South Devon Area of Outstanding National Beauty

State Of The AONB

Version 1.2

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South Devon AONB Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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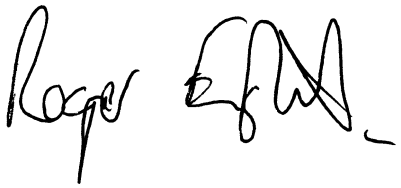
Introduction

The South Devon AONB is a special, tranquil, beautiful landscape which is home to people and wildlife, with valuable habitats existing alongside living, working communities. This unique, diverse landscape creates an exceptional environment where rare plant, insect, bird and mammal species can flourish.

The area has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) since 1960 and forms part of the AONB protected landscape network (34 in England). The South Devon AONB Partnership brings together many national and local organisations to conserve and enhance this precious landscape.

All AONBs are required to have a statutory five-year Management Plan (produced on behalf of the Local Authorities) and this State of the AONB report provides indicators that relate to the fourteen themes in the current Management Plan (2019-2024). The indicators will be used to help determine the 'health' of the protected landscape and identify trends over time and in some cases shape and inform the policies, objectives and indicators needed for the 2024-2029 Management Plan.

Working with partners the AONB Unit has commented on the key policy influences and forces for change that should be considered for each management plan theme. We have attempted to interpret data, consider trends and express aspirations for the conservation and enhancement of management themes.



Roger English - Manager, South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

An AONB Unit assessment of the forces for change that impact on management themes. The landscape and its special qualities are subject to enormous pressures some of which are global natural forces that are outside of the Partnerships power to influence.

The AONB Units aspirations for the conservation and enhancement of management themes.
The high quality landscape we see today has evolved from delicate inter-relationships in the landscape. Maintaining and enhancing the AONB can be measured by achieving positive improvements to the metrics identified in management themes.

Metrics proposed in 2014-2019 Management Plan

To track future change in the South Devon AONB, a series of metrics were proposed in the 2014-2019 Management Plan, as follows:

Ref	Measure of Change	Source
M1	Analysis of the condition of landscape and seascape.	*Character and Quality of England's Countryside, fixed post photography recording and Rate My View app submissions*
M2	Levels of tranquillity throughout the AONB.	*Natural England, Campaign to Protect Rural England*
M3	Level of compliance with water quality standards for designated bathing waters.	*Environment Agency*
M4	Level of compliance with Water Framework Directive quality standards.	*Environment Agency*
M5	Proportion of SSSI site units within the AONB assessed as in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition.	*Natural England*
M6	Extent and condition of significant habitats in the AONB.	*Natural England, Biodiversity Action Reporting System*
M7	Number of historic assets in the Heritage at Risk register.	*English Heritage*
M8	Number of Conservation Area appraisals and action plans.	*South Hams District Council and Torbay Council*
M9	Change in the length of restored and sustainably managed hedgerow.	*DEFRA, South Devon AONB Unit*
M10	Trends in Defra June Agricultural census statistics.	*DEFRA Agricultural Census*
M11	Extent of undeveloped coastline.	*Local Authorities, South Devon AONB Unit*
M12	Length of coastline in protective public ownership.	*South Devon AONB Unit*
M13	Number and geographic spread of moorings and pontoons in undeveloped estuary areas.	*Harbour Authorities*
M14	Length of undeveloped estuary shoreline.	*South Devon AONB Unit*
M15	Length of the South West Coast Path in the AONB meeting National Trail Quality Standards.	*South West Coast Path Team*

Ref	Measure of Change	Source
M16	Tourist bed space capacity	*Visit South Devon, South Hams District Council, Torbay Council*
M17	Change in the number of dwellings in the AONB and number of newbuild dwellings built outside of development boundaries.	*Local Planning Authorities*
M18	Number of seasonal and year round ferry services operating in the AONB.	*South Devon AONB Unit*
M19	Percentage of settlements served by a daily bus service.	*South Devon AONB Unit; bus operators*
M20	Number of AONB settlements served by village shops, pubs and post offices.	*AONB Local Planning Authorities*
M21	Percentage change in AONB residents who are economically active.	*Office of National Statistics*
M22	Percentage of parishes with up to date Parish Plans or Neighbourhood Plans in place.	*local authority community development services*
M23	Trends in Census population statistics.	*Census*
M24	The proportion of housing stock held as a second home or holiday home.	*Local authorities*
M25	Percentage of AONB residents with a demonstrable awareness and understanding of the AONB designation.	*South Devon AONB Unit*

Local indicators and headline performance against management plan themes

Management theme	Indicator	Local measure of change	Current SDAONB position
Landscape Character	1	Area (ha) and percentage of AONB in agri-environment schemes	53% in 2017
	2	% of AONB recorded as 'most tranquil'	52.6% recorded as tranquillity is high or very high
	3	10 Fixed Post photographic monitoring points	Part completed with limited results
Natural Resources & Climate	No local indicators are proposed		
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	4	% of SSSIs in 'favourable condition'	Biological 27.9% Geological 69% in 2018
	5	% change in woodland size and type	8.8% of the AONB is wooded
	6	% of Regionally Important Geological Sites in a favourable condition	69%
Historic Environment	7	Number of assets on the Historic Environment Record (HERs)	No change since 2013
	8	% of assets on the heritage at risk register	Increased, mainly due to more accurate mapping techniques
	9	Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Registered Park and Garden on the national 'At Risk' register.	No change since 2013
	10	Scheduled Monuments assessed as declining in condition.	No change since 2013
	11	Management and protection of historic features agri-environment agreements	Land under Environmental Stewardship has increased since 2014
Farming/ Land Management	No local indicators are proposed		
Coast/Marine Environment	12	South Devon AONB bathing water quality rated excellent	12 of 18 sites
Rivers and Estuaries	13	WFD river water quality status	
Tourism, Access and Recreation	No local indicators are proposed		
Planning and Sustainable Development	14	Number of affordable homes built annually	Number of applications AONB Unit dealt with and majors consented by LPAs
	15	Change in % of settlements with neighbourhood plan, parish plan or village design statement parishes with adopted neighbourhood plans	
Transport and Highways		No AONB indicators are proposed	
Rural Economy and Services	16	Total annual values of agri-environment agreements	
	17	% change in farm number and size	
Community and Culture	18	Number of parishes with neighbourhood plan, up-to-date parish plans	
Awareness and Communication	19	Numbers of people engaged with social networks and attending events	
	20	Numbers of people participating in voluntary activities in the AONB	
Management	No local indicators are proposed		

Theme 1: Landscape Character

The South Devon AONB is one of Britain's finest protected landscapes - loved for its significant and irreplaceable landscape features including rugged cliffs, sandy coves, peaceful countryside, picturesque villages, rolling hills, wooded valleys, colourful hedge banks and secretive estuaries. It is an ancient countryside with strong links to the sea and generations of human activity etched into the landscape. It has 97km of unspoiled coastline, five river estuaries, just over 27,000 ha. of agricultural land and 2,500 ha. of woodlands.

The landscape character of the South Devon AONB is under increasing threat due to social, economic and environmental pressures. Activities such as land use, planning and the changing climate, all have an influence on the character and condition of the landscape. The cumulative impact of small scale changes is being felt at a landscape scale and thneed to respect distinctive local character is increasingly needed to avoid further damaging cumulative damage. Landscape character assessments to monitor damaging changes to the environment need to be undertaken to ensure special qualities are not degraded beyond repair.

The LI/IEMA Guidance states that '… landscape impacts and visual impacts are separate, but related. Landscape impacts are changes in the fabric, character and quality of the landscape. Visual impacts relate solely to changes in available views of the landscape and the effects of those changes on people. Landscape and visual impacts do not necessarily coincide.' Projects to underground visually impactful powerlines in the AONB are being proposed to enhance some areas.

Continued development in the countryside at levels indicated in strategic planning documents, together with growth in car usage, are likely to diminish levels of tranquillity, particularly around the urban fringes to the east and west of the AONB.

The loss of ash trees across the South Devon AONB and beyond will have a profound effect on the landscape character of the area. In woodlands the consensus is that over 90% of ashes will be either dead or severely affected within 5-15 years. Outside woodlands, it is anticipated that around 50% of ashes will be severely affected within 5-15 years. The ash is a dominant hedgerow tree in the AONB and the loss and damage of these trees will have a greater impact on landscape and biodiversity than those in woodlands. The AONB continues to have input into the ash dieback debate and is a partner on the Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum. Established in July 2016, the forum is looking at a resilience and number of issues including: The management of diseased trees in high risk situations, Reducing barriers to action Landscape and ecological resilience, communication and awareness.

Indicator 1: Area (ha.) and percentage of AONB in agri-environment schemes

	2013	2017
Area of land (ha.)	17,909	24,761
Percentage of AONB in agri-environment stewardship schemes	72%	53%
All AONBs (England)	74%	74%

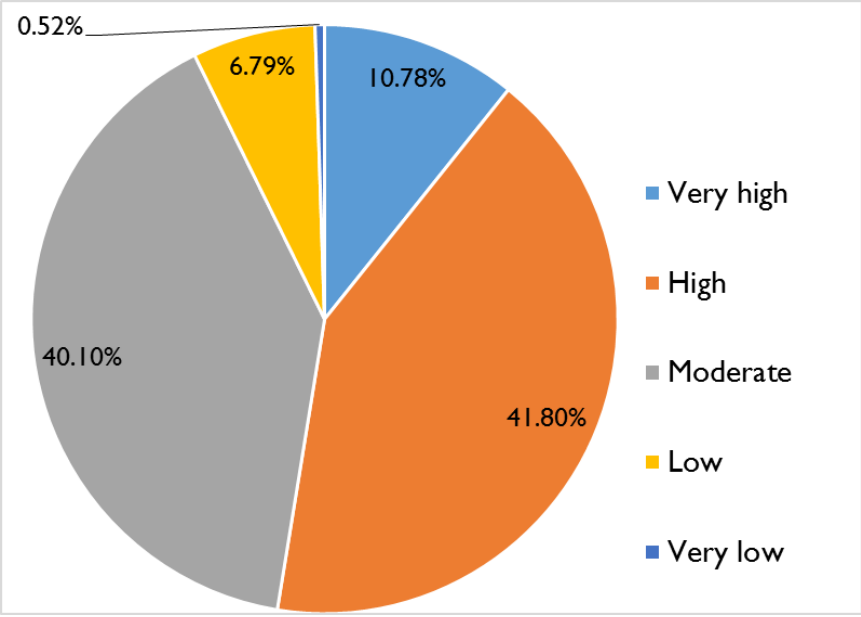
Source Defra/Natural England (Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes)

In 2016 over 74% of the South Devon AONB was identified as used for agricultural. Agri-environment schemes provide funding to the farmers to implement environmental improvements to their farming practices. This could include the introduction of wildflower edges around crops, a reduction in the percentage of hedges cut and organic farming practices. See maps for location of schemes in the AONB.

As much land as possible is in agri-environment schemes as this should result in land management that conserves and enhances the natural beauty

Indicator 2: Percentage of AONB recorded as 'most tranquil'.

It is likely that levels of tranquillity, particularly around the urban fringes of the AONB are being reduced due to the pressures of development and growth in car usage.



