

Action



Cornwall
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

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CORNWALL
One of the
AONB Family



*A life-size sand drawing of a critically endangered
Western North Pacific Grey Whale, Gwithian*

Sand art by Sonia Shomalzadeh

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Forewords



Joyce Duffin, Cornwall Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Housing

We are so lucky in Cornwall, surrounded by beautiful countryside and heritage assets that most of us just take for granted. We rarely appreciate what we have. Most people would be shocked to learn that Cornwall is losing biodiversity at a greater rate than the national average!

The Cornwall AONB is extremely important and the landscape has equal status and protection to a National Park, but our actions don't reflect this. However, that doesn't mean we should wrap it up in cotton wool and expect it not to change.

We rely on the environment to provide us with economic gain, but we don't protect the environment while we do this. We are draining down its resources and if we continue to do this it will not be there for us in the future. We need to understand the value of the "natural capital" of the Cornwall AONB and get serious about investing in nature.

The vision of this plan is to raise awareness of the AONB in Cornwall, to ensure everyone knows the importance of the landscape and to use the Cornwall AONB to support communities and enhance both jobs, physical and mental wellbeing and local ecology.

We need to inspire the residents of the Cornwall AONB to be proud advocates of the landscape. By making the Cornwall AONB work harder for the benefit of the community (economically and through health and wellbeing benefits) and in turn enhance and preserve the landscape.

The Cornwall AONB attracts many visitors for its rich culture and beautiful landscapes. Shows like Poldark bring the beauty of Cornwall to many new admirers who join the numerous visitors that have returned many times.

I particularly commend the 10 Aims to you. These aspirations get straight to the point of what we need to achieve. The plan is easy to understand and broken into sections to make it easy to read. I hope you will enjoy reading it and find it an easy document to use as guidance.

Cornish translation

Raglavar

Konselores Joyce Duffin

Esel Kabinet Konsel Kernow rag Kerghynnedh ha Treven

Pur feusik on yn Kernow, kerghynnys gans powdir teg ha livys gans pythow ertach hag yw aswonys gans an brassa rann ahanan heb prederi a-dro dhedha. Yn gwiryonedh, namenowgh ny wren vri a'n pyth a'gan beus. Diegrys via an brassa rann a dus dhe dhyski bos Kernow ow kelli bewddiverseth orth kevradh uskissa ages an kresek kenedhlek!

Pur bosek yw Ranndir a Dekter Naturek a Vri (RDNV) Kernow, ha'n dirwel a's teves savla ha difresyans kehalval orth Park Kenedhlek, mes ny'n dastewyn agan gwriansow. Byttegyns, ny styr henna y tal dhyn y vaylya yn gwlan koton ha desevo na wra chanjya.

Ni a fydh y'n kerghynnedh dh'agan provia gans gwayn erbysek, mes ny withyn an kerghynnedh ha ni ow kul hemma. Yth eson ow kwakhe y askorrasow ha mar pesyn gul yndella ny vydh ena ragon y'n termyn a dheu. Yma edhom dhyn a gonvedhes bri "chatel naturek" RDNV Kernow ha mos ha bos sad a-dro dhe gevarghewi y'n natur.

Gwelesigeth an dowl ma yw drehevel aswonvos a'n RDNV yn Kernow, surhe pubonan dhe wodhvos bri a'n dirwel, ha devnydhya RDNV Kernow rag skoodhya kemenethow ha gwellhe oberennow, yeghes fisegel ha brysel, hag ekologieth leel.

Res yw dhyn ynspira anedhysi RDNV Kernow dhe vos skodhyoryon wothus a'n dirwel dre wul dhe RDNV Kernow oberi kreffa a-barth les an gemeneth (yn erbysek ha dre lesow yeghes) hag yn y dro gwellhe ha gwitha an dirwel.

RDNV Kernow a denn lies vysytyer awos y wonisogeth rych ha tirwelyow teg. Fylmow kepar ha Poldark a dhre tekter Kernow dhe lies estemyer nowydh a omjun gans an vysytyoryon, bras aga niver, re dhehwelis lieskweyth.

Yn arbennek my a gommend dhywgh an 10 Amkan. An gorvynnow ma a dhiskwa yn kler an pyth yw res dhyn hedhes. Es yw konvedhes an towl ha rynnys yw yn treghow mayth yw esya y redya. My a wayt y fydh da genowgh y redya hag y fydh skrifen ragowgh es hy devnydhya avel gidnyans.



*Dr Robert Kirby-Harris,
Cornwall AONB Partnership Chair*

The Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is Cornwall's protected landscape – a large diverse area covering nearly a third of the County. It's generally acknowledged that this unique and special place requires care, attention and cooperation - and achieving the protection and enhancement of this outstanding landscape poses a number of key challenges. The AONB is a living, working landscape, which means that in focussing on its conservation and enhancement we must also respond to the needs of people in terms of jobs, skills, education, health and well being.

The Cornwall AONB is undoubtedly beautiful and this unique area is appreciated by a wide range of people for the restorative benefits it provides them. However, the beauty of the landscape does mask some critical issues. The AONB contains some significant pockets of deprivation where even affordable housing is not achievable for many. And, sadly, it is also no longer the haven for wildlife it once was. Its shorelines are eroding faster than ever, much of its heritage is now 'at risk' and in declining condition, and its strong character has been weakened through inappropriate development.

In the past, meeting the needs of people has been viewed by many as being incompatible with landscape enhancement and environmental improvement. For decades some have been labouring under a misapprehension that it's either economy or landscape - people or place. As such, the AONB has been viewed negatively, as a constraint to the ongoing development of Cornwall. Thankfully, we've come a long way from this old fashioned viewpoint, and are beginning to see that successful communities and businesses are highly dependant on good stewardship of place.

Many environmentalists in Cornwall and elsewhere consider that our environment is close to a tipping point, a tipping point beyond which our environment cannot continue to shield people and business from the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, and where it will not be

able to carry on providing the services which we as a society currently take for granted: vital services such as flood prevention and crop pollination. Businesses are increasingly recognising the need to play a full part in reducing the detrimental effects of their operations on natural systems. Bigger corporations in particular are beginning to invest substantial amounts to manage their impact in order to develop their businesses while contributing positively to the society within which they operate, and in doing so, most of them are seeing an increase in profitability. Gradually, society and business are beginning to realise that in order to be sustainable in the long term, the environment and landscape must also be grown.

Cornwall will soon produce its 'Environmental Growth Strategy' - a long term plan to grow Cornwall's environment as a key factor in ensuring Cornwall's future. This year also, Defra will publish a 25 year plan for the UK's environment. The Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2016-2021 supports these strategies by advocating an approach based upon the sustainable management of both place and people, promoting investment to ensure the long term future of both.

During this 5 year management plan period, in 2019, the Cornwall AONB designation will be 60 years old. It's worth taking some time to reflect on why AONBs were designated in the first place? Arising out of the environmental movements of that time, government sensed that people really appreciated the restorative properties of beautiful natural landscapes and that we all wanted to preserve this for future generations. This aim remains as relevant and vital today as it was then. Moreover, in achieving the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, Cornwall's protected landscape can lead the way in developing solutions to 21st century issues of climate, environment, heritage and biodiversity, culture, health and prosperity - by demonstrating that it's people and place, rather than people or place.



Introduction

What is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are particularly special landscapes whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them. As such they have been nationally designated by the same legislation as National Parks¹ and have the same status and level of protection.

