

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

# **AONB Partnership Committee Meeting**

to be held at

**10am on Friday 11 February 2022**

**Remote Video Meeting**  
via Zoom

**Agenda & Papers**



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## **AONB Partnership Committee Membership**

### **Members nominated by local authorities**

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

### **Members nominated by statutory agencies**

Environment Agency	Rob Price
Forestry Commission	Jon Burgess
Historic England	Ross Simmonds
Natural England	Eamon Crowe

### **Members co-opted by the AONB Partnership Committee**

National Trust	Richard Snow
Plymouth University	John Martin (Vice Chair)
Independent	John Green (Chair)
South West Coast Path Association	Ken Carter

### **Community Representatives**

Amenity groups	Penny Mills
Business community	Gary Jolliffe
Coast and marine sector	Natasha Bradshaw
Community/voluntary groups	Peter Sandover
Environmental organisations (NGOs)	Ed Parr-Ferris
Landowning/farming community	Charles Wreford-Brown
Parish Councils	Liz Hitchins
Tourism community	Laura Campbell

#### *AONB Unit staff attending*

AONB Manager	Roger English
AONB Office Manager	Vanessa Gray

#### *Also attending*

AONB Community Projects Officer	Nicky Bailey
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## Agenda

Item 1	Public statements	
The formal meeting and live recording to YouTube immediately follows the public statement session		
Item 2 (5 mins)	Introductions & apologies for absence	
Item 3	Declarations of Interests	
Item 4 (5 mins)	Minutes of the last Partnership Committee meeting (26 November 2021) for approval & any matters arising	Page 2
Item 5 (25 mins)	<b>Partner updates</b> – partner contributions to conserving and enhancing the South Devon AONB and AONB Management Plan priorities Dec 21-Mar 22 & year ahead Apr 22-Mar 23	Verbal
Item 6 (25 mins)	<b>National AONB Matters</b> 6a) Government response to the Landscapes Review and a South Devon AONB response to the consultation	Page 13
Item 7 (20 mins) (15 mins) (15 mins)	<b>AONB Management</b> 7a) <i>The Life on the Edge</i> Project 7b) Farming in Protected Landscapes programme 7c) Slapton Adaptation Project	Page 26 Page 35 Page 39
Item 8 (10 mins)	<b>AONB Partnership Matters</b> 8a) Update to Terms of Reference	Page 43
Item 9	<b>For Information</b> 9a) Planning update 9b) Current and recent key planning applications 9c) AONB Staff Unit activity report 9d) South Devon Water Vole survey	Annex 1 Page 52 Page 55 Page 59

## ITEM 4 Approval of Minutes & Matters Arising

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH DEVON AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

REMOTE VIDEO MEETING VIA ZOOM  
ON FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

##### Those present were:

Cllr Roger Croad	RC	Devon County Council
Cllr Jonathan Hawkins	JH	Devon County Council
Peter Chamberlain	PC	Devon County Council
Cllr Nicky Hopwood	NH	South Hams District Council
Graham Swiss	GS	South Hams District Council
Cllr Anne Brooks	AB	Torbay Council
Tracy Brooks	TB	Torbay Council
Sam Lew	SL	Plymouth City Council <i>attending in place of Sarah Foque</i>
Rob Price	RP	Environment Agency
Eamon Crowe	EC	Natural England
John Green	Chair	Independent
Penny Mills	PM	Representative: amenity groups
Gary Jolliffe	GJ	Representative: business community
Natasha Bradshaw	NB	Representative: coast and marine
Peter Sandover	PS	Representative: community/voluntary groups
Ed Parr Ferris	EPF	Representative: environmental organisations (NGOs)
Charles Wreford-Brown	CWB	Representative: landowning/farming
Laura Campbell	LC	Representative: tourism
Roger English	RE	AONB Manager
Vanessa Gray		AONB Office Manager – minute taker

##### Also in attendance:

Kathryn Deeney	KD	Plymouth City Council
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##### Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Bernard Taylor		South Hams District Council
Jon Burgess		Forestry Commission <i>update provided</i>
Richard Snow		National Trust
John Martin	Vice-chair	Plymouth University
Lix Hitchins		Representative: parishes

Six new Partnership Committee members are welcomed to Partnership Committee representing Community Groups.

##### Observers

Observers were requested to follow the meeting live via YouTube

#### 2. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

2.1 One public statement was made on the subject of Bantham.

3A. Prior to commencing the formal agenda, Cllr Hopwood raised the lateness of the papers and sought assurance that going forward papers will be distributed no later than five days prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED**

The Chair committed that papers will be distributed at least one week prior to meetings.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

3.1 No interests were declared.

**4. MINUTES OF THE 25 JUNE 2021 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING FOR APPROVAL & ANY MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**5A COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

5a.1 The Partnership Chair and the AONB Manager thanked the outgoing Community Representatives for their support, hard work and dedication and warmly welcomed those new to the Partnership.

5a.2 Full election results are detailed in the papers.

**i. 5B CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

5b.1 The AONB Manager went through the update contained in the papers.

5b.2 Following the special case outlined in the papers and the mutually beneficial opportunities that would be gained, the AONB Manager recommended co-option of the South West Coast Path Association to the AONB Partnership.

**It was decided that**

- No decision to take place within the meeting due to late papers
- **ACTION 1 (all):** Send comments on co-opting the South West Coast Path Association to the AONB Partnership Committee via email to the AONB Manager by 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

*Post meeting update: the AONB Manager has received three emails all of which supported extending an invitation to the South West Coast Path Association.*

**6A PLYMOUTH SOUND NATIONAL MARINE PARK**

6a.1 Kathryn Deeney, Head of Environmental Planning at Plymouth City Council, gave a presentation on Plymouth Sound National Marine Park for Partnership Committee members.

Observations and in discussion

- i. Kathryn was thanked for her presentation. The project is exciting and congratulations were given on obtaining funding.
- ii. Responding to a question on broader engagement and promotion: The scope of the Horizons bid is focussed on Plymouth and immediate area. There is a lot of National Marine Park work that goes beyond the scope of the Horizons bid. Currently recruiting for a Chief Executive Officer for the National Marine Park after which the wider scope of work can commence. On the Horizons project, wider promotion will take place, for example events. There is potential to liaise with the South Devon AONB staff unit on connecting with people generally and potentially tie in with AONB programme to increase reach.

- iii. A number of suggested engagements were proposed and offers of working closely made
  - a. It was suggested opportunities for engagement with Wembury Marine Centre should be explored. Their engagement reaches into Plymouth and the wider AONB and includes education and citizen science activities.
  - b. A number of organisations including Devon Wildlife Trust, RSPB, the Environment Agency and others have worked on habitat restoration, saltmarsh creation etc. and would be keen to engage with Kathryn. DWT also keen to engage on the Nature Recovery work.
  - c. Wembury Environment Group will be useful people to engage on sustainable management.

**Response**

KD thanked all for their offers which will be taken up.

- iv. The ambition to get more people engaged with the marine environment will need to be balanced with not increasing pressure on sensitive habitats.
- v. What activities are planned for the portion of Marine Park within the AONB?

**Response**

At this stage the closest big area of activity to the AONB is around Mountbatten peninsula. There are discussions on how to use the South West Coast Path as key connector and how to join up. Will liaise with the AONB Manager to ensure a joined up approach.

- vi. How will governance arrangements for the National Marine Park relate to arrangements we have for AONB and the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum?

**Response**

Heritage fund project

This project has its own governance, given the funding requirements on how to report

National Marine Park

Interim board is in place with representatives from various sectors. The new CEO will be tasked to review the interim governance arrangements. TECF were on the recruitment panel for the new CEO.

- vii. The Partnership Chair thanked Kathryn for the presentation. Members of Partnership Committee were invited to send their views to the AONB Manager.
- viii. **ACTION 2 (KD):** Provide a copy of the presentation that can be shared with Partnership Committee

**6B PLYMOUTH AND SOUTH DEVON COMMUNITY FOREST**

- 6b.1 Kathryn Deeney gave a presentation on Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest for Partnership Committee members.

The Chair thanked Kathryn for her presentation.

Observations and in discussion

- i. At its greatest extent, where would the boundary be?

**Response**

Initial area

- North to edge of Dartmoor

- Across to the Tamar; discussions are underway with Forest for Cornwall<sup>1</sup> to look into the possibility of linking around the Tamar area, in particular Mount Edgecombe
- Around the Yealm catchment area
- Boundary to the East will be one of the key discussions about the forest plan and how it integrates with the emerging local nature recovery strategy.

From other community forests we can see where there is a scheme that falls just outside of the boundary that links ecologically or through an access network with the scheme just inside the boundary, they are being funded.

- ii. Eamon Crowe: Natural England have one or two woodland officers coming through the Trees Action Plan<sup>2</sup> it would be beneficial for them to engage with you.
- iii. Ed Parr Ferris:
  - Devon Wildlife Trust has the Saving Devons Treescapes project<sup>3</sup> working with a wide partnership developing tree nurseries; keen to engage with Kat to develop that.
  - Seed hubs; DWT work on habitat restoration of grasslands, could link in with this.
  - DWT also have land advisors working with farmers and landowners in the area and are keen to explore all options.
  - The Yealm & parts of the Tamar have strategic nature areas for woodland; likewise the Erm and the Avon.
- iv. Graham Swiss: Are all the proposed sites owned by Plymouth City Council and are there resources available for ongoing management?

#### **Response**

In year one, most of the land is owned by PCC however a grant will open up for landowners next year. A long term maintenance pot is part of the grant funding however potentially an investment fund can be set up for the longer term. Prior to Christmas, will put to Defra the need for funding to bring existing woodland back into good condition.

- v. Peter Chamberlain: Engagement with Cornwall with their Forest for Cornwall initiative was mentioned. In Devon through the Local Nature Partnership we have the Trees for Devon initiative which brings together number of tree initiatives across Devon. Would welcome if contact could be re-established with Devon County Council and engagement widened to include the LNP.

#### **Response**

Currently reviewing the governance, looking at re-engaging with the stakeholder working group post Christmas. All are invited to send ideas and suggestions to the National Marine Park email or Community Forest email as appropriate.

**ACTION 3 (KD):** Send email addresses to the AONB Manager.

## **6C NATURE RECOVERY**

- 6c.1 The AONB Manager went through the update contained in the papers.  
Observations and in discussion

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/countryside/forest-for-cornwall-programme/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-trees-action-plan-2021-to-2024>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/our-projects/saving-devons-treescapes>

- i. Ed Parr Ferris:
  - a. The emerging Devon Nature Recovery Network map shows what can be created and tries to prioritise where that could be done. So far what can be created has been worked on and this will be showcased on 30th November.
  - b. Next year work will take place around habitat fragmentation and connectivity to try and prioritise where to focus effort. Other pieces of work include linking nature recovery with natural flood management, carbon sequestration and water quality benefits over the next couple of years. Also looking at lost habitats.
  - c. Some initial work looking at the marine world has been done to understand how that could be linked. Currently looking at coastal habitats and some intertidal habitats.
- ii. Engagement
  - a. There is a small Partnership Committee working group that has met twice. Following the Community Representative elections two have left the group. Further Partnership member participation in the working group is welcomed.
 

**ACTION 4 (all):** Indicate your interest in joining the working group on the Nature Recovery Plan by contacting the AONB Manager.
  - b. Other opportunities to get involved will include workshops and stakeholder groups that will be held up to finance year end and beyond.
  - c. Getting pipeline and menu of programmes lined up and underway and appropriately woven together is critical.
 

**ACTION 5 (all):** Advise the AONB Manager of any areas of activity the Partnership feels the AONB Unit should be prioritising or paying particular attention to developing collaborative actions in response to the wider issues of the climate and biodiversity crisis.

## 6D DEVON LAND USE FRAMEWORK

6d.1 The AONB Manager went through the update contained in the papers.

Observations and in discussion

- i. The project team will come to a future Partnership Committee meeting to provide an update.
- ii. There will be an opportunity for wider Partnership Committee member involvement via planned workshops.
- iii. Peter Sandover: There are overlaps and there are currently a number of separate papers. Issue of how this impacts planning and overlap with the planning white paper and how that effects the JLP review. Would hope for partner involvements and a joined up approach.

### Response

Chair there is the potential for wider impacts so would welcome this being brought back to a future Partnership Committee meeting.

- iv. Ed Parr Ferris: Wider land use approaches are being discussed; The Nature Recovery Group are in contact with the Devon Land Use group. They are also involved in another project that is looking at natural flood management and wider flood resilience.

## 6E NATIONAL MATTERS

6e.1 The AONB Manager went through the update contained in the papers.

## Observations and in discussion

### i. Glover Landscapes Review

- a. A Government response to the Glover Landscapes Review, along with a consultation, is anticipated to be published in mid-December 2021.

*Post meeting updates: the full Government response is now anticipated in January 2022*

- b. The consultation will fall between Partnership Committee meetings so updates will be provided via email. Depending on the nature of the consultation the aim will be to hold a workshop open to all Partnership Committee members.

### ii. Heritage Statement

- a. A joint statement on the historic environment in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty has been prepared. The new joint statement has been agreed and approved by Historic England, the National Association for AONBs and around half of the English AONBs. Release of the statement fell outside of our South Devon AONB Partnership cycle. Partnership members are requested to read and digest the statement. There is a presumption in favour of signing and the AONB Manager requests he be informed of any queries or concerns within seven days after which time, in the absence of any feedback suggesting otherwise, he will sign on behalf of the Partnership.

**ACTION 6 (all):** Read and digest the joint heritage statement and inform the AONB Manager of any queries or concerns within seven days.

*Post meeting update: South Devon AONB Partnership is now formally signed up to the joint statement.*

## 7 ROUND TABLE PARTNER UPDATES

### 7.1 Sam Lew, Plymouth City Council

- i. National Infrastructure Officer promoting sustainable recreation. Working on a couple of projects:
- ii. Recreation ReMEDIES<sup>4</sup>. Seagrass planting is ongoing and showing early signs of success. As part of that project there is a network of advance mooring systems being placed around the Sound to minimise impact of anchoring chains.
- iii. Preventing Plastic Pollution.
  - a. Recently purchased two wave sharks, surface water remote operated vehicles that gobble up waste.
  - b. Lots of new angling work including a network of angling line bins installed. Also surveys of angling waste on sea floor. Working to remove a lot of the angling waste and working with angling communities to address the issue.
- iv. Have a water users guide currently out for consultation, to be released next year.

### 7.2 Cllr Jonathan Hawkins, Devon County Council

- i. Kingswear lighthouse beach has been closed for over 20 years. A meeting is being held there on 30<sup>th</sup> November between Cllr Andrea Davis, Devon County Council cabinet member for Public Rights of Way, myself and the AONB Manager to discuss the reopening of the beach and Beacon Road.
- ii. Working with farmers to effect change to agricultural working practises so soil and other run off does not come onto the road or down to the villages.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://saveourseabed.co.uk/>

### 7.3 Peter Chamberlain, Devon County Council

- i. Trees
  - a. This Saturday marks the start of National Tree week, an opportunity for people to get involved in tree planting activities.
  - b. New guidance has recently been launched on the Devon Local Nature Partnership website<sup>5</sup> to help people get the right place for the right tree.
  - c. There is a new list of all the various funding sources that are available to support tree planting and woodland establishments<sup>6</sup>
- ii. There is an EU funded project called TIDES<sup>7&8</sup>, which is a project for historic maritime tourism. Originally due to end next summer, an application to extend has been made.

