



**East Devon  
National  
Landscape**

**State of the  
National  
Landscape Report  
2025**

**Craggatak Consulting**

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access to research and survey resources. We set out the sources of data with each of our maps and tables.

East Devon National Landscape Partnership published a State of Nature Report in 2021<sup>1</sup> and will be updating it in 2024. This is a separate but complimentary study. Though we use that report for cross-checking data, we do not duplicate its work in this report.

## Acknowledgements

Photographs owned by the East Devon National Landscape Partnership.

Craggatak Consulting acknowledges the support given by the National Landscape team; they have supplied materials and given

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<sup>1</sup> Jeffreys K, Olney S, Foster J, Collins P (2021): East Devon AONB State of Nature Report, Geckoella Ltd.

## Location of the East Devon National Landscape



Figure 1: National Landscape and location: Source GIS data obtained from OS Open data and [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk) – October 2023.

## Summary

Topic	Notes
<b>Nature</b>	
Number of SSSIs	There are 16 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the National Landscape, occupying 1,806 ha (6.7%) of its area.
Percentage of SSSIs in a favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition	94% of its SSSIs are in a favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition. There has been no change since 2017.
Number of NNRs	There are 2 designated Sites of National Nature Reserves (NNR) in the National Landscape, occupying 1512 ha (5.6%) of its area.
Number of SACs	There are 4 designated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in the National Landscape, occupying 1642 ha (6.1%) of its area.
Number of SPAs	There are 2 designated Special Protection Areas (SPA) in the National Landscape, occupying 1122 ha (4.2%) of its area.
Number of WHSs	The National Landscape includes a part of one World Heritage Site (WHS).
Area of priority habitats	There are 5,524.44 ha of priority habitats covering 20.5% of the National Landscape.
Area of woodland	There are 4,750 ha of woodland covering 17.6% of the National Landscape.
Area of ancient woodland	There are 550 ha of ancient woodland covering 2% of the National Landscape.
Percentage of woodland in active management	59% (up from 51% in 2013).
Locally protected sites	Non-statutory designated sites cover around 7% of the East Devon National Landscape. Statutory Local Nature Reserves cover 0.2% of the East Devon National Landscape.
Ecological status of rivers and lakes	There are no rivers with high or good ecological status in the National Landscape; 20% of coastal/transitional (estuarine) bodies and 83.3% of groundwaters have a good ecological status.
Air quality	Particulate matter (PM2-5) levels low in the area but with hot-spots along the road network. Sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) levels are low in the area but a few hotspots linked to centres of population.

## Climate

Greenhouse gases	<p>There has been a <b>10.8% increase</b> in the accumulation of carbon in the National Landscape's vegetation and soils between 2005 and 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agriculture is the highest producer of greenhouse gases in both years. It produced 107 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2012 and 93.1 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022 (<b>13% reduction</b>).</li><li>• Domestic was the next highest producer of greenhouse gases in 2012, producing 54.1 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e, this fell to 30.2 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022 (<b>44% reduction</b>).</li><li>• Transport was also a dominant source of greenhouse gas emissions in 2012 at 46.5 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e, this rose to 47.3 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022 (<b>1.7% increase</b>).</li><li>• There has been a <b>17.6% reduction</b> in emissions from waste management, a <b>52% reduction</b> from commercial operations, a <b>50% reduction</b> from industrial, and a <b>28% reduction</b> by the public sector between 2012 and 2022.</li><li>• The amount of carbon stored in the soils and vegetation <b>increased by 10.8%</b> between 2005 and 2022.</li></ul>
	<p>High levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels in 2022. Transport produced 47% of emissions, domestic 30% and agriculture 12%. The highest concentration (100+ kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) is along the A64 and A170.</p> <p>Moderate levels of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) levels in 2022. 86% of emissions come from agriculture (associated with the livestock). 12.5% comes from waste management.</p> <p>Low levels of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) levels in 2022, which is generally very low. 90% of emissions come from agriculture soils. There are hotspots around Exmouth and other settlements.</p>
Carbon flux	<p>The organic carbon flux from habitats present within the National Landscape was set at 9,023 t CO<sub>2</sub>e or 0.3 t CO<sub>2</sub>e / ha. 90% of the carbon is stored below ground.</p> <p><b>3% increase</b> in carbon accumulating in the local soils and vegetation between 2012 and 2022</p>
Renewable energy generation	<p>There are no renewable energy generation sites operating within the National Landscape but two are awaiting construction.</p>
Change in weather patterns	<p>3-millimetre increase in annual rainfall, a rise of 0.8°C in annual temperature, and a rise of 4 hours annual sunshine over the last 80 years</p>

Area at risk of flooding	The large majority of the National Landscape is not at risk of flooding but there is a high risk along the valleys of the Axe and Otter rivers.
Surface water flood risk	Low risk
Surface water velocity	Very little high velocity flood water is predicted within the National Landscape.
Coastal erosion rates	A loss of 10 m in 30 years if no active intervention
<b>People</b>	
Population	25,100 in 2021
% of population of working age (16-64)	50%
General health of the resident population (%)	45% of the resident population enjoy very good health; only 1% suffer very bad health; 80% of the resident population suffered no long-term health conditions.
Disability status of resident population (%)	20% class as disabled under the Equality Act.
Ethnicity of resident population (%)	98% class as white
Gender of resident population (%)	50% class as female
Levels of deprivation (deciles)	Communities within the National Landscape generally lie in the least deprived quartile of the national average. The parishes of Southleigh, Farway, Offwell and Northleigh lie in the middle of the national average but there are pockets of deprivation in the outskirts of Exmouth.
Employment profile by occupation 2011 to 2021:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +2% in managerial &amp; professional occupations</li> <li>• -2% in skilled trade, administrative and caring occupations</li> </ul> <p>All other occupational sectors remain the same</p>
Employment profile by industry	<p>Decline in industry since 2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -1% in land-based employment</li> <li>• -2% in distribution, hotel &amp; restaurants</li> </ul>

Increase in industry since 2011:

- +2% in professional & public sector

Employment status	58% employed (up 12% from 2011) 4% seeking work (up 2% from 2011) 38% not seeking works (down 14% from 2011)
Employment in farming	4% of resident population employed in farming (constant during the last 5 years though there is an increase of around 17% since 2010).
Rights of Way	There are 361.8 kilometres of rights of way recorded in the National Landscape (comparable to 2019).
Access to a car or van	89% of the resident population have access to at least one car or van (up from 86% in 2011)
Traffic counts	Combined daily traffic flows for 2018-22 show the busiest monitoring point is at Stafford Cross, on the A3052, with an average daily flow of 9,611 vehicles.  The quietest monitoring point is at Putts Corner, on the A375 (3,326 vehicles).
Bus routes	21 bus routes recorded. There is a good level of service at least 5 days a week. Weekend services are limited.
Access land	2% of the land in the National Landscape is open access land or accessible green infrastructure
<b>Place</b>	
Number and condition of heritage assets	There are 866 Listed Buildings, 59 Scheduled Monuments and 4 Registered Parks and Gardens. Of these, 9 assets are at risk (50% improvement since 2019)
Number and condition of conservation areas	There are eight Conservation Areas within the National Landscape; none are at risk.
Agricultural land-use	68% of the National Landscape is under agriculture (18,783 ha).
Agricultural holdings	During the last five years the number of holdings has remained at around 300. 39% are less than 20 hectares, 40% are between 20-100 hectares, and 21% are over 100 hectares in size. 43% are lowland livestock grazing farms, and 22% are general cropping farms.
Livestock numbers	Poultry is the largest group of livestock (82,802 animals), a 5% decrease in numbers since 2016. However, sheep (11,180 breeding ewes) and cattle (9,485 animals) are the most dominant livestock in the landscape. There is an 8% decline in sheep numbers since 2016, cattle numbers are stable (0.2% fall).



Land in agri-environment schemes There are 7,383 ha entered into agri-environment schemes, covering 27% of the National Landscape, at a value of £746,468.

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Development monitoring 2,802 planning applications submitted in the national landscape during the last five years (78% were approved).  
Twelve major applications were submitted during this period and to date, 75% were approved but the remaining 25% are still to be considered.  
Since 2019, there have been 26 affordable home completions in the National Landscape.

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Number of development plans with Spatial Strategy and allocations 1 adopted plan with policies relevant to the National Landscape.  
The emerging local plan proposes 183 new homes in the National Landscape and allocates 0.15 ha for new employment sites

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Number and change in Neighbourhood Plans 13 made Neighbourhood Plans.

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# Introduction

## The East Devon National Landscape

Designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty sixty years ago, in 1963, the East Devon National Landscape covers 268 square kilometres (103 square miles). The area is full of contrast and colour, diverse and rich in wildlife. It is a working landscape that is home to around 21,000 residents. The National Landscape lies solely within East Devon District but abuts the Blackdown Hills National Landscape to the north and Dorset NL to the east. Except for Budleigh Salterton, the National Landscape skirts the major settlements in the area and is characterised by small villages and hamlets at the coast and along its valleys.

## Purpose of document

This is a timely update of the state of the area and many of its special qualities, and will help to inform the statutory review of the current East Devon National Landscape Management Plan (2019-24) and support the preparation of a new plan.

This report pulls together the data and information gathered by the National Landscape team, with its partners including Natural England, for the East Devon National Landscape; and from other sources as indicated. It presents data collated in the autumn of 2023 alongside comparable data from the previous report published in 2017, where such exists, or to alternative baselines against which there are comparisons and trends.

## Data considerations

There were difficulties in securing some data for this report. Several of the data sets collated for the 'State of AONB' Report (2017) are no longer in use or are otherwise no longer available. In such cases the data collated here should become the new baseline for future comparison purposes.

Where original data from 2017, or before, was absent or not available, we have attempted to extract useable figures from graphs or visuals. As a result, some of the comparative data used are estimates and there is a degree of error.

Defra and its agencies do provide some recent environmental data cut to the National Landscape boundary. This is through the national framework for monitoring environmental outcomes (MEOPL) in National Parks and National Landscapes. Natural England leads in this work, in close partnership with Defra, the English National Park Authorities Association, Historic England and the National Landscapes Association.

No new studies were commissioned for this report and not all data can be disaggregated to the National Landscape boundary. Furthermore, it is recognised that many partners take actions that secure the Management Plan's objectives, but do not necessarily report these to the National Landscape.

Census statistics help paint a picture of the nation and how we live. They provide a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics. Census data is not cut to the National Landscape boundary. There is a need to identify the best-fitting smaller area data to give a reasonable estimate for the National Landscape area. We have created our own best fit and we exclude some parishes where only a very minor part of the parish is within and/or much of the population of that parish are

outside the National Landscape. This means that our census presentations should be seen as estimates of the likely position. There was a Census in 2021, and some headline data is available but publication of small-area data is just emerging. The official figures may be described as estimated because:

- a. there is not a 100% response (Maximising the quality of Census 2021 population estimates - Office for National Statistics ([ons.gov.uk](https://ons.gov.uk))); and
- b. output areas do not correlate exactly with parish boundaries.

For this reason, we do not show the numeric values recorded in the census, rather, we use the percentage scores for each topic. The exception is the overall population and age profile of the National Landscape. This data is supplied by the ONS as population estimates for census 2021 based on the best-fitting of output areas to the National Landscape and shows the numeric values.

## Nature

The State of Nature for the East Devon National Landscape is part of a suite of projects that make up the Nature Recovery Plan that will address the extinction emergency for biodiversity (visit <https://www.eastdevon-nl.org.uk/our-work/projects/colchester-declaration>). Material held on the nature recovery plans is easily accessible and we only present the highlights in this report.

The National Landscape supports a diverse range of habitats and has more woodland cover than many other National Landscapes in the South West of England. The area supports a predominantly pastoral landscape, interspersed with copses and wooded goyles, as well as extensive networks of steep sided Devon hedge-banks, with occasional valley floor and valley side marshlands and unimproved grasslands. The coastal strip supports a range of maritime cliff and clifftop habitats with extensive grasslands and woodlands. The hedgerows are an important landscape connectivity feature for wildlife, such as brown hairstreak butterfly and multiple rare and protected bat species.

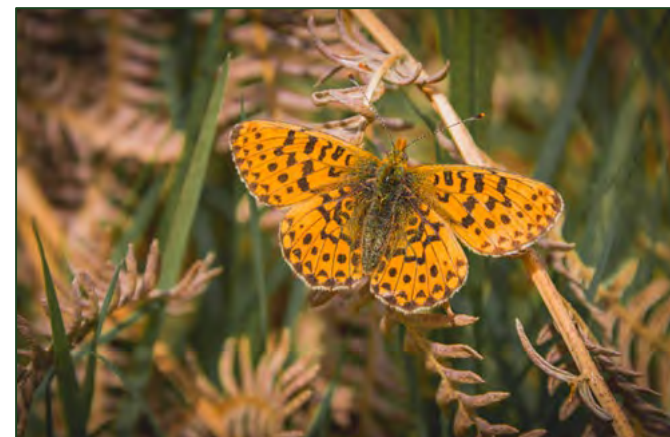


Priority habitats and designated sites for nature conservation comprise a relatively good coverage within the East Devon National Landscape:

- Priority habitat accounts for approximately 17% cover.
- Designated sites for nature conservation account for approximately 14% cover.

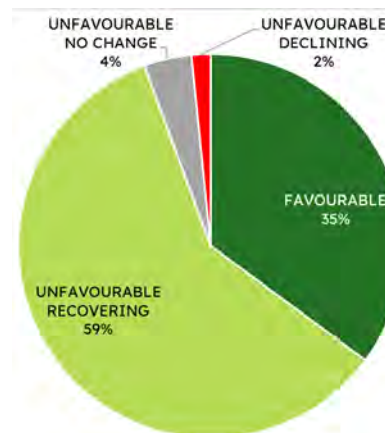
The National Landscape has selected eight special species to drive the wider protection and recovery of important habitats and other fauna and flora found within them, within the National Landscape. Distribution and changes over time are shown on the Nature Recovery Plan website. The special species for the National Landscape are:

- Pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly - *Boloria euphrosyne*
- Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly - *Boloria selene*
- Brown hairstreak butterfly - *Thecla betulae*
- Greater horseshoe bat - *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*
- Bechstein's bat - *Myotis bechsteinii*
- Grey long-eared bat - *Plecotus austriacus*
- Devon whitebeam - *Sorbus devoniensis*
- Heath lobelia - *Lobelia urens*



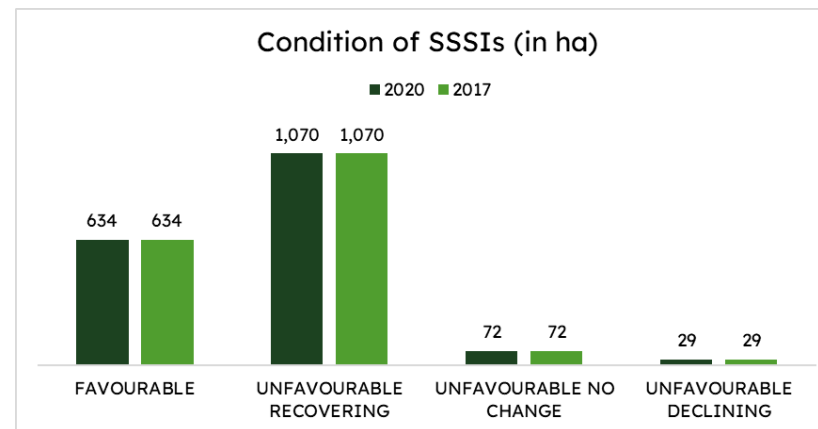
## Location and condition of SSSIs

There are 16 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the National Landscape, occupying 1,806 ha (6.7%) of its area.



SSSIs designation is for their national importance for nature conservation or earth heritage. Natural England assesses the condition of all SSSI's using a common standard methodology. There is a national target for **95%** of SSSI's (by area) to be in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition.

The pie chart shows that the National Landscape does not quite meet this target. **94%** of its SSSIs are in a favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition. There has been no change from 2017.



Source: GIS data 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest Condition Units England Natural England' obtained from [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk), 22 March 2022. Note: almost all the SSSIs were last assessed more than eight years ago and the condition of many SSSIs may have changed since then. Natural England is embarking on a new round of assessments from 2022.

## Location of NNRs

There are 2 designated Sites of National Nature Reserves (NNR) in the National Landscape, occupying 1,512 ha (5.6%) of its area.



### **Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs - 263 ha**

One of the largest and most important active coastal landslip systems in Western Europe. Its main habitats are woodland, lowland grassland, rocky shore, cliffs. Holm Oak along with Laurel, Rhododendron and Pampas Grass are being controlled as a priority within the native Ash and Field Maple woodland in the western half of the site.

Lying at the heart of the 'Jurassic Coast' World Heritage Site, it is one of the finest wilderness areas in Great Britain. The reserve has excellent geological exposures from the Triassic, Cretaceous and Jurassic eras and is internationally famous for fossils

### **Pebblebed Heaths - 1,249 ha**

The largest block of lowland heath in Devon. It is an internationally important representative of the inland Atlantic-climate, lowland heathlands of Britain and north-west Europe.

The Clinton Devon Estates, the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust, RSPB and Devon Wildlife Trust manage the NNR.

A significant feature of the site is the diversity of heathland-associated plant and animal communities that reflect the varied topography, geology, hydrology and water chemistry of the area.

The reserve was extended in 2023 as part of the Lower Otter Restoration Project.

National Nature Reserves are open to the public; their purpose is to protect some of our most important habitats, species and geology; and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research.

Source: GIS data 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest Condition Units England Natural England' obtained from [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk), 22 March 2022. Note: almost all the SSSIs were last assessed more than eight years ago and the condition of many SSSIs may have changed since then. Natural England is embarking on a new round of assessments from 2022.

## Location of SAC

There are 4 designated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in the National Landscape, occupying 1642 ha (6.1%) of its area.



### Beer Quarry & Caves - 31 ha

This site supports important populations of hibernating bats. Its use as a hibernation site by the Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii* is the primary reason for its designation as a SAC.

### East Devon Pebblebed Heaths - 1,118 ha

This is the largest block of lowland heath in Devon, and it is internationally important for its Northern Atlantic wet heaths and extensive areas of lowland European dry heaths. Among the 21 breeding dragonfly species recorded at the site is the southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*, an Annex II species.

### River Axe - 14 ha

The lower reaches of the River Axe feature a mixed catchment geology of sandstones and limestones giving rise to calcareous waters and associated water-crowfoots *Ranunculus fluitantis* and water-starworts *Callitriche batrachion*. The river also supports the significant presence of sea lamprey, brook lamprey and bullhead.

### Sidmouth to West Bay - 478 ha

A highly unstable soft cliff coastline subject to mudslides and landslips. Vegetation is very varied and includes pioneer communities on recent slips, calcareous grassland and scrub on detached chalk blocks, and extensive self-sown woodland dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* or sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. This mosaic of habitats makes this site rich in invertebrates, especially bees and wasps. The Red Data Book lichen *Parmelia quercina* occurs on ash *Fraxinus excelsior* trees.

Source: GIS data 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest Condition Units England Natural England' obtained from [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk), 22 March 2022. Note: almost all the SSSIs were last assessed more than eight years ago and the condition of many SSSIs may have changed since then. Natural England is embarking on a new round of assessments from 2022.

## Location of SPA

There are 2 designated Special Protection Areas (SPA) in the National Landscape, occupying 1122 ha (4.2%) of its area.



### East Devon Heaths - 1,118 ha

The East Devon Heaths is the largest block of lowland heath in Devon, and it is internationally important for its Northern Atlantic wet heaths and extensive areas of lowland European dry heaths. There is an important assemblage of birds, and breeding European nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* and Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata* afford the site SPA status.

### Exe Estuary - 4 ha

The Exe estuary is of international importance for wintering and migratory wetland birds. It is also of national importance for its marine life, especially that associated with intertidal sand and mud flats.

Source: GIS data 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest Condition Units England Natural England' obtained from [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk), 22 March 2022. Note: almost all the SSSIs were last assessed more than eight years ago and the condition of many SSSIs may have changed since then. Natural England is embarking on a new round of assessments from 2022.



## Location of World Heritage Site

Dorset and East Devon Coast is a World Heritage Status under UNESCO's criteria viii - Earth's history and geological features



Source:.

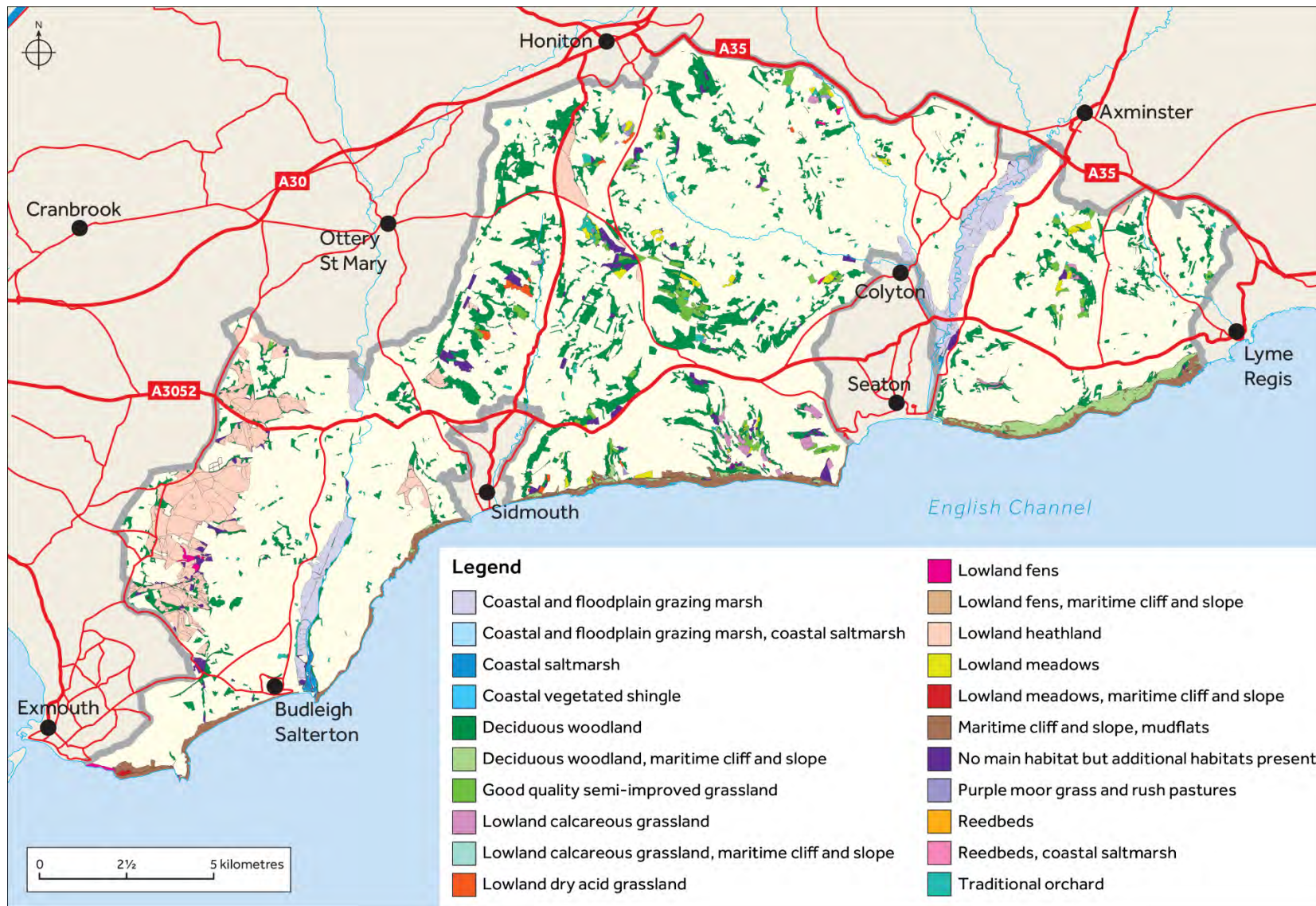
The Dorset and East Devon Coast (known as the Jurassic Coast) has an outstanding combination of globally significant geological and geomorphological features. The property comprises eight sections along 155 km of largely undeveloped coast.

The property's geology displays approximately 185 million years of the Earth's history, including several internationally important fossil localities. The property also contains a range of outstanding examples of coastal geomorphological features, landforms and processes, and is renowned for its contribution to earth science investigations for over 300 years, helping to foster major contributions to many aspects of geology, palaeontology and geomorphology.

This coast is one of the most significant teaching and research sites in the world. It is the only place on Earth where rocks from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods can be seen in one place.

## Area of priority habitats

There are 5,524.44 ha of priority habitats covering 20.5% of the National Landscape. Priority habitats and the ancient woodland Inventory combined, cover approximately 22.6% of the National Landscape.



<b>Priority Habitat</b>	<b>ha</b>
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	663.34
Coastal saltmarsh	21.89
Coastal vegetated shingle	0.74
Deciduous woodland	2,320.45
Lowland calcareous grassland	117.17
Lowland dry acid grassland	83.78
Lowland fens	8.04
Lowland heathland	1,262.75
Lowland meadows	58.06
Maritime cliff and slope	557.76
Mudflats	9.34
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	21.65
Reedbeds	1.38
Traditional orchard	102.26
No main habitat but additional habitats present	295.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,524.44</b>

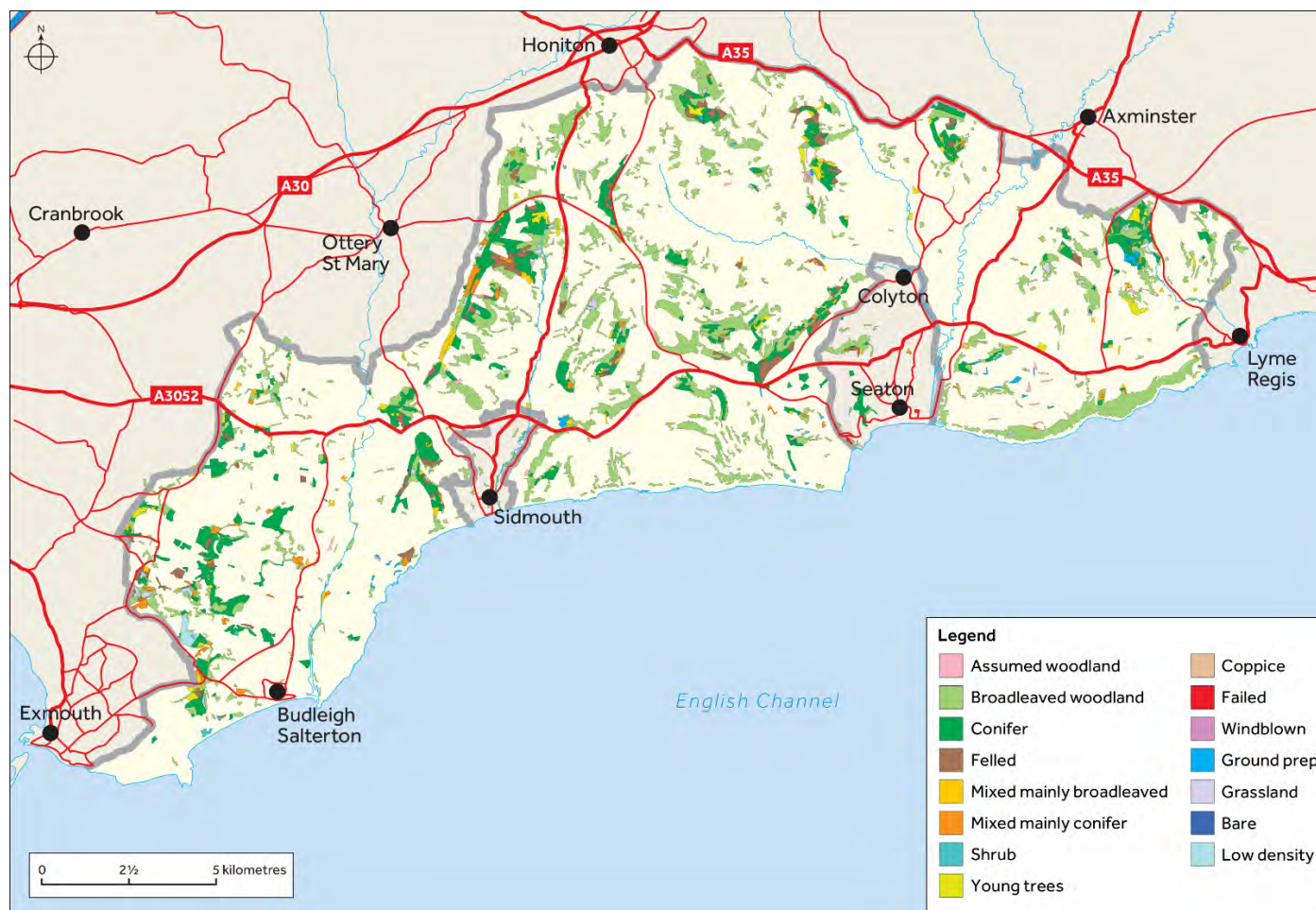
**Note:** There is currently sparse accessible and mappable data relating to the condition of priority habitats at the National Landscape scale. We use the 2021 MEOPL national data set in this report. The East Devon National Landscape Partnership published a State of Nature Report in 2021<sup>2</sup> (a revision is due in 2024) that gives a more ‘fine-grained’ assessment of habitats in the area. It is part of a suite of projects that make up the Nature Recovery Plan for the area (visit <https://www.eastdevon-nl.org.uk/our-work/projects/colchester-declaration>).

