



**CORNWALL AONB MANAGEMENT  
PLAN REVIEW**

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL  
DRAFT SCOPING REPORT**

**Prepared for Cornwall AONB  
Partnership  
by  
Land Use Consultants**

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14 Great George Street  
Bristol BS1 15RH  
Tel: 01179 291 997  
Fax: 01179 291 998  
[bristol@landuse.co.uk](mailto:bristol@landuse.co.uk)



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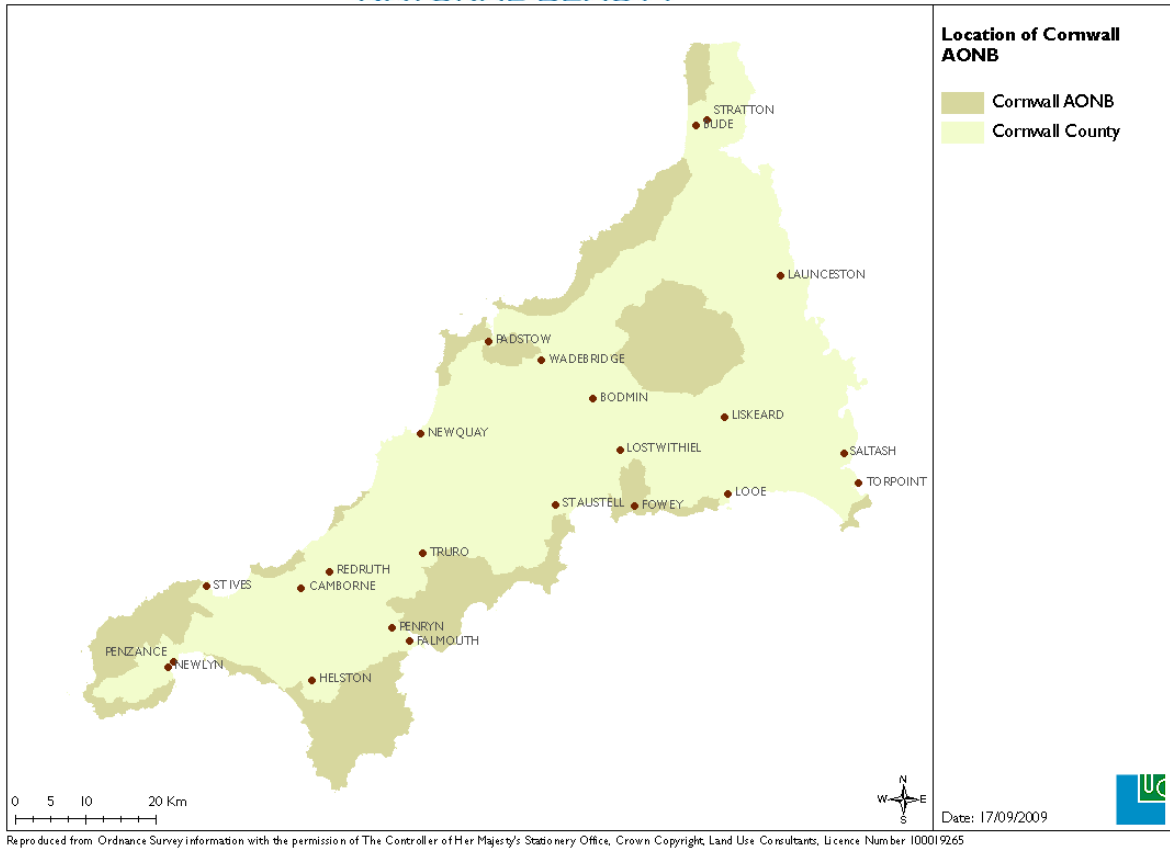
## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### BACKGROUND

- 1.1. This Scoping Report has been prepared by Land Use Consultants (LUC) on behalf of Cornwall AONB Partnership as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan Review. The AONB partnership is in tandem with this process carrying out a Habitats Regulations Assessment, the findings of which will feed in to the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 1.2. Cornwall AONB has one of the most distinctive, attractive and varied landscapes in the British Isles. It was designated in 1959 (with the Camel Estuary area added in 1981) and is made up of 12 separate distinct areas, covering a total area of approximately 958 sq km. The AONB covers varying landscapes of coast, moors and valleys, and cultural associations make the area uniquely and distinctively Cornish.
- 1.3. The main purpose of AONBs is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the designated area. The conservation of the fauna, flora, landscape and geology of each AONB is central to the designation.