### 7.4 Cllr Anne Brooks, Torbay Council

- ii. Attended a Surrey Hills AONB Symposium on 'Our Climate and Biodiversity Emergency'. It was interesting hearing peoples views on behavioural change and the psychology that can influence achieving that change.

### 7.5 Tracy Brooks, Torbay Council

- i. Moving toward regulation 18 options consultation on the local plan.

### 7.6 Graham Swiss, South Hams District Council

- i. New Planning Bill has not yet materialised. There has been opposition to some of the proposals from MPs around the country and it is understood the Government are rethinking aspects of the bill. Anticipate the bill will now be introduced next year.
- ii. South Hams District Council have declared a housing crisis. There are significant pressures on housing in the area. SHDC are engaging on a range of initiatives including lobbying ministers and working with partners and communities to try and get sites coming forward for affordable housing, including taking action on SHDC's own land.
- iii. SHDC are required to submit annual housing monitoring data to Government to show how much housing has been delivered in the district. The pandemic impacted the number of houses developed. Last year SHDC demonstrated 6.1 years housing land supply and this year the figure is likely to be only a little lower.

### 7.7 Robert Price, Environment Agency

- i. Rob Price provided a presentation for Partnership members.
  - a. River Dart Country Park weir removal. Opened up over 20 Km of water course to allow migratory fish species such as salmon, sea trout and eels to migrate further upstream.
  - b. Buckfast Abbey technical fish pass installed – works as a shoot when water levels are low.  
**ACTION 7 (RP):** share information with Eamon Crowe.
  - c. Working with partners, including West Country Rivers Trust, implemented interventions to address nutrients on the Gara catchment.
  - d. Rural diffuse pollution - Land Management Pilot Project team are now operational. Additional officers working with the agricultural sector to improve land management.
  - e. Planning and reporting
    - i. Draft River Basin and Flood Risk Management Plans are out for consultation. A workshop hosted by the Catchment partnership is taking place on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/knowledge-hub/trees-and-hedges/right-place-right-tree/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/our-work/trees-for-devon/sources-of-funding-for-tree-planting-in-devon/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.tide-atlantic.eu/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.devon.gov.uk/historicenvironment/projects/tide/>

- ii. 12,000 meters have been placed on water industry assets around the country gathering data. The data is helping place pressure on water industry. A joint investigation on declarations from the water industry where it is felt they are not compliant, by the EA and OFWAT, is ongoing.
- iii. Delay in bathing water classifications following a legal challenge. Information from a number of rain gauges must now be considered. Now due to be released in January.
- iv. Devon and Cornwall Local Outcome Plan refresh.
- v. Online tools:
  1. New look Catchment Data Explorer<sup>9</sup>  
Easier to use and more information
  2. New - NFM Studio<sup>10</sup>  
Natural Flood Management Studio models the best places for interventions. A complex tool targeted at technical working partners
  3. New - Natural Capital Market Place  
December launch of the Natural Capital Market Place for Devon Mapping valuable assets landowners have and how to attract private sector investment to sustain the activities, such as carbon offset / biodiversity net gain.

f. Funding

- i. Second round of the Natural Environment Readiness Fund has been launched. Applications by end January.
- ii. Water Environment Investment Fund. Set up for partners to deliver outcomes against the Water Framework Directive. Contact Rob with project ideas.

7.8 Eamon Crowe, Natural England

- i. Involved in the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme – on two Local Assessment Panels: South Devon and Dartmoor.
- ii. Diffuse pollution – NE taking on more Catchment Sensitive Farming officers next year as phase five of CSF.

7.9 Penny Mills, representative for amenity groups

- i. Also involved with other AONBs:
  - a. East Devon – meeting taking place this afternoon
  - b. North Devon
  - c. Blackdown Hills

Believe that South Devon AONB may be the only one live streaming meetings.

- ii. Meeting Amenity Group representatives next week via Zoom. A number of emails have been received. The intention is to go through the issues and concerns raised on the Zoom meeting to have a better understanding of them before following up with the AONB Manager.
- iii. Devon CPRE are highly involved in planning.
  - a. Housing is a huge issue in and out of the AONB.
  - b. Devon built 30% more houses than required according to Government figures.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/ManagementCatchment/3081>

<sup>10</sup> <https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/natural-flood-management-toolbox-a-7-step-guide-to-developing-a-nfm-scheme/>

- c. CPRE nationally have produced new research on brown field land availability in the country and found there is sufficient for 1.3m homes. CPRE are pressuring the Government to develop that before green fields.
- d. Enforcement of conditions attached to planning consents regularly crops up. Lack of enforcement is an issue everywhere and has also been raised as happening in South Devon AONB.

7.10 Peter Sandover, representative for community and voluntary groups

- i. A number of Neighbourhood Plans coming forward.
- ii. Several of the Neighbourhood Plans have brownfield policies.

7.11 Ed Parr Ferris, representative for environmental organisations (NGOs)

- i. Launch of the Nature Recovery Network first phase takes place next Tuesday, more presentations will follow.
- ii. The consultation on the reintroduction of beavers to England ended on 17<sup>th</sup> November, currently awaiting results from Government around late winter or early spring.
- iii. Avon Valley project has been operating for ten years. A huge amount of work and a model for landowners on how to restore habitat without core agri-environment funding. Look to continue this and perhaps expand into other areas.
- iv. Highly Protected Marine Areas – put forward suggestions for Start and Skerries and others put forward Wembury. Expect a Government response in the next couple of months. Those that go through are expected to be designated by the end of 2022
- v. DWT are about to launch an updated planning toolkit on their website.
- vi. On brownfield sites, these often support wildlife that cannot exist elsewhere so habitat and species surveys should be conducted.

7.12 Charles Wreford-Brown, representative for landowning and farming

- i. The demise of the basic payment scheme and the introduction of Environmental Land Management schemes will have an impact.

7.13 Laura Campbell, representative for tourism

- i. Discover Dartmouth have signed up with England's Coast<sup>11</sup> and there are a lot of initiatives coming forward with the year of the coast etc.
- ii. Work with businesses to develop product and ensure they are sustainable.
- iii. Looking at green tourism programmes and how tourism businesses can make themselves more sustainable. Bringing together all of the information that is available.
- iv. New sustainable community website being launched - Sustainable Dartmouth
- v. Working with a number of festivals helping to go green.
- vi. Conversations taking place on how to make travel less impactful on the area.

7.14 Jon Burgess, Forestry Commission (update provided via email)

- i. We have had a strong uptake of the new England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) with the first schemes to be planted this winter. There has been limited uptake in the first wave in South Devon AONB but we are still aware that many landowners are holding off making land use decisions until the new ELM grants determine the direction and viability of grant reliant farming practises.
- ii. We launched the Call to Action Tree fund and received more applications from the Southwest than anywhere else in the country. The fund was 6 times over-subscribed demonstrating the enthusiasm for

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.englishcoast.com/en>

tree planting as a response to the climate and biodiversity crisis. This fund will support the creation and development of Woodland Creation Partnerships similar to the ground-breaking Forest4Cornwall, we are currently assessing bids and will invite a selected number to submit for full application.

- iii. The Forest England Woodland Partnership (FEWP) has resulted in over 800 ha of woodland with one scheme in the first wave on Exmoor. This model sees landowners lease their land to the Forestry Commission to plant and manage the woodland. Minimum requirements are for 50+ha and mandatory public access. The flagship scheme is with York Council who have purchased an 80ha site where the FEWP woodland will offset their carbon emissions making them the first carbon neutral council in the country. We hope to see more schemes coming forward in this area next year, any interested landowners should contact the Forestry Commission direct.

#### 7.15 Roger English, AONB Manager

- i. An appointment has been made for the role of Slapton Line Adaptation Manager, looking for an early to mid-January start date. A project oversight meeting has been scheduled with a stakeholder group meeting to follow.
- ii. Update from Core Funding Group meeting
  - a. Meetings are held twice a year. Last meeting was held in September, next meeting February 2022.
  - b. Budgets are on track.
  - c. Life on The Edge application was achieved using a small amount of reserves to engage additional support.
  - d. The AONB Project Officer, Adam Davison, is now working a four day week. This change allows for an element of reinvestment of staff time into DM support work. Conversations are ongoing with Dartmoor and a suggested alternative option from Penny Mills will also be followed up.
  - e. The Defra Grant Funding Agreement is pivotal to way the AONB operates. Over the last two years only single year Grant Funding Agreements have been issued in place of the usual three year agreement. The letter to Richard Benyon about funding of AONBs has already been mentioned, at present Defra funding for core activities has remained static whilst budget costs have increased.
  - f. The AONB is in the final year of our three year hosting agreement with SHDC and in the final year of our Service Level Agreement with SHDC. The Council will scrutinise performance and delivery and will look at work that underpins corporate strategy.
  - g. In the past the Partnership Chair has attended Core Funding Group meetings as an observer. As a consequence of the last meeting the Partnership Chair is now a fully- fledged member of Core Funding Group, acting on behalf of Partnership as a whole.
- iii. A Farming in Protected Landscapes written update will be provided post-meeting.
- iv. Statement Presentation clarification
  - The Estate Plan is actually a Whole Estate Management Plan and is NOT an AONB Management Plan. The Whole Estate Management Plan was fully funded by estate. The AONB has had some small input with discussions with Bantham Estate were convened via Stuart Watts of Aune Conservation Association and Bigbury Parish Council in part as a response to what appeared to be ad-hoc planning application submissions and at the same time a lot of productive work on the estate with agri-environment schemes etc. The request was for the estate to put forward a management approach for the estate as a whole, recognising its important status and position in the AONB. Whole Estate Management Plans have been tried and tested in High Weald AONB and South Downs National Park. The South Devon AONB

provided some small inputs into the Bantham Whole Estate Management Plan however it was not steered by the AONB. The former Cornwall AONB Manager was the principal contractor for that work. The Bantham Estate website incorrectly stated it is the first AONB Management Plan; we are taking action to ensure this is corrected. For clarification, the only South Devon AONB Management Plan is a statutory document required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. The AONB Management Plan is produced by the AONB staff unit on behalf of the Partnership and its constituent Local Planning Authorities. The Estate Management Plan approach is the right way to go in order to put in one place the bigger ambition and include the conserve and enhance duty. We reserve the right to challenge as and when proposals come forward.

## 8B CURRENT AND RECENT KEY APPLICATIONS

8b.1 Gerston Point enforcement notice appeal will take place in early February. The AONB Manager will appear alongside LPA colleagues to provide expert witness input on AONB matters.

## PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2022

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

- 11 March at 10am, venue tbc
- 24 June at 10am, venue tbc
- 25 November at 10am, venue tbc

It is hoped in person meetings can resume but we may need to fall back to using Zoom.

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

### Post distribution amendments to draft minutes:

- Item 6B – point v.
  - In Devon through the Local Nature Partnership we have the **Broad** Trees for Devon initiative which brings together number of tree initiatives across Devon. Would welcome if contact could be re-established with Devon **County Council** and engagement widened to include the LNP
- Item 3A - ~~In the event papers are incomplete at that point, they will be distributed with a note that addendums to follow.~~
- Item 7.13- point i
  - Discover Dartmouth have signed up with England's Coast and there are with a lot of initiatives coming forward with the year of the coast etc. *Link to England's Coast website inserted as a footnote <https://www.englishcoast.com/en>*

## ITEM 6. National AONB Matters

### 6A. Government Response to the Landscapes Review and a South Devon AONB response to the consultation

ITEM FOR	DECISION	REPORT BY	Roger English AONB Manager
<b>SUMMARY</b>	The Government formally responded to the Landscapes Review, setting out which of the proposals it will implement and how. It has launched a consultation on its proposed response. The NAAONB will be making a formal consultation response. Views on key points for the South Devon AONB response are sought		
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	NONE		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Partnership notes the Government's Response to the Landscapes Review</li> <li>ii. The Partnership supports the NAAONB consultation response</li> <li>iii. The Partnership endorses the South Devon AONB consultation response</li> </ul>		

#### Government Response to the Landscapes Review

1. The Government Response to the Landscapes Review<sup>12</sup> was published on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and is accompanied by a 12 week open consultation due to close on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The response and its general direction has been broadly welcomed by many. The question remains as to whether it goes far enough to deliver the kind of transformational change that Julian Glover and his review panel colleagues articulated in their final report in September 2019.
2. Below is a table from Defra setting out a summary of their response to the key points of the Review with an indication of the Government's proposed actions. More detail is contained in Government's Response document linked above and a shorthand version of the response together with the consultation question set can be found in Appendix 1 to this report.
3. The Landscapes Review identified 27 wide ranging proposals (Appendix 2 to this report) that they felt would enable protected landscapes to deliver for nature, climate, and people into the future. The Government has identified which proposals their responses relate to in the table below. Note that the Government response does not follow the same structure used by the Landscapes Review, opting instead to group items within four chapters.
4. The colour coding in the series of tables that follows is the Government's opinion of whether their proposed response will achieve the desired outcomes of the Review.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/landscapes-review-national-parks-and-aonbs-government-response/landscapes-review-national-parks-and-aonbs-government-response>

Key to colour coding

Colour	Meaning
Red	Government does not intend to pursue this proposal
Orange	Government believes the outcomes will be met, but in a different way than proposed in the Landscapes Review
Green	Government believes the desired outcomes will be met

<b>Chapter 1 – A more coherent national network</b>	
<p><b>Strengthened AONBs (Proposal 24)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Package of reformed statutory frameworks and resources, bringing closer to National Parks</li> <li>- Action to be prioritised in AONBs</li> <li>- Step change represented by rebranding (NAAONB)</li> </ul>	green
<p><b>Strategic Direction (Proposal 25)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new national landscapes partnership between National Parks England, the NAAONB, and others – not a new public body</li> <li>- A national landscapes strategy – clear national policy framework to guide the national landscapes partnership and inform local management plans</li> <li>- Natural England’s role to be reinvigorated, building on role as our statutory advisor on English landscapes</li> </ul>	orange
<b>Chapter 2 – Nature and Climate Change</b>	
<p><b>The Nature Recovery Network and 30 by 30 (Proposal 4)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support preparing and delivery of Local Nature Partnerships, aligned with management plans</li> <li>- Reform and investment targeted to achieve 30x30 (Green Paper)</li> </ul>	green
<p><b>A stronger mission for nature recovery (Proposal 1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amending the statutory purpose – more focus on nature recovery</li> </ul>	green
<p><b>Setting ambition and monitoring progress (Proposals 2 and 4)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment will provide data on habitats, natural capital, and ecosystem function</li> </ul>	green
<p><b>Agricultural transition (Proposal 5)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Options for how the special status of protected landscapes should be reflected in environmental land management schemes</li> <li>- Will build on the success of Farming in Protected Landscapes</li> </ul>	orange
<b>Chapter 3 – People and Place</b>	
<p><b>Landscapes for everyone (Proposals 8, 9, 10, 11, 13)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National landscapes partnership to develop national strategic partnerships and collaborative campaigns</li> <li>- Rewarding farmers for enhanced access e.g. Farming in Protected Landscapes</li> <li>- Working across government to support health and wellbeing initiatives in protected landscapes</li> </ul>	orange
<p><b>A stronger mission for connecting people and places (Proposal 7)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extend 2<sup>nd</sup> purpose to AONBs and strengthen wording in relation to all parts of society and public health</li> </ul>	green

