



CORNWALL
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NATURAL BEAUTY

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CORNWALL AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

SCOPING REPORT (March 2009)

CORNWALL AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW: SCOPING REPORT

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CORNWALL AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW**

DOCUMENT DETAILS	
TITLE	CORNWALL AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW
Role/Content	Scoping Report on the Review of the AONB Management Plan 2004-2009
Status	Statutory Review – It is a requirement of the CRoW Act Section 89 that the Cornwall AONB Management Plan be reviewed within 5 years of the date of its publication.
Priority weighting	Key priority for the delivery of the Cornwall AONB Management Plan
Current status	Scoping Stage – Report of the Review
Geographical coverage	Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
KEY MILESTONES	
Commencement of document preparation	April 2009
Publication of document to consult statutory bodies	Spring 2010
Approval by AONB Partnership	Summer 2010
Estimated date for Adoption of document by Cornwall Council	September 2010
Monitoring and Review	Monitored on an annual basis and review in 5 years
ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRODUCTION	
Organisational lead	The relevant Local Authority is required to review the Cornwall AONB Management Plan.
Management Arrangements	The Cornwall AONB Partnership has agreed that the Cornwall AONB Unit would lead the review process.
Anticipated resources requirements	Internal: Cornwall AONB Unit consisting of Manager, AONB Officer, Communications Officer, Planning Officer and Office Manager. External Consultancy work will be commissioned on the AONB Atlas, SA Scoping Report and engaging with local people.
Anticipated availability of resources	Resources available for commissioning identified tasks within the AONB budget.
Consultation	Engagement with Stakeholders/Partners throughout the process Technical/ Stakeholders and Community Workshop Public Consultation on New Plan.

SECTION 2 – PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

2.1 Background to Review Process

- 2.1.1 It is a requirement of the CRoW Act (Section 89) for the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan to be reviewed within five years of its publication date – June 2004. The legal requirement is for the relevant local authorities acting jointly to review the plan. Based on the outcome of the review they should: determine whether it is expedient to amend the plan make any such amendments that they consider appropriate; and publish a report on the review, specifying the amendments they have made.
- 2.1.2 The Cornwall AONB Officer Group and Partnership have agreed that the AONB Unit would implement the review process and any revised plan should be endorsed by Cornwall Council. The commencement of the review can not take place until the new Council is in place in April 2009 and this has resulted in a delay in the commencement of the Review. The extension of the current management plan beyond 2009 has enabled the Partnership to prepare a scoping report to inform the Cornwall Council on the Review process, and undertake preliminary work on the evidence base (AONB Atlas) that will underpin the preparation of the management plan.
- 2.1.3 There are several alternative approaches to the Review of the management plan and until a scoping exercise outlined below, is undertaken it is premature to decide which approach is appropriate for the Cornwall AONB. These are:
- a. Replacement Management Plan – re-draft and re-issue. This would be warranted if it was established that the policies and actions in the Management Plan were not fit for purpose and a substantial part would need replacing;
 - b. Significant amendments to the Management Plan that would warrant replacing the current Plan with a new document. This would be occur if the vision and principles of the Management Plan were still found to be sound, but there were significant changes in the policy guidance/actions; and
 - c. Report on the resulting amendments that add value or augment the current Management Plan which can be viewed as additions/alterations. A Review report would be prepared but this would complement and not replace the current Management Plan.
- 2.1.4 A scoping exercise has been undertaken in order to confirm the appropriate way forward for the Review of the Cornwall AONB Management Plan and provide the “Report on the Review” (see section 4)

2.2 Background to Scoping Exercise

- 2.2. The purpose of this scoping exercise:
- o Engage with Officers, Partners and Stakeholders on the review of the management plan
 - o Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current management plan, and decide whether there is a need to review;

- Explore how the management needs of the Cornwall AONB can be met in revised plan;
- Outline the purpose, structure and framework of the revised plan.

2.3 Accordingly, this scoping report has been prepared to make an assessment of the purpose and structure of the review. The main considerations to take into account in order to decide how to take this process forward are:

- Whether the current management plan is fit for purpose;
- What areas of work are currently recognised as needing to be addressed in the review;
- What legislative/policy/strategy/actual changes have taken place that need to be incorporated into a new strategy;
- What benefits would be brought to the management of the AONB through the review; and
- What resources are available for the AONB Unit to undertake the Review.

This scoping report will respond to these questions and the results are outlined in section 4 of this report.