Source: National Tranquillity Mapping Data 2006 developed for the Campaign to Protect Rural England and Natural England

Under the CPRE methodology, each 500m x 500m of England was given a tranquillity score, based on 44 different factors which add or detract from people's feelings of tranquillity. Positive factors included seeing a 'natural' landscape, hearing birdsong and seeing the stars at night; and detracting factors included hearing constant traffic noise, seeing lots of people and urban development.

To secure as much of the AONB as possible to a very high or high tranquillity status

Indicator 3: 10 x Fixed Post photographic monitoring points

As part of the Bigger Picture project initiated in 2010 based on images taken from key vantage points throughout the AONB have been used to capture changes in the landscape. The use of a post mounted camera that can be taken from site to site ensures the same view extents are captured each time a visit is made. Each set of photographs contributes to our understanding of landscape change over time.

The project secured ten sites were selected across the AONB to ensure that each of the area's distinctive landscape character types were recorded, representing a mixture of sites where landscape change is expected, possible and unlikely. Vantage points giving a good view of landscape features in the foreground out to around 2.5kms used as these are captured best through the fixed point technique and enable reasonable analysis of special qualities. All the locations have either public access to the fixed post site or have a very similar view that can be achieved from nearby public rights of way or roads. The ten sites selected ensure that each of the area's distinctive landscape character types are photographed. Vantage points giving a good view of landscape features in the foreground out to around 2.5kms have been used for the fixed point technique and enable reasonable analysis of special qualities.

Viewpoints identified as part of the *What Makes a View?* project in 2013 have not been undertaken to the ambitious targets and so there is incomplete data available to make informed assessments of landscape change.

Theme 2: Natural Resources and Climate

Localised extreme weather events have caused problems such as localised flooding, bypasses of wastewater treatment works, soil loss and damage to cereal crops resulting in damage to habitats, impacts on the local farming community. Building development in water catchment areas further increases nutrient loadings, storm water runoff rates, siltation and pollution incidents. Wider regional, national and global resource issues continue to act upon the environment in and around the AONB.

To ensure that national and local resilience and mitigation measures contribute towards reducing global temperature rises and minimise the depletion of natural resources

Theme 3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Some modern agricultural practices are thought to be contributing to a continuing gradual decline of many formerly common species and their habitats. The medium sized mixed farms traditional to South Devon seem best suited to supporting biodiversity, but the future for these enterprises is uncertain. On the coastal and inland plateaux much of the agricultural land is highly productive and under competing pressures. Conversely, under-management of non-farmed areas and a reduction in overall livestock numbers are causing the gradual decline of some grassland, scrub and coastal habitats.

The fragmentation of habitats has reduced the ability of less mobile species to move successfully, leading to isolation and loss. The extent, condition and integrity of the network of "local sites" that generally receive lower levels of protection, resources and attention continue to be of concern. The large number of sites, associated costs of re-survey and limited strategic support all present difficulties. As our current "climate space" moves northwards, habitats and species will be significantly affected by invasive non-native species continuing to expand and alter the balance of natural biodiversity.

The biodiversity and geodiversity of the South Devon AONB is also under threat from natural degradation, inappropriate development and recreational activities.

Priority Habitat Inventory within AONBs

Source Data: Priority Habitat Inventory v2.1 2016, SSSI Condition May 2017, HLS Holdings March 2017, CS Holdings January 2016, AONBs 2016

Produced by: Linda Edwards, Modelling and Analysis Team
Date: May 2017
Job no. NE170426-1225-854

Priority Habitat	(Multiple Items)

Sum of Area_ha		Priority Habit			
AONB	CONDITION	In SSSI	In Higher Tier / HLS Outside SSSI	Outside SSSI Not in Higher Tier / HLS	Grand Total
South Devon	FAVOURABLE	748.10			748.10
	UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING	577.26			577.26
	UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE	37.06			37.06
	UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING	79.09			79.09
	(blank)		934.99	2,292.56	3,227.55
South Devon Total		**1,441.52**	**934.99**	**2,292.56**	**4,669.07**

Indicator 4: Percentage of SSSIs in 'favourable condition'

In England Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Most SSSIs are in private ownership and their management is shared responsibility with Natural England. Units based on habitat, tenure and management. Out of the 403 SSSI units in the South Devon AONB, 356 are in a favourable condition. The remaining 47 units are in an unfavourable condition with 14 in a declining condition, 6 showing no change and 27 recovering.

SSSI Condition	Area within SDAONB (Ha.) (2017)
Favourable	Biological 27.9% Geological 69%
Unfavourable Recovering	20%
Unfavourable No Change	1%
Unfavourable Declining	2.3%
Total area of SSSI within SDAONB	2,011 ha.

Source: Natural England

Of the 2,011 ha. of biological SSSI in the AONB, 27.9% 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. These percentages have broadly remained constant over the five-year period. In addition, there are 36 geological unit features in SSSIs. 25 are considered favourable, 2 favourable recovering with 9 not assessed.

Under the Government's strategy for wildlife, Biodiversity 2020 Natural England has a target to ensure 50% of SSSI are in favourable and 100% are either in favourable or in favourable recovering by 2019.

Indicator 5: Percentage change in woodland size and type

Within the South Devon AONB 8% of its area is covered by woodland, which equates to 2982 Ha. Of the wooded areas ¾ of this has been classified as broadleaved woodland and in 2017 42% of broadleaved woodlands were actively managed. Areas are classified as under active management by the Forestry Commission (FC) if they operate grants schemes and initiatives, felling licenses or are managed by the FC. From 2013 to 2017 the percentage of woodland under management changed from 34% to 42%, an 8% increase.

Percentage of woodland in management	2013	2017
2,982 hectares (8.8% of the AONB) is wooded.	34%	42%

Source Forestry Commission copyright 2017

Increase the amount of woodland in management so that it exceeds the national percentage (58% in England, 2017)

The 23% increase in woodland management under English Woodland Grant Scheme agreements. The woodland character of the area has been maintained. The 23% increase in the uptake of Woodland Grant Schemes covering established woodlands and new plantings supports this. However, the trend also reflects the inaccessible nature of much of the woodland in the area, located in deep coastal valleys and rias. There is a continued, general absence of hedgerow and in-field trees across the inland plateau.

Ancient Woodland Area within AONBs
Source: Ancient Woodland Inventory
Date: May 2019
Produced by: George Hinton. Evidence Team
May 2019
Data contact: George.Hinton@NaturalEngland.org.uk

Area of Ancient Woodland	Status of Ancient Woodland				
AONB	ASNW: Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland	PAWS: Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites	Grand Total	AONB GIS area (ha)	Percentage AONB under Ancient Woodland
South Devon	513	234	747	33,973	2%

PREVIOUS ASSESSMENT

Ancient Woodland Area within AONBs
Source: Ancient Woodland Inventory
Date: April 2017
Produced by: Linda Edwards, Modelling and Analysis Team
May 2017
Data contact:Linda.Edwards@NaturalEngland.org.uk

Area of Ancient Woodland	Status of Ancient Woodland				
AONB	ASNW: Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland	PAWS: Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites	Grand Total	AONB GIS area (ha)	Percentage AONB under Ancient Woodland
South Devon	514	234	747	33,973	2%

Indicator 6: RIGS in a in favourable condition

69% of RIGS and geological SSSIs were in favourable condition in the AONB in 2017

Source DCC/TC 2017

Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGs) are designated areas that have been identified as the most important areas for geology and geomorphology outside of SSSIs. Sites are selected by locally developed criteria focusing on how the areas add to values of education, scientific study, history and aesthetics. Currently RIGs have the same protections as Local Wildlife Sites and other non-statutory wildlife designations are generally protected through the planning system. As of May 2010, there were 27 RIGS within the South Devon AONB that have been designated as being of significant geological interest, these include coastlines, quarries and caves.

All RIGS and geological SSSIs in the AONB are in favourable condition

Theme 4: Historic Environment

Rising sea levels affect coastal and estuarine archaeology, where much has already been inundated by earlier sea level rise. Many sites are fragile and poorly documented suffering loss, erosion and damage from storms. Such sites include those at Salcombe Castle and Hallsands ruined village. The passing of the generation of people who lived in the area before the Wars, mass tourism and suburban expansion, is weakening our cultural connection with the past.

Historic sites such as the Blackdown Rings, Salcombe Castle and Hallsands ruined village, attract visitors and require maintenance which has implications for the condition and quality of sites. Several non-scheduled features such as ponds, wells and features linked back to past human activity are also important historic elements which reveal time-depth within the landscape. In addition, there are many historic designed landscapes which are not currently designated and which could be at risk of deterioration or loss through a lack of management, recognition and information relating to them.

The level of resources currently available for historic environment research and conservation is insufficient to meet the objectives of the South Devon AONB Management Plan. Continuing neglect is damaging certain types of historic features such as field barns, World War II structures, estuary and coastal features with no current use. The condition of the nationally important scheduled monuments within the South Devon AONB is threatened by several factors including cultivation, scrub encroachment, burrowing animals and climate change.

HISTORIC ENGLAND STATUTORY FIGURES (31st March 2019) for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty											
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Listed Buildings				Scheduled Monuments	Registered Parks and Gardens				Registered Battlefields	Protected Wreck Sites
	Grade I	Grade II*	Grade II	Total		Grade I	Grade II*	Grade II	Total		
South Devon	39	59	1,220	1,318	55		3	4	7		2

Indicator 7: Number of Historic Environment Records (HER)

	2013	*2017*	*change*
Number of records			

Source Devon County Council/South West Heritage Trust

The increase in the number of records is largely a result of an archaeological aerial investigation carried out between 2016 and 2018 that was centred on the AONB. The survey area covered 564 square kilometres in Devon and Somerset, focused around the AONB, which has seen little systematic archaeological survey and where the archaeological resource was relatively poorly understood. The project consulted over seven thousand hard copy aerial photographs loaned from the Historic England Archive, as well as modern digital datasets of vertical aerial photographs.

In total, 5052 archaeological or historic sites were identified from the aerial imagery and recorded on the relevant Historic Environment Record (HER); 87% of these had not previously been recorded.

Secure as many HER records in the AONB as possible

Indicator 8: Percentage of heritage assets at risk

The Heritage at Risk Programme (HAR) was launched in 2008, as a way of understanding the overall state of England's historic sites. In particular, the programme identifies those sites that are most at risk of being lost because of neglect, decay or inappropriate development. The list includes but is not exclusive to buildings, battlefields, monuments, parks, gardens and shipwrecks.

The Heritage at Risk Programme 2018, 11 scheduled monuments in the South Devon AONB were recorded as being at risk, together with one grade I Listed Building, 2 grade II Listed Buildings, 5 grade II* listed buildings and 1 Registered Park and Garden grade II*. Within the South Devon AONB, Historic England records show that there are 55 scheduled monuments and 1293 listed buildings (39 grade I, 59 grade II* and 1218 grade II).

Listed buildings (% of total at risk)			
Grade I	Grade II*	Grade II	Total
5.1	8.5	0.2	0.7

Source Historic England 2017

Within the South Devon AONB Historic England records 1293 listed buildings (39 grade I, 59 grade II* and 1218 grade II) and 55 scheduled monuments.

To ensure that no Scheduled Heritage Assets are at risk within the AONB

Indicator 9: Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Registered Park and Garden on the national 'At Risk' register.

