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WHY A PROSPECTUS FOR PROTECTED LANDSCAPES?

This prospectus takes a new look at the environmental, social and economic value of the South West's finest landscapes and the contributions that they make to rural development and quality of life.

To ignore the importance of maintaining the living landscape would threaten our future economic prosperity and diminish our cultural, spiritual and social well-being.

This prospectus represents a concerted effort by Protected Landscape Managers and their partner organisations to establish a shared vision and set out a plan of action for landscapes in the South West.

Protected Landscapes are a fundamental part of our national heritage, and have a vital role to play in sustaining and regenerating the rural economy. All public bodies working within them have a statutory responsibility to have regard to their purposes.

This prospectus takes a new look at the environmental, social and economic value of the South West's finest landscapes and the contributions that they make to rural development and quality of life.

Why Now?

In the last century, two world wars transformed land management and conditioned public attitudes to the role of the countryside and agriculture on which the nation depended for food and survival. For fifty years, countryside management followed the path laid out in pre and post war legislation

of the first Town and Country Planning Act and the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. These Acts provided the cornerstone for designation and management of the Protected Landscapes in the South West.

Now, in the 21st century, our countryside and the communities and economy it supports, face new challenges, which will be equally as influential in shaping the future landscape of the South West. Major agricultural reforms are planned, climate change is taking place, and development pressures continue to grow. At the same time, the environment of the South West is recognised in every survey and every official publication of government as one of the main drivers of the region's healthy and growing economy. Landscape is the overarching expression of that environment and a mainstay of the South West's quality of life. To ignore the importance of maintaining and enhancing the living landscape would threaten our future economic prosperity and diminish our cultural, spiritual and social well-being.

Our Vision is to ensure that our Protected Landscapes improve the social and economic well-being of communities and businesses in the South West, whilst safeguarding and enhancing our landscape resource for future generations.

In summary our objectives are to:

- Monitor the condition and status of each protected landscape,
- Protect and enhance the qualities and distinctiveness of landscapes in the South West,
- Develop Protected Landscapes as exemplars and centres of excellence for landscape management,
- Raise public awareness about protected and local landscapes,
- Provide local organisations with the resources and support necessary to support management plan objectives that benefit communities in protected landscapes,
- Stimulate the rural economy by supporting new enterprises and adding value to existing businesses that are compatible with Protected Landscape purposes,
- Support farmers, landowners and land managers who provide the backbone of landscape protection, and share learning and development opportunities with all concerned about Protected landscapes,
- Establish effective landscape partnerships,
- Set realistic targets for management and development,
- Secure national, regional and local government support for landscape planning and management.



1 OUR LANDSCAPE RESOURCE

Conservation of our landscapes cannot be considered separately from the rural economy and the communities which continue to shape them.

The landscape of the South West is highly diverse with more than 30 distinct landscape character areas (out of 159 in England). Sixteen Protected Landscapes; comprising Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks, and 14 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's) make up 37% of the region. They represent the jewels in the crown of this remarkable area. Sixty percent of the protected Heritage Coast in England is also found in the South West.

While nearly 40% of the landscape of the South West is designated for its outstanding qualities there are three 'non-protected' areas that stand out in particular as special places - the Somerset Levels and Moors, the Forest of Dean and the Culm area of Devon and Cornwall. All are exceptional cultural landscapes and their communities are justly proud of their heritage.

The region's National Parks and AONBs are classified at international level by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as Category V Protected Landscapes where "the landscape has been moulded by centuries of human activity to create a strong sense of place". Conservation of such landscapes cannot be considered

separately from the rural economy and the communities which continue to shape them.

The essence of landscape

Our landscape embodies not only the natural features of geology, topography, drainage, soils and vegetation but also, and perhaps most importantly, the influences of human endeavour and development over successive millennia. Ancient cultivation patterns, earthworks, deserted villages, tracks and hedgerows merge subtly with present day farming, forestry, nature reserves and other rural activities while settlements and route ways continue to evolve. Such features are intuitively recognised by people as creating a 'sense of place' and character.

