

2014-19

AONB Delivery Plan



North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Landscape

To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special landscapes of the AONB

Key policies

- A1** Landscape character and natural beauty are conserved and enhanced
- A2** Dark skies, peace and tranquillity within the AONB are preserved
- A3** Planning of future developments, both onshore and offshore, to take full account of open views, wilderness and maritime connections
- A4** No development is permitted outside the AONB that would harm the natural beauty, character and special qualities of the AONB
- A5** AONB is responsive to climate change impacts on landscape, wildlife and special qualities of the AONB
- A6** Raising public awareness of the importance of landscape and its contribution to the natural beauty of the AONB

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Manage the varied hedgerows and hedgebanks, retaining local diversity and traditional field patterns.	A1	To encourage the management and restoration of traditional field boundaries through Environmental Stewardship	Advocate	NE , DWT,NDBR,TT
	A1	To develop a landscape partnership project to ensure long-term sustainable management of hedgerows within the AONB	Lead	NT,DWT,TT,NDBR
Protect the open character of the Estuary Landscape Character Area and views from and to surrounding landscapes.	A1	To work with TTEF and others to develop understanding of the importance of the estuary landscape character.	Advocate	TTEF,NDBR
	A1	To work with landowners to ensure appropriate management to maintain the open character of the estuary landscape.	Advocate	NE,DWT,NDBR
		To ensure the Local Plan recognises the open character of the estuarine landscape.	Partner	NDDC,TDC
Protect the open and undeveloped qualities of the coastal plateau.	A1	To work with local authorities and communities to ensure that buildings and other structures within the coastal plateau do not intrude on the skyline and to ensure that farm developments are clustered around existing farm buildings	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
Retain and manage characteristic landscape features within the AONB including hedgerows, hedgebanks, tree clumps, woodlands and traditional field patterns.	A1	To encourage landowners to continue to manage, maintain and replant shelter belts, woodlands and tree clumps that are now an integral part of the landscape	Advocate	NT,DWT,NE
	A2	To encourage local authorities to understand and use the Landscape Character Assessment to retain secluded and remote parts of the AONB	Advocate	NDDC,TDC,DCC
	A2	To develop an updated tranquility map for the AONB to inform decision-making	Lead	CPRE
Protect characteristic qualities of seclusion and remoteness across the AONB	A2	To protect the landscape's rural character and high levels of tranquility through the control and management of development	Advocate	NDDC,TDC,DCC
	A2	To work with local authorities and the Highways Authority to reduce existing lighting where practicable and support the use of appropriate technology and ensure the AONB is consulted on major lighting schemes	Advocate	DCC,NDDC,TDC
Plan to reduce light pollution from roads and settlements and increase the darkness of night skies	A2	To work with local authorities and the Highways Authority to reduce existing lighting where practicable and support the use of appropriate technology and ensure the AONB is consulted on major lighting schemes	Advocate	DCC,NDDC,TDC
	A3	To ensure no development on the ridgelines of the AONB through the planning process	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
Protect open and sensitive skylines from development.	A3	To ensure no development on the ridgelines of the AONB through the planning process	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
	A3	To ensure that the Local Plan recognises the sensitivity of the AONB ridgelines and protects them from development	Partner	NDDC,TDC

