

Annex 1b: TAMAR VALLEY AONB LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS AND SPECIAL FEATURES

Version 2: January 2019

Character Area	Description	Distinctive characteristics	Special features
Cornwall – Lower Tamar and Tavy Valleys	Intertidal zone and estuary land margins of the lower reaches of the Tamar and Tavy rivers, confined by the low landform and vegetation of the adjoining Middle Tamar Valley.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamar Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) • Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area (SPA) • Wetland habitats important bird wintering sites • Traditional orchards, generally focussed around the settlement areas • Historically only accessible from the river, legacy of this in number of historic quays including at Kingsmill Lake, Moditonham Quay • Areas of historic market gardening activity at Bere Ferrers, and at St Ann’s, north of Cargreen village, with glasshouses still extant between Landulph Cross and Cargreen • Historic daffodil varieties found on hedgebanks and in woodland in Spring • Potential early monastic site at Landulph • Farmsteads (such as Haye) potentially deserted settlements • Medieval enclosures • Landmark church towers at Landulph and Cargreen • Views south the Royal Albert Bridge (I.K. Brunel, 1859) • Riverside settlement with medieval origins

			at Cargreen
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ever-changing views with tidal cycle.
Cornwall – Middle Tamar Valley	<p>Gorge-like river valley with views of the water, gently undulating farmland, and extensive woodland.</p> <p>Short tributary valleys, barely visible from higher ground, topography further north more gentle and open.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant views up and down the River Tamar from several viewpoints • Meandering and looping river valley, narrow in parts, with steep sides • Floodplains on river bends with improved farmland behind earth dykes, outer fringes 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 higher valley edge • Watermeadows, reedbeds and grazing marsh on the unsettled valley floor • Historic quays, riverside settlements, and evidence at 19th century industry • Core of Tamar Valley and Tavistock WHS area with engine houses, chimneys and spoil heaps prominent in the landscape • Winding narrow sunken lanes and packhorse paths to industrial sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamar Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) • Part of and adjacent to Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC) • Mineralogical sites on spoil tips, particularly around Devon Great Consols • Riverside settlements with medieval origins at Calstock, Gunnislake, Latchley and Lucket, all of which are intrinsically linked to the river trade and historic crossing points, and developed in response to large-scale mining in the area • Geology important for mining heritage, concentration of tin, copper and arsenic lodes • Extensive areas of former and current (though reducing) market gardening, for example at Bohetherick and St Dominick, legacy through glasshouses and packing sheds • Historic daffodil varieties found on hedgebanks and in woodland in Spring • Important crossing points, viaduct at Calstock and many historic bridges including New Bridge at Gunnislake and Horsebridge • Tamar Valley Line provides elevated views from viaduct across the River Tamar • Significance of miners smallholdings around Gunnislake important element of WHS • Woodlands on valley sides relate to changing use of landscape – including

			<p>timber, charcoal burning and replanting of market gardening with coniferous trees – SSSI at Greenscombe Wood</p>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large estates at Cotehele and Pentillie • Medieval farm settlements (e.g. Hampt near Lockett) • Mix of field patterns, post medieval and remnant strip patterns • Prehistoric hillfort at Carmartha at the north of the area • C13 Kerrybullock deer park near Stoke Climsland • Extensive mining remains scattered around Calstock, Gunnislake and Lockett • Limekilns and other evidence of riverside industry, particularly between Cotehele and Calstock on the Cornwall bank of the Tamar • Within Cornwall and West Devon Mining Heritage WHS and includes a key site at Cotehele
<p>East Cornwall and Tamar Moorland Fringe</p>	<p>Domesticated and enclosed landscape of the western slopes and plateau of the Middle Tamar Valley.</p> <p>The plateau mostly retains its historic hedged landscape, but is exposed in some areas.</p> <p>Woodland is restricted to the steepest valley sides and the wetter valley bottom.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 grassland and areas of more recently enclosed land, especially on higher ground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winding narrow lanes are characteristic within the AONB boundary, in contrast to major roads such as the A390 and A388 outside of the boundary • Medieval field patterns contrasting with patches of rough ground and recently enclosed land • A well-preserved medieval landscape focused around medieval churchtowns • Good examples of vernacular architecture using local materials including shillet, slate and granite • Excellent example of how the Tamar Valley has accommodated landscape change,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow winding sunken lanes 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 • The intimacy and tranquillity of rural settlements and river landscapes contrasts with the major towns and roads just outside of the AONB • Strong visual influences of Plymouth in views to the south 	<p>and how those changes are still evident in the landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remnants of market gardening around St Dominick and Calstock, including glasshouse complexes • Historic daffodil varieties found on hedgebanks and in woodland in Spring • Estate landscape at Cotehele • Substantial mining remains around Gunnislake • Tamar Valley Discovery Trail • Important network of species-rich hedges • Within Cornwall and West Devon Mining Heritage WHS
Kit Hill	<p>A prevailing landmark enhanced by its chimney, visible from Bodmin Moor and a variety of points within the Tamar Valley.</p> <p>Unsettled wildland covered in heathland scrub and bracken with strong archaeological value.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent ridge and summit rising 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 and Tavistock WHS • The summit offers panoramic views across the Devon and Cornwall wider landscape and out towards Dartmoor, Plymouth and Bodmin Moor • Former industrial areas support important flora and fauna • Some areas on lower ridge spoiled by inappropriate development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kit Hill is a key site within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Heritage WHS • Streamworking and quarrying remains, including an incline plane which carried stone to the East Cornwall Railway (now dismantled, but once connected with the existing Tamar Valley line from Gunnislake to Plymouth) • Significant archaeology, much of which is undesignated, including barrows and a relict prehistoric field system on the eastern slope • Site of the Battle of Hingston Down 838AD, with C18 folly at the summit of Kit Hill as a commemoration • Important ore deposits relating to mining heritage • Extensive mining and industrial activity remains • Kit Hill chimney (c.1858) an important landmark feature