Source Data: Priority Habitat Inventory v2.3 2020, SSSI Condition April 2021, © Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Jeffrey K, Olney S, Foster J, Collins P (2021): East Devon AONB State of Nature Report, Geckoella Ltd.

## Area of woodland (by National Forest Inventory types)

There are 4,750 ha of woodland covering 17.6% of the National Landscape with the distribution of National Forest Inventory types



National Forest Inventory types (in ha)

	2013	2018	2020
Broadleaved	2,790	2,799	2,805
Conifer	1,502	1,361	1,296
Coppice	3	3	3
Felled	57	185	238
Windblow	0	1	1
Prepared for planting	24	36	36
Mixed	182	198	202
Shrub	19	19	19
Young trees	134	140	148
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,711</b>	<b>4,743</b>	<b>4,750</b>

59% of woodland is in active management (2,795 ha) (up from 51% in 2013)

Source: © Forestry Commission copyright (2022). Taken from the Natural England Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (England) dataset, dated September 2020.; and the FC National Forest Inventory dated March 2019. Additional information at: <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/national-forest-inventory/about-the-nfi/>

## Area of ancient woodland

There are 550 ha of ancient woodland covering 2% of the National Landscape.



Ancient woodland has two parts, ancient and semi-natural ancient woodland (ASNW), and plantations on ancient woodland Sites (PAWS):

Ancient woodland by theme		Area in Ha
Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland	ASNW	303.1
Ancient Replanted Woodland	PAWS	246.8
		<b>549.9 ha</b>

Source: Natural England-OS Open Government Licence July 2022. M:\Geo-Data\Habitats\_Species\Habitats\Habitat\_Inventories\_Ancient\_Woodland\Ancient\_Woodland\_NE\Ancient\_Woodland.gdb\Ancient\_Woodland (June 2022). Note: The Devon Ancient Woodland Inventory was completed in 2023 but this data has not yet been added to the Magic website.

## Locally protected sites

Statutory Local Nature Reserves cover 0.2% of the East Devon National Landscape. In addition, non-statutory designated sites cover around 7.0% of the area.

A Local Nature Reserve is a statutory designated site, featuring locally important wildlife and/or geological interests. There are three Local Nature Reserves within the area:

- Fire Beacon Hill, Sidmouth (lowland heath);
- Knapp Copse, Putts Corner (woodland and meadows); and
- Trinity Hill, Axminster (lowland heath).

Designation of non-statutory sites is at the local or county level. County Wildlife Sites are designated for their local nature conservation value and important habitats and/or species. Selection of these sites are at a county level and meet local selection criteria.

**Note:** There is sparse accessible and mappable data relating to the condition of Local Wildlife Sites or priority habitats at the National Landscape or finer scale.

Type	Cover	Area (Ha)
Local Nature Reserve	0.2%	61.0
County Wildlife Sites	7%	1892.0
	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>3,243.5</b>

Source: Jeffreys K, Olney S, Foster J, Collins P (2021): East Devon AONB State of Nature Report, Geckoella Ltd.

## Ecological status of rivers and lakes

There are no rivers with high or good ecological status in the National Landscape; 20% of coastal/transitional (estuarine) bodies and 83.3% of groundwaters have a good ecological status.



The Water Framework Directive monitors waterbodies for a range of issues, including pollution from chemicals and excess nutrients, as well as the health of wildlife communities such as plants and fish.

Waterbodies are then rated as high, good, moderate, poor or bad status. Only the waterbodies that are described as 'good' or 'high' are in a sustainable and healthy condition; the rest all need a greater level of protection and management if they are to improve to a good level of health.

The overall ecological quality of most rivers, Squabmoor Reservoir and four of the coastal/transitional water bodies in the National Landscape is **moderate**. The assessment of the river Otter and its tributaries, Knowle Brook, the Gissage and one estuary, is that they have a **poor** overall ecological quality.

However, 20% of coastal / transitional bodies and 83.3% of groundwater bodies are in a **good** condition.

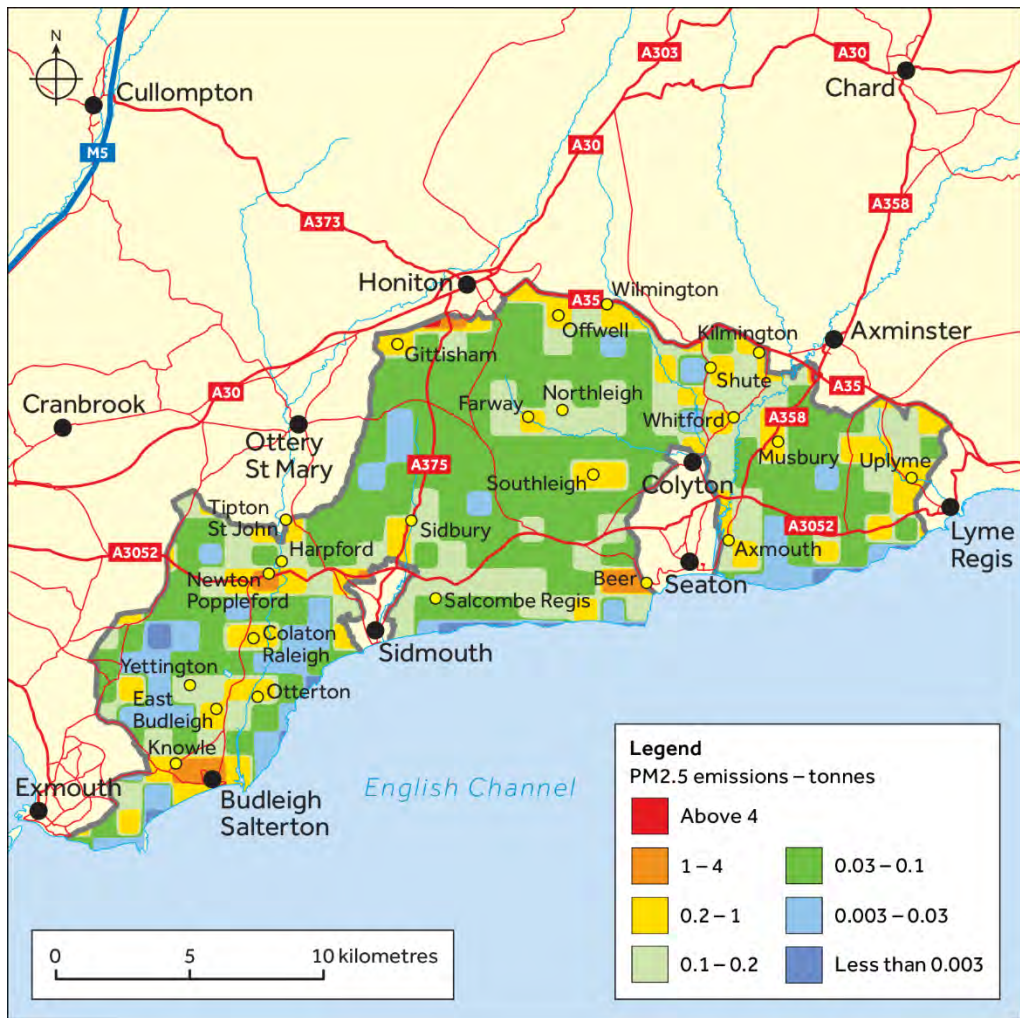
	Length of rivers (Km)	N <sup>o</sup> of lakes & SSSI	N <sup>o</sup> of coastal bodies	N <sup>o</sup> of ground water bodies
High	0	0	0	0
Good	0	0	1	5
Moderate	67.19	1	4	0
Poor	15.94	0	0	1
Bad	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83.13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
% with High or Good status	0%	0%	20%	83.3%

Source: © Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2015 & 2016. All rights reserved. WFD Groundwater Bodies Cycle 2, derived in part from 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 scale digital data under permission from British Geological Survey. ©NERC. © Crown copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey 100024198. © Natural England copyright 2021, reproduced with the permission of Natural England. [www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england) © Crown Copyright and database right 2021.

## Air quality

### Particulate matter in the National Landscape

Showing PM2.5 levels in 2022. Levels are low in the area but with hot-spots along the road network.



Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 ( <https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping> ). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control. Emissions of PM10 and PM2.5 from agricultural sources are distributed using agricultural census data 2014.

The areas with the higher emissions are generally associated with the road network especially around Budleigh Salterton, Newton Poppleford, Beer and the outskirts of Honiton.

Particulate matter (PM) is everything in the air that is not a gas and consists of a huge variety of chemical compounds and materials, some of which can be toxic. PM2.5 is matter that is less than 2.5 micro gram in diameter. Due to the small size, some of these toxins may enter the bloodstream and be transported around the body, lodging in the heart, brain and other organs.

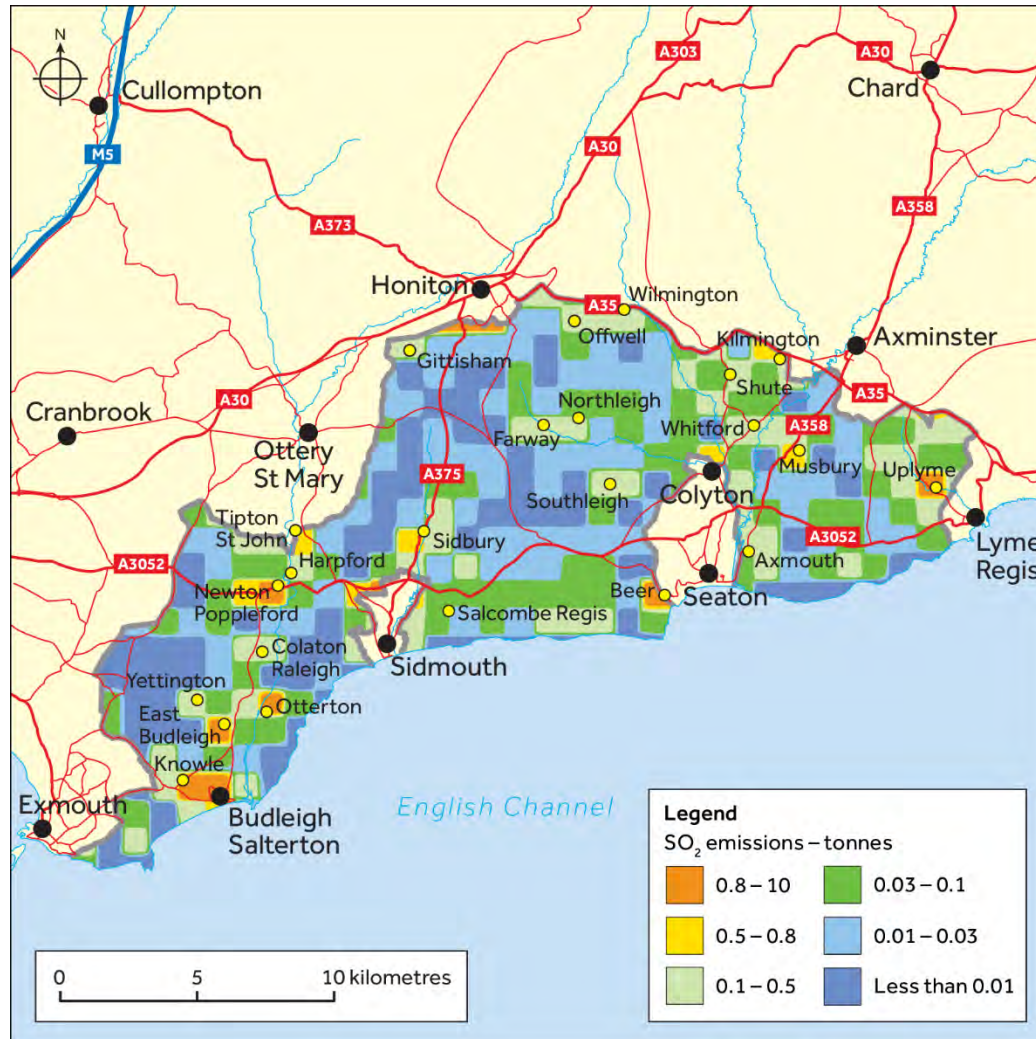
Note on UK emissions: Because of measures in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, PM2.5 emissions from road transport, aviation and railways in 2020 were 23%, 61% and 28% lower than they had been in 2019 respectively.

There are now increasing levels generally, due to increased use of wood as a fuel for homes. Industrial use of biomass fuels is also increasing and has become a more significant contributor to UK emissions.



## Sulphur dioxide in the National Landscape

Showing sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in 2022. Levels are low in the area but there are a few hotspots linked to centres of population.



The principal man-made source of sulphur dioxide is the combustion of fossil fuels.

There are high levels of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) (> 0.8 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) around Budleigh Salterton, Newton Poppleford, Beer, Uplyme and the outskirts of Honiton.

Sulphur dioxide contributes to aerosol formation which can either warm (through absorption of solar radiation on dark particles) or cool (from forming cloud droplets and reflecting radiation) the atmosphere.

Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 ( <https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping> ). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

# Climate

The climate data in this section is indicative, as there is only a limited collection within the National Landscape. The Department for Energy Security & Net Zero has published a nationally consistent set of greenhouse emissions estimates at the local authority level since 2005; and reports on renewable energy installations. The Metrological Office collects weather data at Exter Airport that enables the plotting of local trends. The Environment Agency seeks to predict flood risk for the rivers and it monitors coastal erosion and the South West Coastal Monitoring group contributes to the National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping data base.

Although the global climate has been relatively stable in recent times, there have been periods of extreme change in the past. The climate is changing again now and this trend is expected to accelerate in coming decades. There is strong evidence



linking the current period of change to increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The increase is mainly due to human activity, including fossil fuel combustion, deforestation, drainage of peat bogs and agriculture.

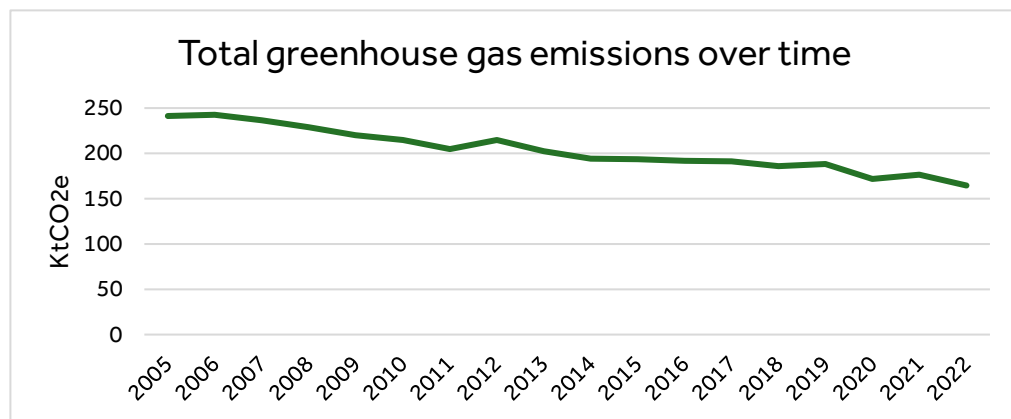


Some impacts on the National Landscape will arise as a direct result of changing weather patterns and seasons. For example, changing levels of sunlight, temperatures and soil moisture will affect the growth of plants. Increased rainfall may lead to flooding. Other impacts will result from the actions taken to adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as planting different crops, or to reduce the impact on climate change, such as planting trees or installing renewable energy technologies.

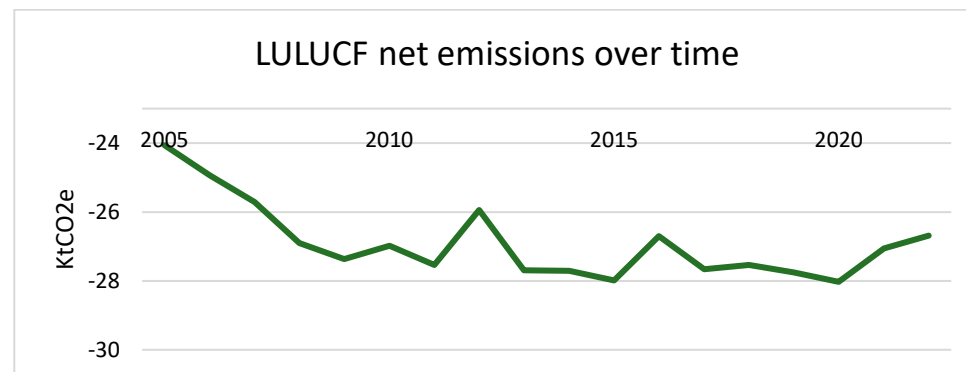
## Greenhouse gases

### Trend data for the East Devon National Landscape

A series of tables showing levels of the combined greenhouse gases for the East Devon National Landscape. There has been a 30% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions between 2005 and 2022.



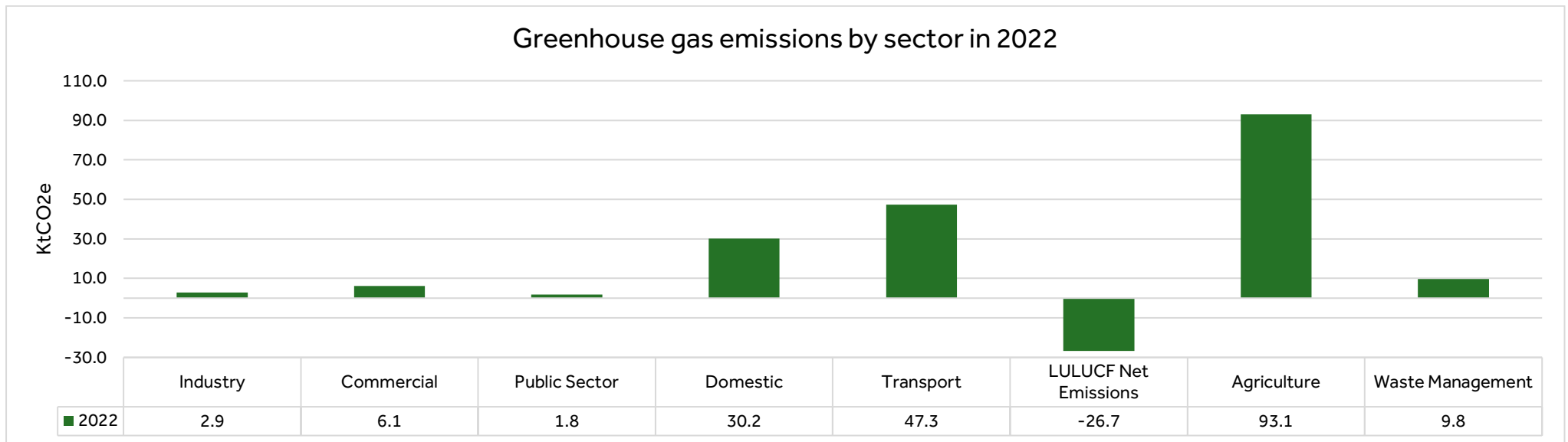
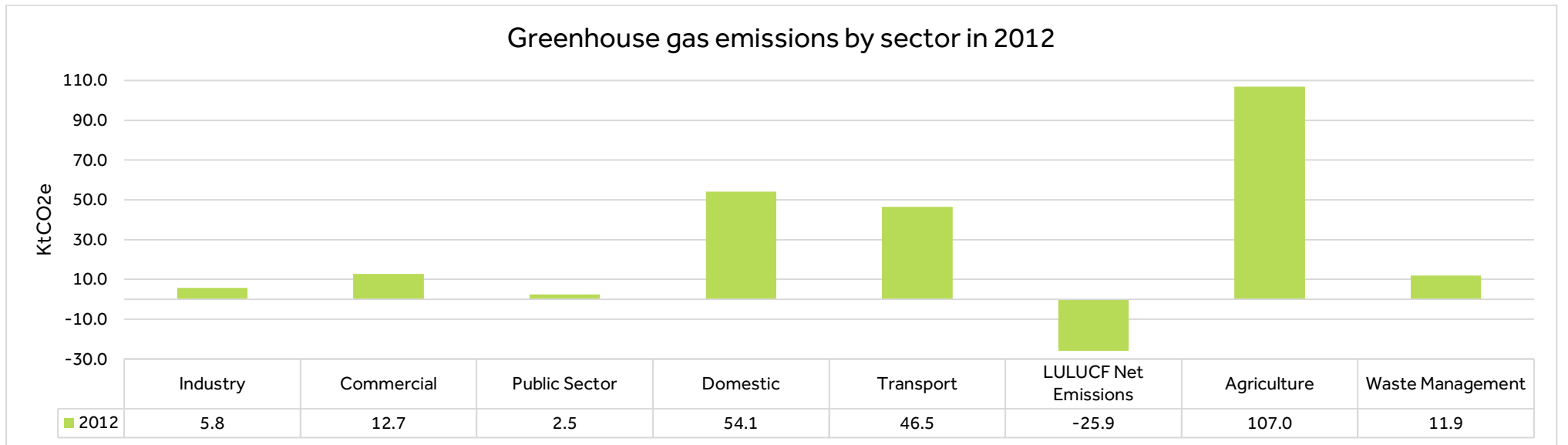
The greenhouse gases covered in this data are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. Each of these gases is weighted by its global warming potential (GWP), so that total greenhouse gas emissions can be reported on a consistent basis. The GWP for each gas is defined as its warming influence relative to that of carbon dioxide. Reporting is in kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) unless otherwise stated.



There has been a **10.8% increase** in the accumulation of carbon in the National Landscape's vegetation and soils between 2005 and 2022.

\* **LULUCF = Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry.** The rate of build-up of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere can be reduced by taking advantage of the fact that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> can accumulate as carbon in vegetation and soils in terrestrial ecosystems. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change any process, activity or mechanism that removes a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere is referred to as a "sink". Human activities impact terrestrial sinks, through land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF). Consequently, there is an alteration in the exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> between the terrestrial biosphere and the atmosphere.

## Comparison of greenhouse gas emissions by sector in 2012 and 2022



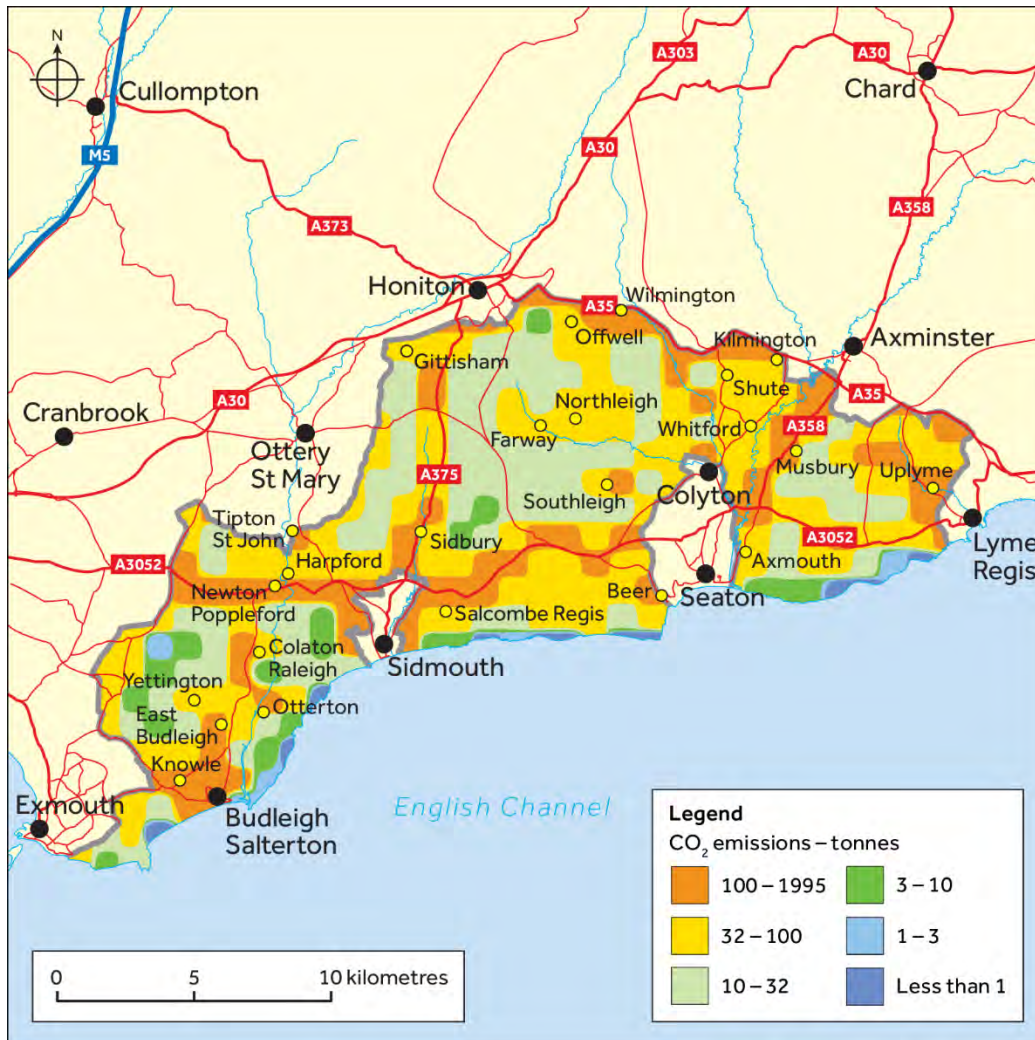
- Agriculture is the highest producer of greenhouse gases in both years. It produced 107 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2012 and 93.1 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022 (**13% reduction**).
- Domestic was the next highest producer of greenhouse gases in 2012, producing 54.1 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e, this fell to 30.2 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022 (**44% reduction**).
- Transport was also a dominant source of greenhouse gas emissions in 2012 at 46.5 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e, this rose to 47.3 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022 (**1.7% increase**).
- There has been a **17.6% reduction** in emissions from waste management, a **52% reduction** from commercial operations, a **50% reduction** from industrial, and a **28% reduction** by the public sector between 2012 and 2022.
- The amount of carbon accumulating in the soils and vegetation **increased by 3%** between 2012 and 2022.

Source: Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; a nationally consistent set of greenhouse emissions estimates at local authority level from 2005 to 2021, published 6th July 2023. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a67b3a4dd8b3000f7fa546/2005-21-uk-local-authority-ghg-emissions-update-060723.xlsx>

The maps that follow show the presence of emissions within the National Landscape during 2022. Refer to the **Land-use map** (click) to match emissions to land-use activity.

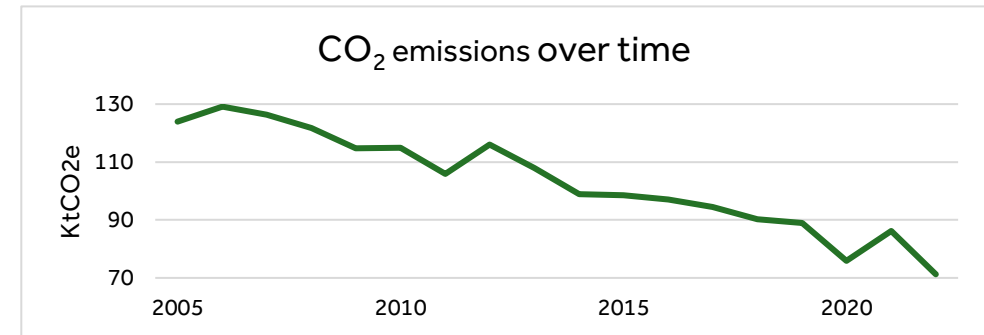
## Carbon dioxide in the National Landscape

Showing quite carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in 2022. The highest emissions are around the centres of population and along the trunk roads. Transport produced 47% of emissions, domestic 30% and agriculture 12%.



Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 ( <https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping> ). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

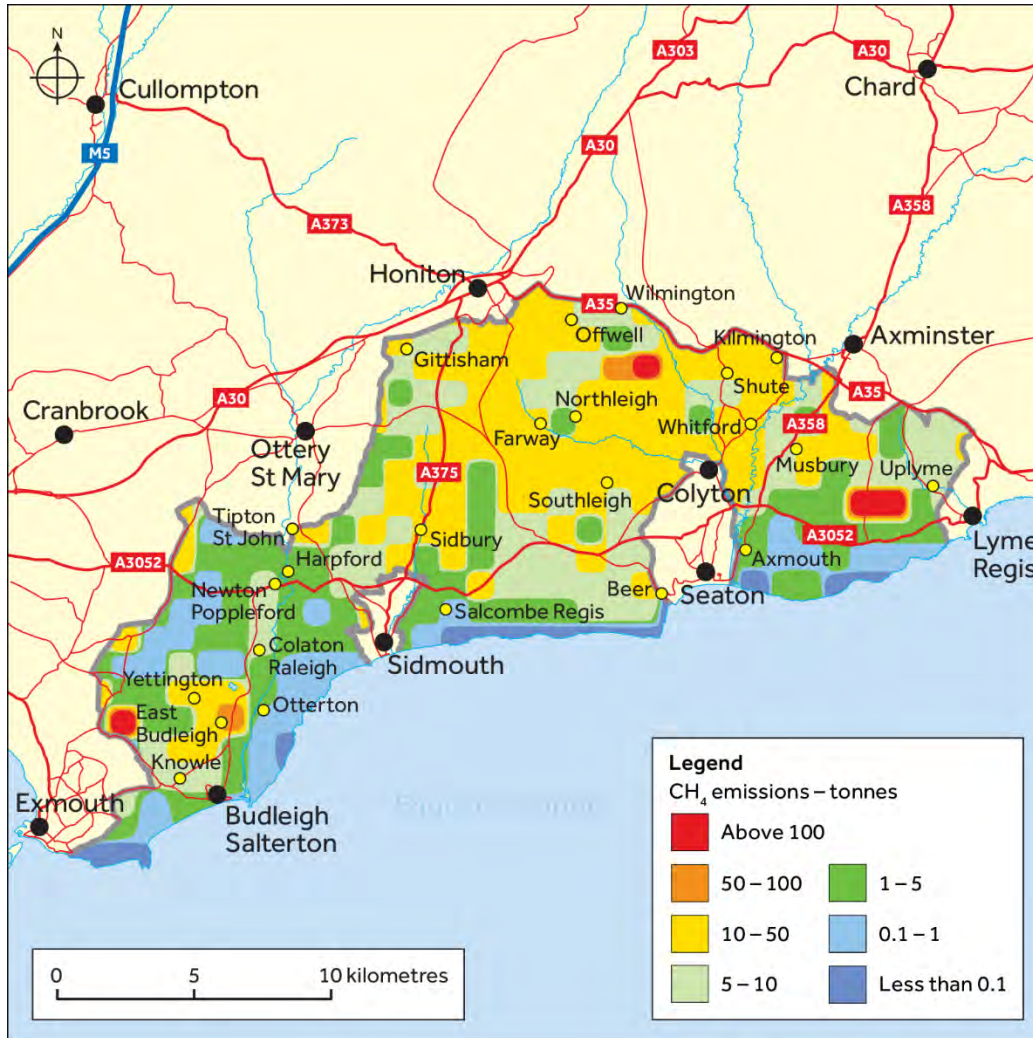
Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) enters the atmosphere through burning fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil), solid waste, trees and other biological materials, and also as a result of certain chemical reactions (e.g., cement production). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (or "sequestered") when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.



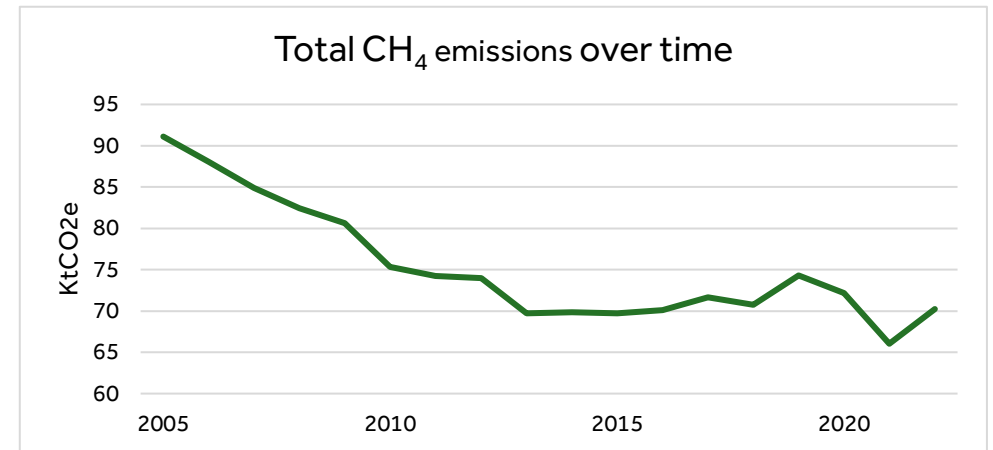
The main human activity that emits CO<sub>2</sub> is the combustion of fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil) for energy and transportation. Certain industrial processes and land-use changes also emit CO<sub>2</sub>. Therefore, it is no surprise that highest emissions are found around the centres of population and lie along trunk roads.

## Methane in the National Landscape

Showing moderate levels of methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) in 2022. 86% of emissions come from agriculture (associated with livestock) and 12.5% from waste management. There are hotspots around Widworthy, Shapwick and Woodbury. These are associated with waste recycling and cement production.



Methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices, land use, and by the decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills.



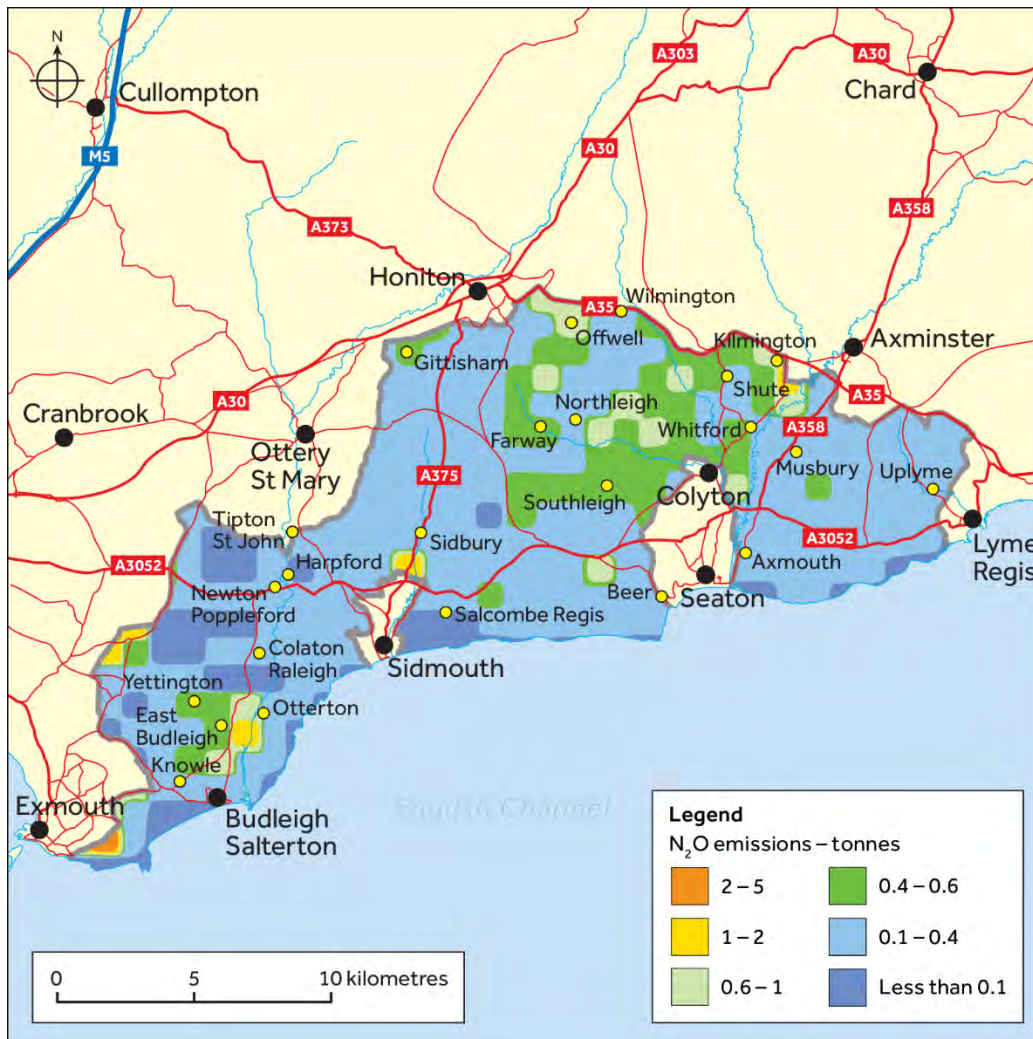
The highest emissions (50-100 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) are found around Widworthy, where there is a waste recycling centre; between Uplyme and Combyne, where there is Shapwick chalk quarry and an old landfill site; and in the East Budleigh area around Woodbury. Here there is Blackhill Quarry and an aggregate supplier and engineering fabrication operation.

Land used for arable and woodland generally emit less than 10 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e of methane. Refer to the [Land-use map](#) (click) to match emissions to land-use activity.

Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 ( <https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping> ). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

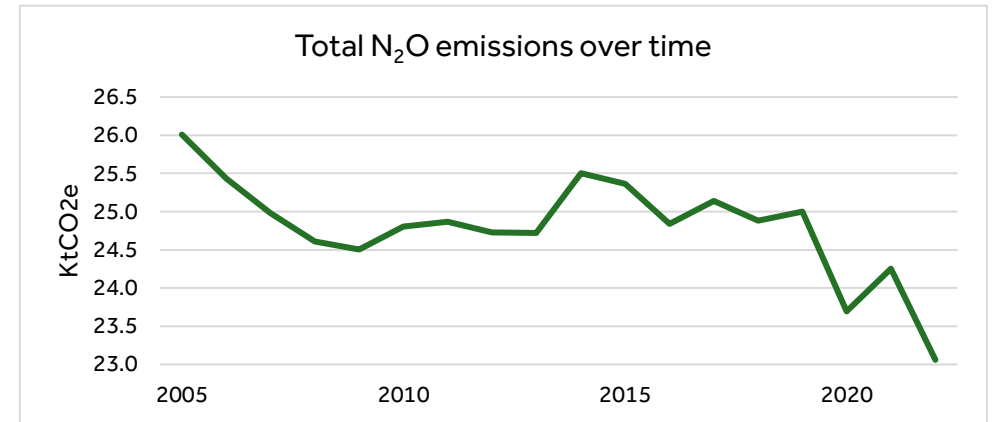
## Nitrous oxide in the National Landscape

Showing nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) levels in 2022, which is generally very low. The highest emissions, at 90%, are associated with agriculture soils but there are hotspots around Exmouth and other settlements.



Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 ( <https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping> ). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions are very low in the National Landscape, generally less than 0.1 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e.



Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is emitted during agricultural land use, and industrial activities; combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste; as well as during treatment of wastewater. It is also associated with vehicle engines.

Most agricultural emissions result from nitrogen fertilization of agricultural soils and management of animal waste. This may account for the slightly higher levels showing between Colyton and Honiton, an area of pasture and arable.

The lowest rates are in areas of woodland.



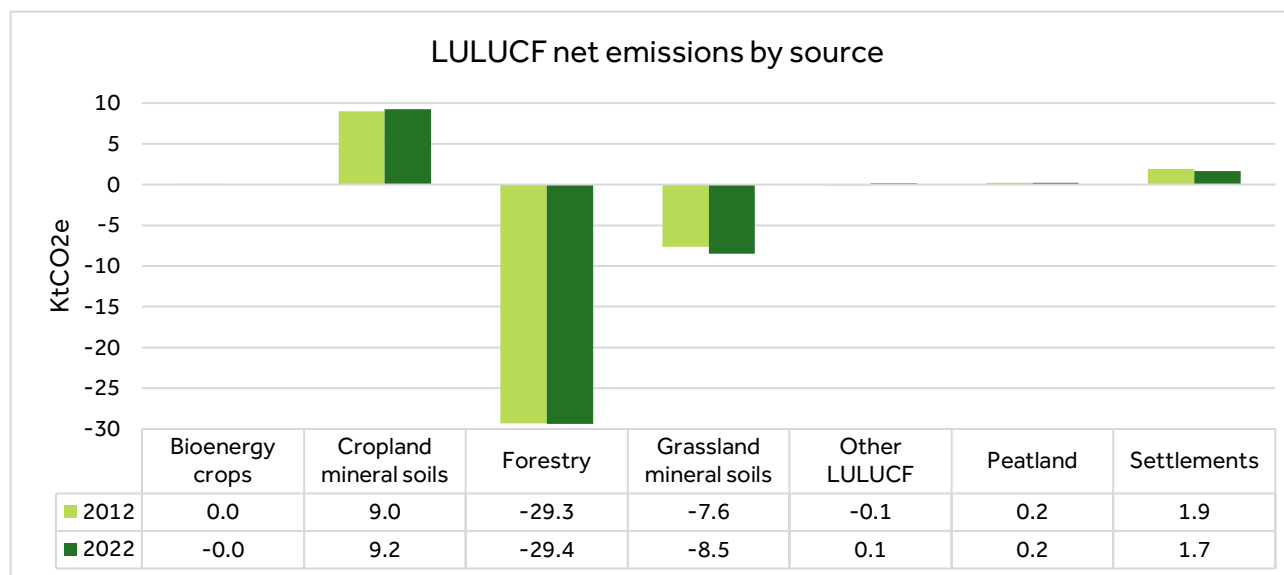
## Carbon flux

In 2024, a baseline assessment of the organic carbon flux from habitats present within the National Landscape was set at 9,023 t CO<sub>2</sub>e or 0.31 t CO<sub>2</sub>e / ha. 90% of the carbon is stored below ground.

### Estimate of the amount of carbon stored and sequestered by habitats within East Devon

Above ground carbon storage, tonnes (t)	Below ground carbon storage, tonnes (t)	Total carbon storage, tonnes (t)	Sequestration (carbon flux), tonnes (t co <sup>2</sup> equivalent Yr-1)	Above ground carbon storage, tonnes per hectare (t/ha)	Below ground carbon, tonnes per hectare (t/ha)	Total carbon, tonnes per hectare (t/ha)	Sequestration, tonnes per hectare (t co <sup>2</sup> equivalent /ha)
784,661	6,922,074	7,706,735	9,023	29	258	287	0.3

The greenhouse gas data shows a 0.1% increase in carbon accumulating in the local soils and vegetation between 2012 and 2022. The LULUCF chart identifies forestry and grassland soils as the only carbon stores.



The term carbon flux refers to the transfer of carbon (mass) to and from a habitat expressed as tonnes of carbon equivalent (t CO<sub>2</sub>e)

Source: PLTOF additional statistic 7: Estimate of the amount of carbon stored and sequestered by habitats within Protected Landscapes © Natural England [2024], reproduced with the permission of Natural England, [www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england). © Crown Copyright and database right [2024]. Ordnance Survey licence number AC0000851168.

## Renewable energy

There are no renewable energy generation sites operating within the National Landscape but two are awaiting construction.



There are no renewable energy generation sites operating within the National Landscape but two are awaiting construction:

1. Blackhill Quarry - standalone battery energy storage facility with 60W capacity
2. Devon Cliffs Holiday Centre, Sandy Bay - roof mounted solar photovoltaic panels with 0.512MW capacity

A battery energy storage facility at Lower Veiges Plantation is abandoned; and an application for solar photovoltaics at East Hill Strips was refused.

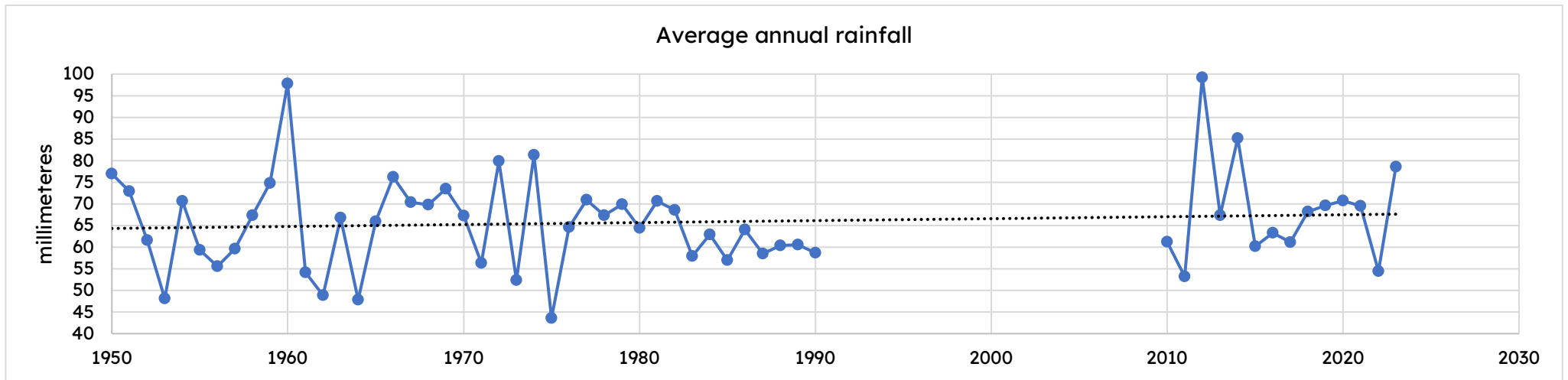
There are renewable energy generation close to the National landscape boundary. There is an anaerobic digestion facility at Hogsbrook Farm (1MW capacity); and solar photovoltaic sites at Bystock Solar Farm (4.1MW capacity), Coombe Farm (8MW capacity), Great Houndbeare Farm (10MW capacity), Liverton Farm (4.8MW capacity), and Newlands Farm (5MW capacity).

Beavor Photovoltaic Solar Arrays (18.9MW capacity) is under construction and Higher Hawkerland Farm (18MW capacity) is awaiting construction.

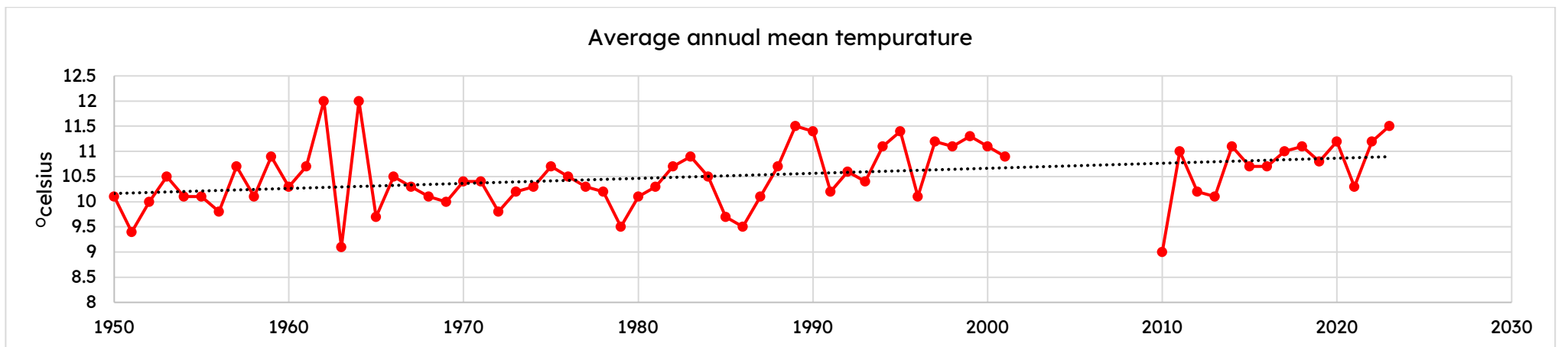
Source: <https://www.mygridgb.co.uk/map/> See also Department for Energy Security & Net Zero <https://data.barbour-abi.com/smart-map/repd/desnz/?type=repd>

## Changes in weather patterns

The charts, based on Metrological Office data for Exter Airport, shows a 3-millimetre increase in annual rainfall, a rise of 0.8°C in annual temperature, and a rise of 4 hours annual sunshine over the last 80 years.

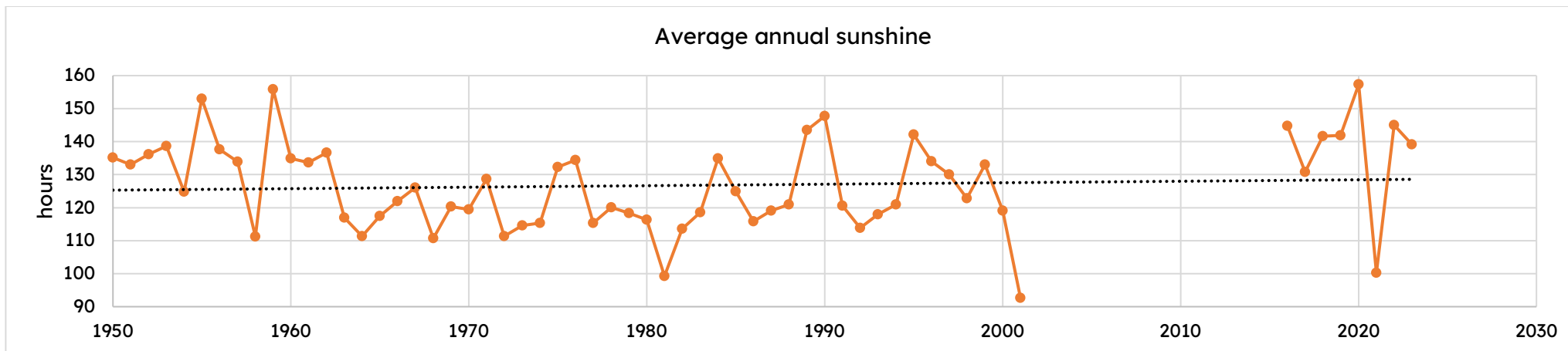


The trend line shows a slight but steady increase in annual precipitation from approximately 65 mm in 1950 to approximately 68 mm in 2023 (3 millimetres).



The trend line shows a steady rise in annual temperature from approximately 10.1°C in 1950 to 10.9°C in 2023; and rise of 0.8°C.

Average annual sunshine



The trend line shows a small rise in annual sunshine from approximately 125 hours in 1950 to 129 hours in 2023; and rise of 4 hours.

**Note:** There are data-gaps in the official record between 1991 and 2015. The Meteorological Office weather station at Exter Airport was reconfigured in 2009.

Source: © Crown Copyright 2024. Information provided by the National Meteorological Library and Archive – Met Office, UK.

## Area at risk of flooding

The large majority of the National Landscape is not at risk of flooding but there is a high risk along the valleys of the Axe and Otter rivers.



Generally, the large majority of the National Landscape is not at risk of flooding. However, within the National Landscape there is a high risk of flooding associated with the River Axe and its tributaries; and with the River Otter. Outside of the National Landscape, the River Sid, flowing towards Sidmouth, also poses a high risk of flooding.

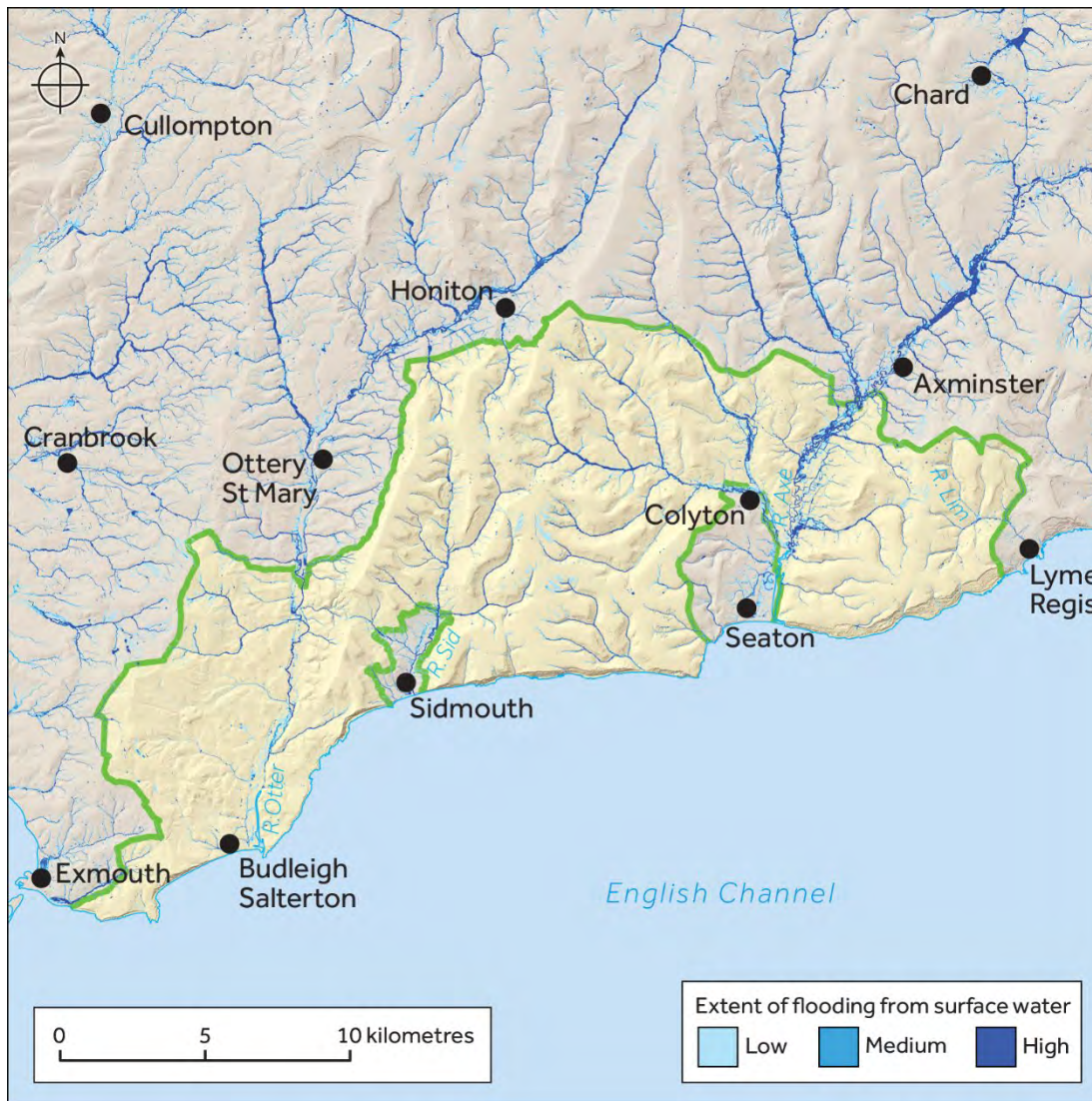
### Note:

Showing high risk - this means that this area has a chance of flooding of greater than 3.3% each year. This takes into account the effect of any flood defences in the area. These defences reduce but do not completely stop the chance of flooding as they can be overtopped, or fail.

Source: Environment Agency © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100024198. <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/risk>

## Area at risk of flooding from surface water

The large majority of the National Landscape is at very low risk of flooding from surface water.



The large majority of the National Landscape is at very low risk of flooding from surface water. Surface water flooding associated with the Rivers Axe, Sid and Otter may affect coastal towns.