* a lead partner has only been identified where this is appropriate

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Protect the landscape's far-reaching views including those to the sea, along the coast and the edge of the AONB.	A3	To ensure no development impedes the existing far-reaching views from the AONB to Lundy, Wales and beyond	Partner	NDDC,TDC,MMO
	A3,A4	To develop understanding of the significance of the setting of the AONB and how this relates to the designation	Lead	DCC,NDDC,TDC
	A3	To identify significant views and viewpoints within the AONB and ascertain why they are important	Lead	NT
Plan for the future effects of climate change along the coast, allowing natural processes to take place as much as possible and, where practical, mitigate for their effects	A5	To work with partners to update and deliver the Shoreline Management Plan	Partner	EA ,ALL
	A5	To work with partners to develop a strategy for Northam Burrows to deal with the impacts of changes on the pebble ridge arising from climate change	Partner	EA,NE, TDC ,NDBR
Plan for opportunities to expand estuarine and wetland habitats to build resilience to future climate change.	A5	To work with the Biosphere Team to support the NIA	Advocate	
	A5	To work with the Environment Agency to seek opportunities for habitat creation schemes	Advocate	EA
Increase public understanding and awareness of the contribution Landscape Character Assessments make to landscape management within the AONB	A6	To develop a photography project to capture the essence of seclusion and remoteness in North Devon	Lead	
	A6	To promote Landscape Character Assessment on the AONB websites and beyond	Lead	
	A6	To develop the use of word clouds to capture the essence of landscape character	Lead	
Encourage endorsement and adoption of the various Landscape Character Assessments by the local planning authorities	A6	To work with local authorities to secure adoption of Devon Landscape Character Assessment	Partner	NDDC,TDC,DCC
	A3,A6	To use the Landscape Character Assessment as the basis for commenting on planning applications and in the development of the Local Plan response	Lead	NDDC,TDC,DCC
Ensure that developments around historic or traditional farmsteads do not impact on their character or detract from their setting	A3,A4	To work with local authorities to ensure that they take full account of the AONB designation	Lead	NDDC,TDC,DCC

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Biodiversity

To conserve and enhance the wildlife habitats and species of the North Devon Coast AONB

Key policies

- B1** Identify and address actual and potential impacts on biodiversity
- B2** Support approaches to habitat management that encourage the development of ecologically coherent networks and to provide buffering to designated sites
- B3** Seek opportunities to restore, expand and improve the links between important, rare habitats achieving a strong and resilient ecological network within the AONB
- B4** Facilitate climate change adaptation measures that will allow wildlife to “move” within the landscape in response to changes in local climate.
- B5** Support and extend the range of internationally, nationally and locally important species
- B6** Enable the long term survival of vulnerable species within the AONB
- B7** Ensure that the marine environment adjacent to the AONB is valued locally and to ensure that local coastal and marine species and habitats are conserved and enhanced
- B8** To raise awareness of the value and importance of biodiversity and the steps necessary to conserve and enhance it

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Protect sites designated for their biodiversity, including the relatively rare coastal habitats and sites.	B1	To ensure the Local Planning authority recognises its responsibility under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (S40) regarding biodiversity	Partner	NE , TDC, NDDC
	B1,B2	To extend positive management to cover all coastal SSSIs on the North Devon Coast	Advocate	NE , LANDOWNERS
Plan to link habitat types to create ecological networks that enhance biodiversity	B2,B5,B6	To work with partners to develop and implement the Greater Horseshoe Bat Project in and around Braunton	Partner	DWT , NDBR, Landowners,FWAG,BCT
	B2	To seek enhanced protection for Braunton Great Field through inclusion in the AONB	Lead	NE , NDDC AND L/Os
	B2,B3	To bring County Wildlife Sites under positive management	Advocate	DCC,DWT
	B2,B3	To develop a landscape-scale project for biodiversity which links important habitats together through less intensive land management and the resulting creation of biodiversity networks	Lead	DWT,NT,LANDOWNERS
Plan for habitat migration as coastal cliffs retreat by managing cliff top land extensively.	B2	To develop an opportunities map and strategy that identifies new potential habitat sites adjacent to those located on the coastal edge	Partner	DBRC
Manage the estuary’s internationally important habitats including dunes, saltmarshes and mudflats, using traditional techniques including appropriate levels of grazing, in accordance with North Devon Biosphere Reserve guidelines.	B2,B3	To continue to implement management systems through HLS that encourage continued conservation management on Braunton and Northam Burrows	Advocate	NE, TDC
	B2,B3	To work with partners, TTEF and the Biosphere team in developing a co-ordinated approach to management of the Taw and Torridge Estuary	Advocate	TTEF, NDBR
	B3	To continue to support traditional grazing management of marshland habitats at Braunton Marshes and Horsey Island	Advocate	NE, LANDOWNERS
Manage and re-link fragmented patches of species-rich grassland and rush pasture, supporting farmers to extensively graze these areas as integral parts of their farming systems.	B3	To promote the restoration, creation and reconnection of rare grassland habitats by encouraging entry into environmental land management schemes	Advocate	NE, LANDOWNERS
	B3	To expand the network of species-rich grasslands and rush pastures with emphasis on linking and buffering existing sites through HLS	Advocate	NE, LANDOWNERS
Manage Culm grassland and wetland habitats (with locally-appropriate levels of grazing) to maximise their biodiversity and strengthen their resilience to climate change.	B3,B5	To ensure existing culm grassland sites within the AONB are under positive management	Advocate	NE, LANDOWNERS
	B3,B5	To support initiatives that encourage the grazing/management of Culm grassland sites	Advocate	NE

