Tamar Valley
National
Landscape



June 2026

# Tamar Valley National Landscape **An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan No.6** 2026 - 2031

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# Executive Summary

## Our Vision

By 2055, Tamar Valley National Landscape has a strong sense of place and wellbeing, as a distinctive and internationally important landscape of high visual quality and a protected green and blue haven where communities and wildlife flourish. Nature and People are entirely connected in a living and working environment, enjoying clear air, clean water, wholesome food, tranquillity, good health and resilience to a changing climate and variable economy.

Tamar Valley National Landscape is a unique and vibrant destination of choice and high value.

> *A place to be. A place to breathe. A place to thrive.*

## Our Purpose

To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley.

## Our Strategy

- Champion a Nature-first approach throughout all activities, collaborations, delivery and partnerships.
- Inspire positive action to build resilience to a warming climate, clean and protect the landscape, decarbonise our communities and restore Nature.
- Secure investment and aim to deliver at pace and at scale to deliver bigger, better and more joined up spaces for Nature
- Strengthen our Partnership for improved coordination, evidence gathering and collaborative goal setting for Nature, Climate, Place and People.

# Foreword

## Foreword from Martin Howlett, Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership Board Chair (2021-2025)



*Martin Howlett*
*Chair (2021–2025)*
*Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership*

Tamar Valley National Landscape is a very special place for us all. Our 500-year mining heritage is inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and we have internationally protected species of both fauna and flora and a celebrated natural and tranquil landscape producing high quality food and drink, inspiring artists and craftspeople, riverside walks and marine activities, all within vibrant rural communities, enjoying a safe haven, and leading healthy lifestyles.

Designated in 1995 as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), officially rebranded as National Landscapes in 2023, we celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2025. We have achieved a great deal in that time, securing more than £19 million of investment that has helped us deliver over 340 projects.

> *Working together we are achieving our purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley landscape.*

To meet these challenges, we cannot only repeat the good work we have done before. We must be more ambitious and urgent in our efforts, take on a different pace of activity and deliver at a far greater scale. We will be more robust in the regular assessment of both nature recovery targets, emerging climate challenges and general landscape enhancement, through smarter engagement and inclusivity of key businesses, community and voluntary sector, stepping up to invest in the Tamar Valley's future.

So, as we set out our plan for the next 5 years and longer-term ambitions, by encouraging nature, enhancing and climate adapting activity, we strive to further champion the Tamar Valley in a proud celebration of our people, place and nature.

## *Note from Philip Hygate, Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership Board Chair (November 2025 – )*



*Philip Hygate*
*Chair (from November 2025)*
*Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership*

This latest Management Plan is the product of a great deal of careful consideration by many people and organisations; including the Tamar Valley National Landscape Executive and Partnership, the Tamar staff team and also officers of Cornwall Council and Devon County Council, Natural England and all relevant regulatory and advisory bodies. The Plan has been refined by widespread consultation and the involvement of many individuals and voluntary groups. This gives the Plan a powerful local authenticity.

Like all good plans it aims to provide a positive framework and not a straitjacket. It celebrates the Tamar Valley seeking to safeguard this precious life affirming place for people and nature long into the future.

Being in a beautiful landscape and with the nature it cradles is good for our physical and emotional health. At a time of very rapid social and economic change driven by artificial intelligence and machine learning, the Tamar Valley offers a real chance of a sense of place and purpose for all who live in it or love to visit it.

With the Management Plan adopted and published it is now important to work towards its implementation with the investment of both time and money to ensure the Tamar Valley is in good heart for generations to come. That you are reading this means you already have a stake in the Valley, I encourage you to greater involvement. The more you are involved the more personal fulfilment you can gain and the more secure is the Valley's future.

# Purpose of this Management Plan, who it is for and our key audiences

## Purpose

This Management Plan sets out a shared approach for the sustainable management of the Tamar Valley National Landscape (TVNL) over the next 5 years. It has been prepared by the TVNL Partnership on behalf of the five responsible local authorities: Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council.

Under the requirements of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and updated by the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023, these authorities are legally obliged to produce and review a Management Plan every five years. The 2023 Act strengthens this duty: relevant local authorities must now seek to further the statutory purposes of Protected Landscapes, not just have regard to them.

This Management Plan is a tool for decision-making and delivery. It provides a framework for action by a wide range of partners, including public bodies, farmers, landowners, communities, charities, and businesses, to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, cultural heritage and environmental value of the Tamar Valley.

It aligns with and helps to inform national and local strategies, such as:

- The Environmental Improvement Plan
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies for Cornwall and Devon
- The 30 by 30 biodiversity target
- The Cornwall Local Plan and Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan
- The Cornwall Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Devon Carbon Plan
- Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Management Plan
- Heritage at the Heart of an Evolving Cornwall: A Strategy for Cornwall’s Historic Environment (2022-2030)

All major decisions affecting the TVNL should refer to this Plan and seek to further the statutory purposes of Protected Landscapes, and everyone has a role to play in its delivery to achieve the vision.

The Management Plan is structured around three strategic themes: Nature, Climate, and People & Place. These themes provide a framework for delivering the vision and priorities of the National Landscape. Each theme includes Protected Landscape Outcome Targets set by Natural England, ensuring that actions contribute to national goals for nature recovery, climate resilience, and thriving communities. A five-year Strategic Delivery Plan translates these themes into high-level actions, such as tree planting, improving water quality, enhancing cultural heritage, and supporting sustainable agricultural land management, underpinned by clear monitoring and delivery mechanisms.

## Who is the Tamar Valley National Landscape's Management Plan for?

The Management Plan is a strategic framework for the geographical area of the TVNL and its wider area of influence, and it guides all activities that affect its conservation and enhancement. It is not a plan for a single organisation, but for all those that have an active interest in the Tamar Valley and its communities. Everyone has a role in delivering the Management Plan through individual actions and collaborative efforts. The TVNL team's core function is to support the TVNL Partnership to prepare the management plan and to convene, facilitate and empower the delivery of the plan.

### Key audiences include:

**Local Authorities** – responsible for jointly preparing, adopting and reviewing the Management Plan which sets out their shared management policies.

**Local Planning Authorities** – responsible for planning and development within the TVNL and its setting will use the management plan as material consideration for planning, development and decision-making. The management plan is not a development plan, it is focused on setting out clear management objectives and the identification of key characteristics, special qualities and landscape opportunities that should help to inform Local Plans.

**Other relevant authorities** – including public bodies, town and parish councils, utility companies and government agencies, all of whom have a statutory duty to support the National Landscape's purpose, including those that neighbour the National Landscape. The Management Plan helps guide this duty.

**National Landscape Partnership organisations** – central to delivering and promoting the Management Plan's aims.

**Landowners, land managers, and developers** – essential to the sensitive stewardship of the landscape within the National Landscape, and neighbouring areas. The Management Plan offers guidance and support to help attract resources and promote best practice.

**Local communities, businesses and visitors** – this Management Plan is relevant to all who live, work, do business in, neighbour or visit the Tamar Valley and can contribute to its care, including by getting involved.

**Other stakeholders** – such as funding bodies, voluntary groups and third sector organisations, who may use the Management Plan to help align their work with our vision for the Tamar Valley.

# Maps of the Tamar Valley National Landscape

## Maps of the Tamar Valley National Landscape

These maps are taken from the *State of Conservation for the TVNL 2025* done by Craggatak (Paul Tiplady) – on website: State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=vnb9tb1jvg)




*National Landscape location showing the Tamar Valley National Landscape in relation to Devon, Cornwall and surrounding designated landscapes.*
*Source: GIS data obtained from OS OpenData and data.gov.uk (October 2023).*




*Detailed map of the Tamar Valley National Landscape showing settlements, transport routes and river corridors within the designated area.*
*Source: GIS data obtained from OS OpenData and data.gov.uk (October 2023).*

# Special qualities

## Overview of the Tamar Valley National Landscape

The TVNL sits at the boundary between Cornwall and Devon, a place of transition or confluence encompassing a rich mosaic of farmland, woodland, moorland, estuary, and historic settlements. Covering around 75 square miles, the area includes parts of five local authorities and 24 parishes, and borders Dartmoor National Park. It is home to a population of 11,755* people, with a strong rural character shaped by centuries of land use and stewardship.

This is a working and lived-in landscape, where agriculture, heritage, and biodiversity are deeply intertwined. The Valley contains European and nationally designated wildlife sites and ancient woodlands, internationally designated mining heritage, and a once-thriving market gardening economy.

The unspoilt pattern of settlement dating mostly from medieval and postmedieval enclosures, lanes, fields, woodland and hedgebanks is an outstanding landscape legacy. Extensive mining activity throughout the Valley exploited mineral reserves from the late 18th century. The combination of workers' housing, Methodist chapels, chimneys, engine houses, inclines and associated infrastructure has created a distinctive mining landscape which is now recognised through World Heritage Site status. Evidence of the river's importance can be seen across the landscape by a series of structures, leats, weirs, quays, fords, viaducts, limekilns and bridges. The Valley's unique market gardening industry supplied many crops, via railway and river, to London and elsewhere, and evidence of this activity is still visible in the landscape today.



*Aerial view of the River Lynher and surrounding landscape near St Germans, illustrating the wooded valleys, farmland and river corridors characteristic of the Tamar Valley National Landscape.*

The Valley's designation as a National Landscape reflects not only its scenic beauty, but also its cultural depth and ecological value. The area continues to evolve, balancing the needs of nature with that of local communities and growing urban populations in urban centres like Plymouth, as well as realising the benefits the valley brings for people in those communities.

**In 1992, the Countryside Commission undertook a detailed landscape assessment of the Tamar Valley, which helped establish the case for its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1995. That assessment identified five defining characteristics, now referred to as the Valley's special qualities, that capture the essence of its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and ecological value. These qualities continue to guide how the landscape is protected, managed, and celebrated.**

**This figure has been provided by Defra based on census information and 'cut' to the boundary of the National Landscape. Our previous figure of 16,500 included whole parish populations.*

# 1. A Rare Valley and Water Landscape

The TVNL is defined by its distinctive river system, an intricate network of the Tamar, Tavy, and Lynher rivers that rise from Woolley Moor in the north, Bodmin Moor in the west, and Dartmoor in the east of the Tamar's catchment area. These rivers converge to form a dramatic estuary complex, flowing into Plymouth Sound.

The geology of the area has created a compact yet varied landscape, where steep wooded valleys, tranquil floodplains, and tidal mudflats, reedbeds and saltmarshes coexist within a relatively small area.



*Aerial view of the River Tamar at Gunnislake, illustrating the steep wooded valley sides and river corridor that characterise the rare lowland river landscape of the Tamar Valley National Landscape.*

The middle valleys become dramatic with steep fringing woodlands, high cliffs and rocky outcrops juxtaposed with gently meandering stretches through lush pastureland. The higher areas of the National Landscape possess a more gently rolling pastoral floodplain.

This rare lowland river system is a defining feature of the Tamar Valley, offering a sense of continuity and natural rhythm that has shaped both the ecological and human stories of the region.

## 2. A Landscape of High Visual Quality

The Tamar Valley offers a landscape of exceptional visual richness. From the enclosed intimacy of ancient lanes and hedge-lined fields to the expansive estuarine vistas seen from Kit Hill or Weir Quay, the Valley presents a striking contrast of scales and textures.



*Wooded river valley within the Tamar Valley National Landscape, illustrating the enclosed, intimate character and rich textures that contribute to the area's high visual quality.*

These visual experiences are deeply rooted in local character. Fingerposts, wildflower-rich Cornish hedges and Devon banks and traditional field patterns all contribute to a sense of place.

Cornish hedges and Devon banks are key features of the Tamar Valley landscape. Both are referred to locally as ‘hedges’ and in Devon as ‘hedgebanks’, but their defining feature is an earthen bank. This can be stone or turf-faced in the case of Devon banks or stone-faced on a Cornish hedge. They traditionally have ditches on both sides and can have living hedgerows and lines of mature trees growing out of the top. In both cases, there is a growing awareness of their special contribution to local landscape character, distinctiveness, nature recovery, habitat connectivity and surface water alleviation, amongst other things. Despite this, the hedges are not protected through the Hedgerow Regulations unless they have a living shrubby hedgerow growing on top.

Despite centuries of industrial activity and development, the Valley has retained its rural distinctiveness, largely due to long-term stewardship by estates such as the Dukes of Bedford and Tavistock Abbey.

## 3. A Unique Wildlife Resource

The Tamar Valley is a haven for wildlife, supporting an extraordinary range of habitats and species. Its estuary complex is internationally significant, designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), and multiple Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). These tidal zones are vital for wintering waders and wildfowl, and host important habitats such as salt marshes, reedbeds, and fringing oak woodlands.



*Eurasian curlew in estuarine habitat within the Tamar Valley National Landscape, representing the wintering waders supported by the valley's internationally significant tidal zones.*

Mining has left a surprising and valuable legacy for biodiversity. Abandoned workings and spoil tips have evolved into refuges for species like the Greater Horseshoe Bat and Nightjars, who benefit from the heathland characteristics that have developed on former sites such as Devon Great Consols, nestled within the conifer plantations of Tamar Trails. Meanwhile, sensitively managed woodland supports a stronghold population of Heath Fritillary butterflies, with the Tamar Valley being one of only four locations in the UK where this rare butterfly thrives.

The rivers of the valley are home to otters, beavers, and threatened fish such as the Allis Shad and salmonids. Even roadside hedges contribute to the Valley's ecological richness, sheltering nationally rare daffodils, living remnants of its market gardening heritage.



*Tidal creek near Saltash within the Tamar Valley National Landscape, illustrating the estuarine habitats and wooded river corridors that support internationally important wildlife.*

## 4. A Remarkable Heritage

The Tamar Valley’s cultural heritage is woven into its landscape. Medieval bridges, lime kilns, viaducts, and a rich mining legacy tell the story of centuries of human interaction. The Valley’s settlement pattern, lanes, fields, woodland, Cornish hedges and Devon banks, reflects medieval and post-medieval enclosures, preserved through stable landownership.



*Former mining structures at Okel Tor, illustrating the industrial heritage and historic mining landscape of the Tamar Valley National Landscape.*

Mining brought dramatic change in the 18th and 19th centuries, leaving behind a distinctive industrial landscape recognised as part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. Market gardening also shaped the Valley, employing thousands and supplying produce to London via rail and river. These layers of history enrich the Valley's identity and offer a powerful sense of continuity.

## 5. A Landscape of Artistic and Public Appeal

The Tamar Valley has long inspired creativity and connection. Artists such as J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) painted its views, and the landscape designs of Humphry Repton (1752-1818), such as seen at Port Eliot, reflect its romantic appeal.



*J. M. W. Turner, Crossing the Brook (c.1815), oil on canvas. Public domain.*
*The Tamar Valley has long inspired artists, and Turner's work reflects the romantic qualities and enduring cultural appeal of the landscape.*

Today, the Valley supports a vibrant community of artists and craftspeople. Its cultural identity is rooted in traditional industries such as farming, forestry, mining, and salmon fishing, and is celebrated through local events including cherry fairs and apple days. The river and railway have long served as recreational links, offering scenic journeys and community connection. This enduring sense of place is one of the Valley’s greatest strengths, deserving careful stewardship and celebration.

# Landscape Character

The TVNL has undergone a comprehensive Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), developed in collaboration with neighbouring local authorities and guided by a nationally approved methodology (Countryside Agency, 1992). This assessment, supported by extensive local consultation, provides a robust evidence base for understanding, monitoring, and managing the valley's unique and evolving landscape.

The process began with a desk-based study identifying fine-grained Landscape Description Units (LDUs) based on distinct topography. These were then assessed in the field and grouped into broader Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)-geographically specific areas with a strong individual identity. Each LCA is described using consistent criteria and summarised by a set of key characteristics.

Alongside this, Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) has been completed, offering insight into the centuries of human interaction that have shaped the valley. While HLC types may align with LDUs in some areas, they often intersect or blend, adding depth to our understanding of the landscape's cultural and historical layers. The Tamar Valley Landscape Character Assessment has identified 12 different landscape character types for the Tamar Valley; these are areas of landscape that are relatively uniform in character, sharing similar characteristics of geology, landform, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern.



*Aerial view of the Tamar Valley landscape near Latchley and Chilsworthy, showing historic field patterns, hedgebanks, woodland blocks and mixed agricultural land use typical of several Landscape Character Areas.*
*© Tobi O'Neill, TON Drone Services*

Together, the LCA and HLC provide a foundation for strategic planning, conservation, and land management, helping to conserve and enhance the Tamar Valley's special qualities. These assessments are now widely used to guide change and ensure development aligns with the area's character and values.

Landscape has been described as a meeting ground between people and nature, past and present, and tangible and intangible values. By analysing the features that contribute to our sense of place, we can monitor landscape change and identify processes that either strengthen or erode what we value most. This awareness enables us to shape policies and actions that reduce negative impacts and reinforce the Tamar Valley's identity.

The original 1992 assessment by the Countryside Commission helped secure the Tamar Valley's designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Since then, recent reviews have built on this foundation, reinforcing the valley's distinctiveness and informing delivery priorities over five- and thirty-year horizons.



*Aerial view of the River Tamar at Lopwell, illustrating steep wooded valley sides, historic parkland and the estuarine landscape that defines the Tamar Valley's distinctive river character.*
*© Tobi O'Neill, TON Drone Services*

The TVNL Partnership has also established a landscape monitoring programme, the State of AONB report, providing indicators of change in relation to the valley's special qualities and external pressures. Issues such as light pollution, road noise, and visual encroachment are increasingly recognised as threats to tranquillity and visual beauty-key components of natural beauty.

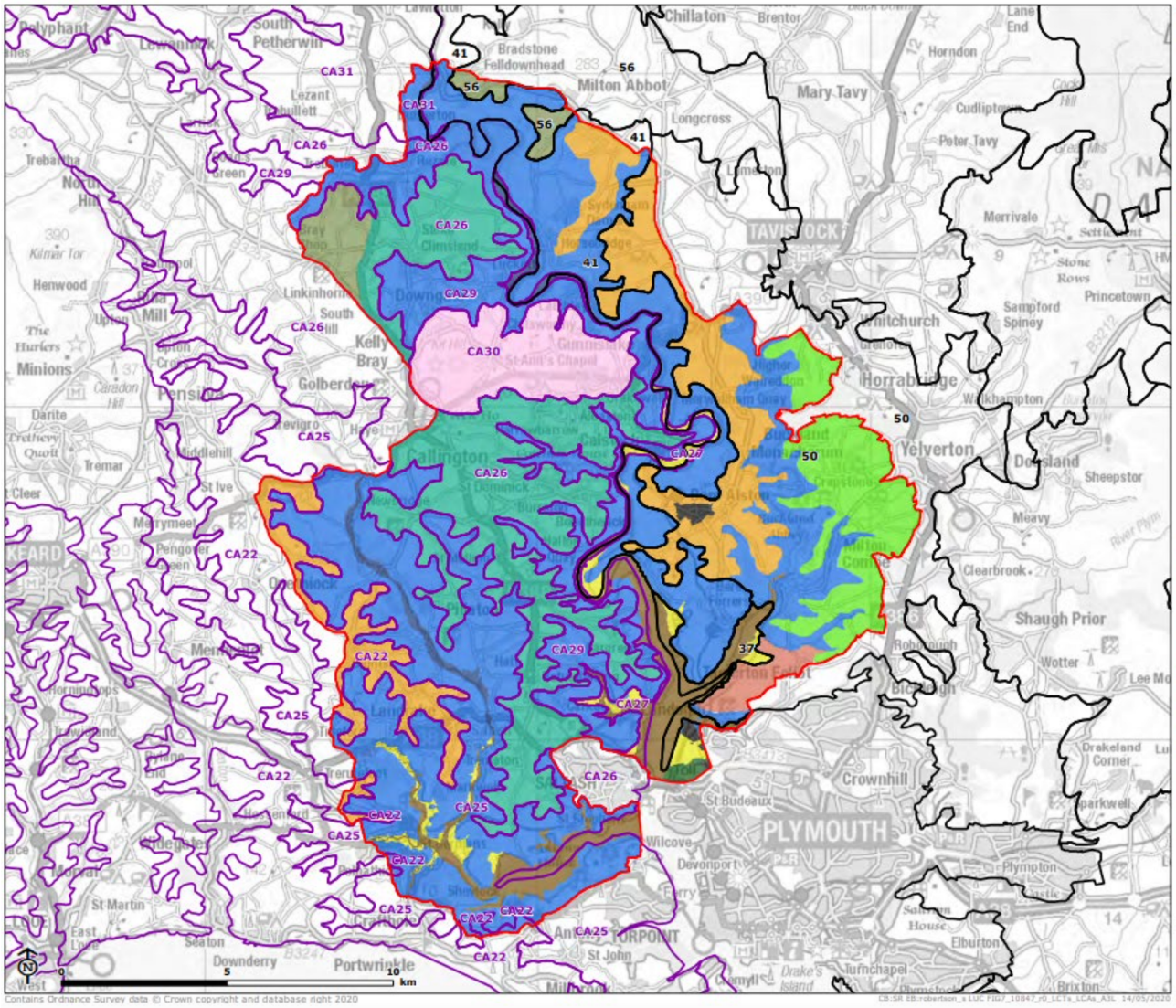
Iconic viewpoints like Kit Hill's summit and the riverside at Calstock offer panoramic and intimate experiences of the landscape. At a more local scale, socially and culturally significant places-such as historic orchards, smallholdings, and allotments-are valued by communities even when their heritage is not fully understood. These elements must be reflected in planning decisions and protected through appropriate mitigation strategies to meet the objectives of the Management Plan.

To view the Landscape Characterisation for the area of the TVNL within Cornwall, go to this link: Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's Historic Environment ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=p8n6rgqies)

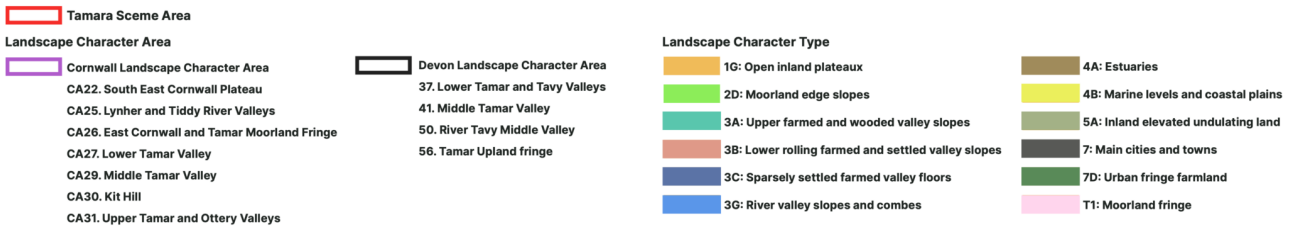
To view the Landscape Characterisation for the area of the TVNL within Devon, go to this link: Devon County Council Environment Viewer ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=pox4mwyzyj)

# Tamar Valley Landscape Character Assessment

## Relationship between the LCTs and the Character Areas for Cornwall and Devon




*This map shows the mosaic of landscapes, comprising inland plateaux with undulating landscapes, moorland fringes and edge slopes descending into the upper farmed and wooded valleys. Below is the lower rolling farmed and settled landscapes. At its core are the river valley slopes, combes and the sparsely settled farmed valley floors leading to estuarine landscapes, marine and coastal plains. Together, these character areas illustrate that the Tamar Valley is a rich and diverse landscape, shaped by wooded valleys, estuarine features and varied topography, contributing to its ecological and visual significance and industrial heritage.*


Tamara Sceme Area
Landscape Character Area
Cornwall Landscape Character Area
CA22. South East Cornwall Plateau
CA25. Lynher and Tiddy River Valleys
CA26. East Cornwall and Tamar Moorland Fringe
CA27. Lower Tamar Valley
CA29. Middle Tamar Valley
CA30. Kit Hill
CA31. Upper Tamar and Ottery Valleys
Devon Landscape Character Area
37. Lower Tamar and Tavy Valleys
41. Middle Tamar Valley
50. River Tavy Middle Valley
56. Tamar Upland fringe
Landscape Character Type
1G: Open inland plateaux
2D: Moorland edge slopes
3A: Upper farmed and wooded valley slopes
3B: Lower rolling farmed and settled valley slopes
3C: Sparsely settled farmed valley floors
3G: River valley slopes and combes
4A: Estuaries
4B: Marine levels and coastal plains
5A: Inland elevated undulating land
7: Main cities and towns
7D: Urban fringe farmland
T1: Moorland fringe

# Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

Under the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, published in 2018, the TVNL contributes to Defra's Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP25). This includes national targets such as:

- Protecting 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030 through the Nature Recovery Network.
- Creating or restoring 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042.
- Halting species decline by 2030 and increasing abundance by 2042.

The Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) sets out shared ambitions for all 44 designated landscapes in England. Tamar Valley is expected to support three key outcomes:

1. Thriving plants and wildlife
2. Mitigating and adapting to climate change
3. Enhancing beauty, heritage, and public engagement with nature

While non-statutory, these targets guide coordinated action through the Tamar Valley's Management Plan, with delivery supported by local authorities, land managers, and community partners.

These have been turned into the following 10 targets.

## Thriving plants and wildlife targets

### Target 1

Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).

**Tamar Valley Target 1,580 Ha (min)**

## Target 2

Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.

## Target 3

For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having ‘actions on track’ to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

**Tamar Valley SSSI areas**

## Target 4

Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.

**Tamar Valley SSSI areas**

## Target 5

Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

**Tamar Valley Target 1,580 Ha (min)**

# Mitigating and adapting to climate change targets

## Target 6

Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.

**Tamar Valley Target -5821 kt CO2e**

## Target 7

Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.

## Target 8

Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

**Tamar Valley Target 589 Ha (min) Tree & Woodland Cover 63 Km (min) Hedgerow creation**

# Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment targets

## Target 9

Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.

## Target 10

Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.

# State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape

## Summary

The TVNL covers 190 square kilometres (75 square miles / 19,000 hectares) of rivers, estuaries and countryside. There are 3,668 hectares (22%) of woodland, significantly above the regional average, and 1,688 hectares (10%) of the area is nationally designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) across 7 SSSIs. The estuaries are designated as the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area (SPA) and Tamar Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), known collectively as the Marine Protected Area. 33 County Wildlife Sites (CWS) amounting to 13.3% of the National Landscape, and 13 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS).

The TVNL contains 2 Grade I and 2 Grade II* Registered Parks and Gardens, 27 Scheduled Monuments and 648 Listed Buildings, of which 29 are Grade I, 47 are Grade II* and 572 are Grade II. There are 11 Scheduled Monuments and 8 Listed Buildings on Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register.

Area A10 of the UNESCO inscribed Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site – The Tamar Valley Mining District with Tavistock – occupies some 16.5% of the TVNL (around 3,242ha).

There are 127km of public rights of way, 239 hectares of Open Access Land (1%) and 1,369 hectares is in public management. Around 67% of the area is farmed with 4,500 hectares in Agri-Environmental Scheme management.

For the most recent data, please refer to the State of National Landscape Report 2025. This report pulls together data and information for the Tamar Valley National Landscape gathered by the National Landscape team, with its partners, including Natural England and from other sources as indicated. It presents data collated in the spring of 2024 alongside comparable data from annual reviews and reports, where such exist, or to alternative baselines against which there are comparisons and trends: State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=vnb9tb1jvg).

# Forces for Change

**Our vision for Tamar Valley National Landscape is informed by the Forces for Change operating in our landscape. These have been reviewed after due consideration of the State of the National Landscape 2024 Report and the Natural England Natural Habitat Indicators.**

**The following list focuses on the primary forces of change, it is not exhaustive.**

## Policies

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act), as amended by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act in December 2023, requires relevant authorities to 'seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' in exercising or performing any function that affects designated AONBs in England (now called National Landscapes).

The Government's Environment Improvement Plan (EIP) 2025 presents a roadmap for restoring England's environment over the coming years. The plan sets out measurable commitments across every priority – from cleaner air and water to thriving wildlife and resilient landscapes. Defra's Protected Landscapes Targets & Outcomes Framework establishes ambitious targets for National Parks and National Landscapes and sets out how we are to achieve 3 outcomes from the EIP: thriving plants and wildlife; mitigating and adapting to climate change; enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Regulation (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=esqktjbvft) for the Environmental Delivery Plans is also now in place following Royal Assent for the Planning and Infrastructure Act. This will allow Natural England to begin preparing an Environmental Delivery Plan (EDP), setting out the actions to be taken in a specified area to address the impact development has on a protected site or species. It also brings into force section 97 of the Act, which 'makes provision for the creation of statutory instruments containing nature restoration levy regulations'.

## Local Plans

A Ministerial Statement published in December indicated that the new plan-making system for England will commence in early 2026 and has committed to publish the enabling regulations imminently. This is likely to result in a formal plan-making timeframe between March/April 2026 and the beginning of 2029 for Local Plans relating to the TVNL.

The Local Plans will set out the strategic policies to guide development and growth across Devon and Cornwall over the next 20-25 years, ensuring that we meet housing, employment, infrastructure, nature recovery and environmental needs in a sustainable manner.

## National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) revision

The Government published a revised draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2025 which was at consultation stage at the time of drafting this Management Plan. The policies are not yet in force, and the introduction of the changes is subject to a consultation that ends on 10 March 2026.

The new NPPF is very different from its predecessors and is expressed as a number of policies for plan-making and decision-making. From the time that it is published (in late March/April 2026) any policies of adopted Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans that are “in any way inconsistent with the national decision-making policies” outlined in the NPPF should be given “very limited weight” in decision-making.

The draft Framework sets out revised guidance and decision-making policies for planning across England. It continues to assign the same high value and degree of protection to National Landscapes and stipulates that substantial weight should be placed on the importance of conserving and enhancing their natural beauty. It also confirms that the scale and extent of development in National Landscapes should be limited and sensitively located to avoid harm to their statutory purposes and special qualities. It continues to stipulate that major development will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances subject to a number of stringent tests, while development within the setting of National Landscapes should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.

The NPPF draft starts to articulate the role of the planning system in helping to deliver aspects of the Nature Recovery Strategies and addressing climate change. The new plan-making policies of the NPPF highlight the importance of using relevant environmental evidence, including Local Nature Recovery Strategies, to set out areas which need safeguarding from development because of their importance for nature; balancing the need to safeguard areas because of their potential for nature with the need to deliver development, pursue opportunities for nature recovery, and direct development away from sensitive locations. New provisions include requirements for plan-makers to set clear standards for green infrastructure, drawing upon national benchmarks.

The draft document may be viewed at:
National Planning Policy Framework: draft text for consultation (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=apondsljqx).

A briefing note on the changes can be found at:
Briefing note – NPPF and other planning changes December 2025 (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=myyudbpxq7).

## National Land Use Framework

The National Land Use Framework is due for publication early in 2026 and will inform development of the Spatial Development Strategies and Local Plans for Cornwall and Devon.

## Local Government Reorganisation

Local Government Reorganisation in Devon may impact the Devon part of the Tamar Valley Management Plan area. The Government has invited district councils, Plymouth City Council, Torbay and Devon County Council to submit a proposal for reorganisation. All Devon authorities submitted the full Local Government Reorganisation proposal on the 28th November 2025. New unitary or unitaries would start in 2028/2029 to be confirmed.

## Artificial intelligence and technological advancements

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning is accelerating change across sectors through adaptive intelligence with significant employment implications for many traditional jobs, requiring reskilling of workforce. Robotics and autonomous machinery (self-drive tractors) reducing need for manual labour; fewer seasonal and low-skilled jobs, with potential loss of traditional farming knowledge.

AI is also shaping how we monitor, protect and plan for resilient landscapes, enabling smarter stewardship, from satellite data to soil health – precision agriculture using AI to optimise irrigation, fertilisation and pest control.

## Climate Change

Climate change is already reshaping the Tamar Valley. Since 1950, average temperatures have risen by 1.5°C, accompanied by increased rainfall and more sunshine hours. These shifts are driving a range of environmental impacts:

- Rising sea levels are threatening homes and heritage features along the river, while estuarine retreat and coastal erosion, up to 1.5 metres over the past 30 years, are altering the shape and character of the landscape.
- Flooding risk is increasing, which could lead to pressure for larger engineered defences with the potential to compromise the scenic and ecological qualities of the valley.
- Prolonged droughts are drying out heathland habitats, raising the risk of wildfires and stressing native flora and fauna.
- Air pollution hotspots (including CO?, PM2.5, and SO?) are emerging near settlements and traffic-heavy areas, affecting both human health and ecosystem resilience.
- Tree planting efforts face growing challenges from deer and grey squirrel browsing, limiting the success of woodland regeneration and carbon sequestration goals.
- Spring / summer droughts are also one of the significant challenges to establishing new tree planting.
- Invasive species, such as giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam, continue to spread, undermining native biodiversity and requiring ongoing management.
- Increased demand in renewable energy infrastructure, including wind turbines and solar panels, which will require sensitive integration to support climate resilience without compromising the valley’s distinctive landscape character.



*American skunk-cabbage in wetland habitat*

## Biodiversity Pressures

Nature in the Tamar Valley is under increasing pressure. The State of Nature Report 2023 revealed that nearly 1 in 6 species in Great Britain are threatened with extinction, while the Bugs Matter citizen science survey recorded a 63% decline in insect numbers between 2021 and 2024.

Only 45% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) features are in favourable condition, and currently none have improvement actions on track. Although priority habitats cover 19% of the area, data reliability varies, and habitat fragmentation continues to drive species decline, exacerbated by land use changes and climate pressures.

Tree diseases such as ash dieback and Phytophthora, alongside invasive species like Yellow-Legged hornet, Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed, and Pacific oysters, pose further threats to biodiversity.

There is a clear requirement to halt biodiversity loss, restore wildlife-rich habitats, and improve SSSI condition by 2042. This will depend on structural changes in agriculture and forestry, better water quality and management, and the adoption of nature-enhancing techniques across land use sectors.

# Development in the Tamar Valley

## Planning and Development

The Tamar Valley faces development pressures that are reshaping its character and tranquillity, including:

- Urban expansion reducing green buffers and transition zones, impacting tranquillity and light levels.
- Increased housebuilding targets and settlement growth threatening the valley's sparsely settled character.
- Transport corridors and glazed buildings undermining dark skies and rural tranquillity, alongside expanded permitted development rights.
- Increased use of non-locally sourced building materials, such as from local quarries, resulting in loss of connection with landscape context, diluting distinctive vernacular architecture.
- Fragmentation of farm holdings, diversification, and decline of traditional industries such as market gardening.
- Mining resumption, with the potential to significantly alter landscape and heritage.
- Cumulative impact of minor urban growth since 2012, alongside pressure on residential properties from tourism and second home ownership.
- Eleven heritage assets at risk; historic mining infrastructure and smallholdings under pressure.

These trends have the potential to impact the valley's special qualities, highlighting the need for robust planning, landscape monitoring, and community engagement to guide sustainable development and protect its unique identity.

# Agriculture

Agriculture in the Tamar Valley is undergoing significant structural change post Brexit and there is growing uncertainty around farming payments, such as the end of the Basic Payment Scheme. Since 2010, agricultural holdings have declined by 14%, with a marked shift toward poultry production (+275%) and away from sheep and cattle (down 18% and 12% respectively since 2016). Hobby farming, solar farms, and glasshouses are increasing, while traditional features such as hedgerows, Cornish hedges, Devon hedgebanks, orchards, and historic field patterns are disappearing, eroding local distinctiveness.

Woodland management remains partial, with only 56% actively managed. Ancient woodland is stable but under pressure, and participation in agri-environment schemes has fallen from 42% to 32% of land area. Post-Brexit uncertainty and global market volatility are driving land-use changes, soil erosion, and nitrate pollution.

Landscape homogenisation is accelerating through over-managed hedgerows and intensive practices, while tree diseases (ash dieback, Phytophthora) and invasive species compound ecological stress. These trends threaten biodiversity, heritage, and the valley's character, underscoring the need for nature-friendly farming and integrated land management.

Challenges of accommodating substantial, modern agricultural buildings into the intimate, complex and tranquil valley landscape, and the impact of changes to land management practices, and pollution control measures affecting agricultural landscape need addressing. Increased intensity of rainfall and storms puts increasing pressure on water management improvements and nutrient inputs throughout agricultural practices.

# Access, Social & Economic Pressures

Limited access to the TVNL continues to constrain opportunities for health, wellbeing, and inclusive engagement with nature. Transport connectivity is fragmented, with rural communities and visitors facing barriers to sustainable travel; public transport remains limited, and car dependency is high (91% of households). While proposals such as reinstating the Bere Alston-Tavistock railway and low-carbon transport options offer potential, delivery remains uncertain. Digital connectivity also lags behind, restricting local business growth and visitor experience.

At the same time, demographic and economic shifts are reshaping the valley. The population is ageing (average age 49), the working-age share has fallen to 55%, and ethnic diversity remains low. Earnings are below the rural average (£2,100/month), house-price ratios are high (8), and farming employment is declining. Home working has surged (11% to 32%), while tourism and second-home ownership add pressure, contributing to community fragmentation and disconnection from heritage.

Without coordinated investment and integrated planning, these trends risk deepening inequalities, eroding community cohesion, and undermining the valley's potential as an inclusive, resilient landscape. It is recognised that some of these constraints cannot be resolved without appropriate and sensitive development which could help support the delivery of services and facilities and to provide jobs.

# Environmental Legislation and Policy Summary

## Tamar Valley National Landscape

The Tamar Valley is designated as a National Landscape (formerly AONB) under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW), with a statutory purpose to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Under Section 85 of the Act, a duty is placed on all public bodies **to seek to further this purpose** in any decisions affecting the area, and it states that every National Landscape (AONB) must have a Management Plan that sets out the policies for managing the area, to be reviewed at least every five years. Local authorities that fall within a National Landscape are jointly responsible for preparing and adopting these plans.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) strengthens this duty, requiring relevant authorities to actively further the purposes of designation, rather than simply "have regard to" them. It also enables the Secretary of State to direct authorities, link Management Plans to national environmental targets, and require contributions to plan preparation and delivery.

Under the Environment Act 2021, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are now a statutory requirement. These strategies identify priority areas for habitat creation and improvement, aiming to restore 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042, halt species decline by 2030, and increase woodland cover and water quality. Tamar Valley's Management Plan has been co-developed alongside LNRSs for Devon and Cornwall, ensuring alignment with nature recovery, climate resilience, and community wellbeing goals.

The Environmental Improvement Plan 2025 (EIP25) sets national targets including the "30 by 30" commitment to protect 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030: Government criteria for 30by30 (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=khj95hh9i5) . Protected Landscapes are expected to contribute to three key goals: thriving wildlife, climate adaptation, and enhanced beauty and heritage. These ambitions are coordinated through the non-statutory Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF).

Planning authorities must treat National Landscapes as "sensitive areas" under EIA Regulations and consider Management Plans as material planning considerations. While not formal consultees, National Landscape partnerships offer valuable local insight. Natural England remains the statutory consultee for landscape-related planning matters.

The Tamar Valley Management Plan also anticipates the forthcoming national Land Use Framework, which will guide strategic land decisions balancing food security, climate action, and nature recovery. Though not yet launched, it is expected to influence future policy and funding.

# Nature

**The Defra Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework for Nature for the UK are:**

## Target 1

Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).

## Target 2

Bring 80% of Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.

## Target 3

60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having ‘actions on track’ to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

## Target 4

Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.

The international obligation that the government has signed up to of 30% of land and sea managed for nature by 2030 is a current major policy driver.

National Landscapes (15% of England) include 31% of England’s SSSIs, 22% of England’s broadleaved woodland and 18% of England’s deep peat.

## Target 5

Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

## Target 7

Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.

## Target 8

Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

The TVNL supports 24 of the UK's 56 priority habitats, including ancient woodland, lowland heath, saltmarsh, reedbeds, and species-rich grasslands. These habitats underpin vital ecosystem services such as carbon storage, flood mitigation, and pollination. Key designated sites include the Tamar-Tavy and Lynher Estuary SSSIs, Marine Conservation Zones, and County Wildlife Sites, which together form a mosaic of high ecological value.

In 2023 the Tamar Valley launched its Nature Recovery Plan: Nature Recovery Plan – Tamar Valley National Landscape Tamar Valley National Landscape ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=anrvhjn6jj). It sets out an ambitious framework to restore and enhance biodiversity across this nationally important landscape. In response to ecological and climate emergencies, the plan aligns with national targets including the UK Government's "30 by 30" commitment and the Colchester Declaration, aiming to recover habitats, species, and nature connectedness.

The plan identifies 17 Tamar Valley Special Species for targeted conservation, including the Greater Horseshoe bat, Heath Fritillary butterfly, Allis shad, and Plymouth pear. These species represent broader ecological needs and offer opportunities for public engagement and citizen science. 15 of these Special Species are also Focus Species for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Nature Recovery Strategy.

Nature recovery actions span four domains: designated sites, the working landscape, built-up and post-industrial areas, and species-specific interventions. Priorities include improving habitat condition, enhancing connectivity, supporting sustainable land management, and engaging communities in nature stewardship.

The plan is underpinned by collaborative delivery with farmers, landowners, local authorities, and conservation organisations. It promotes nature-based solutions to climate change and seeks to unlock funding through mechanisms like Biodiversity Net Gain and the Environmental Land Management scheme.

Monitoring and evaluation will track progress against habitat, species, and engagement targets, ensuring alignment with Local Nature Recovery Strategies and national policy. By 2030, the Tamar Valley aims to be a thriving, resilient landscape where nature and people flourish together.

The Tamar Valley Nature Recovery Plan provides the local delivery mechanism for achieving these national Protected Landscape targets. By restoring priority habitats, improving SSSI condition, and promoting sustainable land management, the plan directly contributes to Targets 1-4 and supports the wider ambition for 30% of land managed for nature by 2030.

## Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a statutory requirement under the Environment Act 2021, designed to guide targeted action for nature recovery across England. Both Devon and Cornwall now have LNRSs in development or published, covering the TVNL.

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LNRS is already available and sets out mapped priorities for habitat creation, species recovery, and climate resilience. It identifies key areas for restoring biodiversity, improving water quality, and increasing woodland cover, with strong links to community engagement and landowner collaboration. A dedicated digital hub has been created where the strategy can be read, and it provides access to the mapping portal:
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Nature Recovery Strategy | Let's Talk Cornwall (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=mmzhp7chu7).

For information on the Special Species, follow the link to the Recovery Toolkit:
Focus Species Recovery Toolkit | Let's Talk Cornwall (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=4ojjlnqta3)

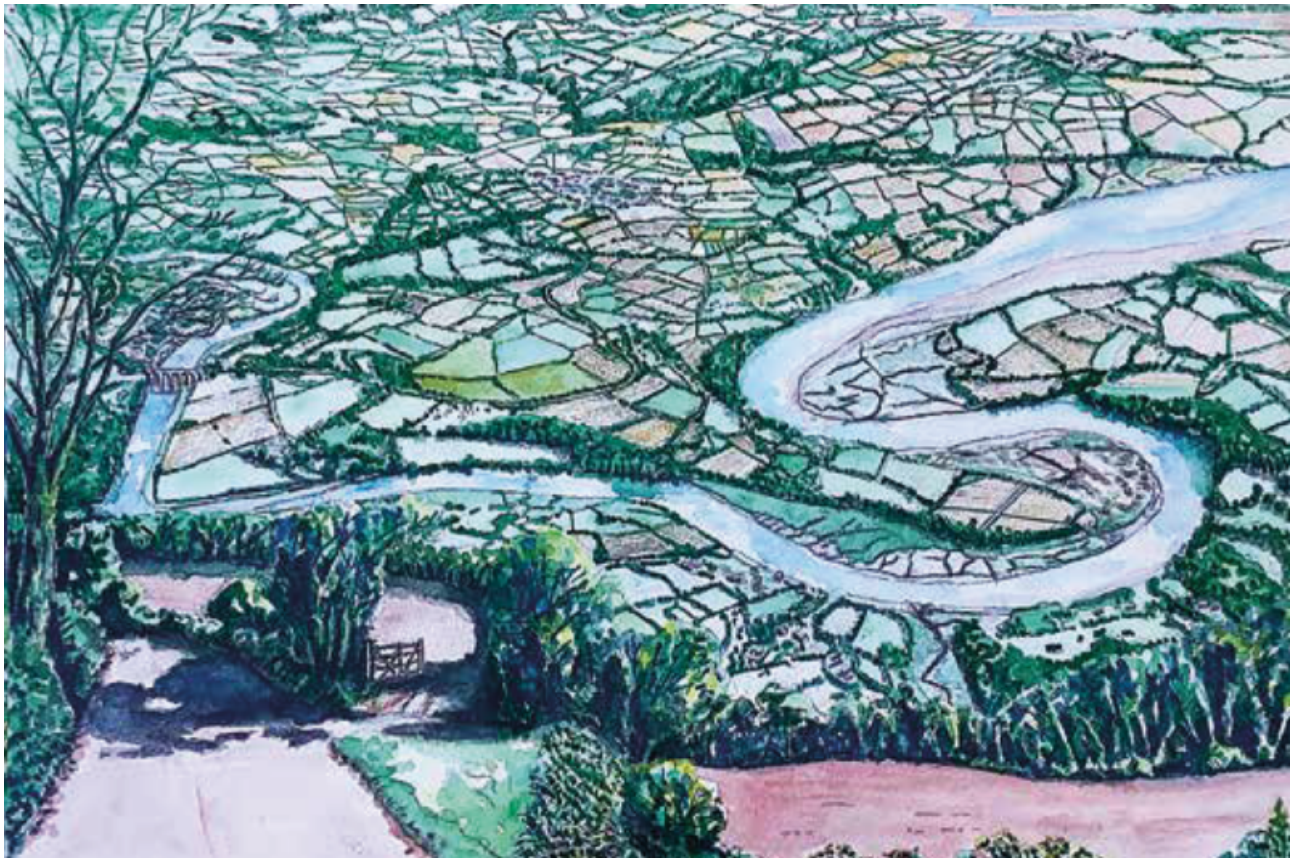
The Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (draft), developed jointly for Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay by Devon County Council and the Devon Local Nature Partnership, identifies high-value habitats and locally led actions to halt species decline, support sustainable land use, and deliver wider environmental benefits. The draft Devon LNRS completed its public consultation stage on 5 November 2025:
Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) | Devon County Council (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=fmffeaqigw).

For information on the Special Species within the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (draft), follow the link:
Habitats and Species | Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) | Devon County Council (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=zk9hqcnrdw).

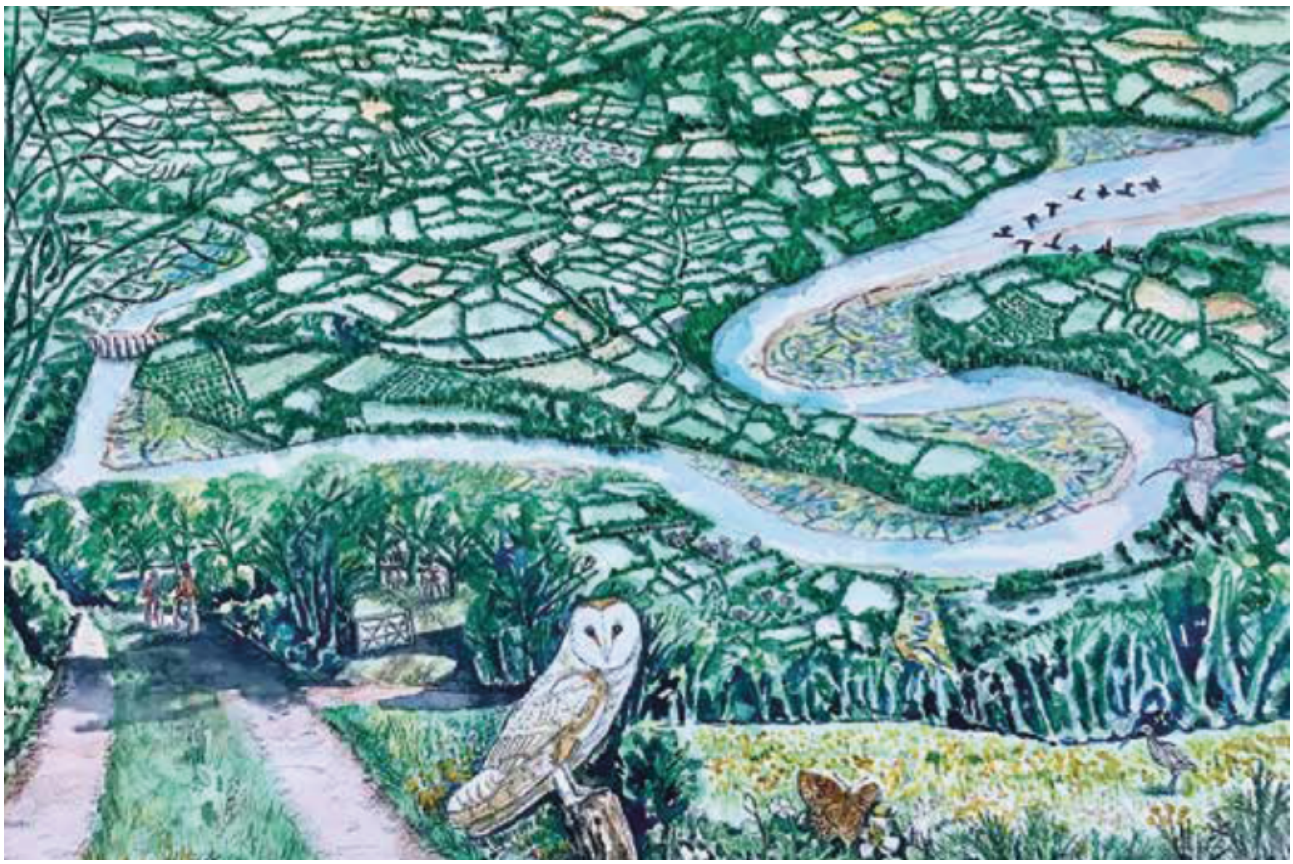
# What Nature recovery in the Tamar Valley can look like

Species-rich communities are essential for functioning, resilient ecosystems and the recovery of high-quality priority habitats is key to securing the future of associated species.

Our Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership has adopted a list of Special Species that will become the focus of our efforts to safeguard and enhance their natural habitat.



*Artist's impression of the Lower Tamar Valley by Phil Collins (2023).*



*Artist's impression of the Lower Tamar Valley – enhanced Nature Recovery Network by Phil Collins.*

The list includes species:

- of most conservation importance or concern (Priority Species), particularly where the Tamar Valley is an important area for a population.
- associated with the diverse habitats which should be flourishing in the Tamar Valley and beyond, and which can benefit from our work to improve and connect Priority Habitats across the National Landscape.
- that people will recognise and might be able to see – and help – in their own back gardens and local areas.

Tamar Valley National Landscape will also take action for other species, including our important invertebrates and pollinators, working together with our partner organisations and the wider community, where opportunities arise, and resources allow.

The Tamar Valley National Landscape Special Species are:




*A selection of Special Species found within the Tamar Valley National Landscape.*

1. Nightjar, UK Status Amber, Birds of Conservation Concern 5
2. Bastard balm, Rare and declining
3. Heath Fritillary butterfly, Sec 41 species of principal importance (NERC Act)
4. Willow tit, UK Status Red, Birds of Conservation Concern 5
5. Common toad, UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species
6. Adder, Near Threatened or Vulnerable, IUCN Red List
7. Avocet, UK Status Amber, Birds of Conservation Concern 5
8. Plymouth pear, Critically Endangered, IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants
9. Dormouse, Vulnerable, GB Red List
10. Greater horseshoe bat, Near Threatened, IUCN Red List
11. Harvest mouse, UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species
12. Water vole, Endangered, Species of Principal Importance, NERC Act
13. Triangular club-rush, Critically Endangered, Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland
14. Delta prawn, Common
15. Salmonids (Salmon and Trout), Endangered, IUCN Red List
16. Allis shad, UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species
17. Hedgehog, Vulnerable to Extinction, IUCN Red List for British Mammals

# Nature Recovery Case Studies

## Stoke Climsland Farm Cluster

Bringing farmers together to create landscape-scale environmental change. Read more > ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=qoq41r0k3x)

Link: Stoke Climsland Farm Cluster (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=kx9cqmsf9f)

## South Hooe – Connecting Habitats and Building Natural Capital

Improving ecological connectivity through habitat creation and restoration, natural capital and ecosystem services. Read more > (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=qqlc0zwfmx)

## Tackling Invasive Non-Native Species in the Tamar Catchment

The Tamar Invasives Group coordinating efforts to tackle the spread of invasive non-native species. Read more > (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=vbtslfb52k)

# Climate

## Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework for Climate

### Target 6

Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050, relative to 1990 levels.

### Target 7 (to be apportioned)

Not applicable to Tamar Valley where there is no deep peat.

### Tamar Valley Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Tamar Valley greenhouse gas emissions data from Department for Energy Security and Net Zero 2024.

The greenhouse gases covered by these statistics are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

Between 2005 and 2023, the estimated total greenhouse gas emissions in the TVNL saw a decrease from 131.8 to 83.7 kt CO2e. The figures are shown in ‘kilo tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent’ – ktCO2e. Levels dropped for the following sectors:

- Industry: 1.5 to 1.2 kt CO2e
- Commercial: 5.3 to 1.5 kt CO2e
- Public sector: 1.6 to 0.6 kt CO2e
- Domestic: 36.9 to 16.3 kt CO2e
- Transport: 23.7 to 23.5 kt CO2e
- Agriculture: 80.2 to 64.4 kt CO2e
- Waste: 7.8 to 2.3 kt CO2e

UK local and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005-2023, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Greenhouse gas emissions in the Tamar Valley have fallen significantly since 2005, largely due to national decarbonisation of energy, improved building efficiency, better waste management, and changes in agricultural practices. Domestic, commercial, and waste sectors saw the biggest reductions, while transport remained almost unchanged and agriculture continues to be the largest source of emissions.

## Climate Change Adaptation Management Plans

Under the UK Government's 2023 Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAP3), all National Parks Authorities and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) must embed or link Climate Change Adaptation Management Plans within their management plans by 2028, and in all future iterations.

## Regional and Landscape-Level Approaches

In parallel, the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Impacts Group has developed a regional Climate Adaptation Strategy, *Adaptation Strategy – Climate Resilient Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly*. Although not created specifically for the third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3), it details the risks the region might face in the future as climate change increasingly affects the UK and it identifies how we can adapt to these changes.

It provides a valuable evidence base and shared framework for understanding and responding to climate risks across the South West. The strategy includes a Climate Risk Register and a three-year Action Plan, offering practical, place-based adaptation measures that can inform local planning and delivery.

## National Landscapes Climate Adaptation Risk Assessment

To support the NAP3 requirement, National Landscapes has developed a Climate Adaptation Risk Assessment template to help identify climate-related risks across designated landscapes. While not a full adaptation plan, it provides the foundation for one by:

- Identifying key landscape assets and features
- Assessing their vulnerability to climate change
- Considering sectoral impacts (e.g. farming, forestry, natural, built and historic environments)
- Using current climate projections to evaluate risks
- Scoring risks and opportunities by likelihood, impact, and timeframe (short, medium, long term)

This flexible approach allows each landscape to tailor the process to local needs and stakeholders. The TVNL will draw on both the national and regional frameworks to develop a robust, locally relevant adaptation plan by 2028.

# Tamar Valley Habitats & Climate Sensitivity

| Habitat Type | Sensitivity | Key Adaptation Responses |
|---|---|---|
| Hedgerows | Low | Buffer zones, structural diversity, resilient planting |
| Rivers & Streams | High | Prioritise natural processes, riparian shading, water retention |
| Wet Woodland | Medium | Increase patch size, manage water levels, species diversity |
| Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland | Low | Continuous cover forestry, species diversification |
| Lowland Meadows | Medium | Flexible management, water level restoration |
| Saltmarsh | High | Managed realignment, sediment supply, erosion control |
| Traditional Orchards | Low | Low-input management, species diversity, water storage |
| Reedbeds | Medium | Hydrological restoration, flexible management, habitat expansion |
| Arable Field Margins | Low | Habitat connectivity, tailored management, resilient planting |

These habitats are important within the Tamar Valley landscape. Their sensitivity to climate change has been assessed using the Natural England Climate Change Adaptation Manual (NE751), which provides national-level ratings based on habitat characteristics and projected climate impacts. The table summarises these ratings and outlines key adaptation priorities for each habitat.

# Climate Case Studies

## Calstock electric ferry trial

Zero emissions ferry service trialled at Calstock using off-grid solar power. Read more > ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=u291i53ziw)

## Slow the Flow project

Natural flood management of extreme weather conditions at Deerpark Farm. Read more > (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=ryxw9patkc)

# People and Place

The TVNL is home to around 11,755* residents, with an older-than-average population and a high proportion of rural households. Most residents live in small communities with high car ownership and a growing number working remotely. These characteristics shape how people interact with the landscape and highlight the importance of accessible, inclusive tourism and wellbeing opportunities that reflect local needs and lifestyles. Across the Tamar Valley, a range of large estates and farms play an important role in the landscape stewardship and public engagement, including places where community involvement and partnership working are increasingly shaping how land is cared for and enjoyed.

The Tamar Valley is widely recognised as an oasis of tranquillity, valued by residents and visitors for its scenic beauty and peaceful atmosphere. Its tourism infrastructure remains low-key and sympathetic to the Valley's heritage and landscape. The Visit Tamar Valley Association (VTV) supports tourism providers across the National Landscape.

With growing interest in natural and cultural heritage, and rural tourism, and increasing domestic travel driven by rising costs and environmental awareness, the Valley is likely to see a rise in visitor numbers. Tourism plays a vital role in the local economy, as highlighted by reports commissioned by the National Landscape and partners. Sustainable and sympathetic nature tourism in the Tamar Valley is vital for nurturing deeper connection between people and place, honouring the rich natural heritage while promoting meaningful reconnection with the environment. By valuing our intertwined relationship with the natural world, we foster stewardship, wellbeing and a lasting sense of belonging.

There is scope to continue investing in facilities and support local services, with a focus on year-round visitors who can help sustain accommodation providers and local food producers. While sustainable transport options such as the Tamar Valley railway line, river access and cycling routes offer opportunities to reduce car dependency, some communities are less able to reach them. Extending the reach and inclusivity of sustainable and active travel networks is a key objective in neighbourhood plans, and there is the need to ensure residents and visitors can reliably connect with local facilities and attractions.

The Tamara Coast to Coast Way, a long-distance walking route from the South to North Coast, showcases the Valley's rich landscapes and heritage. Walking and nature-based activities offer significant wellbeing benefits, and there is scope to expand ecotherapy approaches using the Valley's peaceful landscapes and soundscapes.

** This is a decrease from the figure quoted in the previous management plan of 16,500. Defra has provided this figure based on the Census 2021, cut to the edge of the National Landscape area and excludes previously included wider parish populations.*

# Community challenges identified in Neighbourhood Development Plans

## Housing and affordability

There is a limited housing stock in the Tamar Valley and housing is increasingly unaffordable for local residents, especially young people and key workers. There is an affordability ratio of 10 based on the average house price within the area of around £200,000 to £340,000 (mid-range 3 to 4 bed family house) and average income.

## Access to services and infrastructure

Rural isolation affects access to healthcare, education and employment. Limited public transport and digital connectivity are recurring concerns in community feedback.

## Aging population

The average age is 49, significantly above the national average. There are fewer working-age residents and a growing need for age-friendly services and housing.

## Employment and economic resilience

Decline in traditional employment such as farming, and a shift towards home-working and micro-enterprises, with low average earnings. There is a need for support for sustainable tourism, creative industries and green jobs.

## Climate change, adaptation and nature recovery

Communities are concerned about flooding, soil degradation and biodiversity loss. There is strong support for regenerative agriculture, tree planting and habitat restoration.

## Cultural identity and heritage

Desire to protect and celebrate local heritage, including mining heritage and landscape character. Community-led placemaking and events are seen as vital for wellbeing and cohesion.

## Community engagement and governance

Neighbourhood Development Plans highlight the importance of local voice in planning and landscape management.

# Tamar Valley Community Insights

This section provides an overview of the people who live, work, and shape our community, highlighting key demographic characteristics that inform planning and decision-making.

## Key population indicators

| Indicator | Value |
|---|---|
| Population | 11,755 (Census 2021, Defra cut to edge) |
| Average age | 49 (England 40.5) |
| Population over 65 years old | 3,638 |
| Population 19 and under | 2,041 |
| Ethnicity | 98% white (England 81%) |
| Average income in 2021 | £25,200 pa |
| Average income 2025 (2.5% annual growth rate) | £27,816 pa* (England £37,430) |
| Average mid-range house price | £200,000 – £340,000 |
| Average house affordability ratio | 10 (England average 8) |

** Average earnings within the TVNL area in 2021 was £25,200, by applying annual growth rate of 2.5%, the projected average income in 2025 would be £27,816.*

## Population profile comparison

| Indicator | Cornwall | Devon | England |
|---|---|---|---|
| Population aged 15 and under | 15.7% | 15.2% | 18.5% |
| Population aged 16-64 | 56.7% | 55.7% | 62.3% |
| Population aged 65+ | 27.6% | 29% | 19.2% |
| Disabled under the Equality Act | 21% | 21% | 23% |
| General health – bad / very bad | 5.8% | 5.3% | 6.2% |
| General health – good / very good | 79.9% | 80% | 74% |
| Economically inactive 16-64 | 22.4% | 22.4% | 21.6% |
| Economically inactive 16+ | 45% | 44.5% | 39% |

## Census 2021 indicators

| Indicator | Tamar Valley | England |
|---|---|---|
| Households in deprivation | 50.2% | 48.4% |
| Average deprivation decile | 6 | 5.5 |
| Ethnic group: white | 97.7% | 81% |
| No religion | 43.1% | 36.7% |
| Main language English | 99% | 90.8% |

## Total businesses by sector

| Sector | Cornwall | Devon | England |
|---|---|---|---|
| A, B, D, E – agricultural, energy and water | 2.2% | 1.4% | 2.1% |
| C – manufacturing | 8.4% | 2.5% | 5% |
| F – construction | 10.4% | 4% | 12.6% |
| G, I – distribution, hotels, restaurants | 20.1% | 21.5% | 18.4% |
| H, J – transport and communication | 6.5% | 7.7% | 9.3% |
| K, L, M, N – finance, real estate, professional and administrative | 12.3% | 13.5% | 33.1% |
| O, P, Q – public administration, education and health | 35% | 40% | 6.5% |
| R, S, T, U – other | 5% | 4.4% | 13% |

## Occupation profile

| Occupation | Cornwall | Devon | England |
|---|---|---|---|
| Managers, directors and senior officials | 12.6% | 14.3% | 11% |
| Professional | 18.6% | 25.3% | 25% |
| Associate professional and technical | 12.9% | 12.1% | 13% |
| Administrative and secretarial | 9.1% | 8.4% | 10% |
| Skilled trades | 14.4% | 11.6% | 9% |
| Caring, leisure and other services | 9.7% | 8.7% | 9% |
| Sales and customer services | 7.4% | 6.8% | 8% |
| Process, plant and machinery operatives | 6.3% | 4.1% | 6% |
| Elementary | 9.1% | 8.5% | 10% |

# Vision statements from Neighbourhood Plans within the Tamar Valley National Landscape

## Calstock Vision Statement

By 2030, Calstock Parish will be a community with an excellent quality of life: living in decent homes in settlements that retain their rural character; supported by a thriving rural economy; benefitting from adequate social, transport and physical infrastructure; respecting and protecting the distinctive landscape, environment and heritage of the area; and, instigating and implementing plans that respond to the challenges of the climate crisis.

## Landrake & St Erney Vision

By 2030 Landrake and St Erney will continue to be a beautiful rural Parish, proud of its special landscape, natural environment and quiet, historic village setting. The community will be content that they have the levels of housing, employment and infrastructure that they require.

## Landulph Vision

In 2030 Landulph Parish will be a vibrant rural community comprising heritage, built and natural environments. Within this envelope, farms and small businesses will thrive, producing a balanced economic and social community.

## The Vision for Stoke Climsland

Our Vision for 2030 and beyond is that Stoke Climsland Parish will be a well-designed, well-connected parish that: has a distinct sense of local identity and supports a busy, active and dynamic community with a strong sense of community spirit; is a pleasant and tranquil place to live, work and visit; meets the needs and aspirations of local people, offering an appropriate choice of homes, jobs and community facilities; contributes to national and international measures to tackle the causes of the climate crisis and is resilient to the impacts of climate change; celebrates and cares for its environment, heritage and landscape.

## The Vision for Saltash

By 2030 Saltash will be an envied riverside town, being greener, more inclusive and prosperous in all aspects, with a reinvigorated Town Centre and Waterfront, award-winning new housing, a diverse economy, with an excellent quality of life and lifestyle for all ages.

## The Vision for Tavistock

In 2034, Tavistock is a sustainable, thriving market town that benefits from and safeguards its natural and built historic environment, riverside setting, green spaces and surrounding moorland landscape and has responded positively to the challenges posed by our changing climate.

Tavistock retains its renowned town centre and markets which showcase a diverse range of sustainable businesses to serve the community and maintains high-quality community facilities and infrastructure that promote the health and well-being of residents.

Tavistock has a variety of sustainable and accessible homes designed to meet the needs of a balanced community, developed with respect for the character and heritage of the town.

Travel within and around the town is convenient by healthy and sustainable means accessible to all and the town is well-connected to Plymouth and other nearby communities by public transport.

Parks, allotments, and other green spaces in Tavistock are protected and maintained to promote active outdoor pursuits, mitigate the effects of climate change and increase biodiversity.

## Maker-with-Rame / Sheviock / Millbrook / Antony / St John

## Rame Peninsula Vision

In 2030, the Rame Peninsula's natural environment and built heritage will define the area. Villages will be thriving with healthy balanced communities, and the area will have a vibrant and viable local economy in which local people of all ages can fulfil their potential.

## Lezant Parish – The Vision

Lezant Parish will continue as a welcoming and cohesive community that respects our rural way of life and yet is open to innovative ideas to improve the economic, physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of its inhabitants, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environment for future generations.

## The Bere Peninsula Vision Statement

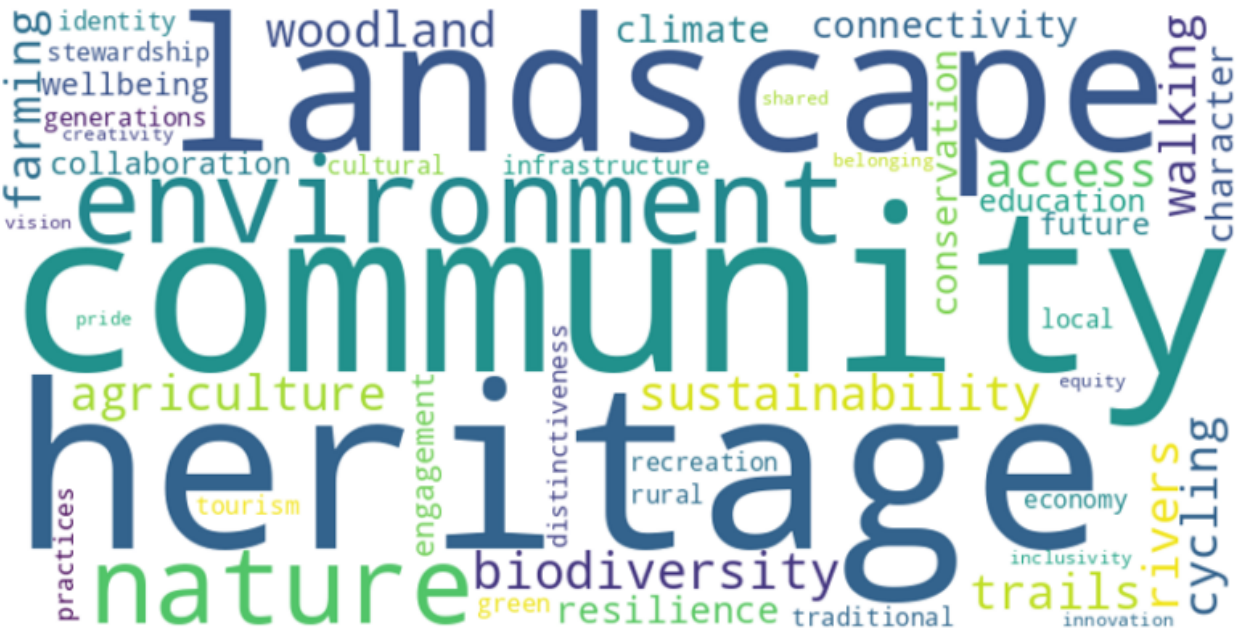
Enabling planned development to meet local needs within the constraints imposed by the Tamar Valley AONB, Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site, Conservation Area and SSSI designations as well as the relevant AONB and WHS management plans and Government and Local Authority policies.

Enhancing the active, thriving and vibrant community spirit of the present.

Protecting and maintaining the acclaimed environmental and historic heritage of this special inland peninsula with its sense of isolation, scenic beauty and individuality.

## Milton Abbot, Chillaton and Kelly

In 2034 we will have safeguarded our rural environment and economy, through facilitating new homes that meet local needs, whilst having a minimal impact on their surroundings and supporting thriving sustainable local communities.




*Word cloud illustrating key themes and priorities identified through the Tamar Valley National Landscape Neighbourhood Development Plan visions.*

## A Distinctive and Internationally Important Historic Landscape

The Tamar Valley has a strong and remarkable heritage which is intrinsically connected to its special landscape qualities. The landscape reflects both natural and human influences, shaped by settlement and land use that follow the area's geology and topography. The international significance of our mining legacy was one of the key qualities reflected in the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site, inscribed by UNESCO in 2006.

The earliest evidence of human activity in the Tamar Valley survives in the form of a probable Neolithic Long Barrow on Kit Hill, constructed around 6000 years ago and marking the first farming settlers in the landscape. This was followed 2000 years later by a group of Bronze Age barrows in the same area, suggesting that permanent settlements were now well established. Further traces of prehistoric activity survive in the presence of numerous Rounds and late Iron Age to Romano-British period settlements, demonstrating an established farming community by this time. Recent research has revealed previously unrecorded Roman activity around Calstock, where a first century fort suggests activity linked to nearby silver mines.

During the medieval period, Tavistock Abbey, founded in 968CE, played a central role in the region's economy, controlling agriculture, fishing, and mining until the dissolution of monasteries in the sixteenth century. This period shaped the Tamar Valley's rural landscape, with extensive Cornish hedges and Devon banks enclosing small fields, particularly on the slopes, which remain intact today. Field boundaries reflect the changing use of the landscape, from medieval strip-based fields around Latchley to late enclosures from the time of the Industrial Revolution to the north of St Ann's Chapel. The development of settlements indicates changes in employment and the economic and social success of communities. Field patterns representing the legacy of miners' smallholdings are of particular importance and have been identified as a key and threatened part of the cultural landscape in the Tamar Valley.

Many of the Tamar Valley's buildings have grown from the very landscape in which they are placed. Building materials were sourced from local quarries and woodlands, lime mortar burnt at a nearby quay, bricks made in village brickworks, or slate brought in from Mill Hill near Tavistock. The removal of these materials from the landscape has itself created character, for example resulting in wildlife-rich habitats in abandoned quarries.

The Tamar River was the main transport route due to the steep terrain and poor roads. Before the Industrial Revolution, it facilitated imports of limestone, timber, dried fish, and cider while exporting local goods. Sailing barges from Calstock carried trade up and down the river, and lime kilns, small quays, and ferry crossings lined the shores, evidence of which still exist, such as Weir Quay.

By the early twentieth century, market gardening flourished, especially in the Bere Peninsula and Tamar south of Calstock. Early growing crops gave producers a two-week advantage, with apples, cherries, strawberries, and fresh flowers transported from Bere Alston Station to Covent Garden. Cider making, brewing, and jam bottling also thrived. As the railway system declined, market gardening contracted, leaving fewer orchards in the valley. Much of the land reverted to agriculture, while in some places, woodlands regenerated over former daffodil fields.

The rich legacy of the Tamar Valley's varied past still shapes current interactions with the landscape. A unique historic daffodil collection of over 100 varieties was identified as part of the 'Heralds of Spring' project, a significant number dating back to the First and Second World Wars. There are opportunities to expand this work further along with other forgotten legacies of the market gardening era, including fruiting hedgerow trees and heritage crops. Through revitalising and re-establishing former market gardens and orchards, to providing recreational routes through its industrial heartland, the living history of the valley still shapes and influences future land management and embraces continuing innovation. In 2025 the Tamara Landscape Partnership ran a trial to assess the commercial viability of the reinstated Calstock's historic ferry route, now a solar-powered ferry for river day trips and river crossings.

Much of the diverse and important buried and built heritage is recognised through statutory and non-statutory designations. Many of the area's Scheduled Monuments relate to mining heritage, but the range of Scheduled Monuments also highlights the depth of history in the landscape from prehistory through to the Second World War. The non-designated elements of the landscape are often the most locally cherished and represent the cultural, social and economic history of a particular locality. However, these are perhaps the assets most at threat as they are often offered no protection or are disregarded – but without them the character of the National Landscape and our understanding of landscape development would be entirely different.

View the Historic Environment Records for both Devon and the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly via these two links:
Historic Environment Record (HER) – Devon County Council ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=dydcfqguh3) and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's Historic Environment (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=p8n6rgqies)

## Stat 8: Designated Heritage Assets

- 1 Grade I Registered Parks and Gardens
- 2 Grade II* Registered Parks and Gardens
- 27 Scheduled Monuments
- 29 Grade I Listed Buildings
- 47 Grade II* Listed Buildings
- 572 Grade II Listed Buildings
- 1 World Heritage Site

## Historic England’s Heritage At Risk Register (2025)

- 11 Scheduled Monuments
- 8 Listed Buildings

# Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site

The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site encompasses some 20,000 hectares across 10 Areas of Cornwall and West Devon. The Tamar Valley Mining District with Tavistock (Area 10), has significant landscape overlap with TVNL as well as with its aims and objectives around nature, climate, people and place. Around 32km² (16.5%) of the TVNL intersects with World Heritage Site Area 10 and the statutory protection afforded to National Landscapes can be considered as a useful additional protection for some mining landscapes. The mining heritage of the Valley is one of its key qualities reflected in UNESCO’s inscription of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site in 2006.

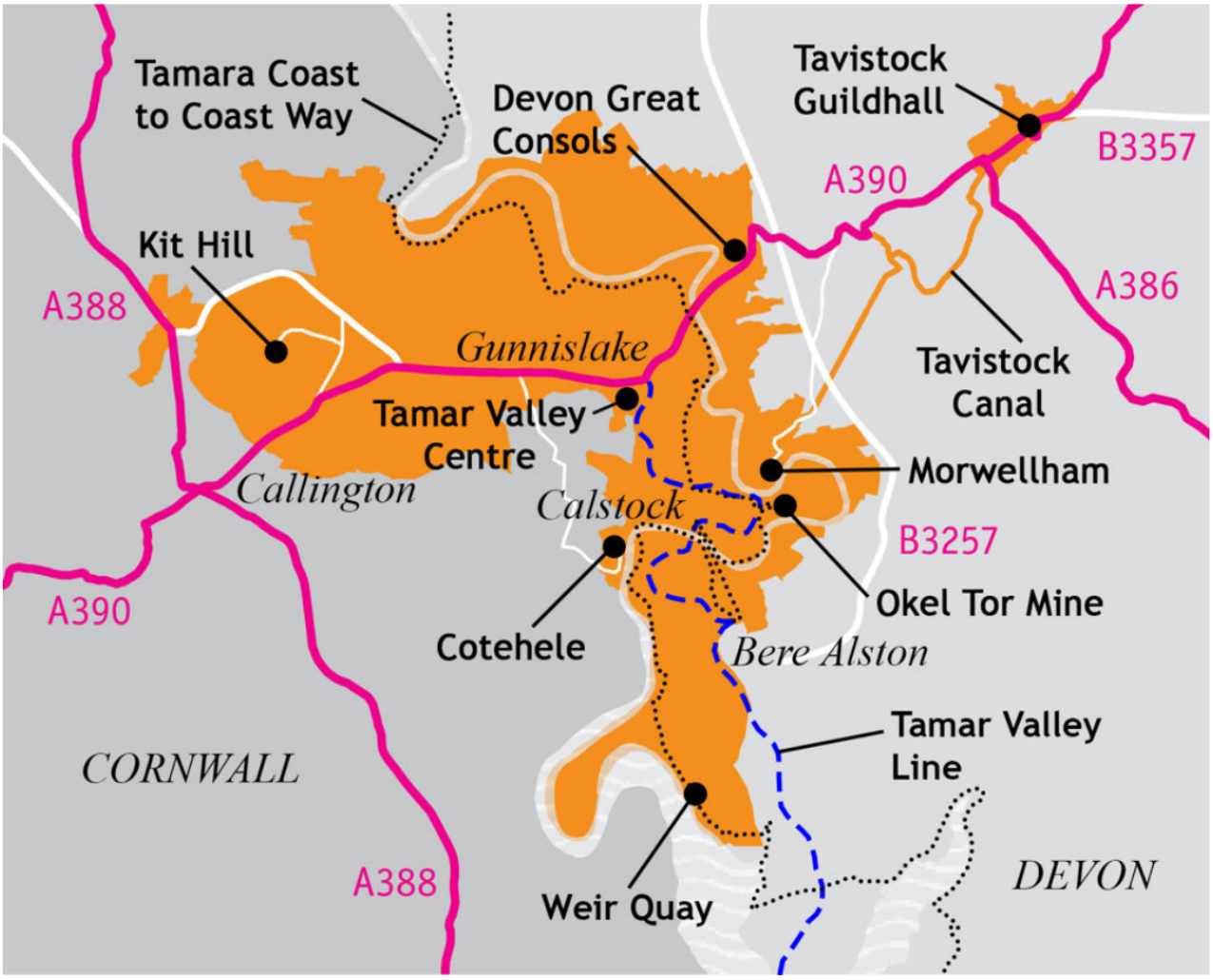
The Tamar Valley experienced extensive mining activity throughout the 18th and 19th centuries particularly, and the resultant combination of housing, Methodist chapels, mine chimneys and associated infrastructure has created a distinctive mining landscape with stories to tell of the people who helped shape the place. In 1844, rich copper deposits were found at Devon Great Consols Mine, leading to the development of over a hundred active mines. Morwellham Quay was a thriving copper trade hub, but its importance diminished after the Plymouth-Tavistock stretch of the South Devon Railway opened in 1859. In 1903, the Devon Great Consols mines officially closed and, although tin and arsenic continued to be extracted until around 1925-30, Morwellham Quay ceased functioning as a commercial port. At its peak, Tamar shipping rivalled the Mersey, with Morwellham Quay considered the second most significant port south of the River Exe.

The UNESCO designated World Heritage Site is defined through this range of mining related sites and features known as Attributes and many of these are to be found within the Tamar Valley. Cornish-type engine houses and related mine buildings are perhaps the most apparent of these, but the former mining settlements, mineral railways and quays on the Tamar are also essential aspects of the Valley’s historic metalliferous mining. As a consequence, the Site supports a fascinating variety of flora and fauna shaped by the unique geology and mining heritage. Mine spoil hosts lichens and mosses, more widely the site provides nesting ground and support bats such as the Greater Horseshoe bat which use abandoned mine workings to roost.

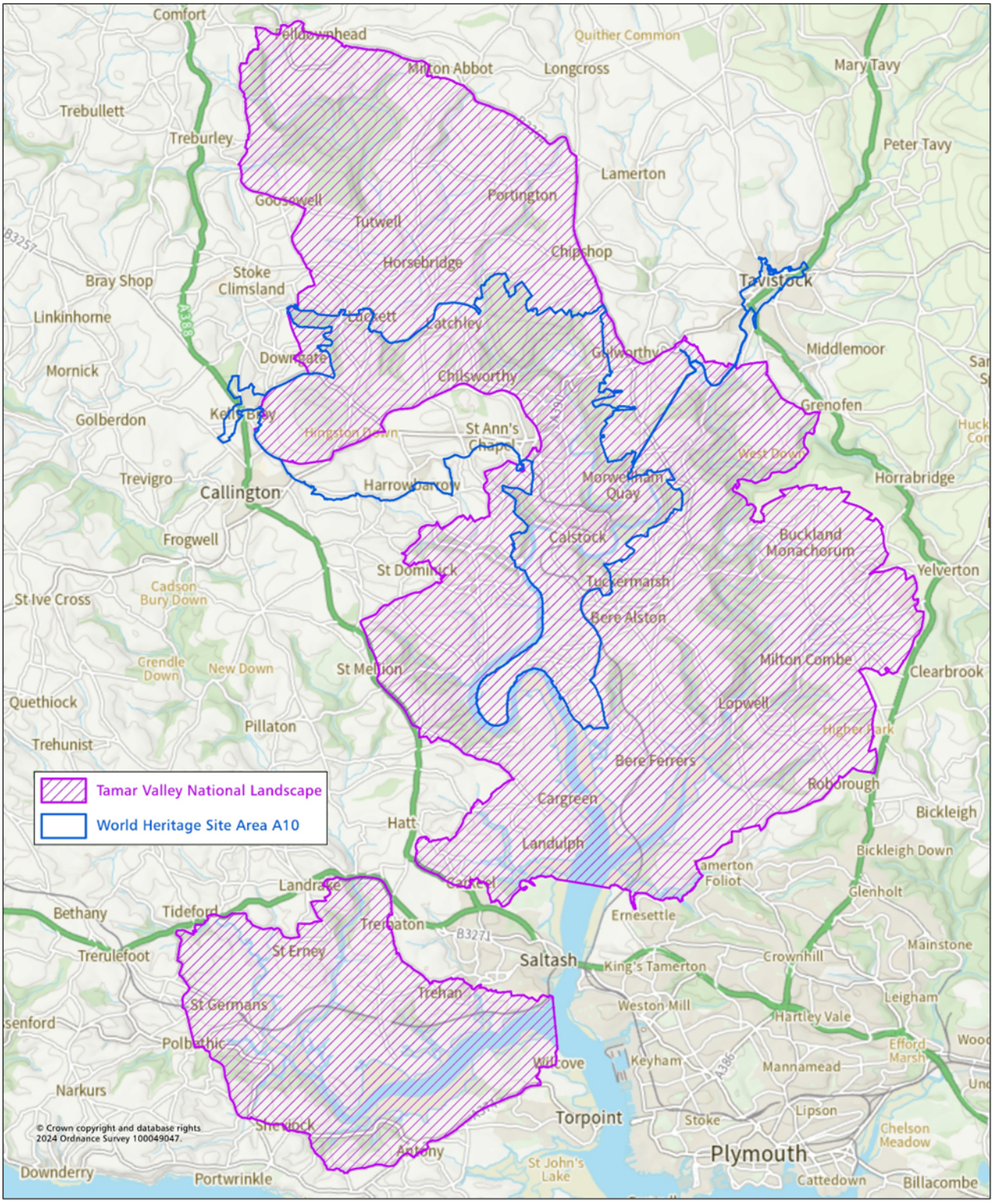
The Cornubian Orefield within Cornwall and Devon possesses around half of the UK total of known mineral species, and the World Heritage Site contains extensive secondary mineral deposits as mineral waste dumps associated with either underground development or mineral processing. These mineral waste dumps are important historic context for the mines with which they are associated and are also part of the World Heritage Site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), or international importance. Secondary mineral deposits are increasingly being recognised as heritage assets, with Devon County Council's Minerals Plan enabling Prohibition Orders to revoke existing planning permissions for the removal of aggregates from mine tips in the Tamar Valley, and the Cornwall Minerals Safeguarding DPD acknowledging that historic mine dumps in the Site are potentially heritage assets.

By working together, we are promoting the sustainable management and conservation of this globally significant industrial heritage, alongside the other key features and characteristics across the Tamar Valley. The WHS Inscription further strengthens the importance of the heritage in the National Landscape by recognising its international importance and provides additional means of sharing, reinforcing and promoting to a wider audience and securing this special place for future generations.

Link to information on the Tamar Valley Mining District with Tavistock:
A10 Tamar Valley Mining District with Tavistock – Cornish Mining World Heritage Site ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=cgj4pzsbbr)




*Tamar Valley Mining District with Tavistock (Area 10), showing key settlements, transport routes and mining heritage locations within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.*




*Map showing the overlap between the Tamar Valley National Landscape and the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (Area 10).*

# People Case Studies

## Tamar Valley River Festival

Calstock community festival linking arts with the landscape in 2024. Read more > ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=fykftj79zb)

## Training for Tomorrow: Building Resilience in the Tamar Valley

Upskilling individuals, strengthening communities and landscapes for the future by delivering training and accreditation in traditional rural skills. Read more > ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=9b4e229ca8)

# Place Case Studies

## Tamara Coast to Coast Way

A long-distance walking route following the River Tamar, stretching about 87 miles. Read more > (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=tqbto8ftnd)

## Monument Management Schemes with Historic England

Improving the management and protection of seven sites on Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Register. Read more > (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=t0vqiytxti)

# United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, provides a global blueprint for peace, prosperity, and environmental stewardship, aiming to secure a better future for people and planet. At its core are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which address interconnected challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable resource use:
THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development (
https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=5wsd5oagfs).

The TVNL Partnership has mapped these global goals against its management plan themes, People, Place, Climate, and Nature, to ensure local actions contribute to international commitments. Within the policy section of this plan, each policy is linked to the relevant SDG, highlighting how our work supports both national priorities and global sustainability objectives.

## Why This Alignment Matters

Connecting the TVNL Management Plan to the UN Sustainable Development Goals ensures that local action contributes to global priorities for people and planet. This alignment strengthens public understanding by showing how projects in the valley support health, equality, climate resilience, and biodiversity. It also builds trust and engagement by linking familiar global goals to tangible local benefits, while providing a clear framework for measuring progress and demonstrating impact. In short, it helps communities see that protecting the Tamar Valley is part of a worldwide effort for a sustainable future.




*The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.*

| Sustainable Development Goal name | People | Place | Climate | Nature First |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. No Poverty | ✔ | | | |
| 2. Zero Hunger | ✔ | | | ✔ |
| 3. Good Health and Well-being | ✔ | | | |
| 4. Quality Education | ✔ | | | |
| 5. Gender Equality | ✔ | | | |
| 6. Clean Water and Sanitation | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| 7. Affordable and Clean Energy | | | ✔ | |
| 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth | | ✔ | | |
| 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure | | ✔ | | |
| 10. Reduced Inequalities | ✔ | | | |
| 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities | ✔ | ✔ | | |
| 12. Responsible Consumption and Production | | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| 13. Climate Action | | | ✔ | |
| 14. Life Below Water | | | ✔ | ✔ |
| 15. Life on Land | | | ✔ | ✔ |

| Sustainable Development Goal name | People | Place | Climate | Nature First |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions | | ✔ | | |
| 17. Partnerships for the Goals | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

# Planning, Legislation and Policy Considerations

The beauty of the Tamar Valley has resulted from the relationship between people and place. It encompasses everything – natural and cultural – that makes an area distinctive. It includes the area's geology and landform, its climate and soils, its wildlife and ecology, and is enriched by the history of human settlement and land use over centuries. The cultural, perceptual and aesthetic dimensions of landscape are recognised elements of 'natural beauty'.

Natural England developed a list of factors contributing to natural beauty: landscape (scenic), quality, relative wildness, relative tranquillity, natural heritage features (flora, fauna, geological and physiographical features) and cultural heritage.

These special qualities of the TVNL are unique and specific components of its natural beauty which individually, and in combination, we need to conserve and enhance. The continued evolution of the landscape need not be detrimental to its natural beauty if guided and directed by appropriate planning, conservation and land management policies.

Development proposals should demonstrate how they have responded positively to the National Landscape designation, delivering conservation AND enhancement, by considering the following:

- Natural beauty components and Special Qualities (distinctive characteristics of natural beauty);
- Forces for change / threats / opportunities for enhancement;
- Policies of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan (which should be read as a whole);
- Landscape Character Assessments that cover the Tamar Valley National Landscape;
- Guidance on applying section 85 of the Crow Act ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=jpg3zqi6ce) by the National Landscape Association;
- Planning guidance within the Tamar Valley National Landscape.

All local authorities have a duty to further the purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the TVNL under s.85 of the CRoW Act and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides specific planning guidance for plan-makers and decision-takers in relation to National Landscapes.

The Government published a draft new National Planning Policy Framework in December 2025. The framework continues to emphasise that great weight should be given to conserving the landscape and scenic beauty of National Landscapes and that they have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues.

It confirms that the scale and extent of development in National Landscapes should be limited, and major development refused other than in exceptional circumstances, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas. The National Planning Practice Guidance confirms that NPPF policies for protecting these areas may mean that it is not possible to meet objectively assessed needs for development in full through the plan-making process, and that they are unlikely to be suitable areas for accommodating unmet needs from adjoining (non-designated) areas.

National Landscape Management Plans can guide development for positive and sustainable change within their boundaries focused on the socio-economic needs of their communities (especially those that further National Landscape purposes) alongside the growth of green spaces, healthy environments, nature recovery and nature-based solutions, which are all needed to balance the wider growth and development agenda.

The Management Plan and supporting documents should help Local Planning Authorities, developers and land/homeowners understand the landscape’s capacity for change and assess impact. Mitigation is a response to harm, a way of ameliorating but not eliminating impact, and should not be a justification for allowing inappropriate development. A clear understanding of the National Landscape’s special qualities and distinctive characteristics will help to develop proposals which avoid harm and deliver enhancement opportunities.

# Policies & Priorities for Action

## Landscape Character & Scenic Qualities Policies & Actions

### LCSQ1

Support sustainable development and other projects in, and within the setting of, the National Landscape that individually, and cumulatively, both conserve and enhance the distinctive characteristics, special qualities, valued features and important heritage of the National Landscape, with particular regard to landscape sensitivity and capacity.

### LCSQ2

Maintain and where possible increase, levels of tranquillity and dark skies, by minimising intrusive noise and light pollution to safeguard special qualities.

### LCSQ3

Ensure developments and projects follow a landscape-led approach* and reflect local distinctiveness in terms of design, scale, materials, layout and landscaping, based on an evidenced review of its landscape / townscape / seascape context, underpinned by an understanding of the distinctive relationship of vernacular buildings and settlements with the landscape itself.

### LCSQ4

Seek opportunities to strengthen landscape and estuarine character, conserving and building resilience in landscape features where they are in poor condition, missing or fragmented.

### LCSQ5

Protect ancient woodland, trees and other important features and semi natural habitats in order that they can contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the National Landscape.

** A 'landscape-led approach' means designed, located and implemented in a way that it positively contributes to the purpose of National Landscape designation.*




*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that align with the Landscape Character and Scenic Qualities policies, supporting sustainable communities, responsible resource use, protection of landscapes and partnership working.*

# Priority Actions – Landscape Character & Scenic Qualities

## LCSQ Action 1

Promote the importance of using technical assessments, such as Landscape Character Assessments, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments and Appraisals, to inform development and other projects, to ensure that the Special Qualities of the TVNL are conserved and enhanced and that adverse impacts on the character and scenic qualities of the landscape are avoided or mitigated.

## LCSQ Action 2

Promote approaches to managing settlement edges that maintain the character of the designated landscape, including the use of appropriate buffers or landscape sensitive transitions where appropriate.

## LCSQ Action 3

Promote the creation and use of up-to-date Landscape Character Assessments and other evidence that supports National Landscape policies.

## LCSQ Action 4

Develop best practice and ideas to help address light pollution, threats to tranquillity and creeping urbanisation.

# Historic Environment & Local Distinctiveness Policies & Actions

## HELD1

Preserve and enhance all aspects of the historic environment and the remarkable heritage of the TVNL (including World Heritage Sites). This will include designated and non-designated heritage features of the landscape and built environment identified within the special qualities of the TVNL and the relationship between features and their landscape/townscape setting.

## HELD2

Promote the use of Historic Environment Record (HER), Historic Landscape Characterisation and other tools to inform projects, policymaking and management activities.

## HELD3

Promote regenerative tourism within the heritage of the TVNL to secure that heritage for the future, benefit the local economy and to enhance enjoyment and understanding for the public, where this is compatible with the purposes of the National Landscape designation.

## HELD4

Proposals within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS) and its setting should avoid harm and be designed in a way which pays particular regard to the significance and attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site and be in accordance with the WHS Management Plan in line with national guidance and the NPPF. Development proposals that suitably preserve those elements of the setting of a World Heritage Site that make a positive contribution to it (or which better reveal its significance) will be supported.




*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that align with the Historic Environment and Heritage policies, supporting the protection of cultural heritage, sustainable tourism, environmental stewardship, strong institutions and partnership working.*

# Priority Actions – Historic Environment and Local Distinctiveness

## HELD Action 1

Further develop the body of knowledge regarding the full breadth of the heritage represented within the National Landscape, from prehistory to the present day, to improve and extend the understanding of local distinctiveness.

## HELD Action 2

Encourage communities to record elements of their non-designated local heritage, support projects that increase awareness and understanding of those assets and, encourage their inclusion in the Historic Environment Record and propose new designations where appropriate.

## HELD Action 3

Promote and sustain traditional skills in the management of the built heritage and natural environment to sustain the local distinctiveness of the TVNL.

## HELD Action 4

Work with Historic England, landowners and funding bodies to target the conservation of assets on the Heritage at Risk Register.

## HELD Action 5

Ensure a legacy and archive for past heritage projects, including mining and market gardening, and continue collaboration between the National Landscape and WHS Partnerships and teams to achieve the purposes of the two designations.

## HELD Action 6

Promote the production and use of distinctiveness assessments and design guidance. Promote community-led conservation initiatives.

# Biodiversity and Geodiversity Policies & Actions

## BG1

Conserve and enhance the abundance and connectivity of biodiversity in the TVNL by establishing resilient Nature Recovery Networks across the National Landscape and in its setting with the ambition to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity. This should be achieved in accordance with the actions of the Tamar Valley Nature Recovery Plan.

## BG2

Promote the conservation and recovery of native species and appropriate climate resilient species. Raise awareness of impact and control of invasive non native species and biosecurity, and be a source of best practice information.

## BG3

Proposals that are likely to impact on the biodiversity of the National Landscape shall further the purpose of the National Landscape for its identified special features and special qualities, the Tamar Valley Nature Recovery Plan and Landscape Character Assessments guidelines.

## BG4

Measures to conserve and restore biodiversity (including actions within the Tamar Valley Nature Recovery Plan) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the TVNL, its cultural heritage and historic environment.

## BG5

Support the identification, conservation and enhancement of geodiversity and biodiversity within the TVNL and its setting.




*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that align with the Biodiversity and Geodiversity policies, supporting nature recovery, clean water, sustainable resource use, healthy ecosystems on land and water, and collaborative action.*

# Priority Actions – Biodiversity and Geodiversity

## BG Action 1

Work in partnership to deliver landscape and habitat restoration projects, improve habitat condition, enhance connectivity, support sustainable land management and engage communities in nature stewardship.

## BG Action 2

In partnership with others, help develop and deliver projects to halt and reverse the decline in native species, enhance climate and disease resilient species and manage invasive non-native species.

## BG Action 3

Work in partnership to support the identification, monitoring, protection and positive management toward favourable condition status of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, County Wildlife Sites and Geological Sites.

## BG Action 4

Work with landowners, charities, statutory agencies and funding bodies to establish and deliver large-scale landscape and habitat restoration projects.

## BG Action 5

Work at a regional scale with aligned providers to establish suitable habitat bank sites in line with the Tamar Valley Nature Recovery Plan to direct Biodiversity Net Gain requirements arising from development within the Tamar Valley National Landscape area.

# River & Estuarine Use and Management Policies & Actions

## REUM1

Support a coordinated, strategic approach to improve access to the key reaches and view-points of the river with the aim to increase health and wellbeing, where compatible with National Landscape and nature designations.

## REUM2

Conserve and enhance the high-quality river and estuary ecosystems to maintain those special qualities which contribute to the ‘rare valley and water’ landscape character.

## REUM3

Promote the cultural, historic and economic importance of the rivers and estuaries and support sustainable development where they are compatible with special qualities and National Landscape purposes.

## REUM4

Work in partnership through the Tamar Estuary Consultative Forum, Tamar Catchment Partnership and Plymouth Sound National Marine Park to deliver improvements across a catchment scale, across land and sea.

## REUM5

Manage water across the catchment through nature-based solutions where possible and adapt to the impacts of Climate Change.

## REUM6

Adopt a proactive approach to management of invasives through special actions groups.




*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that align with the Rivers and Estuaries policies, supporting clean water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, sustainable use of natural resources, and partnership working across the Tamar catchment and estuary.*

# Priority Actions – River & Estuarine Use and Management

## REUM Action 1

Continue to advise, steer and support the delivery of water quality initiatives through the Tamar Catchment Partnership and participation on the Steering Group.

## REUM Action 2

Increase use of the rivers and estuaries and its cultural heritage as a focus for education.

## REUM Action 3

Continue to work in partnership to manage invasive species through the Tamar Invasive Group.

## REUM Action 4

Create new and manage existing ponds, swales and ditches for wildlife, reconnect rivers to their floodplains, improve access for migratory fish, and establish mosaic riparian buffers.

## REUM Action 5

In partnership develop and implement projects at the catchment scale addressing both aspects of land and water use to restore and improve the state of the aquatic environment now and for the future.

## REUM Action 6

Support initiatives to undertake additional baseline recording along the rivers and estuaries to identify management needs and opportunities.

# Environmental Quality & Climate Policies & Actions

## EQC1

Support nature-based solutions, sustainable land management practices, strategic and evidenced measures designed to mitigate against and improve resilience to the effects of climate change, which are delivered in a way that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the TVNL.

## EQC2

Support the transition to low carbon and adoption of renewable energy provided that it is undertaken in a way that seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the TVNL, and is compatible with its special qualities, landscape character and heritage value.

## EQC3

Support a reduction in the energy and water demands of development (in location and design), promoting principles of passive design, the use of local and reclaimed materials to reduce embodied energy and the sensitive integration of renewable energy. Innovation and green building design within the TVNL should be landscape-led, providing contextually responsive development that is sympathetic to the vernacular scale of buildings and their characteristic integration with the landscape, supporting rural tranquillity.

## EQC4

Proactively promote and support activities that protect the natural resources of, and further the sustainable management of, the TVNL.




*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that align with the Environment, Quality and Climate policies, supporting climate resilience, low-carbon transition, sustainable land management, green building design, and the responsible use of natural resources within the Tamar Valley National Landscape.*

# Priority Actions – Environmental Quality & Climate

## EQC Action 1

Explore the role of the TVNL Partnership in furthering the work identified in the Tamar Catchment Pilot project and more recent climate initiatives.

## EQC Action 2

Review the approaches available for the National Landscape to contribute to options for a low carbon economy.

## EQC Action 3

Improve the understanding of the implications of climate change for farming practices and the potential impacts of such on the landscape and built heritage.

## EQC Action 4

Improve the understanding of the implications for sea level rise, the consequent habitat loss and mitigation proposals, and explore the TVNL’s role in delivering sustainable solutions.

## EQC Action 5

Seek solutions to reduce mine pollution and risk of future events whilst meeting landscape and biodiversity targets, including supporting rare and specialist species that require bare spoil heap habitats.

## EQC Action 6

Support local action to achieve net zero at a landscape level, working with residents, businesses and communities, aiming to reduce emissions and delivery of nature-based solutions.

## EQC Action 7

Support agri-tech applications, agricultural regeneration, clean transport, energy saving and property retrofitting.

## EQC Action 8

Engage partners, home-owners and business owners and encourage installation of solar panels, air source heat pumps and domestic turbines where they are identified as appropriate.

## EQC Action 9

Support the understanding and development of community energy hubs as a form of improving energy security and resilience.

## EQC Action 10

Support communities to identify grants.

## EQC Action 11

Support the piloting of the Tamar Valley Doughnut Model reporting tool and other tools in development, especially around data collection and impact assessments.

# Farming, Forestry & Land Management Policies & Actions

## FFLM1

Promote and support land management systems that are environmentally sustainable, economically viable and compatible with the purposes of the National Landscape designation.

## FFLM2

Promote the sensitive management of small woodlands, orchards and hedges, to enhance biodiversity, safeguard the historic environment, and improve the farming economy.

## FFLM3

Support and promote short food and timber supply chains where this is compatible with the purposes of the National Landscape designation.

## FFLM4

Enhance Nature networks and connectedness, promoting nature-friendly corridors across the farmed landscape, including grass and scrub margins, rough grass buffer strips and positive management of County Wildlife Sites.

## FFLM5

Promote and support training in traditional rural skills that will help to conserve and enhance the TVNL.

## FFLM6

Minimise the use of chemical herbicides in the management of Invasive Non-Native Species, in habitat creation and management, unless it is rigorously proven to be absolutely necessary.

## FFLM7

Promote land use practices that aim to minimise water run-off, reducing the impacts of soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution of aquatic systems.

## FFLM8

Promote natural flood management interventions and opportunities to reduce erosion of heritage assets as part of these schemes.




*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals aligned with the Farming, Forestry and Land Management policies, supporting sustainable land use, nature-friendly farming, resilient rural economies, skills development, reduced pollution, and natural flood management within the Tamar Valley National Landscape.*

# Priority Actions – Farming, Forestry & Land Management

## FFLM Action 1

Support the development of landscape-scale initiatives, building on learning from projects such as Cordiale: Tool-kit-for-Communities-Small-Woodlands-and-Hedges ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=h5ux4q8sry)

## FFLM Action 2

Seek opportunities to support High Nature Value Farming to benefit both farmers and the environment.

## FFLM Action 3

Manage woodlands to ensure a diverse age and canopy structure, create open space and habitat, increase deadwood, retain and manage scrub understorey and margins, employ low-impact silvicultural systems, and obtain Forestry Commission approval for managed woodland or create and implement a UKFS-compliant management plan for unmanaged woodland.

## FFLM Action 4

Integrate sustainable and regenerative forestry practices; restore native species to plantations on ancient woodland sites; use grazing, pig rootling, or cyclic management; manage bracken with interspersed grassy patches; and protect and preserve ancient and veteran trees.

## FFLM Action 5

Establish new woodland through partnership delivery models such as the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest and Forest for Cornwall, and promote woody scrub and mosaics. Prioritise native seed sources and natural colonisation, establish a diverse and resilient mix of tree species, maintain trees outside of woodlands, and restore and establish new areas of woodland pasture, parkland and orchards.

## FFLM Action 6

Reduce use of chemical treatments, pesticides and artificial fertiliser, review soil health regularly, and reduce water run-off through nature-based solutions such as hedgerow reinstatement, establishment of field margins and tree planting.

## FFLM Action 7

Maintain hedgerows that are tall, thick and bushy; trim hedges on a minimum three-year cycle; encourage annual fruiting and flowering; maintain standing trees; manage flower-rich grasslands; and connect habitats with wildlife-friendly corridors.

## FFLM Action 8

Enhance monitoring and management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), County Wildlife Sites and Scheduled Monuments, taking action to address pressures and bring them into favourable condition.

## FFLM Action 9

Restore and expand coverage of remaining wet valley bottom woodlands which were historically prevalent throughout the Tamar Valley.

## FFLM Action 10

Support partners to expand market gardening sensitively within the Tamar Valley.

# Access, Recreation and Tourism Policies & Actions

## ART1

Promote a co-ordinated, strategic approach to the management of public rights of way and publicly accessible land to achieve an accessible, well-connected network. The approach should focus on conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the National Landscape, improving access and connectivity with surrounding areas and opportunities for health and wellbeing, avoiding impacts on sensitive sites, and minimising conflict between different interests.

## ART2

Promote high-quality access to the National Landscape and its special qualities for as wide a range of users as possible, where this is compatible with the purposes of the National Landscape designation.

## ART3

Tourism and recreation provision will be supported where they contribute to the local economy without harm or detriment to the Tamar Valley landscape, historic environment, biodiversity or tranquillity, and where they respect the Valley's special qualities.

## ART4

Promote the use of sustainable transport throughout the TVNL, working collaboratively with transport providers, visitor attractions and communities, where it is compatible with the purposes of the National Landscape designation.




*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals aligned with the Access, Recreation and Tourism policies, supporting inclusive access, health and wellbeing, sustainable tourism, reduced inequality, and collaborative delivery across the Tamar Valley National Landscape.*

# Priority Actions – Access, Recreation and Tourism

## ART Action 1

Engage with Devon County Council in reinstating the rail link between Bere Alston and Tavistock to mitigate any negative impact on the National Landscape, and to improve or enhance levels of service for local communities and connections to the railway.

## ART Action 2

Continue to promote the value of the landscape to local businesses, including supporting Visit Tamar Valley.

## ART Action 3

Maintain and promote existing and new opportunities for recreation within the TVNL, with particular focus on joining up existing routes and the formation of circular walking routes, and promoting outdoor health and wellbeing activities, including support for walking groups.

## ART Action 4

Develop and promote a series of ‘days out’ in the Tamar Valley, paying attention to opportunities to promote local attractions and services, and to the use of sustainable transport options where available.

## ART Action 5

Work with partners to enhance the Tamara Coast to Coast Way towards meeting the criteria for proposal as a National Trail.

## ART Action 6

Support Visit Tamar Valley to further develop and promote standards for sustainable tourism in the Tamar Valley: Green Tourism Programme – Visit the Tamar Valley ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=uazzvm0hxg).

## ART Action 7

Improve awareness of species sensitive to recreational disturbance and promote measures to reduce impacts.

# Planning & Development Policies & Actions

## P&D1

Encourage and ensure that natural beauty criteria, special qualities, special features and landscape character are assessed by Local Planning Authorities when considering any scale of planning applications in, or within the setting of, the National Landscape.

## P&D2

Encourage development in the National Landscape that maintains or delivers environmental growth and cultural capital, conserving and enhancing landscape features that are distinctive or typical of the Tamar Valley.

## P&D3

Encourage all relevant strategic, local and neighbourhood plan making and planning decision making to:

- Seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the National Landscape.
- Utilise the Management Plan and consider other Tamar Valley statements and guidance.
- Ensure that conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty is given substantial weight (as of NPPF December 2025 changed from ‘great weight’).

## P&D4

The scale and extent of development within the TVNL should be focused on providing for the identified local needs of its communities, contributing to economic and social wellbeing, resilience to climate change and principles of sustainable development in a manner that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the TVNL and the management of this valuable natural resource.

## P&D5

Major development should be assessed on a case-by-case basis within the TVNL and only supported in exceptional circumstances, subject to the tests and mitigations set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and guidance.

## P&D6

Positive measures designed to avoid or mitigate the negative impact of existing or future infrastructure, development and landscape detractors within the TVNL will be encouraged.

## P&D7

Support housing development that meets proven local needs and aspirations of communities within the TVNL-particularly at parish level-where it can be shown that the landscape capacity and opportunity to conserve and enhance the National Landscape can be demonstrated.

## P&D8

Support will be given to additional mitigation measures at disused and existing mines and quarries within the National Landscape, and those affecting its setting, that enhance the special qualities of the National Landscape and where such mitigation and measures does not negatively impact the ability of such sites and attributes to express the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.

## P&D9

Protect approaches to managing settlement edges that maintain the character of the designated landscape, including the use of appropriate buffers or landscape sensitive transitions where appropriate.

## P&D10

The character of skylines and open views into, within and out of the National Landscape should be protected and enhanced, paying particular attention to the importance of assessing the visual impact of development from rivers and estuaries as well as from land.

## P&D11

It is not considered appropriate to site new waste storage, processing and treatment developments within the National Landscape or where it would affect its setting.

## P&D12

The move towards low-carbon and renewable energy should be delivered in a way that supports the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the TVNL. Renewable energy solutions must be compatible with its special qualities, landscape character, and heritage value, ensuring that they respect and reinforce the area's unique identity.




*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals aligned with the Planning and Development policies, supporting landscape-led planning, sustainable growth, climate-responsive development, protection of natural beauty, strong governance, and partnership working within and around the Tamar Valley National Landscape.*

# Priority Actions – Planning & Development

## P&D Action 1

Influence pre-application discussions on major and significant developments within, and within the setting of, the National Landscape.

## P&D Action 2

Respond to planning consultations and offer technical advice where appropriate, in line with our planning statement and planning protocols with the relevant local authorities.

## P&D Action 3

Raise awareness of the importance of the National Landscape within the creation of Neighbourhood Development Plans and Local Plans.

## P&D Action 4

Champion the reduction of light pollution and the benefits of dark skies through sensitive housing design, layout and lighting.

## P&D Action 5

Encourage more sustainable energy installations on commercial and domestic properties, such as solar panels, wind turbines, and ground and air source heat pumps, where they are incorporated sensitively.

## P&D Action 6

Encourage all developments to include provision for wildlife as well as green and blue infrastructure within their plans.

# Communities & Culture Policies & Actions

## CC1

Work with communities towards an improved understanding of locally distinctive features and encourage them to widely communicate those special qualities.

## CC2

Assist and encourage local communities in the development and use of community-planning tools, to ensure that the landscape character and special qualities of the National Landscape are adequately protected in development plans.

## CC3

Encourage and support local communities to celebrate their cultural identity and sense of place through events and activities that reinforce the cultural traditions of the National Landscape.

## CC4

Support initiatives for sustainable, joined up, public transport, consistent with the National Landscape's purposes.

## CC5

Support initiatives that contribute to a sustainable future for communities within the National Landscape, consistent with the National Landscape's purposes.




*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals aligned with the Communities and Culture policies, supporting inclusive communities, cultural identity, wellbeing, equality, strong local governance and partnership working across the Tamar Valley National Landscape.*

# Priority Actions – Communities & Culture

## CC Action 1

Explore opportunities and priorities for continuing the Cordiale and Tamara project legacies of community-led activities: tamaralandscapepartnership ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=bfnkpumlir).

## CC Action 2

Develop and promote the Tamar Valley's natural and cultural heritage as a resource for promoting the health and wellbeing of its constituent and surrounding communities.

## CC Action 3

Continue to promote creativity inspired by the landscape.

## CC Action 4

Encourage community participation in decision making through forums such as parish councils and local environmental partnerships.

# Communication, Education and Awareness Policies & Actions

## CEA1

Support the development of a coordinated volunteer service for the National Landscape, working with the Tamar Community Trust, Friends of Tamar Valley, National Trust and others to inspire and foster connection with the Tamar Valley.

## CEA2

Support collaboration that promotes communicating an understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural landscape of the Tamar Valley and the benefits to personal wellbeing.

## CEA3

Promote events to celebrate the purposes of the National Landscape, engaging the public in the enjoyment of the landscape and the opportunities it affords for recreation and learning, and to engender a sense of ownership.

## CEA4

Support educational opportunities that seek to aid awareness of the landscape, environment and communities of the Tamar Valley and are in line with the purposes of the National Landscape.




*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals aligned with the Communication, Education and Awareness policies, supporting learning, wellbeing, equality, community engagement and partnership working across the Tamar Valley National Landscape.*

# Priority Actions – Communications, Education and Awareness

## CEA Action 1

Continue to provide and maintain high quality interpretation of the National Landscape.

## CEA Action 2

Communicate key messages and information via a range of media to local, national and international audiences.

## CEA Action 3

Seek opportunities to create and implement a TVNL education strategy.

## CEA Action 4

Implement the TVNL Volunteer Strategy, in partnership with Tamar Community Trust and Friends of the Tamar Valley.

## CEA Action 5

Investigate how the TVNL and local businesses can work together for their mutual benefit to promote the unique qualities of the TVNL.

## CEA Action 6

Identify opportunities and partners to deliver events similar to the Tamar River Festival, within the constraints of available resources and partner priorities.

## CEA Action 7

Promote and support national initiatives such as Education Nature Parks.

# Appendices

1. The State of the National Landscape Report 2025
   State of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Report (
   https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=vnb9tb1jvg)
2. Tamar Valley National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan (2023-2030)
   TVNL Nature Recovery Plan 2023-2030 (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=u7k47xjcf0)
3. Tamar Valley Landscape Character Assessment 2020
   TVNL TLP Landscape Character Assessment 2020 (
   https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=akogbfeyys)
4. Tamar Valley National Landscape Planning Guidance 2025
   TVNL Planning Guidance 2025 (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=ggkhepiwmg)
5. Habitat Regulations Assessment Report
   Habitat Regulations Assessment (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=clbrflrzed)
6. Strategic Environment Assessment Report
   TVNL SEA Environmental Report Consultation Draft 26 05 07 (
   https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=4jj1papjpy)
7. Devon County Council Impact Assessment
   DCC Impact Assessment (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=wdbmiuhxmt)
8. Cornwall Council Decision Wheel
   TVNL Management Plan Decision Wheel 2025-2030 (
   https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=p6ilf1ki81)

For further information, please visit our website:
Home – Tamar Valley National Landscape Tamar Valley National Landscape (
https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=kyobhh5csx)

# Case Studies

## Nature Recovery Case Study: Stoke Climsland Farm Cluster

**Effective conservation and management of natural resources and features, including water, mineral and soil resources, encouraging sustainable land management**

Stoke Climsland Farm Cluster is a group of 25 farms which are working together to create landscape scale environmental change.

The main aim of the Farm Cluster is to bring the farmers together to work collaboratively at landscape scale to benefit biodiversity and water quality. We are working to create connected, wildlife rich corridors across the farmed landscape, and minimise the impact on water that flows through the land into the River Tamar.

The Farm Cluster is funded by Defra and its Facilitation Fund grant, which was awarded in June 2023, and is currently funded until June 2026. The Farm Cluster is exploring ways in which the collaboration can continue and is working with other Farm Cluster groups throughout the Southwest to investigate how it has worked elsewhere.

The Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme and Tamar Valley National Landscape have worked closely with the Westcountry Rivers Trust to establish and co-ordinate the group, its members and the meetings.

The main objective of forming a Farm Cluster was to provide members with free land management focused training, practical workshops, farm visits and social events to enable them to better understand the natural assets that are present on their farms and help them to investigate future options. The group are provided with free advice and support to access environmental management, as well as having peer to peer support – so important in the agriculture industry. This in turn, enables joined up thinking, and identifies the connectivity between the land and habitats that exist or can be created with the Farm Cluster area.

Members are signposted to grant schemes, developing income streams such as green finance, and help is offered to develop applications that support the Cluster’s priorities of improving water quality and biodiversity.

Members have had access to farm ecology surveys funded by FiPL to identify on-farm habitats to be enhanced or created. This helped inform grant applications to fund the habitat improvements including pond and wetland creation, hedgerow creation and restoration, managing habitat for priority species and slowing the overland flow of surface water.

Collaboration within the Farm Cluster has enabled successful grant funding applications for machinery to be shared between members to improve soil health and sward quality to reduce surface run off and improve water quality in the wider catchment.



*Leaky dams installed on Alren Farm as part of the Stoke Climsland Farm Cluster, helping to slow water flow, reduce surface run-off and improve water quality.*



*Members of the Stoke Climsland Farm Cluster taking part in a farm visit and discussion, bringing farmers together to share knowledge and explore opportunities for landscape-scale nature recovery.*

# Nature Recovery Case Study: South Hooe – Connecting Habitats and Building Natural Capital

**Improving ecological connectivity through habitat creation and restoration, natural capital and ecosystem services**

The Tamar Valley faces declining species populations and deteriorating habitat condition. Between 2013 and 2018, several SSSI sites shifted to “unfavourable declining” status. Improving ecological connectivity-the ability of species to move between habitats-is essential for reversing biodiversity loss and adapting to climate change.

Addressing these challenges, habitat creation and restoration projects have been delivered at South Hooe (a 90-hectare holding on the Bere Peninsula within the Tamar Valley National Landscape) under the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative and work by the Environment Agency. The landowner's vision is to restore the site for wildlife, ultimately gifting it to Devon Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve.

The site was also included in a project exploring investment in habitat regeneration through natural capital markets. These initiatives restored historic landscape features, created wildlife corridors through hedgerow and woodland planting, enhanced species-rich grasslands and wetlands, and provided public access and engagement opportunities.



*Tamar Community Trust volunteers planting a hedge at South Hooe.*
*© Tamar Valley National Landscape – LEI*

The work at South Hooe has enhanced the landscape through:

- **Hedgerows:** Laid and extended, with hundreds of trees and shrubs planted to regenerate boundaries and restore traditional Devon hedge banks.
- **Woodland Creation:** Over a hectare of new planting in a parkland style, plus traditional Tamar Valley orchard species introduced to maintain cultural heritage and support pollinators.
- **Grassland Restoration:** Harvesting wildflower hay and spreading it across orchard rides, alongside establishing herbal leys to improve soil health and pollinator support.
- **Coppicing:** Diversified age structure within a 25-year-old plantation to enhance invertebrate habitats.
- **Wetland and Intertidal Habitat:** Creation of 19 hectares of intertidal habitat and additional freshwater wetland to improve flood resilience and strengthen wetland corridors upstream at Cotehele and Calstock.



*South Hooe overlooking the Tamar and Tavy SSSI at South Hooe. © J. Simpson*

These interventions created a mosaic of connected habitats-woodland, hedgerows, orchards, wetlands, and grasslands-that enable species to move freely across the landscape. Tall hedges and wildflower corridors act as commuting routes for bats, while tussocky grassland provides foraging and shelter for barn owls and small mammals. Wetlands and riparian planting enhance water quality and link aquatic ecosystems, strengthening ecological networks throughout the Tamar Valley.

The restoration work at South Hooe also delivers multiple ecosystem services including:

- **Climate Regulation:** Woodland and hedgerows store carbon.
- **Flood Risk Reduction:** Wetlands slow water flow.
- **Pollination and Soil Health:** Wildflower meadows support pollinators and improve soil structure.
- **Cultural Services:** Public access and volunteering opportunities enhance wellbeing.

The legacy of South Hooe's work will endure beyond the funding period. Hedge-laying cycles, grassland management, and orchard care will continue, while permanent features such as wetlands, wildlife towers, and bird hides ensure long-term benefits. By integrating natural capital thinking, South Hooe is positioned to explore future revenue streams from ecosystem services, supporting sustainable land management and reinforcing the Tamar Valley's distinctive landscape character.

### Links

https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/discover-explore/places-of-interest/south-hooe/ ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=huqtq2okjs)

## Nature Recovery Case Study: Tackling Invasive Non-Native Species in the Tamar Catchment

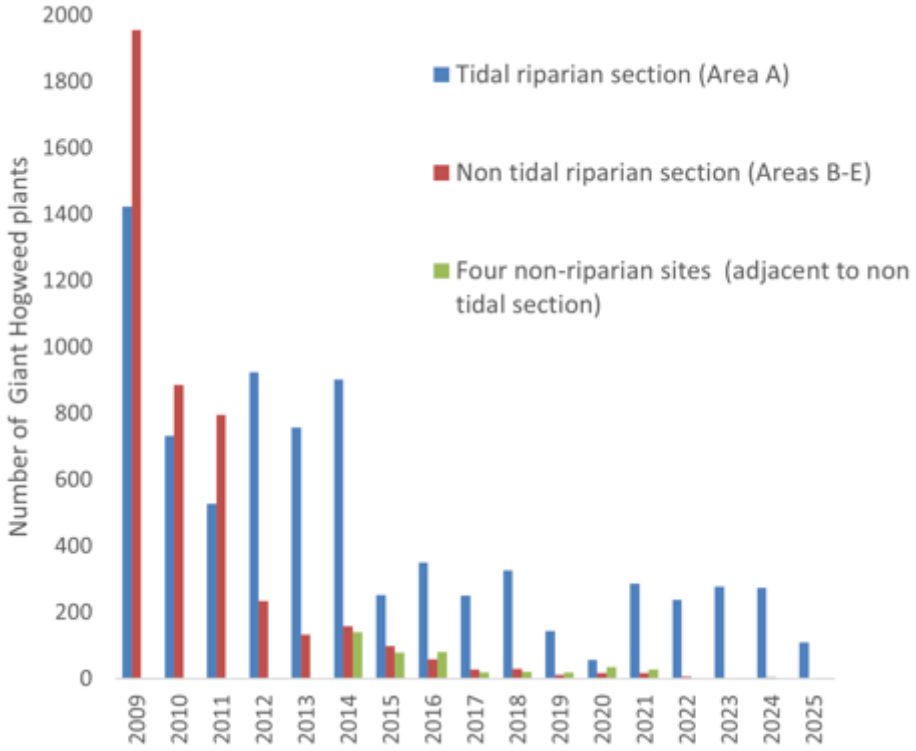
**Conservation and enhancement of priority habitat, reversing decline in biodiversity**

The Tamar Valley National Landscape as part of the Tamar Invasives Group has led a coordinated effort to tackle the spread of invasive non-native species, focusing on giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, and American skunk-cabbage.

## Challenges and Approach

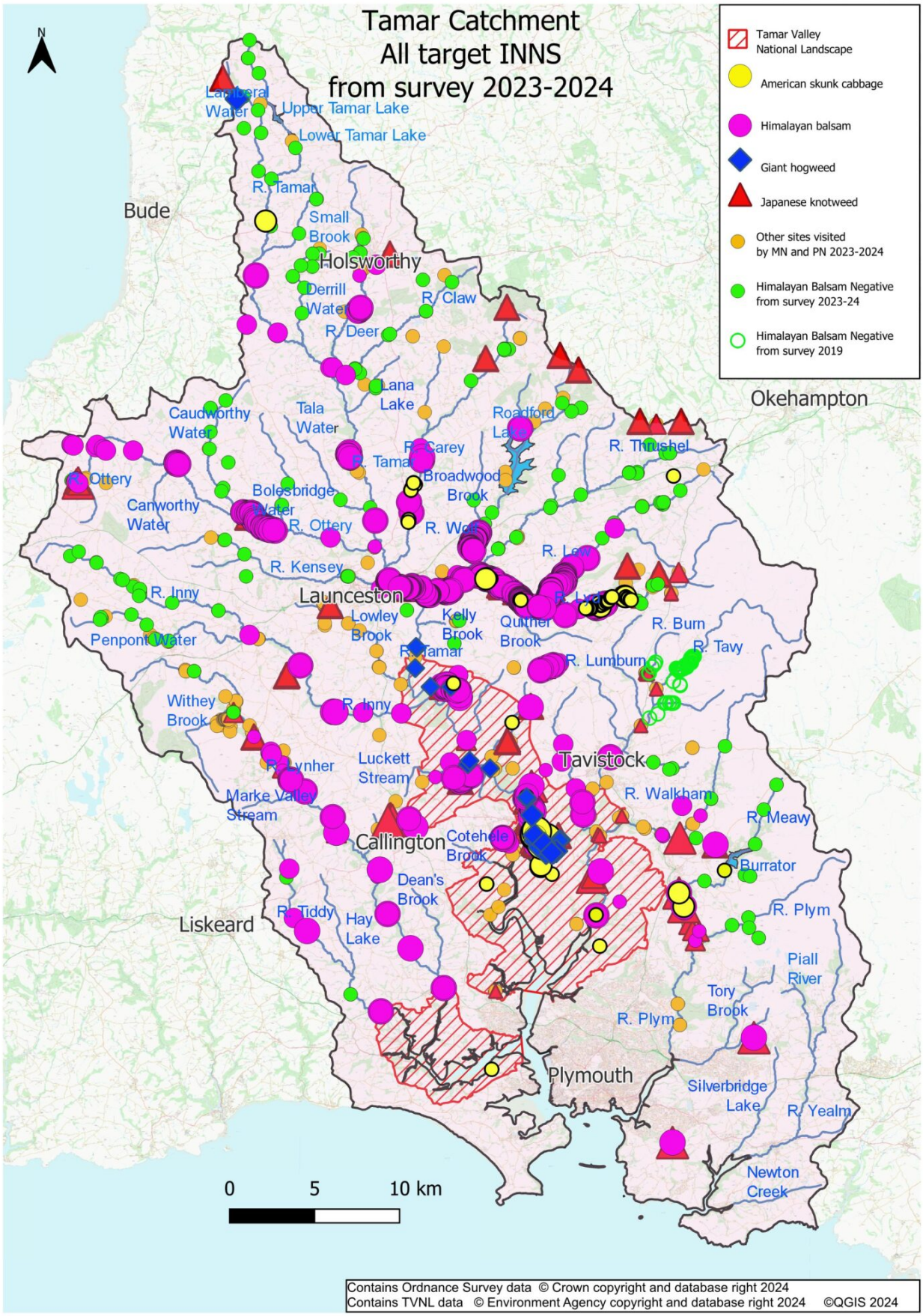
These invasive plants form dense monocultures that outcompete native vegetation, reduce soil stability, and reduce water quality and increase flood risk. They threaten biodiversity and degrade priority habitats such as wet woodlands and floodplain meadows. Giant hogweed poses serious public health hazards, Himalayan balsam impacts pollinators, and Japanese knotweed damages infrastructure. Left unchecked, these four plant species undermine ecosystem services and nature recovery.

The Tamar Invasives Group began in 2001 with the Giant Hogweed Eradication Project, reducing plant numbers from thousands on the main river corridors to just 109 on the tidal Tamar banks and floodplains in 2025, through mechanical removal, herbicide treatments, and boat-based surveys. This success protected riparian habitats and improved conditions for species within the Tamar & Tavy SSSI and along a 45 km corridor of the River Tamar and River Lyd.




*Reduction in giant hogweed numbers between 2009 and 2025 on main river corridors and adjacent non-riparian areas (A. Phillips).*

To address the ongoing risk of spread of the four plant species from upstream areas into the Tamar Valley National Landscape, TVNL delivered two projects between 2023 and 2025, funded by the Defra Invasive Species Management Fund and the Environment Agency's Water Environment Improvement Fund. These projects assessed the feasibility of catchment-scale management and developed strategies for stakeholder engagement, prioritising collaboration over enforcement, engaging landowners, councils, anglers, and volunteers through tailored communications, social media campaigns, and action days. Practical measures include physical removal of giant hogweed, American skunk-cabbage, and Himalayan balsam, and, where necessary, chemical treatments for hogweed, skunk-cabbage, and knotweed under Environment Agency licences.


Tamar Catchment
All target INNS
from survey 2023-2024
N
Tamar Valley National Landscape
American skunk cabbage
Himalayan balsam
Giant hogweed
Japanese knotweed
Other sites visited by MN and PN 2023-2024
Himalayan Balsam Negative from survey 2023-24
Himalayan Balsam Negative from survey 2019
Bude
Holsworthy
Okehampton
Launceston
Tavistock
Callington
Liskeard
Plymouth
Upper Tamar Lake
Lower Tamar Lake
R. Tamar
Small Brook
Derrill Water
R. Deer
R. Claw
Lana Lake
Caudworthy Water
Tala Water
Roadford Lake
R. Carey
R. Thrushel
R. Ottery
Broadwood Brook
Bolesbridge Water
Canworthy Water
R. Wolf
R. Kensey
R. Inny
Lowley Brook
Kelly Brook
Quither Brook
R. Burn
R. Tavy
Penpont Water
R. Lumburn
Withey Brook
R. Lynher
Luckett Stream
Marke Valley Stream
R. Walkham
R. Meavy
Cotehele Brook
Burrator
Dean's Brook
R. Tiddy
Hay Lake
R. Plym
Piall River
Tory Brook
Silverbridge Lake
R. Yealm
Newton Creek
0
5
10 km
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024
Contains TVNL data © Environment Agency copyright and database right 2024 ©QGIS 2024

*Tamar Catchment showing all target invasive non-native species (INNS) recorded during surveys carried out in 2023–2024.*

*Note, survey locations were primarily from bridge locations. For more information see the Tamar Catchment INNS Control Feasibility Study and Strategy Development report using the link below.*

## Impact and Future

These actions align with Local Nature Recovery Strategies goals and Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017. Long-term resilience will depend on wide stakeholder participation, community stewardship, adaptive management and monitoring, supported by funding streams such as Environmental Land Management Schemes and biodiversity net gain.

For more information on this work and the Tamar Invasives Group, go to: https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/our-work/our-projects/invasive-non-native-species/ ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=hqrdu2sibc)

*Partners of the Tamar Invasives Group: Tamar Valley National Landscape, Environment Agency, Natural England and Cornwall Council.*



*Mixed stand of giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam*



*American skunk-cabbage in wetland habitat*



*Japanese knotweed on a riverbank*

## Climate Case Study: Calstock electric ferry trial

**Sustainable opportunities for recreation and tourism**

Up until the early 2000's there was a passenger ferry crossing the river Tamar at Calstock. The service ceased in 2015 meaning the nearest crossing point is several miles upstream at New Bridge, Gunnislake. Following delivery of one of the key outputs of the Tamara Landscape Partnership, the Tamara Coast-to-Coast Way long distance walking route, it has therefore not been possible to cross the river at Calstock and walkers were required to backtrack to Bere Alston rail station to cross the river Tamar by train before walking back from Calstock station to pick up the trail again. This is quite a significant detour and relies on catching a train which only operates every two hours.

In response to the encouraging conclusions of a feasibility study to assess the demand and practicalities of reinstating the ferry a boat was purchased and coded for commercial use, and an old, unsafe pontoon was replaced with a new pontoon at Ferry Farm on the Devon bank opposite Calstock. An off-grid solar system to power the ferry was also set up on the roof of the old ferry boat house in Calstock which was refurbished for the purpose and as a community space for other uses – the ferry is therefore a zero emissions service.




*Calstock electric ferry trial underway.*

Walkers on the Tamara Coast to Coast Way and other local walkers can now cross the river on the newly reinstated ferry which is operating for a trial period to see if commercially viable. Leisure trips are also now bookable for group excursions to the National Trust Property at Cotehele and upstream towards Gunnislake where visitors can explore and experience this relatively inaccessible, beautiful and tranquil part of the river. The ferry boat is close to being silent as it uses an electric motor which adds to the experience and allows for close encounters with wildlife and for a strong sense for the peace and quiet of the river valley.

Through this project a potential local business and community asset have been created, providing an opportunity for local employment and a new facility to help people explore and enjoy their local area accessing areas of the river previously out of reach for most to visit and enjoy.

***Feedback from a satisfied passenger…***

> *“What a pleasant experience it was crossing the river on this little ferry. When we reached Calstock we found the ice cream café (reason for our visit to break up our walk) was closed and the ferryman kindly took us back, even though he was booked with a group. The group were thoroughly enjoying their return trip along the river. The area is really beautiful, and the little ferry is a real bonus. Thank you again Calstock ferryman!”*

### Links

Ferry website:
https://calstockferry.com/ (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=a6lxvvf2q4)

Tamara Website:
https://tamaralandscapepartnership.org.uk/ (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=brkmxypnyi)

## Climate Case Study: Slow the Flow project

**Improve resilience to the effects of climate change, reduce energy demand in new and existing developments, innovative green building design**

Deerpark Farm is a 113ha mixed farm, situated in the lower Tamar Valley. The farm has arable fields, permanent pasture, ponds and woodland.

The land slopes from the edge of Kit Hill Country Park, down towards an adjacent historic mine site in the village of Luckett and the Luckett stream. Issues were identified with surface water runoff down the farm lane, through field gateways and over compacted ground.

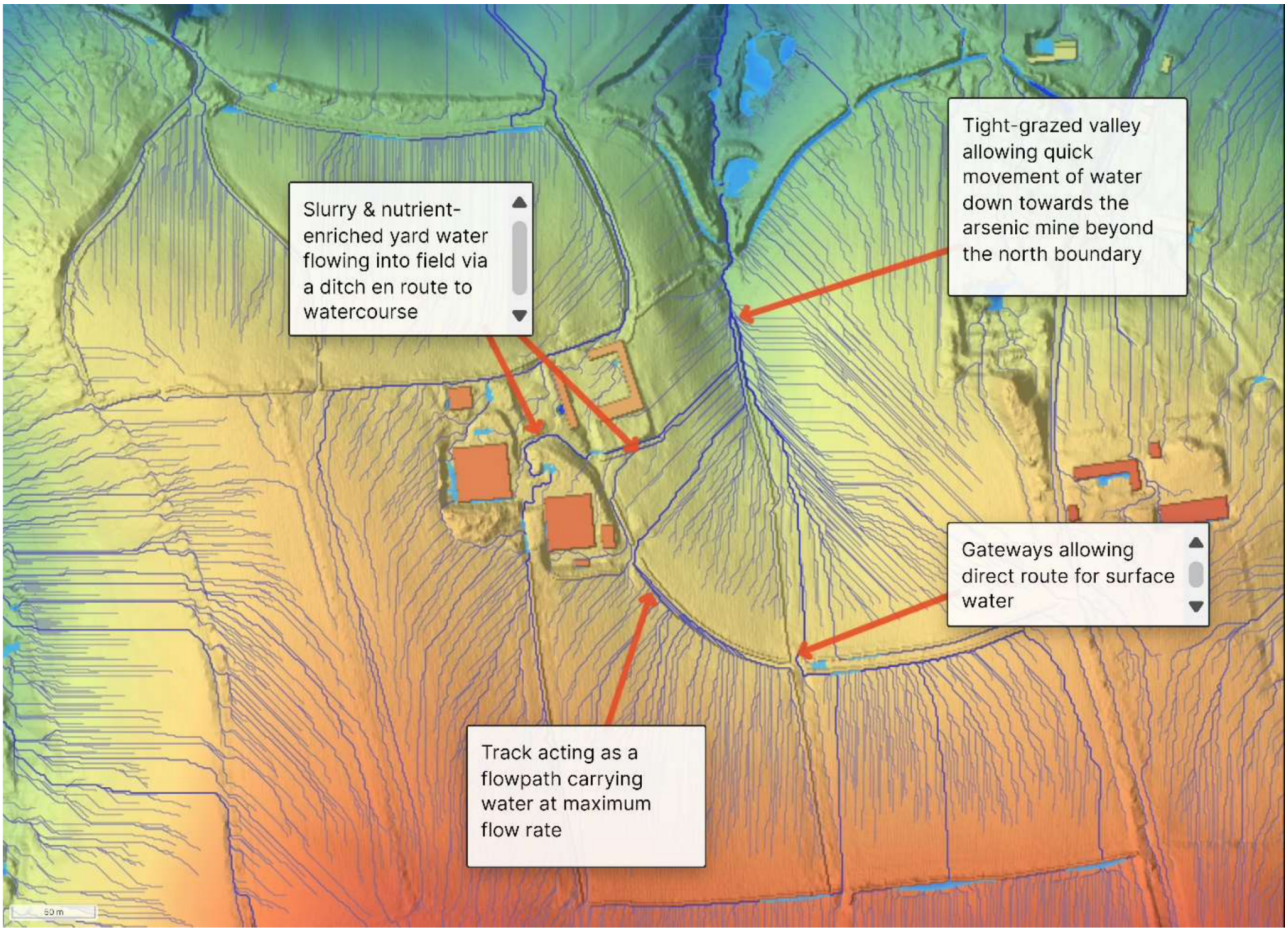
The existing rainwater flowpaths on the farm were allowing water to move quickly down the slope and across the historic New Consuls mine site situated between Deer Park Farm and the Luckett stream. This allowed high flows from heavy rainfall events to wash through the mine site and erode the mine spoil, mobilising metalloid contaminants which then wash into the stream.

A study was commissioned which provided the opportunity to design and install interventions that provide resilience to extreme weather events in management of water, promote healthy soils, and contribute towards best practice on the farm. The interventions follow the principles of natural flood management – using natural timbers harvested on site to slow water flows down, de-energising erosional flows and settle out sediments and pollutants carried by the water.



*Flow spreaders installed on sloping pasture at Deerpark Farm to slow surface water runoff and encourage infiltration as part of the Slow the Flow project.*

These actions will help soil management and keep important nutrients in the fields where they can be utilised by grass, crops and livestock, in addition to improving infiltration, promoting livestock health and natural pest management.




*Annotated plan showing existing surface water flowpaths across Deerpark Farm prior to intervention, highlighting areas of rapid runoff, gateways, tracks and routes directing water towards downstream watercourses and the historic mine site.*

With the support of the landowners of Deerpark Farm and match funding from the Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme, FiPL and WEIF we were able to put in place interventions to address all of these issues including:

- Utilisation of current ditches and flowpaths to create swales with flow disruptors where physical erosion occurred to slow flows and store water in a slow-release system.
- Creation of earth bunds and scrapes to hold water to allow slow release and sediment capture.
- Creation of earth banks planted with hedges to intercept surface flows with the rooting structures facilitating better infiltration.
- Relocation of a gateway which had been allowing water to follow the shortest route with maximum flow energy which reduced the sediment (and nutrient) which had been mobilised at peak rainfall.
- Installation of a combination of leaky dams and brash bundles to slow flows within the existing flowpath.

This work was also supported by further interventions to slow water flow through the Luckett mine site itself.

## People Case Study: Tamar Valley River Festival

**Celebration of cultural identity and sense of place**

The Tamar Valley River Festival (TVRF) was a single day, community-arts based festival for local people within and bordering the Tamar Valley held in Calstock on Saturday the 26th of October 2024. After Tamar Valley community consultation, the desire for an event which tied art activities to the landscape through connection to Nature was demonstrated. This concept was explored, and the event was held as one of the 90 events within the Celebrating Tamara project (part of the Tamara Landscape Partnership) in the ‘shoulder months’ of the year.

The event was designed to be an effective way of introducing communities, particularly family groups, to the Tamara Landscape Partnership (TLP) area. Awareness and appreciation of the heritage and landscape were hoped to increase, as well as a breaking down of perceived barriers to access. In addition, it was hoped that a sense of ownership and the need for future safeguarding of the landscape would develop.



*Music and dancing at the Tamar Valley River Festival.*

An array of activities and interactive performances were held throughout the day, suited to different audiences. The majority were family-focused and were held across three venues within Calstock. Some of these included live music from Tamar Vally band, morris dancing, puppet workshops based on Allis the Shad, yoga, to artist-led creative workshops. To create added ambience, walkabout performers including a bubble fairy and stilt walkers dressed as characters from the Tamara mythology roamed between the venues.

2,700 visitors attended the TVRF. Over 75% of participants attended with family; most attendees were from larger local conurbations such as Tavistock and Callington; most attendees had visited the Tamar Valley National Landscape (TVNL) previously, but 12.5% were new to the TVNL. Of those who had visited the TVNL before, 60% of respondents live within the landscape, 60% use the valley for terrestrial recreation, 37% participate in water-based recreation, and 27% work within the TVNL.

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees. A greater sense of place and Tamar Valley cultural identity were created, renewing ownership of the landscape.

### Links

Celebrating Tamara – TAMARA LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=zilpf4tymg)

## People Case Study: Training for Tomorrow

**Upskilling individuals, strengthening communities and landscapes for the future by delivering training and accreditation in traditional rural skills.**

### Overview

The Tamara Trainees programme addressed the decline of traditional rural skills and limited employment opportunities in the Tamar Valley. By offering accredited training in rural practices and sustainability such as hedge-laying, coppicing, and dry-stone walling, the initiative empowered individuals, strengthened communities, and safeguarded the landscape for future generations. It also ensured local businesses and organisations have a local, quality and knowledgeable workforce available for sustainability. The programme delivered 5 x 18-month apprenticeships and the equivalent of 6 x 12-month traineeships.

## Objectives and Purposes

- Upskill individuals through short and long-term training.
- Expand knowledge, skills, and confidence to improve employment prospects.
- Preserve cultural heritage and biodiversity.
- Increase resilience of local communities.
- Support landscape maintenance and biodiversity through skilled interventions.
- Meet local skills needs in the Tamara Landscape Partnership area.

## Programme Design

- Multi-discipline training: Practical rural skills for example in hedge-laying, power tools, woodland management and rural crafts. Other training opportunities involved practical skills in business and commercial related environments.
- Accreditation: Apprentices spent 20% of their time in off the job training with accredited skills providers to achieve recognised qualifications to enhance employability. Trainees also followed a disciplined training programme that involved some formal training opportunities.
- Flexible delivery: The project was delivered through short courses, apprenticeships, and on-the-job learning with knowledgeable and skilled mentors.
- Partnerships: Collaboration with local and national businesses, conservation organisations both of which hosted the apprentices and trainees together with accredited training providers.

## Impact on Individuals

- Improved career prospects and confidence
- Access to accredited qualifications
- Move to employment or business creation

## Impact on Communities

- Skilled workforce to strengthen local economy
- Preservation of cultural heritage and biodiversity
- Increase in local resilience and local traditions

## Outcomes and Metrics

- Number of Trainees: The project has attracted 5 x 18-month apprentices and up to 10 trainees (equivalent to 4 x full time 12-month trainees).
- Employment rates post training: Of those that have completed training we have achieved 100% success rate, with the feedback from those still training, expectations are high of similar successes.

## Links

Tamara Trainees – TAMARA LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=evsziqp5yo)



*Tamara trainee learning about animal husbandry*

# Place Case Study: Tamara Coast to Coast Way

**Improving rights of way and sustainable transportation, improving access to TVNL.**

The Tamara Coast to Coast Way is an inspiring long-distance walking route in southwest England, stretching about 87 miles (140 km) from Cremyll on Cornwall's south coast near Plymouth to Morwenstow near Bude on the north coast. Largely following the River Tamar, it winds through the Tamar Valley National Landscape, showcasing its diverse scenery, rich heritage, and natural beauty.

Designed to enhance public access to the Tamar Valley, the walking route enables walkers to connect with both the natural environment and the region's cultural heritage while benefiting from the wellbeing that comes with outdoor activity. Typically completed in six to seven days, the route offers an immersive experience through Cornwall and parts of Devon, crossing several border sections and linking the south and north coasts at each end.

Developed under the Tamar Landscape Partnership Scheme, the route builds on the existing Tamar Valley Discovery Trail and connects with the Bude Canal trail to the north. It uses a network of existing public rights of way largely following the route of the river Tamar from its source close to the north coast to the sea at Plymouth. Rebranded as the Tamara Coast to Coast Way (Troyva Tamar Teg in Cornish), it also combines with the South West Coast Path to form Kylgh Kernow-the "Circuit of Cornwall"-a circular route of roughly 390 miles. This has encouraged walkers who have completed the South West Coast Path to extend their journey along the Cornwall-Devon border.

Officially launched in July 2023, the walking route quickly gained popularity among multi-day hikers and attracted excellent media coverage, including BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, *The Guardian*, *Countryfile*, and local outlets. To enable further exploration, 28 circular walking routes were created, allowing visitors access to more of the area's heritage. Access to the southern section further benefits from the Tamar Valley trainline, connecting Plymouth to the route with stops up to Gunnislake, improving access for those without cars or limited public transport.




*Launch of the Tamara Coast to Coast Way at Bere Ferrers.*

The trail is clearly waymarked with distinctive Tamara Way signs and has sold over 4,500 guidebooks. A Facebook group run by Visit Tamar alley boasts 3 500 members (as of December 2025). Walkers and runners have completed the route for charity with some tackling the full 390-mile Circuit of Cornwall-one runner finishing in just over six days.




*Tamara Coast to Coast Way waymarker.*

The Tamara Coast to Coast Way exemplifies how to improve access to the Tamar Valley National Landscape while supporting local communities and conservation. Its ultimate aim is to achieve National Trail status securing ongoing recognition and resources to ensure continued and improved access to this landscape for future generations.

### Links

Tamar Valley National Landscape pages: Tamara Coast to Coast Way – Tamar Valley National Landscape (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=f6dl8vptmd)
Tamara Landscape Partnership website: https://tamaralandscapepartnership.org.uk/ ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=brkmxypnyi)
Visit Tamar Valley Facebook page: (20+) Tamara Coast To Coast Way | Facebook ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=jbpiy1tkbo)

## Place Case Study: Monument Management Schemes with Historic England

**Management and protection of the distinctive landscape and historic environment features including raising awareness**

The Tamara Landscape Partnership (TLP) carried out work at seven sites within the Scheme Area. The sites were on the Heritage at Risk Register as maintained by Historic England. The work was overseen by the TLP Senior Heritage Officer in close liaison with the relevant HE Heritage at Risk Project Officer for each site. The aim was to provide plans of work to help remove the sites from the Heritage at Risk Register as well as carry out some mitigation works.

## What was achieved?

- Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) or Structural Surveys completed for all seven sites outlining structural mitigations and a broad order of costs.
- Comprehensive survey of the WW2 Gridiron at Saltash and an event on site on the 80th anniversary of D Day (6 June 2024).
- 3D Sketch Pad images of five sites giving a current state of repair for all key structures and providing a record of site condition in 2022/23.
- Minor mitigation work at New Consols (Luckett) Okel Tor (Calstock) and WW2 Gridiron (Saltash).
- Increased awareness of the importance of built heritage in the Tamar Valley with workshops and events.

## Feedback from HE Heritage at Risk Project Officer

> *“I’m impressed by what has been achieved on all seven sites and especially at Gawton. I hope the work here will lead on to some further repairs improved public access and the like.”*

## Challenges

- Working on very overgrown and in places dangerous sites to achieve the surveys particularly the flying of UAVs in restricted spaces.
- Expectation management with site owners and CICs as to the availability of funding to carry out recommended work packages.
- On certain sites working with the local community to maintain understanding and reasons for the work.

## Legacy

- Copies of all CMPs and Structural Surveys have been deposited with county archives.
- Full 3D images created of five sites recording their current state in case further degradation occurs in the future.
- Structural mitigations on the Chimney at Okel Tor and scrub clearance at New Consols.
- Increased awareness of the importance of built heritage in the Tamar Valley including the installation of new interpretation boards at Okel Tor.

## Links

Small Detail Big Difference – TAMARA LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=k18ptnoad0)



*Calciners cleared of vegetation at New Consols, Luckett.*

# References and for further information


The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=xkubl4de6r)

The Habitats Directive – Environment – European Commission (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=mvyrjeo6lw)

Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or AONB in England (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=v0ec1gk28c)

National Planning Policy Framework – (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=bf2emcqhsi) GOV.UK (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=zmnjcq5xef)

The Planning System | Historic England (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=g7fkurjxdj)

National Landscapes – Guidance for Local Planning Authorities: CRoW s.85 duty to 'seek to further the purposes' (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=jpg3zqi6ce)

Nature Recovery and the Historic Environment 2023 (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=jeqoxfn0ro)

Joint Statement between Natural England, Historic England, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=546lyxref8)

Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance | Historic England (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=uf5kkqx3ej)

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=k0gfnsdle0)

IPCC AR6 SYR SPM (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=xbsdsg2l68)

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Area Energy Plan | Let's Talk Cornwall (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=p53pvxeo73)

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's Historic Environment (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=p8n6rgqies)

Devon County Council Environment Viewer (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=pox4mwyzyj)

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Let's Talk Cornwall ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=f9y1tyffw5)

Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) | Devon County Council ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=fmffeaqigw)

Right Place Right Tree – Devon Local Nature Partnership ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=fxtyoisa4c)

Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy – Devon Local Nature Partnership ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=jw6hytpc1g)

The Management Plan – Cornwall National Landscape ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=gnjjdvwdkv)

Management Plan – South Devon National Landscape ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=jo7yephv9k)

Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030 Pre-Consultation draft version for local authorities (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=1o87s2wi74)

The Management Plan for the Chilterns National Landscape | Chilterns National Landscape (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=btkpbz0qva)

The South West Marine Plans Documents – ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=xwiq59nbuu) GOV.UK ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=zmnjcq5xef)

Adaptation Strategy – Climate Resilient Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=eubmt2nws8)

Management Plan – Cornish Mining World Heritage Site ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=uu4s1qyvkx)

Heritage at the Heart of an Evolving Cornwall: A Strategy for Cornwall's Historic Environment (2022 – 2030) | Let's Talk Cornwall ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=heljnsvaec)

# Creation Process: Tamar Valley Management Plan 2026-2031

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) published Guidance on Management Plans for Protected Landscapes in England on 12 June 2025: Management plans for Protected Landscapes in England – GOV.UK, recommending a series of steps taking those responsible for creating the management plan from the planning stage to its adoption and presentation. This guidance was incredibly useful in the final phase of the drafting of this management plan, a process that the TVNL Partnership had started early in 2024.

The TVNL has carried out a series of consultations with statutory consultees, stakeholders and the communities of the Tamar Valley from February 2024. There was over 9 weeks of consultation in 2024, including 12 face-to-face events in and around the Tamar Valley, engaging with 222 people. Over 300 verbal, written and online responses were received, 300 people engaged in the online survey and a series of presentations and talks were given at parish council meetings, other meetings and events, from Bere Apple Fest to Tavistock Library's Mother & Baby Group; libraries also held copies of our draft Management Plan.

The final phase of consultation will conclude at the end of December 2025 and the Management Plan will be recommended for adoption by our respective local authorities in June 2026.

Following adoption of the Management Plan, the TVNL Partnership will be developing a 10 Year Delivery & Investment Plan and will in partnership with others, refine how we might monitor and evaluate the impact of the TVNL, using a tailored doughnut economic model (see section on monitoring and evaluation) that has been in development since December 2023.

# Management Plan: Monitoring and Evaluation

## Tamar Valley Doughnut

The TVNL Partnership is piloting a new decision-making and monitoring tool for long-term assessment and reporting. This has been inspired by the 2009 Rockstrom planetary boundaries model along with further work carried out by Dr Kate Raworth, as detailed in her book ‘Doughnut Economics’.




*Tamar Valley National Landscape Business Development Officer Steven Draper with Dr Kate Raworth at a Doughnut Conference in 2024.*

The Tamar Valley Doughnut includes a ‘living threshold’ which places nature in the centre space, along with the Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework.
The central ring of the doughnut represents our aspirations of ‘A Good Life’, a safe, regenerated space where planetary resources are in balance. The outer edge represents the safe planetary boundaries for environmental systems and resources that would need to be within safe limits to meet our vision.

If robust data are available at a scale appropriate to the TVNL geography, then there is the potential to pilot the doughnut model. The first step will be to see if accurate metrics might be obtained, with economic values assigned, to understand if the model can provide informative economic value outputs for at least some sectors. It might then be possible to demonstrate how interventions in one sector will impact other sectors. Modelling of alternative mitigation scenarios might also enable determination of least cost solutions.

# Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership

The TVNL Partnership is an alliance of organisations, committed to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley. Together they co-design plans, collaborate on attracting funding and delivery, and collate data for monitoring progress.

Cornwall Council hosts the TVNL Partnership, acts as the Accountable Body and is the employer for the TVNL staff unit. Defra provides 75% of core funding for the TVNL and the remaining 25% is provided by Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council. Delivery of the Management Plan is dependent on securing additional project funding and through working with our partners.

The TVNL Partnership has a three-tier governance structure. The Partnership, comprising those on the Executive alongside a wider range of stakeholder and community organisations, are responsible for guiding the vision and strategic direction of the National Landscape, particularly through the production, monitoring and review of the National Landscape Management Plan. The Executive Group, comprising elected local authority representatives, advising officers, and nominated non-council representatives from the National Landscape Partnership, is responsible for the oversight of the National Landscape budgets and operational decision-making on the deployment of staff and financial resources and the provision of advice and direction to Cornwall Council, in its role as host authority. The Staff Unit, responsible for the administration of the National Landscape Partnership and the delivery of its programmes and activities, comprises core staff funded by Defra and local authority contributions, and additional non-core staff that are generally project funded. The staff are based at the Tamar Valley Centre at Gunnislake, providing management and administration services to coordinate and support the delivery of the Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan.

# TVNL Executive Committee

Chair
Vice Chair
Cornwall Council (3)
Devon County Council (1)
Plymouth City Council (1)
South Hams District Council (1)
West Devon Borough Council (1)
Natural England (1)
TVNL Partnership nominees (3)
Local authority officers

# Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership

Cornwall Council
Devon County Council
West Devon Borough Council
South Hams District Council
Plymouth City Council
Parish Councils
Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Country Land and Business Association
Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape WHS
Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership
Devon Wildlife Trust
Drawn to the Valley
Environment Agency
Forestry Commission
Tamar Tender Loving Care
Historic England
National Farmers Union
Transition Tavistock
National Trust
Natural England
Kings Harbour Master (Plymouth)
Tamar Community Trust
Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum
Tavistock Woodland Estate
University of Plymouth
Visit Tamar Valley
Westcountry Rivers Trust
Woodland Riders

# Glossary

**Affordable housing:** Housing that is for sale or rent, for those who cannot afford to rent or buy houses on the open market. It includes rented housing, shared ownership and other subsidised schemes usually developed by housing associations or local authorities.

**Agriculture and land-based rural businesses:** These are farming, forestry, mineral extraction, privately managed estates.

**AONB:** Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

**Biodiversity Net Gain:** Qualitative or quantitative measures to enhance and support biodiversity in order to leave it in an improved state.

**Carbon budget:** Cumulative amount of carbon dioxide (CO?) emissions permitted over a period of time to keep within a given global average temperature threshold.

**Carbon neutral:** Where carbon dioxide emissions are equal to emissions removed from the atmosphere, usually mentioned in the context of the move towards net zero, noting that the UK Government's June 2019 commitment is net zero for all greenhouse gasses, not just for carbon dioxide.

**Carbon positive:** Where an activity goes beyond achieving net zero carbon emissions to actually create an environmental benefit by removing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

**Carbon sequestration:** Removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks, such as oceans, forests or soils, through physical or biological processes.

**Climate change adaptation:** Adjustments made to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

**Climate change mitigation:** Action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Cultural Capital:** Defined as "an asset which embodies, stores or gives rise to cultural value in addition to whatever economic value it may possess" (Throsby 1999) (PDF) Cultural Capital (https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=ockwjfssvm). Cultural capital is made up of physical assets such as buildings, art, and monuments, and intangible assets, such as folklore, music, language, beliefs and traditions. These services are beneficial to the individual and society as a whole and therefore create value.

**Cultural heritage (assets):** Includes tangible culture such as buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art and artefacts, as well as intangible culture such as folklore, traditions, language and knowledge and natural heritage including culturally significant landscapes.

**Designated Heritage Asset:** A World Heritage Site, scheduled monument, listed building, protected wreck site, registered park and garden, registered battlefield, or conservation area designated under the relevant legislation.

**Ecosystems approach:** This is “the management of whole ecosystems, using ecosystem services as a framework to determine multiple, simultaneous benefits gained, whilst ensuring that realising one benefit does not harm or degrade other benefits or potential beneficiaries (including future generations)”.

**Ecosystem services:** The wide range of services humans derive from natural capital such as food, water, plant materials for fuel, building materials and medicines, climate regulation, flood defence, carbon storage and inspiration.

**European Designated Sites:** Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

**Geodiversity:** The range of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and landforms.

**Glover review:** In 2018 the Government commissioned journalist Julian Glover-supported by an advisory group-to carry out a comprehensive review of protected landscapes in England. It considered whether the protections for National Parks and AONBs are still fit for purpose, what could be improved, and whether current definitions and systems are still valid. The final report was published on 21 September 2019 and HMG’s response in January 2022: DEFRA – Landscapes Review – Final Report 2019 ( https://nrkmf.nimsite.uk/?tvnl_go=gsy7mbdg3o).

**Green Infrastructure:** A planned or managed network of open spaces, including areas such as parks and gardens, countryside areas and amenity open space, designed to improve the quality of life and provide for the needs of nearby communities.

**Habitat management:** Actions that improve or maintain the condition and quality of existing wildlife-rich habitat. Habitat management does not result in an increased extent of habitat.

**Habitat creation and restoration:** Actions to establish wildlife-rich habitats that are of sufficient quality to support the species that are typically found in that habitat. Habitat creation and restoration lead to an increase in the extent of wildlife-rich habitat.

**Infrastructure:** Infrastructure is a wide-ranging term comprising the physical network of services and facilities that are required for an area to function properly. Such as highways infrastructure: sustainable transport infrastructure: service and utilities infrastructure: enhancement and maintenance of the historic environment and heritage assets: biodiversity or wildlife corridors: enhancement of the public realm; maintenance and enhancement of public rights of way: flood defences and mitigation and adaptation: education provision: health facilities: facilities providing accessibility for all e.g. Changing Places facilities.

**Landscape scale:** There is no single definition, as the size of the area can vary greatly, however in a conservation context, this is generally defined as “a holistic approach to landscape management, aiming to reconcile the competing objectives of nature conservation and economic activities across a given landscape. Landscape-scale conservation may sometimes be attempted because of climate change”.

**Listed building:** A building recognised to be of national historic importance, designated and protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990.

**Natural Capital:** The world’s stock of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things. DEFRA and HM Treasury Green Book definition: “Natural capital includes… elements of nature that have value to society, such as forests, fisheries, rivers, biodiversity, land and minerals. Natural capital includes both the living and non-living aspects of ecosystems. Stocks of natural capital provide flows of environmental or ‘ecosystem’ services over time. These services, often in combination with other forms of capital (human, produced and social) produce a wide range of benefits. Some have a market value (minerals, timber, freshwater) or non-market value (such as outdoor recreation, landscape amenity). They also include non-use values, such as the value people place on the existence of particular habitats or species.”

**Natural Capital Accounting:** Natural capital accounting is the process of calculating the total quantity of a natural resource (soil type, woodland, particular species) in a given area and identifying whether it is increasing or decreasing. Accounting for such goods may occur in physical or monetary terms and can provide detailed statistics for better management of the natural environment.

**Natural Flood Management:** Alteration, restoration or use of landscape features to reduce flood risk.

**Net Zero:** Where the balance of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is equal to or less than the emissions removed from the environment in any given area. This can be achieved by a combination of emission reduction and emission removal.

**Renewable and low carbon energy:** Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as electricity, produced from renewable sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydropower. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).

**Retrofit:** The addition of new technologies or features to an existing building to change the way it performs or functions.

**Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs):** Nationally important sites for nature conservation designated under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended).

**Special Qualities:** All the National Parks and National Landscapes in England have an aim and purpose to promote understanding and enjoyment of the 'special qualities' of their area. It is the combination of these special qualities that led to these areas being designated to be protected as national parks, and distinguish each national park from each other and other parts of the country.

**Sustainable active travel:** Modes of personal transport that also provide exercise, such as walking and cycling.

**Sustainable development:** UNESCO's overarching purpose, this is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

**Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS):** Aim to replicate natural drainage patterns by using low environmental impact solutions to manage dirty and surface water run-off, through collection, storage and cleaning, before allowing it to release back into the environment.

**Sustainable tourism development:** Any form of development, management or tourist activity which ensures the long-term protection and preservation of natural, cultural and social resources and contributes in a positive and equitable manner to the economic development and well-being of individuals, working or staying in protected areas.

**Sustainable Productive Land Management:** Land management that realises an economic return for the land manager whilst at the same time has equal benefit to the environment and society.

**Sustainability Appraisal:** The process used to ensure that environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated in the preparation of a Plan. The SA includes the requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

**Tranquillity:** Tranquillity can be defined as freedom from the noise and visual intrusion, including light pollution, associated with developed areas, roads, transport and traffic, and areas with intensive recreational activities and other uses that contribute to disturbance.

**World Heritage Site:** World Heritage Sites are sites considered to be of Outstanding Universal Value – places or buildings which are considered to have special importance for everyone. They represent the most significant or exceptional examples of the world's cultural and/or natural heritage recognised under the terms of the 1972 UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

# The Beauty of the Tamar Valley

## The Beauty of the Tamar Valley

*Nature is a gift to us, a gift we all should love,*
*Trees reaching to the sky, birds flying high above.*
*Tamar Valley has it all, for everyone to see,*
*Babbling brooks and rivers, lush meadows, wildflowers, moths, butterflies, bees.*

*Hedgehogs, bats, fish and insects, they all live within it there,*
*We must protect them all, we have to show we care.*
*Pollution in England's rivers, flowing to our seas,*
*Create an endless journey, don't let it be our destiny.*

*Climate change is altering the planet, everything we love,*
*The melting of the arctic, wild fires, heat and floods.*
*Our steeply wooded river valleys, are a beauty to behold,*
*Let's keep our farming, market gardens, orchards, a delight for young and old.*

*Let's preserve the deep dark mines of yesterday, its heritage untouched,*
*And prove to everyone who comes, we love it all so much.*
*Tamar Valley is a tranquil place, to heal our state of mind,*
*To find some peace away from stress, and all worries left behind.*

**Diane O'Leary**
*Former resident of Gunnislake*



***Tamar Valley AONB's National Moment**, creating a heart in the landscape at Cotehele. Part of a national launch of 2019's Landscapes for Life Week, celebrating Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.*



***Daffodil garden above the valley***
*by Mary Martin.*



**Tamar Valley**
National
Landscape

Date of Adoption:
June 2026

If you require information in a different format – for example in braille, large print, paper copy or other languages, please contact:

**Tamar Valley National Landscape, Tamar Valley Centre**
Cemetery Road, Drakewalls,
Gunnislake, Cornwall PL18 9FE

www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk

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