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutral grassland SSSI at St Ann's Chapel (Sylvia's Meadow) • Kit Hill Country Park • Working granite quarry at Hingston Down • Field pattern of recently-enclosed fields • Post medieval farmsteads associated with recently enclosed land and linear roadside settlements at Chilworthy and St Ann's Chapel
River Lynher	<p>Estuarine land encompassing the banks of the lower Tamar estuary.</p> <p>The land combines large-scale farmland and managed parkland.</p> <p>Wooded tributary valleys with farmland in the valley floor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed farmland, pasture, arable, fruit and flower growing • 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 a mix of farmland and woodland • Torpoint, Plymouth and Saltash are visually prominent • Narrow enclosing winding lanes lined by Cornish hedges topped with mature trees • Main settlement at St Germans significant through its historic and continuing development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamar Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) • Part of and adjacent to Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area (SPA), Lynher Estuary SSSI • Estate land and designated landscapes at Antony and Port Elliot, for both of which Humphrey Repton advised on landscaping • Important bird habitat • Significant tidal estuary with saltmarsh and mudflats around the Lynher • Important network of hedges and mature trees, linking semi-natural habitats • Mixed woodland, including ancient woodland in valleys • Historic quays and riverside industry, for example at Wacker Quay, which is also an important river access point • Amenity value of river access • Military archaeology, including a decoy airfield at Erth Hill • Medieval enclosed land with sinuous boundaries • Clustered villages, small farms and hamlets

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many small farms may be remnants of medieval settlements, such as Stoketon Manor • Many settlements have grown up around the heads of creeks and the phases of development are visible • Obvious vernacular style using local stone with decorative brick detailing and dressings • Steep winding lanes lined with mature trees and dense hedges • Important historic structures and sites including St Germans Church and remains of the priory, Port Eliot House and Antony House, Ince Castle, Scraesdon Fort, Burrell House, Notter Viaduct and St Germans Viaduct • Nature reserve at Churchtown Farm providing extensive public access • Wrecks in the estuary including the George Murray at Forder Lake • Mount Edgcumbe estate important in views to the south west
SE Cornwall Plateau	<p>An extensive sloping plateau of working pastoral landscape intersected by river valleys.</p> <p>Vegetation is limited to Cornish hedges around isolated farmsteads and dispersed settlement, with little woodland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important network of hedges linking semi-natural habitats • Ancient pastoral farmland with scattered trees • Sinuous boundaries to fields, with medieval enclosed land and Cornish hedges • The hamlet of St Erney contains several listed buildings, including the C13 church
Upper Tamar	Gently rolling hills and open valley landscape defined by the upper reaches of the River Tamar and its tributaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gently rolling, inland hills and sheltered valley landscape • Distinctive floodplains are distinctive with their strong tree cover, open- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthwork at Castlepark Hill • Important network of hedges linking semi-natural habitats • Mixed woodland along river valleys,

	<p>A settled, inland landscape with medium-sized fields of improved pasture, bounded by Cornish hedges and mature trees.</p>	<p>grown mature oaks and valley floor pasture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Stone bridges are significant landscape features • Slate gives a dark appearance to river bed 	<p>including ancient woodland, a significant component of the character of this area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone bridges such as C15 Greystone Bridge distinctive landscape feature • Mature, stable and unchanged landscape
<p>Devon – Lower Tamar and Tavy Valleys</p>	<p>Intertidal zone and estuary land margins of the lower reaches of the Tamar and Tavy rivers.</p> <p>An open flat area of mudflats enclosed by low landform and vegetation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 areas • Low-lying areas prone to sea flooding in storm conditions • Areas of intense water based recreation and amenity use in the southerly part 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamar Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) • Part of and adjacent to Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area (SPA), Tamar-Tavy Estuary SSSI • Juxtaposition of estuarine and built elements • Internationally important bird habitat supporting rare estuarine species such as avocet • County Geological site on the east bank of the Tamar associated with mining history • Local Nature Reserve at Warleigh Wood • Tamar Valley Discovery Trail • Historic daffodil varieties growing in hedgebanks and woodlands make a significant impact on the landscape in Spring • Tamar Valley Line provides elevated views from bridges across the mouth of the Tavy