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OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Conserve semi-natural habitats such as coastal heathland, Culm, maritime grassland and less-improved valley pastures through appropriate management to retain a mosaic of vegetation types.	B2,B3,B5	To continue to advise Natural England regarding its targeting and delivery of land management grants within the North Devon AONB	Advocate	
	B2,B3,B4,B5	To maintain maximum protection of semi-natural habitats against inappropriate development through development control and the Local Plan	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
Promote the awareness and implementation of the North Devon Biosphere Action Plan, where relevant to the North Devon AONB	B1-B8	To work in partnership with Local Authorities, Natural England, Devon Wildlife Trust and the Biosphere team to deliver on the North Devon Biosphere Action Plan	Partner	NDDC,TDC NE, DWT, NDBR,DCC
Ensure the establishment of a network of habitats and wildlife corridors that provide opportunity for species to move within the area in response to habitat change	B3,B4,B5	To produce a "green infrastructure" opportunities map and strategy that identifies key habitats and potential wildlife corridors, which will assist planning and land management decisions within the AONB	Lead	NDDC,TDC,DCC
Target action for the recovery of priority species whose conservation is not delivered through wider habitat-based ecosystem measures.	B5,B6	To support work linked to the re-introduction of the chough along the coast of the AONB in particular around Hartland and Morteheo	Lead	RSPB
		To review Devon BAP priorities and targets within the AONB	Partner	DCC , DWT
Develop and support habitat restoration projects that encourage the conservation of key species within the AONB	B5,B6	To continue to develop habitat restoration projects at a landscape scale which benefit key Devon BAP species such as the Otter, Pearl Bordered Fritillary and Great Green Bush Cricket	Advocate	NE,DWT, NT,DCC, Landowners
Encourage the control and eradication of non-native invasive species within the AONB	B6	To continue to support local communities, through the SDF, who wish to record and eradicate invasive species	Lead	
	B6	To work with other statutory partners and landowners in controlling invasive plants such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed through a targeted approach on river catchments and roads	Partner	NE,EA, Landowners
	B6	To support the control and eradication of rhododendron and laurel within native broadleaved woodland through management advice and woodland grants	Advocate	FC , NT,NE, Landowners
Support the creation of marine protected areas	B7	To continue to lobby for the designation of new MCZs in the waters off the North Devon Coast	Partner	NDBR,DWT
	B7	To engage with Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority in order to minimise the impacts of commercial fishing activities on marine habitats and species	Lead	IFCA
	B7	To minimise the impact of offshore developments on local biodiversity	Advocate	DWT,NT, MMO, EA
	B7	To support local community action in delivering marine conservation projects through SDF	Lead	
Engage more people, particularly the young, in outdoor activities that promote an understanding and enjoyment of wildlife within the AONB	B8	To encourage greater community uptake of SDF grants for small biodiversity projects and for local groups who want to record and conserve locally significant wildlife	Lead	DWT,DBRC,DCC
	B8	To raise public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and its contribution towards conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB	Lead	DWT, NDBR
Encourage greater voluntary participation in biodiversity work within the AONB	B8	To set up a volunteer group to assist in the survey and monitoring of important species, habitats with particular regard to County Wildlife Sites	Lead	DWT, DCC AND OTHERS
	B8	To continue to provide advice to landowners to assist them in managing their land for the benefit of biodiversity	Partner	DWT, NDBR

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Historic environment

To conserve, enhance and raise appreciation of the historic features of the North Devon AONB

Key policies

- E1** Identify, protect and conserve the historic environment of the AONB, its setting and the historic character of the landscape
- E2** Encouraging access to, interpretation and understanding of heritage assets by all sections of the community to enable better current and future management
- E3** Support cultural traditions and diversity throughout the AONB