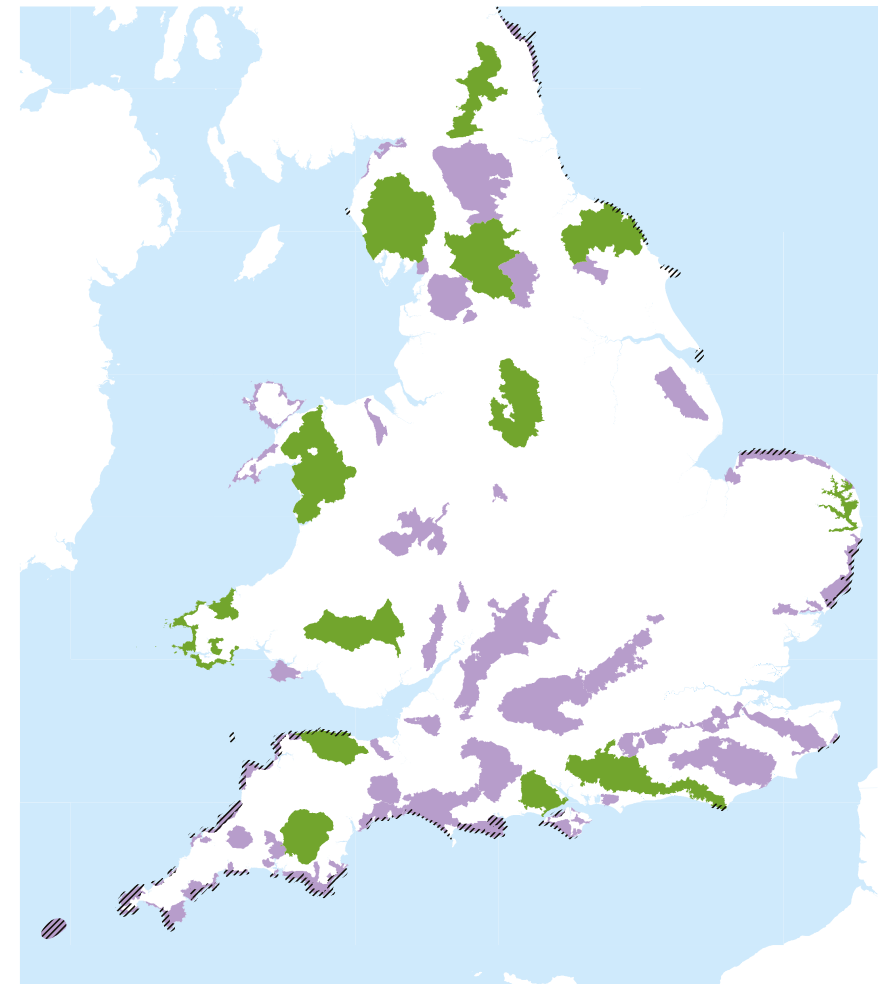
The primary purpose of an AONB designation under the Act¹ is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. However, in pursuing this, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of development that conserve and enhance the environment. The demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 confirmed the significance of AONBs. Section 85 places a legal duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function affecting land within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Section 89 places a statutory duty on local planning authorities to produce a management plan for their AONB's and review the plan every five years.

The national picture

There are currently 46 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which make up around 18% of the country. There are also 13 National Parks and one separate designation, The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads. Scotland has a different system with two National Parks and 40 National Scenic Areas. Together, protected landscapes make up 24 percent of the land area of England.

In the South West, there are 12 AONBs covering thirty percent of the region - twice the proportion covered by AONBs in England as a whole. There are also two National Parks, Dartmoor and Exmoor, covering some seven percent of the region.



Protected Areas

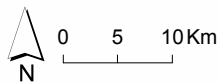
▨ Heritage Coast ■ National Parks ■ AONB

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AONBs and National Parks in England and Wales

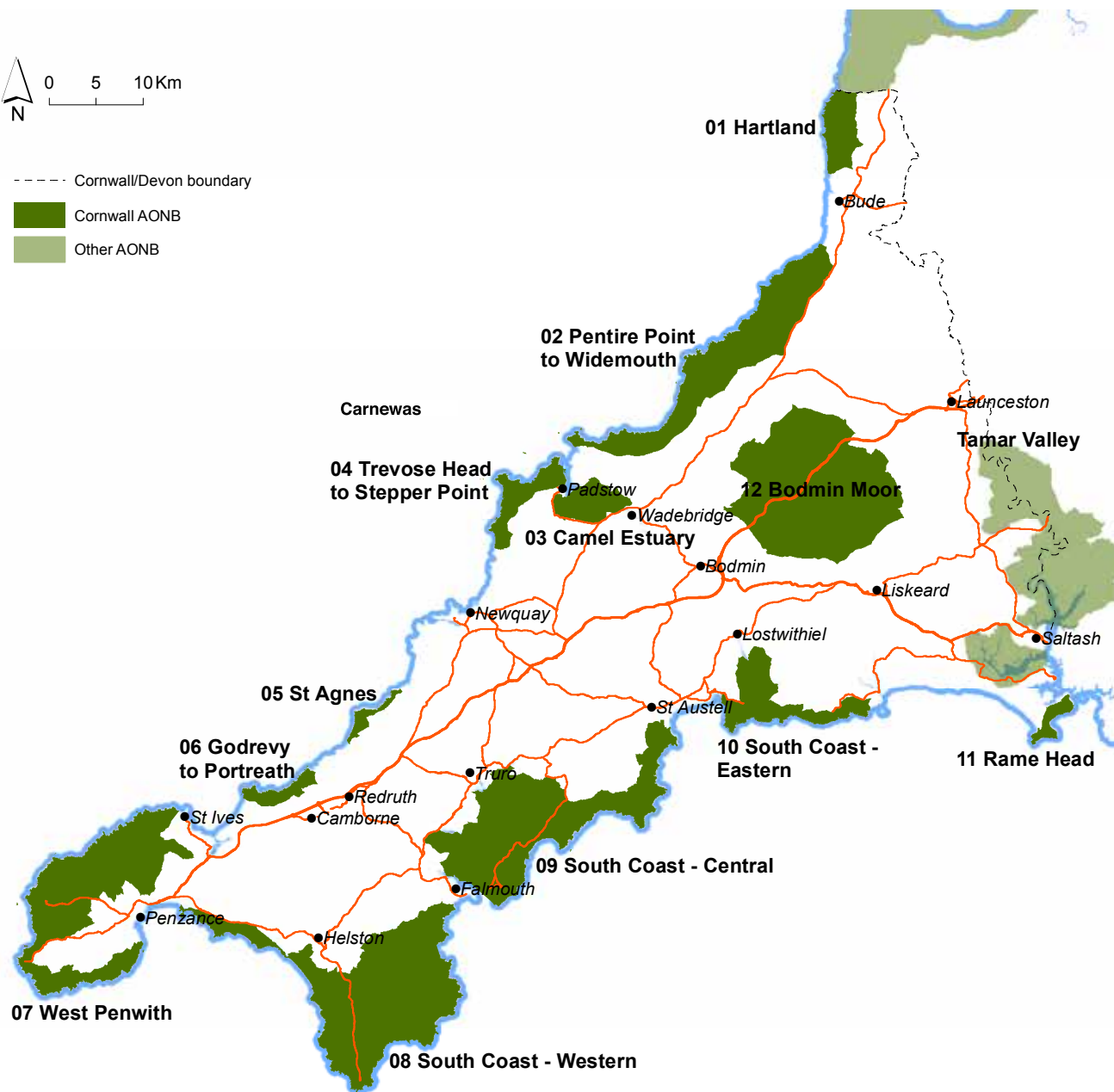
¹The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949



--- Cornwall/Devon boundary

■ Cornwall AONB

■ Other AONB



The 12 separate sections of the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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The Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was designated in 1959 with the Camel Estuary being added in 1981. A section of the Tamar Valley AONB is also in Cornwall. There is a close relationship with this AONB and with our other near AONB neighbours, the Isles of Scilly and North Devon AONBs.

The Cornwall AONB is unique in that it is made up of 12 separate geographical areas but is still one single designation. It covers approximately 27 percent of Cornwall - an area of 958 sq. km (370 sq. miles) and is the ninth largest in the country.

The Statements of Significance contained within the Local Sections of this Plan define what makes each of the 12 sections of the Cornwall AONB special and justify its designation as a nationally important landscape, setting out those qualities that make the area beautiful, recognisable and distinctive. These can be used to judge impact (or harm) to the AONB from development or other activity, and as a guide to help tailor positive policies and actions to support the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.



