

Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment and
Sustainability Appraisal

Non-Technical Summary

for Tamar Valley AONB

Clare Reid
Clare Reid Consultancy
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www.clarereidconsultancy.co.uk

**Non-technical Summary of the Environmental Report for the Tamar Valley AONB
Management Plan**

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Non-technical Summary of the Environmental Report for the Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This is the non-technical summary of the Environmental Report for the Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan. As part of the production of the Management Plan a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been undertaken as required under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.
- 1.2. The Environmental Report is produced to fulfil the SEA Directive requirement that ‘an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated’.

2. What is SEA?

- 2.1. SEA is required of all land use plans which may have significant effects on the environment. The purpose of the SEA Directive is to ensure that plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment are subjected to a strategic level (high and overarching) assessment during their preparation, to inform decision-makers and stakeholders of their likely effects. SEA covers options and alternative courses of action and is intended to help avoid or mitigate any adverse effects. Due to the nature of the AONB Management Plan, the Plan itself fulfils many of the requirements of SEA¹. As the Management Plan is aiming to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the AONB, it is already putting the environment at the heart of the plan-making process, which is a key aim of SEA, and the steps for both processes have strong parallels.
- 2.2. The SEA process has been integrated with sustainability appraisal (SA) to achieve a more wide-ranging assessment of sustainability incorporating environmental, social and economic objectives, as accepted good practice by Government. For ease of reference, the term SEA is used throughout this report to represent the joint SEA/SA that was undertaken.

3. What is the Management Plan?

- 3.1. The Tamar Valley AONB was designated in 1995 under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. It covers around 75 square miles (190 square kilometres, 16155.74 hectares) and is home to around 27,000 people. It is located on the border of Cornwall and Devon, and includes the valleys of the Tamar, Tavy and Lynher. The Tamar Valley AONB is a rich cultural landscape, shaped by its rivers and rich industrial heritage of mining and market gardening in addition to its farming and estate land management.

¹ Guidance to English AONB Partnerships and Boards on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of AONB Management Plans, Natural England (2008)

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- 2.1 The Management Plan is a statutory Plan, which is required under Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. It is a five year plan produced by the AONB Partnership for the area as a whole, and requires all to work in partnership to deliver the objectives. The draft Management Plan includes a 20 year Vision for Tamar Valley AONB, and describes the special qualities of the AONB. It sets out a number of policies and objectives based on 10 themes:
- Landscape Character
 - Historic Environment and Local Distinctiveness
 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity
 - River Use and Estuary Management
 - Farming, Forestry and Land Management
 - Access, Recreation and Tourism
 - Planning and Development
 - Environmental Quality and Climate
 - Communities and Culture
 - Communication, Education and Awareness
- 2.2 The objectives of the Management Plan are:
- The AONB Partnership will pursue a net increase in the amount and quality of priority habitat within the AONB, and an increase in the populations of associated priority species.
 - The AONB Partnership will ensure that geological sites of the AONB are identified, protected and actively conserved and their condition monitored. Geodiversity will be given a higher public and educational profile
 - The AONB Partnership will maintain high quality river systems that sustain opportunities for recreation and tourism and have regard for the needs of local communities, increase awareness of rivers and estuarine environment and the opportunities these features present for sustainable development
 - The AONB partnership will support systems of landscape management that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB
 - The AONB Partnership will promote the development of integrated access, recreation and tourism facilities and services which are compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation, and which contribute effectively to the local economy
 - Ensure that the Tamar Valley AONB purposes and objectives are fully recognised in Local Planning Policy and that they are assessed and addressed in the determination of planning applications in respect of all development types
 - The AONB Partnership will ensure effective conservation of the AONB's natural resources and features, its landform and landscape setting, water, mineral and soil resources, through the encouragement of sustainable land management

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- To encourage and support communities in understanding and appreciating cultural identity and traditional practices within the AONB, and to maintain and enhance these
- To promote a greater understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the AONB landscape and wider recognition of the designation and its purpose

2.3 The Management Plan does not sit in isolation, and a review of relevant plans and programmes highlighted a number of key objectives that have been taken into account in developing the Management Plan:

- Promoting landscape protection, management and planning
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity, halting losses, working at a landscape scale and building resilient ecological networks
- Protecting and improving the marine environment
- Improving the ecological status of inland, transitional and coastal water bodies
- Conserving and enhancing the historic and built environment
- Enhancing the interaction of people with the landscape, nature and local history and strengthening cultural heritage
- Taking an ecosystems approach, considering the range of public benefits provided
- Resource protection, including conservation of soil and water resources, improvements in soil, water and air quality and waste management
- Minimising carbon emissions and contributing to climate change mitigation through carbon storage and sequestration, energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Adapting to climate change including enhancing the resilience of natural ecosystems and local communities (including in relation to flood risk)
- Promoting access and enjoyment including the health benefits of active pursuits
- Promoting the multiple benefits of woodlands and forests for the economy, wildlife, recreation, resource protection and carbon sequestration
- Supporting sustainable land management and viable farming
- Encouraging greater community engagement and participation and a more local approach
- Promoting sustainable, good quality development and networks of green infrastructure
- Encouraging safe, sustainable and low carbon transport choices
- Using the environment responsibly as an economic asset including through the promotion of tourism and recreation related to the natural environment and heritage
- Supporting a partnership approach to the delivery of services

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2.4 **Appendix 3** of the Environmental Report lists the full range of plans and programmes reviewed, their main objectives, and how these have been taken into account in the preparation of the Management Plan.

3. Methodology

3.2. The SEA has been carried out by an independent consultant, working with members of the AONB team.

3.3. When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority must consult the consultation bodies. A Scoping Report was produced by the AONB team which set out the environmental baseline, key issues and how the SEA would be carried out. This was consulted on in August-September 2013 and subsequently updated in the light of consultation comments.

3.1. A framework has been developed for testing the emerging Management Plan against (**Appendix 1**). This is adapted from the objectives set out in the SEA Scoping Report, taking on board comments from the statutory consultees and to enable the full range of sustainability effects of the Plan to be assessed.

3.2. The SEA is structured around eight objectives:

- E1 To protect and enhance the landscape and tranquillity of the Tamar Valley AONB and its setting
- E2 To protect and where practical enhance biodiversity (habitats and species) and geodiversity within and beyond the AONB
- E3 To conserve and where practical enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage
- E4 To mitigate and adapt to climate change including the impacts of flooding
- E5 To protect and enhance natural resources including water, air and soil
- E6 To sustain vibrant communities and safeguard human health and wellbeing
- E7 To protect the quality and character of individual settlements and material assets
- E8 To promote the development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives

3.3. The SEA is intended to be strategic and so has focused on the policies within the Management Plan, as recommended in the Natural England guidance. However consideration has also been given to the objectives and actions in providing further detail and understanding of how the policies will be implemented.

3.4. The following scoring system was used in the assessment:

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Table 1 – SEA scoring system

S++	Strongly supports the SEA objective
S+	Supports the SEA objective
N	Is neutral in effect
C- (C=conflicts)	Potentially works against the SEA objective
C- -	Strongly works against the SEA objective
X	Effects uncertain

3.5. A summary of all the SEA Directive requirements and how these have been addressed is given in **Appendix 2** of the Environmental Report.

4. Environmental Baseline

- 4.1. The environmental information required to provide an evidence base for the SEA and the Management Plan has come from three main sources:
- Trends identified from indicator data collected through the existing SWPLF arrangement with the SW Regional Observatory as detailed in part below (SWRO) and other regional data
 - Data from AONB National Monitoring Framework
 - Baseline Results from the 2008 Tamar Valley Landscape Monitoring Project. (2013 update underway but not available to input to the draft Management Plan)
- 4.2. A review of the baseline information was undertaken for each of the SEA objectives. This sets out the environmental characteristics of the AONB, and its current state. The draft Management Plan provides further details and descriptions of the AONB. An assessment was also made of the key issues and trends relating to each SEA objective. These are summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Summary environmental baseline, issues and trends for each SEA Objective

Environmental Baseline	Issues and trends
SEA Objective E1 To protect and enhance the landscape and tranquillity of the Tamar Valley AONB and its setting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Tamar Valley AONB represents an unspoiled valley and water landscape, of exceptional visual quality - The network of small fields and ancient hedges is a key characteristic of the Tamar Valley Landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing intrusion resulting from changes in land and riparian management practices is degrading tranquillity and the quality of landscape - The cumulative impact of many seemingly small scale changes is having an impact on the quality of the landscape - Pressure for solar farms, wind turbines and