*Figure 1.1: Map of Cornwall AONB*



## THE AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

- 1.4. Part 4 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000 created a statutory responsibility for local authorities and conservation boards to produce Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plans and to then review adopted and published plans at intervals of not more than five years. The statutory AONB Management Plan is a new way of working, bringing innovation and excellence through best practice. The Cornwall AONB Management Plan Review will act as a guide for local authorities, statutory agencies and people who live and work within the AONB and seeks to provide cohesion between the various bodies that impact on the AONB.
- 1.5. The Cornwall AONB Management Plan will evaluate what the special qualities and characteristics of the AONB are, and determine what actions are required to ensure that these qualities are conserved and enhanced for future generations. The topics that are likely to be covered in the Management Plan are:

Agriculture; Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Climate Change;  
Communications; Communities; Economy; Heritage and Culture;



Landscape and Seascape; Rivers, Estuaries Coast and Seas; Planning and Development; Resource Quality; Sustainable Tourism; Transport and Access

## **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL & STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

- 1.6. SEA is a statutory assessment process under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (the SEA Regulations, Statutory Instrument 2004, No 1633) which provide the legislative mechanism for transposing European Directive 2001/42/EC ' *on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment*' the (SEA Directive). The SEA Directive and Regulations require formal strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects (positive or negative) on the environment. Annex II(2) of the SEA Directive sets out the criteria for determining significant effects and includes "*effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.*"
- 1.7. The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to integrate environmental, social and economic sustainability issues into the plan preparation process. It is designed to ensure that the Management Plan Review preparation process improves the contribution that the plan makes to the achievement of sustainable development. SA and SEA follow very similar methodologies and it is possible to combine them without losing the essence of either. For the remainder of this Report Sustainability Appraisal will refer to the combined SA and SEA process.
- 1.8. As the focus of the AONB Management Plan Review is on conserving and enhancing the environment, the SA will largely act as a means of confirming the positive nature of planned interventions. However, it also provides the opportunity for the plan-making authority to ensure that all positive sustainability outcomes are considered and maximised where possible, right across the spectrum of environmental issues. Adverse effects may potentially arise as a result of planned interventions that potentially have a positive effect on other aspects of the environment. Where potential adverse effects are predicted the SA's role is to ensure there is awareness and transparency of the potential for these effects and to propose measures for avoiding and mitigating them.



## **PURPOSE OF THE SCOPING REPORT**

1.9. This Scoping Report has been published for consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage) as required by the SEA Regulations. It seeks to:

- explain the approach being taken with regard to the SA (Chapter 2);
- present relevant policies, plans and programmes (Chapter 3);
- present relevant environmental and sustainability indicators and sources of data (Chapter 4);
- through analysis of Chapters 3 & 4, draw out and identify key local environmental and sustainability issues and opportunities (Chapter 4); and
- present the SA Objectives that will form the key mechanism for assessing the Management Plan Review (Chapter 5).

## 2. METHODOLOGY

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- 2.1. The approach for carrying out the SA of the Cornwall AONB Management Plan Review is based on current best practice and the following guidance:
- *A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive* (September 2005) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government, Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland.
  - *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Framework: Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities* (November 2005) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- 2.2. The SA will need to be undertaken in close collaboration with those writing the Management Plan Review at the Cornwall AONB Partnership, in order to fully integrate the SA process with the production of the Management Plan Review. The different stages of the SA and the proposed methodology for undertaking it are given below.

### THE SCOPE OF THE SA

- 2.3. **Policies, plans and programmes** (PPP) that are relevant to the Management Plan Review will be identified and relationships understood, enabling potential synergies to be exploited and any inconsistencies and constraints addressed. (See Chapter 3).
- 2.4. **Baseline** information will be considered in line with the SEA Directive on the following SEA topics: Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora; Population; Human Health; Water; Soil; Air; Climate Factors; Material Assets; Cultural Heritage and Landscape. In addition information on Social and Economic factors with particular relevance to an AONB will be taken into consideration. This baseline will provide the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and will help to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.
- 2.5. Baseline information regarding the Cornwall AONB is gathered from the Cornwall AONB Atlas and the Cornwall LDF SA draft Scoping Report.
- 2.6. Drawing on the PPP and the baseline the key local **environmental and sustainability issues** and opportunities will be highlighted. This will be valuable in highlighting specific issues to be considered during the assessment of the Management Plan Review.



