

Blackdown Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Annual Review
2009/2010

Introduction

Chairman's report **TO COME**



AONB Partnership Chairman Paul Diviani and Alison Wallis of Natural England at the launch of the AONB Management Plan in September 2009.

Cover:
Green-winged orchids in the AONB.

Welcome to the 2008-09 Annual Review for the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership. Once again it has been a very busy year, with the review of the AONB's Management Plan being the key focus of the team's work.

This plan guides the decision-making process of all our partners and stakeholders in the Blackdown Hills, as well as the work of AONB team, and it is a statutory requirement that it is reviewed every five years. This time it had to have an accompanying Strategic Environmental Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment to ensure that none of its future policies and objectives would have a damaging effect on the AONB's important environment. The plan was adopted by our six local authority partners and approved by Natural England by the end of the year. I should like to extend a big thank-you to all those involved.

The year certainly had its highlights. Many members of our community joined us at Celebrating the Blackdowns, an event which provided a wonderful showcase for many of the projects supported by our six-year LEADER+ programme which came to an end in 2008. On the day we were also able to announce the successful outcome of our joint bid with East Devon AONB for the Making it Local programme - a £2.4 million fund from the Rural Development Programme England that will enable us to carrying on supporting the environment and local economy of the Blackdown Hills.

Our Sustainable Development Fund continues to kick-start exciting innovative projects – 20 received funding this year. Initiatives ranged from parish plans and farm carbon audits to an oral history project and a Blackdown Hills Business Association conference, Riding the Storm.

Encouraging people to enjoy our glorious countryside has been a major theme of the year. The new format Countryside Events programme has been extremely popular, with leaflets now distributed in pubs and shops in distinctive, locally-made dispensers. The programme is also listed online as part of our re-designed website. Five new circular riding routes, and the Neroche Scheme's 13-mile Herepath, make the Blackdown Hills a prime destination for horse riding. At the end of the year the first all-ability trail in the AONB was opened at Staple Hill funded as part of the Neroche Scheme.

Visiting the countryside is now recognised as bringing real health benefits, so I would encourage you all to come out into the Blackdown Hills to enjoy the stunning landscape and experience some of the wide range of special local products.

Hills AONB



**Blackdown
Hills** AONB

Blackdown Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Blackdown Hills was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1991 and is one of a family of protected landscapes in England and Wales, which includes both AONBs and National Parks.

The area straddles the Devon and Somerset border and lies within the boundaries of six local authorities: the two counties of Devon and Somerset; the three districts of East Devon, Mid Devon and South Somerset and the borough of Taunton Deane.

The AONB has a number of special and distinctive qualities that are the reason for its national designation. These include its sense of remoteness and the tranquil, unspoilt rural character of the area, the diversity of the landscape, its unique geology and its interesting architecture. The purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance these and other components of 'natural beauty' in the Blackdown Hills, while also supporting the economic and society activities of its communities.

About this review

This review highlights the work of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership during 2009/10. It helps to demonstrate the value of the AONB, not just in economic terms but in environmental and social terms, and shows that by working with partners much can be achieved.

The document follows the same three themes as the Blackdown Hills Management Plan 2009–2014 – landscape, sustainability, and communication and management. Both the Management Plan and Delivery Plan are on our website.

Facts and figures for the Blackdown Hills

AONB area	370 sq km (Devon: 260 sq km; Somerset 110 sq km)
Number of parishes	43 (within and partly within AONB)
Population	12,770 (Devon: 9,770; Somerset: 3,070)
Landscape character	Open inland planned plateaux Wooded ridges and hill tops Steep wooded scarp slopes Upper farmed and wooded slopes Rolling farmed and settled slopes Unsettled farmed valley floors
Special Sites	16 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (inc 2 geological) 359 county/local wildlife sites 8 regionally important geological sites 26 Scheduled Ancient Monuments 761 listed buildings 9 conservation areas
Rights of Way	329 km footpaths 82 km bridleways 16 Restricted byeways

Landscape

The primary purpose of the AONB is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. This includes not only the appearance of the landscape, but also the biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Highlights