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Protect historic features and landmarks such as church towers and strip field patterns and earthworks of relict strip field systems to ensure they remain integral parts of the landscape.	E1	To develop a management strategy for strip field systems as part of a Landscape Partnership bid	Lead	NE,EH,NDDC, TDC
		To work with Natural England to target farms with strip field systems to be brought into Environmental Stewardship schemes	Advocate	NE
Protect and restore where appropriate characteristic features such as quays, stone bridges and traditional farm buildings.	E1	To support landowners to restore heritage features that are an integral part of the AONB.	Advocate	NE,EH,NDDC
		To monitor and report on the condition of scheduled ancient monuments within the AONB.	Partner	EH
		To develop further Historic Environment Action Plans for the AONB.	Lead	EH,PCs, NDC, TDC
Protect and appropriately manage the landscape's archaeological heritage including prehistoric hill forts, burial sites such as Clovelly dykes and Hillsborough.	E1,E2	To bring SMs under positive management	Partner	EH,NT,Landowners
		To promote designation of other significant historic assets eg Narracott hilltop enclosure	Advocate	EH
		To secure support for Hillsborough	Advocate	NE, NDDC
Conserve and enhance the AONB's historic parkland, ensuring that the location of any new development does not affect its setting or designed views.	E1,E2	To ensure no development impacts upon historic parklands in the AONB	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
Protect (and sensitively restore if necessary) heritage features such as mills, limekilns and quays as well as twentieth century military structures.	E1,E2	Promote protection of key WW 2 heritage sites	Advocate	
		To develop appropriate HLF bids to conserve and enhance historic features such as Combe Martin silver mines	Lead	CMSMT, EH, DCC, NDC
Develop an innovative programme of interpretation projects for heritage features within the AONB and to seek funding for their delivery.	E2,E3	To develop a range of new media integrated with the Devon HER	Partner	EH, DCC
Involve and engage local communities in celebrating the historic environment and local distinctiveness of the AONB	E3	Participate in heritage open days	Partner	EH
		To use the SDF to support arts and culture projects	Lead	EH
Support the re-use of redundant historic farm buildings	E2, E3	Promote opportunities through use of SDF	Lead	

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Coast

To conserve and enhance the coast and marine environment of the North Devon Coast AONB

Key policies

- D1** Conserve and enhance the North Devon Coast AONB whilst mitigating the impacts of climate change
- D2** Ensure that offshore and inshore developments are fully evaluated for any adverse impacts on the AONB by use of a tool such as Seascape assessment and acted on
- D3** Clearly define the special qualities of the AONB at the coast and its interrelationships with the neighbouring marine environment in order to enable full account to be taken of the AONB in marine and coastal planning and management

- D4** Speak up for the North Devon Coast to ensure that AONB purposes and special qualities are fully taken into account in decision making and are incorporated in the future North Devon marine Plan
- D5** Promote the implementation of MCZs for North Devon
- D6** Ensure water quality and the state of the environment of our inshore waters and streams supports biodiversity and social wellbeing

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Work in partnership to implement the Shoreline Management Plan for the North Devon Coast	D1	To support research programmes that widen our understanding of the impacts of climate change on our marine environment	Advocate	ACADEMIA, NDBR
Develop a good understanding of how marine processes and climate change will affect the AONB		To develop a project with local people and communities to improve understanding of coastal change and its impacts	Lead	EA , Coastwise
Protect the distinctive, dramatic and open seascapes and the undeveloped character of the coast.	D2	To develop a Seascape Assessment for the North Devon coast	Lead	EH, NE, NT, NDDC, TDC, DCC
Protect the area's distinctive and dramatic coastline and open seascapes, including views to Lundy Island.	D3	To clearly define the special qualities of the AONB at the coast and its interrelationships with the neighbouring marine environment to enable full account to be taken of the AONB in marine and coastal planning and management.	Lead	NDBR, Coastwise
Work with MMO and others to develop marine planning around the ND Coast and engage fully with the marine planning process	D4	To ensure that the special qualities of the AONB are incorporated within any future marine plan for the North Devon coast	Advocate	MMO
Continue to promote the three candidate MCZs for North Devon	D5	To ensure appropriate management measures are in place for inshore waters through the designation of 3 marine protected areas	Advocate	MMO,IFCA,DWT, NDBR
Promote and support initiatives that reduce marine pollution and litter	D6	Work with partners to improve water quality, in particular bacterial quality in rivers and streams in North Devon by working with landowners	Partner	EA, NDBR,landowners
	D6	To work with partners to develop a marine litter programme for above and below the waterline	Partner	IFCA,NDDC,TDC, NDBR, Coastwise
Work with partner organisations to raise awareness of the importance of the Coast	D6	To develop a new AONB Communications strategy	Lead	NDBR, Coastwise, NT
Raise awareness of the importance of estuaries and coastline habitats	D6	To develop Rate my View app in North Devon	Lead	NDBR, Coastwise, NT