	2013	*2017*	*change*
Number at risk	18	14	-4

No scheduled monuments, listed buildings and registered park and garden on the ‘at risk’ register

Indicator 10: Scheduled Monuments assessed as declining in condition

	2013	*2017*	*change*
Number declining in condition			

All archaeological features are suitably protected or managed

Indicator 11: Management and protection of historic features agri-environment agreements

	Number of agreements	Area (ha)
2013	34	323.3
2017	33	369.7

Source Defra/Natural England (Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes, 2017)

Although there are fewer Environmental Stewardship agreements specifically for the management and protection of archaeological features, over the period the area of land under management has increased by 4.4%.

All archaeological features are suitably protected or managed

Theme 5: Farming and Land Management

Farms are becoming larger, more specialised and industrialised, while the number of traditional, small, mixed farms are continuing to decline. Adapting to modern agricultural practices has the potential to damage the traditional agricultural landscape. The viability of farm businesses has led to farming practices that are unsustainable and damaging both to the environment and to the long-term assets of the farms themselves. Increased public interest has been expressed over soil health, fertilisers, pesticides and land management techniques. The decline in family mixed farms is accompanied by an ageing farming population, a shortage of new entrants to the industry and an increasing burden of regulation and administration. Diversification enterprises are predicted to provide a greater percentage of farm business income.

There is also a worrying period of uncertainty while arrangements for post Brexit environmental land management schemes are awaited. EU Common Agricultural Policy has shifted support away from production subsidies towards agri-environment and wider rural development measures, providing opportunities for sustainable farming and rural diversification. Rural diversification is likely to have significant environmental effects and changes in agricultural production are likely to shape the future character of the landscape.

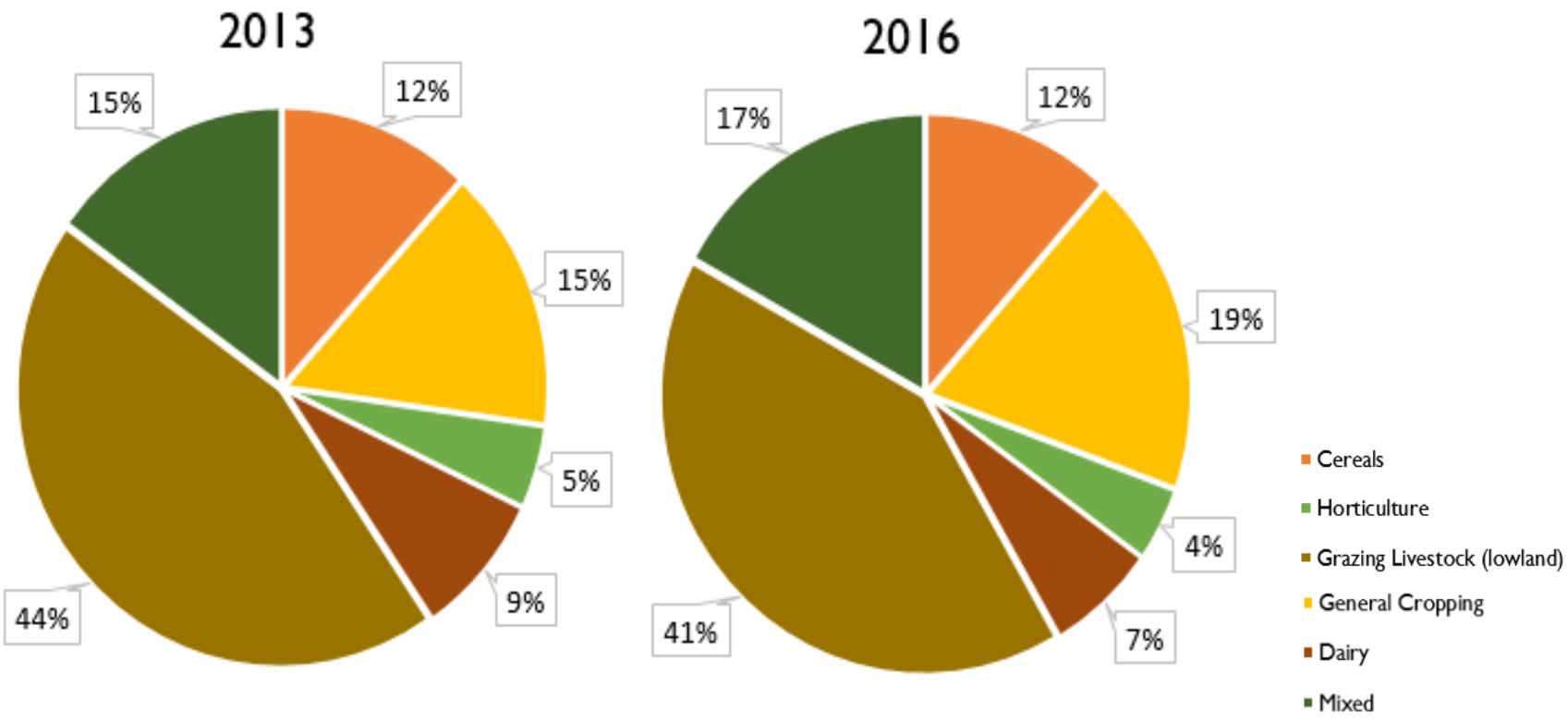
Furthermore, the recent spread of plant and animal diseases represent an increased threat to business viability and the cost of precautionary measures and restocking are significant.

Prices for timber and woodfuel are currently high and demand is increasing. However, many of the woodlands in the AONB are in small units with poor road access, steep slopes and low quality timber. The barriers to access, size of the woodlands and fragmented supply chain mean that costs of management can often be higher than rewards. Improving access to woodlands and supporting the supply chain could bring more woodlands into sustainable management, benefiting wildlife and increasing employment.

With most of the land area of the AONB being used for agriculture, the way in which it is farmed is important to its appearance and 'health'. The annual census of farming (land use, livestock and agricultural workforce on commercial holdings) , carried out by Defra, provides us with useful data, which although largely outside of the AONB Partnership's control, does help to identify issues and trends which may be addressed by partners in the future.

From 2013 to 2016 the total amount of holdings increased from 345 to 375. That equated to an 8.7% increase in the number of holdings. This increase was most prominent in smaller farms. Data from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs shows little change in the type of farms that are situated within the South Devon AONB.

Included in the farm types are cereals, horticulture, grazing livestock (lowland), general cropping, dairy and mixed. The data on farms that are specialist in pigs and poultry has been supressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings. Below: The pie charts show the change in different farm types over time.



Theme 6: Coast and Marine

Rising sea levels and extreme storm events, creates challenges for some coastal locations including Slapton Sands, Beesands, South Milton Sands and Challaborough There is continued pressure at coastal locations for infrastructure and other developments, including coast defence around individual properties.

Some prominent coastal sites are spoiled by past poor-quality development, compounded by growing pressure for commercial activities, intensive recreational use and erosion. Recreational conflicts and disturbance of tranquil areas are sometimes caused by motorised craft and at a small number of beaches users compete for safe launch and water space.

Litter is widely perceived as a problem in the AONB, with even a small amount having a marked effect on people's perception of a wild and unspoilt coastline. Much beach litter is brought in by the tides, reflecting a wider issue with marine litter. Marine plastics are a growing concern, as evidence increases about the harm these cause to marine wildlife.

A South Devon Heritage Coast is a defined area as one of the best stretches of undeveloped coast in England. The purpose of defining these areas are to ensure that they are conserved, protected and enhanced. It is important for these areas are maintained and the public is encouraged to understand and appreciate these areas.

Nearly all the coastline within the South Devon AONB is defined as a heritage coast. One aim of the South Devon AONB is to ensure that this heritage coastline is protected and remains undeveloped for future generations.

Indicator 12: South Devon AONB bathing water quality

The beaches within the South Devon AONB attract many visitors and locals for relaxation and recreational activities. It is important that the bathing sites are clean to protect human health and make tourists want to revisit the South Devon AONB for the economic value that they bring.

Annual ratings classify each site as excellent, good, sufficient, or poor based on measurements taken over a period of up to four years. Out of the 18 bathing sites across the South Devon AONB that have been tested by the Environment Agency, 12 have been rated excellent and the other 6 have been rated good.

Current water quality classification is Excellent, based on samples taken from 2015 through to 2018 - Broadsands, Breakwater Beach, St Mary's bay, Dartmouth Castle and Sugary Cove, Blackpool Sands, Slapton Sands Monument, Slapton Sands Torcross, Mill Bay, Salcombe North Sands, Salcombe South Sands, Thurlestone South, Challaborough and Bovisand.

Current water quality classification is Good, based on samples taken from 2015 through to 2018 - Hope Cove, Thurlestone North, Bantham, Bigbury-on-Sea South, Mothecombe and Wembury.

All sites rated as excellent within the AONB

Theme 7: Rivers and Estuaries

South Devon AONB's estuaries are made up of: • 5 ria estuaries covering 1,850 hectares, • 169km of estuarine shoreline, • 1,083 hectares of intertidal habitat, • Yealm estuary forming part of a marine Special Area of Conservation, • 3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the Yealm, Erme and Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuaries, • Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary marine Local Nature Reserve, • 3 potential Marine Conservation Zones in the Erme, Avon and Dart estuaries , • 4 designated Shellfish Waters in the Yealm, Avon, Salcombe-Kingsbridge and Dart estuaries , • 4 designated Bass Nursery Areas in the Yealm, Avon, Salcombe-Kingsbridge and Dart estuaries , • 3 designated Bathing Waters at beaches within the Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary, • 2 Protected Wreck sites in the Erme estuary mouth 'Habitat squeeze' is a particular issue in our steep sided estuaries, with a lack of space to accommodate the retreat of habitats against hard built environments and steep hillsides. There is significant pressure for further built development along estuary shorelines, with cumulative impacts on landscape, habitats, species and water quality, particularly via aging sewerage infrastructure of limited and increasingly inadequate capacity. Unsightly and intrusive coast defence structures have been installed at some sensitive

estuary locations. Established maritime businesses have been gradually displaced from their traditional premises, undermining the viability of essential shore-side support services and increasing pressure on other undeveloped estuary-side locations to accommodate boating uses.

There is strong demand for moorings and marina spaces within the estuaries and pressure on key access points. There are requirements for improved shore-side infrastructure for the fishing and mariculture sector and better launch facilities for small recreational craft. Estuary walks and trails offer great potential for countryside access and recreation but an increasing population and the desire for more public access to and around the estuaries, including proposed coastal access provisions, has the potential to increase disturbance of sensitive wildlife.

Illegal netting and poaching of fish within the estuaries continue to be a growing concern, despite the efforts of the fisheries authorities to tackle it.

Indicator 13: Status of rivers

The Environment Agency publishes data on the status of rivers under the European Water Framework Directive and classify them as high, good, moderate, poor or bad. In 2017, 0% in the AONB were categorised as being in either good or high status. However, this is not atypical of the river quality status in England and the classifications are stringent, with a 'one out, all out' level of attainment set. When the data is interrogated, it is encouraging that some 'reasons for failure' are improving and through targeted action, it is possible to address these failures. The Environment Agency have set a long timescale for addressing issues largely due to agricultural diffuse pollution, which explains the target of achieving good status on many of the watercourses in the area by 2027.