- **Working our Woodlands** is encouraging management of the small woods within the AONB through local co-operatives
- **Bats, barn owls and butterflies** will benefit from our High Nature Value farmland project
- **Appreciating the beauty of the night sky**, as part of International Year of Astronomy, encourages communities to reduce light pollution
- **Workshops on the Blackdowns Local Character Assessment** encourage local authority planning officers to use this vital information as part of their decision-making

Forging woodland links

Sustainably managed small woods is the aspiration of 'Working our Woodlands', a two-year project across the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONBs run by the Blackdown & East Devon Woodland Association and Silvanus. Evidence of need for such a project was gathered in 2008/09 with support from the AONB's Sustainable

Development Fund (SDF). The locally based woodland resource coordinator is now working 'on the ground' with clusters of small woodland owners to help them get their woods into management. He is also hoping to link them with woodland contractors and harvesters to develop wood fuel cooperatives thus creating a constant supply of quality assured

firewood across the area as well as supporting woodland businesses.

Funding for this project has come from Making it Local, and the East Devon and Blackdown Hills AONBs' SDFs. Both AONB teams are strongly supporting this project, with Blackdown Hills AONB manager Linda Bennett chairing the project's steering group.



Identifying wildlife-rich farmland

High Nature Value (HNV) farmland is agricultural land managed at a relatively low intensity and therefore containing a large amount of natural vegetation and its associated rich variety of wildlife species. It is a concept that is becoming increasingly important in Europe and is likely to influence Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform in 2012. Also all member states are required to identify and monitor their HNV farmland

The Blackdown Hill AONB has joined a partnership initiative and is one of three pilot projects in the South West that are looking at the best ways to identify this type of land. This not only includes selection through information such as agricultural data, landscape character information and wildlife records but also interviewing farmers to find out more about their current and past practices and their views on support mechanisms.

The whole project is being led by the European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism, which was awarded LIFE funding from the EU, other partners include Devon County Council, Devon Wildlife Trust and South Devon AONB, Natural England and the RSPB.

Wonders of the night sky

On clear nights the Blackdown Hill has spectacular starry skies that contribute to its natural beauty and tranquillity. To mark International Year of Astronomy the AONB ran a number of Dark Skies Awareness events with Hemyock resident and Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, Simon Ould. Using his portable planetarium Simon explained the marvels of our own and other galaxies and then the group had the chance go outside and put into practice their newly acquired star-gazing skills.

The AONB also carried out some monitoring work on dark sky quality within the Hills. Light pollution has increased dramatically over the last decade, and this coming year the AONB will be doing more work to help residents choose more effective lighting systems.

Interpreting the landscape

The AONB's Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) along with its guidelines is an important tool when assessing the impact developments and land management proposals could have on the nationally important landscape of the AONB. We met with planners from East Devon District Council with East Devon AONB and with South Somerset District Council to explain

how the LCA provides key evidence for development management. The LCA is also useful for people preparing Woodland Grant Scheme applications and Forest Design Plans.

To make the Assessment more relevant at a local level, detailed landscape descriptions have been worked up for each parish in the AONB.

Wildlife on the map

With support from Devon and Somerset County Councils, the AONB commission wildlife audits of the local wildlife for seven Blackdown Hills parishes – Broadhembury, Buckland St Mary, Culmstock, Hemyock, Neroche, Stockland and Upottery. These include maps of the different habitats and special species, and suggested actions on how the parishes can help improve the local area of wildlife. The AONB will now be going back to these parishes to help them develop the actions.

Touching the past

Back in 2008 an archaeological watching brief on a new housing development by Summerfield Homes at Churchill Farm, Hemyock, led to the Devon's largest single find of medieval pottery – more than 45,000 sherds, weighing 1.1 tonnes.





Other achievements

- New revised Blackdown Hills Countryside Design Summary produced providing more detailed advice on the special qualities of the built heritage.
- Input into the biodiversity strategy nationally through Natural England's regional delivery plans and the Somerset and Devon biodiversity partnerships.
- Support to East Devon District Council during the Dunkeswell noise abatement appeal; the AONB chairman was to give evidence but the case was settled out of court.
- Water Vole Recovery Project's new advisory Notes from the Riverbank supported. The pack covers topics from bats to buffer strips and from freshwater mussels to fencing. This East Devon District Council project works with landowners in the River Axe catchment.
- The AONB team continued to work with the Otterhead Estate management and advisory groups to help enhance the heritage and wildlife features of this Victorian estate and make it more accessible to the people of Taunton.