Changing landscapes

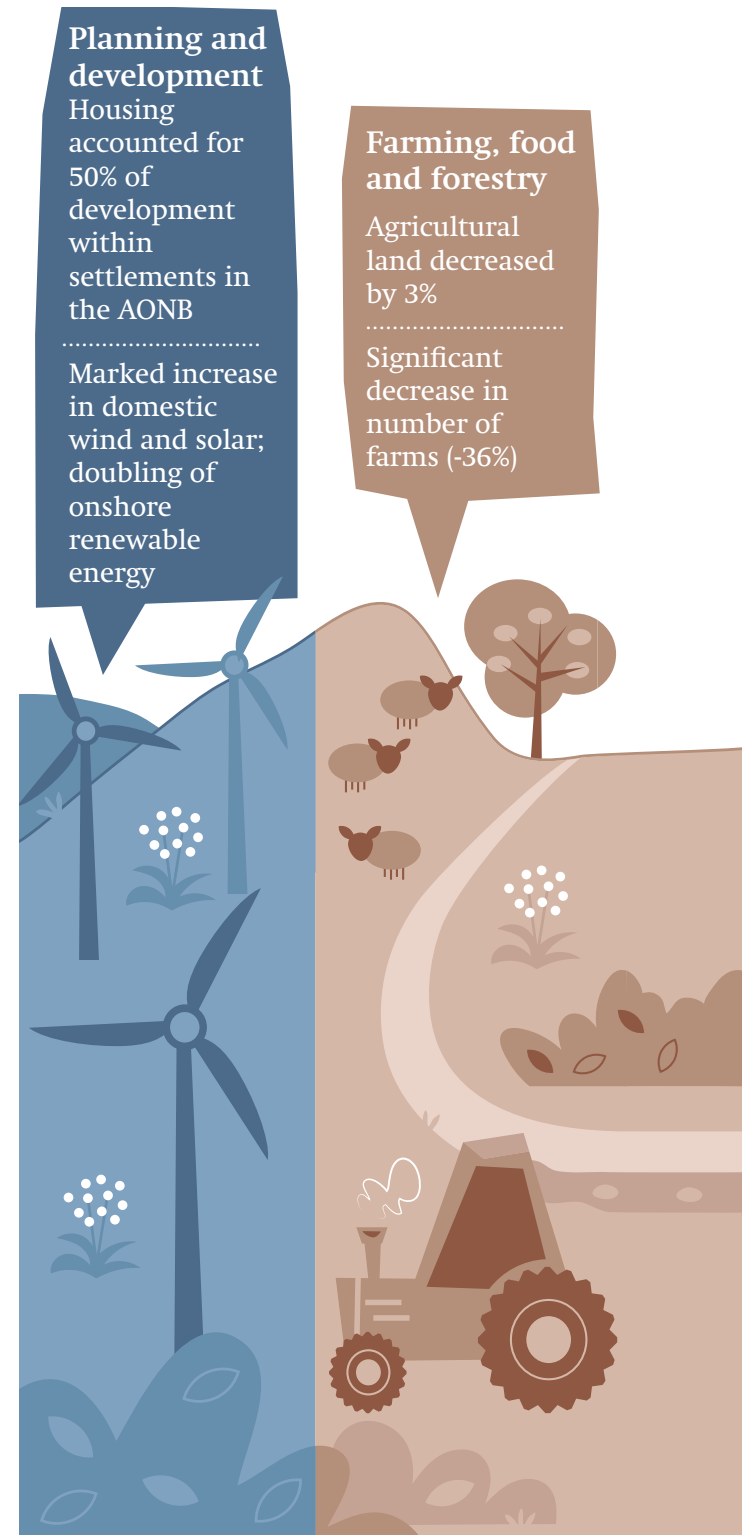
The natural beauty of the AONB is sensitive to a wide range of factors. While the AONB designation has guarded against major intrusive development, pressures on the landscape will remain, as Cornwall continues to evolve. There are many forces for change acting directly or indirectly upon the AONB landscape, mostly man-made, from very local effects, to those requiring a global solution.

Headline forces for change

- Climate change
- Changes in land management
- Economic and development pressures
- Population change and housing
- Lifestyle changes
- Visitor and recreational pressures
- Legislative and policy change

Further information on predicted trends and forces for change can be found in the monitoring reports of the Cornwall AONB Partnership³. To find out more about the forces for change please refer to Appendix 1 in this document.

³."Cornwall, Tamar Valley and Isles of Scilly AONB Landscape Monitoring Project", Cornwall, Tamar Valley and Isles of Scilly AONB Partnerships and Land Use Consultants, 2008; "Cornwall AONB Monitoring: Phase 2 Report", Cornwall AONB Partnership and Land Use Consultants in association with Plymouth University, 2013.



Environmental Stewardship

Land under Environmental Stewardship has more than doubled

Field patterns and boundaries

Cornish hedge banks continue to be maintained, indicating effective land management

Woodland and forestry

Small increase in woodland
45% increase in English Woodland Grant Scheme agreements

Biodiversity and geodiversity

10 formal designations for Special Areas of Conservation
1 new SSSI;
9 new County Geological Sites

Heritage and culture

1 new Scheduled Monument on Bodmin Moor
81 Scheduled Monuments, 4 Listed Buildings and 1 Registered Park and Garden are on the national 'At Risk' register
15 new entries on Cornwall's Historic Environment Record
70% of Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the at risk register are assessed as in declining condition

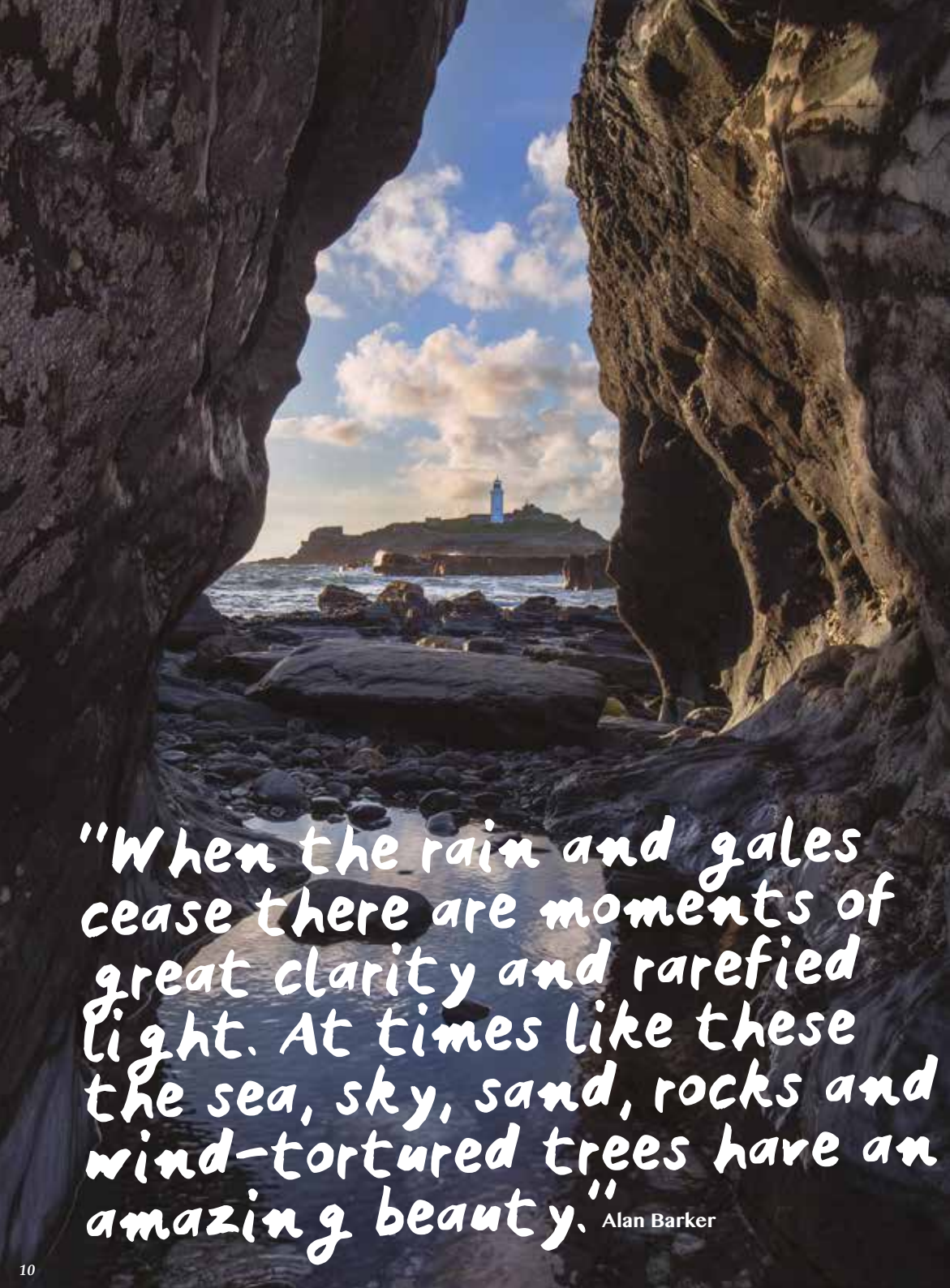
Community and economy

Population increased by 6% (higher proportion of older people)
Accommodation and food services doubled (between 2001 and 2011)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing increased by 8%

Transport and access

95 kilometres of new multi-use trails
2 new cycle routes
300 hectares more Open Access Land
1 ferry reinstated





"When the rain and gales cease there are moments of great clarity and rarefied light. At times like these the sea, sky, sand, rocks and wind-tortured trees have an amazing beauty." Alan Barker

1.

The AONB boundary and boundary review

The Cornwall AONB has a complex boundary, drawn as a result of the initial survey for designation, carried out in the 1930s. Subsequent discussions with stakeholders, landowners and interested parties resulted in the boundary we see today finally being designated in 1959.