<b>Supporting local communities (Proposal 17)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A 3<sup>rd</sup> statutory purpose could create unintended circumstances, but we will support the effective discharge of existing duties</li> </ul>	red
<b>Sustainable transport (Proposal 19)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting a pilot in the Lake District and updating guidance around Local Transport Plans</li> </ul>	green
<b>Open access land (Proposal 16)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree in principle, but any extension of rights will follow a review of current open access area maps</li> <li>- Aim to remedy barriers to the provision of permissive access by landowners</li> </ul>	orange
<b>National Trails (Proposal 15)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential role for new National Trails charity in national landscapes partnership</li> </ul>	green
<b>Sustainable tourism (Proposal 14)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Producing a Sustainable Tourism Plan and will be engaging with representatives from protected landscapes teams to help inform that plan</li> <li>- Greater range of enforcement powers available to National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority to help manage recreational pressures, including Green Lanes</li> </ul>	green
<b>Planning reform (Proposal 6)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning reforms are ongoing</li> <li>- Consulting on statutory status for AONBs</li> <li>- Future review of the National Planning Policy Framework to reconsider protected landscapes policy</li> </ul>	orange
<b>Affordable housing (Proposal 18)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The appropriate policy response should address this issue in all rural areas through England-wide measures</li> </ul>	red
<b>Chapter 4 – Supporting local delivery</b>	
<b>Local governance (Proposal 26)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A flexible package of measures to improve local governance, to be developed in consultation with board members e.g. appointments, performance management, strategic alignment, local partnerships</li> <li>- Replace the former Countryside Agency guidance on managing AONBs</li> </ul>	green
<b>Management plans (Proposal 3)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthening the duty of regard on public bodies and updating guidance</li> <li>- Natural England to produce an outcomes framework to help link national landscapes strategy to local management plans</li> <li>- Natural England to update guidance on management plans and review revised plans</li> </ul>	green
<b>Sustainable finance (Proposal 27)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approximately 15% uplift to AONB grant in 21/22 financial year</li> <li>- Expanding and accelerating private finance in nature recovery</li> </ul>	orange
<b>General power of competence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consulting on strengthening legal competence of National Parks and Broads Authority</li> </ul>	none
<b>Landscape Designation Programme (Proposal 20, 21, 22)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Natural England undertaking new Landscape Designation Programme, with initial consideration of two new AONBs in Yorkshire Wolds and Cheshire Sandstone Ridge</li> </ul>	none

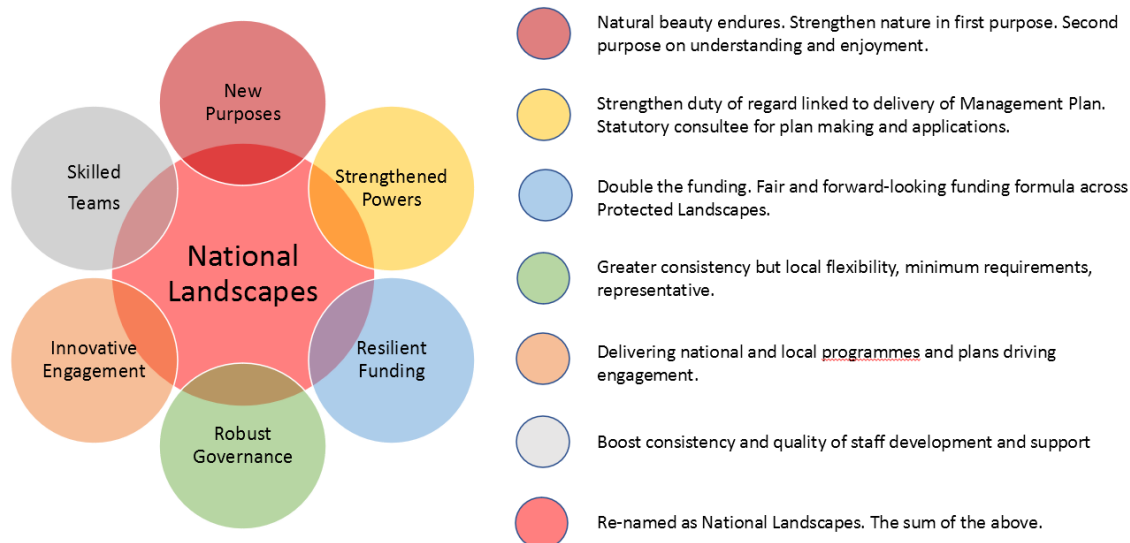
### National Association for AONB’s (NAAONB) Response

5. The NAAONB have been negotiating and working closely with Defra via a ‘Contact Group’ since publication of the Landscapes review report in September 2019. In advance of the government’s formal response to the review’s findings, the NAAONB framed a position around proposal 24 in the Landscapes Review “*AONBs be strengthened with new purposes, powers and resources, renamed as National Landscapes*”. The position focused upon changes that would represent a statutory designated landscape, by design, fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - delivering more for climate, nature, people and place - looking forward, but built on the legacy and learning from 70 years of AONBs.
6. Since publication on the 15<sup>th</sup> January, the NAAONB has worked with AONB Lead Officers and AONB Chairs from around the country, to refine this position and be clear on ‘what good looks like’ in order to then consider this against the government’s proposals. A briefing to AONB Chairs and Lead Officers was provided on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, a summary of which follows framed around Purposes, Powers, Resources, Governance and Branding.

Grouping	Government says ...	NAAONB position ...
<b>Purposes</b>	Create a single set of statutory purposes for AONBs and National Parks to actively recover nature in these areas and reinvigorate ambition to connect with all parts of society with protected landscapes.	Welcome the intention to review the purpose and to include a second purpose across all AONB Natural beauty needs to be retained as it is an enduring concept which includes nature and culture. Do not support ‘natural capital’
<b>Powers</b>	Strengthening the wording of the existing duties for public bodies to ‘have regard’ to the statutory purposes so that they are given greater weight when preparing and implementing management plans Natural England to update their guidance on management plans Seeking views on AONBs to be granted statutory consultee status for planning applications. Continue to monitor the use of permitted development rights in protected landscapes and identify future opportunities to review their use	Fully support strengthening ‘have regard’ and link to the management plan. We are working with NE to help refresh the management plan guidance, needs to be more than a document. Support statutory consultee status for plan making and applications.
<b>Resources</b>	Scale of the ambition matched by equivalent resources, particularly in AONBs. Grant allocation model should also be reviewed to ensure transparency Private and blended financing models for nature recovery and nature-based solutions	Welcome focus on AONB. Disappointed that it will fall short of Glover recommendation. Review of formula overdue. Any new burdens arising out of the review should be fully-funded immediately. Any new funding should not require an increase in local authority funding, but lock-in at least current levels

	<p>A dedicated national finance team, part of a proposed national landscape partnership, to generate additional income through green finance initiatives and joint funding bids and coordinate a pipeline of investment-ready projects</p> <p>The national landscapes partnership should publish a commercial strategy within a year of being established</p>	
<b>Governance</b>	<p>Minor reform of National Park Authorities and Conservation Boards such as size, diversity and appointments</p> <p>A national landscapes partnership: coordination function</p> <p>A national landscape strategy from government will provide strategic direction</p> <p>Natural England to produce clear governance principles, processes, and structures for AONB that local authorities would be expected to follow, linked to Defra grant agreements.</p> <p>Natural England will produce an outcomes framework, provide annual reporting to track progress against the outcomes, and advise on where further action is needed.</p>	<p>Welcome the intention to provide clarity through guidance, but disappointed largely limited proposals for AONB</p> <p>We will work in support of NE on the guidance, which requires more detailed analysis of current strengths and weakness</p> <p>The national landscape partnership</p>
<b>Branding</b>	<p>The national significance of AONBs should be reflected in their name, National Landscapes, where a change must represent a step change for AONBs encompassing new purposes delivered by skilled teams, sustainable funding and robust governance.</p>	<p>We'll work with this as a clear symbol of a renewal of AONB, but a transition must be properly resourced to achieve the intended benefit</p>

## Our position



### Consultation

- The Government's consultation<sup>13</sup> on their response comprises 25 questions with the majority linked to those areas of the Government response that will require changes to legislation. Wider views are also sought on other aspects of the response.
- The 12-week consultation closes on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022. We encourage partners to submit organisational responses to the consultation, and also encourage members of the public to do the same.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> April consultation deadline will not be the end of engagement or the only opportunity to influence but it is important that the South Devon AONB makes a submission given the once in a generation opportunity to . Significant work will follow for AONBs to work with Defra, particularly for the NAAONB from 9<sup>th</sup> April onwards and once consultation responses have been analysed.

### South Devon AONB's response

- An initial meeting was held with members of the AONB Partnership on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February to explore aspects of the Government's response and the emerging NAAONB position. A precis of the discussion together with emerging area of consensus, divergence and identified gaps will be presented during the Partnership meeting.
- It is proposed that the South Devon AONB response answers the standard question set, echoing the NAAONB position where Partnership agreement has been reached, adding free text where appropriate to the few specific questions that enable this. A robust and

<sup>13</sup> <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/future-landscapes-strategy/government-response-to-the-landscapes-review/>

lengthier submission is proposed to Question 25 where further comments are invited with this element introducing any South Devon specific comments.

12. It is proposed that a draft response be prepared and circulated to AONB Partnership members by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, leaving two weeks for members to return final comments for incorporation into the final submission version.

## Appendix 1 to ITEM 6A Designated Landscapes Review: Full list of proposals

### Landscapes Alive for Nature and Beauty

- 1 National landscapes should have a renewed mission to recover and enhance nature, and be supported and held to account for delivery by a new National Landscapes Service
- 2 The state of nature and natural capital in our national landscapes should be regularly and robustly assessed, informing the priorities for action
- 3 Strengthened Management Plans should set clear priorities and actions for nature recovery including, but not limited to, wilder areas and the response to climate change (notably tree planting and peatland restoration). Their implementation must be backed up by stronger status in law
- 4 National landscapes should form the backbone of Nature Recovery Networks – joining things up within and beyond their boundaries
- 5 A central place for national landscapes in new Environmental Land Management Schemes
- 6 A strengthened place for national landscapes in the planning system with AONBs given statutory consultee status, encouragement to develop local plans and changes to the National Planning Policy Framework

### Landscapes for Everyone

- 7 A stronger mission to connect all people with our national landscapes, supported and held to account by the new National Landscapes Service
- 8 A night under the stars in a national landscape for every child
- 9 New long-term programmes to increase the ethnic diversity of visitors
- 10 Landscapes that cater for and improve the nation's health and wellbeing
- 11 Expanding volunteering in our national landscapes
- 12 Better information and signs to guide visitors
- 13 A ranger service in all our national landscapes, part of a national family
- 14 National landscapes supported to become leaders in sustainable tourism
- 15 Joining up with others to make the most of what we have, and bringing National Trails into the national landscapes family
- 16 Consider expanding open access rights in national landscapes

### Living in Landscapes

- 17 National landscapes working for vibrant communities
- 18 A new National Landscapes Housing Association to build affordable homes
- 19 A new approach to coordinating public transport piloted in the Lake District, and new, more sustainable ways of accessing national landscapes

### More Special Places

- 20 New designated landscapes and a new National Forest
- 21 Welcoming new landscape approaches in cities and the coast, and a city park competition
- 22 A better designations process

### New Ways of Working

- 23 Stronger purposes in law for our national landscapes
- 24 AONBs strengthened with new purposes, powers and resources, renamed as National Landscapes
- 25 A new National Landscapes Service bringing our 44 national landscapes together to achieve more than the sum of their parts
- 26 Reformed governance to inspire and secure ambition in our national landscapes and better reflect society
- 27 A new financial model – more money, more secure, more enterprising

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/833726/landscapes-review-final-report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/833726/landscapes-review-final-report.pdf)

## Appendix 2 to ITEM 6A

### Government Response to the Glover Review – Shorthand Summary

#### New Name

Testing the proposal to rename AONBs as ‘National Landscapes’

#### New National Landscapes Partnership

Will establish a new national landscapes partnership to build on the existing collaboration between National Parks England and the National Association for AONBs, complemented by roles for the National Trails and National Parks Partnerships.

#### New National Landscape Strategy

Defra will provide clearer strategic direction for protected landscapes through a new national landscape strategy. This will set out a clear national framework to guide the development of plans and programmes by the national landscapes partnership and help to inform the development of local management plans.

#### Changed Statutory Purpose

- Create a single set of statutory purposes for AONB teams and National Park Authorities
- Propose to amend the current statutory purpose so that:
  - a core function of protected landscapes should be to drive nature recovery
  - a revised purpose should be more specific with regards to nature outcomes and explicitly mention biodiversity
  - the principle of natural capital should also be included to capture the societal value of nature in our protected landscapes and encompass a broader range of ecosystem services.
- Propose to amend the current statutory purpose to:
  - highlight the need to improve opportunities and remove barriers to access for all parts of society
  - clearly reference public health and wellbeing as an outcome
  - take a more active role in supporting access than just promoting opportunities

#### Monitoring

- By January 2023, new ambitious outcomes will be agreed for the role of protected landscapes in delivering on the government’s goals for nature recovery and climate, aligned with the revised 25 Year Environment Plan and interim environmental targets under the Environment Act 2021 and the Net Zero Strategy.
- Natural England will monitor and evaluate progress against the key indicators and outcomes and will also support individual protected landscapes to translate these targets into their management plans.

- Developing the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA), which will provide data on habitats, natural capital, and ecosystem function. This will help to monitor progress against agreed outcomes.
- Natural England will produce an outcomes framework, provide annual reporting to track progress against the outcomes, and advise on where further action is needed.

### **Management Plans**

- Ambitious goals to increase carbon sequestration, together with improved natural capital reporting, should be embedded in all protected landscapes' management plans.
- Management plans should also set out their local response to climate adaptation, managing long-term landscape change to increase the resilience of local communities and ecosystems.
- Natural England will review all revised management plans, ensuring that these make fair and ambitious contributions. To facilitate this new process, Natural England will also update their guidance on management plans for protected landscapes.
- We will also ensure clear alignment with Local Nature Recovery Strategies, to facilitate delivery of priority nature recovery actions without duplication.
- Look to strengthen management plans, and consider how best to ensure a smooth transition so that valuable work is not lost.

### **Planning reform**

- Recognise the special role that protected landscapes hold within the planning system and will continue to explore opportunities for how this role could be developed further.
- An integral part of reviewing the planning reforms is considering how they align with and support our wider mission to level up the country and regenerate left-behind places.
- Intend to review the NPPF, and we will further consider how policy for protected landscapes is set out.
- Recognise that AONB teams can bring substantial evidence and expertise to the planning process, and wish to seek views on how the AONB teams can achieve better outcomes through the plan-making process.
- The review also identified strong support for AONB teams to be granted statutory consultee status for planning applications. Whilst we acknowledge the resource implications this would place on AONB teams, we recognise the benefit of further strengthening their role and are seeking views on this potential change.

### **Permitted development**

- Will continue to monitor the use of permitted development rights in protected landscapes, and identify future opportunities to review their use.

### **AONB Partnerships**

- Natural England will replace the former Countryside Agency guidance for AONB Partnerships, to set out clear governance principles, processes, and structures that local authorities would be expected to follow. This guidance will be flexible enough to

be adapted to local circumstances but would aim to improve consistency, performance, and transparency.