SECTION 3- MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

3.1 Review of the Current Management Plan

The ‘Guidance for the review of AONB Management Plans’¹ has been used in the Review process. This sets down the Actions that have to be undertaken in the review process as shown below:

<p>Actions</p> <p>Stage 1 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Consider formal observations from the statutory consultees on the previous management plan</i> ○ <i>Assessment of Cornwall AONB Annual Reviews 2004-2008</i> ○ <i>Have outstanding issues identified been resolved?</i> 	<p><i>difference – if not, why not? identify, recognise and celebrate achievements</i></p> <p>Refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>New imperatives</i> ○ <i>New initiatives</i> ○ <i>Monitoring system</i> ○ <i>Changes in trends</i>
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¹ Guidance for the review of AONB Management Plans CA221

3.2 Actions - Stage 1:

3.2.1 Consider formal observations from the statutory consultees on the previous management plan

The summary of the formal observations and good practice points by the Countryside Agency on the Management Plan have been considered. The observations which are still relevant in the current review are:

- Need to bring out elements of natural beauty and special qualities of the area;
- Local consultation input to the plan;
- Evidence base and use of Landscape Character Assessment;
- Make the links between socio-eco and environment

These issues will be addressed in conjunction with the response from the Partners and Stakeholders (section 3.4) in section 4 on the scoping of the Management Plan Review in order to determine whether they have been resolved.

3.2.2 Assessment of Cornwall AONB Annual Reviews 2004-2008

The key areas of activity of the Cornwall AONB Partnership are outlined in the annual reviews which demonstrate how the management of the AONB have been taken forward in the context of the themes embodied in the Management Plan: working landscapes, vibrant landscapes, biodiverse landscapes, cultural landscapes and valued landscapes.

3.3 Actions- Stage 2:

3.3.1 Review the plan with officers and stakeholders utilising a questionnaire

The guidance for the review of AONB Management Plans states that the process for undertaking the review should involve a *“comprehensive assessment of the relevance and achievements of the management plan and drafting new material that will help steer the management of the AONB over the following five year period”*. A questionnaire was prepared, in accordance with the guidance for the review of management plan, in order to meet this requirement.

3.3.2 The responses to the general questions and the detailed response to the questionnaire are provided in appendix 1². A summary of these observations are provided in Annex 1. These have been assessed, in the context of the following headings:

- overall structure of the plan;
- continuing relevance;
- gaps;
- impacts of current plan and relevance of actions;
- new imperatives; and

² The template shown on table 1 of the Countryside Agency ‘Guidance for the Review of AONB Management Plans’ has been used in the questionnaire.

- monitoring and evaluation systems.

The results of this assessment are shown in Annex 1.

3.4 Review The Plan And Scope Way Forward With Interest Groups/Stakeholders

3.4.1 Scoping meetings with Stakeholders:

Meetings have taken place over the last six months with a comprehensive range of partners/organisations which are representative of the interests/themes/activities that need to be addressed in the review of the management plan. A list of the groups, organisations and individuals is provided in appendix 2.

3.4.2 A summary of the results of this engagement is outlined in Annex2. This has been structured using the existing framework of the current management plan. The current guidance is outlined and the issues that have been addressed are **forces for change, key considerations**, and **way forward**. The results of this assessment assist us in scoping the future management needs of the AONB.

3.4.3 Forces for Change

Since the first Management Plan for Cornwall AONB was prepared significant changes in legislation and guidance have taken place which will influence/provide the context for the review of the management plan. Therefore to assist the Partners/Stakeholders in the review process in order to ensure that the review process enables a plan to be prepared that meets the future management requirements of the AONB needs, a preliminary assessment has been made of the changes that have taken place.

3.4.4 Key Considerations

Significant changes have also taken place in the key considerations which will determine how the future management needs of the AONB shall be met. This goes across the spectrum of issues/interests/activities. The key considerations may be linked to the change in policy guidance, but they are also strongly linked to local change which is often complex and diverse.

3.4.5 Way Forward

The assessment in changes in guidance/policy, consideration of key considerations and forces for change enables consideration to be made of the way in which these issues can be taken forward in the preparation of the plan. This provides an important context for mapping how we engage in the review process and what the new plan will bring.

3.5 Results

3.5.1 The results of this exercise enable us to scope the way forward for the Management Plan review. It provides the basis for the assessment, outlined in section 4 of the scope, content and purpose of the new management plan. The detailed results will form the basis for future

engagement with stakeholders on strategic issues and combined with local/community groups on the management needs in the 12 areas of the Cornwall AONB as outlined in figure 1.

SECTION 4 - PROPOSED SCOPE OF AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.1 Introduction

4.1 This section provides the result of the scoping exercise which enables us to map the way forward for the Management Plan Review. In order to achieve this we:

- examine the ***findings of the scoping exercise***, in the context of the questions previously raised;
- assess ***the purpose and scope of the management plan***;
- examine the ***key tasks***;
- consider ***the structure and content of the management plan***;
- ***consider the content purpose and outcomes of the Area Approach***;
- examine ***the relationship between land use planning and the management plan***;
- assess the requirement for ***the SEA/Sustainability Appraisal and the Appropriate Assessment***;
- determine the content of the ***evidence base for the management plan review – the AONB Atlas***.
- Provide details on proposed ***community involvement/engagement*** which will lead to the preparation of a statement of community involvement.
- ***Conclusions*** will be drawn from this assessment which will demonstrate how the Cornwall AONB Management Plan Review is to be delivered.

4.2 Findings of Scoping Exercise:

4.2.1 As outlined previously (Section 2) the scoping exercise provides an assessment of the purpose and structure of the Review of the management plan. To assist in deciding how to take this forward five questions were raised and the responses to these are outlined below.