### Note:

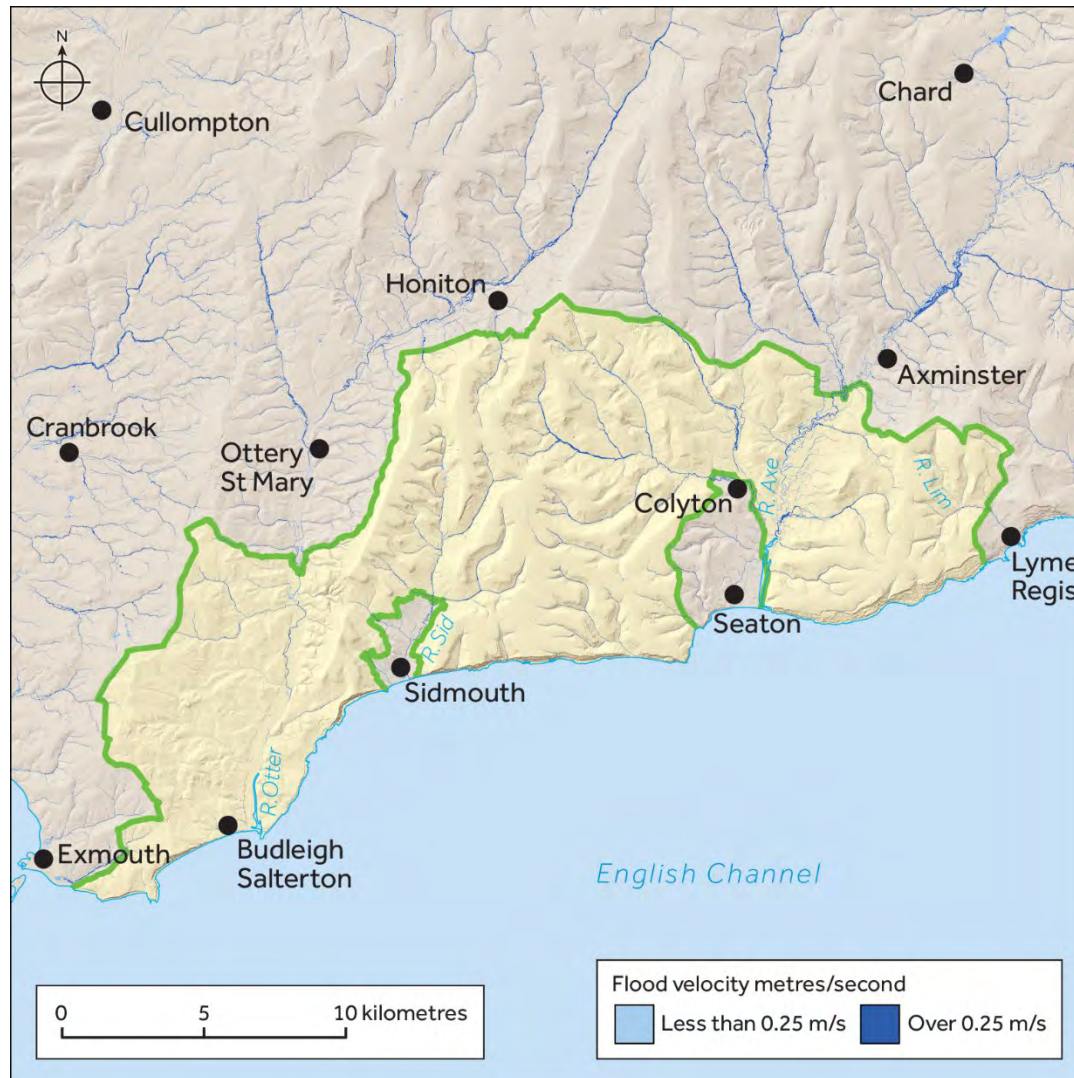
Flooding from surface water is difficult to predict as rainfall location and volume are difficult to forecast.

- Low risk means that this area has a chance of flooding of between 0.1% and 1% each year.
- Medium risk means that this area has a chance of flooding of between 1% and 3.3% each year.
- High risk means that this area has a chance of flooding of greater than 3.3% each year.

Source: Environment Agency © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100024198. <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/risk>

## Surface water velocity

Very little high velocity flood water is predicted within the National Landscape, the greatest speeds are associated with the Axe and its tributaries.



The River Coly between Farway and Colyton, Umborne Brook between Wilmington and Colyton and parts of the River Axe show speeds above 0.25 metres per second.

Surface water flood risk: water velocity in a high-risk scenario. High risk means that this area has a chance of flooding of greater than 3.3% each year.

Source: Environment Agency © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100024198. <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/risk>

## Coastal erosion types and features



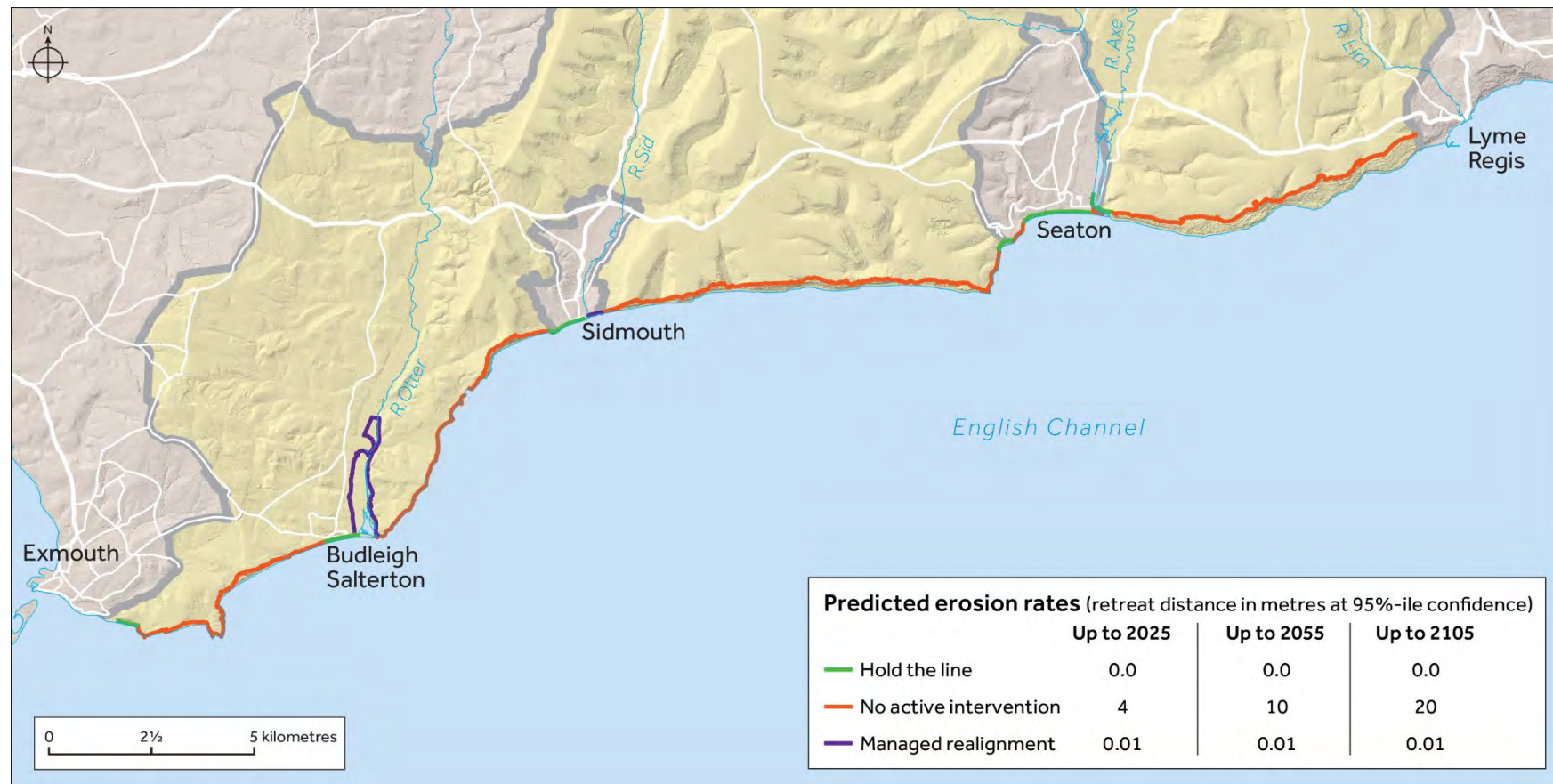
The National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping shows the coastal baseline which is split into ‘frontages’. These are lengths of coast with consistent features based on the cliff behaviour characteristics and the defence characteristics. **Defence Types:** Natural or Seawall. **Feature Type:** Erodible, Floodable or Complex Cliff. Much of the National Landscape’s coastline is natural and erodible, though between Lyme Regis and Seaton, and around Branscombe, there are complex cliffs. The Otter and Axe estuaries are natural and floodable.

[**Note:** The coloured line is the top of an erodible feature. The map’s standard blue coastline is the high-water mark].

Source: Environment Agency © Crown copyright and database rights 2020 OS 100024198. South West Coastal Monitoring <https://southwest.coastalmonitoring.org/projects/national-coastal-erosion-risk-mapping-ncerm/>



## Predicted coastal erosion rates and extents



Shows the erosional extents and rates for three periods: short term (0-20 yr), medium term (20-50 yr) and long term (50-100 yr). The policy is that there will be no intervention along much of the coastline. There is no planned investment in defending against flooding or erosion, even if an artificial defence has existed previously. There will be natural erosion. In the Otter estuary, the policy is to use managed realignment. This allows the shoreline to move naturally, but managing the process to direct it in certain areas. The areas fronting the larger settlements have existing defence lines. The policy is to hold the line. There is an aspiration to build or maintain artificial defences so that the position of the shoreline remains.

Source: Environment Agency © Crown copyright and database rights 2020 OS 100024198. Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2), Durlston Head to Rame Head, Shoreline Management Plan (Final) June 2011. <https://www.gov.uk/check-coastal-erosion-management-in-your-area>

# People

The Office for National Statistics undertakes a census every 10 years that gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. All information is anonymised and the actual census records are secure for 100 years. The last census was in 2021. There is a need for parish data to build up a picture of what is happening within the National Landscape. Consequently, this report compares changes between 2011 and 2021. Defra and its agencies do provide some recent environmental data cut to the National Landscape boundary. This is through the national framework for monitoring environmental outcomes (MEOPL) in National Parks and National Landscapes. Natural England leads in this work, in close partnership with Defra, the English National Park Authorities Association, Historic England and the National Landscapes Association.

The National Landscape is a working landscape that is home to around 21,000 residents. Recreational, cultural and spiritual qualities abound, with the South West Coast Path, East Devon Way and open



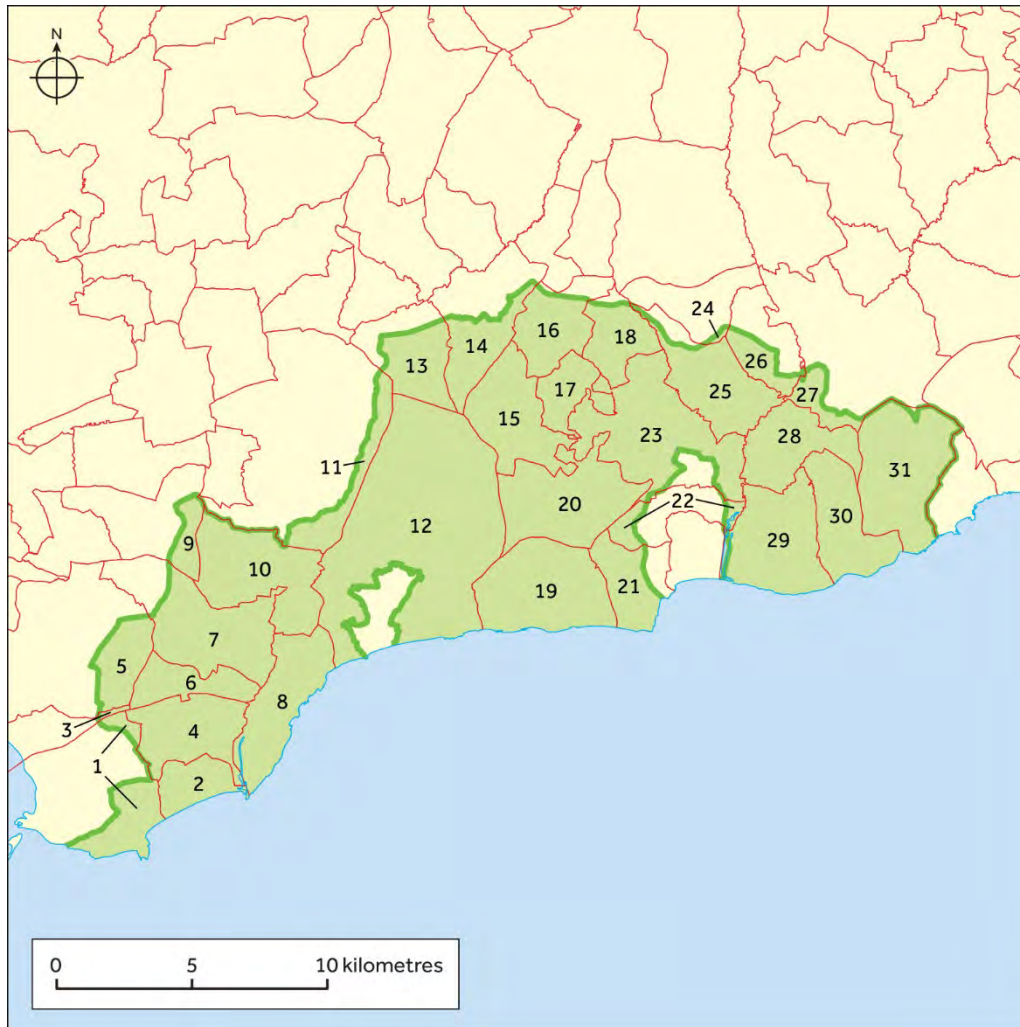
access land, providing extensive opportunities for open air recreation, healthy exercise, uninterrupted views or an escape to tranquillity and relative isolation. The striking East Devon coastline has a great influence on the social, economic and environmental makeup of the area. The South West Coast Path is the most popular National Trail in the country, which brings in significant economic benefit to the South West as a whole. The hinterland to the coast is less visited. Large expanses of heathland provide a contrast to well-wooded combes and fertile river valleys. There is public access through an extensive network of public rights of way, or the 40-mile East Devon Way long distance footpath. The human engagement, use and management of this

land since pre-historic times has guided the pattern and shape of the settlements, field patterns, woodland and heath, creating a landscape of significant scenic beauty that is the basis for its agricultural and tourism economy.



## Administrative boundaries

The National Landscape lies within the areas of Devon County Council and East Devon District Councils. There are 31 parish councils.



### Civil Parishes / Town councils

- |                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Exmouth                         | 17 Northleigh      |
| 2 Budleigh Salterton              | 18 Widworthy       |
| 3 Lypstone                        | 19 Branscombe      |
| 4 East Budleigh                   | 20 Southleigh      |
| 5 Woodbury                        | 21 Beer            |
| 6 Bicton                          | 22 Colyford        |
| 7 Colaton Raleigh                 | 23 Colyton         |
| 8 Otterton                        | 24 Dalwood         |
| 9 Aylesbeare                      | 25 Shute           |
| 10 Newton Poppleford and Harpford | 26 Kilmington      |
| 11 Ottery St Mary                 | 27 Axminster       |
| 12 Sidmouth                       | 28 Musbury         |
| 13 Gittisham                      | 29 Axmouth         |
| 14 Honiton                        | 30 Combyne Rousdon |
| 15 Farway                         | 31 Uplyme          |
| 16 Offwell                        |                    |

### Legend

- Parish boundary
- East Devon National Landscape boundary

Source: GIS data obtained from [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk)

## Comparative size of settlements

The largest settlement within the National Landscape is Budleigh Salterton that has over 5,200 residents, most have less than 1,000 residents. However, Uplyme has just over 1,000 residents and Newton Poppleford has nearly 2,000 residents.



### Legend

Size of population

- 50,000+
- 10,000–50,000
- 5,000–10,000
- 2,000–5,000
- 1,000–2,000
- Under 1,000

Most settlements within the National Landscape have a population of less than 1,000 people. There are three exceptions. Budleigh Salterton has around 5,240 residents; Newton Poppleford has 1,920 residents and Uplyme has 1,050 residents.

Across the unitary and district council areas, 30% of the population lives in small communities; 100% of the National Landscape's residents are in such communities.

There are larger settlements close to the area. Exmouth is the largest with approximately 35,500 residents, Sidmouth has just under 13,300 and Honiton has around 12,000 residents. Seaton has about 7,500 residents; Axminster and Ottery St Mary smaller, each with approximately 6,000 residents. Colyton has about 2,000 residents.

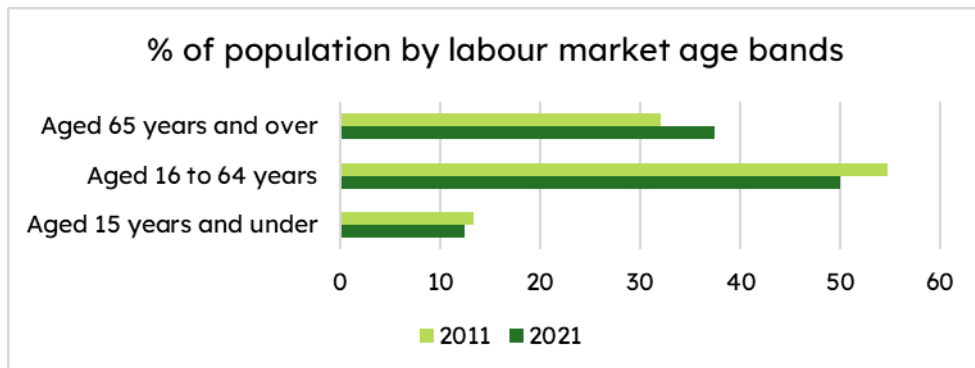
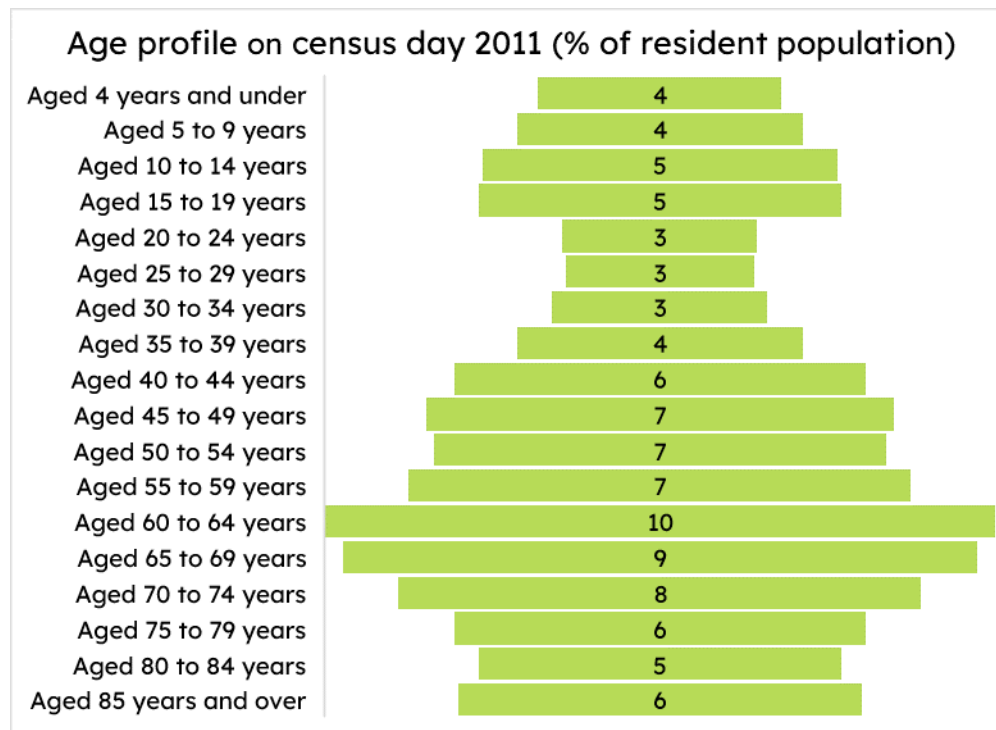
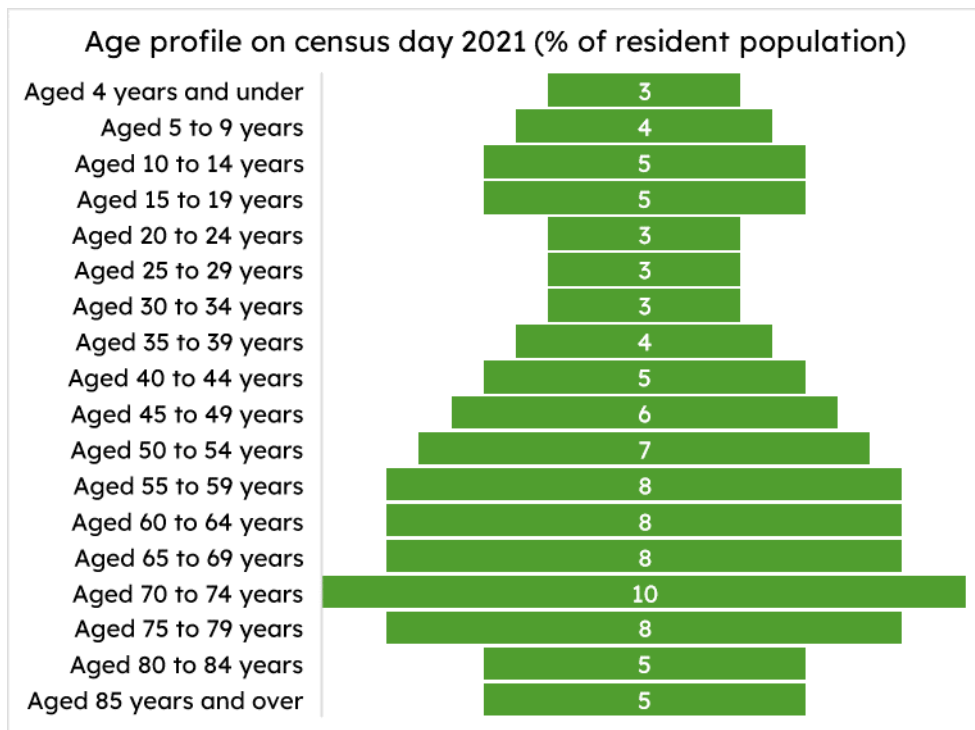
Except for Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton, all these settlements lie within the 30-minute travel area for the National Landscape. (Click here to see the [Travel areas to Blackberry Camp](#) map).

The estimated total resident population for the National Landscape is 21,179 people.

Source: City populations (<https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/southwestengland/>); OpenStreetMap data is available under the Open Database License

## Population numbers and age profile

The estimated total population on census day 2021 for the National Landscape was **25,100**.

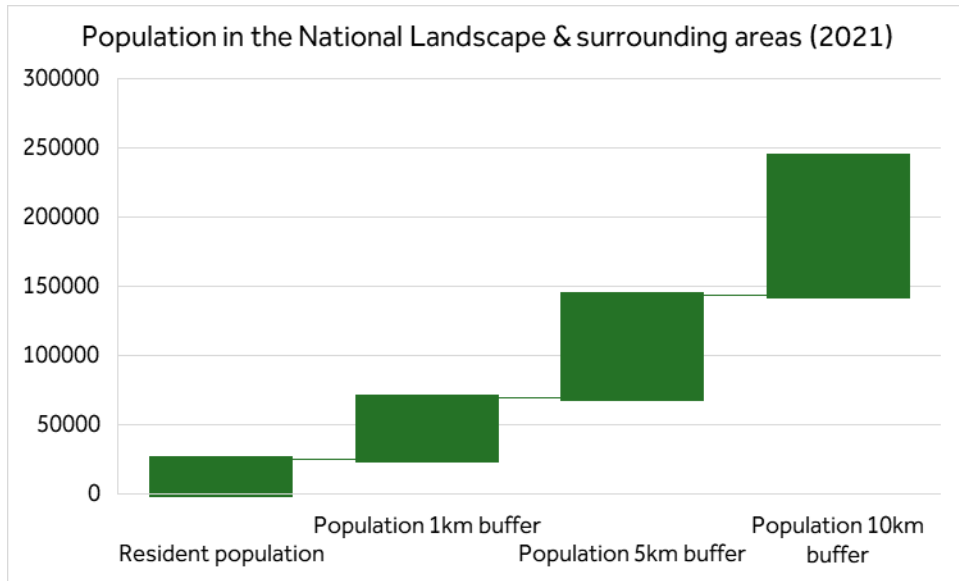


Population numbers have remained stable since 2011. Generally, there is a greater number of older people than young. Most of the population is over 50 years of age. The population 'bulge' of 2011 has advanced 10 years but remains at 10%. The numbers of children and teenagers has remained the same.

Source: Population estimates by output areas, electoral, health and other geographies, Office for National Statistics © Crown Copyright 2022. These estimates are based on National Landscape boundaries as of 2022. Output area population estimates have been allocated to National Landscapes on a best fit basis. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 5 February 2024] Tables PP012 and KS102EW

## Population estimates for the Protected Landscape buffer regions

Data for the National Landscape plus 1km, 5km, and 10km buffers around the boundary.



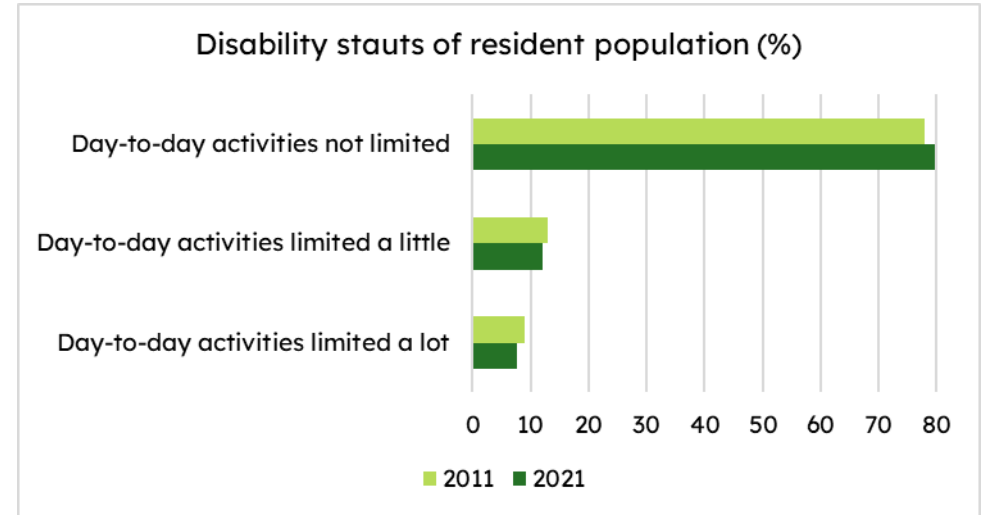
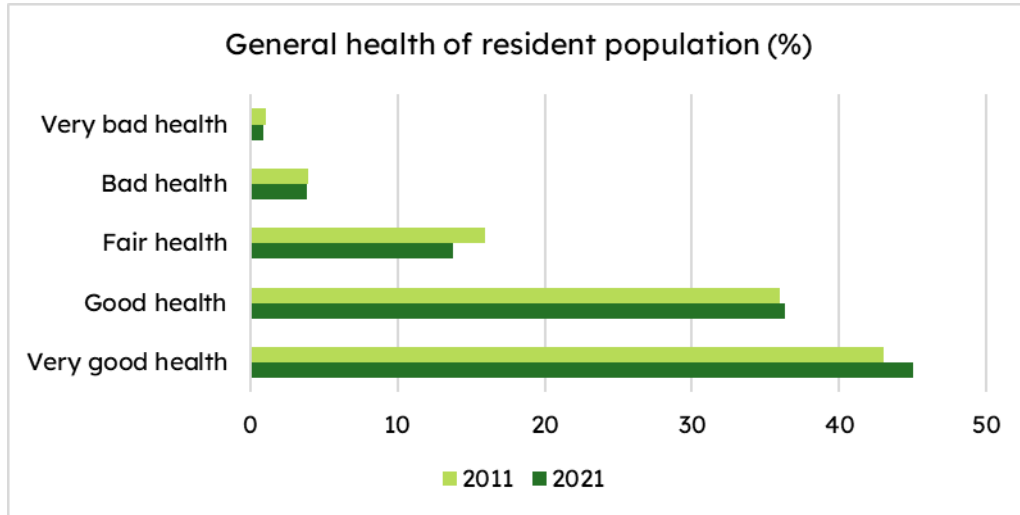
### Catchment population

Resident population in the National Landscape	Population + 1km buffer	Population + 5km buffer	Population + 10km buffer
25,100	69,044	143,161	243,472

Source: Based on allocation of Output Areas, Census 2021.

