



Tamar Valley
National
Landscape

Consultation Draft 2
July - August 2025

Tamar Valley National Landscape An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan No.6 2025 - 2030



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Executive Summary



Our Vision

By 2055, Tamar Valley National Landscape has a strong sense of place and wellbeing, as a distinctive and internationally important landscape of high visual quality and a protected green and blue haven where communities and wildlife flourish. Nature and People are entirely connected in a living and working environment, enjoying clear air, clean water, wholesome food, tranquility, good health and resilience to a changing climate and variable economy.

Tamar Valley National Landscape is a unique and vibrant destination of choice and high value.

A place to be. A place to breathe. A place to thrive.

Our Purpose

To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley.



Our Strategy

- Champion a Nature-first approach throughout all activities, collaborations, delivery and partnerships.
- Inspire positive action to build resilience to a warming climate, clean and protect the landscape, decarbonise our communities and restore Nature.
- Secure investment and aim to deliver at pace and at scale. To deliver bigger, better and more joined up spaces for Nature.
- Strengthen our Partnership for improved coordination, evidence gathering and collaborative goal setting for Nature, Climate, Place and People.



Our Projects

Nature First

- Increase canopy cover, hedgerows, Special Species habitats and wildflower meadows creating connected Nature corridors.
- Expand control of Invasive Non-Native Species throughout the Tamar Catchment Area.
- Improve land and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) management, soil quality, tranquillity, water quality and water storage throughout the Tamar Catchment Area.

See P30 - 33 for these projects

Climate Resilience

- Enable and encourage regenerative agriculture and forestry practices, sensitive agri-tech applications, clean transport, energy saving and retrofitting.
- Improve data collection, analysis, reporting, applications of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics technology for better decision making.
- Influence National policy through contribution, engagement and sharing of best practice.

See P48 - 51 for these projects

Place and People

- Connect people with Nature through accessible and inclusive events, interpretation, shared experience, trails and volunteering.
- Celebrate community, culture, dark skies, heritage, landscape character, scenic quality and tranquillity within the landscape.
- Introduce landowners to investors and placemaking for integrated Nature, Climate Resilience and Place enhancing projects.

See P56 - 59 for these projects

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Foreword

This Management Plan covers the geographic area of the Tamar Valley National Landscape, a Protected Landscape designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on 30th August 1995.

This plan contains a new 30 year vision and strategy for conserving and enhancing natural beauty, including wildlife and cultural heritage, and promoting opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of its Special Qualities. Management requirements are set out for the next 5 years to 2030 and recommendations are provided for consistent approaches to management planning, delivery and monitoring beyond 2030 to achieve long term goals to 2055.

The Lawton Review conclusions urged for 'bigger, better and more joined up action' within our Protected Landscapes; the 2023 State of Nature Report declared an average decline of UK species by 19% since 1970 and nearly 1 in 6 species threatened with extinction from Great Britain; climate science is highlighting the need for greater resilience.

In response to these calls for action, new Defra guidance on Protected Landscapes management plan creation, Defra Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, the Natural England Natural Habitat Indicators, the latest State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report, and the Cornwall and Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategies have been aligned to design clear actions, projects and targets for prompt delivery tailored for Tamar Valley National Landscape.

Key actions are to restore Nature, promote Biodiversity Net Gain, improve climate resilience in food security and wildlife-rich habitats, connect people with Nature, and champion inclusive communities supporting them to thrive in a changing world. This Management Plan has been prepared by the Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership on behalf of the Responsible Authorities with land in and around the National Landscape setting.

It's a plan for the place for all to deliver.

It's a clarion call for urgent action.

Purpose of this Management Plan, Our Audiences and Ways of Working



This Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan is of national importance and the principal vehicle for ensuring that the statutory purposes in and around this Protected Landscape are met, to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley.

This Management Plan is tailored for the place and establishes the management policy of the Responsible Authorities whose administrative boundaries form part of the area, these being Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council. It is statutory in that the 5 Local Authorities are required by law to produce and review management of the area every 5 years. No major decisions should be taken affecting the future in and around Tamar Valley National Landscape without reference to this Management Plan.

Everyone has a role in delivering the plan.

A wide range of audiences will use this Management Plan, including the Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership, the Parish Councils, Community Area Partnerships, local charities and community groups, farmers, landowners, businesses and residents.

This Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan ensures relevant authorities comply with the Protected Landscapes Duty. Section 245 (Protected Landscapes) of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) amends the duty on relevant authorities in respect of their functions which affect land in and around the National Landscape. Relevant authorities must now 'seek to further' the statutory purposes of this Protected Landscape. This replaces the previous duty on relevant authorities to 'have regard to' their statutory purposes.

This Management Plan relates to other strategies, policies, and ambitions, such as the Environmental Improvement Plan, 30by30, Local Nature Recovery Strategies for both Cornwall and Devon, the Cornwall Local Plan and Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan, Cornwall's Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Devon Carbon Plan.

Ways of working

We will put Nature first in all of our evidence-led decision-making, focusing on delivery that will most swiftly achieve our Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework targets.

We will be cautious not to deliver one environmental benefit at the expense of another, such as tree planting on species-rich grassland.

We will work at landscape-scale to coordinate, plan and target interventions both within the Tamar Valley National Landscape and throughout its Tamar Catchment Area, to achieve maximum benefit and connect Nature and heritage across boundaries.

We will ensure an equal and inclusive approach with all of our communities and stakeholders to encourage engagement, investment and volunteering by everyone interested in this special place.

We will pursue additional financial investment rigorously and uphold our ethics through commercial activity, donations, grant applications, Green Finance and social value contributions, working with and through brokers and experts.



We live in one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world and that is not just a disgrace, it is an absolute tragedy. We have to stop it and we have to reverse it. "As we help nature to recover, I want to increase access as well. For people living in the countryside, of course. But also for people who live in urban areas, particularly poorer families who never get the chance to get out of their cities to see open green space. That's about social justice as much as it is about nature.



Secretary Steve Reed, Labour MP, 5th September 2024



The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



Tamar Valley National Landscape is a very special place for us all, with a 500 year World Heritage Site mining heritage, internationally protected species of both fauna and flora and a celebrated natural and tranquil landscape producing quality food and drink, inspiring arts and crafts, riverside walks and marine activities, all within vibrant rural communities, enjoying a safe haven and leading healthy lifestyles. Designated in 1995, our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership has achieved a great deal in that time, securing more than £19m of investment and delivering more than 340 projects.

Working together we have achieved our purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley landscape.

New challenges have been set out for us. Lawton Principles called for more Nature, and Nature that is bigger, better, more joined up action; outcomes of the Glover Review led to our repositioning as a National Landscape; the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (LURA) strengthened policy with a duty to seek to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes, Defra has published our Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework as a minimum for our delivery, Natural England has issued our state of the National Landscape Habitat Indicators, and of course the IPCC has forewarned of a 3 degree increase in temperatures by the end of the century.



Martin Howlett
Chair
Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership

To meet these challenges we cannot only repeat the good work we have done before. We must be more ambitious and urgent in our efforts, take on a different pace of activity and deliver at a far greater scale. We will be more robust in the regular assessment of both Nature recovery targets, emerging climate challenges and general landscape enhancement, through smarter engagement and inclusivity of key businesses, community and voluntary sector, stepping up to invest in the Tamar Valley's future.

So as we set out our plan for the next 30 years by, encouraging Nature-enhancing and climate adapting activity, we strive to further champion the Tamar Valley in proud celebration of our people, place and Nature.



A Nature-first approach must lead our collective actions for the next 3 decades to address the needs for biodiversity, climate resilience and conservation of our landscape. We've set out our urgent ambition to prepare for a warming climate, as we continue to work hard to protect and improve what we already have. The next 5 years are vital to deliver our immediate priorities, critical quick wins and define workstreams for the next 30 years.

Within this 5 year Management Plan, our Partnership looks to its communities, investors, land owners and stakeholders to work together. We need to rapidly scale up delivery within the Tamar Valley National Landscape area and surrounding Tamar Catchment Area to provide a bigger, better, more joined-up landscape for Nature and people to thrive.



Sarah Gibson
Manager
Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership

Our Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership:



We'll use a new doughnut economic model to promote a circular economy, specifically tailored to our Tamar Valley National Landscape, to help us to focus on our priorities and provide more robust monitoring. The Tamar Valley Doughnut model is introduced within this 5 year Management Plan and is an important addition to our toolkit. This should be used across the next 30 years to monitor our collective achievements.

A big thank you to our delivery Team who work passionately to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley landscape and for embracing these new tasks as we embark on our next 5 years of activity.

This is our Partnership's rallying call.



Special Qualities of Tamar Valley National Landscape

These are the Statements of Significance aspects of natural beauty that justify the Tamar Valley's national and international importance and basis for designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1995. All of these protections are smart investments to ensure Nature and people thrive.

1. A rare valley and water landscape
2. A landscape of high visual quality
3. A unique wildlife resource
4. A remarkable heritage
5. A landscape of artistic and public appeal

IUCN Category V Protected Landscape

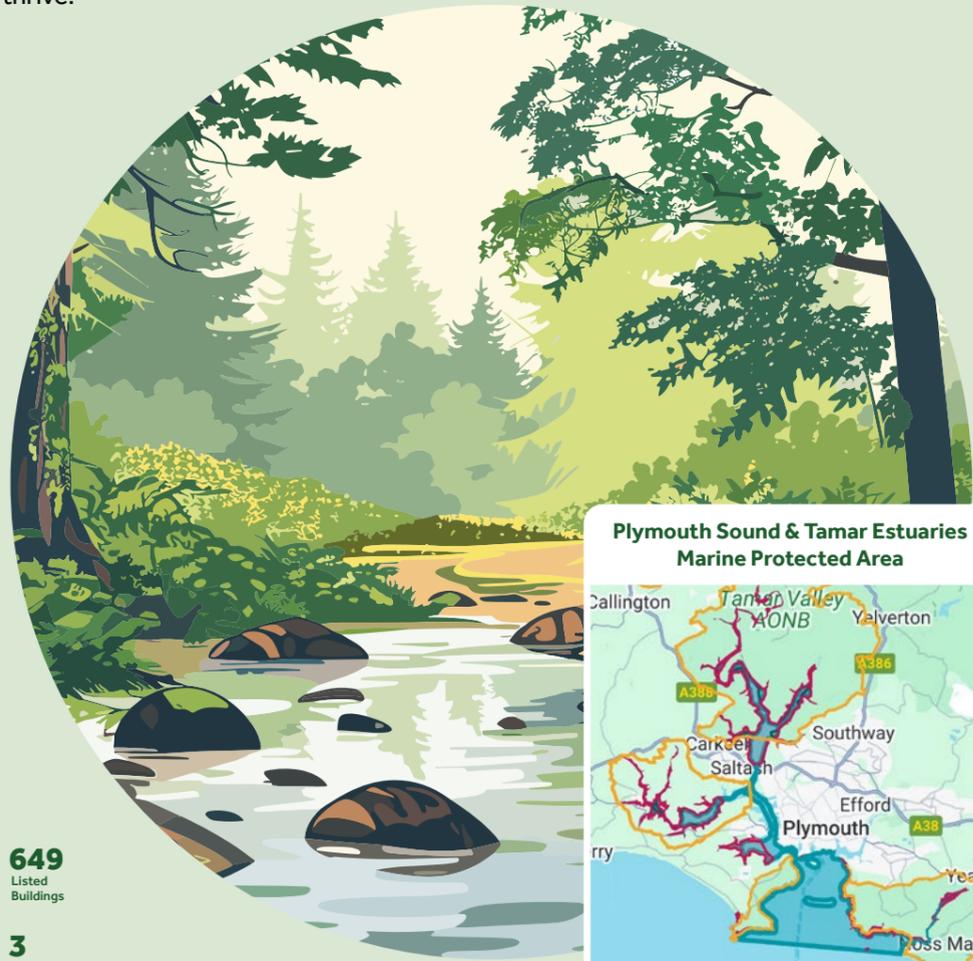
- 67% is farmed land
- 16% is County Wildlife Sites
- 20% is woodland
- 13% is Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- 11% is a Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site

- 1 Special Protection Area (Tamar Estuaries Complex)
- 1 Special Area of Conservation (Plymouth Sound & Estuaries)
- 1 Marine Conservation Zone (Tamar Estuaries Site)

- 5 Local Authority Areas
- 16.5k Population

- 24 Parish Council Areas
- 49 yrs Average Age

- 127 km of public rights of way
- 27 Scheduled Monuments
- 649 Listed Buildings
- 4 Registered Parks & Gardens
- 14 Conservation Areas
- 3 Rivers: Tamar, Tavy, Lynher



Plymouth Sound & Tamar Estuaries Marine Protected Area



Tamar Valley National Landscape is designated a Protected Landscape under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category V classification.

The 1994 Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories defines Category V, Protected Landscape/Seascape as: 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.

Category V Protected Area:

- Maintain harmonious interaction of Nature and people
- A lived-in working landscape
- Agriculture, forestry and tourism are dominant land uses

Desirable characteristics:

- Suitable for scientific research
- Important for education
- Recognised by artists of all kinds (now and in the past)
- Important for agri-biodiversity (animals and crops)
- Potential for ecological and landscape restoration

12 Management Principles

1. Conserving landscape, biodiversity and cultural values
2. Focus on the interaction between Nature and People
3. People should be seen as stewards of the landscape
4. With and through local people, for and by them
5. Cooperative approaches
6. Supportive political and economic environment
7. Enhancement as well as protection
8. Priority given to retain the Special Qualities of the area
9. Economic activities that do not need to be in the area should be located outside it
10. Business-like and of the highest professional standard
11. Flexible and adaptive
12. Measured in environmental and social terms

Overview

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 1994 system of categorisation list 6 categories of protected areas (I – VI). Tamar Valley National Landscape is an IUCN Category V Protected Landscape/Seascape, a protected area managed mainly for conservation and recreation.

National Landscapes are designated under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act (2000) as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and along with National Parks they represent the finest examples of countryside in England and Wales. Designation seeks to conserve and enhance natural beauty; including flora and fauna, geology and landscape features, archaeology and architecture; Whilst recognising the needs of the local community and economy.

The Tamar Valley was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in August 1995.

Whilst historically referred to as AONBs, during November 2023, nationally, these were rebranded as national landscapes. The National Landscapes Association is the coordinating voice across all National Landscapes based in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



The National Landscape includes the lower parts of the 3 river valleys – Tamar, Tavy and Lynher.

Close to 67% of Tamar Valley National Landscape is farmed, and 75% of that farmland is under grassland, predominantly used for sheep and cattle; there are around 600 holdings ranging from tiny smallholdings to large dairy farms of over 200 hectares.

There are 2,247 hectares of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), much of the estuary is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive, there are 41 County Wildlife Sites and 2 Local Nature Reserves.

Tamar Valley National Landscape contains the majority of Area 10 of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. There are over 100 former mine sites and their associated physical and social infrastructure.

The Tamar Valley National Landscape boundary crosses 5 local authority areas (two counties, 2 districts and Plymouth City). The area also borders Dartmoor National Park and crosses 24 parishes.

Tamar Valley National Landscape is located at the heart of Cornwall and Devon, where the borders meet, and includes the rivers of the Tamar, Tavy and Lynher. The larger selection, around the rivers Tamar and Tavy, extends north from the broad estuary at Plymouth and the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park to where the intricate, deeply incised river meanders just below Launceston and Tavistock.

It borders Dartmoor National Park to the east and takes in Kit Hill to the West. The section around the river Lynher extends west from Saltash and Torpoint to St Germans in southeast Cornwall.

Tamar Valley National Landscape covers around 75 square miles (190 square kilometres, 16,155 hectares). It is home to a population of 16,500 people and the average age is 49 years, which was recorded in the 2021 Census.

The lowest point is at sea level and its highest point is at 333m above sea level at Kit Hill.

There are 3,672 hectares of woodland, of which 376.6 hectares are ancient woodland sites.

The Statement of Significance defines the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley National Landscape, its character and the special qualities we associate with it. It provides the criteria against which impacts, on this nationally designated landscape, can be judged.

The pre-designation landscape assessment, The Tamar Valley landscape (Countryside Commission, 1992), identified 5 special qualities to justify the designation of the Tamar Valley area as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These are described on the following pages.



1. A rare valley and water landscape

The Tamar Valley National Landscape represents an unspoiled valley and water landscape, a classic English lowland river system. The Tamar river system rises near to the coast of North Devon and enters the National Landscape south of Launceston at Greystone Bridge. The Tavy and Lynher rise on Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor respectively and join the Tamar forming an expansive drowned valley estuary complex, before entering the English Channel at Plymouth Sound. Geological structure has helped create a compact river system containing large changes in form and scenery in a relatively small area.

The river that was once a major industrial and trading route, busy with waterborne traffic and noise, is now a tranquil place, valued by visitors and locals alike for its peace and quiet, a silence only punctuated by bird calls.

The lower tidal reaches of the estuary have dramatic contrasts between extensive low water mud flats and expansive waterscapes at high water. The middle valleys become dramatic with steep fringing woodlands, high cliffs and rocky outcrops juxtaposed with gently meandering stretches through lush pastureland. The higher areas of the National Landscape possess a more gently rolling pastoral floodplain.

Evidence of the river's importance can be seen across the landscape by a series of structures, least, weirs, quays, fords, viaducts, lime kilns and bridges. The area includes a unique collection of nationally important medieval bridges.

2. A landscape of high visual quality

The visual quality of the landscape in the Tamar Valley National Landscape at an intimate or panoramic scale is exceptional. The landscape contains huge contrasts and surprises. In many places the network of ancient deeply incised lanes, high hedge banks and small fields gives a very enclosed, intimate and sometimes even claustrophobic feeling. This contrasts strongly with expansive estuarine vistas of the river valley and green patchworks of fields and hedges seen from vantage points such as Kit Hill or Weir Quay.

The high visual quality of the Tamar Valley arises from a combination of influences. The strong underlying structure has been shaped and enriched by many episodes of, sometimes, intensive and destructive human activity. Yet it has escaped the worst excesses of wholesale post-war landscape change seen elsewhere. It has also retained a distinctiveness and identity derived from small intricate local details, whether it be a style of fingerpost or an assemblage of flowers in a hedge bank; this distinctiveness is today more vulnerable than ever before. Much of this local survival has its roots within the controls applied during the long-term stability of landownership by the Dukes of Bedford, the Edgcumbes, Tavistock Abbey and other large estates.

The area has not escaped unsympathetic development including a proliferation of bungalows. In places such as Bere Alston or Tamerton Foliot, the effects of intrusive development are more apparent from opposite sides of the river. Although most of this happened prior to the designation, there are lessons which need to be learned from this. Particular pressure is being exerted in the south of the National Landscape by the proximity of Plymouth and Dartmoor National Park making it hard to cater for new development.

Tamar Valley Devon and Cornwall Border Location

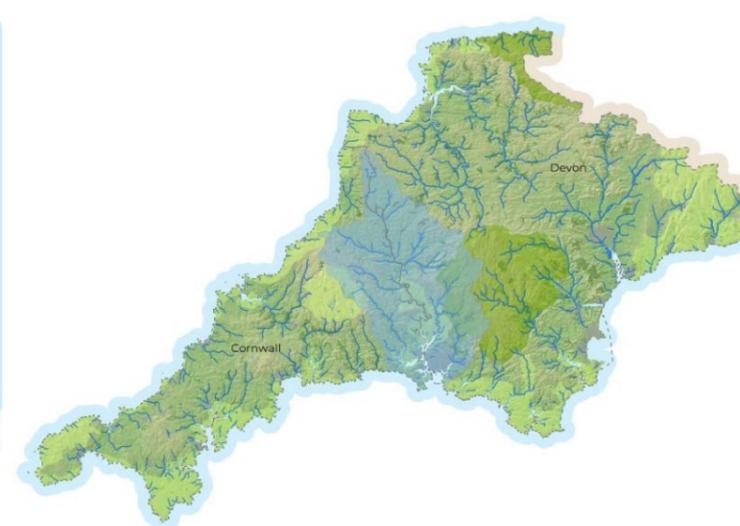
1 of 8 Protected Landscapes in Devon and Cornwall, Tamar Valley National Landscape sits within a 1,800 square kilometre Tamar Catchment Area.

3 main rivers - Tamar, Tavy and Lynher - are core to the Tamar Valley National Landscape.



World Heritage Site

Section 10 of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site lies within the Tamar Valley National Landscape.



Tamar Catchment Area

The River Tamar meets the sea at the Plymouth Sound with the Tamar Estuary extending approximately 22 kilometres inland to Gunnislake. The Plymouth Sound National Marine Park lies within the Tamar Catchment Area and the southern range of the Tamar Valley National Landscape.

**Tamar Valley
National
Landscape,
designated an Area
of Outstanding
Natural Beauty
(AONB) in 1995.**



3. A unique wildlife resource

The Tamar Valley National Landscape sustains a diversity of wildlife habitats. However, in ecological terms, the estuary complex represents its most important asset. These tidal parts have international importance and are mostly within a Special Protection Area (SPA) due to the importance of the intertidal zone in supporting wintering waders and wildfowl. Habitats are also protected within the tidal estuary by their designation as a European Special Area of Conservation (SAC), including mudflats, salt marsh, reedbeds, wet grassland, fen and fringing oak woodland.

The rivers themselves are an important resource, supporting a range of species including otters, beavers, many scarce and endangered fish, such as the Allis Shad, salmonids, eels, and other marginal and riparian species.

The Tamar Valley National Landscape contains extensive areas of woodland, particularly on the steep valley sides. This is split between large tracts of well-managed coniferous forest and equally large areas of broadleaved woodland, much of it ancient semi-natural.

Within this are nationally important species, including the Heath Fritillary Butterfly, and regionally endangered species like the Nightjar. Important remnants of once extensive lowland heathland remain on the dominant granite ridge at Kit Hill and other smaller sites.

Mining has left a vital legacy for wildlife as well as shaping our cultural heritage, abandoned mine workings and spoil tips have become habitats in their own right and refuges for endangered species including 8 species of bat, amongst them the nationally rare Greater Horseshoe. Some of the older mine spoil heaps are now valued as geological sites, offering a rare opportunity to study minerals above ground.

Farmland has generally been improved and possesses limited wildlife value apart from species-rich hedges, most especially along roadsides. These hedges also hold nationally important collections of rare daffodils, survivors from market gardening. Other remnants of this land-use include traditional orchards containing increasingly rare Tamar varieties of apples, cherries and other fruit.

All landscapes contain a historical record, however Tamar Valley National Landscape possesses a particularly significant and now internationally important cultural landscape. Whilst there are many reminders of ancient human interaction with the landscape, such as on Hingston Down and the ridge above the present-day Calstock village, the dominant landscape structure across much of the National Landscape results from medieval and post-medieval enclosures. This unspoilt pattern of settlement, lanes, fields, woodland and hedgebanks, in tandem with a precious collection of well-preserved medieval bridges, is an outstanding landscape legacy.

4. A remarkable heritage

Overlying this landscape, the last 500 years has seen several defining episodes creating large-scale and fundamental landscape change for limited periods of time within defined geographical areas. Following extensive but small-scale mining in the medieval period on the Bere Peninsula, the late 18th century saw extensive mining activity throughout the Valley exploiting massive copper and arsenic reserves as well as a wide variety of other minerals and ores.

The mining heritage across a large area of Tamar Valley National Landscape is included in the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS) in recognition of the global importance of the deep mining technology developed in Cornwall and Devon.

The influx of miners during the 19th century created a building boom. The combination of workers' housing, Methodist chapels, chimneys, engine houses, inclines and associated infrastructure has created a distinctive mining landscape, much of it focused on the river.



Evidence of the river's importance can be seen across the landscape by a series of structures, leats, weirs, quays, fords, viaducts, limekilns and bridges. Large spoil tips of mining waste also remind us of the huge environmental damage caused by the industry.

The Tamar Valley has also been dominated by a significant market gardening industry employing up to 10,000 people in the early 20th century. Until recently it supplied many crops, via railway and river, to London and elsewhere. This has left an equally fascinating landscape footprint, one that has now been recognised.

Within a generation, the evidence of these episodes has been assimilated back into the landscape and shrouded in scrub and woodland. For those who discover it, this hidden multilayered landscape greatly enriches the area and has created a truly outstanding cultural legacy.

The buildings in the Tamar Valley illustrate the changing land-use patterns of the area. There is a mixture of vernacular styles, although stone remains the dominant building material. The area does have its share of fine country houses and estates, as well as many beautiful villages and farmsteads. There are several designed landscapes, 4 of which are nationally recognised through designation.

5. A landscape of artistic and public appeal

The area has long been a haunt for artists and travellers. Some notable writers and artists frequented the Valley, such as J.M.W. Turner. Often, visitors were as fascinated by the industrial environment as by the picturesque landscapes. Today, there remains an active community of artists and craftspeople in the Valley.

There has been a long relationship with Plymouth through the use of the river and railway as a recreational link. All levels of society were involved, from church outings to 'party fields' and more gentrified romantic tours.

The river and railway remain perhaps the best ways to appreciate the Valley. Devon County Council continue to pursue a new railway line joining Gunnislake to Tavistock, adding to the breadth of views offered by train. Country sports, mostly controlled by the large estates, have had strong landscape and cultural influences. The area has remained important for fly-fishing and shooting. The Duke of Bedford's former fishing lodge at Endsleigh remains the most visible reminder, designed by Wyattville and partly landscaped by Repton, within a stunning setting overlooking the River Tamar. There are several other designed



landscapes within the Tamar Valley National Landscape on which Repton advised - including a 'Red Book' for Port Eliot - but many were only partially completed.

The strong local identity is perhaps most rooted in the traditional land-based industries – farming, forestry and market gardening, mining and traditional salmon fishing. Local celebrations of the environment, such as strawberry and cherry fairs, daffodil and apple days, remain as important links and reminders. This sense of place remains one of the area's great strengths and one that needs careful stewardship.

Landscape Character Areas

In conjunction with neighbouring local authorities, a process of landscape characterisation has been completed for the Tamar Valley AONB. This has been undertaken by consultants with extensive local consultation and using a nationally approved methodology (Countryside Agency, 1992). The basis of the exercise was a desk study that identified fine-grain Landscape Description Units (LDUs) with strongly distinctive topography. These were then assessed in the field and amalgamated into Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) with a strong identity that could be described according to set criteria and summarised with a set of key characteristics.

Details of the methodology used and maps of the various LCAs* identified are available on a publicly accessible website, which provides a more robust evidence base for the planning process and will also help to establish a baseline for landscape monitoring in the future.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), an assessment of the predominant historic character of an area that regards centuries of human interaction

with the landscape, has also been completed for the AONB. Although HLC types sometimes coincide with LDUs, they more often blend or cross over. Together LCA and HLC work as a core resource for understanding, describing and monitoring the landscape of the AONB. The Tamar Valley Landscape Character Assessment shows the proximity of the area with its largest urban population of Plymouth. It is also borders at the east with the Dartmoor National Park, and at the south with the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park. The Landscape Character Types are clearly displayed for reference. The Forces for Change take the location and Character Types into consideration and have ultimately influenced the shaping of project delivery over the next 5 year and 30 year target timelines.

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape. LCAs identify and explain the combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinct from one another by mapping and describing Landscape Character Areas and Landscape Character Types.

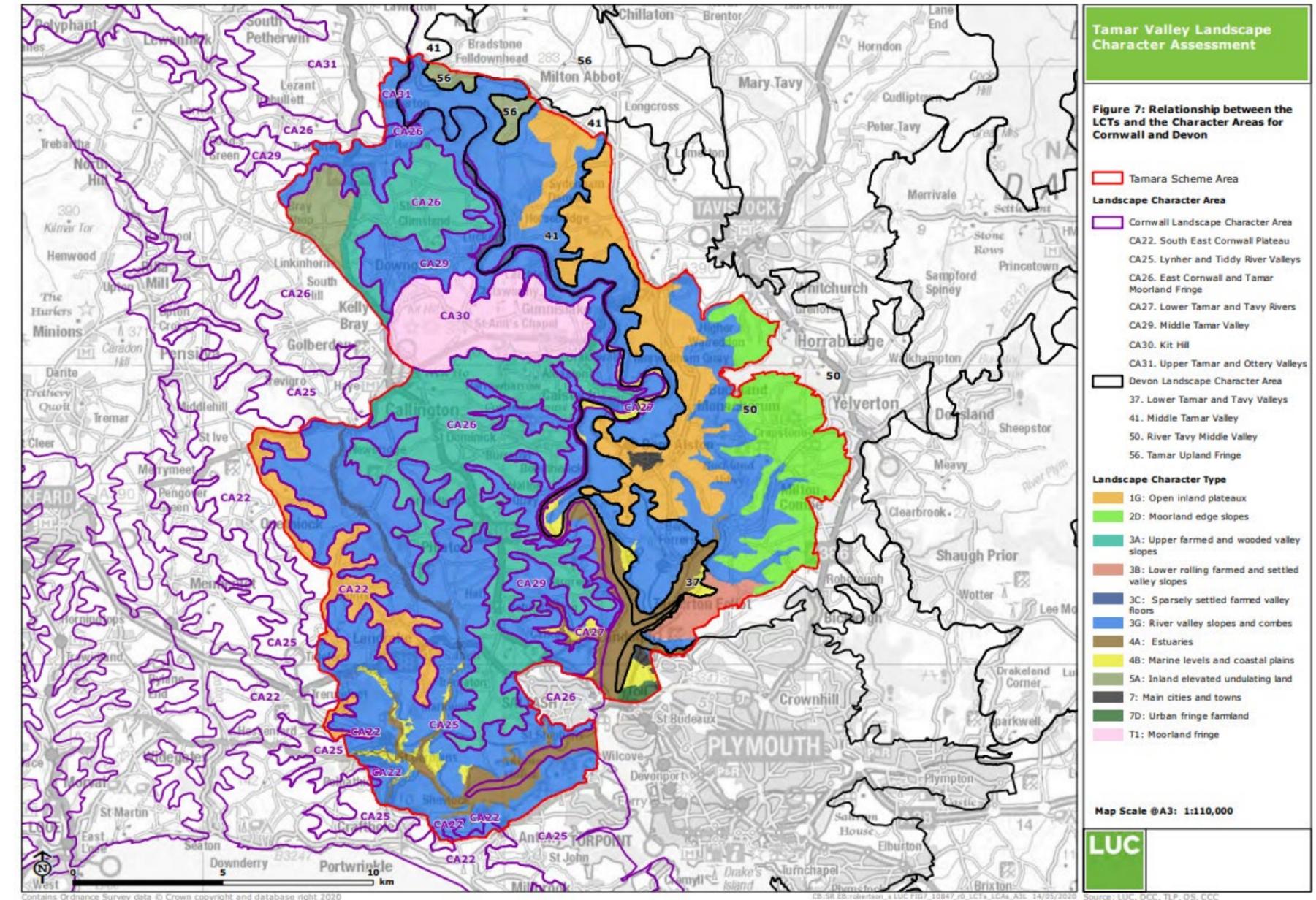


Landscape Character Areas are unique, geographically-specific areas of Landscape Character Area with an individual identity and most Areas comprise a number of different Landscape Character Types.

Landscape Character Types are generic landscapes that share similar characteristics but may occur in different geographical areas.

Landscape Character Assessment covering the Tamar Valley National Landscape provides a robust evidence base for decision making and landscape management; it builds upon the Landscape Assessment undertaken for the Tamar Valley in 1992 prior to its designation as an AONB.

In addition to the objective assessment of landscape character, the 1992 study identified the 5 'special qualities' of the AONB. It is on the basis of these that the AONB was designated, and it is these and the overall landscape character, which is an intrinsic component of natural beauty, that the relevant authorities have a duty to conserve and enhance.



State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape

Management Plan Baseline

The State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape baseline data statistics were issued by Natural England under the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework during April 2024. Further Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) condition statistics were provided during the winter of 2024/2025.

The Framework contains 10 targets, each accompanied by an indicator which will measure progress towards it and its related outcome. The indicator is supported by statistics generated from nationally available data collated by Natural England, from a range of data providers to establish the baseline for the Framework's indicators. Data owners include Natural England, Defra, the Forestry Commission and Historic England.

Defra will review the Framework at least every 5 years, linked to refreshes of the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.

Defra will adjust targets, indicators and supporting statistics to ensure they remain relevant and functional.

Natural England will support this process, collating and providing annual updates of statistics each April to the Protected Landscapes Partnership, Defra and Protected Landscape bodies. Natural England will evaluate progress towards the targets and outcomes in the Framework with the first report due in Summer 2025. In addition to the indicators from Natural England, Tamar Valley National Landscape commissioned a State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape report which was produced in June 2024. This has also been used as a reference point to baseline this Management Plan and shape its ongoing priorities for 2025 – 2030. This State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape report will be carried out every 5 years and the next is due in 2029.

Stat 1 : Priority Habitats

3,672 Ha	Priority Habitat Area
19,649 Ha	Protected Landscape Area
19%	Protected Landscape Area
15,977 Ha	Not Priority Habitat Area
2083 Ha	Deciduous Woodland
834 Ha	Mudflats
274 Ha	Coastal Saltmarsh
115 Ha	Lowland Heathland
107 Ha	Traditional Orchard
102 Ha	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
91 Ha	Good Quality Semi Improved Grassland
84 Ha	Reedbeds
11 Ha	Lowland Meadows
9 Ha	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
4 Ha	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures
1 Ha	Calaminarian Grassland
0 Ha	Lowland Fens

Stat 2 : Designated Areas

150 Ha	Local Nature Reserve Area
1%	Local Nature Reserve Area
2 km²	Local Nature Reserve Area
0 km²	National Nature Reserve Area
0 km²	Ramsar (wetland site of international importance)
20 km²	Special Area of Conservation
15 km²	Special Protection Area
20 km²	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Stat 6 : Tamar Valley SSSI Condition

45%	SSSI Features in Favourable Condition
20	Total Number of SSSI Features
7	Number Not Recorded
20	Negative
0%	SSSI Features On Track

Stat 7 : Land Managed Under Agri-Environment Schemes

4,500 Ha	Area in Agri-Environment Scheme
391,800	Annual value in Countryside Stewardship and Sustainable Farming Incentive

Stat 4 : Ancient Woodlands

377 Ha	Ancient and Semi-Natural Ancient Woodland Of Tamar Valley National Landscape
2%	Of Tamar Valley National Landscape
1,257 Ha	Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites
6%	Of Tamar Valley National Landscape
41 Ha	Old Canal Wood
37 Ha	Sheviock / Hawks Woods
36 Ha	Leigh Wood
26 Ha	Blaxton Wood
22 Ha	Warleigh Wood
19 Ha	Tremoan Wood
17 Ha	Blackmoorham Woods
15 Ha	Greystone Woods
14 Ha	Great North Woods
11 Ha	Ashleigh Blaxton Coppice
10 Ha	Hole / Hallowell Woods
9 Ha	Hardstone Wood
9 Ha	Harewood
8 Ha	Buttspill Wood
6 Ha	Langham / Round Woods
6 Ha	Wacker Wood
6 Ha	Milton Brook Wood
6 Ha	Venton/Mill Hills Woods
5 Ha	Blindwell Woods
4 Ha	Hardicott Wood
4 Ha	Collacombe Wood
4 Ha	Clitters Wood
4 Ha	Lilliput Wood
3 Ha	Ward Plantation
2 Ha	Blanchdown Wood
2 Ha	Dairy Dell Wood
2 Ha	Lamerhooe Wood
2 Ha	Whitsam Wood
1 Ha	Polbathic / Trevis Wood
1 Ha	Burrhills Wood
1 Ha	Crowngate Wood
1 Ha	Rock Park Wood
0 Ha	Grenofen Wood

Stat 3 : Sustainable Woodland Management

1956 Ha	Managed Private
1369 Ha	Managed Public
1629 Ha	Unmanaged
3731 Ha	Total Woodland

Stat 12 : Populations Living in Deprivation

Decile 6	(40-50% most deprived)
Decile 5	(50-60% most deprived)
Decile 7	(30-40% most deprived)
Decile 4	(60-70% most deprived)
Decile 9	(10-20% most deprived)

Stat 9 : Woodland Area Data

2,192 Ha	Broadleaved
1,132 Ha	Conifer
127 Ha	Felled
97 Ha	Mixed
97 Ha	Young Trees
18 Ha	Shrub
7 Ha	Ground Prep
2 Ha	Windblow

Stat 11 : Tamar Valley Hedgerow Length

2,100 km	Hedgerows
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Stat 24 : Tamar Valley School Pupils

85%	Capacity Reached
82,800	No of Pupils on School Roll
97,600	Total Capacity

Stat 15 : Geological SSSI Features

Declining	Lockridge Mine - Mineralogy
Favourable	Crocadon Mine - Variscan Structures
Favourable	Devon Great Consols - Mineralogy

1950 - 2023

The Tamar Valley is warmer and wetter.

2011 - 2021

There has been an increase in home working by those residents who are employed.

2011 - 2021

There is less land in agriculture and fewer agricultural holdings.

2011 - 2021

Fewer residents are seeking work; and fewer people are employed in agriculture.

2018 - 2023

There is a steady increase in light pollution but no polluting traffic noise.

SSSI Site Name	Broad Pressure	Pressure
Lockridge Mine SSSI	Earth Science Impacts	Feature Obstructed - Vegetation
Lynher Estuary SSSI	Invasive Non-Native Species	Terrestrial Plants
Lynher Estuary SSSI	Woodland and Trees Impacts	Woodland Management
Tamar-Tavy Estuary SSSI	Coastal Impacts	Strandline Management
Tamar-Tavy Estuary SSSI	Coastal Impacts	Strandline Management
Tamar-Tavy Estuary SSSI	Invasive Non-Native Species	Terrestrial Plants
Tamar-Tavy Estuary SSSI	Invasive Non-Native Species	Terrestrial Plants

The trends are summarised within the State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape report which is provided as an appendix to this Management Plan and is available on the Tamar Valley National Landscape website.

Stat 5 : Ecological Status of Watercourses

Water Bodies	
61 km	Total Length of Water Bodies
58 km	Moderate
2 km	Good
2 km	Poor

Catchment Area

2 km	Good
9 km	Moderate
1 km	Poor
3%	Good status of Tamar Valley Water Body
13%	Good status of Water Body Catchment Area

Stat 8 : Designated Heritage Assets

644	Listed Buildings
569	Grade II
46	Grade II* Listed
29	Grade I Listed
0.3%	At Risk
27	Scheduled Monuments
2	Grade I
2	Grade II*
37%	At Risk

Heritage At Risk

1	Grade I Listed Building At Risk
1	Grade II Listed Building At Risk
1	Grade I Place of Worship at Risk

Stat 17 : Tamar Valley Census 2021

16,500	Population
49	Average Age
98%	White
1%	Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups
1%	Other Ethnic Groups
£2,100	Average Earnings (Epcm)
8	Average House Affordability Ratio (8 x median income)
895	Total Number of Local Business Units = 1-9 Employees
580	Grade I
230	Grade II*
90	At Risk

* Add in *explanation for Stat 17 Grade I, Grade II*, At Risk

KEY:

Green – Nature
Blue – Climate
Orange – Place and People

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

Protected Landscapes have significant environmental potential, containing almost half of England's priority habitats. They also contain over half of our most precious sites for biodiversity, land designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). To ensure these habitats are reaching their full potential for nature recovery, all Protected Landscapes have been set targets to motivate more activity on the components needed to ensure wildlife can thrive.