4.2.2 Is The Current Management Plan Fit For Purpose:

4.2.2.1 The scoping exercise demonstrates that there has been significant change in legislation, policy guidance and forces for change which significantly affect the Vision, Objectives, Issues and Policies in the 2004-2009 Management Plan. Accordingly, the Management Plan has to be revised to meet the current and future management needs of the Cornwall AONB.

4.2.2.2 Section 2.3, at the beginning of this report, outlined the alternative approaches that could be adopted in taking the Review forward. Approach B is to be adopted because significant amendments need to be made to the Management Plan and this necessitates replacing the current Plan with a new document. The vision and principles of the Management Plan are still sound, but there are significant changes in

the policy guidance/actions and a need to provide a more detailed area approach to the management needs of the Cornwall AONB.

4.2.3 What areas of work are recognised as needing to be addressed in the Review:

The scoping exercise, which is based on an extensive engagement with Stakeholders/Partners, has demonstrated that there has been significant environmental, social and economic change in the current management plan period. This has significantly affected the forces for change in the Cornish landscape, historic environment and biodiversity, agriculture, tourism, recreation, access, renewable energy, land use, coastal and marine planning. (Details provided in section 3). Climate Change is the area in which there is consensus that, the level of understanding and anticipated change, results in a requirement to reassess the management needs of the Cornwall AONB.

A summary of the findings of the scoping report is as follows:

- That the management plan has been useful to Partners' work
- The management plan's strategic view is useful in giving a county overview for AONB management
- The strategic approach needs to be combined with an area approach to be useful in directing local management
- More local level/ spatial information about the AONB areas would be very useful to Partners in incorporating AONB management into their everyday work, plans and strategies.
- The evidence being gathered in the preparation of the plan (The AONB Atlas), comprehensive stakeholder/community involvement, a Sustainability Appraisal, and Appropriate Assessment is essential in order for the management plan to have the appropriate status within the emerging Local Development Framework.
- There is an opportunity to begin to embed the Ecosystems Goods and Services approach within the new plan

4.2.4 What legislative/policy/strategy/actual changes have taken place that need to be incorporated into a new strategy:

Section 3 provides a detailed assessment of the legislative, policy and actual change that has taken place in the Cornwall AONB. It is not considered to be of value to summarise these as they are diverse and many specific to particular issues or areas of interest/activity. Listing the changes would be selective and could lead to under valuing or prioritising issues, which would not be constructive at this initial scoping stage. However, these aspects will be comprehensively addressed in the preparation of the Management Plan and will provide the context for the stakeholders/partners engagement in the plan preparation process.

4.2.5 What benefits are brought to the management of the AONB through the review:

The review is necessary to meet the future management needs of the AONB. In order to achieve this it is recognised that there is a need for

a strategic framework and an area assessment of the 12 component parts of the AONB.

4.2.6 What resources are available for the AONB Unit to undertake the Review:

The results of the scoping process show that there is a need for a revision of the current plan at strategic level. It also has shown that there is a need to highlight the special qualities and significance of each of the 12 sections of the AONB in order to assess the management needs. The need for an area approach is partly due to the diversity and distinctive nature of the AONB's constituent parts. The revision to the management plan is a significant piece of work, when taking into consideration the size of the area to be covered, the resource available within the AONB team, the work required to undertake this approach, along with the stakeholder/community involvement and the requirement for Sustainability Appraisal/Appropriate Assessment.

It is estimated that the review and revision of the strategic element of the Plan and the production of local area chapters for the management plan will take 18 months, utilising our predicted resources, and would be due to complete in September 2010.

A preliminary timetable is shown in Fig 1.

4.2.7 The Results:

The scoping exercise demonstrates that there is a need for a significant amendment to the Management Plan that warrants replacing the current plan with a new document. The two drivers for the amendment as referred to in the Natural England guidance are "number and significance of amendments" and "opportunity to raise awareness". Accordingly, a revised plan will provide clarity of the future management plan needs of the Cornwall AONB and is an opportunity, especially in the context of the new Local Authority, to raise awareness.

4.3 The Purpose and Scope of the Management Plan

4.3.1 Purpose

An AONB Management Plan is a document which:

- highlights the special qualities and the enduring significance of the AONB and the importance of its different features;
- presents an integrated vision for the future of the AONB as a whole, in the light of national, regional and local priorities;
- sets out agreed policies incorporating specific objectives which will help secure that vision;
- identifies what needs to be done, by whom, and when, in order to achieve these outcomes;
- states how the condition of the AONB and the effectiveness of its management will be monitored.³

³ AONB Management Plan: A Guide – CA23

4.3.2 Scope

Issues that were raised in the scoping exercise that need to be addressed when considering the role of the management plan:

- The need for a framework to move towards a more holistic approach in order to achieve greater co-ordination of historic, biodiversity and landscape issues;
- Management Plan could provide a context and focus for other organisations plans, thereby providing support for their work;
- Supportive policies that highlight the joint responsibilities of the Partners/Stakeholders;
- Complementary objectives that will assist organisations with responsibilities for land management;
- Plan should be an enabling document – assist the delivery of actions in partners/stakeholders everyday work;
- MP need to identify problems and issues – provide framework for stakeholders/partners activities/projects – context and supporting evidence;
- Development Plans are no longer being prepared at a District level. The Cornwall LDF will assist in working towards a consistent approach to planning across the whole of Cornwall AONB. The management plan review has a critical role in promoting consistent policies. These areas of work should be viewed as complementary;
- Evidence base and monitoring to support management plan policies. Need for area based policies that support emerging spatial policies in the Cornwall Local Development Framework;
- The Cornwall Landscape Character Study 2005-2007 provides a new resource for the assessment of landscape that provides the opportunity to consider the Cornish landscape on an area basis looking at its 12 component parts;
- Landscape Character Assessment will make a significant contribution to the area approach;
- Area chapters and area specific policies are needed where relevant;
- Area approach could identify areas in more detail – take it to a level where relevant locally e.g. Bodmin Moor impact of vehicle pressure;
- Area approach could be a tool to take practical measures forward e.g. beach management plan process;
- Area chapters that can be taken out separately from the management plan;
- Complementary relationship between the review of the management plan and the preparation of the emerging Local Development Framework. Need to clarify/promote status of management plan as material consideration and consider its role as a Supplementary Planning Document;
- The need to involve the community in its production.

4.4 Key Tasks

The Guidance on the Review of AONB Management Plans –Table 2 outlines the programme for the management plan review. The stages that have been undertaken to date are:

1. Appraisal of Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2004 – 2009

2. Preparation of 'Report on the Review' - Scoping Report

The key stages/tasks which are to be undertaken in the Cornwall Review from April 2009 to Autumn 2010 are:

3. Undertake an Information Review - AONB Atlas
4. Prepare Community/Stakeholder Engagement Document
5. Undertake Technical and Stakeholders Workshops
6. First Drafting of New Plan - Draft Strategic Framework/Area Chapters
7. Undertake Public Consultation on New Plan
8. Collate Comments and Amend Plan - Produce Delivery Plan
9. Present Plan to Cornwall AONB Partnership and Cornwall Council for Formal Adoption
10. Publish and Distribute Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2010-15

Figure 1 provides the timetable for the preparation of the Management Plan Review. This needs to be read in conjunction with section 4.4 below that outlines how the Sustainability Appraisal, which is a parallel process, is to be undertaken and section 4.6 which provides further information on the evidence base that is currently being prepared and the monitoring mechanisms that will be put in place.

4.5 *The Structure and Content of The Management Plan.*

The preliminary structure and content of the management plan will comprise of the following:

- **The long term Vision for the Cornwall AONB**
- **The character and special qualities of the Cornwall AONB (including Statement of Significance)**
- **The social/economic/environmental policy context and issues**
- **Forces for Change**

- **Strategic Themes – Climate Change, Agriculture, Marine, tourism, renewable etc**
- **Area Chapters (spatial dimension)**
- **Strategic and area actions and means of delivery (objectives/policies and measures)**

4.6 The Area Approach

4.6.1 The engagement with stakeholders has confirmed that although the strategic framework is essential for the future management of the Cornwall AONB, this needs to be accompanied by an assessment of the management needs of the 12 individual areas that make up the AONB. The framework for the area approach is outlined below, taking into consideration the purpose, content, evidence base and outcomes. This is a preliminary assessment and further understanding of the requirements of an area approach will be gained with further community/stakeholders engagement.

4.6.2 Area Approach: Purpose

- To achieve more focused local level management;
- To understand the diversity and character of the landscape;
- To assess what conserve and enhance means in each individual area;
- To highlight specific issues and forces for change;
- Provide context for spatial planning decisions;
- To provide information on condition; and
- To provide framework and context for other management plans.

4.6.3 Area Approach: Content

- Key characteristics
- Condition information
- Forces for change
- Issues
- Future management requirements

4.6.4 Area Approach: Evidence/Resource Base

- Landscape Character Study
- Historic Landscape and Seascape Characterisation
- Parish Plans
- Monitoring Report – information on forces for change
- AONB Atlas area information
- Social/Economic information from the community involvement exercise.
- Data/information from Partners/Stakeholders e.g Natural England's Target Statements – (Agri-environment (HLS))

4.6.5 Area Approach - Consultation

Further information is provided in section 4.10. A statement on the community/stakeholders involvement/engagement, which is to be prepared shortly, will outline how this is to be achieved.

4.6.6 Area Approach: Outcomes

Planning and Land Management Guidelines – how the management needs of the different sections of the AONB can be met.