Water quality in the South Devon AONB is regularly monitored by the EA who with partners aim to understand existing and future problems that impact on water quality. The overall water body classification, ecology and chemical classification within or partially in the South Devon AONB was in 2016 and 14 rivers were classified as: Overall water body classification: 4 Good and10 Moderate. Ecological classification: 4 Good and 10 Moderate. Chemical classification: 13 good and 1 fail.

The status of rivers moves from poor/ moderate to high/ good (and there is no deterioration)

Theme 8: Tourism, Access and Recreation

There is increasing demand for certain types of recreational activity, particularly safe off-road horse riding, mountain biking, adventure sports, small water borne recreational craft and motorised vehicles. These impose a greater need for maintaining infrastructure and information and for managing safe and sustainable usage.

Intense recreational pressure exceeds carrying capacity at some heavily used sites during peak periods, causing congestion, erosion, landscape degradation, conflict between users, damage to habitats and archaeology. Cliff falls, heavy rainfall and the year-round usage of trails have increased the costs of maintaining path quality and continuity at a time of public sector spending constraint.

Many people actively enjoy the health benefits of countryside access and recreation, but significant elements of the population do not. These include people disadvantaged by poor health or disability, lack of access to information and transport and lack of opportunity and confidence. Some noisy and intrusive recreational activities disturb the tranquillity of the AONB and spoil the enjoyment of others. Trespass, noise, disturbance of wildlife, car obstruction and the poor management of dogs continue to be a focus of concern.

The growth of housing and population in the sub-region will continue to increase pressure on recreational facilities and vulnerable sites, at a time when there is shrinking funding to maintain and repair them. There have been few examples of developer contributions investing in off-site recreational infrastructure.

The AONB offers a wealth of visitor attractions and wildlife sites. Whilst it is recognised that sustainable forms of tourism can make valuable contributions to the local economy and sustainable rural development, increasing visitor pressure also has the potential to affect the character of the area's natural and historical assets and particularly the area's tranquillity. This is particularly relevant to associated traffic, demand for infrastructure (including parking and the upgrading of roads) and accommodation.

It is very important that within the South Devon AONB there is designated land and walking paths that allow for public access. To achieve this the local council, landowners and community organisations need to work together in order to designate appropriate land. Open access areas include public right of ways (PRoW), coastal paths, parks, allotments, playing fields and nature reserves to name just a few.

'Ease of use' status of public rights of way across Devon managed by Devon County Council have improved from an average of 94% in 2014 to 96.8% in 2018.

Theme 9: Planning and Sustainable Development

There is a recognised need for affordable housing within the South Devon AONB and to meet this need a certain amount of new housing and development will be required. There is also pressure for market housing and other forms of development. It is very important for any development to take place in a way that minimises detrimental impacts upon the character of individual settlements and the landscape character of the AONB.

Indicator 14: Number of affordable homes built annually

Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.' The affordability of buying homes is an additional issue, with house prices now far exceeding normal household incomes across the country. Within the AONB it has become noticeable that some housing is becoming increasingly exclusive and expensive and this may have an impact on the ability of people on average incomes to purchase homes within the AONB. This in turn may affect the make-up of the resident population and may lead to labour shortages in some areas and a predominance of retired or commuting workers within the resident population.

The impact of the AONB and the high quality natural environment on house prices can be considered as a benefit as it attracts additional investment into the area. Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure to increase the amount of housing being built within the South Devon AONB. The review of planning applications is a large part of the job role of team members at the South Devon AONB staff unit. Compared before 2012, 2015-2017 saw more than 100% increase in the number of units per year built. It is still important that with the growing need for housing that the special qualities of the South Devon AONB are maintained and enhanced.

AONB	Pre 2012		2012-2015		2015-2017	
	Units per year average	Units per 1000 Households	Units per year average	Units per 1000 Households	Units per year average	Units per 1000 Households
South Devon	82	2.61	111	3.58	198	6.38
Cornwall	82	1.02	138	1.72	386	4.82
Dorset	265	3.78	280	4.00	784	2.62

Source: An Independent Review of Housing In England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2012-2017. Commissioned by the Campaign to Protect Rural England and Landscapes for Life. Final report November 2017 Prepared by: David Dixon, Neil Sinden and Tim Crabtree.

Indicator 15: Number of settlements with an adopted neighbourhood plan

Many parishes in the SHDC area of the AONB have been working towards securing neighbourhood plans and by the end of 2017 15 parishes within the AONB have an adopted plan in place and 31 are engaged in developing a plan. All wards in the Torbay area of the AONB have adopted neighbourhood plans.

A complete coverage of neighbourhood plans within the AONB, driven by local communities, which contribute to conserving and enhancing the AONB

Theme 10: Transport & Highways

The provision of road and transport services is key to retaining a healthy and sustainable local community in rural areas, however it is limited by value for money and viability. So, for example, as cuts at a local authority level, rural bus services, which require a higher subsidy per passenger, become increasingly under threat of a reduced service or complete withdrawal. Schools are similarly dependent on subsidies as low pupil numbers can create pressure for closure and village shops are often already struggling for survival.

Intense traffic pressure, particularly in the summer months, causes congestion at certain locations and creates an intrusion into the quality of the countryside and its tranquillity. The degradation of roadside hedge banks and verges continues, through direct vehicle damage, the wearing of passing places, slumping, flailing, the loss of soil and stone facings and the spread of invasive species.

There is a legacy of obtrusive lighting, concrete post and wire fencing, missing hedge banks and unsympathetic road alignments, while modern specifications for kerbing, signage, lining and traffic calming can have a suburbanising impact on the rural road network. The increase in motorised traffic has rendered many rural roads unsuitable for use by walkers, horse riders and cyclists.

The increasing size of freight vehicles, the narrow rural road network and the over-reliance on misleading satellite navigation instructions are leading to incidents of stuck lorries, congestion and damaged roadsides. The strategic road network frequently fails because of even minor road traffic incidents leading to the rapid congestion of rural minor roads.

Severe weather events contribute to road surface damage and structural road stability in some locations within the AONB. Repairing and maintaining the basic fabric of roads has been the over-riding concern of the highway authorities.

Theme 11: Rural Economy and Tourism

The high demand for residential development is causing a continued loss of business, tourism and service premises by conversion.

The high cost of living and below-average wages in the AONB create an obstacle to the recruitment and retention of the local workforce, particularly young people and skilled manual workers. This position also contributes toward a significant net daily commuter out-migration of high skilled workers to nearby urban centres.

The recession, higher costs of products and services, austerity and changes in global market forces have served to accentuate deep-rooted challenges already facing rural businesses in the area.

The rate of closure of essential rural services continues to affect the sustainability of smaller rural settlements in the AONB. Government spending has significantly reduced the capacity of the public sector to support economic regeneration and it continues to remain unclear whether it deliver meaningful resources into the AONB.

Indicator 16: Total annual values of agri-environment agreements

These figures relate to all agri-environment schemes, mostly Environmental Stewardship, but also some ESA agreements in 2013 and 2014.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total (£)						*£932,781*

Source Defra/Natural England (Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes)

An increase in financial investment for agri-environment agreements is considered to enhance the AONB

Indicator 17: Percentage change in farm number and size

0% increase in number of farms, 9.7% decrease in number of largest farms, 8.7% decrease in total land area

Number of farms	**2013**	**2016**
	375	375
<5 ha	25	30
5-20 ha	91	102
20-50 ha	70	82
50-100 ha	71	75
>100 ha	88	86
Total area	29,779	27,175

Source Defra, Agricultural Survey

The numbers in each sector have remained broadly similar except for cereals/crops where the number of holdings has increased from 90 to 113.

Geographical breakdowns, that provide figures for AONB areas, are only available in years that correspond to EU Farm Structure Survey, hence the only figures available are for 2013 and 2016. Changes in sampling and methodology mean that identification of trends and direct comparisons are difficult. Several larger agricultural buildings including cattle and grain storage facilities, have been erected across the more open plateau landscape and can be visually prominent.

Theme 12: Community and Culture

South Devon provides an attractive retirement and second home destination and young adults are leaving the area to go to higher education and job opportunities elsewhere. Young people find it extremely difficult to afford a home in the AONB because of below average wage levels and the high cost of housing.

Continued investment is needed in updating community facilities, but public sector funding is increasingly scarce and is usually not able to support repair and maintenance costs. A high quality of life does not extend to all. Social and cultural exclusion, poor health, poverty and isolation are still experienced, particularly amongst the elderly in hidden pockets of deprivation.

Communities are becoming increasingly divorced from land management and farming traditions, although there is an increased interest in allotment gardening and garden share schemes. The growing disconnection between children and the natural environment, reflected in obesity, sedentary lifestyles and the loss of independence and confidence in decision making.

Indicator 18: Number of parishes/towns with approved neighbourhood plans

Over the last seven years, AONB communities have responded to the opportunity to develop Neighbourhood Plans to varying degrees from enthusiastic early adopters to opting not to develop a plan. The following table summarises the current position for Neighbourhood Plan development throughout AONB Parishes and neighbourhoods. Of the 42 Town or Parish Council areas wholly or partly within the South Devon AONB, 22 are progressing or have adopted Neighbourhood Plans. The remaining 20 Parishes, all within South Hams are not currently engaged in Neighbourhood Planning.

Approved at Referendum = 6	In Development = 6	Designated & in early stages = 11	No active Neighbourhood Planning = 20
Thurlestone, Newton and Noss, Malborough, Ugborough, Stoke Fleming and Brixham Peninsula	Bigbury (Reg 14), Strete (Reg 16), Brixton (Reg 16), South Milton (Reg 16) and Salcombe (Reg 17)	Kingswear, South Huish, Aveton Gifford, Wembury, Modbury, Berry Pomeroy, Stoke Gabriel, Kingston, Kingsbridge, West Alvington and Churchstow	Yealmpton, Ringmore, East Portlemouth Stokenham, Slapton, Charleton Frogmore & Sherford, Loddiswell, Woodleigh, North Huish, Diptford, Dittisham, Cornworthy, Ashprington, Blackawton, Buckland-Tout-Saints, Chivelstone and South Pool

Theme 13: Awareness and Communication

South Devon does not have a clear geographical place in the public imagination or provide an obvious boundary for the AONB. Natural beauty is a difficult term to communicate effectively to different audiences, especially as most of the South Devon AONB is a cultural, working landscape shaped and managed by people. Many residents of the area, especially the young and those in adjoining urban areas, are not engaged with the AONB for a range of reasons - cultural, financial, mobility and

social exclusion. Austerity and the current emphasis on economic growth are challenging the relevance and value of the AONB designation and management amongst some decision makers.

Indicator 19: Numbers of people engaged with SDAONB social media networks and attending SDAONB events

Approx. 1,650 people attending SDAONB events in 2017.
This figure is based on the number of people who booked on AONB events (assuming the number of no shows cancels out the extras who turned up without bookings) plus an estimate of 4000 people at fayres and festival.
Facebook - 1400+ page likes on Facebook, which has grown from 500 in 2014.
Twitter - Since August 2009: 2636 followers, tweets 3205, 401 likes – likes per tweet 0.13, likes per follower: 0.15.
Newsletter 2,758 subscribers to our e-bulletin
Website news pages 2017: page views of news pages = 3389

As many social media 'hits' as possible that are a proxy for people's celebration, awareness and engagement in the AONB

Indicator 20: Numbers of people participating in voluntary activities in the countryside

Although no robust data is currently available across the AONB, a new volunteer effort metric is being developed for the AONB Partnership to allow comparison against a baseline in future years. Data has been collected for projects including the South Devon AONB Natural Futures Project, through which there were 400+ volunteer days contributed through the dormouse monitoring programme alone.