*These targets have been set by Defra and form the basis for the Tamar Valley National Landscape Priority Projects.



Thriving plants and wildlife targets

Target 1

Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).

Tamar Valley Target 1,580 Ha (min)

Target 2

Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.

Tamar Valley Target 16 SSSI areas

Target 3

For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

Tamar Valley Target 12 SSSI areas

Target 4

Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.

Target 5

Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

Tamar Valley Target 1,580 Ha (min)

Mitigating and adapting to climate change targets

Target 6

Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.

Tamar Valley Target -5821 Kt CO2e

Target 7

Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.

Tamar Valley Target 0 (no deep peat)

Target 8

Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

Tamar Valley Target 589 Ha (min) Tree & Woodland Cover 63 Km (min) Hedgerow creation

Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment targets

Target 9

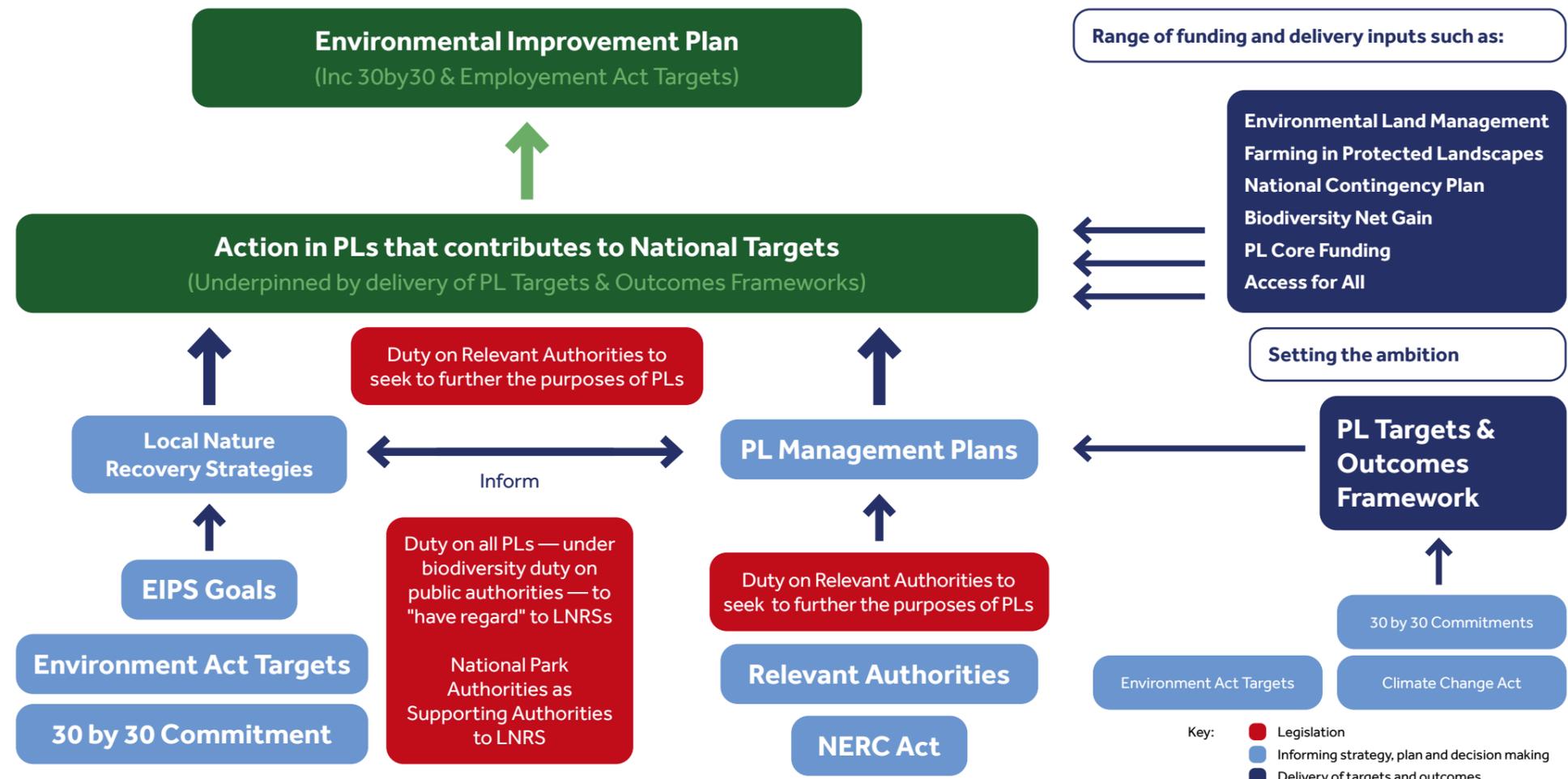
Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.

Target 10

Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.



Outcomes for Nature, Climate, People and Place Delivered in Protected Landscapes (PLs)



Setting Out Our 30 year Vision

A clear and policy-driven need for Biodiversity Net Gain, Climate Resilience and a greater sense of urgency to act has been set out.

By 2055, Tamar Valley National Landscape has a strong sense of place and wellbeing, as a distinctive and internationally important landscape of high visual quality and a protected green and blue haven where communities and wildlife flourish. Nature and People are entirely connected, as a living and working environment, enjoying clear air, clean water, wholesome food, tranquility, good health and resilience to a changing climate and variable economy.

Tamar Valley National Landscape is a unique and vibrant destination of choice and high value. A place to be. A place to breathe. A place to thrive.



Gunnislake Weir, River Tamar at the Devon and Cornwall border

Forces for Change

Our Vision for Tamar Valley National Landscape is informed by the Forces for Change operating on our landscape. These have been reviewed after due consideration of the State of the National Landscape 2024 Report and the Natural England Natural Habitat Indicators. The following list is not intended to be exhaustive, however includes the primary Forces for Change. A detailed Forces for Change appendix to this management plan is available at: <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/>

Policy

Section 85 of the Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) (as amended by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023) requires 'relevant authorities', in exercising or performing any function that affect designated AONBs in England, to "seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty." Forthcoming publication of The Land Use Framework, Environment Improvement Plan 2023, Defra's Protected Landscapes Targets & Outcomes Framework, Cornwall Local Plan, Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan and growth strategies.

Planning & Development

Development trends and challenges include the expansion of urban settlements on the boundary of the designated landscape, increased housebuilding targets and pressure to expand settlements within the Tamar Valley, maintaining rural services and sustainable communities, demand for extensively glazed buildings, continued expansion of permitted development rights in the countryside, increased recreational pressure, fragmentation of farm holdings and pressure for isolated rural buildings, decline in traditional industries (e.g. market gardening) and risk of resumption of mining industry.

Climate Change

Climate change and associated sea level rise threatening homes and heritage features along the river, boat building industry (but creates opportunities for wetland restoration). Increased severity of flooding events could result in the need for larger flood defences impacting on the scenic qualities of the National Landscape. More intense periods of drought as a result of climate change leading to 'drying out' of heathland habitats and increased vulnerability to fires. Wind turbines, solar panels and energy storage facilities. Increases in disease, pandemics and pests resulting from a warming climate and species migration, such as Asian hornet, Avian influenza and Ash dieback.

Biodiversity Crisis

The State of Nature Report 2023 informed us that 16% or nearly 1 in 6 species are threatened by extinction from Great Britain and the 2024 Bugs Matter citizen science survey identified a 63% reduction in insects between 2021 and 2024. Requirement to halt biodiversity decline, address conditions within the Sites of Special Scientific Interest to bring them into favourable condition by 2042, and wildlife-rich habitat created and restored. Structural changes in agriculture and forestry, control and quality of water, requirement for Nature-enhancing techniques.

Access & Connectivity

Improve access for all to the National Landscape for the benefits of health and wellbeing through the connection with Nature. Enhancements for community and visitor transport connectivity including the proposed reinstatement of the railway between Bere Alston and Tavistock, decarbonised bus and train transportation, increased electric vehicle charging points, sustainability of the Calstock electric passenger ferry. Digital connectivity requires improvement to support business, community and visitor experience.



We've Adopted the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all UN member states in 2015, provides a global blueprint for peace and prosperity, ensuring a better future for people and the planet.

Central to this agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—a universal call for action that requires collaboration between both developed and developing nations.

The SDGs emphasize that addressing poverty and inequality must be integrated with strategies to enhance health, education, and economic growth, while actively combating climate change and protecting oceans and forests.

The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership is committed to these principles, incorporating the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals into its Management Plan, ensuring meaningful contributions toward achieving each goal. A strong focus has been placed on aligning efforts with key objectives, fostering sustainability and resilience across the region. Priority activities in later sections of this Plan highlight the SDGs they will help deliver.



Our Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership is committed to take action:

1. Within our designated ecological areas

By working with farmers, landowners, statutory bodies and other partners to help improve the condition of existing high-value sites, in particular Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and County Wildlife Sites. Together, we will identify volunteering and resourcing opportunities at SSSIs to assess conditions and implement improvements and resilience measures where features are in an unfavourable condition or under managed. We will work to the Defra targets of having SSSI features on track to favourable condition by 2028, in favourable condition by 2042.

2. Across the working National Landscape

By working with farmers, foresters and landowners to create and manage more, bigger, better and joined-up Priority Habitats across the landscape. We will secure the additional resources to implement improvements in our top 5 opportunity areas for Nature recovery in the Tamar Valley National Landscape, including woody habitats, farmland, rivers and wetlands, SSSIs and County Wildlife Sites and community spaces.

3. Within our built-up and post-industrial areas

By working with community groups, parish councils, local authorities and other partners, to encourage and support the management of private and public spaces for wildlife in villages, gardens, parks, heritage sites, school grounds, verges and other areas. Using a list of Tamar Valley Special Species and other resources, we will work to engage key stakeholders and local communities to identify practical opportunities for Nature recovery action in the wider community.

4. Through projects and initiatives to increase opportunities for people to connect with Nature

By providing meaningful opportunities, we want people to enjoy, understand and access the natural environment. This will bring wellbeing benefits as well as a sense of pride of place. We recognise that what we care for, we value, and what we value, we protect.

5. To review this Plan, monitor and report on its progress every 2 years.

For more detailed information, the Tamar Valley National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan 2023-2030 is available here to view as an appendix to this Management Plan, or via Tamar Valley National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan 2023-2030.

Our Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership's Vision: Setting the Course for the Next 30 Years: Climate Considerations



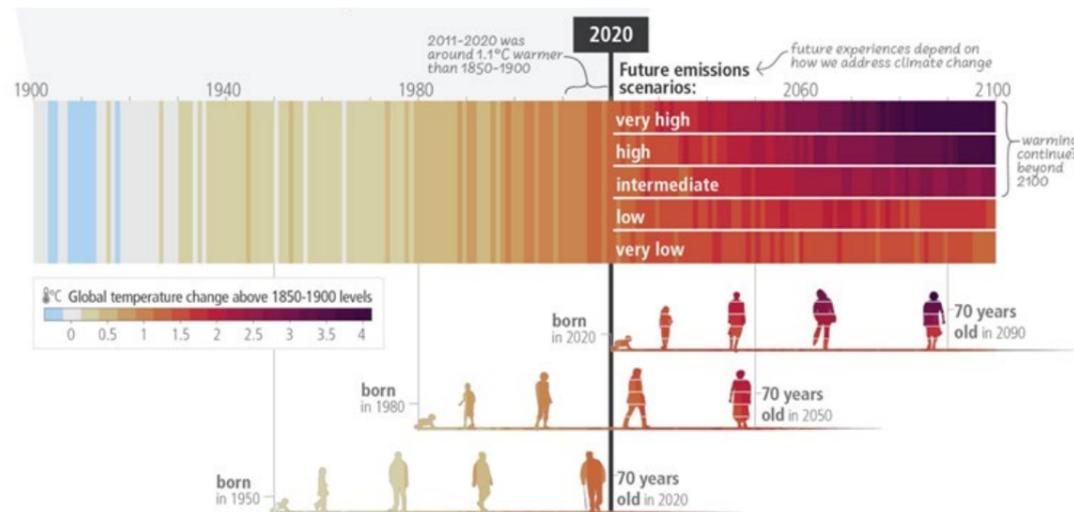
Building on the legacy generated by our first 30 years of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation in 1995, our Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership has developed a 30-year Vision and goal setting strategy which will lead us forward from 2025 to 2055.

During this period, our planet will continue to experience changes to its climate and biodiversity. Climatic changes are being driven by an increase in global temperature, which is projected to lead to more unpredictable weather. Projections suggest a significant increase in rainfall through winter and longer periods of drought through summer, increase sea levels and poorer air quality.

The international community is committed to limiting global warming to between 1.5 and 2 degrees. Though this sounds minor it will lead to a loss of habitats, species and land mass around the planet including here in the Tamar Valley. Perhaps the most concerning is the risk to the loss of sea life and the potential for catastrophic species loss.

Rapid and impactful change is necessary to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions and secure a liveable future for all. Feasible, effective and low-cost solutions are available.

The illustration below provides projections published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):



Climate Emergency Projections

Impact projections for the 21st Century are recorded within the Climate Emergency information. The main climate impact projections for the UK including the South West are:

- Greater frequency of hotter, drier summers with prolonged drought, but when it does rain, there could be more intensive and torrential downpours
- Greater frequency of milder, wetter winters
- Further rises in sea level around coastline particularly surge recorded during storms
- Increases in average temperatures

The cross-cutting themes identified for action and delivery are:

1. Behaviour change and community engagement
2. Knowledge sharing, skills and learning
3. Spatial planning
4. Access to finance and resources
5. Procurement and commissioning

Our Vision has therefore changed from previous years to reflect the need for collaborative and urgent action by all stakeholders to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley, and provide a place where Nature and people thrive together.

Kit Hill looking across South East Cornwall



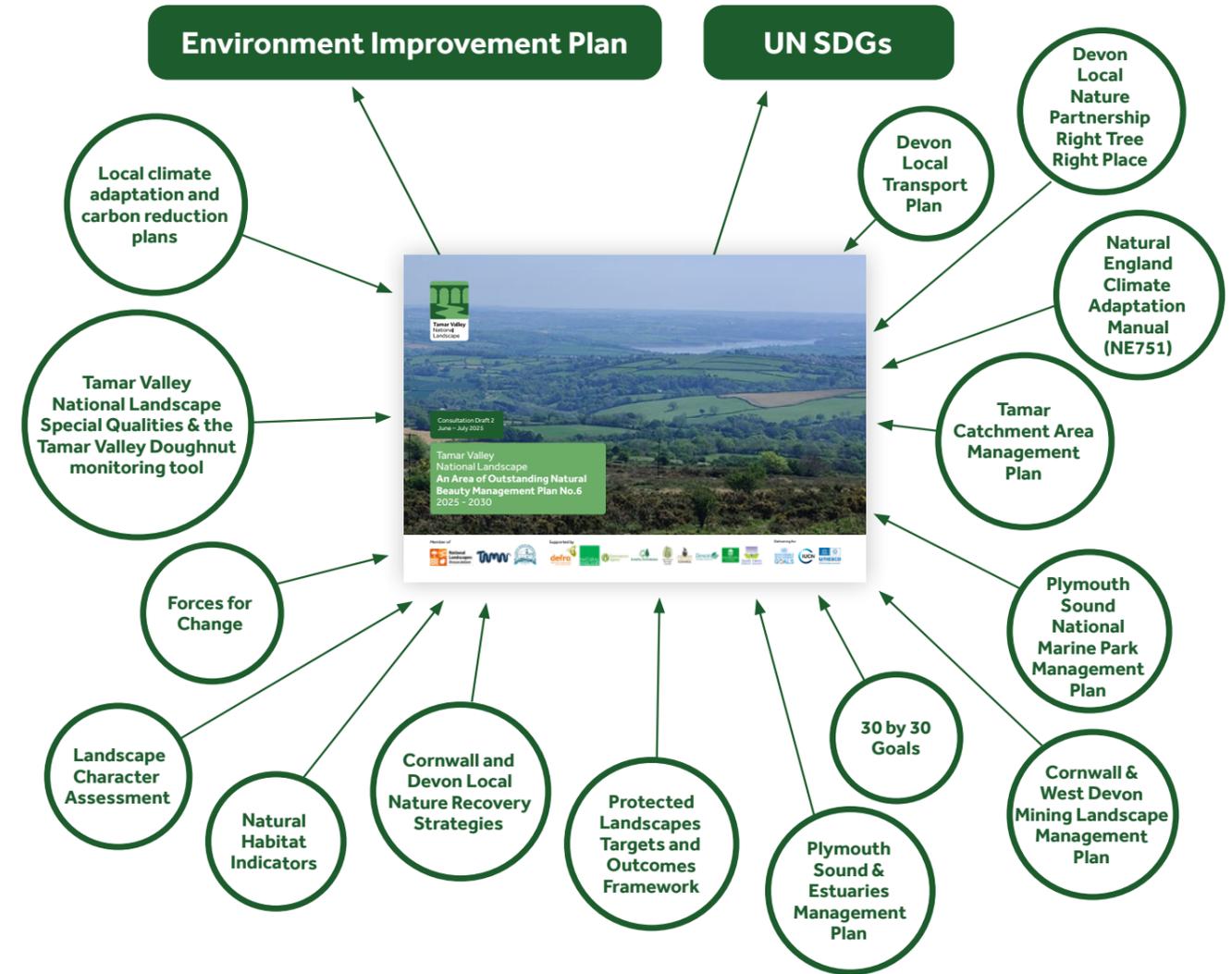
Developing the Vision into Strategy and Action

This Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan is different to all previous plans that have been delivered since 1995.

Central to this agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the Environment Improvement Plan. It is highly complex and responds to the numerous calls upon Protected Landscapes to deliver for Nature. The diagram demonstrates the many plans and indicators that have shaped the strategy and defines the action.

Taking all of these into consideration has led to the formation of this Management Plan. The opposite page sets out the Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership targets across the next 30 years. The strategy and goal setting of this Management Plan for 2025 – 2030 sets out the direction of travel to 2055, with key deliverables due at 2028, 2030, 2042 and 2050.

The following pages set out the key projects for delivery for the place of the Tamar Valley. Delivery is for all partners, landowners and land managers, businesses and residents with an interest in the Tamar Valley.



Our Targets

6 plans will be developed to deliver our 30-year Vision. These will support the delivery of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Each plan will be of 5 years' duration. This Management Plan is the first of those 6.

The illustration below sets out our ambition and aligns with the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.



2025 - 2030 Management Plan 6	2030 - 2035 Management Plan 7	2035 - 2040 Management Plan 8	2040 - 2045 Management Plan 9	2045 - 2050 Management Plan 10	2050 - 2055 Management Plan 11
Strategy Nature First Climate Resilience Place and People	Strategy Nature First Climate Resilience Place and People	Strategy Nature First Climate Resilience Place and People			
Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data gathering and analysis Climate actions: clean transport, retrofitting, energy creation & storage Prioritise SSSI management, biosecurity, Invasive Non-Native Species, County Wildlife Sites, Special Species wildlife-rich habitats, water quality & quantity, landowner engagement State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report No.3 Community Engagement 	Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data gathering and analysis Climate actions: clean transport, retrofitting, energy creation & storage Prioritise SSSI management, biosecurity, Invasive Non-Native Species, County Wildlife Sites, Special Species wildlife-rich habitats, water quality & quantity, landowner engagement State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report No.4 Community Engagement 	Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data gathering and analysis Climate actions: clean transport, retrofitting, energy creation & storage Prioritise SSSI management, biosecurity, Invasive Non-Native Species, County Wildlife Sites, Special Species wildlife-rich habitats, water quality & quantity, landowner engagement State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report No.5 Community Engagement 	Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data gathering and analysis Climate actions: clean transport, retrofitting, energy creation & storage Prioritise SSSI management, biosecurity, Invasive Non-Native Species, County Wildlife Sites, Special Species wildlife-rich habitats, water quality & quantity, landowner engagement State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report No.6 Community Engagement 	Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data gathering and analysis State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report No.7 Community Engagement Maintain and monitor 	Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data gathering and analysis State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report No.8 Community Engagement Maintain and monitor
2025 2028	2030		2042		2050
By 2028: Halt biodiversity decline 300% escalation of annual activity and investment (from FY 2023/4: £1.756m = £5.2m) 279 Ha (min) wildlife-rich habitat created/restored outside protected sites (T1) 12 (60%) SSSI areas have actions on track to achieve favourable condition (T3) 856 Ha (min) of Nature friendly farming (T5) 150 Ha (min) new tree canopy and woodland cover (T8)	By 2030: 500% escalation of annual activity and investments (from FY 2023/4: £1,756m = £8.7m) 744 Ha (min) wildlife-rich habitat created/restored outside protected sites (T1) 1,580 Ha (min) of Nature friendly farming (T5) -1,806 Kt CO2e reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (T6) 200 Ha (min) new tree canopy and woodland cover (T8) 10 Km (min) new hedgerow created (T8) Greenhouse gas emissions are cut by 50% of 2010 levels.		By 2042: Sustained levels of activity and investment from 2030 1,580 Ha (min) wildlife-rich habitat created/restored outside protected sites (T1) 16 (80%) SSSI areas are in favourable condition (T2) 2,238 Ha (min) of Nature friendly farming (T5) -4,215 Kt CO2e reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (T6) 450 Ha (min) new tree canopy and woodland cover (T8) 50 Km (min) new hedgerow created (T8)		By 2050: 2,324 Ha (min) wildlife-rich habitat created/restored outside protected sites (T1) 18 (90%) SSSI areas are in favourable condition (T2) 2,962 Ha (min) of Nature friendly farming (T5) -5,821 Kt CO2e reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to net zero (T6) 589 Ha (min) new tree canopy and woodland cover (T8) 63 Km (min) new hedgerow created (T8)

Projects for Delivery

Over the following pages the key projects for delivery have been set out within the three core themes of Nature First, Climate Resilience and Place and People.

A total of forty two projects have been identified for delivery, some are short term in duration and can be delivered within the next five years. Others will require a longer term delivery and may continue over successive five year management plans into the future. All projects are designed to respond directly to the delivery of the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, relating these back to the Special Qualities of the Tamar Valley National Landscape, and observing the Landscape Characteristics and Character Types in their eventual design.

A consistent monitoring approach will be required to assess and report on achievements. In order to deliver this, a Tamar Valley Doughnut model has been developed. Further information is provided on page 98.

Financial estimates are predominantly Capital and have been provided from a number of sources, correct at the time of publication though are subject to change.

Integrating the Management of the Natural and Historic Environment

Joint Statement between Natural England, Historic England, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund

We face huge challenges as a result of the climate and nature emergencies and the need to mitigate and adapt to unprecedented levels of environmental change. Government is clear that "initiatives to protect and improve our natural world and cultural heritage are acts of stewardship by which we discharge our debt to it, and so are moral imperatives in themselves, but they are also economically sensible¹". A healthy economy depends on a healthy environment and by integrating the management and protection of our historic and natural environment we can achieve much more for people, nature, places and the economy.

We recognise that nature comprises habitats, species, geology, landscape, historic features, cultural connections, and the opportunities we have to connect with the environment. We acknowledge the complex interplay of these factors and the crucial role that heritage management practices can play in nature's recovery.

As national institutions we support local initiatives and partnerships to deliver more beautiful, sustainable, successful places that build pride in communities. We believe that our natural and historic environment offers joy and inspiration, igniting the imagination, connecting us to our past and helping to shape the future. We will work in collaboration to identify and realise these opportunities, working together in places to create benefits for people who live, work, study and visit there. We will pursue these goals at national and local levels, working across government and partners to embed the full range of changes required to ensure we achieve our ambitions of integrated delivery.

We acknowledge that past failures to understand the full suite of benefits offered by the natural and historic environment have resulted in poor choices being made², exchanging short-term, limited wins for long-term, sustainable goals. Where possible, we will use natural capital and culture and heritage capital models to identify and recognise the values of the public goods and services provided by the environment. This will enable better quality decisions that will deliver greater environmental benefits alongside better value for money. We will also seek to demonstrate the broader, non-monetary values of our natural and historic environment where they sit outside the tools provided by capital models. We will be evidence-led to ensure that we base our strategic interventions and our local decision-making on robust evidence.

We commit to act as strong advocates for the added value that integrated management approaches deliver, producing positive changes that leave a legacy to future generations of high-quality placemaking, maximising the value of environmental opportunities and minimising the inadvertent harm caused by short-term decision-making. We seek to align activities and funding at a place-based scale to achieve stronger and more sustained outcomes, particularly where it can be shown that these create public value in ways that are more efficient and effective than would be achieved by acting alone.

¹ Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (2018): https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

² Ibid.



Lord Mendoza CBE
Historic England Chair



Dr Simon Thurley CBE
National Lottery Heritage Fund Chair



Tony Juniper
Natural England Chair



Nature First

Through a Nature-first approach we prioritise Nature restoration, control of Invasive Non-Native Species and pollutants, and protecting, connecting and growing our natural biodiversity.



Kit Hill

Soil

Soil runoff reduced from fields and soil regenerated using Nature based solutions providing substantial crop cycles on farms, orchards and market gardens offering long term food resilience

Control

Expanded control of Invasive Non-Native Species, including Himalayan Balsam, American Skunk Cabbage, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed throughout the Tamar Catchment Area

Water

Improved water quality as more wetlands filter water by trapping sediment and nutrient runoff from farms, and enhanced water quantity as activity from reintroduced beavers, leaky dams and ponds slow water across the Tamar Catchment Area

Delivering for

1. A rare valley and water landscape
2. A landscape of high visual quality
3. A unique wildlife resource

Prevention

Contaminants, fertilisers, fly-tipping, litter, plastics, rubber particulates, septic tank soakaways and other pollution is reduced, policed and prevented wherever possible

Connect

Increased tree canopy cover, dense and longer hedgerows and Cornish hedges, improved wildlife habitats and more wildflower meadows creating connected corridors for insects, bats, birds and mammals

Better Management

Improved land management for wildlife, plants, hedgerows and trees both within and outside of protected areas

Wildlife-rich Habitats

Wildlife thrives in rich habitats and the decline of our 17 Special Species has been halted and their populations are growing in numbers

Domestic Gardens

Every garden contributes through coordination across the National Landscape, from wildflowers, hedgehog friendly fences, ponds and water saving practices, Invasive species control, less frequent grass mowing, and improved drainage



Tamar Valley National Landscape



Nature First: Restoration

£4,300,000 Total 5 Year Investment - Estimated



Ambition

Thriving plants and wildlife and connected Nature corridors through creation and management of increased canopy cover, hedgerows, Special Species and wildlife-rich habitats and wildflower meadows.

Targets & Outcomes

T3 By 2028, 12 SSSIs have actions on track to achieve favourable condition.

T5 By 2030, 80% of land managers have adopted Nature friendly farming on at least 1,580 Ha.

T1 By 2042, 1,580 Ha of wildlife-rich habitat will be created / restored outside of protected sites.

T2 By 2042, 16 SSSIs are in favourable condition.

T4 By 2042, continuing favourable management of all existing 3,672 ha of priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes.

Management Approach

Nature-based solutions applied everywhere possible. Encourage the growth of Nature and aim for connected landscapes. Secure innovation and investment to deliver at pace and at scale to deliver bigger and better.

Strategy

Champion a Nature-first approach throughout all activities, collaborations, delivery and partnerships. Engage with Local Nature Recovery Strategies to identify locations for the increase of canopy cover, hedgerows, Special Species habitats and wildflower meadows creating connected Nature corridors. Identify new species for planting to cope with an increased temperature, increased drought frequency and increased flooding events.

Measurements of Progress & Success

Extent of wildlife-rich habitat created or restored within the National Landscape, outside of protected sites.

% of SSSIs within the National Landscape in favourable condition.

% of SSSIs within the National Landscape assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition.

Extent of priority habitat within the National Landscape, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes.

% of land managers adopting Nature-friendly farming on a percentage of their land.

Guidance, Grants and Policies

Follow the QR Code to find guidance, grants and policies relevant to our Nature First: Restoration Priority Projects.



The Priority Projects	Partners	5 Yr £ Estimation
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) Identify the actions and define the pace to have improving condition on track by 2028, designed to achieve favourable condition by 2042. Integrating the Marine Protected Area alongside this SSSI project would be beneficial in enhancing site conditions.	Natural England (Lead) Farmers Landowners Ministry Of Defence Plymouth Marine Laboratory Wildlife Trusts – Cornwall and Devon	£150,000
Land Manager Engagement Build and manage a land ownership database and work with land managers to adopt Nature-friendly farming throughout their land, to help stop biodiversity loss and increase species abundance alongside sustainable food production. Map opportunities for hedgerow and tree canopy extensions, wildflower meadows, then encourage delivery through introducing Green Finance funding.	Farm Clusters Forestry Commission Landowners Market Gardeners Orchards Parish Councils	£500,000
Wildlife-rich Habitats Identify suitable sites outside of protected sites, define how to create and restore to favourable condition, set the pace and begin delivery to achieve by 2042.	Landowners Local Authorities Local Nature Recovery Strategies Wildlife Trusts – Cornwall and Devon	£150,000
Conserving Special Species Protect, restore, create and manage priority habitats for the 17 Special Species identified in the Tamar Valley National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan.	Wildlife Trusts – Cornwall and Devon Tamar Community Trust	£400,000
Water Quality and Quantity Educate to reduce point source pollution, increase management advice on high risk soils, reduce plastic and rubber particulate pollution, increase resilience to droughts, promote sustainable drainage solutions, and seek Nature-based solutions to water management.	Dartmoor National Park Environment Agency South West Water Tamar Catchment Partnership Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum Westcountry Rivers Trust Local Authorities	£3,000,000
Domestic Gardens Promote wildlife-friendly techniques for gardens and community green spaces across the National Landscape Area, including controlling invasives, pond creation, hedgehog friendly fencing, wildflower planting, etc. In the main table, Land manager engagement, add in: Continue Stoke Climsland Farm Cluster, further its reach encourage take up of SFI/ higher tier options.	BBC and other media Celebrity endorsement Rewild Britain Royal Horticultural Society Local Authorities Parish Councils Community Groups Community Wildlife Groups Wildlife Trusts – Cornwall and Devon Tamar Community Trust	£75,000
Public Campaigns Support public campaigns such as No Mow May and Let it Bloom June, and support the United Nations' Environment Programme #GenerationRestoration campaign.	BBC and other media Royal Horticultural Society UN Environment Programme Nationally Recognised Advocates	£25,000
Riparian Map all riverine buffers with a 10 metre buffer around rivers under 2 metres wide and 20 metre buffer around rivers over 2 metres.	Cornwall Nature Recovery Strategies Westcountry Rivers Trust	£0

I have never seen so many natural beauties in such a limited spot as I have seen here.

Artist, J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851), from his journals of the Tamar Valley



Nature First: Control and Protect

£1,450,000 Total 5 Year Investment - Estimated



Ambition
A National Landscape with thriving native species, and a balanced ecosystem that provides food, good quality soil, sunlight and water without extreme competition.

Strategy
Control Invasive Non-Native Species throughout the Tamar Catchment Area.
Improve soil quality and reduce soil runoff from agricultural land.

Targets & Outcomes
T4 By 2030, Invasive Non-Native Species will be identified, located and mapped on a publicly accessible GIS platform, and plans put in place for long term control with the goal of elimination of Invasive Non-Native Species from 90% of sites (from 2025 baseline) by 2050.
T4 By 2055, all Invasive Non-Native Species will be under control and minimal in number throughout the Tamar Catchment Area.

Management Approach
Engage and coordinate with the Environment Agency, Natural England and South West Water to design a single approach to controlling Invasive Non-Native Species, and collaborate on bidding for grants including the Water Restoration Fund. Engage and collaborate with Rothamsted Research and the University of Plymouth to study soil within the National Landscape and advise on methods for enhancing, across the Tamar Catchment Area.

Measurements of Progress & Success
Enhanced soil nutrient mapping of the National Landscape.
Landowners engaged.
Invasive Non-Native Species located and work underway for long term control.
Widespread biosecurity awareness.

Guidance, Grants and Policies
Follow the QR Code to find guidance, grants and policies relevant to our Nature First: Control and Protect Priority Projects.



Priority Projects	Partners	5 Yr £ Estimation
Invasive Non-Native Species Control Plan Development Develop a plan to provide long term control and monitoring of Invasive Non-Native Species including Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and American Skunk Cabbage, throughout the Tamar Catchment Area.	Environment Agency Natural England South West Water South West Lakes Trust Tamar Invasives Group Devon Local Nature Partnership	£100,000
Invasive Non-Native Species Control Implementation Deliver the long term control and monitoring of Invasive Non-Native Species. Coordinate with the Devon Invasive Species Initiative.	Environment Agency Natural England South West Water Water Restoration Fund Devon Local Nature Partnership Tamar Community Trust	£1,125,000
Soil Runoff Reduction Explore and review options for reducing soil runoff from agricultural land throughout the Tamar Catchment Area.	Carbon Net Zero Teams Environment Agency Farmers Landowners Rothamsted Research Westcountry Rivers Trust Local Authorities	£50,000
Soil Regeneration Explore and review options for regenerating the soil across the agricultural areas of the Tamar Catchment Area, including cover cropping, crop rotations, healthy ecosystem balancing, symbiosis, etc. Encourage regenerative farming techniques across the National Landscape.	Carbon Net Zero Teams Environment Agency Farmers Landowners Rothamsted Research Tamar Grow Local University of Plymouth	£100,000
Special Species Monitoring Deliver actions that monitor the 17 Special Species identified within the Tamar Valley National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan.	Cornwall Wildlife Trust Devon Wildlife Trust Plymouth Marine Laboratory Westcountry Rivers Trust Tamar Community Trust	£25,000
Biological Control Provide data and research for biological controls and disease risks and explore mitigative measures for all species.	University of Exeter University of Plymouth	£50,000

Tamar Valley National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan

The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership have prioritised the recovery and enhancement of Nature, to safeguard the future of our wildlife, our landscape, our communities and our local economy.

Nature, and Nature-based services to people, including clear air, clean water, healthy soils, flood control and carbon storage, provide the essential basis upon which we all rely for our health and wellbeing for a thriving life and for the quality of our landscapes. Due to a combination of factors, caused mainly by human activity over recent decades, Nature is struggling. Species and habitats are being lost or have deteriorated dramatically – caused by changes in land, river and sea use and its management; by resource extraction and pollution (especially from mining and agriculture); and by invasive non-native species. These are all playing their part, compounded by the impact of a changing climate.

Our Tamar Valley National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan is intended to provide a framework for action and improvement, setting out priorities and actions that are necessary, including the urgent steps required to ensure significant benefits for Nature, climate change resilience, place and people. It is intended to identify actions and unlock funding for practical measures through to 2030 that will help to achieve long-term. Our objective is to focus effort as we work to deliver 3 interconnected targets:

- Habitat enhancement and recovery
- Species recovery
- Natural connectedness

Nature Recovery Plans are key to the shared vision of National Landscapes, and of our partners within Defra and Natural England, to create resilient and Nature-rich landscapes that allow wildlife and people to thrive, to play a key role in the global '30x30' ambition to ensure that 30% of land is actively conserved or protected for biodiversity benefit by 2030. The Plan will help target investment in Nature going forward.



Our Tamar Valley Nature Recovery Plan has prioritised the following Habitats of Principal Importance for their high ecological value and conservation of biodiversity across the landscape, as well as designated sites within the Tamar Valley, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest and County Wildlife Sites:

- Woodland, orchards and hedgerows
- Grassland and arable margins
- Wetlands and coastal (estuarine)
- Rivers, streams and ponds
- Lowland heath

The working landscape dominated by agriculture and forestry within the National Landscape, and our urban and post-industrial areas, are also both vital to support and enhance. These habitats are home to thousands of species including many of national or international importance and it is critical that action is taken to protect and conserve them.

Natural England (2023) Nature Recovery and the Historic Environment and the Joint Statement by Natural England, Historic England and National Lottery Heritage Fund have provided reference points.



People must feel that the natural world is important and valuable and beautiful and wonderful and an amazement and a pleasure...

The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it.



What Nature recovery in the Tamar Valley can look like:



Artist's impression of the Lower Tamar-Tavy 2023



Artist's impression of the Lower Tamar-Tavy Enhanced Nature Recovery Network | Artist: Phil Collins

Species-rich communities are essential for functioning, resilient ecosystems and the recovery of high-quality priority habitats is key to securing the future of associated species.

Our Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership has adopted a list of Special Species that will become the focus of our efforts to safeguard and enhance their natural habitat.

The list includes species:

- of most conservation importance or concern (Priority Species), particularly where the Tamar Valley is an important area for a population.
- associated with the diverse habitats which should be flourishing in the Tamar Valley and beyond, and which can benefit from our work to improve and connect Priority Habitats across the National Landscape.
- that people will recognise and might be able to see – and help – in their own back gardens and local areas.

Tamar Valley National Landscape will also take action for other species, including our important invertebrates and pollinators, working together with our partner organisations and the wider community, where opportunities arise, and resources allow.

The Tamar Valley National Landscape Special Species are:

- Nightjar, UK Status Amber, Birds of Conservation Concern 5
- Heath fritillary butterfly, Sec 41 species of principal importance (NERC Act)
- Avocet, UK Status Amber, Birds of Conservation Concern 5
- Willow tit, UK Status Red, Birds of Conservation Concern 5
- Salmonids (Salmon and Trout), Endangered, IUCN Red List
- Triangular club-rush, Critically Endangered, Botanical Soc of Britain & Ireland
- Plymouth pear, Critically Endangered, IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants
- Allis shad, UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species
- Harvest mouse, UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species
- Bastard balm, Rare and declining
- Hedgehog, Vulnerable to Extinction, IUCN Red List for British Mammals
- Common toad, UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species
- Adder, Near Threatened or Vulnerable, IUCN Red List
- Greater horseshoe bat, Near Threatened, IUCN Red List
- Dormouse, Vulnerable, GB Red List
- Water vole, Endangered, Species of Principal Importance, NERC Act
- Delta prawn, Common

The Tamar Valley Special Species



- 1 **Nightjar** © D. Cirano
- 2 **Bastard balm** © Lesley Strong
- 3 **Heath fritillary butterfly** © Tony Cox
- 4 **Willow tit** © Geoff Carr
- 5 **Common toad** © Getty Images
- 6 **Adder** © Big Stock Photo
- 7 **Avocet** © Big Stock Photo
- 8 **Plymouth pear**
- 9 **Dormouse** © Jen Bousfield (taken under license)
- 10 **Greater horseshoe bat** © M. Hammett (Natural England)
- 11 **Harvest mouse** © Adrian Langdon
- 12 **Water vole** © Adrian Langdon
- 13 **Triangular club-rush** © Natural England
- 14 **Delta prawn** © Phil Collins/ Tamar Valley AONB
- 15 **Atlantic salmon** © M. Gaunt
- 16 **Allis shad** © Environment Agency
- 17 **Hedgehog** © Adrian Langdon

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Local Nature Recovery Strategies within our designated ecological areas:

There are 48 Local Nature Recovery Strategy areas all over England, with no gaps or overlaps.