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Environmental Baseline	Issues and trends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The river that was once a major industrial and trading route, is now a tranquil place - History of extensive mining activity throughout the Valley created a distinctive mining landscape, much of it focused on the river - The Valley has been dominated by a significant market gardening industry - There are several designed landscapes, including four nationally designated - Country sports, mostly controlled by the large estates, have had strong landscape and cultural influences. - Only 12% of the AONB has dark night time skies compared to the Devon average of 36% - The AONB has escaped excessive tourism development; the low-key tourism infrastructure is largely sympathetic to the Valley heritage and in scale with the landscape and environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> short rotation coppice are adversely impacting on the AONB landscape and its setting - Increasing demand for waterborne recreation resulting in increased disturbance in previously tranquil and remote places - Ancient field patterns are vulnerable. Hedges are expensive to maintain and are being lost through neglect and continuous flailing - Crops are being increasingly grown under plastic and polytunnels for protection and to extend the season - Continued development in the countryside and growth in car usage, diminishing levels of tranquillity - Increase in light pollution - Increased traffic as tourism increases - Reopening of quarries and mining - Demand for new housing
<p align="center">SEA Objective E2 To protect and where practical enhance biodiversity (habitats and species) and geodiversity within and beyond the AONB</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are 7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) covering 10% of the land area. 97% of SSSIs in favourable condition - The estuary complex represents the AONB's most important ecological asset. They are mostly within a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - The estuarine habitats support uncommon and notable species. some of which are nationally rare - There are 33 County Wildlife Sites (13% of AONB) and 1 Local Nature Reserve - Around 10% of the AONB is wooded, the majority of which is on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Failure in SSSI condition is principally due to invasive plants in the river corridor - 37% declines in little egret and avocet numbers on the Tamar estuaries in the last 5 years, greater than the national trend, suggesting site-specific pressures - In 2011, five species showed a statistically significant increase, including the greater and lesser horseshoe bat but these positive results should be considered in the context of severe historic declines - The area of woodland under England Woodland Grant Scheme agreements has declined to 40% from 76% - The area of coppiced woodland fell by at least 90% from 1900 to 1970, leading to declines in many priority species, including

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Environmental Baseline	Issues and trends
<p>ancient woodland sites containing nationally and regionally important species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 55% of the total woodland resource is actively managed. - Important remnants of lowland heathland remain at Kit Hill and other smaller sites - The rivers support a range of species including otters, many scarce and endangered fish, and other marginal species - Abandoned mine workings and spoil tips have become habitats and refuges for endangered species including eight species of bat - Farmland is improved and possesses limited wildlife value apart from species-rich hedges, especially along roadsides. - Traditional orchards contain rare Tamar varieties of apples, cherries and other fruit - Some of the older mine spoil heaps are valued as educational sites for geology - There are 13 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) 	<p>the hazel dormouse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The heath fritillary population has declined by 34% although its distribution trend is positive. The distribution of high brown fritillary has shrunk by 49% and the population by 69% - Large reduction in area identified as Saltmarsh (-58 ha) and wetland (-17.9 ha) and a large decrease in littoral sediment (-136.32) - Some loss of acid grassland - Of 155 traditional orchards, 25% were being actively managed, and 20% were in an agri-environment scheme. 15% of orchards were thought to be at immediate risk. A number of orchards are being re-planted - Three invasive species have been targeted: Giant Hogweed, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, with a 60% decline in the number of recorded sites to date - The biodiversity of the Tamar Valley is not always easy to experience. There are few formal facilities for people to use - The imperative within woodlands is to re-establish 'good' management. Government policy is to maintain the present extent of woodland, as a minimum. - The conversion of PAWS (Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites) remains a priority, but hinges on adequate financial inducement - The control of grey squirrel & deer is needed to reduce impacts on regeneration of broadleaved woodlands - Climate change and tree diseases e.g. Phytophthora and ash dieback are affecting woodlands and may change future landscape character through the choice of tree species for replanting - The development of woodfuel markets may increase management of small woods and hedges - High levels of consumer interest in local products are an opportunity to rejuvenate

