

# **Sustainability Commentary on Cornwall AONB Management Plan Review**

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

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Appendix 1: Cornwall AONB Management Plan Review – Draft Policies v6

# 1 SUSTAINABILITY COMMENTARY

## INTRODUCTION

- I.1 Land Use Consultants (LUC) has been commissioned by the Cornwall AONB partnership to undertake Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Cornwall AONB Management Plan. This has included the preparation of the SA Scoping Report.
- I.2 In order to ensure that sustainability issues are fully embedded within the Management Plan we have undertaken a high level review of the draft Management Plan. This has included a review of all the policies against the SA framework, followed by a review of the detailed plan actions (to ensure that appropriate measures are actually in place to deliver sustainability benefits and minimise negative impacts on the ground).
- I.3 This SA commentary will be incorporated into the final SA report which will be consulted upon alongside the Management Plan.
- I.4 This commentary is structured as follows:
  - Section 2 briefly sets out the purpose of AONBs and AONB Management Plans.
  - Section 3 screens each of the policies against the SA framework to identify where sustainability benefits and/or adverse effects are likely.
  - Section 4 provides a qualitative summary of the results of the policy screening exercise.
  - Section 5 reviews the detailed actions to ensure that likely sustainability benefits will be achieved on the ground.
  - Section 6 provides an overall summary of all findings.

## 2 Purpose of AONBs and their management plans

- 2.1 The statutory purposes of AONB designation are:
- *‘Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.*
  - *Increasing the understanding and enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the area of outstanding natural beauty.’*
- 2.2 Greater weight is to be given to the former in the event of conflict. While having regard to these purposes, an AONB conservation board shall also *‘seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the area of outstanding natural beauty’*.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.3 *‘Natural beauty’* is not just an aesthetic concept. Its statutory definition includes flora, fauna and geological and physiographic features and Natural England guidance<sup>2</sup> points out that AONBs are cultural landscapes (i.e. made by humans) so that management plans should encourage activities which conserve and enhance the special character of the AONB and minimise activities which threaten it.
- 2.4 Natural England (formerly the Countryside Agency) guidance on AONB management plan reviews<sup>3</sup> states that:
- ‘In pursuing the primary purpose of designation, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.’*
- 2.5 The guidance goes on to say that reviewed AONB management plans should only include material relating to prosperous rural businesses and thriving rural communities insofar as these can be shown to help deliver the primary purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty.

### BASELINE SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

- 2.6 The SEA Regulations require that baseline information be collected on the state of the environment to provide a basis for predicting the effects of the plan in comparison to the likely evolution of the environment without the plan. This baseline information is set out in the SA Scoping Report and further information is also available in the AONB Atlas<sup>4</sup> and the ‘Background’ and ‘Predicted trends’ sections of each policy theme in the Management Plan. To avoid duplication, this report only provides a brief summary of the sustainability baseline in relation to each of the SA objectives (see **Table I**).

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<sup>1</sup> Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Section 87.

<sup>2</sup> Countryside Agency (2001) Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans - A guide.

<sup>3</sup> Countryside Agency (2006) Guidance for the review of AONB management plans.

<sup>4</sup> Cornwall AONB Partnership (2010) Cornwall AONB Atlas: Companion Report.

### 3 Policy screening

- 3.1 The draft policies within the Management Plan are set out in **Appendix I**. A high level screening exercise was carried out to identify the sustainability objectives most likely to be impacted by each of the Management Plan policies, as documented in **Table I**. This enabled the sustainability commentary to focus on the most relevant areas of draft policy and allowed identification of potential conflicts between policies and any gaps in policy coverage.

**Table 1: Screening of draft policies**

	<b>Sustainability objectives</b>	<b>Key baseline information</b>	<b>Policies most likely to have a positive effect</b>	<b>Policies most likely to have a negative effect</b>
SO1	To reduce our contribution to <b>climate change</b> through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. To increase resilience to climate change, and reduce vulnerability.	Extensive coastline of AONB is vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise, especially south coast.	BG1, BG2, CCE1, CCE2, CCE3, CCE4, CE2, CE6, PD4, RCM4, TA1, TA4, TA5	CCE2 (large scale renewables)
SO2	To minimise the generation of <b>waste</b> and encourage greater re-use and recycling of materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	Few waste processing facilities means most waste is exported.  Despite a reduction in the % of waste going to landfill, the absolute amount is increasing, driven by population and tourism growth.	CE3	
SO3	To minimise the consumption of <b>mineral resources</b> and ensure the sustainable management of these resources. To conserve, enhance and restore the condition of <b>geodiversity</b> in the AONB.	AONB purposes constrain exploitation of mineral resources with which it overlaps.  Large number of sites worthy of geo-conservation but conflicts with mineral extraction pressure.	BG4, TA2	
SO4	To minimise the use of undeveloped land and protect and enhance <b>soil</b> quality.	Contaminated land in metal mining areas.	CCE4, RCM6, RCM7, RCM8	PD4
SO5	To improve access to key services and facilities by reducing the need to travel and by providing safe <b>sustainable travel</b> choices. To reduce traffic congestion, especially seasonal congestion and minimise transport related greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.	High dependency on the private car and limited bus services in rural areas.  Generally good air quality but large number of summer visitors cause road congestion (especially in north of AONB) and increased air pollution.	CE2, CE6, TA1, TA4, TA5	CE4, PD6, ST1, ST3
SO6	To reduce and manage the risk of <b>flooding</b> and reduce vulnerability to flooding, sea level rise and <b>coastal erosion</b> . To maintain and enhance <b>water quality</b> and	Extensive coastline of AONB is vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise, especially south coast.  Diffuse water pollution from agriculture is an issue	CCE3, CCE4, CE3, PD4, PD5, RCM1, RCM4, RCM5, RCM6, RCM7, RCM8	

