

## APPENDICES

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	
2	European Landscape Convention (ELC)	
3	AONB Partnership Structure and Representation	
4	Section 85, CRoW Act 2000	
5	Management Plan Review Process	
6	Policy Context	
7	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	
8	Neighbourhood Planning	
9	Climate Change	
10	Big Society	
11	Natural Capital	
12	Green Infrastructure	
13	Ecosystem Approach	
14	Sustainable Development	
15	Policy Influence	
16	South Wiltshire Farmland Bird Initiative (SWFBI)	
17	Designation by English Heritage	
18	Sowing SEEDS Local Action Group (LAG)	
19	AONB Planning Protocol	
20	Guidance Documents: AONB Position Statements, Fact Sheets and Good Practice Notes	
21	Protection of the Designated Landscape	
22	'Major Development'	
23	General Development Order 2013 – Permitted Development	
24	Community Infrastructure Levy – an overview	
25	Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) for AONBs	
26	Publications on the AONB website	
27	National Association of AONBs	
28	Additional Information - Landscape	
29	Additional Information – The Natural Environment	
30	Additional Information – The Historic and Cultural Environment	
31	Additional Information – Rural Land Management	
32	Additional Information – The Rural Economy	
33	Additional Information – Planning and Transport	
34	Additional Information – Viable Rural Communities	
35	Additional Information – Awareness and Understanding	
36	Additional Information – Involvement and Learning	
37	Additional Information – Access and Wellbeing	
38	Glossary	
39	Explanation of Terms	

## Appendix 1

### The International Union for Conservation of Nature

The International Union for Conservation of Nature is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisations. It is a global organisation made up of many thousands of members. These members fall into three groups: State governments, non-governmental organisations, and individuals. It seeks to work with all of these constituents to promote conservation and sustainability in the world. It is influential on global and national policies in these areas through a partnership approach.

The IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom (IUCN NCUK) works as a convening body, aiming to bring together members from across the IUCN spectrum and from outside in order to share information and to discuss approaches to influencing conservation policy and practice. IUCN NCUK also seeks to add value to UK conservation work by developing projects linked to IUCN activity.

#### IUCN Protected Areas Categories System

IUCN protected area management categories classify protected areas according to their management objectives. The categories are recognised by international bodies such as the United Nations and by many national governments as the global standard for defining and recording protected areas and as such are increasingly being incorporated into government legislation. AONBs come under Category V Protected Landscape/ Seascape.

**A Category V Protected Landscape** is defined as *a protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant, ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value; and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.*

You can find out more about IUCN at <http://www.iucn.org/>

#### IUCN UK reconfirms the value of AONBs - 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013

The reconfirmation followed three years of work with the IUCN UK by the National Association of AONBs (NAAONB) consisting of input to developing IUCN's guidance on categorisation (The Putting Nature on the Map Project), open forum discussion and the drawing up of a Statement of Compliance, supported by evidence from across the AONB Family. This statement was accepted by the IUCN panel in June 2013.

Each individual AONB partnership provided further evidence to demonstrate that they meet the high standards demanded by the IUCN. The NAAONB compiled all evidence and presented this as an accompaniment to the Draft Statement of Compliance to the World Commission on Protected Areas UK Protected Areas Assessment Panel.

Chris Mahon, Chief Executive, IUCN National Committee UK informed the NAAONB today that, *"We considered that the evidence was persuasive and that each manager had demonstrated a full understanding of the IUCN definition of a protected area, fully*

*supported the generic statement and had plans to strengthen the place of nature conservation in future. We were agreed that all the AONBs had demonstrated to our satisfaction that they should retain their status as IUCN Category V protected areas and will accordingly so recommend to UNEP/WCMC”.*

## Appendix 2

### European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention is a Treaty of the Council of Europe - not the European Union - that is freely entered into by individual state governments.

This landscape convention builds upon earlier European Conventions, such as Berne (1997) aimed at conserving wildlife and Granada (1985) and Valletta (1992) protecting architectural and archaeological heritage, and the international Rio Convention on biological diversity (1992).

The European Landscape Convention was adopted on 20 October 2000 in Florence (Italy) and came into force on 1 March 2004 (Council of Europe Treaty Series no. 176). It was signed on behalf of the UK government in 2006, and came into force in the UK 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

It starts from the fundamental acknowledgement

**"that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas".**

Importantly, it defines landscape in relation to people;

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

The aims of the convention are

**"to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues."**

At a **national** level that means:

- a) Recognising landscapes in law as "essential components of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity,"
- b) Establishing and implementing "landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning",
- c) Establishing procedures for the participation of the public, and local and regional authorities, in defining and implementing landscape policies,
- d) Integrating landscape into "regional and town planning policies and in its environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies".

Doing these things will require specific measures, set out in the Convention, covering

- awareness raising,
- training and education,
- identification and assessment,
- landscape quality objectives, and
- implementation.

**International** co-operation should include

- landscape dimensions within other programmes,

- ❑ mutual assistance and information exchange,
- ❑ cross-border landscape programmes, and
- ❑ a Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

It is of particular significance that all landscapes are recognised in this Convention, and not just those that already have some wildlife or natural beauty designation. The Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty derives much of its beauty from its qualities of tranquillity, remoteness, and cultural heritage. It is also a living and working countryside that is very rural with relatively few householders for such a large area, and with substantial and significant settlements just outside its boundary.

AONBs in general, and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB in particular, are well placed to demonstrate the three pronged approach of protect, manage, and plan of the **Convention in action**:

- ❑ the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides a legislative and funding framework for the nationally important AONB landscapes, with a requirement for each AONB to have a Management Plan with policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty
- ❑ the emerging South West and the South East Regional Spatial Strategies both draw attention to the national status of AONBs and their Management Plans
- ❑ the composition of this AONB Partnership and its consultative working style enables wide participation of local people and organisations in defining and implementing landscape policies
- ❑ this AONB has established a Planning Protocol with its Planning Authorities to facilitate the incorporation of landscape matters into planning policies and practice
- ❑ CCWWD AONB is raising awareness that "landscape matters" through our Landscape Character (2003) and Landscape Sensitivity (2007) assessments, our Management Plan covers policies for landscape protection, management, and planning, and our publicity and events
- ❑ the Historic Landscape Characterisation has been completed and steps are being taken to implement the Historic Environment Action Plans

There are, however, still more things to be done.

The full text of the Convention, and further information about European Conventions can be found on the web at:

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default_en.asp)

The rules for the European Landscape Award can be found at:

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/Prix/Anglais.pdf>



## **Appendix 3**

### **AONB Partnership Structure and Representation**

The AONB Partnership works for everyone who lives and works in the AONB. It also welcomes visitors to the area and other interested parties, be they individuals, government or non-governmental organisations or an interest group.

The Partnership Panel is an alliance of 18 local, regional and national organisations which steers the implementation of the AONB Management Plan. The Partnership Panel has an independent chairman, acts as the governing body for the AONB Team, and meets two to three times a year. As well as guiding the implementation of the Management Plan, it oversees the specialist Topic Groups and helps steer work in the annual Delivery Plan. A Steering Group provides advice and support to the AONB Team and meets three times a year. Its task is to ensure targets in the Management Plan are met.

Once each year an open AONB Forum is held that brings together the widest range of interested people to discuss and debate topical issues

#### **Representatives**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, the Partnership includes the Chairman, James Stanford OBE and one Member and/or one Officer from the nine Local Authorities:

- Wiltshire Council
- Dorset County Council
- Hampshire County Council
- Somerset County Council
- East Dorset District Council
- North Dorset District Council
- New Forest District Council
- Mendip District Council
- South Somerset District Council

One representative from those organisations with a specialist, regional or national interest in the AONB:

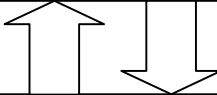
- Natural England
- English Heritage
- Forestry Commission
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Environment Agency

Those organisations with a local or community interest in the AONB:

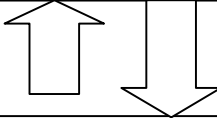
- Country Land and Business Association
- National Farmer's Union
- Wiltshire Association of Town and Parish Councils
- Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils

**Partnership Structure**

**AONB Partnership Forum**  
Annual meeting of all interested parties with representatives invited from over 100 organisations from within the AONB or those with an interest in it



**AONB Partnership Panel**  
Alliance of 18 local, regional and national organisations that will guide the implementation of the Management Plan. The Panel includes the 9 Local Authorities involved in the AONB and meets 2/3 times a year.



**Steering Group**  
Local Authority Officers, Topic Group Chairs and Natural England advice and support



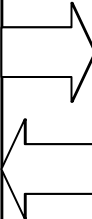
**AONB Team (4.2 FTE)**

AONB Director	FT
Project Development Officer	FT
Landscape and Planning Officer	PT
Funding & Partnerships Officer	PT
Communications Officer	PT
2 x Support Officers	PT
Farmland Bird Advisor (Wessex Water funded)	FT
GIS Support (Contracted at 1 day per week)	



**Topic Groups (3)**

- Planning and Transportation
- Land Managers Advisory Forum
- Rural Economy Group
  - Sub group - Access



## Appendix 4

### Section 85 Duty Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

#### **Duty to have regard to AONBs**

There is a general statutory duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to the purposes of AONBs when making decisions affecting these areas. A guidance note (Defra 2005) explaining these duties can be found here:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/protected/npaonb-duties-guide.pdf>

#### **Section 85**

##### **General duty of public bodies etc**

(1) In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.

(2) The following are relevant authorities for the purposes of this section—

- (a) any Minister of the Crown,
- (b) any public body,
- (c) any statutory undertaker,
- (d) any person holding public office.

(3) In subsection (2)—

“public body” includes

- (a) a county council, county borough council, district council, parish council or community council;
- (b) a joint planning board within the meaning of section 2 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
- (c) a joint committee appointed under section 102(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972;

“public office” means—

- (a) an office under Her Majesty;
- (b) an office created or continued in existence by a public general Act; or

(c) an office the remuneration in respect of which is paid out of money provided by Parliament.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/85>

**The purpose of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is to:**

*'conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'*

**Duty on Relevant Authorities and those in public office:**

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a statutory duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to this purpose. It states that, *'in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an AONB, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'*.

**Expectations of Relevant Authorities and those in public office:**

Relevant authorities must be able to demonstrate that they have fulfilled these duties. They must be able to show clearly how they have considered AONB purposes in their decision making and should consider whether they could usefully make reference to the duties in their annual reports.

Relevant authorities will also wish to consider issuing their own statement of how they will take account of the purposes of the designated area.

Demonstration of compliance with the duties are monitored by the AONB Team on behalf of the AONB Partnership. The Partnership Panel will bring any significant contraventions to the attention of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The duties do not override particular considerations which have to be taken into account by relevant authorities in carrying out any function, but they are intended to ensure that the purposes for which these areas have been designated are recognised as an essential consideration in reaching decisions or undertaking activities that impact on them.

**The following organisations are *examples* of some of the Public Bodies / Statutory Undertakers operating within the AONB:**

English Heritage  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)  
Drinking Water Inspectorate  
Natural England  
Environment Agency  
Defence Estates  
Health and Primary Care Trusts  
The Emergency Services  
Highways Agency  
Forestry Commission  
Health and Safety Executive

Highway Authorities  
Wessex Water  
Southern Water  
Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water  
The Civil Aviation Authority  
Compton Abbas Airfield  
Bath Wilts & North Dorset Gliding Club  
National Grid  
Scottish and Southern Electric  
Powergen  
British Gas  
British Telecommunications  
Unitary, County, District, Parish Councils and all councillors  
The Crown Estate  
Network Rail  
Passenger Transport Authority  
Orange  
O2  
T Mobile  
Vodafone  
All Government Departments, Members of Parliament and  
Ministers of the Crown.

*This list is not intended to be exhaustive.*

All public and statutory bodies are covered by CRow 2000, Section 85.

Further details can be found at: <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk> or  
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk>

## **Appendix 5**

### **Management Plan Review Process**

#### **Questionnaire**

Two short online questionnaires were created using 'Survey Monkey' in April 2013. These were advertised through the spring edition of the AONB newsletter 'The Hart' and through the AONB website and social media channels. The online questionnaire for the general public generated 204 responses and the farmers and landowner's created an additional 5 responses. We had an additional 6 hard copy questionnaires returned.

#### **'Drop In' sessions**

'Drop In' sessions for local communities were held between 4pm-9pm on: Monday 22nd April at Tarrant Hinton Village Hall; Tuesday 23rd April, Victoria Hall, Tisbury; Wednesday 24th April, The George Inn, Longbridge Deverill and Thursday 25th April at Sixpenny Handley Village Hall.

These sessions were advertised through the spring edition of the AONB newsletter 'The Hart', Parish Councils, the AONB website and social media channels. Those attending were asked to comment on draft Issues and Visions to be addressed in the next Management Plan period.

Total attendance for these sessions was 47 with comments and suggestions being received from the majority of the attendees.

#### **Annual Forum**

Following feedback from the 'Drop In' sessions held in April and the online questionnaires the AONB team refined the Issues, Aims and Objectives to be addressed in the next Management Plan period.

The 72 attendees at the AONB Annual Forum held May 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 at Dinton Village Hall took part in a series of workshops as part of the Management Plan Review. The results of these workshops helped to refine the Issues, Aims and Objectives still further.

In total, over 330 comments and suggestions were generated through the initial consultation process. These were considered and addressed by the AONB Team.

#### **Statutory Consultation**

The draft Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 went out for the statutory three month formal consultation between 5<sup>th</sup> August and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013.

Twenty six responses were received and all comments and suggestions added to a database of formal responses. These have all been considered with many being incorporated into the final draft. The database of formal responses can be viewed via the AONB office which also records those comments taken on board or not, together with the reasons for the decision.

## **Illustration of this Management Plan**

Following the round of public consultations in April and May 2013 for the Management Plan review the AONB team felt that further creative community input could be used to help bring this statutory document to life.

After discussions with the Arts Officers at Wiltshire Council it was decided that the best way to facilitate this was to engage community artists. Professional artists Ali Pretty and Richard White were commissioned to lead this project. They had just finished leading the Walking Wiltshire's White Horses project with Wiltshire Museum and Devizes Carnival. Richard and Ali were tasked with drawing out and capturing people's creative responses to the elements that make up the natural beauty of the area in a way that could be incorporated into the Management Plan.

The artists ran four 'Outstanding Art in the Natural Environment Workshop's between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013: Rural Economy and Sustainability, Historic Landscape, Rural Communities, Working Landscape and the Natural Environment. These covered all the topics in the draft new Management Plan. Each workshop apart from the Rural Communities one took the form of a guided walk lead by experts and AONB staff followed by an arts workshop lead by Ali and Richard. Richard took sound recordings throughout and there were many photo opportunities.

The Rural Economy and Sustainability day involved a walk round Tisbury in the company of local resident Paul Wilkins who kindly gave up his time to tell Richard and Ali about the village, the local economy and to introduce a number of local people who gave their views on a variety of topics. An interesting discussion was had at the Benett Arms with Alasdair Large around the importance of using local produce and supporting local businesses.

The Historic Landscape day was based at Martin Green's farm near Sixpenny Handley. Martin who is an expert in archaeology and has written several books on the subject led a fascinating walk and talk about all the interesting archaeology and wildlife on his farm. Emma Rouse who worked for the AONB as the Historic Environment Officer for 4 years and has a mine of historic and heritage information joined the group.

The Rural Communities day involved a trip round several of the local community shops on Tisbury ending the day at Chalke Valley Stores in Broadchalke.

The Working Landscape and the Natural Environment day involved a longer walk from Win Green to Larmer Tree. The group who came on this walk heard about the working landscape and the South West Farmland Birds project from Tracy Adams the Farmland Bird Adviser.

Through this process and enormous amount creative responses to the elements that make up the natural beauty of the area were created. The artists then had the difficult job of distilling these down into a series of poems /illustrations and photographs (one set for each chapter heading).

Special thanks go to the following for their contributions:  
Paul Wilkins, Tizbiz; Alasdair Large at the Benett Arms, Tisbury; Martin Green; Emma Rouse; John Rouse; Eileen Rouse; Laura Bell; Kate O'Malley; Charlotte Morton; Lesley

Meaker; Vicky Bilton; Robbie Carney; Anjalika Bair; Loraine Sherlock; Dee Warrington; Rose Salmi; Chris Kirkland; Ruth Mason, Rushmore Estate; Jenna Downes; Mike Johnston; Janeen Evans and staff at Wren's Shop, East Knoyle; Mandy Warren and staff at Hindon Village Stores; Kay at Ansty PYO and Farm Shop; Ellen and staff at Chalke Valley Stores, Broadchalke; Mary Armitage, Kim Ford, General Truluck; Mrs Truluck; Alan Knight; Anthony Wilson; Clare Shepherd; Claire Thomas; Tim Bilton; Barbara Favvell and Brian, the Tisbus driver, who was a font of local knowledge. Sincere apologies to anyone we have may have inadvertently left out.

## Appendix 6

### Policy Context

This Management Plan has been prepared within an international, national, regional and local framework of other strategies and plans. How does it 'fit' within the array of current and emerging plans?

- **Integration** - This Plan seeks to integrate with other statutory plans and strategies that have influence over the area. It can highlight those policies that have direct bearing on the primary purpose of AONB designation, emphasising their importance and relevance to the area. It is a two-way process, through which the AONB Management Plan and other strategies can reflect, inform and support each other. All plans and policies that relate to the AONB and surrounding areas have been consulted in the preparation of this Plan, that seeks, in turn, to influence other plans and policies where appropriate.
- **Shared aspirations** - The Plan does not seek to over-ride other strategies and plans, but to build on them, presenting the highest shared aspirations for the AONB. Whilst incorporating and supporting best practice from other plans, the AONB Plan endeavours to go beyond other plan objectives and policies in the best interests of the AONB.
- **Sustainability** - The primary purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty, whilst accommodating the social and economic needs of local communities, is very close to the concept of sustainability. Sustainability can be defined as the management of change to meet equitably the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.

In the context of this Plan, sustainability means ensuring that environmental, economic and social needs can be met whilst conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB.

<b>Directives, Plans, Strategies</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>
<b>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971)</b> <a href="http://www.ramsar.org">www.ramsar.org</a>
<b>Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) (came into force on 1 J</b> <a href="http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default_en.asp">www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default_en.asp</a>
<b>Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)</b> <a href="http://www.cms.int/">www.cms.int/</a>
<b>Rio Declaration of Environment and Development 1992</b> <a href="http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=78&amp;articleid=1163">www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=78&amp;articleid=1163</a>
<b>The Convention on Biological Diversity (The Rio Convention) (Adopted June 1992, entered into force Decemb</b> <a href="http://www.cbd.int/">www.cbd.int/</a>
<b>Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Adopted December 1997, en</b> <a href="http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php">http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php</a>
<b>The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002), Commitments arising from the Johann</b> <a href="http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/basic_info/basicinfo.html">www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/basic_info/basicinfo.html</a>
<b>Copenhagen Accord United Nations Climate Change Conference (2009)</b> <a href="http://unfccc.int/meetings/copenhagen_dec_2009/meeting/6295.php">http://unfccc.int/meetings/copenhagen_dec_2009/meeting/6295.php</a>
<b>EUROPEAN</b>
<b>The Birds Directive (Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds) (79/409/EEC) (Adopted 1979)</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm</a>
<b>The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) Council of Eu</b> <a href="http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=121&amp;CM=1&amp;CL=ENG">http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=121&amp;CM=1&amp;CL=ENG</a>
<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised 1985)</b> <a href="http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/143.htm">http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/143.htm</a>
<b>Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) (1991)</b> <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1991:375:0001:0008:EN:PDF">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1991:375:0001:0008:EN:PDF</a>
<b>The Habitats Directive (Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora) (Directive</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm</a>
<b>The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) (1999)</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm</a>
<b>The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (2000)</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html</a>
<b>The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) (2001)</b> <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:197:0030:0037:EN:PDF">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:197:0030:0037:EN:PDF</a>
<b>The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) (2002)</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/directive.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/directive.htm</a>
<b>The Public Access to Environmental Information Directive (2003/4/EC) (2003)</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/general_provisions/l28091_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/general_provisions/l28091_en.htm</a>

<b>Directives, Plans, Strategies</b>
<b>Aarhus Convention (1998, ratified February 2005)</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/</a>
<b>The Landscape Convention 20 October 2000 (ratified by UK in November 2006)</b> <a href="http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/default_en.asp">www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/default_en.asp</a>
<b>Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2006)</b> <a href="http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10917.en06.pdf">http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10917.en06.pdf</a>
<b>The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EEC) (2008)</b> <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:312:0003:0030:EN:PDF">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:312:0003:0030:EN:PDF</a>
<b>Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, European Commission (2011)</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf</a>
<b>NATIONAL</b>
<b>Legislation</b>
<b>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</b> <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf">www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf</a>
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<b>Mendip Economic Development Strategy 2013-2016, Mendip District Council 2012</b> <a href="http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=817&amp;p=0">http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=817&amp;p=0</a>
<b>Landscape Assessment of Mendip District, Mendip District Council (prepared by Chris Blandford Associates 1</b> <a href="http://www.mendip.gov.uk/landscapeassessment1997">http://www.mendip.gov.uk/landscapeassessment1997</a>
<b>NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
<b>North Dorset District-Wide Local Plan to 2011 Adopted 2003</b> <a href="http://www.northdorsetlocalplan.co.uk/">http://www.northdorsetlocalplan.co.uk/</a>
<b>Local Development Framework - Landscape Character Area Assessment Evidence Base, North Dorset District</b> <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media.jsp?mediaid=147865&amp;filetype=pdf">http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media.jsp?mediaid=147865&amp;filetype=pdf</a>
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<b>The New Forest District (outside the National Park) Core Strategy adopted on 26 October 2009.</b> <a href="http://www.newforest.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=14155">http://www.newforest.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=14155</a>
<b>SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
<b>South Somerset Local Plan 2006-2028 Submission Stage – January 2013</b> <a href="http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan-2006-2028/submission-local">http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan-2006-2028/submission-local</a>
<b>The Landscape of South Somerset, Somerset District Council, 1993</b> <a href="http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/339787/the_landscape_of_south_somerset.pdf">http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/339787/the_landscape_of_south_somerset.pdf</a>
<b>South Somerset Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2008</b> <a href="http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/333016/biodiversity_action_plan_2008.pdf">http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/333016/biodiversity_action_plan_2008.pdf</a>

## Appendix 7

### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012

**The following are the sections and paragraphs of the NPPF likely to be of most relevance to the AONB and/or its Management Plan.**

#### INTRODUCTION

*Para 2: Planning permission must be determined in accordance with development plans unless there are material considerations etc [i.e. this would include the AONB Management Plan]*

Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The National Planning Policy Framework must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. Planning policies and decisions must reflect and where appropriate promote relevant EU obligations and statutory requirements.

#### ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Para 8: Economic, social, and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously*

These roles should not be undertaken in isolation, because they are mutually dependent. Economic growth can secure higher social and environmental standards, and well-designed buildings and places can improve the lives of people and communities. Therefore, to achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system. The planning system should play an active role in guiding development to sustainable solutions.

*Para 10: Need to take local circumstances into account*

Plans and decisions need to take local circumstances into account, so that they respond to the different opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas.

#### Presumption in favour of sustainable development

*Para 12:* This National Planning Policy Framework does not change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision making. Proposed development that accords with an up-to-date Local Plan should be approved, and proposed development that conflicts should be refused unless other material considerations indicate otherwise. It is highly desirable that local planning authorities should have an up-to-date plan in place.

*Para 14: Presumption in favour of sustainable development*

For **plan-making** this means that:

- local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area;

- Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:
  - any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or
  - specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.<sup>9</sup>

For **decision-taking** this means:<sup>10</sup>

- approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay; and
- where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out-of-date, granting permission unless:
  - any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or
  - specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> For example, those policies relating to sites protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives (see paragraph 119) and/or designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest; land designated as Green Belt, Local Green Space, **an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**, Heritage Coast or within a National Park (or the Broads Authority); designated heritage assets; and locations at risk of flooding or coastal erosion.

<sup>10</sup> Unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

## Core planning principles

### **Para 17:** *The Core planning principles*

Within the overarching roles that the planning system ought to play, a set of core land-use planning principles should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking. These 12 principles are that planning should:

- be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area. Plans should be kept up-to-date, and be based on joint working and co-operation to address larger than local issues. They should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency;
- not simply be about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives;
- proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to

identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth. Plans should take account of market signals, such as land prices and housing affordability, and set out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient land which is suitable for development in their area, taking account of the needs of the residential and business communities;

- always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;
- take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it;
- support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy);
- contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework;
- encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brown field land), provided that it is not of high environmental value;
- promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production);
- conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations;
- actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable; and
- take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

## **Delivering sustainable development**

### **3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy**

***Para 28:** Local and neighbourhood plans should support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside*

Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. To promote a strong rural economy, local and neighbourhood plans should:

- support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside. This should include supporting the provision and expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in appropriate locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities in rural service centres
- promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

## **5. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure**

*Para 43: Communications masts 'should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate'*

In preparing Local Plans, local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband. They should aim to keep the numbers of radio and telecommunications masts and the sites for such installations to a minimum consistent with the efficient operation of the network. Existing masts, buildings and other structures should be used, unless the need for a new site has been justified. Where new sites are required, equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate

## **6: Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes**

*Para 52: Larger scale developments*

The supply of new homes can sometimes be best achieved through planning for larger scale development, such as new settlements or extensions to existing villages and towns that follow the principles of Garden Cities. Working with the support of their communities, local planning authorities should consider whether such opportunities provide the best way of achieving sustainable development. In doing so, they should consider whether it is appropriate to establish Green Belt around or adjoining any such new development.

*Para 53: Enables policies to resist development of residential gardens*

Local planning authorities should consider the case for setting out policies to resist inappropriate development of residential gardens, for example where development would cause harm to the local area.

*Para 54: Rural exception sites for affordable housing*

In rural areas, exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Local planning authorities should in particular consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs.

*Para 55: Exceptions for isolated housing in the countryside*

To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. For example, where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby.

Local planning authorities should avoid new isolated homes in the countryside unless there are special circumstances such as:

- the essential need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside; or
- where such development would represent the optimal viable use of a heritage asset or would be appropriate enabling development to secure the future of heritage assets; or
- where the development would re-use redundant or disused buildings and lead to an enhancement to the immediate setting; or
- the exceptional quality or innovative nature of the design of the dwelling.

Such a design should:

- be truly outstanding or innovative, helping to raise standards of design more generally in rural areas;
- reflect the highest standards in architecture;
- significantly enhance its immediate setting; and
- be sensitive to the defining characteristics of the local area.

## **7: Requiring good design**

***Para 58: Good design including 'strong sense of place'; responding to character, history, and identity; reinforcing local distinctiveness***

Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics. Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments:

- will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
- establish a strong sense of place, using streetscapes and buildings to create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit;
- optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development, create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses (including incorporation of green and other public space as part of developments) and support local facilities and transport networks;
- respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation;

- create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and
- are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping.