- To ensure a high level of uptake and incentivise positive reforms, we could include conditions in our grant agreements, requiring evidence that this guidance has been applied to local governance structures and processes.

### **Duty of Regard**

- The vagueness of the duties can lead to disagreements about their interpretation and allow damaging practices to occur. Propose strengthening the wording of these statutory duties so that they are given greater weight when exercising public functions.
- The current duties are also not clear that public bodies are expected to contribute to the delivery of management plans, which can lead to the underperformance of key partners and under-delivery of management plan objectives. The wording should also be made clearer with regards to the role of public bodies in preparing and implementing management plans.
- The government will produce guidance for public bodies on the application of the strengthened duties, making it clearer when and how it should be discharged in respect of public functions. These changes would help avoid disputes, reduce damaging practices, and lead to much more effective management of our protected landscapes.

### **Finances**

- Relatively limited scope to increase the core grant by the scale suggested in the review, or to provide longer funding settlements that extend beyond a spending review period. Therefore, the core grant does not provide the opportunity to increase funding to the scale needed to deliver our vision.
- There has been increasing interest in private and blended financing models for nature recovery and nature-based solutions, and we believe that this area provides significant opportunities to lever more investment into protected landscapes.

## Consultation Questions

1-5 personal details

6. Should a strengthened first purpose of protected landscapes follow the proposals set out in Chapter 2?

7. Which other priorities should be reflected in a strengthened first purpose e.g. climate, cultural heritage?

8. Do you support any of the following options as we develop the role of protected landscapes in the new environmental land management schemes? Tick all that apply.

- Designing the environmental land management schemes in a way that works for all farmers and land managers, including the specific circumstances for those in protected landscapes, recognising that farmers in these areas are well-placed to deliver on our environmental priorities.
- Using Local Nature Recovery Strategies to identify projects or habitats within protected landscapes.
- Monitoring the effectiveness and uptake of the new environmental land management schemes in protected landscapes. Using this to inform whether further interventions are needed to ensure we are on track for wider nature recovery ambitions.
- Creating a clear role for protected landscape organisations in the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Our recent LNRS consultation specifically asks for views on the role of different organisations in the preparation of LNRSs, including protected landscapes.
- Building on FiPL, empowering protected landscapes to support decision-making and delivery against agreed priorities, including through dedicated project coordinators and advisers.

9. Do you have any views or supporting evidence you would like to input as we develop the role of protected landscapes in the new environmental land management schemes?

10. Should AONBs have a second purpose relating to connecting people and places, equivalent to that of National Parks?

11. Should a strengthened second purpose of protected landscapes follow the proposals set out in Chapter 3 to improve connections to all parts of society with our protected landscapes?

12. Are there any other priorities that should be reflected in a strengthened second purpose?

13-15 only relevant to National Parks and the Broads

16. Should we legislate to restrict the use of motor vehicles on unsealed unclassified roads for recreational use, subject to appropriate exemptions?

- Yes – everywhere
- Yes – in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty only
- Yes – in National Parks only
- No
- Unsure

17. What exemptions do you think would be required to protect the rights and enjoyment of other users e.g., residents, businesses etc?

18. What roles should AONBs teams play in the plan-making process to achieve better outcomes?

19. Should AONB teams be made statutory consultees for development management?

20. If yes, what type of planning applications should AONB teams be consulted on?

- AONB teams should formally agree with local planning authorities which planning applications should be consulted on.
- AONB teams should be consulted on all planning applications that require an Environmental Impact Assessment and are categorised as ‘major development’ as well as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

21. Which of the following measures would you support to improve local governance? Tick all that apply.

- Improved training and materials
- Streamlined process for removing underperforming members
- Greater use of advisory panels
- Greater flexibility over the proportion of national, parish and local appointments
- Merit-based criteria for local authority appointments
- Reduced board size
- Secretary of State appointed chair
- Other (please state)

22. Should statutory duties be strengthened so that they are given greater weight when exercising public functions?

23. Should statutory duties be made clearer with regards to the role of public bodies in preparing and implementing management plans?

24. National Parks and the Broads only

25. If you have any further comments on any of the proposals in this document, please include them here.

## ITEM 7. AONB Management

### 7A. The Life on the Edge Project

<b>ITEM FOR</b>	DECISION	<b>REPORT BY</b>	Nicky Bailey (Community Projects Officer)
<b>SUMMARY</b>	To update on progress of the project and discuss partnership involvement		
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	None		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<p>The partnership are recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Ask the AONB Community Projects Officer to convene the LotE grants panel and work with the Community Representatives to set up the protocol for decision making and admin</li> <li>ii. Agree a method of the Grants panel feeding back to the Partnership committee</li> <li>iii. Agree communication procedures between the Partnership and the LotE Board rep, Ed Parr-Ferri</li> <li>iv. Discuss Partnership support role to the LotE project team and Board – funding and audiences</li> </ul>		

#### Background

1. Life on the Edge (LotE) is a multi-partner project that aims to restore viable populations of some of the UK's rarest invertebrates and plants living along the South Devon coast between Berry Head and Wembury, including the last known colony of the Six-banded nomad bee. This bee faces imminent extinction unless action is taken. The project will also enable the recovery of over 30 other threatened invertebrates (including the Long-horned bee, Short-necked oil beetle, and Moon spider) and 30 rare or declining plant species, including Autumn squill, Slender-fruited bird's-foot trefoil and Goldilocks aster.

#### Context

2. Saving these species and giving them a safer long-term future means expanding and reconnecting the traditional coastal landscapes on which they depend, restoring wildflower-rich cliff tops and highway verges, carefully managed scrub mosaics, strategic hedgerow connections, and more wildlife-friendly parks, churchyards, school grounds and private gardens. The connected network of B-Lines will enable species to move freely through our countryside, expand their populations and recolonise areas from where they have been lost. The result will be a coastline, and its connected hinterland, which is buzzing with wildlife, packed with wildflowers and a treat for the eye for residents and visitors alike.
3. It is a mission that needs the support and engagement of the whole community, from landowners and farmers to parish councils and school children, providing opportunities for everyone to get involved and make a real difference for these extraordinary and highly vulnerable species. Focusing on the survival of these flagship species and the expansion of the habitats on which they depend, the programme will build collective pride in the unique

South Devon coastal landscape as well as boosting its attraction for visitors and developing new opportunities for people living in nearby urban areas to get involved. Through this programme, those who help bring about the rescue of Britain's rarest bee and other highly vulnerable insects will gain valuable new skills and local connections, along with a deep sense of achievement.

4. The Project team will be tasked with reaching out to new audiences and will need the support of the AONB Partnership in making these contacts and linking in to these communities.
5. For more background information on the project please see: <https://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/projects/life-on-the-edge/> plus Partnership papers from meeting of 25.6.21

### Financial overview

6. The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Round 1 application for the Life on the Edge (LotE) project was assessed at the Heritage Fund London and South Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and a decision made to award **initial funding of £220,900** for the development phase of the project. This is 53% of the total approved project **development phase costs of £417,000**. The project costs include non-cash contributions at £75,100 and volunteer time at a value of £59,500. The cash element of the project (which includes NLHF grant and match funding) equates to a NLHF payment intervention of 78%.
7. A Development Grant means that the NLHF believes the Project has potential to deliver high-quality outcomes and value for National Lottery players' money. The delivery phase will run from April 2022, for 18 months, until September 2023. During this phase the project elements will be tested, cash contributions secured, and plans produced for the 5-year delivery phase and. A full round two application will need to be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. This will be in competition with other projects from the London and South region.
8. Costs submitted and initially approved in the Round 1 application for the 5-year delivery phase are:
 

▪ Total project costs	£4,039,600
▪ NLHF grant	£2,092,255
▪ Volunteer time	£566,300
▪ Non -cash contributions	£402,300
▪ Cash contributions	£978,600

(This is made up of secured S106 funding, ELMS, AONB reserves, locality grants, SWCPA -secured, partner contributions and charitable trusts/grants funders)
9. We will need a significant amount of match funding for the delivery phase and will require the support of the partnership to seek this out and get it secured.

## Staffing – development phase

**Project Manager** (1 fte) – this post will be filled externally and is currently being advertised. It will be on an initial term of 18 months.

**Communities Officer** (0.4fte) - The South Devon AONB community projects officer, Nicky Bailey, will be working on the project two days a week, with funding to cover this coming from the project.

**Conservation Officer** (0.4fte) - this post will be filled by an existing member of staff from Buglife, with funding coming from the project

10. Other support will come as in-kind contribution from the AONB team.

11. NLHF have appointed a **Project Monitor** – James Dennis. He has extensive experience of providing expert advice for a wide range of projects, particularly landscape-scale schemes, and will provide additional support and guidance to us during our Development Phase. In addition to this, we have a named advisor from the lottery team.

## Strategic links

12. The aim of the Life on the edge project is to work in partnership with landowners and local communities to restore a coastline which is buzzing with wildlife. It will deliver on:

- **South Devon AONB management plan**
- **Climate emergency** – Development and tourism demands, along with losses from coastal erosion are putting our rare coastal wildflower meadow habitats under pressure. By working with local communities and landowners, we hope to address these threats and restore habitat, linking wildflower rich grasslands across the AONB coastal B-Line.
- **Biodiversity crisis** – We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis. Increasing numbers of species are under threat of extinction in the UK, and the sheer abundance of wildlife has drastically fallen. Insects and other invertebrates have suffered the greatest declines, but don't always get much attention. Life on the Edge will help to boost local populations of twenty-five of the UK's most threatened invertebrates, and a wide range of other species from plants to bats and birds. Wild flower meadows are one of the rarest habitats in the UK and we have lost 97% of our wild flower meadows since the 1930s. South Devon is home to many rare and endangered invertebrates which thrive in coastal wildflower rich grasslands, including the UK's rarest bee. The Six-banded nomad bee was once found at scattered sites along the south coast of England but is now only found at Prawle Point. Experts tell us that if urgent action is not undertaken in South Devon, the Six-banded nomad bee will be nationally extinct by 2030.
- **DEFRA 25 Year Environment Plan**
- **Devon Special Species** - Devon Local Nature Partnership (Natural Devon). A recent review of Devon's Special Species commissioned by Natural Devon revealed that the greatest concentration of threatened species in the county is found on the South Devon coast. The rich assemblages of invertebrates and plants has been recognised as being of national importance both through the designation of large parts of the

coast as SSSI, and the identification of much of the South Devon coast as an Important Invertebrate Area and Important Plant Area.

- **Colchester Declaration**
- **South Devon AONB Nature Recovery Plan**
- **Nature Recovery Network and Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy**
- **Devon County Council Strategic Plan – Best Place**
- **South Hams DC Corporate Priorities – Better Lives for All**
  - Adapting and mitigating climate change and increasing biodiversity
  - Protecting, conserving and enhancing our built and natural environment
  - Strengthening community wellbeing
- **Torbay strategic priorities** - Community and Corporate plan; Heritage Strategy
- **Heritage coast objectives**

### Role of Partnership Committee

13. As part of the delivery phase of the project we plan to have small community grants available which will carry out conservation works and community engagement which meet LotE objectives and priorities. There will be a pot of money for each of the 5 years of the project. We do have the option to roll the grant amounts on if not all allocated in year.

- **Conservation Grants** (- for capital works outside of Agri-environment schemes, on private land) – these would be available for all landowners including farmers, parish councils, holiday parks and schools, for added value works where Agri-env funding does not apply. Matched by at least 25% of in-kind work by the landowner or manager.
  - **Approx £14k per year**
- **Conservation grants** (- private land with public access) Specialist contractors for development of donor sites / scrub management. This will be used alongside grant programme and with the same conditions attached.
  - **£9,600 per year**
- **Community Grants programme** – these will be to facilitate community engagement led by local groups, up to a maximum of £2k per project.
  - **£10k per year**

14. As suggested by the NLHF we plan to use the same system for making decisions and awarding grants as was used for the Sustainable Development Fund in the past. This is also a system that has been approved by the financial team and audit at South Hams DC. A LotE community grants panel will be made up of the Community Representatives from the AONB Partnership committee. The AONB community representatives cover a suitably wide spectrum of interests, providing representation of ‘the players’ of the National Lottery, whilst also having areas of expertise relevant to the varied project areas. In

addition, they are elected roles and therefore democratically nominated by the local community.

15. As agreed at the June 2021 meeting, the Partnership Committee representative on the LotE Board will be Ed Parr-Ferris. The Board will be set up as a technical group of the AONB Partnership Committee.

## Appendix 1 to ITEM 7A Development Phase outputs summary

<b>Project Outputs and team capacity</b>	
<b>Development Phase 18 months</b>	Assuming 46 working weeks available / year
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>AONB Farm Advisor 0.2 FTE</b>	
Land management agreements - ELMS	Completed applications for ELMS for Y1 of Delivery
	Evidence of interest in and support for entering into ELMS
	Support farmer-focused workshops / tours with CO
Conservation Management Plan	Provide input to CMP
Team meetings	
<b>Conservation Officer 0.4 FTE</b>	
Land management agreements - LotE	Completed agreements for direct investment by LotE in Y1 of Delivery
	Support the grant award process and decision-making
	Evidence of interest in and support for entering into agreements for direct investment by LotE
Farm management plans	Develop farm management plans for farms being implemented in Y1
Entomological survey programme	Manage survey programme incl volunteers
Botanical survey programme	Liaise with the botanical survey contractor
Conservation Management Plan	Incorporating updated entomological and botanical data and maps, assessments of condition, results of farmer / landowner engagement and management prescriptions
Practical tasks	With volunteers and target groups, clearing scrub, planting
Specialist workshops	Training for surveyors
Farmer-focused workshops / tours	On-farm events open to farmers and land managers to explore best practice
Community engagement	Support community engagement and Parish Pollinator Plan trial
Input to R2 application	
Monitoring and evaluation	Gathering data and providing it to the Evaluation consultant
Team meetings and input to evaluation	
<b>Community Officer 0.4 FTE</b>	
Walks and talks - public	Led by local experts
Walks and talks - target groups	Led by local experts
Arts and crafts events	Led by commissioned artists
Training Workshops - public	ID, survey techniques, meadow creation - led by experts
Community group meetings	Meeting with local groups to plan and promote activities
Attending community events	Taking a stand at local fairs and gatherings
Carnival	Mainly delivered through artist commission but involves significant planning time
School visits	Supporting school activities on field visits and on school grounds
Volunteer coordination and support	Recruiting and involving volunteers in the above, managing claims and pastoral care - 1 day / month.
Comms Officer liaison and support	Ensure timely and effective comms delivery
Apprenticeships	Liaise with training providers and draw up plans for Delivery
Input to Activity Plan	Share feedback and discuss with Activity Planner
Input to Area Activity Plan	Share feedback and discuss with Project Manager
Input to R2 application	
Monitoring and evaluation	Gathering data and providing it to the Evaluation consultant
Team meetings	

Project Manager FTE	
Parish Pollinator Plans	Coordinate and support parishes to develop their plans
Churchyards	Develop plans for churches to implement improvements
Community activity grants scheme	Research operation of scheme with local groups
Contrator procurement	Procure all contractors
Contractor management	Oversee delivery by contractors
Input to Evaluation	
Input to Cons Plan	
Input to Activity Plan	
Develop Area Action Plan	
Prepare R2 application	
Team coordination / meetings	1 day / week either as whole team or with individual members
Financial management	0.5 day per week
Partnership management and development	0.75 day per week
Reports to NLHF	2 days per month, averaged over the period