Strategy preparation is led by a responsible authority, usually a local authority, and they will forge new partnerships with local stakeholders: landowners, farmers, business, charities, community groups, to write a local strategy that is collaborative and locally led.

Developed with support from Defra, Natural England, Forestry Commission and Environment Agency, each Local Nature Recovery Strategy will:

- Agree priorities for Nature recovery
- Map the most valuable existing areas for Nature
- Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for Nature and for wider environmental goals

Landowners and managers will be encouraged to deliver the mapped proposals linked to other policies and incentives like Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

Local Nature Recovery Strategies will be published and reviewed every 3-10 years, to take stock of what has been delivered and ensure that the proposals stay relevant.

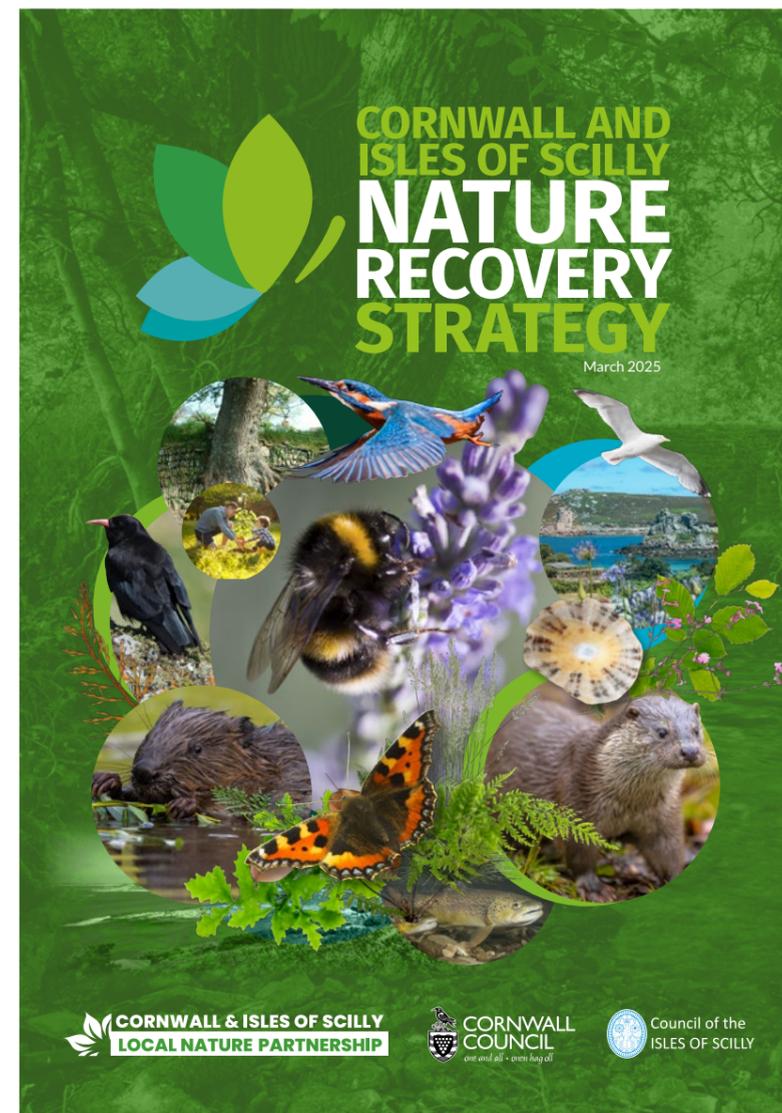
Local Nature Recovery Strategies are primarily intended to identify locations to create or improve habitat, that are most likely to provide the greatest benefit to Nature and the wider environment. The strategies will also help to meet a range of wider environmental objectives and deliver co-benefits for people's health, wellbeing and access to Nature.

For instance, Local Nature Recovery Strategies will contribute towards government's commitments to:

- Restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites by 2042, compared with 2022 levels
- Halt the decline of species abundance by 2030, and reduce the risk of species extinction by 2042
- Increase total tree and woodland cover from 14.5% of land area now to 16.5% by 2050
- Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads to a level at least 40% by 2038

Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan and the Local Nature Recovery Strategies have been developed across the same period of time, codesigned and informing each other, and should be considered in parallel informing Nature, climate, place and people priorities.

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The full strategy is available to view: Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Nature Recovery Strategy | Let's Talk Cornwall. At the time of publication the Devon Local Nature Recover Strategy was not available, for further information check the Devon County Council website. Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy - a joint strategy for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay - Devon Local Nature Partnership



We can all take action for Nature. Our collective target is to work together so at least 30% of land, rivers and seas in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are being well managed for Nature by 2030.



OUR FOCUS TREE AND WOODLAND HABITATS

SEE ALSO...
 Farmland, hedges and edges →
 Rivers and wetlands →
 Heath and moor mosaics →
 Town and village green and blue space →



Broadleaf Woodland

These woodlands are made up of leafy trees and make up most of our woods and trees. They include plantations on estates such as at Penrose, Lanhydrock and Trellisick and are made up of many species of native tree including the iconic sessile oak.



Temperate Rainforest

Twisting limbs laden with ferns, mosses, lichens, insects and bird life. Temperate rainforest is an incredibly rare and sensitive habitat and one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the country. Found lining the estuaries of the Fal and Helford and valleys to the west and south of Bodmin Moor.



Wet Woodland

These are sometimes called carr and are wild and rare places and are some of our most natural woodlands. They occur on soils which are regularly or seasonally wet, ranging from along streams and rivers, around lakes, in peatland and at the margins of fens, bogs and mires. They are often successional and a component of riparian habitat mosaics. Water-loving tree species such as birch, willow and alder thrive, forming homes for amphibians, bats, mammals and rare birds such as the willow tit.



Elm Trees (Isles of Scilly)

Isles of Scilly is home to pockets of mature elm trees. These are of particular national significance in that they remain currently unaffected by Dutch elm disease – which has killed millions of trees across the UK.



Ancient Woodland

Beautiful and complex areas of woodland that have been in existence since at least the 1600s. Due to their age and complexity, they are considered ecologically irreplaceable and often hold strong cultural significance. Ancient woodland makes up around 2% of Cornwall's land cover. From the twisted magical Dizzard Woods on the north coast to the Fowey Valley.

Wood Pasture and Parkland

This habitat is often more biodiverse than woodland, owing to its mosaic of diverse habitats – grassland (often low input), scrub, and mature (often veteran) trees. Commonly managed with larger livestock (cattle or deer), this open mosaic mimics a period when large herbivores roamed wild across our landscape.



Ancient and Veteran Trees

There are over 2,000 ancient and veteran trees across Cornwall. Veteran trees are the younger of the two, containing features which are similar to those of ancient trees. The exact age a tree must reach to be classed as ancient depends on the species. Ranging from 150 years for birch, to over 800 years for yew trees. They have immense ecological, historical and cultural importance. They contain a diverse array of micro-habitats such as holes and dead wood in the canopy which supports a vast array of wildlife. Examples of such special trees can be found throughout the Fowey valley and Boconnoc Estate, Lanhydrock and around the Helford River.

Scrub

An open woody habitat made up of a broad mixture of plants, including Bracken, Gorse and shrubs. It is a successional habitat, meaning that it eventually matures into woodland. Scrub is an extremely valuable habitat for wildlife as part of wider dynamic mosaics. Management of scrub is important in open habitats, such as heathland and grassland, to maintain it as part of the habitat.

PRESSURES ON OUR TREES, WOODLAND AND SCRUB



Fragmentation and poor condition of our ancient woodlands

Cornwall is peppered with small remnants of ancient woodland, often disconnected from woody habitats and with poor structural, age and species diversity. Their isolated nature, size and condition means that they are less resilient and adaptive to change. Historic plantations and forestry operations upon ancient woodland sites have removed native flora and fauna, damaged soils and continue to threaten remnant natural features.



Climate change

As the climate changes we can expect to see hotter summers, wetter winters and more powerful storms across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Droughts make it harder for new trees to establish. Seasonal mismatches are also occurring, with trees flowering and fruiting earlier than usual having knock on impacts to other wildlife. A changing climate also affects which tree species can best thrive and may thus change the composition of our woodlands, removing niche habitats for specialist species. It can also mean pests and diseases increase.



Lack of management

In line with much of England, only around 36% of woodlands in Cornwall are actively managed. Many woodland plants and animals benefit from the microhabitats and open habitats provided through active management. Management can also increase resilience of woodlands to weather events such as high winds and drought. Coppicing, selective tree removal, coup clearance and ride management mimic the actions of large herbivores. Within small woodlands, where the reintroduction of natural processes and large herbivores is not sustainable, active management is critical to maintaining good ecological condition.



Timber processing capacity

A particular challenge for bringing woodlands into management is the lack of forestry processing infrastructure. Despite market demand for locally produced timber, there are very few processing facilities in Cornwall and only one on the Isles of Scilly, which means there is little commercial incentive to manage existing woodlands and even plant new ones.



Invasive non-native species (INNS)

Plants such as rhododendron, cherry laurel, bamboo, gunnera and Himalayan balsam readily infiltrate our woodlands, shade out and out-compete native plants. Where established these plants can harbour diseases, diminish the biodiversity within and the ecological condition of our woodlands.



Pests and diseases

Ash Dieback and Dutch elm disease can cause significant damage and tree death. There are increasing numbers of tree diseases within the UK, affecting many tree species. International plant trade increases the risks of disease and can push trees into decline, impacting the wildlife which rely upon them. Biosecurity is particularly important for the Isles of Scilly which has currently avoided Dutch elm disease and where the introduction of pests and diseases would spread rapidly across the relatively small archipelago.



Animal damage

Populations of deer and grey squirrel are expanding to unsustainable levels. Unfortunately, these mammals can cause damage to and even kill susceptible species (e.g. beech). This prevents the successful establishment of new trees, promotes un-diverse woodlands and leads to a decline in wildlife²³. Grey squirrels eat native song-bird chicks and eggs which nest in woodlands, but are generally unaffected by predation themselves, leading to imbalanced ecosystems.



Lack of skills and resources

Planting, management and cultivation of woodlands require specialist skills and resources that are in short supply across the UK. In particular, a lack of funding and skills for management of existing woodlands is one of the biggest challenges facing the sector.



Land use change

Development, agriculture and other land use changes can result in the destruction or felling of trees, woodland and scrub. This is particularly true of "fallow" sites where new forests, establishing through natural regeneration, can be destroyed due to a perception that this land is unproductive.



OUR FOCUS FARMLAND, HEDGES AND EDGES HABITATS

Farming with trees (Agroforestry)

The practice of integrating trees and shrubs into productive agricultural systems. This can enhance productivity whilst also offering benefits to biodiversity and soil health. Agroforestry offers a way to protect livestock and crops from the sun and wind while also supporting native species and enhancing landscape resilience.

Cornish hedges

Iconic features of the Cornish landscape, consisting of earth banks faced with stones. They may or may not be topped with vegetation including mature trees. Their cultural distinctiveness is shown by the differing styles of stone which are unique to different areas. These ancient structures, some dating back thousands of years, serve multiple purposes including marking field boundaries, providing shelter from wind and supporting a diverse range of wildlife. Their unique structure means they support a wide range of plants and animals. Cornish Hedges are now covered by the Management of Hedgerow Regulations 2024.

Hedges (Scilly)

In Scilly, the most biodiverse hedges are earth banks faced with stones. They have similar features to the Cornish hedge. Other hedges in Scilly include non-native conifer and Pittosporum shelter belts, introduced to protect crops from the strong salty winds.

Hedgerow

A continuous boundary line of trees or shrubs which are more than 20 m long and less than 5 m wide. Banks, walls, ditches or trees within 2 m of the centre of the hedgerow are considered part of the habitat. They may be relics of ancient woodland, a product of post medieval miner's smallholdings and even more recent agri-environment schemes. A good quality, well-established hedgerow will include some native trees, a diverse range of shrubs and plants and a rough grass margin, all of which combine to provide habitat and forage for a wide range of wildlife, including birds, insects, and small mammals.

SEE ALSO...

- Trees, woodland and scrub → Nature-rich grasslands →
- Rivers and wetlands → Coastal wildbelt →
- Heath and moor mosaics →

Field margins

Buffering the edges of fields, often in the shelter of a hedge. They can contain remnants of wildflower communities from within their seed bank or can be newly created through agri-schemes. They offer a relatively undisturbed microclimate that supports wildlife. They also buffer against soil erosion and reduce water run-off.

Orchards

Cherished features of the rural landscape, reflecting a rich history of fruit cultivation. Traditional orchards are often small-scale, with a variety of nuts, apple, pear, and plum trees. These orchards play a vital role in sustaining local ecosystems, providing habitats for pollinators and other wildlife. Many of our orchards have been lost, but their locations are still known. The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record has historic maps of orchards to support their re-planting.

Pasture, grassland and meadow

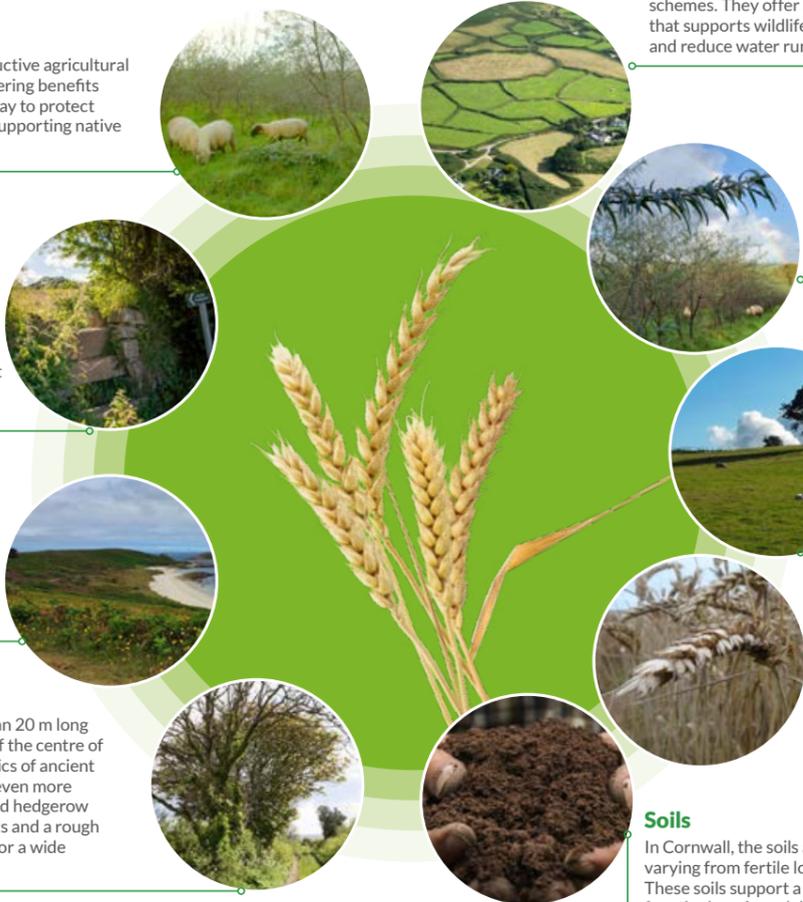
A significant proportion of farmed land in Cornwall is grassland or grazed pasture. As well as grassland, pasture can include rush pasture in our moorlands, our heathlands and wood pasture in our historic estates. Livestock are an important management tool for preventing scrub encroachment. Managed well, pastoral grassland can be flower-rich and support a range of invertebrates including pollinators. On the Isles of Scilly, pasture makes up a much smaller part of farmland and is often adapted to the challenging coastal environment.

Arable and horticulture

These land uses can be vital for wildlife if managed in a way that allows space for wilder edges and mosaics of seminatural habitats. Many farmland birds such as cirl bunting and yellowhammer need undisturbed areas in arable and horticultural fields for nesting and in winter stubble provides important foraging areas. Rare and sensitive arable wildflowers are often found in the edges of fields.

Soils

In Cornwall, the soils are influenced by the underlying granite and slate geology, varying from fertile loams in the valleys to more acidic, shallow soils on the uplands. These soils support a range of invertebrates, mammals and fungi vital to healthy functioning of overlying habitats and crops which are integral to the region's agricultural productivity. On the Isles of Scilly, the soils are often sandy and well-drained, shaped by the islands' granite base and coastal environment. These soils support a unique blend of horticulture and grazing.



PRESSURES ON OUR FARMLAND, HEDGES AND EDGES



Economic challenges

In recent years the cost-of-living crisis and socio-political instability around the world has massively increased the costs of agricultural inputs. In addition, retailers are also trying to limit costs to the consumer which means farmers are getting paid less to produce our food. This impacts farmers income and health and wellbeing, meaning that farmers can be less able to implement changes which would support farmland wildlife.



Climate change

A changing climate will mean more storms, heavier rainfall and increased droughts. It will also lead to more crop pests and diseases. Currently our farmlands, like many of our habitats, are less resilient to these changes due to loss of habitats and wildlife within the landscape.



Declining soil health

Compaction and exposure from mechanisation, cropping practices and high livestock densities can reduce soil health. This threatens future productivity and affects invertebrates which live in the soil. In addition, leaving soils exposed over winter can cause erosion and muddy run-off into freshwater habitats. This can harm wildlife and lead to algal blooms.



Agrochemicals

Reduced soil health, as well as increases in pests and diseases caused by climate change, can lead to increased reliance upon artificial inputs including fertilisers, medicines, pesticides and supplements to grow crops and rear livestock. These are harmful to wildlife including pollinators, invertebrates and the wildlife which feed on them as well as freshwater wildlife as the chemicals run-off into our waterways.



Loss of semi-natural habitats

The loss of habitats within farmland, such as drainage of wetlands and infilling of ponds and the removal of trees and scrub has reduced the areas available for wildlife within farmland.



Inappropriate hedge management

Cutting all hedges at once and cutting them before they have been allowed to fruit reduces the food and shelter available for wildlife. Equally, not managing hedges so that they become gappy or "leggy" reduces their quality as a corridor for wildlife.



Changing management practices

Changing of seed sowing from autumn to spring can reduce the food available for wildlife over winter. The switch from hay making to silage production has drastically reduced food available for specialist pollinators and invertebrates. This has knock on effects for wildlife which feed on them such as birds, bats and mammals.



Changing agricultural policies and funding

Farmers have had to keep adapting to changing agricultural policies and funding over the decades. Until recently, rural policies and farm payments encouraged intensification which has had an impact on nature and on farming. Now, more policies and funds are encouraging a more balanced approach to land management with payments for funding linked to actions that benefit nature and wider society. However, this changing policy landscape has unsettled some farming businesses, alongside other pressures and uncertainties facing the industry.



Support

Limitations of access to time, skills, funding and knowledge to support transition towards more sustainable practices for things like private and public agri-environment funding, to practical information about agroforestry, the laying and restoration of Cornish hedges, the management of orchards and healthy soil practices.



Removal of boundaries

To improve efficiency and maximise production, there has been a trend towards larger machinery, edge-to-edge cropping and increasing field sizes since World War 2 have combined to reduce the extent and quality of field margins. This removes habitat for wildlife but also the buffers that slow and filter run-off to remove contaminants before they enter our wetlands and rivers.



OUR FOCUS RIVERS AND WETLAND HABITATS

Rivers and Streams

From the Gannel in the north, the Tamar in the southeast, the Fal, the Helford and many others. Cornwall is threaded with rivers and streams, many of which arise on our moorland spine, connecting our upland moors to the oceans that surround us.

Riparian

Where green meets blue, you find our riparian zones; vegetated buffers that link water to the land around it. Riparian habitats stabilise riverbanks, holding soil in place and preventing erosion, they slow the flow which reduces flood risks downstream and create space for rivers to function naturally. They can also absorb and strip nutrients and chemicals from run-off, playing an essential role in maintaining and improving water quality.

Lakes, Pools and Ponds

These can be found across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. They play a vital part in connecting river systems and providing space for invertebrates, amphibians and birds to thrive. Historically, many lakes and ponds have been lost from the countryside through drainage or neglect; filling with silt and vegetation or stagnated under fallen leaves.

Wetlands

Some of the most threatened habitats in the world, yet also the most vital for wildlife and people. Wetlands are not a single habitat but a range of them. Different types of wetland habitat work together as part of an intricate ecosystem, home to a huge diversity of wildlife.

SEE ALSO...

- Trees, woodland and scrub →
- Nature-rich grasslands →
- Farmland, hedges and edges →
- Town and village green and blue space →

PRESSURES ON OUR RIVERS AND WETLANDS



Disconnection from floodplains

Engineering activities such as flood alleviation schemes, straightening of watercourses, dredging, and water storage have modified flows in some rivers and streams, lowered water tables and removed available habitat. This can also include the loss of areas of exposed riverine sediments that support specialist rare invertebrates.



Pollution and Run-off

Pollution from farms, sewers, private septic tanks, mine waste, built areas and roads all affects the water quality in our rivers. Only 22.37% of our freshwater bodies in Cornwall had a good or higher ecological rating in 2019.



Climate Change

A changing climate can destabilise our wetlands and rivers. Droughts can shrink wetlands, lead to low river flows and warmer waters or dry them up altogether whilst high rainfall can lead to extreme flows, erosion and flooding.



Encroachment

Rivers and wetlands need functioning floodplains to remain healthy. Encroachment by livestock and agriculture, development or even "tidiness" can reduce the extent and function of these important riparian buffers, which then reduces water quality. It can also increase water temperatures which affect cold-loving species.



Invasive Species

These disrupt the natural functioning of river systems by outcompeting native species for space, light or for food. Examples include Least Duckweed and New Zealand pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) which can take over ponds, lakes and pools, and slow flowing watercourses, covering the surface and displacing native species. American mink have reduced our water vole populations, and make reintroductions harder. Whilst signal crayfish outcompete with our native white-clawed crayfish.



Weirs and Blockages

Weirs and other physical barriers within river systems can block access for migratory fish to important breeding and feeding habitat. Structures can fragment and degrade river habitats, isolating fish and invertebrate populations and increasing the impact of pollution. A fully connected river is more resilient as it allows natural recovery of river systems.



Complex Land Ownership

Rivers and streams pass through many land holdings as they make their way towards the sea. Good practice in one area can be easily undermined up or down stream unless well-coordinated actions are taken by a community of landowners, land users and key partners.



Abstraction and water demand

Abstraction (harvesting of freshwater from natural sources) provides essential water for public water supply, agriculture and industry. However, unsustainable levels of abstraction impact the ecology and resilience of our rivers, wetlands and aquifers. Unsustainable abstraction still diminishes some of the most iconic catchments and important habitats.

OUR FOCUS NATURE-RICH GRASSLAND HABITATS

Rush Pasture (Wet Grassland)

Also known as purple moor grass or Culm, is a damp/marshy grassland that is of immense value for wildlife with up to 50 different plant species in a 2 x 2 metre square. They are also home to a variety of animals including Curlew and Marsh Fritillary.

Hay Meadows

Are the product of particular (traditional) land management practices and can be particularly rich in wildflowers. The meadows are left to grow untouched through the spring and summer and cut for hay from mid-June to August depending on the weather. The aftermath is traditionally grazed with livestock through the autumn.

Rough Pasture

Low yield grassland, found on poor soils that may have been improved. It is typically found in our uplands and the exposed coastal zone. It is mainly used for extensive grazing of livestock in rotation with more productive land (i.e., hay meadows). Although not floristically-rich compared to a hay meadow, rough pasture supports a range of wildlife including ground-nesting birds and particular wildflowers and invertebrates.

Maritime Grassland

A special habitat that is a product of its exposure to wind and salt spray. It occurs in both Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and is generally short, kept this way by grazing (livestock and/or rabbits) as well as exposure. Maritime Grassland can be particularly important for rare plants such as Wild Asparagus.

SEE ALSO...

- Trees, woodland and scrub →
- Heath and moor mosaics →
- Farmland, hedges and edges →
- Coastal wildbelt →
- Town and village green and blue space →

PRESSURES ON OUR NATURE-RICH GRASSLANDS



Fragmentation

Land use changes have resulted in existing nature-rich grassland becoming fragmented and disconnected. Because of this wildlife is unable to travel between sites and recolonise new areas. This is particularly the case for pollinators and other invertebrates due to their inability to travel far from nesting sites.



Land development

Increased infrastructure and demand for housing has led to the conversion of more grasslands into residential and commercial areas, leading to a permanent loss of these grasslands and reducing the availability of natural spaces for habitats to grow.



Grazing regimes

Inappropriate grazing by livestock can damage grasslands, reduce plant diversity and encourage fewer desirable species such as ragwort and thistle; over-stocking can destroy the plant layer, compact and erode the soil. This impedes drainage, leading to waterlogging and muddy run-off, which reduces water quality. Under grazing can also lead to problems. Without sufficient grazing, grasslands will naturally transform into scrubs of bracken and gorse and eventually into woodland through a process called succession.



Climate Change

Rising temperatures alter rainfall patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events can impact grassland ecosystems. Changing climatic conditions may lead to shifts in species composition and changes in habitat as nature responds and adapts.



Pollution

Runoff from intensively managed agricultural fields, urban areas and roads can carry chemicals and silt, which can contaminate grasslands, harming plant and animal species and disrupting the natural nutrient cycles within these ecosystems.



Disturbance

Increased foot traffic, trampling, and infrastructure development for tourism, particularly in sensitive areas like the Isles of Scilly, can damage grasslands, leading to compaction, erosion and wildlife disturbance. Grasslands on thin soils, such as coastal and upland grasslands, are particularly vulnerable to damage from excessive foot traffic.



Frequency of cutting

The frequency and timing of cutting can have a big impact on the health of grasslands and the species that live within it. Cutting when plants are in summer, or during important times of the year for species, for example when birds are nesting, can cause significant damage to ecosystems.

OUR FOCUS INTERTIDAL HABITATS

SEE ALSO...
 Trees, woodland and scrub →
 Farmland, hedges and edges →
 Rivers and Wetlands →
 Coastal wildbelt →

Rocky shores

These serve as both key feeding grounds for seabirds and marine invertebrates, they support a diverse range of specially adapted marine life including barnacles, limpets and algae, and are important haul-out sites for seals.



Mudflats

Crucial feeding areas for wading and migratory bird species, they are rich in nutrients and support a wide variety of invertebrates like worms.



Estuaries

Many of our focus intertidal habitats are found in our estuaries as habitat mosaics closely linked to the surrounding river catchment. On the south coast these are mainly rias, or drowned-river valleys, with dynamic sandy estuaries dominating the north coast.



Sandy beaches

These play an important role in key coastal processes like acting as buffers against storm surges and erosion. They also support species such as sand dune plants and nesting birds.



Saltmarsh and reedbeds

These act as natural flood defences and carbon sinks, they also provide important habitats for salt-tolerant birds, plants and invertebrates.

Intertidal seagrass

Vital habitats for juvenile fish and marine species. They provide biodiversity and help to reduce coastal erosion through stabilising sediment.



Boulder beaches

They work to absorb wave energy which offers protection to coastal ecosystems. These beaches also provide diverse microhabitats.



Saline lagoons

Both natural and man-made areas of open salty water are dotted in a few locations along the banks of our estuaries and open coast, supporting bird life and unusual species specially adapted to these habitats.



PRESSURES ON OUR INTERTIDAL HABITATS



Climate Change

As our climate changes, we will experience rising sea levels, more frequent and stronger storms and heavier rainfall. Storms can damage the delicate intertidal habitats, whilst rising sea levels could mean we lose some habitats altogether. Heavier rainfall impacts intertidal habitats in two ways. One is through overloading our drainage systems, leading to more frequent storm overflows and the potential for more sewage entering these areas. This leads to excessive amounts of plant and algae (eutrophication) in waterways which reduces light and can harm other wildlife, it can also reduce photosynthesis of seagrass and contaminates our mudflats and saltmarshes. Secondly, it leads to increased run-off from the land which can lead to pollutants from roads and developments entering the water. In addition, it leads to increased agricultural run-off bringing excessive nutrients and soil into the water.



Coastal squeeze

Development and hard infrastructure to protect communities from flooding and sea level rise means that these habitats are squeezed into smaller and smaller areas and have nowhere to expand into.



Invasive non-native species (INNS)

Species introduced by humans outside of their natural range that have the ability to spread and which cause harm to the environment, economy, human health or the way we live. One of the most common INNS in Cornwall are pacific oysters, which outcompete native oysters.



Pollution

Intertidal areas are under pressure from plastic pollution, chemicals including pesticides and vessel anti-fouling, sewage, noise and light pollution. These upset the delicate balance of these ecosystems and has impacts across the whole food chain. For example, chemical and sewage pollution is particularly damaging to filter feeding bivalves such as mussels which are then an important food source for waders and shorebirds. Toxins from micro-plastics, sewage and chemicals builds up in filter feeders and is then ingested in the animals that eat them.



Recreational disturbance

Many of us love to spend time in the sea and in our Cornish estuaries. Unfortunately, if not done responsibly this can negatively impact wildlife. Examples of disturbance include: dogs off leads scaring sea birds, anchoring on sensitive seabed habitats which damages seagrass beds, kayaking too close to feeding birds and not following best-practice or speed limits when using water crafts including boats and jet skis. Another aspect of recreational disturbance is through bait digging and foraging activities, this takes valuable wild resources out of the ecosystem and damages habitats when people walk over them. Because it is unregulated there is no limit to how much resource people take.

OUR FOCUS TOWN AND VILLAGE GREEN AND BLUE SPACE HABITATS

SEE ALSO...
 Trees, woodland and scrub →
 Farmland, hedges and edges →
 Rivers and Wetlands →
 Nature-rich grasslands →

Hedges and road verges

These provide vital green corridors for wildlife in and through our towns and villages. If managed appropriately, these often-overlooked strips can support a diverse range of plant and animal species. Connecting fragmented habitats, road verges help sustain biodiversity, allowing species to move through the landscape. Changes to mowing regimes can significantly enhance their ecological value, turning them into essential refuges for wildlife.



Orchards

Not only can orchards offer a bountiful harvest, but these special local green spaces can also serve as a focal point which bring people together. Once much more numerous and widespread, many orchards have been lost from the landscape either through removal (grubbing up) for alternative use or development or through simple neglect. Where communities come together, orchards can be restored and replanted to provide a community resource for everyone.



Private gardens

These can offer safe havens for wildlife and nature within towns and villages. When managed for nature, these gardens can form a significant network that enhances ecological connectivity.



Public green and blue spaces

Essential spaces for our health and well-being. Blue spaces are those which contain water such as fountains, ponds and rivers. If managed for nature they can contain diverse habitats, increase wildlife in our towns and villages and deliver nature-based solutions such as flood alleviation. They connect people to nature, and wildlife to the rural landscape.



PRESSURES ON OUR TOWN AND VILLAGE GREEN AND BLUE SPACE



Community disconnection

As communities become less and less connected with nature, nature itself suffers through unintended consequences of ill-informed action. As people become less connected with nature, we lose the knowledge, skills and expertise required to manage urban green spaces for nature. Well intentioned action like tidying up a scrubby corner and keeping the grass cut neat and tidy, removes the very habitat that nature needs to thrive.



Home improvements

With busy lives comes the desire to reduce the burden of maintaining land and property, which can lead to natural areas being replaced with artificial or hard landscaping, both of which are hostile environments for nature. Additional pressures come from pet predation, artificial grass and removal of ponds.



Verge management/frequent cutting

The management of verges found within our towns and villages is commonly contracted out to companies who are expected to manage them in accordance with a standard 'nice and tidy' specification. This one-size-fits-all approach compromises the availability of space for nature.



Development

The continued need for more housing drives the development of sites on the edges of our towns and villages that have traditionally supported nature. Sites on the edges of towns and villages that farmers have long abandoned for productive use, gradually become more diverse in wildlife only to be lost to development. Brownfield sites can often be rich in wildlife because of their varied habitats. These can often be lost to development despite their natural value.



Surface run-off

Hard surfacing in our towns and villages only serves to exacerbate problems when it rains, even turning our streets into short-lived streams! Most of this urban run-off water is collected by our drainage systems but, when volumes exceed drain capacity, it runs directly into our watercourses and causes pollution which impacts wildlife in our rivers and seas.



Light pollution

Most of the earth is affected by light pollution. 80% of the world's population live under skyglow and almost everyone in the UK cannot experience a natural night sky from where they live. The evidence of the impacts of light pollution on species and ecosystems has grown and strengthened. Increased Artificial Light at Night, known as ALAN, is directly linked to measurable negative impacts on energy consumption, human health, and wildlife such as bats, birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and plants. Unnecessary artificial light increases financial costs and contributes to greenhouse emissions.

OUR FOCUS HISTORIC MINES, BUILDINGS AND QUARRY HABITATS

Historic mining sites and structures

Mining activity in Cornwall goes back 4,000 years and has generated spoil rich in metals and low in nutrients where specialist communities of plants support re-naturalisation (heathers, lichens, bryophytes and liverworts), slowly colonising these metalliferous environments. The often-polluted bare soil on former mining sites offers a perfect habitat for ground-nesting solitary bees, whilst disused buildings, structures and shafts provide shelter for roosting bats and bird nesting sites.



Dis-used quarries

Quarries can offer brilliant opportunities for nature recovery, creating brand new habitats for specialised and endangered species. Many have already been flooded to provide important freshwater ponds and wetlands for wildlife such as dragonflies, newts, amphibians and diving beetles.



Open Brownfield Mosaics

Brownfield sites are spaces which have been altered by human activity (not including farmland or forestry) and are often important sites for nature. They range from derelict urban areas to quarries, old railway lines and disused airfields. They contain a mosaic of habitats on low nutrient soil, offering a mix of open and more scrubby areas. This diversity has made them key sites for rare and scarce invertebrates as well as lichens, plants, birds, reptiles and amphibians.



SEE ALSO...

- Trees, woodland and scrub →
- Heath and moor mosaics →
- Nature-rich grasslands →

PRESSURES ON HISTORIC MINES, BUILDINGS AND QUARRIES



Contaminated land

Residual pollutants from industry, such as heavy metals and acidic drainage, can leach into soil posing long-term risks to nearby ecosystems. Polluted substrates left by metalliferous mining activities can slow down or prevent natural regeneration of vegetation due to poor soil quality. Conversely, this contamination also allows areas to remain open and suitable for rare plants.



Encroachment and loss of specialised habitats

The legacy of human activity in the landscape, including dis-used mines and quarries, can provide unique habitats. For example, structures are used as bat roosts in old engine houses and rare plant and invertebrate communities are associated with post-industrial substrates. A careful balance of management is needed. Clearing and 'tidying up' these sites for public access, such as the removal of substrates, can remove these valuable habitats. Lack of management can lead to overgrowth of vegetation, in particular non-native invasive species which can outcompete native flora and fauna, leading to a decline in biodiversity.



Tree and woodland establishment

In some areas, tree and woodland planting may not be in line with the landscape character or heritage designation. All planting should follow the 'Right Tree in the Right Place' principal to align with and enhance the protected and historic landscape character.



Inappropriate management

The introduction of broad-scale and intensive management can disrupt habitat mosaics, change the character of historic mine and quarries and lead to loss of intangible cultural heritage associated with traditional land management. Conversely, an absence of management can lead to scrub encroachment and the eventual loss of open habitats and heritage assets.



Human disturbance

Disused locations may attract recreational activities such as off-road driving, or illegal waste dumping, which disturbs and degrades these sensitive environments.



Better Land Management

In the Tamar Valley, farming has shaped our landscape for centuries, and we are committed to working with farmers and land managers to ensure sustainable management into the future, supporting Nature Friendly Farming practices.

Nature underpins everything from personal wellbeing to our economy, but Nature is in crisis. Ensuring Nature's recovery is a key priority, alongside cleaning up our rivers, lakes and seas; supporting farmers to boost our food security; and protecting communities from flooding. Nature's recovery that will support and complement the other priorities and in turn, contribute to economic growth.

This plan will be delivered in partnership by those who value Tamar Valley including farmers and land managers, who play such a vital role as stewards of the landscape.

67% of our National Landscape is farmed, with 75% of that laid to grassland, predominantly used for sheep and cattle. There are around 600 agricultural holdings ranging from smallholdings to large dairy farms of over 200 hectares. The farmland is generally improved pasture with species-rich hedges. These hedges hold nationally important collections of rare daffodils, survivors from market gardening.

We are facing significant challenges of climate change, threats to wildlife and habitat, changes to the farming

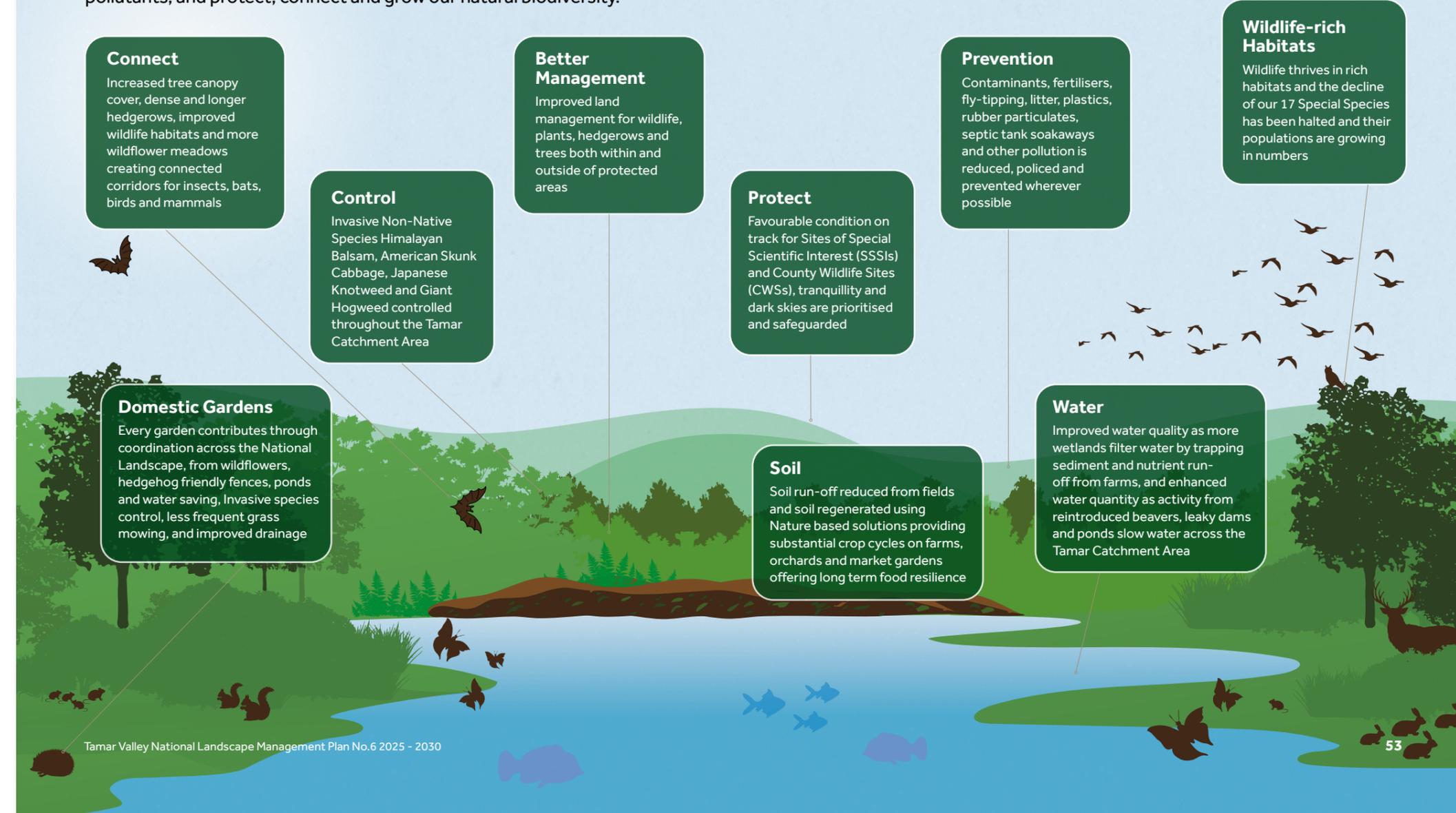
landscape and agriculture. We are actively engaged with local communities, businesses, farmers and landowners to ensure our plan fully reflects those who live, work and access this protected landscape.