**Para 61:** Although visual appearance and the architecture of individual buildings are very important factors, securing high quality and inclusive design goes beyond aesthetic considerations. Therefore, planning policies and decisions should address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment.

**Para 67: Control of advertisements**

Poorly placed advertisements can have a negative impact on the appearance of the built and natural environment. Control over outdoor advertisements should be efficient, effective and simple in concept and operation. Only those advertisements which will clearly have an appreciable impact on a building or on their surroundings should be subject to the local planning authority's detailed assessment. Advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts.

## **8: Promoting healthy communities**

**Para 74: Open spaces and sports fields**

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

**Para 75: Protect and enhance Public Rights of Way (PRoW)**

Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.

**Paras 76, 77, and 78: Local Green Space**

Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.

## **9: Protecting Green Belt Land**

**Para 83:** *Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances*  
Local planning authorities with Green Belts in their area should establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. Once established, Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of the Local Plan. At that time, authorities should consider the Green Belt boundaries having regard to their intended permanence in the long term, so that they should be capable of enduring beyond the plan period.

**Para 89:** A local planning authority should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in Green Belt. Exceptions to this are:

- buildings for agriculture and forestry
- provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation and for cemeteries, as long as it preserves the openness of the Green Belt and does not conflict with the purposes of including land within it;
- the extension or alteration of a building provided that it does not result in disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original building;
- the replacement of a building, provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces;
- limited infilling in villages, and limited affordable housing for local community needs under policies set out in the Local Plan; or
- limited infilling or the partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed sites (brownfield land), whether redundant or in continuing use (excluding temporary buildings), which would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it than the existing development.

## 10: Meeting the challenge of climate change

### *Para 96: Location and orientation of developments*

In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should expect new development to:

- take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption.

*Para 97: Local planning authorities should recognise the responsibility on all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources.*

### *Para 98: Support for renewable energies if impacts of proposals are, or can be made, acceptable*

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should:

- not require applicants for energy development to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy and also recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and
- approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable.<sup>18</sup> Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should also expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.

<sup>18</sup> Unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

## 11: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

*Para 109: The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*

- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;
- recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;
- minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and
- remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

*Para 110: Plans should allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value*

In preparing plans to meet development needs, the aim should be to minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment. Plans should allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework.

***Para 111: Reuse of brown field land***

Planning policies and decisions should encourage the effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed (brown field land), provided that it is not of high environmental value. Local planning authorities may continue to consider the case for setting a locally appropriate target for the use of brown field land.

***Para 112: Protection of 'the best and most versatile agricultural land'***

Local planning authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality.

***Para 113: Setting criteria based policies against which to judge proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife, geodiversity sites or landscape areas***

Local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape areas will be judged. Distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites,<sup>24</sup> so that protection is commensurate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance and the contribution that they make to wider ecological networks.

<sup>24</sup>Circular 06/2005 provides further guidance in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity and geological conservation and their impact within the planning system.

***Para 114: Planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure***

Local planning authorities should:

- set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure

***Para 115: Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty***

Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations in all these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads.

***Para 116: Major developments not permitted in AONBs except in exceptional circumstances***

Planning permission should be refused for major developments in these designated areas except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated they are in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:

- the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;
- the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and
- any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.

***Para 117: To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity***

To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should:

- plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries;
- identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation;
- promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan;
- aim to prevent harm to geological conservation interests; and
- where Nature Improvement Areas are identified in Local Plans, consider specifying the types of development that may be appropriate in these Areas.

***Para 118: Conserving and enhancing biodiversity***

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles:

- if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- proposed development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest likely to have an adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (either individually or in combination with other developments) should not normally be permitted. Where an adverse effect on the site's notified special interest features is likely, an exception should only be made where the benefits of the development, at this site, clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be permitted;
- opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged;
- planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss; and
- the following wildlife sites should be given the same protection as European sites:
  - potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
  - listed or proposed Ramsar sites;<sup>.26</sup> and

- sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

<sup>26</sup> Potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation and proposed Ramsar sites are sites on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for designation as a Special Protection Area, candidate Special Area of Conservation or Ramsar site.

**Para 119:** *Negates the presumption in favour of development where assessments under Birds or Habitat Directives are required*

The presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 14) does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives is being considered, planned or determined.

**Para 123:** *Policies and decisions should aim to 'identify and protect areas of tranquillity'*

Planning policies and decisions should aim to:

- avoid noise from giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life as a result of new development;
- mitigate and reduce to a minimum other adverse impacts on health and quality of life arising from noise from new development, including through the use of conditions;
- recognise that development will often create some noise and existing businesses wanting to develop in continuance of their business should not have unreasonable restrictions put on them because of changes in nearby land uses since they were established; and
- identify and protect areas of tranquillity which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.

**Para 125:** *Light pollution and 'intrinsically dark landscapes'*

By encouraging good design, planning policies and decisions should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.

## **12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment, heritage assets and settings**

**Para 126:** Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment,<sup>29</sup> including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

**Para 128:** In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

**Para 132:** When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II\* listed buildings, grade I and II\* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.<sup>133</sup>

**Para 133:** Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
- no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
- conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

**Para 135:** The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset

**Para 140:** Local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies.

### **13: Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals**

**Para 144:** *landbanks outside NPs and AONBs; restoration and aftercare at the earliest opportunity*

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should:

- as far as is practical, provide for the maintenance of landbanks of non-energy minerals from outside National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding

Natural Beauty and World Heritage sites, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas;

- provide for restoration and aftercare at the earliest opportunity to be carried out to high environmental standards, through the application of appropriate conditions, where necessary. Bonds or other financial guarantees to underpin planning conditions should only be sought in exceptional circumstances
- consider how to meet any demand for small-scale extraction of building stone at, or close to, relic quarries needed for the repair of heritage assets, taking account of the need to protect designated sites;

## PLAN-MAKING

### *Para 153: SPDs to assist successful applications*

Each local planning authority should produce a Local Plan for its area. This can be reviewed in whole or in part to respond flexibly to changing circumstances. Any additional development plan documents should only be used where clearly justified. Supplementary planning documents should be used where they can help applicants make successful applications or aid infrastructure delivery, and should not be used to add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development.

### *Para 155: Early and meaningful engagement and collaboration*

Early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses is essential. A wide section of the community should be proactively engaged, so that Local Plans, as far as possible, reflect a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities for the sustainable development of the area, including those contained in any neighbourhood plans that have been made.

### *Para 156: Strategic policies should deliver 'conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape'*

Local planning authorities should set out the **strategic priorities** for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

### *Para 157: Plans should identify land where development would be inappropriate* *Crucially, Local Plans should identify land where development would be inappropriate because of its 'environmental or historic significance'*

- identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance; and
- contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified

## Using a proportionate evidence base

### Environment

#### *Para 165: Emphasises the need for up-to-date environmental information*

Planning policies and decisions should be based on up-to-date information about the natural environment and other characteristics of the area including drawing, for example, from River Basin Management Plans. Working with Local Nature Partnerships where appropriate, this should include an assessment of existing and potential components of ecological networks. A sustainability appraisal which meets the requirements of the European Directive on strategic environmental assessment should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors.

### Historic environment

#### *Para 169: Emphasises the need for up-to-date evidence about the historic environment*

#### *Para 170: Where appropriate, landscape character assessments should also be prepared*

Where appropriate, landscape character assessments should also be prepared, integrated with assessment of historic landscape character, and for areas where there are major expansion options assessments of landscape sensitivity.

### Ensuring viability and deliverability

#### *Para 175: Community Infrastructure Levy*

Where practical, Community Infrastructure Levy charges should be worked up and tested alongside the Local Plan. The Community Infrastructure Levy should support and incentivise new development, particularly by placing control over a meaningful proportion of the funds raised with the neighbourhoods where development takes place.

#### *Para 176: Environmental mitigation*

Where safeguards are necessary to make a particular development acceptable in planning terms (such as environmental mitigation or compensation), the development should not be approved if the measures required cannot be secured through appropriate conditions or agreements. The need for such safeguards should be clearly justified through discussions with the applicant, and the options for keeping such costs to a minimum fully explored, so that development is not inhibited unnecessarily.

## Planning strategically across local boundaries

#### *Para 178: Cooperation across administrative boundaries, especially in relation to strategic priorities*

Public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those which relate to the **strategic priorities** set out in paragraph 156. The Government expects joint working on areas of common interest to be diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities.

#### *Para 179: LPAs 'should work collaboratively with other bodies...'*

Local planning authorities should work collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans.<sup>36</sup> Joint working should enable local planning

authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot wholly be met within their own areas – for instance, because of a lack of physical capacity or because to do so would cause significant harm to the principles and policies of this Framework. As part of this process, they should consider producing joint planning policies on strategic matters and informal strategies such as joint infrastructure and investment plans.

***Para 180: Enable sustainable development in consultation with LEPs and LNPs***

Local planning authorities should take account of different geographic areas, including travel-to-work areas. In two tier areas, county and district authorities should cooperate with each other on relevant issues. Local planning authorities should work collaboratively on strategic planning priorities to enable delivery of sustainable development in consultation with Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships. Local planning authorities should also work collaboratively with private sector bodies, utility and infrastructure providers.

## **Examining Local Plans**

***Para 182: EIPs (Examinations in Public)***

The Local Plan will be examined by an independent inspector whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements, and whether it is sound. A local planning authority should submit a plan for examination which it considers is “sound” – namely that it is:

- **Positively prepared** – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;
- **Justified** – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;
- **Effective** – the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and
- **Consistent with national policy** – the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.

## **Neighbourhood plans**

***Paras 183 / 184 / 185: Neighbourhood plans ‘must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan’ and ‘should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies’.***

## **DECISION-TAKING**

***Para 187:*** Local planning authorities should look for solutions rather than problems, and decision-takers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible. (***see para 14; footnote 9***) Local planning authorities should work proactively with applicants to secure developments that improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area.

## **Determining applications**

### ***Para 196: Material consideration in planning decisions***

The planning system is plan-led. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. This Framework is a material consideration in planning decisions.

### ***Para 197: Presumption in favour of sustainable development***

In assessing and determining development proposals, local planning authorities should apply the presumption in favour of sustainable development. **(see Para 14; footnote 9)**

## **Planning conditions and obligations**

***Para 203:*** Local planning authorities should consider whether otherwise unacceptable development could be made acceptable through the use of conditions or planning obligations. Planning obligations should only be used where it is not possible to address unacceptable impacts through a planning condition.

***Para 206:*** Planning conditions should only be imposed where they are necessary, relevant to planning and to the development to be permitted, enforceable, precise and reasonable in all other respects.

### **There are three annexes to the NPPF that give additional information:**

Annex 1: Implementation

Annex 2: Glossary

Annex 3: Documents replaced by the Framework

## **Appendix 8**

### **Neighbourhood Planning**

Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act 2011 (see below). The legislation came into effect in April 2012.

Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to:

- make a neighbourhood development plan
- make a neighbourhood development order
- make a Community Right to Build order

#### ***Neighbourhood development plans***

A neighbourhood development plan establishes general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood, such as:

- where new homes and offices should be built
- what they should look like

The plan can be detailed or general, depending what local people want.

Neighbourhood plans allow local people to get the right type of development for their community, but the plans must still meet the needs of the wider area. In most cases neighbourhood plans will have to take into account the local council's assessment of housing and other development needs in the area.

More and more communities are taking up the right to produce a neighbourhood plan. Nationally, as of August 2013, three plans had successfully been through a community referendum and have been brought into force by the local planning authority.

It is important to recognise the changed context for the production of neighbourhood and community plans. The production of neighbourhood plans is supported by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) but only those which have a specific process associated with their production and adoption, e.g. examination and a local referendum both of which are organised by the Local Planning Authority.

The production of other community plans such as town and village design statements is no longer supported by national policy and there is no onus on a local planning authority to adopt or give them status within the planning process, although they could if they so wish to.

Communities need support in putting neighbourhood plans together and they need to work with local planning authorities to ensure plans contain relevant proposals and meet statutory requirements so they are able to influence planning decisions.

#### ***Neighbourhood development orders***

A neighbourhood development order allows the community to grant planning permission for development that complies with the order. This removes the need for a planning application to be submitted to the local authority.

## ***Community Right to Build orders***

A Community Right to Build order gives permission for small-scale, site-specific developments by a community group.

## ***Neighbourhood forums***

Neighbourhood planning will be led by the local parish or town council. In areas without a parish or town council, new neighbourhood forums will take the lead.

In areas which are predominately commercial, the neighbourhood forum can be led by a business neighbourhood forum.

## ***Community Infrastructure Levy***

Parishes with a neighbourhood plan will receive 25% of any Community Infrastructure Levy arising from developments in their area compared to parishes without a neighbourhood plan who will receive 15%.

## **The Localism Act 2011**

The Localism Act was introduced in November 2011. The aim of the act was to devolve more decision making powers from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. The act covers a wide range of issues related to local public services, with a particularly focus on the general power of competence, community rights, neighbourhood planning and housing. The key measures of the act were grouped under four main headings;

- new freedoms and flexibilities for local government
- new rights and powers for communities and individuals
- reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective
- reform to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally

Taken together, the measures in the Bill mean:

### **New freedoms and flexibilities for local government**

The Bill will:

- give local authorities everywhere the formal legal ability and greater confidence to get on with the job of responding to what local people want
- cut red tape to enable councillors everywhere to play a full and active part in local life without fear of legal challenge
- encourage a new generation of powerful leaders with the potential to raise the profile of English cities, strengthen local democracy and boost economic growth
- reform the governance of London so that more power lies in the hands of elected representatives who are democratically accountable to London's citizens

## **New rights and powers for local communities**

The Bill will:

- make it easier for local people to take over the amenities they love and keep them part of local life
- ensure that local social enterprises, volunteers and community groups with a bright idea for improving local services get a chance to change how things are done
- give people a new way to voice their opinions on any local issue close to their heart
- enable local residents to call local authorities to account for the careful management of taxpayers' money

## **Reform to make the planning system clearer, more democratic and more effective**

The Bill will:

- place significantly more influence in the hands of local people over issues that make a big difference to their lives
- provide appropriate support and recognition to communities who welcome new development
- reduce red tape, making it easier for authorities to get on with the job of working with local people to draw up a vision for their area's future
- reinforce the democratic nature of the planning system - passing power from bodies not directly answerable to the public, to democratically accountable ministers

## **Reform to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally**

The Bill will:

- enable local authorities to make their own decisions to adapt housing provision to local needs, and make the system fairer and more effective
- give local authorities more control over the funding of social housing, helping them to plan for the long term
- give people who live in social housing new ways of holding their landlords to account, and make it easier for them to move

This is, in sum, a Bill with the potential to effect a significant change in national life, passing power to a local level, creating space for local authorities to lead and innovate, and giving people the opportunity to take control of decisions that matter to them.

You can read the Bill and its explanatory notes in full, and follow its progress through parliament, on the parliament website at the address below:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/localism.html>

The Department of Communities and Local government published a [Plain English Guide to Localism Act](#).

## Appendix 9

### Climate Change

A changing global climate, principally caused by the activities of man, is now regarded as an indisputable fact by the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP)<sup>1</sup>, the Government and local authorities. How much global temperatures will rise and how quickly are still under debate. There is a broad consensus on the likely changes to the climate of Southern England, and therefore the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, over the next few decades. These changes will be gradual and may not be noticeable within the life of this plan but strategies are needed now because of the long lead-in time for actions to be effective.

The likely changes are:

- summers will become warmer and drier
- winters will become milder and wetter
- extreme weather conditions will become more frequent

#### Impacts

Using national and local expertise, the impacts of climate change on the significant environmental assets have been assessed. The most significant impacts of climate change on the AONB<sup>2</sup> will be:

- Changes in species and communities that make up habitats;
- Loss of aquatic species in ephemeral stream headwaters;
- More frequent droughts and higher soil moisture deficit which could severely affect beech woodland and veteran trees;
- Repeated seasonal drought and flood events;
- High winds affecting veteran trees and isolated parkland trees;
- An increase in soil erosion in winter, resulting in more nutrients being washed into rivers and damage to historic environmental assets;
- Deterioration of air quality;
- Heat stroke and exhaustion;
- An increase in midges and mosquitoes in wetland areas;
- An increase in popularity of woodland recreation;
- Significant landscape change - it is possible that by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the area will resemble the southern Mediterranean of today;
- An increase in fire-risk;
- Reduction in water resources available for agriculture, recreation, potable water supply and wildlife.

It is important to remember that climate will not be the only change over the coming century. Changes in the economy, population and cultural values will also affect the natural environment of the area.

These changes have the potential to affect the landscapes, wildlife and communities of the AONB. Woodlands may be dominated by oak and ash which cope better than beech with the likely changes in climate. The range of crops grown by farmers will change and there may be more growing of bio-fuels. Water flows in rivers and streams could become more erratic. Habitats may expand, contract or migrate. New species may enter the area, some bringing disease or pests that 'native' species are not immune to. Tourism pressures could increase as more

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<sup>1</sup>The UKCIP web site as the authoritative source for scientifically sound research and government policy [www.ukcip.org.uk](http://www.ukcip.org.uk)

people decide to holiday in the UK. All of these factors would affect which flora and fauna can flourish in the area.

<sup>2</sup>Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (Wiltshire) Character Area, Climate Change Impact Assessment and Response Strategy, Natural England July 2008

### **Mitigation for climate change in the AONB**

Mitigation requires the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane, from whatever source that can be managed.

Mitigation measures include:

- Better on-farm management of fertilizer and animal waste.
- Increased reliance on renewable energies, biomass heating from local fuel stocks and appropriately scaled renewable energy generation.
- Enhanced domestic and commercial energy efficiency.
- Greater availability of alternative fuels for cars, commercial vehicles and plant machinery e.g. batteries, LPG, bio-fuels.
- Improved availability and accessibility of sustainable modes of transport (bus services, cycling).
- Greater use of timber in construction from sustainable woodland.
- Carbon capture as an objective of habitat creation and management of woodlands.

### **Adaptation to climate change in the AONB**

Changing our behaviour to respond to the impacts of climate change is known as 'adaptation'.

Adaptation responses<sup>2</sup> that could be employed include:

- Improve the condition of existing habitats;
- Maintain and create variety in habitats and the landscape;
- Apply learning from past extreme weather events that may occur more frequently as a result of climate change;
- Extend the existing habitat network;
- Provide shade and drinking water at tourist attractions;
- Implement a tiered fire warning system;
- Implement a two pronged approach to fire prevention; hazard management and risk management;
- In areas of public access, monitor tree health and carry out tree surgery to reduce the risk of trees or branches falling;
- Link recreation and biodiversity networks in rural and urban areas;
- Plant locally native replacements for existing mature trees, avoiding those susceptible to drought;
- Re-establish pollard regimes to reduce susceptibility to storm damage and provide wood fuel;
- Regularly monitor and manage important geological sites to ensure that rock exposures remain visible;
- Employ farming methods that protect water and soil resources e.g. vegetated buffers around fields and not leaving fields bare in autumn/winter;
- Install Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems to intercept and store water;
- Use the spatial planning system to maintain adequate land for the natural environment;
- Identify research needs and commission appropriate studies to build adaptive capacity;
- Tie rural payments to the provision of ecosystem services.

## **A detailed update**

The AONB Management Plan 2009-14 identified climate change as a key issue influencing the AONB, requiring the need both to adapt to the inevitable changes that will occur, but also to contribute to efforts to mitigate further climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

Since 2009 increased scientific understanding and real-world events associated with climate change have raised further concerns over the potential impacts on societies and ecosystems.

The international climate negotiations in Copenhagen in 2009 resulted in an agreement to limit global mean temperature rise to 2°C above pre-industrial levels, equivalent to 450ppm of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, regarded as a maximum safe threshold to avoid potential uncontrollable run-away climate change.

Unfortunately greenhouse gas concentrations in the earth's atmosphere have continued to increase by an average of 2ppm per year over the last decade and are shortly expected to reach 400ppm, believed to be the highest level in the last 3.2 million years. On current trends the maximum 450ppm global carbon dioxide level will be reached within 30 years. Respected bodies such as the World Meteorological Organisation, the International Energy Agency and the World Bank have all warned that under a business as usual scenario the global temperature rise will be 3.5°C to 4°C by 2100.

Although current global temperature rise is only approximately 1°C above pre-industrial levels, global impacts during the last 2 years potentially associated with climate change include extensive bush fires and the highest ever recorded temperatures in Australia during 2012, catastrophic flooding in Pakistan which for a time created the largest freshwater lake on earth, record-breaking flooding in New York City and the American eastern seaboard and an all-time record summer melt of the Arctic ice sheet in September 2012. The Arctic Ocean is now expected to be ice free by summer of 2020 for the first time in 130,000 years.

In 2009 the UK Met Office estimated that even if global temperatures rise by only 2°C 20-30% of species could face extinction. In May 2013 an international team of researchers published a paper in the journal Nature Climate Change which looked at the impacts of rising temperatures on nearly 50,000 common species of plants and animals. They estimated that if no significant efforts are made to limit greenhouse gas emissions there will be a mean global temperature rise of 4°C by 2100 leading to 34% of animal species and 57% of plants losing more than half of their current habitat ranges. The beauty, ecology and biodiversity within the AONB are likely to be severely impacted by this predicted loss of habitat.

The latest climate change projections for this area of England indicate there are likely to be warmer wetter winters, hotter drier summers, more extreme weather events (e.g. heat waves, torrential down pours of rain, extreme wind and storm events) and rising sea levels.

These changes in climate are likely to create significant impacts which will affect all aspects of the economy, society and infrastructure and the natural environment. For example, we are likely to be particularly vulnerable to:

- Potential impacts, and changes to the agricultural sector, including for example: increase/change in pests & diseases; crop damage; increased need for irrigation, changes in crops & cropping practices.
- Significant impacts to the natural environment including the loss of some species as they are unable to adapt to new climatic conditions and the arrival of new species, some of which may harm native species and indigenous ecosystems.
- Risks to the health and well being of an ageing population from greater extremes of warmth and damp and the impacts on their homes and the services that support them.

The changes in global temperatures are already modifying weather patterns, causing impacts and increasing the vulnerability of communities. Although it is not possible to show that a particular weather event was caused by climate change, the severe rainfall events experienced locally in 2013 resulting in extensive flooding from groundwater and surface run off are likely to become more frequent in future.

Coping with climate change is likely to be one of the greatest challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century as global warming makes its impact.

Addressing climate change will require the need to both mitigate further climate change by reducing emissions of green house gases and to adapt to the inevitable changes that will occur. The AONB has an important part to play in both mitigating and adapting to climate change particularly in regards to species and habitat conservation, local food, low carbon farming and production of sustainable local wood fuel.

## **What are the councils doing?**

### **Dorset**

In Dorset there has, and continues to be significant activity to mitigate climate change which is co-ordinated through the delivery of three key strategies promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transport.

- The [Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Renewable Energy Strategy to 2020](#) (2013) which sets out how to realise the renewable heat and electricity potential in the county
- The [Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy](#) (2009) aims to achieve a step change in energy efficiency performance in the domestic, business, public and community sectors in Dorset, as well as, tackle fuel poverty.
- The [Local Transport Plan 3](#) provides the strategic framework for delivering sustainable transport locally.
- <http://www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk/Dorset%20Communities%20Living%20Sustainably> Communities Living Sustainably in Dorset is supported by the Big Lottery Fund and aims to help people in West Dorset to tackle climate change and live more sustainably. The project aims to act as a catalyst for action, building on the great work already taking place in the local area and exploring some innovative approaches. Dorset is one of 12 Communities Living Sustainably (CLS) programmes supported by the Big Lottery Fund across England. The CLS is what the Lottery describe as a 'test and learn' initiative in that they want to test a variety of innovative and integrated approaches to tackling climate change based on different communities and locations – rural, coastal and urban. Overall the Lottery wish to use the learning gained from this project to inform

future community climate change action in England including influencing policy and practice in Government, communities and businesses.

## **Wiltshire**

Wiltshire Council's 'Energy, Change and Opportunity (ECO) strategy' [Energy Change and Opportunity Strategy 2011 - 2020](#) is a framework strategy which sets out the council's ambitions for reducing its carbon emissions as an organisation and preparing for unavoidable climate change. It links to other council strategies to ensure its objectives are embedded across the entire organisation. It will be supplemented by detailed action plans to set out more specifically how we are going to deliver our climate change ambitions, including:

- [Carbon Management Plan](#) for the council's emissions
- [Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#) for Wiltshire
- [Low Carbon Transition Plan](#) for Wiltshire
- [Renewable Energy Action Plan for Wiltshire](#)

Together, the strategy and the action plans will enable the council to deliver against the key themes of waste, transport, water, purchasing and procurement, biodiversity and natural environment, energy, planning and communicating environmental issues.

## **Hampshire**

Hampshire County Council has been engaged with climate change issues since the late 1990s, developing its role as a community leader on climate change. The Council's climate change programme is delivered through working in partnership and building relationships between the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Hampshire County Council has taken a lead role in working with other partners to conduct comprehensive risk assessments of services and responsibilities, and to work out how vulnerable these are to the impacts of climate change in the short, medium and long term. The risk assessments, as well as a number of other sources of information, have been used to develop an Adaptation Action Plan, which includes around 25 strategic actions, and is currently in draft form.

Mitigating climate change is about reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit the magnitude of change. For Hampshire County Council climate change mitigation principally takes the form of reducing carbon emissions.

The County Council adopted a Carbon Strategy (July 2010) aimed at reducing its own carbon emissions from 131,800 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per year, and has set an ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutral status by 2050.

In addition, Hampshire County Council has a Centre of Excellence which addresses issues surrounding mitigation.

[More about the County Council's Carbon Management Plan](#)

[Climate Change Centre of Excellence](#)

## Appendix 10

### Big Society

The Big Society was the flagship policy idea of the 2010 UK Conservative Party general election manifesto. It aims to create a climate that empowers, encourages and enables local people and communities to play a more active role in society.