The AONB have an ambition to have continued and active engagement with all the schools in or immediately adjacent to the AONB

Theme 14: Management, Organisation and Partnerships

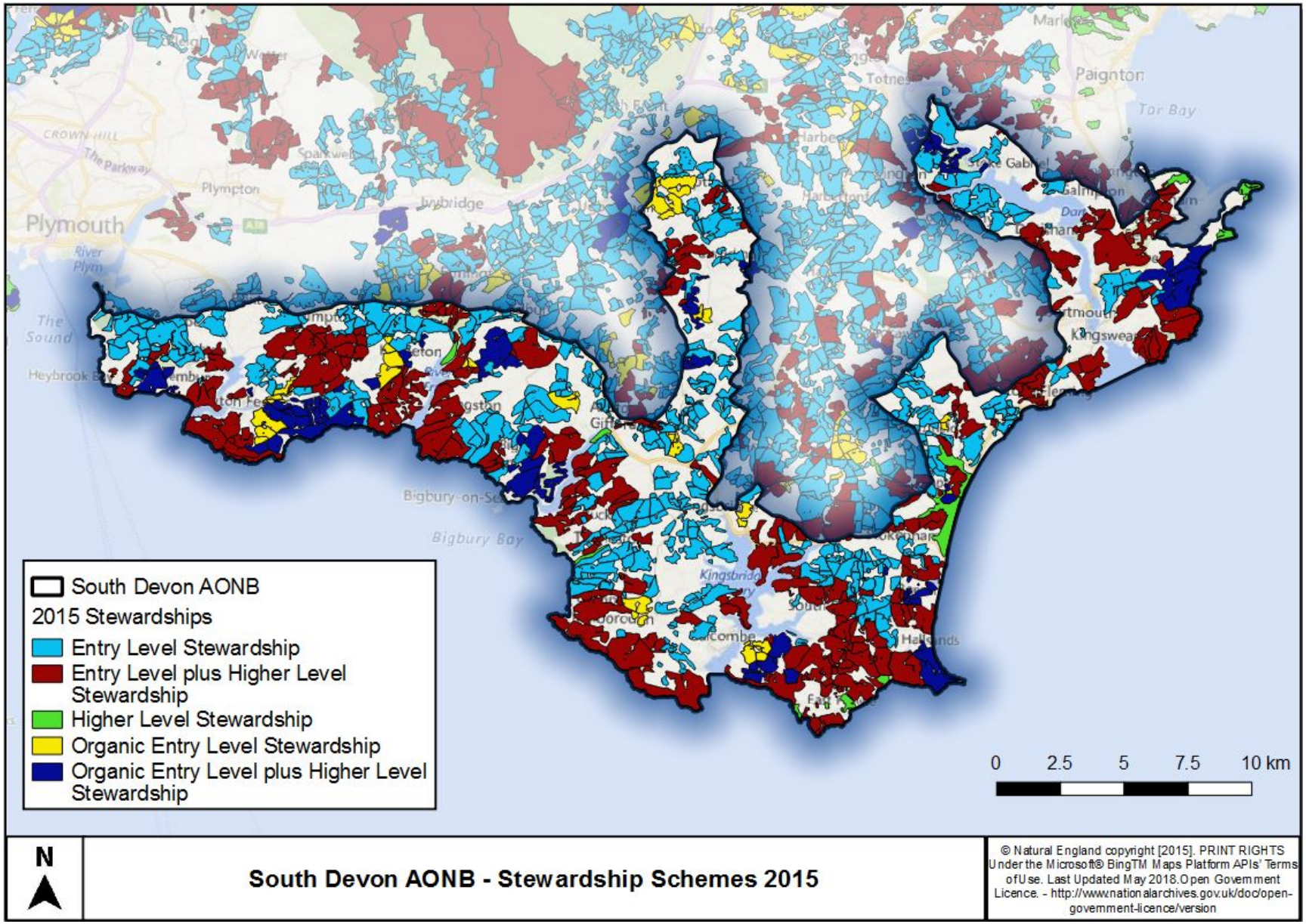
Some key partner organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to engage with partnerships and forums, as staff reductions and reorganisation take effect. The continuing squeeze on public sector funding and cuts to the AONB Unit budget mean that more time is being diverted into fundraising and project work is becoming more opportunistic and short term. The weakness of legislation and the fact that AONB management pans are not legally binding limits the ability of the AONB Partnership to influence change.

The AONB Annual Review is publicly available via the AONB website and reports on projects, budgets and relevant issues. Partnership Committee minutes are also publicly available.

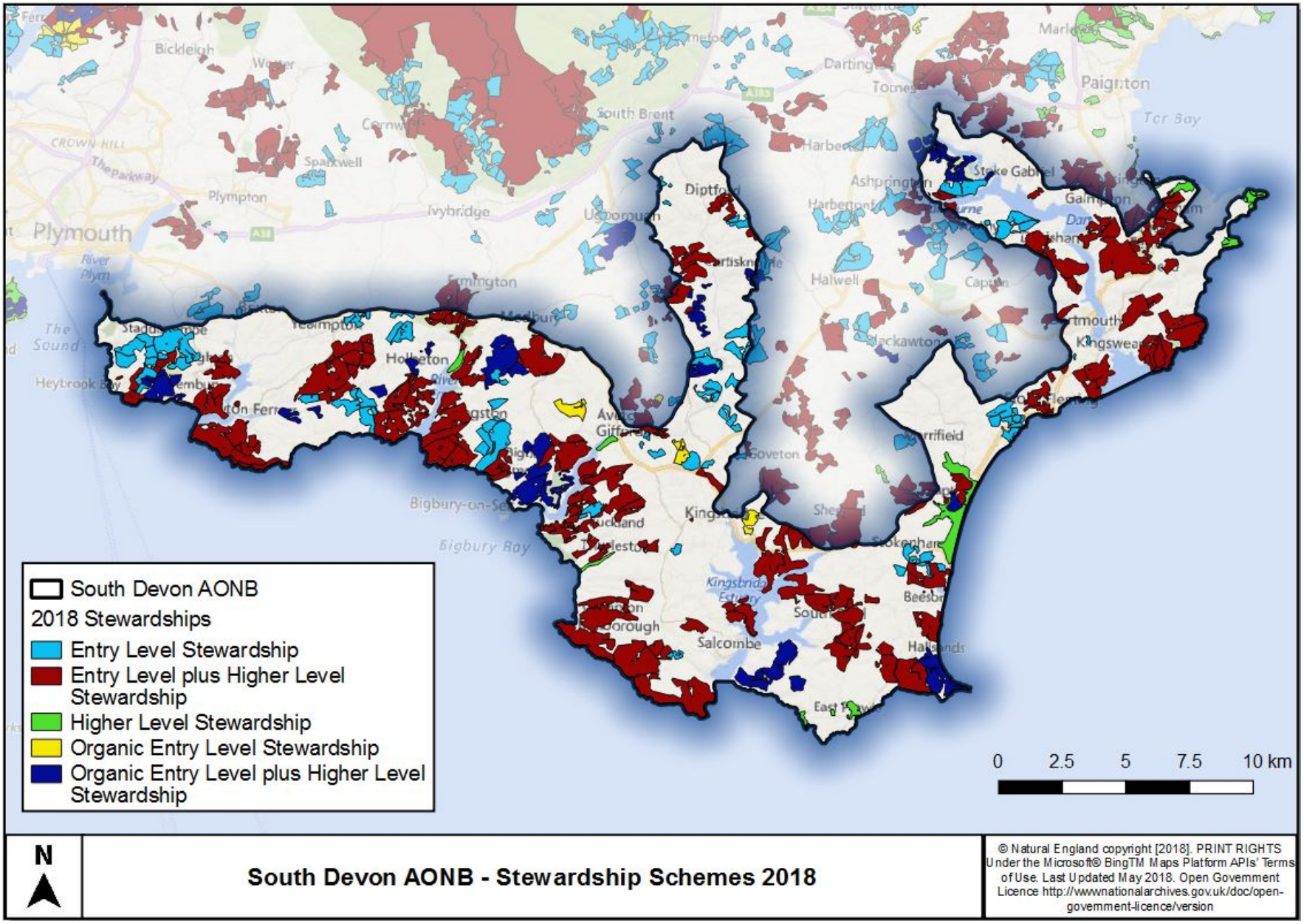
Examples to support policy definitions and priorities	
	Examples of features, services and activity
NatRes/P5	This includes the reuse of locally distinctive building materials.]
NatRes/P6	Examples of initiatives include energy usage and carbon dioxide emissions and increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable heat and power sources particularly from local woodfuel supply chains.
BioGeo/P3	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.
BioGeo/P6	Land includes farmland, private gardens, community spaces and publicly owned land.]
Hist/P2	Due to the number and extent of designated and non-designated historic features and the age and complexity of the field, road and settlement pattern.]
Hist/P8	catchment sensitive farming, habitat improvement projects, river improvement projects
LanMan/P2	High Nature Value farmland and woodland is a term used to describe these areas
LanMan/P4	historic environment and geodiversity features, habitats and species of importance, local breeds of livestock and varieties of plants and traditional working farmstead buildings.
Acc/P2	coastal, estuary and riverside trails and green lanes
Trans/P1	lighting, signage and verge management
Trans/P6	cycle routes, safe pedestrian paths between villages, park and ride schemes, hopper buses, community transport schemes, bus priority measures and ferry services
Comm/P2	energy efficiency and generation, sustainable building and renovation, allotment gardening, community woodland and orchard projects and alternative transport options to the private car.
Lan/P5	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
BioGeo/P2	Priority species could include legally protected species, species of principal importance and other significant species for South Devon AONB.