## Appendix 2 to ITEM 7A Delivery Phase outputs summary

<b>Project Outputs and team capacity</b>	
<b>DELIVERY PHASE 2024-29</b>	Assuming 46 working weeks available / year
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>AONB Farm Advisor 1.25 days / week</b>	
Land management agreements - ELMS	Support and monitor implementation of previous year agreements
	Complete applications for ELMS for Y2,3,4,5 of Delivery
	Support farmer-focused workshops / tours with CO
Input to team meetings / evaluation	
<b>Conservation Officer FTE</b>	
<b>Specific outputs</b>	
Land management agreements - LotE	Support and monitor implementation of previous year agreements
	Complete agreements for direct investment by LotE in Y2,3,4,5 of Delivery
Farm management plans	Develop farm management plans for all farms
Project promotion to community groups	Talks and promotional events with local groups
Practical tasks	With volunteers and target groups, clearing scrub, planting
Specialist workshops	Training for volunteer surveyors
Farmer-focused workshops / tours	On-farm events open to farmers and land managers to explore best practice
Guided walks for the public	
<b>General activities</b>	
Community projects	Work with community groups to improve land and support new initiatives
Entomological and botanical survey programme	Manage survey programme incl volunteers
Mapping programme	Support mapping contractor to generate required outputs
Project promotion to farmers and land managers	Advocating and communicating the project
Partnership liaison and development	Work with partner organisations to advocate the project and develop allied initiatives
Land management grants programme	Support grants panel and decision process
Input to Evaluation reports	Supply data on ecological outcomes to the Evaluation Consultant.
Administration, reporting, team meetings	
<b>Community Officer FTE</b>	
<b>Specific outputs</b>	
Walks and talks - public	Led by local experts
Walks and talks - target groups	Led by local experts
Arts and crafts events	Led by commissioned artists
Training Workshops - public	ID, survey techniques, meadow creation - led by experts
Attending community events	Taking a stand at local fairs and gatherings
Schools visits	Delivering activities with schools and young people groups
Carnival	Mainly delivered through artist commission but involves significant planning time
Community group meetings	Meeting with local groups to plan and promote activities

<b>General activities</b>	
Comms Officer liaison and support	Ensure timely and effective comms delivery
Partnership liaison and development	Work with partner organisations to advocate the project and develop allied initiatives
Community grants programme	Support groups to make applications and manage the decision process
Monitoring and evaluation	Gathering data and providing it to the Evaluation consultant
Administration, reporting, team meetings	
<b>Volunteering and Learning Coordinator 0.4</b>	
Volunteer coordination and support	Recruiting and involving volunteers in the above, managing claims and pastoral care
Trainee co-ordination and support	Liaison with College, organising joint activities, pastoral care and feedback
Schools liaison and visits	Developing learning materials, organising school activities and field trips
Administration, reporting, team meetings	
<b>Project Manager FTE</b>	
Parish Pollinator Plans	Coordinate and support parishes to develop and implement their plans
Project promotion and advocacy	Media coverage, talks, events
Contract procurement / management	Procure / oversee all contracts
Project Board, Steering Group and grants panel	Administration and management
Monitoring and evaluation	Supervise supply of data to the Evaluation consultant
Team coordination / meetings	1 day / week either as whole team or with individual members
Financial management and administration	
Partnership management and development	Coordinate with Cons Officer and Comms Officer to build effective partnerships
NLHF liaison and reporting	

## 7B. Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION & DECISION	REPORT BY	Roger English (AONB Manager)
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This paper summarises the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme as so far implemented in South Devon AONB. It reports on programme changes, the appointment of the Local Assessment Panel, staffing appointments within the AONB Unit to deliver the programme, the projects funded in 2021/22 and the programme of funding for year two, 2022/23 And, finally the Defra feedback on year one of the programme.		
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	None		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	AONB Partnership Committee members are invited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note the scope of the opportunity for the South Devon AONB, its farmers and land managers;</li> <li>ii. Advocate for the programme in discussions with the area's farmers and landowners to drive high quality, innovative and well developed proposals</li> </ol>		

### Background

1. The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme was created by Defra with advice and support from AONBs and National Parks and it forms part of the Government's Agricultural Transition Plan. The programme provides funds to allow farmers and land managers to work with National Park Authorities and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty teams to provide benefits for nature, climate, people and places. The programme will run over three financial years from mid-2021 to April 2024.

AONB Partnership members received an introductory report on 25th June 2021 to the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. Please refer back to this report for context information noting this was provided prior to the formal launch of the programme on 1st July 2021. Further information can be found on the South Devon AONB website at:

<https://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/opportunities-for-farmers-2021-24/>

### Programme changes since launch

2. Since opening for business on the 1<sup>st</sup> July a series of changes have been made by Defra to the programme including:
  - Replacement of a fixed application window ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to a rolling application window
  - Items considered as eligible expenditure
  - Payment rate increases to some Countryside Stewardship capital and revenue items
  - Monitoring and reporting requirements
  - Frequent updates to programme documentation
3. Although the ability to roll forward underspend into subsequent programme years has remained out of scope, in October 2021 Defra did allow a single re-profiling of funding across the three programme years. For South Devon, based on the project pipeline at the

time and level of interest for Year 2 projects, this resulted in £68,451 being moved into 22/23, Year 2 of the programme. Year 3 remained unchanged.

Year	Original total allocation	Proposed Variations	Revised total allocation
2021/22	£342,256	-£68,451	£273,805
2022/23	£232,298	+£68,451	£300,749
2023/24	£232,298	£0	£232,298
<b>Totals</b>	£806,852	£0	£806,852

**Table 1 – re-profiling of South Devon allocations including allowances for administration, advice and guidance.**

### Local Assessment Panel

4. A Defra requirement of the programme was the setting up a Local Assessment Panel following guidelines provided and including string farmer representation from the area. The South Devon Panel has met in person and virtually on seven occasions over the last seven months for training, decision making on project applications and most recently to review Year 1 progress and consider priorities for Years 2 and 3.

The panel comprises 11 representatives:

<b>John Yeoman (Panel Chair)</b>	LAG Chair & former Farmer	<b>Charles Wreford Brown</b>	AONB Partnership Farming and Landowner Community representative
<b>Matt Darke</b>	Young Farmer	<b>Eamon Crowe</b>	Natural England
<b>Jon Andrews</b>	Farmer & Nature Friendly Farming Network	<b>Cath Jeffs</b>	RSPB & Environmental NGOs representative
<b>David Camp</b>	Farmer	<b>Bernard Taylor</b>	AONB Partnership Committee & former Farmer
<b>Vicci Camp</b>	Farmer	<b>Richard Foss</b>	Farmer and South Hams District Councillor
<b>Roger English</b>	AONB Manager		

5. In addition, the Panel has access to a number of additional specialists including forestry and historic environment who remain on standby to assist with guidance and advice for occasions when the nature of applications requires it.

### Staffing

6. Given the July start date with little advanced notice, temporary arrangements were required to give the programme the best chance of success and ensure the area's farmers and land managers were supported. Interim FiPL Officer support has been provided under contract by Julia Bastone of *5 Farming*, working as an extension to the South Devon AONB team while recruitment was undertaken for a fixed term FiPL Officer role. The temporary FiPL Officer role has proven difficult to recruit for amongst an overfull job market with competing posts available and locational challenges. Another recent attempt was successful and an appointment has now been made with a provisional start date of 28<sup>th</sup> March.

7. Initial South Devon FiPL programme coordination has been undertaken by AONB Communications Officer Diane Lethbridge on a 1.5 days per week basis with time claimed from the programme’s Administration budget to backfill selected elements of the Comms Officer role. A further day a week on average has been provided under contract by Louise Lethbridge alongside similar coordination support to our Avon Valley Countryside Stewardship Facilitation work. Following successful recruitment, an appointment has recently been made to the FiPL Administrator Role and Phoebe Rhead will be joining the AONB team on the 14th March.

**2021/22 projects**

- 8. The Local Assessment Panel successfully allocated the full revised South Devon project allocation amount for Year 1. Due to the programme’s late start, the project allocation was boosted with an element of advice and guidance funding that was not required. This enabled a total of £231,994 of South Devon AONB FiPL Grant to be used to support 16 projects in 2021/22 with an average grant contribution of £14,497 and a combined total project value of £550,443. This gives a funding ‘gearing’ of 1:2.4
- 9. The locations of the 16 projects are broadly spread throughout the South Devon AONB and show reasonable coverage for the first year of activity.



**Programme funding for South Devon AONB**

10. The overall budget for Year 2 of the FiPL programme has now been signed off by government ministers. There are some final administrative procedures that the Future Farming and Countryside Programme (the team that holds the funding) need to work through and confirmation of individual allocations for 22/23 should take place in the coming days. Defra are also exploring whether they can confirm our 23/24 allocations at the same time.

Year	Combined funding available for Project grants	Committed	Remaining From Total allocation
2021/22	£232,165.89	£231,994.15	£171.74
2022/23	£228,132.31	£52,899.58	£175,232.73
2023/24	£159,681.38	£7,289.80	£152,391.58

**Table 2 - provisional project allocations**

11. As detailed above in Table 2 and in addition to awarding Year 1 project grants, the Local Assessment Panel has been able to provisionally allocate elements of Year 2 and Year 3 funding to multi year projects considered during the Year 1 application round.
12. In its first year of operation, Year 1 of the programme has required a balance of ensuring programme objectives against climate, nature, people and place are well met, applicants were well supported and projects could be delivered within the short timeframe available. Year 2 is already shaping up to be far more competitive and Defra are encouraging Local Assessment Panels to manage project allocations in a way that retains a high certainty of spend within the financial year, while also retaining the ability to pick up strong applications later in the financial year.

### **Defra feedback to Protected Landscapes following Year 1 of the programme**

13. Many positives of the programme were highlighted, with those most consistently flagged being:
- Building new relationships with farmers – positive feedback from nearly everyone around building better existing and new relationships, being able to meet and speak 1-1 with farmers, and the opportunities this affords around sharing information beyond FiPL, such as wider PL priorities, as well.
  - Breadth of projects – positive feedback around the flexibility of the programme, which enables you to offer agreements across the four themes and address local issues that national schemes are less easily able to do.
  - Local Assessment panels – positive messages are engagement, partnership working and having robust discussions.
14. There were also several areas identified where things could be done better or differently, in particular:
- Making improvements to the application and monitoring forms and improve consistency between the two
  - More and better sharing of info between PLs
  - Create a claims form and include guidance on what proof is required
  - Make dual funding checks easier/less burdensome
  - Make fewer revisions to programme documentation throughout the year
  - Provide more training

## 7C. Slapton Adaptation Project

There are two papers for this item, first one from Sam Lew the Slapton Line Adaptation Manager, and the second from Roger English AONB Manager.



# Slapton Line partnership living with a changing coast

## Summary report for the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership meeting

**Author: Sam Lew – Adaptation Manager**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

### Adaptation

The need for adaptation on Slapton Line and the surrounding area arises from the predicted loss of a significant section of the A379: The Slapton Line – running for ~4 km from Torcross to Strete Gate along a mobile shingle barrier that is highly susceptible to erosion and storm damage, accelerated by the climate crisis.

Due to a combination of factors, the likelihood of Slapton Line being reinstated after future storm damage is increasingly unlikely. The rate of erosion and intensity of storms, limited effectiveness of hard engineering for this coastal scenario, and the need to work within critical environmental legislation to protect wildlife for future generations, limits options for maintaining the road long-term. As a result, the Slapton Line Partnership, made of up specialists in engineering, economics, climate, and environment across public, private and third sector organisations collectively proposed the employment of an Adaptation Manager, to lead on the co-creation and delivery of an Adaptation Plan through a participative approach with the local community.

Understandably, there are concerns locally about how the loss of Slapton Line will impact the community and economy. However, with successful adaptation planning and delivery with community participation at its heart, the changes to the area through the loss of Slapton Line can have significant benefits to nature, society and the economy that can create strong climate resilient communities into the future.

Adaptation in the context of Slapton Line means working locally to create a vision for a prospering community where the Line is no longer viable and creating a road map for how to get there with meaningful engagement and participation with residents and businesses.

### Adaptation Manager role

The Adaptation Manager role has been funded on a two-year fixed term basis through a Local Levy and in-kind support provided by our core funders the Environment Agency, Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, and the South Devon AONB.

Dr Sam Lew has taken on this important role, with a background in ocean and coastal science (natural and social), project and partnership management, and community and business engagement in the coastal and marine space.

A series of tasks have been agreed by the core funders that will be delivered over the two years, with an expectation that the role will continue beyond. Tasks include:

**1. Lead on the co-creation an Adaptation Plan** for Slapton Line and the surrounding area by working collaboratively with the Slapton Line Partnership and local communities

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April the Slapton Line Partnership will be undertaking a workshop with two outcomes

- Co-create the higher-level Vision and Goals for the Adaptation Plan and key areas for delivery
- Agree ways of working between Slapton Line Partners and the local community that ensures transparency, accountability and meaningful participation with local residents and business

Once we have a strong foundation and structure for the Adaptation Plan, we will work locally through the Parish Councils to determine Actions that are necessary to achieve the Goals and deliver the Plan.

**2. Identify and deliver quicks wins** through liaison with local communities that will accelerate adaptation planning for the area.

Although it is critical to work locally to develop the Adaptation Plan, there are key immediate areas of work that need attention. Throughout the development of the Adaptation Plan, these projects will be prepared and delivered with necessary engagement to ensure they are locally relevant and supported.

**3. Compile a manual of Contingency and Emergency Response** Plans for activities that may be impacted through damage to or closure of the Line.

A manual will be produced that brings together shared duties and responsibilities of public authorities in the event of damage or closure of Slapton Line. This document will enable collaborative and joint working between authorities and will provide residents with a clear description of the contingency and emergency response.

**4. Develop a Funding Strategy** for a blended model of public, private and third sector investment for the delivery of the Adaptation Plan.

A living document will be created that outlines an approach that capitalises from new and emerging opportunities, and strategically secures resources to deliver the Adaptation Plan.

**5. Connect to the Coastal Change Management Area** to ensure development considers the nature of a rapidly changing coastal area in Local Plans.

A CCMA is 'an area identified in Local Plans as likely to be affected by coastal change (physical change to the shoreline through erosion, coastal, landslip, permanent inundation or coastal accretion). As such, the scenario at Slapton Line will be incorporated into the CCMA for the Joint Local Plan.

**6. Write guidance for coastal practitioners** to enable transfer of knowledge and experience gained through adaptation to other areas in Devon and the UK.

Coastal Adaptation, driven in part by the Climate Crisis, is a relatively new area of work and it is essential that we enable education and collaboration across the UK and overseas to ensure we are building on best practice and experiences.