- 2.7. From these key issues and drawing on the SA Objectives developed for the Cornwall LDF SA draft Scoping Report, a set of **Sustainability (SA) Objectives** will be developed which will form the framework for assessing the Management Plan Review. (See Chapter 5).
- 2.8. The Scoping Report will then be published for **consultation** for a 5 week period between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup> (complying with the SEA Regulations). The statutory consultation bodies designated in the SEA Regulations (the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage) will be consulted together with other stakeholders that the Cornwall AONB Partnership feels are appropriate (See Chapter 6).

### **ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS AND PREFERRED OPTIONS**

- 2.9. The comments arising from the consultation on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and taken into consideration. Using the SA Objectives as a framework, analysis will be undertaken on the emerging options in the Management Plan Review. This will be documented and fed back to the Cornwall AONB Partnership so that the findings of the SA can be taken into consideration when redrafting the options. This iterative approach will help ensure that environmental and sustainability considerations are taken into consideration right from the start of the process. This analysis will be documented and presented in the main SA Report in order to aid transparency.
- 2.10. Once the options have been refined, a detailed assessment will take place of the Consultation Draft of the Management Plan Review and the likely significant effects of the plan on the environment and sustainability will be documented, including secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary effects, and whether these effects are positive or negative in line with the SEA Regulations.

### **SA REPORT PREPARATION AND CONSULTATION**

- 2.11. The SA Report will document the process including the assessment of the options and the refined options with conclusions about the significant positive and negative effects of the Management Plan Review and details about mitigation measures that may be necessary and a monitoring schedule. A non technical summary will be included in the report to enhance its accessibility to a range of users.
- 2.12. The Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published with the Consultation Draft Management Plan Review. These two documents will undergo an 8 Weeks formal public consultation.



- 2.13. Consultation comments on the Management Plan Review and SA Report will be taken into consideration and from this the Cornwall AONB Partnership will develop the final Management Plan Review.

### **FINAL SA REPORT**

- 2.14. Depending on the level of change between the draft and the final Management Plan Review and the level and complexity of comments received, the Environmental Report will either be updated and reissued, or an addendum produced to detail any changes needed to the SA Report.

### **POST ADOPTION STATEMENT**

- 2.15. Once the Management Plan Review has been adopted, a Post Adoption Statement will be produced which will explain how environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the plan. It will also include the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with and also the measures decided upon concerning monitoring. This will ensure compliance with Article 9 (1) of the SEA Directive.

### **MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN**

- 2.16. The purpose of monitoring is to measure the environmental effects of the plan, measure success against the plan's objectives, to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be taken. It is recognised that the monitoring requirements typically associated with the SA process place heavy demands on authorities with SA responsibilities. Therefore the monitoring strategy will build on existing monitoring that is being undertaken wherever possible using existing indicators and datasets that are being routinely collected. Identifying the monitoring framework and arrangements will happen in an integrated way with the Cornwall AONB Partnership as it develops monitoring arrangements for the Management Plan Review. The monitoring of the plan will be the responsibility of the Cornwall AONB Partnership.



### 3. REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS & PROGRAMMES

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- 3.1. The Management Plan Review is not prepared in isolation; its vision, policies and actions will be influenced by and have to be consistent with international, national and local guidance and policies, contribute to their goals, and conform to environmental protection legislation.
- 3.2. This combination of legislation, plans and programmes can impose constraints on, and present opportunities to the emerging vision for the future of the Cornwall AONB. Therefore gaining an understanding of relevant policies, plans and programmes is an important part of the process not only in helping to establish the baseline and identify key issues for the AONB but also in identifying other external issues that the Plan could help to address and where policies in other plans and programmes could lead to cumulative effects in combination with the Management Plan. Table 3.1 gives an indicative list of relevant international, national and local policies, plans and programmes that will be taken into consideration as the SA assessment is undertaken of the Management Plan Review. The extent to which they will exert an influence over the Management Plan Review will vary and as a result it may not be necessary to refer to all these documents in the SA assessment. There are several documents however, that will be of key importance and summaries of these are given below:
- 3.3. The **National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949)** states the primary purpose of AONB designation is *“to conserve and enhance natural beauty”*. But in pursuing the primary purpose, the secondary purposes of designation, established by the **Environment Act (1995)**, are to *“take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of economic and social development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.”*
- 3.4. The **Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)** underlines the importance of AONBs and introduces a statutory duty for all AONB local authorities to prepare and publish AONB Management Plans.
- 3.5. **PPS 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)** notes that within AONBs authorities should support small-scale development which helps to sustain villages that are remote from and have poor public transport links with service centres.