Maps – South Devon AONB

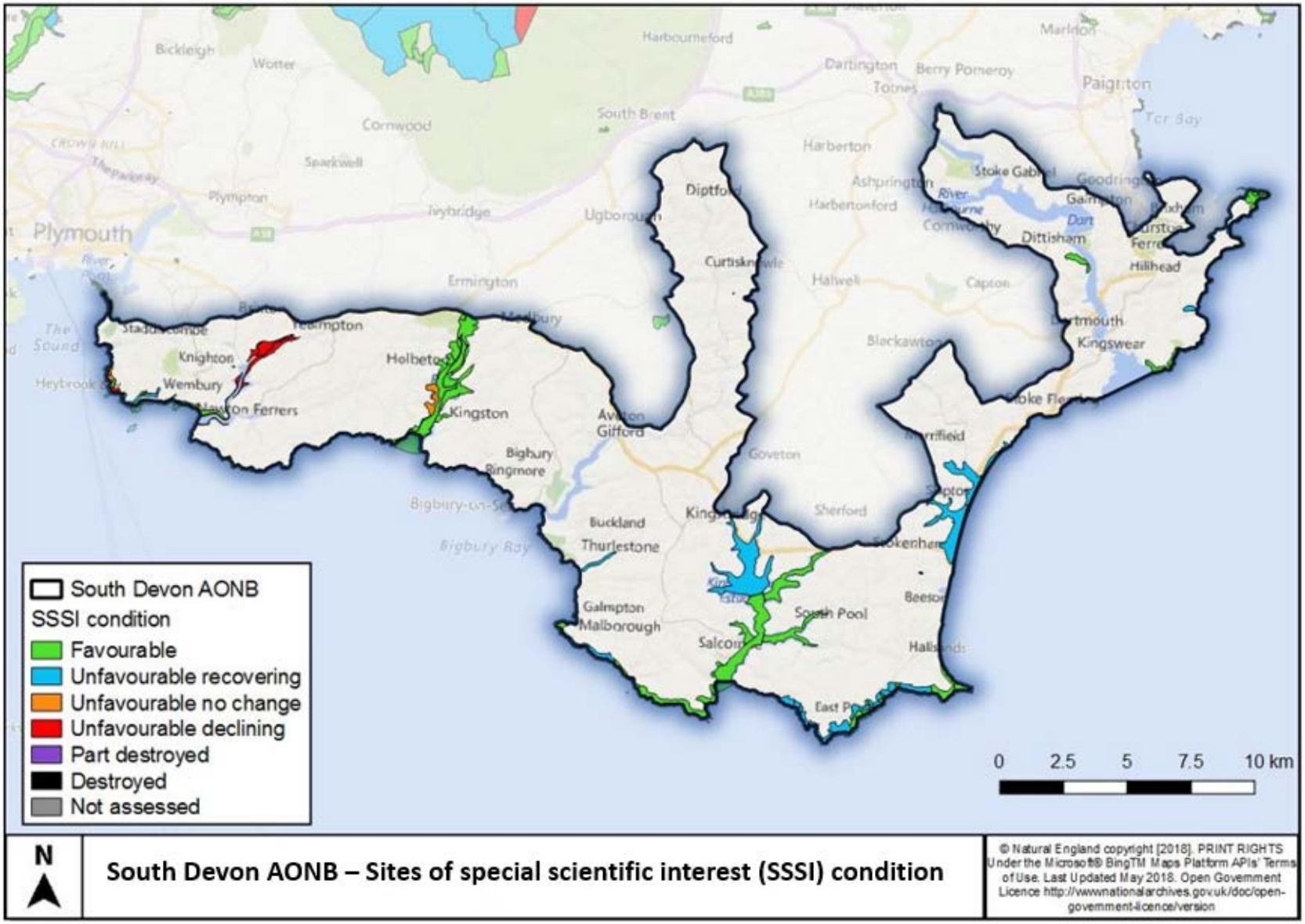
Countryside Stewardship Schemes 2015



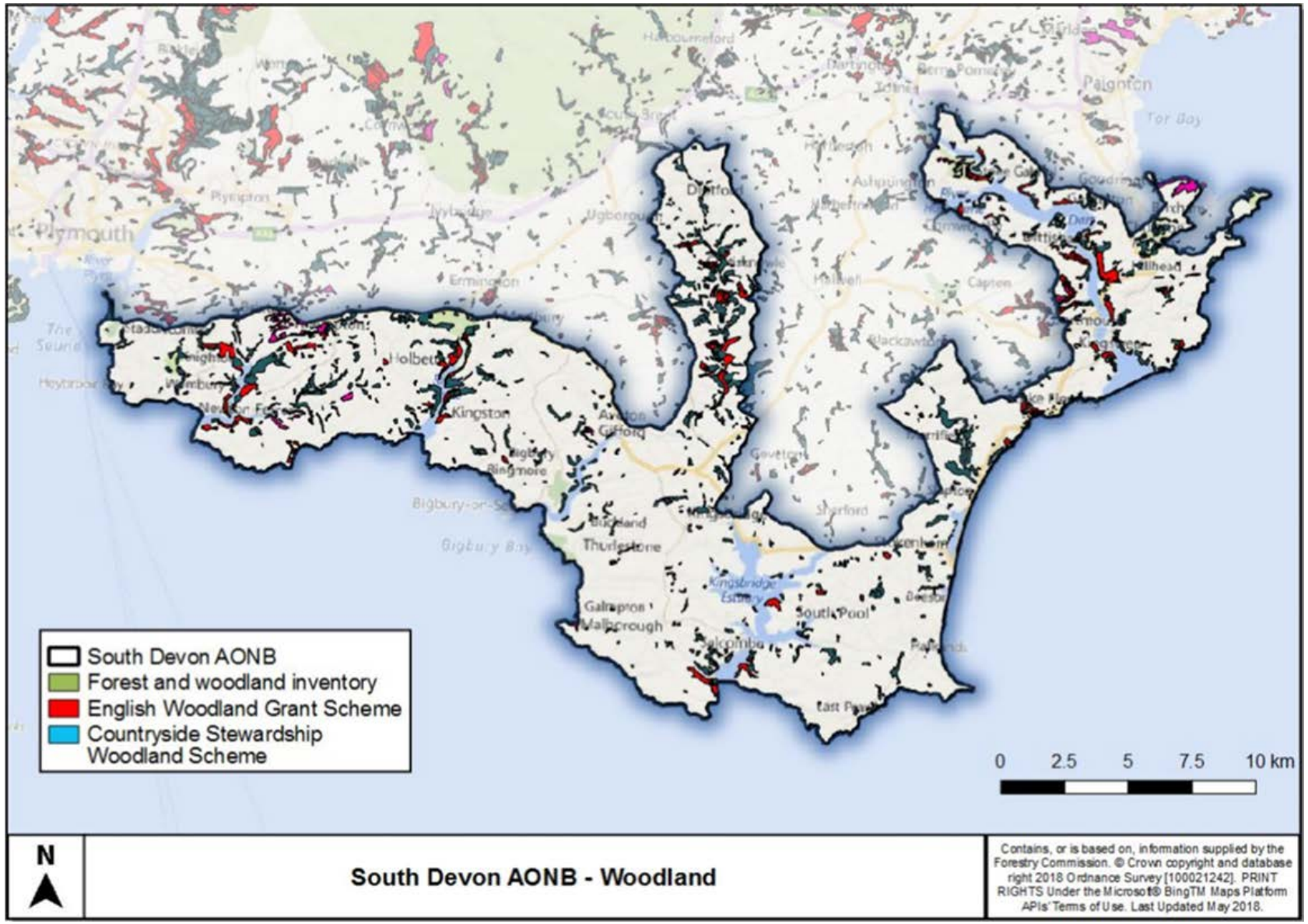
Countryside Stewardship Schemes 2018



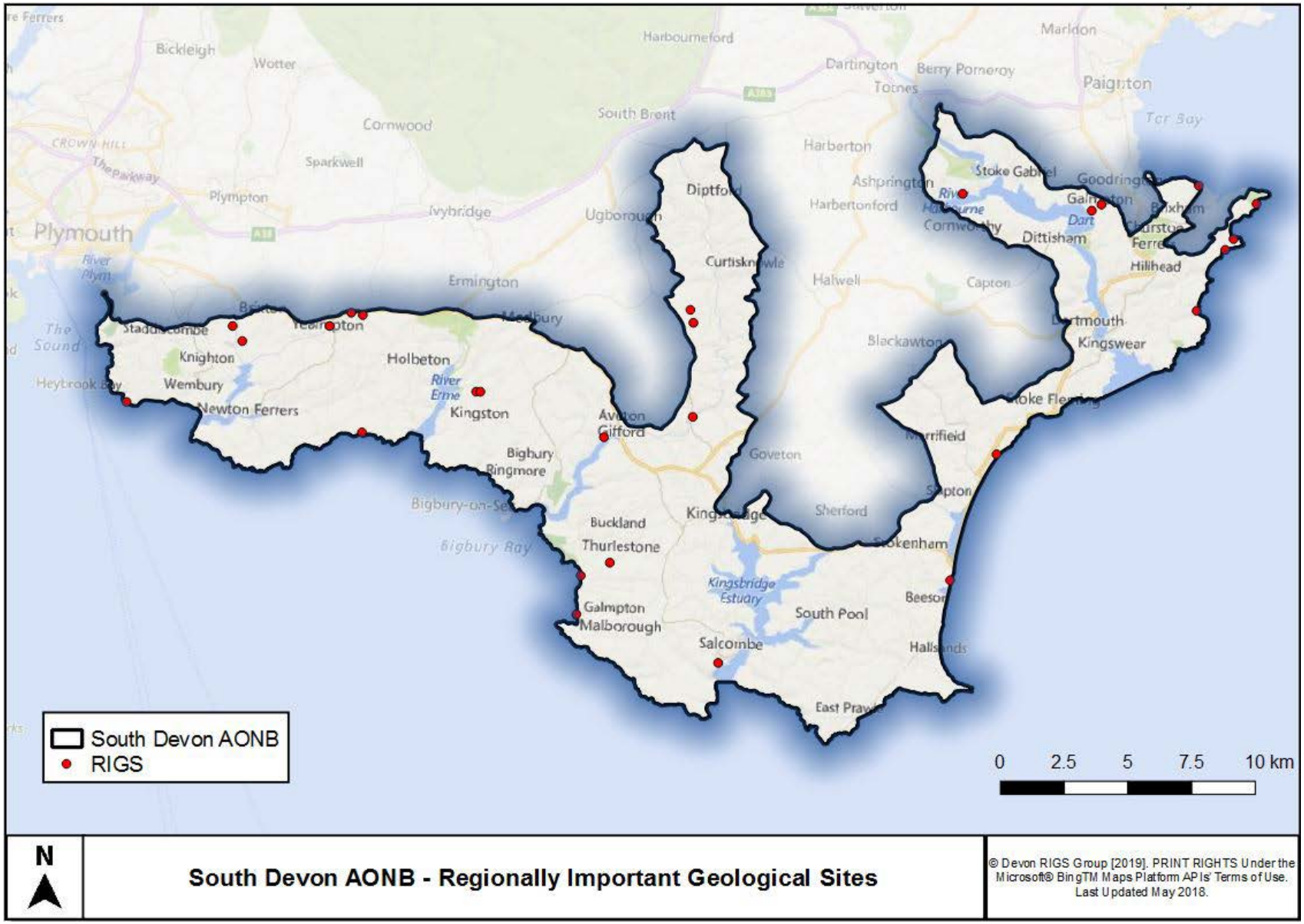
Sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) condition