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Environmental Baseline	Issues and trends
	<p>traditional forms of market gardening, fruit growing and livestock rearing, with consequent biodiversity benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The future priorities for funding under the new Rural Development Plan will have a significant influence over what biodiversity gains can be achieved - The decline in the wild bee population is a cause for concern and emphasises the need for enhancement of wildflower meadows
SEA Objective E3 To conserve and where practical enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The AONB contains the majority of area 10 of the World Heritage Site for the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape. - 645 listed buildings: 31 Grade I; 47 Grade II*; 567 Grade II. - 27 Scheduled Ancient Monuments with two additions since 2008 - 14 Conservation Areas: 8 in Cornwall and 5 in Devon. - There are 14 sites on the Heritage at Risk Register 2012, - 4 Registered Parks and Gardens: 2 Grade I and 2 Grade II* - no entries on the Heritage at Risk register - As well as the designated sites, there are many undesignated heritage assets as indicated by over 3300 entries on the Devon and Cornwall Historic Environment Record - The area has long been a haunt for artists and travellers and is a landscape of artistic and public appeal - Strong cultural heritage and identity rooted in the traditional land-based industries. Local celebrations of the environment, such as strawberry and cherry fairs, daffodil and apple days, remain as important links and reminders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The built heritage and mining remains are susceptible to degeneration through weather or overgrown vegetation - Heritage is at risk. This is clear from the little change in the Heritage at Risk statistics - Non-designated elements of the landscape are often the most locally-cherished but also are most at threat as they are often offered little or no protection - Growing interest in renewable energy technologies have impacts on the historic built environment, particularly where these are permitted development and so are not affected by planning policy - Changes to the planning system with the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) may affect how conservation of the historic environment is viewed in development and planning decisions - There is a decline in traditional skills including building and land management skills
SEA Objective E4 To mitigate and adapt to climate change including the impacts	

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Environmental Baseline	Issues and trends
of flooding	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued the 'Fifth Assessment Report' in September 2013 and changed the likelihood from "very likely" to "extremely likely" that human activity has caused more than half of the observed temperature rise from 1951 to 2010, in a large part due to fossil fuels and deforestation. - The findings from the IPCC show that the world's oceans are becoming warmer and more acidic, with sea levels rising. They also indicate the potential for weather to become more extreme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate change is already having an impact on the AONB's special qualities and distinctive features, especially the shoreline and intertidal habitats - The Tamar Catchment Flood Management 2012 plan also suggests the estuaries are vulnerable to the effects of climate change - The need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and the rising cost of energy are leading to increased renewable energy development which has implications for the protection of the AONB landscape - Changes in climate are leading to different choices of crops and tree species and also changes in farming systems such as more polytunnels. This brings economic opportunities through new crops and markets but also implications for the AONB landscape and environment
SEA Objective E5 To protect and enhance natural resources including water, air and soil	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes the lower parts of the 3 river valleys - Tamar, Tavy and Lynher - The Environment Agency are now reporting the lowest stock levels of salmon in 18 years - The Water Framework Ecological Status has decreased in condition. The amount of river in good condition has decreased from 14.9 % to 12.12%. Failures likely to be the result of phosphate pollution and sedimentation impacts - In 2012 the Tamar Estuaries was proposed as a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns regarding river management include the silting up of navigation channels; loss of quays and landing points; lack of riparian management; invasive species; decline in fish stocks and a lack of public access to the riverbank - The national Catchment Based Approach (CaBa) is promoting whole catchment approaches that deal with issues of siltation and diffuse pollution at source. The Tamar Partnership has been confirmed as one of the Defra catchment partnerships - Increased emphasis on taking an ecosystem based approach to management of the environment, recognising the importance of ecosystem goods and services - As the local population increases it is likely that so will the demand for water-based recreation - Forces for change regarding the river and estuary environment include demand for moorings, land use changes, and increasing numbers of recreational users

