

North Devon Coast AONB Management Plan 2019 - 2024

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

Consultation Draft

October 2018

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Executive Summary

This Screening Report has been produced to determine whether it is necessary to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment on the North Devon Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan for 2019 - 2024.

It is determined that full Strategic Environmental Assessment will not be required for the 2019-2024 Management Plan because the Plan demonstrates little deviation from its previous iteration. The previous iteration was subject to full Strategic Environmental Assessment and therefore the current revision is unlikely to display further significant environmental effects.

1 Introduction

1.1 The North Devon Coast AONB Management Plan

Part IV, Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 sets out the requirement for Local Authorities to publish and review a management plan for their AONB that: “formulates their policy for the management of the area of outstanding natural beauty and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it”.

The North Devon Coast Area Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan (from hereon in referred to as ‘the Management Plan’) addresses this legal requirement by setting out the policy framework for the conservation and enhancement of the North Devon Coast AONB for the next five years. Put simply, it describes the special qualities of the area and why the AONB is important, sets out an agreed vision for its future, identifies the challenges and opportunities for the area, and how these will be tackled. The 2019 – 2024 iteration is a revised and updated version of the previous Management Plan 2014 – 2019 which underwent full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

1.2 Purpose of this Report

This report has been produced to determine whether it is necessary to undertake an SEA of the Management Plan for 2019 - 2024. This is to ensure compliance with European Directive 2001/42/EC on ‘the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment’ (‘The SEA Directive’) and ‘The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004 (Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633), which implements the Directive in England, often referred to as ‘The SEA Regulations’.

1.3 Consultation

Please email us your comments, referencing sections and page numbers to aonb@devon.gov.uk. Alternatively, send your comments in writing to:

North Devon Coast AONB
Taw View
North Walk
Barnstaple
EX39 1EE.

All comments by 3rd December 2018.

The three statutory bodies for the purposes of SEA screening are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England. Their opinion on this Screening Report have been requested.

2 SEA Screening

2.1 SEA Guidance

This Screening Report has been developed in accordance with current government guidance:

- [A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#) (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2005)

2.2 Screening Process

The guidance referred to at Section 2.1 helpfully synthesises the requirements of the SEA Directive into a flowchart to determine which plans and programmes require SEA.

Figure 1 shows the flowchart and the decision process applied to the flowchart for the Management Plan.

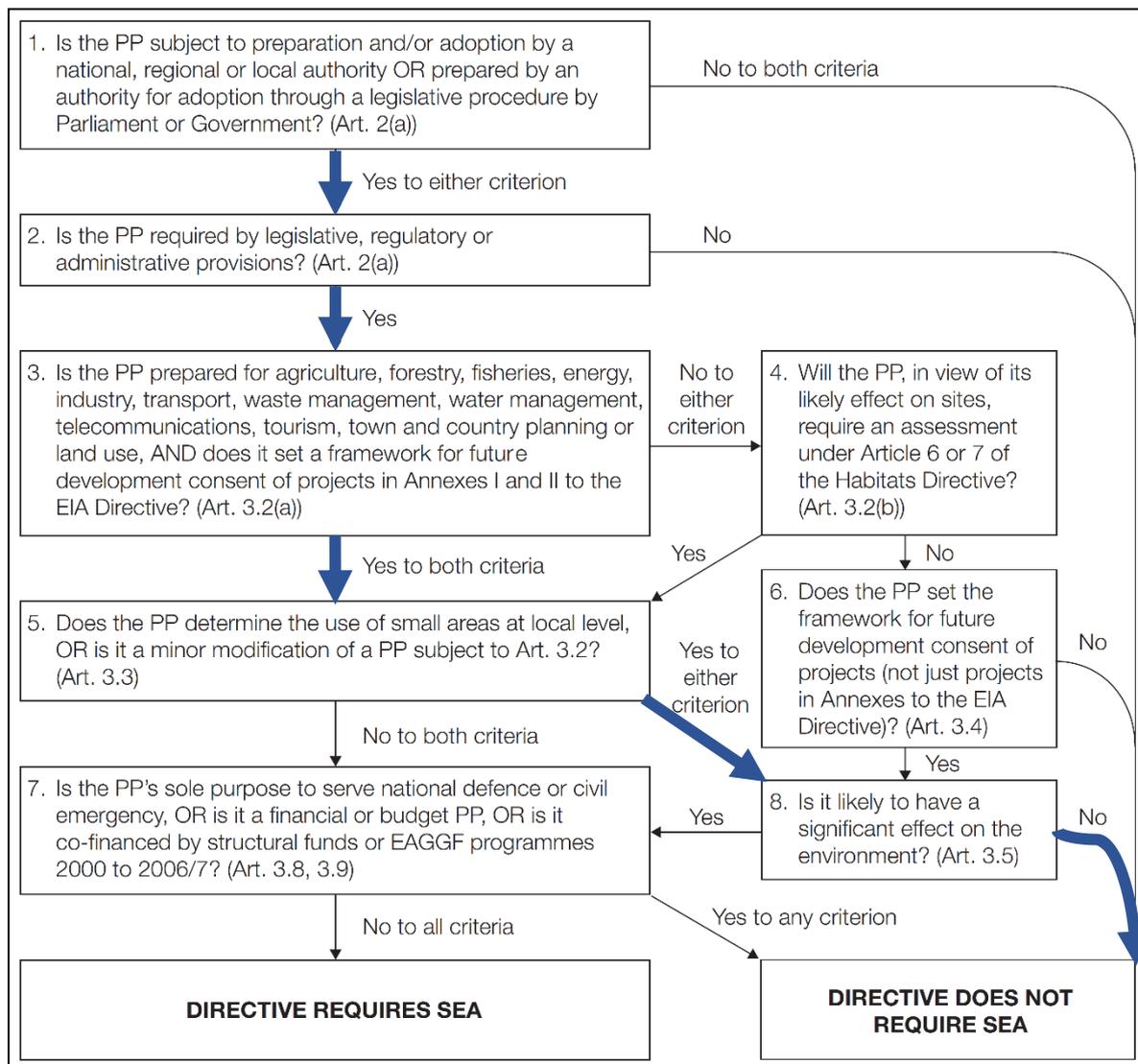


Figure 1 – SEA decision process for the Management Plan. Flowchart taken from “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive” (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2005). ‘PP’ is an abbreviation for ‘Plan or Programme’. Article numbers refer to those of the SEA Directive.

Table 1 provides an explanation for the decisions taken within the flowchart in Figure 1.