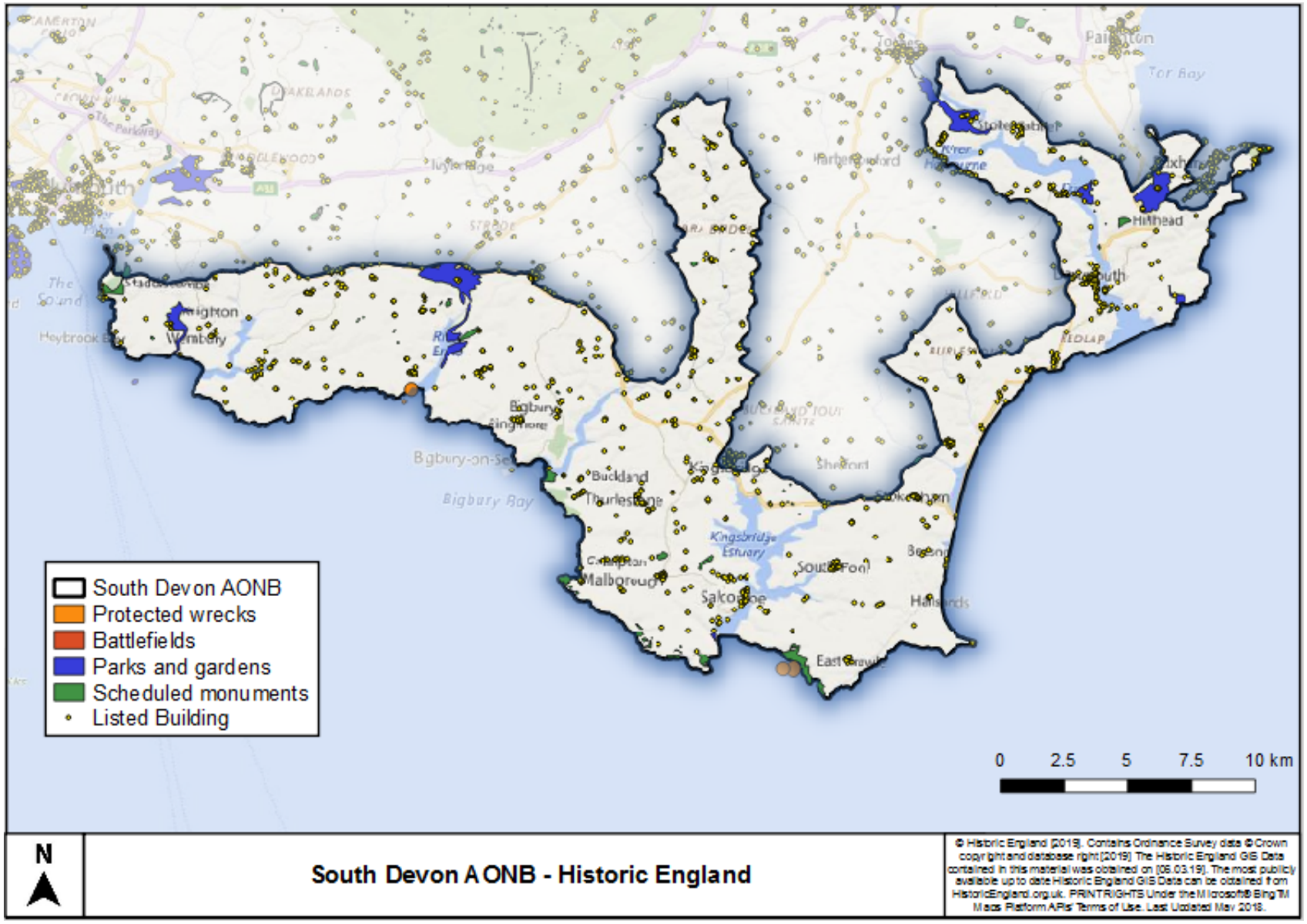


Woodland

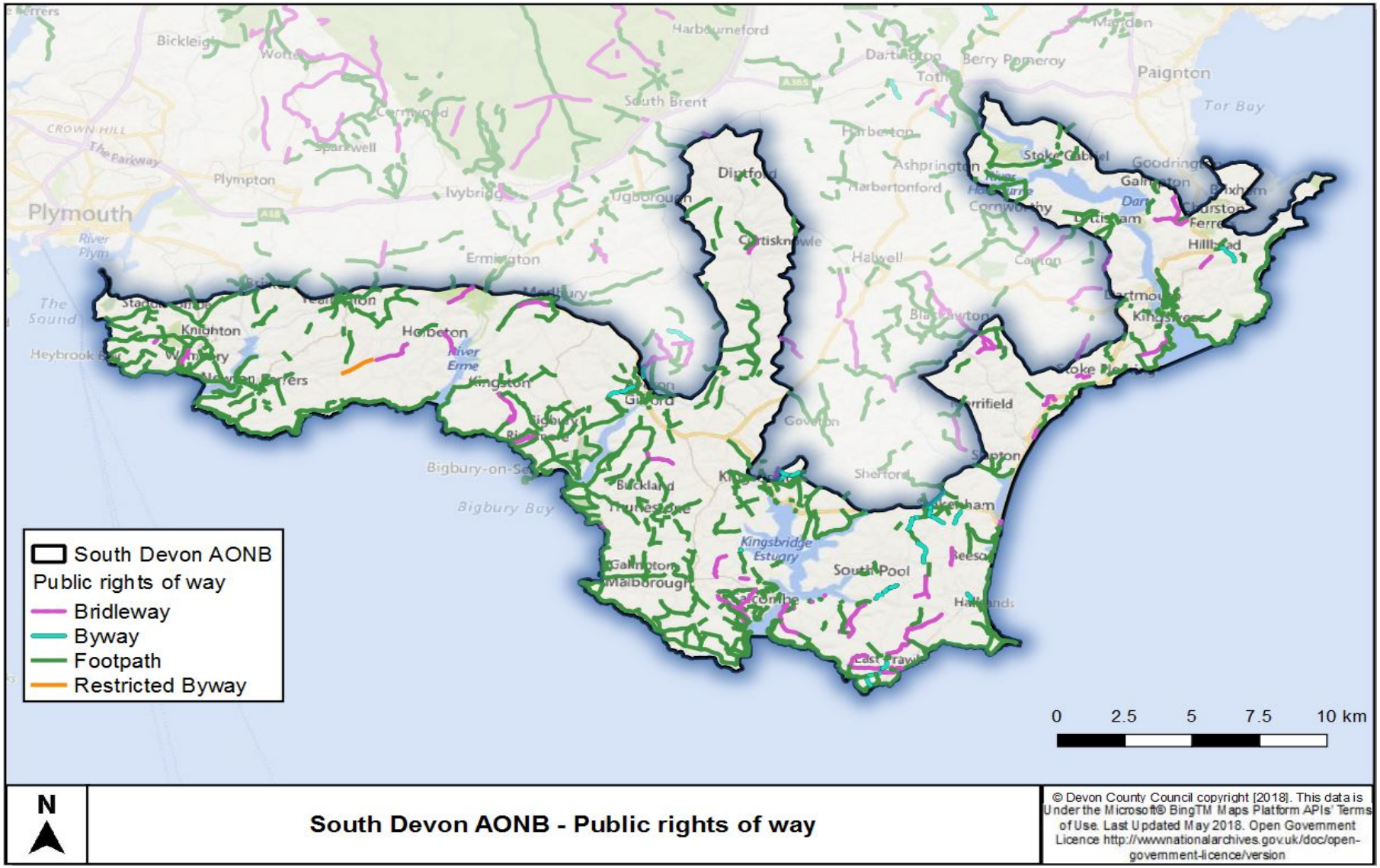

South Devon AONB
Forest and woodland inventory
English Woodland Grant Scheme
Countryside Stewardship Woodland Scheme
0 2.5 5 7.5 10 km
N
South Devon AONB - Woodland
Contains, or is based on, information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right 2018 Ordnance Survey [100021242]. PRINT RIGHTS Under the Microsoft® BingTM Maps Platform APIs' Terms of Use. Last Updated May 2018.

Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)




South Devon AONB
Protected wrecks
Battlefields
Parks and gardens
Scheduled monuments
Listed Building
0
2.5
5
7.5
10 km
N
South Devon AONB - Historic England
© Historic England [2019]. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2019] The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on [06.03.19]. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from HistoricEngland.org.uk. PRINTRIGHTS Under the Microsoft® Bing™ Maps Platform APIs' Terms of Use. Last Updated May 2018.

Public rights of way (PROW)



Management Plan Glossary and Bibliography

Affordable housing – housing provided for rent or sale at a price level which can be sustained by local people in housing need.

Ancient Tree Forum (ATF) – Founded in 1993 by a group of enthusiasts who came together to discuss ancient and veteran trees and their management. Also, records distribution of ancient, veteran and other 'special' trees in the landscape.

Ancient woodland – defined as land that has been continually wooded since at least 1600AD. From 1600, planting of woodland became more common, so woodland that pre-dates this is more likely to have grown up naturally. Some ancient woods may even link back to the original wildwood that covered the UK around 10,000 years ago. Also, Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW).

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – designated landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them by law.

Biodiversity – the common term for 'biological diversity', the range of plant and animal species present in an area.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) – Action Plans concerned with protecting biodiversity, from international to national and local levels.

Biomass – living matter, for example plant material, vegetation, or agricultural waste, used as a fuel or energy source.

BREXIT – the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (EU).

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) – a programme that aims to develop measures to tackle diffuse water pollution from agriculture.

Catchment Management Plans - plans to benefit whole water catchment areas by working in partnership with individuals and organisations. Records state of water quality, habitats and species, impacts and issues to be addressed.

Category V Protected Landscapes – refers to category of lived-in landscapes in the United Nations list of protected areas. These areas are characterised by their scenic beauty.

Clean Air Strategy 2018 – Draft DEFRA strategy open for public consultation until 14 August 2018. Outlines government ambitions relating to reducing air pollution in the round, making our air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy.

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) – European-wide policy that supports agriculture through price support, market management and measures to improve the agricultural industry.

Community Infrastructure Levy - a levy that local authorities in England and Wales can choose to charge on new developments in their area (Aug 2013).

Community Interest Company (CIC) - a special type of limited company, which exists to benefit the community rather than private shareholders.

Conservation Area – an area of special architectural or historic interest, with a character or appearance considered desirable to preserve or enhance.

Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 – provides protection to European animals and plants.

Cordiale - a cross border (South West England and North West France) Interreg IVa protected landscapes project working on sustainable landscape management that ran

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) - confirms the significance of AONBs. Section 85 places a statutory duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function in relation to, or affecting, land within an AONB.

County Geological Site (CGS) – non-statutory designation used to identify some of the most significant areas for geology and Earth heritage. They underpin and expand the network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are of county or regional importance in their own right (previously referred to as Regionally Important Geological Sites).

CRoW Act – Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - confirmed the significance of AONBs. Section 85 places a statutory (legal) duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function in relation to or affecting land within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. www.defra.gov.uk/wildlifecountryside/cl/index.htm

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) – the Government department responsible for dealing with environmental issues, agriculture, food and rural affairs.

Designed Landscape – an area of land, which has been modified by people for primarily aesthetic effect. The term is used by historians to denote sites such as gardens, parks, cemeteries and wider estates.

Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project – 5 year Heritage Lottery Funded project led by Devon Wildlife Trust. The Tamar Valley AONB is one of the project partners.

Devon Special Species lists – long list of species known to be rare in Devon and short list of species for which Devon has a particular responsibility.

Ecological Network - an ecological network is a joined-up group of natural and semi- natural habitats which is managed with the objective of maintaining or restoring ecological function, to conserve biodiversity. Ecological networks are provided as a response to biodiversity decline and aim to provide a connected collection of refuges for wildlife. These networks are the basic natural infrastructure that will begin to enable biodiversity to recover from recent declines and help to protect socially and economically important ecosystem goods and services.

Ecosystem Services - The range of public goods and services derived from the natural environment.

English Woodland Grant Scheme – grants for woodland management, improvement, creation, planning and assessment administered through the Forestry Commission.

Entry Level Scheme (ELS) – Entry Level of Environmental Stewardship (ES), an agri-environment scheme launched in 2005 where land managers receive payment for simple, effective environmental management.