- 3.6. **PPG 21: Tourism** outlines the importance of tourism in land use planning due to its economic significance and its environmental impact. It explains how the needs of tourism should be dealt with in development plans and in development control.
- 3.7. The **South West Regional Spatial Strategy (2008)** states in Policy ENV3 that within Protected Landscapes in the region (including AONBs) " *the conservation and enhancement of their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage will be given priority over other considerations in the determination of development proposals*".
- 3.8. Local Development Framework

The new Local Development Framework (LDF) will set out Cornwall Council's policies for meeting the county's economic, environmental and social aims for the future where this effects the development and use of land. The LDF consists of the following elements:

**Local Development Scheme (LDS)** - this document sets out the overall timetable for the production of the LDF.

**Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** - this document sets out how the Council will involve the community during the preparation of the LDF and significant development

*Table 3.1: List of Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes.*

<b>International</b>
EC (1979) <i>EU Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)</i>
UN(1971) <i>Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)</i>
UNECE (1998) <i>Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice for Environmental Matters (The Aarhus Convention)</i>
EC (1991) <i>European Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</i>
UN (1992) <i>Agenda 21</i>
UN (1992) <i>The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro</i>
EC (1994) <i>EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</i>
EC (1996) <i>EU Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC)</i>
EC (1997) <i>EU Directive 97/11/EC amending Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment</i>
EC (1997) <i>European Spatial Development Perspective (97/150/EC)</i>
UN (1997) <i>Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change</i>
EC (1999) <i>EU Landfill Directive (99/31/EC)</i>
EC (2000) <i>EU Framework Directive on Waste (75/442/EEC)</i>
EC (2000) <i>EU Water Framework Directive (00/60/EC)</i>
EC (2001) <i>The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC)</i>
EC (2001) <i>Directive to promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC)</i>

EC (2001) *EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan*  
 EC (2002) *EU Directive on Environmental Noise (02/49/EC)*  
 EC (Reform 2003) *European Common Agricultural Policy*  
 EC (2005) *EU Rural Development Policy 2007-2013*  
 EC (2006) *EU Freshwater Fish Directive (2006/44/EC)*  
 EC (2006) *EU Soil Framework Directive*  
 EC (ratified 2006) *European Landscape Convention*  
 EC (2006) *EU Groundwater Daughter Directive 2006/118/EC*  
 EC (2006 revised) *European Sustainable Development Strategy*

### **National**

Defra (2006) *Climate Change: The UK Programme*  
 Defra (2007) *Waste Strategy for England*  
 Defra (2007) *A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods, and Forests*  
 Defra (2009) *Safeguarding our Soils; A Strategy for England*  
 Department of Health (2006) *Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services*  
 DfT (2007) *Towards a Sustainable Transport System (TASTS) – Supporting Economic Growth in a Low Carbon World*  
 DfT (2004) *The Future of Transport – a Network for 2030*  
 DfT (2004) *Guidance on Accessibility Planning*  
 UK Government (2005) *Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy*  
 UK Government (2006) *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act*  
 UK Government (2009) *Marine and Coastal Access Bill*

#### *Relevant Planning Policy Guidance Notes:*

Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: *Transport* (2001)  
 Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: *Planning and the Historic Environment* (1994)  
 Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: *Archaeology and Planning* (1990)  
 Planning Policy Guidance 17: *Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation* (2002)

#### *Relevant Planning Policy Statements (PPSs):*

PPS 1: *Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) and Planning and Climate Change Supplement* (2007)  
 PPS 3: *Housing CLG* (2006)  
 PPS 7: *Sustainable Development in Rural Areas* (2004)  
 PPS 9: *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation* (2005)  
 PPS 22: *Renewable Energy* (2002)

### **Regional & Local Plans**

#### *Regional Level:*

GOSW & SWRA (2005) *Revision 2020: Renewable energy targets for the South West region up to 2020*  
 GOSW (2006) *South West Low Carbon Housing and Fuel Poverty Strategy and Action Plan – Final Draft*

GOSW (2008) *Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West incorporating the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes*  
 ODPM (2003) *Sustainable Communities in the South West – Building for the Future*  
 RegenSW (2003) *South West Regional Renewable Energy Strategy 2003-2010*  
 South West Climate Change Impacts Programme (2003) *Warming to the Idea*  
 South West Housing Body (2005) *South West Regional Housing Strategy 2005-2016*  
 SW Regional Assembly (2004) *From rubbish to resource: The Regional Waste Strategy for the South West*  
 SW Regional Assembly (2006) *Regional Strategic Review on Sustainable Energy*  
 SW Regional Assembly (2008) *South West Climate Change Action*  
 SW Regional Development Agency (2004) *Regional Strategy for Enterprise*  
 SW Regional Development Agency (2006) *Regional Economic Strategy 2006:2015*  
 SWRDA/SWRA/GOSW (2006) *Sustainable Communities Plan – The Way Ahead*  
 South West Tourism (2005) *Towards 2015: Shaping Tomorrow's Tourism*  
 South West Regional Skills Partnership (2006) *South West Skills Strategy 2006 to 2009*