The Tamar Valley is a working landscape where human activities are part of everyday life; with thriving village hubs, the land is farmed, foresters are active, and people enjoy all aspects of the countryside and the benefits it brings.

We have a responsibility to acknowledge and promote farming, forestry and the rural economy without compromising our primary purpose of conserving natural beauty.

Better Land Management

Through a Nature first approach we prioritise Nature restoration, control biohazards, invasive non-native species and pollutants, and protect, connect and grow our natural biodiversity.



Invasive Non-Native Species

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) pose a major threat to global biodiversity, ranking among the top five drivers of ecological decline. Their spread costs the UK economy approximately £1.9 billion annually and, in some cases, can negatively affect human health. Once established, they are incredibly challenging and expensive to control, often requiring significant intervention to mitigate their impact.

Over 2,000 plants and animals from around the world have been introduced to Britain, either intentionally or unintentionally. These are classified as non-native species. While the majority are harmless and integrate into the environment without issue, around 10-15% become invasive, spreading rapidly and causing significant ecological, economic, and health-related problems.

Our targeted Invasive Non-Native Species are:



1. Giant Hogweed
Photo credit – A. Phillips



2. Himalayan Balsam
Photo credit – GBNNSS



3. American-Skunk Cabbage
Photo credit – A Phillips



4. Japanese Knotweed
Photo credit – Shutterstock



5. Asian Hornet
Photo credit – AlbertoNovo/getty

Environmental Impact

Invasive species disrupt native ecosystems, outcompeting local flora and fauna for resources such as food, water, and habitat space. They can lead to the decline or extinction of indigenous species, altering entire ecosystems and reducing biodiversity. Some species aggressively modify landscapes, such as Japanese knotweed, which damages infrastructure and overwhelms native vegetation.

Economic Consequences

Industries such as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries suffer substantial losses due to INNS. They damage crops, degrade pastureland, and clog waterways, affecting irrigation and transport. The cost of controlling invasive species is high, involving continuous management through pesticides, manual removal, or specialized containment measures.

Health & Livelihood Concerns

Some invasive species introduce new diseases or allergens, affecting both humans and animals. For example, giant hogweed causes severe skin reactions, while certain aquatic invasives disrupt water quality, increasing health risks. Additionally, INNS can negatively affect outdoor recreation, making landscapes less accessible and damaging natural beauty.

Efforts to Manage & Prevent INNS

Preventing the introduction of invasive species is the most effective strategy. Legislation, monitoring programs, and public awareness campaigns play a key role in controlling their spread. Conservationists, landowners, and policymakers work together to implement rapid response measures when new threats emerge, ensuring ecosystems remain resilient.

The Tamar Valley National Landscape delivers the Tamar Invasive Plants project, on behalf of a partnership of four organisations:

- Tamar Valley National Landscape
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Cornwall Council

known collectively as the **Tamar Invasives Group**.

The Tamar Invasives Plant project was created specifically to control invasive plants in the River Tamar River catchment.

While the spread of some species presents a huge challenge, our success in controlling giant hogweed over the last 20 years, along with INNS programs elsewhere in the UK, demonstrates that effective management is possible and worthwhile.

The Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030, a plan for the place and delivered by multiple partners and agencies, intends to prioritise the management of INNS. However, to be truly successful, work at catchment scale is required. A coordinated approach and catchment-wide consensus involving many partners and stakeholders is clearly necessary. As always, the extent of control will depend on funding and goodwill.

Habitat Creation

Many of the communities within the Tamar Valley National Landscape have their roots in the primary economic sectors of farming, forestry, and previously mining, with another of the main economic activities now being tourism and hospitality. The special qualities of the landscape within the Tamar Valley is a key driver of its economy. The beauty and character of the Tamar Valley is largely owed to the stewardship of generations of farmers and landowners.

The challenge is to support Nature-friendly sustainable farming so our farmers can continue to effectively steward the landscape and provide environmental benefits. The semi-natural habitats, rolling farmland, sheltered estuaries, woodlands, rivers and wetlands of the Tamar Valley are 'natural capital' assets that provide carbon storage, crop pollination, flood control, places to connect with nature, and valuable habitats for wildlife to thrive. It is vital for us all to appreciate and understand its unique and diverse character and protect this precious resource so we can continue to conserve and enhance it for future generations.

- We are committed to supporting farmers to achieve a sustainable and profitable farm business and deliver outcomes for people, place, nature and climate. We will work with farmers and landowners to help identify and understand their natural capital and ecosystem services, support increasing biodiversity, sequestering and storing carbon and natural flood management.
- The Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan aims and objectives support sustaining a resilient farmed landscape and the businesses within it, whilst enhancing biodiversity and restoring Nature. We will support farmers and landowners, and demonstrate a commitment to people, place, nature and climate in the Tamar Valley.
- We will build and manage a land ownership database and work with land managers to adopt Nature-friendly farming techniques, and enable a knowledge sharing platform. This will help land managers to find different solutions to a common goal of stopping biodiversity loss and increase species abundance alongside sustainable food production.
- We will prioritise protecting the soil, through soil run-off reduction by exploring and reviewing options for reducing soil runoff from agricultural land, and regenerating soil throughout the Tamar Catchment Area. We will investigate options for regenerating the soil, including cover cropping, crop rotations, healthy ecosystem balancing and symbiosis.
- Regenerative agriculture and forestry, use of sensitive agri-tech applications in farming, forestry, market gardening and orchards will be encouraged.
- We will work with our farmers and landowners to map opportunities for hedgerow and tree canopy extensions, wildflower meadows, and encourage delivery through introducing Green Finance funding. Tree and hedgerow planting will support skills and green jobs, attract private investment and help grow the rural economy, while sequestering and storing carbon into the future, and also providing natural flood management.

Land Use Framework

The Land Use Framework, set to launch in 2025 by Defra, aims to create a more strategic and informed approach to land management in England. It is designed to balance economic growth, climate resilience, food security, and environmental sustainability while ensuring that land use decisions reflect national priorities without restricting local autonomy.

Key Objectives of the Land Use Framework

The Framework will serve as a guidance tool, helping policymakers and landowners make informed choices about the most effective use of land. Its priorities include:

- **Nature Recovery & Environmental Protection:** Safeguarding biodiversity, restoring ecosystems, managing water resources, and reducing emissions to align with climate targets.
- **Resilient Food Production:** Preserving high-quality agricultural land while supporting sustainable farming practices and ensuring food security.
- **Infrastructure & Housing Development:** Managing land allocation for new housing, transport networks, and renewable energy projects without compromising environmental integrity.
- **Economic Growth & Sustainability:** Encouraging land-based industries, such as agriculture and forestry, while fixing the foundations for long-term resilience in the economy.

- **Collaborative Planning:** Involving stakeholders across sectors, including farmers, conservationists, local councils, and private businesses, to ensure the framework is adaptable and practical.

How the Land Use Framework Will Function

Unlike previous centralised directives, the Framework is not a rigid policy or legal mandate. Instead, it offers recommendations and strategic guidance, allowing decision-makers to weigh different priorities while considering local conditions. It will help align land management with broader national goals, such as achieving Net Zero emissions, biodiversity recovery, and sustainable resource use.

Potential Impacts of the Framework

1. **Protecting Key Agricultural Land:** By prioritizing food security, the Framework ensures that valuable farmland remains productive rather than being converted for urban expansion.
2. **Boosting Climate Resilience:** Supporting land-based carbon sequestration projects, sustainable farming, and reforestation to mitigate climate change effects.
3. **Reducing Environmental Degradation:** Managing land use to minimize pollution, enhance water conservation, and restore degraded habitats.
4. **Supporting Sustainable Growth:** Balancing infrastructure development with environmental and economic sustainability to create thriving communities.

Implementation & Challenges

Successful implementation will depend on collaboration between government agencies, local authorities, landowners, and businesses. However, potential challenges may include:

- **Conflicts between development and conservation:** Striking a balance between land for housing and infrastructure versus nature restoration.
- **Ensuring local flexibility:** Adapting national priorities to diverse regional needs without imposing restrictive measures.
- **Funding & Resources:** Providing adequate support for landowners and farmers to adopt sustainable practices.

The Land Use Framework represents a forward-thinking approach to land management, prioritising long-term sustainability without imposing rigid regulations. By empowering decision-makers with data-driven insights and a collaborative planning model, it ensures that England's land use strategy supports both economic prosperity and environmental conservation for future generations.

This Tamar Valley Management Plan has anticipated the Land Use Framework in its project design. Ongoing annual reviews of project delivery and future management plans should consider any significant recommendations of the Government's Land Use Framework once it has been published.

Climate Resilience

Delivering to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the UK Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy, we focus on encouraging Physical Changes and driving Knowledge and Efficiency.



1 Enable and encourage regenerative agriculture and forestry, sensitive agri-tech applications, clean transport, energy saving, retrofitting and new build Passivhaus design principles.

2 Improve data collection, analysis, reporting, applications of Artificial Intelligence and robotics technology for better decision making.

3 Influence national policy through contribution, engagement and sharing of best practice.



Climate Resilience: Physical Changes

£1,315,000 Total 5 Year Expenditure - Estimated



30 Year Ambition

Nature and People are entirely connected, enjoying clear air, good health and resilience to a changing climate and variable economy.

Targets & Outcomes

T6 By 2050, net greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced to net zero relative to 1990 levels.

T7 By 2050, the 549 Ha of Peaty soils will be fully restored to healthy ecological function.

T8 By 2050, tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) will be increased by at least 589 Ha (minimum 3% of total land from 2022 baseline).

T8V1 By 2050, hedgerows will be extended by at least 63 Km (minimum of total hedgerows from a 2022 baseline).

Guidance, Grants and Policies

Follow the QR Code to find guidance, grants and policies relevant to our Climate Resilience: Physical Changes Priority Projects.



Strategy

Mitigating and adapting to climate change. Support local action to achieve net zero at a landscape level, working with residents, businesses and communities, aiming to reduce emissions and deliver Nature based solutions. Enable Agri-tech applications, agricultural regeneration, clean transport, energy saving and property retrofitting. Engage partners, home owners and business owners. Encourage installation of solar panels, air source heat pumps and domestic turbines. Seek out grants and connect with communities through Parish Councils.

Measurements of Progress & Success

The level of greenhouse gas emissions within the National Landscape.

Extent of shallow peat under restoration in the National Landscape.

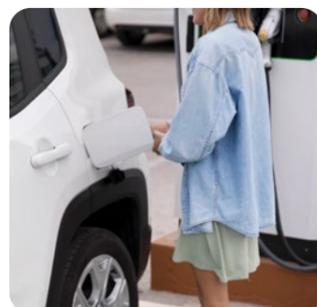
Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in the National Landscape.

Development of case studies of Agri-tech and agricultural regeneration and monitor take up across the Catchment area. Number of properties retrofitted.

Priority Projects	Partners	5 Yr £ Estimation
Tree and Hedgerow Planting Restore at scale to support skills and green jobs, attract private investment and help grow the rural economy, while sequestering and storing carbon into the future, and also providing natural flood management.	Farmers & Landowners Forestry Commission National Trust Tamar Community Trust 7 Volunteer Groups Woodland Trust Forest for Cornwall Plymouth & South Devon Community Forest	£200,000
Shallow Peat Restoration Explore potential to restore to support skills and attract private investment.	Landowners National Trust Volunteer Groups South West Peatland Partnership	£25,000
Nature-Based Solutions Research and develop additional Nature-based solutions to mitigate climate risks and adapt to increased drought and flooding events.	Cornwall Wildlife Trust Devon Wildlife Trust Environment Agency Westcountry Rivers Trust Tamar Catchment Partnership	£15,000
Agri-tech Explore benefits of sensitive Agri-tech and suitable applications to support farmers, market gardens and orchards.	Farmers Landowners National Farmers Union Tamar Grow Local Local Authorities	£5,000
Regenerative Farming Explore regenerative food growing techniques and silvopasture and agri-forestry, and introduce these to farmers, market gardens and orchards to achieve net zero.	Dartington Trust Rothamsted Research University of Plymouth Local Authorities	£5,000
Clean Transport Explore and support Partners to introduce electric and hydrogen based transport to connect the Tamar Valley with Cornwall and Devon, secure electric vehicle charging points, and an electric bicycle scheme.	Cornwall Council Devon County Council South Hams District Council Tamar Energy Community Transport Operators West Devon Borough Council Devon Task Force	£50,000
Property Retrofitting Rigorously encourage an increased pace of property retrofitting for domestic and business premises, consideration and implementation of new Historic England guidance on adapting Heritage buildings.	Business Owners Home Owners Parish Councils Tamar Energy Community Devon Task Force Local Authorities	£1,000,000
Energy Saving Engage home owners and business owners in an energy saving campaign, sharing ideas and best practice.	Media Parish Councils Tamar Energy Community Devon Task Force	£10,000
Waste Reduction Encourage aspirations for near zero waste by repurposing and reusing.	Parish Councils Local Authorities	£5,000

Climate Resilience: Knowledge and Efficiency

£175,000 Total 5 Year Investment - Estimated



Ambition
Entirely aligned with the National Landscapes Association, Defra and Natural England, delivering efficiently and effectively, with SSSIs in favourable condition, thriving plants and wildlife, carbon net zero and an accessible and inclusive landscape which is open to all.

Strategy
Improve data collection, analysis and decision-making, reporting and applications of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics technology. Strengthen our Partnership's delivery coordination, evidence gathering and collaborative goal setting for Nature, Climate, Place and People.

Targets & Outcomes
By 2026, develop a reporting tool using the Tamar Valley Doughnut Model.
By 2028, assess and review the SSSIs to ensure they are on track toward favourable condition.
By 2030, deliver a State of the National Landscape Report to inform the next phase of delivery toward 2055.
By 2030, deliver 5 annual reviews and 5 annual forums.

Management Approach
Evidence-led decision making, ensuring the most appropriate allocation of resources, avoiding duplication and coordinating across the Partnership.

Guidance, Grants and Policies
Follow the QR Code to find guidance, grants and policies relevant to our Climate Resilience: Knowledge and Efficiency Priority Projects.



Measurements of Progress & Success
A clear understanding of the National Landscape through enhanced Habitat Indicators.
Efficiencies and cost savings through the application of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics technologies.
Improved coordination of Partner delivery.
Rapid scaling up of activity and delivery throughout the Tamar Catchment Area.

Priority Projects	Partners	5 Yr £ Estimation
State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Commission a State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report in 2029 and use as the basis of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan No.7 (2030 – 2035).	External consultant	£30,000
Tamar Valley Doughnut Model Develop a reporting tool to continuously monitor performance of Tamar Valley National Landscape.	Doughnut Economics Lab University of Exeter University of Plymouth	£0
Annual Reporting Create an annual report and deliver an annual forum for the Partnership and key stakeholders to attend.	Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership	£10,000
National Forums Influence National policy through contribution, engagement and sharing of best practice, and continue to build the profile of Tamar Valley National Landscape.	Defra MPs National Landscapes Association Natural England	£10,000
Land Mapping Enhanced GIS land mapping and land ownership information for increased management of communications and coordination across the integrated landscape, within the National Landscape and across the wider Catchment area.	Cornwall Council Devon Biodiversity Records Centre Devon County Council Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall Plymouth City Council South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council	£25,000
Photography and Sampling Increase seasonal, fixed point photography to monitor changes in the landscape, including water levels, eDNA testing and conduct new sampling tests for water quality and Special Species habitat management. Conduct drone surveys to monitor changes.	Plymouth Marine Laboratory Tamar Catchment Partnership Tamar Community Trust Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum University of Plymouth	£100,000



Port Eliot and St Germans along the River Tiddy



Tamar Valley National Landscape

Introduction to Climate Resilience Projects

Climate Change Adaptation Manual (NE751)
Published by Natural England on 28 April 2020.

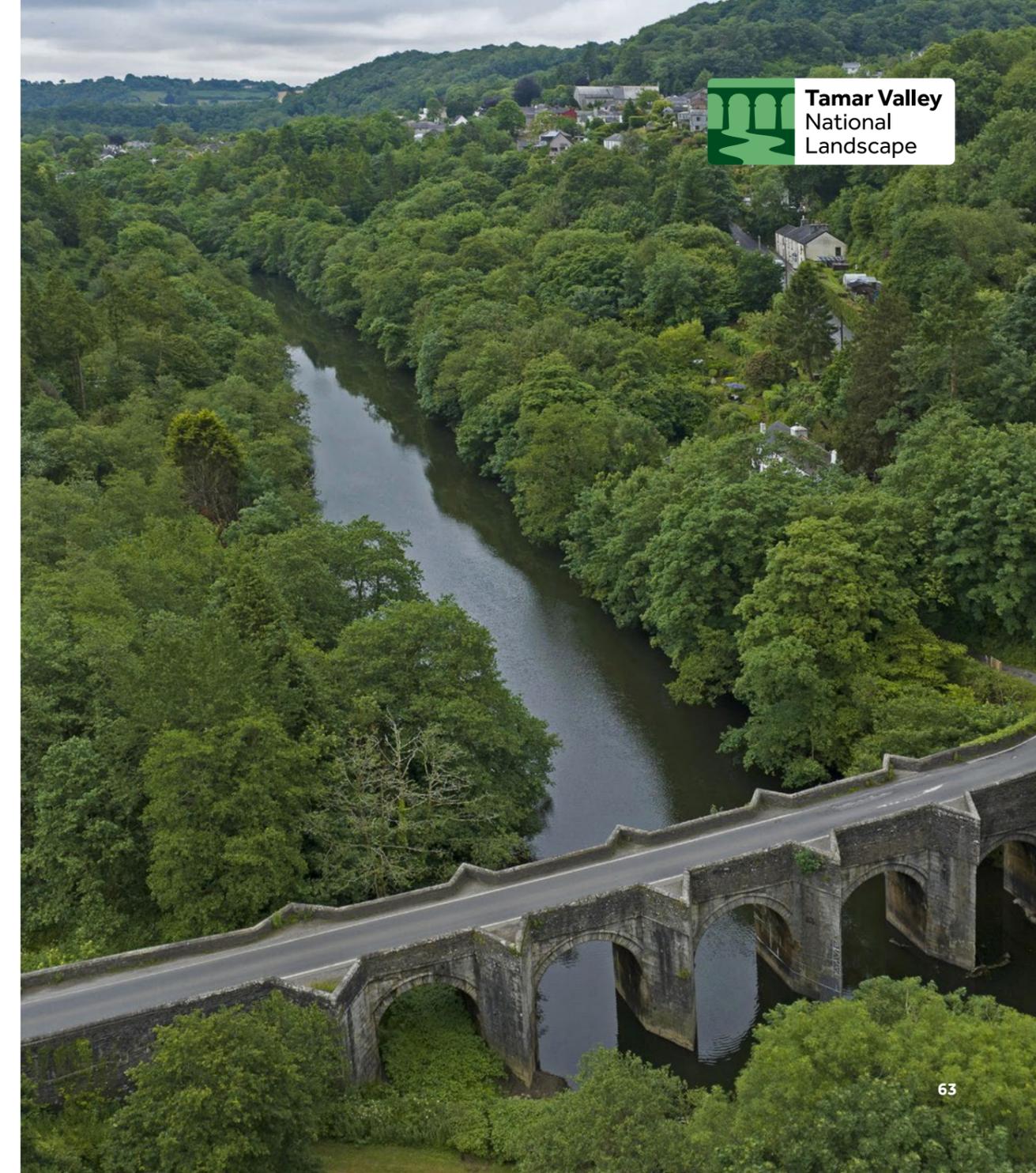


Climate change adaptation is a fast moving field and the manual will continue to develop and grow over time. This manual has been developed jointly by Natural England and the RSPB, with contributions from the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and a wide range of other organisations. The intended audience is those who are involved

in the management of land for conservation and amenity, and includes staff of local and national government, statutory agencies and NGOs.

Climate adaptation needs to be embedded into decision-making in specific places and circumstances. There can be a big gap between general principles and specific applications. Effective adaptation requires local knowledge and experience, combined with relevant scientific information and an understanding of practical options. It will be assisted by sharing good practice and evidence of what techniques have worked in particular places and situations.

A range of file downloads are available for specific land characteristics. Here we focus on those most relevant to the Tamar Valley National Landscape:



Tamar Valley National Landscape

Hedgerows

Climate change sensitivity: Low

By their nature, hedgerows are linear, and consequently are vulnerable to edge effects. Drought and storms are therefore likely to have a greater impact on hedgerow trees than on blocks of woodland. Hedgerows are also vulnerable to changes in the use and management of adjacent land, so any climate change driven intensification of agriculture could have impacts, both on how they are managed and from off-site impacts such as pesticide drift.

Adaptation Responses

Some of the potential adaptation options for this habitat are outlined below.

- The most important response to climate change is likely to be effective buffering against the impact of adjacent land uses, through for example the use of grass, uncultivated or low intensity margins, and fencing off livestock. This will become increasingly important whether or not there is an intensification of adjacent land use, as trees stressed by climatic factors such as drought or water-logging are more susceptible to other pressures.
- Regeneration of hedgerow trees and shrubs can be promoted through the management of grazing mammals and vigorous weed species, to promote a greater range of age classes.

- Maintenance of a diverse range of hedgerow structures through appropriate management, ranging from hedgerows that grade from tall scrub, with plentiful side shoots and foliage in the summer, to well-developed shrubs and tall sward grassland with herbs. Aim for a gradual gradation between the two habitats; the wider and more varied the structure the better.
- When establishing new hedges, aim to provide links to the existing hedgerow network and patches of semi-natural habitat in order to promote the movement of species through the landscape.
- When planting or restocking, aim to diversify the range of species and select species and provenances adapted to a wider range of climatic conditions. Where hedgerows contain tree species susceptible to climate change, consider restocking with more resilient species to establish the next generation of hedgerow trees.

Rivers and Streams

Climate Change Sensitivity: High

Climate change is predicted to bring about a range of changes to environmental conditions in our rivers and streams, including shifts in thermal regimes, flow regimes and associated geomorphological processes, and chemical regimes. Some of these changes are already happening and are likely to intensify. The patterns and behaviours of the wildlife associated with our rivers and streams will change as a result. A range of measures are required to help our rivers and streams adapt to these changes.

If, as projected, we get milder winters and hotter summers, the changes in water temperature will impact on a wide range of river species adapted to cool water environments, including plants, invertebrates and fish. Species at particular risk include Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and the freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*.

A consistent pattern in climate change projections is for a decrease in mean summer rainfall, which is likely to increase the frequency and intensity of droughts. This will place riverine biota at greater risk from low flows, poor water quality, and reduced habitat space (area

and depth). This could lead to increased competition and predation, thermal stress, siltation (due to reduced flushing), increased effluent pollution, and reduced dissolved oxygen levels in both sediments and overlying water. The species likely to suffer the most are those that are adapted to cool, fast-flowing waters and those that have poor powers of re-colonisation, such as those without aerial or drought-resistant life stages. Low flows could be exacerbated by increased abstraction during times of warm, dry weather.

Increases in flood magnitude and frequency will have both positive and negative effects. On one hand they could help rivers to reshape and restore themselves following historical physical modifications that have degraded riverine habitats. Conversely, local increases in flood risk to people and property may result in further conventional flood defence activity such as channelisation, dredging, embankments, and hard bank protection, involving further habitat damage. There is also the possibility that populations of some threatened species, such as freshwater pearl mussel, may be washed out by the scouring forces of extreme floods.

Projected increases in extreme rainfall events will increase the energy of catchment run-off, potentially generating enhanced loads of fine sediment and diffuse pollutants, particularly nutrients. Siltation and nutrient enrichment are key impacts on riverine biota, smothering coarse substrates and generating excessive growth of benthic and planktonic algae. This leads to declines in the many species dependent on clean, coarse sediments (e.g. salmonids and many benthic invertebrate species) and of species adapted to low nutrient and well-oxygenated conditions (e.g. freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon, and many stonefly species). Increased scour in rivers may partly offset increased pollutant loads by transporting pollutants downstream more effectively.

River systems are under threat from a wide range of non-native species, and some of these will have a larger potential range as a result of climatic warming across England. Many of these species originate from Eastern Europe and have already spread into western mainland Europe via a number of routes, most recently the Rhine-Danube canal, and some, such as the so-called 'killer shrimp' *Dikerogammarus villosus*, have recently made their way to the UK.

Adaptation Responses

Measures needed to help rivers and stream adapt to climate change are largely the same as those required to restore their health and integrity generally, through attention to natural ecosystem function. A summary of key measures is provided below – further information on restoring natural river ecosystem function is provided in Mainstone et al (2016). There is also the potential to lower water temperatures by providing shade from bankside vegetation and further is available from the Keeping Rivers Cool project (Woodland Trust 2016).

In the Catchment Area

The main priority for adaptation within river catchments will usually be to promote land uses and land management practices that maximise natural rainfall retention within the catchment. This will help to reduce run-off energy and associated diffuse pollution. Allowing more water to be stored within the catchment will also help to reduce the extremes of peak flows and low flows. Other priorities will be slowing the spread of invasive species and increasing the availability of cooler water by providing riparian shade. Some of the potential adaptation options for this habitat are outlined below.

- Improve the natural infiltration of catchment soils and percolation to groundwater by restoring soil organic matter levels and avoiding soil compaction and capping.
- Create semi-natural vegetation such as woodland and grassland along critical run-off pathways to slow surface water run-off and aid infiltration of water into the soil.
- Restore natural function of headwater streams, including ephemeral and permanently flowing sections – the health of these streams is vital to the health of the river network and the resilience of catchments to climate change.
- Make sure that crops are appropriate to the erosion sensitivity of the land in order to minimise erosion and siltation of water courses.
- Minimise nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) applications to crops to the minimum necessary for healthy growth, based on methods with high uptake efficiencies.
- Use low-nutrient livestock feeds with high efficiencies of nutrient uptake.
- Block drainage where possible and consistent with local agricultural land management objectives.

In the River Corridor and Floodplain

- Maintaining and restoring natural river processes constitute the most ecologically effective climate change adaptation measures for river ecosystems (Kernan et al 2012). Natural river processes provide the most characteristic and self-sustaining mosaic of river biotopes (Mainstone et al 2016), and provide the best environmental conditions for characteristic species to survive in a changing climate. The restoration of natural river features also has important wider benefits for flood risk management and landscape character. Some of the potential adaptation options for this habitat are outlined below:
- Manage water demand, impoundment and abstraction to minimise impacts on the natural flow regime of rivers.
- Make use of high rainfall periods to store water (e.g. using small-scale winter storage reservoirs for agricultural irrigation) in order to minimise direct river abstraction during low-flow periods.
- Where consistent with managing flood risk to people and property, free river channels from constraints to natural movement and self-recovery of natural morphology and hydrology. This may involve the removal of weirs, flood banks and hard bank protection.

- Assist natural recovery of rivers by minimising maintenance of the river channel by dredging, weed clearance and the removal of woody debris. Large woody debris, in particular, is a critical part of river ecosystems that is often absent from English rivers.
- Where assisted natural recovery is not possible, actively restore river channels, banks and riparian areas, to create a more natural mosaic of characteristic biotopes. This may involve measures such as bed-raising, bank re-profiling, and riparian tree planting.
- As far as possible, avoid creating new constraints to natural river processes, including weirs, hard bank protection, flood banks and flow modifications (e.g. inter-basin transfers).
- Plan land use and management with river movement in mind. Develop long-term plans for managing the river channel within an 'erodible corridor', using set-back tree planting where necessary to constrain movement beyond this.
- Allocate greater areas of floodplain land to flood naturally, to minimise the build-up of peak flows to downstream urban areas.

- Plan biodiversity management in the floodplain with natural riverine processes and river restoration in mind. Develop a long-term vision for semi-natural habitat mosaics that takes account of river dynamics, and modify site designations and conservation objectives accordingly.
- In treeless river reaches, optimise riparian tree cover to provide patchy light and shade. This provides the best mosaic of biotopes, an ample supply of woody debris and leaf litter, and provides buffering against rising water temperatures, shading the water and lowering temperature on sunny days. The Keeping Rivers Cool project (2016) has published guidance on improving the level of shading to help keep rivers cool.
- Where possible, restore natural biological connectivity within the river network and between the river channel and floodplain by removing artificial barriers (in-channel structures and flood banks). Where applicable, the removal of barriers needs to be set against the risk of speeding up the spread of invasive non-native species. This is particularly key in situations where there are native crayfish upstream. Generally, weirs only provide short-term protection against non-native spread, and so this would not normally be considered a long-term constraint to weir removal. Natural in-river barriers (typically waterfalls) play a role in the development of certain types of biological community (e.g. fishless headwaters) and should not be removed.

- Where removal of weirs is not possible, minimise their impact on channel morphology/ hydraulics and the free movement of species. This may involve reducing the height of the weir and/or providing bypass routes for as many species as possible, including weak swimmers (such as shad *Alosa spp*) where appropriate.
- Where needed, species under threat from shifts in climate space may be targeted for assisted migration, working in line with guidelines for species translocations.
- Manage pollutant loads from effluents to minimise impacts on natural nutrient status and to minimise concentrations of toxins.
- Plan the development of hydroelectric power schemes to avoid constraining the restoration of natural river processes, since the latter is the key climate change adaptation measure for river ecosystems. Development should be focused on existing impoundments that cannot be removed, and on in-line turbines that do not remove water from the river channel.

Traditional Orchards

Climate change sensitivity: Low

The species composition and structure of traditional orchards are determined by management, which provides a mechanism to respond to the impacts of climate change. Orchards are sensitive to the impacts of drought, warmer winters, and the potential for more frequent storms, but these impacts can be mitigated by changes in management and appropriate replacement and replanting. Although it may be possible, in the long term, to plant new varieties in response to climate change, fruit trees live anywhere from 70 to 200 years, or more, so there is a risk of existing trees either dying or being replaced because they are not commercially viable, before any new planting matures enough to create replacement habitat. This would also have a detrimental impact on the genetic conservation of rare varieties. Indirect impacts, such as changes to the economics of orchards and a shift from traditional crops to new ones that require more intensive management, may pose a greater threat.

Adaptation Responses

The influence of historic and current management on the structure, function and condition of traditional orchards provides a high degree of flexibility in designing appropriate adaptation strategies and managing change. Continuing, or reintroducing, low input active management of traditional orchards is a key adaptive response. Increasing the species and structural diversity of orchards at a site and landscape-scale will also reduce vulnerability. Selection of the appropriate species and cultivars for the site will also play a role in future proofing orchards against climate change. Some of the potential adaptation options for this habitat are outlined below:

- Ensure continued extensive management of orchards, with little or no agrochemical input, and using grazing rather than machinery to manage the understorey.
- Adjust grazing levels according to environmental conditions to avoid under and over-grazing and compaction.
- Minimise soil erosion by grassing-down alleyways. Alleyways are a feature of bush orchards rather than traditional orchards, which have permanent grass swards.
- Increase the age structure and variety of species within orchards through management and replanting.
- Consider selecting more drought-tolerant species, or provenance from the southern part of a species' range when replanting. This may not always be possible, for example if no cider varieties are able to be grown, then the cider industry would have to import fruit and therefore have no reason to conserve orchards.
- Select varieties with lower dormancy requirements. Many late-flowering, late-maturing varieties, especially cider apples, require greater cold vernalisation than early flowering varieties. This may conflict with the genetic conservation of rare, localised varieties.

- Ensure that all planting material complies with the EU plant passport scheme, which includes a requirement for freedom from fire blight.
- Establish windbreaks for shelter prior to planting trees and use strong tree support systems on exposed sites.
- Manage mature trees to reduce the threat of wind rock and wind throw. For example, encourage sustainable mistletoe harvesting from trees exposed to high winds.
- Plan for changes in the availability and demand for water by, for example, increasing on-farm water storage capacity or installing a trickle irrigation system.
- Ensure the continued presence of decaying wood within live trees by prolonging the life of old trees. Retain dead wood, both on the trees and where it falls.
- Develop contingency plans for outbreaks of new pests and diseases and other extreme events.
- Ensure regular monitoring of pests and diseases and adhere to best practice in integrated pest management.
- Consider the use of natural products and biocontrol agents for mildew control, and select resistant varieties in new planting.



Wet Woodland

Climate Change Sensitivity: Medium

Wet woodlands experience waterlogged conditions for at least part of the year, so are sensitive to changes in climatic conditions. Many of the tree species associated with wet woodland are expected to be relatively resilient to climate change (Gosling et al 2009, NEA 2010), but the nature of impacts will depend largely on how precipitation patterns change. In many instances, wet woodland is a successional habitat that will move towards dry woodland over time and reductions in summer rainfall and water tables are likely to hasten this process. Increases in the abstraction of water from catchments during dry periods will exacerbate the direct effects of climate change. Much of our wet woodland has been lost or destroyed over recent decades due to clearances and land drainage for agricultural production, and it remains susceptible to changes in agricultural land use. Increased river flooding may increase the value of wet woodland as a natural flood, erosion and water quality management tool, creating opportunities for habitat creation and retention.

Adaptation Responses

Rainfall is likely to be the main cause of change in wet woodlands rather than temperature. At present, there is significant uncertainty in the climate projections for precipitation. Even if the current projections of drier summers and wetter winters prove to be accurate, the overall impact on wet woodlands is uncertain.

As with other woodland habitats, there are likely to be changes in both the abundance of the habitat and the composition of species within it. In certain sites reduced water availability will drive succession to drier woodland types such as beech and oak (especially English oak on heavier soils) or to scrub habitat, depending on soil depth, soil water holding capacity and the change in rainfall seasonality.

The management of water availability and levels will become increasingly important in catchments in the south and east of the country. The resilience of wet woodland may be increased by promoting structural and species diversity and the management of invasive species. New planting can reduce the vulnerability of existing sites though increasing patch size and providing a buffer to neighbouring land.

Some of the potential adaptation options for this habitat are outlined below:

- Reduce the impacts of other pressures such as pests and diseases, pollutants, over-grazing and development pressure. Reducing deer pressure, for example, allows more natural regeneration.
- Remove sources of nutrient enrichment by increasing the area of extensively managed land around the wetland and implementing good practice throughout the site's catchment.



- Where water supply is critical for the interest feature, consider actions that enable water tables to be artificially maintained during the spring and summer, including the use of artificial structures.
- Actively manage woodland to ensure structural heterogeneity and different age classes among canopy trees, for example through rotational coppicing.
- Accept and encourage a greater mix of native trees and shrubs within the canopy and shrub layer. n Monitor and address potentially harmful invasive native and non-native species. This might include the use of surveillance to detect the arrival of species at an early stage (while they can still be eradicated) and identifying potential sources of invasive species in the surrounding area.
- Promote wet woodland as potential new green infrastructure in new developments and as part of larger wetland creation schemes.
- Where new planting is being considered:
 - prioritise areas with more secure water supply (e.g. spring lines or low lying areas closer to the water table) as they may represent potential refugia from the direct impacts of climate change;
 - consider the proximity to sources of invasive species when identifying locations, and avoid sites that could connect invasive pathways to areas of conservation interest;
 - give priority to making existing sites larger and reducing edge effects;
 - promote resilience through planting a range of tree species; options can be assessed using Ecological Site Classification.
- Where possible, identify opportunities to restore or create wet woodland habitats as part of flood management schemes within river floodplains. Within wet woodland, the retention of in-stream woody debris can help to enhance flood alleviation.
- Take positive steps in all woodland situations to increase the proportion and diversity of decaying wood throughout sites so as to ensure both resilience of dependent species and the replenishment of woodland soils' organic content and hence capacity for moisture retention and provision of other essential ecological functions needed by trees and other species

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Climate Change Sensitivity: Low

The greatest threat to woodlands from climate change is likely to be an increase in the frequency and severity of summer drought. There is a high likelihood that there will be impacts on drought-sensitive tree species, particularly on some soil types (e.g. shallow, freelydraining soils and clay soils), particularly in predominantly in southern and eastern England.

Stressed trees are more susceptible to insect pests and diseases, and the majority of insect pests that currently affect UK woodlands are likely to benefit from climate change as a result of increased activity and reduced winter mortality (Broadmeadow 2005). The impacts of both insect pests and diseases are therefore likely to increase with climate change. Deer and grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* populations are also likely to benefit from climate change, representing a greater threat to woodlands and limiting the capacity for evolutionary adaptation through natural regeneration.

There are likely to be shifts in the distribution of the main tree species across much of the UK and, due to the low species diversity of high forest trees in England's woods; over a long time-frame this may result in widespread change to the composition and structure of woodland.

The risk of wind-throw may increase if the UK experiences more storms or if tree-root depth becomes restricted by increased rainfall and water-logging.

The likely responses of the forestry sector to climate change may change the character of broadleaved woodlands as new management approaches, including the planting of native and non-native species in locations outside their natural range, are adopted. However, the more widespread adoption of continuous cover systems of management could benefit some woodland biodiversity through improvements in stand structure.

Adaptation Responses

Appropriate adaptation responses will differ across the country because the landscapes, woodland, what is expected of them, and the climatic pressures, differ. However, even within a single landscape, the critical factors may vary: changes in winter rainfall might be important for valley bottoms, whereas summer drought could be critical on adjacent southfacing slopes (Kirby et al 2009).

Management of existing woodland is likely to focus on the reduction of non-climatic pressures such as pests and diseases, increasing the species and genetic diversity of new and existing woodland to reduce the impact of changes in the abundance of single species, and encouraging natural regeneration (i.e. evolutionary adaptation) by reducing grazing pressures from deer and thinning to create canopy gaps. However, in many cases acceptance and management of change will also be a key adaptive response to climate change.

Measures that aim to reduce the impact of drought and ensure the availability of water are likely to be increasingly important in different woodland types across the country.

For new woodland planting and, in some cases restocking, species and provenance selection will increasingly need to reflect projected future climatic conditions.

Some of the potential adaptation options for this habitat are outlined below.

