South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulation Assessment

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South Devon AONB Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Combined Environmental Report and Sustainability Appraisal for the South Devon AONB Management Plan 2019-2024

Prepared by South Devon AONB Unit

For the South Devon AONB Partnership

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1 Executive (Non-Technical) Summary

This is a combined Environmental Report for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA). It has assessed the likely significant environmental and sustainability effects of the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-2024 (the Plan). The Plan has to undergo these assessments prior to it being made available for public consultation and before the AONB relevant authorities can adopt it.

The main objective of the Plan is the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB. The Plan must be subject to a review at least every 5 years. This report assesses the environmental and sustainability impacts of that review.

This Environmental Report builds on the SEA and SA processes and reporting on previous South Devon AONB Management Plans undertaken for the plan periods 2009-2014 and 2014-2019. This approach was possible because the overarching aims and objectives of the Management Plan over these periods and the policy suite contained within remain comparable in their substantive intent and strategic purpose. This is because the review this time has lead to mostly minor proposed modifications in wording to the policy suite. Therefore, in the interests of expediency and efficiency a screening approach was taken. Earlier versions of the Plan have been tested against 11 SEA Objectives and 5 Sustainability Objectives. The screening exercise sought to identify if the previous assessment findings would be changed by the proposed modifications from this review.

The SEA findings are that there are no likely significant negative environmental effects from the South Devon AONB Management Plan. Several significant positive effects were identified for landscape, biodiversity habitats and species, geodiversity, heritage, natural resources, soil quality, water air and climate. Some significant positive effects for human health were identified.

There were a few policies where their effects on the environment are dependent upon how they were implemented. These tended to be where activities for increasing public access, transport and highways work etc. could harm biodiversity if this were not properly considered in project development. Therefore, any likelihood of these effects being negative can be best avoided or mitigated on a case by case basis at the project development and implementation stage. As such there is a low likelihood of any negative effects occurring on the ground. Some measures were identified that could enhance the environmental performance of the plan, most of which involved clarifying or altering wording.

The SA findings are that there are no likely significant negative sustainability effects. The Management Plan is largely supportive of the sustainability objectives, with predominantly minor positive and some significant positive effects for those most pertinent to the Plan’s area of work and

influence. These being SA objectives: S2 To protect the quality and character of individual settlements and communities and, S4 To promote the development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives. Otherwise it tends to have minor positive or neutral effects on the achievement of the other sustainability objectives, as to be expected. Neutral effects tend to occur where there is no direct link between the policy and the SA Objective. There are no policies which conflict with any of the sustainability objectives and therefore no significant negative sustainability effects are identified as resulting from the plan.

2 Context

This Environmental Report is an outcome of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) undertaken on the 'South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-2024'. It also reports on an optional Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

This is the third statutory South Devon AONB Management Plan to undergo SEA and SA. Its environmental performance and sustainability have been tested and refined over the years. The assessments were carried out by experienced professionals in the AONB Staff Unit on behalf of the AONB 'relevant authorities' (which are explained and defined in the next section).

2.1 AONB Management Plan Review

The South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan is divided into 2 The Strategy and the Delivery Plan, and a series of Annexes, and taken together these form the statutory 'South Devon AONB Management Plan'.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000[1], which created the statutory duty to prepare and publish a 'Management Plan' for the South Devon AONB, also requires that the Management Plan be reviewed at least every 5 years.[2] The current South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2014-2019 (adopted 2014) has been subject to the 5 year statutory review by the AONB Unit has on behalf of the relevant authorities. The 'South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-2024' is the outcome.

[1] The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 c.37. Often referred to as the 'CRoW Act'.

[2] Section 89

2.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

SEA is a proactive process providing plan-making bodies with a way to integrate environmental considerations and objectives into all stages of plan-making.

The requirement for SEA is established by the European Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment [3] (known as the 'SEA Directive'). The objective of the SEA Directive is to:

> *'...provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.' (Article 1, SEA Directive).*

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004,[4] (known as the 'SEA Regulations') set out the Directive's obligations in English law.

1.1.1 The need for SEA of the AONB Management Plan

AONB Management Plans, and modifications to them[5], are considered to be plans under the scope of the SEA Directive because they are plans which:

- are subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at local level;

and;

- their preparation is required by a legislative provision (that is, the CRoW Act section 89(2)).

And, AONB Management Plans require SEA because they are '*likely to have significant environmental effects.*'[6]

2.3 Sustainability Appraisal

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a similar process to SEA but in addition to environmental effects, it considers economic and social effects, thereby including all three elements of sustainability.

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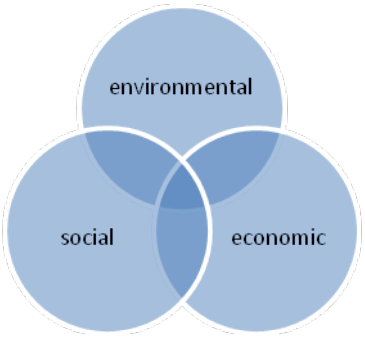
[3] OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, p.30.

[4] Statutory Instrument 2004 No.1633

[5] The term 'plan' within the SEA Directive includes revisions, so the Management Plan Review falls under the scope of the Directive.

[6] Article 3

Figure 1 The 3 Elements or 'Pillars' of Sustainability



2.3.1 The need for SA of the AONB Management Plan

There is no legal obligation to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of AONB Management Plans. Local planning authorities and neighbourhood planning bodies[7] should have regard to AONB management plans, as these documents underpin partnership working and delivery of the objective of designation (to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB). The South Devon AONB Management Plan highlights the value and special qualities of this designation to society and shows communities and partners how their activity contributes to its statutory purpose.

Although the Management Plan is not part of the statutory development plan[8] it contributes to setting out how the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) should be interpreted and applied locally. It does so by providing evidence, principles, policies and objectives, which should be taken into account by local planning authorities making Local Plans and, in any Neighbourhood Plans.

The South Devon AONB Management Plan is a material consideration in decision-taking on planning applications. Under section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, all local development documents must be subject to SA prior to their adoption. Additionally, as a matter of planning policy, The NPPF requires that an SA (which meets the requirements of the SEA Directive) is an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors.[9] Therefore, because the AONB Management Plan will be used to guide plan-making and decision-taking it is appropriate that it is subject to SA.

[7] Neighbourhood planning bodies include Town Councils, Parish Councils, Parish Meetings and Neighbourhood Forums.

[8] This includes Local Plans prepared by Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, Torbay Council and any Neighbourhood Plans within the administrative areas of these Councils.

[9] NPPF paragraph 165.

2.4 Purpose of this Environmental Report

This Environmental Report is presented alongside the 'South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Consultation Draft Management Plan 2019-2024' so that the adopting authorities have information on the likely significant environmental and sustainability effects of the Management Plan when making their decision to adopt it.

3 The AONB, its Management Plan and this Review

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are part of a family of nationally protected areas, recognised and classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) throughout the world as Category 5 Protected Landscapes. The IUCN definition of Protected Landscape aims to maintain the harmonious balance between people, landscapes and nature for now and for future generations. The law on AONBs is set out in The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act).

3.1 The Main Objectives of the Management Plan

The statutory purpose of the AONB Management Plan is to set out South Hams District Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Devon County Council's policy[10] in relation to the management of the South Devon AONB. As required by Section 89 of The CROW Act.

Whilst the main purpose of the South Devon AONB Management Plan is to formulate local authority policy in relation to the AONB, its policies should also be used by other relevant authorities[11] to assist them in exercising their functions[12] with due regard to the AONB, a duty imposed by section 85(1) of CROW Act.

> *'85(1) In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.'*

The purpose of the Management Plan as a whole is to:

[10] There is currently a Local Government Review being undertaken for Devon, by the Boundary Commission. Regardless of the outcome of this review, the South Devon AONB Management Plan will still formulate the policy and action of local government.
[11] Relevant authorities to which this duty applies are listed in section 85(2) of the CRoW Act 2000. They include Parish Councils, statutory undertakers, (such as South West Water, EDF Energy, Network Rail and others), Defra.
[12] Under this duty the term 'functions' is to be interpreted as including any 'powers' which an authority can exercise and any other 'duties' which the authority must perform.

- Formulate the policies of the relevant local authorities in regard to the South Devon AONB and the South Devon Heritage Coast
- Highlight the special qualities and significance of the AONB
- Present a vision for the future of the AONB and the South Devon Heritage Coast
- Set out policies to secure the vision
- Identify what needs to be done, by whom and when
- State the condition of the AONB and how the effectiveness of its management will be monitored
- Reflect the views and aspirations of a wide range of AONB stakeholders and parties with an interest in it
- Co-ordinate the work of different partner organisations

The Management Plan is organised into 3 overarching topics with a principle aim:

- Place - To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB
- People and Prosperity - Encourage and support sustainable economic development, social engagement and recreational activity that conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.
- Communication and Management - the AONB is recognised and valued as a national, regional and local asset and is effectively managed in partnership with our stakeholders.

Each of 14 Management Themes has its own Key Policy Objective and a suite of Policies to guide activity within and affecting the AONB so as to achieve that key objective.

Table 1 Management Plan Topics and Themes

Place	People & Prosperity	Communication & Management
Landscape Character	Access, Recreation & Tourism	Awareness & Communication
Natural Resources & Climate	Planning & Sustainable Development	Management Organisation & Partnerships
Biodiversity & Geodiversity	Transport & Highways	
Historic Environment	Rural Economy & Services	
Farming & Land Management	Community & Culture	
Coast & Marine		
Rivers & Estuaries		

The Key Policy Objectives within the Management Plan are:

- **Theme 1: Landscape Character -** To improve coordination and influence the management of landscape features ensuring they are maintained, enhanced, understood and appreciated.
- **Theme 2: Natural resources & climate** - To support the sustainable management of natural resources in the AONB and its setting.
- **Theme 3: Biodiversity & geodiversity** - To conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological assets of the AONB as part of a bigger, better and more connected landscape.
- **Theme 4: Historic environment -**To conserve and enhance the AONBs historic features and distinctive vernacular buildings as part of a living and working landscape ensuring mechanisms are in place to secure their continued long-term management and care.
- **Theme 5: Farming & land management -** To help and support the farming and land management sector conserve and enhance the AONB.
- **Theme 6: Coast & Marine -** To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, special qualities and natural processes of the AONBs coastline and neighbouring areas of sea.
- **Theme 7: Rivers and Estuaries -** To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, special qualities and natural processes of the AONB's rivers and estuaries.
- **Theme 8: Tourism, Access & Recreation -** To ensure tourism, access and recreation develop at sustainable levels whilst maintaining and contributing to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.
- **Theme 9: Planning and Sustainable Development -** To use planning policy and use the mitigation hierarchy to conserve and enhance AONB special qualities for compatible sustainable development.
- **Theme 10: Transport & Highways** - Reduce the impact of transport networks and services on the environment, landscape character and enjoyment of the AONB and South Devon Heritage Coast.
- **Theme 11: Rural Economy and Services** - To develop a sustainable rural economy that benefits from the South Devon AONB brand and asset; and actively contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB.
- **Theme 12: Community and Culture** -To provide improved access to resilient services, facilities and active participation in community and landscape related social enterprise.
- **Theme 13: Awareness and Communication** - To increase awareness of the South Devon AONB and its special qualities, the purpose of its designation, the role of the Partnership and range of ways to get involved

- **Theme 14: Management, Organisation & Partnerships** - To use the Management Plan strategy, policies and delivery plan to direct strategic leadership in the delivery of tangible benefits to the landscape, communities and economy of the AONB.

3.2 The Management Plan Review

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000[13], which created the statutory duty to prepare and publish a 'Management Plan' for the South Devon AONB, requires it to be reviewed at least every 5 years.[14] The South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan is divided into 2 parts, The Strategy and The Delivery Plan, plus a series of Annexes (such as the Planning Guidance) and taken together these form the statutory 'AONB Management Plan'. The current Management Plan was adopted in 2014. The South Devon AONB Partnership is undertaking the review of the current Management Plan on behalf of the relevant authorities. These are South Hams District Council, Torbay Council and Plymouth City Council.

Since the last Management Plan, the format has been changed by moving many areas from the main strategy document into annexes to provide a more policy and objectives focussed document.

The Management Plan policies are being reviewed. In most cases they remain unchanged; in other cases, minor modifications have been proposed. New policies are proposed which respond to changes in pressures affecting the AONB and its special qualities.

4 Scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

4.1 Introduction

Natural England Guidance to English AONB Partnerships and Boards on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of AONB Management Plans (January 2008) states:

> *'The purpose of a SEA is to ensure that land-use plans and programmes, that are likely to have significant effects on the environment, are subjected to a* ***strategic level*** *(high and overarching) assessment of options and alternative courses of action during plan preparation in order to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects.*

[13] The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 c.37. Often referred to as the 'CRoW Act'.
[14] Section 89

> *The Management Plan process fulfils many of the requirements set out in the SEA process. As the Management Plan is aiming to conserve and enhance the landscape, it is already putting the environment at the heart of the plan- making process, which is a key aim of SEA, and the steps for both processes have strong parallels.'*

Additionally, the SEA Directive is primarily directed at 'non-environmental' plans and programmes. This SEA process should be seen in the context of relating to a review and update of an existing environmental plan, previous iterations of which have undergone extensive SEA. Therefore, the revised Management Plan is likely to have significantly fewer significant negative environmental effects than other non-environmentally focused plans.

4.2 The Scoping Stage

The scoping stage was the first SEA and SA stage. It achieved the following:

- Identified a range of relevant strategies, polices, plans and legislation that could influence or be influenced by, the AONB Management Plan.
- Identified the processes which will provide the environmental baseline.
- Identified Primary Environmental Indicators.
- Identified additional indicators relating to sustainability.
- Recorded an initial assessment of key environmental issues affecting the AONB (these have been supplemented throughout the Management Plan Review process)
- Established that the optional Sustainability Appraisal would be undertaken.
- Identified and agreed:
    - environmental / SEA objectives
    - sustainability / SA objectives
- Outlined the SEA methodology including deciding that proposed modifications to the Management Plan would be screened and the need to subject a policy to full SEA/SA would be judged from the outcome.
- Agreed that a screening exercise under The Conservation (Habitats and Species) Regulations 2017 would be undertaken as a separate but complementary process reported on separately.

5 Task A1: Identifying Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

The South Devon AONB Management Plan is first and foremost a document for setting the policy framework on how local authorities will exercise their functions in or affecting the South Devon AONB. However, it also guides the work of other public bodies and organisations which operate within, or undertake activities outside the boundary that could affect the AONB. As such the Management Plan cuts across a broad range of public and industry sectors.

5.1 Review of Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes and environmental objectives

A preliminary review of relevant law, plans, policies and programmes was undertaken during the initial stages of Management Plan Review and as part of SEA Scoping. It was set out in the Scoping Report.

The review was undertaken as a literature search for policies, plans and programmes (PPPs) relevant to the South Devon AONB. It includes legal obligations in order to ensure that statutory environmental protection objectives are included. The term ‘relevant’ was interpreted as including those PPPs which:

- Set environmental protection objectives for natural beauty, (including biodiversity, flora and fauna and habitats, geodiversity and geomorphology);
- Set environmental protection objectives which the management of the AONB can legitimately contribute to;
- Could affect the AONB’s natural beauty;
- Relate to the management of the environment (including water, air, forestry, agriculture, development etc.);
- The AONB Management Plan has the legitimate scope and ability to influence;
- Are likely to be influenced by the AONB Management Plan (such as PPP prepared by the relevant authorities).

The review has continued to be updated since scoping. The latest PPP Review is set out in Appendix 1 Review of relevant Policies, Plans, Programmes and environmental and sustainability objectives.

6 Task A2: Environmental and Sustainability Baseline

This section covers the relevant aspects of the current state of the AONB including describing the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected by the Management Plan. Since the Management Plan seeks to influence the environment of the AONB in a positive way this section mainly describes the environmental condition of the AONB with a particular focus on describing its special qualities.

A substantial environmental baseline for to the South Devon AONB was collated by the AONB Unit as part of the previous Review process when developing the South Devon AONB Management Plan 2009-2014. Information has been updated as part of the early development of the Management Plan 2019-2024. For assessment, data collation focused on landscape, seascape, biodiversity, geodiversity, and natural resources as these are the environmental aspects most likely to be significantly affected by the Management Plan. A large proportion of these also reflect the purpose of AONB designation. Significant environmental effects on air quality resulting from AONB Management Plan are not viewed as likely so baseline collation for this was minimal.

For the updated Management Plan, a summary of the most important information relating to the South Devon AONB is presented for each Management Plan theme in the table below.

Table 2 Summary of Environmental and Sustainability Baseline

Landscape Character
The landscape character assessment has recorded 12 different broad Landscape Character Types found throughout the AONB. The most widespread types are the open coastal plateaux (25%) and river valley slopes and combes (29%) whilst the least common are unsettled farmed valley floors, unsettled marine levels and urban (each less than 1%). The South Devon landscape is intimately linked with the sea. Underwater topography reveals the presence of earlier watercourses and shorelines dating from a time of lower sea levels. Inland, watercourses and their river catchments create strong links with Dartmoor to the north where all the main AONB watercourses rise. On clear days this link with Dartmoor is even more obvious when the moor creates an impressive backdrop to the area's northerly views. There is currently no established framework for monitoring landscape condition specific to AONBs. Only 8% of the AONB experiences truly dark skies at night (the lowest category of light pollution identified in recent satellite surveys). This compares with 36% for Devon and 24% for the SW region as a whole. This measure is based on analysis of the 2006 Council for Protection for Rural England (CPRE) Tranquillity Mapping by Natural England and attempts to quantify the distribution of relative tranquillity within each protected landscape. On average, the South Devon AONB is marginally more tranquil than the national norm with most of the AONB falling into the Moderate to High tranquillity bands. 10.8% considered to be of Very High tranquillity, 41.8% of High tranquillity, 40.1% of Moderate tranquillity, 6.8% of Low tranquillity and 0.5% of Very Low tranquillity. When compared to the coarser study undertaken by CPRE in the early 1990s this represents a worsening picture.
Natural Resources & Climate
18 popular beaches are regularly monitored for their bathing water quality against Bathing Water Directive criteria. Of 139kms of watercourse present throughout the AONB, 38% achieve good ecological status. For other water bodies: 1

standing water body is of moderate ecological status; five coastal water bodies are classified as moderate and one as good; two estuary water bodies are classified as moderate and three as good; and three groundwater water bodies are of good ecological status;

There are no designated air quality management areas in the AONB and any air pollution is likely to be related to traffic exhaust gases.

Biodiversity & Geodiversity

18 Sites of Special Scientific Interest cover 2011ha including four Special Areas of Conservation and two National Nature Reserves. In 2017 96.9% of the AONB SSSI area met Natural England's criteria for being in favourable condition.

Of the 2,011 ha. 27.9% of biological SSSI in the AONB are considered to be in favourable condition. Just over 1% is considered unfavourable – no change and 2.3% is considered to be unfavourable and declining.

177 County Wildlife Sites cover 4887 hectares or14.5% of the AONB with 57% of these considered to be in positive management in 2009. These sites represent locally important remnant habitats and stepping stones for broader ecological networks.

It is estimated that woodland covers 2982 Ha of the AONB which represents 8% of its area, with around ¾ of this being classified as broadleaved woodlands. Within this, 42% was actively managed in 2017; Forestry Commission (FC) defines this as woodlands where there has been recent activity related to FC-operated grant schemes and initiatives or felling licences or is managed by FC.

There are nine Geological Conservation Review Sites and 27 Regionally Important Geological Sites within and close to the AONB boundary. The part of the AONB within Torbay forms a significant part of the English Riviera Geopark.

Geological features include cliff and quarry exposures of Devonian marine slates; metamorphic schists of the Start peninsula; Permian sandstones and breccias; volcanic intrusions; and reef limestones with fossils. Important landform features include drowned estuaries, shingle barrier beaches, sea cliffs and raised beaches. 36 SSSI units with geological features of interest are all in favourable or "unfavourable recovering" condition.

Significant habitats include maritime grassland and heathland; flower-rich meadows and pastures including limestone grassland; maritime cliffs, slopes and caves; shingle and sand dunes; salt marsh, mud flats, sheltered estuarine waters, sea grass beds, rocky foreshore and coastal reefs, mature species-rich Devon hedges, oak and wet woodlands; cereal field margins and; freshwater lagoons with marsh and reed beds.

Significant species include Greater Horseshoe bat, cirl bunting, guillemot, adder, otter, dormouse, oil beetles, cuckoo bee, glow-worm, shore-dock, strapwort, spring squill, autumn squill, thrift, sea grass, seahorses, fan mussel, Atlantic salmon, European eel, harbour porpoise, dolphin, grey seal, pink sea fan, primrose (county flower), bee orchid, lichen species, estuarine sea grass, native oyster, fan mussel, red seaweeds of the Saltstone.

Historic Environment

The AONB has 5052 Historic Environment Record entries including 65 Scheduled Monuments; 565 hectares of registered Historic Parkland at seven sites; 39 historic Conservation Areas; 1309 Listed Buildings; and four protected wreck sites lying just offshore.

Prehistoric features in the AONB landscape include complex field systems, drovers' tracks and ridge ways, burial mounds, earthworks, hut circles, settlement enclosures and hill forts. Further distinctiveness in the rural landscape was added in the medieval period and later, with farmsteads, field enclosures, deer parks, rabbit warrens, quarries and country estates.

The network of narrow winding lanes and turnpikes are notable, with toll houses, stone bridges and milestones, connecting a dispersed pattern of rural villages.

Historic coastal features include military defences, as well as navigation marks, lighthouses, coastguard cottages, shipwrecks and ancient trading settlements. The shoreline preserves traces of human activity long since submerged by sea level rise. The estuaries feature dams, weirs, watermills, boat houses, lime kilns, castles and quays.

Well-known historic associations include the D-Day practice landings site at Slapton, the mediaeval castles and streets of Dartmouth, the ruined fishing village at Hallsands, the Victorian fortress on Berry Head, and the National Trust houses of Greenway, Coleton Fishacre and Overbecks.

Farming & Land Management

78% of the AONB land area is farmed - with 359 agricultural holdings covering 25,094 hectares. 10% of the agricultural land in the AONB is of the highest quality (grades 1 and 2) while 80% is grade 3.

8,820 hectares (35.6% of the farmed AONB area and 26% of the total AONB) is considered to be High Nature Value Farmland.

8.3% of the AONB (3142ha) is in the protective ownership of the National Trust and Woodland Trust. A significant proportion of the AONB is in the ownership of large private estates including the Flete, Evans, Blackpool and Start, Strete, Sharpham, Raleigh and Duke of Somerset estates.

72% of the farmed AONB area is under a total of 241 Environmental Stewardship Schemes worth £1,558,395 each year. 77 agreements covering 9,144 hectares and 51% of all land under Environmental Stewardship is under Higher Level Schemes. The remaining 8,765 hectares or 49% of agreement land across 164 holdings are managed under Entry Level Schemes. A further 394 hectares of land or 1.6% of the AONB farmed area remain under agreements created as part of the former Countryside Stewardship Scheme, the last of which expire in September 2014. 16% of all agreement land is managed organically.

The South Devon cattle breed has a strong association with the AONB. Its distinctive colour mirrors the area's typically red soils. Locally distinctive varieties of apple such as Crimson King, Tommy Knight and Collegget Pippin connect the area's farming and cultural traditions to the landscape of today. The Dudley Stamp land utilisation survey of 1932 recorded a proliferation of orchards for the area: an entirely different picture from today's remnant orchards.

The AONB has 4,060 km of hedge banks. These enclose fields at an average density of 12.6 km of hedge bank for every square kilometre of land.

The AONB has a relatively small area of woodland: 8% of the land area (2481 hectares, counting only woodlands over 2ha in size) compared with 9% for the South West region, 12% for the UK and 44% for Europe. This area is higher if the many small farm woods, hilltop copses, hedgerow trees and orchards are counted. Trees and woods are a significant component of the AONB landscape. Ancient oak woodlands fringing the estuaries and rivers, hedgerow trees and orchards are particularly distinctive. 30% of the area's woodland (754 hectares) is classified as ancient semi-natural woodland.

South Hams has a network of 65 voluntary tree wardens with 37 of the 42 AONB parishes in the South Hams covered by active members who assist in tree protection and management.

Coast & Marine Environment

The coastline of the AONB measures 60 miles (97 km). It incorporates the South Devon Heritage Coast which extends 2 miles out to sea and covers the 49 miles (75 km) of coastline between Wembury Beach and Sharkham Point. 47% of the AONB has a coastal landscape character.

It is a coast of impressive rocky cliffs, sheltered coves, sandy beaches, wide sweeping bays, wave cut platforms, rocky headlands, caves, islands, and freshwater lagoons behind shingle barrier beaches.

Although the AONB boundary was drawn at the mean high water mark along the coastline, the presence of the sea was crucial to its designation. Allowing for the curvature of the earth and in good visibility, it is possible to see around 36km out to sea when standing 100 metres above sea level on cliffs like Bolberry Down. This area of inshore water is therefore particularly important to the overall character and special qualities of much of the AONB. The adjacent inshore marine environment is particularly rich in marine life and features, recognised by the designation of three marine Special Areas of Conservation and the proposal of five Marine Conservation Zones.

The coast has 68 beaches ranging from popular accessible amenity beaches to more isolated rural beaches. There are also 106 smaller coves, with three quarters of these only accessible from the sea.

Along the 154km of coastal shoreline there are over 3km of engineered coast defence structures.

The most recent Shoreline Management Plan for South Devon and Dorset includes policies for 270km of shoreline extending up to the tidal limits of each estuary within the area. Policies applied were No Active Intervention for 158km or 58.5%, Hold the line of existing defences otherwise No Active Intervention for 95km or 35.2%, Hold The Line for 7km or 2.6% and Managed Realignment for 11km or 4.1%.

Around £40m worth of fish and shellfish are landed during each year at Brixham. The ports of Dartmouth, Salcombe and other smaller sites such as Beesands also land regular catches. Recreational sea fishing from the shore is locally important.

47% of the AONB coastline and the Great Mew Stone is in the protective ownership of the National Trust. Other sections of coast are owned by local authorities and larger private estates like the Flete, Evans, Blackpool and Start estates and the Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust.

Rivers and Estuaries

5.5% (1850 hectares) of the AONB is estuarine: the Yealm (212ha), Erme (88ha), Avon (111ha), Salcombe-Kingsbridge (599ha) and Dart (840ha). The west is bordered by Plymouth Sound. The only section of non-tidal main river within the AONB boundary is the middle reach of the Avon, extending inland up as far as Avonwick.

The estuaries have high nature conservation importance: the Yealm Estuary is part of the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation; the Yealm, Erme and Salcombe estuaries are Sites of Special Scientific Interest; and the Salcombe Estuary is designated a marine Local Nature Reserve. Three proposed Marine Conservation Zones include parts of the Dart and Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuaries; and the whole of the Erme Estuary. The 1083 hectares of inter-tidal estuary habitat are particularly significant.

The estuaries have a long maritime history with significant boatbuilding and repair traditions on the Dart, Salcombe and Yealm estuaries, though with a recent shift from commercial boats to recreational craft.

Commercial shellfisheries farm oysters and mussels on the Yealm, Avon, Salcombe and Dart estuaries.

Migratory salmon use the Yealm, Erme, Avon & Dart estuaries to reach spawning grounds further upstream; these rivers have Salmon Action Plans in place. All AONB estuaries are designated bass nursery areas and the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority enforces a range of byelaws for the area.

At times of extreme spring high tides, strong easterly winds and inland rainfall, the lowest areas of Dartmouth, Totnes, Kingsbridge, Salcombe, South Pool, Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo are vulnerable to tidal flooding.

Tourism Access and Recreation

The South West Coast Path is the AONB's primary recreational route with 110km (68 miles) of the path passing through the AONB. Other popular promoted routes include the Dart Valley Trail, the Avon Estuary Walk, the Erme-Plym Trail, the Greenway Walk and the John Musgrave Heritage Trail giving a total of 148km of national and regional walking routes.

There are 384km of public rights of way (331 km of public footpaths, 38 km of public bridleways and 15km of byways). The 131 green lanes (unmetalled roads) are a distinctive feature of the AONB, totalling 67km. Although a reasonable network of public rights of way exists, recreational trails still have gaps and missing links and consequently fail to reach their potential. This applies to horse-riding and off-road cycling opportunities in particular.

Beaches, coastal access land (560ha), National Trust open access land (717ha) and Woodland Trust properties (12 woods, 178ha), nature reserves and Stewardship Scheme access agreements providing 25km of footpath and 7km of bridleway, are all important recreational assets..

While the resident population of the AONB is in the region of 31,000, the adjoining urban centres of Plymouth and Torbay and the rest of the South Hams bring around 0.5 million people within a 30 minute drive of the AONB.

Planning and Sustainable Development

The AONB is heavily influenced by the major urban centres of Plymouth and Torbay at its western and eastern ends. Development has "spilled over" the boundary into the AONB from towns such as Brixham and Kingsbridge where the AONB boundary is drawn tightly against the urban edge.

Transport and Highways

A key feature of the AONB is the intricate network of winding lanes with flower-rich hedge banks and a legacy of historic mileposts, toll houses, stone bridges and signs that together form a distinctive part of the area's character.

There are no national or regional routes but there are 51km of A-road, 29km of B-road and 235km of C-road.

There are 16 ferry and river cruiser services serving the AONB, nine of which are seasonal. A further three ferry services serve locations within close proximity to the AONB boundary.

There is one train service into the AONB - the seasonal steam train between Paignton and Kingswear. The nearest mainline stations are Totnes (2km away from the AONB boundary) and Ivybridge (3km away).
Rural Economy and Services
Levels of household deprivation (employment, education, health and housing) roughly match the regional pattern. The area has higher levels of advanced educational qualification than the regional average.
Community and Culture
There are around 31,000 people living within the South Devon AONB. The towns of Dartmouth, Salcombe and parts of Modbury and Kingsbridge, with 44 villages, 74 hamlets and scattered farmsteads, form the pattern of settlement for the AONB. The towns of Totnes and Brixham, and the urban centres of Torbay to the east and Plymouth to the west, lie close to the AONB boundary. In some coastal parishes nearly half the houses are second homes. In these more remote rural settlements and tourism destinations, the year round resident population is insufficient to retain essential local services and facilities. In the domains of health, disability, education, skills and training, crime, and the quality of outdoor environment, the AONB is considered to be amongst the least deprived in the country; but for access to housing and services, and the quality of the indoor environment, the AONB is considered to be amongst the most deprived. Whilst the area is generally affluent there are hidden rural pockets of deprivation.

7 Task A3: Identifying existing environmental and sustainability problems

7.1 Statement of Key Environmental and sustainability Issues and 'Forces for Change'

Existing environmental and sustainability problems relevant to the AONB were identified by the Management Plan Review process as 'Forces for Change' affecting the environment and important features of the AONB. These were identified from:

- South Devon AONB Management Plan 2009-2014
- South Devon AONB Partnership Committee agenda items on principal review issues
- Regional Devon AONB meeting with NE
- NAAONB guidance
- Research, analysis and literature reviews
- A series of one-to-one key stakeholder discussions (December 2017-March 2018)
- Online survey results
- Face to Face survey at events
- Consultation roadshow events and activities at all local agricultural shows in the AONB
- Questionnaire replies from 46 Parish Councillors
- Key pressures identified in the Management Strategy as the principle forces for change over the foreseeable future are:
- climate change, plus mitigation and adaptation measures
- development pressures, lifestyle changes and changing patterns of recreation

- land use change
- changes in agriculture, including market forces

The most influential are presented in under each Management Theme below.

Table 3 Environmental and Sustainability Issues

Management Plan Theme Relevant SEA Objectives	Environmental and Sustainability Issues (taken from current management plan, plus new additions)
Landscape Character Landscape; Habitats; Species; Heritage; Natural resources; Soils; Water, Air, Climate; Human health; Population	Insufficient information and guidance available at a landscape scale. Key landscape features including hedgebanks and small woodlands, are degrading or are being lost due to inappropriate management or neglect.
Natural Resources & Climate Landscape; Habitats; Species; Natural resources; Soils; Water, Air, Climate; Human health.	There is an increasingly urgent need to adapt to the predicted impacts of climate change. The highest standards of soil conservation and the elimination of diffuse pollution from agriculture have become increasingly important. There is an increasing demand and Government requirement for more of our energy to come from renewable sources.
Biodiversity & Geodiversity Landscape; Habitats; Species; Natural resources; Soils; Water, Climate; Human health.	A significant proportion of biological SSSIs are not in 'favourable condition'. Continuing gradual decline of many formerly common wildlife species and habitats across much of the AONB farmed landscape. Invasive foreign plants and animals threaten to displace native species and habitats. Plant health is becoming increasingly threatened from disease. Important coastal estuarine and river corridor habitats are being squeezed. There is a need to plan and act strategically particularly at the coast and along the estuaries to adapt important habitats under threat from climate change and coastal erosion. There is a need to strengthen our sites of high wildlife value and improve the links between them. There is a challenging new duty for all public bodies to exercise their functions which are relevant to nature conservation, including marine conservation, so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive.
Historic Environment Landscape; Heritage; Population.	Deep ploughing is continually eroding buried prehistoric remains. Small traditional farm buildings are either derelict or under threat of unsympathetic conversion. Earlier sea level rise has inundated many coastal archaeological sites – the remaining sites are suffering loss and damage from storms and erosion. The cumulative effect of continuous small changes is detracting from the distinctive historic character of the AONB.

Management Plan Theme Relevant SEA Objectives	Environmental and Sustainability Issues (taken from current management plan, plus new additions)
Farming & Land Management Landscape; Habitats; Species; Heritage; Natural resources; Soils; Water, Air Climate; Human health.	Traditional family run mixed farms are declining along with traditional farm management skills and a shortage of labour. Market forces and globalisation are encouraging a return to more intensive and less sustainable farming practices. Some of the most environmentally sensitive farm locations are at the margins of economic viability. Environmental Stewardship is largely felt to have been under-resourced and in-effective. Little incentive for owners to manage woodlands productively. The area meets little of its own needs for woodland produce from its own resources. The ability of farmers to maintain land for conservation is being significantly affected by reduced agricultural support payments and targeting of environmental stewardship resources. Barriers exist to new woodland planting. The decline in livestock numbers has significant consequences for the character of our landscape and farming economy. Farm diversification enterprises are increasingly replacing traditional agriculture as the main source of farm incomes.
Coast & Marine Environment Landscape; Habitats; Species; Heritage; Natural resources; Water; Climate; Human health; Population.	Climate change, extreme weather events and sea level rise will have a major impact on coastal infrastructure. Some prominent coastal sites are spoiled by past poor quality development, compounded by intensive recreational use and erosion. The coastline remains vulnerable to major pollution incidents from shipping Dumping of plastics and litter on the shore and at sea brings rubbish onto the shoreline throughout the year. Disturbance of tranquil areas is sometimes caused by jet skis and powerboats. Seascape Character Assessment is required to assist with conserving the distinctive coastal features of the AONB.
Rivers & Estuaries Landscape; Habitats; Species; Heritage; Natural resources; Soils; Water; Climate; Human health; Population.	Climate change, extreme weather events and sea level rise will have a major impact on estuary infrastructure. Unsightly and intrusive coastal defence structures have been installed at some sensitive estuary locations. Diffuse pollution, nutrient enrichment, algal blooms (red tides), storm overflows and local pollution from boating activities are all perceived to have damaging impacts on coastal and estuary waters, shell fisheries and habitats. Pressure for additional moorings and marinas in the estuaries.
Tourism, Access & Recreation Landscape; Habitats; Species; Heritage; Natural resources; Soils; Water, Air, Climate; Human health;	Recreational trails still have gaps and missing links particularly for horse-riding Intense recreational pressure at some heavily used sites continues to cause erosion, landscape degradation, damage to habitats and archaeology.

Management Plan Theme Relevant SEA Objectives	Environmental and Sustainability Issues (taken from current management plan, plus new additions)
Population	Some sites are at full recreational capacity. A commonly held view that some noisy and intrusive recreational activities disturb the tranquillity of the AONB and spoil the enjoyment of others.
Planning & Sustainable Development Landscape; Habitats; Species; Heritage; Natural resources; Soils; Water, Air Climate; Human health; Population	Obtrusive lighting in the countryside and light pollution from both within and outside the area affect the quality of the AONB nightscape and sense of tranquillity. There are divergent views between those who regard the AONB designation as a hindrance to economic prosperity and those who feel that the constraints on development should be even more rigorously exercised. Continuing pressure of suburbanisation in the countryside. Significant development pressures from within the AONB and the adjoining areas of Torbay and Plymouth, particularly on or near the boundary Certain categories of development can be particularly intrusive to the open skylines of the AONB, including telecoms masts, wind turbines and large farm buildings. There is a real challenge in accommodating the quantity of new housing required by government either within or close to the AONB without compromising the integrity of the AONB itself.
Transport & Highways Landscape; Habitats; Species; Heritage; Natural resources; Water, Air; Climate; Human health; Population	Intense traffic pressure causes congestion at certain locations and creates an intrusion into the quality of the countryside and its quality. Damage to the fabric of the highway network and particularly road-side verges and hedgebanks is a serious problem. Highway improvements during the 1960s and 1970s have left a legacy of obtrusive lighting, unsightly fencing, missing hedge banks and unsympathetic road alignments. Some rural car parks have become eyesores.
Rural Economy & Services Heritage; Natural resources; Air; Climate; Human health; Population	There is a need to reduce local dependency on oil and gas; and become less reliant on fuels imported from outside the area Local services are closing down throughout the area resulting in residents travelling to major centres with deep rural areas suffering the most.
Community & Culture Landscape; Heritage; Human health; Population	A high quality of life does not extend to all of the resident population The population structure is changing in response to the area's attractiveness as a retirement and holiday home destination
Awareness & Communication Landscape; Habitats; Species; Heritage; Natural resources; Soils; Water, Air Climate; Human health; Population	Natural Beauty is a term that encompasses flora, fauna, geological and physiographic features. Landscape is a term that encompasses everything – natural and human – that makes an area distinctive: geology, climate, soils, plants, animals, communities, archaeology, buildings, the people who live in it, past and present, and the perceptions of those who visit it. There is increasing concern over where our food comes from and our ability to sustainably produce locally what we need to eat.

8 Task A4: Developing SEA and SA Objectives

8.1 Developing Environmental (SEA) Objectives

Developing SEA objectives is not required by law, but it is a recognised good practice method of assessment. The objectives are adapted from Natural England guidance to AONBs but have been prioritised to more closely reflect the statutory purpose of AONB designation and conform the SEA Directive's and the Regulations' requirements. Additionally, a set of sub-objectives or 'assessment questions' reflect the identified environmental and sustainability objectives relevant to the AONB and the environmental and sustainability problems identified.

Table 4 Environmental SEA Objectives

E1	To protect and enhance landscape
E2	To protect and where practical enhance biodiversity (habitats)
E3	To protect and enhance fauna and flora (species)
E4	To conserve and enhance geodiversity
E5	To maintain the historic environment (including cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage)
E6	To protect material assets including natural resources
E7	To protect and enhance soil quality
E8	To protect water, air and climate
E9	To safeguard human health
E10	To ensure no adverse effect arises on population (i.e. demographic balance)
E11	To avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships

Table 5 SEA Assessment aiding questions

	SEA Objective	Assessment questions / Sub Objectives. Does the policy..?
E1	To conserve and enhance landscape	Protect key landscape features? Protect key views? Protect and enhance current levels of tranquillity, including the dark sky resource? Help maintain low (financial) return landscapes that have a high ecological and/or historic environment value? Promote the maintenance and protection of ecosystem services provided by landscape?
E2	To conserve and enhance biodiversity (habitats)	Promote the conservation and appropriate management of legally protected sites such as SACs, SPAs, NNRs, SSSIs? Contribute to securing compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives?

		Promote the conservation and restoration of habitats of principal importance? Support the maintenance and protection of ecosystem services provided by habitats? Protect trees, woodlands and forests from increasing threats such as pests, diseases and climate change, and improving their resilience to these threats?
E3	To conserve and enhance fauna and flora (individual species, populations and communities)	Support the protection of legally protected species? Support the conservation of species of principal importance? Help maintain species vulnerable to the effects of climate change? Contribute to the aims of Biodiversity 2020? Support the maintenance of ecosystem services provided by flora and fauna?
E4	To conserve and enhance geodiversity	Protect designated geological and geomorphological sites, such SSSIs and RIGS? Support the conservation of geological and geomorphological features? Support the maintenance and protection of ecosystem services provided by geodiversity?
E5	To maintain the historic environment (including cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage)	Help maintain historic environment features which are vulnerable to climate change? Help maintain historic environment features which are vulnerable to changing land management? Support the maintenance of ecosystem services provided by historic environment?
E6	To protect material assets including natural resources	Protect and enhance green infrastructure? Allow for adaptation to climate change impacts? Protect the AONB's special qualities from the impacts of flooding, erosion coastal squeeze? Support the maintenance of ecosystem services provided by natural resources?
E7	To protect and enhance soil quality	Promote good, sustainable soil management? Promote restoration and maintenance of landscape features which aid soil management, e.g. by reducing run-off? Support the maintenance of ecosystem services provided by soils?
E8	To protect water, air and climate	Help achieve Water Quality Standards? Support appropriate renewable energy sources? Contribute to the UK target of reducing carbon emissions by 60% by 2050? Support the maintenance of ecosystem services provided by water, air and climate?
E9	To safeguard human health	Support human health indirectly by increasing environmental quality? Support human health by providing opportunities for physical exercise? Support mental well-being, e.g. creating opportunities for quiet enjoyment of the countryside? Increase the quality of life of AONB communities? Support the maintenance of non-material benefits people obtain from the regulation of ecosystem processes, such as recreational, aesthetic and spiritual benefits?
E10	To ensure no adverse effect arises on population (i.e. demographic balance)	Seek to ensure that no particular sector of the community is disadvantaged?
E11	To avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships	Prejudice the achievement of another SEA Objective? In combination with another policy, does it prejudice the achievement of another SEA Objective? Create adverse cumulative effects?

8.2 Developing Sustainability (SA) Objectives

In addition to environmental issues, the Management Plan deals with community and economic issues in the context of how these can affect the area's natural beauty. Using Sustainability objectives is recognised good practice. Five headline objectives identified during Scoping were used.

Table 6 Sustainability (SA) Objectives

SA1	To create more vibrant, cohesive, safe and mixed communities
SA2	To protect the quality and character of individual settlements and communities
SA3	To protect the environment, people and properties from flood risk
SA4	To promote the development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives
SA5	To minimise the consumption of natural resources including fossil fuels, minerals, land take and water

9 Task B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects

9.1 Task B2: Developing strategic alternatives

Part 3 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Section 12(2) states that an Environmental Report should:

> *'identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of -*
>
> *(a) implementing the plan or programme; and*
>
> *(b) reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.'*

When identifying 'reasonable alternatives' consideration needs be given to the Management Plan's purpose and its geographical scope, that is the designated AONB and its hinterland setting. Best practice is that alternatives dealt with by the SEA and SA should be reasonable, and that alternatives should not be assessed for their own sake.

9.1.1 'No Action' Alternative

Predicted environmental trends in the absence of management plan interventions

Preparation of an AONB Management Plan is required by law; therefore it is not a reasonable alternative to 'Do nothing'. In the interests of expediency this alternative has not been examined any further than was undertaken within the Scoping Report. This is summarised below.

In the absence of an AONB Management Plan the environment and natural beauty of the AONB would continue to receive protection under a wide range of statutory regimes such as the Habitats Regulations, Water Framework Directive, Town and Country Planning regime etc. These all serve to reduce the likelihood of significant environmental deterioration. Natural beauty would continue to be considered in other significant plans, policies, strategies and decisions of relevant public authorities,

because of the duty imposed by Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. But arguable less so in the non-statutory plans of non-public bodies not covered by the section 85 duty.

Whilst in practice there are many organisations that would continue to contribute to the AONB's protection, there is no single organisation or regulatory mechanism with a complete overview or wide reaching influence over everything with potential to impact on the AONB. It is possible that without the implementation of the AONB Management Plan the cumulative effect of small-scale, or uncoordinated changes in direction in the management of the natural and built environment could threaten the area's environmental quality and distinctiveness – factors central to its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Without an AONB Management Plan to set a framework for positive interventions, there could be problematic inconsistencies in the conservation and enhancement of the area's natural beauty, its full range of special qualities, and key features, and myriad missed opportunities for added value. The AONB Management Plan provides a focus for the actions of others and seeks to bring key agencies and the local community together to work to retain, conserve and enhance the existing high quality AONB landscape and natural beauty, to add value to existing processes and to enable positive net change through sustainable solutions.

9.1.2 'Continuing with the current Management Plan ' Alternative

This assessment would consider the implications of continuing with the policies outlined in the current Management Plan 2014-2019, assessing them against the SEA Objectives. However, the review process has highlighted the need for revised policies in the light of new forces for change. Owing to the Natural England guidance requiring an expedient and fit for purpose assessment, it is not viewed as appropriate to examine in detail the environmental effects of continuing with the current set of policies. Therefore this alternative is not considered to be 'reasonable'.

9.1.3 'Revising the Management Plan' alternative

The Management Plan is subject to a statutory review process at least every 5 years.

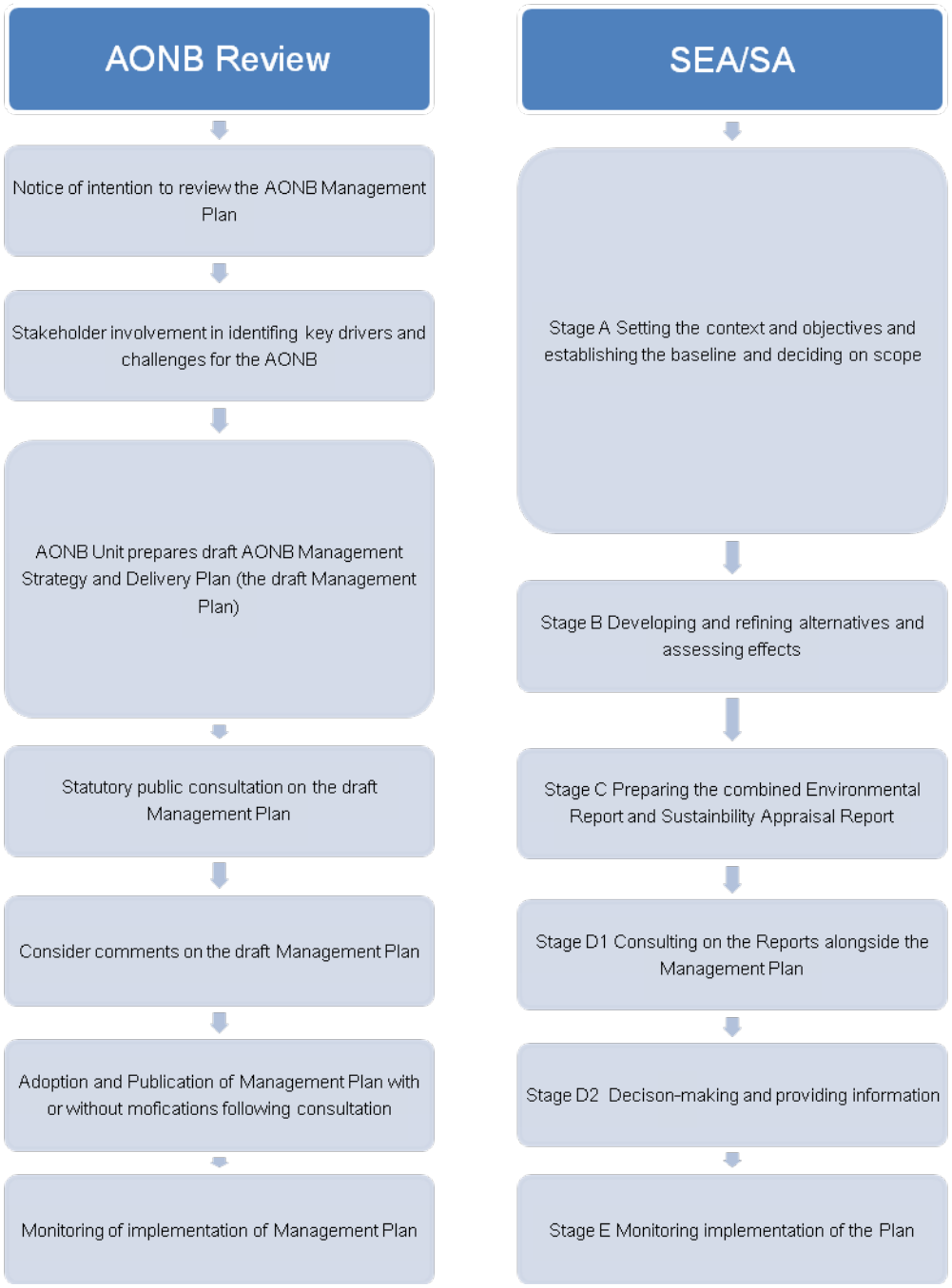
The primary purpose of the Management Plan as a whole is to conserve and enhance natural beauty, so it should represent the 'Best for environment' option. That said the assessment may indicate where improvements to the environmental performance of individual policies within the Management Strategy could be made. Development of alternative policy wording would be the most useful approach to adopt.

Development of alternatives will therefore be focussed where policies are identified as having an adverse environmental effect.

10 Assessment Methodology

10.1 Methodology Overview

The stages and principal tasks involved in SEA and SA are set out in the figure below in relation to the tasks of the AONB Management Plan review process.



10.2 Outline of the assessment process and principals

This Environmental Report builds on the SEA and SA processes and reporting on previous South Devon AONB Management Plans undertaken for the plan periods 2009-2014 and 2014-2019. This approach was possible because the overarching aims and objectives of the Management Plan over these periods and the policy suite contained within remain comparable in their substantive intent and strategic purpose. Therefore, in the interests of expediency and efficiency a screening approach was taken.

As the review has lead to mostly minor proposed modifications in wording to the Management Plan policy suite a screening assessment on the proposed modifications was used to guide and scope down the assessment work.

- The screening and any necessary detailed assessments evaluated and assessed each policy in isolation. That is to say, the assessment did not account for any supplementary text or the Key Policy Objective under which the policy falls. In practice, most times the policies would be used, reference will be made back to the context of the Management Plan, but this assessment approach ensures individual policies are strong enough to 'stand alone' when used out of context and remain able to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.
- Both the SEA and the SA focused on the performance of the policies against the agreed objectives, and commentary on likely effects are qualitative rather than attempting to quantify the absolute environmental or sustainability effects.

10.2.1 Screening process

A screening exercise has been undertaken on the proposed modification which went out for consultation and the additional post-consultation modifications made to the Management Plan policies. The screening was to determine whether the changes would alter the results of the previous SEA/SA, including the likely significant cumulative effects.