The priorities include:

- Give communities more powers (localism and devolution)
- Encourage people to take an active role in their communities (volunteering)
- Transfer of power from central to local government
- Support co-ops, mutuals, charities and social enterprise
- Publish government data (an open and transparent government)
- Setting up a Big Society Bank

It is supported by a Big Society Network, which says it "exists to generate, develop and showcase new ideas to help people to come together in their neighbourhoods to do good things <http://www.thebigsociety.co.uk/>

## Appendix 11

### Natural Capital

Natural Capital can be defined as “

*“Natural capital refers to the elements of nature that produce value (directly and indirectly) to people, such as the stock of forests, rivers, land, minerals and oceans”. It includes the living aspects of nature (such as fish stocks) as well as the non-living aspects (such as minerals and energy resources). Natural capital underpins all other types of capital (man-made, human and social) and is the foundation on which our economy, society and prosperity is built. By combining different forms of capital, we are able to enjoy a huge variety of benefits; ranging from the food we eat and water we consume in our homes to outdoor experiences and improved health to name but a few.”*

#### **Natural Capital Committee 2013**

Examples of natural capital are all around us, from urban parks to fields in the countryside, from fish stocks to bees. For inhabitants and visitors, it might seem as if England's natural capital, its parks, countryside and lakes, are beyond price, but in reality natural capital is not being properly valued. In economic terms, the market is failing to allocate resources efficiently. Decisions, like where to build housing or whether land is more valuable as a park or as a car park, are made without the full set of information and values. The Government is hoping to resolve these problems through a variety of approaches. One is the Ecosystems Markets Task Force which advises business on the services which flow from our natural capital. Another is the Natural Capital Committee, which directly advises the Government.

#### **The Natural Capital Committee**

The Natural Environment White Paper, *the Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature*, announced the creation of the Natural Capital Committee. This Committee will report to the Economic Affairs Committee (chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer) and aims to provide independent expert advice on the state of English natural capital.

The Natural Capital Committee is designed to ensure that Government has a better informed understanding of the value of Natural Capital, and will help it to prioritise actions to support and improve the UK's natural assets. By reporting into the EA Committee and the Chancellor, this Committee has the opportunity to truly influence the economic policy of the UK for the good of the natural environment.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/naturalcapitalcommittee/natural-capital/>

## Appendix 12

### Green Infrastructure (GI)

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a network of high quality green and blue spaces and other environmental features. It needs to be planned and delivered at all spatial scales from national to neighbourhood levels. The greatest benefits will be gained when it is designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits (ecosystem services) for local communities. Green Infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, river and canal corridors allotments and private gardens.

#### Why is Green Infrastructure important?

Green Infrastructure can provide many social, economic and environmental benefits close to where people live and work including:

- Space and habitat for wildlife with access to nature for people
- Places for outdoor relaxation and play
- Climate change adaptation - for example flood alleviation and cooling urban heat islands
- Environmental education
- Local food production - in allotments, gardens and through agriculture
- Improved health and well-being – lowering stress levels and providing opportunities for exercise

Many local authorities involved in the AONB, are developing or have developed GI strategies and policies and the overarching, cross-cutting nature of GI encompasses the access and wellbeing agenda and well as other relevant aspects of the Management Plan. These include biodiversity, landscape character, economic growth, and flood risk management. The AONB is a significant deliverer of GI in its wider context providing multiple benefits to people and wildlife. Green infrastructure can include areas not accessible to the public.

The AONB has an extensive GI network including:

- Access land (including registered commons);
- Rights of way network (particularly long distance routes / green lanes);
- Cycle Routes and bridleways;
- National Trust and English Heritage land;
- Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust woodland;
- River corridors;
- National Nature Reserves;
- Sites designated for their nature conservation value;
- Parks and green spaces within and on the edge of the AONB;
- 'Green' elements of the strategic road and rail network;
- Strategic wildlife corridors created as part of the landscape scale conservation projects.

## Appendix 13

### Ecosystem Approach

The Ecosystem Approach is a concept that integrates the management of land, water and living resources and aims to reach a balance between three objectives: conservation of biodiversity; its sustainable use; and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of natural resources. It is the primary implementation framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

An Ecosystem Approach takes into account that humans and cultural diversity are an integral element of most ecosystems. It applies appropriate scientific methodologies, focused on various levels of biological organisation, which encompass the fundamental structure, processes, functions and interactions amongst and between organisms and their environment.

The Ecosystem Approach is not a formula, but a framework that can be adapted to suit various issues and situations. The definition of an Ecosystem Approach does not specify any particular spatial unit or scale; therefore it can refer to any ecological unit at any scale.

It is important to recognise that the Ecosystem Approach does not provide an all encompassing solution as its application depends upon local, provincial, national, regional or global conditions. An Ecosystem Approach should not be regarded as a strategy that supplants other techniques and tools; where ever possible existing strategies and methodologies should be used in conjunction to address complex problems and issues.

The Ecosystem Approach is an adaptive management strategy that can be employed to deal with the complex and dynamic nature of ecosystems and counteract the lack of knowledge or comprehension of their functioning. Ecosystem processes are often non-linear, fluctuate spatially and temporally and frequently show time-lags; these discontinuities can create a high level of uncertainty which the Ecosystem Approach can help overcome.

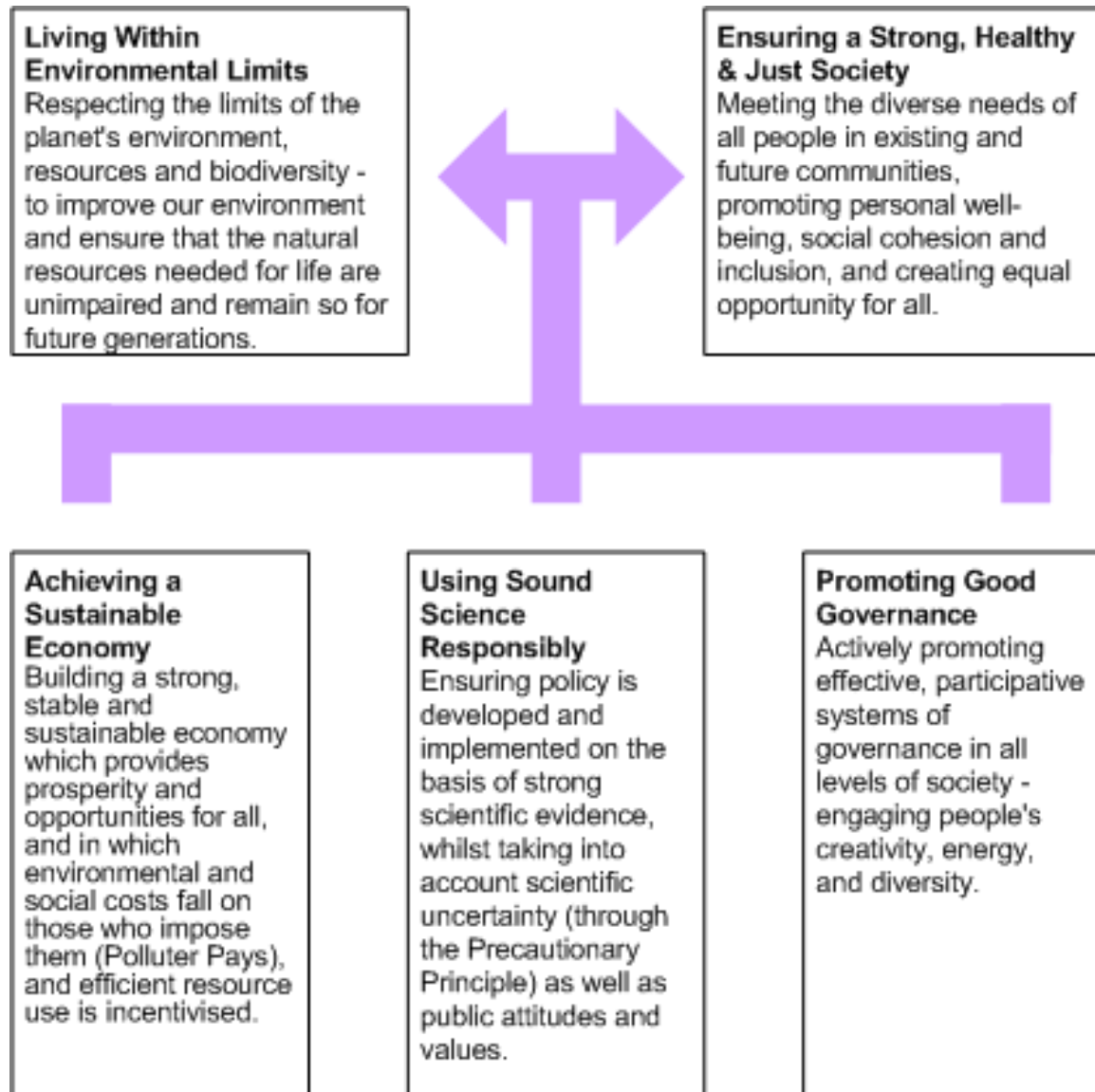
Adopting this balanced approach ensures that natural resources and society as a whole are positioned in the centre of the decision making process, ensuring a more equitable and long-term future is tenable.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=6276>

## Appendix 14

### Sustainable Development

The goal of living within environmental limits and a just society will be achieved by means of a sustainable economy, good governance, and sound science.



This set of shared principles forms the basis for sustainable development in the UK and devolved administrations. Sustainable policy must respect all five of these principles, though some policies, while underpinned by all five, will place more emphasis on certain principles than others.

<http://sd.defra.gov.uk/what/principles/>

## Appendix 15

### POLICY INFLUENCE

The implementation of the 83 plan policies will have multiple effects across a wide range of topics.

<b>KEY</b>	
LANDSCAPE	LAN
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	NE
HISTORIC AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT	HE
RURAL LAND MANAGEMENT	RLM
RURAL ECONOMY	RE
PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION	PT
VIABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES	VRC
AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING	AU
INVOLVEMENT AND LEARNING	IL
ACCESS AND WELLBEING	AW

Areas of Influence										
<b>Policies</b>	<b>LAN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>RLM</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>VRC</b>	<b>AU</b>	<b>IL</b>	<b>AW</b>
LAN 1	x	x	x	X		x		x	x	
LAN 2	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
LAN 3	X	X	X			X				
LAN 4	X					X		X		
LAN 5	X		X					X		X
LAN 6	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
LAN 7	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
LAN 8	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
NE 1	X	X		X				X	X	

NE 2	X	X		X			X	X	X	
NE 3	X	X	X	X				X	X	
NE 4	X	X		X				X	X	
NE 5	X	X						X	X	
NE 6		X						X	X	
NE 7	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
NE 8	X			X	X		X	X	X	
NE 9	X	X		X				X		
HE 1	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	
HE 2	X		X	X			X	X	X	
HE 3	X		X	X	X			X	X	
HE 4	X		X	X			X	X	X	
HE 5	X		X			X				
HE 6	X		X	X	X	X		X		
HE 7	X		X			X				
HE 8	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
RLM 1	X	X	X	X				X		
RLM 2	X	X		X				X		
RLM 3	X	X		X				X	X	
RLM 4	X	X		X				X		
RLM 5	X	X		X				X	X	
RLM 6	X	X		X				X		
RLM 7	X	X		X				X	X	
RLM 8	X	X		X				X		
RE 1	X			X	X		X	X	X	
RE 2					X	X	X	X	X	X
RE 3				X	X		X	X	X	
RE 4				X	X		X			
RE 5					X		X	X	X	X

RE 6					X		X	X	X	X
PT 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
PT 2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
PT 3	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
PT 4	X	X	X	X		X		X		
PT 5	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
PT 6	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
PT 7	X	X		X				X		
PT 8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
PT 9	X					X		X		
PT 10	X					X		X		
PT 11	X					X		X		
PT 12	X					X		X		
PT 13	X			X	X	X	X	X		
PT 14	X			X	X	X				
PT 15	X			X	X	X	X			
PT 16	X					X				
PT 17	X					X				
PT 18	X					X	X			
PT 19	X					X		X		
PT20	X				X	X	X	X		X
PT21	X					X		X		X
PT22	X					X	X			
VRC 1	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
VRC 2				X	X	X	X	X	X	
VRC 3	X	X	X				X	X	X	
VRC4					X	X	X			
VRC5							X	X	X	
VRC6	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X



## Appendix 16

### The South Wiltshire Farmland Bird Project

The South Wiltshire Farmland Bird Project is an exciting initiative working closely with farmers to stabilise and increase the numbers of farmland birds and rare arable plants.

#### About the project

The project concentrates on six bird species, the 'Arable 6', and hotspots for arable plants. The 'Arable 6' are Grey partridge, Lapwing, Turtle dove, Yellow wagtail, Tree sparrow and Corn bunting. They are specialists which depend on arable farmland.



Corn Bunting



Grey Partridge



Lapwing

Arable plants include prickly poppy and cornflower. They are annuals, flowering and seeding within one year, meaning yearly soil disturbance or cultivation is essential.

Providing habitat for these birds and plants will also have major benefits for other farmland species like the Skylark, Yellowhammer and Brown hare.

Through the use of Government grant schemes, such as Environmental Stewardship, or independently, land managers are encouraged to adopt measures that provide for farmland birds

In 'hot-spot' areas for rare arable plants, the project is promoting measures such as cultivating the edges of cropped fields and leaving them unsown to encourage germination of some of the UK's scarcest plants.

#### Why is arable wildlife important?

Farmland birds are a good indicator of the level of the natural health or biodiversity on farms, as they are comparatively high up the food chain. If their populations are thriving it indicates that the lower end of the food chain is also in good condition.

Conservation of rare arable plants is important to help prevent extinction of these species from Wiltshire and the UK. They also provide seed and insect rich habitat to support the whole food chain.

## Why do we need this Project?

Since the 1970s the UK populations of many of our farmland birds have been in steep decline. In the South West, farmland bird numbers fell by 45% between 1970 and 1994, and a further 8% between 1994 and 2007.

Populations of arable plants have declined dramatically over the past 60 years, and are now viewed as the rarest group of plants in the UK.

## Why in the AONB?

Despite this Wiltshire is a nationally important area for rare arable plants and farmland birds due to a combination of habitat, landscape and sympathetic management by farmers and landowners.

## What do birds need?

1. Nesting habitat
2. Summer food
3. Winter food

***Also known as the 'Big 3' ....***

1. Nesting habitat

The ideal nesting habitat varies between species, but needs to be safe and secure and may be in the middle of a field, field margins, in hedges or trees.

2. Summer Food

A regular supply of insects and other invertebrates are critical food sources for developing chicks throughout summer.

3. Winter Food

An abundant source of seed food is needed throughout the winter months into spring.

Providing sufficient quantities of the 'Big 3' and employing correct management for arable plants to germinate, the trends can be reversed.

These measures can work alongside existing farming practices.

## How can the South Wiltshire Farmland Bird Project help you?

Within the target area the project offers free one-to-one advice on:

- New Stewardship agreements to provide the 'Big 3' for farmland birds and conditions for arable plants.
- Maximising income from agri-environment schemes.
- Management of arable options in existing Stewardship agreements
- Adapting farming methods for better bird and plant habitats, without compromising farm profitability.

Training days for farmers, agronomists, advisers and agents will be held on the best ways of farming alongside farmland birds and rare arable plants.

Farm surveys for farmland birds and arable plants will also be available in some cases.

### **South West Farmland Bird Initiative**

The South Wiltshire Farmland Bird Project is part of a wider pioneering partnership, the South West Farmland Bird Initiative, which is seeking to deliver positive habitat management for farmland birds across Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Dorset. These areas are all recognised as being nationally important for farmland birds and other wildlife found within the wider countryside.



## **Appendix 17**

### **Designation by English Heritage**

Designation is a way of marking that a building, monument or landscape is of 'special architectural or historic interest' in a national context and is made on the recommendation of English Heritage.

Heritage assets are afforded protection in a number of ways.

Statutory protection through national designation is one mechanism that achieves this.

- Buildings and structures may be "listed" under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- Archaeological remains may be "scheduled" under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- These different designated assets are on the National Heritage List for England, a record of all nationally designated heritage assets (including Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields).

It is a stage that identifies a site as being architecturally or historically important before any planning stage that may decide its future.

## Appendix 18

### Sowing SEEDS – Local Action Group

The Sowing SEEDS Action Group has been successfully secured £1.6m of funding for the area. Thirty five projects have been funded and these are set out below.

Sowing SEEDS covered the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Community Partnerships Executive North Dorset (CPEND) area of North Dorset, who worked together to secure the funding to improve the economic wellbeing of the area with funding available until the end of 2013.

The funding was delivered through the Local Action Group (LAG). Anyone can be a member of the LAG and it is required to have representation across economic, social and environmental interests.

Sowing SEEDS was part of the Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) Funding Programme supported by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) through the European Union's LEADER Programme,

#### COMPLETED

Hindon Village Shop	£19,231.00
Blackmore Vale Butchery	£8,750.00
Shaftesbury Film Unit	£8,000.00
Dorset Farmers Market	£5,938.00
Blandford Allotments - Machinery Ring	£9,996.00
Feasibility Study, Training Unit	£10,000.00
CPEND Broadband	£9,500.00
Motcombe Community Shop	£29,556.00
Future Roots	£128,600.00
Food Mill Feasibility Study	£9,350.00
Kingston Lacy Growing Spaces	£30,914.00
Let's go H2O	£9,200.00
Gillingham Town Design Statement	£4,800.00
Mere Chambers	£8,546.00
Wimborne BID	£10,000.00

Countryside Centre Phase 1	£6,378.50
Henry's Buttons	£10,000.00
Economic Spine	£9,950.00
Tisbury Chambers	£8,546.00
Leisure Credits	£113,525.68
Rural DORMEN	£22,500.00
Lordsmead Mill Micro Hydro	£34,347.55
Peggs Farm Micro Hydro	£21,807.00
Benjafield Farm Micro Hydro	£31,213.00
Employability Skills Base	£146,827.00
Semley Shop	£49,548.50
Driving Rural Business	£62,221.00
Sustainable Tourism	£58,285.00
Trailway Wood Fuels retort system	£11,654.40
CHAT Hub	£198,369.00
Chalke Valley Community Hub	£91,734.00
Bangers & Bacon	£10,000.00
Stourhead Kindling	£9,960.00
Blandford Car Club	£9,266.00
Kingston Lacy Glasshouses	£38,345.00
TOTAL	£1,280,693.73

## Appendix 19

### Planning Protocol for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

#### 1.1 Purpose

This Protocol sets out how the AONB Partnership and local authorities will consider planning matters affecting the AONB.

#### 1.2 Background

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Partnership's primary task is taking forward the objective of conserving the natural beauty of the landscape. AONB's are regarded as equivalent to National Parks in terms of their landscape quality, scenic beauty and their planning status. All public bodies and statutory undertakers must have regard to the purposes of AONBs in performing their statutory functions.

In 2004 the AONB Partnership produced a Management Plan for the AONB which sets out the overall vision, objectives and action plans for the area up to 2009. The Planning Protocol should be implemented having regard to the objectives and policies of the Management Plan.

#### 1.3 Local Authority Planning Responsibilities

In summary the planning responsibilities of the local authorities are as follow;

##### County Councils

1. Preparation of Minerals and Waste Local Development Frameworks
2. Preparation of Structure Plans under the transitional arrangements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.
3. Determining planning applications for mineral extraction and related development, waste management.
4. Determining planning applications for the County Council's own development (e.g. roads, schools etc).
5. Provision of monitoring and survey information and advice to the Regional Planning Body on strategic issues and the conformity of Local Development Documents with the Regional Spatial Strategy.

County Councils are also responsible for the preparation of Local Transport Plans.

##### District Councils

1. Establishing planning policies and strategies through the preparation of Local Development Frameworks and supporting documents
2. Determination of the majority of planning applications for
  - House extensions and alterations
  - Residential development
  - Employment, leisure and shopping development
  - Engineering operations
  - Telecommunication and energy schemes
  - Agricultural buildings

- Change of use of land or a building
3. Raising objection/no objection on circular 18/84 applications (Crown Lands - includes Duchy of Cornwall development).
  4. Also determining whether prior notification of design and siting is required for:
    - Telecommunication schemes under part 24 of the GPDO;
    - Agricultural buildings under part 6 of the GPDO.

#### **1.4 The Planning Authority's role**

The planning authority will

1. Invite comments or contributions in respect of all consultations on relevant planning policy documents which impact on the AONB. This will include inviting an appropriate representative of the AONB Partnership to be involved in relevant consultation events or Forum meetings which may be arranged. A list of planning policy documents is included within Appendix A1.
2. Make available a copy of the weekly planning application list for the AONB Manager within 7 days of publication.
3. Send a standard consultation to the AONB Manager inviting comments on all major<sup>2</sup> applications within the AONB or those which are likely to impact significantly on the AONB landscape character. A schedule of major applications is provided in Appendix A1.
4. Where appropriate, will consult the AONB team during pre-application discussions or in the preparation of development briefs.
5. Take account of AONB matters and, where appropriate, will liaise with the AONB team regarding Planning Appeals and seek contributions on significant planning matters affecting the AONB.

#### **1.5 The AONB Partnership's role**

The AONB Partnership will;

1. Review and consider consultation documents prepared as part of the Local Development Framework preparation and other relevant documents. Where appropriate undertake further consultation with relevant Local Authority and AONB officers and prepare and submit written comments to the Local Planning Authority within the given timescales.
2. Scan weekly planning applications lists and identify any relevant applications for comments. Where the AONB Partnership wish to comment on an application, such request should be made to the local authority within 7 days of the weekly list becoming available.
3. In consultation with appropriate case officers, landscape architects and urban designers, arrange site visits and submit comments on planning applications or consultations received from Planning Authorities that may have a significant impact on the character of the AONB within 21 days of the date of consultation (unless otherwise specified or agreed with the Local Planning Authority). The AONB Partnership understand that where responses are not submitted to the local authority within the specified time limit then they may not be taken account of in determining the planning application.

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<sup>2</sup> As defined in the General Development Procedure Order 1995; Definition of 'major' development is still current and is as defined on the Planning Portal [deriving from the T&CP Order 2012

4. Where appropriate, will provide contributions towards Planning Appeals, where there are significant planning issues for the AONB.
5. Operate a scheme of delegation for providing comments on planning matters as set out in Appendix A2.
6. Work with local planning authorities to raise the profile of the AONB and develop tools which will aid policy formulation and decision making, such as landscape sensitivity/capacity, policy statements, and design guidance .

## **1.6 AONB Criteria**

In considering planning matters the AONB Partnership will ensure that the primary concern of responses to the local authorities is the purpose of statutory designation of the AONB - the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the landscape. In forming a view it will, however, also take account of the economic and social needs of local communities, where these are compatible with the conservation and enhancement of the landscape.

The Partnership will only concern itself with applications, or aspects of applications, which it considers are likely to raise significant planning issues for the AONB as set out above. These will mainly relate to major applications or those which would set an unacceptable precedent within the AONB.

The AONB unit will not generally respond to requests by members of the public or other organisations to comment on minor applications, unless they raise significant planning issues for the AONB.

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Partnership comprises a wide range of agencies from private sector to local government. As such, whilst comments made on behalf of the AONB Partnership are representative of the Partnership's view as a whole, the comments made will not necessarily be consistent with the views of individual organisations represented on the Partnership. Any individual organisation on the AONB Partnership may reserve the right to disassociate themselves from any particular comments put forward on behalf of the AONB Partnership from time to time, subject to their declared interests.

## **1.7 Agreement**

This Protocol has been endorsed by the AONB Partnership Panel on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2005 and minor amendments agreed by the Planning Topic Group on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

Signed on behalf of the constituent Authorities: Wiltshire Council, Dorset County Council, Hampshire County Council, Somerset County Council, East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council, New Forest District Council, Mendip District Council, South Somerset District Council.

## **Appendix A.1 Scope of consultations**

### **Planning Policy**

- A. The protocol includes the following documents prepared in relation to Local Development Frameworks  
Development Plan documents including;
  - Core strategies
  - Proposals Maps
  - Generic Policies

- Area Action Plans
- Other topic based Development Plan Documents
- Structure Plans/Local Plans and modifications relating to them (prepared under the transitional arrangements)

Supplementary Planning Documents where these provide guidance relevant to part or all of the AONB (e.g. rural design)

Statements of Community Involvement

Sustainability Appraisals/Strategic Environmental Assessments (where there is considered by the local authority to be significant issues relating to the AONB)

**B. The protocol covers related planning policy documents**

- Landscape Character Assessments
- Village Design Statements
- Planning Concept Statements and Development Briefs
- Other Planning guidance produced which is of relevance to the AONB
- Local Transport Plans

**Planning Applications**

The protocol will cover the following types of “major” planning applications (see Appendix 22) received by local authorities;

- **Residential Development** - applications involving 10 or more dwellings (or where the number of dwellings is not indicated) or where the site is more than 0.5 Ha.
- **Other Development** - where the floor space proposed is more than 1000 square metres or where the site is more than 1 Ha.
- **Minerals and Waste Management:** All applications involving new or extended mineral extraction areas, or the restoration of old or existing sites, or any site used for the management of waste (including Review of Mineral Permissions (ROMPs))
- Consultation should also take place on other applications which are likely to have a significant impact on the AONB Landscape Character.

**Appendix A.2**

**Scheme of Delegation**

The AONB Partnership Forum delegates to the AONB Team

- Responsibility for deciding whether a consultation warrants a response on behalf of the Partnership.
- Responsibility for deciding if a consultation should be referred to the Planning Topic Working Group. In general only consultations which give rise to significant issue(s) of principle or policy for the AONB or have a significant impact on the landscape character of the AONB should be referred.
- Responsibility for providing a response on consultations not referred to the Planning Topic Working Group

## PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION TOPIC GROUP

19th September 2006

### **The Planning Protocol: Review and Refinement**

1. Purpose: To review and refine the operation of the Planning Protocol.

#### **Review**

2. **Background:** The initial eight months of operation of the Protocol was discussed at the June 2006 Topic Group meeting. The Protocol was circulated, after endorsement by the Partnership Panel, for formal signature by the individual Planning Authorities on 18th October 2005. All have been returned signed except those from North Dorset, South Somerset, and Mendip District Councils.

3. **Activity to Date:** After an initial batch of Transportation policy documents and Statements of Community Involvement much of the activity has related to planning applications. There have, however, been substantial policy documents relating to Minerals and Waste strategies and development control policies to digest and provide responses during the past three months.

That has also coincided with a review and response to the South West Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, both jointly with the South West Protected Landscapes Forum on matters relating to all protected landscapes and separately on matters that appear to be specific to this AONB. Time constraints have meant that I have had to rely on a generic response from the South East AONBs Planning Officers Meeting as our input to the South East Draft RSS.

In addition, a couple of the constituent LPAs have put forward Local Development Documents for consideration, I have been invited to contribute to a policy review for a particular locality, and I have recently received a draft development brief to comment upon. The planning policy administrative arrangements mean that generally there is an acknowledgement of a contribution / response, and often that includes an invitation to a discussion / forum session.

4. **Planning Applications:** A small number are identified from weekly lists and newspaper advertisements whilst most of the major ones are sent directly from the DC teams. Some of the proposals sent through fall well below the threshold but in most of these cases I sense the Case Officer is seeking landscape information, guidance, and comment to assist with the assessment of a proposal that is not quite as straight forward as it might initially appear. There have been a couple of significant applications that have been picked up from weekly lists, however only one LPA regularly forwards the weekly list by e-mail so others may have been missed. In discussions with individual Case Officers there is a general awareness of the AONB but knowledge of the details of the Protocol is relatively sparse.

5. **Requests** for comments on applications are almost invariably open-ended with no indication whether or not there are specific areas or topics where the Case Officer would particularly like some assistance or AONB view, assessment, or opinion.

