum 6b) National matters 6c) Round-table partner updates	Page 24 Page 29 Verbal
Item 7	For Information 7a) Planning matters update (including NPPF, National Model Design Code consultation and Current and recent key planning applications) 7b) Planning update covering the last quarter 7c) AONB Staff Unit activity report	To follow Annex 1 Page 31

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 27th NOVEMBER 2020**

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

Cllr Jonathan Hawkins	JH	Devon County Council
Peter Chamberlain	PC	Devon County Council
Cllr Rosemary Rowe	RR	South Hams District 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
Rob Price	RP	Environment Agency
Eamon Crowe	EC	Natural England
John Martin	Vice-chair	Plymouth University
John Green	Chair	Independent
Geoffrey Osborn	GO	Representative: amenity groups
Peter Sandover	PS	Representative: community/voluntary groups
Ed Parr Ferris	EPF	Representative: environmental organisations (NGOs)
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:

Sarah Gibson	SG	South Hams District Council
Hanna Elisabet Åberg	HEÅ	PhD Student
Adam Davison	AD	AONB Project Officer
Nicky Bailey (for Item 6)	NB	AONB Community Projects Officer

Attending as invited observers:

Don Kelly		Kingston Parish Council
Elizabeth Huntley		Bigbury Parish Council (Chair)
Sue Crowther		Thurlestone Parish Council
Dermod Drought		Wembury Parish Council (Vice-chair)

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Roger Croad		Devon County Council
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Note – Richard Snow of the National Trust was on furlough leave

Observers

Observers were requested to follow the meeting live via YouTube. Eight observed via YouTube, two observed via the Zoom link.

2. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

2.1 One public statement was made, by Sue Crowther of Thurlestone Parish Council, who raised the following questions:

- Has the AONB Partnership Committee responded to the Planning White Paper consultation?
- What can Parishes do to help with Planning applications within the AONB?

The Chair responded that the answer to the first question is covered in item 4, reviewing minutes of the last meeting. Local knowledge and input from parish councils and individuals is very valuable to the AONB staff unit, particularly with planning and other issues.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 No interests were declared

4. MINUTES OF THE 18th SEPTEMBER 2020 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING FOR APPROVAL & ANY MATTERS ARISING

4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4.2 It was noted that most actions had been completed or are progressing. Further information:

4.2.1 Changes to the current planning system and Planning White Paper consultations, actions 2 and 3: The AONB Manager thanked Peter Sandover, Representative for community and voluntary groups of the AONB for the significant time he gave in assisting the AONB Manager with a range of related matters. The AONB Manager also thanked Partnership Committee members who provided responses before the deadline. The AONB Manager fed these responses for the first consultation, changes to the current planning system, to the National Association for AONBs to help inform their submission. The AONB Manager prepared a response to the Planning White Paper consultation which will be shared with Partnership Committee members in due course.

4.2.2 The launch of the interim Devon Carbon Plan consultation on 7th December will allow Partnership Committee members the opportunity to read through proposals in detail and stimulate interest in forming a working group.

Post meeting note: [The consultation of the Interim Devon Carbon Plan is now live](#) Partnership Committee members are requested to contact the AONB Manager if they wish to participate in the working group.

4.2.3 Following the unanimous decision to include an opportunity for public statements to be made at Partnership Committee meetings, an item has been introduced at the start of this agenda. Amendments to the constitution terms of reference will be made and circulated in due course.

4.2.4 The action to prepare a summary of desired outcomes from increasing diversity will be covered in the March meeting.

5A AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN DELIVERY PLAN PRIORITIES 2021-22

5a.1 The Chair thanked John Graham and the Amenity Groups for their work in producing the paper circulated as annex 1 to this item.

5a.2 The AONB Manager included information to provide context against which the emerging Delivery Plan for 2021/22 is being prepared.

5a.3 The AONB Project Officer talked through the emerging Delivery Plan and relationships to key asks from Defra and other priorities.

Of particular note:

- i. The Delivery Plan is an integral part of the statutory Management Plan and is updated annually.
- ii. The Delivery Plan identifies projects delivered by the AONB staff unit, projects delivered in partnership, as well as key partner projects that contribute to conserving and enhancing the AONB.
- iii. Each project notes the Defra policies and priorities it contributes to.
- iv. The Delivery Plan is evolving. There are opportunities to highlight key partner projects and particular priorities to be included in the final version, published by April 2021.

5a.4 Geoffrey Osborn, representative for amenity groups provided background information for production of the Amenity Groups paper authored by John Graham. The paper was circulated to Amenity Groups and received wide support.

5a.5 Committee members observations and in discussion

- i. Amenity Groups paper
 - a. Thanks were expressed to John Graham for producing the paper and appreciation shown for what the Amenity Groups do.
 - b. Each of the four themes and two overarching elements shown in paragraph 4 of page 12 of the papers was considered important and where AONB staff unit time should be concentrated.
 - c. A number of principles outlined in the paper were supported. Factual accuracy and evidence of some items in the paper were questioned.
 - d. AONB staff unit involvement in planning is as a consultee and not as an LPA planning officer. There is an agreed planning protocol in place so the AONB should only be invited to comment on significant planning applications in, or affecting, the AONB.
 - e. Torbay Council do not have a landscape officer so are dependent & grateful for the AONB Managers help and advice on the Inglewood proposal.
 - f. There is a need to balance AONB planning involvement with other duties.
 - g. To free up Partnership Committee meeting time, a preference was expressed to hold separate meetings for planning matters.
 - h. Balance is required to allow local people to stay in the community and avoid the AONB becoming a millionaires paradise, second homes and holiday lets.
 - i. The majority of South Devon AONB is not urban/developed, so it is important to look after that area. The Devon Wildlife Trust value the AONB delivery of projects and may not have capacity to pick up projects from the AONB if they are unable to deliver.
 - j. The Catchment Approach is a delivery vehicle for the 5-year South Devon AONB Management Plan, leads to opportunities to inform other statutory documents, provides income to the AONB, and results in collaborative advantage. The quality of the water environment is intrinsic to get the best out of the amenity and the value of the AONB.
 - k. Natural beauty needs protecting including biology & geology. Understanding that and working with those that live and visit the AONB is important.
 - l. The AONB Chair recognised that early responses on planning from the AONB can be useful, however delays may be appropriate such as where further information is expected.
 - m. It was questioned whether local people or Parish Councils had been canvassed to produce the paper.
- ii. Draft Delivery Plan 2021
 - a. Ambitious delivery plan but consistent with AONB purpose
 - b. Identifying projects the AONB staff unit leads on was found to be helpful for prioritisation.

- c. It was recognised that the AONB staff unit cannot cover everything but perform an important role to facilitate, co-ordinate and be a link between different projects and bodies. Committee members are therefore encouraged to prioritise these.
- d. Although the delivery plan looks overwhelming, if looking solely at projects the AONB staff unit leads on it is less so.

5a.6 Responses

i. AONB Manager

- a. There are competing pressures on the staff unit and partners. Overall workload must strike an appropriate balance. Work on planning application responses can at times be overwhelming as it is by nature reactive and not planned.
- b. The Government has not provided a formal response to the Glover Review proposals. Implementation of proposals 24 and 6 would make a significant difference to the AONB unit's capacity to fully deliver on planning matters.
- c. The recent spending review announcement mentioned the National Parks and AONBs budget would rise to £75m. This represents around £10m increase across the board, how this translates in the grant funding offer to South Devon (and any additional requirements this funding comes with) is awaited. If an AONB planning officer could be funded over the long term it would release resources to concentrate on other work.
- d. The current balance is essential to be able to make the most of the opportunities that underpin the full range of natural beauty activity necessary for South Devon that has a diverse landscape and therefore a diverse range of issues needing to be addressed.
- e. The AONB Manager recognises that everyone will have a slightly different view on where to focus limited resources and welcomes views and input into the process.
- f. Partnership Committee members and partners that have anything further to add, or wishing to raise specific issues or priorities, are requested to let the Project Officer and AONB Manager know

ii. Geoffrey Osborn, representative for Amenity Groups

- a. Amenity Group members work with Parish Councils and are also very active in Neighbourhood Planning work.
- b. The focus of Amenity Groups representations is to curb inappropriate development while recognising the need for housing of the right scale and in the right location.
- c. Disappointed SHDC will not be flagging planning applications within the AONB. The representative for Amenity Groups informed Committee members that Cornwall Council do flag in this way and encouraged SHDC to do likewise.

5B FARMING, ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND NATURE RECOVERY

The AONB Manager provided a verbal update on the introduction of a new Environmental Land Management System.