## Adaptation and the AONB

ITEM FOR	DECISION	REPORT BY	Roger English (AONB Manger)
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This paper follows on from the Slapton Line Partnership summary paper by Sam Lew (Adaptation Manager). It sets out principles that the Partnership should seek to promote within the adaptation planning process.		
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	None		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Partnership notes the Slapton Line Partnership summary paper</li> <li>ii. The Partnership endorses the promotion of the general principles in the adaptation planning process</li> <li>iii. The Partnership endorses the approach to involvement with the Slapton Adaptation process</li> </ul>		

### Slapton Line Adaptation work and the AONB

1. The shingle ridge, Slapton Ley and their associated habitats are part of an exceptional geomorphological and biodiversity area that makes a significant contribution to the AONB’s special qualities and designated purpose. Likewise, the surrounding rural landscape and historic settlements of the wider Start Bay area positively contribute to AONB special qualities.
2. The shingle ridge is vulnerable to coastal change, in particular from erosion and the increased storminess associated with climate change. When further substantive damage to the road happens, the change will occur rapidly. Therefore, it is imperative that any Emergency and Contingency Planning has regard to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty during selection of reasonable options and decisions on response approaches.
3. We need to ensure the adaptation process achieves the best outcomes for the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and leaves a positive legacy for our coastal communities and natural environment. Done well there are real opportunities for ensuring lasting conservation and significant enhancement of natural beauty. This in turn would bring significant benefits for the health, wellbeing and economic prosperity of local communities.
4. There are myriad opportunities to connect the adaptation work with the key priorities in the AONB Management Plan to enable joint positive outcomes for nature, climate, people and place.
5. Adaptation planning in general and particularly the higher-level Vision and Goals for the Adaptation Plan need to be approached in a way that:
  - **conserves and enhances natural beauty** *(to meet the statutory duty towards the AONB and achieve its statutory purpose);*
  - **enables opportunities to promote and achieve nature recovery** *(to align with the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan and Government’s commitment to protect ‘30 by 30’ and the response to the biodiversity crisis, and meet the NERC Act ‘biodiversity duty’);*

- **maintains the geomorphological and biological integrity of the SSSI and NNR** *(to meet the 'biodiversity duty' and Government commitment to protect '30 by 30' and to the alleviate the biodiversity crisis);*
  - **promotes nature-based solutions** *(to align with Government's approach to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, and coastal management and adaptation);*
  - **takes opportunities to promote a net zero approach** *(to align with Government's approach to the climate emergency and nature-based solutions);*
  - **promotes sustainable, sensitive access to the AONB which supports diversity and inclusion** *(to achieve the proposals of the Landscapes Review)*
  - **helps transition the local economy to a more environmentally sustainable one that gives back to the AONB landscape** *(to tackle the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis);*
  - **capitalises on opportunities for enhanced environmental quality of the beach, Slapton NNR and surrounding area to benefit the health and wellbeing of local communities and visitors** *(to achieve proposals in the Landscapes Review, to align with Government's approach to a second AONB purpose to include health and wellbeing);*
  - **recognises the importance of the high-quality natural environment to underpinning sustainable tourism and the local economy through its choice of adaptation measures** *(to achieve socio-economic prosperity in a sustainable way).*
6. The Partnership is encouraged to think boldly and imaginatively about the Vision and Goals for the Adaptation Plan and how it, and the adaptation planning process more generally, can be used to foster support for and underpin the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in innovative ways that address the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis.
7. Further reports on the evolution of the Adaptation Plan and other deliverables will be brought to the Partnership with opportunities for input, when appropriate.

## ITEM 8. AONB Partnership Matters

### 8A. Update to Partnership Constitution

ITEM FOR	DECISION	REPORT BY	Roger English (AONB Manager)
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This paper sets out proposed changes to the Partnership Constitution to ensure it remains fit for purpose		
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	None		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	The Partnership Committee members are invited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Consider the proposed changes to the AONB constitution and vote to amend as drafted or with an alternative form of words if required.</li> </ol>		

### Background

1. The South Devon AONB Partnership's Constitution (Appendix 1 to this report) is made up of several sections including Membership, Terms of reference, Structure and Operation. This documentation is kept under regular review to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. The last update was completed in April 2019 and following a number of recent changes warrants revisiting to amend documentation to reflect current membership and formalise new practices.
2. To aid document navigation the following items are taken in the order they appear with the constitution:
  - Membership – update Parts 3iii and 4vi to reflect the recent addition of the South West Coast Path Association as a member of the Partnership
  - Attributes of AONB Partnership Committee Members – new clause to reflect purpose of participation
  - Organisation of Partnership Committee meetings – update Part 8vii to reflect current and likely future operation; and 8viii operation of the public statement time prior to commencement of the formal agenda
  - Core Funding Group – formalisation of Partnership Chair membership of the Core Funding Group

### Governance structures

3. It is understood that Natural England will replace the former Countryside Agency guidance for AONB Partnerships, to set out clear governance principles, processes, and structures that local authorities would be expected to follow. This guidance will be flexible enough to be adapted to local circumstances but would aim to improve consistency, performance, and transparency.
4. As the government's response to the Landscapes Review does not yet provide sufficient clarity on future direction and requirements, a more thorough review of governance is not merited at this point in time.

## Appendix 1 to Item 8A



### **AONB PARTNERSHIP MEMBERSHIP, TERMS OF REFERENCE, STRUCTURE AND OPERATION**

updated April 2019

#### **PART 1: The Purpose of the AONB Partnership**

- i To provide a strategic lead in the protection, conservation and enhancement of the South Devon AONB.
- ii To prepare, monitor and review the AONB Management Plan on behalf of the Local Authorities responsible.
- iii To coordinate the implementation of the AONB Management Plan.
- iv To promote the distinctive qualities and national status of the AONB designation.
- v To secure the core priorities of the Partnership members in the South Devon AONB.

#### **PART 2: Terms of reference and role of the AONB Partnership**

1. The AONB Management Plan
  - i To prepare and review the AONB Management Plan on behalf of the local authorities responsible, at intervals of not more than five years.
  - ii To co-ordinate the implementation of the AONB Management Plan Delivery Plan, with actions undertaken by a wide range of organisations as well as directly by the AONB Staff Unit.
  - iii To monitor and publish an annual report on progress in the implementation of AONB Management Plan targets.
2. Geographical remit
  - i To focus on the South Devon AONB while having regard for the wider hinterland and communities insofar as they interact with the AONB.
3. Staffing and resources
  - i To provide guidance and advice to the AONB Core Funding Group concerning the direction of the AONB Staff Unit and use of resources, recognising that the Core Funding Group carries responsibility for those areas.
  - ii To identify and secure the resources required for AONB management.
  - iii To provide an accountable structure for the investment of government resources in the AONB.
4. The purpose of the AONB designation
  - i To develop and promote the vision for the AONB and the objectives for its management.
  - ii To identify, protect and conserve the distinctive environmental and cultural features of the AONB.
  - iii To raise awareness of the AONB designation with the local community, with visitors and with all who have an influence on it.
  - iv To identify and address the major issues affecting the AONB through the Management Plan process.

#### 5. Consultation and liaison

- i. To hold an annual AONB conference or open forum.
- ii. To engage with a wide range of organisations in seeking consensus about AONB management.
- iii. To forge links with other relevant fora, in particular the Local Strategic Partnerships and the community planning process.
- iv. To develop links with local estuary management projects and other local environmental partnerships and initiatives.
- v. To develop and disseminate good practice in AONB management.
- vi. To establish links with other protected landscape areas including the National Parks and the wider AONB movement through the National Association of AONBs, the South West Protected Landscapes Forum, and the Devon AONB Managers' Group.
- vii. To support community initiatives which conserve and enhance the AONB and to encourage the participation of the community in the care and management of the AONB.

#### 6. Management structures and governance

- i. To maintain a management structure that is effective and relevant to the AONB.
- ii. To review and revise the governance structures for the AONB every three years alongside the review of the AONB Memorandum of Agreement, or sooner if circumstances require.
- iii. To keep under review the membership of the Partnership, introducing change as required.

#### 7. Influencing

- i. To promote the AONB and its purposes to a range of bodies and engage them in its management.
- ii. To act as an advocate for the AONB.
- iii. To advise other bodies about their role in the management of the AONB and in particular promote the statutory duty for all public bodies to have regard for AONB purposes in the conduct of their functions.
- iv. To influence regional, local and unitary planning policies affecting the AONB through the development plan process.
- v. To seek effective linkage between the management of the AONB and its adjoining marine areas through integrated coastal zone management.

#### 8. Information and research

- i. To commission research and studies relevant to the AONB.
- ii. To monitor the condition of the AONB.

#### 9. Task groups

- i. To establish task groups or technical groups as required.

### **PART 3: Membership of the AONB Partnership**

The AONB Partnership will comprise the following organisations:

- i. The four AONB local authorities (South Hams District Council, Devon County Council, Torbay Council and Plymouth City Council),
- ii. Four statutory agencies (Historic England<sup>14</sup>, Forestry Commission<sup>15</sup>, Natural England and the Environment Agency)

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<sup>14</sup> Not expected to regularly attend meetings. Kept informed of agendas and provided with minutes

<sup>15</sup> Not expected to regularly attend meetings. Kept informed of agendas and provided with minutes

iii **The National Trust and Plymouth University**

REPLACE WITH

**The National Trust, Plymouth University and the South West Coast Path Association**

iv Eight members representing key communities of interest (see Part 4iii below).

#### **PART 4: The AONB Partnership Committee**

The AONB Partnership will operate through the AONB Partnership Committee. The South Devon AONB Partnership Committee will comprise the following Members:

- i Six representatives of the local authorities, as follows:
  - o Two Members representing South Hams District Council
  - o Two Members representing Devon County Council
  - o One Member representing Torbay Council
  - o One Member representing Plymouth City Council
 (A local authority member may be accompanied by an officer in an advisory capacity).
- ii Four members representing statutory agencies, as follows:
  - o One Member representing the Environment Agency
  - o One Member representing Historic England
  - o One Member representing Natural England
  - o One Member representing Forestry Commission
- iii Eight members appointed at the AONB Annual Conference, who will normally serve for a period of three years from the date of appointment, as follows:
  - o One Member representing amenity groups within the AONB.
  - o One Member representing the business community of the AONB.
  - o One Member representing the coast and marine sector of the AONB.
  - o One Member representing community or voluntary groups of the AONB.
  - o One Member representing non-governmental professional organisations active in environmental management within the AONB.
  - o One Member representing the landowning and farming community of the AONB.
  - o One Member representing parish councils within the AONB.
  - o One Member representing the tourism community of the AONB.
- iv One member representing the National Trust.
- v One member representing the University of Plymouth
- vi *New line (vi) inserted and following line becomes vii*  
**One member representing the South West Coast Path Association**
- vii The Chairman of any Technical Group established by the Partnership will be seconded to the Partnership Committee and serve as a member for the duration of that Group's work.

#### **PART 5: Attributes of AONB Partnership Committee Members**

i *INSERT*

**Whilst each member of the Partnership Committee represents an organisation or stakeholder group, such interests should be considered in the context of the Committee's collective purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB. The principal role of individual Partnership Committee members is to bring their knowledge, skills, experience and expertise to this process and to assist the Partnership in the delivery of the Management Plan and maintaining the integrity of the designation.**

ii It is expected that Members of the Partnership Committee will:

- bring to the Partnership a wealth of experience and expertise of their own and of their respective organisations.
  - take advice and information back to their respective organisations.
  - act as an advocate for the AONB within and through their respective organisations.
  - attend the Partnership Committee meetings.
  - be active outside the scheduled Partnership Committee meetings.
  - be committed to the purposes of AONB designation and management.
  - on behalf of their organisations, arrange for the provision of relevant data sets and research material held by their organisations, in digitised format where possible, to the AONB staff unit to assist with the purpose of monitoring the state of the AONB.
- iii Local authority members will have an important role in reflecting the views and aspirations of their local communities on the Partnership.
- iv The partnership will seek to have an independent and non-political profile and be actively engaged with local communities and with the implementation of the Management Plan.
- v An induction programme will be arranged for new Partnership members by the AONB Manager.

#### **PART 6: Appointment and termination of Partnership Committee membership**

- i It will be for each member organisation to appoint its representative to the Partnership Committee. It is expected that each organisation will provide a nominated representative who will, in the interest of continuity, normally attend meetings. Substitutes may deputise but only in circumstances which prevent the attendance of the usual nominated representative.
- ii A member of the AONB Partnership Committee may resign his or her membership, or may be replaced by a new nominated representative of his or her organisation.
- iii The procedure for the appointment of those Partnership Committee Members appointed at the annual AONB Conference will be agreed by the Partnership Committee and implemented by the AONB Manager.
- iv In the event of a vacancy occurring for one of the places normally appointed at the AONB annual Conference, the Partnership Committee may, at its discretion, fill that place by co-option until the next annual Conference meeting takes place.
- v In the event of any representative failing to attend two consecutive Partnership Committee meetings, the Partnership will consider requesting the organisation to appoint a different representative to ensure a regular attendance and contribution to Partnership meetings<sup>16</sup>.
- vi The membership of the Partnership Committee may be altered by decision of the Partnership Committee.

#### **PART 7: Appointment of Partnership Committee Chairman**

- i The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Partnership Committee will be elected from the membership of the Partnership Committee, normally for a two year period.
- ii Alternatively, the Chairman may be appointed by invitation of the Partnership Committee from the wider community as an independent chairman. In the latter case, it would be expected that

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<sup>16</sup> Historic England and Forestry Commission are not expected to regularly attend meetings

any such independent chairman would be a respected individual with significant relevant experience or skills and a good knowledge and understanding of the AONB and its issues. An independent chairman, if so appointed, would serve as a full member of the Partnership Committee for the duration of his or her period of office, but would not be entitled to appoint a substitute in the event of being unable to attend a meeting.

- iii In either case, the Chairman would be expected to act as a “champion” for the AONB at local, regional and national level; to be committed to the purposes of AONB designation and management, to act as an effective chairman of the Partnership Committee meetings and the AONB Annual Conference; and to provide support and guidance to the AONB Manager and staff team.

## **PART 8: Organisation of Partnership Committee meetings**

- i The Partnership Committee will normally meet three times a year. The quorum for meetings will be eight members.

- ii The secretariat for the Partnership Committee will be provided by the AONB Staff Unit.

- iii Partnership Committee meetings may be held at Follaton House Totnes but may also be held at any other suitable location within the AONB.

### **REPLACE WITH**

**Partnership Committee meetings may be held in person or via remote video meeting.**

- **In person meetings may be held at Follaton House Totnes but may also be held at any other suitable location within the AONB.**
- **Remote video meetings will held online.**
- **Hybrid meetings, allowing participation either in person or by remote video, may also be held, where technology allows.**

- iv Notice of Partnership Committee meetings will be sent out to members at least one month in advance of a meeting at which time members will be invited to submit items for inclusion in the agenda.

- v Agendas and papers will be sent out to members at least one week in advance of meetings.

- vi Minutes will be distributed to members within two weeks following a meeting.