The South West is fortunate in having National Parks and AONBs that represent a diversity of English landscape, from windswept uplands of Dartmoor and Exmoor to the lowland heaths and wetlands in Dorset, as represented in Table 1.



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TABLE 1 SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE SW PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

PROTECTED LANDSCAPE	CHARACTER	SPECIAL QUALITIES	LOCAL ECONOMY	ACTIVITIES
The National Parks Dartmoor National Park 953 sq km 368 sq miles	Wild open moorland, granite tors, wooded river valleys, small enclosed fields with walls and hedge banks	'Largest open space in southern England', Rich archaeological remains, high bio- diversity, living landscape, home to 33,000 people	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts and tourism, rural businesses	Guided tours, cycling, horseriding, orienteering, canoeing, climbing, walking, fishing, camping, historic houses & gardens
Exmoor National Park 692 sq km 267 sq miles	Dramatic cliffs, high moorland, ancient oak woods, deep combes, intricate field patterns	'A treasured landscape', Heritage Coast, SW Coast path, Tarka Trail, Red Deer, Exmoor ponies	Farming, local foods, forestry crafts and tourism rural businesses	Walking, mountain biking, horse riding, historic houses & gardens
AONBs				
Blackdown Hills 370 sq km 230 sq miles	North facing scarp, gentle dissected plateau, villages and hamlets in enclosed valleys, intricate small enclosed fields	Woodland, heathland, butterflies, enclosure landscape, hedges and farmsteads	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism , rural businesses	Walking, cycling and horseriding
Cotswolds 2038 sq km 790 sq miles	Jurassic limestone, flower rich grassland, dramatic western scarp, rolling arable fields, dry stone walls, historic villages, beech woodland	Largest AONB, 'England at its most mellow', butterflies, bats, farmland birds	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses	Cotswolds Way, spectacular walking, cycling, fishing, horseriding, visiting attractions, historic houses & gardens, 38 million visitors a year
Cornwall 958 sq km 368 sq miles	Rugged coastline, Camel estuary, high open sweep of Bodmin Moor, heath plateau of the Lizard peninsula, Penwith moorland	Traditional farming landscape, small enclosed fields, ruined tin mine engine houses, standing stones, SW Coast path	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, fishing, rural businesses	Guided walks, boat trips, cycling, horseriding, sailing, gig racing, wind surfing, diving, climbing, walking, kite flying historic houses & gardens
Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs 981 sq km 379 sq miles	Chalk downland, rolling plateau, lush river valleys	Chalk streams, species-rich grassland, ancient hunting forest, lichens	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses	1500 kms of Rights of way, walking horseriding cycling (off road), historic houses & gardens
Dorset 1129 sq km 436 sq miles	Rich and varied landscape, chalk downland, high cliffs, broad coastal sweep	42 % of Dorset County, Chalk downland, heathland, archaeological riches Jurassic Cliffs (World Heritage Site), Poole Harbour wetlands, SW Coast path	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses	Horseriding, cycling, fossil collecting, water sports, bird watching, historic houses & gardens
East Devon 267 sq km 103 sq miles	Devon Red Sandstone, in coastline of sheer cliffs, steep wooded combes, and coves. High remote inland plateaux	'Unspoilt holiday coast', 'Classic Postcard Devon'. Fishing still a way of life. Heathland commons, incised rivers, hedge bordered meadows, SW Coast path	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses	Traditional family holidays, walking and hiking, historic houses & gardens

