The quotes at the beginning of each chapter are drawn from a community activity - 'Diarykeepers' - run by Anne-Marie Culhane for the AONB in 2012 as part of the Interreg IVA project Cordiale. During June of that year, Tamar Valley residents were asked to write a daily diary reflecting on the one thing that had struck them that day, limiting themselves to only a few lines. Almost 90 people took part, including two school groups.

‘Diarykeepers’ was inspired by the diaries of Joe Snell, a St Dominick market gardener who wrote one line everyday (except on Sundays) for 24 years from 1914. The 2012 diaries not only provide an insight into people’s lives in the Valley today (most entries commented on the awful unseasonable weather), but provide a fascinating contrast with life in the Valley 100 years ago.

“Started cherry picking, full hands” – Joe Snell, June 29 1914
“I have never seen so many natural beauties in such a limited spot as I have seen here.”

The artist, J.M.W. Turner, referring to the Tamar Valley
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are some of our finest landscapes. They are cherished by residents and visitors alike and allow millions of people from all walks of life to understand and connect with nature.

I am pleased to see that this Management Plan demonstrates how AONB Partnerships can continue to protect these precious environments despite the significant challenges they face. With a changing climate, the increasing demands of a growing population and in difficult economic times, I believe AONBs represent just the sort of community driven, collaborative approach needed to ensure our natural environment is maintained for generations to come.

AONB Partnerships have been the architects of a landscape-scale approach to land management. This approach is a key feature of the Government’s Natural Environment White Paper and emphasises the need to manage ecosystems in an integrated fashion, linking goals on wildlife, water, soil and landscape, and working at a scale that respects natural systems.

This Management Plan also makes the important connection between people and nature. I am pleased to hear that local communities have been central to the development of the Plan, and will be at the heart of its delivery. From volunteers on nature conservation projects, to businesses working to promote sustainable tourism, it’s great to hear of the enthusiasm and commitment of the local people who hold their AONBs so dear.

AONBs are, and will continue to be, landscapes of change. Management Plans such as this are vital in ensuring these changes are for the better. I would like to thank all those who were involved in bringing this Plan together and I wish you every success in bringing it to fruition.

Lord de Mauley
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Natural Environment and Science
Our Thoughts...

It is a privilege to once again write a few words of welcome to this our fourth Management Plan.

We, for a limited time, are but temporary custodians of this important landscape designated in 1995 as the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In order to celebrate, enjoy and recognise the diversity of the 3 river valleys, we present our new 5 year Plan that is only achievable by working closely with our supportive communities, Defra and its Ministers, the 5 local authorities and other local bodies who form the Partnership.

At first glance, few would grasp the many remarkable transformations that these very special valleys have experienced over the last 8000 years. It just requires a pause at some vantage point or a stroll off the main road to experience what and how our ancestors worked and changed the land – both above and below ground, marked today by the many remaining signs of human habitation: Neolithic hunters and gatherers, Celtic burials and Roman villas, Saxon farmsteads and field enclosures, Norman churches, deer parks of medieval kings, chapels and high hedges and a mining industry of great importance. The once booming industry extracting a multitude of minerals is now celebrated with the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site, and still to this day the Valley is littered with the bare spoil heaps of former arsenic workings, the saviour of the cotton fields overseas.

Yet this often despoiled landscape has been won back by nature and its now very diverse ecology often secretly hiding away from initial gaze.

We will promote sustainability and help the whole to be a living working environment for the woodsman, farmer, market gardener, rural business and resident alike. At the same time, we want to make the Valley accessible and invigorating, but resolving never to lose this treasure, its variety and its beauty which the changing seasons give us.

These following pages are all about how we as an AONB Partnership can work within this unique environment cognisant of the challenges of our changing world.

Cllr Neil Burden
Chairman of the Tamar Valley AONB Partnership

As a fairly recent ‘blow-in’ to the Tamar Valley, I feel very lucky to be working in such a rare and amazing landscape. It has been a daunting responsibility – but also a fascinating voyage of discovery to be charged with producing this Plan so early on in my tenure, as you all know so much more about this place that you live and work in, than me. This couldn’t have been done without the warmth, enthusiasm and support of the Valley people, our partner organisations and all of the Tamar Valley AONB team – members past and present. This has been a true collaboration and reflects how we will be working over the period of this five-year Plan.

I hope that you will feel that this document builds on the excellent work that has gone before and sets a clear direction for the next few years. Our aspiration is to keep the Valley special – and together with you, I know we can!

Corinna Woodall
Tamar Valley AONB Manager
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1.0 The Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

1.1 Background

The Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a protected landscape of great importance and natural beauty. Those factors, which contribute to the Tamar Valley’s outstanding status in a national context, relate to its completeness, cultural development and human scale.

This diverse landscape is defined and shaped by the rivers Tamar, Tavy and Lynher, and by the human activity focused around them. The river systems are a life force at the heart of the area and throughout the ages have dictated the patterns of settlement and communication.

The River Tamar has for centuries marked the Celtic border between Cornwall and England, but the rivers have also been a unifying force, underpinning commerce, powering industry, transporting goods and providing food. This has shaped a distinctive local identity, built around hard manual labour, vibrant communities and strong religion.

The human imprint upon the area contributes to its sense of place; all around today’s tranquil Valley is evidence of episodes of huge historical landscape change. Industrialisation, mining and market gardening form a unique parallel story within the rich rolling pastoral landscape. The legacies of this complex past are becoming intermingled and hidden within the extensive woodland, clothing the steep valley sides.

The Tamar Valley landscape has survived better than most, partly because of its steepness and difficult access and as a consequence retains many small intricate features. Much of the medieval structure of the farmed countryside is still intact, with its small fields, high hedgebanks, deep narrow lanes, small farmsteads, great estates and remarkable 15th century stone bridges. The survival of this heritage is nationally important, but increasingly rare and currently more threatened than ever before.

The challenge for the AONB Partnership is to recognise and protect the unique qualities that the past has endowed us with, but to find new and meaningful ways to sustain the landscape, protecting our heritage and supporting vibrant communities for the future.

1.2 Our 20-year Vision

Our 20-year vision, which guides the general direction of the Management Plan, remains unchanged from the 2009-14 Plan:

“The people of the Tamar Valley are stewards of this rare valley and water landscape of high visual quality, a unique wildlife resource with a remarkable heritage, which is a legacy of thousands of years of human occupation. By supporting a thriving community with a sense of belonging and identity, we will ensure the sustainability of the area as a peaceful, tranquil breathing space; at a time of unprecedented change.”

1.3 The AONB Landscape

The Tamar Valley AONB is located on the border of Cornwall and Devon, and includes the lower valleys of the Tamar, Tavy and Lynher. The larger section, around the rivers Tamar and Tavy, extends north from the broad estuary at Plymouth to the intricate, deeply incised river meanders just below Launceston and Tavistock. It borders Dartmoor National Park to the east and takes in Kit Hill to the west. The section around the River Lynher stretches west from Saltash and Torpoint to St Germans in south-east Cornwall.
### 1.4 Facts about the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

| When did the area become an AONB and how big is it? | The Tamar Valley AONB was designated in 1995 and covers 190 square kilometres (75 square miles) of rivers, estuaries and countryside. It is one of 38 AONBs in England and Wales. |
| Administrative areas | The boundary crosses 5 local authority areas, Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, West Devon Borough Council, South Hams District Council and Plymouth City Council. The AONB also partly borders Dartmoor National Park. The AONB incorporates 24 parishes. |
| Rivers | The AONB includes the lower reaches of three rivers and their tributaries: the Tamar, Tavy and Lynher. |
| Farmland | 67% of the AONB is farmed. |
| Woodland | There are 3,668 hectares (20.2%) of woodland which is significantly above the regional average. |
| Public rights of way | There are 127 km of public rights of way. |
| Nature conservation | 11% (1,688 hectares) of the AONB is nationally designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); there are 7 SSSI sites including four European Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). There are also 33 County Wildlife Sites (CWS) (13.3% of the AONB), and the rivers are designated as the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area, and Tamar Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). |
| Heritage designations | There are 27 Scheduled Monuments, 645 Listed Buildings, 4 Registered Parks & Gardens, and 14 Conservation Areas. 16.5% of the AONB is within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. There are 3,320 entries on the Historic Environment Records of Devon and Cornwall. |
| People | From the 2011 census data the population is 12,466 people, mostly in the 30-50 age group. |
1.5 The Special Qualities of the Tamar Valley AONB

These are the aspects of natural beauty that justify the Tamar Valley's national importance and basis for designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

1) A rare valley and water landscape

The Tamar Valley AONB represents an unspoiled valley and water landscape, a classic English lowland river system. The Tamar river system rises near to the coast of North Devon and enters the AONB south of Launceston at Greystone Bridge. The Tavy and Lynher rise on Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor respectively and join the Tamar forming an expansive drowned valley estuary complex, before entering the English Channel at Plymouth Sound. Geological structure has helped create a compact river system containing large changes in form and scenery in a relatively small area.

The lower tidal reaches of the estuary have dramatic contrasts between extensive low water mudflats and expansive waterscapes at high water. The middle valleys become dramatic with steep fringing woodlands, high cliffs and rocky outcrops juxtaposed with gently meandering stretches through lush pastureland. The higher areas of the AONB possess a more gently rolling pastoral floodplain.

The river that was once a major industrial and trading route, busy with waterborne traffic and noise, is now a tranquil place, valued by visitors and locals alike for its peace and quiet, a silence only punctuated by bird calls.

2) A landscape of high visual quality

The visual quality of the landscape in the Tamar Valley AONB at an intimate or panoramic scale is exceptional. The landscape contains huge contrasts and surprises. In many places the network of ancient deeply incised lanes, high hedge banks and small fields gives a very enclosed, intimate and sometimes even claustrophobic feeling. This contrasts strongly with expansive estuarine vistas of the river valley and green patchworks of fields and hedges seen from vantage points such as Kit Hill or Weir Quay.

The high visual quality of the Tamar Valley arises from a combination of influences. The strong underlying structure has been shaped and enriched by many episodes of, sometimes, intensive and destructive human activity. Yet it has escaped the worst excesses of wholesale post-war landscape change seen elsewhere. It has also retained a distinctiveness and identity derived from small intricate local details, whether it be a style of fingerpost or an assemblage of flowers in a hedge bank; this distinctiveness is today more vulnerable than ever before. Much of this local survival has its roots within the controls applied during the long-term stability of landownership by the Dukes of Bedford, the Edgcumbes, Tavistock Abbey and other large estates.
3) A unique wildlife resource

The AONB sustains a diversity of wildlife habitats. However, in ecological terms, the estuary complex represents its most important asset. These tidal parts of the AONB have international importance and are mostly within a Special Protection Area (SPA) due to the importance of the intertidal zone in supporting wintering waders and wildfowl. Habitats are also protected within the tidal estuary by their designation as a European Special Area of Conservation (SAC), including mudflats, salt marsh, reedbeds, wet grassland, fen and fringing oak woodland.

The rivers themselves are an important resource, supporting a range of species including otters, many scarce and endangered fish, such as the Allis shad, salmonids, eels and other marginal and riparian species.

The AONB contains extensive areas of woodland, particularly on the steep valley sides. This is split between large tracts of well-managed coniferous forest and equally large areas of broadleaved woodland, much of it ancient semi-natural. Within this are nationally important species, including the heath fritillary butterfly, and regionally endangered species like the nightjar. Important remnants of once extensive lowland heathland remain on the dominant granite ridge at Kit Hill and other smaller sites.

Mining has left a vital legacy for wildlife as well as our cultural heritage. Abandoned mine workings and spoil tips have become habitats in their own right and refuges for endangered species, including eight species of bat, amongst them the nationally rare greater horseshoe. Some of the older mine spoil heaps are now valued as geological sites, offering a rare opportunity to study minerals above ground.

Farmland has generally been improved and possesses limited wildlife value apart from species-rich hedges, most especially along roadsides. These hedges also hold nationally important collections of rare daffodils, survivors from market gardening. Other remnants of this land-use include traditional orchards containing increasingly rare Tamar Valley varieties of apples, cherries and other fruit.
4) A remarkable heritage

All landscapes contain an historical record, however the Tamar Valley AONB possesses a particularly significant and now internationally important cultural landscape. Whilst there are many reminders of ancient human interaction with the landscape, such as on Hingston Down and the ridge above the present-day Calstock village, 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 precious collection of well-preserved medieval bridges, is an outstanding landscape legacy.

Overlying this landscape, the last 500 years has seen several defining episodes, creating large-scale and fundamental landscape change for limited periods of time within defined geographical areas. Following extensive but small scale mining in the medieval period on the Bere Peninsula, the late 18th century saw extensive mining activity throughout the Valley exploiting massive copper and arsenic reserves as well as a wide variety of other minerals and ores. The mining heritage across a large area of the AONB is included in the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS) in recognition of the global importance of the deep mining technology developed in Cornwall and Devon.

The influx of miners during the 19th century created a building boom. The combination of workers’ housing, Methodist chapels, chimneys, engine houses, inclines and associated infrastructure has created a distinctive mining landscape, much of it focused on the river.

Evidence of the river’s importance can be seen across the landscape by a series of structures, leats, weirs, quays, fords, viaducts, limekilns and bridges. Large spoil tips of mining waste also remind us of the huge environmental damage caused by the industry.

The Valley has also been dominated by a significant market gardening industry employing up to 10,000 people in the early 20th century. Until recently it supplied many crops, via railway and river, to London and elsewhere. This has left an equally fascinating landscape footprint, one that is now recognised.

Within a generation or two, the evidence of these episodes has been assimilated back into the landscape and shrouded in scrub and woodland. For those who discover it, this hidden multilayered landscape greatly enriches the area and has created a truly outstanding cultural legacy.

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. There are several designed landscapes, four of which are nationally recognised through designation.
5) A landscape of artistic and public appeal

The area has long been a haunt for artists and travellers. Some notable writers and artists frequented the Valley, such as J.M.W. Turner. Often, visitors were as fascinated by the industrial environment as by the picturesque landscapes. Today there remains an active community of artists and craftspeople in the Valley.

There has long been a relationship with Plymouth through the use of the river and railway as a recreational link. All levels of society were involved, from church outings to ‘party fields’ and more gentrified romantic tours.

The river and railway remain perhaps the best ways to appreciate the Valley. Country sports, mostly controlled by the large estates, have had strong landscape and cultural influences. The area has remained important for fly-fishing and shooting. The Duke of Bedford’s former fishing lodge at Endsleigh remains the most visible reminder, designed by Wyattville and partly landscaped by Repton, within a stunning setting overlooking the River Tamar. There are several other designed landscapes within the AONB on which Repton advised - including a ‘Red Book’ for Port Eliot - but many were only partially completed.

The strong local identity is perhaps most rooted in the traditional land-based industries – farming, forestry and market gardening, mining and traditional salmon fishing. Local celebrations of the environment, such as strawberry and cherry fairs, daffodil and apple days, remain as important links and reminders. This sense of place remains one of the area’s great strengths and one that needs careful stewardship.
“Today I enjoyed holding Mummy’s hand & running through the long grass”
- Abigail, Diarykeeper 2012
2.0 Purpose of designation and status of this Plan

Statutory duties in relation to AONBs are provided for in Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. Specifically, the Act states that, “in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in these areas, relevant authorities “shall have regard” to their purposes”. Natural England has set out the following three aims for AONBs:

1. The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

2. In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.

3. Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

Sections 88 and 89 of the Act state that each Local Authority shall prepare and publish a Management Plan for their AONB which should then be reviewed at intervals of no more than five years. Management Plans are adopted statutory policy of the Local Authority(s).

The purpose of the AONB Management Plan is to guide and inform authorities in the application of their duty to have regard to the purposes of the AONB; to encourage coordination and liaison between all stakeholders concerning their activities within the AONB and its wider setting, and to deliver the purposes of the AONB.

The Plan defines the ‘special qualities’ of the Tamar Valley AONB. These are the aspects of its natural beauty that set it apart as being nationally important and so worthy of designation as an AONB as described in Chapter 1.

2.1 Forces for change

A review of the previous Plan and the changing environment has identified of a number of key issues (forces for change). These are highlighted below and will influence the delivery of this five year Plan. They are:

1. Wholesale changes to the planning system, and (piecemeal) development throughout the AONB;

2. A significant increase in development pressure from industrial scale renewable energy proposals (wind turbines and solar arrays);

3. Introduction of the national Biodiversity 2020 strategy;

4. Promotion of the ecosystem services approach to management of natural resources;

5. The Big Society ‘policy’, localism and government austerity programmes;

6. The impact of the financial crisis and the policy priorities for promoting economic growth and jobs (through rural business, visitor facilities and access to the countryside).