4.7 Relationship between Land Use Planning and the Management Plan

4.7.1 A report was prepared in 2006 on Cornwall AONB's Partnership's Engagement with the Local Development Framework. As part of this exercise the Local Planning Authorities were approached on how the AONB Unit could add value to the preparation of Development Plan Documents. Specific advice was given, which is outlined below, which is relevant to the Management Plan review process:

- The AONB Unit should set down criteria that should be met within the policy guidance for the Cornwall AONB;
- Examples of good practice should be highlighted;
- There is a need for consistency amongst Development Plan Documents policies covering the Cornwall AONB. This would not need to be identical policies, but specific advice should be found within all policies;
- Undertake research on the work that has been undertaken in other parts of the country/county and give examples of good practice;
- AONB policy should be linked to Landscape Character Assessment, which includes biodiversity and historic landscape ;
- Need an AONB Design Guide linked to Local Authority Design Guides - could be a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on design;
- Make AONB Management Plan suitable for adoption across Local Authorities and policy referral to Management Plans;
- AONB Partnership can provide examples and guidance to the LA's on how linking between the AONB Management Plan and the Local Development Framework can be done; what the benefits are, what the pitfalls are and how monitoring can take place. If the Cornwall AONB Management Plan is to be adopted as SPD issues such as consultation and sustainability appraisal need to be addressed.

4.7.2 The role of the Management Plan in complimenting/supporting the Cornwall Local Development Framework (LDF) that is to be prepared is an important consideration in the Review of the Cornwall AONB Management Plan. In earlier, and more recent, discussions with the District Planning Officers and the Interim LDF team the need to develop a stronger relationship between the LDF and Management

Plan in their future preparation/review is supported. The management Plan is seen as a valuable tool in moving towards spatial planning.

4.7.3 In order to take this relationship forward the following opportunities need to be explored:

- The Management Plan would need to work at two levels; the strategic level and the area based level. The former would provide the overall strategic approach to development in Cornwall AONB, whilst the latter would give management guidelines for the individual area components of the Cornwall AONB.
- In the guidance relating to the different parts of the AONB there is a need for area based objectives and specific guidance on how the landscape character of these areas can be conserved and enhanced.
- There is also a requirement for more guidance on economic and social criteria. The role of the landscape/environment as the resource/asset that underpins the economic health of the County needs to be fully understood. There is also a need for guidance on sustaining communities in AONB's. How are landscapes to be maintained if farming continues to be put under significant economic pressure?

4.7.4 Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (PPS 12 - para 6.3) provides guidance on the preparation of supplementary guidance by other bodies stating that:

Supplementary guidance to assist the delivery of development may be prepared by a *government agency, Regional Planning Body* or a *County Council*⁴ or other body (e.g. *AONB committee*) where this would provide economies in production and the avoidance of duplication e.g. where the information in it would apply to areas greater than single districts. Such guidance would not be a supplementary planning document. However, if the same disciplines of consultation and sustainability appraisal (where necessary) are applied, such information might, subject to the circumstances of a particular case, be afforded a weight commensurate with that of SPDs in decision making. This may be more likely if the district/borough/city councils to which it is intended to apply endorse the guidance⁵, or if the document is an amplification of RSS policy and it has been prepared by an RPB.

4.7.5 The AONB Management Plan can be viewed as being a spatial planning tool⁶. Accordingly, AONB Management Plan preparation and the Local Development Framework are considered to be complementary processes which would serve to strengthen the likelihood of the policy objectives for each type of plan being achieved, or moved towards. The Cornwall Core Strategy will be under preparation during the period the Cornwall AONB Management Plan is to be reviewed. A planning protocol is currently being prepared and it is anticipated that the new Local Planning Authority will engage with the AONB teams/partnerships on the preparation of emerging Local

⁴ ... in a two tier area and where the issue is not minerals or waste

⁵ ... or a county council in a two tier area where the issue is minerals or waste

⁶ ..."Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function". (PPS1 Para 30)

Development Framework in order to ensure the appropriate level of protection for the natural beauty of the AONB in Cornwall. It will be an objective of the Management Plan review that appropriate weight can be attached to the policy guidance incorporated in the plan. Accordingly, in accordance with PPS 12 to ensure that the Management Plan can be “afforded a weight commensurate with that of Supplementary Planning Document in decision making” a sustainability appraisal and appropriate consultation will be undertaken in the Management Plan review.

4.8 The Preparation of an SEA/Sustainability Appraisal/Appropriate Assessment

4.8.1 Producing a Strategic Environmental Assessment is a statutory obligation for an AONB Management Plan (or a revised Management Plan) though not for a report and amendments to a Management Plan⁷. A SEA is a tool that’s purpose is “to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development”⁸. The core purpose of the management plan is to provide a high level of protection to the AONB and an essential component of any review, and the AONB Units work generally, will be to integrate environmental considerations into the plan.

4.8.2 Section 4.3. above outlines the benefits of working towards a complementary relationship between the Management Plan preparation and the work, this is to be undertaken concurrently, on the Cornwall Council Core Strategy. A sustainability appraisal will be required if the relevant management plan policies are too taken forward as a Supplementary Planning Document. A substantial amount of work has been undertaken in Cornwall on Sustainability Appraisals on the emerging Local Development Framework. This work is relevant to the review of the Management Plan, and as SEA’s are incorporated into this process could assist in meeting the purpose of the SEA. For example the SEA/SA Headline Objectives set down in the forthcoming Cornwall Council’s DPD could be used in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Management Plan Review. Land uses Consultants have been commissioned to undertake a scoping report of the Management Plan Review, which will commence in April 2009 and the sustainability appraisal is to form an integral part of the preparation of the plan.