PROTECTED LANDSCAPE	CHARACTER	SPECIAL QUALITIES	LOCAL ECONOMY	ACTIVITIES
Isles of Scilly 16 sq km 6 sq miles	Five inhabited Islands each distinctively different. Small bulb fields, expanses of heath and headlands. Dramatic sea views	Atmospheric Light and colour, striking granite outcrops, maritime livelihoods, Very mild climate, plant collections, migratory birds	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses, horticulture, fishing	Painting, guided walks, boat trips, cycling, horseriding, sailing, windsurfing, diving, walking
Mendip Hills 198 sq km 76 miles	Carboniferous Limestone Scarp and ridge, gentle plateau, dry valleys, stone walls	Caves, 178 ancient monuments, flower rich grasslands, semi natural ash-maple woodland	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses	Caving, climbing, walking riding and cycling
North Devon 171 sq km 63 sq miles	Tall rugged cliffs, wide sandy bays, hedged fields and culm grassland	Coastal Views, intertidal habitats, SW Coast path	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses	Surfing, sailing, walking, horseriding, cycling
South Devon 337 sq km 130 sq miles	Rugged cliffs, sandy coves, creeks and wooded estuaries, ancient green lanes, rolling hills	40% of coast owned by National Trust, Maritime heath and grassland, salt marshes and reed beds, oak woodland, SW Coast path	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses	Walking, sailing, surfing, canoeing, diving, historic houses & gardens
Tamar Valley 195 sq kms 75 sq miles	Steep valleys, large river meanders, gentle rolling pastoral landscape, tranquil beauty of lower estuaries	Estuarine habitats, small irregular fields, old orchards, and walled gardens, history of mining and market gardening	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses	Garden attractions, historic houses, mining heritage, walking and cycling, river trips
Quantock Hills 100 sq km 38 sq miles	Grits and Sandstone, Prominent ridge, heathland plateau, steep combes	Famous views over 9 counties, oak woodland, heathland biodiversity, Red Deer	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses	Walking, horseriding
North Wessex Downs (Part of) 1730 sq km 668 sq miles	Dramatic scarp slopes and moulded dip slopes lying at the hub of the chalklands of Southern England	Chalk grassland, ancient woodland, wood pasture and chalk rivers, mussels & crayfish. Ridgeway national trail, ancient monuments, Kennet & Avon Canal	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses	Walking, horseriding, mountain biking
Wye Valley (Part of) 326 sq km 128 sq miles	Deeply incised river valley, extensive semi natural and mixed deciduous woodland, horsehoe bats	Rich biodiversity, archaeological and ecclesiastical interests, attractive riverside villages	Farming, local foods, forestry, crafts, and tourism, rural businesses	Walking, canoeing, fishing, nature study

Appreciation and enjoyment of landscape is highly subjective; for example, some people prefer expansive vistas of moor or grassland, others enjoy enclosed wooded environments, while others are drawn to cliffs and coastlines. Interest in landscape may be largely aesthetic, or coloured by active pursuits. There is, nevertheless, a remarkable level of agreement amongst people about what makes a landscape special, including landform, views, colour and atmosphere. All of these elements are present within the suite of south west Protected Landscapes. Table 1 illustrates this amazing diversity.



2 THE VALUE OF LANDSCAPE

The South West landscape is intimately bound up with how people value and use it – whether this is for the environment, business, community, health, history, or education. We define our landscapes as much as they define us.



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Leisure, recreation and tourism activity stimulated by the Protected Landscapes is a major contributor to the South West Region's Gross Domestic Product.

Landscape & Heritage

Many of the region's most valued historic monuments, mansion houses and formal gardens can be found within Protected Landscapes. Their protection, within the wider landscape context, adds flavour and distinctiveness to the surrounding environment and contributes much to a 'sense of place'. Increasingly, our historic sites are now managed as part of a wider historic environment, where integration and co-operation has become key. The South West now has 3 World Heritage Sites, 23% of all listed buildings and 35% of scheduled archaeological sites in England.

Landscape & Wildlife

National Parks and AONBs constitute largely unspoilt countryside and as such represent some of the most important semi-natural habitats in the South West. This combination of exceptional landscape and rich biodiversity has led to the designation of many areas within Protected Landscapes as locally, nationally and internationally important wildlife sites. Designations include SSSI's, National Nature Reserves, SACs and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Protection of these assets is a national obligation and requires the closest cooperation between



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government agencies, local authorities, land owners and land managers in developing policies, arranging funding and implementing land management schemes.

DEFRA, the Countryside Agency, English Nature, English Heritage, the Environment Agency, Non-Governmental Organisations, the National Park Authorities and local AONB management teams and partnerships all have major responsibilities within Protected Landscapes.