5b.1 Background

- i. Existing Countryside Stewardship scheme has been in place since 2016.
- ii. Focus for South Devon AONB to date has been in the Avon Valley, with the co-ordination role in the Countryside Stewardship facilitation group.
- iii. Initially a five-year programme ending June 2020, now extended by one year.

5b.2 New scheme

- i. A range of farmers across the area participated in an online workshop with Defra to review the emerging Environmental Land Management scheme and to share experiences.
- ii. Around a third of the members from South Devon area taking part in the call had not been involved with any form of agri-environment agreement to date.
- iii. Modest funding has been made available to all AONBs to increase the work being done with farmer groups in preparation for basic payment scheme tapering off and the introduction of the ELMS pilot over the next year. There is the opportunity for Countryside Stewardship mid-tier and higher-tier applications too.
- iv. Staff training will be completed by end December followed by a programme of work to revisit the farmer sounding board that had previously helped in the selection of a Facilitation focus area.

5b.3 Nature recovery planning

- i. A requirement from Defra and of significant importance to the natural beauty of the AONB.
- ii. Nests in with nature recovery network mapping co-ordinated by Devon Wildlife Trust on behalf of local nature partnership. This work nests within the national approach embedded in the Environment Bill to nature recovery strategies.
- iii. The AONB Management Plan is seen as a key delivery mechanism for targeting and prioritising where ELM support is provided. The granular detail required, not available from the Management Plan, means Nature Recovery planning work is essential for future ELMS applications and work.
- iv. To support Nature Recovery planning, contract work has been commissioned jointly by Devon and Somerset AONBs to prepare:
 - a. State of nature reports
 - b. Regional and sub-regional analysis
 - c. Visualisations
- v. Partnership Committee members had previously been invited to express interest in forming a small working group for Colchester Declaration activity around nature recovery planning. This work will take place once initial draft material becomes available.

5b.4 Natural England will have a nature recovery specialist covering South Devon

5C HOW THE COMMUNITY IS SHAPING LANDSCAPE

Hanna Elisabet Åberg, PhD candidate from the Planning and Regeneration Research Group, University of Bologna gave a presentation on the RURITAGE (Heritage for Rural Regeneration) project worked on in collaboration with the University of Plymouth. Further information was provided in the papers.

5c.1 Observations and in discussion

- i. Report and case studies could prove valuable in Neighbourhood Planning. Existing plans could also be helpful in this project.
- ii. This is the initial stage of the study. Keen for feedback on the questionnaires and to engage with as many Committee members as possible regarding data collection and to discover what would be a best fit for the groups they represent.
- iii. Information on the project will be made available on the [South Devon AONB website](#).

ACTION 1 (HÅ): Circulate presentation to Partnership Committee members.

ACTION 2 (HÅ): Provide a copy of the draft questionnaire for comment only rather than completion at this stage. Committee members are invited to respond to Hanna directly via email to: hannaelisabet.berg@unibo.it.

5D DESIGN REVIEW PANELS

The AONB Manager introduced this item and provided context on the importance of design before handing over to Peter Sandover, representative for community/voluntary groups, to go through the report provided in the papers.

5d.1 Observations and in discussion

- i. Torbay Council holds design review panels for large significant projects. These are not compulsory and are paid for by the applicant.
- ii. Involvement from the AONB would only be envisaged where the proposal is significant.
- iii. It is recognised that the principles of better design and better quality development as outlined in the paper are important, and is also referred to in the Planning White Paper.
- iv. Design review panels, and dealing with the outcomes from these, can be time consuming. With Local Authority Development Management teams under significant pressure, freeing up resources for panels would be difficult.
- v. It was noted that SHDC has a landscape officer and a number of DM officers have design qualifications and experience.
- vi. The current planning protocol does not cover design review panels and current levels of resources would need to prioritise responses to planning applications over design review panels. With reference to item 5a.6ib in the minutes, should resources change this position could be revisited.

5d.2 Responding to Local Authority resourcing concerns, Peter Sandover encouraged Committee members to look at experiences at Cornwall Council who use an agency, with costs born by the applicant.

ACTION 3 (PS): Obtain information on Cornwall Council's use of design review panels including the resourcing of these, typical time taken, types of projects involved.

6A WIDENING OUR AUDIENCE, DEEPENING ENGAGEMENT

The Chair thanked John Graham and the Amenity Groups for the paper circulated as annex 2 to this item.

6a.1 Nicky Bailey, AONB Communities Project Officer, provided context with a presentation.

6a.2 Committee members observations and discussion:

- i. Videos or online sessions are a good way to maintain engagement in schools in the ongoing Covid-19 situation.
- ii. The AONB is a national asset with a national audience. Using technology to engage more people is important.
- iii. The current Annual Forum format where each AONB officer provides a presentation looking back over the past year is not necessarily right. A different approach, on a different scale, would be supported.
- iv. Kingsbridge TIC had observed that general awareness of the AONB and events has waned over time, with leaflets being provided rather than requested.
- v. The area was inundated with summer visitors, an AONB board placed on the quay would be useful to raise awareness of the designated area.
- vi. Experience has shown Zoom meetings can be better attended than physical meetings and that online sessions are a good way to maintain and extend engagement. Videos of walks and activities could be put on YouTube. The 60@60 launch film, available on YouTube was spectacular and will inspire people to get out into the landscape.

- 6a.3 The AONB staff unit recognises the importance of engaging communities in meaningful and enjoyable ways and to help people understand the importance of the AONB as a protected landscape. The Community Projects Officer responded to a number of points raised by Committee members:
- i. It was confirmed the AONB engage with schools in meaningful ways, on a variety of projects. The numbers engaged are reported annually in AONB Annual Reports. Links to educational resources are available on the AONB website.
 - ii. The AONB will continue to run events. Online events have been taking place with further online talks planned up to May 2021 after which point it is hoped that physical events can resume, Covid-19 permitting, with online events continuing to take place. In addition, the AONB have continued to provide talks to groups as invited guests, with these meetings taking place online for the time being.
 - iii. A board has recently been installed on Kingsbridge quay as part of the Explore South Devon project.
 - iv. The AONB website [walks pages](#) have recently been updated with four short films that were made possible by the Explore South Devon project. The aim of the films is to encourage people to get out and explore the area. These are also available on the AONB [YouTube channel](#).
 - v. Although the AONB has attended small events and had taken the AONB marquee to towns such as Kingsbridge and Salcombe in the past, there has been low attendance and limited meaningful engagement. When Covid-19 restrictions permit, the AONB staff unit will attend open events with displays, information and activities, including attending popular partner events such as Explore Start Bay, Big Night Out etc. that have proved very worthwhile.
 - vi. Partnership Committee members ideas for other activities to increase engagement are welcomed.

6a.4 Regarding the Annual Form and the ideas presented in the Amenity Groups paper authored by John Graham, circulated as annex 2 to this item, the Chair proposed a separate meeting to explore options for a future Annual Forum including who to invite, where to hold it and to help formulate the style of meeting to increase engagement.

- i. **ACTION 4 (NB)**: Set up an online meeting early in the new year for Partnership Committee members to discuss the Annual Forum.

6a.5 The Chair referred to the Amenity Groups paper submitted by John Graham and the seven steps the Partnership could take to improve residents identification with the AONB. The Chair will arrange to follow up the points raised with the AONB Manager.

ACTION 5 (RE): Respond on the seven steps raised in the paper circulated as annex 2 to this item and send to Geoffrey Osborn, representative for Amenity Groups.

6B ROUND TABLE PARTNER UPDATES

6b.1 Peter Chamberlain, Devon County Council

- i. The Interim [Devon Carbon Plan](#) is out for [consultation](#) until the 15th February.
- ii. '[Natural Flood Management Guidance](#)', produced by DCC in association with the EA, is being launched today.

6b.2 Rob Price, Environment Agency

- i. Water Framework Directive assessments for 2016 to 2019 have been published. Offered to provide a presentation on the findings at the next meeting.

6b.3 Peter Sandover, representative for community/voluntary groups

- i. Highlighted there is a current proposal for four parishes in the AONB to prepare a joint Neighbourhood Plan. This is out for consultation at the moment and would encourage anyone living in the parishes of [South Pool, East Portlemouth, Chivelstone or Slapton](#) to respond.

6b.4 Cllr. Anne Brooks, Torbay Council

- i. The Land South of White Rock (Inglewood) inquiry will take place from 12th January next year. Thanks was expressed to the AONB Manager for his work on this.