Due to its complexity, communities often find it hard to understand why some areas of Cornwall are in the AONB while others are not and queries about additions to the AONB are regular. Natural England is the government body responsible for AONB boundary review and they have clear criteria for change. Over this Management Plan period, depending on resources, Natural England will be reviewing historic suggestions for boundary changes.



1. Godrevy lighthouse - Alan Barker
2. Dragonfly CWT - S McCann-Downes

2.

The Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2016-2021



The Management Plan is intended to be a shared strategy that will be of interest to the communities, parishes, residents, businesses, landowners and farmers, agencies, authorities, utilities, organisations and amenity groups operating within, or with an interest in, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Management Plan has four main parts

1. Introduction
2. Strategy and Delivery Plan
3. Policies
4. Local sections

The Strategy section sets out the vision of the Partnership for the Cornwall AONB and its management aims over the five year plan period. It incorporates the Delivery Plan detailing the activities upon which the Partnership wants to collaborate across the plan period, identifying lead and supporting partners and time-scaling activity.

The Policies section provides the overall strategic approach to the management of the Cornwall AONB. The policies provide information on the key environmental, social and economic management issues relevant to the AONB as a whole. They also examine likely landscape impacts from a variety of forces and identify opportunities for the management of these; setting a clear framework to ensure AONB purposes can be met.

The Local Sections provide policies for the individual areas of the Cornwall AONB, reflecting the management needs specific to those areas and are based on a comprehensive parish and community consultation.

The Management Plan has been produced with a full and comprehensive programme of public involvement and consultation. It is also supported by a full Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Habitat Regulations Assessment, as required by the European Habitats Directive⁴.

4. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations'), which transpose the European Habitats Directive 1992

The purpose of the Management Plan

The Cornwall AONB is a national asset, critical to Cornwall's economy and the well-being of communities. The purpose of the Management Plan is to set out policies through which the landscape quality of the AONB can be conserved and also enhanced and how sustainable development can take place. It also details a set of focused and integrated actions and encourages them to be taken forward by a range of partners and stakeholders. The Management Plan should be able to:

- Raise awareness of the protected landscape, its importance and its management requirements.
- Highlight the key landscape characteristics of the AONB and the forces for change upon them.
- Promote opportunities for integrated action, projects and initiatives for the sustainable management of the protected landscape.
- Identify how a protected landscape can be conserved and enhanced while also remaining a vibrant, living, working landscape.
- Outline the opportunities for the involvement of people living and working within the AONB in safeguarding its special qualities and shaping decisions that affect it.
- Enable the allocation of resources into AONB management through project funding and the direction of public funds and private investment.

The Plan should be a channel through which all those with an interest in the AONB can assess how their work can deliver the vision and aims. The plan can operate at a number of different levels from high level policy to local level community projects although there are two key areas where the Plan must be influential.

- 1) Influencing local policy through informing other plans and strategies; ensuring that policies and decisions that will affect the AONB are developed with an understanding of how the AONB can be developed in a sustainable way.
- 2) To inform and guide organisations, groups and individuals who are able to influence the management of the AONB, providing a wider context for their activity in order to conserve and enhance the protected landscape.



"You don't have to travel half way round the world to capture spectacular images of nature."

Ben Church



The Cornwall AONB Partnership

The main role of the Cornwall AONB Partnership is to plan and implement the AONB Management Plan. It meets twice a year, using the Management Plan as a framework around which to discuss delivery. The Partnership also has an advisory role, providing advice to Cornwall Council and other organisations on issues such as planning and development and project development. In addition the Cornwall AONB Executive Board meets four times a year to discuss staffing, budgets and delivery.

The Cornwall AONB is managed by a Partnership of 16 organisations:

- Cornwall Agri-food Council
- Cornwall Association of Local Councils
- Cornwall Council
- Cornwall Rural Community Charity
- Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Project
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- Country Land and Business Association
- Historic England
- Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
- Fal River Cornwall
- National Farmers Union
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Rural Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Partnership
- University of Exeter in Cornwall
- VisitCornwall

A small team of officers, the Cornwall AONB Unit, supports the Partnership. This comprises staff with a wide range of expertise in ecology, landscape architecture, landscape planning, communications, business development, project management, finance and administration. The Unit exists to provide advice, administer the Partnership and enable delivery of the Management Plan.

Highlight
Promote
Identify

The relationship with other strategies and plans

The planning role

The Cornwall AONB Management Plan is a material planning consideration for planning purposes and, as such, should be taken into account in the preparation of the Cornwall Local Plan, any Neighbourhood Plan affecting the AONB, and in development management decisions. The Management Plan highlights the value and special qualities of the Cornwall AONB and sets the strategic context for development within or affecting the AONB and/or its setting. Following the production of this Plan, a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will be developed for the Cornwall AONB which will provide further guidance on planning in the protected landscape.

The Cornwall Local Plan

The Cornwall AONB is referred to in a number of policies and supporting text in the Draft Cornwall Local Plan (May 2016) but the most direct reference is within Policy 23 which concerns the natural environment and specifically addresses the Cornwall AONB as follows:

Policy 23: Natural environment

1. *Development proposals will need to sustain local distinctiveness and character, and protect and enhance Cornwall's natural environment and assets according to their international, national and local significance.*

2. *Cornish landscapes*

Development should be of an appropriate scale, mass and design that recognises and respects landscape character of both designated and un-designated landscapes. Development must take into account and respect the sensitivity and capacity of the landscape asset, considering cumulative impact and the wish to maintain dark skies and tranquillity in areas that are relatively undisturbed, using guidance from the Cornwall Landscape Character Assessment and supported by the descriptions of Areas of Great Landscape Value. In areas of undeveloped coast, outside main towns, only development requiring a coastal location and that cannot be achieved elsewhere will be acceptable.

2 (a). *The Cornwall and Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Great weight will be given to conserving the landscape and scenic beauty within or affecting the setting of the AONB. Proposals must conserve and enhance the landscape character and natural beauty of the AONB and provide only for an identified local need and be appropriately located to address the AONB's sensitivity and capacity. Proposals should be informed by and assist the delivery of the objectives of the Cornwall and Tamar Valley AONB Management Plans including the interests of those who live and/or work in them. Major development in the AONB will be refused subject to the tests of exceptional circumstances and demonstrating the development is in the public interest as set out in national policy.*



Planning in the AONB

Supporting text to policy 23

Paragraph 2.101, which is the supporting text to policy 23, explains that “considerable guidance and evidence is available such as the: Landscape Character Assessment, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan; World Heritage Site Management Plan; Conservation Area Appraisals; Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Urban Survey and the Historic Environment Record in particular. All of these provide important information and should be used alongside this document in making planning decisions.”

Paragraph 2.103 outlines that “Proposals for development should be informed by and respond to the natural environment in line with their status:

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB): When considering proposals for development within the AONB, the Council will ensure that development is in accordance with the great weight afforded to their landscape and scenic beauty in national policy and the aims and objectives of the Cornwall and Tamar AONB Management Plans and their associated supplementary planning guidance on sensitivity and capacity for housing development in the AONB. These in particular, provide guidance on what constitutes ‘major’ development within an AONB stating that this will depend on the local context, the scale, location and type of development proposed.

Proposals within the AONB, or those that would affect its setting will be supported where they are small scale and meet an identified local need, where landscape capacity can be demonstrated and the natural beauty of the AONB can be conserved and enhanced in accordance with Policy 23. Proposals for major development in the AONB will be refused subject to the tests of exceptional circumstances and demonstrating the development is in the public interest as set out in national policy.”

Other policies within the Cornwall Local Plan that are relevant to the AONB

In addition to the above the particular policies and supporting text relevant to development impacting upon the AONB are outlined below:

Policy 2 – Spatial Strategy (1) (d)

This policy seeks development to meet the objective of “conserving and enhancing the natural and historic landscape, heritage, cultural, biodiversity and geodiversity assets of Cornwall in recognition of their international, national and local status, in accordance with national legislation and policy, as amplified by the other policies of this plan.”

Policy 3 – Role and function of places (4)

This policy states that “within the AONB or its setting, development will be supported where it is in accordance with the other policies of this plan and can demonstrate that they conserve and enhance the landscape character and natural beauty of the AONB. Major development proposals will not be supported in the AONB.”

Policy 15 (5) - Renewable and low carbon energy

This policy explains that “when considering proposals for renewables that impact upon the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its setting and/or the World Heritage Site or other historic assets and their settings, applicants should apply other relevant policies in the plan.”

Policy 18 – Minerals- general principles through (3)(b)

This policy outlines that “new mineral development, (including extensions to existing sites), will be supported in the following areas: primary aggregate extraction where it is outside the AONB designation.

1.