	Sustainability objectives	Key baseline information	Policies most likely to have a positive effect	Policies most likely to have a negative effect
	reduce consumption and increase efficiency of <b>water use</b> .	in some areas e.g. the Fal catchment.  Bathing water quality is good.		
SO7	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent and interconnectivity of <b>biodiversity</b> in the AONB and allow its adaptation to climate change.	Biodiversity forms a cornerstone of the AONB landscape.  Neutral grassland; fen, marsh and swamp; and dwarf shrub heath habitats are in decline but extent of semi-natural habitats generally stable.  Bodmin Moor has a significant area of SSSI in decline.	BG1, BG2, BG3, BG4, BG5, CCE4, RCM5, RCM6, RCM7, TA2	CE4, PD4, PD6, ST1, ST3
SO8	To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural <b>landscape</b> , including local distinctiveness, and seascape, and promote its positive contribution to the AONB's present and future wellbeing.	The AONB covers 30% of Cornwall and also contains part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.  The AONB is one of the most tranquil areas of Cornwall; main detractors are urban development, main roads and erosion of dark skies.  See also baseline information under SO11.	FFF1, FFF2, FFF3, FFF4, BG3, CCE1, CCE2, CCE4, CE3, CE7, LS1, LS2, LS3, LS4, LS5, PD1, PD2, PD3, PD4, PD6, PD7, PD8, PD9, PD10, PD11, RCM5, ST1, ST2, ST3, ST4, TA3	CE4, PD6, ST1, ST2, ST3
SO9	To encourage clean, healthy, productive and diverse waters. To protect coastal areas and ensure <b>sustainable maritime environments</b> .	Half of Cornwall's fishing fleet located in ports within the AONB.	BG6, CE8, RCM2, RCM3	
SO10	To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the <b>historic environment</b> , reinforcing and celebrating the distinctive character and culture of AONB.	Large number of Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings.  Condition of historic and archaeological features generally stable, although a high proportion of	CE3, CE5, H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, PD7, PD8, TA2, TA3	PD4

	Sustainability objectives	Key baseline information	Policies most likely to have a positive effect	Policies most likely to have a negative effect
		<p>Scheduled Monuments have been identified through the Scheduled Monument Risk Survey – over 460 are considered to be ‘at risk’ and over 130 at ‘high risk’.</p> <p>Inadequate supply/use of traditional building skills and materials threatens heritage and landscape.</p>		
SO11	To promote and achieve <b>high quality design</b> in development, sustainable land use and sustainable built development, maintaining local distinctiveness and encouraging a good quality of life.	Key threats to AONB purposes include development of inappropriate housing, tourism chalets and wind turbines at AONB boundaries and close to centres of population (e.g. Truro, Falmouth).	CCE1, CE6, PD7, PD11	
SO12	To reduce poverty, social exclusion and fragmentation and provide opportunities for all to participate fully in society, decision making and the development of <b>sustainable communities</b> .	<p>Local fairs, festivals and events an important but threatened element of community identity.</p> <p>Fragmentation of rural communities and poor access to workplaces.</p> <p>Perception of being a long way from the (national) decision-making process.</p>	CE1, CE2, CE3, PD8	PD4
SO13	To reduce <b>crime</b> , anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.	<p>Crime is relatively low but fear of crime is high.</p> <p>Significant summer peak in crime associated with visitor season.</p>	No effect predicted.	No effect predicted.
SO14	To meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent <b>housing</b> .	<p>Cornwall has one of the fastest growing populations in the UK and large migrant worker populations in the west of the county.</p> <p>Affordability of housing an issue with relatively high</p>	PD3	PD3, PD7

	Sustainability objectives	Key baseline information	Policies most likely to have a positive effect	Policies most likely to have a negative effect
		prices coupled with high levels of deprivation.  Local authority gypsy and traveller sites overcrowded and increasing number of unauthorised sites.		
SO15	To improve <b>health</b> through the promotion of healthier lifestyles and improving access to open space and health, recreation and sports facilities.	Cornwall has good life expectancy relative to UK average but also a high proportion of older people who are thus more prone to illness.	CE4, TA1, TA4, TA5	
SO16	To support a balanced and <b>low carbon economy</b> that meets the needs of the area and promotes a diverse range of quality employment opportunities and provides substantial benefit to local communities.	High levels of economic and social deprivation with earnings below the UK average despite recent growth and diversification of Cornish economy.  Large and fast-growing tourism sector which features low wages and seasonal jobs. Other significant employers are retail; fishing; agriculture; creative; food and drink; plus, historically, tin, copper and china clay mining.  Large proportion of small employers.	FFF4, BG5, CE2, CE5, CE6, CE7, CE8, PD2, PD6, RCM2, ST1, ST2	CE6, PD2
SO17	To maximise accessibility for all to the necessary <b>education, skills</b> , training and knowledge to play a full role in society, support the local economy and protect and enhance the special qualities of the AONB.	Skills shortage in Cornwall, especially in 'Skilled Trades'.	BG5, H2	
SO18	To encourage the use of <b>renewable energy</b> appropriate to the special qualities of the AONB, increase <b>energy efficiency</b> and security and reduce fuel poverty.	Rising energy consumption.  Potential conflicts between AONB purposes and policy imperative to develop renewable energy sources.	CCE1, CCE2 (small scale renewables), CE3	FFF2, CCE2 (large scale renewables)

	Sustainability objectives	Key baseline information	Policies most likely to have a positive effect	Policies most likely to have a negative effect
SO19	To protect and enhance the relationship between the AONB, the <b>surrounding countryside</b> and strategic <b>towns</b> on the edge of the AONB.	Agricultural change, management of trees and woodland and tourism put pressure on the buffer areas around the AONB.	CE4, TA5	



## 4 Assessment results

4.1 Unsurprisingly for a plan intended to conserve and enhance the natural environment, the Management Plan was found to have broadly positive sustainability effects. Whilst positive effects were identified for almost all sustainability objectives, the areas of greatest positive impact were:

- **SO1 Climate change mitigation and adaptation** – Adaptation measures include targeted changes to agri-environment schemes and biodiversity projects; adoption of a landscape approach to habitat management; and an integrated coastal and flood risk management. Mitigation is provided by policies which promote energy efficiency in the AONBs distinctive buildings; promote deployment of appropriate renewable energy technologies; support self-containment of smaller settlements including through live-work initiatives and high speed internet rollout; and support public transport improvements and other sustainable travel.
- **SO6 Flooding, coastal erosion, water resources and water quality** – The Management Plan positively addresses flooding and coastal issues through policies that aim to improve knowledge of planning for tidal flood risk; ensure an integrated approach to coastal pressures, including support for managed realignment; support restoration of natural river channel form; and manage woodlands and hedges to slow water run-off. Water resources and water quality issues are addressed by support for land management approaches that deliver water resource benefits; support for community-led sustainability initiatives; promotion of improved understanding of terrestrial water management; identification of priority catchments for piloting integrated soil and water management methods and farming methods that reduce diffuse pollution.
- **SO7 Biodiversity** – A positive effect on the biodiversity resource of the AONB is expected from policies which seek to manage green infrastructure to accommodate increased recreation and tourism visitors (reducing the risk of damage and disturbance); prioritise ‘soft’ forms of coastal flood/erosion protection (reducing the risk of coastal squeeze); respect the capacity of the landscape to accommodate tourism development; develop integrated approaches to water and soil management in priority catchments and encourage low impact farming methods; and support designs for transport and rights of way infrastructure that enhance biodiversity.
- **SO8 Landscape** – A significant proportion of the Management Plan policies seek to conserve or enhance the AONB landscape. Those likely to have the greatest positive impact include policies which support forms of agriculture and forestry that enhance the landscape; support landscape scale biodiversity projects; regulate acceptable forms of renewable energy and energy efficiency development; embed landscape issues within the Local Development Framework/development management process, including tourism development; and improve the evidence base through Landscape Character Assessment and condition monitoring.

- **SO10 Historic environment** – The historic environment is an integral component of the AONB’s cultural landscape and will be conserved and enhanced through policies which aim to protect local distinctiveness from the potential effects of inappropriate development; improve recording of, access to and understanding of historic assets; extend appropriate management to non-designated historic assets and increase the number that are designated; encourage appropriate design of highways and associated infrastructure; embed historic environment issues within the Local Development Framework/development management process, and improve the evidence base through a character led approach to management.
- **SO16 Low carbon economy** – Policies which will have a positive impact on development of a local low carbon economy and employment include those which seek to support appropriate farm diversification and development of rural industries that contribute to local distinctiveness and landscape character; support live/work arrangements and high speed internet access; provide financial support to land managers for biodiversity initiatives; support local self sufficiency in small rural settlements; support community harbours and the sustainability of inshore fisheries; support appropriate development of tourism facilities; and exploit the marketing potential of the AONB’s special qualities in the tourism and other industries.

4.2 In addition to policies designed to conserve and enhance the natural environment, the Management Plan also contains policies designed to promote enjoyment and understanding of the AONB’s special qualities and to address wider social and economic objectives that benefit local communities. This introduces some tensions between sustainability objectives and the potential for the policies to have a number of negative sustainability effects:

- Policies requiring affordable housing and other necessary development to respect the landscape, historic environment and distinctive building materials of the AONB may restrict housing supply by reducing the number of potential development sites and increasing the cost of provision with negative effects on **SO14 Housing**. Similarly policy controls over the development of employment premises within the AONB may restrict supply with negative effects on **SO16 Low carbon economy**.
- Policies seeking to promote tourism and outdoor recreation visits to the AONB risk adverse impacts on **SO5 Sustainable travel** (increased car journeys and associated road congestion, disturbance and air pollution), **SO7 Biodiversity** (species sensitive to disturbance; habitat damage), and **SO8 Landscape** (physical damage; loss of tranquillity).
- Whilst policy supports small scale renewable technologies which respect the AONB’s landscape and biodiversity it also restricts the development of larger scale facilities with negative impacts on **SO1 Climate change mitigation** and **SO18 Renewable energy**. Restrictions on the growth of biofuel crops may also have negative effects on this objective.

- Coastal management policy favours managed realignment which although likely to be the most efficient and effective way of managing coastal erosion over the long term will also mean that some areas of coastal land are abandoned to the sea, with potential loss of agricultural (**SO4** adverse); biodiversity (**SO7** adverse), historic (**SO10** adverse) and community/housing (**SO12** adverse) assets.

4.3 It is apparent, however, that policies for themes with potential negative sustainability effects have been worded so as to reflect the purposes of AONB designation. For instance, whilst increased tourism is supported, this is qualified as being sustainable tourism, with visitor numbers to be managed to avoid degradation of the AONB landscape. These caveats are appropriate and, together with legislative protection for AONBs and the requirements of national planning policy, should ensure that the AONBs special qualities are safeguarded. In order to ensure that the primary purpose of AONB designation is achieved, it is inevitable that some sustainability objectives cannot be met as fully as would otherwise be the case, for example reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the deployment of large scale renewable technologies that would adversely affect the landscape

## 5 Implementation of Management Plan policies

5.1 The Management Plan policies set out detailed objectives for the AONB but in order for the corresponding sustainability benefits identified in the preceding section to be realised, these policies must be successfully implemented by the AONB Unit and its partner organisations. **Tables 2-11** examine the extent to which the Management Plan policies are supported by specific actions in order to provide evidence that the plan can be implemented. An assessment is provided of the effect of each individual action as well as the net effect i.e. whether all actions taken together are likely to deliver the policy aim. Although not essential to the SA it is hoped that this check is of value to Plan development. The full text of the actions is provided in **Appendix I**.

### Key to Tables 2-11

Symbol	Meaning
✓✓	Action strongly fulfils policy aim
✓	Action weakly fulfils policy aim
0	Action has no significant effect on policy aim
x	Action weakly opposes policy aim
xx	Action strongly opposes policy aim

**Table 2: Actions supporting Farming, Food and Forestry policies**

Actions	Policies			
	FFF1	FFF2	FFF3	FFF4
A/FFF1	✓	✓	✓	0
A/FFF2	✓✓	0	✓	0
A/FFF3	✓✓	0	✓	0
A/FFF4	0	0	✓	0
A/FFF5	0	0	0	✓✓
A/FFF6	✓	0	✓	0
Net effect of all actions	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓

**Table 3: Actions supporting Biodiversity and Geodiversity policies**

Actions	Policies					
	BG1	BG2	BG3	BG4	BG5	BG6
A/BG1	0	✓	✓✓	0	✓✓	0
A/BG2	0	✓✓	✓	0	0	0
A/BG3	✓✓	0	0	0	✓	0
A/BG4	✓✓	0	0	0	0	0
A/BG5	0	✓?	✓?	✓?	0	0
A/BG6	0	0	0	0	0	✓✓
Net effect of all actions	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓

**Table 4: Actions supporting Climate Change and Energy policies**

Actions	Policies			
	CCE1	CCE2	CCE3	CCE4

A/CCE1	✓	✓	0	0
A/CCE2	0	✓✓	0	0
A/CCE3	0	✓✓	0	0
A/CCE4	0	0	✓✓	0
Net effect of all actions	✓	✓✓	✓✓	0

**Table 5: Actions supporting Community and Economy policies**

Actions	Policies							
	CE1	CE2	CE3	CE4	CE5	CE6	CE7	CE8
A/CE1	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A/CE2	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0
A/CE3	✓	✓✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0
A/CE4	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A/CE5	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓✓	0
A/CE6	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0
Net effect of all actions	✓	✓✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓✓	0

**Table 6: Actions supporting Heritage policies**

Actions	Policies					
	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6
A/H1	0	0	✓	0	0	0
A/H2	0	0	✓	✓	0	0
A/H3	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓✓
A/H4	0	0	0	0	0	✓✓
A/H5	0	✓	0	0	0	0
A/H6	✓	0	0	0	0	0
Net effect of all actions	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓✓

**Table 7: Actions supporting Landscape and Seascape policies**

Actions	Policies				
	LS1	LS2	LS3	LS4	LS5
A/LS1	0	✓	0	✓	0
A/LS2	0	0	0	0	0
A/LS3	0	0	0	0	0
A/LS4	✓	0	0	0	0
A/LS5	0	0	✓✓	✓✓	0
A/LS6	0	0	0	0	0
A/LS7	0	✓✓	0	0	0
A/LS8	0	0	0	0	✓✓
Net effect of all actions	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓

**Table 8: Actions supporting Planning and Development policies**

Actions	Policies										
	PD1	PD2	PD3	PD4	PD5	PD6	PD7	PD8	PD9	PD10	PD11
A/PD1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A/PD2	✓	0	✓✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0
A/PD3	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A/PD4	✓✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓✓	✓	0	0	0
A/PD5	✓✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓✓	✓	0	0	0
A/PD6	✓✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓✓	✓	0	0	0
A/PD7	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0
A/PD8	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0
A/PD9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓
Net effect of all actions	✓✓	✓	✓✓	0	0	✓	✓✓	✓	0	0	✓

**Table 9: Actions supporting Rivers, Coast and Marine policies**

Actions	Policies							
	RCM1	RCM2	RCM3	RCM4	RCM5	RCM6	RCM7	RCM8
A/RCM1	0	0	✓✓	0	0	0	0	0
A/RCM2	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0
A/RCM3	0	✓✓	0	0	0	0	0	0
A/RCM4	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0
A/RCM5	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0
A/RCM6	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓✓	0
A/RCM7	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓✓	✓
Net effect of all actions	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓

**Table 10: Actions supporting Sustainable Tourism policies**

Actions	Policies			
	ST1	ST2	ST3	ST4
A/ST1	0	0	0	✓✓
A/ST2	✓	✓	0	0
A/ST3	✓	✓	0	0
A/ST4	0	✓	✓✓	0
A/ST5	✓	0	✓✓	0
A/ST6	✓	0	✓✓	0
Net effect of all actions	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓

**Table 11: Actions supporting Transport and Access policies**

Actions	Policies				
	TA1	TA2	TA3	TA4	TA5
A/TA1	0	✓	✓	0	0
A/TA2	0	✓	✓	0	0
A/TA3	0	0	0	0	✓✓
A/TA4	0	✓	✓	✓	0
Net effect of all actions	0	✓	✓	✓	✓✓

## **Recommendations arising from assessment of actions**

- 5.2 **Farming, Food and Forestry** – develop actions specifically targeted at the potential adverse impacts of biofuel crops on landscape quality e.g. development of the Cornwall-wide strategy and associated guidance referred to in policy FFF2.
- 5.3 **Biodiversity and Geodiversity** – add further information to the Biodiversity and Geodiversity best Practice Guide action to indicate its scope and objectives. If it is not intended to provide detail on how to deliver biodiversity gains from built development, consider adding a new action to provide planners and developers with guidance on this subject.
- 5.4 **Climate change and energy** – further develop action CCCE1 to explain how identified case studies will be disseminated to owner-occupiers, residential landlords and owners of commercial buildings in order to promote uptake of energy efficiency retrofitting; identify actions to deliver policy CCE4 e.g. by adding explicit climate change mitigation component to actions on targeting of agri-environment schemes (A/FFF2), input to CAP reform (A/FFF3), and landscape scale spatial visions (A/BG1), biodiversity projects (A/BG2) and Best Practice Guide (A/BG5).
- 5.5 **Community and economy** – Develop actions to achieve policy CE4 on health benefits e.g. targeting areas of health deprivation in and around AONB with projects providing opportunities for outdoor recreation, ‘green gym’ conservation activities. Develop actions to deliver policy CE6 on live/work initiatives, employment facilities and high speed internet access e.g. integration of AONB landscape goals into LDF policy on employment development; identification and promotion of examples of community-led provision of broadband internet.
- 5.6 **Heritage** – develop actions to deliver policy H5 in respect of the AONB’s mining heritage.
- 5.7 **Landscape and Seascape** – Draft a new policy to reflect the aims of actions A/LS2 and A/LS3 re. delivery mechanisms such as agri-environment policy and the RDPE. Move action A/LS6 re. landscape capacity studies to inform renewable energy and housing development to the Climate Change and Energy or Planning and Development policy theme.
- 5.8 **Planning and Development** – Consider adding a new policy to this theme on the role of a green infrastructure strategy (e.g. in providing alternative natural greenspace to address risks to AONB features from development of tourism, outdoor recreation, and housing) and moving the section of policy CE4 that refers to green infrastructure to this new policy. Remove some of the detail from policies PD4 and PD5 re. integrated coastal management and use it as the basis of new actions in support of these policies; alternatively move these policies to the Rivers, Coast and Marine theme to align them with actions A/RCM4 and A/RCM5. Develop an action in support of policy PD9 on developer contributions e.g. inputting to any Supplementary Planning Document on this topic. Develop an action in support of policy PD10 on the Planning Protocol for the AONB.