2021 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

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

12th March 2021 at 10am, via remote video meeting

25th June 2021 at 10am, venue TBC

26th November 2021 at 10am, venue TBC

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

Item 5a: AONB Tourism trends, challenges and opportunities

Report by Samantha Dennis, AONB Tourism Community Representative

Purpose

1. To provide members of the AONB Partnership with an insight into South Devon Tourism trends with a focus on Covid-19 impacts, challenges and opportunities.

Background

2. Last year saw a spike in the number of tourists visiting the South Devon AONB. With social distancing imposed, capacity in traditional forms of accommodation was limited and covers in restaurants and pubs reduced. Indoor attractions such as the leisure centre, cinema and local theme parks, remained closed and people were forced to spend more time outside.
3. Normal patterns of visitors were disrupted as older couples rushed down at the same time as families, desperate either for a “break” from COVID or to see family and friends. Employees were furloughed and children were home-schooled, extending the season and allowing people to visit for weeks at a time as they “worked” from their holiday home.
4. People bought cheap paddleboards, hired inflatable hot tubs, and accepted that “eating out” now meant picnics on the beach or breakfast served in a disposable tray. Some had never visited the area before, forced to holiday in the UK as flights abroad were cancelled. Others knew the area very well but would usually stay with friends and family.
5. Bins overflowed, car parks were full, wild swimmers came dangerously close to water skiers and anti-social behaviour reigned in Salcombe in particular.

Looking forward

6. This year looks set to be just as busy with trips abroad still off limits and places already fully booked until October. It may be different this year, children will be at school meaning the usual school holidays will apply, and it is unsure whether social distancing will still be a requirement.
7. Although according to the government’s roadmap, local events and festivals could take place from mid-June it will be a brave committee that risks going first and the majority have already been cancelled.
8. Will this upsurge in bookings continue beyond the pandemic or is this just temporary? Without any funding to promote tourism in the area, it looks likely that visitor numbers would drop off again as people travel abroad and with more availability, return to areas with healthier marketing budgets like Cornwall.

The question is do we want this to happen? How much tourism can the area sustain? Where should the line be drawn between economy and environment?

9. South Hams District Council have stepped up their efforts to keep the place tidy in preparation for a busy Summer by recruiting rangers to respond quickly to overflowing bins, crowded car parks and dirty toilets. Natural England have responded to reports that this was a national problem by reviewing and relaunching the Countryside Code. The Avon Estuary Forum met to discuss possible interventions to ensure the safety of all water users, but very few actions, if any were agreed.

I am unaware of any other measures that have been put in place in preparedness but would be pleased to hear from anyone that knows differently.

10. When I asked local businesses and residents for their thoughts on the future of tourism in the South Hams, I received very little response. Not because they do not care or were not interested, but I think, because their priority this year has to be to make money.
11. Feedback I did receive included detail of damage done to local beauty spots, concern for the effect more second homes will have on sustaining liveable communities, the negative impacts of relying on tourism as our biggest industry and worry that locals are not engaged in tourism strategies and as a result their welcome is limited.
12. My biggest concern is that there does not appear to be any tourism strategies for the South Hams. Data on tourism in this area is no longer collected so my report has none. Visit Devon and Visit South Devon have very few relationships with local businesses. The Tourist Information Centres are all independently run and have no official connection to one another. But most worryingly, the majority of accommodation is now controlled by international companies like Airbnb and Wyndham Vacation Rentals.

Proposals

13. If I were to make some proposals, they would be:
 - i. A Tourism Manager be appointed to represent the area, working with businesses, councils and established Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) and Information Centres.
 - ii. This person should be the contact for press enquiries, and work to assemble a network of press contacts so that the right messages can be put out.
 - iii. They should also arrange for data to be collected on tourism locally so that more informed decisions can be made and strategies put in place.
 - iv. More bins be provided at beaches and beauty spots – the idea that by removing bins, people will be encouraged to take their litter home, does not work.
 - v. The loophole on second homes be closed, they should either pay council tax or business rates but not be encouraged to pay business rates and then have the 100% rate relief applied.
 - vi. A list of ALL accommodation should be compiled including, impromptu camping sites, Airbnb, and self-catering agencies.
 - vii. Those providing accommodation should be made to pay for commercial waste to be collected.

And specifically, in relation to the purpose of AONBs:

- viii. Promote the messages of the revised Countryside Code – due to be published at Easter, including supporting other protected landscapes and Natural England in efforts to reach newer audiences for example via LADBible.
- ix. Commit / seek funding for a Sustainable Tourism Strategy - establish a charter where the AONB partnership, other partners and the tourism industry work together for greener tourism. To involve accommodation providers, self-catering, hospitality, pop up 56 day campsites etc. Share tools and assets to help them promote the outdoors and AONB in a way which we would encourage a focus on experiential tourism and off season (Oct-Mar) visits.

Recommendations

14. Partnership Committee members are recommended to offer their insight and views on:
- i. Areas of activity partners are able to contribute to, that will have most impact;
 - ii. Areas of activity for the Partnership and its Staff Unit to prioritise that are consistent with the statutory purpose for AONBs, the South Devon AONB Management Plan and its policies and its policies^{1,2 & 3}

Principle AONB Management Plan policies relating specifically to tourism.
Note that others also apply in part or full):

¹ Acc/P1 Sustainable Tourism – A sustainable, year round tourism industry which benefits from and contributes to the environmental quality of the area will be supported. The loss of accommodation and facilities for visitors and recreational users will be resisted. Activities and initiatives to extend the main tourism season and to assist in promoting the area to overseas visitors will be supported.

² Acc/P2 Popular Sites – The provision of sustainable visitor facilities, recreational infrastructure and information will be promoted at the most heavily used destinations. Management resources, promotion and marketing will be concentrated on the more popular and developed sites which are best able to accommodate and contain intensive recreational pressure.

³ Acc/P3 Information – Co-ordinated information and interpretation about countryside, coastal, marine and estuarine recreation and access will be promoted through a range of media, to help foster greater understanding, appropriate expectations and considerate behaviour. Car Parks and principal access points such as slipways will be used as locations wherever possible to minimise signage proliferation.

Item 5b: Future Farming in South Devon

Purpose

1. To provide members of the South Devon AONB Partnership with an overview of a significant government funded three-year programme to support farmers and other land managers in England's AONBs and National Parks during transition to the Environmental Land Management Scheme.

Background

2. First mentioned in the Agricultural Transition Plan 2021-2024 published at the end of November 2020 as part of the Future Farming and Countryside programme, a formal announcement on the 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' (FIPL) programme is anticipated imminently. In line with Glover Review proposal five "*A central place for national landscapes in new Environmental Land Management Schemes*" there is an expectation that AONB and National Park teams will be central to its coordination and delivery.

Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

3. 'Farming Protected Landscapes' is a new Defra developed programme understood to be supported by £22m of additional government funding in 2021/22, followed by £15m per year for a further 2 years and spread across the English AONBs and National Parks. Funding is intended to aid agricultural businesses during the transition period to the new Environmental Land Management Scheme.
4. Distribution of funding is anticipated to be through national landscape management bodies in the form of grants to support:
 - Farm level projects to diversify incomes, prepare for our Environmental Land Management offer and create more green jobs.
 - Wider infrastructure investment and projects supporting farmers and rural economies.
5. Until much anticipated further detail is provided on this specific programme we must turn to the information published in Late November 2020 as a starting point for understanding its likely scope and application. The text below has been extracted from pages 44-45 of the published Agricultural Transition Plan⁴ and to date is the only published material on the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

4

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954283/agricultural-transition-plan.pdf

B.6 Farming in Protected Landscapes

We want: To support farmers and other land managers in Protected Landscapes, to help them diversify their income streams and lay the groundwork for our Environmental Land Management offer.

We will: Provide support to farmers, via National Park Authorities and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty bodies, to help grow businesses, create green jobs, enhance biodiversity and invest in infrastructure to attract more diverse visitors to support local economies.

Farmers in Protected Landscapes operate in challenging agricultural conditions and are often very reliant on Direct Payments. At the same time, they provide huge environmental, social and cultural benefits.

In addition to the other policies laid out here, we are proposing a specific and time limited package to help farmers adapt during the transition. This programme will support farmers and land managers so they can work with Protected Landscapes to deliver environmental outcomes, lay the groundwork for our Environmental Land Management offer, and contribute towards the delivery of recommendations in the Glover Review of National Landscapes.

Scheme description

The scheme will deliver funding through the Protected Landscapes⁶ bodies to support farmers, particularly upland farmers (75% of whom live and work in Protected Landscapes) to make improvements to the natural environment, cultural heritage and public access on their land.