4.9 The AONB Atlas - Evidence base for Management Plan Review

4.9.1 The AONB Atlas will examine all aspects of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and function as an information document for partners,

⁷ Strategic Environmental Assessment of AONB Management Plans (NE) 2007

⁸ Guidance for the Review of AONB Management Plans

stakeholders and the general public. As well as providing information, the document will contain information on indicators which have been carefully selected to give information on the State of the AONB. Analysis of available data on these indicators will examine past and future trends, and in some cases enable conclusions to be drawn on the current state and condition of the AONB from social, economic and environmental perspectives. All of the data contained within the Atlas will be reviewed and if necessary extra data will be added as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.

- 4.9.2 The most important function of the Atlas is to provide a solid evidence base for the new AONB management plan. The trends and issues highlighted as part of the Atlas will be drawn through and used to formulate new policies for AONB management. The information used in the atlas will come from a variety of data sources including nationally available data e.g. Census and June Agricultural Census data to locally collected data e.g. The Cornwall Land Cover data from ERCCIS and data that the AONB Unit in conjunction with Plymouth University has collected in the field.
- 4.9.3 It is vital that the content of the Atlas is relevant and useful. The content does not seek to provide an inventory of everything in the AONB, rather pick out the most relevant piece of information that will give as accurate a picture of change and condition as possible and be most relevant and helpful in formulating AONB policies. Information will be presented for the Cornwall AONB as a whole but where data allows, it will also be presented for each section of the Cornwall AONB. Where possible a comparison between the County and the AONB will also be made
- 4.9.4 The Atlas will largely be presented electronically via the AONB website. Spatial information will be able to be viewed as maps with corresponding analysis. It is intended that a printed summary of the document will be made available to highlight the main results.

4.10. Consultation Process

- 4.10.1 In order to effectively engage with communities and stakeholders throughout the Cornwall AONB it will be necessary to prepare, at an early stage, details on how the consultation process will be undertaken.

A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is being prepared by the Interim Authority in conjunction with the preparation of Local Development Framework; this will help to inform the consultation process. Engagement with the local community and stakeholders (and as wide a spectrum of these as possible) will give our new Management Plan the maximum possible relevance and authority. This will in turn inform the strategic framework and the Area Approach of the management plan. Below are the elements that will be needed above and beyond the common elements already outlined in section 4.6.

There are no simple ways to increase community involvement. It is important to consider the local context for any initiative (e.g. previous history and patterns of community involvement, the characteristics of people targeted for involvement and controversial issues in the area, such as a threat to a service or a disputed planning application). Information and publicity will, of course, be crucial.

4.10.2 Purpose

- To gain local community and stakeholders views
- To raise awareness of the AONB
- To give communities a sense of ownership of their designated landscape(s)
- To comply with the Sustainable Community Strategy for Cornwall and Local Development Framework SCI.
- To enable the status of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to be achieved.

4.10.3 Content

- Number and type of community sectors to be reached
- Methodology for engaging communities (n.b. a number of different approaches will be required)
- Barriers to involvement (e.g. time, cost, place etc)
- Understand what is valued in landscape terms at a local level
- Draw out challenges and future issues as seen by stakeholders and others
- Monitoring/evaluating response

4.10.4 Resource

The work previously undertaken on the Tour of the Communities (2004) provides background information to the consultations. Discussions have taken place with the Cornwall Rural Communities Council (CRCC) on facilitating the consultation process and undertaking other agreed methods of engagement. The Parish Plans and Community Networks are considered to be integral in taking these consultations forward. Other methods of engaging communities in the consultation exercise (both paper-based and electronic) will form part of the report on the consultation process. For example: Workshops, Community events, Questionnaires, E-mail shots, Competitions, Community groups and Talks/presentations

It is intended that there should be 3 workshops for stakeholders/partners and 1 workshop in each of the 12 areas of the AONB. Partners and stakeholders, through the AONB Management Plan Working Group, will be encouraged to take an active part in the community/stakeholders engagement. Certain organisations have engagement strategies, for example the National Trust: 'How people value the work of NT in their local landscape', and these can be used to help enable the process.

4.10.5 Outcomes

- Identify importance to local communities
- Identify gaps in knowledge and information

- Planning and land management guidelines
- Guidelines for specific areas
- Benefits (to specific communities) of the AONB

It will be important to acknowledging the diversity of our local communities and develop both targeted and universal strategies to reach all members of the local community including traditionally 'hard to reach' groups such as women, the elderly, young people, people with a disability, members of minority ethnic groups and those in remote rural locations.