## Health of resident population

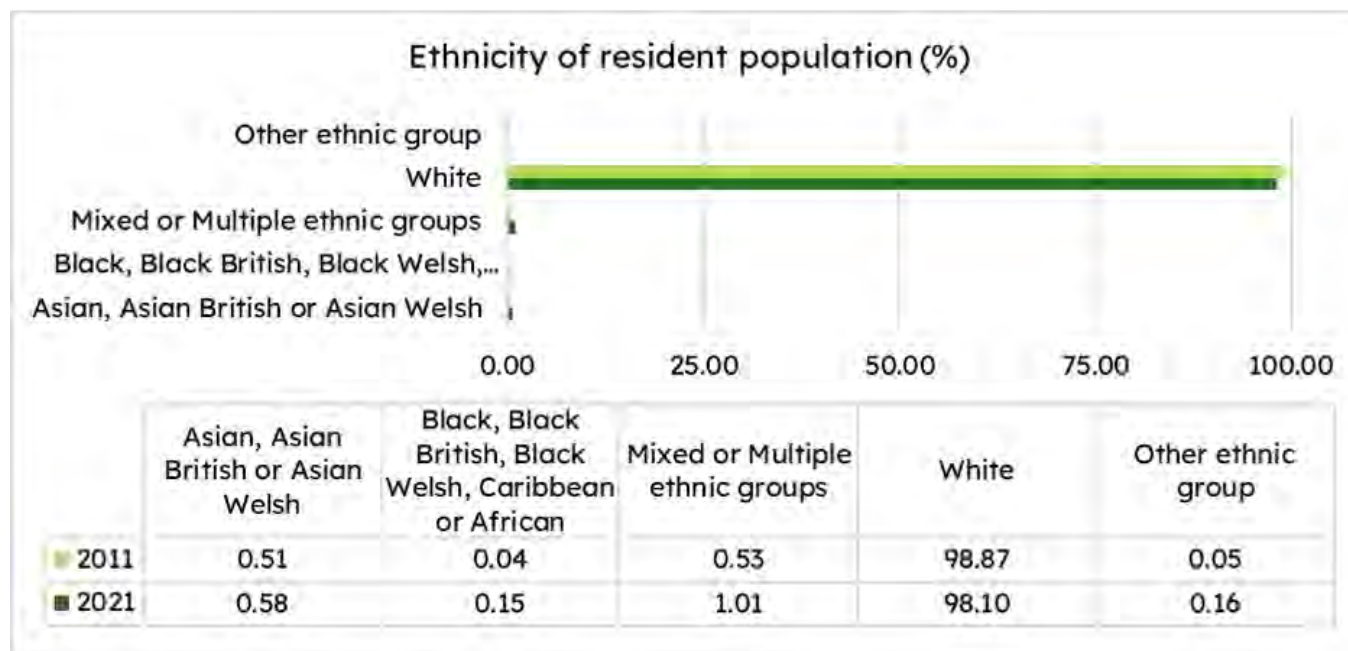
In 2021, 45% of the resident population enjoy very good health; only 1% suffer very bad health. There is no material difference with the 2011 data. In 2021, 80% of the resident population suffered no long-term health conditions. The 20% who did have long-term health condition class as disabled under the Equality Act.



Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 5 February 2024] Tables 2011: QS302EW, 2021: PP003 & PP006

## Ethnicity and gender resident population

There has been little change in either ethnicity or gender between 2011 and 2021. In 2021, around 98% of the resident population class as 'white' and just over 50% of the population is female.



**Gender of resident population**

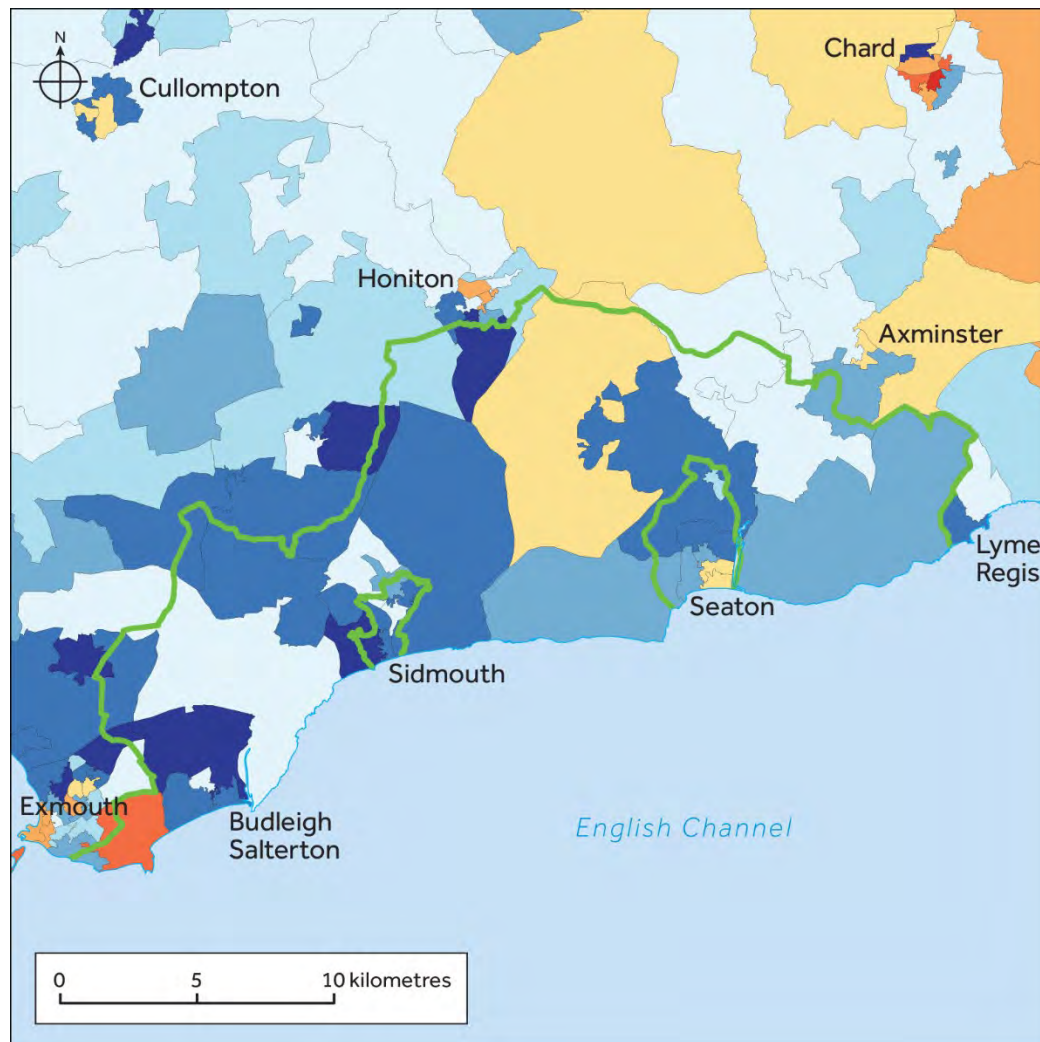
	2011	2021
female	53%	52%
Male	47%	48%

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 29 January 2024] Tables 2011: QS104EW & QS201EW, 2021: PP002 & PP005

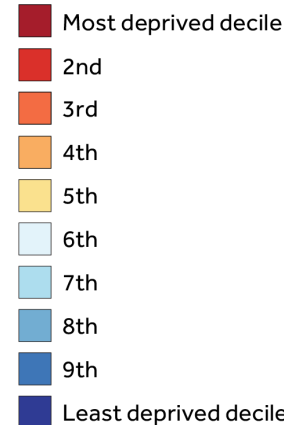


## Nearby populations with significant levels of deprivation

Communities within the National Landscape are not particularly deprived, they generally lie in the least deprived quartile of the national average. The parishes of Southleigh, Farway, Offwell and Northleigh lie in the middle of the national average but there are pockets of deprivation in the outskirts of Exmouth.



### Legend



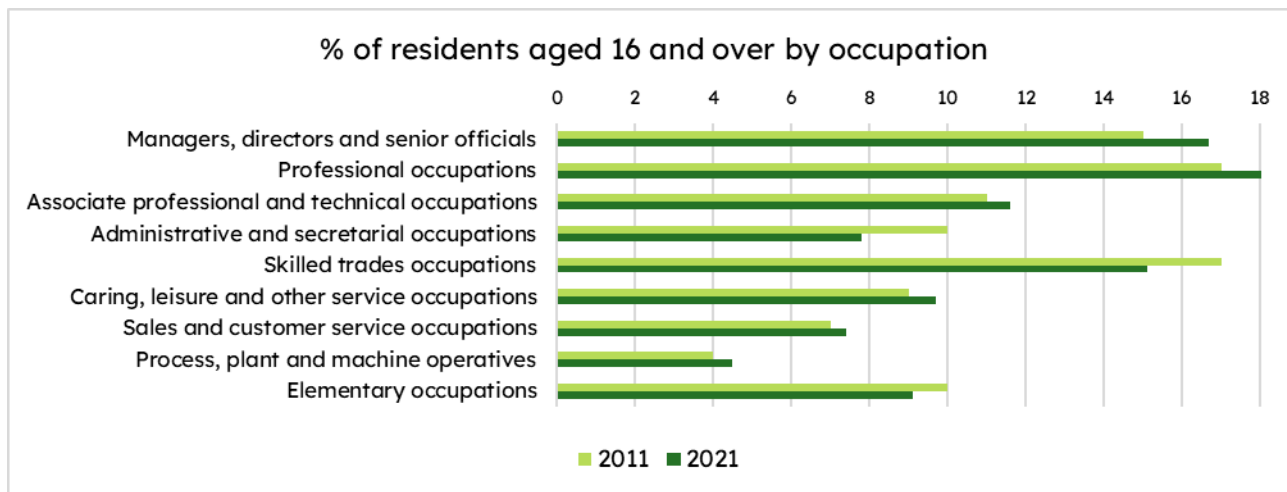
The Indices of Deprivation provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England, based on seven different fields of deprivation:

- Income Deprivation;
- Employment Deprivation;
- Education;
- Skills and Training Deprivation;
- Health Deprivation and Disability;
- Crime;
- Barriers to Housing and Services; and
- Living Environment Deprivation.

Source: <https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/index-multiple-deprivation-imd>

## Employment profiles of resident population

Between 2011 & 2021: there has been a 14% swing from those residents wanting to work to those not seeking work. The levels spread of occupations and industries has remained constant throughout the period, with few variances above 1%. People have moved away from the land-based and leisure sectors. Managerial and professional roles have increased.



### Employment status

	2011	2021
Employed	58%	46%
Seeking work	4%	2%
Not seeking work	38%	52%

Employment in the leisure industries has declined while finance and the public sector has increased.

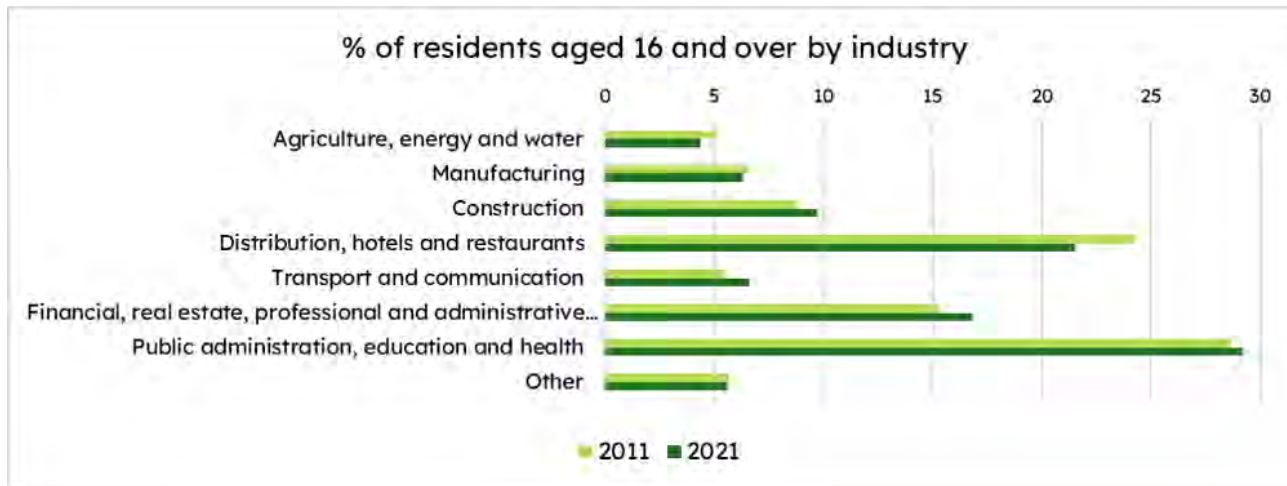
### Decline since 2011:

- -2% in distribution, hotel & restaurants

### Increase since 2011:

- +2% in professional & public sector

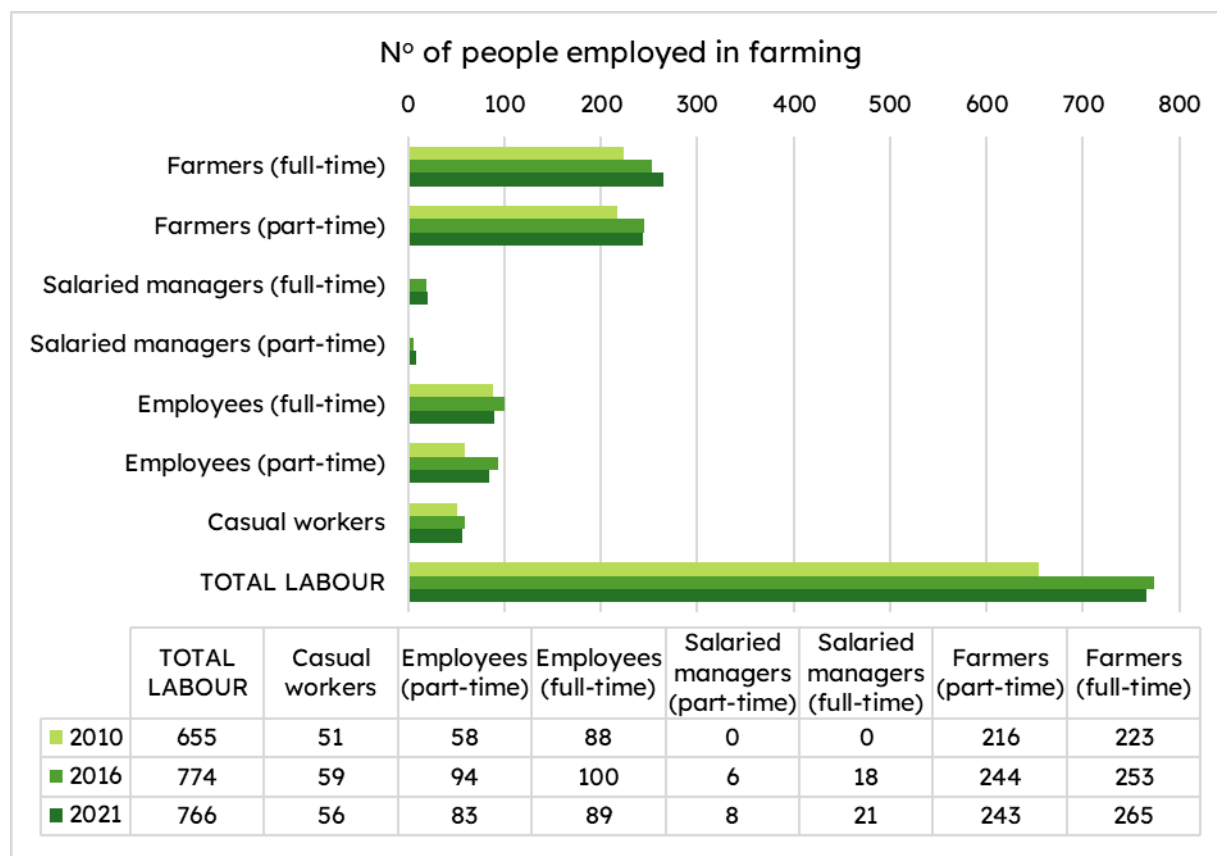
Between 2011 and 2021, there has been a 2% growth in managerial and professional jobs set against a 2% decline in the skilled trades.



Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 29 January 2024] Tables 2011: QS601EW, QS605EW & QS606EW: 2021: PP004, PP009 & PP011

## Employment in farming

Employment in farming has remained constant during the last 5 years though there is an increase of around 17% since 2010. In 2021, the resident population of the National Landscape was 21,179; 4% were employed in farming.



For the last ten years, the average number of people employed on farms in the National Landscape was 732 people, though there was a peak of 774 in 2016.

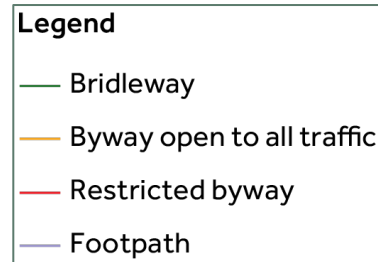
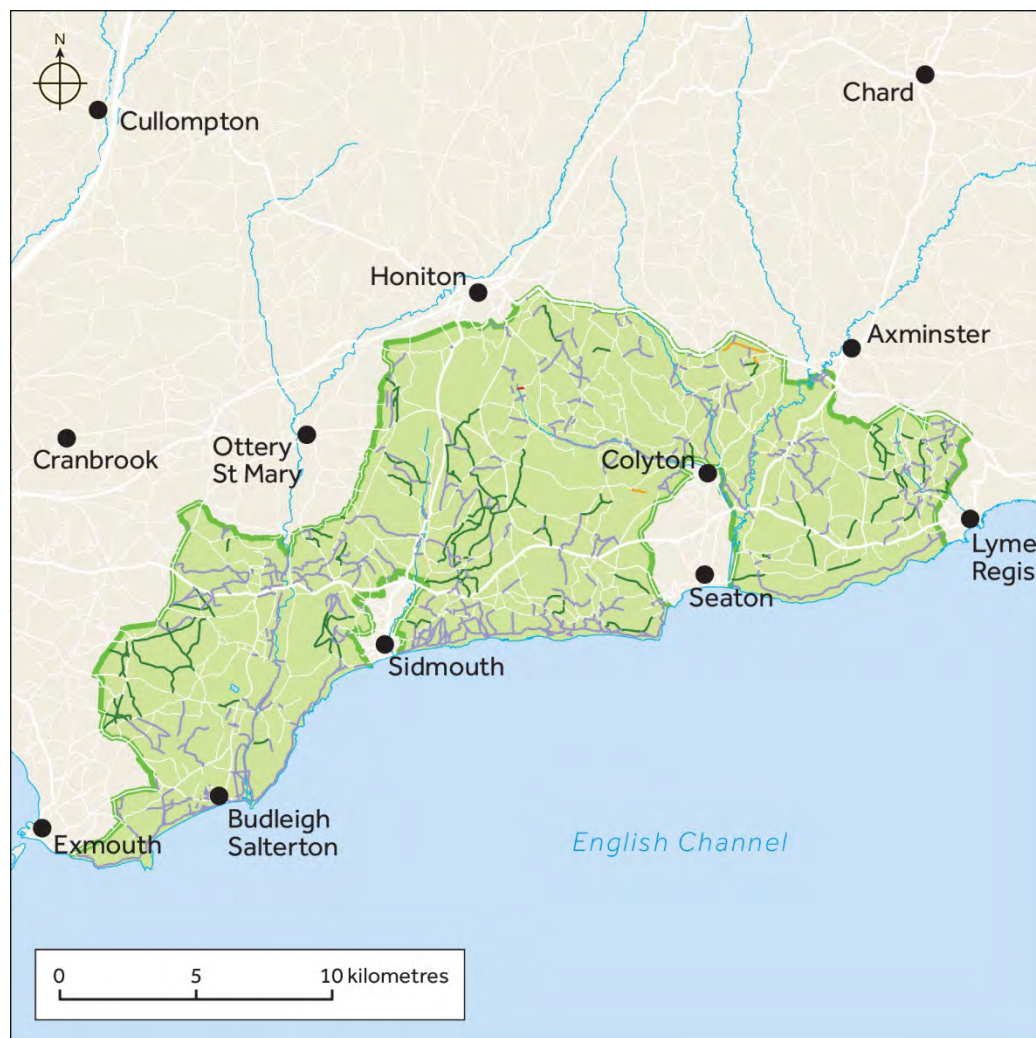
There has been a small rise in the number of full-time farmers, and increase of 42 people (+18%) between 2010 and 2021. The number of employees increased by 26 (+18%) during the same period.

However, the increase for employees between 2010 and 2016 was greater, up 48 people (+33%). There was then a fall of 22 employees (-11%) between 2016 and 2021.

Source: Defra June Survey of Agriculture <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>

## Rights of Way

There are 361.8 kilometres of rights of way recorded in the National Landscape; this is comparable to 2019.



	2023	2019
Type	Length (km)	
Footpaths	258.9	258.7
Bridleways	99.4	99.2
Byway (BOAT byway open to all traffic)	3.2	3.2
Restricted byway	0.3	0.3
<b>Total rights of way</b>	<b>361.8</b>	<b>361.4</b>

Source: Devon County Council 2019. Each of the local authorities, with links provided through <https://www.rowmaps.com> and Magic Map <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

## Recreational routes

There is one National Trail, one long-distance footpath and two national cycling routes in the National Landscape.



### Legend

- East Devon Way
- National cycle route
- South West Coastal Path

**East Devon Way** - 38 mile/60km. From Exmouth in the west to Lyme Regis in the east; follows footpaths, bridleways and stretches of quiet lanes.

### National Cycle Routes

NCN 2 links Dover in Kent with St. Austell in Cornwall via the south coast of England (378 miles long). A mixture of road and traffic free routes with an asphalt surface in East Devon.

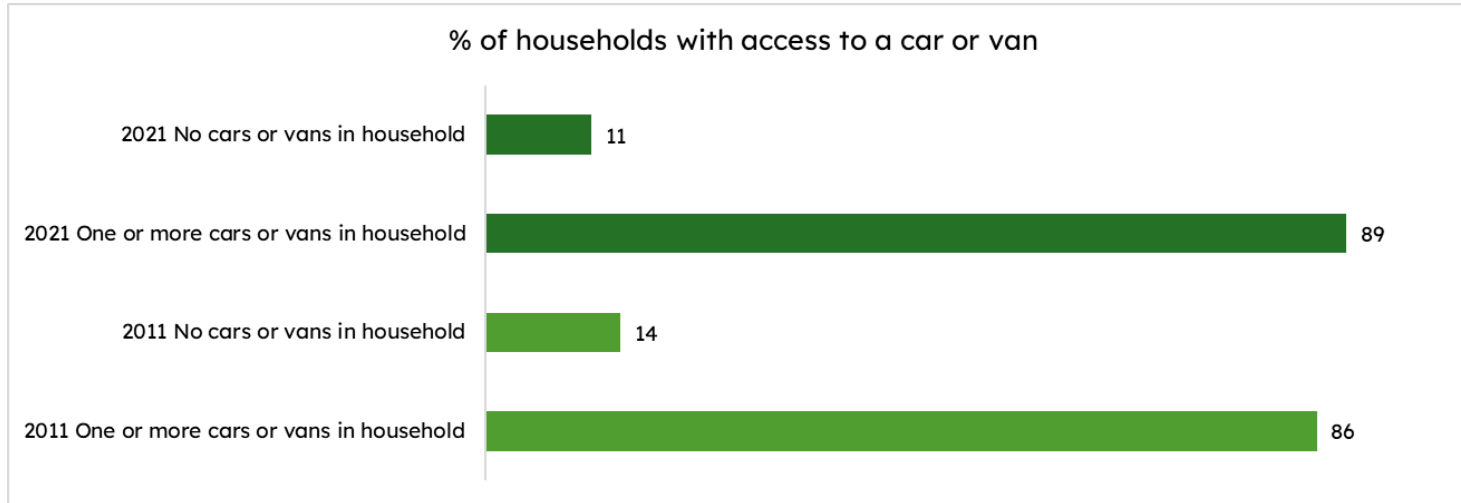
NCN 248 links Honiton to Sidmouth (follows a minor road between Metcombe and Bowd on an asphalt surface)

**National Trail – the South West Coastal Path** runs for 630 miles, from Minehead on the edge of Exmoor to the shores of Poole Harbour. With 19th century origins as a coastguard patrol route to restrict smuggling, it is England's longest National Trail.

Source: Devon County Council 2019. Each of the local authorities, with links provided through <https://www.rowmaps.com> and Magic Map <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

## Access to a car or van

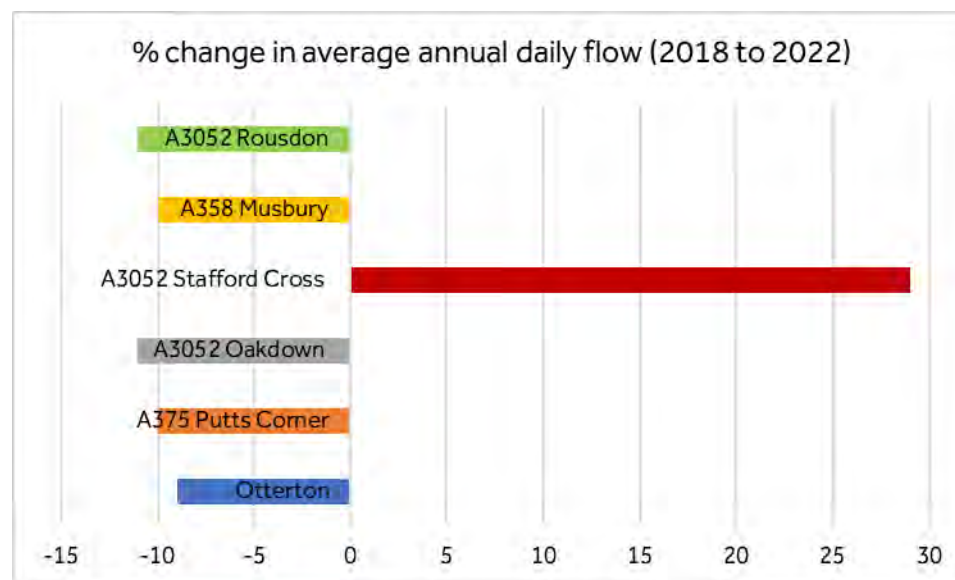
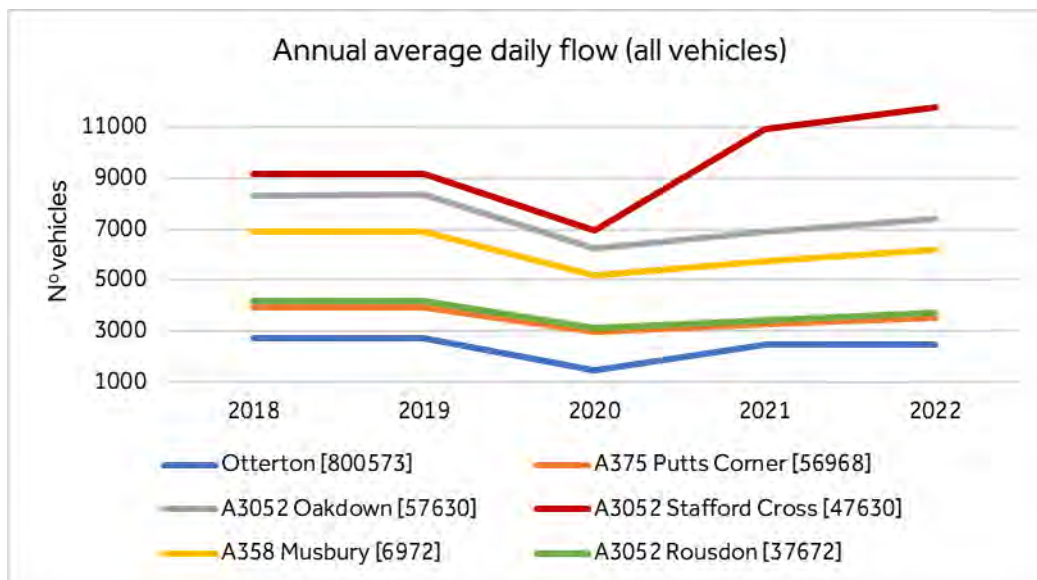
In 2021, 89% of the resident population had access to at least one car or van, up from 86% in 2011.



Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 29 January 2024] Tables QS416EW & PP010

## Road traffic counts

Combined daily traffic flows for 2018-22 show the busiest monitoring point is at Stafford Cross, on the A3052, with an average daily flow of 9,611 vehicles. The quietest monitoring point is at Putts Corner, on the A375 (3,526 vehicles).



The Department for Transport reports on 38 traffic count monitoring points on roads within the National Landscape but only a few have data collected since 2020. The effects of Covid-19 show with a dip for the 2020 figures. Stafford Cross, on the A3052, recorded both the biggest increase in flow between 2018 – 2022 (29%); Oakdown and Rousdon, both on the A3052, recorded both the biggest fall in flow (-11%).

Note: Dept for Transport monitoring point reference numbers are shown in square brackets [xxxx].