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Planning and development

To ensure the planning process takes into full account the North Devon AONB

Key policies

- I1** Facilitate the development of green infrastructure within the AONB
- I2** Support the maintenance and development of sustainable communities providing it is consistent with AONB policies
- I3** Ensure planning authorities support the development of ecologically coherent networks through planning gain
- I4** No development should be permitted inside or on the edge of the AONB which will have a detrimental impact on the landscape character and setting of the AONB
- I5** Promote the use of sustainable vernacular building design and construction using traditional materials and styles wherever possible incorporating renewable energy generation and water recycling technologies where these do not detract from the historic character and fabric of building

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Protect settlement forms, resisting further spread or coalescence of settlements	I1,I2,I4,I5	To develop a green infrastructure strategy for Ilfracombe and Westward Ho!	Advocate	TDC, NDDC
Plan for the sensitive future expansion of towns adjacent to the AONB ensuring that any new development is sensitive in terms of its design and scale.		To ensure the Local Plan recognises the AONB in its allocation of land around settlements on the edge of and within the AONB	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
	I2,I3,I4,I5	To adopt Design Guides, e.g. The Hartland Design Guide, as a Supplementary Planning Document to the Local Plan	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
	I2,I3,I4,I5	To work with Local Communities to produce one more Design Guide for other parts of the AONB	Advocate	PCs
Establish a voluntary approach to establishing a biodiversity offset programme within the AONB that is consistent with the designation	I3	To establish a biodiversity offset programme within the AONB (new policy to ensure no net loss of biodiversity with regard to permitting development within the AONB)	Advocate	NDBR , NDDC, TDC
Ensure that the local planning authorities adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework and give due regard to the AONB.	I2,I3,I4,I5	To work with Local Planning Authorities to ensure they adhere to S115 and S116 of the new National Planning Policy Framework	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
Ensure great weight is given to the purpose of the AONB in planning policy and development control decisions	I2,I3,I4,I5	To advise local authorities of their duties with regard to S85 of the CRoW Act 2000	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
	I2,I3,I4,I5	To develop a new planning protocol between the AONB, Natural England and Local Planning Authorities	Partner	NE,NDDC,TDC, DCC
	I2,I3,I4,I5	To produce a series of AONB Planning Policies Statements and work with Local Authorities to ensure their adoption	Lead	NDDC, TDC
Clearly define and identify areas, both seawards and landwards, adjacent to the AONB that constitute the setting of the North Devon AONB	I4	To use the current Landscape Character Assessments to clearly define the setting of the AONB	Lead	NDDC, TDC, DCC
		To encourage local authorities to adopt the latest Devon Landscape Character Assessment produced in 2012	Advocate	NDDC, TDC, DCC
Protect traditional building styles and materials, ensuring that any new development is sympathetic in form and style, whilst incorporating sustainable design.	I5	To adopt and promote the use and principles of the Hartland Design Guide when looking at planning applications within the AONB	Lead	TDC , NDDC

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OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Protect the sparse settlement pattern of farmsteads and nucleated villages within the AONB and ensure that any new development respects local vernacular building styles and settlement forms, whilst incorporating sustainable design.	15	Through Development Control decisions and local plan policies ensure that development conserves and enhances the AONB	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
Protect vernacular building styles within the AONB and encourage use of locally distinctive materials	15	To continue to produce guidance, for example local Design Guides, to assist in the conservation of vernacular building styles in the AONB	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
	15	To continue to manage, and where appropriate extend, the Conservation Areas within the AONB	Lead	NDDC, TDC
	15	To undertake and update Conservation Area Appraisals and produce Management Plans for settlements within the AONB	Lead	TDC , NDDC

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Access, recreation and health

To ensure sustainable access to the North Devon AONB Coast for the benefit of local people and visitors that is consistent with the designation