‘Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services’ is the Government’s strategy for people and wildlife in England. Biodiversity 2020 aims to ‘halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people’.
2.2 Partner organisations, partnerships and plans influencing the Tamar Valley AONB

**Local Authorities**

- **Cornwall Council**
  - Local Plan
  - Waste Plan
  - Transport Plan
  - Minerals Plan
- **Plymouth City Council**
  - Local Plan
  - Waste Plan
  - Transport Plan
  - Minerals Plan
- **West Devon Borough Council**
  - Local Plan
- **South Hams District Council**
  - Local Plan
- **Devon County Council**
  - Waste Plan
  - Transport Plan
  - Minerals Plan
- **Dartmoor National Park**
  - Local Plan
  - Management Plan

**Environment Agency**

- **Corporate Plan**
  - Protect
  - Improve
  - the environment
  - water, land, air

**Forestry Commission**

- **Government Forestry & Woodlands Policy statement**
  - Protect
  - Improve
  - Expand
  - the nation’s woods & forests

**Natural England**

- **Corporate plan**
  - Conserve
  - Protect
  - Enhance
  - Manage
  - the natural environment

**Defra family and Public Bodies**

- **Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**
  - Management Plan
    - Conserve
    - Enhance
    - Protect
    - the designated landscape
  - Coordinate policy & action
  - Guide & inform relevant authorities in applying the duty to ‘have regard’ to the purposes of the AONB

**English Heritage**

- **National Heritage Protection Plan**
  - Conserve
  - Enhance
  - Promote
  - the historic environment

**Local Nature Partnerships**

- Plans/Prospectus that set priorities and targets for sustaining the natural environment and biodiversity

**Local Enterprise Partnerships**

- Cornwall and Heart of SW LEPs. Strategic plans for economic growth and job creation

**Catchment Based Approach**

- The Tamar Plan that provides an integrated approach to protect and enhance the Tamar Catchment

**Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum**

- A Management Plan that provides a strategic framework for a sustainable estuary and coast

**Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site**

- Management Plan that sets the aims and objectives for the World Heritage Site
'Natural Beauty' is not just the visual quality of the landscape, but includes landform and geology, plants and animals, landscape features and the rich history of human settlements over the centuries.  
- Natural England, 2011
3.0 Landscape Character

3.1 Background

National Character Areas (NCAs)

These are areas that share similar landscape characteristics and follow natural lines in the landscape, rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.

The NCA profiles are guidance documents produced by Natural England that can help communities to inform their decision-making about the place in which they live in and care for. Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEOs) are included in these documents that draw on this integrated information. The SEOs offer guidance on the critical issues, which could help to achieve sustainable growth and a more secure environmental future. These SEOs, in combination with the AONB Management Plan, will help to prioritise future projects and initiatives.

The Tamar Valley landscape links the two NCAs of the Cornish Killas (NCA152) and South Devon (NCA151). The Cornish Killas NCA forms the main body of the Cornish landmass around granite outcrops, such as Bodmin Moor.

South Devon NCA is predominantly a plateau, dissected by steep valleys and rivers, most rising on the adjoining Dartmoor NCA. Towards the coast the wooded valleys and rias are remote and hard to access from the land. The quality and character of the area is recognised by landscape designation as all of the South Devon AONB.

Landscape & Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The European Landscape Convention has given us an agreed international definition of landscape: ‘an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors’. Landscape has been described as a meeting ground between people and nature, past and present, and tangible and intangible values. It is, therefore, far more than mere scenery, we experience it and get a ‘feel’ for an area through using all our senses. Perhaps what we can more readily relate to is ‘place’.

What is distinctive about the place in which you live, what is recognisable? The features, patterns and associations of our surroundings all help to contribute to the local landscape character – enabling us to distinguish the Tamar Valley as a, different place to Dartmoor for example.

By understanding and analysing what contributes to the melting pot of features that give us a ‘sense of place’, we can monitor landscape change and identify those processes that are strengthening and embedding what we value most about our landscape. It can also raise our awareness of what is weakening and destroying the cherished features and feel of the landscape, and enable us to put policies and actions in place to reduce negative impacts on the Tamar Valley landscape.

The Countryside Commission carried out the original landscape character assessment for the Tamar Valley in 1992, prior to its designation. Subsequently, Devon and Cornwall Councils have independently undertaken county-scale landscape character assessments (see Annex 2). These have identified various Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) – areas that are distinctive, unique and recognisable at a county scale.

Historic Character Areas have been defined throughout the Tamar Valley and Historic Landscape Analysis undertaken within Calstock Parish and the Lynher Valley (Cornwall Council Historic Environment section, 2002). These studies enable objective identification of the historic environment qualities of the Tamar Valley landscape, which is valuable to decision-makers.

The AONB Partnership have established a monitoring programme to provide indicators of change for important aspects of the special qualities and landscape character of the AONB and its setting, and in relation to forces for change. This information is intended to inform future management of the area. Plymouth University undertook the independent baseline study in 2008 and a five-year re-assessment took place in 2013.
3.2 Facts and Figures

- The Landscape Character Assessments identify 10 different Landscape Character Types found across the AONB.
- The Tamar Valley AONB straddles the National Character Areas defined by Natural England, of [152] Cornish Killas and [151] South Devon.
- 8,326ha of the Tamar Valley AONB is included within the Cornish Killas NCA.
- 11,377ha of the Tamar Valley AONB is encompassed in the South Devon NCA.
- The City of Plymouth borders the AONB to the south east, that according to the 2011 census has a population of 256,400.
- The Tamar Valley AONB is confirmed as an IUCN Category V protected landscape. This means that it has a Management Plan with a high level of interaction with communities who contribute to the area's management and engage with the natural and cultural heritage it embodies through a sustainable approach.

3.3 Achievements

- Development and completion of the 2008 Landscape Character Assessment using Landscape Monitoring Units (LMUs), in partnership with Plymouth University.
- Completion of the repeat Tamar Valley Landscape Character Assessment for 2013.
- The AONB was a lead partner in the delivery of Cordiale, an Interreg IVa cross-channel project. Outputs and outcomes achieved has improved the understanding of landscape character and management of the AONB.

3.4 Forces for change

1. The drive to promote renewable energy is resulting in pressure for solar farms, wind turbines and short rotation coppice that are adversely impacting on the quality of the AONB landscape and its setting.
2. The cumulative impact of many individual small scale changes (e.g. domestic home alterations) is collectively having an adverse impact on the quality of the landscape.
3. Increasing demand for waterborne recreation is resulting in multiple uses and the potential for increased disturbance in tranquil and remote places.
4. Ancient field patterns are significant but vulnerable and can be lost with changes in land ownership and cropping. Hedges are expensive to maintain and are being lost through neglect and some modern management practices.
5. Climate change is already having an impact on the AONB’s special qualities and distinctive features, especially the shoreline and intertidal habitats where saltmarsh and mudflats are suffering erosion as a result of sea level rise and increased storminess.
6. Extremes of weather in recent years is resulting in changes to horticultural and agricultural practice, with more crops being grown under plastic or fleece, and in polytunnels for protection and to extend the season. This consequently affects landscape character.
7. Continued development in the countryside together with growth in car usage, are likely to diminish levels of tranquillity.
8. Pressure for development, and lack of regard in its design for historic settlement pattern, vernacular architecture and landscape setting is contributing to an erosion of the distinctiveness of local buildings and places.
9. Evidence of an increase in light pollution from 1993 to 2000 across the AONB.
3.5 Objective

To conserve and enhance the landscape character and local distinctiveness of the AONB.

3.6 Policies

1. Advocate the use of Landscape, Historic and Seascape Characterisation in development and land use planning and management decisions.

2. Favour developments that are sustainable and respect, maintain and where possible enhance AONB special qualities, distinctive features and important heritage sites.

3. Strengthen landscape character by improving the condition of existing landscape features identified as being in poor condition; reinstating landscape features identified as missing or fragmented, and by seeking low impact solutions to visually intrusive (types of) developments and activities (including the influence of light pollution).

4. Maintain, and where possible increase, levels of tranquillity throughout the AONB to ensure this special quality is sustained. Seek to reduce and minimise the impact of light pollution.

3.7 Priorities for action

1. Review the findings of the repeat survey of Landscape Character Assessment in the Tamar Valley for 2013 and identify trends and appropriate actions that need to be put in place.

2. Raise awareness, of and put into practice, the use of Landscape, Historic and Seascape Characterisation to aid decision making and planning within the Tamar Valley AONB team and with key partners.

3. Develop best practice and ideas to help address light pollution, threats to tranquillity and creeping urbanisation.

4. Develop a methodology and recruit volunteers to help with repeat monitoring of the Landscape Monitoring Units and indicators.

3.8 Monitoring

- Changes in patterns to the AONB landscape as a whole will be assessed using a common set of indicators adopted by AONBs across the UK.

- Monitoring of landscape change in ten sample squares will be repeated at five-year intervals.
“Walked down the river bank … and discovered limekilns being reclaimed by nature”
- Jean, Diarykeeper 2012
4.1 Background

The Tamar Valley has a strong and remarkable heritage, which is intrinsically connected to its special landscape qualities. Many of the Valley’s buildings have grown from the very landscape in which they are placed; their materials sourced from local quarries and woodlands, lime mortar burnt at a nearby quay, bricks made in village brickworks, or slate brought in from Mill Hill near Tavistock. The removal of these materials from the landscape has itself created character, for example resulting in wildlife-rich habitats in abandoned quarries.

Much of the diverse and important buried and built heritage of the AONB is recognised through statutory and non-statutory designations: examples include Grade I listed Buckland Abbey and its associated buildings and gardens; farmhouses such as Halton Barton in St Dominick (Grade II*); and Grade II buildings such as the Maynard School in Bere Alston (the first purpose built school in Devon) and the K6 telephone box in Calstock village. Many of the area’s Scheduled Monuments relate to mining heritage, for example the recently designated (2013) New Consols Mine at Luckett; but the range of Scheduled Monuments also highlights the depth of history in the landscape from prehistory through to World War II.

Field boundaries reflect the changing use of the landscape, from medieval strip based fields around Latchley to late enclosures from the time of the Industrial Revolution to the north of St Ann’s Chapel. The development of settlements indicate changes in employment and the economic and social success of communities.

The mining heritage of the Valley is one of its key qualities, shaping the landscape and its economic prosperity from medieval times right through to the present day with the conservation and reuse of industrial buildings. Global recognition of the deep mining technology developed in the Tamar Valley during the 19th century is reflected through its inscription as part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS) in 2006. The Tamar Valley is one of ten landscape areas inscribed which make up the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape WHS. Known as area A10, it runs from and includes Tavistock in West Devon, east to Kit Hill in Cornwall and south to Weir Quay, on the Bere Peninsula.

By working in partnership with the WHS, we are promoting the sustainable management and conservation of this industrial heritage, and managing the potential pressures upon the AONB through the WHS’ marketing as a destination. Morwellham Quay is a key location within the WHS area. As such, it represents one of the three visitor gateways for delivery of interpretation, learning and understanding.

The non-designated elements of the landscape are often the most locally-cherished and represent the cultural, social and economic history of a particular locality. However, these are perhaps the assets most at threat as they are often offered no protection or are disregarded - but without them the character of the AONB and our understanding of landscape development would be entirely different. Two nationally significant examples of this are the discovery of Calstock Roman fort and the recognition of the medieval silver mining industry on the Bere Peninsula. Dissemination of the importance of these archaeological sites has put the Tamar Valley firmly on the archaeological map, and will help raise their profile for protection.

It is not practical to conserve every element of our historic environment, and the complexities of the development of the Tamar Valley landscape presents challenges. By understanding what assets we have, what and how people value a place, and recording what we value through specific projects and raising awareness, the AONB Partnership can contribute to informing the management of the landscape to ensure this remarkable heritage is protected for future generations. This will be assessed in light of available resources and a strategic view taken, aided by existing frameworks such as English Heritage’s National Heritage Protection Plan, Cornwall Council’s Historic Environment White Paper, Devon County Council Environment Group Business Plan, and the South West Archaeological Research Framework.
4.2 Facts and Figures

Statutory protected sites
- 645 listed buildings: 31 Grade I; 47 Grade II*; 567 Grade II
- 27 Scheduled Monuments with two additions since 2008
- 4 Registered Parks and Gardens: 2 Grade I and 2 Grade II*
- 14 Conservation Areas: 8 in Cornwall and 5 in Devon
- 16 Environmental Stewardship schemes in place (275.5ha) aimed at the conservation of archaeological features.
- 13 sites on the Heritage at Risk Register 2013, with small changes occurring over the past 5 years including the addition of scheduled sites at Okeltor Mine, Calstock and at Gawton arsenic mine in 2010; Morwellham Quay transport infrastructure in 2012; and Bere Alston Conservation Area in 2010. Buckland Monachorum Conservation Area was on the register in 2009 but was removed by 2010.

Non-statutory sites
- 2008 entries on the Devon Historic Environment Record
- 1,312 entries on the Cornwall Historic Environment Record
- Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape WHS.

4.3 Achievements
- Since the designation of the Tamar Valley AONB in 1995, there has been increased recognition of the loss and degradation of nationally and locally important heritage features. This has led to several projects led and supported by the AONB Partnership.
- £7 million invested in interpreting, conserving and providing access to former mining sites through the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project.
- Phased excavation of Calstock Roman fort, following its discovery in 2007, including community archaeology in 2011. The ‘Uncovering the Past’ exhibition celebrating the Calstock Parish Heritage Project attracted more than 300 visitors to the Tamar Valley Centre.
- Community archaeology event in Bere Alston involved around 30 primary school pupils, and 30 members of the local community in digging archaeological test-pits.
- Opening of a new trail at Wacker Quay and clearance works to reveal industrial heritage along the 19th century military railway.

4.4 Forces for change

1. Climate change has the potential to change or put pressure on the historic environment: damage from flooding to individual historic assets (e.g. bridges, quays, weirs) and waterside historic settlements can affect local character and distinctiveness, lives, livelihoods and the appeal of a place; increased precipitation and wind-driven rain can accelerate the decay of stonework; and increased storms and high winds can damage fragile historic structures.

2. The appeal of the Renewable Heat Incentive resulting in negative impact of roof-mounted photovoltaic and solar thermal panels, and other climate change mitigation and adaptation measures (e.g. double glazing, external insulation cladding) on the fabric and character of historic buildings, areas and their setting.

3. Cumulative impact of incremental changes, and piecemeal and small-scale development - e.g. replacement windows, infill development, advertising and signage, change of use of traditional agricultural buildings – altering the historic character.

4. Amount of land positively managed for archaeological conservation declining as agri-environment schemes come to an end.

5. Pressure of increased traffic on the landscape and infrastructure, parking and management - as tourism increases following the endorsement of a tourism accord between VisitEngland, the National Association for AONBs and Defra.

6. Land-use changes, such as reopening of quarries and mining and the demand for new housing, and changes in land ownership.
4.5 Objective

To continue to discover, understand and record the full variety of heritage within the AONB, creating opportunities for conservation, protection and awareness.

4.6 Policies

1. Support projects that increase awareness and understanding of undesignated local heritage, and encourage their inclusion in the Historic Environment Record.

2. Further develop the body of knowledge across the full breadth of the heritage within the AONB, from prehistory to the present day, to improve and extend the understanding of local distinctiveness.

3. The Partnership will continue to actively protect and enhance all aspects of the historic environment and its setting, especially in collaboration with local planning authorities.

4. Work with English Heritage, landowners and funding bodies to target the protection of assets on the Heritage at Risk register.

5. Ensure a legacy for past heritage projects, and continue collaboration between the AONB and WHS Partnerships and teams to achieve the purposes of the two areas.

6. Promote the heritage of the Tamar Valley AONB as an attraction to visitors to benefit the local economy and to enhance enjoyment for the public, where this is compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation.

4.7 Priorities for action

1. Promote the development of Building Design Guides for the AONB.

2. Develop an AONB-wide volunteer-led recording programme to identify the less recognised assets of our historic environment and condition of the mining heritage with support from the Partnership.

3. Promote traditional skills in the management of the built heritage and natural environment to sustain the local distinctiveness of the Tamar Valley AONB.

4. Consider designed landscapes and their contribution to the character and heritage of the AONB landscape. Identify priorities for action, e.g. further designation or access provision.

5. Work with Partners to ensure that the historic environment is considered in land management initiatives and development proposals (specifically Catchment Sensitive Farming as the Tamar Valley is a priority catchment), particularly on unrecorded and undesignated sites.

4.8 Monitoring

- Total number (and condition) of historic environment features.

- Number of volunteers involved in recording historic environment assets.

- Number of developments influenced by Tamar Valley AONB Building Design Guides.

- A sustainable maintenance schedule and proposed delivery mechanism to manage mining heritage.
“Walking through the village one is very aware of how beautiful the hedgerows are, with an abundance of wild flowers, to name them all would take pages...”

- Dennis, Diarykeeper 2012
5.0 Biodiversity & Geodiversity

5.1 Background

The tidal parts of the River Tamar, Tavy and Lynher are internationally important for wildlife. The Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA is designated for wintering populations of little egret and avocet. The Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC is one of the finest examples in the UK of estuarine communities that have adapted to varying salinity after the last ice age. Salt meadows merge into brackish and freshwater plant communities. As well as being botanically rich, these marshes buffer people from flooding. The sandbanks and large shallow inlets and bays are also internationally important.