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Environmental Baseline	Issues and trends
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are ongoing issues relating to pollution from farming and industry. There are also pollution risks from the legacy of mining throughout the AONB
SEA Objective E6 To sustain vibrant communities and safeguard human health and wellbeing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population of around 27,000. 23% of the population is of retirement age (65+). Within a working age population of 14,200, 8,200 are in employment and 5,900 are retired. - Average house price £232, 300, 7.3 times the average annual income. - Devon came top in a Country Life survey as the Most Desirable County to live in England. Cornwall was ranked seventh - The Tamar Valley has a strong cultural identity centred on its diverse communities, the river, the traditional industries, and religion. - Today there remains an active community of artists and craftspeople in the Valley - Recreation is mostly based around countryside access and quiet enjoyment with some of that largest attractions being Morwellham, National Trust Cotehele and Buckland Abbey and more recently the Tamar Trails. - The World Heritage Site has helped increase the awareness about the Valley internationally. The Mining Heritage Project has improved facilities and access for all ages and abilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant growth and development in Plymouth and other settlements, increasing the number of people coming into the AONB for recreation and tourism. - Rising house prices. In 2011 the average house price was £232, 300, 7.3 times average annual income. - Lack of and potential for decline in local services - Declining opportunities for employment / rural industries - Uneven population structure – the 16-29 age bracket represents only 5% of the population; most of the population are aged 30 or over; and 23% are aged 65 or above (total population of 24, 666) - The creation of the Drake Trail, a cycling and walking project promoting cycle and walking routes between Tavistock and Clearbrook and providing opportunities to bring new visitors in to the AONB - The recent Tamar River Arts Project (2012) and the Tamar Pilot Project (2012) highlighted an increase in demand for public engagement and recreation within the River corridor which will need to be balanced against the environmental sensitivity of the river habitats - There is growing interest from the community in food of local provenance
SEA Objective E7 To protect the quality and character of individual settlements and material assets	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The dominant landscape structure across much of the AONB results from medieval and post-medieval enclosures. This unspoilt pattern of settlement, lanes, fields, woodland and hedgebanks, in tandem with a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growth and development in settlements impacts on the landscape character and setting of the AONB - Increased demand for housing within neighbouring settlements - Monitoring has shown that new

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Environmental Baseline	Issues and trends
<p>precious collection of well-preserved medieval bridges, is an outstanding landscape legacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The buildings in the Tamar Valley illustrate the changing land-use patterns of the area. There is a mixture of vernacular styles, although stone remains the dominant building material. The area does have its share of fine country houses and estates, as well as many beautiful villages and farmsteads 	<p>development covering a total of 1.8 ha occurred over the last Plan period, which although small scale has cumulative impacts on settlement pattern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development which is not sympathetic to settlement pattern, vernacular architecture and landscape setting, with pressure from future housing allocations and development in Tavistock and Plymouth especially
<p>SEA Objective E8 To promote the development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 67% of the land is farmed, and thus land management, has a significant impact on the character of the landscape - 75% of farmland is under grassland, predominantly used for sheep and cattle; there are around 600 holdings ranging from tiny smallholdings to large dairy farms of over 200 hectares - Woodlands provide timber – especially Douglas Fir – of excellent quality, although woodland condition is variable and the potential productivity is certainly higher than at present - 31% of businesses and 22% of employment are in farming, fishing or forestry, compared to the South West average in rural areas of 11% and 10% respectively. - Rural businesses and the local economy benefit from harvesting timber for fuel and fibre or adding value by creating other wood-based or grown products. - Tourism has grown by 8.7% since 2010 with the average visitor spending £108 and £97 per day in Cornwall and Devon respectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New challenges for farming with pressure to produce and grow more whilst at the same time protecting and enhancing the environment. Growing interest in and markets for good quality local food. However total farm labour force declined from 723 in 2007 to 508 in 2010 - The next Rural Development Programme for England will have significant implications for land management and the rural economy - Potential to encourage the growth and revival of the market garden industry but this could result in landscape pressures. - The woodland economy and landscape is threatened by invasive species, disease and damage from deer and squirrels. - There is growing interest and potential demand for woodfuel, which could bring hedges and small unmanaged woods back into sustainable management - The rivers have become peripheral to the local land-based economy; as seen through the multitude of abandoned quays, ports and access routes ending on the rivers - There has also been a decline in both commercial and fly-fishing, and of the cultural links between the rivers and local communities - The Tamar estuaries and waterfront attract

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Environmental Baseline	Issues and trends
	a wide range of local and foreign visitors and there are plans to further increase visitor numbers to Plymouth

5. Strategic Alternatives

- 5.1. As part of the SEA process there is a requirement to consider reasonable alternatives to the proposed course of action. The production of a Management Plan is required under UK law. In the absence of such a plan the relevant local authorities would not have complied with the requirements of the CROW Act. The “do nothing” scenario is therefore not given further consideration.
- 5.2. The objective for the Management Plan is to maximise the environmental benefit to the Tamar Valley AONB whilst minimising any potential impacts. The role of the SEA will be to ensure that this is delivered. The SEA therefore only considered alternatives to the policies where negative effects are identified. As set out in Section 6 below, no significant negative effects were identified, consequently alternatives were not required. Recommendations were made for amendment to policy wording where negative effects were identified, which would avoid or mitigate these effects.