Landscape & Economy

The economic value of Protected Landscapes and other areas of open countryside to the regional economy was highlighted in the starkest manner possible by the onset of Foot and Mouth Disease in 2000. Closure of footpaths and car parks and government advice to avoid unnecessary visits to the countryside, effectively shut down the rural economy of the South West. Losses of 20-30% in annual revenue were commonplace across a wide range of businesses. The effects were felt right across the region. For example, a study by the University of Exeter estimated that the economy of Exmoor lost some £15 million during the outbreak, even though no confirmed cases of the disease were experienced in the National Park. While imposing severe hardship on individual farmers and their families, the disease has had the indirect benefit of heightening awareness of the interdependence of the

countryside economy and the need for integrated rural development.

Many of the South West's principal economic activities, including tourism, food processing and associated industries, rely on a high quality environment. This is recognised in the South West Regional Economic Strategy, which identifies the environment as a principal driver of the economy. The South West Environmental Prospectus (1999) estimated that the region's high quality environment contributed 100,000 jobs and £1.6 billion to the SW economy (2.83% of Regional GDP). Over 55000 jobs were estimated to be directly linked to environmental services, generating £744 million in output. These figures relate to direct employment in the environmental field.

However, tourism and recreation in the South West are also heavily dependent on the environment and as mainstays of the SW economy these sectors earn £3.7 billion a year (6.4% of Regional GDP) and support 97,000 jobs. Over 14% of all UK domestic tourist trips were made to the South West in 2001, which still remains the nation's favourite holiday destination in spite of the growth in overseas holidays. In addition 8% of overseas visitors travelled to the South West. The region's cultural and historic assets and its towns and cities attract visitors but the most important lure is the coast and countryside. The National Trust,



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which has large land holdings within the protected landscapes, estimated that 78% of holiday trips to these areas were motivated by conserved landscapes in 1998.

Leisure, recreation and tourism activity stimulated by the Protected Landscapes is a major contributor to the South West Region's Gross Domestic Product.

Landscape & Education

Protected Landscapes are a resource which should be used to actively engage the people who live in, work in and visit them. Education and awareness raising are key elements of this. Education in Protected Landscapes is not just about formal school and college trips, but about lifelong learning and community involvement. Many of

the key stakeholders in Protected Landscapes, such as English Nature, National Trust, Wildlife Trusts and RSPB are already providing opportunities for school visits, work days, guided walks, working holidays, volunteering, festivals and events. These opportunities can provide life changing experiences, build confidence and skills, and foster public support.

Landscape & Spiritual Significance

Protected Landscapes embody our prehistoric roots, our progressive evolution in terms of society and culture and our current demands for land and space. Stone circles on Dartmoor, standing stones in Cornwall and stone and wood henges on Salisbury Plain confirm the role which exceptional landscapes have always played in

of their intangible qualities of vastness, remoteness, peace, tranquillity and the evocative experience of dark and starlit skies at night. These assets are diminishing, as development, and in particular, road traffic is extending into open countryside. Safeguarding these assets within the Protected Landscapes should be of paramount importance in terms of the regions' strategies for sustainable development.

Landscape & Quality of Life

At a practical level the Protected Landscapes of the South West provide a vital release for millions of urban dwellers each year, offering recreation and relaxation but they also contribute to the richness of many people's lives by simply 'being there'. Such attributes, usually defined as 'Quality of Life', are difficult to measure directly but their importance can be gauged indirectly by considering what their absence would mean in terms of health and welfare. Research shows very clearly the importance of regular exercise in maintaining health and reducing 'lifestyle' illnesses like obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Put simply, thousands of people each year would be more exposed to the earlier onset of these illnesses, at very high cost to the health services, if they were deprived of the chance to enjoy Protected Landscapes.



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Case Study

Local Products

The Blackdown Hills Rural Partnership, in the Blackdown Hills AONB has a £1.4 million programme for adding value to local food and drink, forestry and woodlands, and arts and crafts products through the creation of a Blackdown Hills brand. It is also promoting environmental best practice and increasing social inclusion.