6. **Responses** to applications are frequently discussed within the AONB team, particularly to ensure wider Management Plan matters are not overlooked.

Nevertheless, consultation responses generally focus on landscape issues and tend to fall into four categories:

- i. Matters for the case officer to consider
- ii. Suggesting that the application needs professional landscape input
- iii. Specific advice in relation to AONB or landscape matters
- iv. Recommendations

7. Although many of the responses offer advice regarding additional information to aid the decision making process or potential conditions to help improve the integration of the development in the local environment there are occasions when refusal has been unequivocally recommended. Some applications have been supported where, on balance, a use or development meets aims of the AONB Management Plan and does not prejudice the reasons for the AONB designation. Possibly the most taxing applications are those on the borders or in the setting of the AONB.

8. **Feedback:** Where a Case Officer has passed the AONB comments to the applicant there have generally been two responses:

- i. commissioning of a landscape appraisal
- ii. office / site meeting

Generally, however, there is no indication to what extent the response has been helpful or incorporated in the decision on the application. The assumption that all comments have been taken on board is unlikely to be well founded! Only one notification of the decision has been received. The team is, therefore, unable to assess the usefulness or effectiveness of its contributions.

9. Matters that are of particular concern to the AONB team are the lack of acknowledgement or response to

- i. a specific recommendation [eg to seek specified amendments to a scheme, to require landscape assessments and proposals prior to making a decision, to impose conditions, or to refuse the application as submitted
- ii. an offer / request to put the AONB view to the Planning Committee. In the latter situation the AONB seems not to have been afforded the opportunity to address the Committee given to applicants and other third parties.

10. Furthermore, there has been no reference back to the AONB team when the Case Officer has advised the Planning Committee / Chief Officer contrary to the AONB position / recommendation. In this context the authority could be perceived to be in breach of its duty under section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000: "In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to effect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty."

11. There has also been a case where the local Planning Committee went against the Case Officer's advice [which included the AONB advice against approval on a number of grounds], but as the AONB were not made aware of the Committee date we were not able to present the AONB position in person

in support of the Case Officer.

### **Refinement**

12. Established policy consultation procedures appear to be working effectively. However, in connection with planning applications there seem to be a number of areas where the parties could undertake mutually beneficial actions:

- i. provision of information
- ii. greater focus on areas of uncertainty or concern
- iii. interaction immediately prior to the decision making

13. AONB actions: The AONB team can provide the following to Case Officers / Development Control Team administrators:

- i. individual copies of the Protocol
- ii. individual copies of 'Sustaining Landscape Character'
- iii. a mail back card to show comments have been received by the Case Officer and the target date for the decision

14. The responses from the AONB could be structured to reflect the differing levels of importance from the AONB point of view:

- i. observations on matters that the Case Officer may or may not be already aware of
- ii. relevant information [eg in relation to landscape character, the appropriateness of landscape treatments, etc]
- iii. advice on specific issues and topics relating the AONB or the AONB staff expertise
- iv. recommendations from the AONB or the special professional experience of the AONB staff

15. LPA actions: The Local Planning Authorities could provide:

- i. an AONB tick box on application forms, application descriptions, and the planning register [in the way that is done for applications in Conservation Areas]
- ii. an indication on application descriptions and reports that the AONB has provided comments and / or recommendations
- iii. quarterly lists of Planning Committee dates, times, and meeting places to the AONB office
- iv. e-mail weekly lists of applications to the AONB office
- v. copies of decision notices on applications where the AONB has provided comments

16. Applications sent to the AONB could identify the matters where the Case Officer would most appreciate information, advice, and [if appropriate] recommendations.

17. On the occasions when the Case Officer is inclined not to adopt the AONB advice and recommendations contact is made with the AONB team prior to

finalising the report to Chief Officer / Committee to seek to obtain a shared understanding.

18. The LPAs afford the AONB a 'right to be heard' at planning committees in connection with applications where the AONB has provided a written or e-mail response.

### **Conclusions**

There are a number of relatively simple refinements to the Protocol that can make the operation of it, particularly in relation to Development Control, much more focussed and effective.

19. **Recommendation:** The Topic Group endorses the review and the refinement proposals to enhance the operation of the Protocol in connection with development control matters.

11 9 06

## Appendix 20

### Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



### Position Statement Number 1

## Light Pollution

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty derives much of its beauty from its qualities of tranquillity, remoteness and cultural heritage. Light pollution has the potential to erode and destroy that tranquillity and sense of remoteness.

It is, therefore, considered appropriate that all artificial external lighting within its borders, or within the setting of the AONB, should be muted, screened, and the minimum required.

To accord with this aim, no external lights should be erected or installed in, or within the setting of, the AONB unless:

- (a) They can be shown to be essential for security or safety, and the minimum necessary to achieve it;
- (b) They are directed downwards and designed or shielded to prevent upward, sideways, and outward spillage;
- (c) They give a light whose colour and intensity are appropriate for the wider setting;
- (d) They do not highlight a structure or feature that would have an adverse visual impact on the surrounding landscape; and
- (e) They utilize the most energy- and pollution-efficient equipment that is reasonably available.

In order to meet these aims where existing lighting is identified as having an adverse effect on the character of the AONB, the AONB Partnership will encourage and facilitate the removal or modification of the lighting units.

Modifying and installing external lighting that meets the above criteria will help to ensure that the AONB's special character and attractive environment will not be spoilt by sky glow or intrusive light.

At its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008 the AONB Partnership Panel endorsed the following:

The Partnership Panel encourages all Local Authorities to make use of the Statement when dealing with matters concerning lighting within the AONB.

**RFB 7 11 07 / 23 4 08**

# **Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**



## **Position Statement Number 2**

### **Historic parks and Gardens**

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are nationally designated areas of especially fine landscape. The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB has been established under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act to conserve and enhance the outstanding natural beauty of this area. Natural beauty includes wildlife, scientific, and cultural heritage, and it is also recognised that in relation to their landscape characteristics and quality, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are equally important aspects of the nation's heritage and environmental capital.

Historic Parks and Gardens are special aspects of our cultural heritage that contribute significantly to the character and qualities of natural beauty. Conserving parks and gardens is, therefore, an important element in conserving and enhancing the landscapes of this AONB. This is recognised in the AONB Management Plan [p58]. In addition to those Historic Parks and Gardens of national and international importance included in the Register established and maintained by English Heritage there are many of regional, sub-regional, and local interest and value.

Historic landscapes, and designed parks and gardens, are of particular importance to Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. There are significant linkages between the historic sites and ecological features within them, however they are not all identified or recognised. Some of those that are known are at risk from a lack of appropriate management and insensitive development proposals.

In many ways Historic Parks and Gardens are a cultural parallel to the natural environment Sites of Special Scientific Interest and County Wildlife Sites, and often these historic and cultural sites contain rare habitats and species. Most Local Planning Authorities have adopted and operate policies that provide protection for sites on the English Heritage Register. However, sub-regional and local parks and gardens, possibly less complete, less substantial, or not attributed to a nationally significant designer or owner, are rarely protected.

Nevertheless, these lesser sites are valuable assets, contributing to local character, identity, and sense of place. They are worthy of protection and conservation, and some existing Local Plans, for example, West Dorset, include policies to do so, based on sites identified by the relevant County Gardens Trust.

This AONB has an Historic Landscape Characterisation study [sponsored by English Heritage] which can inform management and restoration activities, the formulation of conservation and protection policies, and the consideration of development proposals.

The AONB Partnership is appreciative of the County Gardens Trusts in their efforts to encourage and facilitate appropriate management of Historic Parks and Gardens.

This AONB is, nevertheless, concerned about:

1. Protection, conservation, management, and restoration opportunities for all Historic Parks & Gardens.
2. Potential development affecting [either directly or within the setting of]:
  - a. Historic Parks & Gardens on the English Heritage register of national or international importance
  - b. Historic Parks & Gardens of regional, county, AONB, or District importance

The Partnership for this AONB therefore recommends that all its constituent Local Planning Authorities should work with their relevant County Gardens Trust and the AONB team to establish consistent policies for Historic Parks and Gardens across this AONB and within the setting of the AONB.

Consistent assessment criteria should be established with the Gardens Trusts, and background text to policies could explain both the EH Register and the County Gardens Trusts roles, along with the significance of historical and designed aspects of the landscapes of the AONB. The risks of lack of protection and inappropriate management could be set out. The risks, and general unacceptability, of the so called 'enabling development' approach [whereby an historic park or garden is developed as a means of funding the maintenance of an historic building] could be explained. The known sites should be listed on a District basis, making it clear that research and enhanced knowledge may add further sites.

Policy wording could be both protective, restricting development, and encouraging, facilitating the conservation and restoration of sites.

Where there are proposals that could impact on Historic Parks & Gardens then applications would need to include detailed landscape assessments and assessments of landscape and visual impact.

The Partnership for this AONB recommends, and encourages, all its Partners to:

- a) Acknowledge and accept the need for the identification and conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens of local and sub-regional interest in addition to those on the English Heritage Register*
- b) Work with the County Gardens Trusts and the AONB team, taking account of their views and professional opinions and judgements, to identify sites, facilitate their appropriate management and conservation, and formulate detailed policies*
- c) Appreciate and take account of the linkages and interactions between their own interests and those of Historic Parks and Gardens in their activities*
- d) Adopt policies to recognise, conserve, and enhance the Historic Parks and Gardens of this AONB, such as*

*“The identification, conservation and, if appropriate, the restoration of historic parks and gardens will be sought and facilitated”*

In connection with development proposals for Historic Parks and Gardens the Partnerships recommends the following policies to its Local Planning Authorities and encourages them to adopt them:

- a) Development which would adversely affect the character, interest or setting of an historic park or garden will not be permitted*

*b) Development proposals that could impact on an historic park or garden, or its setting, will only be considered if they include a fully detailed landscape assessment and an assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts.*

At its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 the AONB Partnership Panel endorsed the Position Statement and said:

The Partnership Panel recommends, and encourages, all its Partners, Local Planning Authorities, and County Gardens Trusts to work together with the AONB team to recognise, protect, and conserve Historic Parks and Gardens as set out in the Position Statement Number 2.

**RFB 10/12/08**

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**



**Position Statement Number 3**

**The Relevance of the Setting  
of the AONB**

(including Addendum December 2012)

The concept of “setting” is set out in the legislation relating to Listed Buildings. It is generally recognised that the form, qualities, and character of an area within which a building sits contribute greatly to the sense of place, even though an historic or architecturally significant building creates its own presence. There it is clearly a two way effect; the setting providing the distinctive context and benefiting the Listed Building and the Listed Building contributing to the character and qualities of the wider environment. Each adds value to the other. A similar situation exists on the edge of an AONB, especially where the landscapes and landforms link and, visually or functionally, join the surroundings to the AONB. Proposals for change in the setting should, therefore, have regard to the inter-relationship with the AONB and the landscape character and qualities.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are nationally designated areas of especially fine landscape. The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB has been established under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act to conserve and enhance the outstanding natural beauty of this area. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 reiterates the purpose and designation procedures for AONBs as well as making provision for national funding of the local management of these national resources. Natural beauty includes wildlife, scientific, and cultural heritage, and it is also recognised that in relation to their landscape characteristics and quality, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are equally important aspects of the nation’s heritage and environmental capital.

In addition, the setting of an AONB has been incorporated in Policy ENV3 of the emerging South West Regional Spatial Strategy [RSS], and Policy C2 of the South East RSS. Policy ENV3 says that particular care will be taken to ensure that no development is permitted outside Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which would damage their natural beauty.

RSSs also draw attention to the national status of AONBs and their Management Plans. The Management Plan for this AONB, adopted by all the Local Authority partners, states [p 54] “Where visible from the AONB, the surrounding landscape, which is often of significant landscape value, is an important element of the AONB’s natural beauty. Relevant local planning authorities must have regard for the landscape and visual impact of major development adjacent to or within close proximity of the AONB’s boundary.”

The potential for development to impact on the setting of an AONB, and hence being a material matter in the consideration of the acceptability of that development, has recently been reaffirmed by the Planning Inspectorate [APP/P1235/A/06/2012807, 2007]. That Inspector wrote:

“I consider that the area immediately abutting an AONB will be relevant where the appreciation of the natural beauty of the designated area may be affected by what lies outside it. In my view, this is analogous to development outside of a Green Belt, where Planning Policy Guidance Green Belts (PPG2) advises, at paragraph 3.15, that the visual amenities of the Green Belt should not be injured by proposals for development conspicuous from the Green Belt which, although they would not prejudice the purposes of including land in Green Belts, might be visually detrimental by reason of their siting, materials or design. I therefore agree with the Council that the effect on the AONB is a material consideration.”

The setting of an AONB and the potential impacts of development upon it are explicitly picked up in paragraph 3.2.8 of the West Dorset Local Plan [2006] in relation to the Dorset AONB.

“The policy [relating to development in the AONB] will apply not only to development within the AONB, but also to any development outside the AONB that is sufficiently prominent (in terms of its siting or scale) to have an impact on the area’s natural beauty. Where development may be prominent in the wider landscape (either within or outside the AONB), the District Council will require the Landscape Masterplan (see Table 11.1) to include a visual envelope study and photomontages.”

The Secretary of State [APP/N1215/1191202 & 1191206, 2007] also confirmed that the AONB is a material planning consideration when determining the ‘called in’ proposal for housing development to the east of Shaftesbury which is within the setting of this AONB.

The Partnership for this AONB, therefore, draws the attention of all relevant authorities, land managers, developers, and their agents and consultants to the importance of the setting of the AONB and urges them to

- a) Acknowledge and accept the concept of the setting of the AONB.*
- b) Adopt policies and practices which recognise, conserve, and enhance the settings of this AONB.*
- c) Involve the AONB staff regarding work that may affect the AONB or its settings.*
- d) Take into account the views and professional opinions and judgements of the AONB team.*

At its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 the AONB Partnership Panel endorsed the Position Statement and said:

The Partnership Panel encourages all relevant authorities, land managers, developers, and their agents and consultants to recognise the settings of the AONB and undertake the associated practices set out in the Position Statement Number 3.

**RFB 10/12/08**

### **Addendum**

The concept and scope of the setting of AONB was a key factor in the appeal by public inquiry into the refusal of planning permission for four 120m high wind turbines near Silton, in North Dorset, about 2.5km outside the AONB.

The Inspector noted that

'...there are spectacular views across the broad expanse of the Blackmore Vale towards and beyond the site [to and from the AONB]' and that

'...the site forms part of the panoramic views across the Blackmore Vale from the AONB'.

He also concluded

'...the site forms an integral part of an undulating and tranquil farmland landscape that is set against a distant back-drop of a chalk escarpment [the AONB]'.

In dismissing the appeal, the Inspector said [paragraph 46 of his decision, 8 11 2012]:

**'I conclude on the first main issue [the effect on the character and appearance of the area, including the setting of the AONB] that the proposal would harm the character and appearance of the area and the setting of the AONB.'**

He also concluded that the harm arising from the proposal would not be outweighed by its benefits.

NB: Despite the declared intention to do away with Regional Planning Guidance the South West Guidance has not yet been abolished.

**RFB 18/12/2012**

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

**Position Statement Number 4**

**Historic Landscape Characterisation**



**Background**

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are nationally designated areas of especially fine landscape. The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB has been established under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act to conserve and enhance the outstanding natural beauty of this area. Natural beauty includes wildlife, scientific, and cultural heritage, and it is also recognised that in relation to their landscape characteristics and quality, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are equally important aspects of the nation's heritage and environmental capital.

The European Landscape Convention, which came into force in the UK on the 1st March 2007, defines landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". Historic and archaeological aspects of the landscape are clearly, therefore, very significant elements which need to be considered in any holistic view of landscape.

**Historic Landscapes and the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB**

The historic and archaeological aspects of landscape are key components of this AONB's natural beauty. This is recognised and supported by the AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 which has as Objective G: "The historic, archaeological and cultural elements of the landscape of the AONB are conserved and enhanced".

Policy G1 adds to this and seeks to "Promote and develop the Historic Landscape Characterisation study as a tool for managing the historic and cultural environment of the AONB, providing a framework for policy making, planning decisions and research agendas".

**The AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation**

The AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation is an evidence base of the historic character of the present day landscape which can be used to make better informed management, planning, and policy decisions.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is comprised of a dataset, and accompanying report, which maps and defines the historic and archaeological dimension of the present day landscape. The main features of the HLC are outlined in Fact Sheet No.4.

The HLC can be used to provide an enhanced understanding of the landscape context of individual sites. This can be used to gauge whether any management

activities or developments are in keeping with the historic character of an area, location or neighbourhood. It can also be used to inform the contents of other documents such as Conservation Area Appraisals, Design Guides, Management Plans and Development Plans. The Historic Landscape Characterisation is an authoritative aid for development control decisions.

## **Uses of the Historic Landscape Characterisation**

The AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation provides a context for existing site based data such as local, regional and national records and registers of designated ancient monuments, parks and gardens, conservation areas and buildings, as well as the county based Historic Environment Records. HLC demonstrates the importance of the whole historic landscape and not just the individual 'special' sites and locations within it.

It is within this framework that the AONB is concerned about:

1. Conservation, enhancement and management of the archaeological/historic aspects of the whole landscape
2. The effects of development on the historic character of the whole landscape including the special, the unique, the commonplace and the locally distinctive.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset and report provide an important new evidence base which focuses on a different dimension of the landscape of the AONB. It can be used separately, but is most effective when used in combination with other landscape scale studies such as the AONB Landscape Character Assessment.

The Partnership for this AONB recommends, and encourages, all its Partners to:

- a) Work with the AONB Team, English Heritage and others to establish consistent policies for the historic landscape across the whole of the AONB.*
- b) Encourage and promote the use of the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation as an evidence base to inform planning and policy decisions, as well as management activities.*
- c) Promote understanding and appreciation of the information available within the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset.*
- d) Develop the use of Historic Landscape Characterisation alongside other evidence bases such as Landscape Character Assessment.*
- e) Recognise the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation Dataset and report as an evidence base within the Local Development Framework.*
- f) Adopt policies to recognise, conserve, and enhance the historic landscape of this AONB such as:*

**“The identification, conservation, and enhancement of the whole of the historic landscape will be sought and facilitated using datasets such as Historic Landscape Characterisation, where available, as a key evidence base to inform decisions”**

In connection with development proposals the Partnership **recommends** the following policy to its Local Planning Authorities, and encourages them to adopt it:

**When preparing Local Development Documents and when determining applications for consent to undertake development the Local Planning Authority will take into account the likely impacts of development upon the local and landscape scale historic character, distinctiveness, and key characteristics of the locality where development is proposed. In doing so the CC&WWD AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation will be used as a core reference document to inform and guide the scoping and definition of the context, character and local distinctiveness of development setting. Any development proposals should then, after reference to the Historic Landscape Characterisation, include full and detailed proposals of appropriate protection, conservation measures, landscape management, design and construction techniques and materials to be used in order that the development achieves harmony with, and enhancement of, the local context in which it is set.**

At its meeting on the 22nd October 2009 the AONB Partnership Panel endorsed the Position Statement and said:

**The Partnership Panel recommends, and encourages, all its Partners, Local Planning Authorities, and relevant organisations to work together with the AONB Team to recognise, conserve, and enhance the historic aspects of the AONB landscape using the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation as a key evidence base as set out in Position Statement Number 4.**

**ER 21.10.09**

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

**Position Statement Number 5**

**Renewable Energy**



**Note: This working document has not been adopted by the constituent planning authorities of the AONB nor formally endorsed by the AONB partnership panel.**

**Background**

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are nationally designated areas of especially fine landscape. The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB has been established under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act to conserve and enhance the outstanding natural beauty of this area. Natural beauty includes wildlife, scientific, and cultural heritage, and it is also recognised that in relation to their landscape characteristics and quality, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are equally important aspects of the nation's heritage and environmental capital.

The European Landscape Convention, which came into force in the UK on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007, defines landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". It aims to 'promote landscape protection, management and planning'. Clearly there are many aspects of renewable energy that contribute to sustainability but there are also factors that challenge and threaten the conservation and enhancement of fine and outstanding landscapes.

Planning Policy Statement 12 [2008], section 2.6, emphasises safeguarding an area's environmental assets, both for their intrinsic value and for their contribution to social and economic well being, by protection and enhancing designated sites, landscapes, and habitats. It also makes provision in section 6.3 for the preparation of supplementary guidance to assist the delivery of development that would apply to areas greater than a single district, such as an AONB.

Other Planning Policy Statements [22 and 7] encourage the provision of renewable energy and the rigorous assessment of proposed developments in the nation's finest landscapes. Relatively recent amendments to the planning regulations allow the installation of domestic renewable energy devices in many situations.

This AONB's Landscape Sensitivity Study [2007] highlights the inherent fragility of the landscape character of most of the landscapes of Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

**Renewable Energy and the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB**

Climate change is a major challenge facing all landscapes. The AONB recognises the national need for everyone to be more sustainable, and renewable energy has a significant part to play in this. That can be on both the individual and community level; with a scattered and sometimes remote population the AONB has a particular interest in community projects that enable people to take responsibility for their energy usage and the impacts of it.

The AONB Partnership supports renewable energy generation within the AONB or contiguous areas provided it is consistent with the primary purposes of AONB designation; namely, conserving and enhancing the landscape and natural beauty of the area. This position is contained in the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan [2009 – 2014, pages 27, 31, & 37] which has been adopted by all the local authorities of the AONB.

The position is in line with Government Policy [e.g. PPS22 paragraph 11] and emerging regional and local policies. At the same time these high level policy statements make it clear that the purposes of designating an AONB are not to be compromised. This makes sense as the contribution that can be made from the AONB to national and regional renewable energy generation objectives is relatively small while the harm to the landscapes of this area of nationally designated heritage enjoyed by many people could be great.

The impacts of renewable energy activities can vary from the short term appearance of an oil seed crop in a field through new plantings of rotational crops to the long term provision of structures, buildings, and attachments to buildings in the landscape. Deciding whether these comply with the objectives of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB can be tricky. The Landscape Character Assessment for the AONB [2003] provides a substantial evidence base, supplemented by the Landscape Sensitivity Study [2007], the Historic Landscape Characterisation [2008], and A Landscape View of Trees and Woodlands [2010] for considering the impacts of proposals on the landscapes of the AONB.

#### **What does our Management Plan say?**

The AONB Management Plan [2009, page 37], adopted by all the local authorities of the AONB, sets the scene:

**7.42 Renewable energy** - *There is an increased demand for renewable energy. Developments must harmonise with the character of the area and inappropriate developments, such as visually intrusive wind turbines, should not be sited within the AONB boundary, its setting or impair significant views from it. Options for the AONB to help meet local energy needs on a scale that can be accommodated within the landscape include:*

- *wood-fuelled heating and hot water systems*
- *micro-hydro electricity generation*
- *on-farm bio-digestion*
- *active solar and*
- *photo-voltaic*

**Objective F** states: *The AONB Partnership and other stakeholders work together to secure the sustainable future of natural resources within and around the AONB.*

The relevant policies that flow from this Objective are:

**Policy F1:** *The exploitation of natural resources is managed so as to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.*

**Policy F2:** *Reduce carbon emissions from activities within the AONB by applying energy conservation measures and encouraging more sustainable patterns of development.*

***Policy F3: Support renewable energy generation by technologies that integrate with the landscape character, are neither visually intrusive nor harmful to wildlife, and are of an appropriate scale to their location and siting.***

### **What has been achieved so far?**

The AONB Team has supported, via its Sustainable Development Fund, a number of successful renewable energy projects. It has responded to requests from people within the AONB and, in addition to facilitating the utilisation of micro-hydro electricity generation, it has sponsored two demonstration projects for wood fuelled heating. One is on a typical family farm and the other is linked to a Listed Manor House within a Conservation Area. On a 'business scale' another project helped to establish solar panels on farm buildings to heat water twice daily for a substantial dairy.

Woodlands are a particular characteristic of this AONB, however many of the smaller woodlands receive little management and their viability is in jeopardy. Stimulating the use of woodland products has been an objective of the highly successful Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Woodfairs, and the Sustainable Development Fund has supported demonstration projects that use wood fuel in domestic and farm scale situations. Adding impetus to the wood fuel market can facilitate the economic management of woods, aid the viability of smaller woodlands, provide business opportunities, and help conserve key landscape features of this AONB.

### **What is the situation in this AONB?**

The appropriateness of renewable energy activities is considered in the context of policy guidance, the purposes of AONB designation, and the landscape characterisation and sensitivity studies. The social and economic aspects are taken into account, bearing in mind that the AONB is nationally designated for its landscape importance. Size, scale, and location are likely to be key considerations in assessments of the potential benefits and impacts on the landscapes of the AONB so some elements of renewable energy are more relevant or appropriate to this AONB than others.

Bio-energy comes in many forms and the information available to the AONB Team indicates that although bio-digestion and gas production [for direct use or conversion into electricity] may be viable, the growing of short rotation crops [biomass production] does not have significant biodiversity benefits and there are negative landscape impacts.

Wind turbines can fulfil an important role in the generation of renewable electricity. These range from single small scale domestic appliances through moderately sized individual business applications to 120m or higher commercial generation units. However, due to the function of wind turbines they are often very tall, have moving parts that attract attention and generate noise, are positioned in exposed windy locations, and can have a visual impact over a wide area that can be unacceptably harmful. When turbines are grouped in numbers to create 'wind farms' their harmful impact on the landscape is cumulative and hence generally greater.

Within the nationally important landscapes of the AONB, areas outside providing views to the AONB, and areas easily visible from the AONB, it therefore follows that:

- Wind farms, commercial scale wind turbines, or large scale biomass energy generation facilities are likely to be inappropriate.

- Small scale single wind turbines promoted by individual businesses and local communities and designed to produce electricity for local use may be more readily assimilated into the landscape.

Farmers are growing bio-fuels [such as oil seeds] and whilst this can be very successful there are significant concerns about the impacts on biodiversity – particularly insects and small birds – when extensive and contiguous fields are grown at the same time. Some people find the bright colours of the flowers a strange feature in the landscape. The need for substantial buildings to store the crops presents considerable and long term, landscape challenges. Nevertheless, bio-fuels utilise existing farm machinery and technologies, and on-farm processing using existing buildings could provide locally produced bio-diesel for farm and community use.

Ground source heat pumps, so long as they avoid areas of archaeological and wildlife interest, have scope at both domestic and farm building scales. Air source heat pumps do, however, have noise issues that may make them less appropriate in a tranquil area such as the AONB.

### **The way forward**

The AONB Partnership recognises that small scale renewable energy projects may well be able to be accommodated within the landscape without causing significant harm. However, what constitutes “small” and the significance of any visual impact must be judged in relation to the critical characteristics which make that landscape special.

Projects which are close to existing settlements, where the impacts of man-made structures are more prevalent, are likely to be more acceptable than projects in the open countryside where visual clutter and intrusion should be avoided. It is expected that all renewable energy proposals will be justified by reference to a landscape impact assessment. Extra care will be necessary in connection with Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas where otherwise relatively innocuous equipment can have detrimental impacts.

