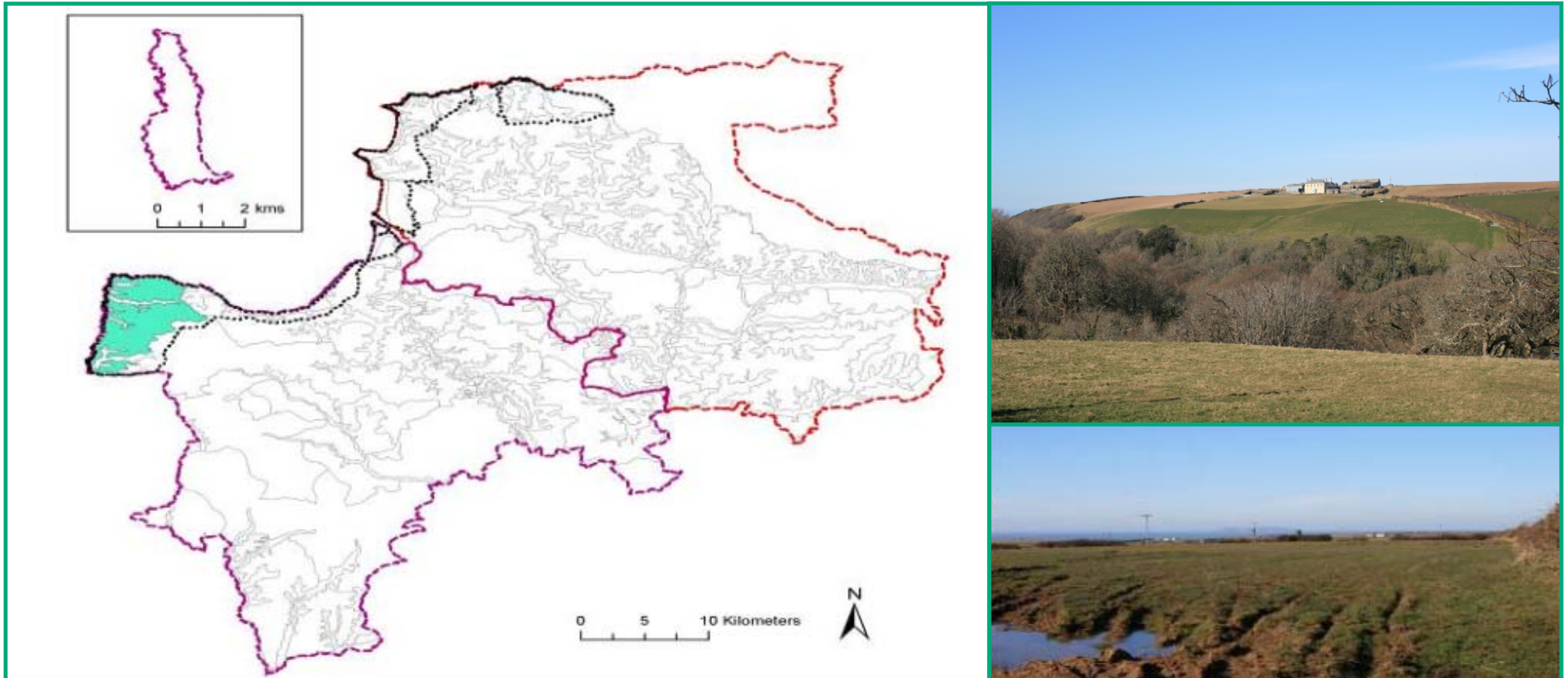


PART I: DESCRIPTION

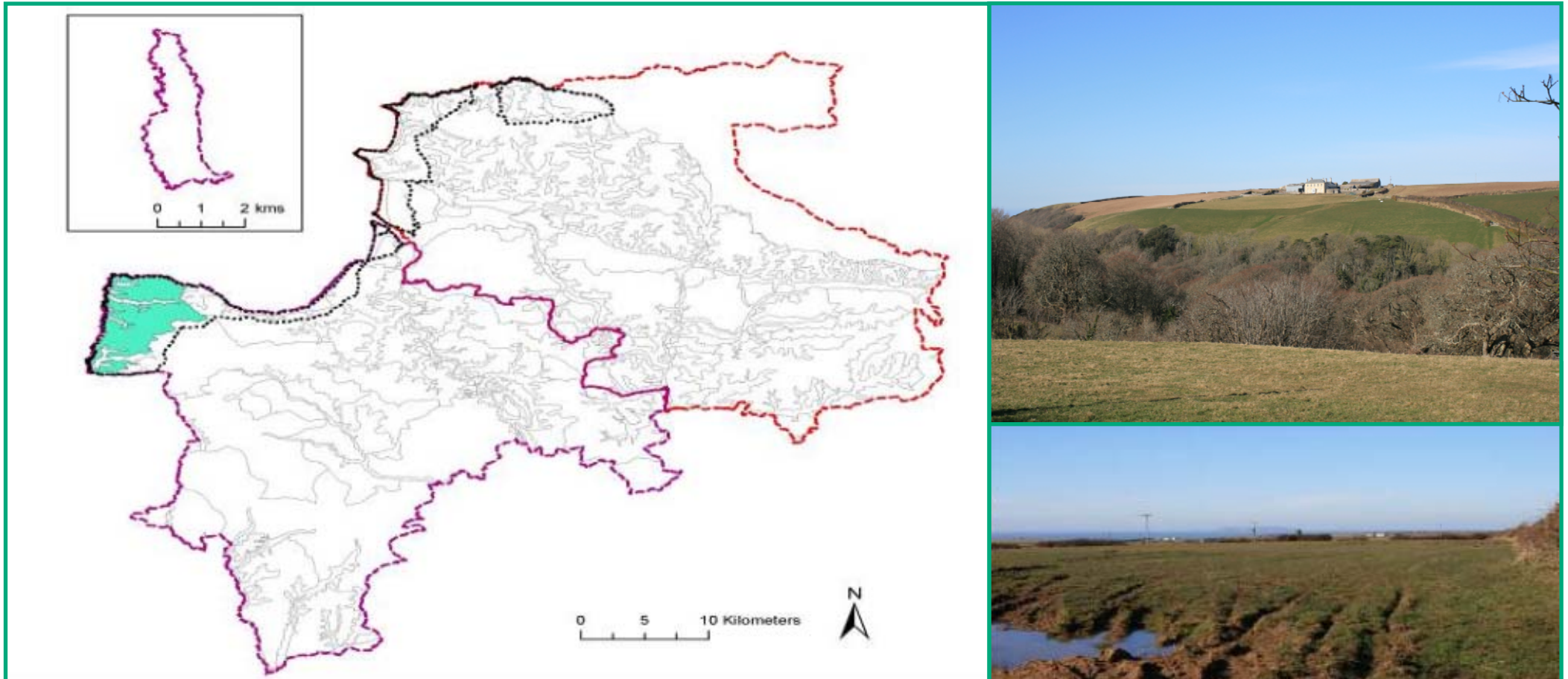


CONSITUENT LDUs: 405, 684, 686,688,689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694

SUMMARY OF LOCATION

This LCT covers the high open plateau of the Hartland peninsular, falling entirely within the North Devon Coast AONB.

PART I: DESCRIPTION



CONSITUENT LDUs: 405, 684, 686,688,689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694

SUMMARY OF LOCATION

This LCT covers the high open plateau of the Hartland peninsular, falling entirely within the North Devon Coast AONB.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS FOR THIS LCT WITHIN NORTH DEVON & TORRIDGE

- An expansive, gently undulating elevated coastal landscape dominated by broad ridgelines.
- Underlain by sandstone from the Crackington Formation.
- Streams occasionally dissect the plateau in narrow wooded combes, predominantly draining west to the coast.
- Predominantly an open, treeless landscape, with woodland cover restricted to settlements, valleys, outgrown hedgerows and occasional wind-sculpted trees.
- Regular modern field patterns predominate, with localised curving boundaries reflecting medieval enclosure of strip fields around some settlements, and regular post-medieval enclosure scattered throughout.
- Medium to large fields are typically enclosed by Devon hedgebanks topped with mixed-species hedgerows, generally intensively flailed.
- An intensively farmed landscape, pasture remains the main agricultural land use, although arable is a notable feature throughout.
- Semi-natural habitats are largely restricted to hedgebanks and hedgerows, although patches of semi-natural woodland and grassland occasionally occur along the LCT boundary.
- Archaeological features include several Iron Age hillforts, including Windbury Head and Embury Beacon camps. The medieval church tower at Stoke forming a prominent local landmark.
- Local vernacular is characterised by whitewash or exposed stone walls, with grey slate tile roofs and occasional thatch. Modern styles with cream-yellow render walls are a common feature, as are large modern farm buildings.
- A dispersed settlement pattern of small nucleated hamlets and scattered farmsteads, often nestled just below the ridgeline, connected by a network of rural lanes (some wide with verges, others single track) with numerous crossroads marked by traditional black and white wooden fingerposts.
- An open, exposed landscape with far-reaching views (often to the coast and along the peninsula), whilst out to sea the island of Lundy is an important feature visible from much of the area.
- Large modern farm buildings are often prominent features, as is the white-domed RAF radar at Hartland Point.
- Landscape defined by very high levels of tranquillity and remoteness, with dark night skies.