- 5.9 **Rivers, Coast and Marine** – Consider moving policies PD4 and PD5, as described under Planning and Development. Develop an action in support of policy RCM5 re. restoration of natural physical form in rivers e.g. work with Environment Agency to identify rivers having a heavily modified form and assess level of opportunity to deliver multiple benefits such as flood risk reduction, habitat improvement and landscape improvement through land management changes at these locations.
- 5.10 **Sustainable Tourism** – none identified.
- 5.11 **Transport and Access** – Develop actions to deliver policy TAI re. public transport improvements in the AONB e.g. by ensuring this requirement is incorporated in the Local Transport Plan and by specific measures such as visitor park and ride schemes. Develop further actions to achieve policy TA4 re. improved long term management of key paths and cycleways

## 6 Summary of key findings

- The sustainability effects of Management Plan policies are generally positive, with particularly strong positive effects in respect of landscape, biodiversity, historic environment, low carbon economy and climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives.
- Although some potential negative sustainability effects were also identified, these are largely recognised by caveats within policy wording, so that, for example, potentially damaging development will only be supported where it respects the purposes of designation of the AONB. Residual negative sustainability effects, e.g. restrictions on the likely acceptable scale of renewable energy development, are judged to be appropriate to the AONB's statutory requirement to conserve and enhance natural beauty.
- Some gaps have been identified in the draft actions put forward to deliver policy aims. It is recommended that these are addressed in order to increase the likelihood that the potential sustainability benefits of the Management Plan policies are realised on the ground.

Land Use Consultants, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010

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# Appendix I

## Cornwall AONB Management Plan Review – Draft Policies v6



# CORNWALL AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW – DRAFT POLICIES AND ACTIONS V6

## FARMING, FOOD AND FORESTRY

### Policies

- FFF1 - Encourage and support sustainable farming and forestry practices that maintain and enhance the landscape character by ensuring that future agri-support mechanisms contain adequate landscape measures and are targeted at landscape management within the AONB.
- FFF2 - Ensure that biofuel crops and new forms of horticulture are accommodated in ways which do not erode landscape quality through the adoption of a strategic Cornwall wide approach to planting and the provision of appropriate advice and guidance to farmers.
- FFF3 - Improve the economic profitability for sustainable small to medium scale rural businesses and family farms that enhance the landscape and whose on agri-payment schemes and other forms of RDPE support.
- FFF4 - Provide within the Local Development Framework clear policy guidance on rural infrastructure and farm diversification which supports sustainable rural businesses that respect local distinctiveness and cultural heritage in the protected landscape.

### Actions

- A/FFF1 - Promote and provide advice on mixed farming systems and ensure early engagement with farmers entering into agri schemes, woodland grant schemes and energy crop schemes to ensure appropriate crops in appropriate places. Natural England and FWAG.
- A/FFF2 - Target the entry level, organic entry level, upland entry level and higher level schemes at AONB farmers, ensuring measures will result in landscape enhancement and provide resources to advice providers to maximise take up. Natural England
- A/FFF3 - Input into CAP reform to ensure the continuation of support for farmers which enable landscape and enhancement, promoting the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme in West Penwith as best practice. Natural England, The Cornwall Agri-Food Council and the NFU
- A/FFF4 - Undertake an audit of technical and financial skills of rural businesses within the AONB and provide appropriate training to fill gaps, utilising existing mechanisms through the RDPE The Cornwall Agri-Food Council and Duchy College
- A/FFF5 - Produce guidance and training for planners on planning and agricultural infrastructure and farm diversification with respect to the protected landscape and ensure that this is embedded within the Local Development Framework. The Cornwall Agri-Food Council and the Environment Agency
- A/FFF6 - Utilise county farms within the AONB to encourage the entry of new farmers and the training of young farmers. Cornwall Council County Farms check name

## BIODIVERSITY AND GEODIVERSITY

### Policies

- BG1 - Ensure a comprehensive understanding of the state of the biodiversity and geodiversity resource now and into the future, particularly in response to climate change and ensure that comprehensive information on this resource is easily accessible and used to inform agri-environment schemes and biodiversity projects.
- BG2 - Ensure a landscape approach is taken to the management, restoration and recreation of habitats outside SSSIs and local sites across the AONB and beyond its boundaries in order to ensure resilience to climate change; focusing on BAP priority habitats and building upon the network of protected sites across the AONB.

- BG3 - Ensure that landscape scale biodiversity projects contribute to mosaics of habitats characteristic of AONB landscapes and seek to enhance landscape character via project works.
- BG4 - Ensure that built development provides gains for biodiversity and geodiversity by promoting habitat retention, creation and enhancement; species protection
- BG5 - Involve local communities and land managers in the development of biodiversity initiatives such as visions and support landowners, managers and farmers in the delivery of these initiatives using appropriate mechanisms such as direct project funding, on-farm advice and the targeting of agri-payments schemes.
- BG6 - Support the creation of new Marine Protected Areas in inshore waters off the AONB coast to maintain sustainable and resilient populations of marine species.

### **Actions**

- A/BG1 - Building on emerging visions for Bodmin Moor and West Penwith and the South West Nature Map, identify priority biodiversity AONB areas and, with communities and land managers, develop spatial visions for landscape scale biodiversity management and creation – Natural England, Cornwall BAP Partnership.
- A/BG2 - Develop landscape scale biodiversity projects which aim to link habitats around the coast and along river valley corridors, extending these linkages beyond AONB boundaries to ensure resilience – Cornwall BAP Partnership.
- A/BG3 - Ensure that future Agri payments schemes deliver biodiversity benefit via input into CAP reform – Natural England.
- A/BG4 - Continue to develop and improve active data management partnership working between biodiversity and geodiversity conservation organisations and research establishments ERCCIS and Combined Universities of Cornwall, Cornwall Council Living Environment Service
- A/BG5 - Support the development and adoption of the Biodiversity and Geodiversity Best Practice Guide within the emerging Local Development Framework – Cornwall Wildlife Trust and Cornwall Council Planning Service.
- A/BG6 - Input into the Finding Sanctuary project in order to identify a suite of marine protected areas around the AONB coastline - Cornwall BAP Partnership, Cornwall Council Living Environment Service.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY**