The programme has four sectors, each of which is supported by or linked to sponsors. These are:

- Arts and Crafts – linked to Somerset Arts Week,
- Food and Drink – supported by Devon Food Links,
- Tourism and Recreation – with SW Tourism, and,
- Woodland and Forestry – supported by Silvanus.

Current projects and initiatives include:

- Installation of 8 wood fuel boilers,
- A pre-school development project,
- Capacity building with the Blackdown Hills Business Association,
- Promotion of equine tourism with a Swedish company,
- Freezer project for local food producers

Partners: LEADER +, SWRDA, Local Authorities plus many more

3 CHALLENGES AHEAD

“Sustainable land management is not only about protecting and enhancing the natural environment through careful planning and responsible practices. A well-maintained natural heritage also benefits the tourist industry and the quality of life of those who live in, work in or visit rural England.”

Haskin's report, 2003



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“in the long term, the status of the landscape will be highly dependent upon the viability and well being of individuals and local communities who manage the resource.”

A wide range of challenges and opportunities are presented for Protected Landscapes in the future. Many of these are positive. National and regional organisations are better-informed and equipped to support designated areas and government has allocated additional funds. Public interest in landscape and the environment continues to grow and landowners and managers are adopting more sensitive approaches towards conservation.

However, while the overview is positive, there are challenges that could work against the aims of Protected Landscapes if they are not anticipated and planned for. These changes include climate change, economic and development pressures, administrative reform and lack of public awareness.

Climate Change

Despite international efforts to curtail the impact of greenhouse gases on the atmosphere, climate change is now recognised as a significant force for change. While uncertainty exists as to how far and how quickly change will take place, there are quite detailed

projections about future conditions in the South West. Summers are likely to be warmer and winters windier and wetter. Increased soil erosion and changes to habitats will occur.

Climate change needs to be anticipated and planned for in a constructive manner. Landscape quality and character may alter in response to climate change. Careful planning and active management will be required to minimise any adverse impacts on landscape character and biodiversity.

Economic Pressures

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy has already begun and has the potential to have the greatest effect on Protected Landscapes, especially those supporting livestock or arable systems. Farmers and farming communities could experience significant change in their livelihoods in the short term but landscape change may be more indirect. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse, depending upon local circumstances. The important message is that, in the long term, the status of the landscape will be highly dependent upon the viability and well being of individuals and local communities who manage the resource.

In the South West, it is important to note the special role of the local inshore fishing and shellfish industry, which is still an important

feature in coastal towns and villages and is closely linked with tourism. The Common Fisheries Policy has an important bearing on these interests.

These land uses are influenced by both national and European legislation, as are many other aspects of economic life, which highlights the need for integrated approaches to land and coastal zone management within Protected Landscapes.

Development Pressures

The South West Region has been the fastest growing region in the UK over the last ten years and it also has the distinction of having the largest percentage of older residents. Due to its proximity to London and the South East the region also experiences considerable pressure from long-distance commuters and second homes. Population growth inevitably creates demands for housing, infrastructure and services and this in turn requires sensible allocation of land. Regional policy argues for development within and adjacent to existing settlements on sustainability grounds, and most authorities have successfully resisted pressure for development within the Protected Landscapes.

A perception persists that the designated landscapes are simply there to impose restrictions and ‘fossilise the landscape’ rather than provide a positive mechanism for managing change



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Greater public awareness of the role and purpose of Protected Landscapes is essential if these areas are to receive proper recognition.

to the benefit of the environment, economy and community of the area.

Protected Landscapes have an interest in promoting a more positive approach to planning, one that seeks development that is "good enough to approve" rather than concentrating on development that is "bad enough to refuse".

As we move to a criteria based approach to planning it will be essential that Protected Landscape managers and their partner organisations work with local communities to identify, record and communicate widely the important characteristics of landscape and how these contribute to the distinctiveness of place.