For each policy with proposed modifications a screening conclusion is presented. These can be categorised as:

- The proposed modifications do not significantly alter the intent, scope or performance of the policy against the SEA or SA objectives. No further assessment was needed in this case. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

- The proposed modifications alter the intent or scope of the policy with the potential to change its performance against SEA or SA objectives. In this case the previous SEA or SA findings have been summarised and an evaluation has been made as to whether they still apply. In this case the screening conclusion can be either:
    - Screening conclusion: Following a review of the previous assessment findings, and an evaluation of the proposed modifications, it is considered that they do not change the results of the SEA or SA.
    - Screening conclusion: The proposed modifications change the results of the SEA/SA. Where the proposed modifications are likely significant for the SEA/SA the policy is reassessed and a revised evaluation is presented in the screening conclusion. A full assessment is reported in Appendix for SEA and Appendix for SA.

For the additional modifications made post-consultation a final screening conclusion is presented.

10.2.2 Methodology for the detailed assessments

For new policies requiring assessment and proposed and additional modifications identified as requiring reassessment this was done using the objective-led SEA and SA Frameworks consistent with previous SEA and SA work on South Devon AONB Management Plans covering previous plan periods. Eleven SEA objectives (the SEA Framework) and five sustainability objectives (the SA Framework) were used. These are set out in section 8 Task A4: Developing SEA and SA Objectives.

The need to revise a policy was judged from the assessment outcome. Development of alternatives was therefore focussed at the policy level, where policies were identified as having negative, uncertain or implementation dependent effects. Following Natural England guidance, alternatives were only developed and assessed where polices were shown to have a potential adverse effect (either alone or in combination).

The assessment records the performance of the Management Plan against the agreed SEA and SA Frameworks using a seven-point scale shown in **Table 7 Six-point scale to record performance of polices against SEA/SA Objectives**

Table 7 Six-point scale to record performance of polices against SEA/SA Objectives

Likely environmental or sustainability effects and performance against the objectives	Symbol
Strongly supports the objective and is likely to have **significant positive effects** (S =Supports)	S++
Supports the objective and is likely to have **minor positive effects**	S+
Neither supports nor conflicts with the objective and is likely to have **neutral effects**	N
Potentially works against or conflicts with the objective and is likely to have **minor negative effects** (C = conflicts)	C-
Strongly works against the objective and is likely to have **significant negative effects**	C- -
Implementation dependent effects Nature of effects depends on implementation and delivery methods, or it is likely to result in mixed positive and negative effects	X

10.2.3 Assessment of 'significance'

The factors for determining the significance of effects were adapted from the SEA Directive. Judgements on the degree of significance of effects had regard, in particular, to their:

- probability (likelihood), duration, frequency and reversibility;
- magnitude and spatial extent;
- potential for being cumulative;
- risks to human health or the environment;
- the value and vulnerability of the area(s) likely to be affected due to –
- the special natural characteristics or historic environment;
- exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
- intensive land-use; and
- the effects on national, European or internationally protected areas or landscapes (such as the South Devon AONB, Dartmoor National Park, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas).

11 The Findings of the SEA and SA (Tasks B2 – B5 Predicting and evaluating the effects of the Plan)

The Management Plan is set out under 3 overarching topics: Place, People and, Management each of which has an aim. Then each topic contains a series of Themes, each with its own Key Policy Objective and suite of Policies to guide activity within and affecting the AONB so as to achieve the Objective. See the table below.

Place	People	Management
Landscape	Access, Recreation & Tourism	Communication, Education & Awareness
Natural Resources & Climate	Planning & Sustainable Development	Management Organisation & Partnerships
Biodiversity & Geodiversity	Transport & Highways	
Historic Environment	Rural Economy & Services	
Farming & Land Management	Community & Culture	
Coast & Marine Environment		
Rivers & Estuaries		

11.1 Screening of proposed modifications and re-screening of additional modifications to the Management Plan

The proposed modifications to the policy text contained in the Consultation version of the Management Plan are set out as follows: deletions are indicated as strikethrough '~~text~~', additions are marked as underlined text. New policies are set out in **bold text.** Post-consultation additional modifications have now been made to the final version of the Management Plan 2019-2024 these are set out as follows: deletions are indicated as yellow highlighted struck through: '~~text~~'. Additions are marked as yellow highlighted and double-underlined: 'text'. New policies are set out in bold: **'text'.**

In the final version of the Management Plan there have been some reordering of polices within some of the Themes, these changes have been reflected in the screening table and the associated full assessment matrices, but they are not significant for the performance of the policies. In response to the consultation, there are some modifications to polices which were not included in the consultation version of the plan. These are therefore being screened for the first time in the table below. The previous screening assessment and its conclusions are presented along with an additional final screening conclusion for all additional modifications

made post-consultation. Table 9 Screening of Additional Modifications to Management Plan policies is set out on the following pages.

Table 8 Screening of Additional Modifications

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Lan/P2 Technical assessments	The use of Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments and Historic Landscape and Seascape Characterisation will be advocated so that land use and marine planning and management decisions respect, maintain and where possible enhance the special qualities of the South Devon AONB.	This policy has been modified since the consultation version of the plan. This intent of the policy remains the same as the original policy. The policy now explicitly refers to marine planning. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** for landscape**,** biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity and historic environment. **Positive effects** for material assets including natural resources, water air and climate and avoiding significant effects between the SEA objectives. **Neutral effects** for soil quality, human health and population. The additional modifications will strengthen the performance against the SEA objectives for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species) and heritage. SA Screening: The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA findings.
Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications will strengthen the performance against the SEA objectives for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species) and historic environment. That said, these are already assessed as significant positive effects therefore there is no change to the SEA findings. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA findings.		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Lan/P4 Tranquillity	~~Levels of tranquillity throughout the South Devon AONB will be maintained and, where practicable enhanced, in order to ensure this special quality is not further devalued.~~ The tranquillity, natural nightscapes and dark skies of the AONB will be enhanced and maintained in a consistent, cross-boundary evidence-based approach.	This policy has been modified since the consultation version of the plan. This intent of the policy remains the same as the original policy. The policy now explicitly refers to natural nightscapes and dark skies. Although these matters are included in the concept of tranquillity it is helpful to have them used explicitly as sometimes tranquillity is perceived to relate only to noise levels. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** for landscape**. Positive effects** for natural resources as tranquillity, and dark skies in particular, are viewed as important natural resources of the AONB. Indirect cumulative **positive effects** on human health by improved feelings of night time tranquillity as well as reductions in negative physical effects of light pollution. **Positive** indirect effects on climate where reducing pollution from wasted light can lead to reductions in energy use and contribute to UK climate change targets. **Neutral effects** were identified for historic environment, material assets including natural resources, and for interrelationships between the objectives. SA Screening: The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA findings. The additional modifications strengthen the policy as it now refers to nightscapes and dark skies. This increased clarity on factors of tranquillity may lead to it being applied in more circumstances with the potential for better performance against SEA objectives for landscape, but as this is already assessed as significant positive there is no impact on the score. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications strengthen the SEA performance for landscape, but as this is already assessed as significant positive there is no change to the SEA findings. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further appraisal needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Lan/P5 Skylines and ~~visual intrusions~~ views	The character of skylines and open views into, within and out of the South Devon AONB will be protected. Suitable alternatives to infrastructure responsible for visual intrusion will be sought together with improvements to reduce the visual impact of unsightly past development. ~~Priorities include protection against intrusive energy generation, transmission and communications infrastructure; external lighting that creates night time scenic intrusion; and visually dominating buildings that are inconsistent with landscape character.~~	This policy has been modified since the consultation version of the plan. This intent of the policy remains the same as the original policy. The modifications have removed the examples of visual intrusion, but this does no alter the intent of the policy. It is intended that these examples will be included in any updates to the South Devon AONB Planning Guidance which is part of the statutory Management Plan. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** landscape and natural resources, **Neutral effects** on geodiversity, soil quality, water air & climate, population the safeguarding human health. **Implementation dependent effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species), historic environment, and interrelationships between the objectives. The minor modifications are unlikely to change the SEA findings. No further assessment needed. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA, as the policy intent is largely the same. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA. The previous findings apply. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further appraisal needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
NatRes/P1 Natural capital	~~The environmentally sustainable management of natural resources within the South Devon AONB will be promoted and any plans for their management will have due regards for South Devon AONB purposes and work with physical processes that are resilient to climate change.~~ A landscape scale natural capital approach will be taken where practicable to sustainably use and manage ~~primary~~ natural resources in the AONB.	This policy has been substantively reworded. Its scope has broadened. However, the use of 'primary resources' is somewhat ambiguous, perhaps the use of 'natural resources' would be Plain English and understandable by a wider range of specialists. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate. **Positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment. **Neutral effects** on human health, population the interrelationships between the objectives. Despite the extensive wording change, the policy intent is the same, which is the environmentally sustainable use of the AONB's natural resources. The changes explicitly bring in a landscape scale approach which will strengthen the support for the landscape objective and the natural capital approach is a different way of supporting biodiversity, objectives. The modifications are like to change the SEA findings in an environmentally positive direction for landscape from minor positive to significant positive. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA, as the policy intent is largely the same. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening Conclusion: The proposed modifications will change the previous SEA findings. Changes are likely to be from positive effects to significant positive effects for landscape and biodiversity objectives. The policy could be strengthened across several SEA objectives by the deletion of 'primary' as all resources in the AONB should be sustainably managed and deletion of 'where practicable'. The previous findings for the other SEA objectives apply. The previous SA findings apply.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications to NatRes/P1: The additional changes have followed the screening recommendations and clarify the policy. **Final Screening Conclusion: The proposed additional modifications do not change the previous screening conclusion.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
NatRes/P4 Climate change	Communities will be assisted ~~to develop~~ in developing resilience ~~in~~ and adapting to climate change whilst working with physical processes ~~whilst ensuring~~ to ensure that the special qualities of the South Devon AONB are conserved and enhanced ~~working with physical processes where practicable.~~ (For clarity the policy now states: *Communities will be assisted in developing resilience and adapting to climate change whilst working with physical processes to ensure that the special qualities of the South Devon AONB are conserved and enhanced.)*	Minor additions to this policy to clarify that resilience measures should work with (natural) physical processes where practicable, but the overall policy intent remains the same. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, and population **Neutral effects** on human health, the interrelationships between the objectives. The proposed modifications do not change these findings. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications to NatRes/P4: The additional changes have followed the screening recommendations and clarify the policy. **Final Screening Conclusion: The proposed additional modifications do not change the previous screening conclusion.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
NatRes/P4 Climate change	Communities will be assisted ~~to develop~~ in developing resilience ~~in~~ and adapting to climate change, whilst working with physical processes to ensure that ~~ensuring that~~ the special qualities of the South Devon AONB are conserved and enhanced. ~~working with physical processes where practicable.~~	Minor additional modifications to this policy to clarify its meaning through reordering the wording, whilst retaining the same intent. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets and natural resources, soil quality, water air and climate, and safeguarding human health **Neutral effects** for interrelationship between the objectives. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
NatRes/P5 Waste	Domestic and commercial waste reduction, management and recycling initiatives including the reuse of locally distinctive building materials will be supported and promoted, where they conserve natural resources and enhance landscape character. ~~This includes the reuse of locally distinctive building materials.~~	Minor deletions remove the reference to the *'reuse of locally distinctive building materials'.* Without this it is difficult to understand the link between waste and the enhancement of landscape character, and the particular relevance and value of ensuring reuse of building materials since this is the principle way in which waste management activities can impact the AONB. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, geodiversity, material assets & natural resources, water air & climate. **Neutral effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species), historic environment, soil quality, human health, population the interrelationships between the objectives. The previous SEA findings identified that '*The reuse of locally distinctive building materials is a critical component of this policy and strengthens the approach to conserving local vernacular and character. Limited new sources of traditional building materials are available which increases the importance of effectively re-using what amounts to a finite resource.'* Therefore deletion of this part of the policy is likely to undermine its performance for natural resource use and landscape. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: The proposed modifications will change the previous SEA findings. Effects on natural resources use and landscape are reassessed from minor positive to neutral. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications to NatRes/P5: The additional changes have followed the screening recommendations and mean that the policy now includes reference to building materials. Therefore the positive effects on landscape and natural resources use are assessed as minor positive. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications will change the previous Screening Conclusion. Effects on natural resources use and landscape are reassessed from neutral to minor positive. Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
NatRes/P6 Energy	Initiatives will be supported that ~~reduce energy usage and carbon dioxide emissions~~ reduce energy use, increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable heat and power sources particularly from local woodfuel supply chains, where these initiatives conserve and enhance the special qualities of the South Devon AONB and promote the principal of good environmental stewardship of resources.	Changes have removed the support for 'reducing energy use' which in practical terms differs from '*energy efficiency'* measures. Minor changes clarify the use of *local woodfuel supply chains*. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on material assets & natural resources and climate. **Positive effects** on human health through reductions in fuel poverty from increased energy self-sufficiency. **Neutral effects** on geodiversity, soil quality and population. **Uncertain implementation effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), historic environment and interrelationships between the objectives. Performance of this policy depends on: - the type of energy efficiency measures implemented and their compatibility with traditional buildings. - the ability to sustain landscape scale natural networks when small woodlands and hedgerows are harvested for wood fuel. - impacts on species that utilise mature hedgerows for commuting and/or feeding. - utilising existing roof structures as far as possible before turning to ground mounted solar photo voltaic sites. Potential for **positive effects** on CO_2, emissions control and air quality, climate change adaptation, energy self sufficiency, woodland quality and coverage, hedgerow management standards. The removal of 'reducing energy use' potentially weakens the policy in terms of its significant positive support for reducing natural resource use. However, it is still likely to have significant positive effects for this SEA Objective. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications to NatRes/P6: The additional changes have followed the screening recommendations and clarify the policy. **Final Screening Conclusion: The proposed additional modifications do not change the previous screening conclusion. No further assessment needed.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
BioGeo/P1 Designated sites	Designated sites of international, national and local importance for biodiversity and geodiversity will be protected ~~from damage~~, be managed effectively to achieve their conservation objectives, and be better linked to the wider habitat network.	Policy changes have removed 'from damage' but protection from damage, as well as deterioration, is inherent in their proper protection and management to achieve their conservation objectives. This change therefore has no effect on the policy intent. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity. **Positive effects** on landscape, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate. **Neutral effects** on historic environment, human health, population and the interrelationships between the objectives. The proposed modifications do not alter the previous assessment findings. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
BioGeo/P2 Priority species	Priority species ~~(legally protected species, species of principal importance and other significant species for South Devon)~~ will be protected and conserved. Targeted action will be taken to support the recovery of priority species whose conservation is not delivered through wider habitat-based measures.	SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on biodiversity species. **Positive effects** on material assets including pollinators and water quality (species conservation driving improving standards) and human health indirectly from improved water quality. **Neutral effects** on landscape, habitats, geodiversity, historic environment, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, air & climate, population and the interrelationships between the objectives. The proposed modifications do not alter the previous SEA findings. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
BioGeo/P3 Ecological networks	~~Opportunities will be sought to establish well functioning ecological networks at a landscape scale to improve connectivity, resilience, strengthen landscape character and safeguard, for the for the benefit of wildlife and people, those services provided by the natural environment. This approach will also provide for the creation, enhancement or planned "migration" of habitats which are under threat from human activity, climate change or sea level rise, using the *Devon Nature Map* and its *Strategic Nature Areas* as guidance.~~ ~~A natural capital approach will be used to conserve and enhance the area at a landscape scale.~~ The repair, restoration and reconnection of well functioning landscape scale ecological networks will be supported.	This policy wording now replicates the proposed modifications to NatRes/P1. In terms of ecological networks is not clear how a natural capital approach will deliver enhanced and better connected ecological networks. A policy is still needed to address ecological networks and how habitats and species will be assisted with migration and resilience in response to climate change. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species). **Neutral effects** on historic environment, soil quality, water air & climate, human health, population. **Implementation dependent effects** on, geodiversity, material assets & natural resources, and the interrelationships between the objectives. The changes are likely to alter the performance to effects dependent upon implementation for biodiversity (habitats and species). SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening Conclusion: This policy has been significantly modified since the last SEA assessment and should be fully assessed.** **Suggest that the proposed modification are delete and the policy reverts back to its original form as this better reflects its purpose (ecological networks), for which there were no significant negative effects, and there were significant positive effects predicted for biodiversity (habitats and species). Or new changes are proposed which properly address the matter of ecological networks.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Re-Screening of additional modifications to BioGeo/P3: The additional changes have followed the screening recommendations and mean that the policy now fully addresses ecological networks. Therefore policy is assessed as likely to have significant positive effects on biodiversity (habitats and species). **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications will change the previous Screening Conclusion. Effects on biodiversity (habitats and species) are reassessed from effects dependent upon implementation to significant positive. Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		
BioGeo/P5 Reconnecting people and wildlife	Opportunities will be sought to reconnect the AONB's residents, visitors and workforce with nature, promote appreciation of the benefits nature provides to us and to inspire positive action and help monitor wildlife populations.	This policy has been modified since the consultation version of the plan. It adds reference to biodiversity monitoring. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** for biodiversity (habitats and species). **Positive effects** for landscape, geodiversity, human health. **Neutral effects** for historic environment, soil quality and ware air and climate and avoiding significant adverse effects between the SEA objectives. The additional modifications are likely to strengthen performance against the biodiversity species objective, but as this is already assessed as significant positive there is no change to the previous SEA findings. SA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are likely to strengthen performance against the biodiversity species objective, but as this is already assessed as significant positive there is no change to the previous SEA findings. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. Therefore, the previous SEA and SA findings apply. No need for further assessment.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
BioGeo/P6 Positive cumulative impacts	Opportunities will be sought to maximise the benefits for wildlife from the management of all types of land ~~(including farmland, private gardens, community spaces and publicly owned land)~~ and water irrespective of scale.	Policy wording has removed indicative examples of land types which is unlikely to have material impacts on the way in which the policy is applied. Changes have widened the scope to include water. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species). **Positive effects** on landscape, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate and human health. **Neutral effects** on geodiversity and population. **Uncertain implementation effects** on historic environment and the interrelationships between the objectives. This depends on whether the policy is implemented in combination with *Hist/P8 land management* to ensure positive benefits for historic environment assets. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening Conclusion: The previous SEA findings apply. The inclusion of water in the policy scope further strengthens positive biodiversity effects, but as they are already assessed as significant positive, this will not alter the findings. Effects on water reassessed from positive to significant positive now that it clearly falls within the scope of this policy.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications to BioGeo/P6: The additional modifications are not considered to significant for the SEA or SA since they merely provide additional clarification that the policy applies at all spatial scales. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA. The previous screening conclusion and its findings apply for water, and the previous assessment scores for the other objective apply. No further assessment needed. Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
BioGeo/P7 Damage and disturbance	Increased recreational pressure will be ~~resisted~~ resisted and managed at locations where unacceptable damage or disturbance to vulnerable habitats and species is likely to arise.	Proposed changes replace 'resisted' with 'managed.' Resisting increased pressure is provides greater protection as it seeks to prevent increases and therefore reduces the likelihood of any impacts. Whereas relying only on the word management implies allowing increases in recreational pressure, which brings with it the associated increases in likelihood of damage and reliance on management measures which may fail. Recreational pressure should be managed at all sites regardless of whether unacceptable damage is likely. Management of recreational pressure more generally is covered by Acc/P6 whereas this policy should cover resisting additional recreation at sensitive sites. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity and historic environment. **Positive effects** on landscape, material assets & natural resources, soil quality. **Neutral effects** on water air & climate, human health, population and the interrelationships between the objectives. This policy will be significantly weakened by the change from 'resisted' to 'managed'. This will reduce the significant positive effects on biodiversity (habitats and species) to minor positive. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening Conclusion: This policy will be significantly weakened by the change from 'resisted' to 'managed'. This is reassessed as reducing the significant positive effects on biodiversity (habitats and species) to minor positive. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Re-screening of additional modifications for BioGeo/P7: The additional modifications have followed the recommendations of the previous screening and have reinstated 'resisted' in regards to increased recreational pressure. This will reinstate the significant positive effects on biodiversity (habitats and species) from minor positive. The other SEA findings remain unchanged. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are considered significant for the SEA findings and will reinstate the significant positive effects on biodiversity (habitats and species) from minor positive. The other SEA findings remain unchanged. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Hist/P2 A heritage asset	The ~~entire~~ South Devon AONB landscape will be regarded as a single unified heritage asset of national importance~~, given the number and extent of designated and non-designated historic features and the age and complexity of the field, road and settlement pattern~~.	The policy intent remains the same. The proposed changes only remove the rationale for the policy but this does not undermine its intent. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on landscape and historic environment. **Positive effects** on biodiversity (species) and human health. **Neutral effects** on biodiversity (habitats), geodiversity, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, population and the interrelationships between the objectives. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Hist/P3 Public access	Public access will be encouraged to ~~those archaeological and~~ historic sites that are ~~well protected and managed and~~ able to withstand visitor pressure without undue harm to their nature conservation interests and physical features.	The changes remove 'well protected and managed' from the policy. However, it is difficult to see how a site within the AONB would be able to withstand visitor pressure if it were not also well protected and managed. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on historic environment. **Positive effects** on soil quality and human health. **Neutral effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, material assets & natural resources, water air & climate, population. **Implementation dependent effects** on the interrelationships between the objectives. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening Conclusion: It is difficult to see how a site would be able to withstand visitor pressure if it were not also well protected and managed. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Re-screening additional modifications to Hist/P3: The additional modifications have deleted the reference to archaeological sites. This was in response to advice from historic environment specialists who regard historic sites to include archaeological sites. Therefore, it is considered that the modification is not significant for the SEA/SA findings. **Final Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		
~~Hist/P7~~ Hist/P6 Coastal heritage	~~Coastal heritage sites will be incorporated into adaptation plans and realignment measures through recording, promoting, understanding and recognising their historic significance and contribution to coastal landscape character.~~ The conservation of coastal heritage assets shall be integrated into adaptation plans and realignment measures in recognition of their contribution to coastal landscape character.	SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on landscape and historic environment. **Positive effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, material assets & natural resources, and human health. **Neutral effects** on soil quality, water air & climate, population the interrelationships between the objectives. SA Screening: The proposed modifications could change the SA results for objective SA3 to protect the environment from flood risk from significant positive to minor positive. This is because their historic significance would no longer be recognised under this policy. However, historic environment law and best practice would require this for any coastal historic environment assets and it is their contribution to coastal character which is significant for the AONB. **Screening Conclusion: Proposed changes weaken the performance against the SEA objective for historic environment from significant positive to minor positive because it removes the promotion and recognition of their historic significance. The other previous SEA assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed. Following a review of the previous assessment findings, and an evaluation of the proposed modifications, it is considered that they do not change the results of the SA.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Re-Screening of additional modifications to Hist/P6: The additional modifications are significant for the SEA. The retention of the explicit link between heritage assets and their contribution to the AONB coastal landscape character means that heritage assets important for their contribution to natural beauty will be protected in adaptation and realignment plans where they add to the AONB's coastal character. Therefore the assessment for historic environment is reassessed from minor positive to significant positive. The modifications re-strengthen the performance of the SA for Objective SA3 to protect the environment from flood risk, but this is assessed as not significant to change the results. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications will change the SEA findings for historic environment to significant positive. The previous assessment findings for the other SEA objectives continue to apply. No further assessment needed. Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		
~~Hist/P8~~ Hist/P7 Land management	The protection and enhancement of historic environment assets shall be integrated into other land management initiatives in the AONB ~~such as catchment sensitive farming, habitat improvement projects, river improvement projects etc.~~ in recognition of their contribution to landscape character.	The minor proposed changes remove illustrative examples of initiatives. This does not affect the type and scope of initiatives to which the policy can apply. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on landscape and historic environment. **Positive effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, material assets & natural resources, human health. **Neutral effects** on soil quality, water air & climate, population and the interrelationships between the objectives. The proposed modifications are not likely to change these SEA findings. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications to Hist/P7: The addition of the explicit link between heritage assets and their contribution to the AONB landscape character means that heritage assets important for their contribution to natural beauty will be protected in a wide range of plans where they add to the AONB's coastal character. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are not significant for the SEA, because the policy is already assessed as significant positive for historic environment. The previous SEA findings apply. The additional modifications are not considered significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
LanMan/P2 Farming with nature	Support will be sought for farmers and land managers who sustain land of exceptional landscape and nature conservation interest, ~~often referred to as *High Nature Value* farmland and woodland~~, in recognition of the additional costs incurred in operating these farming systems.	The proposed change removes specific reference to *High Nature Value* farmland and woodland. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (species and habitats). **Positive effects** on geodiversity, historic environment, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, and human health. **Neutral effects** on population and the interrelationships between the objectives. The proposed modifications are unlikely to change the SEA findings. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
LanMan/P3 ~~Hedgebanks, trees, woodlands and orchards~~ Devon hedges, trees, woodland, and orchards	The retention and sensitive management of Devon hedges, trees and woodland~~s~~ and orchards will be promoted, ~~especially the hedge banks, hedgerow trees, historic parkland trees, ancient woodlands, small woods, orchards, veteran and ancient trees which are of particular importance in the AONB.~~ The planting of new orchards, woodland, hedgerow trees and specimen trees ~~and some new woods,~~ will be encouraged, subject to existing biodiversity interests and the careful selection of sites and species to reflect and strengthen local landscape character.	This policy has been changed post-consultation. The removal of mention of ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees is mitigated by the fact that these are now covered in detail in a new policy on Ancient woodland, Veteran trees and heritage trees (see policy LanMan/P4 Ancient woodland, Veteran and heritage trees, assessed below). SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (species and habitats), and historic environment. **Positive effects** on historic environment, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, and human health. **Neutral effects** on geodiversity, population and the interrelationships between the objectives. The proposed modifications are unlikely to change the SEA findings. The additional modifications strengthen performance against landscape and biodiversity objectives as active planting of woodland and hedgerow trees in now included. However, since these are already assessed as significant positive there is no change to the SEA scores for these objectives. SA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications strengthen performance against landscape and biodiversity objectives as active planting of woodland and hedgerow trees in now included. However, since these are already assessed as significant positive there is no change to the SEA scores for these objectives. The previous SEA findings apply. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
LanMan/P4 Ancient woodland, Veteran and heritage trees	Ancient woodland, veteran trees, ancient trees outside woods and heritage trees, which are all significant and irreplaceable landscape features in the AONB, will be protected, sensitively managed, conserved and enhanced.	This is a new policy which has been added post-consultation to provide a focus on significant and irreplaceable landscape features. It requires a full assessment. It is likely to perform similarly to LanMan/P3 Devon hedges, trees, woodland, and orchards. SEA Screening: In summary the new assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (species and habitats). **Positive effects** on geodiversity, historic environment, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, and human health. **Neutral effects** on population and the interrelationships between the objectives. SA Screening: In summary the new assessment identified: A significant positive effect for S2 the quality and character of individual settlements and communities, minor positive effects for creating vibrant, cohesive, safe and mixed communities. And neutral effects for protecting the environment, people and properties from flood risk, development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives, and minimising the consumption of natural resources including fossil fuels, minerals, land take and water. **Final Screening Conclusion: This is a new policy and requires full assessment. The SEA and SA findings are summarised above, the full assessments can be found in Appendices 2 and 3 of this report.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~LanMan/P4~~ LanMan/P5 Environmental land management	High quality environmental land management including agri-environment schemes, will be promoted to help conserve and enhance the special qualities and distinctive agricultural landscape of the AONB, ~~-~~whilst supporting farmers and landowners. ~~including historic environment and geodiversity features, habitats and species of importance, local breeds of livestock and varieties of plants, and traditional working farmstead buildings.~~	The proposed changes remove reference to '*historic environment and geodiversity features, habitats and species of importance'* but arguably these are inherent elements of the AONB's special qualities. Also removed is reference to '*local breeds of livestock and varieties of plants and traditional working farmstead buildings*' which are arguably inherent elements of the AONB's distinctive agricultural landscape. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **significant positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats) and historic environment. **Positive effects** on biodiversity (species), material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, human health. **Neutral effects** on geodiversity, population and the interrelationships between the objectives. The proposed modifications do not change the previous SEA findings. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications for LanMan/P4: The additional modifications add reference to agri-environment schemes and supporting farmers and land managers. Although, it has not reinstated the reference to '*historic environment and geodiversity features, habitats and species of importance'* this is not judged to have changed the SEA findings as these are arguably inherent elements of the AONB's distinctive agricultural landscape. **Final Screening Conclusion: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA/SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~LanMan/P7~~ LanMan/P8 Land management support	~~Well~~ Co-ordinated ~~advisory, training and contracting services will be promoted~~ advice and collaboration on environment focused land management will be delivered to support ~~new and existing~~ land managers ~~in maintaining~~ to maintain productive and environmentally sustainable landscapes that deliver on local priorities and contribute to national themes.	This policy has been modified since the consultation version of the plan. It is a more assertive policy wording focusing on 'delivery' over 'promotion'. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate. **Neutral effects** on human health, population the interrelationships between the objectives. Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the previous SEA findings. No further assessment needed. SA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed. Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Mar/P2 Coast and marine management	The effective integration of AONB management with the management of the adjoining marine environment will be sought to ensure that the development and delivery of Marine Plans for the South and Southwest areas and Coastal Change Management Areas and access to the coastal margin under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, have regard for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, special qualities and key features of the AONB.	These post-consultation additional modifications are minor changes to update the policy with regards to Marine Plans as the South Marine Plan is now in place, and in relation to Coastal Change Management Areas. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets including natural resources, water air and climate. **Neutral effects** for soil quality, human health, population and avoiding significant adverse effects between the SEA objectives. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA. The previous assessment findings apply. SA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed. Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Mar/P3 High quality marine environment	~~The features of marine protected areas neighbouring the South Devon AONB~~, The special qualities associated with ~~these~~ the Marine Protected Area network ~~areas~~ and the South Devon Heritage Coast will be reflected and promoted throughout AONB literature, campaigns, awareness and communication programmes.	The proposed modification deleted the reference to 'marine protected areas' adjacent to the AONB. Suggest that this needs to be retained within the policy for the sake of clarity. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets & natural resources, water air & climate, human health. **Neutral effects** on soil quality, population the interrelationships between the objectives. The change could reduce the potential for positive effects for biodiversity habitats and species specifically for adjacent marine protected areas which could be gained trough increased awareness of why they are special. Despite this potential, the policy's wide coverage means that the proposed change is unlikely to be significant enough to reduce the policy's performance from minor positive. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications to Mar/P3: The additional modifications have followed the screening recommendations and have reinstated the explicit reference to Marine Protected Areas and also included 'network' thus clarifying the policy. **Final Screening Conclusion: The proposed additional modifications do not change the previous screening conclusion.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Mar/P4 Coast protection	The South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan along with Coastal Change Management Areas provide a policy framework for the next 100 years. There will be a presumption that natural coastal processes will be allowed to act in areas identified as requiring no active intervention. For those areas requiring intervention, soft engineering solutions that work with natural physical processes will be preferred together with the realignment of coastal infrastructure to more suitable locations where there is space to accommodate it.	This policy has been modified since the consultation version of the plan. These are minor changes to update the policy with regards to Coastal Change Management Areas and they do not alter the substantive purpose of the policy. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets including natural resources, water air and climate. **Neutral effects** for soil quality, human health, population and avoiding significant adverse effects between the SEA objectives. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA. The previous assessment findings apply. SA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed. Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Est/P8~~ Est/P2 Foreshore management	~~All foreshore, seabed and tidal waters developments will be challenged to conclude with a net gain in extent health of foreshore, seabed and open water habitat. Advising and working with developers and relevant authorities is central to achieving this action.~~ A presumption against any further loss in extent or quality of foreshore, seabed or habitat will be supported.	There should be a presumption against any further loss in extent or quality of the foreshore, seabed or open water habitat. Suggest deletion of '*Advising and working with developers and relevant authorities is central to achieving this action*.' As this is only one of the potential mechanisms for applying this policy. A full assessment of this policy is provided in Appendices 2 and 3 of this report. SEA Findings: In summary there are **minor positive effects** identified for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), water and climate, human health. **Neutral effects** identified for geodiversity, historic environment, material assets including natural resources, soil quality, population and the interrelationships between the SEA objectives. SA findings: In summary there are **positive effects** identified for natural resources in regard to the presumption against loss and therefore land take, quality and character of individual settlements and communities and, protecting the environment, people and properties from flood risk. **Neutral effects** for creating vibrant, cohesive, safe and mixed communities, and for promoting the development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives, as there are no links between the policy intent and these matters. **Screening Conclusion: This is a NEW POLICY and therefore it requires full assessment. The above summarises the assessments, the full assessments can be found in Appendices 2 and 3 of this report.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications to Est/P2: This policy has been reworded and has been renumbered and renamed to Est/P2 Foreshore management. The changes have followed the screening advice which serves to keep the scope of the policy wide, and they are not considered to alter the substantive intent of the policy, but provide greater clarity on its meaning and purpose. Therefore, the assessment findings apply provided in the SEA matrices. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: This policy has been assessed and the findings are set out in the SEA matrices in Appendices 2 and 3 of this report.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Est/P5~~ Est/P3 Coordination and management	The effective coordination and management of the area's rivers and estuaries will be supported and developed through the AONB Estuaries Partnership and Management Plan (Annex 2), ~~community~~ estuary forums, and the Catchment Based Approach.	This policy has been modified since the consultation version of the plan. These are minor contextual changes to update the policy to include reference to the Estuaries Management Plan in Annex 2 of the AONB Management Plan and they do not alter the substantive purpose of the policy. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** for landscape biodiversity (habitats and species), material assets including natural resources, water air and climate. **Neutral effects** for geodiversity, historic environment, soil quality and human health. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA. SA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are not considered significant for the SEA . The previous findings apply. Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Est/P2~~ Est/P4 Maritime services	~~Boat maintenance, repair and storage facilities will be retained and encouraged within harbour areas and the loss of essential relevant shore-side infrastructure by conversion to other uses will be resisted through the planning system.~~ Boat maintenance, repair and storage facilities will be retained within harbour areas and the loss of essential shore-side infrastructure by conversion to other uses will be resisted.	The proposed changes remove '*retained'* and therefore appears to be actively encouraging new facilities. Suggest deletion of '*encouraged.*' It appears the previous intent of the policy was to retain existing harbour based facilities and to ensure that any new facilities are concentrated in the already developed harbour areas and therefore directed away from more natural undeveloped areas of the estuaries. It is not clear that the proposed wording reflects or sets out this intention. Suggest wording change to: '*will be retained and limited to harbour areas.'* Change from 'essential' to 'relevant' is ambiguous and weakens the stance with regards to the requirement for the infrastructure to demonstrate that it is essential. The addition of '*through the planning system'* indicates that this is the mechanism via which this is to be achieved, but there are other appropriate and relevant mechanisms. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **positive effects** on landscape, historic environment and water quality. **Neutral effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, human health, population and on the interrelationships between the objectives. There may be a slight reduction in the positive effects for landscape (seascape) and water quality. It is difficult to ascertain the likely on the ground impacts of the proposed changes as this will depend on implementation. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening Conclusion: Following a review of the previous assessment findings, and an evaluation of the proposed modifications they are considered to slightly reduce the positive effects for landscape and water quality, but unlikely to reduce them to neutral effects. Therefore the previous assessment scores apply. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Re-screening of additional modifications to Est/P4: The additional modifications have followed the recommendations in the SEA screening and have reinstated the reference to retaining essential infrastructure. It has also deleted 'encouraged' which further strengthens environmental performance because it no longer implies that increase in these facilities are acceptable. The SEA is reassessed as significant positive for landscape and water quality. Therefore the previously predicted reductions in positive effects for landscape (seascape) and water quality no longer applies. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications have increased the performance of the policy against the SEA objectives for landscape and water quality, from positive to significant positive. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		
~~Est/P3~~ EstP/5 Mariculture	Sustainable mariculture enterprises will be retained and encouraged in appropriate ~~estuary~~ locations, both as a traditional feature of the AONB economy and as a "driver" for further improvements to water quality.	Removal of the word estuary does not alter the overarching intent or clarity of the policy as this is clearly to retain a traditional resource use of the AONB in a sustainable way and as a driver of improved water quality. Removal of the specificity of 'estuary' widens the policy scope to include non-estuarine marine areas, and as such those mariculture activities in the inshore marine waters along the South Devon AONB coast and which fall within the South Devon Heritage Coast waters out to 2km. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species), historic environment, soil quality, water air & climate, human health. **Neutral effects** on landscape, geodiversity, material assets & natural resources, population the interrelationships between the objectives. The widened scope to include inshore waters out to 2km strengthens the policy performance against SEA objectives for water, human health. However, care needs to be taken with regards to potential for negative effects on landscape and seascape from Mariculture in marine inshore waters and potential for negative effects on tranquillity. The wording of the policy requiring 'appropriate' locations ought to retain the effects as neutral and prevent negative effects but only if adhered to. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Following a review of the findings, the proposed modifications do not change the results of the SEA or SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Est/P4~~ Est/P6 Climate change	The adaptation of ~~important~~ habitats and species to climate change and sea level rise will be promoted through sustaining natural processes and/or the delivery of natural flood management to help futureproof the existing levels of flood protection against the increasing risks from climate change. ~~wherever practicable, while protecting settlements from flooding.~~	The policy scope has been widened to all habitats and species, not only those deemed important. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), historic environment, material assets & natural resources, and the interrelationships between the objectives. **Neutral effects** on geodiversity, soil quality, water air & climate, human health and population. The proposed modifications do not alter the previous SEA findings. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening Conclusion: Following a review of the findings, the proposed modifications do not change the results of the SEA or SA. The previous assessment findings apply. Climate change adaptation measures for biodiversity are not solely related to flooding. Coastal erosion could also have a major impact. Slapton Line etc. coastal squeeze. Deletion of 'whilst protecting settlements from flooding' would widen the scope of application of this policy to other adaptation works such as the realignment of Slapton Line.**
Re-screening of additional modifications to Est/P6: The additional modifications include delivery of natural flood management which was not explicit before. This is likely to strengthen the SEA performance for water and climate, and indirectly for human health. These are reassessed as minor positive from neutral. Biodiversity habitats and species are reassessed from minor positive to significant positive as natural flood management is likely to have greater positive impacts for these. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are significant for the SEA. Objectives for water and climate, and human health are reassessed from neutral to minor positive. Biodiversity habitats and species are reassessed from minor positive to significant positive as natural flood management is likely to have greater positive impacts for these. The additional modifications are not considered significant for the SA. The previous appraisal results apply. No further assessment needed.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Est/P7~~ Est/P8 Fisheries management	~~The populations of resident and migratory fish in the estuaries will be given effective protection from poaching and over-exploitation through more effective byelaws, information, reporting and enforcement.~~ Projects and initiatives that provide effective conservation of fish stocks and improved fish access in rivers and estuaries will be supported.	This policy has been modified post-consultation. The additional modifications have reworded the policy in the interests of clarity and meaning. The terms 'fish stocks' will cover resident and migratory fish and 'effective conservation' covers protection from poaching and over exploitation as well as other measures. The policy now explicitly covers improved fish access. SEA Findings: The previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** for biodiversity species. **Positive effects** for biodiversity (habitats), natural resources, water. **Neutral effects** for landscape, geodiversity, historic environment, soil quality, human health, population and the interrelationships between the objectives. The policy was strongly focussed on the impacts of illegal netting activity and now performs better for a broader range of SEA objectives through the inclusion of a broader range of fisheries management measures. Reassessed from neutral to positive for soil quality as wider measures to protect fish stocks will cover catchment management initiatives. Biodiversity (habitats) is reassessed from minor positive to significant positive again owing to the broadening to effective conservation which will often include major riparian and supporting habitat improvements with wider benefits. Water is reassessed from minor positive to significant positive as again the wider approach is likely to include more water quality improvement measures. SA Findings: The additional modifications are not considered significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are significant for the SEA. Soil quality has been reassessed from neutral to minor positive and biodiversity (habitats) and water are reassessed from minor positive to significant. The previous findings for the other SEA objectives remain the same.** **This policy has been reassessed and the full findings are set out in the SEA matrices in Appendices 2 and 3 of this report.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Acc/P2~~ Acc/P3 Rights of Way	A well-connected ~~comprehensive~~ network of paths and strategic recreational routes ~~including coastal, estuary and riverside trails and green lanes,~~ will be sensitively maintained and promoted. Opportunities will be sought to extend them and improve linkages where this is compatible with conserving and enhancing natural beauty.	Removal of examples of the types of rights of way included in the policy does not alter the overarching intent of the policy which is to provide sensitive access to the AONB compatible with conserving and enhancing its natural beauty. Removal of comprehensive potentially weakens the scope of the policy, especially since some local areas of the AONB do not have extensive networks and therefore cannot be considered to be comprehensive. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity and material assets & natural resources. **Neutral effects** on historic environment, soil quality, water air & climate, human health, population and, the interrelationships between the objectives. The proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA findings. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Acc/P5~~ Acc/P6 Access to beaches and the coastal corridor	~~A public right of access to beaches and the undeveloped coastal corridor will be sought in consultation with landowners that avoids disturbance and safeguards sensitive wildlife sites. Supporting coastal margin projects as part of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.~~ Under the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 a new England Coast path and open access to a defined coastal margin will be created whilst maintaining levels of tranquillity and safeguarding sensitive sites, habitats and species.	Not clear why 'Supporting coastal margin projects as part of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009', has been added or what this means in practice. This requires clarifying. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on human health owing to greater access to the natural environment. **Neutral effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, population. **Implementation dependent effects** for geodiversity, historic environment, the interrelationships between the objectives. Though much of the AONB's coastal corridor is currently accessible, some of the more remote parts of the AONB coast remain difficult to access and consequently have high tranquillity. There is a risk of significant negative effects on tranquillity levels for these areas. Therefore, very careful balancing of increased access versus protection of relative tranquillity levels is required for some locations. The environmental effects of the addition of 'supporting coastal margin projects' depends on implementation. Support ought to be qualified by 'appropriate' or 'where compatible with conserving and enhancing the AONB in particular its relative tranquillity.' The proposed modifications do not alter the SEA findings. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.** **Support ought to be qualified by 'appropriate' or 'where compatible with conserving and enhancing the AONB in particular its relative tranquillity.' This change would strengthen the policy's performance against the SEA Objectives for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species) geodiversity.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications: The additional modifications have followed the screening advice. This will help to protect the AONB's relative tranquillity in areas where additional coastal access is promoted. This change has strengthened the policy's performance against the SEA Objectives for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species) from neutral to minor positive. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are significant for the SEA findings. The changes have strengthened the policy's performance against the SEA Objectives for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species) from neutral to minor positive. The findings are set out in the SEA matrices in the Appendices to this report.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~AccP/7 Developer contributions~~	~~Where new developments are likely to increase recreational pressures on the countryside, coast or estuaries, developers will be expected to provide suitable recreational facilities on site as well as contributing to improving carrying capacity and facilities in the surrounding area.~~	This policy has been moved post-consultation to the Planning and Sustainable development theme as policy Plan/P7 Developer contributions. **Final Screening Conclusion: no need for further assessment.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Acc/P6~~ Acc/P7 Popular sites	~~High quality~~ The provision of sustainable visitor facilities, recreational infrastructure and information will be promoted at the most heavily used destinations. Management resources, promotion and marketing will be concentrated on the more popular and developed sites which are best able to accommodate and contain intensive recreational pressure.	Although only minor wording changes these alter the intent of the policy. This policy has moved from promoting high quality recreational infrastructure and information which could refer to existing infrastructure, to promoting provision which implies increased provision. The provision of 'sustainable visitor facilities' may be interpreted as providing built development, such as visitor centres and toilet facilities, which is not appropriate in many AONB locations. The policy now says nothing about the quality needing to be high. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species). **Neutral effects** on material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, human health, population **Implementation dependent effects** on geodiversity, historic environment and the interrelationships between the objectives. Many geodiversity features of greatest interest are concentrated along the coast. Geomorphological features in particular often coincide with some of the most heavily used destinations and create the **potential for negative effects** unless mitigated at the project level. SA Screening: Minor changes to include 'sustainable' have the potential to increase the sustainability scores of this policy. However, 'sustainable' and 'high quality' design which reflects local landscape character and distinctiveness are not the same. **Screening Conclusion: The proposed modifications change the results of the SEA. The performance depends on implementation and the previously positive effects for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity (geomorphological features) have been reassessed as uncertain implementation effects.** **Qualify that it is 'visitor management' resources not AONB management resources that will be concentrated on the popular sites.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Plan/P1 Plan-making	Planning policies will give great weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Devon AONB, while supporting ~~small scale~~ limited development that is appropriate to its setting, is in keeping with its character, and meets the economic and social needs of local communities.	Modifications to this policy have been made post-consultation. The modifications update the policy to reflect the accepted terminology in the National Planning Policy Framework 2018, by referring to 'limited' as opposed to 'small scale' development. The overall substantive intent of the policy is unaltered by this change. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets including natural resources, and avoiding significant adverse effects between the SEA objectives. **Neutral effects** for soil quality, water air and climate, human health and population. The modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA findings. SA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Plan/P2 Decision-taking	Development management decisions give great weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB; and support development that is appropriate and proportionate to its setting within or adjacent to the South Devon AONB by seeking to avoid, minimise or as a last resort compensate, for harm to the special qualities and distinctive characteristics of the AONB.	This policy has been modified post-consultation. It now includes specific reference to the mitigation hierarchy being used in development management decision-taking. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets including natural resources, and avoiding significant adverse effects between the SEA objectives. **Neutral effects** for soil quality, water air and climate, human health, population. Additional modifications refer to the application of the mitigation hierarchy to development management decisions. This should mean that developments are only permitted where AONB harm can be avoided or minimised, and only as a last resort where the residual harm can be compensated for. If this is the case then there could be significant positive impacts across landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species, historic environment, natural resources. However, it is difficult to predict with any certainty whether the mitigation and compensation measures will be successful on the ground. So although the performance against the objectives is strengthened, in the interests of the precautionary approach the effects will continue to be assessed as minor positive for the real world effects. SA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are assessed as not being significant for the SEA findings owing to the application of the precautionary principle since the on the ground effects depend on how effectively and robustly the local planning authorities apply the mitigation hierarchy to any findings of AONB harm. Therefore the previous SEA findings continue to apply. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Plan/P3 Developer contributions	~~Where new developments are likely to increase recreational pressures on the countryside, coast or estuaries, developers will be expected to provide suitable recreational facilities on site as well as contributing to improving carrying capacity and facilities in the surrounding area.~~ Where new developments are likely to result in residual harm to the natural beauty of the AONB, developers will be expected to provide compensation which will be used to enhance landscape features which are in poor condition and contribute to AONB management. If increased recreational pressures are likely developers will be expected to contribute to improving carrying capacity of green and blue infrastructure in the surrounding area.	This policy has been modified post-consultation. It has also been relocated within the Management Plan, it was previously within the Access. Recreation and Tourism theme. It is a new policy within this Theme. The previous policy has been substantially reworked. It is now much broader in its application, focusing much wider than adverse impacts from recreation, it now includes any residual harm to the natural beauty of the AONB and requires that this be compensated which has not the case been explicitly before. SEA Findings: The previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** for natural resources. **Neutral effects** landscape and geodiversity, soil quality, water. **Implementation dependent effects** for biodiversity (habitats and species) historic environment and the interrelationships between the objectives. The additional modifications are considered to be significant for the SEA findings. The proper compensation of harm to the AONB is a clear way that the local planning authorities can exercise proper regard to conserving and enhancing the AONB. If this policy is properly enacted then there is potential for significant positive effects across the range of SEA objective which directly underpin natural beauty. These would include landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, natural resources and water. However, given the reliance for the on the ground outcomes on the proper and robust application of this policy a precautionary approach to the assessment has been taken and effects are assessed as minor positive. SA Findings: The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are considered to be significant for the SEA. Landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species) geodiversity, historic environment, natural resources and water are reassessed as minor positive (applying the precautionary approach to assessment). The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings continue to apply. The policy has been reassessed and the full SEA findings are presented in Appendix 2.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Plan/P3~~ Plan/P4 Planning protocols	Local Planning Authorities will consult the South Devon AONB Unit on planning policy and significant planning applications following ~~the~~ agreed planning protocol~~s~~, and use the South Devon AONB Management Plan as a material consideration to inform plan-making and decision-taking.	This policy has been modified post-consultation. The modifications are minor, to correct the situation regarding the planning protocols which are agreed individually with each of the separate local planning authorities. This is not considered to be significant for the SEA or SA findings. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are minor changes for clarity and are not considered to be significant for the SEA or SA. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Plan/P4~~ Plan/P5 Representations	~~The South Devon AONB Unit will provide representations to Local Planning Authorities preparing Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks; and to the Marine Management Organisation in respect of Marine Plans; to ensure that they~~ ~~• have had regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB throughout the plan preparation process;~~ ~~• secure consistent and robust policies giving great weight to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Devon AONB.~~ On behalf of the AONB Partnership, the AONB Staff Unit will provide representations to a wide range of plan makers to ensure that due regard is had to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Devon AONB in the development of policy and strategy.	Modifications to this policy have been made post-consultation. Although the policy has been substantially reworded this has been to make it more concise, whilst retaining the substantive intent of the original policy. By removing specific plans the policy now better reflects the actual practice of the AONB Unit which already provides representations to a wide range of plan, greater than that listed in the original policy. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Effects** dependent upon implementation for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets including natural resources and, avoiding significant adverse effects between the SEA objectives. **Neutral effects** for soil quality, water, air, climate, human health, and population. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA because even with the widened scope, the on the ground environmental effects are still heavily dependent upon the implementation of the Unit's advice, by the plan-makers and there is no specific legal obligation to make changes based upon the advice given. SA Screening: The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA or SA. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Plan/P5~~ Plan/P6 Consultees	Natural England will continue to be the principal statutory consultee on planning and sustainable development matters affecting Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The AONB Staff Unit will ~~continue to~~ respond to those planning applications that significantly impact on the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Devon AONB.	Post-consultation additional modification. This is a minor modification for the sake of brevity and a renumbering in response to the reordering of the policies in this Theme. SEA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed. SA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
~~Plan/P6~~ Plan/P7 Providing advice	Advice on development proposals will increasingly be provided through standing advice, position statements and supporting documents including the South Devon AONB Planning Guidance (Annex ~~2~~ 1).	Post-consultation additional modification. This is a minor modification for the sake of clarity to explicitly add in position statements as the AONB Unit has already issued one on renewable energy and intends to issue further position statements on other matters that could affect natural beauty. SEA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed. SA Screening: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Final Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Trans/P1 Highway management	Highway network maintenance and improvement ~~(including street lighting, signage and verge management)~~ will be undertaken in a manner which is sensitive and appropriate to the rural character of the AONB and compatible with its special qualities ~~will be supported.~~	The policy removes the examples of works, but these are covered in the terms highway maintenance and improvement so there is no loss of meaning or scope. The addition of 'will be supported' is not needed and reduces clarity. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on landscape. **Positive effects** on material assets & natural resources. **Neutral effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, soil quality, water air & climate, human health, population the interrelationships between the objectives. Minor changes in policy wording. These remove examples of highways work, but since the policy will apply to all highways work this proposed modification is not seen as significant in terms of policy performance. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.** **Suggest removal of 'will be supported' as this wording does not fit grammatically with the sentence and does not add to the policy intent.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications: The additional modifications have followed the screening advice and are for the sake of clarity of meaning. These are not considered to be significant for the SEA/SA findings. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are not significant for the SEA/SA findings. The previous findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Trans/P2 Features of the road network	The landscape, biodiversity and cultural features and structures of the AONB's road network will be protected and conserved. ~~– including hedge banks, flower rich verges, and locally distinctive historic highway "furniture" such as mileposts and stone bridges.~~	The proposed modifications remove specific examples of features including the biodiversity elements from this policy. Biodiversity is no longer explicit in the policy and therefore this narrows its scope to only landscape and heritage features. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species) and historic environment. **Positive effects** on landscape. **Neutral effects** on geodiversity, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, human health, population the interrelationships between the objectives. The proposed modifications are considered significant for the SEA biodiversity objectives. Changes weaken the protection for biodiversity features since they no longer appear in the policy leading to the potential for **negative or significant negative effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species) as a result. **This could be mitigated to minor positive effects** by the inclusion of '*landscape, biodiversity and cultural features…*' SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed. **Screening Conclusion: The proposed modifications change the results of the SEA. Changes negative or significant negative effects on biodiversity (habitats and species) as a result. This could be mitigated to minor positive effects by the inclusion of 'landscape, biodiversity and cultural features…' Additionally the policy ought to include 'enhanced' here as that is the duty. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous SA results apply.**
Re-screening of additional modifications for Trans/P2: The additional modifications have followed the recommendations in the SEA screening and have reinstated the reference to biodiversity. Therefore the previously predicted reductions in SEA performance from significant positive to minor negative effects for biodiversity (habitats and species) no longer applies. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modification has reinstate the significant positive performance of the policy against the SEA objectives for biodiversity (habitats and species), meaning that the previous assessment scores apply. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Trans/P3 Parking	~~Car borne~~ Vehicle pressures will generally be contained within existing locations and the construction of significant additional car parking capacity at remote coastal sites will be resisted. Landscape improvements will be sought for existing carparks which are visually intrusive or in poor condition.	This policy has been modified post-consultation but the change is a minor clarification to expand the scope from cars to all vehicles to address that there is increasing issues with camper vans. This is not considered do be significant for the SEA or SA. **Final Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Trans/P4 Green Lanes	The ~~legal~~ lawful and responsible use of unmetalled roads by pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders and carriage drivers will be promoted. ~~The use of unmetalled roads ("green lanes") bypedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders and carriage drivers will be promoted. Whilst recognising legitimate vehicular rights to the use of these routes, inappropriate and inconsiderate use will be addressed through dialogue with local motor vehicle user groups, or, in cases where serious damage to the fabric, character or biodiversity of individual lanes is being caused, in partnership with the appropriate highway authority.~~	The proposed modifications narrow the scope of this policy to only covering the promotion of responsible use. Previously it covered action to address inappropriate and inconsiderate use and damage to the AONB's biodiversity and landscape. However, this policy is addressed to the Highway Authorities which are Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Councils and the Countryside Access Forums. Therefore, the matters covered by the deleted text are routinely addressed by these organisations as part of their normal work practices. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), historic environment, material assets & natural resources, soil quality and human health. **Neutral effects** on geodiversity, water air & climate, population and the interrelationships between the objectives. The proposed modifications do not change the previous SEA findings. SA Screening: The proposed modifications do not change the SA results. **Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Re-screening of additional modifications to Trans/P4: The additional modification is a wording clarification from 'legal' to 'lawful' and is not considered to be significant for the SEA/SA findings.