Existing Woodland

- Reduce the impacts of other pressures, such as pests and diseases, pollutants, over-grazing and development. Reducing deer pressure, for example, allows more flowering and seed setting of ground flora such as primroses, so increasing the potential for populations to survive drought years.
- Undertake management interventions to encourage and protect regeneration.
- Assess future suitability of species present on the site using Ecological Site Classification; assess options for species diversification.
- Accept and encourage a greater mix of native trees and shrubs through active management, for example by accepting a greater component of oak in the canopy of 'beech woods'.
- Increase the age structure and structural heterogeneity of woodland, for example by reducing coupe size and encouraging continuous cover forestry rather than large-scale clear felling.
- In woodland managed for timber, continuous cover forestry approaches may become more advantageous because they are thought to be more wind-firm, maintain a more even carbon storage, show lower soil carbon losses during harvesting, and promote recruitment by maintaining higher humidity levels (Kirby et al 2009).
- Consider blocking artificial drainage channels within woodland in areas predicted to experience increased drying out.
- Manage veteran trees to reduce the crown-to-root ratio, and improve protection for individual veteran trees.
- Undertake contingency planning for outbreaks of new pests or major new disturbance events such as wildfire. Critically assess the ecological role of near native species and consider accepting as a component of semi-natural woodland beyond their current native range, e.g. sycamore.
- Reflect management changes and potential changes in native tree composition in conservation objectives and guidance.

- Review objectives for woodland in relation to the wider suite of ecosystem services that woodlands provide. For example, outside designated sites and ancient woodland, changes in species composition, including the retention of non-native/exotic species, may be acceptable if the services that the woodland provides, such as urban cooling, visual amenity or recreational opportunities, remain intact.
- When determining the optimal management of sites, consider the requirements of key species such as woodland birds to ensure minimum patch size is retained.
- Take positive steps in all woodland situations to increase the proportion and diversity of decaying wood throughout sites. This will ensure both resilience of dependent species and the replenishment of woodland soils' organic content and hence the capacity for moisture retention and provision of other essential ecological functions needed by trees and other species.

New planting

- Assess options for species choice on the site using Ecological Site Classification (ESC) and an understanding of soil types present.
- On more free-draining soils in southern and eastern England, select more drought-tolerant species.
- In the southern and eastern parts of the country, and in locations prone to drought, use new planting to increase the patch size of small woods and reduce edge effects. This will help reduce water loss and also the effects of spray drift from adjacent farmland.
- Develop woodland and semi-natural habitat networks through planting new woodlands in targeted locations.
- Include a greater mix of species within new native woodland planting, including less commonly planted native species and, where ecologically appropriate and likely to benefit from projected climate change, near-native species from outside their current natural range should also be considered.

- Encourage a variety of species that can occupy the same functional space within the woodland ecosystem.
- Identify locations for planting where the direct impacts of climate change on the suitability of individual species may be less than in the surrounding region. These could include north-facing or more sheltered slopes and areas with more secure water supply such as spring lines or low lying areas closer to the water table (though these may be valuable open features themselves).
- Consider the potential for tree planting to assist adaptation in other sectors, for example as shading for livestock, windbreaks, and flood alleviation.
- Consider higher density planting so that woodland can be economically managed in the future to maintain habitat condition and continue to adapt to progressive climate change.
- When establishing new woodland or restocking, consider the planting of more southerly provenances of native species where this is consistent with site objectives.

- Improve understanding of soil properties and heterogeneity across the site, including the requirements of individual species and how these may change as climate change progresses.
- Retain/encourage field layer (minimal use of herbicides and mowing regimes) in combination with the use of biodegradable mulch mats during establishment phase to minimise soil water loss and buffer soil temperature variation which make a significant contribution to losses.
- Consider promoting natural colonisation to generate new semi-natural woodland adjacent to existing woodland, allowing locally native species to develop resilience through natural processes.

Lowland Meadow

Climate Change Sensitivity: Medium

The character of lowland meadows, particularly the wetter types, is influenced by the availability of water and the seasonal variation in the water table. They will therefore be sensitive to changes in the seasonal pattern of rainfall and the interacting effects of increased summer temperature on water usage. Reductions in summer rainfall and increased summer evaporation will put stress on wet meadow communities in late summer and autumn, and rain fed systems will be more affected than those dominated by river inflows (Acreman 2009).

As lowland meadows are actively managed, climate change driven changes to the economics of livestock grazing systems may also have a significant impact.

Adaptation Responses

Lowland meadows are actively managed through grazing, cutting or a combination of the two. Increased flexibility in both the date and intensity of these management options in response to both long term changes and seasonal variability in growing conditions will become increasingly important for maintaining the biodiversity interest of these habitats.

For wet grasslands, ensuring an adequate supply, temporal variation and quality of water is a key adaptation objective. In the short term, this is likely to take the form of restoring and maintaining ditch networks, but over the longer term will require planning at the catchment level to restore the capacity of catchments to hold, retain and maintain flows under both wet and dry conditions.

Successful adaptation will require both site-based and catchment scale solutions to be considered. Some of the potential adaptation options for this habitat are outlined below.

- Increase the flexibility of site management to respond to the increased variation in seasonal growing conditions. For example, vary the timing of the hay cut or the timing, duration and extent of aftermath grazing.

- Move cutting and grazing dates to align with climate driven changes to flowering dates.
- At the site level, take action to maintain or restore water level management, including actions to increase the water holding capacity of sites such as restoring ditch networks and reviewing the use of water management structures.
- Monitor and ensure the control of potential invasive species. Actions could include introducing biosecurity measures to minimise colonisation by invasive non-native species and increasing surveillance to identify the presence of any invasive non-native species before they become too widespread.
- Expand the area of lowland meadows by restoring semi-improved grasslands and re-creating lowland meadows on improved grassland and arable land. Where possible, action should be targeted at expanding and linking existing sites.
- Increase the structural heterogeneity of meadows in larger sites through varying the type and timing of management interventions.

Coastal Saltmarsh

Climate Change Sensitivity: High

Saltmarshes are particularly sensitive to the combined impacts of sea level rise, storm events and human responses to these, as they occupy a narrow strip between the marine and terrestrial environments. Saltmarsh can be lost due to coastal squeeze, where they are inhibited by hard sea defences and unable to roll back naturally. Saltmarshes exist as part of a wider coastal sedimentary system, so factors influencing the function of estuaries and barrier coasts will impact on this element of the intertidal habitat, with the potential for abrupt changes (Mieszkowska, 2010).

Relative sea level rise (taking account of isostatic changes), storm events, and changes in the availability and movement of sediment are already having effects on saltmarsh, and climate change projections indicate that this will increase. The impacts of a rising sea level on saltmarsh community composition and area are likely to be greater than those of temperature and rainfall. Saltmarsh communities are adapted to a transient environment, and where there is sufficient sediment may accrete vertically (Hughes 2004) or, where space is available, migrate inland (Mossman et al 2013), so there is potential for adaptation measures to reduce risks.

Adaptation Responses

Although saltmarshes are sensitive to climate change, provided they have sufficient sediment supply and adaptation space they have considerable ability to adapt to changes in sea level. Being a component of dynamic coastal systems, adaptation is likely to focus on maintaining the natural coastal processes that provide the sediment to support saltmarsh. Ensuring that sufficient space is available for saltmarsh to develop naturally and migrate inland, and identifying sites for managed realignment to compensate for habitat lost will be key. It may also include the restoration of the coastal flood plain by removing or breaching artificial structures.

Some of the potential adaptation options for this habitat are outlined below.

- Act to eliminate or reduce non-climate change associated erosion. For example that caused by altered drainage flows, contamination, removal of sediment by dredging, or wash from shipping.
- Manage recreational pressure to minimise erosion and damage to saltmarsh vegetation. Consider using sediment re-charge to reduce the rate of erosion of vulnerable areas of saltmarsh, where longshore drift of sediment has been disrupted by human activity (French & Burningham 2009).

- Minimise surface erosion through flexible management. For example, where grazing is appropriate to the site, adjust stocking density and the timing of grazing regimes in response to seasonal variations in growing conditions, and ensure that overgrazing does not reduce the potential for accreting sediment (taller vegetation tends to trap more sediment, Andresen et al 1990).
- Ensure that adaptation through the use of hard defences does not adversely affect coastal dynamics and increase the threat of coastal squeeze.
- Develop and implement management plans that respond to predicted changes along the whole coast, not individual sites in isolation.
- Anticipate and develop approaches to managing the landward movement of marshes by identifying and protecting priority sites for realignment projects.
- Ensure adequate space and promote policies that allow a continued supply of sediment (e.g. from eroding cliffs) for replenishing saltmarsh, through strategic coastal planning.
- Adjust the boundaries and interest features of protected sites as coasts evolve and aim to enlarge functional units.

Arable Field Margins

Climate Change Sensitivity: Low

The vulnerability of arable field margins to climate change is most likely to arise from changes in land use and agricultural practices. These may change in response to climate changes at both the local and global level, often driven by economic factors. Changes in the distribution and scale of arable production across the country represent both a threat and an opportunity for arable field margins. The direct impacts of climate change are likely to be less important in the short to medium term.

Adaptation Responses

Maintaining or expanding the area of land available for margins is likely to be the most effective adaptation response, although this would need to be considered within the wider context and the best use of resources. The potential expansion of arable cropping into some areas of the west and north could assist this, but changes to global food supply, national food security issues and other pressures on land could make less land available overall for conservation.

The protection of margins from chemical inputs from adjacent cropped areas will remain a key measure to ensure their ongoing resilience to climate change.

Microclimates may vary considerably and lower temperatures resulting from shading, e.g. by hedges or slopes, could help to maintain some species in situ.

Field margins are likely to play a role in allowing some species to move within a landscape and find new locations locally or as part of a larger-scale change in distributions. There are some caveats to this, in that some species have limited mobility, and field margin habitats will not be suitable for others. However, as we move towards a more connected landscape-scale view of agri-environment and other land use interventions, we are likely to see more specific and tailored use of field margin habitat to facilitate suitable mobilisation corridors.

Some of the potential adaptation options for this habitat are outlined below.

- Maintain or expand the area of land available for arable field margins.
- Ensure that margins are protected from agricultural inputs to adjacent crops.

- Where possible, locate margins in a range of locations to provide variety of aspect, soil type and shading.
- Maximise the diversity of margins to provide a range of habitats and to assist in the movement of species through the landscape.
- Select the most appropriate management options for specific objectives. For example, uncropped cultivated margins have been demonstrated to be the most suitable option for arable plants, exhibiting the widest diversity of annuals, perennials, grasses, forbs (non-woody broad-leaved plants other than grass), and spring and autumn germinating species (Still and Byfield, 2007), while tailored sown mixes deliver the greatest benefit for farmland birds.
- In planted margins, tailoring the diversity of flowering species to ensure the continued provision of pollen and nectar throughout the extended season.
- In planted margins, include species and cultivars that are able to tolerate and flower under hotter, drier summers.

Reedbeds

Climate Change Sensitivity: Medium

Reedbeds are highly sensitive to changes in the quantity of water supply, requiring an above surface or near surface water table throughout the year. Reedbeds are perhaps less sensitive to changes in water quality than other fens, being a relatively nutrient rich habitat, although the richest reedbed ecosystems are associated with water of high quality.

The combination of the direct impact of changes to precipitation and temperature and the indirect impacts of increasing demand for water leading to increased abstraction will pose a severe threat to reedbeds and other lowland fen habitats. Sea level rise and potential increased storminess will lead to increased saline intrusion on sites adjacent to the coast.

Adaptation Responses

Extensive reedbeds, as an early successional natural habitat, have been lost from most natural wetland ecosystems. Consequently, the largest and most biodiverse reedbeds are now largely found in modified, intensively managed sites. In these situations, water management and vegetation management are necessary to maintain conditions for the persistence of reed-dominated vegetation, which in a natural system, as peat accumulated, would generally succeed to different wetland habitats, or would be maintained by dynamic riverine/coastal processes. The maintenance of a high water table is likely to be the main adaptation challenge. Management of the reed itself will need to be flexible in terms of timing and extent to respond to annual variations in ground conditions.

Reedbed has suffered widespread loss due to drainage, agricultural improvement and abandonment over the last century, and the remaining areas are often small and fragmented. Measures to increase their size, restore more natural hydrological regimes, and connect them to other wetlands will play an important role in increasing the resilience of remaining sites.

In addition, significant habitat creation and restoration will be required to replace sites lost to saline intrusion at the coast. Opportunities will arise for the restoration and creation of reedbed as part of sustainable drainage systems and flood defence schemes, although the value of these for the core 'reedbed' species may be limited, depending on size and quality.

Some of the potential adaptation options for this habitat are outlined below:

- Seek opportunities to allow development of reedbed in its natural position through the restoration of large naturally-functioning wetland complexes.
- Ensure appropriate management through cutting or grazing, combined with scrub management where required, to ensure that habitats do not develop into scrub or woodland.
- Ensure management is sufficiently flexible to provide appropriate management under a range of growing and ground conditions. n Manage ditch networks to increase their capacity to store high flows and flood water, and to maintain water table height in periods of low flows.

- Increase the heterogeneity of habitats on larger sites through varying management regimes to produce a range of age classes and areas of dead thatch.
- Make best use of available water (and acquire new sources of suitable water where practical) to enable water tables to be maintained during the spring and summer.
- Identify and protect areas within sites where the security of water supply will be assured in the future.
- Where long-term water availability is unlikely to be maintained, revise the objectives for the site and determine the most effective management options to facilitate change. For example, manage the site through cutting to facilitate the transition into a lowland fen-type habitat, or allow and encourage scrub development and/or undertake planting to move the site towards wet woodland, depending on local priorities and conditions.
- Seek opportunities to replace or create reedbed when flood management schemes within river floodplains are being designed. Significant reedbed creation will be required to replace sites lost near the coast.

Climate Resilience Data and Reporting



According to the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) 2025 report to parliament regarding the progress in adapting to Climate Change, England experienced its wettest 18 months on record between October 2022 and March 2024, leading to severe farmland flooding and the second worst arable harvest in modern history.

This followed extreme heatwaves in 2022, with temperatures exceeding 40°C, resulting in nearly 3,000 heat-related deaths and widespread wildfires. Fire and rescue services faced a 500% spike in emergency calls, declaring major incidents.

Major Climate Threats

1. Nature & Food Security - Extreme weather disrupts agriculture, with over half of the UK's best farmland at risk of flooding. Climate change also threatens biodiversity and carbon storage, critical for achieving Net Zero.
2. Infrastructure Damage - By 2050, flooding risks will endanger nearly half of UK roads and railways. Heat will buckle rail tracks and sag power lines, increasing cascading failures across infrastructure systems.
3. Property Risks - Flood-prone properties will rise from 6.3 million to 8 million by 2050. Sea-level rise could put up to 45,000 homes at risk, while cities face worsening overheating issues.
4. Health Challenges - Heat-related deaths could surpass 10,000 annually by 2050. Ageing populations and heat-stressed hospitals will struggle to cope with rising temperatures.
5. Economic Consequences - Unchecked climate change could slash UK GDP by 7% by 2050, jeopardizing long-term growth and stability.

Slow Adaptation Progress

- Only three of 46 adaptation targets show good policy progress, while 12 score as insufficient.
- The National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) has failed to drive meaningful action.
- Some adaptation efforts, like the Adaptation Reporting Power (ARP), improve risk awareness but need stronger implementation.
- Water system performance has deteriorated, with leakage rates below sustainability targets.
- Poor government monitoring limits progress tracking and strategic planning.

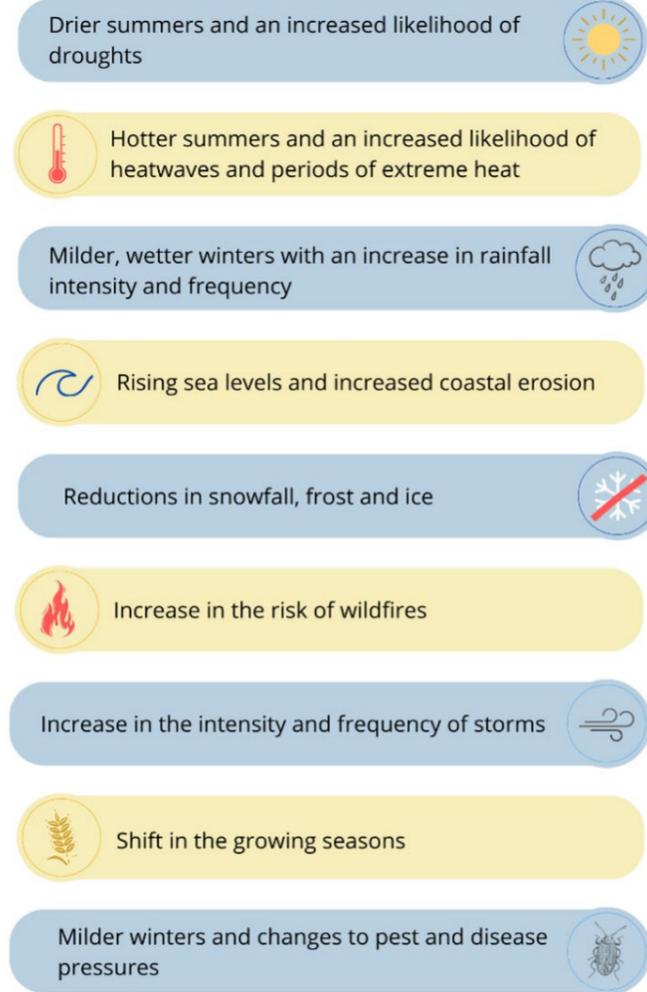
Call for Action

Climate adaptation efforts remain slow, with key initiatives stalling. Without urgent measures, extreme weather will worsen infrastructure failures, food shortages, health risks, and economic instability. Strong governance, enhanced monitoring, and proactive adaptation strategies are essential for building resilience. It's worth noting that Cornwall Council is one of the leading councils in the UK in declaring an emergency and adaptation planning. Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Area Energy Plan can be viewed online: Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Area Energy Plan | Let's Talk Cornwall and there's a summary report here: Cornwall Council

Data specific to Cornwall and Devon is available online: Adaptation Strategy – Climate Resilient Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

The section on climate projections in the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Region is particularly useful at 1.5.2.

The infographic illustrates the general trends in projected impacts of climate change for the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Region:



Carbon Reduction and Alternative Energy

The UK's energy sector is set for a major transformation in 2025. With a clear goal of achieving clean power generation by 2030, the government's Clean Power Action Plan outlines strategies for cutting carbon emissions, expanding renewable energy capacity, and modernising the grid, all while safeguarding energy security and economic stability.

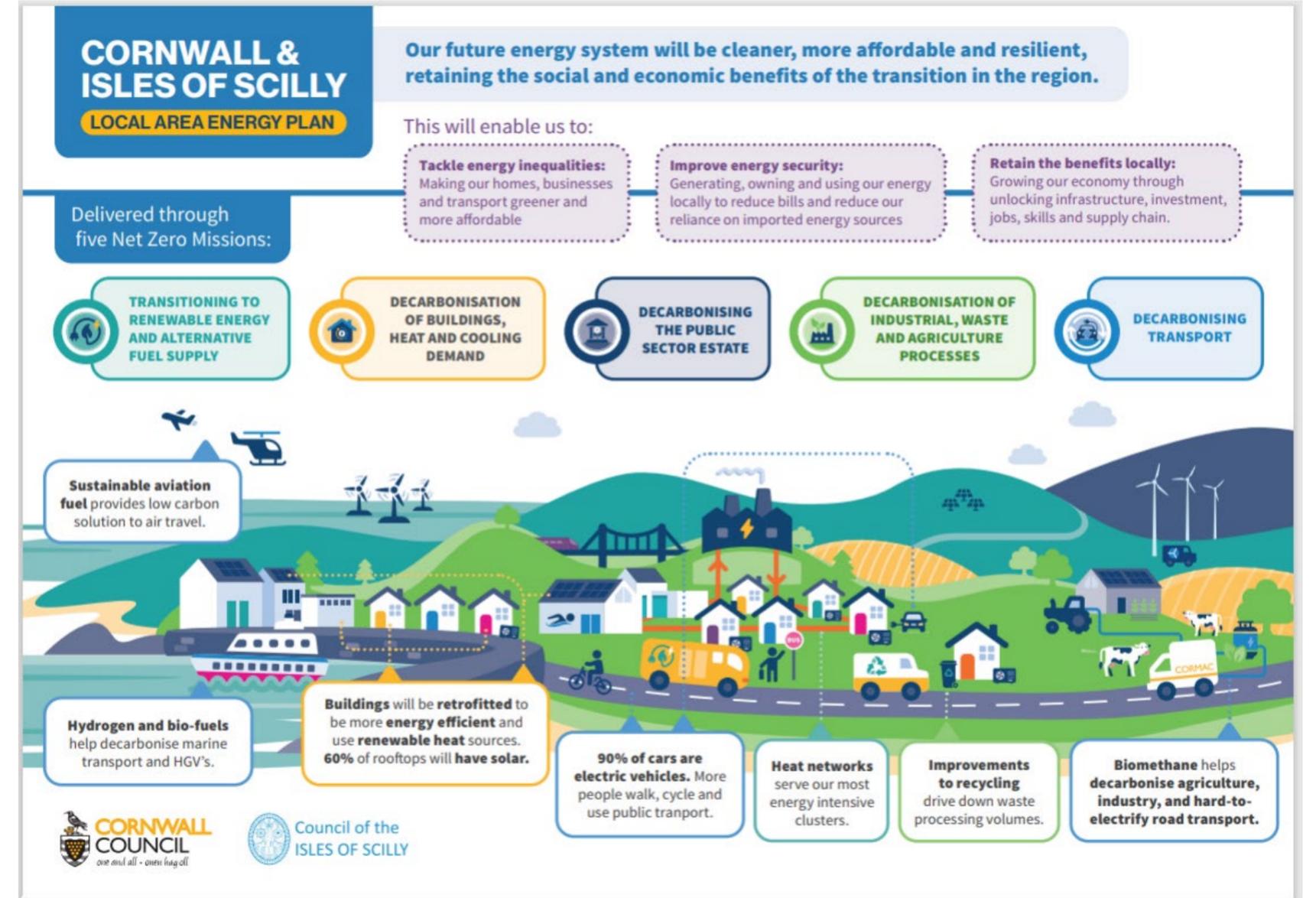
The Climate Change Act provides the framework for transitioning to a low-carbon economy. It mandates a minimum 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 compared to 1990 levels. Achieving this target requires balancing affordability, technological advancements, public finance considerations, energy policies, and international commitments.

Originally enacted in 2008, the Climate Change Act established the Committee on Climate Change and set legally binding carbon budgets that restrict total emissions within five-year cycles. In 2019, the UK strengthened its commitment, pledging to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050. To date, six carbon budgets have been set, extending to 2037.

The UK government's Net Zero target is at the core of its climate strategy, emphasising the urgent need to reduce emissions to mitigate global warming. Net Zero is achieved by cutting carbon emissions as much as possible and offsetting the remainder through carbon capture or reforestation.

Greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide, trap heat in the earth's atmosphere, driving climate change. Eliminating excess emissions is key to stabilising global temperatures.

Beyond direct emissions reductions, the government aims to cut emissions from public sector buildings by 50% by 2032, while fostering a sustainable economy through collective action from businesses and individuals. Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Area Energy Plan can be viewed online: [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Area Energy Plan](#) | [Let's Talk Cornwall](#) and there's a summary report here: [Cornwall Council](#)



Place and People

Connecting Nature and people with the experience and celebration of the Tamar Valley, protecting its natural landscape, heritage and wildlife, and educating, enthusing and inspiring enhancement of this beautiful landscape. Delivering Special Qualities 4. A remarkable heritage and 5. A landscape of artistic and public appeal.



Activities:

- NatureHub
- Events
- Ecotourism and Voluntourism

Trails:

- Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site
- Tamara Coast to Coast Way
- Turner Trail
- 127 km of Public Rights of Way

Strategic Planning:

- Design Codes
- 649 Listed buildings, 27 Scheduled Monuments, 14 Conservation Areas and 4 Registered Parks & Gardens
- Planning Control
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

Engagement:

- Art and Culture
- Interpretation, Signage, Social Media and Digital Media
- Communications and Marketing
- Fundraising



Place and People: Experience

£635,000 Total 5 Year Investment - Estimated



Ambition

A place to be. A place to breathe.
A place to thrive.

Targets & Outcomes

Tamar Valley National Landscape brand visible at major welcome gateways.
10 NatureHub events delivered each year.
5 Tamar Nature & Climate Champions Awards to Access for All funding allocated
Accessible for all.

Measurements of Progress & Success

- Number of volunteer days.
- Metres of accessible path as a percentage of total path.
- Number of accessible toilets and rest stops.
- Number of disability accessible parking spaces.
- Number of accessible gates and gaps.
- Number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment.
- Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the National Landscape boundary.
- Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved.

Strategy

Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment. Connect people with Nature and heritage through accessible and inclusive events, interpretation, shared experience, trails and volunteering. Engage the Tamar Valley communities, and reach out to the Catchment Area communities.

Management Approach

Build on the Strolls & Rolls programme with more accessible and inclusive events, engage the Arts Council England in a bid for a new Turner Trail, build on the legacy of Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme and grow volunteering.

Guidance, Grants and Policies



Follow the QR Code to find guidance, grants and policies relevant to our Nature First: Control and Protect Priority Projects.

Priority Projects	Partners	5 yr € Estimation
NatureHub Create a NatureHub arts and education calendar at the Tamar Valley Centre, offering regular art exhibitions, education workshops and training activities for business employees, community groups, schools and private hire.	Cornwall Wildlife Trust Devon Wildlife Trust National Trust Plymouth Marine Laboratory University of Plymouth	£25,000
Events Create an annual Tamar Valley Nature & Climate Champions Awards programme and deliver an annual Partnership forum.	Visit Tamar Valley Western Morning News	£25,000
Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Monitor the condition, seek funding for repairs and promote the heritage of the most prominent and least prominent assets.	Cornwall Council Devon County Council Parish Councils West Devon Borough Council Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Team Tamar Community Trust	£300,000
Tamara Coast to Coast Way Explore the dedication of the Tamara Coast to Coast Way as a National Trail, design the Quality Standards for ongoing management and maintain the pathways.	National Trail Association Parish Councils South West Coast Path Association Devon County Council Tamar Community Trust	£50,000
Turner Trail Create a new trail following in the footsteps of British nineteenth Century artist J.M.W. Turner.	Arts Council Cornwall Council Parish Councils Plymouth City Council Devon County Council West Devon Borough Council Tamar Community Trust	£150,000
Ecotourism and Voluntourism Encourage ecotourism and visitors to engage with volunteering during their stay in the Tamar Valley.	Cornwall Wildlife Trust Devon Wildlife Trust National Trust Visit Tamar Valley Tamar Community Trust	£10,000
Interpretation, Signage, Social Media and Digital Media Update and maintain all Highways gateway signs, interpretation panels and trail waymarkers with new branding, maximise use of digital and social media with the introduction of podcasts, games and videos.	Cornwall County Council Devon County Council Parish Councils Plymouth City Council South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council Tamar Community Trust	£75,000



Place and People: Landscape Celebration

£275,000 Total 5 Year Investment - Estimated



Ambition
Tamar Valley National Landscape has a strong sense of place and wellbeing, as a distinctive and globally important landscape of high visual quality with a protected green and blue haven where communities and wildlife flourish.

Targets & Outcomes
T9 Accessibility and engagement will be improved and promoted as for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.
T10 Nationally designated heritage assets at risk will be reduced from 3.

Measurements of Progress & Success
Policies in place to ensure the National Landscapes is taking positive action to widen the diversity of staff, boards and volunteers. Number and % of nationally designated heritage assets in the National Landscape to be deemed at risk. Reduce the number of heritage assets on the national Heritage at Risk Register.

Strategy
Celebrate community, culture, dark skies, heritage and tranquillity within the landscape. Improve accessibility and inclusivity, and the landscape is available to all. Introduce all landowners to investors and placemaking for integrated Nature, Climate Adaptation and Place enhancing projects.

Management Approach
Work collaboratively, prioritise digital and keep print to a minimum for specific audiences, engage with a wide range of audiences.

Guidance, Grants and Policies
Follow the QR Code to find guidance, grants and policies relevant to our Place
Makes People: Landscape Celebration Priority Projects.

Priority Projects	Partners	5 Yr £ Estimation
<p>Heritage Review the Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments Historic Assets at risk and create a plan for attracting funding for repair and maintenance.</p>	<p>Cornwall Council Historic England Friends of the Tamar Valley National Trust Tamar Community Trust Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Team Devon County Council West Devon Borough Council</p>	<p>£50,000</p>
<p>Design Codes Work with local planning authorities to ensure local design guides and design codes promote locally distinctive design that reinforce and respect the Tamar valley's sense of place and historic context along with other requirements such as energy efficiency and low carbon construction.</p>	<p>Cornwall Council Devon County Council Parish Councils Plymouth City Council South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council</p>	<p>£15,000</p>
<p>Planning & Development Influence Local Plan development to ensure special qualities are upheld and community needs are sensitively met. Comment on planning applications having the most significant impact on National Landscape purposes with particular focus on sustainable communities, landscape and scenic qualities, cultural heritage, natural heritage, tranquillity and dark skies using Landscape Character and Special Qualities as evidence bases.</p>	<p>Cornwall Council Devon County Council Parish Councils Plymouth City Council South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Team</p>	<p>£15,000</p>
<p>Grow Awareness Celebrate the art, communities, culture and beauty of the landscape with organised talks and walks, increased membership and community outreach activities to grow awareness and engagement with the Tamar Valley.</p>	<p>Drawn to the Valley Friends of the Tamar Valley Plymouth Octopus Tamar Community Trust</p>	<p>£15,000</p>
<p>Communications and Marketing Expand the communications and marketing activities to raise awareness of the Tamar Valley National Landscape, the NatureHub, events and volunteering opportunities, celebrating the landscape, its wildlife, Nature restoration and climate resilience.</p>	<p>Cornwall Council Devon County Council Parish Councils Plymouth City Council South Hams District Council West Devon Borough Council World Heritage Site Team</p>	<p>£150,000</p>
<p>Fundraising Work with Partners to generate additional income from donations, entrepreneurial activity, legacies and sponsorship for investment in the landscape, and collaborate on submitting bids for grants.</p>	<p>Friends of the Tamar Valley Tamar Community Trust Visit Tamar Valley</p>	<p>£30,000</p>

Natural Beauty and Heritage Values

In the UK and internationally it is established practice to designate historic, cultural and natural sites of national importance and significance in order to assist their conservation and protection. Sites are assessed against specific criteria and the designation includes a statement of the importance of a site. Although now branded a 'National Landscape', the Tamar Valley is still considered a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

In the case of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation, there is a single criterion of 'natural beauty', determined by a variety of approaches supported by nationally-agreed guidance (eg. Landscape character assessment, Natural England AONB designation guidance). For each AONB a 'statement of significance' sets out the special qualities of the landscape that make it worthy of designation. As appreciation of landscape is a cultural construct that can fluctuate with changing social values, the statement of significance is necessarily an expert judgement and is recognised as such in national guidance. In this way, it is distinct from the assessment of landscape character, which describes the landscape in value-less terms.

The Statement of Significance for the Tamar Valley National Landscape through its AONB designation cites 5 special qualities as the attributes of significance. These special qualities represent an expert judgement of what makes the area distinctive to the extent of being 'nationally important' for its natural beauty. They build on features identified through Landscape Character

Assessment and Historic Landscape Character Assessment, but also take account of the heritage 'values' that the features represent. Historic England recognises 4 such values: evidential value, historical value, aesthetic value and communal value.

'Integrity' and 'authenticity' are concepts central to all aspects of heritage protection, being recognised by UNESCO internationally and Historic England in England, and being enshrined in international conventions and associated guidance (e.g. World Heritage Convention, 1972) to which the UK is signatory.

Integrity: wholeness, honesty

Authenticity: Those characteristics that most truthfully reflect and embody the cultural heritage values of a place.

Thus, actions for the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the Tamar Valley National Landscape should achieve the conservation of the integrity of the whole area, not just specific locations, attributes, or features. Similarly the authenticity of the whole area should be conserved, as represented in particular by the stated special qualities of the site.

Designation of an area as a National Landscape and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, confers a duty upon relevant authorities to 'conserve and enhance' the natural beauty, as defined by the Statement of Significance. This means taking account of both the

integrity and authenticity of the natural beauty of the site and also of all the features (both material and immaterial) that represent those values. A variety of guidance is available with regard to the treatment of natural and cultural heritage in planning.

For example, Natural England, Historic England and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, created a joint statement to address the crucial and interconnectedness that heritage management plays on nature, habitats, species, geology, landscape, historic features, cultural connections, and the opportunities we have to connect with the environment. The joint statement hopes to support local partnerships to build resilient and beautiful spaces.

The government recognises that protecting the natural and historic environment is both a moral duty and economically beneficial. A thriving economy depends on a healthy ecosystem, and integrating conservation efforts enhances sustainability, community pride, and long-term growth. This can be seen within the 25 Year Environment Plan, published in 2018.

Using evidence-led strategies and natural capital models, better decisions can be made to maximize environmental benefits. By aligning funding and policy, we can ensure lasting positive impacts for nature, heritage, and future generations through integrated management.

History of the Landscape

The Tamar Valley's landscape reflects both natural and human influences, shaped by settlement and land use that follow the area's geology and topography.

Traces of prehistoric habitation date back 2,000 to 4,000 years, with features such as a Stone Age barrow on Kit Hill with: Neolithic c. 3000 BCE long barrow on Kit Hill, the Bronze Age barrows c. 200-1500 BCE, as well as Bronze Age territorial markers on Hingston Down. In all, Kit Hill has been shaped by over 5,000 years of human activity, making it one of the most archaeologically rich sites in East Cornwall. Though not always visible, these ancient elements can be identified through aerial views and archaeological mapping. The valley also contains Roman sites and strong Celtic influences, including crosses and chapels. In 936CE, Saxon King Athelstan established the Tamar as the boundary between Celtic Cornwall and Saxon England, a division that is still in place today.

During the medieval period, Tavistock Abbey, founded in 968CE, played a central role in the region's economy, controlling agriculture, fishing, and mining. The dissolution of monasteries in the sixteenth century resulted in the abbey's landholdings being passed to the Duke of Bedford. This era shaped the valley's rural landscape, with large hedgebanks enclosing small fields, particularly on the slopes—which remain intact today. The Tamar River was the main transport route due to the steep terrain and poor roads. Before the

Industrial Revolution, it facilitated imports of limestone, timber, dried fish, and cider while exporting local goods. Sailing barges from Calstock carried trade up and down the river, and lime kilns, small quays, and ferry crossings lined the shores, evidence of which still exist, such as Weir Quay. As a nod to Calstock's historic ferry trade, the Tamara Landscape Partnership reinstated Calstock Quay's ferry for river day trips.

The nineteenth century brought drastic changes with the rise of the mining industry. In 1844, rich copper deposits were found at Devon Great Consols Mine, leading to a mining boom with over a hundred active mines. Morwellham Quay became a thriving copper trade hub, but its importance diminished after the Plymouth-Tavistock railway opened in 1859. By 1901, copper resources were exhausted, and Morwellham fell silent, although tin and arsenic mining continued. The absence of coal prevented large-scale local smelting, forcing ore exports to South Wales coalfields. As a result, the Tamar remained a resource extraction site rather than a processing centre. At its peak, Tamar shipping rivalled the Mersey, with Morwellham Quay considered the second most significant port south of the Exe. Today, monuments of the industrial era—including engine houses, water leet systems, railway lines, and quays—serve as reminders of its once-thriving industry.

By the early twentieth century, market gardening flourished, especially in the Bere Peninsula and Tamar south of Calstock. Early growing crops gave producers a two-week advantage, with apples, cherries, strawberries, and fresh flowers transported from Bere Alston Station to Covent Garden. Cider making, brewing, and jam bottling also thrived. As the railway system declined, market gardening contracted, leaving fewer orchards in the valley. Much of the land reverted to agriculture, while in some places, woodlands regenerated over former daffodil fields.

The Tamar Valley's evolving landscape reflects thousands of years of settlement, trade, and industry. Though mining and market gardening have diminished, the valley still holds historical features such as ancient hedgebanks, ferry routes, and abandoned industrial structures. Ongoing conservation efforts aim to preserve its rich heritage while adapting to modern land use.

View the Historic Environment Records for both Devon and the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly via these two links:

- [Historic Environment Record \(HER\) - Devon County Council](#)
- [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record - Cornwall Council](#)

GORNWALL and WEST DEVON ~ MINING LANDSCAPE WORLD HERITAGE SITE



Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site

The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site encompasses some 20,000 hectares across 10 Areas of Cornwall and West Devon. Area 10, Tamar Valley Mining District with Tavistock, has significant landscape overlap with Tamar Valley National Landscape as well as aims and objectives around nature, climate, people and place in common.



This UNESCO designated landscape saw extensive mining activity throughout the Valley in the 18th and 19th centuries particularly, and the resultant combination of housing, Methodist chapels, chimneys and associated infrastructure has created a distinctive mining landscape with stories to tell of the people who helped shape the place. The WHS is defined through this range of mining related sites and features known as Attributes and many of these are to be found within the Valley. Cornish-type engine houses and related mine buildings are perhaps the most apparent of these, but the former mining settlements, mineral railways and quays on the Tamar are also essential aspects of the Valley's historic metalliferous mining.

By working together, we are promoting the sustainable management and conservation of this globally significant industrial heritage, alongside the other key features and characteristics across the Valley. The WHS inscription further strengthens the importance of the heritage in the National Landscape by recognising its international importance and provides additional means of sharing, reinforcing and promoting to a wider audience and securing this special place for future generations.



As a Partner organisation, we are pleased to work alongside the Tamar Valley National Landscape to help maintain the heritage that sits within the landscape and which in turn, supports the vibrant and diverse wildlife habitats, cultural heritage and natural beauty which can be found throughout the valley for residents, businesses and visitors.



A10 Tamar Valley Mining District with Tavistock

Nans Tamar & Tavistock

Nature and industry entwined

Set in a National Landscape (a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), the Tamar Valley encompasses a breathtaking landscape that is as diverse as it is historically important.

Stretching from the high granite ridge and exposed moors of Kit Hill in Cornwall to the lush, deep wooded valleys of the meandering River Tamar – and the farming lands of the Devon plateau beyond – the Area spans the border between Cornwall and Devon

Tavistock itself is unlike any other town within the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. The dramatic remodelling of much of the medieval town by the 7th Duke of Bedford during the mid-19th century was achieved with profits from his mines.

In today's tranquillity it's hard to imagine the noise from over 100 mines that operated at the height of its mining boom.



Tamar Valley National Landscape

People Protecting the Landscape

Help to look after our Protected Landscape:

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available
- take your litter home and leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- bag and bin any dog poo in any public waste bin or take it home
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance. Leave rocks, stone, plants and trees as you find them and take care not to disturb wildlife, including birds that nest on the ground.
- Do not disturb ruins or historic sites - our heritage in the natural and built environment is important.



Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan No.6 2025 - 2030

Planning, Legislation and Policy Considerations

The distinctive character of Tamar Valley National Landscape is the result of the action & interaction of natural and/or human factors and historic settlement and industry have shaped the Valley and contribute to its special qualities.