Eligibility

Farmers and other land managers in Protected Landscapes will have the opportunity to work with their National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. More information will be provided on this scheme in early 2021.

Payments

The scheme will use existing delivery mechanisms through Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Park Authorities, who have existing infrastructure and relationships across Protected Landscapes.

The spend each year would support delivery against two complementary areas: (A) farm level projects and (B) wider infrastructure and projects on farmland.

Farmers and other land managers will benefit from:

(A) Farm level projects to diversify incomes, prepare for our Environmental Land Management offer and create more green jobs.

- Support for farmers for delivering environment/landscape outcomes. Examples might include peat restoration, planting woodland, hay meadow restoration, creation of heathland and scrub, moorland management, enhancement of wetlands, and dry-stone wall repairs
- Support to farmers on areas such as carbon capture, business planning, and skills development including apprenticeships

(B) Wider infrastructure investment and projects supporting farmers and rural economies

- Infrastructure, such as better access, clearer and simpler signage, dedicated cycling/electric bike access – to attract more diverse groups of visitors (to farm businesses, camping barns, etc.) as well as creating jobs (e.g. expansion of landscape rangers supporting farmers and visitors)
- Strengthened public engagement with landscapes to attract more, and more diverse, visitors, improving mental health outcomes and better disabled access; walking routes to better connect landscapes.

Timings

We will be providing more information about the scheme in early 2021.

To keep up to date on farming announcements, sign up to [Defra email alerts](#)

6. Representatives from the AONB and National Park networks are working closely with Defra officials to develop this programme in ways that will support our farming and land management community, nature, local communities and our national landscape teams.

Matters being considered as part of this are:

- ensuring equitable allocations
 - recognising the variance in national landscape existing capacity to pick up this area of work
 - eligible spend and the relationship to Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier / Higher Tier schemes, Sustainable Farming Incentive pilot scheme etc.
 - monitoring and evaluation
7. Further clarification and detail is expected imminently from Defra in the form of a national framework and we will have to move quickly to implement this programme in accordance with Defra requirements matched to the needs and circumstances in the South Devon AONB.

8. Operating during the transition period up to 2024, this programme will sit alongside existing Mid-Tier and Higher-Tier Countryside Stewardship schemes, the Hedgerow and Boundaries Grant, Water Capital Grant (where applicable) and the emerging pilot elements that form part of the Environmental Land Management Scheme.
9. Our area's farmers and land managers are likely to need a great deal of advice and support to navigate the evolving options available during the transition period and make the best possible choices for their businesses and the environment.

Potential FIPL priorities and their applicability to the South Devon AONB

10. The AONB network developed initial thinking in December 2020 on how investment might be utilised:

It is essential that Defra is confident that it is buying with the fund what Government wishes to pay for. The funds provided should add value to existing schemes on individual landholdings and/or deliver things which such schemes do not. In order to create a flexible delivery mechanism which meets local need and Government objectives, a 'menu' of acceptable uses of the funding could be provided. This might include meeting the costs of an end to end process of engagement, advice, fulfilment, delivery and monitoring which includes things such as:

Nature Recovery

- Delivering practical improvements for nature recovery and a landscape which is more climate resilient and which sees its essential qualities and character enhanced (e.g. improving hedgerow and bank condition, increasing hedgerow trees, permanent wildflower areas, meadow restoration, scrape creation, watercourse realignment, increasing woodland and scrub cover, managing woodland, the promotion of good soil health, fencing out stock and deer) and *maintaining* these improvements over an agreed period;
- Whole farm management planning by our teams or agents, co-created with farmers and land managers;
- Supporting natural flood management (including making the most of synergies with Defra's Flood and Coastal Resilience Programme);
- Survey / /the gathering of data where this is aimed at delivering better-informed works on the ground (equally applicable to each of the four headings under which works are grouped here);

Sustainable farm businesses

- Developing and delivering collaborative action such as training and peer to peer learning, especially where this lays the groundwork for the Environmental Land Management offer by creating more 'future-ready' farmers and landowners/managers;
- Buying in specialist support for business planning, including support to bring initiatives to a funder-ready stage, and to help farmers and land managers to diversify and deliver green recovery;
- Support for developing high value local products from the farmed landscape;
- Supporting further cluster development to share learning and promote collaboration;
- Water capital grant style investments beyond priority catchments to ensure improved water quality across whole AONB;
- Application of regenerative agriculture techniques;

Access infrastructure and wider rural jobs

- Access infrastructure improvements beyond the statutory provision including permissive paths;
- Support to manage visitor pressure, including on the non-farmed landscape within AONBs, e.g. beaches, dunes and shingle ridges;
- Signage and other infrastructure, and interpretation, aimed at increasing the on-farm offer to visitors and promoting greater public understanding of farming and the delivery of public goods;
- Contractor capacity-building activity;
- Conserving and enhancing cultural heritage features – traditional barns, walls, archaeological sites/features on farms;

Diversity and health & well being

- Public farm visits (including infrastructure such as handwashing facilities);
- Supporting missing audiences to engage with nature through events and activities (including staff time to build relationships with groups).

In order to support delivery of the above in AONBs, a programme would need to incorporate:

- The costs of new staff to undertake the developmental/engagement work to support farmers to devise and deliver action for nature recovery and developing new access opportunities with missing audiences; supporting existing staff costs where the postholders are directly engaged in programme delivery of, e.g. managing new staff or providing Comms and finance support;
- Administration of funds, including the management of elements of the funding as third-party grant aid, supporting a grant panel;
- Modest additional procurement costs incurred by AONB teams with their host authority/accountable body.

Other Considerations**Environmental Land Management (ELM)**

11. Defra made an announcement⁵ on 10th March about the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) pilot⁶ scheme of Environmental Land Management. More details and guidance are to follow on Monday 15th March as part of the invitation to farmers to submit an expression of interest (EOI). Defra are seeking several hundred farmers from across the country to take part in the Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme pilot.
12. The SFI will apply to farmers. It will pay them for actions they take (going beyond regulatory requirements) to manage their land in an environmentally sustainable way. Actions will be grouped into simple packages set out as standards, to make it as easy as possible for farmers to identify those actions that are best suited to their land and their business. The Sustainable Farming Incentive will be open to all farmers, but initially it will only be open to BPS recipients. The aim is to make it attractive and straightforward for everyone to take part, including the many farmers who are not currently in an agri-environment scheme.

⁵ https://www.gov.uk/government/news/farmers-invited-to-take-first-step-towards-greener-future?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=a55fd992-1a1d-45a9-9275-47f97565560d&utm_content=immediately

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-farming-incentive-scheme-pilot-launch-overview>

13. From the EOIs a representative group of farmers will be selected from across different farm types, landscapes etc. and offered the opportunity to make an application which will be supported by guidance. The pilot is just that so whilst there will be payments for actions on the ground, the main selling point is participating in the co-design of the SFI and participants will need to have the time available for this element for which a participation fee will be paid in addition. Farmers in Countryside Stewardship can participate but not for the same area of land.
14. The remaining two elements of Environmental Land Management are the Local Nature Recovery scheme and Landscape Recovery scheme. The three schemes will operate together and pay for sustainable farming practices, improve animal health and welfare, improve environmental outcomes, and reduce carbon emissions.

Summary

15. A three-year Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme is on its way with detail due imminently. Individual AONBs and National Park bodies have been advised to expect a role in distributing funding allocated to our protected landscapes. As the new financial year is rapidly approaching and programme funding is markedly front loaded to year 1 of the FIPL programme, the South Devon AONB Partnership along with other protected landscape colleagues, will have to move rapidly once announcements are made and gear up for delivery.
16. Partners will be integral to delivering this programme as will support from and collaboration with our near neighbour protected Landscapes, in particular Dartmoor National Park and the Devon AONBs along with the National Association for AONBs.

Recommendations

17. Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
 - i. Note the scale of the challenge and opportunity presented by the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme;
 - ii. Offer their views on principal areas for investment should an element of the fund be made available to address Management Plan priorities.

Item 5c: Water Framework Directive – an update

Purpose

1. To provide Partnership Committee members with evidence and insight on the extent and condition of the water environment of the South Devon AONB, in order to inform a discussion on interventions required and areas of activity requiring the AONB Partnership to lead or support.
2. Rob Price, AONB Partnership Committee member and Environment Agency Catchment Coordinator for the South Devon Catchments will provide a presentation at the Partnership meeting, highlighting trends and issues raised by the latest available Water Framework Directive datasets, including changes in the monitoring regime.