Final Screening Conclusion: Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Trans/P5 Large vehicles	Traffic management measures will be supported which reduce the pressure of large and heavy vehicles on the ~~most minor roads~~ minor road network.	Post-consultation modifications to the policy are minor and relate to clarity only. The intent of the policy remains unaltered. SEA Screening: The proposed modifications do not change the SEA findings. SA Screening: The proposed modifications do not change the SA results. **Final Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Trans/P6 ~~Public~~ Sustainable transport	~~This will include cycle routes, safe pedestrian paths between villages, park and ride schemes, hopper buses, community transport schemes, bus priority measures and ferry services where they can be achieved without compromising the conservation of natural beauty and landscape character.~~ The provision of sustainable public transport services and convenient alternatives to the use of the car will be supported, where they can be achieved without compromising the conservation of natural beauty and landscape character.	Proposed modifications delete the requirement for measures being achievable without harm to the conservation of natural beauty or landscape harm. Although this should be implicit in the approach within the AONB it should be explicit in the policy to ensure that schemes are tested to meet this requirement. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on material assets & natural resources, human health and population. **Neutral effects** on, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, soil quality. **Implementation dependent effects** on landscape, water air & climate and the interrelationships between the objectives. Removal of '*where they can be achieved without compromising the conservation of natural beauty and landscape character'* weakens the policy in terms of performance against SEA objectives for landscape and biodiversity. The proposed modifications weaken the previous SEA scores for landscape, biodiversity and historic environment. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. No changes to the SA results. **Screening Conclusion: The proposed modifications change the results of the SEA with a change to landscape from implementation dependent to minor or significant negative effects and for biodiversity habitats and species from neutral to minor or significant negative effects. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous SA results apply.** **Suggest including "*where this can be provided without compromising the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and local landscape character.*"**
Re-screening of additional modifications to Trans/P6: The additional modifications reinstate the requirement that measures do not compromise natural beauty and landscape character. This is considered to be significant for the SEA findings. Landscape is reassessed from minor negative effects to neutral and for biodiversity habitats and species from negative effects to neutral. **Final Screening Conclusion: Additional modifications are considered to be significant for the SEA findings. Landscape is reassessed from minor negative effects to neutral and for biodiversity habitats and species from negative effects to neutral. Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous SA results apply.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Econ/P1 ~~Green~~ Rural economy	The growth of the area's ~~green~~ economy will be supported where sustainable economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other. Employment sectors having a traditional association with the AONB and which conserve or enhance the AONB's special qualities will be promoted and supported. ~~particularly land management, the arts and crafts, marine industries, fishing, mariculture, forestry, agriculture and food processing.~~ Natural capital accounting will be used to assess and monitor progress toward conserving and enhancing the area at a landscape scale and achieving a net gain for biodiversity.	The proposed modifications remove reference to examples of the types of sectors that will be supported. This does not alter the substantive intent of the policy. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, historic environment, population. **Neutral effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, human health, and the interrelationships between the objectives. The changes are not considered to alter the policy performance as its intent remains the same. SA Screening: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. No changes to the SA results. **Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Re-Screening of additional modifications to Econ/P1: The policy now refers to natural capital accounting as a way to ensure that the economy is contributing to the area's natural capital and achieving a net gain for biodiversity. This has the potential to generate positive effects for biodiversity across the AONB. Therefore, the performance against SEA Objectives on biodiversity (habitats) and biodiversity (species) are reassessed as positive (from neutral). **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are considered to be significant for the policy's performance against SEA Objectives on biodiversity (habitats) and biodiversity (species). These are reassessed as minor positive (from neutral). The scores for the other SEA Objectives remain unchanged. The additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. No changes to the SA results. No further assessment needed.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Comm/P2 Sustainable lifestyles	Community-based initiatives that promote sustainable lifestyles ~~such as energy efficiency and generation, sustainable building and renovation, allotment gardening, community woodland and orchard projects and alternative transport options to the private car,~~ will be supported and promoted where they are compatible with the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.	The proposed modifications remove of specific examples of initiatives, but it is not considered that this alters the substantive intent of the policy. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), historic environment, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate. **Neutral effects** on geodiversity, human health, population the interrelationships between the objectives. It is not considered that the removal of specific examples of initiatives alters the policy intent so the proposed modifications do not change the performance against the SEA objectives. SA Screening: The proposed modifications do not change the SA results. **Final Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Comm/P3 Resilience	~~People~~ Communities will be supported in ~~building~~ creating vibrant, healthy and resilient communities enjoying a high quality of life with good access to facilities.	This policy has been modified post-consultation. The changes are minor clarifications and are not considered to change the intent of the policy. The change from building to creating is to clarify that it concerns the non material elements of community rather than built development. **Final Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Comm/P4 Cultural traditions	Activities which reinforce the cultural traditions of the AONB ~~such as events, fairs, regattas, competitions, parish maps, clubs, arts, crafts and trades~~ will be supported and fostered, especially where these strengthen the link between people and landscape.	This policy has been modified post-consultation. The changes are minor clarifications and are not considered to change the intent of the policy as they merely remove examples for the sake of brevity. **Final Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Comm/P5 Community planning	The AONB Partnership will support and promote neighbourhood planning, community and voluntary action to conserve and enhance the AONB. ~~Initiatives will be supported which promote community planning and action, community cohesion and voluntary services, and which address isolation and deprivation.~~	This policy has been modified post-consultation. The changes are minor clarifications and are not considered to change the intent of the policy. **Final Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Comm/P6 Community Participation	Local community participation will be encouraged in the research, recording, celebration, promotion, care and conservation of natural history ~~historic environment~~ and historic features.	This policy has been modified post-consultation. It has added natural history which broadens the policy to include action for biodiversity. The removal of historic environment but retention of historic features now better reflects terminology in current use and is not considered to alter the policy's substantive intent. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects on:** historic environment. **Positive effects** on landscape, material assets & natural resources, human health. **Neutral effects** on biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, soil quality, water air & climate, population the interrelationships between the objectives. The addition of natural history has implications for the SEA performance for biodiversity (habitats and species). These are reassessed as significant positive from neutral. SA Screening: The proposed modifications do not change the SA results. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are considered to be significant for the SEA. Biodiversity (habitats and species) are reassessed from neutral to significant positive. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Aware/P1 AONB awareness	~~Awareness and understanding of the South Devon AONB and its special qualities will be promoted amongst residents, businesses, organisations and visitors in and around the AONB.~~ Inspire an awareness and understanding of the South Devon AONB and its special qualities amongst residents, businesses, organisations and visitors in and around the AONB.	This policy has been modified post-consultation. Although this has been reworded it now better sets out the intended substantive intent of the former policy. It is not considered to alter the policy intent or scope. **Final Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
~~Aware/P3~~ Aware/P2 Ecosystem services	An improved understanding of all the benefits the AONB provides for us will be at the core of communication activity, seeking to foster decisions and actions that value the services that our natural environment provides. ~~The importance of healthy and well functioning ecosystems will be promoted, including the whole range of provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services.~~	The modifications remove specific reference to the types of ecosystem services. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, material assets and natural resources, water air and climate. **Positive effects** on soil quality, human health and interrelationships between the objectives. **Neutral effects** on historic environment and population. It is not considered that the modifications will change the SEA findings. SA Screening: The proposed modifications do not change the SA results. **Screening Conclusion: Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**
Re-screening of additional modifications to Aware/P2: The post-consultation additional modifications provide clarity on ecosystem services. It is not considered that they alter the substantive purpose of the policy. Therefore they are not considered significant for the SEA/SA findings. **Final Screening Conclusion: It is not considered that the additional modifications are significant for the SEA/SA findings. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Aware/P2~~ Aware/P4 Caring for ~~our~~ the AONB	~~Awareness, understanding and respect for people actively contributing to the care of the landscape features and natural resources of the AONB will be promoted.~~ Initiatives to inspire behaviour change and increase in positive action for the natural beauty of the AONB will be supported and promoted.	This policy has been modified post-consultation. It has now placed the emphasis on individual behaviour change and inspiring greater positive action for natural beauty as opposed to show casing the efforts of people who care for the AONB. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets and natural resources, water air and climate, human health **Neutral effects** on soil quality and population and interrelationships between the objectives. Given the altered focus towards individual behaviour change and inspiring greater positive action which is likely to have on the ground effects it is more likely to lead to significant positive effects for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity and historic environment. Behaviour change towards caring for the environment has been shown by research to increase happiness, therefore there are likely to be significant for human health though increased feelings of wellbeing. SA Screening: The additional modifications do not change the SA results. **Final Screening Conclusion: The additional modifications are significant for the SEA. Landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment and human health are reassessed from minor positive to significant positive. The other SEA objective score remain unchanged. Additional modifications are not considered to be significant for the SA. The previous appraisal findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
~~Aware/P4~~ Aware/P6 Lifelong learning	People of all ages will be encouraged to investigate, record and celebrate their local places, and enjoy considerate and informed experiences of wildlife and the natural environment. ~~These will aim to inspire meaningful and positive changes in decision making and behaviour affecting the South Devon AONB.~~	The strategic aim of the policy has been deleted, but the intent of the policy has not been altered in terms of the action to be taken to raise awareness etc. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, population the interrelationships between the objectives. **Neutral effects** on historic environment, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, human health. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed. SA Screening: The proposed modifications do not change the SA results. **Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Part/P2 Management Plan implementation	The AONB Partnership, through its member organisations and the AONB staff unit, will seek to achieve its vision for the AONB by implementing the ~~Strategic~~ Delivery Plan. • ~~By undertaking project work.~~ • ~~By allocating grants and funding streams.~~ • ~~By securing new grants and funding.~~ • ~~By exercising existing statutory and regulatory functions, including planning and development control.~~ • ~~By developing partnerships and co-operative programmes.~~ • ~~By commissioning research and survey programmes.~~ • ~~By educating, communicating, advising and informing.~~ • ~~By lobbying for change at local, regional, national and international level.~~ • ~~By providing leadership and co-ordination of the work of others.~~ • ~~By encouraging others to put the conservation and enhancement of the AONB at the core of their strategies, plans & actions.~~	The proposed modifications now refer to the Strategic Delivery Plan rather than setting out details in the policy on how the Management Plan is to be implemented. This allows for greater detail in the Strategic Delivery Plan and does not alter the intent of the policy. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, the interrelationships between the objectives. **Neutral effects** on human health, population. The modifications are not considered to change the performance of the policy against the SEA objectives. SA Screening: The proposed modifications do not change the SA results. **Screening conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**

Policy ID	Additional Proposed Modifications	SEA & SA Screening
Re-Screening of additional modifications to Part/P2: The additional modifications are minor and correct a reference to the Delivery Plan. This is not considered to be significant for the SEA/SA **Final Screening Conclusions: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		
Part/P3 AONB Partnership arrangements	Defra and the ~~AONB~~ relevant local ~~and statutory~~ authorities will maintain effective partnership arrangements including a dedicated locally based ~~South Devon AONB~~ South Devon AONB ~~staff unit~~.	The deletion of 'South Devon AONB' from the policy may weaken the policy in terms of the maintenance of a staff unit specifically for the South Devon AONB, as opposed to other organisational arrangements, such as merging with other AONB units across Devon. SEA Screening: In summary the previous assessment identified: **Significant positive effects** on landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species), geodiversity, historic environment, material assets & natural resources, soil quality, water air & climate, the interrelationships between the objectives. **Neutral effects** on human health, population. Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA . SA Screening: The proposed modifications do not change the SA results. **Screening Conclusion: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA . The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed. Could be further improved by use of 'independent' staff unit**
Re-Screening of additional modifications to Part/P3: The additional modifications follow the advice in the first screening and now also acknowledges Defra as one of the main funding and strategic partners. This is not considered to be significant for the SEA/SA. **Final Screening Conclusions: Proposed modifications are not considered to be significant for the SEA /SA. The previous assessment findings apply. No further assessment needed.**		

12 Conclusions from Assessments

The assessment process was very conservative in its evaluation of environmental effects, applying the precautionary principle. The findings of the SEA and SA are that the policies in Management Plan are not likely to give rise to significant adverse environmental effects and that the policies are largely supportive of the principles of sustainable development. The plan can be adopted by the relevant authorities. The full assessments of all the final versions of the policies against the SEA and SA Objectives can be found in Appendices 2 and 3.

12.1 SEA conclusion on likely significant environmental effects of the Management Plan

This section presents a summary table and a narrative summary of the identified likely significant environmental effects of the Management Plan. The full assessment matrices are presented in the Appendices. First, an overview of the Management Plan as a whole is given, then each management theme is addressed separately.

There are no identified likely significant negative environmental effects from the Management Plan as no policies were found to conflict with the SEA Objectives. Potential for minor negative effects were identified for two policies, both in the Transport and Highways Theme. These were in relation to Trans/P2 Features of the road network on biodiversity (habitats and species) and Trans/P6 Public transport in relation to landscape and biodiversity (habitats and species). Both instances are easily mitigated by inclusion of some additional wording which should change the performance to minor positive. In some instances the performance of policies against the SEA objectives depends upon how they are implemented, and so at the strategic plan level it is not yet possible to determine with certainty whether there will be negative effects. In these cases, the relevant decision-taker will have to ensure that implementation of the policy does not lead to significant negative effects. Proper exercise of the section 85 duty of regard should help to minimise the likelihood of effects being significant negative as will consultation with the AONB Unit. Details of these policies are presented below under the management themes.

Given the environmentally protectionist nature of the AONB Management Plan approach, it is expected that any residual potential for negative effects will be screened out during the development and implementation of actions. This, plus the controls afforded by legislative measures to protect landscape, historic environment and biodiversity should result in no adverse environmental effects.

		Significant positive	Minor positive	Neutral	Minor negative	Significant negative	De Im
SEA Objective		S++	S+	N	C-	C--	
E1	To protect and enhance landscape	30	44	16	1	0	
E2	To protect and where practical enhance biodiversity (habitats)	16	51	17	1	0	
E3	To protect and where practical enhance flora and fauna (individual species)	18	48	17	2	0	
E4	To conserve and enhance geodiversity	15	32	41	1	0	
E5	To maintain cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological)	18	42	28	0	0	
E6	To ptrotect material assets including natural resources	13	55	25	0	0	
E7	To protect and enhance soil quality	9	28	58	0	0	
E8	To protect water, air, climate	11	43	41	0	0	
E9	To safeguard human health	5	43	48	0	0	
E10	To ensure no adverse effect arises on population (i.e. Demographic balance	1	13	81	0	0	
E11	To avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships	3	20	56	0	0	

		Significant positive	Minor positive	Neutral	Minor negative	Significant negative	Depends on Implementation
SEA Objective		S++	S+	N	C-	C--	X
E1	To protect and enhance landscape	33	45	14	0	0	5
E2	To protect and where practical enhance biodiversity (habitats)	22	51	15	0	0	9
E3	To protect and where practical enhance flora and fauna (individual species)	24	49	15	0	0	9
E4	To conserve and enhance geodiversity	17	32	41	0	0	7
E5	To maintain the historic environment (including cultural, architectural and archaeological)	20	41	29	0	0	7
E6	To protect material assets including natural resources	13	57	24	0	0	3
E7	To protect and enhance soil quality	9	30	57	0	0	1
E8	To protect water, air, climate	13	43	40	0	0	1
E9	To safeguard human health	6	45	46	0	0	0
E10	To ensure no adverse effect arises on population (i.e. Demographic balance	1	13	82	0	0	1

E11	To avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships	3	20	57	0	0	17

A narrative commentary of the overall likely significant environmental effects of implementing each Management Plan theme is given below.

Theme 1: Landscape Character - To improve coordination and influence the management of landscape features ensuring they are maintained, enhanced, understood and appreciated.

No significant negative effects were identified. No minor negative effects were identified. Unsurprisingly all policies in this theme had significant positive or minor positive effects for landscape and biodiversity (habitats and (species). The majority of policies had significant positive, minor positive or neutral effects for SEA objectives on geodiversity (E4), historic environment, (E5) natural resources (E6) and soil quality (E7), with neutral effects most likely for population (E10).

Policy Lan/P3 Landscape Condition has effects which depend upon implementation relating to interrelationships between the objectives for landscape and the historic environment, in particular buried archaeology and soil disturbance. Effects will depend on the nature of features and their location(s), and what mitigating measures are put in place on a case by case basis.

Lan/P5 Skylines & views has effects which depend upon implementation relating to the potential for well intentioned improvements designed to reduce the visual impacts of certain forms of past development to conflict with other SEA objectives such as those for positive benefits for habitats (E2) or species (E3) and archaeological resources (E4).

Theme 2: Natural Resources & Climate - To support the sustainable management of natural resources in the AONB and its setting.

No significant negative effects were identified. Significant positive effects were identified for landscape, geodiversity, natural resources, water air and climate and human health. All policies in this theme had significant positive effects or minor positive effects for natural resources (E6) and, water, air & climate (E8). Significant positive effects for human health were identified for Policy NatRes/P3 Pollution. For the other objectives the majority of effects were minor positive or neutral. No minor negative effects were identified. NatRes/P6 Energy has effects which depend upon implementation for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species) and historic environment. Whether effects are likely to be negative is likely to depend on:

- the ability to sustain landscape scale natural networks when small woodlands and hedgerows are harvested for wood fuel.
- impacts on species that utilise mature hedgerows for commuting and/or feeding.

- the type of energy efficiency measures implemented and their compatibility with traditional buildings.
- utilising existing roof structures as far as possible before turning to ground mounted solar photo voltaic sites.

Potential for positive effects on CO2, emissions control and air quality, climate change adaptation, energy self sufficiency, woodland quality and coverage, hedgerow management standards.

To minimise or eliminate any negative impacts of this policy, measures should be integrated into the planning and delivery stages of individual projects to require the use of best practice, environmental assessment, checklists etc in developing projects to ensure that likely impacts beyond a single site are effectively considered and planned for. Cumulative effects of initiatives in particular should form part of the considerations. Individual projects may need to be subject to both SEA and Habitats Regulations assessments.

Theme 3: Biodiversity & Geodiversity - To conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological assets of the AONB as part of a bigger, better and more connected landscape.

No significant negative effects were identified in this Theme. Significant positive effects are identified for biodiversity (habitats and species) and geodiversity in regard to BioGeo/P1 Designated sites and BioGeo/P2 Priority species. BioGeo/P4 Geodiversity will have significant positive effects for landscape. BioGeo/P3 Ecological networks and BioGeo/P8 Invasive non-native species is also likely to lead to significant positive effects for landscape, biodiversity (habitats and species) and soil quality. No minor negative effects were identified. Effect dependent upon implementation were identified for BioGeo/P3 Ecological networks, BioGeo/P4 Geodiversity and BioGeo/P6 Positive cumulative impacts. These resulted from the complex interrelationships between landscape biodiversity and historic environment. These effects can be best avoided or mitigated on a case by case basis at the implementation stage. As such there is a low likelihood of negative effects on the ground.

Theme 4 Historic Environment - To conserve and enhance the AONBs historic features and distinctive vernacular buildings as part of a living and working landscape ensuring mechanisms are in place to secure their continued long-term management and care.

No significant negative effects were identified. Significant positive effects were identified for historic environment from all 7 polices. 4 out of 7 historic environment focused policies were also identified as having significant positive effects for landscape. The majority of policies had positive or neutral effects for the other SEA objectives. No minor negative effects were identified. Two policies, Hist/P1 Cultural and historic environment and Hist/P3 Public access were predicted to have uncertain

effects dependent upon implementation. Both these resulted from the interrelationship with biodiversity and potential for minor negative impacts. These effects can be best avoided or mitigated on a case by case basis at the implementation stage. As such there is a low likelihood of negative effects on the ground.

Theme 5: Farming & Land Management - To help and support the farming and land management sector conserve and enhance the AONB.

No significant negative effects were identified. Significant positive effects were identified for landscape (for 5 out of 7 policies), and for biodiversity (habitats and species) (from 4 policies), historic environment (LanMan/P5) natural resources (LanMan/P2) and soil quality (LanMan/P7). Overall all the policies were significant positive, minor positive or neutral on the SEA objectives. No minor negative effects or implementation dependent effects were identified.

Theme 6: Coast and Marine - To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, special qualities and natural processes of the AONBs coastline and neighbouring areas of sea.

No significant negative effects were identified. Significant positive effects were identified for landscape, geodiversity, natural resources and the interrelationships between the objectives. Overall all the policies were significant positive, minor positive or neutral on the SEA objectives. No minor negative effects or implementation dependent effects were identified.

Theme 7: River & Estuaries - To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, special qualities and natural processes of the AONB's rivers and estuaries.

No significant negative effects were identified. Significant positive effects were identified for landscape, (Est/P4 Maritime services) biodiversity habitats and species and water. (Est/P6 Climate change, Est/P7 Environmental Management and Est/P8 Fisheries management). Overall all the policies were significant positive, minor positive or neutral on the SEA objectives. No minor negative effects or implementation dependent effects were identified.

Theme 8: Tourism, Access, & Recreation - To ensure tourism, access and recreation develop at sustainable levels whilst maintaining and contributing to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.

No significant negative effects were identified. Significant positive effects were identified for human health from Acc/P4 Naturally Healthy and Acc/P6 Access to beaches and the coastal corridor. Both significant effects could result from the wellbeing benefits associated with greater access to nature. The majority of polices were positive or neutral for the majority of objectives. No minor negative

effects were identified. Some policies have the potential for implementation dependent effects, particularly with regards to biodiversity habitats and species, resulting from the increased public access promoted by these policies. These were Acc/P1 Sustainable transport, Acc/P4 Naturally healthy, Acc/P6 Access to beaches and the coastal corridor and Acc//P7 Popular sites However, any potential for negative effects can be best avoided or mitigated for individual projects at each project's development and implementation stages. As such there is a low likelihood of negative effects on the ground.

Theme 9: Planning & Development - To use planning policy and use the mitigation hierarchy to conserve and enhance AONB special qualities for compatible sustainable development.

No significant negative effects were identified. No significant positive effects were identified. Six out of seven policies were identified as having positive effects for landscape, biodiversity habitats and species, geodiversity, material assets and natural resources, and on the interrelationships between the objectives. No minor negative effects were identified. Implementation dependent effects were identified for landscape, biodiversity habitats and species, geodiversity, historic environment and, interrelationships between the objectives. These all related to Plan/P5 Representations because the impacts of AONB representations is entirely dependent upon the weight placed on the information and advice provided by the relevant authority in balance with the other relevant material considerations. It is therefore difficult to predict the environmental effects of this policy with any certainty.

Theme 10: Transport & Highways - Reduce the impact of transport networks and services on the environment, landscape character and enjoyment of the AONB and South Devon Heritage Coast.

No significant negative effects were identified. Significant positive effects were identified for landscape, biodiversity species, and geodiversity. These result from the Trans/P2 Features of the road network which positively requires these are protected and conserved. The majority of policies are assessed as minor positive or neutral across the SEA objectives. Policy Trans/P6Sustainable transport is assessed as effects dependent upon implementation for the interrelationships between the objectives as the choice of materials and design of some transport infrastrucutre improvements designed to improve the function and accessibility of public transport within the AONB can have a cumulative detrimental effect, particularly on rural character. Initiatives such as raised curbs, aluminium posts for bus stop signs, large road markings, street lighting etc can be subtle and effective if well chosen or appear stark and out of place if poorly specified. This can be mitigated at the project level on a case by case basis.

Theme 11: Rural Economy & Services - To develop a sustainable rural economy that benefits from the South Devon AONB brand and asset; and actively contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB.

No significant negative were identified. Significant positive effects were identified for landscape and the protection of water, air and climate. The majority of policies in this Theme were predicted to have minor positive or neutral effects across the SEA objectives. No minor negative effects were identified. One policy, Econ/P3 Rural business, was identified as having implementation dependent effects in regards to an antagonistic interrelationship between biodiversity and archaeological features. Any potential for negative effects can be best resolved on an individual project basis at its development and implementation stages. As such there is a low likelihood of negative effects on the ground.

Theme 12: Community & Culture - To provide improved access to resilient services, facilities and active participation in community and landscape related social enterprise.

No significant negative were identified. Significant positive effects were identified for landscape, biodiversity habitats and species, geodiversity and historic environment. These all arose from policy Comm/P1 Special Qualities. The other policies in this Theme were predicted to have minor positive or neutral effects across the SEA objectives. No minor negative effects were identified. Some policies were identified as having effects dependent upon implementation. This uncertainty was mainly owing to policies Comm/P3 Resilience and Comm/P5 Community Planning which both address community matters which have the potential to conflict with many of the SEA objectives if not properly managed. Any potential for negative effects can be best resolved on an individual project basis at its development and implementation stages. As such there is a low likelihood of negative effects on the ground.

Theme 13: Awareness & Communication - To increase awareness of the South Devon AONB and its special qualities, the purpose of its designation, the role of the Partnership and range of ways to get involved.

No significant negative were identified. Significant positive effects were identified for landscape, biodiversity habitats and species, geodiversity, historic environment, material assets and natural resources, protecting water air and climate, and indirectly human health. All policies in this Theme were predicted to have either significant positive, minor positive or neutral effects across the SEA objectives. No minor negative effects were identified and no effects depend upon implementation were identified.

Theme 14: Partnerships & Organisation - To use the Management Plan strategy, policies and delivery plan to direct strategic leadership in the delivery of tangible benefits to the landscape, communities and economy of the AONB.

No significant negative were identified. Significant positive effects were identified for landscape (6 out of 7 policies), 3 out of 7 policies identified significant positive effects for biodiversity habitats and species, geodiversity, historic environment, material assets and natural resources, protecting water air and climate. No minor negative effects were identified and no effects depend upon implementation were identified.

12.2 SA conclusion on the sustainability of the Management Plan

The Management Plan is largely supportive of the sustainability objectives, with predominantly minor positive and some significant positive effects for those most pertinent to the Plan's area of work and influence. These being SA objectives: S2 To protect the quality and character of individual settlements and communities and, S4 To promote the development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives. Otherwise it tends to have minor positive or neutral effects on the achievement of the other sustainability objectives, as to be expected. Neutral effects tend to occur where there is no direct link between the policy and the SA Objective. There are no policies which conflict with any of the sustainability objectives and therefore no significant negative sustainability effects are identified as resulting from the plan.

The table below is a summary of the SA findings. More detailed on how each of the policies score against the five SA objectives is in Appendix 3 SA Findings.

		Supportive		Neutral	Conflicting		Uncertain
	SA Objective	**No. of S++**	**No. of S+**	**No. of N**	**No. of C-**	**No. of C--**	**No. of X**
S1	To create more vibrant, cohesive, safe and mixed communities	5	48	40	0	0	2
S2	To protect the quality and character of individual settlements and communities	38	51	5	0	0	1
S3	To protect the environment, people and properties from flood risk	11	32	51	0	0	1
S4	To promote the development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives	21	47	24	0	0	3
S5	To minimise the consumption of natural resources including fossil fuels, mineral, land take and water	12	43	37	0	0	4

12.2.1 General Recommendations

Interpretation of policies

All the policies in the Management Strategy must be interpreted in the light of:

- the **statutory** purpose of the South Devon AONB designation, that is to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty
- the Theme's Vision and Key Policy Objective
- the Vision for the AONB

Where there are any doubts or conflicts, polices should be interpreted using a 'purposive' approach which returns to the statutory purpose of the AONB designation, '*to conserve and enhance natural beauty'*.

In practical terms this means that:

- where there may be more than one possible interpretation of a policy, the one which reflects the substantive purpose or aim behind the policy, (which will always be to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB) **must** be applied;
- where there appears to be an irreconcilable conflict between two or more policies, or an action under one policy conflicts with another policy, the interpretation which best achieves the statutory purpose of the AONB **shall** be made;
- where any the exercise of any function, duty, action, plan or project, decision, (& etc.) could be interpreted as being supported by any particular policy (or policies), but its exercise would conflict with conserving and enhancing natural beauty, (i.e. it could have adverse impacts on the AONB) the statutory purpose to conserve and enhance natural beauty **shall** override any support provided by that policy;

These basic principles should be made explicit within the AONB Management Strategy.

13 Stage E: Monitoring the Management Plan's implementation

Monitoring is the final stage in the SEA and SA process. The SEA Directive and SEA Regulations requirements for monitoring the plan's implementation apply once the plan has been adopted and is being put into effect. However, the law requires that the Environmental Report (this report) includes *a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring.*[15] The purpose of monitoring is to identify 'unforeseen adverse effects' at an early stage so that appropriate remedial action can be taken. Existing monitoring arrangements may be used to avoid duplication.

13.1 Proposals for monitoring

Monitoring suggestions have been made in the form of Environmental Indicators and Sustainability Indicators. A series of Primary Indicators (Environmental) were identified as part of the SEA Scoping stage. A set of optional Indicators relating to sustainability were also identified. Monitoring for SEA requirements should seek to make use of existing datasets and existing collection mechanisms. Careful consideration should be given to the selection of Indicators and some basic principles should be followed.

Table 9 Attributes of datasets to consider in selection for monitoring

	Dataset attribute	Issues to consider
	resolution/disaggregation	The geographical scale at which data is collected will affect how this can be disaggregated to the AONB area The greater the resolution the more useful the data will be
	frequency of collection and update	This affect its usefulness for identifying adverse effects rapidly enough to make remedial action effective, with more frequent updates being the most useful
	continuing availability	Long-term datasets are more valuable monitoring tools than 'one-off' specially commissioned data
	specificity/confidence	Specificity refers to whether the indicator is sufficiently specific to be measuring the effect of the policy directly. Or whether it is an indirect indicator of effect. This has implications for the level of confidence that can be attributed to the interpretation of the indicator
	cost of collection	Costs should not be onerous so as to prevent ongoing collection and data management

[15] Article 10 of the SEA Directive, and Regulation 17 of the SEA Regulations.

Numerous organisations collect data relevant to the AONB that could be used as indicators of environmental change. However, difficulties arise in attributing the environmental change to specific sources, making it problematic to identify which plan or strategy is actually impacting on the environment, positively or negatively. Therefore, a degree of interpretation is required.

It is not proposed that the environmental performance of all the policies be monitored. A selection of indicators across the range of Management Sub-themes should be chosen based primarily on the appropriateness of the datasets in terms of availability, frequency and disaggregation possibilities etc. to ensure the effects are discernable and attributable at the scale of the AONB.

Where data is indicated as being collected by, or is the responsibility of a relevant authority,[16] this work ought to be part of the process of demonstrating to the AONB Partnership, and ultimately Defra, that it is complying with the section 85 duty and having proper regard to the AONB.

[16] 'relevant authority' in relation to AONBs is defined in section 85(2) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

13.2 Action where an adverse effect is found

Where any significant negative effects on the environment are recorded as a result of the monitoring programme, the AONB Partnership should review the policies which may be responsible. It must be borne in mind that the undesirable environmental effect may in fact be a result of another plan or programme or result from a decision or action by a relevant authority or another organisation, which may or may not have appropriately applied the relevant Management Plan policy or policies. However, it is in the interests of the AONB Partnership to examine and determine the possible causes. Relevant policies should be reviewed to help avoid further impacts and mitigate for the negative environmental effects, where possible.

14 Technical Review

Table 10 Limitations and Assumptions of the SEA Process

Limitation	Approach taken
Timescales	The SEA process takes account of the expediency required by the statutory Management Plan Review process. However this constrained the depth of assessment possible.
Scope and SEA Methodology	Natural England guidance recommends an expedient and fit for purpose assessment for AONB Management Plans. This had implications for the depth of assessment which could be undertaken. Consequently the assessment focussed on the policies. However a similar assessment could have examined the Objectives within each theme. The assessment did not examine in detail the policy coverage of the Management Strategy in terms of ensuring that all the identified Forces for Change had policies to mitigate or address them. It is understood that this is part of the role of the Management Plan Review process itself, but none the less may have been a useful assessment. It may also have been useful to examine the geographic variations in policy coverage within the AONB, as there are likely to be particular areas that are constrained by a greater number of policy themes than others.
Uncertainty	There is a degree of uncertainty inherent in the assessment owing to the limited availability of specific AONB level data and the timescales of data collection.
Management Plan Review process	The SEA and SA assessments have been undertaken on the Management Plan Consultation Draft. Any significant revisions resulting from the consultation will need to be screened to see if they are likely to result in changes to the assessment findings.
Environmental Baseline	The environmental and sustainability baseline data was collated as part of the Management Plan Review process and forms part of the supporting documentation accompanying the final version of the Management Plan.
Key Assumptions	The SEA was conducted at a high strategic level, in line with the strategic nature of the policies. Projects within the Delivery Plan will be assessed at a later stage as an integral part of

	their development. The SEA identifies areas where environmental assessment of these actions is considered necessary. This may include informal and formal assessment. In most instances this is needed where policies are identified as possibly leading to negative effects or effects dependent upon implementation methods, location etc. which cannot be confirmed at the strategic level. The SEA examined alternatives where assessment indicated a significant negative effect, as advised in the Natural England guidance.

15 Appendices

Appendix 1 Review of relevant Policies, Plans, Programmes and environmental and sustainability objectives

	Plan, programme, strategy, legislation	Main purpose, requirements and environmental objectives relevant to the AONB Management Plan	Relationship with the AONB Management Plan and implications for the Plan's development
Cross-cutting Plans and Programmes etc			
	The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 'The CRoW Act'	Section 85 imposes a duty on public bodies to 'have regard to the purposes of conserving and enhancing natural beauty in the exercise of their functions'. It is now the main Act in relation to AONBs. It consolidated and strengthened AONB legislation, imposing a duty on public bodies to have regard in their decision making to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty in AONBs (Section 85). It also creates a duty to prepare and regularly review AONB Management Plans (sections 89 and 90). It gives wide discretionary powers to local planning authorities with AONBs in their area (either wholly or partly), to take all such action as appears expedient to them for the accomplishment of conserving and enhancing the AONB's natural beauty or so much of it as is in their area. The Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) gave the Secretary of State powers to extend the statutory right of access to coastal land of any description. These powers have been set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This act also strengthens the protection given to SSSIs and revises procedures for the notification of SSSIs. The act also strengthens the existing provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for the enforcement of wildlife legislation.	This Act sets the legal framework the role of public authorities in relation to AONBs. Known as the relevant authorities. Section 85 created the 'duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty of the AONB'. Section 89 places a duty upon the relevant local authorities to 'prepare and publish an AONB Management Plan which *'formulates their policy for the management of the area and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it.'*

	DEFRA - 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'	The plan provides the context in which government aims to create a secure environmental future. It goals and targets are set in themes Clean air, Clean and plentiful water, Thriving plants and wildlife, Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards, Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently, Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment, Mitigating and adapting to climate change, Minimising waste, Managing exposure to chemicals and Enhancing biosecurity.	The AONB Management Plan is an expression of the ways in which the AONB local authorities will have regard to the plan.
	Duties on relevant authorities to have regard to the purposes of National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads: Guidance Note (2005)	This sets out the legal obligations that relevant authorities have towards AONBs.	The AONB Management Plan is an expression of the ways in which the AONB local authorities will have regard to the AONB over the plan period.
	Natural England Designation Strategy 2012	The purpose of AONB designation, as derived from the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. This purpose was reaffirmed in a 1991 Policy Statement on AONBs (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A Policy Statement. 1991, CCP 356). Previous Policy Statements were CCP 141(the first for AONBs); updated by CCP157; and finally CCP 532. These include references to "secondary purposes": …have due regard to the needs of agriculture and forestry and to the economic and social interests of rural areas. This has not been updated or rescinded but the secondary purpose has been re-stated in most AONB Management Plans. The source of wording is within s37 of the Countryside Act 1968 and applies only to functions exercised under this Act and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by local authorities, Natural England and Ministers.	This duty does not apply to AONB Management Plans because they are not functions under the Countryside Act nor the Wildlife and Countryside Act, but it has been incorporated as a policy aim of AONB Management Plans.
	Natural England Strategic Direction (Published 2014)	Natural England Strategic Direction provides the context in which Natural England (the organisation with overview). It highlights a healthy natural environment; sustainable use of the natural environment; enjoyment of the natural environment and a secure environmental future as key aims.	The AONB Management Plan contributes to all the strategic aims of Natural England.

	Natural England Framework Document (Published 2017)	This document sets out the broad framework within which Natural England will operate. The overall governance framework is defined and supported by legislation and a number of other documents in addition to this Framework Document, reflecting the breadth of Natural England's roles and relationships.	The AONB Management Plan contributes by creating, resilient landscapes and seas, putting people at the heart of the natural environment and growing natural capital.
	Natural Environment White Paper (2014) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (2011)	It sets out how the value of nature can be mainstreamed across our society by facilitating local action; strengthening the connections between people and nature; creating a green economy and showing leadership in the EU and internationally. NEWP underpins the approach to Natural Capital and helped create The Natural Capital Committee and Environmental Accounts.	The AONB Management Plan contributes by creating, resilient landscapes and seas, putting people at the heart of the natural environment and growing natural capital.
Landscape			
	UNESCO World Heritage Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage 1972	This sets out the international framework for Protected Landscapes, within which AONBs fall under Category V Protected Landscapes managed mainly for landscape/seascape protection and recreation.	The AONB Management Plan delivers the management of a Category V protected landscape in line with this Convention.

	European Landscape Convention 2000 (ELC)	This is the first convention to focus specifically on landscape, and became binding on the UK from 1 March 2007. It aims to promote landscape protection, management, and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues. Requirements include: i. to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning ii. to integrate landscape into regional and town planning policies and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape. As a result of the Landscape Convention the UK Government has undertaken to: raise awareness of value of landscapes with public and private bodies; promote training and education for specialists and in educational institutions; identify and analyse the character of UK landscapes and assess changes and pressures upon them; define landscape quality objectives; implement polices to protect, manage and/or plan the landscape.	The ELC provides a European framework to landscape protection within which AONBs sit. The AONB Management Plan and actions carried out under the plan assist the UK Government in meeting its obligations under the Convention, in particular as way of raising awareness of the value of landscapes with public and private bodies and through the implementation of policies to protect and manage the landscape.
	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	NPAC Act created AONBs. It gave powers to Natural England (then called the Nature Conservancy) to designate Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs), and to local authorities to designate Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).	This was the initial foundation Act for AONBs which first set out their statutory purpose.
	Countryside Act 1968	Imposes a duty on local authorities and other public bodies to have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside - including flora and fauna - in the exercise of their functions relating to land.	The AONB Management Plan is a way to demonstrate how the local authorities plan to meet this duty, by helping them set out how they will exercise their various functions (e.g. land use planning, transport infrastructure, lighting and etc.) land in their area so as to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended)	The NERC Act is designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy. The Act implements key elements of the Government's Rural Strategy published in July 2004. It established Natural England, as the body with responsibility for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	Section 40 places a duty on public authorities to '*have regard to conserving biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions'*. Biodiversity conservation includes restoring or enhancing populations or habitats. This provides additional support for the AONB duty as it covers a flora and fauna a significant factor of natural beauty.
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	(Section 39(c)) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) gives powers to the local planning authority (i.e. South Hams District Council, Plymouth Council, Torbay Council) and Natural England, to enter into management agreements with any owner of land, for the purpose of conserving or enhancing the natural beauty or amenity, or for promoting its enjoyment by the public.	The Management Plan should seek to set out how the AONB planning authorities can use this power in order to meet the duty to conserve and enhance natural beauty of the AONB.
	National Planning Policy Framework July 2018 (NPPF)	Great weight is to be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in AONBs, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The scale and extent of development in AONBs should be limited. Major developments must only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and when demonstrably in the public interest. Local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting landscape areas will be judged.	The AONB Management Plan sets out how the NPPF should be interpreted locally in relation to the AONB's natural beauty, its special qualities and landscape character and what types and scales of development are considered appropriate within the AONB and its setting.
Biodiversity			

	Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties 11 (COP11)	The Conference of the Parties agreed to: integrate national action plans for the programme of work on protected areas into updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans; ensure that networks comprising both such marine protected areas and terrestrial protected areas are: representative (by completing ecological assessments and implementing the results); inclusive of areas important for biodiversity; managed effectively and equitably; connected and integrated into wider land- and seascapes; and inclusive of diversified types of governance for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures; improve inter-agency and inter-sectoral coordination, especially for mainstreaming protected areas and biodiversity and integrating protected areas into wider land- and seascapes, including using protected areas as natural solutions in ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and for filling policy gaps in this area; conserve wild relatives of cultivated crops and wild edible plants in protected areas and in community conserved areas, in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity and national legislation, thereby contributing to achieving food security;	The AONB management plan should continue to contribute to the international, national and local biodiversity action plan targets and seek to complement the BAP process. The AONB Management Plan can provide the framework for connecting protected sites (such as Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites) to the wider landscape.
	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971 (The Ramsar Convention)	The Ramsar Convention sets out to protect wetland sites which are internationally important particularly as where they have habitats used by waterfowl.	There are no Ramsar sites within the South Devon AONB.

	Council Directive 92/43/EC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. The 'Habitats Directive'	The Habitats Directive establishes a legal framework for the conservation wild fauna and flora and natural habitats of Community importance. It does so by providing for the creation of a network of protected areas, called 'Natura 2000' comprised of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (designated under the Wild Birds Directive). The Directive's aim is to maintain and restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and that are of European Community interest. The Preamble to the Habitats Directive and its Articles 3(3) and 10 suggest that land-use planning and development policies should encourage the management of features which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Article 3(3) provides the discretion to Member States to improve the ecological coherence of Natura 2000 sites by maintaining and where appropriate developing features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna as referred to in Article 10. It is implemented in England through The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).	The Directive creates the requirement to appropriately assess the environmental impacts of plans and projects on Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. Before adopting the AONB Management Plan. The AONB authorities must satisfy themselves that the plan would not have likely significant effects (LSEs) on any European Sites. Therefore the plan and/or specific actions / projects will need to undergo an appropriate assessment where its actions are likely to affect such sites. With this is mind Natural England advises that a Screening Assessment is undertaken for the Management Strategy. The AONB Management Plan encourages both the management and coherence of features which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. As part of its obligations under the Habitats Directive and under the duty to have regard to natural beauty in the AONB, the AONB relevant authorities must ensure that planning policy for the AONB includes sufficient protection for and mechanisms to encourage the landscape scale management of features which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora, (commonly referred to as Green Infrastructure) in particular where these could also contribute to the coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

	Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds. The' Wild Birds Directive'	The Directive imposes general obligations on the UK Government to take measures to maintain populations of all bird species naturally occurring in the UK. Particular birds receive special protection, with special conservation measures to be taken. (Annex I species). All species of wild birds have general protection measures which are transposed under the Habitats Regulations 1994 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.	Before adopting the AONB Management Plan. The AONB authorities must satisfy themselves that the plan would not have likely significant effects (LSEs) on any European Sites including Special Protection Areas. Therefore the plan and/or specific actions / projects will need to undergo an appropriate assessment where its actions are likely to affect such sites. With this is mind Natural England advises that a Screening Assessment is undertaken for the Management Strategy.
	Seventh Environment Action Programme of the European Union (The 7th EAP)	This sets out the framework for environmental policy-making in the European Union for the period to 2020 and outlines actions that need to be taken to achieve them. It identifies four priority areas; Climate change, Nature and biodiversity, Environment and health, Natural resources and waste, and promotes full integration of environmental protection requirements into all Community policies and actions.	No obligations arise directly for the AONB Management Plan as the obligations fall upon Member States. However, the Management Plan will contribute to reducing pressures on ecosystems and biodiversity loss (terrestrial and marine), helping to conserve the EU's most important habitats and species. By policies which encourage a catchment or landscape approach to management it will contribute to achieving better water quality.
	EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 Our life insurance, our natural capital	Sets out a Vision for 2050 and a headline target for 2020. These are: 2050 Vision *European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided.* 2020 Headline Target *Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and restore them insofar as feasible, and step up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.*	Conserving and enhancing natural beauty, which encompasses flora and fauna contributes to the goals of this strategy. The Management Plan will contribute to maintaining the conservation status of species and ecosystems.

	The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 'The CRoW Act'	This act strengthened the protection given to Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSIs) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and revised procedures for the notification of SSSIs. The act also strengthens the existing provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for the enforcement of wildlife legislation.	This Act sets the legal framework the role of public authorities in relation to AONBs. Section 85 created the duty to have regard to the purposes of conserving and enhancing natural beauty including flora and fauna.
	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Section 39(c) gives powers to the local planning authority and Natural England, to enter into management agreements with any owner of land, for the purpose of conserving or enhancing the natural beauty or amenity, or for promoting its enjoyment by the public. Provides varying degrees of protection for the listed species of flora and fauna, including comprehensive protection of wild birds, their nests and eggs. It also revised the system for designating SSSIs and gave further powers for their protection and introduced Management Agreements.	SSSIs afford protection to some of the AONB's special qualities in terms of biodiversity (habitats and species) and ecosystems, geodiversity and geomorphology. Therefore, AONB management plan should support the protection of SSSIs. This will be important when considering policies promoting recreation as in some cases this may not be compatible with biodiversity protection.
	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 'The Habitats Regulations'	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 formally transpose the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Wild Birds Directive into English law.. They build on existing nature conservation legislation for the protection of habitats and species by introducing requirements for assessing plans and projects affecting European designations and licensing certain activities affecting European Protected Species. The appropriate authority, the nature conservation bodies and, in relation to the marine area, a competent authority must exercise their functions which are relevant to nature conservation, including marine conservation, so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the [Habitats and Birds] Directives. (Regulation 9 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017). This includes during the preparation of an AONB Management Plan.	Because the AONB Management Plan is a statutory plan which local authorities must prepare, it must have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive in terms of its policy and its actions in order to comply with duties imposed on local authorities under the Regulations applying to England.

	The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 'The CRoW Act'	This act strengthened the protection given to SSSIs and revises procedures for the notification of SSSIs. The act also strengthens the existing provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for the enforcement of wildlife legislation. Part I created a new right of access to open country and registered common land. Allows for the definition of open country to be extended to include coastal land. Part II modernises the law on public rights of way and requires Access Authorities to prepare Rights of Way Improvement Plans The Act provides for a continuous coast path.	The Management Plan will need to consider the implications for its special qualities of the requirements to create a continuous coastal path. Much of the AONB already has the well established South West Coast path, but some sections are 'missing.' The Management Plan should consider the implications of increasing coastal access in the AONB and seek to guide how potential conflicts between increased public access and conserving the special qualities (in particular those related to landscape, biodiversity and tranquillity) of the AONB should dealt with. The management plan should seek to both influence and support the implementation of the local authorities' PRoW Improvement Plans, where this is consistent with the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty.
	Hedgerows Regulations 1997	Under the regulations, it is against the law to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the local planning authority.	The AONB Management Plan sets out that hedgerows and Devon banks are special qualities of the AONB. The local planning authority must have regard to this when dealing with applications for hedgerow removals within the AONB.
	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Last updated 24 July 2018	Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Local planning authorities should: - Protect and enhance valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan). - maintain the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate.	The AONB Management Plan sets out how the NPPF should be interpreted locally in relation to the AONB and its special qualities, which includes biodiversity, flora and fauna.

	Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (Defra 2011)	The Strategy's mission for the next decade is: *to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people* Defra seeks to deliver these outcomes through action in four areas - a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea - putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy - reducing environmental pressures - improving our knowledge	The AONB Management Plan should seek to integrate an ecosystem services approach to management. The plan could seek to include a project to identify the ecosystem services provided by the AONB's special qualities. The AONB Management Plan supports this strategy through its already integrated landscape scale approach to management.
	The Defra Ecosystems Approach Action Plan 2007	This plan signals a move away from separate natural environment policies on wildlife, water, soil, and air quality towards a more joined-up approach taking account of the natural environment as a whole. Central to the action plan is the idea that living things and their physical environment depend on each other - changes in one part of our environment can have consequences, positive and negative, on another.	This approach is embodied in the concept of AONB Management Plans. The AONB Management Plan seeks to set out policies which account for the interrelated nature of the natural environment. Policy making at a landscape scale within the AONB Management Plan can take account of an ecosystem services approach to landscape management.
	Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement (Defra, 2013)	The Policy Statement sets out key objectives in priority order: Protecting the nation's trees, woodlands and forests from increasing threats such as pests, diseases and climate change, Improving their resilience to these threats and their contribution to economic growth, people's lives and nature, Expanding them to increase further their economic, social and environmental value. Protecting Ancient Woodland is identified as a top priority. The policy gives greater priority to tree health than ever before.	Woodland and trees, particularly Veteran trees and Ancient Woodland, are special qualities of the AONB. The AONB Management Plan supports the key objectives.