Key Themes of Importance:

1. Rare Valley and Water Landscape

The Tamar and its tributaries represent an exceptional lowland river system. Shaped by ice age processes, the area offers dramatic landform contrasts within a few miles, yet retains a unified character through its rivers, ancient oak woodlands, and rolling hills.

2. High Visual Quality

The landscape blends estuaries, woodlands, farmlands, and historic industrial sites. Viaducts span wide open waters, pastel-coloured homes dot the riverbanks, and medieval bridges connect a timeless countryside. Tides, changing light, and seasonal weather patterns enhance its beauty.

3. Unique Wildlife Resource

The Tamar is vital for international bird migration and conservation, with key habitats like unpolluted tidal mudflats, salt marshes, and ancient woodlands. Increasing urbanization, pollution, and recreational pressures threaten its ecological significance.

4. Remarkable Heritage

The valley showcases centuries of layered history. Hill forts, mines, lime kilns, and estates reflect the changing economic landscape, from early industries to 19th-century mining heritage and market gardening traditions. These elements enrich both historical and artistic interpretations of the area.

5. Artistic and Public Appeal

The Tamar Valley's romantic image has inspired artists for centuries, from Turner's paintings to modern creatives. Its identity as Cornwall's historical borderland adds to its mystique, attracting visitors seeking its scenic beauty, cultural heritage, and recreational experiences.

Preserving the Landscape

The Tamar Valley's designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is vital in protecting its rare and valuable attributes. Strong planning and conservation policies must guide future development to maintain its scenic, ecological, and cultural integrity while addressing modern challenges of climate change and meeting the needs of its communities. Local authorities and conservation groups have a responsibility to ensure the valley's enduring beauty for future generations.



Management Strategy and Neighbourhood Plans

Due to the legally protected status of National Landscapes within the Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, land within nationally designated AONBs must be treated differently from land outside, as it has the highest status of landscape protection. Further to this, the Government has confirmed that in the decision-making process, great weight must be placed on the primary purpose of National Landscapes, being the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. Accordingly, the Government has also confirmed within the plan-making process that there should be a strategic approach to AONBs;

- to plan positively for their conservation and enhancement
- to consider and reference National Landscape Management Plans
- to limit the scale and context of development within the designated landscape and sensitively handle development within its setting
- to direct development (in particular major development) to land of lesser environmental value outside the National Landscape area.

There are 7 Neighbourhood Development Plans at Bere Peninsula, Landrake, Landulph, Calstock, Rame Peninsula, Saltash and Stoke Climsland. Links to these plans are provided within the Tamar Valley National Landscape website. It is essential these are reviewed in the event of any Planning Consent sought within the area and due consideration given to their requirements.

Where available, population profiles are provided within several of the documents. Where it has been possible to do so, alignment of Policies has been achieved with those of the Tamar Valley National Landscape.



Development in the Tamar Valley

The Tamar Valley landscape is a versatile landscape, which has been much affected by change in the last 150 years. There is no reason why future change should be to the detriment of the landscape, if guided and directed by appropriate planning, conservation and land management policies. Nonetheless, a number of the current forces for change do give cause for concern, and will need to be addressed. The Forces for Change (see page 23) must be considered and further loss or degradation of Nature and historical assets must be halted. The following changes, in particular, could have a significant adverse effect on the outstanding scenic features of the valleys:

- Any further loss of old orchards, hedgebanks, flower fields, salt-marsh or water meadows, which are among the area's most distinctive features;
- Further intensification of farmland or clearance and coniferisation of valley-side woodlands;
- Large-scale tourism development, such as caravan parks, golf courses, holiday villages or country clubs – especially if sited on the open ridges and valley sides;
- Fragmentation of landholding, which may affect the woodlands of the upper Tamar, and the urban fringe areas near Plymouth and Saltash in particular;

- Insensitive, large-scale waterside development, such as marinas within the estuaries and middle valleys, and increasing use of the waterways by noisy and fast boats;
- The continuing deterioration of the industrial heritage;
- Increased pressure for large-scale housing development, especially in association with proposed road improvements and a possible new Tamar bridge;
- Other major developments such as transmission lines, wind farms, barrages, new mines or quarries.

A vision for the future of the Tamar Valley landscape must address these issues in a positive way, permitting appropriate development within the area, whilst at the same time conserving and enhancing its distinctive character and outstanding qualities. It must consider:

- How to ensure that farm, woodland and estate managers have the resources to conserve the landscape and wildlife interests of the area;
- How to best tackle the conservation and restoration of the orchards and the industrial archaeology;

- How to conserve the existing character of the valley sides, quays and waterside, which are visually very vulnerable to change;
- How to accommodate appropriate tourism in ways that are both sympathetic to the character of the landscape and help to maintain local communities;
- How to manage countryside recreation while enhancing the unique qualities of the area;
- How to improve the existing landscape, for example by new planting around settlements, screening of mineral workings, and undergrounding of overhead electricity and telephone lines;
- How to resist or redirect any major new housing developments that constitute a real threat to the National Landscape;
- How to ensure the best possible siting and design of any new road, bridge or other large-scale developments that may need to be accommodated if judged to be in the national interest;
- How to ensure the well-being and vitality of local communities.

AONB designation is the first step towards this vision. However, all those who have an interest in the area – local authorities, farmers, landowners and local residents – have an important role to play.



The Environmental Legislation and Requirements

National Landscapes are designated as AONBs by the Government for the purpose of ensuring that the special qualities of the finest landscapes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are conserved and enhanced. The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, as confirmed by Section 82 of the CRoW Act. Section 85 of the Act contains the revised duty on all relevant authorities to seek to further the purposes of the designation in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect land in AONBs. Sections 88 and 89 of the Act state that each Local Authority and Conservation Board shall prepare and publish a Management Plan for their AONB which should then be reviewed at intervals of no more than 5 years. Management Plans are adopted statutory policy of the Local Authority. The Government has confirmed that the landscape qualities of National Landscapes and National Parks are equivalent, so the protection given by the land use planning system to natural beauty in both types of area should also be equivalent.

The AONB designation is also of international importance, recognised as a Category V Protected Landscape by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

These environmental laws and rules place requirements and additional responsibilities on local authorities and the planning system;

- National Landscapes are defined within the EIA Regulations for specific consideration as a “sensitive area”;
- The CRoW Act Section 85 Duty of Regard requires all public bodies, down to parish council level, to consider the National Landscapes nationally protected status in any land use related decisions. This includes planning applications and the formulation of Local and Neighbourhood Plans,
- National Landscape Management Plans have been recognised to form a ‘material consideration’ in the planning decision making process,
- Land within National Landscapes is recognised differently under the Town and Country Planning Act as Article 2(3) land (which for example restricts certain permitted development rights).
- South West Marine Plan statutory requirement to either be in accordance with (S58-1) or have regard (S58-3) for works below the Mean High Water Springs (MHWS), which affects the Tamar as far North as Gunnislake, policies aim to increase resilience to climate change, protect biodiversity and improve water quality.

However, despite these requirements, Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) should recognise that:

- Natural England is the statutory consultee for landscape related planning issues,
- National Landscapes (and the partnership and staff units) are not formal consultees but their local knowledge of the designated landscape and its wider landscape setting, together with the aims and objectives of the statutory Management Plan, mean that they can provide a valuable contribution to planning matters,
- National Landscape Management Plans are not part of the statutory Development Plan but are a material planning consideration and help to set out the strategic contexts for development and provide evidence on the value of the area.

While a local planning authority has a duty to seek to further the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty (as defined by, and the appropriate management of the area, being set out in the statutory National Landscape Management Plans), this is achieved through partnership with National Landscapes and by reference to their Management Plans as a material consideration. The official consultee is Natural England and any relationship with National Landscape partnerships (and staff units) is discretionary, although generally regarded as best practice and recommended by Natural England.



Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Under section 40 1(A) of the NERC Act (as amended), public authorities “must” also: (a) determine such policies and specific objectives as it considers appropriate for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective, and (b) take such action as it considers appropriate, in the light of those policies and objectives, to further that objective. Accordingly, the NERC duties carry significant weight in terms of why Relevant Authorities will proactively engage with delivering the Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan.

The Environment Act 2021 introduce a strengthened ‘Biodiversity Duty’ requiring public authorities (including Local Planning Authorities) to further the conservation of biodiversity. This original duty within section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act) was “so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of [the public authority’s] functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.”



Calstock Wetlands

Landscape Character Areas

In conjunction with neighbouring local authorities, a process of landscape characterisation has been completed for the Tamar Valley AONB. This has been undertaken by consultants with extensive local consultation and using a nationally approved methodology (Countryside Agency, 1992). The basis of the exercise was a desk study that identified fine-grain Landscape Description Units (LDUs) with strongly distinctive topography. These were then assessed in the field and amalgamated into Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) with a strong identity that could be described according to set criteria and summarised with a set of key characteristics.

Details of the methodology used and maps of the various LCAs* identified are available on a publicly accessible website, which provides a more robust evidence base for the planning process and will also help to establish a baseline for landscape monitoring in the future.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), an assessment of the predominant historic character of an area that regards centuries of human interaction with the landscape, has also been completed for the AONB. Although HLC types sometimes coincide with LDUs, they more often blend or cross over. Together LCA and HLC work as a core resource for understanding, describing and monitoring the landscape of the AONB. The Tamar Valley Landscape character areas are detailed in Annex 1.

Aesthetically it is possible to differentiate between four landscape zones, each distinct from each other:

The Estuary – saltmarsh, mudflats, low rounded hills and a feeling of tranquillity and wilderness.

Middle Valleys – steep sided valleys surround the Tamar and Tavy, covered in a mixture of woodland and intermittent areas of pasture.

The Granite Ridge – between Callington and Tavistock rising at Kit Hill to 300 metres with distant far reaching views.

The Upper Tamar – gentler classic lowland pastoral landscape, riverside meadows and larger farms.



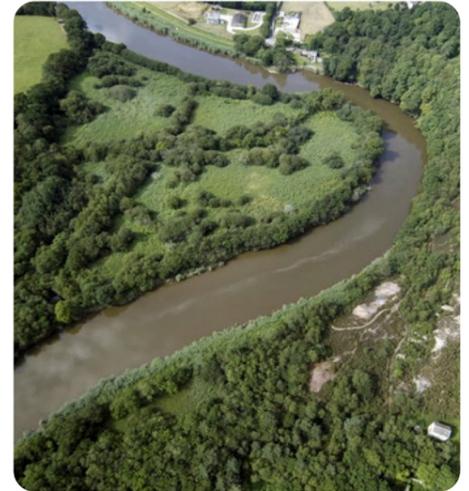
Tamar Valley National Landscape Decision Making and Monitoring

The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership have established a new decision-making and monitoring tool to provide indicators of change for important aspects of the special qualities and landscape character of the National Landscape and its setting, and in relation to forces for change.

The Tamar Valley Doughnut is based on the doughnut economic model informed by Kate Raworth, promoting a circular economy that turns away from growth toward a thriving economy. The Tamar Valley Doughnut has been designed to address the core priorities for Tamar Valley National Landscape and deliver to the Defra issued Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.

All of the projects and priorities within this Management Plan are contained within the Tamar Valley Doughnut. This model is intended to inform future management of the area, enabling a clear snapshot of progress of delivery. Launched with Management Plan No.6 in 2025, the Tamar Valley Doughnut is able to consistently monitor performance across any length of time and specifically to deliver the Vision for 2055.

The Tamar Valley Doughnut also considers and aligns with the strategic objectives and decision making processes of the 5 local authorities and wider Partnership.



Policies

Proposals within the Tamar Valley National Landscape should demonstrate how they both conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the designated landscape (having regard to all factors contributing to natural beauty, identified special qualities, objectives and policies of this Management Plan and relevant Landscape Character Assessments). Clear differentiation should be provided between any measures proposed to mitigate/compensate for harm and those specific measures designed to conserve and enhance.

Landscape Character and Scenic Qualities

LCSQ1 Proposals should individually, and cumulatively, conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character, built environment and scenic qualities of the Tamar Valley National Landscape and its setting, reinforcing the special qualities and distinctive characteristics identified in the Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan, Landscape Character Assessments and key views (including those into, and out of, the National Landscape) with particular regard to landscape sensitivity and capacity.

LCSQ2 When evaluating impact on views and scenic qualities, assessments (in particular Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments) should acknowledge (where relevant) visual receptors on the water due to the recreational value of this rare river valley and water landscape.

LCSQ3 Proposals within the designated landscape and its setting shall maintain, and where possible increase, levels of tranquillity (having regard to the perceptual qualities of the landscape, including aural and visual components) and safeguard and increase, and not diminish, dark skies within the Tamar Valley National Landscape to ensure these special qualities are conserved and enhanced, achieving dark sky levels closer to the Devon average at 36%.

LCSQ4 Proposals should represent sustainable development and follow a landscape-led approach* to ensure they provide a contextual response to their specific setting within the designated landscape clearly addressing natural resources, special qualities, valued features and locally characteristic forms of development in terms of scale, massing, form, architectural treatments, distinctiveness, respect to local heritage, biodiversity and other key attributes of the local landscapes. Development shall respect the sparsely settled character of the Tamar Valley National landscape and the rural tranquillity.

LCSQ5 The National Landscape will resist all infrastructure development which degrades the landscape character.

LCSQ6 Opportunities will be taken to strengthen landscape character by improving the condition of existing landscape features identified as being in poor condition and reinstating landscape features identified as missing or fragmented.

LCSQ7 The National Landscape Partnership will engage with Natural England to review the boundary of the designated area and its setting within the Tamar Catchment Area, taking into consideration the new Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework and needs for long term restoration of Nature.

LCSQ8 The National Landscape Partnership will pursue net gain for Special Qualities and natural beauty.

*A 'landscape-led approach' which means designed, located and implemented in a way that it positively contributes to the purpose of National Landscape designation.

Policies

Historic Environment and Local Distinctiveness

HELD1 Proposals that are likely to impact on the historic environment and remarkable heritage of the Tamar Valley National Landscape (including World Heritage Sites) should have regard to the assets and their setting, seeking opportunities to conserve and enhance them. This will include heritage features of the landscape and built environment identified within the special qualities of the Tamar Valley and the relationship between these features and their landscape/townscape setting

HELD2 Encourage communities to record elements of their undesignated local heritage, support projects that increase awareness and understanding of those assets, and encourage their inclusion in the Historic Environment Record and propose new designations where appropriate.

HELD3 Further develop the body of knowledge regarding the full breadth of the heritage represented within the National Landscape, from prehistory to the present day, so as to improve and extend the understanding of local distinctiveness.

HELD4 The Partnership will continue to actively protect and enhance all aspects of the historic environment and their setting, especially in collaboration with local planning authorities.

HELD5 Work with Historic England, landowners and funding bodies to target the protection of assets on the Heritage at Risk register.

HELD6 Ensure a legacy for past heritage projects, and continue collaboration between the National Landscape and WHS Partnerships and teams to achieve the purposes of the two designations.

HELD7 Promote the heritage of the Tamar Valley National Landscape as an attraction to visitors to benefit the local economy and to enhance enjoyment for the public, where this is compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

BG1 Biodiversity in the Tamar Valley National Landscape should be conserved and enhanced by establishing resilient Nature recovery networks across the National Landscape and in its setting. This should be achieved in accordance with the actions of the Tamar Valley Nature Recovery Plan.

BG2 Proposals that are likely to impact on the biodiversity of the National Landscape should have regard to identified special features and special qualities and be consistent with the Tamar Valley Nature Recovery Plan and Landscape Character Assessments guidelines.

BG3 Measures to conserve and restore biodiversity (including actions within the Tamar Valley Nature Recovery Plan) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley National Landscape.

BG4 All proposals should demonstrate consideration of the Tamar Valley Nature Recovery Plan and its identification of the 17 Special Species of the Tamar Valley National Landscape, be sensitive to their natural habitats and investing in restoring those habitats.

BG5 Support the identification, conservation and enhancement of geology within the Tamar Valley National Landscape and its setting.

BG6 Promote native species and awareness of impact of invasive species and biosecurity and be a source of best practice information.

BG7 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will support the identification, monitoring, protection and positive management toward favourable condition status of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, County Wildlife Sites and Geological Sites.

Policies

River Use and Estuarine Management

RUEM1 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will support a coordinated, strategic approach to improve access to the key reaches and view-points of the river with the aim to increase health and wellbeing, where compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation

RUEM2 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will conserve and enhance the biodiversity of waterside areas to maintain those special qualities which collectively contribute to the 'rare valley and water' landscape character.

RUEM3 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will support measures which improve the management of the rivers and their catchments, and which enhances their cultural, historic, environmental and economic importance.

RUEM4 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will increase awareness of rivers and estuarine environments and the opportunities these features present for sustainable development.

RUEM5 Engage with Tamar Estuary Consultative Forum, Tamar Catchment Partnership and Plymouth Sound National Marine Park teams to seek improvements in water quality, habitat and salt marsh management, and public access to the water along the riverside.

Farming, Forestry and Land Management

FFLM1 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will actively promote land management systems that are environmentally sustainable, economically viable and compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation

FFLM2 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will continue to promote the management of small woodlands and hedges, to enhance biodiversity, to safeguard the historic environment, and to improve the farming economy.

FFLM3 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will continue to support and promote short supply chains where this is compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation.

FFLM4 Enhanced Nature networks and connectedness, promotion of Nature-friendly corridors across the farmed landscape, including grass margins, rough grass buffer strips and positive management of County Wildlife Site

FFLM5 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will work in collaboratively to increase the number of people trained and accredited in traditional rural skills that will help maintain the Tamar Valley landscape.

FFLM6 Seek to minimise use of chemical herbicides in the management of Invasive Non-Native Species, in habitat creation and management, unless it is rigorously proven to be absolutely necessary

Policies

Access, Recreation and Tourism

ART1 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will lead the development of a spatial strategy for access, recreation and tourism in the Valley, working with public and private partners. This will guide the improvement of rights of way and transportation, the development of recreation and tourism facilities, and provision of services to promote health and education.

ART2 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will work with others to provide high quality access to the National Landscape and its special qualities for as wide a range of users as possible where this is compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation.

ART3 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will support tourism and recreation businesses in gaining economic benefit from the National Landscape where this is compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation.

ART4 The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership will promote the use of sustainable transport throughout the Tamar Valley National Landscape, working collaboratively with transport providers, visitor attractions and communities, where it is compatible with the purposes of the AONB designation.

ART5 Encouragement of Devon County Council in reinstating the rail link between Bere Alston and Tavistock.

Planning and Development

PD1 All proposals should acknowledge Land as a natural asset and valuable resource within the Tamar Valley. Proposals within the National Landscape should have regard to contributing to the economic, social wellbeing of its communities and resilience to climate change, in a way that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley National Landscape.

PD2 The cumulative impacts of development proposals on the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley National Landscape should be fully assessed. Major development should be refused in the Tamar Valley National Landscape subject to the tests set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

PD3 Positive measures designed to mitigate the negative impact of existing infrastructure, development and landscape detractors within the Tamar Valley National Landscape will be encouraged.

PD4 The scale and extent of development within the Tamar Valley National Landscape should be limited and focused on providing for the identified local needs of its communities. Sustainable locations and reductions in energy demands of building should be sought.

PD5 Housing need and affordable housing need within the Tamar Valley National Landscape should be based on robust evidence of a local need arising from within the designated Landscape. Any such development should be in sustainable locations with good access to services (reflecting the role and function of the settlement) where landscape capacity and opportunity to conserve and enhance the protected landscape can be demonstrated. Windfall housing proposals on undeveloped land adjoining, or outside of, built up area boundaries (or equivalent) should only be supported where there is robust evidence of a specific local housing need such as needs identified through a neighbourhood plan or affordable housing needs specific to a particular settlement and should be identified in the light of a "landscape-led" comparative analysis of alternative sites within, and on the edge of the settlement, to ensure that only the most appropriate sites are brought forward.

Policies

PD6 Support will be given to development proposals that encourage removal of visually prominent infrastructure, such as telecoms and power lines, and support given to developments for new less-invasive infrastructure that does not harm the landscape or the geological/heritage assets within the National Landscape or their setting.

PD7 Support will be given to additional mitigation measures as may be introduced at disused and existing mines and quarries within the National Landscape, and those affecting its setting that enhance the National Landscape. These measures should be sought through the imposition of appropriate planning conditions through the review of Mineral Planning Permissions.

PD8 Ensure that renewable energy developments are so located and are of an appropriate scale, such that they do not conflict with the primary purpose of the AONB designation either directly or through cumulative impact.

PD9 It is not considered appropriate to site new waste storage, processing and treatment developments within the National Landscape or that would be located so as to affect its setting.

PD10 Ensure that proposed developments conserve the natural resources of the National Landscape and, where possible, re-use building materials, reclaim and re-use water (grey water harvesting), include passive heating and incorporate appropriate domestic scale renewable energy use. In addition ensure that, where appropriate, developments are constructed utilising locally sourced materials and labour.

PD11 Support the use of local traditional materials in all developments and those that demonstrate highly sustainable methods of design and construction.

PD12 Ensure that where major and significant development is proposed within the National Landscape or its setting, that such proposals include, where appropriate, Environmental Statements that include detailed Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment and Historic Landscape Character Appraisal.

PD13 Developments that would disturb the tranquillity of the National Landscape or its setting, or that would generate significant levels of light pollution will be resisted.

PD14 Ensure that where development proposals generate infrastructure requirements that the LPA seek appropriate contributions to provide greater public access and connections to existing rights of way networks, promote sustainable forms of travel and that help to enhance or conserve the landscape and distinctive qualities of the area. This can be sought through contributions derived from obligations within Section 106 Agreements or through Community Infrastructure Levy and identified through early pre-application discussion with the National Landscape Partnership.

PD15 Ensure that the Local Planning Authorities undertake consultation with the Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership on both planning applications and formal pre-application enquires so that effective responses and advice are provided on major or significant development proposals within the National Landscape or its setting at the earliest possible stage.

PD16 Application of Biodiversity Net Gain metrics, habitat creation and Nature-friendly land management including native species planting, to ensure sustainable development leaves the natural environment in a better state than it is now.

PD17 Rigorously encourage new build designed from the outset for energy efficiency and low or zero carbon construction. Encourage sensitive integration of renewable energy technology, including solar panels, domestic wind turbines and air source heat pumps within all commercial and domestic properties.

Policies

Environmental Quality and Climate

EQC1 Strategic and evidenced-measures designed to mitigate against and improve resilience to the effects of climate change shall be delivered in a way that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley National Landscape.

EQC2 Renewable energy technologies, and associated infrastructure, shall be of a suitable nature, scale, design and location within the Tamar National Landscape and its setting and be compatible with the purposes of its designation. Any such development should adopt landscape-led principles to guard against landscape, visual and cumulative impacts.

EQC3 Proposals should reduce the energy demand in new and existing developments, in both location and design. Innovation and green building design within the Tamar Valley National Landscape should be landscape-led providing contextually responsive development that reflects the vernacular scale of buildings in the landscape and be well integrated into its setting within the designated landscape. Proposals that are suitably landscape-led will be supported where they do not exceed the sensitivity and capacity of their designated landscape and do not incorporate inappropriate amounts of glazing that would be inconsistent with the typical built rural landscape character and produce uncharacteristic impacts in a dark landscape or be otherwise harmful to rural tranquillity.

Communities and Culture

CC1 Work with communities towards an improved understanding of locally distinctive features, and encourage them to widely communicate those special qualities.

CC2 Assist and encourage local communities in the development and use of community-planning tools, to ensure that the landscape character and special qualities of the National Landscape are adequately protected in development plans.

CC3 Encourage and support local communities to celebrate their cultural identity and sense of place through events and activities that reinforce the cultural traditions of the National Landscape.

CC4 The National Landscape Partnership will advocate for sustainable, joined up public transport.

Communication, Education and Awareness

CEA1 The National Landscape Partnership will support the development of a coordinated volunteer service for the National Landscape, working with the Tamar Community Trust, Friends of Tamar Valley, National Trust and others.

CEA2 The National Landscape Partnership will work collaboratively to implement its communication strategy enhancing understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural landscape of the National Landscape, and working with other stakeholders as necessary.

CEA3 The National Landscape Partnership will advocate for sustainable, joined up public transport. Partnership will maximise the opportunity of its own and other's events to promote the purposes of the National Landscape. Through this the Partnership will engage the public in the enjoyment of the landscape and the facilities it affords, and to engender a sense of ownership.

CEA4 The National Landscape Partnership will support the development of educational opportunities that seek to aid awareness of the landscape, environment and communities of the National Landscape and are in line with the purposes of the AONB designation.

Priorities for action

Landscape Character

1. Review and refresh the Landscape Character of the Tamar Valley and identify trends and appropriate actions that need to be put in place.
2. Raise awareness and put into practice the use of Landscape, Historic and Seascape Characterisation to aid decision making and planning within the Tamar Valley National Landscape team and with key partners.
3. Develop best practice and ideas to help address light pollution, threats to tranquillity and creeping urbanisation

Local Distinctiveness

1. Promote the development of Building Design Guides for the National Landscape.
2. Develop a National Landscape-wide volunteer-led recording programme to identify the less recognised assets of our historic environment with support from the Partnership.
3. Promote Traditional Skills in the management of the built heritage and natural environment to sustain the local distinctiveness of the Tamar Valley National Landscape
4. Raise awareness of Conservation Areas, and encourage community-led conservation initiatives
5. Research designed landscapes and consider their contribution to the character and heritage of the National landscape. Identify priorities for action.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

1. Promote a landscape scale biodiversity initiative: prioritising woodland, hedges, heath fritillary butterfly, Greater Horseshoe bat
2. Review and refresh the Tamar Valley National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan against the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework within the first twelve months of this Management Plan adoption.
3. Continue invasive species project
4. Promote community-led parish biodiversity audits, within the context of neighbourhood planning

River Use and Estuarine Management

1. Continue to advise, steer and support the Tamar Catchment Area, with The Environment Agency, Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF), Dartmoor National Park Authority, NFU and Westcountry Rivers Trust.
2. Increase use of the river system and its cultural heritage as a focus for education
3. Continue to advise and support Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum TECF
4. Continue to work in partnership to manage invasive species through the Tamar Invasive Species Partnership
5. Create new areas of ponds, manage ponds, swales and ditches for wildlife, reintroduce water voles and licenced beavers, reconnect rivers to their floodplains, improve access for migratory fish, and establish mosaic riparian buffers.

Priorities for action

Farming, Forestry and Land Management

1. Support and develop landscape scale initiatives, building on the learning from projects such as Cordiale
2. Seek opportunities to support High Nature Value Farming to benefit both farmers and the environment.
3. Manage woodlands to ensure a diverse age and canopy structure, create open space and habitat, increase deadwood, employ low impact silvicultural systems and obtain Forestry Commission approval for managed woodland or create and implement a UKFS compliant management plan for unmanaged woodland.
4. Integrate sustainable and regenerative forestry practices, restore plantations on ancient woodland sites, use grazing, pig rootling or cyclic management, manage bracken with interspersed grassy patches, and protect and preserve ancient and veteran trees.
5. Establish new woodland, woody scrub and mosaics, prioritise native seed sources and natural colonisation, establish a diverse and resilient mix of tree species, establish and maintain trees outside of woodlands, restore and establish new areas of woodland pasture, parkland and orchards.
6. Reduce use of chemical treatments, pesticides and artificial fertiliser, review soil health regularly and reduce water run off through Nature based solutions such as hedgerow reinstatement, establishment of field margins and tree planting.
7. Maintain hedgerows that are tall, thick and bushy, trim hedges on a minimum 3 year cycle, encourage annual fruiting and flowering, maintain standing trees, manage flower-rich grasslands and connect habitats with wildlife-friendly corridors.
8. Enhance monitoring and management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, County Wildlife Sites and Scheduled Monuments, taking action to address their pressures and bring them into favourable condition.

Access, Recreation and Tourism

1. Continue to promote the value of the landscape to local businesses, including supporting Visit Tamar Valley and exploring the value of the 'Our Land' initiative
2. Revisit and develop the National Landscape Access Strategy and Action plan
3. Maintain and promote existing and new opportunities for recreation within the Tamar Valley National Landscape, with a particular focus on joining up of existing routes and formation of circular routes.
4. Develop and promote a series of 'days out' in the valley, paying attention to opportunities to promote local attractions and services and to the use of sustainable transport options where available.

Planning and Development

1. To influence pre-application discussions on major and significant developments within and adjacent to the National Landscape
2. To respond to planning consultations and offer technical advice where appropriate, in line with our planning statement and the planning protocol with Cornwall Council
3. To raise awareness of the importance of the National Landscape within neighbourhood planning
4. Reduce light pollution and increase dark sky through the limitation of housing development and application of sensitive lighting, encourage more sustainable energy installations on commercial and domestic properties, such as solar panels on roofs, wind turbines and air source heat pumps.

Priorities for action

Environmental Quality and Climate

1. Explore the role of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership in furthering the work identified in the Tamar Catchment Pilot project
2. Review the approaches available for the National Landscape to contribute to options for a low carbon economy.
3. Understand better the implications of climate change for farming practices and the potential impacts of such on the landscape and built heritage
4. Understand better the implications for sea level rise, and consequent habitat loss and mitigation proposals, and explore the Tamar Valley National Landscape role in delivering sustainable solutions.

Communities and Culture

1. Explore opportunities and priorities for continuing the Cordiale legacy of community-led activities.
2. Investigate the status of the provision of local services within the National Landscape and what role the National Landscape Partnership can best play to address the issues uncovered.
3. To develop the valley as a resource for promoting the health and wellbeing of its constituent and surrounding communities.
4. Continue to promote creativity inspired by the landscape.

Communication, Education and Awareness

1. Continue to provide and maintain high quality interpretation of the National Landscape.
2. Communicate key messages and information via a range of media to local and national audiences.
3. Create a Tamar Valley National Landscape education strategy, and seek opportunities for its implementation.
4. Implement the Volunteer Strategy, in partnership with Tamar Community Trust and Friends of the Tamar Valley
5. Investigate how the Tamar Valley National Landscape and local business can work together to their mutual benefit to promote the unique qualities of the Tamar Valley Landscape.
6. Continue to deliver the Tamar Trail Festival, within the constraints of available resources and partner priorities.

Early morning at Cotehele on the River Tamar

Applying the CRoW Act section 85 duty to 'seek to further the purpose' in National Landscapes (AONBs)



Guidance for Local Planning Authorities

National Landscapes Association, with the National Landscapes Planning and Placemaking Panel

Briefing November 2024

Purpose of this Briefing

This Briefing has been produced to provide guidance to planning teams (for example, officers and committee members) in Local Planning Authorities, on meeting the strengthened duty in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 (section 85) in any policy-making, decision-making or actions that affect Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England.¹ It should be considered in parallel with any future guidance from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on this matter.

The Briefing aims to offer practical, easy-to-follow guidance tailored specifically to plan-making and decision-making in Local Planning Authority (LPA) functions, and includes:

- ❖ **Legislative context and broad approach** – an overview.
- ❖ **Use of the relevant AONB Management Plan.**
- ❖ **Local Planning Authority decision-making process.**
- ❖ **CRoW Act 2000 s.85 duty in planning policy plan-making** (including Local Plans, Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment/Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment and site allocations, Supplementary Planning Documents and Neighbourhood Plan consideration).
- ❖ **S.85 duty in development management decision-making** (including planning applications, tree preservation order decisions, and enforcement).
- ❖ **Information sources** that have been used in the preparation of this Briefing.

¹ From November 22nd 2023, all AONBs in England are known as National Landscapes. The statutory designation remains an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) and is currently referred to as such in policy and legislation. For this reason, this document still uses the term AONB.

Legislative context and broad approach

- Section 85 of the Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) (as amended by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act² in December 2023) requires 'relevant authorities', in exercising or performing any function that affect AONBs in England, to "**seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**"³
- This is a **statutory duty**, which has been in force since December 26, 2023. The use of the word 'duty' in the legislation means that it is something all 'relevant authorities' must do; it is not discretionary.
- The duty is considered to be a **strengthening** of the previous s.85 'duty of regard' and seeks positive outcomes for the natural beauty, in its holistic sense, of our AONBs.
- Within the planning context, **relevant authorities** are the Local Planning Authorities, the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State (e.g., for called-in decisions), along with Parish Councils producing Neighbourhood Plans. The duty applies to all aspects of the development management process and the plan-making process: e.g., planning application decisions, enforcement, and decisions relating to planning policies and site allocations in Local Plans, etc.
- The duty is considered to require a **pro-active approach by the decision-maker**; relevant authorities are expected to be able to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the duty, and how compliance with the duty has been embedded in the plan-making and decision-making process. Natural England have advised that relevant authorities must take **all reasonable steps** to explore how the statutory purposes of the Protected Landscape can be furthered.⁴
- The duty applies to plan-making and decision-making 'in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an AONB', not only in considering proposals within an AONB, but also, for e.g., **affecting its setting.**
- It is important to ensure that **'to conserve and enhance' is treated as a singular purpose:** consider both parts together, in every relevant decision.
- The statutory duty needs to be considered **in tandem with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**, in particular paragraphs 11, 182 and 183.⁵
- Paragraph 182 of the NPPF (2023) sets out that **'great weight'** should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in AONBs, whereas conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are 'important considerations'.
- However, it is important to remember that 'natural beauty' is holistic. **'Natural beauty' is not just the look of the landscape, but includes landform and geology, plants and animals, landscape features, and the rich history of human settlement over the centuries.**⁶ It includes landscape and scenic quality, natural heritage (species, habitats, geology and physical

² Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 [section 245].

³ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 [section 85].

⁴ Natural England (2023) 'Natural England's addendum to our Deadline 9 response in relation to the enhanced duty in relation to Protected Landscapes including the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' ([Annex 2, para 2.1.3](#)). 'Protected Landscapes' in this document refers to National Landscapes (AONBs) and National Parks: Natural England's advice applies to both.

⁵ "Planning policies and decisions must also reflect relevant international obligations and statutory requirements." NPPF (2023), [para. 2](#).

⁶ Countryside Commission (2001) [Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A guide for AONB Partnership members, CA24](#).

geography), wildness, tranquillity and dark skies, and cultural heritage (including cultural traditions and the historic and other built environment that makes the area unique).⁷ Historic England make clear that the historic environment is fundamental to the distinctive character, sense of place and natural beauty of each AONB.⁸

- It is the conservation and enhancement of **all** this natural beauty (usually defined in the specific statutory AONB Management Plan) that is the primary purpose of designation, and that Local Planning Authorities must consider in discharging their duty under CRoW Act (2000) s.85.
- **LPAs are advised to ensure internal Local Authority legal teams are aware of the s.85 duty.**

Use of the relevant AONB Management Plan

- The Management Plan for the specific AONB is a statutory document, which will have been adopted by the Local Authority (or by the relevant Conservation Board) and which **'formulates their policy for the management of the area and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it'**.⁹ It is the principal vehicle for ensuring that the statutory purposes of the AONB are met, and is a material consideration in the planning process.
- Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the specific AONB will normally mean, as a minimum:
 - **conserving and enhancing the character components or special qualities identified in the Management Plan;**
 - **supporting the Management Plan Objectives, Policies and/or Principles (as applicable) as set out for each of these; and**
 - **following any Management Plan actions set out for each.**

Local Planning Authority decision-making process

Local Planning Authorities must be able to demonstrate that they have complied with the strengthened duty in any decision or action that impacts or could potentially impact on the AONB.

To demonstrate that they have sought to further the purpose of designation in making decisions regarding planning policies, site allocations, and development management (including planning enforcement), it is considered LPAs will need to:

- **Establish the facts about the natural beauty of the area, especially with reference to the statutory Management Plan for the specific AONB.** Identify what comprises the natural beauty, using:
 - descriptions of natural beauty, including Statements of Significance, description of key characteristics and special qualities, as set out in AONB Management Plans; and

⁷ The 'natural beauty criterion'. Natural England (2017) [Areas of outstanding natural beauty: designation and management](#); Natural England (2021) [Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or AONB in England](#).

⁸ Joint Statement on the Historic Environment in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, [Historic England website](#) (2022); Historic England and AONBs sign joint statement, [National Landscapes Association website](#) (2022).

⁹ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, [s.89\(2\)](#).

- the reasons for designation as an AONB.
- **Understand the key objectives in the statutory Management Plan for the specific AONB,** which give an indication which actions or approaches will further the purpose of designation. These objectives:
 - relate to the applicable legislative purposes;
 - are evidence-based;
 - have been agreed between local partners, in a process convened by the AONB team;
 - include, but are not limited to, national or locally apportioned government targets and outcomes.

AONB Management Plans are often supported by additional guidance documents that provide more detailed advice and position statements relating to subjects such as design, dark skies, rural roads and public realm, renewable energy infrastructure, and the setting of the AONB, and these should also be considered in the decision-making process, as should any Landscape Character Assessments / Historic Character Assessments that inform Management Plans.

CRoW Act 2000 s.85 duty in planning policy plan-making

The duty to seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of AONBs applies to the full range of aspects of the plan-making process. An LPA will need to be able to demonstrate how it has, throughout all stages of the preparation of the Local Plan, sought to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB. This includes at examination stage, addressing the s. 85 duty actively in responses to Inspector's Findings and in any proposed modifications to Local Plans.

Each of the following apply both to an LPA's own Local Plan work, including Mineral & Waste Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), and to the LPA's consideration of Neighbourhood Plans.

- **For setting the Local Plan vision and overall development strategy:**
 - Ensure the overall vision and development strategy would align with the objectives/principles/policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.
 - Identify how much of a district's objectively assessed need can be met without harming the natural beauty of the relevant AONB, particularly where meeting the need would require allocations that would not further the purposes of AONB designation (see below). (N.B. this may involve setting a lower Local Plan housing requirement figure).¹⁰
- **For decisions relating to the drafting of planning policies (all Local Plan /SPD policies, not just those policies specifically dedicated to the AONB):**
 - Assess the degree to which each policy would align with the objectives/principles/policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.
 - Assess the degree to which each policy would help deliver any actions/outcomes of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

¹⁰ As provided for by NPPF (2023) [para. 11 \(b\) \(i\)](#).

- Consider if the range and scope of the policies is sufficient to fully deliver the Management Plan’s objectives/action/outcomes, i.e. are any additional policies /policy areas needed? (In this regard, a stand-alone policy closely aligned to the Management Plan objectives/principles/policies is recommended, though this is not considered sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the strengthened duty.)
- If a draft planning policy would *not* align with the duty to seek to further the applicable legislative purpose (e.g. if it would conflict with any of the Management Plan’s objectives/principles/policies), then consider amending the policy such that you could confidently say the decision does seek to further the relevant purpose.