SECTION 5 – THE WAY AHEAD

5.1 Responsibilities and Resources

- 5.1.1 Outlined below are the tasks that need to be undertaken by the AONB Partnership in the Review of the Cornwall AONB Management Plan. The Management Plan is a statutory document and there is a legal requirement for the relevant local authority to review the plan. The Partnership will therefore be leading the Review on behalf of the Cornwall Council. Accordingly it is essential that all Partners are effectively engaged in this process and the Local Authority Partners have a key role. A meeting of the AONB Management Plan Working Group has been undertaken and it has been agreed that a new working group will be formed once the structures of the departments of the new authority is clear and terms of reference will be agreed. Core representatives will be required from the three planning areas, historic environment services, natural environment, land owning Partners such as the National Trust and Stakeholders will be invited to specific meetings.
- 5.1.2. Section 4.2.6 outlines that resources available to the AONB Unit to undertake the Review of the Management Plan and therefore the Partners involvement and commitment to the preparation of the Management Plan is essential if the task is to be completed in accordance with the proposed timetable. In addition, the Local Development Framework Team is to be actively involved in the preparation of Development Plan Documents, including the Core Strategy, and the World Heritage Site Partnership will be involved in a Review during the period when the Management Plan Review is to take place. It is therefore essential that complementary working is promoted and evidence/data is shared.
- 5.1.3 The AONB Unit is unlikely to be fully staffed until the Summer 2009, therefore, to avoid delay in the start of the process, work will have to be commissioned during the early preparation of the plan.

5.2 Review

The stages that are to be undertaken in the review are:

- Undertake an Information Review - AONB Atlas
- Prepare Community/Stakeholder Engagement Document

- Undertake Technical and Stakeholders Workshops/ engagement with AONB communities
- First Drafting of New Plan - Draft Strategic Framework/Area Chapters
- Undertake Public Consultation on New Plan
- Collate Comments and Amend Plan - Produce Delivery Plan
- Present Plan to Cornwall AONB Partnership and Cornwall Council for Formal Adoption
- Publish and Distribute Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2010-15

Figure 1 provides the timetable and information on how these stages are to be taken forward is outlined below.

5.2.1 Undertake an Information Review - AONB Atlas

Work has commenced on the AONB Atlas. Land Use Consultants have been commissioned to undertake this work and information gathering is currently being undertaken. It is intended that the information will be available summer 2009.

5.2.2 Prepare Community/Stakeholder Engagement Document

The AONB Unit and Management Plan Review Working Group will steer the preparation of the community/stakeholders engagement document. The content of this scoping report will be used to inform this process. It is essential there is no delay in undertaking this work, because it has to be prepared at the start of the process. In addition, during this time the AONB Unit is not fully staffed. Therefore consultants will have to be used to prepare these documents and this work will need to be commissioned in April 2009.

5.2.3 Undertake Technical and Stakeholders Workshops/Engagement with AONB Communities

A report on the consultation process is to be prepared shortly and this will form the framework for the engagement with stakeholders and the AONB communities. If finance is available, (an application for additional project funding has been made for finance from Natural England to undertake this work), Cornwall Rural Community Council will be commissioned to facilitate the workshops and undertake other agreed methods of engagement.

5.2.4 First Drafting of New Plan - Draft Strategic Framework/Area Chapter

The results of the stakeholders/community engagement and workshops will be assessed and form the basis of the first draft of the new plan. It is recognised in this scoping exercise that the current management plan strategic visions and principles are still sound, and these can be take forward with updating. The significant change that will take place will result from updating of the policy guidance context and the area approach.

5.2.5 Undertake Public Consultation on New Plan

The main public consultation will be undertaken on the Cornwall AONB Management Plan in Spring 2010; this will take place over a minimum

period of 6 weeks and the report on the consultation process how this will be undertaken.

5.2.6 Collate Comments and Amend Plan - Produce Delivery Plan

The method to be used to collate comments will be established prior to the consultation process, so that time can be minimised in terms of data processing. These comments will be used to amend the plan.

5.2.7 Present Plan to Cornwall AONB Partnership and Cornwall Council for Formal Adoption

The Cornwall AONB Management Plan will be presented to the Cornwall AONB Partnership for adoption in July 2010 and then taken forward to the Cornwall Council for formal adoption.

5.2.8 Publish and Distribute Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2010-15

The plan will be published by the Cornwall AONB Partnership and distributed to Partners/Stakeholders and Community groups that have been involved in its preparation. The document will be promoted using the website and through publicity.

**FIG. 1 CORNWALL AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW
TIMETABLE**

START DATE	STAGES
September 2008	Appraisal of current plan
March 2009	Report on the Review Scoping Report
April 2009	AONB Atlas Information Review
April 2009	Prepare Community/Stakeholder Engagement Document
September/October 2009	Technical/ Stakeholders and Community Workshops
January 2010	First Drafting of New Plan Draft Strategic Framework/Area Chapters
March/April 2010	Public Consultation on New Plan
June/July 2010	Collate Comments and Amend Plan Produce Delivery Plan
August 2010	Present to Cornwall AONB Partnership and Cornwall Council for Formal Adoption
September 2010	Publish and Distribute

ANNEX 1: RESULTS OF THE REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN: RESPONSE FROM QUESTIONNAIRES RECEIVED FROM OFFICERS AND STAKEHOLDERS.