Exeter Archaeology carried out the excavations and, with support from the AONB, Devon County Council's Historic Environment Service, organised two Hands-on History events, one at Exeter Quay and the other at Hemyock in the summer and autumn of 2009 so that local people could learn about this exciting find and handle the collection.

The two-day Hemyock Hands-on History event gave the local Primary School children and the community the chance to try their hands as archaeologists cleaning, sorting and assembling the numerous pieces of

pottery. A local potter demonstrated how the pots and patterned tiles would have been made back in the 13th and 14th centuries, and once again people had a go themselves. Part of the collection was also sent away for more detailed analysis.

Neroche Landscape Partnership Scheme

2009/10 was the third year of the Neroche Landscape Partnership Scheme, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and a range of local authorities and agencies including the AONB. The scheme, which is led by the Forestry Commission and runs until 2011, has focused on the northern ridge of the AONB. The Neroche staff are based with the AONB team in Hemyock.

Wildlife large scale

- 250 hectares of new open habitats, grazed by the Neroche herd of English Longhorn cattle, have now been created within the 1,000-hectare public forest estate.
- Neroche scheme has funded the provision of wildlife habitat management advice to local landowners by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and the Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Interpretation in your hand

- Staple Fitzpaine Herepath has continued to provide a fantastic experience of the AONB landscape, and is now equipped with an innovative example of mobile, digitally-based heritage interpretation – the Neroche Digital Trail Guide.
- Staple Hill all-ability trail has become one of the most popular recreational sites in the AONB,

offering unrivalled hilltop views across the Vale of Taunton and beyond.

Learning for all

- 34 teachers from 14 schools have now been trained as Forest School leaders and assistants, and by working with Taunton Learning Partnership this provision has been extended to 2011.
- Neroche has continued to run popular programmes of family bushcraft, history talks and wildlife walks, while supporting Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership in running a programme of health walks for disadvantaged groups.

Countryside job training

- Following an earlier successful apprenticeship scheme, the Forestry Commission and the Silvanus Trust have secured Making it Local funding and national Forestry Commission investment to run a national pilot for a new Forestry NVQ in the Blackdowns Hills and East Devon, involving a range of private and public sector employers.

Local history and heritage

- The Neroche Community History project is one of the most effective participatory local history projects in the region,

combining hands-on excavation and recording with individual research and training. The project will culminate in the publication of community-produced book about the northern Blackdowns Hills, to be published in 2010 with funding from the Blackdown Hills AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

Volunteering in the landscape

- Some 1,500 people have taken part in Neroche activities to date, amassing more than 650 volunteer days. Highlights have included the monthly Neroche Conservation Volunteers' practical days, training volunteers in wildflower survey, and a team of Trailwatchers who monitor the Staple Fitzpaine Herepath.

Neroche Legacy

- The Forestry Commission is continuing to work with the AONB and other partners to build a legacy based on the foundation of the Landscape Partnership Scheme, to continue this work beyond 2011.
- Some members of the Neroche Local Stakeholders Group have begun to set up a new charitable company – The Blackdown Hills Trust, which will seek to benefit the landscape, wildlife and heritage of the whole AONB.

Sustainability

The unique character of the Blackdown Hills has been shaped by the people who have lived and worked here for generations. A sustainable future for the area depends of a thriving economy that is in harmony with the landscape.



Highlights

- The AONB continues to work with Natural England encouraging entry into Environmental Stewardship
- Blackdown Hills to be one of the target areas for a new off-road cycling initiative in the South West
- Parishes of the Blackdown Hills start to work together to produce a community strategy for the whole of the AONB
- Sustainable Development Fund supported 24 projects with a total value of £166,311

Stewards of the landscape

Being a protected landscape the Blackdown Hills is a target area for Higher Level Stewardship. The AONB has worked with Natural England encouraging landowners and farmers coming out of the Environmentally Sensitive Area scheme to enter into one of the Environmental Stewardship schemes.

In the Devon area of the AONB 17 County Wildlife Sites were surveyed and management advice provided to the landowner. This work was supported by Devon County Council and helps to deliver one of its chosen National Indicators – NI197 ‘Improved local biodiversity, active management of local sites’.