### **Policies**

- CCE1 - Promote energy efficiency measures in 'hard to treat' homes, businesses and community facilities within the AONB and develop effective methods of retrofitting technologies which do not detract from landscape character whilst increasing resilience against fuel poverty.
- CCE2 - Promote renewable energy technologies of a small scale which respect the sensitive landscape character and biodiversity value of the AONB, whilst guarding against cumulative impacts across the AONB area.
- CCE3 - Increase awareness of how the AONB landscape may change in relation to climate change in terms of natural and man made responses, particularly with respect to tidal flood risk and coastal communities, in order to enable these communities to plan for change at an early stage.
- CCE4 - Ensure adaptation of AONB land to mitigate the impacts of climate change which enhance the landscape and provide opportunities for biodiversity and soil and water conservation.

### **Actions**

- A/CCE1 - Identify best practice case study examples of energy conservation measures and renewable energy generation such as ground source heat that, when applied to buildings

within the AONB, conserves the character of buildings and surrounding landscape – Community Energy Plus.

- A/CCE2 - Identify current resources and future opportunities for renewable energy schemes within the AONB which provide landscape enhancement and embed within the Cornwall Climate Action Plan and Local Development Framework – Low Carbon Economy Unit.
- A/CCE3 - Embed within the emerging Energy Supplementary Planning Document guidance on the siting and design of small scale turbines and other appropriate renewable energy technologies within the protected landscape - Cornwall Council Planning and Regeneration.
- A/CCE4 - Disseminate the implications of the Shoreline management plan to coastal communities within the AONB and engage in early discussions with Parish Councils regarding its implications – The Environment Agency

## **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY**

### **Policies**

- CE1 - Ensure a local pro-active approach to community planning within the AONB which meets the needs and aspirations of local communities but in ways which only strengthen local distinctiveness and sense of place.
- CE2 - Support communities to be self-sustaining in terms of infrastructure, food, energy, services, employment, housing and green infrastructure in the planning of smaller settlements within the AONB which respect the purposes of the AONB.
- CE3 - Develop best practice in community led- sustainability initiatives which also enhance landscape and settlement character and address issues of rural disadvantage.
- CE4 - Encourage the full use of the AONB landscape for positive health benefits to communities within and outside the AONB and ensure that the AONB green infrastructure is appropriately managed to accommodate increased levels of use as a result.
- CE5 - Support rural industries, businesses and local enterprises that contribute to the special local distinctiveness and landscape character of the AONB through investment, sensitive marketing and diversification in ways which enhance the AONB's sense of place.
- CE6 - Support live/work initiatives and the development of economic and employment facilities' within AONB communities which respect and enhance local vernacular and settlement pattern and are supported by effective IT systems and next generation broadband.
- CE7 - Reinforce the link between a high quality landscape and a prosperous and sustainable, low carbon economy and develop a clear understanding among decision makers and opinion formers of the true value of the AONB landscape to Cornwall's economy.
- CE8 - Support AONB community harbours as focal points of fishing and marine activity , ensuring sustainable approaches are taken to the management of fish stocks for the long term benefit of inshore fisheries.

### **Actions**

- A/CE1- Input AONB and landscape objectives into future reviews of the Sustainable Communities Strategy and Local Area Agreement – Environment Kernow.
- A/CE2 - Develop community led, local level Parish Landscape/ Village Design Statements for identified parishes within the AONB and embed within the Local Development Framework – Cornwall Council Planning Service.
- A/CE3 - Develop a project to trial approaches to self sustaining rural communities within the AONB, where local people can live and work, supported by landscape goods and services and an integrated 'total place' approach to the delivery of public services – Rural Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Partnership.
- A/CE4 - Establish an annual Cornwall AONB forum - The Cornwall AONB Unit.
- A/CE5 - Undertake an audit of the economic value of the AONB's in Cornwall in conjunction with a wider audit of ecosystem goods and services and ensure that the economic value of the AONB is recognised within the local economic assessment and future

Economic Strategy – Cornwall Economic Forum, Natural England and the Cornwall AONB Unit.

- A/CE6 - Collate and highlight best practice examples of business which support landscape character and businesses which are supported by landscape character – Cornwall AONB Unit and the Cornwall Economic Forum.

## **HERITAGE**

### **Policies**

- H1 - Improve the recording and appropriate interpretation of all aspects of the AONB's historic environment to ensure local communities and visitors enjoy a rich experience of the sense of place.
- H2 - Seek opportunities to increase access to and understanding of both the physical and intellectual historic environment within the AONB, working with education providers and venues to promote the historic environment and deliver opportunities for lifelong learning.
- H3 - Ensure all AONB terrestrial and marine heritage assets, not simply those which are designated, are brought under high quality management and use, and that appropriate monitoring is put in place to ensure their continuing survival, in good condition.
- H4 - Continue to seek opportunities to designate high quality heritage assets within the AONB to ensure their long term protection.
- H5 - Support the work of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site Partnership in the management, interpretation and celebration of the mining heritage of the AONB and protect the Outstanding Universal Value and settings of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site as set down in the Management Plan.
- H6 - Continue to develop a character led approach to management of the historic landscapes, settlements and seascapes of the AONB, using Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), Historic Seascape Assessment and Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPs) as key tools, integrating fully with the natural environment and landscape.

### **Actions**

- A/H1 - Produce guidance on the management of heritage assets and historic character within the protected landscape and undertake training with planning and highways officers on the management of the historic environment – Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service.
- A/H2 - Target the Cornwall Character Project within the Cornwall AONB and use the project funding to improve the management of and restore traditional historic features, including those of the transport and rights of way network – Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service.
- A/H3 - Develop Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPs) for sections of the Cornwall AONB sections using the Historic Landscape Characterisation and more detailed local characterisation work – Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service and English Heritage.
- A/H4 - Secure resources to undertake a seascape assessment of Cornwall's coastal waters – English Heritage.
- A/H5 - Undertake an audit of current education provision for heritage and culture and establish a group to better co-ordinate existing resources – Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service.
- A/H6 - Build on existing web based work to establish a portal for Cornwall's heritage information – Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service.