Key policies

H1 Promote access to the natural environment, celebrating the natural, historic, inspirational and tranquil places to all

H2 Increase sustainable and sensitive access to the North Devon AONB in ways that are compatible with AONB designation and the achievement of favourable status for European sites

H3 Enhance the environment along the SWCP and increase access and interpretation

H4 Reduce barriers to participation in countryside recreation

H5 Maximise opportunities for countryside recreation in the North Devon AONB that are compatible with the purposes of AONB designation and the achievement of favourable status on European sites

H6 To maximise health-linked recreation in the North Devon AONB

H7 Develop links with healthy lifestyle initiatives

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Plan to increase levels of accessibility of the countryside through enhancement of the public rights of way network, and the development of new access opportunities, particularly around larger settlements.	H1	To continue to maintain and enhance the existing PRoW network	Advocate	DCC,NDBR
	H1,H2	To develop new access through the development of new permissive footpaths and open access areas through HLS	Advocate	NE,DCC,LANDOWNERS
	H1,H2,H3	To maintain and improve access to existing Open Access Land designated under CRoW Act	Advocate	NE,DCC,LANDOWNERS
	H1,H2,H3,H4	To continue to increase the amount of Open access Land in coastal areas in support of the Marine Act 2009	Advocate	NE,MMO, DCC
Promote the use of sustainable transport options to reduce the number of cars on the area's roads	H4,H5	To promote the use of walks that utilise public transport through developing leaflets, providing guided walks and websites such as Explore the Coast	Partner	NDBR, DCC
Maximise opportunities for walking many existing paths by making them more accessible to a greater range of path users	H3,H4,H5	To continue to manage the South West Coast Path to the high standards expected of a National Trail	Advocate	NDBR,DCC,NT
	H4,H5	To continue to market and promote circular walks that involve use of the South West Coast Path	Advocate	NDBR,DCC, SWCPA
Supporting local businesses and charities to develop recreational opportunities through SDF	H4,H5	To work with NT, and landowners to develop opportunities for recreation that are compatible with the AONB	Partner	NT, NDBR, landowners
Evaluate opportunities and impacts of sea-based recreation	H5,H6	To work with recreation organisations to develop best practice guides	Partner	Coastwise, NT, NDBR
Promote activities that can assist in providing enjoyment and healthy exercise for all within the AONB	H6,H7	To continue to increase the amount of countryside that can be accessed by disadvantaged groups	Advocate	NHS, DCC, Living Options
Develop a healthy lifestyle strategy for the AONB	H6,H7	To develop and promote a series of half a dozen easy access circular walks within the AONB	Advocate	SWCP team, DCC, Living Options
Seek opportunities to work with the new healthcare governing bodies	H7	To develop links with mental healthcare providers and explore opportunities to work together	Partner	NHS

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Transport and highways

To encourage sustainable, integrated transport provision and ensure highways are managed in a way that enhances the landscape and local distinctiveness

Key policies

- 16** Encourage the provision of sustainable, integrated public and community transport, including initiatives which enable people to explore the AONB
- 17** Ensure highway improvements and management practices enhance the landscape, tranquility and local distinctiveness by adherence to local protocols

- 18** Work towards the removal of infrastructure that creates an eyesore in the AONB where this does not impact on sensitive underground structures

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Support the development of green travel plans and transport plans that may impact on the AONB and sensitive sites	16	To work with local authorities to minimise the traffic created by new developments	Advocate	NDC,TDC,DCC
Protect the qualities of local lanes and hedge banks, resisting highway improvements and intrusive signage.	16	To adhere to the Highways Protocol and Guide that promotes sustainable management of the highways network within the AONB	Partner	DCC, Devon PLs
	17	To adhere to wildlife legislation and adopt more sympathetic cutting regimes when managing verges and hedgerows adjacent to the highway	Advocate	DCC
	16,17	To work with Devon County Council and other Devon Protected Landscapes to revise and update the Highways Protocol and Guide where appropriate	Partner	DCC, Devon PLs
Manage and maintain the road network within the AONB in a manner that conserves and enhances its outstanding landscape quality and natural beauty	17	To ensure that special verges continue to be designated and protected within the AONB	Partner	DCC
	17	To provide support to local communities who wish to survey, identify and protect verges and hedgerows of great wildlife or landscape value	Partner	DCC
Conserve and enhance the historic features of the road network that celebrate local distinctiveness	17	To work with local communities and highway officers to produce new village entrance signs that celebrate local distinctiveness and promote the AONB	Partner	DCC, PCs
	17	To work with partners to develop and deliver a signing strategy that conserves and enhances the area and also raises awareness of the AONB and Biosphere Reserve	Partner	DCC, NDBR
Reduce the amount of vertical structures and visual clutter affecting skylines and the landscapes of the AONB and its setting	18	To avoid the siting of vertical structures on sensitive skylines and remove any redundant ones	Partner	NDDC,TDC, BT, WP
	18	To underground overhead power lines at prominent locations within the AONB	Partner	WP, BT
Remove and reduce eyesores that detract from the natural beauty of the landscape	18	To undertake an inventory of eyesores that affect the AONB and action their removal	Lead	PCs

