

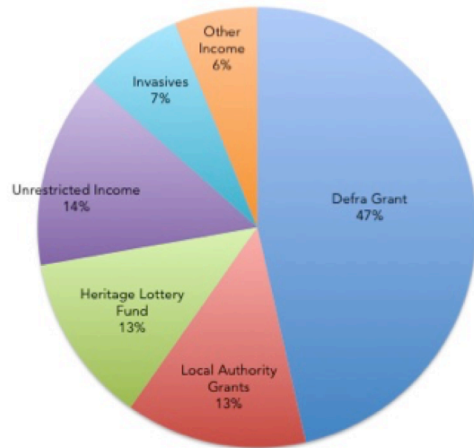
Our 20-year Vision for the Tamar Valley

The people of the Tamar Valley are stewards of this rare valley and water landscape, of high visual quality, a unique wildlife resource with a remarkable heritage, which is a legacy of thousands of years of human occupation. By supporting a thriving community with a sense of belonging and identity, we will ensure the sustainability of the area as a peaceful, tranquil breathing space, at a time of unprecedented change.

The AONB partnership comprises of 28 organisations that cover the geographic extent of the AONB and provide a breadth of expertise and insight into local issues.

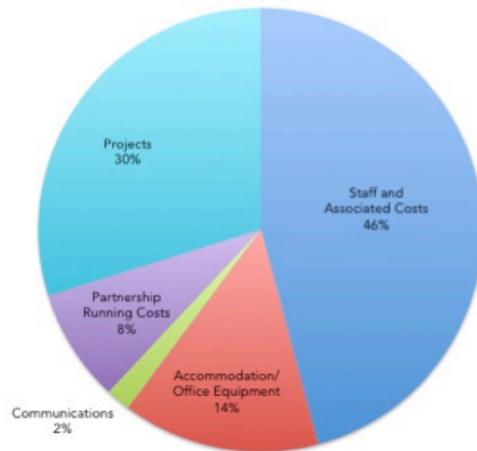
Finances 2014-15

Income



Total Income £310,019

Expenditure



Total Expenditure £310,019

We receive our core funding from DEFRA, Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council.

Working with partners

- Contributed to Ash dieback workshop in conjunction with Forestry Commission, Devon Hedge Group and Devon Local Nature Partnership.
- Led the 'Wood for Good' priority for the Devon Local Nature Partnership.
- Worked with Devon Wildlife Trust and other organisations to find out more about Devon's Greater Horseshoe Bats.
- Worked with FWAG South West to deliver small low carbon farming pilot in the Tamar Valley.

Conserving and enhancing the landscape

- Awarded Heritage Lottery Fund support for Helping Hands for Heritage project aimed to expand the potential of volunteering in the Tamar Valley and work towards helping to protect and care for its remarkable natural and cultural heritage.
- Worked with Butterfly Conservation to identify steps forward in helping the population of Heath Fritillary butterfly in the AONB.

Bringing the rivers back into focus

- Worked with Westcountry Rivers Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust to complete a pilot project to assess the sources, levels, impact and possible remediation of water pollution from abandoned metal mines on the River Tamar.
- Joined one of the focus groups contributing to a review of the effectiveness of Water Framework Directive implementation across England and Wales.
- TVAONB and the EA funded a small study of an area between Polson Bridge near Launceston and Greystone Bridge to the south, checking water quality and the potential for restoration of former wetland habitats.

Supporting the economy and communities

- Hosted open day at Hele Farm, Gulworthy, topics included funding available to farmers, NFU presentation on Greening and CAP and discussions on habitat management.
- Supported 15 community projects through the Sustainable Development Fund awarding £5,500 in total.
- Engaged with local primary schools through Rags to Riches project and Greater Horseshoe Bat Project.
- Held community consultations in conjunction with National Grid on the impact of power infrastructure focussing on the visual impact of overhead power lines that cross the River Tamar near Weir Quay and Cargreen.
- Hosted a range of exhibitions at the Tamar Valley AONB supporting a variety of art groups across the AONB and beyond.

Key statistics

In the community...

- Helping Hands for Heritage launched in May after securing £93,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Around 60 delegates representing funders, partners, volunteers and local residents joined the launch of the project at the Tamar Valley Centre.
- Helping Hands for Heritage total volunteer hours for year 2,534, equating to £18,912 of equivalent time.
- Over 100 people attended drop-in events in St Dominick and Bere Ferrers to find out more about the National Grid project.
- 184 species were recorded at BioBlitz events hosted by the TVAONB/Helping Hands for Heritage.
- Tamar Community Trust's practical days have contributed 638 volunteer hours, equating to £4,410 worth of in-kind time.
- Over 20 farmers and farm advisors attended a soil carbon demonstration day at Deer Park Farm, hosted by TVAONB and FWAG South West.

Spreading the word....

- Approximately 45 press releases have been issued to mainly local and regional media throughout the year to generate interest and awareness on a number of topics.
- Monthly e-bulletins continue to keep 1,160 people updated on progress with projects and provide opportunities to become involved.
- Social media – 618 followers on Facebook, 636 on Twitter
- 8,000 copies of the autumn/winter edition of The Valley were distributed, with 10,000 copies were produced for the spring/summer run as the Tamar Valley celebrates 20 years since designation as an AONB in August 2015.

Sustainable planning for the Valley...

- Over the past year, almost 70 planning applications of varying complexity across West Devon Borough Council, South Hams Council and Cornwall Council Planning Authorities have been assessed by the AONB. 30 of these have been fully reviewed and responded to.