## **LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE**

### **Policies**

- LS1 - Develop a clear understanding of the social, environmental and economic benefits of landscape and seascape and ensure this is reflected in decision making at every level consistent with the aims of the European Landscapes Convention.
- LS2 - Ensure landscape and seascape character is embedded in the emerging Local Development Framework with policies within the Core strategy that support the purposes of the AONB designation and advocate an approach to conservation and enhancement of the AONB based upon Landscape Character Assessment.
- LS3 - Promote a strategic landscape spatial policy framework in the Core Strategy that utilises the Landscape Character Assessment to inform development management.
- LS4 - Promote a spatial, strategic approach to land management to enable the conservation and enhancement of landscape character.
- LS5 - Monitor the state of the Cornwall AONB landscape to identify where the erosion and enhancement of the quality of the AONB is taking place and develop feedback mechanisms for corrective management.

### **Actions**

- A/LS1 - Develop and improve the existing landscape character assessment and undertake a seascape assessment of Cornwall's coast and marine environment – Cornwall Council Environment Service and Planning Service.
- A/LS2 - Ensure landscape character is a priority of the Agri environment schemes and the review of the RDPE – Natural England.
- A/LS3 - Provide guidance and training for landowners and land managers on landscape management with respect to agri-payment schemes – Natural England.
- A/LS4 - Undertake an audit of the ecosystem goods and services provided by the landscapes of the Cornwall AONB – Natural England.
- A/LS5 - Develop a Landscape Strategy for Cornwall which addresses the needs of the protected landscape and develops a strong, collective vision for landscape within Cornwall – Cornwall Council Environment Service.
- A/LS6 - Produce landscape sensitivity and capacity studies for renewable and energy and housing development across Cornwall, within which the AONB is recognised as having the highest level of protection – Cornwall Council Planning Service.
- A/LS7 - Further develop and finalise the Cornwall Landscape Best Practice Guidance and provide guidance and training for planners and planning committee members – Cornwall Council Landscape Team, Cornwall AONB Unit and Cornwall Council Planning Service.
- A/LS8 - Monitor upon the set of indicators established by the Cornwall AONB Monitoring Project and the information gathered for the Cornwall AONB Atlas and report on change from the original baseline – The Cornwall AONB Unit/ Cornwall Council Intelligence.

## **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Policies**

- PD1 - Ensure the purposes and objectives of AONB designation are fully recognised in the development and implementation of South West Regional Spatial Strategies, Cornwall Local Development Framework and other public policies, strategies and programmes.
- PD2 - Support the provision of identified local employment needs in settlements within or in the setting of the Cornwall AONB that have appropriate regard to protected landscape and settlement character.
- PD3 - Support the provision of affordable housing to meet identified needs of local people in locations with access to employment and local services, and ensures that the selection and development of affordable housing sites within or in the setting of the Cornwall AONB has appropriate regard to landscape and settlement character.

- PD4 - Ensure there is an integrated approach in the management of pressures on the coast, with a priority given to managed realignment and 'soft' forms of flood risk management, required by climate change, which enhances the natural landscape characteristics of the AONB.
- PD5 - Promote the embedding of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the terrestrial and marine management system through the policies set down in the emerging Cornwall Core Strategy, and takes forward the guidance in PPS 25 Supplement, in conjunction with the Shoreline Management Plan through an ICZM initiative in a section of the AONB.
- PD6 - Support tourism development that respects the diverse local landscape characteristics of the sections of the Cornwall AONB, ensuring that in the development of tourist facilities the scale, design and use of materials have appropriate regard to the character, sensitivity and capacity of the protected landscape.
- PD7 - Ensure that any necessary development in or within the setting of the AONB is high quality sustainable development that:
  - is appropriately located and addresses landscape sensitivity and capacity;
  - is compatible with the distinctive character of the location described by the Landscape Character Assessment;
  - promotes the conservation of the historic environment as a whole and in particular those designated heritage assets and their setting, including the Conservation Areas and World Heritage Site; and
  - Is designed to respect quality of place in the use of distinctive local building styles and materials.

In order that it can contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the protected landscape.

- PD8 - Encourage local communities to identify local needs and assist in the conservation and enhancement of local distinctiveness through the preparation and development of Parish Plans, Village Design Statements and other initiatives.
- PD9 - Encourage the Local Planning Authority to direct Community Infrastructure Levies (Developer Contributions) towards appropriate AONB Management Plan objectives and activities.
- PD10 - Promote the adoption, use and when appropriate revision to the Planning Protocol for the Cornwall AONB and the Tamar Valley AONB with Cornwall Council to ensure that effective consultation is achieved on policy preparation and major or significant development within and in the setting of the AONB in Cornwall.
- PD11 - Promote in telecommunication and power infrastructure provision appropriate site selection design of developments and where possible the reduction and removal of power and telecommunications lines.

### **Actions**

- A/PD1 - Support the Green Infrastructure Forum and engage in the preparation and implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and delivery plans. Natural England and Cornwall Council - Planning and Regeneration.
- A/PD2 - Promote the use, and if required develop further, the methodology set down in 'Affordable Housing in Protected Landscapes: Assessing the Landscape Suitability of Potential Sites' in the selection of affordable housing sites. Cornwall Council - Planning and Regeneration.
- A/PD3 - Consider the option recommended in the Taylor Review (Recommendation 21) for the possibility, and legal basis, for trialling planning rules limiting change of use of full time homes to part time occupation (as second homes or holiday lets) in the community that has the greatest percentage of second homes. Cornwall Council - Planning and Regeneration.

- A/PD4 - Support the preparation of a Cornwall Landscape and Design Guide as a Supplementary Planning Document and promote the establishment of local design principles that take full account of historic character, local distinctiveness and natural quality for the 12 sections of the Cornwall AONB.
- A/PD5 - Based on the local design principles promote the preparation of planning guidelines for the 12 sections of the AONB in order to provide more detail guidance in relation to the siting, design and materials for new buildings and conversions.
- A/PD6 - Promote the adoption of the planning guidelines for the Cornwall AONB as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- A/PD7 - Promote through the use of the Draft 'Development Control Toolkit' or other appropriate methodology, in the management of development in order to encourage appropriate site selection, high quality design and materials.
- A/PD8 - Monitor consultation on emerging planning policy and selected planning decisions.
- A/PD9 - Pursue opportunities in conjunction with Western Power Distribution through the South West Protected Landscapes to underground overhead lines.