Administrative Reform
Increased emphasis is being given by government to the role of the regional assemblies in developing regional strategies and to district, unitary and local authorities to create community strategies. In addition, the recent review of Rural Service Delivery by Lord Haskins has emphasised the need for reform, which will direct resources to area-based initiatives that are in direct contact with providers and users of countryside services. National Park Authorities and AONB Partnerships are ideally placed to deliver these objectives.

It is vitally important that the role of the Protected Landscapes is properly understood and

interpreted within regional strategies and local development frameworks.

Public Awareness
Although the value of Protected Landscapes is recognised intuitively by most visitors and many residents, relatively few are aware of the existence or meaning of landscape designations or the steps that are taken to plan and manage these valuable resources.

Greater public awareness of the role and purpose of Protected Landscapes is essential if these areas are to receive proper recognition.

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4 MANAGING CHANGE

Stable and predictable funding for AONB Core activities is essential if management teams are to deliver the long-term ambitions set out in Management Plans and pursue a diversity of project funding to implement rural development objectives.



The Role of Designations

Protected Landscapes were statutorily defined for the first time in the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. Dartmoor National Park was the first protected landscape to be designated in the South West in 1951 and the most recent was the Tamar Valley AONB, designated in 1995.

In the early years of designation emphasis was placed on the protection of landscape and the use of regulatory powers to prevent undesirable development. Increasingly, conservation and enhancement of landscape have been recognised as a creative process requiring the fusion of sound ecological and sustainable development principles with commercial skills and acumen.

In National Parks the National Park Authority is responsible for town and country planning but in AONBs this duty rests with the constituent local authorities.

Land Ownership and Management

Protected Landscapes are rightly considered as national assets, and bodies like the Crown Estate, Duchy of Cornwall, Forestry

Commission, local authorities and the National Trust own substantial areas within them. However, the greater part is privately owned and managed by farmers, foresters and individual landowners.

Maintenance and enhancement of the landscape in these special areas is heavily dependent upon the interest and commitment of private individuals. Without their efforts, these exceptional landscapes and the quality of life in the region would be the poorer.

Unfortunately much basic work of landscape maintenance, including pollarding, hedging, fencing, ditching, and walling is arduous and poorly paid. Rural workers are often amongst the least well rewarded in society, and many remoter communities suffer severe social and economic deprivation.

Considering the incredible value of landscape to the economy and well being of the South West it is unacceptable that so little of the value created finds its way back to the custodians of the landscape. Landscape initiatives and regeneration strategies and regeneration strategies should, where possible,

adequately reward local people for their labour and investment.

The future of these precious landscapes therefore rests to a high degree on the capacity of public and private interests to work together and calls for great dedication, commitment, understanding and trust on the part of all who are involved.

The Role of National Park and AONB staff

In order to address these challenges, management teams have been established for each of the Protected Landscapes. In many cases these comprise only a handful of full time officers, employed by partnerships of local authorities. Some of the larger AONBs and the two National Parks have much larger management structures.

Over the last five years the government has given a significant boost to planning and management in protected landscapes by increasing available funding and introducing new legislation in the form of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW), 2000.

TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF THEMES EMERGING FROM 13 OF THE AONB MANAGEMENT PLANS PRODUCED IN THE SOUTH WEST REGION APRIL 2004

Themes	Number of Issues/Actions recorded
Tourism, Recreation Rights of Way and Access	88
Market and Economic Forces, Local Economy and Government Intervention	84
Understanding, Information and Awareness	82
Planning and Development Control	71
Vibrant, Healthy and Safe Communities	63
Farming and the Land Based Economy	63
Natural Resources	57
Biodiversity	39
Transport and Traffic	39
Historic Environment	38
Partnership Working and AONB Management	26
Forestry, Woodland and Trees	22
Climate Change	21
Coasts and Estuaries	20
Streams, Rivers and Water	12
Peace and Tranquillity	10
Pollution	10
Rural Skills, Training and Business Advice	9
Local Products	8
Geology and Earth Heritage	5
Urban Fringe	5
Light Pollution	4



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The Government has confirmed that Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have the same status as National Parks for landscape protection and enhancement. The CRoW Act 2000 and section 62 of Environment Act 1995 stress the importance of all statutory bodies having regard to landscape conservation in discharging their own functions in protected landscapes.