*Local Level:*

Children and Young People Partnership (2008) *Cornwall's Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11*  
 Cornwall Agricultural Council (2003) *Strategy for Agriculture, Horticulture, Food and Land Based Industries in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly 2003-2010*  
 Cornwall Air Quality Forum (2004) *Cornwall Air Quality Strategy*  
 Cornwall and the IOS Community Safety Partnership (2007) *Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Community Safety Strategic Assessment*  
 Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum (2006) *Cornwall Works – Tackling Unemployment and Worklessness*  
 Cornwall and the IOS Economic Forum (2007) *Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Employment Space Strategy 2007 to 2017*  
 Cornwall and the IOS Economic Forum (2007) *Strategy and Action- The Economic Development Strategy for Cornwall and the IOS 2007-2021*  
 Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape Partnership (2005) *Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape Management Plan 2005-2010*  
 Cornwall County Council (2002) *Cornwall Waste Local Plan*  
 Cornwall County Council (2006) *Cornwall Local Transport Plan 2006-2011*  
 Cornwall County Council (2007) *Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy*  
 Cornwall County Council (2007) *Sustainable Development Plan*  
 Cornwall County Council (2008) *Climate Change Strategic Framework*  
 CSEP (2004) *Action Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow – The Energy Strategy for Cornwall*  
 Environment Agency (2009) *Drought Plan for South West Region Cornwall Area*  
 Cornwall Strategic Partnership (2008) *Sustainable Community Strategy for Cornwall*

## 4. BASELINE & KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

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4.1. Baseline information will be collected in line with the SEA Regulations on the following SEA topics:

- Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora;
- Population;
- Human Health;
- Water;
- Soil;
- Air;
- Climate Factors;
- Material Assets;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape and
- Cross Cutting.

4.2. In addition information on Social and Economic factors with particular relevance to an AONB will be taken into consideration. The baseline will provide the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and will help to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.

4.3. In order to avoid duplication and ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal is closely aligned with the Management Plan review process, the Cornwall AONB Atlas will not only be used as the baseline for the Management Plan but will also be used as the baseline for this SA. The Atlas contains significant amounts of information that will be required for the Sustainability Appraisal and will be heavily referred to throughout the Appraisal process. In addition, Cornwall-wide baseline information taken from the recently completed Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Cornwall Local Development Framework (LDF) will be used to supplement the Atlas where necessary.

4.4. The Cornwall AONB Atlas covers the following baseline topics:

- Agriculture, Food and Forestry
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Climate change and energy
- Communications
- Community
- Economy
- Heritage and Culture
- Landscape and Seascape
- Planning and development
- Resource quality

- Rivers, estuaries, coast and sea
- Sustainable tourism
- Transport and access

4.5. The Cornwall LDF SA Scoping Report provides Baseline information under the following themes:

<b>Environment</b>	<b>Social</b>	<b>Economic</b>
Climatic Factors	Social Inclusion	Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism
Waste	Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	Education and Skills
Minerals and Geodiversity	Housing	Transport and Accessibility
Soil	Health, Sport and Recreation	Energy
Air		
Water		
Biodiversity		
Landscape		
Maritime		
Historic Environment		
Design		

4.6. The baseline information provided in both the Atlas and the LDF SA draft Scoping Report has been reviewed and key local issues, opportunities and notable local trends have been identified (See below) to help ensure that the SA is as locally specific as possible and to inform the development of the Sustainability Objectives and the appraisal of the Management Plan Review. Through the Scoping consultation exercise we are seeking the opinions of the Statutory Consultees on any other issues they feel are important for the AONB. The full version of the Atlas is available from the Cornwall AONB Unit at [www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk) and for the LDF draft Scoping Report contact [sarden@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:sarden@cornwall.gov.uk)

## HEADLINE FACTS AND KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AONB

### Environment

#### *Biodiversity*

- Habitats in decline – neutral grassland (126.42ha lost between 1988 and 1995); fen, marsh and swamp (20.89ha lost) and Dwarf shrub heath (12.6ha lost)<sup>1</sup>.
- Bodmin Moor has the greatest area of SSSI land in unfavourable condition<sup>1</sup>.
- Biodiversity forms one of the cornerstones of the Cornish landscape which has been identified as an economic driver. The loss of this diversity will inevitably result in a decline in landscape distinctiveness and attractiveness of the country as a tourist destination<sup>2</sup>. The atlas shows semi-natural habitats to be more or less stable and a high percentage of SSSI condition to be recovering or favourable.