## **RIVERS COAST AND MARINE**

### **Policies**

- RCM1 - Promote understanding and awareness of the terrestrial water management in order to ensure that an integrated approach is taken to water resources within the AONB; with particular regard to river systems and water storage systems.
- RCM2 - Support the Marine Planning Authority ensuring that the new Marine Plan is fit for purpose to deliver the enhancement of coastal character and the long term sustainability of inshore fisheries.
- RCM3 - Manage competing pressures and activities within AONB estuaries through appropriate forums and estuary management planning.
- RCM4 - Identify the impacts of climate change at the coast and raise awareness of competing priorities amongst coastal communities.
- RCM5 - Ensure that measures to improve water quality and reduce run off respect the AONB landscape and that where works take place, opportunities are taken to restore the natural physical form of rivers where they have previously been modified.
- RCM6 - Seek to use the Camel, Fal, Helford and Fowey as priority catchments in developing integrated approaches to water and soil management.
- RCM7 - Encourage low input, organic farming methods and mixed systems of farming with rotation in order that soils are conserved and water quality is improved.
- RCM8 - Where appropriate within the landscape seek to improve the management of woodland and Cornish hedges to protect vulnerable soils and slow water run off.

### **Actions**

- A/RCM1 - Establish a coastal/ marine forum to include current Special Area of Conservation (SAC) forums with strong links to the AONB Partnership - Cornwall Council Environment Service.
- A/RCM2 - Undertake an audit of the management of AONB catchments - The Environment Agency.
- A/RCM3 - Identify the priorities for the AONB for the Marine Plan and feed into its policy preparation - Cornwall AONB Unit and Cornwall Council Planning Services.
- A/RCM4 - Input into the Shoreline Management Plan Action Plans to ensure the coastal character of the AONB is enhanced through any proposed action - The Environment Agency and Cornwall AONB Unit.

- A/RCM5 - Develop a pilot project as a case study for integrated coastal zone management - Cornwall Council Environment Service and The Environment Agency.
- A/RCM6 - Identify issues specific to the Cornwall AONB and produce guidance to farmers on water and soil management within a protected landscape including the water framework directive and its relationship to single farm payment - The Environment Agency and Natural England.
- A/RCM7 - Target the organic entry level scheme and woodland grant scheme where appropriate at farms within the AONB with the aim of limiting water and chemical run off – Natural England.

## **SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

### **Policies**

- ST1 - Promote sustainable tourism which seeks to care for the landscape and environment upon which the industry depends, providing a model for the future development of tourism across the whole of Cornwall.
- ST2 - Raise awareness and respect for the Cornwall AONB and communicate effectively to local tourist businesses about the special qualities of the natural, cultural and built environment of the AONB in order that they can be celebrated, respected and sustainably utilised as a marketing tool.
- ST3 - Sensitively and sustainably develop and market the AONB to potential visitors whilst managing visitor numbers where the AONB landscape is becoming degraded through over-use.
- ST4 - Secure a strong voice for the AONB within tourism management in Cornwall to ensure that sustainable tourism activity drives the industry.

### **Actions**

- A/ST1 - Representation from the sustainable tourism working group and the Cornwall AONB Partnership on the Visit Cornwall Partnership – Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Working Group, the Cornwall AONB Unit and Visit Cornwall.
- A/ST2 - All relevant representative staff trained in BTEC in sustainable tourism – CoaST and Cornwall Council Environment Service.
- A/ST3 - Production and implementation of a yearly business plan to implement the Cornwall AONB Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan – Cornwall AONB Unit and CoaST.
- A/ST4 - Undertake a feasibility study on AONB marketing scheme for sustainable / GTBS tourism businesses and implement the results – Visit Cornwall.
- A/ST5 - Understand the carrying capacity of popular AONB tourist destinations, monitor landscape quality and visitor numbers in these areas and target marketing efforts to ensure they remain in good condition Visit Cornwall.
- A/ST6 - Ensure the implementation of the TRAC project takes every opportunity to alleviate pressure on overused AONB tourist destinations and facilities – Cornwall Council Environment Service.

## **TRANSPORT AND ACCESS**

### **Policies**

- TA1 - Encourage improvements to public transport services which result in improved sustainable travel choices for rural communities and provide alternatives for visitors coming to and traveling around the AONB by private car, particularly to alleviate summertime traffic increases.
- TA2 - Support the design of transport and rights of way infrastructure that enhances the historic character and the biodiversity and geodiversity value of the AONB.

- TA3 - Encourage the pro-active de-cluttering of highways infrastructure such as signage and lighting and resist standard approaches to highways design e.g. coloured surfacing which results in the degradation of character of the rural roads network.
- TA4 - Secure the long term and adequate management of the existing Rights of Way network, particularly Gold paths and cycleways within the AONB and those routes which can be shown to be degraded through over-use.
- TA5 - Improve the sustainable connectivity between population centres and nearby sections of the Cornwall AONB including the creation of new routes and the opening up of underused existing routes where funds can be made available for long term management.

#### **Actions**

- A/TA1 - Ensure landscape, and local distinctiveness is addressed within the Local Transport plan, Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy – Cornwall Council Transportation and Highways and Cornwall Council Environment Service.
- A/TA2 - Develop a rural roads and rights of way protocol, incorporating design guidance for roads and footpaths within the AONB – Cornwall Council Transportation and Highways and Cornwall Council Environment Service.
- A/TA3 - Ensure sustainable linkages between AONB sections and main town and villages are developed within a Green Infrastructure Strategy as part of the Local Development Framework - Cornwall Council Environment Service and Cornwall Council Planning and Regeneration.
- A/TA4 - Target the Cornwall Character project at rural AONB parishes trailing approaches to decluttering, improved management of the heritage assets of the transport network and more efficient use of maintenance budgets – Cornwall Council Highways and Historic Environment Service.