Background

3. The public goods provided by the AONB's rivers, streams, estuaries, wider catchments, inshore waters and groundwater are wide ranging and of high value to the local economy.
4. The water environment makes a particularly strong contribution to the South Devon AONB's natural beauty and distinctive character, recognised as one of the South Devon AONB's special qualities: *"Ria estuaries (drowned river valleys), steep combes and network of associated watercourses."*
5. The AONB Management Plan sets out a range of key policy objectives and policies relating to the water environment. Whilst the principal relevant theme section is Natural resources and Climate there are clear links to many of the other theme sections, but in particular aspects of:
 - Rivers and Estuaries
 - Coast and Marine
 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity
 - Farming and Land Management
 - Tourism, Access and Recreation
 - Planning and Sustainable Development
6. In addition to a wealth of work undertaken by partners, the South Devon AONB Unit lead, enable and support a wide range of action including through the South Devon AONB Estuaries Partnership, Catchment Based Approach, Countryside Stewardship Facilitation and other focused projects.

Recommendations

7. AONB Partnership Committee members are invited to:
 - i. Note the trends and issues pertinent to the South Devon AONB, its catchments, estuaries and coastal waters;
 - ii. Advise the AONB Manager of any areas of activity the Partnership feels the AONB Unit should be prioritising or paying particular attention to developing collaborative actions for in response to the Water Framework Directive data.

Item 5e: The Primrose Trail

Purpose

1. To provide members of the AONB Partnership Committee with an overview of plans spearheaded by a local Community Group to create a multi-use trail from South Brent to Kingsbridge utilising sections of the former Primrose Line coupled with public paths and existing minor roads.
2. Debbie Board and Richard Boyt from the Primrose Trail Group will provide members of the AONB Partnership Committee with a short presentation to outline the groups work to date to prepare an outline project proposal and future plans.

Background

3. The 19km single track South Brent to Kingsbridge branch railway line, that became known as the Primrose Line opened in 1893 and largely followed the course of the River Avon. The line was closed as part of the infamous 'Beeching cuts' in September 1963, three years after the South Devon AONB was designated.
4. Since closure as a serviced railway, land was sold off in small parcels and the original route has in part been reclaimed by nature. Ownership is now varied and virtually all of the former route now in private landownership, managed in a variety of ways including as gardens, woodland and agricultural land. Bridges and sections of track have been removed in some cases creating physical breaks.
5. Other parts of the county and country have benefitted hugely from finding new recreational uses for sections of former branch railway line. Locally, The Plym Valley Trail and most recently sections of the 11km Wray Valley Trail from Bovey Tracey to Moretonhampstead are excellent examples of these benefits.

Developing preliminary proposals and an outline

6. A community steering group was established in early 2018 to take forward the idea of the Primrose Trail. This was subsequently formalised into a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee. The former County Cycleways Officer has been employed as part-time project manager to provide expertise and focus to the Group's work.
7. The group has prepared an initial outline proposal⁷ published in December 2020 and which is available from their website.

Relationship with the South Devon AONB Management Plan

8. AONB Management Plan theme Tourism, Access and Recreation contains support from multiple policies that could be triggered for this proposal as long the final project and its components are compatible with the statutory purpose of AONBs, the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. The conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the protection of vulnerable wildlife will be given priority in the promotion of access and recreation.

⁷ <https://res2.weblum.site/res/5eae9104187773002240149f/60116e2d7435c10022553832>

9. The northerly most point of the South Devon AONB lies at Avonwick and the proposed strategic recreational route largely following the river Avon and former railway line would usefully link the South Devon AONB with Dartmoor National Park.
10. Given the environment through which the proposed trail will travel, there is great potential for realising nature recovery benefits if they are included as integral to the project. The proposal in its current form would provide increased opportunities for connecting people with nature, promoting quiet enjoyment of the area along with health and well-being benefits.
11. Recognising the work to date by the Primrose Trail Group, completing a feasibility study for the Primrose Trail project has been listed in the current AONB Management Plan Delivery Plan. Subject to a number of caveats, the project could realise significant benefits for the area. The project is not yet formally supported by the South Devon AONB Partnership and the Primrose Trail Group's presentation will enable members of the AONB Partnership to hear details first hand and reach a decision on whether more formal support can be offered.

Recommendations

1. AONB Partnership Committee members are invited to:
 - i. Receive the presentation from the Primrose Trail Group;
 - ii. Offer their views on the project proposal including whether to formally support the project.

Item 6a: Chairmanship, election of Community Representatives and Annual Forum

Purpose

1. This report considers a range of Partnership related matters upon which timely decisions are required to ensure appropriate action can be taken and advanced planning initiated.

Items for consideration

2. The AONB Partnership Chairman role, Annual Community Conference and Election of AONB Community representatives are considered below. All decisions required of the Partnership are contained in the recommendations section at the end of this item.

AONB Partnership Chairmanship

3. In June 2021, the AONB Partnership's current Chairman will have been in position for 2 years. During this time John Green has provided invaluable guidance to the AONB Manager, Staff Unit and Partnership throughout what has been a challenging period. By June, well over half of the Chairmanship will have been conducted under Covid-19 restrictions with periodic lockdowns. As a consequence, it has been a far from 'normal' few years.
4. Part 7 of the South Devon AONB Terms of Reference relates to the Appointment of a Partnership Committee Chairman.

PART 7: Appointment of Partnership Committee Chairman⁸

- i The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Partnership Committee will be elected from the membership of the Partnership Committee, normally for a two year period.
- ii Alternatively, the Chairman may be appointed by invitation of the Partnership Committee from the wider community as an independent chairman. In the latter case, it would be expected that any such independent chairman would be a respected individual with significant relevant experience or skills and a good knowledge and understanding of the AONB and its issues. An independent chairman, if so appointed, would serve as a full member of the Partnership Committee for the duration of his or her period of office, but would not be entitled to appoint a substitute in the event of being unable to attend a meeting.
- iii In either case, the Chairman would be expected to act as a "champion" for the AONB at local, regional and national level; to be committed to the purposes of AONB designation and management, to act as an effective chairman of the Partnership Committee meetings and the AONB Annual Conference; and to provide support and guidance to the AONB Manager and staff team.

5. Given the wording of clause 7i) it is procedurally correct at this stage for the Partnership to consider how it would like to proceed and reach a decision. Three main options are available at this stage and these are set out below following other matters for consideration.
6. Part 7i) makes reference to a Chairmanship being "normally for a two year period", which at the discretion of the Partnership leaves the option open for extending this term subject to the

⁸ AONB Partnership Constitution incorporating Terms of Reference

agreement of the incumbent Chairman. Members of the Partnership will recall that this course of action was taken in the case of former Chairman Andy Pratt who served for a term of 3 years.

7. Should Glover Review proposals be actioned in the short to medium term it seems likely that changes to governance will be required as per proposal 26 on reformed governance. Ministerial support has also been evident for early action on proposal 25, a new National Landscapes Service.
8. Recognising the abnormal term to date for this Chairmanship coupled with imminent government announcements due on the Glover Review and Farming in Protected Landscapes programme there is merit in maintaining a degree of stability.
9. Partnership members may also wish to raise other factors that should be borne in mind.

Option 1

Subject to agreement from the current Chairman, invite John Green to extend his term by up to two years.

Option 2

Invite expressions of interest from within the current Partnership and prepare for John Green to hand over at the close of the June 2021 Partnership meeting. Note that although the current and previous Chairmen were independent, this is not expressly required by the Terms of Reference.

Option 3

Appoint by invitation of the Partnership Committee from the wider community following a recruitment and selection process similar to that undertaken in 2015, overseen by an independent person and small panel drawn from the existing AONB Partnership. An updated role profile will be required seeking a respected individual with significant relevant experience or skills and a good knowledge and understanding of the AONB and its issues.

10. Should option 2 or 3 be selected, consideration must be given to the course of action to be taken should no suitable candidate be found.

South Devon AONB Annual Community Forum

11. Following a presentation at the last Partnership Committee meeting and further discussion with a working group of partnership volunteers during a remote video meeting on the 22nd February 2021, the following is proposed for this year's Annual Forum:
12. To split the event into two - one open public event and one invited community conference – to enable specific target audiences to be attracted to each:
 - i. **General Public**, open to all - as part of the 60th anniversary finale celebrations we will hold a **public event**, open to anyone during October. This will be an informal, entertaining and awareness raising event, sharing the outcomes and outputs of the anniversary project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant.
 - ii. **Peers, partners, organisations, businesses** – invited to a **community conference** with aim of sharing ways we are all carrying out our business to further the aims of the AONB management plan and contribute to the core purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB.