Discovering the Hills from Chard

Following on from our successful series of walks leaflets for four areas

within the AONB, we embarked on a new project to promote walks up into the hills from the market towns on the fringes of the AONB. Working with financial and in-kind contributions from South Somerset District Council as well as local volunteers, we devised six new routes of varying lengths that explore the countryside around Chard. Once again the walk descriptions were written by keen local walker Geoff Rickson; the leaflet also includes interesting background information about this historic town.

Roads fit for an Outstanding area

The way in which roads and the roadside environment are managed can have a significant effect on rural character, local distinctiveness, heritage, and biodiversity of the AONB. Working with Devon County

Council highways team and other AONBs and National Parks in Devon, best practice advice was prepared including local examples of sensitive, low maintenance measures that help to protect and enhance the character and quality of the highway network.

Bikes in the forests

1SW is a major off-road cycling initiative led by the Forestry Commission and funded by the Rural Development Programme England. The AONB is involved in the mapping aspect of the project whereby suitable cycling routes will be surveyed and graded and, along with other facilities, will be easily accessible through an Adventure Cycle Map via a dedicated website. Working with the other protected landscapes in the South West through the South West Protected Landscape Forum the project will

direct cyclists to areas where they will not cause damage or conflict with other users. In addition to the health and wellbeing benefits of this project, it is hoped that local businesses will benefit from an increase in tourism generated by an increased awareness of off-road cycling opportunities.

Horses in protected landscapes

The AONB team collaborated with all the South West Protected Landscapes Forum (14 AONBs and two National Parks) on the production of a guidance document Horses, the landscape and you in partnership with the British Horse Society and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

Recognising the popularity of keeping and riding horses in the South West, the guide provides advice, information and contacts to help make sure horses are well cared for and make a positive contribution to our landscape.

Making the case for the Hills

One of the key remits of the AONB is to comment on the policies and strategies of its partners that affect the area. In 2009/10 we commented the following:

- Natural England: Draft Policy on Protected Landscapes

Sustainable Development Fund

The AONB’s Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) comes wholly from Natural England. This year it supported 24 environmental and community projects that had a total value of £166,311. The total grant expenditure was £48,400, which brought a further £117, 911 into the local economy.



Project	Grant received
Black Down Common - Access Improvements & Training	1,806
Blackdowns Young Environmentalists	8,616
Wambrook Green Meadow Festival	1,800
The Border Project	2,000
Community Dance Project	5,000
MiL Project Development Workers	5,400
Hemyock Hands-on History	3,389
Border Project 2	986
Hemyock Life and Times Book	1,000
Cycling in the Blackdown Hills AONB	1,000
Working Our Woodlands	4,500
Neroche Parish Plan	950
The Book of Neroche	5,000
Local Community Training Course	400
School Planetarium	435
Hemyock Primary Outdoor Classroom	450
Riparian Landowners Information Pack	950
Students to the Stars	685
Somerset Car Free Day Out	1,000
Stockland Village Shop Open Evening	250
Discovering Otterhead Lakes	970
Bags for market	545
Blackdown Hills Hedge Laying Film	1,000
The Earth in Space	268

- Long-term role of the Forestry Commission England Public Forest Estate
- Department for Communities and Local Government: Permitted development rights for small- scale renewable energy and low-carbon energy technologies
- Devon Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Somerset County Council Land Management Strategy
- Somerset Woodland Strategy
- East Devon Interim Rural Departure Site Policy for Mixed Affordable and Market Housing
- Mid Devon Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document
- South Somerset Core Strategy Evidence Consultation
- Taunton Deane Green Infrastructure
- Taunton Deane Core Strategy

Plan for the Parishes

A small group of parishes expressed an interest in working together to

convey their collective voice and to develop a community-based plan to emphasise the particular issues affecting Blackdown Hills' communities. The AONB, with financial support from Devon County Council, has supported the early stages of this process, encouraging the proposal to embrace the whole AONB area. Preparation of the plan is due to continue over the coming year.

Blackdown Young Environmentalists

Over the course of 2009 the Blackdown Young Environmentalists Project, devised and led by Somerset Rural Youth Project (SRYP) and funded by the AONB, engaged more than 100 young people and carried out over 500 hours of practical conservation work within the AONB. Local organisations and charities, such as the Otterhead Estate Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust and the Neroche Scheme, benefited from these hard-working, young volunteers.