Large areas of inter-tidal and riverine habitat are also nationally important, and designated as the Tamar-Tavy and Lynher Estuary Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Habitats include freshwater grazing marsh, fen, rush pasture, reed marsh and some steep valley-sides and riverbanks covered in ancient woodland, notably at Warleigh Point.

The estuarine habitats support rare and notable species. Avocet (5% of the British wintering population), black-tailed godwit, redshank, dunlin, whimbrel, golden plover, greenshank, spotted redshank, spoonbill, and green sandpiper all form an impressive wintering or migratory population.

The great range of salinity along the length of the estuary, due to the large catchment area, supports a parallel range of marine seaweeds and green algae, the nationally important hydroid Cordylophora lacustris, and the prawn Palaemon longirostris which is found at only two other estuaries in Britain. The nationally scarce stiff saltmarsh-grass and bulbous fox-tail together with the notable beaked tasselweed, grass-leaved orache and carrot broomrape occur. Stands of triangular club-rush grow amongst the reeds at the only known location in the British Isles. The rivers themselves are home to otters, kingfishers, endangered fish such as the Allis shad, salmonids, eels and other marginal and riparian species.

The Tamar Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) (designated in 2013) covers an area of approximately 15 km² and includes the upper reaches of the Tamar and Lynher estuaries. The estuaries are particularly important as the only place where smelt (Osmerus eperlanus) is protected. A migratory fish species, smelt has suffered large declines but is known to breed in the Tamar. Further specific features for which the site is designated are: intertidal biogenic reefs; intertidal course sediment; blue mussel beds; and the native oyster. Physical modifications to parts of the estuary particularly in the upper parts near the tidal limit have the potential to affect the ecology.

Characteristic of a significant proportion of the AONB, especially on the steep valley sides, is the extensive coverage of woodland and conifer plantation. There are 3,668ha of woodland in the AONB, with 22% of the designated area under woodland cover; this makes it one of the most wooded protected landscapes in the south west (by percentage cover). Of this resource, 376ha are ancient semi-natural woodland and 1,249.8ha is ancient, replanted woodland. These sites are likely to have the greatest current or potential biodiversity interest. Of the broadleaved woodland, much of this is classified as Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland or Upland Oakwoods in the Devon and Cornwall BAPs. These woods are invaluable habitats, although a significant proportion are undermanaged. Future AONB projects will encourage the reinstatement of traditional management practices.

The heath fritillary butterfly has consequently declined, partly as a result of a loss of coppice
management in the Valley. In 2013, the population declined by 75% since 2012 (returning to 2010 levels), but there are a number of contributing factors to this alarming decrease of colony size, including the site being in active management, but not yet being in suitable condition to fully benefit this species. Reintroducing an active coppice cycle at a landscape-scale, at sites with its main food-plant common cow-wheat, is likely to benefit this butterfly, but also a range of other species, including woodland birds and bats that have been in decline nationally.

The varied geology of the area has long been recognised as significant, and the mining history of the area has provided convenient dumps of minerals above ground, and facilitated underground access. Rock exposures dominate the landscape in the gorge-like section of the River Tamar and in many parts of the intertidal zone, and are exposed in man-made features such as road and railway cuttings and abundant small quarries. Geomorphological processes are also well illustrated in the Tamar Valley; for example where the incised river meanders have left riverside cliffs.

There is also some work to be undertaken to increase public awareness of the importance of the area for geology and minerals. Additionally, there is a need to recognise the full status of soils in the area, not least in terms of their vulnerability to climate change. World Heritage Site status has already provided an impetus for this work with a major report on geodiversity in the Tamar Valley Mining District of West Devon commissioned by Devon County Council in 2004. There is now a need to extend this approach to cover the remainder of the AONB.

The Tamar Valley has an extensive and historic network of hedges. These Cornish and Devon hedges are important for wildlife and the biological diversity of the Valley, although many have been neglected or are no longer managed in the traditional way that will sustain their biodiversity value in the longer term. In 2010, just 38% of Devon’s hedges were in favourable condition for biodiversity. The particular feature of hedges in the AONB is especially notable in spring, as brightly coloured daffodils that hark back to the market gardening hey day of the Valley and jostle with the native hedgerow plants.

A renewed interest in market gardening offers exciting hopes for arable plants once common in the fields, such as corn marigold, sharp-leaved fluellin and weasel’s snout. The notable reappearance of corn buttercup in old fields at Bohetherick is a case in point. Traditional orchards contain increasingly rare Tamar Valley varieties of apples, cherries and other fruit. Older trees support mosses, lichens, hole-nesting birds, and bark beetles.

Species-rich neutral grassland is now rare within the AONB, but just outside the boundary at St Ann’s Chapel is Sylvia’s Meadow SSSI, home to seven species of orchid. Otherwise, this habitat is confined to roadside verges and traditional orchards.
5.2 Facts and Figures

Statutory protected sites

- Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC, Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA and Tamar Estuary MCZ
- Populations for both little egret and avocet are thought to be stable on the Tamar Estuaries. Indications of decline might reflect issues with the survey methodology which has now been addressed. If waterborne recreation increases, these will be key species to monitor.
- The National Bat Monitoring Programme has been running since 1997. In 2011, five species showed a statistically significant increase, including the greater and lesser horseshoe bat in the UK. The latter is increasing in both hibernation and breeding colony counts, we can therefore be confident about the trend. However, the trend for greater horseshoe bat should be treated with caution and these positive results should be considered in the context of severe decline in bat population in the second half of the twentieth century. More sustained increases are needed to indicate recovery from this extended period of decline.
- The area of coppiced woodland fell by at least 90% from 1900 to 1970. The corresponding loss of structural diversity has led to the declines of many priority species, including the hazel dormouse and heath fritillary butterfly. Since 2012 distribution for the heath fritillary is positive but the population has declined by 75%. The distribution of high brown fritillary has shrunk by 49% and the population by 69%.
- 7 SSSIs (11% of AONB); 3 Geological Conservation Review sites; 1 Local Nature Reserve, at Lopwell Dam.
- 99.6% of SSSI are in favourable condition, or have management in place that should lead to recovery. Failure in condition is principally due to invasive plants in the river corridor.
- The number of SSSIs, Local Nature Reserves, SAC and SPA designations, have remained the same since the last Plan.

Non-statutory protected sites

- 13 Regionally Important Geological Sites (now County Geological Sites (CGS)) (6 in Cornwall and 7 in Devon).
- 33 County Wildlife Sites (CWS) (13.3% of AONB) – a decrease in number largely due to Cornwall Council reviewing the CWS and removing any that overlap other designations. Luckett Reserve and Greenscombe Wood are no longer designated CWS as they are also an SSSI.

Semi-Natural Habitats:

- In 2011, of 155 traditional orchards, 25% were being actively managed. 20% were in an agri-environment scheme. 15% of orchards were thought to be at immediate risk, e.g. due to excessive scrub invasion, or tree damage by horses or cattle.
- 53% of the total woodland resource is actively managed. As at 31st March 2013, 376ha (23%) is Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW), and 1,250ha (77%) are Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).
- There are approximately 78ha of traditional orchard in the AONB. Three orchards over 0.5ha have since become designated as CWS.

![SSSI Condition Chart]

Source: Tamar Valley AONB Landscape Monitoring Assessment 2013
5.3 Achievements

✓ Comprehensive biodiversity audits were completed for Bere Ferrers, Buckland Monachorum, Calstock and St Dominick parishes during the Cordiale project.

✓ Two hundred 30m stretches of hedge (c. 6km) were surveyed by volunteers during the Cordiale project.

✓ Over six months in 2011, seven volunteers visited a total of 155 orchards gathering basic information. Although many orchards have been destroyed since 1920, it is encouraging that the trend has been reversed and enthusiastic landowners are re-planting them. The National Trust at Cotehele has planted the Mother Orchard. James Evans continues to document the traditional varieties of fruit.

✓ Ecological surveys undertaken as part of the Mining Heritage Project have revealed that the legacies of mining - adits, shafts and spoil tips - have created man-made habitats that now offer homes to bats, heathland species and rare lichens. As a result of this work an additional 12 County Wildlife Sites have been designated in the AONB.

5.4 Forces for change

1. Outcome 1B of Biodiversity 2020 ‘More, bigger and less fragmented areas for wildlife, with no net loss of priority habitat and an increase in the overall extent of priority habitats by at least 200,000ha’. Tamar Valley AONB will contribute to this challenge.

2. The priority for woodlands is to re-establish good management by making use of the Woodland Improvement Grant, rather than planting new ones. Government policy is to maintain the present extent of woodland as a minimum.

3. The control of grey squirrel and deer is a priority if broadleaved trees and good quality timber is to be produced.

4. Climate change and increased diseases, e.g. Phytophthora, suggest that mixed species and perhaps less conservatism for what constitutes ‘locally native’ should be considered.

5. Other important policy drivers for change are detailed in Chapter 10 of this document, in the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Natural Environment White Paper, and EU policy on Green Infrastructure.

6. Government policy on the development of renewable energy technologies and markets brings both potential threats and benefits to the AONB. In relation to biodiversity, the development of woodfuel markets is identified as a priority in the Natural Environment White Paper.

7. High levels of consumer interest in local foods (greater still since the ‘horsemeat scandal’ of 2013) are an opportunity to rejuvenate traditional forms of market gardening, fruit growing and livestock rearing, with consequent biodiversity benefits.

8. Negotiation of a new Rural Development programme for England has begun, but new agreements will not start until 1st January 2016. The priorities for funding will have a significant influence over what biodiversity gains can be achieved. It seems likely that only larger schemes will receive funding, so the AONB and other conservation partners will be well placed to broker agreement amongst landowners, agencies and the general public.

9. The decline in the wild bee population is a cause for great concern. The enhancement of wildflower meadows beneath or adjoining orchards, and linkage through roadside verges is vital.
5.5 Objectives

a. The AONB Partnership will seek to support the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity generally, and will specifically pursue a net increase in the amount and quality of priority habitat within the AONB, an increase in the populations of associated priority species, and improvements in ecological connectivity.

b. 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.

5.6 Policies

1. The AONB will support the identification, protection and positive management of statutory and non-statutory wildlife and geological sites within the AONB, with special regard being given to SACs, MCZ, SSSIs and CWS/CGSs.

2. The AONB Partnership will identify biodiversity and geodiversity sites that are suitable for public access and seek to provide high quality educational interpretation and sustainable transport links where appropriate.

3. The AONB Partnership will work with landowners, charities, statutory agencies and funding bodies to establish and deliver large-scale habitat restoration projects.

4. The AONB Partnership will support communities to record and understand biological and geological diversity, establishing a baseline of evidence and priorities for enhancement for use in statutory and non-statutory planning and management processes.

5. The AONB Partnership will promote the benefits and services provided by the natural environment.

5.7 Priorities for action

1. Contribute to the proportionate delivery of Biodiversity 2020 targets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tamar Valley Biodiversity 2020 targets:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional orchards = 12ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hedgerows (assuming 2m wide) = 5ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of 5 ponds (assumes mean pond size 0.05ha) = 0.25ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arable field margins = 10ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowland heathland = 20ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowland dry acid grassland = 10ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowland meadow = 1ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal saltmarsh = 5ha</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2. Promote and deliver (a) landscape scale biodiversity initiative(s): prioritising woodland, hedges, and promoting connectivity and permeable landscapes, particularly benefitting species such as heath fritillary butterfly, greater and lesser horseshoe and barbastelle bats.

3. Investigate the role of the Tamar Valley AONB Partnership in delivering payments for ecosystem services, in part through the new Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).

4. Promote community-led parish biodiversity audits within the context of neighbourhood planning.

5. Work with partners to develop riparian habitat improvement and restoration projects.

6. Identify opportunities to raise awareness and improve access to the geological and earth heritage.

5.8 Monitoring

- Condition of SSSIs, SAC, SPA and MCZ.
- Extent of traditional orchards.
- Extent of semi-natural and natural habitats created contributing to Biodiversity 2020 targets.
- Number of wintering wading birds.
“Regatta continues – Gig racing on the Tamar – teams from far and wide – here was a real Tamar Valley event!”
- Anon, Diarykeeper 2012
6.0 Rivers and Estuaries

6.1 Background

The Rivers Tamar, Tavy and Lynher, and their estuaries and their tributaries, are the central defining feature of the designated landscape. These features also form significant cultural, political and physical boundaries. The lower tidal reaches of the estuary provide a dramatic contrast between extensive low water mudflats and expansive waterscapes at high water, and the middle valleys are dramatic with steep fringing woodlands, high cliffs and rocky outcrops juxtaposed with gently meandering stretches through lush pastureland.

It is only during the last thirty years that these rivers have become peripheral to the local land-based economy; this can be seen through the multitude of abandoned quays, ports and access routes terminating on the rivers.

However, the River Tamar is used extensively by rowing pilot gigs, sailing dinghies and cruisers, providing healthy and traditional activities. The river and arts Tamar Project (2012) and the Tamar Catchment Plan (2012) engaged river stakeholders, highlighting an increase in demand for public engagement and quiet recreation within the river corridor. There has been a gradual trend towards cultural and recreational uses - demands that will need to be balanced against the environmental sensitivity of the river habitats.

The AONB Partnership and Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) have identified concerns regarding the general management of rivers and their environments. These include the silting up of navigation channels; long-term sustainability of some flood defences; loss of quays and landing points; lack of riparian management; invasive species; decline in fish stocks and a desire for greater public access to the riverbank.

As the AONB only covers the lower parts of the rivers Tamar, Tavy and Lynher it is important that a whole catchment approach to deal with issues of siltation, diffuse pollution and the management of carbon at source are practiced.

The Tamar Catchment Flood Management Plan 2012 suggests that the estuaries are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and so there will be a need to work with agencies and research organisations to identify and monitor indicators of change and to put mechanisms in place to mitigate adverse effects, especially those that could damage the European Marine Site (EMS) and the newly established MCZ.

TECF, now a mature and effective partnership, provides a complementary forum to the AONB Partnership for coordination, planning and management, ensuring that the estuaries’ EMS and other marine designations remain in favourable condition.
6.2 Facts and Figures

- The Tamar Catchment drains an area of 1,800km$^2$ (700 miles$^2$). The River Tamar meets the sea at Plymouth Sound, with the Tamar estuary’s tidal reach extending approximately 22km inland to Gunnislake weir.

- The Queen’s Harbour Master, the Ministry of Defence appointee, has overall responsibility for safety and navigation of the Harbour, which includes most of the tidal reaches within the AONB.

- The river system within the Tamar Valley AONB includes the lower parts of the three river valleys - Tamar, Tavy and Lynher.

- Sections of the Tamar Estuaries are also recognised as an SPA under the Birds Directive 79/409/EEC for the conservation of wild birds, as implemented through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The aim of the Directive is to maintain the diversity of Europe’s wildlife through the conservation of important, rare and threatened habitats and species. The two designated areas are collectively referred to as a European Marine Site (EMS).

- In 2013 the Tamar Estuaries was designated as a MCZ. The area is 15km$^2$ and contains two Broad Scale Habitats, one Habitat Feature of Conservation Importance (FOCI) and three Species FOCI.

- There has been a 0.5ha increase of Water Course Buffers (6m width) from 0.7ha to 1.2ha from 2012 to 2013. These uncultivated strips at the edge of waterways are increasingly being used to help to reduce diffuse pollution from agricultural systems.

- The Tamar is one of Devon and Cornwall’s principal salmon and sea trout rivers.

- The WFD Ecological Status has decreased in condition. The amount of river in good condition has decreased from 14.9% to 12.12%. The rest of the river is classed as moderate condition rising from 85% to 87% from 2012 to 2013.


- There are no public crossing ferries at the time of publication. However, pleasure boat cruises operate between Calstock and Plymouth from April to October, dependent on tide.

6.3 Achievements

- TECF adopted their new Management Plan for 2013-2018, fully supported by the AONB Partnership.

- The Tamar Invasive Plant Project is continuing to moving towards the total eradication of Giant Hogweed within the Tamar Valley AONB Catchment and has had a significant impact.

- A variety of arts projects and exhibitions have been supported, that have helped to express people’s experiences of, and attachment to, the rivers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sea Trout Trend since 2011 Sea Trout status 2012</th>
<th>Salmon Salmon status 2012</th>
<th>Trend and likely status in 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up from ‘Probably At risk’</td>
<td>‘Probably not at risk’</td>
<td>‘At risk’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Inny & Lower Tamar Catchment Information Pack, December 2013
6.4 Forces for change

1. Data collected through the Tamar Valley AONB Landscape Monitoring Programme 2013 suggest that the greatest forces for change regarding the river and estuary environment are:
   - Demand for moorings.
   - Land use changes affecting the water environment.
   - Increased numbers of recreational users.