	South West Nature Map (2004) South West Biodiversity Partnership	Nature Map identified at the landscape scale blocks of land, known as 'Strategic Nature Areas' (SNAs) that represent the best areas to maintain and expand wildlife habitats through their management, restoration and/or re-creation.	The AONB Management Plan supports the approach of SNAs through its landscape scale approach to management. SNAs can be used to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONBs as they identify and represent large scale areas of opportunity for enhancement and habitat creation.
	Devon Biodiversity Action Plan	The Nature of Devon: Devon Biodiversity Action Plan 1998 (reviewed 2005) has action plans for important species and habitats in Devon, many of which occur in the AONB e.g. species-rich hedgerows, cliff slopes etc.	The AONB management plan should contribute to BAP actions and targets by setting out the Councils' policies to conserve and enhance BAP habitats and species in the AONB.
Geodiversity			
	National Planning Policy Framework 24th July 2018 (NPPF)	Great weight should be given to conserving amd enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape areas will be judged. As far as is practical, Local Plans should provide for the maintenance of landbanks of non-energy minerals from outside AONBs, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas	The AONB management plan sets out how the NPPF should be interpreted locally in relation to the AONB and its special qualities, which include geodiversity resources.
	Devon Minerals Plan 2011 – 2031	The Devon Minerals Plan contains the County Council's vision and objectives for minerals planning and provides the policy framework and site proposals to maintain the supply of minerals and limit the impacts of their working. The Minerals Plan has regard to national minerals policy, while addressing the specific characteristics of Devon and its minerals	Devon County Council, in preparing the Devon Minerals Local Plan must have regard to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB. The AONB Management Plan should seek to influence the Minerals Local Plan, to ensure minerals workings are directed to outside the AONB and have regard to its conservation and enhancement. The Management Plan seeks to enable small scale appropriately sited minerals extraction so that the local distinctiveness of its heritage assets can be maintained through the use of local materials for restoration.
Historic environment			

	UNESCO World Heritage Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage 1972	This sets out the international framework for Protected Landscapes, within which AONBs fall under Category V Protected Landscapes managed mainly for landscape/seascape protection and recreation.	The AONB Management Plan delivers the management of a Category V protected landscape in line with this Convention. It therefore contributes to the UK's obligations under this Convention.
	UN Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, 2000 'Valetta Convention'	The Convention covers: Identification and protection of archaeological heritage Control of excavations Use of metal detectors Prevention of the circulation of illicit archaeological objects Dissemination of information	In policy terms the protection of historic environment is a component of conserving natural beauty. Therefore the AONB Management Plan, through its consideration of archaeological heritage, contributes to the UK's commitments under this Convention.
	Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended by The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/2048) and The Planning (Applications for Planning Permission, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1063).	These laws allow for the identification and protection, through planning policy, of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.	Conservation Areas are used to protect the character and setting of settlements, through the land use planning regime. The character of settlement within the AONB can have a significant impact on its landscape character and special qualities. It is therefore important that impacts on the settings of Conservation Areas within the AONB are interpreted with relation to conserving and enhancing the AONB natural beauty and maintaining the landscape character and local distinctiveness responsible for its special qualities.
	The Government's White Paper Heritage Protection for the 21st Century	The proposals were based on three core principles: the need to develop a unified approach to the historic environment; maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system.	The AONB Management Plan should seek to have policies which help protect the historic environment, particularly intact historic landscapes.

	National Planning Policy Framework 24th July 2018 (NPPF)	Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing the landscape and scenic beauty in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty.	The AONB management plan sets out how the NPPF should be interpreted locally in relation to the AONB and its special qualities, which include geodiversity resources.
	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	Section 59(1) of the Act added wildlife and historic environment to the criteria that can be considered in the designation of National Parks by Natural England). Thus, acknowledging historic environment and wildlife as an important component of the natural beauty of the English landscape.	
	Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West (2004) – English Heritage	Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West English Heritage (2004) - sets out a vision for the future management of historical assets in the Southwest, identifying areas where action is needed. It aims to raise awareness of the importance of the historic environment in our everyday lives.	The AONB Management Plan can contribute to the achievement of this strategy.
	A Strategy for English Heritage's Historic Environment Research in Protected Landscapes (English Heritage, 9 February 2009)	Sets out English Heritage's (EH) strategy and approach to research on the historic environment within AONBs and National Parks. It also sets out one strand of EH's delivery of its Action Plan under the European Landscape Convention.	AONBs contain a several nationally significant historic environment assets including coherent historic landscapes. The AONB authorities have statutory duties towards landscape through their planning functions and can therefore contribute to their conservation. The AONB Management Plan should seek to set out how the Councils' will conserve and enhance historic environment assets and coherent historic landscapes within the AONB.
Air			

	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its adopted Kyoto Protocol	The UNFCCC is the main instrument for tackling climate change. The Protocol contains the undertaking, entered into by most of the industrialised countries, to reduce their emissions of certain greenhouse gases (which are responsible for global warming) by an average of 5%. For 2020, the EU has committed to cutting its emissions to 20% below 1990 levels. The UK Government has also set a domestic goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by about 2050, towards which real progress will be made by 2020.	Polices supporting sustainable tourism and transport options within the AONB contribute to reducing emissions.
	Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006	The 2006 Act makes provisions for the: reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases; alleviation of fuel poverty; promotion of microgeneration; use of heat produced from renewable sources; compliance with building regulations relating to emissions of greenhouse gases; use of fuel and power; renewables obligation relating to the generation and supply of electricity and adjustment of transmission charges for electricity; and for connected purposes.	The AONB Management Plan should consider setting out advice or policies to guide local authorities on how to have regard to natural beauty when authorising development for microgeneration and renewables, so that appropriate development in the AONB can contribute to meeting the UK's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
	Climate Change Act 2008	The 2008 Climate Change Act established the world's first legally binding climate change target which aims to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% (from the 1990 baseline) by 2050. Emissions must be reduced by at least 34% below base year levels (1990 for CO_2) by 2020.	The AONB Management Plan should seek to have policies which address how appropriate renewable energy development can be taken forward in the AONB without impacting on the area's special qualities and natural beauty.
	The UK Government's Carbon Plan (December 2011)	Sets out the UK Government's approach to energy and climate change, and how it will meet the legally binding targets set by the Climate Change Act.	The AONB Management Plan can seek to contribute to reductions in CO_2 through its support for sustainable tourism within the AONB.

	Directive 1996/62/EC on ambient air quality and management Directive 20008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	Sets guideline values for outdoor noise levels at night (30dB LAeq) and during the day (50 dBLAeq).	Guideline levels for noise are relevant to conserving tranquillity in the AONB.
Water			
	EC Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy The 'Water Framework Directive'	The EC Water Framework Directive (WFD) is the most substantial piece of European Community water legislation to date. It is focused on delivering an integrated approach for the protection and sustainable use of the water environment. This includes inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater. EC Member States must assess and control all major anthropogenic (human) pressures on the water environment. This includes pressures on the physical structure of rivers and coasts.	AONB Management Plans can provide a mechanism to co-ordinate actions to achieve these objectives. In particular helping to focus on the improvements of land management practices.

	Council Directive 91/676/EC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. The 'Agricultural Nitrates Directive'	The Directive requires the identification of nitrate polluted waters, to be designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs), using the following specific criteria: *surface freshwaters which contain or could contain, if preventative action is not taken, nitrate concentrations greater than 50mg/l;* *groundwaters which contain or could contain, if preventative action is not taken, nitrate concentrations greater than 50mg/l;* *natural freshwater lakes, or other freshwater bodies, estuaries, coastal waters and marine waters which are eutrophic or may become so in the near future if protective action is not taken.* The Protection of Water against Agricultural and Nitrate Pollution (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996/1202) were introduced to implement the Agricultural Nitrates Directives, and supplementing the existing Nitrate Sensitive Areas Regulations 1994. Action Programmes for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/1202) require action plans for each NVZ setting out detailed rules on when and how much inorganic nitrogen fertilisers and manure can be applied. It also requires farmers to keep records on their cropping, livestock and fertiliser use.	AONB Management Plans can provide a mechanism to co-ordinate actions to achieve these objectives. In particular helping to focus on the improvements of land management practices and can help to focus work at a landscape scale.

	The Land Drainage Act 1991 (c.59) and The Land Drainage Act 1994 (c.25)	These Acts give powers to local authorities to undertake flood defence works on watercourses not designated as '*main'* rivers to: carry out small land drainage schemes; or carry out works to prevent flooding or mitigate any damage caused by flooding in their area. The 1994 Act updated the duties of local authorities towards the environment whilst carrying out their land drainage functions. Local authorities have a duty, so far as is consistent with the purposes of the Land Drainage Act, to: exercise their functions to further the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the conservation of flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest, have regard to the desirability of protecting and conserving buildings (including ruins etc.), sites and objects of archaeological, architectural or historic interest; and take into account any effect which the proposals would have on the beauty or amenity of any rural or urban area or on any such flora, fauna, features, buildings, sites or objects.	Since the main rivers and their tributaries are one of the AONB's special qualities, the Management Plan should consider setting out how local authorities should have regard to the AONB when exercising these powers.
	Environment Agency Catchment Flood Management Plans South Devon Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP).	Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) give an overview of the flood risk across each river catchment. They recommend ways of managing those risks now and over the next 50-100 years. South Devon CFMP gives an overview of the flood risk in the South Devon catchment and sets out The Environment Agency's preferred plan for sustainable flood risk management over the next 50 to 100 years	The AONB Management Plan seeks to set out policies which help to guide the management of its rivers on a catchment scale. This approach is necessary to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the rivers and estuaries within the AONB. The Environment Agency is under the duty of regard to the AONB purposes when developing CFMPs and when delivering actions under them.

	Environment Agency Catchment Abstraction Plans	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) propose a strategy for dealing with applications for new abstraction licences and variations, and for managing existing licences for each catchment area (or Water Resource Management Unit). Environment Agency strategy setting River Quality Flow objectives (RQFs) for defined stretches of river to act as a tool for planning future water availability and determining future abstraction licences. The main aims of CAMS are to: make information on water resources and licensing practice available to the public; provide a consistent approach to local water resources management, recognising the reasonable needs of water users and the environment; provide the opportunity for greater public involvement in managing the water resources of a Catchment.	The AONB Management Plan seeks to set out policies which help to guide the management of its rivers on a catchment scale. This approach is necessary to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the rivers and estuaries within the AONB.
	South West River Basin Management Plan 2015 (RBMP)	The South West River Basin District, covers over 21,000km^2, and includes Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and parts of Somerset, Hampshire and Wiltshire. The Environment Agency is required to carry out detailed monitoring and analysis in relation to each River Basin District (Regulations 5 and 9 of the Water Framework Directive). The South West River Basin Management Plan sets out the pressures facing the water environment in this river basin district, and the actions that will address them.	The AONB Management Plan seeks to set out policies which help to guide the management of its rivers on a catchment scale. This approach is necessary to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the rivers and estuaries within the AONB. It therefore contributes to the achievement of the SWRBMP.
Climatic Factors (including Energy)			

	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol	The UNFCCC is the main instrument for tackling climate change. The Protocol contains the undertaking, entered into by most of the industrialised countries, to reduce their emissions of certain greenhouse gases (which are responsible for global warming) by an average of 5%. For 2020, the EU has committed to cutting its emissions to 20% below 1990 levels. The UK Government has also set a domestic goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by about 2050, towards which real progress will be made by 2020.	Polices supporting sustainable tourism and transport options within the AONB contribute to reducing emissions.
	EU Climate Change Strategy	The European Commission is establishing a future EU Climate Change Strategy. This strategy would be based on, among other things, implementation of existing policies, preparation of new measures in coordination with other European policies, increased research, greater international cooperation and measures to increase public awareness.	No direct obligations arise for the AONB Management Plan. However, through promotion of sustainable transport options the plan can contribute to the aims to reductions in emissions from transport.
	Council Directive 2009/28/EC of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC The 'Renewable Energy Directive'	The Directive on renewable energy sets ambitious targets for all Member States including that the EU will reach a 20% share of energy from renewable sources by 2020 and a 10% share of renewable energy specifically in the transport sector.	The AONB Management Plan should consider setting out advice or policies to guide local authorities on how to have regard to natural beauty when authorising development for microgeneration and renewables, so that appropriate development in the AONB can contribute to meeting the UK's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

	Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006	The 2006 makes provisions for the: reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases; alleviation of fuel poverty; promotion of microgeneration; use of heat produced from renewable sources; compliance with building regulations relating to emissions of greenhouse gases; use of fuel and power; renewables obligation relating to the generation and supply of electricity and adjustment of transmission charges for electricity; and for connected purposes.	The AONB Management Plan should consider setting out advice or policies to guide local authorities on how to have regard to natural beauty when authorising development for microgeneration and renewables, so that appropriate development in the AONB can contribute to meeting the UK's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	Local planning authorities should set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan to deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.	The AONB Management Plan should consider setting out advice or policies to guide local authorities on how to have regard to natural beauty when making authorising decisions on climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will be especially important at the coast where measures to protect coastal communities have the potential to conflict with the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty.

	Second National Adaptation Programme (2018 to 2023)	Sets out the Government's approach to climate change adaptation in England through a series of objectives. The objectives of most relevance are those on the Natural Environment: Building ecological resilience to the impacts of climate change Preparing for and accommodating inevitable change Valuing the wider adaptation benefits the natural environment can deliver Others which are also relevant because how the objectives are met could impact on natural beauty include: Flood and coastal erosion risk management Spatial planning Understanding the longer-term implications of climate change Infrastructure asset management Building resilience in agriculture through effective water management Building resilience in forestry Resilience to pests and disease	Many of the actions in the AONB management will contribute to making the environment, particularly its biodiversity (flora and fauna) and habitats, more resilient to climate change, as it will encourage a landscape scale approach to habitat management, restoration and creation.
Material Assets			
	South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2)	Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) are non-statutory documents which outline the long-term strategic framework for decisions on coastal defence management. Therefore, they have to take account of the impacts which climate change will have on England's coastline in order to properly plan for the future. The SMP seeks to manage risks to reduce the threat of flooding and erosion to people and their property; and benefit the environment, society and the economy as far as possible, in line with the Government's sustainable development principles.	The SMP2 had to have regard to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB when setting policy and coastal management objectives. The AONB Management Plan should set out how coastal development should take account of the need to conserve and enhance the AONB. This could include policies setting out the type of development which is considered appropriate at the coast.

	Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2012 Annual Action Programme	The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) was drawn up in accordance with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and takes account of guidance issued by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The main objective of the RoWIP is to improve public rights of way and access for all. The 2012 plan sets out a strategy for management, access and improvements to the whole of the Devon rights of way network The plan forms a strand of the Devon Local Transport Plan.	The South West Coast Path runs along the length of the AONB coast, and there are numerous other public rights of way within the AONB. The Management Plan should seek to contain policies to guide the management of rights of way within the AONB.
	Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 2011-2026	Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 does not specifically mention AONB settlements however it has beneficial overarching policies around improving access, supporting leisure, recreation and tourism, reducing congestion and improving air quality.	The Management Plan should seek to contain policies to guide the management of rights of way within the AONB, and to encourage sustainable modes of transport in particular in relation to tourism development.
Soils			
	Safeguarding Our Soils – A Strategy for England (Defra 2011)	It sets out the current policy context on soils and a number of core objectives for policy and research. It primarily sets out the work which Defra will undertake. Sets out a Vision: By 2030, all England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England's soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations.	Some of the AONB's special qualities for example Devon hedgebanks can assist with the protection of soils when appropriately managed. Many of its special qualities are heavily influenced by the quality of soils and their appropriate management. The AONB Management Plan should seek to encourage land management practices which preserve soils.
Population, Human Health and Wellbeing			
	Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005	The Act makes light nuisance subject to the same criminal law as noise and odours. In terms of light pollution it applies to "*artificial light emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance*". It gives powers to local authorities to address light pollution.	This Act allows for the control of light pollution, by the local authorities, where it is deemed a statutory nuisance or is detrimental to human health. Dark skies are an important asset and contribute to the tranquillity of the AONB.

	National Planning Policy Framework (24 July 2018)	The NPPF sets out planning policy for England and sets a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Planning policies and decisions should aim to: avoid noise from giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life as a result of new development; mitigate and reduce to a minimum other adverse impacts on health and quality of life arising from noise from new development, including through the use of conditions; recognise that development will often create some noise and existing businesses wanting to develop in continuance of their business should not have unreasonable restrictions put on them because of changes in nearby land uses since they were established; and identify and protect areas of tranquillity which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.	High levels of tranquillity and dark skies are special qualities of the South Devon AONB which contribute to its natural beauty. Areas of the AONB where its tranquillity or dark sky resource has deteriorated should be enhanced. The AONB local authorities should identify and protect the tranquillity of the AONB. The AONB Management Plan should set out policies to guide the types of measures which could be implemented to conserve the AONB's tranquillity.
	Economic prosperity		

	Strategic Plan (2011-2015) 'Backing Devon'	Sets out Devon County Council's (DCC) Strategic Plan. The overarching vision for Devon stated is: *To improve the quality of life for the people who live, work and visit the county.* The Strategic Plan also has a separate vision to create: *A flourishing and balanced economy, with strong economic growth and high quality employment* *A safe place to live where those at risk of harm are well protected* *Influencing people and communities for better health and wellbeing* *Greater influence, choice and control over decisions that affect communities and services they use* *Conservation and enhancement of Devon's environment.* These are underpinned by four values, including enterprise, care, community and value. It is recognised that of these, enterprise plays a fundamental and key role in helping us to realise our vision, and lies at the heart of what we do. The strategy is at its half way point and the pledges made from 2011-2013 are being reviewed in the light of newly emerging priorities.	The conservation and enhancement of Devon's environment is supported by the AONB Management Plan and reflects DCC's commitment to AONBs. The AONB Management Plan should seek to influence the setting of pledges from 2013 within the Strategy and assist DCC with how their strategy can further support the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.
	A Strategy for Growth 2013-2020 (Devon County Council)	The Strategy for Growth sets out the critical issues for Devon's economy and a series of strategic objectives: A more productive economy; A higher wage economy; Employment opportunities for all and a workforce with the right skills for the future; A well connected county; A thriving business community. The Strategy recognises that a strong, resilient and thriving economy can improve the health and well-being of Devon's residents, support the local landscape and environment, and the business community.	The presence of the South Devon AONB shapes the economic character of the area. The AONB Management Plan should seek to set out how economic growth can be supported in a way that is compatible with the purpose of AONB designation.

	Heart of the South West Strategic Economic Plan	The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) sets out the LEPs understanding of the challenges to overcome and priorities for action. It has been developed in collaboration and consultation with partners from business, education, the public sector and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sectors, ensuring a golden thread runs through it from the bottom up, taking into account local plans and aspirations; and top down, taking into account national policy objectives and guidelines.	The presence of the South Devon AONB shapes the economic character of the area. The AONB Management Plan should seek to set out how economic growth can be supported in a way that is compatible with the purpose of AONB designation.
	Other relevant PPPs		
	The South Marine Plan	This sets out marine spatial planning policy for the South Inshore and South Offshore marine areas between Felixstowe and the Dart Estuary.	The South Marine Plan must have regard to the AONB. The AONB Management Plan needs to consider how development at sea may affect its special qualities. The AONB Management Plan needs to ensure that any policies relating to the marine area of the South Devon Heritage Coast have regard to policies in the South Marine Plan.
	The South West Marine Plan	This plan which is currently being produced will set out marine spatial planning policy for the South West Inshore and South West Offshore marine areas between the Dart Estuary and the River Severn border with Wales.	The South West Marine Plan must have regard to the AONB. The AONB Management Plan needs to consider how development at sea may affect its special qualities. The AONB Management Plan needs to ensure that any policies relating to the marine area of the South Devon Heritage Coast have regard to policies in the emerging South West Marine Plan.

Appendix 2 SEA findings

The following assessment matrices set out the full SEA findings for the Management Plan against all the SEA objectives. This includes all the Management Plan policies, unchanged, proposed modifications, and new policies.

Table 3 Six-point scale to record performance of polices against SEA Objectives

Likely environmental or sustainability effects and performance against the objectives	Symbol
Strongly supports the objective and is likely to have **significant positive effects** (S =Supports)	S++
Supports the objective and is likely to have **minor positive effects**	S+
Neither supports nor conflicts with the objective and is likely to have **neutral effects**	N
Potentially works against or conflicts with the objective and is likely to have **minor negative effects** (C = conflicts)	C-
Strongly works against the objective and is likely to have **significant negative effects**	C- -
Implementation dependent effects Nature of effects depends on implementation and delivery methods, or it is likely to result in mixed positive and negative effects	X

Polices with titles their in red are the ones which have been modified by the review process since the last Management Plan 2014-2019 iteration.

Landscape Character

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Lan/P1 Character The special qualities, distinctive character and key features of the South Devon AONB landscape and seascape will be conserved and enhanced.	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S+	S+	S+	N	S++	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives. This overarching, strategic policy provides support for most environmental objectives, strengthened by its use in combination with other policies.	None.
Lan/P2 Technical assessments The use of Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments and Historic Landscape and Seascape Characterisation will be advocated so that land use planning and marine planning and management decisions respect, maintain and where possible enhance the special qualities of the South Devon AONB.	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S+	N	S+	N	N	S+	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Lan/P3 Landscape condition Opportunities will be sought to strengthen landscape character by improving the condition of existing landscape features in poor condition and reinstating landscape features identified as missing or fragmented.	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	S++	S++	S+	N	N	X	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives. Performance of the policy is uncertain when considering interrelationships as this depends on the nature of features and their location(s). One example would be buried archaeology and soil disturbance.	This is most appropriately dealt with at the delivery level on a cases by case basis. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced. Ensure that delivery level impacts between features such as hedgerows and archaeological features such as hill forts, settlements and field patterns are considered on a case by case basis.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Lan/P4 Tranquillity The tranquillity, natural nightscapes and dark skies of the AONB will be enhanced and maintained in a consistent, cross-boundary evidence-based approach.	S++	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	S++	S+	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Positive: for natural resources as tranquillity, and dark skies in particular, are viewed as important natural resources of the AONB. Indirect cumulative positive effects on human health by improved feelings of night time tranquillity as well as reductions in negative physical effects of light pollution. Positive indirect effects on E7 for climate where reducing pollution from wasted light can lead to reductions in energy use and contribute to UK climate change targets.	None.
Lan/P5 Skylines & views The character of skylines and open views into, within and out of the South Devon AONB will be protected. Suitable alternatives to infrastructure responsible for visual intrusion will be sought together with improvements to reduce the visual impact of unsightly past development.	S+	X	X	N	X	S+	N	N	N	N	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Without careful planning, some potential exists for well intentioned improvements designed to reduce the visual impacts of certain forms of past development to conflict with other SEA objectives. There is potential for conflict between the positive benefits for landscape (E1), with the potential harm to habitats (E2) and archaeological resources (E4). Consideration should be given to the potential for conflict between landscape enhancements and their effects on habitats, species and historic environment features.	This is most appropriately dealt with at the delivery level. Each proposed scheme must be assessed. Schemes near protected sites (SSSI, SACs, SPAs, SMs) will require environmental assessment (HRA). The purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced. Statutory undertakers fall under the scope of the duty where any of their infrastructure is being altered.
Lan/P6 Seascape The open undeveloped seascape seen from the coast forms a defining setting for the South Devon AONB: the long uninterrupted views, wild character and natural horizons will be protected and sustained.	S++	S+	S+	S++	S+	S+	N	S++	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives. Significant positive for coastal seascape and geodiversity and minor positive for biodiversity, historic environment, water quality and tranquillity.	None.
Lan/P7 Setting to the AONB The deeply rural character of much of the land adjoining the AONB boundary forms an essential setting for the AONB and care will be taken to maintain its quality and character.	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives. Significant positive with rural character and quality encompassing benefits for biodiversity, geodiversity, historic environment, soils, water quality and tranquillity.	None.

Natural Resources and Climate

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
NatRes/P1 Natural Capital A landscape scale natural capital approach will be taken where practicable to sustainably use and manage natural resources in the AONB.	S++	S+	S+	S+	N	S++	S++	S++	N	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
NatRes/P2 Water quality The highest standards of water quality will be secured throughout the South Devon AONB. The effective integration of land, freshwater and estuary management will be sought at a river catchment scale, to address sustainable soil, waste and nutrient management, point source and diffuse pollution, and the abstraction, supply and use of water.	S+	S+	S+	N	N	S++	S++	S++	S+	N	S+	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
NatRes/P3 Pollution response Effective contingency planning will be maintained to guide emergency responses to pollution incidents affecting land, sea and air.	N	S+	S+	N	N	S++	S++	S++	S++	N	S+	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
NatRes/P4 Climate change Communities will be assisted in developing resilience and adapting to climate change whilst working with physical processes to ensure that the special qualities of the South Devon AONB are conserved and enhanced.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
NatRes/P5 Waste Domestic and commercial waste reduction, management and recycling initiatives will be supported and promoted, including the reuse of locally distinctive building materials, where they conserve natural resources and enhance landscape character.	S+	N	N	S+	N	S+	N	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. The reuse of locally distinctive building materials is a critical component of this policy and strengthens the approach to conserving local vernacular and character. Limited new sources of traditional building materials are available which increases the importance of effectively re-using what amounts to a finite resource.	None.
NatRes/P6 Energy Initiatives will be supported that reduce energy use, increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable heat and power sources particularly from local wood fuel supply chains, where these initiatives conserve and enhance the special qualities of the South Devon AONB and promote the principal of good environmental stewardship of resources.	X	X	X	N	X	S++	N	S++	S+	N	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Landscape, Biodiversity, historic environment and Implementation effects Performance of this policy could depend on: - the type of energy efficiency measures implemented and their compatibility with traditional buildings. - the ability to sustain landscape scale natural networks when small woodlands and hedgerows are harvested for wood fuel. - impacts on species that utilise mature hedgerows for commuting and/or feeding. - utilising existing roof structures as far as possible before turning to ground mounted solar photo voltaic sites. Potential for positive effects on CO_2, emissions control and air quality, climate change adaptation, energy self sufficiency, woodland quality and coverage, hedgerow management standards.	This is most appropriately dealt with at the delivery level on a cases by case basis. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced. Effects depend on implementation. To minimise or eliminate any negative impacts of this policy, measures should be integrated into the planning and delivery stages of individual projects to require the use of best practice, environmental assessment, checklists etc in developing projects to ensure that likely impacts beyond a single site are effectively considered and planned for. Cumulative effects of initiatives in particular should form part of the considerations. Individual projects may need to be subject to both SEA and Habitats Regulations assessments.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
NatRes/P7 Flooding & erosion Approaches to flood risk management and erosion control which work with natural processes, conserve the natural environment and improve biodiversity will be advocated and supported.	S+	S+	S+	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives. Natural processes are critical to the maintenance of key geomorphological features at the coast.	This is most appropriately dealt with at the delivery level on a cases by case basis. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.

Biodiversity & Geodiversity

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
BioGeo/P1 Designated sites Designated sites of international, national and local importance for biodiversity and geodiversity will be protected ~~from damage,~~ managed effectively to achieve their conservation objectives, and be better linked to the wider habitat network.	S+	S++	S++	S++	N	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
BioGeo/P2 Priority species Priority species (legally protected species, species of principal importance and other significant species for South Devon AONB) will be protected and conserved. Targeted action will be taken to support the recovery of priority species whose conservation is not delivered through wider habitat-based measures.	N	N	S++	N	S+	N	N	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Species conservationmeasures will have additional benefits for material assets including pollinators and drive up standards of water quality, indirectly improving human health.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
BioGeo/P3 Ecological networks The repair, restoration and reconnection of well functioning landscape scale ecological networks will be supported.	S++	S++	S++	X	N	X	N	N	N	N	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Interrelationships Potential conflicts could arise at the project level when corridors are developed as part of a wider habitat network. One land use and its associated benefits is essentially given up in favour of another with different associated benefits. Impacts could in particular be had on: - buried archaeology - landscape character - woodland coverage and associated supporting ecosystem services - food production	This is most appropriately dealt with at the delivery level on a cases by case basis where the principle of net gain should be applied to projects and initiatives. Consideration of changes at a landscape scale should be applied to assess impacts beyond the immediate locations involved. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.
BioGeo/P4 Geodiversity The conservation and enhancement of significant geological and geomorphological features throughout the area will be sought, underpinned by a presumption in favour of sustaining natural processes.	S++	S+	S++	S++	N	N	S+	S+	S+	X	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives. Impacts dependent upon implementation for E9 - A presumption in favour of natural coastal processes can have the potential for negative effects on population demographics, unless strategic and practical adaptation measures are put in place to help communities change the way they approach their lives.	None.
BioGeo/P5 Reconnecting people and wildlife Opportunities will be sought to reconnect the AONB's residents, visitors and workforce with nature, to promote appreciation of the benefits nature provides to us and to inspire positive action and help monitor wildlife populations.	S+	S++	S++	S+	N	S+	N	N	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Positive indirect benefits are assumed for a range of environmental objectives from increasing empathy with the natural environment.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
BioGeo/P6 Positive cumulative impacts Opportunities will be sought to maximise the benefits for wildlife from the positive management of all types of land irrespective of scale.	S+	S++	S++	N	X	S+	S+	S++	S+	N	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Significant positive effects identified for biodiversity habitats and species and water. Effects depend upon implementation resulting from interrelationships between biodiversity and historic environment that could result in negative effects for heritage. However, this policy should be implemented in combination with Hist/P1 and Hist/P8 to ensure neutral to positive effects for historic environment features.	None.
BioGeo/P7 Damage and disturbance Increased recreational pressure will be ~~resisted~~ and managed at locations where unacceptable damage or disturbance to vulnerable habitats and species is likely to arise.	S+	S+	S+	S++	S++	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives. The wording of this policy specifically assists in avoiding likely adverse effects	None.
BioGeo/P8 Invasive non-native species A strategic approach to the control, or eradication where feasible, of invasive non-native species will be taken where they threaten to damage local habitats and species, and where action is practicable. Provision of guidance and advice to landowners with the most damaging invasive non-native species will be central to this approach.	S++	S++	S++	S+	S+	S+	S++	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Historic Environment

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Hist/P1 Cultural and historic environment The identification, protection and active conservation of the AONB's cultural and historic environment will be promoted and supported.	S+	X	X	N	S++	N	N	N	N	N	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Interrelationships Maintenance, repair and restoration of buildings and structures with the potential for impacts on nesting sites, roosting sites, birds, bats, insects, lichens, etc.	This is most appropriately dealt wih at the delivery level on a cases by case basis. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced. Projects and proposals for the active conservation of historic environment assets must assess any likely effects on biodiversity, consider timings of work, options and implement appropriate mitigation measures. This is most appropriately dealt with at the delivery level on a case-by-case basis.
Hist/P2 A heritage asset The South Devon AONB landscape will be regarded as a single unified heritage asset of national importance.	S++	S+	N	N	S++	N	N	N	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	
Hist/P3 Public access Public access will be encouraged to historic sites that are best able to withstand visitor pressure without undue harm to their nature conservation interests and physical features.	N	N	N	N	S++	N	S+	N	S+	N	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Potential for antagonistic effects during implementation, between historic assets and biodiversity. Need to ensure that historic sites where visitors are being directed can also withstand pressure in terms of biodiversity capacity. This can be addressed at a delivery level.	On a case by case basis the promotion of public access to historic assets must consider whether the site's biodiversity has capacity and resilience to accept greater access without harm. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.
Hist/P4 Statutory protection Statutory protection together with appropriate management will be sought for the most important historic monuments and buildings.	S+	N	N	N	S++	S+	N	N	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Hist/P5 Technical resources The use of Historic Landscape and Seascape Characterisation, the Historic Environment Record, Tithe Maps and other tools and information resources will be promoted in order to inform projects, policies and activities.	S++	N	N	N	S++	S+	N	N	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Hist/P6 Coastal heritage The conservation of coastal heritage assets shall be integrated into adaptation plans and realignment measures in recognition of their contribution to coastal landscape character.	S++	N	N	N	S++	S+	N	N	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Coastal heritage sites making an important contribution to the cultural heritage of the area will be safeguarded along with their contribution to landscape character and scenic quality.	None.
Hist/P7 Land management The protection and enhancement of historic environment assets shall be integrated into other land management initiatives in the AONB in recognition of their contribution to landscape character.	S++	S+	S+	S+	S++	S+	N	N	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives. The policy clearly and proactively addresses possible conflicts with other landscape, biodiversity and natural resources policies.	This is most appropriately dealt with at the initiative delivery level on a cases by case basis. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 duty of regard should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.

Farming & Land Management

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
LanMan/P1 Critical to the AONB's future A profitable, sustainable and environmentally beneficial farming and land management sector providing high quality food, fuel, timber and benefits to people and wildlife will be fostered as one of the principal means of maintaining the special qualities and distinctive landscape of the AONB.	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
LanMan/P2 Farming with nature Support will be sought for farmers and land managers who sustain land of exceptional landscape and nature conservation interest, in recognition of the additional costs incurred in operating these farming systems.	S++	S++	S++	S+	S+	S++	S+	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives. The policy recognises the importance of maintaining farming systems beneficial for a range fo SEA objectives.	None.
LanMan/P3 Hedgebanks, trees, woodlands and orchards The retention and sensitive management of Devon hedges, trees and woodlands and orchards will be promoted. The planting of new orchards, woodland, hedgerow trees and specimen trees will be encouraged, subject to existing biodiversity interests and the careful selection of sites and species to reflect and strengthen local landscape character.	S++	S++	S++	N	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
LanMan/P4 Veteran and heritage trees Ancient woodland, veteran trees, ancient trees outside woods and heritage trees, which are all significant and irreplaceable landscape features in the AONB, will be protected, sensitively managed, conserved and enhanced.	S++	S++	S++	N	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
LanMan/P5 Environmental land management High quality environmental land management, including agri-environment schemes, will be promoted to help conserve and enhance the special qualities and distinctive agricultural landscape of the AONB~~, whilst supporting farmers and landowners.~~	S++	S++	S+	N	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
LanMan/P6 Communities, farming and our environment Wider community engagement with the farming and land management sector will enable a deeper understanding of the important role played by land managers in maintaining the AONB's special qualities, and providing the food, produce and natural environment services we all rely on.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
LanMan/P7 Evolving farms The evolution of farm types, modernisation activities, diversification enterprises and added value operations that conserve and enhance the South Devon AONB's special qualities will be supported.	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	S++	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	This is most appropriately dealt wih at the delivery level on a cases by case basis. The purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 duty of regard should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.
LanMan/P8 Land management support Co-ordinated advice and collaboration on environment focused land management will be delivered to support land managers to maintain productive and environmentally sustainable landscapes that deliver on local priorities and contribute to national themes.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Coast and Marine Environment

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Mar/P1 Coastal character The tranquil and undeveloped character of the coast will be protected. Opportunities will be sought for improvements in the condition of degraded sites.	S+	S+	S+	S++	S+	N	N	N	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Mar/P2 Coast and marine management The effective integration of AONB management with the management of the adjoining marine environment will be sought to ensure that the development and delivery of Marine Plans for the South and Southwest areas and Coastal Change Management Areas and access to the coastal margin under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, have regard for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, special qualities and key features of the AONB.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Mar/P3 High quality marine environment T~~he~~ special qualities associated with the Marine Protected Areas network and the South Devon Heritage Coast will be reflected and promoted throughout AONB literature, campaigns, awareness and communication programmes.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. The policy recognises the interrelationships that exist within the coastal zone and indirectly supports many of the SEA objectives, particularly premised on behavioural change stemming from increasing people's nature connection and empathy with the natural environment.	None.
Mar/P4 Coast protection The South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan along with Coastal Change Management Areas provide a policy framework for the area and covers the next 100 years. For areas identified as requiring no active intervention, there will be a presumption that natural coastal processes will be allowed to act. For other policy areas requiring intervention and wherever practicable, soft engineering solutions that work with natural physical processes will be preferred together with the realignment of coastal infrastructure to more suitable locations where there is space to accommodate it.	S+	S+	S+	S++	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Mar/P5 Recreational pressure Information, education and awareness campaigns will be used as the principal tools in managing recreational pressures and conflicts at the coast. Where demonstrable problems and safety issues remain, relevant organisations will carefully consider the most appropriate steps to be taken in order to address the situation.	N	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. A range of interventions including: best practice guides on approaching and watching marine mammals, training for day tripper boat crews, access to information and resources, an environmental charter for water based activity providers, environmental information and key environmental messages incorporated within harbour guides, all serve to highlight the importance of the coast and marine environment and positively reinforce considerate behaviour .	None.
Mar/P6 Protective public ownership The acquisition of undeveloped coastline for protective public ownership will be supported. The management of newly acquired sites will be supported where this accords with the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, special qualities and key features of the South Devon AONB.	S++	S+	S+	S+	S++	S++	S+	S+	S+	N	S++	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives. Interrelationships Protective public ownership can greatly assist in increasing opportunities for access and quiet enjoyment, maintaining historic environment features, conserving habitats and species.	None.

Rivers and Estuaries

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Est/P1 Estuary character A thriving maritime economy contained within the existing developed harbour areas will be promoted, complimented by high quality boating facilities and infrastructure. The more remote parts of the estuaries will be managed for their tranquil and unspoiled character and safeguarded from moorings spread and development.	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Est/P2 Foreshore management A presumption against any further loss in extent or quality of foreshore, seanbed or habitat will be supported.	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	
Est/P3 Coordination and management The effective coordination and management of the rivers and estuaries will be developed through the AONB Estuaries Partnership, community forums, and the Catchment Based Approach.	S+	S+	S+	N	N	S+	N	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Est/P4 Maritime services Boat maintenance, repair and storage facilities will be retained within harbour areas and the loss of essential shore-side infrastructure by conversion to other uses will be resisted.	S++	N	N	N	N	N	N	S++	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Water quality, Cultural heritage Concentrating boat maintenance facilities improves the potential for effectively managing and recovering antifoulants from boat washing and scrubbing facilities and containing other potential pollutants in the form of waste, fuel, lubricants etc. Repair and building facilities make a significant contribution to the maritime heritage of the area's harbour settlements.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Est/P5 Mariculture Sustainable mariculture enterprises will be retained and encouraged in appropriate locations where they are consistent with environmental designations, both as a traditional feature of the AONB economy and as a "driver" for further improvements to water quality.	N	S+	S+	N	S+	N	S+	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. **Water quality, Cultural heritage, Biodiversity** Measures to improve water quality for estuaries involve improvements to soil management within catchments to reduce sediment levels. In turn this has a cumulative long term positive effect on protecting soil quality and benefits biodiversity including Atlantic salmon and European eel. Maintaining a traditional use of estuaries is positive for cultural heritage. Indirect positive long term impacts on health from increases in local water quality, especially important where there are no designated Bathing Waters, but there is recreational use for bathing or other water based activities.	None.
Est/P6 Climate change The adaptation of habitats and species to climate change and sea level rise will be promoted through sustaining natural processes and/or the delivery of natural flood management to help futureproof the existing levels of flood protection against the increasing risks from climate change.	S+	S++	S++	N	S+	S+	N	N	S+	N	S+	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives, with positive effects for biodiversity habitats and species in particular.	None.
Est/P7 Environmental management Harbour Authorities will be supported in maintaining effective arrangements for managing moorings, navigation, dredging and waste, underpinned with good environmental practices which ensure the conservation and enhancement of the South Devon AONB's special qualities.	S+	S++	S++	N	N	S+	N	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Est/P8 Fisheries management Projects and initiatives that provide effective conservation of fish stocks and improved fish access in rivers and estuaries will be supported.	N	S++	S++	N	N	S+	S+	S++	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	The policy could be broadened to cover river corridor habitats and recognise those parts of certain fish life-cycles that utilise waterbodies and features both inside and outside of the AONB.

Tourism Access, & Recreation

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Acc/P1 Sustainable Tourism A sustainable, year-round tourism industry which benefits from and contributes to the environmental quality of the area will be supported. The loss of accommodation and facilities for visitors and recreational users will be resisted. Activities and initiatives to extend the main tourism season and to assist in promoting the area to overseas visitors will be supported.	S+	X	X	N	N	X	X	N	S+	N	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Material assets In extending the main tourism season, the potential for damage to path surfaces and infrastructure is significantly increased during autumn and winter when higher rainfall is experienced, vegetation growth is retarded, and soils are frequently waterlogged. Habitats and Species Away from path surfaces, the severity of damage from footfall to vulnerable habitat is increased during autumn and winter. Human disturbance particularly during feeding can be a factor for some species during cold weather when energy reserves are low.	Mass participation events that concentrate large numbers of people in specific locations need careful planning, mitigation and post event reinstatement works to ensure that the fabric of the area is not adversely affected. The purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.
Acc/P2 Recreation, leisure and sports The quiet enjoyment of the South Devon AONB by the public will be promoted through recreation, leisure activities and sports that respect other users and the area's natural beauty, special qualities and land management.	N	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Acc/P3 Rights of Way A well-connected network of paths and strategic recreational routes will be sensitively maintained and promoted. Opportunities will be sought to extend them and improve linkages where this is compatible with conserving and enhancing natural beauty.	S+	S+	S+	N	N	S+	N	N	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Acc/P4 Naturally healthy Opportunities to use the natural environment resource of the South Devon AONB to benefit the health and well-being of residents and visitors will be sought and promoted, particularly where this coincides with opportunities to enhance the area's special qualities.	S+	X	X	X	N	N	N	N	S++	N	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Effects depend on implementation Dependent upon locations, timings and numbers, the potential exists for conflict with biodiversity and geodiversity interests.	This is most appropriately dealt wih at the delivery level on a cases by case basis. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced. Careful planning of activities is required with advanced consideration of biodiversity and geodiversity interests.
Acc/P5 Intrusive recreational activities In remote and tranquil countryside areas, noisy or intrusive recreational activities will be discouraged. The conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the protection of vulnerable wildlife will be given priority in the promotion of access and recreation.	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	N	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Acc/P6 Access to beaches and the coastal corridor Under the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 a new England Coast path and open access to a defined coastal margin will be created whilst maintaining levels of tranquillity and safeguarding sensitive sites, habitats and species.	S+	S+	S+	X	X	N	N	N	S++	N	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Geodiversity and historic environment The policy specifically seeks to avoid disturbance and to safeguard sensitive wildlife sites. Geodiversity and historic environment features Effects depend on implementation Though much of the coastal corridor of the South Devon AONB is currently accessible, some of the more remote parts of the AONB coast remain difficult to access and are consequently highly tranquil. There is a risk of adversely affecting tranquillity levels for these areas.	Careful balancing of increased access versus protection of tranquillity levels is required for some locations on a case by case basis. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced. Geodiversity and historic environment features could also be incorporated within the policy wording.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Acc/P7 Popular sites The provision of sustainable visitor facilities, recreational infrastructure and information will be provided at the most heavily used destinations. Management resources, promotion and marketing will be concentrated on the more popular and developed sites which are best able to accommodate and contain intensive recreational pressure.	X	X	X	X	N	S+	N	N	N	N	X	Effects depend on implementation Many of the geodiversity features of greatest interest are concentrated along the coast. Geomorphological features in particular often coincide with some of the most heavily used destinations.	This is most appropriately dealt with at the delivery level on a cases by case basis. The purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.
Acc/P8 Information Co-ordinated information and interpretation about countryside, coastal, marine and estuarine recreation and access will be promoted through a range of media, to help foster greater understanding, appropriate expectations and considerate behaviour. Car parks and principal access points such as slipways will be used as locations wherever possible to minimise signage proliferation.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	N	N	S+	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Planning & Sustainable Development

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Plan/P1 Plan-making Planning policies will give great weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Devon AONB, while supporting limited development that is appropriate to its setting, is in keeping with its character, and meets the economic and social needs of local communities.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	S+	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Planning policies that benefit the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty support the achievement of a broad range of SEA objectives.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Plan/P2 Decision-taking Development management decisions give great weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB; and support development that is appropriate and proportionate to its setting within or adjacent to the South Devon AONB by seeking to avoid, minimise or as a last resort compensate, for harm to the special qualities and distinctive characteristics of the AONB.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	S+	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. However, the outcomes depends upon implementation of this policy and proper application of the AONB duty by the relevant local planing authorities.	None.
Plan/P3 Developer contributions Where new developments are likely to result in residual harm to the natural beauty of the AONB, developers will be expected to provide compensation which will be used to enhance landscape features which are in poor condition and contribute to AONB management. If increased recreational pressures are likely developers will be expected to contribute to improving carrying capacity of green and blue infrastructure in the surrounding area.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	N	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Strategic, well planned green and blue infrastructure has the potential to deliver multiple benefits for the area and its inhabitants. Consideration needs to be given to interrelationships between the objectives when delivering compensation projects.	None.
Plan/P4 Planning protocols Local Planning Authorities will consult the South Devon AONB Unit on planning policy and significant planning applications following the agreed planning protocols, and use the South Devon AONB Management Plan as a material consideration to inform plan-making and decision-taking.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	S+	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. The planning protocol and use of the AONB Management Plan will assist in guiding decisions and responses that support the achievement of a broad range of SEA objectives.	None.
Plan/P5 Representations On behalf of the AONB Partnership, the AONB Staff Unit will provide representations to a wide range of plan makers to ensure that due regard is had to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Devon AONB in the development of policy and strategy.	X	X	X	X	X	X	N	N	N	N	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Effects depend on implementation. As the policy's effect depends upon the interpretation and use of AONB representations by third parties, and in turn the subsequent interpretation and use of local plan policies, this AONB Management Plan policy is fairly remote from direct impacts and consequently difficult to ascribe likely effects to.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Plan/P6 Consultees Natural England will continue to be the principal statutory consultee on all planning and sustainable development matters affecting Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The South Devon AONB Unit will provide a local perspective on the sensitivity to change in specific locations of the South Devon AONB's natural beauty and special qualities.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	S+	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. In combination, this national and local level response to planning matters provides balanced support for the achievement of a broad range of SEA objectives.	None.
Plan/P7 Providing advice Advice on development proposals will increasingly be provided through standing advice, position statements and supporting documents including the South Devon AONB Planning Guidance (Annex 1).	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	S+	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Standing advice should provide for a greater level of tailored detail and supplementary material in support of AONB and local plan policies. Taken on their own, policies Plan/P1 to Plan/P5 need this level of material to effectively underpin the policy set for this topic section.	Delivery of this Annex to the AONB Management Plan is critical to the effective achievement of SEA Objectives. Subject to scope, the Annex itself is likely to require Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment and following good practice Sustainability Appraisal too.

Transport & Highways

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Trans/P1 Highway management Highway network maintenance and improvement will be undertaken in a manner which is sensitive and appropriate to the rural character of the AONB and compatible with its specail qualities.	S++	N	N	N	N	S+	N	N	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	
Trans/P2 Features of the road network The landscape, biodiversity and structure of the AONB's road network will be protected and conserved.	S+	S+	S++	S++	S++	N	N	N	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	The policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of 'enhanced' to better reflect the section 85 duty.
Trans/P3 Parking Vehicle pressures will generally be contained within existing locations and the construction of significant additional car parking capacity at remote coastal sites will be resisted. Landscape improvements will be sought for existing carparks which are visually intrusive or in poor condition.	S+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Trans/P4 Green Lanes The lawful and responsible use of unmetalled roads by pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders and carriage drivers will be promoted.	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Trans/P5 Large vehicles Traffic management measures will be supported which reduce the pressure of large and heavy vehicles on the minor road network.	N	S+	S+	N	N	S+	N	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Rural Economy & Services

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Econ/P1 Rural economy The growth of the area's economy will be supported where sustainable economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other. Employment sectors having a traditional association with the AONB and which conserve or enhance the AONB's special qualities will be promoted and supported. Natural capital accounting will be used to assess and monitor progress toward conserving and enhancing the area at a landscape scale and achieving a net gain for biodiversity.	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	N	N	N	N	S+	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Econ/P2 Supply chains Improvements will be sought to the processing and supply chains of products which are sustainably harvested from the land and waters of the AONB; developing nearby markets, revitalising rural incomes and supporting the land management sector. Sustainable initiatives will be encouraged that result in residents, retailers and visitors purchasing locally sourced, high quality food, wood fuel, materials and produce.	N	N	N	N	N	S+	N	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Econ/P3 Rural business Sustainable rural business and farm diversification initiatives will be supported where these maintain or enhance the special qualities or distinctive landscape character of the AONB and contribute to employment and prosperity.	S++	S+	S+	N	S+	N	N	N	N	S+	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. Positive: Contributing to employment and local prosperity should have positive impacts locally. Indirect positive impacts, particularly for habitats which help to define landscape character, such as Devon banks and woodland copses. Maintenance of historic farm buildings as part of holdings can maintain architectural heritage and should be done to strengthen vernacular style. Diversification activities which would be detrimental to landscape character would not be supported. Interrelationships: Potential for antagonistic effects arising from conflicts between maintenance of biodiversity and archaeological features that should be resolved on a site by site, and even feature by feature, basis.	None.
Econ/P4 Environmental performance High standards of environmental performance by local companies, and the development and use of "clean" technologies which create prosperity and employment with positive impacts on the local environment, will be promoted.	N	N	N	N	N	N	S+	S++	S+	S+	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Econ/P5 Local services The retention and improvement of viable, accessible, essential local services such as shops, post offices and pubs will be sought, together with associated community infrastructure in market towns and villages. The loss of business premises and local services by conversion to other uses will be resisted. Effective use will be made of the Community Asset Register under the Localism Act 2011 to secure the future of valued community facilities.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S+	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Econ/P6 Capacity and skills Economic capacity and skills in the area will be supported through training opportunities, community enterprise, business networking and cooperation especially where these assist businesses to contribute to AONB purposes.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S+	S+	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. This policy recognises the additional duties placed on AONBs through government policy to take account of the economic needs of local communities.	None.