- **For decisions relating to site allocations:**

- Assess what impact the proposed site allocation would have on the natural beauty of the AONB, considering its scale, location and landscape setting with reference to the character components/special qualities set out in the AONB Management Plan. (In this regard, consider including a specific criterion regarding ‘natural beauty’ within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)/Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA), and within the Sustainability Appraisal).
- Consider how the natural beauty of the AONB might be affected, were the site to be allocated for development. Remember to consider the holistic concept of natural beauty.
- Consider whether this would cause harm to the natural beauty of the AONB. Consider the objectives/principles/policies of the AONB Management Plan. Natural England have advised that the strengthened duty underlines the importance of [avoiding harm](#) to the statutory purposes of Protected Landscapes.¹¹
- Ensure clear differentiation between any proposed measures that seek to *mitigate* or *compensate* for harm (e.g., like-for-like replacement), and those that *further* the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the AONB. Natural England have advised that measures that further the purposes are required [in addition to mitigation](#).¹⁰
- If the measures would have a neutral effect, consider what modifications would help [further](#) the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty.
- If promoting a site allocation would not align with the duty to seek to further the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, then consider amending or deleting a site allocation such that you could confidently say the decision does seek to further the statutory purpose. (For example, choosing *not* to allocate a particular site within or close to the AONB boundary could demonstrate compliance, where this results in avoiding harm.)
- Evidence how the LPA has sought to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the AONB in its decision, with reference to aligning with AONB Management Plan objectives/principles/policies.

¹¹ Natural England (2023) [[Annex 2, para. 2.1.3](#)].

S.85 duty in development management decision-making

The s.85 duty to seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of AONBs applies to the full range of development management decision-making, including considering applications for outline, full and reserved matters, listed building consent, applications for works to protected trees, and prior notifications, along with enforcement work on planning breaches. An LPA should also ensure that local validation checklists require the submission of sufficient, specific information to enable them to fulfil the s.85 duty in their decision-making.

The following apply to decision-making at both officer and planning committee level.

- **For decisions relating to planning applications:**

- Assess what impact the proposal would have on the purpose of designation. Consider how the natural beauty of the area might be affected, were the proposal to go ahead (remember to consider the holistic concept of natural beauty), and consider how the proposal would align with the AONB Management Plan objectives/principles/policies.
- Consider whether this would cause harm to the natural beauty of the area. Natural England have advised that the strengthened duty underlines the importance of [avoiding harm](#) to the statutory purposes of Protected Landscapes.¹²
- Remember that where harm is identified, ‘enhancements’ themselves, including biodiversity net gain (BNG) provision, are unlikely to be sufficient to align with the duty, which has the dual consideration of [conserving and enhancing](#) natural beauty. Also, ensure that any ‘enhancements’ within the proposal do genuinely align with, and help deliver, the objectives, principles and/or policies and resulting actions of the specific AONB Management Plan, by way of scope and location. Natural England have advised that the proposed measures should align with and help to deliver the aims and objectives of the designated landscape’s statutory Management Plan.¹¹
- Ensure a clear differentiation between any proposed measures that seek to *mitigate* or *compensate* for harm (e.g. like-for-like replacement), and those that *further* the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the AONB. Natural England have advised that measures that further the purposes are required [in addition to mitigation](#).¹¹
- If the measures would have a neutral effect, consider what amendments would help [further](#) the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty. Could any conditions attached to any permissions help to conserve and enhance the natural beauty?
- As part of this assessment, consider the degree to which the effect on natural beauty has been articulated by the applicant (e.g. through LVIA’s, heritage statements, ecology and arboricultural assessments, lighting statements and transport assessments); scrutinise the submission against the Management Plan in this regard.
- If supporting an application would *not* align with the duty to seek to further the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, then consider seeking amendments or refusing permission, such that you could confidently say the decision does seek to further the statutory purpose.

¹² Natural England (2023) [[Annex 2, para. 2.1.3](#)].

- Evidence how the LPA has sought to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the AONB in its intended decision, with reference to aligning with AONB Management Plan objectives/principles/policies. It is recommended that this evidence is referenced in officer reports/committee reports.

N.B. Consultation on planning applications with the relevant AONB team by a Local Planning Authority does **not** in itself constitute compliance with the strengthened duty. (Generally, teams will not have available capacity to advise on all planning applications within the AONB and will normally only be able to advise on the most significant applications). It is the responsibility of relevant authorities themselves to comply with the duty, and to assess and record how they have complied with the duty, in exercising or performing any functions affecting an AONB.

- **For applications to make a tree preservation order (TPO), or when assessing applications for works to protected trees (those with a TPO or in a Conservation Area), actively consider the s.85 duty by:**

- ensuring the impact on the natural beauty of the AONB forms part of the assessment of ‘amenity’ when considering whether to make a TPO; and
- when making decisions on applications for works to protected trees, ensure the impact on the natural beauty of the AONB forms part of the assessment of the amenity value of the tree or woodland and the likely impact of the proposal on the amenity of the area.

- **For enforcement cases:**

- Ensure the s.85 duty is built into assessment criteria as to whether it is considered expedient to pursue enforcement action on a particular breach of planning control within, or affecting, an AONB.
- Remember that s.84 of the CRoW Act (2000) sets out that LPAs have power “to take all such action as appears to them expedient for the accomplishment of the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty, or so much of it as is included in their area”.
- In considering the appropriate enforcement route, assess if the planning breach harms the natural beauty of the AONB, with regard to the Management Plan Statement of Significance and objectives, principles and/or policies.
- Consider if any amendments could help further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty. Ensure clear differentiation between any proposed measures that seek to *mitigate* or *compensate* for harm (e.g., like-for-like replacement), and those that *further* the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB. Natural England have advised that measures that further the purposes are required [in addition to mitigation](#).¹³

¹³ Natural England (2023) [[Annex 2, para 2.1.3](#)].

Information sources used in the preparation of this Briefing

- Countryside Commission (2001) Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A guide for AONB Partnership members. CA24. Available at <https://national-landscapes.org.uk/historical-papers>
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/85>
- Landmark Chambers (2024) *Re: section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023*. Opinion, 29.1.24 (instructed by the Campaign for National Parks). Available at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010062/TR010062-002426-Campaign%20for%20National%20Parks.pdf>
- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/section/245#section-245>
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- Natural England (2021) Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or AONB in England. Available at: https://consult.defra.gov.uk/ne-landscape-heritage-and-geodiversity-team/yorkshire-wolds-designation/user_uploads/ne_guidance-on-assessing-landscapes-for-designation_june21-1.pdf
- Natural England (2023) ‘Natural England’s addendum to our Deadline 9 response in relation to the enhanced duty in relation to Protected Landscapes including the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’. Available at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-006179-Natural%20England%20-%20Deadline%209a%20Submission.pdf>

If you require general assistance in understanding or interpreting a specific AONB Management Plan, please contact the relevant [National Landscape \(AONB\) team](#), who will be able to offer you further guidance.

About National Landscapes Association

We are a registered charity that supports the mission to conserve and enhance natural beauty in National Landscapes and other protected areas. National Landscape teams across the UK work to achieve a sustainable balance of priorities at the landscape scale. One of our key aims is to support and develop a network of ambitious National Landscape teams and partnerships that have a strong collective voice and a positive impact on the places for which they care.

About this Briefing

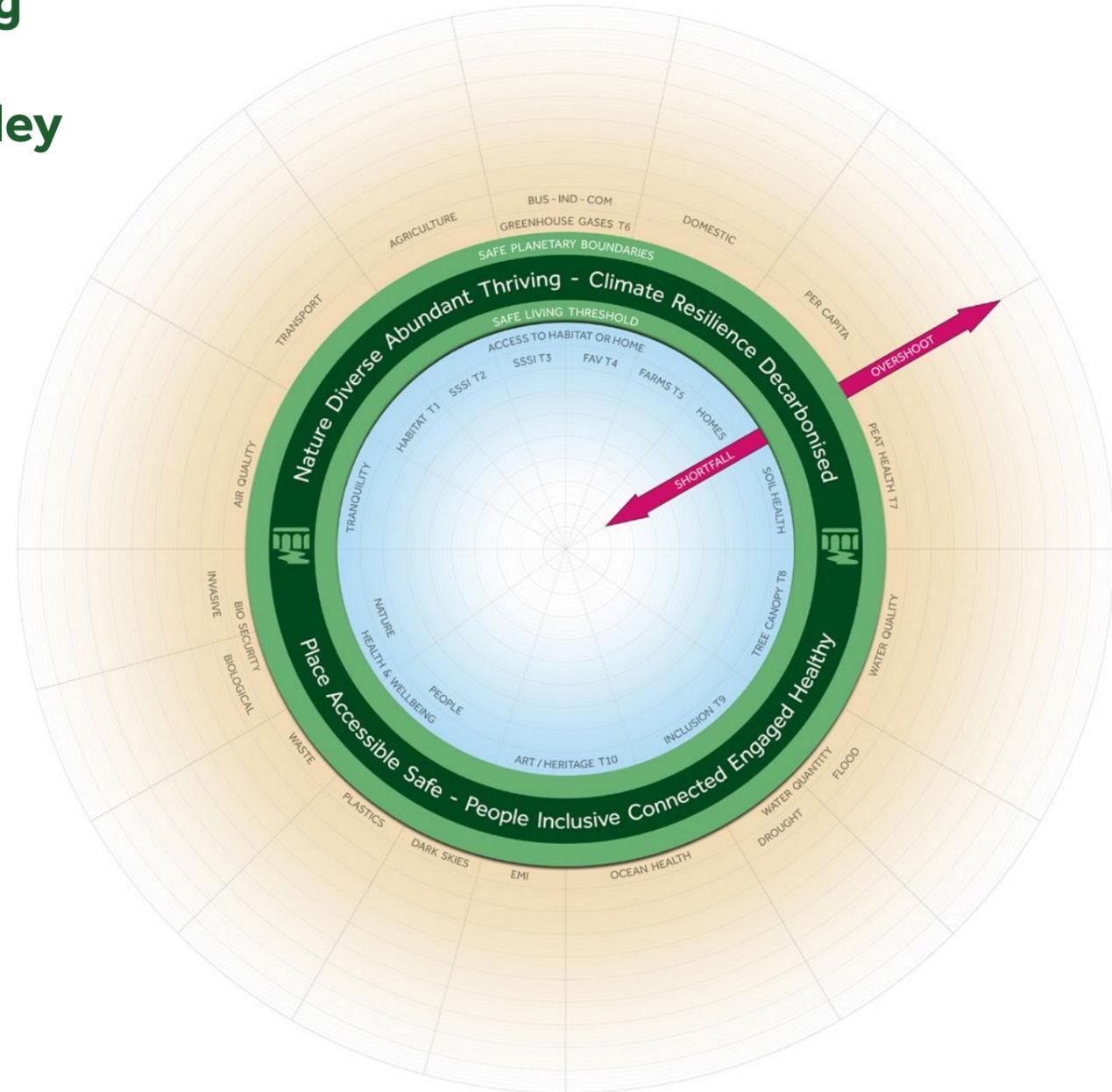
National Landscapes Briefings offer a summary of key findings and recommendations arising from National Landscapes’ action and insight. This Briefing has been informed by the Planning and Placemaking specialist panel of representatives from across the National Landscape network.

Recommended citation: National Landscapes Association (2024) *Applying the CRoW Act s.85 duty to ‘seek to further the purpose’ in National Landscapes (AONBs): Guidance for Local Planning Authorities*. Briefing (Nov 24). Shrewsbury: NLA.

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Monitoring Delivery: Tamar Valley Doughnut

The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership have established this new decision-making and monitoring tool for long-term assessment and reporting.



The Tamar Valley Doughnut economic model is uniquely tailored to our ambitions and positions Nature and people at the core - ensuring all life thrives together.



Created by S. Draper
Business Development Officer,
Tamar Valley National Landscape
Sector values for illustrative purposes –
actual values currently being determined.



Doughnut Introduction

The Tamar Valley National Landscape Doughnut is a:

Visual, multifunctional tool that enables us to work together with partners, landowners and communities to make better decisions and monitor progress towards our vision and legal purpose to conserve and enhance the Tamar Valley Area of outstanding Natural Beauty, in effect, acting as a compass towards all our prosperity.

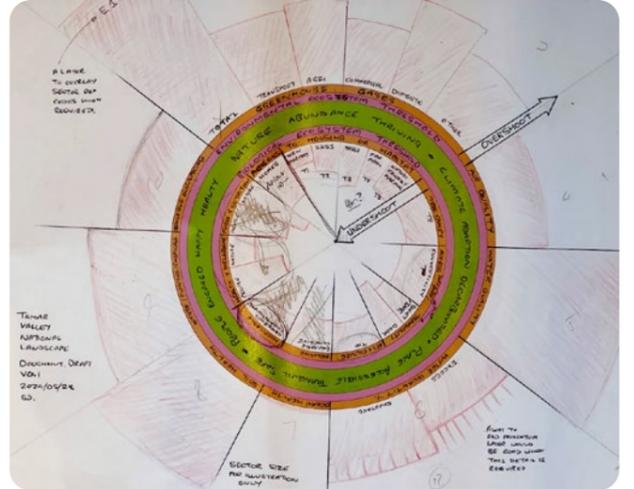
Inspired by the 2009 Rockstrom planetary boundaries model along with further work carried out by Dr Kate Raworth as detailed in her book, Doughnut Economics. Development was approved by the Tamar Valley Executive partnership in December 2023 and its design has incorporated a number of changes specific for National Landscapes.

These include a Living threshold which places Nature in the centre space, along with the Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework.

In this section of the management plan we will explain how doughnuts, show its 4 development phases and share how we can use it.

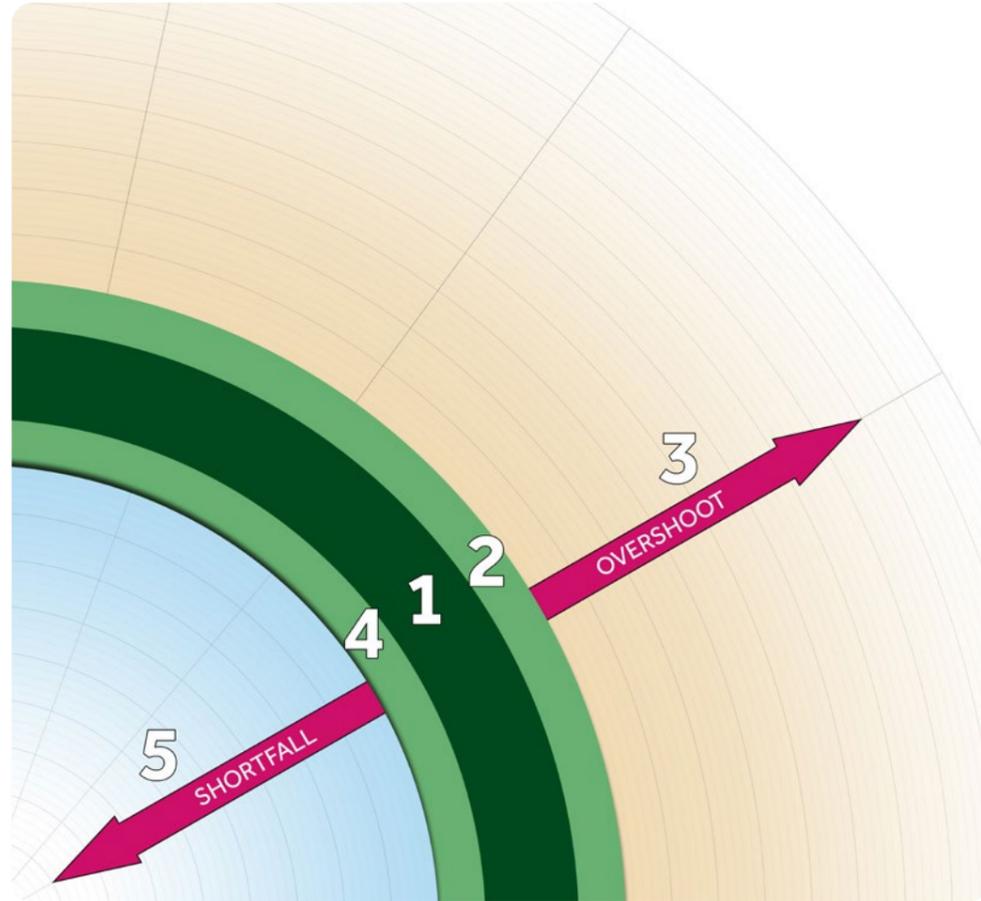


Tamar Valley National Landscape Business Development Officer Steven Draper with Dr Kate Raworth at a Doughnut Conference in 2024



An early sketch of a Tamar Valley Doughnut

Anatomy of our Doughnut



Most doughnuts have five key components.

1. The central ring of the Doughnut represents our aspirations of 'A Good Life.' A safe, regenerated space where planetary resources are distributed to ensure all life has enough, but without exceeding the planets resources / capabilities.
2. The outer edge represents the safe Planetary Boundaries for environmental systems and resources that would need to be within safe limits to meet our vision.
3. Exceeding any boundary results in an Overshoot and a sector expanding away from the safe zone.
4. The inner edge represents safe Living Thresholds, where all life within the Tamar Valley, including humans have enough to thrive.
5. Undershooting safe levels results in a sector shortfall, extending towards the centre of the doughnut.

The objective is projects delivered by this and future management plans reduce the overshoots and shortfall over time.

Phase 1 – Setting out our Vision

Status = Complete and in use

Defining "A Good Place"

Following engagement with partners, including Natural England and Defra, we were able to establish what a thriving Tamar Valley National Landscape would look like. This became the vision of our management plan.



By 2055, the Tamar Valley National Landscape has a strong sense of place and wellbeing, as a distinctive and internationally important landscape of high visual quality and a protected green and blue haven where communities and wildlife flourish.

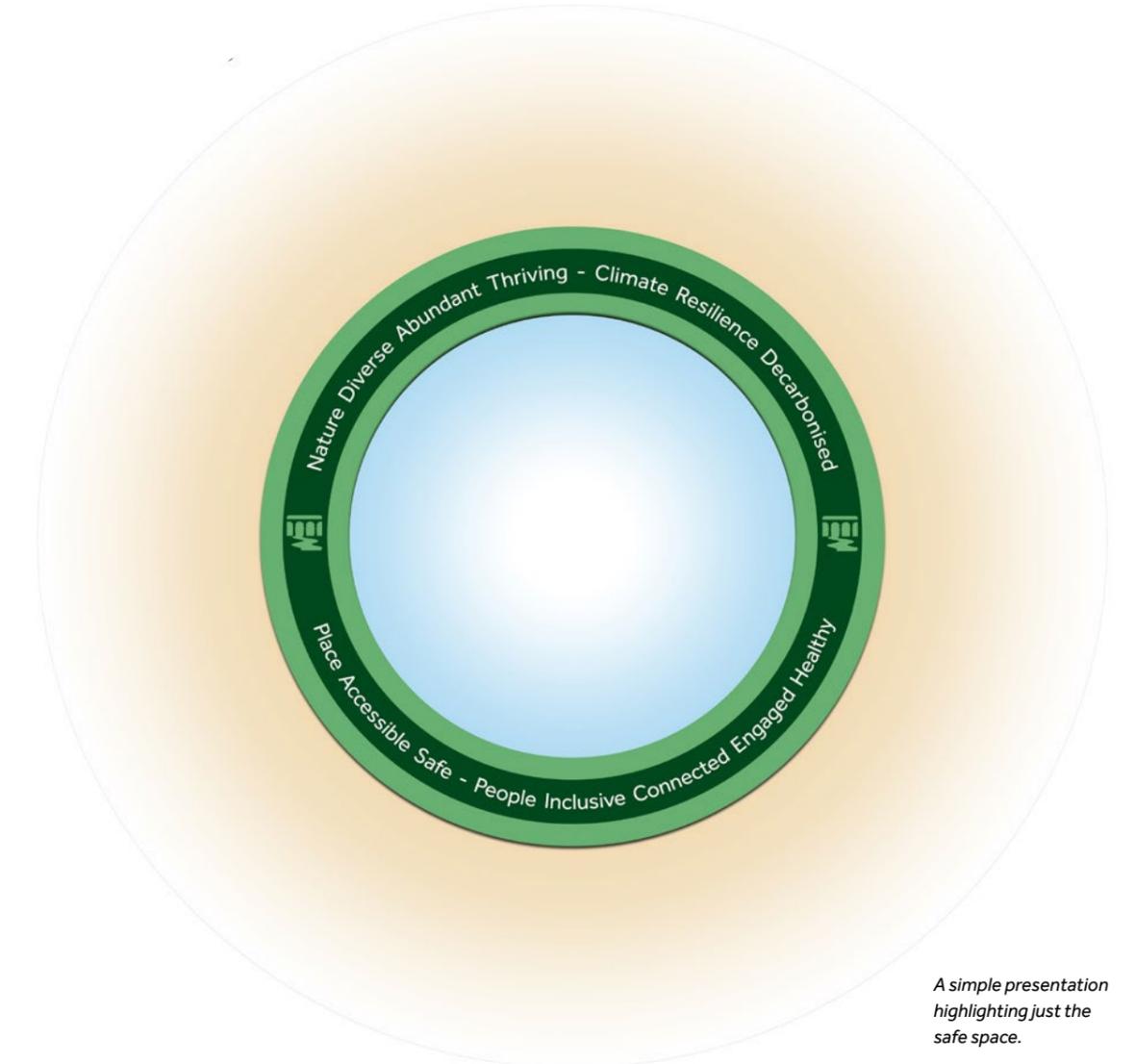
Nature and People are entirely connected, enjoying clear air, clean water, wholesome food, good health and resilience to a changing climate and variable economy...



A summary of our vision using key words and themes sits in the safe space in the middle of our doughnut as a reminder of our vision for the Tamar Valley National Landscape.

Actions or decisions can be referenced to the words in the safe space with the question of; Is this moving us towards or away from where we want to be?

It's very simple application, but when considering or discussing ideas a very powerful way of keeping the direction on track.



A simple presentation highlighting just the safe space.

Phase 1 – Discussion and Decision wheel

Status = Complete and in use

Maximising Value & Impact, while reducing risk, waste & inefficiency

We identified the key elements that would need to be 'in balance' for the Tamar Valley to achieve its vision.

Those which impact planetary systems form segments on the outside of the Doughnut and those impacting the ability for life to thrive form sectors on the inside.

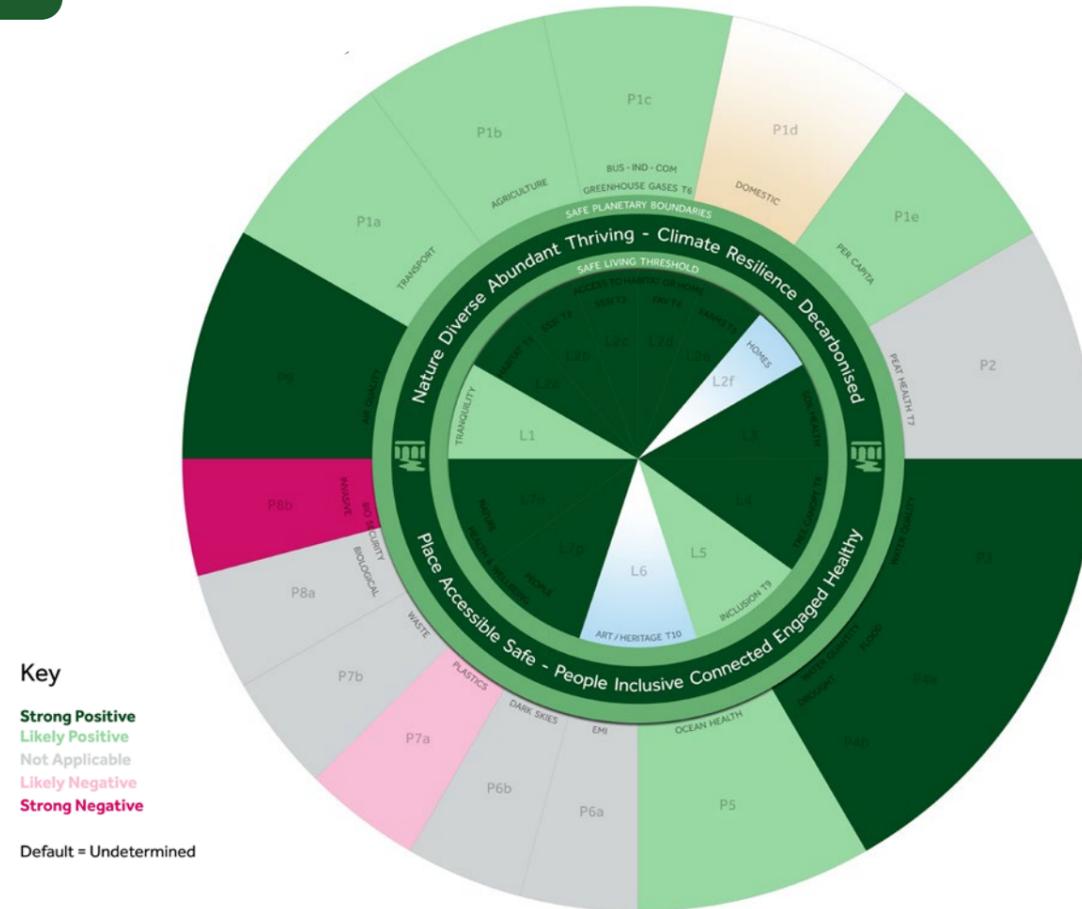
As a National Landscape working together with, landowners, communities and partners to achieve our vision; our decision-making process should be evidence based, justified and transparent. It should ideally identify opportunities for stacking benefits (maximising value and impact) while identifying where a positive action to one sector, may risk a negative impact to another. (reducing waste)

We therefore need to assess the impacts of our decisions at an early stage of any policy development, project or programme.

Even if we have not established the current value of shortfall, overshoot or safe value, we can still consider if a project or proposal impacts applicable sectors in a Positive, Negative way, or show as currently undetermined or Not Applicable.

The output of this exercise helps us better establish best value projects, where one intervention delivers multiple positive outcomes and ensures any negative impacts can be identified and mitigated as part of the project design.

In the example of Riperian projects, we see multiple Positives (Green) several areas that are not applicable, a couple where it's not determinable (left as default) and two where mitigation measures would be needed (Magenta / Pink)



Key

- Strong Positive
- Likely Positive
- Not Applicable
- Likely Negative
- Strong Negative

Default = Undetermined

The Doughnut Matrix is a spreadsheet that currently enables all Management plan 6 projects to cross reference with the PLTOF, Key UNSDG's, NbS Investment and also details which doughnut sectors each project will benefit.

In addition, a National Landscape is often asked to provide comment on the plans of others. Our doughnut provides an efficient and consistent method for evaluating each proposal by considering the impact on each sector.

Phase 3 – As a monitoring tool

Status = Underway

Tracking Progress and evaluating success.

The doughnut can be used to monitor values of the individual sectors in various ways.

Metric monitoring – In this case each sector has a safe value established that would correspond to no shortfall or overshoot. The current value can then be plotted onto the doughnut.

We currently have data from Natural England for several sectors and are establishing safe values for them. Other sectors will either use readily available data or we will work with universities to establish a suitable metric.

The size of the sectors indicates how we are doing in relation to where we want to be. The full details of each metric are documented in the Doughnut Appendix. The data can be used for evaluating projects against target outcomes.

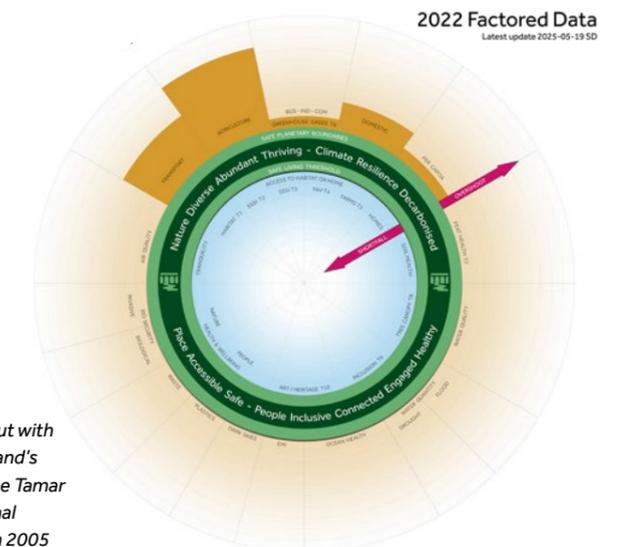
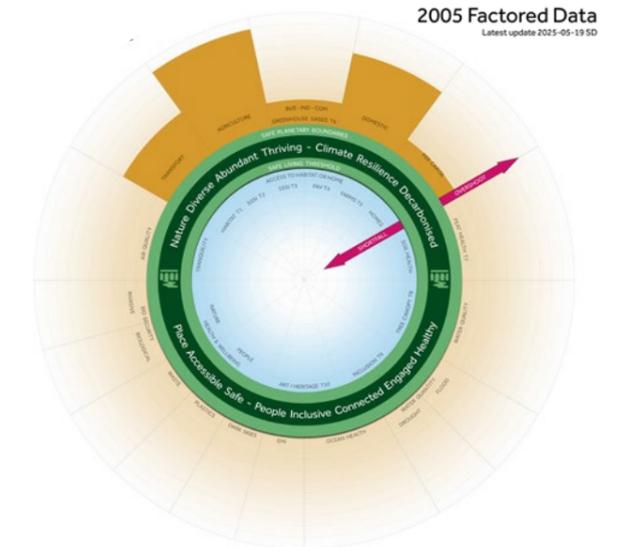
Severity and Required Effort survey. By asking a panel of experts or stakeholders to rank the severity of shortfall or overshoot and effort needed to reach a position of safety we can plot the outcomes on all or selected doughnut sectors. This quickly provides

an alternative 'perceptive' data set and is a common way doughnuts are used around the world.

Momentum – Sector values are rarely static. Even before any intentional interventions are made they will already be moving towards or away from safe. This momentum can be established by plotting results over time and provides the advantage of identifying priorities even further. A slowing of momentum can also identify natural resistance which would require more effort. Unexplained instability or acceleration might forewarn the approach of a system tipping point requiring urgent investigation and action.

Understanding momentum enables the additionality of an intervention to be considered rather than simply the change which enables a far better understanding of project success – for example in the case of a metric moving away from safe, slowing that momentum is a necessary part of stabilising before recovery. Without understanding momentum and additionality the intervention might be considered as a failure.

The Doughnut with Natural England's figures for the Tamar Valley National Landscape in 2005 and 2022.



Phase 4 – As an impact modelling tool

Status = Future possibility

Futurescope

In providing feedback, Dr Peter LeFort of Exter University and the Doughnut Economic Action Lab - suggested if reasonably accurate metrics could be established and economic values applied to them, then the Tamar Valley doughnut might be able to provide some form of economic modelling outputs on at least some sectors.

An important example would be where a positive intervention on one sector delivered a known negative move on another. If modelling was enabled various mitigation scenarios could be evaluated to determine a best cost solution.

This would be an incredibly powerful output, but at this point is beyond the scope without significant investment, academic studies and evaluation testing.

Understanding Success

This Management Plan sets out how the purposes and duty of the Tamar Valley National Landscape should be met working collaboratively with all partners. To help us understand the complexity of this goal we utilise an adapted version of Kate Raworth's 'Doughnut' model of ecological and social/living boundaries.

We use this model because it helps envision a world in which Nature, people and planet can thrive in balance. We have applied the model to the statutory purposes and duty of the National Landscape. The first statutory purpose is about conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape, where possible for all to enjoy.

In 2024 the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes framework emphasised the role in protecting, creating and enhancing natural habitats, accessibility to Nature, heritage and decarbonisation.

The outer ring is the ecological ceiling. In order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape, we must work to ensure Tamar Valley National Landscape is moving to do so within safe limits' such as Greenhouse gas emission, Water Quality and Quantity, Safe air and Healthy soils.

The inner ring is a Biodiversity Wellbeing foundation. This relates to the duty to protect our biological species which we are undertaking by adopting a Nature-first approach, viewing human activities as an action within this biosphere that we share with Nature.

Between these two boundaries lies a doughnut-shaped space that is both ecologically safe and enables biodiversity to thrive.

In this way, the Tamar Valley National Landscape Doughnut is a framework for understanding the successful implementation of our statutory purposes and duty. It enables us to establish and measure interventions with our partners, communities and landowners to the elements we need to move towards safer, sustainable levels in order to truly thrive in a landscape that is protected and enhanced for Nature, planet and people.

- ✓✓✓ Primary Impacts
- ✓✓ Secondly Impacts
- ✓ Tertiary Impacts

Tier Level	KEY Projects and brief summary	National Landscape Themes			
		Nature	Climate	Place	People
GREEN FINANCE Tier 4 (Aggregated)	Nature First - Restoration - Water Quality and Quantity - Educate, increase management advice, reduce pollution, increase resilience, natural floodplain management	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
	Nature First - Restoration - Land Manager Engagement - Database / Mapping	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
AMBITIOUS Tier 3	Nature First - Control and Protect - Invasive Non-Native Species Control Plan Development - Develop plan for long term control & monitoring of Invasive Non-Native Species	✓✓✓		✓	✓
	Nature First - Control and Protect - Invasive Non-Native Species Control Implementation - Deliver plan for long term control & monitoring of Invasive Non-Native Species	✓✓✓		✓	✓
	Climate Adaptation - Physical Changes - Property Retrofitting - Rigorously encourage increased pace, domestic, business, Heritage buildings		✓✓✓	✓	✓✓
	Place Make People - Experience - Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Sites - Monitor, seek funding for repairs and promote heritage of most prominent assets			✓✓✓	✓✓
	Nature First - Restoration - Sites of Special Scientific Interest - Actions improve by 2028 achieve favourable by 2042	✓✓✓		✓	✓
MODERATE Tier 2 50K	Nature First - Restoration - Wildlife-rich Habitats - Identify sites, define plan to restore to favourable by 2042	✓✓✓		✓	✓
	Nature First - Restoration - Special Species - Protect, restore, create and manage priority habitats for the 17 Special Species in the Tamar Valley National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan	✓✓✓		✓	✓
	Nature First - Control and Protect - Soil Regeneration - Explore and Review options for regenerating soil across the catchment	✓✓✓	✓✓		✓✓
	Climate Adaptation - Physical Changes - Tree and Hedgerow Planting - Restore at scale to support skills, attract private investment, sequest, natural flood management	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓	
	Climate Adaptation - Physical Changes - Clean Transport - Explore and support partner to introduce electric & hydrogen based transport, charging points, electric bicycles	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓
	Place Makes People - Experience - Tamara Coast to Coast Way - Explore legacy as a National Trail - Design the standards of ongoing management and maintenance			✓✓	✓✓✓
	Place Makes People - Experience - Turner Trail - New trail following in the footsteps of British 19C artist J.M.W Turner			✓✓	✓✓✓
	Place Makes People - Experience - Interpretation - Signage, Social Media & Digital Media - Update highways, Gateway signs, trail markers, engaging digital media			✓✓	✓✓✓
	Place Makes People - Landscape Celebration - Communications and Marketing - Expand raise awareness of National Landscape, NatureHub, events, volunteering celebrate restore	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓

Doughnut Sectors	Protected Landscape Target & Outcomes Framework										United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals						Potential Funding	Potential Partners
	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7	T8	T9	T10	7	11	12	13	14	15		
E3a E3b E3c E4 B1h B1n All B2 B3 B4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									National Landscapes Association Nature Based Solutions & Finance Earth; Rebalance Earth; Ocean City Nature; Multi-National Companies; Pension Funds; Insurance Companies; Green Finance Agencies	Westcountry Rivers Trust, Environment Agency, Dartmoor National Park, Tamar Valley National Landscape, Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum, Farmers, Landowners and a wider partnership which also includes Wildlife Trusts and Plymouth Marine Laboratory.
B1s B2a - f B3 B4 E8 E5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓										Landowners; Farmers; Ministry of Defence; Tamar Community Trust; Parish Councils; Local Authorities; Local Nature Recovery Strategies; Businesses
E8		✓	✓		✓													
E8		✓	✓		✓													
E1d B1h						✓						✓	✓	✓				
B7										✓								
B2b B2c B2d		✓	✓	✓														National Lottery Heritage Fund; Lottery Climate Action Fund - Our Shared Future; The UK Fund; National Lottery Heritage Grant; Regional Capacity Building; Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas; Repair Grants for Heritage at Risk; Water Restoration Fund
B2a B2b	✓			✓														
B2d B2e	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓										
B2D				✓	✓							✓		✓	✓			
E3a E3b E3c E4 B1h B1n All B2 B3 B4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
B1h B6 B7						✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			
B1h B6 B7									✓					✓				
B6 B7									✓					✓				
B1h B6 B7									✓	✓		✓		✓				
B1h B6 B7									✓	✓				✓				



- ✓✓✓ Primary Impacts
- ✓✓ Secondly Impacts
- ✓ Tertiary Impacts

Tier Level	KEY Projects and brief summary.	National Landscape Themes			
		Nature	Climate	Place	People
CONSERVATIVE Tier 1	Nature First - Restoration - Domestic Gardens - Inspire, adopt Nature-friendly management techniques, ponds, invasives, planting	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓
	Nature First - Restoration - Public Campaigns - Support public campaigns, such as No Mow May, UN Environment programme etc	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓
	Nature First - Control and Protect - Soil Runoff Reduction - Explore and Review options for reducing agricultural runoff throughout the catchment area.	✓✓✓			
	Nature First - Control and Protect - Special Species - Deliver actions that monitor the 17 Special Species within the Tamar Valley National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan	✓✓✓			
	Nature First - Control and Protect - Biological Control - Provide data and research. Biological control and disease risks - explore mitigation measures for all species	✓✓✓			
	Climate Adaptation - Physical Changes - Peat Restoration - Restore to support skills, attract private investment	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓	
	Climate Adaptation - Physical Changes - Nature-Based Solutions - Research and develop Nature-Based Solutions to mitigate and adapt to increased drought and flooding events	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓
	Climate Adaptation - Physical Changes - Agri-tech - Explore benefits, suitable applications to support farmers, market gardens, orchards.		✓✓✓	✓	✓✓
	Climate Adaptation - Physical Changes - Energy Saving - Engage home owners and businesses in Energy Saving campaign, share best practice and ideas		✓✓✓		
	Climate Adaptation - Physical Changes - Waste Reduction - Encourage aspirations for near zero waste, repurpose and reuse		✓✓✓		
	Climate Adaptation - Knowledge and Efficiency - State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report - Use for basis of 2030 - 2035 Management Plan		✓		
	Climate Adaptation - Knowledge and Efficiency - Tamar Valley Doughnut - Develop as a reporting tool		✓		
	Climate Adaptation - Knowledge and Efficiency - Annual Reporting - Create annual report, annual forum for Partnership and stakeholders				
	Climate Adaptation - Knowledge and Efficiency - National Forums - Influence National Policy, engagement, sharing best practice, profile of Tamar Valley National Landscape	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Climate Adaptation - Knowledge and Efficiency - Photography and Sampling - Increase seasonal photography to monitor, water levels, sampling tests, Special Species habitats				
	Place Makes People - Experience - NatureHub - Arts and Education calendar at the Tamar Valley Centre				
	Place Makes People - Experience - Events - Create an Annual Tamar Valley Nature and Climate Champions award programme				
	Place Makes People - Experience - Ecotourism - Encourage voluntourism				
	Place Makes People - Landscape Celebration - Heritage - Review assets, plan for attracting funding for repair and maintenance				
	Place Makes People - Landscape Celebration - Design Codes - Support development of Building Design codes within National Planning Policy Framework				
Place Makes People - Landscape Celebration - Planning Applications - Provide comment to planning applications of scale that impact Landscape Character					
Place Makes People - Landscape Celebration - Grow Awareness - Celebrate art, communities, culture and beauty of landscape with organised walks and talks - membership					
Place Makes People - Landscape Celebration - Fundraising - Generate additional income, donations, entrepreneurial, legacies, sponsorship, collaborate with bids					

- Nature**
Recovery
Diversity
Abundance
Thriving
- Climate**
Adaptation
Decarbonisation
Reduce
- Place**
Placemaking
Landscape
Accessible
Tranquil
Safe
- People**
Engaged
Inclusive
Connected
Healthy

Doughnut Sectors	Protected Landscapes Targets & Outcomes Framework										United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals						Potential Funding	Potential Partners
	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7	T8	T9	T10	7	11	12	13	14	15		
P1d	✓										✓					✓		
P1e	✓										✓					✓		
L3																		
L2a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓							✓	✓		
P8b																		
P2								✓										
P4a P4b				✓	✓			✓				✓		✓	✓	✓		
P1b				✓		✓						✓	✓					
L2f						✓						✓	✓	✓				
P7												✓	✓					
P1e																		
P1e																		
P1e																		
P1e																		
L5									✓	✓								
L5	✓													✓	✓	✓		
L5																		
L6																		
P1c P1d						✓					✓							
P1c P1d											✓							
L5 L6									✓	✓								
P1e																		

- Restore/Create 250k Ha outside protected sites 2042 (2022 BL)
- Favourable management - agr management by 2042
- 65-80% landman, Nature friendly farming 10-15% of land by 2030
- Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (1990 BL)
- Increase Tree Canopy by 3% by 2050 - (1990 BL)
- Improve and promote accessibility
- Decrease designated heritage assets at risk



Sources of Funding for Delivery



Tamar Valley
National
Landscape

The estimated cost of delivering Management Plan No.6 2025-2030, is **£10.1million**



Approximately 17% of this cost is expected to be provided by Tamar Valley National Landscape's core Revenue funding. Currently, Defra provides 75% of the core funding, 20% comes from Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council combined. The remaining 5% is raised through entrepreneurial activity and events at the Tamar Valley Centre NatureHub.