Cornwall Council's strategy

As this Management Plan is being prepared on behalf of Cornwall Council, it is important that it addresses the Council's overall strategic objectives. Cornwall Council produced its strategy⁵ in 2015 with the central aim of creating 'A sustainable Cornwall - a prosperous Cornwall that is resilient and resourceful; a place where communities are strong and where the most vulnerable are protected.' The strategy sets out seven main strategic themes:

- Ambitious Cornwall
- Engaging with our communities
- Healthier and safe communities
- Partners working together
- Stewardship of Cornwall's assets
- Driving the economy
- Greater access to essentials for living

This Management Plan demonstrates a close alignment with Cornwall Council's strategy, delivering on all of the themes and in particular on stewardship of assets, healthy communities, partners working together and driving the economy.

Cornwall's devolution

Cornwall Council⁶ has recently secured the devolution of powers over transport, energy, health, social care and heritage in a ground-breaking deal with the Government. In addition, Cornwall Council intends to further devolve powers and responsibilities to local councils, organisations and groups. Following the Government's decision to give Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Intermediate Body status as part of the devolution deal, the final touches are being put in place to formally transfer responsibility for taking more local decisions to Cornwall Council from April 2016. This has many implications for AONB management and can offer the opportunity to deliver some of the aims of this plan, such as better connected transport systems, better managed heritage and a better integration of health and environment.

1. Fishing boat and flowers on headland
2. Rock pools - Jane Davies

Cornwall strategic partnerships and plans

Since the last Cornwall AONB Management Plan (2011-2016) was produced, three main strategic partnerships: the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership, the Cornwall Health and Well-Being Board and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership have been established. Each of the three bodies has an accompanying strategy, the Strategic Economic Plan, the Health and Well-Being Strategy and the Environmental Growth Strategy. These strategies represent the three pillars of sustainability in Cornwall.

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership (CIOS LEP) produced its Strategic Economic Plan in 2014. This sets out the economic strategy of the LEP to 2020 and is currently being reviewed to extend to 2030, in line with the Cornwall Local Plan. A significant part of the implementation of the CIOS Strategic Economic Plan will be driven by the EU Structural Programme and Cornwall Council's own Economy and Culture Strategy 2013-2020.

This Management Plan aims to set out clear activity and policy which will deliver on the strategic aims for Cornwall in terms of economic growth, healthy communities and environmental growth, while enhancing the unique and special qualities of Cornwall's protected landscape. The Management Plan can support the development of the strategic plans in Cornwall in setting out best practice for the management of Cornwall's environment and landscape and can positively influence both the review of the Strategic Economic Plan and Health and Well-Being

Strategy, also due for review in 2016. In addition, the Plan will seek to inform a number of other key plans and strategies such as the Local Transport Plan and the Cornwall Access Strategy.

The relationship between the AONB Management Plan and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Environmental Growth Strategy (EGS) 2015 – 2065 (at time of writing in its final stages of production) is critical. The last Management Plan 2011-2016 has played a key role in the development of the Draft EGS and equally, the development of the EGS has fed in significantly to the development of this Management Plan 2016-2021. The Environmental Growth Strategy contains a clear vision: "In 2065, Cornwall's environment will be naturally diverse, beautiful and healthy, supporting a thriving society and prosperous economy." Going forward, this and future Management Plans will be strongly influenced by the EGS and supporting implementation plans. In addition both the AONB Partnership and the Local Nature Partnership will work closely on delivery for the benefit of Cornwall's environment.

2.





NATURAL CAPITAL



“THE ECONOMY is a
WHOLLY owned subsidiary
of the ENVIRONMENT,
NOT the other WAY around”

Gaylord Nelson

US senator
FOUNDER OF EARTH DAY

Place and People

A Strategy for the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Place

The Cornwall AONB is unique and special. There's nowhere else like it and this is widely recognised. The guiding principle of The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership is that "the culture, communities and environment of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly will remain special and unique." The beauty and character of the AONB is primarily owed to the stewardship of generations of farmers and landowners. Traditional farm buildings of local stone and slate add greatly to the patina of the farmed landscape. Intricate small pasture fields bounded by Cornish hedges, hardy cattle and ponies on the moorland and traditional bulbs and vegetable horticulture are distinctive elements, maintained due to the actions of our land managers.

With the greatest proportion of land in the AONB used for farming, changes in farming and land management practices can have a profound effect upon the landscape, biodiversity and heritage. The farmed landscape in the Cornwall AONB still retains much of its Cornish identity, kept alive by a relative lack of large scale, intensive agricultural practices and the skills of local land managers. The challenge is how to boost profitability, so farmers can continue to effectively steward the landscape and make gains for the environment.

Illustration by Melanie Chadwick www.melaniechadwick.com

7. Gaylord Nelson (1916-2005) United States Senator, Founder of Earth Day and a leading figure in the fight against environmental degradation and social injustice.

Gaylord Nelson⁷ was famously quoted as saying, "The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment, not the other way around." The semi-natural habitats, rolling farmland, wild uplands, sheltered estuaries, rivers and coast of the Cornwall AONB provide 'natural capital' that works hard on our behalf, providing carbon storage, crop pollination, flood control, places for exercise and homes for wildlife. As a society, we're currently overdrawn at our 'natural bank'. It is essential for Cornwall 'plc' to understand the value of this natural capital and reinvest in this precious resource in order to continue to benefit from it in the future.

In addition to natural capital, the Cornwall AONB is rich in heritage assets. The AONB has one of the highest concentrations of archeological features and contains some of the most ancient landscapes in Europe. The ancient field boundaries of west Penwith, in particular, are thought to be older than the pyramids. The use of the land by people - from prehistoric and medieval to industrial mining throughout the AONB is still extremely evident and identifiable.

In order to be able to experience the exceptional landscapes of the Cornwall AONB, people need well-managed public transport links and rights of way. In the open expanses of Bodmin Moor and West Penwith, well-managed open access land enables recreation and enjoyment of the uplands. The Cornwall AONB has the longest coastline of all the AONBs so the positive management of the coast, including the South West Coast Path and associated footpaths and bridleways, is essential.

People

Communities in the Cornwall AONB live entirely outside the main towns, within villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads, dispersed throughout the landscape. It's a mixed picture for communities in the AONB with areas of extreme wealth and also extreme deprivation. Second home ownership is a huge issue and the continued viability and prosperity of small rural communities is a real challenge. Many of the communities within the AONB have their roots in the primary economic sectors of farming, forestry, mining and fishing, although the main economic activities within the AONB are now tourism and retail. The special landscape of the Cornwall AONB is a key driver of Cornwall's economy and the star attraction for Cornwall's visitors.

The Cornwall AONB has a rich culture, both past and present, that contributes greatly to local distinctiveness. The stunning landscapes of the AONB are celebrated in the works of authors like Winston Graham, the poetry of Betjeman, the sculptures of Hepworth and the fascinating performances of Miracle Theatre and other theatre companies in amazing locations like the unique Minack Theatre.

The food and drink sector has undergone a real renaissance over the last few years. The Cornwall brand is synonymous with quality and supplies high end markets in Cornwall and further afield. The Cornwall brand is built on the natural beauty of Cornwall as a place and more can be done to enable the AONB designation to support this and add value to Cornish products.

There is considerable opportunity to make the landscapes of the Cornwall AONB work a bit harder to support community prosperity, in ways that can still enhance the AONB. For example the woodlands of Cornwall AONB that are currently in need of better management provide an ideal opportunity to upskill, train and create jobs. The high

quality landscapes of the AONB present a fertile ground to grow strong, sustainable economies and provide a key resource to increase the health and well-being of all of Cornwall's communities.

John F Kennedy, in his inaugural speech as US president said: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." The Cornwall AONB is not a country, but it does need investment of both money and time. It is vital to encourage volunteers to take on the much-needed management of place, benefiting people by improving health and well-being. In addition, there is a huge opportunity to encourage investment from the business sector in the fabric of place, in order to support a robust and sustainable economy into the future.

2.



1.





1. Minack Theatre courtesy of the Minack Theatre
 2. Barbara Hepworth - Alan Bowness

"Our melting, shifting, liquid world won't wait
for manifesto or mandate, each
warning a reckoning"

From Still Life with Sea Pinks and High Tide, by Maura Dooley

20 Year Vision

The status of the Cornwall AONB as a nationally and internationally important protected landscape, with equal status and protection to that of a National Park, is recognised by all.

The landscape characteristics that combine to give the Cornwall AONB its natural beauty, unique identity and sense of place are fully understood. The AONB landscape is conserved and enhanced at every opportunity through effective partnership working; achieving environmental growth, reversing losses of natural capital, biodiversity and heritage and improving resilience to climate change. A landscape that is accessible and appreciated by everyone.