Community & Culture

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Comm/P1 Special Qualities Initiatives that engage local communities in understanding, exploring, celebrating, conserving and enhancing the special qualities and distinctive characteristics of the AONB will be promoted and developed.	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	S++	S+	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Comm/P2 Sustainable lifestyles Community-based initiatives that promote sustainable lifestyles will be supported and promoted where they are compatible with the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy strongly supports the SEA Objectives.	None.
Comm/P3 Resilience Communities will be supported in creating vibrant, healthy and resilient communities enjoying a high quality of life with good access to facilities.	X	X	X	X	X	S+	N	S+	S+	S+	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA objectives. Effects depend on implementation The degree to which single issue community responses consider broader implications and effects may impact positively or negatively on a range of SEA objectives. The policy is based around the provision of support and advice - as such it is assumed that an integrated approach will be taken covering most SEA objectives, with the purpose of AONB designation at the core.	The s85 CROW Act 2000 duty of regard must be applied to decision-taking and outcomes evidenced. This should include an assessment of the likelihood and degree of harm (adverse impacts) on the AONB with regard to its purpose of designation and with reference to its special qualities and the results of the assessment should guide action following the mitigation hierarchy.
Comm/P4 Cultural traditions Activities which reinforce the cultural traditions of the AONB will be supported and fostered, especially where these strengthen the link between people and landscape.	N	N	N	N	S+	N	N	N	S+	S+	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Comm/P5 Community planning The AONB Partnership will support and promote neighbourhood planning, community and voluntary action to conserve and enhance the AONB.	X	X	X	X	X	S+	N	S+	S+	S+	X	Overall, the policy supports the SEA objectives. But the on the ground environmental effects are heavily dependent on implementation. The degree to which community responses consider broader implications and effects may impact positively or negatively on a range of SEA objectives, depending on whether they act on the advice given. The policy is based around the provision of support and advice - as such it is assumed that an integrated, balanced approach will be taken covering SEA objectives, with the purpose of AONB designation at the core.	None.
Comm/P6 Community participation Local community participation will be encouraged in the research, recording, celebration, promotion, care and conservation of natural history and historic features.	S+	S++	S++	N	S++	S+	N	N	S+	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the SEA Objectives. A positive policy expanded to include positive supporting action.	None.

Communication, Education & Awareness

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Aware/P1 AONB awareness Inspire an awareness and understanding of the South Devon AONB and its special qualities amongst residents, businesses, organisations and visitors in and around the AONB.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S++	N	S+	Overall, the policy supports the SEA objectives.	None.
Aware/P2 Ecosystem services An improved understanding of all the benefits the AONB provides for us will be at the core of communication activity, seeking to foster decisions and actions that value the services that our natural environment provides	S++	S++	S++	S++	N	S++	S+	S++	S+	N	S+	Overall, this policy strongly supports the SEA objectives. Effects are indirect, but positive for SEA objectives and premised on stemming from increased empathy with the natural environment.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Aware/P3 Goods and services Local communities and visitors will be encouraged to make consumer choices to support local, high quality products and services that sustain the area's special qualities, landscape and the people who manage it and make a living from it.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	Overall, this policy supports the SEA objectives.	None.
Aware/P4 Caring for our AONB Initiatives to inspire behaviour change and increase in positive action for the natural beauty of the AONB will be supported and promoted.	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S+	N	S+	S+	N	N	Overall, this policy supports the SEA objectives. Significant positive for SEA objectives that directly underpin natural beauty. Behaviour change towards caring for the environment has been shown by research to increase happiness, therefore there are likely to be significant for human health though increased feelings of wellbeing.	None.
Aware/P5 Involving everyone Organisations, groups and communities will be encouraged and supported in playing an active role in conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the AONB.	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	N	S+	S++	N	S+	Overall, this policy strongly supports the SEA objectives. Active conservation and enhancement of the Special Qualities of the AONB comprehensively benefits SEA objectives.	None.
Aware/P6 Lifelong learning People of all ages will be encouraged to investigate, record and celebrate their local places, and enjoy considerate and informed experiences of wildlife and the natural environment.	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	N	S+	S+	Overall, this policy supports the SEA objectives. Effects are indirect, but positive for SEA objectives and premised on stemming from increased empathy with the natural environment.	None.

Management, Organisation and Partnerships

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Part/P1 Legal duty of regard Relevant authorities will have regard for the purpose of AONB designation in the conduct of their functions and decision making, as required by Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	N	N	N	Overall, this policy strongly supports the SEA objectives.	None.
Part/P2 Management Plan implementation The AONB Partnership, through its member organisations and the AONB Staff Unit, will seek to achieve its vision for the AONB by implementing the Delivery Plan.	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	N	N	S+	Overall, this policy strongly supports the SEA objectives.	None.
Part/P3 AONB Partnership arrangements Defra and the relevant local authorities will maintain effective partnership arrangements including a dedicated locally based South Devon AONB Staff Unit.	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	S++	N	N	S++	Overall, this policy strongly supports the SEA objectives. Significant Positive: maintaining effective management arrangements locally is likely to lead to cumulative and long-term positive environmental impacts across the majority of SEA objectives. In particular, through the provision of a co-ordinated strategic lead provided by an AONB Unit based in South Devon with intimate local knowledge of the AONB, which is unlikely to be achievable from a more remote location.	None.
Part/P4 Management initiatives The AONB Partnership will direct management initiatives inside the AONB and in those adjoining hinterland and marine areas outside the boundary which have an important bearing on the AONB.	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	S+	Overall, this policy strongly supports the SEA objectives.	None.
Part/P5 Partnerships The AONB Partnership will foster constructive links with partnerships and strategic initiatives at local, county, regional, national and international level.	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	S+	Overall, this policy supports the SEA objectives.	None.

Final Policies	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	Summary of environmental effects	Mitigation & enhancement measures
Part/P6 National Association for AONBs The AONB Partnership will work closely with other protected landscapes and actively support the National Association for AONBs.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	S+	Overall, this policy strongly supports the SEA objectives. Positive: Working with other protected landscapes is likely to bring added value to the work of the South Devon AONB Unit with positive benefits across the range of SEA Objectives.	None.
Part/P7 AONB boundary The AONB Partnership will keep the boundary of the AONB under review to ensure that the designation remains appropriate and fit for purpose in South Devon.	S++	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	N	N	N	S+	Overall, this policy supports the SEA objectives. Periodic reviews of the AONB boundary will assist in highlighting issues relevant to achieving each of the SEA objectives. This is premised on the AONB designation itself having an effect on land and water both within and in close proximity to the AONB boundary.	It is worth noting that any boundary review would have to be formally initiated by Natural England or Defra. The AONB Partnership and Staff Unit do not have the legal power instigate a review or to change the boundary.

Appendix 3 SA Findings

The following 5 tables show the full results for all SA Objectives. This includes all the Management Plan policies, unchanged, modified and new policies. The appraisal uses the framework set out below in table 12.

Table 11 Key to assessment matrix

S++	Strongly supports the SEA objective
S+	Supports the SEA objective
N	Is neutral in effect
C- (C = conflicts)	Potentially works against the SEA objective
C- -	Strongly works against the SEA objective
X	Effects uncertain (more information is required to ascertain effects, or impact depends on implementation)

Polices with titles their in red are the ones which have been modified by the review process since the last Management Plan 2014-2019 iteration.

Landscape Character

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Lan/P1 Character The special qualities, distinctive character and key features of the South Devon AONB landscape and seascape will be conserved and enhanced.	X	S++	S++	S+	S+	The provision of affordable housing could be constrained by conserving and enhancing AONB special qualities, distinctive character and key features, but this is considered to be outweighed by associated benefits including the increased requirement for high quality design and overall positive effects on the quality of life of AONB communities, particularly associated with a high quality environment.	None.
Lan/P2 Technical assessments The use of Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments and Historic Landscape and Seascape Characterisation will be advocated so that land use planning and marine planning and management decisions respect, maintain and where possible enhance the special qualities of the South Devon AONB.	N	S++	S++	S+	S+	The high quality of the natural environment underpins a significant proportion of local businesses. Technical assessments can be used to guide the location of economic development that respects and strengthens local character.	None.
Lan/P3 Landscape condition Opportunities will be sought to strengthen landscape character by improving the condition of existing landscape features in poor condition and reinstating landscape features identified as missing or fragmented.	S+	S++	S++	S+	N	Planning gain through offsetting, community infrastructure levy contributions etc has the potential to assist with the delivery of sustainability objectives. Other targeted interventions resourced with capital and revenue funds have the potential to assist with a range of sustainability objectives.	None.
Lan/P4 Tranquillity The tranquillity, natural nightscapes and dark skies of the AONB will be enhanced and maintained in a consistent, cross-boundary evidence-based approach.	N	S++	N	X	S+	Maintaining or increasing levels of tranquillity is likely to restrict the range of economic development activity which in turn constrains the number of enterprises able to support social and environmental objectives. However The existing local economy is heavily reliant on a high quality environment and this policy in combination with others, strongly supports growth of this green economy.	None.

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Lan/P5 Skylines & views The character of skylines and open views into, within and out of the South Devon AONB will be protected. Suitable alternatives to infrastructure responsible for visual intrusion will be sought together with improvements to reduce the visual impact of unsightly past development.	N	S++	N	X	X	On balance this policy supports the sustainability objectives. This policy may constrain infrastructure associated with some forms of economic development which in turn are likely to limit the number of enterprises able to support social and environmental objectives. This policy's reach may significantly limit the locations and extent of some forms of renewable energy infrastructure, particularly wind and solar installations. However, Other aspects of this policy benefit energy reduction measures and reduced land take and safeguard the quality and character of settlements and community quality of life.	This is most appropriately dealt with at the delivery level on a cases by case basis. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. Where appropriate, the s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.
Lan/P6 Seascape The open undeveloped seascape seen from the coast forms a defining setting for the South Devon AONB: the long uninterrupted views, wild character and natural horizons will be protected and sustained.	N	S++	S+	S++	N	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives. A focus on the undeveloped coast and seascape means that this policy does not affect the flood risk of people and buildings. The undeveloped focus would ensure that new development is located away from areas at risk of flooding from the sea. The undeveloped coast is arguable one of the greatest assets to local businesses, particularly the tourism sector which accounts for 25% of employment in the AONB.	None.
Lan/P7 Setting to the AONB The deeply rural character of much of the land adjoining the AONB boundary forms an essential setting for the AONB and care will be taken to maintain its quality and character.	N	S++	S+	S+	N	Much of the rural area forming the setting to the AONB is located upstream of the AONB boundary within the main river catchments. Maintenance of the rural character to this area will ensure land continues to absorb and slow the surface progress of rainwater.	None.

Natural Resources and Climate

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
NatRes/P1 Natural Capital A landscape scale natural capital approach will be taken where practicable to sustainably use and manage natural resources in the AONB.	N	S+	S+	S+	S++	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
NatRes/P2 Water quality The highest standards of water quality will be secured throughout the South Devon AONB. The effective integration of land, freshwater and estuary management will be sought at a river catchment scale, to address sustainable soil, waste and nutrient management, point source and diffuse pollution, and the abstraction, supply and use of water.	S+	S+	S++	S+	S++	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives	None.
NatRes/P3 Pollution response Effective contingency planning will be maintained to guide emergency responses to pollution incidents affecting land, sea and air.	S+	S+	N	S+	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives. Safety measures to protect communities and safeguard the quality of the environment are provided through implementation of this policy.	None.
NatRes/P4 Climate change Communities will be assisted in developing resilience and adapting to climate change whilst working with physical processes to ensure that the special qualities of the South Devon AONB are conserved and enhanced.	S+	S+	S++	S+	S+	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives	None.
NatRes/P5 Waste Domestic and commercial waste reduction, management and recycling initiatives will be supported and promoted, including the reuse of locally distinctive building materials, where they conserve natural resources and enhance landscape character.	N	S+	N	S+	S++	The policy supports the sustainability objectives and strongly supports minimising the consumption of natural resources.	None.
NatRes/P6 Energy Initiatives will be supported that reduce energy use,-increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable heat and power sources particularly from local wood fuel supply chains, where these initiatives conserve and enhance the special qualities of the South Devon AONB and promote the principal of good environmental stewardship of resources.	S+	S+	N	S++	S++	The policy supports the sustainability objectives and stringly supports minimising the consumption of natural resources, particularly fossil fuels and land take.	None.
NatRes/P7 Flooding & erosion Approaches to flood risk management and erosion control which work with natural processes, conserve the natural environment and improve biodiversity will be advocated and supported.	S+	S+	S++	S+	S+	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives	None.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
BioGeo/P1 Designated sites Designated sites of international, national and local importance for biodiversity and geodiversity will be protected ~~from damage,~~ managed effectively to achieve their conservation objectives, and be better linked to the wider habitat network.	S+	S++	N	S+	s+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
BioGeo/P2 Priority species Priority species (legally protected species, species of principal importance and other significant species for South Devon AONB) will be protected and conserved. Targeted action will be taken to support the recovery of priority species whose conservation is not delivered through wider habitat-based measures.	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
BioGeo/P3 Ecological networks The repair, restoration and reconnection of well functioning landscape scale ecological networks will be supported.	S+	S++	S+	S++	N	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives	None.
BioGeo/P4 Geodiversity The conservation and enhancement of significant geological and geomorphological features throughout the area will be sought, underpinned by a presumption in favour of sustaining natural processes.	N	S+	S++	N	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives. The policy provides a mechanism to pursue appropriate controls over quarrying, shingle dredging. Natural flood protection is provided by some coastal geomorphological features including shingle barrier beaches that assist in dissipating wave energy. Geological and geomorphological features make a significant contribution to settlement character, including featuring strongly in the local building vernacular of historic properties.	None.
BioGeo/P5 Reconnecting people and wildlife Opportunities will be sought to reconnect the AONB's residents, visitors and workforce with nature, to promote appreciation of the benefits nature provides to us and to inspire positive action and help monitor wildlife populations.	S+	S+	S+	N	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives. Access to and use of greenspace / bluespace has been proven as critical to quality of life, well-being and settlement character. Nature therefore forms an important part of a cohesive and vibrant community. Natural environment features can contribute toward lowering flood risk. Behavioural change brought about by an increased awareness of human impacts on the environment and a shift in the value ascribed to the benefits the natural environment provides can help conserve natural resources.	None.
BioGeo/P6 Positive cumulative impacts Opportunities will be sought to maximise the benefits for wildlife from the positive management of all types of land irrespective of scale.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
BioGeo/P7 Damage and disturbance Increased recreational pressure will be ~~resisted~~ and managed at locations where unacceptable damage or disturbance to vulnerable habitats and species is likely to arise.	X	S+	N	X	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives. Effect dependent upon implmentation occur for S1 and S4. For S4 effects	None.
BioGeo/P8 Invasive non-native species A strategic approach to the control, or eradication where feasible, of invasive non-native species will be taken where they threaten to damage local habitats and species, and where action is practicable. Provision of guidance and advice to landowners with the most damaging invasive non-native species will be central to this approach.	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives. Advice provision increases public knowledge of problem plants, their identification and effective control measures. In particular: knotweeds can cause damage to property and/or lower property value; and Himalyan balsam can exacerbate soil loss along watercourses and increase water flow rates leading to flooding. The prevention and control of invasive species assist with maintaining environmental quality and character. The policy promotes environmental responsibility and limits the potential for transferring environmental harm to others.	None.

Historic Environment

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Hist/P1 Cultural and historic environment The identification, protection and active conservation of the AONB's cultural and historic environment will be promoted and supported.	S+	S++	N	N	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives. Vernacular buildings make a significant contribution to community vibrancy.	None.
Hist/P2 A heritage asset The South Devon AONB landscape will be regarded as a single unified heritage asset of national importance.	N	S++	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports or is neutral on the sustainability objectives. The historic environment makes a significant contribution to the quality and character of individual settlements and their settings.	None.
Hist/P3 Public access Public access will be encouraged to historic sites that are best able to withstand visitor pressure without undue harm to their nature conservation interests and physical features.	N	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports or is neutral on the sustainability objectives.	None.
Hist/P4 Statutory protection Statutory protection together with appropriate management will be sought for the most important historic monuments and buildings.	N	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports or is neutral on the sustainability objectives.	None.
Hist/P5 Technical resources The use of Historic Landscape and Seascape Characterisation, the Historic Environment Record, Tithe Maps and other tools and information resources will be promoted in order to inform projects, policies and activities.	N	S++	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports or is neutral on the sustainability objectives.	None.
Hist/P6 Coastal heritage The conservation of coastal heritage assets shall be integrated into adaptation plans and realignment measures in recognition of their contribution to coastal landscape character.	N	S+	S++	N	S+	Significant positive sustainabilyt effects are predicted for protect the environment, people and properties from flood risk. The policy supports the other sustainability objectives and is neutral for consumption of natural resources as the poicy does not relate to this matter.	None.
Hist/P7 Land management The protection and enhancement of historic environment assets shall be integrated into other land management initiatives in the AONB in recognition of their contribution to landscape character.	N	S+	N	S+	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.

Farming and Land Management

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
LanMan/P1 Critical to the AONB's future A profitable, sustainable and environmentally beneficial farming and land management sector providing high quality food, fuel, timber and benefits to people and wildlife will be fostered as one of the principal means of maintaining the special qualities and distinctive landscape of the AONB.	S+	S+	X	S++	X	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives. Effects depend on implementation Land use and rotational cropping choices could be beneficial in slowing surface water run-off. The degree of sustainability objective support is reliant on individual landowner choices. Some methods of arable cropping can require a greater number of operations and therefore quantity of fuel for vehicle use to prepare ground, seed/plant, tend and harvest. The degree of sustainability objective support is reliant on the farming system employed and choice of organic versus non-organic.	This is most appropriately dealt with at the delivery level on a cases by case basis. The purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. Where appropriate the s85 CROW Act 2000 duty of regard should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.
LanMan/P2 Farming with nature Support will be sought for farmers and land managers who sustain land of exceptional landscape and nature conservation interest, in recognition of the additional costs incurred in operating these farming systems.	S+	S++	S+	S++	S+	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives	None.
LanMan/P3 Hedgebanks, trees, woodlands and orchards The retention and sensitive management of Devon hedges, trees and woodlands and orchards will be promoted. The planting of new orchards, woodland, hedgerow trees and specimen trees will be encouraged, subject to existing biodiversity interests and the careful selection of sites and species to reflect and strengthen local landscape character.	S+	S++	S+	N	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
LanMan/P4 Veteran and heritage trees Ancient woodland, veteran trees, ancient trees outside woods and heritage trees, which are all significant and irreplaceable landscape features in the AONB, will be protected, sensitively managed, conserved and enhanced.	S+	S++	N	N	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
LanMan/P5 Environmental land management High quality environmental land management, including agri-environment schemes, will be promoted to help conserve and enhance the special qualities and distinctive agricultural landscape of the AONB, whilst supporting farmers and landowners.	N	S++	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
LanMan/P6 Communities, farming and our environment Wider community engagement with the farming and land management sector will enable a deeper understanding of the important role played by land managers in maintaining the AONB's special qualities, and providing the food, produce and natural environment services we all rely on.	N	S+	N	S++	N		None.
LanMan/P7 Evolving farms The evolution of farm types, modernisation activities, diversification enterprises and added value operations that conserve and enhance the South Devon AONB's special qualities will be supported.	N	S+	N	S+	X	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives. Some diversification avtivities may require additional land-take and/or water.	This is most appropriately dealt with at the delivery level on a cases by case basis. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. Where it is relevant, the s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.

Coast and Marine Environment

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Mar/P1 Coastal character The tranquil and undeveloped character of the coast will be protected. Opportunities will be sought for improvements in the condition of degraded sites.	N	S++	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Mar/P2 Coast and marine management The effective integration of AONB management with the management of the adjoining marine environment will be sought to ensure that the development and delivery of Marine Plans for the South and Southwest areas and Coastal Change Management Areas and access to the coastal margin under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, have regard for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, special qualities and key features of the AONB.	N	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.

Mar/P3 High quality marine environment The special qualities associated with the Marine Protected Areas network and the South Devon Heritage Coast will be reflected and promoted throughout AONB literature, campaigns, awareness and communication programmes.	S+	S++	N	S+	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Mar/P4 Coast protection The South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan along with Coastal Change Management Areas provide a policy framework for the area and covers the next 100 years. For areas identified as requiring no active intervention, there will be a presumption that natural coastal processes will be allowed to act. For other policy areas requiring intervention and wherever practicable, soft engineering solutions that work with natural physical processes will be preferred together with the realignment of coastal infrastructure to more suitable locations where there is space to accommodate it.	S+	S+	S++	N	S+	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Mar/P5 Recreational pressure Information, education and awareness campaigns will be used as the principal tools in managing recreational pressures and conflicts at the coast. Where demonstrable problems and safety issues remain, relevant organisations will carefully consider the most appropriate steps to be taken in order to address the situation.	S+	S+	N	S+	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Mar/P6 Protective public ownership The acquisition of undeveloped coastline for protective public ownership will be supported. The management of newly acquired sites will be supported where this accords with the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, special qualities and key features of the South Devon AONB.	N	S++	N	N	S++	The policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.

Rivers and Estuaries

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	***Summary of sustainability effects of policies***	**Recommendations**
Est/P1 Estuary character A thriving maritime economy contained within the existing developed harbour areas will be promoted, complimented by high quality boating facilities and infrastructure. The more remote parts of the estuaries will be managed for their tranquil and unspoiled character and safeguarded from moorings spread and development.	S+	S++	S+	S++	S+	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Est/P2 Foreshore management A presumption against any further loss in extent or quality of foreshore, seanbed or habitat will be supported.	N	S+	S+	N	S+	Overall this policy suports the objectives. Positive effects of S5 with regards to land take through the promotion in minimising foreshore and seabed loss.	
Est/P3 Coordination and management The effective coordination and management of the rivers and estuaries will be developed through the AONB Estuaries Partnership, community forums, and the Catchment Based Approach.	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Est/P4 Maritime services Boat maintenance, repair and storage facilities will be retained within harbour areas and the loss of essential shore-side infrastructure by conversion to other uses will be resisted.	N	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Est/P5 Mariculture Sustainable mariculture enterprises will be retained and encouraged in appropriate locations where they are consistent with environmental designations, both as a traditional feature of the AONB economy and as a "driver" for further improvements to water quality.	N	S+	N	S++	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Est/P6 Climate change The adaptation of habitats and species to climate change and sea level rise will be promoted through sustaining natural processes and/or the delivery of natural flood management to help futureproof the existing levels of flood protection against the increasing risks from climate change.	N	S+	S++	N	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Est/P7 Environmental management Harbour Authorities will be supported in maintaining effective arrangements for managing moorings, navigation, dredging and waste, underpinned with good environmental practices which ensure the conservation and enhancement of the South Devon AONB's special qualities.	N	S+	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Est/P8 Fisheries management Projects and initiatives that provide effective conservation of fish stocks and improved fish access in rivers and estuaries will be supported.	N	N	N	S+	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.

Access and Recreation

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Acc/P1 Sustainable Tourism A sustainable, year-round tourism industry which benefits from and contributes to the environmental quality of the area will be supported. The loss of accommodation and facilities for visitors and recreational users will be resisted. Activities and initiatives to extend the main tourism season and to assist in promoting the area to overseas visitors will be supported.	N	N	N	S++	S+	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Acc/P2 Recreation, leisure and sports The quiet enjoyment of the South Devon AONB by the public will be promoted through recreation, leisure activities and sports that respect other users and the area's natural beauty, special qualities and land management.	N	S+	N	S+	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Acc/P3 Rights of Way A well-connected network of paths and strategic recreational routes will be sensitively maintained and promoted. Opportunities will be sought to extend them and improve linkages where this is compatible with conserving and enhancing natural beauty.	S+	S+	N	S+	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Acc/P4 Naturally healthy Opportunities to use the natural environment resource of the South Devon AONB to benefit the health and well-being of residents and visitors will be sought and promoted, particularly where this coincides with opportunities to enhance the area's special qualities.	S+	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives	Acc/P4 Naturally healthy Opportunities to use the natural environment resource of the South Devon AONB to benefit the health and well-being of residents and visitors will be sought and promoted, particularly where this coincides with opportunities to enhance the area's special qualities.
Acc/P5 Intrusive recreational activities In remote and tranquil countryside areas, noisy or intrusive recreational activities will be discouraged. The conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the protection of vulnerable wildlife will be given priority in the promotion of access and recreation.	S+	S++	N	N	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	Acc/P5 Intrusive recreational activities In remote and tranquil countryside areas, noisy or intrusive recreational activities will be discouraged. The conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the protection of vulnerable wildlife will be given priority in the promotion of access and recreation.
Acc/P6 Access to beaches and the coastal corridor Under the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 a new England Coast path and open access to a defined coastal margin will be created whilst maintaining levels of tranquillity and safeguarding sensitive sites, habitats and species.	N	N	N	S+	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives. Minor positive effects from ensuring that tourism impacts from increased public access for recreation does not harm the environment.	Acc/P6 Access to beaches and the coastal corridor Under the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 a new England Coast path and open access to a defined coastal margin will be created whilst maintaining levels of tranquillity and safeguarding sensitive sites, habitats and species.
Acc/P7 Popular sites The provision of sustainable visitor facilities, recreational infrastructure and information will be provided at the most heavily used destinations. Management resources, promotion and marketing will be concentrated on the more popular and developed sites which are best able to accommodate and contain intensive recreational pressure.	N	N	N	S+	S+	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Acc/P8 Information Co-ordinated information and interpretation about countryside, coastal, marine and estuarine recreation and access will be promoted through a range of media, to help foster greater understanding, appropriate expectations and considerate behaviour. Car parks and principal access points such as slipways will be used as locations wherever possible to minimise signage proliferation.	N	S+	N	N	S+	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.

Planning and Sustainable Development

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Plan/P1 Plan-making Planning policies will give great weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Devon AONB, while supporting limited development that is appropriate to its setting, is in keeping with its character, and meets the economic and social needs of local communities.	S+	S++	N	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Plan/P2 Decision-taking Development management decisions give great weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB; and support development that is appropriate and proportionate to its setting within or adjacent to the South Devon AONB by seeking to avoid, minimise or as a last resort compensate, for harm to the special qualities and distinctive characteristics of the AONB.	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	The performance of the policy assumes great weight is given in all cases.	None.
Plan/P3 Developer contributions Where new developments are likely to result in residual harm to the natural beauty of the AONB, developers will be expected to provide compensation which will be used to enhance landscape features which are in poor condition and contribute to AONB management. If increased recreational pressures are likely developers will be expected to contribute to improving carrying capacity of green and blue infrastructure in the surrounding area.	S+	S+	N	S++	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Plan/P4 Planning protocols Local Planning Authorities will consult the South Devon AONB Unit on planning policy and significant planning applications following the agreed planning protocols, and use the South Devon AONB Management Plan as a material consideration to inform plan-making and decision-taking.	S+	S++	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Plan/P5 Representations On behalf of the AONB Partnership, the AONB Staff Unit will provide representations to a wide range of plan makers to ensure that due regard is had to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Devon AONB in the development of policy and strategy.	S+	S++	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Plan/P6 Consultees Natural England will continue to be the principal statutory consultee on all planning and sustainable development matters affecting Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The South Devon AONB Unit will provide a local perspective on the sensitivity to change in specific locations of the South Devon AONB's natural beauty and special qualities.	N	S++	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Plan/P7 Providing advice Advice on development proposals will increasingly be provided through standing advice, position statements and supporting documents including the South Devon AONB Planning Guidance (Annex 1).	N	S+	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives. The assessment assumes the advice will be acted on. Ultimately, performance of the policy depends on the degree to which advice is followed and acted upon.	None.

Transport and Highways

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Trans/P1 Highway management Highway network maintenance and improvement will be undertaken in a manner which is sensitive and appropriate to the rural character of the AONB and compatible with its specail qualities.	N	S++	N	N	S+	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives. Highway management protocol for protected landscapes in Devon.	None.
Trans/P2 Features of the road network The landscape, biodiversity and structure of the AONB's road network will be protected and conserved.	S+	S++	S+	N	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Trans/P3 Parking Vehicle pressures will generally be contained within existing locations and the construction of significant additional car parking capacity at remote coastal sites will be resisted. Landscape improvements will be sought for existing carparks which are visually intrusive or in poor condition.	N	S+	N	N	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Trans/P4 Green Lanes The lawful and responsible use of unmetalled roads by pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders and carriage drivers will be promoted.	S+	S+	N	N	S+	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Trans/P5 Large vehicles Traffic management measures will be supported which reduce the pressure of large and heavy vehicles on the minor road network.	S+	S+	N	S+	X	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives. Some longer journeys with increased fuel usage may be necessary for large vehicles in order to avoid damage to sensitive minor roads. Average speeds and travel times are however likely to be similar.	This is most appropriately dealt wih at the delivery level on a cases by case basis. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. The s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.
Trans/P6 Sustainable transport The provision of sustainable public transport services and convenient alternatives to the use of the car will be supported where they can be achieved without compromising the conservation of natural beauty and landscape character.	S++	S+	N	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.

Rural Economy and Services

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Econ/P1 Rural economy The growth of the area's economy will be supported where sustainable economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other. Employment sectors having a traditional association with the AONB and which conserve or enhance the AONB's special qualities will be promoted and supported. Natural capital accounting will be used to assess and monitor progress toward conserving and enhancing the area at a landscape scale and achieving a net gain for biodiversity.	N	S+	N	S+	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Econ/P2 Supply chains Improvements will be sought to the processing and supply chains of products which are sustainably harvested from the land and waters of the AONB; developing nearby markets, revitalising rural incomes and supporting the land management sector. Sustainable initiatives will be encouraged that result in residents, retailers and visitors purchasing locally sourced, high quality food, wood fuel, materials and produce.	N	S+	N	S++	S+	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Econ/P3 Rural business Sustainable rural business and farm diversification initiatives will be supported where these maintain or enhance the special qualities or distinctive landscape character of the AONB and contribute to employment and prosperity.	S+	S+	N	S++	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Econ/P4 Environmental performance High standards of environmental performance by local companies, and the development and use of "clean" technologies which create prosperity and employment with positive impacts on the local environment, will be promoted.	N	S+	N	S++	S++	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Econ/P5 Local services The retention and improvement of viable, accessible, essential local services such as shops, post offices and pubs will be sought, together with associated community infrastructure in market towns and villages. The loss of business premises and local services by conversion to other uses will be resisted. Effective use will be made of the Community Asset Register under the Localism Act 2011 to secure the future of valued community facilities.	S+	S+	N	S++	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Econ/P6 Capacity and skills Economic capacity and skills in the area will be supported through training opportunities, community enterprise, business networking and cooperation especially where these assist businesses to contribute to AONB purposes.	S+	X	N	S++	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives. Effects depend on implementation Increasing economic capacity invariably leads to requiring the construction of additional buildings or the conversion of existing buildings from other uses. This policy is guided by the primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action.	This is most appropriately dealt with at the delivery level on a case by case basis. The primary purpose of AONB designation and special qualities should be used to assess any likelihood and degree of harm and to guide supporting action. Where relevant the s85 CROW Act 2000 "duty of regard for natural beauty" should be applied to decision making and outcomes evidenced.

Community and Culture

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Comm/P1 Special Qualities Initiatives that engage local communities in understanding, exploring, celebrating, conserving and enhancing the special qualities and distinctive characteristics of the AONB will be promoted and developed.	S+	S++	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Comm/P1 Special Qualities Initiatives that engage local communities in understanding, exploring, celebrating, conserving and enhancing the special qualities and distinctive characteristics of the AONB will be promoted and developed.	S+	S++	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Comm/P2 Sustainable lifestyles Community-based initiatives that promote sustainable lifestyles will be supported and promoted where they are compatible with the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S++	The policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Comm/P3 Resilience Communities will be supported in creating vibrant, healthy and resilient communities enjoying a high quality of life with good access to facilities.	S++	S+	N	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Comm/P4 Cultural traditions Activities which reinforce the cultural traditions of the AONB will be supported and fostered, especially where these strengthen the link between people and landscape.	S++	S++	N	S+	N	The policy supports the sustainability objectives. Cultural traditions assist in maintaining community vibrancy, often put the locality on the map, reinforce settlement character, build a sense of community spirit, introduce new residents to the area, and often fundraise to support other good local causes.	None.

Awareness and Communication

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Aware/P1 AONB awareness Inspire an awareness and understanding of the South Devon AONB and its special qualities amongst residents, businesses, organisations and visitors in and around the AONB.	S+	S++	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Aware/P2 Ecosystem services An improved understanding of all the benefits the AONB provides for us will be at the core of communication activity, seeking to foster decisions and actions that value the services that our natural environment provides	S+	S++	S++	S+	S+	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Aware/P3 Goods and services Local communities and visitors will be encouraged to make consumer choices to support local, high quality products and services that sustain the area's special qualities, landscape and the people who manage it and make a living from it.	S+	S+	S+	S++	S++	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Aware/P4 Caring for our AONB Initiatives to inspire behaviour change and increase in positive action for the natural beauty of the AONB will be supported and promoted.	S+	S++	S+	S++	S+	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Aware/P5 Involving everyone Organisations, groups and communities will be encouraged and supported in playing an active role in conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the AONB.	S++	S++	S+	S+	S++	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Aware/P6 Lifelong learning People of all ages will be encouraged to investigate, record and celebrate their local places, and enjoy considerate and informed experiences of wildlife and the natural environment.	S+	S++	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives	None.

Management, Organisation and Partnerships

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Part/P1 Legal duty of regard Relevant authorities will have regard for the purpose of AONB designation in the conduct of their functions and decision making, as required by Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.	N	S++	S+	S++	S+	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives	None.
Part/P2 Management Plan implementation The AONB Partnership, through its member organisations and the AONB Staff Unit, will seek to achieve its vision for the AONB by implementing the Delivery Plan.	S+	S++	S+	S++	S++	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Part/P3 AONB Partnership arrangements Defra and the relevant local authorities will maintain effective partnership arrangements including a dedicated locally based South Devon AONB Staff Unit.	S+	S++	S+	S++	S++	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives.	None.

Policy	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	*Summary of sustainability effects of policies*	Recommendations
Part/P4 Management initiatives The AONB Partnership will direct management initiatives inside the AONB and in those adjoining hinterland and marine areas outside the boundary which have an important bearing on the AONB.	S+	S++	S+	S++	S++	The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Part/P5 Partnerships The AONB Partnership will foster constructive links with partnerships and strategic initiatives at local, county, regional, national and international level.	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives.	None.
Part/P6 National Association for AONBs The AONB Partnership will work closely with other protected landscapes and actively support the National Association for AONBs.	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	The policy supports the sustainability objectives. Access to new thinking, benefits of partner experiences, joint funding and shared resources / expertise.	None.
Part/P7 AONB boundary The AONB Partnership will keep the boundary of the AONB under review to ensure that the designation remains appropriate and fit for purpose in South Devon.	N	S++	N	S+	N	Overall, the policy supports the sustainability objectives. The AONB designation brings with it additional opportunities and sources of targeted grant aid, revenue and assistance.	None.

Appendix 4 Proposed Environmental (SEA) Indicators

The table makes suggestions for indicators to take forward in the monitoring commitment for the SEA. Careful consideration will need to be given as to which should be taken forward.

Table 12 Proposed monitoring of significant environmental effects

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources and Data collection	Comments (Frequency of measurement, limitations, interpretation)	Relevant Policies / Management Theme Indicators
E1 To protect and enhance landscape				
Locally distinctive field boundaries	% changes in quality of locally distinctive field boundaries Change in length of locally distinctive field boundaries	County level Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) maps January 2005 (for setting baseline) Natural England Natural England	Systems are not yet in place. Importance and quality criteria need to be locally determined. Data would need to be collected locally. Potential for HLC to be used as a baseline but criteria need to be developed. Comprehensive AONB coverage. HLC data has been sourced for Atlas work. The 2008 extended list of National BAP habitats extended the definition for Hedgerows. Data collated by NE in support of this habitat may be useful in the future. Check emerging SW and Devon Biodiversity Monitoring Frameworks. Environmental Stewardship agreements data should enable the generation of a figure for length of field boundaries under good environmental management (and therefore good condition / recovering condition)	Lan/P1
Extent of woodland cover Extent of woodland	% woodland cover % cover by woodland type	Forestry Commission	National Inventory of Woodland and Trees forms the single largest source of data. Woodlands of less than 2ha do not feature in this dataset. Dataset last updated in 2002. Data has been sourced for Atlas work.	LanMan/P3

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources and Data collection	Comments (Frequency of measurement, limitations, interpretation)	Relevant Policies / Management Theme Indicators
type(s)		Ordnance Survey Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	Periodic extraction of woodland from OS Mastermap data may be possible – Mastermap holds historic data so mapped changes will be evident in revised datasets. Landcover2000 and soon to be released Landcover 2007 will offer remote sensed and calibrated data. Expected to be repeated at regular intervals and forms a module of the national Countryside Survey.	
Key ridges and views	Changes in key ridges and views	South Devon AONB Fixed Post Photography (FPP) Project	Qualitative data Sites for South Devon have been locally determined following baseline survey work, and data is being collected locally (photographic evidence from fixed point photography). A robust methodology for deriving change (both quantitative and qualitative) is required – currently reliant on visual observation of differences.	Lan/P5, Plan/P2
Change in levels of tranquillity	Change in percentage area classified as tranquil	Tranquillity mapping from CPRE	Not an ongoing monitoring programme. Currently available only as a jpeg image not as an interrogatable dataset. Expectation that CPRE will release GIS data under license from Natural England in the near future. May be possible to refresh some of the datasets in the future if methodology and existing datasets are sufficiently transparent. Data has been sourced for Devon AONB Atlas work.	Lan/P4, Access/P5,Access/P6
Extent of Dark skies	Change in extent of Dark skies	Dark Skies mapping from CPRE	Not an ongoing monitoring programme Currently available at a 1km resolution for 1993 and 2000. Data shows degree of saturation from directly upward wasted light. Data has been sourced for Atlas work.	Lan/P4, Plan/P2

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources and Data collection	Comments (Frequency of measurement, limitations, interpretation)	Relevant Policies / Management Theme Indicators
		Landscape Monitoring by South Devon AONB	US National Parks approach may be better to capture true light pollution / scenic intrusion – monitoring of point source effects and sky glow at key night time vantage points would be more effective. Some FPP sites may offer suitable opportunities for this. Part of Landscape Monitoring programme. Methodology completed June, baseline established end September 2008. Survey of Landscape Monitoring Units to be completed in 5 years i.e. 2013.	
Area of agricultural land under sensitive environmental management	% of land managed under all agri-environment schemes	Data available from Natural England for all classes of Environmental Stewardship agreements. (monthly updates available from NE website)	This measure is indicative only and makes the assumption that land under agri-environment schemes is managed for the benefit of landscape. Data has been sourced for Atlas work.	LanMan/P5
Area of woodland under sensitive environmental management	% of AONB woodland under England Woodland Grant Scheme (eWGS)	Forestry Commission	Some WGS3 agreements are still in force. eWGS began in July 2005. Any current baseline would include a mixture of the two datasets. Data has been sourced for Atlas work.	LanMan/P3, LanMan/P5,
E2 To protect and where practical enhance biodiversity (habitats)				
Condition status of SSSIs	% by area of biological SSSI in 'favourable condition'	Natural England PSA Target - SSSI favourable condition data	Ongoing dataset - PSA Target. National dataset updated every month but individual site assessments dependent upon NE visits. Indirect measures of success of raising awareness of management mechanisms. Data has been sourced for Atlas work.	BioGeo/P1, BioGeo/P4

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources and Data collection	Comments (Frequency of measurement, limitations, interpretation)	Relevant Policies / Management Theme Indicators
Condition status of SSSIs	% by area of geological and geomorphological SSSI in 'favourable condition'	Natural England PSA Target - SSSI favourable condition data	Ongoing dataset - PSA Target. National dataset updated every month but individual site assessments dependent upon NE visits. Could be derived from data sourced for Atlas work.	BioGeo/P1, BioGeo/P2, BioGeo/P4
Extent of BAP habitats outside statutorily designated sites	% change in extent of BAP habitats outside statutorily designated sites	Some NE maintained national BAP habitat extent data currently available. SW and Devon Biodiversity monitoring framework may yield more options. SSSI sites could then be subtracted from selected habitats and remainder areas analysed. Not yet identified	Focus of data collection and measure should be outside statutory sites. Statutorily protected sites have legal measures to protect them from inappropriate management. Protection for non-statutory sites/ wider landscape is considerably less robust. The management of these sites is therefore likely to be more influenced by the policies in the Management Strategy. Not currently available comprehensively for all BAP habitats, particularly considering expanded national list. Unsure of update frequency. Potential for collation through South West Biodiversity Partnership. Unimproved grassland will also provide some indication of changes in land management practices. In particular in relation to increased demand for local food production.	BioGeo/P2, BioGeo/P3, BioGeo/P4, BioGeo/P7, LanMan/P3, Mar/P3
	Number of Parishes with a Biodiversity Audit	Devon County Council and South Hams District Council	New project underway led by Devon County Council in support of Local Area Agreement targets.	Comm&Cult/P1
E3 To protect and enhance fauna and flora (individual species)				
Population of farmland birds	Change in population size	Defra PSA Target BTO / RSPB	Ongoing dataset - PSA Target. Problematic to attribute to AONB area due to 10km2 recording grid and the standard form data is reported in.	LanMan/P3

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources and Data collection	Comments (Frequency of measurement, limitations, interpretation)	Relevant Policies / Management Theme Indicators
Biodiversity Action Plan species	Trends in population	Data availability depends on species chosen and likely to involve substantial local data collection Devon Biodiversity Records Centre, Natural England, SW and Devon Biodiversity Monitoring Frameworks.	Characteristic species to be locally determined based on Devon BAP. Trends need to be interpreted in the light of climate data and other information. Need to be aware of level of 'recording effort' and its influence on the level of confidence attributable to the indicator.	BioGoe/P2
E4 To maintain historic environment (including cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage)				
Condition of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)	% Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) in favourable condition	English Heritage and Local Authorities	Continuing database because of legislative requirement to maintain register. No comprehensive condition data available yet. Extent data has been sourced for Atlas work.	Hist/P2, Hist/P4
Listed and unlisted buildings considered to be at risk	Change in number of buildings on the 'Buildings At Risk Register'	English Heritage and Local Authorities	Continuing database because of legislative requirement to maintain register. Some condition data also available for those features on the Heritage at Risk Register. Investigate 'Heritage at Risk Register' further as this may serve purpose better	Hist/P2, Hist/P4
Success of farmers' markets	Number of businesses supporting local farmers markets	South Devon Farmers' Markets	Local authorities.	LanMan/P6, Econ/P2, Econ/P3
E5 To protect material assets including natural resources				
Ecological status of watercourses	% of AONB watercourses meeting	Data from the Environment Agency		Est/P1, Est/P5, LanMan/P4, Mar/P3,

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources and Data collection	Comments (Frequency of measurement, limitations, interpretation)	Relevant Policies / Management Theme Indicators
	'good ecological status'	through Water Framework Directive performance monitoring in the South West		
E6 To protect and enhance soil quality				
Agricultural land under Good Soil Management	% by area of agricultural land with a Soil Management Plan in place	Defra agri-environment schemes	Suggested annual analysis	LanMan/P2, Est/P2
Run-off related flood incidents	Trends in run-off related flood incident reports	Environment Agency	Need to interpret indicator in the light of rainfall data, new flood prevention schemes as well as land management changes, such as those identified by the agricultural land under Good Soil Management Suggested annual analysis of incidents	Env/P2, LanMan/P2, LanMan/P5, Est/P2
E7 To protect water, air and climate				
Ecological status of watercourses	% of AONB watercourses meeting 'good ecological status'	Data from the Environment Agency through Water Framework Directive performance monitoring in the South West	It will be problematic to attribute change directly to the effects of Management Strategy policies	Est/P2, Mar/P2,
Quality of River Water	Changes in classifications for Chemistry and Nutrients	Environment Agency	Of particular relevance for land management is the nutrient levels (testing for nitrate and phosphate). It will be problematic to attribute changes to the effects of Management Strategy policies Data has been sourced for AONB Atlas work.	LanMan/P4, Est/P2

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources and Data collection	Comments (Frequency of measurement, limitations, interpretation)	Relevant Policies / Management Theme Indicators
Renewable energy schemes	% renewable energy schemes with a neutral or positive impact on the AONB's designated purpose	Local Planning Authorities	Annual collation of planning data. Limitation is that this only measures those schemes which require planning permission. Data being sourced for Atlas work.	Econ/P5, Plan/P2
E8 To safeguard human health				
Air Quality	No of declared Air Quality Management Areas AND locations within 10% of threshold.	Local Environmental Health teams and Air Quality Strategies	Dependent upon LA monitoring programmes and degree of risk identified in Air Quality Strategies.	NatRes/P5, Econ/P5
E9 To ensure no adverse effect arises on population (i.e. demographic balance)				
Full-time farmers and employees	Change in number of full-time farmers and employees	Defra June Agricultural Census	2007 dataset now available cut to AONB. Data has been sourced for Atlas work. Annual collection. It will be extremely problematic to attribute the cause of demographic change	LanMan/P1, Econ/P1, Econ/P3
E10 To avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships				
Historic Environment / archaeology mitigation used in biodiversity schemes	Number schemes completing relevant avoidance or mitigation measures for historic environment features or archaeology	Natural England & others English Heritage Public Bodies	Would need to be collated by AONB Partnership. Potentially time intensive, suggest a qualitative approach is adopted.	LanMan/P5, LanMan/P8, Hist/P1, Hist/P7, Plan/P3
Biodiversity mitigation used in schemes	Number of schemes completing relevant	English Heritage & others Natural England	Would need to be collated by AONB Partnership. Potentially time intensive, suggest a qualitative approach	LanMan/P5, LanMan/P8, Hist/P1, Hist/P7, Acc/P1,

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources and Data collection	Comments (Frequency of measurement, limitations, interpretation)	Relevant Policies / Management Theme Indicators
	biodiversity avoidance or mitigation	Public Bodies	is adopted.	Acc/P6, Plan/P3

Appendix 5 Proposed Sustainability (SA) Indicators

Table 13 Proposed monitoring of significant effects on sustainability

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources of data	Comments	Relevant Policies/ Management Theme Indicators
S1 To create more vibrant, cohesive, safe and mixed communities				
Parishes and Towns with Parish/Town Plans (or their equivalent)	Change in number of up to date Parish/Town Plans which have regard to the AONB purposes	Local Authority / Community Council of Devon	Suggested annual frequency of monitoring	Comm&Cult/P5
Cultural events	Change in number of traditional cultural events held by local communities	Local communities. What's On Guides	Will need to be collated by the AONB Service. Baseline being prepared via Atlas work.	Comm&Cult/P1, Comm&Cult/P4
S2 To protect the quality and character of individual settlements and communities				
Development Control decisions having proper regard to the AONB	% of planning permissions granted contrary to AONB purposes % conditional planning permissions with adequate conditions to conserve and enhance the AONB	Local Planning Authorities can use this measure to help report on how they are meeting their section 85 duty when delivering their planning functions Landscape Monitoring Project could be used to inform measures of 'success' of the planning conditions	This measure indicates the contribution which the development control process is making towards protecting and enhancing the AONB. Requires a clear mechanism to establish that due regard was given and recorded.	Plan&Dev/P1, Plan&Dev/P2, Plan&Dev/P3
S3 To protect the environment, people and properties from flood risk				
Run-off related flood incidents	Trends in run-off related flood incident reports	Environment Agency	Need to interpret indicator in the light of rainfall data, new flood prevention schemes as well as land management changes, such as those identified by the agricultural land	LanMan/P4, Est/P4

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources of data	Comments	Relevant Policies/ Management Theme Indicators
			under Good Soil Management Suggested annual analysis of incidents	
S4 To promote the development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives				
Key employment sectors	Change in number of full-time employees in key employment sectors	NOMIS and Defra	Suggest farming, mariculture and tourism. Data has been sourced for Atlas work.	LanMan/P6, LanMan/P8, Mar/P8
Farm holding size	Change in average farm size/ number/ numbers employed/ numbers classified as p/t/ arable extent and livestock	Data available from Defra though annual June Agricultural Census. Latest figures 2007 census.	Collected annually, so will not be able to indicate adverse impacts relatively rapidly.	LanMan/P7
Green Tourism Business Scheme accreditation	Trend in number of businesses with Green Tourism Business Scheme accreditation	South West Tourism Green Tourism Business Scheme	Suggest annual analysis of scheme.	LanMan/P3, Access/P7
Success of farmers market	Number of businesses supporting local farmers markets	South Devon Farmers Markets – Local Authorities	Needs to be interpreted in the light of other factors such as the general economic climate	LanMan/P1, LanMan/P6
S5 To minimise the consumption of natural resources including fossil fuels, minerals, land take and water				
Recycling schemes	Number of community-led recycling schemes	Local Authorities		Env/P6
Traffic levels	Trend in traffic levels at fixed locations entering and within the AONB	Highways Authority (Devon County Council, Torbay Council, Plymouth City Council)	Indicator of vehicle use, but indirectly a measure of the use of sustainable transport decisions. Baseline data being incorporated within Atlas work.	Trans/P5, Trans/P6

Possible Indicator	Measure	Sources of data	Comments	Relevant Policies/ Management Theme Indicators
Car sharing	Changes in car sharing behaviour	Car Share Devon (Local Authorities)	Would need to consider other impacts on car sharing, such as the general state of the economy	Trans/P3, Trans/P6

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the South Devon AONB Management Plan 2019-2024

Screening Report

A Screening Report to inform a determination under Regulation 63(1) of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Prepared by:

South Devon AONB Unit

January 2019

on behalf of the South Devon AONB Partnership.

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1. Executive Summary

This document is a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA) Screening Report on the 'South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-2024' to inform the determination decisions by the relevant authorities adopting the South Devon AONB Management Plan. This is a legal requirement under Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.[1]

The assessment conclusion

The assessment findings conclude that there will be no likely significant effects alone or in combination with other plans or projects on any of the identified relevant European sites for nature conservation from the implementation of the South Devon AONB Management Plan 2019-2024. Therefore, there are no adverse effects on site integrity of any of the European sites and so the local authorities can adopt the South Devon AONB Management Plan 2019-2014.

[1] Statutory Instrument No. 2017/1012.

2. Introduction

The South Devon AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 may only be adopted by the AONB relevant authorities after they have determined that it will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. These European sites form an ecological network which contributes to the protection of habitats and species of high nature conservation importance within the European Union

A strategic level screening assessment, often referred to in England as a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA), was undertaken on the policies in the Management Plan: Part 1 Strategy, and highlights where there is a need to undertake additional assessment of actions under the Part 2: Delivery Plan, or where schemes come forward in the AONB from other organisations or individuals.

Status of this Report

This document is a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA) Screening Report on the 'South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-2024 to inform the determination decision by the relevant authorities adopting the South Devon AONB Management Plan as required under Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.[2]

This report builds on the HRA screening of the Consultation Draft Management Plan 2019-2024 and the reporting on the South Devon AONB Management Plans undertaken for the plan periods 2009-2014 and 2014-2019. This approach was possible because the overarching aims and objectives of the Management Plan over these periods and the policy suite contained within remain comparable in intent and purpose. These reports are: *Habitats Regulations Assessment of the South Devon AONB Management Strategy 2009-2014 Screening Report* (Crimson Beetle, 2009) and *Habitats Regulations Assessment of the South Devon AONB Management Strategy 2014-2019 Screening Report* (South Devon AONB Unit, 2014).

[3] [1992] OJ L206/7.

