



# 7 ENHANCING DISTINCTIVE ENVIRONMENTS AND CULTURAL LIFE



**7.0.1** This Section of the Draft RSS sets out the region’s approach on two critical aspects of ‘quality of life’ in the region: culture and environment. The *‘Just Connect!’* aim is to enhance our distinctive environments and the quality and diversity of our cultural life. This includes cultural activity and infrastructure; natural environment (landscape, nature conservation, historic environment), the coast, flood risk, energy, water resources, land management, woodlands and forests, air quality, minerals, and waste management. It complements the issues of quality of life and liveability dealt with in Section 6. It also contributes to the Draft RSS policies in Section 1 of living within environmental limits and achieving sustainable communities by setting out ways the region can use natural resources more wisely, protect and enhance distinctive natural environments, and increase access to and participation in cultural activities.

**7.1 Enhancing Cultural Activity and Developing the Regional Cultural Infrastructure**

**7.1.1** Culture is essentially about the people of the region and the quality of life they enjoy. Culture is inclusive, embracing a wide variety of activities, places, values and beliefs that contribute to a sense of identity and well-being for everyone. In this regard some parts of the South West have a strong sense of cultural identity. Culture has a ‘material’ dimension (for example creative industries such as arts and media, sports participation, play, tourism, libraries, museums, archives, religious buildings and meeting places, parks and open spaces and the historic and built environment) and a ‘values’ dimension (for example diverse cultural, religious and historic backgrounds) which are evident in the region. Culture has strong connections with economic innovation, renaissance, community health and well-being, lifelong learning and skills, often helping bind together local communities. It is important that the region acknowledges the critical role that culture can play in shaping sustainable communities.

**7.1.2** The South West is rich in cultural resources and infrastructure, several sites are of national and international importance attracting many visitors to the region. Notable are Tate St Ives, the Eden Project, the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy, the work of Aardman Animations in Bristol and the World Heritage Sites of Bath, Stonehenge and Avebury, and the Dorset and East Devon Jurassic Coast. Culture and creativity are, and will continue to be, key cross-cutting themes in many aspects of life in the region looking forward to 2026.

**7.1.3** Growth and change offer a real opportunity to add to and enhance the cultural infrastructure of the South West. In particular, there are unique opportunities for the South West arising from London hosting the 2012 Olympic Games. Not only will Weymouth and Portland host the Olympic Regatta but there will also be opportunities leading up to and during the Games for training venues, for tourism and for wider cultural activities - all of which build on the unique attributes of the South West. It is critical that the whole of the region responds positively, and in a sustainable way, to this opportunity in order to derive maximum benefits with minimum detrimental impacts. The development of cultural facilities, and the continued improvement in the accessibility to them, will also be fundamental to the strategy of encouraging more people to live and work in the SSCTs.

**7.1.4** Culture in its widest sense needs to be embedded at the heart of regional, sub-regional and local plans and strategies. The Regional Cultural Strategy *'In Search of Chunky Dunsters'* amongst other things, seeks to achieve a significant increase in the number of people who participate in, enjoy and value a range of cultural activities across the region. The Draft RSS and LDDs can support the delivery of this aim by promoting greater participation in cultural activity and ensuring that cultural experiences and facilities are accessible to current and future populations. Regional cultural agencies, Lottery distributing bodies and local authorities have recognised that planning positively for a growing population presents an opportunity to take a strategic view of cultural provision at a regional and sub-regional level. A South West Regional Cultural Infrastructure Development Strategy is being developed and will help drive the



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development of the regional cultural landscape over the next twenty years providing a framework for the development of the region's cultural infrastructure. Where new cultural provision will have a cross-boundary impact, local authorities should work together to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

**7.1.5** This work has a clear spatial dimension. It incorporates the notion of 'cultural offer'; identifying what settlements of different sizes in the South West need and should have a right to expect by way of cultural assets and activity. Importantly, this relates not simply to buildings, facilities and spaces, but also to the ways in which culture can influence other things such as community cohesion, business and employment growth or health attainment and will reflect the impact of technological change.

**7.1.6** Local authorities should encourage and support community cohesion projects for existing and new communities to foster good relations between different racial groups, beliefs, ages, sexuality and ability.

**C1 Regional and Sub-regional Cultural Infrastructure**

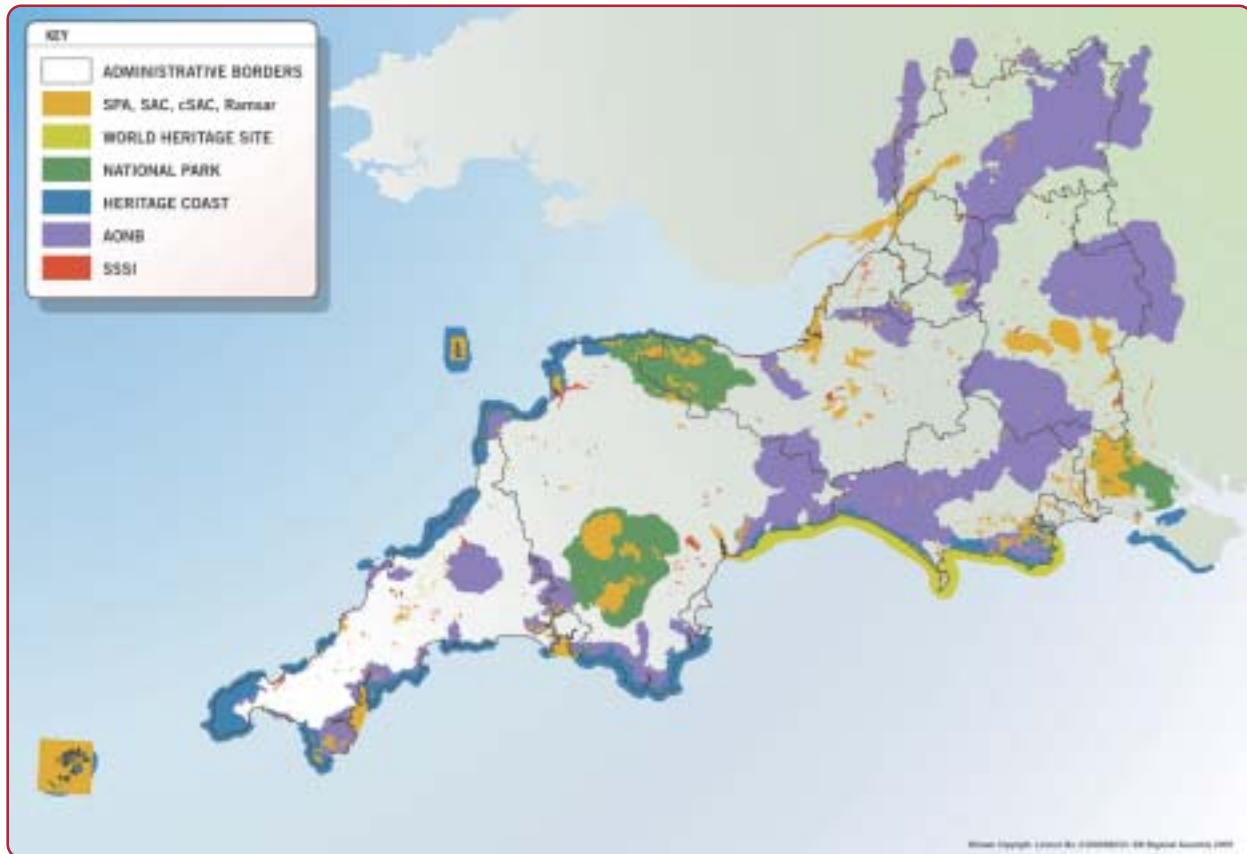
**Increased participation in cultural activity will be encouraged and the region's cultural infrastructure will be maintained and enhanced reflecting the regional and sub-regional cultural strategies.**

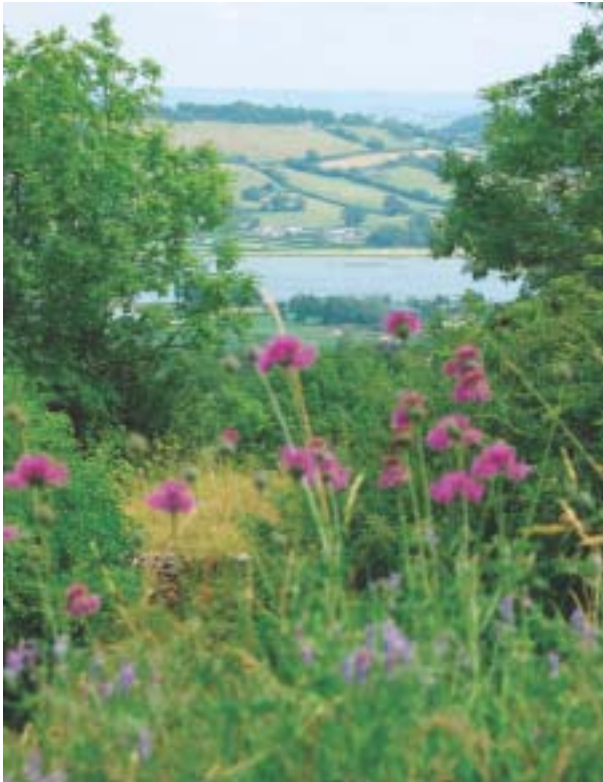
**7.2 Protecting and Enhancing the Region's Distinctive Environments: Conserving and Enhancing the South West's Environmental Assets**

**7.2.1** Everyone in the South West depends upon the natural environment (landscape, biodiversity, historic environment, water, air and land) to provide the conditions for a healthy and high quality of life. Residents and visitors alike appreciate and value the wealth of environmental assets throughout the region, as illustrated in Map 7.1; including two National Parks (plus adjoining the New Forest National Park), three World Heritage Sites (and two on the Tentative list), 14 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, nearly a quarter of England's listed buildings, 60% of England's protected coastline including important estuaries and 45% of England's bathing waters, and habitats and species which are globally or nationally important and should be protected from the effects of development. Other regionally significant assets include the South West Forest, Forest

of Avon and Great Western Community Forest, the Somerset Levels, Culm Grasslands, Forest of Dean, and Cotswolds Water Park which add to the diversity of the region, alongside a host of locally distinctive features. With a coastline longer than any other region in England, the South West is strongly influenced by its maritime links. These features help define what is special about the South West and their protection and enhancement is at the heart of the strategic approach to managing growth contained in the Spatial Strategy.