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Rural economy and tourism

To promote sustainable development within the North Devon Coast AONB that is consistent with the designation

Key policies

- G1** Promote the use of products that are locally sourced and sustainably produced
- G2** Encourage appropriate management of existing woodlands for their contribution towards biofuels
- G3** Support and develop sustainable tourism opportunities that conserve the special qualities of the AONB

- G4** To support businesses in gaining value from the AONB without impacting on the environmental resource
- G5** To develop a sustainable local economy based on the AONB's natural assets

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Sustain and extend the distribution and quality of traditional orchards within the AONB	G1	To work with Orchards Live to map orchards in the AONB and secure long term sustainability	Advocate	Orchard Live, Landowners
Plan to encourage the reversion of plantations to broadleaved woodland or grassland habitats on maturity and felling.	G1,G2	To provide advice and guidance to landowners to encourage uptake of environmental stewardship and woodland grant schemes	Advocate	NE,FC
Manage woodland for sustainable timber production and to enhance their wildlife interest.	G1,G2	To develop a wood fuels project	Lead	DWT,FC, NDBR
Encourage sustainable tourism initiatives that target a broad range of visitors through promoting walking, cycling and use of public transport	G3,G4	To develop green travel plans with parishes where practicable	Advocate	NDDC,TDC
		To develop a transport and congestion plan to reduce traffic impacts on the AONB	Partner	DCC, NDDC,TDC,
Ensure that the development of tourist facilities comply with the purposes of AONB designation	G4	To provide guidance to tourism providers through planning process and work with planners to embed guidance in Local Plan	Advocate	
Encourage appropriate woodland management to allow the development of wood fuel products to support the local economy and reduce the carbon footprint.	G4,G5	To develop wood fuel & gorse projects	Lead	NT,DWT,FC
Promote sustainable rural business development, adaptation and diversification provided it conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the AONB	G4,G5	To work with ND+ to develop the environmental economy of the AONB through 2 new projects	Partner	ND+
Encourage the development of local brands which promote the North Devon coast area and economy	G4,G5	To promote locally sourced products and support local events and festivals	Advocate	NDBR, ND+

* a lead partner has only been identified where this is appropriate

Community

To involve more people in helping to enjoy, understand and take action to conserve the North Devon Coast AONB

Key policies

- J1** Develop community action and understanding of the special features of the AONB and its setting including the Heritage Coast
- J2** Develop and promote opportunities for people to support the AONB

- J3** Inform and encourage sustainable living and working within the AONB in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change
- J4** Support the provision and retention of community facilities in accordance with AONB objectives

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Engage with a broader range of community groups	J1,J2	To support the delivery of community projects through SDF	Lead	
Develop community engagement with the AONB	J2	To improve volunteering opportunities within AONB through working with ND+ and TVS and recruit 20-30 new volunteers	Lead	ND+,TVS, NDBR, NT
Raise the profile and understanding of the AONB among residents and visitors and encourage positive attitudes to its management.	J2,J3	To fund locally beneficial projects and promote the benefits	Lead	
Encourage access to interpretation for everyone to increase understanding of the cultural, natural and heritage assets of the AONB	J1,J2,J4	To develop an art strategy for the AONB in order to enable us to reach new audiences	Lead	NT, NDBR, Beaford Arts
Support initiatives which increase greater public awareness, appreciation and action for biodiversity.	J1	To develop appropriate interpretation opportunities across the AONB	Partner	NT, NDBR, Coastwise
Whilst planning for the future effects of climate change involve local people in the decision-making process.	J1,J3	To encourage involvement in AONB & other organisations'/partners' events	Partner	
Promote opportunities to utilise SDF to make community buildings more sustainable	J1,J2	To ensure profile of SDF is raised and sustained	Lead	