6. Assessment of the draft Management Plan

- 6.1. The emerging Management Plan was tested against the sustainability objectives and an overall score was given in relation to each of the SEA themes. Table 3 below summarises the assessment of the policies in the draft Management Plan. *Note: The policies have been numbered for ease of reference, please refer to Appendix 4 of the Environmental Report for policy wording. Refer to Table 1 above (page 7) for the SEA scoring system.*
- 6.2. SEA objectives:
- E1 To protect and enhance the landscape and tranquillity of the Tamar Valley AONB and its setting
 - E2 To protect and where practical enhance biodiversity (habitats and species) and geodiversity within and beyond the AONB
 - E3 To conserve and where practical enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage
 - E4 To mitigate and adapt to climate change including the impacts of flooding
 - E5 To protect and enhance natural resources including water, air and soil
 - E6 To sustain vibrant communities and safeguard human health and wellbeing
 - E7 To protect the quality and character of individual settlements and material assets

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- E8 To promote the development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives

Table 3 Summary assessment of draft Management Plan policies

Policies	SEA Objectives							
	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8
L1	S++	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	S++	S+
L2	S++	S+	S+	C-	S+	C-	S++	C-
L3	S++	S++	S++	N	N	N	S++	N
L4	S++	S+	S+	N	N	N	S+	N
L5	S++	S+	N	N	N	S+	S+	N
L6	S++	S+	S+	N	N	S+	S+	N
L7	S++	S+	S+	C-	N	S+	S++	C-
HE1	S+	N	S++	S+	S+	S+	S++	S+
HE2	S+	N	S++	S+	S+	S+	S++	S+
HE3	S+	N	S++	S+	N	S+	S++	X
HE4	S+	N	S++	S+	N	S+	S++	S+
HE5	S+	N	S++	S+	N	S+	S++	S+
HE6	S+	N	S++	S+	N	S+	S++	S+
BG1	S+	S++	N	S+	S+	N	N	N
BG2	S+	S++	S+	N	N	S+	N	N
BG3	S+	S++	N	S+	S++	S+	N	N
BG4	S+	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	X
BG5	S+	S++	N	S+	S+	S+	N	S+
RE1	N	N	X	N	X	S+	N	S+
RE2	S+	S++	N	S+	S+	N	N	N
RE3	S+	S++	S+	S+	S++	S+	N	S+
RE4	S+	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	S+
FF1	S+	S+	X	S+	S++	S+	N	S+
FF2	S++	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+
FF3	S+	S+	N	S++	S+	S++	N	S+
FF4	S+	X	X	N	X	S+	N	S+
FF5	S++	S+	S+	N	S+	S++	S+	S+
ART1	S+	S+	S+	X	S+	S+	S+	S++
ART2	S+	S+	X	N	S+	S++	S+	S++
ART3	N	N	X	X	N	S+	X	S++
ART4	N	N	N	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+
P1	X	X	X	S++	S++	S+	S+	S+
P2	S+	N	S++	N	N	S+	S++	S+
P3	S++	N	S+	N	N	S+	S++	S+
P4	S+	N	N	N	N	S++	S+	S+
P5	S++	X	X	S+	S++	S+	N	S++

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P6	S++	N	S+	N	N	S+	S++	S+
P7	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	N	S+
P8	S+	S+	X	S++	N	S+	S+	S+
P9	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+
P10	S+	S+	S+	S++	S++	S+	S+	S+
P11	X	X	S++	S+	X	S+	S++	S+
P12	S+	S+	S+	N	N	S+	S+	X
P13	S++	S+	S+	N	N	S+	S++	X
P14	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+
P15	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	X
EQ1	S+	S+	N	S+	S++	N	N	N
EQ2	S+	S+	N	S+	S++	S+	N	S+
EQ3	X	X	X	S++	S+	S+	X	S+
CC1	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	S+	S+
CC2	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S++	S+	X
CC3	S+	S+	S++	N	S+	S++	S+	S+
CC4	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S++	S+	S+
CEA1	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+
CEA2	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	S+	S+
CEA3	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	S+	S+
CEA4	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	S++	S+	S+