Community conference

13. To sharpen the focus of the event and follow a series of principles including:
- Theme of “*Working together for the South Devon AONB*”
 - Hold midweek in September – possibly during Landscapes for Life Week
 - Target an afternoon event with afternoon tea provided at the end
 - Hold in a venue which could itself attract people to come along to have a look round / tour of the building or site. Large enough rooms to hold good numbers of people, with good parking /access
 - Build up to event – online talks and possibly walks all tied into the L4L week, also could be led or co-hosted by some of the partnership members as a way of them meeting more people.
 - Invited guests – made up of partner organisations, communities and businesses who value the AONB as an asset, to gain advocates for the AONB purpose and delivery of management plan aims and objectives
 - Clear aim of the meeting – to find out ways all are contributing to the delivery of the AONB management plan and share / gather input for the Delivery plan
 - Presentations - select guests invited to provide short (5 min) inspirational presentations about how they are contributing and helping to look after the AONB
 - Networking - ‘Speed Dating’ type approach of facilitating a networking session – clear aims and objectives around contributions to the AONB from their organisation or business
 - Possible keynote speaker – appropriate to audience and message
 - Avoid overload of information – Annual report and AONB project plans can be given out as papers to takeaway or emailed out
14. As with many events this year, awareness of Covid cases, risk levels and associated restrictions will need to be maintained in order to flex the events accordingly. A remote video based backup plan will be needed in the event that Covid case numbers rise again and restrictions on movement are required again.

Election of AONB Community Representatives

15. Our Community Representatives role is highly valued and remains relatively unusual for AONB Partnerships or Joint Advisory Committees throughout the UK AONB family. Though more common in Devon, very few AONBs operate with this level of direct involvement and instead typically comprise Statutory bodies, Local Authorities and NGOs. The South Devon AONB Partnership should feel justifiably proud to have enabled and pioneered this inclusive approach when back in 2004, the first elections for AONB Community Representative roles were held.
16. Seventeen years on from its establishment, the number of AONB Community Representatives has grown from the initial five, to eight now covering the following communities of interest.
- Amenity groups
 - Business community
 - Community/voluntary groups
 - Estuary and marine sector
 - Farming and Landowning community
 - Non-governmental Environmental Organisations (NGOs)
 - Parish Councils
 - Tourism Community

17. The three year term for our current AONB Community Representatives ends this summer and the Partnership's Terms of Reference require elections to be held, though we recognise from our conversations that as it takes a while to settle into the role many may wish to stand again.
18. In view of Covid impacts this year remaining uncertain and to give as wide an opportunity for engagement and inclusivity as possible, we are proposing to move the elections for Community Representatives online and announce the results at the Community Conference. Following initial investigations, it seems that several simple solutions are available including Smart Survey and Survey Monkey that would enable virtual voting papers to be issued and a vote to be conducted in a similar manner to past Community Representative elections.
19. A draft of the updated community elections procedure is included as an Appendix to this item as the basis for further refinement.
20. The views of AONB Partnership Committee members are sought on this approach.

Recommendations

21. AONB Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
 - i. Consider the suggested options for AONB Partnership Chairmanship, raise any additional matters for consideration and vote on the options with amendments as necessary until a majority is reached;
 - ii. Approve the outline plan for the separate public awareness raising and community conference events;
 - iii. Provide feedback on the proposed election process for AONB Community Representatives.

Appendix 1 to Item 6a

DRAFT Updated procedure for 2021 election of AONB Community Representatives 11/3/21

- The selection of AONB community representatives will be undertaken by digital ballot between XX and YY with closing date being 1 week before the 2021 AONB Community Conference.
- It is not a requirement that candidates should attend the 2021 AONB Community Conference in person although it would be helpful if they do.
- A list of the nominees and accompanying statements will be provided on the South Devon AONB website before registration for voting opens.
- Voting will be open for a period of 3 weeks starting 1 month prior to the 2021 Annual Community Conference.
- All those registering their business or organisation to vote in the 2021 AONB Community Representative Elections will be issued with one voting form for each business or organisation represented. Where an organisation has more than one person present representing it, it will be for those representatives to decide amongst themselves which person should vote on its behalf.
- Those voting will be invited to make their selection on the digital voting form at any point during the voting period, choosing one candidate per category. This will be anonymised but accessed via a use once only link.
- Nominees who are voting on behalf of their organisations or businesses may vote for themselves.
- The votes will be counted automatically following closure of the ballot and the successful candidates will be invited to attend the 2021 AONB Community Conference where the results will be announced. The winner will be by simple majority of the votes cast in each category.
- In the event of a tie, a coin toss will be used to determine the winner, witnessed by the AONB Partnership Chairman.
- The numbers of votes cast for each nominee will not be announced, but this information will be made available on request afterwards.
- The names of the selected representatives will also be notified by email to all of the candidates that took part following the 2021 AONB Community Conference.
- The representative selected will then serve for a period of three years as a member of the AONB Partnership Committee until the 2024 Annual Community Conference.

Item 6b: National Matters

Purpose

1. To provide Partnership Committee members with a brief overview of a small selection of national matters pertinent the South Devon AONB.

Landscapes for Life Conference

2. Given the ongoing high levels of uncertainty regarding the pandemic, the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) has taken the decision to hold this year's annual conference online. The safety of our AONB teams is paramount, and at this point in time we can't guarantee we can run a covid-secure event at a feasible price. If life is a little more normal by July and events can go ahead, the administrative burden of running an event will be significant.
3. Instead, the NAAONB we will be hosting its first ever online annual conference. It will still be 'in' Devon; the 5 Devon AONBs will be hosts as they would have been for a face-to-face conference, and are working to bring attendees to the county virtually. The conference will be held during the week commencing 5th July, and it is likely there will be short sessions across the week rather than one long, tiring day looking at your computer screen. It will be on Zoom as a recent survey of AONBs suggests that people can now comfortably access this better than all other solutions. Ticket costs are expected to be substantially lower than normal as a consequence of the online format.
4. It is likely that Devon's AONBs will be showcased through virtual site visit films incorporating drone footage and interviews acquired over the next few months. The overall reach and legacy is likely to be greater as a consequence. Advanced planning is already underway and opportunities will arise for Partnership members and wider partners to become involved in both the film and conference itself.

Glover Review and National Landscapes Service

5. Arising out of a recommendation in the Glover Review, Defra officials have been asked by Government to test a model for a National Landscapes Service (NLS). The model under consideration would bring AONB and National Park staff into a single Arms-Length Body, with local structures to deliver activity in each Protected Landscape.
6. There is no clarity yet on the composition and detailed functions of a NLS under this model, or how it would relate to current local Partnerships and Local Authorities. It is unlikely that detail will emerge until the latter part of 2020, because Defra wants to engage with AONB and National Park staff, local authorities and other stakeholders to discuss the extent to which this is workable and desirable as a way to improve the management of AONBs and National Parks.
7. A group of AONB and National Park staff is working with Defra to help shape thinking on this matter and is keeping Lead Officers informed.

Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes

8. The first National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) were designated in the 1950s and various reviews over the past 30 years recommended improving evidence gathering and monitoring within these 'protected landscapes'. A '*Framework for monitoring environmental*

*outcomes in protected landscapes*⁹ was published in 2014 by Natural England following developmental work in close partnership with Defra, the English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA), English Heritage and the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB). The framework covers four themes of:

- natural beauty
- recreation
- ecosystem services
- sustainable communities

and relies upon a selection of standard national data.

9. A review and update to the framework is being undertaken by Natural England supported by the University of Plymouth and Land Use Consultants with an expectation that up to eight additional indicators will be added to the existing set of 31.

Recommendations

10. AONB Partnership Committee members are requested to:
 - i. Note the report

⁹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5646437593382912>

Item 7c: AONB Staff Unit activity report

Purpose

1. To highlight to AONB Partnership Committee members a selection of project activity the Staff Unit has been engaged in over the last six months with the involvement and support of partners. It also signals the direction of work as we move towards those projects identified in the 2021/22 Delivery Plan.

Background

2. The 2021/22 Delivery Plan is being finalised and will reflect the difference between actions where the AONB Unit are taking the lead and those where partners are making significant contributions to the Management Plan. The working plan identifies which projects the SDAONB Unit leading are on but does not allocate time budgets to these actions.
3. Restrictions and lockdowns because of the coronavirus have had a significant impact on access to the outdoors for exercise and leisure. The Unit has been able to be flexible to address these issues by increased development of online resources and working closely with NAAONB campaigns.