#### *Water*

- The AONB has a proportionally longer length of minor and secondary rivers than the county as a whole, and contains 24% of the county's secondary rivers at their source.<sup>1</sup>
- The total number of pollution incidences has declined since 2002.<sup>1</sup>
- Major pollution incidences have taken place in Bodmin Moor and South Coast Western in the last seven years.<sup>1</sup>
- The majority of the AONB's beaches are reaching the highest standard for bathing water quality; a massive improvement from the late 1980s.<sup>1</sup>
- Land surrounding the Fal in the South Coast Central AONB section is deemed most sensitive to diffuse water pollution from agriculture.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Soil*

- Contaminated land issues resulting from the County's mining heritage. The processing of tin, lead and copper ores has led to concentrations of impurities such as arsenious sulphides in the soil in metalliferous mining areas of Cornwall<sup>2</sup>.

#### *Air Quality*

- Air quality in Cornwall is generally good; currently traffic is the primary source of pollution. Increased summer traffic associated with tourism

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<sup>1</sup> LUC (2009) Cornwall AONB Atlas for the Cornwall AONB Partnership

leads to congestion and increased levels of air pollution. Increased tourism is likely to cause problems for air quality<sup>2</sup>.

### ***Climate Change***

- Sea level rise increased flooding events and storminess due to climate change is especially important for Cornwall with its long coastline. Sea level rise has already been recorded on the coast.<sup>2</sup> The south coast is most at risk from flooding from future sea level rise, including as a result of climate change<sup>1</sup>.

### ***Material Assets: Mining and geodiversity***

- The degree of overlap between the AONB and mineral resources means that there is often a conflict and constraints on the exploitation of natural resources. Over 525ha of mineral workings lie within the AONB<sup>2</sup>.
- Cornwall has very varied geology and a large number of sites worthy of geo-conservation, but there is considerable pressure on the conservation of geological features from mineral extractions<sup>2</sup>.

### ***Material Assets: Energy***

- Energy consumption has risen significantly more in Cornwall as a whole than for the rest of Britain<sup>2</sup>. The development of a low carbon economy is an ongoing issue<sup>3</sup>.

### ***Material Assets: Waste***

- Cornwall currently exports a large proportion of its waste as there are few processing facilities.<sup>2</sup>
- There has been a reduction in waste going to landfill and an increase in recycling but increases in population, especially during the tourist season is increasing the quantity of waste produced<sup>2</sup>. There is a need to reduce waste and increase the efficient use of resources<sup>3</sup>.

### ***Material Assets: Transport and accessibility***

- For the rural population of Cornwall there is a high dependency on the private car<sup>2</sup> with limited bus routes in rural areas<sup>1</sup>.
- All of the main traffic routes in the AONB experience an increase in traffic during the summer months, the roads with the greatest increase in summer traffic are found in the north of the AONB<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Cornwall Council Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal draft Scoping Report (August 2009)

<sup>3</sup> Comments from Cornwall AONB Unit

### *Historic environment*

- Over a third of Cornwall's Conservation Areas are in the AONB and over a quarter of Cornwall's Listed Buildings are found in the AONB<sup>1</sup>. Cornwall has the largest number of statutory protected Heritage Assets in a unitary Council area<sup>2</sup>. The erosion of heritage assets and character via road improvement schemes is a major concern.
- In general, the condition of historic and archaeological features within the AONB is stable<sup>1</sup>.
- Lack of use / availability of traditional building skills and materials threatens the Heritage and Landscape of Cornwall<sup>2</sup>. It is necessary to safeguard and enhance the landscape asset and productivity should be increased in a way that enhances landscape character and local distinctiveness rather than detracts from it<sup>3</sup>.
- Maintaining community identity and cultural heritage and the sustainability of local fairs, festivals and events is an issue in the AONB<sup>3</sup>.