Communities and businesses in Cornwall are underpinned by a protected landscape that provides prosperity, good health and a high quality of life. They understand the value of the Cornwall AONB and take advantage of the opportunities it provides, while reinvesting in the landscape in order to sustain these benefits long term.

Aims 2016-2021

Place

1. Cultivating character

The character and local distinctiveness of the Cornwall AONB is conserved and enhanced through appropriate plans, strategies and policies and through project activity.

2. Managing development

Well-implemented planning policies and guidance that protect and enhance the landscape character and natural beauty of the AONB, while meeting the needs of local communities.

3. Investing in nature

The principle of 'environmental growth' is embedded within decision making in Cornwall and a step change is taken to invest in natural capital, taking an ecosystems approach to conserve and enhance natural resources and reverse current declines in habitats and species within the AONB.

4. Responding to climate change

AONB communities are able to plan for climate change through an improved understanding of likely impacts and the landscape is better managed to enable adaptation to the effects of climate change.

5. Nurturing heritage

There is improved understanding and interpretation of the historic character and heritage assets within the Cornwall AONB and those features identified as 'at risk' or declining condition will be brought back into better management.

6. Revitalising access

A well-maintained and better connected public rights of way and transport system, supported by adequate investment that is able to respond to management pressures and which meets the needs of local people and visitors to the AONB, particularly around the coast.



People

7. Vibrant communities

Effective demonstration that people's needs can be met fully, in sustainable ways that can enhance natural beauty, particularly how affordable housing can be accommodated through a good understanding of landscape capacity and high quality design.

8. Health and happiness

Increased use of the AONB landscape to improve levels of physical and mental health and prevent ill health via outdoor physical activity and volunteering, increasing skills and confidence and decreasing health inequalities and isolation.

9. Inspiring culture

Greater awareness, promotion and celebration of the culture of the AONB as an integral part of the protected landscape and a better understanding of its economic and social value.

10. Promoting prosperity

To ensure the Cornwall AONB is a natural place for growth through:

- Increased emphasis on and development of sustainable local economies
- Improved support for AONB businesses e.g. planning support, funding and marketing advice.
- Better promotion of the Cornwall AONB and use of the protected landscape as a marketing tool, to achieve a higher value product and improve competitiveness.
- Increased social and capital investment in the protected landscape.





People & Place

Come
Together
in Action

Delivery Plan 2016 - 2021

Integrating place and people

Sustainable development should meet the needs of people now and in the future, while enhancing landscape and environment, leaving it in a better state than we found it. Cornwall's economy, community and environment are very interdependent so developing activity with win - win - win outcomes is wholly achievable.








The following list of priorities for collaborative action within the AONB has resulted from an extensive involvement exercise of partners and professional stakeholders and also parishes and local communities. It is a concise set of focused activity to be delivered by the Partnership and others over the next five years that will support the conservation and enhancement of the protected landscape.











Key priorities for collaboration






Activity	Partners (lead in bold)	Role of the Cornwall AONB Unit	Meets aim
Short term actions			
A	Encourage and support the production of neighbourhood plans within the AONB, supported by detailed evidence based on landscape character, natural capital, historic environment, climate change adaptation and biodiversity.	CC Public Open Space , Cornwall Rural Communities Charity, CC Historic, CC Planning	Advice and support
B	Ensure schemes to underground overhead wires at Zennor and St Agnes Beacon are put forward for the Ofgem undergrounding programme, with the full co-operation and consent of landowners.	The National Trust, Parishes, Ofgem, Western Power Distribution, CC Historic	Lead
C	Continue to work on the emerging Cornwall Local Plan and produce a Supplementary Planning Document for the Cornwall AONB. Undertake further work to understand the capacity of settlements within the AONB to accommodate housing for local need, working with local parishes.	CC Planning , CC Historic, Natural England	Advice and support, Lead on SPD/ Management Plan
D	Develop further The Environmental Growth Strategy and ensure that it is adopted by Cornwall Council and environmental growth for Cornwall is embedded in all other strategic plans and policy documents and delivered via appropriate investment plans.	CC Strategic Environment , Cornwall Catchment Partnership, CIOS Local Nature Partnership, ERCCIS	Advice and support
E	Undertake a study on Cornish distinctiveness and make recommendations for the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.	CC Historic , CC Planning, Historic England, Institute of Cornish Studies	Support
F	Develop, consult upon and deliver a series of local sustainable transport schemes within the AONB with the aim of reducing reliance on the car for short journeys and encourage and promote sustainable travel within and between the AONB areas, (for example between Penzance and Marazion and Truro and St Agnes) to create healthier, more attractive and vibrant communities that are well connected.	Sustrans , CC Environment , CC Strategic Environment, CC Transportation and Highways, Transport providers	Advice and support
G	Developing a project to provide health and recreation activities such as walks and events, exploring the potential to work with the NHS to identify people who would benefit from these activities.	The National Trust , CC Environment, CC Historic, CC Public Health, CC Strategic Environment, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, European Centre for Environment and Human Health, NHS Kernow, South West Coast Path team, Cornwall Sports Partnership	Partner, advice and support



Activity	Partners (lead in bold)	Role of the Cornwall AONB Unit	Meets aim
H Develop a project to support tourism and outdoor leisure and recreation businesses in the promotion of the landscape and culture of the AONB to increase competitiveness and boost AONB awareness.	Visit Cornwall , CC Economic Development, The National Trust, South West Coast Path team, University of Exeter in Cornwall	Partner, advice and support	
I Undertake a project to improve the economics of the forestry and wood products sector with the improvement of supply chains. This in turn should secure gains for biodiversity and the management of the semi-natural woodland resource within the AONB, particularly in the estuarine oak woodlands of the Fal, Helford and Fowey, working with landowners.	CC Historic, CIOS Local Nature Partnership, Duchy of Cornwall, National Farmers Union, The National Trust, Tregothnan Estate, The Woodland Trust, Woodmeet	Lead	
J Securing financial investment in Cornwall AONB Partnership activity from visitors and businesses through the development of a visitor-giving scheme and other initiatives.	All	Lead	
Medium term actions			
K Develop a joint Natural Capital Investment Plan for the AONB, which identifies investment opportunities for the enhancement of ecosystem goods and services, highlights geographic opportunities and demonstrates the value of the protected landscape. Use this investment plan to inform decision-making.	CC Economic Development and Culture, CC Strategic Environment , CIOS Local Nature Partnership, CIOS Local Enterprise Partnership, Environment and Sustainability Institute, ERCCIS	Lead	
L Initiate a landscape scale project to benefit pollinators with the full participation of landowners, farmers and food and drink businesses.	CC Strategic Environment , Buglife, CIOS Local Nature Partnership, CLA, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, ERCCIS, Cornwall Marine Forum, NFU, Plantlife, University of Exeter in Cornwall	Partner	
M Understanding better the economic, social and cultural value of heritage and the potential for the sustainable reuse of heritage buildings and structures. Enable sensitive reuse to support rural economies and communities through place based projects.	CC Historic , Cornwall Heritage Forum, CIOS Local Enterprise Partnership, Historic England, World Heritage Site	Advice and support	
N Ensure improved management for Scheduled Ancient Monuments through a project to understand their management needs and undertake practical management working co-operatively with landowners.	CC Historic , Cornwall Heritage Trust, CLA, Historic England, Natural England, National Farmers Union	Partner, support	

 Cultivating Character
  Managing Development
  Investing in Nature
  Responding to Climate Change
  Nurturing Heritage
  Revitalising Access
  Vibrant Communities
  Health and Happiness
  Inspiring Culture
  Promoting Prosperity

Activity	Partners (lead in bold)	Role of the Cornwall AONB Unit	Meets aim
O Develop, in an appropriate area, a project to manage the natural capital, rights of way and heritage of the Cornwall AONB through the practical action of volunteers. Use this to develop opportunities to increase people's health and well-being.	CC Environment, The National Trust , Volunteer Cornwall, CC Historic, Cornwall Wildlife Trust	Partner, advice and support	
P Highlight the significant deprivation issues within the AONB (rural Cornwall) and develop a project with the Local Action Groups to address them.	Cornwall Rural Communities Charity, Local Action Groups, CC Public Health, Rural CIOS Partnership	Advice and support	
Q Develop a Cornwall AONB Parishes network to facilitate raising awareness and the dissemination of information and to enable parishes to take advice and share experiences (such as with the planning system), making best use of Cornwall Council's Community Networks.	Cornwall Rural Communities Charity, CC Localism	Lead	
R Promote and deliver the uptake of the new Countryside Stewardship Agri-environment Scheme in areas of biodiversity interests within the AONB in order to maximise take up in the AONB area and to encourage positive environmental management.	Natural England, CC Strategic Environment, CIOS Local Nature Partnership, National Farmers Union, Country Land and Business Association, FWAG South West, Cornwall Wildlife Trust	Advice and support	
Long term actions			
S Update the Cornwall Landscape Character Assessment evidence base and secure resources for a Seascape Assessment for Cornwall.	CC Planning, CC Historic, CC Public Open Space, CC Strategic Environment, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, ERCCIS, Historic England, The National Trust, Natural England	Advice and support	
T Deliver the biodiversity priorities set out by the Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative, secure resources and deliver as place based projects within the AONB that can deliver multiple objectives for people and place (see below, geographical priorities).	Cornwall Wildlife Trust/ Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative, CC Strategic Environment, The National Trust, Natural England, and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter in Cornwall, West Country Rivers Trust	Identify priorities, partner, advice and support	
U Develop a project to tackle the problem of marine litter on AONB beaches in ways which boost local economies, working with private landowners and informal community groups.	Cornwall Rural Communities Charity, CC Environment, CISCAG, Clean Cornwall, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Marine Conservation Society, The National Trust, Surfers Against Sewage, Tidy Britain, Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas	Advice and support	