Project activity October 2020 – March 2021

Community engagement

4. The Staff Unit has been working throughout the pandemic and delivering new ways of engaging our communities with increased online events, activities, walks and resources - working with tourism, health and business partners we have promoted online walks to new audiences.
5. 60th Anniversary programme - An amended delivery programme has been agreed with National lottery Heritage Fund, which will now run up until October 2021 with the same level of funding. The 60at60 fundraising challenge is continuing well, with £1740 raised - 28% of our target. This money will be used to take 60 Young Carers out for respite days on the coast during Summer. The completion date for the challenge has been extended until the end of June, due to COVID-19 restrictions reducing access for many people.
6. The events programme has been delivered online with a series online talks led by team members and others from partner organisations. Engagement has been high and targets have been well exceeded, receiving some great feedback. Where possible talks have been recorded on the South Devon AONB YouTube channel and continue to receive viewings. This online programme will continue up until July, when we hope to start some more face to face events and activities. Due to the success of the online talks, we will continue to provide these as part of our ongoing programmes.

60th anniversary illustrated talks	Attendees
Start Bay wartime stories	90
Bat chat	74
Seasonal Birds	120
Holidays then and now	80
120 years of farming in Prawle	165

60th anniversary illustrated talks	Attendees
Tales of the Dart Estuary	Fully booked Due Mon 15 th March
A seasonal guide to Bird watching in South Devon AONB – Spring	Due Mon 19 th April
History of Orchards and Cidermaking	Due Tues 11 th May

Estuary Forum illustrated talks	Attendees
Wildlife on the River Dart - Stoke Gabriel Boating Association	43
Stoke Gabriel Boating Association – Self-help conservation on the River Dart	29
Dart Estuary Aliens and the Rewilding of Sharpham	40
Fishy tales Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary Forum	52
‘Talking the Coast’ and bridging the gap between science and society	19

7. To run in collaboration with the Chivelstone Church PCC restoration and community project, we developed ‘Shipwrecked Sailors of Start Point’, an online school’s engagement project. A pack of resources has been sent out to the 3 schools taking part, which includes a film with an actor telling the beginning of the story. The children have been challenged to write their end to the story. A winner will be picked, and this filmed to complete our story. Artworks and submissions will form part of the finale exhibition.

Nature Recovery

8. A collaborative Green Recovery Challenge Fund bid with Buglife was unfortunately unsuccessful. It was based on a current assessment of endangered mining bee species at Prawle Point. To support the bid an Important Insect Area assessment along the South Devon AONB coastline was commissioned which has provided useful data and reports to further develop the bigger Life on the Edge project.
9. The Life on the Edge (LOTE) expression of interest has been submitted to National Lottery Heritage Fund and has received encouraging feedback from NHLF staff. A consultant has been engaged to progress the early stages of the full bid application.
10. Nature recovery mapping, assessment and visualisations are being prepared as part of a shared Devon and Somerset AONBs contract to support the development of local AONB Nature Recovery Plans. For South Devon, the outputs will provide useful starting points and evidence to prompt discussions within the Nature Recovery Plan Working Group colleagues and subsequently wider partners, assisting in formulating a Nature Recovery Plan for the South Devon AONB.
11. The Saving Devon’s Treescapes project activity in the South Devon priority focus area has included presentations to 6 parish councils, 6 ‘Landmark’ trees to be planted in public open spaces (Salcombe and Kingsbridge are already in the ground) and five citizen science landscape character assessment fixed post points will be established in partnership with South Hams Tree Wardens.
12. The delivery phase of the Wembury corridors and connections plan is closely linked to secured funding in the area, support from the Wembury Environment Group and major landowners. Priorities for 21/22 will ensure activity benefits both people and nature. A Yealm Woodland working

group is focussed upon training, tree planting and management of invasive species whilst generating volunteer involvement and local primary school educational opportunities.

13. The Pacific Oyster Project final report is being peer reviewed by Defra before publication.
14. The Unit has been working with the More Meadows Forum to promote the development of this innovative network¹⁰ in South Devon with funding from the Devon Environment Foundation.
15. University of Plymouth Seagrass projects in the AONB – exploring feasibility of transplanting and enhancing dwarf seagrass beds, better understanding the value of both local seagrass species and a PhD project identifying optimal locations in SDAONB estuaries for extending seagrass beds.

Farming and land management

16. A one year extension to the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation programme in the Avon Valley was secured in October 2020 and is engaging farmers in focussed sessions through the Covid restrictions period.
17. A small Defra funded project has been raising awareness amongst the AONB's farmers and landowners of the transition to the Environmental Land Management Scheme and options available through other schemes as basic payment scheme payments begin to reduce in 2021/22. The project offers a series of online free workshops for farmers and land managers across the AONB. Topics include an introduction to what net zero means for farmers, The Carbon Toolkit and how to apply it, the true value of hedges in preparing for ELM, an overview of Countryside Stewardship and Mid-tier CS application 1:1 support.

Landscape and Heritage

18. The Prawle Point undergrounding of overhead powerlines project has achieved an important milestone, securing wayleave agreements with the landowners involved and continues to make solid progress. An archaeological watching brief is being negotiated to support the works.
19. Western Power Distribution and the South West Protected Landscape group are considering pipeline projects, including two further South Devon AONB schemes, in preparation for future budget allocations.
20. The AONB Unit is leading the South Devon Coastal Heritage project, funded by a Heritage at Risk grant from Historic England. Results from this development phase will inform a 5 year delivery project which will be submitted for funding in Spring and will run from 2021 - 2026. The focus areas are 'Bolt Head to Bolt Tail' and 'Defending the Dart'. It includes geophysical assessments, site management, community digs, surveys, working with volunteers, interpretation, and community engagement. We are working closely with National Trust, local landowners, Historic England and English Heritage.

Access and recreation

21. The AONB Unit are supporting the South West Coast Path team to deliver a selection of projects between Torcross and Jennycliff in the implementation of the new England Coast Path in the run up to its formal launch in Autumn 2021. Secretary of State decisions are still awaited on the Kingswear to Lyme Regis stretch, and the Torcross to Kingswear and Mothecombe Beach to Avon Estuary chapters of the Cremyll to Kingswear stretch.

¹⁰ <https://moremeadows.org.uk/>

Planning and Development

22. Since 2017 many changes to the policy context for planning and AONBs have occurred necessitating an update to Version 1 of the AONB Planning Guidance. A standalone factual addendum to sit alongside the current document has been completed and will be available via the AONB website soon. It will be a material consideration in plan-making and decision-taking from the date of its publication.
23. The AONB Manager supported Torbay Council as an expert witness covering AONB matters during the public inquiry for the Land South of White Rock (Inglewood) planning appeal. A decision by the Planning Inspectorate is awaited. The appeal fully tested AONB Management Plan policies, wording of special qualities and explanatory text, but also highlighted the need to improve the evidence base in support of AONB setting matters.

Natural Resources and Climate

24. The South Devon Catchments Based Approach partnership and Estuary forums have engaged its members and submitted a consultation response on the draft statutory River Basin Management Plan document. The South Devon catchment pages within the document have been agreed with partners and the Environment Agency.

Coast and Estuaries

25. Coastal change - the AONB Unit is supporting the National Trust with community engagement activity and development of a new management strategy for the coastal area at South Milton sands that has been extensively affected by storm damage over recent years.
26. Consultant support from the Coastal Partnership Network has been commissioned to assist in development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan template and guidance to drive up standards of construction on or near the foreshore and better safeguard this special quality of the South Devon AONB.

Other information and awareness

27. The team has been involved in supporting some great television coverage recently including amongst others Countryfile, Cornwall and Devon Walks with Julia Bradbury and Antiques Road Trip.
28. Our Communications Manager has been closely involved with the National Association for AONBs developing and sharing messaging and approaches to lockdown easing.

Recommendations

29. AONB Partnership Committee members are recommended to:
 - i. Note the breadth of the work undertaken by the Unit with positive alignment to the 25 YEP/ Glover Review and NAAONB priorities closely linked to the conservation and enhancement of AONB special qualities and Management Plan priorities;
 - ii. Consider how the Partnership as a whole and as individual members wish to become more involved in the development and delivery of future projects.

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB Partnership Committee Meeting

to be held at

10am on Friday 12th March 2021

Remote Video Meeting
via Zoom

Papers Annex 1 to 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 November 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 75 applications to date for the year 2020/2021.