One of the key innovations of the CRoW Act has been the requirement for local authorities to prepare and adopt management plans for any part of their area falling within an AONB; this matches existing commitments on the National Park authorities to prepare Park management plans.

The South West Protected Landscapes Forum has undertaken analysis of the region's AONB Management Plan content. Table 2 identifies the key themes emerging from 13 of the AONB Management Plans across the region.

Funding Protected Landscape Management

The Protected Landscapes draw the majority of their finance from central government, through the Countryside Agency and DEFRA. Match funding is sourced from a variety of funding streams with local authorities giving significant and valuable support.

Additional funding is found from a variety of sources, including other public bodies and the Heritage Lottery Fund for project work

within the Protected landscapes.

Stable and predictable funding for AONB Core activities is essential if management teams are to deliver the long-term ambitions set out in Management Plans and pursue a diversity of project funding to implement rural development objectives.

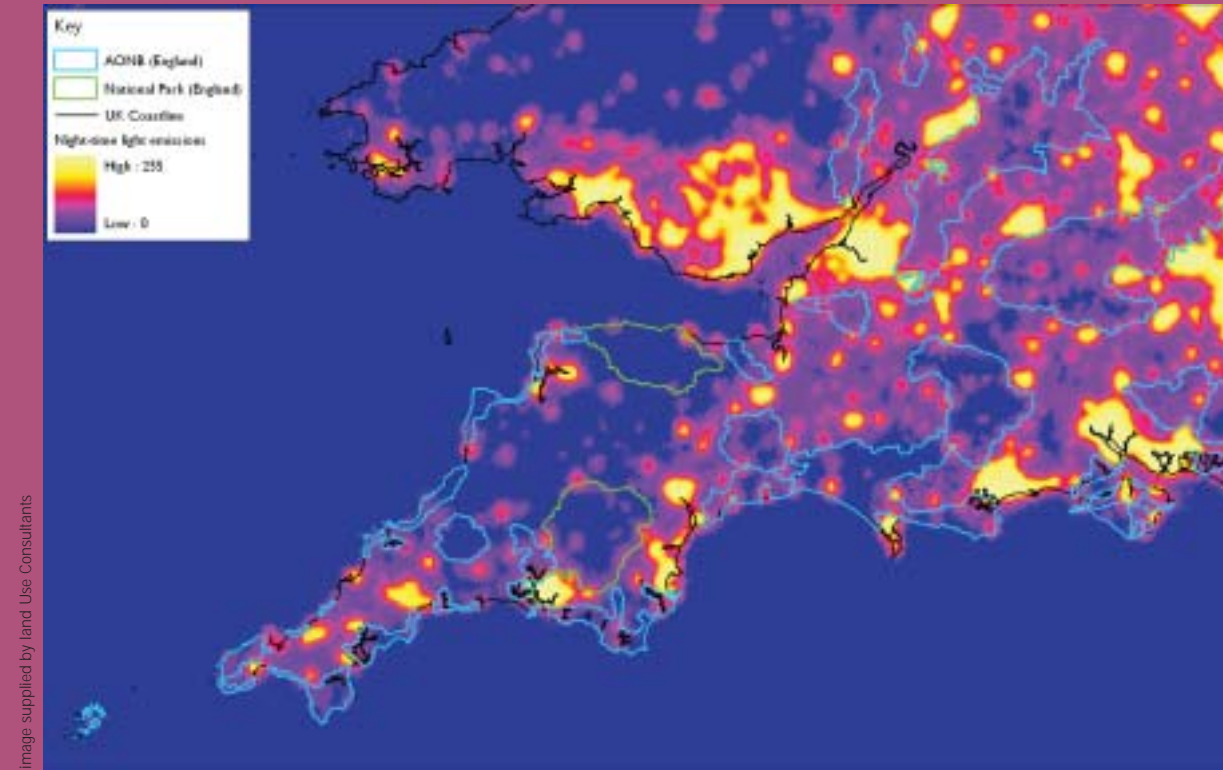


Image supplied by Land Use Consultants

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