3. Habitats Regulations Assessment

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna[3] commonly known as the 'Habitats Directive,' provides for the protection of habitats and species of European Community importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance (or restoration), at favourable conservation status, of habitats and species of European Community interest. This is partly implemented through a network of European sites', consisting of:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) - designated under the Habitats Directive; and
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - designated under the Wild Birds Directive.[4]

These SACs and SPAs include terrestrial (land-based) and/or marine (including estuarine) sites. Sites in the process of designation are to be given the same protection, in line with the precautionary principle. Additionally, 'Ramsar sites' designated under the Ramsar Convention 1971[5] which are internationally important wetlands, particularly for water fowl, are as a matter of national policy to be treated as if they were European sites in terms of the protection and management afforded to them. Therefore, they should be included in assessment where relevant. In the context of South Devon AONB there are no Ramsar sites likely to be affected by the Management Plan. Therefore the term 'European sites' in this report refers to SACs and SPAs.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that: *'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.'*[6]

This European requirement is implemented in domestic English law through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (commonly referred to as the

[3] [1992] OJ L206/7.

[4] Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds. (The 'Wild Birds' Directive.)

[5] Convention on the Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971. The 'Ramsar Convention'.

[6]Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna [1992] OJ L206/7.

'Habitats Regulations'). The Directive's Article 6(3) requirements are set out in Regulation 63.

'63. (1) A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which—

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,

must make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.'[7]

Undertaking of these particular requirements is known as a 'Habitat Regulations Assessment'.

The purpose of a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is to assess the likelihood and significance of impacts of a plan on European sites. The assessment should determine whether the plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site(s) in terms of its nature conservation objectives. Where negative or adverse effects are identified other options should be examined to avoid any potential for adverse effects.

Screening is the initial step in the assessment process to identify likely impacts on European sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and consider whether these impacts are likely to be significant. During screening the precautionary principle must be applied. If an effect cannot be ruled out it must be reported as likely. Where the potential for significant adverse effects are identified, the law requires further assessment to be undertaken.

4. Screening Methodology

The purpose of screening is to ascertain whether the South Devon AONB Management Plan, either alone or in combination, is likely to have effects on (relevant) European sites, and to consider whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant. The importance of the international nature conservation interest of the site(s) must be at the forefront of this decision-making process.

[7] The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 [SI No. 2017/1012].

The scope and depth of the assessment is to be decided by the 'Competent Authority'[8] and depends on the location, influence and significance of the proposed plan. For this assessment the Competent Authorities are the AONB relevant authorities adopting the South Devon AONB Management Plan. These are South Hams District Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Devon County Council.

Neither the Habitats Directive[9] nor the Habitats Regulations[10] specify the method of assessment required; only that it must be 'appropriate'. The level and scope of assessment is to be determined by the Competent Authority (in this case the AONB Unit acting on behalf of the Local Authorities).

In the case of AONB Management Plans, Natural England has provided guidance on what it considers to be an 'appropriate' level and scope of assessment. This is detailed in its *Guidance to English AONB Partnerships and Boards on appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive provided by Natural England* January 2008. The European Commission's Environment Directorate produced guidance in 2001, *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.* These guidelines, reference to the requirements of the Directive and the Regulations and, current HRA best practice were used to inform the Screening methodology along with liaison with Natural England.

[8] In the case of the AONB Management Plan this role has been devolved to the AONB Partnership.
[9] Council Directive 94/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive')
[10] The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 commonly known as the 'Habitats Regulations'.

This screening assessment process comprises four steps:

One	Determining whether the project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site(s)
Two	Describing the Management Plan and possible impacts
Three	Identifying the *potential* for effects on the European sites alone or in combination with other reasonably foreseeable plans and projects
Four	Assessing the ***significance*** of any effects on the European sites

The actual 'screening' evaluation is being completed as a two stage process:

Preliminary considerations (Step 3 above) considers the vulnerabilities of each site, and what potential impacts may be damaging to the site, this then 'screens out' policies that clearly cannot lead to negative impacts. Policies that have not been screened out, feed into the further considerations screening (Step 4 above).

For some policies the decision of No Likely Significant Effect will be obvious, and these can be screened out immediately. At the other extreme, some policies may very clearly have a Likely Significant Effect. These latter policies will need to be taken forward for 'appropriate assessment' or removed from the Management Plan.

In other cases the judgement about a Likely Significant Effect will be less clear-cut. It is in these cases that it is necessary to consider in more detail the nature of the potential effect and whether a significant effect can be ruled out based on information about the project and the European sites. This is the purpose of the fuller considerations (Step 4 above) which assesses the potential impacts of each policy on the specific conservation objectives of the site in question, the significance of such an impact and the degree of risk of it occurring.

The detailed methodology is provided in Appendix 1 Screening Methodology.

Step One

The need for assessment

In order to determine whether the Management Plan requires an assessment a number of questions need to be considered. These are set out below.

Is it directly connected to or necessary for the conservation management of the European site(s)?

If a plan is '*directly connected to or necessary for the conservation management of a European site'*, there is no need to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment because its purpose is to manage the site so as to meet its Conservation Objectives. in considering this question , the term 'directly' refers to measures that are conceived solely for the purpose of management of that site. The term 'management' should be treated as referring to the 'nature conservation management' of that site.[11]

Although the South Devon AONB Management Plan does propose polices intended to promote nature conservation, none of these relate directly to or are necessary for the management of specific European sites. Therefore, the Management Plan is neither directly connected with nor necessary to the management of any of the identified European sites.

Is it likely to have significant effects?

Natural England considers that AONB Management Plans are plans that could have significant effects, both positive and negative, on European sites. Thus they should be assessed before formal adoption.

Scope of the assessment

Initial scoping was undertaken by the AONB Unit following national guidance from Natural England to AONB's on the assessment of Management Plans[12] which suggests a 10-15km buffer should be used as a 'rule of thumb' to scope for relevant European sites that should *certainly* be included in the Screening process. It is also appropriate to include sites outside this buffer zone where there are identified ecological links, or impact pathways, between the AONB including its setting and, any European Sites.

Relevant authorities[13] must have regard to conserving and enhancing the AONB when carrying out functions that may affect the AONB[14]. This duty applies even when these functions are carried out outside the AONB boundary, in the setting. Therefore

[11] European Commission, Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC European Communities 2000 Para 4.3.3.

[12] Guidance to English AONB Partnerships and Boards on appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive provided by Natural England January 2008.

[13] Defined under section 85(2) The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

[14] Section 85 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Management Plan policies may be applied to, or be used to guide, decisions on issues or activities outside the AONB but which could have effects inside the AONB.

Within the Management Plan are many policies which will be proactively applied outside the AONB boundary, in the AONB's setting, and in particular those which relate to landscape scale or to land management at a catchment level. To be certain that all relevant sites were included; a further search for sites within the catchments of all the South Devon AONB rivers was undertaken. This search revealed no additional European sites to those already identified by the application of the 10-15km buffer.

Current best practice suggests that European site to be considered in the assessment should be those which are:

- within the boundary of the plan area (i.e. the AONB); or
- linked to the changes within the plan area through 'impact pathways'.

'Impact pathways' are routes or mechanisms by which a change in activity within the plan area could lead to an effect upon a European site. An example would be a river which runs through the plan area to a European site downstream, or a European marine site in the sea.

The final list of 9 sites, shown on the map below and described in Table 1, is considered appropriate given the issues which the AONB Management Plan covers and the scale at which these would be addressed, and any likely impact pathways.

Map 1: European site Screening Map with 15km buffer zone from AONB boundary

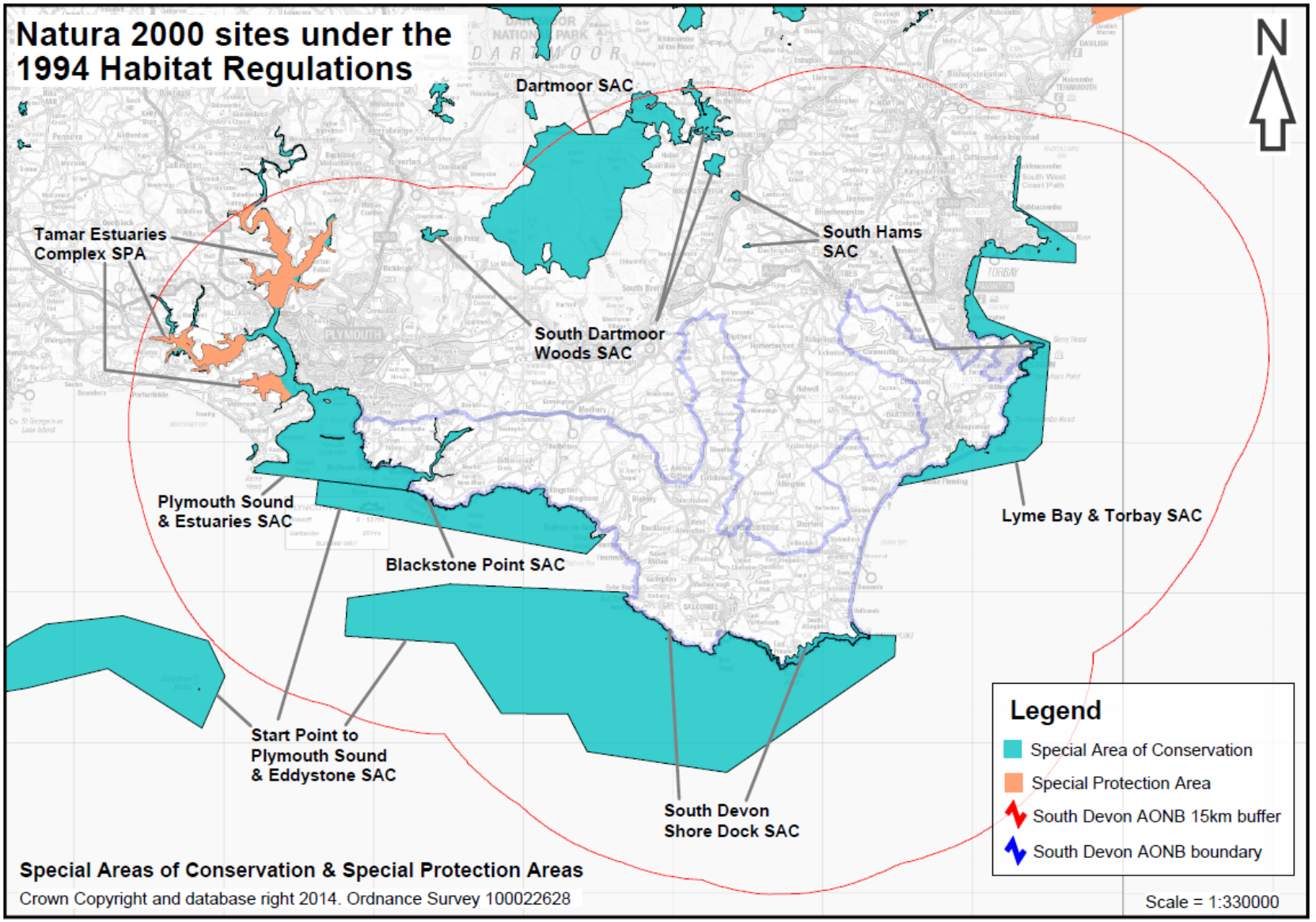

Table 1 European sites within the AONB or within 15 km of the boundary

	Site Name	UK Site Code	Qualifying Features (* = primary reason for site selection)	Reasons for inclusion (scoping in)
1.	Blackstone Point SAC	UK0030091	*1441 Shore dock *Rumex rupestris.*	The element of the site above mean high water mark is wholly within the South Devon AONB boundary. The whole site is considered to be affected by the South Devon AONB.
2.	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	UK0030060	*1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts *1441 Shore dock *Rumex rupestris.*	The element of the site above mean high water mark is wholly within the South Devon AONB boundary. The whole site is considered to be affected by the South Devon AONB.
3.	South Hams SAC	UK0012650	*4030 European dry heaths *6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 9180 *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines (Priority feature) 8310 Caves not open to the public *1304 Greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum.*	The core part of this site at Berry Head falls within the AONB boundary. The other 2 non-contiguous portions of this SAC fall outside the AONB boundary, though firmly within a 15km radius. This site's qualifying features includes Greater horseshoe bats which forage in areas, outside the designated site, but within the South Devon AONB.
4.	Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC	UK0013111	*1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time *1130 Estuaries *1160 Large shallow inlets and bays *1170 Reefs *1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae* 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide *1441 Shore dock *Rumex rupestris* 1102 Allis shad *Alosa alosa.*	The portions of this site including the Yealm estuary and cliffs from Gara Point westwards to Jennycliff fall within the South Devon AONB boundary. The south east marine portion of the site could reasonably be considered to be influenced by AONB activity. The site is perhaps progressively less influenced by the AONB toward the west and north of the site.
5.	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	UK9010141	*Internationally important breeding population of Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* *Internationally important breeding population of Little egret *Egretta garzetta.*	The site is wholly outside the South Devon AONB boundary, but it is contiguous with Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC, part of which lies within the South Devon AONB boundary.
6.	Dartmoor SAC	UK0012929	*4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* *4030 European dry heaths *7130 Blanket bogs (Priority feature) *91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles *1044 Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercurial* 1106 Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* 1355 European Otter *Lutra lutra.*	This site does not fall within the South Devon AONB boundary but part of the site does fall within a 15km radius area of search. The site is within the catchment of the AONB rivers and there are policies that address land management at a catchment wide scale.
7.	South Dartmoor	UK0012749	*91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles 4030 European dry heaths	This site does not fall within the South Devon AONB boundary but parts of this non-contiguous site do fall within a 15km radius area of search.

	Woods SAC			
8.	Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone SAC	UK0030373	*1170 Reefs	This inshore marine SAC does not fall within the South Devon AONB boundary. But two component areas of the site lie in coastal waters immediately adjacent to the AONB (between approximately Start Point to Pilchard Cove, and Bigbury Bay to Gara point), and the stretch of coast between Pichard Cove and Bigbury Bay is close to the European site. In addition another component area lies in the nearshore area. In all cases land-based activities within the AONB could give rise to effects on the site even where not directly adjacent to the marine site.
9.	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	UK0030372	*1170 Reefs *8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	This inshore marine SAC does not fall within the South Devon AONB boundary but lies wholly within the 15km buffer zone. Part of the Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth Reefs component area lies in waters immediately adjacent to the AONB coast (between approximately Broadsands and Landcombe Cove). Land-based activities within the AONB could give rise to effects on the European site even where not directly adjacent to it. The South Devon AONB Management Plan is also the plan for the South Devon Heritage Coast, the boundary of which extends 2km out to sea.

Evidence Base

Screening decisions were made on the basis of currently available information relating to the European sites. The following information was collated:

1. List of SACs and SPAs inside and within 15km of the AONB boundary
2. Site characterisation information (see following section)
3. Evidence base for the AONB Management Plan Review
4. Strategic Environmental Assessment
5. Other relevant Habitats Regulations Assessments

5. Site Characterisation

Site characterisation has used information drawn from:

1) SAC, SPA and Ramsar site Data Forms
2) SAC, SPA site data on JNCC's website
3) Conservation Objectives and Favourable Condition Tables
4) Supplementary advice on conservation objectives
5) Advice Packages for Marine Protected Areas (for SACs and SPAs with marine components)
6) Advice on operations for Marine Protected Areas
7) Feature Condition assessments for Marine Protected Areas
8) Management Measures for Marine Protected Areas

a) Component SSSI information including: Citations, Condition Assessments, Views about Management and Operations Likely to Damage

Information about each of the relevant European sites is given in Characteristics of European sites. Key factors affecting site integrity and its vulnerabilities are included. This information assisted in determining possible effects on individual sites from policies within the Management Plan.

Step Two

6. Description of the AONB Management Plan and possible effects

In describing the Management Plan it is necessary to identify elements which alone or in combination with other plans or projects (including its Delivery Plan) have the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the identified European sites. In identifying possible effects a precautionary approach has been used. No account has been taken of the existing legislative, regulatory or management protection mechanisms. This will be done at a later stage in assessment.

Brief description of the South Devon AONB Management Plan 2019-2024

South Devon AONB is one of 5 AONBs that fall within Devon. It was designated in 1960 and covers 60 miles (97km) of coastline and the 5 estuaries of the Yealm, Erme, Avon, Salcombe-Kingsbridge and the Dart.

The South Devon AONB Management Plan is primarily focussed on the statutory purpose of designation to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB and to protect the South Devon Heritage Coast

Place - To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB

People and Prosperity - Encourage and support sustainable economic development, social engagement and recreational activity that conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.

Communication and Management - the AONB is recognised and valued as a national, regional and local asset and is effectively managed in partnership with our stakeholders.

Key Policy Objectives within the Management Plan are:

Landscape Character - Improved coordination and influence in the management of landscape features to ensure they are maintained, enhanced, understood and appreciated.

Natural Resources & Climate - The sustainable management of the natural capital of the AONB.

Biodiversity & Geodiversity - The biodiversity and geological assets of the AONB are conserved and enhanced as part of a bigger, better and more connected landscape.

Historic Environment - The AONB landscape, its historic features and distinctive vernacular buildings are conserved and enhanced as part of a living and working landscape for which there are mechanisms in place to ensure their continued long-term management and care.

Farming & Land Management - A sustainable farming, forestry and land management sector that helps to conserve and enhance the character of the AONB.

Coast & Marine - The South Devon Estuaries Management Plan (Annex1) covers in detail the Avon, Dart, Erme, Salcombe - Kingsbridge and Yealm Estuaries.

River & Estuaries - The South Devon Estuaries Management Plan (Annex1) covers the Avon, Dart, Erme, Salcombe - Kingsbridge and Yealm Estuaries. An Estuaries Biosecurity plan for each estuary is available via the AONB website.

Access, Recreation & Tourism - Improved access to services and facilities and the active participation in community and appropriate landscape related social enterprise.

Planning & Development - Applying the mitigation hierarchy and using planning policy to conserve and enhance AONB

special qualities for compatible sustainable development.

Transport & Highways - The impact on the landscape, environment and enjoyment of the AONB is considered in the planning and provision of transport networks and services.

Rural Economy & Services - Improved access to services and facilities and the active participation in community and appropriate landscape related social enterprise.

Community & Culture - A sustainable rural economy that serves to conserve and enhance the character of the landscape by increased local participation and volunteering opportunities.

Awareness & Communication - A greater awareness of the AONB, the purpose of the designation, the role of the Partnership and range of opportunities for engagement.

Partnerships & Organisation - The AONB Partnership will act as ambassadors, influence policy and decision making affecting the area and work to secure funding for the long-term co-ordinated management of the area and report on its work.

Likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European sites by virtue of:

Size and scale

The South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers 130 square miles (337 square kilometres) of mainly coastal landscape from Jennycliffe near Plymouth to Beery Head in Torbay. It also follows inland the 5 ria estuaries of the Yealm, Erme, Avon, Salcombe-Kingsbridge and the Dart.

It includes four local authority administrative areas: Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council. 98.02% of the AONB lies within the South Hams district.

The Management Strategy sets out the policies of the local authorities in relation to the AONB. But, since all relevant authorities[15] must have regard to conserving and enhancing the AONB when carrying out functions that may affect it, even where these functions are carried out or relate to activities outside its geographic boundary, the influence of the policies extends beyond the designated boundary and the area of influence will be specific to the issue or activity under consideration.

Land-take

There is no direct land-take associated with the implementation of the Management Plan. However, the decisions of the local planning authorities (South Hams District Council, Torbay Council and Plymouth Council) are very likely to result in land-take for development. The Management Plan sets out how the local planning authorities' functions for plan-making and decision-taking should be carried out in order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB. Decisions of the Devon County Council, acting as Minerals Authority, Waste Authority and as Highways Authority may result in land-take.

Plan sector

The Management Plan sets out policies written to influence decision-takers in a range of sectors. Those which could lead to environmental effects include:

- Agriculture and forestry
- Coastal, estuarine and marine management – maritime sector, fisheries
- Nature conservation
- Tourism
- Recreation / Leisure
- Economic activity / growth
- Energy
- Land-use planning and development management
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Mineral extraction

[15] Defined under section 85(2) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Potential environmental impacts of each sector are addressed below:

Agriculture and Forestry

Forces for change identified in the Management Plan include pressures on the farming sector to diversify. Diversification could lead to farms moving to bioenergy crops with potential for impacts on local biodiversity. These issues could be exacerbated in the longer term by climate change impacts. However, the Management Plan seeks to assist this change have regard to conserving and enhancing the AONB, which would include ensuring the conservation of European sites.

Coastal /marine management

The Management Plan supports the retention of appropriately located traditional maritime industries. In certain circumstances these industries could lead to effects on coastal, estuarine and marine European sites, in particular the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC in relation to the Yealm estuary, Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone SAC and, Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC. The Management Plan seeks to ensure that only those industries which do not have adverse effects on European sites are accepted in the AONB.

Nature conservation

The Management Plan sets out policies to increase the area's biodiversity and make green infrastructure links. Other policies advocate measures to allow wildlife to move in response to climate change and specific mention is made in relation to coastal adaptation.

Tourism and Recreation / Leisure

Increasing sustainable tourism in the AONB may lead to increased visitor trips to the AONB creating long-term increases in traffic, air pollution, and noise pollution impacts. Secondary effects over the long-term could include an increase in demand for housing to accommodate local people displaced by rising tourist accommodation and second homes used as holiday homes.

Improving physical access to the countryside could lead to increased levels and frequency of access, and if path surfaces are improved could also increase disturbance levels and extend the periods of access thus reducing the periods available for habitat and species recovery.

Economic activity / growth

The Management Plan supports opportunities for appropriate economic growth of the AONB's rural communities where these activities are compatible with the AONB purpose and in themselves contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's natural beauty.

Energy

Polices within the Management Plan address the approach to be taken on renewable energy within the AONB, or affecting the AONB by being located in its setting. Dependent upon the scale, location and design of renewable solutions there can be significant irreversible negative effects on biodiversity in terms of land-take causing habitat damage, and disturbance to species from the installations or their associated infrastructure.

Land-use planning and development management

The Management Plan does not propose any development. Polices within the Management Plan do not actively encourage development *per se*, but do address the approach to be taken to land-use planning, both during plan-making and decision-taking within or affecting the AONB. There is support for appropriately located small-scale development which meets the demonstrated local needs of AONB communities. An appendix to the management plan, *Planning for the South Devon AONB: Planning Guidance Version 1* sets out in further detail how the relevant authorities should carry out their planning functions to meet the section 85 duty of regard in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. As this is part of the statutory management plan it will be considered as part of this assessment.

Transport and Infrastructure

The Management Plan does not propose any transport or infrastructure. Possible indirect positive effects from the plan may include reductions in transport requirements through the promotion of the available integrated and sustainable transport options between villages. However, additional infrastructure for sustainable transport such as paths and cycle routes could have adverse effects on biodiversity depending upon implementation and location of projects.

Mineral extraction

Mineral planning within or affecting the AONB is the remit of Devon County Council as the Minerals Authority for Devon. There are no direct requirements for mineral extraction within the Management Plan.

Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.)

There are no requirements for water abstraction within the Management Plan.
Potential increases in natural resource use for policies encouraging local timber production for wood heat.

Emissions (disposal to land, air, water)

There are no direct emissions to air proposed by the Management Plan. Possible positive effects from the plan include reductions in emissions to air from decisions enacting policies that support appropriate renewable energy and "clean" technologies. There may be reduced emissions to air through the promotion of sustainable transport options in the AONB. However, there could be increased local emissions to air through the enactment of policies supporting wood heat where this replaces electricity (likely in rural areas of the AONB which are off mains gas) which would not have previously had its environmental impacts locally.

Excavation requirements

The policies themselves do not create any excavation requirements. Some of the activities addressed by polices may result in excavation. For example, provision of local services, renewable energy developments requiring construction etc.

Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc

The policies themselves do not lead to construction activities. However, they do address the approach to the management of activities involving construction. Such as, the provision of local services, housing, renewable energy installations, transport networks etc. Therefore, impacts from construction may result from the activities of others.

Plan implementation period

From 2019 to 2024 inclusive.

Cumulative effects in combination other plans or projects

The legal purpose of the AONB Management Plan is to set out the policy of the relevant local authorities towards the AONB. Policies are purposefully protective towards the natural beauty and towards the environment generally. The policies will have varying degrees of influence on the way in which the relevant authorities carry out their duties and functions in general and when they are writing, reviewing or implementing other plans, such as Local Plans, Local Transport Plans, Street Lighting Strategies, Community Strategies, and Shoreline Management Plans etc.

A large number of plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives were identified through both the SEA Scoping and the Management Plan Review processes. The objectives in these documents were used to inform the AONB Management Plan.

Natural England's formal guidance on AONB Management Plans states that "*It is Natural England's view that if the Management plan does not have a significant environmental effect then it is not necessary to carry out an in combination assessment."* Additionally, a specific response from the Devon NE Office given regarding HRA of previous South Devon AONB Management Plans was that '*...if no LSE* [Likely Significant Effects] *then no in combination effects are possible*'.

Step Three

7. Preliminary Considerations

The purpose of preliminary or 'coarse' screening was to screen out policies which clearly had no possible negative impacts, so that fuller considerations could be focussed on those which had the potential to have effects.

During preliminary considerations one of 3 conclusions was drawn for each individual policy:

1. It has 'No Likely Significant Effects' by virtue of it not being likely to lead to activities that could cause adverse effects on the site;
2. Its effects have the ***potential*** to be *significant*. Fuller consideration is needed to establish if the effects are likely to be *significant*;
3. It has obvious 'Significant Effects' and detailed appropriate assessment, or removal from the Plan will be required.

For some policies the decision of No Likely Significant Effect will be obvious, and these can be screened out immediately. At the other extreme, some policies will very clearly have a Likely Significant Effect. These will need to be taken forward for 'appropriate assessment' or removed from the Management Plan. In other cases the judgement about a Likely Significant Effect will be less clear cut. It is in these cases that it is necessary to consider further the nature of the effect, and its likelihood or risk of occurring with the policy in place. These will be taken forward for fuller considerations.

The initial 'coarse' screening considered whether a Qualifying Feature was likely to be affected, either directly and/or indirectly by the policy, or from potential activities stemming from the policy. Any 'activity'[16] that affects the attainment of conservation objectives will be significant. During this, reference was made to the sites' vulnerabilities, requirements to maintain favourable condition, and activities considered to be damaging or likely to lead to deterioration of the site. Broad categories of impacts and potentially damaging activities are set out in Table 2.

[16] The definition of 'activity' in this sense can include non-intervention, or an absence or lack of activity.

Table 2 Broad impacts and examples of possible causal activities

Category of Impact	Examples of activity (on and off site) which may cause this impact
Physical loss	Land claim for development - fragmentation and isolation of habitats and populations Coastal defence – loss from land take for structures, or erosion from alterations to natural processes, or changes in sediment supply to sublittoral features, beach nourishment/replenishment. Aggregate extraction Construction of artificial features, e.g. wind turbines, marinas, hydroelectric, weirs, marinas, moorings etc. Changes in land management e.g. cultivation, ploughing, felling, afforestation etc
Physical damage / deterioration	Recreation - trampling, erosion, direct disturbance of species Changes in land management – grazing, cutting, burning regimes etc leading to changes in species and community composition Mineral / pebble (& etc) extraction Dredging – channel maintenance, commercial fishing, aggregate extraction Smothering - Beach cleaning, beach nourishment/replenishment Selective removal of species e.g. bait digging, fishing, mariculture, recreational angling, scrub removal Changes in hydrological regime – changes in water abstraction for domestic, agricultural or industrial use
Non-physical disturbance	Recreation – visual presence leading to disturbance of species (e.g. boat activity, e.g. flushing of breeding birds by people or dogs off leads etc.) Noise – disturbance of species Lighting – disturbance to diurnal rhythms
Toxic contamination	Changes in land management – application of pesticides, fertilizers etc. Increases in emissions to air, water or land e.g. from transport or domestic, and industrial sources Boat scrubbing
Non-toxic contamination	Changes in land management - addition of manure, slurry etc. nutrient enrichment and sediment from run-off Waste Water Treatment Works outfalls – nutrient enrichment Mariculture – organic enrichment
Biological disturbance	Changes in management regime – grazing, cutting, burning Non-native species introduction or translocation Selective removal of species e.g. bait digging, recreational fishing, wildfowling Stocking with non-native and native species e.g. mariculture, fish farming, deer farming Introducing barriers to movement or dispersal e.g. weirs, dams, development (roads, buildings etc)

Source: Compiled from SAC and SPA Site Vulnerabilities, Favourable Condition Tables, and Operations Likely to Damage from Component SSSI information for the relevant European sites.

Table 3 Categories for initial screening of policies during preliminary considerations

Effect		Reasoning
None	0	The policy relates to activities which are not likely to have an effect on the European site by virtue of their specificity, scale, or distance from the site. By reason of no identifiable impact pathway.
No likely (negative) effect	1	The policy is specifically intended to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and measures under this policy will not be likely to lead to negative effects on the European site.
	2	The policy is intended to conserve and enhance the natural, geological, built or historic environment and measures under this policy will not be likely to lead to negative effects on the European site.
	3	The policy is not likely to lead to activities which are likely to have a negative effect on the European site.
	4	The policy addresses activities which have the *potential* to affect the European site, but the policy itself is worded so as not to encourage activities or allow projects which would be likely to lead to negative effects on the European site.

Potential for a negative effect	5	The policy addresses activities which have the *potential* to affect the European site, the effects of which may or may not be *significant*. But the policy itself could be reworded if necessary, so as not to support or encourage activities which would be likely to cause *significant* effects on the European site.
Potential for a negative effect / effects uncertain	6	The policy encourages activities which have the *potential* to affect the European site, but the *likelihood of* significance of effects depends on the location, scale or design (& etc.) of individual schemes or projects. Activities under this policy must be subject to a screening assessment to establish, in the light of the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be objectively concluded that there would not be *likely significant* effects on the European site.
	7	The policy encourages activities in a location which has the *potential* to affect the European site, either directly or indirectly depending upon the scale or design (&etc.) of individual schemes or projects. Activities under this policy must be subject to a screening assessment to establish, in the light of the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be objectively concluded that there would not be *likely significant* effects on the European site.
Likely Significant Effect	8	This policy makes provision for activities *likely* to have *significant* effects on the European site. Activities to which this policy relates must be subject to appropriate assessment to establish, in the light of the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be objectively concluded that the activities would not have adverse effects on the European site's integrity.

Source: Victoria Tanner-Tremaine (Crimson Beetle) adapted from David Tyldesley & Associates draft advice for Natural England 2006.

Table 4 Preliminary Screening findings

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Final Policies									
Lan/P1 Character The special qualities, distinctive character and key features of the South Devon AONB landscape and seascape will be conserved and enhanced.	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
Lan/P2 Technical assessments The use of Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments and Historic Landscape and Seascape Characterisation will be advocated so that land use planning and marine planning and management decisions respect, maintain and where possible enhance the special qualities of the South Devon AONB.	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
Lan/P3 Landscape condition Opportunities will be sought to strengthen landscape character by improving the condition of existing landscape features in poor condition and reinstating landscape features identified as missing or fragmented.	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	2
Lan/P4 Tranquillity The tranquillity, natural nightscapes and dark skies of the AONB will be enhanced and maintained in a consistent, cross-boundary evidence-based approach.	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Lan/P5 Skylines & views The character of skylines and open views into, within and out of the South Devon AONB will be protected. Suitable alternatives to infrastructure responsible for visual intrusion will be sought together with improvements to reduce the visual impact of unsightly past development.	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	0	0

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Lan/P6 Seascape The open undeveloped seascape seen from the coast forms a defining setting for the South Devon AONB: the long uninterrupted views, wild character and natural horizons will be protected and sustained.	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0
Lan/P7 Setting to the AONB The deeply rural character of much of the land adjoining the AONB boundary forms an essential setting for the AONB and care will be taken to maintain its quality and character.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
NatRes/P1 Natural Capital A landscape scale natural capital approach will be taken where practicable to sustainably use and manage natural resources in the AONB.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NatRes/P2 Water quality The highest standards of water quality will be secured throughout the South Devon AONB. The effective integration of land, freshwater and estuary management will be sought at a river catchment scale, to address sustainable soil, waste and nutrient management, point source and diffuse pollution, and the abstraction, supply and use of water.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
NatRes/P3 Pollution response Effective contingency planning will be maintained to guide emergency responses to pollution incidents affecting land, sea and air.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NatRes/P4 Climate change Communities will be assisted in developing resilience and adapting to climate change whilst working with physical processes to ensure that the special qualities of the South Devon AONB are conserved and enhanced.	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
NatRes/P5 Waste Domestic and commercial waste reduction, management and recycling initiatives will be supported and promoted, including the reuse of locally distinctive building materials, where they conserve natural resources and enhance landscape character.	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
NatRes/P6 Energy Initiatives will be supported that reduce energy use, ~~-~~increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable heat and power sources particularly from local wood fuel supply chains, where these initiatives conserve and enhance the special qualities of the South Devon AONB and promote the principal of good environmental stewardship of resources.	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
NatRes/P7 Flooding & erosion Approaches to flood risk management and erosion control which work with natural processes, conserve the natural environment and improve biodiversity will be advocated and supported.	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
BioGeo/P1 Designated sites Designated sites of international, national and local importance for biodiversity and geodiversity will be protected ~~from damage,~~ managed effectively to achieve their conservation objectives, and be better linked to the wider habitat network.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
BioGeo/P2 Priority species Priority species (legally protected species, species of principal importance and other significant species for South Devon AONB) will be protected and conserved. Targeted action will be taken to support the recovery of priority species whose conservation is not delivered through wider habitat-based measures.	1	1	1	3	3	1	0	0	0

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
BioGeo/P3 Ecological networks The repair, restoration and reconnection of well functioning landscape scale ecological networks will be supported.	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
BioGeo/P4 Geodiversity The conservation and enhancement of significant geological and geomorphological features throughout the area will be sought, underpinned by a presumption in favour of sustaining natural processes.	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
BioGeo/P5 Reconnecting people and wildlife Opportunities will be sought to reconnect the AONB's residents, visitors and workforce with nature, to promote appreciation of the benefits nature provides to us and to inspire positive action and help monitor wildlife populations.	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0
BioGeo/P6 Positive cumulative impacts Opportunities will be sought to maximise the benefits for wildlife from the positive management of all types of land irrespective of scale.	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
BioGeo/P7 Damage and disturbance Increased recreational pressure will be ~~resisted~~ and managed at locations where unacceptable damage or disturbance to vulnerable habitats and species is likely to arise.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
BioGeo/P8 Invasive non-native species A strategic approach to the control, or eradication where feasible, of invasive non-native species will be taken where they threaten to damage local habitats and species, and where action is practicable. Provision of guidance and advice to landowners with the most damaging invasive non-native species will be central to this approach.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hist/P1 Cultural and historic environment The identification, protection and active conservation of the AONB's cultural and historic environment will be promoted and supported.	6	3	6	6	6	6	0	0	0

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Hist/P2 A heritage asset The South Devon AONB landscape will be regarded as a single unified heritage asset of national importance.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hist/P3 Public access Public access will be encouraged to historic sites that are best able to withstand visitor pressure without undue harm to their nature conservation interests and physical features.	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hist/P4 Statutory protection Statutory protection together with appropriate management will be sought for the most important historic monuments and buildings.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hist/P5 Technical resources The use of Historic Landscape and Seascape Characterisation, the Historic Environment Record, Tithe Maps and other tools and information resources will be promoted in order to inform projects, policies and activities.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Hist/P6 Coastal heritage The conservation of coastal heritage assets shall be integrated into adaptation plans and realignment measures in recognition of their contribution to coastal landscape character.	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0
Hist/P7 Land management The protection and enhancement of historic environment assets shall be integrated into other land management initiatives in the AONB in recognition of their contribution to landscape character.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
LanMan/P1 Critical to the AONB's future A profitable, sustainable and environmentally beneficial farming and land management sector providing high quality food, fuel, timber and benefits to people and wildlife will be fostered as one of the principal means of maintaining the special qualities and distinctive landscape of the AONB.	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	2
LanMan/P2 Farming with nature Support will be sought for farmers and land managers who sustain land of exceptional landscape and nature conservation interest, in recognition of the additional costs incurred in operating these farming systems.	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
LanMan/P3 Hedgebanks, trees, woodlands and orchards The retention and sensitive management of Devon hedges, trees and woodlands and orchards will be promoted. The planting of new orchards, woodland, hedgerow trees and specimen trees will be encouraged, subject to existing biodiversity interests and the careful selection of sites and species to reflect and strengthen local landscape character.	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
LanMan/P4 Veteran and heritage trees Ancient woodland, veteran trees, ancient trees outside woods and heritage trees, which are all significant and irreplaceable landscape features in the AONB, will be protected, sensitively managed, conserved and enhanced.	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
LanMan/P5 Environmental land management High quality environmental land management, including agri-environment schemes, will be promoted to help conserve and enhance the special qualities and distinctive agricultural landscape of the AONB, whilst supporting farmers and landowners.	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
LanMan/P6 Communities, farming and our environment Wider community engagement with the farming and land management sector will enable a deeper understanding of the important role played by land managers in maintaining the AONB's special qualities, and providing the food, produce and natural environment services we all rely on.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LanMan/P7 Evolving farms The evolution of farm types, modernisation activities, diversification enterprises and added value operations that conserve and enhance the South Devon AONB's special qualities will be supported.	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	4
LanMan/P8 Land management support Co-ordinated advice and collaboration on environment focused land management will be delivered to support land managers to maintain productive and environmentally sustainable landscapes that deliver on local priorities and contribute to national themes.	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	4
Mar/P1 Coastal character The tranquil and undeveloped character of the coast will be protected. Opportunities will be sought for improvements in the condition of degraded sites.	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Mar/P2 Coast and marine management The effective integration of AONB management with the management of the adjoining marine environment will be sought to ensure that the development and delivery of Marine Plans for the South and Southwest areas and Coastal Change Management Areas and access to the coastal margin under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, have regard for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, special qualities and key features of the AONB.	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	0

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Mar/P3 High quality marine environment T~~he~~ special qualities associated with the Marine Protected Areas network and the South Devon Heritage Coast will be reflected and promoted throughout AONB literature, campaigns, awareness and communication programmes.	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0
Mar/P4 Coast protection The South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan along with Coastal Change Management Areas provide a policy framework for the area and covers the next 100 years. For areas identified as requiring no active intervention, there will be a presumption that natural coastal processes will be allowed to act. For other policy areas requiring intervention and wherever practicable, soft engineering solutions that work with natural physical processes will be preferred together with the realignment of coastal infrastructure to more suitable locations where there is space to accommodate it.	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	0	0
Mar/P5 Recreational pressure Information, education and awareness campaigns will be used as the principal tools in managing recreational pressures and conflicts at the coast. Where demonstrable problems and safety issues remain, relevant organisations will carefully consider the most appropriate steps to be taken in order to address the situation.	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0
Mar/P6 Protective public ownership The acquisition of undeveloped coastline for protective public ownership will be supported. The management of newly acquired sites will be supported where this accords with the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, special qualities and key features of the South Devon AONB.	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Est/P1 Estuary character A thriving maritime economy contained within the existing developed harbour areas will be promoted, complimented by high quality boating facilities and infrastructure. The more remote parts of the estuaries will be managed for their tranquil and unspoiled character and safeguarded from moorings spread and development.	4	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0
Est/P2 Foreshore management A presumption against any further loss in extent or quality of foreshore, seanbed or habitat will be supported.	0	0	0	4	4	4	0	0	0
Est/P3 Coordination and management The effective coordination and management of the rivers and estuaries will be developed through the AONB Estuaries Partnership, community forums, and the Catchment Based Approach.	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Est/P4 Maritime services Boat maintenance, repair and storage facilities will be retained within harbour areas and the loss of essential shore-side infrastructure by conversion to other uses will be resisted.	4	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0
Est/P5 Mariculture Sustainable mariculture enterprises will be retained and encouraged in appropriate locations where they are consistent with environmental designations, both as a traditional feature of the AONB economy and as a “driver” for further improvements to water quality.	3	0	3	3	3	3	3	0	0
Est/P6 Climate change The adaptation of habitats and species to climate change and sea level rise will be promoted through sustaining natural processes and/or the delivery of natural flood management to help futureproof the existing levels of flood protection against the increasing risks from climate change.	4	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Est/P7 Environmental management Harbour Authorities will be supported in maintaining effective arrangements for managing moorings, navigation, dredging and waste, underpinned with good environmental practices which ensure the conservation and enhancement of the South Devon AONB's special qualities.	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0
Acc/P1 Sustainable Tourism A sustainable, year-round tourism industry which benefits from and contributes to the environmental quality of the area will be supported. The loss of accommodation and facilities for visitors and recreational users will be resisted. Activities and initiatives to extend the main tourism season and to assist in promoting the area to overseas visitors will be supported.	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Acc/P2 Recreation, leisure and sports The quiet enjoyment of the South Devon AONB by the public will be promoted through recreation, leisure activities and sports that respect other users and the area's natural beauty, special qualities and land management.	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
Acc/P3 Rights of Way A well-connected network of paths and strategic recreational routes will be sensitively maintained and promoted. Opportunities will be sought to extend them and improve linkages where this is compatible with conserving and enhancing natural beauty.	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acc/P4 Naturally healthy Opportunities to use the natural environment resource of the South Devon AONB to benefit the health and well-being of residents and visitors will be sought and promoted, particularly where this coincides with opportunities to enhance the area's special qualities.	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Acc/P5 Intrusive recreational activities In remote and tranquil countryside areas, noisy or intrusive recreational activities will be discouraged. The conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the protection of vulnerable wildlife will be given priority in the promotion of access and recreation.	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Acc/P6 Access to beaches and the coastal corridor Under the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 a new England Coast path and open access to a defined coastal margin will be created whilst maintaining levels of tranquillity and safeguarding sensitive sites, habitats and species.	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acc/P7 Popular sites The provision of sustainable visitor facilities, recreational infrastructure and information will be provided at the most heavily used destinations. Management resources, promotion and marketing will be concentrated on the more popular and developed sites which are best able to accommodate and contain intensive recreational pressure.	0	0	6	6	0	6	0	0	0
Acc/P8 Information Co-ordinated information and interpretation about countryside, coastal, marine and estuarine recreation and access will be promoted through a range of media, to help foster greater understanding, appropriate expectations and considerate behaviour. Car parks and principal access points such as slipways will be used as locations wherever possible to minimise signage proliferation.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Plan/P1 Plan-making Planning policies will give great weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Devon AONB, while supporting limited development that is appropriate to its setting, is in keeping with its character, and meets the economic and social needs of local communities.	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plan/P2 Decision-taking Development management decisions give great weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB; and support development that is appropriate and proportionate to its setting within or adjacent to the South Devon AONB by seeking to avoid, minimise or as a last resort compensate, for harm to the special qualities and distinctive characteristics of the AONB.	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plan/P3 Developer contributions Where new developments are likely to result in residual harm to the natural beauty of the AONB, developers will be expected to provide compensation which will be used to enhance landscape features which are in poor condition and contribute to AONB management. If increased recreational pressures are likely developers will be expected to contribute to improving carrying capacity of green and blue infrastructure in the surrounding area.	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0
Plan/P4 Planning protocols Local Planning Authorities will consult the South Devon AONB Unit on planning policy and significant planning applications following the agreed planning protocols, and use the South Devon AONB Management Plan as a material consideration to inform plan-making and decision-taking.	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Plan/P5 Representations On behalf of the AONB Partnership, the AONB Staff Unit will provide representations to a wide range of plan makers to ensure that due regard is had to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Devon AONB in the development of policy and strategy.	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Plan/P6 Consultees Natural England will continue to be the principal statutory consultee on all planning and sustainable development matters affecting Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The South Devon AONB Unit will provide a local perspective on the sensitivity to change in specific locations of the South Devon AONB's natural beauty and special qualities.	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plan/P7 Providing advice Advice on development proposals will increasingly be provided through standing advice, position statements and supporting documents including the South Devon AONB Planning Guidance (Annex 1).	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/P1 Highway management Highway network maintenance and improvement will be undertaken in a manner which is sensitive and appropriate to the rural character of the AONB and compatible with its special qualities.	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/P2 Features of the road network The landscape, biodiversity and structure of the AONB's road network will be protected and conserved.	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Trans/P3 Parking Vehicle pressures will generally be contained within existing locations and the construction of significant additional car parking capacity at remote coastal sites will be resisted. Landscape improvements will be sought for existing carparks which are visually intrusive or in poor condition.	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	3
Trans/P4 Green Lanes The lawful and responsible use of unmetalled roads by pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders and carriage drivers will be promoted.	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	4
Trans/P5 Large vehicles Traffic management measures will be supported which reduce the pressure of large and heavy vehicles on the minor road network.	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Trans/P6 Sustainable transport The provision of sustainable public transport services and convenient alternatives to the use of the car will be supported where they can be achieved without compromising the conservation of natural beauty and landscape character.	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	2
Econ/P1 Rural economy The growth of the area's economy will be supported where sustainable economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other. Employment sectors having a traditional association with the AONB and which conserve or enhance the AONB's special qualities will be promoted and supported. Natural capital accounting will be used to assess and monitor progress toward conserving and enhancing the area at a landscape scale and achieving a net gain for biodiversity.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Econ/P2 Supply chains Improvements will be sought to the processing and supply chains of products which are sustainably harvested from the land and waters of the AONB; developing nearby markets, revitalising rural incomes and supporting the land management sector. Sustainable initiatives will be encouraged that result in residents, retailers and visitors purchasing locally sourced, high quality food, wood fuel, materials and produce.	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0
Econ/P3 Rural business Sustainable rural business and farm diversification initiatives will be supported where these maintain or enhance the special qualities or distinctive landscape character of the AONB and contribute to employment and prosperity.	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Econ/P4 Environmental performance High standards of environmental performance by local companies, and the development and use of "clean" technologies which create prosperity and employment with positive impacts on the local environment, will be promoted.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Econ/P5 Local services The retention and improvement of viable, accessible, essential local services such as shops, post offices and pubs will be sought, together with associated community infrastructure in market towns and villages. The loss of business premises and local services by conversion to other uses will be resisted. Effective use will be made of the Community Asset Register under the Localism Act 2011 to secure the future of valued community facilities.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Econ/P6 Capacity and skills Economic capacity and skills in the area will be supported through training opportunities, community enterprise, business networking and cooperation especially where these assist businesses to contribute to AONB purposes.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Comm/P1 Special Qualities Initiatives that engage local communities in understanding, exploring, celebrating, conserving and enhancing the special qualities and distinctive characteristics of the AONB will be promoted and developed.	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Comm/P2 Sustainable lifestyles Community-based initiatives that promote sustainable lifestyles will be supported and promoted where they are compatible with the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Comm/P3 Resilience Communities will be supported in creating vibrant, healthy and resilient communities enjoying a high quality of life with good access to facilities.	3	3	3	0	0	0	3	3	3
Comm/P4 Cultural traditions Activities which reinforce the cultural traditions of the AONB will be supported and fostered, especially where these strengthen the link between people and landscape.	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	2
Comm/P5 Community planning The AONB Partnership will support and promote neighbourhood planning, community and voluntary action to conserve and enhance the AONB.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Comm/P6 Community participation Local community participation will be encouraged in the research, recording, celebration, promotion, care and conservation of natural history and historic features.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Aware/P1 AONB awareness Inspire an awareness and understanding of the South Devon AONB and its special qualities amongst residents, businesses, organisations and visitors in and around the AONB.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Aware/P2 Ecosystem services An improved understanding of all the benefits the AONB provides for us will be at the core of communication activity, seeking to foster decisions and actions that value the services that our natural environment provides	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Aware/P3 Goods and services Local communities and visitors will be encouraged to make consumer choices to support local, high quality products and services that sustain the area's special qualities, landscape and the people who manage it and make a living from it.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Aware/P4 Caring for our AONB Initiatives to inspire behaviour change and increase in positive action for the natural beauty of the AONB will be supported and promoted.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Aware/P5 Involving everyone Organisations, groups and communities will be encouraged and supported in playing an active role in conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the AONB.	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Aware/P6 Lifelong learning People of all ages will be encouraged to investigate, record and celebrate their local places, and enjoy considerate and informed experiences of wildlife and the natural environment.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

	South Devon Shore Dock SAC	Blackstone Point SAC	South Hams SAC	Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Dartmoor SAC	Dartmoor Woods SAC
Part/P1 Legal duty of regard Relevant authorities will have regard for the purpose of AONB designation in the conduct of their functions and decision making, as required by Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part/P2 Management Plan implementation The AONB Partnership, through its member organisations and the AONB Staff Unit, will seek to achieve its vision for the AONB by implementing the Delivery Plan.	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Part/P3 AONB Partnership arrangements Defra and the relevant local authorities will maintain effective partnership arrangements including a dedicated locally based South Devon AONB Staff Unit.	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Part/P4 Management initiatives The AONB Partnership will direct management initiatives inside the AONB and in those adjoining hinterland and marine areas outside the boundary which have an important bearing on the AONB.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Part/P5 Partnerships The AONB Partnership will foster constructive links with partnerships and strategic initiatives at local, county, regional, national and international level.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part/P6 National Association for AONBs The AONB Partnership will work closely with other protected landscapes and actively support the National Association for AONBs.	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
Part/P7 AONB boundary The AONB Partnership will keep the boundary of the AONB under review to ensure that the designation remains appropriate and fit for purpose in South Devon.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There are eight (8) policies where there is assessed to be a *potential* for a negative effect(s) under the current policy wording which could not be obviously ruled out in the initial assessment. Further more detailed consideration is needed to assess whether negative effects are likely and whether or not they could be significant.

Step Four

8. Fuller Considerations

In the Preliminary Screening the majority of the policies were assessed as not requiring more in-depth consideration as they are either beneficial or have no likely significant effects on the European sites.

Table 5 shows the policies for which the *potential* for negative effects could not be obviously ruled out (applying the precautionary principle). These policies were taken forward for fuller consideration of whether these effects are likely to be *significant*.

Table 5 Policies to be taken forward for fuller consideration

Policy	Reason(s)	European Sites
Lan/P5 Skylines & Viewa	6	South Devon Shore Dock SAC, Blackstone Point SAC, South Hams SAC, Start Point to Plymouth South and Eddystone SAC, Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC
Hist/P1 Cultural and historic environment	6	South Devon Shore Dock SAC, South Hams SAC, Start Point to Plymouth South and Eddystone SAC, Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC
Hist P/3 Public access	5	South Devon Shore Dock SAC, Blackstone Point SAC, South Hams SAC
Est /P1 Estuary character	5	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC (Yealm estuary)
Mar/P4 Coast Protection	6	South Devon Shore Dock SAC, Blackstone Point SAC, South Hams SAC, Start Point to Plymouth South and Eddystone SAC, Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC (in relation to the Yealm Estuary)
Acc/P7 Popular sites	6	South Hams SAC, Start Point to Plymouth South and Eddystone SAC, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC (in relation to the Yealm Estuary & Wembury)
Plan/P3 Developer contributions	5	South Devon Shore Dock SAC, Blackstone Point SAC, South Hams SAC, Start Point to Plymouth South and Eddystone SAC, Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC, South Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC
Trans/P1 Highway Management	5	South Hams SAC, South Devon Shore Dock SAC

Assessing 'significance'

In terms of European sites a 'significant' effect is one that is not inconsequential and which is likely to undermine the achievement of the site's conservation objectives[17].