### *Landscape*

- Over 30% of Cornwall is covered by the AONB<sup>2</sup>, making it a significant part of the makeup of the area.
- The relationship between the AONB and the surrounding countryside needs to be considered and forces for change such as agricultural change, management of woodland and trees and tourism put pressure on the buffer areas around the AONB<sup>2</sup>. This is especially important given the fragmented nature of the AONB.
- Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site - 20% of this is located in the Cornwall AONB<sup>1</sup>.
- The AONB is one of the most tranquil areas in Cornwall; urban development and main roads are the main detractors from tranquility in the AONB. The most 'disturbed' part of the AONB is the Camel Estuary, whilst the most 'undisturbed' section is Hartland<sup>1</sup>.
- There has been an overall reduction in dark night skies across the AONB since 1990<sup>1</sup>.

### *Cross-cutting*

- Sustainability considerations should underpin all forms of development.
- Development is a serious concern in the AONB, especially at the boundaries and where the AONB is close to centres of population e.g. Truro and Falmouth, specifically from wind renewables, tourism chalets and housing.

## **Social**

### ***Population***

- One of the fastest growing areas in the UK with a 3% growth in population per year<sup>2</sup>.
- Nearly all of the AONB's population is White British and of English origin<sup>1</sup>.
- Large increases in the migrant worker populations (especially in West Cornwall)<sup>2</sup>.
- About 4 million people visit Cornwall as tourists each year. Influx of seasonal visitors has a significant effect socially and economically<sup>2</sup>.
- Greater proportion of older people in Cornwall than nationally<sup>2</sup>. Population structure – 24.9% aged 45-49 and only 3.66% aged 20-24<sup>1</sup>.

### ***Human Health***

- On average people in Cornwall live longer than elsewhere in England. However, there are high levels of limiting long term illness<sup>2</sup>.

### ***Social inclusion***

- Increase in the fragmentation of communities and the perceived distance of communities from the decision-making process<sup>2</sup>. Poor accessibility and workplace issues need to be addressed. At a county scale, there is a need to reduce peripherality and develop a Cornwall 'voice'<sup>3</sup>.

### ***Crime and anti-social behaviour***

- Crime in Cornwall is low but its impact on the community is significant as there is a high fear of crime. There is a significant seasonal summer peak in crime<sup>2</sup>.

### ***Housing***

- Affordable housing a problem with house prices much higher than the England average<sup>2</sup>. The highest house prices are often found in parts of the AONB classed as below the national rate of deprivation<sup>1</sup>.
- Local Authority Gypsy and Traveller sites are full and overcrowded and there is an increase in numbers of caravans largely on unauthorised sites<sup>2</sup>.

## **Economic**

### ***Economic development, regeneration and tourism***

- Economic/social deprivation – most of the AONB falls in the 20-40% most deprived areas of England according to IMD data<sup>1</sup>.
- The Cornish economy has grown in recent years resulting in greater diversity and wealth. However, earnings remain lower than the UK average<sup>2</sup>.
- The maritime business sector is significant in Cornwall providing 14,000 full time jobs<sup>2</sup>. Other important industries are fishing, agriculture, tourism, creative and food and drink. Nearly half of Cornwall's fishing industry employees are based in the AONB, and over half of vessels are located in ports within the protected landscape<sup>1</sup>.
- Almost 85% of businesses in Cornwall employ less than 10 people with 98% employing under 50<sup>2</sup>.
- Re-structuring the local economy, such as promoting rural crafts, creative industries and local food and produce<sup>3</sup>.
- Managing local impacts on rural communities as the primary industries continue to re-adjust and supporting the growth of new industries such as the ICT sector<sup>3</sup>.
- The tourism sector traditionally consists of lower wages and seasonal positions; there is a need to address this (along with profitability) and increase good quality, year round full time job opportunities<sup>3</sup>.
- Supporting small business which enhance local distinctiveness e.g. local galleries<sup>3</sup>.

### ***Education and skills***

- Skills shortage in Cornwall with the most significant shortage in 'Skilled Trades'<sup>2</sup>.
- Improve skills and training for those sectors which support the AONB economy and also those which enable local distinctiveness to be maintained and enhanced e.g. local craftspeople<sup>3</sup>.

### ***Cross Cutting***

- Need for improved high speed IT/broadband to improve connectivity, particularly in more rural areas<sup>3</sup>.
- There is a need to address the public perception of Cornwall as a poor economy<sup>3</sup>.

- There is a need to promote the Cornwall AONB 'brand'<sup>3</sup>.