Flowchart Question	Decision	Explanation
1. Is the PP subject to preparation and / or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2 (a))	Yes	The Management Plan is being prepared by the North Devon Coast AONB Partnership through delegation from Devon County Council, Torridge District Council and North Devon District Council.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	Part IV, Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 sets out the requirement for Local Authorities to publish and review a management plan for their AONB
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use AND does it set a framework for future development consents of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2 (a))	Yes	<p>Although the Management Plan is not explicitly prepared to cover these topics, it could arguably influence all of them within the AONB.</p> <p>Whilst it is unlikely that development of the scale described for projects in Annexes I and II of the EIA Directive will occur in the AONB, the Management Plan nonetheless would be used as a “framework for future development consent”. This is defined by the European Commission¹ as " criteria or conditions that guide the way the consenting authority decides an application for development consent. Such criteria could place limits on the type of activity or development which is to be permitted in a given area; or they could contain conditions which must be met by the applicant if permission is to be granted; or they could be designed to preserve certain characteristics of the area concerned”.</p>
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art 3.2 (b))	Non-Applicable	
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art 3.2? (Art 3.3)	Yes	<p>The Management Plan does not “determine the use of small areas at local level”. The European Commission¹ suggest that this phrase is intended to refer to plans that, for example, outline how buildings must be constructed.</p> <p>However, the Management Plan is a minor modification to the 2014-2019 Management Plan. The European Commission advise that the interpretation of ‘minor’ must consider the likelihood that the modified elements of the plan will lead to significant environmental effects. See Flowchart Question 8 below.</p>

¹ European Commission (2001) [Implementation of Directive 2001/42 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment](#)

Flowchart Question	Decision	Explanation
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects ? A narrower interpretation of 'framework for development consents' would exclude the (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive) (Art 3.4)	Non-Applicable	
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, or is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7 (Art 3.8, 3.9)?	Non-Applicable	
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art 3.5)	No	<p>Firstly, the improvements to the AONB resulting from the strategic direction given by the Management Plan are unlikely to have negative effects on the environment.</p> <p>In addition, the objectives of the Management Plan seek to maintain and enhance the special qualities of the AONB, which will have a moderating impact on development and other actions that may seek to modify the environmental character of the AONB.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Vision of the Management Plan remains unaltered from the previous version and the environmental outcomes of the revised objectives and policies are not substantially different – see Appendices 1 and 2 of this Report.</p>

Previous to the consultation-draft of the AONB Management Plan, the emerging objectives and policies were subject to an initial comparison with those in the 2014-2019 Management Plan. This task identified some minor recommendations, which can be viewed at Appendices 3 and 4 of this report. The recommendations were accepted in full and incorporated into the consultation-draft AONB Management Plan objectives and policies.

2.3 Screening Conclusion

It is determined that an SEA will not be required for the 2019-2024 Management Plan because the Plan demonstrates little deviation from its previous iteration (as described in Appendices 1 and 2). The previous iteration was subject to full SEA and therefore the current revision is unlikely to display further significant environmental effects; hence the modifications are considered minor within the context of question 5 in the flowchart shown in Figure 1.

Appendix 1 – Comparison of Management Plan Objectives

The table below compares the 2014-2019 Management Plan objectives, which were subject to full SEA, with the proposed objectives for the consultation-draft 2019-2024 Management Plan.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Objective	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Objective	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
Landscape and Seascape		
To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special landscapes of the AONB	To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special landscapes of the AONB	None. The objectives are identical.
Historic Environment and Culture		
To conserve and enhance and raise appreciation of the historic features of the North Devon AONB	To conserve, enhance and understand the historic and cultural environment of the AONB	None. The terms “raise appreciation” and “understand” are synonymous.
Biodiversity		
To conserve and enhance the wildlife habitats and species of the North Devon Coast AONB	To conserve and enhance the wildlife and ecological health of the North Devon Coast AONB, in terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitats	None. Habitats and species are covered by the proposed objective.
Geodiversity		
To conserve and enhance the geodiversity of the North Devon AONB and recognise the contribution to landscape value	To conserve and enhance the wildlife and ecological health of the North Devon Coast AONB, in terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitats AND To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special landscapes of the AONB	None. Whilst the proposed objectives in the 2019 – 2024 Management Plan do not mention geodiversity explicitly, the implicit role of geodiversity in local habitats and its contribution to landscape is covered and therefore there is no divergence of environmental outcome.
The Coast		

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Objective	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Objective	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
<p>To conserve and enhance the coast and marine environment of the North Devon AONB</p>	<p>To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special landscapes of the AONB</p> <p>AND</p> <p>To conserve and enhance the wildlife and ecological health of the North Devon Coast AONB, in terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitats</p> <p>AND</p> <p>To conserve, enhance and understand the historic and cultural environment of the AONB</p> <p>AND</p> <p>To promote the sustainable management of natural resources and climate change impacts</p> <p>AND</p> <p>To ensure the planning process protects and enhances the designated AONB and its special qualities</p>	<p>None. The component parts of the “coast and marine environment”, e.g. landscape, wildlife, historic features, new development etc., are covered by the proposed objectives.</p>
<p>Farming and Land Management</p>		
<p>To ensure the North Devon AONB continues to support sustainable farming that conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the AONB whilst supporting the local economy</p>	<p>To promote farming, food production and land management practices that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB</p>	<p>None. The special qualities of the AONB will still be conserved and enhanced by the proposed objective.</p>
<p>Access, Recreation and Health</p>		

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Objective	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Objective	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
To ensure sustainable access to the North Devon AONB for the benefit of the health of local people and visitors, consistent with the designation	To ensure sustainable access to the AONB for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors, consistent with the designation	None. The objectives are almost identical, with the addition of “wellbeing” to the proposed objective.
Planning and Development		
To ensure the planning process takes into full account the North Devon AONB	To ensure the planning process and infrastructure development protects and enhances the designated AONB and its special qualities	Positive. The proposed objective adds the desire to enhance the area rather than just “take into full account”.
Transport and highways		
To encourage sustainable, integrated transport provision and ensure highways are managed in a way that enhances the landscape and local distinctiveness	To ensure the planning process and infrastructure development protects and enhances the designated AONB and its special qualities	None. Transport and highways are covered by the reference to ‘infrastructure development’ in the proposed policy.
Rural Economy and Tourism		
To promote sustainable development within the North Devon AONB that is consistent with the designation	To promote sustainable development within the AONB that is consistent with the designation	None. The objectives are identical.
Community		
To involve more people in helping to enjoy, understand and take action to conserve the North Devon AONB.	To support more people to learn about, understand and take action to conserve the AONB	None. The proposed objective, whilst worded slightly differently, ultimately aims to increase understanding of the AONB so that they can take action to conserve it.
Education and Awareness		
To encourage local people and visitors to enjoy, understand and take action to protect the North Devon AONB.	To support more people to learn about, understand and take action to conserve the AONB	None. The proposed objective, whilst worded slightly differently, ultimately aims to increase understanding of the AONB so that they can take action to conserve it.

Appendix 2 - Comparison of Management Plan Policies

The table below compares the 2014-2019 Management Plan policies, which were subject to full SEA, with the proposed policies for the consultation-draft 2019-2024 Management Plan.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
Landscape and Seascape		
A1 Landscape character and natural beauty are conserved and enhanced	A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are enhanced and fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area	None. Both policies will ensure landscape character and natural beauty will be conserved and enhanced.
A2 Dark skies, peace and tranquillity within the AONB are preserved	A2 Preserve the dark skies, peace and tranquillity of the AONB	None. The policies, whilst worded differently, are identical.
A3 Planning of future developments, both onshore and offshore, to take full account of open views, wilderness and maritime connections	A3 Ensure developments both onshore and offshore, take account of open views, wilderness and maritime connections	None. The policies, whilst worded differently, are identical.
A4 No development is permitted outside the AONB that would harm the natural beauty, character and special qualities of the AONB	A4 Recommend that no development should be permitted inside or outside the AONB that would harm the natural beauty, character or special qualities of the AONB AND A5 Ensure developments comply with the North Devon Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments	None. Whilst the proposed policy applies to development inside the AONB, as well as outside, the environmental outcome will be the same as development inside the AONB is covered by proposed policy A1.
A5 AONB is responsive to climate change impacts on landscape, wildlife and special qualities of the AONB	B2 Increase understanding and actions to address impacts on biodiversity from invasive species, disease and climate change	None. The proposed policies will ensure the AONB is responsive to climate change impacts.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
	AND D1 Increase understanding and mitigation of climate change impacts on coastal landscapes and communities	
A6 Raising public awareness of the importance of landscape and its contribution to natural beauty of the AONB	J1 Raise awareness and understanding of the AONB, its special qualities, natural and cultural heritage	None. The policies' intentions are identical.
Historic Environment and Culture		
E1 Identify, protect and conserve the historic environment of the AONB, their setting and the historic character of the landscape	E1 Support actions to conserve and enhance the historic and cultural features of the AONB, and their setting	None. Both policies will conserve and enhance the historic assets and their setting.
E2 Encourage access to, interpretation and understanding of heritage assets by all sections of the community to enable better current and future management.	E2 Develop approaches to increase understanding and valuing of local heritage and culture	None. Whilst “encourage access” is absent from the proposed policy, encouraging access could be one of the approaches developed to increase understanding.
E3 Support cultural traditions and diversity throughout the AONB.	E2 Develop approaches to increase understanding and valuing of local heritage and culture	None. One approach to increase understanding and valuing of local heritage and culture would be to support cultural traditions.
Biodiversity		
B1 Identify and address actual and potential impacts on biodiversity	B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape AND B2 Increase understanding and actions to address impacts on biodiversity from invasive species, disease and climate change	None. Identifying and addressing impacts on biodiversity are intrinsic to conserving and enhancing habitats and species as advocated by the proposed policy.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
B2 Support approaches to habitat management that encourage the development of ecologically coherent networks and to provide buffering to designated sites	B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape	None. “Development of ecologically coherent networks” and “buffering to designated sites” are two ways of conserving and enhancing habitats and species as advocated by the proposed policy.
B3 Seek opportunities to restore, expand and improve the links between important rare habitats achieving a strong and resilient ecological network within the AONB	B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape	None. Expanding links between habitats is part of enhancing them.
B4 Facilitate climate change adaptation measures which will allow wildlife to “move” within the landscape in response to changes in local climate	B2 Increase understanding and actions to address impacts on biodiversity from invasive species, disease and climate change	None. The proposed policy will address impacts from climate change.
B5 Support and extend the range of internationally, nationally and locally important species	B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape	None. The proposed policy is equally applicable to all types of species, irrespective of their importance.
B6 Support the long-term survival of vulnerable species within the AONB	B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape AND B2 Increase understanding and actions to address impacts on biodiversity from invasive species, disease and climate change	None. Whilst vulnerable species could be subject to impacts not included in “invasive species, disease and climate change”, proposed policy B1 is applicable to all species, not just those that are vulnerable.
B7 Ensure that the marine environment adjacent to the AONB is valued locally and to ensure that local, coastal and marine species and habitats are conserved and enhanced	B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape AND	None. The proposed policies will conserve and enhance the marine environment.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
	D2 Contribute to marine planning and management of marine designated sites, to conserve coastal landscape qualities, coastal species and habitats.	
B8 Raise awareness of the value and importance of biodiversity and the steps necessary to conserve and enhance it	J1 Raise awareness and understanding of the AONB, its special qualities, natural and cultural heritage And B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape	None. Awareness of the importance and value of biodiversity will be raised by the proposed policies.
Geodiversity		
C1 Manage and enhance nationally important and locally characteristic geodiversity, in particular the coastal exposures.	B3 Encourage actions to enhance, maintain and promote the geodiversity of the AONB through appropriate site management and public awareness	None. Both policies will enhance and maintain geodiversity.
C2 Maintain and enhance the geodiversity of the AONB through the appropriate management of sites, areas and wider landscapes	B3 Encourage actions to enhance, maintain and promote the geodiversity of the AONB through appropriate site management and public awareness AND A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are enhanced and fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area	Negative. The requirement to enhance geodiversity and landscapes are absent from the proposed policies. Recommendation: Incorporate the requirement to enhance geodiversity and landscapes into the proposed policies.
C3 Increase public understanding of geodiversity and how this contributes to the	J1 Raise awareness and understanding of the AONB, its special qualities, natural and cultural heritage	None. Geodiversity is part of the AONB's special qualities, natural and cultural heritage.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
natural beauty and local distinctiveness of the AONB.		
The Coast		
D1 Conserve and enhance the North Devon AONB whilst mitigating the impacts of climate change	D1 Increase understanding and mitigation of climate change impacts on coastal landscapes and communities, to be sensitive to the need to enhance the special qualities of the AONB AND A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are enhanced and fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area	None. Both policies will help the AONB adapt to the effects of climate change whilst conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the AONB.
D2 Ensure that offshore and inshore developments are fully evaluated for adverse impacts on the North Devon AONB by use of tools such as Seascape assessment and acted upon	I4 Conserve and enhance the coast and marine environment in relation to onshore and offshore developments	Positive. The proposed policy adds the requirement to enhance the environment.
D3 Clearly define the special qualities of the North Devon AONB at the coast and its interrelationships with the neighbouring marine environment; to enable full account to be taken of the AONB in marine and coastal planning and management	D2 Contribute to marine planning and management of marine designated sites, to conserve coastal landscape qualities, coastal species and habitats.	None. The outgoing and incoming policies both enable the environment to be considered within the marine planning process.
D4 Speak up for the North Devon Coast to ensure that AONB purposes and special qualities are fully taken into account in decision-making affecting the coast and are incorporated into any future marine plan for the North Devon coast	D2 Contribute to marine planning and management of marine designated sites, to conserve coastal landscape qualities, coastal species and habitats.	None. The outgoing and incoming policies both enable the environment to be considered within the marine planning process.
D5 Promote the implementation of MCZ's in North Devon	D2 Contribute to marine planning and management of marine designated sites, to	None. Marine Conservation Zones are a type of marine designated site and therefore the

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
	conserve coastal landscape qualities, coastal species and habitats.	proposed policy will have the same environmental outcome as the outgoing policy.
D6 Ensure water quality and the state of the environment of our inshore waters and streams supports biodiversity and social well-being	D3 Improve inland, coastal and bathing water quality through catchment management, natural flood management and litter management.	Positive. The proposed policy has a clear ambition to improve water quality which was not explicit in the outgoing policy.
Farming and Land Management		
F1 Make the AONB an exemplar for sustainable farming	F1 Support partners to deliver sustainable and exemplar land management, forestry and farming practices in keeping with the AONB designation	None. The outgoing and proposed policies both support sustainable farming.
F2 Maintain the strong pattern of hedgebanks for their major contribution to the landscape, biodiversity and soil management	F2 Work with landowners and managers to maintain landscape features such as hedgebanks and woodlands	None. The proposed policy will continue to maintain hedgebanks.
F3 Support local food production that is compatible with the landscape character of the AONB	F1 Support partners to deliver sustainable and exemplar land management, forestry and farming practices in keeping with the AONB designation	None. The outgoing and proposed policies both support sustainable farming.
F4 Encourage the management and extension of existing broadleaved woodland through the use of traditional management techniques	F1 Support partners to deliver sustainable and exemplar land management, forestry and farming practices in keeping with the AONB designation AND F3 Support approaches to enhance the Natural Capital within the AONB including carbon storage, clean water, timber, soils, renewable energy and crops, consistent with the designation	None. The outgoing and proposed policies both the extension of woodland.
F5 Support the generation of renewable energy that are consistent with the North Devon AONB designation	A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the	None. Renewable energy generation is a type of development. Proposed policy F3 mentions renewable energy, but in the context of

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
	<p>AONB are enhanced fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area</p> <p>AND</p> <p>A4 Recommend that no development should be permitted inside or outside the AONB that would harm the natural beauty, character or special qualities of the AONB</p> <p>AND</p> <p>A5 Ensure developments comply with the North Devon Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments</p>	<p>enhancing natural capital and so only refers to the extraction of natural resources that can provide renewable energy, such as wood and crops, rather than the generation of it.</p>
<p>F6 Implement the use of catchment management to ensure good ecological status within catchments such that it supports the biodiversity and economy of the North Devon AONB</p>	<p>F3 Support approaches to enhance the Natural Capital within the AONB including carbon storage, clean water, timber, soils, renewable energy and crops, consistent with the designation</p>	<p>None. Both the outgoing policy and in the proposed policy support improving water quality.</p>
Access, Recreation and Health		
<p>H1 Promote access to the natural environment celebrating the natural, historic, inspirational and tranquil places to all interpretation</p>	<p>H1 Work with partners and landowners to develop improved and safe access to and interpretation of the natural environment</p> <p>E2 Develop approaches to increase understanding and valuing of local heritage and culture</p>	<p>None. Access to, and interpretation of, the natural and historic environment will be sustained by the proposed policies.</p>
<p>H2 Increase sustainable and sensitive access to the AONB</p>	<p>H1 Work with partners and landowners to develop improved and safe access to and interpretation of the natural environment</p>	<p>None. Access to the natural environment will be sustained by the proposed policy.</p>
<p>H3 Enhance the environment along the SWCP and increase access and interpretation</p>	<p>H1 Work with partners and landowners to develop improved and safe access to and interpretation of the natural environment</p>	<p>None. Access to, and interpretation of, the natural environment, including coastal locations, will be sustained by the proposed policies.</p>

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
	<p>AND</p> <p>D2 Contribute to marine planning and management of marine designated sites, to conserve coastal landscape qualities, coastal species and habitats.</p>	
<p>H4 Reduce barriers to participation in countryside recreation</p>	<p>H2 Support new opportunities and reduce barriers to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors</p>	<p>None. Participation in countryside recreation is one way of improving health and wellbeing, which is in the proposed policy.</p>
<p>H5 Maximise opportunities for countryside recreation in the AONB</p>	<p>H2 Support new opportunities and reduce barriers to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors</p>	<p>None. Maximising opportunities for countryside recreation is one way of improving health and wellbeing, which is in the proposed policy.</p>
<p>H6 Maximise health-linked recreation in the AONB</p>	<p>H2 Support new opportunities and reduce barriers to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors</p>	<p>None. Maximising health-linked recreation is one way of improving health and wellbeing, which is in the proposed policy.</p>
<p>H7 Develop links with healthy lifestyle initiatives</p>	<p>H2 Support new opportunities and reduce barriers to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors</p>	<p>None. Developing links with healthy lifestyle initiatives is one way of improving health and wellbeing, which is in the proposed policy.</p>
<p>Planning and Development</p>		
<p>I1 Facilitate the development of green infrastructure within the AONB</p>	<p>I1 Provide planning advice and policy guidance to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the designated AONB and its setting</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I5 Support appropriate infrastructure, signage and transport networks in the AONB, for the benefit of local and visiting communities</p>	<p>None. The principal mechanism for facilitating the development of green infrastructure is via the planning system. Outside of the planning system, green infrastructure initiatives can be supported through proposed policy I5.</p>

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
<p>I2 Support the maintenance and development of sustainable communities providing it is consistent with AONB policies</p>	<p>Most of the proposed policies assist with achieving the objective of the outgoing policy, but in particular:</p> <p>I1 Provide planning advice and policy guidance to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the designated AONB and its setting</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I2 Promote and maintain the local distinctiveness and historic character of the built environment</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I3 Support affordable housing proposals to meet local housing needs, that take full account of the AONB designation</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I4 Conserve and enhance the coast and marine environment in relation to onshore and offshore developments</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I5 Support appropriate infrastructure, signage and transport networks in the AONB, for the benefit of local and visiting communities</p>	<p>None. The outgoing policy is so broad that most of the proposed policies assist with delivering its objectives.</p>

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
<p>I3 Ensure planning authorities support the development of ecologically coherent networks through planning gain</p>	<p>B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape</p> <p>AND</p> <p>G1 Take account of the value of the natural environment in economic development decisions using the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services approach</p>	<p>None. Ecological networks are one way of enhancing habitats and the value of the natural environment, as advocated by the proposed policies.</p>
<p>I4 No development should be permitted inside or on the edge of the AONB which will have a detrimental impact on the landscape</p>	<p>A4 Recommend that no development should be permitted inside or outside the AONB that would harm the natural beauty, character or special qualities of the AONB</p>	<p>None. The policies are almost identical.</p>
<p>I5 Promote the use of sustainable vernacular building design and construction, using traditional materials and styles wherever possible and incorporating renewable energy generation and water recycling technologies where these do not detract from the historic character and fabric of buildings</p>	<p>I2 Promote and maintain the local distinctiveness and historic character of the built environment</p>	<p>None: Building regulations will expect low-carbon new buildings, so their omission from the policy framework will not have a negative environmental effect.</p>
Transport and highways		
<p>I6 Encourage the provision of sustainable, integrated public and community transport including initiatives which enable people to explore the AONB</p>	<p>I5 Support appropriate infrastructure, signage and transport networks in the AONB, for the benefit of local and visiting communities</p> <p>AND</p> <p>H1 Work with partners and landowners to develop improved and safe access to and interpretation of the natural environment</p>	<p>None. The proposed policies will aim to ensure people can explore the AONB.</p>

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
<p>I7 Ensure highway improvements and management practices enhance the landscape, tranquillity and local distinctiveness by adherence to local protocols</p>	<p>I5 Support appropriate infrastructure, signage and transport networks in the AONB, for the benefit of local and visiting communities</p> <p>AND</p> <p>A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are enhanced and fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area</p>	<p>None. The proposed policies will ensure highway practices considered the special qualities of the AONB.</p>
<p>I8 Work towards the removal of infrastructure that creates an eyesore in the AONB where this does not affect sensitive underground structures</p>	<p>I5 Support appropriate infrastructure, signage and transport networks in the AONB, for the benefit of local and visiting communities</p> <p>AND</p> <p>A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are enhanced and fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area</p>	<p>None. Whilst the proposed policies are not as proactive as the outgoing policy, the proposed policies can be applied as opportunities arise to influence the removal of infrastructure.</p>
Rural Economy and Tourism		
<p>G1 Promote the use of products that are locally sourced and sustainably produced</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None. The outgoing policy is more of an action than a policy. It is questionable what the environmental benefits would have been from promoting locally sourced food as some studies have shown that the local option is not the most environmentally friendly. Therefore, there is no definite environmental effect of removing this policy.</p>
<p>G2 Encourage appropriate management of existing woodlands for their contribution towards biofuels</p>	<p>F3 Support approaches to enhance the Natural Capital within the AONB including carbon storage, clean water, timber, soils, renewable energy and crops, consistent with the designation</p>	<p>None. The proposed policy will achieve the same outcome on a sound financial footing.</p>

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
G3 Support and develop sustainable tourism opportunities that conserves the special qualities of the AONB	G2 Support partners to develop sustainable tourism opportunities that promote the special qualities of the AONB without damaging protected sites and species	None. The proposed policy wording is very similar to the outgoing policy.
G4 Support businesses in gaining value from the AONB without impacting on the environmental resource	G1 Take account of the value of the natural environment in economic development decisions using the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services approach	None. The proposed policy advocates the Natural Capital approach which will help businesses gain value from the AONB whilst protecting the ecosystem services it provides.
G5 Develop a sustainable economy based on the AONB’s natural assets	G1 Take account of the value of the natural environment in economic development decisions using the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services approach	None. The Natural Capital approach will do just as the outgoing policy intended.
Community		
J1 Develop community action and understanding of the special features of the AONB and its setting which includes the Heritage Coast.	J1 Raise awareness and understanding of the AONB, its special qualities, natural and cultural heritage	None. Both the outgoing and proposed policy will achieve a raised understanding of the AONB.
J2 Develop and promote opportunities for people to support the AONB	J2 Develop opportunities for people to volunteer and gain appropriate skills and knowledge to deliver AONB priorities	None. Through volunteering and gaining appropriate skills, people will be able to support the AONB and its environment.
J3 Inform and encourage sustainable living and working within the AONB in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.	D1 Increase understanding and mitigation of climate change impacts on coastal landscapes and communities, to be sensitive to the need to enhance the special qualities of the AONB AND J4 Support communities and businesses to reduce carbon emissions from the designated AONB so long as they are complementary to the special qualities of the AONB	Negative. Proposed Policies D1 and J4 together encourage climate adaptation and mitigation in the AONB.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
J4 Support the provision and retention of community facilities in accordance with AONB Objectives	J3 Support the provision of community facilities and services to improve the quality of life and sustainability of rural and coastal communities	None. The proposed policy will support community facilities which will reduce the need to travel to reach facilities elsewhere.
Education and Awareness		
No specific policies to deliver this objective.		

Appendix 3 – Initial Comparison of Management Plan Objectives

Previous to the consultation-draft of the AONB Management Plan, the emerging objectives were subject to an initial comparison with those in the 2014-2019 Management Plan. This task identified some minor recommendations, which can be viewed at Appendices 3 and 4 of this report. The recommendations were accepted in full and incorporated into the consultation-draft AONB Management Plan objectives.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Objective	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Objective	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
Landscape and Seascape		
To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special landscapes of the AONB	To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special landscapes of the AONB	None. The objectives are identical.
Historic Environment and Culture		
To conserve and enhance and raise appreciation of the historic features of the North Devon AONB	To conserve, enhance and understand the historic and cultural environment of the AONB	None. The terms “raise appreciation” and “understand” are synonymous.
Biodiversity		
To conserve and enhance the wildlife habitats and species of the North Devon Coast AONB	To conserve and enhance the wildlife and ecological health of the North Devon Coast AONB, in terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitats	None. Habitats and species are covered by the proposed objective.
Geodiversity		
To conserve and enhance the geodiversity of the North Devon AONB and recognise the contribution to landscape value	To conserve and enhance the wildlife and ecological health of the North Devon Coast AONB, in terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitats AND To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special landscapes of the AONB	None. Whilst the proposed objectives in the 2019 – 2024 Management Plan do not mention geodiversity explicitly, the implicit role of geodiversity in local habitats and its contribution to landscape is covered and therefore there is no divergence of environmental outcome.
The Coast		
To conserve and enhance the coast and marine environment of the North Devon AONB	To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special landscapes of the AONB AND	None. The component parts of the “coast and marine environment”, e.g. landscape, wildlife, historic features, new development etc., are covered by the proposed objectives.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Objective	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Objective	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
	<p>To conserve and enhance the wildlife and ecological health of the North Devon Coast AONB, in terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitats</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>To conserve, enhance and understand the historic and cultural environment of the AONB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>To promote the sustainable management of natural resources and climate change impacts</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>To ensure the planning process protects and enhances the designated AONB and its special qualities</p>	
Farming and Land Management		
To ensure the North Devon AONB continues to support sustainable farming that conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the AONB whilst supporting the local economy	To promote farming, food production and land management practices that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB	None. The special qualities of the AONB will still be conserved and enhanced by the proposed objective.
Access, Recreation and Health		
To ensure sustainable access to the North Devon AONB for the benefit of the health of local people and visitors, consistent with the designation	To ensure sustainable access to the AONB for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors, consistent with the designation	None. The objectives are almost identical, with the addition of “wellbeing” to the proposed objective.
Planning and Development		
To ensure the planning process takes into full account the North Devon AONB	To ensure the planning process protects and enhances the designated AONB and its special qualities	Positive. The proposed objective adds the desire to enhance the area rather than just “take into full account”.
Transport and highways		

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Objective	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Objective	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
To encourage sustainable, integrated transport provision and ensure highways are managed in a way that enhances the landscape and local distinctiveness	To ensure the planning process protects and enhances the designated AONB and its special qualities	<p>Negative. The proposed objective only relates to “the planning process”. Some highways infrastructure is permitted development and would therefore not be subject to this proposed objective. Proposed policies (12) and (15) will apply to permitted development highways schemes and therefore there will be no environmental outcome divergence from the implementation of the plan as a whole.</p> <p>Recommendation: Amend the proposed objective to state: “To ensure the planning process and infrastructure development protects and enhances the designated AONB and its special qualities”.</p>
Rural Economy and Tourism		
To promote sustainable development within the North Devon AONB that is consistent with the designation	To promote sustainable development within the AONB that is consistent with the designation	None. The objectives are identical.
Community		
To involve more people in helping to enjoy, understand and take action to conserve the North Devon AONB.	To support more people to learn about, understand and take action to conserve the AONB	None. The proposed objective, whilst worded slightly differently, ultimately aims to increase understanding of the AONB so that they can take action to conserve it.
Education and Awareness		
To encourage local people and visitors to enjoy, understand and take action to protect the North Devon AONB.	To support more people to learn about, understand and take action to conserve the AONB	None. The proposed objective, whilst worded slightly differently, ultimately aims to increase understanding of the AONB so that they can take action to conserve it.

Appendix 4 – Initial Comparison of Management Plan Policies

Previous to the consultation-draft of the AONB Management Plan, the emerging policies were subject to an initial comparison with those in the 2014-2019 Management Plan. This task identified some minor recommendations, which can be viewed at Appendices 3 and 4 of this report. The recommendations were accepted in full and incorporated into the consultation-draft AONB Management Plan objectives.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
Landscape and Seascape		
A1 Landscape character and natural beauty are conserved and enhanced	A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area	Negative. The proposed policy does not include a requirement to enhance landscape character and beauty, only conserve it. Recommendation: Include 'enhance' in proposed policy A1.
A2 Dark skies, peace and tranquillity within the AONB are preserved	A2 Preserve the dark skies, peace and tranquillity of the AONB	None. The policies, whilst worded differently, are identical.
A3 Planning of future developments, both onshore and offshore, to take full account of open views, wilderness and maritime connections	A3 Ensure developments both onshore and offshore, take account of open views, wilderness and maritime connections	None. The policies, whilst worded differently, are identical.
A4 No development is permitted outside the AONB that would harm the natural beauty, character and special qualities of the AONB	A4 Recommend that no development should be permitted inside or outside the AONB that would harm the natural beauty, character or special qualities of the AONB AND A5 Ensure developments comply with the North Devon Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments	None. Whilst the proposed policy applies to development inside the AONB, as well as outside, the environmental outcome will be the same as development inside the AONB is covered by proposed policy A1.
A5 AONB is responsive to climate change impacts on landscape, wildlife and special qualities of the AONB	B2 Increase understanding and actions to address impacts on biodiversity from invasive species, disease and climate change	None. The proposed policies will ensure the AONB is responsive to climate change impacts.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
	<p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>D1 Increase understanding and mitigation of climate change impacts on coastal landscapes and communities</p>	
A6 Raising public awareness of the importance of landscape and its contribution to natural beauty of the AONB	J1 Raise awareness and understanding of the AONB, its special qualities, natural and cultural heritage	None. The policies' intentions are identical.
Historic Environment and Culture		
E1 Identify, protect and conserve the historic environment of the AONB, their setting and the historic character of the landscape	E1 Support actions to conserve and enhance the historic and cultural features of the AONB	<p>Negative. The requirement to consider the setting of historic and cultural features is absent from the proposed policy.</p> <p>Recommendation: Incorporate the requirement to consider the setting into the proposed policy.</p>
E2 Encourage access to, interpretation and understanding of heritage assets by all sections of the community to enable better current and future management.	E2 Develop approaches to increase understanding and valuing of local heritage and culture	None. Whilst “encourage access” is absent from the proposed policy, encouraging access could be one of the approaches developed to increase understanding.
E3 Support cultural traditions and diversity throughout the AONB.	E2 Develop approaches to increase understanding and valuing of local heritage and culture	None. One approach to increase understanding and valuing of local heritage and culture would be to support cultural traditions.
Biodiversity		
B1 Identify and address actual and potential impacts on biodiversity	<p>B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>B2 Increase understanding and actions to address impacts on biodiversity from invasive species, disease and climate change</p>	None. Identifying and addressing impacts on biodiversity are intrinsic to conserving and enhancing habitats and species as advocated by the proposed policy.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
B2 Support approaches to habitat management that encourage the development of ecologically coherent networks and to provide buffering to designated sites	B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape	None. “Development of ecologically coherent networks” and “buffering to designated sites” are two ways of conserving and enhancing habitats and species as advocated by the proposed policy.
B3 Seek opportunities to restore, expand and improve the links between important rare habitats achieving a strong and resilient ecological network within the AONB	B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape	None. Expanding links between habitats is part of enhancing them.
B4 Facilitate climate change adaptation measures which will allow wildlife to “move” within the landscape in response to changes in local climate	B2 Increase understanding and actions to address impacts on biodiversity from invasive species, disease and climate change	None. The proposed policy will address impacts from climate change.
B5 Support and extend the range of internationally, nationally and locally important species	B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape	None. The proposed policy is equally applicable to all types of species, irrespective of their importance.
B6 Support the long-term survival of vulnerable species within the AONB	B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape AND B2 Increase understanding and actions to address impacts on biodiversity from invasive species, disease and climate change	None. Whilst vulnerable species could be subject to impacts not included in “invasive species, disease and climate change”, proposed policy B1 is applicable to all species, not just those that are vulnerable.
B7 Ensure that the marine environment adjacent to the AONB is valued locally and to ensure that local, coastal and marine species and habitats are conserved and enhanced	B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape AND	None. The proposed policies will conserve and enhance the marine environment.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
	D2 Contribute to marine planning and management of marine designated sites, to conserve coastal landscape qualities, coastal species and habitats.	
B8 Raise awareness of the value and importance of biodiversity and the steps necessary to conserve and enhance it	J1 Raise awareness and understanding of the AONB, its special qualities, natural and cultural heritage AND B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape	None. Awareness of the importance and value of biodiversity will be raised by the proposed policies.
Geodiversity		
C1 Manage and enhance nationally important and locally characteristic geodiversity, in particular the coastal exposures.	B3 Encourage actions to maintain and promote the geodiversity of the AONB through appropriate site management and public awareness	Negative. The requirement to enhance geodiversity is absent from the proposed policy. Recommendation: Incorporate the requirement to enhance geodiversity into proposed policy B3.
C2 Maintain and enhance the geodiversity of the AONB through the appropriate management of sites, areas and wider landscapes	B3 Encourage actions to maintain and promote the geodiversity of the AONB through appropriate site management and public awareness AND A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area	Negative. The requirement to enhance geodiversity and landscapes are absent from the proposed policies. Recommendation: Incorporate the requirement to enhance geodiversity and landscapes into the proposed policies.
C3 Increase public understanding of geodiversity and how this contributes to the natural beauty and local distinctiveness of the AONB.	J1 Raise awareness and understanding of the AONB, its special qualities, natural and cultural heritage	None. Geodiversity is part of the AONB's special qualities, natural and cultural heritage.
The Coast		