- The use of wood fuel to provide heat, and possibly electricity, is encouraged as it would also have benefits for woodland management and waste reduction.
- With care solar photovoltaic and solar thermal applications can be installed with only limited visual impacts and should be encouraged in all new building projects, including conversions and extensions to existing structures.
- Ground source heat pumps can be encouraged in new constructions or conversions.
- Small scale hydro applications would be welcome provided biodiversity issues are taken into account.
- Biomass energy appears to have more negative than positive attributes. Furthermore, the siting of accessible large scale processing facilities may be difficult.
- Small to medium scale community projects are encouraged, in particular where they generate combined heat and power.

- Bio-fuels schemes are accepted in principle provided care is taken to ensure that the scale of the processing site, including traffic flows, is consistent with the landscape character and tranquillity and that agricultural monoculture is avoided. Large scale industrial processing sites will not meet these criteria.

Each of the above sources has implementation drawbacks. The Partnership wishes to work with land managers, local communities, and renewable energy promoters to overcome those problems in ways which are consistent with the protection, conservation, and enhancement of the landscape. This AONB already has experience of supporting pilot projects.

In order to assist local authorities in devising the criteria based policies which are required under government policy on where and how renewable energy (particularly wind turbine) projects may be acceptable, the AONB Partnership has already commissioned a sensitivity study of the landscapes [2007] based on the Landscape Character Assessment [2003] for the whole area. The outputs of the Historic Landscape Characterisation [2008] and the Historic Environment Action Plans projects should be of further assistance.

The Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Partnership recognises that new technologies for renewable energy generation are being developed and may issue further guidance on this topic as necessary.

At its meeting on the 28 th July 2010 the AONB Planning and Transportation Topic Group approved this Position Statement for endorsement by the AONB Partnership Panel, including the following statement:

The Partnership for this AONB recommends, and encourages, all its Partners to:

*a) Work with the AONB Team, land managers, local communities, and providers of renewable energy to enable and take forward renewable energy provision as set out in this Position Statement across the AONB.*

*b) Work together to enable businesses and communities to adapt to unavoidable climate change and to take advantage of appropriate renewable energy opportunities.*

*c) Work with local, regional, and national partners to ensure strategic plans are relevant and responsive to the need for renewable energy technologies that do not weaken the outstanding character and characteristics of the AONB.*

*d) Encourage and promote the use of solar power in domestic, agricultural, business, industrial, public service, and institutional buildings across the AONB consistent with the conservation and enhancement of the landscape and the historic character of the locality.*

RFB 27 1 10 / 2 3 10 / 17 3 10 / 8 7 10 / 13 9 11

**NB** On 29th March 2012 the National Planning Policy Framework replaced the vast majority of the Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance. Nevertheless, the key elements relating to AONBs and renewable energy were carried forward in abbreviated form. Also, despite declarations of intent to abolish it, the South West Regional Planning Guidance does still exist.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 now provides the statutory basis for the designation, administration, and management of AONBs following on from the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. RFB 4 13

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

**Fact Sheet Number 1**



**Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000:**

**Section 85 Duty of Regard to purposes of  
the AONB**

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are nationally designated areas of especially fine landscape. The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB has been established under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act to conserve and enhance the outstanding natural beauty of this area which straddles four counties and seven district councils. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 reiterates the purpose and designation procedures for AONBs as well as making provision for national funding of the local management of these national resources. Natural beauty includes wildlife, scientific, and cultural heritage, and it is also recognised that in relation to their landscape characteristics and quality, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are equally important aspects of the nation's heritage and environmental capital. In addition, the setting of an AONB has been incorporated in Policy ENV3 of the emerging South West Regional Spatial Strategy.

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a general duty on public bodies and persons holding public office to:

**“In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.”**

A relevant authority for the purposes of this section includes:

- (a) any Minister of the Crown;
- (b) any public body
- (c) any statutory undertaker
- (d) any person holding public office

“Any public body” includes “a county council, county borough council, district council, parish or community council.”

This means that national, regional, and local organisations and people are statutorily obliged to take into account the objectives and purposes of AONBs in their day to day work. That work can include policy formulation, decisions, and practical tasks.

In order to help them meet their obligations under section 85 the Partnership for this AONB feels it is essential that all “relevant authorities” to be vigilant in upholding their duty by:

**a) Familiarising themselves with AONB publications, especially the statutorily required Management Plan and the Landscape Character Assessment, which are readily accessible on our web site, [www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk](http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk)**

**b) Involving the AONB team in discussions on policy and project formulation and including the team in partnerships, steering groups, and similar working arrangements**

**c) Taking into account the views and professional opinions and judgements of the AONB team in decision making d) Contacting the AONB staff regarding work that may affect the AONB or its settings.**

Version 1

RFB 17 6 08 / 2 7 08

# Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## Fact Sheet Number 2

### Policies for the AONB in Local Plans and Local Development Frameworks



Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are nationally designated areas of especially fine landscape. The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs [CCWWD] AONB has been established under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act to conserve and enhance the outstanding natural beauty of this area which straddles three County, one Unitary and five District councils. It is clear from the Act, subsequent government sponsored reports, and the Countryside and Rights of Way [CRoW] Act 2000 that natural beauty includes wildlife, scientific, and cultural heritage. The 2000 Act reiterates the purpose and designation procedures for AONBs as well as making provision for national funding of the local management of these national resources.

It is also recognised nationally that in relation to their landscape characteristics and quality, **National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are equally important aspects of the nation's heritage and environmental capital.** The AONB Management Plan (2009 – 2014) is a statutory document that has been approved by the Secretary of State and was adopted by the constituent Councils of the AONB early in 2009.

The **National Planning Policy Framework** states (paragraph 109) that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. It also states (paragraph 115) that great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in AONBs, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations in these areas.

In addition, the **AONB Management Plan** [p47] commits the Local Planning Authorities to have regard for the landscape and visual impact of major development adjacent to or within close proximity of the AONB's boundary. The setting of this AONB has been considered in Position Statement Number 3 [10/12/2008]. The importance of setting has been recognised by the Planning Inspectorate in recent decisions, and weight is given to the national status of AONBs and their statutorily required and adopted Management Plans.

AONBs have a history of special status in planning law and in government planning guidance and policy statements. Until the 2000 CRoW Act the main protection for AONBs was through the operation of restrictive planning policies limiting development within AONBs. It was, therefore, perceived as a negative designation, preventing development. With the passing of the CRoW Act and the provision of 75% national funding for the core activities of AONB teams it has become possible for a more facilitating and pro-active approach to be taken towards conserving and enhancing natural beauty as originally envisaged by the formulators of the 1949 Act.

The CCWWD AONB Partnership is made up of the constituent Local Authorities and some local and national organisations. The CRoW Act 2000 requires a Management Plan to be prepared and reviewed at five yearly intervals.

The AONB **Landscape Character Assessment** [2003] is a particularly important database, analysis, and appraisal project for the AONB Partnership and its Local Planning Authorities in striving to carry out their duties for this AONB. It has been supplemented by the **Historic Landscape Characterisation** and the **Historic Environment Action Plans**. Full details of the key landscape characteristics and built character are in the landscape character assessment which can be found in full on our web site, [www.ccwwd.aonb.org.uk](http://www.ccwwd.aonb.org.uk)

The statutory Management Plan for this AONB [2009] was established with extensive public consultation, covers a range of spatial and environmental matters, and has been adopted by all the Local Authorities of the AONB. It includes aims, objectives, and policies related to the Vision for 2025 incorporating the main strands of Communities, Economy, and Environment. The Annual Delivery Plans arising from the Management Plan reflect these topic areas.

As the AONB designation is a national one, identifying landscapes of national importance, it is not unreasonable for the public to anticipate that, in relation to significant AONB matters, the approaches and policies of the Local Planning Authorities [LPAs] should be consistent. The earlier generation of Local Plans, which remain in part though 'saved' policies during the preparation and approval of Local Development Framework Core Strategies, included special policies for AONB matters. However, the situation has been weakened, and a policy vacuum created, by the 'bonfire' of governmental guidance and policy statements in March 2012 along with the imminent demise of regional guidance and strategies.

The preparation of the new Local Development Frameworks [LDFs] should provide an opportunity to achieve that consistency without necessarily constraining the individuality of the separate LPAs. However the initial government guidance to focus on core strategic issues is now somewhat at variance with the 'Local Plan' emphasis in the NPPF [2012]. **This AONB, along with many others, is of the view that the LDF process should include policies to indicate how the nationally designed landscapes of AONBs will be handled differently in policy terms from undesignated countryside in the policies of the constituent Local Planning Authorities.**

The Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty derives much of its beauty from its qualities of tranquillity, remoteness, and cultural heritage. It is also a living and working countryside that is very rural with relatively few householders for such a large area, and with substantial and significant settlements outside its boundary.

The AONB Partnership considers it would be appropriate for all Local Planning Authorities to have special policies that reflect the Management Plan and that seek to conserve and enhance natural beauty. To accord with this aim, the AONB team will provide whatever assistance it can. The AONB Partnership urges the LPAs to include the AONB as a key issue in their Core Strategies. The AONB also recommends all its constituent Local Planning Authorities to prepare and adopt policies and guidance documents that conserve and enhance natural beauty in the AONB and the settings of the AONB.

Therefore:

**The Partnership Panel encourages all Local Planning Authorities to work with the AONB team and to include specific and consistent planning policies and documents for AONB matters in their Local Development Frameworks.**

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**



**Fact Sheet Number 3**

**European Landscape Convention**

Another European Directive? No, this is a Treaty of the Council of Europe - not the European Union - that is freely entered into by individual state governments.

This landscape convention builds upon earlier European Conventions, such as Berne (1979) aimed at conserving wildlife and Granada (1985) and Valletta (1992) protecting architectural and archaeological heritage, and the international Rio Convention on biological diversity (1992).

The European Landscape Convention was adopted on 20 October 2000 in Florence (Italy) and came into force on 1 March 2004 (Council of Europe Treaty Series no. 176). It was signed on behalf of the UK government in 2006, and came into force in the UK 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

It starts from the fundamental acknowledgement

**"that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas".**

Importantly, it defines landscape in relation to people;

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

The aims of the convention are

**"to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues."**

At a **national level** that means:

- a) Recognising landscapes in law as "essential components of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity"
- b) Establishing and implementing "landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning"
- c) Establishing procedures for the participation of the public, and local and regional authorities, in defining and implementing landscape policies
- d) Integrating landscape into "regional and town planning policies and in its environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies".

Doing these things will require specific measures, set out in the Convention, covering

- awareness raising
- training and education
- identification and assessment
- landscape quality objectives and
- implementation

International co-operation should include

- landscape dimensions within other programmes
- mutual assistance and information exchange,
- cross-border landscape programmes, and
- a Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

It is of particular significance that all landscapes are recognised in this Convention, and not just those that are already have some wildlife or natural beauty designation.

The Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty derives much of its beauty from its qualities of tranquillity, remoteness, and cultural heritage. It is also a living and working countryside that is very rural with relatively few householders for such a large area, and with substantial and significant settlements just outside its boundary.

AONBs in general, and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB in particular, are well placed to demonstrate the three pronged approach of protect, manage, and plan of the **Convention in action**:

- the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides a legislative and funding framework for the nationally important AONB landscapes, with a requirement for each AONB to have a Management Plan with policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty
- the emerging South West and the South East Regional Spatial Strategies both draw attention to the national status of AONBs and their Management Plans
- the composition of this AONB Partnership and its consultative working style enables wide participation of local people and organisations in defining and implementing landscape policies
- this AONB has established a Planning Protocol with its Planning Authorities to facilitate the incorporation of landscape matters into planning policies and practice
- CCWWD AONB is raising awareness that "landscape matters" through our Landscape Character (2003) and Landscape Sensitivity (2007) assessments, our Management Plan covers policies for landscape protection, management, and planning, and our publicity and events

- the Historic Landscape Characterisation has been completed and steps are being taken to implement the Historic Environment Action Plans

There are, however, still more things to be done!

The full text of the Convention, and further information about European Conventions can be found on the web at:

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default_en.asp)

The rules for the European Landscape Award can be found at:

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/Prix/Anglais.pdf>

Version 1/2

RFB 31 3 2009 / 16 4 2013

# Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



## Fact Sheet Number 4

### Historic Landscape Characterisation

#### What is Historic Landscape Characterisation?

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) forms part of a national programme led by English Heritage.

HLC is a desk based method used to define and map the historic and archaeological dimension of the present day landscape.

The underlying philosophy behind HLC is that particular areas of present day landscape which display similar characteristics and attributes and have similar land use history can be allocated to a particular Historic Landscape Type. This Type can be mapped, described and compared to other Types in the landscape, allowing a deeper understanding of the contribution of historic land use patterns to present day landscape character.

HLC is concerned with “time depth” in the landscape. Time depth can be defined as the landscape changes associated with different eras which effect and change the landscape.. The HLC seeks to record previous episodes of land use which contribute to the character of landscape but which are not the dominant Historic Landscape Type. This helps to build up a picture of the complex interaction between people and place.

HLC is concerned with the totality of the present day landscape, not merely the special or the unique. As with any characterisation, it is relatively broad brush and is designed to be used at a landscape scale and to provide a greater understanding of the setting and context of individual places and sites.

Every part of the landscape has some form of historic character which may be affected by any given change differently. The HLC dataset is designed to be a “value neutral” dataset which analysis and records the historic and archaeological dimension of the whole landscape, rather than focusing on the special and the unique.

#### Does the AONB have its own Historic Landscape Characterisation?

Yes, between January 2008 and August 2009 the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) undertook its own Historic Landscape Characterisation funded by English Heritage.

The AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation exists as a dataset used within a Geographical Information System and a written report which is accessible from the HLC website. This dataset consists of 4337 parcels of land covering the whole AONB recorded in one GIS layer. Each of these parcels has an entry in an associated data table which contains a range of data. The most important elements are:

1. Present day Historic Landscape Type - this represents the most readily perceived historic landscape character present in the modern day landscape.
2. Previous Historic Landscape Types – evidence for older previous land uses which remain as fragments in today’s landscape.
3. Other information recorded for each parcel of land e.g. unique ID, place name evidence, boundary loss and gain, field size, time period, and source information.

Each Historic Landscape Type is supported by a detailed written description. These also contain distribution maps and pictorial examples.

### **Why should I use the Historic Landscape Characterisation?**

The HLC is an evidence base on the historic character of the present day landscape which can be used to make better informed decisions which affect the landscape of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. The HLC has a wide range of applications because it provides a comprehensive overview of the historic landscape of the AONB. It can be used to inform positive landscape management, to supplement information found in Landscape Character Assessments, to inform spatial planning decisions, and to aid partnership working learning and outreach.

### **How should the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation be used?**

HLC as a tool is not concerned with preserving the landscape unchanged or with recreating a particular point in the landscapes past. Rather it seeks to understand the contribution that past human activity and land use has made to present day landscape character so that any future change can respect local character and distinctiveness

The Historic Landscape Characterisation is not intended to be used in isolation and should be used alongside other datasets where appropriate. HLC focuses on one aspect of landscape, and should be consulted alongside other datasets to gain a holistic view of any given landscape. These other datasets include the county based Historic Environment Records. and the relevant Landscape Character Assessment. The AONB Landscape Character Assessment can be downloaded from [www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk](http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk) .

### **How do I find out more?**

General guidance on Historic Landscape Characterisation can be found on the English Heritage website [www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation) . The English Heritage booklet on “Using Historic Landscape Characterisation” can also be downloaded from this webpage. Further details of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation and a downloadable version of the full project report can be found at [www.historiclandscape.co.uk](http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk) . More information on the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB can be found at [www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk](http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk) .

**Version 1 ER 22 04 09**

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**



**Good practice Note Number 6**

**COLOUR AND INTEGRATING  
DEVELOPMENTS INTO THE LANDSCAPE**

The National Planning Policy Framework stresses the importance of good design, protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, reinforcing local distinctiveness, and giving the highest status of protection to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks. One aspect of successfully integrating development is the appropriate choice of colours, and the NPPF refers to infrastructure being sympathetically designed and camouflaged.

**Learning from the natural world:**

Tree planting is a frequently used technique to help integrate developments into the countryside. Not only do trees provide a living screen but they also provide varying degrees of lighter and darker colours, and the contrasts between direct sunlight and shade. However, tree planting is not always practical or appropriate, and choosing a good location and using colours that minimise visual intrusion and aid integration with the rural scene often achieve faster integration. When considering colours to help camouflage structures it is helpful to look at, and learn from, the natural world.

Many animals, such as rabbits, hares, and deer, all use white tails as alarm signs as white stands out as an easily seen, and relatively uncommon colour in the natural world. White should, therefore, be used with considerable caution on developments that do, or may, stand out.

Frequently mammals and fish have darker backs and lighter bellies. The effect is that the sunshine (or moonlight) highlighting a dark back and putting the light belly in shadow creates a blend of colours that merges with the most backgrounds. However, the opposite arrangement with a light back and a dark belly would provide a highly contrasting light coloured top to the animal and a very dark underside which would be clearly visible in most situations. One thing we can learn from this is that light coloured roofs are more obvious than dark ones.

**Texture:**

In the natural world there are rarely extensive areas of smooth surfaces; the calm water of a lake is probably the single exception. Many natural surfaces are varied in their texture which creates highlights and shaded patches. It is noticeable that buildings with variations in the texture of their surfaces, whether it is of the very fine scale of the actual surface itself or associated with panels, pillars, or corrugations, create a variation in light and shadow which more readily replicates the variety of the natural world and hence integration with it.

**Avoiding shine and reflection:**

With the exception of water and ice, camouflage and integration in the natural world avoid shiny reflective finishes. The shiny flash of the side of a fish acts as a warning to others and is intended to attract attention. The message from that is that we should avoid shiny and reflective surfaces unless we wish to attract attention to them. This gives us a very clear indication that we should use matt **finish materials** and **matt paints** when seeking to integrate developments into the natural environment. Different situations may exist within urban environments.

### **Avoiding white and black:**

There do seem to be some misconceptions that tall lamp posts or wind turbines, being elevated in the sky, should be coloured white. The sky is very rarely white, only so when cumulus clouds are directly illuminated by the sun. White posts, columns, and turbines are very obvious in most weather conditions, and particularly so in direct sunlight. It is noticeable that grey lamp columns integrate better and are less obvious than those that are either white or black. When illuminated from behind the grey still appears dark but softer than black. Whilst there may be a place for black lighting columns in urban situations where specific character or a design effect is being sought, in edge of town and rural situations a grey or grey/green shade integrates much more readily with the landscape.

On buildings the gable end is the tallest, and often the largest, area of walling. White or a light colour in direct sunlight on the gable can make the building appear much larger than it really is and hence more intrusive in the scene than it might otherwise be. Orientation away from direct sunlight, as well as colour, can help integration in this sort of situation.

### **Agricultural buildings:**

It is noticeable that large buildings, such as agricultural grain stores, are most obvious in the landscape when located on a high point, or breaking the skyline, have bare concrete sides, fibre cement sheeting on the roof, and with shiny metal doors. Those that are least obvious in the landscape are located away from high points, with a backdrop of woodland, and with sides that are coloured a matt green. Similarly a dark roof, such as moorland green, or a roof covered in photovoltaic panels, integrates much more readily than the light coloured fibre cement sheet roofs. A bund with shrub or tree planting helps further integrate such large buildings into the landscape. A pillar and panel effect can produce variation in light and shade on the side of the building, effectively breaking up the size of the coloured areas, in contrast to some forms of industrial buildings with smooth sides that, even when painted a matt and muted colour, present an expanse of a single colour.

### **Choosing appropriate colours:**

One of the joys of the English countryside is the seasonal change and it is not really feasible to consider all the changes of colours through the seasons when seeking to integrate a development into the landscape. Those seasonal changes do, however, indicate that there is scope for variety and flexibility within the palette of colours used. Different landscapes will also have different tones and intensities of colour. For example, browns and russets tend to be more typical of sandy or heathy areas whereas lighter tones could be more appropriate in chalk downland areas. Nevertheless, the nature of the British climate means there are various shades of green in the landscape for significant periods of the year.

There are many colour charts but too much choice can sometimes make a seemingly small matter too complicated. In addition, the names of colours differ between manufacturers so it is simpler to use standard British Standard numbers. The **BS**

**4800 paint chart** is an abbreviated version of the somewhat **larger BS 5252 colour chart**. Many of the light colours will, in direct sunlight, appear almost white and therefore not achieve the integration sought. Similarly, a lot of the darker, more intense, colours will, when not in direct light, appear effectively as black which, as an extreme, is unlikely to aid integration in the natural scene.

Choosing from the colour charts, in areas where the sky is a significant element, or in waterside situations, a **squirrel** or **battleship grey** is often quite successful (**18 B 21**). In more verdant locations **moorland green** is a useful colour for walls and roofs (**12 B 21**), and where a variation in colour is felt to be appropriate then the lighter 12 B 17 (willow) or the darker 12 B 25 (spruce) may be useful. Many of the 'unnatural' greens that are popular for internal decorating (in the parts of the colour charts numbered 14 \* \*\*) are less useful in the more natural external environment as they are rarely found in the natural countryside.

Thinking again of animal colourations that aid camouflage in the countryside many animals have coats that are shades of grey, faded brown, or even russet, and such colours could be considered. However, the size of a development, and hence the external appearance of it, is a key factor when considering colours to aid integration with the scene.

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## Appendix 21

### Protection of the Designated Landscape

Development will be expected to ensure the protection of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty together with its setting, in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements:

- Every 'major' development proposal should be accompanied by an objective assessment of any impacts upon the visual amenity, local landscape character, and its setting (including historic landscape character having regard to the status and significance of any heritage assets affected).

- The assessment should be informed by an appropriate Landscape Character Assessment as a minimum. Where the proposed development is situated within or in proximity to this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it must be demonstrated that its Management Plan and Landscape Character Assessment have been taken into account.

- Development which affects the landscape of the AONB or its setting should only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that any adverse impacts can be:

i. avoided; or

ii. where an adverse impact cannot be avoided, the impact will be adequately mitigated;

or

iii. where adverse impacts cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated, compensatory environmental enhancements will be made to offset the residual landscape and visual impacts.

#### **Minerals and Waste**

Major minerals and waste development should not be permitted in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), except in exceptional circumstances.

In this respect, consideration will be given to:

a. the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations;

b. the impact of permitting, or refusing the development upon the local economy;

c. the cost and scope for meeting the need outside the designated area, or meeting the need in some other way; and

d. whether any detrimental effects on the environment, landscape and / or recreational opportunities can be satisfactorily mitigated

Minerals and waste development should reflect and where appropriate enhance the character of the surrounding landscape and natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the designated area.

Minerals and waste development should also be subject to a requirement that it is restored in the event it is no longer needed for minerals and waste uses.

Small-scale waste management facilities for local needs should not be precluded from the AONB, provided that they can be accommodated without undermining the objectives of the designation.

## Appendix 22

### Major Development

Further information can be found at the Planning Portal:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/PpApplications/genpub/en/FormChooserWizard?action=chooseMajorOrMinor&siteArea=createApp&consentTypeValue=4&primaryPermissionType=4&countyMatterSelection=none&Next.x=25&Next.y=11>

'Major Development' is development involving any one or more of the following:

- a. the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits
- b. waste development;
- c. the provision of dwellinghouses where:
  - i the number of dwellinghouses to be provided is 10 or more; or
  - ii the development is to be carried out on a site having an area of 0.5 hectares or more and it is not known whether the development falls within sub paragraph (c) (i);
- d. the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 square metres or more; or
- e. development carried out on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more

11 Nov 2013

## **Appendix 23**

### **The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2013**

#### Diversification

There are recent temporary changes to permitted development rights introduced in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) (GDO) Amendment 2013 which enable change of use of a building (up to 500m<sup>2</sup>) and its curtilage from:

- agricultural to a flexible use within Class A1 (shops)
- A2 (financial and professional services)
- A3 (restaurants and cafes)
- B1 (Business)
- B8 (storage and distribution)
- C1 (hotels)
- D2 (assembly and leisure)

#### Agricultural Buildings

Section 4B3: the proposed temporary relaxation of permitted development rights in respect of agricultural buildings referred to under 'Agricultural Development' (page 85), could also refer to change of use from Class B1 (a) offices to Class 3 dwelling houses or from Classes B1, C1 C2, C2A and D2 to a state funded school,

## Appendix 24

### Community Infrastructure Levy - an overview

#### What is the Community Infrastructure Levy?

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new levy that local authorities can choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money can be used to support development and growth by funding infrastructure that the council, local community and neighbourhoods want. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of development. This includes new or safer road schemes, flood defences, schools, hospitals and other health and social care facilities, park improvements, green spaces and leisure centres.

#### How much will the levy raise?

The introduction of the levy has the potential to raise an estimated additional £1bn a year of funding for local infrastructure by 2016 (the impact assessment on the Community Infrastructure Levy published on 31 January 2011 sets out further details).

#### The benefits of CIL

The benefits of the levy are:

- increased certainty for the funding and delivery of infrastructure projects
- increased certainty for developers regarding what they will need to contribute
- increased transparency for local people

#### Who may charge the levy?

In order to become a CIL charging authority (under the Planning Act 2008 and Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010) Local Authorities must produce and consult on a charging schedule which sets out the rate(s) to be applied to new development in the borough. These rates need to be supported by:

- an adopted development plan
- an assessment of area infrastructure requirements and funding gap analysis
- an assessment of the economic viability of new development.

#### Infrastructure spending outside a charging area

Charging authorities may pass money to bodies outside their area to deliver infrastructure which will benefit the development of their area, such as the Environment Agency for flood defence or, in two tier areas, the county council, for education infrastructure.

If they wish, charging authorities will also be able to collaborate and pool their funds from their respective levies to support the delivery of 'sub-regional infrastructure', for example, a larger transport project where they are satisfied that this would support the development of their own area.

#### What development is liable to pay the levy?

Most buildings that people normally use will be liable to pay the levy. But buildings into which people do not normally go and buildings into which people go only intermittently for the purpose of inspecting or maintaining fixed plant or machinery, will not be liable to pay the levy. Structures which are not buildings, such as pylons and wind turbines, will not be liable to pay the levy. The levy will not be charged on changes of use that do not involve an increase in floorspace.

### **How will the levy be charged?**

The levy must be charged in pounds per square metre on the net additional increase in floorspace of any given development. This will ensure that charging the levy does not discourage the redevelopment of sites. Any new build – that is a new building or an extension – is only liable for the levy if it has 100 square metres, or more, of gross internal floor space, or involves the creation of additional dwellings, even when that is below 100 square metres.

In calculating individual charges for the levy, charging authorities will be required to apply an annually updated index of inflation to keep the levy responsive to market conditions.