## 5. SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

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- 5.1. The purpose of Sustainability Objectives is to provide a way of checking whether the proposed AONB Management Plan Review Objectives and Actions are the best possible ones for sustainability and can be seen as a methodological yardstick against which the environmental, social and economic effects of the plan can be tested. The Sustainability Objectives seek to address the full cross-section of sustainability issues, including the SEA topics identified in Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive.
- 5.2. In developing the Sustainability Objectives we have taken account of not only the SEA Directive topics but also the findings of the Plans, Policies, and Programmes Review (Chapter 3), the Atlas, LDF Scoping Report (Chapter 4) and the identification of Key Issues (Chapter 4). To ensure consistency and avoid duplication we have taken the SA Objectives developed for the LDF Scoping Report and reviewed which Objectives are suitable to be used as SA Objectives for the AONB Management Plan (see right hand column). We have then added some AONB-specific wording and objectives to these to form the final set of Sustainability Objectives that will be used to assess the AONB Management Plan Review (See Table 5.1 below). Through the Scoping consultation exercise we are seeking the opinions of the Statutory Consultees on the suitability of the SA Objectives for this purpose.

Table 5.1 AONB Management Plan SA Objectives

Proposed Sustainability Objectives	SEA Directive & Sustainability Topics	Taken from the LDF Scoping Report SA Objectives?
1.) To reduce our contribution to climate change through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. To increase resilience to climate change, and reduce vulnerability.	Climatic factors	Yes
2.) To minimise the generation of waste and encourage greater re-use and recycling of materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	Material Factors: Waste	Yes
3.) To minimise the consumption of mineral	Material	Partially

resources and ensure the sustainable management of these resources. To conserve, enhance and restore the condition of geodiversity in the AONB.	Factors: Mining and geodiversity	modified
4.) To minimise the use of undeveloped land and protect and enhance soil quality.	Soil	Yes
5.) To improve access to key services and facilities by reducing the need to travel and by providing safe sustainable travel choices. To reduce traffic congestion, especially seasonal congestion and minimise transport related greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.	Material Factors: Transport , Accessibility & Air	Partially modified
6.) To reduce and manage the risk of flooding and reduce vulnerability to flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion. To maintain and enhance water quality and reduce consumption and increase efficiency of water use.	Water	Yes
7.) To conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent and interconnectivity of biodiversity in the AONB and allow its adaptation to climate change.	Biodiversity	Partially modified
8.) To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural landscape, including local distinctiveness, and seascape, and promote its positive contribution to the AONB's present and future wellbeing.	Landscape	Partially modified
9.) To encourage clean, healthy, productive and diverse waters; To protect coastal areas and ensure sustainable maritime environments	Water (& economy)	Yes
10.) To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the historic environment, reinforcing and celebrating the distinctive character and culture of AONB.	Historic environment	Yes
11.) To promote and achieve high quality design in development, sustainable land use and sustainable built development, maintaining local distinctiveness and encouraging a good quality of life.	Landscape	Yes
12.) To reduce poverty, social exclusion and	Social	Partially

fragmentation and provide opportunities for all to participate fully in society, decision making and the development of sustainable communities.	inclusion	modified
13.) To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.	Crime and anti-social behaviour	Yes
14.) To meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent housing.	Housing	Yes
15.) To improve health through the promotion of healthier lifestyles and improving access to open space and health, recreation and sports facilities.	Human Health	Yes
16.) To support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the area and promotes a diverse range of quality employment opportunities and provides substantial benefit to local communities.	Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism	Partially modified
17.) To maximise accessibility for all to the necessary education, skills, training and knowledge to play a full role in society, support the local economy and protect and enhance the special qualities of the AONB.	Education and skills	Partially modified
18.) To encourage the use of renewable energy appropriate to the special qualities of the AONB, increase energy efficiency and security and reduce fuel poverty.	Material Factors: Energy	Partially modified
19.) To protect and enhance the relationship between the AONB, the surrounding countryside and strategic towns on the edge of the AONB.	Cross cutting	New



## 6. NEXT STEPS

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- 6.1. In line with the SEA Regulations this report will be sent to the statutory consultation bodies: Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency. Additionally it will be made available to other key stakeholders that the Cornwall AONB Partnership wishes to engage with at an early stage.
- 6.2. The consultation period will last for 5 weeks between March 22nd and April 26<sup>th</sup> 2010. We welcome all comments on this Scoping Report and encourage particular attention to:
- The SA methodology
  - The key local environmental and sustainability issues identified
  - The SA Objectives
- 6.3. To respond to this consultation please send written comments to:

June Crossland  
Planning Officer  
Cornwall AONB Partnership  
Par Building  
Treyew Road  
Truro  
Cornwall  
TR1 3AY  
  
jcrossland@cornwall.gov.uk

Land Use Consultants  
March 2010

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