Activity	Partners (lead in bold)	Role of the Cornwall AONB Unit	Meets aim
V Develop a project to demonstrate built development best practice in terms of siting, design, green infrastructure, biodiversity and heritage within the AONB.	CC Planning and Public Open Space , CC Historic, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, The Cornwall Sustainable Buildings Trust, Developers, Historic England, National Trust, RIBA	Advice and support	
W Develop a project to enable communities within the AONB likely to be affected by climate change to plan for future coastal change, working with existing voluntary Marine Conservation Area groups and Community Flood Forums.	CC Strategic Environment , CC Localism, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, The National Trust, Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas	Partner, advice and support	
X Develop and promote a project where barriers to disabled and family access can be removed while safeguarding heritage features such as traditional stone stiles and utilising local stone. Ensure whole path solutions using existing routes where possible and practical in identified areas within the AONB with effective community engagement and promotion of completed routes.	Cornwall Rural Communities Charity , Cornwall Disability Forum, CC Environment, CC Historic, CC Strategic Environment, The National Trust, Parish Councils	Partner, advice and support	
Y Develop a project to support the agriculture, food and drink sector, utilising the protected landscape designation to add value through effective marketing and branding.	Cornwall Agri-Food Council, CC Economic Development, Cornwall Food and Drink, National Farmers Union, Rural CIOS Partnership	Lead	
Z Undertake a study to understand the true value of the Cornwall AONB to the Cornish economy.	CC Economic Development, CIOS Local Enterprise Partnership, CIOS Local Nature Partnership	Lead	



Key to acronyms

- CC = Cornwall Council
- CIOS = Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- ERCCIS = Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- CLA = Country Land and Business Association
- NFU = National Farmers Union
- CISCAG = Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Coastal Action Group
- RIBA = Royal Institute of British Architects

Geographical priorities

The Cornwall AONB is a very large, diverse and geographically dispersed AONB. Over the five years of the management plan, it is appropriate to identify priority geographical areas for place-based projects, although this doesn't preclude work in other areas. Priority spatial areas to target over the coming five years are the whole of the coast and the two uplands of Bodmin Moor and West Penwith. The Partnership wishes to take a holistic approach to the management of economy, community and environment within these areas, interpreting landscape, nature and heritage and developing more outdoors activity, employment opportunities and circular economies to promote community prosperity and wellbeing.

"promoting
community
prosperity
& wellbeing."

Place-based activity

1. Deliver First and Last – Our Living Working Landscape, the West Penwith Landscapes Partnership Scheme funded by Heritage Lottery Fund.

2. Develop a project/s for the holistic management of Bodmin Moor that benefits the economy, community and environment of the moor, with the full participation of landowners, farmers, commoners and the newly created Bodmin Moor Commons Council.

3. Develop a project/s to enhance the coastal strip for environment, heritage, access, wildlife and climate change adaptation, in order to support vibrant coastal economies.

4. Continue to work within the Linking the Lizard Partnership to further the interpretation and management of the fantastic natural capital and landscape of the Lizard.

Partners

Cornwall Wildlife Trust, First and Last – the West Penwith Landscapes Partnership Board, CC Historic, Cornwall AONB Unit, Cornwall Rural Communities Charity, Historic England, Natural England, National Farmers Union

Association of Bodmin Moor Commons Landowners, West Country Rivers Trust, Bodmin Moor Commons Council, Cornwall AONB Unit, CC Environment CC Historic, CC Strategic Environment, Country Land and Business Association, Environment Agency, Natural England, National Farmers Union

The National Trust, CC Environment, CC Historic, CC Strategic Environment, Cornwall AONB Unit, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, RSPB, Buglife, South West Coast Path team

The National Trust, Cornwall AONB Unit, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Historic England, Natural England, National Farmers Union, RSPB, University of Exeter in Cornwall.





"The **Golden** ^{unpeopled} **bays**
the **SHADOWY CLIFFS** and
the **White** ^{SHEEP-WORN WAYS} **unpopulated surf**
the **thyme** and **MUSHROOM** scented **surf**
the **SLATE-HUNG FARMS,**
the **oil-lit** **Chapels**
thin **ELMS** and **lemon-Coloured**
APPLES"

*Sir John
Betjeman*

Delectable Duchy 1974



Monitoring

The Delivery Plan sets out and prioritises activity over five years. To support delivery, a two-year rolling business plan will be produced annually by the Partnership. Actions and outputs will be measured against annual targets by all of the AONB Partnership organisations and delivery will be reported throughout the plan period in a series of annual reports.

Monitoring of the public awareness of the AONB, the Cornwall AONB Partnership and Management Plan will be part of the AONB communications strategy. Monitoring change in the landscape itself will be ongoing and will draw on a number of identified indicators contained within the Cornwall AONB Atlas.

The Cornwall AONB Unit uses the following indicators to measure landscape change within the AONB. This is undertaken once every five years prior to the review of each Management Plan, so the monitoring can inform the plan. The last report was undertaken in 2013 and a summary of findings can be found at Appendix 1 of this Management Plan.

sustainability
& preservation

Thistles - Jemima Smale

Place indicators

Tranquillity, intrusion and night blight	Field boundary condition
Field patterns	Semi-natural habitats
Traditional orchards	Covered horticultural production
Coastal change (due to climate change, including coastal defence works)	SSSIs condition
Woodland and tree cover / type	Traditional livestock types
Agricultural land use	Biomass planting
Agri-environment scheme uptake	Flood risk and sea level rise
Pollution incidents	Bathing water quality
Nitrate Vulnerable Zones and Catchment Sensitive Farming Areas	Marine Conservation Zones
Average precipitation, temperature and sunshine hours (Met Office)	Development at sea (e.g. aquaculture, other off-shore developments)
Levels of intrusion (include pylons, wind farms, road traffic)	Local vernacular building styles
Historic landscape features	Heritage at risk
Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens	Rights of way; hierarchy and condition
Off-peak and summer traffic flows on key routes in the AONB	

SSSI = site of special scientific interest

Defra = Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

People indicators

Bus service provision on key routes	Number of houses built annually in the AONB including affordable homes
Renewable energy schemes	Tourism spend – future information could be used to compare back to the 2007 figures
Numbers of vessels and people employed in the fishing industry	National Trust visitor numbers
Farm income and labour	Tourism spend and visitor numbers
Annual house price / house sale information for key AONB villages	The Index of Multiple Deprivation
Population demographics	Employment sectors/ industry and demographic

In addition, the Cornwall AONB Unit monitors annually the progress of the Partnership in taking forward the actions set out in the Management Plan. An annual report is provided to Defra and published on the Cornwall AONB website.

The Sustainability Appraisal⁹ for this Management Plan included some recommendations for further indicators in line with improvements made to the plan against sustainability objectives and new policy areas. Suggested new indicators for the next monitoring round in 2020 are:

- Areas for local individual and community food production.
- Extent of brownfield land (beyond previous mining areas).

9. Draft Cornwall AONB Management Plan Review 2016-2021: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment Report, Enfusion

Appendix 1

A summary of landscape change in the AONB since 2008

A summary of the key findings from the AONB monitoring programme are summarised below. The changes reported in Phase 2 demonstrate the varying range of factors that combine to influence the evolution of landscape character over time. However, it is important to note that five years is a relatively short timeframe in terms of tangible effects to be seen in the landscape, particularly when considering major long-term forces for change such as climate change, which are becoming increasingly prevalent (but where their full landscape effects are not yet certain).

The key headline findings from Phase 2 are summarised below.