**Map 7.1 The South West's National and International Environmental Designations**





**7.2.2** *'Our Environment: Our Future'*, the Regional Strategy for the South West Environment, and the Regional Sustainable Development Framework provide more detail on the challenges and opportunities affecting the environment in the South West, and what needs to be done regionally to address these issues. The RES describes the importance of the 'environment driver' in helping the region move to a more sustainable economy – "Where the region's unique environmental and cultural assets are protected and enhanced so that they will continue to attract investment and develop economic linkage". In turn, this investment and growth can be used to further protect and enhance environmental and cultural assets.

**7.2.3** The dynamic relationship between the environment and man's activities gives the 'sense of place' that characterises the countryside and its settlements. For example, the cultural landscapes of Cornwall are very different to those of Wiltshire or Somerset, and some are associated with particular historic events or personalities which lend a distinctive dimension. The region's urban areas are diverse in character, reflecting their history, location, size and function. Variation in the

architecture and 'feel' between cities, towns and villages across the South West is a distinctive asset, with differences in character based on the age and function of the settlements and the locally available building materials.

**7.2.4** Utilising the potential of indigenous assets sustainably, to assist economic regeneration and diversification, is a key component of the 'environment driver'. However, the changing nature of man's activities produces outcomes that are often individually small, but cumulative in impact – the effect of noise and light on remaining areas of tranquillity for example. Similar concerns relate to the effects of development on the local vernacular, as expressed in buildings in both rural and urban areas. The impacts of climate change and changing agricultural and land management practices may also have effects on the appearance of the region and monitoring of change will be an essential part of understanding trends and appraising the effectiveness of responses.

**7.2.5** Development has the capacity to result in irreversible changes to the environment and natural resources, so it is crucial for the planning system to limit the impact of future development on the environment and where possible to use development in a positive way to enhance assets and increase biodiversity. The requirement for all LDDs to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and sustainability appraisal should help in identifying potential solutions to mitigate unavoidable impacts. Successful application of this will also help to ensure that the environment and sustainability are considered more holistically and that decisions are made based on firm evidence. This approach fully supports national policy in PPSs 7, 9 and 15. Whilst the following sections are set out under the different headings of landscape, nature conservation, historic environment and so on, local authorities should adopt a systematic approach to the environment in their LDDs and a common approach to environmental assets which cross local planning authority boundaries, particularly taking an ecosystem approach.

**ENV1 Protecting and Enhancing the Region's Natural and Historic Environment**

The quality, character, diversity and local distinctiveness of the natural and historic environment in the South West will be protected and enhanced, and developments which support their positive management will be encouraged. Where development and changes in land use are planned which would affect these assets, local authorities will first seek to avoid loss of or damage to the assets, then mitigate any unavoidable damage, and compensate for loss or damage through offsetting actions. Priority will be given to preserving and enhancing sites of international or national landscape, nature conservation, geological, archaeological or historic importance. Tools such as characterisation and surveys will be used to enhance local sites, features and distinctiveness through development, including the setting of settlements and buildings within the landscape and contributing to the regeneration and restoration of the area.



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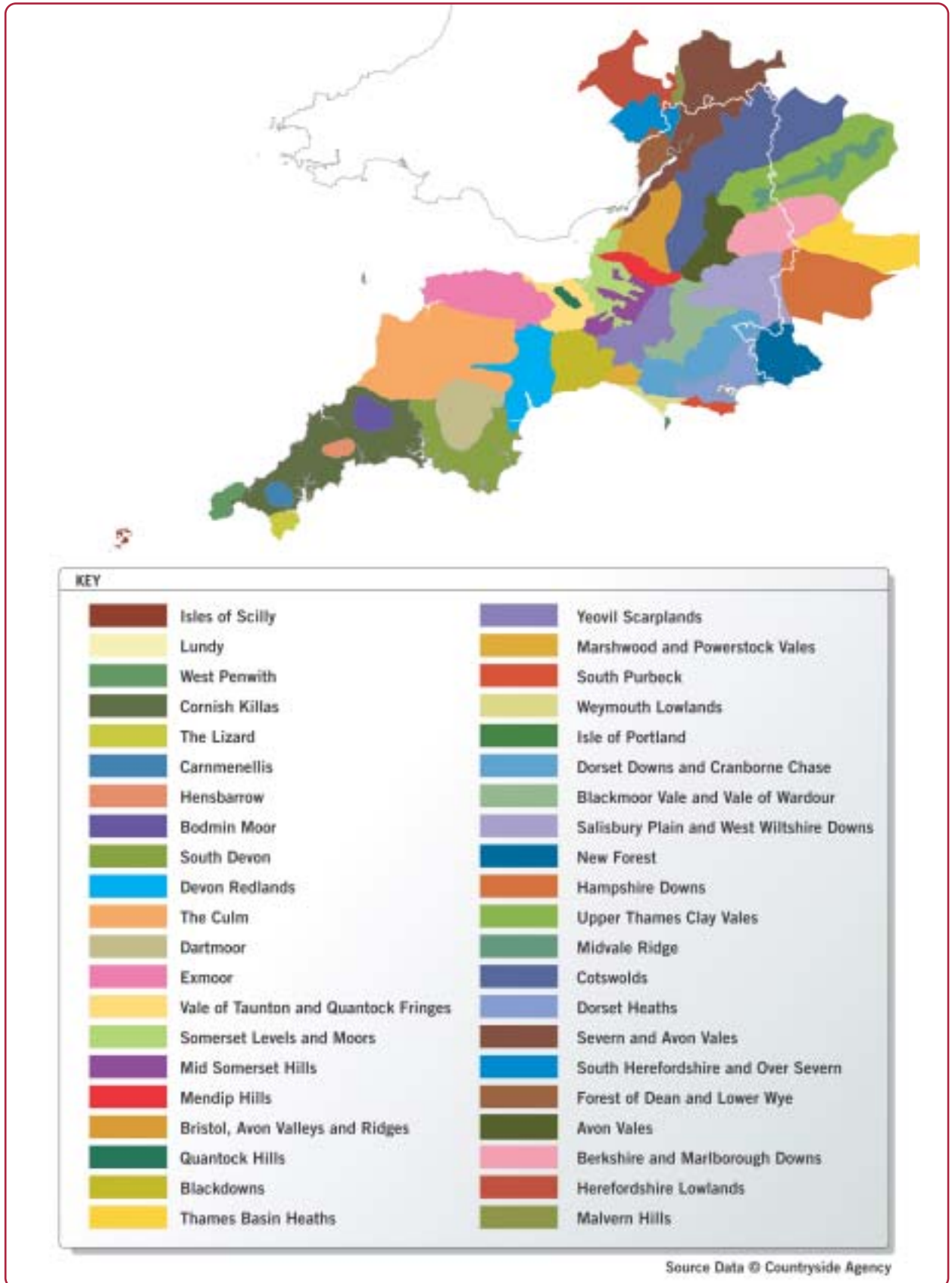
**Landscape**

**7.2.6** The landscapes, townscapes and seascapes of the South West are defining features of the region. Landscape provides an important setting for settlements and contributes to local distinctiveness and a sense of place. The landscapes of the region are defined by 41 character areas identified by the Countryside Agency and English Nature (Map 7.2). The landscape character assessment approach is supported as a basis for considering development impacts and promoting quality development which enhances local character and distinctiveness. Large areas of landscape across the region have experienced changes inconsistent with their character as a result of development or changed agricultural practices (see Section 2). The focus of growth and development in SSTs in the region will help protect these landscapes from inappropriate development, however they will still be affected by indirect pressures from these changes.

**ENV2 Landscape Character Areas**

The distinctive qualities and features of the South West's landscape character areas will be sustained and enhanced by Local Planning Authorities undertaking assessments of landscape character at a strategic level and in partnership with adjoining authorities (where landscape character areas cross administrative boundaries) in order to identify priority areas for the maintenance, enhancement and/or restoration of that character and provide an appropriate policy framework in LDDs for each area.

Map 7.2 The South West's Landscape Character Areas



**Protected Landscapes**

**7.2.7** There are important protected landscapes in the South West in the form of two National Parks and 14 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In addition, the New Forest National Park extends into part of the region. Although policy coverage for the New Forest National Park is given in the ‘South East Plan’, development in the South West region adjoining the Park should not prejudice the achievement of the Park’s purposes, as set out in Policy ENV3. The protected landscapes cover about 37% of the land area of the region. These areas have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 requires relevant authorities (including National Park Authorities, statutory undertakers and other public bodies) to have regard to the statutory purposes of National Park designation, and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a similar duty relating to the statutory purposes of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Relevant authorities must ensure that they have taken account of the statutory purposes of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in reaching decisions or carrying out their activities. The overall approach to development in these protected landscapes and in adjacent areas is set out opposite.

**7.2.8** Local Planning Authorities adjoining National Parks should work with National Park authorities in developing their LDDs. Joint working on LDDs is also encouraged for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which cross administrative boundaries. In drafting LDDs, Local Planning Authorities should have regard to statutory National Park Plans and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans, and positive land management policies should be developed to sustain and enhance the area’s landscape quality.