Source: Dept for Transport Road traffic statistics <https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/#6/55.254/-6.053/basemap-regions-countpoints>

## Access to public transport



Axe Valley Mini Travel, Dartline, First and Stagecoach buses provide a good level of service at least 5 days a week. Greenslades Tours, Hatch Green and Redwoods are much more limited, at once or twice a week. Sunday bus services are limited. There are several routes for college student use, Monday to Fridays in term time (not for public use).

See the table below for details of the routes shown on the map.

Source <http://www.busatlas.uk/> checked against the latest timetables October 2023 <https://bustimes.org/> (Routes correct at time of search but services change - check the websites for current information)



**Routes shown on the map:**

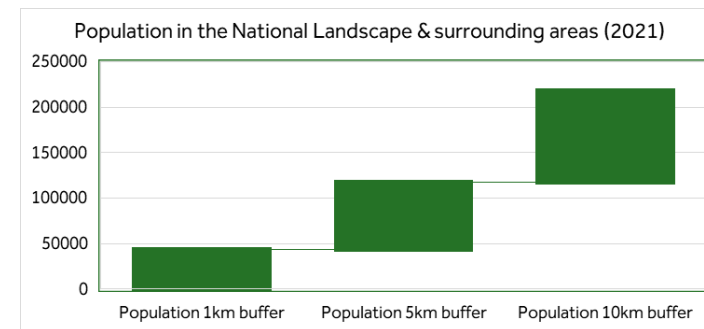
<b>Axe Valley Mini Travel</b>	52	Seaton-Exeter (one bus return Monday to Friday)
	378	Seaton-Axmouth-Lyme Regis (four buses each way Monday to Friday)
	885	Axminster-Seaton-Colyton-Beer (regular services Monday to Saturday)
	899	Seaton-Sidford-Sidmouth (4 buses each way Monday to Saturday)
<b>Dartline Coaches</b>	20	Taunton-Honiton-Colyton-Seaton (several buses a day Monday-Saturday)
	387	Sidmouth-Ottery St Mary-Honiton-Taunton (1 journey each way 2 days a week)
<b>First Bus</b>	X51	Lyme Regis-Uplyme-Axminster (several buses a day Monday-Saturday)
	X53	Lyme Regis-Uplyme-Axminster (regular buses seven days a week)
	30	Taunton-Ilminster-Chard-Axminster (regular bus Monday to Saturday)
<b>Greenslades Tours</b>	356	Budleigh Salterton-Aylesbeare-Exeter (1 journey each way Monday to Friday)
<b>Hatch Green Coaches</b>	382	Sidmouth-Whimple (Monday to Saturday)
<b>Redwoods Travel</b>	681	Honiton-Offwell-Farway (1 journey each way on Tuesday)
	682	Honiton-Monkton (1 journey each way on Tuesday)
<b>Stagecoach</b>	9/9A	Exeter-Honiton-Seaton (several buses a day Monday-Saturday and limited Sunday services)
	95	Exeter-Exmouth-Sandy Bay (regular service Monday to Friday)
	157	Budleigh Salterton-Sidmouth College (several buses a day Monday-Saturday and limited Sunday services)
	257	Exmouth College-Budleigh Salterton (1 journey each way Monday to Friday)
	357	Exmouth-Budleigh Salterton (Full service seven days a week)
	358	Exeter-Budleigh Salterton-Ottery (1 journey each way Monday to Friday)
	X30	Exeter-Honiton-Seaton (several buses a day weekdays)
	44a	Exeter-Ottery St Mary-Honiton-Wilmington-Axminster (several buses a day Monday-Saturday and limited Sunday services)
<b>South Western Railway</b>		Stations at Honiton and Axminster
<b>Great Western Railway</b>		Exmouth

**Student transport Monday to Friday in term-time (not shown on the map):**

<b>Axe Valley Mini Travel</b>	899C	Seaton-Sidford-Sidmouth-Newton Poppleford-Exmouth	<b>Dartline Coaches</b>	COLY5	Exeter to Colyton grammar school
	899S	Seaton-Sidford-Sidmouth-Newton Poppleford		COLY9	Exeter to Colyford
	897	Lyme Regis-Seaton		COLY11	Exmouth to Budleigh Salterton
	899C	Seaton-Sidford-Newton Poppleford		SID011	Exeter to Sidmouth Community College
	AX005	Beer-Seaton-Axe Valley academy	<b>First Bus</b>	BC22	Musbury to Bicton College
	924	Uplyme-Colyford			
	923	Bridport-Colyford			

## Travel areas to Blackbury Camp

The 15 and 30-minute travel time by car to Blackbury Camp (chosen as it is a popular destination close to the centre of the National Landscape); the average trip-time for a day trip is 33 minutes.



(Click here to see the [Comparative size of settlements map](#))

National Travel Survey 2022 - Published 30 August 2023 - The National Travel Survey is a household survey of personal travel by residents of England travelling within Great Britain, from data collected via interviews and a seven-day travel diary, which enables analysis of patterns and trends.

Nationally, people made 862 trips on average in 2022, or 17 trips a week. This includes 24 minutes per cycling trip, 21 minutes per car driver trip and 18 minutes per walking trip. In 2022, the average trip length for a day trip in England was 19.5 kms (12.1 miles) (20.5 km 12.8 in 2017 but only 16.7 in 2021); and the average trip time for a day trip was 33 minutes (33 mins in 2017, 31 mins in 2021).

The Department for Transport states that the basic unit of travel in the National Travel Survey is a trip, defined as a one-way course of travel with a single main purpose. Outward and return halves of a return journey are two separate trips.

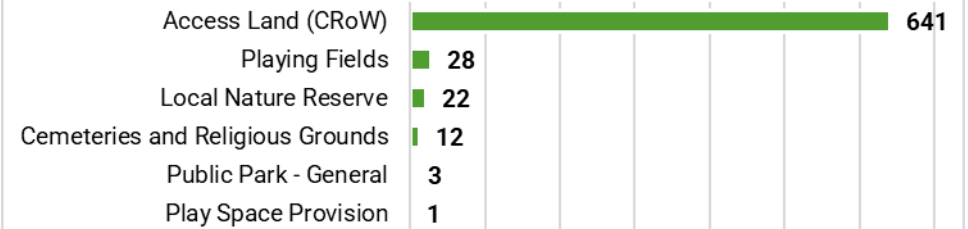
Travel Time areas created using the Open Route Service plugin on QGIS based on Open Street Map data. Day trip intelligence from National Travel Survey Table NTS0403, Department for Transport 2022 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-survey-2022/national-travel-survey-2022-introduction-and-main-findings>

## Open Access Land and Accessible green infrastructure

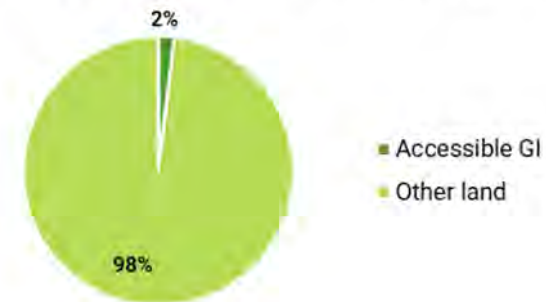
The map shows the location of 'Accessible Green Infrastructure', as defined by Natural England, covering 2% of the National Landscape.



### Area (ha) of Accessible Green Infrastructure by type



### Percentage of AONB recorded as Accessible Green Infrastructure



There are many more accessible sites within the National Landscape and a future project could assess accessibility for a range of visitor attributes.

Source: Data extracted from the England Green Infrastructure Mapping Database GIS data. © Natural England 2021. Contains, or is derived from, information supplied by Ordnance Survey. © Crown copyright and database rights 2021. Ordnance Survey 100022021. The typology includes double counting of areas in the data. Some land will lie in more than one category.

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/UserGuide/Section01.aspx>

# Place

The East Devon National landscape is notable for its varied and dramatic coastal scenery; the grandeur of sheer red sandstone cliffs, intimate wooded combs and coves contrast with the stark, white chalk outcrop that punctuates the coast at Beer Head and further east, the wilderness of the undercliffs. Inland, the heathland commons provide high, open and remote plateaux that contrast sharply with the lower undulating agricultural mosaic of small fields, hedgerows and woodland copse. Elevated fingers of land extend from the Blackdown Hills to the north, their height and linearity accentuated by cathedral-like beech avenues; woodlands clad their sides, flowing down steep sided goyles to infiltrate the tranquil and often intimate agricultural valleys below. This contrasts with the broad flat floodplains of the Axe and Otter that cut into the area, drawing their life from tributaries deep within the valleys of the undulating hinterland.



Along the coast the villages still retain a vernacular character and rural charm that to date has been largely unspoilt by the expansion of tourism. The countryside is punctuated by hamlets and villages with cottages and houses built of local stone, pebbles, thatch and cob, a reflection of the underlying geology and traditional land use of the area. Evidence of man's former activity is present today in the form of the historic environment ranging from the nationally significant Bronze Age hill-barrow cemetery at Farway to several Iron Age hill-forts and numerous tumuli, barrows, and former quarries, to the more recent enclosure field patterns and anti-invasion World War II pill boxes in the Axe Valley.



## Landscape Character

**National Character Areas** - defined by Natural England.



The National Landscape lies in two NCAs, as shown on the map. The Blackdowns NCA, where Natural England wishes to protect:

- the tranquil, enclosed valleys and the network of streams, springs and associated semi-natural habitats set within a farmed landscape;
- the open, exposed character of the ridgetop plateaux and the associated rich cultural heritage; and
- the relatively unsettled, rural character of this landscape, maintaining open skylines and historic settlement form.

The Devon Redlands NCA, where Natural England wishes to protect:

- the value and integrity of the coastal and estuarine landscape with its diversity of cliffs, geology, geomorphology, historic features, habitats and associated wildlife, contributing to the livelihoods, enjoyment and education of people.
- the diversity of land use and activity which gives the Devon Redlands its distinctive character. Increase the connectivity of key habitats for the benefit of landscape, biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- the distinctive character of the landscape, the natural beauty, scenic quality, historic environment and geological features.
- recreational resources, access to nature and heritage assets, particularly along the coast, to ensure public benefit and enjoyment.
- the existing character, form and pattern of the area's historic settlement, from single farmsteads to larger villages.

Policies should reflect the local vernacular and geodiversity in new development and encourage provision of high-quality green infrastructure.

Source: For the National Character Areas visit - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-south-west-england>

## Devon Landscape Character Areas

Map that sets out the landscape context by showing the seven unique Devon Character Areas found within the National Landscape.



Devon has a comprehensive suite of Landscape Character Assessments, which do include the National Landscape. These assessments define a series of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Devon Character Areas (DCAs).

Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are generic types of landscape that can occur in different places. They have similar characteristics wherever they occur, and are called by a descriptive name (e.g. Estuaries, Moorland Edge Slopes, Settled Valleys).

Devon Character Areas (DCAs) are geographically unique areas, each with a distinctive 'sense of place'. They are often formed of groups of LCTs, and are called by a descriptive place-based name (e.g. Axe Valley; East Devon). Their descriptions (within the Devon Landscape Assessment) emphasise local identity and visual and perceptual influences.

### Legend

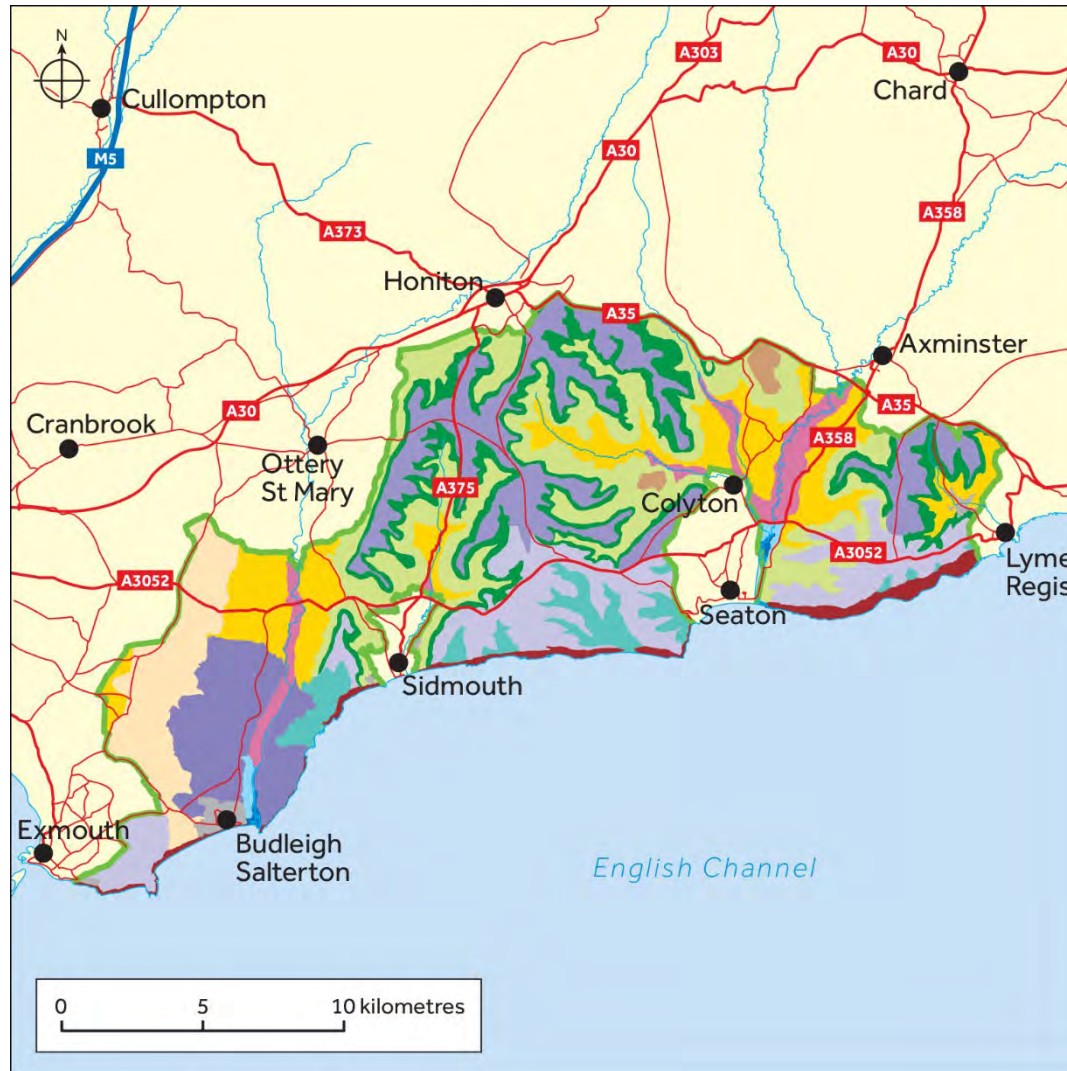
- Axe Valley
- Blackdown Hills
- Clyst Lowland Farmlands
- East Devon Central Ridge
- Pebble Bed Heaths and Farmland
- Sidmouth and Lyme Bay Coastal Plateau
- Wootton Hills

There are seven DCAs in the National Landscape (see map), though only a very small area lies within the Blackdown Hills and the Clyst Lowland Farmlands.

Source: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/landscape/devons-landscape-character-assessment/>

## Landscape Character Types

Map that sets out the landscape context by showing the 14 generic Landscape Character Types found within the National Landscape.



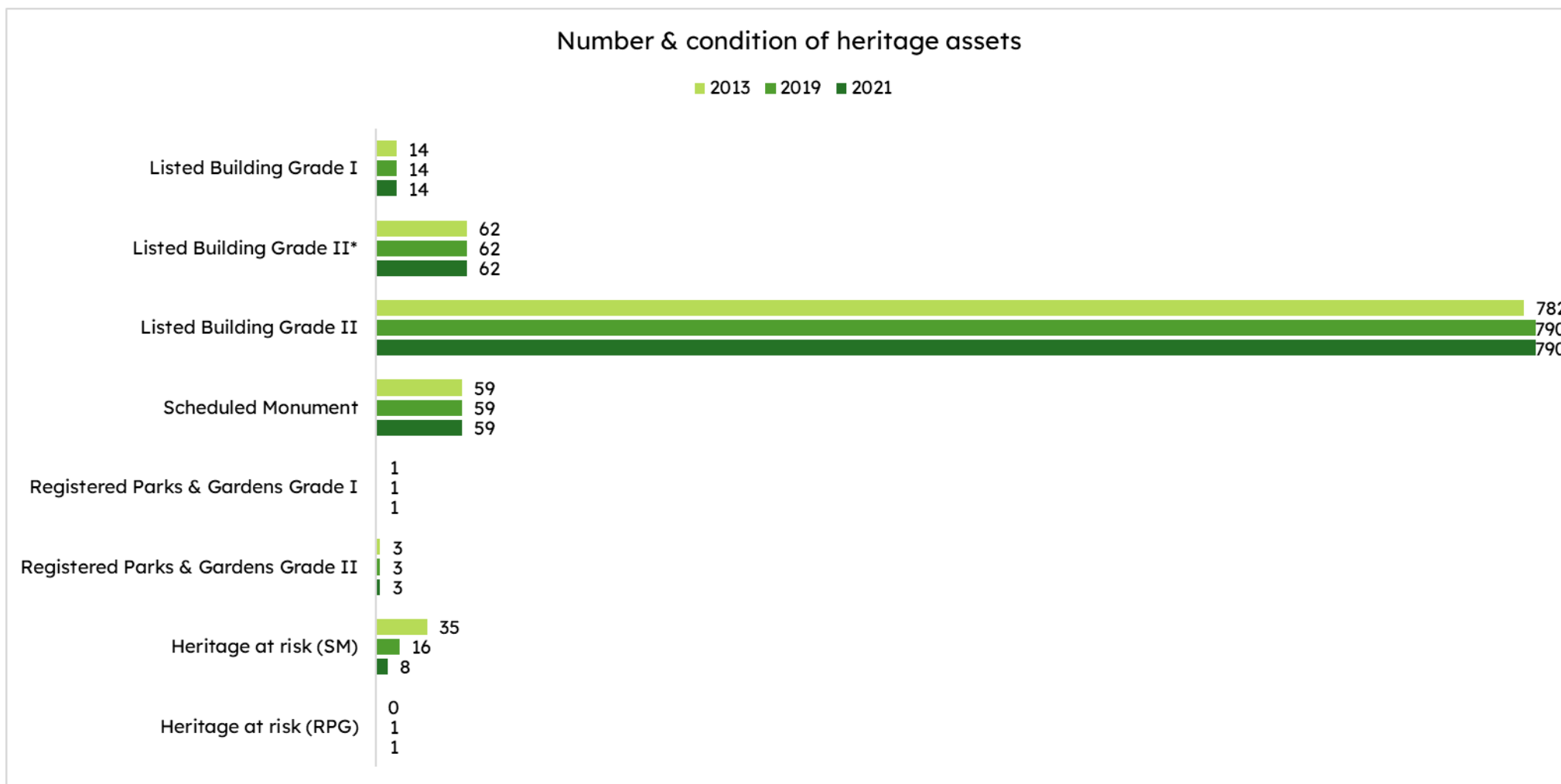
The East Devon and East Devon Landscape Character Assessment 2019 promotes the conservation and enhancement of these character areas and their distinctive qualities, whilst accommodating people's needs and responding to changes and pressures. It provides a robust evidential landscape baseline to inform future decisions but does not set out policy. The assessment sets out a profile for each of the 14 LCTs in the National Landscape (see map).



- Each profile presents:
- A description
  - Key characteristics
  - What makes this landscape special
  - Forces for change
  - Landscape aims
  - Landscape guidelines

Source: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/landscape/devons-landscape-character-assessment/>

## Number and condition of heritage assets



Source: © Historic England 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022. The most publicly available up-to-date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from [www.HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk)



English Heritage ‘list’ the most important historic assets in England. ‘Listing’ is the term given to the practice of identifying historic assets of national importance (including buildings, scheduling monuments, registering parks, gardens and battlefields, and marine wreck sites). This allows Historic England to highlight what is significant about a building or site, and helps to make sure that any future changes to it do not result in the loss of its significance.

### Percentage of Heritage Assets at risk in the National Landscape

Listed Buildings	Scheduled Monuments	Registered Park and Gardens
0%	13.6%	25%

### The condition and trend of Heritage Assets at risk in the National Landscape

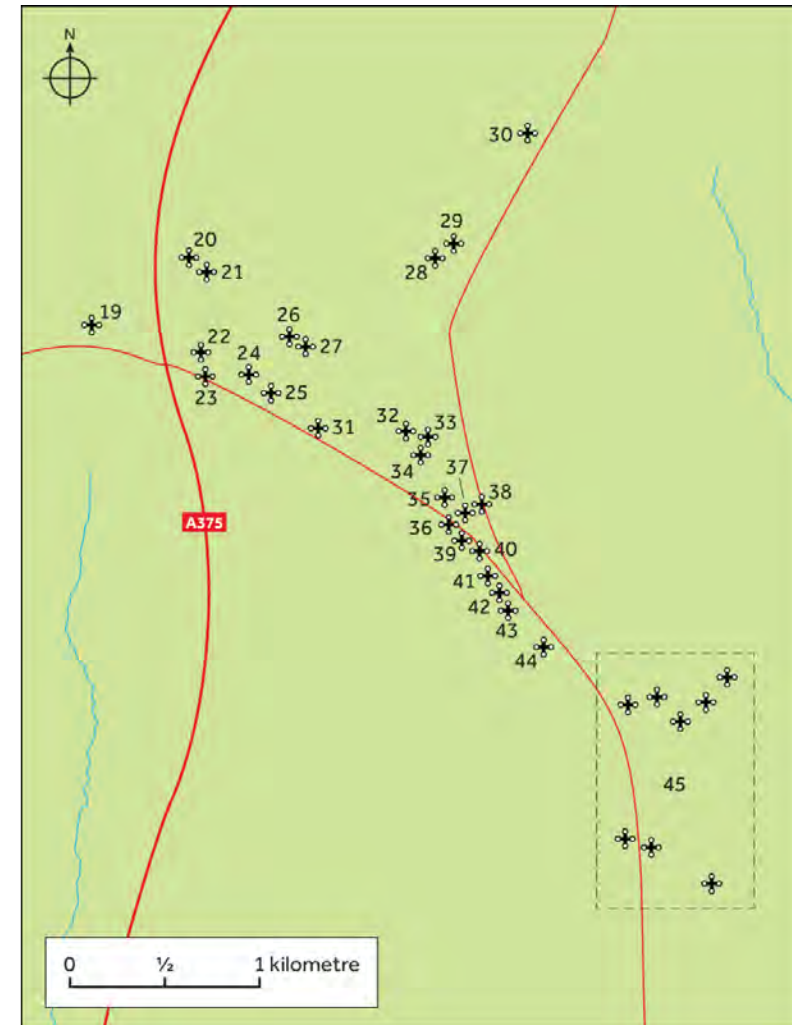
Asset	List n°	Site type	Condition	Vulnerability	Trend	Parish
Bicton	1000338	Registered Park and Garden > Grade I	Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems	High - Continuous pressure for development as the college has expanded has tended to erode the integrity of the designed landscape. The absence of a masterplan to guide and inform development remains a major cause for concern.	Stable	Colaton Raleigh / East Budleigh
Newenham Abbey	1011671	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Axminster
Trinity Beacon	1017950	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems	Scrub/tree growth	Declining	Axminster
Hawkesdown Camp and associated outwork	1017951	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Forestry	Unknown	Axminster

A cairn 450 metres WNW of Putts Corner, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill	1014255	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems	Scrub/tree growth	Declining	Gittisham
A bowl barrow 420 metres NNW of Ring-in-the-Mire, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill	1014247	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems	Scrub/tree growth	Declining	Gittisham / Honiton
Roman villa 300 yards (270 metres) SSW of Holcombe Farm	1002558	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Other	Declining	Uplyme
Castle Hill	1017477	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Scrub/tree growth	Improving	Widworthy
Woodbury Castle	1003862	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Scrub/tree growth	Improving	Woodbury

Source: Historic England (2022): Heritage at Risk Register 2022 / South West

## Location of scheduled monuments

There are 59 scheduled monuments in the National Landscape.



Legend on next page

Source: MEOPL © Historic England 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022. The most publicly available up-to-date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from [www.HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk)

## Legend

### Scheduled monuments

- 1 Three bowl barrows on Lymptstone Common, 500m west of Frying Pans
- 2 Two bowl barrows on Bicton Common, 770m and 780m north of Frying Pans
- 3 Two bowl barrows on Woodbury Common, 640m and 625m east of Four Firs
- 4 Four bowl barrows at Four Firs on Woodbury Common
- 5 Two bowl barrows on Woodbury Common, both 330m east of Four Firs
- 6 Woodbury Castle
- 7 Two bowl barrows on Colaton Raleigh Common, 500m north and 780m north east of Woodbury Castle
- 8 Bowl barrow on Colaton Raleigh Common, 850m north west of Stowford House
- 9 Bowl barrow on Colaton Raleigh Common, 770m south of Hawkerland Farm
- 10 Old church (remains of)
- 11 Bowl barrow 130m south east of St Mary's Church
- 12 High Peak Camp
- 13 Two bowl barrows on Aylesbeare Common, 630m east and 760m east of Brackendale
- 14 Bowl barrow 400m north east of Common Farm
- 15 Round barrow cemetery on Venn Ottery Hill, 660m south east of Happy Valley
- 16 Sidbury Castle
- 17 Sidford packhorse bridge, Church Street
- 18 Bowl barrow in Lee's Plantation, East Hill, 560m east of Higher Rill Farm
- 19 A cairn 450m WNW of Putts Corner, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill
- 20 A bowl barrow 570m NNE of Putts Corner, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill
- 21 A ring cairn and bowl barrow 540m NNE of Putts Corner, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill
- 22 An enclosure and two bowl barrows 180m east of Putts Corner, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill
- 23 Two bowl barrows, 220m ESE of Putts Corner, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill
- 24 A bowl barrow 500m WNW of Ring-in-the-Mire, forming part of round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill
- 25 A bowl barrow 370m WNW of Ring-in-the-Mire, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill
- 26 A bowl barrow 460m NNW of Ring-in-the-Mire, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill
- 27 A bowl barrow 420m NNW of Ring-in-the-Mire, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill
- 28 Bowl barrow 210m north west of the Farway Common Road, forming part of a dispersed barrow group on Farway Hill
- 29 Bowl barrow 160m north west of the Farway Common Road, forming part of a dispersed barrow group on Farway Hill
- 30 Two ring cairns 410m south east of Higher Blannicombe, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Farway Hill
- 31 A bowl barrow 120m south west of Ring-in-the-Mire, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Gittisham Hill
- 32 Bowl barrow 340m north west of Farway Castle, forming part of a dispersed barrow group on Farway Hill
- 33 Bowl barrow 320m north west of Farway Castle, forming part of a dispersed barrow group on Farway Hill
- 34 Bowl barrow 230m north west of Farway Castle, forming part of a dispersed barrow group on Farway Hill
- 35 Farway Castle earthwork enclosure
- 36 Four bowl barrows divided by the B3174, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Farway Hill
- 37 Bowl barrow 20m north east of the B3174, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Farway Hill
- 38 Bowl barrow 30m west of the Farway Common Road, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Farway Hill.
- 39 Three bowl barrows to the south west of the B3174, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Farway Hill
- 40 Bowl barrow on the line of the B3174, forming part of a round barrow cemetery on Farway Hill
- 41 Bowl barrow 60m south west of the B3174, forming part of a dispersed barrow group on Farway Hill
- 42 Bowl barrow 100m south west of the B3174, forming part of a dispersed barrow group on Farway Hill
- 43 Two bowl barrows on the parish boundary to the south west of the B3174, forming part of a dispersed barrow group on Farway Hill
- 44 Two bowl barrows to the north west of Roncombe Gate Farm, forming part of a dispersed barrow group on Farway Hill
- 45 Round barrow cemetery on Broad Down
- 46 Blackbury Castle hillfort
- 47 Cross ridge dyke extending north and south of The Three Horse Shoes Inn
- 48 Prehistoric field system on the cliffs above Littlecombe Shoot
- 49 Berry Cliff Camp
- 50 Bowl barrow at Bovey Fir Cross, 500m south of Bovey House
- 51 Castle Hill
- 52 Bowl barrow 310m south of Widworthy Barton
- 53 The Beacon on Shute Hill, 200m north east of Rowlands
- 54 Newenham Abbey
- 55 Musbury Castle
- 56 Trinity Beacon
- 57 Round barrow cemetery on Shapwick Hill
- 58 Roman villa 300yds (270m) SSW of Holcombe Farm
- 59 Hawkesdown Camp and associated outwork

## Location of Grade I listed buildings

There are 14 Grade I listed buildings in the National Landscape, 9 of which are churches (64%).