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
D1 Conserve and enhance the North Devon AONB whilst mitigating the impacts of climate change	D1 Increase understanding and mitigation of climate change impacts on coastal landscapes and communities AND A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area	Negative. Proposed policies D1 and A1 together achieve the conservation outcomes of outgoing policy D1, however the enhancement requirements of the old policy are absent. Recommendation: Reinstate the requirement for the mitigation of climate change impacts to be sensitive to the need to enhance the special qualities of the AONB.
D2 Ensure that offshore and inshore developments are fully evaluated for adverse impacts on the North Devon AONB by use of tools such as Seascape assessment and acted upon	I4 Conserve and enhance the coast and marine environment in relation to onshore and offshore developments	Positive. The proposed policy adds the requirement to enhance the environment.
D3 Clearly define the special qualities of the North Devon AONB at the coast and its interrelationships with the neighbouring marine environment; to enable full account to be taken of the AONB in marine and coastal planning and management	D2 Contribute to marine planning and management of marine designated sites, to conserve coastal landscape qualities, coastal species and habitats.	None. The outgoing and incoming policies both enable the environment to be considered within the marine planning process.
D4 Speak up for the North Devon Coast to ensure that AONB purposes and special qualities are fully taken into account in decision-making affecting the coast and are incorporated into any future marine plan for the North Devon coast	D2 Contribute to marine planning and management of marine designated sites, to conserve coastal landscape qualities, coastal species and habitats.	None. The outgoing and incoming policies both enable the environment to be considered within the marine planning process.
D5 Promote the implementation of MCZ's in North Devon	D2 Contribute to marine planning and management of marine designated sites, to conserve coastal landscape qualities, coastal species and habitats.	None. Marine Conservation Zones are a type of marine designated site and therefore the proposed policy will have the same environmental outcome as the outgoing policy.
D6 Ensure water quality and the state of the environment of our inshore waters and streams supports biodiversity and social well-being	D3 Improve inland, coastal and bathing water quality through catchment management, natural flood management and litter management.	Positive. The proposed policy has a clear ambition to improve water quality which was not explicit in the outgoing policy.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
Farming and Land Management		
F1 Make the AONB an exemplar for sustainable farming	F1 Support partners to deliver sustainable and exemplar land management, forestry and farming practices in keeping with the AONB designation	None. The outgoing and proposed policies both support sustainable farming.
F2 Maintain the strong pattern of hedgebanks for their major contribution to the landscape, biodiversity and soil management	F2 Work with landowners and managers to maintain landscape features such as hedgebanks and woodlands	None. The proposed policy will continue to maintain hedgebanks.
F3 Support local food production that is compatible with the landscape character of the AONB	F1 Support partners to deliver sustainable and exemplar land management, forestry and farming practices in keeping with the AONB designation	None. The outgoing and proposed policies both support sustainable farming.
F4 Encourage the management and extension of existing broadleaved woodland through the use of traditional management techniques	F1 Support partners to deliver sustainable and exemplar land management, forestry and farming practices in keeping with the AONB designation AND F3 Support approaches to enhance the Natural Capital within the AONB including carbon storage, clean water, timber, soils, renewable energy and crops, consistent with the designation	None. The outgoing and proposed policies both the extension of woodland.
F5 Support the generation of renewable energy that are consistent with the North Devon AONB designation	A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area AND A4 Recommend that no development should be permitted inside or outside the AONB that would harm the natural beauty, character or special qualities of the AONB	None. Renewable energy generation is a type of development. Proposed policy F3 mentions renewable energy, but in the context of enhancing natural capital and so only refers to the extraction of natural resources that can provide renewable energy, such as wood and crops, rather than the generation of it.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
	<p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>A5 Ensure developments comply with the North Devon Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments</p>	
<p>F6 Implement the use of catchment management to ensure good ecological status within catchments such that it supports the biodiversity and economy of the North Devon AONB</p>	<p>F3 Support approaches to enhance the Natural Capital within the AONB including carbon storage, clean water, timber, soils, renewable energy and crops, consistent with the designation</p>	<p>None. Both the outgoing policy and in the proposed policy support improving water quality.</p>
Access, Recreation and Health		
<p>H1 Promote access to the natural environment celebrating the natural, historic, inspirational and tranquil places to all interpretation</p>	<p>H1 Work with partners and landowners to develop improved and safe access to and interpretation of the natural environment</p> <p>E2 Develop approaches to increase understanding and valuing of local heritage and culture</p>	<p>None. Access to, and interpretation of, the natural and historic environment will be sustained by the proposed policies.</p>
<p>H2 Increase sustainable and sensitive access to the AONB</p>	<p>H1 Work with partners and landowners to develop improved and safe access to and interpretation of the natural environment</p>	<p>None. Access to the natural environment will be sustained by the proposed policy.</p>
<p>H3 Enhance the environment along the SWCP and increase access and interpretation</p>	<p>H1 Work with partners and landowners to develop improved and safe access to and interpretation of the natural environment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>D2 Contribute to marine planning and management of marine designated sites, to conserve coastal landscape qualities, coastal species and habitats.</p>	<p>None. Access to, and interpretation of, the natural environment, including coastal locations, will be sustained by the proposed policies.</p>
<p>H4 Reduce barriers to participation in countryside recreation</p>	<p>H2 Support new opportunities and reduce barriers to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors</p>	<p>None. Participation in countryside recreation is one way of improving health and wellbeing, which is in the proposed policy.</p>