**ENV3 Protected Landscapes**

**In Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks and the 14 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the region, the conservation and enhancement of their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage will be given priority over other considerations in the determination of development proposals. Development will only be provided for where it would:**

- **Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or**
- **Promote the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park, or**
- **Foster the social or economic well-being of the communities within the National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, provided that such development is compatible with the pursuit of National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty purposes**

**Consideration will also be given to proposals which promote the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**

**Particular care will be taken to ensure that no development is permitted outside the National Park or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which would damage their natural beauty, character and special qualities or otherwise prejudice the achievement of National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty purposes.**

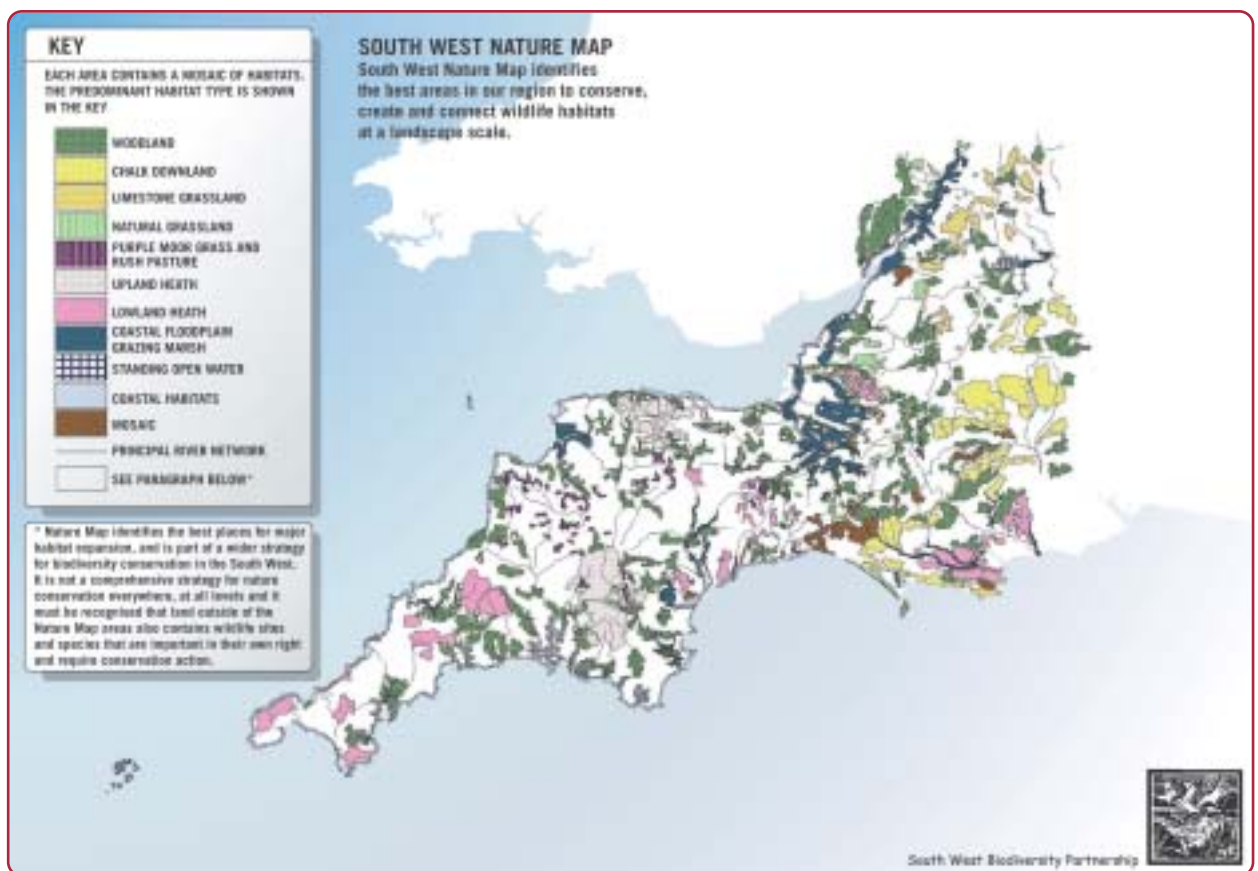
**Nature Conservation**

**7.2.9** The South West supports some 25 species that are globally important, 700 species that are of national conservation concern, 34 species that are endemic to the UK, 11 of which are only found in the South West. National policy on nature conservation is given in PPS 9. The ‘UK Biodiversity Action Plan’ (BAP) and ‘South West Regional BAP’ include ambitious targets to conserve, restore and create new wildlife habitats and re-establish species populations. The table in Appendix 1 sets out the updated Regional Biodiversity Targets. The South West Regional Biodiversity Partnership has produced a South West Nature Map (Map 7.3), which identifies the best areas in the region to conserve, create and connect wildlife habitats at a landscape scale. These areas should provide increased opportunities for people to see and enjoy wildlife. The Map illustrates where most of the major biodiversity concentrations are found, and where BAP targets to maintain, restore and recreate wildlife might best be

met. The detail will be consulted on through the LDD process. Further detail on Nature Map is given in Appendix 1.

**7.2.10** The extent and continuity of wildlife-rich habitats has declined across the region. Today, some parts of the region and in particular intensively managed arable and grass leys, support low wildlife diversity. Many habitats have become fragmented; some key ecosystem processes have been disrupted and the viability of some wildlife populations is threatened, particularly from the implications of climate change.

**Map 7.3 South West Nature Map**





**7.2.11** Local authorities should use the Nature Map and work with interested local stakeholders including local biodiversity partnerships and local record centres to map local opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in LDDs. These should take into account the local distribution of habitats and species, including within urban areas and protect these sites and features from harmful development. It is important that targets for maintenance, restoration and recreation of priority habitats are met, taking an ecosystem approach, to realise opportunities for linking and buffering habitats and making them more functional units. Local authorities should use the development process positively to achieve these outcomes and should promote beneficial management of priority habitats and species found in their areas. This should result in more resilient habitat units across the region.

**7.2.12** Some important habitats are hard to re-create and opportunities may be scarce and they must therefore be safeguarded from adverse land-use change such as built development. There are particular pressure points, as well as opportunities, for nature conservation, around some of the places identified for development in Sections 3 and 4. A priority is to ensure that where development does occur, particularly where the urban ‘footprint’ increases, proposals to create new habitats

are included in the master plans required in Development Policy F. Provision for the maintenance, restoration and enhancement of habitats and species should be a significant component in the provision of ‘green infrastructure’ as proposed in Policy G11.

**ENV4 Nature Conservation**

**The distinctive habitats and species of the South West will be maintained and enhanced in line with national targets and the South West Regional Biodiversity Action Plan. Local authorities should use the Nature Map to help map local opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in LDDs, taking into account the local distribution of habitats and species, and protecting these sites and features from harmful development. Priority will be given to meeting targets for maintenance, restoration and recreation of priority habitats and species set out in Appendix 1, focusing on the Nature Map areas identified in Map 7.3. Proposals which provide opportunities for the beneficial management of these areas and habitats and species generally, should be supported, including linking habitats to create more functional units which are more resilient to climate change.**



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## Historic Environment

**7.2.13** The rich and highly distinctive historic environment of the South West is one of the region's key assets and strengths. It comprises not only world famous sites such as Stonehenge and Avebury, or the City of Bath, but also includes a huge range of buildings, monuments and landscapes which provide a unique link from the past to the present and for the benefit of future generations. These assets encompass areas and buildings with statutory protection and also those which are locally valued and important. The historic assets in the South West with statutory protection include the three World Heritage Sites of Bath, Stonehenge and Avebury, and Dorset and East Devon coast, which must be protected from harmful development. For these and other important historic environments of the region, characterisation tools (outlined in the Glossary) should be used to ensure that assets are protected and enhanced but also to help identify opportunities where development could have beneficial effects.

**7.2.14** Local authorities in their strategies and plans should adopt an approach to the historic environment, which is based on adequate identification and assessment of the assets, consideration of how they contribute to local character and diversity and assessment of their capacity to absorb change. This will also

need to consider the potential impact of climate change on historic assets and how they can best adapt to such change. Development proposals should make sensitive use of historic assets through heritage-led regeneration in areas for growth and change, particularly where they bring Buildings at Risk, redundant or underused buildings and areas into appropriate use. Maritime archaeological resources need protection from inappropriate development or use, with improved access and interpretation. It will also be important to recognise associated opportunities for business, education and tourism, whilst ensuring that the historic assets or their significance are not diminished.

### ENV5 Historic Environment

**The historic environment of the South West will be preserved and enhanced. Local authorities and other partners will identify and assess the significance of the historic environment and its vulnerability to change, using characterisation to understand its contribution to the regional and local environment and to identify options for its sensitive management.**

**The Coast**

**7.2.15** The region’s coast is nationally and internationally significant from an environmental, economic and social perspective and adds greatly to the quality of life in the region and the region’s tourism offer. Over 60% of England’s Heritage Coast is in the South West, as are almost half of the nation’s designated bathing waters. The South West Coast Path is Britain’s longest National Trail, from Minehead in Somerset to Poole Harbour in Dorset (over 1,000 kilometres). The path includes all of the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site known as the Jurassic Coast (over 150 kilometres). In addition to being an important recreational and environmental asset for residents it is estimated that more than a quarter of visitors to the region are drawn to the coast because of the Coast Path, contributing to the region’s tourism economy.