PART 2: EVALUATION

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL QUALITIES

- Open views and sense of space.
- Nature conservation value of the landscapes woodlands, hedgerows and characteristic dwarf hedgerow trees.
- High levels of tranquillity, dark night skies and the landscape's undeveloped character.
- Windswept and wild character.
- Culture and traditions.



FORCES FOR CHANGE

PAST / CURRENT FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- Post-war intensification of agriculture spurred on by CAP-related subsidies in the 1970s, leading to field enlargement and hedgerow removal / damage.
- Intensive flailing of hedges reducing their wildlife value.
- Scrub encroachment due to a localised decline in grazing levels, particularly affecting coastal heathlands, maritime grasslands and archaeological features.
- Spread of invasive species and a decline in traditional management of woodlands.
- 20th century development and associated infrastructure around Hartland, including a range of non-vernacular building styles.
- Recent development on prominent open skylines, including large modern farm buildings.
- Lack of affordable housing – forcing young people out of the area and leading to a decline in the rural workforce (particularly farmers).
- Growth in tourism and recreation – including users of the South West Coast Path.
- Recent conifer planting / presence of shelterbelts standing out in the open landscape, e.g. around Yapham Farm.
- Demand for wind turbines (including the cumulative effects of individual

domestic and small scale turbines).

- Levels of tranquillity affected in the north-west of the LCT by the helicopter to Lundy Island, and locally on the main roads.



FORCES FOR CHANGE

FUTURE FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- Further growth in popularity of the area for recreation and tourism, eroding the landscape's high levels of tranquillity and leading to increased demand for facilities (including farm conversions), infrastructure and higher traffic levels.
- Change in woodland / tree species composition as new pests/diseases spread (particularly phytophthora pathogens) and species intolerant of water level extremes die back.
- Individual hedgerow trees (key landscape features) may become more susceptible to damage from the increasing frequency and magnitude of storm events.
- Changes in crops and land use as a consequence of climate change and response to changing markets.
- Impacts of climate change on characteristic habitats and tree distribution, including an increased prevalence of pests and diseases.
- Sea level rise and coastal erosion as a result of climate change, leading to unstable sections of cliffs, the 'squeeze' of coastal habitats and impacts of the course of the South West Coast Path.
- Expansion in the growth of bioenergy crops such as Miscanthus as a result of market demand for 'green' energy and fuel sources, out of keeping with current cropping patterns and the plateau's open character.
- Demand for both on-shore and off-shore wind farms, as well as domestic scale turbines taking advantage of the open landscape's wind resource.

FUTURE FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Continued)

- Demand for domestic and community-scale renewable energy installations such as solar panels, small wind turbines and ground-source heat pumps.
- Development pressure due to the ever-increasing popularity of the area as a place to live / retire to.



PART 3: LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

OVERALL STRATEGY: To protect the open, undeveloped character of the coastal plateau with expansive sea views and high levels of tranquillity. Distinctive woodlands surrounding settlements are managed (including for woodfuel) and coastal habitats are traditionally grazed. The ever-changing coastline is strengthened and prepared for the future effects of climate change.

Landscape and planning guidelines

Guideline	Identified delivery mechanisms (e.g. links to specific projects, initiatives and programmes)	Planning policy links and delivery recommendations
PROTECT		
<p>Protect the landscape’s open vistas and sense of space, avoiding the location of new development and vertical structures on prominent skylines. Ensure that the medieval church tower at Stoke remains a prominent local landmark (e.g. by avoiding siting other vertical structures on the same skyline).</p> <p>Protect the character of the landscape’s expansive sea views (including to Lundy).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify important views and viewpoints to and from the landscape, and identify why people think they are important (both onshore and offshore) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AONB Management Plan: Objectives EQ1, EQ2 and CO4; Policies B2 and D5. North Devon & Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR4 and COR6 Devon Structure Plan: policies CO1, CO3, CO4, CO5 Shoreline Management Plan policies (SMP 2 currently at consultation phase) Guidance in development management planning to avoid the siting of vertical structures and large buildings on open skylines within this LCT. Consider undertaking a seascape assessment to help guide future off-shore development away from the most sensitive locations (following emerging Natural England guidance).
<p>Protect the landscape’s high levels of tranquillity and dark</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AONB Management plan: Objectives LH2,