2. The evidence produced in the National Ecosystem Assessment 2011 has led to an increased understanding of the importance of safeguarding our ecosystem goods and services, and the Natural Environment White Paper\(^2\) has created the impetus for the AONB Partnership to work more closely to develop an ecosystem-based approach to catchment management. This theme has been developed by the Defra Tamar Pilot Project. In September 2013, the Tamar Partnership was confirmed as one of the Defra catchment partnerships, as part of the national Catchment Based Approach. It will have an important influence on land management practices and on prioritising actions to tackle polluting discharges.

3. AONB projects, such as the Mining Heritage Project and Cordiale have shown that there has been a decline in recent decades in both commercial and fly-fishing, and a weakening of the cultural links between the rivers and local communities. For example, it is likely that we have seen the last generation of salmon netters as the Environment Agency are now reporting the lowest stock levels in 18 years\(^3\).

4. Increased storminess, possibly related to climate change, resulting in loss of habitat such as saltmarsh and damage to historic structures.

6.5 Objective

The AONB Partnership will maintain high quality river systems and habitats, sustaining opportunities for recreation and tourism and, considering the needs of local communities, increase awareness of the river and estuarine environment and the opportunities they present for sustainable development.

6.6 Policies

1. Support a coordinated, strategic approach to improve access to the key reaches and viewpoints of the river with the aim to increase health and wellbeing, where compatible with the special qualities and the purposes of the AONB designation.

2. Conserve and enhance the biodiversity of waterside areas to maintain those special qualities which collectively contribute to the ‘rare valley and water landscape’ character.

3. Support measures that improve the management of the rivers and their catchments, and which enhance their cultural, historic, environmental and economic importance.

4. Increase awareness of rivers and estuarine environments and the opportunities these features present for recreational development, in so far as it is compatible with the special qualities of the AONB.

6.7 Priorities for action

1. Work with partners to carry out an Estuary Capacity Study in relation to demand for recreational activities.

2. Promote increased use of the river system and its cultural heritage as a focus for education.

3. Undertake additional baseline recording along the estuary and its rivers, to identify management needs and opportunities.

4. Continue to advise and support TECF.

6.8 Monitoring

- WFD Ecological Status.
- Number of moorings.
- Presence of local car and passenger ferries.
“Living in the countryside as we do, we are surrounded by farms with sheep & cattle in almost every field”
– Jean, Diarykeeper 2012
7.0 Farming, Forestry and Land Management

7.1 Background

The distinctive landscape of the Tamar Valley has been shaped over thousands of years by successive generations of people who made a living from it. Although employment directly from land and water has been in decline from the last century, the Tamar Valley still has a relatively high percentage of the population employed in these industries.

Land Management

In the AONB, 67% of the land is farmed, and thus the management, business and environmental decisions of farmers, with regard to crops grown or livestock produced, all have a significant impact on the character of the landscape.

In the lifetime of this Plan, farmers will be facing new challenges and demands with accelerating pressure to produce and grow more whilst at the same time protecting and enhancing the environment. How this can be achieved within the AONB, whilst protecting the special qualities for which the area is designated, will be the test. The AONB Partnership will have a role in investigating and researching innovative approaches and opportunities to support this crucial sector of the rural economy. If this can be achieved within a protected landscape, it will set a benchmark for what can also be achieved outside of designated boundaries.

The Environmental Stewardship (ES) schemes launched in 2005 have had mixed success in the Valley. The lower tier Entry Level Scheme (ELS) has been well subscribed but has only maintained the status quo with little or no overall environmental improvement. Nonetheless, the Higher Level Scheme (HLS) has been taken up by a few land managers resulting in some positive outputs, e.g. new educational access, invasive species control, grazing marsh enhancement, and new orchards.

During the production of this Management Plan, the Agricultural Council and the European Parliament reached an agreement about the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). A new direct payments system for farmers will replace the Single Payment Scheme in 2015. Farmers will receive basic and greening payments plus any payments that might be paid if they are adopted in England. Priorities for funding will be targeted at farmers and landowners cooperating to deliver a more substantial environmental benefit through larger scale schemes. The Tamar Valley AONB will be well placed to help with coordination of local partnerships and provide help and support to the farming and forestry community.

The New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS – an interim name) brings together a number of existing schemes into one, building on and enhancing the current Environmental Stewardship (ES), the English Woodland Grant Scheme and the Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) scheme. The expected outcomes will be focused on helping to meet Biodiversity 2020 goals; contributing to better, bigger and more connected habitats and closer engagement by people with the natural environment and a greater priority to soil and water management, and in particular the WFD. These schemes will be expected to deliver improved integration across a number of water, biodiversity, soil and flood management objectives, as well as supporting woodland creation and management to help contribute to the ambitions set out in the Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement and outcomes for the historic environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and improved landscapes.

The Tamar Valley AONB will particularly focus on the hedge and small woodland management work that has been trialled and promoted through the Cordiale project and will work closely with Natural England, Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency to influence local prescriptions and targeting of NELMS. The AONB Partnership will also support opportunities for High Nature Value Farming and opportunities for diversification in order to sustain a viable rural economy and high quality landscape.

The Tamar Valley Invasive Plant Project has been working to survey, monitor and treat giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam for 12 years throughout the AONB, and are now supporting, advising and encouraging many...
landowners to do this themselves. The long-term objective of this is to control (Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam) and eradicate plants (giant hogweed), where they have a detrimental effect on the environment, landscape and the livelihood of those living in the AONB.

**Market gardening and growing**

Alongside mining, the Tamar Valley was famed for its cherry and apple orchards and until recently supported a huge but very concentrated market gardening industry. Known as ‘gardens’ they were nearly all family-run, generally of only three to four acres and on sheltered south-facing slopes. The tidal river helped reduce frost and the steep valleys sheltered the holdings from the south west wind. For almost a hundred years the Valley produced the earliest strawberry crops in the country: “used to be if you had early strawberries you could make money, good money”.

Until mechanisation in the 1950s the gardens were largely worked by hand. “We didn’t get backache on the hills because you weren’t bending over all the time like you would on flat ground.” Special tools were made to work the slopes such as the Tamar Valley dibber.

In the 1900s, as disease became rampant amongst the fruit plantations, the growers started to cultivate daffodils on a vast scale. The indigenous Tamar Double White became the Valley’s most famous flower: “I never met anyone who didn’t like Double Whites - they were head and shoulders above other narcissus. The boxes were always lined with blue paper, it really set them off”. Many of the old varieties still flower in hedges and in odd corners where cultivation has long been abandoned.

There is potential to encourage the growth and revival of the market garden industry that once dominated the Valley and to once again take advantage of the favourable growing conditions. However, land values are a significant barrier to the establishment of new commercial smallholdings. New technology, and the pressures to extend growing seasons and to provide protection from the extremes of weather that we have experienced in recent years, could also herald horticultural and agricultural infrastructure that is intrusive to the landscape, such as acres of plastic, cloches and synthetic fleeces.

It is vital nonetheless that the AONB supports a sustainable rural economy. An appropriate balance will need to be achieved between profitable production from the land and farming the landscape in a way that continues to attract visitors who appreciate its scenic qualities.

Research carried out through the Cordiale project has improved our knowledge of the nature and makeup of land based businesses within the Valley. A simple analysis of businesses shows that:

There is a good range of producers and produce in the Valley. Meat is produced mainly by local farmers but some smallholders also supply the local food chain. The production of vegetables is very varied both in the range and quantity of produce. There are very few farms producing vegetables beyond potatoes and tomatoes. A broader range of vegetables is produced by small-scale growers selling small quantities at roadside stalls.

There are more large-scale fruit growers but the range is limited, mainly strawberries and raspberries with some blueberries and cherries. Some traditional orchards within the Valley have been reinstated, contributing to the production of good quality apple-juice. The management and planting of new orchards is helping to maintain the traditional landscape character.

Flowers and foliage are almost exclusively produced in Cornwall, where there appears to have been a growth in the production of hardy bulbs. There are still a number of growers that range from a few rows of flowers on a smallholding to large-scale nursery businesses, continuing the tradition of growing for which the Tamar Valley is famous.
With increasing demand to use farmland for industrial scale solar and wind energy installations, the development of woodfuel markets will provide an economic alternative for landowners that is more consistent with the conservation of the Tamar Valley landscape.

The forestry industry in the Tamar Valley is operating below full potential. Low market prices (due to often unsustainable imports), have led to a depression in the forestry industry, which could seriously threaten its future. The Tamar Valley AONB contains an estimated 3,668ha (20.2%) of woodland, significantly above the regional average. Woodland condition is variable but the Valley produces timber – especially Douglas Fir – of excellent quality and the potential productivity is certainly higher than at present. Conifer crops, providing they are planted sympathetically in the landscape, have a role in sustaining the economic viability of land-holdings. Sustainably managed coniferous and broadleaved forests will continue to provide fuel, timber, carbon storage, biodiversity and other ecosystem services.

The historical branding and the identity that the Tamar Valley possesses for excellence in growing still remains and there is an opportunity in this Plan period to stimulate and deliver a sustainable, profitable and vibrant land-based economy. The roadside stall laden with seasonal produce and flowers is still a distinctive sight in the Tamar Valley.

Forests, woods and hedges

The Cordiale project has also contributed to a greater understanding of our wooded landscape and the potential of hedges and small unmanaged woods to yield resources for woodfuel and other products.

The Tamar Valley’s forest, woodland and hedged landscapes are a rich and distinctive wildlife resource providing a wide range of products and ecosystem services. Especially valued for their scenic qualities by residents and visitors alike, they are often places or features with cultural associations and with high heritage value. People have an innate connection to trees, and whether cycling through the woods at the Tamar Trails or walking down a leafy lane at Cotehele, trees create an environment conducive to relaxation and enjoyment. Rural businesses and the local economy generally benefit from harvesting timber for fuel and fibre or adding value by creating other wood-based or grown products.

The AONB Partnership has for some time been working to create and develop a viable new market for timber and woodfuel in particular in the Tamar Valley, especially from our hedges, to improve management and gain economic, biodiversity and landscape benefits. We have seen a fuel price rise of 140% in the last 8 years as oil reserves dwindle and the UK imports more gas. The government has set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fuel poverty, and in autumn 2012 introduced the Renewable Heat Incentive for commercial biomass installations, to be followed with a similar incentive for domestic homes. Good management would also improve the health and wildlife value of the hedges and woods that make our landscape distinctive.

A series of audits and studies have been carried out from farm to parish scale on the feasibility of developing woodchip as an industry in the Tamar Valley, looking at both supply from local hedges and distribution as well as encouraging demand for this fuel.
7.2 Facts and Figures

- There has been a decrease in the area used for cereal production across the AONB and a resulting increase in grassland cover since 2007.

- An increase in the production of hardy nursery stock bulbs and flowers on the Cornwall side since 2007.

- Initial research through Cordiale indicates that if 50% of hedges and 75% of small woods are managed for fuel, there could be enough energy to heat 111 average houses in Bere Ferrers parish, 130 in Buckland Monachorum parish, 159 in Calstock parish and 77 in St Dominick parish.

- Tamar Invasive Plant Project has been running for 12 years and is showing a sizeable reduction in the number of giant hogweed plants throughout the Tamar catchment.

- Defra Rural Statistics Unit produced socio-economic statistics for 2010/11 and identified that 22% of the working population are employed in farming, fishing or forestry compared to the South West average in rural areas of 10%. 31% of businesses within the AONB are also based on forestry, agriculture or fishing which is significantly higher than the South West average of 11%. In June 2010 there were 237 farm holdings in the Tamar Valley AONB, with 178 full-time and 203 part-time farmers.

- Between 2000 and 2012 the number of female beef animals greater than two years old and with offspring has increased slightly from 2,191 to 2,236. These ‘suckler beef’ herds are important for conservation grazing.

- Number of horticultural enterprises has declined from 59 to 26, whilst mixed enterprises have declined from 28 to 12 (2007 to 2010).

- Since 2000, the number of commercial agricultural holdings has reduced but the total land area (ha) per holding has increased. However, the number of farms greater than 100ha has remained the same, at 33, since 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>237</td>
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<tr>
<td>commercial agricultural</td>
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<tr>
<td>holdings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total land area (ha)</td>
<td>11,212</td>
<td>12,137</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;5ha</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>89</td>
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<td>&gt;20ha but &lt;50ha</td>
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<td>&gt;100ha</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>33</td>
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(Note: Defra changed methodologies during this period. The figures for 2000 have been adjusted accordingly)

Data are from ‘commercial’ holdings only which have any one of the following criteria:

a. more than 5ha of agricultural land
b. more than 1ha of orchards
c. more than 0.5ha of vegetables or 0.1ha of protected crops
d. more than 10 cows
e. more than 50 pigs
f. more than 20 sheep
g. more than 20 goats
7.4 Forces for change

1. Globally, institutions are developing new concepts of our environment. Most significant is the body of work assessing the services that ecosystems can deliver to society (such as water purification, food, personal wellbeing)\(^\text{16}\)). Known as ecosystem services there is recognition that the environment provides a critical foundation, or ‘green or blue infrastructure’\(^\text{17}\). 

2. ‘Sustainable intensification’ is currently seen as a way in which the need to produce more food from the same area of land without damaging the environment can be met\(^\text{18}\). It implies the introduction of new farming practices, which may have an impact on the landscape.

3. There is a growing interest in, and market for, good quality local food. People have a concern about food miles and the provenance of their food, but nevertheless buy from supermarkets for reasons of price and convenience. These are issues that must be addressed in order to increase sales of local produce and so support small producers.

4. Our wooded landscape is threatened by invasive species, disease (especially *Chalara*, die-back of ash, and *Phytophthera ramorum*, acute oak-dieback) and damage from deer and squirrels.

5. There is growing interest in, and potential demand for, woodfuel, combined with the introduction of the commercial and domestic Renewable Heat Incentive.

6. Due to reduced funding for the Tamar Invasive Plant Project, landowners will need to be more directly involved in treating and managing invasive plants on their land.

7.3 Achievements

✓ Through the Cordiale project, a number of tools and reports have been produced in support of the uptake of woodfuel as a sustainable energy resource. Some farms and estates have invested in woodfuel boilers. A number of demonstration and training days have been held.

✓ Volunteers have undertaken hedge surveys to identify the historic and biodiversity significance of hedges in trial areas of the AONB. Almost 6km of hedges have been surveyed.

✓ Support has been provided to establish a food hub to coordinate the sale and distribution of local produce; at the end of 2013 over 40 small producers were involved.

✓ A Community Supported Woodlands Handbook has been produced through the Cordiale project. The Tamar Community Trust and Transition Tavistock are promoting opportunities for communities to get involved in their local woods.

✓ Tamar Invasive Plant Project Partnership continues to survey and treat giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. This project has engaged with 80 riverbank landowners through Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) South West to monitor the success of current control methods.

✓ An Open Farm day demonstrated the safe treatment method of giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam, attended by 50 landowners.
7.5 Objective

The AONB Partnership will support systems of landscape management that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB.

7.6 Policies

1. The AONB Partnership will actively promote land management systems that are environmentally sustainable, economically viable and compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation.

2. The AONB Partnership will continue to promote the management of small woodlands and hedges, together with new woodland creation where appropriate, to enhance biodiversity, to safeguard the historic environment, and to improve the farming economy.

3. The AONB Partnership will support the rural economy and local communities through delivery of the Rural Development Programme for England where this helps to sustain the special qualities of the AONB.

4. The AONB Partnership will work collaboratively to increase the number of people trained and accredited in traditional rural skills that will help maintain the Tamar Valley landscape.

7.7 Priorities for actions

1. Support and develop landscape scale initiatives, building on the learning from projects such as Cordiale, to implement integrated approaches to:
   - developing farming and forestry
   - enhancing biodiversity and ecological networks
   - improving water resource management and meeting WFD requirements, and
   - the provision of ecosystem services.

2. We will aim to improve the green infrastructure of the AONB and its capacity to deliver a diverse range of ecosystem services by emboding approaches such as High Nature Value Farming and CSF.

3. Influence priorities for the NELMS and help to target and coordinate local partnerships to deliver landscape scale programmes.

4. Encourage and support the re-connection of communities with farming and food.

5. Influence and direct resources to support landowners and managers in the sustainable management of their wood resource and to help them add value, to shorten the supply chain and to find markets for their products. We will support innovation and technical advancement to help create local jobs, by promoting best practice and sharing of experience.

6. Initiatives that aim to increase the area of woodland being actively managed will be supported, such as the Ward Forester project.

7. Continue to support the treatment of invasive species through the Tamar Invasive Plant Project.

7.8 Monitoring

- Number of people employed in farming, fishing or forestry.
- Agriculture land use type: extent of pasture and arable.
- Extent of woodland and new woodland planting.
- Extent of covered horticulture production.
- Number of woodlands considered by the Forestry Commission to be in management.
- Number of payments for greening measures; number of NELMS.
- Number of Producer members of Tamar Grow Local (indicating an interest in local produce and heritage varieties).
- Field boundary condition and species sample surveys.
“Watched ½ million pounds worth of machinery bring in silage from a field in West Burraton. At the same time, in a nearby field, approx an acre of cloches where strawberries had been grown for generations were being dismantled and dumped”
– Julian, Diarykeeper 2012
“Another day, another walk, there are so many beautiful & interesting places to walk near our home in the Tamar Valley”
– Jean C, Diarykeeper 2012
8.0 Access, Recreation and Tourism

8.1 Background

The Tamar Valley is an oasis of tranquillity and is valued by both local people and visitors as a place to relax and to enjoy the scenery. It has escaped excessive tourism development; to date the low-key tourism infrastructure is largely sympathetic to the Valley heritage and in scale with the landscape and environment. TAVATA are the main association supporting tourism providers in the AONB.

The links between protected landscapes and tourism are becoming much clearer. Work by South West Tourism and others has concluded that 85% of visits to the South West are motivated by protected landscapes. With trends suggesting that heritage and rural tourism are expanding, there will almost certainly be a growth in tourism and recreation in the Valley, especially as the increased cost of travel and awareness about carbon footprints are encouraging people to holiday in the UK.

Recreation is mostly based around countryside access and quiet enjoyment with some of the largest attractions being Morwellham Quay, National Trust Cotehele and Buckland Abbey, and more recently the Tamar Trails. The WHS, inscribed in 2006, has helped increase the awareness about the Valley internationally. The Mining Heritage Project has assessed ways of improving facilities for the many user groups who access the area. Improvements were also made to increase access opportunities for all ages and abilities, and to encourage active exploration of the landscape through this project.

There is scope to reinvest in the area, improve facilities and help sustain local services. The emphasis should be on year-round visitors, who will support the local accommodation providers and local food producers. However, much care is needed to ensure that the impacts are managed so that facilities and services complement the landscape and reflect the carrying capacity of the Valley, especially in relation to increased road traffic and congestion. The river and the Tamar Valley branch railway line provide important opportunities for travel by public transport, and the increasing popularity of cycling could be exploited through improved cycling routes.

The rivers are important as a leisure and tourism resource and there are a number of small boatyards, gig clubs and marinas mostly in and around the lower parts of the estuary. Weir Quay Community Watersports Hub Club and St Germans’ Quay Sailing Club enable participation in activities such as rowing, sailing and small river craft cruising on a regular basis. Saltash, Torpoint and Plymouth are also active sailing centres, located just outside the AONB. However, there are limitations to the growth of water-based recreation due to the environmental sensitivity of the estuary.

Access to the countryside has been the subject of an evolving legislative and policy framework. Each new or amended Act, from the CRoW Act (2000), to the signing of a Sustainable Tourism Accord between VisitEngland, Defra and the NAAONB in 2013, brings with it new opportunities for the Tamar Valley AONB Partnership as its members seek to increase the level and standard of public access to the natural environment.

There is an emerging body of literature on the benefits of physical activity for overall health and wellbeing. Walking has been shown to benefit mental health by reducing physical symptoms of anxiety, improving sleep quality, cognitive development and performance, and increasing people’s psychological wellbeing. The greatest psychological benefits of walking have been found in a social environment with specific outdoor features (e.g. greenery and water). Walking has a greater restorative effect for adults of poor mental health (compared to adults of good mental health) in rural (as opposed to urban) settings. ‘Walking for Health’ groups in and around the Tamar Valley have provided opportunities to achieve these benefits for free through local, easy walks, tailored and lead by trained walk leaders.
8.2 Facts and Figures

Access and recreation

- There are 15 km of bridleway, 818m of byway, and 112 km of public footpaths throughout the Tamar Valley AONB.
- There are also 780m of permissive footpath access under Environmental Stewardship (ES), and 603m of access to footpaths established through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. There is also 0.7ha open access from Countryside Stewardship schemes.
- There are 93ha of registered common land, and 7ha of Section 15 land (1% of the AONB). 136ha of Wildlife Trust reserves, 159ha of Country Parks, 512ha of Forestry Commission land, and 97ha of Woodland Trust land (5% of the AONB) within the Tamar Valley AONB.
- Regular events and activities have continued to be organised within the Tamar Valley AONB to promote access and recreation, such as the twice yearly Tamar Trail Festival and the newly established Discovery Trail Challenge.

Tourism

- VisitEngland have stated that tourism has grown by 8.7% since 2010 with the average visitor spending £108 and £97 per day in Cornwall and Devon respectively.
- Tamar Valley Tourism Association (TAVATA) has grown in membership to 234 businesses since its creation in 2001.
- The National Trust estimates that 78% of all holiday trips to the South West will be motivated by ‘conserved landscapes’. The study shows that landscape contributes to the prosperity of the region by:
  1. Attracting people to live in the region and businesses to invest.
  2. Contributing to over 4% of employment and between 5-10% of the regions’ GDP.
  3. Underpinning rural tourism and recreation
- In ‘Strategy for the Management and Promotion of the Recreation Route Network in Devon 2009’ Devon County Council identified the Discovery Trail as a Regional Route, meaning it is ‘considered amongst the best long-distance routes in the South West’.
- The AONB team has continued to work with key local bodies such as TAVATA, the Tamar Community Trust, CoaST and the National Trust to build a sustainable tourism and recreational framework for the area.
8.3 Achievements

- Using the national, accredited ‘Walking for Health’ model, two walking groups were established within the AONB in 2009. The group provided support and guidance for many people who would not previously have walked in the Valley. The two groups are now run and managed by volunteer coordinators with the support of the AONB, and have developed beyond purpose of this scheme to become ‘Walk and Talk’ groups who regularly meet to enjoy the benefits of walking.

- The Mining Heritage Project has provided over 25km of new trails in West Devon, including new facilities for mountain bike riders, horse riders and disabled users. Car parking fees and hire charges for equipment allow people to contribute to the maintenance of the landscape.

- Formation and establishment of the Tamar Community Trust to support the AONB partnership to obtain new access, recreation and tourism based facilities and services.

- Woodland Riders a Community Interest Company (CIC) have taken on the management and lease of Gawton Gravity Hub delivering a downhill mountain bike facility, 400 members and the development of the new uplift service.

- Completion of the Mountain Bike Development Project with the Woodland Riders has helped to make the area one of the most diverse for cycling facilities within the south west: five new mountain bike routes have been established; one additional downhill track (‘Proper Job’); and four road routes in and around the AONB. The project also provided training sessions for schools and local groups and employment for local trainers.

- ‘Trail Makers’, a volunteer warden scheme, has been organised through Valley Volunteers to manage the trail networks within the Tamar Valley AONB; the Discovery Trail and the Tamar Trails.

- Two additional links have been created along the Discovery Trail offering more opportunities to join the Trail: Kit Hill and Lifton Links. A new Wacker-to-Antony path was also created with the help of Antony Estate, Natural England, Tamar Community Trust, Tamar Valley AONB and the local community.

- In partnership with Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership and CoaST, the AONB hosted a ‘Grand Day Out’, highlighting the AONB as a destination and the Tamar Valley Line as a sustainable transport option from Plymouth.

8.4 Forces for change

1. According to Plymouth Strategic Partnership’s ‘Vision for Plymouth’ launched in 2003, the city should aspire to a population of 300,000 by 2026 (from a 2010 figure of 241,000). Plymouth City’s Local Development Framework was delivered to guide planning and development in Plymouth until 2021 and beyond. The documents indicate significant redevelopment and new housing throughout the city, increasing the potential number of people that could come into the Tamar Valley AONB for recreation and tourism.

2. With increasing population in settlements adjacent to the AONB – local plans make provision for over 6,500 new homes - it is likely that the demand for water and land-based recreation will also increase.

3. The Tamar estuaries and waterfront attract a wide range of local and foreign visitors. Plymouth now has a strategy in place to further increase visitor numbers by 800,000 (20%) by 202019, which may put pressure on the AONB landscape.

4. The creation of Drake’s Trail, a cycling and walking project with funding from Devon Rural Renaissance, West Devon Borough Council and Devon County Council, promotes cycle and walking routes between Tavistock and Clearbrook, with the National Cycle Network route 27 forming its ‘spine’. The Trail travels along the eastern edge of the AONB boundary and can provide opportunities to bring new visitors into the AONB.

5. Publication of the shared vision between the NAAONB and VisitEngland, supporting England’s Strategic Framework for Tourism 2010-2020 which promotes 5% growth year on year in the Value of Tourism, and the creation of 225,000 jobs and £50bn expenditure.
8.5 Objective

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 that contribute effectively to the local economy.

8.6 Policies

1. The AONB Partnership will lead the development of a spatial strategy for access, recreation and tourism in the Valley compatible with AONB special qualities and designation, working with public and private partners. This will guide the improvement of rights of way and sustainable transportation, the development of recreation and tourism facilities, and provision of services to promote health and education.

2. The AONB Partnership will work with others to provide high quality access to the AONB for as wide a range of users as possible where compatible with the special qualities and purposes of the AONB designation.

3. The AONB Partnership will support tourism and recreation businesses in gaining economic benefit from the AONB where this is compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation.

4. The AONB Partnership will promote the use of sustainable transport throughout the Tamar Valley AONB, working collaboratively with transport providers, visitor attractions and communities, where it is compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation.

5. The AONB Partnership will promote and create opportunities for more people to enjoy healthy outdoor activities.

8.7 Priorities for action

1. Continue to promote the value of the landscape to local businesses, including supporting TAVATA and exploring the value of the ‘Our Land’ or similar initiatives.


3. Maintain and promote existing and new opportunities for all forms of recreation within the Tamar Valley AONB, with a particular focus on joining up of existing routes, the formation of circular routes and promotion of heritage assets where possible.

4. To develop the Valley as a resource for promoting people’s health and wellbeing, including developing new ‘Walking for Health’ groups.

5. Develop and promote a series of ‘days out’ in the Valley, paying attention to opportunities to promote local attractions and services and to the use of sustainable transport options where available.

6. Continue to work with key local bodies such as TAVATA, Tamar Community Trust, CoaST and the National Trust, among others, to build a sustainable tourism and recreational framework for the area.

8.8 Monitoring

- Extent of new access created, e.g. km of footpath/trail, hectares of permissive access.

- Number of visitors per annum to key AONB attractions, e.g. Kit Hill, Cotehele, Buckland Abbey, Port Eliot.

- Number of cars parking and permits issued for the Tamar Trails Centre car park.

- Number of people attending ‘Walk and Talk’ groups.

- Number of visitors to the Tamar Trails.
“Kit Hillbillies serenaded Tamar branch line passengers”
– ‘What’s up Calstock’, Diarykeeper 2012
“A hot dry day until evening when rain came in. Saw Peacock and Red Admiral butterflies on the sweet rocket in the garden. A street Jubilee Party for the children in Gunnislake”
- Meryl, Diarykeeper 2012
9.0 Planning and Development

9.1 Background

The rich heritage and scenic qualities of the Tamar Valley draw people to live here. Therein lies a need for achieving a balance between sustaining the landscape character and a vibrant living countryside. Due to the challenges expected with increased population growth, along with the consequences of a changing climate, wise choices and informed decisions about future development must be made in order to sustain the integrity of this unique area for the benefit of future generations.

A development proposal has the potential to impact on a range of values as well as the landscape. The AONB’s objectives and policies for the breadth of AONB features and qualities are found in the other themed chapters within this Management Plan. This chapter largely establishes recommendations and procedures for Local Authorities when presented with planning proposals within the Tamar Valley AONB or its setting.

Development planning proposals are determined by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) – in the case of the Tamar Valley AONB these are Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, West Devon Borough Council, South Hams District Council or Plymouth City Council.

The developing localism agenda is now empowering communities, usually on a parish level, to influence the development of where they live through a process called Neighbourhood Planning. These plans will include information gathered by, and from, the community, on the area’s character, on development and infrastructure needs, and what elements of the landscape should be protected, for example its heritage values. The AONB Partnership is taking a strategic approach towards Neighbourhood Planning and can offer support to communities to help them reflect the significance of this special landscape within their plans.

9.2 Facts and Figures

To date, data about development has not been collected specifically for the AONB. Within a national context the following figures give an insight into development within AONBs (source: Prof. Peter Bibby, University of Sheffield):

- AONBs are desirable landscapes, which create a demand for housing development based on lifestyle.
- There has been a marked growth in areas not classified as villages, towns or named places (‘nowhere’).
- Between 2001 and 2011 there were 44,000 new dwellings built in AONBs, representing 2.3% of the national total. 20,000 of those dwellings were in ‘nowhere’.
- Clusters of 50+ units in AONBs totalled 9,500; in other settings 34,500.
9.3 Achievements

✓ Consultation responses have been prepared by the AONB on a number of large applications, for developments as diverse as housing, solar and wind energy, and caravan parks.

✓ A number of notable development proposals have been refused consent, in part in response to objections raised by the AONB regarding negative impact on the AONB’s special qualities.

✓ The production of a joint planning protocol with Cornwall AONB and Cornwall Council.

✓ The development and implementation of a pre-application service that enable those wanting guidance on development proposals within the Tamar Valley, to discuss their schemes in detail before submitting them to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

✓ Since the appointment of planning support in October 2013, we have reviewed 25 planning applications of varying scales across SHDC, WDBC and CC LPA’s and provided responses on 15 of these applications.

9.4 Forces for change

1. Development pressure within the AONB boundary and in adjoining and rural settings takes a range of forms, from small-scale developments by individuals to larger scale housing, industrial and infrastructure developments. Whilst development can meet needs for jobs and housing, it can also impact negatively on the landscape’s special qualities and on communities. Proposals can increase traffic flows, cause noise and visual issues, and impact on sense of place and tranquillity.

2. The need for affordable homes for local people within the AONB is a common development pressure. LPAs are required to identify strategic housing allocation sites; these are likely to be in or near existing settlements and have the potential to put pressure on infrastructure and services, and also impact on historic settlement patterns and character. Generally the AONB boundary skirts major settlements, but on the south side of Saltash and north side of Plymouth the boundary is tightly drawn. Significant proposals for additional housing in these settlements will create indirect impacts on the AONB, including recreational and access pressures, and increased light pollution. All types of housing development can strengthen local family and social connections and foster community well-being, but if poorly designed and sited will impact negatively on the AONB’s setting and its special qualities.

3. There is now less reliance on traditional industry, but proposals to increase yields by erecting large-scale barns and sheds in open countryside can have a detrimental impact on the protected landscape.

4. Proposals for renewable energy projects can reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources and improve resilience to climate change. However, if they are not carefully located and designed they can have detrimental impacts on the special qualities of the AONB, and also its setting.

5. Incremental changes and some types of permitted development are having a cumulative effect on the character and local distinctiveness of the AONB.
9.5 Objective

Ensure that the Tamar Valley AONB’s purpose and objectives are fully recognised in local planning policy.

9.6 Policies

Encourage and ensure that natural beauty criteria and the Tamar Valley AONB’s special qualities are assessed by LPAs in the determination of planning applications for all development types, following the procedures in this chapter.

Statutory duties in relation to AONBs are provided for in Section 85 of the CRoW Act. Specifically, they state that, ‘in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in these areas, relevant authorities “shall have regard” to their purposes’. Natural England has set out the following three aims for AONBs:

1. The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

2. In pursuing the primary purpose account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.

3. Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

This section of the Management Plan provides guidance and supporting tools to planning officers, elected Members and developers as to how the statutory duty should be exercised through the planning system. During the Management Plan review, the Partnership identified (through an expert meeting with planning officers) the need to provide locally relevant guidance to supplement the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) with reference to planning in protected areas.

The principal needs identified were:

1. Setting out a procedure and technical information to enable the objective assessment of impact upon the natural beauty of the AONB and its special qualities.

2. Providing guiding principles for what sustainable development might mean in the context of the AONB (ie given the special status afforded to it in the NPPF para 115 and 116).

3. Considering what should be deemed a ‘major’ planning application within the context of the AONB designation.
9.7 Procedures

It is the responsibility of the LPA to fully justify its recommendations for development proposals by referring to the criteria for natural beauty and the AONB’s special qualities. By doing this the LPA will meet its duty towards the designation. The AONB Partnership expects all LPAs to comply with this statutory requirement.

Assessment of the impact of development proposals on natural beauty and special qualities should be undertaken following this process, and by reference to Annex 1. These assess the sensitivity of the AONB to developments, ensuring that there is sufficient flexibility to enhance the resilience of the AONB. The specific guidance considering ‘sustainable development’ and what constitutes ‘major’ development should also be used during assessment of proposals.

The AONB Partnership advise that planning officers state explicitly that this process has been delivered for the avoidance of doubt and to strengthen their recommendations by direct reference to the evidence base for natural beauty and special qualities, e.g. “In making this recommendation, officers have taken into account the sensitivity of the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB and their component features as documented in Annex 1 of the Tamar Valley AONB 2014-19 Management Plan [or other source]“.

Process for assessment of development proposals potentially affecting the AONB:

1. Consider whether the proposal should be treated as a ‘major’ application in the context of the AONB according to the guidance;

2. Assess the likely impact of the proposal on the AONB’s special qualities by reference to the list at Annex 1 and any other relevant information;

3. Where a potential adverse impact has been identified and/or where the proposal is judged to fail to conserve or enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB, look for opportunities to mitigate the impact;

4. If impact can be overcome and if the application satisfies all other planning considerations, proposal can be considered for approval;

5. If impact cannot be satisfactorily overcome and/or where there are objections based on other planning considerations, the proposal should be considered for refusal.
9.8 Sustainable development

The NPPF defines sustainable development as having three dimensions, they are mutually dependent and should not be sought in isolation:

1. An economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;

2. A social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and

3. An environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and there is a general presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF, para 14).

However, paragraph 115 of the NPPF states that in assessing development within AONBs, weight must be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty.

The AONB Partnership considers that the term ‘great weight’ requires decision-makers to give primary consideration to whether development within the AONB conserves or enhances it. This is not to say that other material planning considerations should be ignored, but that there is a clear emphasis for a higher level of importance to be placed on the purpose of the designation when assessing development proposals within the AONB or its setting.

This interpretation is considered to echo the guidance contained within the NPPF that seeks to ensure that AONBs should have the ‘highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty’.

This level of protection is further enhanced within the NPPF when dealing with major developments, where there is the need to justify such developments as being ‘exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that they are in the public interest’.

The AONB Partnership considers that in order to ensure a positive approach to both the need for development and the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the AONB, then it is useful to outline some guiding principles as to what ‘sustainable development’ means in the context of the AONB.

In order to be considered sustainable, a development proposal should meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate that it conserves or provides enhancements to natural beauty with specific reference to the special qualities of the AONB (as set out in Section 1.5 and Annex 1); and

2. Meet the economic and social needs of local communities whilst conserving and enhancing the AONB landscape; or

3. Meet the demand for recreational opportunities within the AONB whilst accounting for the natural beauty of the AONB and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

[Note: these three criteria reflect the guidance from Natural England setting out the purposes of the AONB, see 9.6 earlier in this chapter].

The above principles are a refinement of the broader criteria for sustainable development as set out within the NPPF and government policy on AONBs. These are designed to ensure that development makes a positive contribution to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the AONB without compromising the special qualities.
9.9 Considering ‘major development’ in the AONB

Para 116 of the NPPF states that:

“Planning permission should be refused for major developments in these designated areas [National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty] except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated they are in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:

1. the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;

2. the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and

3. any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.”

In assessing planning applications, account must be taken of the guidance within the NPPF in respect of what constitutes ‘major development’ within an AONB.

The AONB Partnership would regard the reference to ‘major development’ in this context as differing from the definition as set out within the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010. It is not a straightforward exercise to define the level at which development is considered to be ‘major’ as this will vary depending on the scale, location and type of development proposed. As such, it is not possible or appropriate to apply a blanket definition for what should be treated as major development in the AONB. Nevertheless, there are some key indicators that would suggest that a development is likely to be major in its effect on the landscape quality:

1. Where the scale of development is likely to have a detrimental visual impact that harms the scenic quality of the AONB, either within the AONB or in its setting;

2. Where the location of development would erode the special qualities and features of the area of the AONB where the development is proposed (landscape, cultural, biodiversity, tranquillity, etc);

3. Where the type of development is not directly compatible with its surroundings; and/or

4. Where the development would conflict with the economic and social needs of local communities and the AONB’s guiding principles of sustainable development.

Any major applications that have the potential to generate any of the above should then be considered against the following criteria:

a. “the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;”

The AONB Partnership would encourage the LPA to request that any such development proposal to be accompanied by a statement of need in the context of national considerations. The impacts of permitting or refusing the development should be clearly identified, including the social, economic and environmental impacts, with specific reference to the impacts upon the natural beauty, special qualities of the AONB, and the economic and social needs of the local communities affected. Such a statement should be based upon objective assessment and clear evidence.

b. “the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way;”

The AONB Partnership would encourage any such development proposal to be accompanied by a report setting out a sequential approach to site selection. This should evidence the extent to which alternative sites have been assessed before the selection of sites within the AONB, and clearly identify why sites outside of the designated area could not be developed. The report should also identify and evidence why the need for the development could not be met in some other way. The report should include relevant evidence of the cost of developing outside of the AONB.

c. “any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.”
The AONB Partnership would expect any such development proposal to be accompanied by a report identifying any detrimental effects upon the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities. Such a report should relate directly to the special qualities of the AONB as a whole as well as those specific to the development site.

Any mitigation identified to moderate these impacts should be:

- clearly detailed, in line with the duty to conserve and enhance the AONB,
- be compatible with the objectives of the Management Plan, and
- be capable of realisation through robust planning conditions or obligation.
9.10 Natural beauty and heritage values

In the UK, and internationally, it is established practice to designate historic, cultural and natural sites of national importance and significance in order to assist their conservation and protection. Sites are assessed against specific criteria and the designation includes a statement of the importance of a site. This statement sets out which particular attributes of the site (its values) make it stand out for designation.

In the case of AONB designation, there is a single criterion of ‘natural beauty’, determined by a variety of approaches supported by nationally-agreed guidance (e.g. Landscape character assessment, Natural England AONB designation guidance). For each AONB a ‘statement of significance’ sets out the special qualities of the landscape that make it worthy of designation. As appreciation of landscape is a cultural creation that can fluctuate with changing social values, the statement of significance is necessarily an expert judgement and is recognised as such in national guidance. In this way, it is distinct from the assessment of landscape character, which describes the landscape in value-less terms.

The Statement of Significance for the Tamar Valley AONB cites five special qualities as the attributes of significance. These special qualities represent an expert judgement of what makes the area distinctive to the extent of being ‘nationally important’ for its natural beauty. They build on features identified through Landscape Character Assessment and Historic Landscape Character Assessment, but also take account of the heritage ‘values’ that the features represent. English Heritage recognises four such values: evidential value, historical value, aesthetic value and communal value.

‘Integrity’ and ‘authenticity’ are concepts central to all aspects of heritage protection, being recognised by UNESCO internationally and English Heritage in England, and being enshrined in international conventions and associated guidance (e.g. World Heritage Convention, 1972) to which the UK is signatory.

integrity: wholeness, honesty
authenticity: those characteristics that most truthfully reflect and embody the cultural heritage values of a place.

Thus, actions for the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the AONB should achieve the conservation of the integrity of the whole area, not just specific locations, attributes, or features. Similarly, the authenticity of the whole area should be conserved, as represented in particular by the stated special qualities of the site.

Designation of an area as an AONB confers a duty upon relevant authorities to ‘conserve and enhance’ the natural beauty, as defined by the Statement of Significance. This means taking account of both the integrity and authenticity of the natural beauty of the site and also of all the features (both tangible and intangible) that represent those values. A variety of guidance is available with regard to the treatment of natural and cultural heritage in planning, for example. The landscape character areas identified for the Tamar Valley AONB area and their selected features of significance are provided in Annex 1, and on the Tamar Valley AONB website, www.tamarvalley.org.uk.
9.11 Priorities for action

1. Contribute to pre-application discussions on major developments within and adjacent to the AONB.

2. Respond to planning consultations and offer technical advice where appropriate, in line with our planning statement and the planning protocol with Cornwall Council.

3. Raise awareness of the importance of the AONB landscape within Neighbourhood Planning and to provide technical advice.

4. Encourage the development of design guides.

5. Support LPAs with appropriate advice, guidance and training.

6. Investigate appropriate opportunities for biodiversity offsetting in relation to developments that may affect the special qualities of the AONB.

7. Support LPAs to ensure that developments are sustainable in their design, construction, technology and landscaping; protect the AONB’s natural resource; and enhance its special qualities.

8. Ensure that development outside the AONB boundary respects its setting.

9. Seek to encourage mitigation for major development, such as improved access and public transport links, habitat creation and green infrastructure.

10. Contribute to Environmental Statements for major developments where appropriate.

11. Support and promote parishes and communities in the development of Neighbourhood Plans in terms of landscape character and local distinctiveness.

12. Champion appropriate development that supports the vitality of communities, including the provision of affordable homes, provided that such development is compatible with the pursuit of conserving and enhancing natural beauty.

13. Through the promotion of the sustainability of local materials and labour and by raising awareness about local distinctiveness, encourage local communities, developers and LPAs to develop schemes that conserve or enhance those local qualities.

14. Encourage early pre-application discussions with the AONB Partnership.

Note: Pre-application advice.

The Tamar Valley AONB Team has, and will continue to, provide consultation responses on pre-application enquiries received by LPAs, and also offer bespoke advice and guidance through its own newly instituted formal pre-application process. This provides a valuable opportunity for developers seeking advice on proposals within and adjacent to the AONB, to obtain guidance on the suitability of their proposals and professional advice on how they can enhance and conserve the qualities of the AONB.

The AONB Partnership will seek to ensure that early pre-application engagement is highlighted as the most beneficial and positive way for developers to engage with the AONB, local communities, LPAs and other agencies and partners who can provide additional help and advice on potential development schemes.

9.12 Monitoring

- Number of pre-application and planning application consultation responses provided by Tamar Valley AONB staff.

- Use of local vernacular building styles and materials in new developments.

- Development of settlement patterns.

- Number of emerging and adopted Neighbourhood Plans, and time spent providing advice.

- Number of developments that have successfully incorporated Tamar Valley AONB objectives.

- Number of developments refused or subsequently dismissed at appeal where reference to harm to the AONB’s special qualities is identified.
“This must be a bit like what it’s like to live through a monsoon, more evidence of climate change?”

– Lesley, Diarykeeper 2012
10.0 Environmental Quality and Climate

10.1 Background

The maintenance and stewardship of the natural resources of the Tamar Valley AONB, especially its soils, water and minerals is critical in determining the future sustainability and productivity of the landscape. Issues such as diffuse pollution, soil erosion and land-use within the whole river catchment and estuary are significant concerns within the AONB.

The water environment is especially important in the AONB. As in most parts of the UK there is potential for harmful pollution from farming and industry. There are pollution risks from the legacy of mining throughout the AONB. These issues are mainly addressed through measures such as the WFD and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). However, there may be opportunities for the AONB Partnership to add value to these efforts.

Land use in the Tamar catchment as a whole is largely agricultural and within the AONB this is no exception. Compared to the upper reaches and tributaries of the Tamar however, the impacts of agriculture on the water environment are not as pronounced within the AONB. The River Inny has suffered from elevated levels of nutrients with discharges from industry being the major source. Recent improvements to infrastructure and treatment have reduced nutrient loadings significantly, and continued monitoring will inform whether further action needs to be taken to improve water quality.

Some of the land in this catchment has been heavily mined in the past for metals, leaving a legacy of abandoned mines, unvegetated mining spoil tips, and contaminated soils. The water quality of Penpont Water (a tributary of the River Inny) in particular is affected by this legacy. The Lower Tamar is an important source of public water supply, so improving water quality there is of particular importance. South West Water have been working with land owners to reduce pollution as part of the Upstream Thinking Project.

The Tamar Valley also has several quarries around its periphery, mainly producing aggregates. These have an impact on the Valley and its communities, especially via road traffic movements and the scale of processing infrastructure.

An additional natural resource is the genetic bank of plant and fruit varieties and farm livestock that have been selectively bred in the Valley over many generations, thriving in the unique local climatic and soil conditions. In the last few years, the AONB has actively helped to raise awareness of local fruit varieties, especially apples, resulting in the planting of two new heritage ‘mother’ orchards at Cotehele and Morwellham in 2007. There is more work to be done, particularly with a revival in local growing of locally adapted vegetables and livestock, for example.

Trees, mudflats and saltmarshes are significant stores of atmospheric carbon, and so have a role in regulating climate change.

Climate change

Since the production of the previous AONB Management Plan in 2009, climate change has become widely accepted as a major issue that requires immediate action at many levels. Changing climate is already having implications for habitats and species within the AONB.

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 burning 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.

The need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and the rising cost of energy are driving a global move for renewable forms of fuel, including direct energy generation from wind and sunlight, and the farming of energy crops. Both have implications for the protection of the AONB landscape.
Coastal areas

- Rising sea levels, unpredictable coastal dynamics and possible increased wave heights will increase coastal erosion and damage coastal amenities.
- Natural assets such as beaches, wetlands, mudflats, saltmarshes and dunes may be lost and their flora and fauna will be affected.
- Protecting or relocating coastal assets may be too costly and in some cases managed realignment may be the best option.

Forestry

- There may be greater susceptibility to fungal diseases, such as Phytophthora ramorum, more damage by green spruce aphid, and the prospect of new or imported diseases taking hold.
- Floodplain forestry (e.g. short rotation coppice such as willow) may be a suitable adaptation for frequently flooded agricultural land (but must be appropriately sited and planted to minimise adverse impact on the landscape).

River flooding and drainage

- More heavy rainfall will increase the risk of soil erosion and run-off from agricultural land, which could in turn increase local flood risk and harm water quality.

Water resources and water quality

- Increased risk of flushing of nitrates and harmful organisms such as Cryptosporidium into groundwater and watercourses in wetter winters with consequent human health impacts. More prolonged dry periods will increase this risk, due to the organisms being washed into watercourses with the first flush of rainstorms.
- Reduced water quality in summer as lower river flows will mean less dilution of pollutants.

Heritage

- Increased visitor pressures and increased revenue for historic buildings from expansion in tourism in a warmer climate.
- Potential increase in storm damage, light-
degradation, rain damage, fungal and beetle damage to historic buildings.

- Maintenance of historical planting schemes will be difficult in gardens which were created in a colder climate. There are opportunities to grow new exotic plant species, although the arrival or expansion of invasive non-native species may be a problem.

- Archaeology sites in coastal locations may be lost as sea levels rise.

Environmental technologies

- Renewable energy and increased solar radiation provides opportunities for localised power generation. This has the potential to reduce energy costs and increase resilience to the vulnerability of transporting power.

Food and Drink

- Changes to food and drink consumption patterns, including increased demand for ice creams, cold drinks and salads in summertime.

- New product opportunities, such as increased wine production. A potential increase in visitor numbers to the south west in warmer weather also means a larger market, particularly for local specialities.

Tourism and Leisure

- Longer, warmer summers and milder winters could extend the tourist season.

- Extreme high temperatures in Mediterranean and other overseas tourism areas could also increase both domestic and international tourism to the south west.

Renewable energy

Renewable energy sources are seen as a priority for governments across Europe, with the UK committed to reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. Local planning authorities should promote appropriate renewable energy schemes, but in nationally designated areas they must be compatible with the purposes of the designation.

Technologies that are growing in the region include wood-fuel, local micro-generation from wind, solar, water, geothermal, heat exchange and anaerobic digesters. Through the Cordiale project the potential to harvest timber, in particular from hedges for woodfuel heating, is being explored and guidance for best practice being developed so that we maintain the wooded landscape character of the AONB whilst sustaining the natural and cultural heritage.
10.2 Facts and Figures

- **Annual Average Rainfall** – Between 950mm on the coast up to 1400mm on higher ground.
- **Geology** – Upper Devonian slates in the Lower catchment and along the Inny, with some Carboniferous Shales, mudstones and sandstones above Gunnislake.
- **Water Quality** – Some watercourses suffer from poor water quality due to leached minerals and metals from mine workings or nutrients from agricultural run-off and point source industrial discharges. There is an historic problem with TBT (an antifoulant that is toxic to shellfish and crustacea) in the estuary.
- **Water Resources** - The significant abstractions in this area are for public water supply, industry and agriculture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water quality related designations</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drinking Water Protected Areas</td>
<td>1 Surface Water (Lower River Tamar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source Protections Zone</td>
<td>Lynher &amp; Tamar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundwater Vulnerability</td>
<td>Approx 78km of watercourse</td>
</tr>
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- **Drinking Water Protected Area** – The Lower River Tamar is an at-risk drinking water supply. It currently fails for the pesticides Mecoprop and MCPA. There will be a safeguard zone and action plan drawn up to address these issues.
- **Shellfish Waters** – The Tamar and Lynher shellfish waters do not comply with the Faecal Coliform in Shellfish standard. The reasons for this are a mixture of continuous and intermittent sewage discharges and agricultural run off.

- **WFD** - Examination of the overall WFD status for each water body in the Tamar Catchment reveals that many (68 out of 100) are failing to meet ‘Good Ecological Status’ and that several, in parts of the Inny and Upper Tamar sub-catchments, are regarded as being more significantly degraded, having been given individual WFD element classifications of ‘poor status’ (12 water bodies) (ref: The Tamar Plan - Phase 1: Developing a Shared Catchment Vision (2012), Tamar Catchment Partnership).

- According to the WFD condition assessment, 2009 the sub-classifications for several waterbodies in the Inny, Upper Tamar and Lower Tavy sub-catchments, indicate that several of their failures are caused by failure to meet the WFD standard for phosphate.
Strategic opportunities for improving water quality.
Landscape features thought to have an affect on water quality were mapped and classified according to their impact (positive and negative) for the protection of water quality. These were then overlaid to prioritise areas with the highest opportunity for improving water quality.
**10.3 Achievements**

- Through the Mining Heritage Project, significant areas of former mine sites have been made safe for public access and given a new purpose as part of the tourism infrastructure.

- Through the Cordiale project, the AONB has developed a leading position in the promotion of woodfuel as a sustainable, renewable energy resource.

**10.4 Forces for change**

1. WFD may require the installation of fish passes in weirs to allow passage of migratory fish. These structures may conflict with the historic character of these water management structures.

2. WFD may require the creation of water treatment facilities adjacent to historic mine sites, most of which will be within the WHS. Their construction, placement and design will be important if the heritage value is to be conserved.

3. Government incentives to encourage investment in renewable energy generating capacity, has led to an increase in the number of proposals for industrial -scale wind and solar energy facilities.

4. Expected climate change in the south west by 2050:
   - Temperature: Annual warming of 1.0 to 2.5°C with greater warming in summer/autumn than in winter/spring. On a daily basis, there may be greater night-time than day-time warming in winter; and the reverse in summer.
   - Rainfall: Annual rainfall may decrease by up to 15%, with a greater contrast between summer (15 to 30% drier) and winter (5 to 15% wetter). Winter and spring rainfall may become more variable and snowfall may decrease significantly. Summers as dry as 1995 (37% drier than average) are expected to be more common.

5. Extreme weather events: Winter depressions are expected to become more frequent and deeper, with high winds and heavy rainfall more common. In summer, extreme rainstorms are expected to decrease.

6. The new EU environmental policy for the period to 2020 sets priorities which will affect UK government policies and funding priorities. These are:
   - To protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital
   - To turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy
   - To safeguard the Union’s citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.
10.5 Objectives

a. Ensure effective conservation and management 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.

b. Respond to climate change effects across all areas of work, as appropriate, and in particular will investigate renewable energy sources, opportunities and impacts.

10.6 Policies

1. The AONB Partnership will protect the natural resources and the special qualities of the Tamar Valley AONB from adverse impacts through the use of statutory and voluntary regulating mechanisms available amongst its member organisations.

2. The AONB Partnership will proactively promote and support activities that protect the natural resources of, and further the sustainable management of, the Tamar Valley AONB.

3. The AONB Partnership will investigate sustainable solutions for the provision of renewable energy of a suitable nature, scale and location within the AONB or its setting where this is compatible with the purposes of AONB designation.

10.7 Priorities for action

1. Promoting activities that enhance the value of ecosystem services, such as riparian tree planting, by exploring the role of the Tamar Valley AONB Partnership in furthering the work identified in the Tamar Catchment Pilot project and in supporting delivery of NELMS.

2. Review the approaches available for the AONB landscape to contribute to options for a low carbon economy.

3. Undertake research to better understand the implications of climate change for farming practices and the potential impacts of such on the landscape and built heritage.

4. Undertake research to better understand the implications for sea level rise, and consequent habitat loss and mitigation proposals, and explore the Tamar Valley AONB role in delivering sustainable solutions.

10.8 Monitoring

- Installed generating capacity of industrial scale wind, solar and hydroelectric energy facilities.

- WFD indicators – chemical and biological water quality indicators, fish status.

- Shellfish waters compliance.

- Levels of intrusion (e.g. include pylons, wind farms, road traffic, solar).
“Long live independent shops and local communities!”
– Sally, Diarykeeper 2012
11.1 Background

The Tamar Valley has a strong cultural identity that transcends political boundaries and gives the area a unique character. The identity is centred on its diverse communities, both geographical and communities of interest (e.g. local heritage groups) and the river, its traditional industries, and religion.

The communities and cultures have shaped the AONB landscape and this is embodied within the historic environment of the Valley. The legacies of mining, market gardening, farming, river industries and general habitation have created a spectrum of assets - engine houses and chimneys, packing sheds and glasshouses, field boundaries and farmsteads, limekilns and quays, houses and churches – that reflect the changes and development of the Tamar Valley communities through time.

Through various projects, such as research into the market gardening industry, mining and other aspects of our rich heritage, the AONB has helped to rekindle the strong cultural identity of the area. In turn, this has encouraged momentum and enthusiasm amongst volunteers, local interest groups and the local community to discover more and promote this unique valley identity. These projects have also provided baseline data for a reappraisal of the AONB’s landscape and social history, and have illustrated the importance of the knowledge available from local communities.

There are a variety of resources within the Valley that communities use to promote their cultural heritage. Notably there are a range of archives and local history groups – including for the parishes of Calstock, Stoke Climsland and Bere Ferrers – that host small archives and run a programme of lectures and events, spreading the word about their history, enhancing knowledge, and ensuring that their past is not lost. The AONB has been involved with many of these local groups, and will continue to support their aims. Collaboration between the AONB Partnership and such groups will provide an outlet to build awareness and ensure that research priorities are delivered.

For hundreds of years artists and writers have come to the Tamar Valley for inspiration, including J.M.W. Turner and J.D. Innes. William Gilpin and John Swete wrote about the Tamar Valley landscape extolling its picturesque qualities. Expressions of local culture and the landscape continue to be made by artists, many of whom choose to live and work in the Valley. In particular, the work of Drawn to the Valley – an artist’s group formed in 2003 and now with a membership of 145 – reflects many of the Valley’s special qualities and records unique events, such as Calstock May Revels.

The Cordiale project provided a chance to investigate new ways to engage communities and residents of the Valley in their landscape. The opportunities provided to take part in surveying hedges, ‘Diarykeepers’, Energy Savers and community archaeology were enthusiastically taken up. There is a clear opportunity to both engage with communities and to gain their assistance in informing the management of the AONB.

Creating and sustaining a stable landscape, balanced between community, economy and environment, is one of the biggest challenges for the AONB Partnership. Sustainable communities require a diverse mixed population structure and provision of employment and facilities. Communities are constantly changing, and with support and encouragement they can actively plan for the future to meet their needs and cherish and celebrate their heritage.
11.2 Facts and Figures

- Census 2011 states that the Tamar Valley AONB has a population of 12,466; 2,868 (23%) residents are of retirement age (65+). Within a working age population of 9,598, 2,005 are in employment.

- Average house price in the AONB is £232,300, 7.3 times the average annual income (Land Registry Sales 2011).

- Devon was ranked top in a Country Life survey as the Most Desirable County in which to live in England. Cornwall was ranked seventh.

11.3 Achievements

- Collaboration with Drawn to the Valley artists group, including hosting six ‘Open Studios’ exhibitions at the Tamar Valley Centre, and ‘Harvesting Time’, an exhibition inspired by changes in the Valley landscape as part of the Cordiale project.

- The Tamar Valley Centre has provided an exhibition venue for Gunnislake Primary School, Callington College and local charities.

- The Cordiale project used many community volunteers to deliver events and projects, and provided opportunities for communities to engage with the Tamar Valley landscape. 90 people kept a diary throughout June 2012 as part of ‘Diarykeepers’. 60 people attended a performance as a result of the exercise.

- Two BioBlitz events involving 400 people in exploring and hunting for wildlife on the Pentillie estate.

- A community archaeological dig to excavate at the site of Calstock Roman Fort involved 19 volunteers over a fortnight, with a further 100 people attending two open days to view the findings. Organised as part of the Calstock Parish Heritage Project, which engaged over 500 people in total over two years.

- Collaboration with Friends of the Tamar Valley and the Tamar Community Trust to create a volunteering strategy and develop projects to involve the community in protecting and enhancing the landscape, and spreading the word about the AONB.

11.4 Forces for change

The key to sustainability is to keep communities together and active. There are several pressures that may result in creating closed communities or dissolving them altogether, making encouragement to celebrate cultural identity difficult. These include:

1. Rising house prices. In 2011 the average house price was £232,300, 7.3 times the average annual income.

2. Lack of, and potential for decline in, local services. The main settlement centres across the AONB usually have a village shop and pub, and perhaps a few independent businesses, but few additional facilities. Access to supermarkets in Tavistock and Callington may have increased pressure on local businesses, but it is encouraging to see local food producers flourishing in the Valley.

3. Declining opportunities for employment and rural industries.

4. 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 12,466). Within Cornwall, the 16-29 bracket represents 16% of the population; in West Devon, 14%.
11.5 Objectives

a. To encourage and support communities in understanding and appreciating cultural identity and traditional practices within the AONB, and to maintain and enhance these.

b. To support initiatives that contribute to a sustainable future for communities within the AONB, consistent with the AONB’s purposes.

11.6 Policies

1. Work with communities towards an improved understanding of the AONB special qualities, and encourage wide communication of these.

2. Assist and encourage local communities in the development and use of community-planning tools, to ensure that the landscape character and special qualities of the AONB are adequately protected in development plans.

3. Encourage and support local communities to celebrate their cultural identity and sense of place through events and activities that reinforce the cultural traditions of the AONB.

4. Make small grants available through the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) to support local activities.

11.7 Priorities for action

1. Explore opportunities and priorities for continuing the Cordiale legacy of community-led activities.

2. Investigate the status of the sustainability of community services within the AONB and what role the AONB Partnership can best play to address the issues uncovered.

3. Continue to provide and administer the SDF for the benefit of communities in the AONB.

4. Continue to promote creativity inspired by the landscape.

5. Continue to deliver the Tamar Trail Festival, within the constraints of available resources and partner priorities.

11.8 Monitoring

- Employment figures for the Tamar Valley AONB.
- Population size in the AONB.
- Number of neighbourhood plans completed.
- Number of AONB events.
- Number of people participating in Valley Volunteer activities.
“Did a day’s volunteering, clearing litter… on the new permissive footpath”
- Pauline, Diarykeeper 2012
12.0 Communication, Education and Awareness

12.1 Background

Ensuring that the Tamar Valley reaches its economic and social potential, alongside conserving, protecting and enhancing the landscape, is a complex challenge for the AONB Partnership.

Recent local surveys show that the primary pastime for people in the Valley is relaxing and there is great resistance to change and development in this area. Most people, young and old alike, would like the AONB to be kept the way it is now, for all time. Yet it is development and change, and our intervention on land and water for commerce that has served to shape the area and which will inevitably continue to evolve through the influences of economics, community needs and climate change.

It is important to engage and educate as wide an audience as possible within the AONB, to build understanding and awareness of the forces for change, and to encourage debate regarding options and solutions.

Understanding and awareness also underpins our enjoyment of the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley landscape and its special qualities. There is huge scope for education programmes to increase the public’s enjoyment of this unique resource.

In commercial terms, clear understanding of a well-researched sense of place is key to the success of the Tamar Valley brand. The AONB Partnership will continue to encourage local tourism providers and food producers (for example, through continuing to work with TAVATA and Tamar Grow Local) to utilise the sense of place messages, to build awareness, enhance consumer experiences and educate a broader audience.

12.2 Facts and Figures

- Twenty Primary Schools and six Secondary Schools service the Tamar Valley AONB.
- Natural England has set up six Educational Access agreements with farmers in the AONB to host educational farming visits.
- A new AONB Partnership website was established in 2010. In 2013, 25,381 (65.32%) new visitors viewed the website along with 11,987 repeat visits. On average, visitors were spending 2.32 minutes on the website and looking at 2.89 pages per visit.
- Monthly eBulletins are produced and emailed to over 950 recipients with an interest in the care of the Tamar Valley AONB.
- 18,000 copies of the Valley newsletter are printed each year and distributed throughout the Tamar Valley to over 200 outlets by volunteers and staff.
12.3 Achievements

✓ Social media has become an increasingly important communication tool, with 421 ‘likes’ on Facebook and 223 followers on Twitter at the end of 2013.

✓ The Tamar Valley AONB team has worked with the Cornwall and West Devon WHS ‘Discover the Extraordinary’ project to increase the awareness of the Tamar Valley Centre and areas of mining heritage significance.

✓ Tamar Valley AONB, Tamar Community Trust and Friends of the Tamar Valley have collaborated to establish the Valley Volunteers, which has 400 people on its mailing list at the beginning of 2014.

✓ Heritage Lottery Fund-supported Calstock Parish Heritage Project 2010-12: 16 community training events and research projects between 2010 and 2012, engaging over 500 people.

✓ Through the Mining Heritage Project, four themed teaching resource packs have been developed and are available through the ‘Sense of Place’ website, as well as five mineral loan boxes for schools.

12.4 Forces for change

1. In April 2014, funding will cease for Tavistock and Okehampton Tourist Information Centres. West Devon Borough Council is working with Tavistock Business Improvement District (BID), to train retailers to act as ‘Ambassadors’ for the area, offering opportunities to further promote the Tamar Valley and its destinations.

2. The National Trust estimates that 78% of all holiday trips to the south west are motivated by ‘conserved landscapes’; opportunities exist to promote the AONB alongside National Trust destinations.

3. Development of the Tamar Valley Centre and the Tamar Trails Centre has increased facilities within the AONB to promote and communicate the Valley as an educational resource.

4. The Natural Connections Demonstration Project funded by Defra, Natural England and English Heritage, and recently contracted to Plymouth University, is one of the largest outdoor learning projects in the UK. This highly innovative 3-year Project (2012-2015), aims to significantly increase the number of school aged children experiencing the full range of benefits that come from learning in natural environments.

5. Creation of a Learning Strategy and Interpretation Strategy 2013 with the aim to establish Tavistock as a Key Centre within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape WHS.
12.5 Objective

To promote a greater understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the AONB landscape and wider recognition of the designation and its purpose.

12.6 Policies

1. The AONB Partnership will support the further development of a coordinated volunteer service for the AONB, working with the Tamar Community Trust, Friends of the Tamar Valley, National Trust and others.

2. The AONB Partnership will work collaboratively to implement its communication strategy enhancing understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural landscape of the AONB, and working with other stakeholders as necessary.

3. The AONB Partnership will maximise the opportunity through its own and other events to promote the purposes of the AONB.

4. The Partnership will engage the public in the enjoyment of the landscape and the opportunities it affords for recreation and learning, and to engender a sense of ownership.

5. The AONB Partnership will support the development of educational opportunities to promote awareness of the AONB’s landscapes, environment and communities that are in line with the purposes of the designation.

12.7 Priorities for actions

1. Continue to provide and maintain high quality interpretation of the AONB.

2. Communicate key messages and information via a range of media to local and national audiences.

3. Create a Tamar Valley AONB education strategy, and seek opportunities for its implementation.

4. Develop and implement the Volunteer Strategy, in partnership with Tamar Community Trust and Friends of the Tamar Valley.

5. Investigate how the Tamar Valley AONB and local businesses can work together for mutual benefit to promote the unique qualities of the Tamar Valley landscape.

12.8 Monitoring

- Number of Valley Volunteer hours.
- Number of educational resources downloaded.
- Tamar Valley AONB website and social media statistics.
“Had an evening at the Tamar Valley Centre to welcome Corinna and say goodbye and thank you to Tim. Neil did a nice speech. Good to see everyone.”
- Charlotte, Diarykeeper 2012
13.0 The AONB Partnership

13.1 Background

The Tamar Valley AONB Partnership was established in August 2000 and the first Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan was published at the same time. The CRoW Act requires local authorities, with parts of the Tamar Valley AONB within their administrative area, to act together to review and publish a revised AONB Management Plan for the period 2014-19. The relevant local authorities are Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, West Devon Borough Council, South Hams District Council and Plymouth City Council.

The Partnership has a statutory obligation for the production and implementation of the AONB Management Plan, as well as providing an on-going framework for consultation and communication. The following organisations are represented on the Tamar Valley AONB partnership committee and collectively they have endorsed this Management Plan, its vision and objectives.

Composition of the Tamar Valley AONB Partnership

The Partnership includes organisations that cover the geographic extent of the AONB as well as providing a breadth of expertise and insight into locally relevant issues.

Our partners:
- Cornwall Council
- Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape WHS
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- Country Land & Business Association
- Defra
- Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership
- Devon County Council
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Drawn to the Valley
- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission (SW)
- Friends of the Tamar Valley
- National Farmers Union (SW)
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Plymouth City Council
- Plymouth University
- Queen’s Harbour Master
- South Hams District Council
- Tamar Community Trust
- Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum
- Tamar Valley Tourism Assoc.
- Tavistock and Villages Initiative
- Tavistock Woodlands Estate
- Westcountry Rivers Trust
- West Devon Borough Council
- Woodland Riders
13.2 AONB Partnership Management Structure

The Tamar Valley AONB Partnership has an overall governance structure which enables all of its stakeholders to influence and contribute to the development of policy within the Management Plan, and to contribute to action on the ground through the Action Plan.