- vii Meetings will be open to members of the public and representatives of interested organisations to attend as observers. Members of the public or interested organisations may submit questions or information for consideration by the Partnership Committee meeting, provided that the question is submitted to the AONB Manager in writing **or by email** at least three weeks in advance of the meeting date. The Partnership will provide a reply to any such questions through the AONB Manager within two weeks of the Partnership Committee meeting. **INSERT Where the meeting is held via remote video, observers should follow the meeting live via the South Devon AONB YouTube channel. The live stream will commence after Public Statements have completed. Note that streaming to YouTube will be suspended prior to any agenda item containing priviledged information that we are not entitled to make public, resuming immediately afterwards.**

### **viii INSERT**

**At the Chairman’s invitation, members of the public and representatives of interested organisations are able to make a statement or comment about any matter on the**

**Committee's agenda. The time may also be used to present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. The length of Public Statement time will be no more than 15 minutes total.**

- **A slot for Public Statements will be set aside at the beginning of the meeting, prior to the formal agenda commencing.**
- **Questions and comments from the presenter must be directed through the Chairman; the presenter may not take direct part in the debate.**
- **The Chairman will decide when public participation is to finish.**
- **If there are many people who wish to speak for one particular item, the Chairman may direct that a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.**
- **Remember that the amount of time for anyone wishing to speak will be restricted, normally to three minutes only.**
- **Presenters are requested to make their statements in a constructive and respectful manner, that refrains from making personal remarks about any one individual or organisation.**
- **Presenters are respectfully reminded to ensure statements are factual. Responsibility for fact checking the statement, prior to delivery, rests with the presenter.**
- **There is no formal response within the meeting however the Chairman may clarify a point of fact, or request the presenter to clarify a point of fact, in very exceptional circumstances.**

**Anyone wishing to speak, should email [enquiries@southdevonaonb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@southdevonaonb.org.uk), providing brief detail on their proposed statement at least one week before the meeting.**

- ix The Partnership Committee may, at the discretion of the Chairman, invite any person or representative of an organisation to address and take part in a meeting where his or her knowledge or experience would contribute to a relevant matter on the agenda.
- x The Partnership Committee will endeavour to make decisions by agreement and consensus whenever possible. However, where a vote is required to resolve an issue, the decision will be by simple majority and Members of the Partnership Committee will have equal voting powers. A local authority officer attending as an adviser to a local authority Member will not normally have voting powers; however, where a local authority Member is absent and no substitute is available, that Member's vote may be transferred to the officer if the Member's Authority so allows.
- xi In respect of press and publicity, only the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Partnership Committee, the AONB Manager, or any person with their specific authorisation, may speak on behalf of the AONB Partnership.
- xii The travel costs and any other costs of attending Partnership meetings incurred by Members will be borne by their respective parent organisations. However, any Member who is unable to claim travel expenses from a parent organisation will be entitled to claim reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred, from the AONB budget.
- xiii Alterations to these organisational arrangements may be made by the Partnership Committee, subject to the agreement of the funding authorities for any aspects relating to funding or staffing.

## **PART 9: The AONB Partnership Core Funding Group**

- i The Core Funding Group will advise the Funding Authorities on matters relating to the staffing, pay, conditions and budget of the AONB Staff Unit on behalf of the Partnership.

- ii The Core Funding Group will develop and approve the annual Business Plan for the AONB Staff Unit and recommend the Business Plan and annual budget to the Partnership Committee and each funding authority.
- iii The Core Funding Group will comprise the following Members who are also Members of the Partnership Committee:
  - o Two Members and one officer of South Hams District Council
  - o Two Members and one officer of Devon County Council
  - o Up to two additional members of the Partnership Committee, who are not members of South Hams District Council or Devon County Council.  
*REPLACE WITH*  
 Up to one further member of the Partnership Committee, usually the Chairman, who is not a member of South Hams District Council or Devon County Council. This member represents the Partnership Committee at Core Funding Group meetings and reports back to Partnership at the next available Committee meeting. Where the Chairman is also a member of South Hams District Council or Devon County Council, another Committee member will be chosen.  
 This member will not have a Core Funding Group vote but will be entitled to nominate the Partnership Vice-chair as a substitute in the event of being unable to attend a meeting.
- iv. Officers of the Core Funding Authorities will meet with the AONB Manager as and when required to progress matters in between Core Funding Group meetings.

#### **PART 10: Organisation of Core Funding Group Meetings**

- i The Core Funding Group will report to the Partnership Committee and to the Core Funding Authorities.
- ii The Core Funding Group will normally meet twice a year, although additional meetings may be held as circumstances require. Meetings may be scheduled to take place on the same day as the Partnership Committee Meetings. The quorum for a Core Funding Group meeting will be when a representative of each of the Core Funding Authorities is present.
- iii The Secretariat for the Core Funding Group will be provided by the AONB Staff Unit.
- iv The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Core Funding Group will be elected from the Group's Members and will normally serve for a period of two years. Notice of Core Funding Group meetings will be sent out to members at least one month in advance of a meeting at which time members will be invited to submit items for inclusion in the agenda. Agendas and papers will be sent out to members at least one week in advance of meetings. Minutes will be distributed to members within two weeks following a meeting.
- v Meetings of the Core Funding Group will not normally be open to the public because of its role in dealing with staffing matters.

#### **PART 11: AONB Partnership Technical Groups**

- i The Partnership Committee may establish any Technical Group it considers appropriate, to provide a specialist focus on the implementation and monitoring of the AONB Management Plan or to undertake specific tasks. The Partnership Committee will provide clear terms of reference for any Technical Group so established.
- ii Membership of Technical Groups may be invited from agencies, organisations or sectors of the community with special knowledge, experience, interest or influence within the identified theme.

Any application from organisations or individuals wishing to join a Technical Group will be considered by the Partnership Committee.

- iii The secretariat for any working groups will be provided by the AONB Staff Unit. The Technical Groups will report to the Partnership Committee.
- iv A Chairman will be elected for each Technical Group from the Technical Group members, and will serve for a period of two years or until the Technical Group is wound up if less than two years. The Chairman of any Technical Group established by the Partnership Committee may also serve as a Member of the Partnership Committee for the duration of his or her chairmanship.
- v A Technical Group may be wound up either by decision of the Group itself, for example on completion of its work, or by decision of the Partnership Committee.

## **PART 12: AONB Annual Community Conference**

- i A wider meeting of organisations, community groups, and the general public will be held once a year. The date and practical arrangements for holding the Conference will be agreed by the Partnership Committee with all administration arrangements thereafter being the responsibility of the AONB Staff Unit.
- ii The meetings will be advertised and be open to anyone to attend.
- iii The Conference will provide the opportunity for a wider exchange of information and views about the AONB and its management, and progress with the implementation of the AONB Management Plan. The Conference will discuss and recommend actions and priorities for AONB Management.
- v. The Conference will also be an opportunity for forging closer links between the Partnership and other local partnerships such as the Estuary Conservation Fora and local community strategy groups.

## ITEM 9. For Information

### 9A. Planning update – contained in Annex 1

### 9B. Current and recent key planning applications

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION	REPORT BY	Roger English (AONB Manager)
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This paper reports on notable planning appeals, and development management cases and recent strategic planning matters of relevance to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.		
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	None		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<p>The Partnership Committee members are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note recent and current levels of designated landscape development management advice required from the South Devon AONB Unit bearing in mind the AONB Planning Protocol consultation triggers.</li> <li>ii. Continue to alert the AONB Manager at the earliest possible opportunity to cases where designated landscape matters are pertinent and share views on live applications.</li> </ul>		

#### Appeals of note

- APP/K1128/C/21/3268326 and 3268328** Enforcement Notice Appeal at Land at Gerston Point, West Alvington, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3BA. The planning merits of the unauthorised developments have been considered twice by the Council in response to retrospective planning applications 0042/19/FUL and 0848/20/FUL. Both applications were refused. The appeal has been made on five grounds:

Ground A: That planning permission ought to be granted

Ground D: That the breach of planning control is immune from enforcement action.

Ground E: That the notice was not properly served on the relevant parties.

Ground F: That works required to remedy breach are excessive.

Ground G: That time period for compliance is too short.

- AONB impacts, landscape and undeveloped coast matters are central to South Hams District Council's reasons for refusal and Statement of Case in relation to Ground A of the appeal. The appeal was to be determined by inquiry on 8th and 9th February but was extended to a third day 9th March. Appeal documents can be accessed at: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/8711/Gerston-Point-Public-Inquiry>

#### Development Management cases of note

- P/2021/0890** Land at Upton Manor Farm Camp site, Brixham. Construction of 132 residential dwellings with access roads, infrastructure and public open space in outline, the proposal includes the demolition of existing buildings on the site This application is

accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The application is a departure from the Local Plan. An objection on AONB grounds has been submitted.

4. **2982/21/FUL** Land opposite Butts Park Newton Ferrers. 20 residential units. The erection of 20 residential units (17 social rent and 3 open market) with associated car parking and landscaping. An objection on AONB grounds has been submitted.
5. **3335/21/FUL** Proposed Development Site At SX 566 494 Land West of Collaton Park Newton Ferrers. Construction of 125 homes, commercial business units, landscaped parkland, community boat storage/parking, allotments, improvements to existing permissive pathway and public footway, enhancement of vehicular access and associated infrastructure and landscaping. Although an earlier application that included 76 dwellings was approved by South Hams District Council the decision was made under different circumstances and a less rigorous policy framework. That permission has since expired. An objection on AONB grounds has been submitted.
6. **4151/21/FUL** South Efford House Aveton Gifford TQ7 4NX. Proposed demolition of existing C2 care home and replacement of 6 C3 Residential Dwellings. An objection on AONB grounds has been submitted.
7. **4774/21/FUL** Burgh Island Hotel, Burgh Island, Bigbury On Sea TQ7 4BG. Extension and refurbishment to Hotel and associated buildings together with the development of new staff accommodation, extension to Pilchard Inn, extension to Bay View Café and site wide landscape and biodiversity enhancements. This application has recently been submitted and is under consideration. The island lies in the setting of the AONB, however the nature, scale and setting of the proposal is likely to have a significant impact on the purposes of the Heritage Coast Definition. This may well be the first case that South Hams District Council will have to determine as an NPPF paragraph 178 major by virtue of its impact on the Heritage Coast definition.
8. A full list of planning cases the AONB Unit has been involved in over the last quarter is provided for information purposes in item 9a of the agenda papers. Please note that this information was extracted from the various LPA web sites at the end of February 2022. For the most up to date information in relation to these and other applications please visit the relevant LPA planning application search pages at:
  - South Hams District Council <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/>
  - Torbay Council <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/newpublicaccess//>
  - Devon County Council <https://planning.devon.gov.uk/PlanHome.aspx>
  - Plymouth City Council <https://planning.plymouth.gov.uk/online-applications/>
  - Marine Management Organisation [https://marinelicensing.marinemanagement.org.uk/mmofox5/fox/live/MMO\\_PUBLIC\\_REGISTER](https://marinelicensing.marinemanagement.org.uk/mmofox5/fox/live/MMO_PUBLIC_REGISTER)

## **Strategic Planning matters**

9. Torbay Local Plan Housing Update Growth Options Consultation Torbay Council is seeking to carry out a partial review of the Torbay Local Plan to update its housing supply policies. Following a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment, the Council set out five broad options.
  - Option 1: No further greenfield allocation beyond already allocated or approved sites.
  - Option 2: Limited further greenfield development.
  - Option 3: One or two further urban extensions.
  - Option 4: All sites that have not been ruled out in principle.
  - Option 5: Meeting full needs (as required by Government).
10. An open consultation on these options ran between 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Views were also sought on whether there is scope for a hybrid option that would allow the Council to set a minimum housing requirement, but also have a more ambitious target for urban regeneration sites.

## 9C. AONB Staff activity report

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION	REPORT BY	Adam Davison (AONB Project Officer)
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This paper highlights a selection of project activity that the Staff Unit has been engaged in over the last three months (November 2021 to February 2022) with the involvement and support of partners		
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	None		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<p>The AONB Partnership Committee members are invited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the breadth of the work undertaken by the Unit with positive alignment to the 25 YEP/ Glover National Landscape Review and NAAONB priorities closely linked to the conservation and enhancement of AONB special qualities and Management Plan priorities</li> <li>2. Consider how the Partnership as a whole and as individual members wish to become more involved in the development and delivery of future projects</li> </ol>		

### Background

1. The Unit continues to be flexible to address restrictions and lockdown issues by increased development of online resources and working closely with NAAONB.

### Climate

2. Coastal change - the AONB Unit has supported the hosting of the Slapton Line Adaptation Manager position
3. **Dwarf seagrass meadow research projects** in partnership with University of Plymouth - PhD student assistance – wider ecosystem services study of dwarf seagrass meadows and 2 MSc students
4. Initial work to develop a Seascape Character Assessment that includes consideration of the local blue carbon assimilation and storage potential.

### Nature

5. The NLHF Phase 1 application for the Life on the Edge (LotE) project. Application has been assessed and confirmed the NLHF offer of a Development Grant of up to £220,900. This is 53% of the total approved Development work cost of £417,000 towards the Development Phase of LotE. The Approved Project Costs include non-cash contributions and/or volunteer time, which equates to a Payment Percentage of 78%. Item 7a AONB Management details The Life on the Edge Project current activity
6. The South Devon Nature Recovery Plan Partnership Committee working group has met with partners and stakeholders to collectively work on an interactive Miro board to secure the initial phase of consultation. An example of one of the outputs is included below



## Place

13. A further four FiPL Assessment Panel meetings have taken place and all the year 1 funding has been committed. The projects are wide ranging and cover a good spread of the geographical area with a mix of funding going to commercial farming businesses and smaller landowners. Examples of funding awarded include orchards, tree planting, regenerative farming, farm shops, hedge banks and pond creation. Collectively they are meeting the four themes of Climate, Nature, People and Place. Julia Bastone has continued as our interim FiPL Officer with Diane Lethbridge and Louise Lethbridge co-ordinating enquiries and completing monitoring reports.
14. A FiPL advice surgery was held in November and a further advice surgery is scheduled to take place in Stoke Gabriel on 15th March. We are working with farming organisations to promote the event as well as advertising on social media and on the website. The next Panel meeting is on 30th March and we expect between 6 and 9 applications at the meeting. Meetings will take place every 6-8 weeks.
15. A FiPL Administrator has been appointed with a start date of 14th March. The initial advert for a FiPL Officer did not draw any suitable candidates so a second advert was issued with the role at 30 hours at a higher grade. Subsequently candidates were interviewed and following suitable references the successful individual will start on 28th March. Refer to item 7b for detail.
16. The Avon Valley Facilitation Group programme ended on 31st January 2022 having commenced in July 2015. It secured 2 extensions due to Covid 19 interruptions. During the final few weeks, we staged a range of events covering the subjects of orchard restoration, regenerative farming/re-rewilding, North Wyke research visit, Catchment Sensitive Farming/other funded schemes and the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
17. Over the life of the Avon Valley Facilitation project we have assisted 54 members to apply for Mid-Tier schemes covering 2404 ha of Mid-Tier options. This has included 5 years annual options payments of £1,613,487 and £1,001,191 of capital grants works. The group has held 150 meetings/events/workshops. Members expressed their support for the group and its work in a film made for the NAAONB national conference in 2021.
18. The Government issued its long-awaited response to the Glover Review and AONB team is working with Partnership members to advocate for the inspirational, transformative change envisioned by the Review Panel to be delivered. The consultation closes on 9 April 2022.
19. The team is currently preparing a consultation response to a Natural England review of Heritage Coasts.
20. The South Devon Coastal Heritage project led by the AONB has applied for a 3-year delivery project, following on the 1 year development phase. Total project costs for the 3-year project, including gift in kind and volunteer contribution is £158,491.07. We have been informed that we should receive an offer letter very soon from Historic England for a Heritage at Risk grant of £39,944.10. A further £4600 has been secured from the South

West Coast Path, £16,709 from England Coast Path with additional funding from Countryside Stewardship, TIDES project and National Trust. A small grant of £10,000 will be applied for from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to delivery community engagement activities as part of the project. The project will run from April 2022 – March 2025. The project will involve work to remove scheduled monuments from the At Risk register and raise understanding of their importance in the protected landscape. IT will involve local landowners, community and volunteers. We will be launching the 3 year project with a volunteer test pitting dig at Bolberry Down in April, with a public open afternoon – 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April TBC

21. England Coast Path works based on Planning grant (value of £10,549) works will be completed by the end of March and the implementation grant (value of £19,166.40) will be applied for to complete the projects from April – March 2023. Works include on site and digital interpretation of historic sites along the coast from Bolt Head to Bolt Tail, Staddon Heights in Wembury, Bantham and Fort Charles in Salcombe. In addition, new ferry / crossing information panels and digital content for SWCP / ECP crossing points on the Yealm, Erme and Avon.