Summary of activity:

- 29 cases that LPAs have determined
- 6 completed responses on cases that LPAs are yet to determine
- 25 cases under consideration with responses currently in development
- 3 pre-applications responded to / responses in development

Note that the 20 applications with completed responses and an LPA decision as at the November 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 period:

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
30 Applications - LPA decision made					
3450/19/ARM	Field at SX662475 nr. Holwell Farm St Anns Chapel Approval of reserved matters for the development of 9no. dwellings	Conditional approval		N	Following outline approval 4097/16/OPA (APP/K1128/W/17/3182100) Joint response with landscape officer.
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	Conditional approval		Y	
1067/20/OPA	West Prawle Farm East Portlemouth Provision of an agricultural workers dwelling	Conditional approval		N	
1770/20/FUL	Land at Lower Mill Park West Alvington General purpose agricultural building	Refusal		N	
2377/20/FUL	Boone Hill House Mount Boone Hill Dartmouth Replacement dwelling	Conditional approval		N	
2542/20/FUL	Greenhay Beeson Kingsbridge Replacement dwelling and double garage	Conditional approval		N	
1203/20/FUL	2 Moulton Moor Moulton Road Salcombe Loft conversion	Withdrawn		N	

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
1921/20/VAR	Halftide House Ravensbury Drive Warfleet Dartmouth Variation of condition 2 (Replacement dwelling)	Conditional approval		N	Planning consent 15/2388/14/F
2345/20/HHO	Penveron The Level Dittisham Roof terrace decking and balustrade works	Conditional approval		N	
3208/20/FUL	Gara Rock Hotel East Portlemouth Sub-division of three apartments to six apartments	Conditional approval		N	
3320/20/FUL	Land at West End Garage Main Road Salcombe Residential development of 27 dwellings	Withdrawn		Y	
1288/18/OPA	Former National Shire Horse Centre, Dunstone Yealmpton Re-develop former Shire Horse Centre with 25no. new dwellings	Withdrawn	Objection	Y	
1735/18/FUL	Waterhead Brake Kingswear Construct 9 dwellings & 4 apartments	Refusal	Objection	Y	Verbal advice given to case officer
3612/19/FUL	Telecommunication Mast Wembury Point Removal of co mount SSR antenna. Installation of replacement SSR (co-operative) radar. Comprising new steel lattice 15 metre tower, with new SSR antenna overall height 18 metre, and new ground equipment cabin.	Conditional approval	Holding Objection	Y	A compensation package has been agreed proportionate to level of natural beauty harm.
2556/20/FUL	Springfield East Charleton Engineering works to create camping and caravanning site	Withdrawn	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	Conditional approval	No objection - subject to conditions	N	
3125/20/HHO	1 The Point Noss Mayo Timber steps to access lower sections of riverside garden	Refusal	No objection - subject to conditions	N	
3669/18/VAR	Land At Sx 739 438 Derby Road Kingsbridge Variation of condition 7 (approved plans)	Withdrawn		N	
4210/18/SCR	Land at Gnaton Farm Yealmpton EIA screening request proposed cable route for Creacombe solar farm	Not required		N	Application awaiting finalisation of legal agreement
3214/20/PIP	Land at Sx 495 490 adjacent to Renney Road Heybrook Bay Construction of single storey ecological house	Refusal		N	
3669/20/HHO	Gurrow Point Riverside Road Dittisham Replacement sunroom with loggia and replacement conservatory with new extension	Conditional approval		N	
3161/20/FUL	Land at SX 675 511 Trehele Cross Modbury Proposed agricultural building for poultry (application 1 of 2)	Withdrawn		N	New application 4208/20/FUL

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
3164/20/FUL	Land at SX 675 511 Trehele Cross Modbury Proposed agricultural building for poultry (application 2 of 2)	Withdrawn		N	New application 4209/20/FUL
3156/20/FUL	Moult Hill Barn Moult Hill Salcombe Relocation of existing oil tanks	Conditional approval		N	
3680/20/FUL	Land at SX 875 510 Jawbones Hill Dartmouth Creation of 14 bay car park	Refusal		N	
3551/20/FUL	Offields Farm Churchstow Kingsbridge Convert garage and form first floor extension over as annexe to main house and erect new open fronted garage	Conditional approval		N	
3964/20/OPA	Higher Broadmoor Farm Malborough Farm managers dwelling	Withdrawn		N	
APP/N1160/W/20/3265062	Stadiscombe Proposed conversion of two barns	Refusal		N	APP ref APP/N1160/W/20/3265062
P/2020/0480	Site Adjacent to Brixham Cricket Club Outdoor football pitch for sports and recreational use			N	DM committee 14.12.20 – conditional approval. Decision notice awaited
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	DM committee 3.3.21 – approval. Decision notice awaited
6 Applications - Response submitted - LPA still to determine					
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 Loddisswell 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 Extension to 14.1.21
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
0761/20/OPA	Vicarage Park Land North of Westentown Kingston 12 new houses		Objection	Y	Resubmission of 4068/17/OPA
0292/21/ARC	The Mill Cottage Wembury Approval of details reserved by condition 6 (submission of CEMP) of planning consent 3053/19/FUL		No objection - subject to conditions	N	
0332/21/FUL	Coronation Boathouse Bantham Change of use from boathouse to restaurant and cafe		Holding objection	N	Insufficient information to assess
24 Applications - Responses in development					
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			N	Extension to 31.12.20 Must be considered alongside other related applications and consents.

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
	landscaping for 240 dwellings & details reserved by conditions 6, 7, 8, 9 & 12				Advice on additional viewpoints provided.
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
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
2554/20/FUL	Land at College Way College Way Dartmouth Erection of a detached dwelling and annex			N	READVERTISEMENT – Revised plans received
4158/19/FUL	Development Site At Sx 734 439, Land to Northwest of junction between Ropewalk and Kingsway Park Ropewalk Kingsbridge 15 dwellings			N	READVERTISEMENT – Revised plans received
2832/20/FUL	Development Site At Sx 8773 5172 College Way Dartmouth Erection of 9 flats			N	
2192/20/VAR	Stoke Gabriel Boating Association Clubhouse Removal or variation of conditions 4 (restricted use) and 11 (no vehicular access)		Objection	N	Original planning consent 52/1473/15/F READVERTISEMENT – conditions revised
2828/20/FUL	Barby Lodge Cleveland Drive Bigbury On Sea Replacement dwelling			N	READVERTISEMENT – Revised plans received
3463/20/FUL	Orestone End Cliff Road Salcombe Refurbishment with partial demolition, extension and remodelling to existing dwelling			N	Initial no objection subject to conditions – now reopened due to landscape and visual matters.
3343/20/FUL	Seacliffe Overseas Estate Stoke Fleming Construct replacement dwelling			N	
3186/20/VAR	The High Nature Centre East Portlemouth Variation of conditions 3, 5 and 23 of planning consent 20/0785/12/F			N	
3814/20/VAR	Fort Bovisand Bovisand Application for variation of condition 2 - drawings of Planning application 2821/17/FUL			N	
4110/20/FUL	Woodside Bennett Road Salcombe Single storey ancillary outbuilding			N	Extension to 30.4.21
4208/20/FUL	Land at SX 675 511 Trehele Cross Modbury Agricultural building for poultry (application 1 of 2)			N	READVERTISEMENT - new documents received. Resubmission of 3161/20/FUL
4209/20/FUL	Land at SX 675 511 Trehele Cross Modbury Agricultural building for poultry (application 2 of 2)			N	READVERTISEMENT - new documents received. Resubmission of 3164/20/FUL
4040/20/ARC	Hill Park Aish Stoke Gabriel Approval of details reserved by conditions 4, 5, 11 and 12 of planning application 0444/20/FUL			N	
4115/20/ARC	Tides Reach Hotel Cliff Road Salcombe Approval of details reserved by conditions 17 and 18 of planning application 2826/15/FUL			N	
4277/20/FUL	Lantern Lodge Hotel Hope Cove Amendment to 2101/19/FUL - additional 2 concealed gas tanks below lawn			N	

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
4268/20/FUL	Thurlestone Golf Club Thurlestone Part retrospective application for new pathway to side of Tee No.6			N	READVERTISEMENT - Revised plans received and amended description
0905/20/ARC	Winters Marine Lincombe Boat Yard Salcombe Application for approval of details reserved by condition 5 of planning consent 0489/18/FUL			N	
4253/20/FUL	Korniloff Residential Care Home Bigbury On Sea Construction of five detached dwellings and demolition of existing buildings			Tbc	
0464/21/FUL	Mossgara Pillory Hill Noss Mayo Slope stabilisation and associated works			N	
0409/21/OPA	Land at Ashford SX 677 487 Aveton Gifford Erection of agricultural dwelling			N	

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.