Other achievements

- New route created from Chard into the Blackdown Hills as part of Somerset Sustainable Tourism Action Plan promoting Car Free Days Out, which encourage people to leave their car at home and enjoy Somerset via public transport.
- Six Circular Walks in the north eastern Blackdown Hills is the latest leaflet in the AONB walks series produced in collaboration with the Neroche scheme.
- Erosion problems have been solved on the route from Culmstock to the Beacon when local people from the parish repaired the path, and constructed steps and boardwalk.
- Preparation of the Neroche Parish Plan has engaged the whole community by setting up a website and organising community events. The AONB has also supported Combe Raleigh, Broadhembury and Dunksell with the production of their Parish Plans.
- Stallholders at village and local farmers' markets in the Blackdown Hills can now sell their produce in specially branded AONB, recyclable paper bags.



Making it Local

Making it local

Making it Local is a locally managed grants programme in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONB, which aims to support projects that make the most of the outstanding landscape and local skills and bring lasting prosperity and economic benefit to the two AONB areas. The programme runs from 2009 to 2013 with funding of £2.4m secured from the Rural Development Programme for England, through the South West Regional Development Agency. The Making it Local team is based at the two AONB offices.

The AONB Sustainable Development Funds supported the employment of two Project development workers for Making it Local, who help people work up suitable projects.

Project	Grant received
Main grants (>£10,000)	
Making it Local project development workers	£166,022
Digital Mentors	£30,000
Pilot Forestry Apprenticeship programme	£98,539
Sustainable Business Networks	£77,499
Working our Woodlands	£54,105
Otter Brewery interpretation centre	£25,000
Axe Woods Woodfuel Co-operative	£15,100
Sustainable Shute	£23,446
Small grants (£1,000 – £10,000)	
East Budleigh community shop	£4,695
Neroche Parish Plan	£1,500
Yarcombe Jubilee Hall	£10,000
Manor House School forest garden	£5,207
Twenty Estonians and two AONBs	£6,450
TOTAL	£517,563

Communications and Management

One of the key roles of the Partnership is to raise awareness of the national importance of the AONB and its special qualities, and to help people enjoy and understand the area.

Highlights

- **Two countryside event leaflets promoted more than 100 events run by the AONB and other partners**
- **Art and dance projects explored the concept of boundaries focussing on the area where the two counties meet**
- **The annual Blackdown Hills Hedge Association's competition was captured on film with support from the AONB**

Hedge laying on the screens

This year's Blackdown Hills Hedge Association (BHHA) hedge laying competition was captured on film for posterity, thanks to a small grant from the AONB's SDF. The film is a celebration of the South West's rural heritage and shows that hedge laying is not just a matter of technique, but is a valuable rural craft that enhances the landscape and conserves wildlife.

Links with Estonia

Members of an Estonian Local Action Group, the West Estonian Islands Partnership, spent a week in both East Devon and the Blackdown Hills AONBs to find out more about how local farmers were developing and marketing products such as meat and fibre. They plan to take these ideas back to Saareema Island where grants from their own Local Action Group will help them put these new ideas into practice.

Dance and art on the border

The Border projects were designed to raise awareness of the issues of boundaries, particularly relevant to the Blackdown Hills AONB, which straddles the two counties of Devon and Somerset. As part of Somerset Arts Week the Blackdown Hills Artists and Makers worked local schools to investigate issues raised by boundaries, physical and emotional, and created installations of their own close to the county

borders. Landance, a contemporary community dance group, gave two spellbinding performances at Castle Neroche. Both projects were supported by the Blackdown Hills AONB.

Other achievements

- **AONB launched itself into the world of social networking via Facebook and Twitter.**
- **Safe Hands, a branch of Exeter Community Service Volunteers for those who require extra support, help mail out the AONB's events leaflets. To say thank-you we arranged a trip for them to the Blackdown Hills.**
- **The AONB funded transport to support Hemyock School's 'learning outside the classroom' activities.**
- **The joint AONB, Neroche Scheme, Making it Local stand at Honiton Show attracted a wide variety of visitors.**

Management and staff

Management group (as at 31 March 2010)