### Grade I Listed Buildings

- 1 Church of All Saints, East Budleigh
- 2 Rolle Mausoleum including the ruins of the old church adjoining to west, Bicton Park
- 3 Palm House including greenhouse to south east and terrace walls to south west, Bicton Park
- 4 Church of St Michael, Gittisham
- 5 Combe House
- 6 Church of St Giles and St Peter, Sidbury
- 7 Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Offwell
- 8 Church of St Winifred, Branscombe
- 9 Gate House at Old Shute House including flanking walls and pavilions, Shute
- 10 Old Shute House, Shute
- 11 Church of St Michael, Mushbury
- 12 Church of St Mary, Combyrne
- 13 Stedcombe House, Stedcombe
- 14 Church of St Michael, Axmouth

Source: MEOPL © Historic England 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022. The most publicly available up-to-date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from [www.HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk)

## Location of Registered Parks and Gardens

There are 4 Registered Parks and Gardens in the National Landscape (though this includes just a small part of Connaught Gardens).



The emphasis of the Register is on gardens, grounds and other planned open spaces, such as town squares. They are 'designed' landscapes, rather than on planting or botanical importance.

- Bicton (Grade I) - **at risk** - Early C18 formal gardens with later C18 and C19 structures, set in C18 and C19 parkland and pleasure grounds with a mid C19 arboretum, on which W S Gilpin, John Webb and J C Loudon advised.
- Combe House (Grade II) - C17 and C18 parkland surrounding C17 walled gardens and terraces.
- Connaught Gardens (Grade II) - An early C20 public park laid out in 1934 by the Gardens Department of Dartington Hall Ltd.
- Rousdon (Grade II) - Parkland and pleasure grounds laid out in the 1870s, surrounding a mansion of c 1874-8 designed by the architect Ernest George for Sir Henry William Peek.

Source: MEOPL © Historic England 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022. The most publicly available up-to-date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from [www.HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk)

## Location and condition of conservation areas

There are eight Conservation Areas within the National Landscape; none are at risk.



Historic England states that none of the conservation areas in the National Landscape are at risk.

The local planning authorities designate most conservation areas. A conservation area is an area of special architectural or historic interest; preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of these areas is an important part of local planning policy. Change in conservation areas can be negative either through poor quality new development, neglect, or even deliberate damage.

The best way to define the local character is through the production of a conservation area appraisal. This provides an understanding of the history of an area and its special qualities.

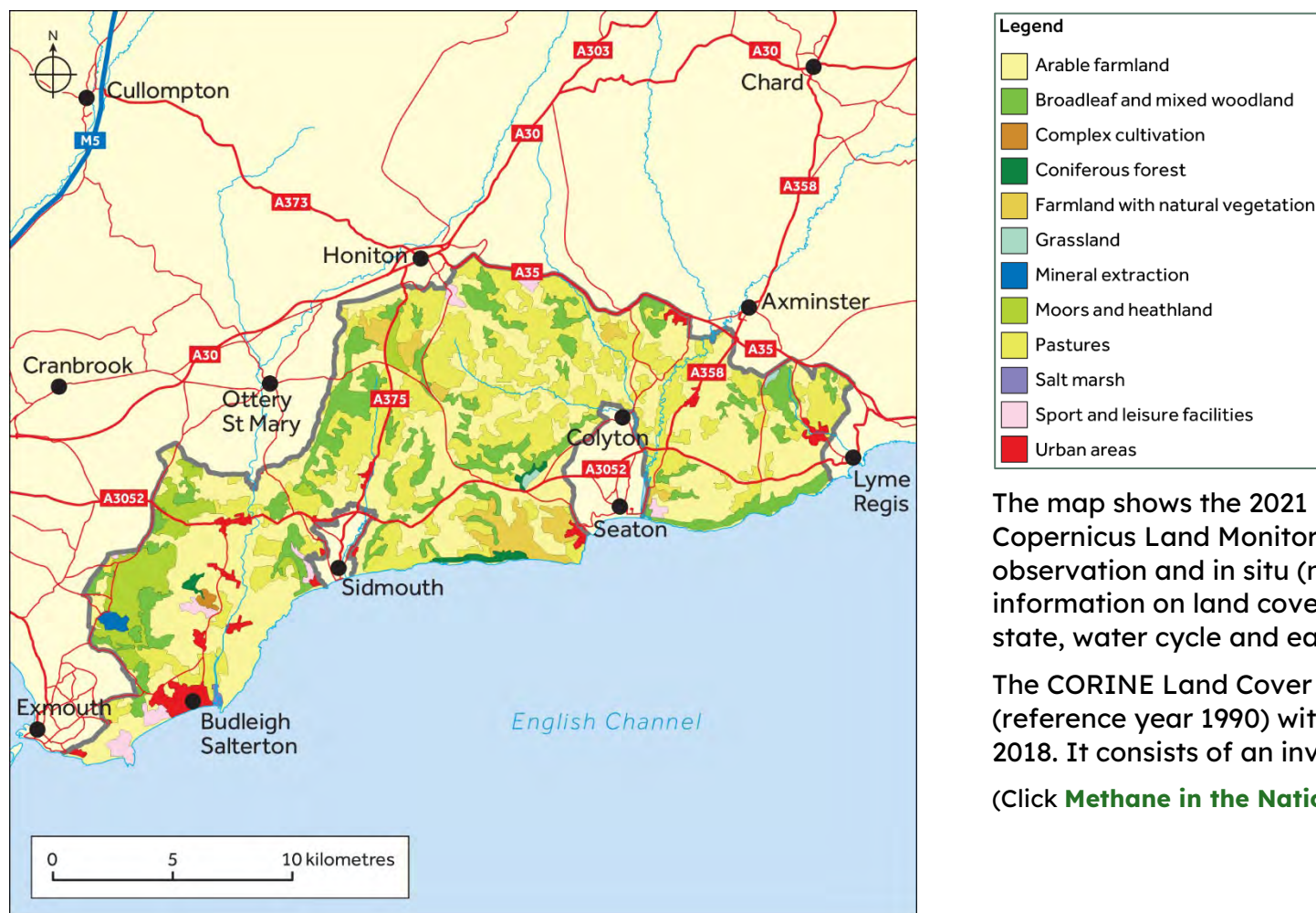
Six of the conservation areas have a published appraisal, a seventh is in progress, and there is no note of the eighth:

- Gittisham, published 1999
- Mushbury, published 1999
- Otterton, published 1999
- Sidbury, published 1999
- Budleigh Salterton, published 2007
- East Budleigh, published 2020
- Combyne Rousdon - appraisal in progress
- Salcombe Regis - no appraisal published

MAP Source: © Historic England 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022. The most publicly available up-to-date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from [www.HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk).

## Land-use map

Agriculture is the dominant land use within the National Landscape and there is no recent material change. There has been a small increase in broad-leaved woodland and a small reduction in mineral extraction since 2012.



The map shows the 2021 CORINE land cover data from the EU Copernicus Land Monitoring Service. It uses satellite earth observation and in situ (non-space) data to provide geographical information on land cover and its changes, land use, vegetation state, water cycle and earth surface energy variables.

The CORINE Land Cover inventory was initiated in 1985 (reference year 1990) with regular updates since, the latest being 2018. It consists of an inventory of land cover in 44 classes.

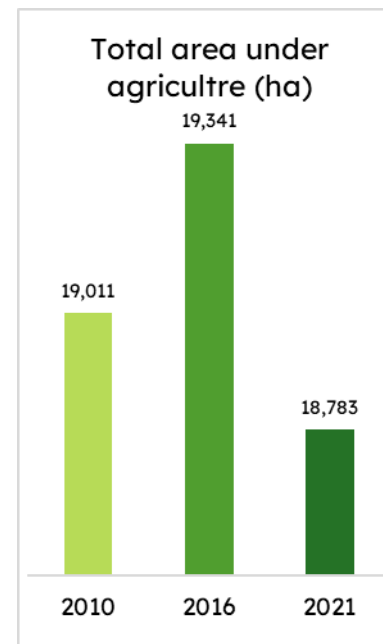
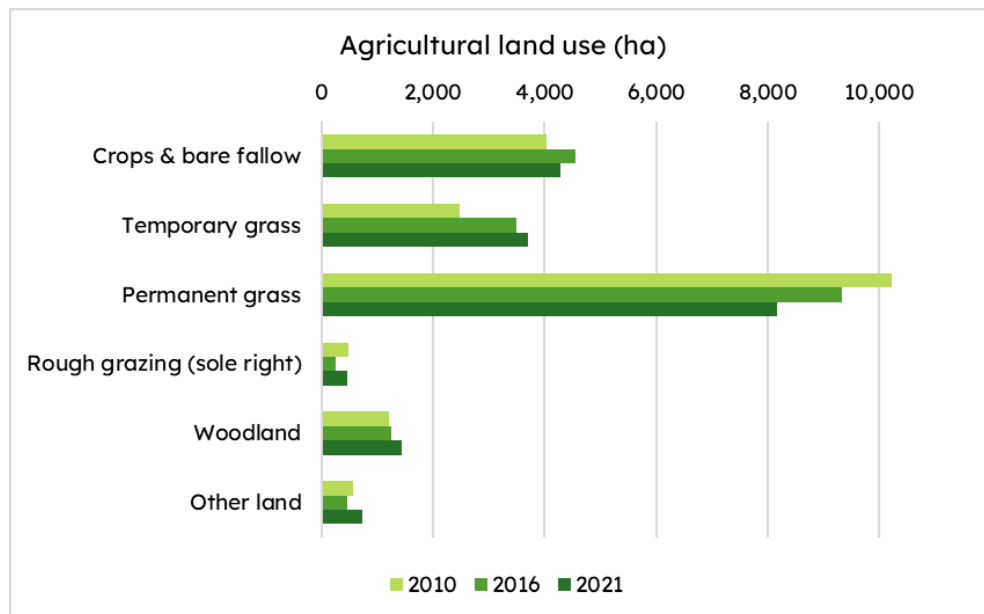
(Click [Methane in the National Landscape](#) to return methane)

Source: © European Union, Copernicus Land Monitoring Service 2021, European Environment Agency (EEA). <https://land.copernicus.eu/pan-european/corine-land-cover> - CORINE Land Cover uses a Minimum Mapping Unit (MMU) of 25 hectares (ha) for areal phenomena and a minimum width of 100 m for linear phenomena.



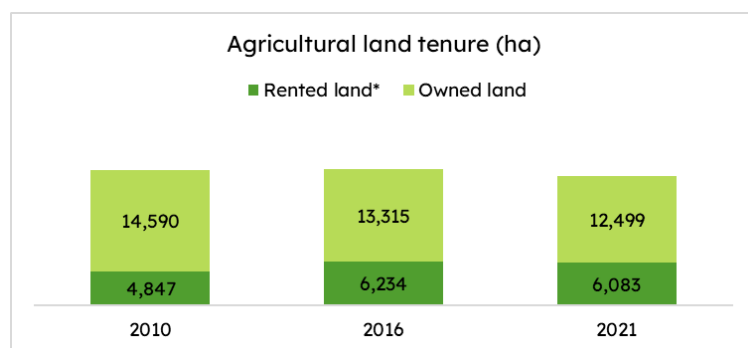
## Agricultural land-use

Currently, 68% of the National Landscape is under agriculture (18,783 ha).



There has been a steady decline in the total area of agricultural land during the last ten years. In 2021, there were 18,783 ha of land under agriculture. This is a decline of 1% from 2010 (19,011 ha) and a decline of 3% since 2016 (19,341 ha). This is primarily due to a decline in permanent grass.

In 2021, 67% of the agricultural tenured land was owner occupied, 33% rented (note that the area of total land use does not equate with the area of total tenure; some land is either not actively managed or is common land)



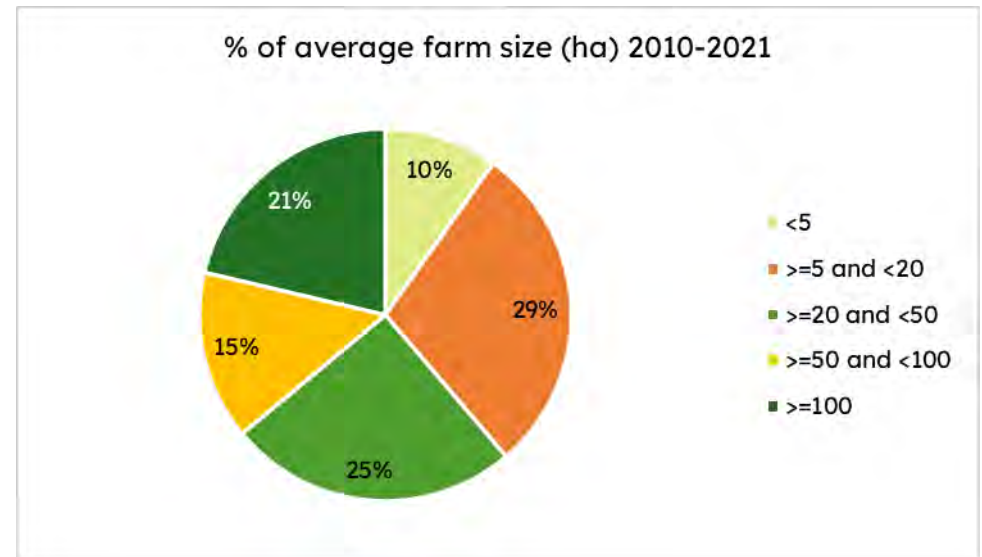
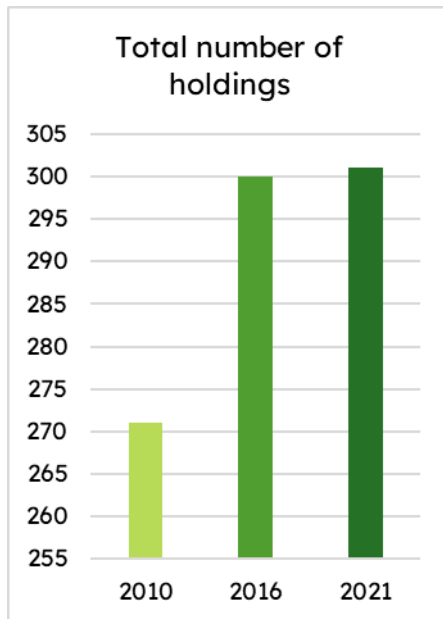
\* Rented land means land rented for at least 365 days on either a Full Agricultural Tenancy, Farm Business Tenancy, or other long-term agreement.

Note: The Defra June Survey of Agriculture is a large sample survey sent to a representative sample of holdings across England. As the results are based on a sample survey, they are subject to a degree of sampling error and do not consider other sources of survey errors, such as non-response bias or administrative data errors.

Source: Defra June Survey of Agriculture <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>

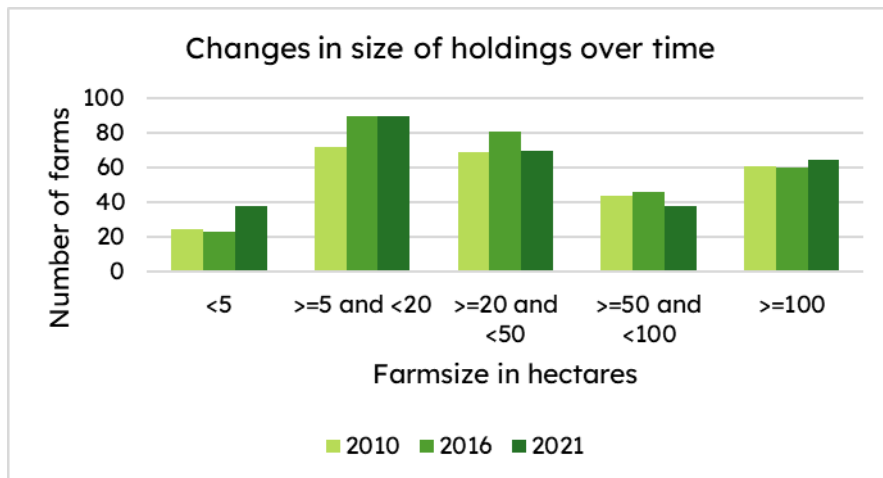
## Agricultural holdings

During the last five years the number of holdings has remained at around 300. 39% are less than 20 hectares, 40% are between 20-100 hectares, and 21% are over 100 hectares in size. 43% are lowland livestock grazing farms, and 22% are general cropping farms.

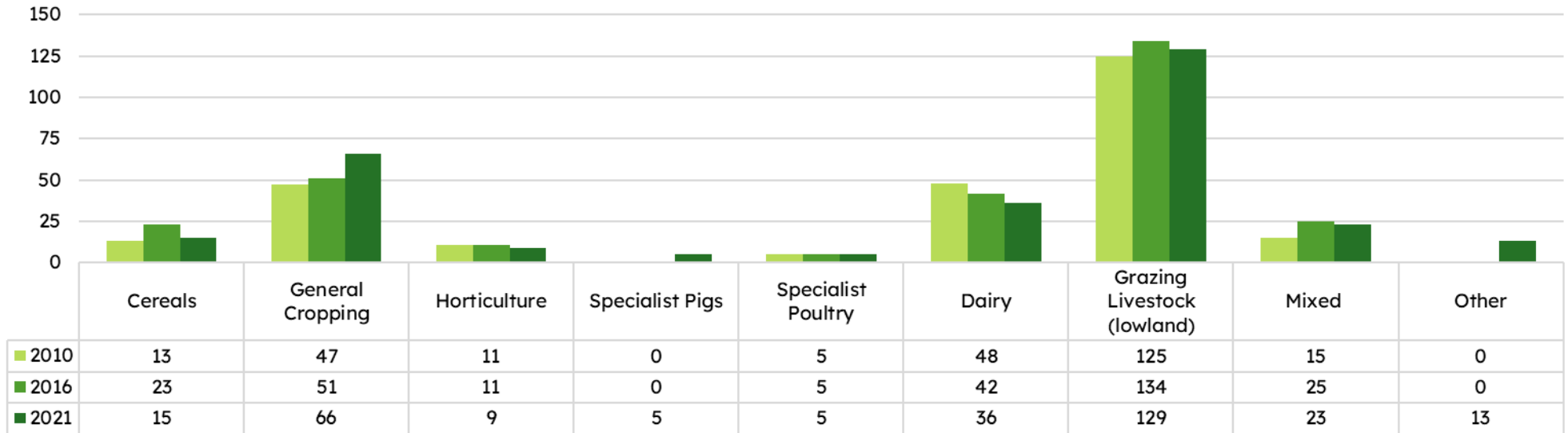


The number of holdings has risen from 271 in 2010 to 301 in 2021 (an increase of 11%).

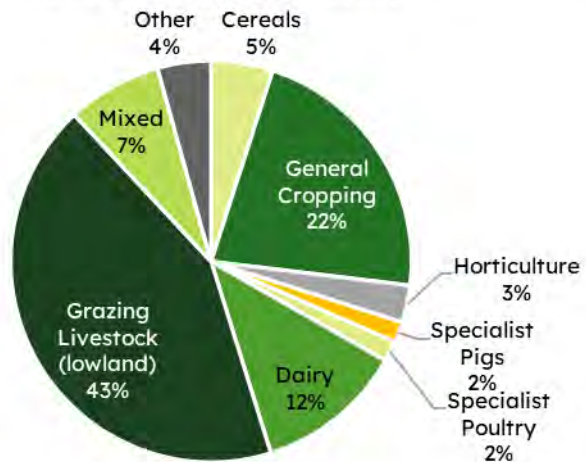
The relative size of agricultural landholdings has been static during the last ten years. Since 2016, there is an increase in the smallest units (less than 5 ha) and a small fall in those between 50 and 100 ha.



Number of farms by type



% of farms by type (2021)

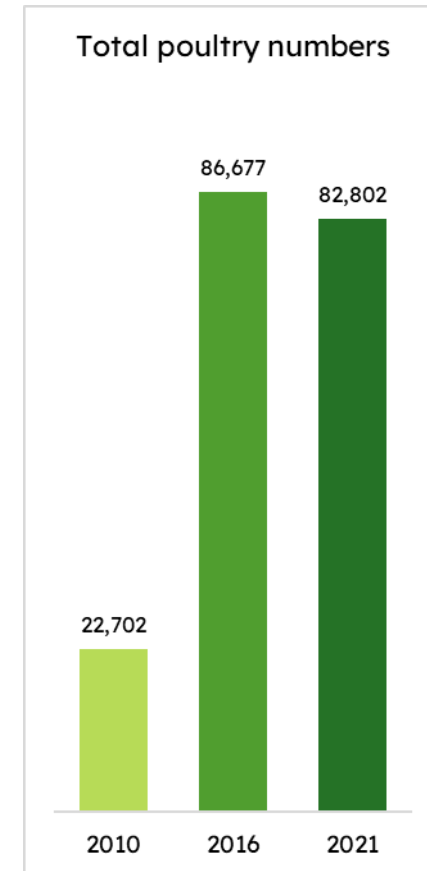
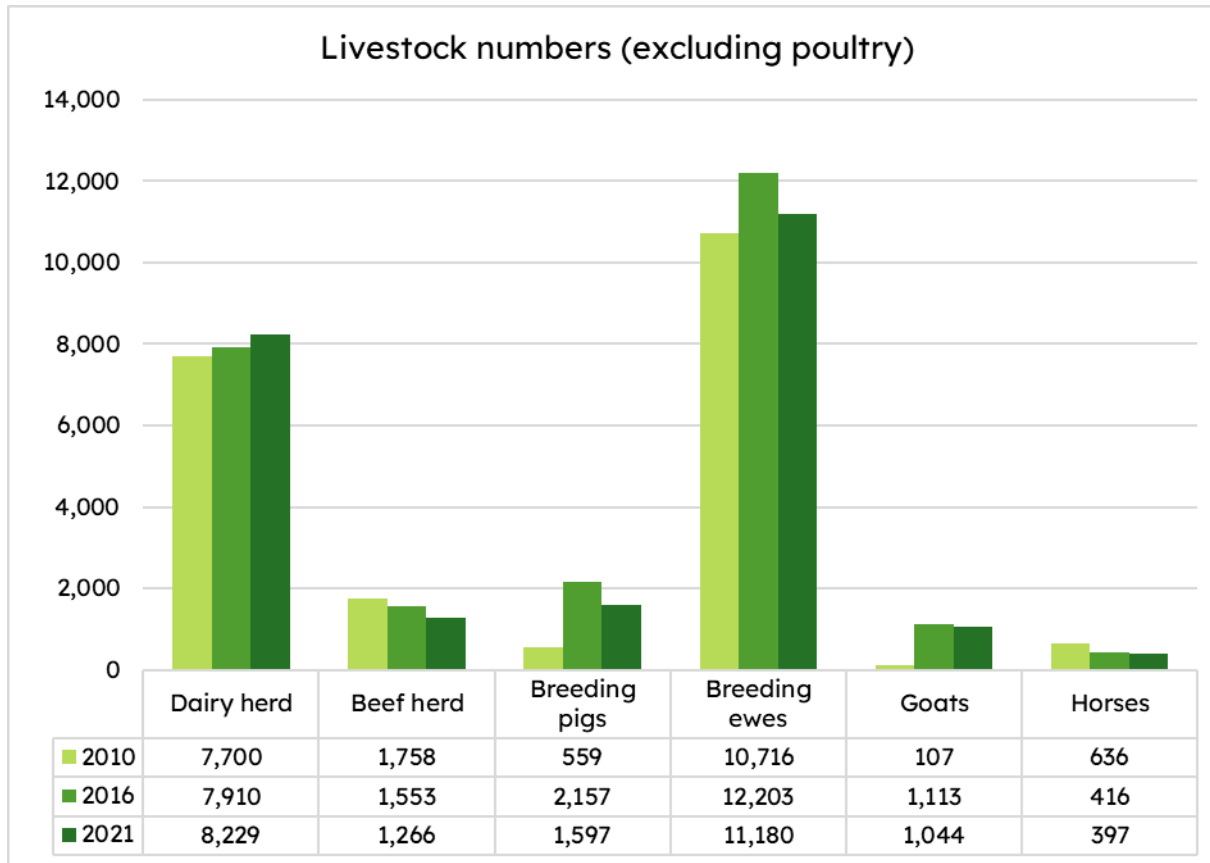


Grazing livestock is, and has constantly been, the predominant holding type. In the last ten years, there has been an increase in general cropping (+40%) and 'other'.

Source: Defra June Survey of Agriculture  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>

## Livestock numbers

Poultry is the largest group of livestock (82,802 animals), a 5% decrease in numbers since 2016 (the trend from 2010 is an increase of 365%). However, sheep (11,180 breeding ewes) and cattle (9,485 animals) are the most dominant livestock in the landscape. There is an 8% decline in sheep numbers since 2016, cattle numbers are stable (0.2% fall).



Source: Defra June Survey of Agriculture <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>

## Land in agri-environment schemes

There are 7,383 ha entered into agri-environment schemes, covering 27% of the National Landscape, at a value of £746,468.



### Legend

- Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
- Higher Level Stewardship
- Organic Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship

The stewardship scheme, which replaces the older Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Area schemes, has two levels:

- Entry-Level Stewardship; and
- Higher-Level Stewardship.

In 2021, 8% of the National Landscape was in Entry-Level Stewardship, and 0.4% was in Higher-Level Stewardship.

The total annual values of agri-environment agreements in the National Landscape is £746,468 (2021); down from £962,435 (2016). The area has decreased from 13,752 ha in 2016 (51% of the National Landscape) to 7,383 ha in 2021 (27% of the National Landscape).

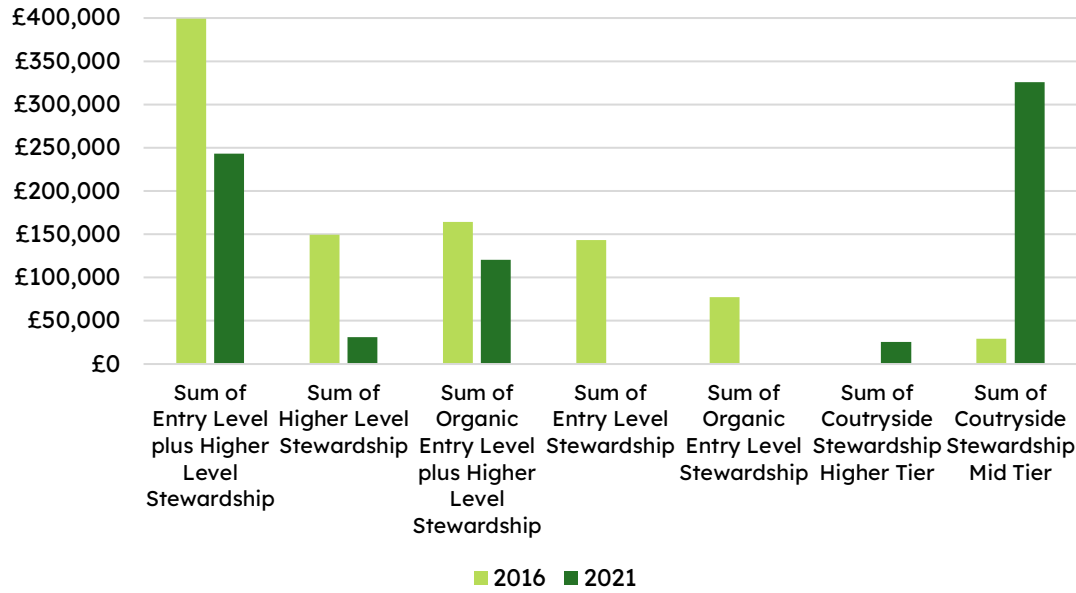
The cost and area of the various schemes are set out in the tables below.

Source: © Natural England copyright. Environmental Stewardship Scheme holdings agreement polygons (includes farm business and payment info)

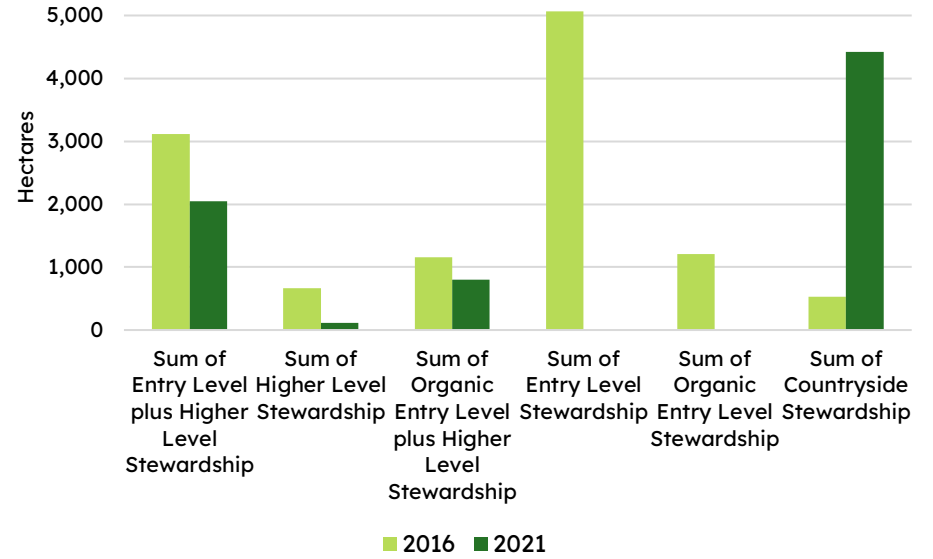
Attribution Statement: © Rural Payments Agency. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2023.