### **How does the levy relate to planning permission?**

The levy will be charged on new builds permitted through some form of planning permission. The planning permission identifies the buildings that will be liable for a Community Infrastructure Levy charge: the 'chargeable development'. The planning permission also defines the land on which the chargeable buildings will stand, the 'relevant land'.

### **How is the levy collected?**

The levy's charges will become due from the date that a chargeable development is commenced in accordance with the terms of the relevant planning permission. The definition of commencement of development for the levy's purposes is the same as that used in planning legislation, unless planning permission has been granted after commencement.

When planning permission is granted, the collecting authority will issue a liability notice setting out the amount of the levy that will be due for payment when the development is commenced, the payment procedure and the possible consequences of not following this procedure.

### **Who is liable to pay the levy?**

The responsibility to pay the levy runs with the ownership of land on which the liable development will be situated. This is in keeping with the principle that those who benefit financially when planning permission is given should share some of that gain with the community. That benefit is transferred when the land is sold with planning permission, which also runs with the land.

### **Exceptional circumstances**

Given the importance of ensuring that the levy does not prevent otherwise desirable development, the regulations provide that charging authorities have the option to offer a process for giving relief from the levy in exceptional circumstances where a specific scheme cannot afford to pay the levy.

A charging authority wishing to offer exceptional circumstances relief in its area must first give notice publicly of its intention to do so. A charging authority can then consider claims for relief on chargeable developments from landowners on a case by case basis, provided the certain conditions are met.

### **In-kind payments**

The regulations also provides for charging authorities to accept transfers of land as a payment 'in kind' for the whole or a part of a the levy, but only if this is done with the intention of using the land to provide, or facilitate the provision of, infrastructure to support the development of the charging authority's area.

**How will payment of the levy be enforced?**

To ensure payment, the regulations provide for a range of proportionate enforcement measures, such as surcharges on late payments. In most cases, these measures should be sufficient. However, in cases of persistent non-compliance, the regulations also enable collecting authorities to take more direct action to recover the amount due. One such measure is the Community Infrastructure Levy Stop Notice, which prohibits development from continuing until payment is made. Another is the ability to seek a court's consent to seize and sell assets of the liable party. In the very small number of cases where a collecting authority can demonstrate that recovery measures have been unsuccessful, a court may be asked to commit the liable party to a short prison sentence.

**The relationship between the Community Infrastructure Levy and planning obligations**

The levy is intended to provide infrastructure to support the development of an area rather than to make individual planning applications acceptable in planning terms. As a result, there may still be some site specific impact mitigation requirements without which a development should not be granted planning permission. Some of these needs may be provided for through the levy but others may not, particularly if they are very local in their impact. Therefore, the Government considers there is still a legitimate role for development specific planning obligations to enable a local planning authority to be confident that the specific consequences of development can be mitigated.

It is likely that AONB Local Authorities will start to adopt and formally implement CIL from summer 2014.

## **Appendix 25**

### **Sustainable Development Fund for AONBs**

In the late spring of 2005, Defra, through the Countryside Agency, introduced a Sustainable Development Fund for AONBs. The Fund was intended to support the purposes of AONBs and the delivery of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Management Plans, support Defra's objectives of sustainable development, partnership and social inclusion; and support Natural England in working towards a sustainably managed countryside, improved environment and integrated delivery of rural services.

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Sustainable Development Fund supports projects that bring social, environmental and economic benefits to the AONB. It aims to develop and test new methods of achieving a more sustainable way of life.

#### ***Examples of the type of projects which have received awards are:***

- Community shops and local products.
- Projects that work with disadvantaged young people.
- Fund raising events for community action; so that the funds raised are not used in putting on the event.
- Projects to develop sustainable technologies such as renewable energy schemes.
- Projects that communicate and celebrate the history and culture of this area.

## Appendix 26

### Publications on the AONB website

#### AONB Studies and Seminars

**Publication Name:**

**Raising Our Game** Raising Our Game is the report generated by a Game Conservation Survey undertaken between 2005-2007, and the final report released in 2011. The Game Conservation Survey was born out of the need to gain greater understanding of all aspects of game management within the AONB combined with the advent of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

[Raising Our Game - 2011 Final Report](#) (PDF, 2Mb)

[Raising Our Game - 2007 Research](#) (PDF, 2Mb)

**The Chase, the Hart and the Park**

An exploration of the historic landscapes of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

[The Chase, The Hart and the Park - Information](#) (PDF, 260kB)

[The Chase, The Hart and the Park - Order Form](#) (PDF, 18kB)

Documentation from the Climate Change Seminar

**Climate Change Seminar 22 Sept 2010**

[Q & A's, Group Discussions and Comments](#) (PDF, 104kb)

[Feed-in Tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive](#) (PDF, 450kb)

Pete West, Renewable Energy Development Officer, Dorset County Council

[Climate Change Policy & Activity in Wiltshire](#) (PDF, 1.1Mb)

[Tackling climate change in Dorset](#) (PDF, 900kb)

[Climate Change: what is happening in Hampshire County Council?](#) (PDF, 1.3Mb)

Assessment which moves beyond the level of detail provided by the 1995 AONB assessment. This document presents a fully integrated view of the landscape incorporating all the features and attributes that contribute to the special and distinctive character of the AONB

**Landscape Character Assessment**

[Landscape Character Assessment](#) (PDF, 2.8Mb)

Please note, this is a low resolution version - for further information see the [Landscape Character Assessment page](#).

## Planning and Landscapes Booklet

This booklet is an abbreviated, easy to read, version of the Integrated Landscape Character Assessment 2003. It was prepared for the 2006 Planning seminar and summarises the key landscape characteristics of the 8 Landscape Types and 15 Landscape Areas, focussing particularly on the character of the settlements.

[Planning and the AONB – Sustaining Landscape Character](#) (PDF, 1.5Mb)

Exploring the history and archaeology of the fascinating landscape of the AONB. It also provides an introduction to historic landscape characterisation and explores how the AONB is conserving and enhancing this special heritage through Historic Environment Action Plans.

### Historic Landscape Characterisation

[Historic Landscape Characterisation](#) (PDF, 4.6Mb)

For more information visit the [AONB Historic Landscapes Website](#)

This study explores the innate fragility and robustness of the landscapes of this AONB.

[Landscape Sensitivity Full Report - May 2007](#) (PDF, 500kB)

### Landscape Sensitivity

[Figure 1 - Landscape Character Sensitivity](#) (PDF, 700kB)

[Figure 2 - Visual Sensitivity](#) (PDF, 700kB)

[Figure 3 - Overall Landscape Sensitivity](#) (PDF, 700kB)

[Figure 4 - Sensitivity Mapping Key](#) (PDF, 700kB)

In 2006 the CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) published a new tranquillity map of England. In order to help direct efforts towards sustaining tranquillity - a key attribute of this AONB identified by many of you who contributed to the Management Plan - we obtained the original data and carried out further investigative work to apply it to the AONB.

### Tranquillity

[Tranquillity Mapping Report July 2010 - Ground Truthing Methodology and Interim Report](#) (PDF, 2.1Mb).

[Tranquillity Mapping -- Investigative Study 2008](#) (PDF, 2.2Mb).  
[B3081 Landscape Character Appraisal Report](#) (PDF 3.64MB)

### B3081 Landscape Character Appraisal

The following study provides an appraisal of the historic and archaeological characteristics of the B3081 - [B3081 Historic Landscape Appraisal](#) (PDF 1MB)

## Other AONB Publications

<b>Publication Name:</b>	<b>Details:</b>
<b>Archaeology on Your Farm</b>	<p>Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is world famous for the range and quality of its archaeological remains. Looking after archaeology brings benefits for farmers and land managers, while enriching the landscape for everyone.</p> <p><a href="#">Archaeology on your Farm: Gaining from History</a> (PDF, 900Kb) Leaflet of producers in the AONB, and a map and guide for visitors. If you would like copies of these leaflets sent to you, please contact us.</p>
<b>Leaflets</b>	<p><a href="#">2 page guide to local producers in the AONB</a> (PDF, 1MB)</p> <p><a href="#">2 page map and information guide for visitors</a> (PDF, 1MB) County Councils have the responsibility for managing Rights Of Way (RoW). Each county has a team of RoW officers who carry out maintenance of the Legal Record of Public Rights of Way.</p>
<b>The Legal Record of Rights of Way Leaflet</b>	<p>This booklet contains information relating to Rights of Way, the legal record and the definitive map modification process. It also contains information relating to the AONB Access Group</p> <p><a href="#">Rights of Way Leaflet</a> (PDF, 963kB) <a href="#">England's statutory landscape designations: a practical guide to your duty of regard</a> (PDF, 1Mb).</p>
<b>Guidance and Advice for Statutory Bodies</b>	<p><a href="#">Guidance and Advice for Statutory Bodies</a> (PDF, 600Kb).</p>
<b>AONB Annual Review</b>	<p><a href="#">Annual Review 2007/2008</a> (PDF, 2.2Mb).</p> <p><a href="#">A Guide to Small Scale Biomass Heating Projects</a> (PDF, 700Kb).</p> <p><a href="#">Woodland Project Methodology</a> (PDF, 1Mb)</p>
<b>Woodfuel &amp; Woodlands</b>	<p>Our publication 'A landscape view of trees and woodlands' provides a description of our woodlands that is more complete and is at a greater resolution than has ever been achieved before. It gives guidelines to woodland owners, land managers and advisers that are intended to provide a broad basis for management decisions, rather than site-specific advice.</p> <p><a href="#">A landscape view of trees and woodlands</a> (PDF, 7.3Mb)</p>

## Planning related Publications

### Publication Name:

### Details:

**Planning and the AONB** Landscape Character Assessment helps identify key characteristics, local distinctiveness, and sense of place. This booklet seeks to provide both an introduction and sufficient details to identify, and work with, the landscapes of this AONB.

[Planning and the AONB – Sustaining Landscape Character](#) (PDF, 1.5Mb)

**Planning Protocol** This Protocol sets out how the AONB Partnership and local authorities will consider planning matters affecting the AONB. The document contains the October 2005 document as well as the September 2006 Review and Refinement document.

[Planning Protocol Document](#) (PDF, 102Kb)

[Light Pollution Study Final June 2007](#) (PDF, 7Mb)

[Market Towns Growth - Figure One](#) (PDF, 568Kb)

[Market Towns Growth - Figure Two](#) (PDF, 524Kb)

[Market Towns Growth - Figure Three](#) (PDF, 1.7Mb)

[Market Towns Growth - Figure Four](#) (PDF, 1.5Mb)

### Planning Reports

[Market Towns Growth - Figure Five](#) (PDF, 1.4Mb)

[Roads and Planning Report](#) (PDF, 4.8Mb)

[Guide to Permitted Development Rights 2006](#) (PDF, 260Kb)

[Market Towns Growth - Main Report](#) (PDF, 268Kb)

[Roads and Planning - Figure One](#) (PDF, 1.7Mb)

The AONB positions statements set out its current position on a variety of topics. These include light pollution, historic parks and gardens, the relevance of the setting for the AONB and Historic Landscape Characterisation.

[Position Statement 1 - Light Pollution](#) (PDF, 75Kb)

### Position Statements

[Position Statement 2 - Historic Parks & Gardens](#) (PDF, 90Kb)

[Position Statement 3 - Relevance of the Setting for AONB](#) (PDF, 89Kb)

[Position Statement 4 - Historic Landscape Characterisation](#) (PDF, 30Kb)

[Position Statement 5 - Renewable Energy](#) (PDF, 75Kb)

The AONB fact sheets and good practice notes provide information on topics of relevance to landscape and planning within the AONB. Current documents provide information on Section 85 duties, the Local Development Framework, the European Landscape Convention and Historic Landscape Characterisation.

[Fact Sheet 1 - Section 85 Factsheet & Good Practice](#) (PDF, 26Kb)

[Fact Sheet 2 - Local Plan, LDF & Good Practice](#) (PDF, 29Kb)

**Fact Sheets  
and Good  
Practice Notes**

[Fact Sheet 3 - European Landscape Convention Fact Sheet & Good Practice](#)(PDF, 33Kb)

[Fact Sheet 4 - Historic Landscape Characterisation Fact Sheet & Good Practice](#) (PDF, 21Kb)

[Fact Sheet 6 - Colour and Integrating developments into the Landscape](#) (PDF, 60Kb)

[South West Protected Landscapes - A Guide to Keeping Horses in Protected Landscapes](#) (PDF, 1Mb)

## Appendix 27

### The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) is the voice of the AONB partnerships and conservation boards and represents the AONB Family on national issues including policy and advocacy, communications, training and securing resources.

The Association's vision is

*"The natural beauty of our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty is valued and secure, the communities within and adjacent to them are thriving, and the relationship between people and these nationally important places is understood and supported at all levels".*

At the National Association for AONBs' AGM in October 2011, the membership agreed the following objectives to work toward achieving this vision:

- *Support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty*  
This objective encompasses our advocacy work, the action we take to influence decision makers and the work we carry out to provide national leadership, assistance and support.
- *Develop an understanding of AONBs and the issues they face*  
This objective includes the planning and delivery of a national training programme, work to facilitate learning and the exchange of good practice, provision of technical support and advice, encouragement of innovation, commissioning of primary research, and all our communications work.
- *Improve the way in which AONB partnerships and the NAAONB work together*  
This objective includes our work to develop collaborative projects within the AONB Family and across the protected landscape network, work to improve governance within the NAAONB, and work to maintain cohesion between the AONB Family and the NAAONB.
- *Secure and manage resources*  
This objective includes raising funds to facilitate the work of the NAAONB, administration and management of resources available to the NAAONB including its people, taking a national lead on promoting innovative approaches to future resourcing, leading the development of capacity building for fund raising among AONB partnerships and evaluating the effectiveness of the NAAONB.

Without doubt, the main strength of the AONB Family lies in its collective voice. It is the role of the NAAONB to help strengthen that voice, clarify its messages and ensure that it is heard in the right places at the right time with the right effect. The NAAONB's main areas of work are:

- *Policy and advocacy*  
The NAAONB leads on national advocacy work, influencing decision makers and providing national leadership, assistance and support.
- *Communications and training*  
The NAAONB leads on the planning and delivery of a national training programme, working to facilitate learning and exchange of good practice, provision of technical support and advice, encouragement of innovation,

commissioning of primary research and communicating this to both internal and external audiences.

- *Securing and managing resources*  
The NAAONB leads on raising funds to facilitate the work of the NAAONB, administration and management of resources available to the NAAONB including its people, taking a national lead on promoting innovative approaches to future resourcing, leading the development of capacity building for fund raising among AONB partnerships and evaluating the effectiveness of the NAAONB.

The NAAONB is an incorporated controlled company limited by guarantee formed in December 1998. Its membership is largely composed of AONB partnerships and conservation boards, local authorities whose boundaries include AONBs and individuals who care about AONBs.

The NAAONB is administered by a Board, elected from its membership, who oversee the work of the staff members. For more details of the NAAONB's work including the Strategic Plan and Business Plan go to the Associations website <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/>

## Appendix 28

### Additional Information

#### LANDSCAPE

##### Overview

- 1.2. The European Landscape Convention has defined Landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". This definition reflects the understanding that landscapes evolve through time, as a result of being acted upon by natural forces and human beings. It also underlines that the natural and cultural components of a landscape are taken together, as a whole, and not separately.
- 1.3. Landscapes change daily and seasonally, they respond to the weather, some have a greater proportion of hard and constructed elements whilst in others the soft and semi-natural predominate. They are perceived and valued in different ways by individuals and communities. It is with this definition in mind that the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Partnership approaches the tasks of conserving and enhancing the landscapes of the AONB.

##### Geology and Geomorphology

- 1.4. This part of Southern and Central England was covered by the sea between 200 million years ago until the end of the Chalk period (around 65 million years ago). The oldest rocks in the AONB are a small outcrop of Corallian Beds at Zeals (150 million years ago) and a wide outcrop of the Kimmeridge Clay (140 million years ago) across the western half of the Vale of Wardour. Farther east the Kimmeridge Clay is overlain by the sandy limestones of the Portland beds, and overlying them are the clays and limestones of the Purbeck beds. North and south of the Vale these older rocks are covered by the Gault Clay, then the Upper Greensand and finally the Chalk (these latter formations forming the sides and eastern end of the Vale).
- 1.5. Chalk is formed out of microscopic remains of marine plankton that gradually accumulated on a slowly subsiding sea floor over a period of 20 million years, finally reaching a thickness of around 250 metres. The purer Upper Chalk contains layers and nodules of flint (pure silica) derived from the accumulation of siliceous organisms on the sea floor. Around 65 million years ago, the Chalk was uplifted above sea level and suffered a degree of erosion before being covered by the sands and clays of the Tertiary Period, which have now been completely removed from the area of the AONB but are still present farther east. Around 20 million years ago another period of uplift created the folding and faulting of the rocks which started the development of the present landscape. Most dramatically, an east-west trending elongated dome split and, with further erosion, gave rise to the Vale of Wardour. The Mere Fault, a particularly important structure in Wiltshire, developed on the northern edge of the dome.

Map 4: Underlying geology

- 1.6. During successive glaciations of the last 2 million years, when the porous chalk was frozen into an impermeable state, rivers followed faults in the rock and eroded the valleys and steep scarp slopes. The dry valleys and folded

landform of the Downs we see today date from this period. The rivers cut down through the chalk to expose the Greensand and Kimmeridge Clay of the Vale of Wardour. The Chilmark Stone that was used to build Salisbury Cathedral was also exposed at this time.

- 1.7. The building materials derived from the rocks give a local character to various areas; notably the stone villages built of the famous Chilmark and Tisbury freestones from the Portland strata; the sandstones in the Upper Greensand; flints in the chalk areas; and bricks from the local clays. One of the most important features of the landscape of the AONB is the underlying influence of the chalk, not only on the topography, flora and fauna, but also on the pattern of human activity and settlement.

### **Landscape Character Assessment**

- 1.8. An 'Integrated Landscape Character Assessment' for the AONB was completed in 2003. It built upon earlier work from 1995 and helps produce a more complete picture of what makes the area so 'outstanding'. It is more refined and detailed than the broad and extensive character areas described in the national character areas project by Natural England.
- 1.9. Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) brings together geology, topography, land cover, and land uses. It identifies local landscape features, the broad character of a locality, indigenous materials and all the other elements that contribute to the particular sense of place. LCA therefore presents an integrated view of the landscape and includes all the features which contribute to the special and distinctive character of the AONB. The AONB Landscape Character Assessment brings together a number of different studies including the land uses, settlement patterns, and human activities of the AONB, along with the agricultural character, an historical overview, recreational features, ecological characteristics, and visual information based on survey work conducted in the field. It plays a crucial part in enabling the AONB Partnership to conserve and enhance the AONB.
- 1.10. Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs is an area of great diversity and contrast, represented by the definition of eight generic **Landscape Types**. These range from the high open remote downlands, the woodland and ancient forests of the Chase, and the dramatic steep escarpment slopes to the more intimate and secluded chalk river valleys with their distinctive pattern of settlement. Each of these landscape types have been further sub-divided into fifteen geographically specific **Landscape Character Areas** (Map 5). Details are posted on the AONB web site and a summary booklet is available. The publication of the Historic Landscape Characterisation in 2008 gives us an even greater understanding of the landscapes of the AONB, and the issues and trends highlighted in the 1995 LCA now need to be re-assessed.

Map 5: Landscape Character Assessment

## Appendix 29

### Additional Information

#### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The natural world touches our lives every day. Whether we live in one of the surrounding market towns, Tisbury, or the countryside, we rely on the natural systems that support us. Our natural environment underpins our health, wealth and happiness and gives us a sense of place, pride and identity (see Further Information – Natural Environment White Paper).

Natural services and materials provided by the environment are as important for businesses as for everyday life. Our best businesses understand the value to be gained from managing supply chain impacts on our stock of natural capital. They also know the risks to their brand image, security of resources and their bottom line if they do not.

The landscapes and wildlife heritage of the AONB have been shaped by the decisions of land managers over thousands of years. Today, nearly 90% of the landscape is farmed. The decisions that farmers and land managers take determine, to a great extent, whether society's ambitions for water, wildlife, healthy soil and food production can be achieved.

The AONB lies within two of Natural England's defined 'Natural Areas': *Wessex Vales* and *South Wessex Downs*. The *Wessex Vales* Natural Area covers the north-west corner of the AONB and supports a variety of habitats from wet woodland and acid woodland to calcareous and neutral meadows. The *South Wessex Downs* Natural Area covers the vast majority of the remaining area and is strongly characterised by the underlying chalk.

This AONB supports a variety of habitats ranging from ancient semi-natural woodland to internationally renowned chalk streams and some of the best, last remaining, chalk grasslands in Europe. These uncommon habitats hold a huge diversity of plant, animal and invertebrate species. The chalk streams are biologically rich and also support an established sport fishing industry. The River Avon and its tributaries comprise the most biologically rich river system in the UK. (EA (2006) Hampshire Avon Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy)

A significant proportion of the woodland is of ancient origin and the area contains some of the best aggregations of ancient trees in Europe (<http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/ancienttrees/findingthem>), supporting internationally rare species of bryophytes, invertebrates and fungi.

Map X: Chalk Grasslands

Map X: Semi-natural Woodland

The greatest proportion of farmed land is arable, typically interspersed with small woodlands. Rare arable plants and several declining bird species occur in the arable habitats. The most significant change to agriculture has been the intensification of production in recent decades, resulting in a reduction of wild arable plants and a decline in several bird species.

Many species of wildlife still suffer from the technological improvements in arable farming that took place during 1945-1984. The wild flora of cereals experienced a combined loss of abundance and diversity of 82%, with many rare species lost.

Plant bugs, grass sawflies, grasshoppers, Lepidoptera and many other insects decreased accordingly, causing, in turn, a shortage of food for the grey partridge, corn bunting, skylark, lapwing and several other species. UK research shows how these adverse effects can be overcome by unsprayed conservation headlands and beetle banks with associated wild bird seed mixtures, measures that are all now supported by government grants and known as 'in-field options'. However, research commissioned by this AONB<sup>3</sup> shows that 40% of environmental stewardship expenditure in the AONB (£669,000) is linked to options associated with hedgerow and grassland management, while only 12% of the agri-environment scheme expenditure is on arable farmland (by far the majority of the AONB). The most effective biodiversity options are the least popular with farmers. The system needs modifying so that farmers take up these least popular options (Footnote 1) a view also promoted by Plantlife and the British Trust for Ornithology.

## Biodiversity 2020

The Government Strategy for England's wildlife is called Biodiversity 2020. The Strategy states four outcomes that are necessary to achieve the vision, that by 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone.

**Outcome 1** - By 2020 we will have put in place measures so that biodiversity is maintained and enhanced, further degradation has been halted and where possible, restoration is underway, helping deliver more resilient and coherent ecological networks, healthy and well-functioning ecosystems, which deliver multiple benefits for wildlife and people, including:

- 1A. Better wildlife habitats
- 1B. More, bigger and less fragmented areas for wildlife,
- 1C. By 2020, at least 17% of land and inland water conserved through effective, integrated and joined up approaches
- 1D. Restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems

**Outcome 2** - By 2020 we will have put in place measures so that biodiversity is maintained, further degradation has been halted and where possible, restoration is underway, helping deliver good environmental status and our vision of clean, healthy, safe productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. This will be underpinned by the following:

- 2A. By the end of 2016 in excess of 25% of English waters will be contained in a well-managed Marine Protected Area network
- 2B. By 2020 we will be managing and harvesting fish sustainably;
- 2C. By 2022 we will have marine plans in place covering the whole of England's marine area

**Outcome 3** - By 2020, we will see an overall improvement in the status of our wildlife and will have prevented further human-induced extinctions of known threatened species.

**Outcome 4** - By 2020, significantly more people will be engaged in biodiversity issues, aware of its value and taking positive action.

Examples of the decline in bird and butterfly populations:

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<sup>3</sup> 'Strengthening Landscape Character through Entry Level Stewardship', Dr Jemma Batten, Black Sheep Countryside Management August 2008

- Butterflies are one of the most threatened wildlife group in the UK; more than three-quarters of Britain's 57 resident species are declining and over 40% are listed as Priorities for Conservation. More than 80 moth species are also at risk of extinction in the UK. Most threatened species are now confined to small patches of habitat that have been left isolated within the modern intensively managed countryside. In 2011, a significant decrease in the total numbers of wider countryside butterflies was recorded for the first time. The abundance of these common, 'garden' butterflies dropped by 24% over 10 years. Many habitat specialist species have continued to decline too such as Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillary, placing them at greater risk of extinction.
- Some of our bird species that were common or characteristic of the AONB have declined nationally by more than 50%; species such as Grey Partridge, Lapwing, Woodcock, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Skylark, Mistle Thrush, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, House Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Linnet, Yellowhammer and Corn Bunting. Other familiar species are also experiencing worrying declines of over 25%, such as Common Sandpiper, Tawny Owl, Meadow Pipit, Dunnock, Song Thrush and Bullfinch. If these trends continue then our ponds will have no Little Grebes (down by 40% since 1975) and we will no longer hear the screaming of Swifts in the summer (down 31%).

(The State of Britain's Butterflies 2011, Butterfly Conservation)

(Bird data based on the findings of British Trust for Ornithology in Bird Trends

<http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdtrends/2011>)

**Figure 5: Examples of priority species and habitats within the AONB**

Corn bunting	Adonis blue butterfly
Grey partridge	Duke of Burgundy butterfly
Skylark	Brown hare
Tree sparrow	Greater horseshoe bat
Turtle dove	Ancient Semi-natural Woodlands
Water vole	Lowland calcareous grasslands
Early gentian	Chalk rivers

### **AONB Projects**

The AONB is a major partner in the South West Farmland Bird Project (Appendix 16), a significant initiative that seeks to safeguard and expand populations of farmland bird species. Funding and additional support comes from Wessex Water and Natural England. The project concentrates on the six most threatened species of farmland bird, the "Arable 6", and rare arable plants such as prickly poppy and corn marigold. Providing habitat for these birds and plants will also have major benefits for other farmland species like the Skylark, Yellowhammer and Brown hare. The 'Arable 6' are:

- Grey partridge
- Lapwing
- Turtle dove
- Yellow wagtail
- Tree sparrow
- Corn bunting

There are three chalk grassland projects underway in the AONB that, if coordinated, could present the AONB as a showcase for chalk grassland restoration and enhancement work:

- Stepping Stones (Cranborne Chase AONB, Wiltshire WT, NW Downs)
- New Life for Chalk Grassland (Wiltshire Wildlife Trust)
- Projects within NNRs (Natural England)

### International and national nature conservation designations within the AONB

(Map 7):

- Five Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);
- Three National Nature Reserves (NNRs); and
- Fifty seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (including eight geological sites).

These designations cover 3,413.2 hectares, or 3.5% of the AONB. Natural England reports that 41% of the SSSI land is in favourable condition for wildlife and that a further 36.4% of the land is recovering following the introduction of focused management prescriptions (Figure 6).