- 6.3. Overall the draft Management Plan is broadly positive for the range of SEA objectives, with either positive or neutral scores in the majority of cases. No significant adverse environmental effects have been identified.
- 6.4. Two policies were given negative scores – Policy L2 which resists any development which would degrade landscape character, and Policy L7 which seeks to remove unsightly development such as intrusive energy development. These were considered to have potential negative effects in relation to the sustainability objectives E4 (climate change mitigation), E6 (vibrant communities) and E8 (sustainable economy) as they could restrict renewable energy schemes particularly wind turbines and therefore constrain the contribution the AONB makes to climate change mitigation as well as other infrastructure which could bring benefits to the local community and economy. However, this is considered to be consistent with the purposes of the AONB’s designation and the protection given to AONBs through the National Planning Policy Framework,² and the policies are positive in relation to the environmental SEA objectives as they are designed to protect the landscape character, wildlife and cultural heritage of the AONB.

² National Planning Policy Framework, (para 115) gives great weight to protection of AONBs, also the “presumption in favour of sustainable development” does not apply within AONBs (paragraph 14 footnote 9)

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Recommendations were given to provide greater clarity on the balance to be struck between protection of the AONB's natural beauty and special qualities consistent with its designation, and the encouragement of appropriate renewable energy technologies to contribute to climate change mitigation.

- 6.5. There are some policies where the effects are uncertain, and recommendations have been made to address these if there are likely to be environmental effects. The SEA assessment has also identified a number of areas where the policy wording needs to be strengthened.
- 6.6. There is uncertainty over how some of the policies will be delivered as there is no action plan accompanying the Management Plan and the priorities for action that are stated do not cover the range of policies included in the Plan. A Delivery Plan is being developed which will provide further details on how the policies will be delivered.
- 6.7. A summary assessment relating to each SEA objective and recommendations for policy changes are given in Chapter 8 of the main Environmental Report. Full assessment tables are given in Appendix 4 of the Environmental Report.

7. Implementation and Monitoring

- 7.1. The SEA Directive requires monitoring to be undertaken to allow for unforeseen effects to be identified at an early stage and mitigation measures to be implemented. The impact of the Management Plan delivery will be monitored in two ways:
 - Through a set of performance indicators.
 - Through the progress measures articulated in each chapter
- 7.2. Measures of progress will be used to highlight progress in the AONB annual report, and the more detailed monitoring framework will be reported half way through and at the end of the Plan period.
- 7.3. The indicators proposed for monitoring the Management Plan are considered to be appropriate for also monitoring the significant effects identified in the SEA. The SEA Framework in Appendix 1 identifies how the proposed indicators will monitor delivery of the SEA objectives. There are some gaps in the indicators for two of the SEA Objectives – E4 climate change and E6 vibrant communities. Recommendations were therefore made for additional indicators to be identified to ensure that the impact of delivering the Management Plan on these objectives are fully covered.
- 7.4. It is not anticipated that any significant adverse effects will arise from implementation of the Plan. Nevertheless, the indicators proposed to monitor the Management Plan and SEA objectives will enable any unexpected adverse impacts to be picked up via this mechanism.

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Appendix 1 - SEA Framework

SEA / SA Objective	Topics relating to the SEA Directive	Indicators
E1 To protect and enhance the landscape and tranquillity of the Tamar Valley AONB and its setting	Landscape	Extent of dark night skies Levels of Tranquillity Levels of intrusion (include pylons, windfarms, road traffic) Field boundary condition and species Extent of covered horticultural production
E2 To protect and where practical enhance biodiversity (habitats and species) and geodiversity within and beyond the AONB	Flora, fauna, biodiversity	Condition of SSSIs Extent of traditional orchards Extent of semi-natural habitats BAP Habitats Number and area of designated sites (Ramsar, SPA, SAC, NNR, SSSI, CWS, IBAs, LNR, County Geological Sites)
E3 To conserve and where practical enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage	Presence (and condition) of historic landscape features Extent (and condition) of designed landscapes
E4 To mitigate and adapt to climate change including the impacts of flooding	Climatic factors	Extent of biomass planting
E5 To protect and enhance natural resources including water, air and soil	Soil, water, air	Extent of bare mining spoil Agricultural land use: extent of pasture and arable Extent of woodland and tree cover / type
E6 To sustain vibrant communities and safeguard human health and well-being	Population, human health	Public Rights of Way
E7 To protect the quality and character of individual settlements and material assets	Material assets, cultural heritage	Local vernacular building styles Settlement pattern
E8 To promote the development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives	Population, human health	Number of moorings Presence of local car and passenger ferries