Guideline	Identified delivery mechanisms (e.g. links to specific projects, initiatives and programmes)	Planning policy links and delivery recommendations
<p>night skies through the control and management of development, including highways.</p>		<p>EQI and TH3; Policies A1, B1, G5 and H2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Devon & Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policies COR4, COR5, COR6 and COR8 • Devon Structure Plan: Policies CO6 and CO16. • Prepare design guidance focused on the quality of development and the special attributes of the landscape (e.g. lighting design guidance to preserve dark night skies).
<p>Protect and appropriately manage the landscape’s prominent Iron Age hillforts, including Windbury Head and Embury Beacon camps (including through grazing at appropriate levels and recreation management).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Stewardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AONB Management Plan: Objective LH1, ART4, CC3; Policies A1 and F2. • North Devon & Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR6 • Devon’s Structure Plan: Policies CO7 and CO8
<p>Protect the historic character of the area, encouraging the sensitive location of new farm buildings away from open skylines, respecting the local characteristic clustering of agricultural buildings within the landscape, and ensuring that any new development incorporates local vernacular building styles of whitewash, local stone and thatch wherever possible (whilst seeking to incorporate sustainable and low carbon building construction and design).</p> <p>Characteristic features such as black and white wooden finger posts should be retained and kept in a good state of repair.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CORDIALE Interreg bid (South West Protected Landscapes Forum) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AONB Management Plan: Objectives, LH1 and LH2; Policies A1, A4, G1 and G4 • North Devon & Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policies COR4, COR6 and COR8 • Devon Structure Plan: Policies CO1 and CO7 • Prepare landscape-specific design guidance to support the LDF. • Prepare landscape-specific design guidance to support the LDF. • Devon CC Environmental Review of

Guideline	Identified delivery mechanisms (e.g. links to specific projects, initiatives and programmes)	Planning policy links and delivery recommendations
<p>Protect the landscape’s open vistas and sense of space, avoiding the location of new development and vertical structures on prominent skylines. Ensure that the medieval church tower at Stoke remains a prominent local landmark (e.g. by avoiding siting other vertical structures on the same skyline).</p> <p>Protect the character of the landscape’s expansive sea views (including to Lundy).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify important views and viewpoints to and from the landscape, and identify why people think they are important (both onshore and offshore) 	<p>permitted highway development proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AONB Management Plan: Objectives EQ1, EQ2 and CO4; Policies B2 and D5. North Devon & Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR4 and COR6 Devon Structure Plan: policies CO1, CO3, CO4, CO5 Shoreline Management Plan policies (SMP 2 currently at consultation phase) Guidance in development management planning to avoid the siting of vertical structures and large buildings on open skylines within this LCT. Consider undertaking a seascape assessment to help guide future off-shore development away from the most sensitive locations (following emerging Natural England guidance).
MANAGE		
<p>Manage the landscape’s valued woodlands around settlements and in sheltered locations, controlling invasive species and moving towards a predominance of broadleaves over conifers to enhance their wildlife interest. New planting should consider species of greater resilience to a changing climate. Traditional woodland management (including coppicing) should be revived, with wood promoted as a sustainable energy source for local communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> England Woodland Grant Scheme Environmental Stewardship South West Woodland Renaissance South West Nature Map Devon BAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AONB Management Plan: Objectives FL1, FL2 and G5; Policy E2. North Devon & Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR6. Devon Structure Plan: Policy CO9

Guideline	Identified delivery mechanisms (e.g. links to specific projects, initiatives and programmes)	Planning policy links and delivery recommendations
<p>Manage and protect the landscape’s network of hedgerows and characteristic dwarf hedgerow trees, replanting ageing or diseased specimens (with climate hardy species) to ensure the future survival of these characteristic features.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Stewardship • Devon BAP • Devon Rural Skills Trust • Devon Hedge Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AONB Management Plan: Objectives FL1; Policy E1 • North Devon & Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR6 • Devon Structure Plan: Policy CO9
<p>Manage nationally important coastal habitats, including coastal heath and maritime grasslands, through supporting a continuation of extensive grazing at appropriate levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Stewardship • Devon Food Links • Devon BAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AONB Management Plan: Objectives FL1; Policies E1 and E3. • North Devon & Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy: COR6. • Devon’s Structure Plan: Policy CO5 • Strengthen and promote links between local markets and produce from the area.
<p>PLAN</p>		
<p>Plan for the impacts of a changing climate on the coastline, allowing natural processes to take place whilst considering how habitats and the SW Coast Path can be expanded or relocated to account for coastal squeeze.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Stewardship • SW Nature Map • Devon BAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AONB Management Plan: Objectives CO1, CO3; Policies D1 and D5. • Shoreline Management Plan policies (SMP 2 currently under consultation) • North Devon & Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR2. • Devon Structure Plan: Policy CO5