**7.2.16** The South West faces a major challenge over the next 50 to 100 years as the coastline responds to climate change and rising sea level, and the risk of flood and storm damage increases. This issue is covered further in paragraphs 7.2.19 to 7.2.21 – dealing with flood risk. Because of the scale and complexity of coastal issues, an integrated approach to the management of the whole coastal zone, including the future development of coastal settlements is needed in the South West. This should ultimately include the offshore marine environment where there are pressures for mineral extraction and renewable energy production and concerns about the viability of fisheries stocks. The national policy approach is set out in PPG20 - Coastal Planning, and a Marine Spatial Planning Bill is being debated which will bring implications for how the coast and seas will be managed. The Bill offers an opportunity to put in place a system for delivering sustainable development in the marine and coastal environment, whilst addressing the protection and use of marine resources. It will have implications for the management of the region’s coast, estuaries, and marine resources that will need to be reflected in future revisions to the RSS.

**7.2.17** In the past, some coastal areas have been degraded by inappropriate development. To ensure that the coast remains a regional



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asset for the future, development proposals should enhance the economic, environmental and social value of the region’s coast. A co-ordinated partnership approach is fundamental to planning for the coast, as well as offshore developments relating to energy, minerals and fisheries.

**CO1 Defining the Coastal Zone**

**Coastal local authorities, in partnership with other relevant agencies, will define in their LDDs the coastal zone, including developed and undeveloped coast.**

**Within the undeveloped coast there will be a presumption against development unless it:**

- **Does not detract from the unspoilt character and appearance of the coast, and**
- **Is essential for the benefit of the wider community, or**
- **Is required to improve public access for informal recreation, or**
- **Is required to support the sustainable management of fisheries, and**
- **Cannot be accommodated reasonably outside the undeveloped coast zone**

**7.2.18** In implementing Policies CO1 and CO2, LDDs will make reference to the relevant Shoreline Management Plan, settlement size, biological and landscape criteria, patterns of economic and social activity, the extent of maritime influence on the built environment, distinctive boundaries such as coastal roads, railways and field boundaries and the broader maritime zone to the three-mile seaward limit. One of the main outputs from this work will be a better coordination between the LDD and Shoreline Management Plans in identifying critical assets within the defined coastal zone. This will also need to take account of the likely impacts of climate change on the coast, including sea level rise, increased storminess and accelerated coastal processes; and the need to adapt to predicted climate conditions.

**7.2.20** As well as protecting the built and historic environment, flood risk management is about exploiting the benefits of natural flooding for biodiversity in an integrated way that will accommodate the inevitable impacts of climate change. The role of wetlands in ameliorating flood risk should also be recognised. With this in mind a catchment and coastal cell approach is needed to guide investment and land use planning decisions. Catchment Flood Management Plans are being developed to support this. Around the coast, opportunities for managed retreat should be supported to reduce the risk of flooding and create new wildlife habitat.

**CO2 Coastal Planning**

**In order to improve coastal planning and achieve a consistent, cross boundary approach local authorities on the coast will co-ordinate development plans, Shoreline Management Plans and other programmes affecting the coastal zone and support the sustainable planning and management of adjacent coastal areas, by working across borders, as in the Severn Estuary Partnership.**

**Flood Risk**

**7.2.19** The risk of coastal and river floods will increase significantly over the plan period (Maps 7.4 and 7.5) due to the predicted effects of climate change, including rising sea levels and increased winter rainfall as outlined in Section 1. Towns and cities around the region will need to adapt to this situation with a priority to defend existing properties from flooding, and to direct growth to areas where it can be accommodated with little or no risk of flooding. In critical locations where the line ‘must be held’ to protect vital social or economic assets and key infrastructure which supports the connectivity of the region, there will be high costs to maintain and upgrade the network of flood warnings and sustainable defences in order to reduce property damage and distress due to flooding. PPS25 sets out national policy on development and flood risk.

**F1 Flood Risk**

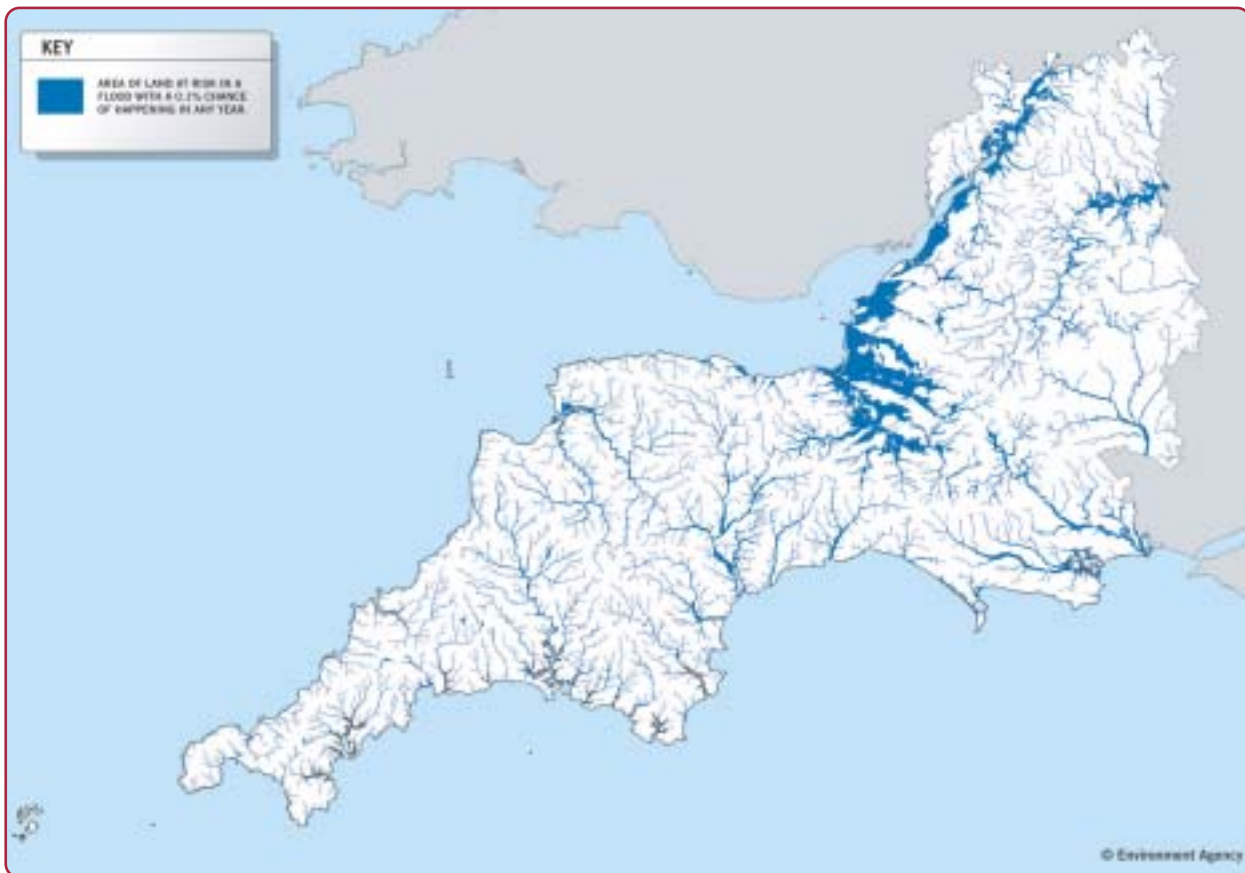
**Taking account of climate change and the increasing risk of coastal and river flooding, the priority is to:**

- **Defend existing properties and, where possible, locate new development in places with little or no risk of flooding**
- **Protect flood plains and land liable to tidal or coastal flooding from development**
- **Follow a sequential approach to development in flood risk areas**
- **Use development to reduce the risk of flooding through location, layout and design**
- **Relocate existing development from areas of the coast at risk, which cannot be realistically defended, and**
- **Identify areas of opportunity for managed realignment to reduce the risk of flooding and create new wildlife areas**

7.2.21 In implementing Policy F1, LDDs will need to:

- Require strategic flood risk assessments to guide development away from floodplains, areas at risk or likely to be at risk in future from flooding, or where development would increase the risk of flooding elsewhere
  - Ensure that the location of new development is compatible with relevant Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) and River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), and other existing relevant strategies, and takes account of the Environment Agency's Flood Map
  - Seek to reduce the causes of flooding by requiring that all developments and, where subject to planning control, all land uses (including agricultural activities and changes to drainage in existing settlements) should not add to the risk of flooding elsewhere and should reduce flooding pressures by using appropriate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS)
- Require that all developments on the perimeter of towns and villages take account of local flooding risks from agricultural run-off
  - Ensure that development proposals do not prejudice future coastal management or the capacity of the coast to form a natural sea defence, or to adjust to changes, without endangering life or property
  - Include proposals which allow for the relocation of existing development from areas of the coast at risk, which cannot be realistically defended