- Paul Diviani**
East Devon District Council (Chair)
- John Berry**
Devon County Council
- Ross Henley**
Somerset County Council
- Ros Roderigo**
South Somerset District Council
- John Thorne**
Taunton Deane Borough Council
- Frank Rosamond**
Mid Devon District Council
- Amanda Newsome**
Natural England
- Emma-Rose Herrera**
Environment Agency
- Gavin Saunders**
Forestry Commission
- Heather Stallard**
Blackdown Hills Business Association
- Hilary Shove**
Women's Institute
- Bob Buxton**
Honiton Development Trust
- Frank Edwards**
Blackdown Hills Hedge Association
- Richard Kallaway**
National Farmers Union
- Roland Stonex**
Devon Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
- Geoffrey Swarder**
Campaign to Protect Rural England/
Community Council of Devon (Vice Chair)

- David Jenkins**
National Trust
- Mike Hudson**
Culm and North Parishes
- David Allen**
Yarty and East Parishes

Members who retired during the year:

- Brian Phelps**
Culm and North Parishes
- John Cathcart**
Otter and West Parishes
- Allison Wallis**
Natural England

AONB staff team

- Manager**
Linda Bennett
- Planning officer**
Lisa Turner
- Project co-ordinator**
Nickie Moore
- Information officer (until June)**
Katherine Morgan
- Temporay information officer (from June)**
Kate West
- Office manager**
Jackie Vaughan
- SDF admin assistant**
Caroline Newcombe

Making it Local staff team

- Programme manager**
Jenny Archard
- Programme development workers**
Nicola Buckingham
Hattie Winter
- Programme assistant**
Carrie Mason



Funding and finance

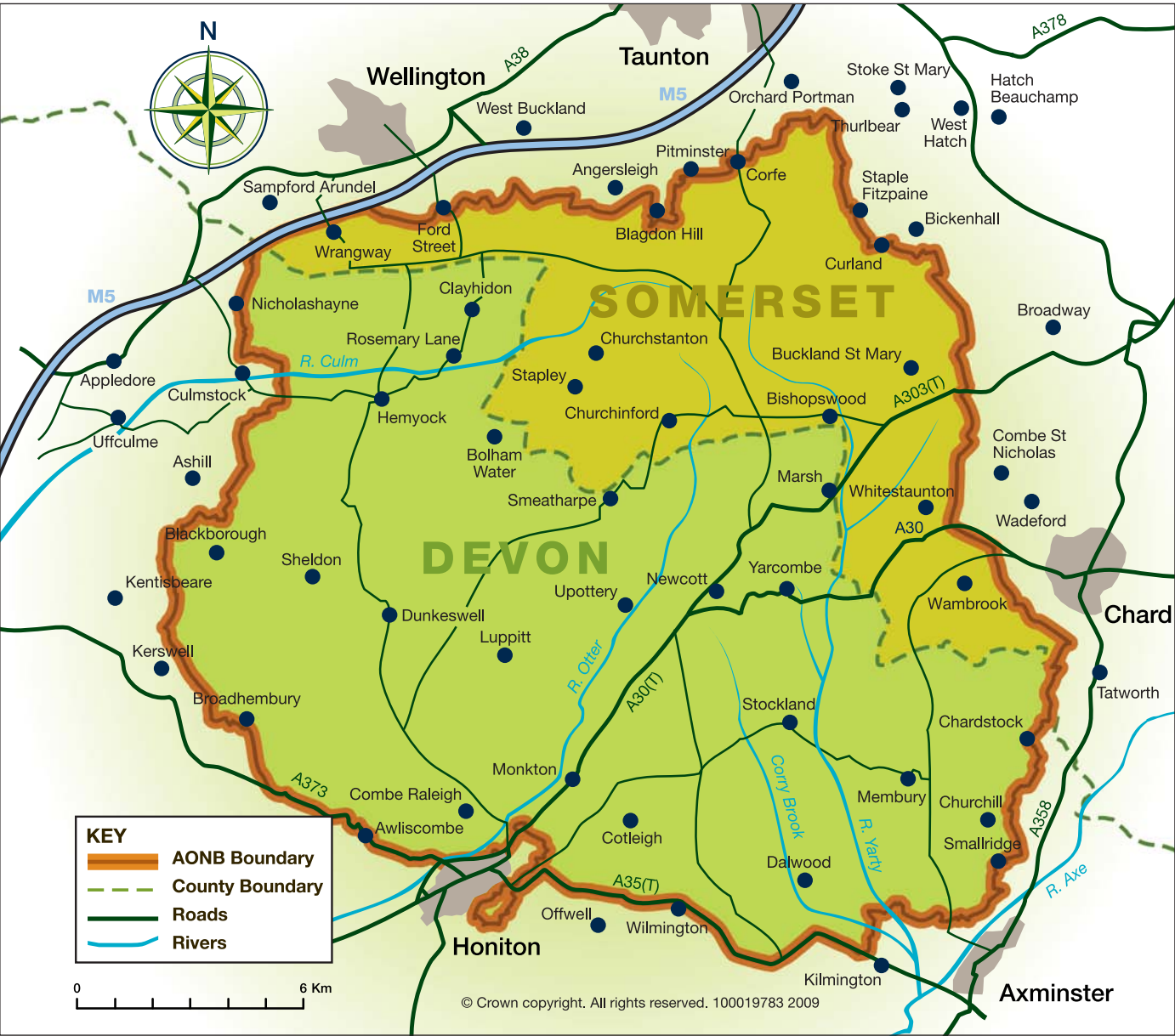
The Blackdown Hills AONB is publicly financed by central government and local authorities. We also bid to other sources of funding to bring in money for projects.

