

Annex 2a) TAMAR VALLEY AONB LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS AND SPECIAL QUALITIES

Version 1: March 2014

Notes

The contents of the two tables have been compiled from information in the respective Landscape Character Area reports for Devon and Cornwall. Where Landscape character areas overlap the boundary of the AONB, features that are clearly not within the AONB have been removed from the list of 'special features'. It should be remembered that these lists of special features are not exhaustive, and should be treated as indicative only. The common building block between the two tables are the 'distinctive characteristics'. This makes it possible to read across between special qualities and special features, and thus to assess if a site-based proposal may impact upon any of the special qualities of the AONB through impacts on one or more special features.

Landscape character areas	Distinctive characteristics	Special qualities				
		Rare valley and water landscape	A landscape of high visual quality	A unique wildlife resource	A remarkable heritage	A landscape of artistic and public appeal
Cornwall - Lower Tamar and Tavy Valleys	Open, unenclosed and unsettled land comprising mudflats, saltmarsh, reedbeds, coastal floodplain, grazing marsh and fens.	✓	✓	✓		
	Pastoral farmland and rough grazing above high tide line, with little arable.	✓				
	Unspoilt and remote upper reaches of the river.	✓	✓			
	Scatter of isolated farmsteads.		✓		✓	
	Active and disused historic quays and remains of historic riverside industrial activity and navigation.	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Low-lying areas prone to sea flooding in storm conditions, and areas of intense recreation and amenity use in the southerly part.	✓				
Cornwall - Middle Tamar Valley	Meandering and looping river valley, narrow in parts, with steep sides	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Floodplains on river bends with improved farmland behind earth dykes; outer fringe of coastal saltmarsh and reedbeds.	✓		✓	✓	
	Mixed broadleaved and coniferous woodland on steep valley sides, with improved grassland and pasture on lower lying areas, and pockets of arable or horticultural land on the higher valley edge.	✓		✓		
	Watermeadows, reedbeds and grazing marsh on the unsettled valley floor.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Historic quays, riverside settlements, and evidence of 19th-century industry.	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Core of Tamar Valley & Tavistock WHS area with engine houses, chimneys and spoil heaps prominent in the landscape.		✓		✓	✓
	Winding narrow sunken lanes and packhorse paths to industrial sites				✓	✓
	Significant views up and down the River Tamar from several viewpoints.	✓	✓			✓
East Cornwall and Tamar Moorland Fringe	Undulating plateau incised by short river valleys, tributaries of the Tamar.	✓	✓			
	Open, medium-scale mixed farmland of predominantly improved pasture.					
	Steep wooded sides of mixed woodland on ancient woodland sites.	✓	✓	✓		
	Different land-uses linked by Cornish hedges mainly defining medieval enclosure, which retains its historic pattern, with patches of rough ground, and areas of more-recently enclosed land, especially on higher ground.		✓	✓	✓	
	Narrow, winding sunken lands overhung with tall, tree-lined hedges linking dispersed farms and hamlets.		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Mix of historic settlements with characteristic vernacular architecture and use of local materials; some modern infill.		✓		✓	✓
	Strong visual influence of Plymouth in views to the south.					✓
	The intimacy and tranquillity of rural settlements and river landscapes contrasts with the major towns and roads just outside of the AONB.	✓				✓

Kit Hill	Prominent ridge and summit raising above the river valley.	✓	✓			
	Open lowland heath to the summit and slopes, contrasts with pastoral farmland with planned patterns edged with Cornish hedges to the east.			✓	✓	✓
	Important archaeological landscape with evidence for activity and mining since prehistory, encapsulated as part of the Tamar Valley & Tavistock WHS area.				✓	✓
	Former industrial areas support important flora and fauna.			✓	✓	
	The summit offers panoramic views across the Devon and Cornwall landscape and out to Dartmoor and Plymouth.		✓			✓
	Some areas on lower ridge spoiled by inappropriate development.					
River Lynher	Extensive, complex river system of winding inlets, intertidal zones and mudflats, large areas of coastal saltmarsh, wetlands, and a saline lagoon.	✓	✓	✓		
	Wooded parkland and designed landscapes, and estate land including deer parks.			✓	✓	✓
	Upper river valleys narrow and steep sided, with mix of farmland and woodland.	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Narrow enclosing winding lanes lined by Cornish hedges topped with mature trees.		✓	✓		✓
	Mixed farmland; pasture, arable, fruit and flower growing.		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Main settlement at St Germans significant through its historic and continuing development.		✓		✓	
	Torpoint, Plymouth and Saltash are visually prominent.					
SE Cornwall Plateau	Open, gently rolling plateau landscape patterned with Cornish hedges.		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Mixed, improved pasture with some arable.	✓				
	Gently sloping and undulating stream valleys; small patches of woodland in low-lying areas	✓		✓		
Upper Tamar	Gently rolling, inland hills and sheltered valley landscape.	✓				
	Distinctive floodplains with strong tree cover, open-grown mature oaks and valley floor pasture.	✓	✓	✓		
	Prominent broadleaved, mixed or coniferous woodland to the east on the valley sides.	✓	✓	✓		
	Small areas of Culm grassland along river valleys.	✓		✓		
	Medium-sized fields of improved grassland with some arable land.					
	Medieval stone bridges are significant landscape features.	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Slate gives a dark appearance to river bed.	✓				
Devon – Lower Tamar and Tavy Valleys	Open, unenclosed landscape comprising mudflats, saltmarsh, reedbeds, coastal floodplain, grazing marsh and unenclosed fens.	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Small-scale pastoral farmland and rough grazing above floodplain, with little arable.	✓		✓		
	Sparse highway network.					✓
	Scatter of small, isolated farmsteads.		✓		✓	
	Active and disused historic quays and remains of historic riverside industrial activity and navigation.	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Extensive river views across a beautiful, unspoiled and remote area.	✓	✓			✓
	Low-lying areas prone to sea flooding in storm conditions, and areas of intense recreation and amenity use in the southerly part.	✓				

Devon – Middle Tamar Valley	Meandering and looping river valley, narrow in parts, with steep sides.	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Floodplains on river bends with improved farmland behind earth dykes; outer fringe of coastal saltmarsh and reedbeds.	✓		✓	✓	
	Extensive ancient and mixed broadleaved and coniferous woodland on steep valley sides, with improved grassland and pasture on lower lying areas, and pockets of arable or horticultural land on the higher valley edge.	✓		✓		
	Watermeadows, reedbeds and grazing marsh on the unsettled valley floor.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Historic quays, riverside settlements, and evidence of 19th-century industry.	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Core of Tamar Valley & Tavistock WHS area with engine houses, chimneys and spoil heaps prominent in the landscape.		✓		✓	✓
	Winding narrow sunken lanes and packhorse paths to industrial sites				✓	✓
	Significant views up and down the River Tamar from several viewpoints.	✓	✓			✓
Middle Tavy Valley	Open rolling uplands contrast with steep wooded valley sides and again with moorland character to the east.	✓	✓	✓		
	Meandering flat and confined river valley near Tavistock, screened by riparian trees.	✓	✓	✓		
	Pastoral, unimproved cultivation, some arable and some parkland estates and watermeadows.			✓	✓	
	Roadside copses and individual oaks on higher ground.			✓		
	Gently curving stone-faced hedge banks.			✓	✓	
	Scattering of hamlets and isolated farms with a few historic villages of vernacular character and local materials.		✓		✓	✓
	Dense network of minor sinuous roads.				✓	✓
	Long views over the valleys.	✓	✓			✓