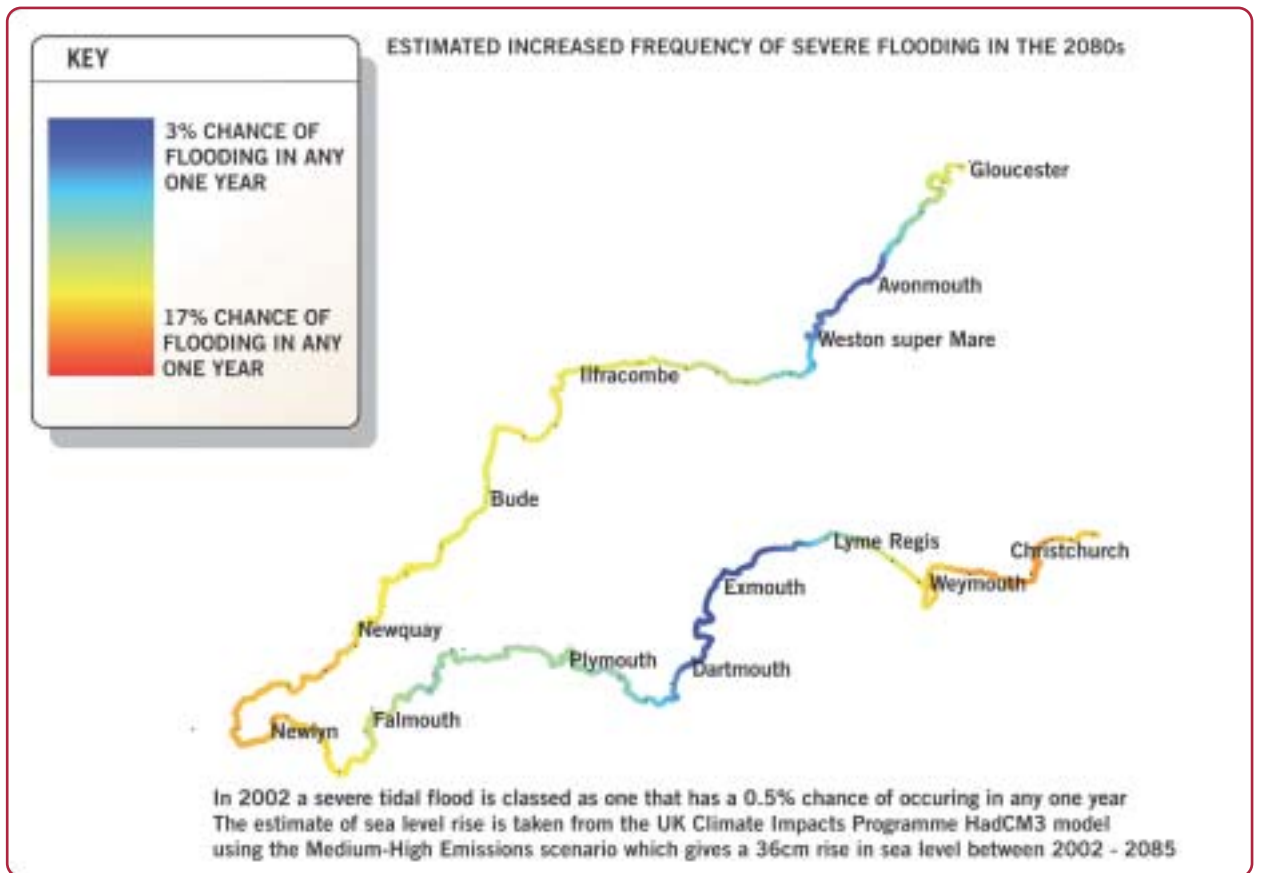
Map 7.4 Flood Plain





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Map 7.5 Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flood Risk



**7.3 Wiser Use of Natural Resources**

**7.3.1** Everyone in the region depends upon natural resources to support the conditions for a decent, healthy and secure life. With growing demands for built development, infrastructure, food, fresh water, natural materials and energy, there is a serious risk that consumption will erode the region’s environmental quality. As Policy SD1 has indicated, the region’s eco-footprint is not sustainable at current consumption levels and the region needs to promote a shift towards a more resource efficient future. The following paragraphs identify ways in which this can be done and contribute to the region’s reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the next 20 years.

**Energy**

**7.3.2** Minimising the level of demand for energy through improving energy efficiency is a major challenge, particularly with regard to existing buildings. There is little scope to deal with existing stock in the Draft RSS and this will be addressed through the (forthcoming) *‘Regional Sustainable Energy Strategy’*. A move towards more sustainable construction advocated in Development Policy G will help address this issue in relation to new development. However, there will still be significant demand for energy. Producing more energy locally and from renewable sources will reduce the ‘footprint’, as well as providing economic benefits through creating jobs in the region. Renewable energy is one of the key sectors identified in the RES. The Government’s position on non-renewable power is currently unclear and so the South West will need to await the outcome of the forthcoming *‘National Energy Review’* before identifying any regional implications.

**Renewable Electricity Targets**

**7.3.3** Achieving the commitments set nationally within the 2003 *‘Energy White Paper’* will require at least 40% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2050. In the shorter term the Government is committed to the achievement of 10% renewable electricity by 2010 and is aiming for 20% by 2020. Although the South West has made a good start and has a range of renewable energy installations using wind, hydro, solar and biomass resources, in 2005 only about 3% of the region’s electricity demand was met by these methods.



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**7.3.4** The South West has one of the best wave and tidal resources within the UK. As a result, offshore renewables are likely to be increasingly developed off the South West coast after 2010, and could play a significant part in achieving the 20% renewable electricity target by 2020. However, in order for the 2020 target to be met it seems likely that there will need to be some strengthening of the grid to accommodate the offshore capacity from marine technologies such as wave and tidal stream. The achievement of this will require appropriate connections to be made to the national grid.

**7.3.5** The targets outlined below have been consulted upon and agreed within the counties and/or sub-regions as part of the REvision 2010 Project. Map 7.6 suggests one way in which these 2010 targets may be met, though the actual technology mix itself is not part of the targets and is provided for indicative purposes only.

**RE1 Renewable Electricity Targets: 2010 and 2020**

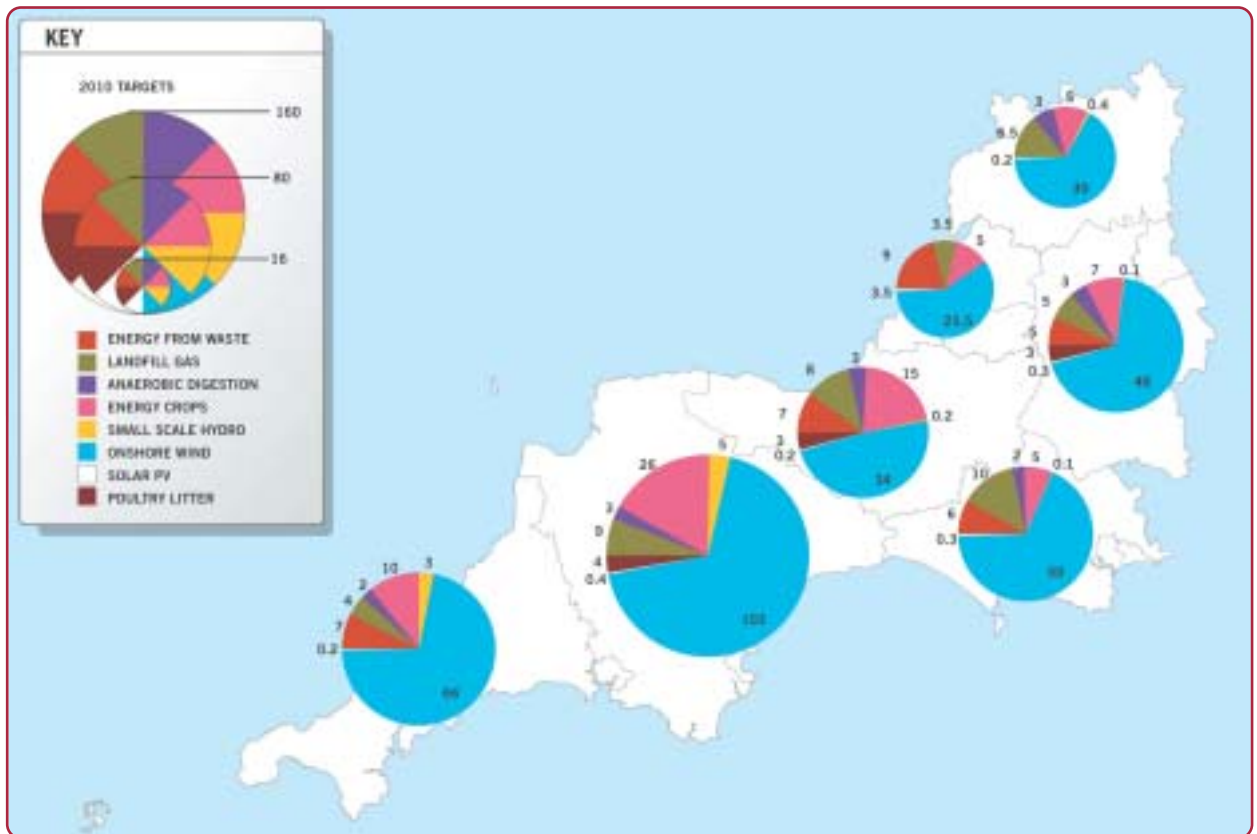
Local Development Documents will include positive policies to enable the achievement of the following targets:

By 2010 a minimum target of 509 to 611 MWe installed generating capacity, from a range of onshore renewable electricity technologies in the following broad distribution:

Sub-region	Installed Electricity Generating Capacity (MWe)
Former Avon	35-52
Gloucestershire	40-50
Wiltshire	65-85
Somerset	61-81
Devon	151
Dorset	64-84
Cornwall	93-108
<b>Total</b>	<b>509-611</b>

By 2020 a minimum target of 850 MWe installed generating capacity from a range of onshore renewable electricity technologies. This onshore target, together with offshore renewable electricity capacity, will help to provide at least 20% of the region's electricity demand by 2020.

Map 7.6 Indicative Breakdown of Renewable Electricity: 2010 Targets



**7.3.6** Further work on establishing appropriate sub-regional targets for the 2020 target will be taken forward as an early review of the RSS. Regional Supplementary Planning Documents on Renewable Energy will contain more detailed guidance on some of the issues relating to the spatial distribution of renewable energy technologies within the region. However, if the level of energy efficiency assumed within the 20% target for 2020 (see Policy RE1, above) is not met, there will need to be a higher level of renewable electricity capacity installed in order for the region to successfully meet its target. In addition, offshore renewable resources, principally harnessing wave power, are available off the Cornish coast in particular and provision needs to be made to enable connection to the national grid.