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
H5 Maximise opportunities for countryside recreation in the AONB	H2 Support new opportunities and reduce barriers to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors	None. Maximising opportunities for countryside recreation is one way of improving health and wellbeing, which is in the proposed policy.
H6 Maximise health-linked recreation in the AONB	H2 Support new opportunities and reduce barriers to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors	None. Maximising health-linked recreation is one way of improving health and wellbeing, which is in the proposed policy.
H7 Develop links with healthy lifestyle initiatives	H2 Support new opportunities and reduce barriers to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors	None. Developing links with healthy lifestyle initiatives is one way of improving health and wellbeing, which is in the proposed policy.
Planning and Development		
I1 Facilitate the development of green infrastructure within the AONB	<p>I1 Provide planning advice and policy guidance to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the designated AONB and its setting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>I5 Support appropriate infrastructure, signage and transport networks in the AONB, for the benefit of local and visiting communities</p>	None. The principal mechanism for facilitating the development of green infrastructure is via the planning system. Outside of the planning system, green infrastructure initiatives can be supported through proposed policy I5.
I2 Support the maintenance and development of sustainable communities providing it is consistent with AONB policies	<p>Most of the proposed policies assist with achieving the objective of the outgoing policy, but in particular:</p> <p>I1 Provide planning advice and policy guidance to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the designated AONB and its setting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>I2 Promote and maintain the local distinctiveness and historic character of the built environment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p>	None. The outgoing policy is so broad that most of the proposed policies assist with delivering its objectives.

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
	<p>I3 Support affordable housing proposals to meet local housing needs, that take full account of the AONB designation</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I4 Conserve and enhance the coast and marine environment in relation to onshore and offshore developments</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I5 Support appropriate infrastructure, signage and transport networks in the AONB, for the benefit of local and visiting communities</p>	
<p>I3 Ensure planning authorities support the development of ecologically coherent networks through planning gain</p>	<p>B1 Support and promote the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, to increase wildlife richness and ensure the health of the wider landscape</p> <p>AND</p> <p>G1 Take account of the value of the natural environment in economic development decisions using the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services approach</p>	<p>None. Ecological networks are one way of enhancing habitats and the value of the natural environment, as advocated by the proposed policies.</p>
<p>I4 No development should be permitted inside or on the edge of the AONB which will have a detrimental impact on the landscape</p>	<p>A4 Recommend that no development should be permitted inside or outside the AONB that would harm the natural beauty, character or special qualities of the AONB</p>	<p>None. The policies are almost identical.</p>
<p>I5 Promote the use of sustainable vernacular building design and construction, using traditional materials and styles wherever possible and incorporating renewable energy generation and water recycling technologies where these do not</p>	<p>I2 Promote and maintain the local distinctiveness and historic character of the built environment</p>	<p>None: Building regulations will expect low-carbon new buildings, so their omission from the policy framework will not have a negative environmental effect.</p>

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
detract from the historic character and fabric of buildings		
Transport and highways		
I6 Encourage the provision of sustainable, integrated public and community transport including initiatives which enable people to explore the AONB	I5 Support appropriate infrastructure, signage and transport networks in the AONB, for the benefit of local and visiting communities AND H1 Work with partners and landowners to develop improved and safe access to and interpretation of the natural environment	None. The proposed policies will aim to ensure people can explore the AONB.
I7 Ensure highway improvements and management practices enhance the landscape, tranquillity and local distinctiveness by adherence to local protocols	I5 Support appropriate infrastructure, signage and transport networks in the AONB, for the benefit of local and visiting communities AND A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area	None. The proposed policies will ensure highway practices considered the special qualities of the AONB.
I8 Work towards the removal of infrastructure that creates an eyesore in the AONB where this does not affect sensitive underground structures	I5 Support appropriate infrastructure, signage and transport networks in the AONB, for the benefit of local and visiting communities AND A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area	None. Whilst the proposed policies are not as proactive as the outgoing policy, the proposed policies can be applied as opportunities arise to influence the removal of infrastructure.
Rural Economy and Tourism		
G1 Promote the use of products that are locally sourced and sustainably produced	None	None. The outgoing policy is more of an action than a policy. It is questionable what the environmental benefits would have been from promoting locally sourced food as some studies

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
		have shown that the local option is not the most environmentally friendly. Therefore, there is no definite environmental effect of removing this policy.
G2 Encourage appropriate management of existing woodlands for their contribution towards biofuels	F3 Support approaches to enhance the Natural Capital within the AONB including carbon storage, clean water, timber, soils, renewable energy and crops, consistent with the designation	None. The proposed policy will achieve the same outcome on a sound financial footing.
G3 Support and develop sustainable tourism opportunities that conserves the special qualities of the AONB	G2 Support partners to develop sustainable tourism opportunities that promote the special qualities of the AONB without damaging protected sites and species	None. The proposed policy wording is very similar to the outgoing policy.
G4 Support businesses in gaining value from the AONB without impacting on the environmental resource	G1 Take account of the value of the natural environment in economic development decisions using the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services approach	None. The proposed policy advocates the Natural Capital approach which will help businesses gain value from the AONB whilst protecting the ecosystem services it provides.
G5 Develop a sustainable economy based on the AONB's natural assets	G1 Take account of the value of the natural environment in economic development decisions using the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services approach	None. The Natural Capital approach will do just as the outgoing policy intended.
Community		
J1 Develop community action and understanding of the special features of the AONB and its setting which includes the Heritage Coast.	J1 Raise awareness and understanding of the AONB, its special qualities, natural and cultural heritage	None. Both the outgoing and proposed policy will achieve a raised understanding of the AONB.
J2 Develop and promote opportunities for people to support the AONB	J2 Develop opportunities for people to volunteer and gain appropriate skills and knowledge to deliver AONB priorities	None. Through volunteering and gaining appropriate skills, people will be able to support the AONB and its environment.
J3 Inform and encourage sustainable living and working within the AONB in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.	D1 Increase understanding and mitigation of climate change impacts on coastal landscapes and communities	Negative. Proposed Policy D1 only covers climate adaptation. There is no policy within the proposed suite to explicitly encourage carbon mitigation within the AONB, despite the proposed

2014 – 2019 Management Plan Policies	Similar Proposed 2019 – 2024 Management Plan Policies	Divergence of Environmental Outcome
		<p>management plan acknowledging that climate change is a significant issue and stating that “the Partnership can, and should, support...mitigation initiatives”.</p> <p>Whilst building regulations will expect low-carbon new buildings, residents of the AONB may be discouraged from retrofitting existing properties with new technologies if the partnership’s policies are silent on its support for the decarbonisation agenda.</p> <p>Recommendation: Add a policy to support communities and projects to reduce carbon emissions from the AONB area so long as they are complementary to the special qualities of the AONB.</p>
<p>J4 Support the provision and retention of community facilities in accordance with AONB Objectives</p>	<p>J3 Support the provision of community facilities and services to improve the quality of life and sustainability of rural and coastal communities</p>	<p>None. The proposed policy will support community facilities which will reduce the need to travel to reach facilities elsewhere.</p>
<p>Education and Awareness</p>		
<p>No specific policies to deliver this objective.</p>		