<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/df5e865d-51a0-4d24-9dfc-6540b959c26c/environmental-stewardship-scheme-agreements-england/>

Cost of AE Schemes



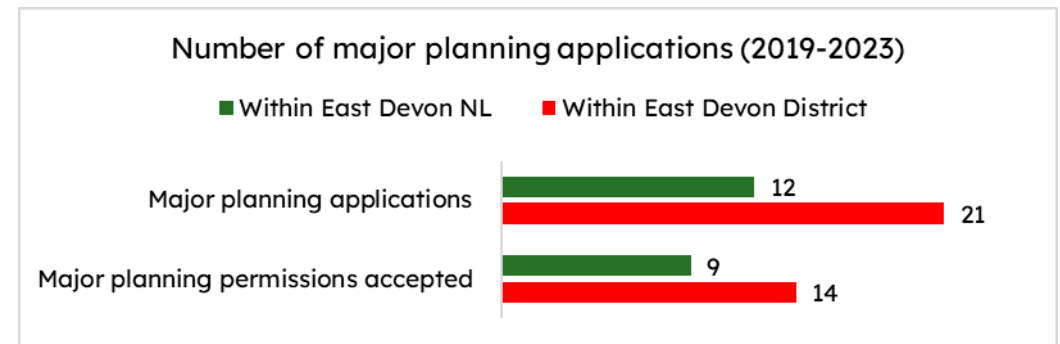
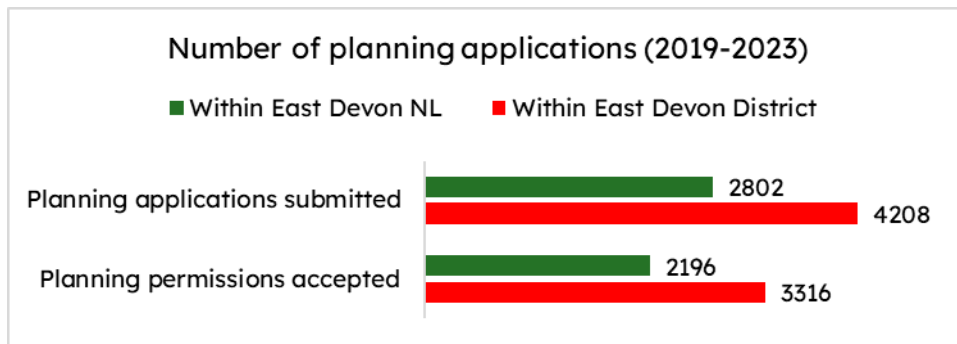
Area of AE Schemes



## Development monitoring

Of the 2,802 planning applications submitted in the national landscape during the last five years, 78% were approved. Twelve major applications were submitted during this period and to date, 75% were approved but the remaining 25% are still to be considered. Since 2019, there have been 26 affordable home completions in the National Landscape.

### Planning applications



### Affordable homes

Affordable home completions:

- 2022/23 = 6 affordable completions in Beer
- 2021/22 = 5 affordable completions in Budleigh Salterton
- 2020/21 = 10 affordable completions in Otterton
- 2019/20 = 5 affordable completions in Budleigh Salterton

Source: East Devon District Council 2024

## Future development pressure

The emerging local plan proposes 183 new homes in the National Landscape and allocates 0.15 ha for new employment sites (in Sidbury). There are 13 formally adopted adopted neighbourhood plans in 2023, up from 8 in 2019.

### Local Plans

Status of plan	Date adopted	Spatial Strategy and allocations
Adopted Local Plan	East Devon Local Plan 2013 to 2031 Adopted - 28 January 2016	<p><b>Strategy 7 - Development in the Countryside</b></p> <p>The countryside is defined as all those parts of the plan area that are outside the Built-up Area Boundaries and outside of site specific allocations shown on the Proposals Map. Development in the countryside will only be permitted where it is in accordance with a specific Local or Neighbourhood Plan policy that explicitly permits such development and where it would not harm the distinctive landscape, amenity and environmental qualities within which it is located, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land form and patterns of settlement.</li> <li>2. Important natural and manmade features which contribute to the local landscape character, including topography, traditional field boundaries, areas of importance for nature conservation and rural buildings.</li> <li>3. The adverse disruption of a view from a public place which forms part of the distinctive character of the area or otherwise causes significant visual intrusions. (entirety of AONB covered by this policy - no allocations)</li> </ol>
Emerging Local Plan	East Devon Local Plan 2020 to 2040 Preferred Options Reg. 18 Consultation Draft Plan Current draft - autumn 2022	<p><b>Spatial Strategy:</b></p> <p>Allow limited development to meet local needs at the Service Villages of <b>Beer, Branscombe, Broadhembury, Chardstock, Clyst St Mary, Dunkeswell, East Budleigh, Exton, Feniton, Hawkchurch, Kilmington, Musbury, Newton Poppleford, Otterton, Payhembury, Plymtree, Sidbury, Stoke Canon, Tipton St John, Uplyme, Westclyst, West Hill and Whimple.</b></p> <p>Settlements not listed above are considered to be 'open countryside' for the purposes of the Local Plan, where more restrictive planning policies apply.</p>



### Strategic Policy – Development at service villages

The sites/areas listed below are considered to be potential sites for allocation for development in/at East Devon’s service villages. These are listed by settlement with a potential total number of homes and land area for employment spaces for that settlement listed beneath. These totals are in the event that all identified site options within that settlement were to come forward as allocations.

Total new homes proposed for allocation at:

- Kilmington = 52
- Musbury = 25
- Otterton = 23
- Sidbury = 38
- Tipton St John = 45

**Total new homes allocation = 183**

**Total land area proposed for employment (at Sidbury) = 0.15 Ha**

Note: If land is allocated in Ottery St Mary for the relocation of the primary school in Tipton St John, then the village would no longer meet the threshold for a Tier 4 settlement and this potential allocation would not be taken forward.

### Neighbourhood Plans

A Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document that guides and shapes development in the local area. East Devon District Council, as local planning authority, continues to determine planning applications but, once ‘made’ (adopted by the planning authority), a Neighbourhood Plan forms a part of the development plan for the area. Decisions are then made in accordance with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

Parish	Date made
Lympstone	2015
Budleigh Salterton	2017
East Budleigh & Bicton	2017
Uplyme	2017
Ottery St Mary	2018
Beer	2019
Exmouth	2019
Sidmouth	2019
Newton Poppleford & Harpford	2021
Otterton	2021
Colyton & Colyford	2022
Dalwood	2022
Kilmington	2022

## Parish Plans

Once endorsed, a parish plan may form a material consideration in considering planning applications. The following parishes have endorsed plans:

- Axminster
- Axmouth
- Aylesbeare
- Colyton / Colyford
- Dalwood
- Gittisham
- Honiton
- Kilminster
- Lympstone
- Musbury
- Newton Poppleford & Harpford
- Northleigh
- Offwell
- Ottery St Mary
- Shute
- Uplyme

## Village Design Statements

Once adopted, a village design statement is a material consideration, it describes the qualities and characteristics that people value in their village and surroundings. The following parishes have adopted statements:

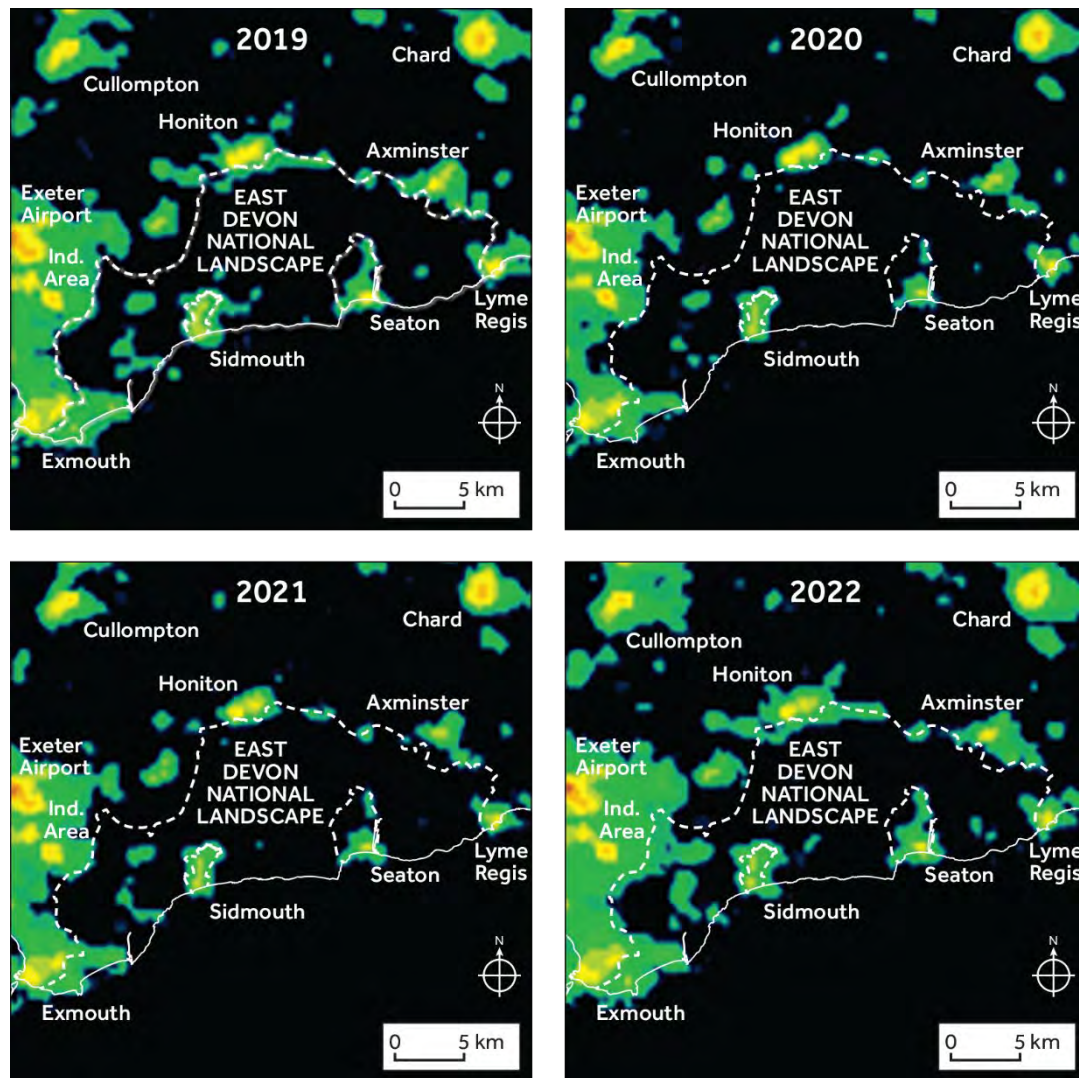
- Aylesbeare
- Beer
- Budleigh Salterton
- Exmouth
- Kilminster
- Lympstone
- Otterton
- Uplyme
- Woodbury

## Parishes with no formal local guidance

- Branscombe
- Colaton Raleigh
- Combpyne Rousdon
- Farway
- Southleigh

## Light pollution

There is very little light pollution in the National Landscape but there is an incremental growth.



Source: [www.lightpollutionmap.info](http://www.lightpollutionmap.info)

Natural England used to measure tranquillity based on analysis of the 2006 Council for Protection for Rural England Tranquillity Mapping study). The data has not been updated.

We replace the 'tranquillity' reporting with data for light and noise pollution.

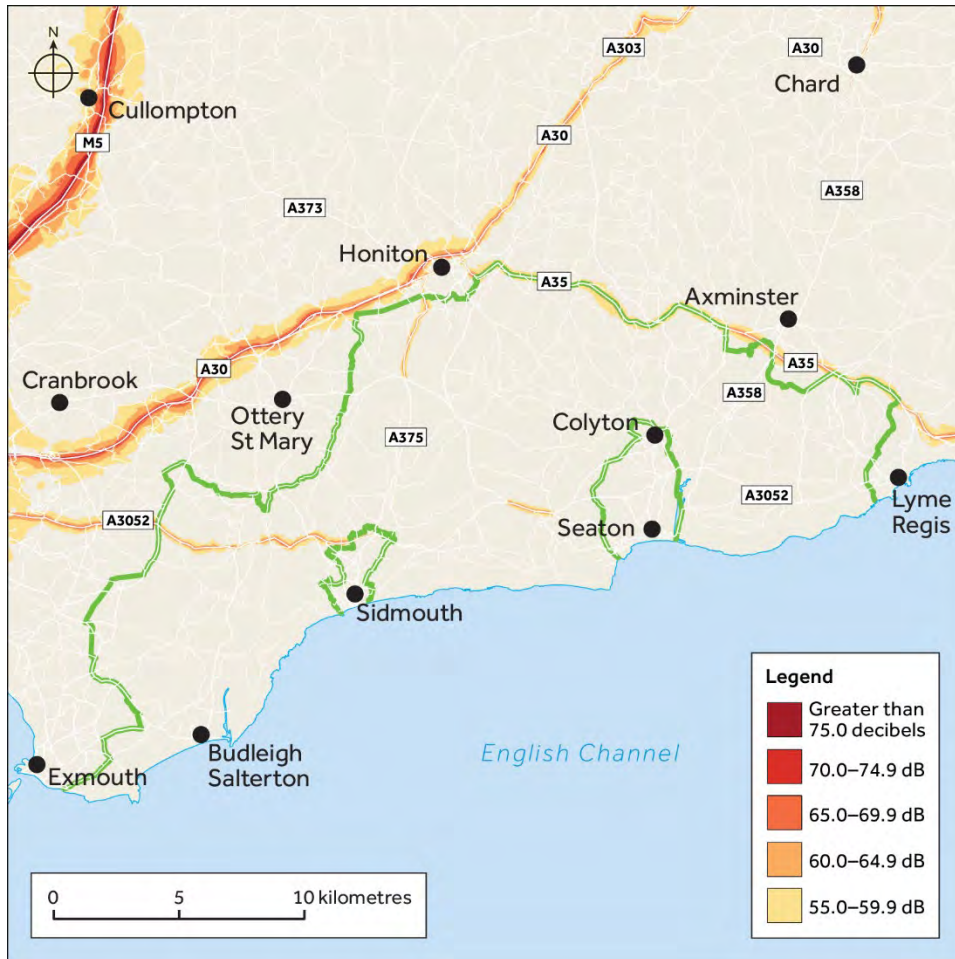
The light pollution maps show four satellite images comparing zenith sky brightness (magnitude/arc second<sup>2</sup>) between 2019 and 2022.

Comparing 2019 with 2022, the images show that though very little light spills out of the National Landscape, the spillage is increasing. There is a noticeable increase of light spillage coming from the Exeter conurbation and Honiton. And there is an increase in spillage from some communities within the area, noticeably along the A3052 (perhaps associated with holiday parks) and in the area between Newton Poppleford to Budleigh Salterton.

Light pollution is less during 2020 and 2021. This is most likely due to the lockdowns during the Covid pandemic but may also reflect actions to reduce the use of electricity. The most noticeable difference is around Honiton and between Sidmouth and Lyme Regis.

## Noise pollution

There is very little traffic noise in the National Landscape. Noise pollution from road traffic comes mainly from the A3052 and a part of the A375.



Source: Defra - Road Noise - Lden - England Round 3 <https://environment.data.gov.uk/dataset/fd1c6327-ad77-42ae-a761-7c6a0866523d> as a part of the Strategic Noise Mapping programme: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-noise-mapping-2019>

Environmental noise mainly consists of noise from transport sources such as road, rail and aviation. One of the ways Defra manages this noise is by implementing the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended). These require that, every 5 years, Defra must adopt noise maps which show people's exposure to environmental noise; this map is for the third round of this 5 yearly cycle (referred to as "Round 3"). Round 3 uses 2017 data.

The data indicates the level of noise according to the strategic noise mapping of road sources within areas with a population of at least 100,000 people (agglomerations) and along major traffic routes. Lden indicates a 24-hour annual average noise level with separate weightings for the evening and night periods. Major Roads are defined as regional or national sections of road which have a bi-directional flow of 3 million vehicle passages or more per year.

# Glossary

## Access land

Any land that is shown as open country on a map issued by Natural England for the purposes of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; is shown on such a map as registered common land; is registered common land in any area outside Inner London for which no such map relating to registered common land has been issued; is situated more than 600 metres above sea level in any area for which no such map relating to open country has been issued; or is dedicated as access land under the Act.

## Accessible Natural Environment

Natural England define it as all Green Infrastructure (GI) (see below) assets identified as accessible green spaces for the development of the England GI Mapping database. It includes places that are available for the public to use free of charge and without time restrictions and includes:

- a) Play space provision
- b) Millennium or Doorstep Green
- c) Cemeteries and religious grounds
- d) Playing fields
- e) Local Nature Reserve
- f) Public park – general
- g) Country Park
- h) Access Land

## Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

(Also known as a National Landscape) An area of landscape that is of such outstanding natural beauty that it merits designation under

the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. Together, AONBs represent 18% of the finest countryside in England and Wales. The designation helps to protect their special character, for example, through enhanced planning regulations.

## Agri-environment schemes

Provided by Natural England, these schemes offer payment to farmers who give an undertaking, or enter into an agreement, to manage their land for biodiversity, landscape, the historic environment, public access or amenity objectives.

## Authenticity

Those characteristics that most truthfully reflect and embody the cultural heritage interests of a heritage asset.

## Biodiversity

The term given to the variety of life and the natural processes of which living things are a part. The term includes living organisms, the genetic differences between them and the communities in which they occur.

## Built heritage

A collective term for heritage assets of local, regional or international significance because of their heritage value(s).

## Climate change

Change in global climate patterns apparent from the mid- to late 20th century onwards, attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced using fossil fuels.

## Common land

Areas where people who do not own the land have rights to use it for livestock grazing or other purposes. See also registered common land.

## Conservation

The process of managing change to an asset in its setting in ways that will best sustain its values, while recognising opportunities to reveal or reinforce those values for present and future generations.

### **Conservation Area**

Designated by the local planning authority as an area which they consider has special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which they consider is desirable to preserve or enhance.

### **Context**

Any relationship between an asset and its setting, including other places and its past, relevant to the values of that asset.

### **Cultural heritage**

Inherited assets that people identify and value as a reflection and expression of their evolving knowledge, beliefs and traditions, and of their understanding of the beliefs and traditions of others

### **Designation**

The recognition of particular interest(s) of an asset by giving it formal status under legislation or policy intended to sustain its significance.

### **Designated heritage asset**

A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Registered Battlefield, Registered Historic Landscape, Registered Park and Garden, Listed Building, Conservation Area, Area of Townscape/Village Character, Local Landscape Policy Area or Protected Wreck Site.

### **Distinctive Characteristics**

The unique components that give an area its sense of place.

### **Earth heritage**

The rocks, soils and landforms that reveal our geological history, determine the diverse habitats in which wildlife can thrive and create the rich landscapes that we all enjoy.

### **Earth heritage site**

See Sites of Special Scientific Interest

### **Ecosystem**

Natural unit consisting of all plants, animals and micro-organisms (biotic factors) in an area functioning together with all the non-living physical (abiotic) factors of the environment.

### **Ecosystem services**

Ecosystem services (sometimes called environmental services) are the essential services and benefits that are derived from a fully functioning natural environment, including the management of basic resources such as water, and the sequestration of carbon.

### **Enhancement**

Increase the quality, value or attractiveness of an area or asset.

### **Environmental capital**

Environmental capital is the environmental assets, such as soils, from which beneficial services flow supplying resources to the economy. Four basic categories of environmental capital are generally recognised: air, water (fresh, groundwater and marine), land (including soil, space and landscape) and habitats (including the ecosystems, flora and fauna which they both comprise and support).

### **Environmental services**

See ecosystem services.

### **Geodiversity**

The term geodiversity incorporates the variety of rocks, minerals and landforms, and the processes that have formed them through

geological time. The breadth of geodiversity gives insight to past climates, earlier environments and life on earth.

### **Green infrastructure**

Strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high-quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality-of-life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability.

### **Heritage**

All inherited resources that people value for reasons beyond mere utility.

### **Heritage Asset**

A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having cultural significance. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

### **Historic environment**

All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed flora.

### **Integrity**

A measure of the wholeness and intactness of an asset and the survival and condition of those elements that contribute to its significance.

### **Intervention**

Any action that has a physical effect on the fabric or appreciation of a place or feature.

### **Invasive species**

Plants, animals and microbes not native to a region which, when introduced either accidentally or intentionally, are harmful to the environment by out-competing native species for available resources, reproducing prolifically or dominating regions and ecosystems.

### **Joint Advisory Committee**

This is a formally constituted body made up of representatives from a wide range of public, private and voluntary groups. Its main roles are to coordinate management of the National Landscape and implementation of the National Landscape management plan.

### **Key Features**

The landmarks, locations or landscape features that are regionally distinctive.

### **Landscape**

An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

### **Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)**

The LCA is a method for identifying, understanding and expressing the different patterns and elements of the landscape. These elements include the woodlands, hedgerows, building styles and historic artefacts that give a place a distinctive character.

### **Listed building**

Listed buildings are structures considered to be of high architectural or historic interest that are placed on a statutory list to help protect their important features. The list is compiled by the secretary of state for Culture, Media and sport on advice from Historic England.

### **List of locally important features**

Each local authority produces an informal list of locally important features, recommended by the draft Heritage Protection Bill. These represent assets of local special interest as defined by councils.

### **Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)**

Since 2004, LDFs are part of the new two-tier structure of the planning system (the higher tier is the regional spatial strategy – see below). The LDF replaces the structure Plan and the Local Plan. It consists of several Local Development Documents (LDDs) including a Core strategy, site-specific Allocations of Land, and a Proposals Map. It may also contain additional optional development documents such as Area Action Plans. Production of the LDF must be accompanied by a statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

### **Local Enterprise Partnerships**

Partnerships led by local authorities and businesses across natural economic areas. They aim to provide the vision, knowledge and strategic leadership needed to drive sustainable private sector growth and job creation in their area.

### **Local Geological Sites**

Previously known as Regionally Important Geological Sites, sites that are selected by voluntary geo-conservation groups, according to nationally agreed criteria.

### **Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs)**

LNPs are partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment. They work strategically to help their local area manage the natural environment.

### **Local Sites**

Local Sites are non-statutory areas of local importance for conservation that complement nationally and internationally designated geological and wildlife sites.

### **Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)**

LSPs are non-statutory, multi-agency partnerships that match local authority boundaries. They are a crucial part of the participation process in local development planning and implementation, bringing together public, private, community and voluntary sectors. They help to deliver joint working at the local level to improve public services and meet the needs of local communities.

### **Local Wildlife Sites**

There are several different terms in use to describe Local Wildlife Sites, including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and County Wildlife Sites. National advice is to use the term, Local Wildlife Sites. Local Wildlife Sites are usually selected within a local authority area through Local Nature Partnerships. They support both locally and nationally threatened wildlife, and many sites will contain English priority habitats and species.

### **Maintenance**

Routine work necessary to keep the fabric of a place, feature or asset, including its setting, in good order.

### **Monitoring environmental outcomes in protected landscapes (MEOPL)**

A national framework for monitoring environmental outcomes in National Parks and National Landscapes. Natural England leads in this work, in close partnership with Defra, the English National Park Authorities Association, Historic England and the National Landscapes Association.

### **National Heritage List**

The National Heritage List for England is the only official and up to date database of all nationally designated heritage assets including: Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, World



Heritage Sites, applications for Certificates of Immunity, current Building Preservation Notices.

### **National Landscapes**

The new name for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (see Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

### **Natural Capital**

Those elements of the natural environment that provide valuable goods and services to people, such as the stock of forests, water, land, minerals and oceans.

### **Natural Character Areas (NCAs)**

Areas defined at the national level, which describe the geographical, ecological and historical variations in landscape character that make one area different from another. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.

### **Natural Character Area (NCA) profiles**

Total of 159 distinct profiles produced by Natural England to make environmental evidence and information easily available to a wider audience.

### **National Cycle Network (NCN)**

The National Cycle Network is a UK-wide network of signed paths and routes for walking, wheeling, cycling and exploring outdoors. Ideally, the route, will be traffic-free. If it is not, it should either be on a quiet-way section of road or be fully separated from the adjacent carriageway.

### **Natural beauty**

A combination of distinctive characteristics and key features. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 states that natural beauty includes 'flora, fauna, and geological and

physiographical features. Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 confirms that land can be of natural beauty because of human intervention.

### **Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)**

NIAs operate over large areas within which significant enhancements of ecological networks are achieved, by enhancing existing wildlife sites, improving ecological connections and restoring ecological processes. A consortium of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and voluntary conservation organisations, supported by national agencies, manages them. Following a national competition, England's first NIAs started work on the 1 April 2012. Government can designate additional NIAs on the recommendation of Local Nature Partnerships.

### **Nature recovery**

Local Nature Recovery is the successor to the Countryside Stewardship scheme in England. It will pay for locally-targeted actions to make space for nature in the farmed landscape and the wider countryside, alongside food production.

### **Nature Recovery Network (NRN)**

A national network of wildlife-rich places intended to expand, improve and connect these places across our cities, towns, countryside and coast.

### **Preserve**

To keep safe from harm.

### **Proportionality**

The quality of being appropriately related to something else in size, degree, or other measurable characteristics.

### **Protected landscape area**

Defined by the IUCN as a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

### **Public**

Of or concerning the people.

### **Renewable energy**

Natural energy that can be used repeatedly and will not run out. Sources of renewable energy include wind, water and solar power.

### **Restoration**

To return an asset to a known earlier state, based on compelling evidence, without conjecture.

### **Scheduled Monument**

A Scheduled Monument is defined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the National Heritage Act 1983 as a protected archaeological site or historic building of national importance. Nationally, they range from prehistoric standing stones and burial mounds to more recent structures such as collieries and wartime pill-boxes. The scheduling of a monument means that permission is required for works affecting that monument.

### **Setting**

The immediate and extended environment that is part of – and contributes to – the significance and distinctive character of an asset, and through which an asset is understood, seen, experienced and enjoyed.

### **Significance**

The value of an asset to past, present and future generations because of the sum of its embodied interests. Significance also derives from its setting.

### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)**

SSSIs are the best examples of our natural heritage of wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms. An SSSI is an area that has been notified as being of special interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

### **Social capital**

Social capital describes the pattern and intensity of networks among people and the shared values that arise from those networks. While definitions of social capital vary, the main aspects are citizenship, neighbourliness, trust and shared values, community involvement, volunteering, social networks and civic participation.

### **Special Characteristics**

The unique components that give the area its sense of place.

### **Special Features**

The physical elements in the landscape that are regionally distinctive.

### **Special Qualities**

The combination of distinctive characteristics and key features that make an area important and valued (see Distinctive Characteristics and Key Features).

### **Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs)**

SNAs are areas of Devon's countryside that contain higher than average concentrations of existing wildlife habitats such as native woodlands, flower-rich grasslands, bogs and heathland (many of these habitats will have an international, national or local designation).

### **Sustain**

Maintain, treasure and affirm significance.

### **Sustainable**

Capable of meeting present needs without compromising ability to meet future needs.

### **Sustainable development**

Sustainable development means meeting four objectives at the same time: social progress that meets the needs of everyone; effective protection of the environment; prudent use of natural resources; and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

### **Sustainable communities**

Places where people want to live and work, now and in the future, that meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment and contribute to a high quality of life.

### **Sustainable tourism**

Sustainable tourism is tourism that attempts to make a low impact on the environment and local culture, while helping to generate income, employment and the conservation of local ecosystem services. It is responsible tourism that is both ecologically and culturally sensitive.

### **Transparent**

Open to public scrutiny.

### **Value-based judgement**

An assessment that reflects the values of the person or group making the assessment.

## **State of the National Landscape Report 2025**

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