Examples of the types of effects, which are considered likely to be significant, are provided in guidance from Natural England[18] and the European Commission[19] shown below:

1) Causing change to the coherence of the site or to the European series (e.g. presenting a barrier between isolated fragments, or reducing the ability of the site to act as a source of new colonisers);
2) Causing reduction in the area of habitat or of the site;
3) Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including the hydrology) or habitat within the site;
4) Causing ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which the site is notified;

a) Altering community structure (species composition);
b) Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site;
c) Altering the vulnerability of populations etc. to other impacts;
d) Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change (for example its ability to respond to extremes of environmental conditions);
e) Affecting restoration of a feature where this is a conservation objective;
f) Interfering with key relationships that define the structure of the site;
g) Interfering with key relationships that define the function of the site.

It must be acknowledged that this list is not exhaustive, it is only indicative.

Judgements on the 'significance' of impacts was based upon the likely effect on qualifying features of each particular site as well as the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those impacts. The risk or likelihood of these impacts occurring was also considered.

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[17] In Case C-127/02 [2004] OJ C 262/2 the European Court of Justice held that *any effect* likely to undermine the Conservation Objectives of an international site should be regarded as a likely significant effect.

[18] English Nature, The Determination of Likely Significant Effect under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 HRGN3 English Nature 1999. [English Nature is now part of Natural England].

[19] European Commission Environment DG, Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

Considerations & Recommendations

These considerations evaluated the risk/likelihood of the identified potential effects being *significant.* For some policies on closer evaluation, the *potential* effects were considered not likely to be significant, in which case no changes to the policy were needed. Consideration was also given to the availability of other mechanisms that in combination with the plan, would obviate or reduce the risk or *likelihood* of a negative effect or of that the effect being significant.

The tables below record the further considerations of individual policies listed in Table 5. Fuller consideration of polices and the type and significance of impacts was informed by professional judgement and the baseline data review. The final row of each table states the 'significance conclusion' for the policy.

Policy Lan/P5 Skylines & Views	The character of skylines and open views into, within and out of the South Devon AONB will be protected. Suitable alternatives to infrastructure responsible for visual intrusion will be sought together with improvements to reduce the visual impact of unsightly past development.

All sites

Applicable to all European sites within or in the setting of the AONB. This policy may encourage amendments to existing developments which have the potential to disturb species and impact habitats within European sites, if in close proximity.

This policy seeks alternatives to overground structures, therefore may encourage undergrounding of cables. If this occurs near or on European sites this could effects habitat in terms of permanent loss or disturbance to species composition directly through digging, removal of ground, smothering or, for marine sites indirectly by increased silt levels.

South Devon Shore Dock SAC, Blackstone Point SAC, Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC, Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC (Yealm Estuary)

This policy may lead to the removal or replacement of unsightly development, coastal or flood defence structures (particularly gabions). This is particularly important to the habitats of the SACs with marine and estuarine components, as some defences particularly gabions can become 'interlinked' with habitats if present for a significant amount of time. However, the conservation objectives for these sites involve maintaining or restoring natural supporting processes. Therefore, in the long term the reinstatement of natural processes at coastal locations will be likely to have a benefit on these sites and so no likely significant negative effect will occur.

South Hams SAC

The majority of potential negative effects are likely to be short term and arise during the construction phases of development. An increase in disturbance caused by vehicles, noise, vibrations and temporary lighting, may be of particular importance to Greater Horseshoe (GHS) Bats within the South Hams SAC. However in the long term, reduction in light pollution may be beneficial to this species, as they are known to generally travel and feed at night in areas with limited artificial light. Bats become accustomed to particular levels of light near there roosts and over feeding and commuting areas. The type of light (wavelength) emitted by luminaires is known to have differing effects on different species of bats (Emery, 2008). Where projects changed these to reduce light pollution in terms of sky glow, glare, trespass or scenic intrusion, this would need to be done with reference to potential impacts on feeding habits of bats from this SAC. In general Horseshoe bats are known to avoid illuminated areas, (Bat Conservation Trust and Institute of Lighting Engineers, 2007) so projects to reduce light spill are likely to have beneficial effects.

At this strategic policy level it is not possible to determine the significance of activities brought forward under this policy. However, the emphasis of the policy is on reducing light pollution therefore likely significant effects on bats can be objectively ruled out.

Recommendations:

The current policy wording makes it clear that alternatives must be 'suitable' and within the context of the AONB statutory purpose this is to conserve and enhance natural beauty, which inherently includes maintaining and restoring European sites and their qualifying features and supporting habitats and processes. Even if the policy were to be reworded to provide explicit protection, it would remain strategic in nature and still require scheme level habitats regulations assessment screening. In view of this it is not thought necessary to reword the policy.

Any projects brought forward within the AONB to which this policy relates should be subject to a HRA screening assessment. These projects could be brought forward by relevant authorities or by statutory undertakers, and it will be their legal responsibility to ensure that the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are met.

Conclusion:

Owing to the necessarily overarching, strategic nature of this policy, its spatial extents cannot be defined. In certain circumstances actions within the Strategic Delivery Plan or those of organisations outside the AONB Partnership, could result in project level effects on European sites. The scale and location of actions likely to have significant effects would fall within the scope of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and require assessment. At this more detailed level the assessment would be better informed and able to secure protection of these sites. It is therefore considered, with the recommendations implemented, that this policy alone or in combination with the legal requirements will not be likely to lead to significant effects.

No Likely Significant Effects – if recommendations are implemented.

Policy Hist/P1 Cultural and historic environment	The identification, protection and active conservation of the AONB's cultural and historic environment will be promoted and supported.

Applicable to all European sites within or in close proximity to cultural and historic assets of the AONB.

Protection and active conservation of the historic environment can in certain circumstances conflict with the conservation of biodiversity. This could be the case at coastal sites where biodiversity interest features, such as Shore Dock or Vegetated Sea Cliffs, require natural coastal processes, which could conflict with the protection of historic environment features at risk from erosion. The potential for impacts and their likelihood depend upon the presence of historic environment features on or near the European sites and the approach to their management.

It is understood that the protection and active conservation of these cultural resources would necessarily include the conservation and enhancement of their natural beauty and so there will be no likely significant effects from the protection of cultural resources.

South Devon Shore Dock SAC

There is a Scheduled Monument of a coaxial field system at Gammon Head to Pig's Nose/Shags Rock. It is listed as 'medium risk' on the Heritage at Risk Register 2008 condition assessment, and the land is currently farmed so it is unlikely to be targeted for conservation action. Listed buildings within the SAC include the Start Point Light House, Lighthouse keeper cottages Well House and Piggery North but these would not create a need for coastal defence, so it is reasonable to conclude that there are no likely significant effects on vegetated sea cliffs. Soar Mill Cove, Scheduled Monument - regular aggregated field system.

There are two scheduled monument sites, including Coaxial field systems and associated later remains between Deckler's Cliff and Gammon Headwith and Coaxial field system and semaphore station at Signal House Point. A further three listed buildings, including Start Point Lighthouse, Well House and Piggery North at Start Point lie within this SAC.

South Hams SAC

The part of this SAC within the AONB is in the Berry Head National Nature Reserve. Scheduled Monuments include the 'Berry Head Fort And Battery and Hardey's Head battery', 'The Old Redoubt'. Nine Listed Buildings lie within the site. The site is in the protective management of Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust and is managed through the National Nature Reserve Management Plan with the involvement of both Natural England and Heritage.

Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC, Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC, Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC

There are a number of both scheduled monument sites and listed buildings that lie at the boundary of the AONB and are directly adjacent to European sites. Any conservation work implemented in order to protect these sites has the potential to negatively affect these sites due to the large extent of contact between the coastline and these SACs. For Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC within the AONB the historic environment features are located long coast path, outside the site. For all sites, Historic England does not advocate defending a Scheduled Monument against coastal erosion, but advocates the accurate recording of features in the various stages of deterioration. As a result there would be no likely significant effects on SAC interest features.

Recommendations:

No changes to the policy wording are thought necessary upon more detailed consideration of the sites and likelihood of impacts. Any potential for impacts from actions under this policy are more appropriately dealt with at the site level/project level. Even if the policy were to be reworded to provide explicit protection, it would remain strategic in nature and still require scheme level habitats regulations assessment screening. In view of this it is not thought necessary to reword the policy.

Any projects brought forward within the AONB to which this policy relates should be subject to a HRA screening assessment. These projects could be brought forward by relevant authorities, and it will be their legal responsibility to ensure that the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are met.

Conclusion:

When the policy is interpreted within the context of the AONB Management Plan and the statutory purpose of the AONB, there are unlikely to be significant effects on the relevant European sites as a result of this policy.

No Likely Significant Effects – If recommendations are implemented.

Policy Hist/P3 Public access	Public access will be encouraged to historic sites that are best able to withstand visitor pressure without undue harm to their nature conservation interests and physical features.

Applicable to all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites that lie within or in close proximity to the AONBs cultural and historic attributes. South Devon Shore Dock SAC, Blackstone Point SAC

An increase in public accessibility to historic and cultural sites has the potential to negatively affect European sites if they lie in areas where public access (pathways and roads) is present. The policy may encourage an increase in the use of these access routes or the construction of new access routes. This may increase disturbance caused by people and vehicles, leading to noise and trampling. However the policy is clear that this will only be encouraged where this will not harm their nature conservation interests. Therefore, the plan is unlikely to encourage access to European sites.

South Hams SAC

Berry Head fort is a historically important site. It is acknowledged that this site is currently at or near to its visitor capacity. There is on site management in place to protect the biodiversity interests features, both European (dry heath, semi-natural dry grasslands) and national, through the National Nature Reserve Management Plan. Under this plan visitor access to European habitats is excluded. The quarry area (caves not open to the public) with bat interests is separate and has no public access, so there will be no likely significant effects for this interest feature.

Recommendations:

There are no recommendations to reword this policy. Impacts on South Hams SAC from this policy are more appropriately dealt with at the site level through the National Nature Reserve Management Plan.

Conclusion:

The policy requires there to be no undue harm to their nature conservation interests and this serves to safeguard qualifying features of all relevant European sites. The Berry Head National Nature Reserve Management Plan has in place adequate mechanisms to avoid any adverse effects on the European interest features, even if public access were to be encouraged to that specific site under this policy. It is felt that there are unlikely to be significant effects on the relevant European sites as a result of this policy.

No Likely Significant Effects – If recommendations are implemented.

Policy Est/P1 Estuary character	A thriving maritime economy contained within the existing developed harbour areas will be promoted, complimented by high quality boating facilities and infrastructure. The more remote parts of the estuaries will be managed for their tranquil and unspoiled character and safeguarded from moorings spread and development.

Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC and the Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA

This policy creates a framework where there could be indirect impacts for the Tamar Estuaries and part of the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC (outside of the AONB) as a result of its steering of development and recreational mooring use *away* from South Devon AONB estuaries and therefore possibly *towards* other local estuaries. Effects could result from the displacement of demand for moorings to the Tamar Estuaries or shifting the burden of maritime development to that estuary. That said, with regards built development The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 would prevent damaging development, and the Queen's Harbour Master and Cattewater Harbour Commission are Relevant Authorities in regard to the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European marine site, with a duty to have regard to the Habitats Directive requirements when developing and exercising their moorings policy under Regulation 9(4) and 10(1&2) so this should prevent any additional mooring pressure being accepted where it would have a significant effect.

Recommendations:

Upon further consideration of the likelihood and significance of effects on these European sites no changes to the policy wording are considered to be required.

Conclusion:

Given the available site safeguard available to the non-AONB areas of the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC and the Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA, through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, the Town and Country Planning Regime and its EIA Regulations it is felt that there are sufficient mechanisms to avoid indirect negative effects from displacement of mooring and development demand. It is therefore concluded that there are no likely significant effects from this policy.

No Likely Significant Effects – If recommendations are implemented

Mar/P4 Coast Protection	The South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan along with Coastal Change Management Areas provide a policy framework for the area and covers the next 100 years. For areas identified as requiring no active intervention, there will be a presumption that natural coastal processes will be allowed to act. For other policy areas requiring intervention and wherever practicable, soft engineering solutions that work with natural physical processes will be preferred together with the realignment of coastal infrastructure to more suitable locations where there is space to accommodate it.

Sites

Applicable to all coastal and marine European sites within and bordering the AONB boundary, including; South Devon Shore Dock SAC, Blackstone Point SAC, South Hams SAC, Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC, Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC and Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC.

This AONB policy is not driving coast protection works. It seeks to influence the way in which the different policy interventions are implemented by the Coast Protection Authorities, with regards to effects of coast protection in the Shoreline Management Plan, on the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB. This policy will manifest purely within coastal locations to protect the AONB special qualities and communities from the impacts of more frequent high energy storm events, and future sea level rise.

Areas that require no active intervention will be left to evolve naturally. This is beneficial to species and habitats as they require natural processes to thrive.

Areas requiring active intervention will be protected using soft engineering approaches where possible, however owing to limited options of soft engineering (beach nourishment and managed retreat), other hard engineering approaches may be required. These approaches may have the potential to cause negative affects to European sites if on or nearby, for example the construction of artificial structures may disrupt the habitat or natural processes upon which they rely.

Recommendations:

The policy clearly encourages the use of appropriate solutions that work with natural processes. No changes to the policy wording are considered to be necessary. Even if the policy were to be reworded to provide explicit protection, it would remain strategic in nature and still require scheme level habitats regulations assessment screening. In view of this it is not thought necessary to reword the policy. Any projects brought forward within the AONB to which this policy relates should be subject to a HRA screening assessment. These projects could be brought forward by relevant authorities, and it will be their legal responsibility to ensure that the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are met.

Conclusions:

The Shoreline Management Plan was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment at the time of its writing. It will therefore, have made appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures. And it could not have been adopted without the local authorities having ascertained that it will not have adverse effects on any of these European sites.

The Coast Protection Authorities whom are responsible for carrying out the functions to which this policy relates have a duty under Regulation 9 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 to ensure that any works are in compliance with the Habitats Directives. This will include conducting an appropriate assessment under Regulation 63.

No Likely Significant Effects – If recommendations are implemented

Acc/P7 Popular sites	The provision of sustainable visitor facilities, recreational infrastructure and information will be promoted at the most heavily used destinations. Management resources, promotion and marketing will be concentrated on the more popular and developed sites which are best able to accommodate and contain intensive recreational pressure.

This policy lies within the access, recreation and tourism management theme and overall, it aims to encourage and manage visitors to the AONB. The wording of the policy makes it clear that any activities will be confined to heavily used destinations. These destinations may include those areas that are currently most developed (areas close to Plymouth) and popular tourist destinations (Salcombe and Brixham), however these locations lie adjacent to European sites. Similar policy wording was included in the previous Management Plan and there have been no significant effects on the European sites as a result.

South Hams SAC

A portion of this site is directly adjacent to the town of Brixham, a popular tourist destination and of which a number of holiday parks border. Any development of facilities and an increase in tourism in this locality has the potential to add pressure and encroach on to habitats of this site. However, as the most developed areas of this town lie away from the SAC, then negative effects are unlikely to occur.

Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC

The popular tourist towns of Salcombe and Kingsbridge lie upstream of this site and any projects that occur here will not directly affect this SAC due to its distance downstream (1km approximately from Salcome town centre). The policy is also clear that any work will be directed towards sites which are best able to accommodate and contain intensive recreational pressure, as a result the focus will be away from the SAC and will not encourage or promote recreational use of the SAC.

Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC

The site directly borders Plymouth, a major developed area. An increase in visitor numbers brought about by the promotional activities through this policy has the potential to lead to negative effects on the SAC through an increase in pollution and disturbance through increased boating activities. This would be confined to the Yealm estuary and Wembury areas since this is the part of the SAC within the AONB . However, the policy wording is clear that work will focus on the site '*best able to accommodate and contain intensive recreational pressure',* which inherently will exclude European sites.

Recommendations:

No changes to the policy wording are deemed necessary. However it will be necessary for further screening of each individual activity at the project level prior to implementation to assess the likely significant effects to European sites. Even if the policy were to be reworded to provide explicit protection, it would remain strategic in nature and still require scheme level habitats regulations assessment screening. In view of this it is not thought necessary to reword the policy.

Any potential for impacts from actions under this policy are more appropriately dealt with at the site level/project level. Any projects brought forward within the AONB to which this policy relates should be subject to a HRA screening assessment. These projects could be brought forward by relevant authorities, and it will be their legal responsibility to ensure that the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are met.

Conclusions:

The activities brought about through the implementation of this policy have the potential to cause effects to some European sites, due to the potential increase in visitor pressure. However, the policy wording is clear that work will focus on the site '*best able to accommodate and contain intensive recreational pressure'*, which inherently will exclude provision at or promotion or marketing of recreational use of any European sites. Additionally, if projects are appropriately screened and assessed the potential for likely significant effects to European sites can be eliminated.

No Likely Significant Effects – If recommendations are implemented

Plan/P3 Developer contributions	Where new developments are likely to result in residual harm to the natural beauty of the AONB, developers will be expected to provide compensation which will be used to enhance landscape features which are in poor condition and contribute to AONB management. If increased recreational pressures are likely developers will be expected to contribute to improving carrying capacity of green and blue infrastructure in the surrounding area.

This policy relates to the imposition of developer contributions by the local planning authorities. All developments requiring planning permission will be subject to the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Therefore development on-site will be assessed as part of the proposal for development. It is assumed that new developments will not be on or in close proximity to European sites due to their statutory protection and so the construction of new facilities here is unlikely to significantly effect the habitats and species of these sites. Contributions to improving carrying capacity will be to projects being undertaken by the local authorities. These will also be subject to the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

South Devon Shore Dock SAC, Blackstone Point SAC, South Hams SAC

The policy may induce development and management activities that directly affect the terrestrial European sites, for example through extending footpaths. The improvement to recreational facilities may encourage visitors, which may increase noise and disturbance to habitats and species, from people and vehicles. However, the process of improving carrying capacity should avoid these negative impacts, leading to no likely negative impacts on these European sites.

Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC, Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC, Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC

The policy may lead to extended coastal recreational facilities through contributions to blue infrastructure. However, the policy is clear that contributions are to improve carrying capacity rather then increase use of particular areas. The policy is primarily concerned with residual harm to natural beauty which inherently includes European sites, so the impacts of projects are unlikely to be negative.

Recommendations

No changes to the policy wording are deemed necessary. However it will be necessary for further screening of each individual activity at the project level prior to implementation to assess the likely significant effects to European sites. Even if the policy were to be reworded to provide explicit protection, it would remain strategic in nature and still require scheme level habitats regulations assessment screening. In view of this it is not thought necessary to reword the policy.

Any potential for impacts from actions under this policy are more appropriately dealt with at the site level/project level. Any projects brought forward within the AONB to which this policy relates should be subject to a HRA screening assessment if they could have likely significant effects. These projects could be brought forward by relevant authorities, and it will be their legal responsibility to ensure that the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are met.

Conclusions

With the recommendations and mitigation at a project level for individual development, the potential for likely significant effects on terrestrial and marine European sites can be eliminated.

No Likely Significant Effects – If recommendations are implemented

Trans/P1 Highway Management	Highway network maintenance and improvement will be undertaken in a manner which is sensitive and appropriate to the rural character of the AONB and compatible with its special qualities.

The policy aims to achieve the sensitive management of the AONB's transport networks by the Highways Authority (Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council) and its contractors. It directs the Highways Authorities to ensure activities are sensitive and appropriate to the rural character of the AONB. This will include its dark skies.

Site

This policy is applicable to all terrestrial sites in the AONB that incorporate transport networks, most commonly roads.

South Hams SAC

The policy relates to activities that have particular relevance to the inland portion of this site, where Greater Horseshoe bats are known to be present and likely to use the hedgerow networks alongside minor roads as strategic flyaways. The addition or alteration of lighting along these routes could discourage bats from using this area and therefore limit their potential supporting habitat. Highway Authorities are under the legal obligation to assess their actions under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations.

South Devon Shore Dock SAC

This site contains and directly borders a number of minor roads of which may require management activities to follow the direction of this policy. This has the potential to negatively affect the vegetated sea cliff habitat within this site.

Recommendations

No changes to the policy wording are deemed necessary. However it will be necessary for screening of each individual activity at the project level prior to implementation to assess the likely significant effects to European sites. Even if the policy were to be reworded to provide explicit protection, it would remain strategic in nature and still require scheme level habitats regulations assessment screening. In view of this it is not thought necessary to reword the policy.

Any potential for impacts from actions under this policy are more appropriately dealt with at the site level/project level. Any projects brought forward within the AONB to which this policy relates should be subject to a HRA screening assessment. These projects could be brought forward by relevant authorities, and it will be their legal responsibility to ensure that the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are met.

Conclusions

Highway Authorities are under the legal obligation to assess their actions under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations and this will provide protection for the European sites.

No Likely Significant Effects – If recommendations are implemented

9. Summary of conclusions on the likelihood of significant effects

The Screening process confirms that the final policies, have No Likely Significant Effects on the identified European sites.

Eight (8) policies were identified in the Preliminary Screening for which the *potential* for negative effects could not be obviously ruled out (applying the precautionary principle) within the framework of their current wording. These policies were: Lan/P5 Skylines and views, Hist/P1 Cultural and historic environment, Hist/P3 Public access, Est/P1 Estuary character, Mar/P4 Coast Protection, Acc/P7 Popular sites, Plan/P3 Developer contributions and, Trans/P1 Highways Management.

Upon fuller consideration the other policies identified as having *potential* for effects were found not to have likely significant effects. This, together with other mechanisms available to protection the local European resource it is not considered necessary to reword these policies.

Management Strategy policies will guide actions both within the AONB Delivery Plan and the **actions and projects of others**[20]. Owing to the necessarily strategic nature of the Management Plan policies it is not possible to be precise about the locations, scale and design of the future proposals, that might come forward in or affecting the AONB. In view of this, 'plans or projects'[21] falling within the scope of policies Lan/P5, Hist/P1, Hist/P3, Est/P6, Mar/P4, Acc/P7 Plan/P3, Trans/P1 should be dealt with through proposal specific Habitat Regulations Assessment screening. At the more detailed level, assessments will be better informed and able to secure protection of the European sites. The responsibility to undertake Habitats Regulations Screening falls to the competent authority carrying out or granting consent to the specific plan or project, and not to the AONB Unit or AONB Partnership.

[20] For example, other public bodies using the Management Plan policies as guidance to assist them in fulfilling their section 85 duty to 'have regard' to the AONB. (Section 85 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).

[21] Plans or projects should be given a wide interpretation. See guidance from Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC European Commission Environment Directorate, 2001

Appendix 5 'Advice to AONB Officers' provides advice on which policies can be taken forward for adoption as worded, which require revising and details the policies under which screening of actions is required at the Delivery level.

Overall Significant Effect Conclusion

The AONB Management Strategy should be considered in its entirety and necessarily within the context of the statutory purpose of AONB designation: '*to conserve and enhance natural beauty*.' As such, the substantive purpose of all Strategic policies, and Annual Delivery Plan actions under those policies, is to proactively and positively contribute to conserving and enhancing the area's natural beauty. Included within the definition of 'conserving natural beauty' is the conservation of '*flora, fauna and physiographical features*'[22] and as such this encompasses the reasons for designation of European protected sites, that is to conserve flora and fauna.

The statutory purpose *to conserve and enhance natural beauty*, inherently necessitates the application of policies and the delivery of actions in such a way as to not compromise or prejudice the achievement of the conservation objectives of European protected sites in the European network.

When policies are interpreted within the overall framework of the AONB Management Plan and the intention of the policies (to expand on the competent authorities' achievement of the AONB's statutory purpose), this provides sufficient safeguards and there is a negligible risk that any adverse effects would be permitted to occur.

It is therefore concluded that the *South Devon AONB Management Plan 2019-2024* when taken in its entirety, will have **No Likely Significant Effects** alone or in combination with other plans or projects on the identified relevant European sites. Therefore there is no likely adverse effect on the integrity of any of the identified European sites. This conclusion is provided that **all** the recommendations herewith are acted upon and relevant legislative provisions are adhered to in the delivery.

This means that the *South Devon AONB Management Plan 2019-2024* can be adopted by the AONB relevant authorities.

[22] Section 92(2) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

10. Identified limitations of the screening assessment

The Screening has been undertaken on the Part 1 Strategy of the South Devon AONB Management Plan, and has assessed the effect of the *strategic policies*. The Part 2 Delivery Plan, should be screened and where required, assessed, for the impact of proposed actions on any of these identified European sites. Provided that the Delivery actions are performed in line with the policies within the Strategy it can be concluded that there will be no likely significant effects.

A Note on the legal purpose of this assessment

It is important to note that the assessment process required under Regulation 63(1) of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 is focused on the protection of European sites. The findings of this assessment do not obviate the competent authorities of their statutory duty to consider European protected species present inside and outside European sites, both in the use and interpretation of the policies and the delivery of actions, as required by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

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12. Appendices

Appendix 1 Screening Methodology

HRA process outline:

1. Identify and agree relevant European sites (confirm sites already proposed in discussion between Natural England and the AONB Unit)
2. Collating information on the sites and their reasons for designation (Qualifying Features), and Conservation Objectives
3. Identifying current trends and issues affecting the sites
4. Describing objectives of the AONB Management Plan and how polices could be implemented and identifying potential environmental changes
5. Identifying *potential* effects on the European sites from Management Plan policies alone or in combination with other plans and projects
6. Assessing the *significance* of identified effects
7. Recording the assessment process and findings

   Where it cannot be objectively concluded that no significant effects will result, (applying the precautionary principle) making recommendations and suggesting policy changes to avoid significant adverse effects and obviate the need for appropriate assessment. This could include a recommendation not to carry the policy forward to the final Management Plan.
8. Highlighting where projects to be delivered under the Delivery Plan will require screening or a more detailed assessment
9. Providing guidance on the re drafting of the final version of the Management Plan

   Where significant effects cannot be objectively ruled out, and cannot be avoided by policy alterations, policies will need to be taken forward for a more detailed 'appropriate assessment' to determine whether the integrity of the site(s) will be significantly affected.

Given the environmental protectionist nature of AONB Management Plans:

i) it is unlikely that policies will be found to have significant effects on European sites.

ii) policies which are found to have likely significant effects at the Screening stage, that are not more appropriately dealt with at the project/delivery stage, will probably not be carried forward by the AONB Partnership.

It is therefore proposed, in the interests of expediency, to only develop a full appropriate assessment methodology, in consultation with Natural England, should it be found to be required following Screening.

Appendix 2 Characteristics of European sites

Blackstone Point SAC (UK0030091)

Grid Reference: SX535462 Area: 7.38 Ha

Shingle, sea cliffs, islets, (95%) improved grassland (5%). This small site supports the largest known extent of Shore Dock (*Rumex rupestris*) in Devon, and one of the largest concentrations of this species on rocky sea cliffs in South West England.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*1441 Shore dock *Rumex rupestris*	To maintain in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of Shore dock (*Rumex rupestris*)	Natural erosion of cliffs desirable Presence of freshwater (to maintain freshwater seepage habitats)	Coastal processes	No anthropogenic change by sea defence work, development etc. Measures may need to be taken at to prevent these activities occurring at this site. Natural erosion of cliffs desirable - coastline should not be over-stabilised, not over-eroded. The key management principle is to allow the dynamic processes of the cliffs and foreshore, such as erosion and slumping, to occur unrestricted. Shore Dock colonies are often very small, and such processes can sometimes lead to local extinctions, but equally they help to create new habitat patches suitable for colonisation. Extreme coastal process events which are beyond human control and influence.
			Water regime	Shore dock requires lateral water movement and continual presence of freshwater. No drainage or culverting of streams as this can destroy populations.
			Water quality	Excessive algal growth.
			Vegetation	Requires open vegetation. Does not require taller species (eg *Phragmites*) or scrub. Locally there may be need for scrub control on cliffs susceptible to invasion.
			Recreation	Excessive recreational pressure may be detrimental to Shore Dock.

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs

Blackstone Point	20/05/2010 100% FAVOURABLE. 34 individual Shore dock plants were found at 12 locations; locations are recorded on the electronic field sheet. Vegetation structure, water quality, coastal processes and hydrology were all assessed and found to be favourable for maintaining Shore dock. In general the habitat is in very good condition and is maintained by natural processes.

South Devon Shore Dock SAC (UK0030060)

Grid Reference: SX787362 Area: 341.01 Ha

The bedrock at this site in south Devon is composed of mineral-rich Lower Devonian schists forming cliffs rising to 120 metres. It is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts. Cliffs support maritime grassland communities including Thrift (*Armeria maritime*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritime*) and Autumn Squill (*Scilla autumnalis*). The grassland merges into bare rock and coastal heath supporting a number of uncommon species including a lichen assemblage with Medeteranian affinities and an invertebrate fauna consisting of species limited to southerly coastal sites.

This important rocky-shore site for a number of populations of Shore dock (*Rumex rupestris*) at the eastern limit of its current UK range. In 1999 a thorough survey of the site located 16 colonies and a total of at least 62 plants. The site also has some very extensive areas of additional suitable habitat. Marine areas, sea inlets, shingle, sea cliffs islets.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	To maintain, in favourable condition, the Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	The overall length and/or area of the cliff habitat of the site is maintained taking into account natural variation Maintain the range of physical conditions arising from variation in geology and geomorphology, profile, stability, degree of maritime exposure, drainage, aspect, geographical location and history of management	Coastal processes	No anthropogenic change by sea defence work, development etc. Natural erosion of cliffs desirable - coastline should not be over-stabilised, not over-eroded. The key management principle is to allow the dynamic processes of the cliffs and foreshore, such as erosion and slumping, to occur unrestricted. Shore Dock colonies are often very small, and such processes can sometimes lead to local extinctions, but equally they help to create new habitat patches suitable for colonisation. Extreme coastal process events which are beyond human control and influence.
*1441 Shore dock *Rumex rupestris*	To maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of Shore dock (*Rumex rupestris*)	Natural erosion of cliffs desirable Presence of freshwater (to maintain freshwater seepage habitats)	Land management	Much of the land is in National Trust ownership and managed by tenants who are aware of the importance of the *Rumex* plants.
			Recreation	The most likely threat to the integrity of the site is inadvertent damage resulting from recreational activities of holiday makers (which can be counteracted to some extent by

		interpretation).
	Water regime	Shore dock requires lateral water movement and continual presence of freshwater. No drainage or culverting of streams.
	Water quality	Excessive algal growth from nutrient enrichment.
	Vegetation	Requires open vegetation. Does not require taller species (eg *Phragmites*) or scrub.

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs	
Bolt Head to Bolt Tail	82.27 % FAVOURABLE. Units1,3,4,5,6 (on 13 & 14 /06/2009) and unit 7 (21/09/2009) units 8,9, (on 2906/2009) unit 10 (on06/01/17) 17.73 % 34.70 Ha UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING (30/11/2009) Unit 2 Currently managed under a CSS agreement. This expires September of 2010 and needs an HLS from then on or soon after. Hence could become at risk if no new HLS agreement is started in 2010/2011. The current assessment is an overall improvement on previous condition assessments: 16&17/08/01 & 22/03/02 3 units were FAVOURABLE 11.07% of site area. Including areas of foreshore and cliff, with small and vulnerable areas of shore dock. People were using areas very close to Shore Dock (16/08/01). 17/08/01, 06/02/04, 15/05/06139.31Ha UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING (71.19%) including supralittoral rock, littoral rock and broadleaved mixed and yew woodland, including areas of Bolberry Down. Areas of woodland had extensive path clearance through Woodland Grant Scheme work. National Trust Wildlife Enhancement Scheme grant should reduce bracken. 16/08/01 347Ha UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE (17.73%) where more effective grazing is required and appropriate
Prawle Point and Start Point	15-20/12/2010 37.83 % assessed as FAVOURABLE (including littoral sediment and supralittoral rock) including vegetated sea cliffs. Units 1 & 2 comprised of intertidal and lower soft coastal cliffs, and the soft Maritime Cliff vegetation community is good. *Rumex* spp present but unable to determine whether *R. rupestris* or *R. crispus* at time of visit. 62.17 % UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING, most units have Higher Level Stewardship Agreement in place. Units require appropriate grazing management. One unit heavily overgrazed by sheep. The current assessment is an overall improvement on previous condition assessments: 1,2&3/07/02, 30/01/04 20.58% of the site area assessed as FAVOURABLE. 2/07/02 UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE (22.28%), reasons for unfavourable condition is undergrazing and inappropriate scrub and weed control. UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING (28.29%) reasons for unfavourable condition include grazing regime, assessed as recovering because of Higher Level Stewardship agreement entered into February 2008, and the WES agreement and work of the National Trust. UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING (28.58%) condition owing to dominating bracken, undergrazing and inappropriate scrub control.

South Hams SAC (UK0012650)

Grid Reference:SX942565 Area: 129.53 Ha

The Devonian limestone headland and cliffs of the Torbay area of south Devon support a large area of the rare CG1 *Festuca ovina – Carlina vulgaris* grassland, including the *Scilla autumnalis – Euphorbia portlandica* sub-community, known from no other site in the UK. The site is exceptional in that it supports a number of rare and scarce vascular plants typical of the oceanic southern temperate and Mediterranean-Atlantic elements of the British flora. These include Portland spurge *Euphorbia portlandica*, rock stonecrop *Sedum forsterianum*,

autumn squill *Scilla autumnalis* and small hare's-ear *Bupleurum baldense.* Semi-natural dry grassland gives way to European dry heaths on flatter slopes above the cliffs in some areas. Although this site is important for its extensive limestone grasslands, some areas on the plateau support dry heath characteristic of acid soils.

The site is thought to hold the largest population of greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) in the UK, and is the only one containing more than 1,000 adult bats (31% of the UK species population). It contains the largest known maternity roost in the UK and possibly in Europe. As the site contains both maternity and hibernation sites it demonstrates good conservation of the features required for survival.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*4030 European dry heaths	To maintain in favourable condition the European dry heaths	Existing area maintained 'Natural' bare ground between 10-25% in intimate mosaic with vegetation 'Disturbed' <1% Cover of *Calluna vulgaris* to be between 25% minimum and 90% maximum.	Changes in management regime (e.g. grazing and burning)	Grazing and burning affect the structure and composition of shrub and grass components on dry heath. More than 10% cover of Brachypodium pinnatum and Bromopsis erecta, in period May-July indicates insufficient removal of biomass eg under-grazing. Greater than 5% cover of tree and scrub species excluding *Juniperus communis*, shows that habitat is not being managed sufficiently e.g. undergrazed. In coastal stands, exposure to wind limits sub-shrub growth. Heathland at Berry Head was identified in 2007 as having insufficient grazing with gorse dominating.
*6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)	To maintain in favourable condition the Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)	No reduction in area and any consequent fragmentation without prior consent Proportion (40-90%) of non-Graminae ("herbs"), in period May -July	Invasive species	Changes in the extent and cover of invasive species usually indicate a change in conditions on a site, often as a result of anthropogenic activities that may promote rapid expansion or increase in cover. Such species may include those identified as negative indicators for grasslands *e.g. Cirsium arvense, Senecio jacobaea, Urtica dioica*, together with non-native species. Some tall ruderal communities may be present naturally on a cliff site. Part of the site is currently failing to meet favourable conservation status owing to presence of Japanese knotweed and monbrecia.
1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	To maintain in favourable condition the Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	The overall length and/or area of the cliff habitat of the site is maintained taking into account natural variation Maintain the range of physical conditions arising from variation in geology and geomorphology, profile, stability, degree of maritime exposure, drainage, aspect, geographical location and history of management	Coastal processes / coastal defence	An important aspect of the vegetated sea cliffs habitat is the modification of vegetation patterns in response to natural and geomorphological coastal processes without constraints. There should be no erection of sea defences or coast protection works, including cliff or landslip drainage or stabilisation measures. Introduction of or increase in physical constraints would reduce the mobility of the cliff and reduce the range of communities which represent this interest feature. Information on existing coast protection should be available from the South Devon Dorset Shoreline Management Plan 2

		Maintain maritime rock- crevice and cliff- ledge communities with a maritime element in the flora reflecting the degree of exposure to salt spray and characteristic of the geographical location, taking account of natural variation	Surrounding land management	Nutrient enrichment The habitats within this site are highly sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticides, applications of which should be avoided both within the site itself and in adjacent surrounding areas. Heathland requires nutrient poor soils. Herbicides may be useful in targeting certain invasive species, but should be used with extreme care. Access to this site, and any recreational activities within, may also need to be managed. There is a lack of suitable bat foraging habitat nearby. Cattle have been reintroduced
9180 *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines (Priority feature)	To maintain, in favourable condition the *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines		Recreational pressure	2007 – 2017 Berry Head Conservation Management Plan indicates that visitor pressure on areas of the calcareous grassland are in excess of its carrying capacity. This is thought likely to be due to the way in which the site is used rather than numbers.
8310 Caves not open to the public	To maintain, in favourable condition the caves not open to the public	Geological stability of caves. No recent falls or signs of geological instability	Changes to ventilation	
*1304 Greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*	To maintain, in favourable condition the habitats for *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*	Entrances remain unobstructed; no unplanned new entrances causing a change to ventilation No change in entrance size sufficient to affect air-flow and internal temperature No significant shading of the main roost area by trees so that solar heating can occur. No artificial lights shining on entrance or associated flight paths No significant increase in human disturbance No significant unplanned change to ventilation or temperature regime. Caves cool (8-12) and dark, once beyond the entrance zone	Light levels at cave entrances and on flight paths	Degree of shading from the sun influences solar heating of internal environment. Presence of artificial lights can impact on behavior. Bullycleave Quarry requires vegetation clearance around entrance occasionally as it is small and slopes downwards - leaves build up restricting bat access.
			Disturbance (e.g. noise, human activity	Human access to site controlled and limited. Security fence in sound condition at Berry Head. Other sites have no security but little unauthorised access. Reeds cave is gated and has a limited number of visitors during the summer. Rock House Cave - Access gates in good condition. Roosters Cave has an open entrance to small cave. Bullycleave Quarry entrance is not gated but is within a secure compound. It is important to avoid disturbance to the bats while they are at the maternity roost. Entrances to the site should be secure to prevent uncontrolled or unauthorised access during the breeding season, but should remain unobstructed enough to continue to be accessible to bats. Activities of any kind within the site or close to the entrances should be largely avoided during this period each year to minimise the risk of disturbance to the breeding bats. Building or engineering works taking place within or around the area should be avoided, as should the use of vehicles or machinery that would be likely to produce noise, fumes or heat near roosting sites or access points that may disturb breeding bats.
Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs				
Berry Head to	FAVOURABLE 86.58%, 13.42% (8.82 Ha) UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 07/06/09.			

Sharkham Point (within the AONB)	Heathland, Calcareous grassland FAVOURABLE. Caves not open to the public FAVOURABLE. Vegetated sea cliffs, some units FAVOURABLE, 2 units (8.82 Ha) UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING. Unit 6 is a valuable addition to the vegetated sea cliff feature. Small areas of favourable calcareous grassland present but mostly ruderal vegetation. Passes all attributes for vegetated sea cliffs except for invasive non-natives, due to presence of occasional buddleia and rare Japanese knotweed and montbretia. This is an improvement in the area of the site which is unfavourable but recovering as opposed to no change, and there has been no decline in the area which is favourable since previous assessment. FAVOURABLE 86.58%, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 4.81%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 8.61% European dry heaths, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts FAVOURABLE 14&19/01/07 Caves not open to the public (maternity & hibernation roosts), Greater Horseshoe Bats 20/06/02 FAVOURABLE Visited with national mammal specialist of Lowlands Team to field test GH Bat Condition Assessment forms. Visited The Cavern and Hole-in-the-Wall (HinW), both were considered favourable as maternity and hibernation sites following EN funded stabilisation work carried out over past two years at HinW. Neither cave is grilled, but access is controlled by a security fence and the nature of the site; no evidence of unwanted access in quarry or caves. Buddleia growth at entrance to The Cavern needs to be watched to ensure it does not become obstructed. GHB droppings (< one year old) present in both caves. On the basis of a slight decline in July emergence counts (c6% over 6 years) the site only just scrapes through as a favourable maternity site and the specialist suggests that it would be worth investigating installing a solar powered heater in the dome in Hole-in-the Wall to help improve summer thermal conditions. 2007 Berry Head Conservation Management Plan states that only around 100 bats and that there is a lack of good foraging habitat nearby and poor micro-climate within the main maternity roost, making it one of the most vulnerable sites in the country.
Bulkamore Iron Mine (within the AONB)	Caves not open to the public 100% FAVOURABLE. 24/10/08 The site assessment found that entrances were unobstructed and secure. The site had not suffered any disturbance and greater horseshoe bats were using the site. Previous assessment 100% FAVOURABLE 4/08/99.
Buckfasleigh Caves	Caves not open to the public 39.50% FAVOURABLE 60.50% UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 19/03/14 FAVOURABLE Joint Mitnor has a locked gated cave entrance with a steel door. Access is restricted to the summer months. This showed no evidence of recreational activities. There was no evidence of removal or redistribution of material or specimen collection. Inside the entrance to the cave next to the Talus Cone the temperature was 10.1 degrees C with 93 % humidity. There is no presence of tipping or landfill, quarrying engineering works, scree and/or sediment build up or erosion. The Talus cone and fossil remains are present and intact and the hibernation site showed a count of 9 Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bats). All cave interest features are present and in favourable condition. 20/03/14 FAVOURABLE Access to Higher Kiln Quarry is by appointment from Devon Wildlife Trust and the Pengelly Trust. The site consists of 5 cave systems. All caves features assessed and passed on variables. Evidence of summer use of caves with numerous remains of beetle and Chafer wing casings present. 19/03/14 FAVOURABLE Access to Reserve by appointment only, therefore no recreational activities. Gate in good condition - no change from previous assessment carried out in 2008. No sign of unauthorised human activity. All cave features in good condition and pass condition assessment as favourable with no recreational activities, landfill/tipping, vandalism, vegetation encroachment. 19/03/14 Access to Bullycleaves Quarry is by appointment only from Flo-Gas and is within a secure compound and there is a single entrance. There are rock fissures within the quarry that only bats are able to access. Vegetation - brambles and debris were cleared from the entrance whilst on site. The interest features of the caves are in favourable condition with no signs of vandalism, specimen collection, engineering works, pollution, recreational activities, tipping or landfill.

	19/03/14 UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING (15.76 Ha).This cave Baker's Pit, has been used as a tip in the past with rubbish entering through the original . Access by arrangement with DCUC and Devon Speleological Society. Bakers pit old entrance, now filled with rubbish tip and rubbish from the landfill is causing temperature spikes Only 1 Lesser Horseshoe indicating decline from previous assessment count. The caving soicerty has tapped the area off, preventing unauthorised damage and access to the interest features within the cave. This has proved successful since the last assessment in 2007 as the Waterfall Crystal corridor is clear of debris and no sign of vandalism or disturbance. Also Caves pearls and Crystal pools have emerged.
Chudleigh Caves and Woods	Caves not open to the public FAVOURABLE 06/01/08
Haytor and Smallacombe Iron Mine	Caves not open to the public FAVOURABLE 05/01/2009. Haytor Iron Mine has been an important roost for bats, particularly in the winter, for many years. It is one of several sites around Dartmoor which bats from the Buckfastleigh and Chudleigh colonies use periodically. 7 Greater Horseshoe and 6 Lesser Horseshoe bats found. Gates in good order. All geological features in sound condition.

Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC

Grid Reference:SX472506 Area: 6402.03 Ha

Plymouth Sound and Estuaries, on the south-west coast of England, includes the Sound, and ria estuaries of the rivers Tavy, Tamar, Lynher Yealm and the adjacent Wembury Bay. It has extensive areas of sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time consisting of a range of sandy sediments within the inlet and on the open coast. These sediments include tide-swept sandy banks in estuarine habitats, sandy muds north of Plymouth Breakwater, muddy sands in Jennycliff Bay, fine sands with eelgrass *Zostera marina* and a rich associated flora and fauna in the Yealm entrance, as well as tide-swept sandy sediments with associated hard substrates colonised by distinctive communities of algae and invertebrates.

Plymouth Sound and Estuaries is representative of ria estuaries in south-west England. The Rivers Tamar and Lynher are linked at their mouths. The upper parts of the Tamar and Lynher include a very well-developed estuarine salinity gradient. As a consequence, they exhibit one of the finest examples in the UK of changing estuarine communities with changing salinity regime. Rocky reefs in low salinity estuarine conditions far inland on the Tamar are very unusual and support species such as the hydroid *Cordylophora caspia*. The Tamar is one of few estuaries where zonation of rocky habitats (intertidal and subtidal) can be observed along an estuarine gradient.

Large shallow inlets and bays include the rias of the rivers Tavy, Tamar, Lynher and Yealm. The first three of these join at the wide, rocky inlet of Plymouth Sound and the Yealm enters the adjacent Wembury Bay. The Yealm has good examples of habitats and communities characteristic of sheltered marine inlets with little freshwater input, including a range of sponge- and worm-dominated communities on lower shore mixed sediments. The Plymouth Sound complex has a high diversity of habitats and communities characteristic of different salinities, in contrast to the Fal and Helford. Some of these support extremely rich marine flora and fauna, which include abundant southern Mediterranean-Atlantic species rarely found in Britain, such as the carpet coral *Hoplangia durotrix*. Particularly notable habitats include (i) littoral and sublittoral limestone reefs extensively bored by bivalves and harbouring a rich fauna; (ii) offshore sublittoral tide-swept reefs; (iii) tide-swept limestone channels with animal communities rarely encountered in other marine inlets; and (iv) subtidal sediments with rich and often diverse invertebrate communities. 1170 Reefs Plymouth Sound in south-west England has a wide variety of intertidal and subtidal reef biotopes. Of particular importance are the limestone reefs running along the northern shore from West Hoe to Batten Bay, which are one of only two coastal areas in south-west Britain with Devonian limestone. This relatively

soft rock is extensively bored by the bivalve *Hiatella arctica* and the spionid worms *Polydora* spp., and harbours a rich fauna. In the sublittoral this steep-sided, wave-sheltered reef is dominated by a dense hydroid and bryozoan turf with anemones and ascidians. A number of rarely-recorded low shore biotopes also occur along the shores from Devil's Point to Batten Bay, at Wembury, Penlee, Hoo Lake Point, and in the mouth of the River Yealm. The sublittoral is of particular importance for its kelp- and animal-dominated habitats. The area off Batten Bay contains the south-western kelp *Laminaria ochroleuca*, together with other uncommon species including the rare sea slug *Okenia elegans* and trumpet anemone *Aiptasia mutabilis*. Most circalittoral rocky reefs occur in areas of the Outer Sound, such as off Wembury, the Mewstone, Penlee Point and south of the breakwater. In the approaches to Plymouth Sound, abundant populations of the slow-growing, long-lived, nationally important pink sea-fan *Eunicella verrucosa* occur.

The well-developed salinity gradient supports Atlantic salt meadow (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) together with natural transitions to brackish and freshwater communities, including reedbeds supporting the only UK population of triangular club-rush *Schoenoplectus triqueter*. The Atlantic salt meadows make a vital contribution to the structure and function of the estuary and the other habitats within it.

One of the chief rocky-shore strongholds for shore dock *Rumex rupestris* on the UK mainland, in 1999 comprising 15 colonies and 42 plants. The site also holds a sizeable area of additional suitable habitat.

The Tamar Estuary is the only recently-confirmed spawning site is in the UK for Allis shad *Alosa alosa*, although formerly known to spawn in several British river systems.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	To maintain the sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time in favourable condition, in particular: Eelgrass bed communities Gravel and sand communities Muddy sand communities	No net decrease from established baseline No net loss in area of habitats No net decrease in density of *Zostera marina*	Physical loss (Removal e.g. Land claim, coastal development)	Coastal defence can alter the sediment
*1130 Estuaries	To maintain the estuaries in favourable condition, in particular: Intertidal mud communities Subtidal mud communities Intertidal mixed muddy sediment communities Subtidal mixed muddy sediment communities Estuarine bedrock, boulder and cobble communities Subtidal sandbank communities Saltmarsh communities	No net decrease in area of communities from established baseline No significant deviation from the long term trends in position of the saltmarsh /mudflat boundary No alteration of creek patterns from the baseline, subject to natural change.	Physical damage (Abrasion e.g. boating, anchoring)	Anchoring within eelgrass beds, such as at mouth of River Yealm. Damage from smothering through fly-tipping is evident in some areas of fen and marsh.

	Reedbed communities			
*1160 Large shallow inlets and bays	To maintain the large shallow inlets and bays in favourable condition, in particular: Intertidal rock and boulder shore communities Subtidal rocky reef communities Kelp forest communities Subtidal mixed cobble and gravel communities Subtidal mud communities Subtidal sandbank communities	No net decrease in area No net loss in littoral extent of range of biotopes Maintenance of average temperature and salinity No increase in average % cover of *Sargassum muticum*	Toxic contamination (Introduction of synthetic compounds)	e.g. TBT from boat scrubbing and maintenance – scraping and painting.
*1170 Reefs	To maintain in favourable condition the reefs		Non-toxic contamination	Nutrient enrichment (e.g. agricultural run-off, outfalls). Diffuse nutrient inputs from surrounding land, agricultural run-off, is causing unfavorable condition in some units.
*1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)	To maintain in favourable condition the Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)*		Organic enrichment (e.g. mariculture, outfalls)	e.g. Organic input from sewage outfalls and vessels Water clarity decreases through increases in amounts of suspended organic/inorganic matter.
1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	To maintain in favourable condition the mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide		Changes in turbidity	e.g. outfalls, agricultural runoff, ball clay Water clarity is important for maintaining extent and density of algal and plant dominated communities, such as kelp forests and eelgrass beds, and thus the structure of the feature. Clarity decreases through increases in amounts of suspended organic/inorganic matter.
*1441 Shore dock *Rumex rupestris*	To maintain in favourable condition the population of Shore Dock *Rumex rupestris*		Biological disturbance	Introduction or translocation of non-native species e.g. Pacific oyster encroachment of which changes the biotoptes of rocky and sediment intertidal habitat. And Japanese seaweed (*Sargassum muticum*). *Sargassum* is believed to compete with native species and would be detrimental to favourable condition of large shallow inlets and bays. Non-native *S.clava* recorded for over 60 years. Himalayan Balsam threatens long term favourability of fen, marsh and swamp.High numbers of commervail and pleasure craft have the potential to cause changes in condition resulting from introduction of marine species from hull fouling and ballast water discharge, together with disturbance from anchoring and prop-wash.