Environment Agency – the principal environmental regulator in England and Wales, relating to pollution, waste and the water environment.

European Landscape Convention - also known as the Florence Convention, after the city where the convention was adopted - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European cooperation on landscape issues. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscape.

European Marine Sites (EMS) - collectively describes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) that are covered by tidal waters and protect some of our most important marine and coastal habitats and species of European importance.

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) South West - seeks to support, enthuse & inspire fellow farmers to value the environmental assets on their land & use them to secure sustainable & profitable businesses for the future.

Feature of Conservation Importance (FOCI) - A habitat or species that is rare, threatened or declining in our waters.

Forestry Commission - the government department responsible for the protection and expansion of England and Scotland forests and woodlands.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - a legal framework that sets guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information of individuals within the European Union (EU).

Geodiversity – may be defined as the natural range (diversity) of geological features (rocks, minerals, fossils, structures), geomorphological features (landforms and processes) and soil features that make up the landscape.

Geological Conservation Review – founded in 1977 to identify those sites of national and international importance needed to show all the key scientific elements of the Earth heritage of Britain.

Green Infrastructure - is a strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. (Blue Infrastructure - if aquatic ecosystems are involved).

Glover Review/Protected Landscape review 2018 – DEFRA, nearly 70 years after National Parks and AONBs were first established, this review will ensure designated landscapes are fit for purpose.

Habitat – the place where a particular animal or plant lives, or the wider interaction of plants and animals that are found together.

Habitat Regulations Assessment - The purpose of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is to identify any aspects of the emerging Local Plan that would have the potential to cause a likely significant effect on Natura 2000 or European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites), (either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects) and to identify appropriate avoidance and mitigation strategies where such effects were identified.

Heritage at Risk (HAR) - a dynamic picture of the health of England's heritage published annually by Historic England as a list of those sites most at risk of being lost through neglect, decay, or inappropriate development.

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) – the National Lottery distributor responsible for giving grants to projects, which conserve and enable people to learn about and be involved in their heritage.

High Nature Value Farming – this concept developed from a growing recognition that the conservation of biodiversity in Europe depends on the continuation of low-intensity farming systems.

Higher Level Scheme (HLS) – Higher Level of Environmental Stewardship (ES), an agri-environment scheme launched in 2005 where land managers receive payment for more complex management of specific types of landscape and features considered particularly valuable.

Historic England (HE)- the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment (formerly English Heritage).

Historic Environment Record (HER) – a system for recording information about the historic environment, such as archaeological sites and finds, designated sites, historic landscapes, historic buildings and other features in the landscape. These records were previously known as Sites and Monuments Records (SMR).

Historic Landscape Analysis – in-depth analysis, usually at a parish scale, of the historic landscape as it appears today underneath the buildings and infrastructure of today. It draws on Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and other historic area studies, but will involve fieldwork and further, usually archival, research.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) – analysis of the countryside looking at the land uses and historical influences which have created modern components of the landscape.

Indicators – ways of quantifying and measuring the impact of policy objectives. In this Plan, primary indicators refer to readily available data held by organisations and secondary indicators, which will require new research or additional analysis.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - assesses the scientific, technical and socioeconomic information relevant for the understanding of the risk of human-induced climate change.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - the World Conservation Union. IUCN Category V protected landscape – Protected Landscape/Seascape protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation. Area of land, with coast and sea as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural value and often with high biological diversity. Safeguarding the integrity of this traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of such an area.

Landscape Character Area (LCA) - areas which share similar landscape characteristics. These areas represent the next scale down from the large national areas and give an overview of how landscapes change across the country.

Landscape Character Assessment - a tool to understand and articulate the character of the landscape; identify the features that give a locality its 'sense of place'; and pinpoints what makes it different from neighbouring areas. The assessments are county wide and identify Landscape Character Areas, which are amalgamated from smaller Landscape Description Units.

Landscape Description Unit (LDU) - the building blocks of landscape character studies and the base unit for the construction of the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). The areas have been mapped using nationally available information on physiographic, ground type, land cover and cultural pattern. Local data on biodiversity and the historic landscape will be added to the LDU descriptions to give further local detailing. LDUs are the smallest unit in landscape characterisation studies, although their sizes vary depending on the uniformity of the landscape in each place.

Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) - a grant scheme that forms an important part of National Grid's Visual Impact Provision project. The overall objective of the scheme is to reduce the landscape and visual impact of National Grid's existing electricity infrastructure and enhance the quality of the affected designated landscapes.

Landscape Monitoring Units (LMU) - suitably sized areas of common landscape character identified to enable change to be monitored over time. The identification of LMUs is based on the information contained within Landscape Character Assessment.

Lidar - a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with laser light and analysing the reflected light. Lidar is popularly known as a technology used to make high resolution maps.

Listed Buildings – buildings of special architectural or historic interest listed by the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Local Development Framework (LDF) – a written statement and proposals map formulating the district planning authority's detailed policies for the development and use of land in its area.

Local Enterprise Partnership – in 2011 the Government invited local councils and businesses to set up voluntary partnerships to help strengthen local economies and set out local economic priorities. The HoTSW is relevant to South Devon

Local Nature Partnership (LNP)- partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment. Setting up LNPs was one of the commitments Defra made in the Natural Environment White Paper 2011.

Local Nature Reserve – a statutory designation offering people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

Local Planning Authority (LPA) - the local authority or council that is empowered by law to exercise statutory town planning functions for a particular area of the United Kingdom.

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) - a type of marine protected area, existing alongside European marine sites, SSSIs and Ramsar sites to form an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive - outlines a transparent, legislative framework for an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities, which supports the sustainable use of marine goods and services.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) - a document written between parties to cooperate on an agreed upon project or meet an agreed objective. The purpose of an MOA is to have a written understanding of the agreement between parties.

National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) - formed in 1998 as an independent organisation to act on behalf of AONBs in England and Wales.

National Bat Monitoring Programme – annual bat surveys undertaken by volunteers, run by the Bat Conservation Trust.

National Character Areas - 159 distinct natural areas defined by Natural England. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.

National Forest Inventory – accurate, up-to-date information about the size, distribution, composition and condition of our forests and woodlands, delivered by the Forestry Commission.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications (2018).

National Nature Reserve (NNR) - areas where wildlife comes first – established to protect most important sites of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain. The majority have some form of public access.

Natural England (NE) – the Government's adviser on the natural environment for England. Its remit is to ensure the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations.

Neighbourhood Plan - A plan prepared by a parish council or neighbourhood forum for a designated neighbourhood area. In law this is described as a neighbourhood development plan in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) – Interim name for the next round of agri-environment schemes to be delivered through the Rural Development Programme for England, rolled out in 2015.Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) – ancient woodland sites currently under coniferous plantation.

Orthostat - A large slab-like stone that has been artificially set upright. They are often prehistoric stones that constitute part of larger structures.

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) - identified by locally developed criteria, are the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land. RIGS are selected in a different way to Earth science SSSIs, which are chosen on a national basis. RIGS are selected on a local or regional basis using four nationally agreed criteria. Nationally important geological sites are protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Registered Parks & Gardens - the English Heritage 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England', established in 1983, currently identifies over 1,600 sites assessed to be of national importance.

Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) – Government funding programme for projects to improve agriculture, the environment and rural life. Runs from 2014-2020.

Scheduled Monument – a protected archaeological site or historic building of national importance (also Scheduled Ancient Monument).

Single Payment Scheme – the principal agricultural subsidy scheme in the European Union. Subsidies are not linked to production and environmentally friendly farming practices are better acknowledged and rewarded.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – areas designated by Natural England or its predecessors as being of special interest because of their flora, fauna, geomorphological or physiographical features.

South West Protected Landscapes Forum – informal association that encouraged networking and exchange of information and ideas between the AONBs and National Parks in the south-west region. This has now merged with the National Association for AONBs.

South West Marine Management Organisation Plan (SWMMO) - The south west marine plan areas includes the south west inshore and south west offshore marine plan areas including the tidal estuaries.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive providing statutory protection for habitats and species of European importance.

Special Protection Area (SPA) - designated under the European Birds Directive because of their importance to birds. Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEOs) – Aspirational opportunities for action identified in the National Character Area Priorities.

Special Qualities - AONBs are designated solely for their landscape qualities, for the purpose of conserving and enhancing their natural beauty. Designation under the provisions of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act is to secure their permanent protection against development that would damage their special qualities. The AONBs special qualities are listed in the AONB Management Plan.

Staddle stone- used as s supporting bases for granaries, hayricks, game larders, etc. The staddle stones lifted the granaries above the ground thereby protecting the stored grain from vermin and water seepage.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - the purpose of an 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.

Sustainability - as defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development as 'development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

Tranquillity – the quality of calm experienced in places with mainly natural features and activities, free from disturbance from man-made ones (as defined by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England).

Tree Health Resilience Strategy 2018 – DEFRA strategy explaining how the government will work with others to protect England's tree population from pest and disease threats.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) – "created in 1945 order to respond to the firm belief of nations, forged by two world wars in less than a generation, that political and economic agreements are not enough to build a lasting peace". One of their beliefs is to build "intercultural understanding: through protection of heritage and support for cultural diversity". UNESCO created the idea of World Heritage to protect sites of outstanding universal value and inscribe World Heritage Status.

Water Framework Directive (WFD) – part of UK law, the WFD provides an opportunity to plan and deliver a better water environment, focusing on ecology, through a management planning cycle.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 - the principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain.

World Heritage Site (WHS) - a place (such as a forest, mountain, lake, island, desert, monument, building, complex or city) that is listed by UNESCO as of special cultural or physical significance.

Relevant key strategies, plans and legislation is referenced in Annex 5, SEA

Natural England Policy Position Statements relating to management plan sections have been considered

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A Landscape Character Assessment of the South Devon AONB (South Devon AONB, 2007)

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A Landscape Character Assessment of Torbay (Torbay Council, 2009)

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Designation History Series: North and South Devon AONBs (Ray Woolmore, 2003)

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National Parks in England and Wales (John Dower, 1945)

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Strategic Direction 2008 – 2013 (Natural England, 2008)

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River basin planning: summary of significant water management issues, supporting information (Environment Agency, 2007)

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Environmental Limits (South West Region Environment Network, 2007)

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Living Landscapes: A call to restore the UK's battered ecosystems, for wildlife and people (The Wildlife Trusts, 2006)

State of the Environment Report: (DCC 2018)

The Nature of Devon: Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (Devon Biodiversity Partnership, 2005)

Devon Wildlife Trust's Manifesto (Devon Wildlife Trusts, 2018)

Geopark Management Plan (English Riviera Geopark, 2008)

State of the Natural Environment Report: Resource Document: Hedgerow habitats (Natural England, 2007)

The Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain (Defra/NNSS , 2015)

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Have we got the balance right between protecting the environment and producing food (Rural Economy and Land Use Programme, 2008)

Summary of responses to the Consultation on implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England (Defra, 2008)

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Report: Coastal Partnership Working (Defra, 2008)

Littoral Cells (Environment Agency, 2007)

Marine Programme Plan (Defra, 2008)

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Connecting land and sea: How to improve the management of coastal Protected Landscapes (Europarc, 2008)

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Picture credits

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