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Geodiversity

To conserve and enhance the geodiversity of the North Devon Coast AONB and recognise the contribution to landscape value

Key policies

- C1** Manage and enhance nationally important and locally characteristic geodiversity especially coastal exposures whilst improving access and interpretation where possible
- C2** Maintain and enhance the geodiversity of the AONB through the management of sites and areas
- C3** Increase public understanding of geodiversity and how this contributes to the natural beauty of the North Devon AONB

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Protect geological sites, and provide appropriate management and interpretation where necessary	C1,C2	To review local Geodiversity Action Plan	Partner	DCC,NDDC,TDC,NT
Encourage sympathetic management of actively worked mineral resources with special interest and encourage appropriate management of redundant extraction sites	C1,C2	To support DCC through Local Mineral Plan	Advocate	DCC
Develop and provide educational resources that interpret, utilise and widen understanding of our geodiversity as part of formal and non-formal learning	C3	To develop a geology map of the area on the AONB website	Lead	DCC,NT
Interpret the geodiversity of the AONB for a range of audiences and communities, making geodiversity relevant to where people live and the places they visit within the AONB	C3	To use SDF to encourage application for geology projects	Lead	NT

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Farming and land management

To ensure the AONB continues to support sustainable farming that conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the AONB whilst supporting the local economy

Key policies

- F1** Make the AONB an exemplar for sustainable farming
- F2** Maintain the strong pattern of hedgerows, field margins and buffer strips for their major contribution to the landscape, biodiversity and soil management
- F3** Support local food production that is compatible with the landscape character of the AONB
- F4** Encourage the management and extension of existing broadleaved woodland through the use of traditional management techniques

- F5** Support the generation of renewable energy and ensure that onshore and offshore technologies are developed that are consistent with AONB designation and the achievement of favourable status on European sites
- F6** Implement the use of catchment management to ensure good ecological status within catchments such that it supports biodiversity and economy of the North Devon Coast AONB

OBJECTIVE	POLICY REFERENCE	ACTION	AONB ROLE	KEY PARTNERS lead in BOLD
Manage, sustain and support agricultural use, increasing the biodiversity of farmland. Manage, sustain and support agricultural use, increasing the biodiversity of farmland.	F1	To support farmers through environmental stewardship advice	Advocate	NE
Manage and enhance the wildlife interest of agricultural fields by encouraging creation of uncultivated field margins and grass buffer strips around intensively farmed fields.	F2	To maximise uptake of stewardship schemes in the AONB	Advocate	NE
To support local food supply chains	F3	To support communities to produce food through allotments and community orchards	Advocate	NDC,TDC,DCC
Sustain current agricultural use, keeping buildings, hedgerows and hedge banks, thereby maintaining the character of the landscape.	F3	To support sustainable farming practices that maintain and enhance landscape character	Advocate	NE, CPP
Manage Devon hedge banks, respecting locally-distinctive styles; replace lost and over-mature hedgerow trees.	F4	To work with Devon Hedgerow Group to develop sustainable hedgerows project that also considers the potential for wood fuel generation	Partner	DWT, Devon Hedge Group
Maintain the network of hedge banks to reinforce field patterns and ensure new hedge-bank construction reflects local traditions in terms of species, bank height and width, and patterns of stone-facing.				
Raise awareness of the types and scales of energy efficient measures and renewable energy technologies that are consistent with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB	F5	To support technology transfer and events that promote renewable energy options consistent with the AONB designation	Advocate	NDC,TDC,NDBR,DWT
Manage agricultural "run off" from adjacent areas to ensure no contamination of nature conservation sites.	F6	To support the EA through catchment sensitive farming initiatives	Partner	EA , NE
Manage and extend wet woodland and wet meadows through appropriate grazing and traditional land management, to enhance their wildlife value and capacity for flood prevention.	F6	To promote land management grant schemes and ensure AONB farms are well supported	Advocate	NE

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