- A high proportion of off-gas area, increasing the economic potential for renewable heating
- Opportunities for facilities that produce heat and electricity such as energy from waste

**7.3.8** The targets equate to roughly 0.2% of the region’s heat demand (excluding transport) by 2010 and 1.4% by 2020, assuming that the full range of energy efficiency measures set out in the ‘Energy White Paper’ are put into place. There is a key role for Local Planning Authorities within the region in ensuring a synergy between sites for major new developments, and the location of renewable Combined Heat and Power (CHP) generators, to ensure that the heat from the latter can be effectively used, for example as part of community heating systems.

**RE2 Coastal Zones and Offshore Energy**

**When defining the Coastal Zone, coastal local authorities with landfalls in their areas will identify opportunities to enable appropriate development to occur. This will facilitate connections of offshore energy production units to the national grid to enable the region to meet its targets for offshore capacity of 56MWe by 2010 and 400MWe by 2020.**

**RE3 Renewable Heat Targets**

**LDDs will include positive policies to enable the achievement of the following targets by the use of appropriate resources and technologies:**

Timescale	Installed Thermal Capacity (MWth)
<b>2010</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>500</b>

**Renewable Heat Targets**

**7.3.7** While there are currently no Government targets for heat production from renewable sources this situation is expected to change during the RSS period. PPS22 refers to increasing the development of ‘renewable energy’ in general, which is taken to cover both renewable electricity and renewable heat. There is considerable potential in the South West for the production of heat from renewable sources, and the South West has a lot to gain from harnessing these. The region has:

- The best solar resource in the UK with considerable opportunities for solar water heating and a significant resource of forest residues that can be used for biomass heating
- A strong indigenous industry able to support the installation of renewable heating technologies

**Meeting the Targets Through Development of New Resources**

**7.3.9** The combination of renewable energy resource distribution within the South West, and the scale and distribution of protected landscapes, leads to the conclusion that the targets are likely to be met through a mixture of technologies dispersed throughout the region, rather than concentrated in any specific area. Local authorities should monitor development for renewable energy and cooperate with adjoining authorities to ensure that renewable energy schemes do not have a significant adverse cumulative impact. Consideration should also be given to minimising any impacts resulting from construction and operation including air quality, landscape and visual impact, atmospheric emissions, noise, odour, water pollution, flood risk, and the disposal of waste.

**RE4 Meeting the Targets Through Development of New Resources**

**When considering individual applications for development of renewable energy facilities, Local Planning Authorities will take into account the wider environmental, community and economic benefits of proposals, whatever their scale, and should be mindful that schemes should not have a cumulative negative impact and that proposals in protected areas should be of an appropriate scale and not compromise the objectives of designation.**

**Promoting Sustainable Energy Use Within New Development and Regeneration**

**7.3.10** PPS22 emphasises the importance of developing positively expressed policies on building integrated renewables, incorporating renewable energy projects in all new developments. Policies that encourage the on-site generation of renewable energy must be placed within a wider context of the need for development, both new build and refurbishment, to incorporate the principles of sustainable energy design (see also Section 3, Development Policy G). This will involve reducing building energy demand through energy efficiency and low energy design, before meeting the remaining demand from firstly renewable energy and then fossil fuels or grid electricity. This approach has been characterised as the 'Energy Hierarchy' within the South West, and will ensure that energy efficiency opportunities are maximised before renewable energy is considered within proposals for new developments. The aim is to achieve affordable energy-efficient homes, so reducing both fuel poverty and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**7.3.11** All new developments should meet a proportion of their energy from renewable sources. Proposals for larger scale developments (for definition see Glossary) should be accompanied by an energy use assessment which describes how much energy is expected to be used within the proposal and considers ways in which the 'Energy Hierarchy' can be put into effect. The 10% minimum target in Policy RE5 has been set based on available data on costs of available technologies to ensure there is no undue financial burden. This figure will be

subject to an early review, as advances in technology and reduction in costs through economies of scale are expected in the short to medium term. It is expected, therefore, that such a review will increase the target but, due to uncertainties over how far costs will be reduced, it is not possible to indicate the level of increase at this time.

**RE5 Renewable Energy and New Development**

**Larger-scale developments will be expected to provide, as a minimum, sufficient on-site renewable energy to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy use by users of the buildings constructed on site by 10%. Developers will be expected to demonstrate that they have explored all renewable energy options, and designed their developments to incorporate any renewable energy requirements. Individual Local Planning Authorities may use lower thresholds for what constitutes a larger-scale development and set higher percentages for on-site generation, taking into account the impact on initial and lifetime affordability of homes.**

**Water Resources**

**7.3.12** In 2001 the South West consumed an estimated three megalitres of water. Households consumed 60% of water supplied; about 20% of water supplied is lost through leakage. With a growing population and drier summers predicted as a result of climate change, pressures on the region's water resources will increase and need to be carefully managed. This is particularly the case in the drier eastern side of the region where critical effects may be experienced during the plan period, particularly in respect of the long-term growth of Swindon. In this case, impacts will be felt outside the region as water is supplied from Thames Water's South West Oxfordshire zone, and waste water discharges to the head waters of the Thames. In the future, management of the region's water resources will also need to be aligned to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)<sup>25</sup>. This establishes a strategic framework for managing the water environment, with a common approach to setting environmental objectives and standards

<sup>25</sup> Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy.

for all groundwater and surface water. The Environment Agency will work with partners to produce River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) – the first RBMP for the South West will be published for consultation in 2008.

**7.3.13** Water company plans show how sufficient water will be provided to meet customers' needs while protecting and enhancing the environment. Current plans reflect the housing growth rates identified in RPG 10 and include an allowance for the loss of yield from some sources and the increase in demand due to climate change. Analysis by the Environment Agency has shown that overall future levels of growth can be accommodated in terms of water supply, providing measures are put in place to improve the efficiency of homes, by increasing metering and reducing leakage. Where the Draft RSS identifies development levels likely to result in significant increased demand for water, sustainable provision of supply will be required.

**7.3.14** In recognition of predicted climate change impacts, and in order to implement Policy RE6, local authorities should promote public awareness of the need to reduce water consumption and consider water resources as an element of sustainable construction (see paragraphs 3.7.5 to 3.7.8), so requiring the introduction of water conservation measures and sustainable drainage systems in all development through supplementary planning guidance. In addition, the provision of on-farm winter storage facilities for water should be encouraged where it does not conflict with other planning policies.



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**RE6 Water Resources**

**The region's network of ground, surface and coastal waters and associated ecosystems will be protected and enhanced, taking account of the Environment Agency's 'Regional Water Resources Strategy', catchment abstraction management strategies, groundwater vulnerability maps, groundwater source protection zone maps and river basin management plans. Surface and groundwater pollution risks must be minimised so that environmental quality standards are achieved and where possible exceeded. Local Planning Authorities, through their LDDs, must ensure that rates of planned development do not exceed the capacity of existing water supply and wastewater treatment systems and do not proceed ahead of essential planned improvements to these systems.**

## Sustainable Land Management

**7.3.15** Achieving the vision, aims, and principles of this Draft RSS across the whole region demands a spatial planning approach that reaches beyond the built environment into the four fifths of the region that is countryside. This regional space is most easily characterised as farmland, woodland and forestry, but alongside being a place to live, work, and enjoy, it is also a storehouse for water, nature and biodiversity. In addition to food and fibre, land management provides a range of public goods. The region's landscapes and wildlife are the result of centuries of farming and woodland management, and these sectors have helped shape the identity of the region's market towns and villages. Good land management can also provide healthier soils, cleaner rivers and reduce flooding, helping adapt to potential climate change impacts. It provides many social and economic benefits that help maintain rural communities, as well as providing opportunities for public access and enjoyment of the countryside.

**7.3.16** In future, as changes to agricultural policy and industry take shape, less land is likely to be used primarily for food production. More is likely to be used for crops for industry and energy, or managed mainly for conservation, recreation or community benefits. In this period of transition the Draft RSS seeks to guide change towards the most sustainable land management options which will support the rural economy and wider objectives. The aim is to manage and use land as a key capital asset for the region – one capable of producing a wide range of products and services through combining different functions in area-specific packages, for example flood attenuation and nature conservation (such as the Parrett Catchment Project in Somerset), or agriculture with recreation. The actual integration of these functions must take place at local level, but should reflect regional objectives.

## RE7 Sustainable Land Management

**Local authorities, other agencies and the private sector will promote an integrated approach to land management by developing area-specific packages which achieve multiple benefits, reinforce and enhance the specific natural and cultural features of local areas.**

**7.3.17** Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land needs to be taken into account alongside other sustainability considerations when deciding between sites. The BMV agricultural soils need to be protected from development because these are the most flexible in terms of the range of crops or produce that can be grown, and therefore the most valuable for current and future agricultural production. Given changes to Common Agricultural Policies (CAP) and the fact that this is driving businesses to become more economically efficient, it is important that the best land is protected, for possible future agricultural needs. In some circumstances, BMV land may be subject to development pressures, particularly in areas identified for growth in Sections 3 and 4.

**7.3.18** When identifying proposals for urban extensions local authorities should consider where BMV land around urban areas could be used to support development objectives and green infrastructure provision, whilst not compromising its potential for food production.

## Woodlands and Forests

**7.3.19** The South West contains 20% of woodland and 20% of all the ancient woodland in England. Woodlands and forests are the second largest land use in the region after agriculture, covering nearly 9% of the area, though this is by no means uniform. Traditional old orchards and veteran trees are important features of the region and provide good habitats for wildlife. The Regional Woodland and Forestry Framework (RWFF) is the regional expression of the Government's policy on woodland and forest and sets out what is needed to help secure the future of these assets.



