

Tamar Valley Management Plan

Initial survey - Have your say on what you value most about Tamar Valley National Landscape

Devon Countryside Access Forum response submitted online 23.08.24.

What are the top three things you value most about the Tamar Valley National Landscape?

- A protected landscape
- Scenic views
- Wildlife habitats and species
- Wild open spaces
- Attractive villages
- Thriving local economy and communities
- Farming and land management
- Recreational opportunities (e.g. walking, cycling, birdwatching, canoeing, paddleboarding, fishing)
- Visitor attractions
- Heritage and historic environment
- Places to stay and eat
- Peace, quiet and tranquillity
- Dark skies
- Rivers
- Woodlands and hedgerows

2. Is there anything else that you particularly value about the Tamar Valley National Landscape that is not listed?

3. Please tick which of the key interests you think the Tamar Valley National Landscape should focus on during the review of the management plan?

- Landscape-scale conservation and enhancement, natural habitat connectivity and improved condition
- Soil health, soil management and soil regeneration
- Woodland and hedgerow creation and management
- River catchment management upstream from the Tamar Valley National Landscape area
- Wildflower meadow creation and management
- Strategic housing development and planning in the National Landscape including design code guides
- The future of farming and food production, including market garden initiatives
- Visitor experience, access and recreation information and encouragement of sustainable tourism
- Business and job creation advertising initiatives

- Community healthcare and wellbeing within the Tamar Valley National Landscape
- Education, training and volunteering opportunities, community group activities and annual events
- Species conservation such as the Dormouse, Greater Horseshoe Bat and Heath Fritillary Butterfly
- Addressing wildlife crime
- Protection of dark skies and tranquillity of the area
- Improved access for all information and accessible trails for wheelchair users
- Natural flood management and river quality
- Sustainable living guidance and energy reduction initiatives
- Air quality monitoring, methane capture and hydrogen application opportunities
- Lobbying voice, advocacy and influence for Nature-based community issues
- Community placemaking, connectivity and transport including promotion of green travel initiatives
- Heritage and historic environment
- Electrical charging point installations and promotion
- Green finance investment, donations and legacies attraction for Nature-based work
- Climate adaptation advice, guidance and project delivery
- Domestic garden guidance for optimum environments for birds, insects and ponds
- Freshwater and marine species monitoring
- Extension of the national Landscape boundary to protect a larger landscape area
- Reducing, repurposing and recycling guidance to minimise domestic and commercial waste
- Improved gateway road and rail signage announcing arrival into the Tamar Valley National Landscape
- Arts, crafts and exhibitions events and promotion

4. Are there any other key interest you think we've missed. Please state below and where possible give reasons why you think these are important.

Under section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, the Devon Countryside Access Forum's remit as a local access forum is to advise as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. Therefore, its selection of priorities and key interests reflects that. However, access sits in a wider context of the landscape and economy and it benefits from those being healthy and vibrant too.

The Forum advises that improved access and connectivity of access routes should also be a priority as that would encourage greater usage, particularly if safety issues associated with routes ending or running along roads can be addressed. This might be an aspect that could be included in one of the workstreams of the Protected Landscapes partnership which aims to consider how to remove barriers to access.

The Forum strongly encourages working in partnership with land managers to identify improvements and changes to access.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum has an AONB position statement which it developed in 2018. This is on the agenda to be reviewed at the next meeting in September 2024 and the new National Landscapes position statement will inform the Forum's response to further consultations.

5. Is there anything you think could be enhanced in the Tamar Valley National Landscape? Please state below and where possible give reasons why.

Our draft vision

We're also developing a vision to shape our delivery priorities leading to 2050 for the Tamar Valley National Landscape. Here's our first attempt:

By 2055, the 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, enjoying clear air, clean water, plentiful food, good health and resilience to a changing climate and variable economy. The 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.

6. To what extent do you agree this is the right vision for the Tamar Valley National Landscape?

- Agree strongly
- Agree somewhat
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree somewhat
- Disagree strongly
- Don't know

7. Is there anything else you believe we should strive for, or what else would you like to see happen over the next 25 years?

The Devon Countryside Access Forum advises that the vision should place more emphasis on the Tamar Valley being a living and working environment.

The Tamar Valley offers significant access opportunities for a range of different access users, such as walkers, dog walkers, horse riders, cyclists, runners and wheelchair/mobility scooter users. The phrase in the draft vision stating that 'Nature and People are entirely connected' does not sufficiently cover the richness of these access facilities.

8. The Tamar Valley National Landscape has an office hub at the Tamar Valley Centre at Drakewalls. What activities would you like to see take place at the Tamar Valley Centre?

9. Would you like to be able to book rooms for events and hotdesking in this building and if so what services would you need access to?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Our communications and your interest

The following questions are entirely voluntary and we only use this information for shaping our own communications in the future.

10. Where did you find out about this questionnaire?

Website

11. Which of these key interests are your top 5 priorities?

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- Soil health, soil management and soil regeneration
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12. Are you responding to this survey on behalf of an organisation?

- Yes
- No

13. What is the name of your organisation

Devon Countryside Access Forum.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF) is a local access forum under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act). Its statutory remit is to give independent advice “as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area...” Section 94(4) of the Act specifies bodies to whom the Forum has a statutory function to give advice, and this includes the National Landscapes and the Secretary of State for any Government Department.

The DCAF currently has nineteen members, appointed by Devon County Council, who represent the interests of landowners/managers, access users and other relevant areas of expertise such as conservation and tourism.

14. What is your role within the organisation

Forum Officer