1102 Allis shad *Alosa alosa*	To maintain in favourable condition the population of Allis shad *Alosa alosa*	Selective abstraction of species	e.g. bait digging, recreational fishing, crab tiling. Crab tiling has increased over one unit and may threaten its currently favourable condition.
		Climate Change	May cause changes to average water temperature, affecting spawning processes and behaviour. Also could lead to colonisation by more southern species at the northern edge of their geographic range.
Zostera marina beds	2012 FAVOURABLE CONDITION – HIGH CONFIDENCE overall extent of the seagrass beds in the SAC do not appear to have declined. Apparent extension of beds considered largely owing to seagraas not being detected in 2006 aerial images, particularly in deeper waters. (Ecospan, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC Seagrass Condition Assessment 2012 – Report No.ER12-185)		
Sub-tidal and Mixed gravel Sub-feature	03/2014 Considered to be in good condition. Little evidence of human interaction and the presence of long-lived and slow gorwing species like large sponges and hydroids. (PML, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC: Sub-tidal and Moxed Gravel Sub-feature and Sub-tidal Rocky Reefs Sub-feature Condition Assessment March 2014)		
Sub-tidal Rocky Reefs	03/2014 Across all sites there was verylittle evidence of litter and human debris. Many structurally fragile species such as hydroids were encountered at both sites suggesting minimal disturbance. (PML, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC: Sub-tidal and Moxed Gravel Sub-feature and Sub-tidal Rocky Reefs Sub-feature Condition Assessment March 2014)		
Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs			
Lynher Estuary (687.3 Ha)	14/02/14 31/05/02 & 16/05/06 100% FAVOURABLE. WFD condition FAVOURABLE. The Lynner SSSI Biotope survey carried out by Ecospan in August 2010 concludes that there is no evidence of anthropogenic impacts within the SSSI in terms of: removal of estuarine habitats, increase siltation of the estuary bed or intertidal communities, abrasion of the estuarine habitats, increased synthetic an or non synthetic toxic contamination, increases in turbidity. Therefore, the coastal flats are considered to be favourable condition.		
Rame Head and Whitsand Bay (160.09 Ha)	28/07/2009 100% FAVOURABLE Lotus angustissimus recorded on site.		
St John's Lake (266.43 Ha)	11/01/17 FAVOURABLE 5.27% UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 94.73% Zostera bed unfavourable due to presence of Enteromorpha/Ulva algae (as per SAC assessment of sub-feature reported April 2016). Previous assessment: 15/01/02 FAVOURABLE 100%		
Tamar-Tavy Estuary (1422.33 Ha)	14/02/14 FAVOURABLE 96.97%. Current marsh extent no decelined. Species composition remains stable No damage to marsh noted. UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 3.03%, (Woodland component of SSSI) 25/09/14 WFD Condition FAVOURABLE. Main threats to favourable condition appear to be non-native invasive plants.		
Wembury Point (139.3 Ha)	12/12/2010 FAVOURABLE Intertidal unit. Extensive intertidal reefs and littoral sediment. All attributes favourable. Significant amount of wireweed was recorded in the lower shore quadrats.		
Yealm Estuary (87.23 Ha)	30/11/16 100% UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING Threat from Pacific oysters spreading abundantly along rocky sediment and intertidal habitat. This is changing the biotopes. Remedy is on site manul destruction of Pacific oysters. Previous assessments: 15/10/04 & 11/11/04 100% FAVOURABLE. No know impacts on the extent of littoral rocky reef or sediment. WFD condition FAVOURABLE.		
Plymouth Sound Shores and Cliffs (45.0 Ha)	29/11/00, 13/12/04, 18/04/06, 23/09/11 FAVOURABLE 100%. No adverse human impact seen / noted. No decline in extent of biotopes. No threats to exposure from engineering works or other constraints.		

Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA (UK9010141)

Centre of Site: 50 26 14 N, 04 11 42 W Area: 1955 Ha

St John's Lake is nationally important for its wintering population of around 6,000 wildfowl and 10,000 waders. Whilst the Tamar-Tavy estuary is nationally important over wintering population of Avocet.
Bird Species Qualifying status Population (as at June 1997)

Internationally important breeding population of Little egret *Egretta garzetta* representing 20% of the species' British population.

Internationally important breeding population of Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* representing 19.4% of the species' British population
Tidal rivers, estuaries, mud flats and sand flats, lagoons (80%). Salt marshes, salt pastures and salt steppes (15%) Bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation, fens (5%)

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*Internationally important breeding population of Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*	To maintain in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of *Recurvirostra avosetta* with particular reference to: Intertidal mudflats Intertidal mixed muddy sediments Saltmarsh communities	Maintaining or restoring the: - extent and distribution of the qualifying features - structure & function of the habits of the qualifying features - supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely - population of each of the qualifying features - distribution of the qualifying features within the site No net decrease in extent of intertidal sediment and saltmarsh from baseline Food availability - Presence of suitable prey up to 15 mm (or larger for thin	Disturbance (e.g. recreation, port activities)	The Tamar is close to a large conurbation (Plymouth), and accommodates military and commercial shipping and is popular area for a variety of recreational activities, both land and water based. Excessive disturbance can result in reduced food intake and/or increased energy expenditure. Saltmill Creek and the foreshore fronting the old landfill site. Old landfill site has now been developed into a public park that has increased access to the foreshore. No evidence that this is currently affecting the special interest though the impact on waders is unquantified at present.

		worms)		
*Internationally important breeding population of Little egret *Egretta garzetta*	To maintain in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of *Egretta* garzetta with particular reference to: Intertidal mudflats Intertidal mixed muddy sediments Saltmarsh communities	No net decrease in extent of intertidal sediment and saltmarsh from baseline Food availability - Presence of suitable prey less than 15 cm Human disturbance not to increase above current levels, ie low. So there is no significant displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance	Toxic contamination	Introduction of synthetic compounds (e.g. TBT, PCBs, endocrine disruptors) and non-synthetic compounds (e.g. heavy metals, hydrocarbons. Risk of accidental oil pollution. Accommodates both military and commercial shipping.
			Water pollution	Surrounding land management and in the catchment will have an impact on the site.
			Physical loss / disturbance (e.g. land claim, moorings)	Loss of intertidal habitat to land claim, moorings and associated facilities, port development, dredging; bait digging, coastal squeeze. Loss of intertidal mud communities is likely to be detrimental to the structure of the feature, e.g. associated with a change in sediment budget or geomorphological regime, and may indicate long term changes in the physical conditions of the feature.
			Non-native species	Japanese Knotweed is present on saltmarsh and floodplain areas. Hand digging has been tried to eradicate, but this is inappropriate and will cause further spread. Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed also an issue.

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs	
St John's Lake (266.43 Ha)	11/01/17 FAVOURABLE 5.27% UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 94.73% Zostera bed unfavourable due to presence of *Enteromorpha*/*Ulva* algae (as per SAC assessment of sub-feature reported April 2016). Previous assessment: FAVOURABLE 100% 15/01/02
Tamar-Tavy Estuary (1422.33Ha)	14/02/14 96.97% FAVOURABLE 3.03% UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING. All littoral sediment units are FAVOURABLE with no change in extent of or damage to the marsh identified. Previous assessment 30/01/01, 6/02/02, 1/05/02, 25/04/02, 22/05/02,19/07/02, FAVOURABLE 91.96%. 15/10/04, 01/09/05, 9&16/02/06, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 7.49%, 18/02/03 UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 0.29% (fen, marsh swamp, due to water pollution - agriculture/run-off) 25/07/06 UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 0.26% owing to forestry and woodland management. WFD Condition FAVOURABLE. Main threats to favourable condition appear to be non-native invasive plants.
Lynher Estuary (687.3 Ha)	14/02/14 31/05/02 & 16/05/06 100% FAVOURABLE. WFD condition FAVOURABLE. The Lynner SSSI Biotope survey carried out by Ecospan in August 2010 concludes that there is no evidence of anthropogenic impacts within the SSSI in terms of: removal of estuarine habitats, increase siltation of the estuary bed or intertidal communities, abrasion of the estuarine habitats, increased synthetic an or non synthetic toxic contamination, increases in turbidity. Therefore, the coastal flats are considered to be favourable condition.

Dartmoor SAC (UK0012929)

Grid Reference:SX590864 Area: 23165.77 Ha

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (42%). Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (40%). Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (12%) Alpine and sub-alpine grassland (2%) Improved grassland (2%). Inland rocks. Screes. Sands. Permanent snow and ice (2%).

Dartmoor is representative of upland wet heath in south-west England. M15 *Scirpus cespitosus – Erica tetralix* wet heath predominates and together with other mire communities and small areas of drier heathland, forms a distinctive mosaic of vegetation types not fully represented elsewhere. Smaller amounts of M16 *Erica tetralix – Sphagnum compactum* wet heath occur. Additionally, there are transitions to areas of M21 *Narthecium ossifragum – Sphagnum papillosum* valley mire.

Dartmoor is representative of upland heath in south-west England. The site is notable because it contains extensive areas of H4 *Ulex gallii – Agrostis curtisii* heath, a type most often found in the lowlands, and H12 *Calluna vulgaris – Vaccinium myrtillus* heath, a predominantly upland type. A number of predominantly northern species occur on the southern edge of their national range. Plants found on dry heaths that are rare in south-west England include crowberry *Empetrum nigrum* and stag's-horn clubmoss *Lycopodium clavatum*.

Dartmoor is the southernmost blanket bog in Europe and is representative of blanket bogs in south-west England. The main vegetation community is M17 *Scirpus cespitosus – Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire. Many of the bogs are dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and micro-topography is poorly developed. There are also widespread peat-cuttings, dug by hand in the 19th Century, but these have revegetated supporting *Sphagnum* bog-mosses. Of particular note is the rare *Sphagnum imbricatum*.

Three main areas of oak woodland are included within this site. Wistman's Wood is notable as a high-altitude relict surviving on a granite clitter slope, dominated by pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* rather than sessile oak *Q.petraea*. The epiphytic and ground-covering bryophyte flora, with filmy ferns, is species-rich, although there are some indications that some species may have declined in recent years, possibly because as the tree canopy has grown conditions below it have become less humid. Dendles Wood is dominated by pedunculate oak *Q.robur*, with substantial areas of beech *Fagus sylvatica* on the lower slopes (considered to be a possible outlier of the native range of beech). The ground flora is a mixture of grasses, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, with locally many boulders supporting a species-rich bryophyte mat. There is a luxuriant epiphytic lichen flora including several rare species. Although selected for its oakwood community, the beechwood is a fragmentary outlier of *Ilicio–Fagion*. Black Tor Copse has similarities to Wistman's Wood, consisting of stunted trees developed on granite clitter. The vascular plant species-richness is limited, with much bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, hard-fern *Blechnum spicant* and ivy *Hedera helix*, but the bryophyte and lichen assemblages are very rich including nationally-rare species and others seldom found outside the uplands of Scotland and Wales.

A valley mire at 280 m altitude supports a Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercurial* population of 20–100 individuals, first discovered on the site in 1998. The stronger population occurs in the northern portion of the mire, where springs feed shallow soakways that flow through wet heath. The southern part of the mire has a higher water table with *Sphagnum* bog-mosses dominating.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	To maintain in favourable condition the Northern Atlantic wet heaths with		Land use practices	Through the implementation of Environmental Cross-Compliance and by promoting the Environmentally Sensitive Area programme, the condition of dry heath should improve.

	Erica tetralix			
*4030 European dry heaths	To maintain in favourable condition the European dry heaths	Maintain vegetation extent and composition Restore dwarf scrub species to 25-90% Reduce frequency and cover of undesirable species Restore abundance of typical species Restore extent, quality and function of supporting features in the local landscape Restore resilience of supporting features	Fires	Much of Dartmoor's blanket bog and wet heath has been affected by uncontrolled and unplanned fires, some of which start naturally in hot, dry summers, but most of which are started deliberately. Uncontrolled fires - Damage from accidental fires and arson is a significant threat to the condition of blanket bog, wet heath, European dry heath, and the supporting habitat for Southern damselfly. A programme of alerting the public to the dangers of starting accidental fires is already undertaken by the National Park Authority. In addition, a Moorland Management Group is to be established so that farmers and conservationists can share knowledge on moorland management and reduce the potential for damage by fires. One of the key nature conservation objectives for Dartmoor is to reverse the degradation of blanket bog and wet heath by providing stable conditions that favour bog vegetation. This objective is being pursued by the production of burning plans in collaboration with the Commoners' Council, Commons Associations and the National Park Authority, and by promoting the Environmentally Sensitive Area programme.
*7130 Blanket bogs	To maintain in favourable condition the blanket bogs	No measurable reduction in extent Reduce competitive unfavourable species Control non-native invasives Maintain low scrub cover Maintain hydrology	Erosion	Dartmoor is used for military training and artillery and mortar fire has led to the formation of numerous craters, and gully erosion in some areas. However, the use of heavy munitions has ceased since 1998 and the craters are healing naturally.
*91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	To maintain in favourable condition the old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles		Grazing regime	Dry heath on Dartmoor has suffered extensive damage through overgrazing and frequent burning. Consequently, some areas of former dry heath have been converted to grass moorland, and large areas are in unfavourable condition because of low dwarf-shrub cover. Wistman's Wood and Black Tor Copse are not fenced to exclude livestock. The low-intensity grazing provides ideal conditions for rich moss and lichen floras. Livestock are now excluded from Dendles Wood.
*1044 Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*	To maintain in favourable condition the population of Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercurial*		Hydrological regime	The South West Regional Spatial Strategy HRA indicated that the Environment Agency's Review of Consents had identified adverse effects already occurring due to water abstraction and that they are considering imposing on the water company and license holders a range of reductions to a variety of river and reservoir sources.

	To maintain in favourable condition the habitat for Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercurial*			
1106 Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*	To maintain in favourable condition the population of Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* To maintain in favourable condition the habitat for Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*	Restore population & juvenile densities Restore distribution of spawning activity Maintain extent of habitat and supporting habitat in and beyond the site Ensure natural movement of Salmon in unrestrained Reduce non-native species Maintain natural sediment supply Maintain extent and pattern of riparian biotopes Maintain water quality, acidity, temperatures Maintain & restore aquatic macrophytes	Recreation	Increases in visitors may cause physical damage as a result of direct trampling which has the potential to affect the conservation objectives for the following designated features: Northern Atlantic wet heath, European dry heath, blanket bog, old sessile oak woodlands and the supporting habitat for southern damselfly. The risk of fire also increases with increased visitor numbers.
			Invasive of non-native / introduced species	Pose serious threat to the structure and function of habitats, as they can exlude, damage or suppress the growth of the habitat's associated typical species, reduce structural diversity of the habitat and prevent natural regrowth of characteristic native species. They can out compete sensitive typical species.
1355 European Otter *Lutra lutra*	To maintain in favourable condition the population of European Otter *Lutra lutra* To maintain in favourable condition the habitat for European Otter *Lutra lutra*	Reduce mortality levels from human causes Restore distribution and continuity of otter habitat Maintain breeding and resting sites Restore dense bankside vegetation Restore fish biomass Restore quality of rover habitat and natural flow Restore structure & function	Air quality	These habitats are considered sensitive to changes in air quality. Exceedence of Critical Loads and Levels may modify the chemical status of the substrate, accelerating or damaging plan growth, altering vegetation structure and species composition and causing the loss of sensitive species associated with the habitats.

	of supporting habitats & processes Avoid pollutants	

Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs	
Dendles Wood, 49.86ha	Broadleaved, mixed and yew upland woodland FAVOURABLE 96.71% of site area. PART DESTROYED 23/03/06 Unit totally overgrazed by tenants cattle despite being ESA Teir 1d and claiming Winter Livestock Removal Supplement 3.29% of site area.
East Dartmoor, 2110.28ha	FAVOURABLE 38.53% UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 44.55% UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 16.44% (Overgrazing on heath), UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 0.48% (Mire due to undergrazing).Bog UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING, Borderline failures were observed for targets relating to frequency of indicator species and the proportion of Sphagnum disturbed. 08/04/02 Heath UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING, reason for adverse condition (lack of bracken control) has been addressed by ESA agreement and management plan. Heather beetle damage to ling widespread, frequent and severe. The reason for adverse condition (overgrazing) has now been addressed by ESA agreement.
North Dartmoor, 13560.66ha	01/01/09 FAVOURABLE 24.62%, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 71.2%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 0.21%, UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 3.97% Reasons for UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE, on heath is overgrazing on bog is moor burning.
South Dartmoor, 7113.97ha	1/01/09 FAVOURABLE 6.35%, UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING 89.08%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 3.52%, UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING 0.87% Reasons for UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING include either undergrazing or overgrazing and moor burning on bog areas. UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING reason is positive changes in grazing regimes through management agreements.
Tor Royal Bog, 58.4ha	Tor Royal Bog is one of the best examples of blanket mire in Devon. FAVOURABLE 41.03%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 58.97% (grazing regime and species composition, peat cutting drainage channels). WFD condition FAVOURABLE.
Wistman's Wood, 267.78ha	01/01/09 FAVOURABLE 78.17%, UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE 21.83% (Reason for adverse condition of heath is overgrazing. Cattle and sheep are on site all year round. Tenant is the only Duchy tenant not in ESA scheme. WFD condition FAVOURABLE.

South Dartmoor Woods SAC (UK0012749)

Grid Reference:SX710701 Area: 2157.15 Ha

South Dartmoor Woods is the most southerly representative site of old sessile oak woods with regionally important assemblages of lower plants and dry *Lobarian* communities that are unique in western Europe. The woods are notable for the variations in stand type reflecting past management (old coppice and high forest) and also grazed and ungrazed areas. The wwodland is part of a complex mosaic including heathland and species associated with open ground, such as high brown fritillary *Argynniss adippe* and pearl-boarded fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne.* Variations also arise due to geology, resulting in the presence of small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, ash *fraxinus excelsior,* wild service *Sorbus torminalis* and small areas dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow *Salix spp.* Lichens are an important component of the woodlands.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and *Blechnum* in the British Isles heaths	To maintain in favourable condition of old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles heaths by maintaining or restoring: the extent and distribution the structure and function (including typical species) the supporting habitats		Recreation	South Dartmoor Woods lies within Dartmoor National Park and has a high degree of visual appeal and areas of heavy recreational pressure. Yarner Wood & Trendlebere Down and part of the Bovey Valley are managed as National Nature Reserves.
			Grazing regime	The whole area has a mixture of grazed and ungrazed woodland plus a mixture of old coppice and high forest stands
4030 European dry heaths	To maintain in favourable condition the European dry heaths by maintaining or restoring: the extent and distribution the structure and function (including typical species)		Fires	The areas of dry heath are all common land and for the most part are subject to heavy grazing and uncontrolled fires (arson). The Dartmoor ESA scheme offers a mechanism to reduce grazing levels but the issue of grazing is legally complex. Measures to reduce the adverse effects of uncontrolled fires are being carried out by Dartmoor National Park Authority and the Dartmoor Commoners' Council in conjunction with English Nature and other statutory bodies. They include enhanced communication through a Fire Liaison Group and the agreement of burning plans on commons

	the supporting habitats		
		Climate change	Lichens are an important component of the woodlands and some long term decline has been taking place due to air pollution and/or climate change.
		Air pollution	Lichens are an important component of the woodlands and some longterm decline has been taking place due to air pollution and/or climate change.
		Hydrological regime	Water Framework Directive condition is FAVOURABLE on component SSSIs.
Last Condition Assessment for component SSSIs			
Holne Woods SSSI	59.99% FAVOURABLE 40.01% UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING dwarf scrub heath unfavourable owing to lack of cover, age and diversity (low/lacking in mature/degenerate/dead heather) . Previous assessment: 51.44% FAVOURABLE, 48.56% UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING. Woods FAVOURABLE or UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING Dry heath FAVOURABLE or UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING. (Recovering from overgrazing, burning. Water Framework Directive condition is FAVOURABLE.		
Yarner Wood & Trendlebere Down	21/07/11 99.87% FAVOURABLE, 21/07/11 0.22% UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING (lowland bog). Previous assessment: 100% FAVOURABLE. Water Framework Directive condition is FAVOURABLE.		

Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone SAC (UK0030373)

Latitude: 50.21 Longitude: -3.983611111 Area: 34076.13 Ha

Marine areas and sea inlets with **reefs** covering 30% of site area for which this site is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK. The SAC is comprised of 3 areas: Start Point to West Rutts reefs (Area C); Bigbury Bay to Plymouth Sound reefs (Area B); and the Eddystone reefs (Area A).

Numerous areas of **reef** (in many forms) exist within the Prawle Point to East Rutts and Bigbury Bay to Plymouth Sound reefs The site comprises coastal reef features associated with the extension of the exposed terrestrial geology out into the sublittoral zone and large areas of outcropping bedrock, boulders and cobbles in the offshore extents of the area. The reefs between Prawle Point and Salcombe appear similar in nature to that to the west of Salcombe (i.e., one of high topographic complexity). This large reef habitat comprises outcropping bedrock characterised by boulders and rocky gullies, fissures and crevices in the west of the area from Salcombe around the coast to Prawle Point. The inshore reefs here support large kelp forests and a variety of other algal species.
The reefs support a wide variety of reef fauna and flora showing excellent examples of zonation from the infralittoral down to deeper water communities. Supports the most extensive and highest density beds and communities of several species of sea fan and coral and supports deeper water reef species

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Vulnerability	
*1170 Reefs	To maintain or restore: • the extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of the qualifying species • the structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying species	From an established baseline and subject to natural change: No decrease in extent. Water clarity - Average light attenuation should not deviate significantly. Average temperature and salinity should not deviate significantly. Average sedimentation rate should not deviate significantly. Maintain a variety of biotopes identified for the site using an established	Physical loss (e.g. Removal)	Both of the reef locations (inshore and offshore reef) are highly sensitive to loss through direct removal or smothering (Hiscock & Tyler-Walters, 2006). The loss of any of the reef communities would be of concern owing to their ecological importance within the reef habitat and their long recovery times from this form of disturbance. Many communities that use the reef habitats are interdependent upon the ecological functioning of others (for example, invertebrate communities and fish) and it is important that this potential indirect effect is considered when the effects of removal or smothering are assessed. Physical removal or smothering has the potential to affect the reef at this site, due in part to fishing activity within the site. Mobile fishing gear (including scallop dredging and trawling) is known to be used within the site boundary in relatively close proximity to both the inshore and the offshore reefs. Despite this likelihood of direct physical loss of the fringes of the reef, the topographic complexity of the reefs prevent the use of many types of towed bottom gear over the more upstanding reef areas. There are no direct inputs from disposal of dredged sediment within the site, although a dredge disposal site off Rame Head which has been used for many decades for the disposal of dredged material from the Port of Plymouth, lies a few kilometres away from the Eddystone Reefs area. There is no evidence of long-term accumulation of dredged material within the disposal site itself or in the adjacent marine environment (CEFAS, 2005). Overall, taking account of all activities, exposure to physical loss is considered to be

• the supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • the populations of qualifying species • the distribution of qualifying species within the site	baseline, subject to natural change. Maintain the distribution and spatial pattern of bedrock reef biotopes identified for the site, to an established baseline, allowing for natural change. No / little change in the extent of representative / notable bedrock reef biotopes, from an established baseline, allowing for natural change. Presence of representative / notable bedrock reef biotopes at specified locations should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, allowing for natural change. No decline in bedrock reef biotope quality due to change in species composition or loss of notable species, from an established baseline, allowing for natural change. Maintain presence and/or abundance of a variety of species from an established baseline, allowing for natural change.		low. Overall **vulnerability of the bedrock reefs** to **physical loss** is considered to be **moderate**.
		Physical damage (e.g. smothering, siltation or abrasion)	The bedrock reefs are sensitive to physical damage from abrasion (Hiscock & Tyler-Walters, 2006), which may result from shipping activities such as anchoring, as well as from a variety of fishing techniques. The key indicative bedrock reef species are commonly delicate slow growing species that rely on recruitment from the immediate surrounding waters. Any direct disturbance to an area may not only result in direct mortality but also impact on the success of the surrounding population. Therefore, the bedrock reef communities are considered highly sensitive to siltation, abrasion and selective extraction (Hiscock & Tyler-Walters, 2006). Mobile fishing gear sometimes encounters reefs and may cause damage to attached species, such as the pink sea fan *Eunicella verrucosa*. However, records of actual damage are few in this site, and given the high diversity of species consistently found throughout the area it is suggested that the structure has not been notably affected by these activities (Royal Haskoning, 2008). Static gear fishing does occur in the area, although, based on the information gathered to date, this does not appear to have significantly damaged the structure of the reef feature in this area (Royal Haskoning, 2008). Some of the area is protected from mobile fishing gear by the South Devon Trawling & Crabbing Chart (also known locally as the Inshore Potting Agreement or IPA). Thus exposure to physical damage is considered to be low or nil for both the inshore and the offshore reefs areas. Overall the vulnerability of the inshore reefs to physical damage from siltation and abrasion is considered to be moderate. The vulnerability of the offshore reefs is considered to be moderate for abrasion, however the offshore reefs are not currently considered vulnerable to siltation. Neither the inshore nor the offshore reefs are considered vulnerable to physical damage from selective extraction, as there is no exposure to activities such as aggregate dredging. Overall the **vulnerability of the bedrock reefs** to **physical damage** is considered to be **not vulnerable-moderate**.
		Non -physical disturbance (e.g. noise, visual disturbance)	Bedrock reefs are not considered to be sensitive to non-physical disturbance through noise, however one of the species (*Cancer pagurus*) recorded in the inshore reef areas has a low level sensitivity to visual disturbance (MarLIN, 2013a). All reef areas (inshore and offshore) are thought to be exposed to low levels of this pressure. Overall the **vulnerability of the reef** to **non-physical disturbance** is considered to be **none-low**.
		Non-toxic contamination (e.g.	The dominant reef biotopes are likely to be of intermediate intolerance to chemical contamination and recover relatively quickly once the contamination is removed. However,

	Changes in temperature, nutrient loading, organic loading, or changes in turbidity)	where red algae dominated communities occur, sensitivity is likely to be higher as red algae are known to be sensitive to chemical contamination (MarLIN, 2013b). Although the kelp *Laminaria hyperborea* is relatively tolerant, the sensitivity suggested reflects the intolerance of the red algae, and is therefore considered to be moderate for non-synthetic compounds. The sensitivity of some species (e.g. *Lithophyllum sp*) to the introduction of synthetic compounds, is high, although the exposure to this is low. Shipping accidents still occur leading to pollution and physical wreckage. Given the amount of shipping in the vicinity of the site boundary, potential exposure to toxic contamination from shipping is considered to be low, although it is an ongoing threat. Overall the vulnerability of the bedrock reefs to toxic contamination is considered to be none to moderate.
	Biological disturbance (e.g. introduction of microbial pathogens or non-native species, selective translocation or extraction of species from the ecosystem)	Invasive non-native species have been recorded within the site. Species include: Oyster thief *Colpomenia peregrin*, Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas*, American slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata*, Acorn barnacle *Elminius modestus*, Barnacle *Solidobalanus fallax* (Lush et al., 2015) Echinoderm populations have been reported to be adversely affected by diseases, although no reports of mass mortality have been recorded in the UK (MarLIN, 2011). A precautionary sensitivity of low-moderate has been suggested for the introduction of microbial pathogens, however within this site there is little / no exposure to this factor. Vulnerability is therefore considered to be nil for both inshore and offshore reefs. The sensitivity of the reef communities to the introduction of non-natives species is low-moderate. Concern has increased over recent years about the potential impacts of the invasive non-native sea squirt *Didemnum vexillum*, which can overgrow most hard substrata in the sub-tidal zone including include bedrock, pebbles, cobbles, gravel, boulders, biogenic reef and other hard bodied sessile animals and plants. Main transport pathways of *Didemnum vexillum* include recreational boating and aquaculture (Laing et al., 2010). Due to the relative proximity of the inshore reefs around Start Point to the Dart estuary (a recreational boating and aquaculture area), an exposure assessment of low has been given for the reefs in this area, however the offshore reefs are considered to be not exposed to the introduction of non-native species. The vulnerability of the reefs to the introduction of non-native species is nil (offshore reefs) to low (inshore reefs). Selective extraction refers to the removal of the species or community. This includes either the removal of a specific species/community/keystone species in a biotope, or the removal of a required host or prey for the species under consideration. Any effects of the extraction process on the habitat itself are addressed under other factors, e.g. displacement, abrasion and physical disturbance, and substratum loss. *Eunicella verrucosa* is considered highly sensitive to selective extraction, due to its slow growth and low recovery rates. This species is not known to be specifically targeted for extraction in the site.

			Removal of fish species and larger molluscs and crustaceans can have significant impacts on the structure and functioning of benthic communities over and above the physical effects of fishing methods. Sensitivity of bedrock reef to selective extraction of species is considered to be high (Hiscock & Tyler-Walters, 2006). The SAC is actively used for fishing and moderate levels of mobile and static gear fishing occurs within the area (Walmsley & Pawson, 2007), therefore exposure to biological disturbance through selective extraction of species is considered to be moderate. Overall the **vulnerability of the bedrock reef** to **biological disturbance is none** (e.g.to the introduction of microbial pathogens) **to high** (to selective extraction).
Last Condition Assessment			
Reefs	No condition assessment information available on Natural England website.		

Lyme Bay to Torbay SAC (UK0030372)

Latitude: 50.65111111 Longitude: -2.969722222 Area: 31248 Ha

Marine areas and sea inlets with **reefs** (14,162 Ha, covering 45.73% of the site area), and (85 known) **submerged or partially submerged sea caves**. For which this site is considered to be one of the best in the UK, with a much greater diversity of habitats (geologically and topographically) than is found in other existing SACs in the Western English Channel and Celtic Sea.

This site is situated mostly within the Western English Channel and Celtic Regional Sea and lies off the south coast of England off the counties of Dorset and Devon. The site is comprised of two main areas containing Annex I '**reef**' and '**sea cave**' habitats: Lyme Bay and Torbay Reefs, and Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth Reefs and Sea Caves travelling from east to west respectively. It is the range and diversity of the reef and sea cave habitats that distinguish the area as one of conservation significance.

Lyme Bay is one of only five areas in the British Isles where the sunset cup coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti* is known to occur. Other important resident species include the nationally scarce sponge *Adreus fascicularis* and the pink sea fan *Eunicella verrucosa*.

The sea caves, which occur within the Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth reefs part of the site, demonstrate some of the best examples of coastal solution caves in the UK. The caves support a richness of animal life. Surfaces and walls inside the caves host a variety of sponges, bryozoan crusts, pink sea fingers, anemones and cup corals. The overhangs, holes and recesses are home to some notable species such as the sponge *Geodia cydonium*.

The reef features extend over a large area. Unlike other sites within the Lyme Bay and Torbay site, they do not extend directly out from the coast but occur as outcropping bedrock slightly offshore. The softer sediment habitats are commonly found between the bedrock or cobble / boulder areas. Examples of the classical wave-eroded sea caves are found at all the sites of different levels and rock types. The Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth Reefs area also contains a diversity of wave-eroded **sea caves** in different rock types, and solution caves occur in limestone from high water to fully submerged. The site is indicative of offshore reef and has particularly high species richness and identified it as a marine biodiversity "hot spot".
A large number of infralittoral sea caves have been identified within Torbay and the surrounding coastline from Mackerel Cove in the north, to Sharkham Point in the south. Examples of the classical wave-eroded sea caves are found at all the sites. They occur in several different rock types, and at levels from above the high water mark of spring tides down to permanently flooded caves lying in the infralittoral zone.
24 sea caves (or sea cave complexes) occur in the Mackerel to Dartmouth component area of the SAC.

Qualifying Features (Primary* & non-primary)	Conservation Objectives	Requirements to maintain favourable condition / conservation status	Key Factors affecting site integrity / Sensitivity and Vulnerability of qualifying features	
*1170 Reefs	Subject to natural change maintain or restore the reefs in favourable condition, in particular the subfeatures: Bedrock reef communities Stony reef communities	No decrease in extent of reefs from established baseline, subject to natural change. Water clarity - Average light attenuation should not	Physical loss (e.g. Removal)	All **reef subfeatures** (bedrock, stony and biogenic) are **moderate to highly sensitive to loss through direct removal or smothering**. Loss of any reef communities would be of concern owing to their ecological importance within the reef habitat and their long recovery times from this form of disturbance. Many communities that use the reef habitats are interdependent upon the ecological functioning of others (for example, invertebrate communities and fish). The **biogenic reefs** (*Mytilus edulis*) are **moderately sensitive to physical loss due to**

	Biogenic reef communities by maintaining or restoring: • the extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of the qualifying species • the structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying species • the supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • the populations of qualifying species • the distribution of qualifying species within the site	deviate significantly. Average temperature and salinity should not deviate significantly. Average sedimentation rate should not deviate significantly. Maintain a variety of biotopes identified for the site using an established baseline, subject to natural change. Maintain the distribution and spatial pattern of reef biotopes identified for the site, to an established baseline, allowing for natural change. No / little change in the extent of representative / notable reef biotopes, from an established baseline, allowing for natural change. Presence of representative / notable reef biotopes at specified locations should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, allowing for natural change. No decline in reef biotope quality due to change in species composition or loss of notable species, from an established baseline, allowing for natural change. Where declines in biotope		removal as re-establishment of the reef may take considerable time (Hiscock & Tyler-Walters, 2006). The bedrock and stony reefs are highly sensitive to physical loss. The use of demersal towed gear has in recent years been greatly restricted in the SAC and the bedrock reefs are therefore considered not vulnerable to removal at current exposures. Some areas of stony reef in the Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth area may still be exposed to low levels of physical loss as a result of demersal towed fishing gear operating and therefore the vulnerability of stony reef to removal is moderate. Physical loss due to smothering can be caused by demersal towed gear operating in adjacent sediment areas and the vulnerability of bedrock and stony reefs to smothering is moderate at current levels of exposure. At current levels of exposure biogenic reefs are considered not vulnerable to removal. Overall the vulnerability of reef sub-features to physical loss is considered to be none - moderate.
			Physical damage (e.g. smothering, siltation or abrasion)	The sea cave communities are highly sensitive to physical loss, both through removal via harvesting or coastal development and to smothering. There is no exposure of the sea caves to either of these pressures, within the Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth area, so the vulnerability of the sea caves to physical loss is considered to be none. Physical damage to caves can either occur in the form of siltation or abrasion. Communities are highly sensitive to abrasion, exposure to an activity which would cause abrasion is

		quality have occurred these declines will need to be reversed. Maintain presence and/or abundance of a variety of species from an established baseline, allowing for natural change. In addition for biogenic reefs (Mytilius edilulis) in the Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth area: Maintain age/size class structure of individual species to an established baseline, allowing for natural change. Different phases of population, from newly settled spat through to older individuals are present.		considered to be low. A few instances of vandalism to accessible caves have been reported, and recently a potential heightened awareness of the caves through new publications detailing their locations has increased the risk of light abrasion through coasteering and kayaking. A precautionary approach gives a **vulnerability of the sea caves to abrasion is moderate**. Due to the proximity of the **caves** to the coast, some siltation will occur, which may cause some smothering of the communities, but these are considered **not sensitive to siltation and exposure is low**. The **sea cave** communities are **highly sensitive to selective extraction**, but the exposure to this pressure is none, so they are not considered vulnerable to selective extraction. Overall the **vulnerability of the sea caves** to **physical damage** is considered to be **none - moderate**.
			Non -physical disturbance (e.g. noise, visual disturbance)	The Lyme Bay & Torbay reefs and sea caves are not considered to be sensitive to non-physical disturbance and are exposed to low and no levels of this pressure respectively Overall the **vulnerability of the reefs (bedrock, stony & biogenic) and sea caves** to **non-physical contamination** is considered to be **none**.
			Toxic contamination (e.g. Introduction of synthetic or non-synthetic compounds.)	Dominant reef biotopes likely to have intermediate intolerance to chemical contamination and recover relatively quickly once contamination is removed. However, where red algae dominated communities occur in the bedrock reefs, sensitivity is likely to be higher as red algae are noted to be sensitive to chemical contamination (Hiscock & Tyler-Walters 2006). Shipping accidents still occur leading to pollution and physical wreckage. Given the amount of shipping in the site, **potential exposure to toxic contamination from shipping is considered to be moderate**, as there are known to be large ships anchoring adjacent to the Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth part of the SAC, and both sections of the SAC contain busy fishing harbours. There is **insufficient information on the sensitivity of the species and biotopes within the SAC to the introduction of radionucleotides**, however the **exposure and vulnerability of the SAC features to this pressure is considered to be none**. Overall the **vulnerability of the reefs (bedrock, stony & biogenic)** to **toxic contamination** (other than via the introduction of radionucleotides) is considered to be **low - moderate**. **Sea cave** communities **are exposed to some toxic contamination** (e.g. from pollution incidents or chronic inputs), but there is currently **insufficient information regarding their sensitivity to this pressure** (Hiscock & Tyler-Walters, 2006). The sensitivity of the communities to some forms of toxic contamination is not well characterised, and there is **insufficient information to determine the sea caves overall vulnerability**.
*8330 Submerged	Subject to natural change,	No change in dimensions of	Non-toxic	The dominant reef biotopes are likely to be of low sensitivity to nutrient enrichment but where

or partially submerged sea caves	maintain the submerged or partially submerged sea caves in favourable condition by maintaining or restoring: • the extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of the qualifying species • the structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying species • the supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • the populations of qualifying species • the distribution of qualifying species within the site	a cave, allowing for natural change that are part of a wider coastal geomorphological management regime. No reduction in the number of caves, from an established baseline within a site allowing for natural change. Maintain the full variety of biotopes identified for the sea caves, to an established baseline, subject to natural change. Presence of biotopes at specified locations, should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, allowing for natural change. No decline in sea cave biotope quality due to change in species composition or loss of notable species, from an established baseline, allowing for natural change. No decline in abundance of specified species from an established baseline, allowing for natural change. Maintain the distribution of biotopes identified for the site, allowing for natural change.	contamination (e.g. Changes in temperature, nutrient loading, organic loading, or changes in turbidity)	red algae dominated communities occur on the bedrock reefs, sensitivity is likely to be higher (Hiscock & Tyler-Walters 2006). The sensitivity of the bedrock and stony reefs to organic enrichment (causing oxygenation) is high. Some biotopes within the sub-features are sensitive to increases in turbidity (loss of light) caused by inputs from land, or agitation of sediment. The dominant kelp communities are unlikely to be particularly sensitive, except where faunal and algal turfs occur sensitivity is likely to be higher. The **long-lived, fragile species of the bedrock reef are intolerant of reduced oxygenation due to organic enrichment** and are therefore considered **highly sensitive to non-toxic contamination** (Hiscock & Tyler-Walters 2006). The **reef biotopes** show **low-high sensitivity to changes in thermal regime**. However, there is no known activity in the SAC that would cause a change in thermal regime, and exposure to this pressure and subsequently **vulnerability, is considered none**. Due to the proximity of the reef sub-features to the coast, they are currently exposed to low levels of non-toxic contamination from land based discharges, and therefore the overall **vulnerability of reef sub-features** to **non-toxic contamination** is considered to be **none - moderate**. There is some evidence of anthropogenic impacts in the Mackerel cove to Dartmouth reefs area, including impacts from sewage discharge (Natural England 2010) and impacts from trawling and dredging (Ross, 2011). The reefs currently have a conservation objective of 'maintain' or 'restore' to reflect this divergence. Due to the proximity of the sea caves to the coast, they are currently exposed to low levels of non-toxic contamination from land based discharges. Some of the filter feeding organisms present in the sea cave communities are intolerant of reduced oxygenation due to organic enrichment and are therefore considered highly sensitive to non-toxic contamination. Many sea caves in the Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth area have specific and varied salinities and have a high level of sensitivity to changes in salinity. However, their exposure to such changes is not currently well defined. Overall the **vulnerability of the sea caves** to **non-toxic contamination** is considered to be **none - moderate**.
			Biological disturbance (e.g. Introduction of	Currently insufficient information to determine the sensitivity of many reef communities and species to the introduction of non-native species. Concern has increased over recent years regarding potential impacts of the alien sea squirt *Didemnum vexillum*, which can overgrow

		pathogens or non-native species and translocation of or selective extraction of species from the ecosystem)	most hard substrata in the sub-tidal zone including bedrock, pebbles, cobbles, gravel, boulders, biogenic reef and other hard bodied sessile animals and plants. Main transport pathways of *Didemnum vexillum* include recreational boating and aquaculture (Laing et al, 2010). Slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata* is recorded within the SAC reef communities. Due to the proximity of the Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth unit of the SAC to the Dart estuary (a recreational boating and aquaculture area), the exposure of the bedrock, stony and biogenic reefs to the introduction of non-native species and translocation is moderate. Selective extraction refers to the removal of the species or community. This includes either the removal of a specific species/community/keystone species in a biotope, or the removal of a required host or prey for the species under consideration. Any effects of the extraction process on the habitat itself are addressed under other factors, e.g. displacement, abrasion and physical disturbance, and substratum loss. *Eunicella verrucosa* (present in both areas of the SAC) is considered highly sensitive to selective extraction, due to its slow growth and low recovery rates (Hiscock & Tyler-Walters 2006), but is not known to be specifically targeted for extraction from the site. Removal of fish species, larger molluscs and crustaceans can have significant impacts on the structure and functioning of benthic communities over and above the physical effects of fishing methods. The SAC is actively used for fishing with moderate- high levels of static gear fishing occurring throughout the year and seasonal mobile gear operating within parts of the Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth area. Exposure to biological disturbance through selective extraction of species is considered to be moderate. The vulnerability of bedrock reefs, stony reefs and biogenic reefs to biological disturbance from selective extraction is assessed as low-moderate. Overall the vulnerability of reef sub-features to biological disturbance is low- moderate. For the sea caves exposure to the introduction of non-native species (through ballast discharge etc) is considered to be low, and therefore a low level of sensitivity. The sensitivity to selective extraction of species is high within sea caves, however there is currently no exposure. At present, there is insufficient information to determine the sensitivity of sea cave communities to the introduction of microbial pathogens. Overall the vulnerability of sea caves to biological disturbance is none - low.
		Changes in salinity	Many sea caves in the Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth area have specific and varied salinities and have a high level of sensitivity to changes in salinity. However, their exposure to such changes is not currently well defined. Sensitivity of reefs to changes in salinity is high but exposure is none.
Last Condition Assessment			
Reefs	01/06/18 30% FAVOURABLE, 70% UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING The hectare value for circalittoral rock encompasses the subtidal stony reef which occurs in a matrix with		

	circalittoral rock across the SAC. Due to the close relationship between the two habitats, both subfeatures are considered to be unfavourable-recovering. Previous assessment: The site survey commissioned in 2008 to identify Annex I features found the physical structure of the reef habitats to be in relatively good condition. However, in areas where scallop dredging had recently coincided with reef habitat the survey indicated that the ecological structure of the reef was significantly damaged (Cork et al, 2008). In these areas the reef was considered to be average or partially degraded.
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	04/06/18 100% FAVOURABLE Eighty-five seacaves are designated across the SAC. Based on the little available evidence and expert judgement these are in a favourable condition.

Appendix 3 Other Habitats Regulations Assessment activity of relevance

Report Title	Relevant European sites considered
Updated Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan Submission Version 2018	Blackstone Point SAC, South Devon Shore Dock SAC, South Hams SAC, Dartmoor SAC, South Dartmoor Woods SAC, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC, Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA, Start Point to Eddystone SAC
Torbay Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment December 2015	South Hams SAC, Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC, Dartmoor SAC, South Dartmoor Woods SAC,
Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report Dartmoor National Park Management Plan January 2014	Dartmoor SAC, South Dartmoor Woods SAC, South Hams SAC, Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA, Start Point to Eddystone SAC, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC,
Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) Dartmoor National Park Authority Screening Report Version 1 December 2007	Dartmoor SAC, South Dartmoor Woods SAC, South Hams SAC,

Appendix 4 Summary of actions required to ensure no adverse effects on European sites

This Tables sets out what is required in terms of amendments to the current version of the AONB Management Plan in the light of this assessment, in order to ensure that there are no adverse effects on any of the identified European sites and the competent authorities can adopt the Management Plan.

Likely effect	Reasoning	List of Policies	Significant effects conclusion for final policy	Suggested Action To Be Taken for each Policy
None	The policy relates to activities which are not likely to have a significant effect on the European site.	Lan/P1, Lan/P2, Lan/P3, Lan/P4, Lan/P6, Lan/P7, NatRes/P1 NatRes/P2, NatRes/P3, NatRes/P4, NatRes/P5, NatRes/P6, NatRes/P7, BioGeo/P1, BioGeo/P2, BioGeo/P3, BioGeo/P4, BioGeo/P5, BioGeo/P6, BioGeo/P7, Hist/P2, Hist/P4, Hist/P5, Hist/P6, Hist/P7, LanMan/P1, LanMan/P2, LanMan/P3, LanMan/P4, LanMan/P5, LanMan/P6, LanMan/P7, LanMan/P8, Mar/P1, Mar/P2, Mar/P3, Mar/P5, Mar/P6, Est/P1, Est/P3, Est/P4,Est/P5, Est/P6, Est/P7, Est/P8, Acc/P1, Acc/P2, Acc/P3, Acc/P4, Acc/P5, Acc/P6, Acc/P8, Acc/P9, Plan/P1, Plan/P2, Plan/P4, Plan/P5, Plan/P6, Plan/P7, Plan/P8, Trans/P2, Trans/P3, Trans/P4, Trans/P5, Trans/P6 Econ/P1, Econ/P2, Econ/P3, Econ/P4, Econ/P5, Econ/P6, Comm/P1, Comm/P2, Comm/P3, Comm/P4, Comm/P5, Comm/P6, Aware/P1, Aware/P2, Aware/P3, Aware/P4, Aware/P5, Aware/P6, Part/P1, Part/P2, Part/P3, Part/P4, Part/P5, Part/P6, Part/P7	The policy has no, or *de minimis,* effects, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects and can be adopted without further consideration under the Habitats Regulations.	None. Policy can be taken forward for adoption in its current state. Ensure that any activities under this policy do not inadvertently lead to effects on European sites.

Likely effect	Reasoning	List of Policies	Significant effects conclusion for final policy	Suggested Action To Be Taken for each Policy
Potential for a negative effect	The policy addresses activities which have the *potential* to affect the European site, the effects of which may or may not be *significant*. But the policy itself could be reworded if necessary, so as not to support or encourage activities which would be likely to cause *significant* effects on the European site.	Hist/P3, Est/P1, Plan/P3, Trans/P1	The policy as worded creates a framework or opportunities for actions that have the potential to lead to significant effects on one or a number of the identified European sites.	Reword this policy to make it explicit that activities would only be supported under this policy where they do not lead to significant effects on European sites. Refer to the Fuller Considerations section to see whether and how the policy should be reworded to avoid likely significant effects and the need for appropriate assessment.
Potential for a negative effect	The policy encourages activities which have the *potential* to affect the European site, but the *likelihood* and risk of *significance* of effects depends on the location, scale or design (& etc.) of individual schemes or projects. It is therefore more appropriate to screen individual schemes or projects as these come forward.	Lan/P5, Hist/P1, Mar/P4, Acc/P7,	The current wording and strategic nature of the policy creates a framework or opportunities for actions that could *potentially* have significant effects on one or a number of the identified European sites. This recognises that due to the necessary lack of spatial specificity in the Management Plan, impacts on specific European sites cannot be identified at this stage and proposals at specific locations would need to be dealt with through proposal specific assessments.	Reword this policy to make it explicit that activities would only be supported under this policy where they do not lead to significant effects on European sites. Refer to the Fuller Considerations section to see if and how the policy should be reworded to avoid likely significant effects. You should screen individual schemes/ projects / actions under this policy once the location, scale, design (& etc.) of the individual projects is known. Schemes may or may not require progression to an 'appropriate assessment'. This will be the responsibility of the competent authority undertaking the project.

Likely effect	Reasoning	List of Policies	Significant effects conclusion for final policy	Suggested Action To Be Taken for each Policy
	The policy encourages activities in an area which have the *potential* to affect the European site. The activities under this policy must be subject to assessment to establish, in the light of the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be objectively concluded that there would not be *significant* adverse effects on the European site.	None	The policies create opportunities for actions that could potentially have significant effects on one or a number of the identified European sites.	All activities under this policy must be subject to assessment to establish, in the light of the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be objectively concluded that there would not be *significant* adverse effects on the European site.
Likely Significant Effect	This policy makes provision for activities *likely* to have *significant* effects on the European site. Activities under this policy must be subject to appropriate assessment to establish, in the light of the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be objectively concluded that the activities would not have significant adverse effects on the European site.	None.	The policy has a Likely Significant Effect on one or more European sites.	Remove this policy from the Management Plan prior to adoption.

Appendix 5 Consultation with Natural England

Consultation on scope and methodology

Initial consultation with Natural England was undertaken at an early stage of the Management Plan review. Discussions suggested that the methodology developed and undertaken by Victoria Tanner-Tremaine (Crimson Beetle) for the 5 Devon AONB Management Plans in 2009 was an example of a good practice approach to follow. This set out a report layout and wording bespoke to AONB's and Competent Authorities adopting the Management Plan. It set out advice to the AONB Officers who used the report findings to amend the Management Plan policies and prepare committee agenda items for the Local Authorities. The methodology followed the steps described in the European Commission's guidance.

The scope of sites to be included within the assessment was established using the same agreed methodology as for the 2009 assessment.

Consultation on screening

Natural England has identified the Management Plan as low risk. This assumption is based three matters:

- the HRA findings of the previous Management Plan iteration which found no likely significant effects; and
- the review of the Management Plan is not likely to substantively alter the intent and purpose of the polices; and
- the AONB purpose is to conserve and enhance natural beauty, which inherently includes the qualifying features of European sites.

Back in 2009, Natural England made three observations which remain relevant to the approach to this HRA.

1. The relevant local Natural England Conservation Officer was consulted on the Draft version of this report and invited to comment. Natural England's local Maritime Advisor was also contacted for specific advice on boat maintenance in relation to the likelihood and magnitude of effects from boat scrubbing occurring in the Yealm Estuary (Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC). Natural England suggested that there is unlikely to be negative effects from the retention of boat maintenance areas in the Yealm under what was policy Est/P6 (now Est/P4 which is unchanged in wording).
2. Natural England raised the issue of hydroelectric schemes and possible impacts on Salmon, a qualifying feature for Dartmoor SAC. In 2006 the South Devon AONB Partnership commissioned an assessment of the renewable energy potential within

the South Devon AONB, across all technologies and scales. This was undertaken by Devon Association of Renewable Energy. This study examined the potential for micro-hydro on the Yealm, Erme, Avon, Dart rivers, all of which start within Dartmoor SAC. The nature of these watercourses within the AONB is unsuitable for the generation of micro-hydroelectric. As such, micro-hydro schemes are unlikely to occur within the AONB which could impact on Dartmoor SAC.

3. In relation to Hist P1 the raised the issue regarding conflicts between building conservation and potential damage to European features e.g. bats, although if the law is followed a license would be needed in this case. This was addressed by further investigations into the type of historic environment features on the relevant sites (in particular the Berry Head area of the South Hams SAC), and probable conservation measures to protect the historic interests. Following this investigation it was possible to scope out Blackstone Point SAC at the preliminary screening stage as there were no recorded historic environment features on or near the site. This approach has been taken in this assessment.

A Note on the legal purpose of this assessment

It is important to note that the assessment process required under Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) is focused on the protection of ***European sites***.

The findings of this assessment do not obviate the competent authorities of their statutory duty to consider ***European protected species*** present *outside* European sites, both in the use of policies and the delivery of actions as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Natural Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

The fact that a proposed project is in line with the AONB Management Plan policies does not relieve the relevant or competent authorities of their statutory duty under by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Natural Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 when consenting to projects within or affecting the AONB. Nor does is obviate them of their duty under Regulation 9 to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive.