

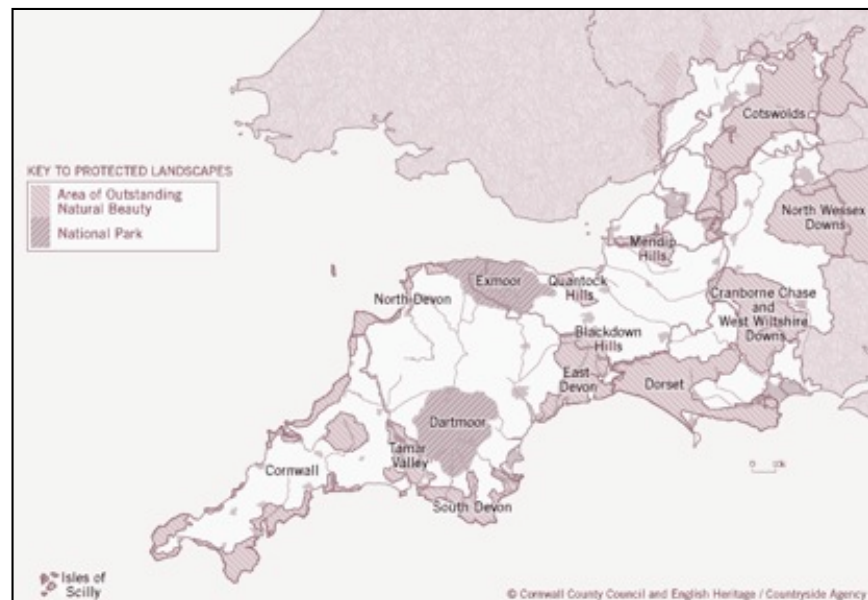
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Tamar Valley AONB

What is Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)?

'An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a national landscape designation with the same recognition and planning protection for its scenery as a National Park. AONBs, unlike National Parks, do not have large administrations or budgets and work across county and district boundaries.

The Tamar Valley was designated as an AONB in 1995, for its rare valley and water landscape based around an unspoilt estuary, unique wildlife resource and landscape of distinctive heritage. It is the UK's newest AONB and one of a family of protected landscapes in the Southwest covering 39 per cent of the land area.



Protected Landscapes in South West England

Other designations in the Tamar Valley?

The Tamar Valley has many other designations within it in recognition of its international importance. Its estuary complex is within a European designation for its importance for wildlife. During 2006 key mining landscapes were inscribed as a part of the World Heritage Site for the Cornish and West Devon Mining Landscape. Both of these designations fall predominantly within the AONB area.



Map of the AONB and World Heritage Site

How is the AONB managed?

The AONB is managed by the **Tamar Valley AONB Partnership** representing a cross section of organisations from the local community, land managers, local authorities, government agencies and other bodies with an influence over, or interest in, the Valley. There are some 130 organisations who work in various ways within the Partnership to help safeguard the landscape and shape and structure the work within the AONB.

The main mechanism for this is through the AONB's core strategy, its **Management Plan**, produced on a 5-year cycle. This is a statutory document and provides a framework for policy and action. The current plan runs from 2004 – 2009.

What is the Tamar Valley AONB Unit?

The **Tamar Valley AONB Unit** is a small team of people who work for the AONB Partnership and help to implement the Management Plan, through a variety of projects and by adding value to existing work. The Unit is funded by the Natural, the 7 local authorities in the area and by money it raises through projects and partnerships. The Tamar Valley AONB Partnership and Management Plan steers the work of the Unit.

Who is paying for all of these projects?

Resources to implement the aspirations contained within its Plan have to be created by the AONB Unit. Bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Regional Development Agency, European structural funds and national government agencies

help us. Cash and 'in kind' contributions also comes from the different local authorities, local businesses and volunteers across the Tamar Valley. The combination of this has been worth millions of pounds to the Valley which for which the AONB has been the main catalyst.

How will these projects benefit the local community?