A summary of the observations made on the Cornwall AONB Management Plan are provided below. These have been assessed, in the context of the following headings:

- overall structure of the plan;
- continuing relevance;
- gaps;
- impacts of current plan and relevance of actions;
- new imperatives; and
- monitoring and evaluation systems.

1. Overall Structure of the Plan:

- Vision an essential component – should be addressed early in the plan

2. Continuing relevance:

General

- Vision should use more assessable language
- Strategic policies continue to be relevant;
- Needs updating – policy context has changed significantly e.g. Land Use Planning –PPS's/RSS/LDF, WHS designation, ESA, Agri- Environmental Schemes (HLS and ELS), Agricultural CAP reform, EU structural funds - convergence fund,
- Need to show provenance of the policies and actions
- Need to show consultation process

Specific

- Landscape approach for the management of the AONB historic environment should continue to be supported – Historic landscape Characterisation is a key tool.
- HEAP's are a management resource for the historic environment of Cornwall and should be adopted
- Affordable housing policy still relevant – needs clarification on affordable housing generally and exception sites.

3. Gaps:

General

- Landscape- new evidence base to include LCA – cumulative effect of development needs to be addressed
- Need to build on the LCA work and develop identities of the 12 Separate areas of the AONB
- Changes in legislation including Planning and Compensation Act, draft Marine Bill, Draft Heritage Protection Bill.
- Climate Change – habitat changes, coastal/sea level changes, increased storm events, potential mitigation works – coastal defences, structures/settlement abandonment, impact on coastal assets and species/landscape character
- Marine/Coastal Environment – emergence of Marine Bill and new structures and initiatives for Coastal Zone Management
- Agricultural Practices

- Design Guide
- Convergence/RDA Rural Action programmes/RDPE – how will impact on specific sectors e.g. tourism
- Initiatives must be multi disciplinary/holistic or at least proofed against negative impact on other interests.

Specific

- Land use changes: Telecommunications masts, Under grounding of wires, Bio fuel crop, level of second homes
- Renewable Energy Wind farm developments on and off shore-carrying capacity/landscape sensitivities of different forms, a reassessment of policy. Opportunities for single turbines – farmers/community projects- acceptable scale with direct benefits to the AONB.
- Efficient use of energy in businesses and homes – reference should be made to the BREEAM standards and Code for Sustainable Homes – address current housing stock (home health project)
- Agricultural practices
 - continue support for areas coming out of ESA's and seek to strengthen opportunities for HLS inside AONB'. Need to ensure that farms without SSSI/SAC succeed where they make a significant contribution to the landscape.
 - Concerned about impact of biofuels and other global market crops on the AONB.
 - Need to look at opportunities to strengthen local marketing of products and co-operative action that can sustain small family businesses, particularly on Bodmin Moor.
 - Intensive agriculture and cropping in North Cornwall changing landscape i.e. bulbs etc
 - Support through the planning system for farm diversification under the rural white paper, particularly non accommodation
 - Allotment of holdings and development of larger scale agri-businesses with potential impact on the AONB, particularly Bodmin Moor
- Tourism
 - Need to look at the capacity of the landscape and the human impact on the AONB
 - Significant pressure on coastal resource and the Marine Bill will increase levels of access.
- Social
 - Impact of population rise and requirement for affordable housing
 - Village facilities and assets under threat i.e. post offices
 - Isolation of older members of the community
 - Opportunities for engagement through Community Networks
- Sustainable Development
 - Positive policy and framework in which developments can be considered which would benefit the AONB
 - AONB should be firmly embedded within the development of the LDF and the adoption of landscape character assessment

4. Impacts of Current Plan and Relevance of Actions:

- Policy action carried forward are a result of a small team working with limited resources – work needs to be sustained by Partners over a long period of time to achieve the desired outcomes.
- Successes – Landscape Character Area Assessment, Influences over specific development, raise awareness profile of the AONB, and keeping the AONB profile high as an area of funding.

5. New Imperatives/Initiatives:

- Supportive policies that highlight the joint responsibilities for safeguarding the historic environment;
- Recognition that measures needed to safeguarding the historic environment applies to the whole, not only designated sites
- Specific policies relating to the interaction of the AONB and WHS
- Area chapters and area specific policies. Individual areas of the AONB have their own unique characteristics and architectural distinctiveness – need detailed evidence base to support individual policies for specific areas.
- Complementary objectives for organisations with responsibilities for land management
- Emphasis on individual identity and character of rural places in regeneration/development
- The landscape is now seen as an economic resource/driver. This approach needs to be reinforced.
- Need for an assessment of energy efficiency in traditional buildings whilst retaining their character
- Need to integrate Ecosystems Goods and Service approach

6. Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:

- Section on monitoring needs to be expanded in the context of monitoring in the LDF process
- Cornwall, Tamar Valley and Isles of Scilly AONB Landscape Monitoring Project needs to be integrated into the future monitoring of the Management Plan
- Monitoring report required to provide a systematic evaluation of change against the plan objectives