<b>SSSI CONDITION</b>	<b>Number of sites or part thereof *</b>	<b>Area (hectares)</b>	<b>Percentage of total area</b>
Favourable	38	1,398.1	41
Unfavourable (Recovering)	21	1,241.7	36.4
Unfavourable (No Change)	21	257.6	7.5
Unfavourable (Declining)	16	483.9	14
Not Assessed	1	31.8	0.9

\* Total number of SSSIs in the AONB is less than the sum of SSSIs of different conditions. This is because some SSSIs are separated into areas of different condition and each area is counted separately. Therefore "Number" for each condition is number of whole or part SSSIs.

Map 7: Statutory Designations

### Local non-statutory nature conservation sites within the AONB:

- Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (Dorset);
- Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (Hampshire);
- County Wildlife Sites (Wiltshire and Somerset); or
- Regionally Important Geological Sites.

The AONB contains 519 of these sites, amounting to 9,155 hectares of land locally important for nature conservation (just over 9% of the AONB).

A rich diversity of woodland types is represented within the AONB and the most ecologically diverse are the ancient semi-natural woodlands, of which there is a significant proportion in the Cranborne Chase Landscape Character Area 3A.

Map X: Ancient Woodland

**Invasive non-native species** – there are about 3,000 non-native species in the UK that can be invasive and pose a threat to our wildlife. Species such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Rhododendron, sika and muntjac deer and American

signal crayfish are increasingly common in the AONB and are a real threat to our wildlife and environment. (data from GB Non-Native Species Secretariat <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/home/index.cfm>)

**New pests and pathogens** - at the time of writing there are approximately 30 emerging pests and diseases affecting livestock and 15 affecting trees in the UK. The number affecting this AONB is currently unknown. These are having an increasing impact upon our landscape and our activities. A few examples are:

- Schmallenberg virus - a disease carried by biting insects affecting sheep, cattle and goats, and possibly alpacas, llamas, and deer. It causes loss of condition in adults, late abortion in pregnant females and birth defects or death in new born lambs and calves. The livestock sector in the AONB is diverse and vital to the conservation of our landscapes. Rising costs and erratic market conditions have put the sector under enormous strain. This new disease could reduce even further the profitability of our livestock enterprises.
- Ash dieback - a disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called *Chalara fraxinea*. The disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees and it may lead to tree death. Ash is the most common tree species in the AONB, constituting about half the trees in many of our woodlands. This disease may permanently change the composition of our woodlands.
- *Phytophthora ramorum*, or Sudden Oak Death - causes disease in rhododendrons and *Viburnum* species, but has switched to infecting Japanese larch. Many larch stands in the AONB have been felled in attempts to control the disease. Larch may no longer be a viable commercial tree species in the AONB.
- Asian Longhorn Beetle - the larvae bore into trees and can cause widespread damage.
- Crayfish plague - the greatest threat to our native white-clawed crayfish comes from a fungal disease called crayfish plague. This is carried by the non-native signal crayfish that now dominates many of our rivers.

The AONB has helped train a number of volunteers on the look out for *Chalara fraxinea* Ash Dieback and we are assisting with dissemination of “check, clean, dry” good practice to halt spread of crayfish plague.

Within the AONB ‘The Source to Sea Project’ (ref <http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/what-we-do/The+Source+to+Sea+Project>) covers the whole of the River Avon catchment and aims to remove non-native invasive species such as Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, water fern and creeping water primrose. It is a partnership between the three county wildlife trusts for Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire and the Environment Agency.

### **Decline in livestock farming**

Flower rich grasslands are not a natural state. Woodland species will grow and dominate the habitat unless they are regularly kept in check by cutting or grazing. Chalk grassland conservation relies on the availability of suitable grazing animals, especially traditional breeds of sheep and cattle, to maintain a low sward. The AONB Partnership is working with the Wildlife Trusts, Natural England and RSPB to address chalk grassland conservation and restoration at a landscape scale.

### **Reduced funding for the natural environment**

The Coalition government says that deficit reduction, and continuing to ensure economic recovery, is the most urgent issue that it must tackle in the life of this

parliament and beyond. The main burden of deficit reduction is to be borne by reduced spending rather than increased taxes. (Source: "The Coalition: our programme for government" H M Government. May 2010).

Reduction in government spending will be even more important if there continues to be minimal economic growth. At the time of writing, economic growth has been close to zero since the second quarter of 2009 (3.5 years) (source: Office for National Statistics, Statistical Bulletin 25 January 2013).

Defra, the department that provides 75% of AONB core funds and is the source of a great deal of project funding, has agreed with HM Treasury to deliver savings of £661m by the end of the Spending Review period, 2014-15.

In the period 2010 - 2015, key Defra-funded partners will face budget reductions of 20 - 25%. (NE, 21%; EA, 16.5%; FC 25.5%) (Source: Defra Arm's Length Bodies SR10 Allocations). Partners in the charitable sector, such as Wildlife Trusts, are also facing serious financial conditions.

### Further Information - **Natural Environment White Paper**

"The natural world, its biodiversity and its ecosystems are critically important to our well-being and economic prosperity, but are consistently undervalued in conventional economic analyses and decision making"  
UK National Ecosystem Assessment

### **The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature June 2011**

A healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. The aim of the White Paper<sup>1</sup> is to set out a clear framework for protecting and enhancing the things that nature gives us for free, which are too often taken for granted.

*Proposals to mainstream the value of nature include:*

- facilitating greater local action to protect and improve nature;
- creating a green economy, in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other, and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature;
- strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit of both;
- showing leadership in the European Union and internationally, to protect and enhance natural assets globally. Protecting and improving our natural environment

### **Protecting and improving our natural environment**

The National Ecosystem Assessment<sup>2</sup> shows that over 30% of the services provided by our natural environment are in decline. The Lawton Report, Making Space for Nature<sup>3</sup>, found that nature in England is highly fragmented and unable to respond effectively to new pressures such as climate and demographic change.

Actions:

- Publish a new Biodiversity Strategy for England

- Establishment of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) to strengthen local action. LNPs will enable local leadership and may operate across administrative boundaries.
- Creation of new Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) to enhance and reconnect nature on a significant scale, where the opportunities and benefits justify such action. Local partnerships will come together to form NIAs.
- Reforms of the planning system to guide development to the best locations encourage greener design and enable development to enhance natural networks. The protection and improvement of the natural environment will be protected as core objectives of the planning system. Establishment of a new, voluntary approach to biodiversity offsets.

<sup>1</sup>*Natural Environment White Paper*

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.asp>

<sup>2</sup>*National Ecosystem Assessment* <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Home/tabid/38/Default.aspx>

<sup>3</sup>*Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network*

*Chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton CBE FRS September 2010*

### **Growing a green economy**

Economic growth and the natural environment are mutually compatible. Sustainable economic growth relies on services provided by the natural environment, often referred to as 'ecosystem services'. Some of these are provided directly, such as food, timber and energy. Others are indirect, such as climate regulation, water purification and the productivity of soil.

Actions:

- Publish an action plan to expand markets and schemes in which payments are made by the beneficiary of a natural service to the provider of that service.
- Set up a business-led Ecosystem Markets Task Force to review the opportunities for UK business from expanding the trade in green goods and the market for sustainable natural services.
- Publish a review of waste policy
- Issue new guidance for businesses by 2012 on how to measure and report corporate environmental impacts.

### **Reconnecting people and nature**

The NEA and the Marmot Review, Fair Society, Healthy Lives, demonstrate the positive impact that nature has on mental and physical health. High-quality natural environments foster healthy neighbourhoods; green spaces encourage social activity and reduce crime. The natural environment can help children's learning.

Actions:

- To help local authorities use their new duties and powers on public health, Public Health England will publish practical evidence about improving health, including through access to a good natural environment. •
- Remove barriers to learning outdoors and increase schools' abilities to teach outdoors when they wish to do so.
- Create a new 'Local Green Areas' designation to allow local people to protect the green areas that are important to them. •
- Establish a Green Infrastructure Partnership with civil society to support the development of green infrastructure in England.
- Launch a new phase of the Muck In4Life campaign, offering volunteering opportunities to improve the quality of life in towns, cities and the countryside.

**International and EU leadership**

We will show environmental leadership internationally and within the EU, to protect and enhance natural assets globally, promoting environmentally and socially sustainable growth. We will advance internationally the approach and principles set out in this White Paper.

## Appendix 30

### Additional Information

## HISTORIC AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

### Overview

The countryside we see today is an expression of the interaction between people and the landscape over the millennia. Every part of the landscape has a history and this is a major component that contributes to the special landscapes of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. The landscapes of the AONB bear the imprint of successive eras of human activity and settlement. This is one of the richest and most closely studied parts of prehistoric Wessex, the haunt of General Pitt-Rivers, Heywood Sumner, Richard Bradley and Martin Green

Celebrated by artists, archaeologists, scholars and writers, the name AONB evokes an ancient mysterious landscape with a rich patina of stunning interrelated natural and cultural assets.

### Historical evolution of the landscape

The AONB is associated with important Mesolithic features but it is its Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age archaeology for which it is most well known. The Cranborne Chase especially is synonymous with a dense concentration of Neolithic 'monuments'. These consist of areas in the landscape which were the foci of burial or symbolic activity and which includes features such as the great Dorset Cursus. The Bronze Age archaeology in the AONB is characterised by a shift to sedentism marked by extensive field systems and clearly defined settlements. Notable Iron Age archaeology includes multiple hillforts and the banjo enclosures and settlements of the West Wiltshire Downs.

Traces of later historic landscapes are also important and include juxtaposed fragmented areas of unimproved chalk grassland, ancient woodland and important remnants of medieval landscape which has disappeared elsewhere. These are intimately related to the former medieval hunting areas of Selwood, Cranborne Chase and Grovely Forest. The medieval hunting grounds of Cranborne Chase and the wealth of deer parks, such as Harbin's Park, were set within a medieval world of commons strip fields, and ancient woodlands, the last cut into by tiny assarts. Many of the former Medieval Deer parks which are scattered across the area were transformed into the nationally important conglomeration of designed landscapes in the AONB such as Stourhead.

Post medieval planned enclosure and the creation of new large scale fields in the 20<sup>th</sup> century have reduced the extent of the surviving ancient landscapes transforming some areas of the AONB. The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, for example, saw the dominance of the sheep-corn system of agriculture in Wessex, when vast flocks of sheep grazed on the high downland. Many parishes were newly enclosed and the chalk river valleys were dominated by water meadows along their lengths.

Historic route ways can still be seen in the landscape, with sections of Roman roads still providing the foundation for modern day roads. Other drove routes and tracks between villages and farmsteads are treasured Public Rights of Way.

The landscape continues to change: agriculture intensifies, infrastructures are upgraded, and the make-up of rural society and settlement adjusts to regional and

national pressures. The landscape is susceptible to a range of forces for change, many of which will impact on the historic environment. Our understanding of the historic aspects of the landscapes of the AONB is also continually developing, just as there are also unknown, unexplored and unrecorded archaeological sites in the AONB waiting to be discovered.

### **Literary, artistic and cultural associations**

The landscapes of the AONB hold a special place in the origins and development of archaeology. The antiquarian Richard Colt Hoare resided at Stourhead, laid out the gardens there and studied the ancient monuments of Wiltshire publishing his work in the 1820s. General Pitt-Rivers' excavations and findings on Cranborne Chase in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century marked a new systematic approach to archaeological excavations. An approach also followed by Heywood Sumner, archaeologist, artist and writer, when he undertook a survey of the archaeology of Cranborne Chase between 1911 and 1913.

Important literary figures associated with the area include poet and barrister Sir John Davies (1569-1626), antiquarian and writer John Aubrey (1626-1697), naturalist and writer W H Hudson (1841-1922), author and surgeon Sir Frederick Treves (1853-1923), poet Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967) and author and broadcaster Desmond Hawkins (1908-1999).

Other artistic and cultural connections include the architect Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723) Prime Minister Anthony Eden (1897-1977), photographer Sir Cecil Beaton (1904-1980), conductor Sir John Eliot Gardiner, and classical guitarist Julian Bream.

Just one event celebrating the artistic and cultural connections with this AONB was held in 2012 at Salisbury and West Wiltshire Museum. An exhibition was held 'Circles and Tangents' – Art in the Shadow of Cranborne Chase.

It featured the work of Augustus John, Henry Lamb, Ben Nicholson, John Craxton, Lucian Freud, Stanley Spencer, Elisabeth Frink, William Nicholson and over 25 other artists connected with Cranborne Chase.

The Museum explained that "Artists in the exhibition from the earlier generation include the Nicholson family (William, Ben, Winifred and E.Q.), John Craxton, Lucian Freud, Augustus John, Henry Lamb, Frances Hodgkins and Katharine Church (Kitty West) as well as less familiar names – fine painters who lived on Cranborne Chase but never actively sought recognition for their work."

They continued "Contemporary artists in Circles and Tangents include Ursula Leach who explores the new 'face of agriculture', and Brian Rice, who studies ancient sites on the Chase for his inspiration. There are sculptures in the exhibition by Elisabeth Frink, Peter Thursby, John Hitchens, Jay Battle, Tim Harrisson and Ian Middleton."

The AONB Partnership intends to develop closer affiliations with the diverse and numerous individuals, groups and networks that focus on the cultural elements of these special landscapes, to help develop much increased awareness, understanding and appreciation of this nationally protected landscape.

## Appendix 31

### Additional Information

#### RURAL LAND MANAGEMENT

##### Overview

Land ownership in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB is diverse being owned by public bodies, companies, trusts, family partnerships and private individuals. Much of the land is down to agriculture, woodland and forestry (Map X). The AONB has a higher proportion of farmland than would be expected in either the South West or South East Regions. In 2007, just over 82% (80,700 ha) of the AONB (981 square kilometres)<sup>4</sup> was under agriculture and over 14,700 hectares under forestry. Within the AONB, there is a total of 844 hectares of Forestry Commission managed land in seven properties. The vast majority of woodland within the area is in private ownership.

The rich ecological diversity, wealth of archaeological treasures and distinct landscape of different character areas is due, in part, to the stewardship of land managers over past generations and to the commitment of many today.

Arable farming covers just over half of the AONB with another third under grassland. This has remained stable for some years. Livestock farming is in decline, with falling stocking levels. Diversification, re-connecting with local markets and promoting local food and produce are a means by which some are adapting to change. However, viable livestock systems must be maintained as grazing is a means to conserve flower rich chalk grasslands and the open landscape. Farmers markets, cooperatives and local branding are all relevant and have been developed to some extent throughout the AONB.

The AONB supports the continuance of ancient/veteran trees and significant woodland cover, from ancient semi-natural broadleaved through to coniferous shelterbelts associated with the arable landscapes. Particularly well-wooded areas are found around Cranborne Chase, on the Pen Selwood and Longleat Hills and on the plateau areas of the West Wiltshire Downs. There are substantial tracts of ancient woodland (over 7,000 h) high in ecological value. These include areas of existing ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and ancient woodland where the broadleaves have been removed and the site replanted with non-native species (known as planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS)). Whilst ASNW is a habitat that currently adds significantly to ecological biodiversity, PAWS present a key opportunity for habitat restoration (Map 8).

Interest in woodlands is nurtured in the AONB by the Cranborne Chase Woodfair. Inaugurated in 2007 by the AONB team, it attracted 6,000 – 7,000 people; involved 120 local businesses; and opened up a new shop window for woodland and other local products from this area.

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<sup>4</sup> DEFRA state that estimates are based on a sample survey and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling error.

## Woodland management

During the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, vast flocks of sheep were folded onto arable land overnight. This required large tracts of hazel coppice to be maintained for hurdle making and fuel. The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the World Wars, saw massive national woodland clearances, including clear fell within the AONB. There then followed rapid and extensive afforestation, sometimes with unsuitable species or in unsuitable areas, from the 1940s to the 1990s. There are also many woodlands created as game coverts. These are often poorly designed or planted in unsuitable locations. However, game shooting is one of the main reasons for woodland management in the AONB and sensitive management of game shoots can contribute positively to species and habitat conservation<sup>5</sup>.

The national approach to sustainable forestry is set out in *A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests*, published in 2007. The *South West Regional Woodland and Forestry Framework 2005* identified how the region can benefit more from its woodlands. At the county level, the Dorset Trees, Woods and Forest Strategy provides a framework for action through the Woodlink initiative in the southern two thirds of the AONB.

In 2009, this AONB plans to continue research into the woodlands of the area, in order to publish detailed guidance for AONB woodland policy and management

## Agri-environment schemes

The agri-environment schemes represent an excellent way to achieve landscape scale improvements in all aspects of land management. They are the largest single public investment in this area, generating some £3.5 million of grant aid per year (Figure 10).

The AONB commissioned a research project *Strengthening Landscape Character through Entry Level Environmental Stewardship* in 2008<sup>6</sup> which fed into the Review of Progress for the Scheme 2007 / 2008. This indicates that uptake of environmental stewardship within the AONB is above the national average (see Table 11).

	<i>National Target (Proportion of total area of farmed land in England)</i>	<i>England</i>		<i>Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB</i>	
		<i>Area (ha)</i>	<i>% of farmed area (9,200,000 ha)</i>	<i>Area (ha)</i>	<i>% of farmed area (87,317 ha)</i>
ELS	60%	4,394,466	48%	44,768	51%
OELS	4%	268,898	3%	5,491	6%

## Common Agricultural Policy

At the time of writing this plan the full impact of the **Common Agricultural Policy** reform is not known.

<sup>5</sup> Blake, D. 2007 Raising Our Game - a survey of game management in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

<sup>6</sup> 'Strengthening Landscape Character through Entry Level Stewardship', Dr Jemma Batten, Black Sheep Countryside Management August 2008

## **Appendix 32**

### **Additional Information**

#### **THE RURAL ECONOMY**

The current economy of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB is characterised both by its traditional attributes and its location in relation to large regional centres, including London and the market towns on its periphery. Sustainable tourism, organic agriculture and other land-based industries were highlighted as potential key economic sectors in 2001 (SW Sustainable Development Strategy)

Parts of the AONB have good access to London and the South East via the A303, which connects to the M3 to the east and to the A30 and Exeter to the west. The A36 route from the eastern boundary to the M27, Southampton and its Container Port, may also have an important influence on the area. The railway line from Exeter to Waterloo crosses the AONB roughly east-west, through Tisbury. Poole's perceived need for a fast route northward to the M4 and Bristol, means the A350 corridor has been in the spotlight for many years.

The boundary of the AONB touches several market towns including Salisbury, Blandford Forum, Shaftesbury and Warminster. It also abuts the SE Dorset conurbation adjoining Wimborne Minster on its southern boundary. The proximity of these towns, together with the regional centres of economic activity, results in an outward-looking economy. Between 1995-2000, employment growth in and around the AONB was strong, growing by 25%.

While Broadband coverage is largely now complete across the AONB, the speed of this connection is far from ideal in some areas. Mobile phone reception is very poor in some areas and this poor communication network hinders the establishment and running of local businesses, although there are instances where small businesses appear to be thriving, for example in and around Teffont.

More people move into the area to retire than to work. As a consequence, there is a reduced active rural workforce and a loss of essential rural skills. There is a greater need for the active workforce, particularly the young, to commute to employment opportunities.

Businesses can derive a benefit from operating in a protected landscape. The environment is a collection of assets which can provide a stream of benefits so long as they (the assets) are not depleted. Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB is a high quality landscape that can be marketed as a business asset.

Businesses should, however, be closely related to the AONB. It would be inappropriate, for example, to establish businesses that transport bulk goods into the AONB, to then distribute them outwards. Such facilities are more appropriate to edge of town locations or industrial parks where their activities would not conflict with AONB purposes.

#### **Employment sectors**

Historically, agriculture and forestry were important sectors within the AONB. Current figures suggest agriculture is not the major employer but it is a fundamental component of the local economy within the AONB by managing land and

landscapes that bring benefits to other sectors, particularly in tourism and recreation. It provides the basis for related jobs, such as in the food processing, retailing, catering and transport sectors. Whilst there are concentrations of agricultural activity in the central areas of the AONB, the majority of employment is in public administration, hotels, catering and manufacturing outside the AONB.

In 2000, the five main employment sectors of the economically active population are set out below. Up to date figures will be researched in the near future.

- **Public administration - 38% of total** - Situated on the outskirts of Salisbury, the hospital and research laboratories provide 90% of employment in the local Ebble Ward. Similarly, East Dorset District Council and Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust offer the majority of public administration opportunities, whilst near Blandford Forum, within the AONB, an army communications camp employs a large body of administrative staff on site. Another substantial military establishment also exists in the Salisbury Plain area, within commuting distance of the AONB.
- **Distribution, hotels and catering - 23% of total** - This sector comprises opportunities centred around the leisure industry and is concentrated in pubs, restaurants, hotels and B&Bs. Distribution represents approximately 15% of employment within this sector (3% of total employment) perhaps constrained by limited infrastructure both within the AONB and links to other centres of economic activity.
- **Manufacturing - 14% of total** - This is an important sector with a concentration around Mere, due to the activity of the Deads Maid Quarry Industrial Estate and the Mere Hill Brush Company.
- **Agriculture - 8.7% of total** - Approximately 1,700 people make up the direct agricultural labour force within the AONB. This suggests that a substantially higher percentage of the AONB's workforce is employed in agriculture, than in the South West as a whole (1.5%).
- **Attractions - 2.5% of total** - Despite its relatively small base, tourism is a potential growth sector. Sustainable tourism development could diversify the local economy. There are several successful local attractions, such as Cranborne Manor Gardens, Longleat and Stourhead, all inside the AONB boundary, but many areas are without opportunities for overnight stays, which limits income from this sector.

### **Visitor Economy**

A Visitor Economy Strategy was developed during 2012 to explore how to best support the 'visitor economy' of the AONB.

The AONB is not particularly well known as a visitor destination despite its formal designated role for national landscape importance. The AONB lies across four counties, mainly in Wiltshire (62% of the AONB area) and Dorset (29%), but also with fringes in Hampshire (7%) and Somerset (2%), and is far less well known than the New Forest or the Cotswolds. This impacts into the relationships with differing local authority area based initiatives for visitor marketing, product development and community support. 'Cranborne Chase' is the better known component of the area, but this does not reflect the entire AONB, and Cranborne Chase itself is not very well known as a location to the UK population at large.

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership (CCWWD AONB) recognises the importance that the landscape and destinations across the area have in attracting a great many visitors to the AONB throughout the year. Many businesses are involved in serving visitors – from Bed and Breakfast providers, inns, camp sites, village shops and guided walks organisers to hotels, National Trust properties, Longleat, Center Parcs, horse trekking, farms, artists and South West Trains.

Within the current statutory AONB Management Plan there are many references to issues and policies that relate to visitors as well as to the landscape and communities. The Partnership is starting to address in a 'joined-up' manner the multitude of elements that relate to visitors, the AONB, their impact and future engagement and management of them. The AONB Partnership recognises the difficult economic conditions that many small businesses (comprising the vast majority of the AONB's enterprises) currently face, and changing arrangements in how the local authorities are engaged in visitor marketing and destination management.

Ten core Aims underpin creating a more sustainable visitor economy for the AONB.

#### **Strategic Aims**

- 1 Raise awareness of the AONB and its constituent areas as a quality accessible rural destination offering varied outdoor experiences
- 2 Provide better orientation and information across the AONB for visitors when they are here
- 3 Give a high profile to the natural heritage, environment and landscapes that underline the visitor experience
- 4 Improve the cultural and historical experience of the AONB and increase understanding and appreciation of this heritage through interpretation, events, etc.
- 5 Support local enterprise, developing business clusters and networks to increase business success, sustainability and increase the quality of local provision
- 6 Strengthen links between the AONB and the surrounding market towns and destinations, to encourage a two way flow of visits, relieving some visitor pressure on neighbouring locations
- 7 Develop products, food and drink, arts and crafts, trails, directories and access to producers, celebrating the local sense of place and character of the area
- 8 Encourage visitors to leave the car behind; improve the availability and range of routes for walking, cycling and horse riding around the AONB, to allow accessible, quiet recreation
- 9 Build better links and packages between operators in order to link up accommodation, activities and places to eat and drink
- 10 Develop improved communication and sharing of visitor information, as well as market intelligence amongst businesses and organisations involved in the visitor economy

These strategic aims may have a cross cutting effect on many sections of this Management Plan 2014-19, but particularly, sections 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

## **Further information:**

### **Wiltshire information:**

<http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/local-area-profiles/>

### **Summary**

The two largest employment sectors in the Mere Community Area are manufacturing and health.

Southern Wiltshire Community Area has a high dependency on the health sector for employment, making up 43% of total employment.

Tisbury Community Area has a high dependency on the education sector for employment with 20% of the workforce employed in this sector; this is well above the average of 9% across Wiltshire. Manufacturing is the second highest employment sector.

Warminster Community Area's largest employment sector is accommodation and food services, reflecting the large military presence in the area and a predominantly young male clientele. Warminster has been highlighted as a location for new strategic employment growth

Wilton Community Area's largest employment sector is the public administration and defence sector, which is almost three times more than the Wiltshire average. The second largest employment sector is manufacturing and this is also much higher than most areas in Wiltshire.

### **East Dorset in Profile** Key facts and figures about the community (2010)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media.jsp?mediaid=157160&filetype=pdf>

### **Economy**

- Low unemployment rates
- Relatively high wages
- Nearly half of the workforce are employed in the important 'knowledge driven' sector
- Many small firms – similar to the rest of Dorset

### **North Dorset in Profile** Key facts and figures about the community (2010)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media.jsp?mediaid=157161&filetype=pdf>

### **Economy**

- Low unemployment rates
- Relatively low wages
- A significant percentage of the work force are employed in the important 'knowledge driven' sector
- Many small firms – similar to the rest of Dorset

## Appendix 33

### Additional Information

#### PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

##### Overview

Currently, four County and five District Local Authorities have responsibility for planning and development issues as the statutory local planning authorities.

The County Councils, as highway authorities, are also responsible for the production of *Local Transport Plans (LTPs)* which set out the policies and proposals that drive their work programmes. The Highways Agency is responsible for the trunk roads – A303 and A36. The A303, A30 and A354 are major strategic routes crossing the AONB. The A36 skirts the northern edge, whilst the A350 corridor, linking Poole northwards to the M4, follows the western side before continuing through the AONB from Shaftesbury to Warminster. These main arterial routes carry fast moving traffic and support the daily commuter traffic of the AONB population to the surrounding market towns and beyond.

Access is important to a thriving economy but it can have serious environmental consequences and significant impacts on the landscape character and tranquillity. Car ownership in the AONB is well above the national average, reflecting the difficulties of providing effective and affordable public transport in such a large and relatively sparsely populated area. There are two active railway lines through the AONB; the main line from London to the South West which has a well used station at Tisbury and stations just outside the AONB; and the line from Warminster to Salisbury, which no longer stops within the AONB. These rail routes could provide sustainable transport opportunities for people and goods within, to, and from the AONB. They will, however, need additional and affordable car parking to encourage more effective utilisation.