AONBs are not museums or fossilised landscapes but real living landscapes. The thrust of the AONBs work aims to try to encourage a balance which protect those things which give the area its special value, but at the same time support the things which sustain it, namely a viable economy and community. Part of this is to sustain the fragile environmental and heritage by making it the hub for a balanced recreation and tourism for local people and visitors. New access is being introduced to areas that have been closed for generations, giving additional benefits in healthy pursuits; cycling, walking, horseriding and other outdoor activities. As a part of this work is a comprehensive education and training programme aimed at helping all ages interact with this special place.

The projects have an aim of helping to provide short and longer term markets and opportunities for local products and services, such as timber, food and conservation building skills.

Tamar Valley Projects

What different 'projects' are happening in the Tamar Valley?

The Tamar Valley AONB Unit has a duty (by law) to carry out work to look after the Tamar Valley for now and future generations. This means looking after the mining, natural and other heritage in the Valley. To get money to do this it has to develop 'projects' and submit them to different funders, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Examples of projects include;

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)

The Sustainable Development Fund has helped to instigate over twenty-one projects worth £1 million in the area, during 2005/2006. The Fund was created for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty by the Government to encourage individuals, community groups and businesses to work together to develop practical and sustainable solutions to the management of their activities.

Working the Woods (WTW)

Working the Woods has the aim of increasing the demand for local timber products, and by that helping to stimulate management and profitability of our woodlands. Part of this is to improve coordination within the woodland sector so that the supply chain between the timber growers and end users works more effectively. The project includes the organisation of the South Devon Woodmeet, Wood Fuel initiatives, publication of a Guide to Local Wood Products, local woodland awareness raising and involvement in the South Devon Woodfair.

The Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project (TVMHP)

Wishes to 'create a world class project that tells the story of mining in the Tamar Valley through the experiences of its residents, businesses and environment'. The

project aims to preserve, celebrate and make accessible the local mining heritage landscape. This includes the conservation of historic remains such as chimneys, construction of multiuse trails and habitat enhancement works. The project has been granted about million and runs until 2010 in the West Devon area of the Tamar Valley.

The East Cornwall Regeneration Project (including the Tamar Valley Centre) (ECRP)

Cornwall County Council has recently secured £1.8million of funding for the East Cornwall Regeneration Project. This project involves the consolidation of mining heritage remains, construction of a new gateway visitor centre at Drakewalls, creation of linking trails and improvement works to the Cotehele Estate. The project will run until May 2008 and complement the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project. The project is a partnership between local authorities, Calstock Parish Council, the National Trust, Tamar Valley AONB, and builds upon the £3 million Lower Tamar Regeneration Project completed between 2000 and 2002.

www.tamarvalleymining.org.uk

The Cornwall and West Devon World Heritage Site Bid

World Heritage Site for The Cornish and West Devon Mining Landscape was inscribed by UNESCO in July 2006. This status has been granted in recognition of the global significance of the mining heritage and the breakthroughs made in deep mining technology across Cornwall and Devon. Tamar Valley and Tavistock make up one of 10 key areas within the designation and further reinforces the outstanding importance of the Valleys heritage.

www.cornish-mining.org.uk

Heath Fritillary Project

Populations of the rare Heath Fritillary butterfly have become restricted nationally to only a handful of sites, including 3 sites in the Tamar Valley. This butterfly requires a complex mix management – disturbed south facing native woodland with its food plant, field cow wheat - hard to create in exactly the way the butterfly favours. This project supported by Natural England aims to extend suitable habitat for the butterfly throughout the heavily wooded middle part of the River Tamar.

Greater Horseshoe Bat Project

The former mining areas holding a giant labyrinth of shafts and adits, clothed in woodland, containing ruins and chimneys, surrounded by pastoral farmland, create ideal habitats for bats. Up until recently, although it was known that the area was full of bats, their extent, number, species and feeding and habitat was not understood. The Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project has helped quantify this and started to unravel the micro management needed to ensure the long term future of this species.