Planning and development

- The majority of planning applications received since 2008 have been in the householder/dwellings category, over half of which related to AONB settlements.
- Major developments only accounted for just two percent of all applications, and were the most likely type to be refused – particularly in open countryside locations. Those approved include two housing schemes in the Camel Estuary, with a combined total of 70 new dwellings.
- South Coast Western received the most planning applications over the five-year time period.
- There was a marked increase in applications for domestic wind and solar installations following the introduction of the Feed-In Tariff in 2010.
- Energy produced from major onshore renewable energy developments sited in the AONB has more than doubled since 2008, particularly as a result of the repowering of Goonhilly Downs wind farm.
- The development of offshore renewables, including linked to the Wave Hub testing site, is likely to become a key force for change over the coming years.
- Analysis in selected sample squares has shown small increases in rural land classed as ‘permanent development’, mainly attributed to new agricultural or industrial buildings. The most significant change was the creation of a new surfaced car park near Port Isaac.

1.



1. Rock Pools - Jane Davies
2. Jersey cows at St Keverne, Helston - Adj Brown

Agriculture

- The total area of agricultural land in the AONB has decreased by three percent since 2007, now covering 73 percent of the total land area of the protected landscape.
- All agricultural types have witnessed a decrease in area coverage, apart from crops and fallow, which has increased by just fewer than seven percent.
- There has been a significant decrease in the total number of agricultural holdings (36 percent) indicating a trend towards larger farms. Farms over 100 hectares were the only category to increase in number since 2007.
- Natural England's Energy Crops Scheme has now closed to new applicants, reflecting a national reduction in market demand for these crop types since Phase 1.

Environmental Stewardship

- Land under Environmental Stewardship has more than doubled since 2009, but this is likely to be due to the cessation of the 'classic schemes' that were still in place at that time. Bodmin Moor has witnessed the greatest increase (more than double).
- Entry Level stewardship (ELS) accounts for over three-quarters of all ES agreements, but the number of Higher Level Stewardship agreements have increased significantly since 2009.
- The number of Organic ELS agreements has decreased in the same period.
- ES options covering the greatest land area are for low input grassland and moorland, with a significant coverage of options for the management and protection of archaeological features.

Field patterns and boundaries

- Sample square analysis has identified the removal of some field boundaries since Phase 1, but this has not affected average field sizes or shapes within the AONB.
- Cornish hedge banks are the dominant field boundary feature across the AONB, consistent with character. Stone walls also characterise the ancient fields of west Penwith. Field survey work concluded that the vast majority of boundaries were intact, indicating favourable management in landscape terms.



Woodland and forestry

- There has been a small overall increase in woodland cover across the AONB since 2000, with particular increases noted in the Camel Estuary and Rame Head sections.
- Broadleaved woodland is the dominant woodland type (75 percent), with areas of ancient woodland particularly concentrated along the valleys in the southern AONB sections. Bodmin Moor contains the greatest coverage of coniferous woodland.
- The area of woodland management under English Woodland Grant Scheme agreements has increased by 45 percent since 2009, particularly in Bodmin Moor and the south coast AONB sections. These cover nearly 2,500 hectares of woodland.
- Environmental Stewardship options for woodland management and restoration cover a further 261 hectares.

Biodiversity and geodiversity

- 10 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been formally designated since Phase 1, the largest being The Lizard, accounting for 43 percent of the coverage of this designation.
- One new SSSI has also been designated, as well as nine new County Geological Sites.
- Fewer SSSI units are classed as in 'favourable' condition than in 2009, though proportionally this is the largest condition category in terms of area coverage (50 percent). SSSI land in the 'unfavourable recovering' category has seen the greatest increase.
- A significant proportion of SSSIs have remained in favourable condition, although some coastal sites have seen a decline in overall condition.
- The total area of traditionally managed orchards has remained relatively stable since Phase 1, although only a small proportion (less than 7 hectares) is managed under Environmental Stewardship options.

Heritage and culture

- One new Scheduled Monument has been designated in the AONB since Phase 1, on Bodmin Moor.
- The total area covered by Scheduled Monuments has increased by over 100 hectares, mainly due to more accurate mapping techniques introduced by English Heritage.
- A total of 81 Scheduled Monuments, four Listed Buildings and one Registered Park and Garden are currently on the national 'At Risk' register. Just fewer than 70 percent of Scheduled Monuments on the register are assessed as declining in condition.
- 15 new entries have been included on Cornwall's Historic Environment Record since 2008.



Community and economy

- A total of 581 fishing vessels are registered in Cornwall, with the greatest number engaged in hand line fishing, followed by netting. 54 percent are small boats less than seven metres in length.
- The AONB population has increased by 6 percent since the 2001 census, with an increase in residents over 60 and reduction in those within the 30-59-age range.
- The ethnic make-up of AONB residents is dominated by 'white, British'.
- Some parts of Cornwall have the highest levels of deprivation in the country under the Index of Multiple Deprivation's barriers to housing and services indicator.
- The AONB enjoys some of the lowest levels of crime in the country. 50 percent of the population over the age of 16 are employed, six percent are unemployed and 35 percent are retired. The average annual income is less than that of the South West. Incomes in the rural parts of the AONB are higher than those in the urban areas.
- The accommodation and food services sector accounts for nearly a quarter of employment in the AONB, double the figure recorded in 2001. The agriculture, forestry and fishing accounts for 17 percent, an eight percent increase since 2001.
- 58 percent of businesses in the AONB are classed as 'micro-businesses', accounting for 44 percent of all employees. Most are located in the rural areas of the landscape, with the largest single sector being agriculture, forestry and fishing (31 percent).
- Cornwall has the highest levels of second home ownership in the county, which varies across different AONB parishes. Average house prices are 36 percent higher than the regional average.

Transport and access

- Over 95 kilometres of new multi-use trails have been created in the AONB, including the Cornish Way.
- Two new cycle routes have been created since Phase 1 – the 'Pentewan Valley Trail' and 'Bypass Portloe' (both in South Coast Central).
- There's been an increase of over 300 hectares of Open Access Land, with significant gains in South Coast Eastern, Bodmin Moor and Hartland, likely to be spurred on by new Environmental Stewardship agreements.
- One ferry has been reinstated since Phase 1 – the ancient Restronguet to Feock route in South Coast Central.
- Sample square analysis in three AONB sections has reported no changes to the character of rural roads, considering aspects such as signage, road markings and street lighting.



Praa Sands - Roy Curtis

Appendix 2

The National Planning Policy Framework with respect to AONB

The Framework identified that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Paragraph 7 of the Framework outlines that there are three mutually dependent roles of sustainable development: an economic, a social and an environmental role. The environmental role requires the planning system to contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

The AONB Partnership considers that sustainable development in the AONB should meet the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate that it conserves or provides enhancements to natural beauty with specific reference to the special qualities of the AONB; and
2. Meet the economic and social needs of local communities while conserving and enhancing the AONB landscape; or
3. Meet the demand for recreational opportunities within the AONB while accounting for the natural beauty of the AONB and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

Paragraph 14

The Framework identifies that there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. However through footnote 9 the Framework explains that the presumption in favour does not exist where specific policies indicate that development should be resisted, this includes policies relating to AONBs.

There are two policies in the Framework which refer directly to AONBs. These read in full as follows:

Paragraph 115

Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations in all these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads.

Paragraph 116

Planning permission should be refused for major developments in these designated areas except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated they are in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:

- the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;
- the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and
- any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.

Appendix 3

Major developments in the AONB

‘Major developments’ as referred to in paragraph 116 of the National Planning Policy Framework (see Appendix 2) is not defined in the Framework. The Planning Practice Guidance stating that ‘whether a proposed development in these designated areas should be treated as a major development, to which the policy in paragraph 116 of the Framework applies, will be a matter for the relevant decision taker, taking into account the proposal in question and the local context’.

The AONB Partnership would regard the reference to ‘major developments’ in this context as differing from the definition as set out within the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. It is not a straightforward exercise to define the level at which development is considered to be ‘major’ as this will vary depending on the scale, location and type of development proposed, notwithstanding the extent to which harm could be mitigated. As such, it is not possible or appropriate to apply a blanket definition for what should be treated as major development in the AONB. Nevertheless, there are some key indicators that would suggest that a development is likely to be major in its effect on the landscape quality:

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

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

3. Where the type of development is not directly compatible with its surroundings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Any mitigation identified to moderate these impacts should be:

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



The Cornwall AONB Partnership

The Cornwall AONB is managed by a Partnership of 16 organisations:



The Cornwall AONB Management Plan is able to be viewed online by visiting:
www.cornwallaonb.org.uk/management-plan

The Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan is able to view by visiting:
www.tamarvalley.org.uk/care/aonb-management-plan



Cornwall AONB Unit

01872 322350

info@cornwall-aonb.gov.uk

www.cornwallaonb.org.uk



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