**7.3.20** Areas of woodland should be expanded where appropriate and as indicated in the RWFF, to support other habitats, act as carbon sinks, enhance landscape character and as a key part of providing green infrastructure in and around new development (see Policy GI1 in Section 6). Any unavoidable loss of woodland should be replaced via agreements with developers and other mechanisms. Sustainable tourism development opportunities presented by woodlands and forests should be promoted, particularly in rural areas and the wider economic use of woodlands and forests should be promoted, for example with regards to wood fuel (see also paragraph 7.3.7 on renewable heat). The procurement of locally grown timber and wood products to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard should be supported, particularly in relation to development, in order to achieve improved sustainability of construction and in support of local supply chains.

**RE8 Woodlands and Forests**

**Local authorities and other bodies will support the implementation of the RWFF, ensuring the environmental, social and economic value and character of the region's woods and forests are protected and enhanced in a sustainable way. Woodland areas, including ancient and semi-natural woodland should be maintained at least at 2005 levels and expanded where possible to provide a buffer to core areas of woodland. Where woodland is unavoidably lost through development it should be replaced with appropriate new woodland on at least the same scale.**

**Air Quality**

**7.3.21** Air quality is generally good in the South West, with low levels of sulphur, oxides of nitrogen and particulates in comparison to the rest of England, although 24 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared in 12 local authority areas where national air quality objectives are not likely to be achieved. These are generally in urban areas where air pollution results mainly from traffic. Policies within this Draft RSS which reduce the need to travel and encourage access by non-car modes should help to reduce air pollution, as well as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. However, local authorities and others will need to ensure that air quality is considered when assessing development proposals, particularly in or near AQMAs and where significant doubt arises as to the air quality impact then the precautionary principle should be applied.

**RE9 Air Quality**

**The impacts of development proposals on air quality must be taken into account and local authorities should ensure, through LDDs, that new development will not exacerbate air quality problems in existing and potential AQMAs.**



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## Minerals

**7.3.22** Minerals are a non-renewable resource and a number of minerals are exploited in the region, some of national importance including aggregates such as crushed rock and sand and gravel through to china and ball clays and natural building stones. Other minerals found in the region include peat, coal, oil, gas and brick clay. These minerals represent a finite resource that can be worked only where they exist. Their exploitation is recognised as generating locally significant employment, and about 0.5% of GVA in the South West.

**7.3.23** The relationship between mineral extraction and the environment is sensitive, as the impacts of quarrying can lead to serious adverse effects on landscape, habitats and amenity. However, the restoration and aftercare of sites presents opportunities for significant biodiversity, geodiversity and amenity gains. Given the environmental quality of the South West, one of the prime concerns is that opportunities for substitution of extracted minerals by recyclates and secondary aggregates is maximised.

**7.3.24** In terms of ensuring the supply of minerals and managing the environmental effects of provision, the RPB will work closely with the Minerals Planning Authorities (MPAs), South West Regional Aggregates Working Party (SWRAWP), industry and other key stakeholders to ensure emerging issues, such as sterilisation of reserves by storage of scalplings, stent, etc, are addressed. When considering proposals for new workings or facilities, MPAs should take account of the proximity principle. MPAs should also ensure that where natural building materials are required to maintain the character of settlements or individual buildings, in line with sustainable construction policies, consideration is given to the identification and efficient utilisation of locally derived mineral resources. MPAs should maximise the opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity during the operational life of workings and promote environmentally beneficial reclamation and aftercare of mineral workings. Due regard should be given to aims of Biodiversity Action Plans and Geodiversity Action Plans (where produced) and the landscape character of locally affected areas.



**7.3.25** MPAs, mineral operators and other agencies should take account of the following and co-operate to:

- Avoid workings/extraction in or affecting international/national environmental designations except in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that the mineral cannot be sourced from another location outside of designated areas
- Minimise the distance that minerals and their derived products travel to their point of use when identifying potential new mineral sites and the location of processing facilities
- Promote, identify and safeguard opportunities for the transportation of minerals by rail and/or water through the use of existing and, where practicable, new railhead and wharf facilities
- Ensure that where road transport is the only option available for the distribution of minerals, developers submit transport assessments to support proposals for quarries and associated ancillary facilities, taking account of the Regional Freight Map Policy TR12
- Ensure effective use is made of materials

**RE10 Supply of Aggregates and Other Minerals**

**Mineral Planning Authorities should seek to make provision for the supply of aggregates and other minerals to meet the South West’s contribution to national requirements. Mineral Planning Authorities and Local Planning Authorities will identify and collaborate in safeguarding mineral resources of economic importance from sterilisation by other forms of development. In order to promote the delivery and bulk transport of minerals by rail and/or water, existing railheads, wharfage and other handling facilities, will be safeguarded and opportunities for new ones should be identified, where appropriate.**

**Aggregates**

**7.3.26** The Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has set regional guideline figures for the South West region for aggregates for the period 2001 to 2016. These are about 106 million tonnes (Mt) of land-won sand and gravel, and about 453 Mt of crushed rock, with assumptions of 9 Mt of marine sand and gravel and 121 Mt of alternative (secondary and recycled) materials.

**7.3.27** A technical and strategic assessment of aggregate supply options in the South West looked at the issue of addressing identified shortfalls in aggregate provision to 2016 in terms of permitted reserves for sand and gravel and crushed rock and, in particular, the potential for substitution from other resource areas as follows:

- A shortfall of crushed rock identified in the Forest of Dean resource area could potentially be met from significant reserves and resources in neighbouring areas, which supply similar markets. This will require that MPAs in Gloucestershire and the former Avon area (possibly including Somerset) should collaborate in the preparation of their LDDs to identify if the shortfall of eight Mt to 2016 in the sub-regional apportionment for crushed rock in Gloucestershire (relating to the Forest of Dean resource area) can be met from elsewhere
- The technical report has also proposed various options to meet those shortfalls in the sand and gravel resource areas.

Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Dorset MPAs should work together on a collaborative basis with their adjacent MPAs in order to establish whether any shortfalls in supplies of sand and gravel from the South West can be met from existing reserves or existing development plan allocations, or other identifiable resources. The environmental capacity of those areas and the effect on supply patterns should also be taken into account

**7.3.28** Over the life of the RSS it is envisaged that the testing of the regional and local apportionment will be monitored to determine the scope of any review of national aggregates demand forecasts. The SWRAWP is best placed to assist with this process and will continue to provide essential support to the RPB by co-ordinating the collection, collation and analysis of minerals data.

**RE11 Maintaining a Landbank of Aggregates**

**Mineral Planning Authorities should endeavour to maintain a landbank of at least seven years during the period to 2016. The ability to meet their primary aggregate apportionment, as set out in Table M1, will be tested against environmental factors as Mineral Development Documents are brought forward.**

**7.3.29** This Draft RSS looks forward 10 years beyond the 2016 end date of the current aggregates apportionment. In that period significant further development will take place in the region which will require aggregates for concrete and roadstone. The commitment in Policy SD1 to reduce the ecological footprint of the region will require a greater use of recycled and secondary materials in this period. Apportionments for the longer term will be guided by the following factors:

- The possible increased demand from within the region arising from the development proposed in the Draft RSS
- The effect of other regions' supply requirements and the sustainability of helping to meet any external demand from South West sources
- The contribution that alternatives from within the region can make to aggregate supplies, as a result of urban land recycling and the use of secondary aggregates
- The opportunities for sea or rail-borne imports into the South West to substitute for crushed rock and sand and gravel extraction
- Locations where future aggregate working will not be considered to be acceptable due to environmental constraints

**Table M1 Regional Apportionment for Aggregates Demand 2001 – 2016**

Mineral Planning Authority	Crushed rock (Mt)	Annualised production rate (Mt)	Sand and Gravel (Mt)	Annualised production rate (Mt)
Former Avon	94.95	5.93	0	0
Cornwall	29.04	1.82	Included with Devon (c)	0
Devon	55.99	3.50	21.80	1.36
Dorset	7.7	0.48	36.35	2.27
Gloucestershire	39.09*(31.09)	2.44*(1.94)	18.18	1.14
Somerset	226.18	14.14	Included with Devon (c)	Included with Devon (c)
Wiltshire	Included with Dorset (c)	Included with Dorset (c)	29.66	1.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>452.95</b>	<b>28.31</b>	<b>105.99</b>	<b>6.62</b>

(c) confidential  
 \* Potential reduction if proposed re-apportionment of 8 Mt is feasible



**Recycled and Secondary Aggregates**

**7.3.30** In order to meet targets for utilising alternative materials, and so support the sustainable construction principles set out in Development Policy G, a greater understanding of construction, demolition and re-use elements of the minerals supply chain is needed. This will require significant improvements in the quality and availability of data on arisings of recyclable aggregates and other demolition waste materials, as well as the level of their usage in new construction projects.

**7.3.31** Policy W4 requires developers to submit waste audits with all major applications. MPAs and the SWRAWP should work closely with the Environment Agency, Local Planning Authorities and industry to provide better and more consistent data on the amount of construction and demolition waste re-used in developments and deposited at licensed and exempt landfill sites.

**7.3.32** A major source of secondary aggregate in the South West is the sand and the crushed rock (stent) ‘waste’ arising from China Clay production and reworking of old tips. China Clay production generates around nine tonnes of waste for every tonne of clay. Potentially, this is a more sustainable resource than other aggregates however, under current market conditions, transport costs make the exploitation of this resource uneconomic. Innovative ways need to be found, for example the increased use of shipping (paragraph 5.4.6 refers), and/or transport by rail/pipeline, if additional use of this material is to be made. MPAs in the region should work collaboratively, through the SWRAWP, to identify the scope for supplying China Clay waste to construction markets outside Cornwall and Devon.