			<p>and Ernesettle Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blocks of valley-side oak and birch woodland on southern bank of the Tavy, with an important line of hedgerow trees, including fruit trees, a legacy of the former soft fruit industry • Post-medieval reclaimed land at Warleigh Marsh • Stone quays and other evidence of industry at Weir Quay and Bere Ferrers • Sparse settlement with Weir Quay and Bere Ferrers on the Devon bank the two main settlements • Relatively unspoiled waterfronts at Weir Quay and Bere Ferrers • Long spectacular watery views to the south towards the Royal Albert Bridge and Tamar Suspension Bridge • Historic church at Bere Ferrers and country houses at Maristow and Warleigh with extensive grounds • Designed landscape features associated with Maristow House • Remains of tide mill at Blaxton Quay • Riverside access and infrastructure at Lopwell Dam • Patterns of light and water, sounds and smells at the waterside
Devon – Middle Tamar Valley	<p>Sinuous and meandering middle reaches of the Tamar.</p> <p>A gorge-like river valley with views of the water, gently undulating farmland, and extensive woodland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meandering and looping river valley, narrow in parts, with steep sides • Significant views up and down the River Tamar from several viewpoints • Historic quays, riverside settlements and evidence of 19th century industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamar Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) • Part of and adjacent to Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area (SPA), Tamar-Tavy Estuary SSSI

	<p>Intimate, short tributary valleys barely visible from higher ground.</p> <p>Topography further north more gentle and open.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Core of Tamar Valley and Tavistock WHS area with engine houses, chimneys and spoil heaps prominent in the landscape • Winding narrow sunken lanes and packhorse paths to industrial sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockridge Mine SSSI, Devon Great Consols SSSI • Tidal qualities of the southern stretch that flows in a winding course of incised meanders • Within the WHS, Morwellham important with links to Tavistock and the Dukes of Bedford as are the former areas of Bedford estate to the north of the area • Steep mixed-wooded valley sides with features such as Chimney Rock where the granite has been exposed • Tradition of orchards and market gardening evident particularly on the Bere Peninsula and around Sydenham Damerel • The landscape at Endsleigh is associated with Humphrey Repton, the house itself was designed by Wyattville in the early C19 • County Geological Site on the east bank of the Tamar associated with historic mining • Internationally important bird habitat supporting rare estuarine species such as avocet • Variety of field boundaries, but many contain remnants of the market gardening industry (such as daffodils) and soft fruit trees especially on the Bere Peninsula • Former packing sheds in the landscape represent the legacy of the market gardening industry • Numerous features associated with mining and industry particularly the complexes at Devon Great Consols and Gawton, chimneys associated with those sites, as they emerge from woodlands, are a
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			<p>particular feature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant river crossings and medieval bridges at Greystone, Horsebridge and Newbridge • County Wildlife sites on the valley side, floor and wetlands • Settlement generally focussed on the river and the influence of its historic trade • Houses show a combination of stone, slate-hanging and pastel-coloured render or paint • Morwellham Quay, nationally significant heritage site and a tourist attraction • Hillfort earthworks at Dunterue Wood and Castle Head near Dunterton • Conservation Areas at Bere Ferrers, Bere Alston and Weir Quay • Strong artistic connections – J.M.W Turner painting 'Crossing the Brook' (1815) • Tamar Valley Line provides access from Plymouth along a scenic route including the crossing the landmark viaduct at Calstock • Tamar Valley Discovery Trail and Tamar Trails • Enclosed and sunken paths and lanes • Bere Peninsula has a particular feeling of remoteness and an unchanged landscape as a result of restricted road communications • Tranquillity and dark skies in the upper reaches away from Plymouth
Middle Tavy Valley	Open rolling and sloping pastoral uplands surrounding the mixed wooded middle section of the River Tavy valley.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open rolling uplands contrast with steep wooded valley sides and again with moorland character to the east 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grenofen Wood SSSI and West Down SSSI • County Wildlife Sites in woodland and unimproved grassland

	<p>Moorland-edge character to the east at the boundary with Dartmoor.</p> <p>The Tavy Valley is separated from the Tamar by a narrow high plateau.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 hedgebanks • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Nature Reserve at Lopwell Down • Medium-sized semi-regular fields and post-medieval Barton fields resulting from estate tenure • Neighbours areas of unenclosed moorland on Dartmoor to the east • Long history of mining, including medieval mining on the Bere Peninsula, which is apparent in the landscape • Settlement consists of dispersed farms, occasional nucleated villages and larger villages including Buckland Monachorum and Crapstone • Straight roads on high land and sunken lanes with high hedges on valley sides • Open views towards Dartmoor from higher land, particularly around Bere Alston and Gulworthy • Within Cornwall and West Devon Mining Heritage WHS • Buckland Abbey rich in historic significance and also a major National Trust tourist site • 500-year old Lumburn Leat, associated with the medieval Royal silver mines on the Bere Peninsula • Conservation Areas at Milton Combe and Buckland Monachorum • Historic river crossing point at Denham Bridge • Tamar Valley Discovery Trail, West Devon Way and Drakes Trail
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