The Executive

The Executive is made up of the constituent Local Authorities for the AONB, one of which is the ‘Host’ authority. This is currently Cornwall Council, which provides financial administration on behalf of the Partnership, line management and employment responsibility for the core staff and other project staff as appropriate. In addition, there is a representative from Natural England as landscape advisors to Defra and also three non-Local Authority members elected from the Partnership. This group has overall and executive financial responsibility for the AONB Partnership and the Team.

The Partnership

They are responsible for guiding, advising and supporting the AONB Team and Executive Group through the production and delivery of the AONB Management Plan.

The AONB Team

The Team comprises a core staff team and additional project staff. The AONB Team is responsible for advising the Partnership, for administering the secretariat for the Partnership, and for ensuring the delivery of the Management Plan.
13.3 The Purpose of the Partnership

During the period of this Plan, 2014-19, it is anticipated that the reduction in funding and resources across the public sector and changes to local delivery, such as Local Nature Partnerships, Local Enterprise Partnerships and NELMS will provide new challenges and opportunities for this Partnership and the successful delivery of the Management Plan. In order to respond to this changing environment, the membership and administration of the AONB Partnership will need to be periodically reviewed, including the addition of new partners from business, heritage and countryside sectors. This will involve scrutiny of the AONB Terms of Reference at regular intervals to ensure that the Partnership remains relevant and fit for purpose.

The funding arrangements for the AONB, as laid out in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), establish that 75% of core costs come via Defra and the remaining 25% is divided between Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, West Devon Borough Council, and South Hams District Council. The current MOA ends in March 2015; Defra have issued a two-year funding offer to March 2016, that will enable the AONB to negotiate a new MOA and establish the hosting arrangements for the duration of the rest of this Management Plan delivery period. It also makes strategic sense to look for opportunities for joint working and collaboration, especially between the other Cornish and Devon AONB’s and bodies such as the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape WHS and this is being encouraged, especially by the AONB funding bodies. The establishment of the Tamar Community Trust, as an additional and sustainable vehicle to help deliver AONB purposes, was established during the life of the previous Plan.

Regional and national AONB operations have been restructured, with the South West Protected Landscapes Forum merging with the NAAONB, to enable the AONB family to operate at a broader and more strategic level to influence policy and programme development affecting AONBs across the country. This is helping to provide a more coherent response to consultations and a coordinated approach when issues of concern arise with Government and other influential bodies. Defra funding, provided as a ‘single pot’ for the AONB, is currently divided into three areas: core, project and the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). Core funding is the finance required to maintain and service the AONB Partnership and Team. Project funding, matched to other sources of funding, enables the delivery of the Management Plan through coordinated projects and initiatives. The SDF, although modest, is currently funded through Defra and the Partnership delivers this fund to support sustainable development initiatives across the area. The ability to generate funds for projects from a range of funding bodies that deliver the Management Plan aspirations is a core area of work for the AONB Team.

The Management Plan is enacted through the Action Plan, that is reviewed and refined on an annual basis and is the key supporting document in the Partnership grant application to Defra and the local authorities.

Progress on the delivery of the Management Plan is monitored and published in an Annual Review each year. A full review of the Plan will commence in 2017/18 in order to produce a revised Plan for 2019-2024. In order to more accurately measure the effectiveness of the Management Plan and the Action Plan, the AONB will move towards impact recording over the life of this Plan.
13.4 Tamar Community Trust

The Tamar Community Trust has been established to work alongside the AONB Partnership. This body has been created to provide a complementary role alongside the AONB Partnership, that respects the integrity and core purposes of the Partnership, but provides an additional delivery mechanism. The Trust has been established to help undertake a number of roles for the benefit of the AONB and wider Valley:

- To pursue new opportunities to fund the core work and purposes of the AONB in new, innovative, socially and environmentally sustainable ways. The future income generated within the Trust could be channelled into AONB core and project funds, or targeted at delivering actions identified in the AONB Management Plan.

- Long-term management strategies can be developed and delivered through the Trust to help sustain the core landscape fabric, for example the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project legacy.

- Increased opportunities to access a wider range of funding sources not available to local authority based partnerships, such as landfill and some Lottery funds.

- The potential to acquire and own assets in order to secure heritage and community benefit and to support the AONB team.

- The potential to develop opportunities for generating income streams that will help fund a long-term sustainable, maintenance and management strategy.

The Friends of the Tamar Valley are now also affiliated with the Tamar Community Trust and a modest membership entitles members to attend talks and events, and to receive a twice yearly newsletter and a copy of the Tamar Journal.

The AONB Partnership together with the Tamar Community Trust and Friends of the Tamar Valley, have established a shared volunteering resource called the Valley Volunteers, to support the delivery of AONB objectives.
13.5 Objective

The maintenance of an effective, responsive, relevant and respected AONB Partnership that will sustain and promote the core purposes of the AONB.

13.6 Policies

1. Members of the AONB Partnership individually and collectively support the implementation of the Management Plan and commit to working with the AONB Team, Tamar Community Trust and the Friends of the Tamar Valley to enhance and maintain the special qualities of the Tamar Valley.

2. The Tamar Community Trust works alongside the AONB Partnership in a mutually supportive way to further the purposes of the designation, and to complement and sustain the Tamar Valley AONB.

13.7 Priorities for action

1. Review the Partnership governance and future funding opportunities in order to support and maintain an effective core AONB Team and Partnership.

2. Review and negotiate a future MoA in order to ensure delivery of this five-year Plan.

3. Ensure that the AONB continues to have a host body that will enable delivery of the Management Plan.

4. Establish a comprehensive set of indicators to measure the impact of the work of the AONB Partnership.

5. Provide focused input and support to the continued development of the Tamar Community Trust.

13.8 Monitoring

- Progress on Management Plan delivery reported through the Annual Review each year.
- Expenditure as per the Annual Business Plan, supporting the annual Defra grant request.
- Review the effectiveness of the Management Plan annually and make any updates or amendments, with a full review of the Plan in 2017/18 in order to produce a revised Plan for 2019-2024.
- AONB monitoring of distinctive components in the AONB will be established, with volunteer support.
- Annual collation of priorities for action identified in this Management Plan.
14.0 Action Framework - Strategic priorities for the next 5 years

Working with Partners

Promoting AONB objectives to strategic bodies
- We will work with partners to improve the environment, by helping to meet national and local policy commitments.
- We will work to influence the priorities of Local Enterprise Partnerships, Local Nature Partnerships, and agri-environment schemes to bring more resources into the AONB to enhance the landscape and benefit communities.
- We will work with the Local Authorities to secure funding for wildlife, countryside and heritage access improvements through the planning system.

Coordinating the Partnership
- We will review the Partnership structure, review the terms of reference and reporting mechanisms. We will renegotiate the MOA for the Partnership funding bodies.
- We will continue to monitor landscape condition and trends.
- We will report on progress annually and develop impact indicators.

Conserving and enhancing the landscape

Delivering Landscape-scale Projects
- We will develop landscape-scale projects to deliver improvements in biodiversity status and extent, landscape character, water quality and ecosystem services. This will be delivered through innovative and best practice approaches to land management and habitat creation.
- We will work in partnership with local farmers, foresters and other land managers to deliver this, as well as bodies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission and Defra. We will need to identify funding from European Structural Funds and other sources such as Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- As well as environmental improvements, we aim to support farming and forestry diversification and sustainable tourism business opportunities (where this is compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation).

Providing a Planning Service and developing Design Guides
- We will respond to consultations on significant planning applications, and offer pre-application advice to developers to minimise landscape impacts.
- We will work with parishes to ensure landscape priorities are considered in neighbourhood plans.
- We will develop design guides to protect the local historic environment and maintain landscape character.
- We will consider the implications of housing allocations and other significant developments for the AONB and respond appropriately.
Bringing the Rivers back into focus
Connecting with our rivers and estuaries.

- We will bring the rivers back into the heart of AONB work.
- Initially, we will focus on understanding more about recreational use, river-related heritage, the implications of sea level rise to help us to identify future activities and how the new Marine Conservation Zone will be of benefit. We will also help to support and develop the new Catchment Based approach (CaBa).

Supporting the economy and communities
Supporting the local economy through access, transport and sustainable tourism initiatives.

- We will develop a strategic vision for tourism and recreation in the Valley, developing low impact tourism in areas with appropriate capacity and public transport links.
- We will promote selected ‘Days Out’ in the Valley.
- We will work with businesses to promote continuous improvement in the quality of the tourism and recreation facilities and services, we will promote local foods, and we will work with Partners to improve the quality of public access and opportunities for enjoying the AONB landscape.

Involving Valley people

- We will continue to deliver public events, such as the Tamar Trail Festival and other activities.
- We will promote education about the Valley, and encourage people to learn traditional skills.
- We will promote and support Valley Volunteers and Tamar Community Trust, and encourage them to promote, research, record and maintain the Valley’s heritage.
- We will promote the Valley as a resource to help improve health and wellbeing, for example through Walking for Health.

To view the detailed 2-year delivery plan, visit our website: www.tamarvalley.org.uk
“Had lunch outside today and we got the lawn cut. Peas sown, tomato plants in as well. Daisy bush beginning to flower, although rest of garden looks somewhat monotone green at this time of year.”
- Shona, Diarykeeper 2012
References


15. For information on the potential of woodfuel as an industry, including in the Tamar Valley AONB, visit the Cordiale online Toolkit: http://www.cordialeproject.eu/en/toolkit/tools/

16. Information on ecosystem services available at: https://www.gov.uk/ecosystems-services


c) English Heritage information on listing and designation  
http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/scheduled-monuments/  

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/2671754?category=31019  


27. a) Natural England guidance on landscape and the planning system  
b) English Heritage guidance on the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) and Heritage Assets  
http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/hpg/decisionmaking/NPPF/  
c) English Heritage PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Practice Guide (June 2012)  


http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/2671754?category=31019  

32. Note: The LCAs are not confined within the boundaries of the designation and spill over into the surrounding landscape, putting the Valley within its wider context. For this Plan the landscape character descriptions have been edited to summarise the elements that are most characteristic of the AONB.  

Annex 1: Landscape Character Areas, Special Qualities and Special Features

This Annex – which comprises two documents - is stored on the Tamar Valley AONB website (www.tamarvalley.org.uk). It comprises information from the Landscape Character Area (LCA) descriptions, compiled by local authorities as an evidence base for local plans. The first document, ‘Landscape Character Areas and Special Qualities’, lists how the AONB’s special qualities link to its LCAs. The second, ‘Landscape Character Areas and Special Features’, goes a step further and lists some of the specific features that illustrate the characteristics of the LCAs. The spreadsheets are primarily intended as planning tools (see Chapter 9 of this document), but will be of interest to anyone wanting to understand more about the characteristics of the Tamar Valley AONB landscape.

The lists are illustrative and by no means comprehensive; the named sites are not placed in any hierarchy and not all designations are included. It will be regularly updated, hence its electronic publication. Nevertheless, it is a full, integral part of this Plan.
Map of Landscape Character Areas produced by Tamar Valley AONB following Landscape Character Assessment across Devon and Cornwall.

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As outlined throughout this Plan, particularly in Chapter 3, the character of the Tamar Valley AONB landscape has been studied at many different levels. These range from National Character Areas, to Landscape Character Assessment and Historic Landscape Characterisation.

Landscape Character Assessments are county wide and identify Landscape Character Areas, amalgamated from smaller Landscape Description Units. These county studies, delivered by landscape experts for Devon and Cornwall Councils, involved extensive local consultation and used a nationally approved methodology. The basis of the exercise was a desk study that identified fine-grain Landscape Description Units with strongly distinctive topography. These were then assessed in the field and amalgamated into Landscape Character Areas with a strong identity that could be described according to set criteria and summarised with a set of key characteristics. Details of the methodology used, and maps of the various Landscape Character Areas identified, are publicly accessible – the Landscape Character Areas identified for the Tamar Valley AONB are illustrated and described in documents which make up Annex 1.

Historic Landscape Characterisation, an assessment of the predominant historic character of an area, has also been completed for the AONB. Together, Landscape Character Assessment and Historic Landscape Characterisation provide a core resource for understanding, describing and monitoring the landscape of the AONB.
Annex 3: Glossary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cordiale - a cross border (South West England and North West France) Interreg IVa protected landscapes project working on sustainable landscape management that ran 2010-13. Its vision was to ‘adopt a common standard for informing and assisting the management of protected landscapes in furtherance of the European Landscape Convention and in the context of climate change’. Tamar Valley AONB was a lead partner in the project.

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

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

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

Discover the Extraordinary – project delivered by the Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape WHS, enhancing the economy in rural areas. Three-year programme, funded by RDPE, EU and Defra.

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

English Heritage - the Government’s statutory adviser on the historic environment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friends of the Tamar Valley – small group of people with a passion for the Tamar Valley. Monthly meetings with informative talks are open for all to enjoy.

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

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

Habitat – the place where a particular animal or plant lives, or the wider interaction of plants and animals that are found together.
Heritage at Risk - a dynamic picture of the health of England’s heritage published annually by English Heritage as a list of those sites most at risk of being lost through neglect, decay or inappropriate development.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - the World Conservation Union.

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

Landscape Character Area (LCA) - areas which share similar landscape characteristics. These areas represent the next scale down from the large national areas and give an overview of how landscapes change across the country. LCAs are constructed by amalgamating Landscape Description Units (LDUs) with shared characteristics.

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

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

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

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

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

**Local Enterprise Partnership** – in 2011 the Government invited local councils and businesses to set up voluntary partnerships to help strengthen local economies and set out local economic priorities. They replaced Regional Development Agencies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**National Ecosystem Assessment 2011** - the first analysis of the UK’s natural environment in terms of the benefits it provides to society and continuing economic prosperity. It involved many government, academic, non-governmental organisation and private sector institutions.
National Forest Inventory – accurate, up-to-date information about the size, distribution, composition and condition of our forests and woodlands, delivered by the Forestry Commission.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications (2012).

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

Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) - Government’s vision for the natural environment, backed up with practical action. It represents an opportunity to change the way we think about and manage the natural environment, seeing it as a system and valuing the services it gives us.

New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) – Interim name for the next round of agri-environment schemes to be delivered through the Rural Development Programme for England, to be rolled out in 2015.

Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) – ancient woodland sites currently under coniferous plantation.

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

Renewable Heat Incentive - the world’s first long-term financial support programme for renewable heat, launched by the UK Government in November 2011 with a scheme for the non-domestic sector that provides payments to industry, businesses and public sector organisations. A household scheme is planned to start in spring 2014.

River Tamar Project - exploring a future use of the River Tamar. The Project seeks to inspire a new engagement with this significant waterway, from the tidal reaches along the rural Devon and Cornwall banks to the urban centre of Plymouth. The aim is to create a hive of activity to stimulate social, cultural and economic development focused on the River Tamar.

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

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

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

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

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

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive providing statutory protection for habitats and species of European importance.
Special Protection Area (SPA) - designated under the European Birds Directive because of their importance to birds.

Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEOs) – Aspirational opportunities for action identified in the National Character Area Priorities.

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

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) – grant scheme provided by Defra, for AONBs and National Parks to support projects that bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the area.

Tamar Community Trust (TCT) - established in 2009 to work alongside the Tamar Valley AONB, to undertake work that helps protect, conserve and promote the natural landscape and heritage of the Tamar Valley.

Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) - the estuary management partnership that brings together stakeholders to promote the delivery of integrated management for the Tamar estuaries and near by coastal areas in order to ensure long term sustainability.

Tamar Grow Local – a ‘not for profit’ Community Interest Company, set up on co-operative principles for the benefit of the community promoting sustainable local produce in the Tamar Valley.

Tamar Catchment Pilot Project – Pilot project funded by Defra to investigate a partnership approach to catchment management and ecosystem services.

Tamar Valley AONB Partnership – partnership of local authorities, local and national organisations and local community interests with responsibility for managing the Tamar Valley AONB.

Tamar Valley Tourism Association (TAVATA) - formed in 2001 to encourage and promote quality tourism in the area. A not-for-profit organisation with a membership of businesses in the Tamar Valley with an interest in tourism.

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

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

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

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

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

All photographs are taken from the Tamar Valley AONB archives:

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The quotes at the beginning of each chapter are drawn from a community activity - ‘Diarykeepers’ - run by Anne-Marie Culhane for the AONB in 2012 as part of the Interreg IVa project Cordiale. During June of that year, Tamar Valley residents were asked to write a daily diary reflecting on the one thing that had struck them that day, limiting themselves to only a few lines. Almost 90 people took part, including two school groups.

‘Diarykeepers’ was inspired by the diaries of Joe Snell, a St Dominick market gardener who wrote one line everyday (except on Sundays) for 24 years from 1914. The 2012 diaries not only provide an insight into people’s lives in the Valley today (most entries commented on the awful unseasonable weather), but provide a fascinating contrast with life in the Valley 100 years ago.

“Started cherry picking, full hands” – Joe Snell, June 29 1914
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Tamar Valley
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
A vibrant, dynamic, living landscape