**RE12 Recycled and Secondary Aggregates**

**Provision will be made for 121 Mt of secondary and recycled aggregates to be utilised over the plan period to 2016. LDDs will identify new sites and safeguard existing sites, to secure an appropriate provision of minerals/aggregates recycling plants in appropriate locations, in accordance with Policy W2.**

**China and Ball Clay**

**7.3.33** The South West region contains the only sources of Ball Clay and China Clay in the UK. China Clay working is concentrated in two main areas: to the north east of Plymouth in Devon, and to the north of St Austell in Cornwall. Ball Clay working takes place in the Bovey and Petrockstowe Basins in Devon, and in the Wareham Basin in Dorset. Given the national importance of Ball Clay and China Clay to the paper manufacture, ceramics, tableware, sanitaryware and pharmaceuticals industries, access to reserves should be safeguarded in Mineral Development Frameworks (MDFs) in line with Policy RE10. MDFs should also seek to minimise the need for additional tipping of clay wastes above ground, and maximise early restoration through backfilling existing voids. Furthermore, in view of the large scale of the clay workings, it is especially important to maintain a co-ordinated approach to mineral and other forms of development, and to consider, where appropriate, the preparation of Area Action Plans.



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## 7.4 Waste Management

**7.4.1** Managing waste is one of the greatest challenges facing the region over the period of the RSS. *'From Rubbish to Resource'*, the Regional Waste Strategy, was published after extensive consultation in 2004 and sets out in detail the regional approach to reducing and managing the region's waste. The South West's approach to waste is to "minimise the amount of waste produced in the region, and then to make a major shift away from current reliance on landfill of untreated waste, so that by 2020 less than 20% of waste produced in the region will be landfilled". The Strategy was prepared prior to the publication of Planning Policy Statement 10 on Waste (PPS10) in 2005.

### Provision of Capacity to Handle Waste

**7.4.2** Proposals for new waste management capacity should take into account the need to meet nationally set targets for recycling and composting, recovery and disposal, including those derived from the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme. The contribution made by existing waste facilities identified by local survey, the anticipated lifespan and need to safeguard such existing facilities and allocated sites for new waste uses should also be taken into account.

**7.4.3** In addition, proposals should consider opportunities to provide treatment facilities for multiple waste streams and the need to accommodate new treatment technologies, including those offering recovery through Mechanical and Biological Treatment (MBT) and/or advanced energy conversion (waste to energy), to meet recovery targets. Other factors for consideration include the role played by mobile crushing and screening equipment and exempt disposal sites, in the management of construction and demolition wastes and the need for access by all areas and sectors of the community to civic amenity or other recycle collection sites.

**7.4.4** Proposals should also take account of significant and sustained transfers of waste across regional boundaries, where the originating and receiving RPB has agreed the most sustainable waste management method. 'Significant' cross-regional boundary transfers of waste are those where more than 50,000 tonnes per annum of non-hazardous waste, or more than 10,000 tonnes of hazardous waste, is transferred between regions.

**7.4.5** The allocations in Appendix 2 are taken from the Regional Waste Strategy and are based on an assumption that each of the Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs)/counties is broadly self-sufficient in waste management capacity. Where a WPA/county is unable to identify appropriate sites for the required capacity for one management method (for example because geological conditions are unsuitable for additional landfill capacity), the relevant WPA should reach agreement with a neighbouring authority, having full regard to the proximity principle. Reciprocal arrangements may be appropriate. Where treatment methods are proposed that produce a refuse derived fuel, adequate provision must also be made for facilities that will utilise that fuel.

**7.4.6** Waste Development Frameworks should include allocated sites or preferred areas for new waste management facilities, sufficient to accommodate the indicative capacity allocations in Appendix 2. Similarly, LDFs within those areas should safeguard such sites for waste facilities. However, there may be some existing waste facilities that are inappropriately sited or are within major development areas. In these cases, redevelopment may outweigh waste management needs, but it is important that proper account is taken of the need for appropriate waste facilities to service places where major development is taking place following the proximity principle in order to reduce emissions from transport.

**7.4.7** WPAs, in partnership with the Environment Agency, should monitor changes in provision (gains and losses) by regular surveys of their area and should publish their findings and resulting estimates of capacity in their Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs). Monitoring should build upon work carried out by the Regional Technical Advisory Body (RTAB) to assemble data on waste management capacity and DEFRA's proposed national database.



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**W1 Provision of Waste Sites**

**Waste Planning Authorities will make provision in their Waste Development Frameworks for a network of strategic and local waste collection, transfer, treatment (including recycling) and disposal sites to provide the capacity to meet the indicative allocations for their area shown in Appendix 2, for 2010, 2013 and 2020.**

**Spatial Distribution of Waste Facilities**

**7.4.8** The provision of waste facilities should generally avoid protected landscapes such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and would generally be inappropriate in statutory green belts. Some proposals to meet local needs may be appropriate, such as providing small scale recycling centres or on-farm composting facilities. Enhancement of environmental assets should be considered within proposals, including provision for appropriate restoration after-use with good design to mitigate visual and other environmental impacts of both built facilities and landfill sites.

**7.4.9** The capacity of different facilities can vary considerably and this will be reflected in issues such as building size and number of vehicle movements. An indication of typical capacities and key planning considerations for a range of types of facilities are included in the Key Planning Criteria Matrix included in Appendix D of the Regional Waste Strategy.

**W2 Waste Facilities and the Waste Hierarchy**

Provision of waste facilities will take account of the following waste hierarchy:

- Waste should be managed on the site where it arises, wherever possible (waste minimisation), and
- Waste that is not managed at its point of arising should be managed according to the proximity principle

In all areas, identification of sites for facilities will take account of the following:

- Established and proposed industrial sites, in particular those that have scope for the co-location of complementary activities, such as proposed resource recovery parks, and
- Other previously developed land, including use of mineral extraction and landfill sites during their period of operation for the location of related waste treatment activities

For SSCTs and other named settlements in Section 4, the location of new waste management or disposal facilities should accord with the following sequential approach:

- Within
- On the edge of, and/or
- In close proximity to (ie within 16 kilometres) of the urban area primarily served by the facility

For rural areas and smaller towns there should be provision of:

- A network of local waste management facilities concentrated at, or close to, centres of population identified through Development Policy B, and/or
- An accessible network of strategic waste facilities

Major sources of waste arising in rural areas will be treated locally, unless specialised facilities are required.



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**Hazardous Waste**

**7.4.10** The market for hazardous waste disposal at sites established for that purpose is now a highly specialised activity that operates in a market of at least regional and more probably national scale. The region is broadly self-sufficient in hazardous waste treatment capacity and has facilities for the transfer, treatment and recycling of hazardous wastes. The RTAB estimates that the region will require an annual disposal capacity of about 40,000 tonnes for Stable Non-Reactive Hazardous Wastes (with special cells already provided at general landfill sites) and in the range 65,000 to 80,000 tonnes per annum of general hazardous waste for which specific provision needs to be made.

**7.4.11** The specialist nature of hazardous waste landfill may restrict the type of waste inputs, but the region should also seek to make a contribution to the national need in line with its own regional requirements. Existing sites being located on the region’s eastern boundary and close to the primary road network are well positioned to serve the regional and the wider national market for hazardous waste disposal. Existing sites should be safeguarded with proposals for extension considered within the context of the region’s contribution to wider national needs and the proposal’s local environmental impact.



**7.4.12** Significant changes to the legislative and regulatory regime governing hazardous waste in 2004/2005 have created considerable uncertainties about the level of provision needed for managing hazardous waste in the region. It is not considered appropriate for each WPA to identify specific sites for the management and treatment of hazardous waste in the same way they are expected to identify sites for other waste facilities. However (due to their specialised nature) if planning applications come forward for facilities to manage hazardous waste, appropriate consideration should be given to their contribution to national and regional need, and not just local need.

**W3 Hazardous Waste**

**Waste Planning Authorities should recognise the need for the development of capacity for the disposal of Stable Non-Reactive Hazardous Wastes at existing or proposed new landfill facilities (identified in Policy W1) and safeguard capacity for the disposal of other hazardous wastes at existing sites permitted and authorised as hazardous waste landfill sites provided they are environmentally acceptable. Provision should also be made in Waste LDFs for hazardous waste transfer, treatment and disposal facilities.**



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**Controlling, Reusing and Recycling Waste in Development**

- 7.4.13** Developers should indicate how facilities will be provided within the new development to enable the collection of recyclates from individual properties, including access by collection vehicles. In addition the report should take account of local policies for the street scene, local standards for the storage of sorted and unsorted wastes for collection and the local services provided by the waste collection and disposal authorities. This will be particularly important when authorities and developers are producing Master Plans for large mixed-use developments and urban extensions under Development Policy F.
- 7.4.14** A waste audit should cover how waste materials created by the development can be reused, with priority given to the reuse of waste materials on site, as part of the development. The audit should also include how the use of raw materials can be minimised during development and how the use of recycled materials can be maximised.

- 7.4.15** Proposals by established businesses to provide facilities for the on-site minimisation, re-use or recycling of wastes created by their business premises should be approved, subject to other policies and proposals to establish waste minimisation, re-use and recycling industries in recognised industrial areas should be approved, subject to other policies.

**W4 Controlling, Re-using and Recycling Waste in Development**

**All proposals for larger-scale development should include as part of the planning application a report comprising an audit of waste materials on site and proposals for how waste will be managed over the lifetime of the development.**

**Radioactive Waste**

**7.4.16** Approximately 140,000 cubic metres of Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste (ILW) and Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLW) is stored in the South West. This includes wastes that will arise over the next 100 years from existing power stations and their decommissioning. A national policy review is currently underway on managing radioactive waste. The Government appointed the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) in 2003 to recommend a long-term strategy for managing High Level Radioactive Waste (HLW), ILW and some LLW. There is also a review of Low-Level Waste Policy underway. Both reviews are due to report in 2006.

**7.4.17** Until the national reviews are completed, it is not appropriate to consider further details of possible management and disposal options for radioactive waste stored in the region within the context of the Draft RSS. Other LLW generated in the region, such as from hospitals, is covered by the policy on hazardous waste.