



Devon's Outstanding Landscapes

The very best of Britain's landscape and scenery are found in Devon's five **Areas Of Outstanding Natural Beauty**



Five of the Best

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is the government's designation for Britain's finest landscape. The five AONBs in Devon together with Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks cover 35% of the County.



By operating through locally accountable partnerships and community engagement, the AONB networks make a real difference. Each AONB is funded by Natural England and local authorities.

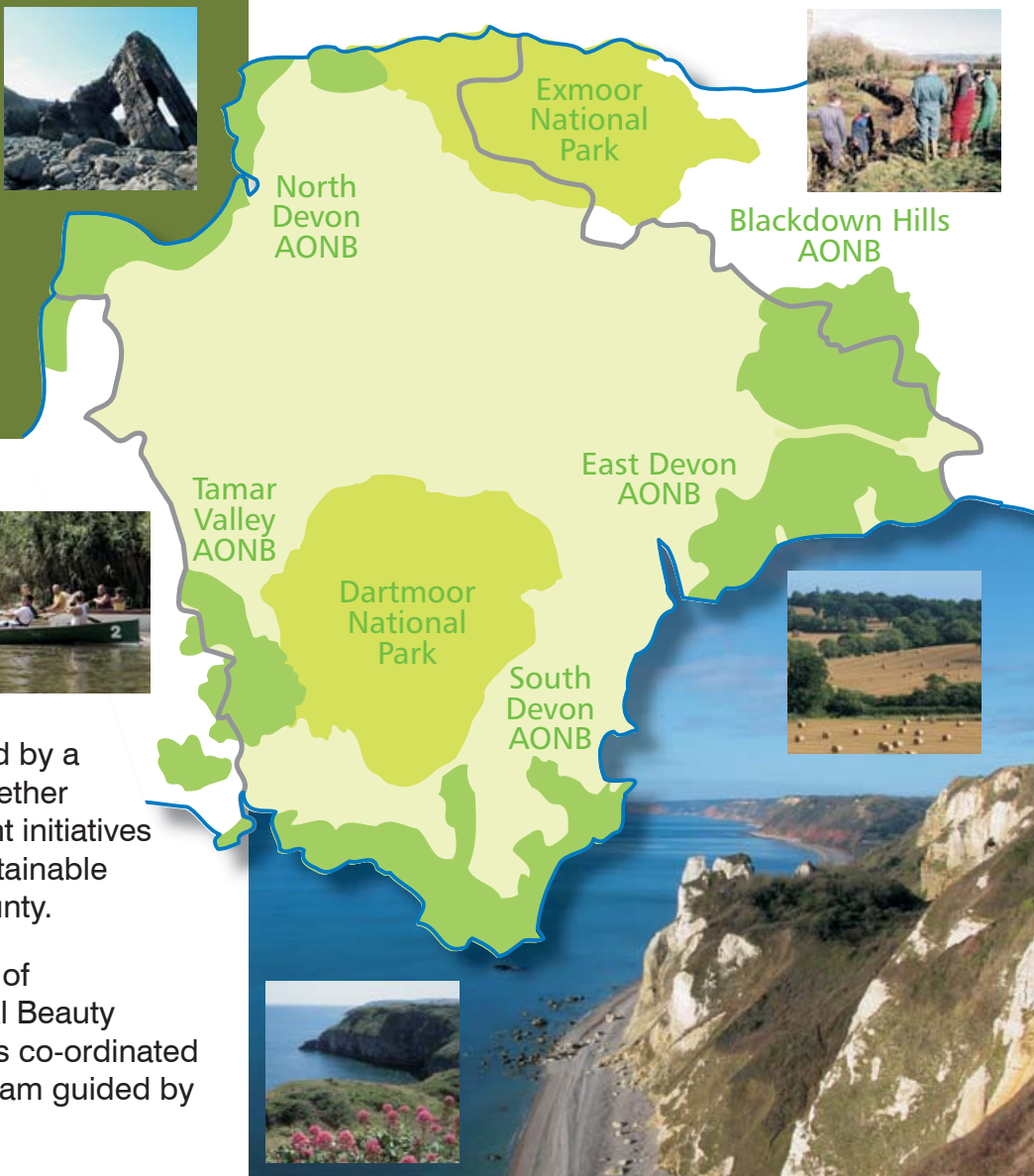


The statutory purpose of AONBs is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. They have the same landscape value as National Parks.



Each of the 5 AONBs is managed by a local partnership. They bring together rural and landscape management initiatives that assist the delivery of the sustainable development agenda for the County.

The distinct and unique qualities of each Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty need care and attention. Action is co-ordinated in each AONB by a small local team guided by a wider community partnership.



Key features

Extent: The Devon AONBs cover 517 square miles (1336 kilometres) of coastline, estuaries, and countryside

Heritage Coast: The Devon AONBs incorporate 172 miles of Heritage Coastline including the UNESCO Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site or 'Jurassic Coast'

Protected Habitats: There are 4453 ha of designated sites of special scientific interest including the UNESCO Biosphere centred on Braunton Burrows Reserve, North Devon

Historic site designations: There are 144 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Devon AONBs – good value for money

Core income	£876,649*
Project expenditure including Sustainable Development Fund	£2,868,507
Expenditure of other programmes in which AONBs involved as a partner	£4.2m

Figures as at 2005-6

Annual reviews which detail all financial costings are available from individual AONBs.

*75% of core costs are provided by Natural England and the remainder are shared between relevant local authorities or other partners.

The Landscape Heritage Scheme, part of Life into Landscape, funded the restoration of 17km of hedgerow – South Devon AONB

Working the Woods project to increase markets for local wood and wood products – Tamar and South Devon AONBs together with Dartmoor National Park

Community and landscape in Beer and Branscombe were brought together through 'parishscapes' – English Nature and East Devon AONB



AONB Management – making a difference

This page shows examples of AONB partnership projects.

The 'can do' partnership approach enables us to:

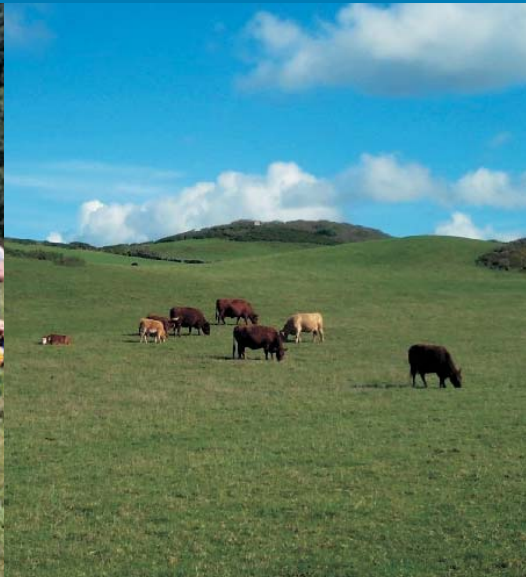
- Engage communities
- Support innovation and practical solutions
- Influence the strategic agenda
- Add value to local delivery
- Demonstrate good practice in sustainable countryside management



Tamar Mining Heritage – £6m regeneration programme for Tamar Valley AONB



Blackdown Tales – encouraging enjoyment of the area through a programme of guided walks and activities



Providing wildlife management advice to owners of more than 50 County Wildlife Sites to date – North Devon AONB



Local Products Strategy – delivering £2m European funding into the Blackdown Hills AONB

Landscapes of the future

Devon's five areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty share a common commitment to securing sustainable living landscapes.

Each AONB has a statutory management plan with policies and programmes for conserving the special qualities of the area.



A Shared agenda:

Key themes for AONB partnerships to influence and help deliver -

Landscape Character

Quality land management, traditional skills, biodiversity enhancements, sustainable woodlands, hedgerows

Communities in Action

Local engagement, enhanced environmental education and awareness

Celebrating culture

Local distinctiveness, cultural events, arts and heritage

Accessibility and Tourism

Enjoyment of the countryside, sustainable tourism, active recreation, increasing access for all

Sustainable development

Advice and support for planning and transport, local produce and services, sustainable development fund grants