The responsibility for planning policy, transport policy and development control lies with the local authorities. The AONB Partnership has an important role to play in providing guidance, ensuring consistency in the application of planning policy across the AONB, and acting as a consultee on all development and land use change proposals that may have a significant impact and/or effect on the characteristics, special qualities or setting of the AONB. The constituent local planning authorities have all adopted the AONB Planning Protocol (Appendix 19) that sets out procedures for AONB input to policy establishment and those applications on which the AONB would expect to offer comment. The protocol is regularly reviewed and has generally worked well during the period of the last Management Plan.

Early in its existence the AONB commissioned the following planning related studies:

- Market Towns Development Proposals
- Light Pollution
- Permitted Development Rights
- Roads and Planning
- Farm Diversification

In 2007 the Landscape Sensitivity Study evaluated the inherent robustness or fragility of the landscapes of the AONB. The Partnership has specifically avoided

capacity studies as these relate to specific types of development and therefore have limited applications.

The AONB Partnership has worked with the Dorset AONB and Dorset County Council in their 'Restoring our Rural Roads' initiative, which focuses on the means of removing urban-style highway artefacts, restoring the rural landscape character of the roads and influencing driver behaviour to reduce negative impacts on tranquillity and help protect vulnerable road users. The AONB has been part of the Steering Group for the North Dorset and North East Dorset Transportation Study, and links with other Highways initiatives such as those dealing with verge management.

This AONB team is very aware that most people experience, perceive and appreciate the nationally important landscapes of this area from the highways. Management to conserve and enhance the landscapes of highway corridors is, therefore, especially important. With the highway authorities we are finalising practical guidance on the landscape management of highway corridors.

Nearly all the villages and hamlets in the AONB pre-date 1800 and many have Medieval or even Saxon roots. The historic elements of these villages remain highly visible and central to the character of these settlements. As stated previously, there are 2015 Listed Buildings, 63 Conservation Areas, 16 Listed Parks and Gardens and 556 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the AONB. Their protection, restoration and maintenance are a matter of priority, as they lend distinctive character to the landscape. In addition, the more modest vernacular buildings found throughout the AONB, add to the distinctiveness of local settlements. Buildings of local historic character are not protected unless incorporated within a Conservation Area, so historic farms and other buildings sited away from settlements are especially vulnerable to change.

Tranquillity continues to be identified as a key attribute of this AONB. The team has worked to refine the national scale tranquillity analysis of the CPRE to help sustain tranquillity and counter potential losses. Details of the work can be found on our web site, and responses to planning and highway proposals will include tranquillity where appropriate.

Renewable energy proposals have been quite numerous during the last few years. The AONB encourages domestic and farmstead scale schemes that offset existing energy use. For example, solar panels on the roofs of contemporary farm buildings – where there are no Listed Building or Conservation Area issues – have proved to be effective. Depending on the scale, location, and local landscape issues community facilities to serve local energy needs might be able to be accommodated. However, industrial scale proposals often seem to underestimate their impacts and the importance of the landscapes and setting of the AONB. In those cases of major development, paragraph 116 of the NPPF applies, with the indication that proposals should be refused and only considered for approval in exceptional circumstances and where they are demonstrated to be in the public interest.

An issue associated with some renewable energy projects is their longevity. This seems to be related to the predicted lifespan of the technology and 25 years is often the period sought for a planning permission. It is often argued that any changes to the landscape would, therefore, be temporary and reversible, even though they may be significant. In many cases local residents, communities, and special interest groups have made the counter argument that 25 years is a significant period in anyone's life and effectively a long term change is being proposed 2

Minerals and waste are specifically identified as major development so unless a proposal is clearly small and capable of integrating with the landscape character such activities are unlikely to be acceptable in the AONB or its immediate setting. However, the AONB Partnership is sympathetic to the need for small scale supplies of building stone for conservation and restoration work. Similarly, whilst there are conflicts with the importation of waste for treatment or disposal, the AONB is also mindful that the treatment of waste material from a farm can provide a substitute for imported fertilizer or generate energy or both. In such circumstances, the AONB adopts a 'from the farm, on the farm, for the farm' approach when considering proposals.

Where visible from the AONB, the surrounding landscape, which is often of significant landscape value, is an important element of the AONB's natural beauty. Relevant local planning authorities must have regard for the landscape and visual impact of development adjacent to or within close proximity of the AONB's boundary.<sup>7</sup>

The principal land use planning role of the AONB is to ensure there are consistent and coherent policies in place to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. If a conflict arises, the AONB Partnership will take the view that 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area' takes priority over other matters.

Position Statements, Good Practice Notes, and Fact Sheets are provided by the AONB to assist both those considering applying for planning permission and the planning authorities. The focus of AONB responses to consultations on policies and development proposals is on the impacts on the landscapes of the AONB and its setting, and how proposals could be better integrated with those landscapes. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments [LVIA] are expected to be provided as part of the evidence base for policy proposals and as independent appraisals of significant development applications. Clearly avoiding impacts is the priority, followed by mitigation and offsetting of residual impacts.

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<sup>7</sup> A. Planning Inspector's appeal decision November 2008 - **Land at part of Waterside Holiday Park, Bowleaze Cove, Weymouth** ".....given that the Secretary of State has now published the *Proposed Changes to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)*, I attach significant weight to *RSS* Policy ENV3, which requires particular care to be taken to ensure that no development is permitted outside AONBs which would damage their natural beauty, special character and special qualities – in other words to their *setting*. I conclude that the proposed development would have an adverse effect on the natural beauty of the AONB, either caused by the visibility of the static caravans themselves, or from the introduction of more alien tree planting, or by a combination of both. This would, in my view, conflict with national policy guidance, and in particular PPS7, and with Policy ENV3 in the emerging *RSS*". (appeal failed)

B. The concept and scope of the setting of AONB was a key factor in the appeal by public inquiry into the refusal of planning permission for four 120m high wind turbines near Siltan, in North Dorset, about 2.5km outside the AONB.

In dismissing the appeal, the Inspector said [paragraph 46 of his decision, 8 11 2012]: **'I conclude on the first main issue [the effect on the character and appearance of the area, including the setting of the AONB] that the proposal would harm the character and appearance of the area and the setting of the AONB.'** He also concluded that the harm arising from the proposal would not be outweighed by its benefits.

2. The Inspector, dismissing the proposed PV arrays at Hurlingpot Farm in December 2013, commented 'the period of 25 years is still a significant period and represents a long time in most people's memories.'

## Appendix 34

### Additional Information

#### VIABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

As a living, working countryside, the AONB might be expected to encourage sympathetic development to occur in response to local needs, in order to maintain viable, sustainable, communities. Rural regeneration initiatives may involve proposals for redevelopment or change of use. Increasing population growth, particularly at the southern periphery of the AONB, is projected to continue. This brings with it pressure for additional housing and associated employment development, whilst the continual rise in house prices results in an increasing demand for affordable and social housing to meet local needs, in most parts of the AONB.

The population of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB is just over 33,000, based on the 2001 Census. Spread over an area of 981 sq km, this gives a population density of 34 people per square kilometre. This is very low when compared to the average of 129 persons per sq km for rural England. 69% of AONB residents are deemed to live in 'villages' and a further 24% in 'hamlets or dispersed dwellings'. The low population density, the absence of large settlements within the AONB and daily commuting to the larger settlements on the AONB's periphery, all threaten the viability of remaining local services such as post offices, pubs, doctor's surgeries, village shops and village halls.

#### Wiltshire Statistics

Wiltshire Council has defined 20 community areas within the county.

These community areas generally include a market town and its surrounding villages. The following Community Areas cover the AONB:

- Mere
- Southern Wiltshire
- Tisbury
- Warminster
- Wilton

The following information can be found on the intelligence network:

<http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/local-area-profiles/>

- Community Area Joint Strategic Assessments
- Community Area Health Profiles
- National Statistics at small area level
- Agri-Environment Scheme Agreements by Community Area

#### Key facts

##### Aging communities

The 2010 mid-year population figures show that compared to averages in England, the South West and Wiltshire, Wilton has the lowest percentage (16.9%) of its total population under the age of 16 years. Wilton also has the lowest percentage of its total population being of working age (56.7%). Compared to these same three areas, Wilton has the highest percentage of its total population at retirement age and over (26.4%). There is an increased pressure on the economically active part of the

population to maintain the welfare of the economically dependent. Wilton Community Area has the second lowest population density of all Wiltshire's community areas

Mere Community Area's projected 6.3% total population increase over the period mid-year 2010 to mid-year 2026 will be entirely (224.1%) accounted for by the retirement age population. This poses Mere Community Area with an extremely significant 'ageing population' challenge.

The Southern Wiltshire and Tisbury Community Areas also have extremely significant 'ageing population' challenges.

### **Dorset Statistics Rural Facilities Survey**

<http://www1.dorsetforyou.com/Living/VillageFacs.nsf/index?ReadForm>

**North Dorset Wards Community Profiles can be found on the Dorset for You website:**

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/communityprofiles/north>

**East Dorset in Profile** Key facts and figures about the community (2010)

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media.jsp?mediaid=157160&filetype=pdf>

### **Housing**

- Very high house prices, house price increases over the last decade below national rates
- housing affordability poor for local wage earners,,
- very low proportion of second/holiday homes
- high proportion of homes are owned outright

### **Access**

- high levels of car ownership
- fairly good access to facilities by public transport
- 2% go to work by public transport
- Most villages have no general store

### **People**

- Population has increased over the last decade to nearly 88,000
- Elderly bias to the population with nearly one in three of the population above retirement age
- Declining numbers of young people
- Small Black or Minority Ethnic population
- Nearly two thirds of all households are described as 'wealthy achievers'

### **Environment**

- 45% of the district is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Good river quality
- Significant areas of lowland heathland are found in East Dorset

**North Dorset in Profile** Key facts and figures about the community (2010)  
<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media.jsp?mediaid=157161&filetype=pdf>

### **Learning and Knowledge**

- Pupils living in North Dorset perform close to the national and regional average in GCSE's
- 38% of North Dorset adults have higher level qualifications
- Low levels of literacy and numeracy amongst the adult population

### **Housing**

- House prices just below the national average
- House price increase over the last decade are below Dorset and national rates
- Housing affordability remains poor for local wage earners
- Low proportion of second/holiday homes
- Significant amounts of housing development over the last decade, with 1 in 5 being 'affordable'

### **Access**

- High levels of car ownership
- Being predominantly rural many households have limited access to facilities by regular public transport
- Most villages have no general store
- Continuing closure of rural facilities

### **Service provision and access to services and facilities**

The AONB is ranked amongst the most deprived parts of the country in relation to "barriers to housing and services". The proximity of AONB residents to a number of key services has deteriorated since 2000. These services include primary and secondary schools, banks and building societies, doctor's surgeries and post offices. There is evidence from the Rural Community Councils that there are isolated and significant pockets of deprivation.

Innovative solutions exist but these are usually time limited due to ongoing lack of funding. *For example, between 2003 and 2008 the Sunshine Healthy Living Project worked with communities in the Mere, Barford and Tisbury areas to help to reduce fuel poverty and improve health. This was a successful partnership between voluntary, community groups and other public bodies. Very successful community shops have been established in East Knoyle, Hindon, Broadchalke and Maiden Bradley.*

### **Local governance**

Some local people have high levels of engagement in the system of local government though many express a lack of involvement and a sense of isolation from decision makers, over recent years. There are now increased opportunities for local people to influence what happens in their areas through the development of Neighbourhood Plans.

The unitary authority for Wiltshire has created new and different opportunities for local people to be involved in the decision-making processes through the creation of Area Boards and Community Area Partnerships. Where sought, a number of

services may be devolved to parish councils supported by appropriate budgets. Funding may also be available in the form of grants for parish, town councils and community groups to participate in partnerships and community activities.

### **Public and community transport**

Without a private car, accessing services, such as doctor's surgeries or hospital, is difficult. Local authority supported buses provide transport on either a daily or weekly basis, particularly to the surrounding market towns. Some are highly valued and appreciated by local people. However, due mainly to cost, frequency or destination, usage rates are low which leads to service withdrawal.

Examples of successful community transport initiatives are The Chalke Valley Link Scheme, Hindon Voluntary Car Scheme, Wilton Community Link Scheme and Tisbus. These are all examples of locally successful schemes. Demand responsive schemes such as Wiltshire County Council's Connect2Wiltshire and North Dorset Nordcat, are best practice initiatives. More integrated transport options within the AONB could also help promote 'green tourism' initiatives as well as improving services for local communities.

## Appendix 35

### Additional Information

#### AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

In preparation for this AONB Management Plan review, online questionnaires were undertaken.

Two short online questionnaires were created using 'Survey Monkey' in April 2013; one for the general public and the second aimed at farmers and landowners. The questionnaires were designed primarily to find out the main issues people were concerned with.

These were advertised through the spring edition of the AONB newsletter 'The Hart', through the AONB website, social media channels and through the NFU weekly fax. The questionnaire for the general public generated 204 responses and the farmers and landowner's questionnaire created an additional 5 responses. A further 6 questionnaires were returned as hard copies.

The top three priorities coming from the responses were to:

- **greatly increase awareness and understanding of the AONB from signage, publications, talks and working more closely with parishes**
- to encourage an increase in visitor numbers for walking, cycling and heritage visits to both improve understanding and enjoyment of the area whilst assisting local businesses
- to harness latent volunteer interest in a wide variety of tasks within the AONB

There appears, therefore, to be considerable support for increasing awareness and understanding of the AONB, the designation and its purpose. Objectives and policies within this Plan reflect that support.

Considerable work has taken place to raise awareness and understanding of this AONB but there is much still to do. This element of the Partnerships work can be seen as key to the potential success of all other objectives and policies contained in this Plan 2014-19.

If communities, visitors, parishes or organisations have ideas of how the Partnership can better raise awareness and understanding of its work please do contact the AONB team: [info@cranbornechase.org.uk](mailto:info@cranbornechase.org.uk)

## **Appendix 36**

### **Additional Information**

#### **INVOLVEMENT AND LEARNING**

It is widely recognised that the high quality environment of the South West is the key driving force behind tourism in the region. Any development and management of tourism must be fully consistent with the conservation and enhancement of the global and local environment. Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB with its stunning landscapes, wildlife and historic riches, offers a very attractive environment for local people and visitors alike.

Some attractions are consistently well visited, including Longleat House and Safari Park, Centre Parcs and the National Trust properties of Stourhead and Kingston Lacy. The archaeological and historic wealth of the AONB also provides a focus for many visitors. Old Wardour Castle, the medieval village of Wyck, Knowlton Church, Cley Hill Fort and Badbury Rings are but a few of the numerous sites worthy of a visit. Many well attended events take place annually within the AONB, the largest of which is the Great Dorset Steam Fair.

As a renowned royal hunting ground, Cranborne Chase was governed by its own laws until just 180 years ago. Many archaeological and historic features are still intact, with modern field archaeology being pioneered here through the excavations of General Pitt-Rivers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Examples of the majority of the different types of ancient monuments within the South of England are to be found within Cranborne Chase, making the area an unrivalled educational and recreational resource for both the specialist and the casually inquisitive.

The AONB is also blessed with several publicly accessible nationally important parks and gardens including Longleat, Kingston Lacy, Stourhead, and General Pitt-Rivers Victorian Pleasure Gardens at the Larmer Tree. These nationally important Victorian Pleasure Gardens contain a collection of colonial and oriental buildings and an open air theatre.

This AONB offers outstanding resources for involvement and learning for volunteers, visitors, schools and other educational establishments and local communities. The development of a 'Countryside Centre' (in Section 16) will remain a high priority, providing a much needed base for the widest range of involvement and learning opportunities for the communities of this nationally protected area and beyond.

## **Appendix 37**

### **Additional Information**

#### **ACCESS AND WELLBEING**

One of the most distinctive features of the AONB is its extensive and diverse Rights of Way (RoW) network and open access areas. An accessible and well visited countryside access network adds value to the local economy as businesses benefit from supplying services to the users of rights of way.

There are 1,655 kilometres of RoW within the AONB offering immense opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding. Users are frequently rewarded with spectacular panoramas unseen from the road. Many RoW are of historic importance originating as long distance, ridge top routes across the chalk. Medium to long distance routes include the Wessex Ridgeway Jubilee Trail and Monarchs Way; and parts of the Stour Valley and MacMillan Ways. The Wiltshire and North Dorset Cycleways also traverse the area.

Well maintained and managed byways open to all traffic provide opportunities for people with restricted mobility to access the more remote parts of the AONB. The routes are usually well defined and, provided that surfaces are in good condition, they are generally free from stiles, gates and other obstructions, so can easily be used by older people and families with young children, cyclists, and carriage drivers. There is a need for a byway/off road vehicle management strategy that deals with both public and land management access requirements.

The four County Councils prepared Rights of Way Improvement Plans (RoWIPs) for their networks that reflect the modern patterns of demand and land use. These documents explore linkages between the off-road network, permissive routes, open access areas, minor roads and local transport routes together with local facilities and services. They also strived to ensure the network is as accessible as possible to people with disabilities or who are disadvantaged. The County Councils each support committed and active Local Access Forums that bring all interested parties together to promote responsible access. County RoWIPs are currently being reviewed. The AONB Partnership intends to help input into their review.

The Rural Economy Topic Group within the AONB Partnership has a 'sub-group' for all those involved with access within the AONB. It has been commented that this group can be extremely useful in that countryside access professionals can have an opportunity to exchange views and ideas. This Access Sub Group will continue to be convened throughout the life of this AONB Plan.

## Appendix 38

### Glossary

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASNW	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
CA	Conservation Area
CAA	Conservation Area Appraisal
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CLA	Country Land and Business Association
CPEND	Community Partnership Executive of North Dorset
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
CSS	Countryside Stewardship Scheme
DBIS	Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DECC	Department for Energy and Climate Change
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DfT	Department for Transport
DAS	Design and Access Statement
EA	Environment Agency
EWGS	English Woodland Grant Scheme
EH	English Heritage
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELC	European Landscape Convention
ELS	Entry Level Stewardship
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
ESS	Environmental Stewardship Scheme
EqIA	Equality Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FC	Forestry Commission
GWCT	Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GPDO	General Permitted Development Order
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
HER	Historic Environment Records
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
HEAP	Historic Environmental Action Plan
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JAC	Joint Advisory Committee
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
LA	Local Authority
LAG	Local Action Group
LCA	Landscape Character Assessment
LDF	Local Development Framework
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LNP	Local Nature Partnership

LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
LTP	Local Transport Plan
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
NAAONB	National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
NE	Natural England
NFU	National Farmers Union
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NHS	National Health Service
NNR	National Nature Reserve
PAWS	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
PDP	Partnership Delivery Plan
RDPE	Rural Development Programme for England
RIGGS	Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site
RoW	Right of Way
RoWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SDF	Sustainable Development Fund
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SMR	Sites and Monuments Register
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Importance
SPA	Special Protection Area
SRT	Sustainable Rural Tourism
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TCV	The Trust for Conservation Volunteers
UKCIP	United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme
VDS	Village Design Statement
WGS	Woodland Grant Scheme

## Appendix 39

### Explanation of Terms

**Adapting** - to climate change means the changing of behaviour to respond to the impacts of climate change.

**Alien species** – non native species, those that are considered invasive can contribute to biodiversity loss

**Habitat Regulations Assessment** - (formerly known as Appropriate Assessment) is required by the Birds and Habitats Directives of the European Union to assess the effects of a plan on a nature conservation site of European importance to enable a judgement to be made as to whether there will be an adverse effect on the site's integrity.

**Agricultural land classification** - is the method of grading agricultural land used by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Chartered Surveyors to describe the productive quality of farmland.

**Agri-environment schemes** - refers to a range of schemes operated by Natural England which are designed to encourage environmentally friendly farming and public enjoyment of the countryside.

**An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** - is an area designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, with the primary purpose of designation being to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

**Big Society** - the stated aim in the 2010 Conservative Manifesto to create a climate that empowers local people and communities, which will take power away from politicians and give it to the people

**Biodiversity** - means 'biological diversity' and includes the whole variety of life on earth in all its forms, or any part of it and its interaction.

**Blog** - discrete entries posted on the web to inform and create discussion.

**Carbon Storage** – carbon capture and storage is the one way to reduce the effect of carbon dioxide emissions and keep fossil fuels (coal and gas) in the UK's electricity supply mix.

**Catchment Sensitive Farming** - is a scheme to encourage farmers to work together throughout a river catchment to improve water quality, flow rates and wildlife habitat.

**Category V Landscape** - refers to Category V (Protected: Landscape /Seascapes) of lived-in landscapes in the United Nations List of Protected Areas. These areas are characterised by their scenic beauty, for example, as mountain, hill, wetland and coastal scenery. Community Plans or Strategies are intended to reflect the needs and aspirations of local communities, and set out future visions for those communities. There is wide diversity in their form, arising from the fact that they are produced under non-statutory procedures and the processes by which they are prepared are still evolving.

**Chalara Fraxinea** - a virulent fungal pathogen of ash trees that causes 'chalara ash dieback'.

**Climate Change** - a significant and lasting change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns.

**Community Infrastructure Levy** - is a standard charge to be levied on new developments. It used to be known as a Developer Contribution, and was linked to a Section 106 Agreement. Its purpose is to fund the provision of infrastructure and community facilities identified as being required to support the increase in development.

**Conservation Area Appraisal** – prepared by the local authority, an audit or character appraisal of those buildings, structures and features which make the area special.

**Core Strategy** - key compulsory local development document outlining the strategic aims and objectives and spatial planning policies for the future.

**Decoupling** - refers to breaking the direct link between the production of agricultural crops and the financial support for farming from the EU.

**Ecosystem** - short for 'ecological system' - living organisms existing together in a particular area.

**Ecosystem Markets Task Force** - a practical, business led review of the business opportunities that arise from valuing nature correctly.

**Facebook** - an online social networking service.

**The South Wiltshire Farmland Bird Project** – part of the Wessex Water Partners Programme which provides funding to projects which will conserve and enhance biodiversity.

**Fixed Point Photography** - a tool to record and monitor visual changes within the landscape.

**Geodiversity** - covers the variety of rocks, fossils, minerals and natural processes within an area.

**Geomorphology** - is the study of landforms, or of the arrangement and forms of the earth's crust.

**GIS** - a **geographic information system** that captures, stores, manipulates, analyses, and manages geographical data.

**Habitat** - provides the resources that any living thing requires to survive and sustain a population

**Health and Wellbeing Boards** - (The Health and Social Care Act 2012) a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.

**Historic Environment Action Plan** - or HEAPs for short, provide a summary of the key characteristics of the historic environment of the AONB at a landscape scale.

**Heritage at Risk** - Register is compiled by English Heritage and contains information on the Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, and other nationally designated heritage which is at risk in England.

**Historic Environment Record** - is a mainly local authority based service which contains information about historic buildings, archaeological sites and finds. These records were previously known as Sites and Monuments Records or SMRs: the name has changed to reflect the wider scope of the data they now contain.

**Historic Landscape Characterisation** - an archaeological method that studies the historic landscape character present in today's landscape.

**Indicators** - ways of quantifying and measuring the impact of policy objectives.

**International Dark Sky Association** - officially recognises large areas in countries around the world as Dark Sky Places for their low levels of light pollution and good public access.

The **International Union for the Conservation of Nature** - (IUCN) is the World Conservation Union, helping the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges.

**Landscape Character Assessment** - is a technique used to develop a consistent and comprehensive understanding of what gives the landscapes of England their special character. It uses a structured approach to describe and assess the character of landscapes, including features that are locally distinctive and those that contribute to the special sense of place of a locality. Landscape Character Assessments can be at broad national scales as well as more detailed at County, AONB, or District scale.

**LEADER** - a delivery mechanism for funding under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE); implemented by Local Action Groups for community-led delivery. (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale')

**Leisure Credits Young Enterprise Initiative** - involves young people in undertaking voluntary work and receiving Leisure Credits which are redeemed for reward trips or activities. The number of credits a young person receives is based on how hard they worked and how well they worked as part of a team.

**Local Development Frameworks** are carried out by the local planning authority. The LDF consists of a Core Strategy and range of Development Plan Documents that provide policy statements and guidance for development control decisions.

**Local Enterprise Partnership** - decides what the priorities should be for investment in their area and are partnerships between local authorities and businesses.

**Localism Act 2011** sets out a series of measures with the potential to achieve a substantial and lasting shift in power away from central government and towards local people.

**Local Nature Partnership** - brings together a broad range of local organisations, businesses and other interested people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment.

**Local Strategic Partnership** - non-statutory body that aims to bring together local organisations from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

**Local Transport Plan** – defines a five-year strategy for transport provision. County Councils and Unitary Authorities prepare them for their areas.

**Mitigation for climate change** - this is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane.

**Natural beauty** - includes the landscape, flora and fauna, geological or physiographical features and heritage, including archaeology, historic environment and settlement character.

**Natural capital** - “the elements of nature that produce value (directly and indirectly) to people”.

**Neighbourhood Plan** - gives communities the power to set the priorities for local development

**Parish Plan** - sets out a vision of how local communities would like their town or village to be. They tend to be much more holistic or all encompassing, replacing the older ‘village appraisal’ approach.

**Planning Protocol** - sets out how the AONB Partnership and local authorities will consider planning matters affecting the AONB.

**Sense of Place** - often used to describe a person’s feelings for a place, and the elements that make it special. This could include memories of visits, views, sounds, people, tastes and even smells.

**Stepping Stones Project** – aims to connect high quality wildlife hotspots, such as County Wildlife Sites, SSSIs and National Nature Reserves and other appropriate areas, by creating habitat links and ‘stepping stones’ of habitat so that individual creatures and species can hop from one to the other, thereby expanding their range.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment** - required by a European Directive intended to promote sustainable development, by ensuring that an environmental assessment is carried out for certain plans and programmes that are likely to have significant impacts upon the environment.

**Superfast broadband** - connections enable users to download music and video and stream television at speeds higher than most internet users (38Mb or above).

**A Supplementary Planning Document** is prepared by local authorities to amplify and support policies in statutory development plans. It must link directly to a Local Authority policy, or policies, and be subject to adequate consultation.

**Sustainability** - defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development as ‘development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.

**Sustainable Community Strategies** - the principal aim of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 is to promote the sustainability of local communities within local authority areas.

**The Sustainable Development Fund** - is the small grants scheme that the AONB uses to support innovative projects that have a positive impact on the community and environment of the locality.

**Sustainable Rural Tourism Project** - working in partnership with a range of visitor related businesses and other key organisations to encourage sustainable tourism, benefitting rural businesses and the local economy as a whole.

**Twitter** - an online social networking and micro-blogging service that enables users to send and read "tweets" (text messages limited to 140 characters).

**Village Design Statements** are documents that describe the visual character of a village as seen through the eyes of its inhabitants. Village residents volunteer to undertake a study of their village and its environment through consultation and discussion.

A **Village Plan** - collates local people's views about the area they live in, and what needs to be changed or improved to make it a better place in which to live.