The additional funding, as a blend of Capital and Revenue, must be raised from external sources, including grants, sponsorship, corporate contributions, partner delivery contributions and Green Finance.

Projected over the 30 year term to 2055, at the time of publication of this Plan, delivery costs for Management Plan Nos 6 to 11 are currently estimated to reach £55.7m.

Long-term investment opportunities through grants and Green Finance will be explored to secure long-term funding to continue the work to meet the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (2024).



Tamar Valley
National
Landscape

“

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. We have the gift of our life to make the world a better place – or not to bother.

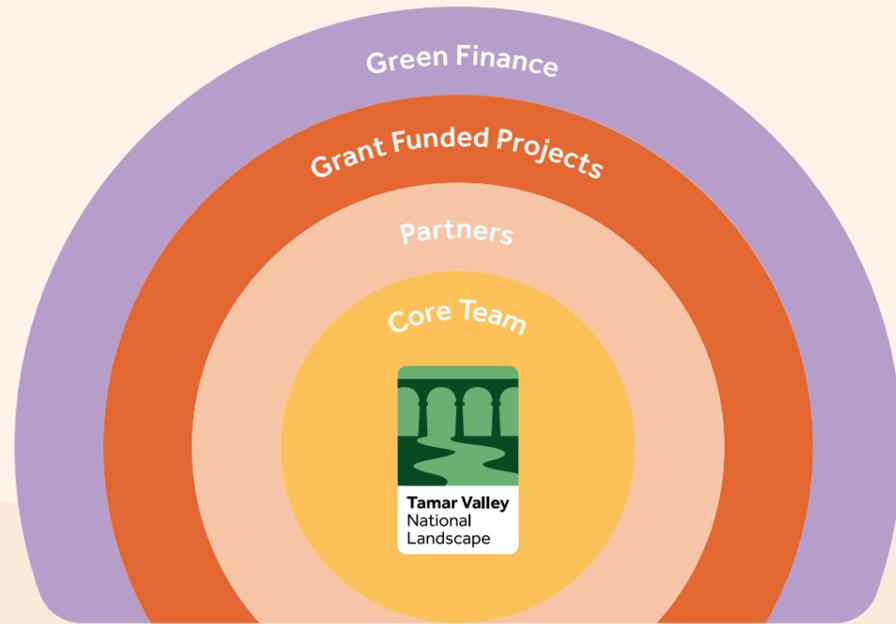
”

Jane Goodall

English primatologist and anthropologist, considered the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees

Our 2030 Plan on a Page

We've work to do to secure all of the necessary funding to deliver this Management Plan. Below are indicative targets which will deliver as follows:



[Download our business plan](#)



5 year funding security is important to deliver this Management Plan.

	£3.6m	£3m	£1.6m	£1.9m
Nature First	Water Quality & Quantity, Wildlife-rich Habitats	Special Species, Soil Regeneration, Biological Control, Invasive Non-Native Species Control	Land Manager Engagement, SSSIs, County Wildlife Sites	Domestic Gardens, Public Campaigns
Climate Resilience	Peat Restoration, Property Retrofitting	Tree and Hedgerow Planting, Regenerative Farming	Clean Transport, Waste Reduction, Energy Saving	Agri-tech, Monitoring & Reporting, Photography & Sampling
Place Makes People	Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site	Design Codes, Heritage	Events, Ecotourism & VolunTourism, Fundraising	NatureHub, Signage, Trails
	Green Finance	Grant Funded Project	Partners	Defra Local Authorities NatureHub

Tamar Valley National Landscape - Target Sources for Raising Funding



	Programme	Lifetime	Locality	Programme Value	Target Finance	Buyers and Sources	Example
Green Finance	Woody Habitats River & Wetlands Climate Adaptation	1 - 30 years+	International National Regional	£1m - £30m+	Tier 4	National Landscapes Association Nature Based Solutions & Finance Earth; Rebalance Earth; Ocean City Nature; Multi-National Companies; Pension Funds; Insurance Companies; Green Finance Agencies	10,000,000
Ambitious	Placemaking Woody Habitats Rivers & Wetlands Estuarine Areas Soil Regeneration Climate Adaptation AgriTech Arts Access & Inclusion	1yrs - 30yrs +	National Regional	£501k - £10m	Tier 3	National Lottery Heritage Fund; Lottery Climate Action Fund Our Shared Future; Lottery The UK Fund; Local Investment in Nature Cornwall LINC; Nature South West; National Lottery Heritage Grant; Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund Round 2; Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI)	1,225,000
Moderate	Turner Trail Connections: Trails & Travel Garden Rewilding Climate Adaptation Heritage Preservation Social Prescribing	1yr - 3yrs		£50k - £500k	Tier 2	National Lottery Heritage Fund; Lottery Climate Action Fund Our Shared Future; The UK Fund; National Lottery Heritage Grant; Regional Capacity Building; Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas; Repair Grants for Heritage at Risk; Water Restoration Fund	475,000
Conservative	Triangular club-rush Project Wacker Quay Dormice Project Adder Project Nature Recovery Officer Allis Shad Project Invasive Species Project Anti Litter Campaign	1mth - 12mths		£5k - £49k	Tier 1	Local Investment in Nature Cornwall (LINC); Lottery Community Fund; Lottery Reaching Communities England; Lottery Partnerships; National Lottery Awards for All England; National Lottery Community Fund; Woodland Creation Planning Grant; Sec 17 Management Agreements (Monuments) Community Fundraising / Crowdsourcing; Business Sponsorship; Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); Environment Social Governance (ESG); Tamar Community Trust - Legacies; Friends of the Tamar Valley; Keep Britain Tidy	30,000

How Will the Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan No.6 Be Funded?



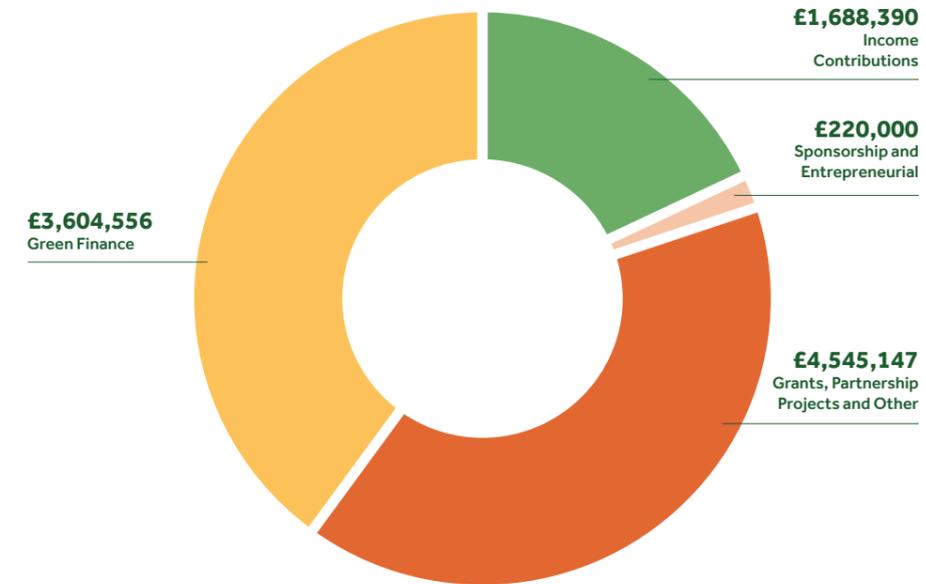
INCOME	2025/6 Est £	2026/7 Est £	2027/8 Est £	2028/9 Est £	2029/30 Est £	2025/30 Totals £	2030 - 2055 Est £ (x5)
Defra*	267,857	267,857	267,857	267,857	267,857	1,339,285	6,696,425
Cornwall Council*	43,207	43,207	43,207	43,207	43,207	216,035	1,080,175
Devon County Council*	15,900	15,900	15,900	15,900	15,900	79,500	397,500
West Devon Borough Council*	10,134	10,134	10,134	10,134	10,134	50,670	253,350
South Hams District Council*	580	580	580	580	580	2,900	14,500
Plymouth City Council*	TBC'd	TBC'd	TBC'd	TBC'd	TBC'd	TBC'd	TBC'd
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION INCOME	337,678	337,678	337,678	337,678	337,678	1,688,390	8,441,950
INCOME: TARGETS							
Green Finance	0	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	1,604,556	3,604,556	19,022,780
Sponsorship & Entrepreneurial	15,000	30,000	43,000	58,000	74,000	220,000	1,100,000
Grants, Partnership Projects, Other Funding	807,000	1,103,407	1,104,870	604,870	0	4,545,147	18,100,735
TOTAL TARGETED INCOME	822,000	1,633,407	1,647,870	1,662,870	1,678,556	8,369,703	37,223,515
EXPENDITURE							
Nature First	425,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	5,750,000	24,125,000
Climate Adaptation	200,000	322,500	322,500	322,500	322,500	1,490,000	7,450,000
Place Makes People	182,000	182,000	182,000	182,000	182,000	910,000	4,550,000
Management & Administration	347,678	361,585	376,048	391,048	406,734	1,883,093	9,415,465
Net Surplus or Deficit Position	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	£25,000	£125,000
TOTAL TARGETED INCOME	1,159,678	1,971,085	1,985,548	2,000,548	2,016,234	10,058,093	45,665,465

Finance Funding and Budget

We've created this Management Plan recognising that just 17% of the funding may be raised through financial contributions from Defra and our local authorities, in accordance with their annual contributions during our last Management Plan (no.5) 2019-2024. The remaining funds required to deliver this Management Plan are aspirational and will require a Partnership commitment to work together to target additional funding. A Task & Finish Group will be established involving Private Sector representatives who will shape a business plan as an appendix to this management plan and assist in exploring potential social value contributions toward delivery of the projects.

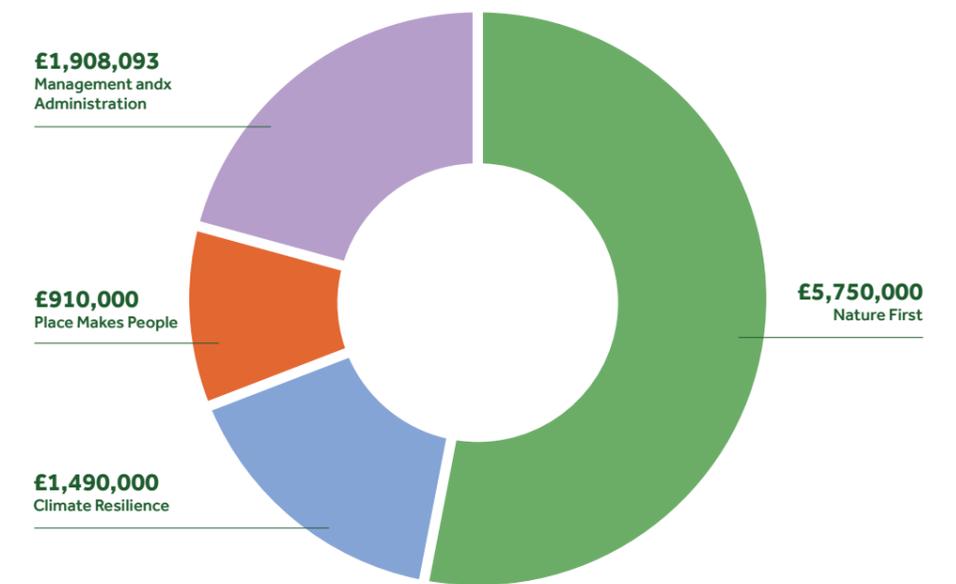
Funding Aspirations

This will be targeted through a combination of sponsorship and entrepreneurial funds, grants and Green Finance, as suggested in the following pie chart:



Budget Allocations

If our Partnership is successful in securing all the targeted funding, we'll be apportioning cash contributions in the following ways:



Appendices

For further information... :

- The State of the National Landscape Report
- Tamar Valley National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan
- Habitat Regulations Assessment Report
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Report
- Equality Assessment Report
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Recovery Plan
- Devon Local Nature Recovery Plan
- Tamar Valley and Doughnut Economics
- IPCC Climate Change 2023 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policy Makers
- Climate Adaptation Plan (due to be published 2028)
- For further information please view them via the Tamar Valley National Landscape website : www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk

References

a) Habitats Directive

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31992L0043:EN:NOT>

b) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46>

c) Guides:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/scheduled-monuments/>

d) LCA guidance

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/englands/character/assessment/default.aspx>

e) Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/B1DesignationGuidanceMar11_tcm6-26242.pdf

f) Conservation Principles, policies and guidance, English Heritage

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/conservationprinciplespoliciesguidanceapr08web.pdf>

g) Landscape and planning

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/protection/planning/default.aspx>

h) NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) and the Historic Environment

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/hpg/decisionmaking/NPPF/>

i) Historic environment and planning, practice guide

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/pps-practice-guide/pps5practiceguide.pdf/>

Nature Recovery and the Historic Environment, Natural England

[Nature-Recovery-and-the-Historic-Environment_2023_External-Final.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Nature-Recovery-and-the-Historic-Environment_2023_External-Final.pdf)

Tamar Valley National Landscape Local Nature Recovery Strategy

[TVNL-Nature-Recovery-Plan-2023-2030-Full-Final.pdf](http://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/Images/TVNL-Nature-Recovery-Plan-2023-2030-Full-Final.pdf)

Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy - a joint strategy for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay - Devon Local Nature Partnership

Adaptation Strategy – Climate Resilient Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Region

Adaptation Strategy – Climate Resilient Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Devon Local Nature Partnership Right Place Right Tree Guidance

Right Place Right Tree - Devon Local Nature Partnership

Devon Tree & Woodland Strategy

Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy - Devon Local Nature Partnership

Tamar Valley National Landscape Character Assessment for the Tamara Landscape Partnership

[TVNL-TLP-Landscape-Character-Assessment-2020-Full.pdf](http://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/Images/TVNL-TLP-Landscape-Character-Assessment-2020-Full.pdf)

Northumberland National Park

Vision for Dartmoor National Park

Exmoor National Park Management Plan

Cornwall National Landscape Management Plan

South Devon National Landscape Management Plan

Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Plan

Chilterns National Landscape Management Plan

North Pennines National Landscape Management Plan

IPCC Climate Change 2023 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policy Makers

AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023

South West Marine Plan

South West Marine Plans - GOV.UK

Joint Statement between Natural England, Historic England, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund

[Nature-Recovery-and-the-Historic-Environment_2023_External-Final-compressed.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Nature-Recovery-and-the-Historic-Environment_2023_External-Final-compressed.pdf)

Creation Process: Tamar Valley Management Plan 2025 -2030



The Tamar Valley Management Plan 2025 -2030 is a statutory document and is the duty of our five local authorities under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to produce and review every five years. It is also a requirement under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, to seek to further the purposes of the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty within and surrounding the Tamar Valley National Landscape.

During early 2024 Defra and Natural England provided new draft guidance for management plan creation and introduced a new Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, supported by a series of Natural Habitat Indicators. Targets have been individually set for each National Landscape and National Park, working to a series of key delivery years including 2028, 2030, 2042 and 2050. As a result the management plan has to consider long term activity and interventions as well as the short term 5 year view of previous plans. The finalised guidance was published on 12th June 2025 and this plan responds to its requirements.

This management plan sets out the purpose, priorities, policies, aims, objectives, delivery and monitoring by which Tamar Valley National Landscape should be managed. In order to review the management plan, 10 steps have been completed, as follows:

Step 1: Planning the project

We established a project plan that included:

- a realistic timetable encompassing all required stages, methods, milestones, and key tasks
- responsibilities and roles
- a budget
- regular reviews of progress resulting in two timeline revisions

To make best use of available time and resources, we:

- integrated existing events and activities with our project plan
- used the Let's Talk Cornwall online tool for engagement, alongside any face-to-face engagement for specific groups or at events
- worked with partners and other Protected Landscapes

We prepared for items of major spend, which included:

- consultants
- research and data collection
- expenses for meetings, equipment, venue hire, and travel
- communications
- design and presentation costs

We reported to regularly to our Executive as a steering group to guide the process that included officers and members of our governance structure as well as representatives of a range of partnership organisations.

Scoping

Whilst reviewing the plan, we scoped out the content and priorities at the beginning of the process. We considered:

- what in our current plan had worked well and should be retained
- how well were parts of the plan used by audiences and what can we learn from the user experience
- what has been overtaken by events and could be removed
- what policy and legislative changes need to be reflected
- what new drivers of change have emerged since the last plan was written
- what still needs doing that was either not fully addressed in the last plan cycle or is an ongoing issue

We looked at other plans that have worked well and stimulated beneficial change in a Protected Landscape to see if they could helpfully be adapted to our circumstances.

Step 2: Notifying others

We notified Natural England in April 2024 that we intended to review our management plan. We also notified our principal stakeholders of:

- the process and timetable
- who will lead
- how stakeholders can expect to be involved

Step 3: Environmental and equality impact assessments

During the creation of the management plan we completed a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Habitat Regulations Assessment to comply with statutory requirements.



Equality impact assessments

An equality impact assessment has been created for the management plan.

Step 4: Climate adaptation management plans

A climate adaptation management plan will be produced by 2028, as required by the Third National Adaptation Programme. We have begun preliminary work during the preparation of this management plan. The climate adaptation management plan will consider the impacts of climate change (such as managing the increased risk of wildfires) on all parts of the Protected Landscape, including Nature, people, and place.

Step 5: Engaging stakeholders

Stakeholder engagement has taken place from the early stages of the management plan review and during three consultation stages, in July 2024, September to October 2024 and June to July 2025.

The stages that have been informed by stakeholders include:

- scoping
- gathering of evidence and identification of drivers of change
- review of the previous plan and its effectiveness
- identification of people's aspirations and priority outcomes for the landscape
- developing options for plan vision and strategy

This management plan has been developed through consensus building across a diverse range of stakeholders and the understanding of common goals. The engagement process has also raised awareness and promoted wider ownership of this management plan's outcomes.

Stakeholders have included the expertise of Partners, local authority officers, statutory organisations including Defra, Natural England, The Environment Agency, The Forestry Commission, Historic England, Parish Councils, local people, community groups and visitors. Their areas of interest have spanned health, Nature, landscape, access, tourism, heritage, rural economy and land management.

We have sought out a wide and diverse range of groups and individuals and taken positive action to involve underrepresented groups, encouraging genuine inclusion, and increasing the diversity of people engaging with Protected Landscapes.

We have asked what they value about the landscape, their aspirations for the Tamar Valley, their views on key issues and projects which respond to drivers of change.

Step 6: Monitoring conditions, gathering evidence and reporting

This management plan is underpinned by evidence on the current state of the Protected Landscape published during April 2024, forming the foundation for the vision and strategy.

A suite of indicators that measure the condition of the Protected Landscape underpin our projects to address our Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework targets. The source of the indicators has been Natural England and are included in their full and complete format within this management plan.

The introduction of our Tamar Valley Doughnut has ensured our future monitoring is designed to align with the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, which in turn is ensuring we link to the Environment Improvement Plan. Our targets and indicators cover some key aspects of Nature, climate, heritage, and access, and the targets are clearly set out within this management plan. Other national datasets are also included, providing additional information on the condition of the Protected Landscape's environmental factors and socio-economic wellbeing. The targets do not represent the full scope of the statutory purposes of Protected Landscapes.

Local indicators

Where possible, we have developed local, long-term indicators linked to the characteristics of natural beauty and special qualities of our Protected Landscape. This has included developing quantitative and qualitative indicators linked to the characteristics of our natural beauty and special qualities, been mindful of data availability and ease of collection and suggested measures to improve evidence gathering over the lifetime of this management plan, identified proxy indicators for the health of the Protected Landscape, and sought alignment with long-term outcomes and measures of success.

Socio-economic indicators

Socio-economic indicators to understand how the Protected Landscape supports local communities have also been considered and included within this management plan.

Data quality

The quality of data will be improved over the lifetime of this management plan. Some data is incomplete for SSSI areas and requires updating, as is the same for County Wildlife Site condition monitoring. These are scheduled into the period 2025-2030 to provide sufficient and up to date evidence for the creation of the next management plan. We will collect primary data where existing information is insufficient, such as:

- fixed-point photography to track landscape change
- visitor or resident surveys for qualitative insights
- targeted monitoring of specific features or habitats

Spatial data

Our State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape report published in April 2024 presents our monitoring data spatially where possible to show how conditions vary across the Protected Landscape. This approach has helped to:

- identify areas requiring special attention
- understand landscape-scale patterns and connections
- target resources more effectively
- communicate complex information visually

We have ensured a plan to produce the report every 5 years to align with management plan reviews, provide clear, evidence-based assessments across all characteristics of natural beauty and special qualities, identified trends (improving, stable, or declining) for each indicator, highlighted important issues, challenges, and opportunities, and used the spatial approach to data presentation and graphics where beneficial.

Characterisation provides foundational information about landscape character and condition, and includes:

- National Character Area profiles and their statements of environmental opportunity
- local landscape character assessments, including descriptions of issues, pressures, and management guidelines
- historic landscape character assessments
- seascape character assessments
- heritage appraisals

Policy and legislative context

We have reviewed the wider policy and legislative context that affects our Protected Landscape, including changes in relevant legislation and policies since our previous plan, new or updated national strategies that may influence our approach, and regional and local plans that may have an impact on our Protected Landscape. We have ensured we comply with the biodiversity duty by having regard to any relevant strategies, including our local Nature recovery strategy, our 17 Special Species strategy and protected site strategies.

We have sought to ensure alignment of policies to maximise consistency across planning frameworks, coordinate actions to address shared environmental pressures, and explore joint funding and delivery mechanisms, particularly important at our cross-border arrangement across five local authorities.

Drivers of change

We have identified the factors that are likely to drive change in the Tamar Valley National Landscape over the next 5 years, such as:

- environmental changes, including climate impacts
- social and economic shifts in surrounding communities
- technological developments that may influence land management
- changing recreational patterns and visitor pressures
- political and legislative changes that may affect management approaches

This management plan summarises the drivers of change by identifying environmental, social, economic, and policy factors influencing the Tamar Valley National Landscape now and, in the future, and distils our stakeholders' priorities by extracting important themes from our stakeholder engagement. We have also responded to the current condition of the National Landscape, addresses important challenges and drivers of change, reflects stakeholder priorities and aspirations, builds on the strengths and lessons from previous plans, and aligns with national policy frameworks and statutory requirements.

Drivers of change

We have summarised the drivers of change and major issues for the Tamar Valley National Landscape. This establishes part of the context for the vision and strategy of our management plan.

Vision for the Protected Landscape

We have established a new 30 year vision for Tamar Valley National Landscape, providing inspiration and direction for all stakeholders. It has emerged from the need to conserve and enhance what is special, distinctive and significant about the landscape and the need to address the drivers of change acting upon it.

The vision statement presents an aspirational, place-specific and recognisable description of the future of the Tamar Valley National Landscape in 30 years, is inspirational, co-created with stakeholders, directly address challenges and opportunities, remains stable across multiple plan cycles, and connects to wider environmental, social and economic aspirations.

Strategy for the Protected Landscape

The strategy translates our vision for Tamar Valley National Landscape into action for the duration of the management plan and subsequent plan cycles. The strategy is broken down into broad strategic priorities and structured around the purposes of the National Landscape and the duties of statutory bodies, along with the characteristics of natural beauty including wildlife and cultural heritage.

There is clear progression from the vision to our strategic priorities, to the project activities we all will undertake, and to the targets and indicators by which progress towards these outcomes will be monitored.

The role and responsibility of partners in the delivery of projects is clearly set out for the three themed areas, which helps to illustrate how everyone has a role in the plan's delivery.

Although the plan is for a 5-year period, some activity will stretch beyond this plan cycle. The target-setting allows for progress made within the 5-year lifespan of the plan to be articulated.

A delivery is included within this management plan and this will be kept under review on both a quarterly and annual basis.

Step 8: Consultation

Effective consultation was critical to developing this management plan giving broad support and ownership across stakeholders, communities and statutory bodies.

An approach was established for consultation that considered the local context and diverse community to involve in the process. Four rounds of consultation were conducted, the first was involving workshops with Partner organisations, Planning teams and key stakeholders between February and November 2024, the next of 4 weeks' duration in June/July 2024, the next a 9 week consultation during September and October 2024, and the final period for 3 weeks during August 2025. A total of 16 weeks consultation in all.

Statutory consultees were provided with 9 weeks to provide comment on the draft plan. A comprehensive consultation report was created summarising all feedback and which informed the creation of this management plan. This is available on request.

Throughout the process Tamar Valley National Landscape has kept Natural England colleagues informed and shared the draft plan. Proposed amendments will be discussed with Natural England for formal observations.

Step 9: Adoption

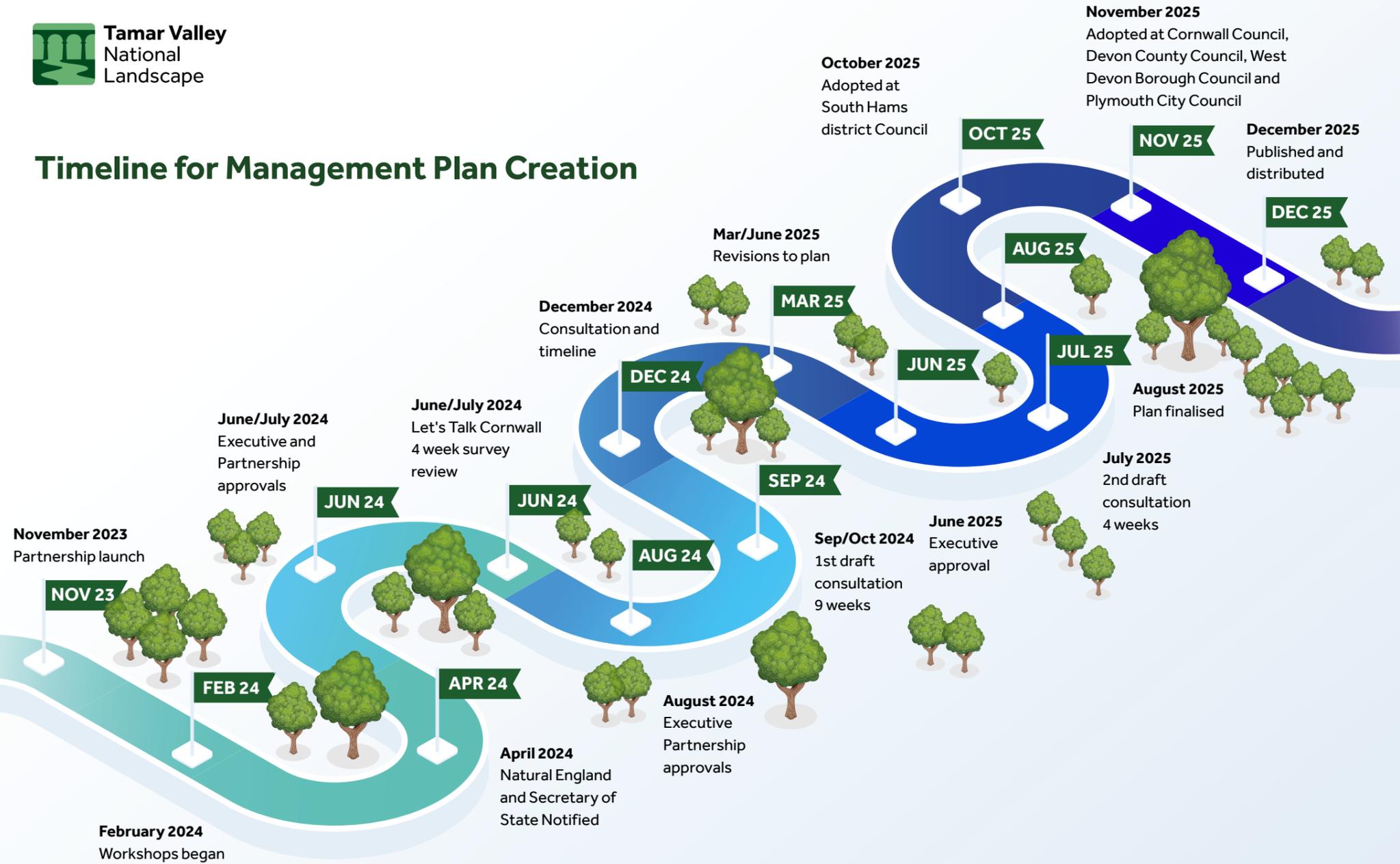
Upon completion of the management plan, it is intended that it is adopted by its 5 Responsible Authorities, adhering to the process they determine. A copy of this management plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs after it has been formally adopted.

Step 10: Presentation

Once this management plan is adopted, it will be published via Tamar Valley National Landscape website and provided in printed copy to local authorities and local libraries. It will be publicly available and promoted to partners and the community.

Ease of access for all has been ensured with the offer of this management plan in a different format, for example in braille, or large print, printed copy or alternative languages.

Timeline for Management Plan Creation



Glossary

Affordable housing: Housing that is for sale or rent, for those who cannot afford to rent or buy houses on the open market. It includes rented housing, shared ownership and other subsidised schemes usually developed by housing associations or local authorities.

Agriculture and land-based rural businesses: These are farming, forestry, mineral extraction, privately managed estates.

AONB Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Biodiversity Net Gain: Qualitative or quantitative measures to enhance and support biodiversity in order to leave it in an improved state.

Carbon budget: Cumulative amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions permitted over a period of time to keep within a given temperature threshold.

Carbon neutral: Where carbon dioxide emissions are equal to emissions removed from the atmosphere, usually mentioned in the context of the move towards net zero. To note that the UK Government's June 2019 commitment is net zero for all greenhouse gasses, not just for carbon dioxide.

Cultural Capital: Defined as "an asset which embodies, stores or gives rise to cultural value in addition to whatever economic value it may possess" (Throsby 1999). Cultural capital is made up of physical assets such as buildings, art, and monuments, and intangible assets, such as folklore, music, language, beliefs and traditions. These services are beneficial to the individual and society as a whole and therefore create value.

Carbon positive: Where an activity goes beyond achieving net zero carbon emissions to actually create an environmental benefit by removing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Carbon sequestration: Removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks (oceans, forests or soils) through physical or biological processes.

Climate change adaptation: Adjustments made to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

Climate change mitigation: Action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Cultural heritage (assets): Includes tangible culture such as buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art and artefacts, as well as intangible culture such as folklore, traditions, language and knowledge and natural heritage including culturally significant landscapes.

Ecosystems approach: This is "the management of whole ecosystems, using ecosystem services as a framework to determine multiple, simultaneous benefits gained, whilst ensuring that realising one benefit does not harm or degrade other benefits or potential beneficiaries (including future generations)".

Ecosystem services: the wide range of services humans derive from natural capital such as food, water, plant materials for fuel, building materials and medicines, climate regulation, flood defence, carbon storage and inspiration.

European Designated Sites: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Geodiversity: the range of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and landforms.

Glover review: In 2018 the Government commissioned journalist Julian Glover – supported by an advisory group – to carry out a comprehensive review of protected landscapes in England. It considered whether the protections for National Parks and AONBs are still fit for purpose, what could be improved, and whether current definitions and systems are still valid. The final report was published on 21 September 2019 and HMG's response in January 2022.

Green Infrastructure: A planned or managed network of open spaces, including areas such as parks and gardens, countryside areas and amenity open space, designed to improve the quality of life and provide for the needs of nearby communities.

Infrastructure: Infrastructure is a wide-ranging term comprising the physical network of services and facilities that are required for an area to function properly. Such as highways infrastructure; sustainable transport infrastructure; service and utilities infrastructure; enhancement and maintenance of the historic environment and heritage assets; biodiversity or wildlife corridors; enhancement of the public realm; maintenance and enhancement of public rights of way; flood defences and mitigation and adaptation; education provision; health facilities; facilities providing accessibility for all e.g. Changing Places facilities.

Landscape scale: There is no single definition, as the size of the area can vary greatly, however in a conservation context, this is generally defined as "a holistic approach to landscape management, aiming to reconcile the competing objectives of nature conservation and economic activities across a given landscape. Landscape-scale conservation may sometimes be attempted because of climate change".

Listed building: A building recognised to be of national historic importance, designated and protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990.

Natural Capital: The world's stock of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things. DEFRA and HM Treasury Green Book definition: "Natural capital includes... elements of nature that have value to society, such as forests, fisheries, rivers, biodiversity, land and minerals. Natural capital includes both the living and non-living aspects of ecosystems. Stocks of natural capital provide flows of environmental or 'ecosystem' services over time. These services, often in combination with other forms of capital (human, produced and social) produce a wide range of benefits. Some have a market value (minerals, timber, freshwater) or non-market value (such as outdoor recreation, landscape amenity). They also include non-use values, such as the value people place on the existence of particular habitats or species."

Natural Capital Accounting: Natural capital accounting is the process of calculating the total quantity of a natural resource (soil type, woodland, particular species) in a given area and identifying whether it is increasing or decreasing. Accounting for such goods may occur in physical or monetary terms and can provide detailed statistics for better management of the natural environment.

Natural Flood Management: Alteration, restoration or use of landscape features to reduce flood risk.

Net Zero: Where the balance of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is equal to or less than the emissions removed from the environment in any given area. This can be achieved by a combination of emission reduction and emission removal.

Renewable and low carbon energy: Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as electricity, produced from renewable sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydropower. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs): Nationally important sites for nature conservation designated under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended).

Special Qualities: All the national parks in England have an aim and purpose to promote understanding and enjoyment of the 'special qualities' of their area. It is the combination of these special qualities that led to these areas being designated to be protected as national parks, and distinguish each national park from each other and other parts of the country.

Sustainable active travel: Modes of personal transport that also provide exercise, such as walking and cycling.

Sustainable development: UNESCO's overarching purpose, this is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): Aim to replicate natural drainage patterns by using low environmental impact solutions to manage dirty and surface water run-off, through collection, storage and cleaning, before allowing it to release back into the environment.

Sustainable tourism development: Any form of development, management or tourist activity which ensures the long-term protection and preservation of natural, cultural and social resources and contributes in a positive and equitable manner to the economic development and well-being of individuals, working or staying in protected areas.

Sustainable Productive Land Management: Land management that realises an economic return for the land manager whilst at the same time has equal benefit to the environment and society.

Sustainability Appraisal: The process used to ensure that environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated in the preparation of a Plan. The SA includes the requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Tranquillity: Tranquillity can be defined as freedom from the noise and visual intrusion, including light pollution, associated with developed areas, roads, transport and traffic, and areas with intensive recreational activities and other uses that contribute to disturbance.

World Heritage Site: World Heritage Sites are sites considered to be of Outstanding Universal value – places or buildings which are considered to have special importance for everyone. They represent the most significant or exceptional examples of the world's cultural and/or natural heritage recognised under the terms of the 1972 UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

The Beauty of the Tamar Valley

Nature is a gift to us, a gift we all should love,
Trees reaching to the sky, birds flying high above.
Tamar Valley has it all, for everyone to see,
Babbling brooks and rivers, lush meadows, wildflowers, moths, butterflies, bees.
Hedgehogs, bats, fish and insects, they all live within it there,
We must protect them all, we have to show we care.
Pollution in England's rivers, flowing to our seas,
Create an endless journey, don't let it be our destiny.
Climate change is altering the planet, everything we love,
The melting of the arctic, wild fires, heat and floods.
Our steeply wooded river valleys, are a beauty to behold,
Let's keep our farming, market gardens, orchards, a delight for young and old.
Let's preserve the deep dark mines of yesterday, its heritage untouched,
And prove to everyone who comes, we love it all so much.
Tamar Valley is a tranquil place, to heal our state of mind,
To find some peace away from stress, and all worries left behind.

Diane O'Leary
Former resident of Gunnislake



Tamar Valley AONB's National Moment, creating a heart in the landscape at Cotehele. Part of a national launch of 2019's Landscapes for Life Week, celebrating Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Daffodil garden above the valley
by Mary Martin

Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership

The Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership is an alliance of organisations, committed to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley. Together, they co-design plans, collaborate on attracting funding and delivery, and collate data for monitoring progress.

The Partnership has a 3 tier governance structure, involving:

Executive Committee

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Devon County Council Representative
- Cornwall Council 3 Representatives
- Plymouth City Council Representative
- West Devon Borough Council Representative
- Natural England Representative
- South Hams District Council Representative
- Visit Tamar Valley Representative

Dedicated Executive Team

Based at the Tamar Valley Centre at Gunnislake, providing management and administration services to coordinate and support the delivery of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan. Core funding from Defra and contributions from local authorities, additional project funding required to sustain and increase capacity.





Tamar Valley
National
Landscape

Date of Consultation:
July – August 2025

Date of Adoption:
Autumn 2025

If you require information in a different format – for example in braille, large print, paper copy or other languages, please contact:

Tamar Valley National Landscape, Tamar Valley Centre

Cemetery Road, Drakewalls,
Gunnislake, Cornwall PL18 9FE

www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk

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