## 9D. South Devon Water Vole survey

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION	REPORT BY	Jess Smallcombe (DBRC) & Adam Davison (AONB Project Officer)
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This paper provides an overview of the South Devon Water Vole Project, project highlights and key statistics on deliverable outcomes achieved		
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	None		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<p>The AONB Partnership Committee members are invited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the outputs of the project in respect to the Partnership contributing funding to the project</li> <li>2. Reflect on the value of this type of project as a contribution to Nature Recovery and responding to Biodiversity loss</li> </ol>		

### Overview

1. This project came about when Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) flagged up a small number of historic water vole records along the Avon Valley. Following a population crash at the end of the last century, water voles are now very rare in Devon, with the current populations being a direct result of reintroductions, and as such are very localised to just a few sites.
2. After becoming aware of a previously unknown reintroduction in 2010 on private land, at what is now the Devon Birds South Huish reserve, the project set out to investigate how far the water voles had spread. In part, this was necessary to corroborate unverified records, that in recent years suggested they may have spread some distance up the Avon Valley. This project offered an opportunity to monitor the effectiveness of the original release, something that had not previously been considered, and learn lessons which could inform other such releases.
3. Data gathering & survey would be done initially by DBRC ecologists on targeted sites. But after local training sessions, the project could also ensure that further records could be sent in by volunteers. The approach taken was a trial, especially considering the impacts of C19, and one that included providing new skills to people in the area and which can be scaled up, and/or replicated in other areas where water vole releases are planned.

### Project highlights

4. In October 2021 the DBRC Community Ecologist visited Aveton Gifford Primary School to speak to the children about the local water vole surveys. We spoke to over 100 children and their teachers. The children were really engaged, asking lots of great questions about habitat, diet and life cycle. A small number of children already knew a little about water voles, which appears to be linked with our training sessions earlier in the year, where a family member attended.
5. An article was featured in 'Wild Devon' DWTs magazine which goes to their 50,000 members, in the summer edition of 2021, summarising the projects aims and noting its funders.
6. Video: [South Devon Water Vole Project](#) - YouTube

7. Various posts on social media which have been well received, with hundreds of likes.
8. Working with numerous partners the project was able to offer training to representatives of the National Trust, Devon Birds, South Devon AONB, DEF, local landowners and residents. Each individual trained in how to identify water vole signs has a direct link with suitable habitat and an interest in conserving it.
9. The project has helped inform the updated the management plans at South Huish and South Milton Ley Reserves incorporating ways in which to best manage the sites for them.



Photo: DBRC. Good water vole habitat – a slow-flowing ditch with open, unshaded grassy banks.

### Key statistics

- Records were confirmed along the River Avon and associated water courses, spanning a distance of approximately 11 km.
  - Multiple (45) new records in five locations, and the confirmation of presence in one additional location.
  - 14 volunteers trained, including landowners, National Trust rangers and local residents.
  - 102 children at the local school educated on local water voles, with information sent home to all the parents and available to teachers.
10. The new records are now part of Devon Biodiversity Records Centre's data holdings, which is made available to conservation partners, developers and local authorities alike. Knowing that water voles are in the area will mean that management and mitigation efforts, where appropriate will be able to be put in place.

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## **AONB Partnership Committee Meeting**

to be held at

**10am on Friday, 11 March 2022**

**Remote Video Meeting**  
via Zoom

**Annexes to Meeting Papers**



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## **Annex 1 to Agenda item 9a: Summary of Development Management and other Planning Activity**

### **Purpose**

1. This report provides a brief update on Local planning authority development management consultations since the November 2021 AONB Partnership meeting pertinent to the South Devon AONB.

### **Key Activity**

#### **Planning Caseload**

2. Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) formally consulted the AONB Unit on 78 applications to date for 2021/2022. In addition, the AONB Unit was consulted on three neighbourhood plans, four felling licences, one transport strategy, five new woodland creation proposals, a reservoir consultation under the Water Industry Act, a Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment for Torbay, a Local Plan Housing Update Growth Options consultation for TORBAY and a planning validation checklist for South Hams District Council.

Summary of activity since last update:

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

Note that the 44 applications with completed responses and an LPA decision as at the November PCM are treated as closed and are not reported again in the table below. Wording in 'normal' text signifies this appeared on the last planning update, with any changes/updates noted in '**bold**' text.

3. The following table lists the planning cases relevant to the period:

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
<b>17 Applications - LPA decision made</b>					
1411/21/VAR	The Cove guesthouse, Torcross Variation of condition	<b>Conditional approval</b>	<b>N</b>	N	Planning consent 53/3160/11/F AONB Unit Objection
3343/20/FUL	Seacliffe Overseas Estate Stoke Fleming Construct replacement dwelling	<b>Withdrawn</b>	Y	N	
2133/19/VAR	Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove Variation of condition 2	<b>Conditional approval</b>	<b>N</b>	Y	READVERTISEMENT - new documents received
2048/21/ARC	Noss Marina Approval of details reserved condition 4	<b>Approved</b>	-	Y	
2842/21/FUL	Briar Hill Farm, Newton Ferrers Extend holiday park, construct 14 lodges	<b>Withdrawn</b>	Y	N	

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
0936/19/ARM	Land adjacent Townstal Road, West of Dartmouth Approval of reserved matters , 123 dwellings	Conditional approval	-	N	Readvertised – revised plans received
P/2021/0865	Former Wall Park Holiday Centre Brixham Siting of residential park home replacing touring pitch	Approved	-	N	
3221/21/FUL	Land on SW side Cliff Road Wembury New dwelling	Conditional approval	-	N	
2035/21/FUL	Land at Sx 515 490 Pump Hill Road Wembury Change of use agriculture to dog walking area and amenity	Conditional approval	-	N	Readvertised – revised plans
3498/21/ARC	Newpark Stables North Huish Approval of reserved matters	Approved	Y	N	No objection
3406/21/VAR	Venus takeaway kiosk Variation of condition	Conditional approval	-	N	
3167/21/FUL	Menryn Court Wood Newton Ferrers Extend dwelling and replace garage	Withdrawn	-	N	
P/2021/1007	Former Wall Park Holiday Centre Brixham Temporary siting of static caravan	Approved	-	N	
CN/2021/0101	Land South of White Rock Paignton Discharge of appeal condition	Approved	-	N	Planning ref P/2017/1133
3916/21/FUL	Land At Sx 717 482 Redwood Drive Loddiswell Three new detached two storey dwellings	Withdrawn	-	N	
4444/21/FUL	The Blossoms Lower Court Road Newton Ferrers Replacement dwelling	Withdrawn	Y	N	
4683/21/FUL	Harbour Watch East Portlemouth Demolition of existing house and garage. Replacement detached dwelling, outside pool, gazebo	Withdrawn	Y	N	
<b>27 Applications - Response submitted - LPA still to determine</b>					
2167/19/FUL	Gara Rock Hotel East Portlemouth READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans received) 5 additional holiday units within Gara Rock Resort	-	Objection	N	Application re-advertised, number of units reduced from 8. Revisions and further information on compliance with earlier landscape conditions awaited  <b>Revised plans Jan 2022</b>
0761/20/OPA	Vicarage Park Land North of Westentown Kingston 12 new houses	-	Objection	Y	Resubmission of 4068/17/OPA
1159/21/FUL	Land at West End Garage, Salcombe 22 dwellings	-	Objection	Y	<b>Revised plans Feb 2022</b>

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
1602/21/ FUL	Land At Sx 893 507 Castle Road Kingswear New livestock building	-	<b>Objection</b>	N	
P/2021/0658	Brokenbury, Churston Ferrers Formation of a solar farm & associated equipment to include installation of fencing, CCTV, landscaping & ecological mitigation.	-	<b>No objection</b>	N	
2817/21/ARM	Noss Marina Details of reserved matters and discharge of conditions	-	<b>Advice provided</b>	Y	
1340/21/FUL	Plot 5, Staddon Heights, Wembury Change of use, field to dog training & facilities	-	<b>Objection</b>	N	
3053/21/ARM	Noss Marina Approval of reserved matters	-	<b>Advice provided</b>	Y	
3078/21/VAR	Development site Norton Cross to Townstal Road Dartmouth Variation of condition	-	<b>Neutral</b>	N	<b>Recommended wider buffer at SE edge to better protect views from AONB &amp; ensure special qualities unharmed</b>
3118/21/ARM	Development site Norton Cross to Townstal Road Dartmouth Approval of reserved matters	-	<b>Neutral</b>	N	<b>Recommended design of SE site revisited to provide wider buffer to S &amp; ensure area managed as open space</b>
3119/21/FUL	Development site Norton Cross to Townstal Road Dartmouth 32 residential units	-	<b>No comments</b>	N	
3120/21/FUL	Development site Norton Cross to Townstal Road Dartmouth Attenuation basis, pumping stations, open space etc	-	<b>No comments</b>	N	
P/2020/0966	Wall Park Touring and Century Road Camping site Brixham Replace 24 touring pitches with 10 holiday statics/lodges	-	<b>Objection</b>	N	
3054/21/ARM	Noss Marina Approval of reserved matters	-	<b>Advice provided</b>	Y	
P/2021/0890	Land at Upton Manor Farm Camp site, Brixham 132 residential dwellings	-	<b>Objection</b>	Y	Limestone cavern information supplied by member of the public
2982/21/FUL	Land opposite Butts Park Newton Ferrers 20 residential units	-	<b>Objection</b>	Y	
3335/21/FUL	Site at land west of Collaton Park Newton Ferrers 125 homes	-	<b>Objection</b>	Y	
3403/21/HHO	Avonmouth Folly Hill Bigbury on Sea Regularisation of garden terracing	-	<b>Objection</b>	N	
<b>1303/21/FUL</b>	<b>Land At SX 680402 east of Thornlea View Hope Cove Erection of 10 dwellings</b>	-	<b>Objection</b>	N	
<b>4031/21/FUL</b>	<b>Sand Pebbles Hotel Hope Cove Redevelop hotel to 7-holiday lets and 5 residential units</b>	-	<b>Objection</b>	N	
<b>3953/21/FUL</b>	<b>101 Yealm Road Newton Ferrers Demolish two-storey detached buildings &amp; garage. Erect 2 four bed family homes and</b>	-	<b>Objection</b>	N	

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
	extension of quay to east of site providing new landing ramp for dwelling 2				
4151/21/FUL	South Efford House Aveton Gifford Demolish care home, construct 6 Residential Dwellings	-	Objection	Y	
4763/21/ARM	Site at SX775424 East of Creek Close Frogmore Application for reserved matters: access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale following outline approval 3880/17/OPA for the erection of 8 dwellings	-	Holding objection	N	Resubmission of 1430/21/ARM)
4421/21/FUL	Land at Spirewell Farm Traine Road Wembury Single storey three bedroom dwelling	-	Objection	N	
0141/22/FUL	Vipers Quay, Dittisham Repair jetty, including rebuild stone wall on northface and parts on east and west sides, remove and replace concrete base, remove part concrete slab on north end to drainage channel to facilitate work and replace afterwards	-	No objection - subject to conditions	N	
1602/21/FUL	Land At Sx 893 507 Castle Road Kingswear New livestock building	-	Objection	N	
2786/20/FUL	West Buckland Barn Bantham READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans and amended development description) Erection of new agricultural store	-	Objection	N	
<b>18 Applications - Responses in development</b>					
0868/20/ARM	Development Site SX612502 North Of Church Hill Holbeton Application for approval of reserved matters construct 14 dwellings	-		N	Following outline approval 25/1720/15/O; resubmission of 0127/19/ARM
2089/20/FUL	Fish Hoek South Town Dartmouth Alter and extend 2 dwellings and erect 2 new dwellings	-		N	Related to withdrawn application no. 2781/18/FUL
4158/19/FUL	Development Site At Sx 734 439, Land to Northwest of junction between Ropewalk and Kingsway Park Ropewalk Kingsbridge 15 dwellings	-		N	READVERTISEMENT – Revised plans received
3186/20/VAR	The High Nature Centre East Portlemouth Variation of conditions 3, 5 and 23 of planning consent 20/0785/12/F	-		N	
P/2021/0173	Riviera Bay Holiday Park, Brixham Replace facilities building & relocate 7 lodges	-		N	
3165/21/VAR	Rear of 62 Staddiscombe Road Plymstock Removal of conditions	-		N	Related application 1129/21/FUL
CN/2021/0073	Land to South of White Roack Paignton Discharge of appeal conditions	-		N	Planning ref P/2017/1133
P/2021/0811	Land at Churston Court Farm, Churston Change of use from agricultural to storage	-		N	
3571/21/FUL	Skyfall, Warfleet, Dartmouth Replace detached dwelling	-		N	

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with AONB advice / guidance	AONB Major	Comments
MLA/2021/00454	Dittisham Pier repair work	-		N	
3122/21/VAR	Land at Garden Mill Derby Road Kingsbridge Variation of condition 7 of outline application 28/1560/15/O (appeal ref: APP/K1128/W/16/3156062) to allow for revised dwelling design and layout	-		N	
P/2021/1238	Land Off Northfields Lane, Brixham Split land from holiday accommodation use, construct single storey dwelling	-		N	
4476/21/ARC	Noss Marina, Bridge Road, Kingswear Application for approval of details reserved by condition 21 of Planning Permission 0504/20/VAR	-		Y	
4751/21/FUL	Homefield Farm, Sherford Change of use: commercial buildings & dwelling house to 3 holiday lets. Demolish retail unit, replace commercial building with 1 self-build dwelling house.	-		N	
0043/22/VAR	The Cove Guest House, Torcross Application for variation of condition 2 of planning consent 53/3160/11/F	-		N	resubmission of 1411/21/VAR
4774/21/FUL	Burgh Island Hotel, Bigbury On Sea Extend and refurbish Hotel and associated buildings; develop new staff accommodation, extend Pilchard Inn, extend Bay View Cafe	-		N	But is Heritage Coast NPPF 177 Major
22/00086/FUL	Land At Bovisand Lane Staddiscombe Demolish 2 agricultural buildings and erect 2 dwellings (bungalows)	-		N	
22/00219/FUL	Chelson Meadow Plymouth Installation and operation of a Solar Farm (approx. 13 MW)	-		N	

## Recommendations

4. The Partnership Committee is recommended to:
  - i. Note the level of resource commitment currently applied to the type of development management consultations, bearing in mind the recently updated AONB Planning Protocol (adopted March 2020), in addition to strategic and neighbourhood plan demand across the local planning authority areas. Keep this under review.
  - ii. Continue to provide early notification of significant planning matters to the AONB Manager to enable timely and appropriate action to be taken.