The core work of the Blackdown Hills AONB is funded by Natural England, Devon and Somerset County Councils, East Devon, Mid Devon and South Somerset District Councils and Taunton Deane Borough Council.

Financial information 2009/2010

Income		Expenditure	
2008/09 Income brought forward	£33,313	Staffing	£172,284
Natural England SDF 08/09 income brought forward	£5,683	Office costs	£32,146
Natural England	£218,571	Partnership costs	£51,248
Devon County Council	£12,300	Projects	£36,046
Somerset County Council	£12,000	Sustainable Development Fund 08/09	£5,683
Mid Devon District Council	£12,300	Sustainable Development Fund 09/10	£46,529
East Devon District Council	£12,300		
South Somerset District Council	£12,300		
Taunton Deane Borough Council	£12,000		
Rental income	£10,000		
Other income	£6,349		
Income carried forward to 2010/11	-£2,693		
Carry forward other income	-£487		
Total Income	£343,936	Total Expenditure	£343,936

Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Landscapes for Life

The Blackdown Hills AONB is one of a family of protected landscapes. There are 47 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England, Wales and Northern Ireland covering XXXXXXX percent of the land area. They are unique and irreplaceable national assets and along with National Parks represent our finest landscapes.

The National Association of AONBs works to raise the profile of the designation and to secure the sustainable future of these areas. This work includes lobbying government for improvements in legislations, influencing plans and strategies, raising awareness and providing

training and liaison for those working for the conservation of these special areas.

In the South West the South West Protected Landscapes Forum promotes best practice in the management of protected landscapes throughout the 14 AONBs and two National Parks in the South West. It co-ordinates collaborative projects and funding applications, encourages joint working and raises the profile and promote understanding of these special area of countryside within the region.

Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership

Axe Vale & District
Conservation Society

BTCV

Blackdown Hills
Business Association

Blackdown Hills
Hedge Association

Blackdown Hills Walking Group

Blackdown Hills
Woodland Association

Blackdown Support Group

British Horse Society

Butterfly Conservation

Community Council for Somerset

Community Council of Devon

Campaign to Protect
Rural England

Council for Voluntary Service
(Mid Devon)

Culm Valley Young Farmers

Devon County Council

Devon Farming & Wildlife
Advisory Group

Devon Rural Women's Network

Devon Wildlife Trust

Devon Youth Association

East Devon Council for
Voluntary Service

East Devon District Council

English Heritage

Environment Agency (Devon)

Forest Enterprise

Forestry Commission

Highways Agency

Honiton Development Trust

Mid Devon District Council

National Farmers Union

National Trust

Natural England

Parish councils

Ramblers Association

Silvanus Trust

Somerset County Council

Somerset Rural Youth Project

Somerset Wildlife Trust

Somerset Young Farmers Club

Somerset Farming &
Wildlife Advisory Group

South Somerset District Council

South West Regional
Development Agency

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Wessex Water

Women's Institutes

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update photo credits



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